

## Carl Froch Wins UD Over Mikkel Kessler in London

Written by Michael Woods  
Saturday, 25 May 2013 18:15

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Carl Froch did the same thing in this rematch that he did in his first scrap with Mikkel Kessler: he threw more punches than the Dane. This time, the judges rewarded his efforts. The Brit Froch, who kept Kessler from getting untracked with a persistent jab, won by scores of 118-110, 116-112, 115-113 in the main event at O2 Arena in London on Saturday night, and on HBO.

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Things got a tad hairy late, when Kessler went for broke in 11 and 12, but Froch's beard didn't betray him.

According to CompuBox, Froch went 261-1034 to 194-497 for the loser. Froch had better luck in the power punch department, as well, 135-90.

Froch said his rangey jab and work rate were the differences, to Max Kellerman afterwards. He said he watched tape of Andre Ward, and his jab, and used that to his benefit. Was he getting rocked or simply taking punches well, Max asked? He said he got caught a few times, but nothing bad, and cheekily asked Kellerman what he thought. Froch said in the first fight he was backing up too much and made an effort to tweak his strategy for the re-do. It paid off, it goes without saying... In the 11th, he said he got lazy. He'd do another Kessler fight, he said, or would do another Ward fight. He said Ward is a boxing purist, and doesn't have an entertaining style, so that diminishes his desire to meet him again. He said he didn't want to heap insults on Ward, noting that he'd already done too much of that, but he basically out and out called Ward boring. He seemed to consider that a Ward sequel would be best for his bank account, then. "Let's get him to the United Kingdom, next," he said.

The IBF super middle champ Froch (turns 36 in July; 30-2 with 22 KOs entering) was 167.9 pounds, while the WBA super middle champ Kessler (46-2 with 35 KOs; age 34) was 166.74 on Friday.

The two men had battled in 2010, with Kessler winning that one, via decision, on his home turf. They are actually phone friends, and chat on their cells every so often, but no one figured that would diminish their eagerness. For the record, Froch threw 961 to 682 punches in the first scrap.

Froch was making the second defense of the crown he took when he mugged Lucian Bute in May 2012. Kessler was on a four-fight winning streak, with his last loss coming in 2009, against Andre Ward.

Ward, who has wins over both, helped Jim Lampley call the bout, along with Max Kellerman.

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In the first, Froch maybe stole the round with two rights late. He jabbed a bunch, not overly effectively while Kessler wasn't that busy.

In the second, a one-two slightly buzzed Kessler at 1:10.

In the third, Kess went with left and rights to the body but again wasn't busy enough. Again, the jab from Froch was persistent. It wasn't all that sharp but it was ever-present. Kessler's face was a bit marked, his forehead, his right eye.

In the fourth, the slow starting Kessler still didn't get untracked, not until the last third. Then his jab was a bit stiffer and came more frequently. In the fifth, a right got to Froch. He stepped it up in response to be the busier man in the last two thirds. Kessler outlanded him 15-14 in the round.

In the sixth, a left went low and the ref spoke to Kessler. Froch took a breather. He collected himself and again was busier overall. No flashy power shots but he was just being the harder worker. A sharp left hook maybe gave the round to Kessler. Harold Lederman had it 4-2 Froch.

In round seven, a right scored for Froch. Kessler held a bit and Froch stepped it up. In the eighth, a clean right at 2:05 scored for Froch. Four or so more clean blows then smacked Kessler, who looked like he might be caving. He landed a few of his own sharp blows, though. But he simply reacted to power shots better than the Dane did, by and large.

In the ninth, the Froch jab was the signature punch. Both scored a couple power shots, but Froch's looked a bit more telling. In the 10th, Froch kept the distance and pace he wanted, with his jab. In the 11th, rights buzzed Froch, for real. He looked precarious but held his legs. In the 12th, both men landed clean shots in a really stellar round. The ref almost pulled the plug on Kessler late.

We went to the cards.

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SPEEDBAG A note from CompuBox:



[@ CompuBox](#) 5s

[@ HBOboxing](#) [@ Carl Froch](#) Froch's 1034 punches thrown vs Kessler are the most he's thrown in 10 of his fights tracked by CompuBox

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**DaveB says:**

Good job by Froch. Kessler waited on him too much and Froch seemed most of the time to be in control. Well earned victory by Froch. If they do a rubber match I think the result would be the same. I can't say I wouldn't watch though because a fight between these two will always be entertaining.

**Radam G says:**

Good fight! I agreed with what DaveG -- I mean DaveB -- said. My score was 117-111 for the Redcoat Cobra. Holla!

**DaveB says:**

Oh no. The Redcoat Cobra. That's a good one. LMBO!!!

**Grimm says:**

Kudos to Froch - great chin, great mentality, good jab. And below average allround skills with poor coordination. He's good when fighting at the preferred distance, as well as upholding that distance. A cool cat can always time him when he rushes forward on those stiff legs, but his amazing chin equals that out a bit. Kessler can crack, and would have put most

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supermiddleweights out with some of those shots. And since Kessler was nowhere near his prime, this win also tells the tale of Frochs limitations. Not much left for him out there, except trying to lure an american to England for a big payday or two. Both Ward and Hopkins will slice him with pinpoint accuracy and the ability to negate his few strengths.

### **amayseng says:**

Grim is correct.

Although I only caught a few rounds as I was on the grill I saw the same things I always see in froch.

A tough guy,

But one who is uncoordinated , slow hands, slower feet, uses no angles , comes straight forward , as who drops his right hand when throwing anything with the left.

Ward would on e again box his ears off all day.

Hopkins needs to get froch at lhw ASAP because he will chop his \*\*\* up as well.

Froch is tough and he is a good fighter.

But he has no fundamentals and lacks skills.

Floyd should move up and fight him coming in at 152 because he would even smoke him.

### **teaser says:**

yep...slow hands and feet ....telegraphed punches..nice jab..but it seems only the most elite boxers can keep from getting steamed rolled by him ...another round or two and kessler would have been out of there ...Froch did get hit cleanly a few times but had enough defense to roll or partially block most of kesslers blows and the chin to withstand anything else...and continue forward constant pressure ...good fight ..never boring

### **gibola says:**

Agree with all of the above. A fantastic win for Carl who has earned the right to fight Ward again the old fashioned way - by beating top guys (Bute and Kessler). Sadly, even as a Brit I can't see

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the rematch being a hell of a lot different, but it needs to happen, and happen in the UK. Ward can then close the book on the Super 6 era and also prove he can win away from home. Remember a lot of guys lost their 0s fighting away from home in the Super 6. Somehow Ward never left the US in the Super6, he now has the opponent and purse to justify dusting off his passport. Who else is there for him to fight? It would draw 30,000 fans in the UK and he must be confident of winning. Please God it happens because I don't want to see Froch v Hopkins!

### **Radam G says:**

I think that the Redcoat Cobra and the Bluecoat SOG should fight in a neutral place. Maybe Germany or Canada. Holla!

### **the Roast says:**

Pretty much as expected. Kesslers face held up better than I thought it would. Looked like Froch was gonna get the stoppage in the last round. I agree with everyone that Ward wins the rematch easy. It would be more interesting if the fight was in London but it will still be one sided. Froch is wide open for a straight right all the time. GGG or Hopkins would be good fights. I wonder if Froch could gut his way through those two men. I didn't see Rachel one time. Was she even there? I hope they didn't split up. My only disappointment from last night.

### **Radam G says:**

No way that Bluecoat SOG should go to the Redcoat Cobra's snake pit of jolly ole London. He will be Pacquiaoed -- ROBBED like a bytch by shameless Brits from across the pond. Just as Da Manny was robbed like a non human by shameless Yanks in Sin City against a ram with Godzilla-size feet.

Now that I think of it, a Bout II of Froch and Ward should be in Italy.

At least the descedants of the Romans are no longer making you carry your own cross and then KaBOOM! Your arse is nailed to that cross, and your momma and a ho withthe same first name are at your feet weeping, while you are bleeding out and are dead sleeping.

And the Roast is in Italy in an Italian movie roll as a PSYCHO, in his words. Hehe! Maybe Froch's girl was low profiling for bit. Holla!

### **amayseng says:**

I agree.

Also what has Froch done to call the shots with Ward?

Last time I checked Ward spanked his butt like a red headed step child.

It wasn't even competitive.

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Froch is fooling himself and his cockiness drives me insane.

What's next he calls out Floud and tells him when and where and takes 99% of the money.

### **fightscorecollector says:**

Thanks for posting your scores on this forum. Managed to collect over 190 scores with around 40 of them being press scores.

The vast majority scored for Froch but there was quite a few fans who scored the fight a draw and 1 or 2 who thought Kessler won the fight.

All Scores are on my fightscorecollector site (in the signature below)

Thanks again for the scores and if you want to send me your score on twitter i will list your score with your twitter name, some do this already..... send to @thefightscore

Thanks again

### **michaelabii says:**

Great win by Froch. When Kessler let his hands go he reminded me of the fighter he used to be, smooth, powerful with great movement. I just think he lost some confidence and thinks too much now before committing. Froch is mentally strong. At some point during the 1st fight with Ward he did seem to be getting to Ward in the last 2 rounds. I would love to see them fight in the UK.

### **michaelabii says:**

I though the fight got much closer in the final 3 rounds. Kessler certainly landed his share of power shots while Froch dominated mostly with the jab.

### **The Good Doctor says:**

[QUOTE=amayseng;31229]I agree.

[B]Also what has Froch done to call the shots with Ward? [/B]

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What's next he calls out Floud and tells him when and where and takes 99% of the money.[/QUOTE]

Agree with your statements but I think I can see where Froch would be coming from if he says fight in the UK. He's thinking MAJOR check. There would easily be 60K at that fight. I would advise Ward not to do it though.

### **amayseng says:**

[QUOTE=The Good Doctor;31252]Agree with your statements but I think I can see where Froch would be coming from if he says fight in the UK. He's thinking MAJOR check. There would easily be 60K at that fight. I would advise Ward not to do it though.[/QUOTE]

But what's that have to do with anything?

Ward isn't looking for a one fight payday and retirement.

So why would he jump to the best of Frochs drum?

There is nothing that froch has to offer that ward NEEDS.

Would a nice payday be good yes.

Would fighting in the UK be an great experience yes.

But none of that is necessary.

### **The Good Doctor says:**

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Would fighting in the UK be an great experience yes.

But none of that is necessary.[/QUOTE]

You explained it exactly. I could see Froch still believing that he would be the draw against Ward even though he was whipped easily 9 rounds to 3.

### **the Roast says:**

Ward-Froch 2 would sell out Wembley Stadium and both fighters would make big money. Thats what its all about. Ward should not fear a robbery, just win big like he did in the first fight. We all know Ward is a great fighter but he isnt much of a draw outside of Oakland. Ward isn't a big puncher, he isn't controversial, he hasn't even fought on PPV. Get out of your comfort zone Andre, fight Froch in England. Make that money!

### **Radam G says:**

He has crazy fans in Australia. And in Abu Dhabi, he could get a smooth \$15mil to dance with Froch. Also he can make mad moola in South Africa. He doesn't need to chance a Pacquiao-type of rip off in London. He can even go to Ireland where he, GOAT Ali and Prez Obama have roots and fight Froch. London is sucker's trap. Holla!

### **ali says:**

I think Ward should go fight in Froch back yard just as long as the judges r from the united States. like Radam always says it prize fighting not pride fighting and fighting Froch in London would give him his biggest pay day and exposed him to a whole new fan base.

### **gibola says:**

Agree Ali. It's not Froch calling the shots it's just pure sporting and business sense to fight again in the UK. More money, more recognition, Froch earned it and there's no-one else to fight.