

Maidana's Moment

Written by Aaron Lowinger
Tuesday, 06 May 2014 07:29



No one is used to seeing Floyd Mayweather getting knocked around, especially not Floyd Mayweather.

Immediately after twelve of the closest rounds Floyd Mayweather has endured in almost ten years, during which he was roughed up, repeatedly fouled and visibly frustrated; he stood before the microphone to explain that this was the plan all along.

After volleying some hollow platitudes in Marcos Maidana's direction, he absurdly explained that he let it all happen to make the fight better for the fans. Basically, an admission that he knows everyone wants to see him get beat up.

Mayweather is already firmly entrenched in the long line of polarizing champions, but even this was beyond the pale. It gave the fans, who were surely entertained with a spectacular fight, and one Mayweather could put in his back pocket of great moments in his career, something else to think about entirely. IF it's true, that Mayweather took a page from Timothy Bradley's Provodnikov playbook and accepted Maidana's fury in order to provide something more watchable than his last half-dozen fights, that it's essentially all a money grab and nothing more, where do we go from here?

Look, I get it. His name is Money, he likes it a lot (honestly I don't even think he cares about money, he just knows that you do). He likes to pay more for a ridiculous ring entrance than to his ring opponent so he can march under the umbrella of soulless American celebrity. He's the

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grand egoist in a sport that demands it, but don't pretend it's all about the money; the money is only a by-product of what he really wants and that is the power and attention it all affords him.

Even with fighting only twice a year and almost never getting hit, boxing is a mentally grueling sport to be in for 20 years. It demands constant repetition, constant attention to his body. Perhaps no other sport carries such an inequitable training to performance ratio. As long as there has been prize-fighting, there have been boxers who have grown numb to the routine mid-career. Adrien Broner beat up Carlos Molina on Floyd's undercard and looked visibly bored. He had WAY more fun opening his mouth AFTER the fight. If anything, I might believe that Mayweather taste-tested Maidana's power early, because it would have been simply too boring for him otherwise.

There were moments in the fight where Mayweather seemed perfectly able to do what everyone predicted: box Maidana on the outside and pick him off as he came in. If you were to make the argument that Floyd was toying with Chino the whole time, you could make a pretty compelling YouTube montage to prove the point. But the counter argument would be Maidana's relentless ability to back Mayweather into the ropes, going to the body from distance and attacking the head inside Mayweather's phone booth.

It would be criminal to give Mayweather sole credit for providing the fireworks on a main event that could serve as a celebration of all things boxing. Maidana's one of the sport's most consistent practitioners: relentless, powerful, and fearless. He gave his greatest performance at his career's probable climax. He might not have the speed and reflexes to match the best boxer in the game, but he's everything else. He won the crowd and he almost won the fight.

The chants descended from the faithful at the top of the MGM Grand and slowly trickled down into newly-converted Chino fans, hastening to the invisible manna to replace the fake-money confetti that Floyd rained on the crowd during his circus entrance with Justin Bieber and Lil' Wayne.

Every fighter who legitimately can claim victory after 12 rounds, invariably does, and Maidana was no exception. When asked about a possible rematch, he put down the cookie he was inhaling and said without bitterness said that he should be the one granting the rematch, because he won the fight. The bad side of the boxing biz is scared to see their fighters to get beat. They need to think on thousands of fans staying in their seats to salute both fighters in Las Vegas on Saturday night.

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The rematch negotiations commenced immediately inside the ring, with an obtuse Mayweather insisting he picks fights based on fan demand. All Maidana's camp wanted to know from the suddenly bubbly Golden Boy's Richard Schaefer was whether Maidana could wear his regular gloves next time. It was a perfect hidden moment: a bored fighter might be insisting instead on getting a better cut of the purse, but all Chino wants is a better chance to win. Mayweather can claim he carried Maidana, let him inside the inner sanctum for the fans' sake, but the truth is Maidana got nowhere near enough money to help make Money richer. That's a big reason Schaefer was so happy and immediately agreed.

Maidana, for now, is just happy to be here. The money will take care of itself. He's thirty years old and able to make hay as a network main event against the pool of great fighters at welterweight.

Mayweather can say whatever he wants about his performance, but I don't see the shame in admitting his legs didn't have their usual spring and that he had to gut a close one out. There's holes in his 37-year old armor either way.

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deepwater2 says:

MM made the most of his moment. He really beat Floyd up in there. It was a close fight. Floyd by 1 round, a draw, MM by 1 round are all reasonable scorecards. Those crooked judges with 117- 111 cards are not blind they are corrupt because they favor the so called A side. Floyd over-ruled the commission's decision regarding the gloves so once again Floyd stacked the cards in his favor. Regarding clinching it is allowed but when the ref says break you only have a few seconds to break or its excessive and you should be deducted points. Floyd s clinching was borderline but hey he was getting mauled in there. Mohammad Ali just called for the Pac - Mayweather fight so lets see Floyd complain about not doing business with a promoter to avoid the biggest fight in history.

SouthPawFlo says:

There's no doubt that there will be a rematch and Chino has more negotiating leverage now..

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He definitely will get more money and he should get to use the gloves he wants....

A rematch with a proper promotion tour will do at least 1.5 on the low end and 2 million with a solid undercard....

oubobcat says:

I have to go back and re-score the fight. Mayweather claims he fought the way he did to appease the fans. I do not think that is true for a second. He fought in a more "fan-friendly" style because Maidana forced him to do so.

The rematch does seem inevitable for September. There just simply aren't too many other marketable fights for Mayweather at the moment. Amir Khan has already stated that he is unable to go in September for religious purposes. Danny Garcia is probably fighting this summer and doesn't seem interested at this moment anyway in a Mayweather fight. So Maidana seems the only viable option if Mayweather goes through with the September date.

deepwater2 says:

MM might get more money but there is no way the fight gets made if Chino gets to wear the Cleto Reyes or the Everlast MX. Floyd will not allow the Mexican style glove. I love those style of gloves by the way. Any fighter that tries them on gets an instant smile. The commission approves them all the time, TMT fighters wear them all the time. Floyd cant wear them due to his brittle hands , so that's his choice to wear the pillows, but the commission should override him picking his opponent's gloves for sure. I suspect a different outcome if chino had on the punchers gloves. Cotto wore those gloves and Floyd felt some of his punches for sure so maybe he didn't want to go through it again. But no way Floyd fights Chino if Chino gets the nice punchers gloves.

deepwater2 says:

[QUOTE=oubobcat;51740]I have to go back and re-score the fight. Mayweather claims he fought the way he did to appease the fans. I do not think that is true for a second. He fought in a more "fan-friendly" style because Maidana forced him to do so.

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He might fight Cotto if Cotto wins. Pac, Chino and Cotto are the only ones. Floyd is still feeling the effect of Chino's punches . With millions in the bank Floyd really might hang them up soon.

oubobcat says:

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I could definitely see a Cotto rematch if Cotto wins. I wonder if Floyd will wait until after the Cotto-Martinez fight is over and all the chips are on the table before moving forward with any type of negotiations. A September fight with Cotto may be too soon (maybe not, who knows) or Floyd could forgo the September date altogether and either aim for later date in 2014 or wait until next May. Floyd is a business man first and will take whatever makes most business sense for him despite what he says about what the fans want. If he always fought who the fans wanted then wouldn't we have seen a Pacquiao fight by now?

Yes, I know Cotto is fighting for the Middleweight title at 160. But there can always be a catchweight negotiated (say 155 or 156). Its a strong possibility if Cotto wins.

amayseng says:

I do not believe for a second that Floyd took all that punishment, legal and illegal just to make the fans happy. Fact is he got hurt to the body in round one and it took him till round 7 to get his legs back.

Floyd said after the fight that he fought that way to please the fans but would fight totally differently next fight. Well ****, then next time you are not gonna please the fans? If you are just gonna bicycle then no one is buying the fight.

Floyd would be smarter to say that he got hurt early by a shot and had to dig deep to pull off the win.

This would make him seem more vulnerable and would increase his ppv buys as people would start expecting more competitive fights.

I was at a bachelor party weekend with 14 guys and on Saturday night I offered for the group after dinner to head to the local sports bar to catch the fight.

13 guys all declined stating Mayweather is boring, instead we spent 4 hours at the restaurant drinking and lounging.

These guys are all ex athletes too. Not boxers, but all the other major sports but have no interest in Mayweather because they feel he isnt exciting.

I was the only one wanting to go, what does that tell ya?

deepwater2 says:

I know that feeling man. Hey good for Chino for making the fight. Chino is home right now getting a parade. The fans have to demand the rematch Chino or the mega fight with PAC. Ali and Lennox Lewis are even calling for the fight now.

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El Dude says:

Injustice was the unmemorable memory that is to be for ever remembered knowing that Maidana won the fight between Floyd who stole his "moment". Floyd resemble a frantic person being attacked by the swarm of Maidana's Bee-Hive Punches with no way of repelling the unrelenting aggression. There is no way that The P4P Clinch won and there is no way to explain the 117-111 but to compare it with a 211 on a 711. The surveillance video of the truth exists for life and not even Floyd can hide from that. El Dude calls it like I see it and I am in it to win it like Maidana who came and did it. I know who's house this is and where I am but I'm in a fight and where I come from we hold nothing back so keep it swinging.
a moment by El Dude.