

## If Dawson Has Finally Arrived, Thank Hopkins...LOTIERZO

Written by Frank Lotierzo

Wednesday, 19 October 2011 09:05

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For the last few years we've witnessed Chad Dawson 31-1 (18) fight and appear detached and complacent during certain bouts. And though no one has ever questioned his wealth of physical talent, which is on display every time you see him fight and can't be missed, you just can't help but imagine what kind of fighter he might be if he fought with a sense of urgency and as if winning really meant something to him. Which is not saying that it doesn't, just that it looked as if some fighters stayed with him longer than they should've due to him never really stepping on the gas and opening up for more than spurts during particular fights.

Well, based on his last fight against Bernard Hopkins this past weekend, it looks as if that may be a thing of the past. Forget for a moment that Dawson fouled Hopkins and the fight should've been declared no-contest. The point is, Dawson knew Hopkins was a fighter that incorporates his own brand of MMA rules into his boxing repertoire when he fights in a ring. And Dawson sure seemed hellbent when he entered the ring that he wasn't going to let Hopkins bully or mug him in any way shape or form during their fight.

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World class fighters are sometimes motivated and driven by their own perceptions and imagined demons. Larry Holmes was driven to excel because he didn't think he received his due respect. Marvin Hagler imagined that his opponent was trying to take food off of his kitchen table. And everyone knows Hopkins was motivated by the fact that he strongly, and perhaps correctly, believed that in many ways the boxing establishment wanted to take him down and make him irrelevant. And now it appears that Chad Dawson held in a lot of pent up frustration due to his belief that Bernard strung him along and for a couple years denied him his chance to score the signature win of his professional career. Again, it's not relevant if it's true, it's what Chad felt and believed.

It doesn't matter that referee Pat Russell ruled him a stoppage winner over Hopkins, nor does it matter if down the road the bout is overturned and ruled a no-contest. It also doesn't matter if Hopkins deserves an Academy Award for his antics after Dawson dropped him to the canvas or if Hopkins was seriously injured and can never fight again. What does matter is what Chad Dawson really believes. And Dawson wholeheartedly believes beyond all doubt that Hopkins wanted out after less than two rounds of fighting him. Dawson never fought more animatedly so early during a bout than he did against Hopkins, and he was just as animated after the fight when he spoke of wanting a rematch with Jean Pascal, the only fighter to beat him.

Think about what's going through Dawson's mind at this time. Believing that his speed and athleticism convinced Bernard Hopkins that perhaps he was in for a longer night and tougher road than he anticipated, therefore he was forced to look for a way out of the fight to save face, how can he not feel invincible? When you think of all the outstanding fighters who have tried to break Hopkins' will (not saying that Dawson did) and didn't, it's got to be an infusion of confidence if you are convinced that you were the one who finally did.

It's also a good sign that Dawson is back with John Scully, who I believe will get more out of him in the future than either former trainers Eddie Mustafa Muhammad or Emanuel Steward did. Granted, Mustafa Muhammad and Steward are bigger name trainers than Scully, but what does that matter? Eddie expects his fighters to do it like he did back in the day, and Steward isn't at his best when he's not working with fighters who can really punch with their right hand and driven to win by knockout, which is obviously not Dawson's style or approach to fighting/boxing.

Scully will keep Dawson grounded and won't allow him to get too high on himself after his bout with Hopkins. Also, the fact that he's been in Dawson's ear about how great he could be and for him to realize it on Scully's watch will no doubt be a boost for both of their careers. In addition to that, Dawson just may be one of those fighters who needs more attention and cajoling from the man who trains him, something that Scully can definitely handle and he isn't above it or too busy not to be there for him if and when needed.

It also emerged that in Dawson's mind Bernard Hopkins was to him what Mike Tyson was to Lennox Lewis or Muhammad Ali was to Joe Frazier, the fighter who hovered over them at every turn who they had to beat in order for their championship tenure to be validated. And Dawson got past Hopkins in a way that will really give him an infusion of confidence and urgency even if the bout ends up being ruled a no-contest in the record book. The fact is Dawson implicitly feels that regardless of what is said or written, he's so good and formidable that he didn't have to go

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through with beating Hopkins up to win - he convinced him enough in under two rounds that he wasn't going to win that Bernard looked for a way out. And whether Chad Dawson is wrong or right pertaining to that, it's what he believes and that's all that matters, which is a mindset he'll no doubt carry with him into the ring the next time he fights.

Based on Hopkins' age and decline, along with Dawson's most likely sky-rocketing confidence, I couldn't pick against Chad if they fight again. As for Jean Pascal, I think his style will always bother Dawson, but Chad is simply too skilled and fast, and add to that his injection of confidence, I'd pick him over Pascal too if they fight again.

If Dawson emerges as a better and more determined fighter from this point forward, he can thank Bernard Hopkins for forcing him to find that hidden desire and determination within himself.

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### **Radam G says:**

Don't JUMP DA GUN! Bad Chad Dawson has not finally arrived. Don't believe his hyped-up Hollywood acting. I doubt that the dude will ever arrive mentally -- 85 percent of the game. His display after fouling B-Hop was pathetic and punking. No one who has arrive acts this way.

I'm remind of the young GOAT Ali. When he down Sonny "Night Train" Liston in the first round in their second bout, he told the man that he labeled "The Big Old Ugly Bear" to get up and fight. BCD was not looking or wanting B-Hop to get up and fight. BCD was glad as heck that the old wise B-Hoppy didn't get up and beat his arse with one hand. Da wise, ole, Genie Naazim had a patch of genie syet for BCD and his latest trainer Johh Scully, who confused BCD will terminate before long. Holla!

### **Radam G says:**

Even the WBC realizes that Chad has not arrive. It will keep B-Hop as its champion. Enough spitted! Holla!

### **brownsugar says:**

I don't know if Dawson will ever "arrive", but he's better at light Heavyweight than Bernard is or ever will be. Of course he doesn't have Bhops legacy,... but he'll beat him 9 out of 10 times in the squared circle. Dawson had 4 so - so defenses against Johnson and Tarver,.. both guys just a tiny bit past thier sell-by date. Then he was ambushed by Pascal in Canada. Overall I think he'll beat Pascal too. (But he'll make Pascal come to America if he wants to do it again). Even though I don't believe it's necessary, I hope the sanctioning Alpha Body and the California

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Commission can create a situation where they can do it again.. an Ideal scenario is forcing a fight between Dawson and Pascal,... winner gets Bhop for the title. (while Bhop takes the obligatory hiatus to heal up). This keeps the ball rollin and the excitement flowing untill Bhop gets back.... if Bhop does decide to remain in the hurt business, he'll have to fight the winner of Dawson Pascal to maintain credibility. Meanwhile a hungry young lion, will be watching the proceedings while licking his chops in anticipation.... Ishmayl Sillahk the hungry young Russian is waiting patiently to get his foot in the door,.. I'd bet my rent money that he'd stop Dawson or Bhop (or anybody in the supersix who thinks they would be heir apparent to the 175lb throne).

### **Radam G says:**

I'd bet against you and take your rent money, B-Sug. Of course I'd then get winner remorse and give it back to you, because you don't know what you doeth or sayeth. Ishmayl Sillahk is a work in process. He's not ready for the big boys yet. They'd feint him out of his drawers and kayo him in easy fashion. Dude is made to be hit with hooks and sneak crosses. He aight! But he ain't quite ready for the top dawgs. Holla!