

Boxing: Welterweight will be on ESPN2's 'Friday Night Fights' next week

Sherman grabs knockout

Local product spoils
Shelton's pro debut

By Robert Przybylo
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One down, two to go.

Oklahoma City welterweight Kyle Sherman plans on fighting three times in 45 days.

He can check bout one as a success. The 29-year-old wasted no time in dispensing Chris Shelton of Shawnee, winning by technical knockout at 2:02 of the first round Tuesday night at Remington Park.

"This is the confidence builder and just the first step for me," Sherman said.

Shelton, making his professional debut, was no match for the seasoned Sherman.

The OKC product fought more than 100 amateur fights before turning professional in 2005. His experience showed.

Sherman said he was hoping to go a few rounds, but an accidental headbutt in the first minute of the fight changed his plan.

"You can't take a chance with stuff like that," Sherman said. "You could get cut or your vision could get blurred, and then you open yourself up for other things."

Sherman dropped Shelton with a left to the head, followed by a right to the body. Shelton made it to his feet but the ensuing barrage by Sherman forced the referee to step in.

Sherman moved to 7-1-1 with five knockouts.

Sherman will fight next Friday night against an opponent to be determined in Tulsa and could appear on ESPN2's "Friday Night Fights."

It will be Sherman's first time going six rounds.

In other action, local product Noah Zuhdi scored his second consecutive first-round knockout, halting McAlester's Isaiah Gibson at 1:55.

Zuhdi, the former point guard for St. Gregory's, came



BY JOHN CLANTON, THE OKLAHOMAN

Noah Zuhdi, right, lands a punch on Isaiah Gibson during their fight at Remington Park Casino in Oklahoma City on Tuesday.

out charging from the bell, looking to end it early. He said he was not worried about getting tired, citing his conditioning as one of his biggest strengths as a fighter.

And just like his training partner, Sherman, a headbutt early only strengthened the way Zuhdi approached the fight.

"He got me early with the head, and I was wondering if I was cut," Zuhdi said.

The volume of punches from Zuhdi gave the McAlester prison guard no time to breathe.

Using his patented shots to

the body, Zuhdi forced the referee to halt the action before any more punishment could be dished out.

"It was learning experience," Zuhdi said. "It's a first-round knockout, so I can't be too upset."

Zuhdi improved to 2-0 with the victory.

Former Oklahoma City Blazers enforcer, Ron Aubrey, got back on the winning track.

Aubrey won via first-round knockout.

It was Aubrey's first fight since being knocked out himself in November.