

Cunningham, Stevens Win on Main Events/NBC Show

Written by The Sweet Science
Saturday, 05 April 2014 09:17



Steve "USS" Cunningham

Photo Credits: Rich Graessle/Main Events

Philadelphia, PA: Steve "USS" Cunningham (27-6, 12 KOs)* took down the undefeated powerhouse Amir "Hardcore" Mansour (20-1, 15 KOs) via unanimous decision at the Liacouras Center. In the all-Philly main event, Philadelphia-raised Cunningham and Philadelphia-trained Mansour brawled for ten rounds of heart-stopping action that had the entire crowd at the Liacouras Center on their feet and screaming for more. These two warriors just kept coming at each other for ten straight rounds. By the end they were both bleeding and and battle-worn.

Mansour was relentless from the first bell. He kept coming at Steve with huge looping hooks. Cunningham began bleeding in the second round. Then Cunningham cut Mansour over the same eye in the third.



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Cunningham & Mansour

Photo Credits: Rich Graessle/Main Events

Mansour knocked Cunningham down twice in the fifth but Steve managed to get back up just before the bell. Cunningham came back with a vengeance in the sixth and the crowd at the Liacouras Center was on their feet. The fans were split equally as half chanted "Hardcore" and half chanted "USS." By the ninth the chants of "Steve" drowned out everything else.



Cunningham & Mansour

Photo Credits: Rich Graessle/Main Events

Cunningham knocked Mansour down in the tenth and went on to win via unanimous decision. One judge scored the fight 97-90 and the other two scored the fight 95-92.

Kathy Duva said, "Jolene Mizzone and J Russell Peltz are the best matchmakers in the

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business, hands down. That was the bull and the matador. Steve, you get knocked down but you get back up baby!"



"USS" Cunningham

Photo Credits:

Larry Levanti/Main Events

Steve said, "With my God I can do anything! Faith is all I have. I was alright. I have been down before and got up and won. He wasn't built for the 'USS' Cunningham. I want to be heavyweight world champion. 'USS' Cunningham always finds a way."

Mansour said, "I can't complain. He was the better man; the tougher man. I got tired but he got tired too. I just kept stepping on the gas pedal because that is just the fighter in me. You got to be smart in the ring if you want to be successful and tonight he was smarter than me."



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Stevens & Johnson

Photo Credits:

Larry Levanti/Main Events

In arguably the best of 2014 so far, Brooklyn's own Curtis "Showtime" Stevens (27-4, 20 KOs) came from behind to knockout Nassau, Bahamas native Tureano Johnson (14-1, 10 KOs) in the tenth round. The crowd was into every punch from the first bell until the referee called the fight with slightly more than two minutes to go in the fight.

Both fighters came swinging in the first. In the first two minutes of the first round, Johnson fought southpaw to confuse Stevens then he switched back to orthodox. He continued to switch back and forth throughout the fight. It seemed to work for the first few rounds as Stevens appeared to take a beating. Then in the fourth round Stevens turned the tables on Johnson and unleashed a holy war on him.



Johnson & Stevens

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Larry Levanti/Main Events

Johnson was relentless; he never slowed down the entire fight. He controlled the pace and made Stevens fight his fight. He kept coming forward. Johnson connected for 38% of his punches (235 of 624) and Stevens connected for 40% (223 of 557). However Curtis landed 45% of his power punches (210 of 470) and Johnson landed 39% (231 of 598). Both men landed 15% of their jabs but Curtis landed 13 of 87 and Johnson only landed 4 of 26.

This back-and-forth battle continued and neither fighter seemed to have control of the any one round. Johnson had Curtis against the ropes for the majority of the fight. Stevens reached another level in the tenth and unloaded on Johnson. The referee stopped the fight at 2:09 in the tenth. Johnson was not happy with the decision and continued to contend that he was not going down.



Johnson & Stevens

Photo Credits: Rich Graessle/Main Events

Johnson was actually leading on the scorecards convincingly and Curtis needed the knockout in order to win. Through nine rounds the judges had Johnson up 87-84, 89-82 and 89-82.

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Stevens said, "I didn't set it up the way I was supposed to set it up. He was smothering me. He did what he was supposed to do. He came in here and smothered me."



Tureano Johnson

Photo Credits: Rich Graessle/Main Events

An upset Johnson said, "It is a privilege to be here. It was unfortunate that I didn't get the win. Curtis Stevens is a great fighter. The stoppage was an unfair one but I accept it. I worked hard and I won every round. I worked hard for this. I want a rematch immediately."

Kathy Duva said, "Johnson, your stock just went way up. I would love to schedule a rematch for both these fights on HBO because these fights were unbelievable."



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Dixon Knocks Down Torres

Photo Credits: Rich Graessle/Main Events

Junior welterweights Evincii Dixon (4-4-1, 2 KOs) of Lancaster, PA and Edgardo Torres (2-3, 2 KOs) of Vineland, NJ squared off in the last undercard fight of the evening. Dixon came out of the gate guns blazing and knocked down Torres in the first. Torres lasted 2:45 into the second round before the referee called him out and declared Dixon the winner by TKO. Dixon said, "This is boxing. I see you hurt and I am going to attack."



Lee Knocks Down Lewison

Photo Credits: Rich Graessle/Main Events

In a match-up of undefeated light heavyweights, Notre Dame alum Mike Lee (12-0, 7 KOs) knocked out Peter Lewison (6-1, 5 KOs) in the sixth round. Lewison was bleeding near his upper lip in the fifth and Lee knocked him down in the sixth before shutting him down at 1:39. Lee showed his Notre Dame pride by sporting blue and gold trunks/gloves and definitely had the crowd on his side.

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