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issue 7

December

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Midlands Champs

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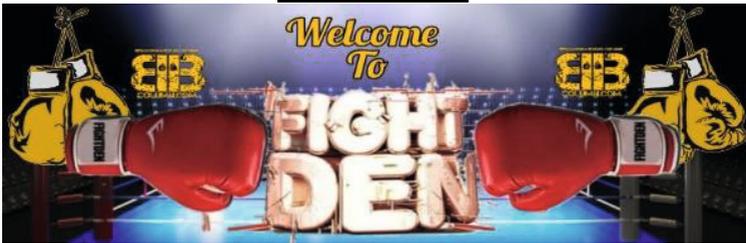
Issue 7

Welcome to the sixth issue of the BBColumn magazine, we are the biggest boxing website in Birmingham and the Black Country and are committed to reporting on all aspects of the noble art in our area. In the quarterly magazine you will find reports on all the professional shows from the last 3 month's that have happened in Birmingham and the Black Country. We also have interviews and in-depth report's on some of the top fighters in the Midlands and also pick out some of the top prospects to look out for.

We hope you enjoy reading the article's and reports which have been re-edited from our website to give you a hard copy of what we do. We would love to get your feed back so please feel free to contact us via email - or via Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Also if you would like to advertise in the magazine or on the website please contact us via the same channels.

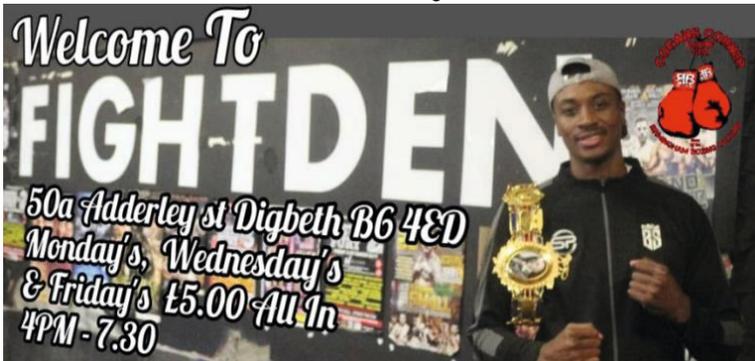
Once again thank you for reading the magazine and please continue to check out bbcolum.com for all your boxing news in Birmingham and the Black Country

Bbcolum.com



Welcome to Fightden

Welcome to Fightden is the flagship show on the Birmingham Boxing Column's YouTube channel. Dexter Hastings has interviewed some of the top fighters in Birmingham and the Black Country which includes the likes of Sam Eggington, Craig Cunningham, Tommy Langford and Frankie Gavin. With over 100 shows behind him Dexter has established the show as a must see for Midlands boxing fans.



To check out all the interviews please go to our YouTube site [Birmingham Boxing Column](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

DEXTER HASTINGS



Been reffing unlicensed and White Collar for over 10 years reffed some of the biggest shows in Birmingham & the Black Country, Fightden, FLUK, TST, Showdown, Southpaw Promotions and a few other smaller shows. Always call it the way I see it, message me for prices and details. Remember I'm firm but fare.

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SHOWDOWN

BBC COLUMN MAGAZINE

BBColumn Magazine

Issue7

Essomba Loses Title fight.
Sen, Virgo Hennessy Sports.
And The New! Fields wins Title.
BBColumn's Pound 4 Pound fighters.
Williams put on great performance against
World Class Edward.
Baker puts on Great Performance against
Fiaz.
Cooper showed Loads of Heart against
Chamberlain.
Jones stops Naz Wannabe.
Robinson stopped by Williams.
MexiKane takes Speare's '0'.
Essomba gets Doggy Draw.
Honours Even in Commonwealth title fight.
Catch up With Eastside's Jon Pegg.
Rachel Ball on Top of the World.
Matt Sen Joins BcB Promotions.
Davies shows his class as he claims
English title.
Eggington gets Savage Victory.
Benjamin wins Midlands title Clash.
Yafia Completes Italian Job.
Pitters Stopped in Shock British title
Defeat.
Wilson-Bent Makes a Big Statement
Winning His First Title.

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Essomba loses Title fight



BcB's Thomas Essomba took on Sunny Edwards for his IBF International super Flyweight title live on BT sports (29,8,20). Edwards (24) is also the British Super Flyweight champ and is the younger brother of WBC World Flyweight champ Charlie Edwards. Essomba (32) who is a former Olympian was born in Cameroon and now resides in Wolverhampton had won 10 out of his 15 fights and was looking to add this title to his English, Commonwealth and WBA continental.

The first round saw both boxers just seem to be feeling each other out, but Edwards edged the round with some fast hands and the cleaner shots. Edwards then started to use great movement, good shot picking and great counter punching to win rounds 2, 3 and 4. Essomba pressed and pressured but just seemed to be a step behind Edwards.

In the fifth Edwards continued to pick his shots well, but Essomba got some good shots off to get a share of the round. In the sixth Essomba continued to press and pressure Edwards who was still moving well and got some good shots off, but Essomba won the round. Edwards turned up the pace in the seventh as he banged in some good shots at the start then picked his shots well on the move to win the round. The eighth was a frustrating round for Essomba as he started to talk to Edwards to try and get him to stand and fight, Edwards answered back with good shots but this was an even round.

In the ninth Edwards got back on his jab and moved well as Essomba continued to press. Great movement and shot picking in the tenth from Edwards as Essomba chased shadows at the start of the round, Edwards seemed to twisted his ankle near the end of the round but won it with ease. Edwards was still moving pretty well in the eleventh as Essomba continued to press, Edwards stood his ground a bit more and just managed to nicked the round. Essomba threw everything at Edwards in the final round, Edwards just kept away and boxed on the back foot losing the last round but winning the fight.



The 3 judges called it like this, judge Phil Edwards had it 117-112, Marcus McDonnell had it 116-112 and Terry O'Connor had it 117-111 all in favour of Edwards, myself I had it 118-112 to Edwards.

Dexter's Thought



Have to say what a great performance from Edwards, he may have entered the ring with a five year olds girls hair style but his boxing was on another level. Essomba is a very talented fighter but was made to look ordinary due to Edwards outstanding display of boxing. Essomba looked a step behind Edwards and was just out boxed for a majority of the fight. I'm sure Essomba and his team will regroup and come again and I'm sure the BcB fighter has still got a few upsets in him.

Sen & Virgo Hennessy Sports Live on Channel 5



There were two Midlands fighters appearing on the Hennessy Sports show live on channel 5 (5,9,20). On this show we had Love Islands 'The One and Only' Idris Virgo (27) from Birmingham taking on Scott Williams (31) in a 4 rounder and 'The Slugger' Matt Sen (33) from Wolverhampton taking on the very highly rated Isaac Chamberlain (26) in a 8 round contest.

Unbeaten Virgo who has won 6 fights and drew 1 started fast against Williams who was yet to get a victory in 7 fights. Virgo banged in heavy shots to Williams body and head putting together some nice combinations, Williams stood strong and got some

good shots of his own in. Virgo dominated the 2nd and 3rd rounds and you could see Williams was feeling the high pace Virgo had set. In the fourth Virgo continued to bang in heavy shots but was getting caught with the odd shot that gave him a bloody nose. Williams was also bleeding from the nose and looked tired but managed to see the round out and the final bell. The ref and myself scored the fight 40 to 36 to Virgo.

Isaac Chamberlain made fast work of Matt Sen in this eight round fight stopping him in just 50 seconds of the first round. Sen came out fast and banged in some good shots, Chamberlain stayed composed and let a crackin hook off that rocked Sen. Sen covered up but Chamberlain picked his shots well and got 3 devastating uppercuts off with the ref jumping into stop the fight.

Dexter's Thoughts

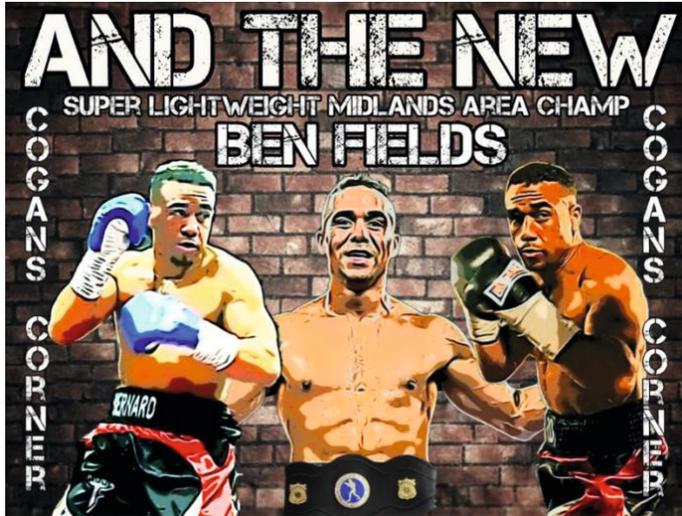


Matt Sen rolled the dice taking on Isaac Chamberlain at very short notice and got caught simple as that. He came out strong but Chamberlain showed his class and unleashed some cracking shots to end the fight quick. How Sen stayed on his feet after some of the shots he took showed how much he wanted to win. This was a big jump up in class for Sen and he did all he could, Matt can come again, of that I have no doubt, he is set to fight Anthony Woolery for the cruiserweight midlands area title which will be a great local fight. I look forward to that fight.

Great performance by Virgo but yet again against an opponent with a negative record, his actions at the press conference were disrespectful and embarrassing and honestly uncalled for. I have spoke to Idris a number of times before and after the start of his pro career and he always came across to me as a decent person so I have been surprised by his antics. He is trying to make a name for himself by being brash and outspoken about his opponents which would be great if his opponents were not just journeymen. He is now 8 fights in and should really be looking to be tested. Boxing pundit Dan Hewitt has suggested that Virgo should take on the unbeaten IBO continental super Middleweight champ Nathan Heaney (10-0) which on paper looks like a good fight but in my opinion Virgo is not ready for Heaney. Virgo has had 8 fights yes but has not fought more than a 4 rounder so really is still a novice pro fighter, Heaney has only had 10 fights but has fought at a much higher level and has won a Midlands area and the IBO continental title so has done 10 rounds a few times. You only have to look on the box rec rankings to see the gap between the two fighters where Heaney is ranked 15th in the UK and Virgo is ranked 48th. Virgo's next fight definitely needs to be a six rounder or more and against a fighter with a winning record so he can back up his mouth and his water games.

It was also great to see newly crowned British Light Heavyweight champ Shakan Pitters commentating and giving his views on the fights on the show

And the New!
Ben Fields win Title



The 0-Taker Ben Fields has blasted his way to the Midlands area Super Lightweight title with a convincing win over Alex Fearon. The fight was the main event on the 'Back to Business' show which was fought behind close in Liverpool (13,9,20).

In the first round Fields walked Fearon down and from the first bell and pushed and pressured Fearon back winning the round. Round 2 saw Fearon getting some good shots off but Fields continued to pressure and push Fearon back, close round. Great pressure from Fields in the third as he banged in relentless shots, Fearon got some good shots off but it was Fields round.

Fields was relentless again in the fourth and smashed in big clubbing shots, Fearon had his moments but Fields had this round. Hard fought fifth with both fighters getting good shots off, Fearon boxed well but Fields continued to press forward to get a share of the round. Fearon moved well at the start of the sixth and picked his shots well, Fields just stuck to his game plan and won the round on pressure. Fields took Fearon apart in the seventh and there was points when Fearon looked like going down. Fields had a point taken off for hitting low but bullied Fearon the whole round.

How Fearon survived the eighth round was a credit to him as Fields was relentless, Fearon fought back but Fields could not be stopped. In the ninth Fearon got some good shots off and Fields sustained a cut over his right eye, this didn't stop Fields who just pressed forward and banged shots in. Fearon got on his toes in the final round and boxed well but Fields just had no reverse gear and pressed and pressured Fearon hitting him with some cracking hooks, how Fearon stayed on his feet is a credit to the man.

Referee score the fight 96 to 94 in favour of Fields.

On the undercard of the show there were some fighters from the Midlands, you had 19 year old Owen Cooper taking on the awkward journeyman MJ Hall in a 4 round contest. Cooper who is trained by Birmingham's Malcom Malvin put on a very good performance against the tough southpaw in Hall. The ref scored it 40-36 to Cooper who is now 3 without defeat.

Birmingham's Matt 'Swiggy' Craddock showed loads of heart and determination against the very talented and unbeaten Jack Bateson. Craddock (30) was putting his unbeaten record on the line against Bateson who had won all 11 of his fights. Craddock had to battle hard as Bateson put on a Stella performance of boxing, Craddock had his moments but was just out classed by the young fighter. Craddock was put down twice in the 6th round but deservedly managed to see the final bell in a very performance.



Dexter's Thought

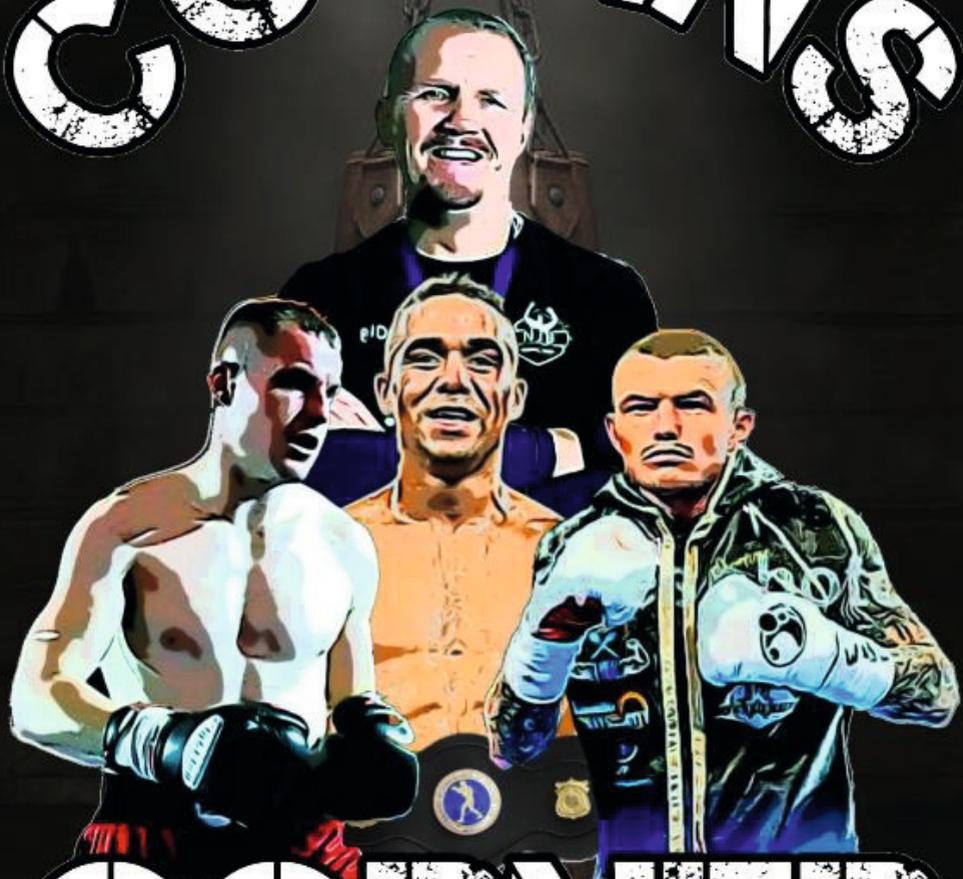


What can I say it is great to get back to be writing something positive, I am chuffed to bits for Ben, what a victory, if anyone deserved to win a title he does. He has put the grafted in for this fight and has shown that anything is possible, if you know his story you know what he has been through. He has gone from rock bottom to Midlands area champion and with such a great performance to boot. This fight will definitely be a contender for the Bbcolumn's fight of the year and I can see Ben moving on to bigger titles. He wore his trainers Shaun Cogan's shorts in the fight that he wore 27 years ago when he fought for the same title when he was a pro.

Got to give Fearon loads of respect, he showed heart and a solid chin and technical was the better boxer. But Ben's 'Ragga Muffin' come forward tactics seemed to overwhelm Fearon as he got pushed back and battered against the ropes for most of the fight. Ben's style does make him look like just a wild pressure fighter but there is a hell of a lot of technic in his boxing and to be able to box like that for 10 rounds you need to be fit as fuck. Ben is an inspirational person who is a respectful, humble fighter but in the ring he is a true warrior. The Column named him the 0-Taker for all the unbeaten fighters he has beat, he now becomes the Soul Taker after breaking Fearon in this great title win. Ben will be on Welcome to Fightden very soon.

Matt Craddock showed loads of heart in his fight against one of MTK's top prospects. Him and his team rolled the dice and he got through a hard 6 round contest against a very talented fighter. Swiggy can take a lot of pluses from this fight and he can come again of that I have no doubt.

COGANS



CORNER

*Home of the
Birmingham Boxing Column*

The Birmingham Boxing Columns Pound 4 Pound Rankings

The Birmingham Boxing Column have compiled a Pound 4 Pound ranking of boxer from Birmingham and the Black Country using Box rec. The Column have looked through the Box rec data and states and sourced out the top 25 fighters from Birmingham and the Black Country. These are the Top 25 fighters in order who on Box rec are still active.



1. Kal Yafai - Super Flyweight – 42.47
2. Sam Eggington - Super Welterweight - 17.69
3. Brad Foster - Super Bantamweight - 9.652
4. Rachel Ball – Super Bantamweight- 8,992
5. Gamel Yafai – Super Bantamweight – 6.781
6. Shakan Pitters – Light Heavyweight - 5.093
7. Lennox Clarke – Super Middleweight – 3.821
8. Kaisee Benjamin – Welterweight – 2.916
9. Danny Ball – Welterweight - 2.849
10. Ryan Kelly – Super Welterweight – 2.078
11. Jason Welborn – Middleweight 1.761
12. Tyler Denny – Middleweight- 1660
13. Andrew Robinson – Middleweight – 1.596
14. Kyle Williams – Bantamweight - 1.439
15. River Wilson-Bent – Super Welterweight – 1.315
16. Kash Ali – Heavyweight-1,210
17. Jack O'Keeffe – Lightweight 1.144
18. Conah Walker – Welterweight – 1,036
19. Ben Fields – Super Lightweight – 1.049
20. Amy Timlin – Super Bantamweight- 965
21. Ricky Summers – Light Heavyweight – 926
22. James Beech jr - Super Bantamweight – 931
23. Liam Davies – Bantamweight – 713
24. Tom Stokes – Middleweight – 697
25. Kane Baker – Lightweight- 678

Williams put on great performance against World Class Edwards



Wolverhampton's Kyle Williams (28) put on a great performance against the former world champion Charlie Edwards (27) at the York Hall on the Queensberry promotions show Live on BT sports (26.9.20). The former WBC World Flyweight champ Edwards had moved up two weights to Bantamweight for this fight after vacating his title. Williams who was having his 14th fight had only lost 2 of them with both defeats coming in title fights both fighters weighed in at 8 stone 5.



Both fighters got good shots off in the first round, Edward got some eye-catching body shots in to nick the round. In the second Williams got on the front foot and went after Edwards, Edwards moved well and countered well to nick the round. The third was another close one with both fighters having joy, could not split them. Edwards controlled the 4th keeping it long using single shots to win the round.

Edwards controlled the pace at the start of the fifth, Williams then caught Edwards with a sweet straight right hand that stunned Edwards. Williams jumped straight on

Edwards catching him with another straight right and a nice uppercut, great round for Williams. Round six saw Edwards continued to control the pace and got some good shots off, Williams who just seemed to be enjoying the fight rallied in the second part of the round to get a share of it. Edwards moved well in the seventh and picked his shots well with some great jabs and one, two's keeping Williams at bay. In the eighth Williams walked Edwards down and piled on the pressure with both fighters going toe too toe with both fighters landing good shots, even round, Williams showed loads of heart and determination in the ninth as he continued to take the fight to Edwards. Edwards got some cracking shots off but Williams won the round with his pressure fighting. Edwards kept it long in the final round and boxed well with Williams just enjoying himself with a bit of showboating. Great Fight.



Referee scored it 99-91 to Edwards I had it 98-95 Edwards.

Dexter's Thoughts



What a great fight, Kyle may not have of got the result tonight but he has given his reputation in the boxing community a massive boost with this performance. Edwards is a former world champion and I'm sure he will be again when he drops down to super Flyweight and Williams was not that far behind him. Yes he lost the fight but was in every round with Edwards just edging a lot of them. Williams can walk away from this fight with his head held high and I'm sure we will see the Black Country fighter in a title fight very soon.

Baker puts on Great Performance against Fiaz.



'The Mexikane' Kane Baker (30) put on a great performance on the under card of the Buatsi v Calic fight live on Sky sports on the Matchroom promotions show (4,10,20). The fight had been rescheduled as his opponent Fiaz (20) had pulled out of the first fight the day before due to illness. Unbeaten Fiaz (5-0) weighted in this time in weight at 9 stone 5 with Baker weighting in 9 stone 4 for this 8 round fight.

In the first round Baker was busy and got some good combinations off, Fiaz countered well to get a share of the round. Fiaz picked his shots well in the second and moved well around the ring, Baker had his moments but Fiaz won the round. At the start of the third Baker piled on the pressure earning his nickname the 'Mexikane', Fiaz continued to box well and picked his shots well to win the round. Baker battled hard in the fourth and really put it on Fiaz, Fiaz moved well and got some good counters off but Baker earned a share of the round.

Clever boxing by Fiaz in the fifth as he picked his shots well and smothered Bakers work with lots of holding. Scrappy sixth round as Baker took the fight to Fiaz, Fiaz boxed well on the back foot but Baker finished strong to nick it. Baker turned up the pace in the seventh and got some cracking combinations off Fiaz continued to box well but this was Bakers round. Baker came out firing again in the final round but Fiaz quality shone though as he picked his shots and moved well to win the round.

The referee had it 77 to 75 Fiaz myself I had it 78 to 76 Fiaz.

Dexter's Thoughts



First I'd like to say what a great fight, the old saying is that styles make fights and the fighter style definitely made this fight. Baker put in a great shift tonight and pressed and pressured Fiaz all the way but I have to say Fiaz boxed very well. Kane seemed upset with the result but I had it much the same but Kane's performance was very impressive and he should hold his head up high. Fiaz will have learned more in that 8 rounder than in his previous 5 fights and Kane's stock in boxing will have gone up with that performance on that I have no doubt. Kane may of lost this fight but I can see the 'Mexikane' getting more TV fights due to that performance and adding to his already amazing story.

Cooper Showed Loads of Heart against Chamberlain



Walsall's Shaun Cooper (23) showed heart and determination against one of Queensberry promotions hot prospects Mark Chamberlain (20) in a 8 round contest live on BT sports (10,10,20). Unbeaten Chamberlain (6-0) was going into his first 8 rounder having stopped 4 of his six opponents in the first round. The fight was contested in the Lightweight division with Cooper weighing in 9 stone 10 and Chamberlain weighing in 9 stone 12.



Both fighters had there moments in the first round as they felt each other out, Cooper got some nice left hooks off but Chamberlain just edged the round. The second was another close round with Cooper battling hard and getting some nice left hooks off, Chamberlain boxed well and just edged the round again. Chamberlain turned up the pace in the third and got some cracking combinations off, Cooper stood strong and fought back but it was Chamberlain's round. Chamberlain started to go threw the gears in the fourth and banged in some heavy shots. Chamberlain put Cooper down with some hurtful body shots, Cooper took a knee and

managed to get to his feet and see the round out.

Cooper seemed to have recovered well from the knock down and brought the fight to Chamberlain in the fifth getting some big left hooks off. Chamberlain continued to box well and won the round. Chamberlain controlled the sixth round from distance with some nice neat boxing, Cooper pressed and pressured for the whole of the round and was showing loads of heart. Round seven saw Chamberlain turn up the pace and banging in some hurtful body shots in to put Cooper down for the second time, Cooper managed to beat the count and then bit down on his gum shield to see the round out. In the final round Chamberlain boxed well from distance picking his shots well to cruise his way to the final bell.



The referee Ian John Lewis scored it 80-69 to Chamberlain I had it 80-70 Chamberlain.

Dexter's Thoughts



Shaun Cooper may have lost tonight but he showed loads of heart and determination against a fighter who is destined to go far in boxing. Cooper and his team rolled the dice in this fight as it was always going to be a hard task for them but there were great pluses in this defeat. Cooper got some good shots off and had some close round at the start of the fight. He showed a warriors mentality by getting off the floor twice after some hurtful body shots and seeing the final bell against one of Queensberry promotions hot prospects. Cooper is only 23 and I'm sure he will learn form this fight and will come again, I look forward to seeing 'The Scorpion' back out soon.

Jones stops Naz Wannabe



Chasetown's Luke Jones put on a great display of boxing stopping the unbeaten Muheeb Fazeldin (13-1-0) in 2 minutes 2 seconds of the second round live on BT sports (10,10,20). Queensberry promotions hot prospect Fazeldin (27) was born in Yemen and resides in Sheffield and has styled himself on his favourite fighter Prince Naseem Hamed and was looking to put a great display on against Jones but no one had told Jones the script.

Jones started the first round well closing the gap down and banging in some good shots, Fazeldin just seemed to be having a look at Jones who won the round. In the second Jones continued to press and rough up Fazeldin, Jones never let Fazeldin set himself and who was caught with some cracking hooks and was out on his feet when the ref jumped in to stop the fight.



Dexter's Thoughts



What a performance by Jones, I'm sure Queensberry promotions thought this would be a test for there hot prospect but not to this extent. I last saw Jones fight James Beech jr for the Midlands area title where he lost a close fight on points so I knew he would not just go though the motions in this fight. Jones put it on Fazeldin from the start and who did not have and answer it, Fazeldin show boating just seemed to make Jones win even sweeter as he up set the apple cart with this win. Jones has proved on a big stage that he is a talented fighter and he will hopefully get some bigger fights on the back of this performance.

Robinson stopped by Williams



Reddit's Andrew 'D'Animal' Robinson has lost his British middleweight title challenge against World title contender Liam Williams Live on BT sports (10,10,20). Robinson (36) weighed in 11 Stone 5 for this 12 round fight with Williams weighing in 11 stone 6.

Williams started brightly and got his jab working well, Robinson was looking good moving well and getting his jab off. Williams moved in with a one, two which caused a nasty clash of heads with both fighter sustaining cuts with Robinson coming out worst off. Williams then moved up a few gears and smashed in shots to Robinson's head and body dropping D'Animal with a cracking body shot. The ref counted Robinson out as Robinson got to his feet as the count got to 10.



Dexter's Thoughts



Andrew Robinson was always going to be up against it against a talent like Liam Williams. Williams showed his world class abilities after the clash of head with a great finish putting Robinson down in the first round. Robinson never really got started and if it wasn't for the nasty cut sustained in the clash of heads I'm sure Robinson would have grown into the fight and asked Williams some questions. Robinson at the age of 36 may not get the chance again to contend for the British title again but he has had a great career and I'm sure D'Animal will sit down with his team and discuss what to do next.

MexiKane takes Speare's '0'



'MexiKane' Kane Baker put on a great winning performance with only 2 days notice against the unbeaten Meslech Speare (5-0). Speare (23) who is managed by former world champ Tony Bellew had also only had two days notice had not fought in 18 months. Baker (30) had fought just two weeks ago losing a close fight to Aqib Fiaz and had also retired when Eddie Hearn called him to offer him the fight. The fight was on the undercard of the Ritson, Vazquez fight live on Sky sports (17,10,20). The fight was fought over 3 two minute rounds at Super Lightweight with both fighter coming in 9 stone 12.

Round one saw a busy start by Baker who let his hands go and got some good combinations off. Speare's got some shot in but it was Bakers round. Speare got some good sharp jabs off at the start of the second but Baker was setting a high pace and banged in some good combinations, Spear put some big swinging shots in but it was Baker's round. The third was another busy round by Baker as he pressured Speare from start to finish, Speare got the odd flashy shot off but Baker won the round on work rate.



Great forth as both fighters went toe too toe which suited 'MexiKane', Both fighters banged in good shots on the inside with Speare finishing the stronger which got him a share of the round. The fifth was another close round as both fighters got good shots off, Speare's finished the round the stronger to nick it. Baker moved around the ring well in the sixth sitting on the ropes when needed popping off shots to keep Speare at bay to win the round and the fight.

I had the fight 59 to 56 Baker with the Referee having it the same.

Dexter's Thoughts



I could not be more chuffed for a boxer than I am for Kane Baker tonight, he took this fight with two days notice and brought the thunder to an unbeaten fighter. Speare may have only had 2 days notice as well but Hearn and Bellew must of thought that there unbeaten fighter would take care of 'the boxing fan with a licence' with no issues but no one told Kane that. Baker is one of the niece's boxers I have had the privilege to interview and so humble and feels privileged to be in the position he is in. He has fought live on TV several times

but this is the first time he has won which will add to his story that himself and his partner Coral are making. I heard that after his last fight against Aqib Fiaz he retired, I really hope he keeps going. He has made his mark and is on Matchroom's Eddie Hearn's mind and I'm sure they will look to put him in another fight on a undercard Live on Sky sports. What ever he does he put on a great performance tonight which he should be proud of.

Essomba Given Doggy Draw



BcB's Thomas Essomba put on an outstanding display of boxing with just a weeks notice on the Matchroom show live on Sky Sports (17,10,20). Essomba who had only fought a few weeks ago against Sunny Edwards took on the talented unbeaten former British Super Bantamweight champion Thomas Patrick Ward (29-0). The fight was over 10 three minute rounds with Ward coming in 8 stone 11 and Essomba coming in 8 stone 12.

The first three rounds were close with both fighters getting good shots off as they just felt each other out. In the fourth Essomba had Ward in trouble with some cracking left hooks that earned him the round. Good pressure by Ward in the fifth with Essomba battling hard using that great left hook. The sixth was a close round with Ward showing a great work rate but Essomba continued to bang in big shots to edge the round.



The seventh was the telling round when there was a nasty accidental clash of heads with Ward coming off worse with a nasty cut above his left eye, this gave Essomba a lot of encouragement as he really put it on Ward. The ref called the doctor over at the start of the eighth to look at Wards cut, the doctor deemed he could continue but Ward knew the fight could be stopped at any point. Essomba picked his shots well and banged in great combinations, Ward put a lot of pressure on Essomba but missed a lot.

At the start of the ninth the ref got the doctor to look at Wards cut again and deemed he could not continue. The fight was then put in the hands of the judges with all of them having different verdicts. Judge Terry O'Connor had it 88 to 84 Ward, Marcus McDonnell had it 88 to 85 Essomba and Michael Alexander scored it 86 to 86 which made it a technical draw, Myself I had it 88 to 85 Essomba.



Dexter's Thoughts



I honestly can not believe this result, what did Essomba have to do to get the win. Ward was 29 and 0 and his team probably thought that Essomba would be a good test but not on Wards level, how wrong they were. Essomba put on a great performance and was on top before the cut occurred, I could not see how Michael Alexander had it even and I really don't know what fight Terry O'Connor was watching to score it to Ward. Anyone in boxing will know that Ward is very lucky to still be unbeaten and I feel bad for Essomba as he put the work in and won the fight clearly to most sane people. Terry O'Connor is notorious for giving dodgy decisions and I think the powers that be need to look at him and see if he is worthy of judging pro boxing.

Honours even in Commonwealth title fight



'The Baby Face Assassin' Amy Timlin (20) took on Carly Skelly (33) live on Sky sports box office for the vacant female super Bantamweight Commonwealth title. The two unbeaten fighters kicked off the undercard of the Usyk v Chisora show on Matchroom's pay per view event. Timlin (4-0) weighed in 8 stone 8 and Skelly (3-0) weighed in 8 stone 7 for this title fight which was fought over 10 times 2 minute rounds.

The first four rounds went back and forth with both fighters having joy and getting good shots off. Timlin seemed to take control in the fifth and sixth as she got her range and used her boxing skills dictating the pace with a controlling jab. Skelly came back strong in the seventh and eighth dragging Timlin into a scrap which suited Skelly. Round nine was close but Timlin edged it as she got back on her boxing with nice shots and good footwork. In the tenth and final round it seemed that Skelly thought she needed to stop Timlin as she poured on the pressure with Timlin fighting back hard but losing the round.



The judges had the fight like this Phil Edwards had it 96 to 97 Skelly, Robert Williams had it 96 to 95 Timlin and Mark Lyson had it 95 to 95 draw. This made the result a split decision draw, myself I had it 95 to 95 draw.

Dexter's Thought's



What a great fight to start off the undercard of this pay per view event, both fighters deserve a lot of credit as it set the standard for the night. Both fighters had their moments in this fight and it could have gone either way, I think a draw was the fairest result as there was nothing in it. It was evident that Timlin was the better boxer but Skelly done well to drag her into a scrap. If they do, do it again I think if Timlin sticks to her boxing she will be crowned Commonwealth champion.

Catch up with Eastside's Jon Pegg



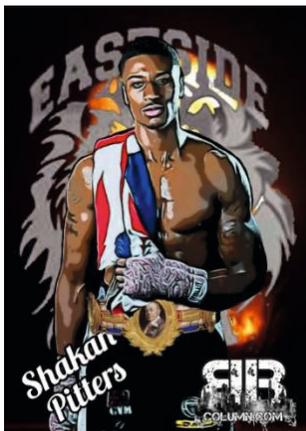
The Birmingham Boxing Column went to Birmingham's Eastside boxing gym to have a chat with boxing coach, manager and guru Jon Pegg about some of the fighters he manages especially the ones that have been active recently. We started by talking about being in lockdown and doing nothing to being busy as hell when the restrictions were lifted to put on shows. Jon said "yeah its been really busy, the good thing is we have lads that are willing to take proper fights, so our lads are busy so its not a shock to the system for them because they have always done it. Also obviously my work with Mick Hennessy has blossomed and Mick loves the Midlands and wants to bring a lot of shows here". Jon continued "I have known Mick for a long time and I'm

matchmaking for him now, he is putting our lads on, he is liking what he is seeing and we are getting regular TV spots for the lads that have earned them. From where we have come from with the pandemic to suddenly be looking at terrestrial TV in the Midlands, its crazy the jump that's happened but that's boxing, I always say to people enjoy the ups because the downs will come but don't worry because the ups will always come back as long as your doing a good job and stick at it. That's Boxing".



We started by talking about "The Savage" Sam Eggington and his cracking fight on the Matchroom show Fight Camp against Ted Cheeseman. I start by tell Jon what a great fight it was, Jon then said "yeah its was a great fight but once again Sam gets punished by his own success, its fairly obvious now people scream out for Sam Eggington to show something different in his boxing, they are always saying he is to aggressive, his defence is no good. Now in that fight Sam showed a great defence and showed a bit of maturity and literally unless Sam is going slam bang crazy they don't give him a round". Jon Continued "in that fight two of the judges gave him 4 rounds, they give him no credit what so ever for boxing. If some on else uses there jab like the way Shakan did in his title fight they say man he's boxing great but if Sam does the same thing is like oh his not 'the Savage' don't give him a round. He gets no credit for his boxing which is a shame". I then told Jon that I had scored the fight a draw but also said that I didn't think Cheeseman had done enough to win Sam's title. Jon then said "well he had defiantly not done enough to be going into the final round 4 rounds up which is how some of the judges had it which is ridiculous".

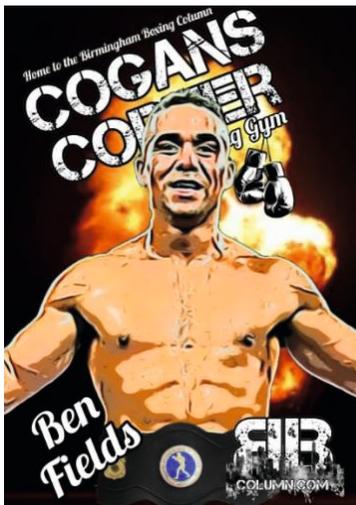
I then asked Jon was there going to be a rematch as it was such a great fight? Jon told me "Eddie Hearn told me, oh they don't fancy it until next year, I think that tells you a lot. If you are really comfortable with your win and you felt like you have done a good job, you would be saying rematch great let's get it on. The fact that he doesn't want a rematch tells its own story, it tells you what they really feel deep down. Eddie Hearn has said it won't happen until next year that means its not going to happen, when you put a fight off for six to nine month that's your way of saying stuff will happen in the mean time, its not going to happen. Why would you not want a fight of the year rematch on one of your shows unless the other side had said no way".



The next fighter we talked about was the newly crowned British Light Heavyweight champ Shakan Pitters. I told Jon in my opinion it was a near perfect performance by Shakan and if someone like Mayweather had done it people would be raving about it. Jon replied with "this is the point people talk about master classes when someone is established, when they are not established they say it could of been a bit more exciting, no it couldn't be more exciting because Shak didn't allow it to be. Shak won almost every round and didn't go through his gears, honestly he didn't get out of second gear because he didn't have to and that night we just wanted to take home the belt. Chad was ready to be taken out in the 11th but his a strong man a tough guy so why give him the chance when he's got no chance. I said in an interview and people kind of scoffed at it, I said with no disrespect to Chad because his a good fighter, if Shak turns up on form he can't win he hasn't got the tools to beat what Shak's got. I said this is Shak's fight to lose and a lot of people thought I was talking rubbish but I think that's shown that because Shak turned up on form there was nothing Chad could do to beat him. I also think that now Shak has got a 12 rounder under his belt and the British title his confidence is going to grow and that will show in his next fight".

We then went on to Shak's first defence which is going to be live on channel five on the Hennessy sports show on the 14th November where Shakan will take on the mandatory challenger Craig Richards. I said to Jon that I could not see anything but a Shakan Pitters victory and if I was being truthful couldn't see many of the light Heavyweight's being able to deal with what Shak has in his tool box. Jon seemed to agree with this and said "you got to go to world level before you have to start to think, well that could be a problem or we got to work out that. Outside of world level I cant see anyone who can cope with what he has got, you know if they stand off him they are going to get pinged with the jab get caught with a long right hand and lose every round. If they try and steam in, and the thing is that people say why don't they try and get on top of him but they don't realise that Shak hits a lot harder than what it looks, there's a reason why a strong tough man like Chad didn't just swarm forward its because Shak hits much harder than it looks. So the reason why people don't just swarm forward again Shak is that it isn't as easy as it looks and you also take a lot more punishment, I think Craig Richards is going to realize that Shak's got a lot more to his game than what he thinks and on the night I see Shak doing a similar job to what he did to Chad Sugden".

I then asked Jon was the plan to defend the British title and win it out right? Jon said "yeah that is the plan, the only thing Shak slightly lacks is a bit of experience and rounds under his belt. If he can defend the British three times that's 3 twelve rounder's, by the time he has done them I think he will be ready, but at the moment he is not quite ready to step up to world class because he has been dominant in his 10 and 12 rounder. He's just not quite ready for that step up, skill wise he is but experience wise his not but if he can defend the British title 3 times then we'll be able to say right let's take a look at a European or world title eliminator". Jon finished by say this about Shakan's journey he said "to win the Lonsdale belt outright is a great ambition and if you can do that and get the experience you need to take you to the next level your killing two birds with one stone. So that's what we are looking at beating Richards getting two volunteers in quick succession on channel five with Hennessy sports then go on to hopefully winning world titles.



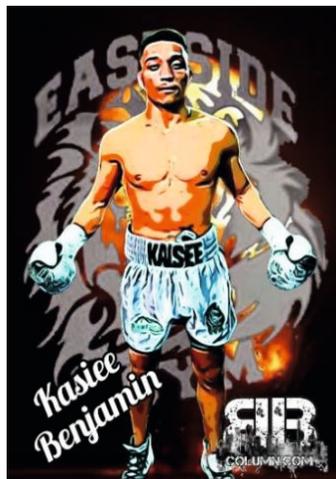
The next boxer we talked about was the newly crowned super lightweight Midlands area champion Ben Fields. Known as the '0-Taker' due to all the unbeaten fighters he has beat his story and journey to his first title is straight out of a Hollywood script. Ben is a former drug addict who spent sometime at her majesties pleasure in prison before finding his way into a boxing gym and meeting his trainer and mentor Shaun Cogan. Ben spent 2 years in the unlicensed game before turning over to the pro just to go on the road as a journeyman but no one told Ben he was not supposed to win.

When asked about Ben Jon said "Ben Fields is an inspiration its as simple as that, he is turning heads all over the place, not just on his ability, not on his title winning but on what he has done, what he has overcome and what he has achieved. His will to win is inspirational, people who watch him can't believe his will to win, Ben is just an inspiration, he's a nice guy he deserves what he is getting and is going out and earning it, he's not waiting for it to come. I told his trainer Shaun Cogan after Ben had, had 3 or 4 fights that he could be his diamond in the rough, I just saw something in Ben that made me think that".

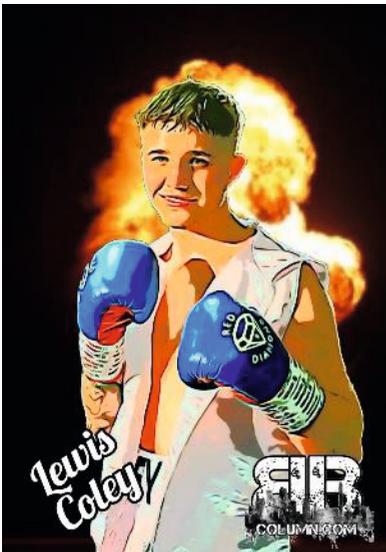
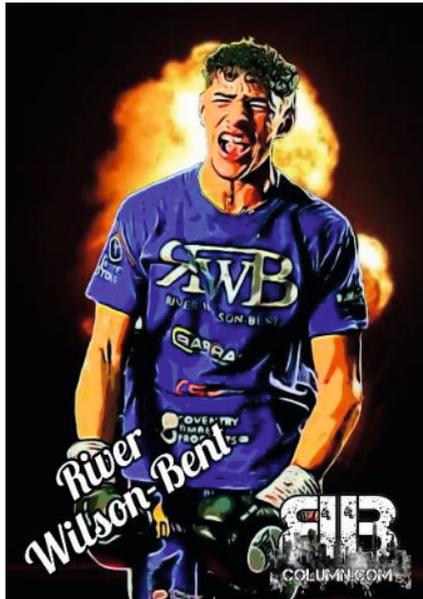
We then talked about Ben's title fight and I said what a great performance it was by Ben and that in my opinion it didn't matter what Alex Fearon turned up Ben was not going to be denied. Jon replied by saying "The only way Alex Fearon was winning that day was by knocking Ben out cold that was the only way he could have won and with no disrespect he didn't have it in his armoury to knock Ben out cold. On that day at Midlands level Ben would of been a handful for anyone".

I then asked Jon what was next for the 0-Taker? Jon said "it may be a defence against Fearon, they have asked about it and I'm happy to do it as Ben wants to fight and it will be behind closed doors so he can get on quicker but as I've always said to Ben stay ready, when a fight comes be ready to go and I think he will be. Ben's glowing at the moment being a genuine champion so that's going to take him up a level its exciting times, Ben's already done his ambition being a champion what ever we do now is a bounce and a bit of fun, so its a nice place to be in as a manager as the coach and as the boxer".

We then went on to chat about Kaisee Benjamin and if his fight with Conah Walker was still on and if so when? Jon said "yes, Kaisee will be fighting Conah Walker on the 14th November on the Hennessy Sports show for the welterweight Midlands title". When asked if Kaisee was OK after pulling out of the original fight with illness Jon said "yeah he he is, but do you know what, we have made the mistake before, we done it with Sam where we allowed a boxer to say they were OK when they are not OK and lost a fight because of it. Kaisee wasn't right against Danny Ball but didn't tell us until afterwards. It wasn't something major but against a fighter as good as Danny Ball if you want to get a win you have got to be 100 percent and he wasn't 100 percent. After that me Soggy and Louie decided that the lads need to know that in hard fights like the one against Conah Walker would be, if your not 100 percent we are not taking it". So we made the decision not to let Kaisee fight because if your not 100 percent against someone like Conah Walker you'll be in trouble". Both of us agreed that this was going to be a great fight that could be fought in a phone boxes.



We then talked about one of the Bbcolumn's 'Boxers to Watch' River Wilson-Bent and the news that he has been given a shot at the Light Middleweight Midlands area title. I asked Jon when River was likely to fight for the title and did they have an opponent yet? Jon said "yeah its looking like River will be fighting on the Hennessy show in December as they haven't got any room on the November one". When I asked Jon did they have an opponent yet he told me "we are just waiting on fighters getting medicals done so I don't want to say nothing yet just in case it turns out wrong, but there is a couple of options so it should definitely happen". I then asked Jon as River has only had 7 fights and only 2 six rounder's did he think River was ready for the step up? Jon replied "yeah he is sparing well and it will be the same level of opponent but over 4 more rounds". Jon continued "if the pandemic hadn't of happened River would of probably had two more fights but it did, so if we step up now we will be in the same position we wanted to be by the end of the year".



I then asked about another of his young fighters and another Bbcolumn's 'Boxers to Watch' Lewis Coley Jon told me that Lewis should be out on the December Hennessy show on channel five. Jon did say about the 21 year old unbeaten Super Featherweight that he may even be able to make Feather or super Flyweight and at them weights the talented fighter would have similar advantages as Eggington and Pitters have at there respective weights.

Dexter's Thoughts



This write up was meant to be a filmed interview for the Welcome to Fightden series but due to sound issues I have chose to do it as a write as it would not have done the interview justice. It was great catching up with Jon as he has a wealth of knowledge about the boxing industry and manages 30 to 40 fighters from around Birmingham and beyond.

Jon seemed truly frustrated with the Eggington result and I honestly can't blame him. Both fighters are signed to Matchroom so there shouldn't have been any favouritism, but if you heard the commentary (as most of the judges could) you would not have thought so. It was a cracking fight and Cheeseman won the first half of the it but Eggington came back strong in the final six rounds and on my card earned a draw. It will be a crying shame if there is not a rematch as the first fight was a cracker. Fingers crossed Cheeseman lives up the Mighty Millwall's moto 'We Fear No Foes' and defends his title against Sam, sooner rather than later.

Jon has got Shakan Pitters boxing future lay out and if it goes to plan Shakan will be the proud owner of a Lonsdale belt and will be knocking on the world levels door. Pitters has got his first defence in just over a months time against Craig Richards and I honestly can't see nothing but a Shakan Pitters victory. I am a big Shakan Pitters fan and it is going to be a very exciting time following his career as he starts his domination of the light Heavyweight division.

There is not much more to say about Ben Fields, he is an inspirational character who has came from rock bottom to win a Midlands area title. Jon has said there maybe a potential rematch against Alex Fearon and if there is I can not see there being any difference in the result. Ben's story and journey is amazing and a lot of credit has to go to his coach Shaun Cogan. What ever Ben does now is a bonus and I can honestly see him doing so much more, I could see the '0-Taker' fighting for at least a British title before he calls it a day. The Column will look forward to seeing where Ben's journey takes him next.

Its great to hear that the Kaisee Benjamin against Conah Walker fight is back on, Jon was spot on not to let Kaisee fight if he was not 100 percent. This fight is a 10 rounder for the Welterweight Midlands area title and will be featured on the November 14th Hennessy show live on channel five. This has the potential to be a absolute cracking fight and is a true 50/50 fight. This fight will be a great advert for boxing in Birmingham and the Black Country.

After only 7 professional fights Coventry's River Wilson-Bent will get his first shot at a title when he contests for the vacant light Middleweight Midlands area title. I have watched all of River's fights and you can't see he has got something special, I watched him spar before my interview with Jon and I have to say I was impressed. He is set to fight on the Hennessy Sports show in December and I think who ever he fights he will be the new champion.

Lewis Coley is just starting his pro career and from what I have saw he has got a bright future what ever weight his team choose for him to fight at. He is set to fight on the December Hennessy show where the whole of the country will see this young fighters talents. I would just like to thank Jon Pegg for his time and for letting me come down to Eastside.

Ball on Top of the World



'The Ginger Boxer' Rachel Ball has claimed her first title which just happens to be the WBC Super Bantamweight interim World title. Ball who was meant to be fighting Australian Ebanie Bridges for the vacant WBA World Bantamweight title but after Bridges had to pull out with an injury her opponent was changed. Her new opponent was the IBF super Flyweight champ Jorgelina Guanini who failed to make the Bantamweight weight which caused the change of titles on the line. Rachel Ball weighed in 8 stone 9 with Guanini coming in 8 stone 13.

Not much happen in the first two rounds with Ball edging both of them with her jab and the better work rate. In the third Ball looked good when she kept it at range as she let her hands go, Guanini got some good left hands in getting a share of the round.



Good forth round by both fighters as both Boxers got good shots off, close round with Guanini edging it. At the start of the fifth Guanini got some good shots off but Ball was in control shooting out good shots to win the round. Round six saw Ball step up the pace getting some cracking combinations off to win the round with ease. Ball bossed the seventh but Guanini fired back with good shots of her own but it was Ball's round. In the eighth

Ball again controlled the round and picked her shots well with some great combinations. Ball let her hands go in the ninth and got some great combinations off to win the round. In the final round Ball staked Guanini as she banged in some great combinations to win the round and the fight.

The fight went to the judges where John Latham and Victor Loughlin scored it 99 to 91 to Ball and Mark Lyson had it 99 to 92 to Ball. I had it 99 to 92 Ball.



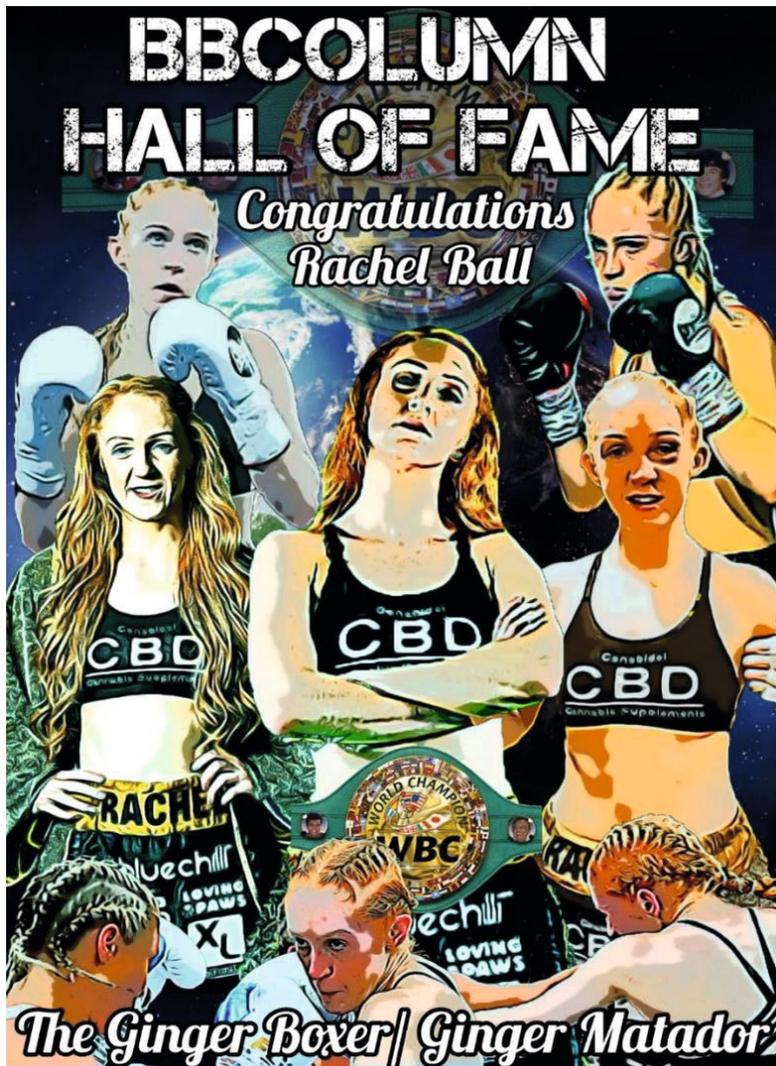
Dexter's Thought's



Was there ever any doubt? Rachel Ball 'The Ginger Boxer' nickname named 'The Ginger Matador' by the Birmingham Boxing Column has claimed the WBC interim Super Bantamweight World title. I thought I was watching a different fight with the commentators saying it was close when myself and the judges had Ball winning by 8 or nine rounds. It is a shame Ball didn't get to fight for the WBA World title but I have to say I do like the Green WBC belts. I would still like to see Ball fight for the WBA World title but after her performance tonight I can see her winning World titles at both

weights,

Rachel Ball has also made history as being the first female to be entered into the Bbcolumn 'Hall of Fame'.



Matt 'Slugger' Sen joins BCB Promotions

Written by Dan Mole



BCB are delighted to announce the signing of Matt 'Slugger' Sen.

The 33 year-old cruiserweight joins BCB on a management contract and will continue to be trained by respected trainer, Spencer McCracken Jr.

Sen, who has fought the likes of Isaac Chamberlain and Damian Chambers, is looking forward to what the future holds under the BCB Banner.

"I'm thrilled to join BCB," he said. "I'm looking forward to an exciting journey with the team. The last few years haven't quite gone to plan but this is my chance to rebuild. I'm confident that this will be the missing piece of the puzzle along with a plan of action to be more active and the chase title dreams that I still harbour. Here's to a bright future with BCB."

"We're pleased to have Matt on board," added Head of Boxing, Errol Johnson. "We've worked with him before on our shows and he's always been a pleasure to deal with. He's a Wolverhampton lad who wears his heart on his sleeve and I'm looking forward to working with him."



Davies shows his class as he claims English titl



Telford's Liam Davies showed his class last night (21,11,20) as he claimed the English Bantamweight title against a game Sean Cairns. This title fight was the first on the undercard of the Conor Benn v Sebastian Formella fight which was live on Sky sports. The show was a Matchroom promotions show with both fighter weighing in 8 stone 5 in this Bantamweight title fight.

Nice steady first round with Davies dictating the pace with his jab and one, two's, Cairns had his moments but it was Davies's round. Davies stayed in control in the second with everything coming from a sharp jab. Cairns had a real go at the start of the third but Davies stayed composed and got some cracking one, two's off winning the round with ease.

Davies was in complete control in the fourth keeping it long and simple with nice jabs and one, two's. Great effort by Cairns in the fifth but Davies picked his shots well and got some great combinations off to win the round. Cairns looked tired in the sixth as Davies picked up the pace and really start banging in some heavy combinations. Cairns corner then made the right decision and pulled the fighter out of the fight at the end of the sixth to give Davies his first title.



Dexter's Thought's



What a great performance by Liam Davies to win his first title, I have raved about this young fighter after seeing his debut at the Holiday Inn Birmingham in December of 2018. Davies showed his class picking his shots well with great timing, he took his time tonight and kept it simple but it was the accuracy of his shots that won him this fight. Davies made Cairns look ordinary but Cairns had his moments in this fight but it was Davies's composure and shot picking that earned him this win. Davies was asked after the fight would he like to go for the British title next which he replied straight away "yes". I can see Davies fighting for the British title next year fingers crossed with his big fan base present. I can see this young fighter contesting and winning Commonwealth and European title in the next few years and asking some big questions eventually at world level. Davies is a real talent and at his age can take his time to learn his trade and claim more titles. I will be looking to interview Davies at some point in the future and look forward to following this talented fighters career.

Eggington Returns with Savage Victory
Including Hennessy Sports Undercard



'The Savage' Sam Eggington returned to winning ways with a great performance against former world challenger and British champion Ashley Theophane. The fight was the headliner on the Hennessy Sports Promotion show live on channel five (11,12 20) behind closed doors in Redditch. The contest was in the super Welterweight division and was contested over 10 rounds with both fighters weighing in 10 stone 13 for the fight.



From the first bell Eggington took the centre of the ring and pressed Theophane who got some good shots off which Eggington took on the gloves and banged in some Savage shots of his own. Eggington used educated pressure in the second as he picked his shots well banging in big shot to the head and body. Theophane was caught with a big shot late in the round which put him down with the ref giving him a 8 count just before the bell rang. In the third Eggington continued to bang in heavy body shots with Theophane fighting back hard but Eggington won the round.

Eggington smashed in body shot after body shot in the fourth as he pinned Theophane to the ropes. Theophane continued to fight back hard but Eggington was bossing the fight. Eggington started stalking Theophane and picked his shots well in the fifth banging in hurtful body shots. Eggington continued to pick his shots well banging in some big body shots in the sixth, the end came when 'The Savage' crashed in a hurtful right to the body of Theophane who crumbled to the floor. The ref got to 8 before Theophane rose to his feet but the fight was waved off.



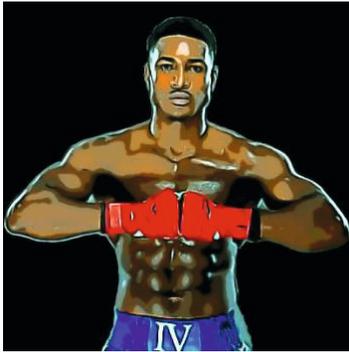
Eggington wins Sixth round stoppage.

The undercard was disappointingly not really shown with only the 2 McKenna brothers fights being shown complete and the rest only getting a short recap at the end. Here are the results from the Midlands fighters and a review of the clips they showed and what was said.

Kaisee Benjamin v Ben Fields
Welterweight Midlands area title fight



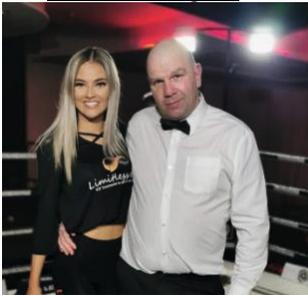
This 10 rounder was highly anticipated and it was a complete shock to me that in a 2 hour show they could not show this fight in full. From what I have heard and the clips I saw it lived up to the hype with Fields who had moved up a division for this fight pressing and putting the pressure on from the first bell. Benjamin did not disappoint using his skills and movement to deal with 'The 0-Taker's' onslaught getting a very close decision on the refs card 97 to 95. A lot of the people present have said that this was by far the fight of the night, the Bbcolumn will be giving there in-depth review on the fight when we get to see it in full.



'The Body Breaker' 'The One and Only' Idris Virgo won every round of his 4 round contest against Kevin McCauley, commutator Richie Woodhall said he was very impressed with Virgo's performance. Forty one year old McCauley is a veteran Journey man who has won 15 fights drew 12 but has lost 209 and is a very experienced fighter. Virgo is set to fight next week with his opponent yet to be named on the undercard of the Shakan Pitters Craig Richards British title fight .

Cruiserweight Matt Gorden was stopped tonight with only four seconds left in the second round, Gorden was not happy with the stoppage as he felt he was still ok to fight on against Tommy Welsh who was making his debut.

Dexter's Thought's

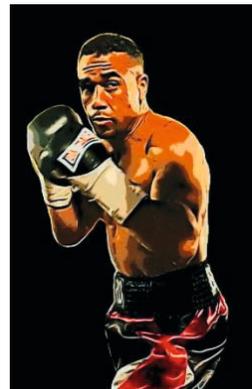


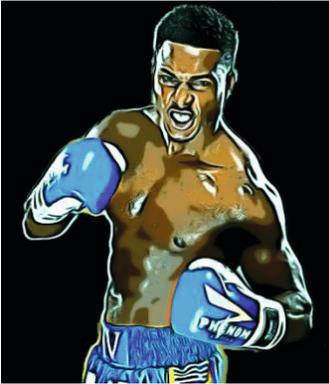
I was very impressed with Eggington tonight, there was more of a maturity to his craft than 'The Savage' of old. I had saw glimpse of this in his last fight with Cheeseman where he started the fight at his normal super fast pace and just pressed forward to get his shot off. Half way though that fight he seemed to change his style and became more patient and picked his shots well and still got his big body shots off. Against Theophane from the first bell he took the centre of the ring and used 'Educated Pressure' to get his shots off and get the stoppage against a tough durable and former world title challenger. His move to Hennessy may be the best thing for him as they may be able to get him to the position of fighting for a world

title. Eggington said he is not going to be chasing anyone and I don't blame him, Cheeseman has took a side step in my opinion by going for the British title which he has already won. I really want to see Sam in a world title fight before he retires and at only 27 he has got a few years in his locker to achieve this and the Column look forward to that day.

I will say a big congratulations to Kaisee Benjamin after he won the welterweight Midlands area title against the very tough Ben Fields. I was not happy that they did not show this fight live or even extended highlights of the fight as this was always going to be a cracker. These fighters styles made this fight and from what I have saw 'skill beat will' with the highly skilled Benjamin getting the verdict against the relentless, all heart Fields who would have left it all in the ring. I have yet to see the fight in full and when I do there will be a more in depth write up about the contests. Benjamin has fought for this Midlands area title 4 times now and in my opinion should be contesting for English or even British titles in his next few fights. As for the 'O-Taker' Ben Fields he will be back out at super lightweight as soon as his manager Jon Pegg can get him a fight but just being able to challenge against the likes of

Benjamin say's that Fields is at English or even British level in his respective division.



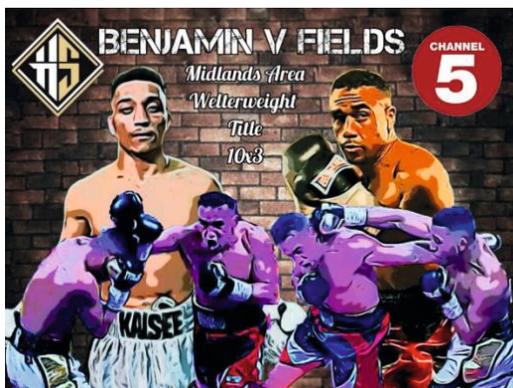


Idris Virgo got another victory tonight against a durable journeyman in Kevin McCauley, Virgo is now unbeaten in 9 fights and has now dropped down to the Middleweight division. He really needs to be given a challenge as if he fights as well as he talks he would be champion of the world by now. He is fighting again next week on the undercard of the Shakan Pitters, Craig Richards British title fight most likely against another journeyman so will be 10 without defeat. The vacant Middleweight Midlands area title will be contested for on the same show between Coventry's River Wilson-Bent and from the Black Country Troi Coleman who are going up and coming down from there respective divisions to fight for it. I'm a bit shocked that 'The one and Only' Idris Virgo wasn't put up for this title but he must surly challenge the winner for this title to prove he is not just hype.

Matt Gorden was stopped with four seconds to go in the second round of his contest against Tommy Welsh who was making his debut. Gorden was not happy about the stoppage as he thought he was ok. From what I saw Gorden was hurt but could have most likely saw the round out and recovered with a minutes rest but as a ref I will say it has got to be safety first and the ref has only seconds to make a decision. Like all the fights on the undercard I look forward to seeing the whole fight on YouTube.

A promotional poster for a boxing event featuring Sam Leggington. The central figure is a shirtless man with a beard and extensive tattoos, including names like 'Sam', 'You', and 'Eastside'. The background is a fiery orange and red. Text elements include: 'The Savage' Is Back in large, stylized white font; 'Sam LEGGINGTON' at the bottom in large, bold, white letters; 'EASTSIDE GYM' with a lion logo in the top right; a Channel 5 logo; the date '11th December'; and 'FIB COLUMN.COM' in the bottom right corner.

Benjamin wins Midlands title Clash



Eastside's gym Kaisee Benjamin was victorious on the Hennessy Sports Promotion show against Cogans Corner gyms Ben Fields for the vacant Welterweight Midlands area title. Benjamin who had vacated this title as he looked to challenge for English honours was looking to reclaim the title due to the lockdown stopping a lot of shows from happening. Benjamin was meant to be fighting the unbeaten Conah Walker who had to pull out due to injury but his replacement Ben Fields was a more than worthy adversary. Fields who had just been crown super lightweight Midlands area champion after beating Alex Fearon earlier this year jumped at the chance of taking on Benjamin for yet another Midlands title. Fields known as the '0-Taker'

moved up a weight for this contests which was advertised as being live on channel five (11,12,20) on Sam Eggington's return. This fight was a highly anticipated one due to the styles of the fighters making the perfect battle on paper.

Kaisee Benjamin v Ben Fields Midlands Welterweight Area Title 10 x 3 Rounds



Great jabbing and movement in the first round by Benjamin as Fields looked to work his way in and get his shots off. Fields had his moments of joy in the second but Benjamin controlled the pace and used his jab well with good movement switch hitting at will. In the third Fields stepped up the pace and got some big shots off but Benjamin moved well and counter on the back foot to nick the round. Benjamin controlled the fourth round from the centre of the ring using his jab well and keeping it long.

The fifth was Fields best round as he started to pour on the pressure and was closing the gap quicker to get his shots off. Benjamin returned fire with some cracking shots but this was Fields round. Great sixth round as both fighters as they went back and fourth banging shots in, Fields nicked the round by finishing it the stronger. Fields showed loads of heart in the seventh as Benjamin banged in some big eye catching shots but Fields battled back hard to see the round out. Benjamin seemed to have hurt his left hand in this round.





Benjamin picked his shots well in the eighth and the eye catching shots came from him, but Fields work rate earned him a share of the round. Fields pressed and pressured with Benjamin moving well and got some great shots off but Fields nicked this round with his work rate. Fields started the final round fast getting in some big shots, Benjamin returned fire with some big shots of his own that rocked Fields but Fields relentless work-rate got him threw the round.

Ref scored the fight 97 to 95 to Benjamin, myself I had it 97 to 94 Benjamin.

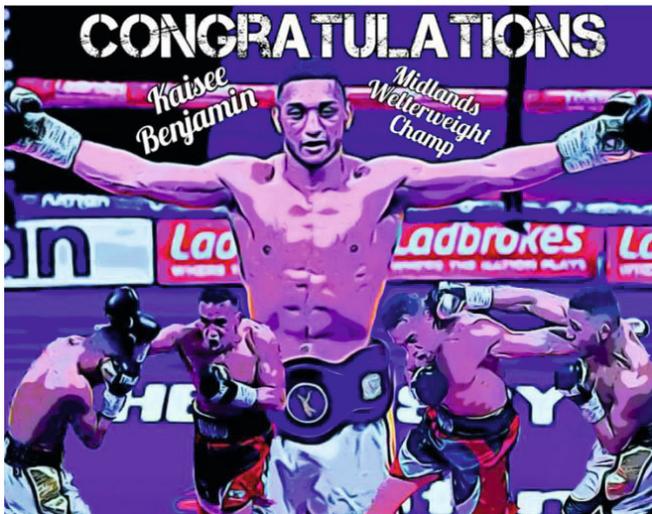
Kaisee Benjamin the new Welterweight Midlands area champion

Dexter's Thought's



What a great fight, both fighters can walk away from this with a sense of pride. How this fight was not aired in full on channel five or even just extended highlights it a absolute travesty to me. This was always going to be a big ask for Fields as he moved up a weight to take on a fighter who by rights should be fighting at British level by now. Fields left it all in the ring like he always does pouring on the pressure and pressing for every minute of the 10 round fight. But I have always said that Skill will always beats will and Benjamin had to pull out all of his skills to get this victory against one of the most inspirational fighters around at the moment. Benjamin boxer as good as I have ever seen him and I think he needs to be challenged to get this out of him. Benjamin will go on and I have no doubt there is a British title in his future. As for Fields he is

still a super lightweight Midlands area champion and will be looking to defend his title back at his normal weight or even go for the English or British title if he gets the call.



Gamal Completes Italian Job



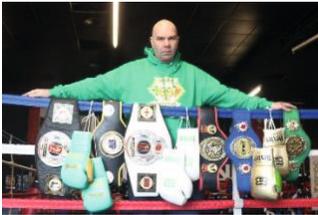
Birmingham's Gamal Yafai has completed the Italy job as he beats the Super-bantamweight European Champ Luca Rigoldi in Milan (17,12,20) on points to claim the European title. The decision was unanimous with all three judge's scoring to Yafia with two of them having it 116 to 112 and one scoring it 119 to 109.

The former Commonwealth and WBC International super Bantamweight champ had scored 3 stoppages in his last three fights after losing his unbeaten record to Gavin McDonnell in March of 2018. This great victory puts Gamal back in contention for even bigger titles and bigger fights. There is also the mouth-watering prospect of Yafia taking on the current British and

Commonwealth super-bantamweight champ Brad Foster. This would be a great unification fight and a great Midlands Derby.



Dexter's Thought's



Great to see Gamal back with a belt around his waist, he had to do it the hard way traveling to Italy to fight the champ Luca Rigoldi who he beat on a unanimous points decision. Yafia is back in the driving seat and I'm sure he will be looking to contest for one of the world titles and emulate his brother Kal as a world champ. But before he does that which under the Matchroom banner I'm sure he will do I would love to see him take on Brad Foster for his European and Fosters British and Commonwealth titles. This would be an epic contest with both fighters in good form and at the top of there games. The one stumbling block is

Yafia is promoted by Matchroom and Foster is promoted by Queensberry which could well be a problem in getting this fight together. I'm sure this is a fight everyone would like to see and the Column would love to see it. Fingers crossed it will happen.

Pitters Stopped in Shock British Title Defeat



Birmingham's Shakan Pitters lost his British Light-Heavyweight title last night (18,12,20) in a shock stoppage defeat to mandatory challenger Craig Richards. The fight which was scheduled for 12 three-minute rounds was being aired live on Channel 5 and was the headline fight on the Hennessy Sports Promotion show in Redditch. This was Pitters first defense after beating Chad Sugden in August of 2020 in a unanimous points decision.

A cagey start to the first round as both fighters felt each other out, Pitters got the first big shot off but there was not much in the round, Pitters just edged it. Both fighters were still trying to feel each other out in the second but Pitters found his range with his jab and edged it. Pitters used his jab well in the third as he moved around the ring, Richards up the tempo and pushed Pitters back to the ropes with some good combinations to win the round. Pitters started the fourth round well using his sharp jab, Richards seemed to time Pitters well and caught him with a big right hand which seemed to hit Pitters around the back of the head. This rocked Pitters and as he fought back Richards caught him with a cracking right hand that put the champ down. Pitters rose to his feet and took an 8 count. When the ref told them to box on Richards went in for the stoppage as Pitters used all his will and skills to hold on. Pitters managed to weather the storm and recovered enough to see the round out.

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The fifth was a quite round as Richards seemed to give Pitters time to recover, could not split them. In the sixth Pitters seemed to have fully recovered and as the round went on Pitters seemed to grow in confidence catching Richards with some great shots near the end. The seventh was a back and forth round with both fighters having joy, could not split them. Pitters controlled the pace in round eight with his jab and seemed to be back in control of the fight. Richard then upped his tempo again in the ninth getting his double jab off but Pitters was looking good behind his jab, Richards then caught Pitters with a massive right hook that rocked the champ who backed away on unsteady legs. Richards jumped on Pitters who tried to move away and cover-up. As Pitters sat on the ropes Richards caught him with a cracking left hook which put Pitters down for the second time, as Pitters got to his feet the ref waived the fight off.

**Winner Craig Richards
Ninth round stoppage**

Dexter's Thought's



I am gutted for Shak as you could see how much this fight meant to him, I'm not going to lie I honestly thought Shakan would win this fight with ease. I honestly did not think Pitters did much wrong in the fight, it was more to do with Richards having a good game plan and some thunder in his shots. Shakan got caught in the fourth and showed the heart of a champion by getting off the floor and riding out the storm and getting back into the fight. The right hook he was caught with in the ninth was a peach and again he showed loads of heart to stay on his feet, the left hook that put him down would have completely knocked out most people, how Shakan managed to get to his feet shows his true warrior's heart. The ref was right to stop the fight then but you could see Shak wanted to continue.

This defeat is not the end of the world as I'm sure there will be a rematch where Shak like AJ will correct the result. As the saying goes you don't lose you learn and I think Shakan will learn a lot about himself and his boxing and will come back an even better fighter and I can still see one of the Bbcolumn's favorite boxers reclaim the British title or even go on to bigger belts.

The Birmingham Boxing Column has followed Shak from the start of his career and will be there when he wins bigger titles.

Wilson-Bent Makes a Big Statement Winning His First Title



Coventry's River Wilson-Bent made a big statement last night (18,12,20) as he claimed the Middleweight Midlands area title against the Unbeaten Troi Coleman. The fight which was scheduled for 10 three minute rounds was the headliner on the undercard of the Shakan Pitters, Craig Richards British title fight and would be aired live on Channel five.

Wilson-Bent got his jab working from the start as Coleman returned fire with shots of his own, Wilson-Bent won the round with the better shots. Wilson-Bent continued his good work in the second with everything coming off a sharp jab then going to the head and body at range, Coleman fought back hard but it was Wilson-Bent's round. Wilson-Bent started the third fast and was getting some great shots off, Coleman was battling back hard but Wilson-Bent was in control. Wilson-Bent then caught Coleman with a devastating chopping right hand that put Coleman down hard, Coleman managed to get to his feet but was in no fit state to continue so the ref stopped the fight.



**Wilson-Bent Wins 3rd round stoppage
Midlands Area Middleweight Champ**

Also on the undercard from the Midlands 'The One and Only' 'The Body Breaker' Idris Virgo took his unbeaten record to 10 without defeat. Virgo (27) who only fought last week had his first 6 round contest against The Walsall journeyman Kearon Thomas (31). The unbeaten Virgo seemed to be having fun in the ring as he showboated his way to points victor against Thomas who had only won one fight out of his 10 contests. After Virgo was announced the victor he then showed his athleticism by doing a cartwheel in the ring.



Dexter's Thought's



River Wilson-Bent was one of our Boxers to Watch for this year and he has not let us down winning the Midlands area title at a weight above his normal obe in only his 8th fight. You have to give his opponent Troi Coleman massive respect for taking the fight as he was only having his seventh fight and had not fought over 4 rounds. I am sure Coleman and his team will regroup and come again as the 27 year is a talented fighter. The stoppage was devastating with Wilson-Bent's straight one, two being the telling shot. With Wilson-Bent winning this title this sets up and cracking fight between Wilson-Bent and the untested Virgo. Wilson-Bent called Virgo out after the fight in an interview and stated that if he wants it he can have it. Virgo then joined the interview and said so you want the one and only? The body breaker Idris Virgo? With Wilson-Bent replying yes. Virgo didn't seem his

normal brash pantomime Villain self while on camera which might be because Wilson-Bent is not a journeyman. I can say now that this would be a highly anticipated fight as both fighters have big followings. It would also be a massive step up for Virgo which is a long time coming as he would not be fighting a journeyman or a fighter with a negative record. I really do hope they get this fight on as they have the same manager, there on the same promotion company and the both stated they wanted it. I honestly can not see why this fight could not happen and we would see once and for all if 'The One & Only' 'The Body Breaker' Idris Virgo is the real deal or just Hype, the Column look forward to finding out



*Coming In
Issue 8*

*Fight of the
Year*

*Boxer To
Watch*

BBColumn Awards 2020
*Boxer of the
Year*

There Can Only Be One!

