

On the other hand, Limerick's play up front was not solid enough to take advantage of a Rovers defence, which did not always inspire confidence. The forwards played their hearts out, but their apparent lack of thrust in the inside positions contributed to their defeat.

BEST CHANCES.

However, it must be admitted that Limerick had the best scoring chances of the re-play. Indeed, they produced the great highlight of the game that was well worth a goal. I am referring, of course, to the fine executed move in the 32nd minute which resulted from an indirect free. Shamrock had a wall of players ten yards from the ball. All Finucane, giving the impression that he was taking the kick, jumped over the ball, Ewan Fenton slipped it to the unmarked Eddie Mulvey who tapped it on behind the Rovers backs. With Finucane rushing on to the ball, it looked certain that Limerick must score but the ball bounced awkwardly for the right-half whose intended shot past goalkeeper Smyth went wide of the left upright.

Had Limerick scored they would certainly have won the trophy, for the opening goal was decisive in such a closely-contested cup final. As it was, Rovers got the elusive goal that meant victory and defeat for a gallant Limerick XI.

Even in defeat, Limerick sports enthusiasts were high in their praise of the locals great bid for ultimate success.

RESPONSIBLE

The man responsible for their big efforts was undoubtedly player-coach Ewan Fenton. His great tactics and generalship on the field were written all over in Limerick's displays right throughout the cup campaign—Drogheda (2-1), St. Patrick's Athletic (2-1 after a re-play), Drumcondra (1-0) and Shamrock Rovers (0-1 in a re-play). One can only be sorry that the former Blackpool player's efforts were not fully rewarded.

ENHANCED REPUTATION

But Limerick A.F.C. have enhanced their reputation immeasurably by their gallant efforts to bring the cup to the Shannonsiders for the first time, and, furthermore, have more than justified the right to participate in the European Cup Winners' Cup next season.

Apart from the F.A.I. Cup, Limerick's form throughout the season was a little disappointing. They did remarkably well in the Shield to tie with Cork Celtic, Shamrock Rovers, Dundalk and Drumcondra for a play-off on the 15 points mark.

Indeed, they were a shade unlucky not to prevent a play-off and take the Shield title. Playing Dundalk in their final game at Oriel Park, they failed to capitalise on a big territorial advantage by losing by the only goal scored direct from a corner by right-winger, Joe McGrath. A draw would have sufficed.

Their hopes of success in the play-off were crushed by Shamrock Rovers, who romped to an easy 6-1 win. Incidentally, Rovers retained the trophy by going on to beat Cork Celtic in the final.

LEAGUE COLLAPSE

After a good beginning to the League Championship, the Shannonsiders slumped incredibly bad, to finish last in the table with Waterford, on 12 points bracket—a very poor

scoring power. But for the opportunism of top scorer, Peter Mitchell, success on numerous occasions would not be forthcoming. The centre forward, who plays for Dublin Selected XI in Sardinia today, certainly made a big impact

of speed was very evident.

Player-coach Ewan Fenton has also some promising players at his disposal in the B string and thus the future of Limerick A.F.C. looks very bright.

FENTON BEATEN BY TWO VOTES

Soccer Writers' Award for Sean Thomas

BOHEMIANS coach, Sean Thomas, was this afternoon voted Footballer of the Year by the Soccer Writers' Association of Ireland, beating Limerick player-manager, Ewan Fenton, by 89 votes to 87.

This was Fenton's second time being just defeated for the annual award. Last year, the long-serving and extremely popular Secretary of the F.A.I., Mr. Joe Wickham, pipped Fenton

Thomas took over as coach for Bohemians at the start of this season and under his guidance the side reached the Top Four for the first time after being seven years in the wilderness.

It was thought, however, that Fenton would just about be preferred this time since he led Limerick to the F.A.I. Cup final for the first time and was the outstanding player in Wednesday's replay.

Last Wednesday it was announced that the Soccer Writers' Association would select from six, and the voting resulted as follows:—Sean Thomas (Bohemians), 89; Ewan Fenton (Limerick), 87; Jackie Mooney (Shamrock Rovers), 61; Eamonn Darcy (Drumcondra), 53; Jim Conway (Bohemians), 38; Jackie Hennessy (Shelbourne), 29.

The Oscar will be presented at the Soccer Writers' dinner to be held in the Maples Hotel next Thursday night.



Ewan Fenton

Minor wins for Croom and Camogue

Croom, 6-5; Kilmallock, 0-0

Camogue Rovers, 5-3; Ardpatrick, 0-1.

The first round of the South Limerick Minor Football Championship provided big wins for Croom and Camogue Rovers, over Kilmallock and Ardpatrick, respectively, at Bruree on Sunday.

Croom, playing with the breeze, led a half-time by 3-4 to nil. In the second half, it was considered that Kilmallock, the holders, would show up in better light, but again it was Croom who dictated the play and they had little difficulty in running out winners, 6-5 to 0-0.

Croom scorers were F. Roche, D. Carroll, S. Cregan, R. Quilty, T. Cullinane and C. Shanahan.

SECOND GAME

In the second game there was an almost equally big difference between the teams. Ardpatrick, playing with the breeze, could only succeed in scoring one point, and when Rovers led at half-time by 1 goal to 1 point, and were turning over with the breeze, the writing was on the wall. Rovers, winners of last year's South Limerick juvenile football championship, were all over their opponents in the second half and went on to win easily by 5-3 to 0-1.

Scorers for Rovers were: D. O'Rourke, P. O'Riordan, R. Browne, D. Collins and S. Hogan, while Ardpatrick's lone score was obtained by J. Casey.

Both games were refereed by S. Sexton, Bruree.

be better equipped and get the vote.

FORMIDABLE.

Janesboro United will have to be at their very best if they are to get the better of West (8 o.c.). Weston surprises everyone with their great display against Pike in the und 14 league during the week, and if their 13's are near as good then they should make a bid for honours.

Pike Rvs. must be fancied to collect both points when they oppose Dominic Savio at 7 p.m. Pike have a big number of promising players on their books and Dan Howard told me during the week that they are looking forward to a good season ahead. Dominic Savio are hardly likely to get the points from this game, but their "A" team must be fancied against Summerville Rvs., whom they meet at 7 p.m.

G.A.A.

Juvenile Board fixtures

At a meeting of the Juvenile Board, G.A.A., on Tuesday night, the following fixtures were ratified:

Wed., May 5 — At St. Patrick's Field, 7.30 (Group under 15 Football League) Monaleen v. St. Patrick's. Referee, P. Power.

Mon., May 3 — At Patrickswell, 7.30 (Group B, under Football League): Creco Mungret v. Patrickswell. Referee, T. Ryan.

We., May 5 — At Caledonia Park, 7.30 (Group B, Juvenile Football League): St. Brendan's v. Patrickswell. Referee, B. Slavin.

Mon., May 3 — At Shelbourne Park, 7.30 (Group B, Juvenile Football League): Ballybro v. Treaty Sarsfields. Referee, P. O'Dwyer.

Fri., May 7 — At St. Patrick's Field, 7.45 (Under 15 Football League): Cloughaun v. Patrick's. Referee, C. T. Namara.

Tues., May 2 — At C.I. Grounds, Rathbane (Under Football League): Old Christians v. Gerald Griffins. Referee, T. Considine.

Sun., May 9 — At Patrickswell, 12.30 (Group B, under 15 Football): St. Brendan's v. Patrickswell. Referee, T. Ryan.

Fri., May 7 — At Patrickswell, 7.45 (Under 15 Football Treaty Sarsfields v. Creco Mungret. Referee, J. Carey.

Fri., May 14 — At Hea Field, 7.45 (Group A, Juvenile Football): Cloughaun v. Gerald Griffins. Referee, S. S. tery.

May 10 or 14, at Patrickswell Group A Juvenile Football: Creco Mungret v. Treaty Sarsfields. Ref., J. Carey.

Thursday, May 13, at Patrickswell, 7.45, Group B Juvenile Football—Old Christians v. Patrickswell. Ref., J. O'Grady.

Friday, May 14, at St. Patrick's Field, Group B Juvenile Football—St. Brendan's v. Monaleen. Ref., M. Cuneen.

Next meeting of Board at Gaelic League Hall on Thursday, May 13, at 9.15, when first hurling fixtures will be made. Once again I appeal all clubs to forward all material suitable for inclusion in column. Accounts of games, pictures of players, etc., will be most welcome.