

Magic Murray

□ TWO vacant Irish titles were won in impressive fashion on the supporting card at the National Stadium on Saturday night.

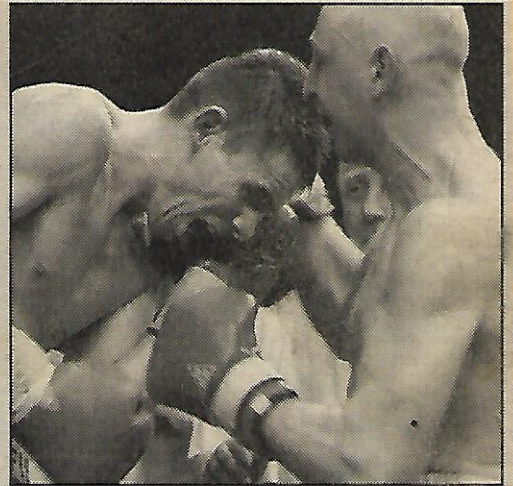
Dublin light-welterweight Robbie Murray and Anglo-Irish middleweight Matthew Macklin were crowned champions with emphatic wins over Peter McDonagh and Michael Monaghan, respectively.

□ Murray, a first cousin of the Pink Panther himself, Jim Rock (who was working the corner), made it six out of six in the paid ranks with a deserved 98-94 decision over the Nottingham born McKenna, while Macklin, who turned 23 on Saturday, celebrated in style with the only emphatic inside the distance win of

the night.

Born in Birmingham to a Roscommon father and a Tipperary mother, Macklin turned on the style to drop and stop Monaghan, with referee Sean Russell — a brother of 1980 Olympic bronze medal winner, Hughie — halting the bout at 1:28 of round five.

□ In the first bout of an eventful evening, Belfast based London light-welter Darren Melville edged out London based Lithuanian Oscar Milkitas over six rounds, while in a pair of four rounders, Belfast duo Tommy Tolan and James Gorman pipped Mikhail Bambalra and Peter Buckley respectively at middleweight and light-weight.



ACE: Robbie Murray (right) in action against Peter McDonagh on Saturday

THE STAR, Saturday May 14 2005



WORD PERFECT: Murray

Meanwhile, Robbie Murray intends to complete his novel — a male version of Sex and the City — within the next six months.

In the meantime, he also intends to get people writing about him as his pro career continues on its upward path.

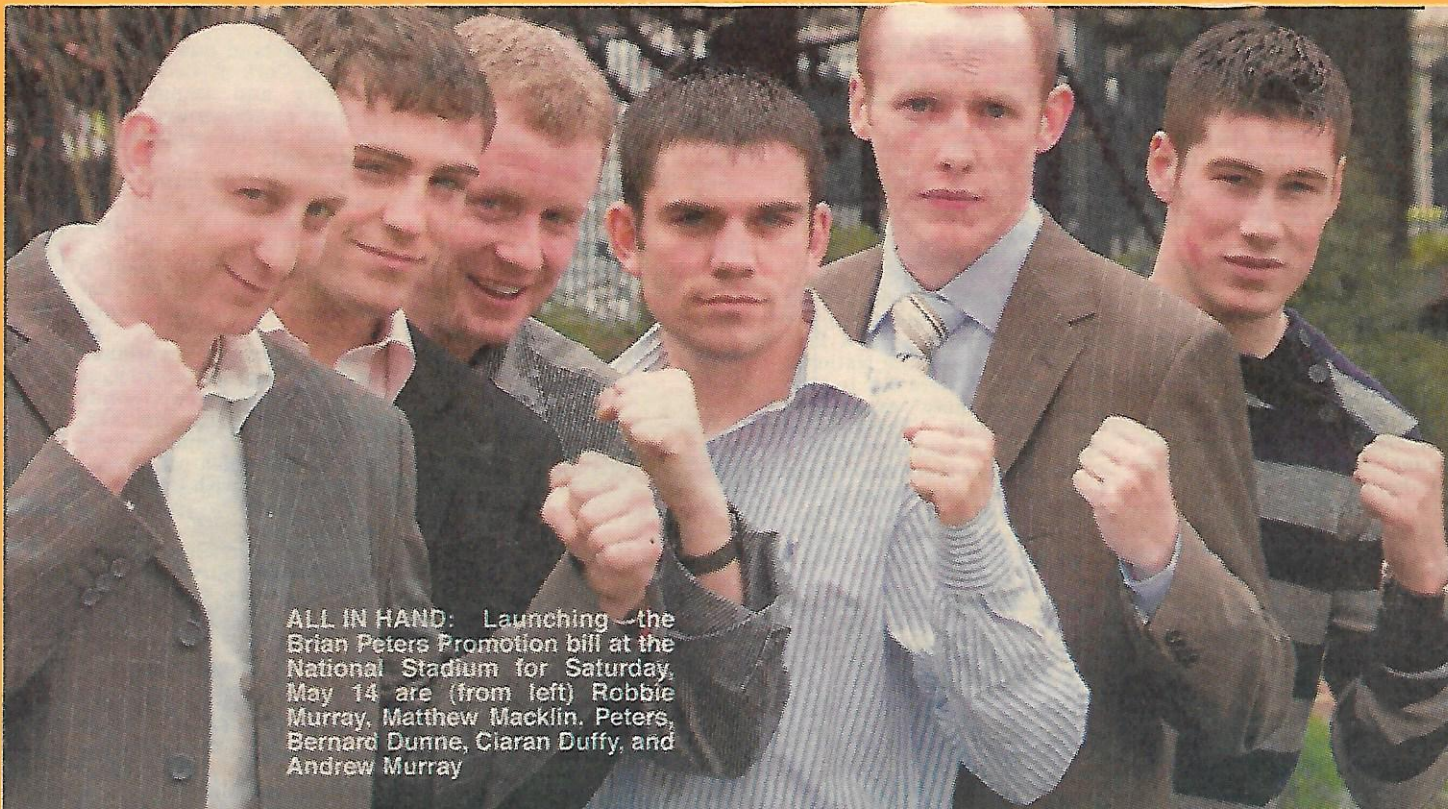
This was his sixth fight in the pro ranks, his sixth win and his most important one. It means, after outpointing Peter McDonagh, that he is Ireland's Light-Welterweight Champion.

Now he wants more. He wants a dustdown with Francis Barrett.

Murray says: "I'm delighted with how things are going. I'm boxing well and I'm getting fights.

"I'd love to get a crack at Francie."

On the undercard, there were wins for Belfast's Darren Melville, Tommy Tolan and James Gorman.



ALL IN HAND: Launching the Brian Peters Frontotion bill at the National Stadium for Saturday, May 14 are (from left) Robbie Murray, Matthew Macklin, Peters, Bernard Dunne, Ciaran Duffy, and Andrew Murray