



KELLY PAVLIK vs. JERMAIN TAYLOR

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 ♦ MGM GRAND GARDEN ARENA
LIVE ON HBO PAY-PER-VIEW**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 29, 2007

**KELLY PAVLIK AND JERMAIN TAYLOR RELOAD FOR SECOND BATTLE
SATURDAY, FEB. 16 AT MGM GRAND IN LAS VEGAS**

Tickets Now On Sale

LAS VEGAS – The storied middleweight division has been rife with legendary rivalries. In the ‘40s Rocky Graziano had Tony Zale, in the ‘50s Sugar Ray Robinson, Carmen Basilio and Gene Fullmer fought each other and in the ‘60s Nino Benvenuti battled Emile Griffith. However, for the past 40 years, the middleweight division has endured a void of great champions without great championship rivalries – until now.

Boxing’s two best middleweights, undefeated world champion Kelly “The Ghost” Pavlik and once-defeated former world champion Jermain “Bad Intentions” Taylor, will resume their hostilities at 166 pounds, when they face-off in a battle of epic proportions. Boasting a combined record of 59-1-1 (46 KOs), a sterling winning percentage approaching 97% and victory by knockout percentage of 78%, the Pavlik vs. Taylor collision explodes Saturday, Feb. 16, 2008 at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. Promoted by Top Rank and DiBella Entertainment, the 12-round Pavlik vs. Taylor rumble will be produced and distributed live by HBO Pay-Per-View, beginning at 9 p.m. EST/6 p.m. PST.

Tickets priced at \$600, \$400, \$300, \$200 and \$100 are now on sale and available at any MGM Grand box office outlet. Tickets also are sold at all Las Vegas Ticketmaster locations (select Smith’s Food and Drug Centers, Macy’s West at the Fashion Show Mall and Ritmo Latino). Ticket sales are limited to eight (8) per person. To charge by phone with a major credit card, call Ticketmaster at (702) 474-4000 or MGM Grand at (800) 929-1111. Tickets also are available for purchase at www.mgmgrand.com or www.ticketmaster.com.

“I have made a career out of fighting and beating the best and this fight is no exception,” said Pavlik, who defeated Taylor in September with a seventh-round TKO. “Just because I beat Jermain before doesn’t take away from the fact that he is still the best contender out there. I dedicated my entire training to take away his title when we fought the first time and I will do no less to make sure I win this time because that’s what it will take to beat him again.”

Taylor rebutted saying, “You can over hype this fight, if you want, call it a career-defining fight, because that’s exactly what this fight is for me. This is the most important fight of my career. I’m putting it in my trainer’s hands (Ozell Nelson) but I’m putting it in mine also, because I know exactly what I have to do. Ozell has been with me from the beginning and he knows the buttons to push with me that made me a world champion. We are ready to go back to work like we used to do it.”

(more)

Pavlik vs. Taylor II at the MGM Grand Garden Arena...2

Pavlik's promoter Bob Arum, chief executive officer of Top Rank, exclaimed, "J.D. Power and Associates couldn't rate a fight more dangerous than this one. Kelly Pavlik is Youngstown's real-life John Henry – a steel-drivin' man with hammers for fists; only Kelly's not folklore, he's the real McCoy. He has captured the imagination of sports fans and media worldwide. Anyone who gets into the ring not only fights Kelly but all of Youngstown. Their first fight was a classic and boxing fans can expect no less this time."

Lou DiBella, chief executive officer of DiBella Entertainment, agreed, "Taylor vs. Pavlik was one of the great middleweight fights in memory and a fight that truly deserves a second go. I am proud to be co-promoting the rematch and I'm confident that Jermain can reverse the first result."

HBO Pay-Per-View President Mark Taffet stated, "The first battle between Kelly Pavlik and Jermain Taylor became an instant classic and has fight fans still buzzing. The Pavlik vs. Taylor II rematch will undoubtedly be one of the most highly-anticipated match-ups of 2008."

Pavlik (32-0, 29 KOs), from Youngstown, Ohio, joins former lightweight champions Harry Arroyo and Ray "Boom Boom" Mancini as hometown world champions. He returns to the ring after a "Fighter of the Year" performance, knocking out Jose Luis Zertuche (19-3-2, 14 KOs) and Edison Miranda (28-1, 24 KOs) in world title elimination bouts, earning him the right to become Taylor's mandatory challenger. Overall, Pavlik had a career year defeating three of the best who boasted a combined record of 74-4-3 (55 KOs) at the time he faced them. Pavlik's stoppage of Taylor extended his two-year victory by knockout streak to nine bouts.

Taylor (27-1-1, 17 KOs), from Little Rock, Ark., the 2000 U.S. Olympic Bronze Medalist, captured the undisputed middleweight title in 2005 when he dethroned Bernard Hopkins, ending the defending champion's record run of consecutive title defenses at 20 -- a run that left world champions Oscar de la Hoya, Felix Trinidad and Glen Johnson, among others, in his wake. Taylor ruled the division for nearly two years, successfully defending his title four times, all against former world champions including Hopkins for a second time, Winky Wright, Kassim Ouma and Cory Spinks.

The Pavlik vs. Taylor II pay-per-view telecast, beginning at 9 p.m. EST/6 p.m. PST, has a suggested retail price of \$49.95, will be produced and distributed by HBO Pay-Per-View and will be available to more than 61 million pay-per-view homes. The telecast will be available in HD-TV for those viewers who can receive HD. HBO Pay-Per-View is the leading supplier of event programming to the pay-per-view industry. For Pavlik vs. Taylor II fight week updates, log on to www.hbo.com.

For room packages and availability and event ticket information about the MGM Grand, call (800) 929-1111 or (702) 891-7777 or log onto the World Wide Web at www.mgmgrand.com.

The MGM Grand Garden Arena is home to concerts, championship boxing and premier sporting and special events. The Arena offers comfortable seating for as many as 16,800 with excellent sightlines and state-of-the-art acoustics, lighting and sound. Prominent events to date have included world championship fights between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson as well as Oscar De La Hoya vs. Bernard Hopkins and George Foreman vs. Michael Moorer; and concerts by The Rolling Stones, Madonna, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney, Bette Midler, Gloria Estefan, Janet Jackson, Phil Collins, Billy Joel, Backstreet Boys, 'N Sync, Sting, Jimmy Buffett and the Barbra Streisand Millennium Concert. The MGM Grand Garden Arena also is home to the annual Andre Agassi Grand Slam for Children Benefit and the Academy of Country Music Awards (ACMA).

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