



FIGHT NIGHT

ERIC HUNTER HOPES TO IMPRESS

BY UPSETTING JERRY BELMONTES

DECEMBER 8 - NBC SPORTS NETWORK FIGHT NIGHT

PEARSON/McGONIGLE HALLS, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY



Eric Hunter

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Philadelphia, PA-When Teon Kennedy sustained an injured knee last month and had to withdraw from his fight with Jerry Belmontes on Dec. 8 at Temple University, it opened the door for fellow-Philadelphian Eric Hunter.

Hunter, extremely talented but on a treadmill going nowhere, jumped at the chance to impress on national television and in front of his hometown fans as well.

The 10-round junior lightweight fight will serve as the co-feature to the main event which features Bryant Jennings, of Philadelphia, in a 12-round defense of his USBA heavyweight title against Bowie Tupou, of Tonga.

The two fights will be televised on NBC Sports Network Fight Night beginning at 10pm (EST). First of nine preliminary matches begin at 7:15pm.

Hunter, 24, had an impressive amateur career and he is 16-2, 9 KOs, as a pro.

"I had about 200 amateur fights," he said. "I won the National PAL, Junior Olympics, Golden Gloves, Diamond Belts, all that. I got a couple of titles under my belt."

Hunter's nickname is "Outlaw" because, he says, "I didn't care how I won when I was kid. I just fought everybody."

After turning pro in 2005, Hunter racked up five quick wins, then he was idle for 10 months before fighting Carlos Vinan, of Newark, NJ, early in 2007. Hunter dropped Vinan early in the fight but faded down the stretch and lost a six-round split decision.

Two weeks later he fought again, winning the first of 10 straight fights despite another one-year gap in activity from mid-2008 to mid-2009. After beating lefty Andre Wilson, of St. Joseph, MO, in 2010, Hunter landed his first TV assignment against Cuban Luis Franco, but was disqualified in the eighth round for low blows.

"I took it hard," Hunter said. "On TV and a guy I shoulda beat. I think I really should have won that fight. Honestly, it was an easy fight for me. But you take fights on short notice (six days) and take the opponent lightly, that's what happens."

"Listening to people that you think have your best interests at heart (is what hurt me). That's what messed me up. Thinking they were going to move me. Being manipulated. (Letting) people draw you in instead of having your own mind. But now I just have to grow. Right now I'm gonna right my wrongs. That's what I'm gonna do."

Hunter was idle for 19 months after losing to Franco. He returned last July 7 and stopped Jason Rorie, of Winston-Salem, NC, in two rounds at the Convention Center in Philadelphia.

"That was my pro debut (against Rorie) as far as I'm concerned," Hunter said. "Now I have to do what I was supposed to do."

"My talent is real, real high. But I'm not proven. Maybe it's the people I associate with, or used to associate with. Maybe it's a lot of things why I'm not a world champion right now.'

"I want to show now that I'm busy and that I want to go to the top. I figure I'm one of the best fighters in Philly. You got a lot of great fighters out there. You got Mike Jones,

Teon Kennedy, Danny Garcia, Hank Lundy, Karl Dargan. You got a lot of guys who came up with me and I should be right there (with them). So I'm back to the drawing board."

When he got the call to fill-in for Kennedy, Hunter did not hesitate to take on Belmontes (17-0, 5 KOs), of Corpus Christi, TX.

"I'm always in the gym and I'm blessed with this opportunity," he said.

ABOUT DECEMBER 8TH

Pearson/McGonigle Halls, a 4,500-seat venue at Temple University located at 1800 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121. It has hosted both professional and amateur boxing in the past, but when NBC Sports Network broadcasts the sixth installment of its Fight Night series on Dec. 8, it will be the first professional boxing event held at Pearson/McGonigle Halls in over 19 years.

Ten bouts are planned for the Philadelphia card. The fight is promoted by Main Events, Peltz Boxing, and Goossen Tutor Promotions in association with BAM Boxing. Tickets priced at \$35, \$50 and \$75 can be purchased by calling Peltz Boxing at 215-765-0922 or going online at www.peltzboxing.com. Tickets also are on sale at www.comcastTIX.com.

THE  NBC SPORTS GROUP

2012-2013 NBC SPORTS NETWORK FIGHT NIGHT SCHEDULE

(All times ET and subject to change)

Saturday, December 8	10 p.m. – 12 a.m.	NBC Sports Network	Temple University, Philly
Saturday, December 22	4 p.m. – 6 p.m.	NBC	Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem
Saturday, January 19	9 p.m. – 11 p.m.	NBC Sports Network	Mohegan Sun Casino, CT
Saturday, February 23	10:30 p.m. – 12:30 a.m.	NBC Sports Network	
Saturday, March 9	10 p.m. – 12 a.m.	NBC Sports Network	
Friday, June 14	9 p.m. – 11 p.m.	NBC Sports Network	

To find the location of the NBC Sports Network on your local cable, satellite or IPTV provider, click here: <http://www.nbcsports.msncb.com/id/30092015/ns/sports/>

On DIRECTV NBC Sports Network has moved to channel 220.

Tweet the link to NBC Sports Network Fight Night channel finder: bit.ly/175UuU

Twitter: #FightNight Twitter: @main_events @NBCSN

Facebook: facebook.com/MainEventsBoxing facebook.com/NBCSports

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