

SEAMUS HORGAN

The uprise of Seamus Horgan, can in great measure, be attributed to the decision of the special commission that enquired into the state of Limerick hurling a few years ago, to insist on each division organising a senior hurling championship with a minimum of six teams.

It was in his series of games that the real worth of Seamus Horgan as a net minder, came to light, and when called to the county colours last autumn, he was an immediate success—continuing to improve through the National Hurling League campaign, in the final of which he made his first County Park appearance last May, with Wexford providing the opposition.

On the home front, he helped Tournafulla win the West Junior Hurling Championships of 1970 and 1971 and the senior crown last year, when he was also goalie of the Mount Collins team that won the western junior football championship.

Two brothers, Pat and Tim, were colleagues of his on the Tournafulla side in all their successes since 1970.

The first appearance of Willie Moore in the Limerick colours was on the county minor hurling team of 1968. It was three years later when he pulled on the senior jersey in that year's National League campaign and he played his part in bringing Limerick to the final in which, however, he was a spectator, because of injury.

He was back on the side for the Oireachtas Cup in 1970, and, of course, he figured in the recent Munster championship success, but in the wing-back berth, as opposed to his earlier full-forward assignments.

Willie first came to the fore-front with that great hurling hero, Doon C.B.S., whom he headed to a Rice Cup success in 1968. He then graduated to Mungret College, once the home of great hurling, where he turned to the college game, rugby, and helped in the winning of the Limerick Schools City Senior Cup.

Willie has the remarkable total of fourteen East Limerick championship trophies—two in juvenile hurling, 1963 and 1965; three in minor hurling, 1965, 1967 and 1968; two in junior hurling, 1967 and 1971; one in junior football, 1968; and in the dozen county championship medals—four secured with Doon—minor hurling, 1965 and 1967; and 21 hurling, 1967 and 1968; two got with Doon, minor football, 1967 and 1968; and the extent of his participation will be all the better appreciated—not counting at all his senior appearances in the Doon jersey.



Seamus Horgan

land colleges senior shot putt and discus, he brought the College of Science trophy to Limerick for the first time. This trophy is the blue ribband of hurling and goes to the school with the most points.

Pat has East Limerick medals in juvenile football, won in 1963 and senior hurling, 1971 and 1972. Runners-up in two county senior hurling finals—1967 and 1968—were also his. He helped his club, South Liberties, win the coveted crown last year.

Pat must have almost a record for under age appearances in the county colours. He played minor hurling for Limerick for four years from 1965 to 1968, and minor football all three years from 1965 to 1967.

A member of the Munster Railway Cup team, for the past two seasons, during which he also got the Carrolls All-Star award in 1971, he has had enjoyable trips to San Francisco. His most memorable occasion was a day in 1968 when he played three games—intermediate hurling and junior football against Waterford and a county senior cup game with his club, South Liberties.

One of his great games was at Dungarvan in 1965 against Waterford, in the intermediate hurling championship, another year he captained the Munster Leinster in the 1972 Railway Cup final.

His recent game against Kilmallock in the South Limerick senior hurling semi-final was another notable one. All round schools champion with Rockhill N.S., he earned that title by winning the 220 yards, 440 yards, the high jump at the South Limerick School and the best performance medal at the South Limerick School Sports in 1968.

When Bruree beat Bruff in the final for the Canon Kelly Cup under fourteen championship he was full-back; with his club, Bruree, he also won South Liberty junior hurling honours, and South medals in under 21 hurling. With Knocksoona he won a South minor football championship in 1962 and at present plays junior football with Bruree.



John Bennis

N.S. helped his club, Patrickswell, win the city and county senior hurling championships of 1954. Three years later he was in the winning of junior hurling honours for Patrickswell. Then he showed himself as a most useful player with the big ball foot by winning city and county junior football honours in 1964 and again in 1970.

Phil was a member of the Limerick senior hurling side that first came to prominence in 1970, when it worked its way to the National Hurling League final and he has missed very few of Limerick's engagements since—in fact, the occasional days he was absent showed up more than anything else his value to the side—for he was sorely missed. Phil is a player of great resource, limitless courage and tenacity, whose great determination has to be admired by friend and foe alike.

Tipperary folk by now regard Ritchie Bennis as a strange type of a hurling wizard, the possessor of a second head, which he takes out of an ice box at vital stages in a game, and with cool and calculated neatness, devastates the fond hopes of a whole hurling county, and their countless followers.

It has the reverse effect, of course, of turning nearly every player into a stork, and the man, woman and child that Limerick must ever have reared—and very many from outside—the confines of the county—into stark raving lunatics, as they throw all discretion and decorum to the winds, in a vast outpouring of their innermost feelings and even days he was absent showed up more than anything else his value to the side—for he was sorely missed.

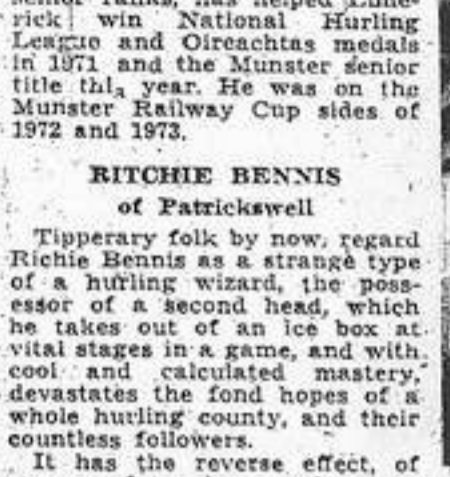
In two unforgettable hurling finals—the National League win of 1971, and this year's Munster success—Ritchie grasped victory and made the difference in the game—the more remarkable in that they looked unscorable. But these great feats are only the veneer, covering a whole career of scoring successes that has kept his name high in the national charts all through the past four seasons, with contrivance, that have played a very big part in the Limerick success march.

Liam has two brothers, Ger and Josie, the former the winner of Dr. Harry and All-Ireland Colleges hurling medals with Limerick C.B.S. in 1968; the latter, collecting an under 151 award and Dean Ryan Cup junior hurling medal in the same year.

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MEET THE PLAYERS

BY "CAMAN"



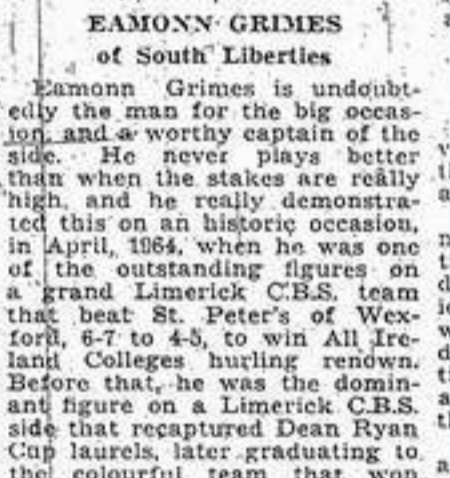
RITCHIE BENNIS

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EAMONN CREGAN

I think it was Eamonn Cregan who first re-bellied the Limerick hurling first and set it ablaze that memorable 5 June, 1966, at Cork Athletic Grounds, when he gave his greatest ever performance, scoring 3 goals and 5 points against them.



EAMONN GRIMES

Eamonn Grimes is undoubtedly the man for the big occasion and a worthy captain of the side. He never plays better than when the stakes are really high, and he really demonstrated this on an historic occasion, in April, 1964, when he was one of the outstanding figures on a grand Limerick C.B.S. team that beat 2-5 to Peter's of Wexford, 6-7 to All-Ireland Colleges hurling renewal.



JOHN FOLEY

When Limerick were last in the full glow of the Ireland spotlight, John Foley of Ballybrown was lurking in the wings, rather unobtrusively, but when the season's side for earlier that season he was a member of the panel that defeated Kilkenny, then All-Ireland champions, in the first D'Arcy Cup, in the following year figured on the Limerick team to win All-Ireland junior hurling honours, defeating Galway in that War-time final at Binn.



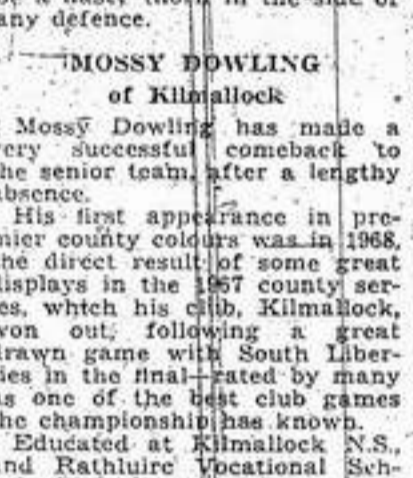
LIAM O'DONOGHUE

The name O'Donoghue has been associated with Mungret hurling for longer than most of us care to remember, and the subject of our sketch, Liam O'Donoghue, has an uncle and four cousins, all of whom were All-Ireland hurling medals in some grade with Limerick.



MOSSY DOWLING

Mossy Dowling has made a very successful comeback to the senior team after a lengthy absence. His first appearance in premier county colours was in 1968, the direct result of some great displays in the 1967 county series, which his club, Kilmallock, won out, following a great drawn game with South Liberties in the final, by many as one of the best club games the championship has known.



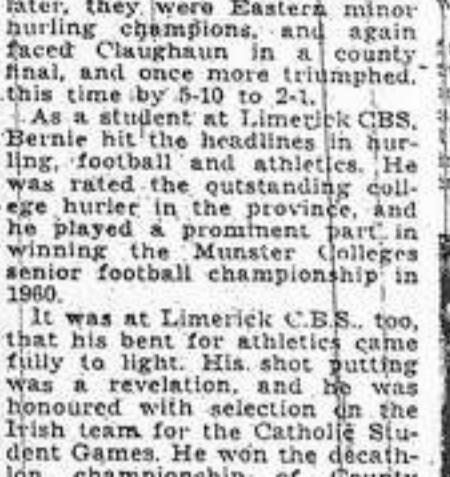
FRANKIE NOLAN

Frankie Nolan served a good apprenticeship on County minor level, where he was a regular being called to the senior panel, on which he seems assured of a very bright future. He had his first really big game in the 1967 National Hurling League final against Cork, but it was at Birr in the semi-final of the 1973 League that he really hit the jackpot against Tipperary, scoring 1-1 in that notable encounter. He was again to the fore in the recent Munster final against the same opposition.



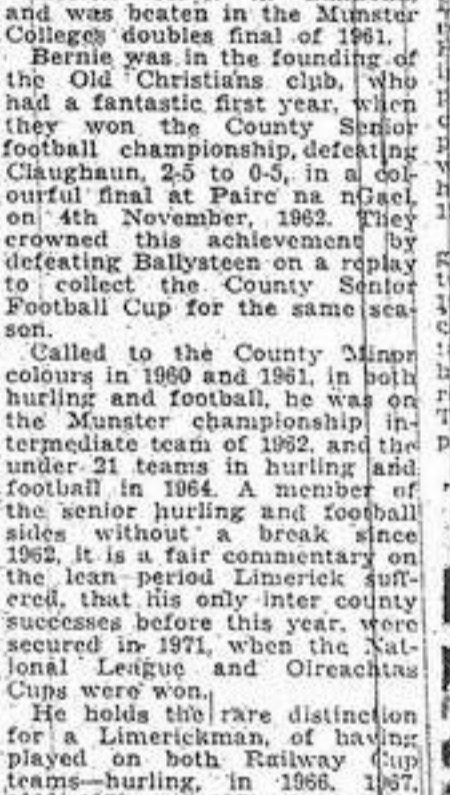
EAMONN REA

He got his first call to county colours in 1964, when he was selected on the minor hurling team. Limerick were Munster title holders at the time. They beat Clare in the opening round, 3-5 to 2-4, and then faced Tipperary, whom Limerick had ousted in the 1963 final, 4-12 to 5-4. On this occasion, the Premier County boys had revenge, winning 4-9 to 3-7.



JIM O'DONNELL

In the final, 9-0 to 1-0. Two years later, they were Eastern minor hurling champions, and again faced Claughaun in a county final, and once more triumphed, this time by 5-10 to 2-1.



JOE MCKENNA

Joe is a first cousin of Madley McKenna, who had some great games in the big time with Tipperary during their commanding spell of the early 'sixties.



JIM HOGAN

Jim Hogan, who hails from Kilmallock, Adare, opened his hurling account as early as the age of five, when he was only four years of age, when he played his first great game in goal against Dromcollogher in the Wexford Limerick minor hurling final.



JIM O'DONNELL

Old timers say that Limerick hurling is never truly flourishing unless it is strong in East Limerick. Castleconnell, Caherline, Cappanoo, Murree, South Liberties and Pallasgra, were the areas one looked to in the past for the hurling stars from the East to grace Munster and Ireland during their commanding spell of the early 'sixties.

class at St. Menna's College, of course, he was on the school hurling team, and when he remembered as a strong hand on the field.

Against Kerry the minor panel was a big score, 12-16 to 1-12, and when they beat Galway 8-12 to 5-2, hopes of championship success were very bright. But Tipperary beat them in the next outing 13 to 4-7. So Limerick had to wait until the following year for that title by which time Eamonn was outside the age limit.

He was called to the county senior colours however, in 1963 and continued a regular member of the side until 1968 when he went out of favour.

In 1963 he played for Rempets against Pechaghi-Kammy in county senior hurling final, which the latter won. A graduate in Dairy Science from U.C.C. he helped himself to two Fitzgibbon Cup medals in local Cork hurling in 1961 and a runner-up award in the 1965 County Senior hurling championship.

After parting with the green and whites in 1968 he was inclined to lose interest but a fortunate decision to join the Dublin Faughs club was the making of him hurling wise. He found congenial company in Faughs and plenty of matches to play in the Dublin League and championship, which he took an appetite for hurling and he won the Dublin senior hurling championship medals in 1970 and again in 1972.

The Limerick selectors then got interested again and he returned to the defence for the 1973 national hurling league campaign, but his great speciality is in the field, where he has played full forward in the recent Munster final against Tipperary—a gamble that really paid off.

The great spate of senior football successes the county enjoyed over the past few years, somewhat of the O'Nally variety, who at the commencement of the great football run were giving every indication that it was a very different matter, and the barrier had crashed in All-Ireland success with the team.

Often might he be written the most unlucky team of the recent League campaign for their defeat against great heights against some of the finest teams in the competition and were considered on most occasions unfortunate to suffer very narrow defeats, resulting in their relegation.

An extra tall, well-built, strapping lad from Shinnuree caught the practised hurriers eye early in the county minor hurling final on enquiring further, it was learned that he was Joe McKenna, who had played in all grades for the county, after he graduated from the O'Connell's in Binnacree, where he played with the St. John's hurling team in 1967, and reached the County senior football final, only losing to a replay, to St. Finbarr's.

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MEET THE PLAYERS

(CONTINUED FROM OPPOSITE PAGE)

TOM RYAN

Tom Ryan is a stronghold of the hurling world. He has been playing for many years, and more and more into the future. He has been playing for many years, and more and more into the future. He has been playing for many years, and more and more into the future.



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GUARDED OPTIMISM BY THE NORE

JIMMY WOULFE IN KILKENNY

TRAVELLING TO Croke Park to cheer on their team on All-Ireland hurling final day is an experience much more regularly presented to Kilkenny people than to the supporters of the green and white.

However, this does not blunt the enthusiasm of the Nore. "I don't think we will win, because we have too heavy tickets as heavy as ever."

But there is guarded optimism about the outcome of the match among their supporters. On a visit to the historic city of Kilkenny during the week of the hurling, Jimmy Wolfe, who dropped into the town on his way to the final, said he was in the city to see the hurling. "The last final I was at was in 1947 when we beat Cork. Jimmy played that day and he had a wonderful game."

"Despite the injuries I am sure we will win on Sunday," he predicted. "I am sure we will win on Sunday."

Memories of former great Kilkenny teams are recalled, and the prospects of their hurling are discussed to the background of clinking glasses.

"The man of the hour is none other than Jim Langton, a statement of the Kilkenny team which was beaten by Limerick in 1970, giving Limerick their last All-Ireland victory."

"It was a very close game. As far as I remember it was Mick Mackey who beat us when he moved to midfield in the second half."

Andy, as a goalkeeper, looked an exciting prospect at this stage, but he opted for an out-going berth, and secured his place on the county Intermediate hurling side as a half-forward in 1968, which, however, was not sufficient to avert a defeat by Clare, 6-6 to 5-3.

This display gained him promotion to senior ranks, and he has been on the panel of the county hurling team since he helped Limerick win the Oireachtas Cup in 1971 and came in as a sub in the National Hurling League final of 1970 and 1972, as well as the recent All-Ireland senior hurling semi-final against London.

JIM ALLIS (Doon) Jim Allis learned his hurling at Doon C.B.S., and he helped the county win the Oireachtas Cup, and a few medals in school athletics.

Jim played in all grades from juvenile to senior with Doon Club, and he was on the under 21 hurling side that placed a trail in winning the Eastern Junior Hurling Championships of 1966. They beat Bruff, 3-12 to 2-4, in the final for the county crown at Pairc na nGael on 24th September, 1967. The following season he displayed his prowess in football when helping to win the Eastern Junior Football Championship.

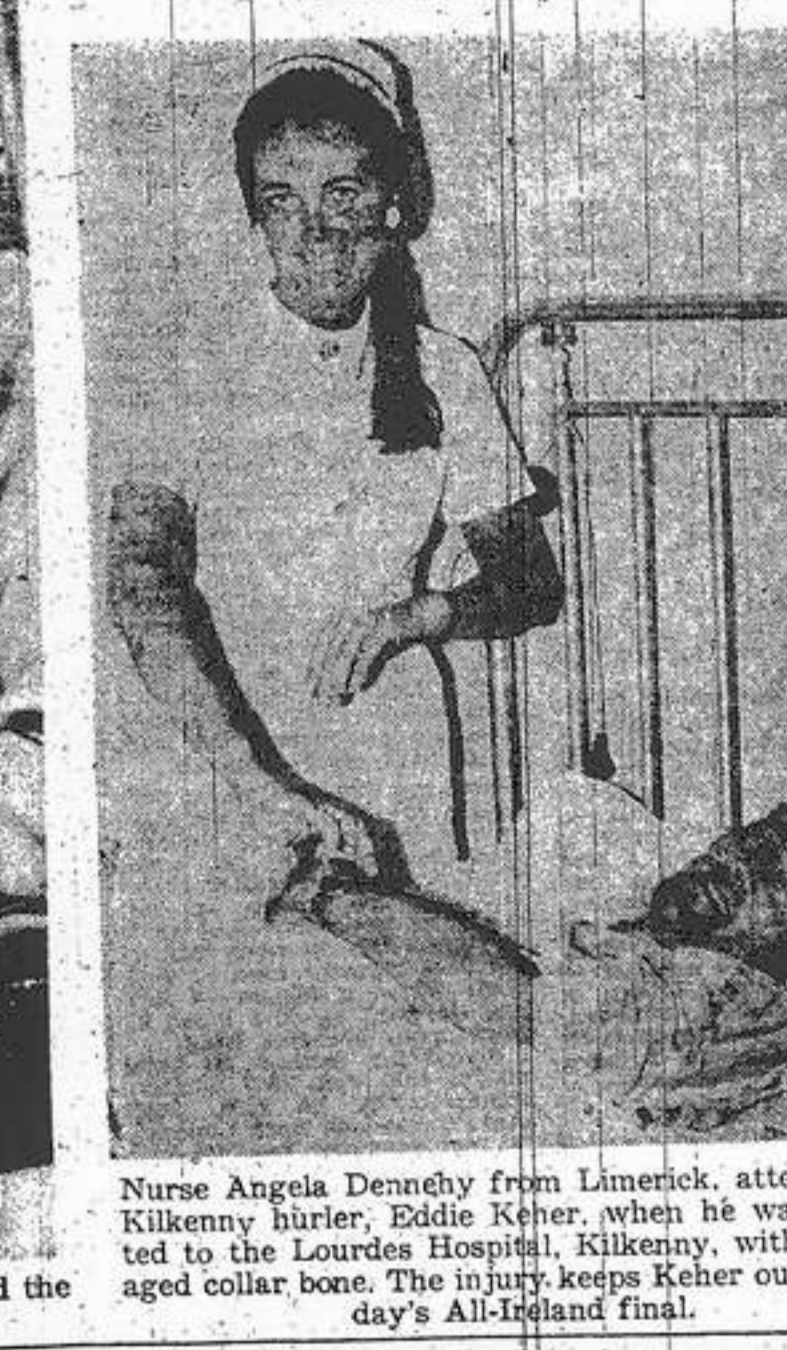
Jim's first inter-county recognition came in under 21 ranks when he was selected to play for Limerick against Kerry in 1964. He was selected to play for Limerick against Kerry in 1964. He was selected to play for Limerick against Kerry in 1964.



Jim Langton... "I don't think we will win"



Sean Walshe... "When the chips are down Kilkenny are hard to beat"



Trainer, Mick Lanigan... "Limerick go in hard the whole time."

Meet the Limerickmen who won All-Ireland medals

- SENIOR HURLING (Six)**
- 1897 - Limerick (Kilfinane), 2-4; Tipperary Town, 20th November, 1898.
 - Limerick team - Denis Grimes, captain; James (Sean Og) Hanley, Maurice Ryan, Patrick Flynn, Mick Finn, Michael Downes, Tom Brazill, John Finn, Patrick O'Brien (Kilfinane), John Condon, John Hynds, Pat Aulicahy, Patrick Butler (Cappamore), John Reidy, goal; Jim Gottrill (Ballingarry), Jim Flood (Cannell), Patrick Buskin (Croom) - Seventeen aside.
 - 1918 - Limerick (Newcastle West), 9-5; Wexford, 1-3, at Croke Park, 25th January, 1918.
 - Limerick team - Willie Hough, captain (Newcastle West); Mick Murphy, goal; Paddy McInerney, Denis Lanigan, Bob McConee, Willie Gleeson (Young Ireland), Mick Rochford, Dan Troy, Tom McGrath (Cloughaun), Paddy Kennedy, Richard Ryan (Pallas), Willie Ryan, Jimmy Humphreys (Cappamore), Jack Keane (Castletownell), Paddy Barry (Boher).
 - 1921 - Limerick (Young Ireland), 8-3; Dublin, 3-2, at Croke Park, 4th March, 1921.
 - Limerick team - Bob McConee, captain; Mick Murphy, goal; Paddy McInerney, Denis Lanigan (Young Ireland), Garrett Howard, Ter Mangan, Mick Mullane (Croom), Willie Ryan, Jimmy Humphreys (Cappamore), Dave Murnane, Willie Gleeson (Fedomore), Chris Ryan (Pallas), Jack Keane (Castletownell), Willie Hough (Newcastle West), Tom McGrath (Cloughaun).
 - 1924 - Limerick (Ahaney), 2-7; Dublin, 3-4, at Croke Park, 27th September, 1924. Replay, Limerick, 5-2; Dublin, 2-6, at Croke Park, 30th September, 1924.
 - Limerick team (replay) - Timmy Ryan, captain; John Macpherson, Mick Mackey, Jimmy Close (Ahaney), Tom Shyne, goal; Tommy McCarthy, Paddy Clohesy, Dave Clohesy (Fedomore), Garrett Howard, Jim Roche (Croom), Paddy Carroll (Eflin), Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Mickie Cross (Cloughaun), Mick Ryan (Murroe).
 - 1926 - Limerick (Ahaney) 5-8; Kilkenny 1-5, at Croke Park, 6th September, 1926.
 - Limerick team - Mick Mackey, captain; Paddy Scannan, goal; Ryan Mackey, Paddy Ryan, John Mackey, Jackie Power (Ahaney), Tom McCarthy, Paddy Clohesy, Dave Clohesy (Fedomore), Garrett Howard, Jim Roche (Croom), Paddy Carroll (Eflin), Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Mickie Cross (Cloughaun), Paddy McMahon (Kilfinane).
 - 1940 - Limerick (Ahaney) 3-7; Kilkenny 1-4, at Croke Park, 1st September, 1940.
 - Limerick team - Mick Mackey, captain; Paddy Scannan, goal; Mick Hickey, Timmy Ryan, John Mackey, Paddy McMahon, Jackie Power (Ahaney), Peter Cregan, Jim Roche (Croom), Jim McCarthy (Fenagh), Mick Kennedy (Young Ireland), Tommy Cooke (Knockanoy), Paddy Clohesy (Fedomore), Dick Stokes (Pallas), Ned Chawke (Grangah), Sub: Tony Herbert, Ahaney.
- SENIOR FOOTBALL (Two)**
- 1887 - Limerick (Commercial) 1-4; Louth (Young Ireland), 0-3, at Clonkesh, Dublin, 29th April, 1888.
 - Limerick team - Pat Treacy, captain (non-playing); Fitzgibbon, William Ganning, John Hanley, Thomas McNamara, William J. Spair, Patrick J. Corbett, Michael Slattery, Jeremiah Kennedy, Ned Casey, James O'Brien, Malachy O'Brien, Patrick Kelly, Timothy Kennedy, Philip Keating, William Cleary, Robert Normyle, Patrick Reeves, Thomas Keating, Richard O'Brien, Ned Nicholas (All Commercial) - twenty-one a side.
 - 1896 - Limerick (Commercial) 1-5; Dublin (Young Ireland) 0-7, at Jones Road, Dublin, 6th January, 1896.
- MINOR HURLING (Two)**
- 1840 - Limerick (Grangah), 6-1; Antrim, 2-4, at Croke Park, 1st September, 1840.
 - Limerick team - Paddy McCarthy, captain (Newcastle West); Kevin O'Donoghue, Mick Feeney, Paddy McCarthy (Munster), Willie Deen, Con Birmine (Doon), Paddy Healy, goal (Kilmallock); John Crotty (Ahaney), Paddy Murphy (Mullane), Mick Cullane (St. Patrick's), Tommy Hogan (Lansdowne Rovers), Tom Cregan (Croom), Joe Hayes (Kilfinane), Art O'Rourke (Twenty-Sixfields), Jim Blackwell (Askeaton).
 - 1933 - Limerick (St. Patrick's), 5-8; Galway, 3-0, at Croke Park, 7th September, 1933.
 - Limerick team - Paddy Cobble, captain (Newcastle West); Jimmy Gurney (St. Patrick's), Tommy Hanley, goal; Liam Carty (Kilmallock), Con O'Connell (Doon), John J. Bresnahan (Hospital), Joe Leonard (Ballybricken), M. J. Hanrahan (Kilfinane), Brendan Keelher (Murroe), Pat Hanrahan (Kilfinane), Pat Murphy (Cloughaun), Eamonn Carey (Patrickswell), John Howe (Cappamore), Seán Sixton (Newcastle West), Sub: Des Dillane (Fedomore).

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