



Atlanta Braves' Jorge Soler doubles against the Milwaukee Brewers during the third inning in Game 2 of baseball's National League Divisional Series in Milwaukee. (AP)

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British retains WBC title

Fury stops Wilder in 11th in another heavyweight thriller

LAS VEGAS, Oct 10, (AP) — After three fights featuring nine combined knockdowns and many unforgettable moments, Tyson Fury finally ended his epic heavyweight rivalry with Deontay Wilder with one last valedictory punch.

Fury got up from two fourth-round knockdowns and stopped Wilder with a devastating right hand in the 11th round Saturday night, retaining his WBC title in a thrilling conclusion to a superlative boxing trilogy.

Fury (31-0-1, 22 KOs) finished Wilder for the second straight time in their three bouts, but only after a back-and-forth evening featuring five combined knockdowns and several apparent moments of imminent defeat for both men. Wilder ultimately ended up facedown on the canvas at 1:10 of the 11th round after a chopping right hand fired from high in the air by the 6-foot-9 Fury.

"It was a great fight," said Fury, the sport's lineal heavyweight champion and a former unified world champ. "It was worthy of any trilogy in the history of the sport. He's a top fighter, and he gave me a real (test) tonight."

Wilder was knocked down in the third round and appeared to be on his way out, but he improbably rallied to knock down Fury twice in the final minutes of the fourth. The British champion was profoundly shaken, but he also gathered himself and fought on.

Wilder (42-2-1) absorbed enormous

punishment and appeared to be physically drained for much of the bout, but the veteran American champ showed his toughness while still throwing power shots on weary legs.

Fury knocked down Wilder again with a concussive right hand midway through the 10th, but Wilder stunned Fury in the final seconds of the round. Fury persevered - and after the referee jumped in to wave it off in the 11th, Fury climbed onto the ropes in weary celebration before a frenzied crowd of 15,820 at T-Mobile Arena on the south end of the Las Vegas Strip.

BOXING

"Don't ever doubt me when the chips are down," Fury said. "I can always deliver."

Fury then broke into a rendition of "Walking in Memphis," in keeping with his post-fight tradition of serenading his crowds.

The fight likely concluded one of the most memorable rivalries in recent boxing history, a trilogy defined by two remarkable displays of pugilistic tenacity. Any three-fight series is a rarity in the fractured modern sport, but Fury and Wilder brought out the best in each other through a rivalry spanning nearly three calendar years.

They met first in late 2018 in downtown Los Angeles, where Wilder knocked down Fury twice in the late rounds of an excellent fight otherwise



Tyson Fury of England lands a left to Deontay Wilder in a heavyweight championship boxing match in Las Vegas. (AP)

controlled by Fury. The second knockdown in the 12th round left Fury flat on his back and motionless while Wilder celebrated, but Fury improbably rose and reached the bell in a bout judged

a split draw.

The second bout was in Las Vegas in February 2020, and Fury's dominance was much clearer. The British champ battered Wilder until the seventh round,

when Wilder's corner threw in the towel on a one-sided victory and Fury claimed Wilder's WBC title belt.

In this climactic third meeting, Wilder was somehow even tougher -

and he repeatedly came close to beating Fury, a superior technician.

Wilder opened the first round with a strong jab and a good game plan, but appeared to tire early when he didn't hurt Fury early. In the final minute of the third, Fury stunned Wilder with a shot and then escaped a clinch to land a two-punch combination that put Wilder down to his knees. Fury battered Wilder again with the crowd on its feet, but Wilder made it to the bell.

Fury appeared to be in control until late in the fourth, when Wilder landed a powerful right hand squarely to the top of Fury's head. Fury staggered and eventually fell to the canvas, only to get up and then be put down again moments later amid the crowd's stunned roars.

Fury made it to the fourth-round bell, and both fighters landed impossibly big shots without a knockdown in the fifth and sixth. Fury hurt Wilder in the seventh with a series of punches that sent Wilder sprawling back against the ropes.

Fury hurt a visibly exhausted Wilder again in the eighth with two huge shots, and the ringside doctor examined Wilder before allowing the fight to continue into the ninth.

Another damaging right hand from Fury swept Wilder's legs out from under him in the 10th, but Wilder finished the round, even hurting Fury late.

It ended with one more right hand from close range. Wilder reached for the ropes on his way down, but landed facedown with his eyes glassy.

Denmark move closer to WC

England ease toward winning Group I

GENEVA, Oct 10, (AP) — Denmark added to the most perfect campaign in World Cup qualifying and England also eased toward winning their group.

Wins for Scotland, Serbia, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine moved each closer to at least a place in the playoffs next year with the finals tournament in Qatar in sight.

Cristiano Ronaldo did not even play in the World Cup program yet still set one men's international soccer record and extended another playing against the 2022 tournament host.

In his European record 181st game for Portugal - breaking a tie with his former Real Madrid teammate Sergio Ramos's mark for Spain - Ronaldo score his 112th goal to stretch his men's world record.

Denmark have put together perhaps the world's best series of qualifying results as the runaway Group F leaders while Scotland and Israel served up the most dramatic game.

The Danes' 4-0 win at Moldova was a seventh straight win with no goals conceded and a European-best 26 goals scored.

One day after he made the Ballon d'Or nomination list, defender and captain Simon Kjær's goal from the penalty spot was one of four in 21 first-half minutes in Chişinău.

Denmark can seal their place in Qatar by beating Austria on Tuesday in Copenhagen.

Scotland beat visiting Israel 3-2 in a tense game with control of second place in Group F - and a playoffs berth in March - at stake.

Scotland twice trailed, had a first-half penalty saved, leveled in the second half only after a lengthy video review overturned a goal previously disallowed, then missed a clear chance in the 89th.

Four minutes into stoppage time, Scott McTominay of Manchester United bundled the ball over the goal-line after a corner to delight a sold-out Hampden Park.

Scotland next play Tuesday at the Faeroe Islands which lost 2-0 to visitors Austria. Though Austria stayed in fourth place, they will likely advance to the 12-team playoffs getting one of the two places awarded to teams based on Nations League group standings last year.

England cruised to yet another rout, 5-0 at Andorra, though are still only four points clear of surprise second-place Albania in Group I.

Five different players scored against the 156th-ranked Andorrans: Ben Chilwell and Bukayo Saka in the first half and Tammy Abraham, James Ward-Prowse and Jack Grealish in the second.

The match was handled by the all-woman team of match officials, led by Ukrainian referee Kateryna Monzul, one day after a fire damaged one of the stands at the tiny Estadi Nacional.



Belgium's Jason Denayer, (right), challenges for the ball with Italy's Giacomo Raspadori during the UEFA Nations League third place soccer match between Italy and Belgium at the Juventus Stadium, in Turin, Italy. (AP)

Italy beat Belgium to finish 3rd in Nations League

European champions Italy bounced back from their first loss in more than three years to beat Belgium 2-1 in the Nations League's third-place match on Sunday.

Nicolò Barella opened the scoring at the start of the second half and Domenico Berardi doubled Italy's lead from the spot in the 65th minute.

Belgium hit the woodwork three times before Charles De Ketelaere netted his first international goal four minutes from time.

Italy had seen their world record 37-match unbeaten run ended by Spain in Wednesday's semifinal, with Leonardo Bonucci sent off before halftime

Hungary were impressive at the European Championship in June though lost again at home, 1-0 to Albania, in an empty Puskas Stadium in Budapest. It was a punishment for racist behavior by fans when England visited last month.

Poland had a crowd of more than 56,000 in the national stadium in Warsaw to see a 5-0 win over San Marino, and travel to face Albania on Tuesday.

While Italy are hosting the Nations League Finals this week, Switzerland closed the gap to three points beating Northern Ireland 2-0.

The Irish came to Geneva with hopes of putting pressure on the Swiss but the game swung against them when defender Jamal Lewis was sent off in the 37th.

Switzerland can draw level with Italy on Tuesday by winning in Lithuania, and needs a big win.

The key game is Nov. 12 when Italy host Switzerland. A draw could even suit the Italians whose goal difference

is currently six better than the Swiss who missed many scoring chances Saturday.

Serbia edged into Group A top spot winning 1-0 in Luxembourg to go one point clear of Portugal having played a

2-1 loss. Belgium lost to France on Thursday, after the world champions recovered from two goals down to win 3-2.

France and Spain meet in the final in Milan later Sunday.

Both Belgium and Italy made sweeping changes from their semifinal line-ups. Romelu Lukaku, Eden Hazard and Thomas Foket had left the Belgium squad after sustaining injuries.

Italy started aggressively but it was Belgium which went closest to taking the lead when a fierce effort by Alexis Saelemaekers crashed off the crossbar. (AP)



Denmark's Andreas Evald Cornelius (right), challenges for the ball with Moldova's Veaceslav Posmac during the World Cup 2022, group F qualifying soccer match between Moldova and Denmark, at the Zimbru stadium in Chisinau, Moldova. (AP)

game more. Ireland won 3-0 at Azerbaijan, and in a five-nation group where the odd team out plays Qatar in a friendly, Portugal took their turn. Cristiano Ronaldo opened the scoring in the first half of a 3-0 win.

SOCCER

The likely group decider will be Portugal hosting Serbia on Nov 14.

Sweden forward Alexander Isak scored a contender for best goal in a 3-0 home win over Kosovo.

The Real Sociedad striker collected a pass on the left wing, put the ball through the legs of a challenger, then shot into the top corner from 25 meters (yards).

Sweden trail one point behind Group B leader Spain - also currently in Nations League action - and can go top Tuesday when Greece visit. Greece scored twice from the 90th minute Saturday to win 2-0 at Georgia.



Los Angeles Dodgers' Chris Taylor runs home to score against the San Francisco Giants during the second inning of Game 2 of a baseball National League Division Series in San Francisco. (AP)

LA Dodgers 'even' series with Giants

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct 10, (AP) — Julio Urias shut down San Francisco and contributed an RBI single for his cause. Cody Bellinger and AJ Pollock delivered two-run doubles to blow it open in the sixth, and the Los Angeles Dodgers pounded the Giants 9-2 on Saturday night to even their NL Division Series at one game apiece.

Dodgers manager Dave Roberts declared earlier in the day, "We're going to play this game essentially like a do or die," and the reigning World Series champions did just that by continuing to add on, including Will Smith's leadoff homer in the eighth.

BASEBALL

Now, NL West runner-up Los Angeles - second place despite 106 wins - is right back in it and headed home to Chavez Ravine with a chance to ride some momentum.

The best-of-five series shifts to Dodger Stadium for Game 3 on Monday night all square, hardly a surprise considering how close these clubs played for months. The 107-win Giants edged the Dodgers for the division on the final day and took the season series 10-9 but were outscored overall 80-78.

Urias went unbeaten over his final 17 regular-season starts since June 21, going 11-0 during that stretch that included a Sept. 4 victory here at raucous Oracle Park. He struck out five and walked one over five innings Saturday, giving up one run on three hits.

Braves 3, Brewers 0

In Milwaukee, Max Fried pitched six sharp innings and Atlanta's bullpen held on after manager Brian Snitker's quick hook, sending the Braves over Milwaukee to tie their NL Division Series at a game apiece.

The Brewers brought the tying run to the plate in each of the last three innings but couldn't get a key hit. Austin Riley homered and Ozzie Albies hit an RBI double for the Braves, who bounced back after losing 2-1 in Game 1.