

## Collins looks to Quinn again

STEVE COLLINS will have his hypnotic Tony Quinn in his corner when he defends his WBO super-middleweight title against Neville Brown in Millstreet on March 9.

Despite statements to the contrary by Quinn himself less than two weeks ago, Collins is adamant that his controversial 'Guru' will be with him when he clashes with Brown at the Green Glens Arena.

On the fight itself, Collins admits to having perhaps a few second thoughts and said: "In the beginning I thought it would be relatively easy — in so far as any fight is ever easy at this level — but now I am not so sure.

"With a fight against Nigel Benn on the horizon, maybe it's a bit of a risky one to take right now. The more I see of Neville Brown, the less I like the idea."

## Bailey false record!

DONOVAN BAILEY'S new world indoor 50 metres record is being questioned by a US official.

The Canadian sprinter was clocked at 5.56 seconds at the Reno Air Games in Nevada at the weekend, breaking the record of 5.61 set by Manfred Kokot of East Germany in 1973 and matched by American James Sanford in 1981.

But Bob Hersh, chairman of US Track and Field's men's records sub-committee, says that television evidence indicates there may have been a false start.

## Nicklaus streak ends

JACK NICKLAUS today revealed that he is likely to end his remarkable run at the Major championships by skipping this year's British Open.

Nicklaus, the 56-year-old winner of an unapproached 18 Major titles as a professional, said that barring a change of form his streak of consecutive appearances in the Majors would end at 138 after this year's US Open.

**GAELIC GAMES:** THE O'Byrne Cup semi-final between Westmeath and Wicklow has been fixed for next Saturday, at Castletown-Geoghegan (2.15), with extra time if necessary. The winners will meet holders Wexford in the final.

**WALES vs Scotland at Cardiff on February 17:** J Thomas, I Evans, L Davies, N Davies, W Proctor, A Thomas, R Howley, A Lewis, J Humphreys, J Davies, G Llewellyn, D Jones, E Lewis, G Jones, H Taylor. Replacements: G Thomas, N Jenkins, A Moore, S Williams, L Mustoe, G Jenkins.

## TAKE FIVE QUIZ

1 Who are England's first opponents in the cricket World Cup tomorrow? 2 From whom did Glenn Hoddie take over as manager of Chelsea? 3 Who founded the London Marathon? 4 Who is coach of the national Welsh rugby union side? 5 By what score did Stephen Hendry beat Ronnie O'Sullivan in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters snooker tournament at Wembley on 7th Feb?

Answers: 1 New Zealand, 2 David Webb, 3 Chris Brasher, 4 Kevin Dowling, 5 10-5.

## TV GUIDE

**TODAY - Cricket:** World Cup (England v New Zealand) - Sky Sports 0300 (Wednesday). **Boxing:** Commonwealth super-bantamweight title (Neil Swain v Nathan Singh) - Eurosport 2000. **Boxing:** Football Italia Mezzanotte - C4 0025 (Wednesday). **TODAY/TOMORROW - General Sports:** Arsenal v Aston Villa - BBC1 2235. **Boxing:** Coca Cola Cup semi-final first leg (Arsenal v Aston Villa) - ITV 2000. **Cricket:** World Cup (England v New Zealand, highlights) - Sky Sports 1900. **South Africa v United Arab Emirates:** Sky Sports 0345 (Thursday). **Tennis:** Dubai Open - Eurosport 1500. **Basketball:** NBA XXL (Dallas Mavericks v Houston Rockets, highlights) - C4 0000 (Thursday).

## ON THIS DAY . . .

**1990:** Pakistan cricketer Shoaib Mohammad took 12 hours to score 165 runs against New Zealand in Wellington. It took him a record 11½ hours to reach 150.

**1991:** Popular BBC television commentator Ron Pickering died aged 60. A renowned athletics coach, he guided Welshman Lynn Davies to the 1984 Olympic long jump gold medal.

**1992:** Liverpool signed the biggest shirt sponsorship deal in Football League history when agreeing a four-year contract worth £1million with brewers Carlsberg.

**RUGBY:** This week's revised Leinster Schools rugby programme is: **Coca Cola Senior Cup:** Today: Second round replay: St Andrew's v King's Hospital, Donnybrook, 3.30. Sunday: Quarter final: Blackrock v St Michael's, Donnybrook, 3.0. **Coca Cola Junior Cup:** Second round replay: Today: CBC Monkstown v Templeogue, Sydney Parade, 3.30. Tomorrow: Second round replay: Terenure v Roscrea, Carlow, 3.0. Second round: St Andrew's v St Mary's, Stradbrook, 3.30. High School v St Michael's, Donnybrook, 3.30. Thursday: Belvedere v Clongowes, Donnybrook, 3.30.



□ JUNINHO



□ YEBOAH



□ BROLIN



□ BRANCO

## Foreign stars facing English crackdown

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA, Juninho, Branco, Tomas Brolin and Tony Yeboah could find themselves caught up in a new crackdown on foreign players next season.

England are among many countries who plan to counteract the continental floodgates opened by the Bosman case by putting up the barriers to restrict the number of non-European Union players a club can have.

Leeds with their three Africans, and the north east's South American stars could find themselves squeezed, along with clubs like West Ham who have signed a whole legion of foreigners from all round the world.

Premier League chief executive Rick Parry emerged from a Eurosmit in Windsor yesterday to confirm the widespread move, although it was opposed by Scotland and Belgium.

"There is a split among the various countries about what

they intend to do about non-EU players, but most of us intend to introduce restrictions for next season," said Parry.

"It is important for UEFA to make clear what they intend to do in terms of their own competitions, because it is UEFA's rules which have been



□ ASPRILLA

more harmful to English clubs in the past than our own restrictions.

"As a Premier League we have yet to debate what we should put in place. At the moment we have a restriction for three players — but that is simply because when we rewrote the rule book at Christmas we replaced 'non-UK' with 'non-EU'."

With the players' union deeply concerned at the tidal wave of outsiders into the domestic game following the European Court decision which ruled the 'three-plus-two' rule illegal, there will be pressure to put up whatever new barriers possible.

The nine national associations who met yesterday, headlined by Franz Beckenbauer and Germany, are urging Sunday's general UEFA assembly in London to press for Brussels to grant football a transition period to comply with the Bosman judgement.

National governments are to be urged to back moves to make sport a special case under future treaties; a working party with representatives from professional leagues and clubs may be formed; and a study of all transfer systems, with a view to harmonisation, should be undertaken.

But Parry believes all attempts to resist the implications of the European Court judgement are pointless.

"The time has gone when people can believe it is going to go away. The clock is ticking; players are ready, agents are ready and if we are not careful the only people who won't be ready are the people who run the game," he said.

"The Bosman judgement was absolutely clear and its effect was immediate. Like a lot of people, I feel it is now inevitable and we should be looking forward.

"Others feel they need a little time to take on board the knock-on effects, and everyone supports the principle of solidarity — no-one wants to see the smaller countries suffering.

"And constructive dialogue makes sense to prevent decisions in other areas which could be even more calamitous than Bosman.

"But the notion of a blanket exemption for sport is absurd. I have never felt that we were beyond the law."

The Bosman case also ruled significant areas of the transfer system illegal, particularly involving out-of-contract players, and has prompted radical rethinks with the Dutch planning to abandon their set-up.

Both Parry and FA chief executive Graham Kelly believe the English system will survive, though in a different form.

"We are very proud of our domestic system in England and we shall maintain it for as long as we possibly can," said Kelly.

"It is a fair system which operates by and large in the interests of the whole game, in the interests of the smaller clubs as well as the bigger clubs and for the lesser known names as well as the big stars.

"But there is no doubt that Bosman will inhibit the transfer market in England

# Humphreys thumbs up

LONDON Irish coach Clive Woodward is backing Ireland's new out-half David Humphreys to make a big impression in Parc des Princes.

BY JOHN O'SULLIVAN

Woodward has been very impressed with Humphreys since he arrived at Sunbury from Oxford University. "David is a fabulous player with the ability to become a top international.

"In the limited time that he has been with us, he has made a huge impression and appears to have the ideal temperament for the big occasion. I actually signed him to the club last June without seeing him play.

"He was recommended by a couple of players as an outstanding talent and usually

players are pretty good judges when it comes to who can and can not play. We will be looking to hold on to him for next season.

"His performance in the Varsity match against Cambridge was excellent, scoring a try on a 'sixpence' but it was the game at Ravenhill against New South Wales that convinced me of his quality.

"It's not often that a player cuts through such a well organised defence from a set piece play without anyone touching him."

Woodward, the former Lions and England centre, is adamant that Humphreys possesses all the qualities to survive at the highest level. "He

has fantastic pace, is a balanced runner with good vision and kicks well.

"I am delighted that he has been picked. Several people suggested that the selectors should wait until the game against Wales before throwing him in but despite Ireland's record in Paris, I believe that there will be less pressure on him at Parc des Princes.

"Expectation will not be very high and David should concentrate on playing his natural game. His inclusion has certainly strengthened the team as I believe have the other changes for this match.

"If Humphreys is allowed the latitude to express himself, as I'm sure he will be, then Ireland are capable of ending this long losing streak in Paris. He can be a catalyst for a team."