

Pacquiao: "I Need To Prove I Can Still Fight Like Old Pacquiao"

Written by The Sweet Science
Monday, 29 July 2013 20:40



BEIJING (July 30, 2013) -- Stop No. 2 on the **Manny Pacquiao – Brandon Rios** 23,722-mile international media tour to promote their historic 12-round welterweight rumble has landed them in Beijing. On Monday, Pacquiao, Rios and their respective trainers, Hall of Famer **Freddie Roach** and Trainer of the Year

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Robert Garcia,

began the day with a little morning roadwork – approximately 3,000 steps worth -- as they climbed a portion of the Great Wall, at Shuiguan, which was built during the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), and is famous for its precipitous cliffs and beautiful views.

Before embarking on the massive climb, Rios and Garcia ducked into a souvenir stand and emerged wearing cowboy hats. "The rancheros have hit Beijing," exclaimed Rios to the delight of the hundreds of tourists visiting and the media covering.

Pacquiao and Rios (pictured above, in Chris Farina-Top Rank photo), trailed by media crews and newly-made fans, began the steep and arduous climb of the Great Wall, a military structure that was built from the 3rd Century BC to the 17th Century. With a total length of more than 20,000 kilometers, it is the only work built by human hands on this planet that can be seen from the moon.

"I hadn't planned on beginning training camp until August 12, but I think I began it today," said Rios, who raced up a portion of the steps against Pacquiao.

"Now I know that I've got my work cut out for me after racing against Brandon up those steps," said Pacquiao. "He's already in good condition! This is my third visit to Beijing and it always seems so new to me. It's a great cultural experience that is saturated in history."

Following a festive traditional Chinese lunch, the duo made a stop at Tiananmen Square where they walked around the historic area snapping photos and signing autographs for fans who recognized them.

Today, beginning at Noon, Pacquiao, Rios, Roach, Garcia, Hall of Fame promoter **Bob Arum** and **Edward Tracy**

, President and CEO of Sands China Ltd, will host a news conference for national media at the Park Hyatt Beijing, followed by several hours of one-on-one interviews. Then it's off to Shanghai for a Wednesday news conference at the Four Seasons.

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QUOTABLES FROM THE NOTABLES:

Brandon Rios:

I can't believe the beauty I have seen in Macau and Beijing. I have seen a life and culture I never imagined. It's been an incredible experience for me. The media and the fans have been wonderful. I know I take a little getting used to but they seem to understand my sense of humor. I think some of them think I'm Chinese. The only other time I fought outside the U.S. was in Mexico back in 2008, against Ricardo Dominguez, and a lot of people thought I was Chinese there, too.

I want everyone in southern California to know that traffic on the 405 has nothing on Beijing's rush hour.

I was surprised at how nervous I was before the first press conference in Macau. I don't think the enormity and the significance of this event dawned on me until I walked out on the stage and saw hundreds of media there. All of a sudden I realized that I was headlining a major pay-per-view for the first time. It was emotional for me. But I'm over that now and I look forward to Beijing's press conference today and the press conferences on the rest of the tour

My first impression of meeting Manny Pacquiao in Macau was that he was smaller than I thought he would be. I have an enormous amount of respect for him and what he has accomplished.

I will begin training camp on August 12 and work on conditioning and will start sparring right away. I love to kick off training camp with a 12-round sparring session within the first week or two to get me in the proper mindset. I will be sparring with a lot of southpaws in camp. It's been a good while since I have fought one. I am looking forward to fighting at 147 pounds.

Manny makes a lot of mistakes and Robert Garcia and I will be working hard on making a plan to exploit them. I can't let this opportunity slip through my fingers.

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Manny Pacquiao:

I am very excited to be fighting in Macau. It's a fertile market for boxing. New market and new people provide great exposure for boxing and it is a great way to increase the sport's popularity globally. Hopefully this will help develop interest in boxing in mainland China. I think it's good for boxing to have more good Asian boxers to turn pro. I think Macau can be a boxing capital of the world.

It will be nice to fight in a location where I will not have any jet lag. Macau and the Philippines share the same time zone and the same climate. No adjustments for me this time. Since Macau is only a 90-minute flight away from the Philippines, I expect a lot more Filipinos to be in the arena for this fight.

I have seen Rios fight and I am confident that I will win the fight. One of my advantages is my experience against better opposition. I think the question that needs to be asked is, "Is Rios ready for me?"

Rios is an aggressive fighter. He likes to fight on the inside and toe-to-toe. He likes to fight, period. I am 100% confident of winning this fight. The fans will really enjoy the action.

I will begin three months of training in August when I return to the Philippines after the media tour. I'll do six weeks of conditioning and building up my stamina, followed by a six-week training camp with Freddie Roach when he arrives in October. I'm 34 and I now need to train over a longer period. The focus of this camp will be on speed and footwork, which have been my advantages in previous successful fights. I'll be more careful to avoid the careless error I made against Márquez.

I was in my best shape when I fought Márquez last December. I was winning the fight. I had taken control. But I got careless and made a mistake, being in the wrong place for him to land that final punch. But that's boxing. That's what makes it so exciting.

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I am feeling a little pressure for this fight since I have lost my previous two. An impressive victory against Rios will raise my name again in boxing. My belief in God and training as hard as I can will help to relieve that pressure.

I need to prove I still can fight like the old Manny Pacquiao. I need to restore the public's confidence in me and my abilities. It's important that this be an impressive victory. I have already begun to visualize my fight with Rios.

Fighter of the Decade Congressman **MANNY "Pacman" PACQUIAO** and former world champion and reigning hellion

BRANDON "Bam Bam" RIOS

will battle each other in a 12-round welterweight rumble,

Saturday, November 23

, from The Venetian

®

Macao's CotaiArena™, in Macao, China. Promoted by Top Rank® and Sands China Ltd., in association with MP Promotions and Tecate, Pacquiao vs. Rios will be produced and distributed

live

by

HBO Pay-Per-View

, beginning at

9:00 p.m. ET / 6:00 p.m. PT.

Remaining tickets, priced from \$1,275 to \$115, and various ticket-hotel packages at Sands China's Cotai Strip Resorts Macao, are now on sale and can be purchased online at www.venetianmacao.com/manny

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brownsugar says:

Pac looks beefy in this pic... and Hispanic guys generally look smooth, no matter how hard they

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punch. looks alone won't tell the difference between these two.. Two guys struggling to remain relevant. All I know is,... If Pac can't get his respect early... it's going to be a long hard night.

amayseng says:

Rios prides himself on takin a punch and keep on coming forward.

PAC will slice and dice him up and finally chop him to pieces. It'll be about 4 rounds until it is stopped or rios is knocked out.

Radam G says:

Ditto A-Seng! It will be an early night for the USA. An early afternoon in China! Holla!

Carmine Cas says:

Wow Rios is being respectful, I think it'll be harder than expected but pretty easy night for manny, if he's still the same

kidcanvas says:

brownsugar your dreaming, this is made to order for pacquiao.. rios wont be there long ,hes a heavy bag with legs ..

SouthPaul says:

PAC looks to still be in prime shape. Rios on the other hand looks like a hot sweaty mess. Damn those Great Wall stairs.

SouthPaul says:

The photo is hilarious. 70's narc teams up with Texas Constable/Sheriff.

Radam G says:

Hehehehe! Bam Bam Rios look like the Cisco Kid. And Da Manny looks like a young Al "Fuzzy" St. John. Hahaha!

amayseng says:

That is a funy pic.

the Roast says:

Pac himself says it best, "I need to prove I can still fight like old Pacquiao." Lets forget about Pac's last fight. The one where he was face down out cold looking dead. JMM was or was not on PEDs caught him with the perfect punch and all that. Forget it. Manny hasn't looked good in

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the ring since the Cotto fight. Maybe the man himself is having doubts? He's older, richer, he's a congressman. Maybe his time is up. Brandon Rios by stunning KO in 6. Manny retires after the fight. Don't talk to me Radam. Save the 5,000 post for something good. Every fighter gets old. Every fighter has to fade into the sunset. That time has come for Manny Pacquiao.

Radam G says:

Hahahahaha! Using post 5,001 on the Roast. You just luv to be a comic. Bam Bam will be the one that is KAYOed in round six for trying to mix. Da Manny will get old in a couple of years. But until then, those looking for him to get beat will lose a lot of money and shed a lot of tears. Holla!

the Roast says:

There is is 5001! Pop the champaign!