

Adam gives kilo, gets win

Soldier Whitfield's season is off to flying start as he beats O'Rourke

THE Tyne, Tees & Wear v Army team match at Catterick Barracks in North Yorkshire on October 7 produced only six bouts and ended level at 3-3.

In a bantam four-twos, **Ashley Williams** (54.5kgs) was a majority winner over North Benwell's **Jamie Humble**, a former Junior ABA finalist who had won 20 of 29. The soldier (16 bouts) will now enter the Novices Class B section.

Former ABA flyweight champion **Adam Whitfield** gave a kilo to **Luke O'Rourke** (Consett) but won unanimously over three-threes to get his season off to a good start.

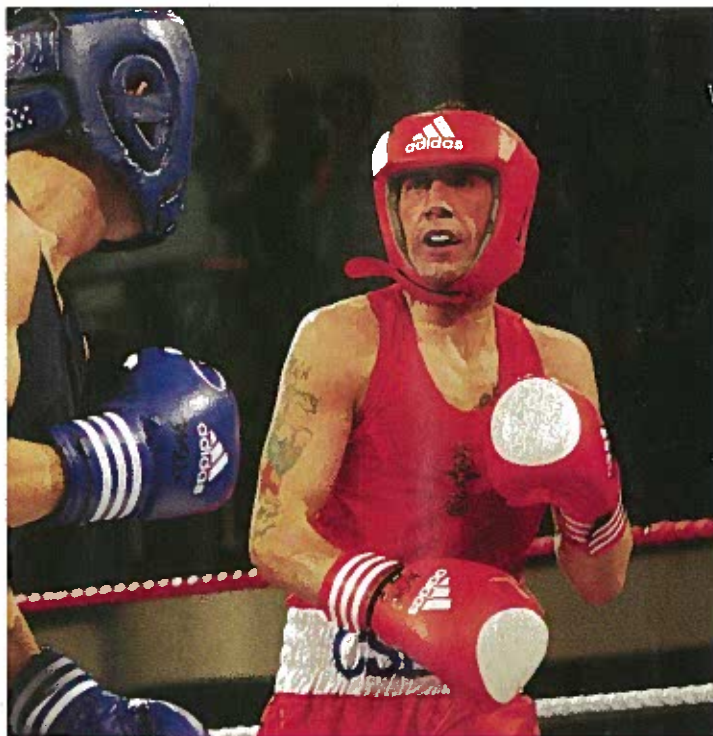
Last year **Richard Starkey** had lost to **John Green** and although the soldier lost again by the Phil Thomas boxer, this time it was a majority and closer. It was a three-twos made at 60 kgs.

David Passerelli was a unanimous winner over Sunderland's **Jake Bonallie** in a middleweight three-threes that saw each take a count.

"David had 30 bouts as a junior four years ago," revealed Army coach Tony Davis. "With the Engineers he boxed Javan Young, who went to the Commonwealth Games for Jamaica. Now he's come to us."

In a light-welter three-threes **Danny Allen** gave two kilos to **Stuart Buckley** (Hartlepool Catholic) and went down unanimously.

Said Davis, "Buckley hadn't boxed since the ABAs. Danny won the first



JUST CHAMPION: Former ABA king Whitfield was a winner at Catterick

but changed tactics and Buckley won the next two rounds."

A four-twos saw made at middleweight the Army's **Damien Wilson** lose unanimously to **Peter Martin** of Wellington.

Just where is the game heading?

I'M still coaching out here in Spain where I now live; just a few English lads that I teach basic skills to, that gives them confidence and earns the respect of their Spanish schoolmates.

The reason that I'm writing is to get off my chest my feelings about the way the amateur game is going. I have just watched a couple of bouts at the Commonwealth Games and what I witnessed makes me wonder why kids enter the sport.

In two contests boxers were dropped, given eight counts but no point was awarded. I have long been dubious about computer scoring but this is ridiculous. This goes on in England as well. I seconded a lad a few years ago in a hard-fought contest where in one round he failed to score a point yet his opponent had a bloody nose. Who hit him, the referee?

There, I feel better now.

I was saddened to hear about the death of Alan Rudkin. We shared opponents (Peter Bennyworth, Ralph Gold, Ray Stacey) but never met in the ring.

Ian Munday, via email

Amateur boxing needs a complete revamp

MANY years ago I had a gym here in Adelaide, South Australia. I trained amateur and pro boxers for over 20 years. A number of my boxers represented Australia, as did I as national coach with Bo Geering at the Kings Cup in Bangkok. My lightweight was No. 1 in the country. I also had boxers at the Commonwealth Games.

When computer scoring was introduced I closed the gym and had nothing more to do with training. I have been to only one amateur show in the last four years, which was the Commonwealth Games finals in Melbourne 2006, when the English boys took five golds. They were clearly a class above the rest.

I watched the start of the Games from India. It's a joke now.

I watched a young Welsh boy, Chris Jenkins, win two out of three rounds (60-58 in the old scoring) and not get credited with a point during the whole five minutes. This stupid scoring system has now come down to the

reflexes of the judges, not the boxers. Five 12-year-old schoolkids who knew about boxing would at least have the reflexes to push the buttons in time to score a point.

The whole amateur boxing system needs a complete revamp. Get rid of the headguards (it's much harder to slip a punch with a headguard on); get rid of the red and blue singlets – let the boxers wear their national colours.

The commentators here in Australia analysing the boxing have not got a clue and give no information about the fighters. Amateur boxing used to be a great spectator sport, now it's become about as exciting as lawn bowls.

It's sad, but many of the officials have never had a glove on, but have managed to destroy what was once a wonderful sport.

Johnny Lewington (former coach at the Lodge ABC), Adelaide, South Australia

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