

## Alvarez beats Charlo to retain undisputed title



AFP

AFP – Saul “Canelo” Alvarez reaffirmed his super middleweight supremacy on Saturday with a devastating unanimous-decision victory over Jermell Charlo to retain his undisputed world title.

In a battle of undisputed champions, Mexico’s Alvarez knocked down Charlo in the seventh round as he defended his WBO, WBC, WBA and IBF belts, becoming the first to defend all four for a third straight time.

Judges Max DeLuca and David Sutherland scored it 118-109 and Steve Weisfeld saw it 119-108 for Alvarez, who was the aggressor from the start. He sent Charlo, the undisputed super welterweight world champion, to the canvas for just the second time in his career in the seventh, rocking him with a right to the temple then following up with an uppercut that had the American sagging to a knee.

“You know, I worked all the fight to go in the body,” Alvarez said. “And then I changed the punch and that’s what happened.” Alvarez said he’d planned to attack Charlo’s body, and he went after it early, digging in from the right and left.

“We worked for that, we worked to work in the body,” Alvarez said. “We know he’s a great fighter. He knows how to move in the ring and we worked that in the gym for three months.

“Three months in the mountains without my family, without everything. But I still love boxing,” the 33-year-old star said. “Boxing made me the person I am today. Boxing is my life.”

Alvarez improved to 60-2-2 with 39 knockouts and backed up his claim that a high-altitude training camp in the California mountains had restored the fitness and strength that seemed to be lacking in two unimpressive victories over Gennady Golovkin and John Ryder since his failed foray at light heavyweight against Dmitry Bivol.

Alvarez, now looking toward a title defence next May to coincide with the Mexican Cinco de Mayo holiday, said it didn’t matter that he didn’t get a knockout.

“I feel great,” he said. “That’s why we fight 12 rounds, right. If I don’t get that knockout I get 12 rounds to show I’m the best, right?”

“I’m the best,” Alvarez said. “Who’s better? Nobody can beat this Canelo.”

## Hangzhou Asian Games:

# Aqaei wins kurash silver; Alamians finish with precious bronze



Iran's Donya Aqaei is seen in action in the kurash women's -70kg contests at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on October 1, 2023. [hangzhou2022.cn](http://hangzhou2022.cn)

No matter what the final outcome for the Iranian teams and athletes in Hangzhou, the country's table tennis run in the Games will surely go down as a success.

### Sports Desk

A quiet day for the Iranians at the Hangzhou Asian Games in China saw Donya Aqaei grab a silver medal in the kurash competitions, while Alamian brothers settled for the men's doubles bronze in the table tennis event.

Representing the country in the women's -70kg contests, Aqaei overcame opponents from the Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan to reach the final showpiece, only to suffer a defeat

against the host's Yu Dan and claim a second kurash silver for the country in Hangzhou.

Majid Vahid Barimanlou had also finished on the second podium after a loss to Uzbekistan's Artyom Shturbabin in the men's -66kg showdown on the preceding night.

**Impressive Alamians**  
Nima and Noshad Alamian rounded off a memorable campaign with a second table tennis bronze for Iran at the Games.



Iran's Noshad (L) and Nima Alamian collected the men's team and doubles bronze medals of the table tennis event at the Hangzhou Asian Games. [MOHAMMADAMIN ANSARI/ISNA](https://www.isna.ir)

The two brothers defeated Japan, against all odds, for a place in the men's doubles semifinals but their journey came to an end on Sunday after a 4-0 (11-4, 11-3, 11-3, 11-6) setback against the reigning world doubles champions and home favorites Fan Zhendong and Wang Chuqin in a full-packed GSP Gymnasium. “You might have a chance against them in a one-on-one battle but when it comes to the doubles competitions they are simply invincible across the whole

world, not to mention they had 6,000 fans cheering them today,” elder brother Noshad said of Fan and Wang, who are the top two in the latest ITTF world singles ranking. Nima and Noshad were part of the Iranian trio, alongside Mirhossein Hodaei, who beat Tokyo Olympic bronze medalist Japan before a last-four defeat against South Korea to win the men's team bronze – Iran's first table tennis medal in the Asian Games in 65 years. No matter what the final

outcome for the Iranian teams and athletes in Hangzhou, the country's table tennis run in the Games will surely go down as a success. Elsewhere on Day 8 of the event, Iranian girl Hiva Afzali clocked 52.623 seconds to finish second to Japan's Mio Kobayashi and book a place in Tuesday's canoe single 200m final. In handball, a 25-24 defeat against South Korea saw Iran finish fourth in the Group I of the main round and fail to progress to the last four.



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp reacts during a defeat against Tottenham Hotspur in the Premier League at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium, London, Britain, on September 30, 2023. [PETER CZIBORRA/REUTERS](https://www.reuters.com)

## 'A bit strange': Liverpool's Klopp baffled by disallowed goal against Spurs

**THE GUARDIAN** – Jürgen Klopp was left bewildered after a glaring error from the match officials denied his Liverpool team what would have been an opening goal in their eventual 2-1 defeat at Tottenham. Liverpool finished with nine men after the dismissals of Curtis Jones and the substitute Diogo Jota, which ought to have been controversy enough. Yet the decision to rule out Luis Díaz's effort in the 34th minute trumped even that. Díaz looked outside when he ran through to finish only for a flag to go up. But rather than overrule the onfield decision, the VAR, Darren England, did not intervene, calling “check complete” because he had not noticed the goal had been disallowed. It prompted Professional Game Match Officials Limited to issue an embarrassing apology. The referees' body said in a statement: “The PGMOL acknowledge a significant human error occurred during the first half of Tottenham Hotspur v Liverpool. The goal by Luis Díaz was disallowed for offside by the

onfield team of match officials. This was a clear and obvious factual error and should have resulted in the goal being awarded through VAR intervention. However, the VAR failed to intervene. PGMOL will conduct a full review into the circumstances which led to the error.” Klopp said: “I don't think there is anything to say about the offside goal – I knew about it at half-time. In the first moment I thought it was clearly outside but you think they have a better view. I am pretty sure whoever made the decision didn't do it on purpose. It didn't take extremely long to come to the conclusion. That's a bit strange but someone else has to explain. “The linesman thought it was worth watching again – that's why he raised the flag. In the good old times, the linesman should have seen it was not offside because we had these situations quite frequently and when you see it back it is pretty clear.” Jones was sent off for a heavy tackle on Yves Bis-

souma midway through the first half – a decision Klopp disputed. Spurs scored on 36 minutes through Son Heung-min, although Liverpool hit back in first-half stoppage-time through Cody Gakpo, who did not reappear for the second half. He left the stadium in a protective brace, Klopp suggesting the injury was serious. Jota's dismissal for two yellow cards – the second on 69 minutes – meant Liverpool have now had four red cards in the Premier League. Spurs won in the final minute of stoppage-time thanks to a Joël Matip own goal. Klopp said: “Probably everyone in the room sees it as a red card for Curtis – I see it different. He put full power on the ball, rolls over it and then hits the leg [of Bissouma]. When you see it in slow motion, it looks horrendous. See it in real time and it's not even close to be that bad. Jota's first yellow card is clearly not a yellow card. The killer of the game was the second red card and a lot of other decisions.”