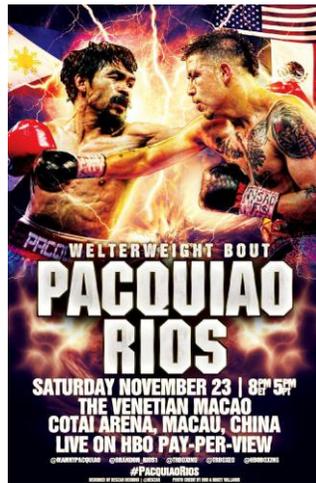


# PACQUIAO VS. RIOS: GREAT FIGHT UNDER THE RADAR



I can't explain why, but the Manny Pacquiao vs Brandon Rios matchup on Saturday, November 23 in Macau, China is not getting the attention it deserves. For the sport of boxing, it is a great fight. The fight has the potential to be one of the best not for just current times, but for all times. So why isn't it getting the attention it deserves?

## **Squabble**

The disengagement between Top Rank and Golden Boy as well as the divisive factions associated with Showtime boxing and HBO boxing cheapens the sport, but more importantly, it leaves die hard, casual, and potential boxing fans confused and disgusted. Fans (consumers) eventually give up when they are often misled or routinely given an unsatisfactory product (i.e. MMA Fans). Top Rank has a great stable of fighters in multiple weight classes and Golden Boy has a great stable in multiple weight classes. Unfortunately, boxing will never prosper and have true division champions, because the best from Top Rank do not face the best from Golden Boy and vice versa. Most of the time, each promoter has the #1 and #2 fighters, but because neither side is willing to participate, we often see #1 against #10, #11, or even a propped up #20 masquerading as a top fighter. Add in the fact Golden Boy deals exclusively with Showtime and everyone can quickly see why we get the watered down, chip bag filled with half air version of boxing. It absolutely sucks! It is a disappointment, and at some point, fans will have to revolt.

## **WHY This Matchup Is Great**

Manny Pacquiao was once considered the best fighter on the planet. He was so good some couldn't believe his other worldly talents and quickly said "No way! He must be using Steroids or PED's!" Well, nothing was ever proven and he just kept on winning in dramatic fashion. He won world titles in a record eight different weight classes. He retired De La Hoya, made Clottey fight scared, he busted up Margarito, made Cotto unaware,...wait, this sounds like something Ali and Bundini might have said. The point is, Manny Pacquiao was unstoppable until his untellable loss to Timothy Bradley or was it the Judges? For some reason, Pacman is in a slump highlighted by a vicious KO loss to his greatest rival Juan Manuel Marquez.

For the first time in his prominent career, Pac Man will be coming back from back to back losses. He will be hungry, challenged, and he is feeling a little pressure to win. He wants to prove he can fight like the old Manny Pacquiao. With all those motivating factors, Pacquiao asks, "Is Rios ready for me?"

Brandon "Bam Bam" Rios is nothing less than "Entertaining." He talks trash. No, not the garbage trash that came from Adrien Broner and Paulie Malignaggi, but the pure T Trash talk Roberto Duran and a cognizant James Toney could spew. He tells you how he feels, and he doesn't mince words. He will curse and laugh all the while telling you your momma is a so and so and he is going to beat you like a bitch. He is a fantastic interview. Even better than his interview is his attacking style of fighting. They don't call him "Bam Bam" for nothing! He comes at you with both guns blazing and he will take shots to land a killer combination of his own. He isn't a defensive wizard, but he is so skilled offensively you often forget about his defensive shortcomings. On top of all that, he is one tough S.O.B. He is the guy you just keep shaking your head at and wonder aloud, "Is he still coming?" Yep, he is still coming and the longer he hangs around the more pissed off he is and the more venom he has. He is an all out brawler with offensive skills. If I sound like I am joking, I am. Except for his loss to Alvarado, Rios has been the best fighter in the boxing.

Rios is coming off of his first professional loss, and there is a huge question about how he will handle the loss and the magnitude of this fight. If his comment about appearing at the first press conference in Macau is any indication, he might be in trouble: "I was surprised at how nervous I was before the first press conference in Macau." – Brandon Rios. Uh oh?

If you aren't excited now, you should get excited. These two warriors are going to be toe to toe, they both like to fight, and both are 100% confident. There will be no backing down. The question is can Rios handle the pressure and show some sort of defense? Can many handle getting thumped again and again?

It sounds like Fireworks to me!!!

By Chris Williams [www.cboxinginfo.com](http://www.cboxinginfo.com)

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