

# Of Hearn's vs. Hagler and Channel 2's Stu

Time out!  
With the local high school sports scene at a standstill due to Easter vacation and still unattractive weather conditions, I dedicate this space to anything that crosses my mind on an idle Tuesday afternoon.

## HEARNS VS. HAGLER

"Marvelous" Marvin Hagler, the universally recognized middleweight champion of the world, will come to Windsor, Ontario May 24 for a title bout with Detroit Hit Man, Thomas Hearns.

The once-thought invincible Hearns now faces a mixed reaction from the local boxing crowd.

Isn't it strange how one fight can change so many opinions? Hearns, who lost his welterweight title to champion Sugar Ray Leonard last September, is no longer thought of as an unbeatable fighter with a lethal overhand right.

By boxing standards, Hearns is thought of as a slugger with no ring savvy needed to withstand the 15 rounds in a championship bout. However, I strongly believe Hearns is underrated. Although he made a grave mistake by not swarming Leonard from the start, he did prove he can box.

Hearns danced and effectively worked the jab against Leonard. In fact, he may have out-boxed him. He continually flicked the jab that all but closed Leonard's left eye. But, when the knockout punch was delivered, it was Hearns who was on the receiving end.

Now we have Hagler as the invincible force. The dynamic puncher who can't be beat. He won the title in 1980 with a third-round knockout over Alan Minter. In 1979, he fought then-middleweight champion Vito Antoufermo to a draw. Antoufermo lost the title to Minter, and Minter lost it to Hagler.

SINCE THEN, Hagler has successfully defended the title against Ful-

gencio Obelmejias, Antoufermo, Mustafa Hamso, and most recently, Hearns' stable mate William "Cave-man" Lee.

Hagler sent Lee back to the dark ages in 1:07 with a KO in the first round. Detroiters, who saw the nationally televised Hagler-Lee bout, may be judging Hagler's invincibility by the 67-second fight with Lee. Although Hagler was most impressive with his thundering punches he fired at Lee, you must consider Lee's credentials. The Kronk Caverna was merely a replacement for teammate Mickey Goodwin, who was scheduled to meet Hagler until a wrist injury forced Lee into the spotlight.

Hearns, it has been reported, has knocked Lee silly during sparring sessions.

Maybe the man to ask is Lee himself, if the Caverna is yet coherent enough to comprehend the question.

What is shaping up is a bout between two powerful punchers — he definitive pugilists. Hagler, who will soon turn 30, has 58 bouts, 34 wins, 45 knockouts, two wins and two draws. Hearns, by comparison, is 24 years old, and has had 35 fights, 34 wins and 31 knockouts.

The lone blemish is the 14th-round technical knockout to Leonard.



Jim Hughes

I SAID earlier, Hearns is underrated, and, is most likely a better boxer than Hagler.

Hearns' best bet is to take the fight right to Hagler, and look for the quick knockout. Hearns himself even said looking for the quick KO will be his fight plan.

Hearns' height (6-1) will be a factor since Hagler (listed 5-8½) uses his coconut head to his advantage. If Hagler can bully his way inside, he can force forehead and eyebrow cuts by using his shaved head as a battering ram.

And many a fight has been stopped by profuse bleeding which trickles into the eyes. That's how Hagler stopped Antoufermo in their second bout.

It will be to Hearns' advantage to keep flicking the left hand, and launching the overhand right as often as possible. However, he has to stay clear of Hagler's head and powerful left hand. Simple logic, eh? How he'll

do it, I don't know. But that's why he's getting the big bucks.

## ANCHOR'S AWAY

I find it ironic that the new weekend sports anchorman at Channel 2 — Stu Klitenic — has a name that sounds like Titanic. Not exactly a rhyme, but certainly a strong case for a synonym.

Klitenic, the newest addition to news station that is sunk in the local ratings, is going down with the ship. He was brought in to replace co-anchors Ann Doyle and Jim Price, the Laurel and Hardy of the sportscasting scene.

Now, he stands alone, but it's another fine mess Channel 2 has gotten itself into. It's no secret Channel 2 sportscasters are the worst of the three Detroit market offers.

So, instead of bringing a class act in, they bring in Stu, who makes enough hand gestures during a five-minute spot to make your head spin. I find his boisterous delivery and busy hands obnoxious. Since he's new to the area, he can be forgiven for mispronouncing names.

He even can be forgiven for his Sunday telecast, when he reported the late Joe Louis was admitted to a New York hospital because of chest pains.

In time, he will be able to pronounce the names of the local players, and distinguish between the liv-

ing and the dead.

I just hope it's only a matter of time before he learns to sit on his hands instead of talk with them.

IT'S TOO BAD there aren't enough quality guys like Channel 4's Don Shane to go around. If there are, it's too bad there aren't any people at Channel 2 who can recognize talent. I wonder if Dave Lew Allen, a reporter for WJW sports, applied for the job? There's a guy who fits into the mold of a Don Shane. Maybe he needs a gimmick.

Channel 4 has a gimmick. He's Detroit Lions quarterback Gary Danielson, who anchors the sports on week-ends. I've always liked Danielson. He's from my hometown, so I watched him as a high school player, and, of course, pulled for him when he got a shot as the Lions' starter over Greg Landry.

However, seeing him as a sportscaster is a little hard to swallow, even for a Danielson fan like myself. Granted, he's inexperienced, so it's little wonder he reports scores as fast as he calls signals during a two-minute drill.

I guess what upsets me most is that there are kids who bust their tail in college with hopes of landing a sportscasting job, only to find the jobs are taken by people with a big name. It seems quality of work isn't a primary consideration anymore.



Thomas Hearns, Detroit's own Hit Man, will need to unload his deadly overhand right frequently in his title bout with Marvin Hagler next month.

## Volland finds career in tennis

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"I've found out that you have to play more of an aggressive game to be tough," he said.

Volland is one of 32 players from across the Midwest entered in the three-day tournament. There are 16 doubles teams.

The top seed is John Whitlinger of Cincinnati, and the second seed is Bill Lofgren of Columbus, Ohio. A pair of Canadians — Chris Pridham and Brett Segon — are seeded third and fourth, respectively.

"BOTH WHITLINGER and Lofgren have played on the men's tour," said tournament director George Russell. "Whitlinger was a recent NCAA singles champion from the University of Southern California.

"This is the most prestigious tournament in the state because it's used for ranking purposes for men seeking mid-western seeding in national tournaments.

The competition this year is a bit stronger than in the past because we've attracted players from the men's circuit.

It's an excellent tournament for people looking to see good backhands and forehands from 10 feet away rather than 400 feet away like you get in places like the Silverdome," said Russell.

Some other local players participating include Jon Hailine (Birmingham), Michael Reese (Southfield), Tighe Keating (Birmingham) and Klieh Culen (Birmingham).

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