

Taylor beats Baranchyk on points for super lightweight belt

Wilder KOs Breazeale in 1st round to defend heavyweight title

NEW YORK, May 19, (AP): Deontay Wilder believes they are coming, the mega matchup with Anthony Joshua and the rematch with Tyson Fury.

Until then, he moved onto some business with Dominic Breazeale.

He took care of it quickly and emphatically. Wilder got back into the win column Saturday night, knocking out Breazeale with an overpowering right hand in the first round to defend his heavyweight title.

"There's been a lot of animosity and a lot of words that were said and it just came out of me tonight," Wilder said.

Wilder hurt Breazeale with a right to the head early in their fight at Barclays Center, but the challenger had recovered from that early onslaught. But there was no coming back from the right later in the round that immediately dropped Breazeale, who was trying to get up as referee Harvey Dock counted him out at 2:17 of the round.

"When I hit him with the right hand the first time, his body language changed," Wilder said.

And with the last one, Breazeale's body language crumpled.

Wilder (41-0-1, 40 KOs) was coming off his draw against Fury in December, the first fight of his pro career that wasn't a victory. He wanted a rematch with Fury or a unification match with fellow champion Joshua, but settled for a mandatory defense of his WBC title when those couldn't be made.

He ended it quickly, finishing off Breazeale (20-2) after being pushed hard in each of his last two fights.

Wilder weighed in at a little more than 223



Dominic Breazeale (left), evades a right from Deontay Wilder during the first round of the WBC heavyweight championship boxing match on May 18 in New York. (AP)

pounds, a gain from the 209 he was at for the Fury fight, but still well below the 245 he set as a goal after feeling he was too small in that bout, in which he dropped Fury with a huge combination in the 12th round but had to settle for the draw when the challenger was able to get up and finish the fight.

An immediate rematch was expected before Fury surprisingly went another route.

"I understand what Tyson Fury did. When you get dropped on the canvas like that, I understand you have to get yourself back together," Wilder said. "But the rematch will

happen, like all these other fights will happen. The great thing is all these fights are in discussion. The big fights will happen."

And Wilder won't need any more pounds as long as he still has one of the most feared right hands in boxing.

Breazeale had downplayed Wilder's power, saying heavyweights are supposed to hit hard. But he should certainly be a believer now.

He was challenging for a heavyweight title for the second time, having been stopped by Joshua in the seventh round three years ago in Britain. He said he had learned and grown

from that fight, but there's nothing that could have prepared him for what faced in landing just two punches before 13,181 fans in Brooklyn.

"This was a situation where he landed the big right hand before I did," Breazeale said. "I thought I was going to come on in the later rounds. I'll be back and go for the heavyweight title again."

Wilder and Joshua was the fight just about everyone in boxing would prefer to see, but so far it's been all talk without seriously moving close to action.

BOXING

Joshua will be making his US debut at nearby Madison Square Garden on June 1, so perhaps they could try again afterward to negotiate a bout.

Wilder easily put aside the letdown of not fighting Joshua or Fury again because of his anger toward Breazeale over an altercation involving family members at an Alabama hotel in 2017. He went as far as to tout his ability to kill a man in the ring, remarks for which WBC President Mauricio Sulaiman said would be addressed by the organization in a hearing.

Wilder was coming off tough tests in his last two bouts, getting rocked by Luis Ortiz in their March 2018 fight in this arena before stopping the Cuban in the 10th round, and needing a knockdown in the final round to secure the draw with Fury.

He looked like a picture of peace as he carried his young daughter into the arena about three hours earlier, but was back to making

his case as boxing's baddest man once the fighting started.

In the other title fight on the card, Gary Russell Jr (30-1, 18 KOs) defended his piece of the featherweight title when the referee stopped his bout with Kiko Martinez (39-9-2) late in the fifth round on the advice of the ringside doctor because of a bad cut over the challenger's left eye.

Meanwhile in Glasgow, Scotland, Josh Taylor relieved Ivan Baranchyk of the IBF super lightweight boxing title after winning their thrilling fight by unanimous decision on Saturday.

Taylor remained unbeaten at 15-0, and is expected next to meet WBA champion Regis Prograis, who is also unbeaten in 24 fights with 20 knockouts.

Baranchyk suffered his first defeat in 20 fights, in his first defense of the IBF belt he won last October.

The Belarussian started better, opening a cut over Taylor's left eye and bloodying his nose in round five. But the fight turned when Taylor dropped Baranchyk twice in round six.

Taylor still gave Baranchyk respect for the rest of the fight, which ended with them going at it in the center of the ring.

The judges gave the win to Taylor with scores of 117-109, 115-111, and 115-111.

On the undercard, Naoya Inoue of Japan took less than two rounds to demolish Emmanuel Rodríguez of Puerto Rico to add the IBF world bantamweight title to his WBA belt.

War of Will wins Preakness Stakes featuring 'riderless' running horse



Jockey Tyler Gaffalione (right), reacts aboard War of Will, as they cross the finish line first to win the Preakness Stakes horse race at Pimlico Race Course on May 18 in Baltimore. (AP)

Smith, Warner ready for hostile crowds at WCup

SYDNEY, May 19, (RTRS): Australia's returning duo of Steve Smith and David Warner could face hostility from English crowds during the World Cup but can rely on their team mates to cope, coach Justin Langer has said.

The pair have returned from year-long bans following a ball-tampering scandal in South Africa and are expected to play vital roles in Australia's title defence although they will not be in leadership positions.

Langer is aware the crowd in England could target Smith and Warner in the May 30-July 14 tournament in England and Wales but said public anger will not be as intense as it was.

"We can't control the crowd. What I do know is... it might heat up but I can guarantee it won't be any hotter than it was 12 months ago. I've never seen anything like it," Langer told reporters in London.

CRICKET

"The boys are well prepared. They've paid a heavy price and we're expecting always to come here and to face the fire and we're ready for that.

"They're human beings as well and... there's not too many I've met who like being booed or heckled or disliked. We're going to have to care for them, we're going to have to put an arm around them and make sure they're going okay."

Langer was happy with what he saw of the duo in three unofficial World Cup warm-up matches at home to a New Zealand XI this month, where Smith had unbeaten knocks of 89 and 91 while Warner managed a top score of 39.

"I watched Steve batting... in those three practice games, he's literally a master of the game, so it's nice to have him back," Langer added.

"Dave's got that look on his eye, he's really hungry, he's a great player... he's so dynamic, he brings so much energy, and that's what we ask from our players."

Australia's World Cup opener is against Afghanistan on June 1 in Bristol.

Everfast finishes 2nd, Owendale in 3rd

BALTIMORE, May 19, (AP): Mark Casse completed a lifelong quest two weeks after the scare of a lifetime. And he did so in a race featuring a riderless horse that threw his jockey out of the gate and kept running.

Since he was a child, Casse wanted to win a Triple Crown race, and the well-respected trainer got that victory when War of Will bounced back from a bumpy ride in the Kentucky Derby to win the Preakness on Saturday.

Casse, 58, was more relieved than anything that his prized 3-year-old colt didn't go down in the Derby, which

HORSE RACING

could've been a multihorse catastrophe, and could finally take a deep breath following the Preakness.

"This is even I think probably more special given everything that we've been through," Casse said. "I'm not even calling it redemption. I didn't feel like he got his fair shot, and that's all I wanted - a fair shot. And he showed what he had today."

War of Will was unfazed starting from the inside No. 1 post position for the second consecutive race, even though that contributed to his rough run at Churchill Downs. Rising star jockey Tyler Gaffalione guided the horse along the rail in the Preakness and made a move into the lead around the final curve, holding off hard-charging late addition Everfast, who was a nose ahead of Owendale for second.

All the while, Bodexpress - after ejecting Hall of Fame jockey John



Gary Barber holds the Woodland Vase after his horse War of Will with Tyler Gaffalione aboard won the 144th Preakness Stakes horse race at Pimlico race course on May 18 in Baltimore. (AP)

Velazquez - kept running around the Pimlico track and did an extra lap. An outrider tried to swoop in at the top of the stretch and corral Bodexpress, but the horse sped up and passed a few competitors near the finish line and kept going. Technically, Bodexpress gets a did-not-finish.

"He wasn't behaving well," said Velazquez, who added he's fine and would not seek medical attention. "When the doors opened, I was off right from the start and he kind of jumped sideways, and I had my feet out sideways and I lost my balance and went out." It was yet another bizarre scene in a Triple Crown season full of it.

Two weeks ago at the Kentucky Derby, apparent winner Maximum Security was disqualified for interfering with War of Will, and Country House elevated to first in the only on-track

disqualification in the race's 145-year history. Casse was just thankful War of Will was healthy and decided to take his shot in the Preakness even though Maximum Security and Country House didn't run.

It was the first Preakness run without the Kentucky Derby winner since 1996, but the 13-horse field was the largest since 2011. Go back to 1951 for the last time the Preakness was run without the top four finishers from the Derby.

"This is the Preakness," Casse said. "We just won the Preakness. I really don't care who was in it."

Bob Baffert-trained Improbable was in it as the 5-2 favorite and finished a disappointing sixth. The Kentucky Derby and Preakness are the only races of Improbable's career that he didn't finish first or second.

"He just got mad and reared up," Baffert said of Improbable's antics in the starting gate. "After that, he was in a good spot. He just didn't kick."

War of Will had plenty of kick and put himself in position to become the first horse since Afleet Alex in 2005 and 19th all-time to fall short in the Derby but win the Preakness and Belmont. Winning the \$1.5 million Preakness by a 1/4 length over Everfast, who wasn't entered until Wednesday, was another illustration of War of Will's mix of talent and grit.

"He's got so much heart," Gaffalione said. "We always knew he had the ability. We just had to get a little bit lucky, and today was our day."

It's a breakthrough for Gaffalione, who has become something of a rising star since being named top apprentice rider in 2015. Gaffalione, 24, was aboard War of Will for the colt's sixth consecutive race and came away with the biggest victory of his young career.

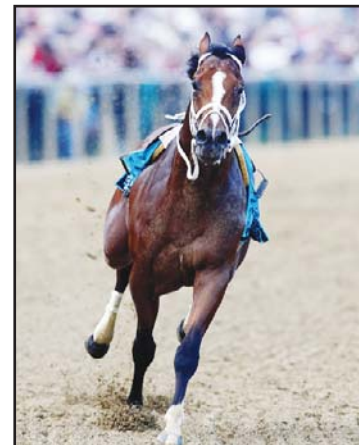
"It really hasn't even hit me yet," said Gaffalione, who got advice Saturday morning from idol Jerry Bailey. "I can't

even put it into words."

Casse had plenty of words after the contentious situation at the Kentucky Derby that spurred a lawsuit from Maximum Security owners Gary West and a 15-day suspension handed down to jockey Luis Saez. He took issue with West blaming War of Will and Gaffalione.

West took Maximum Security off the Triple Crown trail, but Casse was eager to get War of Will back on the track two years after Classic Empire finished second in the Preakness. With the sport in turmoil after the deaths of 24 horses at Santa Anita Park since Dec 26 and an ongoing quarrel over the future site of the Preakness, Casse's first Triple Crown victory is a tale of redemption for him and the horse even if he doesn't want to call it that.

"I'm just very happy for Mark to get his first Classic win," Gaffalione said. "Very happy for the horse. He deserved it more than anything. He's so special."



Bodexpress runs in the 144th Preakness Stakes horse race without John Velazquez at Pimlico race course on May 18 in Baltimore. (AP)

SA team still in contention

Last-gasp kick earns Stormers 'draw' with leaders Crusaders

CAPE TOWN, May 19, (RTRS): Jean-Luc du Plessis slotted a penalty for the struggling Stormers with the last kick of the game to ensure a thrilling 19-19 draw against Super Rugby log leaders the Canterbury Crusaders at Newlands on Saturday.

The home side were 10-0 ahead early on and had the defending champions looking decidedly rattled before the play-off-bound Crusaders found a new gear to go 19-10 up early in the second half.

But the Stormers fought back

RUGBY

in an exciting, high-tempo finish and three successful penalties ensured the draw.

The Crusaders outscored the Stormers by three tries to one but the boot of Joshua Stander and his replacement Du Plessis made for a grandstand finish.

Tries from Matt Todd, David Havili and substitute Braydon Ennor for the New Zealanders came after Siya Kolisi scored first to give the Stormers early hope.

The Springbok captain burst through the defensive line to score after six minutes and a Stander penalty 10 minutes later

had the Stormers 10-0 up.

But Todd went over in the Crusaders' first attack at the end of a quick drive off a 28th minute line out and a clever kick from flyhalf Richie Mo'uanga set up Havili for his try under the posts.

The Crusaders' 12-10 half-time lead was extended to 19-10 soon after the break by Ennor,

at the end of a sweeping set of passes across the backline.

But the Stormers kept in contention by reducing the lead to 19-16 with two penalties

to ensure an exciting last 10 minutes, where Seevu Reece went over for the Crusaders, only for the score to be called back because of a forward pass.

That offered the home side energy for a final attack and pressure on the Crusaders forced a last-minute penalty which Du Plessis put over.

With three home games to come in their remaining four regular season matches, the Stormers are still in playoff contention.



Du Plessis