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SPECIAL:
Job No: G.122.

54/98.

KEENAN KEEPS HIS TITLE:

Scotland meets Ireland at the King's Hall, Belfast. Glasgow's Peter Keenan, wearing the dark shorts, is defending his British bantamweight title against George O'Neill, a Belfast boy. Keenan, a fiery little fighter with a big punch, soon shows some of the aggressive tactics that have taken him to the top of his own particular boxing tree. Naturally enough, the opening rounds are fairly quiet as the two boys size each other up, but when there's a point to be scored, it's usually Keenan who does the scoring.

O'Neill has plenty of courage as even his severest critics will agree. Despite disappointing performances this year, (one of them being against Londoner Ben Johnson) he's a worthy opponent for Keenan, and the Scots boy isn't taking too many chances.

In the second round, Keenan cuts O'Neill's left eye, with a right hook. Then soon after the start of round three, he sends O'Neill to the canvas! This shook the Irishman - and it may well be the beginning of the end for him. But he's only down for a count of five. Nevertheless it does show that Keenan's getting through his rival's defence and is hitting hard.

O'Neill gets attention from his seconds before the start of the fourth round.

Not a great deal of action in this round. Keenan's showing plenty of respect for the Irish lad who's been training hard and long for this fight. Victory over Keenan would put him right at the top of the bantamweight class. About two and a half years ago, O'Neill turned professional after an amazing career as an amateur in which he won 14 titles. Since then he's done plenty of good work, good enough in fact to meet Keenan - and that does mean good.

At the half-way mark, of this fifteen round contest (which Bob Gardiner is presenting) things warm up as O'Neill pulls out a few stops. Make no mistake, the Belfast boy may not be ahead on points at the moment, but there's a pack of danger lurking in both his fists. Keenan, who is making plenty of science in this bout, has his work out out to keep the fight in his favour. Things aren't going all his way just at the moment.

Keenan, who's been faster on the punch than O'Neill and a lot more accurate, has had about twice as many professional duels as his rival. That experience is paying dividends for the Glasgow boy, who's smothering most of O'Neill's more savage body attacks and is soon out of danger when the Irishman seems to be gaining the whip-hand.

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PART 2.

54/98

KEENAN KEEPS HIS TITLE.

Keenan still seems as fresh as ever. O'Neill, is definitely beginning to feel the strain. Another cut, this time over the right eye, is adding to his burden, but he's hanging on grimly and is still a potential danger to the Scotsman.

Already it's obvious that this is the best fight of O'Neill's professional career. True Keenan isn't giving him much of a chance to shine, but the full house of Irishmen welcome the fact that he's fighting with a great deal of skill against his formidable opponent, and of course, he's as courageous as ever. Those two cut eyes are giving him a lot of trouble.

Into round fifteen; the last of a good, clean contest that's a lot closer than was predicted. Both boys are tired by now, but Keenan is as sharp-eyed as when he started, and the Irishman doesn't relax for a moment.

Keenan stumbles, and slips to the canvas for a second. No damage caused, and back he comes with good crisp blows that may be a warm-up to a killer-punch.

O'Neill is looking a sorry sight now. Blood is streaming down his face from those two cuts, but he's as game as they come. Fighting Keenan every inch of the way, he's put up a truly magnificent performance.

Only a matter of seconds to go before the final bell, and the pace is still hot and strong. Grimly, O'Neill hangs on. He's taken a solid pounding from Keenan's fists, and it says a lot for this stamina that he's still on his feet.

Keenan throws a savage right, and O'Neill is down. The bell might save him from the knock-out.

Gallantly the Irish boy struggles up on the count of eight. Keenan misses by a mile, but O'Neill's agony is over. That's the end of the fight, and there can be little doubt about the verdict.

Yes, Keenan it is. The young Glasgow boy keeps a firm hold on his British Bantamweight title. A further honour awaits the 26 year old fighter. His great victory means that a Londale Belt is his for keeps.

From under a turban of towels the gallant Irishman looks on, as in the centre of the ring, conqueror Keenan acknowledges the ovation. Keenan's win brings the world title almost within his reach.