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Resnekov retains his Aussie title

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David Weiner

MUAY Thai fighter Dylan Resnekov is feeling on top of the world after successfully defending his Australian title and winning the Maccabi NSW's Sportsman of the Year award.

The 26-year-old fighter defended his Australian title on March 27 after defeating his younger opponent to win with a third round knock-out. The title defence was Resnekov's first bout in nine months after concentrating on coaching last year. He described the win as "exactly what I needed to get back on track", but said the highlight was walking out in

front of a crowd full of family and friends.

"The fact I got another belt means a lot, but to win in front of my gym, my friends — that was more important than the title itself," he said. "And I won it in absolute style."

It was a perfect night for Resnekov. Two of his gym's fighters won earlier bouts, before he came on as the main event. After "toying" with his opponent in the first two rounds, he landed the killer blow with a kick to the ribs in the third.

"I took it slow in the first two rounds, it'd been a long time since I fought. I tried to play smart, find his weaknesses," he recalled. "But in round three I realised I was still strong, I cut him open with a few big elbows, saw a really big opening, laid a kick into his ribs and he stayed down. In round three of five, it was just fantastic, crazy." Resnekov is now preparing for a string of bouts in the next two months, both locally and internationally.

His success has prompted interest, and a few fight nights on Foxtel are on the cards, as well as a tilt at another organisation's Australian belt. He's in good stead heading into those events, and is confident he can live up to his billing as one of Australia's best Muay Thai fighters.

Photo: Dylan Resnekov celebrates after winning his second consecutive Australian title.

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