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NEWS

COLUMNISTS

SCHEDULES

Boxing Index

Bottom of Form

Big Matches

Bottom of Form

Galleries

Bottom of Form

SLAM! SPORTS SHOP

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Sport Index

Bottom of Form

## Gamache suing N.Y. boxing commission

BANGOR, Me. (AP) -- Former world boxing champion Joey Gamache is suing the New York State Athletic Commission for \$5.5 million over injuries from a knockout by Montreal native Arturo Gatti in February 2000.

The lawsuit alleges state athletic commissioner Tony Russo knew prior to the fight's weigh-in that Gatti exceeded the 141-pound limit, but allowed the fight to proceed.

Gatti's weight was recorded as 141 pounds at the weigh-in.

But Gamache's lawyers say the scale was set for 141 pounds and that when Gatti stepped on it the needle went all the way to the right.

Their lawsuit states that less than 24 hours later, Home Box Office, which televised the bout, weighed the boxers again. Gatti came in at 160 pounds, while Gamache weighed 145.

"Basically the fight should have never gone forward," said Scott Bermack, Gamache's lawyer in New York.

A spokesman for the New York commission has said the fighter's recorded weights were accurate.

Gamache claims to have suffered a severe concussion, loss of consciousness, traumatic brain injuries and cognitive dysfunction, among other injuries, in the second-round knockout at Madison

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He was hospitalized for two days and retired from boxing a short time later.

The former junior-lightweight and lightweight world champion, Gamache is seeking \$5 million for himself and \$500,000 for ex-wife Lilly.

Gamache compiled a 55-4 record, with 38 knockouts, in 14 years of professional boxing.

"Rarely in boxing history has there been a knockout more brutal," Gamache's lawyer, Paul Callan, said a few weeks after the fight.

Gamache's lawsuit was filed Feb. 20 in the Court of Claims, a special New York court that hears claims against state agencies. It alleges fraud, negligence and breach of contract by the athletic commission and the state of New York.

The lawsuit charges the commission with "negligently and recklessly" ignoring its own regulations by staging a fight with a weight difference greater than 12 pounds between the fighters.

New York boxing regulations do not limit how much weight a fighter can gain between the weigh-in and the bout.

The lawsuit also says Gamache suffered "serious, permanent and career-ending injuries" from the commission's decision to allow Gatti to box with eight-ounce gloves. Ten-ounce gloves are required when boxers exceed 154 pounds.

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