

Preview: Mayweather - Hatton

Written by {ga=fightdr}

Friday, December 07 2007 7:00 PM -

I can't remember the last time I've been this happy to pay \$50 for a fight. Floyd Mayweather Jr. vs Ricky Hatton for the undisputed welterweight championship of the world. Both fighters undefeated. Two of the top pound for pound fighters in the sport. And their backgrounds and personalities are about as different as you can find. The Spoon Man previews tonight's big fight, and also hits on tonight's finale of the UFC's sixth season of Ultimate Fighter.



There comes a time in life when you have to make difficult decisions. Tonight is one of those times for me.

Do I watch the UFC's Season 6 Ultimate Fighter Finale or boxing's Floyd Mayweather vs Ricky Hatton? Decisions decisions.

The Ultimate Fighter Season finale will be live on SpikeTV from 9pm until Midnight. It comes to us from the Palms in Las Vegas. Also in Vegas, Mayweather vs Hatton will be right down the road at The MGM Grand.

The fight card also will air at 9pm.

How could this happen? What to do? Can I possibly run the risk of missing some of the fights?

Let's take a look at my tale of the tape and decide.

Star Power:

The main event for the UFC has rising superstar lightweight Roger Huerta going

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up against another title contender in Clay Guida. This fight has the potential to be fight of the year. It will be action packed and has title implications.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. is 38-0 with 24 knockouts. He is on the top of everyone's pound for pound rankings. I believe he is a once in a lifetime talent. Ricky Hatton is also undefeated at 43-0 with 31 knockouts. He is considered to be the biggest threat that Mayweather has seen in a long time.

Advantage: Mayweather vs Hatton

Undercards:

The UFC undercard has all of the cast members from season 6 fighting. Mac Danzig will battle Tommy Speer for a six figure contract and title of The Ultimate Fighter. Both of these guys have a real shot at sticking with the organization. There are seven other fights that should be crowd pleasers. If you have been watching the show for the last few months, you won't want to miss any of these bouts.

Jeff Lacy makes his return to the squared circle after over a year layoff. He is coming back from shoulder surgery. His opponent is Contender's Peter Manfredo Jr. If Lacy is back to 100% it should be an easy night for him as Manfredo will be outclassed. Daniel Ponce De Leon is a star in the bantamweight division. He'll step in with unknown Eduardo Escobar.

Advantage: UFC

Bang for your buck:

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SpikeTV is a basic cable channel and shows the Ultimate Fighter. Many of the fighters on the card might only have one shot at fighting for the UFC. This might be the weakest class of fighters since the show started.

The boxing card will be on HBO pay per view for anywhere from \$50 to \$65. Floyd Mayweather Jr. is not just the best boxer in the world, he is also an entertainer. He sells fights. As seen on HBO's 24/7 show, Ricky Hatton has a lighter side to him also. He is a funny and likeable guy. If I was forced to pay for any fighter in the world, boxing or mma, it would be Floyd Mayweather Jr.

Advantage: Mayweather vs Hatton

Intangibles:

The UFC season finale happens once per year and will go on for years to come. Huerta and Guida are exciting fighters and possible champions in the near future.

Mayweather vs Hatton is a battle of two of the best boxers in the world. Floyd Jr. might only have one of two fights left in him. Many boxing insiders think Hatton can defeat the pound for pound king.

Advantage: Mayweather vs Hatton.

Conclusion:

Mixed martial arts is the fastest growing sport in the world. To me, it is also the most exciting. Tonight will be one of those rare occasions where it gets put on the back burner and I tune into boxing live instead.

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I have never been so glad to have a DVR.

Mayweather vs Hatton has the makings of a classic battle. Two warriors that have a lot to prove. Both guys are undefeated and have more pride than you can imagine.

Hatton has always been one fighter that is hard to read. He has hardly fought in the United States and we rarely see him on TV. The opposition he has fought is a big question mark as well. He has good hand speed and loves to work the body. I just don't see him having the tools to win tonight.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. is in a class all by himself. His speed and defense are second to none. He also might be the smartest fighter between the ropes. I don't think I have ever seen him hurt or in trouble. Fight fans should expect to see the same results as always, his hands being raised in victory.

Hatton is known as a bleeder and Floyd will make him into a mess a la Arturo Gatti. The longer the fight goes however, the better chance Hatton has as long as he works the body. If he can somehow hurt Floyd early on, it will make his confidence even higher.

I can't wait to see how it all unfolds in the squared circle tomorrow.

The UFC also has a great night of fights lined up for fight fans. I expect to see entertaining solid matchups and that's what we always expect from the greatest organization in the mixed martial arts world.

If there is any winner tonight, it's me and fight fans, both boxing and mma, all over the world. The two best sports ever going head to head. As long as you have a

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DVR, you'll be all set and locked in for a ton of excitement. I can't wait to watch it all. Enjoy. I know I will.