

Garcia overpowers Easter to unify lightweight belts

Whyte keeps world title dream alive with gritty win over Parker

LONDON, July 29, (AFP): Briton Dillian Whyte's once unlikely dream of a tilt at a world heavyweight title...

into the bout from the fourth round, even if he swung some wild punches that met fresh air, as Parker tired.

By the sixth Whyte was landing more effectively and Parker looked spent.

BOXING

Whyte quickly disabused Parker of that notion as he put him on the canvas with a left hook.

Parker needed a knockout to win and out of the blue he raised his game in the 11th and penultimate round landing several punches to the extent Whyte for the first time looked troubled.

Parker threw caution to the wind in the final round and put Whyte down with less than 30 seconds to go, the Briton clambering to his feet and just



Dillian Whyte (right), connects with a punch against Joseph Parker during their heavyweight bout at the O2 Arena in London on July 28. (AP)

holding on. There was a classic heavyweight encounter in the bout preceding the main event between unpredictable Briton Dereck Chisora and Cameroon-born Frenchman Carlos Takam...

Chisora remarkably got the win he desperately required after three losses in his last six bouts — including against Whyte. Having looked outclassed early on, he came up with a cracking punch to

put Takam down in the eighth. Although the 37-year-old got back up, Chisora sent him back to the canvas with his next punch.

The referee brought the curtain down in all likelihood on the loser's hopes of another tilt at the world title but 34-year-old Zimbabwe-born Chisora said he could dream again.

Further down an impressive undercard Rio Olympic bronze medalist Joshua Buatsi eased to his seventh win since turning professional, making light work of Latvia's Andrejs Pokumeiko, knocking him out in the first round of their light heavyweight bout.

The 25-year-old's promoter Eddie Hearn predicts great things for Buatsi, who is managed by Joshua.

Meanwhile, American boxer Mikey Garcia unified the WBC and IBF lightweight titles late Saturday by overpowering Robert Easter in a 12-round battle of undefeated champions.

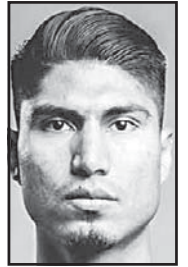
The 30-year-old Garcia retained his WBC title and grabbed Easter's IBF belt with a unanimous decision victory at Staples Center arena in downtown

Los Angeles. Garcia seized control of the fight early, flooring American Easter in the third round with a left hook to the chin. It was just the second time in his career that Easter was knocked down.

Easter recovered from the knock-down but failed to mount a sustained attack outside of using his jab, and was almost knocked down again in the ninth round.

Garcia is now 5-0 with two knockouts since returning from a 30-month exile from the sport due

a battle with promoter Top Rank. The three judges scored it 118-109, 117-110 and 116-111 as Garcia improved to 39-0 overall after this fight, which marks a return to the lightweight division. He won a junior welterweight belt in February but had to vacate it to face Easter.



Garcia

Allgaier finishes 2nd, Benjamin 3rd

Bell races 3rd straight NASCAR Xfinity victory

AMES, Iowa, July 29, (AP): Christopher Bell made history Saturday at Iowa Speedway — even though nearly everything that could go against him did down the stretch.

Bell moved back out front in overtime to win a wild NASCAR Xfinity series race on Newton's bull ring, becoming the first series regular with three straight victories since Dale Earnhardt Jr in 1999.

Coming off victories in Kentucky and New Hampshire, Bell led 94 of 257 laps. He broke a tie with Cup driver Kyle Larson for the series season victory lead with four.

Bell fell back to fourth in the first attempt at overtime before a red flag halted the race. He retook control in Joe Gibbs Racing's No. 20 car, going low to beat Justin Allgaier — the winner of the June race at Iowa.

Allgaier was second, followed by

put me into the wall," Allgaier said. "It's disappointing to be in that position, especially when you think you know how somebody is going to race you ... unfortunately that's Iowa. And (Bell) definitely had the best car. No questions asked."

Elliott Sadler started on the pole for the first time since Indianapolis in 2017. Cole Custer beat Sadler on the first restart of the race, which came after an early caution, and picked up his first stage win and playoff point.

Custer continued his strong run in the second stage. But Bell, who had moved to within less than a car length of Custer, slipped down to the inside line and finally passed Custer with five laps to go. It was the fourth stage win of the season for Bell, who now leads the point standings by 16 over Sadler.

It was the seventh victory at Iowa for Joe Gibbs Racing and the first for Bell. "I was just praying for no yellow (flags) there on that long green flag run. When it came, it just became time to execute on restarts. I let one get away on me, but this thing was so good I was able to come from the second row," Bell said.



Christopher Bell, driver of the #20 Ruud Toyota, celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the NASCAR Xfinity Series US Cellular 250 presented by The Rasmussen Group at Iowa Speedway on July 28, in Newton, Iowa. (AFP)

CAR RACING

Kyle Benjamin and Ross Chastain. Bell seized the top spot early in the final stage and, after a clean final pit stop, seemed set to cruise to a victory if the race stayed green.

It didn't, and Bell nearly got knocked out of the race in the first of three late incidents that set up a thrilling finish.

Bell avoided a near-disastrous crash with 14 laps left when Chase Briscoe spun out right in front of him. Bell somehow kept the No. 20 largely clean, and he held first on a restart with nine laps left before Garrett Smithley spun out to draw another flag that brought on overtime.

Allgaier got the best of the field on that restart though, emerging from the pack on the high groove to grab the lead. That wouldn't last, as Max Tullman and Matt Tiffitt drew the red flag with a big crash before the first overtime lap could be completed.

When the race resumed, Bell and Allgaier rubbed cars before Bell jumped ahead.

"(Bell) drove into me and tried to

Martinez hits majors-leading 32nd HR, Red Sox top Twins

Arcia has 10 RBIs in 1st 2 games, Angels rout Mariners 11-5

BOSTON, July 29, (AP): J.D. Martinez hit his major league-leading 32nd homer, Mookie Betts had two RBI doubles and the Boston Red Sox beat the Minnesota Twins 10-4 on Saturday night for their 17th win in 21 games.

Betts raised his MLB-leading average to .346 and Jackie Bradley Jr hit a two-run triple for the Red Sox. They have a 5-1/2-game lead over the New York Yankees atop the AL East and own the majors' best record at 73-33.

Logan Morrison hit a solo homer for the Twins, a night after they appeared to throw in the towel a bit in pursuit of a playoff spot following a pair of trades that sent away infielder Eduardo Escobar and reliever Ryan Pressly.

Angels 11, Mariners 5

In Anaheim, Calif., rookie Francisco Arcia had a homer and six RBIs, giving him a major league-record 10 RBIs in two career games, and Los Angeles Angels rolled past Seattle.

Arcia made his major league debut Thursday against the White Sox and hit his first career home run while driving in four runs. After not playing Friday, he topped that Saturday with a third-inning homer and run-scoring doubles in the second and fifth innings.

The previous record for RBIs in two career games was nine by Joe Cunningham of the St. Louis Cardinals in 1954. Cunningham was also the only player to have at least four RBIs in each of his first two career games until Arcia did it as well.

Yankees 10, Yankees 5, 1st Game

Yankees 5, Royals 4, 2nd Game In New York, Greg Bird homered to



Heath Hembree #37 of the Boston Red Sox pitches at the top of the sixth inning of the game against the Minnesota Twins at Fenway Park on July 28, in Boston, Massachusetts. (AFP)

begin a two-run rally in the eighth inning and New York survived a rough outing by newly acquired reliever Zach Britton and a tumble by C.C. Sabathia, beating Kansas City for a split of their day-night doubleheader.

In the opener, the Royals tagged All-Star ace Luis Severino for six runs in 4-1/3 innings. The doubleheader was caused by a rainout Friday. Bird opened the eighth with a drive off Brian Flynn (2-2) that made it 4-4. The Yankees went on to load the bases and Aaron Hicks hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly.

Rangers 7, Astros 3

In Houston, Rougned Odor hit an inside-the-park homer and a regular over-the-fence shot, going 5 for 5 to help Texas beat Justin Verlander and Houston.

Odor rocketed a ball to right-center field in the fifth inning that George Springer made a leaping attempt on but missed. The ball ricocheted off the wall and rolled along the warning track. Odor raced around the bases and beat the throw home for his first career inside-the-park home run.

Cardinals 6, Cubs 2

In St. Louis, Marcell Ozuna hit a grand slam in a six-run first inning, Miles Mikolas pitched six strong innings and St. Louis beat Chicago in front of a season-high 47,514 fans at Busch Stadium. The Cardinals improved to 9-6 this season against the NL Central-leading Cubs.

Ozuna hit his second grand slam this season and the fifth of his career. Ozuna had three hits.

Dodgers 5, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Yasiel Puig homered and drove in three runs following his return from the disabled list, Alex Wood pitched 5-2/3 scoreless innings to win his sixth straight decision and Los Angeles beat Atlanta.

Reinstated after missing 15 games with a right oblique strain, Puig made it 1-0 with a sacrifice fly in the second off Max Fried (1-4) and pushed the lead to 3-0 in the sixth with his 12th homer, a towering shot off Luke Jackson that bounced off the third-level scoreboard facade in left field.

Braves 7, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Jhoulys Chacin pitched three-hit ball over seven innings, Christian Yelich homered for the second time in three days and Milwaukee beat San Francisco. Chacin (10-3) was masterful while earning his fourth consecutive win. The right-hander yielded one run, struck out six and walked one. Chacin allowed only two runners and faced (6) Yates (8), P. Hughes (9) and Hedges. W-Bradley 3-2. L-Maton 0-1.

Diamondbacks 9, Padres 4

In San Diego, Jon Jay hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the eighth inning and finished with three hits and three RBIs to lead Arizona past San Diego.

Jay, who played with San Diego in 2016, also brought in a run with a groundout in the second, when the Diamondbacks took a 4-0 lead against Tyson Ross, who has been rumored to be on the trading block.

The Padres got back into the game, with Ross hitting a tying single in the fourth, but their bullpen faltered in the eighth. Daniel Descalso hit a leadoff

Rockies 4, Athletics 1

In Denver, Nolan Arenado homered for the second time in two games, Carlos Gonzalez doubled three times and Colorado beat Oakland for its 10th win in 12 games.

Antonio Senzatela shook off a first-inning run to pitch effectively into the sixth of a game that was delayed 51 minutes at the start because of a storm cell that was moving through the greater Denver area.

Orioles 11, Rays 2

In Baltimore, Trey Mancini and Joey Rickard combined for seven hits, including back-to-back home runs in the second inning, and Baltimore breezed past Tampa Bay.

In Detroit, JaCoby Jones hit a go-ahead, two-run homer in the third inning to help Detroit beat Cleveland. Blaine Hardy (4-3) gave up a run over five innings. Three relievers combined to pitch four innings of scoreless relief. Shane Greene retired the side in order in the ninth for his 21st save.

White Sox 9, Blue Jays 5

In Chicago, pinch-hitter Daniel Palka gave Chicago the lead with a two-run single and Leury Garcia added a three-run triple in a six-run eighth, lifting the White Sox over Toronto.

Marlins 2, Nationals 1, 10 Innings

In Miami, J.T. Realmuto singled with the bases loaded and none out in the 10th inning, and Miami snapped a streak of eight consecutive home losses to Washington.

Miami beat Washington for only the second time in the past 18 meetings.

Magneuris Sierra reached on a bunt single to start the 10th against Kelvin Herrera (1-1). Miguel Rojas tried to sacrifice, collided with catcher Spencer Kieboom leaving the box and was awarded first base for obstruction. A single by Brian Anderson loaded the bases.



Right fielder Yasiel Puig #66 of the Los Angeles Dodgers hits a sacrifice fly in the second inning during the game against the Atlanta Braves at SunTrust Park on July 28, in Atlanta, Georgia. (AFP)

MLB Scoreboard

MLB Scoreboard table listing game results for various teams including Washington, Kansas City, St. Louis, Detroit, Cincinnati, NY Yankees, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Chic W. Sox, Texas, LA Dodgers, Boston, Miami, Colorado, Arizona, Milwaukee, LA Angels, American League East, American League Central, American League West, National League East, National League Central, and National League West.