

Value Available on Breazeale over Wallin



Photo: Amanda Westcott/SHOWTIME

The Adrien Broner versus Jovanie Santiago card provides an intriguing matchup in the co-feature bout with Dominic Breazeale (20-2, 18 KOs) vs Swedish contender Otto Wallin (21-1, 14 KOs). Two heavyweights who have only lost to the best competition in the division square off in the 12 -round match in Uncasville, Connecticut. This fight will likely eliminate one from again contending for a title, so expect both to put it all on the line.

Breazeale has twice fought for a title. His first attempt ended in the 7th round at the hands of Anthony Joshua in England in 2016. Breazeale battled back to get a shot against Deontay Wilder in 2019 where the then-WBC Champion knocked him out before the 1st Round bell had sounded. Though these two losses were heavily one sided, it does not reflect Breazeale's career.

Breazeale defeated numerous contenders before the Wilder loss. Wins against highly regarded fighters Carlos Negron, Izu Ugonoh, Amir Mansour, Eric Molina, and Fred Kassi prove Breazeale can stand in the ring with some of the best of the division.

Wallin, on the other hand, has a relatively light resume. His two best wins are against Travis Kauffman this past August and the moral victory against Tyson Fury when he went the distance in the second of Fury's two tune-up fights before facing Wilder for the second time. There was a reason Fury chose Wallin for final tune-up. The Swede stands at six and a half feet and has proven to be durable going the distance in eight of his fights. In the Fury fight, Wallin was able to score a couple of cuts that required over forty stitches. While Wallin could have scored a win due to the cuts, Fury was never in danger of losing due to skills and won an

unanimous decision comfortably. Wallin's last fight was decided when Kauffman pulled out in the fifth round due to a shoulder injury. After losing, Kauffman announced his retirement.

Breazeale has stood in the ring with better fighters than Wallin. His record has been impressive in those fights as well. The biggest question mark for Breazeale is his hunger for victory. The best indication was at the weigh-in where Breazeale still appeared to be in fight shape after a nearly two-year layoff.

There is value here with Breazeale at over +200 with multiple sportsbooks. I put the match at much closer to even. Wallin has probably earned a slight edge due to being the more active of the two fighters, but not by much. Fight fans saw both lose to championship caliber fighters with Wallin having the best go at it with his fight against Fury. That fight does not tell the whole story and **we will gladly take the tested Breazeale at 2/1 or better!**

The Play: Breazeale +215 (Circa Sports) for 1 unit

2021 Record: 2-0, +2.66 units.