



# SPORT



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## Munster face busy run of games

### MUNSTER RUGBY NEWS

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MUNSTER begin a hectic three-game Festive run of Guinness PRO12 fixtures with a crucial top-of-the-table clash with Glasgow Warriors at Scotstoun on Saturday, 2.40pm.

Anthony Foley's Munster side currently sit on top of the PRO12 table, one point ahead of three sides, including Saturday's opponents Glasgow.

Following this weekend's PRO12 clash in Scotland, Munster host arch rivals Leinster at Thomond Park on St Stephen's Day, 5pm, while Foley's charges face a trip to Galway to take on Connacht at the Sportsground on New Year's Day, also 5pm.

Munster are likely to make several changes in personnel from the side which lost to Clermont in the European Champions Cup at Stade Marcel Michelin on Sunday for this weekend's clash with Glasgow.

Munster flanker Tommy O'Donnell was encouraged by many aspects of Munster's attacking play against Clermont which resulted in the province picking up a precious losing bonus point.

"We can get a lot more clinical. If one or two balls had gone to hand, there were definitely gaps there. If we hold onto the ball for a few more phases, we will have teams in trouble.

"To come away with a bonus point from France was good. It's not exactly what we wanted. We thought we could come away with a win. If you pick up 10 points from those two (Champions Cup) games you are in a pretty good position. With eight or nine points you are still well-placed."

# A WELCOME FIT FOR A CHAMPION

## Andy Lee returns home as thoughts turn to possible Limerick title fight

### BOXING

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**SPORTING Limerick will come to a standstill this Wednesday evening to give a heroes welcome home to WBO champion Andy Lee.**

The newly crowned champion will be feted outside City Hall at 5.30 with thousands expected to celebrate at the Merchant's Quay venue with the Castleconnell man.

Lee arrives back into Shannon Airport this lunchtime (12.25) and then makes his way to the city for the official homecoming ceremony.

Ahead of his return home, Lee has spoken of his wish to defend his title in Limerick.

"I think I have earned that and deserved that. Hopefully that will be next, maybe March, St. Patrick's Day," said Lee.

"Maybe Thomond Park or the 3 Arena in Dublin, somewhere in Ireland and that would be great," said Lee of his mandatory title challenger Billy Joe Saunders.

A look at Munster rugby fixtures show that Thomond Park will be available around the March 17 date with the

**Lee wants venue in Limerick for world title fight**

only tie scheduled for March a PRO12 encounter with Connacht on the final weekend of the month.

While Lee has spoken of his dream for a St Patrick's Day bout, that falls on a Tuesday so any fight is more likely to take place either the weekend before or after.

"Winning a world title was on my check list and to bring it home to Shannon and step off the plane wasn't far behind it. It's great to finally do it after all these years," said an elated Lee.

Already officials of Thomond Park and the Gaelic Grounds have expressed their interest in hosting the contest.

The middleweight has fought three times in the UL Arena a capacity of 3,200 rules out a return.

John Cantwell, Thomond Park Stadium manager confirmed that he has already made "tentative enquiries".

"We would be absolutely open to a fight here and what an event it would be for Limerick and for the stadium," said Cantwell.

"Andy held a press conference here back in 2009 and at the time spoke of his wish to bring a world title fight to Thomond Park - hopefully that can now happen," said Cantwell.

Limerick GAA secretary Mike O'Riordan said that the Gaelic Grounds "would be made available" and would "love the opportunity to host such a special event."



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