

FAIRVIEW MAKE SOCCER HISTORY

At last a Limerick win in F.A.I. Junior Cup final

Seamus McCarthy the match-winner

by DES HANRAHAN

FAIRVIEW RANGERS (Limerick) 3
(S McCarthy, 2; G. Power)

DOUGLAS (Cork) 1
(F Sullivan)

WITH nine of the side that won under 13 cup honours with the club in 1956, Fairview Rangers, at the Markets Field yesterday, before a big attendance (receipts £275), made local soccer history by becoming the first Limerick club to win the F.A.I. Junior Cup. Martin Cowhey and Sean Lipper, who trained the side, are to be heartily congratulated. Fairview could not have been more clear-cut winners.

Fairview's win in this replay was not unexpected. However, few could have anticipated that the local side would be so dominant. Apart from the first fifteen minutes, during which they squandered a couple of good chances, Douglas were made look a very mediocre side indeed and in the end were lucky to escape with only a 3-1 beating.

This was a remarkable achievement by the winners, who are only in junior football since season 1960-61. One has to see the hopelessly inadequate training facilities available to the club to fully appreciate the wonderful work that is being done by the committee of the club.

MCCARTHY OUTSTANDING

Right winger Seamus McCarthy, a former youths international, was the outstanding figure. On top of scoring two great goals he gave an outstanding display, showing excellent speed and timing, his centres beautifully. A cross-Channel scout at the game was very impressed by McCarthy's performance but unfortunately he came to Limerick in the hope of seeing a promising back.

With the exception of Pat O'Dwyer and Eamonn Dillon, all the other Fairview players have been with the club for the past ten seasons. Michael O'Connell, George Hehir, Tony Meehan, Gerard Power, Eamonn Heffernan, Seamus McCarthy, Sean Byrnes, Pat Ryan and Sean O'Connor were members of an under 13 side that were almost unbeatable.

In yesterday's game Fairview showed themselves very strong on the right side of the field. George Hehir (2), Gerard Power (4) and Pat O'Dwyer (8) and Seamus McCarthy (7) had a grand understanding, and with captain Sean Byrnes leading the attack with rare dash and considerable skill, success for Fairview was inevitable. The other members of the attack, Pat Ryan and Sean O'Connor, also shone.

Douglas were counting on Jimmy Kelly, ex-Albert Rovers, and one of the most seasoned players in Munster soccer, to crack the home defence, but he was well and truly mastered by Eamonn Heffernan. Fairview left back, Tony Meehan,

was, marking the losers' best forward, Billy Bird, and acquitted himself with distinction. Left half-back, Eamonn Dillon, and goalkeeper Michael O'Connell completed the Fairview side and helped to make it a team of balance and considerable power.

LOST WINGER

Douglas lost right winger, Bird, in the 42nd minute, but at that stage they were trailing by two goals. Pat Walsh, in accordance with the new substitute rule, replaced Bird, but by this time Fairview had their tails up and were coasting to victory.

The pick of the Douglas team were goalkeeper Dan O'Leary, Finbarr Sullivan, James Forde, Billy Bird and left winger Gerald Barry, a son of former Irish rugby selector, Dave Barry who, of course, has Limerick connections.

THE PLAY

In the 3rd minute Fairview had an escape when Bird failed to connect with a centre from the left wing that flashed right

across the Fairview goal. John Calnan soon after headed inches over the Fairview cross bar and then the Fairview goalkeeper, Michael O'Connell, was in action saving a last header from Kelly.

In the 16th minute Fairview led, Sean O'Connor sent to Sean Byrnes. The centre-forward in turn tried to reach the right winger. His pass went slightly astray but when left back Noel Downey sliced his clearance, Seamus McCarthy pounced on the ball, tapped it to his left, and letting fly from well outside the penalty area beat Dan O'Leary all ends with a scorching drive.

In the 23rd minute Fairview were near increasing the lead. Pat O'Dwyer's centre came right across and Seamus McCarthy just missed the ball as he hurled himself at it from four yards. In the 33rd minute Fairview were awarded a free, which was well taken by Eamonn Dillon. The ball was dropped by goalkeeper O'Leary and Fairview right-half Gerard Power netted a further

head on the way down and scored a lovely goal. Seconds later O'Leary made a great save from Seamus McCarthy but the winger was not to be denied and fifteen minutes after the interval, from Sean Byrnes' centre, he left O'Leary helpless with a cracking drive.

In the 29th minute the Douglas goalkeeper made a great save from Sean O'Connor. A few minutes from the end, Finbarr Sullivan, who had moved offside, scored a consolation goal for Douglas.

TEAMS

Fairview Rangers — Michael O'Connell; George Hehir, Tony Meehan; Gerard Power, Eamonn Heffernan, Eamonn Dillon; Seamus McCarthy, Pat O'Dwyer, Sean Byrnes, Pat Ryan, Sean O'Connor.

Douglas — Dan O'Leary; Finbarr Sullivan, Noel Downey; James Forde, Michael Canty, Tom Collins; Billy Bird, John Cummins, Jimmy Kelly, John Calnan, Gerald Barry. Substitute: Pat Walsh for Bird. Referee: W. Nolan (Dublin).



A Fairview defender takes the ball off the toe of a Douglas forward in yesterday's final.



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History makers... yesterday's triumphant Fairview Rangers XI, who brought the F.A.I. Junior Cup to Limerick for the first time when they defeated Douglas (Cork) by 3-1.