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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1981.

WARD THE HERO . . .

BRAVE MUNSTER CRUSHED POOR AUSTRALIANS

MUNSTER15
 AUSTRALIANS6

BY FERGAL KEANE

YET AGAIN Munster proved to be the stumbling block to an all-conquering touring side as, at Mustrave Park yesterday, they humbled the mighty Australians in an exciting and at times thrilling game.

Yet it was obvious that from the first "Garryowen" which Tony Ward lofted in the first minute that the Australians were in trouble—particularly in the back division. Full-back Glen Ella was in trouble throughout and Ward capitalised on this brilliantly, hoisting balls downfield to the Australian, whose performance was in sharp contrast to that of his Munster counterpart, John Barry.

Though the quality of the opposition was to say the least suspect, Munster can look back on the game with pride as they outplayed the Wallabies in every aspect of play. The set scrums, so often the trouble area for Munster packs, saw the men in red dominating and spoiling the Australian advantage time and again.

Hooker Paul Derham, who embellished his game with an early and spectacular try, looked good throughout, making up for his lack of stature with his tremendous courage and heart. His control of the ball in the scrums was top class and there was a good deal more cohesion in the Munster lineout calls than we have seen in recent times.

The displays of Tony Ward and John Barry in the backline were perhaps the outstanding features of the game. Barry positioned himself superbly and was always under the ball. Australian out-half Mark Ella must have been downhearted to say the least as he watched his high "Garryowens" fall safely into the hands of Barry.

Ward proved yet again his greatness as a player as he played a truly tremendous role at out-half. His line kicking was nothing short of superb as the Australians found to their cost. Any ground gained by the Wallabies was useless to them as Ward cleared from inside his own 22 with ease.

Dealing with erratic service at times from scrum-half Alex O'Regan, Ward was masterful. He gathered the loose ball quickly and put Munster out of danger despite the threat of the incoming Australian centres.

O'Regan played a sound enough game and I feel he could have done better with a little more protection from his backrow—particularly in the lineouts where the Aussies were allowed come through far too easily.

Seven minutes into the half Munster went ahead as hooker Paul Derham crashed over for a try from a scrum. Ward had kicked Munster deep into Australian territory and from the ensuing lineout, the Australians failed to gather the ball, to allow Derham to come through and crash over for that all important try.



Alex O'Regan of Munster is caught in possession by Tony Parker of Australia at Musgrave Park on Tuesday.

Ward converted from the touchline to add the points. It was a vital score for Munster who never let the Australians relax.

Ward was short with a drop goal attempt in the 10th minute after O'Regan fed the ball from a loose maul. Munster's one fault at this stage was the ease with which they were conceding scrums to the Australians.

It was of little use to the Australians though as Munster disrupted their heel with a strong eight-man shove.

Ward was wide with a penalty in the 20th minute after the Aussies were caught in an offside position in a ruck deep in their own half.

A late tackle by Australian winger Peter Grigg on Jim Crotty after a chip ahead by John Barry yielded a penalty to Munster. Ward made no mistake with the kick from 38 yards out. Brendan Moon kicked a penalty wide for the Australians two minutes into the second half.

An offside by the Australians saw another penalty go to Munster and Ward showed his matchwinning class from 45 yards to give Munster that magical scoreline—12-nil.

Munster piled on the pressure with Australian at out-half Mark Ella looking distinctly uncomfortable at out-half. The young Australian looked about him desperately at times as the Munster pack came through on him.

Garryowen's Eugene Griffin proved his worth with a superb clearing run in the 18th minute after Mark Ella had kicked a dangerous ball to the Munster corner.

Griffin picked up and darted through the Australian cover before parting to Tom Hennessy who charged downfield to take the pressure off Munster.

DROP GOAL

A drop goal by Ward 15 minutes into the half sent Munster further ahead and put the finishing touches on a superb game for the Garryowen out-half.

The Australians were hunting desperately for a score and they hunted for a gap in the Munster line. The tackling work of Mick Kiernan, let nobody tell me he is not a good defensive player, and Pat Cross deserves a special word of praise, Munster were unlucky to concede a try to the Australians in the 25th minute of the half when Peter Grigg took the ball after a dummy scissors by out-half Mark Ella.

Grigg was in like a shot to take the score which centre Michael O'Connor converted with ease.

Try as they might the Australians could not come back as Munster defended resolutely and counter attacked with vigour.

Fergus Walsh and his team can be proud of their performance and can look back on November 17th, 1981, with pride.

TEAMS

MUNSTER: J. Barry, UCC; J. Crotty, do.; M. Kiernan, Dolphin; P. Cross, Young Munster; E. Griffin, Garryowen; T. Ward, do.; A. O'Regan, UCC; G. McLoughlin, Shannon; P. Derham, UCC; T. Hennessy, London Irish; D. Denihan, UCC; B. Foley, Shannon; C. Tucker, do; A. O'Leary, Wanderers; C. Cantillon, Cons.

AUSTRALIA: G. Ella, P. Grigg, M. Cox, M. O'Connor, B. Moon, M. Ella, A. Parker, J. Meadows, C. Carberry, D. Curran, M. Mathers, P. McClean, S. Poidevin, P. Lucas, D. Hall.

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