

Alvarez Will Not Suffer Any Ill Effects From The SetBack vs. Mayweather

Written by Frank Lotierzo

Monday, 17 February 2014 09:27



Saul "Canelo" Alvarez 42-1-1 (30) is returning to the ring after being taken to boxing school last September by pound-for-pound champ Floyd Mayweather.

Alvarez, age 23, will meet the always aggressive but somewhat limited Alfredo Angulo 22-3 (18) on March 8th at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas Nevada. In his last fight Angulo, age 31, was stopped by Cuban sensation Erislandy Lara in the 10th round. Lara is an outstanding fighter who's only setback came against Paul Williams back in 2011 via a 12-round majority decision.

As most know the better fight on a technical level would be Alvarez vs. Lara. I'm not sure who I'd pick to win that one. What I do know is, Angulo fought well against Lara in a losing effort and unless he walks into something blindly, he should give Alvarez a good go in what should be a very fan friendly fight from start to finish. The biggest concern regarding Angulo when he's fighting a good technician is he gets hit so cleanly and he wasn't blessed with the most durable chin. Keeping that in mind, it'll also probably be a pretty physical fight, and in that regard you have to lean toward Alvarez.

Granted, as we saw against Mayweather, Alvarez isn't a life-taker when it comes to punching power. He did get through to Mayweather with some of his best left hooks and Floyd never even seemed bothered or changed his expression much. However, when Shane Mosley and Miguel Cotto caught Mayweather with their Sunday best, Mosley almost put him to sleep and Cotto did force Floyd to at least break off the exchange and have to reset. However, what Alvarez may lack in being a devastating puncher, he possesses the one weapon that makes up for that, and that's accuracy, good punch placement. If he can be first in initiating most of the exchanges, he will most likely control the fight and eventually set the always willing Angulo up for a possibly

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memorable finish.

I doubt that Canelo will suffer any ill effects from the Mayweather fight. Floyd isn't the type of fighter who ruins you mentally or physically after you fight him. What he does best is convince you very succinctly over the course of 12-rounds that he's better than you and there's nothing that he did to you during the bout that happened by accident. But it's not like he beats his opponents in a way that after touching hands with him they begin to question whether or not they want to fight again. In fact Alvarez barely seemed disturbed during the post fight interview in the ring. It was more or less an acknowledgement that Floyd is in a different league than he is as a fighter and he may never again confront another boxer like him again during his career.

What did bother me about Alvarez later after the fight is when he said, "I went into that fight with a strategy on how to win, and we all believed the game plan was solid. We thought he'd stand and fight more, like he did when he fought Miguel Cotto, but he didn't do that. It surprised us. It was difficult to adjust."

That is a little perplexing because he's not being honest with himself. Perhaps that is his way of justifying why he was beaten so lopsidedly. But let's be honest, Mayweather didn't run from Alvarez, not at all. Actually, he fought him pretty similarly to the way he fought Cotto - basically he stood his ground a lot and out-boxed them both from the waist up. Mayweather no longer uses his legs as he once did. He's grown into his body and is capable of standing his ground when he wants or needs to because he's stronger than his opponents anticipate he is before they fight him. His accuracy, straight punching and speed enabled him to win a majority of the exchanges against Cotto and Alvarez without really moving all that much.

What's also troubling is the idea that you can go into a fight with someone as good as Mayweather with only Plan A, based entirely on expecting Floyd to do just one thing in the fight. That's completely idiotic. His trainer didn't think that if something was working against Floyd, he wouldn't just switch to something else? What if Angulo doesn't come out and pursue Alvarez like a wounded lion? Will Alvarez be thrown completely out of whack by that and need half the fight to adjust? That may be an over statement, but the point is, Alvarez must be honest with himself from this point on. He's being propped up and sold to the boxing public by Golden Boy Promotions as if he is the next big star in boxing. Adjusting is something that all great fighters can do on the fly. Mayweather didn't change one bit from rounds one through twelve against Alvarez. The problem was Alvarez couldn't change and had no answers or conception on how to make Floyd uncomfortable. Against Mayweather, he gets a pass because it was Mayweather and he's done that to virtually everyone he's faced. But that excuse won't fly long because there are a plethora of skilled fighters out there. Like Erislandy Lara, for instance, who cannot wait to

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get in the ring with him and not cooperate with the hopes of making his night real unpleasant.

If Alvarez is all that, he should systematically break down Angulo after a few close calls during the first two rounds and stop him somewhere between the eight or ninth rounds. If he's really learned from the Mayweather setback, he should be able to take care of his business on March 8th and set himself apart from Alfredo Angulo in much the same manner Erislandy Lara did.

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Radam G says:

This is a scary bout for the red-headed hype. Against Money May, it showed that he was not remotely ready for prime time. Canelo cannot adjust and must fight a slower type. He is a nickle and three pennies, not a dime.

Angulo is a nickle and two pennies with arch-master trainer Virgil Hunter in his corner. So this fight is EVEN-STEVEN. It will be rough and tough and close. Angulo will grind, and be right up in Canelo's behind. Holla!

brownbomber says:

Radam, I am on the inside. I need to talk to you privately, I may have to go head to head with the fallen angel.

dino da vinci says:

I think Angulo at +650 is outstanding value.

brownsugar says:

The "old" Angulo would have destroyed Canelo... But since he's returned from his soul draining stay in deportation he seems to take a beating everyfight... Win or lose.

Rumors are circulating that he's returned to form. But as of his last outing... Angulo still doesn't look as nearly refreshed as his face fighting counterpart(James Kirkland).

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Wards trainer is full of boxing wisdom... But few fighters are as wise and mature as Andre.

on a similar note... Roach was able to bring out the best in Cotto against Rodriguez....Roach did a better job than Rigo's trainer even though he was a master trainer of the renown Cuban Cult Church of Boxing.

I think Angulo needs to train under a master coach of Aggression. Like Roach. Who can tell if the cerebral teachings of Hunter are sinking in?

Like the article said. Canelo didn't have a plan B against Mayweather.. but there is no plan B against a fighter who performs every manuvre and tactic available as smoothly as applying Jiffy Peanut butter to a slice of bread. You just try to finish the dance without embarrassing yourself too badly.

However Canelo has a solid chin... Punches in combination well and has the quiet yet boisterous ego of a megalomaniac poised to take over the world. I think Canelo's burning ego maybe stronger than Angulo's smoldering hunger to regain the respect of the boxing world.

Canelos' fan club took a huge hit immediately after the fight..... Hispanic cuties were texting each othet the following wake call on facebook....." F#@K Canelo" .

That's a huge hit for a teen idol to take... Canelo will be back in rare form to reassure his fans that he's not a one hit wonder..and he's still worthy of their praise and their PPV dollars.

Prediction: as long as Canelo is still standing at the end of the fight - he wins.... I don't care what preceeded during the previous 12 rounds.

Canelos' PPV, Canelos' Show, Canelos' profitability.... He still wins.

This Money train's still got a long way to go.....and one monkey don't stop no show (PT Barnum).

amayseng says:

Bsug there is a plan B for Floyd and C and D. the thing is Floyd adapts.

Canelo didnt have a plan B because he didnt try a plan B.

A few times early he went to the body with a 1-2 both body shots and floyd ate them bounced away and then back . point is they were scoring, then he went away from them for 8 rounds. Why? he didnt even try them again. Floyd gets a lot of credit but Canelo didnt make an effort, i have watched that fight 5 times now.

Cotto won rounds by being busier on the ropes, going to the body some rounds and using a good jab others with in and out boxing on his toes. he used different plans and in my book won a solid 5 rounds....

Canelo just thought if he showed up and was just himself he would win. Young and dumb

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along with a poor trainer and corner.

If I was his trainer I would have told him by round 9 he was getting humiliated , gets some balls and aggression and throw some heavy body combinations ONLY and no head shots for a full round a FULL round.

Remember Goosen telling Corrales something like you better fucking do something..?

What about when SRL was told "you're blowing it son"!!!

Where were the words of shame to get Canelo going?

brownsugar says:

It would have made things more interesting Amayseng.
He could have tried something..ultimately he would brought out the Dragon

I thought it was interesting that Canelo kept fouling Floyd...more than necessary.
If Canelo could have internalized his anger at being outboxed and channelled that rage into a more determined offence maybe he makes things more interesting for a few rounds.
But he's not yet the seasoned vet that Cotto is.

I gave Cotton 3-4 rounds...personally I thought Cotto was working good but was getting tagged between his guard while Floyd was catching a lot of punches on his arms and shoulders.

If he's lucky against Martinez... I'd love to see the rematch.

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The Shadow says:

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Good sensible points. Don't think Cotto won five, though. I think he just edged three-four but still a good showing.

You're right though, that youthful hubris had Canelo thinking he was as fast as Floyd.

"He's a great fighter, but I have intelligence in that ring and I have the same speed he has," an utterly arrogant Canelo said before the fight.

This defeat will help him, though. His trainers had lost control, the fame gone to his head. Nothing they said could get through.

Instead, they got a raging animal who they had to keep on their good side to get their payday. Not for a second do I believe his trainers thought he could beat Floyd at his own game.

Stupid. But what their words couldn't convince him, Floyd Mayweather could. "Cold dose of reality," as my man J-Lamps says.

But come on, whoever wrote this article, why are they saying he doesn't use his legs anymore? Isn't that what he did vs. Guerrero?? What about the 12th round when he danced just to show he still could.

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Some of you writer guys need to make up your mind whether his legs are shot or whether he's a runner.

the Roast says:

Canelo will be ok. He got outboxed not beat up. Outboxed is easier to work your mind around I think. Angulo is gonna be right there in front of the Redhead the whole time. No tricks, no slick moves, no head fakes. Angulo will probably land a few flush shots early. If Alvarez can take them he will win and maybe get his confidence back. Bigger fights are ahead for the marketable Canelo.