



Seamus Horgan, who carries such a heavy responsibility 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 fifties 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 junior 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 work.

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 goalie 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 colours for the 1972-3 League campaign of the 1972-3 season. He played on the Limerick intermediate team defeated by the county jersey. He has played in 100 matches, 20 in 1972, 20 in 1973, 20 in 1974, 20 in 1975, 20 in 1976, 20 in 1977, 20 in 1978, 20 in 1979, 20 in 1980, 20 in 1981, 20 in 1982, 20 in 1983, 20 in 1984, 20 in 1985, 20 in 1986, 20 in 1987, 20 in 1988, 20 in 1989, 20 in 1990, 20 in 1991, 20 in 1992, 20 in 1993, 20 in 1994, 20 in 1995, 20 in 1996, 20 in 1997, 20 in 1998, 20 in 1999, 20 in 2000, 20 in 2001, 20 in 2002, 20 in 2003, 20 in 2004, 20 in 2005, 20 in 2006, 20 in 2007, 20 in 2008, 20 in 2009, 20 in 2010, 20 in 2011, 20 in 2012, 20 in 2013, 20 in 2014, 20 in 2015, 20 in 2016, 20 in 2017, 20 in 2018, 20 in 2019, 20 in 2020, 20 in 2021, 20 in 2022, 20 in 2023, 20 in 2024, 20 in 2025.



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

1967 and 1968; five in under 21 hurling won between 1966 and 1971; one in junior hurling 1967, and one in junior football 1968. Add to that a half dozen county championship medals—four secured with Doon, minor hurling 1965 and 1967, under 21 hurling 1966 and 1967; 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 many senior appearances in the Doon jersey.

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 1966.

With his club, South Liberties, he won East Limerick medals for juvenile football in 1963 and 1964; 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 Kilmallock, and 1971 to Cloughaun, before winning in 1972 at the expense of Patrickswell. Pat is current captain of the club senior hurling team.

WILLIE MOORE

(Doon)

The sturdy Doon lad, Willie Moore, still quite a youth, has won a lot of hurling behind him and quite a comprehensive collection of trophies. He opened his account in that great centre of hurling and of learning, Doon C.B.S., and he won with them a very early age the Rice Cup for the 1963 season.

From Doon he graduated to Mungret College where 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 trophy 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 Cup.

It was back to hurling for Willie when he went to University College, 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 1968; the Cork County Senior Hurling Championship the following year and the Fitzgibbon 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 hurling, 1965, 1967 and 1968; two in minor football (with Ois)

MEET THE PLAYERS
BY "CAMAN"

lege of Science trophy—the blue riband 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 campaign it is my firm belief that the most consistently good performer throughout was the well built Bruree farmer—Jim O'Brien.

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 Liberties schools sports in 1958, he gained the medal for the best performance.

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 Knockouna he won a South minor football championship in 1962.

Jim O'Brien was not yet sixteen when he embarked on his senior career, playing his first great game as goalkeeper 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 Tipperary team 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 1964 against Waterford in the intermediate hurling championship. On the Munster Railway Cup selection four times since 1970, his display as left corner, in 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 final was another notable performance.

Jim figured for three years on 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 knockout in 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 Limerick win the Railway Cup honours. Playing in three Munster senior hurling finals he got two medals from these appearances, to accompany the All Ireland championship win for two seasons. And nobody better earned the Carrolls All Star award he received after that great triumph.

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 sister parish, Patrickswell, one of the strongest units probably to be found in any rural area.

Ballybrown are now taking active steps to consolidate their position as leaders of the scene in 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 he was 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 developed in the district then—a matter Tom Ryan and his aides more than rectified since, as illustrated by the fine performance of the side who brought national honours to the parish through the instrumentality of the 1973 Féile na nGael.

Nevertheless, Tom Ryan played all grades of hurling 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 championship campaign. Good displays when he went in as a substitute in both the Munster and All-Ireland finals of last season consolidated his claims to a permanent place.

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 as well as players. It is a pity that 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 club.

EAMONN CREGAN

(Cloughaun)

Eamonn Cregan, who captained the Cloughaun team that won the Limerick county hurling championship, also skipped the Limerick C.B.S. side that captured the Dr. Harty Cup and All-Ireland colleges hurling championship in 1964.

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 above all other games the name of Limerick for longer than any of us can remember."

SEAN FOLEY

(Patrickswell)

Sean Foley captained the Limerick team that recently won Munster senior hurling championship honours. He served that distinction if only for the great part he played in bringing the 1973 All-Ireland 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 well-known Gaelic writers.

From Raymond Smith we read: "My man of the match was Sean Foley who turned in a classic display of wing-back hurling, one of the greatest performances, in fact, that I have seen in this position on All-Ireland final day."

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



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 above all other games the name of Limerick for longer than any of us can remember."

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to Kilkenny and an inspiration to Limerick. In fact Foley's power-packed performance must rank up with the best individual show in any hurling final.

When Limerick won the first Oireachtas final in the autumn of 1939 one of the reserves was John Foley, of Ballybrown. Limerick again won the Oireachtas Cup in 1971 and very much to the occasion was Sean Foley, of Patrickswell. So we had the first father and son to win Oireachtas medals with our county.

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. With his club, Patrickswell, Sean won four city under-21 hurling honours—1969, 1968 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 at 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 in 1970, 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-Star player last year he has played three years running for Munster in the Railway Cup series.

BERNIE HARTIGAN

(Old Christians)

Bernie Hartigan and his brother, Pat, come of fine Gaelic stock. Their uncle on the paternal side, Paddy Hartigan, was a renowned hurler with Young Ireland and Limerick and one of the most accurate strikers of seventy years ago. He was also a most competent footballer. That was a neat little first-class ambassador to Limerick hurling and a well-deserved company.

Eamonn Grimes helped the imagination of a well-deserved company in 1964, to be exact, was in Croke Park in the All-Ireland Colleges hurling final, C.B.S. beat St. Peter's Wexford 6-7 to 4-5. He was a super form that was no doubt very much in evidence. A display in the college's could increase his fame by showing what was truly one of the best players for as well as a superb great goals against the young Grimes never had a tussle for possession with his solo running was a feat and his first-time performance an example for his colleagues.

He had earlier helped the Sexton Street boys to a great Dr. Harty Cup success and a little later that year was to figure in a great Dean Ryan Cup win at Ballybrown in the same colours.

Eamonn, native of Donoughmore, and nick-named by the fans the "Blonde Bomber" was a substitute on the Limerick team that won Munster minor hurling honours in 1968 and was a full-blown member of the side that repeated the performance in 1969.

Also prominent in athletics, he won the county 440 yards novice championship as a 15-year-old and was runner-up in the 200 metres county title along with 880 yards in 1965. A little later at Ballybrown he won the 100 yards and 160 yards flat events, the 200 yards sprint, and the Martin Hayes (Continued on opposite page)



Ace Limerick centre-back, Eamonn Cregan.

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MEET THE PLAYERS

BY "CAMAN"

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

EAMONN REA

(Eflin)

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 full-back to play him at full-forward. He was the man who laid off the passes that made the difference between the two teams. 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 Eflin, 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 (12-6 to 10) 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 were defeated by the county against Tipperary in the 1963 hurling final.

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 hurling final in 1963, in which they had to play second best to Poenagh-Kilmallock.

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 he has lost interest in the U.C.C. team that was later 1962 senior hurling champion 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, he was induced to join the renowned Faghua Club. He admits that this was the remarking of him hurling wise. He found congenial company in the club, and plenty of 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 in the Metropolitan soon re-awakened the interest of the Limerick selectors, with the result that he again wore the green and white colours through the 1973 National Hurling League campaign. His hurling appearances were in defence, but his great speciality with the side was his appearance as full-forward against Tipperary in the Munster final of that year. His comment on that occasion: "I will never forget the reaction of our supporters and cheerers who were 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 ambition has been realised in the recent Oireachtas game at Walsh Park against Waterford, and certainly pleased all concerned by his very capable performance.

Mike who hails from Knockree, was educated at Carnane national school; St. John's C.B.S. where his hurling ability was first recognised, and later at the Metropolitan.

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.

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 referee, with Munster and All Ireland final successes to his name. Of like vintage we had Arthur and Johnnie as members of the Limerick side that won All Ireland junior 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 ranking of the Limerick clan.

Liam has two brothers — Gerard and Joe. The former won Dr. Harty and All Ireland Hurling medals with Limerick C.B.S. in 1966 and 1967, and the latter, collecting an under 15 award and Dean Ryan cup junior hurling medal in the same colours the following year.

He 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 evidence include the 1973 All Ireland senior hurling award; two Munster senior hurling championship medals; a Munster hurling medal, city and county hurling championship trophies; city juvenile and minor hurling souvenirs, and numerous tournament mementoes.

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 Rathfriland 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 county colours was in that year of glory when a thrilling 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 LONDON

(South Liberties)

It was by mere chance that Mike London's capabilities as a hurling goalkeeper were discovered. Early in 1972, he was pressed at Pairc na nGaels for a senior hurling trial game between city and county. As it turned out, there was a shortage of players, and Mike was approached to play. He had neither hurler nor top, but he was soon proffered a caman and elected to stand in goals. The result was that he gave a fine display of net minding and has since played many a fine game in that position.

Curiously enough, it was when playing in a friendly for Galway against Limerick, that he was approached to play. He had no previous hurling experience, but he was soon on the Shannon side panel as understudy to Seanus Hogan, whom he deputised for in the recent Oireachtas game at Walsh Park against Waterford, and certainly pleased all concerned by his very capable performance.

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selectors Jim Quaid and Dr. Dick Stokes discuss tactics; in the background are Fr. Paudie Fitzmaurice and Pat Kelly.

opposite page) the best all-round hurler in the county. He is the holder of the Harty Cup, two Munster minor medals, 1971 National League and Oireachtas trophies, and a Limerick gold medal. He is also a member of the All-Ireland national team. He figured in the Munster Cup side, being captain of the City Priests in the League he won "Limerick Leader" in both hurling and football. In East he won in the college club, South Liberties juvenile and one of the divisional championships in 1971, 1972 and 1973, and a county title, and a county crown for the latter year. He has figured with the club in the drawn hurling tri-play against Tipperary for 1967 and 1968 honours.

MCKENNA (South Liberties) who has hopes of being a hurler in the future. He has played for the club in the drawn hurling tri-play against Tipperary for 1967 and 1968 honours.

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MATT RUTH

(Old Christians)

The part the Order of the 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 coaching and encouragement, made their mark in almost every sphere of Gaelic endeavour.

Limerick has been particularly fortunate in the number of schools the Christian Brothers have established in both city and county, and the part they have played in the success of the green and white have achieved is amply illustrated by the number of Christian Brother boys who form the vast majority of the great bastions of Gaelic, 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 has been instrumental in building our school and college competitions to the proud position they now enjoy.

Under the same roof at Sexton Street, we also have the Rev. Brother Perkins, who has achieved national fame as one of the great pillars of the Community Games movement, and who is its national president, and Rev. Bro. Guthrie, chairman of the City Bord na nOg, who, too, gained national acclaim for the wonderful organisational work he headed to make such a great triumph of the grand Féile na nOg promotion.

And recently into the Limerick 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 assistance to the forward power of our county senior hurling selection.

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 intermediate team, but it was actually during his three years in Clonmel that the real class was shown, and he was a very active service, figuring with St. Mary's Club in hurling and with the famed Clonmel Commercial in football. The winner of a South Intermediate Hurling Championship in the St. Mary's colours, it was but the fore-runner to All-Ireland success, when he helped Tipperary win the Premier County senior football title, and soon he was helping Tipperary win the Premier County senior football title.

Tipperary's loss was Limerick's gain when Matt moved to the Metropolitan, and his promotion to the senior panel for the All-Ireland test with his native Nore side is a well deserved and merited move that is widely welcomed by Limerick hurling lovers.

FRANKIE NOLAN

(Patrickswell)

The Nolan twins, Frankie 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 hurling in addition to the diverse other knowledge the good Brothers so capably imparted. They were soon to the fore in school hurling ranks and figured with distinction in winning the local league.

Around the same period, hurling in Patrickswell was enjoying great popularity and at the tender age of ten, the Nolans were sporting the club jerseys in under age competition. They assisted in winning the Ballydown juvenile tournament in 1966 and the City Minor Hurling Championship the following year. In 1969 they won both city and county minor hurling honours.

It is almost a unique position for Frankie to have played five years running in under twenty-one hurling championship competition, winning the city honours on all five occasions and crowning with county success in 1968, good measure, he helped in winning the City Under 21 League in 1968, and the City Under 21 Championship the following year.

Quickly earning promotion to the senior club fifteen, Frankie helped Patrickswell to win the County Hurling Championships of 1969 and 1970. The City divisional senior hurling titles of 1972 and 1974, and he was a member of the club junior team that won the 1970 football championship of city and county.

In Limerick colours he figures in minor and under 21 fiftens before being called to senior ranks in which he has now gained a permanent place, already holding the

2-6 to 0-8) divisional finals. He had gained such confidence by that when South Liberties shortly afterwards won county senior hurling honours, defeating Patrickswell, 4-8 to 2-5, 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 retaining of Limerick's premier Gaelic crown following a lapse of eighty-eight years.

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

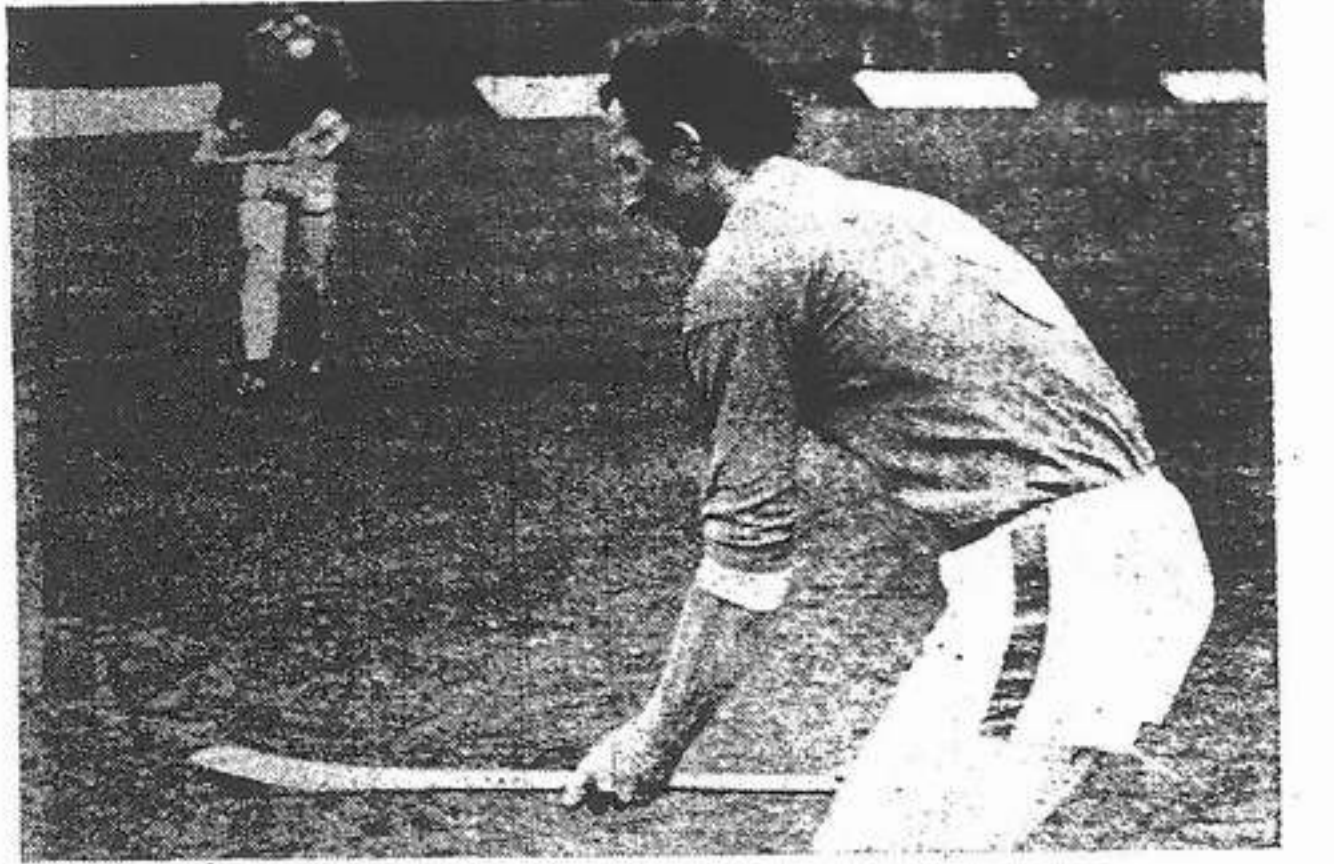
RICHIE BENNIS (Patrickswell) When the hurling annals of 1973 were being reviewed, a leading journalist made this inscription: "How could one possibly pass over that last gasp point by Richie Bennis that won the Munster final for Limerick so dramatically at Tipperary in July. The challenge that confronted 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 other era of this or any other hurling fame in almost identical manner, when he gained 1971 National Hurling League honours for Limerick with the last point of another exciting hour, pointing a tree from a very difficult angle.

Never far from the top of the national scoring charts since Limerick's rise to hurling prominence, Richie Bennis was educated at Lurriga National School, Adare C.B.S. and Limerick Vocational School.

With the latter he had the proud distinction of winning in 1966 the All-Ireland Vocational School Championship, captaining the only Limerick team ever to win this competition. Later he figured on minor junior and under 21 Limerick county hurling sides before making the senior team.

With his club, Richie has won four county senior, hurling, two city senior, and two city and county junior football championship medals, as well as numerous tournament trophies. Richie hit the headlines in winning for Limerick the 1971 National Hurling League title and the 1973 Munster 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 conclude 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 Richie Bennis, and he has the distinctive ginger hair and the almost self-effacing smile. To 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."



Jim O'Brien, the Limerick left corner back.

Mike, who has played in every position in the defence, was member of the London St. Gabriel's Club from 1967 to 1969. He was in South Liberties' senior hurling colours as an outside player in 1971, 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 Galway.

JIM O'DONNELL

(Doon)

The 'sixties saw the emergence of Doon as a powerful force 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, particularly in the under age competitions.

Many fine players naturally came to the surface from all parts of the parish, and East Limerick a natural breeding ground for hurlers of the traditional Limerick mould. A new dimension was added to the hurling power of Sarafeld's County when 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 figured 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 his 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, he joined the Gaelic team, 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 clearance, a particular and colourful feature of his play.

Jim figured in the three National Hurling 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, but he has continued to improve his effectiveness, with the result that in recent outings, he has served mainly from the reserve bench, but yet participated 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, deputising for the injured Pat Hartigan.

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

PAUDIE FITZMAURICE

(Killedee)

The name Fitzmaurice has been an honoured one in Limerick Gaelic ranks over many years. The late Liam Fitzmaurice, N.T., was a pillar of Gaelic thought in his day, 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 additional burden of County Board vice-chairman, an office he filled with quiet dignity and effectiveness.

South of Liam are now carrying on the family Gaelic tradition. Father Willie Fitzmaurice captained the Limerick team in the recent National Hurling League Final, and Father Paudie Fitzmaurice, who helped Limerick win the All-Ireland crown last year, recently added a Munster Senior hurling championship medal to his growing collection. Another brother, Mick, is a pillar of strength in the Killedee club ranks.

He is a pupil of St. Munchin's College, Limerick, for five years, where he played both hurling and football. A colleague of his at the time he was with the side that won the "Liberty" was a young man, who he had a fierce interest in hurling.

Paudie's graduation to Maynooth coincided with the expansion of sporting activities there, and the entry into National competitions. Paudie'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 Paudie again at the helm, and leader also in the scoring charts.

In one game for them, Paudie had the splendid total of eleven points — all scored by that deadly left 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 brothers have been figuring prominently in local Limerick competitions with the home club, Killedee. Frequently, over the past five years, Paudie and older brother, Willie, have made the 800 mile round trip from Maynooth to West Limerick to help their native parish, who boast a "rag's 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 received his early education at Kilmallock national school, later transferring to Rath Luirc C.B.S., with whom he won two Dr. Kilmenee Cup medals (Munster grade "B" 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 in the hurling crowns of 1972 and 1973.

also an active participant in the collection of city and county junior football honours in 1964 and again in 1970. He once more captained the Patrickswell side to win the county senior hurling championship in 1966, and won two further senior hurling county medals with the club in 1969 and 1970, plus two city senior hurling final wins in 1973 and 1974.

One of a family of six brothers all of whom gave distinguished service to hurling, Phil also helped Patrickswell club win important tournament trophies including the storied Duggan Cup, the New Ireland Assurance Company Shield and the Kerryman Cup in football.

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, when he was a member of the side that participated in the four subsequent League campaigns, and it was certainly not his fault that Limerick only won the 1971 of these five final. 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 hurling game and I cannot recall an occasion when any of them could say they mastered the wily 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 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 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 in 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 successes, 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 of some of the other leading Limerick clubs, of their time.

The purchase and development 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 renaissance. Educated at the De La Salle School in Bruff, he got his taste for hurling, and later in the Bruff club colours he was a member of that great combination that won city and county juvenile hurling honours, and later with Fedamore, decided at Cron, proving a most exciting affair.

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 any 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 rugby — at first with the home team, and later in the county 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 disinterest in top class hurling, cost him a place on the All-Ireland victorious panel last year. He is now back, however, in full-time hurling, and he has won the coveted prize, and with a Munster 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 rejoicing in his native parish.

This lad, a hurling product of Lurriga National School, figured in three other firsts with Patrickswell club. He was only a stripling in 1964, a lad of very tender years, when he helped in the winning of city and county juvenile hurling championship laurels. Three years later he was with the side that won the city and county titles in junior hurling. To demonstrate his versatility he was

Now the "father" of the Limerick senior hurling panel, to Phil Bennis fell the proud distinction of captaining the first Patrickswell team to win the county senior hurling championship. It was an emotion-filled moment at Pairc na nGaels on 24th October, 1968, when he was presented with the ornate Sean Daly Memorial Cup which he carried away amidst scenes of almost unparalleled enthusiasm.

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