

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

It's Pacquiao's time!

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stunned the British champion. He landed a few more combinations before knocking down the British fighter with a right hook to the chin midway through the first round. With the Filipino crowd on its feet, British fans were in disbelief. Pacquiao pounced on Hatton again a few moments later. This time, Pacquiao landed a flurry of punches before a left straight to the head of Hatton fell the Englishman. Pacquiao finished off Hatton in the subsequent round. Pacquiao landed a left hook on the chin and below Hatton's earlobe, a textbook knockout punch. Hatton was out before he fell to the canvas. Referee Kenny Bayless immediately waved the fight over with

one second remaining in round two. "I was just doing my job in the ring and doing my best to make the people happy," said Pacquiao. "There's nothing personal I was just doing my job this was a big for me as the De La Hoya victory." Hatton was not made available for comment after the fight. The British boxer was rushed to the hospital for precautionary measures, according to Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer. "Ricky is desperately sorry to all his fans," said Garret Williams, the CEO of Hatton Promotions. "He got caught with a great shot. Congratulations to Manny Pacquiao. He is the best fighter, possibly of all time there's no shame in losing to somebody like that." "I thought Ricky would get him," said Floyd Mayweather Sr., after the match. "I don't want to get into it more than that."

Before the match, Roach predicted a Pacquiao knockout in three, he'll settle for two. "Manny is unbelievable," said Roach at the post-fight press conference. "I'm the best trainer in the world because I have the best fighter in the world." Roach said that Hatton was very predictable. "Every time he throws the left hook and cocks it, he is wide open for the right hook from the southpaw stance," Roach explained. "We worked on that every day in the gym and it just worked beautifully." "I knew it was over," added Roach. "Ricky fights the same way over and over. He doesn't have the ability to adjust. I watched the tapes over and over the last few months. I know him as well as I know my fighters." The win catapults Pacquiao in the boxing history books. Pacquiao becomes the first Asian to capture six world titles in six different weight division—flyweight, junior featherweight, featherweight, junior lightweight, lightweight and now, junior welterweight. He also joins Oscar De La Hoya as the only boxers to capture sixth different title belt in a different weight division. The Hatton victory is Pacquiao's fourth win in a row in a different division. The win improves Pacquiao's record to 49-3-2, 37 KOs. Hatton's record falls to 45-2 32 KOs. ■

Photo requirement guidelines for new MRP

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denied are those where women are wearing excessive make-up and/or large earrings, as well as those where men are wearing make-up and/or earrings. Applicants wearing dark eyeglasses or colored contact lenses in photos will not be accepted. Dirty, damaged, or digitally-altered pictures are also unacceptable. "The photograph of the passport holder is important because it verifies the identity of the holder," the Passport Division of the Philippine Office of Consular Affairs said in its guideline. Other photo requirements include: royal blue background, frontal shot, and wearing of collared shirt or any decent attire. Passport applicants also need to make sure that both ears can be seen in the photographs that they will submit. To make compliance easier for Filipinos in New York, the Philippine Consulate in the city has discussed its strict requirements with several photo studios in the area. PCG New York Vice Consul Elena Maningat said their office has provided the blue photo background to these studios. She added the studios agreed to re-take photographs that may be rejected at no additional cost to the applicant. "This way, we are assured that the photos are up to the standard needed for the MRP," she told the *Asian Journal*.

Vice Consul Maningat said the personal appearance requirement that the PCG imposes for MRP applicants works out well because they can refer these applicants to photo studios nearby. MRPs are the new travel document issued by the Philippine government as prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The ICAO is an agency of the United Nations that fosters the planning and development of air transport. It has required all its member states, including the Philippines, to issue MRPs before April 1st 2010. The maroon-colored travel document is tamper-proof and is expected to make traveling faster and more convenient. While unexpired green Philippine passports may still be used after April 2010, most countries will require travelers to hold an MRP for their travel. Green passport-holders may be asked to form a separate line for their information to be encoded, making the process slower. The new maroon-colored MRP has a "machine readable zone" containing the personal data of the passport holder that can be read by a machine or computer. "This eases entry because the immigration officer no longer needs to encode the information manually. This eases exiting (a country) for the same reason," Vice Consul General

Maningat said. The MRP's superior security features compared to the green passports is also expected to eliminate the possibility of identity theft and acts of fraud. The Philippine government has started issuing MRPs last year. Filipinos residing in the United States need to apply in person at the consular office that is nearest their place of residence. Philippine consular offices in the United States hold monthly or bi-monthly consular outreach programs that make passport application more convenient since applicants do not have to travel far to apply for passports. PCG New York will hold outreach programs in Massachusetts on May 9 and in Rochester, New York on May 16. This consular office has jurisdiction over Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. PCG LA, which covers Southern Nevada, Southern California, Texas and Arizona, will hold consular outreach programs in Panorama City, California on May 16th and in Las Vegas, NV on May 23rd and 24th. Complete schedule of the consular outreach programs of these two offices, as well as other Philippine consulates, can be seen in their respective websites. (*Dymphna Calica-La Putt*)

Who's next for Pacquiao?

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of the Hatton vs. Pacquiao fight, former pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr. announced he would come back to the boxing ring. The 32-year-old said that he's back to "claim what's mine." Mayweather Jr. doesn't believe that Pacquiao deserves the mythical pound-for-pound title, one that he gave up when he retired after knocking out Ricky Hatton in 2007. Team Pacquiao would love a match up with Mayweather Jr. However, Mayweather Jr. is set to fight one of Pacquiao's old foes Juan Manuel Marquez in July. Also, Top Rank President Bob Arum said that contract negotiations for a Mayweather Jr. vs. Pacquiao fight would be ridiculous. Arum doesn't get along with Leonard Ellerbe, the CEO of Mayweather Promotions, and also Mayweather would ask for too much money. Contract negotiations may stall this match from ever happening. Juan Manuel Marquez When I interviewed Marquez about why he decided to take the Mayweather Jr. fight (despite Mayweather Jr. outweighing the Mexican star by more than 10 pounds), he said, "Pacquiao's too scared to face me. He keeps avoiding me. I believe that Floyd is the No. 1 pound-for-pound champion. And maybe if I beat him, I'll have a chance at Pacquiao again." There might be some credence to that statement. Marquez is the only man who could withstand Pacquiao's punches. Marquez's counterpunching style is perfect for the aggressive Pacquiao. But

in order to get a match up with Pacquiao, he'll have to beat Mayweather Jr. Mayweather will be rusty but he's too good to not beat Marquez. Miguel Cotto When Cotto faces Joshua Clottey in New York in June, Pacquiao and Roach will be in the stands. Pacquiao and Roach will be accepting their fighter of the year and trainer of the year award, respectively, that weekend but most importantly, the two will have a first hand view of Cotto as a possible match up. Bob Arum represents Cotto so discussions and contracts should be cinch. The question is if Cotto has too strong of an outing against a tough boxer like Clottey, will Roach still want Pacquiao to face the Puerto Rican? Sugar Shane Mosley Mosley's eyes lit up when Roach mentioned the 37-year-old's name at the post fight press conference as one of the possible future opponents for Pacquiao. There is one catch. Mosley would have to drop to a "catch weight" of 143 or 144-pounds to fight the Filipino star. But Mosley, who had a tremendous knockout performance against Antonio Margarito to capture the WBA Welterweight Title just a few months ago, knows his time in the boxing ring is running out. He wants one or two more major fights before he calls it a career. Expect Mosley to push hard Golden Boy executives for a fight with Pacquiao, perhaps even willing to accept lesser money to do it. ■

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