

BOXING

Title rematch won't be dull

Champ Ruenroeng, challenger Casimero have a score to settle

By MURRAY GREIG
murraygreig@chinadaily.com.cn

Power thrills, but speed kills.

On Wednesday night at National Olympic Park's Diamond Stadium, two fighters with extraordinarily fast fists will crank up the punch count when International Boxing Federation world flyweight champion Amnat Ruenroeng of Thailand puts his title on the line in a much-anticipated rematch with No 1 contender Johnriel Casimero of the Philippines.

Based on what happened 11 months ago, you get the feeling these guys don't particularly like each other.

Last June in Bangkok, the undefeated Ruenroeng (17-0, 5 KOs) was awarded a 12-round decision in a foul-filled war of attrition that saw American referee Larry Doggett toss away the rule book and turn a blind eye on multiple clinches, throwdowns and head butts more reminiscent of cartoon wrestling than world-class boxing.

Although he was on the receiving end of most of the fouls, Casimero (21-3, 13 KOs), a former world junior flyweight champ, didn't complain about the scoring (116-110, 115-110 and 113-112).

The Filipino did, however, campaign for a rematch at a neutral site and the IBF agreed to stage it as the highlight of the sanctioning

Quick jabs

Several past and present IBF champions have been invited to attend the convention, including Mike Tyson, Larry Holmes and Roy Jones Jr. ... The official weigh-in for Wednesday's card will take place at The Great Wall on Tuesday afternoon ... At the awards banquet, Amnat Ruenroeng will be presented with the Jersey Joe Walcott Award, the IBF's highest honor, as Fighter of the Year.

body's annual convention, being held this week in Beijing.

"Every IBF-licensed official in the world will be at the rematch, so this time Johnriel only has to be concerned with getting in the ring and fighting his fight," a member of his camp said at a March media conference to announce the bout.

"Last time, he was fighting both the champion and the referee."

While the 26-year-old Casimero has not fought in the interim, Ruenroeng, 36, notched a lopsided decision over Japan's Myung Ho Lee last December in Thailand.

"I have something to prove after the way our first fight went; I won the decision, but it wasn't pretty," the champ said through an interpreter.

"Casimero is the mandatory challenger, so I look forward to beating him again — hopefully by a knockout. After that, I want to unify the title."

Ruenroeng was credited

with two knockdowns in their first fight after Casimero decked him in Round 3 — though it was ruled a slip.

Wednesday's undercard will feature Xiong Chaozhong, the pint-sized power puncher from Kunming, Yunnan province, who became China's first professional world champion when he captured the WBC strawweight (105 lbs) belt in 2013.

Xiong's record of 26-6-1 includes 14 knockouts, and he has won four of five since being dethroned by Mexico's Oswaldo Novoa in 2014.

Now ranked No 3 in the world, Xiong will face No 5 Jose Jimenez of Colombia in a 12-round eliminator for the IBF's mini flyweight crown.

Last month, former world No 1 super featherweight contender Harold Knight joined Xiong's training team and will be in his corner on Wednesday night. Knight, who trained world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis from 1990 to 2013, summed up Xiong's fight plan in one word: "Pressure."

"He has to be the aggressor ... keep moving forward and throwing punches in bunches," Knight said after a recent sparring session in Beijing.

"X-Man packs a lot of power in both fists, but it's no good if he doesn't use it. We'll be looking to put maximum pressure on Jimenez."

In another featured prelim, Cai Zongju (7-1, 1 KO), the No 1-ranked female mini-musclefighter from Jinan, Shandong province, will challenge Thailand's Samson Tor Buamas (37-3, 19 KOs) for the vacant IBF Intercontinental title.

SOCCER



Jordi Alba celebrates after scoring the first goal for Barcelona in Sunday's Copa del Rey final against Sevilla at Vicente Calderon Stadium in Madrid. Barca won 2-0. JUAN MEDINA / REUTERS

Another Copa del Rey caps Barca's sensational season

By ASSOCIATED PRESS in Madrid

Barcelona finished its season on a high by capturing the Copa del Rey title to add to its Spanish league trophy won just a week ago.

Jordi Alba scored seven minutes into extra time and Neymar sealed the victory late to give Barcelona a 2-0 win over Sevilla for its second straight Copa del Rey title on Sunday.

After a scoreless 90 minutes, Alba found the net with a low left-footed shot into the far corner after a superb long pass into the area by Lionel Messi.

Neymar closed the scoring in stoppage time after another perfect pass from Messi to give Barcelona its 28th Copa trophy.

"It's a great way to end the season," said Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta. "It was a wonderful season. We continued to add to the club's history."

It was the seventh time in team history that Barcelona won both domestic titles in the same season.

For much of the season, Barcelona had hopes of repeating the treble from a year ago, when it also won the Champions League, but it

was eliminated by Atletico Madrid in the quarterfinals of the European tournament.

"It was a spectacular end to the season," Barcelona coach Luis Enrique said.

"Not only because of how we won the league, but also because of how we won this final, when we had to play a man down for a long time. The players couldn't have shown more character."

Barcelona played with 10 men from the 36th minute after defender Javier Mascherano was sent off with a straight red card for pulling the jersey of Kevin Gameiro to keep the French striker from entering the area with only the goalkeeper to beat.

The Catalan club also lost Luis Suarez with an apparent muscle injury early in the second half.

The Uruguay striker, who cried on the bench after being substituted, was crucial for Barcelona in the final stages of the Spanish league, scoring 14 goals in the last five matches.

Sevilla, which won the Europa League final against Liverpool on Wednesday, also played the extra time with 10 men after midfielder Ever Banega was shown a straight red in second-half stoppage time for fouling Neymar just

outside the area as the Brazilian tried to get into position to score.

Sevilla further lost defender Daniel Carrico with two yellow cards just before Neymar's late goal at Atletico Madrid's Vicente Calderon Stadium.

"Despite this loss, we end the season with our heads up," Sevilla coach Unai Emery said.

Sevilla, trying to win its sixth Copa title and first since 2010, controlled possession after Barcelona went a man down and was close to scoring several times, with its best chance coming on a low shot from outside the area by Banega that struck the post in the 50th.

Barcelona relied on counterattacks but never threatened much until extra time started with both teams fielding 10 men.

Barca's previous best chance came on a free kick taken by Messi and easily saved by Sevilla goalkeeper Sergio Rico in the 70th.

It was the second final between the teams this season, with Barcelona needing extra time to win the European Super Cup last August.

The teams exchanged home victories in the Spanish league.

Digest

MARATHON

Forest parks set to host events

The G.O. Forest marathon series, which features running through forests, has been unveiled by the State Forestry Administration of China and Beijing Malon Sports and Culture Co Ltd.

The 2016 series features three stops: Beijing Badaling National Forest Park on June 19, the 75-km extreme run at the Changbai Mountain natural protection area in mid-September and the rain forest run in Xinglong, Hainan province in December, which will host two half marathons in two days.

Organizers plan to add more runs in national forest parks next year and eventually expand the event to overseas locations.

CYCLING

Qinghai Lake race scheduled for July

The Tour of Qinghai Lake pedals off on July 17 in Xining of Qinghai province and ends on July 30 in Baiyin of Gansu province. A total of 161 riders representing 23 professional, continental and regional teams from 15 countries and regions will race 3,631 kilometers, peaking at an altitude of 4,120 meters.

The Tour of Qinghai Lake pro road bicycle race has been staged annually since 2002. It is sanctioned by the International Cycling Union (UCI) as a 2.HC (high class) race as part of the Asia Tour. Last year's winner was Croatia's Rogina Radoslav, with Team Adria Mobil.

China hosted more than 3,000 pro and amateur races last year. According to Wang Wei, a senior official of the Chinese Cycling Association, the nation boasts 20 million cycling enthusiasts and 15 Chinese professional teams are registered with UCI.

Alaphilippe wins Tour of California

France's Julian Alaphilippe captured the overall crown in the Tour of California on Sunday, after Britain's Mark Cavendish outsprung Slovakia's Peter Sagan to win the final stage for the third consecutive year.

Cavendish won the 85.7-mile final stage in 3hrs, 1min, 12sec, with Sagan second and Alexander Kristoff of Norway third.

SKI MOUNTAINEERING

Global interest in conference

The recent Qinghai Gangshika international ski mountaineering conference attracted more than 80 skiers and enthusiasts from Canada, the US, Germany, Italy, South Korea, Pakistan and 18 Chinese cities and provinces.

Ski mountaineering is a discipline that involves climbing and descending mountains on skis. If the mountain cannot be ascended on skis, the competitor carries them to the top.

Organized by the Ski Mountaineering Federation, Asian Ski Mountaineering Association, and the China Mountaineering Association, the week-long conference included competitions, seminars and rescue missions.

ICE HOCKEY

Team Canada strikes gold again

Defending champion Canada blanked previously undefeated Finland 2-0 in the gold medal game at the world championship tournament in Moscow on Sunday.

Connor McDavid teamed up with Matt Duchene to score midway through the first period, cutting in from the right and flicking the puck over Finnish goaltender Mikko Koskinen.

It was McDavid's first goal of the tournament, coming in his 10th game, but last year's No 1 NHL draft pick by the Edmonton Oilers racked up eight assists in that time.

With Russian President Vladimir Putin looking on, McDavid also earned an assist on Duchene's empty-netter with one second remaining.

CHINA DAILY - AGENCIES

Zou prepping for US debut

Zou Shiming will make history when he takes a bite out of the Big Apple next month.

On June 11, the double Olympic gold medalist from Zunyi, Guizhou province, will make his US pro debut when he becomes the first Chinese boxer to be featured in a 10-rounder at New York's iconic Madison Square Garden, taking on Hungary's Jozsef Ajtai in a flyweight title elimination bout.

The fight will be the featured prelim on a card headlined by the WBO junior lightweight title clash between champion Rocky Martinez of Puerto Rico and

Vasyl Lomachenko of Ukraine. Zou (8-1, 2 KOs) celebrated his 35th birthday last week.

He's coming off an impressive TKO victory over Brazil's Natan Coutinho in Shanghai in January, but should be tested by the 19-year-old Ajtai, who owns a record of 15-2, with 10 KOs.

Ajtai turned pro just 11 months ago, and eight of his victories have come against opponents with winning records. The Hungarian has fought three times in 2016, scoring three straight KOs. His most recent outing was a first-round stoppage of Botond Sipos (4-2) in Slovakia

on April 13.

Zou has joined Hall of Fame trainer Freddie Roach in Los Angeles to prepare for the bout. Zhang Chuanliang, who coached Zou as an amateur and guided him to gold at the 2008 and 2012 Olympics, also made the trip and will be in Zou's corner on June 11.

Top Rank promoter Bob Arum said an impressive win over Ajtai could set up a rematch between Zou and IBF world champion Amnat Ruenroeng, who played a lopsided decision in their 2015 title bout in Macao.

MURRAY GREIG

Scoreboard

BASEBALL

Results of MLB games on Sunday (home team in CAPS):
DETROIT 9 Tampa Bay 4
NY METS 3 Milwaukee 1
Seattle 5 CINCINNATI 4
Washington 8 MIAMI 2
PHILADELPHIA 5 Atlanta 0
BOSTON 5 Cleveland 2
CHICAGO WHITE SOX 3 Kansas City 2
Texas 9 HOUSTON 2
Toronto 3 MINNESOTA 1
Arizona 7 ST. LOUIS 2
LA ANGELS 10 Baltimore 2
NY Yankees 5 OAKLAND 4
LA Dodgers 9 SAN DIEGO 5 (17 innings)
SAN FRANCISCO 1 Chicago Cubs 0
Colorado at PITTSBURGH, ppd

BASKETBALL

Result of an NBA playoff conference finals game on Sunday (home team in CAPS):

	1	2	3	4	T
Golden State	28	19	33	25	105
OKLAHOMA CITY	34	38	45	16	133

(Oklahoma City leads best-of-seven series 2-1)

CYCLING

Giro d'Italia
Results from the 15th stage of the 2016 Giro d'Italia, a 10.8-km time trial between Castelletto and Alpe di Siusi:
Stage
1. Alexander Foliforov (RUS) Gazprom 28min 39sec, 2. Steven Kruijswijk (NED/LNL) same time, 3. Alejandro Valverde (ESP/MOV) at 23secs, 4. Sergey Firsanov (RUS/GAZ) 30, 5. Michele Scarponi (ITA/AST) 36, 6. Esteban Chaves (COL/ORI) 40, 7. Ilmur Zakarin (RUS/KAT) 47, 8. Joe Dombrowski (USA/CAN) 52, 9. Bob Jungels (LUX/ETI) 1min 04sec, 10. Rafal Majka (POL/TIN) 1:09
Overall
1. Steven Kruijswijk (NED) Lotto 60hr 41min 22sec, 2. Esteban Chaves (COL/ORI) at 2min 12sec, 3. Vincenzo Nibali (ITA/AST) 2:51, 4. Alejandro Valverde (ESP/MOV) 3:29, 5. Rafal Majka (POL/TIN) 4:38, 6. Ilmur Zakarin (RUS/KAT) 4:40, 7. Andrey Amador (CRC/MOV) 5:27, 8. Bob Jungels (LUX/ETI) 7:14, 9. Kanstantsin Siutsou (BLR/DDA) 7:37, 10. Jakob Fuglsang (DEN/AST) 7:55

Tour of California

Leading results and standings after Sunday's eighth and final stage of the Tour of California:
Stage result:
1. Mark Cavendish (GBR/Dimension Data) 3hr 17min 12sec, 2. Peter Sagan (SVK/Tinkoff) same time, 3. Alexander Kristoff (NOR/Katusha) s.t., 4. Danny van Poppel (NED/SKY) s.t., 5. John Degenkolb (GER/Giant) s.t., 6. Niccolo Bonifazio (ITA/TFS) s.t., 7. Jean-Pierre Drucker (LUX/BMC) s.t., 8. Ariel Richeze (ARG/ETiX-Quick-Step) s.t., 9. Dylan Groenewegen (NED/TLJ) s.t., 10. Travis McCabe (USA/Holowesko) s.t.
Overall standings:
1. Julian Alaphilippe (FRA/ETiX-Quick-Step) 31hr 47min 50sec, 2. Rohan Dennis (AUS/BMC) at 21sec, 3. Brent Bookwalter (USA/BMC) 43, 4. Andrew Talansky (USA/Cannondale) 52, 5. Lawson Craddock (USA/Cannondale) 1:22, 6. Samuel Sanchez (ESP/BMC) same time, 7. George Bennett (NZL/Lotto-Jumbo) 1:50, 8. Jurgen Van den Broeck (BEL/Katusha) 1:53, 9. Neilson Powless (USA/Axeon) 1:57, 10. Laurens Ten Dam (NED/Giant) 2:13

GOLF

PGA Byron Nelson Championship
Leading scores after Sunday's final round of the PGA Byron Nelson Championship at Irving, Texas (par 70, USA unless noted, Garcia wins with par on first playoff hole):
265 - Sergio Garcia (ESP) 63-66-68-68, Brooks Koepka 65-64-65-71
266 - Matt Kuchar 65-67-65-69
267 - Colt Knost 70-63-69-65, Spencer Levin 68-66-67-66, Charles Howell 65-70-66-66, Robert Garrigus 65-70-66-66, Tim Wilkinson (NZL) 67-69-63-68
268 - Justin Hicks 70-65-68-65, Kyle Reifers 68-65-65-70
269 - Charley Hoffman 67-66-72-64, Tony Finau 68-67-68-66, Dustin Johnson 64-68-70-67, Chad Campbell 66-69-66-68, Steve Marino 69-64-66-70, Gary Woodland 71-64-64-70
270 - Wes Roach 64-66-73-67, Michael Thompson 70-65-68-67, Chez Reavie 67-66-69-68, Danny Lee (NZL) 63-69-69-69, Sean O'Hair 66-69-65-70, Jordan Spieth 64-65-67-74

EPGA Irish Open

Leading scores after Sunday's final round of the PGA Byron Nelson Championship at Irving, Texas

(par 70, USA unless noted, Garcia wins with par on first playoff hole):
265 - Sergio Garcia (ESP) 63-66-68-68, Brooks Koepka 65-64-65-71
266 - Matt Kuchar 65-67-65-69
267 - Colt Knost 70-63-69-65, Spencer Levin 68-66-67-66, Charles Howell 65-70-66-66, Robert Garrigus 65-70-66-66, Tim Wilkinson (NZL) 67-69-63-68, Bud Cauley 64-65-68-70
268 - Justin Hicks 70-65-68-65, Kyle Reifers 68-65-65-70
269 - Charley Hoffman 67-66-72-64, Tony Finau 68-67-68-66, Dustin Johnson 64-68-70-67, Chad Campbell 66-69-66-68, Steve Marino 69-64-66-70, Gary Woodland 71-64-64-70
270 - Wes Roach 64-66-73-67, Michael Thompson 70-65-68-67, Chez Reavie 67-66-69-68, Danny Lee (NZL) 63-69-69-69, Sean O'Hair 66-69-65-70, Jordan Spieth 64-65-67-74

LPGA Kingsmill Championship

Leading scores after Sunday's final round of the LPGA Kingsmill Championship at Williamsburg, Virginia (par 71, USA unless noted):
270 - Ariya Jutanugarn (THA) 69-69-65-67
271 - Su Oh (AUS) 69-70-67-65
272 - Kim Sei-young (KOR) 67-72-67-62, Gerina Pill-er 67-71-68-66
274 - Hur Mi-jung (KOR) 69-71-70-64, Lexi Thompson 72-69-67-66, Pornanong Phatlum (THA) 67-72-65-70
275 - Anna Nordqvist (SWE) 70-69-69-66, Brittany Lincicome 66-73-69-67
276 - Caroline Masson (GER) 67-70-71-68, Jessica Korda 69-68-70-69, Minjee Lee (AUS) 66-71-68-71, Chun In-gee (KOR) 73-69-62-72, Ryu So-yeon (KOR) 71-64-69-72
277 - Mo Martin 70-69-70-68, Amelia Lewis 69-68-71-69, Mika Miyazato (JPN) 65-71-70-71
278 - Brittany Altomare 71-72-67-68, Austin Ernst 68-71-71-68, Lydia Ko (NZL) 73-68-68-69, Chella Choi (KOR) 68-74-65-71, Cristie Kerr 68-74-64-72, Laetitia Beck (ISR) 67-72-66-73
279 - Kim Hyo-joon (KOR) 70-72-70-67, Sakura Yokomine (JPN) 71-69-69-70
280 - Kelly Sironi 73-70-70-67, Brooke M. Henderson 70-65-68-67, Chez Reavie 67-66-69-68, Danny Lee (NZL) 63-69-69-69, Sean O'Hair 66-69-65-70, Jordan Spieth 64-65-67-74

World rankings

As of Monday:
1. (1) Jason Day (AUS) 13.23

European Tour Race to Dubai

As of Monday:
1. (1) Danny Willett (GBR) 2780274
2. (4) Rory McIlroy (GBR) 1988305
3. (2) Louis Oosthuizen (RSA) 1547861
4. (3) Rafael Cabrera-Bello (ESP) 1425396
5. (5) Henrik Stenson (SWE) 1045465
6. (7) Lee Westwood (GBR) 947674
7. (6) Branden Grace (RSA) 936353
8. (8) Joost Luiten (NED) 742534
9. (9) Charl Schwartzel (RSA) 712172
10. (11) Soren Kjeldsen (DEN) 672522
11. (10) Lee Soo-min (KOR) 661297, 12. (41) Bradley Dredge (GBR) 615984; 13. (12) Chris Wood (GBR) 590040; 14. (49) Russell Knox (GBR) 580905; 15. (13) Wang Jeung-hun (KOR) 568296; 16. (14) Scott Hend (AUS) 566772; 17. (15) Marcus Fraser (AUS) 560372; 18. (16) An Byeong-hun (KOR) 529795; 19. (17) Andy Sullivan (GBR) 52518; 20. (18) Matthew Fitzpatrick (GBR) 509290

ICE HOCKEY

Result of an NHL playoff conference finals game on Sunday (home team in CAPS):

	1	2	3	OT	T
Tampa Bay	0	2	1	1	4
PITTSBURGH	1	2	0	0	3

(Tampa Bay leads best-of-seven series 3-2)

World Championship

Results of the final on Sunday:
Gold medal match
Canada 2 (McDavid 11:24, ass. Duchene; Duchene 59:59, ass. Marchand) Finland: 0
Bronze medal match
Russia: 7 (Volinov 6:23, ass. Kalinin, Shirokov; Mozyakin 13:41, ass. Datsyuk, Orlov; Telegin 29:36, ass. Datsyuk, Mozyakin; Dadonov 32:49, ass. Panarin, Shipachov; Panarin 35:22, ass. Belov, Chudinov; Mozyakin 53:13, ass. Datsyuk; Shipachov 59:53, ass. Dadonov, Panarin) USA: 2 (Vatranov 34:29, ass. Warsfolsky, Nelson; Vatranov 43:42, ass. Warsfolsky)

SOCCER

Result of the Copa del Rey final on Sunday: Barcelona 2 (Alba 96, Neymar 120+2) Sevilla 0 - after extra time

International friendlies

Results on Sunday:
At Manchester, England:
England 2 (Kane 3, Vardy 83) Turkey 1 (Calhanoglu 11)
At Miami:
Puerto Rico 1 (Betancur 42) United States 3 (Ream 20, Wood 34, Arriola 56)

TENNIS

French Open
Results on Sunday:
Men's 1st rd
Andrey Kuznetsov (RUS) bt Benjamin Becker (GER) 6-2, 6-2, 6-4; Nick Kyrgios (AUS x17) bt Marco Cecchinato (ITA) 7-6 (6), 7-6 (6), 6-4; Igor Sijsling (NED) bt Adrian Ungur (ROM) 6-1, 6-2, 7-6 (5); Teimuraz Gabashvili (RUS) bt Donald Young (USA) 7-6 (1), 6-2, 6-3; Beno Paire (FRA x19) bt Radu Albot (MDA) 6-2, 4-6, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4
Women's 1st rd
Su-Wei Hsieh (TPE) bt Lara Arruabarrena (ESP) 7-6 (6), 6-3; Petra Kvitova (CZE x10) bt Danka Kovinic (MNE) 6-2, 4-6, 7-5; Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (RUS x24) bt Sara Sorribes (ESP) 6-2, 6-0; Viktoria Golubice (SUI) bt Alison Riske (USA) 6-2, 1-6, 6-2; Lucie Safarova (CZE x11) bt Vitalia Diatchenko (RUS) 6-0, 6-2
Note: Only 10 of the scheduled 32 matches were completed due to rain.