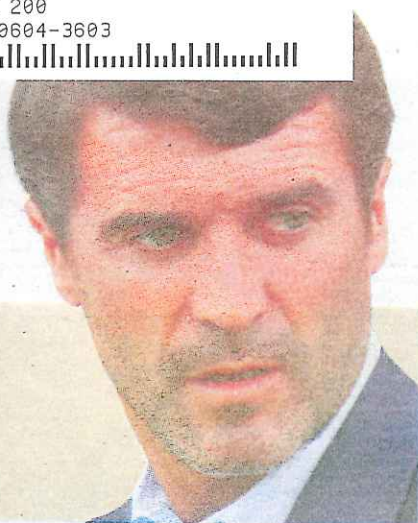


# EchoSports

April 29-May 5, 2009

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## KEANE GETS NEW JOB

Vows to take Ipswich Town to EPL - See Hannigan, Page 40



Anthony Maher of Kerry had possession as Derry's Fergal Doherty tries to keep up. SPORTSFILE

### GAA IN IRELAND

## Tipp shock Down in Div. 3, as Kerry take NFL with ease

By Malachy Clerkin  
letters@irishecho.com

The league football finals were held over the weekend just gone with only Sligo in Division Four getting in the way of a Munster clean sweep. And while Kerry's Division One win and Cork's in the second tier were widely tipped at the start of the year, John Evans's Tipperary were available at 66-1 before a ball was kicked. Their extra-time win over Down at Pearse Park in Longford on Saturday night was by far the game of the weekend and, with Kerry and Cork on the opposite side of the draw in the Munster Championship, they must wehightly-fancied to make it at least as far as a provincial final come the summer now.

Kerry beat Derry on Sunday in a quite bloodless encounter at Croke Park that ended 1-15 to 0-15, their goal coming courtesy of wing-forward Donnacha Walsh in the first half. It wasn't a bad game but it had all the intensity of a kid's birthday party. The only decent bit of hitting all afternoon came when Derry's two best forwards, Paddy and Eoin Bradley, ran into each other by accident, causing Paddy to have to come off the pitch with a mild concussion.

Kerry won as they liked and would have won by more if they'd had to, with Tommy Walsh, Kieran Donaghy and Colm Cooper all pretty comfortable against the Derry defence.

The Division Two final didn't particularly set the pulses racing either, Cork running out very easy 1-14 to 0-12 winners over Monaghan.

Seamus McEnaney admitted afterwards that the five-point margin flattered his Monaghan side and he was right for in truth, they simply didn't turn up on Sunday. All the speed, passion and fight that has marked Monaghan out as a possible coming team these past few years was absent and, given that they will have to get through first Derry and then either Tyrone or Armagh just to reach an Ulster final this year, McEnaney's fifth year in charge could very well turn into quite a shortened one.

As for Cork, they move on apace. Although they hadn't much to beat on Sunday, they beat it well and with great efficiency. Graham Canty has the place to himself at times and in Paul Kerrigan they appear to have unearthed the type of dynamic wing forward they've lacked these past few summers. Kerrigan - and to greater or lesser extents James Masters and Donncha O'Connor - put Monaghan to the pin of their collars in the first half and finished them off in the second after Tommy Freeman and Paul Finlay hauled the northerners back into contention. It was Kerrigan's run that set Masters up for the title-sealing goal with 10 minutes to go.

See GAA, Page 42

### BOXING IN AMERICA

## 'I'll be back,' says Duddy after defeat

By Jay Mwamba  
letters@irishecho.com

Forty-eight hours after being handed his first pro defeat by the unheralded Billy Lyell in Newark, New Jersey, John Duddy was vowing to return a better boxer.

"It's all good - all positive," an upbeat Duddy told the Echo two days after a ten round split points loss to Lyell at the Prudential Center last Friday dropped his record to 26-1 [17 KOs] and put a wrench in his world middleweight title ambitions.

The lively, albeit light-hitting Lyell [now 19-7, 3 KOs] out-worked Duddy 97- 93 and 98-92, according to judges Thomas Kaczmarek and John Stewart, respectively. A third official, Lawrence Layton, had Duddy winning 96-94.

Duddy, ranked number two in the world by the WBO and fourth by the WBC going into the bout, had no qualms with the outcome.

"I'll take my knocks and I'll take my bruises and move on," he said.

"I'd have loved to have that one on Friday but it's only made me more hungry [to succeed]. I'm certainly disappointed but at the end of the day I won't feel sorry for myself. I'll study the loss and come back stronger," he added.

The Derry Destroyer, hardly at his vintage best on the night, hinted at a measure of relief at finally tasting defeat.

"It's out of the way, the undefeated [record]. I'm just looking forward to relaxing mentally and physically and returning to training in June and maybe fighting in July or August,"



John Duddy pictured Friday night after his first pro defeat on Friday night. RAY LENNON

Duddy said.

He's scheduled to fly home to Ireland today. In Miami, trainer Pat Burns said Duddy, who needed nine stitches to close a cut above his left eye, would report for training there on June 1.

On what went wrong at the Prudential Center, Duddy said he had an off-night.

"I just don't think I was operating on all cylinders," he observed. "I wasn't myself for some reason. An off-night...an off-performance."

Burns said his charge "didn't fight the smartest fight," adding: "When he jabbed and used angles, he dominated. When he

See BOXING, Page 43







John Duddy goes on the offensive against opponent Billy Lyell in Newark.

## Boxing

Continued from Page 44

slugged, he didn't. He made an easy fight too hard." Said Lyell: "The strategy was to fight hard."

The Ohioan, who shares trainer Jack Loew with WBC-WBO middleweight titlist and hitherto Duddy target Kelly Pavlik, made that point clear from the first round when he came out fast.

Duddy initially did well to control his man in the first stanza, using the jab and hook to keep him honest and when Lyell landed, countering him well. But Lyell's overall aggression and the three quick punches he connected at the end undoubtedly earned him the round on all three cards.

The judges had Duddy losing the second heat as well after he ate several rights that had the arena gasping.

After four rounds, Kaczmarek and Stewart had the busier Lyell ahead four rounds to nothing, with Layton giving Duddy only the third - a round in which he was cut by a punch.

At any rate, Duddy came back strong in the fifth stanza, probably his best of the night. He turned Lyell into a pinata, pounding away at the smaller man and cutting him on the bridge of his nose. It was the only round that Duddy swept on all three cards.

He carried the momentum into the sixth as Lyell slowed down noticeably and won that on two cards. But then Duddy, inexplicably, took the seventh stanza off.

He would rally in the

eight and ninth, seemingly outslugging Lyell but the scoring was mixed.

Burns conceded that it was a close fight but had Duddy winning by a point or two. "Billy fought a good fight," he acknowledged.

On the Derry Destroyer's world title hopes, Burns said the dream remains alive.

"John must get back, win one or two fights and get back in the hunt. Few fighters win titles undefeated," he remarked.

"I think John will re-position himself. I have no doubt that he'll be back," the trainer added.

### LOEW VENOM

Jack Loew, Lyell's trainer, was uncomplimentary about Duddy after the fight.

He said the Irishman got his [rear] handed to him by a 'B' fighter and said it was about time Duddy was exposed.

"They've been protecting him, trying to keep him clean for Pavlik, but if that fight had happened it would have been murderous. I thought he lost to Walid Smichet and he struggled against [Matt] Vanda," Loew told reporters.

### MOORE CONNECTION

Gabriel "King" Rosado [11-3, 6 KOs], who handed James Moore his first loss last June, pulled off another major upset on the Duddy-Lyell undercard with a split decision over former world champion Kassim Ouma [26-6-1, 16 KOs].

### O'CONNOR WIN

Welterweight Danny O'Connor [6-0, 2 KOs] outpointed Travis Hartman [9-

RAY LENNON

12-1, 7 KOs] over four rounds at Foxwoods Resort and Casino in Mashantucket, Conn., last Saturday.

### BYRNE ON

Las Vegas-based Dean Byrne [10-0, 4 KOs], meanwhile, tackles Mexican southpaw Jose Reynoso [10-2, 1 KO] in the Dubliner's adopted hometown this Friday. The scheduled eight-rounder will be at the South Point Hotel Casino.

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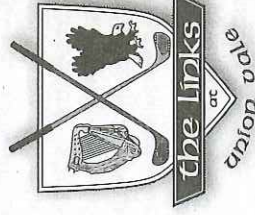
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