



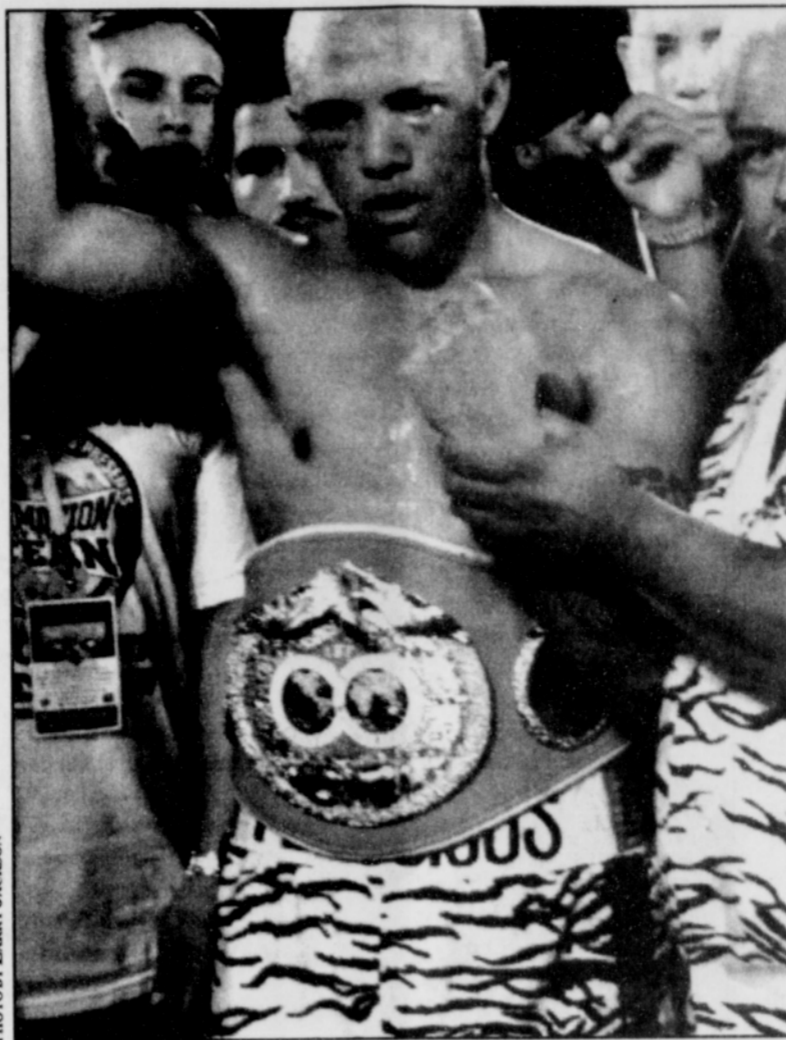
# Metro/Sports

## Vargas keeps IBF jr middle crown by decision

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Fernando Vargas had his knockout streak snapped on Saturday and needed a furious, late burst to retain his IBF junior middleweight crown by a majority decision over impressive Ronald "Winky" Wright. Vargas, who had won all 17 of his previous pro fights within the distance, was pushed to the limit by Wright, a former WBO champion who surprised the powerful Mexican-American by fighting him head on at Chinook Winds Casino. Only a rousing finish by Vargas saved his title as one judge ruled it a 114-114 draw, while the other judges gave it to Vargas by 115-113 and 116-112. Vargas, 21, threw the heavier punches, but Wright showed himself to be the more polished fighter, scoring on stinging right-hand leads and holding his own with a surprising inclination to fight inside with the hard-hitting

champion. Both fighters had swelling around both eyes in the action-packed bout. There were no knockdowns. Vargas improved to 18-0, while the 28-year-old Wright dipped to 39-3. "I give Wright a lot of credit," said Vargas, who said he had "a bad day" because of unspecified family problems that weighed heavily on his mind. "He did what he had to do. He's a very slick fighter. But he slept in a couple of rounds," added Vargas, who clearly dominated the 10th and 12th rounds. Wright was so confident he had won the fight that he quit attacking in the final round. "I won that fight. I dominated that fight," insisted Wright, who said trading punches with Vargas was his only shot at winning a decision. "I was boxing, moving, coming forward. I know I won this fight."



Fernando Vargas

## Heat over Blazers 86, 76

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Alonzo Mourning scored 17 points and Jamal Mashburn added 16 Tuesday night as the Miami Heat defeated the cold-shooting Portland Trail Blazers 86-76. The Blazers were a disappointment in the matchup between two of the NBA's best teams. Portland shot just 35 percent after the first quarter, when it led 25-24. The Blazers made just two of nine shots to open the fourth, and Miami slowly pulled away from a 67-65 lead. A 3-pointer by Voshon Lenard made it 78-68 with 4:09 left, and Portland couldn't get closer than six the rest of the way. Greg Anthony, starting for injured

Blazers point guard Damon Stoudamire, scored 19 points but shot just 5-of-14. Rasheed Wallace had 14 points. Mourning, coming off a season-high 25 points in a 99-91 win over the Los Angeles Clippers on Monday night, made his first five shots and scored 11 points in the first quarter to go with three blocks. He was quiet after that and missed his first four shots of the fourth until a 20-foot jumper made it 75-67 Miami with 5:25 to go. Miami rookie Anthony Carter, starting his second straight game at point guard for the injured Tim Hardaway, had another strong game. He scored 14 points, one night after getting a season-high 20.

## NFL

American Football Conference			National Football Conference				
<b>AFC EAST</b>	W	L	T	<b>NFC EAST</b>	W	L	T
Miami	7	1	0	NY Giants	5	3	0
Indianapolis	6	2	0	Washington	5	3	0
New England	6	2	0	Dallas	4	4	0
Buffalo	6	3	0	Arizona	2	6	0
NY Jets	2	6	0	Philadelphia	2	7	0
<b>AFC CENTRAL</b>	W	L	T	<b>NFC CENTRAL</b>	W	L	T
Jacksonville	7	1	0	Detroit	6	2	0
Tennessee	6	2	0	Minnesota	5	4	0
Pittsburgh	5	3	0	Green Bay	4	4	0
Baltimore	3	5	0	Tampa Bay	4	4	0
Cincinnati	1	8	0	Chicago	4	5	0
Cleveland	1	8	0	<b>NFC WEST</b>	W	L	T
<b>AFC WEST</b>	W	L	T	St. Louis	6	2	0
Seattle	6	2	0	Carolina	3	5	0
Kansas City	5	3	0	San Francisco	3	5	0
Oakland	4	4	0	Atlanta	2	7	0
San Diego	4	4	0	New Orleans	1	7	0
Denver	3	6	0				

## NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE					WESTERN CONFERENCE														
<b>ATLANTIC</b>	W	L	Pct	GB	<b>CENTRAL</b>	W	L	Pct	GB	<b>MIDWEST</b>	W	L	Pct	GB	<b>PACIFIC</b>	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	11	3	.786	-	Toronto	9	5	.643	-	San Antonio	12	3	.800	-	Portland	13	3	.812	-
New York	8	7	.533	3.5	Charlotte	8	6	.571	1	Utah	8	6	.571	3.5	Seattle	11	3	.786	1
Orlando	7	7	.500	4	Milwaukee	8	6	.571	1	Minnesota	6	5	.545	4	Sacramento	9	2	.818	1.5
Boston	7	7	.500	4	Indiana	8	7	.533	1.5	Denver	6	6	.500	4.5	LA Lakers	10	4	.714	2
Philadelphia	7	8	.467	4.5	Detroit	7	7	.500	2	Dallas	5	10	.333	7	Phoenix	9	4	.692	2.5
Washington	4	10	.286	7	Cleveland	6	6	.500	2	Houston	4	11	.267	8	LA Clippers	4	9	.308	7.5
New Jersey	2	12	.143	9	Atlanta	5	9	.357	4	Vancouver	3	11	.214	8.5	Golden State	2	11	.154	9.5
					Chicago	1	12	.077	7.5										

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