

If Mayweather Really Wants High Praise, Do Something Only Duran Did...LOTIERZO

Written by Frank Lotierzo

Monday, 09 January 2012 12:38



Isn't it great to see how welterweight title holder Floyd Mayweather 42-0 (26) has been granted a postponement in serving his three month jail sentence for his battery conviction, which was supposed to begin on January 6, 2012? Mayweather's delayed jail term will have to wait for him to pick up another easy payday on May 5th before he can take up residence at the cross-bar

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hotel for a few months.

What's even more astonishing is, Mayweather's May 5 opponent hasn't even been named yet, though we did just get word from Raymond Markarian that it looks like Robert Guerrero will get the nod. The only thing we know for sure is that it won't be against another welterweight title holder, Manny Pacquiao 54-3-2 (38). Yes, even as of this writing and despite it being almost two years past the date when it should've happened a fight between Pacquiao and Mayweather is still the biggest and most anticipated fight that can be made in combat sports. And everyone knows, or should know, that the hard truth is the fight hasn't been realized yet because Mayweather hasn't seen enough slippage in Pacquiao. I for one certainly have and don't harbor any reservation in saying that Mayweather will outbox Pacquiao on his way to a non-controversial decision when they fight. However, Mayweather isn't quite there yet, although he's getting closer.

Here's a novel idea and challenging task for Mayweather, something that would even shut up his sternest critics if he were successful...Challenge WBC middleweight title holder Sergio Martinez 48-2-1 (27), who's perceived as the best middleweight fighter in boxing, to a non-catch-weight title bout.

Only one lightweight champion has ever won a middleweight title – Roberto Duran. Henry Armstrong came close but drew with Ceferino Garcia, a fighter he had previously beaten.

Mayweather has been a prohibitive favorite in all of his fights since turning pro. Moving up and taking a shot at a fighter who is not a sure thing would enhance his argument and legitimacy for being an all time great. Even if a fight with Pacquiao came off Mayweather would still be the odds-on favorite to win. Mayweather has been criticized for handpicking opponents. Here is an opportunity to fight an opponent who has a legitimate chance to beat him and would likely be favored over him. And if he lost, but was competitive, he'd gain fans and his legacy wouldn't take a hit.

A number of lightweights have won welterweight titles but only one has won a middleweight title. This is so because of the added strength, size and power of the 160 pound class. Mayweather, fighting at 154, likely walks around near the middleweight limit. If Mayweather is concerned about his historical legacy then fighting for the middleweight title and winning it could cement his career.

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Had Roy Jones retired after winning the WBA heavyweight title from John Ruiz he would likely be considered a legit top 10 p4p great and some may have argued, wrongly, that he was in the league with Sugar Ray Robinson. Right now Mayweather has no such marks on his resume to argue he belongs in the same conversation as true all time greats like Robinson, Harry Greb, Sam Langford, Henry Armstrong, Sugar Ray Leonard or Roberto Duran. He needs a win that can validate his legacy.

A fight with Martinez would be easy to put together as long as Mayweather isn't a thug about it. Granted, he's the draw and deserves the lion's share of the purse, but he can't dictate the terms like he has in everyone of his previous 42 professional fights. He needs the fight for his legacy more than Martinez does. And that's because nobody views Martinez as a potential all time great like they do Mayweather. Beating Mayweather would glean Sergio some high praise and attention along with his biggest payday, but nobody, I mean nobody would be saying Martinez is the next Carlos Monzon because he beat Floyd Mayweather. On the other hand, if Mayweather beat the best middleweight in boxing, even his staunchest critics would have to bow their heads to him.

Actually, if Mayweather fought and defeated Martinez, he wouldn't have to fight Pacquiao. By taking out the bigger and more formidable Martinez, no one would question who's the better fighter between Floyd and Manny if they never fought. Mayweather would be the default winner, something he's never been adverse to being.

Yeah, in a perfect world the above sounds really intriguing and would no doubt captivate the boxing world. But the combination between the business of boxing and Mayweather's reluctance to take part in a fight in which everything isn't tilted in his favor will prevent it from ever being realized. What we'll see instead is, quite soon Mayweather will announce that he's fighting an opponent who despite a solid resume, lacks the size, experience or world class skill set to really challenge him, let alone beat him.

Some of this is in part due to the fact that Mayweather is so good in the ring while at the same time too reluctant to really fight the best opposition when they're at the top of their game and available. That's been documented throughout his stellar career. However, at this time there's really only two legitimate challenges out there for him, Manny Pacquiao and Sergio Martinez. If Floyd fights anyone other than one of them in his next fight, don't waste your money on it.

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Happy New Year boxing fans! The year 2012 will play out with the same predicted results as 2011, 2010, 2009 etc when it comes to the matchmaking strategy of Floyd Mayweather, the best pound-for-pound fighter in boxing. Who, ironically wouldn't be in all that much over his head if he in fact did step up and fought Sergio Martinez in a legitimate middleweight title bout with no catch-weight stipulation. It's not like Martinez is even close to being what anyone would perceive as a big middleweight himself.

Roberto Duran had no reservation getting in the ring with a prime Marvin Hagler or a big middleweight like Iran Barkley. Go ahead Floyd, try to equal Duran's feat of being the only lightweight title holder to win a middleweight title.

Frank Lotierzo can be contacted at GlovedFist@Gmail.com

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ali says:

Come on Frank...Martinez is not a all-time great but if Mayweather beats him he's in your top 10 knock it off!! Mayweather ain't tripping about how much Pac has its Bob Arum who preventing the fight from happening cuz the last person he wants his cash cow to lose to is Mayweather. Frank what do u mean he don't need to be a thug about? It negotiations and your trying to get the best deal possible homie. I bet u if he did fight and beat Martinez u would have some weak *** excuse.

Radam G says:

Cmon, Ali! Enough said! Money May loves to inflate his "undefeated record" with small softies or used-up fighters in lower divisions. Like YOU, he is full of real bullsh*t and imagery, hard-earned kudos. Holla!

the Roast says:

I like this idea better. Go for the glory Floyd. Do it like Duran and Leonard did. Fight the middleweight champ. This fight I would pay for.

ali says:

Think about why would Mayweather be scared to fight Pac im going to give the reasons why he's not

- 1.He's the best counter pucher in the game period no one in there right mind can dispute

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that..now who has gave him the most problems a counter puncher (Marquez) 3 damn times and even though pac has improved over the years he's still never been able to dominate a very good counter puncher.

2.Marquez and Mayweather are the same fighters the difference pretty boy is faster, has a better chin better defense, hes bigger, he has quicker feet and is more accurate then Marquez u can't dispute this if your honest with your self.

3.Mayweather boxing IQ is much better then pac u can't dispute that if u r keeping it real He's been in the ring with very good punchers Diego, Zab, Shane ect so why would he be scared cause Manny hits hard please!!!

4. If I know this Mayweather damn sho knows this so y in the hell would he be scared of the pac man it don't make sense period.

ali says:

[QUOTE=the Roast;12451]I like this idea better. Go for the glory Floyd. Do it like Duran and Leonard did. Fight the middleweight champ. This fight I would pay for.[/QUOTE]

I like the idea much better the Guerrero but u got ppl who think Martinez is overrated so if he was to fight him and win that would be there excuse. Hagler was a all-time great when Duran took that fight so nobody could have an excuse if he would have won that fight.

nashingun says:

i think we got lots of stupidity in the floor. Ali thinks floyd is the best fighter out there... if floyd wants to be like DURAN or LEONARD then he should first defeat cotto, clottey, margarito, martinez, williams and pacquiao... with that if he reigns supreme then we can say he is one hell of an all time great. but the very fact he keeps ducking big fights, keep hiding behind semi retirements and picking easy fights will make him a plain loser and a nobody. pacman has been on top of the game because he keeps beating big guys out there, not ducking anyone.

for me floyds a wanna be pretending to be great but short of glorious acts.

nashingun says:

arum is not as stupid as you are ALI.

arum can see floyds scheme from a far and dont fall for it. MGM is only an 18k seater and for a MEGA fight with pac you're holding this fight of a century in a thin can! floyd schemed a MAY 5 schedule, and its not meant for a pacquiao fight. in the middle of their negotiation floyd confess his crimes for a jailtime! now tell me, whos actually running from this fight? but WBC pleaded in court to move the jailtime to june instead of january. floyd barely gets the media who he really wanted to fight in may, not even calling pacquiao. lets see if floyds got balls to face martinez. i'd bet on it, floyds got no balls! so stop your worthless presumptions of floyd winning over maritinez, first pray floyd wins his balls or else you'll find him picking on someone down the line, some worthless newbies like ortiz brother? lol

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Ali, you're one freak loser. cotto destroyed zab judah with a cold KO. but zab manage a good punch on floyds chin and you think floyd is that awesome? no wonder until now floyd has not met cotto in the ring. also, martinez first loss is from margarito, margarito is a big guy and floyd comparing his split decision win on dela hoyra will have trouble against margarito. about clottey, another defensive boxer. i see now why floyd kept hiding behind semi retirement. floyd cant even bend a hair on mosleys face. if ortiz was not paid to give his chin for a sucker punch floyd wont even look better just running around jabbing to 12 rounds as pac beats the crap out of cotto, margarito, knocks mosley down and keeps coming forward with speed and stamina. with all this, ask yourself, do floyd have the punchers chance to win against pac? i doubt that. running will be his best gameplan, as always.

ali says:

Clottey. Margacheato all-time greats lol!!!! Yeah Floyd was scared to fight them come on guys... I do wish he would have fought Cotto but don't think he was ducking him...At the end of the day none of us knows what's going on with the negotiations btween these fighters that why I wish they could go behind the scenes so we all would know the real truth.

Radam G says:

He duck 'em, Ali! It is a LARGE leaving part of the hurt bitnezz. Holla!

Radam G says:

Money May has convinced you, Ali, with the greatest snake oil salesman BS in the history of the hood. Don't be one of the Pied "Money May" Piper's rats. Are you an Ali or a Ben? BTW, anybody, are rats blind muthasuckas like bats? Maybe Ali is just gettin' off his cyberspace bat attack. Blind as h*ll for no reason. Holla!

mortcola says:

[QUOTE=ali;12445]Come on Frank...Martinez is not a all-time great but if Mayweather beats him he's in your top 10 knock it off!! Mayweather ain't tripping about how much Pac has slip its Bob Arum who preventing the fight from happening cuz the last person he wants his cash cow to lose to is Mayweather. Frank what do u mean he don't need to be a thug about? It negotiations and your trying to get the best deal possible homie. I bet u if he did fight and beat Martinez u would have some weak *** excuse.[/QUOTE]

I disagree with you, Ali. Martinez is not....yet, but maybe ever....an ATG, but he is the best of his time; he is the biggest guy Mayweather will have fought, and maybe the fastest, and the most dangerous; and he would represent the first time Mayweather fights someone who physically overmatches him. IF Mayweather is to achieve ATG status, he has to have fights like this, like all those before him did. His skills are ATG material, but he has conducted his career like a celebrity diva and businessman, not like a legendary warrior. That is how he will be remembered.

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dino da vinci says:

Somebody contact Dose of Reality. Or that PO Cat. Because we're getting ready to, in the words of the great Radam G, "Go all lickety splittin when we get a gittin the Decemba Newcoma.

It seems a must, we're gonna just, haveta machinegun the nashingun.

ali says:

[QUOTE=mortcola;12473]I disagree with you, Ali. Martinez is not....yet, but maybe ever....an ATG, but he is the best of his time; he is the biggest guy Mayweather will have fought, and maybe the fastest, and the most dangerous; and he would represent the first time Mayweather fights someone who physically overmatches him. IF Mayweather is to achieve ATG status, he has to have fights like this, like all those before him did. His skills are ATG material, but he has conducted his career like a celebrity diva and businessman, not like a legendary warrior. That is how he will be remembered.[/QUOTE]

I think Martinez is a more difficult fight for Mayweather then Pac but beating Pac will do more for his legacy. All Martinez has done is beat Williams and Pavlik now how much credit is he getting for beating those guys? So if Mayweather was to fight and beat Martinez I promise u ppl r going to say Martinez wad overrated just as Radam.

Dose of reality says:

I've read some posts....not cool

miguel1 says:

You know, I get the feeling we are being led to a media circus, Floyd-style here. It seems like his chosen career path has been to take the easy way out when it is there.

Gotta hand it to Robert Guerrero, he talked his way into this one if it happens...

dino da vinci says:

[QUOTE=mortcola;12473]I disagree with you, Ali. Martinez is not....yet, but maybe ever....an ATG, but he is the best of his time; he is the biggest guy Mayweather will have fought, and maybe the fastest, and the most dangerous; and he would represent the first time Mayweather fights someone who physically overmatches him. IF Mayweather is to achieve ATG status, he has to have fights like this, like all those before him did. His skills are ATG material, but he has conducted his career like a celebrity diva and businessman, not like a legendary warrior. That is how he will be remembered.[/QUOTE]

Stunningly precise.

mortcola says:

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[QUOTE=dino da vinci;12481]Stunningly precise.[/QUOTE]

High Praise, Dino. Back atcha.

teaser says:

would i ever like to see money may fight martinez....no shame ever if he lost and look at the glory if he won ! I think it would be a great fight ..close decision... oh and Ali ...keep up the PR work ...excellent job !! especially pro bono ! money may will burn a few more a few more Benjamin Franklin's for you