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Limerick Leader

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1962

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SUNDAY'S F.A.I. CUP CLASH

DAVID meets Goliath at the Markets Field! Well might Sunday's "plum" first-round F.A.I. Cup tie be described as youthful Limerick come out to do battle with a side steeped in Cup tradition, and whose sideboard is at the moment adorned with the "pot"—St. Patrick's Athletic.

But this is going to be a battle with a difference, as in this instance it is David that is the fancied one, and general opinion on Shannonside is that the "invaders" will be slain. This is surely the greatest attraction for many "moons," and when Ewan Fenton leads out the homesteaders I expect them to be accorded one of the greatest welcomes ever given a local eleven. I can see all attendance records going by the board, as Limerick has become a soccer crazy city since the draw became known.

Up and down the country this game has been the "big talk" since the draw was made and "fans" from all over will flock to the venue. What a pity, then, that St. Patrick's have refused to allow side-line seats, but still there should be ample room for a large load of Dubinians will travel for the game and some hundreds more will come by car. The Markets Field is in excellent condition following the past three days' good weather, and there will be a special souvenir programme on sale, with a prize of 15 in a raffie on same.

BOTH "CAMPS" HAVE COMPLETED TRAINING

Both "camps" wound up their training last evening, but this far neither side has been fully selected. The holders will not name their eleven until just before the "off" and until they have inspected ground conditions. Limerick have only one doubt—centre-forward, Leo O'Reilly received a nasty knock against Shelbourne two weeks back. He will have a strenuous try-out on the morning of the game and it is more than likely that he will be ready to resume. The former Shamrock Rovers leader is just the man to put the "skids" under this rock-like Pat's defence. Standing by is Martin Clancy, Clancy has been dogged by injury all along the line since he made his senior debut against Drumcondra in the Shield. And even more so in the first half of last week and gave a good account of himself. Limerick will have at least three newcomers to Cup football. Peter O'Halloran will be having only his seventh senior game, but has been performing like a veteran. Joe Casey is a young player of nineteen years of age, must be one of the youngest to sample Cup fare, but he has only to play his normal game to please. He can be one of the homesteaders' "trumps". Dick Butler made a welcome return in recent weeks and his great speed is a great asset on the left flank.

USUAL CUP THRILLS GUARANTEED

All the thrills and excitement which down through the years have made the Cup the great drawing card in the sporting life of the county. All the remaining will seem to be easily solved, but this is one that is going to take more than the ticking of a pin. Of course Limerick will not hear of defeat following that ten-man win over the same opposition, but Cup football is a vastly different proposition. And even more so in the case of St. Pat's, who are steeped in Cup tradition. Twice in the past three seasons they have carried off the trophy, and will be all out to make it with number three. On the other hand we have up and coming Limerick, who have yet to get their name on the coveted trophy, and this is what is going to make it a real thriller. There can be no disputing but that Limerick are the "form" team. They have accounted for the Inchicore side with only ten men, and that when the Dubinians were bang in the running for League leadership. Then last week they pegged the leaders, Cork Celtic, back. They are playing some very good football, and all they need is that extra bit of finish and the Dubinians will have met their match.

WINGEDS DANGEROUS

The home fulls, Joe Casey and Willie Clinton, will really have their hands full in trying to keep Willie Peyton and Ron Whelan in check, but so well have the home pair been playing in recent weeks that they are sure to come out well. Peter O'Halloran has the ability to beat Shay Norris, and the halves, Des McNamara and Ewan Fenton, have yet to disappoint. So it is up to the home attack to lay the "blue print" for victory. And here is where the support from the terraces really counts. Dick O'Connor has been playing like a man inspired in recent weeks, and if there is an improved showing from Eddie Mulvey

Motorcycling

Only for Swanton! Not for the dominating presence in the trials game of the dynamic little Corkman, Declan Swanton, on recent form the Limerick pair, Gerry Lennon and Mick O'Brien would be ruling the roost in the southwest. But right now young Swanton has achieved being unbeatable; he did it again last Sunday in round three of the current series of invitation trials. Thus Swanton has been scratch winner in all three events in the series so far. And in the last two years he has either won, or been one of the best Munster riders in every trial in which he rode. Sunday's event, proposed by the Munster M.C.C. at Yarnon Mount, Cork, attracted a good entry of 14, including five from Limerick and two from Kilkenny. Lennon and O'Brien rode a first, second and third place behind Swanton (Norman). Phil Heelan who on recent scratch did form, was expected to finish out of the picture due to minor trouble with his Triumph, which delayed him a little. Unfortunately, the other two Limerickers who competed—Huddy Bird (B.M.A.) and Lionel Watts (James) were a number among the numerous retirementists.

LATEST BETTING ON THE CUP

Despite last week's results, there is no change in the ante-post odds being offered on the Cup by bookmaker Malachy Skelly, and the following are the prices as we approach the first round:

Cork Celtic	3/1	Bohemians	100/8
Shamrock Rovers	4/1	Dundalk	100/8
Drumcondra	5/1	Transport	33/1
Shelbourne	6/1	Silgo Rovers	33/1
Cork Hibernians	100/8	Workmen's Club	50/1
Limerick	10/1	Langford	50/1
St. Pat's	100/8	Pike Rovers	50/1
Waterford	100/8	Ringmahon	50/1



Player-coach Ewan Fenton, who has "made" this Limerick side. Since joining the Shamrodders from Blackpool, with whom he won a Cup medal, Ewan has missed only one game in two seasons—that against St. Pat's. In the final League tie last term. When asked to comment on the side's chances to-day, Ewan said: "I feel we have a good 50-50 chance, and home support should give us a slight edge."

Public Opinion . . .

DURING the week I sought the views of several local supporters of the game, and almost to a man they have "plumped" for a home win. Main viewpoint expressed was that if Limerick can win with ten men, then there is nothing to suggest that they can't do so with their full complement. Here are some of the comments I heard:

One of the first people I met was the former right-back of the Shield-winning side, John Neilan. John, still as unassuming as ever, is son of "Phonie" Neilan who captained Young Munster when they won the Balcman Cup in 1928 and is uncle of the Limerick inside-left Al Finucane. He will be remembered for many sterling displays in the last line of defence but was also a great goal grabber with his fierce drives and was rated by many as the luckiest not to have been honoured. I asked John what he thought of Sunday's clash and he told me: "The side are playing very well and deserve the honours. I think they will win on Sunday but even if they don't they should develop into a first-class combination in a few years time." While with John I asked him what was the best side he had played on the Shield in '33 were the best Limerick Cup side I have seen or played on and we were very happy that year not to have got the better of Cork Athletic in the semi-final, having ousted the holders, Drumcondra, in the second round after two re-plays. Well, perhaps, so, John, but your side certainly put Limerick soccer on the map when you captured the first trophy.

Next I met a man who has returned to Limerick following a sojourn in Dublin and he is looking many thanks to his name. Mr. Paddy Quinn, Head Chef at Messrs. Garry's New Hotel at Thomas Street, Paddy told me that he has seen Limerick in Dublin this season and added: "They are playing better football than any other side in the League. The position in the table at the moment is a very false one and I think that they should win on Sunday." The man who has never missed a game of the Shamrock Rovers and Tom told me: "I feel that if Limerick can manage an early goal in the Cup this year they are a young and promising side who ought to have a very good future."

A man who has never missed a game of the Shamrock Rovers and Tom told me: "I feel that if Limerick can manage an early goal in the Cup this year they are a young and promising side who ought to have a very good future."

When Limerick came out of the hat first in season 1950 it was their first home tie in eight years and an exceptionally large crowd turned up to see them play Bohemians. But my, what a shock they received as Limerick crashed defeat. Again, the following year they came out of the hat first and this time fared better when accounting for A.O.H. The second round tie sparked off one of the most controversial incidents of all time when at the home left-back, Joe Casey, failed to convert a penalty 13 minutes from time against Cork Athletic and the crowd invaded the pitch. The replay was ordered for Dalymount Park and again the side finished on level terms (1-1). At the third attempt the Corkmen trounced the Shamrodders 5-1 at the Mar-duke.

Limerick's record in recent Cup ties

The following year was one of the most successful campaigns ever for the Shamrodders. In the opening round they drew 2-2 away to Bohemians and ran riot in the return tie to the tune of 3-1. Then came three hectic second-round re-plays with Longford Town before Limerick qualified for their first semi-final. Then they met Ratch Carter powered Cork Athletic and it was only late in the game that they lost the initiative and went out by the odd goal of three. The Limerick team that day was: O'Dwyer, Nellor (G.), O'Grady; Aherne, O'Grady, Neilan (B.); Cronin, Collopy (scorer), Bradley, Cusack and Hayes. The following year, Limerick again put up a good show when they went under by a harsh penalty to Evergreen in the opening round. One of the worst performances ever was given in '55 when they went out meekly to Transport (3-1).

'NOT GOING DOWN THERE TO LOSE'

—SECRETARY, ST. PATS.

St. Patrick's Athletic will not select their side until they arrive at the Markets Field on Sunday, and not before they have inspected the ground conditions. They have named a panel of thirteen.

I spoke to Mr. W. McCormack, Secretary of the Inchicore Club, and he told me that they always look upon every game as a new test. When asked who was their veteran he told me that goalkeeper Dinny Lewry joined them as a youth of twelve and has now completed fourteen years with the club. Another long-serving member is the ever-popular "Ginger" O'Rourke, who has given eight years service. I pressed him for his comments as to the probable outcome and as a parting shot he said: "We are not going down there to lose."

No side-line seats— "Pat's" object!

The Sports Editor, "Limerick Leader" Dear Sir—F.A.I. Cup, first round, Limerick v. St. Patrick's Athletic. I regret to inform you that the arrangements made by Limerick A.F.C. for touch-line accommodation at the Markets Field on Sunday next, 18th inst., have now been cancelled.

This cancellation arises from a letter received by our Hon. Secretary, Mr. T. J. McGowan from Mr. Joseph I. Wickham, Secretary, F.A.I. I attach for publication a copy of Mr. Wickham's letter.

Yours faithfully, M. K. WALLACE, Press Officer.

THE LETTER

Dear Mr. McGowan: I received a letter from St. Patrick's Athletic stating that they had been informed unofficially of your installing touch-line accommodation at the Markets Field for the F.A.I. Cup tie on Sunday next. They further stated that if this information is correct their Club was refusing to agree to such arrangements which would be contrary to Rule 15, Part 2, dealing with private grounds. They requested that I should bring this matter before a meeting of the Emergency Committee, which they knew I was holding on last night, for a decision to obviate any misconception by your Club on this matter.

The Committee, having considered the matter decided I should notify you of the receipt of this objection by St. Patrick's Athletic A.F.C. and that the Committee recommended that, in the interests of all concerned, touch-line seats be used in this Cup tie.

With all best wishes for a good day and a bumper crowd. Yours sincerely, JOSEPH I. WICKHAM, Secretary, F.A.I.

To-Day's Racing Results

CATTERICK BRIDGE	
20-	RAHENO (20 1)
10-	Who You (16 1)
10-	Phosphate (100 8)
Pennington 9 1/2, 11 two.	
HURST	
200-	RATTLE (2 1)
10-	Le Capitaine II (20 1)
10-	Cardinal's Drum (100 8)
10 ran.	

Former Limerick star centre-half, Gerry McCarthy, will be in the last line of defence for Waterford against Cork Hibernians. Gerry is hoping that the two "Blues" win. He will be marking another former Limerick star, Donnie Wallace.

F.A.I. CUP (First Round)

LIMERICK

ST. PATRICK'S ATHLETIC

(HOLDERS)

Markets Field, Sunday Next, 3.30

ADMISSION SCHOOLBOYS, 1/- 2 6. 2/-



EDDIE MULVEY (Inside-right) Eddie joined the "Blues" from Blackpool and though he is up at 35 he has been the great partner for O'Connor. He has carried on just what the doctor ordered by putting his head and shoulders into the game. Let's hope he does just that on Sunday. Eddie is aged 31.



LEO O'REILLY (Centre-forward) When Leo O'Reilly was transferred to Limerick in season '55 he was an immediate success. This year since being released he has shown all the signs of a player who will keep his place in the team. A pity that the winter has played his first part in the season's progress and that he has had to give a rest to the time in game. No. 11 is aged 24.



MARTIN CLANCY (Centre-half) A young player who has shown all the signs of a player who will keep his place in the team. A pity that the winter has played his first part in the season's progress and that he has had to give a rest to the time in game. No. 11 is aged 24.



DICK BUTLER (Outside-right) The 19 1/2 year old player who has shown all the signs of a player who will keep his place in the team. A pity that the winter has played his first part in the season's progress and that he has had to give a rest to the time in game. No. 11 is aged 24.



AL FINUCANE (Inside-left) A young player who has shown all the signs of a player who will keep his place in the team. A pity that the winter has played his first part in the season's progress and that he has had to give a rest to the time in game. No. 11 is aged 24.



DICK O'CONNOR (Centre-half) Dick has become one of the top wingers in the country since the start of the year and his speed and shooting power mark the former Galamban player as one of the most promising members of the side. Dick is 24.



MALACHY SKELLY (Goalkeeper) Malachy Skelly, who has become one of the most consistent net men in the country. He gained a Cup medal with the locals in playing better than ever this term. Aged 25.



WILLIE CLINTON (Right-back) Willie Clinton (Right-back) is former inside forward for Drumcondra has been in tip-top form all season. He was used at an early stage when teams met in the League two weeks back. In his fifth season with the Club, Willie is aged 28.



JOE CASEY (Left-back) Joe Casey (Left-back) is a young player of nineteen years of age, must be one of the youngest to sample Cup fare, but he has only to play his normal game to please. He can be one of the homesteaders' "trumps".



DES McNAMARA (Right Half-back) Another to come from Pike Rovers to Limerick and has come under the guidance of Ewan Fenton. Has one Inter-League cap and is aged 24.



PETER O'HALLORAN (Centre Half-back) Peter O'Halloran will be having only his seventh senior game on Sunday and will be new to Cup fare. Peter took over from Tony Brosnahan and has been playing like a veteran in recent weeks. He is an ex-Ballymahon player and is aged 19 1/2.



DICK O'CONNOR (Outside-right) Dick has become one of the top wingers in the country since the start of the year and his speed and shooting power mark the former Galamban player as one of the most promising members of the side. Dick is 24.

WOOD!

FOR QUALITY AND FLAVOUR

FROM THE THAT'S GOOD

Phone: Kilmallock 5. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.