

...his season. Such as Geraldine, Danus, Janesboro...
...the "gentlemen" of local soccer, while the long serving O'Grady has distinguished himself in several positions. If Linnane has moulded the Weston rearguard

short spell with Mike Rovers. Pat Koyce and Raymond Collins have struck up a happy partnership at inside forward, and the strong running Koyce is just the type to finish off the

include Messrs. Billy Bourke, Jim Jackson, Seamus Jackson, Mick Cremins and L.D.M.C. member Oly Barry. Weston are looking to the '70's with confidence.

What does this hold for Limerick soccer? The FAI Junior Cup is now well under way and present indications are that Caledonians and Geraldines will qualify for the local area final. Limerick clubs have a poor record in this particular competition, but I am going to stick my neck out and predict that Cals. will emulate Fairview's feat of five years ago by bringing this much sought after trophy to the Shannonside for only the second time. What a tremendous boost it would be were either Cals or the 'Dines to emerge as the country's leading junior club.

Cals. are going great guns this season. In other years they made the mistake of making progress in all competitions with the result that their challenge petered out towards the end of each campaign. I have been assured that the Edward St. club are to concentrate solely on winning the FAI Junior Cup this season and should go one better than last time when they lost to St. Francis (Dublin) in the semi-finals proper.

They are well served in all departments. Sean Carter, Jim Forde and Brendan Meagher form a solid half back line and in Ger Brennan, Oly McCarthy and Ger Hough they have three of the best strikers in local football. Frank Timmons and Pat Ryan are meeting with great success on the wings and the same can be said of full backs Jim O'Rahilly and O'Callaghan.

Vinny Prendergast (ex-Limerick) is regular custodian, and he has a most capable deputy in the much travelled Paddy Daly.

One must have a certain respect for Geraldines. They have signed ex-Limerick full back John Ryan, to help bolster their defence and he has teamed up most efficiently with his brother, Finbarr, who is playing as well as ever at centre half. Phonsie Drew and Patsy Collopy are hitting goals at regular intervals, and with Sean King, Jack O'Hanlon and Mick Murphy, also contributing their share to Geraldines' success story, then this long established club can offer a serious threat to Cals. should they qualify for the local area final.

Most exciting team of the new minor season is Ballynanty Rvs., who have suffered only one defeat in ten outings. Trainer Tony McMahon told me recently that it is Ballynanty's ambition to do well in the FAI Minor Cup this season, and more recent form suggests that they can do just that. "Hyde Rovers are the team we fear most," he stated, "and if we get over that hurdle you can expect a very strong challenge from us." Balla have talented players in Michael Earls (our soccer personality this week), Mick O'Donnell, Michael Meehan, Pat Murphy and Christy Williams, and they are capable of guiding their club to the top.

SOCCER PERSONALITY OF THE WEEK

...charges can look after days ahead. n, Gerry Bourke, their main target Junior Cup. "We ably good record titions and if we attain our present have no doubt we must go near to nster title."

...to restore are: Back row: ry (Hon. Sec.), m O'Grady, Gerry Mick Aherne, Der n, Denis Linnane nch. Front row: Tony, Mitchell, Pat ond Collins and

atched Weston in times this season greatly impressed ward Ray Collins Mick Aherne. Cok r scorer with the file that alone en- special mention, ly see this player. appreciate his fine ball control is im- packs a powerful the craft and in- create openings in nised defences. uld do worse than at this player.

finer a goalkeeper les just now than t Aherne. The Wes- r has turned in spectacular perfor- his club, and was the L.D.M.C. team Oscar Traynor Cup. is anticipation is d he certainly courage either. e players of class position. The full



MICHAEL EARLS



Ballynanty Rovers' manager, TONY McMAHON, predicts great things this season for the club's minors. It will be recalled that Tony was awarded a special trophy recently for his dedication as a referee to schoolboys' football.

Much of the credit for Ballynanty Rovers dramatic revival in the minor grade must be apportioned to their dynamic and progressive half back Michael Earls, who has been a leading figure in the North City Club's successful league and cup run.

Having tasted defeat only once in ten outings it would appear that the moment of truth is at hand for Ballynanty Rvs., for tomorrow they take on Munster Minor Cup holders, Janesboro Utd. in the local area semi-final of the much sought after FAI Minor Cup. This is one game that the Rovers are most anxious to win, and 15-years-old Michael has no doubts that they will do just that.

"We have now reached our peak and the fact that we are favoured with home venue should help us to reverse the defeat we suffered at the hands of 'Boro in our opening league game earlier in the season". Irrespective of the outcome of tomorrow's clash this writer is confident that this new look Ballynanty Rvs. are here to stay, and that they will emerge with honours before the curtain comes down on the '69-'70 season next April.

The long-striding and polished Ballynanty Rvs. half back told me that his club is aiming high and that he is proud to be associated with their revival in under age football. He was rather reluctant to quit his former club, Hyde Rvs., to try his luck with Balla earlier this year, but admits now that he has no regrets for teaming up with his fellow parishoners at Ballynanty. Michael shone with the Blues and Whites in under 15 football and has made the transition to minor with a great degree of success. "I seem to play better against under 13's than I do against those in my own age group", commented the likeable Ballynanty half back, who will be eligible for Schoolboys soccer again next season.

Michael likes to be entrusted with responsibility and Balla

have taken up the cue by giving him charge of their under 14 team for 1970. "This is a task I relish and hope that I will receive the support of the younger players in my neighbourhood". But in the meantime the ex-Hyde star is more concerned with Ballynanty's progress in the minor grade and he paid tribute to such fine players as Noel Long, Christy Williams, Ed. O'Donoghue, Willie Meehan and Mick Brommell for their dedication to the game, as well as to the other players who make up the club's panel.

"Of course, one must not forget our team trainer, Tony McMahon, without whose expert advice and assistance we just could not survive."

Strangely enough, Michael commenced his soccer career as an inside forward with Hyde Rovers, but suffered a loss of form early last season, and when he signed for Ballynanty they gave him the opportunity to prove his worth as a centre-half.

The Ballynanty pivot attributes his recent sparkling form to this change in position, "but soon I hope to return to inside forward again and get into the goal-grabbing act."

Michael is a natural footballer and his ambition is to be given a chance to prove his worth in English soccer. It was at inside forward that he was chosen as a reserve on the Irish schoolboys' team in their international, against Wales and England last May.

Michael was only 11 years of age when he put pen to paper for the Denis McGuinness-managed Hyde Rovers, and with them he won several major awards, including under 14 and 15 cups and 13 league. He figured at inside forward on the Hyde team that went under to Stella Maris (Dublin) in the Evans Cup final at Tolka Park, and it is worth mentioning that he was leading goal-scorer with the Prospect club for two seasons. He starred for Hyde in their sensational Munster Minor Cup run last season.

The Ballynanty pivot rates former colleague, Jack Ryan, as one of the best players in local football and he holds certain respect for Wembley Rovers schoolboy teams. He is a keen follower of Manchester United and his favourite player is Scottish international, Denis Law.

Michael opines that the standard of minor soccer is not particularly high at present and feels that Ballynanty have the ability and strength to make an impact this season. "Our main aim is to do well in the FAI Minor Cup, and failing that we will settle for the provincial trophy."

Michael is a keen soccer enthusiast, and although only 15 years of age he had the distinction of playing for Goodbody's in the inter-arm leagues and cups last year, when he collected two trophies. His other hobbies include reading, the cinema and keeping himself fit, and he also likes to get in an odd game of hurling and Gaelic football with Treaty-Sarsfields.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Earls, 36 Knockalisheen Road, Ballynanty Beg, Michael has four brothers, Clement (14), Jerome (10), Pat (7) and Christopher (3). Clement fields with St. Munchin's in schoolboy ranks.

REMEMBER THE TEAM



HUNTING

CO. LIMERICK HOUNDS
Will meet at 11.30 a.m.

JANUARY	
Sat., 3	Shanagolden
Mon., 5	Clarina
Wed., 7	(12 noon) Askeaton
Thurs., 8	Clonshire
(Children's Meet)	
Fri., 9	Kilmeedy
Sat., 10	Broadford
Will followers in cars please help by shutting all gates on to roads.	
Followers must not ride through dairy cart or in-call helpers.	

SCARTEEN HUNT

(The Black and Tans)

Will meet at 12 noon

JANUARY	
Sat., 3rd	Garryspillane
Tues., 6th	Longford Bridge
Thurs., 8th	Gormanstown
(Bye-Day)	
Followers are asked especially to avoid damage to stock and fences and to report any that may occur.	
STONEHALL HARRIERS	
Will meet 12 noon	
JANUARY, 1970	
Tues., 6th	Drews Cross (1 o'clock)

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