

Pike Rvs. are looking to the future with confidence.

Provincial trophy they got the better of Riverside and Fairview Rgs. "B". They are also through to the second round of the Saxone Cup as a result of their win over K.H. Finane.

Two defeats in ten outings isn't at all bad for a club that was made to struggle over the past few seasons. They made a clean sweep before the 1970-71 season got under way, and it is going to take another few months before they reap full benefits.

But until such time as they put more enthusiasm and fire into their play, they cannot hope to compete with such giants as Cals, Ballynanty and Fairview. What Pike need just now is that killer punch which we associate with such giant killers as Bedford Rvs. and St. Brigid's. Perhaps this will come as the season grows older.

The principal thing is that they are playing an attractive brand of football and with a little patience they can fulfill their goal.

They have the officials and players to help them do just that. Sean Curry and Pat Tierney have the club at heart and after many years of frustration they have had the satisfaction of seeing their team achieve some worthwhile results over the past few months.

Pike can be likened somewhat to Glasgow Rangers. The historic Scottish club were forced to play in Celtic's shadow for a number of years until they realised their own potential.

Pike crashed around the same time as Rangers, who are now making a dramatic come-back. Could be that Pike will follow in their footsteps—at a lower grade of football, of course.

Just take a look at the "Hoops" line-out: Back row—Peter O'Grady, Christy Finucane, John O'Dwyer, Larry Casey, Billy Harte, Fred O'Connor. Front row—John O'Brien, Tadgh Horan, Dermot O'Donovan, "Junior" Sheehan, Martin Kearney.

They are all accomplished performers. Finucane, Casey, O'Dwyer, Harte, Horan, Sheehan and Kearney are all in their

early 'twenties. John O'Brien is the "daddy" of the side at 33, while Peter O'Grady, Fred O'Connor and Dermot O'Donovan have years of experience behind them.

With this blend of youth and experience Pike must hit it off.

## JOHN WALSH—IT'S A NAME TO REMEMBER

The name is John Walsh. His club—Wembley Rovers. His potential, incalculable. For proof just consult Wembley Rovers' boss, Tony Hayden, and if still not convinced just ask any defender in the under 12 and 13 leagues.

The 13 year old Wembley striker has made such a decisive impact on the local front that many shrewd judges now rate him a youngster who could go places.

Tony Hayden, never one to single out a particular player for special mention, is often heard to rave about Walsh's future in a quiet discussion on football. And if anyone should know of John's potential it must surely be the genial Wembley manager who discovered the Garryowen youth a couple of years ago.

Walsh has made remarkable progress with the Blue and Whites and is fast following in the footsteps of his more illustrious brother, Ronnie, now starring with Hyde Rovers, but who also commenced his career with the famed Wembley.

Although unassuming, Walsh has tremendous confidence in his own ability. He reveals brilliant positional sense and does everything with the unruffled, almost nonchalant calm of a veteran. With the right handling he stands on the threshold of a great career.

There is nothing better in schoolboys' football than to see wee John in full flight; taking on backs and beating them. True, he lost some of his gloss towards the end of the 1970 season, but we must remember that he had a most trying and testing five months. I reckon that he played an average of three games weekly.

Wembley's Mr. Perpetual Motion modestly shrugs aside the profusion of praise that has greeted his glowing displays, but admits he is pleased with his current form.

"Wembley played so well in the season just ended that it made my job easy," explains



JOHN WALSH

John. Helping to win the treble—League, Top Four and Cup—with the under 13s in 1969 boosted my confidence." John has been a Wembley fixture for some time now. In his third season with the club he has amassed the most impressive total of ten major trophies and has chalked up well in excess of 100 appearances.

The Wembley striker has fashioned a reputation for reliability, second-to-none, and apart from his all-action contribution he figures prominently among the scorers.

He hit some very important goals in 1970, when he had the satisfaction of steering the under 12s to victory in the Cup, and assisted the 13s in winning the treble. He was an automatic choice in both grades.

John has every admiration for team mates Nessan O'Connor, Pat McCormack, Leo Fitzgerald and Eugene Smith and predicts a bright future for all four players. "We have many other outstanding stalwarts in the Wembley camp but it would take a column or so to mention all their names," he smiled.

Rugby is another sport at which he excels and he is a regular with Richmond. Soccer, however, is Walsh's number one choice and it is his ambition to lead Wembley to further honours. "I am proud to be a member of their club," he added.

John talks modestly of his own ability for he realises that all too many 12 and 13 year olds show great promise in the lower grades in schoolboys' football, only to fade out of the limelight afterwards. Somehow, I think things will be different in Walsh's case.

John is son of Mr. and Mrs. Sean Walsh, 23 Kilmurry Ave., Garryowen. He has two brothers, Stephen (19) and Ronnie (17), and one sister, Mary (9). He is a pupil at Limerick C.B.S.

right up with the front runners, a team bubbling with new-found confidence after a string of heartening successes.

The big test for them comes tomorrow when they pit their skills against Pike Rovers in a third round FAI Junior Cup game at Pearse Stadium. The "hoops," like Boro, are most anxious to confirm their recent return to form and their star-studded team can be expected to put that little extra into their play on this important occasion.

For Boro it is the acid test in a season that has seen them transformed almost miraculously from error-prone strugglers to a well drilled outfit that no longer suffers from a giant inferiority complex. Manager Tony Murphy can boast of one of the youngest combinations in the Premier League and it will be one of his proudest moments if he can blueprint victory tomorrow.

Experience alone suggests that Pike should overcome this hurdle. When you take on Pike you must think about the goal potential of Billy Harte. You think about how skilful Martin Kearney can be, how dangerous John O'Brien is on the right wing.

Reputations mean little to the present Boro squad. Nothing pleases Murphy more than the current fine form of Brendan Minihan, Seamus O'Donnell, Ger McMahon and Christy Ryan. Having walloped Weston 4-2 last week they will enter Sunday's game in the right frame of mind and it will be interesting to see how they fare.

## Must be Cals.

While Caledonians have been leaping up the Premier League table, Star Rvs. have been faced



Pike Rovers defence will have to watch 'Boro's sharpshooter, Christy Ryan, if they are to advance in the F.A.I. Junior Cup.

with some domestic problems, and unless they pull themselves together they seem doomed for defeat at the hands of the F.A.I. Junior Cup holders. "Star", a hard working side, can hardly be rated in the same class as the Edward St. boys, but it is perhaps well to remember that they have the happy knack of being able to pull out something special when it comes to cup football.

To suggest, however, that they can put a halt to Cals all conquering run is like putting one's head on the chopping

## I've been told that..

- Richie Hall was most impressive for Limerick in their fine 2-1 win over Shelbourne last Sunday.
- Shelbourne and Tavern United A.F.C. will hold their annual dinner dance on Friday, December 4th.
- Local businessman donated £20 to the schoolboys trip to Leeds fund.
- Waterford were only the second team to score two goals against Glasgow Celtic in a European Cup

Celtic