

Astana demolish Mumbai Fighters in World Series Boxing



VS



It wasn't for nothing that the Astana Arlans from Kazakhstan finished runners-up in the last edition of the World Series Boxing (WSB) they drove home the point loud and hard, pummeling the Mumbai Fighters 5-0 in Match Five at the T-Mobile Boxing Arena on Friday. That Friday was their 20th year of independence only made the victory sweeter.

The Mumbai Fighters went down 1-0 when Khabibulla Ismail Akhunov out-lasting and out-boxed Balbir Singh in the bantamweight bout. The former national champion began like he would run away with the bout, throwing all he had at Akhunov. The move backfired after two rounds when the Astana boxer made light work of Balbir who, by now, had run out of steam.

On a night where verdicts of most bouts were decided before the final gong, the light heavyweight encounter between Mumbai Fighters' Leanid Charnabayeu and Astana's reigning WSB champion, Abdelhafid Benchabla was a downright treat.

The young Belarusian took the fight to Benchabla, dominating him on the ropes and trading blow for blow. Nicknamed Rambo, Leanid soon had the crowd chanting for him and acknowledged every wave of support with a flurry of punches. Abdelhafid had, however, done enough to pocket the bout.

Usually the most entertaining of weight categories, the heavyweight duel between Mumbai Fighters' Krishan Kumar and Chouaib Bouloudinats was reduced to a farce with the Astana fighter running over his opponent with ease. Krishan's mean frame betrayed his punches as Chouaib landed blow after blow.

Astana won their lightweight and middleweight bouts after the referee awarded a TKO against the Mumbai Fighters. National champion Diwakar Prasad, boxing in the lightweight category started cautiously but the Mumbai Fighters' corner threw in the towel after the boxer was done in Round Four against Mussafirov Yerzhan.

The hosts suffered their second TKO when Sanjin Vrgac was out boxed by Miras Bairkhanov of Astana.