

12

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020

SHARE YOUR SNAPSHOTS

Do you have a gem of a photo hidden away down the back of the wardrobe? Why not share it with the Leader and be in with a chance to win a prize See competition rules for Snapshots on the next pages

From the Limerick Leader archives is this picture of Pope John Paul II at Greenpark in October 1979. The Leader is calling on our loyal readers to share their favourite snapshots from yesteryear. The best photo will be up for a fab prize

FULL STORY ON SNAPSHOTS AND THE COMPETITION SEE NEXT PAGES

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📄 Page 14

SPECIAL FEATURE

SNAPSHOTS - A UNIQUE TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

The day over 300,000 came to meet Pope John Paul II

EUGENE PHELAN

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The Limerick Leader on Saturday, September 29, 1979 went with a Papal Special with the words of welcome in Polish and Irish WITAJ-FAILTE, prominent on the front page.

Monday, October 1 was the day that Pope John Paul II visited Limerick, at the old racecourse at Greenpark, South Circular Road in Limerick city.

It was the biggest event, and will probably never be surpassed, involving over 300,000 people who travelled from all over Munster to see the popular Polish pontiff, say Mass and address the crowds.

I was a young reporter at the time, and I remember editor Brendan Halligan, sending out a full team from the paper to cover the event.

Our team that arrived at Greenpark at 1am, with gates opening at 3am including the late Paddy Moroney, the late John O'Shaughnessy, and Billy Kelly, Jimmy Woulfe and Vince Moran.

Cormac Liddy, one of the great characters of Irish journalism, managed to wangle his way on board the flight from Rome that was bringing the Pope to Limerick. He was accompanied by photographer John Wright.

Cormac wrote a few thousand words about the three seconds it took the Pope to shake his hand on board the flight to Ireland. Organisation of the event had gone on for months in advance and as the Pope was arriving early on the Monday morning people starting arriving at midnight and even earlier, to make sure they got a good vantage point.



One of the many photos from our photo archive of Pope John Paul II's visit to Limerick, where a young boy and girl were privileged to meet the Pontiff



What is Snapshots?

WE have all become used to scrolling through the galleries of photos on our smartphones but what about those much-loved print photographs stashed away in the attic, in a box under the bed or in that "miscellaneous" drawer in the kitchen? Are they destined to be forgotten forever in the digital age?

Well, it's time to dig them out and show them some love.

We want readers to take a photo of those much-loved print photos and send them to us. Whether it was taken a few years ago on an instant camera or a few decades ago, we want the photo that stands out for you.

It can be from a social event, a landscape shot, a funny picture or even a holiday snap - we want them all.

Yes, even those dodgy "look at the state of my hair" debs photos!

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

We want you to dust off the golden oldies, take a picture of your old picture and email them to pictures@limerickleader.ie.

We will feature your pictures in both our print and online editions. In addition to running your images on limerickleader.ie and our social media pages we will also carry your images every week in the Leader.

POLL

We will run a poll also every week on www.limerickleader.ie and our weekly online readers can vote for their favourite images. Two winners will go forward every week, leaving six of our readers' images going forward to the grand finale with a chance to win our amazing prize package.

The overall winner as voted by the public will win the fantastic prize.

To enter, all you have to do send your photos to pictures@limerickleader.ie and we will do the rest! Don't delay!

The point that will be forever remembered

AINE FITZGERALD

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LIMERICK GAA has enjoyed truly great days over the past two years with our hurlers winning all the major trophies on offer in the Championship and League.

Prior to 2018, our hurlers enjoyed another purple patch in the mid-90s and while not achieving the Holy Grail of hurling - All-Ireland success - they were again days which will live long in the memory.

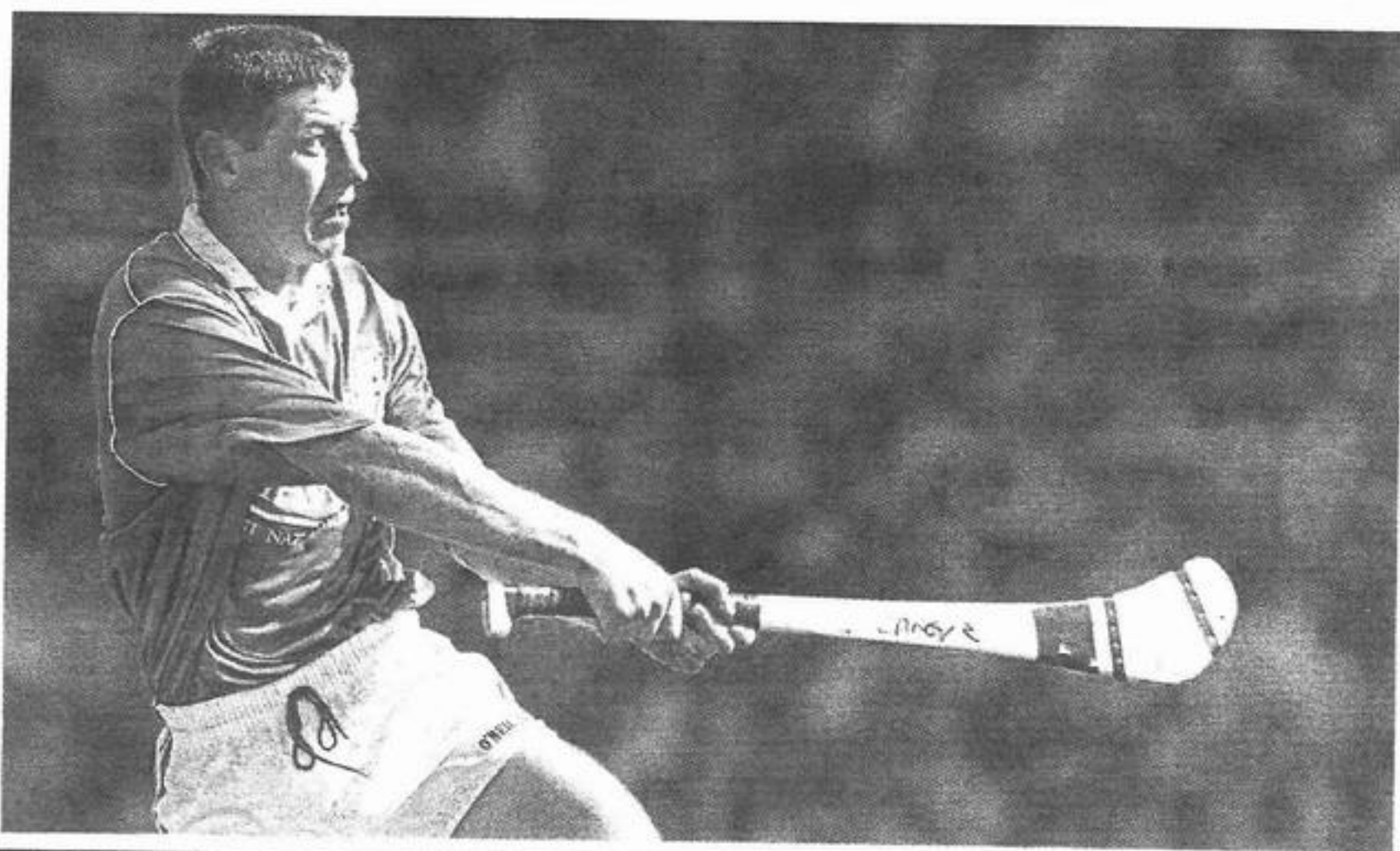
One of those was June 16, 1996. It was a blistering hot day - we're talking factor 50 stuff - and a crowd of 43,000 had packed into the Gaelic Grounds, including this writer.

Limerick were up against Clare in the Munster semi-final. Clare were reigning All-Ireland champions. As time edged on neither side were able to take a stranglehold on the game.

With time running out both sides were still deadlocked.

Up stands Captain Carey. In injury time Ciaran Carey caught a puck-out. The head went down and he ran and ran and ran like a greyhound on Derby final night in Shelbourne Park. He ran a total of 55 yards with the ball balanced on the bas of his hurley before taking a quick look over his shoulder, jinking to one side to lose his marker, running a few more metres and then firing the winning point over the bar. The score drove us fans wild and saw Carey's name etched in the GAA folklore books for an eternity.

I remember that night I was going on a family holiday to Albufeira in Portugal. Instead of hitting the beach when we arrived, the only thing on our minds was getting our hands on some Irish newspapers to read all about the magic point and famous win.



This photo by Sportsfile which featured in the Limerick Leader in 1996 shows Limerick captain Ciaran Carey in full flight scoring the winning point in his side's narrow victory over 1995 All-Ireland Hurling Champions Clare during the 1996 Munster Championship