



Kevin is Limerick's new boss

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

Kevin Fitzpatrick is Limerick A.F.C.'s new player-manager for the 1973-74 season.

His appointment was confirmed at a Press conference this morning.

Kevin a commercial traveller with Messrs. Gallahers Ltd., the well-known tobacco company, made his debut with Limerick in 1958, when he starred in their 3-3 draw against Glasgow Celtic.

The same year he played hurling and Gaelic football with Limerick CBS.

He has been with Limerick fourteen years, and served his apprenticeship with the club's youth squad.

When asked to comment on his appointment, Kevin had this to say: "All I can do is my very best, and it is my wish to make Limerick into one of the best teams in the land."

Mr. Billy Higgins, vice-chairman, said that his board had every confidence in Mr. Fitzpatrick, and added that he would have their full support.

RESPONSIBLE

The new player-manager will be responsible for all team affairs, including the signing of players. It is also his intention to field a "B" team, probably in the Munster Senior League. He will be in charge of training and team selection.

Fitzpatrick emphasised that he would be concentrating mainly on an all-local team.

In this respect, he asked that junior clubs might cooperate with him.

To date, only four players have re-signed for the 1973/74 season, which gets under way on Sunday week. They are Des Kennedy, Denis Lymer, Richie Hall and Fitzpatrick.

All the players have been offered an increase in wages, but a number of them are holding out for better terms.

"I will be having a chat with the remainder of our panel over the next few days and am hopeful that all of them will be signed in time for our initial League-Cup match against Shelbourne," remarked Kevin, who is travelling to Dublin at the weekend to meet Shay Doyle, Sean Core and Johnny Murray.

Kevin has no immediate plans to introduce outside talent, even though Mr. Higgins hinted that money would be available if the right men came on the market.

TALENT

The former C.B.S. pupil opines that there is a wealth of talent available on the local front.

He has a few names pencilled into his notebook.

"I will be calling upon two Junior clubs next Tuesday and hope to make a couple of signings," continued Kevin.

The relationship between Limerick A.F.C. and Junior Council is not what it should be, and Fitzpatrick is aware of the many problems confronting him when it comes

to talking business with junior and youth clubs.

But the Limerick player-manager is highly respected by all those associated with promoting the code in Limerick, and it could be that he will break down the barriers which have existed over the years.

He is a frequent visitor to

such venues as Cals Park, Fairgreen and Shelbourne Park.

MARRIED

Married, with four children—Michelle, Pat, Kevin and Dara—31-year-old Fitzpatrick won Inter-League and International honours, and during his spell with Limerick has won Dublin City Cup and FAI

Cup medals.

And Kevin has a message for supporters? "Please be patient for a few weeks until we get settled in."

He also pointed out that Al Finneane, who is expected to sign with Waterford this week, would be welcome to attend training sessions at the Markets Field.

Mr. Billy Higgins nodded his head in agreement.

Kevin will be seen in his new role at Kileohan Park tomorrow evening when Limerick pit their skills against Waterford in the semi-final of the Munster Senior Cup.

Kevin is married to the former Miss Jean Griffin, and they live in Clareview.



Kevin Fitzpatrick, Limerick's new player-manager, is seen making a dramatic save during a recent game at the Markets Field.

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All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1973

Limerick v. Kilkenny

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