



In-ring success continues

Burnett scores unanimous decision over experienced middleweight in Windsor

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

As chants for his opponent grew, so too did Aljermaine Burnett's resolve.

"It was one of the more hostile crowds I've faced," said the 23-year-old Milton boxer, of his recent fight in Windsor against hometown favourite and former national champion Jesse Innis. "Every time he threw another punch they'd cheer louder, but it didn't faze me. It motivated me, and I just kept hitting him harder."

That's no hollow statement, given the amateur middleweight rocked his more-seasoned rival for two eight-counts in the third and final round before getting his hand raised for a unanimous victory — the 15th of his burgeoning career that includes just three losses.

Battling fatigue as much as Innis through the early going — having gotten little sleep after a hectic late-night shift with his food distribution company — Burnett dropped the opening round, but wasn't deterred by his sluggish start.

After all, he'd just come off a silver-medal (3-1) campaign at the Ringside World Championships in Kansas City, Missouri and held his own in the finals against an Ohio pugilist with more than 100 fights under his belt.

"That definitely gave me a lot of confidence," he said.

Building on that strong showing, Burnett eventually began working his jab to great effectiveness in Windsor and put plenty of pressure on Innis in round two.

"I didn't give him any time to rest."

That mid-bout turnaround set the stage for a fierce finish, in which the hard-hitting five-foot-11-inch, 165-pounder delivered a flurry of about 10 head shots for the first eight count and then closed things out with a thunderous left hook that had the hometown boy reeling as the final bell rang.

While absorbing just a couple of significant shots,

• see WILLINGNESS on page A22

PACKIN' A PUNCH: Middleweight Aljermaine Burnett is all smiles after putting another notch in his boxing win column recently in Windsor.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

High-stakes finale awaits Under-12 Magic girls

To suggest the Under-13 Magic girls have made a smooth transition to the South Region Soccer League's First Division would be putting it mildly.

Bumped up after an unbeaten season in the Second Division, Milton has remained a force to be reckoned with and is on the verge of securing another first-place finish in the regular season.

All that's need for the Magic to squeak

by the top-seated Burlington Bombers is a victory over winless Brams United C Wednesday evening in their 2009 finale at Lions Sports Park.

Game time is 7 p.m.

Especially impressive since their mid-summer competitive tour of Italy, the Magic now sit at 9-1-3 after a recent 6-2 decision over Brantford BICS.

They pummeled Brams United C 8-0 during their previous encounter and have given up just 10 goals all season while scoring 42 times. Both tallies are the best in the eight-team First Division ranks.

The Magic will gear up for Wednesday's game this weekend at the Lake Simcoe Tournament.

Milton Magic

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