

By OBSERVER

## Joe Waters accepts trial with Leicester

**THE versatile Joseph Waters, who was nominated as the "Most Promising Soccer Player of 1968" by the "Limerick Leader," has been offered a trial by Leicester City, and will fly to England to-day to spend the week-end at Filbert Street, home ground of the famous English First Division club.**

Indeed, Joe was faced with an awkward predicament last Sunday, when he was approached by representatives of both Liverpool and Leicester after he had helped his club to a 1-1 draw with Wolfe Tones, but the Garryowen youth gave preference to Leicester, mainly because they were the first to show an interest in his future.

The last fortnight has been memorable for the Wembley utility player. He impressed the Irish Schoolboy selectors in a recent trial game in Dublin and his efforts were rewarded when he was "capped" at inside forward against Wales in an under 15 international at Dalymount Park.

Joe figured prominently in the 3-1 victory, and after that game he was approached by a scout from Coventry City. "I wanted plenty of time to make up my mind as regards Coventry's offer," commented Joe, "because at the time I knew that both Leicester and Liverpool were also showing an interest."

The Liverpool representative was most disappointed last week-end that he was beaten to Waters' signature by the Leicester scout.

Joe will be accompanied to Leicester by a Wembley official. He will have a three-day trial, and if he satisfies Leicester City manager, Frank O'Farrell, he will be offered a further month's trial at Filbert Street.

Joe is looking forward to meeting all the Leicester stars and he is confident that he will do



Joseph Waters

well in his trial. He has the talent, and if given the right encouragement this Wembley boy could really make a name for himself.

He is hoping that Leicester will be successful against West Brom Albion in the semi-final of the English F.A. Cup at Hillsborough today.

Joe started his soccer career with Wembley Rovers some six years ago, and after winning a medal he moved on to Pike. His stay with the 'hoops' lasted for only eight months, and he returned to Wembley again. In the interim, he has helped them to several trophies, and was a leading member of the Wembley under 14 and 15 teams

that won their respective leagues last season.

He is said to be one of the most promising young players to hit the local scene for a long time, and all schoolboy soccer followers will join with us in wishing him every luck in his trial with Leicester City.

### Athletics

Joe is also one of Limerick's most outstanding young athletes and during his three years in the field he has won 60 medals, five cups, one statuette and medallion and five plaques.

He met his first major success with Limerick A.C. on Easter Sunday, 1964, when he was placed second to the more fancied Steve McNamara in a one mile cross-country race at Granagh.

Showing great promise in under-age competitions, Joe was promoted to the club's juvenile team. With Tony Dwane, Niall Cusack and Tony Fitzgerald, he finished second in a cross-country event at Knockalisheen. Thirty teams from all over the country competed. In the Limerick City Sports he teamed up with Michael Ryan, of Garryowen, to win the three-legged race.

In 1965, Joe was on the Limerick A.C. team that finished second in the County League and Championship (under-14). Team mates were Niall Cusack, John Tobin, Noel Ryan and Dick Eades. He took first prize in the cross-country at Oola and in the road race at Granagh, and ran with the Limerick team that finished second to Cork in a cross-country race at Dungan.

He has to his credit three Munster Championship thirds for hop, step and jump, half-mile and one mile cross-country at

Tipperary. He had a field day in a sports meeting at Ballybrown when he came first in three major events, the mile, treble jump and 400 yards relay. He won the individual prize in Co. Limerick in 1967, and his club, Limerick A.C., were second.

Joe captained the Limerick A.C. team that competed in the Telefis Eireann sports at Santry.

Also useful at rugby, he helped Shannon win the Edward Lawlor Cup, and he won several medals with Old Christians G.A.A. Club. He is also a competent swimmer.

Joe broke new ground last month when he entered the Limerick juvenile boxing championships, and created history in becoming Limerick champion in his first ever competitive bout.

### Family

Joe's brother, Dermot, is an accomplished and versatile sportsman. Their father, Edward, who is employed with C.I.E., has won many sporting trophies, and was a member of the Garryowen team that won the Munster Senior Cup in season 1951 and 1952. He was also on the Pike team that brought the Burkerby Cup to Limerick for the first and only time.

Their grandfather, Mr. Jack Waters, was Chairman of Limerick Athletic Club for 16 years.

Joe's second brother, seven-year-old, Mark, is attending St. John's School. He has three sisters, Theresa, Bernadette and Muriel. Joe lives at 11 Kilmurry Ave., Garryowen.

Visitor from Tasmania

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