

# Mayweather's make for must-see reality TV

LAS VEGAS (AP) — There's whackings, and then there's just plain wacky.

Watch "The Sopranos" on Sunday nights, and you're sure to see one. Stay tuned to HBO a half hour later and you'll get the other.

Some 1.4 million U.S. households did just that the other night, and for many it was their first glimpse into the life of Floyd Mayweather Jr., a boxer HBO would love to turn into a household name — and quick.

Oscar De La Hoya is already that, of course, or as much of a household name as anyone who hits another person in the head for money these days can be. He's the Golden Boy, and he's the reason Mayweather will be making millions to fight May 5 for the 154-pound title.

People pay to watch De La Hoya, who has built up a nice franchise for himself as the most popular fighter in

the game. Now HBO is betting a prime-time spot that Mayweather will give even more people reason to cough up \$54.95 for the fight.

Officially, the title of the show is "De La Hoya/Mayweather 24/7." The premise is that it's a reality show taking you inside the lives of De La Hoya and Mayweather as they prepare for one of the most anticipated fights in recent years.

The run will be short, with only three more episodes planned before the fight itself. But there may be more of a future in this series than the suits at HBO originally thought.

First, though, a bit of advice for the people at the studio: toss out De La Hoya's part. He's too perfect for reality television, with his instant smile, beautiful wife, singer Millie Corretjer, and sprawling estate in Puerto Rico.

## 'Smokin' Joe' Frazier stops his litigation

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Former heavyweight champion Joe Frazier told his lawyer to drop a lawsuit against his daughter after she pledged to help him locate his missing business records recently.

The files at the center of the legal dispute never left "Smokin' Joe's" North Philadelphia gym, a lawyer for Jacquelyn Frazier-Lyde said.

"I talked to my father today and he asked me how I was doing, and I told him that I loved him," Frazier-Lyde said at a press conference that focused on her campaign for city judge.

Frazier's lawyer said he reluctantly agreed to drop the suit at his client's request, although he vowed to re-file it if Frazier-Lyde does not comply.

"This is about a father's love for his daughter," lawyer Michael P. Kelly said.

"We're giving her a chance to live up to her word," he said.

"If we're not fully satisfied, I'll be right back, quicker than a Joe Frazier left hook."

The 63-year-old Frazier filed the suit in Philadelphia Common Pleas Court this month charging that Frazier-Lyde refused to return contracts and other financial records she kept when she managed her father's legal

affairs.

Frazier's lawyers believe he may be missing out on film royalties, product endorsement fees or other income perhaps promised in his old contracts, they said.

"All I'm asking is for the papers, that's all," Frazier said during a telephone interview in which he discussed both the lawsuit and his love for his daughter.

Frazier, who runs the gym with his minister-son Marvis, another of his 11 children, derives most of his income these days from appearance fees, his managers say.

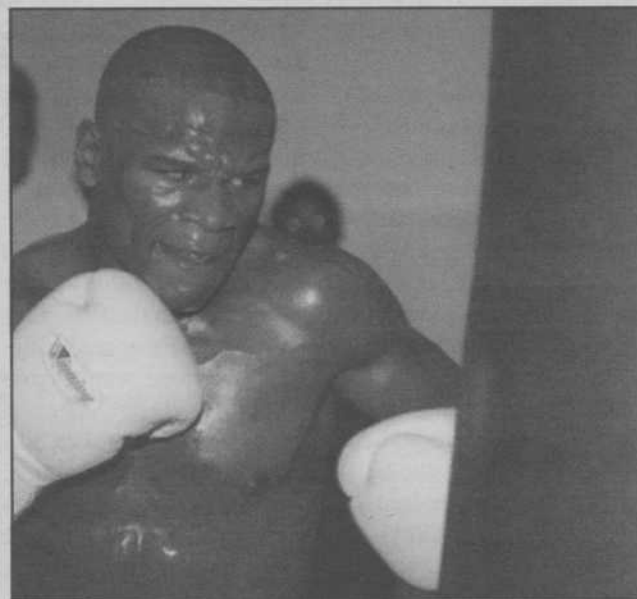
Agent Les Wolff said Frazier has been "swindled and mismanaged," and needs the money due him.

The suit charged that Frazier-Lyde had control of the documents because she served as her father's lawyer from 1989 to 2004.

She took up boxing at age 38 and won titles in three different weight classes, fighting under the Muhammad Ali-bestowed nickname "Sister Smoke."

"She loves her father very much. She wants to see him prosper," said her lawyer, William Dixon.

The 45-year-old Frazier-Lyde, a married mother of three, is running for a seat on the city's Municipal Court in the May 15 Democratic primary.



Floyd Mayweather Jr., universally recognized as boxing's best, throws a hard left to the heavy bag during media day at the Top Rank gym in Las Vegas in this 2005 file photo.

There's only so many times you can watch him drink a cup of espresso, watch the Masters on television or play with his five dogs. It's cute when he spars playfully with his wife, but the only drama in his life comes when he steps into the ring.

Bring in Mayweather and his clan though, and you've got must-see Sunday night TV.

Mayweather, you see, is the bad guy in this fight promotion, and he plays his part well. He taunts De La Hoya, calls him names you can't repeat here or on network TV, and even went so far as to

steal his bag during their 11-city tour promoting the fight.

He's been kind of a bad boy in real life, too, even while building a 37-0 record and a reputation as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world. Mayweather likes to toss \$100 bills around in nightclubs, has been in and out of courtrooms, and fancies himself as a sort of rap producer.

At one point in the first show, Mayweather is shown with his entourage getting a haircut in his Las Vegas mansion. Through a doorway comes rapper 50 Cent, riding a Segway into the scene.

"He's the villain in rap

music," Mayweather said. "I'm the villain in boxing."

Rappers are usually interesting, but it's Mayweather's relationship with his family that makes the most compelling TV. They're the first family of boxing, but this family is more dysfunctional than the one run by Tony Soprano.

His father is an ex-con and ex-fighter who spouts his own form of homegrown poetry and trains fighters.

Floyd Sr. trained De La Hoya for five years and was going to help him beat up his son, but De La Hoya wouldn't meet his \$2 million salary demand.

Mayweather's uncle is also an ex-con and ex-fighter who now trains fighters. Roger Mayweather was in jail much of the past year, but got out just in time to resume training Floyd Jr. for this fight.

Son and father didn't talk for years before reconciling a few months ago. Father and uncle still don't talk, which makes for some interesting moments in the gym.

Reality TV doesn't get any more real than this.

Actually, to me, the first show seemed almost more like an infomercial than a reality series. Maybe that's because I already know the principal players and the

story lines, and it took a good half hour to introduce those who don't to the various plots and subplots.

But the 40 percent or so of viewers who stayed tuned after "Entourage" still got a taste of what's to come, and there's promises of better stuff ahead.

Will Floyd Jr. and Floyd Sr. regain their father-son relationship? Will Floyd Sr. and Roger start talking to each other? Will Floyd Jr. allow his father to work his corner in the fight? Will 50 Cent fall off his Segway?

Will De La Hoya throw a fit if his espresso machine breaks?

Give HBO credit for doing the show, even if it is a bit self-serving since the network is trying to sell a fight for its pay-per-view division. Boxing is in a world of hurt these days, and anything the network can do to get people talking about it again is a positive for the sport.

The fight itself will be one of the biggest in years, and should Mayweather win as the odds makers expect him to, he could rival De La Hoya as the biggest draw in boxing.

Especially if those new reality show offers start coming in. "Those Wacky Mayweathers" does have a nice ring to it.

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