

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNE

Joe Waters enhances his claims

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Joe Waters hopes of claiming a regular spot on the Republic of Ireland international team were given a boost late last year when he was drafted into the panel for the Nations Cup game against Northern Ireland at Windsor Park.

Though he failed to get into the side from the start, he was drafted into a midfield role midway through the second period when Gerry Daly was injured. And Waters thought he played well enough to warrant a recall for the forthcoming international against England.

The 25 year-old Limerickman has had his ups and downs at international level. He won his first cap in Ankara in 1976 when, from the full-back position, he scored the Republic's equalising goal in their 3-3 draw with Turkey. By all accounts he had a fine game in a position which was new to him.

However, a lot of water flowed under the bridge until he was next summoned into action—against Northern Ireland. Such is the quality of Joe's play in his capacity as captain of Grimsby Town that the Republic's team manager, Johnny Giles, just cannot ignore his form.

The former Wembley Rovers schoolboy has the fishing port club sitting pretty in the top four of the Third Division and also guided them to the quarter finals of the League Cup, in which they were beaten by Wolverhampton Wanderers.

AMAZING

He had an amazing start to his career in England. Joining Leicester City at the age of 15, he made his debut two years later—in the quarter final of the FA Cup. Leicester's opponents on that day were Queens Park Rangers. The unknown Waters helped himself to the headlines on the following day with a brace of goals that sent the Midlanders into the semi-finals.

"I thought that my achievement then was going to be my launching pad to greater things, but unfortunately this was not to be. Leicester had a big number of experienced players at the time and when Alan Birchenall recovered from injury, I was relegated to the subs bench."

Waters became disillusioned with reserve team football. He asked for a transfer, which was reluctantly agreed to by the club. Grimsby heard he was available and their supporters came up with the £10,000 transfer fee demanded.

"I must admit at being apprehensive about joining the Mariners. After all it was a drop from Division One but I wanted regular first team football and that happened at Blundell Park. Also a crucial factor was the response of the fans. They made me feel at home and in the end the decision to come to Grimsby was an easy one."

CAPTAINCY

Ironically, he was not the boss's choice for the captaincy. Explained

Joe: "Back in August, 1977, Keith Hanvey was all set to take the job, but an unfortunate injury kept him out of the early season games. I was given the chance to prove myself, though Mr. Newman warned me that my disciplinary record would have to improve. The added responsibility of captaincy has helped to improve my game and temperament—after all, the captain cannot afford to have a string of

cautions to his name. He admits that in his first season as captain he did have problems and at times found it hard going. In this respect he praises manager John Newman. "He made me realise my potential, made me work at my game and has given me the confidence in my own ability." With Grimsby in fourth spot in the Third Division, Joe is hopeful

that he can lead them into the second. He is enjoying his football with them and in his three seasons at Blundell Park has won the respect and admiration of all those connected with the Mariners. His ambitions are to get back into the Irish squad and to play again in the First Division. When Grimsby played Liverpool in the FA Cup at Anfield over a week ago, Joe was watched by his father, Ned, a former Garryowen player, and his two uncles, Gerard and Tony. "They are my most ardent admirers," he concluded.

Table Tennis:

Milk's A Winner for Alan

14-year-old Alan Marshall is now ranked No. 2 Cadet in Ireland. At the Junior and Cadet Inter-provincials recently held in Plassey House, Alan was one of two who won 8 of his 9 matches, the other being 15 year old Geraldine Leonard (Dublin). The Limerick and District Table Tennis Association would like to extend their grateful thanks to Mr. A.I. Finucane, Limerick Dairies, who arranged to have free milk available to all the players participating in the Inter-provincials. Also many thanks to sponsor, S.P.S., Shannon Airport, and A.I.B., O'Connell Street. Without these sponsors it would not have been possible to successfully stage the Championships.

DETERMINATION

Mary Sheehan is now in the prominent position of No. 3 in Ireland and during a conversation with coach, Billy Marshall earlier this week he gave Mary tremendous praise for the effort and the fantastic amount of training she has put in this season. He went on to say that Mary has been unlucky not to be chosen to represent Ireland at the European Championships to be held in Berne, Switzerland in April. This will not stop Mary from attempting to win the Irish Open in Belfast on February 3rd/4th, where she is also scheduled to appear as guest player for the American or Canadian team who will participate in the team event.

Mary has been pipped at the post for one or two Irish Caps this season. However, this highlights her most outstanding trait—determination. As Mr. Marshall says, "It is tough at the top in ladies' table tennis in Ireland and Mary is not afraid of the struggle necessary to get there."

At a management meeting of the Irish Table Tennis Association last weekend the following Irish Ranking Lists were issued for the season '79/'80:

- Men**—1, Kevin Keane (L); Joint 2, Colum Slevin (L) and M. Kinross (U.K.); 4, J. Hickey (L); Joint 5, D. Weir (U) and T. Heasley (U); 7, P. Glynn (U.K.); 8, J. Hamill (U); 9, D. Pemberton (L).
- Ladies**—1, A. Leonard (L); 2, D. Kilpatrick (L); Joint 3, E. Cash (U); M. Sheehan (M); 5, P. Hunter (U); 6, G. Leonard (L); 7, V. Moore (U).

- Junior Boys**—1, C. Slevin (L); 2, M. Greene (L); 3, R. McWilliams (U); 4, D. Flanagan (U); Joint 5, M. Cherry (L), J. O'Connell (M), D. Crowley (L), R. Barry; 9, A. Walsh (L); 10, B. Orr (U); 11, N. McGrane (L); 12, K. Galvin (M); 13, A. Greene (L).
- Cadet Boys**—1, A. Walsh (L); 2, A. Marshall (M); 3, J. Fall (U); 4, M. Wooser (L); 5, G. Casey (U); 6, A. Robson (U); 7, S. Hayes (L); 8, O'Hara (U); 9, B. McGrane (L); 10, K. O'Leary (M); 11, M. Burke (C); 12, T. Quinn (L).

- Junior Girls**—1, G. Leonard (L); 2, L. Gibson (U); 3, J. Wightman (U); 4, P. Blair (L); 5, K. Ring (L); 6, J. Green (L); 7, C. McGrane (L).

- Cadet Girls**—1, E. Tuohy (L); 2, A. M. Reilly (L); 3, E. Nelson (U); 4, A. Flood (L); 5, A. N. Other (U); 6, A. N. Other (U); 7, C. Leonard (L); 8, T. Fortune (L); 9, M. Christie (U); 10, H. Watson (U).

M—Munster; L—Leinster; U—Ulster; C—Connacht.

SCHOOLS LEAGUE

The schools league is now back to normal after Christmas holidays. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Bill Hayes, League Secretary. The first

match played after the holidays was St. Clement's v. Ard Scoil Ris. Ard Scoil Ris were just lucky to beat St. Clement's, 5-4.

TREAT IN STORE FOR TABLE TENNIS FANS

The Munster Branch of the Irish Table Tennis Association has been allocated a European League match: Ireland v. Switzerland, to be played on March 13th, in Limerick's Royal George Hotel. We are honoured to be given the opportunity of hosting this important and attractive European League fixture, however, this can only be done with the help of local sponsorship, so if we are to stage this prestigious event we need your financial support.

It is estimated that a sum of approximately £500 will be required to promote this international fixture and we are looking for a sponsor who would be prepared to sponsor the event, in return for which they would get publicity in the local press and match programme, free hospitality at the reception afterwards and up to a maximum of 50 free admission tickets. Your early response indicating your support would be a tremendous encouragement to us.



Miss Brid Mulcahy (left) and Miss Karen Kennedy, both from Newcastle West at the coursing meeting in Newcastle West on Monday last.

Although Li United hiccupped recent League against Drogheda, Cork, player-m Eoin Hand, is no to be pressurised accepting Postns offer of loanin players to the leaders.

"Admittedly, we a through a sticky pe personally I don't would be wise at this recruit two players fr land. They would ta time to settle in and w afford the luxury c such a gamble in the in for honours."

He is concerned that h without striker, Gerry D the visit to Dalymount Sunday, but is hearten news that central defend dan Storan, could be action within a week.

In the event of Duggar fit for this tough assignm Bohemians, then it is a tain that his place will Kennedy, a player who t scoring touch this season.

Bohemians are going t tough nut to crack. In rec they beat Dundalk 1-0 with Shamrock Rovers, ager, Billy Young, pre they will help to open th League honours.

But, as Hand sees it, are capable of producing football at Dalymount P is looking to this fixtu degree of optimism.

"The occasion will sui think we can lift our gar with Bohs," said Eoin.

This will be Limer



The winners of the prizes by Frank Ger gross; Jimmy Daly,