

Nonito Donaire vs. Guillermo Rigondeaux

Written by Raymond Markarian
Friday, 12 April 2013 20:15



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For all of those that missed the fight between Nonito Donaire and Guillermo Rigondeaux and want to know every detail of what went down through the 12 rounds we bring you our Round By Round for Donaire-Rigondeaux:

Nonito Donaire is the real deal. Rigondeaux has the amateur credentials of Ivan Drago. Boxing experts call Rigondeaux "The best amateur fighter of all-time." He won a championship in his 7th pro fight. But the 11-0, 122 pound Rigondeaux is about to face his toughest opponent, the top pound-for-pound slugger Nonito Donaire.

Who blinks first? We are about to find out!

Michael Buffer is doing his thing. Donaire is sporting yellow trunks with black strips and Rigo is wearing green with white. (We will call Rigondeaux "Rigo" for short) Here comes the stare down. It's showtime!

Round 1

Action starts quick. Rigo lands a good left hand that knocks Donaire back. The left hand is working well for Rigo. The fight is taking place in the middle of the ring. And Rigo is winning this round. He is landing well. Both fighters are pawing with the jab, using it to unload with vicious shots. These guys are going for the knockout.

Rigo 10-9

Round 2

Action is in center again. Rigo is keeping his distance with the jab. He got Nonito's respect early in the first round. This round is more cautious for both. Rigo lands a great left body shot followed by left to the head. The fight is moving at a pace Rigo likes. He takes round two.

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Rigo 10-9

Round 3

Donaire still can't find a way to get inside. He is stalking well but can't get inside. Rigo keeps his distance well. Slips punches and unexpectedly attacked Nonito at the end of the second minute with the straight left. Rigo is out-boxing the master boxer. The fighters' exchange hard shots at the end of the round but Rigo takes another.

Rigo 10-9

Round 4

Donaire uses a sense of urgency in round 4. He lands a good right hand to the body in the second minute. But Rigo is relaxed. Paws the jab and the left hand. In the last twenty seconds the fighters exchange power bombs. Both guys staggered at the sound of the bell.

Rigo 10-9

Round 5

That left hand keeps landing for Rigo. And when they get in the trenches, Rigo does a great job of holding Nonito, keeping the Bay Area native from throwing any inside shots. Jab and pace to the right. Jab and pace to the right. Rigo is in the zone. This is not an action round, just good boxing for Rigo. Donaire needs to change something quick.

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10-9 Rigo

Round 6

The action is tense and Donaire looks confused. He pressures Rigo but can't find the target. A massive left hand in the middle of the round rocked Donaire. But he takes it well and continues to attack with little success.

Rigo 10-9

Round 7

Donaire landed three punches in round six. He needs to be more aggressive but can't get inside. It's the same story. This is a game of cat and mouse. This time the cat stalked well enough to win. The round goes to Donaire because of Rigo's inactivity.

10-9 Nonito

Round 8

The action is in center all fight. Donaire can't find Rigo. He stalks and stalks with no success. The round is quiet. The crowd is quiet. And Nonito Donaire's stress level increased.

10-9 Rigo

Round 9

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Donaire got hit with a good uppercut in the second minute. Donaire's pressure is consistent. But he keeps eating jabs. Donaire's face is beginning to swell. Rigo is in total command. He stays on the outside and circles out of any pressure.

Rigo 10-9

Round 10

We are near the championship rounds and Donaire has only won one close round. He is coming out strong in this round. Boom! Rigo goes down hard by a vicious left hook. Rigo gets up quick. Donaire stalks hard now. He hits Rigo with another right/left combo to the head. But Rigo is relaxed and comes back with a super straight left that froze Donaire. This is the best round of the fight. Donaire is looking at the show!

10-8 Nonito

Round 11

Nonito is gambling with haymakers. He almost landed with a wide left hand. Rigo is tagging Donaire in this round. He takes control again with the left hand. There is a look of discouragement on Donaire's face at the sound of the bell.

Rigo 10-9

Round 12

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Nonito got hit with a solid left straight left hand. His right eye is black and blue and nose bloodied. Rigo is pounding Donaire in round 12. Straight power shots have backed Donaire to the ropes. This round is easy to score.

Rigo 10-9

TSS scores the fight - 118-109

The judges scorecards read

114-113 115-112, 116-111. All in favor of Guillermo Rigondeaux.

[Comment on this article](#)

gZOTTIE says:

Thanks for the recap. I liked it. Short and sweet. I look forward to watching it.

deepwater says:

The judges score cards show corruption or inadequate ability to judge a fight. Rigo won 8/9 rounds easy. Donaire should of adjusted at some point and thrown some jabs. Rigo did get on the back foot and counter and Nonito 's face was busted up at the end . The crowd jeered a lot . Rematch?

brownsugar says:

No rematch... Donaire will not learn what it took Rigor a lifetime to perfect if he had 10 years to

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practice

mortcola says:

Radam, my esteem friend, if Rigo just did his amateur jive, then it was such advanced amateur jive (complete with perfectly placed counters and unerring small shifts of feet) that he completely shut down the supposed P4P king to the point at which he barely looked qualified to be Rigo's sparring partner, and couldn't think of anything new to try, nor find the motivation to try to win on volume and pressure while risking those sharp counters. If the great Nonito couldn't even TRY what a Vito Antuofermo or Michael Katsidis did against every superior boxer they faced, then that is the decisive fact. Plus, regarding "running", Deep, every inside exchange except the knockdown was won by Rigo, who made the very incomplete Donaire move precisely where he wanted him to be, and landed with dramatically faster and more accurate punches, while staying out of Donaire's wheelhouse whenever it wasn't his own choice. I do not like Rigo's low punch output, from an entertainment standpoint, but as a knowledgeable boxing guy, I have to call it like I see it. Kellerman, et al, were right to point out that Nonito hasn't developed the fine skill edge he needs, because he has become the dramatic KO guy, and I have said this for the last year. The criticisms of Rigo are mostly sour grapes. It was a blow-out.

mortcola says:

[QUOTE=brownsugar;28827]No rematch... Donaire will not learn what it took Rigor a lifetime to perfect if he had 10 years to practice[/QUOTE]

Yup. Read what I wrote right after you, after my coffee kicked in.

ali says:

Fighting Rigo is like fighting Hopkins your not going to look good period point blank. I would have told Nonito your going to have to win a boring fight and don't even think about getting a KO. I would have also told him to throw more lead right hands he did that some to the body but I don't think he threw enough of them up stairs. I want to Russell Jr vs Rigo or Gracia vs Rigo at 126 Nonito needs take some time off maybe the rest of the year he has alot going on in his personal life.

riverside says:

114-113, Rigo nearly got the shaft! my son and I watching the fight . my sons says " that fool is quick" who is he ? Guillermo Rigondeaux. Rigo reflexes seems like a light year ahead of Donaire. No rematch Donaire needs to bounce back with fighters who will trade with him.

Radam G says:

Hey Doc Mort, just so that you know. Amateurs always make knockout pro-style fighters look like that. Pros cannot found them by one punching and not jabbing. JunJun should have power punched off one and two jabs and followed with one and two jab. As I said before the bout, if

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Rigo makes The Filipino Flash go back to amateur behavior, Rigo would win. Against a southpaw amateur pro like Rigo, you just jab and end stuff with jabs. Not stand around watching him.

The Flash was an outstanding amateur, not a great one as the Cuban was. Great amateurs can whup pro on off nights and/or in sparring 75 percent of the time. Amateur style change somewhat for the pros and money. Now Rigo will not get many BIG MONEY FIGHTS. No fans will pay to see that jive. They came to see JunJun kayo him. And that is the pro game. Holla!

brownsugar says:

Excellent post Mortcola...you said what I wanted to say only better.

Deepwater... ShoulderRoll..SouthPaulgreat prediction..

I said earlier Rigondeaux would probably get an upset

But You guys went against the grain and boldly proclaimed that Rigo would school Donaire.

How did you know?

SouthPaul says:

Thank you, sir. I bought into hype. You can't deny a hungry man. Specially a talented one with supposedly the greatest amateur career of all time. Tell you what, though, Rigo needs to step up his output or else Ill lose interest . Good win but somewhat dull.

brownsugar says:

[QUOTE=SouthPaul;28842]Thank you, sir. I bought into the hype. You can't deny a hungry man. Specially a talented one with supposedly the greatest amateur career of all time. Tell you what, though, Rigo needs to step up his output or else Ill lose interest . Good win but somewhat dull.[/QUOTE]

understood thanks,...

Mikey Garcia said he'd take him at featherweight, do you think Rigo would have a chance fighting that Heavy?

bigstinkybug says:

It's like fighting Hopkins..without the headbutts, holding and fouling....

deepwater says:

I am going to smoke a nice Romeo and Julieta in the old Cubans honor .

spit bucket says:

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Yes, Kudos to you all. I'll be heading over to the buffet now...

Last night Kellerman said , "Most of the training between Robert Garcia and Donaire took place over the phone." Anyone know about this?

brownsugar says:

[QUOTE=spit bucket;28851]Yes, Kudos to you all. I'll be heading over to the buffet now...

Last night Kellerman said , "Most of the training between Robert Garcia and Donaire took place over the phone." Anyone know about this?[/QUOTE]

They were in different cities...Robert was busy training Rios and Donaire was in a location close to his new home in L.A.Where he could be close to his family.

Radam G says:

Not his new home in L.A. He has a new multi-million-dollar crib in Sin City. And he trained in Northern Cal. On the weedends he'd fly home to Vegas to be with Rachel. JunJun is a SoCal hater. Rivary goes on between SoCal and NoCal. JunJun has mad luv for everything NoCal.

And the rivary is a love-hate thing, not something hateful or deadly. Holla!

Radam G says:

BTW, over-the-phone training is a big-time culture of the game. The BIG GUN trainers usually come to the local training camp any where from about three-to-six weeks before the bout. Every since there has been phones, this is the way it's been done. And when there where no phones, it was by wiring telegrams. And before that, they probably since pigeons carrying instructions.

Great trainers have many boxers training all over the place, so the BIG DAWG trainer depends on co-trainers. Holla!

mortcola says:

Nonito came off like the amateur. No answer, over 12 rounds. Zip. I'm gonna take the unpopular road and say that Rigo used his amateur virtues like a disciplined pro, while Nonito spent 11 1/2 rounds disbelieving what was in front of him, when what he needed to do was swarm with under and over combos, risking the counters. But he was a deer in the headlights. Rigo might have been a cuban "amateur", but he was the more seasoned and intelligent fighter in there. I think our chief contributors are in a state of denial with the taste of sour grapes in their mouths after seeing the P4P great reduced to following and not punching for nearly the entire fight. Yes, Rigo was dull. But he was the master, the true pro, while Donaire was a kid who would't adapt. And I'm sticking to it.

Radam G says:

Not to be confrontational, Doc Mortcola, but The Filipino Flash had mental crash and came off

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as a novice. A seasoned amateur even knows how to adjust. TFF underestimated the aged Cuban, looked for a kayo, that never happens when you are trying to force the issue. Holla!

TioMamoy13 says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;28862]Not to be confrontational, Doc Mortcola, but The Filipino Flash had mental crash and came off as a novice. A seasoned amateur even knows how to adjust. TFF underestimated the aged Cuban, looked for a kayo, that never happens when you are trying to force the issue. Holla![/QUOTE]

What rigo did to nonito is what lil floyd would have done to da tranny I mean manny, a few years ago. Nonito is a great fighter but profited from the sleazy bob arum hype machine. Mares beats jun jun too

Real Talk says:

Rigo is the more disciplined, skilled technician. Nonito has been getting sloppy in his technique and been relying more on his power because of the fruit of his punching power and facing inferior competition. Nonito has not faced any fighter with the skill and intelligence of Rigo who is a master boxer and has full control of his craft. Nonito will need to be 100% focused and disciplined to to have a shot at beating Rigo in a rematch and will have to look to touch the target instead of go for the KO. The Flash has fell into the punchers trap of being drunk off his power and abandoning the subtle nuances and detail of the Sweet Science that makes up the difference in timing and inches. This is exactly what would've happened if Manny faces Floyd. Nonito was gracious in defeat and he will return and dominate the sport of boxing. Whether or not he can defeat Rigo is solely up to him and his level of commitment to his trade. Dueces

TioMamoy13 says:

@real talk

Great point

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

[QUOTE=brownsugar;28840]Excellent post Mortcola...you said what I wanted to say only better.

Deepwater... ShoulderRoll..SouthPaulgreat prediction..

I said earlier Rigondeaux would probably get an upset

But You guys went against the grain and boldly proclaimed that Rigo would school Donaire.

How did you know?[/QUOTE]

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Thanks B-Sug. I was confident because I knew that Rigo was on another level in the skill department. Donaire only had a puncher's chance (left hook) in my opinion. 9 times out of 10 it is the skills that pay the bills!

ali says:

Nonito is starting to remind me of Tito here's why. When Trinidad was coming up the boxing ranks he was just boxing not looking for the KO but as time went on and he started to look for the KO and once he fought someone on his skill level who could box like Oscar & B-Hop he got exposed. Same thing with Donaire if just goes in there not looking for the KO I promise u he will beat Rigo it will be a ugly win but a win at the end of the day.

TioMamoy13 says:

@ali

Tito was coming up though in the days where the top promoters actually worked together, I.e. arum and king. We saw nonito against the best top rank had to offer. Nonito should have fought mares. In fact, he should have signed with golden boy and would have been promoted better. Donaire fought too many fights in a short period for being a superstar of today. I know this is the part where my man across the waters interrupts and starts rapping (clown is the real mad rapper if u remember thAt character) but this was too much. The Cuban could be a star but he should fight mares. Saturday was a bad day for throwing wild hooks

TioMamoy13 says:

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What rigo did to nonito is what lil floyd would have done to da tranny I mean manny, a few years ago. Nonito is a great fighter but profited from the sleazy bob arum hype machine. Mares beats jun jun too

brownsugar says:

Yes sir.....Skills do certainly pay the bills....

Sometimes a new talent arises seemingly out of nowhere, Just when you think you've seen it all and there couldn't possibly be any one in creation who could impress you again....

Just when you think,..... who could possibly display the preternatural "other worldly" boxing skills, coordination and accuracy that boxing fans have been longing to see since a prime Roy Jones,.. or a Pacman... graced the ring.

Talent comes in many different types of varieties..... but you don't have to be a Monk sitting atop Mount Himalaya to comprehend that Rigo is a very special type of fighter.

Some are all around great athletes... who possess a lethal assault package like W Klitschko, others possess an excess of stamina, chin, and heart,.... like Aaran Pryor.

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then there are others like Ward can kill you with a thousand cuts from a pen-knife.

EL Chakal is unique in that he is the consummate Matador,.. an Ring Master, a Lion Tamer. He takes command of the ring, and his opponent can only do what he allows them to do,.. both mentally and physically.

Rigo met Donaire in the Center of the ring at the first bell to provide his opponent with his first lesson, "don't try to fight me toe to toe Kid, or you'll get the worse of it"

And he continued to educate Donaire regarding his limitations.

Whenever Donaire tried to stray from his tutorial by trying to encroach into his space and engage the Master.....Rigo disciplined him with straight right Left hands, piercing jabs, body blows and right hooks.... depending on the angle.
or he would disappear like David Copperfield in a puff of smoke...

The Lion Tamer to it up a notch and made Donaire do tricks for the audiences pleasure.... like.... "Run into this right hand"....

or "Catch this right hook with your teeth".

it was a masterful display. and after watching the recording several times... it was a display I will not soon forget.

What impressed me most about Rigo is during the 10th round,... Rigo tried to hold Donaire and straightend his torso as he anticipated the ref to come over and break them up.. and he was blasted by a left hand, dripping wet with bad intentions.

Never make assumptions,.. and protect ourself at all times... Lion trainers get maimed all the time... and even the very best of them get killed by their vicious pets.

it was a sneaky punch.... and As far as I'm concerned the blow was far more legal than what Mayweather did to Ortiz...

But to Rigo's credit he popped right up,.. no complaints...did a little bow... and like a real Lion trainer he went back to show the lion who was really the boss was.

Can't wait to see Rigo again... everything he does in the ring tells a story. The moral of this story.... Just Box em' Donaire,... next time stay focused and BOX!

brownsugar says:

[QUOTE=Real Talk;28864]Rigo is the more disciplined, skilled technician. Nonito has been getting sloppy in his technique and been relying more on his power because of the fruit of his punching power and facing inferior competition. Nonito has not faced any fighter with the skill and intelligence of Rigo who is a master boxer and has full control of his craft. Nonito will need to be 100% focused and disciplined to to have a shot at beating Rigo in a rematch and will have to

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agreed,.....now that's Real Talk....

The Good Doctor says:

Nobody is talking about this but Robert Garcia's training may need to come under a little fire after this fight. He has had a list of guys unprepared when facing a decent fighter in the last 3 years. Donaire, Guzman, Vilorio, Rios, Margarito. I know he still has a few hitters but I kind of look at him with a raised eye now.

Radam G says:

Wow! Good Doctor! That is all I can say -- WOW! Holla!

TioMamoy13 says:

@the good doctor

All in all, nonito shouldn't have even fought rigo. He should have fought mares and would have made more money. We like boxing in Mexico, he would have had huge numbers against mares. However top rank over worked nonito this year and caught him at a time when he couldn't devote 100 to training. Had he fought a better puncher than rigo he would have been face first on the floor like Plank Man I mean PAC Man. Blame top rank and blame nonito/Garcia for not meeting halfway on training matters.

ali says:

TioMamoy13 you made alot of great points now Bob Arum is really about to feed him to the sharks watch.

The Good Doctor says:

[QUOTE=TioMamoy13;28918]@the good doctor

All in all, nonito shouldn't have even fought rigo. He should have fought mares and would have made more money. We like boxing in Mexico, he would have had huge numbers against mares. However top rank over worked nonito this year and caught him at a time when he couldn't devote 100 to training. Had he fought a better puncher than rigo he would have been face first on the floor like Plank Man I mean PAC Man. Blame top rank and blame nonito/Garcia for not meeting halfway on training matters.[/QUOTE]

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I don't disagree with anything you said but Arum and Top Rank don't get in the ring. However, Nonito looked as if he had never seen a tape of Rigo. He basically tried to throw bombs all night which when facing a guy that it is evident is faster than you, will get you bashed. Now I am not a trainer but here are simple things that Donaire did not do:

1. Pop the jab early and often. A simple rule of boxing is one way to neutralize speed is to keep a guy at bay. That is what a jab does
2. Right hand high. He got popped by Rigo's left hook often.
3. Fast guys you never fight square. Give them a little to hit as possible. Donaire was almost square facing him the whole night.
4. Stay down the middle again because of speed. Donaire threw a lot of hooks and wide crosses. Simply because of physics you leave yourself open longer throwing wider punches.

If you ask me this is boxing 101. Now I am not in the ring and I know that when facing someone who is as good as Rigo, your best plans may go out the window. However, Donaire is no slouch and has shown that he has been more than capable before. Garcia has also said that he listens as well as any fighter he has trained. To me, that shows a trainer not ingraining a good gameplan in his fighter.

brownsugar says:

Good Doctor... You make a good point ..

Robert had nothing constructive to say when quizzed by Jim Lampley.

That's because he had nothing in his data base to cope with Rigos' level of poise and technique.

Neither Garcia or Donaire had the experience scope or understanding to comprehend a way out of the hole Rigo was digging.

With the exception of Mikey, Donaire and Vilora....Garcia's stable has been top heavy with fighters who are big on chins, conditioning and heart...

But lack even the most rudimentary semblance of defense.

Guys who end up shot after 5 - 7 on the championship level.

Folks complain about an amateur style...but its usually the pros who relax their standards and gradually get away from fundamentals.

Bottom line Camp Garcia had nothing to reference in terms of Rigos abilities and even if they did it would have taken years of practice to be able to implement the antidote and contend with his style.

Radam G says:

Bottomline! Rigo is a great, great amateur. And as the Good Doctor said, if you don't pop continuously with the jab, you are fooling yourself if you think that you are going to kayo Rigo with one shot. Super-great amateurs are into hitting and not getting hit to the max. And risk

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getting hit. That is why many super-great amateurs cannot crossover to professional fighting and making that BIG PAY!

Rigo will do great and whup dat arse against every professional who fights him stupidly. You don't throw bomb at super-fast amateurs, you shot bullets. And as I said in another post -- as The Good Doctor said above -- you don't lead with wide and underhand syet. You hooked off the JAB. You uppercut off the JAB. And you finish with the JAB. WTF! It is SOOOOOOO EASY! JAB and STAB, conduct a professional boksing lab all night LONG! And you will prove that the great amateur-fighting Cubans don't BELONG! That is, unless, they can crossover to pro styles like Cuban greats: Jose Napoles, Luis Rodriguez, Sugar Ramos, Kid Gavalan and Kid Chocolate.

The only thing that the Filipino Flash did -- ONCE -- was shift punched. And knocked the Cuba the double fudge down. More shift punching off the JAB, and TFF may have gotten Rigo outta there.

The only gun -- in Rob G's stable -- who has a shot iof nterrupting Rigo -- is cool, calm, collected, sweet JABBING Mikey Garcia. And that is, of course, if Rigo moves up in weight for the bout. It will be like be Carlos Monzon destroying Jose Napoles -- the greatest pound-for-pound Cuban professional pugilist ever. Holla!

TioMamoy13 says:

Nonito was the amateur on Saturday night. Amateur in his preparation, amateur in letting top rank overwork him in 2012, amateur in not fighting Abner mares, and amateur in his excuse after the fight, and amateur in letting his wife discuss the sweet science and making him look well..amateur. Hats off to Rigondeaux, Cuba, and anyone that ever loved the sweet science.

Here is Rachel donaire from espnboxing.com

So, is there a rematch in the future, near or far, with Rigo? The Donaires don't seem to be that enthused by the prospect. Nonito has fought a bunch of risk-averse types recently, and some foes who will take it to him, like a Juan Manuel Lopez, for example, would make for more fan-friendly encounters, and play better to his style. "We're taking nothing away from Rigo, but that style of fighting is mostly for the purist fans, which are something of a dying breed," she told me. "He can fight that way his whole career, that's fine, but that's not what a lot of the fans want."

I can't wait for miss Jackson to start talking about the science of the fight game too..ugh save me lol

brownsugar says:

if that's what amateur boxing is,... then many boxers need to return to their roots to learn how to box again.

Radam G says:

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YUP! And they would be broke, dumb a\$\$es! Even amateur boxing is going back to be more like the pros. You need to inform yourself. Just like back before 1983, they have gone back to no headgears. And three judges are scoring the rounds 10 points or less. And now the pros can fight in the next O Games. Rigo will change to pro-style boxing, or he will be kicked to the curve.

A change is a coming back to the future of way, way back in the day of old school! Catch up! Smarten up! And don't hate! Holla!

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A change is a coming back to the future of way, way back in the day of old school! Catch up! Smarten up! And don't hate! Holla!

TioMamoy13 says:

I am watching the fight again right now. Nonito landed 82 punches..that's not pro that's not even amateur...that's getting whipped plain and simple!!!!!!