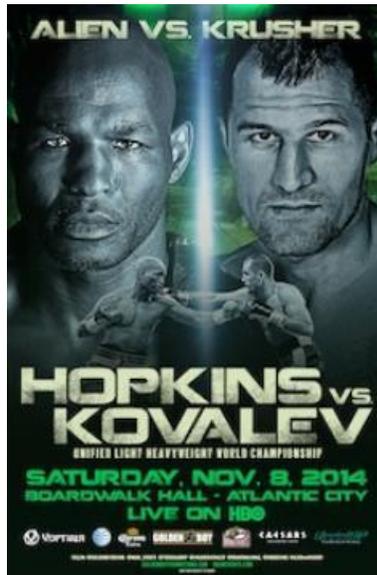


Bernard Hopkins vs. Sergey Kovalev: Hopkins Already Won By Decision...Unless



I want to be extremely clear on this: "I am not saying the outcome is pre-determined by a crime syndicate or fixed in any way, shape, or form." But, I am saying the actions of Sergey Kovalev helped me come to a less than strategic decision on who will win the most anticipated boxing match of 2014. I truly believe Bernard "The Executioner" / "The Alien" or whatever he is called, will ruin another young gunner's career.



Sergey "Krusher" Kovalev has been fun to watch. He has annihilated 23 opponents on his way to 25 wins. He has emphatically knocked out his last nine challengers; leaving no doubt he is Top of the class in the light heavyweight division. I remember first seeing him in 2011 at the Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas where he destroyed Doug Okola. I saw him again on the NBC Fight Night show September 2012 at the Sands Casino Resort in Bethlehem, PA. He was fighting on the King Gabriel Rosado/Charles Whittaker card. Kovalev impressively Crushed Lionell Thompson, and my fascination with how strong, confident,

and just how old school man'ish he was grew to almost worshipping heights. In my opinion, Kovalev was showing the most complete defensive and offensive arsenal in the sport. Then Blake Caparelo happened.

Sergey Kovalev was supposed to have a tune up fight with unbeaten but untested Blake "Il Capo" Caparelo. The fight on paper was pretty much a joke, and no one expected anything more than "Krusher" to show off his skills. Prior to the fight, nothing, and I mean nothing Caparelo did bothered Kovalev. Matter of factly, the biggest buzz in Atlantic City and probably around the boxing world was the rumor of a possible Kovalev/Hopkins fight. Kathy Duva and Main Events were professionally coy and Golden Boy was dealing with internal issues, so verifying the rumor was challenging. Then an hour to 45 minutes prior to the Kovalev/Caparelo fight, it happened. Bernard Hopkins coolly waltzed into the now defunct Revel boxing arena, and all hell broke loose. The media swarmed him, fans swarmed him, and even HBO temporarily lost focus. The rumors were confirmed and all of the talk focused on Hopkins vs. Kovalev. Kovalev vs. Caparelo, which had not happened yet, was a fleeting memory.



Sergey Kovalev took care of business and scored a 2nd round TKO of Caparelo. Was it Kovalev's most dominating fight? Nope. Kovalev was dropped in round 1 by an overhand right from the light hitting IL Capo. Did referee Sparkle Lee stop the fight a little too early? Probably. IL Capo probably could have survived a count, made it out of the corner, and survived one more round. He would not have done much after, but he could have lived through the last attack. But, this is why I believe Kovalev will not win.



I wrote earlier Kovalev was strong, confident, and old school man'ish. On this night, from the first time he saw Bernard "The Alien" Hopkins during his ring walk to the last time Kovalev saw him on the HBO post fight interview, Kovalev looked awestruck. I won't go as far to say he was scared, but definitely distracted. The sad part was Hopkins knew it. Hopkins knew he was in the kid's mind during the fight and after. I give and will continue to give Kovalev the utmost credit for trying to speak English. At times he struggles, but at times he is dead on and very entertaining as he was ripping Adonis Stevenson after his win over Cedric Agnew, "I don't want to talk about Adonis Stevenson. He is a piece of shit." That is the Sergey Kovalev I love. That is the confident "KRUSHER." Kovalev's performance in and out of the ring, were nowhere comparable to his previous beat downs and confident post fight talks. Kovalev needs to nut up and find the strong, confident, and old school man'ish "Krusher!" If he does not, Bernad Hopkins will walk the Dog with him in another boring victory.

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