



Since his professional debut on May 26, 1983, **Vinny Paz** (formerly Pazienza) has been one of boxing's most charismatic and exciting fighters. Very few fighters have had the same success in the ring, and at the box office as Vinny has had. He had won five world titles in total at lightweight, junior middleweight and super middleweight. Paz won his first world title on June 7, 1987 with a 15 round decision over reigning IBF world lightweight champion Greg Haugen in an epic war in front of a sell-out crowd at the Providence Civic Center. The pair would meet two more times, Haugen recovering the title in an immediate rematch, but Paz prevailing in a 10-round decision in their rubber match in 1990.

It would be four years before Vinny was once again a world champion. October 1, 1991 Vinny showed everyone that you should never count him out. He dominated WBA world junior middleweight champion Gilbert Dele and stopped him in the 12th round. Soon after the Dele fight, Vinny broke his neck in a serious automobile accident. Pazienza was told that he would never fight again, and he spent the better part of three months in a hospital bed with a halo screwed into his head. Those doctors who told Vinny he would never fight obviously did not know the heart of a true champion.

Against doctors orders, and without their knowledge, "The Pazmanian Devil" returned to the gym with the halo on. He began lifting weights, getting back the strength he lost while sitting in bed. He finally made his triumphant return to the ring just over a year later capping off an unbelievable recovery. His first opponent was former WBC world super welterweight champion Luis Santana. Paz won a unanimous ten round decision that not only marked his return to the ring, but also mar...

Vinny Paz

Speech Topics

- ☐ Overcoming Adversity
- ☐ Motivational Keynote
- ☐ Motivation
- ☐ Keynote
- ☐ Inspiration
- ☐ Hispanic

