

# Wright-Trinidad rematch unlikely

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Winky Wright had barely finished giving the performance of his life and already he was talking about how he and Felix Trinidad should do it again.

Wright had his reasons, of course. The contract he signed to fight Trinidad contained a lucrative rematch clause that would pay him millions more than the money he got for his astonishing win Saturday night over the former middleweight champion.

The problem is, Wright was so dominating against Trinidad that it's hard to figure out how to sell the rematch as a competitive fight.

Still, Wright was doing his best to try.

"He showed a lot of heart," Wright said, attempting to make a case for Trinidad. "I just can't wait for the rematch."

Promoter Don King apparently can't, either, talking up a second fight while in the same breath acknowledging that Trinidad was "discombobulated" against Wright.

The way Wright picked Trinidad apart round after round in their middleweight showdown, though, there doesn't seem to be much of a chance Trinidad could be competitive if the two fighters fought 10 more times.

The old boxing adage is style makes fights, and Wright's style so confused Trinidad that he was credited with landing 58 punches the entire fight to 262 for Wright. Worse yet for the power punching Trinidad, none of those punches even came close to hurting Wright.

In his first fight at 160 pounds, Wright was so dominant he won all 12 rounds on one ringside scorecard, and 11 of the 12 on the other two.

"I said I was going to win every round, one by one, and I did," Wright said.

The fight was vindication for Wright, who toiled in virtual obscurity much of his 15 years as a professional fighter before taking advantage of his big chance last year by beating Shane Mosley twice in 154-pound title fights.

A slick southpaw with great defensive skills, Wright doesn't have a big knockout punch.

But he might have the best jab in the business, as he showed by landing it 185 times to Trinidad's face, often snapping his head back with it.

"Once I saw the jab working and saw I hurt him when I hit him with it I just kept using it," Wright said.

Wright earned his biggest payday ever — \$4 million — but even before the fight was talking about the money he could make in a rematch. He said then that he hoped he didn't hurt Trinidad so badly that he wouldn't want to fight again.

Trinidad didn't show up at the post-fight news conference, so it was hard to tell what he thought about his future in boxing. He came out of a 29-month retirement to win his first fight by knockout over Ricardo Mayorga, but was exposed as a one-dimensional fighter who couldn't adapt to what was happening to him in the ring by Wright.

Trinidad hoped to eventually get a rematch with

middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins, the only man before Wright to beat him, but that fight now seems as remote as a rematch against Wright.

"I'm a fighter for life," Trinidad said in the ring immediately after his loss. "I'm still young and strong."

Wright, who spent the early part of his career traveling the world to fight in other fighter's backyards, now finds himself a major player in weight classes loaded with big names. He

could fight the winner of the Hopkins-Jermain Taylor middleweight title fight in July, or try to avenge a disputed defeat to Fernando Vargas at 154 pounds.

And there is always the possibility of a rematch with Trinidad, though Trinidad would likely have to win a few fights in convincing fashion to sell that.

Whatever happens, Wright says he is ready for the challenge.

"I've never ducked anyone in my career," he said.



Felix Trinidad, of Puerto Rico, left, takes a hard right from Winky Wright, of St. Petersburg, Fla., in the ninth round of their middleweight fight Saturday at the MGM Grand.

## Sports Pace

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in the 100 meters and 400 meters hurdles. She was second in the high jump and fifth in the heptathlon. Suszek was seventh in the steeplechase. McClendon was fourth in the 100 hurdles and seventh in the 100 meters dash.

In appreciation for their efforts, the seniors will receive a ring and a jacket and, at the banquet, were given UNLV blankets and framed pictures of the team. Several young ladies also received Team Spirit awards.

The Lady Rebels track team finished fifth in the Mountain West Conference meet and has three more meets this season: the West Regionals in Eugene, Ore.; the NCAA Championships in Sacramento, Calif.; and the USA Track and Field Championships in Carson, Calif.

Coach Edmondson said the athletes have also raised the team's grade point average during her three years at the school. Some are graduating with GPAs over 3.0. The GPA was 1.9 when she came. "We are proud of you," Edmondson said.

No matter what happens in the future, this 2005 track team will always be remembered for their decision to remain loyal to their teammates and coaches while making one of the toughest decisions in their young lives.

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