

## Cotto Trainer Says Training At Altitude Will Help Miguel

Written by Michael Woods

Wednesday, 28 November 2012 16:48

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*Paul Malignaggi, working for Showtime, queries Austin Trout on Wednesday, about the Saturday clash against Miguel Cotto. (Golden Boy photo)*

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It was a smoothly run press conference at Madison Square Garden today, three days away from the Miguel Cotto-Austin Trout super middleweight showdown in the big room. Neither Cotto nor Trout is a yapper, someone who engages in trash talk to try and get into the other guys' head, or get themselves pumped.

Both men were polite, and promised to win Dec. 1 on the card promoted by Golden Boy in a fight which will be televised by Showtime. "I am going to make history by being the first man to beat Cotto at Madison Square Garden," said Trout, humble and cooperative with all media, seemingly pleased as punch to be invited to the dance.

Cotto received a plaque from MSG's Joel Fisher, signifying and honoring the fact that more than 100,000 tickets have been sold for the eight occasions he has rumbled at the most famous arena. The closest the Puerto Rican pugilist came to talking trash was when he said, "Trout mentioned he's been all around the world winning but come Saturday night, he's facing Miguel Cotto, not anyone else."

In a sampling of pundits and fightgame people, there are plenty of folks liking Trout's chances to topple Cotto. Don't, obviously, count Cotto's trainer Pedro Diaz Benitez among them. I finally cornered him at the presser, and he chuckled recalling how the presence of the birthday cake at Gleason's yesterday sent him scurrying. I asked Diaz how Cotto could do better if he were to secure another bout with Floyd Mayweather, after losing a UD to Money in May. Diaz Benitez said that for the first time, Cotto trained at high altitude, in Big Bear, CA., and so he expects his stamina to be improved. That could make the difference against Floyd, and he said, will help versus Trout, a slick lefty who won't make it easy for Cotto to get offensive on him.

Cotto rarely if ever goes out on a thin limb before a fight. He has been saying that we will see "the best Cotto ever" but he really doesn't predict KOs or engage in boasting, or tip his hand on strategies. When asked about training at altitude, he said, "The results we're going to see in the fight." In one shift I've noted over the years, whereas he used to state that he'd leave the decision-making on who he'd fight next to then promoter Bob Arum, today he has a firm hand in the process. When asked by Wallace Matthews who he'd choose to fight again, if he was only able to pick one, Floyd Mayweather or Manny Pacquiao, "Whoever pays the most money," he answered, drawing laughs from the media.

Readers, feel free to fire your prediction on this rumble; could Trout, an unheralded champ at 154, have his breakthrough bout, and force Cotto to taste from the bitter chalice of losing at

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MSG for the first time?

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### **deepwater says:**

you got to respect cotto, a total pro with class inside and outside the ring. props to wally matthews, a boxing writer that actually trained in a boxing gym and fought a 3 round charity card the same night as me.

### **brownsugar says:**

Trout's bigger..has good sound boxing fundamentals and won't come out trying to imitate Adrian Broner..

If he comes out looking too self conscious ... too bound-up by the Big Stage... it's over before it begins.

Cotto's pedigree and experience takes away every one of Trouts perceived advantages..

There's only one way for Trout to win..

He must skate on the surface tension of the most electric night of his life. He has to Absorb the energy of the crowd and make it his own...and take the fight directly to Cotto like a pissed off Nuyorican...

But I don't think Trout can be ruthless enough to do that. It's possible but I'm leaning towards Cotto by decision.

### **Carmine Cas says:**

Let's see if big bear really paid off, if it did than Austin is going to be worse off than a trout out of water lol

### **Shoulder Roll Defense says:**

Trout can be victorious if he is mentally prepared because he has most of the advantages physically (speed, reach, agility, quickness, etc). However, the game is more mental than physical, therefore Trout better be focused come Saturday. I was totally off point with my Berto vs. Guerrero prediction and I'm going out on a limb with my prediction for this fight. I predict Trout to win a hard fought split decision on Saturday.

### **Radam G says:**

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Cotto is going to crowd Trout and hook him like him like he got a bite from Moby Dick. Trout will be confused by Cotto's every trick. Size and reach, beating that mythical advantage, Miguel Cotto is going teach. Holla!