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# Limerick Leader



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**LARGE SELECTION OF SUMMER  
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SATURDAY, JULY 2, 1977

## Soccer Bombshell

# Johnson and Limerick part

**BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY**

Frank Johnson's nine months reign as manager of Limerick A.F.C. came to an unexpected end on Thursday evening when he failed to agree on terms with the club for the new season.

And this Friday, chairman, Mr. Michael Webb, travelled to an "unknown" destination to open negotiations with a new player-manager.

Twice this week, Mr. Johnson was summoned to meet the directors. "He told me his terms for the new season and we were not in a position to meet them," said a tight-lipped Mr. Webb. He did add, however, that they parted the best of friends.

Johnson was called in last October to "rescue" the club after Mr. Ewan Fenton resigned his post as manager. He was soon to make an impact. He promised that he would take Limerick to the Cup final and achieved his goal when he guided them to shock wins over Silgo Rovers, Waterford and Drogheda on their path to Dalymount Park on May 1st.

**DEDICATED**  
The ex-Limerick, Waterford and Distillery player was

dedicated to the game. It is common knowledge that he forfeited the opportunity of



Pat Nolan re-signed this week.

working overtime in his employment with Shannon Foundry to guide Limerick's fortunes. And this may have influenced him to review his position.

Under the circumstances, it was understandable, I suppose, that he should ask Limerick for an increase in terms. Mr. Webb wasn't prepared to reveal the weekly wage on which Johnson took over last October, but did say that he was not demanding in any way.

The manager was most popular with his panel of players and built a good relationship with them. He was regarded highly in Irish soccer circles and was affectionately known as the "quiet man".

"We are sorry to lose Frank; he performed great things in his nine months with us, but we just could not reach agreement at our

meetings this week and he decided to stand down."

The chairman refused to name the person he was meet-

ing this Friday with a view to he taking over as player-manager. It is understood that the person in question boasts first-class credentials. It will be recalled that before Johnson took over the reins, Limerick were interested in recruiting Dave Bacuzzi of Home Farm.

### REGRETTED

Johnson's departure must be regretted. It is now likely that he will return to junior football. He reached dizzy heights in his all-too-brief stay in L.O.I. management and, at the end of the Cup campaign, said that he was confident he could mould Limerick into a powerful force. Now he has been denied that chance.

It is to be hoped that the club will not make a rash decision when appointing a new player-manager. In the past decade or so their wisdom in this respect was often questioned. A number of managers have come and gone and the long list includes Ewan Fenton, Paddy Coad, Alan Fox, Tom Anderson, Al

## Irish resigns

In a late development this Friday morning, Mr. Michael Irish, director, Limerick A.F.C. told me that he was resigning from the club. "I am not too happy that Frank Johnson was allowed to go and from to-day I am severing my connection with Limerick," he said.

ing this Friday with a view to he taking over as player-manager. It is understood that the person in question boasts



Joe Casey

Finucane, Kevin Fitzpatrick and Anby Fogarty.

The position regarding Joe Casey, who teamed up with Frank Johnson as trainer, is not too clear: "We are hopeful that he will remain with us," said Mr. Webb.

Limerick dropped another bombshell last evening when they announced that they had released Dave Kirby, one of

their leading marksmen last season.

And last week they lost Eamon Deacy to Galway Rovers. Deacy's departure was expected in that he was recommended to Limerick by Anby Fogarty on condition they would release him if and when Galway gained entry to the L.O.I.

Kirby is now likely to join his ex-team-mate Jimmy McGeough at Thurles, who will make their debut in the League in September.

To date, Limerick have resigned only four of last season's panel, but the remainder are expected to put pen to paper at the weekend. Training re-commenced last Tuesday. Those signed are: Pat Nolan, John Walsh, Mick O'Donnell and Mike Ryan.

When asked to comment on Limerick's prospects for the new season, Mr. Webb said he was extremely confident. "We hope to introduce new directors and players and will be well prepared when the League Kicks-off in September."

Frank Johnson was not available to comment to-day.

# Championship Limerick regatta on Lough Derg

BY "ASPIRANT"

**EVIDENCE OF the huge upsurge of Irish rowing is highlighted by the participation of no less than 20 crews from this country at the famous Henley**

under-age specialists, have two wins to their credit already this season and should add to the list at the expense of Queen's and Neptune. Another St. Michael's win is on the cards in the Senior Schools Sculls with Dam-

mercial B, New Ross.  
The regatta draw proper is:  
12.00—Senior Pair (final): St. Michael's—Commercial.  
12.10—Maiden Four: Heat A.  
12.20—Maiden Four: Heat B.  
12.30—Maiden Four: Heat C.



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