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SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1977.

'I wasn't looking for the world'

JOHNSON SPEAKS OUT

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

DEPOSED Limerick AFC manager, Frank Johnson, this Friday spoke out for the first time on the circumstances surrounding his departure from the club. "I feel I have been wronged, and I just want to put the record straight," he said.

Johnson claimed that he was ousted as part of a power game by certain people. "I was advised some weeks ago that my future with the club was at stake and that the management had a specific person in mind for the job as manager, but nonetheless, it came as a surprise to me when I was more or less told that my terms couldn't be met."

The ex-boss stated that he asked for £30 per week for the new season. "I estimated that I lost £20 per week in overtime earnings at my job since I took over at the Markets Field last October, and the same would apply from September onwards. I asked the chairman, Mr. Webb, to compensate me for losing out on overtime and that I should be given an additional £10 wages, making a total of £30. He told me that in no way could the club meet these terms and that was that."

Johnson claimed that his bonus money for getting Limerick to the Cup final in May and the Munster Cup decider was £20. "I didn't crib, but at the time I felt I was worth more. That was one of the reasons I had to take a stand for the new season. I wanted a contract and, if granted,

there could have been no come-back."

ANNOYANCE

He expressed his annoyance at the way he was allowed to depart. "On the night we were to discuss my terms I was left the way was being paved for a new man."

He pointed out that during last season he was on the same terms as the players: £12 for a win; £9 for a draw and £6 if the team lost. "Surely as manager I was entitled a little more? I didn't argue the issue because my first priority was to get the club back on its feet."

During the past week Johnson was the recipient of much sympathy from soccer fans. But, according to himself, he is long enough in the game to accept that when the new season kicks off his achievements will be just a memory.

"At first I felt like coming out into the open on the way in which I had been treated but decided that it wouldn't have been worth it. I left in the knowledge that I had done a reasonably good job; tried to please everybody and made no enemies. The players gave me everything they had, and it is my fervent wish that honours will come their way in 1977-78."

Johnson, known as "the quiet man" during his all too brief stay as a manager in the LOI, is not one to bear grudges and, in his own words, will revert back to taking his place on the terraces. He was a genuine love for the game.

What does bother him though is that Limerick's



Frank Johnson

waiting in the hotel for one hour before the directors put in an appearance. I gauged from our conversation that they were not too interested in trying to retain my services and the attitude seemed to be that I had served my term and chairman is quoted as having said that he can get two for the price of one, that is a player-manager for the same weekly wage as Johnson requested.

ROWING :

A look back at Limerick Regatta

(BY "ASPIRANT")

[IT HAD TO happen eventually! When the winds hit Lough Derg on Saturday morning last, Limerick Regatta was disrupted to the extent that the Maiden Four Championship of Ireland was cancelled.

However, the rest of the programme was adhered to, though over a much shortened course, an achievement that was a reflection on the good organisation of the regatta committee, particularly on sec. Pat Cunneen. Some races had to be switched and how Pat kept his patience with the avalanche of anxious

The remainder of our local crews did not fare so well. Our standards in schools rowing this season has been very poor. Many of our crews are very light compared to their Cork counterparts, for instance; others had little finesse to show in their rowing.

St. Michael's maiden four won

CASTLETROY GOLF CLUB:

First national mixed foursomes

This very popular competition attracted a large entry and competitors were favoured with some fine weather. Michael

Saturday and Sunday, July 16-17—Qualifying round for the Irish Close Championship.

Saturday, July 23 — Junior Scratch Cup.

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