

# Champ remains humble

BY JOHN CUDMORE  
Staff Writer

Jermaine Haughton may be a champion. He also knows the learning curve is steep.

Only four fights into his career and the Newmarket resident is the provincial Thai boxing title holder in his weight category, but he isn't about to let that go to his head.

"I'm taking it day by day, just trying to get better," he said.

Haughton has let ring performances do his talking as he learns more about his sport.

"He's always been a very dedicated student and respectful," said Paul Oddi, who trains Haughton at Point Blank Martial Arts in Aurora.

From Haughton's standpoint, it makes sense to heed expert advice.

"I make sure I listen and soak in as much as I can," said the Jamaica-born Haughton, whose family moved to Sudbury when he was five years old. "A big ego doesn't get you anywhere."

Encouraged by a successful career start, Haughton is considering going to national team trials in January.

"I saw a K1 event on TV about a year ago and knew it was for me," he said.

And when he attended the Aurora gym with a friend, he was impressed by the sport which has a history dating more than 2,000 years.

"I got hooked on muay thai right away," he recalled.

Translated, muay thai means the science of eight limbs. It is a reference to the ability to use almost all parts of the body to score points.

Only in recent years has the sport received welcome in Ontario as safety standards have been vastly upgraded,

according to Oddi.

In Thai boxing, elbows and knee strikes to the head are not permitted.

Haughton is the scheduled main event for Season's Beatings, a card which will be presented Nov. 24 at Point Blank.

Ticket information is available at [www.pointblank.ca](http://www.pointblank.ca) or by telephoning the club at 905-727-7300.

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*Athlete of the Week is a regular feature highlighting local athletes and their accomplishments. If you know of a nominee for consideration, contact The Era-Banner at [sports@erabanner.com](mailto:sports@erabanner.com) or by faxing 905-853-5379. We can also be reached by telephone at 905-853-8888.*



**JERMAINE HAUGHTON:** Thai boxer took just four fights to win the Ontario title.

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