

Mayweather and Marquez to battle for right to fight Pacquiao

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Vice President and Matchmaker of Golden Boy Promotions Eric Gomez said that there's a very high likelihood that the winner of the match will face Pacquiao.

"I'd have to say very good," said Gomez. "Pacquiao is in a position right now, and he's earned it, to choose whoever he wants to fight."

Marquez and Mayweather Jr. both know the implications of a possible future bout with Pacquiao.

Pacquiao has ducked a third fight with Marquez for the past year.

The 35-year-old Marquez said it's the reason why he took the fight with Mayweather Jr.

"It's another part of motivation for me," said Marquez, who fought Pacquiao to a draw in their first bout and dropped a narrow split decision in 2008. "When Golden Boy told me, 'do you want to fight Floyd?' Yes. I want to fight with Floyd. 'And now tell me if you win this fight then maybe you fight with Manny.' It's another motivation for me."

Mayweather Jr. said Pacquiao is a good fighter but that's not his primary motivation from coming out of retirement.

He said that he just wants to stay undefeated and fight the best.

"I don't have to chase no fighter," said the 32-year-old Mayweather Jr., who is coming off a nearly two-year retirement from boxing. "We all know that when fighters face Floyd Mayweather they make their biggest paydays. I'm not here to chase fighters I'm not here for bragging rights. I'm here to just come to this sport and to put some extras on and solidify my legacy and pound for pound [legacy]...of course, I'm going down in the history as one of the bests but I want to put a little bit of extras on."

No matter who wins the July 18 clash between Mayweather Jr. and Marquez, expect Pacquiao to be

waiting in the wings.

Tickets for the July 18 Mayweather Jr. and Marquez bout will be on sale on Friday, May 22. Tickets will be available in all ticketmaster locations.

Banal for World Title

It's not confirmed yet but Golden Boy Promotion executives said that the 20-year-old Filipino prodigy AJ "Bazooka" Banal might be on the undercard of the Mayweather Jr. and Marquez bout on July 18 in Las Vegas.

Eric Gomez, Vice President and matchmaker for Golden Boy, said that they have received an offer for Banal to face Jose "Carita" Lopez.

"We're working on it right now," said Gomez. "There's a very good chance he's going to be on the undercard. It's like 90 percent right now so within this week we should be able to finalize that and hopefully he will be."

Who will Banal be facing?

"Well we got an offer for him to fight for the world title believe it or not against Jose Lopez, Jose 'Carita' Lopez from Puerto Rico so we're looking into that right now," Gomez added. "We're in discussions right now that's not 100 percent but it's 90 percent he's (Banal) going to be on the card."

Lopez (39-7-2 32 KOs) of Puerto Rico would be a daunting challenge for Banal (19-1-1 16 KOs). The 37-year-old holds the WBO super flyweight title.

It was expected that Lopez would face off against another Filipino star Nonito Donaire Jr. at a later date this year.

Calls and texts to the Donaire camp were not returned as of press time.

Gomez did not want to elaborate further on other possible opponents for Banal.

He also said that Banal is the only Filipino fighter being considered to be on the undercard of the Mayweather vs. Marquez showdown. (Joseph Pimentel)

Charice makes single debut on Oprah

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Tuesday. It is also No. 9 on the iTunes chart.

The song is partly an emotional prayer whose lyrics are about what one would say in a letter to God.

It has just been posted on YouTube—the video-sharing website where the world discovered Charice—and is the first single in her forthcoming debut album being produced by her musical mentor, David Foster.

It is actually a cover version of a composition by Diane Warren (who also wrote Aerosmith's *I Don't Want To Miss a Thing*; Celine Dion's *Because You Loved Me*; and Toni Braxton's *Unbreak My Heart*).

Oprah show

The 16-year-old Charice first sang the song on America's highest-rating TV show *Oprah* only on Monday—the day it was also released as a digital download.

On the Amazon Bestsellers chart, *Note to God* ranks behind the Black Eyed Peas's *Boom Boom Pow* but has overtaken Lady GaGa's *Poker Face*, Miley Cyrus' *The Climb*, Taylor Swift's *Love Story*, Beyoncé's *Halo*, and Coldplay's *Viva La Vida*.

On the iTunes chart, Charice's single is ahead of Eminem's *Beautiful*.

Charice was again featured in a high-profile show on May 9 at

Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, where she performed with Foster in a tribute concert for Celine Dion.

June 12 celebration

On May 24, Charice will make her second appearance as a guest on the Italian musical variety show *Ti lascio una canzone (Leavin' You a Song)*. Its producers reportedly insisted that she return after having sung in the program's season premiere in April.

She comes home to Manila on June 8 to participate in the Philippine Independence Day celebrations on June 12. She flies back to the United States on June 13 to finish recording her album.

Charice's local music label, Star Records, has released her second Philippine album, *My Inspiration*, which features original compositions by Filipino songwriters and a cover of Helen Reddy's *You and Me Against the World*—in which she duets with her mother Racquel, who informally trained her to become a singer.

My Inspiration has likewise landed at No. 2 on the best-selling local albums chart of Odyssey Music & Video, a nationwide record store chain.

Charice is scheduled to have a major concert on June 27 at SMX Convention Center beside SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City. ■

Ambassador Gaa urges Filipinos in US to register for the 2010 elections in the Philippines

AMBASSADOR Willy C. Gaa is urging Filipinos in the United States to exercise their right to vote for the political leadership of the Philippines in the upcoming national elections in June 2010.

"One of the hallmarks of a democracy is the right accorded to its citizenry to be able to choose their leaders in free and open elections. As one of the oldest democracies in Asia, the Philippines will be conducting national elections in May 2010 and I call on Filipinos in the United States to take advantage of the opportunity provided by the Overseas Absentee Voting Act to participate in the democratic processes of our country and take part in the shaping of its destiny," Ambassador Gaa stated.

"I urge first time voters and those registered absentee voters who failed to vote in the elections of 2007 to register for overseas absentee voting at the Philippine Embassy or at the nearest Philippine Consulate General in the United States. Registration for overseas absentee voting will be conducted until the 31st of August of this year," he added.

According to Ambassador Gaa, Philippine Foreign Service Posts in the US have topped the list in numbers of new registrations worldwide by having registered 11,353 absentee voters in the US during the period of February 1 to April 30, 2009, which is 23 percent of the total 61,895 registrations achieved worldwide during this period. In the United States, the Consulate General in Los Angeles had the most number of registrations at 4,290 followed by the Consulate General in New York (2,000) and the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC (1,801).

Information on the requirements and procedures for registering for overseas absentee voting can be found at the Philippine Embassy website at www.philippineembassy-usa.org. ■

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