

Gradovich Beats IBF Champ Dib on ESPN

Written by The Sweet Science
Saturday, 02 March 2013 10:01



MASHANTUCKET, Conn. (March 1, 2013) -- In an early "Fight of the Year" candidate, Evgeny "The Mexican-Russian" Gradovich (16-0, 8 KOs) upset defending champion Billy "The Kid" Dib (36-2, 21 KOs) by 12-round split decision for the International Boxing Federation (IBF) featherweight title, in tonight's main event in MGM Grand Theater at Foxwoods Resort Casino in Mashantucket, Connecticut. fee

The event was promoted by 50 Cent's SMS Promotions and DiBella Entertainment and sponsored by SMS Audio.

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In a grueling battle of attrition, Gradovich took the fight to Dib, who won the first four rounds. Gradovich, however, won the last two rounds on all three judges' scorecards.



"I feel good," Gradovich commented. "I expected a very tough fight. Billy wasn't going to give up his championship easily. My game plan was to use my aggression - pressure, pressure, pressure! For right now, I just want to rest and then I'll be able to face the champions, contenders or top fighters in my division."

"First and foremost," Dib offered, "I want to congratulate Gradovich. He's tough and fought a good fight. I'd love a rematch; I gave him his shot, hopefully, he'll give me mine. I fought the wrong fight. I brawled too much. Again, he was the better fighter tonight."

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PROMOTER LOU DIBELLA W/RYAN KIELCZESKI

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LUIS ROSA (L) VS. JHOVANY COLLADO

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