

# Hatton camp: Pacquiao out in six rounds

by ABAC CORDERO  
Phlstar.com

MANILA—Manny Pacquiao will be in for the shock of his life when he meets Ricky Hatton on May 2 in Las Vegas.

This warning, stern as it may sound, was issued by one of Hatton's trainers, Lee Beard, who went to the extent of saying that Pacquiao will get knocked out inside six rounds.

Beard, who visited Pacquiao in his Mandalay Bay suite the day after the *Pino* champion defeated Juan Manuel Marquez in March last year, said Hatton has all it takes to win.

"When Ricky hits Manny he is going to be shocked at the power, when Manny fought Oscar, Oscar was dead at the weight and never landed anything," Beard was quoted on Hatton's website.

"If Ricky had fought Oscar that night I think he would have stopped him earlier than Manny, and I think that (David) Diaz would have also been taken out earlier," he added.

Beard said Pacquiao just makes errors that are often repeated. He added that he's been to the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles to watch Pacquiao train for one of his previous fights.

"I think that Ricky will stop Manny within six rounds, I think

the first time Ricky gets hold of him and unloads Manny won't know what's hit him," he said, adding that Hatton is just big as a light-welterweight.

Pacquiao's chief trainer, Freddie Roach, jumped the gun on the Hatton people when he said as early as last month that the fight should be over in nine rounds.

And here comes Beard saying Pacquiao will be out inside six.

He added that Floyd Mayweather Sr, who will man Hatton's corner, is now looking at possible sparring partners, although Beard said no one could be better than Edwin Valero.

"I think the only one that's near to Pacquiao in terms of style is

Edwin Valero and that's who I'd like to see us get in. I think that if you can adjust to him then it's the closet thing you can get to Pacquiao and his record would suggest he hits as hard if not harder than Manny," he said.

The Venezuelan was part of the Dela Hoya training camp, but only managed to spar with the Golden Boy for eight rounds, saying he was sent home because he was hurting the 1992 Olympic champion.

A member of Team Dela Hoya said sending Valero home was a big mistake, because "solving Valero (also a southpaw) would have helped Dela Hoya solve Pacquiao." ■



Manny Pacquiao



Ricky Hatton

# Wushu year's most outstanding national sports association

MANILA—For an outstanding year that saw its athletes dominate both Asian and world stages, the Wushu Federation of the Philippines is the hands down choice of the Philippine Sports-writers Association (PSA) as the Outstanding National Sports Association for 2008.

The honor will be bestowed on the organization on Feb. 20 during the San Miguel Corporation-PSA Annual Awards Night at the Alegria Lounge of the Manila Pavilion Hotel.

Bannered by Willy Wang, wushu was a source of pride for

Philippine sports last year, beginning from Macau all the way to Beijing.

The 24-year old Wang served as the face of the national wushu team, winning a gold medal in the nandao event (Southern single-edged sword) of the seventh Asian Wushu Championship.

He then capped the year with another gold by topping the men's nanquan and nangun combined in the Wushu Tournament Beijing 2008, a special side event held simultaneously with the Olympics.

While the medal didn't count in the official tally of the Bei-

jing Games, the victory of Wang somehow softened the impact of the country's failure to win a breakthrough gold in the quadrennial meet.

For his feat, Wang will also be handed out a major award by the country's oldest media organization composed of editors and sportswriters of the various daily broadsheets and tabloids during the two-hour rite sponsored by the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation (Pagcor).

Other recipients of the major award aside from Wang are golf-

ers Jennifer Rosales, Dorothy Delasin, Dottie Ardina and Angelo Que, Wesley So (chess), Nonito Donaire (pro boxing), Kelly Williams (pro basketball), Dennis Orcollo (billiards), Jonathan Hernandez (horseracing), Ibarra and Go Army (horseracing).

The 2008 Athlete of the Year honor will be conferred on Manny Pacquiao, who's also being enshrined in the PSA Hall of Fame. The 30-year old boxing idol won all his three fights in three different weight divisions last year, most remarkable of which being

his eighth round demolition of ring great Oscar De La Hoya.

Others who shone for wushu last year are Mark Eddiva, also gold medal winner (65 kg) in the Asian Wushu Championship, Mary Jane Estimar, silver medalist (52 kg sanshou) in the Beijing meet, and the 56 kg pair of Benjie Rivera and Marian Mariano, who brought home bronze medals in the same meet held in the Chinese capital.

Past winners of the Outstanding NSA award are taekwondo and badminton (2004), dragon

boat (2005), boxing and billiards and snooker (2006) and swimming (2007).

The SMC-PSA Awards Night is being supported by the Villar Foundation, Senator Francis "Chiz" Escudero, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, Shakey's, Accel, PBA, PBL, NCRAA, PCSO, SBP, Purefoods, Ginebra, Alaska, Sta. Lucia, Rain or Shine, Ever Bilena, Harbour Centre, Liga Pilipinas, Secretary Lito Atienza, Pharex, GAB and Mighty Sports Association. ■

# Mosley targets Pacquiao's scalp

MANILA—Reigning welterweight champion Sugar Shane Mosley wants to clean out the division, including Filipino ring icon Manny Pacquiao.

In a telephone interview with the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* last Feb. 12, Mosley reiterated his readiness to brawl with the world's pound-for-pound king.

And when that happens, the 37-year-old American said Pacquiao will surely be in for a tough night. He said he is bigger, stronger and a more determined fighter.

"I'm a whole different specimen," said Mosley. "I'm kinda like a Pacquiao but in a bigger form."

Pacquiao is set to challenge British superstar Ricky Hatton on May 2 in Las Vegas while Mosley is still relishing his recent success after dethroning Mexican Antonio Margarito.

Mosley (46-5 with 39 KOs) said he is still four or five years away from retirement and that his recent wins prove he still has what it takes to rule the sport.

"I'm looking to clean out the whole welterweight division," said Mosley, who also stopped former champion Ricardo Mayorga last September. "Everyone in my way I'm looking to clean out. I'm going to be the king of 147 and remain there for a while." (*Inquirer.net*)

# Donaire dedicates fight to dad

by JOAQUIN HENSON  
Phlstar.com

MANILA—In a major step towards reconciliation, IBF flyweight champion Nonito Donaire Jr. said the other day he is dedicating his next defense against unbeaten Mexican Raul (Cobra) Martinez to his estranged father Nonito Sr. from whom he severed ties after a falling out.

Nonito Sr., 50, had trained Donaire since his amateur days and was in his corner when the Flash dethroned previously undefeated Vic Darchinyan to wrest the IBF crown two years ago. But after Donaire repulsed challenger Moruti Mthalane in his second defense last November, things soured between father and son.

The rift apparently developed when Donaire's wife Rachel took over managing the fighter's affairs from his father.

Now, Donaire is training with WBO bantamweight champion Gerry Peñalosa and his brothers Jonathan and Dodie Boy in Baguio City while Nonito Sr. is taking care of five pros in North Cotabato Vice Gov. Manny Piñol's Braveheart stable and 15 others in Engineer Yani Sta. Cruz' stable in Cebu.

Despite the split, Donaire said he will never turn his back on his father. Penalosa himself sought permission from Nonito, Sr. before agreeing to train Donaire who called the decision to switch a career move.

"It's not about who's the better trainer, Gerry or my dad," explained Donaire. "It's about gaining a different perspective and learning from experience."

Donaire said it's not uncommon for a fighter to change trainers. Sugar Shane Mosley, for one, replaced his father Jack with Nazim Richardson as his trainer for the recent fight against Antonio Margarito and it paid off handsome dividends as the 37-year-old scored an upset ninth round knockout.



Nonito Donaire Jr.

Donaire's wife Rachel said her role in training camp is to support her husband.

Nonito Sr. said he hasn't heard from his son since their split last November.

Nonito Sr. confirmed that Penalosa asked his permission to train Donaire.

As for continuing to fight in the flyweight division, Nonito Sr. said it's no problem for Donaire.

Nonito Sr. is now based in Cebu and his nephews are training about 18 amateurs at the Kennel Gym, which he started in San Leandro, California.

Donaire's fight against Martinez is set for March 22 at the Araneta Coliseum. Martinez, 27, has a 24-0 record, with 17 KOs, and is the IBA superflyweight champion. Last November, he weighed 113 1/2 pounds in knocking out Victor Proa in one round in Philadelphia. Three years ago, Martinez tipped the scales at 119 in halting Andres Ledesma. For Donaire, the Cobra will trim down to 112.

Martinez is the fourth fighter lined up for Donaire after Fernando Montiel, Jose Lopez and Eric Ortiz were scratched. In the companion main event, Brain Vitoria will take on IBF lightweight tittle Ulises Mexico in a 12-round championship bout. Solar Sports and Top Rank are co-promoting the Big Dome card. ■

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