

Povetkin Stops Rahman In Round Two

Written by Michael Woods

Saturday, 29 September 2012 16:36



Hasim Rahman stepped into the ring against Alexander Povetkin in Hamburg Saturday night as the 14 to 1 underdog. At 39, not having been in the ring for more than a year, having fallen asleep at a pre-fight presser, not many folks gave Rahman even a slim chance against the WBA champ Povetkin (24-0 entering), a 33-year-old Russian. Rahman, buzzed by the first stiff

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shot Povetkin threw in the first, performed even worse than most expected, and the ref halted the bout in round two.

We can assume--or fervently hope--that he will never sniff another title shot, and likely not fight again, as this was an embarrassing outing. Rahman landed ten punches, mostly jabs, and this one will be dismissed as a payday pickup, a stain on his permanent record and on the reputation of the WBA, which had him ranked No. 1 at heavyweight.

Rahman said after the bout that he went to the hospital last night, to get IV fluids, because he was dehydrated, and if the fight was in the US, he'd likely have pulled out. He didn't say if he had a flu, or what would have caused dehydration, because he didn't need to come in under a specified weight for the clash. And will he retire? That is yet to be determined, he said; he said he will talk to his promoter, and might like to fight a Top 5 type, not fight a bunch of C and D grade types to build to something. He would have to offer up a bounty of mea culpas, and show a different attitude towards the sport and his place in it than he has shown in years, for anyone to accept his re-entry into the sport as an active participant.

Rahman (50-7-2 entering; 256 pounds at the weigh in) pulled off a stunner in 2001, when he knocked Lennox Lewis silly in a title scrap, but his last meaningful win came against Monte Barrett, back in 2005 (pictured above). Somehow, some way, he managed to get the WBA to make him No. 1 in the rankings. But Povetkin hasn't been showered with praise, as pundits wondered why he didn't have his way with guys like Marco Huck in more impressive fashion, so that Rahman got a shot wasn't skewered in as quite vicious fashion as he might have been. Povetkin said coming in to the event that he respects Rahman's past exploits, so he prepared as best he could for the tussle. Kostya Tszyu was in Povetkin's corner, after Alex Zimin, and Teddy Atlas before that. Rahman laid the groundwork for his effort by complaining that the deck was stacked against him, and admitting his conditioning was just OK. He said it would be an early night, half-heartedly saying that he'd KO Povetkin.

In the first, the 229-pound Povetkin buzzed Rock with a right early on. Rock was down from 284 pounds in his last bout, but his midsection had rolls on it. He did pump a jab, and press forward, it must be said.

In the second, Rahman got hurt, and was on the ropes. He ate shots, the ref looked hard, and finally halted it. A left hook hurt him at 2:11, and at the end, with around a minute left, he had his right arm draped on the ropes, as Povetkin hauled off. Basically, he was opening himself up to

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hasten the end. The ref said no mas. It was sad end to the career of a one hit wonder, as Rahman clearly had next to no interest in training to win the fight, which in the end, was not a fight, but an exercise in bad boxing politics and a pure cash grab.

After, Povetkin told Chris Mannix that the work with Tszyu helped him. He said he wanted to be an ace counterpuncher on this night. Does he want a fight with Wladimir Klitschko next? "Yes of course, I'm ready to fight everybody," he said. He called Wlad "the best heavyweight" out there. He said he will improve more under Tszyu and would be ready for Wlad.

[Comment on this article](#)

deepwater says:

Jeez there has to be an easier way for the old rock to make some \$\$.

Radam G says:

That is exactly what fat, sorry-@ss Rock gets for fighting for a phantom title. Holla!

amayseng says:

didnt see it but read about it, pretty sad...dude is 39 not 59, Woods said he heard he was dehydrated, we know he wasnt cutting weight why would he be dehydrated?
oh well..

Grimm says:

Did see it and it was exactly as sad as it sounds...

mortcola says:

Why is there a picture of Povetkin starching Eddie Chambers?

Radam G says:

Maybe because Chambers fought back. Has been -- I mean never-was Hasim -- Rahman try to quit several times by turning his back and holding on to the ropes with one hand. This is an old trick of the trade by old, jelly-belly, balloon-arse heavies that show up for a payday and an easy outway.

In the USA, an American referee would've been on to that tott and D'Qed Rahman. And the Rock would have been fined part of his purse for not making an attempt to prizefighting, but just

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latently prize quitting. Holla!

tlig says:

How did Hasim get the shot at a title? The last time I saw him fight - [B]four [/B]years ago- he looked pathetic versus Wladimir.

GANZ says:

Someone is smoking the good stuff, First they put a pic of Chambers on the home page for the story then a pic of Rahman getting hand raised for the in the story.WOW

deepwater says:

he got a shot at the fat title because it was a setup. rahman threw no punches and should be banned and purse held. rahman should be ashamed of himself for having no pride. povecton is a can that should be ashamed for being involved. no wonder atlas ditched him. woods should be ashamed for saying rahman was dehydrated. really dude? dehydrated of what? dont make excuses for bum fighters just showing up for a payday. it means your just part of the scam. shame on everyone involved. really. shame on you.

brownsugar says:

Someone should be tried for committing a felony.