



Juan Manuel Marquez (right) lands a punch against Manny Pacquiao during the fifth round of their WBO welterweight title fight last year in Las Vegas where the Filipino won via a majority decision. (Photo by Chris Cozzone)

MANILA — Juan Manuel Marquez vowed to knock out Manny Pacquiao in their upcoming fourth fight in December and put a perfect ending to his boxing career.

“I want to knock him out. I know I can do it although I know that it won’t be easy,” Marquez told www.boxingscene.com.

At 39, Marquez may be old enough to retire.

But the Mexican counter-puncher is looking for the perfect way to end his career, and he couldn't think of a better way than knocking out the Filipino icon on Dec. 8 in Las Vegas.

"If that (knockout) happens, it could be the perfect moment (to retire) but we will see what happens," said Marquez, now in the first stage of his training for what could be his moment of glory.

The future Hall of Famer who has fought Pacquiao thrice thinks it can be done even when in fact he's been floored four times by the 33-year-old Pacquiao.

When they first met eight years ago, Marquez was caught by surprise and went down three times in the opening round.

But he got up each time, fought back and salvaged a draw.

In their rematch in 2008, Marquez went down early but again came back strong or even stronger than he did in their first encounter.

Pacquiao won by split decision.

There was no knockdown when they squared off a third time in 2011.

Again, many thought Marquez had won the fight, but again the judges went in favor of Pacquiao.

It was supposed to be the last fight between the two great warriors, but the closeness of all

three encounters left each fighter aching for one more fight.

It will take place at the MGM Grand. Hopefully it will be the last.

“I want to knock him out. I know I can do it although I know that it won’t be easy,” said Marquez.

“I want to have my hand raised to prove which is us is the better fighter,” said the crafty fighter who deep in his heart believes that he won all three fights with Pacquiao.

“I’ve already beaten him three times and had those victories taken from me. A knockout is the only way to take (the decision) from the judges hands but we will see what happens,” he told www.boxingscene.com.

Pacquiao is on the same page. He said recently that only a knockout can put a closure to this rivalry that has spanned more than eight years now.

“I need a knockout,” said the boxing icon who’s just getting ready to fly to Los Angeles where he will train for eight weeks at the Wild Card Gym.

But he has to file his candidacy for the 2013 May elections where he’s seeking a second term as congressman in the lone district of Sarangani.

The deadline for the filing of the candidacy is on Friday.

Then it’s off to L.A. where the campaign actually begins.