

Roach Says Pacquiao-Mayweather Fight "Closer Now Than Ever"

Written by Michael Woods

Wednesday, 08 January 2014 15:14



The five-time Boxing Writers Association of America Trainer of the Year Freddie Roach is as optimistic as he's ever been that a superfight between his guy Manny Pacquiao, the Congressman from the Phillipines, and Floyd "Money" Mayweather, can be put together.

Roach, during a chat from his Wild Card Gym in California, told me that he's quite hopeful that an arrangement can be worked out which would put Pacquiao, the 35-year-old hitter who looked stellar in his last outing, which came Nov. 23 against Brandon Rios, in with Mayweather, who is due to fight twice this year, in May and September.

"I think we're closer and closer to a Mayweather fight," the 53-year-old Massachusetts native told me. "It's only rumors now, but I think the rumors will come true. I don't think either Manny or Mayweather has anywhere else to go."

Mayweather recently reiterated, on the website FightHype, his demand that Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum, who promoted Floyd from 1996-2006, not be part of any promotion. Arum has a deal with Pacman through 2014, so that proves a sticking point if you want to see Manny-Money this year. I asked Roach about that hurdle.

"Manny has time left in his contract but I think if he calls Bob and tells Bob what he wants, and that's Mayweather," Roach said, "Bob will give him what he wants, Bob will let him go do that fight."

That said, it doesn't seem to me to be a smart move from a business standpoint for Arum to let Manny walk, even for the good of the game. I pointed that out to Freddie. "Bob's gonna get paid," he stated.

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Roach said that because Mayweather today stands taller as a revenue generator, the superfight would possibly land on the platform Mayweather calls home, Showtime-CBS. He said Showtime needs a marquee name to spur pay-per-view sales, to meet Floyd's fat guarantee, and that means Manny. "They can't pay that money for Amir Khan," he said, referring to his former client, who has been rumored to be the leading candidate to meet Mayweather in May. "I'm being optimistic that a Manny-Mayweather fight is closer now than ever."

I told Roach again I just don't see how Arum the businessman could justify letting Manny walk, if indeed that September Mayweather date could be set aside for the superfight. "You've got to give the fans what they want and most important, you as the promoter have to give the fighter what he wants," Roach said.

"I think Arum being the promoter and the professional that he is, will give Manny that fight. I like that September date, I'm pushing for it," the trainer stated. "I'm gonna call Manny this afternoon... all he has to do is call Bob, tell him who he wants, Mayweather, and I think it'll get done."

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Radam G says:

Money May will find another reason to duck the One-Pinoy Murder Row, no matter what da BobFather does.

An elderly Jew is not the problem. Cannot get those myths outta his noggin about "Filipino A-side Meth" is the bout blocker for Money May.

Da Manny fists are kyptonite and cyanide to the Mayweather's "Shoulder Roll." And "Lil' Floyd" goes to sleep by round five. And "Big Floyd" will cry like a thousand-and-one weeping widows while Uncle Roger will be shouting: "Nobody believed me about dat A-side Meth syet.

Pacyaw was full of that syet. And 'em muthaf***ers didn't test him rat [sic], cause dey wanted

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my nephew to lose...." Holla!

amayseng says:

t[B][I]he One-Pinoy Murder Row[/I][B]

ha. I like that RG.

Floyd better come up with something if he wants his guarantee

I dont know who is out there besides Pac, GGG, or Sergio for mw title that would collect buzz for may

SouthPawFlo says:

I think the board should stop making Money Vs Manny Post until they have a contract signed.... This back and forth, shoulda coulda woulda is getting old...

Any talk of Pac Man KO'ing Mayweather should get posters banned for 24 hrs... PAC fought for 42 Rounds with Marquez and couldn't stop him, and just finished 12 rounds with a Lead Footed lightweight in Rios, but he's somehow gonna KO Mayweather in 5rds, he might KO Roger or Big Floyd in 5 Rounds, but not the guy who opponents only hit with 12% of their punches.....

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=SouthPawFlo;42187]I think the board should stop making Money Vs Manny Post until they have a contract signed.... This back and forth, shoulda coulda woulda is getting old...

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CO-FOCKING-SIGN! Thank you! It is getting old. KO? Maybe Justin Mayweather. Next topic.

The Shadow says:

I think there might be a curveball coming with Manny's opponent.

Would be awesome to see Garcia, Guerrero, Maidana or even Malignaggi. Garcia and Malignaggi, I don't see, but I don't think the other two are totally out of the question. The negotiations are relatively easy in this case as far as numbers are concerned.

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Provodnikov doesn't do much for me. Neither does Bradley.

Why not reach out to Contursi, Bob Santos, or whoever that guy with the Nero forehead that runs with Guerrero (forgot his name) is, send them a flat fee offer of, say, \$6m so GBP gets a nice piece of PIE, too, and see what happens.

Who knows, maybe it happened already!

What do y'all think of Pacquiao-Maidana and Pacquiao-Guerrero?

I see Guerrero getting scourged JC style, bleedin' from weird places like the back and sh*t, and taking an incredible whooping. He won't take the KO; he's too much of a crusading zealot to do that.

I see Maidana falling. His chin is OK, but it is NOT great. He was stunned several times by Broner.

Thoughts, my brothers and sisters?

The Shadow says:

OOOOOOOH, Robert Guerrero continues to follow biblical narratives! This time he does a Judas, seeking to leave his Lord Swizz Bankz who has bent over backwards for that jabroni in the pursuit of Rabbi Arum.

[url]http://espn.go.com/boxing/story/_/id/10265672/robert-guerrero-seeks-break-golden-boy-contract

"Robert...you betray the Bank of Man with a suit?"

It's clear he's been approached about the Pacquiao fight. That bastard is just looking to cash out. He doesn't wanna fight anymore.

Mark my words, Manny will SCOURGE him.

It was bound to happen. HBO got slots, Top Rank has no welterweights, GBP got too much competition at 147, so Judas went for the 30 pieces of silver.

Good for him!

Find a match! Make the match! Light a match!

Then Bradley can pick up the remains for like \$2m, which will buy Guerrero a few more Twitter followers, ride off into the sunset, and condemn everyone to hell who doesn't want to join his church.

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I'm gonna enjoy this.

Radam G says:

The late, very good Ken Norton got kayoed in two rounds by then "Big" George Foreman. The late, great "Smokin' Joe Frazier got stopped by BGF twice after getting knocked down nine times.

GOAT Ali had 80 rounds of pure hell with KN and SJF, but kayoed BGF in eight round.

Styles make fights. Because A and B did whatever, it doesn't affect or stop C from kayoing one or the other or both.

Da Manny is to Money May what "Big" George Foreman was to the Jaw Breaker and Smoke. He will knock Money May da double fudge OUT! While always and forever have a GO with Marquez/Hulkquez.

Money May is smartly being a BIG coward from reality. He will BE kayoed by Da Manny.

He, his pops and uncles know that. Holla!

The Shadow says:

LMAO, bah humbug!

By the way, RG weren't we the first to speak of this possible match-up?

I heard that some Wild Card guys wanted him, plus a healthy portion of common sense. I guess some guys in the Philippines wanted it, too, since you confirmed hearing of it, too.

The stars are aligned!

It's some smart strategizing by Rabbi Arum. Did he engage McKinsey or something?! LOL!

Since Guerrero has already been on PPV, there might be some audience-carryover so numbers might be decent, like 600+. Arum understands that the perception is that SHO embellished the numbers -- something Arum is NOTORIOUS for! (Rule of thumb is take Arum's number and subtract 15% or 150,000 buys.)

Nevertheless, he will EXPLOIT that perception. Man is shrewd.

Then he will begin to tilt that perception that the disparity between the top two draws no longer is as great and people will believe it.

On top of that, he will probably beat Guerrero in a more violent fashion. This should be interesting. LOL!

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tlig says:

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I soo agree with this post.

Mayweather-Pac will never happen and if people didn't keep asking about it guys like Roach would not be talking about it. He knows - like most people in the business - it isn't going to take place but realises he has dangle the carrot for boxing journos to have something to write about.

I believe, for some weird reason, that Money thinks Pac has a chance to take his "0" and for that would never stand across the ring from him.

I also agree that Pac aint winning by KO if they fight (which they wouldn't) BUT he definitely can win.

Anyways, it's 2014 enough about these two.

amayseng says:

Never say never,

A 38 year old past prime by 8 years Shane put a still near Prime Floyd on Queer street 3 times in one round.

That shane wasnt half as fast as he used to be and this Pac is faster and far superior to that shane.

I am with Radam, there are NO triangle theories in Boxing. Ali hit Frazier with so many clean shots it is

unbelievable he didnt go to sleep. Then Foreman hit Frazier so hard he came off the canvas then back down

to it.

Floyd's gift is his stamina and spacing. Pac can keep up with his footwork and stamina and

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Pac hits with

punches in bunches.

And I did not see Madaina buzzed once during the AB fight. AB landed a few clean shots when AB was

tiring and madaina did space himself and catch his breath but I dont remember him being buzzed or hurt.

Why isnt Floyd fighting Garcia? Because the guy is a risk, he can win fights without having to run you down.

That kid does everything good and he is young.

michigan400 says:

Personally, I'm at the "who F'n cares anymore" point on this subject.

deepwater2 says:

Sad day for boxing. this has gone on for way to long. way back when... do you guys remember when the top p4p guy took on all comers and threats? Chavez Sr fought all comers. Mike Tyson fought all comers. De La Hoya fought all top threats. Roy Jones took on all the best at the time. The face of boxing fought all rivals. Sure Jones had a few Lou del valles on his resume but when it was time to fight Scarey James Toney he did it. He didnt want to give Tarver a payday and stalled that fight but his pride got the best of him and he did it. Pac wiped out entire divisions. DLH took on everyone, a few in their prime a few out of their prime. He said he would never give Vargas a pay day but guess what he did. The moral of this rant is the face of boxing, the top man that carries the sport is not supposed to act in the way that Floyd is acting. Stall a fight, Ok. Negotiate hard for top dollar ,OK. But to act the way that he acts bragging about money and asking opposing fighters to break contracts with their promoters ,or refusing to do business with another promoter is really disgusting behavior from a top fighting man. John L Sullivan would go into any pub and say he would beat any son of a b7tch in the house and he meant it. Floyd might have the most money at the end of the day but his legacy will be hurt if this fight doesn't come about. Maybe I am old and remember the good ole days but these days where Kardashian prostitutes are glorified everything seems a little cheap compared to what once was and that definitely includes what is going on with this fiasco. I will not ever pay for another Floyd fight again. He ruined so many of my fight parties that I will not ever be fooled again. All the great scotch and Cuban cigars seemed wasted when my guests were yawning and dozing off by the 5th round. So who cares at this point because there are other fights to watch.

Grimm says:

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Amen to that, deepwater.

jzzy says:

Agreed, If Arum is the impediment to getting this fight done, then he should be pressured to do what's best for Manny and boxing.

Floyd and Manny need to maximize their earnings this year before the well runs dry at retirement. It boggles the mind that boxers

keep running into tax problems with all the competent, honest tax pro's out there.

Unfortunately, the high earners seem to attract

incompetent leaches like Konce to handle their affairs. Incredible.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;42201]Never say never,

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That kid does everything good and he is young.[/QUOTE]

I already answered that in a different post, according to his people and himself, Garcia doesn't want the fight.

For one, Garcia doesn't want to move up to 147 yet and he wants to defend his titles he worked hard to unify. He also said he doesn't want to be part of that hoopla (whatever that means).

And yes, Maidana was buzzed in the 11th and 12th round. He even admitted it himself and it was quite obvious to see.

He got checked, stumbled, retreated forcefully and went on his bicycle. Just because he doesn't do the Trout and Khan dance doesn't mean he wasn't hurt. He was. Kudos to him for recovering.

SouthPawFlo says:

Two quick things and I'm done...

I've never seen Pacquiao look good taking on a prime, undefeated young fighter the way Money did when he took on Canelo and Ricky Hatton for that matter, but all I hear is Floyd get butchered for his opposition, nobody Floyd has faced was a bad or irrelevant as Josh Clotney (and that fight was on PPV)

Secondly, I do think PAC Man will give Mayweather a rough night, I just don't think he's KO Mayweather, I think they both will give each other problems, PAC man will have a problem with the precise counter punching and have a hard time avoiding the Straight right hand (which Floyd lands at a 60% rate against lefties) and I think Pacmans Volume punching and footwork will make Mayweather have to FIGHT 3:00 Minutes of Every Round.....

I just wish they would sign a damn contract already!!!

Radam G says:

Wow! Imma let it go, SPF. Because you're obvious bias toward Da Manny and keep reaching into mythology.

The way the American audience discover Da Manny in San Tony, Texico, he was a long-shot underdog against a prime killa. [Da Manny has often been a-long-shot underdog and won.]

Redcoat Ricky was a double-fudging HYPE! So was red-headed Canelo. Money May is a master at setting up jive fighting. In real fighting with Da Manny, Money May gets KTFO. He knows it. And is staying on his Kenducky Floyd Chicken. Holla!

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amayseng says:

SPF Clotey was a damn good fighter, he just turned into a damn statue when he fought Pac, maybe he was terrified to get knocked the F out. He gave Cotto a tough fight if i remember correctly. a close fight against a prime cotto.

also Hatton was still a solid fighter when Pac destroyed him.

Jmm in the first two fights was still prime...

Radam G says:

The teenage Da Manny knocked out a prime sucka. Holla!

SouthPawFlo says:

Somebody name me 3 fighters Clotey has beaten, because I'm obviously out the loop, I remember him Losing to Judah, Cotto, and PAC but I don't know who he beat.....

@ Radam, I like PAC man, I loved him destroying Hatton, DLH & margarito and I loved the way he made Rios look like a club fighter....

Radam G says:

BTW, SPF, the blocker of Money May-Da Manny dance is The \$hadow Al Hymen [intentionally misspelled], not Da BobFather.

Don't forget that when Money May was in jail, Fiddy made a strong effort to trashcan T\$AH, and had been bargaining with Da Manny for the Git [sic] Down to Throw Down. Money May came right from jail and got rid of Fiddy and HBO and then got more big uglies to his roving security guards. Did you ever wonder why? T\$AH

People not in the loop or biz, don't have a clue about the strange bedfellows, optical illusions, corruption and shady, seedy dealing in BIG, BIG-MONEY boksing.

T\$AH is running Golden Boy Production fighters, the money and the sponsor-network Showtime. T\$AH is a Harvard money-making genius who knows how to count, as da BobFather does.

A Money May loss destroys his money-making tricks. T\$AH knows that and Da Bobfather and HBO want that.

It is not a "Cold war" going. It's a hot one -- hot as hell. Even the founder -- Big-Money Oscar De la Hoya -- of GBP has been knocked to the side for minute. And not for being a dope head

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and cross dresser.

Corruption is everywhere and staging B+ fighters against each other and against Money May is covertly wide spread.

Take note: The first fighter -- Robert "The Cali (humbug holy) Ghost" Guerrero [name intentionally misspelled] -- is already trying to break ranks, because of real-money crookie-ing going on at GBP and Showtime. SOON! And I mean SOON. There will be a giant-a\$\$ Moses-like exit of fighters from T\$AH, GBP and Showtime.

And I said from the jump that T\$AH, GBP and Showtime were up to mafia-ing bull corn. Stay tune! Holla!

Carmine Cas says:

That's a good point Radam regarding the Al Haymon that is very true and it's the same for Bob Arum protecting his assets as well. And if Guerrero is looking for a fight with Pacquiao he is going to get beat up. The ghost needs make the extra 20 lbs ghost if he wants to be competitive at 147. Either way I want what Roach is smoking

Radam G says:

The Cali Ghost is looking too snitch about what's really happening with the above. A repeat of a mix of Don King; a bank-fraud crook by the assumed-name Harold Smith, IBF founder Robert Lee, and the mafia.

Da Bobfather is legit. By some strange reason, the only big-purse fighter he ripped off was Money May. But over \$3bil, he didn't cheat GOAT Ali, Rev. (Big) George, Holyfield, Sugar Ray Leonard, Oscar De la Hoya, Sugar Shane, Da Manny and the list goes on and on.

I smell Jew hating, and out-right fibbing on innocent man, while the crooks are rampaging and perpetrating frauds . Holla!

SouthPawFlo says:

Yesterday I was lying, but today I'm telling the truth.....

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=SouthPawFlo;42249]Yesterday I was lying, but today I'm telling the truth.....[/QUOTE]

Exactly.

TRUE STORY:

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After the Bradley bribery, I stood directly in front of Todd DuBoef, along with Sr. and one of Bob's close friends while Bob was chatting on the podium. (You can catch this on Youtube.)

I asked said friend straight up. "Is he an honest man?"

Laughter erupted while I waited for an answer. "Oh, you're serious?"

"Yeah?"

"No. No way. Hell no. But it's boxing. He's a good man."

RG's my man. And he's ridin' for his crew and that's cool. That's what he's supposed to do.

But everybody knows what time it is...

I don't have a dog in the race and I couldn't care less about either of these guys on a personal level.

That said, I have yet to hear anyone speak a bad word about Al Haymon, whether it's a promoter, acquaintance, fighter, media, musician, what have you. None. And I did ask around, even among the gossipers.

Equate that to the fact that I have yet to hear anyone speak a good word about Don King Da Killa. And that includes musicians, media, fighters, friends, even friends!

(Closest I heard was while chillin' with T. Cloud one day at the Hard Rock. I'm 90% sure he held back due to the thing around my neck. And he still said that he was a slick mofo that tries to get over on people. "Oh, you must like him!" Nicest thing I ever heard said about DK.)

I first saw Al in the media room after Mayweather-Cotto. He just stood by this table where they have beverages, minding his own business with his lanky behind.

Dude just minds his business and makes sure his fighters are OK. What more can you ask for?

ultimoshogun says:

I'm one of the few who are optimistic about this fight being made, for the same reasons Roach stated. Floyd and Manny have painted themselves into a corner as far as opponents go. Soon the public's gonna stop buying what they're selling.

Radam G says:

@The Shadow, and you won't hear anybody badmouthing The \$hadow AH. He got his duckies in a row. And he is on the billionaire secret row.

Something like the Coke (spelling intentional) brothers, who hates Prez O, and finance

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everything against him.

Barney Ross is The weak Shadow of the mid 1979\$ to early 1989\$. Holla!

The Good Doctor says:

[QUOTE=SouthPawFlo;42234]Somebody name me 3 fighters Clotney has beaten, because I'm obviously out the loop, I remember him Losing to Judah, Cotto, and PAC but I don't know who he beat.....

@ Radam, I like PAC man, I loved him destroying Hatton, DLH & margarito and I loved the way he made Rios look like a club fighter....[/QUOTE]

Clotney was a decent fighter like the amazing one said in the earlier posts. He gave my dude Cotto all he could handle en route to a split decision loss. He actually beat Zab for a title, and beat a still decent Chico Corrales. He has a bit of a Zab quality to him. You know he is a good fighter but when the stage is big, he comes up a little short. Hence you have losses to Cotto, Pac, and Margarito

Carmine Cas says:

Clotney is a solid fighter but sometimes he doesn't show up all the time. When he fought Cotto he pressed the action but gave up the last two rounds and in the Pacquiao fight he just went into a shell to collect a paycheck.

Radam G says:

Hehehehe! Clotney ate some Texas chili and drank that tap water, which is known to be mixed with that underground oil from those shaky-built wells. Dude had da syets, gas and serious stomach cramps even two days before the bout.

He went into a shell to stop from syetting on himself in dat squared jungle, while collecting that "paycheck." Hahaha! Holla!

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That is what they say Radam, but how the hell does a professional athlete, fighter in this case, during the biggest event, time and opportunity of his life, go off his perfect diet and eat chilli or anything else?

dumb

SouthPawFlo says:

Ok the Pac-Clottey fight was in 2010, has he had the runs since then?????

I know he just fought someone in September but what happened to him?????

Radam G says:

He hasn't been Texas chilli eating and drinking nasty-arse, oil-and-gas contaminated Texas tap water, SPF. Hahaha!

He learned not to be sampling eating and drinking tap water in a foreign land.

Take alkaline and coconut waters with you, and don't eat the meat, fruits and veggies. Hehehe! They'll probably have big-arse bugs in them. Holla!

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