

EWAN FENTON IS BACK!

Ewan Fenton, winner of an English F.A. Cup medal with Blackpool, has signed a three-year contract as Manager of Limerick Soccer Club to take effect from July 1 next. The announcement was made last night by Mr. Michael Wallace, Chairman, after negotiations were completed.

The Board of Directors feel that Fenton's return to Limerick will help the club a great deal in their efforts to do well in major competitions next season. Before departing to Linfield, the Irish League Club, three years ago, Fenton brought Limerick into two F.A.I. Cup finals in 1965 and 1966, but on each occasion they lost to Shamrock Rovers.

Fenton was player-manager

of Limerick for seven years before moving up North where he enjoyed considerable success with the famous Windsor Park club. In the season gone by, they won the IFA Cup and also triumphed in the League Championship the previous year.

Why is Fenton returning to Limerick? One feels because he has an interest in a driv-

Exclusive by
TONY PURCELL

ing school business bearing his name, and it is also a well-known fact that he was very happy in his stay in this city. Furthermore, it is probable that his efforts would also be more appreciated both by the Board of Directors and supporters. Of course, the Northern crisis had a big influence in his decision as well as the favourable terms offered by Limerick.

Fenton had talks with the Limerick Directors over the week-end and returned to Bel-



Ewan Fenton

fast to discuss the situation with his wife, Vera, and his 12-year-old son, Ewan. He made his final decision late last night.

RESPECT

As a player Fenton earned the highest respect and was one of the first player-managers to play in League of Ireland football way back in 1960. His greatest moment on the field was in 1953 when he was on the victorious Blackpool team that beat Bolton Wanderers 4-3 in one of the most dramatic England FA Cup finals ever. He played at right-half. Tralling 3-1, Blackpool staged a remarkable comeback in which Stan Mortenson scored three goals in the final quarter.

Born in Dundee, Ewan played his first professional game with St. Johnstone, the Scottish Second Division team at the age of 16 years before being transferred to Blackpool, with whom he played for 13 seasons. Fenton's career in the English First Division ended in 1958 when he moved to Wrexham Town—but only stayed with the club for a season.

Limerick Soccer Club were desperately looking for a player-manager the year after they won their first league title in 1959, and Fenton, real-

ising that he had many more years of football in him, signed for the Shannonsiders. **OUTSTANDING**

He introduced a new brand of football to the club — a style which made Limerick one of the most respected in the country. Fenton played at right-half for the first two seasons and his clever positional and great distribution of the ball were outstanding features of his play. He moved to centre-half when international Al Finucane came on the team and proved a wonderful general and had a tremendous influence on the entire team.

Fenton showed to all and sundry that he was a great tactician in 1965 when he led Limerick into the FAI Cup final for the first time in their 28 years history. But a tragic injury to right-winger Mick Doyle, who broke a leg in the 44th minute, foiled Limerick of victory, and Shamrock Rvs., the then cup specialists, won 1-0 in a replay. Limerick, undaunted, made another valiant effort for cup glory the following season, only to lose 2-0 again to Shamrock Rovers.

Fenton was responsible for

Limerick finishing runners-up in the League Championship in 1963; top four finalists in the same year and always among the top five teams in the country.

HONOURED

Ewan was honoured by the League of Ireland selectors on a few occasions when he had charge of the team against the Scottish League, Irish League and Sardinia in Italy.

Many Limerick followers were disappointed at the news of Fenton's departure to Linfield, one of the wealthiest clubs in the North, three years ago. Yet Limerick managed to win their first major trophy in ten years last season by winning the Dublin City Cup — without a manager.

NEW HOPE

Now Ewan Fenton's return provides a new ray of hope for the next three seasons, and if the club are successful in signing one or two good players, then Limerick must make a big impact in the League of Ireland. Of course, the new British League Cup should prove a real incentive in the coming season for the players to make a big impression.

ROWING

TRINITY NEXT VI

(By "ASPIRAN")

WITH REGATTAS taking p from now until the end of J a hectic season for oarsmen. Foll Club's tremendous Centenary R the next venue is Trinity, today which St. Michael's schools' jun fending the cup won at last year ael's will also compete in the s while Limerick Boat Club will their great win in the maiden regatta.

In order to acclimatise them- selves for the narrow Island-bridge course, St. Michael's crews have been training on the Abbey River for the past few nights. Last evening their senior and junior schools eight had a very useful spin.

St. Michael's senior eight surprised all and sundry by the manner in which they stood up to the top university and Garda crews for three-quarters of the course last Saturday. Considering the fact that the crew had so little mileage behind them compared to the Dublin eights, it was a first-class performance and they should land this Arthur Ball trophy for seconds at Trinity. They meet Collegians of Belfast in their heat. Stroked by C. Brennan, this "St. Mick's" eight is big and strong and could very well reach the top later on the season.

All eyes will be on Limerick's maiden four following their great win at their own regatta. On that form it will take an exceptional crew to beat them.

And if St. Michael's schools junior eight row as well as they did also last week-end, they should retain the trophy won at Trinity last year. However, they have yet to meet the northern crews, who invariably produce top class schools material and would need to be very wary.

THE CENTENARY

All the superlatives have been used up in describing the memorable Limerick Boat Club Centenary celebrations and Regatta last week-end. May we say "thanks again Boat Club for a

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The initial Club, annual brated Comm appear for bz port i will t future "On tence the pr Annur iated practi past e the, e event: tribut sporti forma long i world nght. "Do eives anothe ve ye ously takes

Dogs: 30.00 Seconds Worst Time of Second Round

Guinness Sweepstake building up to fantastic climax

Larch Border Fastest on 29.63

by "LEADER" STAFF REPORTER

THE GUINNESS Sweepstake at Limerick is building up to a fantastic climax; the week-end second round heats provided some magnificent racing in excellent conditions, and an indication of the class of the field

Athletics: North Munster Colleges' Sports

St. Munchin's and Glenstal Lead the Way

By CHARLIE MILQUEEN