

Solis pays tribute to Pinoy warriors

by JOAQUIN HENSON
Philstar.com



IBF light flyweight champ Ulises Solis, right, poses with challenger Brian Vitoria. AP Photo

IBF lightflyweight champion Ulises (Archie) Solis of Mexico recently said he respects Filipino fighters for their punching ability and raw courage but without a tinge of arrogance, gave challenger Brian Vitoria no chance to wrest the 108-pound title in their 12-round bout at the Araneta Coliseum this Sunday, April 19.

Solis, 27, is making the ninth defense of the crown he won on a 12-round decision over Will Grigsby in 2006. Among the eight challengers he has repulsed were Filipinos Rodel Mayol (KO8), Bert Batawang (KO9) and Glenn Donaire (W12).

"I came to Manila to win," said Solis. "I have a high regard for Filipino fighters. They're hard punchers and very brave in the ring. Vitoria is a particularly tough challenger because aside from being a hard hitter, he is technically proficient. But I'm confident of winning."

Solis said coming to Manila was his way of paying back the Filipinos who've faced him in Mexico. Batawang fought Solis in Guadalajara and Donaire in Hermosillo. Now, he said it's his turn to visit Manila.

"I have no secrets," said Solis. "I'll fight the style I'm comfortable with. I don't know what Vitoria plans to do. I'll study his moves in the first round then decide how to counterattack. But for sure, I'm fighting my fight, not his. I'll do whatever it takes to win."

Solis said his all-time favor-

ite fighters include Julio Cesar Chavez, Miguel Canto, Salvador Sanchez and Jose (Mantquilla) Napoles.

"I've studied their styles and I picked up a lot from them in coming up with my own style," he said. "My defense is like Canto's and my offense is like Napoles'. I will show Vitoria a lot of moves. This isn't a mandatory defense but I accepted the offer because I like challenges. Some people think I'm crazy for agreeing to fight Vitoria in Manila. They're wrong. I know what I'm doing."

Solis said he couldn't care less who the referee and judges are.

"I'm not bothered," he said. "I have a job to do and I take that job seriously. The referee and judges have a job to do, too. I'm not worried about a hometown decision. All I know is I'm going back home to Mexico with my title intact."

Bruce McTavish of New Zealand will be the third man in the

ring for Solis' defense against Vitoria. The judges are Yongsak Nsongkla of Thailand, Muhammad Rois of Indonesia and John Wright of Australia. Supervising the fight is IBF official Ray Wheatley of Australia.

In his first visit to Manila, Solis said he is impressed. "The people are friendly and hospitable," he said. "I hope this isn't my last visit. Going around the city, I see a lot of people working for a living. I admire people who work hard. It's just like in Mexico."

A bachelor, Solis is third to the youngest in a brood of 11 children, including seven boys. The youngest Eduardo is an aspiring amateur fighter and flew in with him. Older brother Jorge, who lost to Manny Pacquiao on an eighth round knockout in San Antonio two years ago, arrived last Wednesday, April 15. Solis' father Aurelio sells tacos at a flea market in Guadalajara and his mother Maria is a housewife. ■

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Prices of bread, noodles may go down—DTI

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have asked for a six-month extension of the zero-duty on wheat importation, saying the lifting of the privilege may result in a rise in the price of bread and bread products.

In a letter dated April 14, 2009 to Trade Secretary Peter Favila, the Philippine Association of Flour Millers said the extension of EO 765, which lifted the three-percent import duty on wheat and is due to expire in June this year, would help to stabilize the cost of bread and bread products in light of the continuing crisis in the global economy.

The zero duty has effected a P20 reduction in the

price of a P25kg bag of flour.

Maglaya said that the trade department may recommend the extension of zero tariff on wheat for further review by the Tariff Related Matters (TRM).

"We have to get more information on the impact of the zero-tariff. We will study its effect on the price of flour," she said.

"We have to weigh its benefit to consumers and the effect EO 765 has on revenue (from tariff collections).

"Why forgo revenue when the impact (of keeping wheat tariffs at 0 percent) on flour prices is not that much?" ■

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