

Manny Paquiao and David Diaz Pull for Each Other - MabuhayRadio

Written by Joseph G. Lariosa

Saturday, 06 March 2010 23:30 - Last Updated Tuesday, 27 April 2010 08:11

By JOSEPH G. LARIOSA

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CHICAGO, Illinois (*JGLi*) – Ever since boxing champion Manny Pacquiao stripped David Diaz of his WBC lightweight crown in 2008, Diaz never took the loss personally. They remained the best of friends.

When Manny came to Chicago to promote his fight with Oscar de la Hoya, David was among those, who welcomed Manny to the Windy City, with open arms.

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Manny reciprocated David's warm gesture by inviting David in Manny's birthday celebration in his home in Gen. Santos city.

When Manny stakes his World Boxing Organization (WBO) welterweight title against Joshua Clottey on March 13 at the Cowboy Stadium, the pound-for-pound king will be pulling for David, who will be facing the tormentor of Manny's younger brother, Bobby Pacquiao.

David Diaz (35-2-1) will be fighting in the Pacquiao-Clottey undercard against WBC super featherweight champion Humberto "Zorrita" (Little Fox) Soto (50-7-2), who knocked out Manny's little brother, Bobby Pacquiao, in the seventh round in the undercard of the Miguel Cotto-Zab Judah in 2007 at Madison Square Garden in New York city.

"I feel good. I am prepared to go to war and get the victory," David told this reporter Friday (March 5) during the public media workout in Jabb Boxing Gym in the near north side of Chicago.

David Diaz and Humberto Soto will be disputing the vacant WBC lightweight title.

If David makes good his pledge to beat Soto, his effort should make Manny happy since it will atone the loss of his brother to Soto.

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David, who might have belatedly learned his match with Soto, said, "I will be in shape and will be alright."

"I don't predict the outcome of my fight. But I will be prepared to go the distance for 12 rounds."

The 33-year-old Diaz is coming off a ten-round majority decision win over former WBC super featherweight and IBF lightweight world champion Jesus Chavez last September 26, 2009 at the UIC Pavilion in Chicago after his loss to Pacman.

Chavez is the same boxer who lost to Humberto Soto, 29, also in a ten-round unanimous decision in Mexico last December.

When asked if he will soon be back as a marquee fighter, Diaz said, "we will see what happens in this coming fight and get this belt first."

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Asked about the Pacquiao-Clotey match-up, David said “this fight will be tough for Manny. Clotey has a tight defense. But Manny will win this out.”

David’s spokesman, Bernie Bahrmasel, said David’s entourage which includes himself, David’s manager/trainer, Jim Strickland and trainers, Sam Colonna and Mike Garcia, will be leaving for Texas on Tuesday.

Also featured in the undercard are two-time world champion Jose Luis “El Terrible” Castillo in a welterweight battle against top-ten contender Alfonso Gomez and “Ireland’s” John Duddy in a middleweight duel with Michael “Myckol” Medina. (lariosa_jos@sbcglobal.net)

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