

## Look for Canelo-Saunders to go Long



Photo Courtesy Matchroom

For over a month, we've looked for value and have not seen much, but today we do! Tonight's Canelo Alvarez- Billy Joe Saunders matchup provides just what we're looking for and it's in a premier matchup to boot!

Canelo Alvarez (55-1-2, 37 KOs) will step foot in the ring a little over 2 months since Avni Yildirim retired at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> round in Miami. Alvarez won the fight convincingly over the Turkish fighter who had not won a fight since 2018 and has now lost two bouts in a row. Blame the WBC for making Yildirim the mandatory challenger in a fight not many were interested in seeing.

Saunders (30-0, 14 KOs) presents a more intriguing matchup for Canelo. Alvarez has not faced a southpaw since Erislandy Lara in 2014. He was lucky to escape that matchup with a win, taking it via split decision versus the Cuban. A close matchup indeed when you consider the bout took place in Las Vegas where Mexican fighters can expect a home advantage. Two judges had it decided by just one round for both boxers while the third had it 117-111 for Canelo.

Canelo said he is much improved since that fight, and there is little doubt that he is. However, we do not know how he will perform against a skilled southpaw like Saunders. For Saunders part, he's durable and has never been knocked down. Of course, this will be the toughest opponent he has ever faced. Not the same for Canelo, who has a roster of talented fighters in his résumé including, of course, Floyd Mayweather, Jr. in his prime.

The oddsmakers have Alvarez heavily favored. As of this writing, Fan Duel the best you could get Alvarez at -650 and Bookmaker leading the way on Saunders at +464. A small play on Saunders is possible, but probably not. Hard to see Alvarez losing this one.

We will instead look at the total rounds bet. Alvarez has knocked out many fighters. However, the last fighter he stopped early for the first time in the fighter's career was Liam Smith in 2016. Saunders is not known for knock outs. At a 46.6% knockout rate, it doesn't appear his power will be feared by Canelo.

The main worry in the fight ending early is Canelo able to land a knockout blow easier against a lefty as well as Saunders having his chin (and liver) tested more than it ever has been in his career.

While we could go with the fight to go the distance at a better price (most books have this at even odds on both sides), we'll lay a little more to go over 10.5 rounds (-155, Bookmaker). Both fighters have ended fights in the final round before, so we want to remove that from the equation.

***The pick: Alvarez/Saunders to go over 10.5 rounds at -155 laying 1.55 units to win 1.***

***Record for 2021: 3-1, +2.66 units.***