

# Duddy ready for the next round

Back in New York after a two-week stint in Boston, John Duddy is putting finishing touches to what has been his toughest training camp to date, ahead of his WBC Continental Americas middleweight title defense against seasoned Freddy Cuevas at Madison Square Garden on June 10.

"I suppose for every fight I've trained for (camp) has seemed tougher," Duddy said on Memorial Day.

"But even James (Moore) noticed the difference in training. I'm doing more rounds, there's more intensity and I'm just correcting stuff in the gym," the undefeated 26-year-old added.

Duddy, trainer Harry Keitt, Moore, the Arklow light middleweight who's scheduled to fight in Dublin this Saturday, and Brooklyn junior welterweight Paulie Malignaggi were recently in camp outside Boston before bad weather there forced them back to New York.

"We had a great time there and it was a good learning experience for future camps," Duddy noted.

The Derry Destroyer will be gunning for his 17th pro victory against Cuevas on the undercard of Malignaggi's bid for Miguel Cotto's WBO belt. A tough Mexican fighting out of Chicago with a 25-8-1 (17 KOs) ledger, Cuevas is a ten-year veteran who's only lost to the best in the business.

That includes a points defeat to current middleweight king Jermaine Taylor three years ago in



## Boxing Roundup

Jay Mwamba  
jmwamba@irishecho.com

his first attempt for the WBC trinket Duddy won last March.

Duddy has studied tapes of Cuevas, including the Taylor fight, and is aware of the threat the challenger poses.

"He's going to ask more questions of me than any other fighter I've faced and I hope I have the answers for him," he remarked.

In an earlier interview with a Boston radio station, Duddy said of his opponent: "Cuevas is a tough fighter. He took Jermaine Taylor the distance. He's going to bring out different aspects from me."

"I want to prove that there's more to John Duddy than 'slam, bam thank you ma'am.' I let my opponent worry about me, not me worry about him. I'm young and strong. I'd rather let the other guy look over his shoulder at me."

Duddy returns to Madison Square Garden's main arena exactly a year after pitching a shutout against Patrick Thompson there on another Miguel Cotto undercard.

### DUNNE CHALLENGE

Bernard Dunne's intriguing clash with once beaten American



John Duddy, seen here late last year, says he is ready for his June 10 bout at Madison Square Garden.

David "El Finito" Martinez in Dublin this Saturday tops an interesting card at the National Stadium that includes two U.S.-based Irish prizefighters in the 28-year-old Moore and Oklahoma State lightweight titlist Oisín Fagan.

In the 15-1-1 Martinez, a former amateur standout out of Albuquerque, New Mexico, who's 23, Dunne (20-0, 12 KOs) squares off with a young, brash, well groomed foe who'll be dangerous until the final bell — if it goes the distance.

Said Martinez: "I've worked so hard for this fight. I'm not the type to make big predictions or anything but I can promise I'm 100

percent ready to fight and 100 percent ready to win."

The 26-year-old Dunne's last bout was an eight-round nod over South American super bantamweight champion Sergio Carlos Santillan in Turin last April.

### MOORE'S HOMECOMING

One of Ireland's most celebrated amateur fighters in recent years, Moore (6-0, 5 KOs) returns to the National Stadium for the first time as a pro to take on English journeyman Kevin Phelan (10-6) over eight rounds.

"James is really excited and looking forward to it," said Duddy, a friend, training partner and neighbor of Moore's in

Queens, New York.

Phelan, who is 28, like Moore, has been inactive for close to a year since a six round loss to one Barrie Lee in Glasgow in May 2005.

Moore, on the other hand, has fought six times as a pro since his debut last August.

### FURIOUS FAGAN

Fagan had blown a gasket when Peter McDonagh, whose Irish lightweight crown would have been on the line at the National Stadium withdrew with a knee injury last week. But the Oklahoma schoolteacher has been cheered by the prospect of lifting the vacant light welterweight title instead if he beats Jeff Thomas (9-5-1).

"He (Thomas) actually has a better record than McDonagh anyway and it means I'm having to move up in weight but I really want an Irish title so I think it's a risk worth taking," Fagan said.

### BLOWN OFF

Bronx lightweight Maureen Shea's split points loss to Kimberly Colbert a fortnight ago was rescinded last week by the New York State Athletic Commission after results of Colbert's post-fight drug test revealed that she had contravened the Commission's substance policy. According to Boxrec.com, Colbert tested positive for marijuana.

It means that Shea, a 25 year-old super featherweight, retains her 5-0 unbeaten record.

TOP RANK

JUNE 10TH

@

Irish Ropes

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

FOR THE W.B.C. CONTINENTAL AMERICAS

MIDDLEWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

DOORS 6:00 PM  
FIRST BOUT  
7:00 PM

IRELAND'S  
JOHN DUDDY  
VS  
FREDDY CUEVAS

TO BE FOLLOWED BY

WORLD JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

MIGUEL COTTO VS PAUL MALIGNAGGI

ALSO FEATURING  
BOBBY PACQUIAO  
VS.

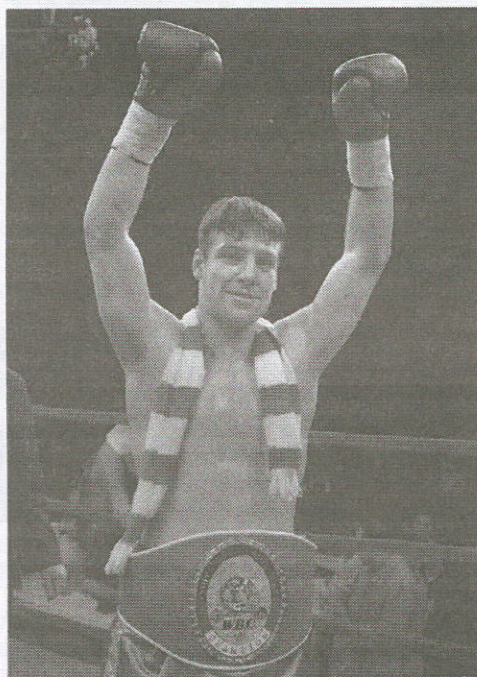
KEVIN KELLEY

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR

NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL CAPTAIN

TOMMY ZBIKOWSKI HEAVYWEIGHT DEBUT.

ALL BOUTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



TICKET PRICES  
\$50, \$100, \$200  
\$300 & \$500

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY BEFORE

IT'S TOO LATE TOMORROW  
AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

MANHATTAN - JACK DEMSEY'S

36 WEST 33RD ST

212-629-4899 (CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED)

YONKERS - THE HERITAGE

916 MCLEAN AVE

718-776-7532

QUEENS - DOYLES CORNER

42-02 B/WAY, ASTORIA

718-278-9407

MCGUINNESS'S

41-17 QUEENS BLVD, SUNNYSIDE

718-729-9617

MAGGIE MAYS, GASLIGHT,

STARTING LINE, HILLTAP,

CONNOLLY'S CORNER,

RED SETTER AND SEAN CAREW'S

BROOKLYN - GLEASON'S GYM

75-06 FRONT ST. 718-318-5145

ALSO IRISH ROPES 718-318-5145