

# THE FLOP OF 1 DECADE!

Limerick coddled no  
of course, their ow

## Reasonably

In fairness it mu  
reasonably well an  
game. Then follow  
Limerick even wit  
their formation the  
sideline cut by Lian  
an Ivan Lendl ten  
broke to Ted Muk  
next few minutes J

After seven mir  
chance for Danny  
point and Limerick  
Cork missed an op  
Fitzgibbon.

But suddenly, a  
Cork went in front  
in the Limerick d  
goal when Henne  
from a side-line c

The game by no  
asecond thriller se  
Hegarty was wide  
Limerick and Ke

k 3-14 (23 pts); Limerick 0-10  
vast majority of the huge  
erick following at Thurles on  
day travelled more in hope  
in confidence that a win  
ould be forthcoming against the  
ster and All-Ireland cham-  
ns. Behind the smiling faces  
or to the throw-in many in their  
armost thoughts did not antici-  
a win.

Each and every Limerick supporter travelled  
belief that the side would give a brave and  
mined display and all, to a man or woman,  
ved that the issue would be close and exciting.  
nce the useless, spiritless performance by one  
te most disappointing Limerick teams for  
des came as a bitter blow and many green and  
e bedecked supporters made their exit long  
e the finish on an occasion that was one of the  
est for quite some time.

Week previously some Limerick folk scoffed  
e feeble performance by Clare in their replay  
st Tipperary. Little did they anticipate that a  
ar fate would befall Limerick and, in a way, it  
pity that the local county championships get  
x way this week-end because surely a  
erick-Clare challenge at this point in time  
ld be interesting.

There are many who will say simplistically that it  
tually impossible for a Cork team to be beaten  
replay. That may be true but surely one is  
tled to ask why Limerick faltered so badly on  
occasion. To lose is never a disgrace but to be  
en in such facile manner is not too easy to  
om.

After all many claimed that Limerick should  
e won on the first occasion and that Cork were  
y to get a second chance. But in the drawn  
ie Limerick showed guts and spirit and an  
rmous amount of skill when not alone whittling  
n a seven points arrears but hitting the front at  
crucial stage.

Where then was the spirit... the courage... and  
pride this time?  
Frankly what saddened me most of all was to see  
many Limerick supporters accepting the  
vitable long before the finish and a prominent  
nty board member stood up and left his seat in  
O'Riain stand with eight minutes remaining.  
He, too, had obviously seen enough... or too  
e... put it whatever way you wish.

## Sympathy

I feel great sympathy for the Limerick players  
and the manager and the selectors. But I also feel  
t an explanation is due to the thousands of  
porters who were left down so badly.  
Rarely, if ever, has there been such fantastic  
osphere at this famous venue for a semi-final  
hundreds of supporters were in flag-waving and

fully ironed out.

As the teams paraded it was interesting to note  
that six of the Limerick side and five of Cork wore  
headgear.

Seconds later the midfielders grouped for the  
throw-in and many a Limerick supporter was  
baffled at the sudden change of format. Paddy  
Kelly was positioned at top of the right and not at  
midfield as announced, Jimmy Carroll was at  
midfield, Pat Carey was at centre-back and not at  
right-half forward and many others, too, were not  
in the positions as announced a few minutes later.

All these changes were obviously a ploy to try  
and upset Cork. But it was clearly a case of a plan  
back firing and anyone who believes that such  
tactics will confuse Cork, of all people, must not be  
a realist.

Hurling is a game won by a team of fifteen  
players all contributing their share. It is not won by  
various confusing tactics and in this respect

## SENIOR SOCCER:

### UNITED FAIL IN MEMBERSHIP LEAGUE BID

Limerick United failed in  
their bid to gain admittance to  
the League of Ireland when the  
annual general meeting of that  
body was held in Dublin  
yesterday.

Two of the six clubs who  
applied for membership,  
Limerick United and In-  
nishowen United of Bun-  
cra, met the requirements but  
delegates unanimously re-  
elected E.M.F.A. and Long-  
ford Town and it was decided  
not to increase the league  
membership.

By 15 votes to seven it was  
decided that both the Premier  
and First Division will be  
played over three series of  
games for the new season.

## Feile na nGael

### Na Piarsaigh pipped by the 'Bridge

Na Piarsaigh, representing  
Limerick for the fifth succes-  
sive year in Feile na nGael, the  
finals of which were staged in

# NEVILSI

## O'CONNELL

# SAM

# NOW

WITH

## FANTASTIC RE

IN

# SPORTS