

Saul “Canelo” Alvarez Meets Matthew Hatton on Saturday

Written by David A. Avila

Tuesday, 01 March 2011 22:17



Talk about living fast.

20-year-old Saul “Canelo” Alvarez dates a former Miss Universe contestant, parties with the rich and is one of the most recognized celebrities in all of Mexico and parts of the United States.

Is the lovable redhead moving too fast?

No time for kisses and hugs this Saturday when Alvarez (35-0-1, 26 KOs) faces England’s Matthew Hatton (41-4-2, 16 KOs) for the vacant WBC junior middleweight world title at the Honda Center in Anaheim. The fight will be televised by HBO.

One man who knows a thing or two about international popularity is Alvarez’s promoter Oscar De La Hoya.

“I’ve been down with him in Mexico many times. He does have that rock star-like following from the grandmothers to the teenagers. It is truly incredible. I haven’t seen something like that, obviously, since I’ve been fighting,” said De La Hoya who generated more money than any prizefighter in history. “This fighter is not only charismatic and is a good looking kid, but he can fight. I’ve been witness to that, up close and personal. We feel that Saúl “Canelo” Álvarez can be the biggest thing that has hailed from Mexico inside that square circle.”

Alvarez, a very young world title challenger, may be moving too fast. One person who knows the feeling is Oxnard’s Fernando “El Feroz” Vargas who at the time was the youngest to win a junior middleweight world title back in 1998.

Is Alvarez ready for the more experienced boxer Hatton?

Hatton, 29, is the younger brother of Ricky “The Hitman” Hatton, who was England’s most popular fighter in decades and a former world champion. He’s mostly fought as a welterweight but a chance to fight for a world title whether it’s welterweight or junior middleweight enticed him to grab the opportunity.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity for me. It’s a fight that I thought was coming around. It’s a fight that’s been mentioned to me a couple of times in the past. It’s a fight I’ve always been up for. It’s not happened in the past, but finally, we can get it on now,” said Hatton who lives and trains in Manchester, England.

Hatton also believes that Alvarez has not been tested for his own brand of fighting skills.

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"I think in his fights so far, he's had a lot of things his own way," said Hatton during a telephone conference call. "I've had fights in my career in the past where I've had to dig deep and come through rough patches in fights. I don't think he's had those experiences yet so far."

Guadalajara's Alvarez was the first to knock out Argentina's Carlos Baldomin last September and followed that with a win over former world title challenger Lovemore N'Dou this past December. He's living in the fast lane.

"I don't care about what they say about me, or the criticism. I just go in there to win," says Alvarez.

Just recently his older brother Rigoberto Alvarez, 33, fought for the vacant WBA junior middleweight world title but lost to New Mexico's Austin Trout by unanimous decision. The fight took place in the Alvarez stronghold of Guadalajara. He still lost. Now the youngest of the Alvarez brothers fights in his Southern California stronghold.

"This is a tough fight. I do think I'm going to win this fight, but it's going to be a tough fight. I don't want to get too ahead of myself, but yes, I've always said that, all along, that I'm ready for the big names," Alvarez insists.

Hatton knows he's the villain on this show, but takes it in stride.

"Obviously, Saúl is very popular in Mexico. Obviously, in L.A., it's like fighting in his backyard. It's obviously going to be Saúl who is going to have the bulk of the support and rightly so, but no, it's not something where I'm concerning myself," Hatton says. "I'm going to put on one hell of a show. I hope the people will respect that."

Can Opie, I mean Canelo win a world title at 20?

There's a lot riding on his career including future dates with Miss Universe contestants.

That's a lot of pressure.

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Fights on television

Fri. Telefutera, 11:30 p.m., Vicente Escobedo (22-3) vs. Walter Estrada (38-13-1).

Sat. HBO, 7 p.m., Saul Alvarez (35-0-1) vs. Matthew Hatton (41-4-2).

Sat. MTV2, 8 p.m., Bellator Fighting Championship welterweight MMA quarter finals.

Sat. Showtime, 8 p.m., Dan Henderson (26-8) vs. Rafael Cavalcante (10-2) MMA.

Fight Chatter

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Greg Goossen, 65, a former Major League Baseball player, passed away last Saturday, Feb. 26. He was the older brother of boxing promoter Dan Goossen and boxing trainer Joe Goossen. He was scheduled to be inducted in the Notre Dame High School Hall of Fame on the very day he died. Services will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday March 10, at St. Francis Church located at 13368 Valleyheart Drive in Sherman Oaks, Calif. 91423. For more information call (818) 784-9573.

Junior lightweight contender Vicente “Chente” Escobedo (22-3) headlines the main event on Friday at Fantasy Springs Casino when he fights Walter Estrada (38-13-1) in a 10 round bout. Also, Coachella’s Randy Caballero (7-0) challenges dangerous Palm Spring’s fighter Hugo Ramos (3-7-2) whose record is deceiving. Las Vegas boxer Sharif Bogere (18-0) is also on the card. For more information (800) 827-2946.

Light heavyweight Otis Griffin (23-6-2) fights Yusaf Mack (28-3-2) on Friday, March 4 at Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills. Mexico’s Raymundo Beltran (23-4) meets Carlos Vinan (10-8-4) in a lightweight bout. For more information contact Bash Boxing Promotions (626) 388-8888.

Temecula’s Dan Henderson (26-8) fights Rafael “Feijao” Cavalcante (10-2) for the Strikeforce light heavyweight title on Saturday at the Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio. The MMA superstar Henderson is coming off a solid win over Babalu Sobral. The fight will be televised on Showtime at 10 p.m.

Battle of the Badges, a charity boxing event takes place Saturday March 5 at Pala Casino to benefit Cops 4 Kids and Communities. Firefighters, police officers and various other law enforcement officers will be battling each other to raise money for the non-profit organization. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. For more information (800) 585-3737.

The new WBA lightweight world champion Brandon Rios from Oxnard has ties to the Riverside area. His trainer Robert Garcia is the brother of Moreno Valley’s Miguel Garcia, one of the top rated featherweights in the world. The father Eduardo Garcia also lives in Moreno Valley. Rios knocked out Miguel Acosta last Saturday in Las Vegas.

Riverside’s Michael Franco (18-0, 12 KOs) knocked out Martin Armenta (15-27-3) at 2:19 of the fourth round in a featherweight bout. Franco was scheduled to fight at San Manuel but then opted to fight in Mexico.

WBO junior featherweight world titleholder Ana “The Hurricane” Julaton (8-2-1) successfully defended her title with a unanimous decision win over Franchesca Alcanter (18-10-1) after 10 rounds in Point Richmond, California. Julaton is from Daly City.

Mexico City’s Marco Periban (11-0, 8 KOs) knocked out Michigan’s Dion Savage (10-1, 6 KOs) in 33 seconds of a super middleweight fight in San Diego last Friday. Both were undefeated but Periban had faced the tougher competition. On the same card welterweight Danny Garcia (20-0, 14 KOs) stopped John Figueroa (7-9-3).

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Former junior welterweight and welterweight world champion Zab Judah (40-6, 27 KOs) fights for the vacant IBF junior welterweight title against Kaizer Mabuza (23-6-3, 14 KOs) on Saturday at the Prudential Center's small theater in Newark, New Jersey.

WBO flyweight world titleholder Julio Cesar Miranda (35-5-1, 28 KOs) knocked out challenger Arden Diale (14-6-3) of the Philippines at 1:29 of the fourth round to retain the title on Saturday in Queretaro, Mexico. It was Miranda's third successive title defense and all came via the knockout.

WBC junior flyweight titleholder Gilberto Keb Bass (35-20-4, 22 KOs) stopped Jose Aguirre (35-10-1) at the end of the eighth round to keep the world title. It was Bass' first world title defense. The fight took place in Yucatan, Mexico.

The Bellator Fighting Championship quarter finals for the welterweight title takes place at Tachi Palace in Lemoore, California. Participating will be Jay Hieron versus Anthony Lapsley; Lyman Good against Chris Lozano; Dan Hornbuckle meeting Brent Weedman and Rick Hawn fighting Jim Wallhead to name one pool. The MMA fight card will be televised by MTV2 at 8 p.m.

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brownsugar says:

my question is... how are they going to be able to keep moving the kid slow and duck the talent after he wins a title...certain light heavy weights can get away with that stuff in Europe... but how do you continuously hide from real talent in your own weight class year after year on the north american continent????... (well I forgot about Berto,and Chavez Jr.....Damn!)

brownsugar says:

Wow Fe'roz,.. only you could come up with that one lol...

brownsugar says:

but the sad part is that it's true...

the Roast says:

Once again the kid is only 20 years old. Berto has been WBC champ for how long now and he keeps fighting Micky Dolenz and unknown guys named Rodriguez. It'll be like on the job training. Maybe Alvarez will flame out in a couple years like Fernando Vargas. He looks like a real fighter to me. We'll see.

brownsugar says:

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Fe'Roz is on his muscle tonight... you been drinking Ariza's protein juice??speaking of the rent.. I've got to hit the sheets so I can make mine. peace out.....

the Roast says:

YEAH! Tell it Fe'Roz tell it! The man is back!!!

Radam G says:

Ditto Fe'Roz! Holla!