

ibility as Limerick's goalkeeper.

SEAMUS HORGAN (Tournafulla)

There is a valuable lesson to be learned from the rise of the club that gives to the county a first class goalkeeper in Seamus Horgan. Hurling was dead in Tournafulla when a group of young lads got moving there in the mid'fiftles and formed a juvenile club that brought a West Limerick hurling championship title to the parish for the first time in 1956. The seeds were well and truly sown by that fine team, but it was ten years later that the foundations of the present side were securely laid, when the minors won the championship, a feat they repeated the following year. They were jun-ior title holders in 1970 and 1971, when the Commission enquiring into the state of Limerick hurling suggested they should go senior, which they duly did, and proceeded to win Western senior honours for the years 1972 and 1973-a great achievement only secured by dedication and hard

Limerick is the richer by it, as anyone who has seen Seamus Horgan in action can testify. Read what Raymond Smith thinks of his prowess: "In the 1973 Munster final Tipperary actually levelled and went a point ahead with just six minutes to go. Seamus Horgan was to make a vital save from John Flanagan-a match winning save, as memorable as the one he would make later on in the All-Ireland. As Tommy Doyle once said to me, a team that hopes to win an All-Ireland needs a goalle who can turn the seeming impossible into the possible. Tony Reddan often did so against Christy Ring, and Horgan did it twice at least in

the 1973 campaign. Educated at Tournafulla National School and Newcastle West Vocational School, Seamus made his first appearance in the Limerick senior League campaign of the 1972-3 placed on the Limerick inter-

the county jersey. He has and two Munster finals, as well as in last year's great All-

mediate team defeated by

Ireland final. Seamus is only goalkeeping with his club since 1970, previous to that he played halfforward. Also a good foot-baller, he was goalkeeper with the Mountcollins football team that won the Western cham-pionship in 1972.

Two brothers of his-Pat and Tim-were colleagues of his on the Tournafulla side in all their successes since 1970. In addition, Pat won two minor hurling and a minor football championship with Newcastle West, whilst Tim helped the Newcastle West club win the Western under football championship of

> WILLIE MOORE (Doon)

Moore, still quite a youth, has a lot of hurling behind him and quite a comprehensive collection of trophies. He opened his account ,i ..

that great centre of hurling and of learning, Doon C.B.S., and he won with them at a very early age the Rice Cup for the 1963 season. From Doon he graduated to

Mungret College, where huri-ing was introduced by that great Gael, the late Phil O'Neill, early in the century and flourished for many decades, with the result that the name "Mungret" is inscribed on many storied college hurling trophies.

The cult of the caman had ceased, however, by the time Willie got there, and he turned to the then game, rugby, and helped the college win the Limerick City Schools Senior

It was back to hurling for Willie when he went to I'niversity Coilege, Cork, and he had a most successful run in their colours, winning the Quinlan Cup in 1968-69; the Cork Senior League and championship runner-up spot in 1969; the Cork County Senior Hurling Championship the following year and the Fitzgilbon Cup in the two seasons 1971 and 1972.

Willie has the remarkable total of fourteen East Limerick championship trophies, two in juvenile hurling 1963 and 1965; three in minor hurl-ing, 1965, 1967 and 1968; two in minor football (with Oola)

1967 and 1968; five in under 21 hurling won between 1966 and 1971; one in junior hurling 1967, and one in junior football 1968. Asid to that a half dozen county championship medals—four secured with Doon, minor hurling 1965 and 1967, under 21 hurling 1966 and 1967; fwo got with Oola, minor football, 1967 and 1968, and the extent of his participation will football, 1987 and 1968, and the
extent of his participation will
be sil' the better appreciated,
not counting at all his many
senior appearances in the
Doon jersey.
Willie's first engagement in
the Limerick colours was on

county minor hurling team of 1968 and since his promotion to the senior side he has helped the county win the All-Ireland crown, two Munster championships, a National League and Oireachtas trophy. He was a nember of the Combined Universities hurling team that competed in the 1972 Railway Cup series.

PAT HARTIGAN. (South Liberties)

Pat Hartigan has the proud distinction of being the only hurler to gain the Carrolls All-Star award over all three successive seasons. He also represented Ireland against Scotland in Shinty, and played three years running with Munster in the Railway Cup series. Born at Donoughmore and

educated at the local national school before transferring to Limerick C.B.S., he won in the colours of the latter Munster under 15 hurling in 1965, under-16 football and Dean Ryan Cup 1966, Dr. Harty Cup 1966 and 1967, and All-Ireland Colleges Hurling

With his club, South Liberties, he won East Limerick medals for juvenile football in 1963 and 1966; minor football 1965, senior hurling 1971, 1972 and 1973, and senior football, 1972. They were runners-up in two county senior hurling finals 1967 to senior hurling finals, 1967 to Kilmallock, and 1971 to Claughaun, before winning in 1972 at the expense of Pat-rickswell. Pat is current captain of the club senior hurling team.

Pat must have something of a record as regards apof a record as regards appearances on Limerick County teams. He played minor hurling for Limerick for four years from 1965 to 1968, and minor football for three years, 1966 to 1968. First picked in under 21 hurling in 1966, he played for six successive years plus five in football from 1967 to 1971. In 1968 he also figured on both intermediate hurling and junintermediate hurling and junior football teams, later that season gaining promotion to the senior sides in both codes and continuing the dual role ever since. He played in five national league finals but was only once on the winning side (1971), the same season as he won his Oireachtas medal. Playing in three Munster senior hurling finals he won two, and, of course, he gained his big ambition when helping Limerick

to All-Ireland success last September. The dedication of the man is illustrated by the fact that one day, in 1968, he actually played three important games -intermediate hurling and junior football in the afternoon against Waterford and a County Senior Cup game with South Liberties later

that evening. Pat is also very interested in athletics, and he won the All-Ireland shot putt under 16 in 1966. The following year he secured the colleges' intermediate shot putt and discus, and in 1968 won the colleges' senior shot putt and the junior under 19 shot putt championship. He represen-ted Ireland in shot putting on four occasions and competed in the British School championship in . Wales in besides representing Ireland in the Catholic Student games in Lisbon the same season. Also by winning the All-Ireland Colleges' senior shot putt and discus in 1968 he brought the Col-

MEET THE PLAYERS

BY "CAMAN"

lege of Science trophy — the blue riband of Irish College athletics—to Limerick for the first time.

JIM O'BRIEN

(Bruree)
Looking back over the great 1973 Munster and All Ireland hurling championship cam-paign it is my firm belief that the most consistently good performer throughout was the well built Bruree farmer—Jim

Jim O'Brien first came to notice when as a pupil at Rockhill National school he won the all round schools championship in athletics with victories in the 220 yards, 440 yards and high jump. Later, at the South Limerick schools sports in 1958, he gained the medal for the best perform-

when Bruree beat Bruff in the final for the Canon Kelly under fourteen championship he was full back. With his club, Bruree, he also won South and county junior hurling honours, and South medals in under 21 hurling and junior football. And with junior football. And with Knocksouna he won a South minor football championship

Jim O'Brien was not yet sixteen when he embarked on his senior career, playing his first great game as goalman first great game as goalman on the South selection fifteen against the pick of West. Limerick in the inter divisional championship for the Thomond Cup in 1961.

Two years later, in 1963, he was through the colourful minor hurling campaign that saw the defeat of a fine Tip-

saw the defeat of a fine Tip-perary team, 4-12 to 5-4 in the Munster decider. Jim went into goal in the All Ireland final against Wexford when Andy Dunworth was injured.

One of his great games was at Dungarvan in 1965 against Waterford in the intermediate hurling championship. On the Munster Railway Cup selecdisplay as left corner back the 1972 decider was one of the best witnessed at Croke Park for many a day. On the home front his game against Kilmallock in the South Limerick senior hurling semi finai was another notable perform-

Jim figured for three years n Limerick under 21 teams and for two years on the intermediate side before graduating to senior ranks in which he has figured with such distinction since Limerick fought back to the limelight in late 1969. He played in five successive national hurling league finals, but was only on the winning side in one-that for 1971, in which year he also helped in securing Oireachtas Gup honours. Playing in three Munster senior hurling finals he got two medals from these appearances, to accompany the All Ireland championship win of last season. And nobody better earned the Carrolls All Star award he received after that great triumph. Four of Jim's sisters play camogie with Ballyagran.

> TOM RYAN (Ballybrown)

Ballybrown have been to the fore in Limerick G.A.A. ranks for a very long time and they constitute with the sisterparish, Patrickswell, one of strongest hurling units pro-bably to be found in any rural

Ballybrown are now taking active steps to consolidate their position as leaders of the social as well as the sporting life of their district. They have followed the development of a first-class sportsground with the provision of a very comprehensive community centre, the official opening of which will shortly mark another great milestone in the history of this very active and progressive club.

One of the most devoted workers in the success story of the Ballybrown club is Tom Ryan, whose father, Willie, was a founder-member of Patrickswell, the sister parish club, in 1948. He now takes a very keen interest in all of

the Ballybrown projects.

Tom Ryan has given long service to Ballybrown hurling, having opened his account with the club when only twelve years old. He was really before his time as far as winning of honours was concerned, for the under-age groups were not so well de-veloped in the district thena matter Tom Ryan and his aides more than rectified since. as illustrated by the fine per-formance of the lads who brought national honours to the parish through the instrumentality of the 1973 Feile na

Nevertheless, Tom Ryan played in all grades of hur-ling for his club and he is also a more than useful footballer: With Ballybrown he won three city junior hurling titles in a row, a county junior hurling medal, two Dean Punch Cup awards, a New Ireland Shield success and numerous tournament trophies. The winning of county junior hurling honours, after a great battle with Doon in the decider, did a power of good for hurling in the area, as it was the first time in over half a century that a county crown came to the parish

Tom figured with distinction on city teams when they played as a group in the county senior hurling championship, and when called to the green and white jersey he played in the under-21 and intermediate grades before donning the

colours in senior ranks. A substitute on the side that lost to Cork at Croke Park in the 1970 National Hurling League final, he lost favour with the selectors for a time, but some fine displays with the Ballybrown senior team, who contested the city finals of 1973 and 1974, helped his return to the side for the 1973 hampionship campaign. Good displays when he went in as a substitute in both the Mun-ster and All-Ireland finals of last season consolidated his claims to a permanent place.

A player set, in very uncompromising mould, the discipline he has exercised in re-

cent outings has helped his prowess very materially.

Tom is of the very firm opinion that one of the major problems facing the G.A.A. is the lack of officials who are prepared to devote their spare time to promoting Gaelic games. He thinks that too many individuals leave the ranks when their playing days are over, and he asserts that they should continue as club officials, referees or trainers and so repay in some small way for the enjoyment they received through participation in

the games. Tom has set a good headline himself, for he is a keen administrator. He was Ballybrown club secretary for three years and is now very closely associated with developing under-age activities within the

EAMONN CREGAN (Claughaun)

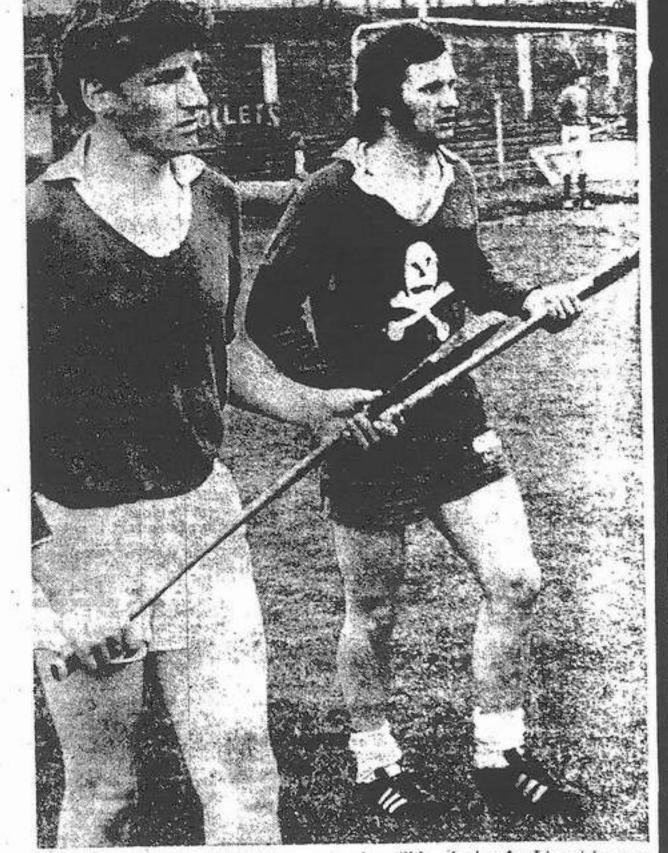
Eamonn Cregan, who captained the Claughaun team that won the 1968 county sensior hurling championship, also skippered the Limerick C.B.S. side that captured the Dr. Harty Cup and All-Ireland colleges hurling championship in 1964. The winning with Claughaun of city and county medals in both hurling and medals in both hurling and football in juvenile and minor ades were a premue nelping them win senior hurling and football honours in both championship and cup to make the past decade a most notable one for that famed club.

Captain of the Limerick side that won the Munster minor hurling championship in 1963 and contested the All-Ireland final with Wexford Ireland final with Wexford, he also played on Limerick county teams in minor footunder-21 hurling and football, senior hurling and football. In the premier hurling grade he helped Limerick to National Hurling League and Oireachtas Cup successes in 1971, Munster championship renown for 1973 and 1974 and the great All-Ireland triumph of last season, in the securing of which he played a notable part, giving an inspired display in the

centre-half back position. Figuring with Munster on Railway Cup teams on six occasions including his first appearance in 1966, he was twice nonoured by nomination on the Carrolls All-Star hurling

Perhaps his greatest hour was at Cork Athletic Grounds on 5th June, 1966, when he scored three goals and five points in the dismissal of All-Ireland champions, Tipperary, from the All-Ireland pedestal, inspiring Limerick to a sensational 4-12 to 2-9 win in the opening round of the Munster, championship. Another memorable occasion

for him must undoubtedly have been 27th April, 1964. when he arrived at Limerick Railway Station bearing aloft the All-Ireland Colleges Cup.



Rev. Bro Matt Ruth, the Kilkennyman who will be playing for Limerick against his native county, is pictured here with corner back, Willie Moore.

won the previous day against St. Peter's College, Wexford, 6-7 to 4-5. As he stepped off the train bonfires blazed, fog signals were exploded, five bands played rousing martial airs and ten thousand people roared themselves hoarse.

When he ascended the specially erected platform he was greeted by the Mayor and members of the Limerick Corporation, amidst further prolonged cheering, following which the Mayor said: "Your magnificent win has given to hurling a transfusion if ever the game needed one, for hurling above all other games has been synonymous with the name of Limerick for longer than any of us can remem-

SEAN FOLEY (Patrickswell)

Sean Foley captained the Limerick team that recently won Munster senior hurling championship honours. He deserved that distinction if only for the great part he played in bringing the 1973 All Ire-land title to Shannonside. In that regard I put-in evidence that he got the Father Jimmie Tobin award as Limerick hurler of the year, as well as the expressed opinion of two welltnown Gaelic writers. From Raymond Smith we

read: " My man of the match was Sean Foley who turned in a classic display of wingback hurling, one of the fin performances, in fact, that I have seen in this poson All-Ireland final And Owen McCann paid

this tribute: "How Sean Foley coloured the 1973 All-Ireland senior hurling final with the sheer brilliance of his work at left-half back. Alert, active, dependable, he was both a major stumbling block to Kilkenny and an inspir-ation to Limerick. In fact, Foley's power-packed performance must rank upsides with the best individual show in

any hurling final."
When Limerick first Oireachtas final in the autumn of 1939 one of the reserves was John Foley. Limerick again Ballybrown. won the Oireachtas Cup in 1971 and very much to the fore at midneld on that occasion was Sean Foley, of Patrickswell. So we had the first father and son to win Oireachtas medals with any coun-Sean Foley came to the fore with Limerick C.B.S.

when he helped them to win

an under-15 Munster medal, which he followed up with a Dean Ryan Cup, two Dr. Harty Cups and an All-Ireland Colleges trophy. his club, Patrickswell, Scan won four city under-21 hurling championships and two county titles in the same grade, a city and county junfor football championship success in 1570 and three senior hurling crowns--1966, 1969 and 1970. He captained the club senior football team in 1972. A member of the Limerick minor hurling team in 1967 and 1968, he played in the latter year also on the under-21 side with whom he continued until 1970, in which year he also played on the under-age football side. Sean, since his graduation to senior ranks has helped Limerick win National Hurling League and Oireachtas medals in 1971, the Munster championships of 1973 and 1974 and the All-Ireland championship of 1973. A Carrolls All-Stat player last year he has played three years running for Munster in the Railway Cup series. BERNIE HARTIGAN

(Old Christiana)

Bernie Hartigan and his brother, Pat, come of fine Gaelic stock. Their uncle on he paternal side. Paddy Harligan, was a renowned hurler with Young Ireland and Limerick and one of the most accurate strikers of seventy vard pucks the county has known. Another uncle, on the maternal side this time, is James Devlin, a renowned footballer with Tyrone and Ulster in the 'thirties.

It was in the colours of his home club, South Liberties, that Bernie first came into prominence when winning the East Limerick and county juvenile championships of 1958 being Eastern champions also the previous year. We did not really appreciate the merits of that team until 1960 when they won Eastern and county minor hurling laurels.

As a student at Limerick C.B.S. he bit the headlines in hurling, football and athletics. He was rated the outstanding college hurler in the province but it was a valley period for the caman code in Sexton Street and no trophies came his way. The story, however, was different in football, in which Christians had a distinguished spell, and he played a prominent part in winning the Munster Colleges Sen-ior Football Championship in

It was at Limerick C.B.S. too, that his bent for athletics came, fully to light. He was quick to make his mark, and at a period when his hurling and football prowess was very pronounced, his shot putting could be said to be a revelaction, and resulted in his being honoured with selection on the Catholic rish team for Student Games. He represented Ireland in 1969 and 1971 at hammer and discus throwing and won several All-Ireland titles in these events. He also represented Limerick C.B.S. in handball and carried his school colours to a Munster Colleges fina; Bernie was in at the facts ing of the Old Christians and they had a fanta-County Senior Footba pionship. They crownachievement by County Senior Forth for the same scason Called to the coun' in 1960 and 1961 in b ing and football, he was a the Munster Championship termediate hurling 1962 and the under 2: in hurling and fo 1964. A member of th hurling and footi without a break sin is a fair commentary

lean period Limerak

that his first inter-

cesses were secured when the National La Oireachtas Cups w-He subsequently Munster Senior Charsuccesses and the A. triumph of 1973. He holds the rartion for a Limerte's man having played or way Cup teams -1 1966, 1967, 1968, 1970 football in 1969 ected for the Irelan. team in 1966 but was cancelled. scason, 1966, he had honour of being splay in the Cardin-Games in New York stranger to playing visits with Aer Line to Rome, and bes. York he has als ;

EAMONN GRIM' (South Line and At one of the functions · has Limerick's All-Irelan success of last seas." official of the A-s marked to me that Grimes admirab.y bill as captain of tous side, and was most competent he countered in the That was a neat to first-class ambassad

Limerick hurling and

London. Boston. Ch

Hartford. His other

interests nowadays at

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lifting and an old s

well-deserved com; Eamonn Grimes ped the imagination ing a decade ago 1964, to be exact. Croke Park in the land Colleges nna. C.B.S. beat St. Pete: \$ ford 6-7 to 4-5. He super form that doubt very much 15 torn and display in lege 1. could income his slowing which w tainly out of the top for as well as seen great goals agains' lac young Grimes snever tussle for possession his solo running was a trul and his first-time parties set an example fr he

leagues. He had earlier he'ged the Sexton Street boys to a creat Dr. Harty Cup success which a little later that year of was to figure in a great Pean Ryan Cup win at Butterant

in the same colours. Eamonn, native of Poness's more, and nick-named by the fans the "Blonde Bomeshtwas a substitute on the Limb rick team that wen Mugster minor hurling honeurs in 1866. and was a full-blown membra of the side that repeated the performance in 1965.

Also prominent in Athleiss he won the county 440 yards novice championship as All the 200 metres county along with 880 yards 1965. A little later at he won the 100 yards and 14 yards flat events. the and sprint, and the Martin Hayer (Continued on opposite page



Limerick's prospects may well depend on the full fitness of ace full-back, Pat

Hartigan.



Ace Limerick centre-back, Eamonn Cregan.



ground are Fr. Paudie Fitzmaurice and Pat Kelly.

MATT RUTH

(Old Christians)

Irish Christian Brothers has

played all down the years in

developing Gaelic games, could not be over-estimated, and is incalculable. Wherever

they established a school, we

find evidence of the love they

implanted for the native codes

and of past-pupils, who as a

result of their school coach-

ing and encouragement, made

their mark in almost every

Limerick has been particul-

schools the Christian Bro-

arly fortunate in the number

thers have established in both

city and county, and the part

these have played in the suc-

cesses the green and white

have achieved is amply illus-

trated by the number of Christian Brother boys who

form the vast majority of the

men, who all down the years

have played such an outstan-

ding part in keeping the GAA

flag flying by Shannonside. Limerick ('B.S. is one of the

great bastions of Gaeldom,

and its present Superior, Rev.

Brother Murray, has devoted

all his spare time and energy

in giving a life time of service to the G.A.A.—a service that

was mainly instrumental in

ege competitions to the proud

Under the same roof at Sexton Street, we also have

Rev. Bro. Perkins, who has

achieved national fame as one

of the great pillars of the

Community Games movement,

and who is its national pre-

sident; and Rev. Bro! Guth-

rie, chairman of the City Bord na nOg, who, too, gained

national acclaim for the won-

derful organisational work he

headed to make such a great

triumph of two grand Felle

And recently into the wime-rick picture has come Rev.

Brother Matt Ruth, who since

his arrival in Limerick two years ago has transformed the

Old Christians senior hurling

team with his brilliant play.

and now promises a like as-

sistance to the forward power

of our county senior hurling

Matt is a Kilkenny man,

born in Ballyragget, where his

first hurling instincts were

nourished in the local national

school. When he moved to

Dublin in his formative years

as a Christian Brother, he

played some first rate hurling

with the Rialto Gaels inter-

mediate team, but it was

actually during his three years

in Clonmel that the real class

began to show, and he was in

with St. Mary's Club in hurl-

ing and with the famed Clon-

mel Commercials in football.

The winner of a South Inter-

mediate Hurling Champion-ship in the St. Mary's colours,

All-Ireland success, when he

helped Tipperary win the In-

termediate championship. With

the Commercials he won a

Tipperary County Senior Foot-

ball title, and soon he was

figuring as a member of the

Premier County senior foot-

rick's gain when Matt moved

to Limerick C.B.S.; and now

his promotion to the county

panel for the All-Ireland test

with his native Noreside is a

well deserved and merited

move that is widely welcomed

FRANKIE NOLAN

(Patrickswell)

and Benny, went together to

that great bastion of the Gael, Adare C.B.S., where

Brother Dwane and his aides

taught 'them anything that

was to be known about hur-

ling in addition to the diver-

se other knowledge the good

Brothers so capably impart-

fore in school hurling ranks

and figured with distinction

in winning the local league.

hurling in Patrickswell . was

enjoying great popularity and

the club jerseys in under age

competition They assisted in

winning the Ballybdown juv-

chile tournament in 1966, and

Champion hip the follow-

ing year. In 1969 they won

both city and county minor

It is almost a unique posit-

ion for Frankie to have play-

ed five years running in un-

der twenty-one hurling cham-

pionship competition, winn-

ing the city honours on all

five occasions and crowning

with county succeses in 1968

good measure, he helped in

winning the City Under 21 League in 1968, and the City

Under 21 Championship the

Quickly earning promotion

Frankie helped Patrickswell

Championships of 1969 and

1970. the City divisional sen-

ior hurling titles of 1972 and

1974, and he was a member of

the clib junior team that won the 1970 football cham-

pionship of city and county.

figured in minor and under 21 fifteens before being called

to senior ranks in which he

has now gained a perman-

ent place, already holding the

In Limerick colours he

the senior club fifteen.

Harling

hurling honours.

following year.

Around the same period,

the lender age of twelve

Nolans were sporting

City Minos Hurling

They were soon to the

The Nolan twins, Frankie

by Limerick hurling lovers.

Tipperary's loss was Lime-

ball fifteen.

was but the fore-runner to

active service, figuring

na nGael promotions.

selection.

position they now enjoy.

building our school and coll-

sphere or Gaelic endeavour.

The part the Order of the

epposite page) the best all-round the meeting. ing he is the holder All-Ireland College gree Dr. Harty Cup two Munster minor Legue and Olreachtwo Munster sentrophies and a All-Stars nominatand he figured on Munster necessive Cup sides, being Patrick's Day capget of the City Pri-

"Limerick Leader" il with St. John's early age. In East he won in the colis club. South Libjuvenile and one tal divisional chamthe 1971, 1972 and burling titles, and r crown for the lat-He has figured with too, in the drawn burling re-play agimallock for 1967 der honours.

McKENNA

at the foundath Liberties) ristians Club ars ago hopes were buring in Offaly antastic first y won the for the big breakotball Chamrowned this and that the long mival was at hand. adding the footballers snatched Football Cup eat and it was in that the big success ounty colours in both hurlforged.

ck against

me fine displays, but was no friend d in one particular der/21 teams. mosign their succes-m misses must have football in the senior otball stituted a record. since 1962, it to this background wgan to take note ntary on the ming ability of Joe -erick suffered er-county sucured in 1971 mpping whose lad from al League and credentials were woo. when dinced added two was a flist Championship Mickey" McKenna, ne All-Ireland one stirring a more eary in the best of rare distinccompany during tays of the enrly erick man of

on both Rails-hurling in he enquire we dis-nt Jor was a pro-1970 and 1971; He was selthat great hurling 18t. Fiannan's Colgreat hurling eland hurling out the game deplie a lean games a emerged from it as Ryan trophy to had the great g selected to plus a much im-ring technique. Tannan backdinal Cushing York. He is no

has had two mioubtailer helped size on the Offely Lingus teams ing team, and he he by playing for besides New dso played in Chicago and is all other grades and proching an other sporting leinster final, lys are weightthin proved their odd spot of swever, it was in that his prowess marked.

iberties) home club. Joe he big official Maly county junior ch in 1967, but mountered a full honoure reland hurling season a lead mgards Midland Association repales, despite very that Eamons g involvement bly filled the vista, however, of the victorwhen he came to was one or too Sunnonside, and it it he had enboky break that that regard. under the inat tribute to a South Liberties.

passador es to live in that ng and it was compliment. therties" at a boom mes nifst gripd in immediately nation of Mal success, with ago, in April, but he figured in xact, when at senior triumph in n the All-Ire then Ahane were final, Limerick in both the hurl-Peter's of Wex-\$ 28) and football He was in nat day and l

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2-6 to 0-8) divisional finals. He had gained such confidence by this that when South Liberties shortly afterwards won county senior hurling honours, defeating Patricks-well, 4-8 to 1-5, in the final, his contribution from play to that win was the best of the game, and he shared fully in the joy of the "Liberty" supporters who royally celebrated their regaining of Limerick's premier Gaelic crown following a lapse of eightyeight years.

That success was Joe's passport to Limerick County colours, and his later great participation in the winning of honours that All-Ireland closed another great gap of thirty-three years. RICHIE BENNIS

(Patrickswell)

When the hurling annals of 1973 were being reviewed, a leading journalist made this inscription: "How could one possibly pass over that last gasp point by Richie Bennis that won the Munster final for Limerick so dramatically at Tnurles in July. The challenge that confronted the Patrickswell man as he faced up to that 'seventy' with the last puck of the game against Tipperary was truly, the acid test of nerve and accuracy. Bennis came through so proudly that the score must forever rank among the all time greats of this, or any era."

Richie had earlier earned fame in almost identical manner, when he gained 1971 National Hurling League honours for Limerick with the last puck of another exciting hour, pointing a free from a difficult angle. Never far from the top of

the national scoring charts since Limerick's rise to hurling prominence, Richle Benwas educated at Lurriga National School, Adare C.B.S. and Limerick Vocational

With the latter he had the proud distinction of winning in 1961 the All-Ireland Vocat-Schools Championship, captaining the only Limerick team ever to win this competition. Later he figured on junior and under 21 minor. Limerick county hurling sides before making the senior

With his club, Richie has won four county senior hurling, two city senior hurling, and two city and county junfor football championship medals, as well as numerous tournament trophies.

Richle hit the headlines in winning for Limerick the 1971 National Hurling League title and the 1973 Muhster Senior Hurling Final, and his other successes in the green and white colours in 1971, the All-Ireland triumph of 1973 and this year's Munster crown. A Carroll's All-Star player last season, he was on the Railway Cup sides in the Blue of Munster in 1970, 1972 and 1974. I can do no better than con-

clude with a quotation from that colourful Gaelic writer, Raymond Smith: "Every youngster in Limerick these days sees himself scoring the equalising or winning point in a big game, like Richle Bennls-Richie of the distinctive ginger hair and the almost self effacing smile. To the the young generation by the Shannon, Mick Mackey is now only a name from the past-Richie Bennis is the man they see rising and striking and getting the points that matter when the pride of Limerick is at stake. And Richie is their hero-and we must cherish our heroes if we love the national games .



18, Limerick's ace marksman, practises his free taking.

MEET THE PLAYERS

BY "CAMAN"

All Ireland gold token of 1973, two Munster championship souvenirs, along National League and Oireachtas trophies.

EAMONN REA

The big success of the Limerick selectors last year was their gamble that paid off in the move of Eamonn Rea from full-back to full forward. Raymond Smith marked this as one of the notable events of the season when he said: "Limerick's master move was to convert Eamonn Rea from a full-back and play him at full-forward. He was the man who laid off the passes that made the vital goals for his colleagues. Eamonn is a character on and off the field The hurling public do not always want their players to

be too staid, they admire human qualities." Eamonn hails from Effin, and he first came to hurling notice when winning with that club the south minor hurling championship in 1959. Two years later he was with the Kilmallock lads when they won south and county minor hurling laurels. In 1962; in his last year at

St. Munchin's College, he was called to the county minor hurling colours and that team reached the southern decider following victories over Kerry (12-16 to 1-0) and Galway (8-12 to 7-2) only to go down before Tipperary, 7-9 to 4-9. The Limerick lads won the title the following season but by then the age barrier ruled against Eamonn's inclusion. He is still remembered as the "strong hard man" of the 1962 minor campaign. As a member of the South

Limerick divisional side -Emmets-he helped them reach the county senior hurl-ing final in 1963, in which they had to play second best to Feenagh-Kilmeedy. He was invited to wear the

senior county jersey also that year, and he continued a regular member of the side for five seasons, following which he lost the confidence of the selectors.

A graduate in Dairy Science from U.C.C., he helped them win two Fitzgibbon Cup finals, and in local Cork hurling he was on a winning senior league U.C.C. team that were later 1962 senior hurling championship runners-up. Eamonn had lost interest

completely following his dismissal from the Limerick panel in 1968, but on his arrival in Dublin to take up a business appointment was induced to join the re-nowned Faughs Club. He admits that this was the remaking of him hurling wise. He found congenial company the club, and plenty match play in the Dublin League and Championship rebuilt his appetite for hurling and this was further whetted when he helped them to Dublin county senior hurling championship success in 1970 a triumph they again repeated in 1972 and 1973. His prowess the Metropolis soon reawakened the interest of the Limerick selectors, with the result that he again wore the colours green and white through the 1973 National Hurling League campaign. His hurling appearances were in defence, but his great spectacular with the side was his appearance as full-forward against Tipperary in the Munster final of that year. His comment on that sit cosawill never forget the re-action of our supporters and the sheer joy on their faces when we won. I got more pleasure out of that than anything else connected with winning the Munster championship." LIAM O'DONOGHUE

(Mungret)

Liam O'Donoghue confesses that his real ambition as a young boy was to become a member of the Limerick senior hurling team. That the ambition has been realised is attributable as much to the family background as to his own interest in hurling.

Due to the home influence undoubtedly, he was trotting around with a hurley at the impressionable age of four. and as a youthful supporter of the Mungret hurling team

he watched them training and playing at every opportunity. The family involvement had a lot to do with this interest. His father, Joe, after winning a well merited "Limerick Leader" cup medal with Mungret N.S., was a member of the great Mungret team of the 'forties, with whom he won several trophies.

Other members of the O'Donoghue clan have carved their name in hurling history. Bill played in one of the most colourful of All Ireland finals -that of 1933, when the only major score of the game-Johnny Dunne's goal-gave Kilkenny a rather lucky win. Bill was later to figure as a noted referce, with Munster and All Ireland final successes to his name. Of like vintage we had Arthur and Johnsie as members of the Limerick side that won All Ireland junlor hurling honours in 1941, whilst Kevin, a year earlier, helped Limerick win its first All Ireland minor hurling crown. Paddy, too, must get honourable mention in any reference to that era.

Liam has two brothers— Gerard and Joe. The former won Dr. Harty and All Ire-iand Colleges hurling medals with Limerick C.B.S. in 1966; the latter collecting an under 155 award and Dean Ryan cup junior hurling medal in the same colours the following year.

Liam himself played both hurling and football at C.B.S. and under age awards gained there in 1964 and 1965 mark the start of a very fine collection of trophies, that, still very much in the making insenior hurling award; two Munster senior hurling cham-pionship medals; a Munster colleges hurling medals colleges hurling medal, city and county hurling championship trophies: city juvenile and minor hurling souvenirs, and numerous tournament mementoes.

Liam, now coach to the Mungret under age teams, had a personal tally of 6-5, which must be a Limerick championship record for any individual player, when figuring against Rathkeale in the 1968 county juvenile hurling championship semi final.

A member of the county under 21 side in the three years, 1971 to 1973, Liam's first appearance in senior county colours was in that ear of glory when a thrillin Munster triumph was followed by the recovery of the All Ireland Blue Riband after the long lapse of 33 years. One of the youngest members of that panel he gives every promise of a long spell at the top.

MIKE LUNDON (South Liberties)

It was by mere chance that Mike Lundon's capabilities as a hurling goalkeeper were discovered. Early in 1972, he was present at Pairc na naGael for a senior hurling trial game between city and cou-nty. As it turned out, there was a shortage of players, and Mike was approached to play. He had neither hurley nor togs, but he was soon proferred a caman and elected to stand in goals. The result was that he gave a fine display of net minding and has played many a fine game in that position.

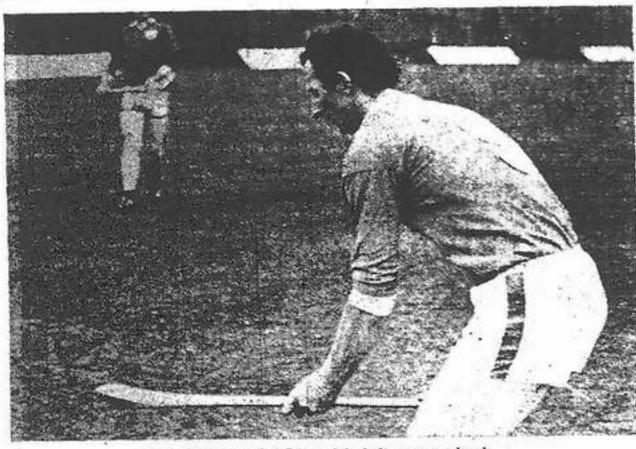
Curiously enough, it was when playing in a friendly for against Limerick Gaiway early this year, that his capabilities were recognised by the Limerick selectors, and he was soon on the Shannonside panel as understudy to Seamus Horgan, whom he deputised for in the recent Oireachtas game at Walsh Park against Waterford, and certainly pleased all concerned by his very capable perfor-

Mike who hails from Knockea, was educated at Carnane national school; St. John's C.B.S. where his hurling ablity was first recognised; and at Limerick C.B.S., Sexton St. He helped in winning the 1960 "Limerick Leader" Cup competition whilst at St. John's.

Also keen on athletics and swimming, he was placed second at the Shot Putt (under 16) at the North Munster Colleges' Sports in 1963,



Limerick fans will be hoping that Frankie Nolan has fully recovered from injury.



Jim O'Brien, the Limerick left corner back.

Mike, who has played in every position on the field, was a member of the London St. Gabriel's Club from 1967 to 1969. He was in South Lib-erties' senior hurling colours as an outnedd player in 19/1, and helped in the winning of the Eastern crown. The following year he was in goals, and the "Liberty" boys won both Eastern and County crowns, repeating the Eastern success again in 1973. He has had numerous tournament successes — his latest, the Monaleen Cup competition this season.

His mother is a native of Galway, and Mike is a busy man now, with farming interests both in Limerick and

JIM O'DONNELL (Doon).

The 'sixties saw the emergence of Doon as a powerful torce in East Limerick and County hurling, and this parish, with the driving power of the local C.B.S. behind it, gathered a lot of renown with the caman, parti-

cularly in the under age

competitions. Many fine players naturally came to the surface from this activity and with East Limerick a natural breeding ground for hurlers of the traditional Limerick mould a new dimension was added to the hurling power of Sarsfield's County.

Jim O'Donnell was the first great figure to bring hurling renown to his now famed parish. A product, of course, of Doon C.B.S., he very successfully through his schooldays in the colours of that fine Gaelic establishment, and then with the local club came to the fore and played a leading part in the collection of juvenile and minor trophies. He was only reaching his

prime when he departed for America, where he continued hurling prowess and played a prominent part in Gaelic Park activities to become a favourite participant in quite a few exciting contests there. On his return to Ireland

joined the Gardai, and quickly resumed his hurling activity, being acclaimed for his spectacular work that soon gained him county recognition on the then up and coming Limerick senior side.

In his heyday in the green and white, he regularly captured the headlines, and was often acclaimed the hero of the day, with high catches and long clearances a particular and colourful feature of his

Jim figured in the three National Huring League finals in 1970, 1971 and 1973, gaining the coveted medal in the middle year. He was unfortunate later that season to miss the Oireachtas Cup win, due to a serious leg injury that has continued to impair his effectiveness, with the result that in recent outings, he has served mainly from the reserve bench, but yet participating very effectively and a most capable stand-by-and which he illustrated very strikingly in the Oireachtas Cup semi-final at Walsh Park recently when he put in a very expert performance when deputising for the injured Pat Hartigan.

Stationed at Blackrock, Co. Dublin, he this year transferred to the famed Faughs hurling club in the Metropolis, whose ranks down the years have included many noted hurling figures.

PACDIE FITZMAURICE (Killeedy)

The name Fitzmaurice has been an honoured one in Limerick Gaelic ranks over very many years. The late Liam Fitzmaurice, N.T., was pillar of Gaelic thought in his area, and he extended his influence, when as chairman of the West Limerick Board, he guided the destinies of the largest division in the county. Later, he assumed the addit ional burden of County Board vice-chairman, an office he filled with quiet dignity and effectiveness.

Sons of Liam are now carrying on the family Gaelic, tradition. Father Willie Fitzmaurice captained the Linicrick team in the recent Nat-Hurling League Final, and Father Paudie Fitzmaurice, who helped Limerick win the All-Ireland crown last year, recently added a Mun-Senior Championship medal to his growing collect-Another brother, Mick. is a pillar of strength in the Killeedy club ranks. Paudle was a pupil of St.

Munchin's College, Limerick, for five years, where he plaved both hurling and football. A colleague of his at the time out this on record concerning him: "He was very clever, and he had a flerce interest in hur-

Paudie's graduation to Maynooth coincided the expansion of sporting activities there, and the entry into National competitions. Paudic's devotion to hurling grew in intensity, so it was no empty gesture that he was captain of the Maynooth side that won the Fitzgibbon Cup for the first time in 1973 a success they repeated this season with Paudic again at the helm, and leader also in thescoring charts,
In one game for them.
Paudic had the splendid total

of eleven points-all scored by that deadly 1eft hand. His

brother. Willie, was also on the first Fitzgibbon Cup winning side. Paudie, too, participated for two successive seasons in the Railway Cup series as a member of the Combined Universities side.

The three Fitzmaurice prothers have been figuring prominently in local Limerick competitions with the home club, Killeedy. Frequently, over the past five years, Pau-die and older brother, Willie have made the 300 mile round trip from Maynooth to West Limerick to help their native parish, who boast a "rags to riches" story in that they rose over that period from near obscurity to runners-up for the county senior hurling crown last year.

> PAT KELLY (Kilmallock)

The baby of the team as the youngest member on the and likely captain panel, should he be honoured by inclusion on the first fifteen. The captaincy would be no-thing new to him as he skippered the South-East side that won the special Munster minor hurling league in 1973. having earlier played on the county minor teams of 1972 and 1973, the latter reaching the Munster final in which they lost to Copk.

Pat received his early education at Kilmallock national school, later transferring to Rath Luire C.B.S., with whom he won two Dr. Kinnane Cup medals (Munster grade colleges) in the seasons 1971 and 1972. With his club, Kilmallock,

his first success was in the South juvenile hurling championship and he followed this up with South Limerick wins in both minor hurling and football, and a double success in county minor ranks-the hurling crowns of 1972 and 1973. He gained his first county

medal in that minor campaig: of 1972, the final proving a memorable occasion for him in that he recorded a personal tally of one goal and ten points. That season also he helped his club win the South senior hurling championsh:p. a feat they repeated in 1973, continuing on to win the county senior hurling crown, And to add to their renown the Kilmallock seniors took the prizes in the St. Patrick's, Athlacca and Kilmallock fes-

Also a first class athlete. Pat has numerous county medals, besides ten won in Munster competition and two secured in the All Ireland arena. His other sporting interests

includes badminton, basketball and pitch and putt, and as a student of the National College of Physical Education, all sports are covered by him. with the additional advantage that he is nearly always fit throughout the year. His sister, Teresa, won the Kildare table tennis leagus last season. Proud holder now of that Munster senior hurling medal won against Clare, his great ambition now is to bring an All Ireland senior hurling trophy to his native Kilmal-An advocate of thirteen-a-

side teams in hurling, his argument is that it would open up the game a great deal especially around goals. He would also like to see the advantage rule being used more often by referees, and feels that more responsibility should be given to the linesmen. PHIL BENNIS

(Patrickswell)

Now the "father" of the Limerick senior hurling panel. to Phil Bennis fell the broud distinction of captaining the first Patrickswell team to win the county senior hurling championship. It was an emotion-filled moment at Pairc na naGael on 24th October. 1965, when he was presented with the ornate Scan Daly Memorial Cup which he carried away amidst scenes of almost unparalleled enthus-This lad, a hurling product

figured in three other firsts with Patrickswell club. was only a stripling in 1954, a lad of very tender years. when he helped in the winning of city and county juvehurling championship laurels. Three years later he was with the side that won the city and county titles in To demonjunior hurling. strate his versatility he was

of Lurriga National School,

also an active participant in the collection of city and county junior football hon-ours in 1964 and again in 1970. He once more captained the Patrickswell side to win the county senior hurling championsnip in 1966, and won two further senior hursing county medals with the clup in 1969 and 1970, plus two city senior hurling final wins in 1973 and

One of a family of six bro-thers all of whom gave distinguished service to hurling, Phil siso helped Patricksweil club win important tournament trophies including the storled Duggan Cup, the New Ireland Assurance Company Shield and the Kerryman Cup in football. Phil was a member of the

Limerick senior nurling side that first came to prominence in 1970 when it worked its way to the National Hurling League nnal, and he was a memoer of the side that participated in the four suosequent League campaigns, and was certainly not his fault that Limerick only won one (1971) of these five finais. He has missed very few Limerick engagements since he first donned the green and white. During those years he has met some of the greatest players to grace the nur-ling game and I cannot recall an occasion when any of them could say they mastered the wiry Patrickswell lad-small of stature but with the heart of a lion. A hurler of great resource, limitless courage and tenacity he has that valuable ability of being able to inspire his colleagues to even greater effort when the occasion demanded. His grit and determination has to be admired by friend and foe alike. and history will rate his contribution to the Limerick hurling revival as far greater than most people realise.

> WILLIE CONWAY (Bruff)

Bruff has played a very honoured part in G.A.A. history, and from the foundation of the Association, natives of the district were prominent in athletics and on the hurling field, and they figured in many stirring events, especially in the difficult days when the infant G.A.A. was fighting for its very existence. The parish enjoyed some

great Gaelic occasions, but there were dark days too, when some fine players had to seek recognition elsewhere, and we find them keeping the hurling flag flying, but in the colours or some of the other leading Limerick clubs, of their time.

The purchase and develop ment of the present fine field at Bruff, was the starting point of a new era for the parish, which has never looked back since.

Willie Conway is one of the fruits of...that great renaiss-Educated at the De La Salle School in Bruff, he got his taste for hurling there and later in the Bruff club colours he was a member of that great combination that won city and co. juvenile hurling honours - the county final with Fedamore, decided at Crom, proving a most exciting

Later, with Bruff, he won three South Limerick minor hurling and two South Limerick junior hurling championship medals, and his worth was soon recognised by the County selectors, with the result that he played on county minor and under 21 hurling teams. A versatile lad, who can

play equally well in almost position of the field, he looked set for a great hurling future, but other sporting interests came to the surface. and we soon began to hear of his prowess at rughy - at first with the home team, and later in the senior jersey of the Shannon Club, with whom he figured in last seasons Munster Senior Cup Final. It is the general belief that

his dedication to the rugby code and his general dis-interest in top class hurling, cost him a place on the All-Ireland victorious panel last year. He is now back, however, in fullblooded pursuit of that coveted prize, and with a Mun-ster Senior medal already to his name, hopes are high that it will soon be joined by the symbol of All-Ireland hurling supremacy, and which would be the cause of very special rejoleing in his native parish.



Willie Conway, Bruffman on Limerick's substitute panel.