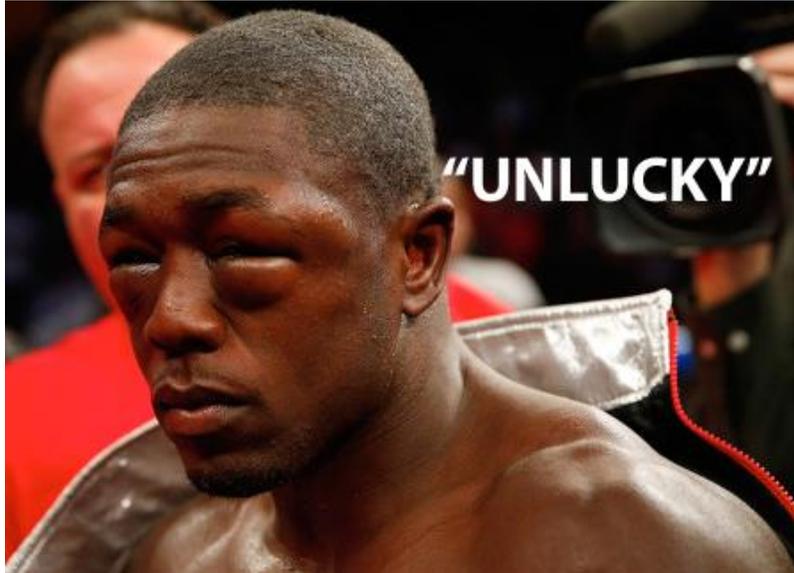


## “UNLUCKY” ANDRE BERTO



Zab “Super” Judah has nine lives in boxing, and when it comes to title fight opportunities, he is probably the luckiest fighter, EVER! Well, Andre Berto has 18 lives, but when it comes to the sport of boxing, he is UNLUCKY!

Andre Berto has had multiple opportunities to be a part of a mega fight. HBO might not admit it, but Berto has been positioned or angled to get a fight with Floyd Mayweather Jr at least three times. Each time, Berto has been unlucky. In 2009, the undefeated Berto faced Luis Collazo in a fight that was supposed to showcase Berto’s rising star power. What the fight did was expose the many weaknesses of the defense challenged Berto, and create a blueprint on how to beat him. Berto squeaked away with a decision, but he got it handed to him that night. Many felt like a draw was a more deserving fate. Berto retained his WBC title, and would go on to have spectacular wins over Juan Urango, Carlos Quintana, and Freddy Hernandez. He made fans forget the Collazo fight, he held a belt, and HBO was marketing him as the “next.”

April 2011, Andre Berto and Victor Otrtiz waged a classic war at Foxwoods Resorts. The fight was an instant classic as the two warriors exchanged vicious blow after vicious blow, knock down after knock down, and when Berto chin checked Ortiz in the sixth round, everyone thought Victor Ortiz would revert back to a previous experience and quit. Ortiz would fight on and drop Berto at the end of round six. The back and forth of the two talented warriors proved HBO knew what they had. But, for Berto, he didn’t have enough losing by UD. Ortiz would move on to face world #1 Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Five months later Andre Berto would return as the HBO headliner facing highly ranked Jan Zaveck. He shined again setting up a fight with the undefeated Robert “Ghost” Guerrero. The winner would face....You guessed it Floyd Mayweather Jr. Berto’s luck would run out, again.

Most boxing fans and analyst saw Guerrero as a light puncher moving up in weight. They thought he would be a good test for Berto, but he would eventually get overpowered. Well, most were wrong as

The Ghost brought it to Berto from the opening bell and beat him to a pulp over 12 rounds to score a UD win. Berto was unlucky, but he would get another shot.

This time he would face a tough veteran in Jesus Soto-Karass. Soto-Karass was well known for his monumental display of heart and will in his 2010 loss to Mike Jones on the Manny Pacquiao-Antonio Margarito undercard. Soto-Karass survived a first round ambush by Machine Gun Jones and fought back to nearly stop Jones. Many fans and critics believed Soto-Karass stole the fight in the late rounds, but the judges did not see it that way.

Soto-Karass came out at the opening bell blasting and caught Berto early. The fight turned out to be another classic, but Berto hurt his shoulder in the 4<sup>th</sup> round and fighting with one hand and limited defensive skills, he was no match for the tough, veteran Soto-Karass. The fight proved to be a classic for TV, and many will want to see Berto again, but what is left for Berto to give his blood and guts for?

Andre Berto is a warrior, but he is unlucky inside the ring. Unfortunately, his mishaps extend outside the ropes as well: In January 2010, an earthquake in Berto's home country of Haiti caused catastrophic damage and the death of family members. Berto was forced to pull out of his dream fight with Sugar Shane Mosley. Mosley would move on to fight none other than Floyd Mayweather Jr. Berto would rebound mentally to set up a rematch of his thrilling fight with Victo Ortiz, but the fight is cancelled, because the hard luck Berto tests positive for the banned substance Norandrosterone (Trace Amounts).

I don't know where or how Andre Berto's boxing career will end. I do know right now he is the unluckiest boxer in the world. He keeps missing his chance at the golden ticket and his chances are fading. Maybe! Just maybe, Berto will get a chance (Like Judah did) to face Floyd Mayweather Jr and maybe all of the misfortune and "Unlucky" Berto has had will be enough to sway the boxing powers that be and Floyd will meet his first. I doubt it!!

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