Friday, August 3, 2001

Page 17

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Ansar hands Galway Hurdle glory to Weld Racing P21



Golf Westwood bounces back P18 Athletics Drugs rock Worlds P19 Soccer Mick's mammoth squad P19 Cliona Foley World of Sport P19

of players realise will do whatever to ensure it's the

Farrell's fourth ublin captain. No imy Carr is happy sergeant at arms. as all the right a natural th great experian inspiration to around him. But k to refute the t he's the finished

I'm continuously he admits. "It's a learning proeach campaign learn more a bit t the players, the even about yourave learned as the gone by but that an that I know it

ng Farrell does sure is that his n't lack for spirit. e the only side to ck in style after a us year's champil play to their full six days later.

go win was very in terms of I confidence parview of the fact ost a match we ive won in the Final against ys Farrell.

e either going to it or go the other e forgotten about year. Thankfully he former.



Tipperary's Eoin Kelly is tackled by Limerick's Sean O'Connor during the Munster U21 hurling final at the Gaelic Grounds, Limerick yesterday Picture: Matt Browne

"It was a combination of things really that enabled us to turn things around. Our attitude was very good after the Meath defeat. Fellas didn't indulge themselves or sulk or anything like that. They were very professional in their attitude and behaviour.

"Plus there's the fact that there's a great passion and desire within the team and we knew we had let the Leinster Final slip by but there was still another opportunity and we were going to avail of it."

The win over Sligo highlighted another positive for Carr's side - their strength in depth. Declan Darcy and Enda Sheehy were introduced to the starting 15 and were among Dublin's best players while all five subs that came on played an important part in the victory also.

"The players who came in did very well and all the subs played great games too. That strength in depth stems from the competition within the panel. There's 25 guys fighting for 15 places and unfortunately some lads are going to be disappointed but when they get their chance they're going to take it.

"We work well as a team but I think that's a characteristic of all the teams that are left in the championship. That they work hard and work collectively."

Teamwork is vital, but it is often the best individual players that separate the best from the rest. It's been Farrell himself who's given

Dublin that kind of edge so far in the championship.

In the past couple of years Farrell has been hampered by injury but now he's back to his very best.

"It was difficult coping with the injuries," he admits. "You know in your heart and soul you're not doing yourself justice and you probably shouldn't be out there on a lot of occa-

"I'm enjoying my football now though and it's great to be injury free. I'm playing well but one swallow never made a summer. Saturday will be the real test."

Tommy Carr's ace pupil should be up to it.

TIPPERARY hurling star Paul Kelly is racing against the clock to be fit for the All Ireland semi-final against Wexford on Sunday week. Midfielder Kelly badly damaged his hamstring while playing for his club and is receiving intensive treatment daily.

The Mullinahone man is rated doubtful by the team manager who are expected to delay announcing their selection for the game to give him every opportunity to declare himself fit.

REIGNING Monaghan champions, Castleblaney, experienced their first championship defeat in almost four years when they suffered a six-point reverse at the hands of a Latton in Aughnamullen last night.

Latton always carried the game to the champions with Finbar Fitzpatrick and Kevin Hughes doing most of the damage up front.

## **MUNSTER U21 FINAL** Luck turns for

Limerick with last-gasp winner

LIMERICK **TIPPERARY** 2-16

Martin Breheny

A TRULY amazing Munster U21 hurling final ended in controversial circumstances at the Gaelic Grounds last night when a disputed stoppage time free, pointed by Limerick's top sniper Mark Keane, earned them a dramatic win and a measure of compensation for the seniors' defeat last Sunday.

The Tipperary players were furious with Cork referee Ger Harrington, claiming that no offence had been committed as Limerick launched a final surge and, in fairness, they seemed to have a decent case. However, Harrington stuck by his decision and Keane, who finished on 2-7, held his nerve to slot over the 25m free.

As the ball sailed high over the bar, an ugly scene erupted in the Tipperary goalmouth as backs and forwards tore into each other in a manner which did neither team any credit.

When peace was eventually restored, the referee dismissed Limerick centre-forward Sean O'Connor and Tipperary left corner-back Kieran Bermingham.

It was an unfortunate end to a great game which attracted a crowd of 18,168. The start was delayed by ten minutes, but with fans from both counties caught in traffic gridlock, they were still streaming in up to the 20th minute, by which time Limerick had established a four point lead.

Tipperary had shot into the lead through an Eoin Kelly pointed free in the first minute to raise hopes which weren't sustained for very long.

Within 50 seconds, Mark Keane whipped home Limerick's first goal to settle his side into a well co-ordinated rhythm which grew into a steam-rolling momentum right through the first half.

Limerick led by 1-4 to 0-4 after 13 minutes but it was evident that if they could get the ball into their opportunist corner-forwards, Keane and Conor Fitzgerald, they had the beating of the Tipperary full-back line.

Brian Geary, Stephen Lucey and Sean O'Connor

worked hard to set up chances for their eager corner-men and the dynamic duo scored 1-6 between them in a blistering second quar-

Limerick led by 2-11 to 0-7 at the interval and seemed certain to heading to an easy retention of the Munster crown, but Tipperary were a totally different proposition in the second half. Inspired by senior star Eoin Kelly, who scored 2-9, they hit 1-5 without reply in the opening 13 minutes of the second half before Mark Keane settled Limerick nerves with his second goal in the 43rd minute.

Kelly whipped home his and Tipp's second goal from a 20m free three minutes later to cut the gap to three points and as Limerick grew increasingly edgy, they were driven deeper and deeper into desperate defence. Tipperary kept popping over points and the recovery was completed by Lar Corbett who whipped over the equaliser in the 59th minute.

It looked odds-on a draw as stalemate presided into injury time but, unlike last Sunday when Limerick enjoyed no luck, fortune smiled on them this time as they won that priceless close-in free which, given Keane's accuracy all evening, was as good as a point.

Thousands of Limerick fans streamed onto the pitch at the end to celebrate a victory which brings some measure of compensation for last Sunday's disappointment.

It was heart-breaking for Tipperary who, after being so comprehensively out-classed in the first-half, out-scored Limerick by 2-9 to 1-3 in the second half.

Limerick now move on to meet Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final at the end of the month.

MAN OF THE MATCH: Mark Keane SCORERS — Limerick: M Keane 2-7 (4f), C Fitzgerald 1-2, K Tobin 0-2, S Lucey, S O'Connor, E Foley (sideline) 0-1 each. Tipperary: E Kelly 2-9 (1-8 f), S Butler 0-3, L Corbett 0-2, D Shelley, C

LIMERICK — T Houlihan; D Reale, B Carroll, K Bermingham; M O'Riordan, B Geary, W Walsh; S Lucey, P Lawlor; E Foley, S O'Connor, K Tobin; C Fitzgerald N Moran, M Keane. Sub: M O'Brien for Walsh (21), P Tobin for Fitzgerald (65) TIPPERARY — D Rabbitte; C Everard, J Devane, C Morrissey, D McGrath, P Curran, B Dunne; K Mulryan, E Brislane; D Shelley, D Gleeson, E Kelly; S Butler, L Corbett, P McGrath. Sub: T King for D McGrath (25), C Houlihan for P McGrath (50), S Mason for Mulryan (61).
REF — G Harrington (Cork)

## ost as Lockhart proves fitness

ning of breathing he was admitted lvin hospital for as since made a very and took a in training this

tions is noon today and at the moment only two candidates have come forward former Fermanagh players Dom Corrigan and Phil Courtney. The process to

Football League has been Enniskillen and also the step up to managing the pushed back into the spring, it isn't quite so urgent that a quick resolution is arrived at. But I still think that the successful

"Because the National football with St Michael's time is right for me to make brought Monaghan club Castleblayney out of the wilderness to win county championships in 1999 and

county team."

Stand and terrace tickets for the Meath v Westmeath Bank of Ireland Senior Championship Quarter

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