

"Who Is He?"

By Mark Olejniczak

On Sat. Feb. 4, 2006, Thomas Hearn's 60-5-1 (47 KOs) will be headed back to the boxing ring against Shannon Landberg. An Indiana native, Landberg has compiled a record of 58 – 10 – 3 (26 KOs).

Landberg has been inactive for 26 months with his last fight on Nov. 29, 2003. The majority of his bouts have taken place in his home state Indiana. In the biggest fight on his boxing resume, Landberg lost a 10 round decision to super middleweight boxer Markus Beyer.

At the "Return of a Legend" press conference to announce the eight bout fight card, Hearn's drew lots of loud laughter when he responded to a question about what he knew about his opponent for the upcoming fight.

"Who is he?" Hearn's asked. "I am not trying to speak bad about my opponent but I really don't care to know. I am a seasoned fighter, who has been around for a long time and I have fought a lot of fighters, so it really doesn't make a difference to me."

After reflecting on his last fight, Hearn's wants to work on a few things, from making sure he moves the upper part of his body more and setting the tone early by getting off to a quicker start than he did in his previous fight against John Long in July 2005.

Hearn's', trainer and cousin, Henry Hill, will be working the Hitman's corner for a second straight fight. Hill is implementing a simple plan to get back to basics with preparation for this bout.

"I want him to start faster in this fight," Hill says. "So we are working a lot on conditioning. The other plan we have is to use the jab a little more. Just have Tommy pump the jab and then set him up for the powerful right hand."

Hill did provide a little more information about Hearn's' next opponent. "He (Landberg) likes to mix it up and brawl," Hill says. "He has a pretty good chin also."

When you break down the backgrounds of both fighters, Hearn's clearly has the upper hand. Though a seven time world champion, Hearn's

isn't taking his opponent lightly. When pressed about what his future plans in the ring are, the "Motor City Hitman" is not looking past this fight.

"I am going to take it one step at a time," Hearn points out. "To make any other decisions or plans right now would be the wrong thing to do."