

# **MARCIANO WINS SPLIT DECISION OVER LAST ARZA**

New York, March 24 (AP)—Rocky Marciano, unbeaten Brockton, Mass., youngster, blasted his way to the top ranks of the heavyweight division tonight by gaining a split decision over previously unbeaten Roland La Starza of New York in a blazing 10 round bout in Madison Square Garden. Marciano weighed 183½, La Starza 187.

The swarthy, 25 year old New England socker won his 27th straight victory by the narrowest of margins. After the judges had split, Referee Jack Watson cast the deciding ballot for Marciano. Watson gave each fighter five rounds but awarded the bout to Marciano on points, 9 to 6.

The two ex-GI's, who were battling for a possible title shot this summer, staged a fierce battle that had the crowd of 13,658 which paid \$53,723 yelling most of the way. La Starza was floored for an eight count in the fourth round. In addition, he suffered a cut over the left eye.

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