

RUGBY IN LIMERICK

By FERGAL KEANE

RUGBY FEVER gripped Limerick this Friday as the city prepared for the first Munster Cup final meeting between Shannon and Young Munster this Saturday.

Supporters have been flocking to the official ticket outlets in response to an appeal from the Munster Branch to buy their tickets early.

"We want people to get there as early as possible to stop big queues building up," said Mr. Michael Wallace, branch treasurer.

Fans have also been advised to avoid bringing their cars near Thomond Park as huge crowds are expected to converge on the ground prior to the 3.30 p.m. kick-off.

Both clubs are being given a fairly even chance of victory by the bookies although Shannon are being tipped as marginal favourites, with odds of 6/4 being the most attractive available on a survey of city betting offices.

Band music

The city will resound to the tunes of the St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band, who will march to Thomond Park to entertain the crowd prior to the kick off.

The band will play the club anthems, "There is an Isle," and "Beautiful Munsters" before the teams take the field and they will have an enthusiastic choir among the throng of supporters.

The Shannon choir got in some early practice at Angela Conway's Bar this week where the famed "Fongo" Ryan directed the proceedings. Strangely enough the choir refused to sing the Parish anthem.

"It would only be a bad omen at this stage," one supporter revealed.

Young Munster men were discussing the build-up to the game when the Limerick Leader visited them at Charlie St. George's Bar, although they were saving the songs for Saturday night.

Ter Casey

One of the surviving members of the Bateman Cup team, Ter Casey, who played international rugby for Ireland in 1928, commented: "I would give Munsters a great chance if they play with a bit of fire and determination and go in with their heads down ready to do the work."

Ter recalled the days of the Bombing Field (Prospect), when players had to wash in a cold water trench after the game. "You wouldn't catch them doing that now," he commented.

But while the supporters are enjoying the build-up, the pressure mounts on the players who were this Friday putting the final touches to their preparations.

The long winter of training sessions and friendly games is now behind them and the most important moment of the season awaits them and for the

Goalie Kevin Fitzpatrick announces retirement

By JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

KEVIN FITZPATRICK, who has given 22 years uninterrupted service to Limerick United, revealed this Friday that he has decided to retire on Cup Final day.

He will play his last Markets Field match on Sunday when United entertain St. Patrick's Athletic and he hopes to wind up his illustrious career with a Cup winners medal on the following Sunday.

"It has been a hard decision to make", said the likeable 'keeper, who told me that there was absolutely no way he would be persuaded to make a comeback.

"I know I have said it before, but this time the decision is definite", added Kevin.

Fitzpatrick has become an institution in Limerick soccer and I doubt if there are any other players in modern-day football who can claim to have given 22 years service to any one club.

Not alone was he an outstanding goalkeeper but a



Kevin in action.

model sportsman as well. It also speaks volumes for the modesty of the man that it is his wish to bow out of the scene without any fuss. "I deliberately kept back my plans to the last moment", said Kevin.

Weather

The forecast for the Limerick region this weekend is for sunny, settled weather, Shannon Met Office said this Friday.

Glor Ceol Luimni accuse Civic Week planners

By LEADER REPORTER

ORGANISERS of Limerick Civic Week were this week accused of causing the collapse of the Ceol competition, one of the festival's major events, by the producer of the competition, Mr. Sean O Moronaigh.

In a statement issued jointly with Mr. Con Foley, musical director of Ceol, Mr. O Moronaigh said: "A fine traditional music competition has been killed and we accept that."

"But after a dishonourable death we thought the least it deserved was an honourable post mortem and not a conspiracy of silence".

Sponsored

Mr. O Moronaigh said that the Ceol competition, which received £1,000 sponsorship from Guinness, was highly successful and that its collapse "did not just happen but was in fact caused".

"The 'problem' was seen by the Civic Week authorities when in 1980 the Ceol competition, as part of a production of traditional entertainment, played to an audience of over 900 in the Savoy Theatre and upstaged the Golden Voice competition which attracted less than 200 patrons despite the presence of Gay Byrne as compere", said Mr. O

Turn to page 5

Sporting the colours of the big match at Thomond Road, and Geraldine Cre

Two men in jail father voted

By LEADER REPORTER

A MURROE farmer and father of four young children, was sentenced to two months jail at Newport Court this week for voting twice in the General Election on February 18th last.

Charged with abuse of the Electoral Act, John Lynch, Moher, Murroe, claimed that he had received two polling cards, and had been told by canvassers from all sides that he could use both of them.

Mr. Noel O'Meara, solr., Nenagh, defending, contended that the offence was not in fact per se since the defendant had not voted in anyone else's name.

Statement

But District Justice M. de Burca said that the defendant was guilty of per se, and was liable to imprisonment for two months as well as a fine of £500

The court was told that in a statement to the Gardai, John

Presenting world of wildlife

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

AN EXHIBITION of Irish wildlife was officially opened by Mr. Brendan Daly, T.D., Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, at Limerick City Museum this week.

The exhibition, which is open to the public until September, includes 30 birds, some extremely rare, and wild animals, including otters and badgers.



Minister for Forestry and Fisheries, Mr. Brendan Daly (third from right) at the wildlife exhibition with (from left): Mr. Kevin O'Connor, President, Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Tom Colliery, acting city manager; Cllr. Pat Madden, Deputy Mayor.