



WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1974

EWAN FENTON BACK WITH LIMERICK

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

Although no official statement has been forthcoming from Limerick, I understand that Ewan Fenton has been offered the post as manager for the 1974-75 season. Mr. David Coughlan, PRO, and Mr. Billy Higgins, chairman, Limerick AFC, were unavailable for comment this Wednesday morning.

Mr. Fenton's appointment is likely to be announced this weekend. This will be his third time taking over as manager.

Ewan Fenton joined Limerick from Wrexham in the early 'sixties. He guided them to two successive Cup finals in which they were beaten by Shamrock Rovers, and on being offered better terms by Linfield he quit the Blues to go North.

It was later reported that his family were unsettled in Northern Ireland, and he returned to Limerick to take over as manager after Tommy Anderson and Paddy Coad had failed to make a success of the job.

Fenton's career with Limerick turned sour after that historic Cup win in 1971. Although his contract had a year to run he was relieved of his duties on the following season when Limerick's form slumped.

It was reported at the time that the club came to a financial settlement with the former Blackpool player.

Now it appears that he is to be offered another contract.



EWAN FENTON

Doug Wood, who played for the L.O.I. Sel. in Joe O'Mahony's Testimonial Match last evening, will, I understand, be on Limerick's books next season.

He was transferred from Athlone Town to Shamrock Rovers earlier this year, but a few weeks later was put on the transfer list by the Mill-

town club.

Billy Sinclair, sacked by Linfield recently, is also reported to be heading South and his name is being linked with Waterford. It will be recalled that Sinclair had a trial with Limerick at the beginning of last season.

Meanwhile, former Northern Ireland International, Johnny

Crossan, is to have talks with another Munster club.

Limerick haven't shown any interest in the former Sunderland player, who has a network of contacts in England.

Few will argue with Ewan Fenton's appointment. He is a master tactician and if given support he could restore the club's image.

SOCCER: O'Mahony rewarded with big crowd

Limerick (1971) surprise League Selection

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

JOE O'MAHONY was rewarded with a fine crowd for his Testimonial Match at the Markets Field last evening, and they in turn saw some fine passages of football as the Limerick Cup winning team of 1971 surprised a League of Ireland XI by 2-1.

Man-of-the-match was, no doubt, Scot, Hughie Hamilton, and on his performance yesterday evening the few Limerick directors present must have been prompted to offer him terms for 1974-75.

It was Hughie who brought this game to life with some darting runs along the right wing. He created the opening from which Richie Hall scored Limerick's second goal, and put at least two more on a plate for Tony Fitzgerald, who, however, had an off-day.

Dave Barrett, scorer of that memorable first goal in the Cup final replay against Drogheda at Dalymount Park, also put his name on the scoresheet this time.

FINE CROWD

Joe O'Mahony must have been pleasantly surprised with the fine crowd which turned up for this attractive fixture. Unfortunately, the League of Ireland XI didn't display much fight or enthusiasm, and it was only when they went two goals into arrears that they decided to do something about it.

This game marked the return to a Limerick jersey of Al Finucane, and he had an impressive outing in keeping tabs on the ever-dangerous Alfie Hale. Paddy Shortt teamed up most effectively with Tony Meaney, although the latter must be faulted for some erratic

shooting.

The result was of little significance. The fans were somewhat disappointed to learn that Andy McEvoy had failed to put in an appearance, and Seamus Coad was another notable absentee. Mick O'Donnell deputised for Alan Ludzic between the posts for the League team.

Proceedings got off to a lively start when Tony Meaney shot over the crossbar from close range. The Limerick Cup-winning team continued to play an attractive brand of football and had the edge in midfield, where Hall, Finucane and O'Mahony were much too crafty for a lethargic looking McCarthy, Core and Macken.

O'Mahony did his utmost to figure amongst the goals, and was out of luck with two powerful shots in the first half. At the other end, Kevin Fitzpatrick made a brave save from Johnny Matthews, and O'Donnell showed his versatility when foiling Barrett and Meaney.

Matthews had the ball in the Limerick net in the 28th minute, but was whistled up for off-side. Two minutes later, Dave Barrett raised the first real cheer with a well-taken goal from six yards.

The lively Hughie Hamilton kept tormenting the League defence, and from one exciting run he set up a great chance for Fitzgerald, but the big centre forward shot well over the crossbar from five yards.

The second half was much livelier. Hamilton was in the limelight again in the 65th minute when he carved an opening for Hall to put Limerick further ahead, and with only five minutes left for play, Shay Doyle reduced arrears in a melee.

Although the League team boasted some top-class players, they never really got into their full stride, and two of the biggest disappointments were Waterford's Tony Macken and Bohemians Terry Flanagan.

Nonetheless, the crowd came to pay tribute to O'Mahony and went away pleased with the final result.

Limerick: Fitzpatrick, Bourke, Byrnes, Hall, Finucane, O'Mahony, Hamilton, Barrett, Fitzgerald, Shortt, Meaney.

League of Ireland XI: Mick O'Donnell; Doug Wood, Keith Edwards, John McCarthy, Sean Core, Tony Macken, Shay Doyle, Alfie Hale, John Matthews, Turrough O'Connor, Terry Flanagan.

Referee: Mr. P. O'Connor (Limerick).

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