

THE BREAKDOWN How Donaire Beat Arce

Written by Lee Wylie

Monday, 17 December 2012 09:48



The case can be made that Donaire is the best pound for pound fighter in the world. (Chris Farina-Top Rank)

On Saturday night, Nonito Donaire capped off a sensational year –one which will surely see him take fighter of the year honors- after knocking out Jorge Arce in the third round of their fight in

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Houston, Texas. Arce, who announced his retirement from boxing in the ring to Larry Merchant, was simply no match for Donaire, who was able to control and dominate the tough little Mexican from start to finish. Here, I'd like to illustrate how Donaire was able to end the fight so efficiently and abruptly.

Instead of coming out all guns blazing, Jorge Arce, who was as powerfully built as I've seen him look, defied reputation and came out far more passively than he usually does. It was actually a very smart strategy from Arce, given the way in which the heavy-handed Donaire has dispatched of overly aggressive opponents in the past. Arce knew that by staying on the outside before coming in behind single punches, then getting back out again, Donaire would be forced into taking the fight to Arce, thus, possibly eliminating his counter-punching threat. What continues to impress me with Donaire, more so than any of his other vast physical gifts, is his mind...he's constantly thinking. Where a lot of fighters may have resorted to applying relentless pressure in this situation, feeling somewhat frustrated by Arce's negative tactics, Donaire sought out another way of opening his opponent up. Instead of trying to cut the ring off, eating up the distance using sustained pressure, Donaire applied subtle pressure using small shuffling steps, along with feints and single jabs, looking to draw a lead out from Arce. Donaire wanted the fight to come to him.

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Although Donaire is a more powerful puncher than Arce, he is also a more skilled boxer and a more durable fighter. Although

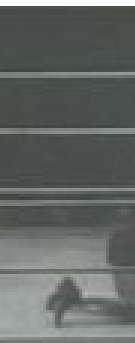
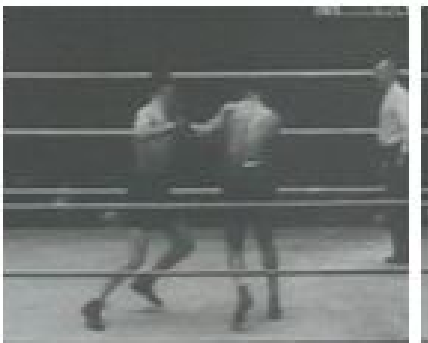
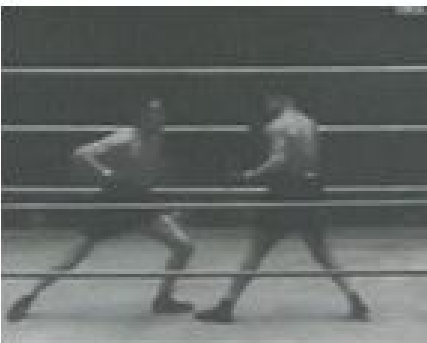
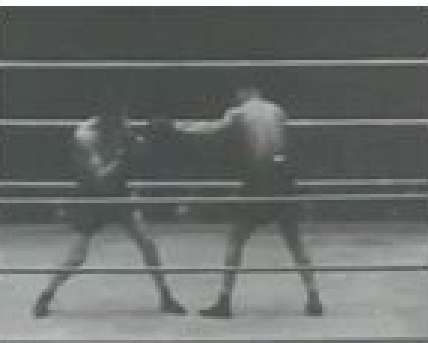
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Donaire's jab is the key to his victory. It's a long-reach jab that Arce can't duck under. Donaire's jab is the key to his victory. It's a long-reach jab that Arce can't duck under.

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With the American Donaire, American Garcia would have had a chance to beat the American in his hit



Arce is a better fighter than Donaire, but he is a better fighter than Donaire. Arce is a better fighter than Donaire, but he is a better fighter than Donaire.

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Dana White's decision to bring back the 10-round format is a key factor in Donaire's victory over Arce, and will get