Written by Ron Borges
Thursday, 09 June 2011 14:31

Maybe Floyd Mayweather, Jr. is smarter than most people think he is, a reality he made obvious this week.

Mayweather not only scooped the world by announcing on his Twitter account his return to the ring after what will have been by fight time a 16-month hiatus but he figures to earn millions on September 17 for something that will be little more than a gym fight.

Certainly newly crowned WBC welterweight champion Victor Ortiz is younger, bigger and perhaps hungrier. He is a southpaw as well, one who packs considerable punching power and has in recent fights shown a resilience that earlier in his career didn't seem to be present. But despite all of those attributes the simple fact is he's a 24-year-old kid who two fights ago fought a draw with Lamont Peterson so how is he going to handle the speed, ring savvy, defensive wizardry and speed of someone who may well be the best fighter in the world?

He isn't… and Mayweather knows it, yet will prepare for him as if he might, which is one of the things that has made Mayweather a five division world champion and one of the best fighters of his time.

Mayweather has not fought since he dismantled Shane Mosley on May 1, 2010, winning 11 of 12 rounds in ever more lopsided fashion until he had not only beaten Mosley but embarrassed him. Eight months earlier he inflicted even worse damage on one of the best fighters in the world, undersized but formidable Juan Manuel Marquez. Marquez has twice taken Manny Pacquiao to the brink of defeat (and many would argue over it) yet looked like he didn't belong in the same business with Mayweather.

What that all means is that Mayweather has fought only 24 rounds since stopping Ricky Hatton in December, 2007 with two lengthy layoffs. For a fighter whose trade centers on perfect timing, speed and precision that could mean problems but not against someone as raw and wide open to be hit as Ortiz.

Yet Ortiz will be sold as an opponent who is naturally bigger and a dangerous puncher and the world will buy it because underneath all the hype they know what this really is. It's a showcase for Mayweather, a tune-up against someone who outwardly resembles Pacquiao but will offer none of his skill and only a fraction of his danger.

What he will offer though, is a chance for Mayweather to prepare himself against an aggressive southpaw who punches hard and likes to come forward. Sound like anybody you can think of?

"At this stage of my career these are the challenges I look for,'' Mayweather tweeted. "Young, strong, rising stars looking to make his mark in boxing by beating me.''

Mayweather went on to say Ortiz (29-2-2, 22 KO) is destined to become "just another casualty, the 42nd one who tried and failed.'' That's about as honest an assessment of what is likely to happen as you're going to get between now and Sept. 17.

To his credit, Ortiz twice got off the deck to dethrone Andre Berto on April 16, answering back both times with knockdowns of his own. By the end he seemed the fresher and more willing participant in what was his breakthrough moment. That's the good news but if Berto could find the openings to twice drop him what will happen when Mayweather, who is an underrated

puncher, unleashes his fast hands on those openings?

What is going to happen is that Ortiz is going to begin being hit by waves of punches, a volume the likes of which he has never seen. If that were all it might be more than enough but Mayweather (41-0, 25 KO) also comes armed with a defense that is all but impregnable. His defense is, in some ways, his offense, frustrating opponents into taking unwise chances and paying dearly for them.

Fighters like Mosley and Marquez, who were vastly more experienced and skilled than young Ortiz, were baffled by that defense and ultimately battered by what comes with it. Will a 24-year-old who struggled with Lamont Peterson have answers they did not?

Do we have to answer that question?

The point of this fight is that it is a master stroke of fistic and financial genius by Mayweather. By taking on Ortiz two months before Pacquiao fights his rubber match with Marquez (draw and split decision for Pac-Man in the first two, both hotly disputed by Marquez and many at ringside), Mayweather will have the opportunity to again showcase his rare combination of skills while picking off another potential Pacquiao opponent.

With the recent détente reached between Pacquiao's promoter, Bob Arum, and Mayweather's chief negotiator (but not quite promoter), Richard Schaefer and Golden Boy Promotions, this fight seems to finally set the stage for one next May that the world has been craving for – Mayweather vs. Pacquiao.
By then, Mayweather will have given himself a chance to fine tune his skills against an aggressive young southpaw with less skill and speed than Pacquiao but with enough similarities to make it a high paid gym session well worth taking.

Two months later, if history means anything, Pacquiao will square off with a far more complicated opponent in Marquez. Though at a size disadvantage and not quite what he once was, the 37-year-old Marquez has always seemed to be someone who had Pacquiao's number. If he does again, Pacquiao is still the favorite to win but will he look as good against someone Mayweather destroyed as Mayweather will look against an inexperienced but willingly aggressive Ortiz?

Victor Ortiz will look at this all as an opportunity. At 24, it will be his biggest payday and his biggest fight. What it will also be though is a public sacrifice designed not to advance his career but the cause of making the biggest fight in boxing – Floyd Maywather, Jr. vs. Manny Pacquiao.

Comment on this article

undisputed34 says:

excellent article..

Radam G says:

This bout is going to be in Texas. Most folks believe that the old Wide, Wide West cowboys always won. Well They didn't. The Native Americans/Indians pull a few unexpected upsets. I'm saying it now. Vicious Victor Ortiz is going to make Money May into a General Custer. That's RIGHT! Give him a surprised attack and an everlasting historical thrashing. I see the handwriting on the wall. Money May is emotionally and psychologically damaged. The Mosley dance did more harm to him, than the average Joe and know nothing know. It not the extremity of the damage, it's the type. Mosley hurt Money May in ways -- emotional and psychological -- that only a REAL boxer would know. This EaP put a taxing on Money May and Long, Tall Paul Williams in 2010.

Anyway! Jack Dempsey didn't fight for three years and got taken down by Gene Tunney. Sonny "Night-Train" Liston fought twice in three years and got it put on him by the then Cassius Clay. Money May has just fought twice in four years. The Vicious One is going to surprise Money May. That is, if the bout happens. I'm calling a shocking eight round knockout or stoppage for Victor. But I wouldn't be surprised to see Money May fake an injury and quit on the stool. If this happening, Vicious VO will be the Fighter of the Year. Danny Garcia will be the Trainer of the Year. Mayweather-Ortiz Bout will be Upset of the Year. And possibly VVO will get the Knockout of the Year. Holla!

Real Talk says:

This fight won't be a skip in the park. Ortiz is has a good corner and he's rejuvenated his career with a win over Andre Berto. Ortiz has speed and power and good footwork and is comiing to win and make his mark in the TSSU. As long as Floyd prepares and comes to this fight as Floyd then he will take care of business. I'm looking forward to the display of skills on a level rarely seen in boxing. Definately a treat and not to much after my B-Day. Don't be surprised to see me ringside with a REAL TALK T-shirt on. Dueces

Real Talk says:

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We can dream can't we LOLOLOLOL!!!! Like DMC said "that's not all Mc's have the gual, to pray and pray for my downfall" It aint happening, Vic got 4 rounds, that's it, then he's trapped in the house of pain, and he can jump around like the song by House of Pain all he wants but the Sharp shots will keep finding him. He can try to rough Floyd up like Berto but he'll immediately know the difference. The harder you bring it the more the hands come out like African Killer bee's.....You can't hate on what's great but just make sure you aint late to your seat to sit at the feet of a Master all time great!!! The world anticipated, the masses salivated the event can't come soon enough they can't TAKE IT!!! You already know what the spill is, I'ma pound this through ya gates till you feel this.
Lines of communications cracklin, sizzlin unprecedented dividends in the bill-i-ons. The gears in motion holmes spinning like Michellins, the King is BACK hailing from Grand Rapids Michigan walking up to the throne to sit again, the envy in ya heart is sickenin. Step aside I here ya heart pounding ya petrified, the revolution Megabout WILL be televised!!! You can spew venom n play games, be better off trying to stop a runaway freight train. HERE COME THE PAIN!!!!My manz about kick @$$ n take names. "HERE COME THE PAIN!!!" We aint playing no catch weight games. HERE COME THE PAIN!!! Me I'm the door to make change, (HERE COME THE PAIN)you ...you over there acting way strange. DUECES

the Roast says:

Damn Fe'Roz, where have you been? I disagree with your take on this fight. I do think Floyd will win but not by KO. Hatton(theres only one) was a little guy compared to Ortiz. Ortiz came into the ring vs Berto at 160-165 if I remember right. Floyd hit JMM at will and didnt get the KO. Ortiz is not known for his chin and he will get hit with alot of clean counters but hes too big for Floyd to KO. I just hope Ortiz doent hit Floyd as flush as Shane did in that 2nd round. The kid might wreck the superfight!

the Roast says:

But he got up! Twice!

the Roast says:

You got a good point there my friend. I think Victor learned from the fallout and bad press he got from quitting vs Maidana. That drove him in that fight with Berto, who may not have been all that, but I like the comparison that you make. That was a much younger Floyd who was still trying to prove himself vs Diego. Today's Floyd Mayweather is a bit more cautious. If he would have applied himself more during the JMM tuneup, he could have got JMM out of there. He chose to cruise in the second half of that fight. I'm just glad Floyd is getting back in the ring. The Pacman fight can and will happen!

brownsugar says:

Make no doubt about it. Victor Vicious Ortiz is the most credible challenge in the entire welterweight division. More credible than Marquez or Mosley. This match up has invigorated the boxing world like no fight we'll every see at 147 this year. Kudos to both men for bringing such a valid confrontation to tha Masses ...BOXING IS FINALLY ALIVE AGAIN.!!!

the Roast says:

Tell it B-Sug!

brownsugar says:

But Pac ain't fighting nobody but an old Marquez is he? He could have beat Floyd to Ortiz...it would have been a far more appealing matchup.. who cares about Floyd's personal life...or what he does with his money..You had to see him on video JUST 2 WEEKS ago breaking bread with his babies momma at his mothers house..so what's the worst that can happen in that case? It's clear she's got some splaining to do..This is about boxing.Floyd's return to the ring. It's huge for fight fans..I wouldn't care if he slapped his own momma once a day and twice on Sunday..Floyd returning to the ring vs the Top Notch Ortiz is worthy of glass of Champagne!.. Ortiz is bigger stronger and faster than a prime ODLH ...HE will make this good or possibly get an upset. Good to see you back my friend hope we can discuss the more after a good nights sleep..you've always been the class ofthe TSS don't stay gone so long.pc.

nashingun says:

another [B][I]mediocre cherry pick fight[/I][/B] for mayweather huh! nah, ill pass... if floyd dont fight pacquiao i have no interest seeing him up there in the ring.

[I]-im beginning to see floyds clear motivation. cowardice.[/I]

nashingun says:

ow, you forget the standing challenge from pacquiao camp! floyd can take pacquiao anytime. but heres the problem, floyd dont seem to find the challenge interesting! a $65M purse? whats wrong with floyd maywear this days? lost his balls with pacquiao when he keeps calling himself the MONEY MAY? mind you, pacquiao is still waiting for floyd to come out and fight him. and if you think this ortiz fight interests us, well, its just you floyd fans who want this fight, not us boxing fans.

nashingun says:

BOXING IS FINALLY ALIVE AGAIN? just for you... not for all of us. floyd the chicken out guy fails to take pacquiao... AGAIN! chicken!

brownsugar says:

So nashingun Marquez is a bigger threat than the #3 welterweight champion?. Do you think Marquez would last 12 rounds with Ortiz. One benefit of Mayweather getting back into ring is seeing all you hatrers come out the woodwork...welcome back.

brownsugar says:

The same people who have spent years telling us how overrated Mayweather is are back to tell us now how great his boxing talents are now that he's fighting Ortiz. He's 34 and has been out of the ring for 16 months. Now he's supposed to be good enough to stop a prime Champion just because his name is Mayweather ...nobody is that good...or is he? You write the script. You decide....

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

USADA will make sure the playing field is level. There is no way any current welterweight beats Mayweather on a level playing field! Money has lost a little bit of his reflexes, but he reminds me B-Hop in that regard. B-Hop has aged well because he is a old school technical fighter and I believe that Money will be able to fall back on his technical skills as he reaches the end of his prime also. On the other hand, Roy Jones was technically flawed as fighter (pulling back from punches, etc) and relied strickly on his reflexes, which has come back to bite him. To make things worst he doesn't have a chin. What we learned from Mayweather's fight against Mosley is that he has a very good chin and that it is going to take more than a big punch to take him out. The only fighter that I think gives Mayweather a run for his money is Sergio Martinez and Floyd will never fight him. Sergio is bigger and has great boxing skills and athletic ability. Fighting Martinez would be tougher than fighting Manny and everybody on this board knows that. Manny is a media creation, Timothy Bradley, Mike Jones, or Andre Berto would probably beat his a$$ and Martinez would put him in the hospital. Holla!

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ultimoshogun says:

@nashingun, "For me, I don't care about that fight. I am satisfied with everything that I have done in boxing. I want to fight because the people want the fight." This was Manny's exact response when asked about Mayweather after the Mosley fight... You've been criticizing Floyd for not fighting Pacman, but it doesn't sound like Manny's very anxious to get in the ring with Floyd either.

Radam G says:

USADA does everything Money May's way. All of these superworking, effective steriods and PEDs are trumped-up mythology that USADA loves say. I and everybodee and dey mommas who know da game know da play. Even after Money May pulls out of this bout, or is upset by da Vicious One, there will still be talk of how Ortiz was able to fool or pay off on the Texas powers that be. Fam May, his nuthuggers and ultimate Bs will never accept the reality of a Money May thrashing. Oftentime sparring matches go the wrong way. Just ask Money May about the "Pittsburg Kid," who the Moneyman catches chills, when da sucka just catch a thought or dream about the Kid. I'm LOUDLY and PROUDLY calling a Wild, Wild West upset of Lil' Floyd. Vicious Victor is gonna shoot him down at the Cowboys' Palace near Dallas in the black of the night before 12 midnight. For Money May, it is gonna be an ugly sight. And with da bettin' moola ain't gonna be tight. Outta of Texas, I will be leaving on one rich private flight. Holla!

brownsugar says:

At least Radam G is thinking with the big head....and not the little one. Victor brings a bonifide threat to any one now that he doesn't have to dry out to make weight..like Manny he's young strong and smart. The kid can box, brawl, and bring his potent warrior virility to the fight. I wonder if Mayweather has underestimated Ortiz. Berto was highly favored to have a cakewalk against the Americanized Mexican, but Victor literally flipped the script..You can believe that Boxing Mogul ODLH is whipering the keys to victory in his ear...you don't want to miss what’s going to happen on 9-17-11.

brownsugar says:

@ShoulderRoll.....I would never try to take yer lunch money...good post.

brownsugar says:

I hear you Feroz... but Ortiz can change a fight with one punch plus he has the speed to deliver. Against Peterson I don't think he got figured out as much as he took his foot off the gas because making 140 was killing him. True about Pac and Marquez...but they are separated by ten pounds of bone and muscle ..the outcome is more than a given than the odds onFloyd and

Ortiz. It has absolutely no buzz. When Kasidis can drop him what chance does he have against Pac at 144. Pac vs Marquez is less relevant to the welterweigh division or Pacs 154lb belt to the junior middleweight division than Ortiz/Mayweather. But that's boxing

Radam G says:

Whenever a young gun cuts out the starving jive. And fights where he's suppose to be, he becomes a beast at a feast. And will eat up some a$$. And if history holds up, Money May will be smashed into powder like red rice yeast. I expect for the experts to give Vicious Victor as much of a chance as they gave then Cassius Clay, back in day. My momma was still in elementary school and wasn't thinkin' about my arse. WTF! How time flies by. And Money May has been staying outta dat squared jungle, as if he is a little GUN shy. I'm gonna bet BIG for an upset. And if Fe'Roz is right, I'd call it a night. And I say to the wirrrrlllllldddd dat Money May and Fe'Roz are too FLY!. And then like a bytchin' baby, I'll cry. Hehehehehehe! Holla!

Real Talk says:

@ Feroz and Roast Both of you guys make good points. I think it'll be a little more competitive than Feroz. Vic has a good trainer but Floyd is big too. Looking forward to the sharpness on display. Dueces

Real Talk says:

Well what will Pacquiao vs. Marquez be after all this time???? Trilogy is waaaaaaaaay overdue.....why is that.....because it's safe now.....just like the Shane fight.....Who's the real Kenducky??? Yeah I know...all this Top Rank Bob Arum catering needs to stop. Dueces

the Roast says:

You know who they are Fe'Roz, the powers, the behind the scenes guys, the cloak and dagger dudes, the pay no attention to that man behind the curtain guys. Those powers.

the Roast says:

Whatever way any of us see the fight going down, the return of Floyd to the ring is good for boxing. Just look at all the views to the Floyd related stories right here. I'd rather see Floyd-Ortiz than Pac-JMM. JMM has no shot in my view. Victor will be an underdog to the vast skills of Floyd. I'd give Ortiz a better chance of the two to pull the upset. He has youth, size, confidence, and punching power on his side. If we could put Ortiz in the ring with Pacman he would have the same advantages he has vs Floyd. It's all good people. If Pac and Floyd win as most expect, we just might get the superfight that we all want. You dont think the powers that be are gonna let all that money just wither on the vine do you?

brownsugar says:

I've read half a dozen articles that proclaim Floyd will show no signs of ring rust..no

deterioration from the constant globe trotting he's done in the last year and a half (his family said he's been absent from the gym) and that he will suddenly develop knock out power for a kid neither Maidana or Berto could put down for the ten count. In addition to this one has to wonder if Floyd has recovered from his public meltdown (court cases and bizarre videos). ....and it's as known fact that JetSetting with Hollywood types has never been good for any fighter..ask Roy Jones or Tyson. We know that Floyd doesn't scimp on training and is too conceited to show up out of condition but will it be enough. This is a very compelling matchup for many reasons it will either set up a match with Pac...reveal some chinks in his armour or bring out Mayweathers best. I predict this will be one of the most compelling matchups all year..Remember contrary to the article, Ortiz has never shown himself to be lacking in ring smarts..call him young..eager... bold..but he's never been anybodys made to order victim.

undisputed34 says:

@ b sug.. i kinda have to disagree a little.. he didnt look very smart against peterson...and he looked more tough than smart against berto. if youre only as good as your last fight, which is the way it goes in this sport unfortunately, then that means vic just morphed into an animal of fighter and pacman who looked just ordinary in his fight gainst mosely, is devolving. im not buying either scenario, though i must say JMM stands a better chance than vic because im sure JMM knows what to do to beat pac. he knew what to do against mayweather too, the problem is knowing and doing are two different things. in any event, you put vic in with either guy, mayweather or pac, and he looks like the miami heat in the 4th quarter of the finals..Lost. marquez with the upset.

brownsugar says:

Yeah I agree with some of that..... but Berto thought he could "out tough" Ortiz and muscle him out of there... usually Ortiz can fight a disciplined fight when he has to... I think Berto brought the beast out in him by challenging his manhood... look for Ortiz to stay composed against Floyd... ODLH will be breathing sweet nothings in his ear before the fight.... GPB wins no matter who wins the fight... and Floyd probably should have had a tuneup "Before" the tune up.

the Roast says:

If JMM beats the Pacman I'll eat my shorts. JMM is going out Hatton-style. Book it.

brownsugar says:

Hey Roast I got your message... for some reason my inbox is cleaned out and I can't get onto your page... maybe it's my PC, we basically rebuilt it with a new mother board...and CPU... hopefull things will get back to normal.

undisputed34 says:

B sug..ok..i think its gonna be a great fight but i cant help but compare this to a kid taking his bike out for the first time without the training wheels(against berto) and then going out to buy a

hiyabusa the next week(floyd) lol..

@ the roast, ill make sure to bring the bbq sauce for your "roast" shorts lol..

the Roast says:

OK B-Sug, maybe we can do that long awaited interview this Friday. @undisputed34, no need to bring sauce, I'll eat dry, raw shorts covered with crow from the MisterLee cafe if JMM ends the fight hearing the judges scorecards.

Joe says:

I think it's a good / marketable matchup. Besides Manny who else is he going to fight? They were floating doggone Paulie Spadafora for xxxxsake? Come on Ortiz showed us something when he beat Berto's axx. The man has a Championship belt, he's a southpaw and all these guys are bringing what they consider their best into the ring trying to whup Money. In Victor's mind he'll become a legend if he can defeat "Lil Floyd"(per Mayweather Sr.) It should be a pretty good scrap and it'll be a nice tuneup for the megafight. I'm sure Manny will have to go get some Victor leftovers before it happens.

FighterforJC says:

By fight night, Fraud's fans and Fighthype.com would've done everything in their power to portray Ortiz as the baddest, meanest, strongest, most dangerous welterweight who ever lived that only Mayweather can conquer. If they did that with Carlos Baldomir, who had no less than 9 losses when he fought Mayweather (talk about fighting "leftovers" lol), Fraud's fans will go as far as declaring Ortiz to be God Almighty Himself.

undisputed34 says:

[QUOTE=the Roast;7214]OK B-Sug, maybe we can do that long awaited interview this Friday. @undisputed34, no need to bring sauce, I'll eat dry, raw shorts covered with crow from the MisterLee cafe if JMM ends the fight hearing the judges scorecards.[/QUOTE]

Lol..bold words..he doesnt even have to win?? he just has to make it to the bell? wow...

the Roast says:

Thats right. The boldness. JMM will get stopped in some way, shape or form when he tangles with the Pacman!

FighterforJC says:

The Ortiz fight is definitely going to be a showcase for Mayweather. Ortiz is the perfect opponent for Mayweather other than the fact that he is young. With Ortiz being a southpaw expect some early awkward moments for Mayweather. It won't quite be Mayweather-Gatti but it

will be close and the end could be even more dramatic because Ortiz has no heart. That's right. People were all of a sudden claiming that Ortiz showed his heart against Berto, but that's not the case. Ortiz was in against a fighter who he recognized as being just as mentally weak as he was, which became a huge motivating factor for Ortiz. It didn't take long for Ortiz to pick up on the fact that Berto was on the same mediocre level. It won't take Ortiz long to realize that he's out of Mayweather's league, and when he does, he'll shut down and fold. Expect Ortiz to come in overly cautious under the guise of being "smart," and pretend to try to outwit Mayweather. Ortiz will hesitate all night long and not come out with his usual aggression. This isn't anything new for Mayweather opponents, but normally it would take a few rounds of getting schooled before Mayweather's past victims would succumb mentally. Ortiz would've conceded defeat well before the first bell rings. This reminds me of the Camacho-Baltazar matchup.

brownsugar says:

I wish I could agree with you Fighter4JC.... but Ortiz has served notice that this is WARRRRRR!!!!!!! and he entends to set a Pacqioua-like- (did I spell that right) pace and succeed where Castillo and ODLH failed. I went back and watched Floyd vs Castillo 2. Castillo didn't get into Floyds chess match.. he just did he best to let his bigger physical pressence felt courtesy of his advance ring smarts...the fight is boring with Floyd winning going away.. but it shows the tremendous ring IQ of both fighters ..... If Floyd cannot mesmirize Ortiz like he normally does every other opponent, we could see an upset... (what do ya think?)