

TOE TO TOE INDEED Canelo Comes Back With Fire and Fury, Stops Angulo

Written by Michael Woods
Sunday, 09 March 2014 01:00



Cinnamon-topped Saul "Canelo" Alvarez hoped to get back on the sunny side with a win over Alfredo Angulo, months after getting schooled by Floyd Mayweather. That he did, with a message, one of violence and passionate intensity, sent to the doubters that he wasn't going to drop into a depression and drop off the map.

At the MGM in Vegas, Canelo and Angulo both had their fair share of rooters shouting out their preference as the fighters strode to the ring in all Mexican showdow.. and the love from the rooters didn't decrease as the men engaged in a torrid rumble, though the ending had many folks weighing in with dismay.

Canelo came out blasting, and had a few dips, but basically landed near every power shot he threw at Angulo. Come round ten, the ref stepped in and saved the brave Angulo from eating more. Many booed the TKO call and didn't love the timing, but he'd more than earned his check, and he'd accumulated a wicked amount of brain rattling launches.

"The referee stopped the fight, it's the law of the ring, I could have fought another ten rounds," the victor said afterwards, while a good portion of the crowd booed their vote at the ref's call.

"I'm upset because they should have let the fight go on," Angulo said. "I'm frustrated. They should have let it go to the end. I'm fine. The referee was wrong this time."

More bewildering, perhaps, was that Canelo's trainer Virgil Hunter declared after that his man was coming on, despite ample evidence. "Of course I'm very upset," he said. "I told the doctor if Canelo got two or three consecutive punches on him I would stop the fight. He only landed one

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punch and they stopped the fight. Everybody knows Alfredo was coming on strong."

Regarding stats, Canelo went 295-513, a sterling 58% connect percentage. Angulo went a fairly sad 104-770, landing 14%, which is in fact quite sad.

Canelo came in with slightly lighter pockets, having to give \$100,000 of his purse to Fredo for coming in over the max weight on Friday. Fredo, too, was a half pound over, but didn't have to pay a penalty. The contracts were amended late in the game to reflect a max weight of 155 pounds. Canelo had to weigh 168 or less on Saturday afternoon, and he made that hurdle.

Canelo (age 24) was 170 to 174 for Fredo (age 32) before the fight. Canelo was 42-1-1 while Fredo was 22-3 entering.

In the first, Canelo launched a sharp left hook right away. He dug the hooks to the body early on as well. Fredo woke up late in the round after eating breakfast and lunch of leather.

"He cannot beat you," trainer Virgil Hunter told Fredo after the round.

In the second, Canelo's power shots looked like they were top grade. He came forward, was busy, and looked like he was taking out some aggravation from the Floyd loss on Fredo. Fredo put together some combos, and the crowd was truly into the scuffle.

In the third, Fredo looked to be the attacker. He ate a right uppercut, though, and his punches didn't look to be as stiff as Canelos.' He had to hope Canelo would lose steam. Fredo landed some rights but nothing like Canelos' rippers.

Fredo in the fourth ate overhand rights, but he showed signs of life. In the fifth, Canelo started to droop some. Did he eat up too much energy? Canelo was now with back to the ropes, some, not in center ring. The left hook was not so zesty from Canelo, not compared to the first few rounds.

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They exchanged, the crowd went beyond ballistic, in round eight. Perro's right eye was closing but he wasn't in quit mode.

In round nine, Canelo was walloping Fredo and the doc took a hard look after the round.

A massive uppercut in the tenth was enough for Tony Weeks, who stepped in, and halted the tussle. The crowd booed, not liking the timing.

At the time Weeks pulled the plug, the judges had it 89-82, 89-82, 88-83, for Canelo, for the record.

In a post-fight interview with Jim Gray, Nevada State Athletic Commission Chairman Francisco Aguilar defended Weeks.

"After speaking with Tony and the doctor, I think it's understandable why the decision was made," Aguilar said. "Tony made his decision and he made his decision with the consultation of a doctor.

"Our job as a commission is to ensure the health and safety of our fighters. We don't want the referee to determine the outcome of the fight but he made the decision to protect the health of the fighter."

I concur.

Your thoughts, Forum faithful.

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Carmine Cas says:

Angulo had no head movement what so ever, he was a sitting duck for this over hand rights.

Skibbz says:

Virgil told him he'll stop it if he doesn't comeback or protect himself. And to be honest Canelo was rocking him pillar to post before the stoppage.. He was going thru treacle he would have ended up in a terrible position imo if they let him continue. Canelo landed almost 60% of his punches md almost 50% of his power punches

DaveB says:

Just goes to show anyone can look like a world beater against the right opponent. No one is clamoring for a Canelo rematch against Mayweather. I hate fights like this where the fight continues to be the same round after round. Either he couldn't cut the ring, wasn't able to cut the ring, or didn't know how to cut the ring and just followed Alvarez around all night and I was thinking this before Malinaggi commented on it. He looked incredibly sluggish and didn't try to push Canelo back. That couldn't be called a fight. It was just one guy getting beat up all night. The other fights were better than the main event. What a mismatch. This is what boxing has become for the top guys. Don't make weight and then pay off the B fighter and make sure the B fighter really is a B fighter.

Carmine Cas says:

[QUOTE=DaveB;45266]Just goes to show anyone can look like a world beater against the right opponent. No one is clamoring for a Canelo rematch against Mayweather. I hate fights like this where the fight continues to be the same round after round. Either he couldn't cut the ring, wasn't able to cut the ring, or didn't know how to cut the ring and just followed Alvarez around all night and I was thinking this before Malinaggi commented on it. He looked incredibly sluggish and didn't try to push Canelo back. That couldn't be called a fight. It was just one guy getting beat up all night. The other fights were better than the main event. What a mismatch. This is what boxing has become for the top guys. Don't make weight and then pay off the B fighter and make sure the B fighter really is a B fighter.[/QUOTE]

Angulo basically was a stalking punching bag, but coincidentally could change the fight at any moment

SouthPawFlo says:

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No long explanation or analysis needed here, this can be summed up Easily....

Styles make fights

leon30001 says:

[QUOTE]Angulo went a fairly sad 104-770, landing 14%, which is in fact quite sad.[/QUOTE]

Uh...nice line.

Terrible stoppage!

Skibbz says:

[QUOTE=leon30001;45275]Uh...nice line.

Terrible stoppage![/QUOTE]

How was it a terrible stoppage? Angulo's been damaged for a while and all fight he was just taking a shot after every step - any more big shots (he got hit clean by two which staggered him right before the stoppage) and he could have been in a bad place. He's got a big payday and can go home to his family after some minor treatment. Dog lives to fight another day. You can be sure some of those fans tonight would pay to see him again regardless of the outcome tonight. Everybody won but the bloodthirsty

deepwater2 says:

Angulo was handpicked just for this reason. He was brought in so canelo can throw anything he wants and look great . Angulo is the Frankenstein monster who gets hit with everything. Canelo looks like a killer and Angulo will get to fight a bum or two before some other top guy needs to look like a killer. I predicted the ref or dr would stop this the day the fight was signed. I had to beg my Vegas friend to drop some \$\$\$ on a canelo tko since my vl bet advice went south like a salido low blow nuts shot. I was vindicated and I almost blew some money on the ppv but luckily my wife took me out to the boardwalk for a bolivar.

kidcanvas says:

i would have stopped it if he was MY guy going into the 10th, u could see it was a lost cause even though alfredo was trying to fight back. what sense did it make to go a few more hard

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shots ? ,not worth it for him or his family ,surely not for us

amayseng says:

I give Canelo credit he looked good and sharp, But, did anyone else notice even from round 1 that Angulo

had NO snap or anything on his punches???

from the opening bell he was throwing pity pat punches.

Something looked terribly off about him.

Either he can no longer make the 154 weight and was drained or he is suffering symptoms of deterioration

from Lara and other fights just taking a toll on him.

I am telling ya, go watch the first round, he had nothing, nothing on his punches.

I am never a fan of an early stoppage but I do not disagree with this one, he was doing absolutely nothing

in there but taking hellashish shots for free.

brownsugar says:

I had mentioned earlier on several posts that Angulo has taken a beating in his last two fights and showed little snap in his punches the... Against Lara and Silva only 1 or 2 out of ten punches thrown were very fast or hard ...and did you see how his stomach almost touched his spine at the weigh-in?...

The handwriting has been on the wall for quite some time.
Hagler said the human body only has a limited number of fights.

Hunter must have witnessed the same lethargic punching in training ... Angulo must needs go up in weight. But they only hit harder at 160. I fear he has very little future left inside the ring... Spend yer money wisely son.

amayseng says:

I tell you what I watched the buildup show on Showtime and I feel for Angulo. He seems to be a good guy and a good family man I hope the best for him.

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I hope it was just a weight issue, but either way he needs some time off and some testing to make sure he is ok.

mortcola says:

There are several reasons why Angulo couldn't put any damage on Canelo. But Tony Weeks, one of my former favorite refs, just negated the very basis for the sport, and thus his job. Getting hit cleanly and not taking a backward step is never, ever, under any circumstances justification for stopping a fight. It just means you can no longer stomach people hitting each other. And I'm the guy who shouts about the realities of neurological damage in every head blow. Who cares that Angulo would have lost sometime in the next few minutes. You wait until the fighter can't do his job any more, or shows signs of damage he can't or won't admit, or does admit to his corner. Then you stop it. Otherwise, get the f--- out of the ring and let a ref who doesn't hate his job any more get the payday.

dino da vinci says:

Yes, I really have to agree with that. Some guys by the very nature of their build, their skillset and what have you, will suffer damage on the way to edging closer, wearing down the opponent so as to put themselves in position to have something good happen, late. I usually compare it to an eating challenge. You don't offer a buyout to a guy you bet after you've watched him eat 10 hamburgers, you've bet and need to see if he can eat the last two. With this fight in particular, for as bad as Angulo looked, I was really interested to see what played out to the end. It's scheduled for 12 or 15 or 20 for a reason.

Tony pulled the plug a bit too early. That's why when a trainer of Virgil Hunter's caliber tells you if he gets hit with three or four big shots, I'll be looking to stop it, it's not to be confused with the fighter getting hit with one good shot and the referee deciding it's time to pull the plug. Really, it's not fair to Team Angulo to fight an uphill battle against a superior opponent to only have an official pull the plug when he might have inched just close enough to have something good happen. You guys (refs) have morphed your role to a point where you truly don't understand your jobs.

Radam G says:

A-An was planning to pull a way, way back-in-da-day Rocky Marciano-Jersey Walcott and kayo the red-headed hype in that very round with the greatest overhand right thrown in recent time.

The referee Tony Weak -- I mean -- Weeks took it away. Controversial jive is always going down in Sin City. What a darn pity. No way Angulo was going to win in the city of quick sex and slick sin. Hehehe! Holla!

leon30001 says:

[CODE]How was it a terrible stoppage? Angulo's been damaged for a while and all fight he was just taking a shot after every step - any more big shots (he got hit clean by two which staggered

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him right before the stoppage) and he could have been in a bad place.[/CODE]

Just seemed a bit arbitrary to stop it on that [I]particular[/I] punch; why not the punch before? Or the (hypothetical) punch afterwards? There was nothing especially noteworthy about the one he stopped it on, and Angulo was still defending himself, and still had possession of his faculties. So it looked strange, and unsatisfactory.

I agree though, of course no-one wants to see a guy get irrevocably damaged.

brownsugar says:

I've seen Arthur Mercante stop fights in similar situations where the technical superiority was so great the other fight was just getting blasted.

Also there have been many undercards and ESPN shows where refs have stopped fights between overmatched fighters. This stoppage is nothing new.

Its up to the refs discretion to stop a fight when a fighter can't protect himself.

Canelo threw that punch from Texas.... Angulo looked right at Canelo as the blow took the scenic route and he still couldn't get out of the way.

Its embarrassing to be retired in that fashion but I didn't have much of a problem except being disappointed in Angulo.

Its called boxing - not shooting fish in a barrel...