

Munoz Loses, Vera wins in UFC 96

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Brandon Vera Photo courtesy of www.ufc.com

organization, the World Extreme Cagefighting. From the very start, it appeared that Muñoz had opening round jitters. Hamill took the fight to him, continuously stalking and backing the smaller Muñoz into the octagon corners. With a five-inch reach advantage, Hamill used a blistering left jab to fluster the Fil-Am from Vallejo, CA. Munoz tried to use his wrestling to his advantage but Hamill defended Muñoz's takedown attempts well, making it a stand up brawl.

Midway through the first round, Hamill continued to pound Muñoz with left jabs. With Muñoz back towards the octagon, Hamill threw a vicious right kick to Muñoz's head, instantly knocking the latter out.

Replays showed that Hamill's shin connected dead-on around Muñoz's left temple. As Muñoz was falling, his head hit his right knee before he slumped down on the corner of the octagon. Medical officials immediately brought out a stretcher and cared for Muñoz, who according to his sister Rheanne, was okay afterwards.

"He walked out on his own," said Rheanne to this reporter. "We will keep you posted."

An arranged Asian Journal post-fight interview with Muñoz was cancelled.

With the loss, Muñoz record falls to 5-1. Hamill's record improves to 8-2.

Vera making a comeback

A new slim and fit Vera showed that he still has the skills that made him one of the most dangerous fighters in 2007. After struggling in 2008 because of weight issues, Vera nicknamed "The Truth" showed he should be mentioned among the deep and talented UFC light heavyweight class. Fighting against Patt White, Vera controlled the fight early with vicious leg kicks. It wasn't much of a contest since the shorter White couldn't even get in range to attack Vera.

In the second round, Vera continued to pepper White's left leg with right kicks. Finally, Vera had enough and finished White with a vicious right kick to White's left kneecap. White hobbled and fell to the floor. Once he got back up, Vera kicked White's ailing left leg again before the referee signaled the match was over.

"I'm back baby," said Vera. "2008 was a tough year for me but I want everybody to know that the Truth is back."

Prior to this win, Vera had lost three of his last four fights, most in the heavyweight division. Vera's record now improves to 10-3. (Joseph Pimentel)

RP seen avoiding recession this year

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who else is issuing at the same time you are. If you issue at the wrong time, at the wrong price, nobody's going to take your bond.

HSBC, along with the state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines, is the lead issue manager of San Miguel Brewery's maiden peso-denominated bond offering worth up to P38.8 billion, the biggest in local bond history.

He said the issuance, which generated warm appetite among inves-

tors, would likely be completed by the first week of April.

"There's no doubt that San Miguel transaction will be the benchmark for local bond transactions," Watkinson said.

SMB is offering three-five-and 10-year bonds but Watkinson said the five-year bonds would likely get the biggest demand given the tax advantages. Local securities with tenor of five years or more are tax-exempt in the Philippines. ■

Mayor honors Pacquiao

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on the importance of maintaining and cleaning the environment in Historic Filipinotown and greater Los Angeles.

Pacquiao, who is training for his upcoming May 2 fight against Ricky Hatton, said that he accepted the invitation to this program because he chairs an environmental taskforce in his home of General Santos City, Philippines.

"We have a similar program to plant trees, that's why when they invited me to this program. I said okay," he said.

In recognition of Pacquiao and Villaraigosa, two trees were planted to honor the men in front of the SIPA headquarters.

According to SIPA, 200 new trees have been planted around Historic Filipinotown and more than 200,000 new trees in the city of Los Angeles as of February.

Villaraigosa challenged the crowd to plant their own tree in honor of Pacquiao.

"I want everybody in this town, every one of you today in honor of Manny Pacquiao," said Villaraigosa. "Plant a tree in front of your home, a tree in your yard, a tree in your community in honor of a world champion, that is considered the best pound-4-pound and a good human being."

Giving Villaraigosa a hard time

Before Pacquiao and Villaraigosa met with the estimated 300

people in the crowd outside SIPA, media members gave Villaraigosa a hard time about who he was rooting for in the Pacquiao vs. Oscar De La Hoya match last December.

Villaraigosa, a Mexican-American, said that he's a good friend of De La Hoya's and admitted he was rooting for his friend during the fight.

"I know I'm being honest, I've known Oscar for a long time," said Villaraigosa. "But I have to say that Manny showed that he was the true champion that night." ■



Juana Tejada during her one of her campaigns

Pinay caregiver dies in Canada, reaps praises

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in Canada who may find themselves in her situation.

Citing humanitarian reasons and Tejada's dedication to her work, thousands of Filipinos and on-Filipinos in Canada, the Philippines and

other countries supported her plea to remain in Canada through an online petition addressed to Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

Fil-Canadian couple Oswald and Mila Magno started the campaign online in 2008. ■

Pinoy wins P6.6M in Reader's Digest contest

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of Thursday, March 5 he said—of his immense luck: His three children.

Money isn't everything

The new multimillionaire said he and his wife had decided not to tell their three children about his winning the grand prize until they had thought of a way to explain to them that money was not the answer to everything in life.

"Up to now, we haven't informed (them). We want to think of a way to deliver the news to them without them thinking that they can now go on with life easily because they have all this money. We want to tell them that they still have to work hard," he said.

Dangcalan, who has been reading the *Reader's Digest* since his high school days in Cebu, has been subscribing to the magazine, on and off, for years.

He said he liked the way the magazine "presents various interesting topics and gives a lot of information in a very concise manner." On top of that, he said, its compact size sets it apart from other magazines because it is handy and can be

brought anywhere.

Yes or no

As a subscriber, Dangcalan has continually received direct mail promotions and sweepstakes offers sent out by *Reader's Digest* to promote not only the magazine but also other reading materials.

Dangcalan said he had been sending entries to the direct mail contests since 2006, but luck had proved elusive.

In 2008, he received yet another product offer asking customers to return the mail with either a "yes" or "no" reply. He sent a "No" reply signifying he wasn't interested in the offered product.

It was that entry that brought him P6.6 million.

Promise to God

Dangcalan said he and his wife considered the prize to be "a blessing and an answered prayer."

"I haven't really been lucky. I was just banking on chance," he said. "The contest has a wide coverage so I didn't think I'll win. But I prayed for it."

Dangcalan said his prayer was accom-

panied by a promise to God that if he won the prize, the money would not only be for himself but would be shared with others.

Until now, he and his wife are still "trying to discern what God wants (them) to accomplish with the win," he said.

Dangcalan is sure of one thing though: With the money that has suddenly fallen into his hands comes a responsibility.

11,000 lucky Filipinos

Dangcalan has been working for more than seven years as a human resource officer for the franchising company of Julie's Bakeshop.

Since the current family income is "just right" for them, he has decided to invest the money and use it for their future, he said.

He has also promised to help his sister with her medical expenses, and is considering giving assistance to several institutions.

Diane Curry, chair of the Reader's Digest Asia Sweepstakes Committee, said the *Reader's Digest* had given out more than P58 million worth of prizes to over 11,000 lucky Filipinos since 1990. ■



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