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SENIOR SOCCER: Celtic at Markets Field on Sunday

Limerick hope to turn over new leaf

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

LIMERICK, without a manager since Ewan Fenton stepped down on Monday and who are still awaiting their first win of the season, are reasonably confident that the break they have been waiting for will come at the Markets Field on Sunday when they take on Cork Celtic in the League.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, who has been in charge of training since last Tuesday, reports that despite recent happenings morale in the club is fairly high and that the players are looking forward to Sunday's encounter. Victory over Celtic would do much to improve Limerick's image. "And if we are given any sort of support by the public we could pull off our first League win, said chairman, Mr. Michael Webb who, this Thursday, helped to pick the team with Fitzpatrick, O'Mahony and secretary, Tim O'Connor.

Asked about future plans, Mr. Webb told the Leader that he was in touch with an ex-English First Division player with a view to taking over as manager. "The person I have in mind for the job is very interested in coming to Limerick but will not be available until early next year. In my estimation he is the ideal man for the post."

CONTROL

In the meantime it is expected that either Frank Johnstone or Brian Hanrahan will take control. Both these men possess good credentials and are highly respected in local soccer circles.



Kevin Fitzpatrick — his first home game of the season.

SQUASH:

Surprise win for Shannon

In the Limerick S.R.A. leagues the first rounds in Junior A and Ladies were played last week — the only shock result was the

Mr. Webb is not altogether happy with the progress being made by the 'B' team and I have it on good authority that a city club might be asked to act as a nursery for the blues. The obvious choice here would be Wembley Rovers.

The have an excellent record in domestic competitions and field teams from under-12 upwards.

In fact the present Limerick squad is literally sprinkled with players who learned their early football with Wembley; they include Gordon Butler, Pat Nolan, George Quinlivan,



Des Kennedy leads the Limerick attack.

Tommy Irwin, Des Kennedy, Ger Duggan, Tony Meaney and Johnny Walsh.

And we mustn't forget it was they who groomed Joe Waters, the scorer of Ireland's equalising goal against Turkey in Ankara on Wednesday.

SUPPLY LINE

A supply line is most essential if Limerick are to re-establish themselves as a force in LOI football, and I have no doubt that Wembley would fulfil that need.

My information is that they would be pleased to co-operate with our LOI club on one condition—that they be allowed to retain their own name.

It seems that Mr. Webb is fully bent on getting things done, and this week he dismissed rumours that there was a danger the blues might go out of football. "Sheer nonsense," he said.

At the moment he is the sole director of Limerick. "It is not that I want to keep it a closed shop. I would be only too delighted if people came forward and joined the board, but I only want those who are prepared to

work. As a matter of interest, they will not be asked to invest money in the club, that is unless they want to do so."

It is comforting to know that Limerick's one man band will continue to operate, and it is the fervent wish of every supporter that Mr. Webb's courage will be rewarded.

Not everyone agreed with his decision to accept Mr. Ewan Fenton's resignation, but those close to the camp have told me that there was a strain in the relationship between the manager and chairman over the past few weeks.

Mr. Fenton, in his usual diplomatic way, hinted that he would prefer to say no more on the matter. And cattle dealer Mr. Webb was equally silent.

NEW LEAF

It is to be hoped that Limerick will now turn over a new leaf. They have an ideal chance to win back faith with their followers on Sunday when Celtic parade their talents at the Markets Field.

The Turner's Cross boys have not achieved anything great so far this term. They lost their opening league game by 6-3 to Drogheda at Lourdes Stadium and shared the points with St. Patrick's Athletic on home soil last weekend.

Now that Limerick realise they must pick themselves up off the ground if they are to command respect that little extra effort might be forthcoming from some of their players who, up to now, have been in low gear.

TEAM

The only real surprise in the Limerick team to meet Celtic is the inclusion of Paddy Kelly, ex-Hyde Rgs., on the left-wing.

Kelly interested a couple of English first division clubs last season, including West Ham Utd. He is quite a useful performer. Otherwise the team is along the expected lines.

Fitzpatrick; McGuckian, Grey, Meaney, Brosnahan, O'Mahony, Nolan, Hale, Kennedy, Walsh, Kelly. Subs: Quinlivan and Irwin.

This will be Fitzpatrick's first home game of the new season. Duggan was not considered because of a leg injury but it is hoped that he will resume one week later.

Chairman, Michael Webb, is travelling to Dublin this evening to open negotiations with a new player-manager.

HOCKEY:

Catholic Institute

The ladies senior team had their second league win in Cork on Saturday. In an exciting game they defeated Church of Ireland 4-0. In the first half the institute had goals from Sarah Devane and Marie Crawford. They improved on this in the second half when Jerry O'Shea scored from a Linda Noble pass, later in the game, Sarah Devane completed the scoring when she converted a penalty flick. In an improving Institute team, Assolainette Jackson and Marie Barrett were particularly impressive.

The team was: H. Madden, Devane, J. O'Flynn, F. Fitzgibbon (capt.), M. Bartlett, O'Connor, L. Noble, A. Jackson, J. Barkman, M. Crawford and J. O'Shea. Sub.: M. Finucane.

The ladies junior side opened their league campaign when they drew 1-1 with Lansdowne on Sunday. The game, which was very competitive was played at a fast pace throughout. The Institute goal was scored by captain, Noreen Lynch, from a short corner; Lansdowne replied with a goal from Reiza Lyons. In an Institute team which needs more match practice, Ann Healy and Ann O'Brien were the best players.

The team was: J. Rael, Finucane, N. Lynch (capt.), Owens, A. Howlett, A. O'Brien, C. Hanrahan, N. Keogh, Milne, P. McMahon and O'Neill.

The Junior men's team were beaten 2-1 by Waterford on Saturday. Ger Geary scored for the institute from a penalty flick. Goalkeeper Pat Shanahan was the star of the team in which Doherty, Ger Geary and Pat Dalton also played well.

The team was: P. Shanahan, Kelly, B. Lynch, F. Kelly, Doherty, F. Hayes, P. Dalton, Geary, B. O'Connor, D. Ryan and T. O'Callaghan.

The club's senior captain, Eddie Cummins, has retained his place on the Munster senior panel for the season. Hugh Eburn, the LPYMA captain also retains his place.

The fixtures for next week are: Senior men v. LPYMA (Cork); junior men v. Harlequin (Cork); senior ladies v. Asiste (home).

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Kevin travelled 25,000 miles to play soccer

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

"The experience of a lifetime"—that was how Lime-

