



## MIGUEL COTTO LOOKS TO SOLIDIFY HIS MARK AMONG THE LONG LIST OF GREAT CHAMPIONS THAT HAIL FROM PUERTO RICO



*Photo credit to cboxinginfo.com*

LAS VEGAS, May 2 - Many great fighters have come from the boxing-rich island of Puerto Rico, one of those being WBA Super Welterweight World Champion **Miguel Cotto**, who hails from the city of Caguas and now carries the torch passed to him by the last great Puerto Rican pugilist, Felix "Tito" Trinidad.

Cotto is nearing the biggest and most difficult fight of his career taking place this Saturday, May 5 against Floyd "Money" Mayweather at the **MGM Grand Garden Arena** in Las Vegas, Nev. which will be produced and distributed live by **HBO Pay-Per-View®**. Though he is the defending champion putting his 154-pound belt on the line, in many ways he is the challenger. That is simply because his opponent is Mayweather, undefeated at 42-0, a guaranteed first ballot Hall of Fame inductee and one of the greatest fighters of this era.

However, when boxers from Puerto Rico step into the ring, they don't just feel the pressure of facing another man, they fight with the expectations of millions, carrying the burden of a culture that lives and breathes for the sport of boxing.

The history of Puerto Rican boxing presents a remarkable lineage: Light Heavyweight World Champion Jose Torres; Lightweight and Super Lightweight World Champion Carlos Ortiz; Lightweight World Champion Esteban DeJesus; Junior Welterweight, Welterweight

and Super Welterweight World Champion Wilfred Benitez; 122-pound, 126-pound and 130-pound World Champion Wilfredo Gomez; 135-pound and 140-pound World Champion Edwin Rosario and Felix "Tito" Trinidad, who captured world titles at welterweight, super welterweight and middleweight.

In an interview with Puerto Rico's El Nuevo Dia newspaper, Trinidad said Cotto will need to be fast enough to overcome Mayweather's speed and upper body movement.

"He should stay toe to toe with Mayweather, round-by-round, close to Mayweather like all Puerto Ricans know how to do, put all his heart in and stay toe-to-toe," Trinidad said. "Try to look for a good shot and soften him little by little."

Trinidad continued, "It is going to be very difficult for Cotto because the other guy has the physical conditioning, the intelligence, doesn't take many shots and is very elusive. Cotto can win, but it's not going to be easy."

In recent years, other Puerto Rican fighters such as Juan Manuel Lopez and Ivan Calderon have also earned popularity and fame; however Cotto has been the face of Puerto Rico boxing for nearly a decade.

The 31-year-old Caguas native has taken on a wide range of opponents in his 11 years as a professional, which has included world title reigns at super lightweight, welterweight and currently super welterweight. He has shared the ring with countless champions and top contenders including Randall Bailey, Joshua Clottey, DeMarcus "Chop Chop" Corley, Zab "Super" Judah, Paulie "Magic Man" Malignaggi, Antonio Margarito, Carlos Maussa, Sugar Shane Mosley, Lovemore N'dou, Manny Pacquiao, Carlos Quintana and Ricardo Torres. During this run, only future Hall of Famer Pacquiao and Margarito have defeated the Puerto Rican powerhouse, with Cotto avenging his controversial 2008 loss to Margarito with a cathartic and triumphant performance in December of last year.

A champion since 2004, Cotto who has successfully defended his titles 13 times, his accomplishments have earned him a shot at the top fighter in the sport.

His place as a Puerto Rican luminary is evidenced by the large crowds he has drawn to his mega-fights.

No other fighter in recent history has sold as many tickets in the city of New York as Cotto. Puerto Rican fans have come out in droves to see his fights live, buying more than 100,000 tickets for his seven bouts at Madison Square Garden and his fight in the outfield of Yankee Stadium.

Cotto, who already is a great champion, beloved by the people of Puerto Rico and beyond, has the golden opportunity to hand Mayweather the first loss of his professional career this Saturday night and solidify his place as a boxing legend.

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**"Ring Kings: Mayweather vs. Cotto,"** a 12-round fight for Cotto's WBA Super Welterweight World Championship and the vacant WBC Super Welterweight Diamond belt, is promoted by Mayweather Promotions, Golden Boy Promotions and Miguel Cotto Promotions. Also featured will be **Canelo Alvarez vs. Sugar Shane Mosley**, a 12-round fight for Canelo's WBC Super Welterweight World Championship which is presented in association with Canelo Promotions and Sugar Shane Mosley Promotions and a 10-round welterweight fight featuring undefeated rising star **Jessie Vargas** and former World Champion **Steve Forbes**

. Opening the pay-per-view broadcast will be a 10-round bout between super welterweight contender **DeAndre Latimore** and former World Champion **Carlos Quintana** which is presented in association with DiBella Entertainment. The mega event is sponsored by Corona, Hatfields & McCoys on HISTORY™, DeWalt Tools, AT&T, O'Reilly Auto Parts and Puebla - Cinco De Mayo and 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.

Limited tickets for "Ring Kings: Mayweather vs. Cotto" are still available, with a total ticket limit of ten (10) per person. To charge by phone with a major credit card, call Ticketmaster at (800) 745-3000. Tickets also are available for purchase at [www.mgmgrand.com](http://www.mgmgrand.com) or [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

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Three Las Vegas MGM Resorts, Mandalay Bay, Monte Carlo and The Mirage, will host live closed circuit telecasts of "Ring Kings: Mayweather vs. Cotto." Advanced purchased tickets for the closed circuit telecasts are priced at \$75, not including handling fees. All seats are general admission and are on sale now at each individual property's box office outlets or by phone with a major credit card at (866) 799-7711.

The finale of HBO's all-access reality series 24/7 MAYWEATHER/COTTO will debut this Friday, May 4 (8:00 p.m. ET/PT), the night before the high-stakes super welterweight title bout. All four episodes will have multiple replay dates on HBO, and the series will also be available on HBO On Demand® and HBO GO®.

NCM Fathom will broadcast "Ring Kings: Mayweather vs. Cotto" in high definition LIVE to more than 440 movie theaters nationwide. Tickets to see the fight on the big screen are available at participating theater box offices and online at [www.FathomEvents.com](http://www.FathomEvents.com).