

Cancio retains title with early knockout

Blythe-born fighter finishes off Machado in third round before raucous crowd.

By MANOUK AKOPYAN

The Cinderella story of Andrew Cancio continues.

The defending WBA super-featherweight champion, who works full time as a construction technician for the Southern California Gas Co., knocked out Alberto Machado, the man he first conquered in February, in the third round Friday night at

the Fantasy Springs Resort Casino in Indio.

Much like the first fight, Cancio (21-4-2, 16 KOs), who was born in Blythe, bested his Puerto Rican adversary in convincing fashion.

Cancio suffered three cuts around both of his eyes but continued a relentless attack to the body and head of Machado. In the first two rounds, Cancio looked every part the champion, fighting like a man on a mission to prove his victory four months ago was no fluke. He stood tall and went toe-to-toe with Machado. By the third round he had to overcome adversity, much like he did in first en-

counter with Machado.

In February, Cancio, a big underdog, overcame anxiety, a cut and a knockdown en route to technical-knockout win in the fourth round.

"I was going for the head, and the body was there, so I took it," said the 30-year-old Cancio. "I did this twice and you got to see the new and improved [me]. I'm here to stay, it's not a fluke ... [but] I'll be back at work on Monday."

Just like the previous fight, Cancio's colleagues from the gas company made the cross-town trip to see him trade in his coveralls for trunks. The 130-pound fighter fought for the 11th time at the venue,

which is 100 miles from Blythe, and improved to 10-1 at the arena in front of a raucous partisan crowd.

Before the fight, the younger Machado — who has a four-inch reach advantage and 3½-inch height advantage against Cancio — said he succumbed to the body attack of Cancio in February because he had a hard time cutting weight off of his 5-foot-10 frame while he was dealing with distractions stemming from surgery for his 1-year-old.

"He's a great champion and he showed that tonight," Machado (21-2, 17 KOs) said after Friday's fight. "I had an excellent training camp and

he did his job. It was the risk I was willing to take in this rematch. Cancio did his thing tonight and now I have to make a decision [on moving up in weight]."

Cancio, who fights out of Oxnard, is now headed toward a mandatory title defense against Rene Alvarado (31-8, 20 KOs), a foe he knocked out in 2015. The fight would likely take place on the Canelo Alvarez-Gennady Golovkin undercard later this year, according to a source close to the situation.

Cancio, promoted by Oscar De La Hoya's Golden Boy Promotions, can also have a chance to unify titles against

other 130-pound champions — such as Gervonta Davis, Jamel Herring, Tevin Farmer and Miguel Berchelt — if a deal can be procured with rival promoters.

"I'm ready for the other champions," Cancio said. The crowd went wild when Cancio's hands were raised. In the venue's hallway, a table filled with Cancio merchandise sold several hundred units of apparel, his manager said.

In the co-main event, Elwin Soto (15-1, 11 KOs) earned a technical-knockout victory over WBO light-flyweight champion Angel Acosta (20-2, 20 KOs) in the 12th round.

PRO CALENDAR

	SAT. 22	SUN. 23	MON. 24	TUE. 25	WED. 26
DODGERS	COLORADO 4:15 Ch. 11	COLORADO 1 SNLA	at Arizona 6:30 SNLA	at Arizona 6:30 SNLA	at Arizona 12:30 SNLA
ANGELS	at St. Louis 11:15 a.m. FSW	at St. Louis 4 ESPN		CINCINNATI 7 FSW	CINCINNATI 5 FSW
GALAXY	at Cincinnati 4:30 SpecSN				
LAFC	NEXT: JUNE 28 AT COLORADO, 7, UNIMAS				
SPARKS		at Phoenix 3			

Shade denotes home game

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
AUTO RACING		
5:45 a.m.	Formula One, French Grand Prix, qualifying	TV: ESPN2
11 a.m.	NHRA, Summit Racing Equipment Nationals	TV: FS1
Noon	NASCAR Monster Energy, Toyota/Save Mart 350, qualifying	TV: FS1
7 p.m.	NASCAR Gander Outdoors Truck Series, Gateway 200	TV: FS1
BASEBALL		
11:15 a.m.	New York Mets at Chicago Cubs	TV: MLB
11:15 a.m.	Angels at St. Louis	TV: FSW R: 830, 1330
1 p.m.	Detroit at Cleveland	TV: FS1
4:15 p.m.	Houston at New York Yankees	TV: FOXD
4:15 p.m.	Colorado at Dodgers	TV: 11 R: 570, 1020
7 p.m.	San Francisco at Arizona	TV: MLB
BASKETBALL		
5 p.m.	WNBA, New York at Minnesota	TV: NBATV
GOLF		
5 a.m.	European PGA Tour, BMW International Open, third round	TV: Golf
10 a.m.	PGA Tour, Travelers Championship, third round	TV: Golf
Noon	PGA Tour, Travelers Championship, third round	TV: 2
Noon	KPMG Women's PGA Championship, third round	TV: 4
Noon	PGA Tour, American Family Insurance Championships, second round	TV: Golf
9 p.m.	Asian Tour, Kolon Korea Open, final round	TV: Golf
HORSE RACING		
6 a.m.	Royal Ascot	TV: 4
Noon	Trackside Live! Santa Anita	TV: TVG
2:30 p.m.	Trackside Live! United Nations	TV: TVG
4 p.m.	Trackside Live! Wiltshire	TV: TVG
6 p.m.	The Quarters featuring Los Alamitos	TV: TVG
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS		
1 p.m.	UFC preliminaries, Renato Moicano vs. Chan Sung Jung	TV: ESPN2, ESPND
MOTORCYCLE RACING		
4:45 a.m.	Superbike, FIM World Championship, Italy	TV: beIN1
Noon	Lucas Oil Series, Florida National	TV: NBCSN
SOCCER		
7:15 a.m.	Africa Cup of Nations, Congo vs. Uganda	TV: beIN1
8:30 a.m.	FIFA Women's World Cup, Germany vs. Nigeria	TV: FS1, KVEA
9:45 a.m.	Africa Cup of Nations, Nigeria vs. Burundi	TV: beIN1
11:30 a.m.	CONMEBOL Copa America, Peru vs. Brazil	TV: KVEA
11:30 a.m.	CONMEBOL Copa America, Bolivia vs. Venezuela	TV: UNVSO
Noon	FIFA Women's World Cup, Norway vs. Australia	TV: 11
12:45 p.m.	Africa Cup of Nations, Guinea vs. Madagascar	TV: beIN1
2 p.m.	CONCACAF Gold Cup, Guyana vs. Panama	TV: KMEX, FS2, UDN, UNI
4:45 p.m.	CONCACAF Gold Cup, United States vs. Trinidad and Tobago	TV: FS1, KMEX, UNI, UDN
4:30 p.m.	MLS, Galaxy at Cincinnati	TV: SpecSN R: 1330
TENNIS		
3:30 a.m.	Center Court: ATP Halle and London; WTA, Mallorca and Birmingham, semifinals	TV: Tennis

LETTERS

There's simply no shielding current Lakers from agents

Bill Plaschke warns that Rob Pelinka must not foul up again, as if Pelinka has anything to do with any of this. Does anyone really believe the Lakers are in chaos? Does anyone believe Magic Johnson was responsible for LBJ coming to L.A.? Does anyone believe Pelinka orchestrated the AD trade?

I hate to break this to your naive scribes, but there is no Easter Bunny, no Santa Claus and the structure of the entire NBA has shifted right under your noses. The president of basketball operations for the Lakers was never Magic Johnson and it isn't Rob Pelinka now. The PBO is Klutch Sports.

By allowing rap stars and current players to own talent agencies, and perhaps worse, to open itself up to partnerships in gambling, Adam Silver is playing with fire. Tampering rules? Good luck with that. While the balance of the NBA hangs at Nobu, Spago and cigar parties at the compound in Brentwood, the rest of the Lakers roster will be whatever LeBron and Rich Paul says it is.

WILLIAM DAVID STONE
Beverly Hills

::

New Lakers draftee Talen Horton-Tucker's first comments were "it was kind of a coincidence" that he was drafted by the Lakers. Sorry Talen, there are no coincidences in Lakerland. Despite never being worked out by team officials, or even meeting with them, the Lakers traded to get him. Why? Maybe the fact that he shares an agent with LeBron and Anthony Davis had something to do with it?

MIKE ANDERSON
Sherman Oaks

::

It is entirely understandable that Rob Pelinka wouldn't have a complete understanding of the rules governing the salary cap. It is unconscionable and unforgivable that he doesn't have one or two (or five) such employees who can tell him what he needs to know before pulling the trigger on a deal of this magnitude. How can that conversation not take place? The impact of this trade will last a decade.

Wanting to add AD is the easy part. Any 12-year-old Lakers fan could have known that. Giving up a lot was surely a given. However, we now know that Pelinka gave up so much to do this deal, seemingly without any other serious bidders. And he didn't do it smartly.

Now, he has to gut the roster even further to preserve cap space he could have maintained by postponing the deal to July 30?

GMs, with prepared, informed, competent staffs, need to do the heavy lifting that allows them to compete effectively and this is where Pelinka seems to be embarrassingly lacking. Pelinka is likely viewed by other GMs as a child among men. The team, and the fans, deserve better.

ANDY REIMER
Westwood

::

What's amazing to me is all the talking heads who badmouthed the Lakers just a few weeks ago are now

back on the bandwagon and already naming them NBA champs. The one person caught in all the crosshairs is and has been Rob Pelinka. All he has done is do everything that Magic Johnson wouldn't or couldn't do. He fired Luke Walton and traded for Anthony Davis. And, oh yeah, rid us all of LaVar Ball.

Instead of continuing the line that the Lakers fall from grace has all been because nobody trusted Pelinka or nobody wanted to deal with Pelinka, it seems to me that the real culprit is and has been Magic Johnson. So, instead of continuing the attack on Pelinka, why don't we wait to see what team is on the court at the start of the season and where they end up at the end.

GENO APICELLA
Placentia

::

Now that the Lakers have provided us with another dynamic duo, let's see what the "LeBrow" era can do for us fans.

MEL MECHAM
Culver City

::

Swapping Anthony Davis for Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram and Josh Hart? The Pelicans would have done better with Lucille Ball, Luther Ingram and Kevin Hart! Rob Pelinka must have been wearing a mask when he robbed the Pelicans and a gag to muffle the laughter when they agreed to accept that pile of garbage for a perennial All-Star.

MARK S. ROTH
Los Angeles

::

Who actually cares how the Lakers acquired Anthony Davis? Dylan Hernandez reminds us of the search for the "second gunman" on the grassy knoll. Bottom line, we got him! Go Lakers.

PATRICK KELLEY
Los Angeles

::

I am a high school teacher in Orange County. My salary is \$63,000 per year. I will donate it to the Lakers if it will help them sign another player.

MARK BERGLAS
Huntington Beach

::

Listen, I'm as big of a USC honk as the next guy,

so the return of Anthony Davis excites me too, but Plaschke ought to temper his hyperbole over a 66-year-old former gridiron legend who made his reputation by destroying Notre Dame and dancing in the end zone, as there's zero evidence that at 5-10 his skills will translate to today's NBA.

STEVE ROSS
Beverly Hills

::

Now that this NBA team will potentially have Lonzo Ball, Brandon Ingram, Josh Hart, three Lakers draft picks, Julius Randle, Jrue Holiday and Stanley Johnson, will they be called the New Orleans Pelicans of Los Angeles?

STAN SHIRAI
Torrance

::

This is by far the greatest trade in Lakers history! It is exactly what everyone in Los Angeles has been waiting for. LaVar Ball is finally gone!

JACK SALTZBERG
Valley Village

::

There are many questions that can't seem to be answered. Pete Rose, Hall of Fame? Is horse racing dead? \$40 million on Luol Deng? And, why can't Magic Johnson just shut up, slink away from the home provided by Dr. Buss and get on with his life?

JEFF HEISTER
Chatsworth

It's a living

When I grow up, I want to be the GM of the Angels. Seriously, could I do any worse?

I am going to sign Matt Harvey to an \$11-million deal. I'll take Trevor Cahill for a mere \$9 million and enjoy his 7.18 ERA. I can talk Arte Moreno into giving Cody Allen \$8.5 million. He will lead these three with his stellar 6.26 ERA (on second thought, I think I'll cut him midseason).

Just to add a little gas to this fire, I want Jonathon Lucroy with his .230 batting average and Justin Bour with his .170 average and pay them \$5.8 million combined.

Hmmm, why is my team two games under .500 and 10 games behind Houston? It obviously must be the manager. I'll wait until September and get rid of him.

TERRY AYJIAN
Yorba Linda

Stick with it

While the Dodgers have been extremely successful at the plate and with their starting pitching, their strategy of having a group of players rotating into a new position in the field each night is not a sound long-term strategy. Players need to stay in a fixed spot and remain there 90% of the time, lest they make lapses in judgment so crucial in baseball to determining outcomes. This will be especially true in the postseason.

SCOTT ESSMAN
Glendora

::

I honestly believe that Kenley Jansen's pitching performances this season has earned him a position for the National League during the All-Star break. I can't think of another pitcher who deserves to pitch for the Home Run Derby more than he has.

BILL PIERCY
Long Beach

Chill, Carli

Carli Lloyd is in Paris and is bored because she can't find anything to do other than watch Netflix? If she doesn't have the where-withal to find a few things to do in the City of Light (you could spend a week just going to the Louvre without seeing the same thing twice) perhaps she doesn't have the wit or the imagination to play first-team soccer. Certainly the U.S. team could come up with a few little things for her to do?

NANCY WRIGHT
Pasadena

Knee jerk

Sean McVay is a great coach and leader. He is humble and honest. He should have no problem walking up to the Pearly Gates as long as he doesn't have to answer questions about Todd Gurley's knee.

ANTHONY LEON
Eastvale

::

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