

Hey Top Rank, You Making Pacquiao-Algieri?

Written by Michael Woods
Tuesday, 17 June 2014 16:10



Bob Arum is out of the office for a few days so I checked in with Carl Moretti of Top Rank to see if Chris Algieri snagged the next Manny date off of his glowing showing against Ruslan Provodnikov on Saturday night in Brooklyn, when he showed Gatti chutzpah and the heart and style of a purist pugilist in boxing his way to The Siberian Rockies' 140 pound crown.

Moretti, after chiding me for not watching soccer like the rest of the planet, told me that Algieri is certainly in the mix to fight Manny, but that it is too early to have any kind of a handle on what the Congressman will do next.

"I don't know if a star was born Saturday night but it sure was an intriguing fight," he told me, "and he showed a lot of grit and determination. Why not throw him in the Manny sweepstakes? Why not him?"

Indeed. I queried Moretti if he didn't think Ruslan wasn't in top grade form, that he lacked some snap...and posited the possibility that holding up the A side, and all the media grind in the weeks leading up to the event, didn't sap him some. Balderdash, Moretti said. Give the Long Islander fill credit and stop searching for exculpatory evidence to let Ruslan off the hook, he thundered.

The bout, he acknowledged, did cement a train of thought in the TR office, that Ruslan does have limitations, and that Algieri is better than some thought going in to the face-off. Also, that this style of fight doesn't play to the Siberian's strengths...

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And who is the real Ruslan, the FNF guy of the budding star? That will be better answered when he signs for his next fight, and we see that outing, Moretti said.

Oh, and how did the Jersey native score it? "I could score three ways if I watched it three different times," he said.

Moretti said he thinks Algieri will look to go another route than a rematch, and I think Ruslan has made clear he'd rather be paired with traders, so I feel like it's safe to assume they won't tangle again...but this is the theater of the unexpected...

Moretti is headed to Cali to check out the Lomachenko-Russell Jr. bout, which he called "a coin flip fight. It is extremely intriguing."

We joked that Loma could be the best 1-2 fighter in the world on Sunday morning and Moretti cracked that he will no doubt be "the richest 1-2" boxer if he loses to the fleet-fisted Haymon fighter.

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the Roast says:

Short answer. Lets hope not.

Radam G says:

Hehehe! Why not? Holla!

The Shadow says:

I just watched rounds 11 and 12 vs Provodnikov. I think I've seen all I need to see to know this guy. My take? They better not.

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This guy can fight. He's a real boxer and he's got some Jimmy Young moves on him that I've only seen from Andre Ward. On top of that, he fights at a frenetic pace but he's not wild. He just does everything at such a rapid pace that he's hard to time.

The way he moves into the clinch is beautiful. I recognize it because I've been drilling that move for about seven months straight and it's awesome. And I stole it directly from Young.

He varies up his defense too which makes him hard to read and anticipate. He'll catch, parry, duck and smother. Then he'll sidestep, change angles, give different looks and then step off.

He has good anticipation and takes advantage of counter opportunities. Not afraid to let his hands go. And his jab dictates the action and the pace even though he sets a torrid pace.

Overall, Algieri is like a fast-pace Ward with less versatility, more outside work and without the messy rough stuff.

Guys like Floyd Mayweather and Rigo Ortiz have super human speed, yet maneuver about in this slow, hypnotic tempo only to explode in these sudden outbursts at dramatic changes of pace.

Obviously Algieri is not faster than these two guys but he fights at a faster pace by fighting at, or close to, his max speed at all times.

He has to be in incredible shape to do that for 12 rounds.

I would still favor Pacquiao but Algieri's inside tricky inside pro game might be more than the Pacman can handle. Pac has developed some nice strength on the inside, physically tying people up.

That said, this may be one of those high-risk/low-reward situations. Because it's hard to tell with a (undefeated) boxer like that how good he really is.

Just ask Nonito.

If I'm Bruce, I do not let my cash cow anywhere near this guy. Not worth it.

The Shadow says:

Radar, listen to this interview with Chris! He's speaking your language here!!!
[url]<http://www.esnewsreporting.com/robert-garcia-chris-algieri-loves-boxing-2/>

You two would get along. Wait, is he you?!? Lol

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thegreyman says:

I don't rate Algieri's boxing skills quite so much Shadow. He can do the basics well yes, but at the end of the day, he's a one trick pony. What you see is what you get.

It ain't hard to out-box the purest slugger in the sport.

Skibbz says:

Come on Shadow you couldn't seriously give those the championship rounds to Algieri? He looked spent and was fighting on will in my opinion (which doesn't mean he lost the round but he was not as impressive, which allowed Ruslan to look more dominant, deal more damage and control the ring - and Algieri's movement - much more). Ruslan won the last 4 rounds in my opinion, the championship rounds more convincingly than the two before!

I have Algieri rounds 3 and 8. There were a few inbetween that could have swung either way but I favoured the champion because he was dealing the more damage and controlling the ring.

The Shadow says:

[QUOTE=Skibbz;55867]Come on Shadow you couldn't seriously give those the championship rounds to Algieri? He looked spent and was fighting on will in my opinion (which doesn't mean he lost the round but he was not as impressive, which allowed Ruslan to look more dominant, deal more damage and control the ring - and Algieri's movement - much more). Ruslan won the last 4 rounds in my opinion, the championship rounds more convincingly than the two before!

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I wasn't scoring the rounds. I haven't even watched the full fight (only those two rounds I could find). I was trying to get a read on the guy. I had never seen him before, which is why I didn't comment on anything regarding these two; I simply had no knowledge base to draw from.

But if those two rounds were his worst, then I definitely don't see how people had him losing.

While I didn't see the full fight, I did however watch his fight with Emmanuel Taylor. I also did a little research on this guy. He's a winner. In everything he does. Former undefeated kickboxing world champ, captain of the varsity wrestling team...

One of the things that also impresses me tremendously is his academic accomplishments coming from a household with no academic history.

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You're right, he fought on will. He has that intangible. Many world class fighters do not have it, to that extent anyway.

This guy has character. I'm not ashamed to say it, I'm a fan of this guy. I hope he becomes a star. He's well spoken, poised, intelligent, nice aura, good sprit and has a great look. I now know what EM was talking about on Twitter.

Anyway, if this guy is a one-trick pony, then I don't know what that makes his opponent...

I knew Ward and Rigo were going to be unbeatable back in '09. I don't quite get that from Algieri. But I do think he will make a nice career for himself.

Radam G says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;55885]I wasn't scoring the rounds. I haven't even watched the full fight (only those two rounds I could find). I was trying to get a read on the guy. I had never seen him before, which is why I didn't comment on anything regarding these two; I simply had no knowledge base to draw from.

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I knew Ward and Rigo were going to be unbeatable back in '09. I don't quite get that from Algieri. But I do think he will make a nice career for himself.[/QUOTE]

He is a one-trick pony. But not a phony. And that is going to get him destroyed. Tough guys don't last long in this game. The game is for science, not surviving on guts and favoring-you-with-gift-decisions butts.

I've already viewed that bout four more times, and C-AI LOST each time. He is a disaster waiting to happen. Holla!

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He's not a tough guy. He's a smart guy. He's not going to take punishment. He's already thinking ahead. Listen to his decision making process behind why he took a knee in the first round. And listen to his interview I posted. He sounds just like you.

Froggy says:

I think that would be a great idea, if they want Mannys PPV numbers to drop ! People would start talking about boycotting his fights like some people are talking about boycotting Mayweathers fights ! Hopefully clearer heads prevail !

Radam G says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;55890]He's not a tough guy. He's a smart guy. He's not going to take punishment. He's already thinking ahead. Listen to his decision making process behind why he took a knee in the first round. And listen to his interview I posted. He sounds just like you.[/QUOTE]

He was smart in taking a knee. I didn't say that he was crazy. But he is nails and bullets tough for boxing. He kept getting the snot knocked out of him. That type of fighter won't last long. He is with the big boys now. They will break him. Holla!

thegreyman says:

[QUOTE=The Shadow;55890]He's not a tough guy. He's a smart guy. He's not going to take punishment. He's already thinking ahead. Listen to his decision making process behind why he took a knee in the first round. And listen to his interview I posted. He sounds just like you.[/QUOTE]

You've misjudged the guy Shadow, watch the fight first.

Algieri certainly is a tough guy- he fought through 12 tough rounds against one of the toughest guys in the sport. His toughness was proven beyond doubt.

As for smartness, yes he's proven his academic capabilities, but his boxing smarts are hardly historic. He out-boxed a non-boxer. That's not much of a statement.

Again, not taking anything away from the guy- he earned some respect last Saturday, but

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against elite level opposition like Pac, he'll be destroyed, no question.

As for his taking of a knee, he was in pain, and he couldn't take so much pressure under so much pain. Anything he says to the contrary is just his fighter's pride talking.