



Wladimir Klitschko, right, punches Calvin Brock of Charlotte during the fourth round of their bout Saturday at Madison Square Garden in New York. Klitschko scored a seventh-round knockout to retain his IBF and IBO heavyweight titles.

ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO/FRANK FRANKLIN II

Brock puts up good fight, but reigning champion too much

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left. The big right immediately followed and Brock fell face-down to the canvas.

He got up at eight, but was wobbly and referee Wayne Kelly stopped it at 2:10.

"I knew it was over there," Klitschko said. "It was easy to hit him with the right hand there."

Klitschko, in his first defense of the crown he won from Chris Byrd in April, was cut over the left eye in the sixth. Wary of the cut getting worse, he unloaded several massive punches late in the sixth and through the seventh rounds.

Did he feel any urgency because of the cut?

"Yes," the champion said. "But I was leading at that time."

The native of Kazakhstan, who represents Ukraine, improved to 47-3 with his 42nd knockout. Brock, a 2000 U.S. Olympian, lost for

the first time in 30 bouts.

"I saw the punch coming, but I couldn't react fast enough," Brock said. "He had a better jab than I thought he did. He was very strong."

Klitschko's brother, Vitali, now retired, once held the WBC crown and was considered the better of the two fighters. But Wladimir showed Saturday why he generally is looked upon as the best of the four heavyweight champions.

He certainly thrilled the Madison Square Garden crowd of 14,260 that often chanted his name by leveling the game Brock with the classic left-right combination.

Until then, Klitschko was ahead on all three judges' cards, but he was getting a stiff challenge from Brock — even though Brock came into the fight with unimpressive credentials despite never having lost as a professional.

Although he looked nervous and was awkward in the first two rounds, Brock began landing some body shots and avoiding Klitschko's jabs for awhile. But it was temporary, and the 30-year-old Klitschko took charge again in the fifth round. After he was cut in the sixth, Klitschko became more aggressive, and Brock couldn't cope, even as many fans chanted "U-S-A! U-S-A!"

Klitschko climbed the ropes in each corner after the win and saluted the fans. After he left the ring, his smiling brother motioned former champion Lennox Lewis, who was working for HBO, to come into the ring. Lewis shook his head and said, "I'm too fat."

Wladimir Klitschko then got serious about his future.

"I want to fight any titleholder, anyone who has a belt," he said.

Aggies out to avoid dubious place in history book at Rivalry Classic

By Herbert L. White
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N.C. A&T is on the verge of history the Aggies would rather not make.

A&T (0-10) is a loss away from the first winless football season in school history. All that stands in the way is MEAC arch rival S.C. State at the Nationwide Rivalry Classic Saturday at Memorial Stadium. The Aggies have a 21-20-2 lead in the series, which dates back to 1924, but S.C. State has won eight of the last 11 games, including a 43-27 victory.

"We want to win," said A&T first-year coach Lee Fobbs. "We know where everyone is picking us, but we're not going to let that be an excuse for us not going out and giving our best effort."

A&T will need to play its best game of the season in order to compete. The Aggies have scored 95 points all season, while giving up a whopping 434. A&T averages 210.3 yards per game, while opponents average 435.8.

The Bulldogs (6-4, 5-2), who are third in the MEAC, will look to finish on a positive note. S.C. State's biggest win of the season was against two-time league champion Hampton (10-1, 7-1) but losses to Delaware State and Bethune-Cookman will keep the Bulldogs out of the Division I-AA playoffs.

Tickets start at \$20 and are on sale at S.C. State and A&T's ticket offices, www.ticketmaster.com and by phone at (704) 522-6500. Tailgate passes are \$25 at the schools' ticket offices.

UMES star drafted by NBDL

By Bonitta Best
THE TRIANGLE TRIBUNE

Tim Parham has a tattoo on his arm with the NBA logo and the words "The Dream" scripted underneath it. Since he was a little boy, the former University of Maryland Eastern Shore basketball standout has wanted to play in the NBA. Today, that dream is one step closer.

After exhausting his collegiate eligibility, Parham had that pro goal in mind. He entered the NBA draft after his junior year at UMES only to pull his name out and return for his senior season. He had hoped to be drafted after his senior year but wasn't.

He turned down several offers from overseas teams to follow his goal of playing in the NBA. Instead, he made the Chicago Bulls Summer League roster and worked out for the Golden State Warriors. Now he has a chance to make the team.

The Bakersfield Jam of the National Basketball Developmental League, the NBDL for short, drafted Parham in the fifth round with the 59th overall pick. In the NBDL, teams are affiliated with the NBA and Bakersfield just happens to have an affiliate with the Warriors.

"When I went to work out with the Warriors, they told me how impressed they were with my work ethic. The coaching staff saw me arrive early, stay late and do extra work. I think they could tell how much I want this," Parham said.

Parham was a standout at UMES, earning second-team All-MEAC honors in his senior season and leading the conference in rebounding and double doubles. Overall Parham stands fifth in the MEAC all-time for rebounds in a game (19). He also holds the seventh and ninth spots.

"I can't wait, this is a great

opportunity," Parham said. "I leave this week and get started in training camp. I can't believe my dream is this much closer to coming true."

FAMU coach tabbed for Hula Bowl staff

Florida A&M head football coach Rubin Carter has been selected to coach in the Hula Bowl All-Star Game on Jan. 14 at Aloha Stadium.

Carter, in his second season at FAMU, will work with the West All-Stars, most likely tutoring the defensive line. It will be a return to familiar ground for Carter, who earned MVP honors at the Hula Bowl in 1975 as a defensive lineman following a stellar collegiate career at the University of Miami.

Prior to coming to FAMU a year ago, the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., native fashioned an 18-year coaching resume, which included stops on both the professional and collegiate levels.




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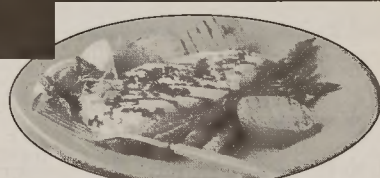
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