

→ Just when I thought to myself Korobov was booked for his first distance win in four starts, the Russian southpaw and former World and European Amateur champion produced a brilliant short right hook to the chin that dropped Jones flat on his face, arms outstretched.

Jones went down so hard his face bounced off the mat twice. He was counted out with one second remaining in the scheduled middleweight four-rounder.

But for the bulk of the fight Korobov was frustrated by an opponent who rarely stayed still or ventured to get involved and thus opportunities to

score solidly were at a premium.

The crowd jeered round after round, obviously expecting more from Korobov and Jones (11st 3lbs) to stand and fight. But Jones, now 4-5 (1), was smarter than that and wouldn't be pinned down.

Physically, Korobov (11st 6 1/2lbs) looked the part – he appears in superb condition and stands 5ft 11in. He tried setting traps early on, but nothing much was working. Matt kept missing, which bothered his rhythm.

And then in the last, as the clapperboard signaled 10 seconds remaining, Korobov pulled out the finishing shot, missing first with the left but coming back with the right hook.

Photo: Chris Farina/Top Rank



FINALLY:
Korobov
leaves it late to
put Jones away

More than meets the eye

Claude Abrams is impressed by Wolak following his blitz of Bravo

Photos: Marty Rosengarten

PAWEL WOLAK, the New Jersey-based Pole trained by Tommy Brooks, was impressive destroying former Contender **Norberto Bravo** in the third of a scheduled six (cut from eight).

Seeing as Bravo has now lost 17 times in 47 starts (three draws), Wolak's accomplishment isn't going to have anyone in the light-middleweight ratings overly concerned. But Wolak, now 23-1 (16), did what he had to do – wiped out a durable (at this level) foe in quick fashion.

Chunky Wolak looks like a brawler, but there's more to him than that; he jabs his way into range well and then chops away. Most impressive, though, was his handspeed. Whenever he had Bravo backed to the ropes, Wolak unleashed sizzling combinations. In the first Norberto was stunned and rocked several times. I couldn't see the match lasting the course.

Bravo, being brave and sturdy, didn't lose heart. He put in a good shift in the second, winning the round for me by finding ways to bring his right uppercut into play. Wolak had his mouth bloodied.

But in the third Wolak stepped on the gas once more and with Bravo on the ropes, where he couldn't afford to be, Pawel saw a chance to end it. He drilled Bravo to the head, hurting him, and then rained down fast punches until referee Pete Santiago stopped it with Norberto sagging though still on his feet. Naturally, Bravo protested, but it was a timely finish at the 1-33 mark.

Undefeated **Maureen Shea** of the Bronx lost her WBA women's super-



QUICK WIN: Pawel (right) steps on the gas

featherweight title and will surely have to drop her "Real Million Dollar Baby" tag after Peru's tall **Kina Malpartida** stopped her in the 10th and final round (two minutes duration).

Shea (9st 2lbs), who took up boxing after watching Mike Tyson chew off part of Evander Holyfield's ear in 1997, was unbeaten in 14 (seven wins inside and one No Contest), but got worse with each round while Kina improved.

You wouldn't have guessed after the opening round that Shea would wind up losing. She had Malpartida (9st 3

1/2lbs) down with a left hook over the top. The Peruvian (based in Australia but trained in California) looked more shocked than hurt. Shea looked quick, moved her head well, and flittered around, while her South American foe seemed slow afoot and upright.

But Malpartida stuck with the basics, held her ground and didn't get disheartened when Shea, clearly faster, got close enough to unleash combinations.

Kina had her nose bloodied in the fourth, but from the fifth she came into the contest more, cutting off the ring better and timing her shots with precision. By the sixth Shea wasn't landing as she had earlier. And though she gave Malpartida a menacing stare for a right thrown clearly after the bell, Maureen didn't make her opponent pay for the indiscretion.

I had it quite close by the seventh, but now Shea was like a wind-up machine going forwards with barely any head motion and Malpartida scoring as her opponent advanced.

Shea got wobbled at the end of the eighth, by a girl who going in had scored

only one stoppage in eight wins (three losses). The signs for the local were not hopeful and Shea continued to get caught easily in the ninth, paving the way for the dramatic finish in the next.

Walking into more shots, Shea was eventually sent to the floor by a left-right-left to the head. She was up at referee Eddie Cotton's count of "six", but wobbly and the third man gave her every chance to prove she was fit to carry on. She couldn't and he stopped it.

A terrific six-round super-bantam match saw Jersey City's undefeated **Jorge Diaz** (8st 10lbs), an explosive left-hooker, outpoint tough **Lante Addy**, a Ghanaian based in Los Angeles. The judges scored 59-55 twice and 58-56.

Diaz, now 8-0 (5) and who in style reminded me of Miguel Cotto, hit Addy with everything but couldn't shift him.

Addy (8st 10lbs), upright and with a high, stiff guard, was competitive throughout and engaged Diaz head-to-head in a tremendous last when for the best part of a minute they traded furiously. Diaz gets hit a little too often for my liking but, offensively, has the tools to be useful. He finished with a cut left eye and lump on his forehead. Addy drops to 6-4 (4).

Puerto Rican **Hector Marengo** (9st 6 1/2lbs) is now 5-0-2 (3) after being held to a majority draw by Houston's **Angel Rodriguez** (9st 5 1/2lbs) in a four-rounder. Two judges had it 38-38, which seemed about right, while a third scored a ridiculous 40-36 Marengo.

Marengo lost the first two rounds for me, but then outboxed Rodriguez in the third, showing what he could do from range and on his toes.

Rodriguez, now 3-3 (2), kept his chin and left hand low but was never intimidated by an opponent who, on paper, was supposed to beat him.

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UPSET:
Malpartida (right) takes over after Shea's promising start

