Written by Michael Woods
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There are no regrets flowing from HBO boxing's Kery Davis stemming from the Saturday stinkeroo between Wladimir Klitschko and David Haye. At the Paul Williams-Erislandy Lara press luncheon at the Palm West in NYC on Wednesday, Davis said the ratings were "terrific."

Fight fans know HBO has in recent years looked at th heavyweight division like the parents looked at Jan Brady: not as pretty as the other ones, and often best avoided. Wladimir and Haye both did their thing in trying to make HBO regret jumping into the heavyweight pool with subpar and super subpar showing, but Davis looked on the bright side of things.

"I'm happy that we did it," he said. He said he was happy with the event, and liked the passion shown by the fans in Hamburg. "In many ways the fight was disappointing, whether it was the matchup of styles or what have you. The styles didn't work. Whether David couldn't push off the toe or what, I'm not going to get into that. In the first round I said uh oh, if Haye can't inside and throw his Hayemaker, we're in for a long night."

I asked about Wladimir fighting Cris Arreola in the US at the end of the year. Davis said he wasn't sure, it was too early to tell, and that he needed to figure out Wladimir's mandatory situation, as he had been slated to fight Dereck Chisora, was injured, and then switched to a Haye scrap instead. "Yes, I'd be interested, I think Arreola is still an interesting American heavyweight. I think he has a new twist to the story with the weigh loss, and I've always though Wladimir was a better matchup for Cris than Vitali. Yes, we'd be interested."

Comment on this article

Condor says:

Up until the fight, it was very entertaining. Even Larry Merchant, not one to freely praise, was very complimentary of the lead-up and promotion. But the problem with this fight wasn't that, but

instead was the lack of a legitimate challenger. Through all of his bluster and hubris, Haye actually became the betting favorite in London (and he certainly was the betting favorite here at TSS). The guy's a MASTER salesman. But not much of a fighter. The Valuev fight was there for all to see. Haye had an abysmal punch output and literally ran -not boxed- the entire night. It was a miracle he got the decision (Valuev was winning rounds to me in that he was pressing the action and he was the guy making the "fight"). If Haye was afraid to engage the terribly ordinary Valuev, how in the world was he going to engage Klitschko? There was absolutely no evidence to indicate that he'd put himself in harm's way and mount an offense. Indeed, the evidence suggested he'd do just the opposite, and that came to pass. At the end of the day, Haye was just another number, a glorifed version of Ray Austin. I'd give Haye NO chance against Adamek, and even Arreola would probably have his way with him. Any number of heavyweights would beat Haye.

the Roast says:

[QUOTE=Condor;7705]Up until the fight, it was very entertaining. Even Larry Merchant, not one to freely praise, was very complimentary of the lead-up and promotion. But the problem with this fight wasn't that, but instead was the lack of a legitimate challenger. Through all of his bluster and hubris, Haye actually became the betting favorite in London (and he certainly was the betting favorite here at TSS). The guy's a MASTER salesman. But not much of a fighter. The Valuev fight was there for all to see. Haye had an abysmal punch output and literally ran -not boxed- the entire night. It was a miracle he got the decision (Valuev was winning rounds to me in that he was pressing the action and he was the guy making the "fight"). If Haye was afraid to engage the terribly ordinary Valuev, how in the world was he going to engage Klitschko? There was absolutely no evidence to indicate that he'd put himself in harm's way and mount an offense. Indeed, the evidence suggested he'd do just the opposite, and that came to pass. At the end of the day, Haye was just another number, a glorifed version of Ray Austin. I'd give Haye NO chance against Adamek, and even Arreola would probably have his way with him. Any number of heavyweights would beat Haye.[/QUOTE]

Well said. I agree.

brownsugar says:

I don't know how much running Haye was doing, it was more like Haye was limping in slow motion and the Giant still couldn't swat the fly.....I was hoping Wlad would step to him at a pace that would've had him huffing and puffing by round 5 (because everyone knows Haye can't go a brisk pace...) Yes Kerry can finally pat himself on the back after ignoring the Kbrothers for years.. But it would have been ridiculous for him to not do everything in his power to air this on HBO. On paper it was the biggest clash this side of Mayweather vs Pac... even if Haye didn't have a realistic chance.. he brought out the dreamers in fans who wanted to see david slay the big boring goliath. Hopefully Kerry can broaden the scope of HBO and put on some more international talent since the good OL USA isn't the only place to find all the best boxing talent anymore... a good place to look is at the European middleweights... N'Jikam, Golovkin, Pirog, and Korobov... Kerry could initiate what they never did in the 90's and early 2000, (fights featuring boxers like Toney, Roy Jones or Hopkins vs the Calzaghes and Eubanks of the world

when they were still in their prime). If Kerry says so,.. it will happen. It's not like anyone is holding their breath to see who what bum Chavez Junior is going to fight on PPV.

Radam G says:

"TERRIFIC!" Wow! Mythology, bullsh*tology and hypeology will always bring those suckas who are born every minute running. Mythology, bullsh*tology and hypeology have made umpteen more moola than reality, commonsense, and actuality will ever make. Wow! So many will buy any media bizzed-up dejecta. Holla!

deepwater says:

The Klitchos boring style is a negative for the sport. Haye didnt do what he said but Klitco doesnt have a killer instinct.will not throw combos. people want to see a fight not a guy that uses his physical advatages not to get hurt. MMA will continue to dominate and boxing will keep slipping afer this. Evey lay person at work I told to watch the fight said it was a waste of time and they are not interested anymore. congrats klitcos. another lost decade of heavyweightboxing on the way

Radam G says:

I have a rare disagreement with my man, deepwater. It is called the heavyweight division. In yesteryears, this so-called "physical advantages" didn't mean JACK! This era of heavies are just pathetic. Jack Dempsey registered no complaints about giants. Neither did Joe Louis, Rocky Marciano, Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Larry Holmes or Mike Tyson. A REAL fighter deals with what is in front of him. Six-foot-six Ernie Terrell got the _____ beat outta him by 6-foot-2 Muhammad Ali. Six-foot-six Primo Canera got the jive turkey beat outta him by 6-foot-3 Max Baer and 6-foot-1/2 Joe Louis. 6-foot-6 Buster Mathis got the fat beat outta him by 5-foot-9 1/2 Smokin Joe Frazier. 6-foot-6 Carl "The [un]Truth" Williams got chopped down by 6-foot-3 Larry Holmes. Just to name a few. I can accept any excuses from 6-foot-2 5/8 David Haye losing to 6-foot-6 Doc Wlad Klits. Holla!

brownsugar says:

I generally disagree with Deepwater as a human being.... period (lol)..... but I have to say Radam... that I think the DEEP ONE is making sense. You mentioned a few big men RG,... but these guys weren't Giants... you know your fighting a Giant when the guys HEAD is 50% larger than his opponents... The closest boxing had to a true Giants from the Ali era was George Foreman...a puncher who was an uninhibited wrecking ball of a fighter... he usually outweighed his opponents by no more that 15-18 pounds at the very most (when you consider his size difference over Frazier) and he cut down Frazier like he was whipping his son in the tool shedd.....Frazier couldn't get anywhere near Foreman with his vaunted body attack... he ran into haymakers before he was even close enough to touch Foreman(or covering up for safety)..... Foreman used his size advantage to totally dominate,.. terrorize,.. and brutilize the best boxers of his era like Norton, Frazier, and all the rest. ...it took another "semi-Giant" like Ron Lyle to get up in his grill and do some damage..... If foreman was 6'6" and had 25 more

pounds more bone and muscle-mass like the Kbrothers have.... NOBODY would have ever fought him as he would literally have been lethal in the ring..... yes .... there have historically been some big bums,.. but size to a man who can use it as effectively as the Kbrothers is even better than pure talent to a certain degree. And although he's limited in what tools he uses in the ring... nobody ever said.... Wlad can't box a little.

Radam G says:

Wow! B-SUG! Maybe you missed some of the fighters of "Ali's era." Big George was far from a giant. He was 6-foot-3 and 218lbs. However Ernie Terrell was 6-foot-6 and 224lbs. Joe Burgner was 6-foot-5 and 3/8 and 245lbs. Buster Mathis was 6-foot-6 and 1/4 and 258lbs. And going back to Joe Louis's era Primo Carena was 6-foot-6 and a half and 250lbs. Buddy Baer was 6-foot-5 3/6 and 245lbs. Jack Dempsey fought Lou Firpo [name misspelled], 6-foot-6 246lbs and Jess Willard at 6-foot-6 1/2 and 260lbs. There was a Nigerian WBO world champion who was 6-foot-10 and 260lbs or 270lbs in the 1990s, B-Sug. He got his arse handed to him by real fighters. I know that you are going to keep challenging me on this BIG MAN jive___, B-Sug, but your thesis about them is largely based in mythology and bullsh*tology.

From Time Immemorial, it has just been HYPED about the size of a BIG MAN. Goliaths and Bunderbores have lost 98 percent of the time to ATGs. Before the K-bros/docs, the only BIG MAN who beat a great boxer was Jess Willard beating Jack Johnson, who took a dive for an extra 30thou. Other than that, Kevin McBride [name could be misspelled or wrong] beat up on doped-up, washed-up, fudged-up rust-up "Iron" Mike Tyson. Boxing is like magic. If you don't know the show and the history thoroughly, the magicians will put it on you. Smoke and mirror and trapdoors. Giants, with those big feet, cannot handle boxing.

The bottomline, B-Sug! Giants around about heavyweight boxing are not new. The nowadays David Hayes are just some sorry muthajokers. They could not wear the jockstraps of Jack Johnson, Jack Dempsey, Rocky Marciano, Joe Louis or GOAT Ali. These nowadays suckas couldn't even beat the likes of Tommy Burns, Two-Ton Tony Galento, Jerry Quarry or even Terry Daniels. Hehehehe! The heavies stink, and size doesn't matter. Just wait and observe, B-Sug. In the end, the fine TSSU masterscribes are going to get on their mastery weaving and prove me RIGHT. They have RIGHTEOUS done that umpteen TIMES. So yall know what TIME IT IS! Holla!

Radam G says:

The only semi-gaints were 6-foot-4 and a half, 225'bs Cleveland "Big Cat" Williams and 6-foot-1/2, 219lbs Sonny "NightTrain" Liston. That's right! Liston was not BIG at all, by nowadays standards. Holla!

the Roast says:

Here we go again...

michaelabii says:

[QUOTE=Radam G;7756]The only semi-gaints were 6-foot-4 and a half, 225'bs Cleveland "Big Cat" Williams and 6-foot-1/2, 219lbs Sonny "NightTrain" Liston. That right! Liston was not BIG at all, by nowadays standards. Holla![/QUOTE]

I agree Radam. In fact watching then Cassius Clay fight Cleveland Williams (Alis best performance by far!) makes you realize that Ali was one of the bigger heavies of his era. I still think a great little man beats a good big man.

brownsugar says:

Radam, you're one stubborn fellow,....and that's not necessarily a bad thing... I checked out you math, and I found some discrepancies.. Joe Bugner was 6'4" and weighed around 223 lbs at his peak, Cleveland Williams was 6'3" and weighed 212lbs when he fought a 213 pound Ali. Earny Terrell was 6'6" but only weight between 198lbs,.. maxing out at 228lbs towards the end of his career. George Forman averaged 220..

My point is.... the Kbrothers dwarfed all those guys by 25-30 pounds... Nobody in any era of the sport had that kind of size advantage over their opponents like they do. Wlad looks like a marvelously conditioned middleweight, in the proportional body of heavyweight. Their massive bone structure is more of an advantage than the muscle mass that drives it. And WK isn't a victim of giantism (suffering from an overactive proturitary gland) he's a bonifide giant. Free of genetic defects or abnormalities.

Finallly RG your last comment actually supports my "Thesis". If Sonny Liston was a giant by 1970's or 60's standards... And guys like Sonny dominated smaller Heavies by having only a 10-15 pound advantage... how much more advantage is it to be 4 inches taller and have a 30 pound advantage over almost everybody??

Sure every generation has it's Primo Carnera's, Julius Long's and Tye Field's. But fighters with the pedigree, background and training of the marvelously cultivated Kbrothers will use their size to rule the division with an iron fist.... Even Wlad himself said that he and his brother have created a "Crisis" in the heavyweight vision as a result of their talent and thier immence "Size" advantages. quote "no-one can compete with us".... and so far he's been correct..... Expect WK to break Louis's Record of 21 defenses within 2 years if the young giants havent matured enough to intervene by then.

We can continue this debate on the steps of the Staples Center when I make my late Autumn trip to Cali... if you like..or we can agree to disagree..... pc my friend.

DaveB says:

I think the problem with fighting the Klitschko's is that they are masters of distance. They, and I mean both of them, will do anything, up to and including running, to keep that space. If it means leaning back, back pedaling, keeping the weight on the back foot or whatever they will do it. They fight in a defensive mode, have decent boxing skills, come in phenomenal shape, fight on the outside, and they have crushing punching power which eventually wears people down. It is

boring as hell but effective as hell too. Unless someone finds a way to get inside they will rule for a long time. Eventually time will catch up to anybody but they will not be defeated for several years unless someone can figure how out go to the body or figure out how get to their chins. Once it is safe then and only then will they drop the hammer and put the guy to sleep. The audience is already asleep.

Radam G says:

B-Sug, boxing lies about size. [You did exactly what I expected. But remember boxing is the threatre of the expected. It would have been unexpected if you'd had not responded.] Doc WK is actually 6-foot-five and 1/4 barefooted. Apparently boxing is just as basketball. Kareem Abdul Jabbar was listed as 7-foot-2 with shoe, but is 6-foot-11 and 1/2 without them. My boy Kobe Bryant is listed at 6-foot-7, but is barely over 6-foot-5 without shoes.

You know the game, B-Sug. You were in the military. Your height barefooted is amost two inches shorter without the shoes. There is always official syet and actual syet. Do you really believe that the Cali Crusher Cris Areola is 6-foot-3 or 6-foot-4? Or that Da Manny is 5-foot-6 and 1/2? Maybe you should holla at Bobby C, aka Robert Curtis. He'll tell you boxing magically up-sizing and occasionally downsize fighters for business hype. I be hiding in plain sight right in front of him and TSS West Coast Bureau Chiefy D-Double-A at bouts in Cali often. [And men put their height up just as women put their weight and age down.] Money May is listed at 5-foot-8 with shoes. Without shoes, he is 5-foot-6 and 5/8.

B-Sug, you need to get around the athletes a bit more. Hyping them is big business. GOAT Ali was actually 6-foot-1 and 5/8 without shoes, and you know the powers that be put him at 6-foot-3. Mike Tyson, Joe Frazier, Archie Moore and Rocky Marciano were barely 5-foot-9, but for years, and a lot of times even now, the powers that be have them at 5-foot-11 and 1/2. Even short-arse Floyd Patterson was listed at 5-foot-11, but he wasn't a tick over 5-foot-8. Come on, B-Sug, you are the stubborn one. I'm loosy-goosy and not breakable, but bendable, like a bamboo stick to the truth -- THE WHOLE TRUTH, so help you GOD! I just deal with the actualities and realities. Boxing is just as magic -- tricking the audience and those not in the know. Sometimes people are self-tricked, because like you, they are extremed about being right. Gamers in boxing have nothing with being wrong. As the oldtimers say: "If you get it wrong, just make it right." Holla!

Radam G says:

One last point, B-Sug. You support my spit by naming Ernie Terrell and Sonny "Night Train" Liston. The business part of boksing is full of bullsh*tology and ex-eggerated Ernie into being a GIANT and Sonny into being the "Big Ugly Bear" to get paying butts in those seats. Sonny, like Smokin' Joe Frazier, was not ugly. Nowadays the same business part of boksing ex-eggerates the K-bros/docs into being too huge and tall and invincible for their sorry-arse competition. There has always been good-fighting giants, 25-36 pounds bigger and more than four inches taller. To name a few, Joe Louis listed at 6'1, 194lbs fought listed at 6'6 255lbs Primo Canera. Jack Dempsey listed at 6'0 fought listed at 6'5, 246lbs Lou Firpo. Smokin' Joe Frazier listed at 5'11 1/2 fought listed at 6'6 258lbs Buster Mathis. Mathis whupped da Smoke three times in the

amateurs. A broken hand kept Mathis from going to the Olympic. Smokin' Joe went and won as an alternate. B-Sug, you may need to holla at those in the know about scale and height tricks for promotional purposes. The game is full of magic -- optical illusions.

Again, the K-bros/docs are not usual, special or all a sudden new types of BIG HEAVYWEIGHTS, as Teddie Atlas said during the Friday Night Fights. This era of heavies are just pathetic, lazy, cowardly and butt sorry. There's no excuse for a broke toe. WTF! The sucka David Haye had nine other good toes, 10 good fingers and two fists. And you fight with your hands, not your feet or darn toes. Fudge dat sorry sucka! He broke his pinkie toe! The Cuban Solis -- or whatever his name was -- is just as trifling. So what he hurt one knee. Didn't his fat arse have another good knee. The K-bros/docs SIZE doesn't matter. Their competition is just _____. Looking for some type of BIG MAN EXCUSE doesn't amount to a hill of beans. Even the big jokers that you named couldn't beat the bum K-bros/docs. So, again, SIZE doesn't and haven't EVER mattered.

By the way, the paid site Fightfax is more reliable about fighters' correct sizes, heights and records. Boxrec is not reliable, and admits to incorrections. It prefers melodrama bullspit and imput instead of hardcore truths. The site is about getting tons of hits. Holla!