

LIMERICK LEADER Sport

Saturday, November 17, 2018
Sports Editor: Donn O'Sullivan

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Drive for Five:
Na Piarsaigh
chase their
fifth Munster
club crown on
Sunday
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On the SS Manhattan in 1936 Limerick team members ; (front row) Jackie Power, Jimmy Close, Tom Shinney, John Mackey, Mick Mackey, Timmy Ryan, Paddy Scanlan, Micky Condon; (back row) County Board V-Chairman Tim Humphries, Ned Cregan, Micky Cross, Paddy McMahon, Mick Hickey, Mick Kennedy, Tommy McCarthy, Garrett Howard, Paddy Clohessy and sec. Denny Lanigan

Boston bound - 82 years on

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LIMERICK'S All-Ireland winners jet out to Boston this weekend to retrace the footsteps of Mick Mackey and the hurling heroes of the 1930s.

This Sunday evening (6.50pm, Irish time), Limerick play Wexford in the semi final of the Fenway Hurling Classic. Victory would see John Kiely's men back in action almost immediately against Clare or Cork in the final of the exhibition at 8.10pm - all games live on TG4.

The Fenway Hurling Classic takes place in famed baseball ground Fenway Park with over 30,000 expected at the home of World Series winners, the Boston Red Sox.

Sunday will be Limerick's first game in the US since the Carrolls All Star Tour of 1974, when then All-Ireland champions Limerick played an All Star selection in San Francisco.

Limerick have played in Boston previously - in 1936!

On that occasion Mick Mackey and team-mates embarked on a month-long US tour with two games in New York and one in Boston.

The New York games were played in Yankee Stadium with over 40,000 attending.

On May 30, 1936 Limerick played a Massachusetts selection in Cambridge, Boston - Limerick were 9-4 to 2-2 winners.

Back 82-years ago, Limerick travelled across the Atlantic ocean on the SS Manhattan from Cobh - a sea journey of six days.

This weekend, Limerick are Boston bound to play in the third Fenway Classic - Galway were 2015 winners and Clare were winners this time last year.

In the Fenway Classic,

each team has 11 players on the pitch and there is no limit to the number of substitutions. The matches will be divided into two halves of 20-minutes. Only goals can be scored - a goal scored from within the defensive zone is equivalent to three points while a goal scored from outside the defensive zone is equivalent to five points.

As well as the on-field activities, Limerick GAA also have a number of fund-raising ventures in the US with events in New York (November 15), Boston (November 18) and Chicago (November 20).

Limerick will be just back from the US tour and thoughts will turn to 2019 with confirmation that the Munster Hurling League is set for a December 14 start.

It was thought that Limerick's January team holiday would rule them out of the early season provincial competition but now the opening game will be a Friday December 14 tie with Tipperary in the Gaelic Grounds.

Under GAA rules Limerick can't undertake any collective training before December 8.

All six Munster counties

are taking part this season, across two groups of three.

Limerick also face Kerry - a game that will be played in early January on return from the team holiday in Mexico.

The top team in each group will advance to the January 13 Munster League final.

Limerick are the defending champions and have reached the last four finals of the early season competition, sponsored by Co-Op Superstores.

Limerick have won their opening round fixture in the Munster Hurling League for each of the last six years.