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Terrance Lewis of Philadelphia (right) knocked out Robert Davis of Akron, Ohio, last night in the ninth round at Pier 32.

Boxing's S.F. revival scores a hit

Capacity crowd of 3,000 watches bouts at Pier 32

By Nancy Gay
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Professional boxing, with all its attendant hoopla, mayhem and excitement, appeared to successfully revive itself in San Francisco along the Embarcadero waterfront last night, giving a promising local fighter a good stage and the heavyweights plenty to jaw about.

An ESPN2 live telecast and the customary assortment of wildly grinning, scantily-clad ring girls helped ignite the standing-room-only crowd estimated at more than 3,000 that packed a huge outdoor tent

along Pier 32. But it was the boxing — much of it better than expected — that turned this into a pretty darn good show.

While much of the attention centered on the sloppy but action-packed heavyweight main event — a raucous affair between Robert Davis and Terrence "KO" Lewis that saw three knockdowns and several slips — the future of Bay Area boxing was visible in the earlier junior middleweight bout featuring San Leandro's Jauquin Gallardo.

The current California junior welterweight champ and 1996



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Susan Howard (left), a 37-year-old from Novato, scored a decision over Seattle's Bambi Bertonecello last night on the waterfront.

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Hit show on the waterfront

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U.S. Olympic team alternate scored an impressive, tactical unanimous decision against overmatched Jose Luis Montes (10-40), a last-minute fill-in.

Dominating with his jab and staggering Montes several times with a series of potent combinations and hooks to the body, Gallardo — sporting his nickname “El Maton” (“The Killer”) on his trunks — won all six rounds on all three judges’ cards to improve to 11-0-1 with three knockouts.

Though he never dropped the showboating club fighter, Gallardo, who had a huge local contingent cheering him on, dominated with several damaging uppercuts and easily outclassed Montes.

“Every fight is a statement, and I got the win which is the important thing,” said Gallardo, who endured Montes’ incessant rope-a-dope clowning and got a 1-inch cut over his right eye from a sixth-round head butt.

Gallardo’s scheduled opponent, Salvador Montes, failed to

show at Monday’s weigh-in, forcing promoter Peter Howes and matchmaker Jeff Ruf to sign Jose Luis Montes on the fly. But Gallardo’s people were dismayed to learn the scheduled six-round bout might be reduced to four, and considered pulling out, too.

“We didn’t even think we were going to fight. The emotions were up and down,” Gallardo said. “But ESPN2, they wanted me to go on. So we did.”

The featured heavyweight bout was a wild show, with both fighters pawing, grappling and ending up in a number of high-impact spills that might have registered on the Richter scale in Menlo Park.

Former North American Boxing Federation champion Davis, 240 pounds, hoping to turn heads despite a 24-1 record, didn’t get the result he was hoping for. Lewis, 233½, a soft-looking, big-talking puncher from Philadelphia, scored knockdowns in the second, third and ninth rounds.

The second-round tumble was a tandem affair — Lewis dropping the taller Davis with a two-punch

combination and a right, and Davis grabbing Lewis’ legs as he fell. Both huge men hit the canvas with enough force to shake the rope reinforcements loose.

The final blow, a big left hook to the side of the head, sent Davis flying to the canvas. Without a count, the referee stepped in to stop the bout 2 minutes, 6 seconds into the ninth.

Davis’ corner howled over the result, drawing a fine from the California State Athletic Commission. But Lewis — despite the fact two judges scored the bout even with the earlier two knockdowns — proclaimed this one no contest.

“I controlled that whole fight. I had that fool walking into that punch,” crowed Lewis, who improved to 30-8 with 21 KOs and scored his second consecutive ninth-round knockout. “He was walking back and I just got him.”

In the much-anticipated women’s bout, Novato Boxing Club’s Susan Howard (6-2) won a majority decision in a four-rounder over Seattle’s Bambi Bertoncello.

*E-mail Nancy Gay at
ngay@sfnchronicle.com.*