Written by Lee Wylie
Friday, 10 February 2012 10:31

Can you imagine if the events in the movie "Groundhog Day" really happened? Can you imagine having to live the same day, over and over and over? Boxing fans could be mistaken for thinking they were actually living the real life version of "Groundhog Day," having to tolerate the Floyd Mayweather/Manny Pacquiao negotiations, which to no surprise after repeated back and forth jockeying, have failed yet again, for about the millionth time.

As an alternative, Floyd Mayweather Jr. will now face Miguel Cotto on May 5th at the MGM in Las Vegas, in the junior welterweight division, with Mayweather moving up from welterweight.

On paper, the fight appears captivating. Cotto will be at his optimum weight, 154 pounds, he is coming off the back of a three fight winning streak, which has seen him defeat Yuri Foreman,

Ricardo Mayorga and his arch-nemesis Antonio Margarito, all at 154 pounds. Miguel Cotto also gives the impression that he has improved under the guidance of Pedro Diaz and Emanuel Steward before him, adding what appears to be better movement and a solid jab to his arsenal.

And so we get to Floyd Mayweather Jr. He will be 35-years-old come fight night, an age that does not normally bode well for a defensive based fighter, who relies a lot on speed and reflexes. Floyd will also be moving up from 147 to 154, further evidence that Mayweather will be up against it on "Cinco Di Mayo."

One does not have to be a "student of the game" to realize that Floyd Mayweather is taking a huge risk here, right?

Wrong.

When it comes to boxing, Floyd Mayweather is THE "student of the game." Despite the fact that one of his favourite quotes is that he doesn't watch footage of his opponents prior to fights, Floyd Mayweather will know exactly how Miguel Cotto operates. He will have watched hours of footage, taken in every Miguel Cotto habit, and come May 5th, will have a blueprint on how to capitalize on them. Make no mistake, Floyd Mayweather's boxing IQ is as high as anyone in the sport, if not higher. This not only includes thinking boxers like Juan Manuel Marquez and Bernard Hopkins, but trainers like Nazim Richardson and Freddie Roach. It's one thing knowing what to do, but another thing entirely to apply it in the ring. Floyd Mayweather also has cheetah speed and reflexes to go with his brain and craft. It is merely an illusion that Mayweather is taking a risk against Cotto.

The biggest problem Miguel Cotto will have on fight night is the fact that he is a converted southpaw. More specifically, his power hand, his left hook, will be his lead hand, not the usual rear hand. Cotto's best chance to win the fight is to land his left hook, in particular his left hook to the body. In there lies the problem. Floyd Mayweather is a master at negating lead hand power punchers, such as Oscar De La Hoya, Shane Mosley, Victor Ortiz and even Ricky Hatton. Floyd's defense is designed to neutralise wide looping punches. In order for Miguel to land his left hook, he will have to be squared up to Floyd, and within close proximity. There is no way Mayweather's defensive unit allows for such a wide telegraphed punch. The only shots I've seen land flush on Mayweather are disguised straight punches, from Zab Judah, Chop Chop Corley, and Mosley.

Another problem for converted fighters is their footwork. It is one thing training your upper body to go against your natural directional movement, but to get your upper body in sync with your legs is another thing. If you watch Miguel Cotto fight, he seldom throws punches whilst moving. He moves....stops....then lets his hands go. Floyd Mayweather will have picked up on this. One can see Floyd waiting for the signal, and getting off first every time. Also, if you watch his movement on defense, he backs up in straight lines. This is because his upper body is not linked to his lower body, which leads to him being unable to turn his opponents or utilize head movement. Have a look at the very first punch Mayweather threw in his last outing against Victor Ortiz. Straight right hand, then a step away from the power punch, the right hook. Victor, a converted southpaw, is slow to move because of the confusion between upper and lower body.

If we go, a few years back Floyd Mayweather fought another Puerto Rican fighter named Henry Bruseles, a fighter who bears more than a resemblance to the style of Miguel Cotto. In this fight, we saw Bruseles try and close the distance and land his left hook, much like Cotto will try and do, only to find Mayweather's right arm positioned in such away that his elbow is covering his torso, whilst his right glove is guarding his chin. Cotto will experience this early in the fight, his left hook to head and body taken away and put in the back pocket. After a few rounds of Mayweather making sure that his opponents' primary weapon is eliminated, Mayweather will start and let his straight right hand go, one punch at a time. By the middle rounds I can envision the fight to be all but over, with Mayweather moving laterally, keeping the converted Cotto moving against his usual direction. If Mayweather starts landing clean shots at will, you can expect him to start walking Miguel down. This is Cotto at his most vulnerable, backing up, offering no head movement. While I feel the fight will end up a clear decision win for Floyd, I would not be overly shocked if Mayweather scores the late KO. He has enough power to keep any fighter honest.

Floyd Mayweather is the most versatile, adaptable fighter in boxing, no question. Should Miguel Cotto bring a Plan B or C to the table, you can guarantee Mayweather will have them worked out within a few moments. His A game is to negate his opponent's A game.

Despite the promotional work that will soon be commencing, this fight will not be competitive in this writer's opinion. Floyd Mayweather's skill level does not match his desire for a challenge. He does not take risks in or out of the ring. Every aspect of his boxing world is carefully thought-out. That's why he has selected Cotto, big box office, small chance of winning. Some people say this fight should have happened in 2007 after Mayweather defeated Ricky Hatton. In reality, the result would be the same.

Like Max Schmeling once said about Joe Louis, "I see something." Floyd Mayweather will have already said the same words whilst looking at Miguel Cotto.

Comment on this article

Radam G says:

Money May is a great, great boxer, but a greater con man of the game. If he can get into Cotto's head, he will be make Cotto's boksing game lame. But if he can't, it is going to be a shame. All this REAL money that Money May is losing for not fighting Da Manny will be well thought about. D*mn IT, I coulda had it all, Money May will shout.

Boxing is "the theatre of the expected," especially for those who have inattention blindless. They will always be shocked and amazed when their pick didn't stick. And the other guy was the cat who was slick. As the world turns the same dang way, a fan still keep making himself outta a D**K! People believe in magic and often times can't see the coming of a tragic.

Will Money May win? Probably so, especially in the City of sin. But is he still all that and a bag of chips? NO! He is now a man of tin. If Cotto makes Money May bleed in sweat, Money May will rust. The end of every era is a must. Money May at 35 is full of jive. He does better with greenish and finished fighters, instead of ones who are still kick-a$$ alive. Some people cannot let go of the past. Forever they hope and believe that that syet is going to last.

Cotto is going to put Money May's arse on blast. This is no Rocky-movie telecast. Two real lived dogs are always better than a dead lion. Cotto is still full of fight, so is Money May. I don't know who will have the greatest might. Both of these combatants' game is still tight. They are both aight! But are no longer at the top of their game, and anything can go down. With Cuban Doc Diaz's magic, Money May may just end up spilling "The Tears of a Clown." And that is Smokey Robinson, not me.

The last defeat of Money May's boksing life was by the corner work of Doc Diaz in the O Games held in Atlanta, Ga. History loves to repeat itself. Holla!

amayseng says:

this is a very good article and accurate as well.

cotto is damaged goods, he is ruined from concrete and had too many wars, too much wear and tear.

floyd may be 35 but he has had few fights the last 5 years. although his footwork is a bit off, he still has good speed, reflexes and his hand eye coordination and timing is still there.

cotto is not the bigger fighter, both are similar in size.

by round 8 cotto will be mentally defeated that he cant get to floyd and floyd will pot shot to a boring victory, just like against shane. i mean, floyd completly shut shane out but it was not even exciting, it was boring...

mortcola says:

This is a best case scenario for Mayweather, the way the writer describes it. He does not, however, give Cotto any props for skill, adaptability, or the ability to derail any of Mayweather's strengths with his own power. Bruseles is not in the same league as Cotto; De Le Hoya and Judah both got around those tight Mayweather skills, and neither of them, at the time, had the same arsenal, concentration, or willpower as Cotto on a good night. The writer would be correct if Cotto were just a formulaic, one-trick boxer. He is not, and he will make a good fight of this, in which Floyd will likely have to dig deep more than once.

Real Talk says:

I'm more so in a agreement with Radam than this writer. Cotto is a live dog in this fight. He has a great jab, can box, move and has a good corner. Props to Floyd for taking this fight at 154 and not playing the catch weight games. Cotto is boxing and moving more instead the bulling forward stalking style and can do both. Floyd might be catching him at the right time before he and his trainer get too much momentum from fights under their belt. Cotto's jab is said to be one of the best in the sport and the left hook of course is good money but Floyd knows all the tricks of the trade an if he boxes smart and comes in on his A-game(which he usually does) he knows how to neutralize those. I got Cotto landing a couple of those hooks and throwing quick combos with his underrated speed and making this a good one. Floyd in my opinion will need to be a 2handed fighter and apply smart pressure to mentally wear Cotto down. This fight is great for Floyd in my opinion and this is where Radam an I are not in aggreement. This fight keeps Floyd busy which will sharpen his skills and get him back to his peak form. I see Cotto bringing out the best in Floyd and making him work, box and think and get busy. I'm looking forward to this one and think we're in for a treat. Styles make fights. I'm taking Floyd by TKO cuts or UD. Dueces

ali says:

Mayweather has the same advantages now that he would have had when they both was at 140...so why is people acting like he would have had a better chance then. I know what you Floyd haters r going to say Cotto hadn't been through the wars but at 140 his chin was looking weaker and weaker because of the difficulty he had making weight...I think now he has a better chance because Floyd doesn't move around the ring as much as he use to for the most part he's moving forward and staying in the pocket ...That's exactly what Cotto needs to have a shot and Mayweather is going to give him that so I see this fight be exciting as hell.

undisputed34 says:

hmmm....@ mortcola & real talk...i give cotto credit for being an able boxer and being able

either box or bang, but i cant remember a fight where he was able to transition and use both. i think that makes him a two trick pony. he's either a stalking, wear-you-down type of fighter (or atleast he was) or he's boxing and throwing combinations (a la margarito-cotto 2). what strength does cotto have that he can impose on mayweather? not physical strength, not speed, not ring i.q....did i miss anything? a faded de la hoya and a mentally undisciplined and faded judah were/are both quicker than cotto. i will concede that his willpower is undeniable but that will only take him so far against mayweather who's willpower is at least his equal. i see this as being a repeat of floyds win over baldomir with cotto attempting to put his punches together better than baldomir did, as he is a world class opponent (unlike baldomir) but cotto's speed is pedestrian, he wont be able to cut the ring off against floyd, and what power he has is of the thudding, accumulation of punches variety and while floyd can be touched, cotto doesnt have what it takes to do it often enough to bother floyd. also cotto has proven to be a capable boxer against foes who were seeking to engage and aggressive. he boxes going away. floyd will force him to take the lead and chop him up coming in...

TotoyBato says:

Mayweather will not be tough for Cotto either. It will be a 12-round sparring session. Miguel gets his 35%, Floyd gets his 65%. Easy money.

Real Talk says:

@ Radam G, Floyd's getting like 30 million a fight so how much money is he really missing from not fighting Manny??? That's a question.....if he fights 2 times a year that's not a factor, 3 times a year and he's hitting baseball contract numbers a year, at least Peyton Manning/ Kobe Bryant numbers. With that said Manny is the biggest payday an if it happened earlier the juice of the 2 or 3 fight payday would've been 1/4 billion dollar ballpark.....but enough of that. This fight brings the rain of course an it is what boxing fans need for their fix....a real rumble. Anybody think this is a skip in the park is daydreaming. You can compare Cotto to Oscar and Zab and attept to slight Cotto those that know boxing know Cotto has skills and can box better than both of them....no disrespect...especially to Oscar who's one of my favorites and has the best resume in boxing excluding none. Cotto can box and bang like my man said but Cotto is not on May's level when it comes to ring IQ and adjusting!!! I CANNOT stress this enough. Floyd is a chamileon in the ring, especially when you press him and make him dig deep. The boy can rumble..FLAT out...and that's real live...no peppers...straight up. Don't take my word for it, pull up some fights. With that said he cannot sleep on Cotto because Cotto can box. We can say well...look at the last fight. That was the last fight, styles make fights and Cotto had a lot of pressure an a lot of demons he had to deal with. Either this gon be a good one or maybe I don fell asleep on Mayweather and he's better than I thought or remember an about to pull a Gatti Massacre 2.0 Time will tell. Countdown. R.I.P. Don C. and Angie Dundee. Dueces

undisputed34 says:

@ real talk...i can respect that. when i referenced DLH and Judah, i was referring to their speed only, even though i think 2000-2004 DLH would have knocked cotto out. but youre right...cotto CAN box. but so can juan manuel marquez. and he's fought manny and may. size difference

aside, i dont see cotto looking any better than JMM, and probably worse. what BOXER has cotto outboxed? none that i can recall. he banged guys who were better boxers than him and boxed guys who he felt would outbang him. now, with that said, thats how its supposed to be done. but unless he brings his trainer and his cutman into the ring with him, he wont bang floyd and he wont outbox him. once again i know styles make fights, but he couldnt outbox or outbang manny and i havent seen anything in his toolbox that says he can do either to floyd. like toytoybato said up there, sparring session. he'll come out of this saying manny was faster and hit harder, but he thinks floyd is better. mark my words. also on a in his fight against his last fight with marg, and ive watched it at least 4 times, i didnt necessarily see a dominant fighter outboxing a lesser opponent but what looked like a near repeat of the first fight. a desperate cotto throwing everything in his arsenal against a limited guy who didnt even try to get out of the way. couple more rounds and i think cotto would have been on his knees again.

Robert Curtis says:

Oh Gaa-w-w-w-d, who cares?!!! Pacquiao fought the whole division for him while he was fighting cherry-pickins and wrestlers. Money May is courting a small pie here. He could have been the next Ali or Tyson if he had stepped up to all the competition. But he chose his contests like a girl choosing earrings for her next date. I don't give an S!

OneTonMan says:

Quote, "Make no mistake, Floyd Mayweather's boxing IQ is as high as anyone in the sport, if not higher. This not only includes thinking boxers like Juan Manuel Marquez and Bernard Hopkins, but trainers like Nazim Richardson and Freddie Roach. Floyd Mayweather also has cheetah speed and reflexes to go with his brain and craft."

And Mayweather acquired that high of a boxing IQ in just a short stint in boxing, at 35 some fights?????? I think the author has a blind admiration for whatever Mayweather is.

maromero says:

[QUOTE=OneTonMan;13441]Quote, "Make no mistake, Floyd Mayweather's boxing IQ is as high as anyone in the sport, if not higher. This not only includes thinking boxers like Juan Manuel Marquez and Bernard Hopkins, but trainers like Nazim Richardson and Freddie Roach. Floyd Mayweather also has cheetah speed and reflexes to go with his brain and craft."

And Mayweather acquired that high of a boxing IQ in just a short stint in boxing, at 35 some fights?????? I think the author has a blind admiration for whatever Mayweather is.[/QUOTE]

I hope that comment was made without using your common sense

ali says:

Come on Fe'Roz why r u even bringing up Clottey and Margcheato one is a major cheater so we don't know how good he really was but my guess is he a basically a bum....Clottey im

scared to be knocked out so I will just block and take this *** whooping over 12 like a straight buster. Cotto a man that was all but knocked out against chop and Torres ha ha....Pac was impressive in some wins but how about when he fought Marquez and even though Clottey didn't throw that many punches against Pac he was a le to bust him up.....Paul Williams has way to many flaws technically to beat Floyd and u know it the would have looked similar to when Mayweather fought Diego Chico....R u serious these r thr guys u say he was ducking I just have a hard time believing that.

Radam G says:

@Real Talk, you need to holla at the real-life NSBC contracts. In Money May's last bout against Vicious Dumba$$ -- I mean Vicious Vic -- Ortiz, he made a guaranteed of 13mil and a total of close to 18mil after all the Big-Screen and PPV money money came in.

Money May is a put-on and exaggerate-up artist about his purses. Dude has never made 30mil, PERIOD! Against Big Money Oscar de la Hoya, Money May made close to 28mil.

Come on, RT, maybe you need to holla at Pinoygreats dot com. We have just about every boxing-money source in the world there. You have to work overtime in two lifetimes to bull some jive-turkey syet on Pinoys in da know, especially about moola and _____ _____!

Did I tell you the time that my sharp-eyed cousin caught a boxing promoter frauding Well Fargo Bank? You know that joker -- Harold Smith aka a thousand-and-one darn aliases. Holla!

DaveB says:

I just wish Mayweather would have just fought these guys when they were prime time players. We wouldn't even be having this discussion. I have and had no doubt that Mayweather would have won these fights and he would have went down as one of the greatest ever. Now there will always be doubts and people saying he was ducking. This will be his legacy for all time. There is nothing he can do now that will ever erase that. People 50 years from now will still be discussing this. If Floyd had of just fought those two or three certain fights and not worried about his undefeated record so much he would be sitting on the top of world boxing world with his legacy intact. This conversation will just go round and round. Thanks Floyd. You only have yourself to blame and with your ego I know this will always eat at you. You want unconditional adulation but you didn't put in the body of work necessary to obtain it.

Radam G says:

You guys keep missing the wisdom of Money May's dad -- Pops Joy May. Dude has said a billion times that the game is about "timing."

"Speed and power ain't sh*t, if you don't know how to use timing," PJM has been spittin' and bullsh*ttin' for years. Well! GUYS, he too is a master of optical illusions in promotion too. He wasn't just talking about speed, power and timing in dat squared jungle, he was spittin the whole spectum of da hurt bitnezz experience, especially in timing of matching.

The most important timing of a great pugilist is also the time when he fights an opponent. Read what TSSU 2010 ROTY Kuya Fe'Roz spitted. Money May is a timing genius. It was no reason for him to fight the dangerous Miguel Cotto years ago for less money and a possible arse thrashing, when he is now fighting the name and residue of the once dangeous MC for more money, more money, more money. Holla!

ali says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;13454]You guys keep missing the wisdom of Money May's dad -- Pops Joy May. Dude has said a billion times that the game is about "timing."

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I actually agree with u I think pac has had great timing...fighting all these great fighters that was willing to do catch weights just to fight him....Oscar, Cotto ect and when he wasn't fight at a catch weight he was fighting a aging Barrera or bum with a major belt in Diaz...or a dum *** fighter un Hatton who was never the same after the Mayweather fight or a Shane Mosley who couldn't pull the trigger any longer....what's so wrong with having good timing.

michaelabii says:

I think its a good match up style wise. I will even go as far as to say that this could be a better fight than the much hyped Floyd/Manny super fight. I think Floyds style will give Manny fits. Cotto has become a much more seasoned, calculating fighter who can box and fight. Cotto also changes up his hand speed depending on his opponent. This is not an easy touch for Floys and kudos to team mayweather for not taking a soft touch. Dare I say that this is actually a tougher fight now than it would have been say five years ago mostly because both fighters style has changed somewhat. Cotto has improved and morphed into a multidimensional fighter. Floyd is well still Floyd - a brilliant tactician and defensive wizard who now favors walking his opponents down and breaking them down sytematically. Floys is also physically stronger at 147 but at 154 ? Good fight at a good time for both fighters plus Cotto gets a great payday. He deserves it because Cotto really is a class act. A real throw back.

Radam G says:

Whatever SCLA light-skinned Ali! You are always tryin' to be hardcore and up in my grill. Get me a bean pie, and that will be a thrill. Hehehehe!
Ain't a darn thing wrong with timing. Da game is what it is. Money May used to move like

Bambi, but now he Frankenstein-like walk down green and used-up a$$ opponents.

Timing is a Fam May's gift. And big-arse optical illusion after BIG-Arse optical illusion gives Money May a lift. Holla!

DaveB says:

Yes it is true, both guys have hit the jackpot financially. However hopefully they can live with the fact that they shouldn't really be put in the ATG slot. Maybe the almost ATG slot if there was one. Both of them really were most impressive as younger fighters, and that is usually the way it is. Even if you take some the greatest fighters - Ali, Duran, Hearns, Leonard, Robinson to name a few, they tore it up when they were younger fighters although they also made their mark for legacy as they matured too. But they really set the world on fire as young fighters as did May and Pac. As fighters age and fight bigger men it is still great to see but they are not as phenomenal as they were in their youth. If money is the only thing that is important to these guys then they should accept the fact that legacy is not so important and they will not be as highly regarded as they could have been. Hearns and Leonard had good fights when they got older but they weren't afraid to fight one another when it really mattered. In a perfect world there would have been a rematch shortly after the first one but at least they had the first one so they are both very highly regarded by that fight along with the other things they accomplished in their careers. These two guys have fought too many people not at their best and for titles that were not a full weight. So their victories now seem tainted and one fight has never even happened.

ali says:

[QUOTE=michaelabii;13458]I think its a good match up style wise. I will even go as far as to say that this could be a better fight than the much hyped Floyd/Manny super fight. I think Floyds style will give Manny fits. Cotto has become a much more seasoned, calculating fighter who can box and fight. Cotto also changes up his hand speed depending on his opponent. This is not an easy touch for Floyd and kudos to team Mayweather for not taking a soft touch. Dare I say that this is actually a tougher fight now than it would have been say five years ago mostly because both fighters style has changed somewhat. Cotto has improved and morphed into a multidimensional fighter. Floyd is well still Floyd - a brilliant tactician and defensive wizard who now favors walking his opponents down and breaking them down sytematically. Floyd is also physically stronger at 147 but at 154 ? Good fight at a good time for both fighters plus Cotto gets a great payday. He deserves it because Cotto really is a class act. A real throw back.[/QUOTE]
Great great post me and u r on the same page for this fight.

ali says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;13459]Whatever SCLA light-skinned Ali! You are always tryin' to be hardcore and up in my grill. Get me a bean pie, and that will be a thrill. Hehehehe!

Ain't a darn thing wrong with timing. Da game is what it is. Money May used to move like Bambi, but now he Frankenstein-like walk down green and used-up a$$ opponents.

Timing is a Fam May's gift. And big-arse optical illusion after BIG-Arse optical illusion gives Money May a lift. Holla![/QUOTE]
Triple OG I AGREED WITH YOU!!!! BTW big homie im dark skinned lol

brownsugar says:

IT'S a testament to Floyds ability that even though he's Cotto's Senior by 4years,....

has been employed as a professional boxer for a longer period of time, ...

and has had 2 or 3 long layoffs yet continues to defeat champion after champion,...

all this and the fact that statistically Mayweather should be made the underdog in this fight,....HE'S STILL PERCIEVED as BEING THE RUNAWAY FAVORITE that has all the advantages ....is what MAKES HIM SO REMARKABLE in the ring.

It's almost as if Floyd has to fight Andre Ward/Bernard Hopkins/ and Vitali Klitschko all on the same night for it to be considered a fair fight

Floyd is good but nobodies that good,..... yet he's in the same position as he was before he fought the gladiator formerly known as Sugar Shane Mosely. Roach and Pac refused the fight, Floyd accepted. The rest is history.

And now.....in 2012, Pac refuses to fight Cotto again. A boxer whose been flagrantly maligned as being a punch drunk bum,.... tottering on is last legs....But Team Pac still refuses to touch the rematch at the natural junior middleweight limit.

Enter Floyd,... a far less active boxer who rehydrates at a mere 150lbs on the day of the fight.... which is amazing when you consider lightweight Brandon Rio was rehydrating at 155 when he was fighting lightweight. Says he wants Cotto to feel comfortable,.. and fight at his natural weight.

Those who feel that Cotto is damaged goods don't know jack about Cotto,..
Please consider the following:

#1. He's never been in a boring or noncompetitive fight. He's never done less than give his best even under the most adverse circumstances.
#2. He could have quit and won a technical decision against Clottey but chose to continue even though the fight could have been stopped with Cotto receiving a tko loss after he received that nasty cut.
#3. Weight drained an badly behind on points he still tried to finish his fight with Pac on his feet. Such is the pride of Cotto.
#4. Cotto has been revived at no less than 85% of his former Glory thru his 3 fight renasaince with Emanual Stewart.
#5. Cotto is till one of the top 2 or 3 boxers between 147 and 154, if he wasn't we would be seeing Cotto matched against Pacman instead of Bradley.

#6. Does anybody really think that Cotto would lose a fight against Bradley, or Marquez
#7. Cotto has done what all the greats have done,.. he's altered his style slightly to have a bit more longevity in the sport while compensating for any lack of physical prowes due to his 2 losses by being more tactical and selective during his more recent fights which were all concluded within the distance.
#8. his current trainer is a master tactitian and will have Cotto trained to the utmost with the most potent anti-mayweather tactics available.
#9. A comfortable well trained Cotto is more than up to equalling or surpassing any challenge on the planet from 147 to 154, dont count him out.

undisputed34 says:

@ b-sug. that was a pretty darn good assessment. i still think may will win, but it sure sounds like a much more compelling fight considering what you wrote

amayseng says:

brown sugar go rewatch the cotto vs marg rematch, and study cotto, he gets hit A LOT, retreats in straight lines, defends with no head movement and does not roll or slip punches anymore. he is no longer a sharp puncher, his combinations are more wailing than crisp anymore, his agility and footwork is a step or two behind what it was two years ago. he is shop worn and it is physically showing. floyd will have no problem pot shotting him to a usual boring decision.
and yes at 147, jmm would beat cotto, jmm is much more skilled and talented, second best counter puncher in boxing today behind floyd and can mentally adjust.

floyd has not had much wear and tear the last 7 years, where as cotto has been physically ruined and demolished by margs concrete, then pacman beat him like a damn drum.

i like cotto, but even zab almost had him out of there a few times with cotto throwing low blows to save himself.

floyd and pac is the only fight that could be up in the air for either fighter.

guess what, i am not buying anymore ppvs until they fight each other...

amayseng says:

another thing, go back and rewatch the cotto and mosley fight, where as cotto was winning early and shane came back and actually won the fight 7 rounds to 5. turn the hbo sound off and just watch the fight. shane out boxed him and that was before cotto was past his physical prime

mortcola says:

Amayseng, I have watched the fight again, and for the most part I don't see what you're describing. I think you are describing what you wish were true. Cotto is fighting the way he always has, with a bit more purposeful movement and excellent side to side. His punches are

fairly sharp, have been damaging against everyone he has fought since Pacman. He can be expected to be a little less flexible or resilient due to multiple wars, but I see little deterioration in his skills or athleticism, a greater sense that he is thinking in the ring. And I am no novice when it comes to analyzing boxers.

amayseng says:

rematch, round 2 42-38 seconds left.
round 3 2:13. instead of rolling bending and defending in the pocket with head movement he tries to retreat.
round 4 1:54 no rolling or head movement retreating takes a right hand from marg
round 4 1:48, while retreating throws a wailing combination whiffing

im a fan of cotto, but he now throws punches then instead of countering in the pocket he retreats...
no chance against floyd, not at this point past physical prime

dino da vinci says:

Single best group of postings have made this thread the best I've ever seen on this site. A great many quality points made here. Really, impressive.

mortcola says:

".....rematch, round 2 42-38 seconds left.
round 3 2:13. instead of rolling bending and defending in the pocket with head movement he tries to retreat.
round 4 1:54 no rolling or head movement retreating takes a right hand from marg
round 4 1:48, while retreating throws a wailing combination whiffing...."

Amayseng, all respect, man, but you're nitpicking. Anyone can select passages of a fight and criticize and find little flaws. First of all, when you evaluate a person's current functioning, you compare it to what is normal for that person. Cotto has a few quirks that are consistent....but compared to the first Margarito fight, he got hit much less, landed at a higher rate and total #, and relied on turns and alternating left-right evasion after throwing his shots. So, the hypothesis that this performance demonstrates deterioration is invalid. Second, I just watched a bunch of footage. Arguello vs Pryor and Olivares - comes in straight up, leaves his head dead center after throwing his jab, repeats a predictable left-to-right head rhythm, gets nailed; Larry Holmes against Cooney - throws several hooks with elbow low and chin out, gets hit with right hand counters (a weakness of his, normal for him, unusual for a fighter with a great jab and head movement); SRL, vs Hearns and Giraldo - walking in straight, getting nailed, adjusting by, among other things, beginning with hooks to body with quick dip.....point is, it is easy to find small "flaws", deviation from theoretic perfect boxing, but which do not indicate deterioration or fatal flaw. You might be right about Mayweather's capacity to dominate, but it will be about the overall matchup, not some crumbling of Cotto's abilities, which, boxing-wise if not durability-wise, are nearly what they were, plus a good deal of tactical and strategic growth

since taking on his last two trainers.

the Roast says:

Margarito was getting to Cotto in that rematch. Cotto's face was marked up by the end. Floyd took this fight because he knows he will win. Cotto has been a great fighter but his time is just about up. I think Floyd will stop Cotto near the end of the fight and Cotto will retire. Retire. Sometimes when you bring the thunder, you get lost in the storm.

DaveB says:

This is what always happens when fights are announced, fans come out with reasons why it will be a compelling fight. I always go with the gut reaction I had at the time the fight was announced which was that this one shouldn't be that compelling. I really wished Margarito hadn't developed that cut against Cotto even though I was rooting for Cotto. Would Cotto really, really have won? I can't answer that with certainty. I do think Mayweather will beat the **** out of him. I know, I know most people will give Mayweather big props after his win like he has done something great but I don't see him having to dig deep for this one. Cotto is limited. I love the guy for his big heart but he'll submit when he has no way out.

amayseng says:

excellent points mortcola, and i am nitpicking. however, these are tendencies that i see that have developed due to wear and tear, lack of mobility, agility and reflexes.. this was not the same cotto as a few years ago. marg is a lumbering linear come straight forward with no feints fighter. not a boxer but a fighter. at this physical stand point i just see floyd having a very easy time with cotto. im a huge fan of cotto but unfortunately this is gonna be brutal by the 8 round

ali says:

@amayseng jmm would beat Cotto? wow!!!!!!

amayseng says:

yes at 147 i think jmm would beat cotto. of course today 147 is too draining for cotto.

however, jmm is a better and more complete fighter than cotto, they are two weight classes apart, but if they were not i think most people would agree, jmm would beat cotto.

Radam G says:

Quit fibbin,' SCLA light-skinned Ali. You are just tryin' to be rough, tough and hardcore to fit in, because light-skinned brothas are out, and dark-skinned ones like Money May, two nickles and four dimes -- I mean 50 Cent, Wesley Snipes and King James are in.

Nevermind King James. The baddest dude in B-ball is Asian-Time Jeremy

Liiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnn! Yall bettah recognize, babbbbbbbbbeeeeeeeeee! You heard!

I'm dark-skinned, too, SCLA light-skinned Ali. I'm dark high yellow-skinned chocolate mutty like a muthaYellowlight! And I'm always ready to fight! Fists or words! Hehehehe! Holla!

gibola says:

Why Miguel? Why?
Cotto can't outbox PBF and he's got no shot at pressuring him and wearing PBF down. Cotto will wear down before PBF blows hard. PBF took the fight cos he knows he stops Cotto in 8/9 one-sided rounds. Cotto took the fight....er....I don't know I really don't...because he wants one last hoorah (I think?). A peak Cotto wouldn't have come close to beating PBF, this shopworn Cotto hasn't a hope in hell, his chances are slim and slim just left town, etc. Sorry Cotto fans, beating Mayorga and a shot Margarito has gone to his and his handlers head, he should never have taken this fight - he hasn't a hope. He should have ended a wonderful career by fighting Alvarez and retiring - win or lose.
Gibola

undisputed34 says:

@ amayseng...im with you on that. JMM gets the decision against Cotto. cotto gets figured out after about 6-7 rounds and while i dont think JMM would lay a pacman/marg beating on him, JMM nullifies cotto's aggression with deft countering and gets a split decision, unless cotto lands a tko on his cojones.

ali says:

Y'all tripping jmm wouldn't beat Cotto if they were in the same weight class I think Cotto jab which is the best in boxing would give jmm fits...I think y'all getting caught up in the fact that jmm gave pac a much tougher fight then Cotto but styles make fights....I remember jmm having problems with Juan Diaz if that was Cotto he would have stopped him. Go back and look at that fight and yeah he eventually figured Diaz out but up until then it was a even fight and Cotto hits way harder and is a much better boxer then Diaz.

undisputed34 says:

@ ali...cotto's jab is the best in boxing? i wouldnt buy that if you were selling it for half price. true, styles make fights but what pressure fighter has cotto figured out and took apart? no one. you cant say margarito because margarito and diaz both apply different types of pressure with different punch outputs. in the first fight,tainted hand wraps or not, cotto doesnt take as much of a beating if he moves his head and uses side to side movement instead of going straight back. JMM wouldnt have had to get beat damn near to death before realizing that. In both fights cotto didnt adjust to anything margarito did, didnt try to (or couldnt) "take the bullets out of Margaritos gun" and as good a boxer as every one here believes cotto to be he, isnt a better boxer than JMM. the list of fighters that gave cotto problems before he took over is much longer than

JMM's as well. that meet at 147, JMM by split decision. remember JMM was a counter puncher first...

ali says:

Undisputed34 u make some good points but im still taking Cotto.

Radam G says:

Naturally left-handed Cotto has one of the greatest left jabs of all times. And his left hook -- to the torso or noggin -- rank up there at the top also. The problem that hammers at Cotto with be mental and psychological. Holla!

amayseng says:

floyd out there making racist uneducated comments once again, this time about an Asian Jeremy Lin...

how is this acceptable to anyone today?

dino da vinci says:

If people think this fight is going to be a walk in the park, are they in for a surprise.