

Written by Phil Woolever
Saturday, 14 July 2012 07:47



WHERE THE MOUTH IS - Perhaps if Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather are really serious about actually wanting to fight each other they'll take a page from the David Haye - Dereck Chisora book of self-promotion and settling your differences. If there's ever going to be a Mayweather-Pacquiao showdown, somebody needs to start a brawl, not worry about contracts.

Giving the Public What They Want : Haye - Chisora Final Odds

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While Haye and Chisora definitely acted the part of foolish thugs in Munich, there was no acting in terms of animosity. I can tell you from firsthand knowledge that German law enforcement was still investigating the incident after Haye-Chisora was signed, announced and advertised.

The obvious solution, in a public sporting world feud, was a fair fight. The principals receive a nice payday and the fans, hopefully, get to watch a spirited slugfest.

It's silly how people who agree on the civility of two individuals, who are often very proficient assaulters, getting into a ring to conk each other into submission can then bellow of impropriety when emotions boil over, as if that's the last thing to ever be expected.

A rematch could be an even greater spectacle. Line Haye and Chisora up on opposite ends of Hamburg's "Sinful Mile", the longest red light district in Europe. Boxing has long been described, often pridefully, as that area of the sporting spectrum, and to many this fight represents a brothel of bruises. It has been tagged an outlaw bout by top commentators.

Proper commissions are outraged.

Respectable promoters are offended.

Many fans are happy. Ticket sales, obviously, are hot.

Haye, who weighed in at a sculpted 210, and Chisora, heavy but powerful looking at 247, marketed their mayhem into quite a nice payday.

It wasn't the most diplomatic way to proceed, but if the boxers can shake hands and conduct themselves well during and after the match, it can be said they improved both bad behavior and a bad situation. It will be interesting to see if the audience embraces one guy or the other.

Chisora has pretty much established his position in the mauling marketplace, and can remain a good earner for as long as his rugged frame can keep him competitive.

For Haye however, another showing at anything less than the fair to middling form he showed against John Ruiz or Audley Harrison, and he could be disgraced in earning power. After a good spring for UK boxing it's easy for Haye's disgusted viewers to jump bandwagons with fighters like Carl Froch, Amir Kahn or Tyson Fury. Fury's claim to beating Chisora fair and square has risen in status despite Chisora losing a pair of punchouts since then.

Recent records, ruckus or reactions aside, the Chisora - Haye engagement is no train wreck.

In fact, it could be defined as a prime example of how to take care of business, both professional and personal. By comparison, negotiations for Mayweather - Pacquiao are what really jumped the tracks, into wreckage.

Haye and Chisora have simply been themselves, however you want to define that. Now we get to see them represent themselves under specifically controlled conditions. Judging from the 30,000 or so tickets sold, it isn't the most unpopular product.

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This is a good heavyweight matchup between contenders battling for a spot around the middle of the current heavyweight pack. It is completely plausible that the winner could meet a Klitschko down the line. Haye, around Western Europe at least, apparently still represents a better potential payday for K2 than most other challengers in most other locations.

For Chisora, this could be the ticket to an early, comfortable retirement fund bout next. Perhaps how deeply he understands that factor represents how much of a chance he has to win. A Chisora-Wladimir Klitschko battle has already been cancelled twice, so the old "unfinished business" angle is right there if Chisora wins. Promoter Frank Warren has done such a good job building this gate and fending off obstacles it shouldn't be hard to convince K2 of the profit margin in coming to England for a party, barring tax concerns.

The fence between the men is a proven, great gimmick. One wonders if subliminal level it does inspire a bit of extra adrenaline once the barriers are down.

About the only thing that might keep this from being a wild night is if one fighter immediately hurts his hand on the other fellow's extremely hard head.

Round one will resemble the Munich press room, with more formalized proceedings. Each man is going to be at ring center quickly, trying for immediate control, and to dish out a little early pain if possible. The heavier Chisora will be mauling from each side, and Haye, remembering "glassing" success, will be aiming straight up the middle. Somewhere along the way, the busier Chisora is going to make Haye counter explosively, leaving himself (Haye) open. Somebody will get caught and dazed like that, and whoever it is probably won't get off the hook. Since Haye is slicker, quicker and carries the bigger punch he seems like a prohibitive favorite, but Chisora has demonstrated his strength and willingness to fight hard against top heavyweights. His recent form, even in loses, is better than Haye's. Measuring them solely from title fights against K2, Chisora gets a slight edge in intangibles.

So the final odds in the Woolly Sportsbook are:

Haye to Win : 7-5

Chisora to get Haye in Trouble : even

Fight to go Over 9 rounds : - 150 (more likely to go longer)

Haye by DQ within 7 : 50-50

Someone to Call for a Klitschko Again : been there enough.

Either Fighter to Fail Postfight Testing : let's hope not

All lads from each camp to go out for a pint afterward : you never know, this is boxing

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Therein lies the primary attraction of this fight. Either guy could go nuts.

Which takes us back to the train wreck.

Let's hope everything stays on track for a great night of heavyweight boxing in London.

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