

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

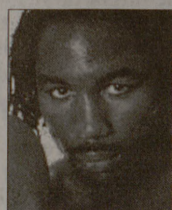
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## Lewis holds on for controversial win

By Tim Dahlberg  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — His night in the ring was long since over, and Lennox Lewis and his people were still working hard. Vitali Klitschko was tough enough, but now there was some serious explaining to do.

Lewis was still the heavyweight champion, but that and another \$10 million or so in his bank account were the only things he could feel good about Saturday night.



LEWIS

No matter how hard the Lewis camp tried to spin it, a couple of truths were evident after the bloody brawl that ended prematurely at the Staples Center.

One, Lewis was lucky to keep his heavyweight title against a surprisingly effective and tough Klitschko.

Two, perhaps at the age of 37 Lewis should take notice of his increasingly wobbly legs and weak chin and finally decide it might be a good time to hang up the gloves.

"There isn't anything else for me to prove," Lewis said. "I'm going to go back, talk to my colleagues, look at the tape and decide from there."

What he sees on the tape may frighten him.

Klitschko, who many believed wasn't even the best fighter in his family, rocked Lewis early and often before the ring doctor finally stopped the fight after six rounds because of cuts to Klitschko's left eye.

Klitschko's style may have been amateurish and stilted, but the 6-foot-7 Ukrainian hit Lewis with almost every left hand he threw and had the champion exhausted and baffled.

The judges thought Klitschko was getting the better of Lewis in

what at times was a wild and bloody brawl. So did the enthusiastic crowd of 15,939, which cheered wildly at every punch the challenger landed.

That's why it was hard to listen as Lewis conceded afterward that he won only three of the six rounds but was somehow robbed by the referee himself because he was deprived of a knockout he was sure was coming.

"I really wish the referee wouldn't have stopped the fight. I wanted to knock him out for real," Lewis said.

He wasn't the only one wishing. Klitschko wished ring doctor Paul Wallace hadn't looked at his eye after the sixth round and told the referee to wave the fight to a close.

Wallace, in a somewhat convoluted explanation, said Klitschko's eyelid was closing in such a way that the fighter had to turn his head to see him. The explanation may have been lost in the translation in the corner, but soon Klitschko was rushing around the ring shouting "No, no, no."

"I see everything. I don't know why he stopped the fight," Klitschko said. "I know if the doctor doesn't stop the fight I win the fight because I want to be world champion."

Indeed, the heart Klitschko didn't show when he quit after the ninth round because of an injured shoulder against Chris Byrd was in plentiful evidence against Lewis. He took hard lefts and uppercuts from the champion without flinching, and was leading 58-56 on all three ringside scorecards when the fight ended.

Had the fight continued, it seemed like either fighter could easily end it with one or two big punches.

"I controlled the fight," Klitschko said. "But it was not so easy to fight Lennox. He's good."

One look at Klitschko's face

See Lewis on page 4

## Stanford evens CWS series, 1-1

By Eric Olson  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. — In his 27 years as Stanford's head coach, Mark Marquess has groomed some of the game's top pitchers.

John Hudgins separated himself from the rest with his third win of the College World Series as the Cardinal evened the best-of-three championship series with an 8-3 victory over Rice on Sunday.

"This game was all about John Hudgins," said Marquess, at the CWS for the 13th time. "We've had some great pitchers at Stanford, but I don't think any of the pitchers from any of the teams I've brought here has accomplished what John has accomplished during these 10 days. I don't know whether it can be matched. Pressure games. Short rest. Just a phenomenal job."

Stanford (51-17) and Rice (57-12) will play for the national championship Monday.

"Stanford was the better team today," said Owls coach Wayne Graham, who was ejected after 5 1-2 innings for arguing a called third strike on Paul Janish. "We have to come back and play better."

Hudgins (14-3) became the eighth pitcher to win three games in the tournament, and the first since Wichita State's Greg Brummett in 1989. He also became one of 10 pitchers to win four CWS games in their careers.

Hudgins, who beat South Carolina in Stanford's CWS opener and Cal State Fullerton on Wednesday, held Rice to three runs on 10 hits in seven-plus innings. He walked three and struck out five.

In 24 CWS innings, the junior right-hander has allowed five earned runs, walked six and struck out 15.

Hudgins said his arm didn't feel live against Rice, but he made do.

"For me, not being a real power pitcher, even if I don't have my best stuff, I'm still going to be able to spot, and that's how I win anyway," Hudgins said. "I wasn't going to blow anyone away anyway."

Stanford's Sam Fuld homered leading off

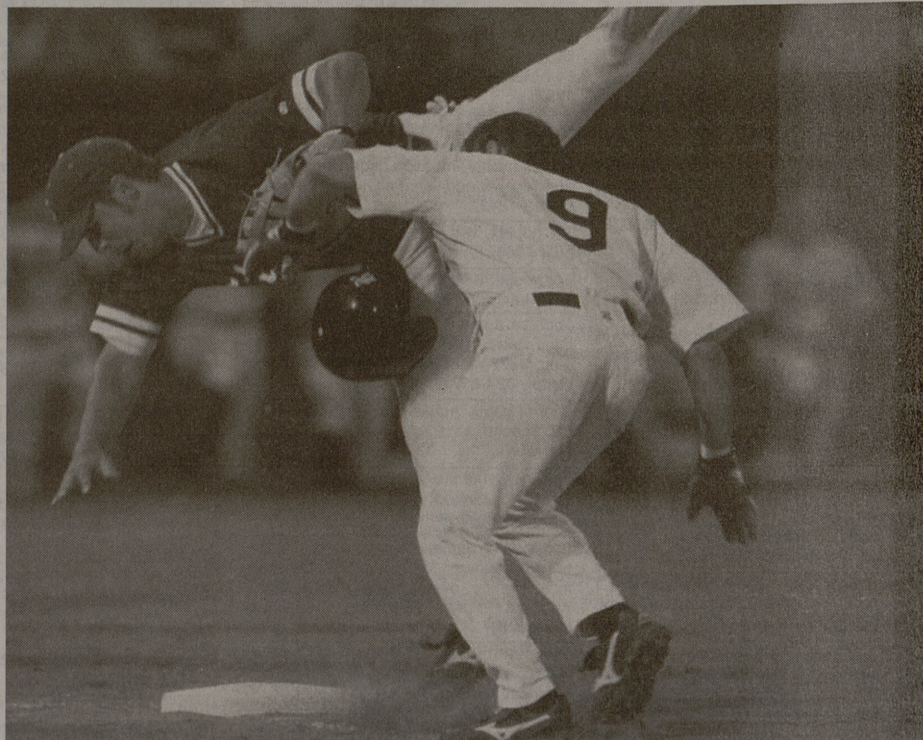


PHOTO COURTESY OF NCAA SPORTS

Rice's Austin Davis runs into Stanford first baseman Brian Hall, who attempted to catch a wild throw in the 10th inning of Game 1 on Saturday. Rice scored the winning run on the play.

the bottom of the first inning to tie Texas' Keith Moreland for most career CWS hits, with 23.

Fuld, playing in his third CWS, said the record isn't important now.

"I'm sure later I'll appreciate it," he said. "All it means is I'm hitting and I'm helping the team win, and that's all that matters right now."

The Cardinal added two more runs in the third against starter Wade Townsend (11-2) when Brian Hall scored from third on Townsend's wild pitch, and Tobin Swope scored on Carlos Quentin's RBI single.

Rice got within 3-1 in the fourth when Quentin lost track of Matt Ueckert's fly ball in right field. The ball dropped between Quentin and center fielder Fuld, allowing Craig Stansberry to score from second.

Stanford, helped by Rice first baseman Vincent Sinisi's two rare errors, built its lead to 8-1 in the seventh.

The Cardinal loaded the bases when Sinisi fielded Brian Hall's bunt and threw wildly to second baseman Jed Lowrie, who was covering first. Townsend walked Swope to force in a run, and Fuld reached when Sinisi mishandled his grounder, bringing in another run.

Sinisi, who hadn't made an error all season, made one in Saturday night's loss and two more Sunday.

Then Ash, who hit the first two homers of his career in his previous two games, hit a two-run double to right-center.

Josh Baker relieved Townsend, and Quentin hit a sacrifice fly for Stanford's final run. Townsend allowed eight runs — five earned — and eight hits in six innings.

Hudgins left in the eighth after walking Stansberry and giving up Enrique Cruz's double and Ueckert's two-run single that pulled Rice within 8-3.

Hudgins threw a total of 350 pitches in 10 days.

Reliever Kodiak Quick threw two wild pitches while walking Janish, then gave way to David O'Hagan, who got Justin Rucht to hit into a double play. Ueckert, who was on third, came home on the play but was sent back after second base umpire Joe Burleson ruled that Janish interfered with Swope as the shortstop made the relay throw to first.

Home-plate umpire Tony Maners ejected Graham after the coach disputed a called third strike against Janish.

"I didn't think we suffered mentally," Rice second baseman Enrique Cruz said, "but the wheels did fall off and nothing really went right for us after that."

The victory was Stanford's fifth straight after a second-round loss to Cal State Fullerton.

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES  
CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES  
GAME 3  
Rice vs. Stanford  
Monday  
7 p.m.  
ESPN

## Williams sisters make charge towards Wimbledon finals

By Howard Fedrich  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIMBLEDON, England — Pete Sampras is out. So is the curtsy.

The men are considering setting up alternative tournaments if the Grand Slams don't fork over more money. The women are launching a new marketing campaign.

Change is in the air at tennis' most tradition-laden event.

There is one constant, though, as Wimbledon opens Monday: Serena and Venus Williams are counting on going far this fortnight.

"You've got to give the Williams sisters credit for what they've done for the women's game," tournament referee Alan Mills said. "They've brought it to new heights."

Serena Williams can be forgiven if

she's already looking ahead to the semifinals at the grass-court major. That's when she could face Justine Henin-Hardenne, the Belgian who ended Williams' 33-match Grand Slam winning streak at the French Open.

That loss was disconcerting to Williams for several reasons.

It ended her bid for a calendar-year Slam. Her play was poor for stretches. The crowd cheered when she faulted. And she felt Henin-Hardenne

breached good sportsmanship by not acknowledging a timeout called as Williams missed a serve.

"I thought I was playing well, but looking back, I didn't play well,"

Williams said, "so it's actually encouraging to know that players really are struggling and fighting — and cheating" to try to beat her.

She wiped away tears at the post-match news conference in Paris and vowed to "be a little stronger next time." Well, next time against the Belgian could arrive July 3.

"Obviously it hurt, and I've been very tough on myself since that defeat," the top-ranked Williams said. "I've been working really hard with my dad, and I'm really determined."

She begins defending her Wimbledon title Tuesday against Jill Craybas, an American ranked 66th. In a preserved tradition, the honor of opening Centre Court goes to reigning men's champion Lleyton Hewitt, who will face qualifier Ivo Karlovic on Monday. Andy Roddick — whose booming serve and new coach

(Brad Gilbert) helped win his first grass-court title at Queen's Club — Kim Clijsters, Lindsay Davenport and Chanda Rubin also play Monday.

Venus Williams, the 2000-01 champion, plays Slovakian qualifier Stanislava Hrozenska on Court 2, the so-called "Graveyard of Champions" and site of Sampras' second-round loss to George Bastl last year.

For the first time since 1988, Wimbledon will go on without Sampras, a seven-time champion who hasn't played since beating Andre Agassi for the U.S. Open title.

"You don't win a tournament again and again without there being some meat

to the bone. ... If you've done that a few times, there's a heck of a chance that the environment itself really lends to your game in a certain way that makes you pretty damn tough to beat," Agassi said. "Pete at Wimbledon is a great example."

Sampras' withdrawal was one of several, including fellow past champion Goran Ivanisevic, Marat Safin, Monica Seles and Amelie Mauresmo.

Of the women hoping to challenge the Williams family's three-year hold on the championship, each has a shortcoming.

Henin-Hardenne fell during a match Saturday, injuring her left (non-racket) hand. Clijsters never won a major. Jennifer Capriati hasn't won a title in 17 months. Davenport has a toe injury.

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