

Mensah Upsets Michael Katsidis

Written by David A. Avila
Saturday, 14 April 2012 06:46



LAS VEGAS-Ghana's Albert Mensah used all of his size advantages but still Michael "The Great" Katsidis showed why he remains one of the most popular boxing gladiators in the world on Friday.

Mensah used a tight defense in the first few rounds as Katsidis attempted to brawl through the taller boxer's guard. Then it got interesting.

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Katsidis absorbed some hellish blows but kept rolling on with his steam roller style and at times it worked as Mensah looked a little surprised that it was still a close match.

Katsidis (28-6, 23 KOs) found Ghana's Mensah (25-3-1, 10 KOs) too tall, too strong and too skilled to dazzle the younger fighter with his bag of tricks. But he tried valiantly in a losing cause until the final bell rang. The crowd was euphoric.

Mensah tried measuring bombs throughout the fight to eliminate Katsidis but the experienced veteran of numerous championship fights was too wily. At the end of 10 rounds, though Katsidis had his moments, the judges scored it a majority decision for Mensah 95-95, 98-92 and 96-94.

Sanchez wins

Maybe it was too soon or maybe Alan Sanchez improved by leaps and bounds as Artemio Reyes Jr. could not survive the first round on Friday and former junior lightweight contender Michael Katsidis couldn't make the jump to junior welterweight.

Sanchez (10-2-1, 4 KOs) avenged an earlier defeat against San Bernardino's Reyes (15-2, 12 KOs) at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino and showed a national television audience his ability. For Reyes it was his first defeat since losing in his second bout back in 2008.

Sanchez moved in quickly firing quick combinations and retreating just as quickly. After a minute of some short exchanges, a right uppercut snuck through Reyes guard and snapped his head back violently. From then on Sanchez began winging blows freely as Reyes retreated to no avail. Lefts and rights connected and Reyes sunk to the ground prompting referee Joe Cortez to stop the fight at 2:08 of the first round.

Other bouts

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Alexis Hernandez (1-1) of Santa Ana dropped Sergio Lopez of Las Vegas three times in winning by unanimous decision after a four round featherweight bout. A right hand caught Lopez flush in round two in a round he looked to be winning. A left hook floored Lopez (0-1) in round three. Hernandez took some blows but was always in control. The scores were 40-34, 40-35 and 39-38.

A junior welterweight match featuring debuting boxers saw Richard Quesada (1-0) pour on the punches including a right hand to the body of Luis Gordon ended the fight in 50 seconds of round one. Gordon (0-1) fights out of Miami and the winner Quesada calls Havana, Cuba his home.

In a rock em sock em fight little guys Edwin Reyes of Nashville and Yorgey Ramirez ended in a draw after four rounds. Both were making their pro debuts and scrapped every second of every round with the shorter Ramirez starting faster and Reyes ending stronger.

Cameron Krael (1-1-2) squeaked past Tyler Larson (0-2-1) after four rounds of a junior welterweight contest. In their previous bout last year it was called a draw. This time Krael convinced two judges he was better than Larson to win by majority decision. Both boxers live in Las Vegas.

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amayseng says:

thanks to the espn producers for ruining my friday boxing night and having nascar on, nascar, what a waste and playing friday night fights too late for me to catch them..

nascar, how awful...

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

Even my soon to be 5 year old son can see the defensive flaws of Katsidis. Fan friendly my a\$\$, fighting like Rocky is a sure way to guarantee that you will have a short career and get busted up every time you fight a skilled boxer. Katsidis was a 6 to 1 betting favorite and there wasn't any real tape or footage of Mensah, therefore I predicted that Katsidis would end the night early. However, after the first round I knew that it was going to be competitive fight. Mensah had "Philly Crab Shell" aka "Shoulder Roll" defense mastered and used counter crosses and upper cuts all night long. If you didn't watch the fight, Katsidis was almost knocked out twice in the

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later rounds. My hat goes off to Albert Mensah, this was his second fight in the U.S., first on national T.V. and he took advantage of it. I don't think he is a real threat at 140, but he is a solid contender. On the other hand, Katsidis needs to retire before he ends up getting seriously injured. He has a lot of heart, but is past his prime and doesn't have the necessary skill to compensate for what he has lost physically.

the Roast says:

Ameyseng, you gotta DVR FNF. Every week ESPN has basketball, auto racing, or something else delaying the start of the show. You can just fast forward to the beginning or past Teddy Atlas talking like I do. If it's too late, watch the next day! You missed a good fight. Katsidis is the poster boy for ineffective aggression. He throws a million punches per round and wears himself out. Fun for us to watch but bad for a career. I don't think Mensah will go that far but who knows? He can always go to that group for really smart people that Bobby Czyz and Mortcola are in. More importantly, the Roast is back on U.S. soil! The film has shut down, Miley Cyrus is off the project rumored to be replaced by Ashley Tisdale. Chicago Golden Gloves Finals tonight and the Roast will be ringside. All my peeps come down and see me. Peace out.

dino da vinci says:

[QUOTE=the Roast;15377]Ameyseng, you gotta DVR FNF. Every week ESPN has basketball, auto racing, or something else delaying the start of the show. You can just fast forward to the beginning or past Teddy Atlas talking like I do. If it's too late, watch the next day! You missed a good fight. Katsidis is the poster boy for ineffective aggression. He throws a million punches per round and wears himself out. Fun for us to watch but bad for a career. I don't think Mensah will go that far but who knows? He can always go to that group for really smart people that Bobby Czyz and Mortcola are in. More importantly, the Roast is back on U.S. soil! The film has shut down, Miley Cyrus is off the project rumored to be replaced by Ashley Tisdale. Chicago Golden Gloves Finals tonight and the Roast will be ringside. All my peeps come down and see me. Peace out.[/QUOTE]

@Roast. You are a funny, funny man.

Had great seats for the Mensah v. Katsidis fight. Spot on with the "ineffective aggression."

The matchmaking for last night's show should receive some type of an award. Tremendous. Million punches thrown with many landed.

More boxing tonight in America's Boxing Capital, Las Vegas.

Radam G says:

SRD, my son just turned five-years old on April 10. And I'm just saying that he got mad skills and mean brains. Dude is like his Pops Radam G. Somewhere down the road, your son he may just see. Hehehehehe! You know SRD would have little chance against PT. Keep your boy in the gym and in those books. No one know what the future hooks. Holla!

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Radam G says:

YUP! HEHEHEHEHE! The Roast is one funny, funny muthacomic. Dude always come at you calm and cool then KaPOW! KaBOOM! KaZUNK! He sneak joke punch you silly and dead. OMG! WTF! You'll find your arse giggling and side-grabbing your ribs like a bytch who is getting tickled by Casa Nova or Don Juan, or whatever. And if you are in the public at the casino on your iPhone, people would be like -- WHAT DA DOUBLE FUDGE is wrong with dat Pinoy? Holla!

Radam G says:

BTW, HEY! The Roast, you are fastly moving on a thousand posts. In the words of the great HOF ref Mills Lane: "LET'S GET IT ON!" Bring it on! Bring it on! You are TSS "Regular" 2011 ROTY. Pick up the award while you are here in the USA from Rome. Hehehe! The TSS Super 2011 ROTY is in the BIG Apple waiting for you. Hehehe! Holla!

the Roast says:

Thanks Dino and RG, I'm done with the ROTY thing now, it's over, the best man won, I'll be in the mix next year. I got a chance to talk with Albert Mensah last night at the Chicago GG finals. Well, I talked, he just nodded alot. It seemed like he was a bit surprised by the attention. Good night of fights and laughs with buddies. Little Bobby was nearly escorted out for working the ringcard girls too hard. Danell Nicholson was in the house, I forgot he existed. Did not see Lee Roy Murphy this year Radam.