



CLASS OF 2021 INDUCTEE



DANNY ROMERO



But this While Danny Romero Jr.'s most famous fight was a narrow loss, it was far from what defined his spectacular career.

Nicknamed "Kid Dynamite," Romero was a national Golden Gloves champion at age 8 and won his first of three world titles at 20.

The Albuquerque native, who owns Hideout Boxing Gym and works as a trainer and mentor to so many -- including underprivileged and troubled youth -- learned the business from his coach, manager and father, Danny Romero Sr.

"What did he mean to me?" Danny says of his late father. "Everything. He was my world."

Danny Sr. passed away from a rare liver disease in 2019 -- but not before he saw his son become a Burque boxing legend.

Danny Jr. won his first eight professional fights -- seven by knockout -- and devastated one opponent after another on the way to capturing the IBF's world Flyweight title in April of 1995 with a 12-round unanimous decision over Francisco Tejedor at the MGM Grand Arena in Las Vegas.

Romero lost the title later that year when he had a fight stopped due to an eye injury, despite being ahead on all scorecards. But he soon started back toward the top, and won back his world title as well as one in another weight class -- despite the lingering effects of the eye injury.

Meanwhile, Albuquerque and much of the boxing world were buzzing about its two boxing greats -- Romero and Johnny Tapia -- and wanted to see them in the ring against each other.

Loyalties for the fighters divided so many in the Duke City, and there was fear that holding the fight in town could lead to chaos - or worse.

On July 18, 1997, the two finally met in Las Vegas to unify the IBF and WBO world Super Flyweight championships.

Tapia won a close 12-round decision in a spectacular fight on HBO.

The two never met again, but in 2003, in front of his hometown crowd, Danny took a 12-round unanimous decision over Trinidad Mendoza to win his third world title in three different weight classes, this time the IBA's Super-Bantamweight title.

His final bout was a TKO victory on July 1, 2006, giving him a career record of 45-5-2 -- and ensuring his place as one of the very greatest athletes in New Mexico sports history.

