



Victoria Perkins Makes History As The First Ever Women's Welsh Champion

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On Saturday 17th August 2024 at the Selwyn Samuel Centre in Llanelli, Swansea's Victoria 'VIP' Perkins made history by becoming the first ever women's Welsh Champion.

Promoted by Shadow Promotions in association with Vote Boxing, Perkins outpointed Ashleigh Johnson 97-93 in front a split crowd, wrapped up in their own battle to provide the loudest support.

It was an excellent clash of two very different types of fighters. The technician vs the brawler. Range vs power. 6ft vs 5ft 1in.

This time, it was the former that prevailed. After 10 rounds of heart, grit, and determination displayed by both fighters, this onlooker sat ringside had Perkins 4 rounds up.

I thought that Johnson secured the first round convincingly. She evaded Perkins' jabs and cornered her on the ropes a few times to unleash a flurry of spiteful blows.

Perkins came out stronger after a word from her corner team and clinched rounds 2 and 3, in my opinion, demonstrating good footwork to keep Johnson at range. She landed a couple of very well executed shots, including a perfectly timed uppercut in the opening seconds of round 2.

Rounds 4 through 7 were very close and could be argued either way. It comes down to which style you prefer: Perkins leveraging her range to be the busier fighter or Johnson packing more power in her shots when she caught Perkins on the ropes. Personally, I awarded 2 rounds to each fighter.

Despite Johnson's no-quit spirit, Perkins had now found her rhythm and picked up the last 3 rounds in a strong finish. Cool, calm, and collected, Perkins stuck to her game plan in the final rounds, landing the cleaner punches and busting Johnson's nose in the penultimate round.

I was extremely impressed by the stamina of both boxers. Perkins and Johnson delivered a spectacle that lived up to the hype and then some. Neither fighter tired over the 10 brutal rounds and neither fighter seem phased when they were rattled.

When asked how it felt to secure her legacy as the first ever women's Welsh Champion, still riding on adrenaline Perkins gushed:

"It's perfect, it's made in the stars, isn't it? I don't know. It's a feeling I can't describe at the minute.

Maybe in the next couple of days I'll be able to, but right now it's kind of just a dream!"

This win was a huge statement by Perkins, who was perhaps unfairly overlooked in this fight after an early loss on her record to Bolton's Linzi Buczynskij. And as much as she will take some well-deserved time to celebrate, her ambitions far exceed this momentous achievement.

"I don't want to just be the first Welsh Champ. I want to take all the belts in the division at the end of the day, otherwise I shouldn't be here."

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