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Reuters

British boxing sensation Amir Khan has vowed to avenge his shock first-round defeat by unknown Colombian Breidis Prescott earlier this month by becoming the world lightweight champion within a year.

I'll be world champion, says Khan

By Duane Fonseca, Staff Reporter
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Dubai: British boxing sensation Amir Khan has vowed to avenge his shock first-round defeat by unknown Colombian Breidis Prescott earlier this month by becoming the world lightweight champion within a year.

It was a first defeat for Khan, a silver medalist at the 2004 Olympic Games, in 19 professional fights.

Colombian Prescott snatched Khan's World Boxing Organisation (WBO) Intercontinental Lightweight belt while Khan's camp in turn was forced to return to the drawing board, where they took the decision to shift base to America and replace his coach Jorge Rubio.

Khan will now train under the tutelage of legendary trainer Freddie Roach, who has worked with champions like Manny Pacquiao, Oscar De La Hoya and Mike Tyson.

And the youngster feels Roach has instilled in him the self-belief that he can wear that coveted WBO Lightweight championship belt within a year.

Confidence factor

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"Technically, he's the best coach in the world; he's worked with the best fighters like Pacquiao, Tyson and De La Hoya. Some of the world's best have trained with him, so he knows," the Bolton-born Khan told Gulf News in Dubai yesterday.

"If he says you're good and that you'll become world champion in the next 12 months then I respect him because he has worked with world champions before.

"He knows how world champions have to be and whether a fighter is ready or not, and if he thinks I'll be world champion then he's telling the truth because he's been with guys like me before.

"Also there is the confidence factor which he has brought to the camp. Having worked with world champions he can tell me how far I am from becoming one. Training with him means working alongside world champions and simply being in that environment is great because you want to go all out and impress the coach." Twenty-one-year old Khan is also looking forward to training in America as he believes life on the other side of the Atlantic will help him focus better on his sport.

"I think being away from home will be a very good thing as it will let me get on with what I love doing best, which is boxing. There'll be no distractions so I can 100 per cent focus only on improving my skills as a fighter," said Khan, whose record boasted of 18 wins including 14KOs before his nightmare meeting with Prescott.

"Sometimes [back home] you have to do a lot of media work and we did quite a bit with Sky before the fight with Prescott because it was my first fight and all. [Losing] definitely makes you realise that you're in a tough sport and things can go wrong. It made me realise I made mistakes, and I'm going to make sure they aren't repeated again."

Does Amir Khan have the potential to become a world champion? Do you think the recent knock-out will make him a tougher boxer?

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