

Trinidad-Wright Fight Predictions

Written by Robert Ecksel
Thursday, 12 May 2005 19:00

Hot on the heels of the fight of a lifetime (Corrales-Castillo), expectations for Felix Trinidad vs. Winky Wright have been scaled back. But both men are among the best of the best the fight game has to offer, and in keeping with a great tradition, they're getting it on with one another. This bout could go either way. Who do The Sweet Science writers like in Saturday's middleweight fight?

Tito by late KO.

Mitch Abramson

It's a matter of time before Trinidad begins to fade. Mayorga made him look better than he is at this stage of his career. And why did he pick a smart southpaw anyway? He'll find out what Shane Mosley and Fernando Vargas found out: It's no picnic fighting Wright. Trinidad's power punches will hit shoulders, arms and elbows - but no chin. And Trinidad will be frustrated like never before in his career. Winky by unanimous decision.

Matt Aguilar

I like Winky Wright. I mean you have to respect him. This is a boxer who has paid his dues and then some. He toiled for years in the background, but two wins over Shane Mosley has thrust him in to the limelight. It also thrust him in to a fight with the murderous punching Felix "Tito" Trinidad. Winky is deceptively strong and he is effectively awkward. He has a style that could pose some real problems for Tito. What Winky is not is a great puncher. Without the big guns he will have difficulty keeping Felix away. If Felix feels comfortable coming in and unloading his heavy arsenal, I can't see Winky going the distance. Felix may even have to come from behind to pull it out. I like Tito by a late round kayo.

Jim Amato

I think Tito is perhaps the best fighter of his generation. He applies so much pressure in the ring, even, at times, just the subtle pressure of walking forward. I don't think Wright will be able to hurt Trinidad, thus, he will not be able to alleviate the pressure. Trinidad stalks and punches his way to a unanimous decision win.

Robert Cassidy Jr.

I see Tito taking a decision here. Winky knows every trick in the book, but is not quite the slickster everyone knew and loved (for those of us that even bothered to look his way). The present-day Winky is more willing to stay in the pocket, and therefore is easier to hit. He'll absorb plenty, but I don't see Tito blitzing through him as everyone insists will be the case. Winky will give a good account of himself, and show Tito some things in the ring he has yet to see. But ultimately, Tito will find a way to take over and control the fight down the stretch. Trinidad by UD.

Jake Donovan

Wright is a tough opponent for Trinidad, unlike the made to measure Ricardo Mayorga. Still, at

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160 Trinidad may be a little too strong for Wright. Trinidad by decision.

Chris Gielty

The best way to train for a slick boxer such as Wright is not to have fought only once in the past three years. Trinidad's power is sublime, but he won't be able to catch this opponent. Winky Wright by unanimous decision.

Tim Graham

Perhaps the most important non-title fight of the year. Winky Wright has proven brilliant in applying an array of skills against a diverse set of contenders and champions. Of course, until his twin victories over Shane Mosley, he never received the acclaim that he was due him. Trinidad, long renowned for the power that carried him through 18 defenses of the welterweight crown, actually created the most attention of his career following his two-year hiatus with a stunning knockout of Ricardo Mayorga. It is still possible that too much is being read into that victory. After all, it was Mayorga's first real fight as a middleweight and just two fights removed from his loss to Cory Spinks for the welterweight title. Winky will expose some flaws that Mayorga simply couldn't. He will pick apart Trinidad from angles he hasn't seen in years. Wright by decision.

JE Grant

I'm going out on a limb here and hope Winky Wright doesn't saw it off underneath me. I say Winky by decision. Winky has a style that puts fighters off their game completely and this should be no exception. He will render Tito ineffective.

Amy Green

Again, I'll go with the boxer over the puncher. "Winky" Wright is one of the finest, pure-boxers today and should be on everyone's pound-for-pound list. Trinidad is an awesome fighter, great puncher, and a deadly finisher when his opponent is hurt. I don't think Wright will give Trinidad too many opportunities to display all his power. Winky won't fight the perfect fight for Tito - as did Mayorga. Wright will use all his skills to gain advantage, frustrate Tito and eventually control this fight - which will not be the fight of the year-type fight that most fight fans are anticipating. Ronald "Winky" Wright unanimous decision win over Felix "Tito" Trinidad.

Mike Indri

One could make a very compelling case for either boxer in this fight, but if you're going to hold a gun to my head and make me pick somebody it has to be The Winkster by decision.

George Kimball

Despite being a slick boxer, Wright actually has a style that suits Trinidad well. While he likely won't drop his hands and stand in front of Tito to be hammered and say "thank you sir may I have another," as was the case with the face-forward Mayorga, he will be in front of Trinidad and won't be hard to find. Wright uses angles and keeps his hands up as opposed to utilizing movement in order to stymie his opponent's attack. Against Trinidad he will be hit, and likely harder than he ever has in his long career. Wright doesn't hit hard enough to hurt Tito but is effective in countering. I see Trinidad wearing Wright down for a late round TKO stoppage as his accurate heavy punches take their toll.

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Joey Knish

Tito Trinidad is the most overrated boxer in the past 20 years. He's good, even very good, but not great. He got whopped by Bernard Hopkins (which I predicted on Charles Jay's Total Action site) and was getting schooled by De La Hoya until Oscar got on his bicycle. So in the two biggest fights of his career, he was for the most part soundly beaten. He was good enough to beat Reid, Vargas, Joppy - none of those guys were slouches by any stretch. That's why I say Tito is very good. But along with his awesome power he has a glass jaw. To his credit he always gets up, but he does go down an awful lot. Wright will just be a little too fine for him. Wright does pretty much everything well. While he doesn't have a lot of pop, he might not need much. If he boxes the way he can, I think Winky wins a close decision, maybe decided by a knockdown when he catches Tito coming in.

Marc Lichtenfeld

Trinidad should be too big, too strong and too aggressive for Wright. Given my recent handicapping "success," it's probably not a bad idea to bet the house on Winky. Trinidad W 12.

Bob Mladinich

I think Wright is cute enough to win this fight and lose the decision, which is a copout in terms of predicting, as I effectively back both protagonists. So, in the interests of clarity, I'll go with class over power and take Winky to close it out over 12. Wright SD12 in a squeaky one.

David Payne

This one's interesting. I don't see Trinidad being able to hurt Wright, but will himself be weary of taking blows. Wright will shade early rounds by controlling centre of the ring while Trinidad moves around and measures his man with crisp jabs. Second half of fight will see Wright march after Trinidad who will use his superior speed and continue hit and run tactics to pile on the points. Many will think Wright was robbed, but decision goes to Trinidad.

Deon Potgieter

Castillo's and Corrales' styles were made for each other. Each felt he could take the other out and wasn't going to be the first one to back down -- Explosion! Winky Wright won't let it be that. He's already told me he's not there to prove to anybody how good his chin is. He doesn't use his legs the way Hopkins did to frustrate and nullify Trinidad, but he can flummox him with jabs and a varied arsenal for 12 rounds to pile up enough points to win. A BIG anticlimax from Corrales-Castillo, but a W for Winky and Tito . . . Shaking his head wondering why he couldn't find the answer.

Joe Rein

From a styles perspective, I think Tito Trinidad is all wrong for Winky Wright. If Wright stands in the pocket, and attempts to pick, slip, and counter, he's in for a rude awakening. Tito is a very accurate puncher who will slam left hooks to the body, and then mix his attack to the head. Winky is a fine defensive specialist, but he's still quite hittable and he'll be surprised by Tito's power. If Winky stands in the pocket as we're accustomed to seeing, I like Trinidad on a stoppage or a fairly easy decision with Winky lumped up and busted up. If Winky switches up and applies smart lateral movement when necessary, this is a different fight. Tito needs to set

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his feet before he unloads, and lateral movement gives him fits. The smart way to fight Tito is to use just enough side-to-side movement so he can't get set, stab him with 3-4 punch combinations, and get out of the way. That style frustrates Tito, and he's likely to loop his shots more and become more susceptible to counters in the process. Winky shouldn't move all the time like De La Hoya did as that might result in gas tank problems down the stretch. As we all know, the only guy ever to have more in the tank down the stretch against Tito is Hopkins, and Hopkins is the best down the stretch fighter of the last decade. Use just enough movement, like Hopkins did, to keep Tito out of kilter. If Winky is able to do that, my hat's off to him, because it's a substantial stylistic adjustment. I doubt he will.

Greg Smith

Felix Trinidad looked like he had not lost a step when he returned to the ring last October. However, the only certainty that can be pulled from his fight with the wide-open Ricardo Mayorga is that Tito has not lost any of his power. Winky Wright does not hit as hard as Trinidad, but he is harder to hit. The bout will boil down to which fighter can overcome these respective obstacles. My guess is that Wright will have his gloves up and his elbows tucked in when Trinidad throws powers shots. Wright by majority decision.

Aaron Tallent