



Ulster GAA

SPECIAL GUEST PROFILE

GAA Delegates to the O'Neills Ulster GAA Coaching and Games Development Conference welcomes Paul McCloskey a boxer and a GAA man. Paul has taken time out of his busy schedule to tell us about his experiences in GAA and in Boxing and we are sure he will have a few tips he will give us as coaches.



Paul was born 3 August 1979 in Dungiven, Northern Ireland) is an Irish southpaw professional boxer who fights in the light welterweight division.

Paul is the former Irish senior amateur champion, former British light-welterweight champion and current European light-welterweight champion.

Gaelic games

Paul played both Gaelic football and hurling at underage and briefly at senior level for the local clubs in Dungiven - St. Canice's Dungiven and Kevin Lynchs respectively. He was part of the Dungiven side that won the Derry Senior Football Championship and Ulster Senior Club Football Championship in 1997. He has played along side Derry greats Brian McGilligan, Joe Brolly, Eugene Kelly and Kieran McKeever. We are delighted that he has taken the time to speak to us at the Conference.

Paul McCloskey

Statistics

Real name	Paul McCloskey
Nickname(s)	Dudey
Rated at	Light Welterweight
Nationality	 Ireland
Birth date	3 August 1979 (age 31)
Birth place	Dungiven, Northern Ireland
Stance	Southpaw

Boxing record

Total fights	21
Wins	21
Wins by KO	11
Losses	0
Draws	0
No contests	0

Amateur career

Paul boxed out of the St. Canices ABC and fought for Ireland at amateur level and was a three-time Irish champion and five-time senior Ulster champion at in the light welterweight division. He failed to qualify for the 2004 Summer Olympics by ending up in third place at the 2nd AIBA European 2004 Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Warsaw, Poland.

Professional career

He turned professional in March 2005 on the undercard of a bill that included Eamonn Magee and Neil Sinclair at the King's Hall, Belfast. In his debut McCloskey defeated experienced Englishman "Dangerous" David Kehoe with a third round knockout.

In December 2007 he won the IBF International light-welterweight title, stopping Tontcho Tontchev in round four. After beating Nigel Wright on points in July 2008,^[7] he fought Colin Lynes on 5 December 2008 for the vacant British light-welterweight title. McCloskey won, forcing Lynes to retire after the ninth round.^[8]

Following his British title victory, McCloskey was named Boxer of the Year at the Irish-boxing.com National Boxing Awards in January 2009. On 13 March, Paul retained his British light-welterweight title in emphatic fashion with a fourth-round stoppage of Dean Harrison in Widnes. He won the vacant European light welterweight title on 6 November 2009, when he defeated Spanish boxer Daniel Rasilla after original opponent and champion Mbaye withdrew due to injury.

Paul defended his European title against Giuseppe Lauri from Italy on 11 June at the Kings Hall, Belfast, with an 11th round knockout. Paul next defense of his European title was against Barry Morrison in Letterkenny, County Donegal, on 2 October 2010. McCloskey won the fight with a seventh round stoppage of his Scottish opponent.

his third defense of the title will be against second Italian challenger, Michele Di Rocco on March 5th, 2011.

Medal record

Competitor for Ireland

Men's Boxing

EU Amateur Championships

Silver 2003 Strasbourg Welterweight



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Interview

Paul will be interviewed by Tony Scullion former Derry, Ulster and Ireland player and someone who knows the 'ins and outs' of things around Dungiven. Tony would have played and roomed with Dungiven

star Brian McGilligan as part of the Derry and Ulster Teams and the International Rule series. Look forward to a lively conversation



Left: New European Light Welterweight Champion Paul McCloskey pictured with Vinny Hargan of St Canice's ABC in Dungiven who coached him since a youngster until he turned pro four years ago.

Paul McCloskey has found himself in the middle of a battle to become Amir Khan's next challenger on April 16 at the MEN Arena, Manchester.

It is understood that McCloskey's promoter Barry Hearn has already turned down an offer from the Khan camp believing the purse was well below the European champion's market value.

While Hearn is hoping to continue negotiating, Khan's promoters are now looking at alternatives, such as Michael Katsidis, Victor Ortiz, Breidis Prescott and even a possible deal with original opponent Lamont Peterson, who has been out in the cold due to his purse demands.

Khan has said that he wants the fight with McCloskey but Hearn is adamant that he "won't be getting Paul on the cheap".

It is unlikely that Khan will risk his WBA belt against dangerman Ortiz in front of his home fans, while Prescott — who knocked out Khan in 2008 — yesterday cranked up the heat on the champion and dismissed the challenge of McCloskey.

Prescott said: "What does it tell you that he'd go around me, the man who beat him, to instead face a much lighter hitting and unknown fighter he thinks he can beat. Obviously Amir Khan and his team realize I would knock him out if we fought again."

Ultimately, it will come down to whether or not Sky agree to the fighter Khan strikes a deal with and the biggest threat to McCloskey's chances of getting the nod is arguably Aussie Katsidis.

The former WBO lightweight champion has been to Britain twice before and defeated Graham Earl and Kevin Mitchell.

Overall, the next 48 hours could well decide McCloskey's fate.