

Klitschko takes apart Brock the old-fashioned way

By Tim Smith

Wladimir Klitschko began his march toward heavyweight domination in earnest on November 11 and he did it the old-fashioned way: with the old one-two.

Klitschko stopped Calvin Brock at 2:10 of the seventh round with a devastating right hand that followed a punishing left jab to retain his IBF heavyweight championship before 14,260 at Madison Square Garden. Klitschko stunned Brock with a right hand and then moved in for the knockout. He threw a left jab that twisted Brock's head to the side and quickly followed it with a stunning right that sent Brock to the canvas.

Brock got up at the count of seven, but referee Wayne Kelly waved off the action and

stopped it. Brock (29-1, 22 KOs) did not protest. "It was a left hook, straight right combination," Klitschko said. "I should have done that earlier. It took me some time to get my rhythm and my distance. He was a good defensive fighter. Anytime you defeat an undefeated fighter, you've accomplished something." Klitschko (47-3, 42 KOs) methodically took apart Brock, who was a member of the U.S. Olympic boxing team in 2000, and never was challenged. Klitschko was ahead on the scorecards when the stoppage came.

"He had a better jab than I thought he would," Brock said. "He's very strong. He's got a good defence and a good jab. I saw the punch coming, but I couldn't react fast enough to get out of the way. I thought I could get behind my jab better and my right hand, but I couldn't."

Klitschko, 30, was defending the IBF title for the first time since winning it in April on a seventh-round TKO of Chris Byrd in Mannheim, Germany. This was Klitschko's second fight at the Garden. The last time he was here, he wasn't even noticed because he fought David Bostice on the undercard of the Lennox Lewis-Michael Grant match in 2000. This time the crowd at the Garden was solidly behind Klitschko, and there were several blue and yellow Ukrainian flags flying in the stands.

For several minutes after the fight, Klitschko stayed in the ring and acknowledged the crowd.

This was Brock's first title fight. And the man nicknamed "The Boxing Banker" was hoping to deposit Klitschko into the loser's

column. But he didn't have enough assets to do it, and Klitschko foreclosed on Brock's immediate dreams of winning a title.

Klitschko worked his jab exclusively in the first round, keeping his right coiled tightly next to his chin like a cobra ready to strike. Brock kept stretching for Klitschko's chin, but couldn't reach it. Klitschko, who is 6-6, was fighting tall, which presented a problem for Brock. So, Brock switched strategies in the second round and decided to go to Klitschko's body. In the fourth round, Brock landed a thudding right to Klitschko's stomach that caught the champ's attention. Klitschko responded with an forearm and elbow to Brock's chin when the ref wasn't looking. Klitschko found a more conventional means to Brock's chin in the fifth. Working off the

jab, which he used exclusively during the early part of the round, Klitschko shook up Brock with two big rights that followed that jab near the end of the round. Klitschko was cut along the left eye by a head butt in the sixth round, while Brock's eyes began swelling from absorbing all those jabs. "I felt a little bit of urgency at that point," Klitschko said. "But the fight was going my way anyway." Klitschko landed two big right hands in the seventh round and brought a swift conclusion to matters.

In an IBF super featherweight title elimination bout, Manuel Medina (67-15, 31 KOs) scored a 12-round majority decision over Flushing product Kevin Kelley (59-8-2, 39 KOs). Kelley tried to rally over the course of the last five rounds, but it was too late as

Medina, a former five-time world champion, had built up a commanding lead. One judge scored it a draw and the two other judges scored it 115-113 for Medina. "Medina's style was very awkward," Kelley said. "I hurt him and kept him hurt, but somehow he stayed in the fight."

ROSSY ROLLS

Heavyweight Deric Rossy (14-0, 8 KOs) retained his New York State championship with a 10-round unanimous decision over Shannon Miller (14-3, 8 KOs). Rossy was cut over the left eye by a punch in the sixth round, but it didn't seem to bother him. He kept the pressure on Miller, who refused to fold despite absorbing loads of punishment.



Wladimir Klitschko (right) hammers Calvin Brock on his way to heavyweight domination at Madison Square Garden. PHOTO: MARTY ROSENGARTEN



It's all over for Calvin Brock, who hit the canvas in the seventh round against Wladimir Klitschko. PHOTO: MARTY ROSENGARTEN

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