

Golovkin A Nice Guy Who Punches Nasty

Written by David A. Avila

Tuesday, 08 October 2013 10:55



Professional boxers as a whole are among the least snobbish and entitled athletes of all.

Basketball stars, soccer or futbol players, and baseball guys are among the most pampered and spoiled of all paid athletes.

But among boxers, there are some guys and girls that would seemingly give you the shirt off their back... unless you're in the boxing ring with them. Then, all bets are off.

Mr. Nice Guy, better known as Gennady "GGG" Golovkin (27-0, 24 Kos), has a date to meet challenger Curtis "Showtime" Stevens (25-3, 18 Kos) in his hometown New York City. The two will meet in Stevens' hood for the WBA and IBO middleweight titles on Nov. 2.

When you've been around boxers for more than 20 years you get a true sense of who the truly nice people are in the sport. Over the years there have been fighters like Israel "El Magnifico" Vazquez, who once offered his seat in a taxi to me deep in Mexico. It was late at night and a taxi could only fit four people. There were five of us. Vazquez insisted I take the taxi and he wait for another. He had nothing to gain, he was already retired. I refused and politely guided the former warrior into the car.

Another guy not known for kindness is Floyd Mayweather. A few years back when I was watching him prepare for Dancing With The Stars, me and several others were left stranded in the desolate part of Las Vegas. It was a few hours before a big fight and our ride was nowhere to be found. Mayweather spotted me outside and asked what had happened. When I told him our taxi left, he gave up his own car and had one of his guys drive me and the others to the casino where the fight was being held. Meanwhile, Mayweather had to wait for his guy to return before he could leave.

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As a journalist you never forget those things.

Golovkin is like that too. It's something that some of the truly great fighters have in common. They're conscientious of others outside of the ring, then deadly efficient as a rattlesnake inside the squared circle.

The middleweight from Kazakhstan has big plans for the immediate future and despite having an imposing threat in front of him like Stevens, the cherubicly smiling Golovkin talks respectfully about the future.

"Stevens is a good fighter. I respect him," said Golovkin, who had knocked out all but two opponents he's faced. "He's very strong. He's a good puncher."

Abel Sanchez, who trains Golovkin in Big Bear, says that his student has extreme confidence in his own chin.

"He's never been knocked down as a pro or as an amateur," said Sanchez, adding that Golovkin had more than 300 amateur fights.

Before Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. performed poorly against Bryan Vera, there were rumblings that Golovkin might collide with the son of Mexico's great champion. There were also murmurs of Golovkin meeting Andre Ward, who was having a press conference immediately after GGG's earlier luncheon at the Manhattan Beach Marriott.

When photographers asked Ward to pose with Golovkin there was a big difference in height. Not to mention the super middleweight champion from Oakland seemed none to pleased to be standing next to the smiling Golovkin.

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Ward seemed angry and did not try to hide it. He wouldn't even discuss a fight with Golovkin.

Team Golovkin walked away but before everyone left they wanted the press to know that they were not overlooking Stevens.

"We know what he (Stevens) can do," said Tom Loeffler, whose represents K2 Promotions. "But Gennady has never been down on the canvas."

When it comes to punchers you never know who can take whose punches until they step in the ring.

Golovkin doesn't worry.

"This is not crazy. This is a sport. Just relax," says Golovkin. "He's a good puncher. It's a great fight. It's a good situation."

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amayseng says:

I am all for hype and excitement but for Steven's "RIP GGG" was a bit in poor taste when there have been unfortunate results of death in professional boxing. To me it is nothing to joke about. GGG stated in an interview he was pissed when he saw the pic on twitter.

Stevens was in trouble to begin with with his anti foot movement and static combination punching, he was outclassed when he signed the contract, now he is gonna be dealing with a superior fighter looking to make a statement. GGG early KO,

brownsugar says:

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Easy work for GGG. He's going to have some real fun with Stevens ..

Steven is nothing he hasn't seen before...he's already beaten better versions in the amateurs Watch GGG on You Tube in an epic war with former light heavy Cuban Yordanis D. who was better than Steven in every aspect until the pros burned him out.

brownsugar says:

Ward was unusually cold and pensive when GGG was brought to him during a media event for an obligatory handshake from the P4P SOG. For a moment I thought Ward was going to smite him on the spot with a bolt of aloofness.

GGG looked like he was generally delighted to rub elbows with Ward and looked like he was hoping

to get his foot in the door of a super fight between the 2.

Ward on the other hand looked as territorial as a Pitt bull asked to share his chew toy with a mutt.

Call Mr crazy if you must...I really don't care anymore...but if they do meet I'm putting my money on GGG. this is all conditional of course depending on each fighter continuing to look good.

If that's the case I don't think the public will allow Ward to duck GGG a year from now.

amayseng says:

I can not fault Ward B-sug, he is a fighter and that is how fighters act. He is a hell of a competitor I am sure those juices got flowing being face to face with GGG.

What a great matchup this would be, I am hoping it takes place in due time, not rushing GGG up to that weight, maybe in two years after he has beat everyone and is the lineal mw champ and Ward the lineal and still unbeaten smw champ...

then I can see a trilogy.

It would be nice to see GGG knock Froch out first though....