

Lyell Shocks Duddy in Newark

By Declan O'Kelly

JOHN Duddy's unbeaten record and world title challenge hopes evaporated in Newark, New Jersey on Friday night when unfancied journeyman Billy Lyell beat him by split decision.

What was meant to be a tune up for bigger things turned into a nightmare for the 29-year-old middleweight, who came up against a well-prepared, motivated fighter who executed his game plan.

Lyell, who moves to 19-7, 3 KOs, started off aggressively, storming into a lead by scoring repeatedly with overhand rights. Duddy, now 26-1, 17 KOs, was struggling to find his stride, and the jab that overwhelmed Matt Vanda in his last fight was missing in this bout.

The Derry native was cut under the left eyebrow in the third, and the blood flowing into his eye may have unsettled him further. Two of the three judges gave Lyell the first four rounds on the scorecards, such was the impression the smaller man was making.

However, in the fifth Lyell lifted somewhat and Duddy got his rhythm going. A big shot late in the round seemed to stun the Ohio man, but the 24-year-old was able to escape any further punishment in the stanza.

The remainder of the fight was closely contested, with Duddy working hard but losing ground by getting tagged by those overhand rights and roundhouse left hooks from Lyell that impressed the judges.

Duddy suffered a second cut on the same eye later in the fight, and try as he might to redress the damage, Lyell had got off to too strong a start to change the outcome in the fight.

After the final bell judge Thomas Kaczmarek saw the fight 97-93 Lyell, Lawrence Layton scored it 96-94 Duddy, and John Stewart gave the fight to Lyell 98-92 to the obvious disappointment of the fans that turned up.

Afterwards, Duddy went to hospital to get the cuts looked at, and advisor Craig Hamilton spoke to the assembled press.

"I thought Billy won the fight, I am not going

to get into the judges' scores but I thought Billy won the fight," said Hamilton.

"I don't think John effectively used the jab like he did against Vanda. It wasn't a snapping jab and it gave Billy the opportunity to go over the top, and he took advantage of it."

Hamilton was philosophical about the defeat.

"It's a setback and you have to go back to the drawing board, but you have to come back off it," he said.

"And that is what John is going to have to do. Whenever anything adverse happens to you in life you will learn that there is an opportunity and some people grab it. You can make a good thing out of a bad thing."

The *Irish Voice* tried to get in touch with Duddy, who is returning home to Ireland on Wednesday evening, but could not reach him for comment before press time.

After the fight Friday, Lyell confirmed he would be willing to do it all over again.

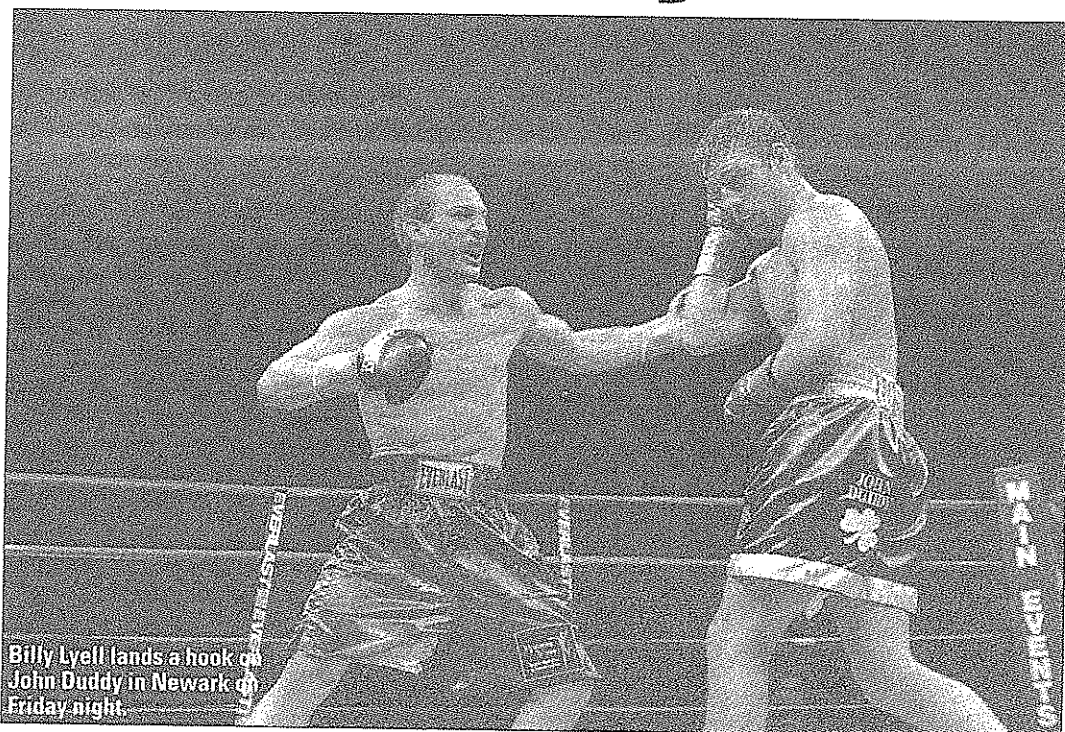
"Absolutely I would be interested in a rematch, but I will let my manager Pat Nelson take care of that," said the beat-up but happy victor.

Lyell said he knew he had the win when he heard the 98-92 score. "I thought if they were going to give it to him that it would have been close. I thought that I won by four rounds clearly, so when I heard the 98-92 I knew I got it."

Lyell's trainer Jack Loew, who also trains WBO/WBC middleweight champion Kelly Pavlik, was delighted for his fighter.

"Billy worked really hard for this fight. It is the first time we had eight weeks to prepare for an opponent; normally we are called in at the last minute. He worked his ass off and I think it showed tonight," Loew said.

Loew was happy with Lyell's bodywork during



Billy Lyell lands a hook on John Duddy in Newark on Friday night.

Photo by Ray Lennon

the fight.

"I thought that was the best thing we did. I told him to keep staying on that body early and it kept bringing his hands down and Billy went over the top," Loew said.

"Billy followed the game plan to a tee and he did a great job. Billy is a very limited fighter, but he did a hell of a job tonight."

The Youngstown trainer also offered a forthright view of Duddy's career trajectory.

"They tried to keep him (Duddy) clean to fight Kelly Pavlik and that would have been murder, that would be disastrous for the kid. He got his ass handed to him by a B-level fighter

tonight, and that is where he is at," Loew said.

On the undercard, cruiserweight Paddy "Boy" Farrell moved his record to 2-0, 2 KOs, after a facile win over Doug Bowling (0-2) with a TKO in the first round.

The Jersey City native was making his second professional appearance and had a few fans at the Prudential Center to roar him into the ring.

The redheaded Farrell looked in good shape and his adversary, Doug Bowling (0-2) from Ohio, was a little portly in comparison.

After a couple of seconds of feeling each other out, Farrell triple jabbed his opponent back into the corner and pum-

meled his body with three heavy right hands, which was more than enough to knock Bowling down.

Farrell, who sports a Celtic cross tattoo in the small of his back, tore into Bowling after the count and bowled him over with a few more body shots.

Again, the referee gave the Ohioan a count and wisely called a halt to proceedings.

"He put his hands on my shoulder and left it open for a triple right to the body," said Farrell in the ring afterwards. "I'm hoping to back in the ring again soon," continued the 26-year-old.

In the co-feature event, Gabriel Rosado (12-3) beat Kassim Ouma (26-

6) by split decision.

In other news, Irish-American junior welterweight Danny O'Connor moved to 6-0 when he beat Travis Hartman (9-12-1) by unanimous decision at Foxwoods in Connecticut. O'Connor had Hartman down in the second and fourth rounds, and took the fight 40-34 on all three judges' cards.

Meanwhile, Dean Byrne (10-0, 4 KOs), will fight Jose Reynoso (10-2, 1 KO) in an eight round contest this Friday at the South Point Hotel Casino in Las Vegas.

Byrne, a native of Crumlin in Dublin, is trained by Freddie Roach, who also trains Manny Pacquiao, the number one pound-for-pound superstar who is fighting Ricky Hatton this Saturday night at the MGM Grand in Vegas.

Finally, James Moore's preparations continue for his fight against Joseph De Los Santos at Plattduetsche Park Restaurant, Franklin Square Long Island on May 8. The 31-year-old Moore (16-2) will look to get back to winning ways against the 4-3-3 Dominican in a fight scheduled for eight rounds.

For ticket information call Barney at 917-559-8467 or Deko at 347-680-0629.

Ryan Goes for Derby Glory

By Declan O'Kelly

"SECOND sucks. I don't believe in second. Second ain't good enough. I know it sounds crazy but if you settle for second in this game you won't survive."

So says Derek Ryan, the Irish trainer of Musket Man, one of the fancied thoroughbred's in this Saturday's Kentucky Derby.

This year Ryan burst onto the big time with Musket Man, who won both the Tampa Bay and Illinois derbies. The horse has won five of his six races and taken in a cool \$572,600 along the way.

"Everyone says he has beaten nothing, but he has beaten everything

he has had to beat. As they say, keep yourself in good company and your horse in bad and you'll be alright."

Daniel Centeno rode Musket Man to win at Tampa, but shortly after, Ryan and the horse's owners Eric Fein and Vic Carlson decided to give Eibar Coa the ride.

"We switched after the Tampa Derby. He (Eibar) has a lot more experience in these races, and I have had a lot of success with him and so has the owner. He's ridden in the Derby three times, and we've gone with the more experienced rider with whom we have had a lot of success with."

Ryan, a Thurles, Co. Tipperary native, is a

40-something trainer who made his move to the States in 1989. "I was always a bit of a traveler, and I always wanted to come to the States. After that I had planned to go to Australia, but I never left the States and have been here ever since," he says.

Before he crossed the Atlantic, he worked at the Curragh, with Tommy Stack, and also worked in England, France and Germany.

Once stateside, Ryan worked for whomever needed his services. In 1996 he decided to branch out for himself and started Derek Ryan Stables. One of his first mainstream successes was Emergency Status,

who won the Jersey Derby in 2002.

"When you don't have big, big clients and you can't afford expensive horses, you buy what you like as opposed to pedigree. That was the first good one I bought," Ryan said.

Ryan, whose assistant Martin Weir comes from Banbridge, Co. Down, has no worries when it comes to Musket Man's temperament.

"The horse has a great disposition, he's probably got the best disposition of any horse that I've ever had, and nothing ever bothers him, so the big day isn't going to affect him. Like I said I don't want to be second or third, I wanna win," he says.