

SPORTS

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL :: WEEK 3

Watch out for this tourist trap

Trojans know they can't overlook Cougars after Slovis' breakout performance against Stanford.

By RYAN KARTJE

PROVO, Utah —The day after USC stomped Stanford behind a superlative performance from its 18-year-old freshman quarterback, coach Clay Helton talked with his team about maturity.

Helton understood that, in the wake of a potentially season-defining victory and with a road trip to Brigham Young ahead, his Trojans were now especially prone to a letdown.

This week's matchup has all the makings of a classic trap game, with a young team riding high as it takes to the road for the first time. Helton knew he needed to address it right away.

"We won a big game last week, but now a mature team ... puts that last game aside," he said. "Let's focus on this game. We're not here to win one big game. We're here to have a great season."

So, in the team's first meeting after that 45-20 victory, Helton played select clips of practice from the week before.

"This is how you won that game," he told them. "You won it on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday." By the end of the Stanford game, the

[See USC, D6]



24 USC
at Brigham Young

AT PROVO, UTAH

Today, 12:30 p.m. PDT
TV: Ch. 7



KEDON SLOVIS IGNITED a big comeback victory against Stanford last week, giving the Trojans hope for the season, but now the freshman faces another challenge with a road game against Brigham Young. ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times



ROBERT GAUTHIER Los Angeles Times

PATIENCE among fans seems to be running thin with Chip Kelly, who is 3-11 as UCLA coach.

Bruins are trying to avoid exposure under spotlight

By BEN BOLCH

Keeping things to themselves is no longer an option. UCLA's issues will be resolved or accentuated quite publicly Saturday evening after the Bruins' latest slow start has left the team a source of intrigue for all the wrong reasons.

A national television audience and presumably at least a handful of fans at the Rose Bowl will receive the latest accounting, good or bad, when UCLA (0-2) faces



UCLA vs. 5 Oklahoma
AT THE ROSE BOWL
Tonight, 5
TV: Ch. 11

No. 5 Oklahoma (2-0) as a 23½-point underdog. It sounded earlier this week as if the Bruins' players-only

meeting that was called after their second consecutive loss had left them on the verge of a major turnaround or a steep descent into oblivion.

"It's a long season," quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson said when asked what he would say to fans about the team's early struggles. "Would you rather be 0-12 or 10-2?"

The Bruins had pledged to talk less and work more after a season-opening loss to Cincinnati that came fol

[See UCLA, D6]

Rested Kershaw enjoys better results

Backed by Lux's three-run blast, he turns in a solid 6⅓ innings.

**DODGERS 9
NEW YORK METS 2**

By JORGE CASTILLO

NEW YORK — A camera-man closely trailed Clayton Kershaw, unusually so, as the Dodgers pitcher walked off the mound at Citi Field on Friday night. Kershaw was not pleased, not after walking consecutive hitters to load the bases with one out and mar an otherwise quality outing before he could finish the seventh inning. He waved the man off. He wasn't having it.

"He was too close," Kershaw said.

Kershaw was annoyed, but the ending was not indicative of his performance against the New York Mets. The left-hander rebounded from a three-start losing skid and his shortest outing of the season with a strong outing in the Dodgers' 9-2 win.

He surrendered a home run to J.D. Davis and walked a batter in the first inning but got stingy after that. Over the next five innings, the Mets managed two hits — consecutive singles in the fourth inning. The Mets went two for 17 during the span.

"Just sometimes it happens," Kershaw said. "Hopefully get on one of those every start. Just finally got going a little bit better."

The Mets then loaded the bases and chased Kershaw with one out in the seventh inning. Joe Kelly was summoned to extinguish the situation. The right-hander got Brandon Nimmo to hit a chopper to his left. Kelly corralled it and spun for an athletic throw home for the forceout. Amed Rosario lined a run-scoring single be

[See Dodgers, D5]



JIM MCISAAC Getty Images

CLAYTON KERSHAW gave up two runs and four hits versus the Mets.

‘Next men up’ can’t let Chargers down

HELENE ELLIOTT

Two phrases have been getting a lot of use around the Chargers' locker room this season. One has a meaning that extends beyond the field, but the other is a common football cliché.

A few years ago, quarterback Philip Rivers adopted "*nunc coepi*," Latin for "now I begin," as his personal motto. He sees each moment in life and in football as a new start, after a good experience or a bad one. Rivers used the phrase while making a college commencement speech and had it printed on T-shirts, hats and on signs that were placed in the Chargers'



**NFL WEEK 2
Chargers
at Detroit**

AT FORD FIELD
Sun., 10 a.m. PDT, Ch. 2

locker room.

His teammates have adopted it too, and it came to mind for running back Austin Ekeler the other day after he was asked how the Chargers could build off their season-opening victory over Indianapolis.

"It's a new week," Ekeler said. "Phil's little saying, '*nunc coepi*.' We begin again. That's how it is. We

[See Elliott, D3]



TOM HOGAN Golden Boy Promotions/CNG

JAIME MUNGUIA, the WBO's junior middleweight champion, is a rising Mexican boxing star at age 22.

Next up for Canelo: Kovalev

Boxing champion Alvarez will move up two divisions, face light-heavyweight champion Nov. 2 in Vegas. **D8**

A CHAMPION IN HIS CORNER

Munguia didn't look far to find trainer in Hall of Famer Morales

By MANOUK AKOPYAN

TIJUANA — A few short steps from drug activity and brothels sits an unassuming storefront on the corner of Coahuila and 5 de Mayo in Zona Norte, Tijuana, one of the toughest neighborhoods in all of Baja California.

A grocery store is on the first floor while on the second floor, up an uneven, dimly lit staircase is ZNT Boxing, a tiny gym barren of modern-day boxing amenities.

You can walk a complete circle around the drab gym's creaky hardwood floors in 30 seconds. There's no tread-

mill, no workout equipment or weights. Just seven punching bags, an outdated sit-up machine and holes in the wall that double as a storage unit. The only ventilation that runs through the room comes courtesy of a corner ceiling fan and whatever windows still crank open. A row of five tattered chairs faces the ring, which is dangerously pushed up against a window. Just a few fight posters from events at the local bullrings are plastered on the wall. The shanty smells like a century-old sweatbox, yet appears bereft of history that should properly reflect its age.

[See Boxing, D9]

BOXING

Masked man better known than opponent

Fury returns to ring against lesser-known heavyweight, waiting for Wilder rematch.

By Norm Fraumenheim

LAS VEGAS — There's no way to exhaust the showmanship in Tyson Fury. There's not a mask he won't wear, a lyric he can't sing, a line he won't utter or a role he can't play. Then again, there's not much else for him to do while he waits for the one rematch that has captivated the heavyweight division since his dramatic draw with Deontay Wilder in December at Staples Center. Waiting for Wilder is the theme, the inevitable talking point, of just about everything Fury has done since he bypassed an immediate rematch and signed a rich deal with Top Rank and ESPN.

Wilder hasn't been in Las Vegas this week, but his name has dominated talk and thoughts about Fury's fight Saturday night against unknown Swede Otto Wallin at T-Mobile Arena on an ESPN+ card. "Otto Wallin is a tall blond, just the way I like them," said Fury (28-0-1, 20 knockouts). "We'll see what he brings." It was a wisecrack that sums up Wallin's role in the buildup to Fury-Wilder II. The Swede is an afterthought, which might not be fair. Then again, it wasn't fair to Tom Schwarz either. Don't remember Schwarz? Neither does anybody else. Schwarz, an unknown German, came and went like a sparring partner in Fury's Las Vegas debut in June. Schwarz was finished within two rounds, giving Fury plenty of time to sing and dance his way into the sort of American celebrity who sells tickets.

Predictably, Top Rank and Fury's corner are weary of Wallin (20-0, 13 KO's) being portrayed as just another steppingstone toward a Wilder rematch. Fury trainer Ben Davison is quick to point out that heavyweights are unpredictable. Proof, he says, was delivered by Andy Ruiz Jr., who stunned then-heavyweight colossus Anthony Joshua with a seventh-round stoppage in New York in June. "A step-in," Davison said of Ruiz, who agreed to the fight when Jarrell Miller tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug. "That's what he was, a step-in. I'm not saying that's what he is, but that's what he was, a step-in. He was looked at as a step-in. "And you know what happened, so don't overlook anything or anybody in the heavyweight division." Yet, the nature of Fury's \$100-million deal with ESPN and Top Rank leads to talk

of Wilder and only Wilder. Promoter Bob Arum's plan was to market Fury to American fans, who knew of him only as an interesting British fighter. Fury has done his part. In recognition of Mexico's Independence Day on Sept. 16, Fury has worn the lucha libre mask. He wore one for Friday's weigh-in, stepping onto the scale in a red, green and white mask. Fury was at 254.4 pounds, Wallin at 236. Fury served tacos at a Mexican restaurant in Las Vegas this week. He took questions in Spanish at news conferences. He is a tireless promoter, yet there is a sense only his vocal chords are at risk of injury against Wallin. Meanwhile, there's a real risk in what Wilder faces Nov. 23 in a rematch with Luis Ortiz, a proven contender who lost a 10th-round TKO to Wilder in March 2018. The rematch will have to wait on that one too.



ETHAN MILLER Getty Images
TYSON FURY entertains fans during his weigh-in for Saturday's fight against Otto Wallin in Las Vegas.

Retired Morales training fellow Tijuana fighter

[Boxing, from D1]
To be a great boxer, you have to start at the bottom and work your way up. In many ways, Tijuana is perceived as the nadir, and although ZNT Boxing may have the look of it, it's far from what it seems.

The gym might as well serve as Mexico's boxing sanctuary because it's been training grounds for a host of champions — and it's been the home to Erik Morales for his entire life. The International Boxing Hall of Fame fighter was born in the family home below a second-floor gym they owned. Morales started boxing in that gym under the tutelage of his father at age 6, and went on to become a four-division champion who beat 15 titleists and fought Manny Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera three times each.

Not too far away from Zona Norte is Xicotencatlleyva, a Tijuana town that's equally tough and gave birth to another world champion in undefeated Jaime Munguia, the World Boxing Organization junior middleweight titleholder. When Munguia was born in 1996, Morales already had 23 wins in his Hall of Fame career. His hellacious wars and entertaining "Mexican style" offense personified boxing at the turn of the millennium.

Munguia does not have much memory of Morales other than the clips that can be culled from YouTube, but the two have similar stories. They were born into boxing families, survived rough Tijuana streets and went on to become undefeated champions by age 21.

The hard-hitting yet work-in-progress Munguia (33-0, 26 knockouts) is coming off an underwhelming majority decision win in April against Dennis Hogan, where vulnerable defense, controversial scorecards and a lack of drug testing were called into question.

The Golden Boy-promoted Munguia knew a change had to be made following a subpar performance. He cut ties with Robert Alcazar, who for years was Oscar De La Hoya's lead trainer, and called for the help of a hometown hero. Morales answered.

The former champion and protege pairing will look to showcase a refined set of skills on Saturday as they carry their country's colors into Carson when Munguia takes on Patrick Allotey (40-3, 30 KO's). The fight will take place at Dignity Health Sports Park, stream digitally on DAZN and continue a prizefighting tradition on Mexican Independence Day weekend that De La Hoya made popular during his heyday.

"I feel very honored and happy to be representing my country on this important date. It's also motivating to have legends in my corner," Munguia told The Times after a recent workout in Tijuana. "Erik brings a lot of intelligence to camp. He knows what to do in the ring. He knows how to work on defense, and he gives me a lot of advice. It comes with his experience, and of course I execute what he says. It's been a really good relationship, and I'm learning."



TOM HOGAN Golden Boy Promotions
JAIME MUNGUIA, left, a champion at 22, is trying to reach the next level under the tutelage of Hall of Fame boxer Erik Morales.

Munguia, who's still a raw 22-year-old, will be making the fifth defense of his 154-pound title against the unheralded Ghanaian Allotey. It'll be his last fight in the division because the big-bodied Munguia is struggling to shed weight from his 6-foot frame. Instead, he's looking to climb up the scales and clash against fellow countryman and stablemate Canelo Alvarez in the near future.

Before he can contemplate a fight with Alvarez, arguably boxing's best fighter and biggest draw, Munguia needed the help of "El Terrible" to sharpen his skills and blossom in the ring — hence the call three months ago.

"It's an honor to be train-

ing the new face of Mexican boxing. He's young, strong, hits very hard and has a lot of potential," Morales said shortly after his pupil's workout at ZNT Boxing. "He looks more confident throwing combinations now. We work very well together and have a cordial relationship. We haven't changed him too much."

Morales understands the mind-set of a fighter, and that's what Munguia is looking for in addition to increased combinations, better mental calmness and more fluid waist and upper body movement. Morales also holds a wealth of experience. His head trainer was his late father, Jose Morales, who also coached champions Jorge Arce, Yory Boy Cam-

pas, Jose Luis Castillo and Antonio Margarito. But Morales still invited more than a dozen other coaches into his camps for different direction throughout his career. "I tell him to have confidence and the ability to learn so we can help him," Morales said. "It's hard to bring in a new voice, but you need to have that willingness to listen and learn to use new tools effectively."

Morales, 43, is still a novice as a coach. Ever since his last fight in 2012, he's mostly trained his brother Ivan Morales, as well as Jessie Vargas for his fight against Timothy Bradley in 2015, a loss. Former champion Jose Uzcategui recently requested Morales' services, but Mor-

nando Beltran, Munguia's veteran Mexico-based promoter who also guided Morales' career. "They both carry the Tijuana name very proudly and high in the sky. Erik is a part of the new era of trainers. There aren't many good trainers in the sport, but mark my words — Erik Morales will be one of the best trainers in the world."

Great players rarely become great coaches, and it's mostly the same for elite boxers-turned-trainers. Save for Hall of Famer Buddy McGirt, and perhaps formidable pros like Freddie Roach, Robert Garcia, Floyd Mayweather Sr. and John David Jackson, not many proven fighters have transferred success to coaching in recent years.

"His previous camps, all Jaime would do is just dance around on his toes. I wasn't too crazy about it. He would waste too much energy," De La Hoya said as he watched his fighter operate with white gloves during sparring. "I don't think my old trainer Robert Alcazar was the right fit for Jaime, who's more of a stationary fighter. When Erik came into the picture, it was a perfect fit. I think we're going to see a new Jaime who wants to knock you out and not box your ears off. That's what people like watching."

Fans also like watching the other fighter De La Hoya presides over in Alvarez, who was supposed to be the headliner Saturday. Golden Boy couldn't secure a fight, so in stepped Munguia, who'll have to compete with a card in Las Vegas headlined by lineal heavyweight champion Tyson Fury.

"It's very important for us to fight on Mexican Independence Day weekend," said Carlos Zarate, who was voted Fighter of the Year by the Ring magazine in 1977. "The moment was never too big or difficult to fight on

those dates. It was a great time to remind everyone of our proud Mexican heritage."

In 1984, Julio Cesar Chavez won his first world championship on that weekend, stopping countryman Mario Martinez at the Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles. Chavez picked up the tradition of fighting on the holiday from Ruben Olivares and Salvador Sanchez, then passed it on to De La Hoya.

Morales' first fight on Mexican Independence Day weekend was a thrilling fourth-round knockout of Junior Jones in 1998 that took place in a Tijuana bullring.

"I haven't seen a great Mexican-versus-Mexican fight in a long time — I think it's time," De La Hoya said. "Canelo and Jaime have the ingredients to be the hottest fight in boxing today. Jaime is still growing into his man strength and accumulating knowledge. Once Munguia gets more experience and is at his peak, he'll be challenging everybody just like Canelo. Eventually they're going to have to fight one another, and I can't wait to make it."

Munguia knows he has to quickly mature if he wants to be considered a draw like other Mexican greats — the one who's promoting him, the other who's training him and the countryman he

wants to eventually exceed. "The Canelo fight needs to happen in the future, and that's the one fight that I want," Munguia said. "I want to leave a great legacy and continue the tradition of legendary Mexican champions."

Garcia's opponent arrested

Touted prospect Ryan Garcia (18-0, 15 KO's) of Victorville stepped on the scales Friday ahead of his clash against Avery Sparrow on the undercard of Saturday's fight in Carson, but his opponent was nowhere to be found.

That's because Sparrow was arrested Friday afternoon.

The fighter from Philadelphia had a warrant stemming from an April domestic dispute in which he allegedly brandished a firearm after a woman threw his clothes out of a window.

Golden Boy president Eric Gomez said Filipino fighter Romero Duno, who's also fighting on Saturday's card, was considered as a replacement opponent, but Garcia's camp "turned him down."

Garcia took exception, tweeting "I deserve the right promotion for fights with the full time to promote and not be thrown into a fight."

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