

"I Only Punch Hard Enough To Win" aka Mayweather Hits Hard Enough To Beat Pacquiao

Written by Frank Lotierzo

Monday, 21 November 2011 17:17



Howard Cosell to Muhammad Ali 9/20/72 in the ring after Ali stopped former heavyweight champ Floyd Patterson in their rematch:

Cosell: Muhammad, you couldn't put Floyd down, is there anything left of your punch?

Ali: No Howard, I can't punch, I only punch hard enough to win.

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As most know, former heavyweight champ Muhammad Ali wasn't known for his knockout power. Ali may perhaps be the greatest overall heavyweight fighter/boxer in history, but he certainly wasn't a life-taker like Sonny Liston, Joe Frazier, George Foreman, Ron Lyle and Earnie Shavers. Incidentally, in eight fights against those feared killers, Ali went 7-1 (5). Former champs Larry Holmes and Gene Tunney also weren't known as punchers, yet they convincingly beat beasts named Shavers and Dempsey.

When Ali fought Foreman in 1974 for the title, the prevailing thought was he couldn't tickle George with his punch, therefore George should just walk right through him on his way to a spectacular knockout win. Ali knocked Foreman out. When Sugar Ray Leonard fought Marvin Hagler in 1987, Hagler was known for having a titanium chin and it was inconceivable to think Leonard could hurt Hagler, let alone beat him. Yet despite Leonard not being able to hurt Marvin, Hagler couldn't just go to him as though Ray were handcuffed and rip his head off. Leonard went on to score the upset and make history. When Pernell Whitaker fought Julio Cesar Chavez in 1993, Chavez was known for having a cast-iron chin and a debilitating left-hook to the body, and everyone knew Whitaker couldn't bust a grape when it came to punching power. So how in the world could he keep Chavez from tearing through him on his way to a stoppage victory? For the record, Whitaker boxed circles around Chavez and should've been awarded the decision instead of getting hosed when the fight was scored a draw.

Before the third bout between Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez earlier this month, it was said that Marquez didn't have the power to really hurt Pacquiao. Thus there was nothing for Manny to worry about fighting Marquez above 140 pounds, he should just blitz through him and win inside of five rounds just as his trainer Freddie Roach predicted he would. And you know what, they were half right. Marquez never hurt Pacquiao once over the course of 12-rounds. However, an overwhelming majority of the writers and fans who attended the bout thought Marquez won the fight and should've won the majority decision that went against him.

Forget for a second who you thought won the fight. The question is, if Marquez can't punch a lick, then how did he manage to go the distance and prevent Pacquiao from breaking him down and busting him up? It's not as if Marquez was kicking Pacquiao, he didn't leg sweep him, nor did he possess a gun and we know Pacquiao wasn't handcuffed. Again, why couldn't Pacquiao, or Foreman or Hagler or Chavez simply walk through Marquez, Ali, Leonard and Whitaker? The answer is simple. All world class fighters can punch. No, they're not all life-takers, but they can all hit with enough power to keep the baddest of the bad from simply taking liberties with them. Just because a fighter doesn't go down or wince, doesn't mean he's not hurting or feeling a little pain or discomfort. Marquez yielded two things that stymied Pacquiao's all out attack, his left and his right gloved-fist, nothing else. And as the world saw, Pacquiao couldn't just go through Marquez could he? Marquez's first tier boxing aptitude and ability along with his adequate

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power really were enough to get the job done and neutralize Pacquiao's aggression.

Getting punched in the face by Marquez, Ali, Leonard or Whitaker is not something that their opponents thought was a walk in the park. To win a professional fight at the world class level, the fighter who is not thought of as being a big hitter doesn't have to hurt his opponent to win. If Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather sign to fight, it'll be repeated over and over how Mayweather can't hurt Pacquiao enough to deter him from pressing the fight. And that's probably true, although a fighter that hits as accurately as Mayweather can get anybody out if he catches him right. The point is, a good boxer doesn't have to hurt or knock his opponent out to beat him conclusively. All he needs is to possess enough power to disrupt him and knock him slightly out of range, thus giving himself time and space to either get out before he's countered or cut loose again. And all world class fighters hit hard enough to do that.

Physical strength and leverage is more important than punching power. An overload of strength can enable the bigger puncher to impose his power on his weaker opponent most of the time. However, physical strength and punching power don't go hand and hand. Muhammad Ali wasn't a knockout puncher, but he was never manhandled or moved around the ring by his opponent because his ring strength was very underrated. Marquez is no where close to the puncher that Pacquiao is, but in their last fight he demonstrated that he wasn't inferior to Pacquiao when it comes to physical strength.

Fighting/boxing is much more than just hitting power. Today's fans and writers are too enamored with power. The problem is, power has to be delivered. If the fighter who is supposedly a tremendous puncher meets an opponent who prevents him from delivering his power, what good is it, especially if he doesn't have something else to fall back on?

If and when Pacquiao and Mayweather fight, most observers picking Manny will be confident that due to Floyd's lack of finishing punch, Manny will be able to dictate the fight. Because they believe that Mayweather can't punch, they'll feel secure that Pacquiao should be able to do whatever he wants and just blast through him on demand during the bout. But they're wrong. Mayweather punches hard enough to blunt and disrupt Pacquiao's assault. And like Marquez, Mayweather will be able to make Pacquiao think and not just attack, something that Marquez showed really does impede Pacquiao's aggression, thus rendering him less effective. If Mayweather can manage to make Pacquiao think his way through the fight, that's a big edge for him and would probably be the difference as to why he won.

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In their last fight, Marquez didn't try to stand his ground and fight and trade with Pacquiao. He drew Pacquiao to him in a more controlled manner and then hit him on the way in. Whereas Pacquiao had to reach and lunge at Marquez who was going away from his power. Look for Mayweather to do the same. Floyd won't even try to hurt Manny if they fight. He'll shoot one-twos to his face and either knock him out of range for a return attack or blunt him in the middle of his aggression before he gets close enough to do any damage.

Like Muhammad Ali, Floyd Mayweather is no life-taker. But at the same time he punches hard enough to win and defeat a wrecking machine the likes of Manny Pacquiao. Does that ensure that Mayweather will win if and when he fights Pacquiao? Of course not. But he does punch hard enough to beat him convincingly.

[Comment on this article](#)

GerardMcL says:

As Angelo Dundee said about Ali's jab, A jab is still a punch in the face!!!

You land enough punches and you will wear anyone down. But the point stands that if Floyd can land as Manny moves it to set himself and throw he stops Manny from planting the feet, Manny has to shift his balance and by the time he is ready to throw again Floyd is long gone.

The worrying thing is that Marquez could do this to Manny, Mayweather has better speed, reflexes, feet movement and balance than Marquez and his jab is faster and more accurate. I would never write Manny off but add all that up and it will be very very difficult to beat Mayweather.

Radam G says:

Wow! GREAT JIVE about Money May's imaginary escaping and fleeing from Da Manny. [Money May would shoulder roll and counter punch right into getting his arse KAYOED!] And even greater bullsh*tology about Money May's imaginary victory over Da Manny. Powers that can ought to make the FIGHT happen. Reality and actually always have a way of slappin' da holy syet outta fortune telling and superiority mythology. Holla!

Radam G says:

The saga never STOPS! Humans are the slowest animal to LEARN, and for _____ they YEARN! YUP! Tyson use to be "Da baddest man on da planet." Margarito use to be "Da MOST feared man on da planet." LTP Pu\$\$y Williams use to be "Da most avoided fighter on the planet." I've heard it all. But everyone of these muthasuckas went for a devastating FALL.

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Money May is now the most gifted, fastest, greatest counter-punching pugilist on da planet. [His a\$\$ is unbeatable and touchable, let the ____ ____ tell it.] He is just another knucklehead dat cannot be beat, especially by Da Manny, so spit the myth makers and gatekeepers of bullspit. Nonetheless, as all the rest, da sucka will lose the utimate contest. And BIG on this, I BEST! Holla!

FighterforJC says:

[QUOTE=GerardMcL;10739]As Angelo Dundee said about Ali's jab, A jab is still a punch in the face!!!

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The not worrying thing is that Mayweather does not fight anything like Marquez. His punch selection is different, his defense is different, his movement is different, his punch output is different, his center of gravity is different, his range is different, the angles of his punches are different, his fighting instincts are different, should I go on?

Now if Mayweather fought identically as Marquez, then his superior physical attributes would be a major factor.

brownsugar says:

THIS JUST IN,... KONCZ is flying to Vegas to discuss fighting Mayweather instead of Marquez,... it appears Pac desperately wants the fight as opposed to going on another grind with Marquez. This makes a lot more sense,.. because if Pac has another close fight with Marquez,.. the Mayweather bout would lose more interest than it already has... incidently even if Pac loses to Floyd... Fans would still watch him fight Marquez a 4th time,.. just like fans Flocked to Marquez/Vasquez and will again for Cotto vs Margarito,.. (two former P4P and current fan favorites who have slightly faded to the "Oldies but Goodies Category" but are still considered to be very intertaining warriors).

To fight Mayweather now would be in best interest of all parties involved..

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You can but I never said Mayweather does them the same as Marquez, I said he does them better!!

You don't have to fight like Marquez to beat Pacquiao but if you share some of those traits you are well equipped to beat him. Marquez/Morales both were good counter punchers - so is Floyd. Marquez/Morales both had very accurate right hands - so has Floyd. Marquez/Morales both have quick hands and good movement - so has Floyd.

I wouldn't say Morales and Marquez were similar in style but they were both equipped with the tools to beat Manny. I think Floyd possesses the same tools except his are probably a bit sharper.

"B" says:

I almost hope Floyd doesn't fight Manny. I like both fighters a lot as I have said before. But Manny does not match up well against Floyd. But you can look at my comments dated almost four years back and see that I have always said this. No one knows who would win but even Pacman fans base almost all their argument on the fact that Manny punches hard and will knock the best defensive fighter on the planet out. Power is great but saying that Manny Pacquiao is going to knock out Floyd is a little bit of a stretch....I mean if you want to say He can beat Floyd then yes that is very possible(although not in my opinion) But it is kinda funny that most people who I talk to who think Floyd would lose absolutely despise him lol. If it was not Manny it would be someone else. Is it just a case of "(insert any fighter's name here) would knock Floyd's a** out" . I just hope that Manny fans are prepared for the possibility that Manny might get embarrassed and possibly stopped. I know Floyd is a long shot, and he is soft, and he runs, oh yeah and he can't punch....but even the lowly Floyd has a chance right lol????(that's sarcasm for those who are confused lol). I just hope if they actually fight that fans will not be bitter towards the winner and or try to diminish the loser's career accomplishments. They are both great fighters. But who am I kidding. If Manny beats Floyd people will come out and say that Floyd's entire career was a sham and farce. And fans will make a shrine in Manny's likeness lol. But if Floyd wins(spooky music playing).... They will say that Floyd beat up a smaller fighter or they will all of the sudden say that Manny was past his prime, or they will site cramps. And they will say that Manny has been in a lot of tough fights. Or that he's distracted because of his political obligations. If you are reading this you know that I am right. Fans are so predictable but I love them. People hate to see a villain win but even when a good guy gets on top they find a way to tear him down to.....and the church says amen.....Happy T-giving to all. Keep Family first. I love debating and talking sh** with you guys. be blessed

FighterforJC says:

[QUOTE=GerardMcL;10757]You can but I never said Mayweather does them the same as Marquez, [B]I said he does them better!![/B]You don't have to fight like Marquez to beat Pacquiao but if you share some of those traits you are well equipped to beat him. Marquez/Morales both were good counter punchers - so is Floyd. Marquez/Morales both had very accurate right hands - so has Floyd. Marquez/Morales both have quick hands and good movement - so has Floyd.

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You are generalizing. Mayweather doesn't "do it better." He does it differently. His approach is different, his timing is different, his reactions are different. He moves different, he occupies a different space, his punches come from a different angle and range from Marquez's. Mayweather very well could end up beating Pacquiao, but IF he does, it has absolutely nothing to do with how Marquez was able to handle Pacquiao.

FighterforJC says:

[QUOTE=brownsugar;10749]THIS JUST IN,.... KONCZ is flying to Vegas to discuss fighting Mayweather instead of Marquez,... it appears Pac desperately wants the fight as opposed to going on another grind with Marquez. This makes a lot more sense,.. because if Pac has another close fight with Marquez,.. the Mayweather [B]bout would lose more interest than it already has... [/B]incidentally even if Pac loses to Floyd... Fans would still watch him fight Marquez a 4th time,.. just like fans Flocked to Marquez/Vasquez and will again for Cotto vs Margarito,.. (two former P4P and current fan favorites who have slightly faded to the "Oldies but Goodies Category" but are still considered to be very intertaining warriors).

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On the contrary, considering that Mayweather's fanbase is pretty big and the FACT that they are ALL afraid to see Mayweather in the ring against Pacquiao, after seeing Pacquiao's performance against JMM I think most of Mayweather's fans suddenly became very interested to see the fight take place.

"B" says:

Fighterforjc.....I want to pick your brain if if you dont mind. Do you think Mayweather and Marquez are in the same class as fighters? If so, then tell me and the tss nation why you think so. If you think one of them is better than the other than also tell why you think so. I am just curious to know your take on comparing Mayweather and Marquez.... I mean maybe as far as accomplishments and as being first ballad h.o.famers but I think most reasonable boxing fans would say thats where it stops. Saying that Mayweather only does things "differently" than Marquez is like saying a sirloin only taste "different" than prime rib. Marquez is a great fighter. But come on people..... try not to let your disdain for Mayweather cause you to even suggest that Mayweather is not a much better boxer than Marquez. I mean even to hint to this notion makes you look a little silly.

MisterLee says:

Frank Z: one question that people who keep saying that pacquiao will beat mayweather should ask themselves is... how is pacquiao going to defend himself from mayweather's right hands?

the Roast says:

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MisterLee, bring forth the one known as Frank Z and let him speak for himself!!

MisterLee says:

from Frank Z: unfortunately registrations are no longer allowed so this is the only way for me to convey thoughts.

the Roast says:

Really? REALLY???

Radam G says:

Like always, Frank Z is getting on his juvenile fibbing! Everybody and dey momma, and every sucka and his _____ can still register to get into this universe. Wow! New readers are coming offen. As far as I know, this is not a facist party Universe. Dude ought to develop a heart and fess up. If I'm wrong, excuse da double fudge _____ out of me. Holla!