

GOLDEN GLOVES

White Plains' Bovee wins women's title

Yonkers' Torres drops 4-1 decision in men's contest

Harold Gutmann
The Journal News

NEW YORK — Angelique Bovee is a pioneer in women's boxing, a three-time national champion who in 2002 was named captain for the second-ever U.S. National Team.

But after flying all over the world, Bovee, a 31-year-old White Plains resident, took her title-winning act closer to home.

Bovee won the 138-pound women's title last night with a 5-0 decision over Yelina Binder, 22, at the 77th Golden Gloves in the Theater at Madison Square Garden.

Another local fighter wasn't as fortunate. Angel Torres of Yonkers lost a 4-1 decision to Luis Delvalle in the 125-pound open division.

Bovee, who trains under Luigi Olcese at the New York Boxing Gym in Yonkers, took control of the fight immediately with some precision punching. But her first Garden fight didn't go as smoothly as she would have liked. In the third round, Bovee had the first standing eight count of her career.

"I'm disappointed in the way I boxed. I feel like I have a standard to live up to," Bovee said. "It all went so fast, I didn't feel like I got in my rhythm really. But now that it's over, it feels awesome."

Torres landed his power punches and mixed up his attack equally between the head and the body, even bloodying Delvalle's nose in the second round.

But the methodical victory that Torres was building to came undone in the last 30 seconds of the fourth and final round. Delvalle bullied Torres into the ropes and unleashed a flurry of uppercuts and



Karen Vibert-Kennedy for The Journal News

White Plains resident Angelique Bovee won a 5-0 decision last night to take home the 138-pound title.

body shots, leaving a lasting impression on the judges.

"I thought I won the fight," said Torres, who trains at the Yonkers PAL under trainer Sal Corrente. "I stuck to my game plan. Still, to the judges it wasn't enough."

Torres lost in the finals last year. The 19-year-old felt that his experience in the Garden and his strength would overwhelm Delvalle, who had just turned 17 and was a champion boxer in his native Puerto Rico before moving to Newburgh three years ago.

"I thought he had the power punches in there, I felt he hurt

him," Corrente said of Torres. "The last round might have swayed the judges — (Delvalle) had more in the tank."

In Olympic-style boxing, an accurate jab is worth the same as a power shot, and Delvalle landed enough punches to keep it close before his final flurry.

"I don't know what those judges are looking for, but I'm not shocked by any decision in amateur boxing," Corrente said.

By the third round, Torres and Delvalle were trading punches in the middle of the ring for two minutes of continuous action. That dis-

play earned a standing ovation between rounds; the fifth fight on the card, it was the first that got spectators out of their seats.

"Win lose or draw, (Torres) showed he had the heart of a champion," Corrente said.

Sixteen more title fights will be held tonight at the Garden, starting at 7:30.

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