

# Boxing dynasty takes shape

Aaron Langmaid

THEIR famous father was one of Australia's most successful boxers.

So it's probably no surprise to the teenage sons of Lester Ellis — a world champ when he was a teenager — are on the verge of their own professional careers in the ring.

There's just one condition: "I had to finish year 12," said Lester Jr, 18.

"Mum and Dad wanted me to finish school before I took it further. They wanted to know I had something to fall back on."

The oldest Ellis sibling will be joined by brother Jake, 17, in separate bouts at an amateur boxing event next Friday.

The pair, who already share a string of wins, will be watched by their nervous parents as they vie for titles in their respective divisions.

"Dad will be up near the ring, yelling like crazy," Lester Jr said.

"Mum will watch until I get hit and then she'll ask Dad when she can look again."

Lester will fight for a middleweight title; his brother a bantamweight crown.

Both admitted to late nights watching videos of their father's greatest performances and know they have big shoes to fill. But Dad



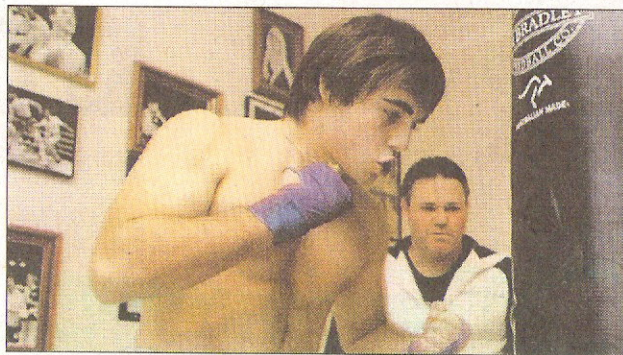
**No surprise:** Lester Ellis with his three boxing sons — Lester Jr, Jake and Darcy. Pictures: PETER WARD

Lester said he would prefer they didn't fill them at all.

"I tried to get them to do something else, but I guess it's in their blood," Ellis said. "I could see them getting hurt and I just don't want that."

He said his oldest son had plenty of natural movement, speed and power, while Jake had a lot of ability.

The teenagers will compete at the Victorian amateur Boxing League championships at Sunshine next week.



**In the blood:** young Lester lets it rip.

**'I tried to get them to do something else, but I guess it's in their blood. I could see them getting hurt'**

- LESTER ELLIS

The Herald Sun

Current student: Jake Ellis

Past student: Lester Ellis

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