



The crowning of a champion

Hypnosis 'a trick' declares victor

AFTER the fight, Collins revealed that his claim he had been undergoing hypno-therapy was a con trick.

"I wasn't hypnotised. We played a trick and fooled them all," said Collins. "It was so easy. Talk about taking the bait. The rod and all was gone! It was in my mind to unsettle him and I succeeded."

"When you fight some men, you need a bit more and I knew Eubank was into all that psychology stuff."

He took psychologist Tony Quinn to his Las Vegas training camp. He was sat near the Irishman's corner in the fight, and it was his idea to use the hypnosis tactic.

Collins even went as far as to listen to a Walkman playing one of the 'Rocky' themes to cut himself off in the ring preliminaries while Eubank made his lavish entry on a Harley Davidson motor cycle.



It's all mine... new WBO world super-middleweight boxing champion Stephen Collins shows off his title belt after his sensational defeat of Chris Eubank at the Green Glens arena in Millstreet on Saturday. Pictures by Tom Burke

Gardai mount massive security check

GARDAI mounted a huge security operation to ensure there was no repetition of the kind of violence that marred the recent Ireland-England soccer match.

Uniformed and plainclothes men and women from Cork were backed up by central intelligence and technical resources at Garda headquarters.

An hour before the doors of the arena opened for the preliminary contests Garda specialists, backed by a sniffer dog, took over the arena and its precincts in a painstaking check for explosives.

"Clean as a whistle," commented one garda afterwards.

A fistful of dollars



Our 'Entry... former heavyweight boxer Henry Cooper was in Millstreet to enjoy the fight

Collins set to cash in as the US beckons with TV offers

By JODY CORCORAN

IRELAND'S new World Champion Stephen Collins is likely to be a millionaire before the end of the year with the megabucks that boxing can offer now beckoning.

The Dubliner has set his sights on the US where the coast-to-coast TV networks would offer a popular, red-haired, fighting Irishman wealth beyond his wildest dreams.

Now the WBO super middleweight champion, he could earn anything up to £1m if he took on either Nigel Benn or Roy Jones, who respectively hold the WBC and IBF titles in the same weight division.

Benn, whose last opponent Gerald McClellan is in hospital with brain damage, sent a fax to Collins after last night's night suggesting they "get together".

But a Las Vegas bout with Jones, regarded as the more dangerous, would really appeal to the American public and TV networks such as ABC or CBS.

The smart money, however, is on Collins offering Eubank a return fight, probably in Dublin during the summer, with the tidy sum of £1.2m to be split evenly between them.

Both fighters are managed by Barry Hearn, who will have a considerable say in who Collins fights next.

Eubank is tied into an eight-fight £10m deal with Sky Sports, which will be void if he loses another fight. He has already fought five times under the contract.

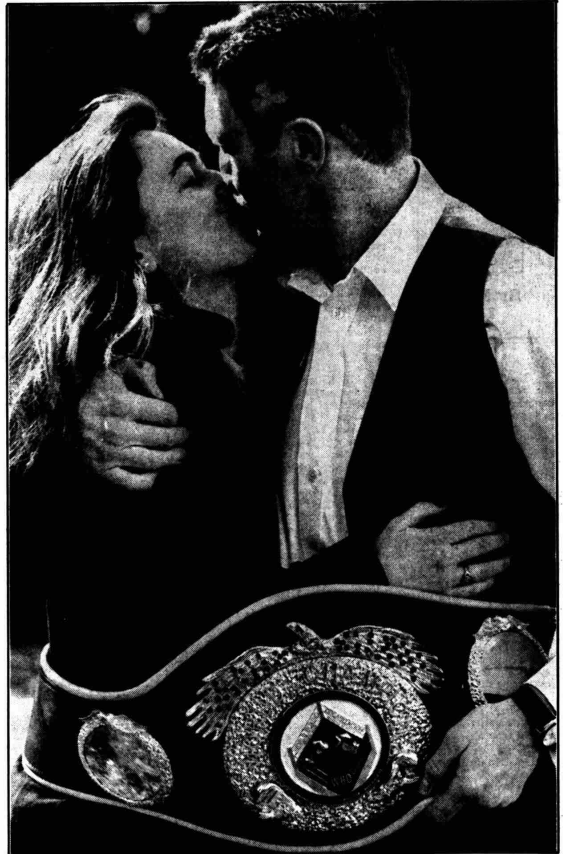
Collins, who received just £150,000 for Saturday night's fight compared to Eubank's £850,000, could claim 60pc of any future clash with Eubank, or 70pc if he travels.

French TV also came forward yesterday with a deal worth around \$200,000 for Collins to take on Frederick Sculler, the French European champion. He should win that but any fight would be dangerous, and Collins believes he should go straight for the big money.

Outside the ring, Collins will also be on a nice little earner. Fees of several thousand pounds for appearing at venues should boost his income for a few months.

Boxing, however, has taken some criticism after the controversial cases of Michael Watson and Gerald McClellan, so advertisers are more unwilling to ask fighters to endorse products.

According to Trevor O'Rourke of Media Sports, Collins will make his big money inside the ring. "The whole sport has taken a bit of a battering lately so some advertising may shy away. But I expect Stephen will be very much in demand."



Victory kiss... Gemma Collins shows her love for husband Stephen the day after the big fight drama



Night at the fight... Linda, Lisa and Jackie O'Rourke, all cousins of Stephen Collins, celebrate his victory

Boxer knew he would win claims guru Quinn

THE guru to Steve Collins, hypnotist Tony Quinn, revealed yesterday how he helped the boxer prepare mentally to become the new world champion.

By CLAIRE GRADY

"Even if you are a good physical athlete, if your mind is not right you may lose. It's important to be a mental athlete at the same time," he said.

"I feel in the future more and more people like Steve will be using people such as myself to help them to become mental athletes."

Collins, who embraced his guru after winning the title said Dr Quinn had put him at his ease and "confirmed what I always knew".

The Dublin fighter was certain, before he stepped into the ring, that he was going to beat Chris Eubank, Dr Quinn believes. "He was absolutely super to work with. He was incredibly cooperative, we got him on to a very good

My brother would have won bout in a field

THE SUPPORT from a stadium filled by 8,000 Irish fans was incredible — but Steve Collins' boxing brother Paschal is convinced Steve would have beaten Eubank in the solitude of an open field.

By DICK CROSS in Cork

Younger brother Paschal had himself won a major bout at the Millstreet arena on Saturday night by beating Spencer Alton of England also as a super middleweight.

After the big Collins family double he said of Steve's win: "It was incredible. What more can you ask for? We in the family all knew with certainty Steve was going to be the world super champion by tonight."

"The crowd and the atmosphere was unbelievable but I can tell you Steve would have taken Eubank out and beaten him even if they met in a field. He was simply the best."

Asked about Eubank's allegations that Steve had prepared unfairly by using a hypnotist, Paschal said: "Eubank was just looking for an excuse to pull out. Real boxing skills and the right preparation won this for Steve and nothing else."

His father, a former boxer himself, died in a dressing room in Dublin in 1981. "We all remember

him on the night a fight and I know Steve does," said Paschal.

The proudest woman in Ireland was the boxer's mother Colette, who sat ringside with daughter Colette and sons Michael and Roddie.

Mrs Collins rarely misses a match in which either of her sons are boxing no matter where it is. "I wouldn't have missed this night for anything. One word describes it. It was magic," she said afterwards.