

WOODSY'S TOP TEN POUND FOR POUND LIST

Written by Michael Woods
Thursday, 16 May 2013 13:07



Lists aren't usually my thing, but for some reason, I am in a list-y mood, so I'd like to present my own pound for pound list, the tip top top ten in the game today. These are the best and brightest of pugilists, in my humble opinion.

1) Floyd Mayweather: Nobody, I mean nobody on the planet weighing between 140 and 160 pounds beats the Floyd Mayweather (44-0) we saw on May 4th against Robert Guerrero.

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Getting back with dad was just what the doctor ordered, and that exhalation I heard from the Showtime offices, I do believe, was the suits happy that the trader version of Floyd has been junked, and the mover is still able to do his thing, which is: 1) don't be hit and 2) hit. My pipe dream is still Mayweather and Andre Ward meet at 160 pounds, and Floyd goes into his first fight the underdog, but I know what you're thinking there: Woods, get yourself to rehab, stat, because you're clouded. Nobody currently in that 147-154 realm wins more than a couple rounds against this Floyd, at 36 still a top-tier athlete possessing some of the best ring generalship and ring smarts you will ever see, in any era, at any weight class.

2) Andre Ward: Too bad Ward (26-0) had wing woes, because I was real curious to see what he'd do next after giving Chad Dawson the business. I do hope the injury parade comes to a halt for the Californian, so we can enjoy an uninterrupted flow of pugilistic mastery from this ace technician. I think he's got command of his style to the point where he can safely and smartly unleash volleys without worrying too much, and I think moving forward those who have whined that Ward isn't enough fun offensively will be silenced. Anyone got the word on who he fights next, by the way?

3) Bernard Hopkins: OK, start the quibbling, crew. Maybe there are one, two or more guys who "deserve" to be higher on this list. But they ain't 48 frickin years old. Damn right, I give extra credit for longevity. The nullifying job he did against Tavoris Cloud sent word to naysayers that to bet against Hopkins, this era's top sage of the squared circle, and an under-appreciated genius in the whole of the sports world, is a fool's errand. He meets Karo Murat, a virtual unknown, next. I'd rather he try and show us all we're dopes, again, by signing on to fight Ward, but I hear that Hopkins (53-6-2) himself thinks that's too high a mountain to climb. I'd like to dose him with sodium pentathol to ascertain if that is indeed the case...Because I think he'd grab a chance to climb another Everest.

4) Guillermo Rigondeaux: Mea culpa. My bad, gang. I was holding out on Rigo, waiting to see what he did against Nonito Donaire before I boarded the train. Is there room left for a late-comer? The 12-0 Cuban is serious trouble for anyone in and around his weight class, and to those who say his chin disqualifies him from being this high on the P4P list, to that I say, he might go down every now and again, and get buzzed too much for your liking, but the kid gets up, and finishes strong. Yes, the manner in which he does it doesn't appeal to the masses as much as the purists, and I'd like to see him adjust his ratio of offense to defense a bit, but this 32-year-old is an ace, a top flight ace, and I don't see who beats him in the near future.

5) Nonito Donaire: Some folks saw it coming, what Rigo did to Nonito (31-2), but most of them are in the camp of Team Rigo. The Filipino-born Cali resident wasn't as sharp as we've seen,

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and it emerged after his bout that his right shoulder was badly damaged going in to the NYC scrap against the Cuban. No shame on losing to the greatest amateur of all time who showed himself to be a master of the game on the inside, the outside, and every side possible. I tend to think the 30-year-old Donaire was in fact a bit burnt, and needs a good long rest, and we will again see his immense skill set in full bloom. Oh, and yes, I'd like to see how he does against Rigo with his main weapon against the lefty, his right hand, in proper working order.

6) Wladimir Klitschko: Got to give mucho credit to a guy who hasn't lost since 2004. Yes, the era in which he fights in, absent him and his big bro, is pretty putrid. But the completely dominant way in which he does his thing demands that the 37-year-old Wlad (60-3) get lauded for what he is: a superb athlete whose focus is second to none in the sport.

7) Vitali Klitschko: We're still not sure if he'd lose to little bro Wladimir, and show the world that he's the better brother, and of course, we will never settle that question. But this 41-year-old is a pugilist specialist, even if he looks slightly ungainly doing his thing. Wlad has been the busier of the brothers, with political work detracting and distracting Vitali (45-2). We hope he gives David Haye the business before he hangs them up, and starts his Hall of Fame countdown.

8) Manny Pacquiao/Juan Manuel Marquez (tied): C'mon, these two are linked for the ages, what's the problem with having them tied for eighth. Marquez (55-6-1; turns 40 in August) was having his hands full before he dropped and stopped Manny (54-5-2; turns 35 in December), and we all recall how hard a time he had when he met Floyd, so that's why he isn't higher. Manny doesn't get booted from the top ten for the Bradley "loss" or being stopped by the 39-year-old Mexican legend, but he'll get the boot if Brandon Rios beats him. Course, if that happens he'd have to seriously consider retirement, so Woodsy's Pound For Pound List would be like, third or maybe fourth on his list of woes.

9) Sergio Martinez: This is a tough one for me. Perhaps I let a personal fondness for this class act influence me unduly. Or perhaps I am over-compensating for the fact that my personal fondness could be influencing me. That said, his late hiccup against Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. and his difficulty with non-superstar Martin Murray means Sergio (51-2-2) has something to prove in his next fight, and that his return to the P4P top five is by no means a given. He's 38, injuries have been pesky and we admit we hope he can rest up, heal up, and show us that he belongs up there with the Floyd and the Wards.

10) Mikey Garcia/Abner Mares (tied): Points, again, for not having lost. Mikey is 31-0 and

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could well end up a few notches higher on this list by the end of the year, though his next foe, Juan Manuel Lopez, is seen in many circles as damaged goods, so a win over JuanMa won't likely elevate Mikey that much, though the JuanMa name is a good one to have on the resume. Garcia is so solid, so composed, and I look forward to see him do his thing for many more years; he's only 25 years old, and there's room to blossom even more. As for Mares, again, being undefeated means something to me. Mares is 26-0, and has built up a solid resume against solid foes. He sent word that he isn't the mauling brawler who strafed Joseph Agbeko's groin every chance he could with his takeout of Ponce De Leon on the Mayweather-Guerrero undercard, and grew his buzz in a big way. Who would you like to see him fight next, if you are one who thinks No. 7 is too high for this 27-year-old, and you think we need more proof to give him such a lofty slot? Maybe he should be 10a and Mikey should be 10b? Discuss in the Forum.

Just Missed: Roman Gonzalez: Life ain't fair, this we know. If the light fly division were more high profile, this guy would be a bigger name, and would get more credit for being 34-0.;

Timothy

Bradley

: You would not get an argument from me if you think Provodnikov deserved the W over Bradley, so Bradley's not in my top ten. Beat Marquez and he will vault.;

Canelo Alvarez

: He hasn't tasted loss, but the margin of victory over Austin Trout keeps him out of the top ten.;

Lamont

Peterson

: He'll get top ten consideration, bigtime, with a great showing over Lucas Matthisse Saturday.

; Adrien Broner

: Get past Malignaggi, and we'll talk, Mr. HBO.;

Danny Garcia

: I'm sold on the Philly boxer, but I need him to beat a prime 140 pounder before he slides into top ten territory.

Chris John

: 48-0 friends. That deserves consideration. But until this man demands the best competition, I'm afraid he won't get the love and attention his record suggests it merits.

[Follow Woods on Twitter](#) , and offer up your own Top Ten Pound For Pound List.

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riverside says:

better, I like Mikey Garcia up there or higher, Manny still belongs up in the top 5, Ward is good @ #2 , he has dominated all his opposition, Guerrero and Bradley off the Radar for good

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Carmine Cas says:

Much better, I'd like to see Martinez a little higher though

Radam G says:

Nice list. I can hang with this in a New York minute. Hehehe! Holla!

deepwater says:

Good job with getting Hopkins on the top 10 somewhere(3 too high) good job with keeping canelo off of it. Whoever put Guerrero in top 10 ?

dino da vinci says:

Umm, that would be David.

SouthPawFlo says:

- 1) Floyd Mayweather
- 2) Andre Ward
- 3) W. Klitschko
- 4) B-Hop
- 5) Juan Manuel Marquez
- 6) G. Rigondeaux
- 7) Sergio Martinez
- 8) Pacquiao
- 9) Abner Mares
- 10) Chad Dawson/Tim Bradley

ali says:

How can u put Mickey Garcia in the top 10 and not Canleo he beat Trout the best comp at 154 and Garcia beat a old washed up man come on Mike

ali says:

- [QUOTE=SouthPawFlo;30782]1) Floyd Mayweather
- 2) Andre Ward
 - 3) W. Klitschko
 - 4) B-Hop
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10) Chad Dawson/Tim Bradley[/QUOTE]

No Broner? If He beats Paulie at 147 in dominating fashion would u put him in your to 10?

Radam G says:

No! Holla!

amayseng says:

Better list. Similar to mine on the other thread.

No broner is not a top 10 even if he beats paulie.

No way Bradley is in top 10 either.

Bradley just lost 2 in a row. Hows he top 10?

Gift decisions do not count as wins in my mind.

gibola says:

- 1 Mayweather
- 2 Marquez
- 3 Rigondeaux
- 4 Ward
- 5 Donaire
- 6 Pacquaio
- 7 Broner
- 8 Froch
- 9 Hopkins
- 10 Mares

Martinez is fading fast and no longer top-10, ditto Cotto. Canelo squeaked by Trout and has much to prove. Marquez is currently the 2nd best in the game but that could change anytime at 40yo, Ward is good but if they were the same weight I'd pick the top 3 to beat him. Froch is criminally underrated, you pick up defeats if you fight the best. Vitali is/was far better than Wlad in my view but he's in semi-retirement. Wlad's size, strength and awkwardness count for jack p4p, a 147lb Wlad wouldn't be a threat to the top guys - too limited in what he does. Danny and Mikey Garcia, Kessler and Vitali just miss out. Apologies to the Oriental flys and bantams I don't know well enough to rate!

Radam G says:

It could also be said that Hulkquez was getting his @ss destroyed by Da Manny until the juiced up on-roids-and-PEDs Hulkquez landed his newly discovered one-shot monster PUNCH! P4P

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selection is subjective. Good-opinionated job to all. I believe that Ward would box Hulkquez. Holla!

ali says:

Gibola how can u put Rigo over Ward?

amayseng says:

Good list gibola although ward should be #2 in my opinion.

Although I see your point as far as rigo being such a phenomenal boxer.

Radam kills me with his jmm rants.

They are justified tho.

Jmm juiced like a mofo

amayseng says:

Also Hopkins should be up there an broner a no go.

Not yet. Doesn't have any key big wins.

U need elite wind. Broner had 0

the Roast says:

When did JMM fail a PED test? Radam was all class after Pacman got blasted out saying all the right things. "Thats boxing, Da Manny just got caught" Now it's "Hulkquez" this and "Roids" that. Just accept the fact that your beloved Manny got beat and move on. Let me know if and when JMM gets caught or fails a test.

Radam G says:

I haven't changed, the Roast! Da Manny got KTFO out by a skilled Marquez, who was juiced up on roids and PEDs for eye effect, not skills and wills. A spade is a spade. Marquez simply became Hulkquez. The bytch is just a user of dat syet. I've never waver from that. Holla!

Radam G says:

BTW, 90 percent of the boxers are on da syet, have never been flagged. Money May was on

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dat syet to protect his hands except for his last dance with the Cali Ghost. And you have heard and saw da haps with Money May mits without dat syet in those hands. And those X roids are not even illegal in Nevada.

Money May simply knew that he would have no problems with the badly outclassed humbug. Holla!

dino da vinci says:

[QUOTE=gibola;30799]1 Mayweather

2 Marquez

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Tremendous post. In fairness to Wlad, he works with what he's been blessed with. Disagree with the height on Broner. Unlike Rigondeaux, he has nothing that resembles a career win yet. The world knew Rigondeaux could fight, but go defeat a monster to confirm it. Which of course is what he went out and did.

ali says:

Rigo beat one elite fighters and u put him over Ward on your p4p list it doesn't make any sense to me. Ward won the super middleweight tourney and he won it without taking a L. He beat Froch in the final a guy who is on alot of ppls p4p top 10 list and then to top it off he fights a another guy on the p4p list in Chad Dawson and stop him. So again I ask how in the fu©k can u put Rigo over Ward?

Radam G says:

It is a subjective thing, SCLA Ali! And people post emotional syet. Apparently the dude doesn't dig SOG's game, just as TSS West Coast Chiefy David Double-A super digs the games of Bradley and Guerrero. Just as the Roast believes I'm blinded to Da Manny and bias against

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Hulkquez. It is obviously that the Roast is just full of emotions that he believes I waver on my stance about any fighters involving Da Manny.

Anybody can read my syet -- near 5,000 post -- and clearly see that I'm not a wishy-washy or bytchy-switchy. That jive is for a weak mind and sad behind. And all over the map, his arse you will find. No doubt, people just like to put me in a b-syet box. But I'm such a stay-with-my-guns fox.

I'm Money May and Da Manny 100-percent consistent. And won't favor them in a blind-arse way. It is all about the tricks of the trade and getting madly laid -- I mean righteously PAID! Holla!

leon30001 says:

Where's Froch?

gibola says:

"Rigo beat one elite fighters and u put him over Ward on your p4p list it doesn't make any sense to me. Ward won the super middleweight tourney and he won it without taking a L. He beat Froch in the final a guy who is on alot of ppls p4p top 10 list and then to top it off he fights a another guy on the p4p list in Chad Dawson and stop him. So again I ask how in the fu@k can u put Rigo over Ward?"

Sorry for not replying Ali - been away. Rigo over Ward simply because this is p4p and if they both weighed 122 or 168 I think Rigo would win. Ward has done some impressive things but I'm sure that Kessler, Dawson and Froch wouldn't lay a glove on a 168lb Rigo. I could be wrong but that's part of the fun. Records obviously matter but p4p is about who would beat who if they were the same weight and as I said the top 3 would (in my view) beat Ward. We'll never know and that's the fun. Thanks to all the posters on TSS.