

Sport

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# Post Sport

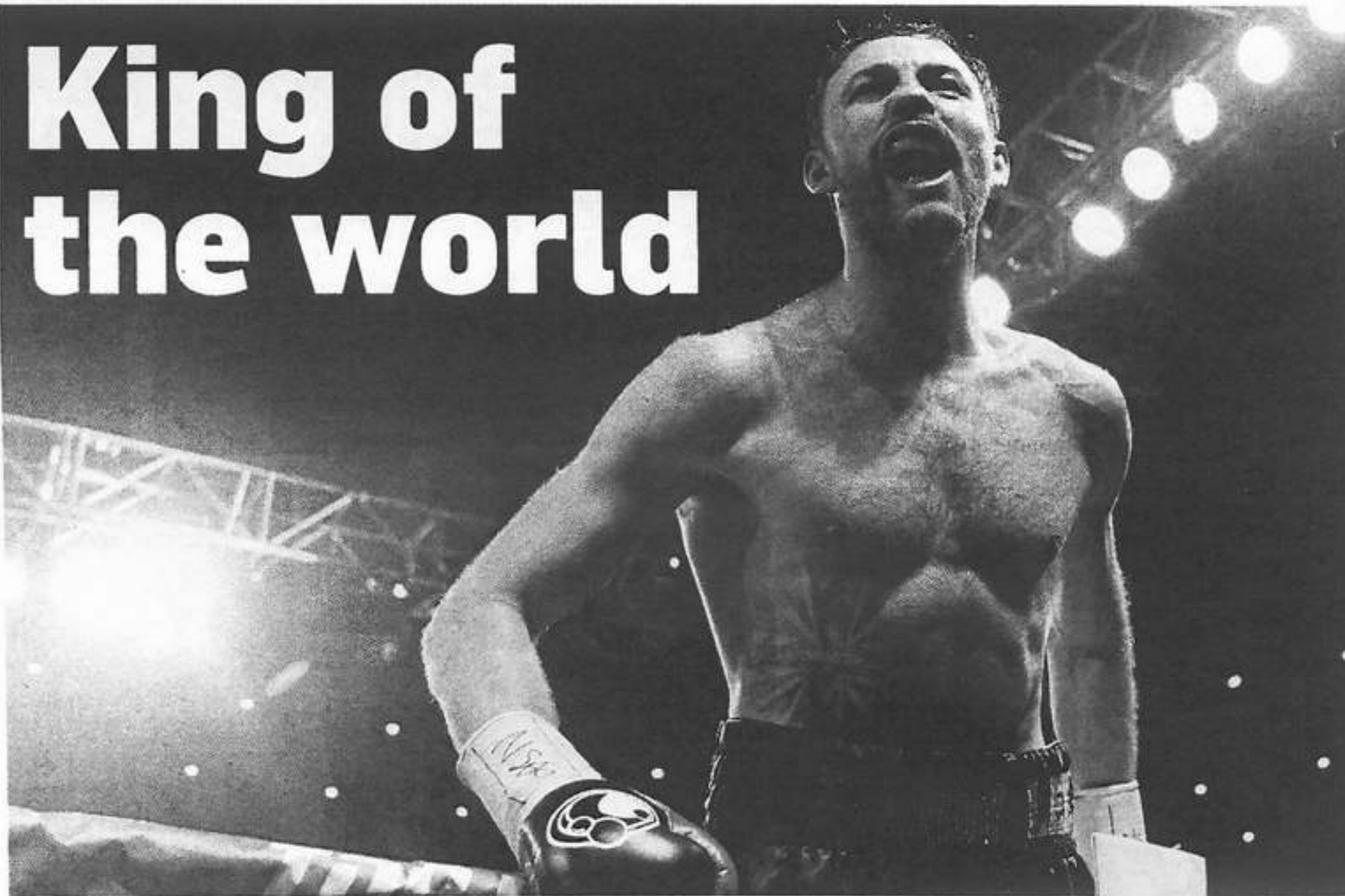
with **Donn O'Sullivan**  
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## SOMETHING FOR THE WEEKEND

### BOXING

# King of the world



ANDY LEE was crowned the WBO Middleweight champion of the World last Saturday night (December 13) in Las Vegas having defeated Russian Matt Korborov in the sixth round of the title bout.

Lee has become Ireland's first world champion to win the title on US soil since Jimmy McLarnin in 1934.

Speaking directly after the fight, the Adam Booth trained fighter was stuck for words to describe the feeling of fulfilling his life long ambition.

"It's tough to describe this moment," Lee commented.

"I am a champion and I want to defend my belt in Ireland and I will fight the best in the world.

"I have to say a thank you to my coach Adam Booth, who has done so much for me in the

last couple of years - this title is for him but also for the man who made me, Emanuel Steward."

Steward, who passed away in 2012, had taken Lee under his wing in the Kronk gym in Detroit. Steward had, on several occasions, claimed Lee would be a World Champion. Andy paid tribute to Steward for the years of training and mentoring he had received.

"I lived with him for seven to eight years and learned so much from him. He said I would win a world title and tonight, I made that come true. He is still proving people wrong, even when he is not around," Lee added.

With Lee adamant that he will defend his title in Ireland, thoughts for fight fans immediately turn to the possibility of a World Title fight in Limerick.

Lee has stressed his desire to defend his title

against mandatory challenger Billy Joe Saunders.

Saunders' promoter, the famous Frank Warren, is keen to set a date in the spring, with Thomond Park being the favourite venue to host the bout should all the details be arranged and agreed between Lee's manager and trainer, Adam Booth, US promoter Lou DiBella and Warren's camp.

A potential date of Saturday March 15 has been suggested with St Patrick's Weekend judged to be the best time of year to fight, what would be a guaranteed sell out.

Lee, who returned home to Limerick this Wednesday morning, was the guest of honour at a civic reception held at City Hall. Thousands of fans came to celebrate Lee's win with celebrations expected to continue long into the weekend in Castleconnell and beyond.

### Soccer

- Thu-18-Dec SA Cagliari v Juventus 6pm BT1
- Thu-18-Dec CDR A Madrid v Hospitalet 7pm SS5
- Thu-18-Dec SA Napoli v Parma 8pm BT1
- Thu-18-Dec CDR Malaga v Deportivo 9pm SS5
- Sat-20-Dec EC Derby v Norwich 12:15pm SS1
- Sat-20-Dec EPL Man City v C Palace 12:45pm BT1
- Sat-20-Dec EC Nott Forest v Leeds 5:15pm SS1
- Sat-20-Dec SLL Levante v R Sociedad 5:15pm SS5
- Sat-20-Dec BL Wolfsburg v Koln 5:30pm BT2
- Sat-20-Dec ED PSV v Go Ahead Eagles 6:45pm SS4
- Sat-20-Dec SLL Eibar v Valencia 7pm SS5
- Sat-20-Dec SA Roma v AC Milan 7:45pm BT1
- Sun-21-Dec SPL Dundee Utd v Celtic 12:15pm BT1
- Sun-21-Dec EPL N'castle v Sunderland 1:30pm SS1
- Sun-21-Dec ED NAC Breda v Feyenoord 1:30pm SS5
- Sun-21-Dec EPL Liverpool v Arsenal 4pm SS1
- Sun-21-Dec BL Freiburg v Hannover 4:30pm BT1
- Sun-21-Dec SLL Etche v Malaga 6pm SS5
- Sun-21-Dec SA Inter v Lazio 7:45pm BT1
- Sun-21-Dec FL Bordeaux v Lyon 8pm BT2
- Sun-21-Dec SLL A Bilbao v A Madrid 8pm SS5

### Rugby Union

- Fri-19-Dec AP Sale v Exeter 7:45pm BT2
- Fri-19-Dec T14 Grenoble v Stade 7:45pm SS1
- Sat-20-Dec P12 Glasgow v Munster 2:40pm SS1
- Sat-20-Dec AP Northampton v Leicester 3:15pm BT1
- Sat-20-Dec P12 Ospreys v Ulster 5:15pm SS2
- Sat-20-Dec AP Gloucester v Bath 5:30pm BT1
- Sat-20-Dec T14 Clermont v Castres 7:45pm SS2
- Sun-21-Dec AP Wasps v L Irish 2pm BT2

### NFL

- Fri-19-Dec Titans @ Jaguars 1:30am SS1
- Sat-20-Dec Chargers @ 49ers 1:30am SS4
- Sat-20-Dec Eagles @ Redskins 9:30pm SS4
- Sun-21-Dec Chiefs @ Steelers 5:30pm SS2
- Sun-21-Dec Colts @ Cowboys 9:30pm SS2

### Darts

- Thu-18-Dec-Sun-4-Jan PDC World Ch'ship SS0

### BETTING

# Some early tips for the 2015 sporting year

by Kevin Egan of PaddyPower

AS ONE season ends, another begins. The 2014 GAA campaign may have officially drawn to a close last Sunday with victories for Corofin and St Vincent's, but already teams have spent plenty of hours in the mud and rain preparing for 2015.

In the New Year, we'll examine a couple of the different antepost betting options out there, particularly those pertaining to Limerick sides but in the meantime, here are one or two options for stocking fillers that can be picked up over the next couple of weeks. Consider them a more thoughtful option than a scratch card or two, since they will give the recipient something to keep an eye out for in the bleak January months!

Limerick to win promotion in NFL, 8/1

OKAY, there's a bit of patriotism underlying this one, but the fundamentals behind it are reasonably sound too. Armagh are clearly the dominant force in this league and if they progress as they are likely to do under the guidance of Kieran McGeeney, then they will win every game with plenty to spare.

However there is little or nothing between the other seven teams, and yet Tipperary and Clare are the clear second and third favourites. No Limerick team has ever gone into a game against either of those two sides without believing that they can prevail, while there's nothing unbeatable about Sligo, Fermanagh, Louth or Wexford either.

Gallant Oscar to win the Paddy Power Chase, 12/1 each way

BY definition this is a wide open event, set to take place on the second day of the Leopardstown Christmas Festival (27th). However Meath trainer Tony Martin knows what it takes to win this race after collecting the honours with Newbay Prop in 2007. He's always one whom the bookies are terrified of in the big handicaps and this particular eight year-old gelding looks like he's in great shape and very well weighted with just 10st7lb allocated.

Indianapolis Colts to win the Super Bowl, 18/1

ONLY a couple of years ago the Colts were at the bottom of the pile in the NFL but they took full

advantage of their plight when they chose Andrew Luck with the number one pick in the 2012 draft. Since then he's graduated into being one of the elite quarterbacks in the league, both in terms of skill and delivery under pressure. They've won the AFC South, they have found some excellent new performers in recent weeks and there isn't anything to be afraid of in the wild card round. Winning away from home in the cold won't come easy and they'll have to do that to reach the big showpiece, but they aren't as far away as the odds suggest.

**PADDYPOWER**