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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1978.

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**RUGBY: Munster the First Irish Team to Beat New Zealand In Inspired Thomond Park Display**



The Munster players are mobbed by delighted followers after the game.



A crucial moment, Greg Barrett gets in his magnificent clearance from behind his own line a few minutes before half time.

**ALL BLACKS CRASH!**

Record 13,000 Strong Crowd Ask For and Receive An "Encore" From Their 15 Heroes

BY CHARLIE MULQUEEN  
**Munster .... 12 pts.  
 New Zealand ... nil**

The traditional atmospheric conditions of Thomond Park, which have helped to create so many memorable encounters in the past, were seen at their very best on Tuesday when Munster created history by beating the 9th New Zealand All Blacks by 12 pts. to nil. Thus Munster became the first Irish side ever to beat the All Blacks.

They never conceded a penalty in their half of the field. We were not penalised for foul play either. Yes, it's a great day for Munster rugby, especially as this is one of the greatest All Black sides," Kiernan remarked.

**Perfect setting**  
 The setting for the game was quite perfect, the fantastic interest being underlined by the fact that all programmes and match tickets were sold out well in advance. The crowd ringed the pitch, which was in beautiful condition and the sun shone out of a clear, blue sky. The Youth Band may have delayed the start for a second or two, but they were superb and helped set the atmosphere.

Ward converted and Thomond Park was wild. Bruce Robertson hobbled out of the game in the 16th minute with a leg injury and was replaced by Bill Osborne. Tom Kiernan noted afterwards that Robertson was a big loss to the tourists at this point, for his experience could have been valuable. At any rate, Munster went 3 more points in front within sixty seconds.

Wayne Graham was penalised for over-vigorous play at a ruck on his ten metre line. With what was to be the only shot at goal all afternoon, Tony Ward topped his kick and it carried harmlessly, one felt, to full-back McKeenie well short and to the left of the posts. The hapless no. 15, however, knocked it on, and from the resultant scrum, Donal Canniffe's long low pass was brilliantly accepted by Ward, who dropped a goal quickly and decisively.

Munster were under constant pressure after this and it took a great relieving kick by Ward to push back the All Blacks. Four minutes before half time, surely a very vital time, the tourists swarmed over the Munster line and just when a score seemed likely they conceded another penalty for rough play, and the siege was lifted. Back they came, though, in the 43rd minute, only for Greg Barrett to foil them with a magnificent pick-up and making clearing kick from behind his own line.

New Zealand's failure to break through before the interval and their inability to breach the Munster defence in the quarter hour immediately afterwards was undoubtedly crucial. And as their players stood firm, the Thomond Park crowd got behind them as even they have never done before. Chants more associated with the Anfields of this world rang out and must have been heard and appreciated for miles around. The tension

was terrible but on the field the Munstermen kept their heads. The tourists tried every ploy in their repertoire, but progress through the pack was minimal, even less so around the fringes of scrum and ruck and they could get nowhere with the midfield sortie either.

**Great tackle**  
 I recall a great tackle by Colm Tucker on Mark Donaldson when something looked "on" ... it was just one of countless similar efforts by the Munstermen whose defensive screen was just fantastic. And as time wore ever so slowly away, one sensed that Munster, having weathered the storm, might just have one or two more tricks up their sleeves.

And so it proved. Up the field they swept, and a deep, probing kick by Ward put Wilson into all kinds of trouble and panic. Eventually, he stumbled over the ball as

it crossed the line and needlessly conceded a 5 metre scrum. The heel was good, but Donaldson stopped Canniffe from getting the pass. However, the ruck was won and Tucker was able to pass to Ward, who dropped a great goal in the minimum of space.

Thomond Park erupted. Munster were leading the All Blacks by 12-0, only eleven minutes remained and the crowd were beside themselves. The game moved into its last ten minutes with the New Zealanders cramped again in Munster territory. But now they were more than a little rattled. All the gambits that had proved too much for Cardiff, West Wales and the rest were now going sadly astray. Out-half, Eddie Dunn, so good last week, was guilty of a serious handling error, and Graham gave away a stupid penalty close to the Munster line.

And when Munster pushed the All Blacks over the touchline and into the barrier in front of the stand, the crowd's cup of joy was overflowing. The finish came and suddenly the green pitch was swept from view as the fans, old and young alike, charged out to greet their heroes. In they came to rapturous applause and in the manner of theatre, out they came again to accept the plaudits of the adoring audiences and to pay their own special tribute in return by waving a "thank you" for incredible support to the masses.

**Tourists delay test team**

Yesterday's result has really set the All Blacks thinking before leaving Limerick this morning Russ Thomas, the manager, announced that they were delaying naming the team to play Ireland on Saturday for a day. "We haven't had time to think about it yet," he said.

In front of a fanatical 13,000 strong crowd who through every vantage point, the fifteen red-jerseyed Munstermen played with commitment and character that will make them household names for as long as rugby is played in the province of Munster.

At the end of it all, Russ Thomas, that most gracious of New Zealand managers, was rich in his praise of the Munster effort. "You put the pressure on us with that early try and kept it on us to the finish. No, I couldn't single out any Munster players for special mention ... all fifteen were magnificent."

Munster coach, Tom Kiernan, could hardly manage a smile after the game, so tense up was he. Yet Tom was generous in his praise of the New Zealand team. No, he didn't think it the greatest ever Munster side, or that other Munster sides hadn't produced the same type of spirit against touring sides. "I have always believed," he said, "that to beat a touring team you must have the breaks and we certainly got those to-day. But the discipline of our side was fantastic and superbly.

Dennison injured his shoulder then, and aggravated it later with another great tackle on Bruce Robertson. But he set a lead that his team-mates were only too anxious to follow and the tackling of the Munster side was to be the keynote of the overall performance.

The crucial Munster score, when it came in the 11th minute, was as big a surprise as it was superbly created and executed. Tony Ward, gaining possession after a line-out, was under pressure when he planted a beautiful little kick at his own 22 metre line just behind the backs of the All Black three-quarters. The ball bounced kindly for Jimmy Bowen, who gathered it smartly and raced upfield, going inside Bruce Robertson, staggering through full-back Brian McKeenie's tackle at half way and then setting off halffoot for the distant line. As the cover cut him off, Bowen turned inside at the New Zealand 22 and about fifteen metres out, turned to find Christy Cantillon, his Cork Con. clubmate, steaming up to take a pass and race in unopposed at the posts. It was a great try by any standards, with Ward, Bowen especially, and Cantillon, all playing their parts quite superbly.

Colm Tucker waits to pounce as Mark Donaldson passes for New Zealand.

One was proud to be a Munsterman on such an occasion and certainly we were represented out there by fifteen true stars. Players, many left, just didn't have the ability for such a test surpassed themselves, lifting the level of their game to new and unimagined heights.

There may have been no individual "man of the match," but all fifteen Munstermen were quite superb. One must start with the pack, for here the platform for glory was laid. They were quite magnificent in the set scrums, with Les White, Pat Whelan and Gerry McLoughlin made a mockery of his total omission from the Irish panel on Saturday; he was marvellous. Whelan's leadership and his invaluable work around the edges of the line-outs and rucks were considerable.

Brendan Foley, the big man from Shannon, had one of his greatest games in the Munster shirt. He did very well at no. 2 in the line-out and even if he and Moss Keane and Donal Spring found the huge Andy Haden a bit of a handful as the game progressed, all three made telling contributions in other departments. And no praise can be too high for the wing-forwards, Colm Tucker and Christy Cantillon. Young, fast and fit, they covered acres of

ground, tackling with fierce ferocity and supporting the man in possession with total dedication. And what speed Cantillon displayed in being up to take Bowen's scoring pass ... he must have covered the 70 odd metres in a fantastic time!

**Captain's role**  
 Donal Canniffe, back again in the Munster jersey after injury kept him out last year, was magnificent at scrum-half. He was a true captain's part as he took on the All Blacks as a kind of ninth forward, but also found time to put in many a relieving kick and throw out some big and accurate passes.

When I met him in the dressing room straight after the game, Donal was delirious with joy. What a tragedy then to learn within a short few minutes that his father had taken ill listening to the game on the radio and died. It was a shattering blow on such a great occasion, and the profound sympathy of all went out to him on his bereavement.

At out-half, Tony Ward twice failed to find touch, but these were the only blemishes on a completely mature display. If anything, he's a better player now than last year and he looked confident all the way. Furthermore, the two drop goals were splendidly taken and Tony's contribution of eight points is further proof of his value to any side.

All the other backs performed brilliantly with Dennison and Barrett full of courage and steel-like defensive qualities. Jimmy Bowen has had his critics but he can laugh at them all after this exhibition, and if Moss Finn on the other wing got surprisingly little to do; he was sharp and sure when the play did come his way. Full-back, Larry Moloney was reliable and confident and never looked under any serious pressure. The game should

**Proud**

have done him a power of good Saturday's international.

**Singing**  
 The New Zealanders took to the field in their national colours, there being no doubt about that. They came singing into the hotel where the after-match dinner was held and had to excuse whatever it was they must be worried about. The consequences of this performance were quite frankly they were not allowed to play by this time Munster XV. And if they were similarly disposed sides in the future, they could find a little trouble, for there doesn't appear to be much variation on a set routine.

Andy Hadden and Frank O'Brien in the line-out, and Graham Mounie at the back, were better than the forwards. Scrum-half, Mr. Donaldson has an enormous presence but not a great deal of use, indeed the New Zealand back were most disappointing. Full-back, McKeenie had a "stinker" and will be happy to forget Thomond Park.

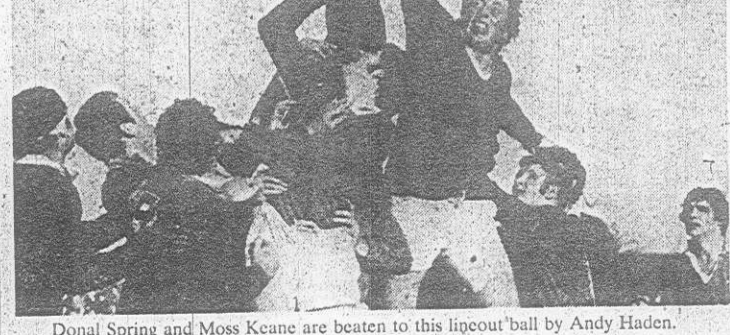
**TEAMS**  
 Munster—L. Moloney (Garryowen), M. Finn (U.C.C.), Dennison (Garryowen), G. Barrett (Constition), J. Bowen (Constition), A. Ward (St. Mary's), G. Canniffe (Lansdowne), C. G. McLoughlin (Shannon), P. Whelan (Garryowen), L. White (London- Irish), M. Keane (Lansdowne), B. Foley (Shannon), C. Cantillon (Constition), J. Spring (Dublin), U. Moloney (Tucker (Shannon)).

New Zealand—B. McKeenie, Williams, B. Robertson, L. Lally, S. Wilson, E. Dunn, S. Donaldson, B. Johnston, J. Black, G. Knight, A. Haden, F. O'Brien, Mounie, capt., A. McGregg, G. Graham.

Referee: Corris Thomas (Wales).



Colm Tucker and Ash McGregor in a tussle for the ball.



Donal Spring and Moss Keane are beaten to this lineout ball by Andy Haden.



Andy Haden and Brendan Foley contest a lineout.



Got you! Moss Finn grabs Mark Donaldson.

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**Schoolboy soccer fixtures**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

13A Cup semi-final:  
 Ballynanty Rvs. A. v. Geraldines A. 11.30, Shelbourne Park. Ref. Jerry Flynn.  
 Wembley Rvs. B. v. Wembley Rvs. A. 11.30, Cals No. 3. Ref. Tom McInerney.

13B Cup semi-final:  
 Carew Park v. Fairview Rvs. 11.30, Carew Park. Ref. John O'Halloran.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

13C Cup semi-final:  
 St. Joseph's v. Geraldines C. 12.45, Cals No. 3. Ref. Tom McInerney.

13C Cup semi-final (replay):  
 Granville Rvs. v. Ballynanty Rvs. C. 3.00, Granville Park. Ref. Noel Dunphy.

N.B.—Extra time (2 x 10 mins.) must be played in all cup games if necessary. If still undecided, a second period of extra time to be played.

**ST. MARY'S R.F.C.**  
 Mass for the deceased member will take place in the club (Gardens Yard Lane) on  
**FRIDAY, NOV. 3**  
 At 8 p.m.  
 Members, relatives and friends requested to attend.  
 T. KERLEY (Hon. Sec.)  
 (0144481988)