

Boxing

Mayweather, Pacquiao to fight this spring

Showdown set for May 2 at MGM Grand

By **TIM DAHLBERG**
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The Fight is finally on.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. will meet Manny Pacquiao on May 2 in a welterweight showdown that will be boxing's richest fight ever. Mayweather himself announced the bout Friday after months of negotiations, posting a picture of the signed contract online.

"I promised the fans we would get this done and we did," Mayweather said.

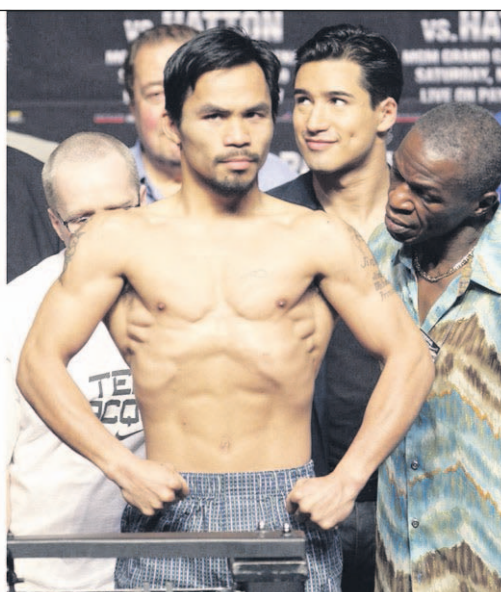
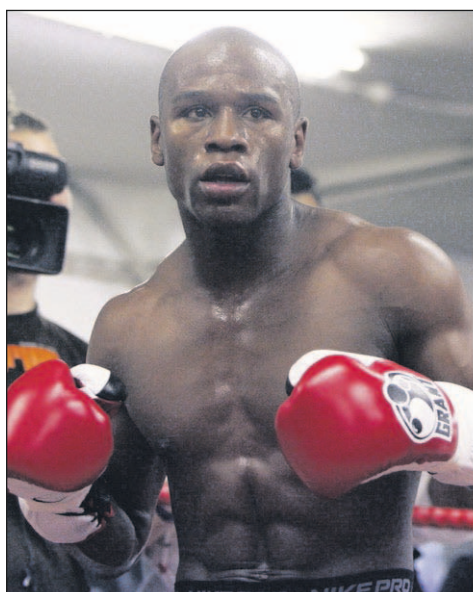
The long anticipated bout at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas will almost surely break every financial record, and make both boxers richer than ever. Mayweather could earn \$120 million or more, while Pacquiao's split of the purse will likely be around \$80 million.

The fight, which matches boxing's two biggest attractions of recent years, has been in the making for five years. It finally came together in recent months with both fighters putting aside past differences over various issues — including drug testing and television rights — to reach agreement.

Pacquiao was sleeping in the Philippines when the fight was announced, but his camp issued a statement saying the fans deserve the long awaited fight.

"It is an honor to be part of this historic event," Pacquiao said. "I dedicate this fight to all the fans who willed this fight to happen and, as always, to bring glory to the Philippines and my fellow Filipinos around the world."

While the fight rivals the 2002 heavyweight title bout between Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson for interest, it comes more than five years after the first real effort to put the fighters together in their prime. Most boxing observers believe both have lost some of their skills, though Mayweather remains a master defen-



FILE - In this combination of file photos, Floyd Mayweather Jr., left, prepares to spar at a gym in east London on May 22, 2009, and Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, weighs in for the junior welterweight boxing match against British boxer Ricky Hatton, May 1, 2009, in Las Vegas. Floyd Mayweather Jr. will meet Manny Pacquiao on May 2, 2015 in a welterweight showdown that will be boxing's richest fight ever.

sive fighter and Pacquiao showed in his last fight against Chris Algieri that he still has tremendous quickness in his hands.

Still, Pacquiao is 36 and has been through many wars in the ring. And while Mayweather has been largely untouched in his career, he turns 38 on Tuesday.

"I am the best ever, TBE, and this fight will be another opportunity to showcase my skills and do what I do best, which is win," Mayweather said in his announcement. "Manny is going to try to do what 47 before him failed to do, but he won't be successful. He will be No. 48."

Odds makers believe Mayweather will do just that, making him a 2 1/2-1 favorite in the scheduled 12-round bout. The fight is expected to do record business in Nevada's legal sports books, with tens of millions wagered on the

outcome.

It will also do record business at the box office — with the MGM expected to be scaled far higher than the \$20 million live gate for Mayweather's 2013 fight with Canelo Alvarez. The pay-per-view revenue also is expected to be a record, though television executives said Friday they had yet to actually fix a price for people to buy the fight at home.

The fight will be televised as a joint venture between competing networks Showtime and HBO, which will share announcers with Jim Lampley and Al Bernstein reportedly handling the task at ringside.

Pacquiao began pushing hard for the fight after beating Algieri in November in Macau, and negotiations picked up last month when the two fighters met by chance at a Miami Heat basketball game and later talked with each other

in Pacquiao's hotel room about making it happen.

"It's one of those fortuitous circumstance we couldn't have planned," Showtime boxing chief Stephen Espinoza said. "But we were lucky that it happened."

As part of the agreement, Mayweather insisted on having the right to announce the bout. He also won concessions from the Pacquiao camp on who enters the ring first, what type of gloves are used, and a number of other issues, including a reported 60-40 split of the purse.

But it didn't take long for Pacquiao's camp to start talking, either. Promoter Bob Arum expressed his elation in making the fight, while trainer Freddie Roach predicted a big win for his fighter.

"Floyd should enjoy being the A-Side while he can because on May 2 Manny is going to put him on his backside," Roach said.

Arum, who has promoted some of the biggest fights in history, said this one would be bigger than them all.

"This boxing match will have the interest in the U.S. of a Super Bowl," Arum told The Associated Press. "I think it will set all kinds of pay-per-view records and gate records. It will be the biggest boxing event of all time."

Both fighters will bring 147-pound titles into the ring, but the fight is about far more than belts. Mayweather, who is unbeaten in 47 fights, wants to stake his claim as one of the greatest fighters ever, and remove any doubts about his legacy by fighting the boxer who is thought to be the greatest challenge of his career.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, will try to show that a knockout loss to Juan Manuel Marquez in 2012 and a disputed decision loss to Timothy Bradley should not define a remarkable career that began 20 years ago in the Philippines.

Don't tune in looking for a big knockout, either. The last time Pacquiao stopped anyone was in 2009 when he finished off Miguel Cotto in the 12th round, while Mayweather has only stopped one fighter (Victor Ortiz) in the last eight years.

2A HOOPS: Irrigon, Heppner to meet in boys title game

Continued from 1B

from the hands of Heppner's Maddie Lindsay in the backcourt to score a basket that made the edge six in the final 30 seconds of the third.

Ammarae Broncheau connected on a top of the key triple on the first possession of the fourth to make it nine. After a Kayla Peterson layup a moment later the TigerScots led by 11. The advantage would never fall below double digits for the remainder.

"We wanted to pressure them and play an up-tempo game and we did," said WMHS coach Amber Doremus. "We knew if we could withstand that third quarter run, everything would be OK."

The hounding baseline-to-baseline pressure unnerved the Mustangs. Heppner spilled it over 33 times for the game. Weston-McEwen turned the giveaways into 30 of their 56 points.

Heppner turned it over on its first five possessions of the game and by the end of the opening period had already thrown it away 12 times. WMHS didn't make the most of the errors, though and led by just four after one and seven at the break.

Kelly Wilson and Morgan Correa gave Heppner life to open the third. Wilson drilled a jump shot and found Correa for two more baskets. The consecutive scores from the Mustang freshman cut the lead to one at 28-27 with 4:34 remaining in the period.

Neither side would score for the next four minutes. That's when back-to-back Lindsay turnovers resulted in Shepard lay-ins. Weston-McEwen finished the game on a 28-12 run.

The frenzied effort took a cumulative effect on the Mustangs. That was by design according to Doremus.

"It wasn't like we called time out and hollered at them 'You've got to do this, you've got to do this,'" she said. "It was more like you've got to go to stay with this — grinding them down."

Broncheau and Madison Carlin joined Shepard as double-figure scorers. Carlin had a team-best 12 and Broncheau had 10. Broncheau's active defense resulted in eight swipes for the junior floor general.

Wilson had 15 points and six assists for Heppner.

Although already headed to the Class 2A state tournament, today's district title game versus top-seeded Pilot Rock still means something, Doremus said.

"It's for putting a board on the wall," she said. "I don't know that Pilot Rock does this anymore, but we put the (district championship) plaques on the wall — it's been 10 years. That's a big part of it."

Tip set for 4 p.m. at the Pendleton Convention Center.



Staff photo by E.J. Harris

Weston-McEwen's Keegan Shepard shoots the ball in front of Heppner's Maddie Lindsay in the TigerScots 56-39 win against the Mustangs on Friday in Pendleton.

"We expected it to be like that after the overtime game a couple weeks ago," said Pilot Rock coach Butch Wilson, "and I think there was a little bit of nerves coming into this game as the No. 1 team knowing they could get knocked off (and out of state contention)."

Stanfield held Columbia Basin Conference Player of the Year Madison Dave to three points, but freshman McKayla Deist stepped in with a game-high 10 points and sophomore Jacey Wilson and senior Bailey Weinke each added eight.

"We just spread it out, so anyone can score on any given night," said Weinke, the team's only senior.

Dave led all rebounders with 15, and made her presence felt on defense. Guard Yazzmin Chavez came off the bench to lead Stanfield with nine points, but the Tigers' frontcourt only contributed two points to the final tally.

"We don't have anybody that can match up with (Dave) in the post and so we just have to do what we can to limit her," said Stanfield coach Daniel Sharp. "I don't know if you can stop her, but we can get her huffing and puffing a little bit and that was the goal."

Pilot Rock advances to face Weston-McEwen in the CBC championship today at 4 p.m.

The loss ended Stanfield's best season since 2009, and the first in Sharp's dual-coaching role with the school.

"It's been a building block and I think they took some steps," said Sharp, who also coached the Stanfield boys to a CBC tournament berth.

PILOT ROCK — McKayla Deist 10, B. Weinke 8, J. Wilson 8, M. Dave 3, B. Roe 2, S. Weinke 2, T. Ostrom 1, R. Willingham, M. Glynn, R. Oates, A. Bray.
3-point field goals — SHS 0, PRHS 2. **Free throws** — SHS 6-13, PRHS 12-24. **Fouls** — SHS 14, PRHS 14. **Fouled out** — none.

Boys Basketball

IRRIGON 88, PILOT ROCK 27 — At Pendleton, It's not often a No. 1 seed gets the chance to lay a trap, but that's exactly what the Irrigon Knights did on Friday night to secure their spot in the state postseason.

Fresh off an upset win two nights before, the Pilot Rock boys basketball team was in a familiar spot five minutes into their Columbia Basin Conference semifinal game at Pendleton Convention Center — trailing but hanging around.

But over the next three minutes, the Knights sprang their trap — not on the Rockets, but on any blue and gold-clad fans who'd let the idea of another upset creep into their thoughts.

By the time the second quarter started Irrigon had pushed a seven-point lead to 20, and the Knights went to their reserves early in the second half to close out a win.

"Pilot Rock is a good team," said Irrigon senior Anthony Landeros, who led the game with 19 points. "People underestimate them but they're going to give it their all every game. These were big games this weekend and they stepped it up to be able to be here, so that means they were meant to be here."

"(Pilot Rock) earned the spot to be here and we treated them with respect," said Irrigon coach Mitch Thompson. "We're not going to fear anybody, but we're sure as heck going to respect everybody."

Zach Rice shot 3-for-5 from behind the arc to pace Irrigon's 13-of-28 three-point shooting and finished with 13 points. Adrian Romero added 15 points, and Fredy Vera had 14.

Justin Willingham led Pilot Rock with nine points and a game-high eight rebounds.

With 61-points separating the two teams, it was the second-largest margin of victory for the Knights this season.

"We have a pretty high standard and we try to meet that everyday," said Thompson, whose Knights picked up their biggest win by 63 points over Culver in early January. "Our success is us versus and, if that looks like another gear, I hope it is."

The latest win secured Irrigon's right to defend its 2014 OSAA title with a berth in the state postseason. Just one more hurdle remains before then — a meeting with the Heppner/Stanfield winner in the CBC championship today at 5 p.m.

"Nothing's changed. We're going to keep plugging away," Thompson said. "(A district title) is not our destination and we've got to take care of business (Saturday)."

IRRIGON 88, PILOT ROCK 27
PRHS (7-14) 7 11 4 5 — 27
IHS (22-1) 27 26 18 17 — 88
PILOT ROCK — Justin Willingham 9, D. Hasher 7, B. Pierce 6, C. Weinke 3, L. Thieme 2, P. Roe, J. Pierce, D. Fritz, B. Postma, T. Denny. 11-34 FG
IRRIGON — Anthony Landeros 19, A. Romero 15, F. Vera 14, Z. Rice 13, A. Rice 10, A. Timpy 9, H. White 4, X. Rambo 2, N. Verley 2, O. Vera, O. Romero. 34-59 FG
3-point field goals — PRHS 1-8, IHS 13-28. **Free throws** — PRHS 4-10, IHS 7-7. **Fouls** — PRHS 11, IHS 12. **Fouled out** — none.

HEPPNER 60, STANFIELD 59 — At Pendleton, CJ Kindle found teammate Logan Grieb smack-dab in the middle of the key trailing by one with the clock winding down.

Grieb did the only thing he could: put it up. The shot wasn't a thing of beauty but the result was all the Mustangs could hope for.

The ball went down and after Stanfield's Dylan Grogan lipped out a game-winning attempt seconds later, second-seeded Heppner punched its first Class 2A state tournament ticket since 2010.

"I told the guys afterward that I couldn't be more proud," Heppner coach Jeremy Rosenbalm said. "We knew we were in for a dogfight and we got one."

The back-and-forth game culminated the same way most meeting between Mustangs and Tigers do: with a furious finish.

Grogan converted an old-fashioned three-point play with 30 seconds remaining in regulation. The bucket and free throw gave Stanfield its first lead at 59-58 since the third quarter.

Then Grieb finished the shot that Rosenbalm described as "awkward and off-balanced" for a miraculous win.

This is the second straight meeting between the Tigers and Mustangs decided in the waning seconds. Kindle was fouled on a three-point try at the buzzer in Heppner last time out and made three foul shots to clinch the win.

Patrick Collins was a load inside for the Mustangs, finishing with 18 points to go with 12 rebounds.

Despite a 17-6 season, the Tigers will not be joining Heppner and Irrigon in next week's opening playoff round.

"There's going to be quite a few teams playing next week and they won't. That's really unfortunate," Rosenbalm said.

As for Heppner, the Mustangs will have a third and final chance to down top-ranked Irrigon Saturday. Tip is set for 5:30 p.m.

HEPPNER 60, STANFIELD 59
HEP 10 16 20 14 — 60
SHS 12 15 17 15 — 59
HEPPNER — W. Putman 9, L. Grieb 13, J. Corbin 0, C. Hedman 0, Patrick Collins 18, K. Murray 5, R. Cutsforth 11, C. Kindle 4.
STANFIELD — Bailey 5, Carrillo 2, Galarza 4, Lockwood 0, Flores 8, Braithwaite 9, Dylan Grogan 22, Monkus 2, Montes 0, Davchevski 7.
3-point field goals — HEP 4, SHS 6. **Free throws** — HEP 8-17, SHS 13-21. **Fouls** — HEP 19, SHS 18. **Fouled out** — none.

PILOT ROCK 34, STANFIELD 18
SHS (10-15) 0 6 6 6 — 18
PRHS (14-6) 7 11 3 — 34
STANFIELD — Yazzmin Chavez 9, B. Watson 3, G. Chavez 2, C. Curriel 2, N. Esquivel 2, C. Hopper, S. Connell, B. Braithwaite, M. Banderas, A. O'Neill, M. Griffin, A. Lemmon.

WESTON-MCEWEN 56, HEPPNER 39
HEP 7 12 8 12 — 39
WMHS 11 15 7 23 — 56
HEPPNER — Kelly Wilson 15, P. Grieb 4, M. Lindsay 6, J. Kempken 4, M. Correa 8, K. Lindsay 0, M. Gibbs 0, R. Dompier 0, R. Wizner 0, K. Gray 2, R. Kollman 0.
WESTON-MCEWEN — S. Finifrock 3, Madison Carlin 12, A. Broncheau 10, S. Quaeempts 8, K. Shepard 10, T. Entze 0, M. Aby 8, C. Quaeempts 4, A. Schreoder 0, K. Peterson 5.
3-point field goals — HEP 0, WMHS 2. **Free throws** — HEP 9-18, WMHS 12-24. **Fouls** — HEP 20, WMHS 21. **Fouled out** — J. Kempken (HEP).

PILOT ROCK 34, STANFIELD 18 — At Pendleton, the Rockets came out on top of a defensive tussle on Friday to advance to the district championship and also punch their ticket to the state postseason.

The No. 1-seeded Rockets shut out the fourth-seeded Tigers 13-0 in the first quarter, then made the lead stick despite another lock-down defensive performance by the Tigers.