

# Joshua vs Povetkin

Britain's Anthony Joshua will defend his heavyweight titles against Russia's Alexander Povetkin

London, United Kingdom

Britain's Anthony Joshua will defend his World Boxing Association, World Boxing Organization and International Boxing Federation heavyweight titles against Russia's Alexander Povetkin at London's Wembley Stadium on September 22, promoter Eddie Hearn announced yesterday.

Povetkin is the mandatory challenger for Joshua's WBA title and a successful bout against the Russian would give the London

2012 Olympic champion greater freedom to choose his next opponent.

Joshua had been hoping to fight fellow unbeaten heavyweight champion Deontay Wilder, who holds the World Boxing Council belt, but he could yet face the American in April 2019.

"I can't wait to get back in the ring. The end of March feels a long time ago now," said Joshua, who beat Joseph Parker of New Zealand by unanimous points decision in Cardiff on March 31.

"Povetkin is a serious challenge that I will prepare meticulously for. He has serious pedigree and only a fool would underestimate what he brings to the table.

"Training hasn't stopped for me, but the next 10 weeks ahead will be intense both mentally and physically.

"I will push myself to breaking point to make sure I am in peak condition for another huge night for British boxing at Wembley Stadium on September 22nd."

Joshua, 28, won his first world title in 2016 and has made five defences, taking his record to 21-0 with 20 knockouts.

**Strongest in the world**

Wilder, 32, improved to 40-0 with 39 knockouts when he knocked out previously unbeaten Cuban Luis Ortiz in the tenth round in Brooklyn, New York, on March 3.

Meanwhile Povetkin,

38, knocked out David Price on the undercard of Joshua's victory over Parker. He previously fought for the titles Joshua now holds in a 2013 defeat by Wladimir Klitschko.

"The battle for the world title has always been my goal," Povetkin said.

"I fought for the moment to face the strongest in the world and on September 22nd I get my opportunity.

"Anthony Joshua has four belts (including the lightly-regarded International Boxing Organization title) and I

want them all.

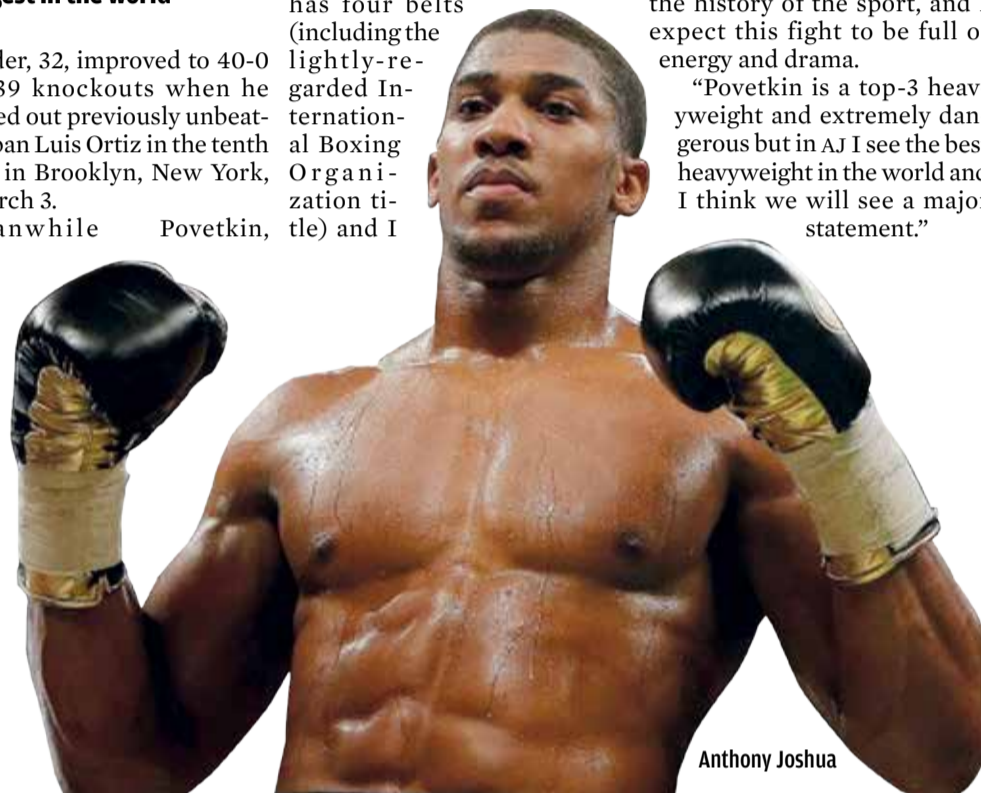
"I'm glad that our fight will finally take place. The meeting of two Olympic (super-heavyweight) champions (Povetkin won in 2004, Joshua in 2012) in the ring is destined to be a breathtaking event."

Joshua's promoter Eddie Hearn added: "Last time (Joshua) was there (at Wembley against Klitschko, in April 2017) he produced one of the most dramatic fights and endings in the history of the sport, and I expect this fight to be full of energy and drama.

"Povetkin is a top-3 heavyweight and extremely dangerous but in AJ I see the best heavyweight in the world and I think we will see a major statement."



Alexander Povetkin



Anthony Joshua

## Zaman stars as Pakistan dominate Zimbabwe



Pakistan batsman Fakhar Zaman in action

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe | AFP

Related Fakhar Zaman cracked a career-best 117 as Pakistan dominated with both bat and ball to win the second of five one-day internationals against Zimbabweby nine wickets yesterday

Zaman's hundred was his second in ODI's after his barnstorming 114 in last year's Champions Trophy final against India. The win was also set up by Pakistan's seam attack, who bowled Zimbabwe out for 194.

Usman Khan took four wickets and Hasan Ali chipped in with three for 32 to bowl the hosts out, Pakistan's top order batsmen then capping a com-

manding performance.

Zimbabwe opted to bat first on another cold morning and were put under immediate pressure by the new ball, and in particular Khan.

He had both openers caught behind in his first spell, but Zimbabwe briefly rallied during a 62-run partnership between Zimbabwe captain Hamilton Masakadza and Tarisai Musakanda.

That was Zimbabwe's best stand, however, and when Khan took two wickets with consecutive deliveries in the 44th over the hosts were 166 for 7 and sinking fast. The in-form Zaman was named Player of the Series after the T20 tri-series in Harare.

## Juve fans give superstar Ronaldo rousing welcome

Rome, Italy | AFP

Juventus fans gave Cristiano Ronaldo a rousing welcome yesterday as the club prepared to unveil the superstar summer signing they hope will bring the Champions League trophy back to Turin.

Hundreds of fans gathered outside the Allianz Stadium in Turin from early morning singing "Ronaldo, bring us the Champions (League)" as the European competition's most lethal striker of all time made a brief appearance ahead of his medical Monday.

The 33-year-old emerged from the club's medical centre to sign autographs and shake hands amid raucous chants of his name before shooting back inside for further tests.

The five-times Ballon d'Or winner will be officially unveiled to the world's media, in which he will sign a four-year deal that will earn him a reported 30 million euros a season.

Ronaldo fever hit Turin after the announcement last week of his 100 million-euro (\$117 million) transfer from European champions Real Madrid, which Italian media reports will cost Juve a total of 350 million euros. Many of the youngsters who came out to greet their new hero were wearing Juventus shirts emblazoned with "Ronaldo" and the number 7, which have been selling like hot cakes in the city.



Ronaldo waves to supporters

# 120

Champions league goals scored by Ronaldo is more than anyone else in the history of the competition

# 1996

is the last time Juve have won the competition. They reached final in 2015 and 2017

Others wore t-shirts with the message "Bem-vindo" -- "welcome" in Portuguese -- which 5,000 shopkeepers put up on posters around the north-western Italian city ahead of Ronaldo's arrival late Sunday.

Juventus fans are hoping that Ronaldo's arrival will push them onto Europe's top table.

Fresh from their seventh Serie A title in as many years and

four straight domestic doubles, the Old Lady of Italian football have struggled to turn domestic dominance into European success as they strive for the continent's holy grail.

"Our hope is to win the Champions League that for now is the only objective that we've not been able to conquer," says Francesco, 38, from the Tuscan city of Pisa.

## Wimbledon's best quotes

London, United Kingdom

Wimbledon came to an end on Sunday, with Novak Djokovic winning the men's singles after Angelique Kerber was crowned women's champion on Saturday.

Here are a looks at some of the best quotes from a dramatic fortnight at the All England Club:



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Wind player? I'm coming from Kiel. It's always windy there

ANGELIQUE KERBER ON WHETHER SHE CONSIDERS HERSELF A GOOD "WIND PLAYER"



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I hope this is a sign for Grand Slams to change. For us to be out there for that length of time. I really hope we can look at this, because at the end you don't feel great

KEVIN ANDERSON AFTER SURVIVING THE SECOND LONGEST SINGLES MATCH IN GRAND SLAM HISTORY TO BEAT JOHN ISNER IN THE SEMI-FINALS -- 6 HOURS AND 36 MINUTES



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It's crazy. I had a really tough delivery and multiple surgeries and almost didn't make it to be honest. I couldn't even walk to my mailbox, so it's definitely not normal for me to be in a Wimbledon final

SERENA WILLIAMS ON HER LONG ROAD BACK AFTER GIVING BIRTH TO HER DAUGHTER IN SEPTEMBER AND THE COMPLICATIONS WHICH FOLLOWED



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I make a mistake, I put my shorts the other way. You cannot force me to change my shorts in front of everybody. For me, that's not respectful

RAFAEL NADAL ON SHORTS REMOVAL ETIQUETTE.