

ALL-IRELAND SCHOOLS SPORTS: All-round titles for St. Munchin's, Crescent

O'Mara shatters another record

Clips 4.1 seconds off old inter 1,500 metres best

BY CHARLIE MULQUEEN

THERE WERE many outstanding performances at Saturday's All-Ireland Schools and Colleges Championships at Plassey, but from a Limerick point of view, there was nothing to compare with the majestic intermediate boys 1,500 metres victory of 16-year-old Frank O'Mara of St. Munchin's.



FRANK O'MARA

The championships, taking place in Limerick for the first time, were run off splendidly, bearing in mind the mammoth programme to be completed. Furthermore, weather conditions were most disagreeable, with one particularly heavy shower and a most unseasonal chill in the air throughout the day that began with the hammer events at 10 a.m. and continued until well after 6 p.m.

TALKING POINT

Frank O'Mara's brilliant victory in the Inter 1,500 was one of the chief talking points after a fascinating day's sport. He took the initiative straight from the gun, absolutely sprinting to the first bend.

Having won this "mini-contest" with his opponents, O'Mara pulled further and further away, and the only real doubt from the halfway mark rested on the margin of victory.

Well, at the end, he was at least sixty yards in front of his nearest rival, C. Boyle of Carlow C.B.S., and won in a

new record time of 3 mins. 58.4 secs.

This was 4.1 secs. inside the old time, 2 secs. faster than the winning time in the senior grade, and 10 secs. better than runner-up Boyle. Nothing could have been more emphatic, and he would surely have been even faster had there been a suggestion of a challenge... which there most decidedly was not.

BRILLIANT MCCARTHY

Another great St. Munchin's performance was turned in by the brilliant Neil McCarthy, winner of both the Inter long and triple jumps and, with Joe Walsh chipping in with the hammer gold medal as well, it was not at all surprising that St. Munchin's should cruise to overall success in this grade.

It became a truly great day for local colleges when Paul

O'Brien spearheaded Crescent's triumph in the junior boys' all-round section. Young O'Brien triumphed in both sprints and, with Eoin Nolan popping up in 3rd place in the 800 metres, Crescent took overall best, with St. Munchin's 2nd.

Things weren't quite so rosy in the senior section from a Limerick viewpoint, although Gerry Hurley kept St. Munchin's to the forefront by taking the discus with a throw of 39.82 metres, while Crescent's N. Mehl filled 3rd place in the long jump.

DOUBLE FOR EVELYN

The talented St. Mary's Convent girl, Evelyn O'Brien, again confirmed her undoubted promise by pulling off a double in the intermediate long jump (18 ft. 7 1/2 ins.) and the 80 metres hurdles (11.8 secs., equalling the Irish record set by the outstanding Middleton girl, Kathleen Glavin, in 1975).

Limerick's "gold reserves" were further replenished when Mary Corbett from Scoil Carmel threw the intermediate javelin 32.15 metres. Geraldine Shine, of Presentation, thrilled her supporters when bringing off a double in the junior girls' sprints, and another "Pres" competitor, Joan Dooley, took 1st place in the intermediate discus with 35.60 metres, and won a silver in the shot. P. Barrett (St. Mary's) 3rd in the senior shot and discus, and M. Cotter (Abbeyfeale) 2nd in the Inter 1,500 metres, also finished in the prize list, making it a most satisfactory championship from a Limerick viewpoint, and also a pointer to the optimistic forecast for the future of local athletics.

DETAILS

(of events of direct Limerick interest):

Senior boys' discus -- 1, Gerry

Hurley (St. Munchin's), 39.82 metres.

Senior boys' long jump -- 3, N. Mehl (Crescent).

Intermediate boys' pole vault -- 2, M. Dennehy (Glenstal).

Intermediate boys' triple jump -- 1, Neil McCarthy (St. Munchin's), 13.64 metres.

Intermediate boys' long jump -- 1, Neil McCarthy (St. Munchin's).

Intermediate boys' 1,500 metres -- 1, Frank O'Mara (St. Munchin's), 3 mins. 58.4 secs. (record).

Intermediate hammer -- 1, Joe Walsh (St. Munchin's), 49.54 metres.

Intermediate boys' all-round trophy -- 1, St. Munchin's.

Junior boys' 100 and 200 metres -- 1, Paul O'Brien (Crescent), 11.6 secs. and 23.7 secs.

Junior boys' 800 metres -- 3, Eoin Nolan (Crescent).

Junior boys' pole vault -- 2, J. Toomey (Glenstal).

Junior boys' hammer -- 3, D. O'Shea (St. Munchin's).

Junior boys' all-round trophy -- 1, Crescent College Comp.; 2, St. Munchin's.

Senior girls' shot and discus -- 3, P. Barrett (St. Mary's).

Intermediate girls' shot -- 2, Joan Dooley (Presentation).

Intermediate girls' discus -- 1, Joan Dooley (Presentation), 35.60 metres.

Intermediate girls' long jump -- 1, E. O'Brien (St. Mary's), 18 ft. 7 1/2 ins.

Intermediate girls' 1,500 metres -- 2, M. Cotter (Abbeyfeale).

Intermediate girls' 80 metres hurdles -- 1, Evelyn O'Brien (St. Mary's), 11.8 secs.

Intermediate girls' javelin -- 1, M. Corbett (Scoil Carmel), 32.15 metres.

Junior girls' 100 and 200 metres -- 1, G. Shine (Presentation), 12.4 and 25.7.

S.H.: Waterford provide poor opposition

Limerick impress in big win

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