

# **Better Than the Friday Night Fights**

by Ray Borrer, April 30, 2010

Recently I was in New York on business. It was Friday night and I knew what I wanted to do. It was something like the Friday Night Fights (of boxing fame) but better! My boss and I went and saw the “Dirty Dozen” tournament at SPiN New York!

For those that don't know, this is a club that was co-founded by the actress Susan Sarandon after she fell in love with the sport.

The atmosphere was definitely that of a singles club.

One side of the club was a dance floor with the typical club scene.

The other side had lots of tables where informal, social games were being played.

And near the bar was a single table with bleacher seats gathered around it.

The “Stadium Table”

The tournament started at 9PM but since my boss and I had trouble navigating the New York Subway, we got there at 10PM.

To say that the tournament had “local color” would be an understatement.

Between matches there was entertainment of various kinds.

One time a young couple gave a Salsa demonstration

Another time, band played for us. It was something between a grunge band and a high school pep band. The front man had spiked hair, had a trumpet in one hand and a megaphone in the other. The drummer played a snare drum and had a cow bell on his waist. The third band member played a tuba, had sunglasses with flashing LED lights and was wearing a Scottish kilt.

As far as the tournament itself was concerned, there was lots of good action. The best 12 players in the city compete in this small, up-close tournament, mainly for bragging rights. The most exciting match, I thought, was one of the semi-finals, with lots of big counter-loops and extended rallies.

I initially judged the action to be at a state championship level, but upon researching it I realized that it was more like low-level international competition.

Ernesto Ebuena, III (former Philippine national champion) defeated David Paul in the finals to win the tournament.

All this action, in addition to ordering some sliders, made for a fun and entertaining evening.