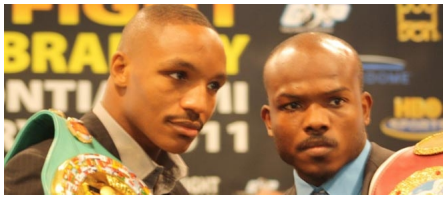

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It makes some sense, in that the fight will be part of a card held at the refurbished Silverdome in Detroit. But let's traffic in reality, shall we, and admit that the real super fight we all want to see features two gents named Pacquaio and Mayweather.

Since that doesn't seem to be reaching a state of fruition, with the decisionmakers and negotiators in each camp warring with each other, and with legal woes hanging over Mayweather's head, we fight fans should probably make as one of our New Year's resolutions to not waste another year getting bogged down in the "will they or won't they" debate.

The sports powerbrokers have said they learned their lesson, and won't spend excess energy on working toward a fight that might never coalesce. Nobody but those inside the Floyd bubble knows what he's up to, what he's thinking, why he is hesitant to prove to the world that he's the best boxer on the planet, today, and pick up a cool 50 mill while he's at it. So now everyone, basically, has shifted their concentration, from Manny-Money, to Who Will Manny Fight Next?

That lucky soul might well emerge with a shattered orbital bone, or a crushed rep after spitting the bit, or a swiftened push to retirement, ina ddition to the best payday of their career...but these are the risks men take for that lucky lotto ticket, and the chance to take down Pacman.

Which brings us back to the Bradley-Alexander fight. There are those that think it makes a great deal of sense for the winner of this fight to fight Pacquaio. You all know my take---I called on Nov. 22 for Manny to aim for a title in his ninth weight class, against middleweight champion Sergio Martinez. And trainer Freddie Roach on Monday that he concurs. “I’d like to see him fight [Sergio] Martinez right away,” the trainer said. But Manny's promoter, Bob Arum, has a batch of three fighters he'd like Manny to choose from: Shane Mosley, Andre Berto and Juan Manuel Marquez. Mosley, even though he has looked close to shot in his last two fights, certainly when compared to himself in his prime years, is thought to have the inside track. Friend and colleauge

Ron Borges has lobbied hard for marquez to get a third crack, though pacman himself has said he doesn't think fans want that one, and Arum has dismissed Marquez' demands as being excessive.

The handlers of the two men gloving up on January 29 would like their guys to be in the mix. At an NYC press conference held on Wednesday at the steakhouse Gallagher's to hype the scrap, Bradley's promoter Gary Shaw threw his guys hat in the Pacman ring. He says that if Bradley beats Alexander, the press should push for Bradley to meet Pacman, because that is what is best for boxing. "The winner should fight Pacquiao, Pacquiao shouldn't fight an old Shane Mosley.He needs the challenge," Shaw said. "Arum is all about his own platform, his own fighters. That's not what boxing is about. It's bad for the sport. Maybe he's an old guy, who'll take the money, and not give a f---. But when I'm dead, I hope they say, 'He cared about his fighters,' and 'he cared about boxing.'

Alexander's manager/trainer, Kevin Cunningham, didn't go quite as far as Shaw. he thinks the winner should be in the mix for a bigger stage fight after this one, against Pacquiao, Mayweather, Mosley. "The winner should be considered boxing's newest superstar," he said.

HBO chief Kery Davis was listening to the discussion, and was asked to chime in. "I think Kevin put it perfectly," he said. "The winner of this fight becomes a star."

Shaw said the winner of this fight will have the right to call out who they want next. I asked if Amir Khan, in action against Marcos Maidana on saturday, won't have that same right if he wins, especially if he looks scintillating doing so. Shaw said the winner of the Bradley-Alexander fight has more juice, because they are both undefeated.

TSS Universe, what say you? Should the Bradley-Alexander winner be in the mix for the next Manny gig? Is that even possible, with Alexander and Bradley both best suited for 140 pounds, and with Manny seemingly set to fight at welterweight? And does the winner of the Silverdome scrap need to win in electrifying fashion, in order to steal some buzz back from Khan, who I see as being on the cusp on making a move in the pound for pound hunt, and someone who also enjoys his status as Freddie Roach's second best client?

Other tidbits from the Gallagher's gala, which was fab, aside from he fact that I chowed on salad and three rolls, and had to bolt back the office because they hadn't served anything else in two hours....

---Bradley likes Maidana over Khan on Saturday. He said he'd like Pacquiao and Mayweather to stoip bickering, and get it on, but also that both are on their way out, and that it will soon be time for a regime change.

--Bradley isn't worried about Alexander's power, and feels Kendall Holt, for one, has more zip.

--Bradley said Alexander is "stupid" if he truly thinks this is "just another fight" as he said on Tuesday in Michigan. He said that Devon is probably trying to calm himself down. "I know it's all or nothing," Bradley said. "I'm trying to get to the next level, to superfights."

---Shaw shared that before his eighth bout, Bradley ran 23 miles, with a backpack on, the night before the bout. It was not to lose weight, the fighter said, it was to assure himself he'd have the needed stamina. He said the run came in handy, because his legs and stamina were strong, when a clash of heads dazed him, and his legs held up underneath him.

--Alexander said he doesn't care if Bradley thinks he's stupid for seeing this as just another bout. "He's trying in his head to get amped," he said. "I'm too fast, too slick, my angles are too much. he's trying to find something to calm his nerves."

---Alexander says his skills are superior to Bradley, plain and simple.

---In his last outing, in August, Alexander had a tough time with Andriy Kotelnik (UD win, by scores of 116-112, 116-112, 116-1112.) He said he didn't stick to a gameplan because he was trying to impress family and friends at home, in St. Louis. "I made Kotelnik look good," he said.

---Cunningham said Devon spent too much time promoting the last fight, and that affected his performance. he said his guy is the more talented, and his quicker, shorter punches will prove the difference.

--The mood was a bit somber, as co-promoter Don King was not present. His wife Henrietta died last Thursday, and her funeral is this Thursday. King's PR ace, Alan Hopper, spoke to TSS. "Don is obviously wounded," he said. "I'm hurting for him. But the healing has begun." A service on Tuesday featured a eulogy from Reverend Al Sharpton, and Don himself spoke as well. Gary Shaw asked for a moment of silence for Henrietta, a nice touch.

--The Silverdome holds around 80,000 so you might think it's a weird venue for the fight. But haw said the Dome has a curtain system, which help the event feel more cozy.

--Shaw lauded Bradley's dad, Tim Sr, for never having taken a cent from his kid's purses. Hmm..might there be a message there for another dad who Shaw knows who has taken money from his kid's purses?

SPEEDBAG Trivia question, courtesy my pal, sports/finance wordsmith PJ Keating: which fight lasted longer, Tyson-Spinks or Tyson-McNeeley?

--52 percent of SportsNation viewers want Sylvester Stallone selected for the International Boxing Hall of Fame. SportsNation co-host Michelle Beadle disagrees, “You don’t go to the hall of fame for a sport you made a movie about. Mike Tyson bled, Julio Cesar Chavez was in pain, and Sylvester Stallone put on makeup to look like he was in a fight.” However, co-host Colin Cowherd thinks Stallone deserves the honor, “The boxing hall of fame is comprised of those who have made a contribution to the sport. A generation of kids wanted to box because of Sylvester Stallone and after Muhammad Ali, the second biggest name in boxing is Rocky.”

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