



Great Britain's Nicola Adams (left) celebrates winning against China's Ren Cancan in their flyweight 51-kg gold medal match at the London Olympics on Thursday.

## Adams first to women's boxing title

Englishwoman claims victory over China's Ren in Flyweight final

By PATRICK JOHNSTON  
in London

Britain's Nicola Adams became the first woman to win an Olympic boxing title by bullying her way to victory over China's No 1 seed Ren Cancan, taking the flyweight gold on Thursday in front of a thrilled home crowd.

Adams easily recorded a 16-7

win in the final at the ExCeL arena in south east London as she dominated the three-times world champion from start to finish, recording a rare knockdown in the second round.

The Briton shadow boxed in each corner of the ring with delight after her name was read out as the winner following the exciting four two minutes rounds.

"It is a dream come true. I am so happy and overwhelmed

with joy right now. I have wanted this all my life and I have done it," a beaming Adams told reporters, who could not believe she scored a knockdown.

"I didn't see that coming, but it happened. I was just thinking of becoming Olympic champion. The feeling is absolutely amazing."

The noisy crowd, including British royalty in the form of Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton, roared in delight as Adams dominated the early exchanges to open up 4-2 lead after the first round.

Adams evaded the jabs of Ren to land clever shots and

get in the face of her opponent, who had impressed at the Games with her ability to fight at a distance with her rangy jab.

Adams then landed a left followed by a massive right hand halfway through the second round to dump Ren flat on her back on the canvas to give the Briton a 9-4 lead at the bell.

The blow unsettled Ren who tried to mix it with Adams rather than use the boxing artistry that had taken her to her world titles and built her reputation as one of the finest women boxers.

Adams continued to land shots in the third as she ducked

her way past Ren's weakening jab to land flurries of punches with both hands to take the third 5-1 and a 14-5 lead.

Ren looked out of ideas in the final round as Adams stayed out of trouble to ease to victory in a country where women could not get a license to box 15 years ago.

Ren was not downbeat following the loss, embracing the historic moment for the sport.

"I am very happy," she told reporters. "It was a very special moment."

Losing semifinalists Mary Kom of India and American Marlen Esparez took bronze.

## Irish boxer makes gold on first try

By REUTERS in London

American teenager Claressa Shields outfoxed and out-gunned Russian Nadezda Topolova to win the first women's Olympic boxing middleweight gold on Thursday.

Shields took the bout 19-12 at the ExCeL Arena in east London to claim America's only gold medal in the ring at the Games after the nine men all exited before the semifinals.

The grinning Shields danced her way out of the arena to cap her rise to the top from the tough streets of Flint, Michigan.

Following a cagey opening round, Shields broke open a big lead after a strong second round where she utilized her quicker hand speed to land a number of scoring blows in the tight exchanges with her bigger opponent.

The Russian, at 33 almost twice the age of her opponent, took more punishment in the third round as Shields landed with a couple of big left straights to take a 15-10 lead.

Shields ducked and dived away from the lumbering blows from the tired Russian,

making her miss with ease.

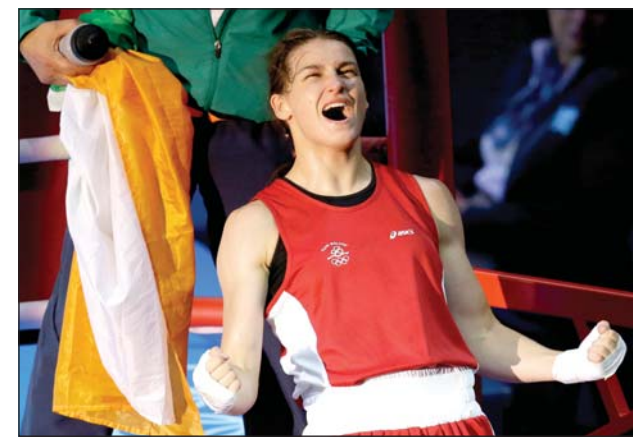
The American joined Briton Nicola Adams and Ireland's Katie Taylor in becoming the first women's Olympic boxing champions after the duo won their finals earlier on Thursday.

Women's boxing has been a big success in its Olympic debut, overshadowing the men in the process, and in Taylor, they have not only the face of the sports but potentially one of the stories of the Games.

Taylor, 26, had to watch previous Olympic Games from home knowing that the sport she excelled so greatly at was the only one missing from the women's program at the Summer Games.

The overwhelming favorite, she beat Russia's Sofya Ochigava 10-8 in front of an arena packed again with raucous Irish fans, desperate for a first untainted Irish Olympic gold in 20 years.

In a rematch of this year's world championship final, Taylor started cagey than in previous fights, catching Ochigava with two big right hooks but taking a left square on to leave the scores tied after one round.



PATRICK SEMANSKY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ireland's Katie Taylor celebrates winning her fight against Russia's Sofya Ochigava in the lightweight 60-kg gold medal match on Thursday.

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