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Super Sapok storms into final

SAPOK Biki beat Gary Jones of England in the 48kg category boxing semifinal yesterday and then invited Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to watch him in the final at the Malawati Stadium tomorrow.

After he was declared the winner, Sapok did a victory jig, holding aloft a potrait of the Prime Minister in one hand and the Jalur Gemilang in the other.

"I am a great admirer of Dr Mahathir and I dedicate my win to him and all Malaysians. I hope the Prime Minister will come and watch me in the final," he said.

Sapok's opponent in the final will be Kenya's Moses Kinyua, who easily defeated Roudik Kazanjian 33-14 in the other semifinal.

Moses' impressive win does not bother Sapok.

"Anything can happen in the final. If he (Moses) can win by a big margin, I believe I can do the same," Sapok said.

Sapok's achievement will enter the annals of Malaysian boxing as no Malaysian has gone beyond the preliminary rounds.

However, Adnan Yusoh has to be contended with the bronze when he was beaten 16-15 by Tanzanian Michael Yomba in the 54kg category.

The 24-year-old Sapok started the bout on a cautious note and the first round ended with the boxers winning two points each.

The Sarawakian turned on the power from the second round and led all the way to the fifth and final round to wrap up the fight with a hard earned 15-11 win.

Sapok never gave the Englishman a chance to catch up, maintaining a four-point lead from the second to the final round.

"I kept my distance in the first round as I wanted to determine my opponent's style as well as his strength," Sapok said.

Jones' main weakness, said Sapok, was his belly.

Sapok said Jones felt very uncomfortable everytime he was hit on that area.

Adnan entered the ring full of vim and vigour and led till the third round.

The 21-year-old Adnan led 3-1 in the first round, 8-1 in the second and 11-6 in the third.

But Yomba won a massive seven points in the fourth to Adnan's two to tie the score at 13-13.

It was a close fight in the final round with the boxers tied at 15-15 with 30 seconds remaining when the Tanzanian connected a crucial punch that earned him the win.

Adnan blamed himself for the defeat, saying that he became a complacent in the fourth round after taking a wide lead in the first three.

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