

Kubrat Pulev Next For Wladimir Klitschko?

Written by Michael Woods
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The Sauerland Brothers, Kalle and Nisse, are hopeful their man, Kubrat Pulev, will get next crack at Wladimir Klitschko, who only needed about 50% of his skills to drop and stop Alex Leapai, an immobile Samoan born Aussie who landed ten or fewer punches in a bout stopped in round five, in Germany on Saturday.

A Klitschko-Pulev bout would be an IBF mandatory; Pulev, from Bulgaria, is the IBF No. 1. "That fight is well overdue," the Sauerlands told me. "The letters should go out Monday to begin negotiations."

The last IBF mandatory, for the record, was Wlad vs. Tony Thompson, in the summer of 2012. The rules stipulate a champ must do a mandatory defense once every nine months, after initially being given a year to make ones first defense...so yes, it seems Wlad is overdue.

And, pray tell, how do we know that Pulev (age 32; from Bulgaria; 20-0 with 11 KOs) will have any better luck than Leapai?

"His size, physical strength and strong East European school boxing technique" is how, the Sauerlands told me.

Pulev holds a UD12 win over Thompson, who was stopped by Wlad twice, in 2008 (KO11) and 2012 (TKO6). At 6-4 1/2, at around 250-plus pounds, at least he should be physically, on paper anyway, a better match for Wlad than some others we've seen.

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ArneK. says:

About Pulev's "strong East European school boxing technique." One could have said the same about Denis Boytsov, a Russian, and Boytsov was out-pointed by Alex Leapai -- and in Germany, no less.

A more intriguing match than Wlad-Pulev would be a match between Wlad and Tyson Fury. Note that I said intriguing; I don't know if it would be competitive.

oubobcat says:

I have seen Pulev fight a few times. The best way I can describe him is that he does a lot of things well but nothing that really stands out. He is not a big puncher but he punches do carry some force behind them. He does not tremendously fast hands but his hand speed is not bad. His jab is decent but not one that really stands out. Pulev's defense is solid but there are holes. Essentially, he is a fundamentally sound fighter and has enough skills to beat the gatekeepers and some of the top ten in the heavyweight division. But as far as competing on a high level with Klitschko, I think Klitschko does everything Pulev does but far better. I see a fight with Pulev as being almost a carbon copy of Klitschko's fight with Ruslan Chagaev a few years ago.

deepwater2 says:

The winner of fury vs chisora . The winner of the Chris A fight. Shannon Briggs would have been more interesting getting knocked out rather than leipai. The winner of Jennings vs Perez. There isn't anything else. Charr is trying.Wilder will get squeezed to death against Klit . In 4 years maybe hughie fury or Olexander uysk could give it a go. Better yet Cuban heavyweight Savon can defect?

oubobcat says:

I'd really like to see the winner of Jennings-Perez get Klitschko next. I think either of them can at least give Klitschko some kind of test. Jennings is very athletic and has been developing nicely as a pro. His technique has gotten a lot better over the last two years. Taking out Haye (who didn't really try), Jennings would be the most athletically gifted fighter that Klitschko would have faced in a very long time. Perez can be more of a volume puncher and I think he learned a lot from his fight with Takam. He at the very least will be throwing and forcing Klitschko to think in the ring and maybe fight outside his comfort zone. Either way, I'd like to see the winner face Wlad next.