

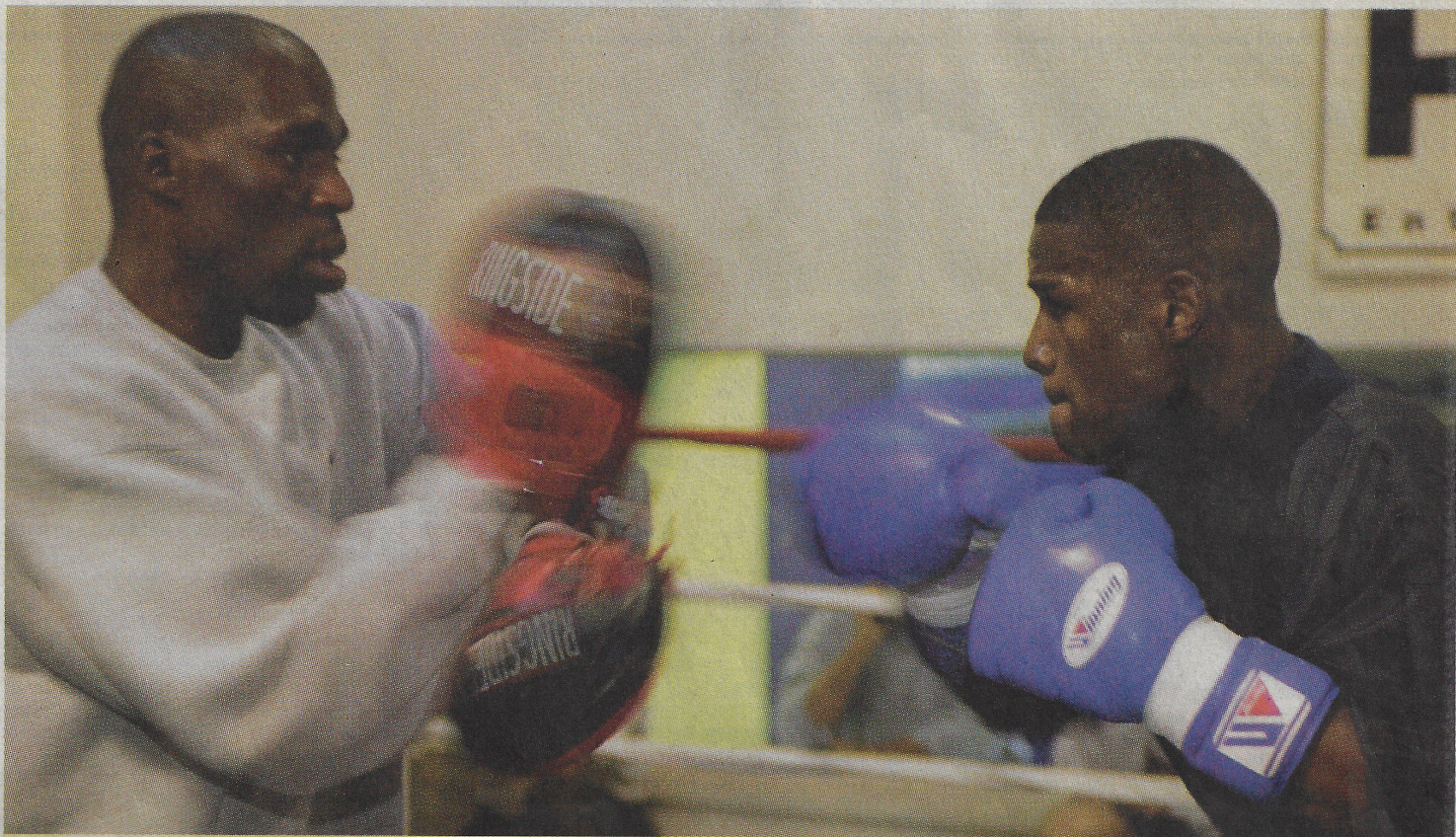
THE EDGE

IT'S ABOUT SPORTS

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001

Serving it up in The City



KAREN VIBERT-KENNEDY/Examiner

In the family: Floyd Mayweather, WBC super featherweight champion, right, works out with his uncle and trainer Roger Mayweather at World's Gym.

Mayweather prepared to 'cook' Chavez in San Francisco title fight

BY RON THOMAS
Of The Examiner Staff

Chess is a genteel sport; boxing is a brutal sport.

Yet to WBC super featherweight champion "Pretty Boy" Floyd Mayweather Jr., they're based on the same crafty principles.

"My whole gameplan is for me to know where you're at but you can't know where I'm at; for me to know the next move you're going to make but you don't know the next move I'm going to make," Mayweather said as he

prepared to defend his title Saturday against No. 1 contender Jesus Chavez at Bill Graham Civic Auditorium. "The game is tricky, and it's all about being smart, being slick. Boxing is like chess — you've got to out-think the next man."

Mayweather (26-0, 19 KO's) calls himself a "free-style" fighter who hurts opponents from the inside and outside, slips punches by instinct and delivers punches by the dozen. "He stuns guys with his hand speed," said Dmitriy Salita, a junior welterweight on the undercard.

Mayweather has been guided by his father and former manager/trainer, Floyd Sr., who once lost to Sugar Ray Leonard, and by his uncle and current trainer, Roger Mayweather, who previously held the lightweight and super lightweight crowns.

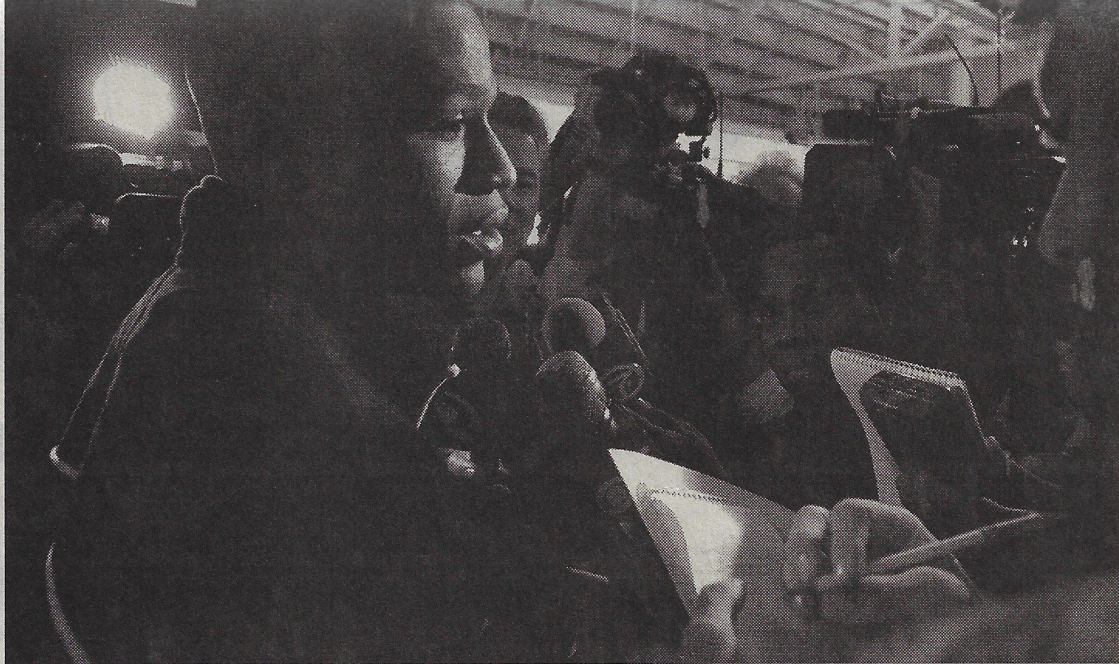
"My dad works more on defense, which makes me a boring fighter," Mayweather said, "and my uncle worked more on offense, which makes me a more exciting fighter. You can't go wrong with either of them."

The combination has made Mayweather, who fights in the 130-pound

weight class, one of the world's best "pound-for-pound" fighters. He'll try to justify that claim against Chavez (35-1, 24 KO's) in San Francisco's first title fight since Dick Tiger vs. Gene Fullmer fought for the WBA middleweight championship at Candlestick Park in 1962. Saturday's fight will be televised on HBO at 7 p.m.

Also on the card, IBF super bantamweight champion Manny Pacquiao (33-2, 24 KO's) of the Philippines also will defend his title, against Agapito Sanchez (33-7-1, 20 KO's).

By Ron Thomas



KAREN VIBERT-KENNEDY/Examiner

The buildup: WBC super featherweight champion "Pretty Boy" Floyd Mayweather Jr. is questioned prior to a workout at a San Francisco gym.

Mayweather vs. Chavez in SF

Continued from **BOXING, B1**

Mayweather's bout originally was scheduled for Oct. 6 but was postponed after four of his wisdom teeth were removed. Bay Area promoter Peter Howes, president of Howes Entertainment, combined with Top Rank president Bob Arum to bring the fight to San Francisco.

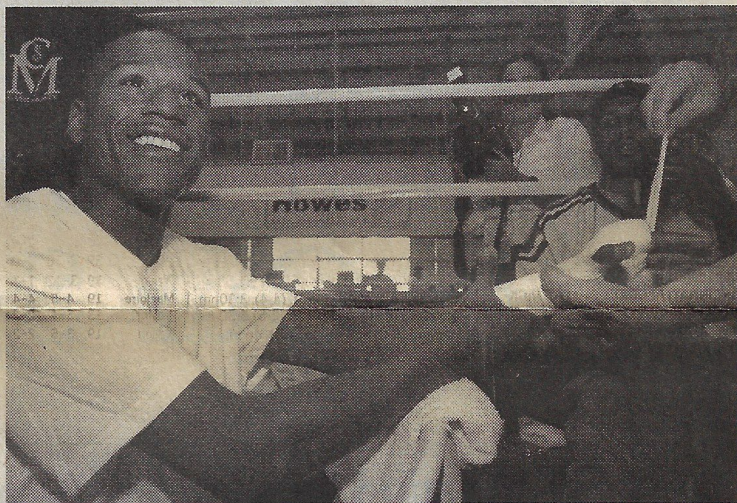
Mayweather enjoys the idea of helping to revive the sport here, although he said, "You can put me in a cardboard box; I can fight anywhere."

No matter where the locale, Roger Mayweather expressed no doubt about the outcome against Mexico's Chavez. "They say to cook chicken in a microwave oven takes an hour and 30 minutes," Uncle Roger crowed. "We're going to cook him real quick. It should be no more than 12 minutes and he's going to be well done."

Uncle Roger is convinced that Mayweather could simply out-box Chavez to retain his title, but also believes that wouldn't deliver the type of performance ticket buyers want. So he urges Mayweather to dispel with some caution and go for knockouts when prudent.

"Being offensive means you're always willing to exchange and bring confrontation to the man," Uncle Roger said.

Then he named his other candidates for the "best pound-for-pound" label. "Felix Trinidad, Roy Jones, Shane Mosley, Floyd — they've all got speed, they've



KAREN VIBERT-KENNEDY/Examiner

Ready for action: Mayweather talks to a fan as his hands are taped up prior to his workout. He will defend his title against Jesus Chavez Saturday night at the Civic Auditorium.

all got power, and they all take risks."

The Mayweather family ties have been jumbled since before Floyd Jr. caught the public eye in the 1996 Olympics, when he won a bronze medal and became the first American to defeat a Cuban boxer in 20 years.

Under his father's tutelage, Mayweather was hitting the heavy bag before he entered kindergarten, but their bond was interrupted in 1993 when Floyd Sr. began serving a prison term for drug trafficking.

Uncle Roger trained Mayweather through the Olympics, then Floyd Sr. resumed that role after completing his prison term.

The father-son bond was broken again after Mayweather hired rap music figure James Prince, chief executive of Rap-A-Lot Records, to replace his dad as manager, hoping Prince could expand his fame beyond the boxing world.

Out went Floyd Sr. again, which brought his younger brother, Roger, back into the picture and created some intra-family tension.

"Because his son came to me, of course he's going to have problems," Uncle Roger said. "Bottom line is Floyd's always going to be his father's son."

E-mail Ron Thomas at rthomas@sfoxaminer.com.