

OTHER VIEWS

Will fight live up to hype? History provides a clue

It's the richest fight ever, with staggering paydays and ticket prices to match. For one night, at least, boxing will be back center stage, with the world waiting to see what unfolds.

The big question is this: Can Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao deliver the fight this kind of hype deserves?

History is a mixed bag when it comes to big fights. But here are three that lived up to their hype:

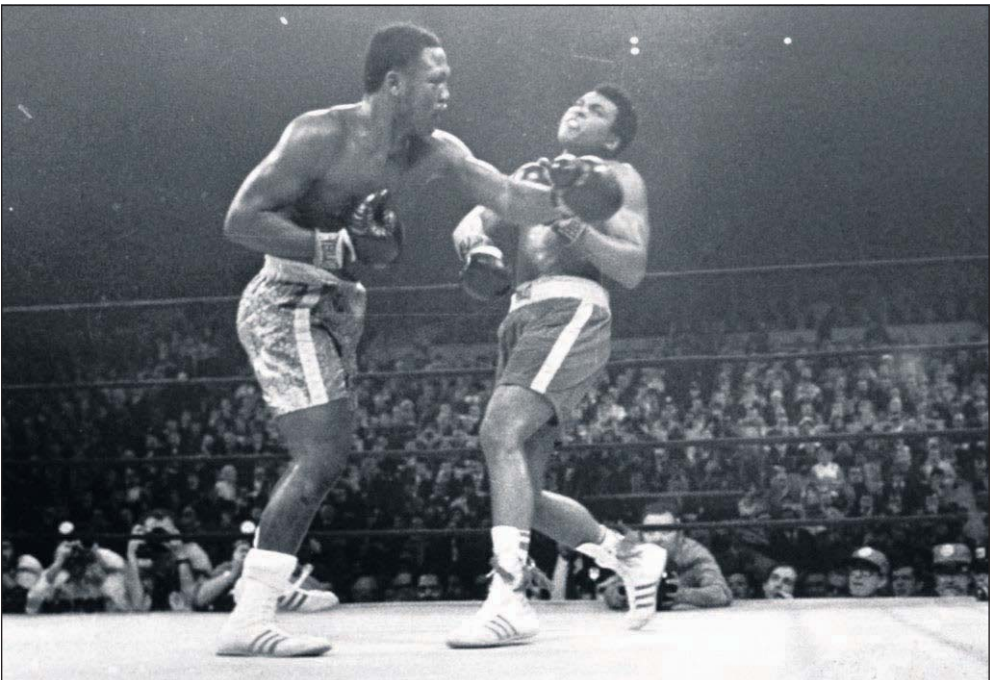
ALI-FRAZIER 1: This fight was so big, Frank Sinatra got a job as a ringside photographer at Madison Square Garden.

The original Fight of the Century in 1971 featured two unbeaten heavyweights getting record purses of \$2.5 million, and the rich and famous gathered at the Garden to see if Muhammad Ali could overcome his three-year exile and regain the heavyweight title from Joe Frazier. Adding to the excitement was the fact the two fighters genuinely didn't like each other.

Ali fought well, flicking out his left jab and landing combinations. But Frazier was relentless, stalking Ali all night long, throwing vicious left hooks that caused Ali's face to swell. In the 15th round he landed one flush, sending Ali to the canvas and cementing a decision win. The two would fight a trilogy, with Ali winning the next two fights, including the infamous "Thrilla in Manila"

LEONARD-HEARNS: Sugar Ray Leonard had the gold medal and the smile everyone loved. Tommy Hearns was a fear-some puncher with a right hand that knocked opponents senseless. They met in their prime on Sept. 16, 1981, outdoors at Caesars Palace in a fight that will live in boxing lore.

It was a fight that had everything, including classic ebb and flow, but Hearns appeared heading to victory when he changed strategy



In this March 8, 1971, file photo, boxer Joe Frazier, left, hits Muhammad Ali during the 15th round of their heavyweight title fight at New York's Madison Square Garden. Can the Mayweather-Pacquiao fight ever live up to its hype? Comparing this fight to other great matches in history that actually lived up to their hype, and to several that were disappointments.

and began boxing Leonard in the middle rounds instead of trying to knock him out. At the end of the 12th round, trainer Angelo Dundee screamed at Leonard "You're blowing it son, you're blowing it."

His face swollen and his chances fading, Leonard turned puncher, landing a series of vicious punches in the 13th round to stop Hearns and give him his first loss.

"I always felt the end results are what counts," Leonard said after.

LOUIS-SCHMELING: It was 1938, and storm clouds were gathering in Europe as Germany began pushing for world domination. Max Schmeling was touted as the perfect example of Arian superiority after having handed Joe Louis his first loss two years

earlier, and from the beginning this heavy-weight fight was seen as a showdown between the two most powerful countries on Earth.

Yankee Stadium was packed with 70,043 fans, and some 100 million people listened on their radios as the Brown Bomber defended his title for the fourth time. America didn't have to wait long to celebrate as Louis completely dominated Schmeling, finally stopping him at 2 minutes and 4 seconds of the first round.

In Germany, meanwhile, the broadcast was quickly taken off the air.

Here are three fights that didn't live up to their hype:

ALI-HOLMES: Most experts thought Muhammad Ali was done as he came back

out of retirement to challenge Larry Holmes for the heavyweight title, but that didn't stop his legions of fans from believing he could beat his former sparring partner. The fight was so big that Caesars Palace built a 30,000-seat temporary stadium in October 1980 for the first outdoor fight on the Strip.

Ali came into the ring having magically lost so much weight he was trim and seemingly fit at 217 pounds. But his jab was a shadow of what it once was and his reflexes were shot as Holmes had his way with him. Holmes was trying to save Ali from further punishment in the later rounds, and Ali's corner finally stopped the fight after the 10th round.

Ali would fight once more, but on a sad night in the desert it was the end for The Greatest.

LOUIS-CONN 2: Their first fight in 1941 was a classic, with Billy Conn leading before trying to go for a knockout in the 13th round and being stopped by Louis. World War II meant the rematch in 1946 was four years late, though the delay did allow the fight at Yankee Stadium to be the first broadcast on national TV.

The viewing audience didn't see much of a fight, with Louis dominating from the opening bell before finally stopping Conn in the eighth round. Conn's performance earned him the "Flop of the Year" award voted on by members of The Associated Press.

ALI-LISTON 2: Cassius Clay had beaten Sonny Liston a year earlier to win the heavyweight title in huge upset, but now it was Muhammad Ali in the rematch. The fight was originally scheduled for Boston but Ali had emergency surgery and it was postponed. By the time it was rescheduled in May 1965 it had been moved to a junior hockey rink in Lewiston, Maine amid allegations Liston was beholden to the mob.

There would be many more allegations later, after a right hand that few saw caught Liston in the first round and he went down and was counted out. Liston said the so-called phantom punch was real but "I could have gotten up, but I didn't hear the count."

MARIOTA: Could start Week 1 for Titans

Continued from 1B

we do," Whisenhunt said. "I don't think it's going to be that challenging. I'm excited about doing that. ... We'll see how it grows, what he can handle and how he can progress.

Mariota certainly has the size at 6-foot-4 and 219 pounds and plenty of success in college. He said he developed a close relationship with Whisenhunt and Webster in all their meetings leading up the draft as the Titans scrutinized the quarterback closely, and Mariota also said he's ready for whatever Whisenhunt asks him to do.

"I feel that I can go in there and learn as much as I can from someone who's done it at the highest level, and that's going to allow me to really just be the best player that I can be," Mariota said.

The quarterback position has been a revolving door

at Tennessee.

The Titans drafted Vince Young at No. 3 overall in 2006 and Locker at No. 8 in 2011, and Young was the last quarterback to lead this team in yards passing in consecutive seasons, and that was 2006 and 2007. They have started eight different quarterbacks since trading away Steve McNair to Baltimore in 2006.

Webster said the only pressure in taking another quarterback this high is that the Titans want to win.

"It really has not a lot to do with the position, other than the fact that we're just trying to get better and win games and get this thing turned around," Webster said.

Tennessee needs an infusion of offense after ranking 29th in the NFL last season averaging 303.7 yards per game in Whisenhunt's first year. The Titans ranked 22nd with 213.3 yards passing per

game, and Mariota was the humble leader of Oregon's high-flying offense for three seasons.

Mariota's ability to create plays with his arm and his legs took the Ducks to the brink of a national championship before falling short to Ohio State, finishing the season 13-2.

Along the way Mariota won every major award he qualified for, starting with the Heisman, as well as AP Player of the Year, the Maxwell and Walter Camp awards and Pac-12 Offensive Player of the Year.

Mariota set a conference record for most touchdowns in a single season with 58; 42 via pass, 15 on the run and a touchdown catch. His passing touchdowns set a Pac-12 single-season record. He also set the conference's career mark for career touchdowns with 136.

He threw at least one touchdown pass in all 41 college games he played in at Oregon, starting every one of his appearances. And he's one of just four quarterbacks in FBS history to pass for more than 10,000 yards and run for more than 2,000 in his career.

Mariota was known for his steady demeanor from the start. Off the field, he was shy and unassuming, but he stayed on the field following every game to shake hands and pose for pictures.

A three-star recruit for the Ducks out of St. Louis High School in Honolulu, Mariota is fiercely proud of his island roots: His helmet facemask was designed to include the numbers 8-0-8 in a nod to the state's area code.

Mariota has already attracted several sponsors including Nike — co-founder Phil Knight is an Oregon alum — and more recently Subway and Beats By Dre.

DRAFT: Two Ducks, two Huskies in first round

Continued from 1B

backs went 1-2, and this was no surprise.

It wasn't a surprise to see Washington CB Marcus Peters or Missouri DE Shane Ray go in the opening round, although both bring questions about personal behavior to the NFL that dropped them a bit. Peters went 18th to Kansas City, Ray 23rd to Denver, which traded up five slots to get him.

Peters was kicked off the Huskies after several arguments with coaches.

"He's got to keep his emotions in check and I think he'll do that," coach Andy Reid said. "He's not a troublemaker off the field, that's not what he is. He's not a problem in the locker room, that's not what he is. Just those competitive juices, you have to know how to control those."

Ray was cited for marijuana use on Monday, and said he "will learn from my mistake."

Coincidentally, marijuana has been legalized in Colorado.

Nebraska linebacker Randy Gregory, who failed a marijuana test at the NFL combine, was not chosen.

Following the quarterbacks were two more underclassmen: linebacker Dante Fowler Jr. of Florida headed upstate a bit to Jacksonville, then Oakland grabbed Alabama wide receiver Amari Cooper.

The first senior taken was Iowa tackle Brandon Scherff by Washington in the fifth spot, a bit of a surprise.

After Scherff, the Jets, normally heavily cheered when the draft was held in New York — it's in Chicago for the first time in 51 years — were loudly booed when they went on the clock. And when they went for Southern Cal DT Leonard Williams, rated by some as the best overall player in this crop, the jeers increased exponentially.

Why? Because the Bears were next up and need a dynamic player at the position.

Still, the local team was cheered as if Jay Cutler had just thrown for a TD when it grabbed West Virginia's

game-breaking receiver, Kevin White. After trading top wideout Brandon Marshall to the Jets, the Bears had a big void there.

Dan Quinn, the Falcons' new coach after he helped build Seattle's dynamic defense, got a nice tool in Clemson linebacker Vic Beasley. The Giants selected Miami offensive tackle Ereck Flowers and St. Louis finished off the top 10 by taking Georgia running back Todd Gurley, who comes off a major knee injury.

The pick drew some reactions of disbelief from the crowd of 2,800 in the theater and 50,000 outside in what the league calls Draft Town. No RBs went in the first round of the past two drafts.

"He's special, yeah he is," Rams coach Jeff Fisher said. "When his career is over, he'll be a great pick."

Minnesota took the first defensive back, Michigan State's Trae Waynes, and then the proceedings got a big lift.

Well, it was actually Roger Goodell who got the lift when 339-pound DT Danny Shelton of Washington bear-

hugged him and elevated the commissioner about a foot off the ground.

"It was a little bit planned, but it was just an exciting time so I had to do it," Shelton said.

Shelton, dressed in Samoan garb, was chosen by Cleveland, then the Saints got Stanford OT Andrus Peat and the Dolphins bolstered their receiving group with Louisville's DeVante Parker.

Finally, a trade was made, with San Diego moving up two spots to 15 to get another running back, Wisconsin's record-setting Melvin Gordon. San Francisco got the Chargers' first-rounder, a fourth-rounder and next year's fifth-rounder.

Washington led with three choices: Shelton, Peters and LB Shaq Thompson to Carolina. The Pac-12 had nine choices, as did the ACC.

Seventeen offensive players went in Round 1, which ended with DT Malcom Brown of Texas going to New England.

Eighteen underclassmen were picked among the first 32.

Prep Roundup

Jessica Lambert no-hits Echo

East Oregonian

ECHO — Jessica Lambert tossed five-innings of no-hit ball as Weston-McEwen defeated Echo 10-0 in a non-league run-rule rout on Thursday.

Lambert needed just 67 pitches to finish off the Cougars (8-8) to give the TigerScots (12-5) their seventh consecutive win.

Lambert helped her cause in the circle with a fifth-inning two-run homer that provided the 10-run edge necessary to finish the game early. It was one of three Lambert hits in the game.

Megan Coffman finished with four singles, scoring twice and driving in three others.

It was the second time in three games that Echo concluded a game without recording a hit.

Echo hosts Nyssa today for a league doubleheader — first game is set for 1 p.m. The TigerScots host Culver on Saturday for a league doubleheader.

WESTON-MCEWEN 10, ECHO 0 (5 innings) R H E

WMHS	301	42	—	10	15	2
ECHO	000	00	—	0	0	0
J. Lambert and S. Peal. A. Ray and E. Parks. W — J. Lambert. L — A. Ray. 2B — I. Dillow (WMHS); J. Pease (WMHS); S. Peal (WMHS). HR — J. Lambert (WMHS).						

TENNIS

At Helix, the Umatilla boys won five of seven boys tennis matches and the girls team won four of nine in a three-way meet with Helix and Weston-McEwen.

Douglas Gomez, Elian Armenta and Tristan Cole each won boy singles matches

Boys
Singles: Douglas Gomez (UMA) def. Caleb Olson (WM) 8-5; Kellen Fairchild (WM) def. Allan Holden (HEL) 8-1; Elian Armenta (UMA) def. Jon Shaw (HEL) 8-5; Tristan Cole (UMA) def. Ryan Young (HEL) 8-2.
Doubles: Giovanni Armenta and Elian Armenta (UMA) def. Ryan Schmidgall and Michael Snyder (WM) 8-2; David Froese and Curtis Papineau (WM) def. Caiden Marks and Jake Sprenger (HEL) 8-6; Junior Coria and Edgar Madrigal (UMA) def. Robbie Davidson and Dylan Eddens (WM) 8-2.

Girls
Singles: Sydney Webb (UMA) def. Lynne Roberts (HEL) 8-2; Paige Gabriel (HEL) def. Bebe Calley (WM) 8-3; Emma-line Irvine (WM) def. Mecalia Espey (HEL) 8-4; Christina Swafford (WM) def. Esperanza Munoz (HEL) 8-3; Brenda Mendoza (UMA) def. Amanda Kidd (WM) 8-5.
Doubles: Kyla Roberts and Sierra Bryant (HEL) def. Becky Taylor and Mary Broden (WM) 8-3; Lacy Kuen and Johanna Albert (WM) def. Kairy Escobedo and Natalie Armenta (UMA) 8-2; Yessina Garcia and Fatima Sanchez (UMA) def. Hannah McIntyre and Christina Swafford (WM) 9-7; Kairy Escobedo and Natalie Armenta (UMA) def. Sami Ford and Krysta Calvert (HEL) 8-3.

RIVALRY: Consistency Achilles heel for Bulldogs

Continued from 1B

Hermiston entered CRC play with the same 6-7 mark that the Buckaroos held. Unlike their counterparts, they stumbled out of the blocks in league play, losing five in a row before Tuesday's victory.

The biggest issue for Hermiston has been consistency, often within individual games. Several times this season they've built leads, only to watch them slip away. None of their five league losses have come by four runs or more. Two have come by just

one run.

Hermiston has depended on the offense from senior outfielder Abi Drotzmann, junior infielder Mikayloa Kopacz and sophomore infielder Ellery Jones. Taylor Betz, Breyanna Naylor and Julissa Almaguer have handled most of the

pitching duties, and several players, including senior first baseman Mackenzie Juul are just returning from injury, bolstering a young lineup.

Today's doubleheader in Hermiston begins at 3 p.m. Game two is tentatively scheduled for 5 p.m.

ATHLETE
— OF THE WEEK —

ALEXIS MORRISON
Pendleton Softball - Junior

Morrison hit four home runs in three games last week, helping Pendleton to wins of 18-5 over Hood River Valley, and 13-1 and 12-2 over The Dalles. She has five home runs for the season.

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