

Chris Byrd and Lennox Lewis, he was well ahead on points before injury and cuts forced the fights to end.

For the record, I see Holmes having a tough time overcoming the size difference, with Klitschko winning a close decision.

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## Officious Official

Did you notice Laurence Cole stinking up a glorious night for boxing on February 28 in Houston? I've never seen a referee manhandle fighters like that. Chris John and Rocky Juarez were acting professional in their clinches, but Cole still felt it necessary to slap the top of their heads like he was in a Three Stooges movie. The worst of it happened in the fifth and eighth rounds when Cole was pulling John's arm off Juarez and then holding on to it while Juarez was still swinging and landing. I'm surprised John's corner didn't speak up.

RICHARD ESCOTO  
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## Bloody Loophole

I'm very confused as to the handling in recent years of cuts as a result of an accidental butt. I understand fully that the standard rule is that if the cut causes a fight to be stopped in four rounds or less the fight is ruled a no-decision. Beyond that, it goes to the scorecards (anybody who has ever listened to Harold Lederman knows that!), but what I'm unsure about is if the doctor and the referee determine that the fight can continue, what is the result if the fighter refuses to go on?

I ask because it seemed to me that Robert Guerrero wanted his fight with Daud Yordan stopped. The referee and the doctor didn't seem to think it was bad enough to halt the bout and stopped it begrudgingly. Under the cur-

rent rules, could the referee insist the fight continue and would it be a TKO if the fighter refused? If so, that would seem to be an ugly loophole for a fighter who builds a considerable lead in the first half of the fight, starts to fade, and is accidentally cut and decides to quit and get the win. What's the official rule on this and what is the opinion of THE RING?

JOSEPH WHITNEY  
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*Editor's note: Rules concerning who can stop a fight vary, depending on where the fight takes place. In many jurisdictions only the referee can stop a fight, but the referee rarely goes against the doctor's advice. Although many viewers shared the same impression as you about the end of the Guererro-Yordan fight,*

*referee Jon Schorle told ringtv.com, "I was going to stop it. It was really, really deep. Since the blood was going directly into his eye, I stopped it immediately."*

*THE RING has always felt that the current cut-eye rules are ripe for abuse, but the alternative—victory via headbutt—is arguably worse. The best safeguards are well-trained referees and ring physicians who are capable of knowing when a fighter or his corner is attempting to misuse the rules.*

## Inconclusive Conclusion

I think Amir Khan should offer Marco Antonio Barrera a rematch. Barrera was fighting with one eye for most of the fight, which meant he couldn't judge distance. Without the cut, it might have been a completely different fight.

Khan looked good even before the cut, but it's easy for an athletic fighter to look good for less than a round against a slow pressure fighter. It's much harder to look good for 12 rounds. Ali looked great for the first four rounds in his first fight with Joe Frazier, who barely landed a punch. Then Frazier started to catch up with him in round five and it became a war of attrition.

I think Khan would have won handily without the cut, but it's not a foregone conclusion, and I think to offer Barrera a rematch would be the right thing to do. If Barrera says no, it would make Khan look good. If Barrera says yes, it would be likely to be a much sterner test and a good learning experience for Khan, with Barrera having 12 rounds with the use of two eyes and Khan's stamina under pressure still being untested at this point.

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*Despite a nasty scalp cut, Marco Antonio Barrera battled on against Amir Khan until the fight was stopped in the fifth round. Reader Dave Rado thinks that due to the way the cut hampered Barrera, Khan should offer the Mexican a rematch.*

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