

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

Pacquiao, De La Hoya take Lady Liberty storm

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er in boxing today and I always want to fight the best. They say I am old and I can't fight him. I am challenged by that. I am 35 but that is not old," De La Hoya told the Asian Journal on the way back to Manhattan via a ferry to Liberty.

Pacquiao, who won world titles at flyweight (112 lbs), super-bantam (122 lbs), super-feather (130 lbs) and lightweight (135 lbs) will be fighting for the first time at welterweight (147 lbs). Some consider him as the underdog because at 5'10.5", De La Hoya is four inches taller than Pac-

quiao and his reach is 72 inches against Pacquiao's 67.

Though not a title fight, a welterweight victory over De La Hoya in the same year he held his previous titles would be equivalent to Henry Armstrong's historic year of 1938 when he simultaneously held the featherweight, lightweight and welterweight titles.

"We all know about the battle between David and Goliath and who won in the end, right?" Bob Arum, Top Rank's top man said, much to the cheers and screams of the predominantly Filipino fans who trooped to the Statue of Liberty to see the presscon. Pacquiao said that he gets inspired by the support of fans wherever he goes.

"When I take that walk to the ring to fight Oscar, I will carry all the people of the Philippines on my shoulders. I promise I

will fight with all my heart and that I will give everything I have. Like my trainer Freddie Roach says, I have what it takes to win the biggest fight of my life," he said. For De La Hoya, he shared that he is excited and can't wait for December 6 to arrive. "I am glad that we were able to make this fight happen because while Pacquiao is at the pinnacle of his success and has defeated all of the top fighters he has faced, I am going to show the world that it stops with me," he said.

Team Pacquiao and Team De La Hoya, together with their promoters, Top Rank, Inc. and Golden Boy Promotions will also travel to Chicago, Houston, San Antonio, San Francisco and Los Angeles to promote the match. The last stop will be where the Golden Boy grew up—Whittier Boulevard Arch in East LA on October 7. ■

RP destinations top picks in online poll

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"We are pleased with the current rankings but as the deadline draws near, we should be more persistent in urging Filipinos to vote and actively promote our candidates," Durano said.

Great tourism boost
Although the competition mandates that only one nominee per country would be included in the official final seven, having four strong nominees at this stage was a great boost for Philippine tourism, he said.

The other top placers are: Ha Long Bay in Vietnam; Cox's Bazar Beach, Bangladesh; Al-hasa Oasis, Saudi Arabia; Ganges River, Bangladesh and India; Ali Sadr Cave, Iran; 9 Sundarbans Forest, Bangladesh and

India; and Lake Saiful Maluk, Pakistan.

"The whole world is tuned in to this competition. Even if only one of our candidates remains in the final seven, we have gained so much publicity for our country as a destination with diverse natural sites," Durano said.

Eduardo Jarque Jr., tourism undersecretary for planning and promotions, said nominees in the search must be a natural site, a natural monument or a natural landscape.

"There must be no human interference involved in the creation of the sites," he said.

77 sites in next round
The nominees that make it to the top 77 sites will be eligible for the next round. Voting will continue until July 7 next year, according to the website.

A panel of experts under professor Federico Mayor, former director general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), will review the top 77 nominees and choose 21 finalists, which will be declared on July 21 next year.

The finalists will then be put to a popular vote.

The finals will run from 2009 to 2010, with each of the 21 finalists having a chance to be presented to global voters through the New 7 Wonders World Tour.

The Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, features a limestone karst mountain landscape with an 8.2-km navigable underground river.

According to the New 7 Wonders website, "The underground river is reputed to be the world's longest. At the mouth of the cave, a clear lagoon is framed by ancient trees growing right to the water's edge. Monkeys, large monitor lizards and squirrels find their niche on the beach near the cave." ■

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Medy Cabanilla

OCHOCO

SEPTEMBER 2, 1931-SEPTEMBER 25, 2008



Medy Cabanilla Ochoco, age 77, died at LAC - USC Hospital on Thursday September 25, 2008, following an extensive brain injury resulting in a brain hemorrhage.

She was born on September 2, 1931 in Binalonan, Pangasinan, Philippines to Mauricio and Alberta Cabanilla. Medy was the second eldest child of a family of seven siblings.

Medy migrated to the United States in 1966 and resided in Los Angeles, California. Medy worked as a seamstress in Downtown Los Angeles for several years and then became a housekeeper for Downtown Hilton for twelve years until retiring at the age of 65.

Medy lived her life to the fullest. She enjoyed taking care of her two grandchildren, Christopher and Kyle. She loved traveling all over the world with her husband and best friends, shopping in downtown, and gambling in Las Vegas. She had the passion for gardening; looked over her bitter melon plants, orchids, persimmon trees and loved to cook and share her famous Pinakbet. She was a big Lakers fan, she would only watch the game if they were winning. She also enjoyed watching the Filipino game show Wowowee. She was a great storyteller and loved to tell jokes to make people laugh.

Medy is survived by her husband Roger Ochoco, daughter Marites Mae Queano, son-in-law Manuel F. Queano Jr., grandchildren Christopher Julius and Manuel Kyle Queano, and sisters Susana Peralta and Emilia Peralta.

Funeral services for Medy Cabanilla Ochoco will be held at 9:30 am, Saturday, October 4, 2008 am in the Risen Christ Mausoleum at Holy Cross Cemetery in Culver City, CA. Viewing services will be held at Holy Cross Mortuary located inside the cemetery at 3 - 9 pm on Thursday, Oct. 2, and Friday, Oct 3, 2008. There will be a rosary on Friday night at 6:30 pm.

She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. We will remember her life and the sweet memories we shared with her forever. Please remember her with a laugh and a smile and not with tears. She will always be remembered as a loving wife, a beloved mother and grandmother, sister, aunt and friend.

For more information please call: 213-250-3215