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# Limerick



# Leader

GREAT BARGAINS IN  
DURING  
**TONY CONNO**  
44 Upper William St.,

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1974

## SOCCER: SLIGO ROVERS HERE ON SUNDAY

# 'Mystery man' brings Willie Stevenson to Limerick

## ONE OF CLUB'S BIGGEST EVER DEALS

LIMERICK clinched one of the biggest deals in the club's history this week when they signed the former Glasgow Rangers, Liverpool and Stoke City star, Willie Stevenson. Mr. David Coughlan, Club Secretary and P.R.O., could not divulge the full details to me but I understand that a small

fee may have been involved.

In addition, there are a few strings attached to the signing. Stevenson, for example, will be travelling to Vancouver, Canada, in the third week of April to pursue his coaching and playing activities there. However, this should not adversely affect his association with the club, for the FAI Cup will have been completed by then.

For the time being also, Stevenson will travel over and back for each match. He lives in Congleton, near Stoke, with his wife and 4½ year old daughter and will probably train with the Stoke club. Stevenson, it is hoped, will be in the Limerick side on Sunday against Sligo Rovers, although his travelling arrangements were badly disrupted by the heavy snow of Tuesday night. He returned to

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England eventually on Thursday, but hopefully, will be back in time for Sunday.

### INTERESTING SAGA

Stevenson's signing for Limerick reveals an interesting saga. Some weeks ago, it will be recalled, Limerick's bid to sign Jimmy Melia (a former Liverpool teammate of Stevenson) fell through. At the time, it was revealed in the newspapers that Limerick were anxious to sign a midfield general. This was spotted by a person of persons unknown, who rang Limerick's Dave Coughlan and more or less said: "I won't say who I am because the name would mean nothing to you. I hear you are looking for a midfield general and if so you should get in touch with Tranmere Rovers and inquire about Willie

Stevenson."

Limerick took the "mystery man" at his word and Stevenson duly arrived at Jury's Hotel on Tuesday. The Limerick directors met him that evening and without too much difficulty came to an amicable agreement. Tranmere, the following day, proved equally amenable and the deal was clinched.

So Stevenson, 33, holder of English League and Cup medals with Liverpool (he played in the same team in 1965 with greats like Ian St. John, Roger Hunt, Ron Yeats) comes to Limerick in the heels of another Scot, Ewan Fenton, who made such an impression with Limerick through the 'sixties and the first two years of the 'seventies.

Stevenson, splendidly built at 6 feet and 13 stone, may be just the man to help revive Limerick's fortunes. His immediate future perhaps lies more in Canada, where he will spend the summer, but he has promised to

be back in Limerick in August. All going well, Willie Stevenson, of Glasgow Rangers, Liverpool, Stoke City and Tranmere Rvs., could do just as noble a job for Limerick football as his fellow-Scot, Ewan Fenton, performed in the past.

### NOT ELIGIBLE

Unfortunately, Stevenson is not eligible for the first round FAI Cup tie against Transport at the Markets Field on Sunday week. So manager, Kevin Fitzpatrick will be more than anxious to have him in action this week to acclimatise himself immediately to the atmosphere at the Markets Field.

Sligo Rovers, of course, are propping up the League table and Limerick aren't much better off. Both are now in danger of having to seek re-election, and so for no other reason, Sunday's game is of considerable importance to both.

## AT THE GAELIC GROUNDS ON SUNDAY:

## RUGBY: Mungret Cup final +

## Four senior names in