**Bradley Saunders comes back with a bang**

* **Defeats Casey Blair in just 2minutes and 43seconds**
* **First fight back in almost two years**
* **Impressive performance to improve record to 13-1**
* **Damaged hands hold up, power is still there**

Bradley Saunders (13-1) returned to the ring with an explosive first-round stoppage win over Northern Ireland’s unsuspecting Casey Blair (4-29) in his dramatic comeback fight following injury in Newcastle on Friday June 23rd.

The six-round contest at super-lightweight took place on the latest JDNXTGEN show at the Walker Activity Dome, televised live on Sky Sports and Sky Sports Facebook.

After over 20-months out with career-threatening hand injuries, Sedgefield’s Saunders looked like he hadn’t been anywhere at all as he sizzled in a sensational stoppage victory that took just 163 seconds to exact.

The 31-year-old looked as good as ever as he broke through Blair’s defence to send him reeling backwards, stunned by a right hand in the closing seconds of the opener, to which the former Olympian swarmed him with straight left and rights before referee Steve Hawkins called of the scheduled six-round contest with 17 seconds left on the clock.

The TKO takes Saunders’ knockout count up to double figures with 10 KO’s from 13 wins and a hat-trick of first-round stoppages.

Post-fight Saunders declared that he was getting married to childhood sweetheart Stephanie Elliot in August but will be straight back to the gym to focus on the next fight.

“I felt brilliant. I am back!” he enthused. “I get married August 18th so plan to get the wedding out of the way and then move on in the gym and go in hard.”

The Beijing 2008 Olympian was forced to consider retirement after emergency surgery to fix both injury-plagued hands after his first and only loss in the professional ranks via disqualification to Frenchman Renald Garrido (14-11-1) at the Liverpool Olympia back in September 2015.

“I’ve both hands done, people don’t realise what I’ve been through, others would have retired from my injuries but I didn’t want to get to my dad’s age and wished I had given it another go. I’ve had bone taken from my hips and placed in my hands, they’ll never look normal again.”

Saunders plans to enjoy his stag do in Ibiza next month and praised his fans for their support, “I’ve got a great following and I can’t thank everyone enough.”

The former WBO Inter-Continental champion is now training in Essex with Peter Sims, benefitting from top sparring with unbeaten Ted Cheeseman, English and WBC Silver super-lightweight titlist Ohara Davies, Conor Benn and ex-England titlist Tyler Goodjohn.

To follow Bradley Saunders on Twitter click here [@bradsaunders86](https://twitter.com/bradsaunders86)

Bradley would like to thank his sponsors [DSD Construction](http://www.dsdconstruction.com/) and [SLS Road Maintenance](http://www.btsroadmarkings.co.uk/) and [Scotti Fittings](https://twitter.com/ScottiFittings)

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