

How Mares Beat Moreno

Written by Lee Wylie

Monday, 12 November 2012 00:00



Abner Mares fought like a man possessed on way to successfully defending his WBC super-bantamweight title against Anselmo Moreno on Saturday night, in what turned out to be the Panamanian's first defeat in more than a decade.

I'll be honest here. Prior to the fight, while Mares' high volume and aggression would likely prove troublesome on the scorecards for the counter punching Moreno, I thought the slick

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southpaw wizard's jab and superior mobility would be enough to keep the young Mexican turning and following, resulting in Moreno winning a close decision even though Mares would likely be the one receiving the benefit of the doubt in many of the close rounds based on him being perceived as the "effective aggressor".

Well, there were certainly some close rounds during the fight, some of which could have gone either way. In the end, however, it turned out that not only was Mares awarded many of those close rounds, but also the rounds in which he seemed to clearly come off second best to Moreno as well. Mares was given the verdict by scores of 116-110 twice, and a truly mind boggling margin of 120-106 by James Gen-Kim.

Although I thought the fight was closely contested –not a robbery- and that Moreno was on the wrong side of some choice officiating –the knockdown in the 5th and the point deduction in the 11th were questionable- I must concede that Abner Mares fought a very good strategic fight against an opponent who's difficult to work out. Moreno's style is designed to frustrate and spoil. It's not easy to keep pressing the attack when you're faced with an elusive target like Moreno, who is constantly turning, slipping and sliding to his positions. Moreno has a way of disrupting an opponent's rhythm by moving away, allowing them to close the distance on him before quickly switching direction behind a jab or a hook before starting over, or by blunting an attack by ducking underneath and forcing a clinch. Vic Darchinyan is a solid fighter yet he was mastered like never before or since at the hands of Moreno. At no point in their fight was Darchinyan successful in pinning Moreno to the ropes or in getting beyond Moreno's right shoulder posture and straight left hand. Although Mares' physical strength at 122 pounds and Moreno's lack thereof had plenty to do with the final outcome, I feel Mares' style and choice of tactics were also largely responsible.

Here, I'd like to focus on some of the key areas where Abner Mares had success against Anselmo Moreno Saturday night. Anselmo Moreno's style is tough to figure out. Abner Mares found a way.

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World's best... Mares... Moreno... Golden Boy... Round 2 of 12



Eric... Mares... Moreno... Golden Boy... Round 2 of 12



Big... Mares... Moreno... Golden Boy... Round 2 of 12

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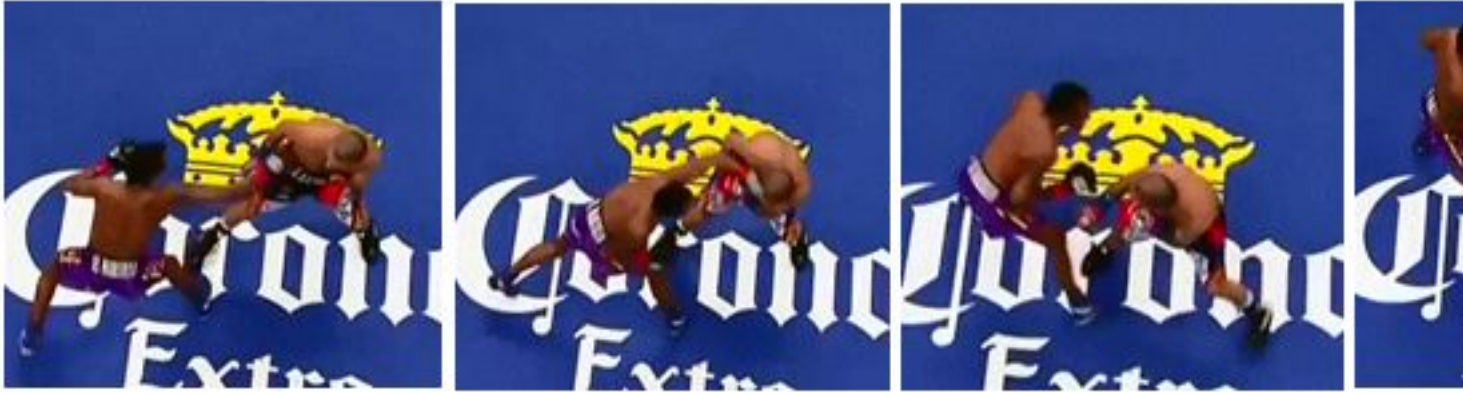


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