



Razor's Edge

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Invincible Pacquiao Pulverizes Hatton

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NEW YORK, NY, May 05 ([PinoyGlobal](http://PinoyGlobal.com)) - I just shut off the television that featured the much-ballyhooed fight of the century – Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao vs. Ricky Hatton. The Briton looked like a frozen turkey after the crushing punch of Pacquiao that drastically ended the mismatch in the second round. Our icon's spitfire right and left hooks were almost invisible, coming from all directions. As Manny himself told commentator Larry Marchant "I won because of my new tiknik, huk by huk, I practiced everyday." What he meant was that he has a new technique – it is the right and left hook spitfiring on the jaw of the enemy.

Ironically, for a southpaw it was Pacman's right hook that did Ricky in. With the sadism in most people, I too felt cheated by the Englishman's cameo roll of caressing the canvass three times in the two rounds he barely survived, with Pacquiao blasting into him like a cannonball.

What cheered me up was the thought that Oscar de la Hoya could have been chewing his teeth under the ring like an ostrich afraid of an impending danger (his investment in Ricky), and the charlatan Mayweather Sr., answering a call of nature on his pants as his "great" boxer hit the canvas like a puny kitten. It was the iron fist of the Filipino boxer he maligned so much in the media days before the uneven match, without sparing Manny's coach, Freddie Roach, whom he abused with his unkind remarks. Hatton was too groggy when the knockout punch busted him to oblivion. He was unable to stand up let alone answer the questions of TV commentators.

The world and I viewing the fight expected a long,

bruising and bloody encounter because Ricky's loud-mouthed trainer Floyd Mayweather Sr. bragged so much about his man's hitting power and boxing skill. Not to mention that beyond Mayweather's mouth, Hatton had an impressive fighting record. That is why when the requiem of Hatton's career in the ring came, we were struck with disbelief to see him immobile on his back seconds before the end of the second round. I was left lapping my anticipation of a thrilling exchange of deadly blows. There were only a few moments of the lopsided slugfest between the legendary fighters to relish about. So, I hurriedly wrote about the mismatch before it turned into a fossilized picture in my mind.

Though Pacquiao was supposedly the favored boxer, the bad publicity generated by Mayweather Sr., whose bad breath can kill a rhinoceros in Africa, and the sour-graping Oscar de la Hoya making idiotic forecasts of the outcome of the fight, made Manny look like the underdog before the bout in Las Vegas.

Mild to a fault, Freddie Roach couldn't help making the acid prediction that Hatton will be demolished within three rounds and he was absolutely right. The ring hero from Manchester became unaware that he was still on planet earth, not Mt. Olympus with effeminate mythological gods, watching swans dance in a placid river.

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the end of round two, came as a merciful coup d' grace. Pacman got Ricky squarely on the jaw ending his grueling pain of being a human punching bag.

By failing to stand up on his third dive, Hatton virtually leapfrogged into the wagon of the Mexican losers beginning with the so-called "unbeatable" Golden Boy, Oscar de la Hoya, and the other ring legends who suffered the same ignominious fate under the smashing fists of Pacquiao, who since then has been called "The Mexicutioner." De La Hoya in particular was forced to retire out of shame. His defeat by Pacman was his swan song.

Pacquiao's glorious victory removes any and all doubts that he is the greatest "Pound for Pound" clean fighter in the world for this and the past century. Nobody can duplicate his feats as a Mexicutioner and slayer of the British king of the ring - Ricky Hatton - who through the egging of his unworthy coach met his Waterloo in Manny's devastating right hook. Ricky became overconfident when he rushed into that pulverizing punch, perishing his hope of becoming the invincible Pacman's conquistador.

Our Philippine pride is incomparable as a champion boxer. No one in his league could excel him in this generation, or perhaps ever. He has been acclaimed by the prestigious Time magazine as the 22nd most influential person in the world in this century and is second to former Pres. Cory Aquino as the only two Filipinos given that distinction. Certifiably, Pacman is the most undisputed "Invincible" ring idol the world has ever known, who has won various crowns of different weight levels owing to his hands being perpetually in motion. For this, he has been dubbed as the Henry Armstrong of this era, whose spectacular fights made him a living legend.

Pacquiao's extraordinary success story is for the "Book of Guinness." What makes him remarkable is that he is not swellheaded like many of our compatriots who after a fleeting sniff of success become nauseating egomaniacs when what they achieve is not even an iota to the fortune and world fame of our ring icon.

Our legendary heirloom, for that's what Pacquiao is to the Philippines, an heirloom, can be our one-man tourist attraction if his marvelous life is fully exploited by the government for the purpose. We can build statues of the man in the slums and places where he grew up in abject poverty. Storytellers can be trained to guide the multitude of local and foreign tourists around those places. For sure, money will be rolling into the national and provincial coffers like a rushing flood to eke their respective moribund economy. Of course, it would be redundant to give the reasons why the economic malaise is pandemic in the Philippines, suffice it to say

immediate money transfusion is indispensable, and our ring idol's life story is the answer.

His life should humble us not to be arrogant and obnoxious ego-trippers. With his world prestige and money, still the once poor boy from General Santos City remains the same unassuming individual.

I know for a fact how many of us try hard to appear important when there is no justification to our bloated egos. Being in the company of public servants or movie stars is not an exploit to be proud about. Pacquiao, has made our egotism irrelevant: his phenomenal popularity has not spoiled him, he has remained modest. His answers to foreign broadcasters reflect this virtue; he never fails to admit that he is just doing his job and wants people to enjoy his performance, that he has "nothing personal" in his fights, he just does what his promoter tells him to do. Neither is he ashamed of his humble beginnings.

Yet, if he wants to he can brag of his unparalleled phenomenal world popularity or his fabulous wealth in dollars. Tonight another boxing organization recognized him – the International Boxing Organization. It's IBO magazine will feature him on having snatched the title Ricky Hatton held in the International Boxing Organization.

Why is it hard for the ordinary Filipino in America to accept his/her financial difficulties or being nobody instead of pretending to be what they are not? Joining organizations is not an accomplishment but massaging your flare to be in the limelight. Working to make both ends meet and having limited or no talent at all is nothing to be ashamed of but being ashamed of it is. Assuming that you are rich and talented, is that a reason to antagonize people with your hubris: all the more reason for you to be humble.

The lesson our parents learned from the bamboo is priceless. Tall as it is the bamboo bows very low and yet it can rise way up high with ease to frolic with the wind. Standing up, the bamboo looks majestic.

Manny is that kind. You can see the difference between him and some of his adversaries - like De La Hoya, Eric "El Terrible" Morales, Juan Marquez and the rest he knocked out - who would enter the ring grim and haughty. Manny has that perpetual gleeful smile of a child on his first trip to Disney World that electrifies the boxing aficionados around the globe. But he loves to fight without hating his opponent, while the others fight with fiendish meanness. That makes the big difference between them and Pacquiao: he is humane and charitable. Our icon is a winner in every respect. Hooray for Manny Pacquiao!