

## **Hugo Grau and Lounes Hamraoui both won their bouts by split decision at the 1<sup>st</sup> Alexis Vastine Memorial Tournament**

The second day of boxing finished in the 1<sup>st</sup> Alexis Vastine Memorial Tournament in Nantes, France which is holding for the elite female and male boxers. France's 19-year-old Hugo Grau and his teammate Lounes Hamraoui both won their contests by split decisions in Nantes. France's Tokyo Olympian boxer Samuel Kistohurry impressed with world class performance while Sweden's Stephanie Thour also won her bout on Day2.

Altogether 14 women and 29 men male are attending in the Alexis Vastine Memorial Tournament from eight different countries which represents three Confederations. United States of America and India are the non-European nations in the new international competition in France.

Alexis Vastine achieved great successes for Team France between 2004 and 2012 including bronze at the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, gold at the 2005 Mediterranean Games and silver at the Moscow 2010 European Boxing Championships. He died in the Villa Castelli helicopter collision during the filming of a French TV reality show in 2015 at the age of 29.

The French Boxing Association decided to launch an event in his great memory to remember his impressive results and his nice personality. Nantes is a city on the Loire River in the Upper Brittany region of Western France with long history.

### **The bout of the day**

France's Hugo Grau has been competing in the international events since 2017 when he joined to their junior national team. Hugo competed successfully in the youth age group in 2019 and this year is his debut among the elite boxers. Hugo, whose elder brother Enzo is also a national level boxer, prepared well with great tactic in the second competition day when he met with United States' Charles Sheehy. The 19-year-old French lightweight (63kg) boxer moved well enough ahead and back in his recent bouts but he had more complicated movements in his bout against the US boxer. Grau delivered also excellent stamina in the third round and his efforts was enough to beat Sheehy.

### **The surprise of the day**

India's Shiva Thapa claimed gold medal at the Amman 2013 ASBC Asian Elite Boxing Championships which was his next career highlight after the London 2012 Olympic Games. The experienced Indian, who achieved bronze medal at the Doha 2015 AIBA World Boxing Championships, won his opening bout in Nantes but on his second fight he suffered an unexpected loss. The 27-year-old Indian was defeated by France's five-years younger Lounes Hamraoui in the second day of boxing.

### **The round-up**

Samuel Kistohurry is the best French featherweight (57kg) boxer in their national ranking who has already qualified for the Tokyo Olympic Games. The 25-year-old French boxer has got 10 years of experiences in the international stage and has done a successful debut also in the second competition day of the Alexis Vastine Memorial Tournament. Kistohurry controlled all of the rounds against his younger teammate 19-year-old Selim Bouaita who delivered the main surprise of Day1.

Sweden's Stephanie Thour was silver medallist in the Taipei 2015 AIBA Women's Youth World Boxing Championships at the age of 17. She had a small break in her career but Thour concentrates to her boxing career with full speed. The 22-year-old Swedish boxer and her opponent France's Amina Zidani both moved down to the featherweight (57kg) since the category in an Olympic category. Thour used her best combinations to keep the best fighting distance against the French boxer and won the bout by split decision.