

O'Sullivan robbed of gold medal

by
DAVID GRAVELLE

Saturday night, a gold heist took place at the Los Angeles Memorial Sports Arena. Who was robbed? How much was taken?

Shawn O'Sullivan, one of Canada's brightest hopes for a gold medal at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, was the victim.

His years of training; his dreams; and his personal satisfaction vanished when a piece of gold - rightfully his - was stolen.

O'Sullivan was slated to fight Frank Tate, an awesome American fighter who defeated Shawn at the World Championships earlier this year; but, ended up battling the partisan American crowd and the five so-called experienced judges.

I've always believed that a win is a win and a loss is a loss.

However, Canadian commentators covering the boxing match stated in their pre-fight comments that Shawn O'Sullivan would need a lopsided victory to capture the gold medal.

My "win is a win" prophecy is thrown out and we leave the decision to the boxers.

Nobody wins by knockout so the verdict is

left up to the judges.

To understand the judges, the scoring must be comprehended.

The five judges score each of the three rounds by scores of either 20-19, 20-18 or 20-17 with a 20-19 score being a close round and a 20-17 score being one-sided.

After the bout, the totals are tallied and a winner is announced.

This is oversimplified but it gives you, the laymen, an idea as to what happens at the judges table.

I am not an official judge, nor an avid boxing fan.

I am simply a proud Canadian, a cheering fan of each Canuck participating at the Olympic Games.

Here is my assessment of the fight. Biased or unbiased - take your pick!

Round one - O'Sullivan and Tate feel each other out. They both score some solid blows but O'Sullivan is the aggressor. Advantage O'Sullivan, 20-19.

Round two - O'Sullivan is the instigator keeping Tate on his heels, chasing him around the ring.

With a flurry of punches an upset Frank Tate is forced to take a first standing eight

count.

O'Sullivan keeps on coming with a massive barrage of combinations and solid blows to the head.

A dazed Tate takes a second standing eight count. Advantage O'Sullivan, 20-17.

Round three - Tate has recovered and begins to make a comeback using his jab to score points.

The roar of the crowd spurs him on but O'Sullivan still scores points to keep the round close. Advantage Tate, 20-18.

The final result is the gold medal to O'Sullivan defeating Tate 58-56.

This is only my opinion, but...as I mentioned earlier I am not one of those "experienced" judges.

O'Sullivan was always in total control; he was the aggressor; the fighter in pursuit of victory and ultimate glory.

On the other side of the punch, Tate was the runner, backing away from vicious punches, keeping his head down, valiantly trying to escape the torture that beheld him.

I have always believed that the Olympic Games is the epitome of sport; where truth, ability and sportmanship are the basis of competition.

The 16 days of the Olympics should be a time where violence, racism and politics are put aside.

Unfortunately, these traits have found their way into the Games of the XXIII Olympiad.

There has been protest in yachting, controversy in track and field, and controversial decisions in the boxing ring.

When the announcer revealed the verdict of the match the crowd seemed stunned, as did O'Sullivan.

Frank Tate's arms rose into the air triumphant of his victory while Cabagetown's O'Sullivan held his head high realizing an injustice had been made.

The unanimous 5-0 decision was called "bloody damned nonsense" by the Canadian broadcaster covering the match.

As well, the learned boxing crowd seemed astonished at the result.

As Canadians, we know in our hearts that Shawn O'Sullivan was robbed of his precious gold medal.

As our hero took his bow, first to his clan of family members then to the remainder of the arena he accepted his gold...a glorious standing ovation adulating only a champion.

Atom All Stars capture silver medal

by
DAVID GRAVELLE

At the Ontario Minor Ball Hockey Championships held this past weekend in Sarnia, the Penetang Atom All Stars made the Penetang-Midland area proud as they captured the silver medal.

They started the tournament slow by losing to Welland in a close game.

The final score was 4-3.

Leading the way for Penetang was Terry Waltenbury with a goal and two assists.

Jeff Duval had a goal and Chris Marchildon had a goal and an assist.

The Most Valuable player for this game was Terry Waltenbury.

In the second game, Penetang literally smoked East Gwillimbury 10-2.

Terry Waltenbury had five goals and three assists.

Francois Charlebois had a hat trick and Adam Bourgeois a goal and three assists.

Rounding out the scoring was Jeff Duval with a goal and two assists.

Terry Waltenbury shone again in this game and was named Most Valuable Player.

In the gold medal final Penetang played the Host Sarnia team.

The Sarnia team

scored six times in the first period on route to a 6-1 victory.

Mike Marchildon who had been steady in goal throughout the first two games came up with a rough period of hockey.

Steve Galt replaced him for the second period and played so well he was Penetang's MVP.

The lone goal for Penetang was scored by Francois Charlebois and assisted by Terry Waltenbury.

The peewee all stars did not make the finals but finished a respectable third overall.

In the first game they tied Welland 1-1.

Michael Waltenbury scored the lone Penetang goal with David Forrest assisting.

As well, Forrest was the game's MVP.

In their second game they were shut out by East Gwillimbury 3-0.



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Penetang's Most Valuable Player was Greg Lalonde with a great two-way game.

Next weekend our

junior team will be travelling to Sharon, Ont. to compete in the Ontario Minor Ball Hockey Championships.

Oro 77's camp open

Oro 77's of the Georgian Bay Junior C hockey loop, have announced that Sunday, August 19 will be the registration day for training camp at the Oro Township arena in

Guthrie, beginning at 10 a.m.

A \$10. registration fee will be charged this year and any players born in 1964 or later, may register.

The on-ice part of the camp will begin on August 25 at the Allandale arena in Barrie.

The first tryout is a two hour session, beginning at 9:15 p.m. to 11:15 p.m.

Oro 77's are looking for the services of a volunteer trainer. For further information, call Dean Reavie at 487-2828.

Coach Ray Murton is returning to coach the 77's and is very optimistic about this years team.

"We have about 11 players returning from last years team"

Murton said Monday.

"All positions are open," Murton added.

Murton also said the club sent out about 75 camp invites, so the turn out could be quite large.

Anyone can tryout, up until the age of 20.

Swinging Srs. play

Midland Lawn Bowling "Shuffleboard Club" will be taking part in their gala "Fun Day" on Wednesday, August 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Balm Beach.

In one of the highlights of the day, the Swinging Srs. from Balm Beach will be playing Midland Shuffleboard Club.

Spectators are welcome to attend the day long "Fun Day".

Softball show

As part of the annual Perkinsfield "Fun Day" festivities, a four man and a dog, touring softball team will be playing Perkinsfield Commodore Hotel Bantus in an exhibition game, on Staurday, August 18 at 3 p.m.

The game will take place at Perkinsfield Community Park.

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