

Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs. Miguel Cotto: The Ring Kings Finally Meet



In order to truly appreciate the magnitude of the fight the world will witness on May 5, 2012 at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada, you need to go back in boxing time to 2007. Miguel Cotto was the reigning WBA Welterweight champion coming off impressive title defenses against Zab Judah and a signature win over slightly favored “Sugar” Shane Mosley. Floyd Mayweather Jr was considered one of the best pound for pound fighters and cemented it with a Jr Middleweight title win over Oscar De La Hoya and a complete dismantling of previously unbeaten Ricky Hatton for the WBC Welterweight title.

Imagine what Cotto and Mayweather Jr would have been at that time. Enormous! Both were undefeated and held a portion of the Welterweight title. It was the “Boricua” Bomber vs. “Pretty boy” Floyd. The fight for National pride: Puerto Rico vs. USA. Humble vs. Flash. A collision course for Welterweight Supremacy was within reach. I remember sitting in Madison Square Garden watching as Cotto dazzled Mosley with a surprise jab and movement thinking, “What would he do against Mayweather?”

According to Golden Boy Promotions President, Richard Schaeffer, discussions never took place. “Cotto lined up his fights, big fights, good fights. Floyd went his way and lined up big fights. Everybody went their own way. We’ve been with Floyd since 2007 and never really discussed Miguel Cotto.”

Miguel Cotto would go his way and line up really big fights against contender participant Alfonso Gomez, Antonio Margarito, Michael Jennings, Josh Clottey, Manny Pacquiao, Yuri Foreman, Ricardo Mayorga, and Antonio Margarito II.



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Cotto suffered his first defeat in an all-action, brutal battle with Margarito. Many believed after Margarito, Cotto was never the same. Cotto fought his way back to face pound for pound great Manny Pacquiao. After a few competitive rounds, the great Pacquiao stopped Cotto by 12th round TKO.

Cotto would move up in weight to decisively win the Jr Middleweight championship from Yuri Forman. He defended it against Ricardo Mayorga and won by 12th round TKO. A rematch with Antonio Margarito was setup and Cotto didn't waste the opportunity as he avenged his 1st professional loss with a 10 round man handling of Margarito. Cotto was back and the boxing world was taking notice. Schaefer would say, "His dominant performances at 154, especially against Antonio Margarito, made him the man at 154 and Floyd Mayweather wants to fight the man at 154."

Floyd Mayweather Jr. has become the face of boxing. Love him or hate him, you can't mention boxing without saying "Money" Mayweather. He is a bona fide Superstar. His tweets, no matter how offensive, on point, or outrageous are quoted like he is the president. People follow boxing to see who Floyd fights, to see if he will get beat, to hear what boldness comes from his



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mouth, and most of all to appreciate the true gift he has inside what he calls “the square circle.” After Hatton, Mayweather retired only to return against Juan Manuel Marquez. He wiped out Marquez. He would then face “Sugar” Shane and except for a couple of big right hands by Sugar Shane, Mosley was erased. Most recently, he whacked out the feel good story Victor Ortiz. For those of you who are surprised by how mean lil Floyd (Who is from the mean streets of Grand Rapids, MI and comes from a family of fighters) can be, you need a quick history lesson: Mayweather vs. Arturo Gatti June 25, 2009 – Round 1 – 2:36 (24 secs left in the round): Referee Earl Morton Yells stop punching out of a break, but he never steps in to stop action. Gatti relaxes and Floyd keeps fighting. Gatti looks at Morton, and Floyd bounces and lands a quick left hook that drops Gatti. Yep, I’ve seen that before. “PROTECT YOURSELF AT ALL TIMES!” Floyd is intelligent and as mean as anybody inside the ropes. It’s going to take a “Honey Badger” (Honey Badgers don’t give a Sh\$\$%. They take what they want) with exceptional boxing skills to beat him.

Finally, forget all the potential fights, forget all the hindrances that have kept Mayweather and Cotto apart for 5 years, this is about to happen.

On May 5, at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada, the world will get to judge these two great warriors head to head to see if Miguel Cotto still has the heart and skill to beat one of the greatest of all time or is Floyd “Money” Mayweather Jr in an elite class. Is he as good as Sugar Ray Leonard? In my book, if he shuts out Cotto or stops him, he will be. For the record, I think Ray Leonard is the Greatest of all time.

Fights like these, make great fighters!!! No matter how long we have waited or what their records are – “This is a great fight!”

This electrifying night of boxing is expected to attract fans worldwide to Las Vegas and Mayweather Promotions, Golden Boy Promotions, Cotto Promotions and MGM Resorts want to make sure everyone has the opportunity to experience this night of boxing royalty in Las Vegas style.

"Ring Kings: Mayweather vs. Cotto" is promoted by Mayweather Promotions, Golden Boy Promotions and Miguel Cotto Promotions. The 12-round WBA Super Welterweight World Championship fight will take place Saturday, May 5 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas and will be produced and distributed live by HBO Pay-Per-View® beginning at 9:00 p.m. ET/6:00 p.m. PT. Canelo vs. Mosley is presented in association with Canelo Promotions and Sugar Shane Mosley Promotions.

HBO's Emmy®-Award-winning all-access series "24/7" premieres an all-new edition when "24/7 Mayweather/Cotto" debuts Saturday, April 14 at 9:45 p.m. ET/PT. The four-part series will air for three consecutive Saturday nights before the finale airs the night before the super welterweight championship showdown in Las Vegas.

For more information, visit www.floydmayweather.com and www.goldenboypromotions.com, www.mgmgrand.com, follow on Twitter at [@floydmayweather](https://twitter.com/floydmayweather), [@RealMiguelCotto](https://twitter.com/RealMiguelCotto), [@CaneloOficial](https://twitter.com/CaneloOficial), [@sugarshanem](https://twitter.com/sugarshanem), [@mayweatherpromo](https://twitter.com/mayweatherpromo), [@goldenboyboxing](https://twitter.com/goldenboyboxing), [@mgmgrand](https://twitter.com/mgmgrand) or become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FloydMayweather, www.facebook.com/Mayweatherpromotions, www.facebook.com/GoldenBoyBoxing. Follow HBO Boxing news at www.hbo.com/boxing, Facebook at www.facebook.com/hboboxing and on Twitter [@hboboxing](https://twitter.com/hboboxing)

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This is the first in a 4 part series covering Ring Kings: Mayweather vs. Cotto