

SCHOOLBOY SOCCER

# Another season, another club?

Gerry McCormack

AS we approach the start of yet another local Schoolboy soccer season, we have the usual spate of rumours regarding the movement of various prominent Schoolboy players from club to club.

While it is inevitable that some players feel it is in their best interest to move to a more progressive club who can offer them better facilities, and who possibly take the game more seriously, there is nevertheless an amount of poaching of better class players by certain clubs.

Many of these clubs depend on the winning of trophies for survival so year after year they make approaches to the better players with all sorts of promises made to the players. Recognition at local level for representative teams, the possibility of underage International trials, the winning of a National cup, and success in local league and cup competitions are just a few of the things mentioned to players.

In fairness it is not always the clubs who make the first move. For one reason or another, some players become very easily discouraged and disgruntled when things are not going their way. All sorts of reasons are trotted out as to why this is so, but usually it is everybody else's fault. And so, envious eyes are cast around for a move to richer pastures.

Especially, in Schoolboy Football it is a well known fact that the majority of clubs depend solely on the dedicated few who give their time and effort and more often than not dig into their own pockets to keep the club flag flying. Not for them is the leaving and joining another

club on an annual basis, club loyalty comes first, and if success can be achieved along the way, so much the better but the club is the most important thing.

Of course it is not always the player who leaves the club; the reverse is also the case. When clubs sign a number of better class players, it is at the expense of weaker players. Many of these players are probably better clubmen but who are now squeezed out, and left with no option but to continue their playing careers with another club.

When a player is approached to sign for a club he should at least have an interest in the club and be prepared to work on and off the field for its advancement. Failing this, it would be better for both club and player if he never signed. Loyalty, to a club should be the over-riding factor and is the only guarantee for the survival of any club.

Parents can play a vital role when it comes to underage players moving from club to club on an annual basis. Parents can if they so wish take a more active role in the running of the club that provides their son or daughter with organised football on a weekly basis. Unfortunately, in some cases parents will trot along to a game if their son or daughter is involved (nothing wrong with that) but once the game is over that is it until the next game.

Fortunately, there are some players and mentors whose loyalty have stood the test of time and in this respect, have stood by their clubs through good and bad times. It is my intention to feather some of these throughout the coming season.

29 YEARS ON: LIMERICK UNITED V REAL MADRID

# Limerick's 'Real' cup magic

Colm Kinsella

REAL Madrid's visit to Ireland this week to play Shamrock Rovers rekindled memories of the Spanish giants' meetings with Limerick United in the European Cup 29 years ago.

The 1979-80 season was the first time in twenty years the League of Ireland had been won by Limerick. Under the leadership of Eoin Hand, they fought a highly competitive campaign, chased all the way by Dundalk and Athlone and culminating in a terrific match against the Midlanders.

A European Cup home match between Limerick and Real Madrid took place in Lansdowne Road on 17 September, 1980. Although Limerick lost, 1-2, most observers felt they were the better team.

Real Madrid conceded only four goals in their European Cup campaign which resulted in defeat to Liverpool in the final. Limerick's Des Kennedy scored two of the four goals Real conceded, netting in a 1-2 defeat at Lansdowne Road and the 1-5 reverse in Madrid in the second leg.

European Cup, September 17, 1980

Limerick United	1
Real Madrid	2

A NIGHT of pain and pride for Limerick United at Lansdowne Road as Spanish champions Real Madrid edged their European Cup first leg tie, thanks to two goals in the closing 20 minutes.

Limerick outplayed their aristocratic opponents for more than an hour. However, the Irish side paid a heavy price for their energy-sapping efforts of that opening period when Real Madrid took advantage of tiring limbs to score twice before a disappointing attendance of no more than 7,000 at Lansdowne Road.

Two highly controversial decisions by the Danish referee, Ole Amudsen, whose performance scarcely endeared him to the Limerick fans, played a part in changing the complexion of the tie.

The teams were still deadlocked and Real Madrid were coming under increased pressure when Amudsen disallowing Johnny Matthews goal for offside in the 25th minute.

It was, at best, a hairline decision as Matthews scampered into the open space to slide home a cross from Johnny Walsh but the initial cheers of the home supporters when the referee, changed to deathly silence when the referee, acting on the advice of his linesman, disallowed the goal.

Limerick had finally gone in front in the 52nd minute through Des Kennedy.

Johnny Walsh sent a tantalising free-kick high into the Real Madrid penalty area. Gerry Duggan headed it on and an alert Kennedy ghosted in behind the last defender to score from six yards. It was no more than just reward for the Kennedy whose aerial power had unnerved the



Peter Campbell, former chairman of Limerick Utd Supporters Club, right, pictured with his son Glenn beside the poster advertising Limerick Utd's European Cup second leg tie with Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in October 1980. The poster hangs proudly in Conor Moroney's Gate Bar, Lock Quay

Spaniards from the start.

However, Danish official Amudsen was at the centre of controversy once again by awarding a disputed 70th-minute penalty to the Spaniards.

Pineda, set free by a beautifully-timed pass from Hernandez, attempted to take the ball around Kevin Fitzpatrick and then crashed to the turf after the goalkeeper had made contact with him.

The referee immediately pointed to the spot. Even as Limerick protested their innocence, Juanito stepped up to score from the spot, his perfectly placed shot beating Fitzpatrick.

"That was no penalty," Fitzpatrick insisted later in post-match interviews. "I attempted to force him to go wide, but at all times I played the ball. I have seen a lot more serious incidents go unpunished in the penalty area."

Johnny Matthews was equally convinced that he had been hard done by in the decision to disallow the goal.

"There were two Spaniards trying to hold me as I raced onto the ball and they, no less than I, can only have been surprised by the decision to disallow the score," Matthews told the press.

Manager Eoin Hand described it as a heart-warming game which reflected well on the standard of Irish soccer.

"We tired undeniably in the last half hour, but nobody could deny the quality of our football," Hand said. "More than that we fulfilled our promise of attacking the Spaniards and had the breaks gone with us, we would now be celebrating."

Limerick United: Fitzpatrick; Nolan, O'Mahony, Storan, Nodwell; Duggan, Hand, Walsh; Kennedy, Hulmes, Matthews. Subs: Meaney for Hand (64 mins);



Des Kennedy, who scored in both legs of Limerick Utd's European Cup clash with Spanish giants Real Madrid 29 years ago

Morris for Duggan (79 mins). Real Madrid: Miguel Angel; Perez Garcia, Benito, Gallego, Camacho; Juan Angel, Garcia Hernandez, Slicikic; Juanito, Isidro, Cunningham. Subs: Pineda for Benito; Navajas for Perez Garcia.

Referee: Ole Amudsen (Denmark) Two weeks later Limerick traveled to Spain to play in the Bernabeu Stadium in front of 60,000 fans. Real Madrid were comfortable 5-1 winners with Kennedy scoring again.

JANESBORO F.C LOTTO

LOTTO RESULTS FOR 19/07/09  
 JACKPOT 4,050  
 WINNING NUMBERS 2-5-11-23  
 37 Winners: Marian Dillon c/o Christy; Mrs. O'Byrne c/o G. Micks; Helena Tobin c/o Barry; Ivan Hyde c/o C. Foster  
 Next Weeks Jackpot 4,200  
 45 Drive every Monday & Thursday Night @ 9.30pm  
 Thank you for your continued support.

St. Mary's R.F.C

Training Commences  
 Tuesday 21st July at 7pm

All Welcome