



14 Aug 2017

Frankston Standard Leader, Melbourne

Section: General News • Article type : News Item • Audience : 53,911 • Page: 48

Printed Size: 84.00cm² • Market: VIC • Country: Australia • Words: 212

Item ID: 827358956

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Page 1 of 1

BOXING

Mitchell too strong for Chinese star

PENINSULA boxing champion Jayde Mitchell overcame an early scare to defeat Chinese star Aniwær Yilixiati at Melbourne Pavilion last week.

“It was a tough night at the office,” Mitchell said after the gutsy win, which earned him the OPBF super middleweight title and interim WBA Oceania superweight title.

Yilixiati, originally from Turkey with more than 200 amateur fights under his belt, was being groomed by China to win a world title, and he planned to beat Mitchell and leapfrog him to a title shot.

The plan looked on track when he landed a powerful right on Mitchell’s chin in the first round, rattling the Blairgowrie boxer.

“He bounced a big right hand off my chin and, mate, I was gone,” Mitchell said.

“The place was packed with our crowd and everyone there then knew I was in for a tough night.

“In the moment it felt like an eternity but watching it back, I did recover quickly and I finished on top of him at the end of that.”

Mitchell rated the fight one of his toughest yet, with his next fight on October 6.

“My boxing ability and my fitness is what won that fight for me. It was tough. He was at me the whole fight,” he said.