



Mark de Mori at training. Picture: Bruce Hunt

## Aust heavyweight title in sights

WA heavyweight boxing hopeful Mark de Mori is not pulling any punches in his bid to win the Australian heavyweight title.

The 22-year-old professional wants to beat current titleholder Colin Wilson before the end of the year.

The usual route to the title is to fight those just above, move up the ranking, then fight the titleholder, if he is willing, but de Mori does not plan to wait that long.

He hopes that once he is rated as a boxer he will be able to lure Wilson to a fight in Perth.

"Wilson would probably come

to Perth for a match if he thought he could make some money in a fight against me here," de Mori said.

He said if Wilson refused to fight him this year he would compete in regional titles or in Pan Asian Boxing Association events.

De Mori said titles were important but not always the sign of a successful pro boxing career.

"At the end of the day it is more about how many people you can draw to a fight," he said.

He aims to box with some showmanship to entertain audiences.

"My style is to come forward and throw big punches and score knockouts," he said.

"You're going in to battle but still have to think about putting on a good show and having a personality, so people will remember you and pay to watch your fights."

To become rated, de Mori must fight in a six-round scheduled match.

He started boxing when he was 15 but had a three-year break before deciding at 21 to return to the ring as a professional.

He trains each day in the gym and on weights a few times a week.

He sometimes spends weeks at a time on the Gold Coast training with a professional.

He said the heavyweight division in Australia was quite small because "most big guys play rugby".

"I had played football, but I thought an individual sport would be a great challenge," he said.

"I know it's brutal and there are big risks but I have people around me who are not in it to earn money off me.

"They would let me know when to give it up."

Gab Knowles