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Limerick Leader

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1965

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GRIPPING F.A.I. CUP FINAL

Unbackable Shamrocks' had fright of their lives

Handicapped Limerick well worth second chance

Mick Doyle will see re-play

SHAMROCK ROVERS 1 : LIMERICK 1
(Noel Dunne) (Eddie Mulvey)
(ATTENDANCE, 23,000—RECEIPTS, £5,050)

ONE of the unluckiest players in League of Ireland football—if not in the world—Limerick's amateur international left-winger, Michael Doyle, a hospital case since midway in this gripping F.A.I. Cup-tie at Dalymount Park yesterday, will see Wednesday's re-play (kick-off, 8 p.m.) at the same venue. From the Mater Hospital, Dublin, to-day, I learned that Doyle, bedded with a fractured leg for the fourth time in five years, is "comfortable" and that he will be discharged after final X-rays to-morrow.

One can only hope at this stage, though, that his football days are no over, for there can be little doubt that had Doyle been available for the ninety minutes, unbackable Shamrock Rovers would not be getting a second chance.

Michael Doyle's injury was a cruel blow to Limerick's hopes of winning the trophy for the first time. Up to the 42nd minute of the first half the Shamrocks were going "great guns," and with the backing of the strong breeze to come in the second half, it looked odds-on Ewan Fenton and company turning up trumps.

Doyle's injury, however, and his removal to hospital with a very badly shattered shin bone, fairly silenced the thousands of Limerick supporters, who were in tremendous form up to then. That Denis Linnane was, by rule introduced last season, able to take the left-winger's place was a source of consolation, but how could the

make Shamrock Rovers, including five internationals, look a very ordinary side, indeed. And that is exactly what happened! Seven times "capped" Liam Tuohy won the toss and elected to play with the gale. Shamrock Rovers goalkeeper Mick Smyth, with mighty clearances, sent the ball over the Limerick back line twice. Limerick looked to be in trouble. But as time wore on, it became obvious that the confidence Ewan Fenton had expressed all along the line was not without foundation. At half-time all Rovers could point to were a pair of over-the-bar misses by Liam Tuohy (6th minute) and Ronnie Nolan (41st).

Keogh three minutes before the interval it was there for all to see that his left shin was smashed. A silence came over the crowd as doctors, first-aid men and many well-wishers rushed to his assistance. He was given an ovation as he was placed on a stretcher and taken from the ground.

By a margin of two minutes—the rule allows substitution up to the 44th minute—Denis Linnane was able to come on as deputy left-winger. Seconds after Linnane had taken his place, Limerick right-half Al Finucane, and Rovers inside-right, Jackie Mooney were involved in a head-on clash. However, they were able to resume after on-the-spot treatment.

GOAL DISALLOWED Inside ten minutes of the second-half, Limerick could have been two up. They had a goal disallowed (Sean Cooke's camera evidence on this page supports referee Sammy Spillane's decision) in the 8th minute, when Dick O'Rourke, placed by "Ginger" O'Rourke, floated the ball into Rovers' goalmouth. But Mitchell and Mulvey in their anxiety to put on the finishing touches, fairly bundled goalkeeper, Mick Smyth, minus the ball, over the line. The movement was well worth a score.

NO WORRIES

In the first half, Limerick, thanks to the power-packed play of Al Finucane, Des McNamara, Ewan Fenton, Vinny Quinn and forwards Peter Mitchell, Dick O'Connor and Mick Doyle, had as much of the play, Doyle and Mulvey were near with headers.

Normally when a team are playing into a gale, half-time cannot come quickly enough for their supporters. But there were so few anxious moments in the first forty-five minutes at the Limerick end, that it was the "Hoops" followers who were doing all the watch scanning.

When Michael Doyle clashed with Rovers' right-back, John Shamrock Rovers' right-full, John Keogh, beats Limerick men Eddie Mulvey and Dick O'Connor in a race to the ball in yesterday's F.A.I. Cup final game at Dalymount Park.

Two minutes later Rovers centre-half, Tom Farrell, scrambled the ball away, as Mulvey, Linnane and Mitchell were endeavouring to drive it to the target.

It was all Limerick for some more minutes. Then, however, in a surprise breakthrough, Frank O'Neill, as happened a few times in the first half, showed Joe Casey a clean pair of heels. The winger's centre stretched right across the Limerick goal and, with Kevin Fitzpatrick on the ground, Rovers' centre-forward Noel Dunne, who had moved to the left wing, changing places with

Report by Des Hanrahan. Pictures by Sean Cooke.

Tuohy, returned the ball. For all the world it looked like a centre, but to the amazement of supporters and players the ball went in to the net off the far upright.

IN TEARS Rovers were one up and one could be forgiven for thinking that Limerick would fall to pieces. This shock on top of

taken care of with the utmost confidence.

I thought right-half Al Finucane best player on the field. His was a tremendous performance, a display that had class, power and authority written all over it. More than once I had the feeling that he might even score and three of his solo runs provided the highlight of "an afternoon packed with excitement. I am not at all surprised that Finucane has been asked to have his passport in readiness in case he is required for action in Cagliari. The League of Ireland team (Dublin Selected) playing Cagliari leave on Thursday morning, less than twelve hours after Wednesday's F.A.I. Cup replay. Joe Casey, a lion-hearted player, now in the twilight of his career, did trojan work in defence, but Rovers right-winger, Frank O'Neill with an age advantage of some fifteen years, had his measure when it came to putting down the accelerator. It was lucky for Limerick that Rovers did not capitalise on this and concentrated, instead, on "feeding" the left wing.

A TRIBUTE

That Shamrock Rovers switched centre-forward Noel Dunne to left wing and moved Liam Tuohy into the number 9 spot is proof of how well Ewan Fenton played. This was one of Fenton's best displays since joining the Shamrocks in August, 1960. That danger-man Jackie Mooney was just as subdued as Dunne and Tuohy were is evidence that Limerick left-half, Des McNamara, too, got through a very solid day's work. While he was not as constructive as he had been against Drumcondra, McNamara, nevertheless, did a very fine job. Anyway, with the wind playing tricks with the ball, it was not easy to find a man with every pass.

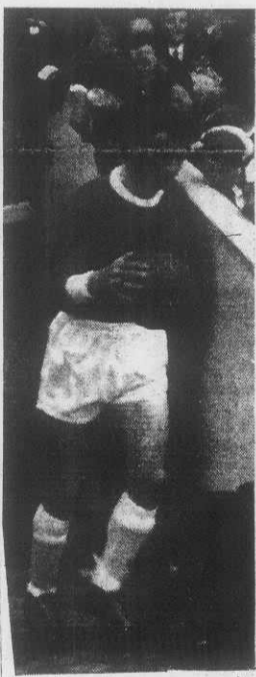
Limerick's right back, Vinny Quinn, is a rising star. Pitted against the experienced Liam Tuohy—hero of seven international and 21 inter-league games, plus countless first division appearances—Newcastle United—he was coolness personified. Marking Tuohy was a man-sized job, but young Quinn, the "babe" of the side, took time off to assist the attack.

Rovers inter-league centre-half Tom Farrell will remember his duels with Limerick's dashing centre-forward Peter Mitchell—best forward of the eleven on view. Mitchell chased every ball, his distribution was first-class, and a back-heel effort that landed on "Ginger" O'Rourke's toe was that extra touch of class that we have come to expect from this ex-Rovers discard.

Dick O'Connor, in the order of merit, must come a good second to Mitchell. He gave an eye-opening performance against Pat Courtney and in the first half, in particular, had the Rovers defenders in a state of jitters. Dick was switched to the other wing in the second half in the hope of bringing Denis Linnane more prominently into the picture and continued to star.

RUN-ROUND

Michael Doyle, up to the time



From Wembley to Dalymount Park, with a gap of twelve years in between, was how Limerick player-manager Ewan Fenton was playing it on Sunday as he took the field, hoping to add a Football Association of Ireland Cup medal to the English Cup medal which he won with Blackpool in 1953.

of his injury, had starred, too, and it was tragic that he should suffer his fourth leg break at a time when he was giving the highly-rated John Keogh the run-round. Eddie Mulvey and the other inside man, "Ginger" O'Rourke, without being as spectacular as

they had been against Drumcondra, were triers all the way. Limerick's deputy left-winger, Denis Linnane was playing out of position and could not be expected to shine, but he gave of his best and no more could be expected of him.

SHORE-HUGGING

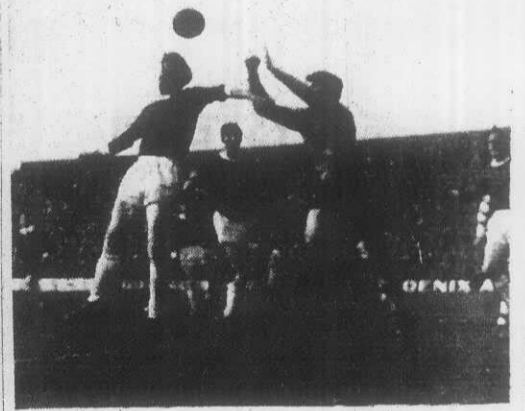
Shamrock Rovers goalkeeper Mick Smyth did not inspire confidence. Ronnie Nolan and Tom Farrell were best of a defence that did a deal of short-hugging. I cannot remember a Rovers team that used the sideline so often.

Right winger Frank O'Neill was the only "home" forward who looked capable of beating the Limerick defence. Jackie Mooney and Johnny Fullam were blotted right out of the picture and Noel Dunne and Liam Tuohy too, failed to inspire confidence. Fullam finished the game in his best position, left-half.

Dunne scored Rovers' 18th minute after the interval. From

Gallant Limerick, who covered themselves in glory at Dalymount Park yesterday before 23,000 (gate receipts, £5,050), when, in their first appearance in the final of the F.A.I. Cup, they drew 1-1 with 15 times winners Shamrock Rvs. Front row (l. to r.): Dick O'Connor, Eddie Mulvey (scorer), Peter Mitchell, Paddy "Ginger" O'Rourke and Michael Doyle; and back (l. to r.): Vinny Quinn, Al Finucane, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Ewan Fenton, Des McNamara and Joe Casey.

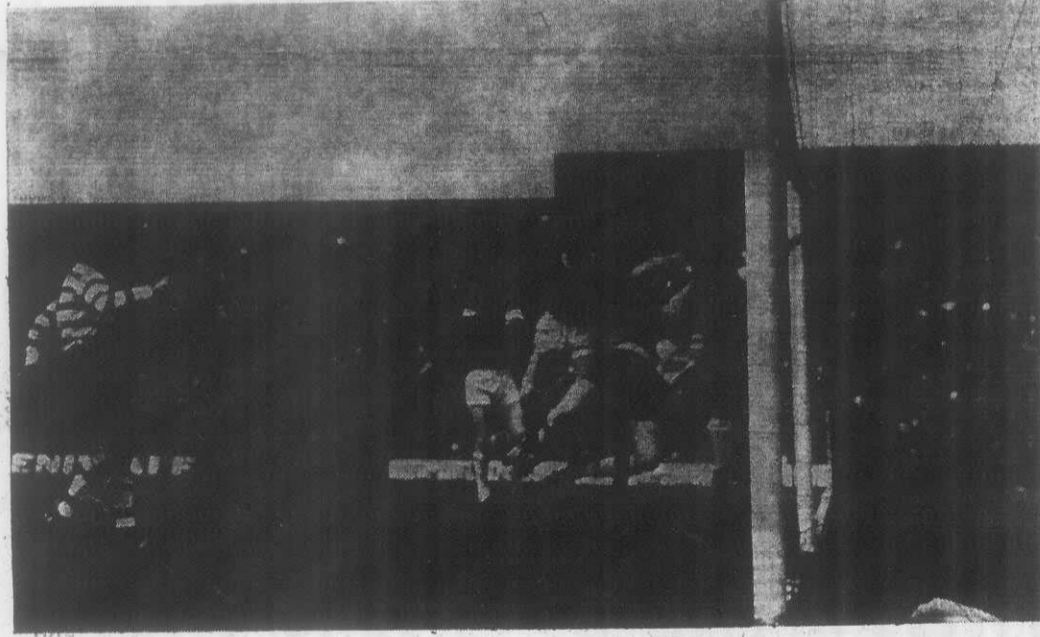
Fenton's indirect free kick equalised nineteen minutes from the end. Shamrock Rovers: Scott Keogh, Courtney Nolan, Peter Mitchell, Vinny Quinn, Liam Tuohy, Limerick—Fitzpatrick, Casey, Finucane, Fenton, McNamara, O'Connor, Mitchell, O'Rourke, Doyle, Dunne. Limerick for Doyle (injured) Referee: Mr. S. Spillane.



Skipper Ewan Fenton heads the ball in a goalmouth incident despite the strong challenge of Rovers goalkeeper, Mick Smyth.

LATE PREPAID

LOST on Friday evening in vicinity of St. Joseph's, Edward Street, small white Terrier, with collar on neck. Answers to "Butch". Reward returned to 5 Greenman Villa, St. Joseph Street. WANTED: immediately, a qualified hairdresser, App. Box 653. ACCOMMODATION: in 40 Greenman Avenue, for one gentleman, private room; bed and bath; £2-15s. Monday to Friday, no others kept. Box 4708. FOR sale: 1962 Jameson, p.m.o., only £550. 2nd hand owner buying car. £40. Ring 44156 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. WANTED to rent: House, unfurnished. Give details to Box A1080.

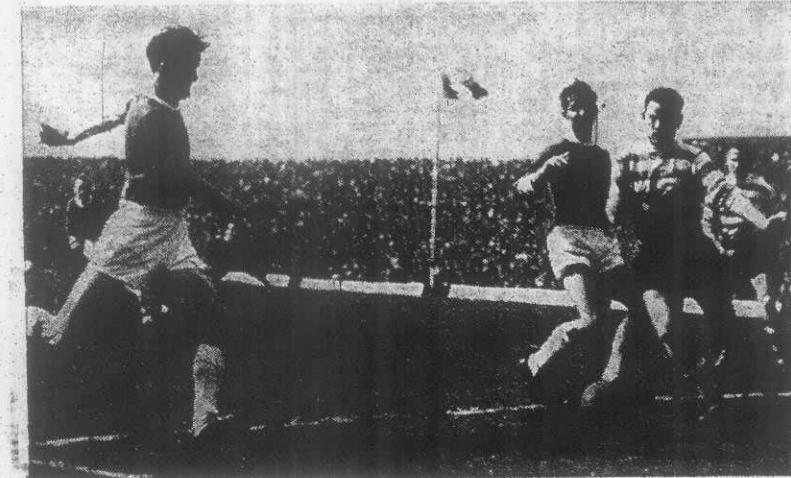


Limerick's disallowed goal... the ball, centred by Dick O'Connor, floats into Shamrock Rovers net as goalkeeper Mick Smyth is "buried" by Limerick centre-forward Peter Mitchell and Eddie Mulvey. Denis Linnane is also in picture and on left Rovers left-back Pat Courtney.

substitute be expected to shine in a position completely new to him?

SADLY MISSED Denis was not a success, but it was not for want of trying, and when he was switched with right-winger Dick O'Connor he did not spare himself, but it was very apparent that Doyle was sadly missed.

Even if they lose the replay, Ewan Fenton and his men will have emblazoned their names on the history of the competition for all time. While Shamrock supporters travelled in their thousands, few really expected to see their favourites



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