

JEROME O'CONNELL

Email: joconnell@limerickleader.ie
Twitter: @JeromeSport

LIMERICK FC won't be pressing the panic button yet despite a win-less start to the Airticity League season.

Stuart Taylor's Limerick have just two draws from their opening four games of the new Premier Division season and face into double game weekend.

"There is a belief in the dressing room that we have a good enough squad to go and win games and it doesn't matter who it is against - I think we proved that against St Pats, that we can go and compete," stressed Taylor ahead of Friday trip to the Belfield to play UCD.

Limerick are then back in

Thomond Park on Monday night to play Cork City.

"Once we have a full squad up and running with game time under their belts - we are as good a team as anyone else in the league," said Taylor.

"We have had a lot of injuries and illnesses and that's probably what it is down to. But everybody is coming back and we are keeping positive - we are starting to see the faces come back on the pitch and just hope that we can go from strength to strength," said Taylor of the sluggish start.

"It's a very very long season and we are only four games into the league campaign and have two points on the board. We have played first and second place from last year but still we would like to have more points on

the board".

He added: "I think we should have more points on the board. There are loads of games to rack up points and once we get everyone back fit we will be fine."

Last Friday night, Declan 'Fabio' O'Brien's tap in goal from close range on the half hour mark helped unbeaten Drogheda United record a 1-0 win over Limerick before an attendance of just 855 paying customers at Thomond Park.

LIMERICK FC: Barry Ryan, Shaun Kelly, Stephen Folan, Shane Duggan (Capt.), Rory Gaffney, Shane Tracy, Patrick Nzuzi (Robbie Williams 79), Darragh Rainsford (Craig Curran 50), James McGrath (Tom McManus 72), Samuel Oji, Jason Hughes.

DROGHEDA UTD: David Ryan, Shane Grimes, Alan McNally, Cathal Brady (Carl Walsh 84), Gavan Holohan, Gary O'Neill, Gavin Brennan (Capt.), Claran McGuigan, Daire Doyle, Declan O'Brien (Austin McCann 89), Eric Foley (Stephen Maher 74).

Man in charge: Limerick FC manager Stuart Taylor

Limerick soccer community mourns death of Sean Cusack

AIDAN CORR

Sports Reporter
sport@limerickleader.ie

WITHOUT doubt, Sean Cusack, who died this week, was one of the most accomplished inside forwards every to don the blue jersey of Limerick AFC.

He was capped for the Republic of Ireland against France in the World Cup qualifiers at Dalymount Park on November 16, 1952, a game that ended 1-1. Also in that side were two other Limerick players, Johnny Gavin from Janesboro, who starred with Norwich and later with Tottenham Hotspur, and Tom 'Bud' Ahern who played with Luton Town.

Sean Cusack made his League of Ireland debut with Limerick at the Markets Field in season 1946/47, joining a local side that included Willie O'Grady, Eamonn Clancy (who was later to win a Munster Senior Cup with Shannon in 1960), international goalkeeper Willie Hayes, Johnny Gavin and Kevin Holman.

In an era where wingers played close to the whitewash and the inside right and inside left operated as modern-day



A Limerick team of the early 1950s - Sean Cusack is in the middle of the front row

midfielders, Sean Cusack was gifted with exceptional footballing skills and his contribution to both senior and junior soccer (where he played with Ballynanty Rovers) have never been forgotten.

He helped Limerick AFC to their first every League of Ireland success on Sunday, November 1st, 1953 when they beat Dundalk in Oriel Park in a thriller. Trailing 2-0 with 20 minutes remaining, Cusack showed calmness to slot home a penalty that brought Limerick back into it at 2-1.

Minutes later Georgie Lynam shot past Dundalk keeper D'Arcy to equalise and the winner from Paddy 'Beaver' Cronin created Limerick soccer history. The victorious Limerick AFC side included

Batey Neilan, Georgie Lynam, Sean 'Geezer' O'Dwyer, John Neilan, Willie Aherne, Willie O'Grady, Patsy Collopy, Peter Bradley, Sean Cusack, Gerry O'Grady, captain; Paddy 'Beaver' Cronin and Mick Hayes. Willie 'Blarney' Keane was the team manager.

Husband of the late Nancy, Sean Cusack, who passed away at the Midlands Regional Hospital, Portlaoise, is survived by his daughters Rosemary and Regina, sons Kieran, Declan and Seán, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, brother, sister, relatives and friends.

His funeral mass took place at St Munchin's Church on Tuesday with burial afterwards in Mungret Cemetery.

THE M
LIMERICK
VERSUS



Monday
Thomond

STAND - C15
TERRACE - C12

After Match 18
Limerick FC's first team stars will be

EX: LIMERICK LEADER (LEADER SPORT)
5TH APRIL 2014 PAGE 41