

Sports

Bloodied Fury survives severe cut to outpoint Sweden's Wallin

Fury taken to hospital for a deep gash over his right eye

LOS ANGELES: Undefeated British heavyweight Tyson Fury shook off a left hook to the temple that left him bloodied and bruised before battling to a unanimous points win over Sweden's Otto Wallin Saturday.

Fury had to dig deep after the bone-rattling third-round punch from heavy underdog Wallin sliced open a deep gash over his right eye in Las Vegas. The shot left Fury half-blind for the remainder of the 12-round non-title bout as blood flowed freely down the right side of his face.

But the self-styled "Gypsy King" powered back in a battle of attrition and eventually seized control in the ninth round. "I got caught early on which changed the fight completely," Fury said. "For the majority of fight I couldn't see."

Fury, who was taken to hospital for repairs, won 116-112, 117-111 and 118-110 on the three judges' scorecards. Because the cut was from a punch, and not an accidental clash of heads, Wallin would have won by TKO had the injury caused officials to stop the contest.

Fury was hoping for a dominant performance against the unheralded Swede to stoke excitement for his lucrative money-spinning rematch with WBC champion Deontay Wilder which he claims is scheduled for February.

'DEONTAY I WANT YOU NEXT'

Fury climbed off the canvas after a 12th round knockdown by Wilder in December only for judges to score a draw in a pulsating title fight that many observers thought the Englishman had won. He called

out Wilder after the verdict over Wallin was announced saying, "Deontay I want you next."

Before Saturday's fight the 31-year-old Fury insisted he wasn't looking past the 30/1 underdog Wallin, who entered the ring with a perfect 20-0 record. An over-the-top, five-minute ring walk sporting a sombrero and accompanied by a Mariachi band had some wondering if Fury was more concerned with boosting his Mexican fan base on their independence day than beating Wallin.

But as he had against Wilder in December, the unbeaten 6ft 9in Fury (29-0-1, 20 KOs) showed he can deal with adversity in the ring. "It is all heart and determination," he said. "If I can keep going then I will keep going."

The 28-year-old southpaw Wallin angered Fury at the end of the sixth round by reaching over the referee with his glove to try and rip open the cut even more.

The fight had been briefly halted in the middle of that round so the ring doctor could inspect Fury's cut. "I can see," Fury insisted when asked if the blood was affecting him.

By the final round both boxers were out of gas. Wallin connected with a final flurry and for a few fleeting moments it looked like the heavyweight division might have its second huge upset of a fancied British fighter in three months.

In June, Mexico's Andy Ruiz knocked out the previously unbeaten Englishman Anthony Joshua in the seventh round in New York to win three of the four major heavyweight belts in one of the sport's biggest shocks. —AFP



LAS VEGAS: Tyson Fury (L) and Otto Wallin fight during their heavyweight bout at T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. Tyson won by an unanimous decision after the 12-round bout. —AFP

Ogier triumphs in Rally of Turkey to re-ignite title race

MARMARIS: Frenchman Sebastien Ogier emerged from the dust, rocks and searing heat to win the Rally of Turkey yesterday to gain ground in the race for the world title. It was Ogier's first win since Mexico in March and he comfortably beat Citroen teammate Esapekka Lappi by 34.7sec after the pair found the right formula to save their tyres on the testing terrain. "It's great for our team, but it doesn't mean we have suddenly solved all our problems," said Ogier after Citroen sealed its first double of the season. "There's plenty of room for improvement, but we really needed those points."

After 11 of the 14 races, Estonia's Ott Tänak leads the points table on 210, with seven-time world champion Ogier 17 points adrift. Tänak had to pull out Saturday as his Toyota refused to start, but the car and driver were back in contention yesterday, winning the power stage and thereby earning five precious championship points.

In fact Tänak's comeback Sunday was all about stopping Ogier and he even drove without a spare tyre to lighten the weight of his Toyota on his way to the power stage win. Belgian Thierry Neuville of Hyundai came eighth on the weekend and has dropped from second to third in the standings. Next on the agenda will be the narrow muddy lanes of the Rally of Wales with the two other remaining dates in Catalunya and Australia. —AFP

Australia's Dennis to defend time trial world title

SYDNEY: Rohan Dennis has confirmed he will defend his time trial crown at cycling's road race world championships in Britain after his abrupt withdrawal from the Tour de France mid-event. The Australian, who won the 2018 title in Innsbruck, beating Dutch ace Tom Dumoulin, controversially threw in the towel at the start of the Peyresourde, the first of two climbs on the Tour de France's 12th stage in July.

It was reported that Dennis and his Bahrain Merida team had been having disagreements over his equipment and skinsuit, but this has not been confirmed and Dennis declined to say why he called it quits. "What I did was pull out of a race, it's been blown out of proportion so much that people have slammed me for being everything under the sun," he told his local Adelaide Advertiser newspaper in his first comments since then.

"I've come off Twitter and haven't got into a slandering match because we have given other people the chance to try to sort this out in a mature way. I don't want to put any more fuel on the fire."

Dennis was supposed to be competing in the Vuelta a Espana which finishes Sunday but was pulled from the Bahrain Merida line-up before the race.

According to the newspaper, he will ride an unmarked bike complete with wheels and components supplied by the Australian national team when he defends his individual time trial title in Yorkshire.

"Physically I'm still as good as I was last year and my power profile test that I did two weeks ago was the best numbers I've done ever," said Dennis, a time trial specialist who has worn the leader's jersey at all three Grand Tours.

"Mentally I have days where it's hard but I believe I can still win (in Yorkshire). "It's more of a mental battle because all I've got is training. I don't have any racing to push me where I would have had goals to target stages and what not at the Vuelta."

"That would have been the perfect preparation." The 2019 UCI road world championships begin in Harrogate on September 22. —AFP

England close on Ashes-levelling win

LONDON: Steve Smith was dismissed for just 23 as England closed in on a series-levelling victory against Australia in the fifth Test at the Oval yesterday. While the former captain was at the crease, Australia retained a faint hope of chasing down a daunting target of 399 to seal their first Ashes series win in England since 2001.

But when Ben Stokes dived to his left at leg slip to catch Smith off paceman Stuart Broad, England knew they had removed the last serious obstacle in their victory charge. At the tea interval Australia, who have already retained the Ashes, were 167-5, with the final session of the fourth day to come plus a full day on Monday.

Matthew Wade was not out 60 and captain Tim Paine unbeaten on 10. Smith, who scored an astonishing 774 runs in just seven innings, was out for a score of less than fifty for the first time in the series.

The Oval crowd gave him a standing ovation as he walked back to the dressing room in the September sunshine, with Australia in deep trouble at 85-4 in the post-lunch session. Earlier, England added 16 runs to their overnight tally, with Jofra Archer and Jack Leach the last men out. Broad then pounded in, roared on by a packed crowd, who raised the roof when he demolished Marcus Harris's off-stump in the fifth over of the Australian innings. In his following over, Broad ended David Warner's miserable series, with the opener edging him to Rory Burns in the slips and departing for 11. Warner, who returned to international cricket in June after a 12-month ban for ball-tampering, had a good World Cup but has endured a torrid time in the Ashes.

WARNER STRUGGLES

The attacking batsman, who was booed after his dismissal for his part in the cheating scandal, scored just 95 runs in 10 innings and was dismissed by Broad seven times. Warner's dismissal brought Smith to the crease and he opened his account with a sweet drive through the covers for four off Archer. Smith and Marnus Labuschagne took the score to 56 before off-spinner Jack Leach beat the outside edge of Labuschagne's bat and Jonny Bairstow whipped off the bails to complete a sharp stumping. Smith's exit led to one or two isolated boos but they were drowned out by applause from the crowd in appreciation of his run-scoring

Marquez wins San Marino MotoGP to close in on sixth world title

MISANO ADRIATICO: Spaniard Marc Marquez snatched victory on the final lap at the San Marino Grand Prix yesterday to close in on a sixth world title.

The Honda rider, starting on the second row, took a third MotoGP win in Misano ahead of France's Fabio Quartararo, on a Yamaha-SRT, who had the lead for most of the race.

"At the end I just decided to go for it," said Marquez, who had been pipped at the line at the last two races in Silverstone and the Dutch GP.

Five-time world champion Marquez won the 77th Grand Prix of his career in all categories to overtake British legend Mike 'the bike' Hailwood.

The 26-year-old has won 51 MotoGP races, 16 Moto2 and ten Moto3.

Marquez now has a 93-point lead on Italian Ducati rider Andrea Dovizioso with six races left this season. Dovizioso finished sixth on Sunday on front of his home crowd. Pole sitter Maverick Vinales completed the podium for Yamaha.

"It was a very tough race," said Quartararo, 20. "It was the first time that I battled like that with Marquez."



LONDON: Australia's Matthew Wade (L) plays a shot as England's Jonny Bairstow (R) keeps wicket during play on the fourth day of the fifth Ashes cricket Test match between England and Australia at The Oval in London yesterday. —AFP

feats during the summer. His 774 runs put him fifth on the list of highest tallies in an Ashes series behind Don Bradman's two entries, England's Wally Hammond and former Australia skipper Mark Taylor.

All-rounder Mitchell Marsh was caught in the slips by Burns off a Chris Woakes delivery but was reprieved when replays showed it was a no-ball. But he was out for 24 after prodding the ball into the hands of Jos Buttler at short leg off the bowling of Root. England, who became world champions in the one-day game for the first time in July, are desperate to end a long summer by levelling the five-match series at 2-2. If they complete the win, as expected, it would be the first drawn Ashes series since 1972.

Australia are seeking their first Test series win in England for 18 years but only once before have they scored 399-plus runs in the fourth innings to win a Test match, against England at Headingley in 1948. The tourists won the first Test at Edgbaston and the fourth at Old Trafford while Ben Stokes inspired England to victory in the third Test at Headingley. The second match, at Lord's, was drawn. —AFP

Rain washes out India-S Africa T20

DHARAMSALA: Rain and a damp outfield forced the abandonment of the first Twenty20 international between India and South Africa without a ball being bowled in Dharamsala yesterday. The pitch and the square at the start of the three-match series remained covered throughout, with rain lashing the sleepy hill station in the Himalayan foothills. Officials called off the match nearly 50 minutes after the official start time of 07:00 pm (1330 GMT).

"The rains continue and the match has officially been called off. See you in Chandigarh for the 2nd T20I," the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on its official Twitter handle. The second match is scheduled for Wednesday. South Africa, captained by wicketkeeper-batsman Quinton de Kock, are ranked third in T20s, one rung ahead of the Virat Kohli-led India. —AFP



MISANO ADRIATICO: Race winner Repsol Honda Team Spanish rider, Marc Marquez (C) celebrates on the podium next to second-placed Petronas Yamaha SRT French rider, Fabio Quartararo following the San Marino MotoGP Grand Prix race at the Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli yesterday. —AFP

ahead of Britain's John McPhee and Italian Tony Arbolino 0.201 to complete a Honda sweep.

Italian Lorenzo Dalla Porta finished eighth but extended his overall world championship lead as leading challenger Aron Canet of Spain was forced out with mechanical problems.

Race standings:

1. Tatsuki Suzuki (JPN/Honda) 40min 00.034sec, 2. John McPhee (GBR/Honda) at 0.112sec, 3. Tony Arbolino (ITA/Honda)

0.201, 4. Jaume Masia (ESP/KTM) 0.708, 5. Dennis Foggia (ITA/KTM) 3.232
Selected: 8. Lorenzo Dalla Porta (ITA/Honda) at 3.740

Overall standings after 13 races:

1. Lorenzo Dalla Porta (ITA/Honda) 179 pts, 2. Aron Canet (ESP/KTM) 157, 3. Tony Arbolino (ITA/Honda) 149, 4. Marcos Ramirez (ESP/Honda) 123, 5. Niccolò Antonelli (ITA/Honda) 118.
Selected: 9. Tatsuki Suzuki (JPN/Honda) 75. —AFP