

Boxing

Barnes scores knockout, remains unbeaten



Anthony Barnes of Huntington Woods drives Craig Schwallier through the ropes in their super middleweight bout Thursday at MotorCity Casino. Sue Barnes - For Digital First Media

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DETROIT >> Craig Schwallier of Grand Rapids came itching for a fight late Thursday at MotorCity Casino’s Sound Board venue, and he got it.

Anthony Barnes of Huntington Woods neutralized Schwallier’s rough house tactics, knocking him out of the ring for a second round TKO in a scheduled six round super middleweight bout on a scheduled nine-bout card.

Barnes, who upped his record to 7-0 with six KOs, was calm, casual and collected an hour or so after his bout.

“The guy was just physically strong (and) he tried to head butt me,” said Barnes, who weathered the aggression to apply some offense of his own. “It wasn’t that bad ... I see that stuff in the gym all the time. I knew he was going to tire out a little bit. He was just trying maybe too hard. My coaches told me to shoot my shots and come with one-twos down the middle.”

Barnes, who was tangled around the ring with Schwallier’s rumbling tactics, got his bearings early in the second round with some hard shots, which softened Schwallier. Barnes backed him up with more shots, and a final three-shot barrage put Schwallier through the ropes, as referee Sam Williams waved the bout over at 2:34.

Schwallier got a deep cut under his eye for his efforts, but was nonetheless excited to be fighting. “We were just banging, none of this patty-cake stuff, let’s get it on,” said Schwallier, now 2-3. “I just came to get down.”

Barnes, a prodigy of the late Emanuel Steward, is maintaining patience as he develops. “I want to get to at least a 10-rounder by 2015,” he said.

The card also featured Jerry Waterson of Clarkston, who in only his second pro fight, suffered a surprising second round knockout from David Mbah of England in their heavyweight match.

“As the ref stepped in, I got hit in the head,” said Waterson, who added he would protest the decision for the alleged late punch. There was little to indicate the decision would be changed, but “we’re going to train harder and make sure it doesn’t happen again,” said Waterson, who trains at the Waterford FC club. “Only thing it did was light a fire.”

The scheduled nine-bout card also featured a heavyweight main event, where Ali Mansour of Windsor, Ont. won a six-round unanimous decision over Damon McCreary of Detroit, and Darryl Cunningham of Detroit, a six-round super middleweight victor over Bruce Rumbolz of Sterling, Ill.

Willie Fortune of Detroit won on a second-round TKO over Skyler Thompson of Rockford, Ill. in their scheduled eight-round middleweight match. Fortune improved to 18-2.

In other bouts, Craig Lewis of Detroit and Jeff Kugel of Roseville earned victories in their heavyweight matches.

About the Author