

RAUL TOVAR Jr. - BOXING'S TRUE UNDERDOG



Raul Tovar Jr. Photo Credit To Fightnews.com

Ask any boxer what their goal is and they will quickly tell you to be champion of the world. If you ask Raul Tovar Jr., he will deliberately tell you he is fighting to be recognized. Tovar is articulate, honest, and straightforward. He understands his performance in the ring directly affects his family's future. This combination makes him a true boxing underdog.

Raul Tovar Jr. is a twenty five year old professional boxer from Mission, TX, and as he explains, "Mission, TX is a south Texas border town many people call little Mexico." His mother and father were hard working migrant workers, who raised six children. His mother's tireless, everyday, hard work instilled in him a sense of pride and a don't quit attitude. His entire family made ends meet as migrant workers clearing fields of weeds and removing rocks. At the age of eleven, his cousin Oscar introduced Raul and his father to boxing. After taking a love for the sport and seeing what it can do for his family, Raul decided boxing was his way out of migrant work. He turned pro, and fought his first professional fight in 2006. Tovar Jr. is currently married with a son named Raul Tovar III, and his family is the driving force behind his commitment to not only boxing, but also the pursuit of his college degree. He is a full-time student and currently a few credits shy of earning an associate's degree.

With a professional record of 12-8-1 (4 KO's), the average fan might not look twice at Tovar Jr.'s career, but hard core boxing fans will quickly point out Raul has faced some of the best young talent in the Welterweight division. Tovar Jr. fought well and lost decisions to undefeated prospects Jessie Vargas, Chris Algieri, and Danny O'Connor. All three fights took place in hostile environments, but Tovar Jr. does not offer any excuses. "I accepted the fights knowing the conditions. I understood going in it would be tough to win in their hometowns. I fought my ass off and accepted the outcome. I had an equal chance to win."

An equal chance to win is all Raul Tovar Jr. asks to have. In his opinion, all fighters should fight on nothing less than a thirty-day notice and in a comfortable weight division, but more importantly, fighters

should be in shape and ready, "Every professional fighter should be in shape and ready to go on short notice. They don't have to take fights on short notice. Nobody is holding a gun to their heads, but they should at least be in top fighting shape and ready to go. This way they aren't in as desperate situations. Yes, I understand some fighters have tough situations where they need money, work, or something, but being in shape seems to lessen the desperation." Raul Tovar Jr. probably understands this situation as well as any boxer, because he lived it. A significant offer of money lured Raul into bare knuckle fighting. He fought one fight and won, but after receiving a legal head butt, it made him realize for all the politics and hard work to reach world championship levels, "Boxing is a Classy Sport!"

He is fortunate now, because he is a full time student and can schedule training. He is even more fortunate, because he has recognized taking care of his family requires him to sacrifice some of his boxing dreams to make sure his family has benefits and the security of a steady paying job, which is why he is pursuing his college degree.

Raul Tovar Jr. returns to the ring on February 22 at the Pharr Events Center in Texas. He will be the Co-Main event on Solid Knockout Promotions in association with Latino City Entertainment and Guerrero-Tovar Promotions card. It is the first step he must take to earn the recognition of the boxing world. Until then, he will be a true boxing underdog.

To learn more about Raul Tovar Jr. follow him on twitter @Rtovar4

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