



Ukrainian IBF and WBO world champion Wladimir Klitschko (R) lands a punch on British WBA champion David Haye during their heavyweight title match at Hamburg on Saturday

PHOTO: AFP

## Alves woos Neymar for Barca

AFP, Campana

Barcelona full-back Dani Alves said on Saturday he would sign his Brazil teammate Neymar from Santos for the Catalan club if only he had the money.

Neymar, under contract for another four years at Pele's old team, has long been coveted by Chelsea but seems set on staying put in his homeland for now.

However, Alves has other plans for him, as he revealed at the national side's Copa America training camp at Campana in Argentina.

"If I had the money, I'd sign him up for Barca because he's one of the best players in the world right now. And he's a close friend," said Alves.

Real Madrid are also reportedly interested but Alves is clearly not relishing the idea he might one day have to face the young starlet as a rival at club level.

"I have a very special relationship with Neymar and he's a person I'd want to advise to be at my side rather than lined up against me," said Alves, 28.

Neymar, just 19, has come to the Copa on the crest of a wave after landing the Copa Libertadores with Santos.

# Klitschko rules the roost

Boxing

AFP, Hamburg

Wladimir Klitschko of the Ukraine became the undisputed world heavyweight champion by beating Great Britain's David Haye on a unanimous points decision here on Saturday night.

Klitschko now holds the IBF, WBO and WBA belts after being awarded the fight by the three judges 117-109, 118-108, 116-110 to claim victory over Haye, the former WBA champion.

Klitschko and elder brother Vitali, the WBC champion, now hold all four of the major world titles.

"It was not easy, he was incredibly fast," said Klitschko, nicknamed 'Dr Steelhammer', who thanked the 40,000-strong crowd for braving the rain during the outdoor bout at Hamburg's football stadium.

"It was not enough for my 50th knock-out, but now we have all the belts in the Klitschko family."

Haye said a broken toe in training had hampered him during the fight.

"I gave everything I could, but I knew that I am not fully fit," said the Brit, who was roared on by a significant British influence in the crowd.

"I couldn't push off my right leg because I broke my toe in training. It was frustrating."

It was a bout that promised much and delivered little, as Haye struggled to get inside Klitschko's reach, despite his pre-fight boast that he would knock the Ukrainian out.

Klitschko won the IBF belt against Chris Byrd in 2006 and added the WBO title two years later, while Haye had been the WBA champion since 2009.

This was the first heavyweight unification bout since Klitschko took the WBO belt from Sultan Ibragimov at Madison Square Garden in 2008 and the biggest title fight since Mike Tyson was beaten by Lennox Lewis in 2002.

The pair had been due to meet in 2009 in Gelsenkirchen, but a back injury forced Haye out.

This was the Ukrainian's 56th win in his 59th professional bout with just three defeats, but he failed to make Haye his 50th knock-out,

while this was the second defeat of Haye's career to leave him with 25 wins and 23 knock-outs from 27 fights.

Heavy rain and swirling winds in the north German city blighted the open-air bout and both fighters were well wrapped up against the chilly night air before the first bell.

Haye was down in the first round when Klitschko pushed him as both fighters probed each other's defence with a series of jabs, the Ukrainian beginning cautiously while Haye looked to land a big right on several occasions.

Both fighters landed shots to the face in the second, but it was Haye in the third who struck the first significant blow by landing a big right over the top of Klitschko's left hand, before the Brit was briefly caught on the ropes.

The Ukrainian was starting to show marks on his face with blood coming from his nose and Haye found his range with a couple of right-hand shots in the fourth, one of which stunned Klitschko on the bell.

Haye slipped twice in the fifth and Klitschko upped the pace as Haye

wobbled after a right in a good round for the Ukrainian, while Haye was down again in the seventh after slipping as he went to land a swinging right.

Klitschko was docked a point in the seventh by referee Genaro Rodriguez for pushing Haye down.

While Haye looked fresh, Klitschko was still the aggressor, but the pace dropped in the eighth, although Haye slipped again after being caught with a right.

Haye left it until the end of the ninth to throw a few wild punches, but Klitschko's jabs were keeping him at bay.

In the 10th, the bigger fighter landed several strong rights to Haye's face as the Brit seemed unable to get inside Klitschko's reach of over two metres.

Haye was down early in the 11th following another skip and referee Rodriguez gave him a standing count.

The Londoner tried to raise his game, but the fight was slipping away from him. He came out firing in the 12th and final round, but Klitschko's jab kept him at bay.

## Ties that bind

Football

SOCCERNET

Cristiano Ronaldo has pledged to stay at Real Madrid but revealed that if Jose Mourinho had left the club at the end of last season he would probably have followed his coach out of the exit door, with Manchester City the forward's most likely destination. Ronaldo, 26, has been nothing short of sensational for Real over the past two years, scoring 86 goals in 89 games for the club since arriving at the Bernabeu from Manchester United in the summer of 2009.

But the Portuguese superstar, who beat Lionel Messi to last season's Pichichi after scoring 40 La Liga goals, says that while he has loved playing for Los Blancos, he would have had to seriously consider his future if recent reports linking Mourinho to a return to Chelsea had turned out to be true.

"I think if I went from Spain it would be to the Premier League - but not now," Ronaldo was quoted as saying by the Sunday Mirror. "First we have to win the Champions League. If I went back to the Premier League it would have to be with a club in the north west. I don't like London."

"It's flattering to be offered like 20 million pounds a year - it's very good, but I spoke to my agent and I think it's better to stay in Madrid because this year we're going to be the best. This season we are going to be a big force."

"Jose Mourinho is staying at Madrid so I stay. If he went to Chelsea then I would have left. I would have gone to Manchester City. But now he's staying, I'm staying."

"We went to a wedding together last week and we're on good terms and we have the same agent," Ronaldo said. "He [Mourinho] is a nice person and we live in the same street."

## Colombia take charge

AP, Jujuy



Colombia defeated 10-man Costa Rica 1-0 on Saturday in the second match of the Copa America.

Adrian Ramos scored in the 45th minute, finally breaking through after Costa Rica's Randall Brenes was sent off in the 28th on a straight red card.

Colombia leads Group A from Bolivia and Argentina following their 1-1 draw on Friday in the tournament opener. Costa Rica, playing as a guest team in the South American championship, is without a point and is fielding a youth team, as is Mexico.

"To start with a victory always gives you confidence," Ramos said. "It wasn't a clear victory, but the important thing is that we won."

Colombia was unimpressive, seldom dominating a short-handed team featuring mostly young, inexperienced players. Colombia could get a shock when it faces Argentina on Wednesday with the Gauchos under pressure at home after a disappointing opening match.

Brenes was sent off after a hard tackle, but Colombia struggled to take advantage.

Ramos broke through on an individual effort. Taking a through pass, he raced into the area and then dribbled around Costa Rica goalkeeper Leonel Moreira before slotting home from short range.

Colombia star forward Falcao Garcia seldom had the ball in position to strike and went off in the 77th. He had his best chance in the 57th, but his header struck the crossbar.

**RESULT**  
Colombia 1 (Ramos 45) Costa Rica 0



Bayern Munich wingers Franck Ribery (L) and Arjen Robben share a joke during an open day session for reporters at the Allianz Arena in Munich on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Banega not bothered by draw

AFP, Ezeiza

Argentina's opening Copa America draw with Bolivia was not a terrible result at all, midfielder Ever Banega said Saturday.

Argentinian media had rounded on their national side on Saturday after the 14-time continental and double world champions just scraped a 1-1 draw in their Copa America opener against modest Bolivia.

"It was not so bad, the team tried to win. A draw is not such a bad result to start off," Banega insisted. "They hung back and made it almost impossible to score."

"We had a lot of chances but did not put them away. We must now put Bolivia behind us."

Javier Pastore, a midfielder left on the bench, added that "it is not easy to play the first game in Argentina so the pressure was on but we have to keep beaver away."

The hosts now meet early group leaders Colombia in Santa Fe in a tantalising encounter on Wednesday.

### SPORTS POLL

#### WEEKLY QUESTION

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