

Broner Is 143 Pounds In AM, But Escobedo Fight Is ON

Written by Lee Wylie
Friday, 20 July 2012 22:21



Well, that was a fiasco. Broner was 133 1/2 Friday, needed to be 140 or under Saturday AM...and weighed 143 pounds. So quite rightly, Team Escobedo pulled out. And then pulled back in...he gets a chunk of Broner's purse, because The Show Must Go On, and

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boxing is the theater of the unexpected.

Adrien Broner-Vicente Escobedo: U.S Bank Arena, Cincinnati, Ohio. Shown on HBO and BoxNation in the UK.

Vicente Escobedo, 26-3 {15} must be thinking to himself: How do you solve a problem like Broner? It's a good question. Maybe, he figured, after seeing Broner weigh in three and a half pounds over the limit on Friday, that part of the problem was solved. Perhaps Broner was looking past Escobedo, to bigger things in the near future, and maybe he wasn't mentally focused on this test. Thus far, Broner, 23-0 {19} has looked simply sensational en route to establishing himself as, in many people's eyes, boxing's premier young talent. The Cincinnati native's flamboyant and boisterous behaviour -he's one of the most polarizing fighter's around- makes him a true entertainer. None of this would matter though, if Broner couldn't back it up once inside the roped square. Unfortunately for Escobedo, not to mention the other twenty-three others who have already tried, he does.

Vicente Escobedo is what I would call a nice fighter. He's pretty well-rounded, throws a decent jab, motors well around the ring, is the owner of decent hand speed and power, and has the cajones to mix it up if the situation occurs. That said, I don't think he has the specialist tools that would be required to solve a problem like the one awaiting him, because I don't think the weight issue will suddenly render Broner a so-so talent. It's not that Escobedo does anything particularly bad, it's just that he fails to possess any stand-out attribute that would really disrupt Broner and take him out of his game. So far, Escobedo has come up short against the most talented fighters he's faced -Katsidis in 2009 and Guerrero in 2010- and hasn't fought anyone of their calibre in his last four fights {Walter Estrada, Rocky Juarez, Lonnie Smith and Juan Ruiz}. In terms of athleticism, skill and technique, Escobedo is probably in for the toughest fight of his life.

Notwithstanding a close unanimous decision win over hard hitting southpaw Daniel Ponce de Leon back in March of last year, Broner has looked every bit the boxing prodigy that many have been quick to bestow upon him. Using his vast array of defensive craft to first neutralize and stabilize his opponent's offense, Broner then sets about quickly dispatching them using his lightning quick offensive bursts and high-grade power power -none of his last three opponents have made it beyond the fourth round- and his superior ring mechanics. Often compared to Floyd Mayweather Jr, and for good reason I might add, Broner shares a lot of common attributes with his self professed idol. Defensively, both possess the uncanny ability to stand within punching range of their opponents, before making them miss by inches with a subtle move -namely a roll of the shoulder- while remaining perfectly poised and balanced, allowing for a counter. Also, on offense, both are as smooth and relaxed as they come. Neither fighter throws much more than a jab or a straight right hand, although Broner tends to work the body more with left hooks, but both share the same mentality when it comes to letting their hands go -straight, untelegraphed, cerebral punching. This allows them to reveal no more of their intended movement towards an opponent than someone displaying a poker face would reveal

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his next card to his fellow player.

The mere fact that Broner is being talked about as a "next Floyd Mayweather," and not just for his out of the ring demeanor either, gives an idea as to just how highly regarded he is.

Prediction:

In spite of a sudden rise in upsets of late, it's really hard to imagine one coming into fruition this Saturday. Escobedo is a good fighter, Broner meanwhile is a potentially great fighter, even if questions now arise about his focus and professionalism. Broner's sheer athleticism alone would probably be too much for Escobedo to deal with. Once you throw in Broner's superior speed, technique and power however, suddenly, the odds looked stacked in his favour.

From a strategical point of view, Escobedo should come out moving, fighting off the back foot, looking to implement his advantages in height and reach by attempting to keep Broner on the outside. Broner is a counter-puncher, so Escobedo should give him very little to counter - plenty of feints before throwing and a lot of punch variation. The jab, boxing's straightest and quickest punch, is an important weapon against a counter-puncher, especially if you're trying to keep the fight at arms length as Escobedo will be, but he must not allow Broner to familiarize himself with it, as his timing is impeccable.

Of course, such strategies are easier plotted than produced. Does Escobedo really possess the skill-set to execute such a strategy and pull off the upset? Not likely by my reckoning. Broner, even at this early stage in his career, is of an entirely different breed to Escobedo. The superior speed, reflexes, skill, defensive/offensive ratio and just about any other boxing nuance you can think of should equate to Broner having an easy time of it tonight.

I do believe Escobedo, as he should, will come out looking to box behind his jab trying to keep Broner on the end of the stick. However, despite his counter-punching nature, Broner is highly adept at walking his man down while at the same time making him miss {something Chad Dawson found extremely difficult to pull off against Jean Pascal}. Broner is excellent at cutting off the ring; his foot speed and quickness enable him to maneuver his opponent into where he wants them. Once Broner positions his opponent, he can inflict damage with either hand. Broner's last two stoppages have come via a straight right hand and a short left on the inside. Even with only a little experience, Broner is one of the few fighters competing today whose many attributes never seem to be placed in jeopardy by any of his others - despite the wide stance, which allows for his punching power and defense, his quickness around the ring remains cat-like as does the transition from defense to offense.

With Broner, I get the feeling that we haven't yet seen the very best of him. Maybe we will see something special tonight? I believe Broner has the perfect opponent - one who has never been stopped - in front of him to really make a statement. Look for Broner to have found his range by the third round, where he will then proceed to dominate his less talented opponent with the jab, straight right hand and lead left hook. I also have a feeling, as with many a taller fighter, that Escobedo won't like it to the body. Watch for Broner to be working that area every time

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Escobedo finds himself with his back to the ropes. Simply put, Broner should be able to dominate Escobedo in just about every aspect of the fight.

With bigger fights on the horizon -namely at 135 pounds and even above- Broner must not look past the opponent at hand. Like I mentioned earlier, there's been an unprecedented sequence of upsets recently, and thus I now finds himself second guessing some of these perceived boxing formalities.

Not here though.

I fully expect Broner to have put an end to matters by the eighth round, thus taking his knockout streak to four and looking just as spectacular inside the ring tonight as he will likely do coming down the aisle outside it.

It's been mentioned here before. We know how GOOD Adrien Broner is, now let's see how GREAT he can be....One step at a time though.

[Comment on this article](#)

Radam G says:

I'm not excited this kid. The is still out. Holla!

amayseng says:

the first fight i saw broner in was against ponce, i knew nothing about him, i thought ponce beat him in that fight....

broner has some skills, he is talented for sure, the question will be what happens to him when he moves up in weight....

i mean, will he still show boat and act like a tool once he has been knocked out?

because it will happen.

i hope it doesnt, he could carry the torch for america once floyd is done, but i just have

a feeling broner will bet starched out at some point...

DaveB says:

The fight's off. Weight woes couldn't be put aside. Another fight canceled.

amayseng says:

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hey daveb, i dont blame escobedo at all

i mentioned last night if i were him i would cancel, you knew broner would come in

much bigger today...

what is the point of weight classes when a fighter tries to pull that nonsense

deepwater says:

What a clown. What a joke. How unprofessional . How disrespectful posting pics of twinkies and ice cream on hi twitter page. Hbo should boycott broner I matter what. They even gave him a chance to make 140 and when he didn't team broner blamed the other guy. Good for canceling it. Hbo sets up a home town fight and broner tries to eat junk food and talk sheet before a fight like mayweather but mayweather wouldn't get a show cancel a show last minute. He screwed Marquez but made the show go on

Radam G says:

I will let TSS Super ROTY Doc Mortcola spit it out. But Bonehead -- I mean Broner -- has a co-dependent disorder and has swallowed up the whole essence of Jailhouse Junebug "Lil" Floyd. This dude is thinking that he is an actual split or double of JJLF. So, syempre, the kid is going to come in overweight and do as much as JJLF that he can.

It is obvious that the kid has a mental situation about JJLF by being from Ohio, but doing all that copying of the Philly crab/shell style of fighting in the bootlegged way that Pops Joy May taught his seed. To spit anything esle about this subject, I don't need! Holla!

mortcola says:

OK Rad - Doc Cola says, its gonna be a bumpy ride, a fun show. Mayweather appeals to the naive in his cultivated persona of teflon gangsta, entitled to whatever he wants and always above the other guy. Which is, of course, a compensation for feeling that without that costume, he is nothing, hence the rages and rants whenever he is questioned. We call it narcissistic rage. So, Broner does not have a good role model, because it already big trouble for PBF, and it ain't gonna be better for Broner to be a knockoff. Kid is talented, and way too concerned with, and shaky about, image, to have a smooth ride to the top. Stay tuned.

DaveB says:

Looks like the fight is back on. Broner probably has a huge advantage. I hope, I really hope the extra money is worth it and Escobedo doesn't get hurt too bad.

amayseng says:

i agree daveb,

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in fact i hate to say it, but if i were escobedo i would box running away more than tim bradley did against pacman, i wouldnt trade or engage...

i would fight the safest fight possible...

broner may have more than 15 lbs on him by fight time,

bull shiit

Radam G says:

True dat! True dat! YUP! Broner will likely be 20 pounds heavier than Escobedo in dat squared jungle during the throwdown. But it will not be to Broner's advantage -- in my opinion.

Gaining that much weight that quickly makes you a bit sluggish and give you rocky, jittery type of balance. WATCH! I bet that Broner is going to be struggling with timing and movements. He is going to miss a ton of shots and take a few.

Boxing is the "threatre of the unexpected." If Broner cannot psych Escobedo out, expect a WAR! And IF not for the hometown advantage -- a HUGE upset. Now everybodeee and dey momma are "smelling an upset in da air." I don't smell ____ ____ ____! OOPS! I musta' fo'got! I have the smell of a mango on my top lip. Eating my mango, and gettin' ready to get on my tango! Hahaha! Holla!

deepwater says:

Nice,they came to terms. It wouldnt be so bad if h didn't post the ic cream nonsense.

SouthPaul says:

The real unprofessionals here is the boxing commission. That they allow fighters to even negotiate their own weight for fights is a total mockery of the system, it's an insult to the safety and integrity to the sport. You Mr and Mrs' Boxers commission continue to shame us all!

brownsugar says:

[QUOTE=mortcola;18657]OK Rad - Doc Cola says, its gonna be a bumpy ride, a fun show. Mayweather appeals to the naive in his cultivated persona of teflon gangsta, entitled to whatever he wants and always above the other guy. Which is, of course, a compensation for feeling that without that costume, he is nothing, hence the rages and rants whenever he is questioned. We call it narcissistic rage. So, Broner does not have a good role model, because it already big trouble for PBF, and it ain't gonna be better for Broner to be a knockoff. Kid is talented, and way too concerned with, and shaky about, image, to have a smooth ride to the top. Stay tuned.[/QUOTE]

I don't think Broner is too concerned with trying to emulate Mayweathers stage persona as

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much as he's trying to reach Mayweathers pay grade which has earned Floyd the title of being the highest paid athlete in the world, and a boxer whose stature in boxing superceeds titles and sanctioning body approval.

A fighter who can literally cash his own blank check...which is unprecedented for any sport.

Broner on the other hand hasn't shown the same poise and professionalism as Mayweather when he was at the same stage of development. Floyd at 130 would have never allowed himself to sign a contract for a fight he couldn't make weight at... Floyd did miss 2 pounds against Marquez but didn't increase by an entire weight class. neither did he rehydrate more than a few pounds. Broner had an unfair advantage and is very fortunate Escobedo decided to fight.

it's understandable to see why Floyd is so unpopular with fans but he's probably the most dissected boxer BY OTHER BOXERS, of this generation, even in Europe. A solid majority of hot up and coming prospects from all over the world acknowledge his talents and mention Mayweather as the fighter they strive to learn from..... His success has become the gold standard and model for younger fighters wanting to reach the same financial goals on the strength of their in-ring talents.

Supremely dispised by fans yet highly appreciated by his peers.

mortcola says:

I guess that Broner is too young to remember what happened to Joey Gamache after Arturo Gatti came in two weight-divisions above contract, or too arrogant to care. Brain damage after a mismatch. In that one, the commission allowed some sleight of hand and misdirection at the scales; in this case, they allowed a guy with a new baby, a guy who starved and dried out to make weight like a real professional, to take big money to put himself in extra danger. Ooooh, that smell. I don't care how talented he is. He's another punk, not a professional. Maybe a "star" in some people's book, simply because of the attention he demands. But still a punk if you have standards.

mortcola says:

You might be right, B-Sug. I think it is money and it is persona. And he may win impressively for a while, but he's a knock-off, shorter and easier to hit than the original, and he's gonna have a downfall. But I guess boxing needs a few new villains to sell tix.

brownsugar says:

thanks for the response Mort,

I don't think the thought of a ring death even crossed Broners mind.

Like all fighters he was only concerned with looking impressive in front of the home crowd and moving up the ladder.

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If Broner is truly just a thug, hooligan, punk, or what have you.

Then he's thoroughly qualified to be in the blood sport we call boxing.

The coldest, cruelest sport on the planet.

Ultimately a crappy deal for Escobedo.

and a springboard for further opportunities for Broner.

walkersmithjr says:

What do you mean the still is out Radam? You wanna have a drink? On the article, weight woes aside? What are you talking about? The weight is an advantage! He'll be even stronger if he doesn't lose the weight, Wylie. Am I missing sumpin' besides a brain? Did anyone check to see if Broner had the hairbrush stuck to his head when he got on the scale? Broner KO in 6.