

Evening Echo Sextant and Glen Ryan out

SPORT

IN SPORT TODAY

See today's racing news: P34-36

LAST week we were extolling the praises of Sextant Bar and Glen Ryan I as they sailed through their sections of the Murphy Premier League in spectacular fashion.

They, along with the other 14 qualifiers, entered the sudden death winner takes all round of the last 16 and both fell at the first hurdle:

Sextant I, Ma Dullea's 2. Sportsman's 1, Redmond's 2. Quinlan's 2, Tom Lynch's 1.

DON

By BERNIE TWOMEY

O'Cionnaigh I 1, Mountain I 2. Hollyhill 2, Glen Ryan II 1. Glen Ryan I 1, Laurel Bar 2. Chimes II 1, Mountain II 2.

Quarter-finals results: Ma Dullea's 1, Redmond's 2. Quinlan's I 2, Mountain I 1. O'Cionnaigh II 2, Hollyhill 1. Laurel 1, Mountain II 2.

The draw for the semi-final to be played Thursday, Au-

gust 1 at Hollyhill Inn at 9.30 Redmond's v O'Cionnaighs II. Quinlan's I v Mountain II.

Entries are now being accepted for our next competition a grand charity blitz to aid COFFA House again generously sponsored by Heineken (Ireland) Ltd.

It is due to commence on Thursday, August 22.

Next meeting is scheduled for the Island Tavern on Tuesday next August 6th at 8.30pm

Midleton Kwan-do spirit

TAE KWON DO

MIDLETON Tae kwon do club, based in Knockgriffin, came home from the TAGB World Championships in Coventry with a tidy medal haul.

Under head coach James Dwyer the east Cork club collected nine medals in all.

Donna O'Mahony won gold, Brian O'Callaghan won silver and 12-year-old Jack Horgan picked up a silver in the green belt category.

Young Horgan, who was top scorer with the Midleton U12s last year and moved from kickboxing to Tae kwon do last year, has a bronze medal from the All-Irelands and he has several Cork Open medals as well.

Jack now goes up to blue grade and hopes to compete at the European Championships in Switzerland next March.



Shane McCarthy, seen here laying up, is taking over at Blue Demons this summer.

Bailey proved he was the fastest man



YESTERDAY we touched on the touted race between Olympic 100m and 200m champ Usain Bolt and Mo Farah, the 5,000m and 10,000m winner in London.

Good-natured would be the best way to describe their "rivalry" and the two come across as genuinely genial characters. The proposed distance they would race for charity is 600m.

The last time such a race happened was back in 1997. It wasn't for charity. It wasn't good natured. And it was over 150m.

Canadian Donovan Bailey had won the 100m at the Atlanta Games the year before, but had become peeved that Michael Johnson, winner of the 200m and 400m, had garnered much of the publicity of "the fastest man in the world", usually the shorter sprint winner's title.

The hybrid distance showdown took place on June 1st in Toronto the following year and was as mean-spirited and spiteful as the Farah-Bolt one will be fun and relaxed. The winner had a carrot of \$1.5 million dangling at the finishing line, while the loser would pocket \$500,000.

Verbal sparring that is usually reserved for the ring occurred in the months leading up to the event and although certain high-minded individuals in athletics claimed the whole thing was a circus, there was genuine interest in who would prevail. Despite a poor TV audience tuning in in the US (TV rights were sold for a mere \$50,000), the race raised the sport's profile after a humdrum season on the track and 30,000 paying spectators turned up to watch.

Alas, the race failed to live up to expectations. Bailey was ahead of Johnson on the curve (the first 75m), where it had been assumed Johnson would have the advantage. Johnson (losing the race) pulled up at the 110-metre mark, grabbing his quadriceps.

Sadly, Bailey lost more in victory than in defeat as he assailed Johnson straight away.

"There was never any doubt in my mind that I was the fastest man. This is just preparation, I'm gonna run a couple of 200m this year. He didn't pull up [with an injury] he's a chicken."

This wasn't a reference to Johnson's running style (he did run like a chicken in posture), but an accusation of cowardice and Bailey compounded it by saying: "The gap was going to get bigger and my butt was going to get smaller as I pulled away. He knew he was going to get hammered after the first 30 meters, so he knew he had to pull up."

Bailey had finished in 14.99. They never met on the track again.

Recommendation: Skip the Galway Plate and go for the extremely aptly named (for me anyway) The Alarm Clock in the 6.05 at Galway tonight at 7/1.

BASKETBALL

By JOHN COUGHLAN

SHANE McCARTHY, 33, has played basketball with Blue Demons since he was a nine-year-old, but this season he is taking over the responsibility of coaching the men's division one National League side.

McCarthy played a pivotal role in last season's historic league and cup double as he recalled that memorable feat.

"It was simply an unbelievable season but I have to be honest we were lucky that two magnificent Bosman players walked in the door to us," Shane said.

The players in question were a pair of UCC students, Spanish ace Christian Anon and Frenchman Thiabut Prion, who were simply awesome.

"We came to a stage we called them our Americans, but to be honest when you looked at their record playing in their respective countries they were right from the top drawer," added McCarthy.

McCarthy was quick to point out that many teams in division one had Americans last season.

"Titans and Ulster Elks were stacked with Americans but in my book Christain and Thiabut were better than the majority of them."

McCarthy is ready for his new role

This season Demons will have a different attitude as McCarthy pointed out that many young players will be part of his squad.

"To be honest my minutes will be eclipsed and so will many other players because I think as a club we need to be bleeding players for the Premier League.

"At the moment the Premier League squad have 16 players trying out so I guess there will be a few surplus to requirements, but that's not a problem as playing in

division one will be a good experience."

McCarthy also pointed out that last season's captain Tim O'Halloran has retired after showing great leadership skills in the historic double.

"Timmy was a great leader and we'll miss him but he's agreed to assist Colin O'Reilly with the Premier League side and I'm confident he'll be a great asset to us."

Having never coached at any level could the challenge prove

too much for the talented McCarthy?

"I'm under no illusions of the task that lies ahead but I'm confident the experience gained over the years will stand to me.

"My first priority will be to get players to buy into my plans and if that happens everything should be ok.

"The downfall for any coach is when he loses the dressing room and that has proved fatal for many people in various sports in my lifetime."