

PURE PREDATOR Hook-Happy Cotto Bashes Rodriguez In 3

Written by Michael Woods

Saturday, 05 October 2013 23:03



Miguel Cotto was in pure predator mode, bringing his hellacious left hook from 2007 back, and using it to smash Delvin Rodriguez in the main event at the Amway Center in Orlando, Florida on Saturday night, and on HBO.

Cotto, coming off back to back losses, to Floyd Mayweather and then Austin Trout, which had him if only briefly consider retirement, needed to get past the solid journeyman Rodriguez, or the retirement issue would loom that much larger. That he did; in the first he started with hooks to the body, and he didn't let up. He had Del buzzed to end the second, and a left hook finished Del in round three.

The end came at 2:42 of the third, with ref Frank Santore deeming Del done. Cotto outlanded Del 55-16, according to CompuBox.

Cotto trapped Del on the ropes, landed a left hook as Del tried his own, another left hook and a right follow, and sent him crashing to the mat. The ref didn't even count, and protested mildly to the ref, but he went to his stool wobbly. "Cotto was beating the hell out him," said HBO's Max Kellerman.

After, Cotto said to Max he was happy to be back to basics, aggressive and sharp. Trainer Freddie Roach said the camp was stellar, and "we're going to have a lot of big fights after this." Top shelf guys? "Yeah, line them up," Roach said.

Cotto, age 32, from Puerto Rico, was 153.2 on Friday, while the Dominican-born Del, age 33, living in Danbury, CT, was 154. Cotto was cornered by Roach for the first time, for the record. Del is helmed by Fernely Feliz.

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In the first, Cotto ripped a left hook on Del, who wanted to peck and slide. The Cotto left hook, like sexy, was back, in round one. Roach called the first "beautiful" after the round. In the second, Cotto's right landed early. Del hadn't yet landed on Cotto enough to put him off. Del got buzzed at the end of the round, off a right hand-left hook follow.

Roy Jones said Cotto is good to go against a Sergio Martinez, or a Canelo Alvarez, right away.

Rodriguez' manager AJ Galante told TSS he thought the ref didn't give Del a chance to come back, but "I don't think it would have mattered, honestly. It hurts...but it is what it is." And will Rodriguez continue in this most dangerous game? "I'll talk to him when we get home," Galante said.

In the third, Cotto sent him down and the fight was halted, via TKO. I dare say the masses didn't think they'd see such a version of Cotto, who looked energized, predatory, and hook-crazy. It was arguably enough to erase the rotten egg stink from the Wladimir and Crawford fights...

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the Roast says:

Taking a page from Miley Cyrus, Cotto came in like a wrecking ball. He will be hard for any of the top fighters to handle if he fights like that. Cotto vs Canelo next would be big. We would see if Canelo can take a punch that night.

ultimoshogun says:

That's what my buddy and I were talking about after the fight...Canelo vs Cotto would be a helluva matchup.

amayseng says:

Cotto looked sharp, the left hook was back as the primary weapon.

More importantly I think he looked quite agile, light on his feet and quite dynamic.

Cotto beats up Canelo and possibly stops him.

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I would love to see a Floyd vs Cotto rematch, Floyd is a bit different with his dad in his corner and Cotto as

well with Roach...

riverside says:

we've seen Cotto like that before, nothing to get too excited. He has toyed with inferior competition before "Cotto vs contender Gomez". No way he beats Trout or Money May in Rematch, Floyd will pitch a shut-out, Trout will do the same. Intriguing fight Canelo vs Cotto, Canelo was looking for the fight the pasts years, Cotto never seemed interested in fighting him and the fight when out the door when Cotto lost Trout. Canelo was there front row and seemed disgusted. Hopefully Cotto vs Canelo get made! No way Cotto walks down Canelo!! I don't think Roach can teach Cotto who has had 5 or 6 trainers in the past years anything New, Cotto will be Cotto and I can see him jumping on His bike when Canelo touches him, Canelo is bigger/ stronger/ speed/defense/power advantage. Chin questionable? will be looking forward if fight gets made.

amayseng says:

a shut out? by no means do i think cotto will beat floyd in a rematch but the first fight cotto won arguably 5 rounds to floyd's 7. that was an exciting fight with floyd stepping it up to take the win.

cotto is 33 and been boxing for what 25 years, nobody is gonna teach him anything new. his tool box is full. what a good trainer can do is teach a fighter how to implement which tool and when.

i would pay to watch a floyd vs cotto rematch even favoring floyd to win. i wouldnt pay 30\$ to watch floyd slap khan around.

brownsugar says:

Cotto vs Canelo would be a deliciously intriguing fight. Both boxers have the ability to hurt each other. Both will wage war till the final bell. It'd be a 50/50 fight with Cotto having the advantages when it comes down to the intangibles...and Canelo having a better chin. Big Big fight...crazy atmosphere..... Puerto Rico vs Mexico....if Cotto wins in impressive fashion....then rematch Floyd in another fun fight where Floyd has to fight harder to get the W.....Floyd is the one getting old.

Don't really want to watch Trout any time soon.

Carmine Cas says:

Cotto looked refreshed, after the fight he looked confident and content with his performance. Now I hope he can bring this same type of performance to the top tier of the division

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Amay, good point! I would'nt pay anything For a Khan fight! BTW I really think the Cotto/Mayweather 1 fight was close due to Mayweather engaging and fighting off the ropes, because he chose and not because Cotto impose on him, IMO, If Money May chooses to dance with Cotto in a potential re-match, Money May Skills are phenomenal, he will box and will not engage Cotto, Making a very dull lopsided fight. Money May thrives on making statements.

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Good comments...Mayweather was trying to conserve energy against Cotto... He had a cold and his sinuses were dry, cracking and bleeding. Floyd doesn't do much in the way of excuses and downplayed the problem ... But I think a rematch would be an engaging and fan friendly fight especially if Cotto would sell out by winging those wide but deadly hooks. I hope happens.

Radam G says:

I'm sticking with my guns, missiles and nukes.

Canelo is super hyped. And, again, size means as much as the naked eye can see -- one percent of every thing in existence. In other words, size is over hyped bullsyet. What creature has killed the more human in the history of time? The big one that you can clearly see? Or the that you cannot see or barely see?

Canelo will see 75 percent if Cotto's shots.

Cotton busts up the red-headed hype, and will make him Bambi run more than the Cali Cranium Crusher. Holla!

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I agree RG I can see Cotto stopping Canelo. Floyd took it easy on him compared to what Cotto would do. Cotto is relentless, Floyd smacked him around and stayed out of harms way. I can see a mid fight stoppage for cotto

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I would love to see Cotto dispatch Canelo with extreme prejudice.

Nobody is more fun to watch than Cotto when he's on fire.

plus he showed that he has a lot left.

On the other hand, like Riverside said earlier the kid does have a few gifts (and not just in the category of getting bad decisions)

The kid is a fighter, a thinking fighter with a plus minus offense defense ratio second only to Floyd, his chin is superb and his defense is responsible.

Not the mention the fact if he hits Cotto clean, he will hurt him. He will get his respect and we could see a replay of Cotto dancing backwards again.

Rodriguez in spite of all the singing in his dressing room, never got untracked, never got warmed up, and never got in the zone.

That was Cotto's doing, Rodriguez is a victim of not being able to handle the blitz.

Canelo won't succumb that easily.

Great fight if they make it happen. I hope boxing politics doesn't ruin a fight of this magnitude coming together.

Hop says:

4me:

Cotto vs. Kid Cinnamon: interested

Cotto vs. May II: not particularly interested