

Castellini shows his class in the sky, another attack beaten off.

Castellini dives low in another of his great saves.

Soccer: Tension Packed European Cup Tie: Limerick Can Justly Say.....

'WE WERE THE BETTER TEAM'

Torino Win Thriller With Soft Goal

LIMERICK 0
TORINO 1
(Rampanti, 7 mins.)

Charlie Mulqueen Reports

"We were a better team than Torino."

This was the comment from Limerick skipper Al Finucane after this tension-packed European Cup Winners' Cup tie at Thomond Park last evening.

I couldn't agree more with him, for indeed Limerick, in inspired mood, outplayed the Italian champions from start to finish. Unfortunately, Torino had 1 up on the locals, and this, unfortunately, was on the scoreboard, the Italians taking the laurels with a soft, tragic goal scored by Rossario Rampanti in the 7th minute.

.....-Gustavo has very little English at the best of times, but after last night's gigantic struggle, his Italian was a bit shaky. He didn't admit it too freely, but he gave Limerick quite a lot of praise, and also agreed that he would have been very happy with a draw, especially the way the game developed.

"This, I agree, sounds like a 'we was robbed' story, and so it is, I suppose. But I'll pass no apology to anyone, for this was one of Limerick's greatest days in the club's history, one they can be proud of and recall with relish for many years to come.

All I can say to the people who stayed away—and how sorry I am to say that there were many of them—is this—you missed a tremendous game, and your team was very unlucky to lose. The worst they deserved, in my opinion, was a draw.

EVENTS
Come back with me as I chronicle the outstanding events of an event-packed ninety minutes.

4th minute—Barrett tests Castellini with a good shot after clever work by Quinn. Limerick are moving forward, playing lovely football, and Barrett again isn't far wide from an O'Mahony centre.

7th minute—Then tragedy: Finucane appears to have a harmless looking ball under control on the right-hand back line, until Fitzpatrick attempts to make sure. Challenged by Pulici, he loses and the ball is turned back for Sala to cross and Rampanti to head home.

12th minute—Far from being disheartened, Limerick fight like terriers; Rampanti again looks dangerous, but Fitzpatrick saves well.

16th minute—Meaney has a fine shot saved by Castellini, who again shows his skill by diving to save an O'Mahony rasper.

21st minute—Castellini makes a great save from McEvoy.

32nd minute—Limerick's pressing, but Torino, in shock breakaway, are a little unlucky when Sala sends a rocket just wide.

36th minute—O'Mahony free brings great save from Castellini; the ball pops loose in front of goal and McEvoy may have been hooked as he tried to shoot in the rebound.

40th minute—Meaney header just wide from a superb Shortt cross.

45 minutes—Limerick, 0; Torino, 1.

46th minute—Limerick continue where they left off; a powerful McEvoy shot strikes

right back on their heels, guarding their advantage, and Quinn's right footer isn't far wide.

62nd minute—McEvoy shoots over from O'Mahony pass.

64th minute—The excitement is now intense, and the crowd are right behind Limerick. Cereser mis-kicks dramatically in front of goal, and as Limerick charge on the keeper, the referee spots an infringement and awards a free out.

65th minute—Torino now

really feeling the pinch; they bring in Bul for Pulici, and he immediately looks dangerous. In the ensuing minutes, Agropi is "booked" for showing dissent, and McEvoy, just about to land home a lovely Byrnes cross, has the ball deflected out of his path. This, to my mind, was Limerick's greatest chance.

76th minute—Torino's second sub, Crevelli, comes in for Sala, and Fitzpatrick saves well from Bul. Then O'Mahony is only

just over the top, and danger-man, Toschi, misses a chance at the other end.

85th minute—Limerick's only substitute, Eddie Donovan, comes in for Shortt, and almost immediately we get a shot past Castellini; alas, Meaney's powerful volley swerves right and wide, and soon it is all over—1-0 to Torino, but what a game!

BRILLIANT FINUCANE AND QUINN
Al Finucane was the star;

this was his greatest game, and one need say no more. But who could have expected such a performance from Vinny Quinn? Before the game, I felt he would be in trouble, but he emerged as a true star, a man among men.

Sean Byrnes, Ritchie Hall, Joe O'Mahony were also superb; these were my five outstanding players. But Kevin Fitzpatrick, Paddy Shortt, Andy McEvoy, Davy Barrett, Shamie Coad and Tony Meaney all had their moments, Meaney and McEvoy more so than the others.

In all, a great display, and as I say, Limerick can hold their heads high.

NEGATIVE
Torino, negative and unimaginative, are now as good as through ("away" goals count double), but how fortunate they are. They had class, of course, in goalkeeper, Castellini; No. 4, Zecchini; inside left, Sala, and the big threat, Toschi, but again I bring you back to my opening remark, or rather that of Al Finucane. . . . "We were a better team than Torino," I agree.

TEAMS
Torino—Castellini; Mozzini, Fossati; Zecchini, Cereser, Agropi; Rampanti, Ferrini, Pulici, Sala, Toschi. Subs.—Bul for Pulici, 65 minutes; Crevelli for Sala, 76 minutes.
Limerick—Fitzpatrick; Quinn, Byrnes; Hall, Finucane, O'Mahony; Shortt, McEvoy, Barrett, Coad, Meaney. Sub., Donovan for Shortt, 85 minutes.
Referee.—Mr. R. McKenzie (Scotland).



Tragedy for Limerick: Kevin Fitzpatrick gets back to his goal too late, and Rampanti has put Turin one ahead.



To-night's dog card

THURSDAY'S CARD (8.15)
625 yards flat—Nickel Lassie, Jim and Dan, Jerome's Tomato, Elton Flier, Brody's Boy, Patrick's Reply, Mini Lincoln (reserve).
625 yards flat—Wizard Sailor, Straight Bar, Gallant Roddy, Try On Darkie, Bog Chieftain, Bulwark Girl, Get Up Jack (reserve).
First Semi-final Confined 30.70 Sweepstake—Ringro Flyer, Paid Reply, Ventry Sands, Bawn Prince, Eiland Venture, Regal Fanfare, No Yard (reserve).
Second Semi-final Confined 30.70 Sweepstake—Fanta Lady, Broadford Moss, African Jewel, Proud Life, Dancing Nancy, Damsel's First, Finnoe Violet (reserve).
Third Semi-final Confined 30.70 Sweepstake—Bunoke Boy, Black Box, Set The Table, Ballycarney, Carthure Cal, Key-wall Spectre, Ballymartie (reserve).
625 yards flat—Ferdale Melody, Fire Guard, Orion's Tulip, Atomic Kooker, Kilmoylan Prince, Cu Palais, Time For Two.
625 yards flat—Gael Pop, Anglo West, Lissard Flash, Barrack Nancy, Ploverfield Liza, Irish Design, Xelof Choice (reserve).

Inter-Firm Soccer

FIXTURES
Thursday 16/9/71:
"H" Cup—S.P.S. "D" v. L.G.O.
"B" 6.15 p.m., Barrack Field, P. O'Connor.
"E" Cup S/F—T.C.F. v. Sh. Foundry Ath., 6 p.m., Cals Park (1), M. Meagher.
"A" Cup Final—Port Workers or Danus v. Lana-Knit "A", Cals Park (2), P. Kiely.
"D" Cup (re-play)—Bakeries v. Sh. F. Eng., 6.15 p.m., Cals Park (3), M. Kelly.
Friday 17/9/71:
"F" Cup S/F—Sales and Catering or Infotronics v. C.I.E. R.P.S., 6 p.m., Barrack Field, B. Spain.
"G" Cup S/F—Boyd's v. Uptown Traders, 6.15 p.m., Shelbourne Park, M. Meagher.
"B" Cup Final—Callins Int. or Doran's Builders v. J. McMahon's, 6 p.m., Cals Park, T. Power.
Monday 20/9/71:
"E" Cup S/F—S Diamonds v. Dan Ryan's, 6 p.m., Barrack Field.
"D" Cup S/F—Bakeries or Sh. F. Eng. v. Stokes and McKiernan or I.A.W.S. (M.K.), 6 p.m., Cals Park (2).
"H" Cup S/F—S.P.S. "D" or L.G.O. "B" v. Cond. Milk Co., 6 p.m., Cals Park (1).
Tuesday 21/9/71:
"D" Cup S/F—Customs v. C.I.E. Garage, 6 p.m., Barrack Field.
Challenge—Danus v. S.P.S. "C", 6 p.m., Cals Park (1).
"C" Cup Final—12th Batt. or L.G.O. "A" v. T.C.F. or Sh. Foundry Ath., 6 p.m., Cals Park (2), M. Meagher.
"F" Cup S/F—E.I. "B" v. Infotronics or Sales and Catering or C.I.E. R.P.S., 6 p.m., Shels Park.
Thursday, September 23:
League—Lana-Knit "C" v. Sales and Catering, 6 p.m., Barrack Field.

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