Italians.

SEVEN MUNSTER PLAYERS INCLUDED

Finucane again to captain League side

BY CORMAC LIDDY

AL FINUCANE, Limerick's skipper, is once again honoured with the captaincy of the League of Ireland side to play the Italian National League at Dalymount Park on February 2nd. He is one of seven Munster plyers on the side with Waterford and Cork Hibernians each winning three places.

This game against the Italians was arranged in Limerick between League of Ireland officials and Gigi Peronace who acted for the Italian Association when he was here at the time Limerick played Torino in mid-September in the European Cup winners cup competition.

CHANGE

At that time it was the intention that the Italian League would also provide the officials and that a reciprocal arrangement would apply when the League of Ireland went for a return game. Idea behind the plan was to give referees in each country an opportunity of handling representative games.

However the Italians are taking the proposed game so seriously that they have scrapped the idea of bringing their own officials. Dutchmen will now officiate.

Tony Marsden who hit a hat-trick against Limerick on Sunday obviously impressed Jack Tuohy—he is Chairman of the Selection Committee—and the other selectors for he gains his first League honour and so does Terry Harkin, another who must have impressed Mr. Tuohy when Finn Harps bettered Limerick at the Markets Field.

STRONG

Tuohy and his fellow selectors look to have chosen quite a strong side and will have Peter Thomas of Waterford in goal fronted by what looks a very strong back four of Dave Bacuzzi, Tommy McConville, Finucane and John Herrick.

This looks the strongest back-four that the League of Ireland have ever been able to field and the midfield trio of Jimmy McGeough, Terry Harkin and Mick Martin have all won their places on merit.

The three front runners will be Mick Leech, Tony Marsden and Johnny Matthews.

The team is:

Thomas (Waterford), Bacuzzi (Hibernians), McConville (Dundalk), Finucane (Limerick, captain), Herrick (Hibernians); McGeough (Waterford), Harkin (Finn Harps), Martin (Bohemians); Leech (Shamrock Rvs.), Marsden (Hibernians) and Matthews (Waterford).

Reserves: Dunning (Shelbourne), Bradley (Finn Harps), Lawson (Hibernians) and O'Neill (Shamrock Rvs.).

Mick Leech, in the League of Ireland team to face the Italians.

Frank O'Neill . . . not coming to Limerick, but a reserve on the League side to face the Italian League.

Jimmy McGeogh, of Waterford, plays for the League of Ireland against the Italians.

IN MEMORIAM

O'CONNOR (7th Anniversary)—Sad and loving memories today and every day of Michael Emmet O'Connor, late of 19 Upper William Street, whose 7th Anniversary occurs today.—Always remembered by his loving mother and family. Masses offered.

of their seventeen outings to date, and are the only side in the province to have topped the 300 mark. But Con., with only 126 points conceded in 18 matches, have easily the best defensive record.

Garryowen can feel well pleased with their progress over the past few months. They haven't lost since October 9th, and have created what may well be a club record by winning four of their six engagements so far against Dublin opposition, as well as drawing a fifth. They have yet to meet Palmerston at Dooradoyle, and, if current form is maintained, they should improve even more on their figures against metropolitan opposition.

Of the other local clubs, Old Crescent have best reason to be happy right now. They have won their last three outings—against Young Munster, Sunday's Well and U.C.C.—none of whom could be described as "easy meat," and have done so by playing an attractive style of football.

POTENTIAL

Shannon showed their potential when beating formidable U.C.C. in the O'Carroll Memorial Trophy game on Saturday; their very unpredictability could be their greatest weapon in the weeks ahead.

Bohemians were going great guns for a time, but their failure to field the same side, or even anything remotely touching on it, in successive weeks is telling against them now. And while Young Munster were unfortunate to lose a key player in John Hayes against Monkstown on Saturday last, their current form should be giving rise for concern.

McGANN CLOSELY PURSUED

Barry McMann, with 106 on the scoreboard, has become the first Munsterman to top the century mark this season. He is now being closely pursued by Tony Grant (Young Munster), 98; Kevin Kidney (U.C.C.), 96, and John Moroney (Garryowen who, with 95, is quickly making up for lost ground through injury.

The Constitution pair, McGann and John Elliott, are joined on top of the try scorers' list by three others, Frank Hogan and Seamus Dennison, of Garryowen, and Ken Lyons (Old Crescent).

Jim Buckley fills the vacancy at wing-forward on the Possibles side in Saturday's final Irish Trial.

CLUB RECORDS

	P	W	L	D	F	A
Bohemians	18	6	11	1	202	239
Cons.	18	13	3	2	270	126
Dolphin	14	6	8	0	188	174
Garryowen	17	13	3	1	307	183
Highfield	13	9	4	0	168	127
O. Crescent	18	5	13	0	161	321
Shannon	14	4	8	2	121	211
Sunday's W.	16	5	11	0	109	244
U.C.C.	16	8	6	2	183	174
Y. Munster	15	7	7	1	164	164

LEADING POINTS SCORERS

	T	P	D	C	Pts.
P. J. McGann (Cork Con.)	8	11	5	13	106
T. Grant (Y. Munster)	1	26	0	8	98
K. Kidney (U.C.C.)	1	16	8	10	96
J. C. Moroney (Garryowen)	1	18	3	14	96
T. J. Kiernan (Cork Con.)	4	11	2	16	87
B. Flanagan (Bohemians)	1	11	1	5	50
L. Moloney (Garryowen)	6	6	0	2	46
M. Wallace (O. Crescent)	0	11	0	6	45
H. Matson (Highfield)	2	7	1	6	44
N. Murphy (Sunday's W.)	1	8	0	5	38

LEADING TRY SCORERS

8—B. J. McGann (Cork Con.), J. Elliott (Cork Con.), F. Hogan (Garryowen), S. Dennison (do.), K. Lyons (Old Crencent).

6—L. Moloney (Garryowen).

5—F. Forrest (Dolphin), J. Barry (Dolphin), A. Horgan (Cons.), N. Elliott (Dolphin).

SENIOR LEAGUE TABLES

SECTION 'A'

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Garryowen	3	3	0	0	51	24	6
Highfield	4	3	1	0	50	20	6
U.C.C.	4	2	2	0	60	51	4
Sunday's W.	4	1	3	0	13	63	2
Bohemians	3	0	3	0	20	37	0

SECTION "B"

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Cons.	3	3	0	0	59	10	6
Dolphin	4	3	1	0	95	25	6
Y Munster	4	2	2	0	43	43	4
Shannon	2	0	2	0	10	54	0
O. Crescent	3	0	3	0	19	82	0

LEAGUE WIND-UP IN LIMERICK?

The closing stages of the 1971/'72 Munster Senior League now look likely to be unfolded in Limerick, with Garryowen and Cork Constitution warm favourites to advance to meet in the final for the third successive year at Thomond Park on Sunday, February 20th.

Actually, had Constitution, quite understandably, not adopted a cautious approach to their meeting with Shannon on December 5th, they would be already through to the decider. That game, which they won 8-3, was originally to have been a league tie, but Con. asked instead that it be only a friendly as keymen Tom Kiernan and Barry McGann were involved in the Irish coaching session in Dublin.

The Munster Branch readily complied, as did Shannon, so the sides will now meet at Thomond Park on Sunday next for the points. Con. need only a point to be sure of a final place, and should get it, though Shannon showed much improved form when beating U.C.C. last Saturday. Should Con lose, they will then have a play-off with Dolphin.

Garryowen, likewise, need only a draw from their match with Bohemians on January 29th to be sure of a place in the final, and on current form (Garryowen are unbeaten since October 9th) they should get through