CAMPUS COMMENT: #TwitterEdition

Pay-per-blues follows uninspired boxing match

ALBERT REBOSURA
Sports editor

I’m sitting on my couch disappointed – for my fellow Filipinos and how much people could’ve spent $100 on anything else but the fight.

Tellingly, I didn’t pay for the fight as I was amongst the many Filipinos at viewing parties – where we all found out later that the food was the best part of the night.

Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao did their best “Tom and Jerry” impression in a boxing ring. Mayweather being Jerry: running away, getting some punches in and being victorious. Pacquiao being Tom: desperately chasing after Mayweather, landing a few shots but ultimately losing.

This game of cat and mouse disappointed everyone but you know what – we all should have known this was going to happen.

The disappointment started five years ago – when the fight should’ve happened. It took so long for the two to settle with negotiations – or should I say for Mayweather to agree – that we watched two boxers out of their prime.

I hesitate calling the match between the two a fight – it was more boxing than fighting, which proved beyond all doubt that many of the various conformation points that had been seen as “indicative of a good layer” were orthogonal to laying. Short-backed chickens with shallow abdomens often cranked out two to three eggs for each single egg laid by a hen with perfect conformation.

Crossing chicken breeds was controversial for reasons incomprehensible to us today. Eugenics and racism reared their ugly heads, and even the legislature got into the act and expressed concern over the “racial amalgamation” of domestic fowl.

Legislation was proposed to prohibit cross breeding of chickens, leading to Dryden making the clear point in his book, “Poultry Breeding and Management,” that it had been quite some time since Asian fowls had been “amalgamated” with European fowls, and that this had been found to be far from a disadvantage.

All chickens came from Asia, where they were domesticated thousands of years ago. Gallus domesticus provides nutritious eggs and meat to the people of every continent. She doubles as pest control and a garden tiller. Some selective breeding has occurred since the first Asian man brought home a pair of jungle fowl roosters to show his friends the first cock fight. It seems Biddy was domesticated as a corollary of people raising roosters for fighting.

Biddy soon demonstrated other virtues. As time went on, people began to eat surplus roosters and hens that had quit laying and breeding. As animals mean to people or less inclined to lay were eliminated early from the flock, a selection pressure for high laying productivity began. Dryden decided to take pullets whose mothers had been high layers and whose fathers were the offspring of high layers and measure their production. He began to select only outstanding daughters and granddaughters of high laying mothers whose fathers came from a line of high laying birds. He not only selected for fecundity in the immediate generation, but he attempted to choose breeding stock only from lines that had demonstrated ongoing high productivity.

He encountered the occasional exceptional bird in a line of rotten breeders; he encountered regression to the mean – but more and more, it became clear that a high-laying bird was most likely to come from a line of high laying birds. He published his results.

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How Lady McDuff and Oregonia changed the world

NADIA ADFOL
Contributing writer

The productivity of laying chickens was very low in the early 20th Century, and egg prices varied widely with the seasons. Hens without supplemental lighting had a tendency to stop laying when there were less than 14 hours of daylight, and they tended to stop well before then and become broody; that is to say, they tended to sit on their eggs and hatch them.

Eggs were put in cold storage in the spring and summer, and then shipped around the country during fall, winter and early spring. These storage eggs were not as good in quality as fresh eggs. Good eggs were more expensive in fall and winter than in summer; and in some areas they were a comparatively expensive food.

There was controversy about not only whether or not laying performance could be improved, but whether the damage done to the attractiveness and purity of the different breeds was unacceptable. Professor Gow of the Maine Agricultural Station did not believe that selective breeding of chickens could greatly improve fecundity, the number of eggs laid by a hen. Larry Lamson, the creator of the Lamona dual-purpose chicken at the Bureau of Animal Industry, thought breeding could improve fecundity, but he decried the failure to maintain breed purity and “good conformation” by James Dryden and others who were attempting to increase productivity.

It was easier to select breeders for one or two phenotypical traits than it is to breed for many. If one focuses on egg-laying ability and efficient feed use, one can achieve an efficient egg layer far faster than if one also focuses on the depth and evenness of browning in the feathers, or the exact correct angle of a comb or tail.

In any event, it was soon apparent that the productivity of laying birds has greatly improved in the last 75 years, while egg prices have not.

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OPINIONS

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KRISHTINA LONTOC
@akajaymizzle

"I would rather have watched the Bruce Jenner Interview"

ANNADINE MIRRAMONTES
@annadizzzle

"Rehearse at drumline. Which is what I did lol."

MIKHAIL CROSBY
@Mikhail Crosby

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What would you have done rather than watch the Mayweather vs. Pacquiao fight?

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