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Smith never expected first round KO win

Mitchell Smith needed just one round to successfully defend his WBO Inter-Continental title at Wembley's SSE Arena on Friday night and make it 13 straight wins since turning pro.

The 22-year-old beat Dennis Tubieron in double-quick time to retain the super featherweight belt he picked up after five rounds against Chile's Cristian Palma in May.

The Harrow Weald-born puncher went on the attack from the bell with a succession of heavy blows. He caught his opponent on the jaw in the opening exchanges and then with just seconds to go in the opening round he unleashed a devastating right hand which caught Tubieron in the ribs leaving the challenger from the Philippines unable to continue.

Smith told the Times: "I would have been disappointed if I had not taken Tubieron out but I never expected to do it that fast. He swallowed the first right hook which rocked him on the chin and then I got him with the body shot.

"He had a good pedigree with 17 wins and four losses and I demolished him. I have made a big statement and there's much more to

By Dave Peters

come from me. When everything ticks for me you are going to see knockouts and I live for moments like that."

Smith's performance was even more impressive as he went into the fight hiding a broken nose he picked up in sparring five weeks earlier.

He said: "My sparring leading up to the fight was a bit negative because of it and it was always in the back of my mind that I could get caught on it. I stopped sparring two weeks before the fight because of my nose."

But the Wembley crowd would have had no idea that Smith was slightly undercooked as he destroyed a fighter who had previously taken Josh Warrington the full 12 rounds.

Smith said: "He took Josh Warrington 12 rounds and went toe to toe with him. Did he go toe to toe with me? No. I thought he might be a bit tricky being a southpaw stance but he was no match for me and I know I can be as good as I want to be."

Now Smith is eyeing a possible match up with Warrington himself.



Mitchell Smith salutes his win over Dennis Tubieron at Wembley Arena on Saturday night. Picture: Action Images

He said: "I will fight Warrington tomorrow wherever he wants. It's a fight that I know 110 per cent that I will win. I will go into his back garden in front of 10,000 Leeds fans and knock him spark out. He's too robotic to be able to beat me, it would be like punching a punchbag because there's no movement back from him."

Just three days after his Wembley win, Smith was back in the gym.

He said: "The old me would have had a couple of KFCs and a few beers but not now. I'm fully focused. I set myself goals and I don't stop until I have met them. My goal is to be world champion by summer next year and until I've done that I don't feel I have achieved."

Bartlett to wait for right men

WEALDSTONE boss Gordon Bartlett says he won't be rushed into making panic signings by pushy agents, despite his club's injury and unavailability crisis showing no signs of abating.

Bartlett fielded almost an entire team of trialists in Tuesday's come-from-behind 5-1 friendly win at Edgware – but despite the margin of victory he wasted no time in dispensing with half those on duty.

He said: "There are one or two areas I'm keen to improve but I won't be panicked into signing players that are not right for us.

"Players that come in have got to be the right characters and be able to do a job in the Conference South. I know I need to get a couple of players in but I don't care if they've played for Mickey Mouse Rovers or Manchester United in the past, it's about what they can do now. There are so many players who have dropped down that have the wrong attitude. We've got a very good changing room and we don't want to change that."

Wealdstone's preparations suffered another setback this week with new defender Tom Cadmore having a cartilage operation, which means he will not feature until September.

The Stones were due to host Dagenham & Redbridge at The Vale last night.

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