

Stieglitz Regains Title From Abraham in Germany, Via TKO

Written by Michael Woods

Saturday, 23 March 2013 17:49



Arthur Abraham figured he had one overwhelming asset that would lead him to get the better of Robert Stieglitz once again, in a rematch of their fight from August of last year.

Abraham took the WBO 168 pound title from Stieglitz, and they battled in Magdeburg, hometown to the Russian-born Stieglitz, on Saturday night, and on EPIX, in the Getec Arena. "The King" knew that he had a power edge on Stieglitz, who could amp up the volume but couldn't match the ability to concuss with a single shot. Or so most thought...

Stieglitz played the part of the power puncher, not his usual role, coming out banging at Getec. He was energized to a wicked degree, and buzzed Abraham in the second, even had his left eye closing. The hometowner had Abraham dazed and looking to hold in the third, as Abe, a notoriously late starter, held on for dear life, hoping against a draining measure of hope that he'd make it to those later rounds where he'd usually been able to grind his man down.

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The ref and the doc looked hard at the eye, and with it clear that Abraham would from then on be fighting with a single functional eye, pulled the plug on Abraham after the third. Stieglitz, winner via TKO4, emerged as a new player at 168 and could get some buzz as a potential foe for Andre Ward, or more likely the winner of the forthcoming Carl Froch-Mikkel Kessler faceoff.

"It was a good stoppage," said EPIX analyst-promoter Lou Dibella afterwards. Abraham is now on a slide, officially, Dibella added and 168 may not be the right stomping ground for him, as he seems to too often get stomped there.

Abraham (36-3 with 28 KOs entering), a former middleweight titlist who was favored to win the Showtime Super Six tourney a few years ago, but washed out, said coming in that he's now comfortable at this weight class. The 33-year-old, born in Armenia, said that the 31-year-old Stieglitz (43-3 with 24 KOs entering) wouldn't have a home field advantage, as he'd have many fans coming from the Berlin area.

Stieglitz came out winging in round one. He was ultra-busy and Abe had the earmuffs up. In round two, he hurt Abe, with a power right. In the third, Abe held on and his left eye was almost closed. He tried rabbit punches in the second and again in the third, and had a point taken for that tactic in round three.

The ref had the doc look at it after the round and pulled the plug. Stieglitz had his hand raised, as Abraham looked forlorn, his left eye totally closed, along the same lines, one could argue, as his prospects on the big stage at super middle or maybe anywhere.

Heavyweight Robert Helenius took on Michael Sprott, in a bid to be seen as a contender and foe for a Klitschko, in the main undercard bout before the Arthur Abraham-Robert Stieglitz rematch from Getech Arena in Magdeburg, Germany on Saturday.

The 18-0 Swedish-born hitter, No. 1 in the WBO, was in with a 36-19 guy on the downside, and hoping to look good after getting a gift win over Dereck Chisora and then looking boring in a win over Sherman Williams.

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EPIX, the pay movie channel, televised and offered a stream on computers and boxes.*

Helenius, age 29, weighed 238, while Sprott, age 38, was 243.

I saw Helenius a 7-3 winner. He started out with a decent jab, and was persistent with it. Sprott took the third, when he got more aggressive, with overhand rights and left hooks. He had decent luck in the fifth, with more effective power shots. But in the seventh, Sprott was buzzed, with sharp rights and hooks. Helenius didn't come out nasty to close in the tenth and he probably gave that one away too. Overall, Helenius needed to be busier. He doesn't try to do damage with his jab, and while he does put together combos, it seems as if he lacks a mean streak.

He said after to Bruce Beck of EPIX that he wasn't in a zone and that mainly because his right hand hurt after round two. He called himself "lazy" and said he needs to look better to be thought of as a legit contender versus a Klitschko. During the show, analyst Lou DiBella said he didn't want to see Helenius again, unless it's against a top ten test.

We saw George Groves pound out Baker Barakat, and stop him in the second round, while upping his record to 18-0, in the TV opener. Barakat went to 37-14. The super middle victor fought for the second time in two weeks. He'll fight again on the Froch-Kessler undercard.

Bruce Beck asked him about being with four promoters in four years, and he said he will stick with Eddie Hearn. He said he thinks he could beat the main eventers tonight, Arthur Abraham and Robert Stieglitz.

He did show some nice things, like doubling and tripling up on the jab, and throwing combos, which impressed analyst Lou DiBella.

EPIX will show the replay tonight at Midnight ET. EpixHD.com will have the replay available on demand, for EPIX subscribers and those taking advantage of the special free trial offer.

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EPIX Telecast highlights can be [accessed via this link \(U.S. only\)](#) :

<https://twitter.com/Woodsy1069>

*=I this Tweeted this show for EPIX

[Comment on this article](#)

DaveB says:

Same old Abraham. He starts too slow and does nothing but put on the ear muffs and take a beating. Stieglitz really opened up and put it on him. Abraham has great power but it easily beatable. Stieglitz has some good opportunities ahead of him. Whether he will be able to capitalize upon them I'm not too sure.

amayseng says:

Exactly daveB.

stormcentre says:

<http://www.thesweetscience.com/forums/showthread.php?9103-ARTHUR-ABRAHAM-I-Still-Have-A-Lot-Left-in-My-Tank&p=27042&viewfull=1#post27042>

amayseng says:

Good call storm!

ali says:

Abraham has always been overrated..

SouthPaul says:

I'm watching the fight now in between working out. No idea even had this channel till now. Lmfao. Most interesting thing I've seen and heard thus far...Lou Dibella saying he thinks Wladimir Klitschko is a top 5 all time best heavyweight. Hmmmm....

stormcentre says:

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[QUOTE=amayseng;27640]Good call storm![/QUOTE]

Thanks Amayseng.

It wasn't hard. I just saw him in the middleweight tourney. Nuff said.

stormcentre says:

[QUOTE=ali;27644]Abraham has always been overrated..[/QUOTE]

Classic example of a protected (Universum or other) German fighter-product.

stormcentre says:

[QUOTE=SouthPaul;27648]I'm watching the fight now in between working out. No idea even had this channel till now. Lmfao. Most interesting thing I've seen and heard thus far...Lou Dibella saying he thinks Wladimir Klitschko is a top 5 all time best heavyweight. Hmmmm...[/QUOTE]

Yes, poor old Lou. He is desperate for a star-fighter at the moment, and as a result has been saying some "interesting" things. But, yeh, sure; why not extend that logic (Lou) and just say he could go the distance and shame Frazier.

I mean he's in the same class and an all time great isn't he?

Hilarious!

One guy is a warrior that never, never said die, fought anyone/anytime, and always entertained. The other, . . . well, let's just leave it there shall we?

Grimm says:

[QUOTE=stormcentre;27650]Classic example of a protected (Universum or other) German fighter-product.[/QUOTE]

Rather a classic example of a Sauerland-trained fighter: fundamentally good technique, but robotic with no ability whatsoever to change the rythm of a fight. Marco Huck is another one, who - under a different regime - could've been really, really good. Instead he plods around - like Abraham - gets hit a lot and finally - mostly - wins due to home advantage.

Please don't go down that same old road with Big Wlad. The man may not be entertaining nor spectacular, but he is like a musical maestro; he has finetuned his instruments like a boxings Eric Clapton, he controlls the distance like few - if any - other thru history, and if he was as overrated/one-dimensional/scared as some say, he would hardly have dominated the hw-scene for almost a decade, nevermind it being a dull scene.

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As for Stieglitz: great performance. He clearly had changed some things for this fight. He looked stronger than in number one, he fired with distinction and intention, and he crowded Abraham as well as kill the time his foe always needs to get into a fight. He will add some spice to the middleweight mix.

stormcentre says:

Yes I couldn't remember whether Abraham was Universum or the other German management outfit, and the fact I didn't bother to check and just left it at the "other" tells a story in itself.

Big Wlad does control the distance; so I agree with you there. But, IMO I wouldn't liken him to a maestro and/or Clapton; but I respect you do.

The HW scene whilst Wlad has "dominated" hasn't exactly been tremendously strong, and Wlad hasn't exactly sought out all the toughest fights either. IMO he's a safety first HW and his fights are usually not exciting. I mean it's not like he goes out and puts his heart on the line and makes exciting fights. Yes, I know he has won all his fights recently. But most of them have been in Germany against mediocre opinion - particularly the last 10 or so years.

His brother - can be - more exciting; but not always. Usually the outcome of their fights are predictable as is the level of entertainment.

Mostly, the reason they're unexciting, comes down to their styles, the era's competition, the money/control they have, and the fact that both brothers rarely these days take risks before the fight starts and during.

Anyway, I believe my comparison was between Wlad and Frazier. Here are there records.

Judge them and their opponents for yourself.

Frazier; [url]http://boxrec.com/list_bouts.php?human_id=147&cat=boxer

Dr. Steel Hammer; [url]http://boxrec.com/list_bouts.php?human_id=7035&cat=boxer

To borrow a phrase from Sesame St; "one of these things is not like the other . . . can you guess which one before this song is done".

Anyway, that's just my opinion.

Cheers,

StormCentre.

amayseng says:

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Add into the fact that Vitali took the Adamek-Cristobal fights

and Wladimir didn't say something.

I think James Toney of 2005 beats Wlad

DaveB says:

I give much respect to the brothers, good fundamentals, but their lack of excitement is their own doing. The modern day level of competition notwithstanding, they do not take chances. Tyson on the other hand, no matter where you place him in history, was exciting to watch during his reign. The guy was a wrecking crew. The Klitschkos could do the same but their styles are stinko for producing anything other than run-of-the-mill fights. They do win and dominate so that makes them very relevant but they will always be underrated because of their styles. Although they will probably be healthier old men because of it.

ali says:

Amayseng I love James Toney but I don't think the 2005 version could beat Wlad

SouthPaul says:

Well said, DaveB, totally agreed.

As for Lou Dibella.. Enjoyed his commentary. His knowledge and passion adds excitement to the telecast.

stormcentre says:

@ Amayseng; If the 2005 version didn't, The James Toney that fought Jirov and Holyfield certainly would beat Wlad IMO too. Not sure about today's model though.

@ DaveB; (Hi There) Exactly. We have similar views. For me, the HW boxing champion has to be a baad man in the ring. By that I mean he has to go for the knockout at least when it is there, if no other time. And he has to want to make exciting fights and clean house and leave matters - including the legitimacy of his reign - in no doubt.

@ Grim; I do sincerely respect Wlad and his brothers' achievements because I know (like you) that you can't be at their level and win unless you're good. But, IMO, when you watch them and see most of their opponents it is very hard to walk away with the feeling like you haven't just watched them fight another guy who lost the fight before it started. Even then, they don't always work their advantages to make the fight interesting. For me, this is particularly so when you are used to HW guys that are old-skool and take risks.

Nothing personal, but after a while for me the Klitschko fights become like a transaction with

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boxing gloves on.

The Good Doctor says:

[QUOTE=amayseng;27660]Add into the fact that vitali took the adamek cristobol fights and wladimir didn't says something.

I think James toney of 2005 beats wlad[/QUOTE]

That's the version that could not beat Rahman and began tipping the scales a little heavier than he should. I used to like lights out, but I don't think he beats Wlad at anytime. Also, you have to remember Toney is 5'10" with a 10 inch reach disadvantage. I think Toney meets a fate similar to Eddie Chambers.

amayseng says:

My James Toney year is most likely off.

I'm not sure what exact year but there was one where Toney was at Hw and not damaged

I stand corrected.

amayseng says:

The good doctor don't forget wlad has a C+ chin.

Toney was slick and accurate enough with better speed and had a good

chance to stun wlad.

Radam G says:

The late, great boxing guru Manny Steward also believed that Toney would have fudged up the K-bros/docs, so he told 'em never to give lights out a shot. Holla!

SouthPaul says:

Ike Ibeabuchi would've destroyed Wlad.

Radam G says:

If that fool was just not a rapist, SouthPaul. He coulda had it all. Holla!

SouthPaul says:

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Yuuuup. He was on the cusp of big things to come before he got sent off to the penitentiary. I even think the David Tua that demolished John Ruiz would've went thru Wlad possibly in similar fahsion (those were some wicked shots Tua landed-- the one he landed as Ruiz was falling looked like it was going to snap his effin' head off). In fact, I have a theory it was the results of that loss which made Ruiz reinvent his fighting style. The birth of jab and grab. Ruiz must've been like, its either hold as much as I can, or face getting destroyed again within' seconds.

amayseng says:

Ike lost his damn mind.

Read up on all his allegations.

After prison he should be committed to an asylum

Radam G says:

Hehehe! You are coldhearted, Amayseng! Lmfao! Holla!

stormcentre says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;27698]The late, great boxing guru Manny Steward also believed that Toney would have fudged up the K-bros/docs, so he told 'em never to give lights out a shot. Holla![/QUOTE]

Steward, understandably, had a very healthy respect for Toney.

Not in the least, as back in the Kronk's hey days when Toney was not entirely established and wasn't quite the old skool smooth operating master that he became, and no matter the talent there; Toney would thrive and love to spar.

Sometimes during HBO and others commentaries you could hear Manny talk of those days, and from that you got all the information you needed to know how James got to be so deep that Manny may second guess whether one of his more recent charges should go in against him.

I remember one fight involving James that Manny was doing commentary on. In it Manny mentioned that out of all the guys he ever trained James was the deepest and had the darkest persona.

I don't remember the words exactly but I remember Steward referring to James as the baddest and most heavy fighter that he ever worker with.

He said (words to the effect that) James loved to learn and prove himself like no other, and that as time got on and after James had moved on from the Kronk gym; if James ever bumped into Manny and Manny mentioned that there was someone good at the Kronk – even then James would always say “well I'll be down there this week to whip his azz”.

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And apparently James would always follow through on his word.

When provided with the time to discuss James in detail, Steward's tone used to change and he would always speak of James in extraordinary terms; regardless of whom from his entire stable, past and present, Manny had worked with.

Big words, considering who came from Steward's gym.