

MASTERFUL MAYWEATHER Floyd Overmatches Canelo

Written by Michael Woods

Sunday, 15 September 2013 00:27



Floyd Mayweather told everyone coming in that Canelo Alvarez was just another fighter, and wouldn't provide a stern challenge to him. But we all know all good things must come to an end, all reigns must peter out. What if this resolute Mexican, who turned pro at 15, and seemed to have an otherworldly composure in the months leading up to this high-stakes boxing Super Bowl, was The One to make Floyd a liar, prove him a lesser pugilistic deity than he's declared he is?

That possibility went out the window fairly early on Sunday morning at the MGM Grand, as Alvarez, at 23, looked a grade or two lesser than a man who is a modern marvel of pugilism. The 36-year-old Mayweather, exceedingly peppy at 36, won a **majority** decision, as CJ Ross saw, somehow, a 114-114 draw. Thanks be to the almighty, though, she was outvoted by Dave Moretti and Craig Metcalf, who scored it 116-112 and 117-111.

There will be a call for Ross to be fired, and frankly, there should be, as I saw one round that Canelo won, and another that could be a tie. It is a bit infuriating that after such a performance by the best boxer of his era, and a few other eras, too, gets overshadowed even slightly by such incompetence. I dare say, yes, a MAJORITY of even semi-informed boxing people think that Ross needs to be benched, for good. I'm quite certain a majority of Manny Pacquiao fans would agree, as they'll recall Ross scored for Timothy Bradley 115-113, last year.

Mayweather was gracious in victory, as he typically is, save for that one session with Larry Merchant a while back.

"It's all about skills," Mayweather said post-fight. "I came out tonight and showed my skills. But a true champion like Canelo can take a loss and bounce back."

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"My dad had a brilliant game plan. I executed that game plan. I could have pressed it and got the late stoppage, but tonight experience played a major key. Tonight was just my night."

Not sure about that stoppage contention, I didn't see Canelo getting into that danger zone, either from a single shot, and or an acculmulation, but anyway...

After, Canelo wasn't crushed, but he admitted it hurt, emotionally if not physically. "He's very elusive, he's a great fighter and that's why I couldn't catch him," Canelo said. "I didn't know how to get him. It's as simple as that. He's very elusive.

"The frustration was getting in there. But simply he's a great fighter. I didn't want to lose. I didn't want to leave here with a loss. But it happens and it hurts."

Mayweather started out reasonably cautiously, and Alvarez gave hope that he could be competitive early.

But Floyd started pulling away, and by round six, was in total control. Sharp jabs, lead rights, one-twos, two-twos, left hooks and pulling out, he was in offensive control. Defensive control, too, as Floyd time and again made the Mexican look like his hand speed was sub-journeyman level.

Floyd mostly stayed in center ring, but when he went to the ropes, he made Canelo miss, often.

Canelo got frustrated midway through, going low, throwing a shoulder block. He was getting pot-shotted, clean, and had no answers. It never got truly ugly, but there were times when you felt a bit bad for Canelo, who waited for opening, for opportunities that never came, and while doing so, ate clean hard shots. Before the 12th round, Floyd Mayweather Sr didn't even bother giving Floyd instructions; he grinned, yelled, "I told you!" into the stands and waited for the inevitable.

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When we heard majority decision, I dare say many of us figured we'd misheard that, that it had been a long night, and there could be no way shape or form that any person in their right mind didn't have Floyd the winner. Should have known better, as boxing always does manage to inject this sort of sad drama into the mix.

The stats told a tale that makes Ross look eve sillier. Mayweather went 232-505, to 117-526 for Canelo, who connected at a feeble 22% connect percentage.

Speaking of no answers: who can challenge Floyd? Danny Garcia? Gennady Golovkin? Andre Ward? Weigh in!

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the Roast says:

This fight went pretty much as expected. You cannot out box a master boxer. Young Canelo needed to get inside, get rough, get dirty with Floyd. He didn't do that. He boxed with the boxer. He posed, he fell for the feints, he hesitated instead of letting his hands go. Easy for me to say. On the up side, Canelo got outboxed not beat up. He made alot of money, he's young and he will be back.

Grimm says:

[QUOTE=the Roast;36590]Young Canelo needed to get inside, get rough, get dirty with Floyd. He didn't do that.[/QUOTE]

Yeah, he had to - and I thought he might do it - but it wouldn't have made a difference in the end. I bow down, deep, for a true master of a nearly lost art.

vjoe says:

Excellent performance by PBF. He's carrying his skills deep into his 30's which is something to consider when weighing where he stands in welterweight history.

I thought Canelo might have won two rounds, might have a couple others even...but that required being very generous which isn't how a fight should be scored. It's interesting that Floyd (at least of recent) goes mostly flat footed in the first half of the fight and then gets on his bicycle

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in the second half....interesting strategy and a tribute to his crazy good conditioning. Next up? Garcia?

brownsugar says:

Simply amazing... I was sure Mayweather was going to get hurt ... Possibly stopped by ducking into an uppercut. But Floyd's peripheral vision has got to be the best in the sport. Even Canelo's blindingly fast counters and ambush attacks hit nothing but oxygen.

It's incredible that a boxer can retain such a high level of skill at the age of 36 years old.

Good call by RG ..Roast... Amayseng and the rest of the TSS who never doubted one of the greatest boxers in the sport...have to admit I'm not upset at making the wrong call.

I watched the fight 6 times and I'm totally convinced Mayweather must practice each of his moves and techniques individually over and over in his spare time.

If he keeps going like this, they will be debating whether or not he'd have beaten Marvin Hagler and SRL.

Great fight by Garcia ... I totally underestimated him again even though he has shown top level championship skills and character in each and every one of his fights.

But Garcia vs Floyd is not necessary because as good as he is I doubt he'd beat half of the top 5 welters. Not because he doesn't have the skill but because he shouldn't move up unless he's outgrown the juniorwelters.

Lara should get a chance at Canelo or Molina.

Floyd will need to fight Paq in order to get another huge PPV Payday.

Make it happen.

Great Fight Night ...glad I didn't pass up the opportunity to witness true greatness at work.

amayseng says:

Floyd was in that pocket ALOT, canelo stayed outside and tried to box and failed miserably....

he barely went to the body of floyd and it cost him.

i dont remember floyd once shooting a straight right hand and sweeping to his right, he adjusted before the fight even started.

when floyd tells you he never studies or watches his opponents fights before hand he is pulling your leg, the guy is a student of the game outside the ring and a master inside it.

he started off the fight pushing canelo back, making canelo go backwards and react, which takes more energy....floyd knows what he is doing

like i said, easy money

mortcola says:

Pretty much perfect FLoyd. There were a number of moments when Canelo did what he was

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supposed to - he needed to jab often and hard, and land anywhere - shoulders, chest, gut, if not head - anything to bruise and slow PBF, and then set up some of those combos everyone is so excited by in the young dude. He landed more of those than usual against PBF, and knocked him back a few steps, shook him with one late fight hook. But EVERY time Canelo accomplished something good, PBF, took the round back by strafing him with something sweet. Even though I'm one of those who wait eagerly for someone to burn that ego the way Money burns money, I enjoyed watching the artistry and the focus under fire. Anybody notice that even when Canelo landed, the smaller Floyd had very little reaction? That isn't the sign of a scared or chinny fighter. On the other hand, Floyd was content to just win - he never looked to break canelo down even when he had him buzzed and mesmerized. He just kept up the clinic. But what a clinic!

Hop says:

Since words like "perfect" are being applied to Mayweather, I'd like to balance that out just a tad with a couple fairly minor criticisms.

1) Though Teddy Atlas made a [B]horrible[/B] fight prediction (Alvarez by decision!), he [I]did[/I] hit the nail on the head when he said that unlike Ray Leonard Floyd is not a [I]"seek-and-destroy"/I]-type fighter. T[B]hat is [U]absolutely[/U] [U]true[/U][B]. In other words, even when he's got his opponent in trouble he [U][B]never[/B][U] throws flurries. He's a flurry-less fighter. More than once he had a golden opportunity to unload a possibly fight-ending combination of punches, but he would not. Just one, one-two, one, one-two, etc. It was exactly the type of situation where Leonard would had exploded in a fusillade of head shots, quite possibly ending the proceedings.

2) Though I have great admiration for Floyd's performance last night overall, I greatly disliked the way he approached the final round, and again it was typical Mayweather. In that round only it is fair to say that he did quite a bit of "running" -- refusing to box. I'm sure many of his fans will make excuses, but I find this less than sporting. I'm not saying he has to slug it out, but don't retreat like that and just kill the clock. Boo.

These are my only two criticisms of FM from last night. I picked him to win, and scored it 118-110 in his favor.

SouthPawFlo says:

Floyd has a way of making good fighters look Ordinary...

The Jab, the Counter Punching, the Defense in the Pocket, the movement, the accuracy of the punches, and constant changing of looks were just too much for Canelo..

At Times Canelo just looked lost & Confused. His best shot was to relentlessly pressure Mayweather for 3mins of every round, but for the most part he chose to try to box in the middle of the ring....

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Canelo said he studied the De La Hoya & the Cotto Fight yet he did worse than both.

How much did Canelo do Better than Guerrero?

brownsugar says:

Floyd was right, Cotto was a more difficult fight than Canelo.

Carmine Cas says:

Wow that was a great performance from Mayweather.

Canelo gave Mayweather some feints, but in the end he kept coming straight forward; thus eating that right hand. He didn't move to his right and throw the left hook.

Compared to Floyd's last two fights, one should appreciate Cotto's performance even more.

I don't see anyone beating Floyd has 147, which leaves GB to scratch their heads even more of how to conjure up some magical hype to challenge Floyd.

Abel Sanchez said that GGG would fight Floyd at 154, it would be difficult to make but it could happen. If Sergio comes back healthy maybe he could challenge Floyd as well too

amayseng says:

if ggg can make 154 healthy then he will beat floyd...

ggg just has too much offensively for floyd to pot shot to a victory....

that fight will never happen though....

SouthPawFlo says:

Who has Gennady Golovkin fought who was even Close to on Floyd's Level...

GGG has potential but Floyd has serious Skills...

GGG won't beat Canelo at 154

amayseng says:

ggg would box canelos ears off before knocking him out

SouthPawFlo says:

Who was Gennady Golovkins most Notable win???

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the Roast says:

Floyd will never fight GGG. Floyd only weighed 150 for Canelo. Canelo made the 152 then got up to 165 by fight time. Floyd knew Canelo was not ready for this after the Trout fight. 15 lbs or not, Canelo was not ready for Floyd's moves and Floyd knew it, that's why he took the fight. IF GGG agreed to come down to 152 or 154, he would be 168-170 by fight time. Floyd would not give away 20 lbs to a skilled fighter like GGG. Canelo yes, GGG no way. Floyd should fight whats left of Sergio Martinez and win another title in the next weight class. More history for the resume. Sergio is near the end and wouldn't be much more than 160-165. The worst thing I can imagine would be Devon Alexander KOing Khan and getting the next shot at Floyd.

Floyd-Alexander would be more boring than the Ghost fight. Khan-Floyd in England would be interesting but Floyd only fights in Vegas. Floyd-Khan at the MGM is not so hot. Maybe Pacman will win big and make us all forget the face down out cold imagery.

The Shadow says:

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I agree. Martinez is a good fight. With the crooked LV commission trying to stick him up, Floyd might just take his talents to London town if they can get a nice tax cushion.

Floyd-Khan at MGM would be a huge hit as well. A solid \$10m gate plus tons of drunken brits, emptying out every keg in sight. Not to mention the HIGHEST of high rolling sheiks dropping six figures on single bets at the crab table.

MGM would pay an INSANE site fee for that bout -- along with comped tix + super duper suites for those sheiks they will guest.

brownsugar says:

BHOP is calling Floyd out at 160,... yes I'm shocked too, in a fight with nothing but bragging rights on the line.... nope, not kidding, check out the article on BS. This would merely be wild spectacle to me and wouldn't add anything to either fighters career.

brownsugar says:

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if Floyd absolutely needed to get a stoppage in any fight to remain credible it would have to be against Alexander, who was publically vetoed the last time they brought up his name. I'm sure nothing has changed. Or will change in the near future.

SouthPawFlo says:

Floyd should get the Bradley vs Marquez winner... I know "Politically" that fight is a stretch, but those are the only other guys at 147 who have been on PPV before.

Carmine Cas says:

Floyd won't fight GGG at 154 he'd want him to come down further

Maybe he'd fight Sergio depending on how is knee looks

I can see Floyd fighting Khan in the UK

The promotion to a Garcia bout would be great, Angel vs The Floyds