

Adrien Broner Now The Most Must-See Boxer In the Sport

Written by Frank Lotierzo

Tuesday, 20 November 2012 09:49



This past Saturday night 23 year old Adrien Broner 25-0 (21) took apart Antonio DeMarco 28-3-1 (21) to capture the WBC lightweight title. Going into the fight Demarco sported the reputation as being a rugged guy who could really crack. However, if you never saw him fight prior to Broner, you'd think that he couldn't punch, couldn't defend a jab, cross, hook or uppercut, and you could time his punches better with a sundial than a stop watch. Sadly, as long as Broner is in front of him, all of that may be true.

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Boxing fans, Broner is the real deal and he may even be better than you think. Not only has he mastered the "bad guy wearing the black hat" persona as Floyd Mayweather has, he's a more imaginative offensive fighter and is physically stronger pound-for-pound. Oh, and he may just put his hooks and uppercuts together even quicker and more fast than Mayweather when he was at his best. They may be close regarding how quick they get off with their jabs and crosses, but Broner is quicker and commits more to his finishing and set up punches.

Then there's the boxing aptitude of Broner. Within the first half of the opening round of the fight, Broner saw that the only shots that Demarco could hope to get off with against him were his long straight shots and one-tvos. However, Adrien seemed to keep his eyes on Demarco's elbows, knowing that he couldn't cut loose without moving them, therefore, when he saw Antonio's elbows move, he moved off to his blindside ever so slightly and caused his punches to just miss him. This is a tactic that kept him in range without having to move his feet and enabled him to pepper and counter Demarco off the miss.

From a strategic perspective, DeMarco did the right thing. By trying to use his longer arms and force Broner to go around them should have presented Broner with some problems. In addition to that, if he did land any solid straight rights or lefts, Broner would be knocked back on his heels and be too far out of range to counter. Yes, that's what the cookbook would've called for going into the fight. The only problem with that was Broner could stay in front of him and wait until DeMarco's punches were on their way, and then react, a luxury of being blessed with natural and physical gifts that most athletes or fighters aren't usually born with.

When DeMarco feinted and didn't commit, Broner made him pay with flashy one-tvos. And when he committed to his punches, he paid even worse. And that leads a fighter to become glove shy, which is what eventually happened to DeMarco. Once Broner sensed that, it was easy for him to take what ever liberties he wanted whenever he wanted and unloaded his full arsenal and punch assortment. Then it just became a matter of time before DeMarco was gonna end up being stopped.

The report above regarding Broner is quite glowing. So with that said, let me say what really stood out for me. And that was Broner's core physical strength. Knowing that DeMarco can punch a bit, and did so to the body when he realized it was senseless going to Broner's head, did you notice anything? I did. And that was Broner never once broke off one exchange and held his ground for as long as he wanted. And sometimes he did that without even punching. This is a true indicator that Adrien Broner is a very physically strong boxer.

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By the way, aside from Mayweather (who's responsible for making it popular) and Toney (and maybe Chris Byrd, to a degree), nobody who uses or used that shoulder roll actually completely understands how it functions and transitions from offense to defense and back to offense like Broner showed he's capable of doing.

No, Broner may not be a life-taker when it comes to punching power--but he can hit. He probably couldn't throw a baseball through a carwash without it getting wet, but his strength is very ring applicable and that will be a problem for any lightweight or junior welterweight that he faces, just as much as his hand speed and punch variation.

Adrien Broner is now the most must-see boxer in the sport, not Floyd Mayweather or Manny Pacquiao. Broner is gonna fill out and grow stronger as he moves up in weight. He also seems less risk averse than Mayweather did 25 fights into his career, which of course will make for more compelling fights down the road for boxing fans. And that's a good thing.

Lastly, it looks like Broner is going to incorporate a lot of Ali and Mayweather antics into how he sells and markets himself, which will no doubt bring the fans out for his fights. Hopefully there will be some formidable challengers for Adrien down the road and just maybe he can deliver boxing an infusion of excitement that it so badly needs. At the end of the day it starts and end with the fighters, and Adrien Broner is a real fighter who just arrived and looks as if, like Andre Ward, he's on his way to realizing greatness.

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Radam G says:

Niece copy. And I'm on with it. If he stays in the right climate, and don't let the hanger ons and groupies get to him, Broner will be da MAN in da hurt bitnezz. It is always beneficial to be at the top and a LONER than hanging out with crowds of ___ ___ who will quickly cause you to become fudged up and a GONER.

I'm reminded of (Rev.) Aaron "Hawk Time" Pryor and a couple of members of the music group known as the Ohio Players. The hanger ons and groupies drove the nowadays Rev. Pryor and those Ohio players to the wagons of missing what could have been longer, wonderful careers of

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majestic greatness. Holla!

Grimm says:

Well, he might just be the 'must-see', but heres another perspective, an outside/european perspective: there is but three fighters on this planet that are both well known (almost everywhere) and that people tune in too see, and one of those three stands alone in a class of his own. They are of course brothers Wlad and Vitali, and Manny Pacquiao. This year I've been traveling to Ireland, Spain, Italy and Turkey. You say "Floyd Mayweather" and they, mostly, say "who?" You say "Manny Pacquiao" and they, mostly, start to smile, nod their heads and say "yeah, I've heard of him" or even "yeah, I've seen him". As a international phenomenon, transcending the boundaries of boxing, Pacquiao is the closest thing we've come to Ali since, yeah, Ali. Not even half of the boxers at my club/gym have heard about Mayweather. Ask them to name four famous pros, and they say "Pacquiao, Klitschko, Klitschko...hum, hum...yeah, Haje." That's it. And you bet it's the same everywhere, with the exception for each countries own famous fighters (I assume mexicans, for example, got a bunch of nationally famous fighters to name).

So Broner might be entertaining, talented and athletic with a TV-age-persona, but he's got a loooong way to go in terms of being a global star, and is probably missing the one attribute that makes Pacquiao so captivating: the capability to capture peoples heart - that is, the heart of not only hardcore suckers, but also of a grandma, the unemployed guys at the corner, the giggling girls in school, the greasy guys that fix your car and usually only care about the saturday night beers, etc. Sad to say, we may have to wait a long time for another fighter to capture peoples heart like Pacquiao has done.

deepwater says:

[QUOTE=Grimm;22441]Well, he might just be the 'must-see', but heres another perspective, an outside/european perspective: there is but three fighters on this planet that are both well known (almost everywhere) and that people tune in too see, and one of those three stands alone in a class of his own. They are of course brothers Wlad and Vitali, and Manny Pacquiao. This year I've been traveling to Ireland, Spain, Italy and Turkey. You say "Floyd Mayweather" and they, mostly, say "who?" You say "Manny Pacquiao" and they, mostly, start to smile, nod their heads and say "yeah, I've heard of him" or even "yeah, I've seen him". As a international phenomenon, transcending the boundaries of boxing, Pacquiao is the closest thing we've come to Ali since, yeah, Ali. Not even half of the boxers at my club/gym have heard about Mayweather. Ask them to name four famous pros, and they say "Pacquiao, Klitschko, Klitschko...hum, hum...yeah, Haje." That's it. And you bet it's the same everywhere, with the exception for each countries own famous fighters (I assume mexicans, for example, got a bunch of nationally famous fighters to name).

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hey remember naseem hamed who was knocking guys out with uppercuts thrown across the ring? he was the next great thing until marco antonio barrera beat him silly and rammed his head into the turnbuckle. its premature to say how great broner is until he gets a few more wins against good champions. he might be a great but he has to earn it first. please google barrera rams hamed into turnbuckle and enjoy.