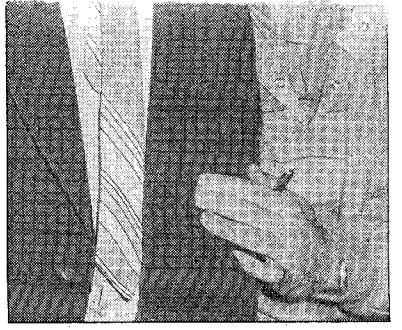

BOXING ANDY LEE NEWS

Lee wins North American title

Jerome O'Connell

ANDY Lee (pictured, right) continued to progress closer to a world title fight with his latest victory this Wednesday night in the US.

The 26 year old Castleconnell man, currently ranked No3 in the WBA, No9 in the WBC and No13 in the WBO rankings won a 10 round unanimous decision against Alex Bunema at the Donald Stephens Convention Centre in Rosemont, Illinois.

Lee used his long jab to effectively keep the durable Bunema at long range and in doing so comfortably won every round of the fight. The judges scores were 100-90, 100-90 and 100-90.

Facing Lee was 35 year old Alex 'The Technician 'Bunema, who had a record of 31 victories from his 40 fights. Seventeen of those wins were by way of knockout.

Bunema, born in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has been a professional boxer in the US since his pro debut in June 1996.

The win saw the former St Francis Boxing Club Olympian collect the North American Boxing Federation (NABF) and North American Boxing Association (NABA) titles.

Down the line it appears that a rematch against Brian Vera very much remains a possibility for Lee. That contest could be screened by HBO in September and act as a world title eliminator.

Before that there is every possibility that he could return to Ireland for a warm-up fight before any potential Vera fight.

Already there has been talk that Lee could face Dublin's EBA Champion Anthony Fitzgerald. July is possible for the fight, which could be held in Limerick. Anthony Fitzgerald is managed by Dolphill Promotions, who also look after the interests of Willie Casey.

The Southill bantemweight could also feature on the card in Limerick, in what would be his comeback fight following his loss to Guillermo Rigondeaux.