

With the end of Ronda Rousey's reign, Conor McGregor is poised to become the new face of the UFC.

Charisma, check.

Legitimate championship level fighting ability, check.

A legion of loyal fans who will gladly open up their wallets whenever he fights, check.

There's just one problem.

UFC featherweight champion Jose Aldo.

In order to establish himself as the face of the world's premier MMA organization, McGregor must first win a legitimate title. Sure, he's the current interim featherweight champion, but we all know that crap doesn't count.

To become the champ, you need to beat the champ, and McGregor is yet to share the cage with his Brazilian rival.

He will in a week though on Dec. 12 at UFC 194.

McGregor has lots of hype surrounding him heading into his showdown with Aldo, but he's smart enough to know it can all go away quickly if he suffers defeat at UFC 194. After all, Conor, like the rest of the MMA community, just witnessed the Ronda Rousey hype train come crashing down.

"If I was going to take something away from Ronda is – maybe just push everything away," McGregor said. "I can't really see her situation. I don't know her situation. From looking from where I was at, I could see that maybe she'd done a little too much on the media side. That, coupled with a personal life that I know nothing about, could have hampered her training a little bit. Maybe could have hampered her mind. And then the particular style of opponent in Holly could have maybe combined into making her a little too emotionally invested."

McGregor realizes the similarities between his ascent to the top of MMA's food chain and Rousey's, and he doesn't plan to make the same mistake when he faces Aldo. McGregor understands how important media duties are, but he also knows how important it is to relax and focus on fighting.

"It's important to still the mind," McGregor added. "Calm it. Make everything smaller than it is. That's mainly what I would take from that."