

Maybe Pacquiao Should Fight Bradley Again If He Beats Rios

Written by Frank Lotierzo

Wednesday, 23 October 2013 21:33



It's amazing how in professional sports things are week to week, or game to game. The same thing holds true in boxing, being that perceptions and opinions are fight to fight.

Two weeks ago it seemed as if it would be senseless for Manny Pacquiao 54-5-2 (38) to fight a rematch with WBO welterweight title holder Timothy Bradley 31-0 (12). However, if Pacquiao beats Brandon Rios 31-1-1 (23; *the two are pictured in Will Hart-HBO photo from their NYC presser this summer*) next month, a rematch with Bradley just may be the best option for Manny if he can't finagle a way to coax Floyd Mayweather 45-0 (26) into fighting him.

Getting by Rios is in no way a given for Pacquiao. Brandon is as tough as they come and if Pacquiao has eroded physically, it will be very pronounced against Rios' aggressive and rough style. However, if Pacquiao is the fighter he was versus Juan Manuel Marquez 56-7-1 (40) in his last fight before he got caught with the best punch Marquez has ever landed and was stopped, he should get by Rios because he is clearly a tier better fighter. So where does Pacquiao turn if he beats Rios?

Some would say he still has a score to settle with Marquez, but what is in it for him to gain? Their first three fights were extremely close and there's a case to be made for either one as to who won. When they met for the fourth time, Manny was working Marquez over, had his face busted up and bleeding and looked as if he was a round or two away from halting Marquez for the first time. Then Marquez caught him with a counter right hand at the end of the sixth round that was heard around the boxing world and knocked him out. If they fought again it would most likely go the distance and the decision would be disputed. And with Marquez being clearly out-boxed by Bradley earlier this month, Pacquiao has nothing to gain by defeating his 40 year old career rival at this stage of the game.

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Enter Timothy Bradley.

In Bradley's last three fights he's won a disputed decision over Pacquiao, showed all the heart in the world and survived a war in out-pointing Ruslan Provodnikov, who may be one of the best attackers in professional boxing. And in his last bout, he out-boxed Marquez more thoroughly and completely than Pacquiao ever did over the course of the 42 rounds he and Marquez have fought. That's pretty impressive on Bradley's part and more noteworthy than what Pacquiao or Marquez have accomplished over their last three fights. Bradley always shows up in great condition, has fast hands, an improving boxing aptitude, takes a good punch and possess a willing heart and will do whatever he needs to in order to win. On top of that Bradley has officially defeated Pacquiao.

In regards to their fight back in June of last year, Bradley was the benefactor of a split decision verdict, with two judges scoring it 115-113 in his favor and the third judge seeing it the opposite, 115-113 Pacquiao. A score of 115-113 on points works out to be 7-5 in rounds. So basically the fight was one round away from being scored a draw on all three judges scorecards, which indicates how close and tough the fight was to score.

I have maintained as long as I've followed or been involved with the sport of boxing that the only score that counts when scoring a fight is the score you tabulated the night of the fight when you watched it live and in the moment before you knew the result. Going back and re-watching fights is something we all do. The problem with that is we know the result and also know that fighter B survived that big left-hook in the fourth round when the crowd was yelling and he looked like he was really shook and in trouble. Watching the replay you see that fighter A didn't do as much scoring as you thought as he did while watching the fight in the moment. I can think of several fights that I saw in person or on TV that when I went back and re-watched them, turns out the bout was closer than I remembered it being. Hagler-Leonard is a perfect example. Watching it live I thought Leonard took Hagler to school and gave him a boxing lesson. Watching it again a few months back it was closer than I remembered it to be the night I watched it live without knowing which way it was gonna go. Too bad. The only score that matters is the one I concluded the night of the fight. Like the judges, we only get one chance to score any fight live, and that's all that counts. The night I watched Hagler-Leonard in the moment I thought it was a clean win for Leonard. So Leonard must have done enough while the fight was unfolding to sway me because I know what I'm watching and how to score a fight.

The night I watched Pacquiao-Bradley live, I was adamant that Manny won the fight by two or three points. I thought Bradley appeared to be shook a few times and looked as if he was fighting to survive more than to win. And in the time that has passed since many other fight

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observers saw it the same way. Almost every time the Pacquiao-Bradley clash is mentioned, it's followed by words such as "controversial or disputed decision in Bradley's favor." Having said that, I believe Pacquiao-Bradley is another example as to why you can only count the score you came up with while watching it live because on tape it looks a little different. I received more than a few e-mails from people whose boxing opinion I respect who have gone back and watched Pacquiao-Bradley again and see it a little differently. So I did that and you know what, despite it meaning nothing as to what I saw when I watched it live, I see it closer and closer every time I've watched the tape. No, I don't think Bradley won, but I'm more open to hearing the case that he did than I was before. And even though my mind hasn't changed as to who won, I'm not sure that Pacquiao beat Bradley beyond all doubt and would like to see them lock up one more time. Bradley has improved and is more confident and fought better down the stretch of the bout against Pacquiao and Manny just may have something to prove that he clearly did beat Bradley the first time.

I really don't want to see Mayweather-Pacquiao because it's four years over due, but I know a majority of the boxing world wants to see it. I've maintained that Floyd would've beat Manny four years ago and would handle him more easily now. Regardless, Mayweather-Pacquiao is the biggest fight in combat sports, so if Pacquiao beats Rios he should go after Mayweather.

But if he can't get Mayweather, Bradley wants him again and Pacquiao should look at him as his next best option if he wants to continue fighting. At this point, Bradley is still technically undefeated, he's got wins over both Pacquiao and Marquez, holds a title, beat a hot property in Provodnikov, and there's nobody else whose credentials are as solid.

Frank Lotierzo can be contacted at GlovedFist@Gmail.com

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Radam G says:

No hunger for Bradley. Let him starve on his sick illusion of beating of Da Manny. Holla!

Hop says:

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[QUOTE=Radam G;39067]No hunger for Bradley.[/QUOTE]

Almost feel bad saying it, but me neither. I greatly respect his work ethic, and he's certainly effective at winning on points in the ring, but ... well, you said it, I don't have that hunger to see him in action that I do for some others.

Matthew says:

At this point in his career, who else is there for Pacquiao to fight? With the Cold War still going on, Pacquiao's list of potential opponents shrinks. Forget Marquez. Bradley is probably the only PPV-worthy opponent that the public will pay to see him fight. That being said, he has to get by Rios first.

amayseng says:

Bradley is too boring, hell he was boring to watch in the Pac fight. Pac is an action fighter so you know that is truly saying something when you have the ability to make a pac fight less exciting.

the guy is just NOT a ppv fighter.

he did enough to win the jmm fight and i understand that, but he just doesnt bring any excitement to the table.

amayseng says:

[QUOTE=Matthew;39078]At this point in his career, who else is there for Pacquiao to fight? With the Cold War still going on, Pacquiao's list of potential opponents shrinks. Forget Marquez. Bradley is probably the only PPV-worthy opponent that the public will pay to see him fight. That being said, he has to get by Rios first.[/QUOTE]

i agree the cold war is just hurting the sport and diminishing non hardcore fans.

i would watch another pac and jmm fight but im not asking for it...

if pac fights bradley again it better be on regular HBO

jzzy says:

If Pacman shines against Rios, the only fight to make is Mayweather. All the interested parties realize that this could

eclipse Canelo/Mayweather in revenue. Bob Arum will lead the way to get the fight done.

Bradley can continue to

build his fanbase against some of the younger guns.

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Grimm says:

Admit it, fellas: there's an interesting storyline to Pacquiao-Bradley II. Will Pacquiao wipe the canvas with Bradleys face out of pure rage? Will Bradley quirk and jerk his way to another widely disliked decision? And will Bradleys boasting reach never-before-seen heights?

Radam G says:

Crybaby Marquez is saying that he is in the hunt for a rematch with BRADLEY, because Hulkquez was robbed. Hahahaha! YUP! Right! My cousin sold my shares of the planet Mercury without my permission. I was robbed. Holla!

Radam G says:

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brownsugar says:

The bible thumpers know how to separate work from faith. Look at Ward and Holyfield.

Manny's faith didn't make the Pac/ Bradley fight as close as it was.

Bradley did.

The look of a fight to me is not as compelling as seeing who wins Its the science that's key.

But Bradley already rejected a rematch with Pac once....saying he wanted new challenges.

And Pac rejected it saying Bradley was boring.

They both need to get back in there and settle up on some old business and set the record straight.

For the sake of curiosity alone.

Bradley did well with a broken ankle.

He could potentially beat him for real the next time...Bradley is that good.

I don't care who wins the fight... I just need to see it again.

I have to know....is Pac slippin'?or is Bradley that good?

Carmine Cas says:

Pacquiao should fight Bradley if (once) he bests Rios. What other options are out there for him? The Mayweather fight isn't happening anytime soon, yes the Marquez 5 but other than that Bradley makes the most sense.

Radam G says:

I don't agree with you because of what I know, B-Sug. Da Manny's new-found belief in illusions of the Living God made that bout close. Da Manny was high on not hurting one of God's creatures. That was a weakness. God Hurts, Kills and Punishes His own creatures every day of the week. And a thousand times on Sundays. Kindness in the squared √ungle is for fools and

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losers. Da Manny was the fool against Bradley, and Da Manny was robbed for that. No other way about it. Holla!

Radam G says:

Everybody is slipping. That is life moving toward dying. We were born of a woman to die. And anything that make also dies. Holla!

Radam G says:

Bradley didn't break his ankle. The bytch was scare to death. And he got his arse tore up. I expected for people to change that version as time goes on. That is the tricks of the trade of life. Some A-hole told me that AmerKano slavery was as bad as Obamacare. WTF! That is my point. As time rocks, people take off the socks. And throw out wild stuff that needs in caves of a thousand locks. Holla!

brownsugar says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;39120]I don't agree with you because of what I know, B-Sug. Da Manny's new-found belief in illusions of the Living God made that bout close. Da Manny was high on not hurting one of God's creatures. That was a weakness. God Hurts, Kills and Punishes His own creatures every day of the week. And a thousand times on Sundays. Kindness in the squared √ungle is for fools and losers. Da Manny was the fool against Bradley, and Da Manny was robbed for that. No other way about it. Holla![/QUOTE]

That cool with me RG... We just come here to post opinions ...you have your's and I have mine. I don't think anyone on this site actually knows Manny in an intimate way.. And many more don't know anything about Jesus... I'll stop there because I don't preach on Fridays...thanks for your thoughts.

The Good Doctor says:

[QUOTE=brownsugar;39123]That cool with me RG... We just come here to post opinions ...you have your's and I have mine.

I don't think anyone on this site actually knows Manny in an intimate way..[B][I][U] And many more don't know anything about Jesus..[/U][/I][/B]. I'll stop there because I don't preach on Fridays...thanks for your thoughts.[/QUOTE]

That quote right there is enough to start an entirely new website.

amayseng says:

Pac for sure lost that killer instinct, he took it easy on Margacheato in the last couple rounds. i was yelling for him to destroy Marg, but he didnt, he backed off and let him finish the fight.

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Maybe he has that fire back, only time will tell.

and i still have no interest in another pac and bradley fight...

Radam G says:

Good stopping, because assuming is making an @\$\$ outta you and not me. I know Da Manny and I also know Tim Bradley too. But I don't know your meaning of "intimate way." That's SOUNDS a bit gay. But that is okay. That is just not the way Da Manny, TB or I lay.

And it is all right to preach about Jesus. I know the son of Mary. I've been knowing The Dude my whole life. He Is Aight! Darn Earthlings act they know Him in an "intimate way." But he hasn't been back here since those Romans put it on him.

Big Poppa G Doesn't Want Little Lamb J back in the neighborhood for a few more thousand years MAYBE! Because now you have all types of nutcases watching those clouds to spy which one that Jesus Is Gonna Come Back Riding on dat white-winged pony. Just hope that Little Lamb J doesn't get bucked off that pony because every nation of this jived-up planet will be shooting at His Holy Arse.

I'm betting on that, JACK!

Everybodee and dey mamma have opinions and make believe about him, though. And I can ride with that. To each, his own. Nobody should be knocked for not falling into anybody's belief or mis-belief.

We will all die. And we know that that is no lie. So it doesn't matter what we cry, or how we reply. Death kicks the sinners' and the believers' holy and unholy arses. So it is all right to preach any day of the week. In the end, we will all pernamently not live as we know life is.

BTW! Bytch-@ss Big Foot Bradley is already mouthing about how he is going to China to fight Da Manny and "will be robbed!"

What a fake-arse prophet Cali Cranium Crusher BYYTCH!

Now he can see into the future. Bradley is one delusional _____! He is going to get his arse HURT BADLY! What a C0cksure wuzzy! Dude is no doubt the greatest two-loss undefeated champion in the history of all times.

And Jesus or Big Poppa GOD or TB's Big Poppa Ray or TB's trainer or TB's wifey ain't gonna help him in dat squared jungle if he's lucky enough to ever enter across from Da Manny again.

There will be extreme violence conducted on that arrogant-arse mythical Desert Storm of Cali. He is going to get KNOCKED the DOUBLE FUDGE OUT! And then he will hallucinate that the referee stop the bout too soon because he was going to knock out Da Manny like Hulkquez did. OMFG! Only among the living dead. Holla!

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Radam G says:

OOPS! MY BAD! I musta' fo'got! I mean: Only among the living dead brains. Hehehehehehe!
Holla!

stormcentre says:

Bradley is a pretty clever boxer.

Many wouldn't have turned it around like he did with Ruslan. And then to easily outclass Marquez (as I expected) after Marquez's biggest win - over the guy everyone thinks Mayweather is running from.

I know Tim's style is considered to not always be crowd pleasing, but it can be (Bradley V Peterson/Alexander/Witter) and he does have an excellent boxing-mind that seems to always find a way to win.

Also, I do think Bradley's performance against Pacquiao was really diminished from his ankle sprain - you can see it happening in the fight video.

Radam G says:

Storm, that injury of the big-arse foot was a blessing for Bradley. Without it, he would have been risky and would have gotten KTFO. He gets that next time, if it is a next time. Bradley is a mirage. He fought a shot Marquez in that body of Hulkquez. Witter was always a big-mouthed quitter. Lamont Peterson has never been super. Holt was a bit cOcksure and not ready.

Bradley is the luckiest two-loss undefeated champion of all times. Holla!

amayseng says:

bradley alexander was a terrible terrible terrible fight....it was awful .

two guys with no power afraid to be in the pocket barely landing glancing shots in between the headbutts...it was like being tortured watching it. even lamplly made a comment on how uneventful it turned out.

bradley is NOT a ppv fighter. no matter who he fights....

spit bucket says:

I wouldn't mind seeing Ruslan Provodnikov V Rios - non PPV of course. Two heavy handed offensive minded fighters that would not step back. Would be a brutal affair with action plus. Those two go out there to hurt people. It would have the potential to be FOY...

spit bucket says:

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Everyone is down on Marquez... but I still like watching him work. PEDs or no - the guy throws beautiful punches and combos. And his style is so different from the bulk of fighters today. a craftsman and an artist. There is always something interesting to be found in his fighting style. At least for me...

spit bucket says:

BTW... where have all the avatars gone?