

Ward quits boxing

Los Angeles

World light heavyweight champion Andre Ward announced his retirement from boxing yesterday, saying his weary body could no longer put up with the physical demands of the sport.

Ward, 33, is the reigning WBA, IBF and WBO champion and is widely regarded as one of the best pound-for-pound boxers in the world.

He leaves the sport after recording back-to-back wins over Russian brawler Sergey Kovalev, hanging up his gloves with a perfect 32-0 record.

"I want to be clear -- I am leaving because my body can no longer put up with the rigors of the sport and therefore my desire to fight is no longer there," Ward said in a statement on his website.

"If I cannot give my family, my team, and the fans everything that I have, then I should no longer be fighting," he added under the statement, titled "Mission Accomplished."

Ward added that he was leaving the sport at the pinnacle as he had intended.

"As I walk away from the sport of boxing today, I leave at the top of your

glorious mountain, which was always my vision and my dream. I did it. We did it," he said.

In a separate interview with ESPN's First Take program, Ward said the intensive training camps for title fights had taken a steady toll on his body.

"People see what I do fight night. They see under the lights, but they don't see the toil, they don't see the grind, they don't see just the pain, the physical pain that you go through, not just in the fights, but to prepare and to get ready for those battles," he said.

"I felt the physicality of the sport, not just in the ring stuff, but the training and the preparation, start to take its toll on me for the last two or three years, and I bit down and continued to push through, and at this point, it's time, and I know it's time," he added.

Ward, a gold medallist at the 2004 Olympics in Athens, had been a controversial victor over Kovalev last November, winning the Russian's three 175-pound belts with a unanimous decision.

However he silenced those doubters with a decisive eighth-round knockout in the rematch in June. (AFP)



England-West 2nd one-day abandoned

Nottingham

Play in the second one-day international between England and West Indies at Trent Bridge on Thursday was abandoned as a no-result washout.

Only 11 minutes play was possible at the Nottingham ground before rain saw the umpires take the players off the field with England 21 without loss after 2.2 overs, having been sent into bat.

Jonny Bairstow was nine not out and Alex Hales 10 not out.

The rain did not relent and several hours later, shortly before 4:15pm local time (1515 GMT) the match was abandoned.

England remain 1-0 up in a five-match series that continues in Bristol on Sunday.

India vs Australia: Yadav lights up City of Joy

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The deliveries he got the batsmen out with were unplayable."

Kohli added: "You can count on Bhuvneshwar for getting the breakthroughs. Two young spinners bowling with a lot of heart, speaks volumes about their characters."

Kumar struck early after removing the two Australian openers, including David Warner for one, in an inspired first spell that lasted six overs.

Skipper Steve Smith, who made 59, and Travis Head then forged a 76-run partnership as the duo tried to steady the innings by counter attacking the Indian bowlers.

But the introduction of spin once again proved troublesome for the visitors with leg-spinner Chahal sending back Head, for 39, and then the big-hitting Glenn Maxwell, for 14.

Maxwell, who looked threatening with two sixes during his brief stay, was stumped by wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni who



was quick to clip the bails off.

Smith though carried on the good work to register a gritty 50 in his 100th ODI but the delight was short lived after he fell to paceman Hardik Pandya.

Yadav strikes

Yadav, playing just his ninth ODI, then turned on the heat with his triple strike in the 33rd over that spelt doom for the

visitors.

He got wicketkeeper-batsman Matthew Wade (2), Ashton Agar (0) and Pat Cummins (0) to become only the third Indian after pacemen Chetan Sharma and Kapil Dev to record an ODI hat-trick.

Marcus Stoinis remained unbeaten on 62, but his valiant knock came too late in the day as Kumar, who returned figures

of 3-9 in his 6.1 overs, wiped up the tail.

"We were pretty happy with 250, thought we pulled things back pretty well. Did a really good job there. Batters though made poor decisions, and you can't do that against a quality team like India," said Smith.

"Stoinis was good at the end there, just needed someone to bat with. One of the top four needs to go on and make a hundred," he added.

Earlier fast bowlers Nathan Coulter-Nile and Kane Richardson claimed three wickets each to pull things back for the visitors after India started off strongly.

Pandya and Kumar also scored 20 each to add valuable runs to the total with their 35-run seventh-wicket partnership.

There was also a bit of drama in the 48th over of the Indian innings when Pandya was caught off a no-ball, but Smith ran him out only to see the batsman walking off the ground following a slight drizzle. (AFP)

Scoreboard

India

A. Rahane run out (Cartwright/Wade)	55
R. Sharma c and b Coulter-Nile	7
V. Kohli b Coulter-Nile	92
M. Pandey b Agar	3
K. Jadhav c Maxwell b Coulter-Nile	24
M.S. Dhoni c Smith b Richardson	5
H. Pandya c Warner b Richardson	20
B. Kumar c Maxwell b Richardson	20
K. Yadav c Wade b Cummins	0
J. Bumrah not out	10
Y. Chahal run out (Wade)	1
Extras (b1, nb1, w13)	15
Total (all out, 50 overs)	252

Australia (target 253)

H. Cartwright b Kumar	1
D. Warner c Rahane b Kumar	1
S. Smith c Jadeja (sub) b Pandya	59
T. Head c Pandey b Chahal	39
G. Maxwell st Dhoni b Chahal	14
M. Stoinis not out	62
M. Wade b Yadav	2
A. Agar lbw b Yadav	0
P. Cummins c Dhoni b Yadav	0
N. Coulter-Nile c and b Pandya	8
K. Richardson lbw b Kumar	0
Extras (b4, lb6, w6)	16
Total (all out; 43.1 overs)	202
Result: India won by 50 runs	
Series: India lead the five-match series 2-0	