

# The Inverness Courier

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## McKeachie enjoys debut success

by Graham Linton

JAMES McKeachie made a stunning debut for Highland Boxing Academy with a commanding performance at a show organised by Dundee Amateur Boxing Club.

The light heavyweight showed no signs of nerves as he comprehensively dispatched home boxer John Mullaney to secure victory by a unanimous points decision.

He even gave Mullaney a standing count in the third and final round, coming close to stopping what was largely a one-sided bout in McKeachie's favour.

The display by the 27-year-old impressed academy head coach Liam Foy, who also paid tribute to the efforts of assistant coach Alan Maclennan in not only preparing McKeachie for the contest, but also guiding him through it as corner man.

"James has set a really good example to all our other boxers because when he was registered at the start of the season, he didn't know when his first fight was coming up," said Foy.

"However, he trained really hard, sometimes doing too much work, so that he would be ready when the opportunity arose and it has definitely paid off.

"He was dominant throughout the fight, picking off his opponent with jabs and crosses over the first two rounds.

"The fight could even have been stopped in the third round, but there was never any doubt that James was going to win as he boxed perfectly.

"James, however, was helped greatly by having an experienced coach like Alan in his corner.

"He helped to guide him through what could have been a difficult third round as James' opponent knew he had to come out and do something special.

"The pair have worked very hard in the gym and have formed a close bond, so it was only right that he should be in James' corner for what was an excellent victory."

The academy's three other boxers - Mitchell Dalton, Joshua Jack and James Dearie - were also on the card in Dundee, but all succumbed to defeat.

This show was the last for the Highland Capital club this year and Foy has been greatly encouraged by the progress made, having only started boxing competitively in September.

"It's been amazing," he said. "We've not been anywhere where we haven't managed to return with at least one winner.

"That is a great achievement and it certainly bodes well for us in 2012.

"I've been really happy with the application and commitment from everyone, but the challenge now is to keep that going next year.

"We'll have a short break now, but we'll all still be training hard with the aim to be ready for our first bouts in 2012, which is scheduled to be a show at Inch Amateur Boxing Club in February."

