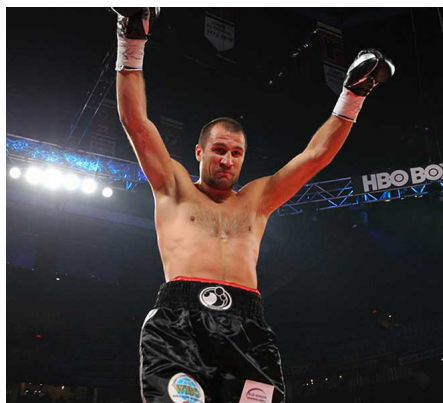


## KRUSHER IN A GROOVE: Heavy Handed Kovalev Stops Agnew

Written by Michael Woods

Saturday, 29 March 2014 22:34

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Sergey Kovalev possesses some filthy-powerful hands, and proved that to the willing and not untalented Cedric Agnew in the main event at the ballroom at Boardwalk Hall in AC on Saturday night. The end came at 58 seconds elapsed in round seven. He retained the WBO light heavy crown after scoring a knockdown in round seven, which took the breathe and willingness to continue out of Agnew, who did better than mmost folks suspected he would.

Kovalev had to work hard, and was cut on both eyes, on this night. Agnew showed that he was an experienced soul, and though he wasn't all that busy, his swift counters had Kovalev respecting him. But that power...Kovalev had him down in the second, sixth and then for good in the seventh, and he was no match for that sort of firepower. Postfight, Kovalev said he "found the key to the body." He saw that opening, to the body with his left, early on, and stored that knowledge away. Max Kellerman asked him about Adonis Stevenson, of whom he said, "I don't want to speak about Adonis Stevenson, Adonis Stevenson a piece of shit...Oh, sorry for my English," he said, breaking into a huge grin. He said he's ready for anyone and wants another crown.

Kovalev went 107-402 to 31-109 for the loser.

Kovalev (23-0 with 21 KOs entering; age 30; born in Russia, lives in Florida) was, while Agnew (age 27; 26-0 with 13 Kos entering; born in Chicago, trains in Houston) made the light heavy weight limit on his second try. K was 183, Agnew 187 at the fightnight weigh in.

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In the first, the lefty Agnew kept a high guard, with a peekaboo look. He backed up, as Kova looked to land his bombs. Agnew wanted to land a counter right, but he did land a low blow, and Kovalev went to the canvas briefly. He took a quick break.

In the second, Kovalev looked like he respected the possibility of a swift counter. Then he opened up, three, four at a time, and Agnew tried to stand tall. A left hook sent Agnew down, at the end of the round. It was the first one of his career.

In the third, Agnew came out winging. Then he was eating. Left hooks to the body, well placed rights were tagging Agnew. Agnew went down, but it wasn't a knockdown, at 25 seconds to go.

In the fourth, Kovalev had to be cautious, with Agnew's hand speed countering. He was cut, on his right eye, from a butt. Trainer John David Jackson told Kovalev to be patient in finding his shots.

In the fifth, Agnew was still standing tall. He wasn't backing down, sliding back, giving off a whiff of fear. He did get warned, for the third time, for going low.

In the sixth, a left hook scored Kovalev a knockdown. His knee touched the canvas, the ref might have thought, but he took an eight count, after crouching. He stood tall, hung in, and was looking to counter later in the round.

In the seventh, Agnew went down, and stayed on a knee. Fight over. The finishing blow was a left jab/hook to the body, after feinting and freezing with a right.

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### **Skibbz says:**

If you don't fight in a fight. You can't win. Agnew had some very short positive moments but moments were all that they were, and very brief.

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Kovalev found that liver a few times too many for Agnew. A nice performance I guess, but why bother training if you're not gonna throw a punch? Mayfield wasn't the only fighter to disrespect himself tonight...

Also that first knock down looked pretty tasty, Agnew didn't like it though..

### **DaveB says:**

This fight almost looked like when Ali fought Holmes. Of course, Ali wasn't the great Ali any more. Agnew fought out of a shell and the fight ended early predictably. Fighters sure don't give themselves a chance if they don't fight back. I remember when fighters wouldn't fight Tyson back and he ran all over them but when they started fighting back it got interesting. This fight makes me wonder a whole lot about what would happen with Kovalev and Superman even though it most likely won't happen now.

### **The Shadow says:**

This looked just like GGG vs. Stevens.

### **the Roast says:**

Agnew made Chicago look bad tonight. I have a feeling I will talk to him at the Chicago Golden Gloves Finals in two weeks. He seemed intimidated by the moment. Maybe he will be better next time.

### **brownsugar says:**

[QUOTE=the Roast;47436]Agnew made Chicago look bad tonight. I have a feeling I will talk to him at the Chicago Golden Gloves Finals in two weeks. He seemed intimidated by the moment. Maybe he will be better next time.[/QUOTE]

his parents kept a straight face throughout the entire fight. Stiff upper lip. This comes from knowing that you son has just made more money fighting Kovalev than all of his previous fights combined. .. and knowing that a good son.... always shares.

I have no doubt he'll be back to get another taste... as a gatekeeper somewhere down the line.

for a right hander, Kovalev throws the left jab like a power punch. the potency of his punches are unbelievable... I also doubt he would have faded in the later rounds. I have no doubt is a fully developed 12 round fighter.

### **Skibbz says:**

Ha... Good sons always share, perhaps, but the spoils could have been much larger.. Why give them a slice when you could have given them the whole loaf and some butter to grease it with.. His post fight reaction after bein counted out said it all for me.

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Still he lasted much longer than I expected so fair play to the man. I wonder how different it would have been had he pressed the attack, fought fire with fire. and Kova is a 12 rounder for sure. He trains, he's got so many rounds banked. He hasn't been in the trenches yet but no doubt when he gets stuck in a long drag he'll have the attributes in him to carry him to a victory.

### **The Commish says:**

Make no mistake, Sergey Kovalev is no fluke, no power-punching fighter who burns out by the third round. Last week, I was watching Cedric Agnew being interviewed on The Boxing Channel here on this site.

"He's only human," Agnew said of Kovalev. "He can be hurt. He can be beat."

I have heard those same words over and over again by the guys who were heavy underdogs with little chance of winning. They say those things trying to convince themselves they really have a chance of winning, when they know they really don't. Agnew knew it. He knew it from the moment he signed the contract. Yet, the challenger, the underdog, despite knowing they cannot possibly win, train with everything inside them, as if they have a realistic shot at winning. Then they give interviews, saying things like "He's never faced anybody like me" and "He's there to be hit."

Of course, their fight plan goes South the moment they get hit hard for the very first time. That's what happened to Agnew. Power jabs to the body bent him over and the rest pounded him and dropped him.

Finally, in the seventh round, Agnew stayed on a knee after being dropped. He knew he was finished. He knew he had no more to give.

He found out that perhaps Kovalev is not as human as he thought.

-Randy G.

### **deepwater2 says:**

Good fight to let Kovalev get some rounds in. He got by a opponant that really covered up and made it difficult. He also handled the cuts well. This fight adds to his experience so it's good. Great interview at the end

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### **flackoguapo says:**

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Agnew was able to throw some sharp counters even when he was being worn down. He is tough but was not active offensively enough AT ALL.

Kovalev really does have world class finishing skills as Shadow has mentioned. Reminded me of forwards like Ruud van Nistelrooy and Toni, world class finishing but not a lot of technique and flare..but can put any ball in the back of the net with any part of his body whichever way possible. Even it it looks a little sloppy.

That's what I see as one of Kovalevs best qualities, I feel like just has natural knack for sticking to the punches that hurt you and he knows how/when to finish you off.

Did anybody hear what Agnew told his corner after the 5th round in his corner? I missed it and was interested in what was said!

### **Skibbz says:**

Difference between Ruud and Kovalev is a whole lot of power! Agnew's activity let him down. When he fought himself off the ropes he did well, he had a few short spells where he I thought he might find a way back in... But if your game plan against a certified banger is clam up till the later rounds... Chances are you're gonna get caught when he starts finding those gaps.

### **flackoguapo says:**

[QUOTE=Skibbz;47488]Difference between Ruud and Kovalev is a whole lot of power! Agnew's activity let him down. When he fought himself off the ropes he did well, he had a few short spells where he I thought he might find a way back in... But if your game plan against a certified banger is clam up till the later rounds... Chances are you're gonna get caught when he starts finding those gaps.[/QUOTE]

Yup! A lot of power! But you see what I am trying to say right? I completely agree with you on the lack of strategy on Agnews side, but I think he was trying to go to deep waters not realizing he was going to get his \*\*\* taxed all the way through. That left to the body was a major gap Kovalev found and took full advantage of.

### **Skibbz says:**

Yeah and it's a nice way to put it. Hahaha, he didn't get taxed, he got man handled and extorted! (maybe that's some exaggeration... but he didn't have a foot in the race if you ask me).

He found the X on Agnew's map, to his surprise (and everybody else's) it only took a few punts before he struck gold.. Cedric the Quitta Agnes.