

# Limerickman for next World Cup?

By EUGENE PHELAN

IF IRELAND should qualify for the next World Cup in Italy in four years time there is an excellent chance that a Limerickman will be donning the green against the best of the world.

For 22-year-old Joe Hanrahan, Ashbrook, Ennis Road, is on the verge of a breakthrough to Manchester United's first team.

He has just spent a season with the most famous club in the world and, as he says himself, "will be going hell for leather for a first team place this season".

Joe, intelligent and unassuming, is home for a break after his first season at Old Trafford.

He has a year of his contract to go and knows he has to do it next season to cement his future in big-time football.

## Injury problems

But he has had his problems in his first year in English football: "I was reasonably satisfied but I suffered an injury — it was the same type of injury that virtually every other player in the club got — a hamstring."

He played just 24 matches but notched 11 goals in the Central League, helping United's second team to second place. With good strong left-footed players who can score goals such a rarity, the experts on the ditch predict a bright future for the young Limerickman.

But he is under no illusions. So many players have come and gone from Old Trafford and it is always that much more difficult for a "front man" to make it.

The Irish with United have been a great help. "Kevin Moran, Frank Stapleton, Paul McGrath have all been very good to me," he says.

Joe's injury was eventually looked at by one of the most respected physios in the world, Richard Smith, who looked after England's captain Bryan Robson's leg problems.

Although fitter than ever, ironically Joe is still just as likely to pick up an injury "because of the training every day there is more stress and strain on the body. You might just get cold and just pull something. It can happen so easily," he says.

He admits to having been a little overawed at first when going to United, the team he supported from his childhood, and playing with world stars.

Joe shared digs for the last year with



Home on holidays: Joe Hanrahan.

one of the most expensive footballers in the world, Mark Hughes, who has been sold to Barcelona for £2.2 million.

"You should have seen the pressure he was under when the deal was going through. The newspapers were on every day, he would get about 30 calls a day."

*How on earth will we survive four years from now with Ireland at long last in the final and Limerickmen on the team?*

The Limerick Leader last week: will Joe fulfil the prophecy?

But what are Robson, Hughes and the other stars like? "They are very ordinary human beings and very easy to get on with. There are no airs and graces."

## Vereker Clements

Joe first came to prominence with local club Vereker Clements. Then he went on to U.C.D. where he won a Cup medal and a B.Comm.

This year's World Cup in Mexico proved an added bonus for Joe. Quite a few of United's players were involved which made way for him to go with the first-team squad on an end-of-season tour to Bangkok, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Instead of being played as a centre-forward he was shifted to a left "front man" role. By all accounts he

did very well.

He expects to start next season with the second team. "But I am going to go hell for leather to get into the first team," he says.

Football is not the great glamour life that many may think as players have to look after themselves and can't go out carousing every night of the week.

Indeed much of Joe's time at night is spent writing to friends in Dublin and Limerick. "Yes, I suppose you could say my real friends are still here in Limerick, the lads I knew since I was knee high to a grasshopper," he told me.

Although his ambition is to get on the Irish team he realises that this will never be achieved until he gets in the United side.

## Jack Charlton

Joe has already played schoolboy, youth and at under-21 level. But he dearly wants a first "cap". He never met Jack Charlton, the Irish boss, but knows his brother Bobby.

Joe's parents, Michael and Helen, live at Ashbrook, Ennis Road. Two other sons are also showing plenty of promise — David is with UCD and Peter recently won a Munster minor medal with Vereker Clements.

The next year will tell a lot in the future of this young player. But the odds are that we will be hearing a lot more about him in the coming years.

## Bruton Spread share ownership

By LEADER REPORTER

TAX INCENTIVES for share ownership, profit and research, aimed at 40,000 employees throughout the country, were highly Limerick this week by Mr Bruton, T.D., Minister for Finance.

"In the context of the decisive move towards share ownership, profit sharing and employee participation can prove significant for the future of Ireland as the achievement of land ownership by Irish almost 100 years ago," said Mr Bruton.

Addressing a seminar organised by the Institute of Finance, at the Limerick Institute of Education, Mr Bruton said that the incentives could be the beginning of a dramatic and far-reaching economic change in the country.

Mr Bruton stressed that incentives are geared towards the average investor in relatively small amounts.

"They are designed to encourage him to break out of traditional moulds and to take risk capital in productivity of the economy," he said.

An investor is allowed free investment up to £25,000 any one year in the case of Business Expansion and the Research and Development Scheme.

The objective, he said, is providing incentives for the purchase in certain circumstances was to encourage involvement in the ownership of business among the general public.

"We want to develop a home-based Irish sector with good employment potential, and we want more people to be involved in the development of business enterprise," said Mr Bruton.

To many people, the idea of owning shares somehow alien. This thing to do with a philosophy but rather a fact that they associate ownership with wealth.

## Barrier

"This barrier must be broken down. It is time to perhaps some radical change that the average man in the street will feel that he has access to purchase shares, and that any man attaching to share will be finally buried. Exchange cannot continue with proposals, they have to look to other ways to open up the market for Bruton."

The campaign, said Mr Bruton, also aimed at totally new attitudes towards workers and management.

"We are a small country with limited resources try our way in a fiercely competitive trading world. We can't have the luxury of the 'old' postures traditional by unions and management over the past 80 years," said Mr Bruton.

Referring to the scene today, Mr Bruton was clear that those



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