The Past Week in Action 8 July 2022

Highlights

- -Vergil Ortiz stops Michael McKinson to hold on to his No 1 spot in the WBA and WBO welterweight rankings. There are wins for Blair Cobbs and Bektemir Melikuziev and Marlen Esparza outpoints Eva Guzman in defence of her WBA and WBC flyweight titles
- -Michael Conlan returns with a win as he outpoints former title challenger Miguel Marriaga and Tyrone McKenna takes the points in a battle against Chris Jenkins
- -Dalton Smith wins the vacant British super lightweight title with stoppage of Sam O'maison
- -Luigi Rigoldi retains the European Union super bantam title with points win over Geram Eloyan
- -Steve Claggett stops Tony Luis in clash of top Canadian super lightweights

World Title/Major Shows

August 6

Fort Worth, TX, USA: Welter: Vergil Ortiz (19-0) W TKO 9 Michael McKinson (22-1). Fly: Marlen Esparza (13-1) W PTS 10 Eva Guzman (19-2-1). Welter: Blair Cobbs (16-1-1) W PTS 10 Maurice Hooker (27-3-3). Super Middle: Bektemir Melikuziev (10-1) W TKO 3 Sladan Janjanin (32-12). Super Light: Alex Martin (18-4) W PTS 10 Henry Lundy (31-11-1).

Ortiz vs. McKinson

Ortiz marches on as he beats down McKinson in nine rounds. In the first McKinson was throwing lots of light punches but landed a good left hook. Ortiz was more selective and wobbled McKinson late in the round. The referee stopped the action for the doctor to exam a cut on Ortiz's left eyelid but the fight

continued. McKinson landed a right at the start of the second but Ortiz had his jab on target and was connecting solidly to the body. A left hook from Ortiz dislodged the mouthguard of McKinson in the third and Ortiz was connecting with jarring jabs and hooks and uppercuts from both hands. Ortiz continued to bang home body shots over the fourth and shook McKinson with a right in the fifth. Ortiz continued to hunt down and break down McKinson over the sixth and seventh. McKinson scored with some useful straight lefts but he lacked the power to stop Ortiz's forward march. Plenty of movement from McKinson in the eighth until a left to the ribs dropped him to his hands and knees. He made it to his feet and with only seconds left he circled the ring and survived. The first punch Ortiz threw in the ninth was a left hook to the ribs and McKinson immediately went down again. He got up and was allowed to continue but after Ortiz landed another left to the body McKinson's corner climbed on the ring apron waiving a towel. The 24-year-old Texan was having his first fight for almost a year but he showed no rust as chalked up win No 19 by KO/TKO. He is No 1 with both the WBA and WBO and No 2 with the WBC so waiting in the wings to see whether an Errol Spence vs. Terrence Crawford fight comes off and if not then he is prime position to challenge either Spence or Crawford. Southpaw McKinson had put together some good wins but lacked the power to handle Ortiz.

Esparza vs. Guzman

Texan Esparza held on to her WBA and WBC titles as she outpointed Venezuelan Guzman. At 4' 11 ½" Guzman was giving away 4" and a lot of reach and after being shaken in the first by a right in the first she tried to compensate with speed. She was darting forward with quick two-handed attacks with Esparza not throwing so much but with better accuracy and more power. Esparza stood the pace better and her strength counted over the late rounds two tired fighters stood and traded more. Scores 98-92 twice and 99-91 for Esparza

Cobbs vs. Hooker

Cobbs was looking to rebound his first loss as a pro and did so in some style as he floored Hooker three times over the first two rounds and emerged a clear winner. Cobbs landed heavily early in the opening round before putting Hooker down . Hooker beat the count and saw out the round. If the first round was bad for Hooker the second was worse. A left sent him down and although he again made it to his feet he was down again from a left before the bell. Cobbs continued to find then target with hard counters rocking Hooker in the fifth. Hooker was given some encouragement in the sixth as a clash of heads caused a cut to open over the left eye of Cobbs and a swelling developed under his right. Those injuries never became a factor as Cobbs was able to box his way comfortably to victory. Scores 97-90 twice and 96-91 for Cobbs. The Philadelphian southpaw had lost on a ninth round stoppage against Alexis Rocha. Last time out former WBO super light title holder Hooker had suffered a seventh round kayo against Vergil Ortiz in his last fight in March 2021.

Melikuziev vs. Janjanin

Melikuziev wipes out Janjanin in three rounds. The Uzbek put Janjanin on the floor in the first minute with a left hook to the body but gutsy Bosnian Janjanin made it his feet. He was on the floor again in the second from a pair of hooks and in the third again from a body punch. Melikuziev had Janjanin on the ropes after the knockdown unloading punches and the referee stepped in to save Janjanin. Third win for southpaw Melikuziev since a shock kayo loss against Gabriel Rosado in June last year. Eighth inside the distance defeat for Janjanin.

Martin vs. Lundy

Martin recovers from a first round knockdown to outpoint seasoned pro Lundy. A left from Lundy dropped Martin in the first but Martin was not badly hurt and was never in trouble again. The knockdown worked in his favour as Lundy from then saw his best chance of winning to was focus on landing another

big shot. Southpaw Martin outworked him boxing at distance using his longer reach to pile up the points and scoring with jabs and long lefts with Lundy fading late and Martin getting a wide unanimous decision. Scores 97-92 twice and 98-91 for Martin who was outpointed by McKinson in March. Lundy, 38, suffers his third loss in a row having been outpointed by Jose Zepeda and knocked out in two rounds by Robbie Davies in 2021.

Belfast, Ni, Feather: Michael Conlan (17-1) W PTS 10 Miguel Marriaga (30-6). Welter: Tyrone McKenna (23-3-1) W PTS 10 Chris Jenkins (23-5-3). Super Middle: Padraig McCrory (14-0) W TKO 5 Marco Periban (26-6-1). Super Feather: Kurt Walker (2-0) W Marcos Martinez 18-3). Welter: Paddy Donovan (9-0) W PTS 8 Tom Hill (10-3).

Conlan vs. Marriaga

Conlan boxes his way to victory over a very faded Marriaga. Conlan's edge in speed was evident in the first two rounds and he was sliding home right jabs and getting away from Marriaga's counters or using some clever upper body movement avoid them. Marriaga was down in the first but it was ruled a slip. Conlan began to find the target with lefts in the third and fourth with Marriaga too slow to counter. Conlan landed some useful rights to the body in the fifth with Marriaga just following Conlan around the ring never able to cut off the ring and not throwing enough punches to be competitive. Conlan was too often on the back foot looking to draw a lead from Marriaga to counter so with Marriaga throwing so little the action level was not high. Marriaga was down in the seventh but it was from a cuffing punch to the back of the head which knocked him off balance and he was not shaken and protested the count. Conlan landed heavily in the eighth and Marriaga went down from a body punch but again did not look badly hurt. A straight left caused Marriaga to stumble in the ninth

and as his glove touched the canvas he was given his third count but again protested it and went back into the action. A bit of drama in the tenth saw Marriaga land a solid right and suddenly Conlan was reeling and holding on. Marriaga could not land another solid punch so Conlan was able to recover and fight back but it was a scary moment. Scores 99-88 twice and 99-89 for Conlan. A workmanlike performance from Conlan. Plenty of defensive skills, a bit light on the offensive but after the drama of the Wood fight Conlan got the win he needed and will now work his way into a title shot. Marriaga has come up short in three title fights and was coming off a sound beating from Eduardo Ramirez in December. He will probably become a stepping-stone for young climbers now.

McKenna vs. Jenkins

McKenna just edges out Jenkins. This was probably the most eagerly anticipated fight of the night and it lived up to that billing. No feeling out just straight into toe-to-toe exchanges from these two. The pace was torrid with both landing heavily and defence not an option. The round were all close with McKenna the more accurate and landing the harder shots and Jenkins compensating with a blistering work rate. The pace remained frantic until the eighth when the pace dropped and McKenna attempted to box more and with the decision in the balance they both fought fiercely over the last two rounds. Scores 96-95 twice and 97-94 all for McKenna. Last time out in March McKenna was stopped in six rounds by Regis Prograis so this win was important for him. Former British and Commonwealth champion Jenkins is rarely in a bad fight and close decisions have tended to go against him.

McCrory vs. Periban

McCrory stops Periban in the fifth round of a hectic scrap. After a tentative first round hostilities broke out in a big way in the second. A huge right from McCrory sent Periban slumping onto the ropes and he kept punching until the referee pulled him off to give Periban a count. After the count they exchanged heavy punches with both landing some solid shots. McCrory staggered Periban in the third but Periban fired back with some thudding shots of his own. Both were winging punches in the fourth and McCrory ended it in spectacular fashion in the fifth. A right to the side of the head floored Periban. After the count another right knocked Periban off balance and he put his gloves on the canvas to prevent going down resulting in another count. McCrory then pinned Periban against the ropes and pounded him with punches with the referee coming in to stop the fight just as Periban slumped to the floor. McCrory was defending his WBC International Silver title and gets his eighth win by KO/TKO. Periban went 20-0 until losing a majority decision against Sakio Bika for the vacant WBC title in 2013 but at 37 he is looking distinctly war-weary.

Walker vs. Martinez

Former top-level amateur Walker gets six rounds of useful work against Argentinian Martinez. Walker had too much skill for Martinez but the visitor made Walker fight hard for his win. Referee's score 59-55 for 27-year-old Walker, a quarter finalist at both the Olympics and the World Championships and also a Commonwealth Games silver medallist and Ulster and Irish champion. Only the second fight in seven years for Martinez

Donovan vs. Hill

Donovan wins every round against Hill. Donovan made a steady start and then dialled his attacks from the third. He had Hill badly shaken in the fourth and was landing heavily in every round. Hill did well to stay in the fight as Donovan constantly trapped him on the ropes or in a corner but he saw out the eight rounds. The referee scored it 80-72 for Donovan a former Irish Under 18 and Under 22 champion.

Sheffield, England: Super Light: Dalton Smith (12-0) W TKO 6 Sam O'maison (17-4-1). Cruiser: Jordan Thompson (14-0) W PTS 10 Vasil Ducar (11-6-1). Super Welter: Kieron Conway (18-2-1) W TKO 5 Gregory Trenel

(16-9-1). Super Light: Sandy Ryan (4-1) W Erica Farias (27-6). Super Bantam: Hopey Price (8-0) W PTS 8 Alexander Mejia (18-4).Light: Campbell Hatton (8-0) W PTS 6 Michal Dufek (34-24-2).

Smith vs. O'maison

Smith wins the vacant British title with stoppage of O'maison. The first two rounds saw Smith having the edge. He came to life in the third as he floored O'maison with a bundle of punches. O'maison fought back hard in the fourth but Smith was landing heavily ripping punches home from both hands and doing serious damage. There was more punishment for O'maison in the fifth as he was shaken by rights and was also cut. Smith dropped O'maison early in the sixth and although O'maison got up a thumping right floored him again bringing the finish. The Sheffield "Thunder" Smith makes it ten wins by KO/TKO and he is a growing threat at lightweight and ready for bigger fights. Fourth loss by KO/TKO for former English champion O'maison.

Thompson vs. Ducar

Thompson wins the vacant IBF European title with a points victory over modest Czech Ducar. Thompson made full use of his longer reach and height to box on the outside. Ducar rumbled forward. He was too slow to be a real threat but he is a reputed puncher so Thompson took no chances and that cost him a couple of rounds. Despite that he piled up the points and was cruising to victory until the closing seconds of the fight. Ducar landed a series of punches that dropped Thompson to his hands and knees. He was badly shaken but beat the count and the bell went before Ducar could land another punch. Scores 96-93 twice and 97-92 for Thompson. A good performance from the 6'6" Thompson except for the last round near disaster. Ducar had lost on points to Chris Billam-Smith in March last year

Conway vs. Trenel

Conway finishes late substitute Trenel in five rounds. Conway was just too quick and too powerful for southpaw Trenel. He was landing with left jabs and shots to head and body in the first. Conway took it steady in the second boxing well easily handling the odd flurries of punches from Trenel and scoring with straight rights. Conway cut loose in the third and fourth trapping Trenel in corners and landing clubbing head shots but Trenel stayed on his feet although he began to wilt under the punishment being staggered a couple of times. Trenel was warned twice in the fifth for holding and had his mouthguard knocked out before a series of head punches saw the referee stop the fight. Conway is 8-1-1 in his last 10 fights with the loss coming on a split decision against unbeaten Souleymane Cissokho. Fourth defeat inside the distance for Trenel.

Ryan vs. Farias

Ryan wins the vacant WBC International Female title and gets revenge for a split decision loss in March by taking a very close unanimous decision. Ryan made use of her longer reach and her 5" edge in height in the early rounds to keep the smaller aggressive Farias out. Farias started to bob and weave her way around the long punches from Ryan and worked inside with hooks and uppercuts. Farias also tried dropping her hands trying to lure Ryan into trading inside and it was a case of Ryan bossing at distance and Farias inside and they both had good spells. Ryan's early work gave her the edge and although Farias seemed to take the last round Ryan's cleaner work early saw her through. Scores 96-94 twice and 98-92 for Ryan. Good win against a vastly more experienced opponent for Ryan with Argentinian Farias being a former WBC Female title holder.

Price vs. Mejia

Another display of classy boxing from price. He kept
Nicaraguan Mejia on the end of his right jab and easily evaded
Mejia's lunging attacks walking him onto counters. A right
staggered Mejia in the fourth but he has a good chin. Price was
putting together some impressive combinations over the late

rounds but Mejia kept marching forward to the last be. Referee's score 80-72 for Price as he continues to build.

Hatton vs. Dufek

Hatton tots up another win as he outpoints Czech Dufek. Hatton made a bright start and it looked as though he might end this one early. Hatton is not a noted puncher and when Dufek did not crumble Hatton settled down to box his way to victory with the referee giving Hatton every round on his 60-54 score. Steady progress for Hatton but certainly progress. Dufek, 39, had won 9 of his last 10 fights.

August 5

Catamarca, Argentina: Super Middle: Pablo Corzo (12-0) W PTS 10 Facundo Galovar (14-8-2). Super Welter: Gabriel Corzo (17-0) W PTS 10 Walter Castillo (15-7). Corzo vs. Galovar

Home town boxer "Pacman" Corzo outpoints Galovar. Corzo's accuracy put him in front early causing bruising around Galovar's left eye and Galovar was almost down in the third. Corzo increased his lead over the middle rounds although Galovar fought hard despite being cut over his left eye and on his left cheekbone. Corzo was close to ending it in the tenth but the referee stopped the fight so the doctor could inspect Galovar's injuries and that helped Galovar make it to the bell. Scores 99-91 twice and 97-93 for Corzo who retains the WBA Fedelatin belt.

Corzo vs. Castillo

Gabriel makes it a family double as he decisions Castillo. The Argentinian No 4 was landing heavily from the start with Castillo under heavy pressure in every round and he lost a point for excessive holding. Corzo had Castillo in deep trouble in the tenth but ran out of time. Scores 100-89 for Corzo from the three judges. He picks up the vacant WBO Latino title. Castillo was having his second shot at the title.

Duville, Italy: Super Bantam: Luca Rigoldi (27-2-2) W PTS 12 Geram Eloyan (8-4).

Rigoldi retains the European Union title with unanimous points victory over Eloyan. This did not look a difficult task for southpaw Rigoldi against the Armenian-born Belgian champion with a very modest record and no real claim to be a suitable challenger. Rigoldi had some minor problems with the Belgian's longer reach early but handed out serious punishment in the third. Eloyan rebounded to score well with rights in the fourth and fifth. Over the second half Rigoldi, with a cut over his left eye and a heavy nose bleed, boxed more and his superior technique saw him a clear winner. Scores 118-111, 117-111 and 115-112. First defence for former European champion Rigoldi who is 17-1-1 in his last 19 fights with the loss coming against Gamal Yafai in December 2020. Eloyan now 1-3 in his last 4 bouts.

Pasig City, Philippines: Bantam: Edward Heno (15-1-5) W PTS 10 Renoel Pael (23-12-1). Super Bantam: RV Daniega (7-0) W KO 4 Sonny Boy Jaro (45-16-5) Heno vs. Pael

In his first fight for almost three years Heno outpoints experienced Pael. It was Pael marching forward testing Heno's stamina but Heno had the quality. He constantly jarred Pael with jabs and uppercuts and paced himself well as he got in some very useful rounds. Scores 117-110 twice and 115-112 for Heno. First fight for southpaw Heno since losing a close decision to Elwin Soto in a challenge for the WBO light fly title in October 2019. Only two victories in his last ten bouts.

Daniega vs. Jaro

Unbeaten prospect Daniega kayos veteran Jaro in the fourth round. Daniega took the first round then dropped Jaro in the second. He suffered a cut over his right eye in the third but ended it in the fourth. A series of punches rounded off with a straight left put Jaro down and he was counted out. Fourth victory by KO/TKO for the 22-year-old southpaw. First fight since May 2019 for Jaro, 40, who won WBC fly title back in 2012 beating Pongsaklek Wonjongkam in what was voted "Upset of the Year" by Ring Magazine.

Plant City, FL, USA: Super Light: Antonio Moran (28-5-1) W PTS 10 Michael Dutchover (16-2) W. Super Light: Kendo Castaneda (19-5,1ND) W PTS 10 Joseph Fernandez (15-5-3).

Moran vs. Dutchover

Moran outboxes Dutchover. Hostilities broke out early with both letting their hands go in the first. Moran began to use his longer reach to set Dutchover up for left hooks and rocked Dutchover in the fourth. Dutchover was cut over his right eye and although he tried hard Moran boxed well behind his jab shutting Dutchover out and ending with a strong tenth to take the verdict widely on all three cards. Scores 100-90 twice and 99-91 for Mexican Moran.

Castaneda vs. Fernandez

Castaneda gets a close unanimous decision in a battle that was competitive in every round. It was back and forth as first Castaneda and then Fernandez would land heavily and it was a strong spell over the seventh, eighth and ninth that saw Castaneda open a slight gap and a strong last from Fernandez was too late to swing the decision his way. Scores 96-94 for Castaneda on all cards. He will now face Moran for a \$50,000 prize.

August 6

Del Viso, Argentina: Super Welter: Guido Schramm (15-1-1) W PTS 10 Jonathan Wilson Sanchez (21-6-1). Super Bantam: Jose Arias (9-1) W PTS 10 Sergio Sosa (12-3). Schramm vs. Sanchez

Schramm beats national No 1 Sanchez to win the vacant national title. After an even start Schramm took control of the fight. He boxed cleverly countering the aggression of Sanchez with accurate jabs and hooks to the body. The longer the fight went the more in command Schramm was dominating the fight on the outside and having the confidence to box with his hands down over the tenth. Scores 99-91, 98-92, and 97-93 for Schramm. Sanchez has challenge unsuccessfully three times for a national title.

Arias vs. Sosa

Argentinian-based Dominican Arias wins the vacant Argentinian title with a unanimous decision over Arias. The Dominican had a big edge in skill but Sosa pushed him hard. Arias edged ahead but Sosa banged back to score with heavy hooks inside over the fourth and fifth. Arias took the sixth and Sosa got inside and outworked Arias in the seventh. Arias boxed on the outside for the eighth but was rocked by a left to the head in the ninth before steadying himself and comfortably winning the tenth. Scores 98-92, 97-93 and 96-94 for Arias who gets his fifth consecutive victory.

Cornwall, Canada: Super Light: Steve Claggett (32-7-2) W TKO 7) Tony Luis 929-5) W. Super Welter: Jess Wilcox (16-0-2) W TKO 3 Ricardo Lara (22-10-1). Claggett vs. Luis

Claggett goes into the home town of Luis and ruins the fans evening with a seventh round victory. This one was a close battle for the first five rounds of back-and –forth action. Claggett broke through in a big sixth landing heavily and having Luis in trouble against the ropes when Luis was saved by the bell. Claggett attack hard at the start of the seventh and the Luis corner waived the towel to get the fight stopped. Now 22 victories by KO/TKO for Claggett. For Luis, 34, this may be retirement time.

Wilcox vs. Lara

Local fighter Wilcox gets his seventh inside the distance victory in his last eight fights with third round stoppage of Mexican Lara.

Medellin, Colombia: Light: Romero Duno (25-3) W RTD 3 Yogli Herrera (29-35). Super Feather: Yoandris Salinas (23-2-2) W KO 7 Omar Cuello (5-5-1). Light: John Moralde (25-5) W KO 3 Ernesto Batioja (5-20). Super Feather: Mark Bernaldez (24-6) W KO 1 Jorge Bonilla (3-12-1). Feather: Bryan De Gracia (28-2-1) W TKO 3 Jose Alfaro (9-14-3).

Duno vs. Herrera

On a night of terrible one-sided matches Duno beats Colombian oldie Herrera. Duno pressurised Herrera all the way. He was too big and hit too hard for Herrera and dropped him with a left hook to the body in the third. Herrera beat the count but did not come out for the fourth. Now 20 wins by KO/TKO for Duno as he rebuilds after fourth round stoppage defeat against Frank Martin in January. Sixteen losses in a row for 40-year-old Herrera.

Salinas vs. Cuello

Despite being seriously over matched local fighter Cuello managed to hang around for seven rounds before being kayoed. Cuban Salinas, 36, drew with Scott Quigg for the secondary WBA super bantamweight title in 2013 but was then inactive almost seven years before returning with a win in June. Fourth loss in a row for Cuello.

Moralde vs. Batioja

This one was a farce and Moralde treated it as such. He easily evaded any punch thrown by Batioja and instead of working for an opening just fired lead right hands as he tracked Batioja around the ring. He decided to finish it in the second and this time rocked Batioja a couple times before dumping on the canvas with a left hook to the body with Batioja being counted out. A needed win for Moralde after being crushed in four

rounds by William Zepeda in November. Batioja, 47, has lost his last 14 fights.

Bernaldez vs. Bonilla

In another bit of rubbish Bernaldez stopped Bonilla in the opening round. Bonilla had only the most basic of technique and Bernaldez drove him around the ring landing rights to the head and sending Bonillo down. Bonilla made it to his feet was immediately down again from a body punch and the referee abandoned the count after four and just waived the fight off. Bernaldez was 3-3 in his previous 6 fights with tough losses against quality opposition in Albert Ball, Andres Cortes and Oscar Duarte. Twelve consecutive losses for Bonilla.

De Gracia vs. Alfaro

Panamanian De Gracia was also given a soft target and stopped Venezuelan Alfaro in the third. De Gracia is 9-1 in his last 10 fights with all nine wins by KO/TKO. Six losses in a row for Alfaro five of them by KO/TKO.

Tokyo, Japan: Welter: Ryota Toyoshima (16-2-1) W TKO 5 Adam Abdulhamid (17-11).

Toyoshima makes a successful defence of the WBO Asian Pacific belt with stoppage of Filipino Abdulhamid. They traded punches inside over the first two rounds but Toyoshima took over in the third as he boxed more. Left hooks to the body softened up Abdulhamid but the stoppage came due to problems with the right ear of Abdulhamid. A left hook from Toyoshima in the fourth had the ear swelling alarmingly and another shot in the fifth had Abdulhamid retreating in pain and a doctor's inspection also showed bleeding inside the ear and the fight was stopped. Ninth win in a row for Toyoshima. Second loss by KO/TKO for Philippines champion Abdulhamid

August 7

Manila, Philippines: Super Feather: Charly Suarez (12-0) W PTS 12 Mark Yap (30-17). Light: Al Toyogon (12-6-1). Allan Villanueva (11-2).

Former Olympian "Kink's Warrior" Suarez outpoints Yap in defence of his WBA Asian belt. Suarez led all the way and took the decision on scores of 120-108 twice and 118-110. Suarez lost to Joe Cordina at the 2016 Olympics. Fifth defeat in his last six fights for Yap-all against unbeaten opponents.

Fight of the week (Significance): Virgil Ortiz victory over Michael McKinson puts him in the mix for a shot at Errol Spence or Terrence Crawford

Fight of the week (Entertainment): Tyrone McKenna vs. Chris Jenkins was a great scrap

Fighter of the week: Vergil Ortiz for his crushing win over Michael McKinson

Punch of the week: The left hook to the body that put McKinson down for the first time.

Upset of the week: None

Prospect watch: None for now but there are plenty coming

through.

Observations

Rosette: Some good contests on the Belfast show

Red Card: Not another sanctioning body please. Filipino Edward Heno won recognition from the Boxing World Organisation

-Very difficult to understand the reason or the reasoning behind importing four first rate Filipino fighters to Medellin, Colombia to face atrocious mainly local opponents in disgraceful mismatches:

Romero Duno 24-3 vs. Yogli Herrera 40-year-old lost his last 15 fights

John Moralde 24-5 vs. Ernesto Batioja 47-year old lost his last 13 fights

Mark Bernaldez 23-6 vs. Jorge Bonilla lost his last 11 fights Boxing doesn't need enemies whilst matches like this are being made