

THE FIGHT ISSUE



INSIDE

- 08 THE NUMBERS**
The case for skippers.
By Peter Keating
- 12 ZOOM**
A big man in pink kicks.
By Dan Rafael
- 14 ZOOM**
Heisman hi-top fades.
By Dan Rafael
- 92 THE FIX**
Cut men open up.
By Chris Jones

PLAYBOOK

- 19 COLLEGE FOOTBALL**
How Oregon's O-line learned to fly.
- 26 NFL**
An Insider take on the new-look Eagles.
- 28 NFL**
Sport Science sizes up Chip Kelly's impact.
- 30 MLB**
Will the Bucs' five-year plan pay off on time?
- 34 TECHNIQUE**
Stacy Lewis reveals her flop-shot secrets.
- 36 SOCCER**
Can the Yanks score a win over Mexico?

FEATURES

- 39 THE FIGHT ISSUE**
We go the distance on the biggest bout since Mayweather's last one.
- 40 THE LAST GREAT AMERICAN PRIZEFIGHTER**
Can boxing survive once Money's gone?
By Tim Keown

52 THE LAST BEST CONTENDER

Can Canelo Alvarez shock the world?
By Pablo S. Torre

64 IN THIS CORNER
A stats blow-by-blow from our expert.
By Dan Rafael

66 FIGHT TO THE KISS
Mexican pro wrestling has a painfully honest message.
By Eric Nussbaum

76 "IT'S UGLY AND PAINFUL, BUT EVERYBODY WANTS IT."

Why cauliflower ear is a fighter's badge of honor. *By Eli Saslow*

80 MMA CONFIDENTIAL
We polled 38 fighters. Their answers will knock you out.

84 A PUNCHER'S CHANCE
Even if Vitali Klitschko never returns to the ring, he'll likely throw his hat in it.
By Brett Forrest



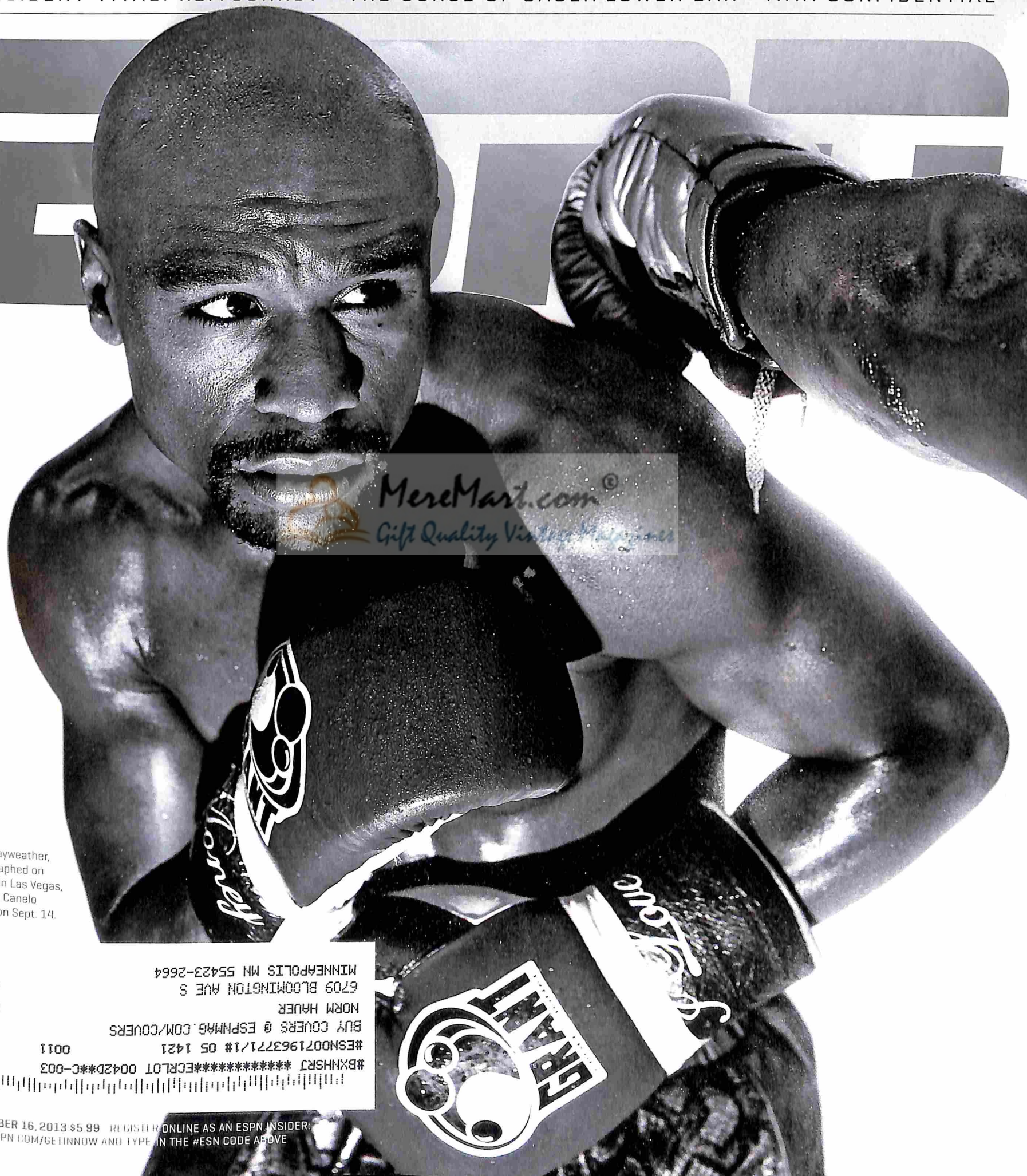
COVER PHOTOGRAPHS
BY BENJAMIN LOWY
[MAYWEATHER] AND
NICK LAHAM [ALVAREZ]



FOR EXCLUSIVE VIDEO AND PHOTO GALLERIES FROM THE MAYWEATHER AND ALVAREZ CAMPS, PLUS SLIDE SHOWS OF DAN RAFAEL'S GREATEST FIGHTS, CLASSIC BOXING GYMS, LOS EXÓTICOS AND MORE, GO TO ESPN.COM AND SEARCH: FIGHT CREDENTIAL

MAYWEATHER ★ THE FIGHT ISSUE ★ ALVAREZ

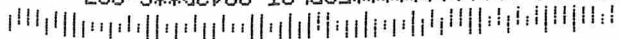
PRESIDENT VITALI KLITSCHKO? THE CURSE OF CAULIFLOWER EAR MMA CONFIDENTIAL



Floyd Mayweather,
photographed on
Aug. 10 in Las Vegas,
will fight Canelo
Alvarez on Sept. 14.

P235
085
997

MINNEAPOLIS MN 55423-2664
6709 BLOOMINGTON AVE S
NORM HAUER
BUY COVERS @ ESPNMAG.COM/COVERS
#ESN0071963771/1# 05 1421
0011
#BXNHSRT *****ECRL0T 0042D**C-003



SEPTEMBER 16, 2013 \$5.99 REGISTER ONLINE AS AN ESPN INSIDER:
GO TO ESPN.COM/GETINNOW AND TYPE IN THE #ESN CODE ABOVE