

Boxing News: John Ruiz Reinstated as WBA Champ

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LAS VEGAS (May 17, 2005) – Team Ruiz was notified yesterday by the World Boxing Association that it has reinstated John “The Quietman” Ruiz as WBA heavyweight champion, effectively immediately.

The WBA letter reads: “Based on the actions of the New York State Athletic Commission and the test results on which the Commission relied, the WBA must vacate your championship ranking and reinstate John Ruiz as the champion.”

Ruiz’s April 30 loss to James “Lights Out” Toney was changed to a “No Decision” after Toney failed the New York State Athletic Commission’s illegal substance policy, testing positive for the steroid Nandrolone. Toney was suspended 90 days and fined \$10,000 by the NYSAC, in addition to being barred from fighting for the WBA title for two years.

“To all of the A-holes who want me out of the game,” Ruiz said, “I’m back!”

Ruiz (41-5-1, 28 KOs) is the first and only world heavyweight champion of Hispanic heritage. He has beaten world champions Evander Holyfield, Hasim Rahman and Tony Tucker, as well as top-10 contenders Andrew Golota, Fres Oquendo and Kirk Johnson.