Written by Michael Woods
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Boxing is dead, nothing but a niche sport, a half-step up from horse racing. Yet...somehow, some way, the world's highest paid athlete, according to Forbes, in the last 12 months, is a boxer. One nicknamed, accurately if somewhat flagrantly, "Money."

OK, the news drops at a strange time, what with "Money" in the pen, serving out an 87 days or less sentence for a domestic scrap with his ex. I will leave it to the reader to interpret the moral of the story, or even if they think there is one here...

Mayweather, according to Forbes, made $85 million to fight Victor Ortiz, and then Miguel Cotto. He unseated Tiger "No Relation" Woods. Woods was in the top slot since 2001, according to Forbes. That money figure comes purely from his earnings for boxing; Forbes has Mayweather as earning $0 dollars from endorsements, an interesting tidbit, but I guess not a surprising one since come to think of it, Floyd doesn't do any cell phone, or liquor ads, or what have you, to my recollection. Hey, he does quite well without that side dish, right? I do wonder if going forward any company will try to link up with Floyd and get him to rep their merch. Readers, who would be a good fit?

And guess what sportsman has the No. 2 slot of most moneyed men in sports over the last 12 months? One Manny Pacquiao; the Congressman earned $56 million to fight Juan Manuel Marquez and Timothy Bradley. (A good chunk of the Bradley money will be forthcoming, once PPV tallies are finished.) And he also got $6 million for repping merch like Hennessy and Monster Energy drink, for a tidy total of $62 million. He didn't draw a dime, to my knowledge, for touting the bible as the manual for life. Pacquiao pledged about $50,000 right after his fight with Timothy Bradley to help victims of devastating floods in his homeland. Rounding out the top ten are Woodsy, at $59.4 million, at No. 3; hoopster LeBron James at No. 4 ($53 million); Roger Federer, the tennis standout who made $52.7 mill is No. 5; Kobe Bryant, who has rebounded nicely from his sexcapade of a few years back, to hit No. 6 with $52.3 mill; golfer Phil Mickelson at No. 7, with $47.8 million; No. 8 is Becks, with $46 million; someone named Ronaldo is at No. 9, earning $42.5 million; and Peyton Manning, the ex Colt QB who is coming off neck surgery, rounds out the top ten, with $42.4 million.

Interesting to note that no mixed martial artist made the Forbes list. Is there grumbling in those circles, among the elite, or do those guys realize the sport is in its relative infancy, and thus, needs to percolate for a few decades to reach boxing in earning power for the athletes?

Thoughts, TSS Universe? Please, no jokes about how much Cheese Whiz and Ritz crackers $85 million buys at the Clark County Detention Center commissary. That's just cruel.

Comment on this article

Radam G says:

One thing that should be written is that the Forbes's report is about MOOLA made in the USA and with U.S. enterprises. If you count the money that is made from other world endorsements and other countries' PPVs, ahead of the list would be Da Manny followed by the Klitschko bros/docs. Now WATCH all the know nothings and their sidekicks jump all up in my grills. ___ ___ ___ ___! I'm down with what Uncle Roger May says. And you know he quote that I'm spittin' about. Holla!

ali says:

Pac fans every where are now mad cuz Mayweather is ahead of him on the Forbes list. SMH!!! I could give a fu*k and a half about who makes more cuz neither one of them is giving me any of it. Pac is ballin out of control!!!! he ain't tripping about being behind Mayweather on this list and neither should u. Don't waste anytime posting how Pac has made more it will make u like a hater and not a congratulater. Congratulations to the both of them.

Radam G says:

The truth hurts a jingoist stank, who's culture is to lie about and exaggerate what he has, plainly and simply. "Will make u like a hater" is all up in the noggin of the naive and xenophobe.

The WORLD is a large place. Much larger than the U.S.A. and its people, who haven't been out their town, less alone their state or country. Holla!

SALT_LOVER25 says:

The US is still at the top of the World, even with its Recession, in what becomes rewarding its citizens their hard work and dedication during their success.

I don't agree with Mayweather Jr in many ways, just like I don't agree with the US in some ways. But respect and recognition to whom is deserved. Congeata to Mayweather Jr on achieving this and congrats to Tiger Woods too in staying there in the spotlight even after an uncomfortable position last year.

Floyd Mayweather Jr (43-0) best P4P on the Planet, biggest star on boxing.

@ali, dude I couldn't agree with you more. Mayweather, nor Pacquiao, give us nothing if they win (unless we gamble, of course) but gotta take our hats off for 'em. You know what it's like dealing with Arum's dirty tricks? XD!!!!!!!!

amayseng says:

i dont congratulate a man who beats a woman, or displays violence and the mistreatment of his

children as floyd has, and i dont congratulate tiger woods either for his sex scandal, the betrayal of his wife and children and even worse the burden he has placed on his kids for the rest of their lives, as they have to live with his mistakes..

i love sports, but in no way shape or form should any athlete be making over 2 million a year....

sure fighters put their health on the line, floyd, once a year to fight,

but i dont see the soldiers putting their lives on the line every second of every day for our freedom making 60 million dollars a year, **** they dont make 60 grand for what they do.

so to conclude, no i dont congratulate these two athletes i mentioned above, for making money they arent entitled to, i congratulate moral men with values who can offer something positive to this life.

Radam G says:

To each his own, Amayseng. That is just the way the ball bounces. For as long as there has been mankind, the athletes have always made the BIG BUCKS, got the BIG KUDOS and were the more popular money-given heroes. And this will never change.

An athlete's glory and time on top are short termed, but that short termedness become immoral -- remembered and spoken about forever. One ounce of great performance of a great athlete outlives tons of generations of successes of common men, even rich man.

Take for instant GOAT Muhammad Ali. Nearly the whole globe of mankind knew him in the late 1960s and 1970s, but not even a million Americans of that time knew Howard Huges -- the world's very first billionaire or what the salary of the Top Soldier or teacher was. Holla!

SouthPaul says:

[B]Salt Rock[/B]

Arum and his dirty tricks helped guide Commissary Floyd and his career to that 84 million dolla' a year payday. Some of Floyd's hating on that ol' dude is just lack of gratitude. Same applies for Oscar De la hoya. These cats have selective memory. They forget how well Arum and Top Rank guided their careers to put them on the mountain of money and fame.

ali says:

Amayseng Pac has cheated on his wife too but you don't even mention that. wow!!! We all F up in life and all you can do is learn from it and move on. Mayweather has done alot a good things also but all u want to talk about is the bad stuff go figure.

amayseng says:

Ali i was responding to a previous post by another poster.
was speaking about the two sportsman he was talking about.
i dont agree with pac betraying his wife either.
but mayweather has had numerous allegations of domestic violence. unacceptable.. and tiger, my, what he has done is beyond horrible.
money doesnt get you to heaven

The Good Doctor says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;17526]i dont congratulate a man who beats a woman, or displays violence and the mistreatment of his children as floyd has, and i dont congratulate tiger woods either for his sex scandal, the betrayal of his wife and children and even worse the burden he has placed on his kids for the rest of their lives, as they have to live with his mistakes..

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I greatly respect your stance on the moral aspect of athletes however on the financial aspect, I believe every athlete is entitled to as much money as possible. I believe this because they are the best of the best of the best at what they do. Please understand also that economies of your occupation effect the amount of money made. In addition, just about every other occupation in the world, the absolute elite make loads of money as compared to the masses and to those that do what they do. It has been concluded, that NBA players are the top .0001% of people that play basketball in the world. PGA golfers are the top .003% of people that swing a club. The average orthopedic surgeon makes mid to high 6 figures a year. Dr James Andrews in Brimingham who is regarded as one of the best in the world in orthopedic surgery often makes that in a day. The average motivational speaker runs about $500-$1000 an hour. Les Brown, as much as $15,000 for 20 minutes, Dennis Kimbro, up to $10,000 for a half hour.

Also, think of this. From your posts you appear to be an intelligent person who has their head on right and probably has a decent to good maybe even great job. If on your job, you were immensely better at what you did than anyone else on your job and for that matter your industry, don't you think that you deserve to be rewarded as such? That is all that is happening with athletes.

Radam G says:

I definitely agree with you, SCLA Ali, because you are talking syet, using double standards and

then fleeting like a thief in the night. Remember that stuff that you keep applying to anybody that says anything you don't like about your icon Lil' Floyd, apply it to yourself FIRST and FOREMOST.

Jesus Was Not Even A Perfect Human Being. And I guess that is just the way you are when you are in flesh and bones. Maybe you have to be some spirit syet or ghostly jive to be sinless and mild.

Jesus, The Human Cussed Out a fig tree, Cussed Out some followers and whup their arses for gambling in His Father's House -- A Temple. And Jesus Even Doubted His Father when those Romans were getting up in His Holy Arse.

Cheating on a wive cannot be compared to whuppin' the hebejeebeez outta of her. Sugar Ray Robinson and Lil' Floyd Mayweather are the BIGGEST MALE BYTCHES of all times, PERIOD! Just suck it up and move on and quit being ethnocentric about your icons. Every time that somebody righteously criticizes them you lose your flicking mind. Pinoys don't care about you criticizing a thing of our culture. Da Manny has just been macho and Pinoy michiesto. We don't put Filipino standards on Ebonicans and Urbanites, so don't put your moral code on us. Holla!

amayseng says:

@ the good doctor.

you make complete sense, and in fact i do support capitalism.

however, you stated a person shall be able to make as much money as they possibly can, and i agree to an extent..

however, at the expense of the fans?
you can not even watch a baseball game for a family of four under $300.

should a surgeon be able to charge such an outrageous amount that the insurance prices continue to rise to ridiculous and unaffordable prices for middle and lower class families?

there has to be a line of reason drawn.

The Good Doctor says:

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Absolutely. The reason I say this is because fans do not have to participate. Unfortunately, sports teams are in business to make money first, entertain second. It's cold, but its true. Never confuse prices for value, quality, or excellence. In 95% of cases, price is nothing more than a reflection of what someone feels that enough people will pay for an object or service to make a profit. With that in mind, at some point in almost any industry businesses can and are allowed to price themselves wherever they want to. The beauty of capitalism is, that if someone prices themselves out, that opens the opportunity for someone to do the same for less.

As for the surgeon, he can charge whatever he wants as well as long as he can make money. He is in business to make money. Cold reality. Also, as for insurance prices, those prices are more a reflection of the combined health of this country. 72% of all insurance claims are from injuries and conditions that are self inflicted. Another 10% come from completely random, beyond preventable circumstances.

I understand my take is void of sensitivity and in a lot of ways lacking a moral compass. In addition, I admit there are a few exceptions. However, the truth is as long as you are not damaging anyone, breaking laws, or purposely exploiting people, in capitalism it is fair game.

Radam G says:

@The Good Doctor, you are so right. It is all about the moola. Maybe a cold reality indeed. But that is the life of capitalism. Holla!

ali says:

I will let God decide what sins are worst then other but I do think beating up your wife is worst then cheating on her. I bet there is alot of women out there that would disagree with me crazy but very true