

Moore earns TKO in undercard

After seeing several opponents pull out and then have his purse reportedly halved earlier Friday, James Moore went into the Theater at the Garden and vented his ire on Willie Cruz in his middleweight debut — notching a TKO at 2:41 of the second round.

Moore, who's previous bouts were at 154-pounds, upped his record to 9-0 (7 KO's) but had to work for it against an opponent with a deceptive 3-6 ledger.

Cruz, a 34-year-old out of Puerto Rico who has fought sparingly since turning pro in 1993, took Moore's shots in the first round while giving it a go himself. Then a left hurled him into the ropes midway through the second.

Moore followed up with a number of punches, including one that apparently caught Cruz low. Referee

Mike Ortega docked him a point but it was rendered moot seconds later when a straight right buckled Cruz' legs and Ortega ended the contest.

Moore received a huge ovation from the crowd and was particularly pleased. Was he surprised by Cruz' spirited effort given his losing record?

"No. I expected him to come swinging and banging and I wasn't deceived by his record," Moore told reporters.

"I was afraid I'd get another warning after (losing) a point. The punch came from low but it wasn't low," he said of the blow that cost him a point.

He was more vehement against the show's promoters, claiming that they'd halved his \$4,000 purse to \$2,000 on the day of the fight.

Irish Ropes, co-promoters

of the show with DRL Promotions, denied any malice. "It was a four-rounder. Initially it was supposed to be an eight-rounder," said Eddie McLoughlin.

Moore expects to fight again October 20 on a Lou DiBella card at the Manhattan Center.

SLEEK SIMON

Simon O'Donnell, Galway's contribution to the big Irish middleweight contingent in the United States, won his second pro contest via disqualification after the over-matched and exhausted Terrence Miller refused to fight in the fourth and final round.

"Sleek" Simon, a 6-foot-three former All-Irish Senior amateur champion at welterweight with enormous natural ability, had Miller out-classed and running on fumes when referee Ortega ended



James Moore earned a second-round TKO last Friday.

the bout.

He upped his record to 2-0 two weeks after his debut. The Philadelphia-based O'Donnell outpointed journeyman Andres Larrinaga (4-21-3) over four rounds at Philly's Blue Horizon on September 15.

Said the 20 year-old on fighting at two of prizefighting's most noted arenas in his first two weeks as a pro: "My dream has always been to be a professional boxer and to fight at the Blue Horizon and Madison Square Garden in

my first month as a pro is a dream come true."

MACKLIN BEATEN

Former Irish middleweight titlist Matthew Macklin suffered a 10th TKO in his bid for Jamie Moore's British light middleweight crown in Manchester last Friday.

The one-time hurling star out of Ballygarry, Tipperary, had a brief stint in Philadelphia last year under Simon O'Donnell's manager Tom Moran and caused waves by calling out John Duddy.

Lansdowne Bhoys forge ahead

Inspired by new coach Tommy McMenemy and a raft of new signings, nine-man Lansdowne Bhoys picked up their first point of the season in the Cosmopolitan Soccer League First Division after a credible 1-1 tie with joint leaders Polonia at Brooklyn's McCarran Park last Sunday.

McMenemy, Columbia University's English-born assistant coach, stepped into the void left by Paul Doherty during the close season and brought along six new players, one of whom put the brakes on hot Polonia in a dramatic affair.

Guy Stampur's 75th minute leveler ended the Poles' winning streak that had seen them reel in eight goals in two matches.

Mayo-born goalie Alan Reilly was another Lansdowne hero, stopping a penalty (50th) conceded by his brother Declan who received a second yellow for the infringement and was given marching orders.

The Bhoys had earlier lost defender David Duffy (35th) for a professional foul with Polonia already reduced to the ten-men they finished with.

"Brilliant result — it's looking positive," said Aiden Corr, who'd seen the Bhoys slump 5-1 and 3-1 in their first two fixtures.

He hailed midfielders Dessie Beattie and Stampur, shot-stopper Reilly and left fullback Shane O'Donnell for coming up big against the Poles.

Corr, whose seconds were blanked 2-0 by Polonia's reserves, is confident that



young McMenemy, a former Columbia star, will make Lansdowne competitive again.

SWEENEY'S MEN

Donald Kelly (two), Niall Carolan and first team coach Robbie Walsh handed stand-in boss Owen Sweeney a memorable coaching debut with goals in the Shamrock Over-30s' 4-1 drubbing of BW Gottschee at Queens Children's Hospital.

Kelly drew first blood inside 20 minutes when he slotted in a Walsh free kick. Gottschee equalized shortly after resumption but Carolan's quick reaction to an Emmett Harvey-Bekir move resulted in a typical poacher's goal that restored the Rocks' lead.

Number three followed a through ball by Joe Mulligan and a twice-taken effort by Kelly whose initial shot was blocked.

The icing on the cake was a blast from the past as Walsh and the ageless Paul Wilson rekindled their uncanny understanding from their first team days after Harvey was fouled.

Wilson sent a curler to the near post where the intuitive Walsh rose above the Gottschee defense to nod home.

Sweeney, standing in for regular coach Bart O'Rourke

who was attending David Hillman's wedding, had a strong game in defense.

The Rocks' first win maintained their unbeaten record after two consecutive draws.

FREEBIE POINTS

Shamrock's first team won on a forfeit against New York Wanderers, a no-show for their Metro Div. 1 game.

"We hate winning games like that," the ever-competitive Walsh grumbled. At Aviator's Sports Complex, Dan Battaglia (75th) connected for ASA McCarthy in a 2-1 loss to BW Gottschee's Metro Div. 1 team.

CELTIC ACT

Anthony Campbell's second half trey (50th, 65th, 80th) sealed Manhattan Celtic's first win in the Second Division, a 5-0 trouncing of Kandia at Chelsea Pier. Jeff Evans (25th) and Michael Thomas (40th) also scored.

"We finally got our act together," said coach Ian Woodcock.

Celtic's reserves kept their winning act going with a 3-0 romp scripted by Brian Baker, James Flynn and Chris Vega.

GAELS THRASHED

With a number of players pulling double duty, Astoria Gaels were always going to struggle against FC Bulgaria in a Division Two tussle at Francis Lewis High School.

At the final whistle, the Bulgarians run off 6-1 winners, courtesy of a Christo Kaloferov hat trick and contributions by Bohos, Danny Mladenov and Ivan Minkov.

Gaels' reserves lost 3-0.

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