

Roach shuts gym door to fans amid Pacquiao's training

by DINO MARAGAY
Philstar.com



Freddie Roach

IN an effort to keep prized ward Manny Pacquiao focused in preparing for his megabuck fight with England's Ricky Hatton on May 2, Freddie Roach announced that he will no longer allow fans to enter the Wild Card Gym during training days.

In a report by philboxing.com's Dr. Ed de la Vega, Roach said Pacquiao's coming fight against Hatton is going to be a very tough one that he wants the Pacman "to concentrate even more."

De la Vega wrote that the rule also applies to VIPs "who occasionally come to the gym unannounced and expect to be entertained by Pacquiao."

Roach, however, said he will allow fans to take a glimpse of Pacquiao on Saturday afternoons, but on a limited basis.

The bespectacled trainer added that the closed-

door policy at the Hollywood, California-based gym is not meant to disappoint Pacquiao's fans, who De la Vega said are "important to the success of the whole event."

Throng of people reportedly troop to the Wild Card Gym everyday whenever Pacquiao trains for a fight, hoping to pose with the pound-for-pound king for pictures and get his autograph. ■

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