

A Tip Of The Hat To Showtime Boxing

In the New York Daily News Tim Smith writes that [2005 will go down as the year of the rematch](#) and asks: *Is the sport better off now than it was a year ago? And will 2006 be a better year than 2005?*

Smith also lists boxing's winners and losers for 2005.

Showtime

gets his vote as the big winner for 2005:

The cable network broke out of the shadow of HBO with some fantastic shows on a shoestring budget.

Hard to argue with that.

Today at TheSweetScience.com Bobby Cassidy Jr. [bids farewell to Norman "Stoney" Stone](#) , **John Ruiz**

's erstwhile trainer/manager:

He strikes me as the type of guy whom you love when he's™ on your side but despise when he's™ against you. In the end, this is what I know. You want a guy like Stone in your corner.

I don't doubt it's true, but the WWF-like moments seemed, unfortunately, a little too commonplace when

Norman Stone

was in the vicinity.

More kudos to **Corrales** and **Castillo** as Dan Rafael selects the 10th frame from their first bout as [The Round Of The Year](#) . Rafael also lists some other scorchers as honorable mentions, including the 2nd round of

Cotto-Torres

and the 5th round of

Morales-Pacquiao

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The Press Association in the UK looks at [the fights the British fans want most for 2006](#) - and the true likelihood of them ever happening.

Lacy

v.

Calzaghe

tops the list as the fight is already made for March 4. The PA tips Lacy as a likely points victor.

Hatton

v.

Mayweather

also makes the list ... talk about a no-brainer. Also in the UK, young

Amir Khan

received a tremendous amount of press during 2005. A year that began with

[an uncertain future for Amir Khan](#)

is ending with the world at the feet of the Bolton boxer.

Sid Dorfman of the Star Ledger has a column - [Fighting to recapture glory](#) - on **Dmitriy Salita**, the Orthodox Jewish boxer from Brooklyn, by way of Ukraine.

If he is successful in reinventing the glory days of his co-religionists in the damn bloody, anti-social sport, it just might inspire the Italians and Irish to reappear in some numbers. They also have been long missing

. Interesting take by Dorfman that Salita is a throwback in that boxing once thrived mostly on cultural vanity.

On New Years eve Showtime presents [SHOWTIME BOXING: Best Of 2005](#). Again, credit where credit is due, Showtime aired some memorable bouts during 2005:

Corrales

vs.

Castillo

and

Hatton

vs.

Tszyu

in particular stand out as defining moments during 2005 for the sweet science.

[Read more at the BLOG](#)