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Limerick Leader
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1975

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12 "A", Gerard Lawlor, Geraldines.

12 "B", Killian Slattery, St. Clements.

12 "C", Gregory McNamara, Garryowen Celtic.

13 "A", Michael Keeley, Pike Rovers.

13 "B", Richard Cummins, Hyde Rangers.

14 "A", Joseph Nash, Wembley Rovers.

14 "B", Daniel Fitzgerald, Rexboro.

15, John Browne, Fairview Rangers.

Sports stars of the year, 1975

Presentation of awards next Friday

BY JOHN O'SHAUGHNESSY

Everything is in readiness for the presentation of schoolboy soccer awards at the Savoy Theatre on next Friday, October 17. Awards of 250 people are expected to attend. This annual presentation of awards, first introduced about 12 years ago, is one of the highlights of the local soccer calendar. Such renowned clubs as Blackpool, Manchester United, Sunderland and Tottenham Hotspurs have presented trophies.

This season's choice of award winners has met with the approval of the majority of those who patronise the schoolboy scene.

Under-age football is well established in the Limerick area and tribute must be paid to such people as George Mitchel, Joe Mullane, Pat Brennan, Pat Fitzgerald, Noel King, Tony Hayden and Pat McMahon, who were responsible for the success of this season's competitions.

RESPONSE

There was a magnificent response to their request for trophies, which have been donated by the following: Messrs. Jim Aherne, Sean Bourke, Sean Forde, Christy Tobin, Larry Fitzgerald, Jim McNamara, Dick Fenny, Ger O'Sullivan, Jack Greaney, Mick Neiland, Robert Byrne, B.C.; Mick Lipper, B.C.; James Kenney, B.C.; Frank Keane, Greg Tobin, Fitzgerald, David McMahon, Mick Dineen, Richard Cronin, Pat Cusack, Mick McKenna, John O'Shaughnessy, Tony Murphy, Pat Dineen, Noel King, Tony Hayden, Fran O'Mahony and Dan Howard.

Trophies were also presented by L.D.M.C., Shannon Minerals, Broadville F.C., Thomond R.F.C., Inter-Firm Council and Geraldines F.C.

Clubman, under-12 - 15, Thomas Joyce, Clanville.

Most complete player of the year, Thomas Gaynor, Wembley Rovers.

Clubman, under-16 - 17, Michael Ryan, Wanderers.

16, Thomas Collins, Ballyclough.

Clubman, under-11 - 15, Gerard Butler, St. Brigid's.

Most promising player, Paul Reddan, Colbert Park.

Player of the year, William O'Donnell, Ballynanty Rovers.

Council man of the year, Patrick Fitzgerald, L.D.S.L.

For services rendered to sport, Patrick Brennan, treasurer, L.D.S.L.

Manager of the year, Gerard Webb, Verdier.

17, Brendan Moran, Janesboro S.A.C.

SPORTING VIEW

Football row can only harm county prospects

Wouldn't you think Limerick football had enough trouble to be getting along with without the furore that has blown up over the county championship? Many recent developments reflect very little credit indeed on some of those most vitally concerned and this is all the greater pity when one acknowledges the unexpected and splendid response to the training sessions called for the forthcoming National League campaign.

Few will disagree with N.C.P.E. chairman, John O'Halloran, when he spoke as follows at the recent county board meeting ... "Do you accept N.C.P.E. or not? Limerick should rise to the challenge as their Cork, Dublin and Galway counterparts have done, with a consonant rise in Limerick football standards. I am annoyed with the present objection saga and it is a despicable exercise and a waste of valuable time trying to prove a club wrong on mere technicality. Rules are necessary but the promotion of Gaelic games are far more important".

It is acknowledged that N.C.P.E. failed to comply with an important bye-law concerning registration, but it is also true that their grouse at having to play St. Kieran's at a western (Askeaton) venue, under a referee who had spoken strongly against their admittance in the first place, had a certain amount of substance.

Furthermore, they won by a substantial margin, adopting a sporting approach in marked contrast to St. Kieran's, who had one man put off and seven warned. For the Carrickerry club to come above them and object was galling indeed and no wonder Mr. O'Halloran was prompted to ask ... "Do you accept N.C.P.E. or not?

St. Kieran's may resent these remarks, but we are expressing the sentiments of the vast majority of fair-minded G.A.A. fans in Limerick.

And full marks, too, to Board chairman, Rory Riely, for his statement ... "It can be argued that N.C.P.E. would not help Limerick football, but I disagree completely with this assessment and firmly believe that the college, with its fantastic facilities, can do nothing but raise the standard of club football in the county and who says this is not needed at present? Let's have this Limerick county football final decided under an open sky and not under a slated roof".

Treaty Sarsfields, through to the final, and also vitally concerned, said a the meeting that they were "not spoilsports but only wanted the county board to enforce the rules of the Association". A pity they didn't subsequently heed or hear John O'Halloran's comments that "rules are necessary but the promotion of Gaelic games is more important". They have decided to appeal to the Munster Council against re-playing the semi-final ... in other words they want to hold on to the title without playing the final at all. If they succeed, their victory dinner should be extremely enjoyable but what will the price be to Limerick football?

SOCCER: League-Cup final at Dalymount Park

4 MINUTE DOUBLE SINKS WATERFORD

Duggan and Kennedy on the trigger for Limerick

By John O'Shaughnessy at Kilcohan Park

WATERFORD (1), 1; LIMERICK (0), 2.

WATERFORD' SHIGHLY-PAID players must have blushed as they accepted their bulky pay-packets after this shock 2-1 home defeat by Limerick yesterday. Not only were "Dad's Army" beaten; they were outpaced and outclassed by Limerick's younger generation in this Bass sponsored League-Cup semi-final, which attracted a "gate" of £420.

ie a thrilling decider.

In the other semi-final, Sligo Rovers (trained Drogheda U.F.), did the shire in now so.

If the Bandsiders are left rounding their pensive after the unexpected setback, not so Limerick's Mick Webb, who must have been laughing all the way to the bank this Friday morning.

You see, the blues are now guaranteed a further £500 from Bass, and if they win the final against Sligo Rovers at Dalymount Park next Thursday, that figure will increase to £750. Not pickings, Limerick!

Talking about money, Limerick's fun-hearted eleven deserve an extra big bonus for this magnificent win which stretches the elastic on their unbeaten run to four games. Perhaps the club is unable to stretch the elastic on their kitty at the moment, but if Tony Fitzgerald and Co. can retack this type of form then their reward will come in the shape of massive support at the Markets Field.

LONG WAY

It is a long way from Cais Park to Dalymount Park, but that is where new boy Georgie Quinlivan will be next Thursday, when fellow newcomer, Michael Ryan, will be trying to emulate his father-in-law, "Beaver" Croker, who won a Shield medal with Limerick 23 years ago.

Come to think of it, Michael wasn't even born then!

Can the locals achieve what a month ago was thought to be the impossible dream? The answer is "yes," provided, of course, that they repeat the form which saw them run this experienced Waterford combination into the ground.

There was a fine old-fashioned quality about the way Limerick flung themselves after every ball, absolutely determined to get it before an opponent could take possession.

The winners never-stop running-style knocked the hosts completely out of their stride. The side played with enthusiasm, grit, effort and above all, pride. Waterford lacked all these commodities.

Limerick certainly had some sticky spells but they hung on determinedly, back-tracking and helping each other out. One just had to admire them for the way they hit back at Waterford after one-time Markets Field hero, Al Finucane, headed a picture goal past Fitzpatrick.

That goal came just six minutes before the interval. Limerick didn't have much time to get back on terms before referee Mr. McGovern blew the short whistle, but in a glorious four-minute spell on the resumption not only did they do it, matters, but they had the check to edge in front.

BEST FOOTBALL

It was after-game that the visitors played their best football and left the much vaunted Waterford lads breathless. They were now on top, and having gained in confidence it was difficult to see them failing at this time.

Although his name does not appear on the team sheet, one man who deserves immense credit for this latest victory is manager Ewan Fenton.

The first period wasn't all that interesting for spectators mainly because Limerick played a negative type of game, concentrating mainly on defence and depending on the odd breakaway for a goal. But that was all part of the winning formula.

Understandably, Joe O'Mahony's brigade had to adopt a cautious approach early on, but once they got the measure of Waterford they proceeded to play a different kind of game.

SUPERB

What a superb 90 minutes we had from Tony Fitzgerald. He marshalled his men at the back with a rare tactical know-how and the Bass man hardly gave a look of the ball to Leech and Madigan.

Lyimer was magnificent at left-full back, and those who had doubts about Mick O'Mahony's ability to curb Johnny Matthews were silenced. With Leech and Matthews unable to make any impression, much of the sting was taken from the home attack.

Although he wore the No. 4 jersey, Tony Meaney played alongside Joe O'Mahony and Tony Fitzgerald in the half-back line, and what a brilliant come-back he had following an ankle injury. Indeed, Meaney was a revelation, for he repeatedly tore holes in the losers' defence, and his many raids into enemy territory brought fear into the hearts of Waterford players and supporters.

And behind them was Kevin Fitzpatrick, whose "his minute spectacular save from a point blank effort by Phil Buck prevented a replay.

Though the Limerick front runners rarely worked as a unit in the first half, they let their presence be felt once the referee set the second period in motion. Quinlivan's darting runs along the right provided endless trouble for Richie Hall; Duggan and Kennedy combined to give Al Finucane and Dunphy the run-around, while one had to applaud the courage and fighting qualities of Mick Ryan on the left wing. Pat Nolan also contributed handsomely.

At times Waterford gave the impression that they were all strangers to each other, so patchy was their play. All their pgh names were on duty, but after this performance manager John McGovern must be wondering if money can buy success. They have the highest wage bill in the League, but unless they show better team spirit the bottom looks anything but bright for them.

The game commenced at a slow pace with both teams playing it cool. Waterford were that little bit more dangerous and it took good defensive play by Lymer, Fitzpatrick and Fitzgerald to keep them at bay.

Entering the second quarter, Limerick came out of their shell and their composed football was attractive to watch. Neither keeper was seriously tested.

In the 25th minute Tony Meaney had his name taken for a dangerous tackle, and four minutes later the visitors were in real trouble. Frank O'Neill finked his way along the right wing and his fourth-perfect centre was headed in the net by the lurushing Al Finucane, who, with a "that shows 'em" look on his face, received the congratulations of his team-mates.

Waterford substituted Phil Buck for Mick Leech on the change-over, and Phil had hardly time to get his teeth into the game when he favourites were 2-1 behind. Goal number one came in the 49th minute when McGough deflected a Quinlivan centre to Duggan, and the centre-forward accepted the opportunity to brag past a bewildered Thomas.

Limerick now had their tails up. Three minutes later Joe O'Mahony broke up a Waterford attack. He spotted Des Kennedy lurking inside the losers' 18 yard line. Joe sent a long punt downfield; Kennedy collected, and drew the keeper before plonking the ball in the net.

NO ANSWER

Fenton's team were now in full flight and Waterford had no answer. Quinlivan and Ryan teased and tormented the home defence; O'Mahony, Fitzgerald and Meaney were immaculate at the back, and when Waterford did threaten danger Fitzpatrick was there to defy them.

Al Finucane battled bravely for Waterford but met with little response from some of their more established players. The last five minutes of the game saw Limerick put up the shutters, and try as Frank O'Neill and Phil Buck did to find a gap, they could not succeed.

Waterford: Thomas; Bryan, Hall, Finucane, Dunphy, McGough; O'Neill (F.), O'Neill (J.), Madigan, Leech, Matthews.

Sub: Buck for Leech.

Limerick: Fitzpatrick, O'Mahony (M.), Lymer, Nolan, Fitzgerald, O'Mahony (J.), Quinlivan, Meaney, Duggan, Kennedy, Ryan.

Sub: Hart, Irwin.

Referee: Mr. McGovern (Dublin).

● Limerick return to Kilcohan Park on Sunday to play Waterford in the League. I have no doubt that the visitors would be happy to settle for a division of the spoils on this occasion.

Al Finucane scored Waterford's only goal

Final on Wednesday

Sligo Rovers have sent a telegram to the FAI requesting that their League-Cup final against Limerick be brought forward to Wednesday. The game is scheduled for Thursday, at Dalymount Park.

It is unlikely that Limerick will raise any objections. Sligo had five coach loads of supporters in Dublin last evening for their 1-1 victory over Drogheda United. Incidentally, Sligo's manager, Billy Sinclair had talk with Limerick two years ago with a view to taking over as manager.

ST. MICHAEL'S £11,000 EXTENSION OPENS

The final of the Munster Senior League takes place at St. Michael's this Saturday at 3 p.m. The final is the highlight to the opening of St. Michael's new £11,000 extension which includes ladies' and gents' toilets, a fully equipped kitchen and showers.

Invitations have gone out to all the old table tennis stars of the past and it is expected there will be over a hundred people present. Former Limerick champions, Paddy Redmond, Micky Hickey and Paddy Dineen, will be there, as will St. Michael's ladies, Mrs. Ann O'Loughlin and Mrs. Eileen Daly, who played for Munster a few years ago. It promises to be a memorable occasion and there will be a buffet meal and cabaret after the final.

THE FINAL

The decider is between the Limerick A and B teams. This is really a battle between the two local rival clubs, St. Michael's and St. John's. Both teams drew in the league last season in a very exciting match. One of the highlights of that match was the ladies' singles between Mary Ryan and Sandra Hayes. It was one of the best ladies singles I have seen in recent times, with Sandra unlucky to lose 21-19 in the third game. Billy Marshall had a surprise win over Jimmy O'Connell in that match, and I am sure O'Connell will be anxious to make amends for that defeat. Liam Browne, who was one of the up and coming stars a few seasons ago, has faded a little in recent times, but is still capable of producing some fine table tennis. The match is wide open and it would be impossible to predict a winner. Much will depend on the doubles in what should be a very close finish.

FUND-RAISING WALK

The walk to raise funds for the Limerick Association takes place on Sunday next, the 12th October. The walk starts at 2 p.m. from Thomond Park via Knocknashee, Meelick Church and finishing again at Thomond Park.

INDUSTRIAL LEAGUE

The draw for the Industrial League takes place at St. Michael's on Tuesday next at 8 p.m. Teams wishing to enter should contact the secretary, Sandra Hayes, as soon as possible.

The League will be divided into Shannon region and Limerick region, with the winners of each region meeting in the final. It is interesting to note that the Limerick association have decided to allow firms amalgamate to form teams. It has also been decided that no interprovincial player be allowed play in this league.

TEAMS FOR BUNSITE

SENIOR LEAGUE FINAL

Limerick "A"—Billy Marshall, Noel Glynn, Mary Ryan, Reserve, Dominic Sheehan.

Limerick "B"—Liam Bry ne, Jimmy O'Connell, Sandra Hayes, Reserve, Tony Flanagan.

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LIMERICK JUNCTION RACES
Thursday Next, Oct. 16 — First Race 3 p.m.
The meeting will be an all-jump meeting — no flat race.
See C.I.E. posters for train facilities. (f11c)

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