

= Félix Trinidad =

Juan Félix " Tito " Trinidad García (born January 10 , 1973) , best known as Félix Trinidad , is a Puerto Rican former professional boxer , considered one of the best in Puerto Rico 's history . After winning five national amateur championships in Puerto Rico , Trinidad debuted as a professional in 1990 , when he was seventeen . He would go on to become a three @-@ weight world champion , first by defeating Maurice Blocker to win the IBF welterweight title in 1993 . Trinidad holds the record for the second most welterweight title defenses , with fifteen , and also holds the record for longest reign as welterweight champion , at six years , eight months and fourteen days .

As his career continued , he defeated Oscar De La Hoya to win the WBC and lineal welterweight titles in 1999 ; Fernando Vargas to win the unified WBA and IBF light middleweight titles in 2000 ; and William Joppy to win the WBA middleweight title in 2001 . Trinidad 's first professional loss was against Bernard Hopkins later in 2001 , who scored a technical knockout . Following this , Trinidad retired from boxing for the first time . He returned to action by defeating Ricardo Mayorga in 2004 and , after a losing effort against Winky Wright in 2005 , retired for a second time . In 2008 , he returned to the ring to fight Roy Jones Jr . , losing by unanimous decision . Subsequently , Trinidad entered a five @-@ year hiatus without clarifying the status of his career .

Trinidad is frequently mentioned among the best Puerto Rican boxers of all time by sports journalists and analysts , along with Juan Laporte , Esteban De Jesús , Miguel Cotto , Wilfred Benítez , Wilfredo Gómez , Héctor Camacho , and Carlos Ortiz .

On June 4 , 2014 , Trinidad was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame , thus becoming the tenth Puerto Rican to receive such an honor .

= = Professional career = =

= = = Welterweight = = =

Trinidad debuted as a professional on March 10 , 1990 , when he was 17 years old . The fight was against Angel Romero , another debuting boxer , in a contest that Trinidad won by knockout in the second round . In the beginning of his career he knocked out nine of his first 10 opponents . He then competed against more experienced boxers like Jake Rodriguez , whom he fought on December 6 , 1991 . Trinidad won the fight by unanimous decision but suffered an injury on his right hand . He was then inactive for five months while recovering from the injury .

Raul Gonzalez fought Felix Trinidad on May 3 , 1992 in Cayey , Puerto Rico . This fight was the main event of the night . Both Gonzalez and Trinidad weighed in at 142 pounds . Gonzalez had a record of 8 @-@ 2 @-@ 3 with 5 KOs , while Trinidad had a record of 13 @-@ 0 with 10 KOs . Gonzalez went down three times , and Trinidad took the victory in round four by TKO . Trinidad would add another victory by KO to his record and would now make it 14 @-@ 0 with 11 KOs .

= = = = Welterweight title = = = =

Trinidad traveled to San Diego , California and defeated the IBF welterweight champion Maurice Blocker in two rounds , in a fight card that took place on June 19 , 1993 , televised by Showtime . Trinidad spent the first two minutes of the fight analyzing Blocker 's style . With 11 seconds left in the first round , one of Trinidad 's punches injured Blocker , who barely survived the round . In the second round , the champion 's condition appeared to improve , but after the first 30 seconds , another Trinidad punch injured him . Trinidad followed with a combination , scoring a knockout at 1 : 49 in the round when the referee stopped the fight . Afterwards , tournament organizer Don King 's exclusive relationship to stage fights for the cable channel Showtime meant that Trinidad would be showcased regularly on Showtime Championship Boxing .

= = = = Trinidad vs. Camacho = = = =

Trinidad defended his title for the next three years against several opponents . Trinidad 's first fight in Las Vegas was against Héctor Camacho on January 29 , 1994 . He was cautious during the first rounds and received a cut over his left eye . In the third round he connected a solid combination that made Camacho change to a defensive stance . Throughout the fight Trinidad was on the offensive and won the fight by unanimous decision , in what was his first decision since he won the world championship . The scores awarded by the judges were 117 ? 109 , 116 ? 110 , and 119 ? 106 .

= = = Trinidad vs. Campas = = =

On September 17 , 1994 , Trinidad traveled to the MGM Grand for a second straight fight to compete in a title defense against Yori Boy Campas , who had a record of 56 @-@ 0 . In the second round Campas scored a knockdown , the second knockdown in Trinidad 's career . Following this Trinidad exchanged several combinations , injuring Campas ' face and breaking his nose . In the fourth round , the referee stopped the fight , the first defeat in Campas ' career .

= = = Trinidad vs. Carr = = =

Trinidad 's fourth fight outside Puerto Rico or the United States took place on Estadio de Beisbol in Monterey , Mexico . Trinidad was scheduled to defend his title against the undefeated Oba Carr . In the second round , Carr scored a knockdown , which was the product of a quick right hand punch . Trinidad continued the fight and pursued the challenger , who displayed a quick pace throughout the fight . In the fourth round Trinidad connected a solid punch that injured Carr , and in the eighth he scored three consecutive knockdowns before the referee stopped the fight by technical knockout .

Trinidad spent the next four years defending his title against numerous fighters in bouts televised on Showtime . Among these fights was a defense against Mahenge Zulu , the number two challenger for Trinidad 's championship . This fight was part of a card that took place on April 3 , 1998 in Bayamón , Puerto Rico and marked the first time that Trinidad had performed in the island in five years . Trinidad began the first round by cautiously analyzing the challenger 's style , but the round ended with quick exchanges after Zulu took the initiative in the offensive . In the second round Zulu was actively pursuing the champion , but retreated when he received a solid jab sequence . Early in the third round a series of jabs opened a wound on Zulu 's mouth , while the challenger 's punches were not reaching their target . Trinidad began the fourth round heavily on in the offensive connecting several combinations which hurt the challenger , using this to land more punches in Zulu 's head and body . One punch hit Zulu in the jaw , he fell to the floor and tried to rise , but the referee stopped the fight before he could do so .

= = = Trinidad vs. Whitaker = = =

On February 20 , 1999 , Trinidad defended the welterweight championship against Pernell Whitaker , winning the fight by unanimous decision in a contest that marked his thirteenth successful defense . The fight began with both boxers displaying aggressive styles , which included excessive pushing . In the following rounds both boxers used their jabs most of the time with Trinidad gaining an advantage when Whitaker attempted to attack inside , eventually scoring a knockdown in round two . In the fourth , fifth and sixth rounds the fighters exchanged combinations . Later in the fight both boxers fell to the floor in what were ruled as " accidental slips . " On the seventh round Whitaker displayed more offense , trading power punches with Trinidad , but the champion retained control in the fight 's tempo during the eight , ninth , and tenth rounds . In the last round Whitaker , with a badly swollen right eye , displayed a purely defensive stance , avoiding his opponent throughout the round while Trinidad continued on the offensive until the fight concluded . The judges gave the champion scores of 117 ? 111 , 118 ? 109 and 118 ? 109 .

= = = Trinidad vs. De La Hoya = = =

In the spring of 1999 , Don King and Oscar De la Hoya 's promoter , Bob Arum , agreed to co @-@ promote a mega @-@ fight for the Lineal , World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation welterweight championships on September 18 , 1999 at the Mandalay Bay Hotel in Las Vegas . Early in the fight De la Hoya employed boxing to connect combinations while avoiding Trinidad 's attacks . The second round began with both boxers trading punches but De la Hoya quickly returned to his previous tactic , which he employed in the third round . In the fourth round Trinidad pressured the offense while De la Hoya tried to avoid his punches by moving , both boxers eventually exchanged punches . In the fifth round Trinidad continued in the offensive while De la Hoya attempted to remain on the outside corners of the ring , Trinidad 's eye was swollen following a trade of punches , and his nose was also bleeding . Trinidad was having a lot of problems finding De La Hoya and couldn 't connect as flush as usual with his punches , although he scored at times , Oscar 's movement was not letting him land in combination and it was proclaimed by many to have been a lackluster fight . In the eighth round the swelling on Trinidad 's eye was worsening . Oscar was scoring on Trinidad but half way through the tenth , De La Hoya stopped sticking and basically disengaged . De La Hoya gassed out and had remained on his toes for the remainder of the bout , and Trinidad won all the final rounds. The judges gave Trinidad a very controversial majority decision , with scores of 115 ? 113 , 115 ? 114 and 114 ? 114 .

= = = Light Middleweight = = =

= = = Light Middleweight title = = =

In 2000 , Trinidad vacated the welterweight championships and moved to the junior middleweight division , in order to challenge the World Boxing Association 's champion David Reid . Early in the fight Trinidad concentrated his punches on Reid 's body , connecting hard punches to his ribs and belly . In the second round Reid connected a solid punch to his opponent 's jaw , and in the third round scored a knockdown . In the fourth and fifth rounds Trinidad used his jab consistently , gaining control of the fight 's tempo in the sixth round . The fight 's score was close at the beginning of the seventh round but Trinidad opened the second half of the contest in the offensive , scoring the fight 's second knockdown . Controlling the fight in the eighth , ninth and tenth rounds , and opening a cut over Reid 's eye . Trinidad dominated the eleventh round , scoring three consecutive knockdowns . Reid tried to close the fight on the offensive but his opponent boxed and countered his attacks . The judges gave scores of 114 ? 107 , 114 ? 106 and 115 ? 106 , all in favor of Trinidad .

= = = Trinidad vs. Vargas = = =

On December 2 , 2000 , he was scheduled to fight in a unification card against Fernando Vargas , the International Boxing Federation 's junior middleweight champion . The fight began in a fast pace with Trinidad connecting a solid combination that led to his opponent being knocked down . Vargas was able to stand up , but another combination injured him a second time and led to another knockdown . Early in the second round Trinidad was in the offensive but Vargas connected a solid combination at the round 's closing moments which opened a cut over Trinidad 's right eye . In the fourth round 's opening seconds one of Vargas ' punches connected on Trinidad 's jaw and he fell , marking the eighth knockdown in his career . In the fifth round Vargas was in control of the fight 's offensive , connecting combinations to Trinidad 's body . In the sixth round Trinidad regained control of the fight 's tempo that lasted throughout the contest , connecting punches on Vargas ' head and left jabs to the ribs . In the eighth , Vargas displayed signs of exhaustion which slowed his offensive while Trinidad then pursued the offense with combinations to the body . This pattern continued throughout the ninth , tenth and eleventh rounds . Opening the final round Vargas was on the offensive , connecting a solid left hook . Trinidad countered the attack with a left hook that made Vargas collapse ; Vargas was able to stand up , but was subsequently knocked down for a second

time . With Vargas injured , Trinidad continued connecting combinations , until the referee stopped the fight by technical knockout .

= = = Middleweight = = =

= = = Trinidad vs. Joppy = = =

Following his fight with Vargas , Trinidad moved up in weight ? this time to participate in Don King 's middleweight unification tournament featuring IBF champion Bernard Hopkins , WBA champion William Joppy , and WBC champion Keith Holmes . Trinidad was matched with Joppy , whom he defeated by technical knockout in the fifth round of a contest that took place on May 12 , 2001 . Joppy opened the first round on the offensive , but late in the round Trinidad scored a knockdown with a combination of punches that came close to throwing Joppy underneath the ropes . Trinidad subsequently scored a knockdown in the fourth round , during this stage of the competition he was using combinations of left hooks and right punches to the head . In the fifth round Trinidad scored another knockdown , Joppy attempted to continue the fight , but while he was using the ropes to help him stand , the referee stopped the fight . When the contest was over , Trinidad explained his strategy by stating : " I knew he wanted to impose his will , his weight , and I wouldn 't let him do it " .

= = = Trinidad vs. Hopkins = = =

The middleweight unification fight between Hopkins and Trinidad was originally scheduled for September 15 , 2001 , at the Madison Square Garden . On the morning of September 11 , terrorists attacked the World Trade Center . Following this incident , the fight was postponed indefinitely . After receiving assurances from Madison Square Garden officials and the City of New York , Don King rescheduled the fight for September 29 . The pace of the fight in the early rounds was slow , with each boxer studying his opponent . In the second round Hopkins connected some combinations while Trinidad pursued the offensive in the fourth round and both boxers traded sequences of punches . This pattern continued in the fifth round with Trinidad showing an aggressive style while Hopkins relied on jabs . In the sixth Trinidad continued an offensive stance and won the round after trading several combinations . Both fighters continued to exchange punches in the eighth and ninth round with Hopkins connecting three consecutive solid punches . In the twelfth round Hopkins ' scored a knockdown , but before the contest could continue Trinidad 's father entered the ring , which led to the referee stopping the fight by technical knockout .

= = Next fight = =

Trinidad was subsequently scheduled to fight against Hacine Cherifi in a contest that he won by technical knockout in the fourth round . The event was part of a card that took place on May 11 , 2002 , and was organized in San Juan , Puerto Rico . Early in the first round Trinidad 's strategy consisted of using his jab while Cherifi did not try to directly engage in the offensive . In the last minute of the round a punch by Trinidad hit Cherifi 's chin leaving him disoriented , he followed this with a combination and scored a knockdown . In the second round , Trinidad displayed more boxing and was on the offensive by using combinations to the head and ribs . In the third Cherifi landed more punches than in the previous two , but Trinidad relied on throwing left jabs . One of his punches hit Cherifi 's liver , followed by a punch to the jaw , making Cherifi fall to the floor . In the fourth , a series of combinations injured Cherifi , who collapsed to the floor twice , forfeiting the fight on the second occasion . Following this contest Trinidad announced his retirement , at the moment leaving the sport with a record of 41 wins , one defeat , and 34 wins by knockout .

= = = Comeback = = =

== Trinidad vs. Mayorga ==

Trinidad announced a comeback on March 2 , 2004 . On October 2 , 2004 he fought against Ricardo Mayorga , in Madison Square Garden . Early in the first round Mayorga was on the offensive connecting several combinations , later in the round Trinidad connected some punches to his opponent 's face . Mayorga reacted defiantly while lowering his defense , which Trinidad used to continue the offensive during the closing seconds . In the second round he continued connecting with combinations to Mayorga 's face which caused him to bleed from his nose ; the round concluded with both fighters exchanging punches . In the third round Mayorga attempted to counter with punches to the body but did not do significant damage to his opponent , however later in the round one of these punches made Trinidad lose his balance and touch the floor with one glove which the referee counted as a knockdown . In the fourth round both boxers traded hard combinations . In the fifth Trinidad displayed control of the offense 's tempo injuring Mayorga and opening a cut under one of his eyes . This pattern continued in the sixth and seventh round , and the cut on Mayorga 's face began to swell . In the eighth round Trinidad scored several knockdowns , Mayorga continued after two knockdowns , but lost by technical knockout following a third knockdown .

== Trinidad vs. Wright ==

On May 14 , 2005 , Trinidad competed against Winky Wright , in a fight where the winner would become the World Boxing Council 's number one challenger in the Middleweight division . Wright won the fight by decision , receiving scores of 120 ? 107 and 119 ? 108 twice by the judges . Trinidad 's fighting style appeared to be out of rhythm in the first round , while Wright presented a defensive stance and relied on jabs . During the first three rounds Wright was in the offensive scoring with jabs . On the fourth round Trinidad connected a solid combination . In the sixth , Wright continued the strategy used in the previous rounds while Trinidad employed a strategy where he tried to neutralize his opponent 's punches by standing in front of him . In the later rounds Trinidad tried to take the contest 's offensive but his adversary managed to block most of his punches while continuing his previous tactic . In the twelfth round Trinidad pursued Wright while trying to score a knockout , but his opponent boxed away from him until the round ended . Following this fight , Trinidad retired temporarily , after his father informed him that he would not continue in his corner .

== Second comeback ==

== Trinidad vs. Jones ==

Trinidad came out of his second retirement for the fight against Roy Jones , a former four @-@ division champion on January 19 , 2008 . According to the contract , it was to be at a catch weight of 170 lbs ; and was broadcast live on HBO Pay @-@ Per @-@ View . The card took place at Madison Square Garden in New York city . Trinidad began the fight on the offensive and won the first two rounds . The third and fourth rounds were won by Jones who relied on the velocity of his punches . This pattern continued in the fifth and sixth rounds . In the seventh round , Jones scored a knockdown following a right hand . Following this Jones continued to use his speed while Trinidad pursued the offensive , in the tenth round Jones scored a second knockdown after landing a combination . The judges declared the fight a unanimous decision in favor of Jones with scores of 117 ? 109 and 116 ? 110 twice .

== Retirement ==

After this fight , Trinidad was inactive for almost two years , before announcing on October 14 , 2009 , that he was " between 95 and 98 percent sure (that he would) not do anything more within boxing " . During this timeframe , he made sporadic public appearances , attending boxing cards and participating in public activities , including a ceremony where Juan Manuel López and Iván Calderón received rings for five successful defenses of their world championships . Beginning in July 2009 , Trinidad became involved with the World Wrestling Council , participating as a guest referee at their anniversary show . Three months later , he was included in a storyline that also included Orlando Colón . In 2010 , Trinidad expressed interest in purchasing the Changos de Naranjito .

= = = Controversy = = =

According to an interview with Bernard 's trainer Bouie Fisher , prior to the fight members of Hopkins ' team visited the Trinidad dressing room in what is considered a normal boxing custom to watch the taping of Trinidad 's hands before his gloves were placed on . The Hopkins camp claimed that Trinidad 's hands were wrapped in an incorrect fashion , and threatened to cancel the fight unless they were wrapped correctly . Fisher also stated that the Chief Inspector of the NYSAC insisted to Trinidad 's camp that they needed to re @-@ wrap his hands in a correct fashion . Additionally , according to the New York State Athletic Commission , Layering (which is layers of gauze , then layers of tape , then more gauze and tape) is illegal .

= = International Boxing Hall of Fame = =

In 2013 , Trinidad became eligible and was voted into the 2014 Class of the International Boxing Hall of Fame . He was officially inducted into the hall during a ceremony held on June 4 , 2014 , becoming the tenth Puerto Rican to receive such an honor .

= = Personal life = =

Félix Trinidad was born in Fajardo , Puerto Rico , to a Puerto Rican family . During his childhood the family moved to Cupey Alto , a subdivision of San Juan , Puerto Rico , where he grew up . His future wife , Sharon Santiago , lived in Cupey and first met Trinidad in the home of her neighborhood friend , a classmate of Trinidad 's . Trinidad pursued a relationship with Santiago , including an attempt to impress her with his red Ford Mustang . He continued to press for her affection and , with the help of Santiago 's neighbor , Trinidad was able to win her over . Early on , Santiago 's mother thought that Trinidad was related to her daughter 's friend , but she realized the true situation when she visited the friend 's house and he acted nervous in her presence . Santiago 's father objected to the relationship because Trinidad was an athlete ; at the time many athletes had a negative public image . Santiago became rebellious , but Trinidad eventually won her family 's trust . The couple was married four years after they began dating and have had four daughters . Trinidad has a fifth daughter , named Alondra Nicole , from another relationship .

= = Professional record = =