

Sulaiman Explains Alvarez-Hatton Fight

Written by The Sweet Science
Wednesday, 23 February 2011 18:17

WBC boss Jose Sulaiman released a statement explaining the WBC decision to have Saul Alvarez fight Matt Hatton for the 154 pound title vacated by Manny Pacquiao.

"One other news item that moved detractors, a few Mexicans among them, was the approval of the WBC to have the WBC super welterweight Silver Belt champion, **Saul Álvarez**, to fight against **Matthew Hatton**, the welterweight EBU champion, to fill the super welterweight title left vacant by Pacquiao, moved by the vested interests who even influence some of the media, when the WBC Board of Governors studied the special circumstances of seeing that while Álvarez was the #1, **Alfredo Angulo** #2, inactive for a long time after losing his visa and the USA court to recover it; #3, **Paul Williams**, whose last fight was a devastating K.O. commotion by **Sergio Martínez**; #4 **Ryan Rhodes**, being unavailable, and #5, **Antonio Margarito**, who has not yet received the medical approval to box again.

Under those circumstances, the WBC considered very seriously that the fight Alvarez-Hatton had already been signed for March 5; also the opportunity to fill immediately the vacant title left by Pacquiao, instead of waiting five or six months to fill it. Also considered was the rule of the WBC that states that any rated boxer can fight for the title at any of the upper or lower divisions, as it has been the case always with all the champions mentioned above, as also **Muhammad Ali**, winner of a gold medal in the light heavyweight division; **Erik Morales**, **Marco Barrera**, **El Travieso Arce**, Pacquiao himself, **Emile Griffith**, **Alexis Argüello**, and so many other fighters through the decades, which is absolutely no different than the action taken by the WBC in favor of two boxers with 79 victories and only 4 defeats combined, when one is the undefeated WBC Silver Belt champion, while the other had three years as champion of the British Empire, and three defenses of his present EBU-EUROPE title. The WBC feels firmer than ever with its decision, while feeling sorry for the fact that boxing today is

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an industry where its people fight hard to tarnish the image of their rivals, when it would much better when fighting harder for their own victories and success.

Mexico, Great Britain and Germany will have their champions' opportunities to win WBC championships for their boxing fans and their own countries. The WBC is not a puppet, and will always struggle for justice, equality, and opportunities for all. So be it."

For what it's worth...

He might've also explained, explicitly, not obliquely, the reasoning behind having a guy who has never weighed more than 150 pounds, Alvarez, fight for the 154 pound title, against another guy who is a committed welterweight.

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FighterforJC says:

It stinks in here.

Radam G says:

Wow! WBC -- We Be Conning -- is getting on its dance. That sucka will be collecting that large sanctioning fee. Saul Alvarez is bringing a chic look to the game. Who ever thought that a red-headed Mexican would rule. Dude looks similiar to the Native American boxing red-headed brothers -- the late Ernie "Red" Lopez and his younger sibling ex-(WBC) Featherweight world champion Danny "Little Red" Lopez. HBO voice Larry Merchant is really existed about Alvarez. I -- NO! Saul Alvarez is very green and super hyped. Angulo, Williams, Rhodes and Margarito would all school da kid. Holla!

the Roast says:

I gotta disagree with my man Radam on this one. I dont know if this kid will be a legend or a bust or somewhere in between. What I do know is that boxing needs young stars to rise up and replace the old. Margarito would serve as a punching bag to this kid at this point. Margarito is done at the elite level and would be happy to chug forward, catch a beating and cash his check. I hope the kid does well.

Isaiah says:

Wow! The WBC has really been making boxing proud lately hasn't it? There's nothing like stripping real champion Sergio Martinez of their title, giving it to the Pacquiao/Margarito winner who's accomplishments both at 154 don't amount to a hill of beans and then already stripping the Pacman of the title only about 6 months later to give to the winner of Alvarez/Hatton who, guess what?, haven't done anything to amount to a hill of beans at 154, especially Hatton.

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Alvarez is good, maybe even really good, but the young man is GREEN and would be easily exposed by an elite fighter. No wonder Floyd Mayweather was foaming at the mouth months ago for a chance to take on Saul. NO THREAT. There's a reason that Saul hasn't tangled with the elite yet. Doesn't anyone find it rather convient that there was always some kind of excuse on why he couldn't fight any of those 5 names, but yet, Matthew Hatton was available? You can't make this stuff up! Paul Williams can't fight him, eh? No Antonio Margarito either? No Kermit Cintron or Andre Berto? No Angulo? I can forgive the Martinez one. He's at 160 for good it seems like. How about Luis Collazo? Nope? I guess Oscar De La Hoya just feels like riding this kid until he's bled dry. What a shame.

brownsugar says:

from what I've been hearing Alvarez will most likely end up at 154. Isaiah said he'd like to see Alvarez against the likes of Berto and Cintron. (surely Hatton is a journeyman at best). I'd be thankful to see how he would do against a come ahead banger like Soto Karass who just lost to Jones.

brownsugar says:

there is some good news on the horizon,.. #1 contender Mike Jones is calling out both Berto and Miguel Cotto (with Cotto's exclusive platinum purse status, it's a fight that I doubt would happen anytime soon) However Berto has no grounds to deny Jones ...like he did Cintron using his scetchy past history against him. In fact as insane as it sounds.... HBO already has Berto scheduled to fight Ortize next... but the kicker is that insiders are saying HBO is going to demand Jones/Berto for the fall should Berto be able to keep his perfect record intact against small fry Ortiz.