

Hopkins throttles Pavlik in lopsided Jersey fight

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Bernard Hopkins gave Kelly Pavlik a boxing lesson and a first loss that he will never forget.

The 43-year-old Hopkins used lightning quick combinations and a cagey, near-perfect defense to embarrass and confuse Pavlik in a 12-round non-title bout Saturday night at Boardwalk Hall.

Hopkins, who dominated the middleweight class for a decade, made the 26-year-old Pavlik — the WBC and WBO middleweight champion — look slow and powerless in fighting at 170 pounds, 10 pounds over his weight class.

"I think this was my best performance, better than [Antonio] Tarver, better than [Felix] Trinidad, better than Oscar [De La Hoya], better than my 21 defenses," Hopkins said. "I am extremely happy."

Hopkins received winning scores of 119-106 from judge Alan Rubenstein, 117-109 from Barbara Perez and 118-108 from Steve Weisfeld.

The mismatch was obvious from the opening bell, and Hopkins reveled in the beating he gave the Youngstown, Ohio boxer. By the fifth round, Pavlik was bleeding from the nose and by the seventh Hopkins was taunting him.

During one stretch in the round, Hopkins landed four or five straight punches, and then stepped back started winding up on his punches before delivering them.

"He was a great fighter but I knew my style and quickness was underrated and it was going to give him problems tonight," Hopkins added.

Pavlik (34-1) never stopped stalking Hopkins of Philadelphia, but he never seemed to hurt him.

"I just could not get off tonight," Pavlik said. "I don't know why? It was not his slickness. It just wasn't me out there tonight. I couldn't do anything I'm used to doing. We're going back to the drawing board. It just wasn't me tonight. I'll be more comfortable going back to 160."

With tinges of gray in his beard, Hopkins even looked the fresher fighter.

He came into ring wearing an executioner's mask and Black robe with an 'X' on both, and he terminated Pavlik's perfect mark in improving to (49-5-1).

The crowd had come to hail Pavlik, who had battered Gary Lockett in his first title defense in June.

When he was in trouble early, they chanted "Kel-lee! Kel-lee!"

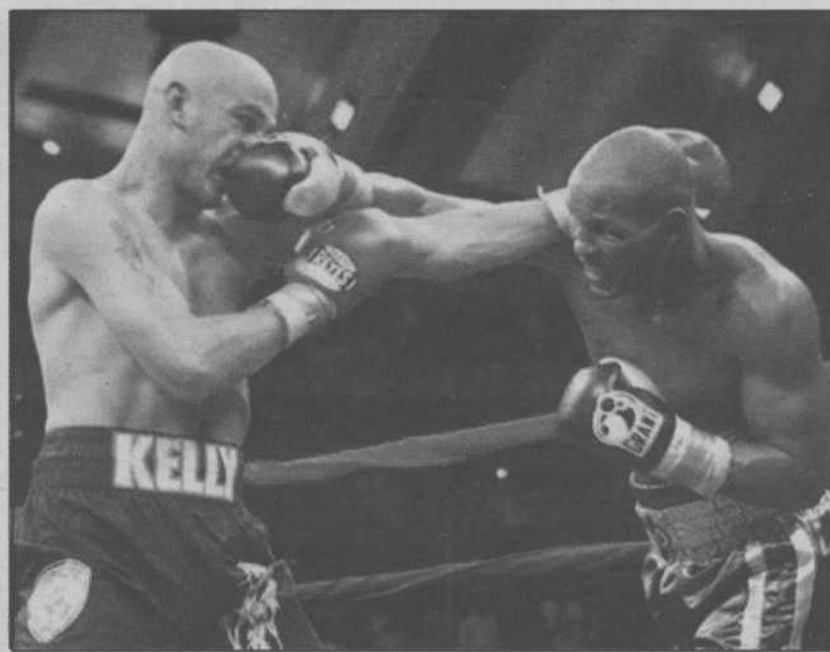
Halfway through the fight the chants become "B-Hop!

B-Hop!"

Hopkins landed a barrage of blows in the 12th round and started yelling at Pavlik in a move that was no more than a gleeful taunt.

"I wanted to pick it up and step it up," Hopkins said. "I wanted to stop him."

When the final bell sounded, both fighters continued to throw punches. (See Fight, Page 11)



Bernard Hopkins, right, lands a punch on Kelly Pavlik during the 5th round of light heavyweight boxing match in Atlantic City, N.J. on Saturday.

Phenom first girl to win GC tourney

Zakiya Randall, the 17-year-old female golfing sensation has once again made history against some of the best male amateurs on the Golf Channel Tour.

After qualifying for the Georgia Golf Channel Championship at both the local and national levels, last month won the final tournament of the season in September at Arbor Springs Golf & Resort Club in Georgia.

Randall has been thrilling the nation and is expected to become the next LPGA star. Concerning her accomplishments, "Z," as she is known by admiring fans, said "I am excited to be able to win on the most difficult level of play, on one of the most challenging golf courses, against some of the best adult men amateur tour players on the Georgia Golf Channel Tour."

"Z" has also become a media darling appearing on the Tayis Smiley radio show and in *Sports Illustrated* and *Ebony* magazine. Additional information about the teen golfing sensation is available on her website: www.zakiyarandall.com.



Zakiya Randall

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