

## Dogboe's golden moment

• Isaac Dogboe —  
Moment of redemption

• Robeisy Ramirez

### • Fights Ramirez for WBO title Saturday

By Bernard Neequaye

**I**SAAC Dogboe has always looked forward to this day, worked his way back to the top after major setbacks, and now another world title beckons on Saturday as he prepares to take on a dangerous opponent, Robeisy

Ramirez, in a WBO featherweight championship in Tulsa, Oklahoma in the United States.

Dogboe has the finest opportunity again to hold a world title but in a new division, after losing his WBO super bantamweight title five years ago to Emanuel Navarrete.

The strong-hearted Ghanaian picked himself up after consecutive

losses to Navarrete which jolted his career. But he reorganised himself and fought his way back into world title contention. After

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## Voice of Graphic SPORTS

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# Isaac Dogboe's night of redemption

**GHANAIAAN world title hopeful Isaac 'Royal Storm'**

**Dogboe has a golden opportunity to bring his career back on track when he comes up against Robeisy Ramirez for the WBO featherweight championship on Saturday.**

The former WBO super bantamweight champion cannot afford to lose to Ramirez if he wants to be regarded as one of the best fighters of his generation. It comes with a lot of responsibilities, but Dogboe is a warrior who has proven that he has what it takes to live up to the billing having been at this stage of his career before.

It has not been a smooth ride to the top for the 26-year-old. His career suffered a jolt when he lost his WBO title to Emmanuel Navarrete and his attempt at reclaiming the title ended in another defeat, a big setback for the young man whose promising career was on a high.

A year away from the ring provided the boxer a time for soul-searching and finding the right

motivation to pull himself by his bootstrap and return to action.

It has taken five years of hard work for Dogboe to work his way back to the top and prove himself again for another chance at a world title since losing his WBO title to Mexico's Emanuel Navarrete.

During these years, the Ghanaian fighter had to restructure his technical team by teaming up with trainers, Barry Hunter and Patrice Harris of Headbangers Boxing Gym in Washington D.C. The restructuring led to Isaac Dogboe moving on from his father and trainer, Paul Dogboe, to concentrate on reviving his career which was nearly killed by those two defeats to Navarrete.

Dogboe's response to his critics was decisive. In his comeback fights, he chalked up four consecutive victories under the guidance of his American coach to finally land another world title shot.

On Saturday, the 28-year-old comes into the ring with a dream to become a two-division world titlist and to also stake a claim in the featherweight division. After suffering back-to-back losses to Navarrete in 2018 and 2019, Dogboe has been on a mission to redeem himself and regain his status as a world-class fighter.

A victory over Ramirez would be a significant accomplishment for Dogboe and would send a message to the boxing world that he is back and ready to compete at the highest level. Dogboe is not living under any illusion ahead of the bout considering Ramirez's prowess as a two-time Olympic gold medallist who comes from a strong

Cuban amateur system.

The Ghanaian Dogboe is known for his aggressive fighting style and devastating punching power. If he can impose his will on Ramirez and dictate the pace of the fight, he will have a significant advantage to achieving his dream, especially as Ghana currently has no world champion.

Dogboe has a lot of work to do to be crowned champion again, but he comes into the fight with a vast experience — he has four world championship appearances against Jessie Magdaleno, Hidenori Otake and Navarrete, unlike Ramirez who would be mounting a world title challenge for the first time.

In his maiden world title charge, Dogboe defied all the odds to dethrone Magdaleno in April 2018 — five years later, he faces a similar situation against another dangerous opponent in Ramirez.

The Cuban remains one of the highly-rated featherweights in the world despite only turning pro four years ago and losing his debut fight to Adan Gonzales.

He has fought his way back and forced a revenge against Gonzales in the process. The only motivation on Saturday is to win one of the biggest prize in pro boxing.

Dogboe and Ramirez are on different missions — while the Ghanaian wants career redemption, the Cuban is on course to announce himself to the world of pro boxing following a successful amateur career.

# 'Complete Kane can push record into distance'

**H**ARRY Kane could have been forgiven for not just having history on his mind as he stared down Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma before the moment that rewrote England's record books.

The last time the Three Lions captain found himself standing over the penalty spot for his country it resulted in one of the most agonising moments of his career, the late miss in the World Cup quarter-final loss against France in Qatar.

Instead, inside the ramshackle but atmospheric Neopolitan stadium - named after the city's great icon Diego Armando Maradona - Kane demonstrated the single-minded focus and expertise that now makes him England's greatest goalscorer.

In only his 81st England game, he surpassed Wayne Rooney's previous record with his 54th goal as he stepped up and sent Donnarumma the

wrong way with a perfect right-foot penalty - his 18th success from the spot for his country.

Perhaps it was written in the stars that Kane would break the record in this manner, having missed the chance to do it in similar circumstances amid the hothouse of that World Cup tie 103 days ago.

But this was a fully deserved moment for the 29-year-old Tottenham Hotspur forward, who has served England with such distinction since 2015.

Redemption might be too strong a word, but the smile that lit up Kane's face as he wheeled away to the corner in joyous celebration before being engulfed by team-mates was a world away from the misery he suffered at Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor.

Such is Kane's selflessness that his first contribution to England's 2-1 win against Italy, that gave them the start manager Gareth Southgate wanted to their Euro 2024 qualifying campaign, was racing

back to the edge of his own penalty area to halt an Italian attack.

This night in southern Italy was a crowning moment for Kane who, in an indifferent season for his club, also became Tottenham's all-time record goalscorer and now holds the same title for England.

Achieving these two landmarks are a simple measure of what marks him down as a world-class striker.

Kane's sky-high consistency makes him a worthy holder of the accolade, starting as he meant to go on with a goal 79 seconds into his debut against Lithuania at Wembley in March 2015.

There will always be the debate about who is England's finest striker, with greats like Sir Bobby Charlton, Jimmy Greaves, Gary Lineker and Rooney in the mix, but this was a moment for Kane to get the huge credit he has deserved.

This was a night for him to stand alone in the spotlight.

The critics who slant their arguments to supporting others will always suggest Kane has had the opportunity to, say, score four easy goals in a 10-0 win against San Marino, as if there should be a silent asterisk against his name at the top of the list.

The heartfelt congratulations from Rooney and Lineker were an accurate reflection of the respect in which Kane is held throughout the game, both as a striker and inspirational leader of this England team - a personality so hugely admired by his colleagues.

As at club level, the trophy is missing. He will look back with regret on the high farce of England's Euro 2016 campaign, when a brainwave with merit, known only to manager Roy Hodgson, had him taking corners amid the humiliation of the last-16 exit to Iceland.

And then there was the disappointment of the World Cup semi-final loss to Croatia in Russia in 2018, the Euro 2020

final defeat by Italy at Wembley and the personal heartache of that France game in Qatar.

What should be remembered after this night in Naples is England have been privileged to have such an outstanding striker at their disposal, someone who has every right to stand in the company of those he overtook in the 44th minute of their first win against Italy in Italy since 1961.

Kane, it is right to point out, is far more than just a striker. He is the complete forward. He can link play from all parts, has a prodigious work-rate and has offered so much more than goals in his international career.

And, barring injuries or some unforeseen loss of form, over the coming years Kane will have the chance to push his record far into the distance and away from those who may have their sights on surpassing him.

— BBC