

Mukhin dares to dream big

By Oliver Watson
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Russian-born Alexey Mukhin is training at the AIS boxing gym to prepare for a Commonwealth Games qualifying fight in July.

FOR A man who swam professionally, successfully completed two university degrees, and only fought for fun, coming even close to realizing his dream of boxing at a Commonwealth Games is an achievement in itself.

Fresh from two silver medals in tournaments in Russia and Cuba, AIS boxer Alexey Mukhin is now looking to make his dreams become a reality by qualifying for the New Dehli Commonwealth Games later this year.



Photo: GARY SCHAFER

The Russian-born super-heavyweight has been in great form of late, and has his eyes set on a career-defining qualifying bout on July 4 against Jeff Taylor. Medalling in the Konstantin Korotkov Memorial Tournament in Russia and the Cordova Cardin Memorial Tournament in Cuba has given Mukhin the confidence he needs to reach New Dehli. "I used to think that these boxers were superhuman, they are so great and awesome, but after being in these competitions you realise that they are not superhuman, they are beatable," Mukhin said. Being only one kilogram above the mark for superheavyweights, Muhkin has found himself fighting others almost 30 kilograms heavier than himself.

Growing up where boxing was not a profession, nor really a sport, Mukhin just fought for fun. "I just mucked around with my stepfather a bit, he was the champion of Europe [Roman Filiminov], I just mucked around, nothing too full on." Now, between working as a personal trainer and taking doorman shifts at nightclubs in Civic, Mukhin is priming himself for one of the biggest fights of his career. Having already beaten the same opponent, Mukhin must back this up, and defeat him again, if he will realise his dream of representing Australia.