

A Note To Pavlik: 50Gs Is A Lot in Y'Town...BORGES

Written by Ron Borges
Thursday, 04 August 2011 21:53



Maybe Bernard Hopkins and Sergio Martinez did more damage to Kelly Pavlik than anyone suspected? Or maybe it was his friends Jack Daniels, Johnny Walker and Jose Cuervo who left him so dazed and confused that he no longer knows who he is.

What other conclusions can one arrive at after Pavlik's rambling interviews this week following his decision to pull out of Saturday night's "ShoBox: The Next Generation" main event against journeyman Darryl Cunningham?

The fact that the former middleweight champion found himself headlining a cable television show dedicated to developing fighters of the future rather than on some grand stage in Las Vegas or New York should have been a clue to how far he'd fallen. But when you have no clue,

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you end up reacting to events more like Inspector Clouseau than Sherlock Holmes and that is exactly what Pavlik did.

Railing at his promoter, Bob Arum, and his manager, Cameron Dunkin, Pavlik said he was “tired of being a puppet” and was “still one of the biggest names in boxing.” Maybe in Youngstown he is but in boxing Kelly Pavlik, through his own fault to great extent, has become yesterday’s news since being badly beaten by Sergio Martinez and then disappearing for 13 months after repeatedly pulling out of a fight with Paul Williams because of a staph infection before finally entering rehab to combat a battle with alcohol, a battle which maybe isn’t going so well.

His return in May resulted in a lack luster win on points over Alfonso Lopez and led to scheduling another tune-up fight against a 36-year-old journeyman southpaw in an attempt to prepare Pavlik for a proposed November super middleweight title fight in Canada with rising star Lucian Bute, for which Pavlik would be paid \$1.35 million plus \$25,000 in training expenses.

When Pavlik learned the economic details of those two fights it led him to conclude Arum was trying to “cash in” on him, putting him in a fight with Bute that would be difficult to win for half what he alleged former super middleweight champion Mikkel Kessler had been offered.

Pavlik then listed past purses of \$2.5 million for journeyman middleweight title challenger Gary Lockett and \$3 million for Bernard Hopkins, comparing them unfavorably with the projected \$1.35 million for Bute and said, “How does that happen?”

Well, Kelly, one way it happens is to let a then 44-year-old man like Hopkins slap you silly in a catch-weight fight above the middleweight limit while embarrassing you by exposing just how primitive your skills really were.

Another way is to follow that up a year and a half later by being beaten to a bloody pulp in a middleweight title unification bout against Martinez in which Pavlik looked like he hadn’t learned a thing from his lopsided loss to Hopkins.

A third way is to make one excuse after another for pulling out of an oft-scheduled but never

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contested fight with Paul Williams, as Pavlik did by claiming a staph infection in his hand had become all but incurable and then see Martinez destroy Williams with one punch.

The last way is to follow the Martinez loss with a 13-month layoff punctuated by a well-publicized drift into alcohol abuse that ended up sending the former champion into rehab.

“How does that happen?” Pavlik asked about the downward drift of his purses. Well, now you know.

Arum denied Inter-Box, who promotes Kessler, ever offered the Dane \$3 million to fight Bute or that his promotional company was looking to cash out on a former champion who had become damaged goods at 29. Whether they were or not however was immaterial because all Pavlik had to do is what one of the biggest names in boxing should do in such a circumstance. All he had to do was win those fights and the money would be there.

Big money for rematches with Martinez or Hopkins, if he wanted to try and avenge either loss, or with the winner of SHOWTIME'S Super 6 tournament final between Andre Ward and Carl Froch. The kind of money he grew used to making when he was a big though somewhat manufactured name.

Seldom has anyone gained more for beating up two guys who have since proven to be suspect fighters whose talents were vastly overrated by the public: Jermain Taylor and Edison Miranda. Pavlik stopped them both four years ago and became an instant star but that star quickly went into nova after Hopkins exposed his shortcomings a year later and nothing seems to have been quite right with him since.

The downward slide of Kelly Pavlik's career finally hit bottom this week when he pulled out of a \$50,000 fight with Cunningham in his hometown of Youngstown, an act that judging by comments on the website of the Youngstown Vindicator did not set too well with the struggling local populace.

Youngstown is one of those Rust Belt towns the world forgot. Its manufacturing-based economy

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has been broken for years and is showing no signs of rallying. Yet the people there had adopted Pavlik as a symbol of the fight that's still in them and a shining example that no matter how often you get hit if you just keep on fighting, your hand will be raised.

People in such circumstances don't want to hear a native son say, "I'm not going to fight a southpaw for peanuts," as Pavlik told WFMJ-TV this week. To such people, \$50,000 isn't peanuts. It's a life raft.

Worse, Pavlik said in another interview that he would fight Bute for \$1.1 million in Atlantic City "but I got to put the guy on a stretcher to win the fight in Canada...it's kind of like Top Rank is cashing in on me."

So he's willing to fight Bute for less money in the U.S. than he'd get in Canada but he's not willing to take a title shot against him across the border in Bute's hometown because he doubts he'll get a fair shake? Most people in Youngstown would walk through fire in their shorts for \$50,000, never mind \$1.35 million.

"I don't need to fight no more," Pavlik said, and maybe he doesn't. Then again, maybe he doesn't have much fight left in him after losing his aura of invincibility to Hopkins and Martinez, losing his way to an alcohol problem he recently said he wasn't sure was really a problem and losing his mind if he doesn't think a \$1.35 million payday for a fighter in his dwindling circumstances is an opportunity.

Arum was surprisingly calm about the decision, saying "If he doesn't want to fight why push him?" But his trainer, Jack Loew, was critical of Dunkin, with whom he has often quarreled, claiming it was only after Dunkin explained to Pavlik the financial details of the two fights that his fighter walked away from.

Reportedly, Pavlik did not show up to run or to train at Loew's Southside Boxing Club after speaking with Dunkin and three days later issued his public manifesto. After he did, SHOWTIME quickly cancelled the show, Arum moved on, Bute's promoters began seeking another opponent and no one in boxing seemed remotely surprised at anything but the obvious fact that the one guy who doesn't know any more who Kelly Pavlik is Kelly Pavlik.

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brownsugar says:

now he wants to fight an even softer journeyman opponent named Magee,... and he's talking about fighting Froch in place of Bute... but I don't think anybody heard him.

FighterforJC says:

"Badly beaten" by Sergio Martinez? lol. C'mon, now. It was a highly competitive bout and Pavlik gave Martinez all that he could handle. \$50K may be a huge amount to most of us and everyone in Youngstown, but sorry to break the news to y'all, we STILL live in the land of the free, despite the current regime's efforts to turn this great nation into a communist one. Pavlik has the right to demand what he believes he deserves, and if \$50K doesn't cut it for him, that's his business. Perhaps Top Rank can find a \$50K fighter who'll draw as many viewers as Pavlik would.

Actually, maybe it'll be good PR for Top Rank to offer the 50K for ANY Youngstown fighter willing to take Pavlik's place this Saturday. It'll be a mini-Rocky story and might have enough novelty to draw an audience.

mortcola says:

FighterforJC is right - Ron, you're getting back into your exaggeration game again. Kelly was very competitive though much of that fight. But the overall gist of the article is correct. Kelly's ego can't handle what has happened to his career, and he is being unreasonable, unrealistic and grandiose, and has hurt a lot of people in the process. I like F4JCs idea - get a hometown hero to step in....

Radam G says:

I ain't it. I'm always on the side of the PRIZEfighter -- not da pridefigher, who would fight for peanuts at the drop of a hat. If they want a prizefighter to play, than they must pay. KP hasn't been too proud. This JIVE is getting too loud. Money talks, bullspit walks. PAY da kid da good pay. Holla!

Radam G says:

Buy GOLD! Pay KP in GOLD and he may just get bold. And from another bout, never fold. Now somebody sang that you have to know when ta' hold 'em, and when ta ' fold 'em and walk away. Da game is business. And it is all right to decrease the risk, while increasing the profit. Holla!

mortcola says:

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Ya don't walk out on da peeps. And ya don't get the big prize until you prove ya supersize. Besides, Kelly didn't know he wasn't getting top dollar to fight a journeyman on an up-and-comers program in Ohio? I don't buy it. Show the world you can still fight, then demand your \$\$ terms at the table for the championship fight. But don't bail on the show.

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

Kelly Pavlik is a over hyped journeyman with serious substance abuse problems. He has been marketable because he is an American White boxer with average to good skills, which is a novelty in today's sport of boxing. However, with the exception of Jermaine Taylor, he hasn't faired well against world class boxers. Martinez didn't dominate, but the UD in his favor was just. B-Hop took him to school and Sergio Mora (Kelly pulled out of fight with staff infection) would have boxed circles around him because Kelly has problems with guys that don't come straight to him and are defensive outside boxers. As a boxer, he is finished, but I hope he can get his personal life together and get sober and clean.

Radam G says:

Wow! I knew that I was spot on about SRD. Now he shows his true delusional self. KP is marketable because he can FIGHT! Sugar Ray Leonard had "serious substance abuse problems." Sugar Ray Robinson had serious beating-the-heck-outta-women problems, as do Money May. Have they been marketable because they are black? SRD is full of racist crap! I could feel his sword of racism cutting _____. Enough said!

mortcola says:

At his best, Pavlik is a tough-as-nails warrior with good power, chin, and the ability to dominate different styles. He's not just marketable. He wins in action-packed fashion against almost everyone. If you're gonna use a racial argument, at least show some originality. That's just one dumb cliché.

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

No racial argument at all. @Radam G: The fact that you would mention Kelly Pavlik in the same breath as Ray Leonard and Ray Robinson is a crime. Those guys are legends and Pavlik is a B level fighter at the top of his game. You don't know isht about boxing! @Mortcola: I never said Kelly Pavlik couldn't fight, but what I did say is that he is over hyped and was a journeyman level/good fighter. NOT A SUPERSTAR BASED ON HIS SKILLS! What "A" level fighter did he beat? Jermaine Taylor was good and I give hime credit for that, but Edison Miranda, give me a break. Sorry Radam G and Mortcola, but race does still play a factor in every facet of American society in my opinion and the fact that Kelly Pavlik is a White American journeyman/good boxer from a working class background has played a role in his handlers successfully promoting him. B-Hop illustrated the blueprint on how to beat Pavlik and Martinez solidified it. Pavlik has power and will knock you out if come to him, but he can't handle "A" level SLICK BOXERS with good chins, a la Martinez and B-HOP. I hope he has invested his money and that he gets his life in order. I wouldn't be suprised if we see him on "Friday Night Fights" pretty soon. The gig is up,

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the smoke screen has disappeared.....Holler!

mortcola says:

If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. Apart from that, clearly Pavlik has boxing weaknesses. Not so great, however, that he isn't one of the biggest draws in the game based on his fighting style. He is. He draws more than any of a hundred black or latino or asian or african fighters because of the proven entertainment value of his ring performance....when he shows up. What he doesn't realize, though, is that after bailing on five fights, twice for legitimate reason, and going through a very public meltdown, no one trusts in his ability to come through anymore. You are right, the ONLY way to legitimately come back, for Kelly, is to look good on some relatively smaller cards and show that he is still a pro and not a has-been drunk trying to cash in on his supposed name - the name minus the "out of rehab and pulls out of lots of fight cards" association. If he shows up and behaves like a pro, I'll root for him again. None of this proves any racial agenda. That painful, lingering fact of American life has no particular bearing in this, or lots of other situations. People are still people, and people suck in all kinds of ways.

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

[QUOTE=mortcola;8351]If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail. Apart from that, clearly Pavlik has boxing weaknesses. Not so great, however, that he isn't one of the biggest draws in the game based on his fighting style. He is. He draws more than any of a hundred black or latino or asian or african fighters because of the proven entertainment value of his ring performance....when he shows up. What he doesn't realize, though, is that after bailing on five fights, twice for legitimate reason, and going through a very public meltdown, no one trusts in his ability to come through anymore. You are right, the ONLY way to legitimately come back, for Kelly, is to look good on some relatively smaller cards and show that he is still a pro and not a has-been drunk trying to cash in on his supposed name - the name minus the "out of rehab and pulls out of lots of fight cards" association. If he shows up and behaves like a pro, I'll root for him again. None of this proves any racial agenda. That painful, lingering fact of American life has no particular bearing in this, or lots of other situations. People are still people, and people suck in all kinds of ways.[/QUOTE]

Well said Mortcola! I wish Kelly the best and I agree that he is an exciting boxer, but I think there was a small window of opportunity for him to possibly improve, but he would have needed a new trainer and management team after the Hopkins fight. There is often a thin line between journeyman and good, good and great. Pavlik was in between being a journeyman and good in my opinion. A trainer such as Emanuel Steward or Freddie Roach would have taken his career to the next level.

Radam G says:

SRD, you will always look for a racial excuse to justify and glorify your lack of effort and lack of tack and weak, pathetic existence. Quit looking at the one door that has been slammed in your FACE! That's LIFE, DUDE! One door unfairly shuts, tons open. And there is always a "facet" in every spot on the globe. You need to get out more and cut out your bullheaded mudholedness.

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And I guess you make the law of choice and human thinking. In your opinion, I guess choice and human thinking must be colored coded or there is something wrong.

Sugar Ray Robinson's and/or Sugar Ray Leonard's addictions and dopey behaviors aren't better than any other human. Later for you man. You don't want to talk boxing. You just want an outlet to spread your hatred and mudholedness about not being able to make it, because of the hue of your skin. WOW! It is a lot of blacks on the TOP of the American APPLE PIE. And I will tell you why. Both Colin Powell and Prez Barack Obama said that when "you are confronted with racism, just suck it up and go full speed ahead." But I already know your _____ answer. [Colin Powel is not really a black American, but a West Indian, and Prez O's father is African black and his mother is white and he was born in Hawaii and grew up there and in Indonesia, so he doesn't understand the black American experience. OMFG! SRD _____ UP, PLEASE!]

Point is is that you have a psychological barrier of losing and excuse making, SRD. [You should follow the advice of the late, great singer Teddy Pendergras: "I think ya bettah let it go, it looks like another love T-K-O!"> This why you call anything adversely said about SRR or SRL criminal. You're indeed a blinded nuthugger. And just maybe you have been a criminal, since you love to use that scenerio. Nonetheless, to each his on. SRR, SRL and KP have all been dopeheads, just as being prizefighters. And I will put 'em together all that I want. Even Money May would put them together and even include his momma, who his said was addicted to drugs while been pregnant with him. SRD, you cannot control the thinking and/or posting of anyone, especially mine. Movin' on! Holla!

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;8364]SRD, you will always look for a racial excuse to justify and glorify your lack of effort and lack of tack and weak, pathetic existence. Quit looking at the one door that has been slammed in your FACE! That's LIFE, DUDE! One door unfairly shuts, tons open. And there is always a "facet" in every spot on the globe. You need to get out more and cut out your bullheaded mudholedness. And I guess you make the law of choice and human thinking. In your opinion, I guess choice and human thinking must be colored coded or there is something wrong.

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You are quite a character and have a serious problem. No, I am not a criminal don't have as much as a traffic ticket on my record. I am African-Native American (Mississippi Choctaw & enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma) and highly educated. I have B.A. in Social & Behavioral Science from California State University Monterey Bay and a M.A. in History from California State University Los Angeles. I was a college athlete (Track & field, basketball) and know all about the doors my ancestors opened so I could be successful in life. I am as a part-time community college professor and self-sufficiency coordinator in the Native-American community and to make a long story short; you don't know isht about me. I live for competition and have destroyed plenty of corwardly cats like you in public debate on the field of competition.

FJC called Mayweather a monkey and you didn't attack him and I know why. Lets keep topics on this board about boxing. As long as you do that, I won't have a problem with you. You mentioned earlier on this thread that Sugar Ray Robinson and Sugar Ray Leonard also had substance abuse problems and stated the following: " Sugar Ray Robinson had serious beating-the-heck-outta-women problems, as do Money May. Have they been marketable because they are black? No, you imbecile, they were marketable because they were the best and exhibited extraordinary skills. On the other hand, although exciting, Palvik has the skills of a journeyman and contrary to what you and others may feel or believe, his social status (working class white male) has played PART of a role in his promotions. Arturo Gatti was exciting (R.I.P.), but not great and his Italian heritage played on a role in why he was a big draw in New Jersey. This isn't racism, but mere facts. You are anybody else, with the exception of the editor will prevent me from voicing my opinion on this board in relation to boxing. Get over it bro, I'm here to stay. Step your game up, holler! I can't wait for September 17th, don't punk out!

FighterforJC says:

"Monkey" describes Mayweather PERFECTLY, regardless of his color, I would describe Paula Malignaggi the same way. it's not a racist thing, but blacks always want to make it a race issue.

Radam G says:

SRD! Hehehehehe! Your education in college, boxing or life comes nowhere near your's truly. What is your point? Just have a good cyberspace life with your illusions and playground childish hullabaloo. I don't speak for FJC or anybody else. Let me hit you like I do when scribbling lyrics for my boy Enimem and my girl Missy E. "Hullabaloo is cheap. And the SRD doer of it want you to leap...Right up on his arse like dawgs do a b*t*h in heat."

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Dude, I know what time it is in any of your pseudonyms. Later. Holla!

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;8375]SRD! Hehehehehe! Your education in college, boxing or life comes nowhere near your's truly. What is your point? Just have a good cyberspace life with your illusions and playground childish hullabaloo. I don't speak for FJC or anybody else. Let me hit you like I do when scribbling lyrics for my boy Enimem and my girl Missy E. "Hullabaloo is cheap. And the SRD doer of it want you to leap...Right up on his arse like dawgs do a b**t**h in heat."

Dude, I know what time it is in any of your pseudonyms. Later. Holla![/QUOTE]

That is good to hear Radam G, please don't speak for me. Half the time you don't have a clue about what I'm saying anyway. Who does Missy E. and Slim Shady have winning on September 17th lol? I'm still open to make a side be bet with you if you are feeling confident in Ortiz. Just like the Jay Rock song goes, "I put my money on Mayweather."

Radam G says:

Part timing as a college professor in broke-a\$\$ Cali does apply you enough moola to side bet with your truly. Don't be surprised if my four-year-old son's pocket change is most that you make. Hehehehehe! Besides, the American dollar is one weak bytch nowadays. Deepwater been telling you to buy GOLD! Get some, than holla at me. Danggit! Why do some many of you Ebonican claim to be from the Cherokee Nation. I went with this black chich bad in da day. She claimed to be part Cherokee. But after I broke her heart, she became a popular prono star. And you guess it. Her name is Cherokee. Hehehehehehe! Use your behavioral science on her big money maker. Okay, I am finish. Back to spittin' boksing. Money May will get toasted and roasted. Holla!

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;8410]Part timing as a college professor in broke-a\$\$ Cali does apply you enough moola to side bet with your truly. Don't be surprised if my four-year-old son's pocket change is most that you make. Hehehehehe! Besides, the American dollar is one weak bytch nowadays. Deepwater been telling you to buy GOLD! Get some, than holla at me. Danggit! Why do some many of you Ebonican claim to be from the Cherokee Nation. I went with this black chich bad in da day. She claimed to be part Cherokee. But after I broke her heart, she became a popular prono star. And you guess it. Her name is Cherokee. Hehehehehehe! Use your behavioral science on her big money maker. Okay, I am finish. Back to spittin' boksing. Money May will get toasted and roasted. Holla![/QUOTE]

Being a part-time professor is a hobby, not my main profession. I have noticed from previous post that you have a problem reading. There are no false claims here, only facts. I am an ENROLLED tribal member in the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Plain and simple, put your

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money where your mouth is, but I know you won't. I don't want to take your 51/50 SSI check anyway, but I will be on you like a short overcoat on September 17th!

Radam G says:

WOW! You are my most craziest STALKER yet! Danggit! You really have a bad case of phronemophobia. I better quit. You are full of shyt! What state did the Cherokee Nation come from? Be smart and Google that jive. Your fibs are like landmines. You have forget where you planted 'em and they are blowing ya stalking, trouble-proned arse up! Hehehehehehe! Your attempts at insults reveal you like stink on sh*t. Now you are being just plain old pathetic. But I'm putting you on BLOCK now! Change your pseudonym again. That crack is ramsackin' ya arse, Mr. Professor of bullsh*tology. Where is your Cherokee Nation casino? Hehehehe! Holla!

Shoulder Roll Defense says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;8425]WOW! You are my most craziest STALKER yet! Danggit! You really have a bad case of phronemophobia. I better quit. You are full of shyt! What state did the Cherokee Nation come from? Be smart and Google that jive. Your fibs are like landmines. You have forget where you planted 'em and they are blowing ya stalking, trouble-proned arse up! Hehehehehehe! Your attempts at insults reveal you like stink on sh*t. Now you are being just plain old pathetic. But I'm putting you on BLOCK now! Change your pseudonym again. That crack is ramsackin' ya arse, Mr. Professor of bullsh*tology. Where is your Cherokee Nation casino? Hehehehe! Holla![/QUOTE]

You don't have a clue lol! How much is the SSI check bro? You probably want to keep me on block because you are going to look pretty stupid after September 17th lol! Oh, please tell Don King, Missy Elliot, and Slim Shady I said hello!