

Monaghan, Tapia, Verdejo Win In NYC

Written by Michael Woods

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Sean Monaghan met Roger Cantrell of Washington in a light heavyweight scrap in the final undercard bout at the Madison Square Garden Theater before HBO's "Boxing After Dark" three-bout broadcast kicked in. Monaghan kept his undefeated record, going to 17-0 with a UD8 win, via scores of 77-75, 78-74, 79-73. The Long Beach, Long Islander Monaghan got warmed up in round two, and landed clean shots. He ate left hooks in the first but got busier in two. Cantrell won the third, as he came forward, and imposed his will on Seanie. Not in pretty fashion, but pretty effective. A cut opened on the New Yorker's left eye. They traded a bunch in four, and Cantrell looked to be lower on gas. He hung tough in the fifth, but ate the harder shots. A left hook to the body hurt Cantrell some in the sixth. He was gulping for air after the round. In the seventh, Monaghan's right eye was puffed some, but he was busier. Credit to Cantrell, who looks like he could fight at a weigh class lower, for having enough gas to get to the finish line. We went to the cards.

Glen Tapia went to 17-0, as he was too strong for Ayi Bruce, who slipped to 14-9. Tapia has man strength now, is dripping with confidence, in a good way, and is getting closer to getting a stepup shot at someone above Bruce-level. We're eager to see it, see how "The Jersey Boy" progresses. The ref stepped in, TKO2, as Bruce was eating, and not answering.

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It didn't bode well for Tom Archambault that he came to the ring wearing sneakers. Felix Verdejo sent him back to dressing room with a left hook that put him down. He beat the count but was too buzzed and the ref stopped it. The time was 21 seconds elapsed. The PR Olympian, age 19, is now 2-0. Hey, check out his Wiki page, and read about the "bonification" he got to sign from Top Rank. He said it was the first time he kayoed someone with a left hook, and won a fight throwing just two punches.

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