Written by Michael Woods
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*photo by Chris Farina-Top Rank*

No, he doesn't have the pop his pop had, but Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. can crack, as he showed in the main event in the Sun Bowl at U. Texas-El Paso, in El Paso, Texas on Saturday night. HBO showed Chavez' effort against Andy Lee, who started out boxing smartly, but was lured into a bit of a brawl with the Mexican, to his ultimate dismay. Lefts and rights to the head and

body, with Lee on the ropes, forced the ref to end the fan-friendly tussle in the seventh. The end came at 2:21, and dad grinned and screamed his approval from the front row.

Larry Merchant chatted with both men after. Junior said he figured out Lee didn't have enough power to bother him, and then pressed on the gas. "He never hurt me," he said. He said he's happy to carry on the family name in the game. He said his legs were bothering him from the start, and could have stopped Lee earlier. Asked about Sergio Martinez, he said he would knock him out and shut his mouth. Lee said Junior is a good fighter, and he walked through good punches. "He's a big middleweight. He's heavy, it was hard to move him with my shots," he said. He said he's better than people give him credit for, and Sergio will have his hands full.

I still like the pedigree of Sergio Martinez if and when he and Junior get it on, in September. What about you?

The stats: Chavez went 116-252, to 121-420 for the loser, who simply didn't have the mustard on his launches that the victor did.

The WBC middleweight titleholder Chavez (age 26;  45-0 entering; from Culiacan, Mexico), who last fight had to lose 15 pounds in two days to make weight, against Marco Rubio, weighed 159 pounds, while Lee (age 28; 28-1 entering; from Ireland, living in Michigan) was 159  ¼ pounds.

Manny Steward said pre-fight that this bout was his most emotional since Hearns-Leonard II, because Lee lived in Steward’s house for seven years.

Both men were driven in Hummer limos from the dressing room to the ring, not something I’d seen before.

In the first, Lee was in control, using his height, using his jab, but he did eat a clean, hard left hook to tell him his chin would be tested.

In the second, a Chavez left hook landed and made the crowd buzz. A Lee straight left made Chavez respect his power.

In the third, Lee was backing up, as Jr. came forward, patient, looking to land a power hook. The Irishman smartly threw and moved, mostly, but Chavez sometimes cornered him, pinned him on the ropes. Jr nodded no, you're not hurting me, to Lee and implored him to get more aggressive late in the round. Steward told Lee he was in good shape, that he was boxing well. "Don't wait on him, you be first," trainer Freddie Roach told Junior. "You're too strong for him." Harold Lederman had Lee up 2-1 after three.

In the fourth, Lee used his uppercut to good effect. "He's getting tired Andy," Steward yelled. Junior landed about three hard, clean rights and the crowd liked the trading. Steward told Lee to simply box, not trade, after the round.

In the fifth, Chavez lured Lee in a bit of a brawl. Lee chuckled and told Chavez that he had nothing. The showier shots belonged to Chavez. His left hook to the head and body proved Lee's chin was sturdy on this night. Steward again told his boxer that the foe was tired. We heard that Chavez complained of leg cramps after the round, in his right leg.

In the sixth, we heard that no, HBO didn't get an unofficial weight for either man this night, so we didn't know if Chavez was 180, like against Rubio. Lee had a 11-85 edge in punches landed, according to CompuBox, after six.

In the seventh, Chavez finished the night. He was blasting Lee, and ref Laurence Cole stepped in to halt it. Lefts and right, to head and body, with a right cross in tight doing the most damage, ended the night for Lee.

Comment on this article

**brownsugar says:**

@Riverside..... you called it perfect my friend, Chavez beat a seriously credible opponent in Andy Lee.
....Lee had him early but faded in the middle rounds just like many TSS regulars predicted.

Devastating defeat for Lee ,
CRUSHING Victory for Chavez.....guess I'll have to see Mr Lee.
Bring on Martinez.
Funny because Chavez is not the same boxer that Martinez called out so vehemently a year ago.

**mortcola says:**

Been saying it all along.....forget who his father is, and Chavez is a legit fighter, and near the top of his game. intelligent, economical, focused, good power, good chin, and now, it seem, good dedication. What more do you want?

**fightscorecollector says:**

how did you all have the fight at the time of stoppage , i had it 57-57

**ultimoshogun says:**

Mortcola is right, Chavez is better than people are giving him credit for and is gonna be a handful for Martinez...i'm just hoping we don't have to choose between the two PPV fights as Arum has announced the Martinez/Chavez for Sept 15 too. Of course Ortiz has to win or draw next week, but Arum's an A-hole if he goes through with this date after Golden Boy booked their fight first.

**riverside says:**

B-Sug, Normally I don't go against your prediction, But, Jr has improved since we saw him years ago,he might have peaked just in time for Martinez. The official scoring last night had Lee up several points, I though the fight was closer? Martinez/Jr fight is going to be good one, Martinez will have to use the whole ring and a pair of skates for the later rounds, for when jr catches up to him, What about Juniors chin? that is dad's gift!!

**Radam G says:**

Wow! Lee was not in the fight from the jump! I'm 100 percent with Roy Jones Jr. "Whoever thought that Andy Lee was the heavier puncher, and had a chance to win," is straight-up double-fudging "CRAZY!" C'mon, folks, THIS IS REAL LIFE.

Son Of A Legend Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. did exactly what those in da know knew that he was capable of doing -- BUST DAT ARSE!!! It is not playtime, IT'S SOAL TIME! JCJ Time! He will KAYO Sergio Martinez ___ ____! Holla!

**brownsugar says:**

@Riverside... yep I had Lee ahead 4-2 at the time of the stoppage. But this kid has a chin like Margarito ...and almost the same boxing ability.....Lee wrecked his bicycle after round 5.

...before getting thoroughly pulverized with his back to the ropes. Do you think Martinez will let Chavez wind up like a pitcher and throw body shots from Cuba? Or do you think Martinez will slice him up like Pavlik. Even Martinez has to be thinking about what strategy he should use with the new improved version of Chavez. Unless the 37 year old Martinez has lost his his Soccer legs... I have Martinez all the way. What do ya think...?

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**deepwater says:**

That was easy $$$. Andy lee couldn't beat Vera. He lived under nanny stewards bed fighting cans. The more cans you fight the more of a can you become.

**deepwater says:**

Chavez beats Sergio .

**deepwater says:**

Sergio is too small and feminine to handle Chavez . Lol. He will win the first 3 rounds by dancing nonstop but since some judges like effective aggression . Not corrupt Duane ford . Chavez will not close his eyes and get clipped like skinny Paul. Sergio looked average against the Englishman bum. Bet the house on Chavez . Chavez has huge potential to make mucho $$$$$ over the years . He has a good brand. Sergio is 37 and does not have a huge following despite hbo hyping him . Chavez is better investment for everyOne involved. 2 years after this Canelo vs Chavez for mucho $$$$$$ in Mexican bullring in front of 100000 Mexicans like Chavez vs huagen . That is the big plan .

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**The Good Doctor says:**

[QUOTE=deepwater;17469]Sergio is too small and feminine to handle Chavez . Lol. He will win the first 3 rounds by dancing nonstop but since some judges like effective aggression . Not corrupt Duane ford . Chavez will not close his eyes and get clipped like skinny Paul. Sergio looked average against the Englishman bum. Bet the house on Chavez . Chavez has huge potential to make mucho $$$$$ over the years . He has a good brand. Sergio is 37 and does not have a huge following despite hbo hyping him . Chavez is better investment for everyOne involved. 2 years after this Canelo vs Chavez for mucho $$$$$$ in Mexican bullring in front of 100000 Mexicans like Chavez vs huagen . That is the big plan .[/QUOTE]

What you are saying actually makes sense. If in fact there is a "big brother" type plan around this, you are hitting it on the head. However, I do not think Chavez has a shot against Sergio. Sergio is way to quick for him and that is added to the fact that Chavez has a pretty easy to hit mug. I do not think Sergio can KO him, but I do believe Sergio puts on his best dancing shoes and peppers Chavez most of the night.

**riverside says:**

B-Sug,.....Martinez/Chavez will be good, Looks like we will have to chose between Canelo/Ortiz or Jr/ Marinez, looks like they will fight on the same day, 2 miles apart. Wish these promoter would work together instead of against each other. I'm not a big believer in Martinez!, The pavlik/Martinez was all bad for pavlik, Pavlik chase martinez all over the ring instead of trying to cut the ring off, Jr will have to cut the ring off against martinez, nobody else better to teach Jr how to cut the ring off than his pops! Martinez was weary of Pavliks power. JR with the extra weight he carries has some pop, so , martinez will have to get on his skates. The big wind up swings junior throws, Looked like he feinted and confused Lee. Body/Head I'll take Jr TKO in the later rounds when Martinez skates break.

**deepwater says:**

sergio is quick at moving away which doesnt always win rounds. sergio uses fast foorwork and the da-dant-dant rythem to win fights. it works against opponants that dont have much pop or a great chin. sergio can dance for the first half of the fight and shoot an up jab once and a while but he will not earn chavezs respect with that alone. 165lb sergio vs chavez at 180+lbs. where will the fight be? that will have an effect for sure. hbo and dibella tried like hell to get the us market behind msergio but it really hasnt worked. chavez vs canelo in mexico.

**deepwater says:**

put it this way. years ago when deepwater was in decent shape i sparred the olympian from colombia at lost battalian hall in queens ny. i was green( not that good yet) .the guy thought i was fresh meat and i was. the thing is the guy was 132-135 lbs and i was 152-155. for two rounds he fought like martinez and naseem hamed. he dazzled with his foot work. i couldnt catch him. i looked like a damn punching bag joke in there. in the 3rd round i used a check hook and he was knocked out cold. him and his trainer said i was too heavy and got him the hell out

of there. styles make fights, size matters.

**ultimoshogun says:**

Yup, i'm thinking Maravilla buckles under the pressure like he did vs Margarito. I'm willing to bet Jr's chin, along with his size is good enough to absorb Martinez's punches. Martinez will be on his bike throwing those no look bombs he was nailing Paul Williams with but won't have the same effect on Jr...and once Martinez begins to slow down to take breathers, Jr. will be right there in his chest working the body.

**Radam G says:**

Sergio Martinez fights in a subnovice-class amateur style. He doesn't guild and slide like a pro. He hops and stops like -- I said -- a subnovice-class anmateur. Da long-in-da-tooth muthasuckas has been lucky with the matching of hyped-up pugilists, who "couldn't [da] jockstrap of a true, legit middleweight-fighting kickarse.

SOAL JCJ is gonna bust dat arse, EARLY! And kayo it in one of the middle rounds, YA' HEARD! Holla!

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**Mountain Rivera says:**

Julio cesar jr, is not that good im sorry, but he should be able to give a urine sample before or after the fight, what makeshim so special that everyone has to but he dosent. Also if your fighting at 160 weight class why is he coming in at 186, im going to tell you why because the only way he can win is by being the bigger fighter and having the advatage of using a dieuretic he has all ready been suspended once for it. Andy Lee could of won if he would of listened to stewart and boxed from the outside.

**brownsugar says:**

Nice comments Deep, Riverside, Mountain R, and some good insights too...
now I think I I've got some YouTube scouting to do.

**deepwater says:**

[QUOTE=Mountain Rivera;17490]Julio cesar jr, is not that good im sorry, but he should be able to give a urine sample before or after the fight, what makeshim so special that everyone has to but he dosent. Also if your fighting at 160 weight class why is he coming in at 186, im going to tell you why because the only way he can win is by being the bigger fighter and having the advatage of using a dieuretic he has all ready been suspended once for it. Andy Lee could of won if he would of listened to stewart and boxed from the outside.[/QUOTE]

hey it takes alot out of you to starve yourself and go the the sauna right b4 the fight. i used to lose 15 lbs 1 week b4 a wrestling championship. if he can do it then let him. let sergio come into the ring at 190 if he can. its up to each fighter to choose how much weight they wanna lose. its a disadvantage to use water pills so let him if thats what you think. chavez wins vs martinez.

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