

Prize fighter cleared in rape case

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OZARK — A 30-year-old Dothan heavyweight boxer was found not guilty of rape and sodomy of a child less than 12 years old on Thursday, according to authorities.

Larry Duncan White, 30, of Dothan, had faced a life sentence after he was charged with first-degree rape and sodomy for allegedly sexually abusing a child over a five-year period.

He was released from the Dale County Jail in July under \$60,000 bond after his arrest in May.

His attorney, R.G. Robison, said the jury deliberated for more than an hour

after the three-day trial before finding White not guilty.

White is a professional heavyweight boxer who will compete in London next week, Robison said.

"It can ruin a man's life even if he is acquitted because there are those in the community that will still look at him with a jaundiced eye forever," Robison said.

"False allegations are very difficult to defend because you have to prove that you didn't do it, which is contrary to our system of jurisprudence."

Dale County Assistant District Attorney Bill Filmore, who tried the case, was not immediately reached on Thursday.