

Roach On Cotto-Martinez, Talks Catchweight, Hooking: Pt 2

Written by Michael Woods

Wednesday, 12 February 2014 12:49



There won't be three bigger fights this year than the Sergio Martinez-Miguel Cotto fight, which will, unless it goes off the rails in the ninth inning of negotiations, take place June 7 at the Madison Square Garden big room.

Many folks I talk to seem to think that Sergio Martinez, a natural at middleweight, will get the better of Cotto. Needless to say, Cotto's trainer Freddie Roach spits in their eye. He explained to me why the 2014 Miguel Cotto is a dangerous animal, and a better version of the guy we saw losing to Floyd Mayweather and Austin Trout.

"He wasn't getting along with his trainer, and when you don't get along with your trainer, it's not a good situation," Roach told me. Dedham Freddie knows Cotto and trainers are like Kardashians and marriage but he says Cotto hasn't said no to anything and they get along. Cotto has been present for 5 AM runs and he expects the same for this camp, he said.

The left hook to the body, what Roach calls Cotto's best shot, returned against Delvin Rodriguez last October.

"Why'd you stop throwing that shot?" Roach said he asked the Puerto Rican.

"I don't know," Cotto confessed.

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"You won't do it if you don't practice it," Roach counseled the fighter.

He said ex trainer Pedro Diaz hadn't pushed him to use it, so, Roach said he did, and will. That is his "bread and butter" which Martinez would have to respect, he stated. There was no bread, and no butter, from Cotto in the Austin Trout fight, but he's now back in form, Freddie said. "The Austin Trout fight, Miguel didn't show up for it," Freddie noted.

Delivering that left hook to the body against a lefty is harder, Freddie admitted, but he will explain the technical necessities to make sure it lands properly, he said. "It's a little more difficult against a lefty, you have to set it up better, you have to use a little decoy. I think we can beat Martinez down the middle. I had a gameplan with Chavez Jr. against Sergio. His defense is pretty poor, if you exchange with him, let your hands go with him, he's very hittable. Chavez didn't do that till the last round, you saw what happened! And, Chavez only trained five days for that fight. So, I will have a guy who comes in great shape and will listen to me and use the gameplan, and I think we're gonna have a good fight.

"I like Martinez, he's a good guy. At one point I saw him, and said hi, and he said, 'I thought you didn't like me.' It's just talk," Roach said, candidly. "I don't dislike anybody. But I think I have the better fighter."

Regarding that weight class...Roach said the catchweight will be 159 pounds. "My guy is going to come in the ring about 154, 155, that's his best fighting weight. Weight doesn't win fights, boxing ability does. Sergio is actually a small guy himself, he's always said he's a welterweight."

So there you go, readers. Freddie has laid out his case, made some good points why Cotto could get the nod in one of the most eagerly anticipated bouts of 2014. Do you agree? Disagree? Weigh in, in our Forum.

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ultimoshogun says:

Freddie sold me on this one. He's got a point, once Chavez finally exchanged while Martinez was attacking he was able to rock him.

I'm leaning towards Cotto in this one.

Radam G says:

I'm riding shotgun with U-shogun. MC is gonna hurt SM with left hooks to the ribs and the temples. SM will have no legs -- less alone any defense or stand-his-ground fight. Holla!

amayseng says:

Just fight at 160 forget the one lb drop in catchweight. SM has been injured and shelved for too long now, plus he is wearing down a lot the last two years.

This is a great matchup. If SM is healthy and in peak shape he may be able to keep Cotto on the outside all night and blister him with jabs and straight lefts. Sergio can crack, people forget because he has changed his style up recently.

All depends on what Sergio has left.

Floyd missed the boat. He has the opportunity to win a legit MW belt against a legit although fading MW champ. SM remains a risk I assume that is why he has no interest.

jzzy says:

Both combatants have had their ups and downs and at this point are in it for the money. But I have to go with

Cotto, he's an old school fighter with the a resume against better opposition. Martinez is a better athlete than

a fighter, and would win a soccer match or bike race between the two. In the ring, Cotto 's expertize in big fights will be the difference.

Carmine Cas says:

Martinez put himself in harms way with the Chavez fight, there was a reason Chavez couldn't get to him earlier; Martinez kept him at bay and outboxed him. He got caught in the 12th it happens. But his injuries sustained in that fight carried over, hopefully he's all healed up now. Freddy Roach is a great talker.