

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part One

Written by Thomas Hauser

Tuesday, 24 September 2013 09:34



Now that the dust has settled and there has been time for reflection, it's worth taking a look back at the boxing event of 2013: the much-hyped, enormously successful promotion known as "The One."

Budd Schulberg once wrote, "I've always thought of boxing, not as a mirror but as a magnifying glass of our society."

That certainly was true of the September 14th fight between Floyd Mayweather and Saul "Canelo" Alvarez at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas.

Boxing's first million-dollar gate was \$1,789,238 for the fight between Jack Dempsey and Georges Carpentier on July 2, 1921, at Boyle's 30 Acres in New Jersey. Adjusted for inflation, that number, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics, is equivalent to \$23,377,744 in today's dollars.

Mayweather-Alvarez came close. The official gate was \$20,003,150, which exceeded the previous mark of \$18,419,200 set by the May 5, 2007, encounter between Mayweather and Oscar De La Hoya.

The best guess at present is that Mayweather-Alvarez generated 2,200,000 pay-per-view buys in the United States. That would place it second behind De La Hoya vs. Mayweather, which generated 2.45 million buys for a total of \$136,000,000 (\$153,400,000 in today's dollars). When all the numbers are in, that \$153,400,000 figure is likely to be exceeded by Mayweather-Alvarez.

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Mayweather was guaranteed a minimum purse of \$41,500,000 to fight Alvarez. That's more than the entire 2013 player payroll for either the Miami Marlins (\$36,341,900) or Houston Astros (\$22,062,600). And Floyd's take is expected to rise significantly once all the pay-per-view buys and other revenue streams are counted.

So let's take a look at the good and the bad, the fantasy and the reality of Floyd "Money" Mayweather.

It's starts with Mayweather's skill as a fighter.

Mayweather seeks to control every aspect of his life. Thus, it's ironic that his chosen sport is boxing. In baseball, everyone waits for the pitcher. A golfer does what he can do with the laws of physics as his only adversary. Boxing is the hardest sport in the world for an athlete to control.

Over the course of twelve rounds, Mayweather controls the confines of a boxing ring as few men ever have.

The most admirable thing about Floyd is his work ethic and dedication to his craft.

Years ago, Luis Cortes wrote, "A majority of upsets occur when the more naturally-talented fighter forgets that boxing is not just about talent."

Mayweather doesn't forget. He gives one hundred percent in preparing for a fight every time out.

"I'm a perfectionist," Floyd says. "No one works harder than I do. I worked my ass off to get to where I am now. Nobody is perfect, but I strive to be perfect."

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Heywood Broun once wrote of Benny Leonard, “No performer in any art has ever been more correct. His jab could stand without revision in any textbook. The manner in which he feints, ducks, sidesteps, and hooks is unimpeachable. He is always ready to hit with either hand.”

The same can be said of Mayweather. He and Bernard Hopkins have two of the highest “boxing IQs” in the business. Like Hopkins, Floyd shuts down his opponent, taking away what the opponent does best.

“Floyd has man strength and he knows how to use it,” Hopkins says.

When Mayweather is stunned (the last time it appeared to have happened was in round two against Shane Mosley three years ago), he holds on like the seasoned pro that he is. What’s more instructive is what Floyd does when he’s hit solidly but is fully compos mentis. His instinct is to fire back hard rather than let an opponent build confidence.

“Floyd does all things necessary to win a fight,” Mosley notes.

That includes fighting rough and pushing the rules up to, and sometimes beyond, their boundary if the referee allows him to do so.

Against Mosley, Mayweather pushed down hard on the back of Shane’s head and neck as an offensive maneuver seventeen times and used a forearm-elbow to the neck aggressively twenty-three times.

“Winning is the key to everything,” says Leonard Ellerbe (CEO of Mayweather Promotions). “As long as Floyd keeps winning, there’s no limit to the things he can accomplish.”

Mayweather keeps winning. His split-decision victory over Oscar De La Hoya is the only time

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that a fight went to the scorecards and a judge had Floyd behind. Tom Kaczmarek scored that bout 115-113 for Oscar.

Floyd walks through life with a swagger. He flaunts his lifestyle and wealth. First HBO, and now Showtime, have put tens of millions of dollars worth of time and money into cultivating the Mayweather image. Floyd, for his part, has created and nurtured the “Money Mayweather” persona. “You can’t be a 35-year-old man calling yourself ‘Pretty Boy’,” he said last year, explaining the change in his sobriquet.

When Mayweather speaks of his “loved ones,” one gets the feeling that Floyd holds down the top three or four spots on the list. He lives in ostentatious luxury (a 22,500-square-foot primary residence in Las Vegas and a 12,000-square-foot home in Miami) surrounded by beautiful women and devoted followers who adore him. The money that he puts in their pockets, we’re told, has no bearing on their affection.

Tim Keown has tracked Floyd on two occasions for *ESPN: The Magazine* and reported, “This is a man who wears his boxer shorts once before throwing them out. This is a man who keeps his head shaved, yet travels on a private jet with his personal barber; who has two sets of nearly identical ultra-luxury cars color-coded by mansion - white in Las Vegas, black in Miami [“roughly two dozen” Rolls Royces, Lamborghinis, Bentleys, Ferraris, Bugattis, and Mercedes].

“Along with gaudy possessions and unlimited subservience comes something far more vital,” Keown continues. “Self-justification. It’s wealth as affirmation. A case filled with more than \$5,000,000 in watches is not a mere collection. It is a statement.”

Keown further reported that, on a recent shopping trip to New York, Mayweather spent “close a quarter of a million dollars on earrings and a necklace for his 13-year-old daughter, Iyanna.”

One might question how a gift of that magnitude affects a young adolescent’s values.

Meanwhile, tweets regarding Mayweather’s gambling winnings (he regularly wagers six figures on a single basketball or football game) read like reports of Korean dictator Kim Jong-il’s

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maiden golf outing, when the Korean state media reported eleven holes-in-one en route to a final score of 38 under par.

Sports Illustrated reported in its March 12, 2012, issue that Mayweather had lost a \$990,000 wager on the March 3rd basketball game between Duke and North Carolina. Floyd didn't tweet that.

Working for Mayweather means being available twenty-four-seven. When Floyd says "jump," his employees ask "how high?"

"They have to be ready to get up and go at four o'clock in the morning," Floyd says. "If I call and say 'I need you now,' I don't mean in an hour. I mean now."

Keown confirms that notion, writing, "His security crew routinely receives calls at two or three a.m. to accompany the nocturnal Mayweather to a local athletic club for weights and basketball. On this day, his regular workout finished, the champ tells one of his helpers to beckon two women from his entourage into his locker room. As he showers, he calls for one of them, a tall, dark-haired woman named Jamie, to soap his back while he continues to carry on an animated conversation with five or six men in the room."

That leads to another issue. The subservience of women in Mayweather's world and his treatment of them.

Floyd likes pretty women. No harm in that. He's on shakier ground when he says, "Beauty is only skin deep. An ugly m-----r made that up." In late-September 2012, it was reported that Floyd spent \$50,000 at a strip club called Diamonds in Atlanta. That's a lot of money,

More seriously, over the years, Mayweather has had significant issues with women and the criminal justice system. In 2002, he pled guilty to two counts of domestic violence. In 2004, he was found guilty on two counts of misdemeanor battery for assaulting two women in a Las Vegas nightclub. Other incidents were disposed of more quietly.

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Then, on December 21, 2011, a Las Vegas judge sentenced Mayweather to ninety days in jail after he pleaded guilty to a reduced battery domestic violence charge and no contest to two harassment charges in conjunction with an assault against Josie Harris (the mother of three of his children). Floyd was also ordered to attend a one-year domestic-violence counseling program and perform one hundred hours of community service.

Was Mayweather chastened by that experience? Did he become more aware of his obligations as a member of society and the responsibilities that come with fame?

Apparently not.

“Martin Luther King went to jail,” Mayweather told Michael Eric Dyson on an HBO program entitled *Floyd Mayweather: Speaking Out*. “Malcolm X went to jail. Am I guilty? Absolutely not. I took a plea. Sometimes they put us in a no-win situation to where you don’t have no choice but to take a plea. I didn’t want to bring my children to court.”

That theme was echoed by Leonard Ellerbe, who declared on an episode of *24/7*, “All you can do is respect the man for not wanting to put his kids through a difficult process. Things are not always what they seem. I have the advantage of actually knowing what the facts are in this particular case. The public doesn’t have this information. I know that he stepped up and did what was needed to do to protect his family.”

Did Mayweather go to jail to protect his children from having to testify at trial? Or did he go to jail to avoid a longer prison term and protect himself from the public spectacle of his children telling the world what they saw?

Either way, Floyd did his children no favors by claiming on national television that they were the reason he went to jail. The children know what they saw on the night that Floyd had an altercation with their mother. If he was taking a bullet for his kids, he should have done so quietly without exposing them to further public spectacle and the taunts of other children telling them in the playground, “You’re the reason your father went to jail.”

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One might also ask why Dyson (a professor of sociology at Georgetown University) didn't confront Mayweather with the fact that Floyd's confrontation with Josie Harris wasn't an isolated incident; that there were two previous convictions on his record for physically abusing women.

As for Josie Harris; she was so troubled by Floyd's denials after his plea of "no contest" to physically assaulting her in front of their children that, in April of this year, she broke a self-imposed silence and told Martin Harris of Yahoo Sports, "Did he beat me to a pulp? No. But I had bruises on my body and contusions and [a] concussion because the hits were to the back of my head."

Somewhere in the United States tonight, a young man who thinks that Floyd Mayweather is a role model will beat up a woman. Maybe she'll walk away with nothing more than bruises and emotional scars. Maybe he'll kill her.

That's the downside to uncritical glorification of Floyd Mayweather.

Also, as great a fighter as Mayweather is, there's one flaw on his resume. He has consistently avoided the best available opposition.

A fighter doesn't have to be bloodied and knocked down and come off the canvas to prove his greatness. A fighter can also prove that he has the heart of a legendary champion by testing himself against the best available competition.

Mayweather has done neither.

Floyd said earlier this month, "I push myself to the limit by fighting the best."

That has all the sincerity of posturing by a political candidate.

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Mayweather has some outstanding victories on his ring record. But his career has been marked by the avoidance of tough opponents in their prime.

There always seems to be someone who Mayweather is ducking. The most notable example was his several-year avoidance of Manny Pacquiao. Bob Arum (Pacquiao's promoter) might not have wanted the fight. But Manny clearly did. And it appeared as though Floyd didn't.

Mayweather also steered clear of Paul Williams, Antonio Margarito, and Miguel Cotto in their prime. He waited to fight Cotto until Miguel (like Shane Mosley) was a shell of his former self. Then Floyd made a show of saying that he'd fight Cotto at 154 pounds so Miguel would be at his best. But when Sergio Martinez offered to come down to 154, Floyd said that he'd only fight Martinez at 150 (an impossible weight for Sergio to make).

Thus, Frank Lotierzo writes, "Mayweather has picked his spots in one way or another throughout his career. Floyd got over big time on Juan Manuel Marquez with his weigh-in trickery at the last moment. He fought Oscar De La Hoya and barely won when Oscar was a corpse. Shane Mosley was an empty package when he finally fought him seven years after the fight truly meant anything. As terrific as Mayweather is, he's not the Bible of boxing the way he projects himself as being. He came along when there were some other outstanding fighters at or near his weight. Yet, aside from the late Diego Corrales, he has never met any of them when the fight would have confirmed his greatness. It would be great to write about Mayweather and laud all that he has accomplished as a fighter without bringing up these inconvenient facts. But it can't be done if you're being intellectually honest."

"Mayweather," Lotierzo continues, "wouldn't be the face of boxing today if there was an Ali, Leonard, De La Hoya, or Tyson around. But they're long gone. Give him credit for being able to make a safety-first counter-puncher who avoided the only fight fans wanted him to deliver [into] the face of what once was the greatest sport in the world."

Three days prior to Mayweather-Alvarez, Floyd responded to those who have criticized his choice of ring adversaries: "If they say Mayweather has handpicked his opponents; well, then my team has done a f-----g good job."

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Mayweather has a following; those who like him and those who don't. But whatever side of the fence one is on, it's clear that Floyd has tapped into something.

"This is a business," Mayweather says of boxing.

Team Mayweather has played the business game brilliantly. Give manager Al Haymon and the rest of The Money Team credit for maximizing Floyd's income, making the pie bigger and getting him a larger percentage of it. Through their efforts, Mayweather has become the epitome of what modern fighters strive to be. He has the ability to attract any opponent, determine when they fight, and enjoys the upper hand in any negotiation.

"His ability not only to understand but to capitalize on his value is unrivaled in the sport," Tim Keown writes. Then Keown references Mayweather's "singular brand of narcissism, ego and greed," and notes, "It helps to exhibit an unapologetic brazenness that incites allegiance and disgust in equal measure. Indifference, as any promoter will attest, is hell on sales."

"Love him or hate him," Leonard Ellerbe adds, "he's the bank vault. Love him or hate him, he's going to make the bank drop."

Mayweather's box-office appeal is consistent with other trends in contemporary American culture.

Charles Jay has mused, "There is a constituency that is very attracted to the Mayweather persona. Maybe there is an overlap between that constituency and the one that enjoys the antics of Charlie Sheen."

Carlos Acevedo opines that Floyd has led "a charmed life inside the ring if a rather charmless one outside it," and posits, "Being nasty in public under the guise of entertainment is now as American as baseball and serial killers."

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More tellingly, Acevedo argued last year, “Mayweather generates a disproportionate amount of media coverage. Never mind the fact that probably somewhere around six million people in the U.S. saw Mayweather bushwhack Victor Ortiz [and roughly ten million saw him defeat Miguel Cotto]. Compare that, say, to the night Ken Norton faced Duane Bobick on NBC in 1977. That fight, aired on a Wednesday evening in prime-time, earned a 42% audience share, and was estimated to have been viewed by 48 million people. If we want to pretend that more than a few million people care about ‘Money,’ we have to keep listening to penny-click addicts and websites obsessed with celebrity cellulite and tanorexia.”

According to Nevada State Athletic Commission records, all five of Mayweather’s fights between the start of 2009 and mid-2013 (against Juan Manuel Marquez, Shane Mosley, Victor Ortiz, Miguel Cotto, and Robert Guerrero) were contested in front of empty seats. Even with 1,459 complimentary tickets being given away, there were 139 empty seats for Mayweather-Guerrero. More troubling were credible reports that Mayweather-Guerrero registered only 850,000 pay-per-view buys. That’s a healthy number for most fights. But not for a Mayweather fight. And not for Showtime, which had spirited Mayweather away from HBO and entered into a six-fight contract with the fighter that guaranteed him \$32,000,000 per fight against the revenue from domestic pay-per-view buys.

Showtime had heavily promoted Mayweather-Guerrero with documentaries, a reality-TV series, an appearance by Floyd at the NCAA men’s basketball Final Four, and numerous promotional spots on CBS Sports television and CBS Sports Radio. Factoring in the cost of production and other outlays, there were estimates that the network had lost between five and ten million dollars on Mayweather-Guerrero. That might have been justified as a “loss leader” to bring Mayweather into the Showtime fold. But it couldn’t be repeated in Floyd’s next fight without speculation that corporate heads would roll.

Mayweather’s fights have been promoted in recent years by Golden Boy, which now has a strategic alliance with Showtime and Al Haymon. The idea that Golden Boy Promotions would crumble once Oscar De La Hoya stopped fighting is now an outdated fantasy. CEO Richard Schaefer has played the promotional game masterfully.

But Golden Boy has little control over Mayweather. According to Leonard Ellerbe, Mayweather Promotions pays Golden Boy to handle logistics on a per-fight basis. “If you run a construction company,” Ellerbe says, “you have to hire someone to pour the cement.”

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Schaefer confirms that Golden Boy presents The Money Team with a budget for each fight that includes projected revenue streams and costs (for example, fighter purses, marketing, travel, arena set-up, and its promotional fee).

Showtime could have been forgiven for thinking that guaranteeing Mayweather \$32,000,000 a fight for six fights would have entitled it to the most marketable Mayweather fights possible. But there was no such assurance.

After Mayweather beat Guerrero, word spread that the frontrunner in the sweepstakes to become Floyd's next opponent was Devon Alexander. That raised the likelihood of another sub-one-million-buy Mayweather outing and the loss to the network of another five-to-ten million dollars.

There was little point in Showtime appealing to Mayweather to upgrade the commercial viability of his opponent on grounds that Floyd is a team player. Floyd is a team player as long as it's Team Mayweather. Thus, Showtime rolled the dice and increased Mayweather's contractual guarantee to \$41,500,000 to entice him to fight Saul "Canelo" Alvarez.

If boxing fans in America have a love-hate relationship with Mayweather, Mexican fans have a love-love relationship with Alvarez. Canelo's resume is a bit thin. But Mayweather vs. Alvarez on Mexican Independence Day weekend was sure to sell out the MGM Grand Garden Arena and generate a massive number of pay-per-view buys.

Alvarez agreed to a financial guarantee believed to be in the neighborhood of \$12,500,000. His purse as reported to the Nevada State Athletic Commission was \$5,000,000. But that didn't include the grant of Mexican television rights and other financial incentives.

The thorniest issue in negotiating the fight contracts was the issue of weight. Mayweather has filled out over the years. He's now a full-fledged welterweight. But Alvarez fights at 154 pounds.

On May 29th, it was announced that the two men had signed to fight at a catchweight of 152 pounds. Schaefer said that there was a seven-figure penalty should either fighter fail to make

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weight.

Thereafter, Ellerbe stated publicly that the Alvarez camp had begun the negotiations with an offer to fight at a catchweight and declared, “His management is inept. We take advantage of those kinds of things. They suggested it. Why would we say no and do something different. They put him at a disadvantage, his management did. It wasn’t that Floyd asked for a catchweight because, absolutely, that did not happen. Floyd would have fought him regardless. His management put that out there. So if you have an idiot manager, that’s what it is.”

The Alvarez camp responded by saying that Ellerbe was lying.

“Why would I give up weight?” Canelo asked rhetorically. “I’m the 154-pound champion. When the negotiations started, they wanted me to go down to 147, then 150, then 151, finally 152. I said I’d do it to make the fight. But it’s not right that they’re lying about it. I don’t want to fight two pounds below the weight class, but it was the only way I could get the fight.”

“Being the A-side is about having leverage,” Ellerbe fired back. “We’re always going to put every opponent at a disadvantage if we can.”

Part Two of “A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez” will be posted on The Sweet Science tomorrow.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book (*Straight Writes and Jabs: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing*) has just been published by the University of Arkansas Press.

[Comment on this article](#)

The Shadow says:

This is a classic, textbook example why people should always critically assess what they read.

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Even well-respected journalists can be completely frivolous and, frankly, utterly irresponsible in their attempt to substantiate a thesis.

When you have a platform, you must be responsible. Or, at the very least, do some basic fact checking.

80% of this article shows why Hauser is a good writer. The 20% that doesn't harms 100% of the piece.

The Shadow says:

What's even worse is, from a craftsmanship point of view, this type of feature writing can easily go into a top tier magazine with a huge circulation that doesn't cover boxing closely, and, thus, won't know fact from fiction.

brownsugar says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;37351]What's even worse is, from a craftsmanship point of view, this type of feature writing can easily go into a top tier magazine with a huge circulation that doesn't cover boxing closely, and, thus, won't know fact from fiction.[/QUOTE]

Thanks for sparing me from posting a 12 page scathing rebuke about another opinion piece slanted toward the negative and inconsequential.

If you have never walked in the other mans shoes you have absolutely no clue.

If someone is going to write about someone else's personal lifethe author/ writer should be responsible enough to be representative of all sides equallyif not he risks losing all credibility with discerning readers... And its not about being democrat or a republican... Or a Pactard or a Minion...its about bringing as much unbiased truth to your audience as possible. This piece is divisive as it is biased.

amayseng says:

IF you wear a hat that says "the best ever"

if you call yourself "the best ever"

then you have nothing but expectation to be debated or criticized for not making certain PRIME fights happen..

its part of the game.

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if you put yourself in certain situations of domestic violence then you are opening up yourself to criticism again...

is floyd guilty of those counts of domestic violence? i dont know, women are crazy, but it sure doesnt look good having 3 different counts of it....

nobody is perfect, that is for sure, but if you call yourself "money", flaunt a certain lifestyle and act like a

tool bag at times then you are gonna suffer the consequences for it..

shane mosley is a champion of divisions and never put himself in a situation of flaunting money, cursing

his dad out internationally with disrespect or physically abusing women on 3 different occasions...

hence, why he is respected as an ambassador of the sport and a gentleman, not a punk.

if you put yourself out there then its to be expected you are gonna be called out on it....

in every walk of life

brownsugar says:

This article doesn't hurt Floyd as much as it does readers who plow through this derivative fodder expecting something of value and get a TMZ write up instead... Or in more simple terms...a haters gonna hate ... No matter what.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=brownsugar;37358]Thanks for sparing me from posting a 12 page scathing rebuke about another opinion piece slanted toward the negative and inconsequential.

If you have never walked in the other mans shoes you have absolutely no clue.

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You're absolutely right. I also thought about going into every single fallacious detail and factual

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inaccuracy but I ultimately decided against it.

Not taking anything away from his craftsmanship. Back in the day, it was in print and it was gone forever. Nowadays, you have platforms where it's online forever -- and people will run with it like it's the gospel.

That calls for more editorial responsibility.

@Amayseng, it's not about not being subject to criticism. If you say that, you gotta live with the backlash. I get that. But as a journalist, you have to be fair.

Yes, Floyd was a disrespectful punk for treating his father that way on TV. Yes, those domestic violence raps don't look particularly flattering.

But that doesn't mean all that spills over to every aspect of his life.

(As a matter of fact, I think one of the good take-aways from this piece is pointing out how excessive glorification of athletes -- humans -- can have grave consequences. But that is up to the parents to ensure that their children 1) have good role models at home and 2) will know better.)

Like I said, I think 80% of it was great, well-reported etc etc. But therein lies the problem.

Sandwiched in between those facts are several frivolous -- arguably libelous -- statements, there are far more damaging statements that now have more credibility because it's packaged into something the untrained eye won't be able to critically assess.

I won't go into everything but here's an example of an outright lie:

[I]

Then Floyd made a show of saying that he'd fight Cotto at 154 pounds so Miguel would be at his best. But when Sergio Martinez offered to come down to 154, Floyd said that he'd only fight Martinez at 150 (an impossible weight for Sergio to make).[/I]

This is written only to strengthen his thesis. It's gross, inaccurate and irresponsible.

In reality, Floyd seldom speaks about Martinez publicly. He did so at the press conference after his bout with Shane Mosley where he admitted to wanting to challenge for the middleweight title.

He mentioned it another time at his gym a month or so prior to the Miguel Cotto fight, where he addressed a challenge issued by Martinez (Both can be found on YouTube).

And yes, here Floyd DID did mention a catchweight. HOWEVER, he did not refuse 154, nor did he specify "150 pounds" as part of his alleged refusal.

Instead, the catchweight comment was a direct response to the challenge issued by Lou

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DiBella, offering Mayweather a deal of an 80/20 split (yeah, right) and a 150-pound catchweight -- and offer DiBella likewise extended to Manny Pacquiao just a few months prior.

Saying Mayweather knew Martinez wouldn't be able to make that isn't only incorrect and irresponsible, it's also downright lazy, incompetent reporting sandwiched in between the usual high quality Hauser exhibits.

And that's just one example. There are several more.

(Sidebar: DiBella is a smart crimson. He knows the public will perceive that 80/20-figure as Martinez bending over backwards to secure the fight when the reality is that not even Cotto -- the third biggest domestic PPV draw -- got 20% with Mayweather. Martinez, at that time, had yet to fight on PPV, let alone prove himself as a dependable B-side like Mosley or Marquez.

Ironically, just a day or so after the 150 pound weight was first dropped, Martinez' manager Sampson Lewkowicz also made another ludicrous statement about how Martinez would be able to unequivocally, singlehandedly generate 700,000 PPV buys (!) and bring the total buys to 2 million. "And that is a fact," he said. GTFOH.)

SouthPawFlo says:

I have just 1 question....

I keep hearing people say Floyd ducked people when they were in their primes, but when would people say that Floyd Mayweather was in his prime????

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=SouthPawFlo;37378]I have just 1 question....

I keep hearing people say Floyd ducked people when they were in their primes, but when would people say that Floyd Mayweather was in his prime????[/QUOTE]

This is how it goes with Floyd Mayweather:

If a guy is younger, before the fight he's a "young, strong lion." After the fight, the young strong lion suddenly becomes an "inexperienced, untested fighter who wasn't ready."

If he's older, then "he's tried, tested and has the experience to truly test Mayweather." After the fight, they're "shot, over the hill" etc.

Other times they're too small, too big, too slow, etc etc etc. Never mind the fact that they're all ranked top P4P and/or champions when he fights them.

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They called Ricky Hatton a smaller fighter, which was bullspit. 147 was actually an advantage for Hatton since it was less weight for him to drop.

[url]<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhIB8be86w4>

I think he was in his prime at 135 where he fought guys his own size.

Hop says:

[QUOTE=SouthPawFlo;37378]I have just 1 question.... When would people say that Floyd Mayweather was in his prime?[/QUOTE]

Good question, SPF. No doubt answers will vary. JFF I'm going to throw out a response: [B]I'm going to say from Castillo II to the present.[/B] Yes, I know he's almost 37, but he sure hasn't slipped much! What's more, if anything his intellectual acumen in the ring is only peaking higher and higher. I'm open to being persuaded he should no longer be considered in his prime, but remember to take in the total package. Experience adds as it subtracts.

To me there's a definite difference between [B]"physical peak"[/B] and [B]"boxing prime"[/B].

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Hop;37383]Good question, SPF. No doubt answers will vary. JFF I'm going to throw out a response: [B]I'm going to say from Castillo II to the present.[/B] Yes, I know he's almost 37, but he sure hasn't slipped much! What's more, if anything his intellectual acumen in the ring is only peaking higher and higher. I'm open to being persuaded he should no longer be considered in his prime, but remember to take in the total package. Experience adds as it subtracts.[/QUOTE]

Absolutely.

Hop says:

BTW, being a Colorado kid may I be permitted to mix sports and opine that [B]Peyton Manning[/B] is still in [I]his[/I] prime?

[IMG]<http://i42.tinypic.com/33madxe.jpg>[/IMG]

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[IMG]<http://i42.tinypic.com/33madxe.jpg>[/IMG][/QUOTE]

No.

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brownbomber says:

[quote=amayseng;37360]if you wear a hat that says "the best ever"

if you call yourself "the best ever"

then you have nothing but expectation to be debated or criticized for not making certain prime fights happen..

Its part of the game.

If you put yourself in certain situations of domestic violence then you are opening up yourself to criticism again...

Is floyd guilty of those counts of domestic violence? I dont know, women are crazy, but it sure doesnt look good having 3 different counts of it....

Nobody is perfect, that is for sure, but if you call yourself "money", flaunt a certain lifestyle and act like a

tool bag at times then you are gonna suffer the consequences for it..

Shane mosley is a champion of divisions and never put himself in a situation of flaunting money, cursing

his dad out internationally with disrespect or physically abusing women on 3 different occassions...

Hence, why he is respected as an ambassador of the sport and a gentleman, not a punk.

If you put yourself out there then its to be expected you are gonna be called out on it....

In every walk of life

stop bro it's an act!!! Stop!!

amayseng says:

A Look Back at Mayweather-Alvarez: Part One

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[QUOTE=brownbomber;37391]stop bro it's an act!!! Stop!![/QUOTE]

Then why do certain posters take such offense when Floyd is criticized for his "act"?

Some guys take it so personally even though they have no connection to Floyd mayweather what so ever.

Hey man I love Floyd in the ring but if he acts like a narcissistic jerk out if it or a dumb bastard ill call him on it and that's that.

He's a man , he can be out down like the rest of us.

amayseng says:

[QUOTE=Hop;37383]Good question, SPF. No doubt answers will vary. JFF I'm going to throw out a response: [B]I'm going to say from Castillo II to the present.[/B] Yes, I know he's almost 37, but he sure hasn't slipped much! What's more, if anything his intellectual acumen in the ring is only peaking higher and higher. I'm open to being persuaded he should no longer be considered in his prime, but remember to take in the total package. Experience adds as it subtracts.

To me there's a definite difference between [B]"physical peak"/[B] and [B]"boxing prime"/[B].[/QUOTE]

Hop do you have any personal experience lacing them up and boxing?

Hop says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;37395]Hop do you have any personal experience lacing them up and boxing?[/QUOTE]

No, A-May, I do not. In fact though I played sports all throughout my childhood & beyond (I was more in tune with 'football, basketball, baseball' than the seasons of the year), boxing was never a sport I nor any of my friends did or were exposed to. I was captivated by boxing on TV in those days, though (Ali, Frazier, Foreman, '76 Olympics, etc.), but that was the extent of it. My dad was an Ali fan, and we would watch his fights together. How 'bout you?

Hop says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;37393]I love Floyd in the ring, but he acts like a narcissistic jerk out if it.[/QUOTE]

Often this has been the case; no question in my mind, and humor or 'schtick' cannot be used to just excuse it all away.

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amayseng says:

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yes, i grew up in the gym but mainly used it as a tool to stay in shape, get in shape and i love to fight...

i was an all state basketball and baseball player and with so much on the line for baseball after high school my parents wouldnt let me fight competitively..although my dad knew about gym wars, i still dont tell my mother. ha

SouthPawFlo says:

If you look at Floyd's last 5-6 fights, he's pretty much covered all the "bases" in his wins, fought through adversity in the Mosley fight (he got ROCKED), went to war with Cotto, Boxed Circles around Guerrero, Stole 1 Won from Ortiz (I mean Come On), & utterly Outclassed Canelo, in my opinion, Floyd is in his Boxing Prime right now, Especially with his Dad back in his corner....

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=SouthPawFlo;37449]If you look at Floyd's last 5-6 fights, he's pretty much covered all the "bases" in his wins, fought through adversity in the Mosley fight (he got ROCKED), went to war with Cotto, Boxed Circles around Guerrero, Stole 1 Won from Ortiz (I mean Come On), & utterly Outclassed Canelo, in my opinion, Floyd is in his Boxing Prime right now, Especially with his Dad back in his corner....[/QUOTE]

Floyd on Howard Stern. HILARIOUS! [url]http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E773CjJxoVE

Hop says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;37452]Floyd on Howard Stern. HILARIOUS![/QUOTE]

Absolutely no offense meant by this, Shad', ok? There may have been [I]some[/I] funny moments mixed in there, but if I might offer a different perspective, I found it quite depressing. One might hope (or at least I would) that a great champion would seek to conduct himself in an honorable manner -- first of all b/c it is simply the right moral thing to do, but if that doesn't motivate a person sufficiently then how about for the sake of the myriads of kids looking to you with wide, searching eyes? I know that I am in the minority, and I don't expect Floyd to live like a Christian, but I'm disgusted in many ways by the man that he is (and [I]of course[/I] by H. Stern as well). I thought the most interesting part was when FM was sharing about his (miserable) childhood.

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BTW, may I just ask (just curious) ... Are there any others on this site who are not ashamed to identify themselves as believers in (and seek to be followers of) Jesus Christ as Lord? If there's no one, that's all right. Was just wondering.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Hop;37473]Absolutely no offense meant by this, Shad', ok? There may have been [I]some[I] funny moments mixed in there, but if I might offer a different perspective, I found it quite depressing. One might hope (or at least I would) that a great champion would seek to conduct himself in an honorable manner -- first of all b/c it is simply the right moral thing to do, but if that doesn't motivate a person sufficiently then how about for the sake of the myriads of kids looking to you with wide, searching eyes? I know that I am in the minority, and I don't expect Floyd to live like a Christian, but I'm disgusted in many ways by the man that he is (and [I]of course[I] by H. Stern as well). I thought the most interesting part was when FM was sharing about his (miserable) childhood.

BTW, may I just ask (just curious) ... Are there any others on this site who are not ashamed to identify themselves as believers in (and seek to be followers of) Jesus Christ as Lord? If there's no one, that's all right. Was just wondering.[/QUOTE]

None taken! It's Howard Stern so it's going to be crude and crass. I probably should've put a disclaimer there for those who may have found it offensive.

Personally, I find that type of stuff funny. I totally understand if others don't, though. (Then again, I don't get offended when people call me the dreaded N-word or make ethnically charged jokes. I actually find it funny at times.)

I just liked the fact that he got Floyd to get away from the boring boilerplate answers he always gives. The stuff he said about his dad was quite fascinating, I think.

I do think that Floyd sends an inspiring message, if you can see beyond the BS. He's extremely disciplined, hardworking, lives a clean life and constantly preaches "hard work and dedication."

I admire both Floyd and Howard for their success. But fortunately, I've been taught what to appreciate and what to ignore. I've said many times, while I find him quite bland, his work ethic is admirable and should be emulated by every single ambitious athlete.

I totally get where you're coming from -- you have children with responsibilities my mind is too simple to fathom, you're a pastor, school teacher etc. You have a different level of maturity and accountability. (By comparison, I'm a guy who initially declined a teaching position at local college because I had college girls as girlfriends. That kinda says it all lol.)

As for Christianity, although I grew up in a devout Christian household with my grandmother, I tend to steer clear of the topic of religion.

Hop says:

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Appreciate the tone of your response, Shadow, and your wanting to be sensitive. Ironically, [U]I[/U] find the N-word offensive, though I do also feel people are sometimes being overly supercilious regarding race and about having a little good-natured fun about it. Just depends on the specific instance in question. All I would add in return to your post is that, as I think you know, I'm a fellow-admirer of FM's work ethic, for sure. "Inspiring", as you say. As far as his "living a clean life", I guess that would depend on one's definition. I think I know where you're coming from, but for me personally, visiting strip clubs, using loads of profanity, and talking about the kinds of things he did with HS does not qualify.

I don't want to derail this thread (so no need to respond), but let me just say that I am deeply grieved to hear that you have evidently departed from the way of the Lord as exemplified by your grandmother. I am grateful that I cannot fathom such an indifference toward the only thing that ultimately matters, and hope that by God's grace I never can. As you know, we shall appear before Him, and one way or another "every knee shall bow". I assume we can send PM's on this site. If you'd ever like to privately discuss anything it would be an honor.

Ok, back to boxing. That Floyd Mayweather kid is pretty good, eh?

The Shadow says:

I simply try to avoid discussing it with people because I consider faith a personal matter, not a collective one.

With such touchy topics, discussions like those hardly lead to anything constructive anyway.

What I meant by clean life is not drinking, smoking, doing drugs or abusing his body. As far as strip clubs and all that stuff, those are personal choices. He can do as he pleases as long as he doesn't harm anyone.

In addition, I think that's more so a reflection on the youth culture of America -- and the destigmatization of strip clubs -- than on him. Let's face it, kids today consume far too much junk and parents fail to do anything about it.

(For instance, at home, I would literally get spanked if I played music with curse words in it. Instead we would listen to Vivaldi and gospel music. To this day, I have never, ever, EVER used profanity around my grandmother. The thought alone scares the crap out of me. One time when I was 9-10, I said a bad word in school and the teachers told her. She told me to repeat what I said. I literally thought I was going to get beat to death. And I was ready to die from humiliation alone. LOL)

But as Floyd also mentioned, those appearances at strip clubs are paid gigs so it's technically part of his job. And the same people that go to these clubs are the same ones he's branding his apparel to.