Written by Michael Woods
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It's good to have Teddy Atlas back on the air. Oh, yeah, "Friday Night Fights," too, for sure. But Atlas is one of those rare creatures that can make a stinker smell a bit better, as he did in the season opener of FNF, during the main event.

Dyah Davis and Alfonso Lopez did a dreary waltz at Mallory Square in Key West, Florida, with neither man choosing to sustain an offensive mindset or attack for more than a couple seconds at a time to start off season fifteen of FNF. After ten rounds, Davis got the nod, via unanimous decision, by scores of 100-90, 100-90, 99-91.

Analyst Atlas had it 97-93, Davis (now 21-2-1).

Atlas admitted early on that he was a bit worried when he learned that the Davis-Lopez fight was slated to be the season opener's mainer. Both men, he said, had a tendency toward clutching, and being survivor types.

Both those worries played out, with the Floridian Davis, the son of the 1976 Olympic gold winner Howard Davis, and the Texan Lopez both treating each other with excess caution. Davis had told people that fans would see a bolder, more aggressive Davis in this outing, and even

boasted that he was going by “Dangerous” Dyah now. Maybe next time…

“Don’t hold, don’t hold,” the referee barked repeatedly, and he was repeatedly ignored.

In the eighth, Lopez (now 22-2) landed a solid blow, his best of the affair and the crowd perked up momentarily.

By the ninth, I thought to myself, if we’re going to see all these slow dances, can someone at least play “Stairway To Heaven?”

Joe Tess termed the main event “bland” at the start of the tenth, showing an excess of class and decency. Atlas pointed out that both men picked it up in the tenth, because they saw the light at the end of the tunnel. Davis landed a sharp right at the bell. We’d go to the card.

“Their makeup is to be defensive minded,” Atlas said in closing, while we waited, without bated breath, for the decision.

Denis Douglin got the nod, via split decision, over Steven Martinez in the season opener. The junior middles were busy, with the Jersey fighter Douglin using his movement and hand speed to good effect. Martinez landed more according to CompuBox, but the judges didn’t care. They rewarded Douglin (now 12-1), who is managed by Al Haymon. Martinez, from the Bronx, is now 11-1. It was a treat to see Douglin’s mom Sophya work his corner, and issue sound advice during the event. I had no problem with “The Momma’s Boy” getting the W.

Douglin went 152-555, while Martinez was 195-715, for the record.

SPEEDBAG Next week’s FNF will be in 3D, if you gear is so configured, for the record.

Comment on this article

Radam G says:

I'm not yet impress with the lofty champion -- Dyah Ali -- Davis. Enough spit for now. Holla!

fightscorecollector says:

just caught up with the FNF from last night....

The Douglin vs Martinez fight was easily the best as both were well matched , i thought Martinez sneaked it 77-76 4-3-1 in rounds , it was a very close fight that could have went either way , a rematch would be just as good

my card...

10-9 douglin
9-10 martinez
10-9 douglin
9-10 martinez
9-10 martinez
10-10 draw
10-9 douglin
9-10 martinez.....77-76 martinez

The main event with Davis and Lopez was as mentioned disappointing. Teddy Atlas rightly said it was a clash of styles that did not mix , for what its worth i had it 97-94 Davis..i scored the first round even as only 5 punches were landed between them

the Roast says:

Yep, Davis seems to have even less punching power that his Dad.

ali says:

Boring as hell I hope that ain't a sign of things to come.