

What Floyd Mayweather Might Learn From Manny Pacquiao

Written by Kelsey McCarson
Wednesday, 02 October 2013 10:36



"Pacquiao's a has-been, his career is over," Floyd Mayweather said three months ago in San Antonio during a stop on the ten-city press tour he and Saul "Canelo" Alvarez did to promote their September 14th junior middleweight title bout.

Regardless of his stinging assessment, the reigning pound for pound king had no qualms barking yet more orders to the "has-been" Pacquiao through the press. Mayweather told boxing writer Kevin Iole of Yahoo Sports:

"Everybody's like, 'Aw, Pacquiao,' but I'm just letting you know he's not getting a fight with me. The only way he's getting the fight with me is if he signs with Mayweather Promotions. He's got to give me fights with Mayweather Promotions. If he don't give me no fights under Mayweather Promotions, then he's not getting the fight. That's how it is working now, because the ball is in my court. The ball has been in my court."

Mayweather went on to detail how hard he tried to share said ball with Pacquiao (*seen in above Chris Farina-Top Rank photo*)

by making the one fight every red-blooded boxing fan in the universe wanted to see back then, when Pacquiao was at his peak. One can only assume, of course, the version of Pacquiao our friend Mayweather was referring to was the one who obliterated Ricky Hatton and dismembered Miguel Cotto circa 2009. After all,

that

version of Pacquiao would have been a tough out for any welterweight in the world at the time, even the audaciously gifted Mayweather.

Alas, it never happened. And there's no use recounting it all here. If you're a boxing fan, you know the story. If you don't, save yourself the trouble. It was all rising action and no climax, a fight without punches, dark clouds without a storm.

"I wanted to fight Pacquiao at one particular time, but I wanted to fight him when he was at the

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top. I'm not going to speak on another man's finance business, but like I said before, I left Top Rank for a reason. He's with Top Rank, so I want him to be happy with Top Rank."

At 34, the diminished Manny Pacquiao's career continues under the banner of promotional partner Top Rank this November when he will face the brave but likely outclassed Brandon Rios in Macau, China. With a win, Pacquiao and his handlers will hope to salvage a career laid waste by one of the more devastatingly perfect punches you'll ever see in the sport.

Last December, just when it seemed the popular Filipino was at long last on the verge of overwhelming his arch-nemesis, Juan Manuel Marquez, in the sixth round of their fourth and maybe final encounter, Pacquiao was concussed down to the cold, harsh reality of the unforgiving blue canvas by a singularly beautiful and savagely delivered right hand counterpunch.

Poor Pacquiao never saw it coming.

With ten seconds remaining in Round 6, Pacquiao had landed a vicious left cross. Soon, he had Marquez backing into the ropes in retreat. It seemed the end was near. Pacquiao feinted a jab, but was suddenly stunned by Marquez, who had ducked under it with absurdly perfect timing to unload that pristine right hand punch to the jaw that Pacquiao never saw coming. His head flipped back violently when it landed, and he melted into the canvas face first.

It was vicious. It was cruel. But it was boxing.

Pacquiao died in that moment. Not the man, of course, but his legend. In the blink of an eye, the previously indestructible Manny Pacquiao, an entire nation's Superman, was swept into a little pile of rubble, a laughably unintimidating heap of frailty. In just an instant, the fearsome freight train with lightning fast hands made of angry anvils was rendered to a state of fragile weakness. Manny Pacquiao was nothing now.

Nothing.

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Mayweather will be nothing one day, too. Sure, it might not happen in the exact same way it did for Pacquiao. After all, where Mayweather is a supreme example for aspiring risk managers everywhere, Pacquiao is the mascot for the gambling sorts. And now that Mayweather has easily outpointed Canelo Alvarez, is there anyone in the boxing world between 140 and 154 pounds to favor against him? Even if he braved the middleweight scene, wouldn't he likely outbox aging champion Sergio Martinez, too?

No matter. Our grand American hero Mayweather could retire 100-0 someday. The axiom would still hold true. Eventually, no one is what they used to be. No one.

So perhaps Mayweather's greatest lesson will end up being the one nobody was able to teach him inside the ring: how to lose. And if that's the case, if Mayweather is the type to struggle for life's meaning when the lights turn away from him, if he's the sort to be shocked in the brevity of life's peak, our pal Floyd need only look to Pacquiao's knockout loss to Marquez for some inspiration.

In the third round, after Marquez landed several left hooks to the body, Marquez feinted the punch again before sending a long, looping overhand right with the intention of shattering Pacquiao's crown. The punch seemed almost a full circle. It was slow, deliberate. Everyone in the arena saw it headed Pacquiao's way. Pacquiao seemed to have long enough to blink several times before it got anywhere near his face. One ringsider swears the person sitting next to him had time for a full yawn while it made its way over.

In his youth, Pacquiao would have gotten out of the way. Or maybe blocked it. In his old age, though, he could but partially catch the punch with his glove, that slow, arching blow, to absorb some of its impact.

It didn't matter.

This hulking mass of what used to be lightweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez punched with such force now, at welterweight, that such a blow floored Pacquiao for the first time in any of their four fights previous. Pacquiao seemed confused as the reality of it slapped him on the

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brow, as his bottom tilted down towards the welcoming ocean of the canvas. As his shoulders found their new home, Pacquiao's feet rose slightly as he rolled to his back, perhaps protesting the new physics of a previously familiar environment.

Things were different now, and here was the lesson.

Pacquiao climbed diligently to his feet. His resolve did not vacillate or waver. If anything, the newfound terror of Marquez's incredibly sudden power brought forth such a burst of light from his soul that one might have believed, if just for that moment, the script of Pacquiao's legend was closer to its beginning than to its end.

It may have been his finest moment inside the ring.

Pacquiao's relentless vigor, his singular expression of defiance, carried him oh-so-close to victory. It was close enough to feel the warmth of the approaching light of ardor, close enough to smell the flowers of adulation, close enough to anticipate a quiver of victory.

But these things would never come.

Instead, he had brought himself only close enough to feel the pain of loss in its fullest measure, the terrifying sting in the death of his legend, as he lay down there on the floor, Marquez's lion's paw having swept him into a tiny heap of a bashful little lamb.

But after it was over, as the songs were being sung for his opponent now instead of him, as the adulation from those who used to compare him to the greatest of the greats devolved into an especially pathetic form of pity reserved only for fallen fighters, this wretched little Manny Pacquiao did not whimper or cry. He did not stomp his feet on the ground. He did not accuse Marquez of cheating.

Instead, Manny Pacquiao smiled sheepishly for the camera. He looked a bit sad, yes –

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embarrassed even. But he was not ashamed. His face was brave.

“That’s boxing,” he said just moments after peeling himself out of oblivion.

No, Manny. That’s life.

Kelsey McCarson is a boxing writer for TheSweetScience.com and Bleacher Report. Follow him on Twitter [@KelseyMcCarson](https://twitter.com/KelseyMcCarson).

[Comment on this article](#)

Radam G says:

Wow! Nice of unusual piece. But lets call a spade a spade.

No way even a younger Da Manny would have survived Hulkquez stepping on Da Manny toe, causing him to trip forward and knocking him da double fudge out. Give Hulkquez a full-house victory THAT HE WANTS TO KEEP FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE, thus he would be STUPID as a blinded bat trying to get his flight on at high noon on the brightest day of the year if he give Da Manny a rematch.

Hulkquez was getting his arse handed to him, but he did not panic or go manic. He stayed calm, timed the feinting-whuppin'-his-out-Da Manny, and caught him with the latest, greatest lotto punch in the history of pugilism -- PERIOD!

Way, way, way back in da day, before 95 percent of us were even thought about -- less alone conceived -- the late, great Rocky Marciano did the same thing to the late, almost-great Jersey Joe Walcott without the stepping on the toe trick of the trade. And during our time, Hashim Rahman did the same jive-lotto punch to the great Lennox Lewis. And HR was dumb as heck for giving the great LL a rematch, we know what happened. And don't confused that with the ROCK giving JJ a rematch. JJ was finished after that late-round kayo.

Da Manny is not shot or slowed down! And we will see that come turkey month. Later for this month of trick or treat. Both Hulkquez and the Cali Cranium Crusher, their arses Da Manny would BEAT! Don't get it twisted. Money May has learned a lot from Da Manny. To not enter dat squared jungle across from Da Manny. Holla!

The Shadow says:

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[QUOTE=Radam G;37855]Da Manny is not shot or slowed down! And we will see that come turkey month. Later for this month of trick or treat. Both Hulkquez and the Cali Cranium Crusher, their arses Da Manny would BEAT! Don't get it twisted. Money May has learned a lot from Da Manny. To not enter dat squared jungle across from Da Manny. Holla![/QUOTE]

Totally agree. He was nailed with the EXACT same shot, same place in the ring, same feints, same setup, same everything in their 2011 bout.

He even got nailed with similar blows in 2004 and 2008. It's a defensive deficiency on Pacquiao's part. When someone feints-n-loops, he for some reason opens his guard. The key is to get him to stay stationary in that same position to exploit the little flaw.

In order to do that, you gotta land a few rounds worth of left hooks to the body to freeze him with feints. And I've only seen Marquez do that with that level of success.

Manny is not shot although he looked like he got shot (with a cannon). In this instance, he got shot by a sick shot that shot him on his back.

And he certainly wouldn't have gotten out of the way of that shot with that setup in '98, '02, '04 or '09.

Boxing is as multifaceted as any sport in existence. Some people just got the remedy for some of those facets. Observers will then attribute it to erosion of skills. Not entirely so.

Carmine Cas says:

Interesting article, what shall Meriweather do when the curtains close, and the attention is off him. Unlike Manny, he does not have a career outside of boxing, neither is he humble lol. But he will be promoting, training, and maybe even announcing.

Marquez always has been a problem for Manny, and he will continue to be if they fight again. And Marquez did not step on his foot, if anything when he planted his feet to set up the right hand it tripped Manny, he didn't step on his foot. Check out the vid, if anything Manny steps on Marquez' foot [url]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aRVoAtUCRhs

The snake Bob Arum had just as many excuses regarding the fight as Floyd, they didn't want to do business with each other.

The Shadow says:

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The snake Bob Arum had just as many excuses regarding the fight as Floyd, they didn't want to do business with each other.[/QUOTE]

[url]<http://www.fighthype.com/pages/content11512.html>

Radam G says:

First! Hulkquez stepped on Da Manny's darn toe. Everybodee and dey momma can see it clearly from a blow UP. Besides in four bouts, Marquez/Hulkquez stepped on Da Manny's toe 143 times incidently and 57 deliveredly. And everybodee and dey momma, who has ever box or know da game, know that it is one of the ancient tricks of the trade of da game. And happens on the regular between a lefty and right-handed whiner.

[Those in da know of da game already know that any person who denies toe stepping by right-handers on lefties is perpetrating a fraud.] And Bradley doesn't intentionally use his size 9 cranium to burst open eyelids. YUP, RIGHT! And I wanna sell you da stone that Big Cain slew Lil' Abel with in the Garden of Eden. Big clue! It happened outside a cave in East Africa, not the GoE. Hehehe!

Nextly, the name is Mayweather -- Money May if you down with da moolah -- not Meriweather. Holla!

amayseng says:

Floyd doesn't want the fight, never has.

He likes that "0"

Therefore, he will never risk it.

Jmm is a solid top 5 lb4lb with 40 rounds with pac, no shame in him finally getting an impressive win..

shame is in his PED use, imho, he all of a sudden was a one punch killer, and i am NOT talking about the KO,

the first knockdown is what got my attention, he hit through pacs guard and with such great force knocked

him off his feet to his back, that was very telling in my opinion. the ko was physics along with some juice.

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either way, floyd doesn't want the pac fight, if he did he wouldnt say pac has to sign under his promotions,

that is a load of crap, come on now....

floyd is a spoiled brat, he gets what he wants, if he wanted pac he would have fought him already

Radam G says:

BTW! After boxing, Money May does indeed have a job or two. One -- as a boxing promoter. Two -- as CEO and owner of the Mayweather/The Money Team boxing gyms in Nevada and his birth state. Plus he has security and bodyguard services, night clubs and more.

Dude is phat and far from being a dummy. Holla!

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;37904]BTW! After boxing, Money May does indeed have a job or two. One -- as a boxing promoter. Two -- as CEO and owner of the Mayweather/The Money Team boxing gyms in Nevada and his birth state. Plus he has security and bodyguard services, night clubs and more.

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Don't forget music promotions with Al Haymon. His TMT brand will soon hit the stores, too, and might even partner with a known brand.

He also has some nice real estate holdings and is just as liquid as some billionaires out there -- no joke.

He's also started to mingle with more billionaires which will help him also.

Radam G says:

I didn't wanna holla about the music, because I got a piece of the action. Hehe! I told yall, I'm up in everybodee's and dey mamma's grills. Hehehe! Holla!

Carmine Cas says:

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That's why I said promoting and training, "he does not have a career outside of boxing". All you did was reiterate what I stated LOL c'mon buddy. Everybody knows that southpaws and orthodox fighters clash heads and get their feet tangled that was also well documented in their 3rd fight. But clearly in the video I provided it was not the case, Marquez' foot was down already and Pacquiao's hit or when on top of JMM's causing mannys reckless wild man jump to further propel himself into the perfectly timed right hand.

I guess the link Shadow provided stopped you from saying it was all Money's fault for the fight not happening

TotoyBato says:

He's still scared.

dino da vinci says:

JMM is on record saying he was waiting on the feint by Manny to fire the punch that was to end it. JM is extremely proud, and had to endure the grief of not getting his hand raised in three previous encounters with a fellow great of his era. It is going to take an insane amount of money to entice Juan Manuel Marquez back into the ring with the Pacster that I believe the series is officially over. There is something about being repeatedly cast as the 'B' side in an event when you whole heartily know you are a fellow A sider. He took B side money repeatedly, and in addition to getting short-paid, he may have been short changed.

For you younger people just discovering the sport believe me when I tell you that Juan Manuel Marquez is not only one of the very best fighters applying his trade today, he is one of the best ever. Please don't confuse this with others stating 'one of the best Mexican fighters ever', Juan Manuel is one of the best fighters ever. Period. Which of course should give you a very good idea of how just how great the Pacman is. Because in boxing to lay claim to all-time greatness, you need another similar talent across the ring from you, pushing you to the brink. We don't measure you against the good fighters you've faced, we measure you against the fighters you've faced that make us grin.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Carmin Cas;37914]"BTW! After boxing, Money May does indeed have a job or two. One -- as a boxing promoter. Two -- as CEO and owner of the Mayweather/The Money Team boxing gyms in Nevada and his birth state. Plus he has security and bodyguard services, night clubs and more.

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further propel himself into the perfectly timed right hand.

I guess the link Shadow provided stopped you from saying it was all Money's fault for the fight not happening. And Freddie Roach ain't down with the moolah[/QUOTE]

You're right, you did say outside boxing. But like I pointed out, he's also involved in music promotions. I wouldn't count his Philthy Rich record label as a serious enterprise, though, LOL. They have yet to release a record, hahahahaha.

But Money is involved in the Haymon family business of staging concerts. His clothing line will either land a huge retail deal or joint venture with a known brand.

He has plenty of options outside boxing. I think he also is starting to take acting classes on the low, although I don't know that for sure.

Look at his recent appearance on Colbert. He's obviously been trained to say lines so he might explore that also.

He also has reality shows he's producing, TONS of secret sparring footage, which he has recorded for the purpose of monetizing it down the road, books and much, much more.

He will be fine as long as he sticks with Crimson AI.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=dino da vinci;37931]JMM is on record saying he was waiting on the feint by Manny to fire the punch that was to end it. JM is extremely proud, and had to endure the grief of not getting his hand raised in three previous encounters with a fellow great of his era. It is going to take an insane amount of money to entice Juan Manuel Marquez back into the ring with the Pacster that I believe the series is officially over. There is something about being repeatedly cast as the 'B' side in an event when you whole heartily know you are a fellow A sider. He took B side money repeatedly, and in addition to getting short-paid, he may have been short changed.

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I totally, wholeheartedly agree. Beautifully put.

Radam G says:

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It was 100 percent Money May why there were not a Da Manny-Da Money May Fight. Money May didn't want the bout, PERIOD! And he played possum that he did. And YUP! Marquez is one of the best fighter ever. But also the biggest whiner and bulljiver. Holla!

The Shadow says:

[url]<http://fighthype.com/pages/content9253.html>

dino da vinci says:

It would be great if the author of the article was correct, but he's not.

It would have been Arum's biggest payday as well. I don't particularly care how much pretzel logic is thrown at this topic, you will not be able to alter reality.

Carmine Cas says:

I am just playing the devil's advocate Shadow and Radam, I am sure he is invested in ventures outside of boxing, especially working with Al Haymon who started his career in music. No doubt about it he's going keep making a lot of money after boxing. Which good to see because a lot of elite do not have anything after they retire.

Bob Arum didn't want the fight as much as Floyd if not more probably. Mayweather gets more of the blame because the casual fan doesn't know the promotional side of boxing and probably didn't even know about Bob Arum a few years ago. He's the snake in the grass that needs to be exposed in pieces by a John Deer or def to my California King Snake LOL. And another great link by Shadow, and great point by Dino

dino da vinci says:

[url]<http://fighthype.com/pages/content9253.html>

[QUOTE=dino da vinci;37942]It would be great if the author of the article was correct, but he's not.

It would have been Arum's biggest payday as well. I don't particularly care how much pretzel logic is thrown at this topic, you will not be able to alter reality.[/QUOTE]

*As for the re-post, I wasn't clear on where my response was directed. It's directed at The Shadow's link he posted several posts up, not at this article.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=dino da vinci;37942]It would be great if the author of the article was correct, but he's not.

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It would have been Arum's biggest payday as well. I don't particularly care how much pretzel logic is thrown at this topic, you will not be able to alter reality.[/QUOTE]

Alter reality? I don't know what you're talking about. I just posted a link to something I thought people might find interesting.

As for Bob Arum's payday, I can say this: In spite of what it may appear, it would NOT have been a wise move for Top Rank -- from a corporate governance standpoint -- to do a Mayweather fight in 2010, 2011 or 2012. That's just the reality.

I think 9/10 people in here in Bob's shoes would do the same and wait to stage the fight.

Radam G says:

Carmine Cas suffers from so much Pac-hate that he is double delusional. But I don't like to keep showing up the _____. Besides the dude is a straight-up Asian hater at da maximum. That is why he brought up some inflame war propoganda about "Asians eating large consumption of dogs." Then he changed it specifically to "Chinese and Koreans" eating "domestic animals" to try to weasel out of it.

Somebody else, why don't you post the blown-up version of Hulkquez CLEARLY STEPPING ON Da MANNY's FOOT before KHTFO. JEEEEEEZ! Matter of fact, while you are at it, post the shot of the true "Rocky" -- Chuck Wepner -- stepping on GOAT Ali's toe way back in da day.

CC is the type of person who will tell you that poverty of the brain, racism and prejudice don't exist because he is in deep denial. And it appears that he is "Insane in da MEMBRANE!" And cannot stay off his _____! And I use to think that TSS ex-Reader/Poster Anony was bad. He was from New York too by the way of coming from somewhere else. The Big Apple is full of nitpicking-and-tricking haters from other lands. Somebody ought to introduce to them to "America, The Beautiful." Because alternate reality just does not WORK! Especially in this Universe.

I'm reminded of the same CC types that said that Da Manny was not hitting Bradley after some clown posted fake jive on Youtube -- the propoganda intelligence center for haters and busters. But the CC types look like BIG FOOLS when I spitted to them that you could hear the shot crashing into Bradley's noggin and torso. And that is the problem. See these cyberspace agitators and bums never been to REAL-LIFE BOUTS, so they don't syet. They have never been to a gym neither or they would know that you can hear punchers' punches from hitting sparring mates and punching bags. OMFG! Give ME a BREAK! Cyberspace con clowns are a mil a dozen.

Somebody other than me -- again -- post the blown-up foto of Hulkquez stepping on Da Manny's toe and KHTFO! It is so darn obvious that CC is a perpetrator, that is why he cannot stay AWAY from a REAL BOXING CHAMPION -- amateurs and pros -- ME! These type of _____ believe that they can control the flow of every darn thing in the Universe. And that everybodeee and dey mamma is [sic] fake like them. Holla!

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dino da vinci says:

Top Rank feared no one when they promoted Oscar, what makes you think any different here?

Carmine Cas says:

Ah Radam just let it go, you clearly are the hater because you just keep bringing it up obviously you are consumed by some kind of insecurity. You keep coming at me I keep making you look silly. I have trained in the gym and competed in a several amateur bouts, been to many local amateur and pro fights, Cotto-Trout, Malignaggi-Broner etc. I have been around boxing for several years and been in the ring with national champs and seasoned pros don't you worry about me. Obviously I'm not as experienced as you lol but to say I have not been around the sport in person is out right erroneous. But of course you'll be so quick to discredit everything I just said but you're a hater so that's what you do best.

And I have been around your type, big headed condescending know it all's, and when someone provides you with the truth you run worse then "bytch big headed bambi Bradley" and don't even man up and acknowledge that you're wrong. If you want to have a nice adult discussion I'll be in San Fran, next month or just stay acting like coward shooting your jive online. And I am not arab like you have stated in the past, if you were so well traveled you would know that Persians are not arab, and judging by my user name Carmine I'm obviously of Italian descent as well. Slow man, criticizes me about not be well traveled dude hasn't even been around America. The only place you've been in the Middle East probably is Dubai to party it up with the corrupt princes.

But here's some more proof for your *** in non-chalant manner, one of Rios sparring describes the taste of cat and dog. Now mind you I didn't specifically search for this video, I was on youtube earlier and I saw this video and decided to listen to what these kids had to say about the upcoming fight, fast forward to 6:00

[url]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eApFKryU8Ac>

Radam you're the hater of everything that is against Top Rank and Pacquiao, you stay bytchin, whining, and talking shyt about Marquez, Bradley, GBP. You even went as far as to vouch for Chavez saying Brian Vera did himself no favors by smiling and turning off the Cali juidges. And sometime to see the fight clearly it's best to rewatch where you are not below the ring and inside of the ropes with the asian technology . You are blind and biased my cyber hating friend, get a grip

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=dino da vinci;37974]Top Rank feared no one when they promoted Oscar, what makes you think any different here?[/QUOTE]

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I'm not sure whether this was directed to me but I'll address it anyway. It has nothing to do with fear. If anything it's the opposite.

It's not about what I "think." It's about what I know. You can choose to believe me or not but I don't just post random stuff based on little more than emotion and opinion.

Fear has nothing to do with it. It's all about margins, books, percentages and control.

And at the end of the day -- and you can take this to the bank -- Bob Arum makes more money without Money Mayweather.