

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

Written by Thomas Hauser
Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40



Once Floyd Mayweather vs. Canelo Alvarez was signed, the marketing began with an eleven-city, nine-day kick-off media tour. Promoter Richard Schaefer proclaimed that the tour was “like Beatlemania.” Independent media reports noted that the crowds at many of the tour stops were smaller than the numbers inserted in press releases and later repeated by trusting writers.

Tickets were priced at \$2,000, \$1,500, \$1,000, \$600 and \$350. Golden Boy announced that they had sold out within hours of going on sale. Left unsaid was the fact that, pursuant to contract, virtually all of the tickets had been presold to casinos, Team Mayweather, and Golden Boy itself. Only a handful of seats were available at list price to the general public.

That created a blue-chip market for ticket scalping. David Greisman subsequently reported, “Five days after tickets went on sale and four days after they supposedly sold out, Ticketmaster’s resale website had 378 seats available that ranged from \$995 for the farthest row up in the MGM Grand Garden Arena to \$26,156 for a seat three rows back at ringside. Of course, if you wanted to settle for the row behind that one, that’s just \$18,310. StubHub had 915 tickets available as of early Sunday evening, ranging from \$1,098 for the final row of the arena to \$29,999 for six rows back at ringside.”

Those numbers were an opening gambit, a concerted effort to set and maintain high ticket-resale prices for the thousands of tickets that would later enter the resale market. But as time went by, it became clear Mayweather-Alvarez was catching on. More resources were being poured into marketing “The One” (as the promotion was styled) than had been poured into any fight ever.

“Mayweather-Alvarez is being pushed like a blockbuster movie,” Tim Smith wrote. “The only thing missing is the action figures that come with a Happy Meal.”

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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“The purpose of the spectacle is saturation,” Bart Barry added. “Flashing images that say nothing so profoundly as, ‘This is important because everyone is watching it because it is important enough for everyone to watch.’”

The build-up had many of the characteristics of the lead-in to a national political convention. The fact that Mayweather was listed as one of the “executive producers” for Showtime’s *All Access* promotional series was a pretty good clue as to the objectivity of its editorial content. But as in politics, the powers that be in boxing can’t always get out the vote on the day that matters most. The unanswered marketing question was how many people would buy the pay-per-view on fight night at a price of \$64.95 (\$74.95 for HDTV).

Fight week began with an unexpected twist. Oscar De La Hoya (president of Golden Boy Promotions) announced that he would not be attending the bout because he had voluntarily admitted himself to a treatment facility after suffering a relapse in his ongoing battle with substance abuse problems.

De La Hoya’s difficulties were common knowledge in boxing. Indeed, in September 2011, after Oscar had called for a rematch between Mayweather and Victor Ortiz, Leonard Ellerbe told Ben Thompson of FightHype.com, “Oscar must be having a relapse, and Victor must still be sloppy drunk from when I saw him last Sunday night in the lobby of the MGM Grand. They sound stupid, and it’s embarrassing to boxing that they would hold a conference call and look like a bunch of morons. It’s no secret that Oscar is insanely jealous of Floyd’s success. Floyd don’t have no drinking problem. Floyd don’t have no drug problem. Floyd don’t wear fishnets. And Floyd don’t have a number of kids out there that he doesn’t claim.”

Oscar’s decision to go into rehab for the second time in twenty-eight months was a sound one. But there was a school of thought that it had been timed to avoid his having to be in Las Vegas to witness Mayweather’s week of glory.

There was a time when people hung on De La Hoya’s every word. No more. His eyes are sad these days. It seems to tear at his gut that he was the most important building block in catapulting Floyd to superstardom. He dislikes Mayweather, has talked openly about wanting him to lose, and more often than not, predicts that Floyd’s opponent will beat him.

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Insofar as Mayweather-Alvarez was concerned, Oscar had been largely reduced to a promotional prop. Mayweather was openly disdainful toward him.

“You might as well call me the Golden Boy,” Floyd said during the kick-off press tour for Mayweather-Alvarez. At the last tour stop, with Schaefer and De La Hoya sitting with him on the dais, Mayweather turned toward Richard and declared, “I’ve been working hand-in-hand with this man. I can’t really speak about Oscar. But one thing I can tell you, Richard Schaefer is Golden Boy.”

De La Hoya was hardly missed during fight week. That in itself was sad. Explaining Oscar’s absence on Tuesday, Schaefer told the media, “He called me on Monday afternoon and sounded terrible. He told me he needed help, that he can’t go on. I put him in touch with the proper people, and they helped him get into a rehab facility for substance abuse. Obviously, the timing isn’t good. But when you have an illness, it’s not like you can choose the timing and say, ‘I’m not going to go today; I’m going to go next Monday.’ When you need help, you need help. And, of course, I’m supportive of that because health and life and family come before everything else.”

Had Schaefer known previously of Oscar’s relapse?

“I’m very busy,” Richard answered. “I’m nobody’s babysitter. It took me by surprise.”

There was a buzz in Las Vegas during fight week. The Money Team logo (TMT) was much in evidence.

Mayweather was forty minutes late for the final pre-fight press conference on Wednesday. One day later, he would blow off the Showtime fighter meeting without notice.

Alvarez is twenty-three years old and has been fighting professionally for eight years. At first glance, he gives the impression of someone who has not yet physically matured. He has red

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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hair (hence the nickname, Canelo, which is Spanish for cinnamon) and a soft high-pitched voice. Walking through the casino during fight week, but for the entourage around him, he might have been mistaken for a bellhop or restaurant busboy.

Introducing Alvarez at the final pre-fight press conference, Schaefer declared, "Many can fight but few can inspire. Canelo inspires hope in millions of people."

"I've visualized this fight for years," Alvarez told the media. "I have my fans. I am their gamecock. Floyd has his fans. He is their gamecock."

Among the thoughts that Mayweather offered were:

* "I'm the main man in boxing now. There's only one man that counts and that's Mayweather."

* "Canelo is a main event fighter. I'm a pay-per-view fighter."

* "He's just another opponent to me; that's all. He's 42-and-0. He hasn't faced forty-two Floyd Mayweathers or he'd be zero-and-42."

* "This is not a fight. This is an event."

Bottom line . . . Mayweather-Alvarez was catching on. The hype was translating into genuine excitement and financial reality. Events this big are rare in boxing.

In the six years since De La Hoya vs. Mayweather was contested, the number of homes in the United States addressable for pay-per-view has increased from sixty to ninety million. That meant the 2.45 million buy-mark set by Oscar and Floyd was not necessarily out of reach. By midweek, the projections were that Mayweather-Alvarez would generate in excess of two million

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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pay-per-view buys. Schaefer was predicting a gross of \$200,000,000: \$140-to-160 million in domestic pay-per-view sales, a \$20,000,000 live gate, \$5-to-10 million in closed-circuit sales, \$5-to-8 million in foreign sales, \$5 million from sponsors, and low seven figures for merchandise.

Thursday brought more evidence that Mayweather-Alvarez had become a special promotion.

Even for the biggest fights, a lot of what happens in Las Vegas during fight week is cookie-cutter stuff. The press luncheon and final pre-fight press conference on Wednesday . . . Satellite-tour interviews and the undercard press conference on Thursday . . . The weigh-in on Friday. Very little is spontaneous or left to chance.

Normally, the MGM Grand Garden Arena is configured to accommodate 6,000 fans for a big-fight weigh-in. A platform is erected near one end of the arena facing the stands and the rest of the venue is blocked off by a black curtain.

The weigh-in for Mayweather-Alvarez was spectacularly different.

A huge stage with a giant backdrop was erected at one end of the arena, blocking off 4,000 seats. The other 12,000 seats were open to the public. That meant the promotion would, in effect, be setting up twice. After the weigh-in, the stage would be taken down and the arena reconfigured for the fight. There would be overtime costs for clean-up and reconstruction, not to mention audio-visual and other production expenses.

Schaefer estimated that the promotion spent close to \$250,000 on the weigh-in.

“If you think big, big things will happen,” Richard said. “If you think little, little things will happen.”

The weigh-in was scheduled for 2:30 PM. By noon, all available seats were filled and the doors had been closed to the public. At the appointed hour, one Golden Boy fighter after another was

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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announced to the crowd and brought to the stage.

Bernard Hopkins, Adrien Broner, Austin Trout, Abner Mares, Keith Thurman, Shane Mosley, Paulie Malignaggi, Leo Santa Cruz, Omar Figueroa, Alfredo Angulo, Peter Quillin, Devon Alexander, Amir Khan, Marcos Maidana, Cornelius Bundrage, Seth Mitchell, Danny Jacobs.

It was an impressive display of promotional might, not unlike the parading of ships in a military exercise. Despite the fact that Mayweather-Alvarez was a Showtime event, Andre Ward (who commentates for and fights on HBO) also appeared on the stage. That raised eyebrows, particularly since Ward isn't promoted by Golden Boy at present.

"I was waiting for Mike Tyson to walk out next," Schaefer joked. Then he added, "The weigh-in was about energizing the fans and promoting the pay-per-view. But it was also about sending a message. It was for the fighters to say 'I am part of this group' and for other fighters to say 'I want to be part of this group.'"

Alvarez weighed in at the contract weight of 152 pounds; Mayweather at 150.5.

Meanwhile, the odds (which had opened at 5-to-2 in Mayweather's favor) had remained constant throughout the build-up to the fight.

If Alvarez won, it would vault him to iconic status in Mexico. But that seemed unlikely. The case for a Canelo victory was based on speculation and hope. The case for a Mayweather triumph was based on past performances and cold hard facts.

Jimmy Tobin wrote, "Recognizing the danger Alvarez represents is easier than blueprinting how that danger produces a Mayweather loss. If Mayweather chooses you as an opponent, then he has determined you cannot beat him. He could be wrong, and the possibility of a misstep increases as he ages. But when Alvarez's prospects are largely dependent on Mayweather turning in a career-worst performance, it is hard to anticipate a cliff-hanger. We are getting exactly what we asked for. But what we asked for doesn't appear particularly competitive."

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

Written by Thomas Hauser

Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40

Having an adoring fan base is different from having the skills necessary to win a particular fight. Indeed, it was not unreasonable to suggest that Mayweather had chosen to confront Alvarez now, not because he wanted to fight the 23-year-old challenger before Canelo peaked, but because he wanted to fight him before someone else removed the “O” from Canelo’s record. A loss would mean that Mayweather-Alvarez was no longer a mega-fight.

ESPN has a ten-man panel that ranks fighters periodically on a pound-for-pound basis. Each panelist lists his top ten P4P choices. Mayweather has been a runaway choice for the top slot for some time now. Alvarez has yet to receive a single top-ten vote.

Mayweather has better skills than Alvarez. He’s also more physically gifted. Contrasting their records three days before the fight, Floyd proclaimed, “I fought Ricky Hatton. I didn’t fight Hatton’s brother. I fought Miguel Cotto. I didn’t fight Cotto’s brother.”

Floyd Mayweather Sr was happy to be back in his son’s camp as head trainer for the second fight in a row after what he calls “my exile from my son.”

“Saturday is going to be a sad night in Mexicali,” Floyd Sr said.

That thought was echoed by Bernard Hopkins.

“To have any chance against Floyd,” Bernard explained one day before the fight, “you have to forget circling, moving, and counterpunching, and fight with him. In any fight, you want to take away from your opponent what the opponent does best. The first thing you have to take away from Floyd is his confidence. Whatever it costs, you have to find a way to hit him hard early and then do it again.”

“Every fighter has a shot to win,” Hopkins continued. “But some fighters’ shots are more realistic than others. Canelo’s shot isn’t very good. When you’re as good as Floyd is right now and you’re in that zone and you believe in yourself and you train as hard as you can, it’s hard to beat

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40

you. It's Floyd's fight to win or lose."

On Saturday afternoon, the MGM Grand was a mob scene. People without tickets or the money to buy them were there simply to feel the action and perhaps catch a glimpse of a celebrity. It was hard to navigate through the hotel lobby, where the crush of humanity included more than a hundred people standing on line to get into a makeshift concession stand to buy T-shirts and other memorabilia.

The arena filled up earlier than it usually does for a big pay-per-view fight. Fans wanted to see the semi-final bout between Danny Garcia and Lucas Matthisse.

Mayweather makes his home in Las Vegas. This was his tenth fight in a row in Sin City. But when it was time for the main event, the crowd was overwhelmingly pro-Alvarez. They cheered wildly as Canelo entered the ring; then booed vociferously as Floyd was escorted through the ropes by Justin Bieber (who looked like a lapdog) and rapper Lil Wayne (shirtless with gray pants that fell below his lavender underwear). The operative words of Lil Wayne's entrance music were difficult to discern but sounded like "Money Team" and "m-----r."

Shortly after 9:30 PM, the millions of dollars in publicity, the eleven-city media tour, the endless promotional spots on multiple media platforms, and the stream of visitors to Las Vegas who would drop tens of millions of dollars at the gaming tables came together on a small square of powder-blue canvas that had been stretched taut across a platform of metal beams and wood boards.

Mayweather makes a show of his sports betting habit. But in the ring, he gambles as little as possible. One can, and should, appreciate the masterful nature of his performance against Alvarez. That said, Canelo looked ordinary and the bout was one-sided to the point where it lacked drama.

My notes from ringside read as follows:

Round 1: Tactical fight with little action . . . Works to Mayweather's advantage.

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Round 2: Canelo can't hit Floyd and he's applying zero pressure . . . Floyd is too quick and fast for him.

Round 3: Canelo can't get off. He's a workman. Floyd is a craftsman . . . This is target practice for Mayweather.

Round 4: More exchanges than before, but Floyd getting the better of them . . . This fight is over. Floyd has won the first four rounds. No way Canelo is winning six of the next eight or knocking Floyd out.

Round 5: Floyd doing exactly what he wants to do. Deciding when they will and won't engage . . . Canelo looks befuddled and discouraged . . . Give Floyd credit. He's a great fighter.

Round 6: Floyd in total control. His punches are coming in harder now . . . Canelo has the crowd on his side but not much else going for him.

Round 7: Total domination by Floyd . . . The crowd has been reduced to cheering when Canelo throws a big punch that comes within six inches of landing.

Round 8: Canelo's best round so far. Doing some good body work. Floyd comes back harder up top, but at least Canelo hit him.

Round 9: Floyd running the table. He's not a big puncher, but he's a sharp puncher. Canelo totally ineffective.

Round 10: More of the same. Canelo has a mouse under his left eye and some other swelling on his face . . . This fight could have been at 160 pounds and it wouldn't have made a difference.

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40

Round 11: Floyd landing some nasty rights. If ever he were to go for a knockout to burnish his image, this would be the time.

Round 12: Floyd taking the round off. Playing total defense . . . This has been less sport than spectacle.

I scored the last round even. Floyd could have won it if he'd made an effort to. That made my score 120-109. Then Jimmy Lennon stunned the crowd with the announcement, "We have a majority decision."

C.J. Ross's scorecard was read first. 114-114, a draw. Suffice it to say that Ms. Ross should never judge again. Three days after the fight, she informed the Nevada State Athletic Commission that she was "taking some time off from boxing" and would not be available to judge fights in the near future. One hopes that she will be unavailable to judge fights in the longterm future as well.

Judges Dave Moretti (116-112) and Craig Metcalfe (117-111) restored some semblance of sanity to the proceedings by giving the nod to Mayweather. But their scorecards were closer than circumstances warranted.

Bobby Hunter of Fight Score Collector polled eighty-six members of the media after the fight. All eighty-six scored the bout for Mayweather with the average score being 119-109. That was consistent with the final CompuBox numbers that had Mayweather outlanding Alvarez in eleven of the twelve rounds with one round even for a 232-to-117 margin.

So what does it all mean for boxing?

For starters, let's agree that a sport that generates \$200,000,000 from a single fight-card is not a dying sport. But let's also agree that trickle-down economics won't make boxing healthy again anymore than it will support a robust national economy. Not enough money trickles down.

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40

Showtime rolled the dice on Mayweather-Alvarez and won. But just as it was wrong to deride the economics of Showtime's deal with Mayweather based on the first fight in the package (Mayweather-Guerrero), it would be wrong to say that the six-fight contract will be an unqualified success for the network.

Mayweather says that he plans to fight twice in 2014, with his next bout in May. Amir Khan has been prominently mentioned as an opponent. The assumption has been that Golden Boy would love it if Khan beat Devon Alexander in their tentatively-scheduled December 7th match-up at Barclays Center in Brooklyn. The problem with that thinking is that Khan has looked vulnerable in recent outings and might not make it past Alexander. It wouldn't be surprising if Khan-Alexander were cancelled and Golden Boy goes right to Mayweather-Khan at Wembley Stadium. The Brits won't travel to Las Vegas in large numbers for Khan the way they did for Ricky Hatton. But they will travel to London.

Danny Garcia is a possible opponent. Now that Sergio Martinez's body is failing him, Floyd might finally accept that challenge. If Manny Pacquiao looks exciting but vulnerable in his November 23rd outing against Brandon Rios, it's not beyond the realm of possibility that we'll see Mayweather-Pacquiao.

But boxing fans can be certain that Floyd won't fight Gennady Golovkin at 154 pounds. Not even if HBO releases Golovkin from his obligation to the network in order to facilitate the fight.

"Boxing, unlike saner, better organized sports," Hamilton Nolan notes, "is prone to leaving its fans wishing for matchups that never take place."

Thus, the words of Richard Schaefer: "Floyd Mayweather is never going to run out of options and alternatives because, frankly, he can fight Joe Schmo and it's going to be a big event."

The "0" on Mayweather's record is important to Floyd. If he retires undefeated, he can join Sven Ottke, Joe Calzaghe, and Rocky Marciano, none of whom are on history's short list of boxing's greatest fighters. Floyd would have been competitive with the best in any era. Whether he would have beaten the best is open to question.

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Part One of "A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez" was previously posted at [this link](#) on *The Sweet Science*.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thausen@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Straight Writes and Jabs: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

[Comment on this article](#)

dino da vinci says:

I was hoping to get to part II early, so as not to have to second the opinion of someone else. Part I took some unnecessary flack, most of which was undeserved. When people start throwing percentages around, they shouldn't leave you to guess at where the 20% is hidden. When I sat down to read this, I promised myself I would read it only one time, and then comment. I had one minor comment right up to the end of the article when the "undefeated group" was introduced followed by nobody has them on their all-time short list of great fighters. The equivalence of stumbling right before the finish line. Spiking the ball just before entering the end zone. Think Lou Duva walking up the steps and distracting Meldrick Taylor just enough to have Richard Steele stop the fight. Just [I]that[/I] close.

This is a great article. Well written by one of the very best who has ever written about this sport. However, I wish to be on record. Marciano may have been the best ever. The very best.

Here's why:

Marciano was an anomaly. There is no guarantee that Marciano wouldn't have beaten every heavyweight in history. He may have, but he isn't a true heavyweight by today's division. If you created your own weight division at 190 pounds which was the old Cruiserweight limit, Marciano would have completely owned the division, like only one other fighter...Sugar Ray Robinson at Welterweight. No one beats Marciano at 190 pounds. If Marciano hit Roy Jones, Jr. at 190, in a scheduled fifteen round fight that was held at Madison Square Garden, they would have stopped Roy Jones, Jr. in Pensacola for speeding.

The only man who could wage war with Marciano in his prime at 190 would have been Evander Holyfield, and I'm reasonably certain that Marciano would have won 4 out of 5, stopping Holyfield on several occasions. And that is being stated as a huge fan of Holyfield. And stating this purely as a fan, Holyfield is on a short list all time personal favorites of mine. He keeps company with Arturo Gatti in that regard.

I have a huge dislike for chest pounders. That said, I would also like to go on record and state

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40

that I have a great opinion. I make money, good money, every year with my opinion on boxing matches. Unless this year turns around, this will be my first losing year in three decades. And I'm only a modest sum down. And being '13, I was greatly looking forward to this year as it's my favorite number.

When a match is made, I care about everything. What building, the referee, judges, etc. I'll give you an example. I had a fighter scheduled to fight Johnny Tapia in Las Vegas, NV for a world title. I met with Marc Ratner to discuss who the referee would be. He asked me who I didn't want. I told him that I thought we were going about it wrong and that I would much rather hear the name of the referee who was going to be appointed. He said to give him one name that I didn't want. I replied with Richard Steele. He asked me what my beef was with Richard. I told him that I had no beef with Richard. Actually, I know Richard and he is a great guy. It's just that my fighter was a counter puncher and at some point in the fight, if Tapia landed back to back combinations without my kid responding, Steele would be capable of pulling the plug. Ratner replied that that was okay and there would be no Richard. He then asked me who else I didn't want. I again told him that I thought we were going about this the wrong way. Marc asked me to give him a week or two, and then he would call me with the name. That was fine with me. He then responded, "Let me add this, in all the years that I've been in this position, I've only had only one other request; and that was from Bob Arum who asked only if Oscar fights Julio Cesar Chavez, please let's not have a Mexican-National referee." (Of course, I agree with Bob, as he was 1000% correct in requesting this.) Back to the Tapia fight, that was refereed by Jay Nady, which I agreed to. And, of course, Tapia hit my kid with back to back combinations without my kid responding, and Nady jumped in just as my kid was firing back. Literally everybody from Albuquerque was in the building rooting for their guy, and they all booed relentlessly at the poorly timed stoppage. Ahh well...

Okay, mutants, before all you screen names come in and attack my opinion and this gets ugly...I'll say this now... I accept all challenges Seriously, I'm looking forward to this... and anybody interested in a monetary stake, [I]you're[/I] free to pick the amount...I already accept. You can create the rules and we'll discuss it until we both agree. We can have some fun with this, and we'll post the results right here. I don't hide behind a screen name, and you can always change yours later. ;-)

The great cut man Ralph Citro shared Rocky Marciano's training regimentation with me some years ago and while different, Floyd comes the closest today, Hagler years back, and of course Ali, when he still cared, trained like no other. The years I spent at the Main Street Gym in LA watching the Latin Champions was insightful, and many trained with laser focus, but for shorter durations. With a gun to my head, having to "guess" the outright winner to any division, my chips would be placed on Marciano at 190 lbs, then "Finito" Lopez at 105 lbs. And I'd expect to live.

Go to boxrec.com click on pound for pound, all fighters. Note where Marciano is ranked. Also note the three fighters listed above him that he holds knockout wins over. Interesting rating formula, that boxrec has.

Peace.

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40

D

Grimm says:

No monetary stakes for me, Dino - you seem to know your stuff.

Indeed, Marciano was a beast - and much more than that.

Btw, let me know when my Vegas-tickets are on their way...hehe.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=dino da vinci;37490]I was hoping to get to part II early, so as not to have to second the opinion of someone else. Part I took some unnecessary flack, most of which was undeserved. When people start throwing percentages around, they shouldn't leave you to guess at where the 20% is hidden.

D[/QUOTE]

If you wonder, all you have to do is ask.

All that aside, I'm not completely sold on Marciano. He only competed on the world level for a handful of fights. A guy like Ali fought Top 10 guys from 1963-1981. He had over 40 fights since then.

Floyd fought almost 30 fights since becoming champion as well.

Interesting matchup with Holyfield at 190, though. HELLACIOUS.

The Shadow says:

Great piece. I dig it. He has a great ability to cover a lot of ground without losing focus and clarity -- not an easy thing to do.

On a different note, I find it interesting that Floyd is getting more credit for this fight when he received criticisms for his De La Hoya, Hatton, Marquez and Mosley fights -- all guys highly ranked on the P4P lists at the time.

I don't even think Canelo was in the Top 10 on any list.

dino da vinci says:

[QUOTE=Grimm;37491]No monetary stakes for me, Dino - you seem to know your stuff.

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A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Btw, let me know when my Vegas-tickets are on their way...hehe.[/QUOTE]

TSS turns ten next year. It's our intention to hold an anniversary celebration around the time Mayweather fights. Only thing being if May's date turns out to be with Manny, I'd prefer to make it an almost 10th Anniversary instead.

Thoughts?

Radam G says:

Da Manny and Money May will not be dance EVER! Holla!

Hop says:

[QUOTE=dino da vinci;37490]... the equivalent of spiking the ball just before entering the end zone.[/QUOTE]

This was unreal (from week 1 of this year):

[url]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B-szZxFdHzQ>

Fortunately - Broncos fan here - it didn't end up mattering, but still ... are you kidding me?

Shades of Leon Lett. [url]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTEqQY_T2mE

BTW, good response-post, Da Vinci, which I'm still digesting.

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BTW, good response-post, Da Vinci, which I'm still digesting.[/QUOTE]

I love pro football, and was fortunate to see both plays when they happened. First Leon Lett. I remember seeing a blur take chase and bat the ball around the goal line. That blur turned out to be Don Beebe, and it speaks volumes about never quitting. One of the announcers mentioned Beebe was the fastest man on his team (natural talent), but he still had to execute and he never quit on the play. If Leon Lett never slows down and protects the football, he has one of the rare defensive TD's scored by a defensive tackle. (Not scored by a cornerback or a safety). Also, had Lett scored and they tacked on the extra point, Dallas would still have the record for most points scored in a Super bowl. They finished with 52 instead of 59. San Francisco holds the record with 55.

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40

Now, about those darn Broncos. In a 2005 playoff game, New England's Tight End Ben Watson took chase on Champ Bailey who had intercepted a Tom Brady pass in the end zone (Denying us New Englanders 7 points) and ran him down at one yard line, 100 yards from where he intercepted it. Thing is, Ben was on the other side of the field and had to run about a hundred and twenty yards to catch him. Another thing is we in New England believe the ball was batted through the end zone, and should have resulted in a New England possession at our 20 yard line. But no, they give that pesky Denver team the ball at the New England one and of course one of the great plays in NFL history goes unrewarded. You know in the Superman movie with Christopher Reeves, where he loses the love of his life and he flies against the natural rotation of planet earth to reverse time and so in turning back the clock he can then save Lois? If you ever see a red, white & blue blip with a giant NE on his chest flying from west to east, that will be me and I'm not stopping until I get to that play and while I don't wish to impact the history of the world too much, I will make sure that that ball goes through the end zone and the Pats get it at the 20. Just sayin'.

If Denver comes within a few points of setting the NFL regular season scoring record or point differential record this season, this play will be talked about a long time. As it is, this Peyton Manning-Tom Brady match-up reminds me of Magic and Bird, as in who's better, who is more valuable to his team. I do believe Manning got to enjoy more continuity with his receivers than Tom has, but if you had a franchise, how could you ever complain about either one.

If I coached, I'd tell my players do not stop until you can place the ball out of the back of the end zone...where it becomes dirt. Eliminate [I]that[/I] problem, I tell ya.

amayseng says:

The turtle Ellerbe prides himself on being a business genius yet speaks using double negatives while criticizing another person.

He is unbearable.

Hop says:

[QUOTE=dino da vinci;37521]I love pro football, and was fortunate to see both plays when they happened. First Leon Lett. I remember seeing a blur take chase and bat the ball around the goal line. That blur turned out to be Don Beebe, and it speaks volumes about never quitting. One of the announcers mentioned Beebe was the fastest man on his team (natural talent), but he still had to execute and he never quit on the play. If Leon Lett never slows down and protects the football, he has one of the rare defensive TD's scored by a defensive tackle. (Not scored by a cornerback or a safety). Also, had Lett scored and they tacked on the extra point, Dallas would still have the record for most points scored in a Super bowl. They finished with 52 instead of 59. San Francisco holds the record with 55.

Now, about those darn Broncos. In a 2005 playoff game, New England's Tight End Ben Watson took chase on Champ Bailey who had intercepted a Tom Brady pass in the end zone (Denying us New Englanders 7 points) and ran him down at one yard line, 100 yards from where he intercepted it. Thing is, Ben was on the other side of the field and had to run about a

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Leonardo, your football posts are every bit the masterpieces that your boxing comments are!

At the risk of miffing our boxing brethren by continuing our pigskin talk ... Please don't take offense that I have never cared for your Patriots. I did enjoy visiting Boston, though. Pretty nice place. [U]Very[/U] different feel from NYC, I felt, which surprised me for some reason. Much more intimate. Could not agree more with you about the heroic nature of Beebe's effort on that play. I LOVE it. It embodies everything virtuous in sports and in life too. I don't want to be too hard on Lett (he'll never live it down), but at the end of that play he embodied everything I hate (self-before-others, showy-ness, 'look at me', not 'putting your head down' until the play is complete, etc.). Don't think it makes him a bad person in general, but he blew it for all the world to see and remember -- and Beebe did the opposite. BTW, not only is your point valid about his error preventing him from enjoying the rarity of a tackle's TD, but a tackle's TD [B]in the superbowl![/B] Regarding the Bailey play, I certainly do remember it. Without going back and reviewing it I wouldn't want to commit on its correct adjudication. You could well be right. Another time (unless it was the same game -- you'll remember) the Broncos beat the Patriots on an interference call against Asante Samuel that I remember as questionable. On the other hand (sorry for all this NFL talk) I of all people, a 'Raider-hater' from my boyhood, will never, ever forget the whole stupefying 'tuck rule' play in Foxboro that effectively put your Pats in the SB (which they won in a huge upset, I know) and shafted Oakland.

Oh, and Brady vs. Manning ... what a tough one, like Magic & Bird, yeah. I honestly don't know 'my final answer'. Maybe Tom b/c of post season when it counts most?

Keep your good comments coming, Leo. Always a pleasure to read them, whether I happen to agree or not.

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The Shadow says:

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Keep your good comments coming, Leo. Always a pleasure to read them, whether I happen to agree or not.[/QUOTE]

Hop, since you like football, did you know that back in '01 at the Pro Bowl, then-Raiders coach Jon Gruden would take advantage of the holiday atmosphere to hit on every star player and upcoming free agent in sight?

He was pampering the HELL out of your boy Manning, buying him drinks by the pool and what not.

While Gruden was fishing, other cats -- and it doesn't take a genius to guess who -- were out fishing in the Hawaiian night life with Snoop Doggy Dog and Ludacris hehehehe.

Are you a fan of Kurt Warner?

amayseng says:

If these players/athletes would stop Celebrating themselves and finish the play with self respect and dignity then bone head and ignorant plays dont happen.

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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my dad taught me to be humble and achieve my accomplishments with dignity.

i was blessed to have done some tremendous things in sports and i am MORE proud of the way I conducted myself

through those achievements than the achievements themselves.. My dad told me that as well and i will

always have that with me that i carried his name with honor and dignity.

today's athletes celebrate for doing what they are suppose to do. it is quite sad.

floyd has been a champion for 17 years, that, in itself is EXTRAordinary and permits praise and you still

dont see him pounding his chest after a fight or dancing when he knocks a guy down like bonehead broner....

floyd is coming along pretty well

dino da vinci says:

As simple as the whole "act like you have been there before" thing really is, is lost on so many people.

Floyd being champion and fighting other champions is indeed impressive. However, it does lose just a bit when you add the fact that there are now weight divisions three and four pounds apart and more than one champion per division, a far cry from the original eight divisions and just one champion.

amayseng says:

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agreed.

the good ol' days are over.

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

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Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40

something that really caught my attention in one of these articles is that a fight nearly 100 years ago made more money (inflation adjusted) then floyd vs dlh and this last floyd fight.

man, boxing was big back then and it seems up into the early 90's.

i am a man born in the wrong generation.

Radam G says:

Yup! It was the original eight divisions. But that is jive that it was always just one champ in each of those divisions. Hey, always-digging-up-the-real-deal Master weaving Pugilistic Scribe S-To, you need to holla at DDV. Alphabet-sanctioning organization have around since the turn of the Twentieth Century. Holla!

dino da vinci says:

Rad, my man, I know all of them. I was a record keeper for a few years. And yes, Springs could talk volumes on the topic. But there wasn't that many. Unless of course you count the New York State World Champion, California State world Champion, etc. I'm referring to the universally recognized lineal champion. The man who beat the man who beat the man.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;37552]If these players/athletes would stop Celebrating themselves and finish the play with self respect and dignity then bone head and ignorant plays dont happen.

my dad taught me to be humble and achieve my accomplishments with dignity.

i was blessed to have done some tremendous things in sports and i am MORE proud of the way I conducted myself

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floyd is coming along pretty well[/QUOTE]

Your dad sounds like a good guy.

The Shadow says:

Y'all are some knowledgable Martha Fockers, I love it!!

Hop says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;37551]Are you a fan of Kurt Warner?[/QUOTE]

[B][I]Bull's-eye![/I][B] -- one of my favorite athletes ever, on & off the field.

[QUOTE=amayseng;37552]My dad taught me to be humble and achieve my accomplishments with dignity.[/QUOTE]

Maybe if more athletes had a dad like yours we would see far less foolishness.

Radam G says:

Ditto DAT! A wonder, loving father to hold in esteem high honor. Holla!

Hop says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;37580]Ditto DAT! A wonder, loving father to hold in esteem high honor. Holla![/QUOTE]

[url]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7L0AwASILbo

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Hop;37577][B][I]Bull's-eye![/I][B] -- one of my favorite athletes ever, on & off the field.[/QUOTE]

Hehehe I had a feeling you might like him. While your boy Manning was being seduced and drinking beer with Jon Jon, my teenage arse was rooming next to Kurt. He signed a card from his foundation, pointing to the sky. That card is still in my room at my dad's house in Europe, actually.

Just a humble, nice family. Not your typical superstar athlete at all. His wife was super pregnant at the time. He was just a few years removed from arena football. Even though he was the best quarterback at the time by far, he just seemed so down to earth, nice and really appreciative of everything.

The biggest prick by far was Ray Lewis. He had just won the Super Bowl (committed a

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part Two

Written by Thomas Hauser

Thursday, 26 September 2013 08:40

murder?) a few days before, came in the middle of the week and ran his mouth CONSTANTLY. Obnoxious jackass.

The QBs were the nicest ones. Gannon, Warner and Grbac, although he sucked hahaha.

Hop says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;37592]... was rooming next to Kurt. He signed a card from his foundation, pointing to the sky. Just a humble, nice family. Not your typical superstar athlete at all. His wife was super pregnant at the time. He was just a few years removed from arena football. Even though he was the best quarterback at the time by far, he just seemed so down to earth, nice and really appreciative of everything.[/QUOTE]

Neat first-hand reminiscence, Shad'. Thanks for sharing. That's always how Kurt has come across to me as well. Like I said, one of my very faves. Truly walked the walk and not just talked the talk. Athletically, I believe he will go into the Hall of Fame, and should.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Hop;37594]Neat first-hand reminiscence, Shad'. Thanks for sharing. That's always how Kurt has come across to me as well. Like I said, one of my very faves. Truly walked the walk and not just talked the talk. Athletically, I believe he will go into the Hall of Fame, and should.[/QUOTE]

I believe so. He was good. I just checked out his website to see what he was up to. Sure enough, same wife. And both of them almost look the same, too, same hairstyles and everything hehehe.

Hop says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;37597] ... same hairstyles and everything[/QUOTE]

Is that supposed to change? LOL I was sure he'd look something like this:

[IMG]<http://i42.tinypic.com/300h1tx.jpg>[/IMG]

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Hop;37599]Is that supposed to change? LOL I was sure he'd look something like this:

[IMG]<http://i42.tinypic.com/300h1tx.jpg>[/IMG][/QUOTE]

LOL noooo, but his wife. She had a short haircut that was very distinct. She looked exactly the same. And this is the first time seeing her, picture or otherwise, since February 2001.

The Shadow says:

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LOL noooo, but his wife. She had a short haircut that was very distinct. She looked exactly the same. And this is the first time seeing her, picture or otherwise, since February 2001.

On a different note, I really appreciate all you guys for the insights you bring here. It's really nice.

Hop says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;37605]LOL noooo, but his wife. She had a short haircut that was very distinct. She looked exactly the same..[/QUOTE]

[IMG]http://i40.tinypic.com/33lhqzd.jpg[/IMG]

Brenda Warner (not sure of the dates, but at least it appears she has tried new looks)

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Hop;37606][IMG]http://i40.tinypic.com/33lhqzd.jpg[/IMG]

Brenda Warner (not sure of the dates, but at least it appears she has tried new looks)[/QUOTE]

Like I said, haven't seen her or a picture of her since 2001. She had short hair then and short hair now. What she did in between I don't know hehe.

That long hair pic looks nothing like her. When I clicked on the page, she looked EXACTLY how I remember. Except she had a big ol' belly at the time.