

Mayweather's Brilliance Is Blinding

Written by Ron Borges

Sunday, 15 September 2013 18:30



There is now only one reason left to watch Floyd Mayweather, Jr. box.

You do not watch in expectation of seeing a competitive fight because it has been so long since he's been in one you have to go back to Jose Luis Castillo 11 years ago to find it. You do not watch in expectation of him being beaten because he has long ago made clear that for the time being at least the only people who could do that are dishonest or incompetent judges at ringside, or himself.

So why do you continue to watch after the way he undressed and embarrassed previously undefeated junior middleweight champion Saul "Canelo" Alvarez Saturday night at the sold out MGM Grand Garden Arena?

You watch for the same reason you would watch Yo Yo Ma play the cello or Mikhail Baryshnikov dance or Miles Davis launch into a jazz riff so bizarre you have no idea what he is trying to do, you only know no one else could do it.

You watch to see a genius at work.

"Boxing is like jazz," former heavyweight champion George Foreman said recently. "The better it is the less you understand it."

For many that is the case with Mayweather, who won the most lopsided majority decision in boxing history Saturday night by mystifying and mastering young Alvarez and apparently putting to sleep a myopic judge named C.J. Ross, who somehow concluded she had seen a draw when most everyone else with a view of the fight and eyes to see it felt he'd lost no more than two

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rounds and very likely none.

Yet Mayweather's brilliance is so blinding it can lead people to argue they are not seeing what they just saw. They argue he can't punch or that he is too defensive or is a boringly safety first practitioner of a sport that rewards aggression and violence.

They say he ducked this guy or that guy or is more of a master matchmaker than a master artisan plying the most difficult and dangerous of trades.

Those who say these things are as silly sounding as the few who gave Canelo Alvarez a chance to defeat Floyd Mayweather, Jr. in one of the most overhyped sparring sessions in boxing history. Mayweather was paid a guaranteed \$41.5 million for the fight, \$500,000 of which he gave back to purchase tickets himself, because he is the face of his sport and the finest fighter of his era. The fight attracted the largest live gate in Las Vegas history, \$20,003,150, and sold over 23,000 more closed circuit seats in Las Vegas at \$100 each. The pay-per-view numbers are as yet unknown and while they seem unlikely to approach the all-timer record set by Mayweather and Oscar De La Hoya in 2007 of 2,552,566 they may yet well eclipse the all-time pay-per-view gross of an estimated \$137.5 million also set in that fight because the average pay-per-view charge was \$15 more than in 2007.

If all those people watched for the chance to get a glimpse of a great artist working on canvas they got their money's worth. If they watched in search of a boxing match, they did not because Canelo Alvarez proved to be far more Hype than Hit Man, far more victim than the embodiment of viciousness. That is not the master's fault. That is the student's and those who bought into a story line without looking at the resumes behind it.

"Canelo brought a checkerboard to a chess match," said Bernard Hopkins, the 48-year-old reigning light heavyweight champion not long after Mayweather had baffled, bemused and battered his 23-year-old challenger for 12 lopsided rounds to lay claim to the unified junior middleweight title and put it alongside the welterweight one he already held. "Here's the difference, that was a Ph.d vs. a GED."

Hopkins' analysis could not have been more correct. By now you have seen or heard of the one-sided nature of the fight. You are aware Alvarez (42-1-1, 30 KO) came nowhere near

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challenging Mayweather (45-0, 26 KO) or even hitting him harshly and have come to grips with the fact those like myself who tried to warn you that this kid had no idea what he had gotten himself into and no ability to do anything about it but take a licking until his face began to turn red from embarrassment and purple from bruising were telling the truth.

So why watch next May when Mayweather said he would next be back in the ring on what he termed "Cinco de Mayo-weather," the traditional Mexican holiday weekend that hosts in Las Vegas one of the biggest pay-per-view shows of the year?

The reason is the same reason we watch excellence of any sort. It is the reason we revere mastery of any art form be it blowing glass or landing blows. You watch because to not watch is to deny yourself a moment that will not come along very often in a lifetime.

Watching Floyd Mayweather move inside a boxing ring is a joy. Watching the mental mastery he holds over space and distance and timing is like watching Michelangelo take a piece of stone and turn it into David, the greatest statue ever made.

Was it worth \$74.95 Saturday night to see him in the ring against Canelo Alvarez? Well, that depends on what you went for.

If it was to see a fight you went to the wrong place as Mayweather warned you earlier in the week when upon his arrival at the MGM Grand he said "“This is not a fight. This is what we call an event.”"

That's what it was so if you were expecting a fight you should have shut off your television after Danny Garcia again proved he is more than people say he is by dismantling with his mind as well as his right hand Lucas Matthyse. But if you went there for a higher calling, if you tuned in to watch a Grand Chess Master work you were well served.

What is the price of seeing greatness even if only for an hour? It's not priceless but it's well worth \$74.95.

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[Comment on this article](#)

Buzz Murdock says:

Man I bought into the hype...I was hearing the Rocky theme, and getting inspired by side-show promotion. I had it all wrong...I kept hoping it would turn into the Jersey Joe Walcott vs Marciano classic where tenacity and pressure might create the perfect opening...Makes me appreciate Marciano more, Alvarez less...Bring on that Siberian guy Prodoloukov (don't know the spelling), that rattled Bradley, and is trained by Freddy Roach...He knows what he'd have to do....

amayseng says:

the only fighters that can beat floyd, or give it a real try are, ggg at 154-160(if he can make 154 healthy)
and possibly pacman.....

Hop says:

To me this article is a bit over-the-top, but ...

amayseng says:

"Watching the mental mastery he holds over space and distance and timing is like watching Michelangelo take a piece of stone and turn it into David, the greatest statue ever made."

EASY now, easy.....lets not go too far..

a very good performance yes. a mastery performance or hit and dont get hit, yes again....

but lets not get carried away and say this is perfection.....come on now....

gibola says:

A lot of pre-fight stuff in the media described Canelo as a 'pressure fighter' and I remember thinking, he isn't really. Canelo likes to box and raise the tempo in spots but he ain't gonna pressure you all night. Feet too slow, doesn't fight at a quick enough tempo - barely squeaked by outboxing Trout and outclassed by PBF. It needs a pressure fighter of the calibre of Duran in Montreal to trouble Floyd. A long-armed, quick, boxer-puncher in Hearn's mode could trouble him. Pacquiao could win rounds. Style-wise, I maintain Amir Khan has the best shot at outboxing PBF and winning seven rounds. However, his chin won't hold up and PBF will stop him before scorecards are required. Despite that I'd rather see Khan v PBF than Garcia, Alexander, Trout, Cotto, etc. There are no pressure fighters up to the job and Khan as a pure boxer has a shot at troubling PBF.

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Matthew says:

It was an impressive performance by Mayweather, given the fact that he was taking on a bigger, stronger, and younger opponent. However, just like most Mayweather performances (probably since the Corrales fight), there is a hint of disappointment in that it left me wanting a bit more. I realize he is risk-averse by nature, but I would love to see him put his foot on the accelerator and actually try for a stoppage. To me, he sat on his lead the last three rounds (I scored them all for Alvarez), leading me to score the fight 116-113. Maybe I'm asking for too much. Mayweather has the ability to be more offensively-oriented, but he's content to throw one or two punches at a time. While I can certainly appreciate his talent and his ring IQ, for me he's not particularly entertaining to watch. There is no question that he's the best fighter of his era, and I don't see anyone on the horizon that can beat him (unless he steps up and fights one of the middleweight titlists, which he most certainly will not). A fight against Lara or Trout might be interesting, but neither of those guys would be an effective pay-per-view B-side. I'd even settle for seeing him take on James Kirkland at 154, if Kirkland could ever get his life together. In my opinion, given the glaring holes in his resume during his prime (avoiding Casamayor, Freitas, and Steve Johnson at 135, bypassing Kostya Tszyu at 140, and sidestepping Williams, Margarito, Pacquiao, and prime Cotto at 147), the only way he can meaningfully enhance his legacy is to take on a middleweight beltholder. I realize this is probably not a popular opinion, and all the Mayweather fans will call me a "hater" (such a moronic term) because I don't bow down at his feet, but so be it.

Carmine Cas says:

Mayweather did look brilliant, but who does he fight next?

amayseng says:

i agree Matthew. i am a huge fan of floyd, but i see the same things you do. i want more, he does coast and he is a safety first fighter...do yourself a favor, dont go back and watch the corrales fight, it will have you wanting more and we will never get that floyd again..

i rewatched some of the fight and canelo did do a few things well, when he went to the body he was scoring and hitting floyd pretty well, but floyd understands the game and everytime canelo scored he came back and scored himself with cleaner punches...

who is there left to fight which could garner the pay day floyd wants?

maybe khan in england if khan can win impressively...

no one else besides pac would really have a public interest....

unless floyd moves up to fight a mw for a belt, which the interest would be historic....that would see the ppv

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i dont see him taking on that challenge though

Matthew says:

A fight in England against Khan would bring a big payday and probably do good PPV numbers, but us hardcore fans know that fight would be a mismatch. On one hand, Mayweather might actually score a kayo. Your point is correct; he really has few big-money options at 147 or 154. His most significant move would be to fight a middleweight beltholder, but we know he won't do it.

puncher says:

Only guy that gave Money May a fight has been and will be Cotto. Reason is because the guys savy and grit is what makes him the best Money has seen. I only see GGGas a threat and if not...Money May will coast into the sunset as one of the best that has ever lived.

DaveB says:

I'm on board with Matthew. I always think I will be labeled a hater too but I know what I think. Do you think Mayweather would have fought Hearn, Duran or Leonard? I don't think so. Or would he even have fought Benitez or Cuevas? But people want to put him in the same boat as them. He is a great defensive wizard I can't deny but I would love to see him step it up. I don't know if he will ever be able to undo the fights he didn't have as far as legacy and then there are always stipulations for every fight. And the fact is I think he would have beaten, or at least possibly beaten, all the fighters of this era. I would like to see him fight a high volume puncher too. When I see an entertaining fight I think OMG it is round six and it feels like round three with Mayweather fights I think it's only round three it feels like round six. Great skills, boring as hell fights.

Matthew says:

Good points, Dave. If Mayweather wouldn't fight Paul Williams, I can't see him wanting any part of Thomas Hearn. The worst part about it is that when you look at all those guys that Mayweather avoided, I would pick Floyd to beat nearly all of them (I think Margarito and Williams would have worn him down with their high volume punching and sturdy chins). The problem is, we'll never know. To me, his legacy would be enhanced had he fought all or most of those guys, even if he did lose once or twice.

amayseng says:

mayweather is great yes but no way he beats Duran, Hearn or Leonard. And we know he would never step up to fight Hagler at mw like all those guys did...

The Shadow says:

Instead of seeing Mayweather challenged, I'd just like to see him get more aggressive. These

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guys can't beat him anyway. Why not just blow them out?

At one point, he stepped inside on Canelo behind a high guard and fired off a sick three-punch combination. Left hook to the body, right hook to the body, left hook up top.

Had he done that consistently, Canelo would've crumbled like the Walls of Jericho. He only did it to retaliate because he'd gotten hit cleanly with a hard jab he didn't like. That's the dragon coming out in him.

I want to see that more but the risk makes it hard for his temperament. So let him go feast on guys his size. As long as blows them out.

We all know that he could probably cherry pick his way to a 160 -- and maybe even a catchweighted 168 championship -- vs. guys like Darren Barker and Chavez Jr. by just sticking, moving and pot shooting all night.

But I think it's time to fight the 140s and 147s with a vengeance. And that vengeance might as well start with the holy (cash) cow Amir Khan.

That could be explosive.

Hop says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;36713]I'd just like to see Mayweather get more aggressive.[/QUOTE]

I agree. I'm a very big admirer, but do have a couple fairly minor criticisms. (I hope you'll allow me to repeat what I posted in an earlier thread.)

1) Though Teddy Atlas made a horrible fight prediction (Alvarez by decision!), he did hit the nail on the head when he said that unlike Ray Leonard Floyd is [U]not a [B]"seek-and-destroy"[/B]-type fighter[/U]. That is absolutely true. In other words, even when he's got his opponent in trouble [U]he never throws flurries[/U]. He's a flurry-less fighter, basically. Maybe it was due to his elbow injury (though this wasn't the only fight like this), but more than once he had a golden opportunity to unload a possibly fight-ending combination of punches, but he would not. Just one, one-two, one, one-two, etc. It was exactly the type of situation where Leonard would had exploded in a fusillade of head shots, quite possibly ending the proceedings.

2) Though I have much respect for Floyd's performance last night overall, I greatly [U]disliked the way he approached the final round[/U], and again it was typical Mayweather. In that round only it is fair to say that he did quite a bit of "running" -- refusing to box. I'm sure many of his fans will make excuses, but I find this less than sporting. I'm not saying he has to slug it out, but don't retreat like that and just kill the clock.

amayseng says:

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floyd knocks chinny khan out in 4 if he wants....khan has speed but that is just a tool. if you dont apply the tool correctly it is useless.... i have a sledgehammer but if i slide it across the floor into the wall the wall will never come down....the tool is useless if not applied correctly...

saying if floyd would have just thrown combinations consistently he would have gotten canelo out of there is hypothetical.....

its the same as saying if canelo had followed the right game plan he would have won easily.....

which you totally dismissed in "reality"

Hop says:

Confession: I don't have a lot of interest in seeing Mayweather-Khan. I'd watch it if I could do so cheaply or after it appeared on YouTube, but I [U]certainly[/U] wouldn't spring for PPV.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;36719]floyd knocks chinny khan out in 4 if he wants....khan has speed but that is just a tool. if you dont apply the tool correctly it is useless.... i have a sledgehammer but if i slide it across the floor into the wall the wall will never come down....the tool is useless if not applied correctly...

saying if floyd would have just thrown combinations consistently he would have gotten canelo out of there is hypothetical.....

its the same as saying if canelo had followed the right game plan he would have won easily.....

which you totally dismissed in "reality"[/QUOTE]

Come on, bro. Are we going to go there with the strawman fallacies again? You're putting words in my mouth.

The only case of dismissal is me totally dismissing that fallaciously irresponsible syllogistic logic:

1) It's not hypothetical if it actually happened. He shook him up. Then went back to boxing. To date, I have yet to see Canelo teleport or levitate inside that squared circle.

2) And how exactly is it the same as saying that nonsense?? Are you -----????

Canelo does NOT have the TOOLS to do onto Floyd as Floyd has to do onto him. Floyd has the tools to beat Mayweather. HOWEVER -- as I instantly pointed out -- it is not in his temperament unless he gets hurt.

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And how do you even know what the "right" gameplan is? To date, no one knows, in spite of what you may say in theory. Boxing with Mayweather wasn't smart but it's what Canelo does best.

I see what you're going but your reasoning leaves much to be desired.

leon30001 says:

Never thought for one second Alvarez would be able to bridge the speed or, frankly, talent gap. Having said that, that was all very impressive. Apart from Lil Wayne, which was an abomination. Haters gotta hate!

amayseng says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;36726]Come on, bro. Are we going to go there with the strawman fallacies again? You're putting words in my mouth.

The only case of dismissal is me totally dismissing that fallacious, irresponsible syllogistic logic:

1) It's not hypothetical if it actually happened. He shook him up. Then went back to boxing. To date, I have yet to see Canelo teleport or levitate inside that squared circle.

2) And how exactly is it the same as saying that nonsense?? Are you -----????

Canelo does NOT have the TOOLS to do onto Floyd as Floyd has to do onto him. Floyd has the tools to unload combinations to the point of hurting Canelo -- because he did and he has done it to others before. HOWEVER -- as I instantly pointed out -- it is not in his temperament to attack fiercely unless he gets hurt.

And how do you even know what the "right" gameplan is? To date, no one knows, in spite of what you may say in theory. Boxing with Mayweather wasn't smart but it's what Canelo does best.

I see what you're going but your reasoning leaves much to be desired.[/QUOTE]

when was canelo hurt to where another combination would have gotten him out of there?

did i miss it?

i NEVER said what the right gameplan was to beat floyd for canelo. i said we are all reaching at better plans that would have been superior to trying to out box the best boxer on the planet...

dont take a posters point or assessment and automatically make it an argument

Hop says:

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[QUOTE=leon30001;36732] ... Apart from Lil Wayne, which was an abomination ...[/QUOTE]

Thank you. Your comment assures me there exists at least one other sane individual walking the earth today.

amayseng says:

[QUOTE=Hop;36736]Thank you. Your comment assures me there exists at least one other sane individual walking the earth today. [/QUOTE]

first off beiber is a tool bag

i like lil wayne but i cant hear anything he says on the way into the ring..

leon30001 says:

[QUOTE]Thank you. Your comment assures me there exists at least one other sane individual walking the earth today. [/QUOTE]

I thought he was having a psychotic episode...hell, maybe he was! Maybe that's cool these days. I wasn't "feeling" it, though, I know that much!

The Shadow says:

I really don't get the rapper entrance either. Lil Wayne was horrible. French Montana with Adrien Broner was just awful.

They should do it like LL Cool J at one of Manny's fights. That was nice.

I miss Prince Naseem's entrances. They were epic.

SouthPawFlo says:

I'm done hearing about fights Floyd Didn't take 8 years ago, Someone needs to make a Floyd Appreciation Topic and a Floyd Hate Topic and let people say how they feel...

He wins fights, Dominates most fights and people say he shoulda fought like he did when he was 25, he shoulda fought this guy and fought that guy..

He just made the Great Red Hope look like a C-Class fighter but people still want more.. It's not his fault these guys can't hit him...

The Man is the Greatest Fighter since Sugar Ray Leonard (In my opinion) and he has been dominating for almost 2 decades, who else can say they did that???

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The Man is the Greatest Fighter since Sugar Ray Leonard (In my opinion) and he has been dominating for almost 2 decades, who else can say they did that???

i am completely fulfilled with floyds fight against canelo....against the ghost i wanted more offensively because i KNEW he had more to offer....i accept the hand injury played a part. against canelo he pushed him back, made him walk in, jabbed, hooked, uppercuts, straight rights and superb defense. he did coast the last round but what do you expect? he was superb against cotto as well.

he needs to fight pac, its the last thing left on his agenda, or everyone elses

SouthPawFlo says:

If Pac-Man looks sharp against Rios, then the talks will definitely have to happen, that's still the biggest fight out there and Floyd would easily get a Minimum of \$50 Million for that one!!!

Money May-Pac has to happen

SouthPawFlo says:

If Pac-Man looks sharp against Rios, then the talks will definitely have to happen, that's still the biggest fight out there and Floyd would easily get a Minimum of \$50 Million for that one!!!

Money May-Pac has to happen

Hop says:

[quote=leon30001;36746]i thought he was having a psychotic episode!

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lol

kidcanvas says:

how anyone who has been in boxing or has been a life long student of it could have swallowed the BS about Canelo leading up to the fight should be ashamed of themselves lol it made no sense, no validity at all .. he was nothing ,he fought no one really in 42 fights of any stature.. floyd fought a Mexican name brand and people paid 74 bucks for it hahahahaha insane ...

Carmine Cas says:

I was satisfied with the way Floyd fought, it was a great fight and epic display skill and talent. I admit I was a Floyd hater in the past, but I have grown to appreciate his abilities. Yes he should have fought certain fighters in the past, including Paul Williams (Tony Margarito turned out to be a fraud so no) but in recent years he has beaten all of his mandatory challenges. As for Pacquiao, it goes both ways Bob Arum and Floyd are avoiding contracting business with each other.

IMO no one beats May up to 147, including Manny, but I'd still like to see the fight. I'd like to see the Khan fight as well, that would prob not go into the 5th round unless Mayweather takes it easy on him or hurts his hand early. Khan's reckless aggression coupled with his immense speed would make the fight very entertaining while it lasted

And if Alvarez did use the right game plan he would have performed much better, he was walking right into that straight right, no lateral movement

amayseng says:

i rewatched some of the fight yesterday, in round 7 Canelo was flat footed.... also he had Floyd on the ropes and threw 3 shots at his head...

what did i say for 3 months, body , step right, body, dip out and repeat...

he did none of that....

Floyd is a master at frustrating opponents and getting them to head hunt

Hop says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;36790]Floyd is a master at frustrating opponents and getting them to head hunt.[/QUOTE]

I do agree w/this. He almost taunts them w/o words by often having his left hand down, but is then too quick to be hit and sometimes effectively counters. It's like dangling a worm in front of a snapping turtle. It mesmerizes them and they forget about everything except tagging that head.

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The Shadow says:

This: [url]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STMeQlu8jA4>

The Shadow says:

Hop, do you have boxing experience?

Hop says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;36844]Hop, do you have boxing experience?[/QUOTE]

No, sir. Only as a long-time fan.

amayseng says:

[url]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbC00T-3eS4>

off the wall but this had my lmao

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;36857][url]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HbC00T-3eS4>

off the wall but this had my lmao[/QUOTE]

LOL! Been looking for that one!

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Carmin Cas;36784]I was satisfied with the way Floyd fought, it was a great fight and epic display skill and talent. I admit I was a Floyd hater in the past, but I have grown to appreciate his abilities. Yes he should have fought certain fighters in the past, including Paul Williams (Tony Margarito turned out to be a fraud so no) but in recent years he has beaten all of his mandatory challenges. As for Pacquiao, it goes both ways Bob Arum and Floyd are avoiding contracting business with each other.

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Astute observer, you.

Carmine Cas says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;36868]Astute observer, you.[/QUOTE]

Thanks Shadow