

Casimero decks Fuentes, eyes 'Pinoy Killer' next

Written by Abac Cordero
Friday, 09 May 2014 19:18



Referee Gerard White raises John Riel Casimero's arms after the win. (Photo by philboxing.com)

CEBU CITY — John Riel Casimero is set to move up in weight and wants Juan Francisco Estrada of Mexico as his first test in the flyweight division.

"Gusto ko Estrada na para magka-alaman (I want Estrada to know the score)," said the 24-year-old Filipino boxer Saturday night here.

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Estrada is known as a "Pinoy Killer," having beaten Richie Mepranum, Milan Melindo and Brian Vilorio in his previous fights.

Casimero was at the center of the ring just moments after he scored a smashing first-round knockout of Colombian Mauricio Fuentes.

The Colombian visitor had no match against Casimero.

He went down three times right after taking heavy blows to the head.

The end came in the 2:59 mark of the opening round.

The crowd at the Waterfront Hotel cheered Casimero wildly even if they were aware that the Filipino boxer no longer had the International Boxing Federation (IBF) light-flyweight title in his hands.

Casimero failed to make weight last Friday and was stripped of the crown.

He did the next best thing which was to beat Fuentes in convincing fashion.

The IBF title in the 108 lb class has been declared vacant.

Casimero said he tried his best to make weight but still tipped the scales five pounds over the limit.

He was given two hours to make weight but he didn't give it a try.

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"Nagsikap naman ako talaga pero hindi na kaya ng katawan ko ang 108," said Casimero.

He looked like a featherweight inside the ring.

Casimero, who won the IBF title in 2012 and defended it three times, went for the knockout right after the opening bell.

The native of Cebu chased Fuentes around the ring and found his target early.

"Hindi naman naming na-expect na ganun (We didn't expect it that way). Pero nangyari eh (But it happened)," he said.