

MP starts training for Floyd

Written by Rich Mazon

Saturday, 28 February 2015 10:08



Boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao training at his own gym in General Santos City on Feb. 24. (All photos by WENDELL RUPERT ALINEA)



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Special to the Filipino Reporter

Days after Floyd Mayweather, Jr. announced to the world that he is finally fighting Manny Pacquiao, the Filipino spitfire wasted no time, donned his boxing gloves, and started light training for their May 2 mega-bout scheduled at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao gathered his trusted friends and assistant coaches, Buboy Fernandez, Nonoy Neri and Roger “Haplas” Fernandez, and started preparations at his own gym in General Santos City which incidentally is also named the Wild Card Gym, after the famous Los Angeles boxing landmark of his longtime trainer Freddie Roach.

“I would have wanted to start preparations early and right at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles owing to the tough fight I am facing, but since Freddie is still in Macau, I’ll start building up here,” Pacquiao told Philboxing.com writer Eddie Alinea on Monday.

The reigning WBO welterweight champ who will be staking his belt against Mayweather’s two other welterweight title belts (WBC, WBA) did four rounds against the mitts with Buboy Fernandez and a round each on the heavy bag, the double end bag and the speedball during Tuesday’s workout, his first after his triumphant win over Chris Algieri in November.

He then finished the three-hour workout jumping rope and various abdominal and stretching exercises with Neri and “Haplas” Fernandez.

“I always believe in the principle of good preparation. *Pag maganda ang preparasyon, magiging maganda rin ang performance*” (If I prepare well, I will also perform well), he told Alinea.

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Team Pacquiao is planning to leave for the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles after Roach is done assisting one of his fighters, Zou Shiming of China, who fights for a world title in Macau on March 7.

“Me and the team have to really prepare myself really well,” said Pacquiao who also found time to play in the PBA Wednesday night where his team, the Kia Carnival, won it’s third game (out of seven) of the season.

“We have to see to it that when we arrive in L.A. I’m strong enough to endure the tougher regimen prepared by Freddie,” he added.

The fight is still two months away but Pacquiao is vowing to train hard for what is not only his biggest fight but of the sport of boxing in the last two decades.

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