

Hearns Leaves Door Open For Return

By Mark Olejniczak

The Hitman's last stand may really have one last go round, after the final result Saturday April 8th before a crowd of a little over 14,000 at Joe Louis Arena.

Motown legend Thomas Hearns couldn't continue after a severe ankle sprain suffered during the second round.

Uriah Grant was awarded the victory by technical knockout raising his record to 29-14. It was a disappointing evening for Hearns, who had hoped to put the final stamp on his successful boxing career in front of the hometown fans.

Hearns landed jabs throughout the first round. Grant didn't get on the offensive until almost the end of the round. Grant controlled the early parts of the second round, using his right hand to his advantage. Hearns' injury occurred trying to stay clear from one of Grant's combinations.

To a chorus of boos, obscenities, and flying objects directed at a very chaotic situation in the ring, Hearns grabbed the microphone and announced this was not the last fight after all.

"One more for you," Hearns shouted at his fans. "I'm going to fight again because this wasn't a fight."

Hearns future remains unclear though, until he discusses his future plans with his wife, Renee.

ON THE UNDERCARD.

Laila Ali won her fifth professional fight as she stopped Karen Bill in the third round. Ali recovered from a second round knock down to claim the victory. Ali (5-0) crushed Bill in the third round with a number of punches before referee Frank Garza stopped the fight. It was Ali's second time in her short boxing career fighting before the fans of the Motor City.

In other undercard fights, the outgoing and flashy Hector "Macho" Camacho (71-4-2) defeated Bob Elkins (28-9). Camacho was never in any trouble during the fight. He scored a first round knockdown of Elkins and landed punches at will before stopping him in the seventh.

Detroit's Duane Thomas (31-3) won a six round unanimous decision over Anthony Bruno (6-8-3) in the light heavyweight division.

More disappointing news for the folks at Kronk, as one of their up and coming fighters, Australian Pierre Karam, suffered his first setback. Karam was knocked out by Demetrius Jenkins in the fifth round of their light heavyweight battle.