

## RAMBLINGS - HORSE FIGHT

My recent write-up on the butchering of a calf for the Tanjay fiesta, and the merits of different cuts of meat (soup #5?) elicited vigorous responses. But even more so was a statement about a horse fight. Here below are excerpts:

From Linda: *Then something else caught my eye. A horse fight???? A few weeks ago, there was a pictorial of a horse fight in the Dublin Times Magazine - it was so gruesome and just repugnant. The photographer talked about how he needed to publish the photos to open people's eyes about this "barbaric practice" Then I read they were taken in the Philippines. Was that what you saw? Was this just hype? Or are we talking about the same thing? But then cock fighting is illegal in the West. And dogfighting. And I know we have those and I think both are legal. I don't know. Maybe I've been in the West too long. What are your thoughts?*

From Danny: *The horse fight is more of a "lover's spat". I've seen this once before, even reported about it in the well-circulated hardcopy Tanjay newsletter in the late 90s, and got some flak from the SPCA in Japan. So let me elaborate again: unlike a cock fight, or bull fight, where they get hurt or die, the horses here don't. For one thing, they are too valuable. The method is to tease two males to get jealous of a female. The males do get tumescent (got pictures before), and they lunge at each other, kicking and sometimes biting, until one gives up. That's all, a threesome quarrel.*

From Erwin: *The horse fighting spectacle you mentioned sounds more like a porn film rather than a UFC bout!*

From Carlos: *If we can pay with hard earned dollars to watch humans box each other to pulp (and sometimes to death), I guess we can watch horses fight for their lass. My favorite pasttime when I was in elementary school was spider fights. None of our town's guava trees escaped our search for "gagambang bayabas" which were supposedly better fighters than ordinary house spiders. Spider fights are almost always to the death, with the winner finally wrapping the loser with his web.*

So I pulled out old photos of the event I took in 1997, those taken yesterday, those of Tanjay blogger Bino Guerrero from his Facebook posting the other day. Then I arranged them with commentary to best bring home the points taken above. These may not be for the fainthearted or prudish, but it's obvious I've made this mainly for kicks (no pun intended). If it offends some, my apologies.



The billing ...



The horsemen cometh ...



The threesome intro and teasing ...



All worked up ...



Even more so ...



The vanquished, just tired.



Now the males compete for the female, sometimes biting (love bites?),



and kicking ...



Sorry, couldn't help it. That's me above. Danny Gil 7/26/12