

Slice a cut above Tilyard

By RAY WHEATLEY

IN a ferocious brawl on the Mundine-Geale undercard, Brisbane's Shane Tilyard rocked the fearsome Bahamas-born American Kimbo Slice in the first round and appeared on his way to one of the big upsets of world boxing.

But the 105kg Slice (real name Kevin Ferguson) survived the scare to drop the beefy 115kg Tilyard with a massive body shot in round two at the Sydney Entertainment Centre on January 30.

At 2:09 of the round referee Les Fear counted Tilyard out.

"I didn't know Aussies were so tough," Slice said, "but that's the way I fight. I can take a little and give a lot."

"I have great trainer in former world champion John David Jackson and top promoter in Gary Shaw."

"I had a great time in Australia while I was here."

Slice scored his seventh win in seven fights, his sixth by KO. Tilyard lost for the seventh time in 13 starts.

Earlier Brisbane-born southpaw Jamie Pittman, Geale's long time amateur rival and sparring partner, won every round to score an eight-round decision over rugged Sydney slugger Zac Awad.

Super-middleweight Pittman (22-3, 9 KOs) made a successful return to the ring and showed outstanding skills to win 80-72 on all three cards.

The tough Awad is now 18-3-1 (7 KOs).

Pittman suffered a cut eye due to accidental head clash in round five and the referee Les Fear had Dr Lou Lewis inspect it.

Awad was aggressive in all the rounds but was outworked by the former WBA middleweight challenger.

Pittman connected consistently with the right jab.

The Athens 2004 Olympian is trained by Geale's coach Graham Shaw.

He lost against Felix Sturm in a WBA middleweight title fight in 2007.

Also, Sydney's undefeated WBO No.3 featherweight Joel Brunker outpointed former world champion Ivan Hernandez of Mexico, 80-72, 79-73, 78-75.

"Aussie" Joel is now 25-0 (14 KOs).

Hernandez is 26-7-1 (17 KOs).

Hernandez pumped out his left jab and boxed on the back move in all of the rounds but was trapped continually on the ropes by the aggressive Brunker, who delivered solid head and body shots.

Brunker suffered a cut above the right eye in round four due to an accidental head clash. Dr Lou Lewis inspected it but allowed the fight to continue.

Cornerman Brian Wilmott controlled the bleeding through the remainder of the contest. All three judges scored 80-72.

Brunker is trained by John Barber and managed by Angelo Di Carlo. His USA promoter is Gary Shaw.

Australian cruiserweight champ Daniel Ammann (27-5-1, 7 KO) outpointed David Aloua (8-1, 5 KOs) 98-92, 99-91 (twice) over 10 action rounds.

Aloua hurt Ammann with power right hand shots in rounds one, two, five and eight but the southpaw champion boxed his way out of trouble, connecting with accurate right jabs.

Aloua tired in the final rounds but gamely finished to hear the final bell.

Aloua is trained by 1974 world middleweight challenger Tony Mundine.

Beauty queen and former world water ski champion Lauryn Eagle (6-3-1, 3 KOs) captured the Australian lightweight crown by outpointing du-



RIGHT ON, MAN: Kimbo Slice cracks the Shane Tilyard

BUSY: Joel B



SLICK: Steve Lovett defends against Jeremy Allan

rable Nadine Brown (2-3-1) over eight rounds. Eagle is showing big improvement with each contest and outworked Brown in most of the rounds.

Eagle has also revealed her Olympic ambition after her boxing crown was added to her multiple national water-skiing titles.

But as NRL star boyfriend Todd Carney watched on, Eagle said she might join her partner on the football field, eyeing a spot on Australia's rugby team that would signal the end of her boxing career.

"I love sport," Eagle said. "I want to try and get to the Olympics. I'm looking at possibly playing

rugby sevens because they are looking for a team. So, who knows, I might end up doing more than two sports."

Unbeaten light heavyweight Steve Lovett (6-0, 5 KOs) went the distance for the first time edging Jeremy Allan (8-11-3, 3 KOs) over six close rounds.

Ice Borg stops tough Tuniacao for I

By DAVID GRAINGER

RISING star Val Borg stopped Filipino Allan Tuniacao in the fifth round at the Windsor Function Centre, north west of Sydney on February 9.

The main event of the evening was scheduled for 8x3 rounds for the NSW lightweight title.

The contest started briskly with Borg (60.10 kgs) appearing faster and with a height advantage.

Although scoring well, he was occasionally getting hit with good southpaw leads and an occasional solid left hand counter from Tuniacao (60.65 kgs).

As the bout progressed, however, Borg (3-0, 1 KO) was becoming more effective with his lightning quick aggression. Tuniacao (3-7-8) gave it his best shot, but he was being progressively outgunned by a boy who puts his punches together so well.

By the fifth round it was evident that this contest

could only go one way and Tuniacao saw that there was no point in continuing. He conceded defeat at 1m 14s of the fifth round after a sustained volley of solid blows.

Val Borg presents as a boxer with a future. He is lightning fast, fires his combinations exceedingly well and appears to have good stamina, together with a good chin.

The first bout of the evening, over 4x3 rounds was a "ripper". Glen Purvis (65.12 kgs) and Cory Hess (66.32 kgs) were both making their debut in professional boxing but the standard of this fight was better than that. Both boys boxed well for the entire four rounds, not letting up, giving and receiving solid blows.

The judges voted unanimously for Purvis 39-37; 39-37 and 39-38. Purvis was very impressive, but so was Hess.

The second bout of the evening was over 4x3

rounds between Sam Mawson (68.73 kgs) W1 (KO) and New Zealander, Daniel Maxwell (69.82 kgs).

Right from the first bell Mawson pursued Max W0 L11 (KO1) firing punches in bunches not giving the Kiwi any option but to cover up. The judges voted a shutout to Maxwell 40-36.

The next contest was between Bashir Sadiq (66 kgs) and Jayson Mac Gura (67.15 kgs). Mac Gura (KO1) L11 (KO7) D1 took the bout at short notice with Bashir's original opponent failed to appear.

Jayson was floored solidly in the third round, the referee could not see any point in allowing bout to continue. The contest concluded at 2m 8 the round.

The next bout of the evening found Naroc fighter Leroy Brown (71.90 kgs) opposed to A Ranjdar (72.25 kgs), an Iranian domiciled in Thailand. The bout was scheduled for 8x3 rounds.



RUGGED PAIR: Val Borg (right) and former lightweight world No.1 Lenny Zappavigna