

Oct. 22,
2024Seriously, Take Jake Paul
Seriously?? Well, yeah, Maybe...

*At 'ere's me Mummy & Pops!

Jake Paul is slated to fight Mike Tyson in about a month (maybe just a week or so by the time this posts). Will you be watching? I sure would if I could. Like many people, I root for Tyson, partly from nostalgia and partly from the nagging sense that Jake Paul is an irredeemable ass. I don't like him much at all, and to the

extent he was growing on me — and he was — his outspoken bullshit attacks on Libyan (or is she Algerian?) boxer Imani Khelif during this year's olympics pulled the plug on his redemption, in my eyes.

That said (and I really HATE to say this!)... I think we all have to start taking this Jake Paul guy seriously. I know, it sucks, but hear me out. For years it's been not only easy to dismiss him as a boxer, but virtually mandatory to do so. So long as he kept fighting dumbass pseudo-celebrities and washed up ex-fighters who came in far below his weight class, what else could any self-respecting fight fan do but dismiss him? If he'd taken on just one good boxer, or at least one mediocre boxer his own size, we could've respected him a bit. But if he just kept on with his circus sideshow performances, then all he could ever really be was a clown.

Recently, though, his clownship has given way to something more serious.

It started with fighting Tommy Fury, which was a huge step in the right direction. Tommy is not only a real boxer, but a currently active one, and brother to the then-Heavyweight world champion. He had genuine credibility, and as far as I know, he was at least half of Jake Paul's size too, so that was something. Paul lost, as he should, but with that fight his record gained significant substance, if only through sheer volume plus one credible bout. Then came Mike Perry.

When Paul took on the ex-UFC brawler and current dominant force in the Bareknuckle Boxing league, he added to his credibility again. Sure, Platinum Mike was still a good bit smaller than Jackass Jake, but he was also considerably more

experienced and had a reputation as being considerably more fierce. It seemed like a fairly reasonable match up, and I thought the Platinum One would win for sure. But he didn't win. He lost. Badly. And that was the point where I simply had to admit to myself (and no doubt many others faced this same reckoning, as millions of us would-be tough guys, if we were even remotely honest or sane, had to finally face the fact that no, we really couldn't whoop this obnoxious prick anymore)... "gee, I guess this Jake Paul guy might be a fighter after all." R.I.P., ego.

Very soon, Jake Paul will fight another metallic Mike, the BADDEST Mike ever: Iron Mike Tyson. He's old now, more than twice Paul's age (and Jake Paul isn't even young anymore), but he's also Mike Effin' Tyson. Like I said, I'm pulling for a resounding Iron Mike victory, as so many are, and if he wins, I propose his nickname changes from "Iron" to "Stainless Steel", cuz there ain't no rust in that machine. But whether or not Jake Paul gets his ass handed to him by Mike Tyson, I now have to believe that this guy will probably go on to make a legitimate career in boxing. So far, he has not. But all the signs are there that he probably can. It would certainly be interesting to see him finally start fighting real, active professional boxers in his own weight class, and if he ever starts doing so, I might even be able to root for him. I've always favored underdogs. But first, he definitely needs to clean up ~~his~~ his horrendous comments about Imani Khelif. What he said, and really, did to her, was just a wicked low blow, and don't we all just fucking despise bullies? (Hmm... well, I guess we'll soon find that out, too, once this election is over next week! Lol!)