

Pike had convincing win over Longford Town

(By Des Hanrahan)

Pike Rovers, 2; Longford Town, 1.

(Hackett and Costelloe)

(Doddrell)

WHAT price Pike Rovers now for the F.A.I. Cup? Before yesterday's 2-1 win over Longford Town, you could have had 500/1, but I'll not be surprised in the slightest if one of the noughts is missing when Malachy Skelly's lists next appear.

But let's face it, this was not Cup-winning form! Good as Pike may have looked against the Leinster League side, the full-back line was very suspect. And we cannot forget that Shelbourne, their second-round rivals at the Markets Field next Sunday week, have a pair of wingers that can play havoc with most defences.

Michael Bennis did not do at all badly, but J. Jacques, ex-Waterford, appeared to be out of his depth at left-back. He had a very disappointing afternoon. Pike played most attractively at times, but they took fully 25 minutes to get going. They cannot afford to make such a quiet beginning against the "Reds". A good forward line would have riddled their defence in the initial stages yesterday.

Now to the brighter side. The man of the match? Without shadow of doubt, Pat Casey. From the inside-right position he did tropen work, both in attack and defence, was quite the most skilful player on view.

EXCELLENT GAME

Brought Jack Hunt had an excellent game at right-half, and I give high marks to Paul Crooke, Sean O'Dwyer and goalkeeper Edmund O'Connor for their work, particularly in the closing minutes, when Longford rallied and came near forcing a re-play.

Pike, as in most of their matches this season, appeared to tire near the finish. It cannot be too soon of finding it was there for all to see for three parts of the game that Steve Kough and coach Timmy Cunneen have improved the team out of all bounds.

JUNIOR CUP STALEMATE

Extra time fails to decide first round re-plays

(By Our Rugby Correspondent)

TWO Munster Junior Cup first-round re-plays failed to bring about a decision yesterday, even though extra time was played in both instances. At Thomond Park, a last-minute try earned Garryowen a 6-all draw with St. Mary's, while Shannon, the holders, had to come from behind to draw with Richmond at 3-all.

GARRYOWEN 6 pts. ST. MARY'S 6 pts. A beautifully executed try in the last minute of actual time gave Garryowen a division of the spoils in this Munster Junior Cup game at Thomond Park yesterday. With St. Mary's leading 6-3, Garryowen out-half Pergus Walsh threw a long touch ball out to towering centre Matty McHugh. He made a half-break and sent wing Derry O'Donovan racing over the line for the equaliser. McHugh failed with the difficult goal kick, the final whistle

second it looked as if neither defence would be pierced. However, ten minutes from the end, Richmond fished the ball along their back line to M. Slattery, who dived over for a fine try. However, Richmond's jubilation was short-lived for four minutes later Shannon held the ball under the Richmond posts and trapped the offside. Garry O'Connell kicked the easy goal. In extra time, Shannon did most of the pressing, and went very



Gay Tobin slams the ball past Longford Town's full-back, Brendan Williams, at the Markets Field yesterday. Up in support is Paddy Hackett.

Brendan Williams and Michael Murphy worked hardest in defence, but it was only in the last 20 minutes that the forwards looked like getting anywhere. The left-winger, Jimmy Doddrell, was exceptionally dangerous and Jimmy Redmond and John Byrne, too, made the home defence sit up.

THE GOALS

Longford goalkeeper, Dessie Meagher, was slowed down through injury after 30 minutes, when Pike scored their first goal. Their right-back, Andy Fitzgerald, who moved into the attack when the homesters were 2-up, was also in the "wars" and of little assistance to the side in the last 20 minutes.

Pike led in the 32nd minute when Costelloe turned the ball right across the Longford goals to Paddy Hackett, and the inside-left was able to pick his spot with Meagher on the ground. Five minutes after the interval Casey and Tobin combined for Costelloe to put the finishing touches for Pike's second goal. Six minutes from the end Doddrell got Longford's consolation goal.

Pike Rovers: E. O'Connor; M. Bennett, J. Jacques, J. Hunt, P. Crooke, P. O'Dwyer, E. Costelloe, P. Casey (capt.), G. Tobin, P. Hackett, E. O'Donovan. Longford Town: D. Meagher, A. Fitzgerald, B. Williams, C. Doddrell, M. Murphy, E. Marshall, John Byrne, Joe Byrne, J. Redmond, B. Cruise, J. Doddrell. Referee, J. G. Igne (Dublin).

Came back LIMERICK DRUM

Drum Two goals down looked as if Lin however, they levelled the second half finish.

But while there was a of excitement, the final never really in doubt as to rick struck the front the perished Drums men answer and in the ending margin could have 1 greater.

Only non-local resident day's XI was right but Clinton. The side show changes from that which under so disappointingly Patrick's Athletic in the and all three played cor Indeed, Kevin Fitzpatrick great game between the brought off several first and his fielding was a front of him Joe Casey, his ties with Ray Ke again the veteran Limerick came out on top.

JOHNSON IN GOOD Frank Johnson return left wing and his neat often bag Bunny Puhani. He sent across some centre and "made" a for Eddie Mulvey. Marri came on for Leo O'Reilly of the line and though Sean Smyth a little too the air, he did quite we ground.

HALVES AGAIN IN Limerick's half line at considerably on their diap previous week and Pet, loran, in the middle, got an amount of very good w Kenton and Des McNam very sound and gave th plenty of the ball.

O'CONNOR AGAIN S Up front it was anoth day for Dick O'Conn winger gave a really on display and gave Alf G complete "run-around" scored the best goal of when he gathered from Namara and slammed p ply with only five rem naining Al Finucane, t back to his true form gr up two goals, while Ead also did well.

BEST FOR DRUM For Drumcentre, with four aspirations received toll by this setback, r Murphy made some ge Only defenders of the Smyth and Rowe, while the sick were Help. Morrissey.

STORY OF THE GA Drumcentre took the the 7th minute when Ro caught a pass from P Finucane, passed to s who pushed the ball on t and the centre forward a Patrick no chance with low shot. Six minutes later, it lowed a pass from Mac

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