Written by Michael Woods
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The logjam was broken. Mediation occurred, proud men settled their differences, and can now put aside personal enmity, and immense pride, and give the people what they want, which is a boxing match between the sports' two biggest.

OK, that is the perception as seen through the eyes of the optimist, when they heard yesterday that Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao came to terms, and Pacquiao's defamation suit

lodged against Team Mayweather was in the process of being dismissed.

"The matter has been resolved," said attorney Malcolm LaVergne, repping Floyd Mayweather Sr., in an AP story. "Any alleged terms of the resolution would be strictly confidential. Floyd Mayweather Sr. is very happy that this lengthy case has finally come to a conclusion."

The AP story stated that each side would bear its own attorney costs and fees. A statement from the Mayweather side, released by a mediator, said they "wish to make it clear that they never intended to claim that Manny Pacquiao has used or is using any performance-enhancing drugs, nor are they aware of any evidence that Manny Pacquiao has used performance-enhancing drugs."

Pacquiao put the suit in motion in December of 2009, taking issue with public quotes made by Mayweather Sr. in particular which cast an aspersion on his abilities. "In my honest opinion, I believe that he's on some type of supplements," Floyd Sr. told Michigan's Grand Rapids Press in September 2009. "I think they're pushing Pacquiao too much -- even if he's got [ste]'roids in his body." Floyd Jr. periodically brought up the size of Manny's head, and has asked for the strictest of testing for Pacquiao, so he was more cagey when referencing possible PED use. In January 2011, he said, "I'm gonna fight the Pacman when he is off the power pellets," and one could certainly surmise what he was referring to when he talked "power pellets," but did he step over a line, there? That would have been up for a judge or jury to decide, and we have backed away from that cliff.

Mayweather has been pretty quiet following his Aug. 2 release from the detention center where he served two months on a domestic charge, so we don't know from his perspective why a settlement was reached. Last week, a judge issued a ruling ordering "Money" to pay about $114,000 in legal fees and costs for avoiding deposition sessions under oath from Pacquiao's lawyers.

I reached out to attorney Keith Sullivan, who represents the Boxing Writers Association of America, and several pro fighters, to pick his brain on the latest developments. "Defamation suits are difficult because you must prove financial damages," he said. "However, when it's an allegation that a person was dishonest or cheated in the course of their profession or career, is is called "Defamation Per Se," which does not require proof of financial damages. Team Mayweather would have undoubtedly lost this lawsuit," Sullivan said. "I suspect this was a suit grounded in principle. I hope this resolution is an entree to 'The Fight!'"

So, does Sullivan think Team Mayweather paid money to Pacquiao, to help convince Manny to settle?

"Probably. What else is there? Hopefully, it was a donation to a worthy charity."

Readers, what are your thoughts? Are we a step, or two, closer to getting this fight made? Promoter Bob Arum has said for half a year now that he was aiming to get it made in the spring of 2013? Could his desire reach fruition? Or will other roadblocks pop up? Weigh in!

Comment on this article

ultimoshogun says:

Well, unless Arum still wants to build his special arena there shouldn't be any obstacles... Assuming Manny takes care if business vs Marquez of course, cuz this fight won't be as attractive if Manny loses.

deepwater says:

when they sign on the dotted line I will be interested. Until then I do not give a damn about this fight. he said she said blah blah blah. using science I would say that this has a low signal to noise ratio. very low signal(the signing of the fight) very high noise(blah blah blah on the internet)

Radam G says:

No! We are no closer to the haps of Da Manny kicking Money May's butt. But with the money that I won of my betting that Fam May would admit to being lying punks about Pinoy "A-side meth," I can open up another health clinic and school for poor disable kids of Leyte.

I'm such a gambling sinner -- I mean winner. Hehe! Thank you, Fam May! I appreciate ya! You are not a coward in paying up -- just gloving up and shuttin' double fudge up in fibbing. Dance to dat music, you pay to dat piper. Moola sangs (sic), bull$hit hangs. And dat hatred __ __ bangs! Holla!

brownsugar says:

Time waits for no one... new stars are quickly filling the void... while our favorite fighters grow a

little older and more vunerable every day. By the time Roy Jones gave Bhop a rematch...and gave Calzaghe a shot.. nobody really cared... and it really didn't matter.... I hope we don't get a repeat of that.

Matthew says:

Good points, BrownSugar. This fight is past its sell date. Both fighters have slipped, thus making it (in my eyes) a less attractive fight than if it were 2010. In 2010, I would have called it an even matchup, but now I would make Mayweather the clear favorite (less mileage on his odometer). As in 2010, my pick would be Mayweather by decision, but now it's more clear-cut. I will still watch the fight IF it happens, but I'm more interested in some of the other matchups that can and should be made.