

OF DEATH

Collins fury at new jibe



From IAN GIBB in DUBLIN

he paid for and Eubank would have little ring credibility left to chase more millions if he fails to wrench back his world crown.

His Sky TV deal, which was set to pay up to £10 million if he'd won all his fights with them, would be effectively over.

And with it any real hope of a £3million final decider with his old enemy Nigel Benn.

Eubank must realise he is at the cross-roads and this could be his last stand.

You can hit Eubank to the body and he'll wince, bang him on the chin and he'll shake it off—but try bashing him in the pocket and it's much more serious.

That's why he reacts like a cornered, wounded animal and is capable of striking back savagely.

Right through his career, the man who insists on calling himself "Simply the Best" has pulled

himself back from many a precipice.

But nobody's luck runs for ever and he lost his unbeaten record and title to Collins last March.

And in two meaningless first-round pushovers since then there has remained a nagging doubt that he's finding it harder and harder to get to the 12 stone weight limit.

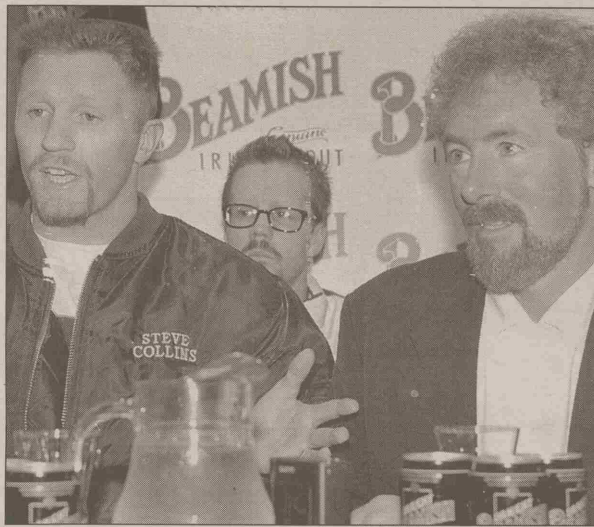
Heat

Collins can be expected to turn the heat on Eubank right from the start, trying to expose any stamina limitations. He could be good enough to win again on points.

But when Eubank's liveliness is on the line, he somehow finds something extra.

The head says Collins, but the heart says Eubank.

If he puts Collins down this time, I'm sure he'll go for broke and make sure he keeps him there — by the tenth round.



MIND GAMES: Hypnotherapist Tony Quinn is in Collins' corner again

CUT ABOVE THE REST!

By IAN GIBB

WORLD super-middleweight champion Steve Collins goes into tonight's defence against former titleholder Chris Eubank without a cuts man — because he's convinced he won't bleed!

Collins has been pumped up for the bout by hypnotherapist Dr Tony Quinn, the controversial character who got under Eubank's skin with his corner presence at their first fight.

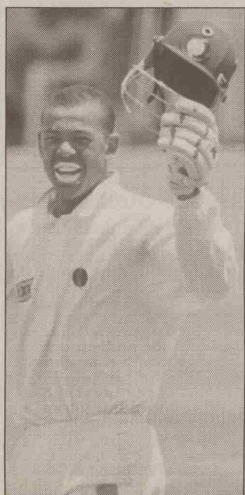
Quinn, 49, has also brainwashed his fellow Dubliner into believing he can't

feel pain and won't suffer from any swellings. Quinn, who claims a Master of Science degree, has all taken over Collins' preparation for fights, directing his fitness programme, plus diet and nutrition planning.

But Quinn insists he doesn't control Collins' mind. "What I do is to get him to be in total control of his mind and completely relaxed.

"Steve doesn't feel pain, will not be affected by bleeding and won't suffer swellings. He's going to win."

ANDY SLAP



EXCLUSIVE BY CHRIS LANDER

ANDREW SYMONDS, the hottest young property in cricket, is ready to reject the England 'A' tour of Pakistan — but he's also still not ready to declare himself an Aussie! He has told friends back on Queensland's Gold Coast that his favourite option may still be to spend the coming months working out his potential Test-playing career.

Gloucestershire's brilliant young batsman has promised to give his answer on the "A" team invite by Monday morning.

But the biggest hint to his role in cricket's nationality tug-of-war came via Australia's favourite beach playground, Surfers Paradise.

A long-standing friend, Martin Rogers, cricket writer of the Gold Coast Bulletin revealed last night that Andrew was set to put the whole issue on the back burner for six months.

Said Symonds: "If I turn down the tour of Pakistan it doesn't mean I am turning my back on any option. Nor would I be committing myself to anybody else. I would just prefer to give myself breathing space while making a decision that's going to affect the whole of my career and life."

Rogers, who knows the Symonds

Sym says no to Tour spot

family well, believes that the world's most-talked-about young cricketer will return to take his chance with Queensland.

Barry Richards, one of cricket's all-time greats, now chief executive of Queensland, joined the argument that Symonds need not be rushed into opting for either Ashes team just yet.

Said Richards: "If he turns down the trip to Pakistan it will be April 1996 when he has to tell the world which country he would like to represent."

Yesterday Down Under the clamour grew for Symonds to stick with the Aussies. Richards went on: "Andrew is easily the best player of his age group in the world."



Lara's peace pact

LARA: Concern

BRIAN LARA will be back at title-crazy Warwickshire next summer — but only if the sniping stops.

The world's greatest batsman was furious when news leaked out during the Oval Test of his rows with Bears skipper Dermot Reeve during last year's historic treble season.

And he believes Reeve is still hostile towards him even though he scored more than 2,000 runs at more than four an over.

That was one reason why the brilliant West Indies batsman wanted to delay his return to Edgbaston at a £100,000

By COLIN PRICE

a summer three year deal for 12 months.

The other is that he is physically shattered.

But yesterday South African paceman Allan Donald rejected the chance to come back in Lara's place next summer because he faces two years crammed with Tests and one-day internationals.

Lara said: "I'll be happy to return to Edgbaston because I love the county and have a lot of friends there.

"But Warwickshire must understand my problems."

SAM CHANGES PLACES

SCOTS Sam Torrance and Colin Montgomerie traded places at the top of the Lancome Trophy leaderboard after yesterday's second round at Saint-Nom-La-Bretteche. Second after the first round, Torrance took over the lead from Montgomerie with a three-under-par 67 that left him eight under overall on 132. Montgomerie shot 69 to be a shot off the pace.

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

Glam v Notts CARDIFF - Glamorgan 3pts, Notts 2. GLAMORGAN 344-5 (88 ov; Morris 144 not, Cottee 57).	Northants v Worcs NORTHAMPTON - Northants 2pts, Worcs 0. WORCESTERSHIRE 124-5 (43ov; Kumble 3-43).
Gloves v Durham BRISTOL - Gloves 1pt, Durham 1. GLOUCESTERSHIRE 160-3 (53ov; Wright 71 not).	Warwicks v Derbys EDGBASTON - Warwicks 4 Derbyshire 2 DERBYSHIRE 268 (85.4ov; Cullinan 121). WARWICKSHIRE 19-1 (5ov). NO PLAY YESTERDAY - Southampton: Hants v Somerset, Old Trafford: Lancs v Kent, Scarborough: Yorks v Sussex. TOUR MATCH - Fosters Oval: Surrey 57-1 v NSW 398-7 det.

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