

Pacquiao eyes further glory

Failed Internet spoof video mars run-up to historic title bout

GRAPEVINE, Texas—Manny Pacquiao aims to enhance his place among boxing's elite while Antonio Margarito has a chance of redemption when they clash in Saturday's hotly anticipated WBC super wel-

BOXING

terweight bout. Filipino south-paw Pacquiao (51-3-2, 38 knockouts), has already established himself as one of the best offensive fighters of all time and is widely expected to beat his Mexican opponent at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Although Margarito enjoys a significant height, weight and reach advantage over Pacquiao, the Asian is much faster and has his sights fixed on an eighth world title in an unprecedented eighth weight class.

"I don't need to prove any more in boxing," Pacquiao told Reuters during the build-up to a bout scheduled for 12 rounds. "I have already achieved what I wanted in boxing."

"What I want right now is to maintain my greatness in boxing and to entertain people who can be satisfied by my performance."

Pacquiao, who won a seat in his country's national congress after beating Ghanaian Joshua Clotey in his most recent fight in March, likes the look of his matchup with Margarito.

"This is the fight I have been waiting for," the 31-year-old said. "I believe we can give a good fight on Saturday. Margarito is a very aggressive fighter and throws a lot of punches."

Initially known for his lightning hand speed and lethal left

hook, "Pacman" Pacquiao has become a genuine two-fisted fighter and his trainer Freddie Roach has predicted a knockout by the Filipino within three rounds.

"And don't be surprised if we get him in the first (round)," Roach told Reuters on Thursday. "Margarito's a slow starter and we're going to take advantage of that."

Three-time world champion Margarito is delighted to be back in the ring for the first time since he lost to American Shane Mosley in a WBC welterweight title bout in January 2009.

The disgraced Mexican and his trainer Javier Capetillo were banned for a year after plaster-like bandage wraps were found in the fighter's gloves before the Mosley fight.

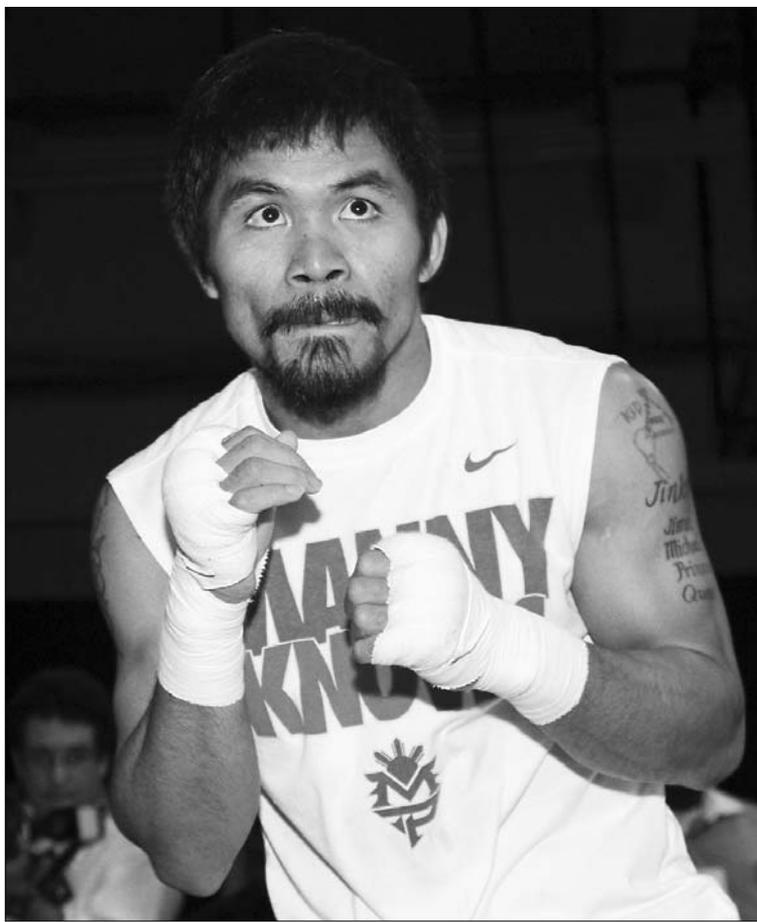
Supportive fans

"My fans have always stood by me through the tough times," Margarito (38-6, 27 KOs) told Reuters, speaking through an interpreter. "They have been right with me."

"I hope they all show up for this big fight and it's going to be something amazing to walk into the ring and see all those people. I think it will be the greatest moment of my career."

Margarito, who was denied a license to fight in California by the state's athletic commission earlier this year before being reprimanded by the Texas commission, said he had never been in better shape.

"This is my best camp ever," added the 32-year-old, who is dubbed the "Tijuana Tornado." "I want to show everyone that I am back and what I can do on Saturday night."



Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines warms up during a workout session in Grapevine, Texas, on Tuesday. Pacquiao will face Antonio Margarito of Mexico in a world super welterweight championship fight on Saturday.

This week's build-up was tarnished by an unsavory Internet video in which Margarito, fellow fighter Brandon Rios and trainer Robert Garcia appeared to mock the Parkinson's disease suffered by Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach.

All three have since apologized to Roach, who accepted

the apology so the focus could switch back to Saturday's bout.

However, Roach requested that one of his representatives monitor Margarito when he gets his hands wrapped for the fight and said the Mexican's camp can monitor Pacquiao if they want.

"I don't trust those guys. He

(Margarito) will do anything to win," said Roach. "He's done it before. He's a cheater and once a cheater, a leopard doesn't change his spots."

Saturday's fight is expected to attract around 60,000 fans at the Cowboys Stadium with a pay-per-view audience of at least one million.

REUTERS

scoreboard

BASKETBALL

Results from NBA games on Thursday (home team in CAPS):
CHICAGO 120 Golden State 90
Boston 112 MIAMI 107
DENVER 118 LA Lakers 112

ICE HOCKEY

Results from NHL games on Thursday (home team in CAPS):
Montreal 3 BOSTON 1
NY RANGERS 3 Buffalo 2 (OT)
WASHINGTON 6 Tampa Bay 3
Philadelphia 8 CAROLINA 1
ATLANTA 5 Minnesota 1
DETROIT 6 Edmonton 2
Vancouver 6 OTTAWA 2
Nashville 3 ST. LOUIS 2 (SO)
LOS ANGELES 3 Dallas 1
SAN JOSE 2 NY Islanders 1 (SO)
(OT denotes overtime win)
(SO denotes shootout win)

GOLF

Australian Masters

Second-round scores from the \$1.5 million tournament at Victoria Golf Club on Friday (Australian unless stated):
132 - Adam Bland 65-67
134 - Andre Stolz 67-67
137 - Daniel Gaunt 65-72
138 - Sergio Garcia (ESP) 73-65
139 - Peter O'Malley 69-70, Matthew Millar 67-72, Anthony Brown 70-69, Nathan Green 68-71, Jarrod Lyle 69-70, Gareth Paddison (NZL) 67-72
140 - David Bransdon 69-71, Lee Wor-Joon 69-71, Michael Choi 70-70, Stuart Appleby 71-69, Ashley Hall 71-69
141 - Tiger Woods (USA) 69-72, Camilo Villegas (COL) 71-70, Luke Bleumink 67-74, Kieran Pratt 69-72, Aaron Townsend 73-68, Michael Hendry (NZL) 68-73

Singapore Open

Second round scores from the \$6 million event at Sentosa Golf Club on Friday. Several players were unable to finish their round because of fading light.
130 - Adam Scott (AUS) 65-65
132 - Ian Poulter (ENG) 69-63
133 - Graeme McDowell (NIR) 65-68, Fredrik Andersson Hed (SWE) 68-65, Kang Kyung-nam (KOR) 66-67
134 - Rikard Karlberg (SWE) 64-70, Prayad Marksang (THA) 69-65, Jeev Milkha Singh (IND) 70-64, Liang Wenchong (CHN) 69-65
135 - John Huh (KOR) 70-65, Gregory Bourdy (FRA) 70-65, Jamie Donaldson (WAL) 66-69, Kim Bi-jo (KOR) 63-72
136 - Markus Brier (AUT) 65-71, Hiroshi Iwata (JPN) 66-70, Raphael Jacquelin (FRA) 66-70, Rafael Cabrera-Bello (ESP) 67-69, Martin Kaymer (GER) 68-68, Chris Wood (ENG) 63-73, Chan Yih-Shin (TPE) 68-68, Tony Carolan (AUS) 66-70, Michael Hoey (NIR) 69-67, Phil Mickelson (USA) 67-69

NFL

NFL result on Thursday (home team in CAPS):
ATLANTA 26 Baltimore 21

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

AFC EAST

Team	W	L	T	PF	PA	PCT
NY Jets	6	2	0	182	130	.750
New England	6	2	0	219	188	.750
Miami	4	4	0	143	175	.500
Buffalo	0	8	0	150	233	.000

AFC NORTH

Pittsburgh	6	2	0	174	123	.750
Baltimore	6	3	0	196	165	.667
Cleveland	3	5	0	152	156	.375
Cincinnati	2	6	0	167	190	.250

AFC SOUTH

Tennessee	5	3	0	224	150	.625
Indianapolis	5	3	0	217	168	.625
Houston	4	4	0	193	226	.500
Jacksonville	4	4	0	165	226	.500

AFC WEST

Kansas City	5	3	0	183	145	.625
Oakland	5	4	0	235	188	.556
San Diego	4	5	0	239	197	.444
Denver	2	6	0	154	223	.250

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

NFC EAST

NY Giants	6	2	0	216	160	.750
Philadelphia	5	3	0	198	181	.625
Washington	4	4	0	155	170	.500
Dallas	1	7	0	161	232	.125

NFC NORTH

Green Bay	6	3	0	221	143	.667
Chicago	5	3	0	148	133	.625
Minnesota	3	5	0	156	168	.375
Detroit	2	6	0	203	188	.250

NFC SOUTH

Atlanta	7	2	0	222	175	.778
New Orleans	6	3	0	201	151	.667
Tampa Bay	5	3	0	157	190	.625
Carolina	1	7	0	88	184	.125

AFC WEST

St. Louis	4	4	0	140	141	.500
Seattle	4	4	0	130	181	.500
Arizona	3	5	0	157	225	.375
San Francisco	2	6	0	137	178	.250

SOCCER

Dutch Cup

Fourth round results on Thursday:
Achilles '29 (III) 5 Heracles Almelo 3
Ajax Amsterdam 3 BV Veendam (II) 0
Groningen 1 ADO Den Haag 1
Groningen wins 5-4 on penalties

Italian Serie A

Thursday's results:
Parma 1 (Bojinov 84) Sampdoria 0

Team	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
AC Milan	7	2	2	20	11	23
Lazio	7	1	3	13	9	22
Napoli	6	3	2	18	11	21
Inter Milan	5	5	1	13	6	20
Juventus	5	4	2	22	12	19
Roma	5	3	3	14	14	18
Sampdoria	3	6	2	11	9	15
Chievo	4	3	4	11	10	15
Palermo	4	5	1	17	14	14
Catania	3	5	3	9	8	14
Genoa	4	2	5	9	11	14
Udinese	4	2	5	9	12	14
Fiorentina	3	3	5	12	13	12
Lecce	3	3	5	8	12	12
Cagliari	2	5	4	11	10	11
Parma	2	5	4	7	10	11
Brescia	3	2	6	10	14	11
Bologna	2	5	4	10	15	11
Cesena	3	2	6	8	14	11
Bari	2	3	6	9	18	9

Spanish King's Cup

Spanish King's Cup Last 32 second leg results on Thursday:
Valencia 4 Logrones 1
Valencia wins 7-1 on aggregate
Getafe 0 Portugalete 0
Agu 1-1; Getafe wins on away goals
Sporting Gijon 2 Mallorca 2
Mallorca wins 5-3
Malaga 3 Hercules Alicante 2
Malaga wins 3-2

TENNIS

ATP Paris Masters

ATP Paris Masters results on Thursday (x denotes seeding):
3rd rd
Andy Murray (GBR x3) bt Marin Cilic (CRO x13) 7-6 (6), 3-6, 6-3; Nikolay Davydenko (RUS x5) 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-0; Roger Federer (SUI x1) bt Radek Stepanek (CZE) 6-4, 6-3; Andy Roddick (USA x8) bt Ernests Gulbis (LAT) 6-3, 7-6 (8); Gael Monfils (FRA x12) bt Fernando Verdasco (ESP x6) 6-7 (4), 7-6 (2), 7-5; Jurgen Melzer (AUT x11) bt David Ferrer (ESP x7) 7-6 (6), 2-6, 6-3; Michael Llodra (FRA) bt Novak Djokovic (SRB x2) 7-6 (6), 6-2; Robin Soderling (SWE x4) bt Stanislas Wawrinka (SUI) 7-6 (3), 6-3.



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