

Boxing News: Wladimir Klitschko Meets Eliseo Castillo in Dortmund, Germany April 23

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RESEDA, Calif. (April 6, 2005) – After a six months hiatus, Wladimir Klitschko returns to action on April 23 in Dortmund, Germany, where he takes on undefeated Eliseo Castillo. The bout will be shown on HBO After Dark.

“I am fighting a very dangerous opponent, but it is important for me to fight the best heavyweights that I can,” said Klitschko, a former WBO heavyweight champion. “The only way for me to re-establish myself in the division is to fight the toughest fighters. This is going to be a great fight, but I am already in excellent shape and am confident that I will win.

“My goal is to regain the heavyweight championship, but it is also important for me to win back the fans and the media. An excellent start would be to show them a great performance against a quality opponent on April 23 on HBO.”

The younger brother of WBC heavyweight champion Vitali Klitschko, Wladimir (43-3 39 KOs), won the WBO crown with a decisive 12-round decision over Chris Byrd on October 14, 2000. He made five successful defenses before losing on a shocking second round TKO to underdog Corrie Sanders on March 2, 2003.

Castillo (18-0-1 14 KOs), of Miami by way of Havana, Cuba, registered the biggest win of his career in his last outing when he scored a convincing 10-round unanimous decision over former two-time world heavyweight champion Michael Moorer on July 3, 2004. Using fast hands and good movement to outspeed Moorer, the well-conditioned Castillo dictated the pace, landed the sharper punches throughout the fight and won by the scores 97-93, 97-93 and 99-91.

Castillo escaped from his home country to the military base at Guantanamo when he was 17. With about 90 amateur bouts, he turned pro on February 24, 1996. After winning his first 11 fights, Castillo fought a 10-round draw with Terry Pitts on November 13, 1998. Castillo has won seven consecutive contests since then. He has tallied five first round, three second round, and three third round knockouts in his career.