

Hearns seeks an 8th World Title

By Mark Olejniczak

Thomas "Hitman" Hearns has his mind set on capturing an eighth world championship. He is positioning his sights on Virgil Hill's WBA Cruiserweight title and is looking to secure the fight for the fall of 2006.



Hearns, was in Manistee, MI to support his son, Ronald who was on the *SHOBOX The New Generation* fight card, on July 1, 2006. He took time to discuss the possibilities of the two ring legends stepping back in the ring together by the end of this year.

Sure it is still in the negotiating stages but a Hearns – Hill II match up has some interesting angles?

First can Hearns, a seven time world champion, fulfill his own destiny to become an eight time world champion? Hill has sought a rematch for many years against Hearns, looking for some redemption for his first career loss back on June 3rd, 1991. On that evening, The "Motor City Hitman" earned the decision and won the WBA Light-Heavyweight Title.

Hearns is not concerned about any thoughts of revenge Hill has on his mind if they step back in the ring for the second time. "If 1991, still bothers Virgil

Hill," Hearns says. "Well a second fight with me in 2006 is really going to hurt him."

It was just over a year ago, Hearns announced that he was stepping back into the ring with his own blue print to position himself for a title fight. He has been victorious in both fights since the announcement, earning an eighth round TKO over John Long and in Feb. 2006; he was too strong for Shannon Landberg recording a 10th round stoppage.

His return has sparked disapproval from fans and boxing experts who would rather see Hearns retire from the sport. Hearns doesn't let the criticism get in the way of his ultimate goal.

"God gave me the ability to box. I want to use this ability that God gave me until I decide, I don't want to use it anymore," Hearns says. "No one else can make the decision for me. It is my life and I have to live it, and be happy doing it. So what I need to do is win one more title before I retire from boxing."

At this point with Hearns – Hill II still in the talking stages, boxing fans will have to wait and see if both sides can come to an agreement on a title fight.