

THE TSS TAKEAWAY: Readers' Cleanest, Hardest Shots Post Soto-Antillon

Written by Michael Woods

Sunday, 05 December 2010 19:00

Such as shame...fight of the year candidate ran on Saturday night, and a couple hundred thousand people saw it.

Soto-Antillon was a barnburner, but because it was on pay per view, basically nobody saw it.

Sigh. Such is the state of the game. Not much we keyboard tappers and you fans can do, I guess. We make clear our preference, for fights on free TV, or at least premium cable. But free TV treats us like were porno, and there is only so much budget to go around from the cablers.

Were eager to slide out of that rant, and get happy, considering this is the holiday season, and our problems rate as luxuries to so many with so little. Mudsides, landslides, flooding in Columbia and Venezuela, Haiti still in shambles...so lets keep perspective, right?

But wait..we wanted to look on the bright side...how can we do this when our shining star of pugilism, Manny Pacquiao, is allegedly set to glove up in April against Sugar-free Shane Mosley, a fighter whose reflexes are almost completely gone? This will be like watching those perverse pay to spray hunting deals, where lunatic losers with firearms fetishes pay to empty bullets into wild animals set loose in a big backyard. Hey, maybe Mosley can reverse his slide, find some magic potion which reverses the aging process. But it seems like even Manny-iacs, who understandably do tend to accept and cheerlead most decisions made by Manny and Team Pacquiao, arent warming up to Manny-Mosley. OK, so many Manny-iacs arent inclined to give the guy they call the Canvas Kisser, Juan Manuel Marquez, a third crack at Pacquiao. Seems like they feel like he hasnt conducted himself with humility as hes chased a third scrap with Pacquiao. But cant we find another option, other than Mayweather, who is holed up in a bunker doing lord knows what instead of plying his trade, and Mosley, five years past his prime? Im betting, and still holding out hope, that we can. Hey, the holidays here are so much about hope. Hoping that the better instincts of mankind emerge, that those in power dispense their power with a primary focus of the Have Nots in mind, that people treat others as they themselves would want to be treated, that people make choices based on the enrichment of many, not the few, that promoters who spend so much money and energy suing each other find compromise, and work with each other...heres hoping that as we look ahead to 2011, more choices are made, in boxing and the world at large, for the greater good.

Speaking of greater good, we got a good batch of comments following my post on the likelihood of Manny-Mosley, and the In Harms Way card. Thanks, as always, for reading TSS, and taking the time, energy, and effort to share your passion and wisdom with all of us. --Editor Mike

PS The Boxing Channel, a sister site to us, is doing good things, Please log on their, and support the effort!

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DaveB: Soto vs Antillon was like the Thriller in Manila. That fight was crazy. Now it will be on to Brandon Rios and Vasquez. Wow. Definitely Fight of the Year.

DaveB: I couldn't agree with you more EM, on the Manny-Mosley deal, I couldn't agree with you more. This is possibly the worst choice that could be made. It gives the fans nothing. Of course by fight time they will say that Margarito hurt Pac to the body and Mosley has fierce body work and some will buy into that way of thinking. But in truth this is a terrible match. A bad beating and a great payday for Mosley.

Radam G: The theatre of the unexpected is what many call this game. I'm on spot with #1PacFan. Money May should step up than it would not be Sugarlite Shane. He's lost a lot of steps. But the truth of the matter is that Money May is acting so strange because of a genetic disorder that causes him to rapidly age. Da Manny would definitely destroy Lil Floyd as of now. Thirty-years-old-plus something destroyed Big Floyd's legs faster than normal, not a bullet. The same thing happened to Uncle Roger and Uncle Jeff. Just do the research and investigation for yourself. Money May fought Sugar Shane at that slow coming forward style because that is all that Money May could do. He has lost his legs. All of those years of not listening to Pops Joy May and running on cement has gotten to Lil Floyd. A lot of those in the know know the secret behind Lil Floyd's fright in not fighting da Manny. The jive about PEDs is just that -- JIVE! Try saying that Lil Floyd is suffering from fast-affecting arthritis in the legs and knees. [Dude's legs are stiffer than a mummy.] Where is the slick African American with boxing skills for da Manny to fight? SSM is going to have to do. Or Miami-born Haitian Berto is going to have to do. Forget about Tim Bradley. He probably won't get past Alexander The Great. Long-in-the-tooth SSM deserves a good payday. Nonetheless, it is not a 100 percent certain that he is the winner of da Manny derby. Stay tune for the official word after December 17. Holla!

Frankly: Who is he going to fight if it's not Mosley? Martinez? Williams? I don't even mention PBF because he's on vacation or retired now... Honestly I don't know... I do know that Pac shouldn't be fighting Mosley @ this time... Maybe Pac should move down to the VERY Competitive 140 Division... It would be nice to see Pac clean out a division to finish his career off... But nowadays that's taboo... Just get the Big Paycheck and get out... Alas, this is the times we are living in.

In touch: It is unfortunate that this fight will take place. But there are some major issues to consider: 1) GBP's very own Bernard Hopkins has put it out there that Pac should fight a black American. Mosley is the only black American Pac can fight who can bring money to the table. 2) Mayweather refuses to fight Pac. 3) GBP owns Marquez and GBP don't get along with Bob Arum. They'll never be able to come to terms to make this fight happen. Sad for everyone. Mostly for boxing fans. 4) Marquez wants a 50-50 split against the fighter of the decade and the best fighter fighting right now. Can't happen. Won't happen. Marquez needs to agree to a more reasonable split like Mayweather did against De La Hoya when they fought. It was 75-25 for ODH. 5) Berto is young and fast but won't bring much to the table as far as ppv is concerned. Too bad for the fans. Too bad for boxing. 6) GBP should control their smaller partners (Hopkins) if they are serious in putting on shows like Pac vs. Marquez fight. Hopkins spouting out about Pac needing to fight black Americans to prove worthy had everyone talking. That's bad talk if GBP intended on getting Pac to fight a Mexican. Fans lose. Boxing loses. At the end

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of the day, Pac will get paid another 25 mill. In that sense neither he nor Arum lose. My wish is that guys like Berto step up and fight better competition and become stars so that they can demand big fights. 7) This deal with Mosley might prove another thing; GBP are cursed. They don't have a superstar. They've been trying to ride on Mayweathers coattails and that ride is over. Mosley had to leave GBP to get this fight with Pac. He was trying to get the Pacquiao fight before there was talk of Mayweather fighting Pacquiao. After Mayweather refused to fight Pac, GBP never gave Mosley a chance to step in against Pac. Maybe they were afraid Mosley might win and therefore ruin the big money fight between Pac and Mayweather. Either way, Mosley had to do what was best for him. Maybe Marquez needs to do the same.

Shadow_vmn: As a true boxing fan, not just a Pacquiao fan, I am disgusted with this fight. I was telling my dad a while ago that this will just end up bad for Pac. Not that he's going to lose, but for sure the critics will have a good time firing their guns, and this time the bullets won't be dodged. As big a Pacquiao fan as I am, will I defend him? Not this time. I'd like him to fight either Marquez, to shut the pee-pee mouths (although if Pac manages to beat him, critics will just say that Marquez is unproven at 140lbs and up, and he's old, and he's not African-American, and... you know what I mean), or since he's a welterweight, Andre Berto (even if Pac manages to beat him, critics will just say that why didn't he fight Marquez, and Berto is still unproven, and... you know what I mean). But what can I do, eh? What can WE do? Pac always says I'll fight anybody THAT MY PROMOTER PUTS IN FRONT OF ME. That means, Pac never tells Arum who he wants to fight. And that's sad.

The Roast: Say what you will but even at this age Shane Mosley has a better chance to win than Margarito or Clottey did. If the Pacman would be the first man to bust up and or KO Sugar Shane Mosley that would be a big achievement. I'm not sayin I'm just sayin.

Boxmeister: I used to think Arum is making sound decisions in match-ups. But this time he has lost it. Mosley is a spent, washed up fighter after his last two fights. If Arum thinks the fight fans are excited about it, he is dead wrong. He already said he does not care about the boxing fans on this match-up. He is not doing Pacquiao a favor by making him look bad even to his die-hard fans who want to see him fight meaningful and challenging fights. Berto is undefeated, black and the WBC Champion. It just makes sense to put him instead of worn-out, left-over of Fraud Mosley. This is a disgrace to Pacquiao and his fans. Hopefully, Pacquiao wakes up and if he is really sincere about putting up a good entertainment for the fans, he should consider fighting Berto and not Mosley and certainly not the money-monger pee-drinking Marquez.

Thommy: Let's hope Manny puts the kibosh on this farce. He should bypass his handlers and issue a public statement to the effect of Shane WAS a great fighter, he'll be in the Hall of Fame, etc, but he's a self-avowed shot fighter fighting only for one reason: Money. If Shane wants to fight on, so be it, but he's no longer a headliner. He is nothing more than a stepping stone/resume builder for up-and-comers to bang on. Remember, Manny just got through with a gimme. He doesn't need another. Margarito has absolutely nothing left, and he's been badly damaged goods since January 2009. If Manny fights Shane, that's back-to-back gimmes. If he does, and assuming he fights a worthy challenger after Shane, then he's effectively sidelined for a year plus. I think Berto is a much more attractive fight. The guy is young and hungry and looked good in his last fight.

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Tess: Not going to pay for this fight if it happens. It is a terrible fight, and not the one everyone wants to see. Manny is in part to blame for the hostility between GBP, and Top Rank. He should not have signed with both of them, and this might not have been as bad. As far as GBP Oscar leaving Top Rank to start his own company, Arum should get over it. Real fight fans want to see real fights. Marquez should not take 25%, he should take 60/40 or 70/30. He is generating interest as well.

Edgar: I dont believe for one second that Pacquiao will fight Mosley. This is just speculation. Look, Pacquiao is aware that Shane is a shell of his former self. The guy has looked nothing short of atrocious, and that fact isnt lost on Manny. Hes not going to wreck his momentum and legacy by fighting a guy that should have retired 5 years ago (Mosley beat up on a plasterless, shot Margarito). Its getting to the point where a Holyfield decision might have to be made regarding Shane - pull the plug on his license. Mosley belongs nowhere near a boxing ring these days, and Pacquiao knows this, and wont let this circus come to town.

DaveB: I cant blame Mosley if this report is true. Hell get another nice payday and obviously he is in need of the money. IMO I think both Pacquaio and Mayweather are hurting their respective legacies, if that means anything and I think it does to each of them. Catchweights, favorable matchmaking, not fighting fighters at times when the fighters were viable opponents, not fighting each other for stupid reasons, Pac letting Roach and Arum always tell him what to do - Im sure he doesnt do that in Congress. The Mayweather people on here always make up excuses for their man, the Pacquaio people always make up excuses for their man. The whole thing is sickening. These fights can come together if either man really wanted it. But if it cant and one man steps up, calls the other one out, negotiates smartly with no outrageous demands it would show the public who the real coward is and then he could say well if the fight never happens I tried my best. I think we could all live with that.

RG: Amen! Its time for Manny to say NO to this kind of fight. Mosley was an elite fighter but not anymore after the beating he got from Floyd. He barely got a draw with Mora who is way below Mannys class. If it does happen, I would still watch the fight but wont buy the PPV. There are lots of sports bar in our area that show all Mannys fight. Its time for Manny to give the younger fighters a chance like the winner of Devon and Tim if Floyd is too scared to fight him.

Radam G @ the Roast: I got a sickling feeling that da Manny is going to destroy Sugar Shane like mean ole Larry Holmes destroyed my idol GOAT Ali back in my kiddie days. History is so ironic and so repeating. Not that I will cry for Shane. He will get paid righteously.

FeRoz : If this is sad, it is because manny has already wiped out his own stable...and with it most of the elite names in the welterweight division. Hindsight is 20/20 but most of us moaned when Shane was chosen to fight Floyd a year ago. Hes been old and less dangerous long before this bout began shaping up. Floyd only confirmed what we suspected and/or knew. Why did Floyd fight him. Same reason as Manny. Money. Big name, big reward. Small risk. So this time its Manny giving SSM a payday (can you think of a more deserving veteran) and adding a name to his his list of vanquished. And like Floyd over JMM, Manny is fighting over someone elses leftovers. But that is how it works at this level. Virtually everyone is someone elses leftovers. But back to next spring. Only one man can de-rail this fight from happening. And Lord

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only knows why it aint Floyd. All he has to do is say Im Ready.

Anony: YES... this ranks at the top of FOY candidates. This one and last week Katsidis vs Marquez are the best from 2010. Antillon is insane... with a better defense he could have won this one but Sotos experience and coolness was the real winner here.

Mattressmania@FeRoz: So Antillon was the one with no power? Why didnt Soto knock Antillon out? I think Soto was the weaker but slightly faster technical fighter. If Antillon had landed what Soto dished out to Antillon he would of got knocked out....the kid ran for his life and did a good job of it. Antillon will be a top lightweight for the next couple years with his great showing in last nights fight. Honestly people pay money to watch real scraps, dont get me wrong great technique and athleticism is appreciated but i think in the sport of boxing you need more fighters with iron Ba**s! If youre athletic go play basketball or even football where footspeed is more needed. Cause I know darn well that 75% of the boxing fans that are out there dont wanna see two men dancing inside a ring for 12 rounds and get charged 54.99 for that. Fight of the year definitely round by round!

FeRoz : Soto was beautiful against an absolutely relentless pressure attack by the incredibly resilient Antillon. In fact, had Antillon had KO power, Soto would have been in even greater danger. The fight was minute to minute one of the years best. Two men, each with different skill sets, both phenomenally well trained, executing their respective plans to the T. Antillon attacked...and Soto was like a matador. Moving fluidly side to side, fighting going forward...and back...he nailed Antillon hard with pinpoint accuracy. But still Antillon came. And the more he did, the better Soto was. I cant remember seeing two fighters since Gatti and Ward show each other so much respect after such a war. Antillon, no stranger to roughhouse tactics, literally hugged Soto BEFORE the final round. For those of you who missed it, Dont. This one was worth all of the bad PPV monies we have spent before. It was a night ofFights, with a capital F.