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Barry bout just a cruise for Katie

Ireland's double World queen shrugs off nerves to outbox former victim Caroline

THOMAS MYLER
RINGSIDE



DUBLIN

March 21

IRELAND'S two-time world champion Katie Taylor cruised to a landside 27-3 victory over Colorado's Caroline Barry, America's No 1 lightweight and three times Pan Am champion, at the O2 Arena.

Over four-twos, it headlined the three-bout amateur undercard of the Bernard Dunne-Ricardo Cordoba pro fight.

The Bray BC girl had beaten Barry at the 2006 Worlds in New Delhi.

A touch of mirth was introduced when the result was announced, with a wag shouting: "Next time, Katie, you'll win her outright!"

Taylor, also current European and EU champion, scored with stabbing left jabs and hooks to both head and body.

Barry landed long lefts to the body in the third but the Irish girl was always in command and got a tremendous reception from the 9,000 fans.

"I was a bit nervous getting into the ring in front of such a big crowd, easily the biggest I've ever boxed in front of," said Taylor.

"There was a lot more pressure on me than there would be usually. But once the first bell rang I was all right. Caroline didn't do too much in the first two rounds but came on stronger in the third and fourth.

"She's good. I don't think our first fight in the Worlds should have been stopped on the 15-point rule."

Photo: Aidan Walsh



PRESSURE: Bar
Katie Taylor (in red) coped well

Barry said: "I don't think that 27-3 score reflected the true picture. But what a crowd - fantastic."

Mayo lightweight Ray Moylett, gold medallist in the World Youths Championships in Mexico four months ago, also beat a previous opponent, Dubliner Rob Gorman, 9-6 over three-threes.

Moylett, who had defeated the Bracken BC boxer in the quarters of the Irish Seniors in February, was sharp, though Gorman kept up the pressure all the way.

Beijing Olympics light-fly bronze

medallist Paddy Barnes had it easy enough with an 11-1 win over fellow-Belfast's Jim Linden in a three-threes.

Linden often switched to southpaw and had a useful left hook but Barnes, three-time national champion, was never in any trouble.

RESULTS

48: Paddy Barnes (Holy Family, Belfast) outpd Jim Linden (Star BC, Belfast) 11-1. 60: Katie Taylor (Bray, Wicklow) outpd Caroline Barry (Colorado, USA) 27-3. 60: Ray Moylett (St Anne's, Westport) outpd Rob Gorman (Bracken, Dublin) 9-6.

BN Scots Seniors

THE Scottish Senior finals are tonight (Friday March 27) at Lasswade, Midlothian and it's difficult to see anybody beating STEVE SIMMONS at heavy or CALLUM JOHNSON at light-heavy.

Simmons faces Hawick's SEAN ALLISON, who has never confronted anyone with the Leith Victoria man's pedigree. Said Steve, "I never disrespect opponents but I should win this one okay."

Granite City's EMMANUEL AHONSO has been a surprise package in this year's event but I can't see him beating Newarthill's Johnson, who looks invincible on current form.

Middleweight looks anybody's title given that DARREN REID (Alloa) and CHRIS COWAN (Lochend) were both dark horse winners in the semis. Reid has more experience than his Edinburgh rival, but then so did Cowan's semis victim Philip Warner.

Welter promises to be one of the bouts of the night, pitting Stirling's fearless buzz bomb GEORGE THOMSON against slick-boxing SEAN FINNEY of Kingdom, Kirkcaldy. This is a classic bull v matador confrontation and although Finney is the purists' favourite, don't write off Thomson.

At 64kgs Forgewood's STEVE SHAROU DI, who was lightweight champion last year, is favoured to beat ROSS McMURDIE - but the Newarthill boxer will do his darnedest to disprove that theory.

GARETH STEM P of Edinburgh's Holyrood club face a stiff test at bantam from ANDREW CUTHBERT (Granite City), who looked good seeing off former Eastern champion Dave Cowan in the semis.

The lightweight final looks another cracker, featuring Cuban-trained stylist RYAN SMITH from Renfrewshire versus exciting slugger SEAN WATSON (Fauldhouse). A real silk v rawhide affair, this.

At super-heavyweight I expect Springhill's ROSS HENDERSON to hit too hard for cagey Larkhall survivor JAMES PERRY.

BRIAN DONALD

Inexperience can't stop Cowan

ABERDEEN
March 20

SHOCKS and controversy were the order of the evening when the second leg of the Scottish Senior semi-finals was held at Treetops Hilton Hotel.

Newarthill official Wull Downie questioned the 4-3 scoreline his aggressive, all-action middleweight Peter Lee lost to Alloa underdog Darren Reid.

Said Downie, "I can't accept Peter scored only three punches. I thought he won comfortably."

Wull was happier with the unanimous

victory (the computers being down) his light-welterweight Ross McMurdie posted over Bellahouston's Sammy Hill.

Said Downie, "Full credit to Hill for making McMurdie toil hard."

Edinburgh Lochend coach Terry McCormack, was delighted by the 6-4 win of middleweight Chris Cowan over Springhill's former finalist Philip Warner.

Commented McCormack, "This was just Cowan's 10th bout while Warner has had at least 50."

Reigning welterweight king Matthew McAllister (Granite City)

lost out to Kingdom's Sean Finney by 4-3, but elder brother Edward Finney was beaten 8-4 by talented Steve Sharou di (Forgewood) at 64 kgs.

At featherweight Forgewood's 2008 champion Michael Roberts went down 9-8 to Glasgow based McNair-Dennistoun's Jonathon Slowey.

OTHER RESULTS

57: Arron McKelvie (Glenrothes) w/o, Shaun Dick (Paisley) withdrew. 69: George Thomson (Stirling) outpd James McLaughlin (Hillpark) 9-3. 91: Steve Simmons (Leith Victoria) outpd Mike McDonough (Port Glasgow) 13-2.

BRIAN DONALD