

Avila's Pound For Pound List

Written by David A. Avila
Monday, 10 May 2010 15:00

The Pound for Pound list should have gone up a month ago but it needed to wait for Paul Williams to take care of business first.

Lots of changes since the last posting.

Gone are Kelly Pavlik and Hozumi Hasegawa who had finally cracked the list. In comes Timothy Bradley, Sergio Martinez and Celestino Caballero. One major change on this list is sharing of the number one spot between Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather.

1. Manny Pacquiao (51-3-2, 38 KOs) – It's not Pacman's fault that Floyd "Money" Mayweather retired. And it's not the Congressman's fault that he's waiting for the big money fight with Mayweather. All Pacman has to do is take the blood test. It's not like anyone will have an advantage. Also, blood tests should be mandatory especially in Nevada where numerous MMA fighters are juiced.

1. Floyd Mayweather (41-0, 25 KOs) – Mayweather did what I didn't think he could do and that's dominate Sugar Shane Mosley. All props to Mayweather who showed that he also has pop to go with his defense. He also showed a good chin taking those blows against Mosley. If he hadn't retired he would be number one. Maybe he is. Will find out if Pacman agrees to the blood tests.

2. Israel Vazquez (44-4, 32 KOs) – Just because he didn't look good in his last fight several months back doesn't mean he doesn't belong on this list. He earned it the hard way by taking the last two fights via knockout over fellow elite fighter Rafael Marquez. Vazquez has one more opportunity and it's against Marquez once again. Can he do it?

3. Bernard Hopkins (51-5-1, 32 KOs) – People say B-Hop should retire but I haven't see anybody beat him up. If he's over-the-hill why can't anyone knock him out or make him look bad? That's never happened. Maybe the fight against Roy Jones Jr. was a terrible fight, but Hopkins still has something left. Maybe one of the guys lower down in this list should fight the ageing warrior.

4. Paul Williams (39-1, 27 KOs) – Many people feel Williams doesn't belong because he's not super quick, nor super hard-hitting. All he does is throw a million punches and dare you to deal with it. That fight against Kermit Cintron was just starting to get good. Why did Cintron fling himself out of the ring?

5. Juan Manuel Marquez (50-5-1, 37 KOs) – When Marquez lost to Mayweather more than a few observers felt maybe the Mexico City technician was over the hill. No, he was just over weight. Now, after Mayweather beat Mosley, that loss by Marquez doesn't look so bad. Marquez faces Juan Diaz in a rematch in July. Back to the lightweight division he returns. Will the old Marquez return, or will Marquez just look old?

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6. Chad Dawson (29-0, 17 KOs) – Bad Chad is too good for most fighters in the light heavyweight division. It's time to see how he rates with Hopkins or Joe Calzaghe who is making a return to boxing. Dawson may finally have a chance to show the boxing world his talent. His win over Tomasz Adamek who is now beating heavyweights looks better every day.

7. Ivan Calderon (33-0-1, 6 KOs) – The Puerto Rican boxing master has never had a large following but if you get a chance to see him please do. He's much older now and seems to have problems with head butts. But the skills are still there. No longer does he fight at strawweight. The junior flyweights are a little stronger but still can't seem to catch up to him. How much longer can Iron Boy rule the roost?

8. Timothy Bradley (25-0, 11 KOs) – The Desert Storm has become one of the most feared fighters in the most feared and talented divisions. Bradley has earned his way into the Pound for Pound class by beating champion after champion and doing it convincingly. Despite a size disadvantage Bradley's speed, stamina and ring smarts has streaked him to the top.

9. Nonito Donaire (23-1, 15 KOs) – With his semblance of freaky power and lightning reflexes Donaire has dominated every division he's fought in. His only equal seems to be Fernando Montiel and that's a fight that can easily be made since both are promoted by Top Rank.

10. Sergio Martinez (45-2-2, 24 KOs) – Finally, after a loss and a draw Martinez eventually got a proper judgment in beating middleweight world champion Kelly Pavlik. It's hard to imagine but the only fighter to ever truly beat him outright was Antonio Margarito back in February 2000. This guy can fight.

11. Shane Mosley (46-6, 39 KOs) – Maybe it was ring rust, maybe it was Mayweather maybe it was a combination of both. The great Sugar Shane met his match in Las Vegas but we'll see how far he's deteriorated in his next fight.

12. Celestino Caballero (34-2, 23 KOs) – The six-foot tall Caballero from Panama scares the heck out of everyone. Not even Puerto Rico's Juan Manuel Lopez wants a piece of Caballero. He's moving up to the featherweight division to chase Lopez and Yuri Gamboa. He's a smaller version of Paul Williams.

Honorable Mention:

Fernando Montiel (41-2-2, 31 KOs) – knocked out Hozumi Hasegawa. Wow.

Kelly Pavlik (36-2, 32 KOs) – Still has the punch.

Vic Darchinyan (34-2-1, 27 KOs) – Needs to fight a name fighter.

Rafael Marquez (38-5, 34 KOs) – It's the last hurrah for him or Vazquez or both.

Miguel Cotto (34-2, 27 KOs) – Has a tough task with Yuri Foreman.

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Tomasz Adamek (41-1, 27 KOs) – Can he beat a Klitschko?

Wladimir Klitschko (54-3, 48 KOs) – Can he beat a Tomasz Adamek.