

Lightweight contender Ray Beltran arrived in Glasgow last Monday, almost two full weeks before his showdown with WBO titlist Ricky Burns. Beltran is ranked No. 7 in the division by the Transnational Boxing Rankings Board. Burns is ranked No. 2.

Perhaps most famous for being Manny Pacquiao's chief sparring partner at the Wild Card Boxing Club, Beltran told TSS the gym helped him learn what it takes to become world champion.

#### Boxing Lifted Beltran, Who Worked the Fields At Age 5

Written by Kelsey McCarson Thursday, 05 September 2013 22:08

"I think you learn how to be competitive," said the fighter who grew up in Los Mochis, Mexico. "There is a lot of competition there, so you learn to never back down or never slow down. If you do, someone will take you out. It pushes you to another level, and if you come out of a good group of fighters like that, it really means something."

Ray Beltran is a fighter's fighter. He's tough, rugged and skilled. The 32-year-old wasn't just handed TV fights because of a successful amateur career or because he's somebody's son. No, Beltran has climbed his way up the boxing ladder rung by rung.

This Saturday will be Beltran's first world title shot, and he's earned it.

"I come from a very poor family and it has been a hard road. Basically I had nothing. I had no food, no home, no electricity, nothing at all, that's how I grew up. I started working at five years old picking on a plantation. I also worked with my grandpa planting corn, it was very hard, I didn't like it but I did what I had to do."

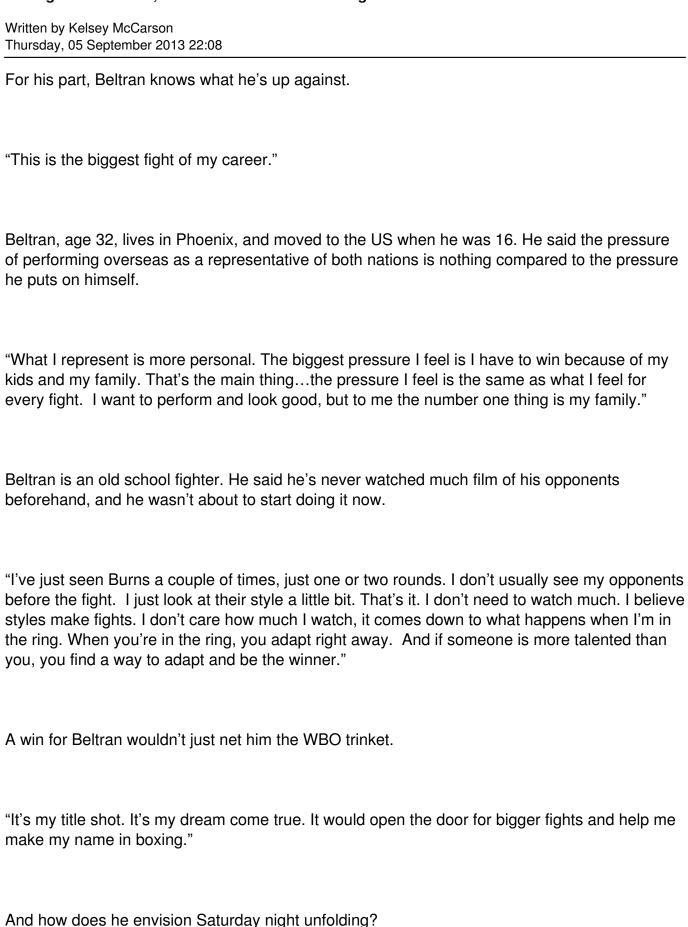
Still, Beltran didn't let circumstance dictate his life's outcome. In fact, he believes it has helped mold him into what he is today.

"Most of the people who come from poverty, all we know is to work and survive. And the only way to really make something of your life is boxing."

Burns will be Beltran's stiffest test to date. The Scotland native hasn't lost a fight in over six years, and has held some form of a world title belt since September of 2010 when he dethroned Roman Martinez for the WBO super featherweight title.

Moreover, Burns has been some version of the same alphabet organization's lightweight champion since he moved up in weight to defeat notable slugger Michael Katsidis in November of 2011.

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"I don't think about it much. I just think about things just like normal. I just want to go out there, enjoy it, and win the fight. I'm excited. This is a big fight, a world title fight. And I'm about to make my dreams come true."

Beltran stopped short of making a prediction, save for who he believes will ultimately come out on top.

"It's not good to make predictions or plans...I just predict a good fight and a great show. I am going to win. I don't know how, but I am going to win the fight."

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Interesting, nice copy! Holla!