

Moore Set for Long Island Action

By Declan O'Kelly

JAMES Moore (16-2) will make his ring return this Friday night when he fights Joseph De Los Santos (4-3-3) in a six round contest on a Ring Promotions card at Plattduetsche Park Restaurant, Franklin Square, Long Island.

It will be the Wicklow native's first fight since his defeat to Yuri Foreman on December 13, and the 31-year-old is looking forward to getting back in the ring.

"I'm looking forward to a solid night's work and a good performance," Moore told the *Irish Voice* on Monday.

Moore took a break a two-month break after his last fight, a disappointing loss to the New York-based Foreman for the NABF title, to get away and to get the loss out of his system.

Though coming off nearly the longest lay-off he has had as a pro, Moore says he has rediscovered his hunger for the game and is looking forward to the fight this weekend.

Moore and trainer Lennox Blackmore have prepared for this fight in the Island Fitness gym in Glen Cove, Long Island. If there are two words to describe the difference between this camp and the last, they are better sparring.

"I've had a lot better sparring for this fight than for the last one. On the West Coast (where Moore did much of his prep work for the Foreman fight) a

James Moore.



lot of the guys I was sparring had fights fall through so they left and it was hard to get sparring," he said.

This time out getting good quality workouts has not been an issue. Moore had many spars with New York middleweight George Walton (20-3, 12 KOs) a strong puncher who left the city this week to go to Puerto Rico for Miguel Cotto's camp to help him prepare for his June fight against Joshua Clottey.

Moore revealed to the *Irish Voice* that he had

been offered the Kassim Ouma fight on the recent John Duddy-headlined card in Newark, but he had turned it down because he would only have had three weeks to prepare for the former world champion and he had already committed to the bout in Long Island.

Moore is wary of his Dominican opponent Friday night. Santos' record is 4-3-3m but some of his draws have been against fighters with decent records.

"This guy is better than his record sug-

gests, and with the shorter fight there is no room for mistakes. There is no room for a slip up as the fight is a six-rounder," he said.

Moore put it succinctly when asked what he was needed to do in this fight. "Land more power combinations," he replied.

Moore, who came to the end of his contract with Celtic Gloves promotions after the Foreman fight, has Barney Moore as his advisor and is keeping all options open. Though this fight is at a catchweight of

157 pounds, Moore isn't entirely sure whether to campaign at 154 or 160 going forward. One fight that is still a very real possibility is a matchup with Pawel Wolak, the Polish-American light middleweight who is based in New Jersey and fights out of New York.

The two have been linked to each other in the past, and the fight would be an interesting one for the Irish and Polish communities in New York.

Buses are leaving Maggie Mae's in

Sunnyside, Queens and McKenna's in Maspeth on Friday evening. For more information about transport and tickets, call Moore at 917-559-8467 or Deko at 347-680-0629.

In other news, light welterweight Dean Byrne moved to 11-0, 4 KOs when he defeated Jose Reynoso (10-3) by unanimous decision on Friday night in Las Vegas.

Byrne dominated the fight against a tough unyielding adversary, taking the decision on the judges' cards, 76-73, 76-73 and 77-72.

The 24-year-old Dublin native had his Mexican opponent down three times in the first four rounds, and was able to build on this work to win his eleventh contest as a pro.

The *Irish Voice* caught up with Byrne on Monday when he was spending time with none other than Manny Pacquiao, the number one pound for pound superstar who destroyed Ricky Hatton in two rounds at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on Saturday night.

"I did well when I got on the inside and in the second round I hurt him with a left hook and had him down and I thought that was it," Byrne said.

He also put Reynoso down in the third with a body shot and in the fourth with the right hand. "The guy was

really tough and showed a lot of heart. I kept walking him down and pressuring him and even in the later rounds I kept on him, but it was a good fight," he said.

Boxing fans in New York will get a chance to see Byrne in action on May 15 as the Dubliner confirmed he is meant to be in action on a card at the Yonkers Armory, opponent to be confirmed.

With all the Pacquiao/Hatton hoopla, Freddie Roach was not in Byrne's corner on Friday. The trainer's brother and Byrne's manager Stave Fader were with him. Byrne hopes that Roach will come east with him, but he knows the famed trainer has a lot on his plate.

"I am hoping he can get time to come across because he has a lot of fighters in action. Freddie will be there when he can, but if he is not then I'll be the professional that I am and I'll do what I am trained to do," Byrne said.

"I want to get my record up. I am sparring with the likes of Amir Khan, I am sparring at world class level and I want to be fighting at world class level as soon as possible."

Finally, according to boxrec.com Eddie Hyland will fight Sergey Gulyakevich for the EBU super featherweight title in Dublin on May 29.

Bronx Irish Soccer League

THE Tigers defeated Parlour on Saturday 4-1. Four different Tigers players scored in their first win of the season. Sabita Krishnan scored in the first half, followed by Alyssa Meyers, who headed the ball in off a corner kick.

In the second half Teri Chargualaf added another one, followed shortly by Nisha Varia. Jessica Aldarondo and Cindy Ortiz played a great game and helped lead the offense.

For Parlour, goal scorer was Miss Gregory, assisted by Christine Fulton.

Jake's beat Doc's II 6-2. Jake's started off

the game with two goals scored by forwards Lara Kiang and midfielder Melissa Ryerson. Heading into the second half, Docs II scored two goals but Jake's came back, with Ryerson scoring three more.

Forward Courtney Berman was aggressive in the offense, plowing through Docs II's defense, and helped Kiang score Jake's sixth and final goal. Defender Alexis Hill helped halt any more goals by Docs, as did midfielder Charity Lord.

Ned Devine's vs. Harps tied 0-0, and Dr. Gilbert's beat Velocity, 6-0.

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