



**LIMERICK  
LEADER**

SATURDAY JUNE 3 2006

# Heineken Cup Final Souvenir Special

**SATURDAY MAY 20 2006  
MILLENNIUM STADIUM CARDIFF**

**BIARRITZ . . . . 19  
MUNSTER . . . . 23**





# Champions at last!

Biarritz 19  
Munster 23

IT WAS A LONG time coming but when you taste ultimate success in this highly-competitive Heineken Cup, few things in sport are sweeter.

It will not be remembered by the purists as the best ever decider, but it was fiercely competitive, tense and anybody's game right up to the dramatic final piece of action.

Those gripping final seven minutes will linger long in Munster memories. The four point lead could hardly be described as a comfort zone and every tackle by a red shirt, every scrap of yardage gained and every error from Biarritz was cheered to the rafters of this magnificent Millennium Stadium.

It was an emotional ending for the 60,000 travelling Munster fans — acknowledged now worldwide as rugby's largest and most loyal club supporters. The final whistle marked the end of an era of Munster Rugby that now stands side by side with the heroics of 1978 at Thomond Park.

It is the second half of games of this magnitude that are always the most memorable and this one provided high drama during that crucial last 40 minutes. Leading 17-10 at the break, Munster got the perfect start with Shaun Payne kicking deep into space to force the penalty and O'Gara landing the kick to make it 20-10.

There was now two scores between the sides but some anxious moments had to be endured by the massive Munster following over



By Limerick Leader  
Rugby Correspondent  
**AIDAN CORR**

the next 26 minutes.

With Dimitri Yachvili's left boot having its usual devastating affect from placed kicks, Biarritz looked capable of making Munster pay at every indiscretion. John Hayes was penalised in a ruck 23 metres from the posts and the Biarritz scrum-half did the rest to reduce the deficit to 20-13. Munster's failure to control their own lineout led to that score and three minutes later, a high tackle on Harinordoquy gifted the French another three points — Yachvili this time splitting the posts 34 minutes in the deathly silence that Thomond Park has now handed to place-kickers in this competition.

It was now the survival of the fittest and the constant support from the Munster fans continued to lift their team which was now under severe pressure to hold onto their six point lead. Still a few errors began to creep in with O'Gara kicking dead from halfway, then failing to find touch from a penalty and Denis Leamy finding himself isolated on the Biarritz '22', conceding a penalty when a score chance looked possible.

With less than 20 minutes to go, the giant screens at each end

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FROM SHANE & MIKE GLEESON**



of the ground showed pictures of the thousands who were watching the game on the streets of Limerick and the cheers lifted the spirits. Seán Kelly kept coming, using Munster's discipline and defensive commitment. On 69 minutes, the French got the three points that left only the minimum between the sides. The decision to a ruck went against Anthony Foley and Yachvil again found the target from inside the ten metre line.

The tension now was almost unbearable. The Munster fans, their side's 16th year, again played their part. They were not going home without the showpiece this time. So after the bridesmaids, this was to be their day.

Tevor Halahad drove through the Biarritz cover to bring play outside the French '22'. O'Garra was positioned for the drop goal attempt but the penalty was awarded for coming in from the side.

This was vital kick for Seamus O'Garra, one of the most crucial of an outstanding career, and he kept his cool, slotting over from 28 metres and Munster led 23-19.

Now all eyes were on the clock. Seven minutes to go and O'Garra lifts the sledge after Paul O'Connell was taken out from the ruck. It had become a roller coaster of emotions for the Red Army as they counted down the clock. Three minutes to go and Seamus O'Garra makes a careless pass that gives Biarritz a scrum on the Munster ten metre line. The French heel is disrupted and Stringer straddles the ball into touch. It is a real-biting stall.

One minute to go, the final piece of action and Munster have to sweat again. A penalty try would give them victory and when they run the ball from outside the Munster '22', referee Chris White blows for accidental offside after Seán Bobo and Jerome Thion run into each other.

Munster scrum. Yachvil strays into an offside position at the heel and that is it. Stringer's kick to touch triggers the biggest celebration that this province has ever seen — and one which will go on for some time yet.

It was a cracking first ball.

In a collision of red hot tension, Biarritz kicked off and two minutes by Munster full back Shaun Payne handed the initiative to the French. Wallace regained possession but only temporarily and with just three minutes gone, Biarritz were 7-0 in front.

Kelly failed to hold onto Eibéide. Seán Bobo took on the pass and while his boot twice hit the chalk, he went over for the try which Yachvil converted.

O'Garra then almost gifted a second try to the French when his crossfield kick went into the hands of Bobo on his own '22' but a penalty had been awarded to Munster 24 metres out, left of the posts and O'Garra found the target to make it 3-7 with seven minutes gone.

Despite trailing, Munster looked comfortable at this stage and twice they showed their intent by asking O'Garra to kick to the corner rather than go for the posts. At the second attempt, they scored the try that they fully deserved at that stage.

The pack twice drove to within metres of the line and when O'Garra led Tevor Halahad the South Africa crashed past the back of Harlequins to get the touchdown which O'Garra converted after 18 minutes.

This was the score that gave Munster the initiative and they never lay the lead from there to the final whistle.

Every player in the red jerseys looked totally focused, determined to take the opportunities for the French to run the ball from quick-breaks and the Munster pack was enjoying a slight advantage in the fight.

On 24 minutes, however, the sides were level with Yachvil kicking a Biarritz penalty from 21 metres out and it became clear that this game was going to go right down to the wire.

Munster went through a shaky patch for the next six minutes with both O'Garra and Payne mulling kicks for territory. A penalty decision in their favour saw O'Garra give them a lineout inside the Biarritz '22' and when they got their own put-in in the next phase, Munster got the most crucial score of the game.

Spotting that Biarritz winger Seán Bobo have been called into the three-quarter line, Peter Stringer brilliantly changed direction at the base of the scrum and ran through the blindside for the touch-down which O'Garra brilliantly converted to put Munster 17-10 in front of the line.

**Munster** — Shaun Payne, Anthony Horgan, Tevor Halahad, John Kelly, Ian Dowling, Seamus O'Garra, Peter Stringer, Marcus Horne (Federico Puccinella 62), Jerry Flannery, John Hayes, Paul O'Connell ( Mick O'Driscoll 71), Donnacha O'Callaghan, Denis Leamy, David Wallace, Anthony Foley, captain.

**Biarritz** — Nicholas Anrique, Jean Baptiste Goblet, Philippe Eibéide, Damien Truille (Federico Martin Aranzaburu 53), Seán Bobo, Julien Peyrolongue, Dimitri Yachvil, Patric Balar (Benot Lacroix 70), Benoît August (Benjamin Nivort 66), Camus Johnson, Jerome Thion, David Cozartre (Clément Ollibeu 44), Serge Behan, Inand Hacinoglu, Thomas Lliemontant (Sherry Dausset 51).

**Referee:** Chris White, England.

**Attendance:** 74,524.



Paul O'Connell and Donnacha O'Callaghan soak up the atmosphere after the match.

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Ivor Wilkinson, left, Tony Lavin, right and Collette Simms in Cardiff



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JP and Joan Murphy, Ballyneety



The victorious Munster team, who beat Biarritz 23-19 in the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff on May 20, 2006



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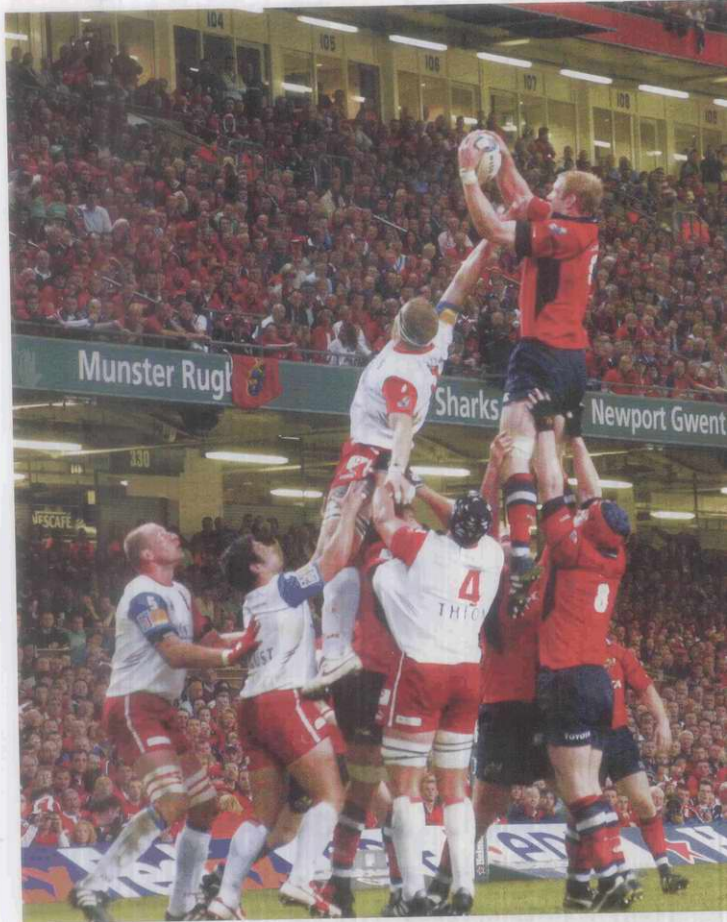
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Paul O'Connell apparently climbs to the second tier of the Millennium Stadium to claim this ball



Ken Hanley with his sons, Ken and Karl, Kevin South, Evan Ryan and John Ryan, Mungret



Pat and Trevor Micks, Mark Quicley and Timothy Lane, Limerick



Myles Doyle, Paudie Doyle, Tony Ryan, Brian Murphy and Niall Clancy in Cardiff



Thomas and Claire Slattery, Mervyn and Marie Healy, Myles and Lynda Gallivan, Raheen

Management & Staff would like to congratulate the Munster team on their fabulous win



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Maeva Frahill, Jim Langford, Mick Frahill, Lee Dance and Pat O'Brien pose for the camera in Cardiff



Kieran Kennedy, Dom Lynch, Mike Cronin, Cyril Clohessy and Jonathan Ryan enjoying the craic in Cardiff



Munster fans in front of the big screen in O'Connell Street savour the atmosphere

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fantastic victory and especially to  
Paul from all at Young Munster.







A small section of the estimated 15,000 people watching the match on the big screen



Mary and Daniel Neill, Moyross in O'Connell Street



**Well done Munster... roll on next year!**

Ellen Street, Limerick. **New store opening Thursday 22nd June at City East Business Park, Tipperary Road.**



IN LIMERICK . . .



Fans cheering Munster in front of the big screen in O'Connell St

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The scene at O'Connell Street in Limerick prior to the screening of the big match

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Fans are delirious with joy having watched their team beat Bairritz



Fans meet the players who did a tour of the city on an open top bus



Munster players Marcus Horan, left, and Ronan O'Gara pop the champagne

MUNSTER -V- BIARRITZ  
20TH MAY - 2006 - CARDIFF

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# THE HOMECOMING . . .



Two of Munster's greatest players, Mick Galwey and Peter Clohessy get their hands on the Cup at last. On the right Anthony Foley and Declan Kidney hold the Cup aloft to the acclamation of 40,000 fans while below, the legendary Len Dinneen talks to Alan Quinlan



## Munster Moll

"Barbara Hartigan, renowned Limerick artist and avid Munster fan, scripted this poem on the day that Munster qualified to the final beating Leinster in what was thought to be the most memorable occasion for Munster and Irish rugby. Little did she and the entire Munster support realise that it would be Munsters second most glorious moment in 2006. This poem (reprinted in the advertisement underneath) has captured national attention and is sure not to be the last of a series of rhymes reflecting on the fantastic triumph of the mighty Munster Heroes."

## CHARLIE ST. GEORGE'S PUBLIC HOUSE



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### Where were you when Munster Won the European Cup????



"I swear I saw them both in the stadium and in Charlies!"



"John Brennan holding a 1978 Munster v All Blacks jersey and 2006 Munster v Biarritz programme, spanning highlights of Museum Memorabilia"

*'Munster Moll by kind permission of Barbara Hartigan.'*

I am a mighty Munster Moll  
And that's my only passion  
Dressed from top to toe in red  
The height of Rugby fashion

I follow every move and throw  
Line out ruck and maul  
I cheer for Mrs. O'Connell son  
That soaring giant called Paul

Dowling, Horan, Kelly and Payne  
They make my heart beat fast  
And Stringers famous hand trip  
Makes sure no one gets passed

Bull Hayes has ripping muscles  
Bulging front and back  
He grunts, snorts and steams  
Amid the rumbling pack

Rog is cool and focused too  
While Flannery hides a smile  
As all our voices raise as one  
To sign 'There is an Isle'

Sweeping passes and glorious tackles  
Clinches, dives and rucks  
Are practiced by these mighty men  
Who do not give three fml....

George Hook should stick to dancing  
When it comes to his predictions  
Cause when he writes off Munster  
It just heightens their convictions

Oh come here till I tell you Leamy  
I'll rub your sprains and strains  
And Anthony throw away that ball  
I'll massage away your pain

John 3 waits behind the goal  
Another miracle to perceive  
Against the odds, despite the form  
All due to self-belief!

That's why I am a Munster Foll  
To that team I do adore  
Always wanting them to try  
And yes they might even score!

*\* Recited by Tara Hartigan on TV and Radio.*



"Charlie St. George loyal supporters, staff and hosts to the winning team, Eva O'Donoghue, Tom Dore and Joe Larkin"



"The two Gerrys"

41 Parnell St, Limerick - CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MUNSTER TEAM



# 40,000 fans pay a tribute in city to the homecoming Munster heroes



By Leader Journalist  
**DONAL O'REGAN**

IN the pantheon of proud Irish sporting occasions last weekend was one of the greatest and it will be discussed for decades.

The sunshine on Saturday and the rain on Sunday was soaked up in equals measure of pleasure, the only thing that mattered was that Munster are the 2006 Heineken European Cup holders.

It may have rained on their parade but nothing could dampen the spirits of either the Munster players or thousands of their supporters as Limerick celebrated like it never had before on Sunday.

Limerickman Terry Wogan summed up the feelings of the city, the Provence and the country, when he congratulated Munster live on BBC during his Eurovision commentary: "If you're looking for Limerick you won't find it because it's floating on a fluffy pink crowd," said the proud Limerickman as the pen pictures of Irish

scenery were shown before Brian Kennedy's performance.

Munster followers being the best fans in the world if often trotted out by the media but the facts back it up.

Over 40,000 braved the inclement conditions to salute their heroes; 60,000 transformed the Millennium Stadium into a glorified Thomond Park and 15,000 turned O'Connell Street into an ocean of red on Saturday.

According to Ronan O'Gara the support from Limerick, seen live on the big screen in Cardiff, helped the team when they were under the cosh in the second half.

"They flipped over to O'Connell Street on the big screen and it was unbelievable. I lost my concentration for a minute. After seeing that we know we couldn't lose," revealed Ronan O'Gara in post match interviews.

At the civic reception in City Hall on Sunday Mayor Diarmuid Scully who was in Cardiff said one of the proudest moments was to see the scenes from O'Connell Street. "The team was galvanised when they saw Limerick and I think it's the first time in the world that a crowd hundreds of miles away had an influence on a game," said



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WINNING THE HEINEKEN CUP FROM PACO FITZGERALD  
AND STAFF AT THE CORNMARKE**T****





## THE HOMECOMING . . .



Mayor Diarmuid Scully and Brigid Teeffey, chairman of the County Council admire the Heineken Cup with the team at the civic reception at City Hall

Mayor Scully.

He emphasised the importance of Munster's success to Limerick and not only on the sporting front.

"They have given us self confidence and self belief and have played their part in the renaissance of Limerick," said Mayor Scully.

He got the biggest cheer of the afternoon when he said: "It's a wonderful day to be a Limerickman and a wonderful day to be a Munster man."

Brigid Teeffey, Cathoirlach of Limerick County Council, looked back to 1995 when Munster played Swansea and their European Cup journey began and said it was fitting that Anthony Foley who played on that day lifted Heineken Cup.

Ken Lyons, President of the Munster Branch jokingly said the memories of 1978 were buried and that this was the greatest feat of all time.

"We have the greatest captain in the world, greatest coach in the world and greatest manager in the world," said Mr Lyons to tumultuous applause.

Anthony Foley, had revealed on Marian Finucane's radio show that they got to bed "closer to six than to five" and yet at the reception the players chatted to every fan who approached them, signed autographs until their hands ached and posed for countless photographs.

Cllr Kieran O'Donnell and Fine Gael election candidate summed it up when he called Munster the: "Team of the people."

The players then braved the heavy rain and went on a whistle stop tour of Limerick before ending the official celebrations on a stage on O'Connell Street.

The big screen on Saturday started the feel good atmosphere which enveloped the city and the scenes from O'Connell Street were beamed from Alaska to Australia.

The big screen was the brainchild of Andrew Mawhinney from Limerick Co-ordination office who then met Fran O'Donnell of Futureama Productions on the street and the seed of an idea was sown which showed all that is good about Limerick on the world stage.

Mr Mawhinney says that because it was such a special match that they had

it to Cardiff. He praised Mr O'Donnell and his team for organising the big screen in such a short space of time.

And despite over 50,000 people making their way to Limerick over the two days, Gardai reported that it was very quiet and there was hardly any trouble.



The Bus Éireann open top bus accepts the team to the



## Even the celebrations went on in Portugal



While the celebrations were going on apace in Limerick following the aftermath of the great win in Cardiff the Deegan and Egan families from Greystones staged their own celebrations in Portugal. Included are Paddy, Rose, Catriona and Sam Egan with Fergal and Ciara Deegan



Even in the pouring rain young Seoirse O'Donovan came out to greet the Munster team. She met her hero Jerry Flannery, too. Her dad, Coleman is also in the picture

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The Munster fans were out in force on the Sunday after the match. These young rugby supporters met their idol, Jerry Flannery who was only too happy to pose for a picture with them. On the right is another Munster legend Jim Williams who, though no longer a player, is still very much committed to the Munster cause. Everybody who has followed Munster over the years will be thrilled that Jim played such a part in our victory

Owen South was the Photographer in Cardiff. Dermot Lynch was in O'Connell Street for the big day



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