

Want Pacquiao Vs. Bradley? Cotto? Peterson? Marquez? Weigh-In!...WOODS

Written by Michael Woods

Wednesday, 04 January 2012 15:29



I'd like the year in boxing 2012 to be remembered, at least partially, as the year of the fan. I'd like to toss the ball in your court, and take advantage of your collective wisdom, because frequently, you guys have a superior take on a situation, and use better judgment than a lot of us "experts" do. We get clouded by our biases, and suits get clouded by business interests, but the fans can keep a clearer head, and thus, their input is typically unclouded as a result.

With that preamble dispensed, I'd like your take on the Big Four, the four gentlemen who are in line to play a Manny Pacquiao scratch ticket.

You probably heard, via ABS-CBN, that promoter Bob Arum will be headed to the Philippines next week, and by January 10 or so, will have sat down with the Congressman, and discussed

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four foes that Top Rank has chosen to be suitable opponents for Manny in his first 2012 bout, presumably in May.

In alphabetic order, Tim Bradley, Miguel Cotto, Juan Manuel Marquez and Lamont Peterson are the names mentioned by Arum as folks who will get a crack at Pacquiao.

If you'd have thrown those names against the wall last year at this time, you would have received vastly different responses than you will now. First and foremost, in January of 2011, Pacquiao was coming off a slaughter of Antonio Margarito. Then he met Shane Mosley, and then Juan Manuel Marquez, and perceptions of Pacquiao changed. Not in every camp, mind you. Some folks will tell you that Manny is still Manny, the same Manny who he was in January 2011. They'll say that Mosley simply fought to survive and there was no way, shape or form that Pacquiao could have looked like a million bucks in Las Vegas against track star Mosley. Those folks will say that Manny had an off night against Marquez on Nov. 12, that he quite likely overtrained, and that Marquez fought the fight of his life. But many of those same folks also concede that Pacquiao is better suited to fighting a certain sort of foe, that the more slippery boxers, the more agile hitters, and the master craftsman, give him problems.

In January 2011, people would have said that Marquez is past his prime, and won't thrive at welterweight, because after all, look how he did at that class when he tangled with Floyd Mayweather? So maybe people wouldn't have put him first on the list among the four proposed foes...

Cotto wouldn't have gotten all that much love, considering he had a shot at Pacquiao in November 2009, and didn't get any traction enroute to a TKO12 loss.

In January 2011, the level of love for Tim Bradley would have been roughly the same. The junior welter had come off an OK showing at welter in July 2010, with a UD12 over Luis Abregu, after snagging another UD12 over Lamont Peterson and getting into a managerial-promotional entanglement. There were those who would've said back then a year ago they'd like to see his volume and pressure against Manny's volume and pressure. Also, people who wanted Manny to fight someone other than an ultra-vet liked the idea of a young 'un (then 27) getting a crack..

As for Lamont Peterson, in January 2011, his name would've had people hooting. He'd drawn

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with Victor Ortiz in December 2010, after losing to Bradley one year before. The DC-boxer's buzz was not present and one wondered if he'd simply be one of those solid sorts who would never beat an 'A' grade boxer. The hooting and the wondering stopped on December 10 of this year, when he elevated his game a hefty step, fighting passionately and effectively against Amir Khan. Peterson got the W, with some friendly officiating and appreciative judges watching in his home state, but even if he hadn't, his stock ticked up hard. And that's why I'd maybe be most intrigued to see Pacquiao-Peterson, of all those potential matches.

Peterson is a relative pup; he'd be 28 next May. How would the 33 and a half year old Pacquiao handle the energy of the Khan conqueror? Would he use Peterson's aggression against him, or would those strafing body shots take something from Pacquiao's legs early on?

I'd also be happy to pony up for the PPV to see if Manny could tweak his game to see a better result against Marquez, in their fourth tangle. But this series has now turned into something like the "Rocky" series; still capable of great moments, but a smidge of staleness has set in. One should probably factor in that Marquez "deserves" another crack at Pacquiao, seeing as how so many people thought he got Madoff'd in their third clash.

Pacquiao-Cotto II is a more interesting matchup after Dec. 3, 2011 than it was before, because Cotto truly looked like an improved pugilist, like someone who was engaged with the sport again, like a person who once again liked boxing. His newfound zest for combat, combined with Pacquiao's (possible) deterioration makes the rematch a closer-to-even proposition, and a sellable entity for Arum.

I'm least interested in Pacquiao-Bradley, as I'd like to see Bradley raise his game before getting this lotto play. I respect the heck out of his talent, especially his stamina, but he is so one dimensional that I'm afraid a fight with him and Pacman wouldn't generate much heat in the months leading up to it. How about Bradley meet and beat Peterson, with the winner to get Pacquiao down the line? Or if Peterson's not game, how about Bradley and Amir Khan get it on, again, with the prospect of a Pacquiao payday hanging over the scrap?

That's my riff on the Big Four. Readers, leave a comment in our Forum, and slot who you'd like Manny to meet, first to fourth. Perhaps Mr Arum will log on to TSS, and do a little market research before he checks in with the Congressman. We are hoping that he is down with our hopeful notion that 2012 will go down as the year of the fan..

[Comment on this article](#)

the Roast says:

Ok, of these four picks, I would like to see Pac vs Ram Bradley. We've seen JMM three times already. Cotto took a beating, no reason to think he wouldn't take another one. Peterson is the Art Frias of the bunch. Upset win, now he gets Mancini, goes down in flames. Peterson would wet the bed vs Pacman. Take him out of his hometown and put him under the bright lights and he's not ready for prime time. Dome blaster Tim is the unknown. He was the it boy until the dull Alexander fight. Not all his fault, Devon didnt come to fight or was overrated or whatever. Tim beats 75 year old Casamayor. Big deal. I wouldnt mind seeing Bradley win another fight to earn that big payday but he is the best pick of the four.

ali says:

Bradley deserves a shot at Pac but his lack of power and wild punching is going to get him KO against Manny...Peterson reminds me of Clotey putting up those ear muffs all the time I do think he will have some moments but not enough to win... Marquez can damn sure beat Pac but only in Mexico and ain't no way the fight is happen over there so the hell with that fight....I think Cotto will beat him in a rematch as long as the fight weight is not below 150lbs...Cotto won some early rounds if he avoids getting into exchanges with pac like Marquez he will without a doubt in my mind win the fight.

mortcola says:

[QUOTE=ali;12276]Bradley deserves a shot at Pac but his lack of power and wild punching is going to get him KO against Manny...Peterson reminds me of Clotey putting up those ear muffs all the time I do think he will have some moments but not enough to win... Marquez can damn sure beat Pac but only in Mexico and ain't no way the fight is happening over there so the hell with that fight....I think Cotto will beat him in a rematch as long as the fight weight is not below 150lbs...Cotto won some early rounds if he avoids getting into exchanges with pac like Marquez he will without a doubt in my mind win the fight.[/QUOTE]

Hey Ali - I respect your wish to see things shaken up, but I really think its wishful thinking, Cotto beating Pac. He scraped by, barely, in a few close to even rounds. Other than that, he was utterly dominated, and survived because he has good defensive retreat skills. Only way he wins is landing a nuke and stopping Pac, or if Pac has truly slipped very, very far. Cotto can't do what Marquez does, the small adjustments that enable him to thread the needle of Pac's assault and keep him off balance. Not his game. Maybe it is only Marquez' game. Bradley can be competitive because he is slick, quick, and strong. But he does not have a great chin, and is not really a sharpshooter, throwing wide and missing a lot in spite of some good, focused attack strategies. Pac is still a favorite in all the ways he was before, with a little asterisk that says, watch to see if his head is in the fight. Peterson will never throw enough to win. He's a cutie, he can be nailed and dropped. He's good, but not good enough. He barely got by a Khan who is

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inept defensively and can't exchange. Good thoughts, everybody.

Radam G says:

Homie Ali, you started off fine, but ended up like you are on cheat-a\$\$ wine. Drunk like a muthasucka! Hehehehehe! Keep that Cotto dream alive. He cannot handle Da Manny beehive. And the honey ants would have the great Cotto out like a light in round five. I don't want to see Da Manny fight any of the suckas named. Holla!

Edogerailius says:

Cotto again. Like you said, Cotto looked much improved against Margarito last month. And let's not forget that even though he lost, he landed some good shots on Manny and left Manny's ear all swollen and nasty when they first met. Bradley would be boring - a chess match. Peterson isn't good enough yet, and we've seen Manny and Marquez three times already, and a fourth fight promises much of the same. If Cotto could figure out a way to win, it sets up a HUGE rubber match in the fall. If not, maybe Manny and Floyd finally meet in the fall. And if Cotto could somehow beat Manny in a rematch, and again in a rubber match, bring on Cotto vs Floyd. Edogerailius out.

Freddy says:

Marquez deserves it most. That fight will also make the most dollars so it also makes the most sense.

No. 2 would be Cotto, but I doubt they will agree on on a catchweight. Cotto won't kill himself to meet Pac's wishes. Cotto could also earn big \$ by fighting other names.

If not Marquez (or Cotto), I think Bradley deserves a shot. Wasn't that why Top Rank signed him in the first place?

Peterson shouldn't even be considered. He did not beat Khan convincingly and was taken to school by Bradley.

I'll puke if they choose Peterson.

Radam G says:

Hey guest Freddy, get ready to puke. Vengeance could be Da Manny saith Grandmaster Pugistic Guru Freddy "Always Ready," "No Joke Coach" Roach. But than again, Freddy loves to get on his bulljivin' and connivin' with da boksing media cats. Holla!

ali says:

[QUOTE=mortcola;12280]Hey Ali - I respect your wish to see things shaken up, but I really think its wishful thinking, Cotto beating Pac. He scraped by, barely, in a few close to even rounds. Other than that, he was utterly dominated, and survived because he has good defensive retreat

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What's up Mortcola u make some good points about Cotto vs Pac but I think if he sticks with his jab (which I think is the best in boxing right now) stays away from exchanges and don't try and get back at Pac when he's hit with a good shot he will beat Manny.

ali says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;12283]Homie Ali, you started off fine, but ended up like you are on cheap-a\$\$ wine. Drunk like a muthasucka! Hehehehehe! Keep that Cotto dream alive. He cannot handle Da Manny beehive. And the honey ants would have the great Cotto out like a light in round five. I don't want to see Da Manny fight any of the suckas named. Holla! [/QUOTE]
Then who would u like to see him fight next now that Mayweather is out of the picture.

brownsugar says:

I think Cotto was a bit depleted vs Pac... being a mere several ounces below ones optimum weight threshold is enough to turn the advantage to the other guy. Cotto looked gaunt and hollow against Pac... and after he felt his power, Cotto was afraid to let his hands go even when Pac had his back on the ropes... this is not to take anything away from Pac... who seems like he fights the bigger guys on higher "frequency" that they are accustomed to. At 154 Cotto should have no excuse to lose to Pac a 2nd time. But no one could blame Pac for not wanting to give up that huge of an advantage the second time around.

However a startling discovery has been made. It may be true that smaller boxers may be able to "tune" in to Pac "high - frequency" style of boxing and give him a run for the money.

As it's been said before,.. the free swinging Bradley is by far the biggest threat besides Khan... But don't be surprised if Peterson gave the Pacman a better fight than Mosley, Margarito, and Clottey put together. Peterson has a "slow" developing offense but he's a huge opportunist,.. he wouldn't allow Pac to languish along the ropes like Cotto did....on the other hand Peterson could also be stopped if Pac gets off to a quick start.

Anyone of these fights would be interesting to me... they would do more to solidify Pac's legacy in my eyes than beating a few weight drained veterans while they were on their next-to-last legs... bring it on.

hallamq says:

Well, mortcola pretty much left me without anything to say. In my opinion: 1.- Bradley, just for the sake of curiosity; 2.- Cotto, because I don't really like him, I think he's good but easily scared would do just as badly as he did in the first bout, thus finally getting written off the elite; 3.- JMM

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(more on that in a moment) and 4.- Peterson, who just isn't up to the task of seriously hurting Manny. I'm a big fan of JMM and believe he already defeated Manny once (in their second go-around), but I don't think we could possibly see a better fight than the previous three and I wouldn't be happy with any result: If Manny gets a clear win, I'll feel bad for Marquez, who'd end his career with a way-too-harsh 0-3-1 against his greatest foe, without having looked inferior for a second in 36 rounds with Pacquiao. If JMM wins, we'd lose boxing's only current likeable superstar, and JMM wouldn't even enjoy full praise, because people will see the fourth fight as a stale sequel with both fighters past their prime. Oh, and if Manny got another controversial win, well, we'd just never hear the end of it and both fighters would leave with less than then came in with.

Radam G says:

Dang, B-Sug! Everytime I see you with that golden hat on your dome, I think of ancient Rome. In that mugshot, you look like one of the Roman Empire ancient North African Soldiers that they sent to the P-Islands back in those long-ago days to try to take over.

You know me, I'm down with OPP! Of course we kicked Alexander Da Great troops' arses. Our honey bees and honey ants assisted us in the wars. Surprised the sword-fighting Romans like muthastingers trapped in the honey of the P-Island insects, not in the love tunnels of the P-Island honey hotties. Hehehehehe!

Every sucka and his mistress tell me that we Pinoys have all type of shocking syet in the P-Islands. I guess to them. But it's natural home jive to me. And there is no place like home and da P-jive, BABEEEE!

BTW, B-Sug, did you eat any honey ants, or at least the honey of the ants, when you were station there? C'mon, MAN! There ain't nothing like honey ants, bulat and betamax on da side. Then again, those honey ants in Australia are petty tasty, and that honey is some real A-side meth stuff. Holla!

Radam G says:

There is nobody for Da Manny to fight at welterweight, who is any competition. I think that he should fight a bum or two while Money May is on lockdown. And then the broke-arse Jailbird May -- I mean Money May -- will bite. Oh, YUP! The sucka will be ready to fight, because he's not use to not having moola. Mark my words. All of Money May's funds are going to dry up while he is on jailhouse lockdown. Out-of-control entitlement makes one into a broke-***, locked-up, clown. Holla!

Radam G says:

BTW, a mystery man has been caught at the Petterson-Khan bout changing the score cards. You can check dat jive out at Youtube. Now I know a cheat, hometown cooking and a con when I smell it. I don't even need to see it. Da bytch smells like a banana. And that is crooked-arse boksing. Holla!

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MisterLee says:

We've seen marquez vs. pacquiao 1-3. Chances are it'll be like part 3 except slightly worse: marquez would be older plus the weight gain... pacquiao might be equally unmotivated and give another poor showing with nothing learned since part 1 or 2... Cotto's defense is still questionable, though now he has a real corner and trainer. Who cares? Styles make fights, and Pacquiao is best at fighting bigger guys who are either boxer punchers (Mosley or Cotto) or straightforward, face first fighters (Margarito, Hatton) or old fighters (Oscar, Mosley), but once some fighter has boxing skills they frustrate the heck out of Pacquiao (Mosley's game plan, Clottey, Marquez). Bradley and Peterson can both box, and if Peterson does pressure he does it effectively with head movement and body shots and a tight guard. Pacquiao has been picking man, and pple who don't give Peterson a chance are not seeing his skills. Sometimes pple confuse talent/potential/athletic ability with high level, elite skills as if they were the same thing. Sometimes they come together (Pacquiao, Mayweather, Prime Shane Mosley, Roy Jones in his prime, Jermaine Taylor in his prime, Gamboa, Donaire), and sometimes they do not (Bhop – fantastic skill but not the greatest of athletic prowess, Andre Ward, Bradley, Peterson). An example of the former would be Andre Berto, Amir Khan, Andre Dirrell, Zab Judah ... fighters with HUGE ability and athletic prowess, but incomplete fighters and not necessarily trying to master the craft and have the complete skillset. With that said, I feel Bradley has fundamentals and skills that Pacquiao does not have even though he is not the same phenomenal athlete, and I think Peterson has some things in his skill set that will give Pacquiao problems (his height and reach, boxing skills, defense, body punching). Plus Pacquiao is no longer the hungry wolf he once was, he is now a part time fighter, and full time politician, celebrity, and public figure. Pacquiao will no longer hang with the best the longer his career drags on.

miguel1 says:

I'm gonna toss Robert Guerrero's name into the ring, even though he may be small. I like the style matchup...

Radam G says:

Shame, SHAME on Team Peterson, the D.C. boxing commission and the criminal-invented Ebonican-led IBF! Their arses have been caught with their hands in the cookie jar. Bunch of _____ -- _____!

Now can we have true justice. Over a 100 years ago, fight promoter Tex Rickard referee the bout of Jack Johnson and Jim Jeffries because he knew that home lynching -- I mean home cooking -- was going to take place for Cali-resident Jim Jeffries. And in the end, Johnson -- "Unforgiveable Blackness" -- kicked arse.

But in 2011, some black officials and a black-led alphabet-sanctioning organization let a black referee screw Amir "Da Great" Khan for unforgiveable hatred of being the same looks and ethnicity of the war enemy. WTF! Tex Rickard was ahead of his time. The IBF and the Washington D.C. home cooking crooks are behind their time like mutharacist sc*m-criminals of reality, actuality, fairplay and justice.

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The suckas have disgraced the USA in the city where suckas are always disgracing the USA. Hehehehehe! Talking about Watergate! What is a good name for this jive? -- _____
_____! Holla!

brownsugar says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;12324]Dang, B-Sug! Everytime I see you with that golden hat on your dome, I think of ancient Rome. In that mugshot, you look like one of the Roman Empire ancient North African Soldiers that they sent to the P-Islands back in those long-ago days to try to take over.

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BarBQued Monkey Meat and Squid on a stick was as exotic as it got for me RG,.. But as far as I'm concerned the Pinoy won the battle that counts RG... Or at least the Pinoy ladies did... we sailed over on a guided missile cruiser with about 427 single enlistee's,... when we left some 3-4 weeks later approximately 237 of those enlistee's were married to a Pinoy wife. That's gotta be a Guinness Book record.

TotoyBato says:

I want Floyd Mayweather jr. Vs. Manny Pacquiao.

Radam G says:

Reposting again! My jive disappearing. It is some real Houdini stuff going on with my iPhone TSS. Anyway, B-Sug, that should be a Guinness Book record, but Rev. Moon of Korea married thousands of Korean honeys to U.S. GIs in one day just to stay ahead the P-islands. Hehehehehe! But it is all good. The Pinays have a luv hex on U.S. GIs that cannot be matched by any other country. Those honky stanky -- I mean Yanky -- GIs just can't and couldn't resist the P-Island pootang. Hehehehehe! Holla!

Lemoinorn says:

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[url=http://www.sarvajal.com]viagra

Radam G says:

Hehehehe! Holla!

ecsorl girl says:

Hello boxingchannel.tv. I found your web site via Google while looking for a similar matter, your web site got here up. It appears good. I have bookmarked it in my google bookmarks to come back later. regards

the Roast says:

Ecsorl Girl? Hmm... How much \$\$\$\$ are we talking about? Ever been to Milan?

Robbi Paterson says:

Superb article - nice trip down memory lane.

miguel1 says:

You know, maybe it can't be done. But is a Pacquiao - Chris John match feasible? The Pac camp is probably going to want to stay away from fighting in the states, and John is an icon in a huge country (Indonesia) he is undefeated, and has a win (albeit homecooking) against Juanma Marquez. He currently is at featherweight which might be the issue, but that match held in Asia might make Pac more money than any other fight right now.

the Roast says:

Yeah Pac fighting a long forgotten featherweight could be a problem, and dude beat JMM not JuanMa. Other than that great idea. I wonder what happened to that escort girl. I could go for a little something....

brownsugar says:

good debate guys..... but it's kind of a moot point. Cotto isn't coming down and Paq is not moving up. I have a funny feeling Cotto doesn't really want the rematch. I mean it's up to Cotto to pursue the rematch and he's shown absolutely no interest publically. I think Paq took Cotto to a place he doesn't want to visit again.

brownsugar says:

Woof Woof..... Roast.... lol.

Carmine Cas says:

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I don't think Cotto wants a rematch, then again I think the fight would be totally different at 154 with no re hydration clauses. Manny vs Bradley

miguel1 says:

Your right, it was Juan Manuel Marquez, and he is long forgotten here. But to avoid American taxes, Pac is going to want to stay overseas, and Indonesia is an economy with a heavy top end.