Written by Michael Woods
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Ellerbe (left) says that Floyd will fight more often, because he has a renewed sense of motivation for the sport. (Hogan Photos)

Floyd Mayweather's righthand man Leonard Ellerbe sounded jubilant on the phone with TSS, talking about the up-to-six fight, 30 month deal "Money" signed with Showtime.

"It's just an exciting day, and Floyd is really excited, and looking forward to going out and performing," he said. "An active Floyd Mayweather! He's been whipping these guys and he's been off, an active Floyd these guys are really going to have hell on their hands. An active Floyd is going to put a can of ass whipping on these guys."

Ellerbe didn't want to look much beyond the day and the bombshell news. I asked him if there's an escape clause, or if Floyd is locked into the Showtime deal for the entire 30 months the release referred to. "I'm not ready to get into details of the deal, I'm just really, really excited, and boxing fans should be excited that he's opening these doors. He's already a crossover superstar and this will bring more fans to boxing. But while HBO made a tremendous offer, Showtime's was in a whole nother universe."

And will we see Mayweather on CBS proper? "You can expect an active Floyd, everywhere. You might see him in your living room. You might see him in China, in Europe. He's an iconic global superstar and he continually thinks outside the box.

"He's singlehandedly had boxing on his back, and he's kicking down doors, to bring more viewership, more eyeballs. But yet you hear whispers boxing is a dying sport...and he's the highest paid athlete in all of sports who happens to be best athlete in the world. He's already the highest paid athlete in sports, and he did that in 48 minutes of work (last year)!"

I didn't think that Floyd was at all handcuffed by his HBO deal, that it didn't prevent him from fighting more often. So, why, I asked Ellerbe, would the Showtime deal enable or spur Floyd to fight more often?

He cited Mayweather's "renewed motivation" and implied that is present because this deal befits an entertainer of his level. "There's one face in boxing and we know who that is," he said.

Ellerbe didn't take the bait, and look beyond May 4. I asked about a faceoff with the Canelo-Trout winner, but Ellerbe answered, "We focus on what is in front of us. Guerrero on May 4. Guerrero is a tremendous fighter, with a tremendous story and he's coming to win. You can't fight all of them in one night. Floyd's been fighting the top fighters and he will continue to do that."

https://twitter.com/Woodsy1069

Comment on this article

deepwater says:

Yeah ok. If you believe that one I got a bridge to sell you. 36 year old mayweather is going to get busy in the last trimester of his career? The money changers that offer no product or service sure do have a lot to say. Ellerbe is conning you on the busier nonsense but he has a point with china. Most Americans are busy watching kardashian and Lil Wayne banging boshs wife or whatever nonsense is put out there. The us dollar(petrodollar) is under attack and it's not under attack by china or the euro. The dollar is under attack by the politicians in charge right now. As they print money out of thin air it hurts the people. China and Russia are now investing in gold and real estate. USA raises its illegal income tax on people to try and make u the difference. Bob and lovee arum know this. Bobs right hand man Sheldon adelson owns Venetian in Vegas and Macau . Lou shimming is chinas biggest boxing star. Just signed with the bobfather. China will back it's yuan with gold and that's the end of USA being número UNO. Pacman ditching the high tax policies will not be the first. Mayweather will box in china. Bet on it.

SouthPaul says:

I've been ok with Floyd'd inactivity. I think the longer you been in the game the less you should fight. Twice a year at most ...with consistent gym attendance. Quality opponents over quantity . No desire to see the man I'm against a no hoper at 65.00 a watch.

amayseng says:

i think floyd would prosper with fighting 3x a year.

he would remain sharper

he is great enough defensively where he doesnt take punishment.

look at jmm, barely even touched, ortiz was 4 rounds and cotto was a tough fight at 12

1/3 fights were a real fight..

deepwater says:

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Floyd should of been fighting more. If Floyd loses show time goes bankrupt

Radam G says:

YUP! Money May is full of syet. But is following the lead of Da Manny to war in China and Abu Dhabi for papers that are worth their value in gold.

True dat, Deepwater! The U.S. dollar is as weak as Broner's rapping. Let it be told. Nowadays, on the World Black Market, the U.S. dollar cannot even be sold. Value = ZERO! Money May is now literally a paper-money hero.

Ellerbee knows that money doesn't fall outta a tree. He is just the satan, who has come down from the money tree. I will tell you da playas' syet.

A while back, Ellerbee and Money May Promotions were letting it rain on some working girls at a strip joint. The hos picked up those fives, 10s and 20-dollar bills and threw 'em back at Ellerbee and gang. He and they were like: WTF! "NAW! Naw! Naw 'em bytches didn't just throw dat bread back!"

"Double fudge y'all, and 'em papers with dead presidents on 'em," da hos hollered. "You are going to have to come with dat BLING, BLING! It is all about diamonds, pearls and gold nowadays, or on these hos you can't see skin or use your ding-a-ling." Hehehe!

And that is how I'm telling the story. Did I ever tell y'all about those damsels from Venus? Hahaha! Holla!

amayseng says:

radam do you live in vegas?

and please continue your stories...ha

brownsugar says:

As much as I have appreciated Mayweathers contribution to the sport... as much as I've debated on the behalf of the Mayweather perspective and as much as I have bled precious, literary blood in countless debates involving Mayweather, I have to say that this move would have had limitless potential for Mayweather if he had made a move like this 5 years ago... even

if it was just a 6 fight commitment to HBO.

From all reports it sounds like a very savvy and beneficial move on Mayweathers part.... apparently GBP can work it from both sides of the fence, cable-wise.

But How much intertainment Mayweather can deliver in a 30 month window with a 6 fight cap is debatable. We'll be lucky to see Mayweather 2-3 more times before he moves on to be a full time promoter.

Showtime obviously gave Floyd an virtually unlimited offer to print money.. but I'm sure FMJ didn't receive payment in advance for the whole 30 months..... His ability to keep earning will depend on his ability to keep winning...
Floyd picked a dangerous time to return to being a "Full-Time" fighter(at the age of 37)...

Correct me if I'm wrong but I don't think theres' ever been a BHOP clone in the Lighter weight classes (never heard of a welterweight champion in his 40's)..... I hope FMJ can continue to impress with whatever fuel for fighting he got left in the tank.

On the positive side,.. Floyds Dad was with him when he was at his most "offensive" in the ring.

Roger only says one thing in the corner,.. no matter what's happening in the ring Rogers quote of note is "just box em'"

Mayweather Sr is much more demanding... constantly pushing Jr for the KO opportunity... his future fights could be pretty interesting... (if he can get past RG)
Floyd has been the perfect picture of confidence.... (except possibly when the Paq fight was looming) I would expect nothing less going forward.

Radam G says:

Vegas is a regular hangout when I'm in the states.I got a condo there. Helix Heights outside San Diego, Cali and San Jose, Cali, are my permanent domiciles on the mainland USA. Saipan and Hawaii are my fun U.S. islands. Hehehe! Holla!

leon30001 says:

Note to Woods: "nother" is not a word, friend. Not a word!

Radam G says:

Leon30001, you may want to go back to school for a refresher course in writing. "Nother" is indeed a WORD, friend! It is colloquialism for another, my friend.

A smart-arse agitator slips more by the keyboard and tongue than by the foot. Holla -- is a colloquialism for Holler. Holla!

Radam G says:

Also! I did a bit more checking. And "nother" is boxing slanguage for other. The great first gloved-fighting heavyweight champion of the world -- Queensberry Rules -- Bostionian Irish John L Sullivan brought it to the game. After he knocked the leading contender out, he went to the nearby bar, and bytched at the Scottish crowd there:

"I'm rough and mean," as he gulped giant glasses of beer. "I'm da (sic) baddest muthafu€ker Irish and fighter, anybody will ever see. I'll knock out uh nother d•¢k ratt (sic) now!"

Holla at "old talkie footage and autobiographies and biograhies of Sullivan. And get plenty and the whole nine of the onslaught of boxing slanguage.

"Let it go! Let it go! It looks like uh-nother LUV T-K-O." And that is the late, great songman Teddy Pendergrass, who was also a Philly amateur boxer. Holla!

leon30001 says:

No, moron, it is not a word. It is a colloquialism. Ergo, you need, as a journalist, to employ (sic). Fool.

Radam G says:

Wow! A fool doesn't even know that he's a fool. Danggit that is how much of a fool that he is. And he'd call the wise and correct -- a "FOOL!" The blindness and pride of a fool is _____ _____! One will fake _____ _____. He/she cannot handle _____ ____! Maybe because he/she is so ____ _____ up in that peabrain! A _____ of blanks. Hehehe! Holla!

Radam G says:

Will somebodee and his sidkicking English nerd holla at a fool that a colloquialism is a word of a standard word -- in this case -- the proper standard U.S. English-used one.

Dat muthasucka [colloquial boxing phrase] is gettin' moronic. Hehehe! Holla!

Radam G says:

Looks like uh "nother" colloquialism luv T-K-O! Holla!

stormcentre says:

Watching Mayweather fight more actively, and (hopefully) take (genuine) risks, at this (late) stage of his career; will be interesting. Particularly if he hasn't always got 100% control over who he fights. GB, as stated elsewhere here, can work it both ways (with HBO as we know) but also with Showtime. And with Espinoza being the architect of the deal (on Showetime's side) and a previous GB employee; it all makes sense. BrownSugar, you're probably right about a

B-Hop in the lighter weights; they throw too many punches in those lighter weights to get away with fighting 1/2 a round the way B-Hop does.

SouthPaul says:

I'm positive Leonard is dunking his chin in Just For Men. His **** is looking like he even may have cut it out of some velvet type material and velcro'ed tha' sucka on his chin. I see an endorsement deal in his future .

brownsugar says:

Stormcentre,... Maybe Mayweather sold his soul to the Devil... in that case he can end his career beating Golovkin, Ward, Canello, Trout, and Quillen.... lol

stormcentre says:

@ BrownSugar; Hmmmm Andre Ward. You must have had a chuckle writing that. I am not sure Floyd will want to tangle SOG just yet. That boy looks like he could really go on to be everything Floyd is and perhaps more. One thing is for sure, well at least to me; SOG hands Floyds as$% to him any day of the week in a serious fight. Ward has enough power, size, determination and "special effects" to ensure he is not mentioned when Floyd talks about fights.

stormcentre says:

Also, since we're talking about "possible" match-ups and Floyd; who interestingly is quite an exploitable boxer for that subject in no small part to his own doing. Remember Floyd's ascension through the ranks? He went from the lightweights after he fought Chavez, Castillo and Sosa - up to light welterweight where he seemed to start devoting slightly more attention to matchmaking than he had before as evidenced by how, whilst at light welterweight, he fought a few good (but not top class) fighters such as; Brusels, Gatti and Sharmba Mitchell (after Tsyzyu had KO'd him). If my memory serves me correctly, whilst Mayweather was there he made no attempt to dethrone and/or chase Tszyu, and instead went for the WBC belt which, at the time, Kostya had relinquished due to his shoulder injury. Knowing how well, not just Floyd, but also his entire team/family know boxing, and how "intimately" Floyd's head trainer, Roger, got to know Tszyu in 1995 when they fought for the IBF light welterweight title here in Sydney; it's hard to conceive that Floyd's raid on the light welterweight division (almost a decade after Roger was introduced to Kostya) overlooked Tszyu by accident, and that Kostya Tszyu, his power and style was seen as too much of a risk for Floyd. After all if they needed a common opponent they only had to look to Mitchell. Floyd KO'd Mitchell just like Tszyu, but he took a few more rounds to do it, and that was after Tszyu had already softened Sharmba up with that devastating right cross in round 3; which was Tszyu's comeback fight after shoulder surgery.

So, with all that said and the backdrop set, had Floyd and Kostya met around that time, when both where in their light welterweight primes; who do you think would have won . . .. if we had;

A) Say, the Floyd Mayweather that fought Jesus Chavez (awesome display of grit, speed,

timing and skills on Floyd's part), Phillip Ndou, Gatti (whilst spectacular there was no challenge as Gatti was a great fighter asn Floyd was that plus a great boxer-stylist) and Jose Louis Castillo (brilliant 2nd fight).

Versus . . .

B) The light welterweight Kostya Tszyu that that slaughtered Jan Bergman, Zab Judah, Miguel Gonzalez, Roger Mayweather (Floyd Jr's uncle), Rafael Ruales and Rodriguez?

Happy to hear from you (or anyone else in this forum) on their thoughts on that dream matchup that came close, but sadly never happened. I don't usually buy into dream matchups too much, but this one came close to happening and there are a few guys here on the forum that know boxing well enough to make it worthwhile and interesting. When Floyd Mayweather moved up to light welterweight from lightweight, I was really looking forward to the fight between him and Kostya Tszyu. At the time I just thought, it would happen automatically because Floyd was a brilliant boxer, he always appeared to be (at least in the lightweight and featherweight divisions) looking for the best challenges and greatness, and perhaps more importantly, because Kostya Tszyu had seriously shut down, punished and blown out Floyd's trainer and Uncle Roger many years before. And, from that alone, I expected Floyd would want to exact revenge.

However, it seems that someone in Floyd's camp must have thought Kostya Tszyu was too much. Unless there is another theory. Let me know what you think please.