

NICARAGUA'S CHOCOLATITO KOS HIRALES GARCIA OF MEXICO IN POMONA

Written by David A. Avila
Sunday, 29 April 2012 02:30



POMONA-Nicaragua's Roman "Chocolatito" Gonzalez felt right at home making his WBA world title defense against Mexico's Ramon Hiraes Garcia and proved it with a knockout win on Saturday night in the shadows of Sugar Shane Mosley's home.

A very large pro-Nicaragua crowd showed up at the Pomona Fairplex to support Gonzalez (32-0, 27 KOs) on a Top Rank show that also featured a number of prospects and suspects. The world title fight for the mini-flyweight title was the big one.

After a slow first minute a couple of left hooks started the action for Nicaragua's Gonzalez as he figured out the left-handed Hiraes style.

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Mexico's Hiraes (16-4-1, 9 KOs) looked for the bombs while Gonzalez continued the steady pressure shooting short left hooks and rights to the body and head. A counter left hand landed for Hiraes but Gonzalez kept the pressure on.

Hiraes continued working the body with long lefts, but was being countered with two punches for every blow he landed. A right cross from the champion moved Hiraes backward but both had their moments.

The champion was getting closer to the challenger and found his opening with a three-punch combination ending with a right uppercut that dropped Hiraes like a rock. He beat the count and tried dancing out of range by Gonzalez wasn't allowing him time to recover. The exact same combination capped by the right uppercut floored Hiraes once again. Referee Raul Caiz Jr. stopped the fight immediately without a count at 2:09 of round for as Gonzalez retained the title.

"He surprised me in the first couple of rounds with his boxing, but once he felt my power he was going backwards. Then I landed that great right hand. I knew he was done," said Gonzalez. "It felt like I was fighting at home, like in Nicaragua. I'm very happy to fight in the United States. I hope to defend my title again."

OTHER BOUTS

Southpaw Anthony Lenk (14-1, 7 KOs) won a unanimous decision over Riverside's Alberto Herrera (8-6-1, 5 KOs) after eight rounds of a welterweight fight. Lenk used his steady jab and speed to offset Herrera's inside fighting. The Riverside fighter had his best round in the seventh by landing multiple uppercuts. Lenk was able to out score Herrera with a busier output. Two judges scored it 78-74 and one 77-75 for Lenk.

Santa Ana's rising prospect Jessie Roman (10-0, 7 KOs) needed a couple of rounds to figure out Mexican veteran Jaime Orrantia (14-31-5, 5 KOs), but when he did it was bombs away. A right uppercut and left hook combination started the downfall for Orrantia in round three. By the fourth round Roman was fast on Orrantia's movements and began connecting regularly. A left hook stunned Orrantia and referee Zach Young wisely stopped the match at 2:13 of round four.

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Wale "Lucky Boy" Omotoso (22-0, 19 KOs) knocked out Dallas welterweight Larry "Slow Motion" Smith (10-11) at 2:00 of the eighth and final round. Omotoso was in control of the entire fight but Smith fought mostly in a defensive posture and rarely looked for a knockout. Instead he was stopped by Omotoso with a right hand.

Jesse Magdaleno (9-0, 6 KOs) fired a pretty combination of a right cross-right uppercut to knock out Kansas City boxer Nick Fast (7-2-1, 6 KOs) at 2:07 of the first round. It was the second knockdown of the round.

Vahe Saruhanyan (5-0-1, 2 KOs) out-pointed Edwin Solis (3-2, 3 KOs) after four rounds of a junior lightweight match. The judges scored it 60-54, 59-55 and 58-56 for Saruhanyan.

A female welterweight bout saw Holly Lawson (2-2) start quicker against veteran Tammy Franks (2-20) and hold off the late charging fighter from San Antonio, Texas. Lawson fights out of Los Angeles. All three judges favored Lawson.

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