

If Pacquiao Really Won Why Bother Writing What He Needs To Do This Time?

Written by Frank Lotierzo
Thursday, 03 April 2014 06:39



This coming April 12th, WBO welterweight title-holder Timothy Bradley 31-0 (12) will defend his title in a rematch against the man he won it from 22 months ago, Manny Pacquiao 55-5-2 (38). The controversial split decision in favor of Bradley has been the topic of debate since the decision was announced. In a ringside poll after the fight, 48 out of 51 observers who cover boxing saw Pacquiao as the winner by an overwhelming majority. Harold Lederman, HBO's unofficial judge, scored the fight 119-109 for Pacquiao as did ESPN.com. On June 21st 2012, five WBO championship committee judges scored the fight 117-111, 117-111, 118-110, 116-112 and 115-113 all in favor of Pacquiao and basically said if they had the power, which they do not, they would've overturned the result.

Yes, I'm the same person who emphatically insists that if you don't score the fight live and in the moment, your score doesn't count after you go back and score the replay after knowing the result. So let's throw out the WBO committee's scores because they watched the tape of the fight a week after it took place. I just mentioned them because they were another faction who like everyone else saw Pacquiao as the winner. Instead, let's go by those who scored the fight live and were polled immediately after the fight along with Lederman and ESPN.com. That makes it 50-3 in favor of Pacquiao. In addition to that, I haven't encountered one fan who said they had Bradley as the winner. I could care less how any fan, writer or official scored Pacquiao-Bradley or any other fight regardless whether or not they agree or disagree with me. It just doesn't effect me because I know what I saw and heard. During the fight the commentators didn't focus on Pacquiao's lack of killer instinct or aggression, aside from mentioning that he hasn't won by stoppage since 2009. And after the fight boxing writers and fans weren't focused on Manny's civilized demeanor either. The talk was centered on one topic, and that was how convincingly Pacquiao, 35, won the fight and how the decision was an out-right robbery. Nobody was talking about Pacquiao's complacency or lost desire. However, somewhere along the line that changed and the debate now is more pointed to what Manny must do to win and how he needs to find his mean streak again, as if that's what cost him the decision last time.

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Excuse me, if I go by what everyone has said regarding how the last fight went and who won, wouldn't Bradley, 30, be the fighter who has to change and be better this time since 50 out of 53 supposedly knowledgeable observers saw Pacquiao winning it going away back in June of 2012? If I am to be led by what those supposed experts concluded 22 months ago, Pacquiao did everything right but get the decision the last time. Yet there's been a plethora of newspaper, internet and blog articles and posts specifically pointing out how Pacquiao has to rediscover his meanness again if he really wants to win this time. Even Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach has been sucked into the conversation, but then again he always wants Manny to win by kayo. What!?? The fighter who everybody thinks won the last time and only lost two or three rounds out of twelve, he's the one who has to reinvent himself? Maybe what they're really trying to say is that they fear the fight might be similar to the last one and Bradley may get the decision again. But how is that possible, unless the same judges who worked the first fight work the rematch, which of course will not be the case. There'll be a ton of articles written between now and the fight with cookbook analogies and breakdowns as to what both Pacquiao and Bradley must do strategically to win. But since everyone is insistent that Pacquiao handled Bradley the first time, why write what he has to do this time aside from making sure the same judges don't work the fight? I think those writing and suggesting what Pacquiao needs to do on April 12 are writing more for themselves in an effort to try and showcase what they know more than anything else.

It seems that's there's a new template for boxing writing unfolding. And in that world $A+B=C$ every time. There's also a faction who try to view boxing as rocket science and view fighters as robots that can be programmed. Some believe that strategies and fight plans are rehearsed like Seal Team Six would rehearse for an overseas op. No, that's not the case. Fighters cannot work on three or four things at one time especially during the fight, and if anyone preaches so, they're wrong and never spent meaningful time around championship caliber fighters and trainers. Actually, good trainers try as hard as they can to keep things simple/stupid. And that's because things happen too fast during a fight and they don't want to bog down their fighters mind with too much info and instructions. And that applies in the gym too.

There are legitimate fight plans and good fighters and good trainers use them, but they're subject to moment by moment change, and they are *never* elaborate. Sure, Roberto Duran and Sugar Ray Leonard showed the boxing world that Marvin Hagler wasn't unbeatable if he was forced to lead and carry the fight. On paper or in the boxing laboratory that's sounds great, "if you're fighting Hagler, make him lead." I saw dozens of fighters eaten alive moving away from Hagler. The problem with that cookbook analogy is, name the fighters not named Duran or Leonard who could neutralize Marvin while fighting in retreat? The cookbook formula is only as good as the fighter in the kitchen.

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Look at how many punches Muhammad Ali and Larry Holmes missed in their fights with Jimmy Young and Michael Spinks. The fact is Ali and Holmes hated to fight in the role of George Foreman, however Jimmy and Michael forced them to fight as the predator against them because that was Jimmy's style and Michael's style during his heavyweight days. How many other fighters would've had so much success forcing Muhammad or Larry to fight as the aggressor being they had two of the best jabs in heavyweight history, but Young and Spinks could and did?

Remember when it used to be said how Joe Frazier and Mike Tyson couldn't fight if you made them go back? And that was true, neither Joe or Mike were terribly effective while going back. The problem with that was how many fighters were good enough to force them back when they were in their prime?

Since mostly everyone thinks Pacquiao won the first fight, what does he have to do different in the rematch? Manny knows how to fight and what he basically has to do is make Bradley more uncomfortable this time than he did last time with volume punching coming in waves and hopefully the judges won't be wearing blindfolds. Since Manny doesn't fear being knocked out by Bradley, he and Roach can roll the dice and take the risk and try to go for a knockout this time. And if that's the case, what are Bradley's options? If he wastes his time thinking about perfect foot positioning or glove placement, he's sure to be a former champ the morning after the fight. The best case for Bradley is that he can give Pacquiao just enough to think about with his quick combos/boxing/movement and then get out, or try to catch him in between exchanges.

But if Manny is really aggressive, he'll be limited in that department as well. Basically, Pacquiao wants to make it a war and Bradley needs to keep it a boxing match. When I was training at Frazier's gym in Philadelphia as an amateur there was a period when Meldrick Taylor was training and sparring every day etc. As you know, Taylor was one of the quickest handed and best boxers you'd be likely to find. And his co-trainer, George Benton, forgot more about boxing than Freddie Roach will ever know. It was understood that Meldrick already knew to keep his hands up, his chin down and his feet placed right. What they worked on more than anything else was keeping his combinations flowing effortlessly. Nothing tricky about it. The idea is if fighters of that caliber stay in really good condition, and do all the basics right, then learn how to punch in combination, you'll do well. Does Mikey Garcia really do any more than that?

Ray Arcel, who was a great trainer (infinitely better than anyone today, with the exception of Nacho Beristain) was once asked what advice he gave Roberto Duran. He said, "Roberto Duran already knew how to fight. I didn't show him anything. Once in a while I'd pantomime throwing a jab, just to remind him to throw it. That was it." To make a salient boxing point it

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really doesn't have to be broken down molecule by molecule, unless you're trying to sound smarter than everyone else. Boxing doesn't work like that because nobody is punching at or moving away from the perfect fight plan in the boxing laboratory. Maybe to some writers and fans, boxing is so mysterious, so beyond anything they can do, that they have to attribute things to it that simply don't exist. In a sense, they're right: it *is* something that almost no one can do.

On April 12th both Pacquiao and Bradley will enter the ring with two, perhaps three things on their mind that they'll try to execute against each other during the bout. Once the fight starts there may be a few tweaks but that's it. No scripts or cookbooks in the corner on fight night. It isn't rocket science, it's boxing fundamentals and basics conveyed via the trainer to the fighter. And often times it's more simple/stupid than what most think or want to believe it is.

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Skibbz says:

Nice article. I think Manny will have worked to keep his tools sharp. For Bradley.. His only hope is not to stay in the kitchen. If he does he's gonna get burnt, and burnt bad.

That being said, Bradley has proven to have a solid jaw and an incredible heart. His instincts help him to anticipate what's about to be thrown his way, but I think Manny will turn his motor up this fight compared to their last.

Radam G says:

Nice stuff, Superscribe F-Lo. And that is how it is for greatness. No rocket science necessary. Just plain, old skool KISS -- Killa Instinct, Simply and Short/Keeping It \$weet \$cience. Holla!

brownsugar says:

Nicely written and explained. I felt that Bradley was the first boxer to hold his own against Manny using good movement and nearly matching the not so fierce (in this instance) Filipinostep for step and punch for (pity pat) punch.

Bradley filled in the gaps of Manny's activity much like Tito did against Del la Hoya in the later

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rounds.

Not enough to win, but enough to be in the fight.

Bradley's defiant corner never stopped cracking the whip..." F@#k the foot! " a raging Diaz would implore...

Bradley who himself wore the look of resignation by round 5 simply willed himself back into the fight and while he certainly didn't dominate... He came close on a few exchanges to matching Manny's work.

Bradley was a more complete fighter vs Marquez , ...controlling distance and throwing sharper jabs..hooks and right hands than I've ever witnessed from him previously.

If Manny is sharp and ruthless he could blast Bradley out by the mid rounds... If Bradley has learned anything from the first fight and controls distance (runs for his life) while keeping Manny off his linear path of trajectory (circling away from the left hand) while landing effectively ... We could see a shocking upset.

I think Bradley's fight with Provodnikov may have been the best thing that could have happened to him..because he now knows that he should never trade with big punchers.

Skibbz says:

I think you're right Sugés, Bradley looked a lot better against Marquez than I have ever seen him. Against Provodnikov he should have lost but that's history... He learnt as you say not to go where it's hot, but as his name suggests he can handle himself when it heats up.. He's the Des

Radam G says:

Big Foot, with his new socks on, will indeed get burnt. He has trained with anger. And anger sits in the bosom of not just a fool, but a d@mn fool.

Team Big Foot/Cali Cranium Crusher has already lost four rounds, and are likely to get da double fudge kayoed in round five. And that it no jolting jive. Holla!

Skibbz says:

Seems like everyone I speak to about the fight doesn't see it going the distance.. Bradley's and his new socks are gonna get torn up.

Radam G says:

Bradley looked good against a shot 40-year-old, zombie-moving Marquez. People are making such outta nothing. Tervor Bebick (name misspelled) look good again a zombie-moving GOAT Ali.

The late, great Hector "Macho Time" Camacho looked spectacular again zombie-fied Roberto Duran and Sugar Ray Leonard.

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Joe Blow looked outstanding against an old "Unforgiveable Blackness" Jack Johnson.

And Floyd Cunningham looked good enough to get a draw again an old, late, super great "Smokin'" zombie-fied bob-and-weaving Joe Frazier.

The Siberian Rocky barely missed kayoing Big Foot. He snowed him with punches and put down.

Da Manny will not missed. He's going to blaze Bambi Big Foot with torpedoes and missiles, and then NUKE him with the famous Pinoy "Whuppa' Whop." Holla!

Skibbz says:

You got it RG. Talking of Pinoy boxing.. What happened to the Chavacano Disaster???

jzzy says:

Pacman wasn't in the best of shape for the first Bradley match, not particularly sharp with his punches, and despite the chicanery by the judges, belted Bradley pretty good round after round. This rematch will be different because Manny is really motivated to pound this dude.

Bradley will try to box like he did against Marquez, but unlike Marquez, Manny has stronger legs than Marquez and Bradley and this will be the difference. Bradley can't win the fight backing up and when he attempts to stand and trade he will be tagged. Bradley is bulldog tough but that's not enough against an all time great like an inspired Pacman.

brownsugar says:

You may have something there Skibbz. We'll see what Marquez has left in his next fight against Alvarado...

brownsugar says:

Well its only a little ways away.....and anybody can talk a good fight. Public perception is that Manny has much to prove. We'll see if he can deliver where it counts. I don't really have a favorite here but Diaz and company has been hyping it up while Manny is in the - I'll let my fists do the talking mode-.... Will Bradley's much improved fight game be enough against Da Manny's Quest for vengeance?

All I can really ask for is a good fight.

Skibbz says:

I think he'll deliver it with interest, for the satisfaction of his fans, critics, and Bradley's wishes.

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As for Marquez vs Alvarado, I think it's Alvarado's to win or lose. Marquez will take advantage if Alvarado doesn't box and becomes reckless. If Alvarado does.. He's going to face Pac in the second half of the year.

brownsugar says:

Hummm...well with TR's shrinking roster someone has to get it ...might as well be Alvarado. He'd better not stand too close to JMM.. Or he will get sliced and diced... Trading is JMM's favorite fight plan.

Skibbz says:

And with JMM's plan in mind, how well would the Alvarado that we all know fall into it? Very well... But if he can keep a cool head on his shoulders for the duration of the bout, focus his energies on using his advantages then he could get the golden ticket Arum has up for grabs. I think he will do it, after seeing his previous dance partner get the fight I think he will try his hardest to push for it, but he can't become too forceful because he'll get clipped.

brownsugar says:

[QUOTE=Skibbz;48036]And with JMM's plan in mind, how well would the Alvarado that we all know fall into it? Very well... But if he can keep a cool head on his shoulders for the duration of the bout, focus his energies on using his advantages then he could get the golden ticket Arum has up for grabs. I think he will do it, after seeing his previous dance partner get the fight I think he will try his hardest to push for it, but he can't become too forceful because he'll get clipped.[/QUOTE]

Ditto

amayseng says:

Maybe I am crazy but I saw the first one 10-2 for Pac. Sure Pac did not fight the full 3 minutes of every round but when the F has Floyd fought 3 minutes of any round? His last two fights he spent more time moving than engaging. That is a fact.

So what if Pac did the same thing, Pac's inactivity did nothing to lose him his winning rounds as they were so one sided.

Radam G says:

WOW! Sorry, but it is a BIG optical illusion that the roster of TR is shrinking. I guess nobody and dey ****-eyed fifth cousin know about all the pugs that he has SIGNED from around the globe.

The Shadow Al H***** is working smoke screen and mirror and dropping in trapdoors like Houdini. Don't be surprised if he puts himself in chains, and drown out like Houdini.

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We are dealing with the "theatre of the unexpected." And, of course, some deceptive weasels and nut chasers look as if they are going to win because they are far ahead the pack. Don't believe that an ahead-of-the-pack rabbit is a winning rabbit. That bytch is going to jive and connive and need a nap. Hehehe! The T runner will cross the finish line FIRST! Holla!

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;48051]Maybe I am crazy but I saw the first one 10-2 for Pac. Sure Pac did not fight the full 3 minutes of every round but when the F has Floyd fought 3 minutes of any round? His last two fights he spent more time moving than engaging. That is a fact.

So what if Pac did the same thing, Pacs inactivity did nothing to lose him his winning rounds as they were so one sided.[/QUOTE]

I had it 10-2 as well. And I was being generous to Bradley. I was scoring it live from ringside, broadcasting to Scandinavia. Got a shitload of comments once I posted he was robbed.

Thought he lit up Bradley in the exchanges. Usually Pacquiao is bruised and marked up after a fight. This time, he came to the podium, looking as if he had just gone swimming.

Bradley, on the other hand, came out in a wheelchair and was talking wild. "I did it, man. I beat Pacquiao. He can get a rematch," he said and pointed to that poster of his. "Number two, pound for pound, baby!"

Pacquiao is held to crazy standards because he's a volume puncher and shot thousands of punches vs. Cottey and Margarito. People forget that the reason you get off with that many shots is because of their defense.

A guy like Bradley limits your output. Still, Pacquiao shook Bradley up whenever he fired that left hand missile of his.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;48057]WOW! Sorry, but it is a BIG optical illusion that the roster of TR is shrinking. I guess nobody and dey ****-eyed fifth cousin know about all the pugs that he has SIGNED from around the globe.

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Top Rank has signed something like 10-12 Olympians. American viewers are more receptive to

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foreigners nowadays, as long as they out someone to sleep. They're capitalizing on that.

They also want to tap into the Chinese-Americans, especially those Friscos in Frisco. Lol. Zou is good on paper. But he's too light, hits too light so he will have more of an impact in China.

BRIC ECONOMICS, BABY!

dino da vinci says:

At the first fight. Attended it with Bryan Vasquez, who's going to be the first fight on HBO the night of the rematch. After they announced the decision he turned to me and said, no, Manny. So Manny may have won in two languages. I felt Pac didn't look as sharp as he had in the past, but didn't sense Bradley had found a way to win. I literally talked through the entire fight fielding questions about Bryan who seems to be instantly popular wherever we go. I was going to score it at a later point, but Max Kellerman said he did, gave Bradley every close round he possibly could and still had Manny winning. CJ Ross should be arrested on charges of fraud.

brownsugar says:

Wow...I think jaws dropped around the world Dino... Who woulda thought they would rob Da Manny?

I gave Paq a clear win by an 8-4 margin. The first time I saw it it looked like 11-1. But after turning off Lampleys over excited audio I notice a lot more of Tims defense , missed punches, and counter strikes I missed initially in the heat of the action.

dino da vinci says:

[QUOTE=brownsugar;48074]Wow...I think jaws dropped around the world Dino... Who woulda thought they would rob Da Manny?

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@Sugar. After all that's been made about this fight, if after further review you tell me it was 8-4, then it was 8-4. I'm forever on the lookout for great opinions, and I consider yours one of them.

True, who would of thought a cash cow would get robbed? Except the various components in place come complete with built-in flaws. They are bad amateur judges who are truly clueless who use their networking to get bumped up to then become bad professional judges. How many careers have been destroyed? Fighters having their psyches damaged by lame inept judging? Judges who are oblivious to the fact they haven't a clue... and they get compensated for the privelage.

Radam G says:

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Dang, The Shadow! Hehehehehe! You are calling B-Camp from the Frisco dead. Dude is gonna come back stepping!

So many AmerKanos just don't know that it is a whole big world outside of mainland U.S. They honestly believe that The Shadow Al H***** got da Bobfather on da edge. But as Da Manny is going to do to Big Foot, da Bobfather is hollering at TSAH: OOPS, UPSIDE da HEAD! Hitting 'em upside da HEAD!

Peek-a-boo! I got a surprise for you. Da Bobfather is/has signed 2012 O-Games winning Asians from middleweight to heavyweight. Asians and Friscos are coming, babeee!

I'm about ready to train one of ex-NBA basketballer Dennis Rodman's gaint Pinoy brothers. Man, Rev.[Big] George's sons ain't got nuffin' on a couple of the Pinoy Rodman brothers.

Goggle Rodman's pops and his 15 or so Pinoy blood brothers will like come up too. Holla!

Radam G says:

@DDV! Thanks for clearing up that nonsense about turning down the sound. You know that Sin City is an international city where about 40 percent of the people attending bouts and visiting there do not speak an iota of English. All the none-speaking English Arabs, Africans, East Europeans and none-English speaking Asians thought that Da Manny won too.

I had friends who called from Tokyo, Hong Kong and Korea, and asked me WDDF was going on. They had the free American Forces telecast of the bout in English, and speak as much English as you speak Amharic. Now you don't speak any Amharic, do you?

The whole darn world didn't need to turn any sound down to know who WON!

Bradley's nuthuggers and Pac-haters are so full of it. And think they are smarter than everybody else and dey crossed-eye two-time removed insane in da membrane auntie. They ought QUIT, and go to the Land of Oz and get some unprejudice seeing eyes that work inspite of sounds. Or Maybe the Land of Oz's humbug behind that curtain will give them a seeing-eye dog or cat or parrot or sumptin' [sic]! Hehehe!

Da Manny won that fight, and is going to WIN it again in the Angry-GOD fashion. Da punkedified [sic] God in Da Manny is GONE! Mommy D, aka PacMom, will be in a ringside with nuns. So you can bet that Da Manny is going be Killa' instinct MEAN with nuns representing God on da scene.

Da Manny is gonna the crush the Cali Cranium Crusher "like a jelly bean."

Oh, YUP! Big Foot is going to be in so much trouble and terror, and his doggs are going be arching even with the socks on, that he will attempt to billy-goat ram his big-arse Cranium into Da Manny mugs and bust his eyelids open to save his noise-making-talking arse from a KAYO. Holla!

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Radam G says:

Imma be in a ringside seat. And Imma have earmuffins on, so that I cannot hear Da Manny's shot-and-missile type punches as on the Cali Cranium Crusher's eyelids, nose and jaws, they supersonically beat.

Oh, YUP! My sound is going be way down. And with just my eyeballs, on Big Foot, Imma gonna see Da Manny clown. There will be no hating judge there or one who's just lowdown. Da Manny is gonna easily win back his WBO crown. Holla!