

Warilla boxer's pledge to help out ill youngster in brave fight for life

By MIKE GANDON

HE might go by the nickname "The Assassin", but like so many boxers, Warilla's Adrian Campbell has a sensitive side when out of the ring.

Campbell is dedicating his fight at the Snakepit tonight to three-year-old Cody Tobbler, who is battling a terminal illness.

Campbell will fight Newcastle's Chad Roy Naidu for the vacant WBF Asia Pacific welterweight title as the main support to the Shannan Taylor-Sintung Kietbusaba WBF world middleweight contest.

This will be the third time these two have met and Campbell has won their two previous contests, including in June when he claimed the NSW welterweight title.

"I'm feeling fine. I've been sparring with Shannan and he's sharpened me right up," Campbell said.

"I'm primed and ready to go. This will be three fights for three wins. He won't fight me again after this one."

Germany's former two-time world champion Alesia Graf, who is trained by Lee Murray at the URAC gymnasium in Wollongong, will box an exhibition bout on the undercard.

"Alesia is the classiest woman fighter Wollongong has had the chance to see," Murray said.

"It's her road back. She's been inactive for a year now since losing a world title fight. She's sharp, she's fit, she's strong."

Bulli's Steve Psaras jnr will fight Matraville super-middleweight Aaron Lai.

Among the amateurs on the undercard will be Carmen Thompson, Adriane Daniela, Zac Swan and Ivan Salilig.

All are trained by Vito Gaudiosi at Crocker's Gym.

Taylor sees the sign of things to come

BOXING

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IT wouldn't be a boxing media conference unless something surprising happened.

This time the promotional signage fell down, prompting Shannan Taylor to say, "That's what will happen to my opponent".

Taylor was referring to Thailand's Sintung Kietbusaba, who he will fight for the vacant WBF world middleweight title at the Snakepit in Wollongong tonight.

Both boxers, along with trainers, promoters and other fighters, were sitting along the front table when the signage hit the deck.

"He's going down," an amused Taylor commented.

Whether or not Taylor knocks Kietbusaba down or out remains to be seen but the "Bulli Blaster" was in a buoyant mood.

"This fight means everything to me," Taylor said.

“It means so much to me, because after 30 years of my career I thought it was going to bypass me, fighting for a world title in Wollongong”

"I've knocked out 16 world champions in my career, I've won two WBF world titles.

"This is my third WBF world title and I'm fighting for it in Wollongong.

"That's the reason it means so much to me, because after 30 years of my career I thought it was going to bypass me, fighting for a world title in Wollongong."

Taylor spoke of how proud his family were of him and his work ethic for this fight.

"There have been days in the last 12 weeks leading up to this fight that I have been in the gym by myself following a program that I've worked on from Graham

Shaw at The Grange [Old School Boxing], Billy Corbett and myself," he said.

"I have been in there at Wollongong PCYC with Michael Jones and Darren Polk. Some days in this preparation I have been in there on my own.

"I have been motivated more than I have been in a long, long time. My children are motivating me."

Since Taylor walked into the Bulli PCYC as a nine-year-old in 1991, boxing has been an enormous influence on his life.

At 17 he beat 1988 Olympic silver medallist Spike



Buoyant mood: Shannan Taylor at yesterday's press briefing. Picture: ROBERT PEET

Cheney, propelling him into boxing prominence and launching his career.

Tickets for tonight's fight are available by phoning Rod of Crocodile Promotions on 0414 596 939 or Top Line Events' Larry Daniela on 0415 701 549.