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Potter named Aussie boxing champ



Luke Simmonds | 15th May 2016 2:34 PM



CHAMP: Tianah Potter, 14, is the unofficial Australian champion for her weight and age.

Luke Simmonds

BOXING: Tianah Potter has been recognised as the best in Australia for her weight and age, but only by default.

The 14-year-old was gearing up to have a crack at the national title on the Gold Coast last week, but was shattered to find out she had no opponent.

The bitter-sweet moment has left her technically, but not officially, the best in Australia because she didn't actually fight for the title.

It wasn't the first time the up and comer has faced that fate in her

Potter was forced to fight a 24-year-old in one of her nine bouts, just to get some experience.

"There's no one to fight really. I would have preferred to fight," Potter

"But I've already had five fights this year since February, which I'm excited about because it's already more than last year.

"I've just got to keep getting fights and experience and hopefully one day win the Australian titles.

Potter got into boxing when she saw one of her idols, Shelley Watts, box her way to Commonwealth gold.

After heckling her mum into submission, the teenager was straight into the ring and managed four fights in her first year.

Now her Spiders Boxing Club coach Luke Sheehan said while it was disappointing not to fight for the Aussie title, Potter had what it takes to be an Olympian herself one day.

"I think she's awesome. She started last year, trained for six months and then started competing... you try to start them from 8-14, because anything after that they're fighting 14year-olds with nearly 80 fights," he said.

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"She fought a 24-year-old and her last fight was a 15-year-old and that's what makes her special – she's always stepping up to the challenge.

"She's a natural puncher and she could easily become the next Shelley Watts.

Tianah's next fight is in Townsville against Patria Mahoney, an opponent she has previously beaten at the Golden Gloves.

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