

McGregor knocks out Aldo to win title

BY DAVE DOYLE
THE SPORTS XCHANGE

LAS VEGAS — The most polarizing figure in combat sports today did his biggest talking in the ring.

Brash Conor McGregor (19-2) of Dublin, Ireland, who became a superstar by trash talking his opponents **UFC 194** outside the Octagon and getting the job done inside, saved his best moment for last, as he knocked out longtime champion Jose Aldo Jr. of Manaus, Brazil, in just 13 seconds, and claimed his UFC featherweight title on Saturday night at MGM Grand Garden Arena.

McGregor caught a charging Aldo flush on the jaw with his left hand in the main event of UFC 194 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, then landed a pair of hammerfists to the grounded fighter before the bout was waved off.

"No power, just precision," said McGregor, who won his 15th straight fight. "No speed, just timing. That's all it takes, especially



GARY A. VASQUEZ | USA TODAY

Conor McGregor celebrates his championship victory Saturday night against Jose Aldo during UFC 194 at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

when you have my left hand. Nothing can take that left hand."

Aldo (22-2), who had been champion since winning what was then called the World Extreme Cagefighting belt in November 2009, had an 18-fight win streak snapped and lost for the first time since 2005.

"I threw a punch and he came back with another

cross and that was it," said Aldo. "I think we need a rematch, it wasn't a fight."

Another strong performance came from Luke Rockhold of Santa Cruz, California, who stunned previously unbeaten Chris Weidman of Long Island, New York, to claim the middleweight title.

Rockhold battered Weidman (13-1) for the better part

of four rounds before it was finally waved off at 3:12 of the fourth round.

Rockhold used a mix of punishing body kicks, slick submission attempts, and violent punches and elbows to wear down Weidman and claim the belt.

"This is what I've been working for," said Rockhold (15-2). "I still can't believe this is real."



Rockhold

Weidman had been champion since he defeated Anderson Silva at UFC 162 in July, 2013.

The next middleweight title contender was also determined on Saturday. South Florida transplant Yoel Romero (11-1), who won an Olympic silver wrestling medal for Cuba in 2000, started fast and held on late against former Strikeforce champion Ronaldo Souza (22-4, 1 no-contest) of Brazil.

Romero nearly finished the fight with a spinning back fist in the opening round. Souza

barely got through the round. After a tight second round, Souza dominated the third, but likewise couldn't finish the fight.

The judges saw it 29-27, 28-29, and 29-28 in favor of Romero for a split decision.

"I have great respect for Souza," said Romero. "I hit him and he took it. He's a strong man."

Iceland's Gunnar Nelson (14-2-1), a jiu-jitsu specialist, called out fellow grappler Demian Maia (22-7) of Brazil for a fight. Turns out Nelson got more than he asked for. The 38-year-old Maia had too many tricks up his sleeve, as he schooled Nelson in a welterweight battle of black belts.

The judges' scores were 30-26, 30-25, and 30-25 after Maia spent 15 minutes using sweeps, trips, mounts, and submission attempts and made Nelson look like a rank amateur.

"I believe in my jiu-jitsu," said Maia, who has won four consecutive bouts. "I come to grapple. Gunnar Nelson asked for this fight and I came ready to fight."

Hawaii's Max Holloway (15-3) scored his eighth consecu-

tive victory in a one-sided decision against Jeremy Stephens (24-12) of San Diego. Holloway, a rising featherweight contender, used his reach advantage to stay out of range of the heavy-handed Holloway over the first two rounds, then went for broke in the third. While he didn't get a finish, he still earned scores of 30-27, 30-27, and 29-28 for a unanimous decision.

"That wasn't my greatest performance, he hit harder than I thought he would," said Holloway, whose last loss was to McGregor in 2013. "I want McGregor-Holloway 2."

In the top undercard bout, the sport's first featherweight star, Sacramento's Urijah Faber (33-8), proved he still has it in an exciting win over Frankie Saenz (11-3) of Scottsdale, Arizona.

The 36-year old Faber and the underrated Saenz went tooth and nail from the standup to the mat and back before Faber got the nod from the judges. The scores were a pair of 29-28s and 30-27 in favor of Faber, who won for the third time in his past four fights.

Heisman

Continued from Page B4

against Auburn in the "Iron Bowl" and Florida in last week's SEC's championship game. During the Crimson Tide's last six contests against FCS opposition, Henry averaged 209 yards while breaking Walker's mark in the third quarter last week.

"It was a dream come true," Henry said at his news conference at midtown-Manhattan's Marriott Marquis Hotel. "I was hoping to meet (Walker) tonight but he's not here. Hopefully I can meet him sometime down the road. Just what that name means, being in the fraternity with these guys it's an honor."

Against Auburn and Florida, he carried the ball an astounding 90 times for 460 yards and finished the sea-

son by tying the SEC record with 23 rushing touchdowns.

"One of the things that pleases me about Derrick being recognized as being the outstanding player in college football by winning this award is sometimes as a coach you look at what does a particular player do for his team," Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban said. "Derrick probably did as much for our team this year in terms of how he finished the season, the workload that he carried when we got some other guys injured."



Saban

Henry's dominance on the ground seemed more convincing than McCaffrey's breaking Barry Sanders' 27-year record in all-purpose yards or Watson's impressive showing

of 41 touchdowns. Henry placed first in five of the six regions, only losing the Far West by 51 points to McCaffrey.

"He always wanted to be there and he got better as it went but he did as much for his team as anybody could have done for or ever has done for any of our teams," Saban said. "There are great team efforts but when it really came right down to it, he really stepped up and did a great job for our team."

Henry, whose height of 6 feet 3 and weight of 238 pounds has drawn comparisons to 1996 winner Eddie George, claimed his third trophy in two days. On Thursday, he won the Maxwell Award as college football's best player and the Doak Walker award for being the nation's top running back.

"This is like a dream of mine," Henry said. "I still feel like I'm dreaming now."

Henry's dream come true halted the recent trend of quarterbacks winning the award. Since Ingram Jr. won Alabama's only other Heisman trophy award, quarterbacks have won, including Oregon's Marcus Mariota last year.

Including the vacated 2005 award won by USC's Reggie Bush, it also was the third time since 1999 a non-quarterback won the trophy.

After the top three, Oklahoma quarterback Baker Mayfield was fourth with 334 points and Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds was fifth with 180.

LSU running back Leonard Fournette got 110 points followed by Florida State running back Dalvin Cook (79) and Ohio State running back Ezekiel Elliot (57). Quarterbacks Connor Cook of Michigan State and Trevone Boykin of TCU tied for ninth with 13 points.

Caribou

Continued from Page B4

Foxcroft rallied from 3-point land as Smith and reserve guard Phillip Pleninger each made two long-range strikes to help coach Tyler Erickson's club draw within 44-42 entering the fourth quarter.

Caribou never trailed in the final period but never led by more than four points, and the Vikings eventually found success working the clock down against Foxcroft's trapping zone defense.

"I thought we did a really good job of possessing the ball the final two minutes of the game," said Casavant. "We had committed some silly turnovers and missed some easy shots before that, but I thought we did a good job of staying composed and not turning the ball over when they stayed in that

zone for as long as they did."

A spin move from under the basket by Sheldon after a lengthy possession gave Caribou a 48-45 lead with 1:42 remaining, but while Foxcroft then missed two free throws the Ponies got the ball back after a five-second violation against Caribou with 21.3 seconds left.

Smith (15 points, 10 rebounds) drove directly to the basket to tie the game, but when the Ponies inadvertently applied backcourt pressure Savage drove through the defense and earned the game-winning trip to the line.

"We had a few people who made some big shots and we had a few big stops," said Savage. "They have some great players and made some good shots themselves, but we always responded."

Pleninger finished with 13 points, including three 3-pointers, for 0-3 Foxcroft, while Allen contributed 10 points and five rebounds.

Women

Continued from Page B4

quarter run. Wood kicked off the spurt with a basket on a cut through the paint off a Mikaela Gustafsson pass, then scored a transition layup thanks to a Koizar feed.

Koizar sandwiched a 3-pointer and a reverse baseline layup around a low-post basket by Bella Swan, then Wood converted an up-and-under move and Lauren Bodine drained a 3-pointer to make it 20-5 with 1:20 to play in the quarter.



Koizar

"I think we executed really well and we remained patient and within the play," Koizar said of the UMaine offense. "That's something that we've been talking about that we didn't do well in the past couple games."

The Bears eventually extended the lead to 23 points as the Bulldogs' turnovers played a key role in their struggle to score consistently.

UMaine, which has encountered some third-quarter lulls in recent games,



ASHLEY L. CONTI | BDN

University of Maine's Bella Swan drives for a layup past Bryant University's Ivory Bailey during their game Saturday at the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor.

maintained its focus and intensity during the second half this time.

"This is one where we

won every quarter," Barron said. "I don't think there was any dropoff when we were substituting."

Eagles

Continued from Page B4

group of six double-figure scorers with 20 points to propel the Eagles by the Pilgrims.

Trevon Butler provided 14 points and five rebounds, Jordan Holmes scored 13 points and Zach Curran contributed 12 points and seven rebounds for Husson. Darryl Wood and Tyler Norris added 11

and 10 points, respectively. Dezron Wilson poured in a game-high 30 points to lead New England College (36, 13 NAC). C.J. Capilets added 10 points.

In the women's game, Kenzie Worcester scored 17 points along with five rebounds, four steals and two assists to lead the Eagles past the Pilgrims.

Anna MacKenzie posted 13 points and five rebounds for Husson while Victoria McIntyre notched a double-dou-

ble with 12 points and a game-high 17 rebounds. Darla Morales and Chandler Guerrette added 10 points each.

Utshana Durham led a balanced effort for New England College (5-4, 0-3 NAC) with 13 points and Maranda Parker scored 11 points. Tiffany Davis picked up a double-double of 10 points and 11 rebounds, Breana Ramirez chipped in 10 points and eight rebounds, and Marjani Lillard pulled down 10 rebounds.

Men

Continued from Page B4

six points and seven rebounds for the Black Bears while Ilija Stojilkovic chipped in with five re-

bounds and five assists.

The Eagles jumped out to a 16-3 lead in the game's first 5 minutes, 15 seconds, but the Black Bears battled back to cut BC's lead to 27-24 with 4:23 remaining in the first half. The key surge started over a four-minute span

when Maine outscored BC 9-2. Calixte sparked the surge with six points.

The Eagles responded by outscoring the Bears 17-5 to take a 44-29 lead at halftime.

The Black Bears return to action at 2 p.m. Saturday at Fordham (New York)

Subscribe

for just \$9.95

RIGHT NOW: Subscribe for just \$9.95!

And Add a Gift Subscription for Only \$9.95 More!*

Please send me a subscription to the Metro for only \$9.95!

Your information:

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

Send a gift subscription to the recipient below for just \$9.95 more!

NAME (please print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Pay by check. VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ CCID CODE (3 DIGITS ON BACK) _____

NAME ON CARD _____ AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE _____

CARDHOLDER'S ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

*Price includes sales tax. Offer ends Dec. 31, 2015

Mail this form with payment to:
Bangor Metro Magazine • P.O. Box 1329 • Bangor, Maine 04402-1329

For subscriptions, call 990-8219