



Sonny Kiely was busy that day in Thomond Park. Here he is making a break down the blindside



Going nowhere: Garryowen's Mick Sherry (centre) makes a tackle

FAI chief Delaney leads tributes to soccer legend Joe O'Mahony

JOE O'MAHONY, RIP

FAI CEO John Delaney has led the tributes to Limerick soccer legend Joe O'Mahony who died yesterday at the age of 65.

O'Mahony, a native of Limerick city, was synonymous with League of Ireland football in his hometown and played in the league for 20 years.

"I am deeply saddened at this news," said John Delaney. "I have great memories of Joe playing for Limerick. Limerick had great rivalries with Waterford and he was a top class player. My sympathies to his family. The Association will mark his passing in March at the Serbia international," he added.

He made his debut for Limerick against Sligo Rovers in November 1966 and

his final game was in October 1986 when he returned after a two-year break to make an appearance against St Patrick's Athletic in Hogan Park aged 38.

O'Mahoney made 418 league appearances for the club and is one of a select band of players to make more than 400 appearances in the league.

He captained Limerick United's title winning side of 1979-80 as an ever-present. He also was captain of the 1982 FAI Cup winning Limerick United team against Bohemians and played in 1971 FAI Cup winning team, which beat Drogheda United after a replay. He also had the honour of captaining Limerick against Real Madrid in the European Cup - when they played in Lansdowne Road, and in the

Bernabeau.

O'Mahony was also a key part of the Limerick side that won the League Cup for the first time in their history in the 1975-76 season.

He was capped at youth international level for Ireland in March 1966 against Northern Ireland and also represented the League of Ireland against the Scottish League and Australia in 1970. O'Mahony was on the bench in Prague in 1969 for a senior World Cup qualifier but didn't play.

His performances as centre-back earned him huge popularity with the Limerick fans. He was known for his ferocious shot and was a free-kick specialist. The supporters often shouted 'Have a go Joe' when he was in shooting distance.



The Limerick team that beat Shelbourne in the FAI Cup first round in 1971 - that side progressed to win that season's FAI Cup title. Back from left: Tony Fitzgerald, Sean Byrnes, Al Finucane, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Joe O'Mahony and Richie Hall. Front from left: Hugie Hamilton, Paddy Shortt, Tony Meaney, Andy McEvoy, Joe Burke and Dave Barrett.

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