

## **PAUL “HURRICANE” BRIGGS**

**No. 1-Ranked WBC Light Heavyweight Contender  
Former Pan Pacific Cruiserweight Champion  
Former Australian and OPBF Light Heavyweight Champion  
Former World Kickboxing Assn. Super Middleweight World Kickboxing Champion  
Born on Aug. 13, 1975, in Gold Coast, Australia, now residing in Sydney, Australia  
Height: 5' 11 ½" Weight: Light Heavyweight (175)  
Record: 25-2, 18 KOs**

Even at the age of 6, Paul Briggs knew he wanted to be a boxer. His mother, however, refused to let him because she was worried he'd get hit too many times in the head. Instead, Paul and his twin brother Nathan focused their energies on the sport of kickboxing.

By the time Paul reached his teenage years, he was already sparring with and beating opponents twice his age. At 15, he became one of the youngest Australians in history to fight in a professional kickboxing bout. Less than two years after that, he went on to fight for a Kickboxing World Title against the great Thai fighter Jom Hod Sor Chid Lata.

Briggs lost that fight and admits to experiencing fear for the very first time. Looking back, he believes the encounter taught him more than any single event in his life.

“I was just a kid. It wasn't that Jom Hod was any better than me physically, he just beat me mentally.”

After a period of bitter disappointment, Briggs decided that if he was going to become the very best, then he would have to train with the very best. Still just 17, he packed his bags and travelled to Thailand alone to train with his world title opponent.

It wasn't until he arrived that he realised just how close he'd come to winning that fight. Briggs and Jom Hod became close friends and the seasoned Thai fighter eventually joked to Paul that they should never fight again for fear that they might kill each other—such was the intensity of their last battle.

Briggs spent three months living and training in Bangkok. As the only Westerner in camp and unable to speak Thai, he recalls it being a pretty harsh and lonely existence. He did learn a great deal about himself and how to become mentally tough.

By 19, he had won the world title he had been working so hard for. Eventually, he achieved just about everything one could in the sport of kickboxing.

After 56 professional fights in Japan, Thailand, New Zealand, Australia and U.S.A, Briggs began to lose interest in the sport. “At the time, I was fighting for all the wrong reasons. I had missed out on my adolescence. I didn't know what it was like to go out and have a beer with friends. I was tired and needed a change in my life.”

*(More...)*

Retiring from kickboxing, Briggs made a 180-degree turn to begin producing dance music. He worked as a DJ for two years, even performing in Tokyo at one point. Briggs built his own production studio and came close to signing a recording contract with a major German dance music label.

“I have always loved music and after living a rigid lifestyle for so many years, working as a DJ was the perfect job for me.”

It was during this period while attending the Indy Carnival in Surfers Paradise, that Paul was introduced to his future wife Tasha. Briggs admits that it was love at first sight.

“We were inseparable for days,” he said. Today the couple have a young boy, Isaiah, and a young girl, Aramea.

After a two-year break from the fight game, Briggs decided to return to the ring. This time, he pursued his first love, boxing—the sport he’d dreamed of taking up all those years earlier. He believes his time out of the ring was the best decision he ever made. It allowed him to evaluate his life and seek a balance.

“Many boxers never really understand what motivates them to fight. They fight because they are full of hate and that is their weakness. They end up destroying themselves. I made the move to boxing for the right reasons. I realised how much I loved the competition and I needed to find out just how good I could be.”

Under the guidance of legendary two-time international trainer of the year Jack Mosley, he put in long hours every day of gruelling physical and technical training.

Not surprisingly, Briggs places great emphasis on the mental aspects of training. About 70% of his workout is designed to condition the mind.

“When you find yourself in that dark painful place, the thousands of hours you’ve endured in training really start to pay off,” he said.

After winning his first professional boxing match in 1994, The Hurricane did not fight again until 1997. He fought as a light heavyweight and suffered a third-round knockout loss at the hands of Larl Zada. Briggs claims this loss was due to not taking boxing seriously. Since that loss, he reeled off 22 straight fights, 17 by knockout.

On July 8, 2000, Briggs won the IBF Pan Pacific Cruiserweight title against Daniel Rowsel. On Nov. 24, 2000, he won the Australian Light Heavyweight championship against Adrian Bellin (TKO 8). Briggs made his first boxing appearance outside of Australia, when he scored a third-round technical knockout over James Green in San Francisco on Nov. 10, 2001.

*(More...)*

He successfully defended the title three times. His last defense of that title solidified his standing as one of division's elite. On Sept. 18, 2002, he dismantled former world title challenger and main Australian rival Glenn "Kunga" Kelly in a brutal four-round destruction on Sept. 18, 2004.

On April 13, 2003, Briggs' won a decision against the old master Jorge Castro. The 35-year-old Castro, former World Boxing Association middleweight champion and World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation cruiserweight title challenger, brought the experience of 135 professional fights (124 victories) to bear against Briggs. The younger and quicker Australian won on all three judges' scorecards by comfortable margins.

Briggs won a unanimous decision after being dropped in the second round against Jesus Ruiz in a WBC light heavyweight elimination bout on March 7, 2004.

Briggs then won a second WBC light heavyweight eliminator with a lopsided unanimous decision win over Stipe Dreads on Aug. 15, 2004. With the win, Briggs became the mandatory challenger for then WBC Light Heavyweight Champion Antonio Tarver. In November, Tarver gave up his light heavyweight belt rather than defend against Briggs.

Still undefeated, Briggs was now ranked No. 1 by the WBC. This precipitated Briggs first world title appearance against WBC No. 4-ranked contender Tomasz Adamek, from Poland, for the vacant WBC Light Heavyweight title at the United Center in Chicago on May 21, 2005

"This fight is something that I have been looking forward to for a very long time and the stage is set for a classic fight," said the 29 year-old Briggs entering the match. "I am also stoked that we are fighting in Chicago because there are one million Poles in the city and I get to smash Adamek in front of 20,000 of them."

The undefeated Adamek was also making his first world championship appearance as well as participating in his first match in America. He predicted a victory.

"Briggs will have problems because I am too fast for him," Adamek said. "I came to the U.S. to become world champion. My faith in God will give me the mental and physical power to win this fight. I have had dreams of becoming world champion since I was 12."

The 20,126 spectators who showed up to see Adamek's countryman Andrew Golota face World Boxing Organization heavyweight champion "Relentless" Lamon Brewster (Golota was knocked out in just 53 seconds) had no idea that it would be another Pole and Briggs that would steal the show this night. In what turned out to be a 12-round slugfest, Fight of the Year candidate and a brutal display of wills, both combatants stood toe to toe landing bombs for most of the contest. It was not revealed until after the match that Adamek had suffered a broken nose in training that altered his sparring regimen—but he never considered backing out.

*(More...)*

As young fighters often do in their first world championship fight, most of the techniques and tactics were tossed out the window after the sound of the opening bell as both fighters tried to bang the other with power shots. And what a display it was.

Briggs had been a mixed-martial-arts fighter with a never-say-die attitude. That neither fighter went down in this brawl was a testament to both combatants. It was obvious that Briggs' mental toughness kept him in the fight. The only regret was that HBO did not include this tremendous bout as part of its broadcast, so American fans did not see it.

In the end, Adamek's boxing experience gave him a slight edge in boxing skills that may have been the difference for the scorers. Regardless, the fight was very close and could have gone either way. One judge scored it a 114-114 draw while the two remaining official scorers had it 117-113 and 115-113, respectively, in favor of Adamek.

Briggs was gracious in defeat.

"I felt I rocked him every other round," Briggs said. "I caught a lot of his power shots with my gloves. He was a good fighter. He put together good combinations. Of course I thought I won but that's the way it goes. It was a fair decision."

Adamek had nothing but praise for Briggs.

"This was my best fight ever," Adamek said after the fight. "Briggs was a strong, tough fighter but I was never going to give up. I know I made my country and family proud."

Briggs brought in Johnny Lewis as his new trainer and Greg Eastment as his new manager and rebounded by scoring a fifth-round technical knockout over a game but outmatched Etienne Whitaker on Oct. 15, 2005, in Dusseldorf, Germany. Interestingly, Adamek won his first title defense against Thomas Ulrich on the same card.

In his last appearance, Briggs was the victor over Jose Alberto Clavero on June 16.

Briggs has recently become a father for the second time. He was not only able to attend the birth this time around, he actually participated, which could not have been any more different from the birth of his first child.

"When I won the Australian light heavyweight championship a few years ago, my wife was actually giving birth to our son 20 minutes before I got into the ring. I was so drained emotionally that it made it very hard to fight. I heard my son's voice as they were gloving me up. He'd just been born and the phone rang, so my brother put it to my ear and it was the first time I ever heard my son. I was a mess. I burst into tears and was very emotional as they tied my gloves. The promoter came out and said 'What's going on?' That was crazy, so it was actually nice to be at the birth this time. We had it at home and I delivered my daughter. It was just awesome. I've got a little boy and a little girl now and that's all we're having."

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF  
PAUL BRIGGS

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA  
 Date of Birth: 08/13/1975

Won-Lost-Draw-KO'S  
 25 2 0 18

1994

Jun 19 RONALD DOO, STAFFORD, ASTRLIA..... W 10 PRO DEB 158

1997

Jan 04 LARI ZADA, BRISBANE, ASTRLIA..... KOBY 3 172

1999

Nov 29 KEN SUAVINE, SOUTHPORT, ASTRLIA..... TKO 3 191

2000

May 05 MOSESE SOROVI, LISMORE, ASTRLIA..... KO 7 183

Jun 30 JAMIE WALLACE, TWEED HEADS, ASTRLIA.. TKO 3 174

Jul 28 DANIEL ROWSELL, TWEED HEADS, ASTRLIA. TW 5 IBF/PP 186

Oct 06 TASIS PETRIDIS, TWEED HEADS, ASTRLIA. KO 1 186

Nov 24 ADRIAN BELLIN, MELBOURNE, ASTRLIA.... TKO 8 AUSTRALI 175

2001

Feb 23 KEN SUAVINE, COOLANGATTA, ASTRLIA.... TKO 2 184

Feb 25 SHANE DALTON, SOUTHPORT, ASTRLIA..... TKO 2 184

Mar 16 SAM LEUII, SYDNEY, ASTRLIA..... KO 2 181

Jul 08 JEFF TUPU, QUEENSLAND, ASTRLIA..... KO 2 AUSTRALI 174

Sep 08 GURKAN OZKAN, GOLD COAST, ASTRLIA.... W 10 175

Nov 10 JAMES GREEN, SAN FRANCISCO, CA..... KO 3 175

2002

Mar 04 PAUL SMALLMAN, GOLD COAST, ASTRLIA... TKO 4 OPBF 173

May 09 PETER KARIUKI, MELBOURNE, ASTRLIA.... KO 4 OPBF 175

Jun 07 SEIAUTE MAILATA, SOUTHPORT, ASTRLIA.. TKO 4 OPBF 174

Sep 18 GLEN KELLY, SYDNEY, ASTRLIA..... KO 4 OPBF 175

Dec 06 ANTHONY BIGENI, MELBOURNE, ASTRLIA... TKO 1 180

2003

Jan 19 DAVID MC NEIL, MELBOURNE, ASTRLIA.... TKO 1 175

Apr 13 JORGE CASTRO, GOLD COAST, ASTRLIA.... W 10 175

Oct 31 JUAN ZABALA, SYDNEY, ASTRLIA..... TKO 5 174

2004

Mar 07 JESUS RUIZ, PENRITH, ASTRLIA..... W 12 WBC/ELIM 175

THE PROFESSIONAL RECORD OF  
PAUL BRIGGS

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA  
Date of Birth: 08/13/1975

Won-Lost-Draw-KO'S  
25 2 0 18

Aug 15 STIPE DRVIS, HOMEBUSH BAY, ASTRLIA... W 12 WBC/ELIM 175

2005

May 21 TOMASZ ADAMEK, CHICAGO, IL..... L(M) 12 WBC 174

Oct 15 ETIANNE WHITAKER, DUSSELDORF, GERMANY TKO 5 174

2006

Jun 16 JOSE CLAVERO, BRISBANE, ASTRLIA..... WDSO 5 176