

Death of a legend

By AIDAN CORR

LIMERICK lost one of its most famous sporting personalities yesterday with the death of former soccer star and team manager, Ewan Fenton.

The 76-year-old died peacefully at his home in the city after a short illness.

Ewan's association with Limerick soccer is legendary, coming to the city to take over as player/manager of the local side in 1960. Born in Dundee in Scotland in 1929, Fenton soon went south and joined Blackpool with whom he remained as a first team player from 1948 to 1958, making 205 appearances.

In 1953 he was a member of the Blackpool side that won the FA Cup, beating Bolton Wanderers in what is still regarded as one of the best finals ever staged at the famous Wembley Stadium.

Trailing 3-1 late in the game, Blackpool staged a dramatic recovery and inspired by the magical wing play of Stanley

Matthews, went on the win the final 4-3.

Ewan joined Wrexham in 1959, played 24 games with that Welsh club and accepted an invitation to take over Limerick AFC from their then secretary, Terry McGowan (of 'come on the Blues' fame) in the summer of 1960.

As League of Ireland champions, Limerick were preparing for their first ever European Cup experience and Fenton played in both legs of the opening round, losing 5-0 to Young Boys of Berne in Thomond Park and 4-2 in the return game in Switzerland.

Ewan Fenton led Limerick to their first FAI Cup final appearance in 1965, going down after a replay to Shamrock Rovers and it was the Hoops who inflicted a second final defeat on Limerick the following year when Fenton guided them to a second defeat in succession.

Under Ewan's management, Limerick featured in two further European appearances, losing to CSKA of Sofia in 1965 and to Torino of Italy six years later.

His playing days over, Ewan took over as manager

of the side and in 1971, he led Limerick AFC to their first ever FAI Cup success, beating Drogheda United 3-0 after a replay at Dalymount Park.

He coached Linfield in Belfast for a short period, leading them to IFA league and cup successes before returning again to Limerick where he coached the senior side right up to the mid 1980s.

A keen golfer, Ewan was a member of Castletroy Golf Club and ran a successful driving school in the city.

His contribution to senior soccer in this city has been enormous and news of his death has been received with genuine sadness. He was one of the most competent players that ever graced the Markets Field and his successes as a manager and coach are marked by his achievements.

Funeral takes place tomorrow (Wednesday) night with removal from Thompson's Funeral Home at 7.30 to St Mary's Cathedral and funeral service in the Cathedral on Thursday at 11.30 followed by cremation service at Mount Jerome in Dublin at 4.00pm.



As a player, Ewan Fenton captained Limerick to two FAI Cup finals, in 1965 and in 1966, losing both to Shamrock Rovers. He is pictured here, third from right, back row, with the side that lost in 1966. Back row, from left, Vinny Quin, Al Finucane, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Ewan Fenton, Des McNamara, Joe Casey. Front row, from left, Dick O'Connor, Tommy Hamilton, Eddie Mulvey, Joe O'Brien and Paschal Curtin.

Sunday, April 23 is Heineken semi date

MUNSTER will meet Leinster on Sunday, April 23 at Lansdowne Road in the semi-final of the Heineken Cup, writes Aidan Corr.

The All-Ireland dream pairing will kick-off at 3.00 with ten minutes of extra played if necessary.

The tie will have to be decided on the day. In the event of the sides still being level after extra time, the rules state that the winners will be the team who has scored the most tries in the match, including extra time.

If still level, the game will be decided by a place-kicking competition. The other semi-final between Biarritz and Bath Rugby will be played on Saturday, April 22 in San Sebastian in Spain.

That tie will kick-off at 4.00 local time.

Details of ticket sales for the Munster and Leinster game will be announced by the organisers, ERC Limited, later this week but it is understood that both competing sides at Lansdowne Road will be allocated 20,000 each.

With major GAA games expected to cram the sporting fixture list on Sunday, April 23, it could yet be a very busy day in Dublin with the expected throngs from Munster adding to the congestion on the approach roads to the capital.

There is also a possibility that both Limerick hurlers and footballers could be in league action on that day.

The Munster game will be televised live on RTE, Sky Sports and Sky Sport+.

Minor hurling team is named

By JEROME O'CONNELL

FOUR members of last seasons' squad will backbone the Limerick minor hurling team that plays Cork this Thursday in the first round of the Munster Championship.

The provincial quarter final tie takes place in the Gaelic Grounds at 6.30 — extra time will be played if necessary.

Cork beat Limerick in last years Munster minor final, but Limerick later progressed to the All-Ireland final, where they suffered defeat to Galway.

Corner forward Michael

Ryan of Doon is the only team member that lined out in last seasons All-Ireland final — Brian Quinn, Ger Collins and Denis O'Connor were subs last September in Croke Park.

The team is captained by Kilmallock's Shane O'Donnell.

Manager Timmy O'Connor of Na Piarasigh GAA club continues at the helm this season, with Peter Curtin, Mick Heelan and Brian Ryan as selectors.

Declan Fitzgerald has stepped aside as team trainer and is replaced by Eddie O'Sullivan, who is the GAA games promotion officer in LIT.

Limerick: Barry Hennessey (Kilmallock), Brian Moloney (Blackrock), Cian Cagney (Granagh/Ballingarry), Padraig Behan (Croom),

James Mann (Patrickswell), Brian Quinn (Ballybrown), Nicky Quaid (Effin), Paudie O'Brien (Kilmallock), Denis O'Connor (Granagh/Ballingarry), James Carroll (Croom), Shane O'Donnell, capt (Kilmallock), Ger Collins (Milford), Micheal Ryan (Doon), Tiernan Ryan (Dromin/Athlacc), Timmy O'Brien (Murroe/Boher). Subs: Mark Fenton (Doon), Peter Riordan (Dromin/Athlacc), John Riordan (Templeglantine), Damian Quaid (St Marys Rathkeale), Donie Reale (Hospital/Herbertstown), Dermot Walsh (Knockainey), Eoin O'Brien (Kildimo), Stephen Donohue (Crecora), Thomas Crawford (Glenroe), Chris Casey (Croagh/Kilfinny), Michael Doyle (Monaleen), Jeremiah Moroney (Tournafulla), Garry Murphy (Caherline).

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