

A Miguel Cotto-Sergio Martinez Fight Would Be Pretty Epic

Written by Michael Woods

Sunday, 06 October 2013 12:16



UPDATE 2 at 11 AM ET Monday: I asked Cotto advisor Gaby Penagaricano what the fighter thinks about a scrap with Martinez, at a catchweight of 158 pounds. His response: "Miguel said that a fourth world title in different divisions is attractive to him, but that in due time we will sit down and discuss."

UPDATE 1 at 2 PM ET Sunday: Nathan Lewkowicz informed me that "we are not interested in Mora, Cotto is the target." And at what weight, then? "158 pounds, a catchweight, for the WBC middleweight title," he said. Mr. Cotto, the ball has been bounced into your court.

An unscientific poll on social media tells me that many fight fans are keen to see Miguel Cotto, who looked like a revitalized pugilist, energized and ultra-predatory on Saturday night, against solid journeyman Delvin Rodriguez, take on Sergio Martinez next, or in the very near future.

I wondered, would Sergio entertain that bout? I posed the query to Team Martinez' Nathan Lewkowicz; his dad Sampson advises Sergio and Nathan spends as much time with Martinez as anyone in the fight game, including informal social occasions when Sergio lets loose his deepest thoughts.

"Sergio has wanted a Cotto fight for years," Nathan told me. "He does not like Cotto at all. Cotto refused to shake Sergio's hand at an event they both attended. Sergio felt very disrespected and never forgot that."

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Here's a scenario I could, as amateur matchmaker-promoter, see playing out. Martinez, now getting his full strength back after sustaining injuries during his April 27 win over Martin Murray in his native Argentina, takes a rust-shedder early in 2014.

A solid foe could be Sergio Mora, the Latin Snake, who is also promoted by Lou DiBella. (For the record, Mora would take a Sergio bout in half a heartbeat. "I'm beating Sergio next year!" he told me. "They'll consider me a 'tuneup' after a long layoff.")

If the 38-year-old Martinez gets past the super skilled technician Mora, a Martinez-Cotto pay-per-view in the early fall would be one of the most anticipated clashes of the boxing year 2014.

Readers, talk to me. You like this fantasy course I've plotted? Or would you rather Cotto (*seen whacking Rodriguez in HBO bout in Chris Farina-Top Rank photo*) get after a fight with Canelo Alvarez, which would seemingly to me be harder to make, considering Cotto worked with Top Rank this fight, and Alvarez is with Golden Boy. Or is there another hitter you'd like Cotto to tangle with?

Weigh in, in our Forum.

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amayseng says:

please NO Mora in any way.

cotto vs canelo or cotto vs s. martinez are both exciting bouts. i will happily watch them both.

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my prediction cotto beats canelo and martinez out boxes cotto...

brownsugar says:

The Latin snake could actually finish Martinez in an ugly affair. Sergio is hanging by a thread and I wonder how popular he truly is. He hasn't been that active and he hasn't looked that good. I don't think Sergio could repeat the perfect performance he had against Dzinzurik.. but I think if he catches Cotto with the straight left he still has enough remaining in his tank to finish him. Let Cotto fight Canello and let GGG retire Martinez.

Radam G says:

I'm riding shotgun with A-Seng. Except that Cotto will indeed beat both Canelo and Martinez easily. Holla!

The Shadow says:

No, Editor Mike. Not a good idea. Too much risk.

Here's the money scenario:

They sign for the fight ASAP, June 7, 2014 at Madison Square Garden (although Barclay's might have an outside shot under this scenario, which I will explain below).

They fight the weekend of New York Puerto Rican Day Parade, a traditional Cotto PPV date. Martinez has fought many times in NY also, building a decent following in the process -- not to mention that NY has one of the biggest Argentine American communities in the US.

With time to build it up, that fight does at least a lucrative 500,000-750,000 PPV buys, securing both aging pugilists massive paydays.

But there's more.

Not only will the Martinez-Cotto fight be for the middleweight championship.

It can also be a de facto eliminator for the September date with Floyd Mayweather (in which case, they would have to have the fight at Barclay's, televise on SHO and and let GBP promote -- a bit unlikely given somewhat frosty GBP-DiBella relations but absolutely plausible).

After Mayweather dusts Amir Khan for a cool \$85m in May, we would see Pretty Boy Floyd go on a date with destiny and challenge for the official middleweight championship of the world in Las Vegas.

Promoted right, these two events can end up grossing over \$250m, earning career money for both Martinez and Cotto, a chance at history all the while providing all the key components required for a Mayweather mega event.

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They would have so much time to build either fight, using all the platforms plus they would have the luxury of time.

At the end of the day, the loser of Martinez-Cotto gets the consolation prize of cashing out against superstar Canelo Alvarez.

With all that looming, there's no point WHATSOEVER in wasting time with a Latin Snake who might just poison -- and halt -- this money train.

ALL ABOARD! The Money TRAIN!

Radam G says:

Ditto, The Shadow! Da BIG WIGS know what time it is. They always follow the money. And will cut the head off a snake. It MONEY TIME! Holla!

The Shadow says:

The beautiful part of this plan is that they're protected all around. Even in the unlikely event Floyd should lose to Khan, Canelo will be waiting in the wings to take that September date against the middleweight champion.

Money can make more money by rematching Khan. Then whoever wins in September. It's just good business all around.

dino da vinci says:

I love Sergio "Duct Tape" Martinez. That said, some guys don't age well in the fight game and that someone is Sergio. Healthy, I love him against a slew of opponents. But therein lies the rub. Yes, he came to the sport late which is too bad for both him and us, but his oversized heart is going to end up keeping him around to get those attractive pay days and he'll be going life and death with guys that wouldn't have been much of a problem just several years ago. Too bad too, because the Marvelous One is all class.

brownsugar says:

Agreed... Martinez vs anyone of consequence is more lesser-epic than semi-epic. The aging fragile middleweight should go out on the biggest platform he can find.

amayseng says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;38143]I'm riding shotgun with A-Seng. Except that Cotto will indeed beat both Canelo and Martinez easily. Holla![/QUOTE]

I think it truly depends on Martinez and his overall condition coming back from a few injuries and also the fact that he has been breaking down the last year or so. However I can see cotto

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beating the Martinez we just last saw fight.

The Shadow says:

Looks like The Shadow's prophecy can indeed come true:

[url]<http://www.boxingscene.com/sergio-martinez-ready-cotto-next-summer--70332>

Radam G says:

@The Shadow, where can I get some of those see-into-the-future roids and PEDs that you are dipping and sipping into? Hehe! It's always about da moolah. It will make any booty hula hula. Holla!

teaser says:

[QUOTE]The Shadow

Re: A Miguel Cotto-Sergio Martinez Fight Would Be Semi-Epic, No?

No, Editor Mike. Not a good idea. Too much risk.

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With all that looming, there's no point WHATSOEVER in wasting time with a Latin Snake who might just poison -- and halt -- this money train.

ALL ABOARD! The Money TRAIN![/QUOTE] The Shadow Knows !! and as Radman says it IS prizefighting !!

vjoe says:

everybody knows, styles make fights. canelo vs cotto is a mack truck running into a pickup truck. canelo easily....cotto, imo, does not fare well when forced to back up. cotto vs martinez...interesting. i think cotto fares better against this more skilled opponent, but still comes up short.

Carmine Cas says:

Mora could indeed poison the money train, if Sergio comes back fully healthy though he'll come back like a California King Snake and be immune to the Latin Snake's poison and crush his arse. Cotto-Martinez would be a great fight, once again if Sergio is healthy it would be a tough fight for Cotto. That's an exciting fight but I don't want to see it because they are two of my favorite fighters lol

jzzy says:

Let's not forget, Money May needs a dance partner for May 2014. A Cotto/Mayweather fight could

be the only lucrative matchup for The Money team at this time.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;38176]@The Shadow, where can I get some of those see-into-the-future roids and PEDs that you are dipping and sipping into? Hehe! It's always about da moolah. It will make any booty hula hula. Holla![/QUOTE]

LOL, I got it from a Pinoy who said he was peddling some new age A-Side Meth. And yes, indeed, the moolah make the booty hula hula. And The Shadow holla, holla!

@Carmine, yes, Sergio crushes him "IF." But "IF" has no contingency plan and "IF" carries too much risk -- alas "IF" will never happen.

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@Jizzy, pay attention. Money May's May money already has been set up. The dance partner will not be Cotto.

Carmine Cas says:

A nice long layoff with some good strength training on those legs can go a long way, anything is possible

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Carmine Cas;38204]A nice long layoff with some good strength training on those legs can go a long way, anything is possible[/QUOTE]

Sure, in theory, anything is possible. But it's not happening. It would be stupid.

Carmine Cas says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;38207]Sure, in theory, anything is possible. But it's not happening. It would be stupid.[/QUOTE]

Do you mean the fight or Sergio recovering completely?

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Carmine Cas;38210]Do you mean the fight or Sergio recovering completely?[/QUOTE]

The Latin Snake. I'm sure Martinez will recover just fine. To paraphrase Mark Twain, the rumors of his demise have been greatly exaggerated.

Boxing media and fans tend to base a person's ability -- and sometimes full body of work -- of just one performance. Now Martinez is shot. But Cotto is on fire!! 12 months ago, people said just the opposite.

Watch what they say once Manny Pacquiao just completely MOLESTS Brandon Rios. It'll be so bad the cops might just be on his ***. But the world will be on his *ick.

"Believe none of what you hear and only half of what you see."

Matchmakers control the zeitgeist.

The Shadow says:

Sidebar: How in the HELL are guys like Ken Norton, Ingemar Johansson and Arturo Gatti in the HOF while Prince Naseem sits on the sidelines?

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Carmine Cas says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;38215]The Latin Snake. I'm sure Martinez will recover just fine. He may have fragile bones that shatter but that doesn't mean he no longer knows how to fight. Lil Floyd's been fragile for 15 years.

To paraphrase Mark Twain, the rumors of his demise have been greatly exaggerated.

Boxing media and fans tend to base a person's ability -- and sometimes full body of work -- on just one performance. Now Martinez is shot. But Cotto is on fire!! 12 months ago, people said just the opposite.

Go through history and you will see some of the greatest were written off prior to reaching their peak. Likewise, complete and utter scrubs were made into world beaters before they were exposed.

Watch what they say once Manny Pacquiao just completely MOLESTS Brandon Rios. It'll be so bad the cops might just be on his a**. But the world will be on his *ick.

"Believe none of what you hear and only half of what you see."

Matchmakers control the zeitgeist.[/QUOTE]

You're as good as your last fight, as the saying goes

Radam G says:

Prince Naseem will be there, The Shadow. It is just a bit of timing and the not-competing-for-five-years period. And, of course politics of his Arab ethnicity during the time of so much terrorism going on in his father-and-mother land of Yemen. Holla!

Hop says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;38217]How are guys like Ken Norton, Ingemar Johansson and Arturo Gatti in the HOF while Prince Naseem sits on the sidelines?[/QUOTE]

Here's my inexpert response:

- 1) What 'special' fighter did either Gatti [B][I]or[/I]/[B] Hamed ever beat? Norton beat the great Ali (arguably at least twice), Johansson beat Patterson.
- 2) How do you induct Hamed when he basically quit as soon as Barrera dismantled his schtick? Does heart/bravery not enter in? In this case I think it should.
- 3) Even Gatti (whose inclusion is extremely questionable to me) participated in an EPIC trilogy which [U]did[/U] embody boxing heroism (and 'greatness' in that sense). Naz? Not anything remotely close. So re. AG the question for me is whether the Hall also validly honors more than just skill, championships, and records. But I just don't see Naseem as a HOF'er, no.

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Jus' my three pennies.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Hop;38231]Here's my inexpert response:

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Jus' my three pennies.[/QUOTE]

Thanks for the comment. I'm happy you prefaced it appropriately

- 1) As far as win-loss records go, there's nothing "arguable" about anything. They were close fights. Certainly not robberies. He beat a lazy Ali once -- by split decision and then took two Ls immediately after. His best wins beyond that were Deontaye Bobick and a coked up Jimmy Young who, while slick, had like six losses in 25 fights.

As for Johansson, he beat a protected Patterson and got smoked twice after. At least his inclusion has greater merit since he at least beat The Man.

- 2) OK, so because Hamed had lost the hunger for fighting after that -- he had already started showing little interest in training at that point -- that makes him a quitter? Has nothing to do with heart. He took his defeat with class. He got outboxed. So what? So did Marquez and Pacquiao.

Fact is he was a multi-division world champ who would've been the first to hold ALL FOUR belts at once had it not been for boxing politics.

Many guys retire "prematurely." if anything, it's better than overstaying your welcome.

- 3) As you say, there is more to it than the record. Hamed's was sublime. Yet, his biggest contribution is that which enables small guys to make money.

Even if Prince Naseem was a jabroni, the fact that he brought unprecedented attention and excitement to the lower weight classes in a heavyweight fixated boxing landscape paved the way for the two biggest draws today. That in itself is one of his biggest contributions to boxing and one that -- IMO -- not only qualifies but should SECURE his spot forever in the IBHOF.

Radam G says:

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Naseem will likely be in the next batch for election to the HOF. No doubt that he belongs there. Holla!

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;38235]Naseem will likely be in the next batch for election to the HOF. No doubt that he belongs there. Holla![/QUOTE]

Yes, he might make it this time! In the last hour alone, I saw a few people posting that they were voting for Hamed, along with shoe-ins Oscar De La Hoya, Joe Calzaghe and Felix Trinidad! Would be nice to see.

Did you ever get a chance to meet him, Rad?

The Shadow says:

And just like The Shadow said, Bob Arum -- less than 30 minutes ago -- just announced that he wants Martinez-Cotto on June 7 in New York for the Puerto Rican parade.

Martinez side is on board. More to come.

The Shadow says:

And just like The Shadow said, Bob Arum -- less than 30 minutes ago -- just announced that he wants Martinez-Cotto on June 7 in New York for the Puerto Rican Day Parade.

Martinez side is on board. More to come.

The Shadow says:

[url]http://www.boxingscene.com/cotto-vs-martinez-bout-eyed-pr-day-parade-weekend--70359

Radam G says:

Of course. We even sparred a few times. And YUP! I got the upper hand. Holla!

Radam G says:

Danggit, The Shadow! Maybe you should be The Pugilistic Prophet. You saw into the mind of Da Bobfather. It will be a giant crowd at Stanke -- I mean Yankee -- Stadium. Hehehe! Holla!

Hop says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;38233]Thanks for the comment. I'm happy you prefaced it appropriately [COLOR="#0000FF">Booo. (We need an eye-roll emoticon.)[/COLOR]

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As for Johansson, he beat a protected Patterson and got smoked twice after. At least his inclusion has greater merit since he at least beat The Man. (And why isn't that valid for Norton, then?)

2) OK, so because Hamed had lost the hunger for fighting after that (that's one way of putting it; I think he saw the writing on the wall) -- he had already started showing little interest in training at that point -- that makes him a quitter? (sort of) Has nothing to do with heart. He took his defeat with class. (I didn't think so.) He got outboxed. (He got dominated.) So what? So did Marquez and Pacquiao. (no comparison w/either)

Fact is he was a multi-division world champ who would've been the first to hold ALL FOUR belts at once had it not been for boxing politics.

Many guys retire "prematurely." if anything, it's better than overstaying your welcome. (weak soup, man)

3) As you say, there is more to it than the record. (exactly) Hamed's was sublime. Yet, his biggest contribution is that which enables small guys to make money.

Yeah, just not a big fan of the wee prince. I'll think he'll probably get in, though, so I wouldn't worry. I just don't think he belongs. Tucked his tail between his legs the minute he got whopped. He was good, but not great. But I think that of all the 'halls' -- i.e. that they have too many in there.

Hop says:

[The Shadow;38233]Thanks for the comment. I'm happy you prefaced it appropriately
(Booo. (We need an eye-roll emoticon.))

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Carmine Cas says:

I hope Cotto-Martinez does not happen lol, but if it does I will be at Met Life or where ever it will take place

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Hop;38252]Yeah, just not a big fan of the wee prince. I'll think he'll probably get in, though, so I wouldn't worry. I just don't think he belongs. Tucked his tail between his legs the minute he got whapped. He was good, but not great. But I think that of all the 'halls' -- i.e. that they have too many in there.[/QUOTE]

When did Norton ever beat The Man? He lost every single championship match he was in and got humiliated -- as you say Naz was -- every time he met a puncher.

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(It doesn't matter one single bit what Floyd thinks. In fact, technically, my opinion holds more merit than his since I'm media and media cast the vote. And I personally believe Ali won all three with fight number two having just as great a case for 11-1 Ali as 7-5 Norton seeing as Ali swept the first five easy. That's neither here nor there, though.)

People hold one fight against a world class fighter against him. People take it as humiliation because he was so dominant prior to the fight. What about Tyson vs. Douglas then? Or vs. Kevin McBride? I really don't see the point. Marquez got humiliated vs. Floyd. Pacquiao got humiliated vs. Marquez. (Pacquiao??)

And you disregard his most important merit that should guarantee his inclusion -- his trailblazing, pioneering legacy.

He absolutely, unequivocally took his defeat with class. He made no excuses, praised the better man and accepted the loss like a man. "I lost on points to another great fighter, which is exactly what happened. I lost to another great champion."

[url]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M3xokEvIPgM>

He absolutely did not tuck his tail. They ask him about Erik Morales and like a fighter, he wants Barrera again. He took a tuneup. Unfortunately, he hated training camp at this point, figured he had enough money to live comfortably and wanted to be with his wife and kids. And I know you of all people here can understand and respect that.

Like you say yourself, you're just not a fan of his. But don't let it cloud your judgment like it has the media who have shunned him for all these years.

Haha yes, that emoticon would be nice

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=dino da vinci;38289]Hold up Shadow! Let's get Vinny Pazienza in there first. Now that Arturo is in, must work on inducting the Pazmanian Devil. And then all other Italian Fighting Machines in the order of worthiness.

Then the Prince. Thank you for your time.[/QUOTE]

Vinnie's not in?? Is he on the ballot even?

dino da vinci says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;38217]Sidebar: How in the HELL are guys like Ken Norton, Ingemar Johansson and Arturo Gatti in the HOF while Prince Naseem sits on the sidelines?[/QUOTE]

Hold up Shadow! Let's get Vinny Pazienza in there first. Now that Arturo is in, must work on inducting the Pazmanian Devil. And then all other Italian Fighting Machines in the order of worthiness.

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Then the Prince. Thank you for your time.

The Shadow says:

[url]http://espn.go.com/blog/dan-rafael/post/_/id/5815/martinez-wants-to-give-cotto-shot

The Shadow says:

#ShadowScoops

[url]<http://www.boxingscene.com/cotto-i-decided-i-want-sergio-martinez-on-6-7--73034>

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;38246]Danggit, The Shadow! Maybe you should be The Pugilistic Prophet. You saw into the mind of Da Bobfather. It will be a giant crowd at Stankee -- I mean Yankee -- Stadium. Hehehe! Holla![/QUOTE]

#ShadowScoops

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brownsugar says:

it must be said that even a wounded, war torn Martinez is still a more dangerous threat than Canelo.the powers that be must be expecting a phenomenal turnout.

amayseng says:

cotto looked tooooooo good to risk a canelo 2 fight losing skid.

so that fight is a no go

depending on what shape Sergio is in will depend on my prediction. although i am

essentially with Bbug, leaning towards Sergio

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You hit it on the head. They cannot lose or even risk yet what they are thinking is their newest

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cash cow for GBP. They already have been burned with hyping Victor Ortiz, Alfredo Angulo, Seth Mitchell and in some ways Danny Jacobs. You also consider that GBP may have some apprehension because in the next two to three years their stable could get very thin in terms of named fighters with any type of recognition. Guys like Hop, Floyd, Zab, Paulie, Chris John, K9 Bundrage, Soto Karass, Morales, Ponce De Leon, Soto will either be out of the sport or in the twilight of their careers. It sets up to where they will only have 6-8 recognizable fighters with some money making potential as where they usually have 15-20.

As for Martinez vs. Cotto, anybody that reads my posts know that I am a Cotto guy and have been for years. However, if Sergio can return to his normal form, I think Cotto may get beaten pretty handily. Sergio would be too fast and too slick for Cotto to catch. I hope I am wrong but I'm having a hard time seeing it any other way.

urone2 says:

Cotto should go and get Molina's title. Molina would have a tough time trying to push Cotto back and he may end up kO'd from the body shots. Then That would set up the rematch with Trout, or Mayweather and a possible fight with Alvarez. Mayweather could fight the winner of the Alexander vs Khan fight in May and Cotto in September.