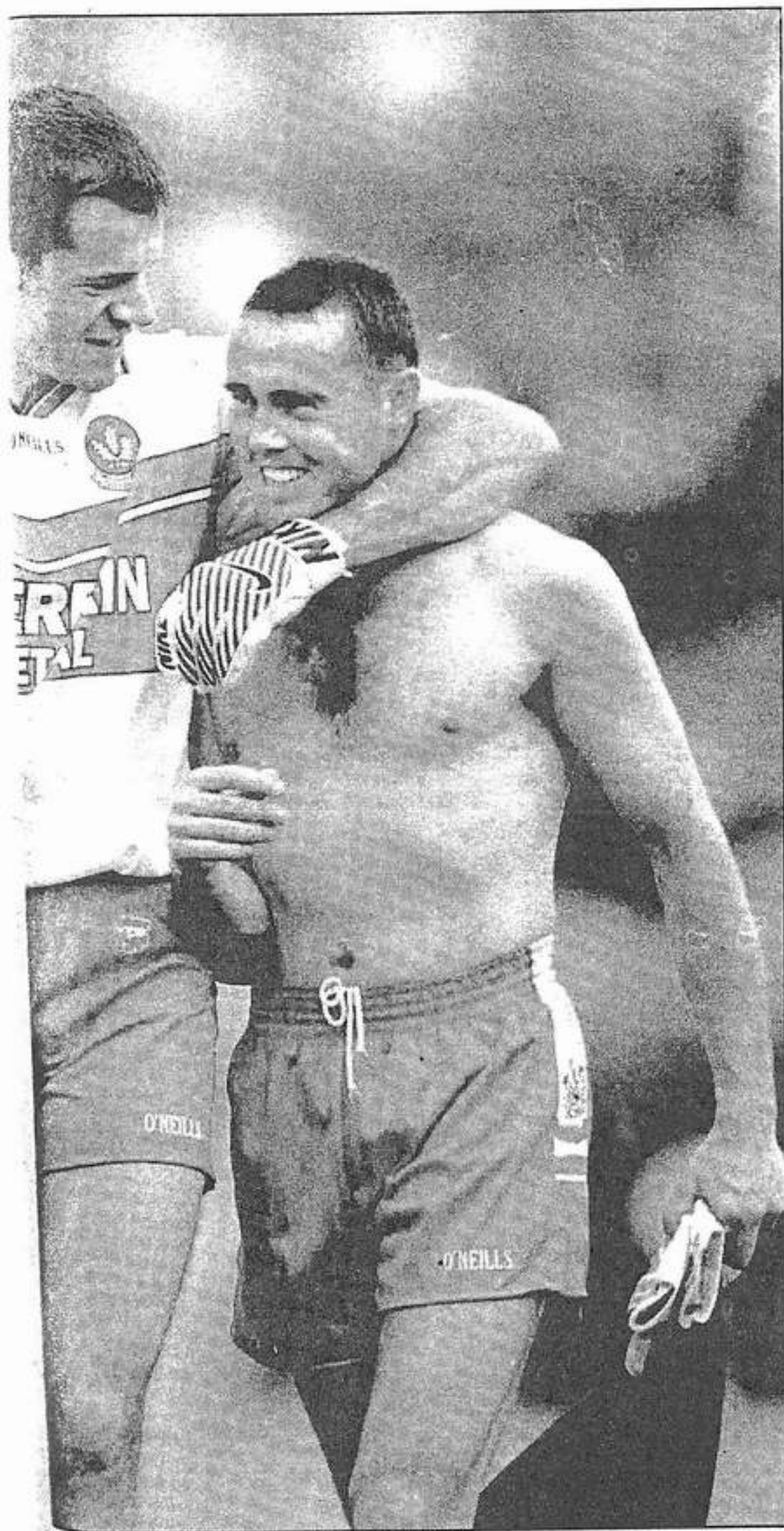


er-finals countdown



Gary Coleman after defeating Cavan. - (Photograph: Sportsfile)

HURLING/Munster Under-21 Final

Limerick cling on to title

THERE was no shortage of excitement and controversy at the Limerick Gaelic Grounds last evening as Mark Keane stole victory for Limerick with a last-gasp point from a controversial free to send them through to the All-Ireland under-21 hurling semi-finals in which they will meet Galway.

The game will be remembered for a dramatic second-half recovery by Tipperary, who had trailed by 10 points at the interval. Inspired by senior player Eoin Kelly, who finished with 2-9, they reduced Limerick's advantage to a solitary point with seven minutes remaining.

Two minutes from the end Lar Corbett went on a daring solo run which ended with him levelling the scores, to the dismay of the huge home support in the 18,000 attendance.

Everything pointed to a second meeting between the counties; but two minutes into injury time, Limerick were awarded a controversial free. After a delay as Tipperary disputed the award, Mark Keane showed nerves of steel in sending over the match-winner.

That point resulted in a dispute in the goalmouth area and referee Ger Harrington of Cork sent off a player from each side.

Limerick, with a smashing goal from Keane after only 90 seconds

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Limerick | 3-14 |
| Tipperary | 2-16 |

play, were very much masters in the opening period with Brian Geary, Stephen Lucey and Peter Lawlor their principal trump cards.

Tipperary, outplayed, relied on Eoin Kelly to keep them within reasonable distance; but they were punished for some slack marking when Seán O'Connor carved an opening for Conor Fitzgerald to net Limerick's second goal on 17 minutes.

The score left the defending champions 2-6 to 0-5 in front, and they stretched their advantage to 2-11 to 0-7 at the break.

Tipperary were rejuvenated at the turnover with Brendan Dunne, Paul Curran and Lar Corbett leading their charge.

LIMERICK: T Houlihan, D Reale, B Carroll, K Bermingham, M O'Riordan, B Geary, W Walsh; S Lucey (0-1), P Lawlor; E Foley (0-1), S O'Connor (0-1), K Tobin (0-2); C Fitzgerald (1-2), N Moran, M Keane (2-7). Sub: M O'Brien for Walsh.

TIPPERARY: D Rabbitte; C Everard, J Devane, C Morrissey, D McGrath, P Curran, B Dunne; K Mulryan, E Brislane; D Shelley (0-1), D Gleeson, E Kelly (2-9); S Butler (0-3), L Corbett (0-2), P McGrath. Subs: P King for D McGrath; C Houlihan (0-1) for P McGrath; S Mason for Mulryan.

Referee: G Harrington (Cork).

GAELIC GAMES/Team news

er win Derry at full strength

By Seán Moran

FOR the first time this season Derry have named an unchanged team. The side that starts next Sunday against Ulster champions Tyrone in Clones will be the same as defeated Cavan in the final All-Ireland qualifier round. There are no injuries troubling manager Eamonn Coleman so the county will be at full strength

Ulster semi-final, Derry have gradually regained their momentum and confidence in the county is high.

Tyrone's management has been forced to leave three vacancies in their starting line-up. Kevin Hughes, Eoin Mulligan and captain Sean Teague are struggling for fitness and their positions in the team are being held open to

string injury during a training session, has also returned to training this week.

One change has been made to the Tyrone team with Chris Lawn taking over at full back while Colin Holmes - the likely replacement for Teague if necessary - switches to left corner back in place of the injured Michael McGee.

ed in the provincial final, you wouldn't know. But Mayo are hard to play against."

The GAA has announced that stand and terrace tickets for the Leath/Westmeath All-Ireland football quarter-final in Croke Park on Friday will go on sale from the ticket office at the rear of the Back Stand today and tomorrow from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.