

# The Inverness Courier

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## Boxers target championship success

by

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LIAM Foy can see no reason why the newly-formed Highland Boxing Academy cannot be celebrating multiple Scottish champions at one of the country's biggest amateur events.

Meadowbank Sports Centre plays host to this weekend's Scottish Novice Championships — the first major tournament of the season.

Despite only being set-up earlier this year, Highland Boxing Academy has already seen several of its members impress at shows in Castlemilk and Paisley.

With just over 250 fighters throughout Scotland entering, the competition promises to be more intense, but with head coach Foy, alongside assistant coaches Gus Maclean and Alan MacLennan, putting in extra sessions of late in a bid to ready their eight-strong squad for the championships, confidence is high they can return to Inverness with at least one Scottish champion among their ranks.



"At this level, I feel that all the guys we are taking down to the Scottish Novice Championships all have a really strong chance to take a title," said Foy.

"We've already had a bit of success at the shows we've been to, but this is a big competition where not only can our guys gain tremendous experience, they also have the chance of a title win.

"Meadowbank Sports Centre is also an amazing venue and I'm really looking forward to taking the squad to Edinburgh.

"I'm confident all our guys have what it takes to win. They certainly have the ability.

"Myself, Alan MacLennan and Gus Maclean have put masses of hours in to make sure everyone is ready for the championships.

"We've had extra training sessions because we wanted to focus on each of their individual needs and what we expect from them this weekend.

"Both Alan and Gus have worked just as hard as the guys who will be boxing. They have played a massive part in the success the academy has already had and we wouldn't be where we are now without their dedication."

Eight boxers from the academy will compete in seven different divisions at the championships, which begins tomorrow and is scheduled to finish on Sunday, although contingency plans have been put in place to return the following weekend should not all the bouts go ahead in the time allocated.

There is the potential for Carl Davis (21) and Donald Macphee (23) to come up against each other in the light welterweight category, while their youngster competitor, 17-year-old Mitchell Dalton, will contest the light heavyweight section.

Kevin Doig (28) goes in the heavyweight division and John MacKenzie, who is 22, will fight in the super heavyweight class at Meadowbank.

Darren Ravenhill (22), Matt Quinn (26) and Liam Miller (21) are entered in the welterweight, lightweight and middleweight categories respectively.

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