



Six-time world champion Cassius Baloyi jabs to beat Jorge Antonio Paredes by a TKO in 2001.

PICTURE: SUPPLIED

‘Hitman’ is training contenders

LUKE FOLB

SIX-TIME world boxing champion Cassius Baloyi heads to the Mother City for the first time in 10 years.

Baloyi, 42, will conduct private coaching sessions this month and a one-day boxing clinic in September.

Named after the great Muhammad Ali, who was born Cassius Clay, Baloyi started boxing at the age of eight and was trained by his father, Eric.

Baloyi coaches and runs his

own gym, The Cassius Baloyi Boxing Academy, in Sandton.

“I always aspire to encourage our youth to take part in this sport because boxing requires great discipline, courage and determination,” he said.

Baloyi had 200 amateur bouts and suffered only three losses while ranked No 1 in the world in his division.

He turned pro at 19 and won six world titles under legendary trainer Nick Durandt.

He had a professional record of 45 bouts, 37 wins and 19 knockouts. He earned the nicknames “Mr Shy Guy” and “The Hitman”.

He is set to coach at The Armoury Boxing Club in Woodstock from July 26 to 29.

He will also fight an exhibition bout on July 28 against Aladin Kalwira, a trainer at The Armoury.

Baloyi said: “It has motivated me to get fit again and I am sure we will put on a good display of boxing skills.”

Not enough is being done to nurture trainers and amateur boxers, he said, adding that he was disappointed that no local boxers had qualified for the Rio 2016 Olympics.

Volunteering in the township of Alexandra five years ago, Baloyi found three aspiring boxers who now train at his gym.

He said they might qualify for Tokyo 2020 and represent South Africa.

“This would make me very happy,” he said.