

Efrain Esquivias Drops and Stops Rafael Marquez

Written by Michael Woods

Saturday, 07 September 2013 22:13



In the TV opener at the Fantasy Springs in Indio, CA, Rafael Marquez gloved up against Efrain Esquivias. The 38-year-old best known for having four wars with Israel Vazquez hasn't been busy of late, and he may not be busy after this. Esquivias had great luck with his right hand, and very much so in round nine. At 19 seconds elapsed, a lead right put Marquez down. He rose, but his legs were bad, and the ref pulled the plug on his night, and maybe his career.

Marquez, now stopped in back to back fights, went 159-530 to 283-730 for Esquivias.

The two men had kind words for each other after the bout. E said that he's loved Marquez for a long time, and still does. He said he wants Leo Santa Cruz, or any titlist at 122, next. Marquez to Jim Gray said he will think about retiring.

In the first round of this featherweight scrap set for ten or fewer, Marquez (ex bantam and super bantam champ; 41-8 with 37 KOs entering; from Mexico), who last fought in Oct. 2012, ate a few clean rights. The Mexican picked up the jab as the round progressed.

In the second, Esquivias (16-2-1 with 9 KOs entering; age 30; from CA) ate a few uppercuts. Marquez had gotten warm, and busier.

In the third, we saw blood on E's left eye. Marquez got a tiny bit buzzed by a right at 50 seconds to go. Marquez ate a few of those in this round.

In the fourth, the lead right landed again for E. Then Marquez landed his own right, but overall, E was having a confident round. Same in round five; Marquez looked pretty bad, actually. In the sixth, Rafa was eating again. They fought in tight, toe to toe, with Esquivias backing up the Mexican mostly.

Efrain Esquivias Drops and Stops Rafael Marquez

Written by Michael Woods

Saturday, 07 September 2013 22:13

In the seventh, E often landed a left hook while squared up, in tight. He throws it often, with his right foot a bit out in front of his left, interestingly. Rafa got cooking late in the round, and thought he had E stopped at the bell. False alarm.

In the eighth, E looked peppy, and Marquez wasn't able to maintain his late rally from the last round. Rafa got buckled late in the round, it looked like.

Down went Marquez, and the ref halted it, at the beginning of the ninth. A lead right sent Rafa on his butt. He got up, wobbly, and the ref said no mas.

Check back for a ringside report by David Avila.

Follow Woods on [Twitter](#).

the Roast says:

It looks like the end of the line for Rafael Marquez. No reason to hang your head Rafa. What a great career he has had. The fights with Vasquez are legendary. All great rides must come to an end.

SouthPaul says:

The post fight interview from both men was all class. Nearly brought a tear to my eye. Lol.

amayseng says:

after the first few rounds i thought raf was on some of his bros new "vitamins"

either way the year lay off didnt work out for him against a slick solid young fighter....

he should have fought a few tomato cans,

it is time to hang them up for sure, great career and SP is right what a class act interview by both...

they mentioned rm was sent to the hospital, hope all is well