Written by Michael Woods
Tuesday, 29 November 2011 17:05

The heavyweight scene, as seen through the eyes of the US fight fan, is two-day-old bagel stale. One of the Klitschkos fights on Dec. 10 against another guy with no chance.

OK, sorry for the flippancy there. But I couldn't be much less enthused about WBO-IBF-WBA champion Wladimir Klitschko's clash against Jean-Marc Mormeck in Dusseldorf on the tenth. I see Mormeck, a 39-year-old Frenchman, as having as much chance against Klitschko as Kim Kardashian does landing a relationship advice talk show. He's fought three times in four years, and his last outing came a year ago, a split decision win against Timur Ibragimov.

There is a bit more interest in Alexander Povetkin, who holds a junior WBA title, and his tussle Saturday. He takes on Cedric Boswell in Finland, and EPIX will show the scrap, kicking off their programming at 3:30 PM ET. Anyone tired of the Klitschko stranglehold on the division is looking hopefully at the 32-year-old Russian Povetkin, who is cornered by Teddy Atlas, the super-intense guru who also works as an ESPN analyst. Freddie Roach will help call the action, which includes a showdown between another potential Klitschko-killer, Robert Helenius, who meets Dereck Chisora.

I asked Roach on a Tuesday phoner if he gives Boswell much of a chance to beat Povetkin. "Povetkin is a favorite," the Hollywood-based trainer to manny Pacquiao and Amir Khan said. "Boswell has 35 wins but that's over a long period of time. He's been sporadic. His best win is maybe Oliver McCall last March. Povetkin has been busier and was a great amateur. So, Povetkin is favored a little bit more than a little bit."

There is some buzz on Helenius, a Swede based in Finland who downed Sergei Liakhovich (TKO9) in August. I asked Roach who he thinks is the best heavyweight among the top four on the card. "I like Povetkin," he said. "We wonder if he can step up and beat a Klitschko. Everyone's waiting to see. He's getting close to that test.

I trained Wladimir for four fights, and Vitali for one. They're great athletes, they're the hardest working heavies I've seen. I don't think anyone on planet beats them."

Comment on this article

Radam G says:

Zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz! Da Docs/bros K know how to put the deadbeat heavies and the fans to sleep. Holla!

gibola says:

Roach might be curious but I'm not. Povetkin is a small, slow, basic heavy who offers no threat to the K Bros whatsoever and Teddy Atlas knows it, that's why he hasn't allowed Povetkin near the Ks or any other decent heavyweight since he started training him.
Povetkin's best performance was Chris Byrd 4 years ago, against a reluctant Chagaev he was boring and one-dimensional. Both Ks don't lose a round against Povetkin, Haye KOs him, it's a toss-up with Adamek, Arreola or Tony Thompson.
Tyson Fury and Robert Helenius are both far scarier prospects for the Ks in twelve months and

I think both would KO Povetkin right now (if they were ever allowed in the ring with him!).

Gibola

mortcola says:

[QUOTE=gibola;11075]Roach might be curious but I'm not. Povetkin is a small, slow, basic heavy who offers no threat to the K Bros whatsoever and Teddy Atlas knows it, that's why he hasn't allowed Povetkin near the Ks or any other decent heavyweight since he started training him.
Povetkin's best performance was Chris Byrd 4 years ago, against a reluctant Chagaev he was boring and one-dimensional. Both Ks don't lose a round against Povetkin, Haye KOs him, it's a toss-up with Adamek, Arreola or Tony Thompson.
Tyson Fury and Robert Helenius are both far scarier prospects for the Ks in twelve months and I think both would KO Povetkin right now (if they were ever allowed in the ring with him!).

Gibola[/QUOTE]Povetkin is much better than you describe, and he is, to my eyes, one of the quicker, more agile young heavies. That being said, he has little chance against the K's, but, as you said, a toss-up or better against the other "contenders". Atlas was far more concerned, I think, about emotional maturity and commitment that he was about lack of ability.

FighterforJC says:

I'm really curious to see the Klitschkos fight someone their own size or even larger. A phenom like Tyson is just barely above average when faced with someone who can absorb his best shots. I'd like to see how the Klitschkos fare when they do not have the size advantage, which is why (for now) I"m giving jokers like Helenius and Tyson Fury a fair chance of beating them.

brownsugar says:

WK's greatest strength is using his size against smaller fighters...But he limits his own potential by hardly ever getting in close, bending his knees and throwing uppercuts or body punches. In fact there are some punches he never throws... There is no way Haye or Chambers would have lasted if WK just cut loose on them,... trapped them in a corner and broke em' in half with some well placed power shots to the body... WK should be able to make most fighters cower in fear after one round and toss in the towel. But he approaches boxing like a chess player who is 2 or 3 pawns up and keeps going after the other pawns instead of taking out the knights, bishops, rooks and queen.

Still Tyson Fury is nowhere disciplined enough to complete with WK at this point and time..and Helinus is only marginally better than the lumbering Valuev..... But either could make things interesting if they went for broke like Corey Sanders.

Povetkin has shown some promise but the guy is still wearing training wheels at the age of 32,.. by now either he has the goods or he doesn't... I see him getting dominated by WK from the outside like the rest. There are least 3 Young Giants on the horizon as we speak,..Guys who

are more fluid and natural at boxing than WK (but not necessarily better at their current level of inexperience).. All 3 are still a ways off from competing for a championship. If WK stays around long enough,... we'll eventually see him some very competetive Heavyweight matches yet with guys his own size. Give it a year and half.

FighterforJC says:

Wlad is not limiting his potential, he's maximizing his untouchability. His KO ratio is among the most impressive in heavyweight history. He could fight more conventionally and commit to his punches more often and perhaps score more spectacular KO's and look more destructive doing it, but he's also going to compromise his size advantage. He stops just about everybody and takes little to no damage each time out. He shouldn't change anything.

mortcola says:

Well said, F4JC. Credit when due.

brownsugar says:

F4JC,... What's most impressive to me about WK is his professionalism, longevity and poise outside the ring, He's the best of todays dreary roundup of heavyweights hands down..
However having a high percentage of KO's in todays dubious era of recycled journeymen from Lewis's generation is more expected than impressive. Especially with the size disparity.....It's like Chad Dawson boxing someone Pacquiao's size. It's legal because there is no superheavy-weight division yet.. but it's a series of mismatches with cruiserweights and also rans...

Whenever WK does get in the ring with someone with halfway decent credentials he clams up an uses the stiff-arm while he rations out punches like they have a high price tag. Stewart had to beg, humiliate, and scold WK before he finally worked up the courage to take out the grossly outsized Chambers in the 12th.

Obviously HBO wasn't impresses with him, as he was effectively barred from the cable giant boxing shows since his previous 12round game of patty-cake with the smallish Ibragamov.

We were glad to see his return to HBO against Haye recently,..hoping he would pay Haye back for his imprudent mouthpiece.... but WK allowed the big-mouth 210 pound challenger to fight a survivalist fight for 12 rounds while standing right in front of him flat footed with his hands down the entire fight.... and sadly no fireworks again.

For someones who's always calling some boxer or another a coward,.. fighters who are infinitely more engaging against more dynamic opposition, it's ironic you're impressed with the most skiddish, cautious fighter in professional boxing.

you'll get another chance to praise him after he dispatches a 39 year old french cruiserweight in another sleep inducing affair.

It's not like I don't appreciate WK for what he is ,... a hard working professional with 15 defenses..... a big fish in todays small pond of heavyweights. But I can't lather on the praise until I see what he can do with guys his own size..

WK won't be able to stiff-arm guys his own size without getting punched back in return.. and the next generation of big men won't be hamstrung by being limited to just 4 punches in there arsenal,.. they'll attack with a full range of motion and from all angles.

These are the heavyweight fights I want to see,... The big guys fighting guys their own size.

mortcola says:

Well, he destroyed big Tony Thompson, and took some leather doing it...

brownsugar says:

Tony Thompson had less than 30 amateur fights before he started boxing pro at the age of 28, he was 37 when he fought WK and he fights like he's swimming in a vat of mollasses,.. Tony didn't start the disease but he's a prime symptom of the malaise and lack of interest that has attatched itself to the Heavyweight division... Right now American Heavies suck, have little amateur experience and have lost the spirit of competitiveness ..... My purpose is not to Bash WK .. And I'm happy the Euro Fans have someone to look up to. My point is the debate on WK can cut both ways. Either he's the most overrated Heavy since Marciano,.. or he's one of the best that's ever laced on a pair. Which one is it? Time will ultimately tell.
Hopefully when the young guns who match WK in size can finally step up we can see him in a competetive fight with somebody who can look the Doc eye to eye... In less than 2 years if WK is still around we can see that, and the Heavyweight division can become interesting again.

FighterforJC says:

It's not the Klitschkos' fault that they're as big and athletic as they are. They've fought EVERYONE worth fighting, all shapes and sizes. You can criticize the Mormeck fight all you want but it's not like there's anyone else. You can't honestly accuse any Klitschko of ducking anyone.

Condor says:

Super comments all around. Well said Brownsugar. I really like the high price line (I'd quote it but doing this on my phone). WK is an absolute professional and almost Tim Tebow-esque in the way he's viewed (not an exact parallel but similar). I agree with Fighter that WK should change NOTHING. Why should he? Yes, most fans want blood, but his strategy makes perfect sense. I maintain that WK would be a champion in ANY era. And Vitali is even better than Wlad. Look, when you fight for YEARS, as they have, there is lots of film to gameplan with. Even ATGs struggle against so called ordinary opposition. Ali had numerous examples of this. They all do. But the Ks just keep whitewashing everyone. If they weren't around, we may regard the heavyweights more favorably. But they're just miles better than the rest. They're Green Bay

right now, and have been for years.

brownsugar says:

What mature and diplomatic post Condor,.. Henry Kissinger's got nothin on ya. .. thanks for your contribution.

Condor says:

You're the man Brownsugar. Love your insight. Mortcola's views should garner a friggin' Pulitzer Prize. Expert writer.

brownsugar says:

Ditto

DaveB says:

I think that the Klitschko brothers do not have a tough fighters mentality. What I mean by that is that they have a boxer's mentality and I never see them getting down and dirty unless someone can force them too. Lennox Lewis made Vitali have to reach down but unfortunately no one else has been able to do that. Wlad is concerned about protecting his jaw and you can't blame him for that. Watching these guys against mostly undersized opponents is about exciting as watching grass grow and each bout just seems to be just an extension of the last fight. When I was younger, I remember this dog that was a monster but he didn't know it. His father was extremely strong and was jealous of him and would beat the hell out of him when he was a younger dog which sapped any confidence he would have had. His mother was big too. This dog could have been your worst nightmare but he was more afraid of you than you were of him. Wlad seems to fight scared although he is a monster. Vitali doesn't push the gas pedal to the floor either. Both are boring but effective and they both have excellent skills, there can't be any denying that. The rest of the division has been frozen out. Even when they are gone the heavies will not inspire any interest for the unforeseeable future unless one of these younger guys can bring something new to the table.

Radam G says:

Ditto about Big Bro/Doc VK's mentality, DaveB. Da muthasucka quit in da corner on Chris "Rapid Fire" Byrd. But Lil Bro/Doc WK has some cojones. He took each of his arse thrashings like a man and went out on his shield. And don't anybody try to sell me that separation-of-the-shoulder jive about Doc VK. Holla!

brownsugar says:

Povetkin is winning every round against Boswell and looking solid. You can see the Teddy Atlas effect.

brownsugar says:

I liked your analogy about the Dog family Dave B.....couldn't have said it better.

Povetkin outclasses Boswell with a KO in round 8 (think it was eight)...Boswell blamed a torn rotator cuff in his right shoulder for not throwing his right hand, I don't think it would have made a difference anyway as he was out of his league... but he gave Povetkin some half-way decent work with what he had.....
Roach and Dan Rafael provided good commentary .on the sidelines. Not too shabby so far for heavyweights. Povetkin looked a little Tysonesque the way he was throwing those combo's on the inside... the type of punching you never see from WK...and he did it with good defense.. Teddy says they're not ready for WK,.. and I agree... not because of a lack of ability... he's just too small for a prime WK. Helinius the Nordic Nightmare is next... this oughta be good. Chisora comes to bang and Helenius comes to get KO's. Helenius is like a Rock Star overseas... Derrick "Del Boy" Chisora says he's going to make love to Helenius,.. make it hot in the ring (the interviewer said "that's disturbing") lol. Helenius is 239, Chisora 245,.. the big boys getting ready to go at it!!!!!!

brownsugar says:

the underdog Chisora leapt on Helenius like the last train to paradise.. smothering him with punches like Joe Frazier,.. head and body.. So far this is surprising result as Helenius is supposed to be the favorite... but I suspect Helenius is waiting for an opening to land his trademark uppercut. Chisora ahead so far 3 rounds to 1

brownsugar says:

Helenius is actually a good boxer,.. but Chisora won't let him breath. Chisora came in 20lbs lighter than his last fight withFury (265). Still anything can happen

brownsugar says:

round 6 tremendous action, Helenius was finally able to land some heavy shots,.. Still Chisora is outworking him, How long can he keep this up?

brownsugar says:

I've got it 6-3 for Chisora thru 9 rounds. Never saw Chisora fight this hard,.. shocking upset in the making.

brownsugar says:

pace slows for round 10 but Chisora is still out working Helenius,.. the crowd is no longer in the fight. "Do you want this?"

brownsugar says:

Still no fireworks from Helenius, the fight is has become a route. 1 round remains. can Helenius pull it out with a KO?

brownsugar says:

Both fighters throwing bombs in the last round!!!!!!!!

brownsugar says:

Del Boy closes the show fighting as though he needed the KO,.... although he won at least 9 out of 12 rounds. Dan had it 10-2 for Chisora. Roach had it 8-4 for Chisora. a hometown robbery would be the worst in history.

brownsugar says:

OH HELL NO!!!!!!!!!!!!!! 115-113 Helinius, 115-113 Chisora 115-113 Helinius.... Boxing loses credibility again... but everyone who saw the fight including the Fins in Helsinki,.. knows Helenius Lost. Worst Robbery I've ever seen. Incredible... I'm out...

Radam G says:

B-Sug, if you ever see a straight banana, be assured that it is a fake or a midget one. Same for boksing. Boksing losing credibility is like throwing a big fish back in the lake. Somebody else is gonna eventually catch dat muthawiggy again, And though midget wresting get an audience, boksing won't, so it doesn't mean Moby Dick syet or Gary Coleman spit.

By nature -- as a banana -- boksing is crooked. But every angry man and his fam goes ape sh*t when it shows its true colors. As I told everybodee and dey momma, a while back, that Helinius was the latest hyped-a$$ heavy who could not have made the top 100 of heavies 30 year ago, and the top 20 15 years ago.

Probably the best heavyweight talent in the world, at this time, is the amateur boksing son of ex-heavyweight title belt holder Hisham Rahman. Hisham Rahman "Junior time" got it going on for the time being. If his heart shows up like his talent, he'll be a SUPERSTAR heavyweight who can fight and will dominate for years. Holla!

dino da vinci says:

@brown sugar. Why? Why? Don't you believe it is scary when the fans know more about the sport than the the people earning a living in it? Experts, if you will.

brownsugar says:

Dino,... I'm flabergasted,.. pheclemped and utterly bewildered.

brownsugar says:

RG,... u surely drank the nectar of wisdom on that one my friend,.. and the revolution will be televised.... hey I didn't know about Rahmans son,.. now your gonna have me googling again.

Radam G says:

FYI B-Sug. Fight Beat dot com has a petty respectable, interesting piece on Hisham Rahman [Junior Time]. Holla!