

'Champs' On Parade

'LEADER' SALUTES THE LIMERICK SPORTS STARS OF 1961

GREYHOUND RACING

BOXING CHRISTY KELLY

HOCKEY EDDIE O'CONNOR

It is quite possible that Jim Farbrother, St. Francis B.C. a regular...

Twenty-eight years in the game and still going strong. That is the proud record of Catholic Institute...



couple of months, Kelly numbers Dioky Hanna (Belfast), one of Ireland's best-known amateurs...

sport there is invariably a sportsman of outstanding class, but it can be safely said that nowhere will you find a more successful...

MOTOR-CYCLING GERRY LENNON

In previous years there may have been some controversy about the selection of a Sports Star of the Year...

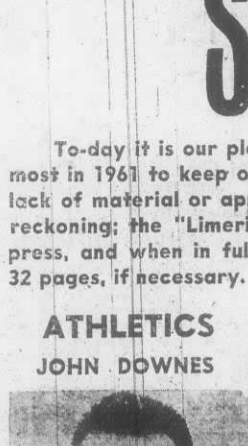
Twenty-two year-old Kevin Dalton of Ardarausha was easily the outstanding player of the year...

CHESS JOHN REID

He spends all his "walking" life on his wheels—when he is not...

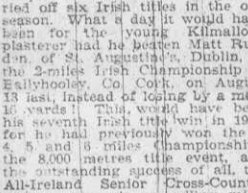
John Reid, now a Sergeant of the Garda Siochana, is proved the chess champion of the country...

ATHLETICS JOHN DOWNES



Any sportsman who is so devoted to physical fitness as 25-year-old John Downes of Kilmallock...

BADMINTON KEVIN DALTON



Twenty-two year-old Kevin Dalton of Ardarausha was easily the outstanding player of the year...

RUGBY BRIAN O'FARRELL

The successful manner in which Garryowen vice-captain, Brian O'Farrell, switched half-back position...

CHESS JOHN REID

John Reid, now a Sergeant of the Garda Siochana, is proved the chess champion of the country...

NOT FORGOTTEN

For the first time, no lady is listed. While we agree that hockey, tennis, swimming, golf and pitch and putt...

WHERE THE AWARDS WENT

The following is the full list of winners: Hurling—Kevin Long, Gaelic Football—Tommy Beary...

GLENSTAL PLAYED THEIR PART

Cricket was a sport without a personality of any great note, but the performances of Glenstal Abbey deserve the highest recognition...

28 YEARS IN SENIOR RANKS

Eddie started his senior career in the year that Noel O'Dwyer was the first to win the title...

BEHIND-THE-SCENES

Before leaving our panel of 26, for your consideration, we have had a target the "backroom" boys...

ROWING GER BARRY

In a year that was none too successful for Limerick rowing, the feat of St. Michael's R.C. in winning eight trophies was quite outstanding...

MISSED ONLY ONE GAME

Let us also pay tribute to Ewan Fenton, player/coach of the Limerick soccer team. The result may not be as good as far as he is bringing along the local talent...

GOLF PAT WALSH

Pat Walsh, the Limerick G.C. No. 1, played for his club on five occasions in the Irish Senior Cup...

JERRY O'DEA

For our greyhound thrills of 1961 we can thank Jerry O'Dea and his four-legged flying machine...

JERRY O'DEA



Vincent Nevin (Ennis, 2-up; Brud Slatery (Lahinch) 3 and 2; Jackie Harrington (Kilmarney) 2 and 1; Cecil Ewing (Co. Sligo) 1 hole, 2 and 4...

GAELIC FOOTBALL TOM BEARY

Tom Beary may not have risen to inter-county fame as yet, but there are many keen followers of Gaelic Football who will want to know the reason why...

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JUNIOR SOCCER SEAMUS MCCARTHY



Although only a minor during the period in question, Seamus McCarthy was sticking out a mile for the junior award...

CYCLING JIM MANGAN



When it comes to selecting a star of the year in this very popular sport, one name immediately springs to mind...

TABLE TENNIS ROY EGAN



When it comes to selecting a star of the year in this very popular sport, one name immediately springs to mind...

Tom Beary may not have risen to inter-county fame as yet, but there are many keen followers of Gaelic Football who will want to know the reason why...

# THEY KEPT OUR FLAGS FLYING

## HURLING KEVIN LONG

Although back only eighteen months from the United States Kevin Long has made a big name for himself in hurling in Limerick and must be considered the finest exponent of the code in the county at the moment. He can be few more expert strikers of the ball and his strong tackling and wholehearted endeavour mark him out as a left-half of undoubted ability. Kevin comes from a family steeped in hurling tradition. His brothers, Tom, Mossy, Patrick, Stephen and Brendan are all prominent hurlers in West Limerick.



and some of them have represented Limerick. While in America, Long represented New York with distinction in the St. Brendan Cup twice. On the last occasion that the match was played in Croke Park, he was the county final star. Unfortunately he has performed most creditably in the current National League and also earned honourable mention for his play with Limerick last season. His greatest day was when he held the great Jimmy Doyle to a point in a League game against Tipperary. That day he revealed all his supreme hurling talent. Kevin has many more good years in him, and could well figure prominently in the hoped for Limerick revival.

## SCHOOLS' G.A. BERNIE HARTIGAN

One of Limerick's most promising sportsmen, Bernie Hartigan, is an unanimous choice in the wide and distinctive field of colleges' G.A. Bernie has been an outstanding boy at Limerick C.B.S. in hurling, Gaelic football and athletics. He must surely be one of the best college hurlers in the province, but was unfortunately to attend Christmas in a relatively lean spell for that illustrious academy. He captains the



football side this season, and they stand an excellent chance of winning the Cornus Munihan which trophy they held in 1959, when Hartigan was a great power at half-forward. In the athletics world Bernie, perhaps, has gained most distinction. His shot putting was a revelation during the past summer, and he was honoured with selection on the Irish team for the Catholic students games. It will come as no surprise if Bernie smashes all records in the time to come, and meantime we wish him all the best of good luck in his endeavours to bring the Cornus Munihan back to Bexon Street.

## HORSE RACING LIAM WARD

There can be no two ways about it, Liam Ward is the top jockey award. It is Liam Ward, of Rathkeale, in nothing short of "center". To win the Irish Championship for the sixth time, Liam had, mustard-hot competition, probably the most-respected collection of jockeys ever to race together in the same flat season. They were headed by Australians Garnet Bougoure, Ron Hutchinson and Bill Williamson, and occasion by the English "boy-wonder" Lester Piggett. He took on all-comers, beating them in some of the most thrilling ever witnessed. A photo-finish



victory on Euphonia over Fraifeir Fenry, on which Piggett rode for all he was worth, will stand out in the memory for many a day to come. Liam has won every Irish class at 31, should have many more years at the top. He comes from great racing stock, and at 31 should have many more years at the top. He comes from great racing stock, and at 31 should have many more years at the top. He comes from great racing stock, and at 31 should have many more years at the top.

## Sports Star of the Year?

In next week-end's issue of the "Limerick Leader," we shall be announcing the individual winner of our Sports Stars of the Year feature. He will be presented with the "Limerick Leader" Perpetual Cup.

## SENIOR SOCCER DES McNAMARA

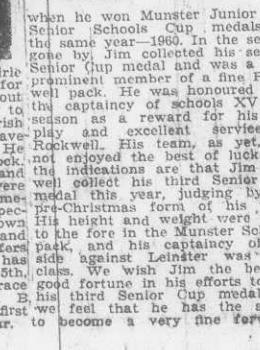
It was an easy task in selecting our Senior Soccer Star of the Year. When Pike Rovers reached the final of the F.A.I. Minor Cup in season 1961/62, a youngster on the home line-out immediately caught the eye. His name was Des McNamara, and since then his name has become one of the most well-known names in the county. Though he had just turned 20 years, he gained his first and only Inter-League cap against the Irish League in 1960, but he was then a raw and inexperienced half. Since the coming of Ewan Fenton to coach the Shamrocks, Des McNamara has developed into one of the leading halves in the county and is easily the most improved player of the year. Gone is that terrible impulse to "root" the ball in any direction and in its place is the cool and steady McNamara playing his front line with some first-rate passes. Indeed, he has figured prominently in the scorers and his long-range "bashes" have gained many a valuable point for the Shamrocks. Des McNamara has only played with two clubs since first donning football boots as a mere youth of under 13 years. He began his career with Pike Rovers and in 1952 he won his first trophy when he assisted that club to win the Under-14 League. The following season, he began his career in the under-15 grade, and then came his best season of all. In addition



to reaching the Minor Cup Final (in which they were defeated by the odd goal or three), they collected the Munster Minor Cup final and carried off all but one of the local junior "pots." Limerick were not long in realising the possibilities of the Pike youth, and soon the player put pen to paper for the Shamrocks. He made his debut at right-back against Waterford and within two weeks was relegated to the reserves. He came back again at inside-left, but was not long in finding his true position: right half. He played consistently well over the past few years, but in his most loyal clubman will soon build up a reputation for himself as a strong and forceful flanker. There can be little doubting that this most loyal clubman will soon further himself in the representative field and that he will continue to serve up his own attractive brand of football at the Marinal Field and wherever Limerick play in the coming years.

## SCHOOLS' RUGBY JIM MOLLOY

The Captain of Rockwell and Munster is our choice in the schools' rugby world. He is Limerick's Jim Molloy, who has had a most illustrious career at the Co. Tipperary college. Jim, a towering and highly capable second row, first came to notice when he won Munster Junior and Senior Schools Cup medals in the same year—1960. In the second year, he collected his second Senior Cup medal and was a very prominent member of a fine Rockwell pack. He was honoured with the captaincy of schools XV this season as a reward for his fine play and excellent service to Rockwell. His team, as yet, has not enjoyed the best of luck, but the indications are that Jim could well collect his third Senior Cup medal this year, judging by his Christmas form of his team. His height and weight were much to the fore in the Munster Schools pack, and his captaincy of the side against Leinster was first class. We wish Jim the best of good fortune in his efforts to win his third Senior Cup medal and we feel that he has the ability to become a very fine forward.



## MEMORABLE CUP SEMI-FINAL Courageous Shannon lock fought to the last

(By Our Rugby Correspondent)

THE year 1961 was not a very successful one for Limerick rugby, mainly because the Munster Senior Cup was lost to Cork Constitution. But the fervour for the sport was never higher and local headquarters was packed far at least five Senior Cup games.

The biggest attendance was probably present for the Garryowen-Shannon semi-final, surely one of the most debated matches in years. A controversy had waged for weeks previously to the playing of the tie as to the proper date, and when eventually the players took the field on a fine April afternoon, the near capacity crowd were in a fever of excitement.

Few critics were courageous enough to forecast the result. Rather were they sufficiently wise to wait and see. The following were the teams: Garryowen—Colbert; R. Cotter; R. Dunworth; G. Hyland; W. Harris; D. Keane; B. O'Farrell; J. O'Dwyer; J. Quinn; T. Coffey; T. Nossale; D. Dewdney; S. Brosnanan; T. McGrath; N. Murphy. Shannon—G. O'Halloran; A. Sheehan; E. Ryan; E. Keane; G. Sliker; R. Keane; S. O'Carroll; M. N. Ryan; D. Flannery; F. O'Flynn; J. Ryan; P. O'Flynn; J. Gallagher; E. Clancy; J. McNamara.

MEMORABLE ENCOUNTER. Although in the end Garryowen won by the rather convincing margin of 13-0, this game for lengthly spells had the attendance on their feet, and for a long time could have gone either way. It was in every way a memorable encounter and one that will live long in the minds of those who saw it. At this stage, the final result may be forgotten. Rather can the splendid fashion in which the forwards tore into one another with the well-controlled fury of the terrific skirmishing and the wholehearted tackling, be remembered. Despite the fact that many knocks were taken, the game was played in a magnificent spirit.

OUTSTANDING COURAGE. The outstanding feature of the game for me was the unwavering courage of the Shannon lock, the mercurial Eamonn Clancy, who from an early stage of the game streamed blood from a wound in the head.

He had to have it heavily bandaged while having a side-line treatment, but still the blood-came pouring forth. However, Eamonn, who had played in the Munster Cup final as long ago as 1947, would not take the advice of the "Parish" mentors and continued to play despite this severe handicap. It says much for his courage that he remained on the field until the end of a gruelling encounter. He made a gory sight as he strode round the field, and never did he flinch a rack. It was indeed, a great show of "guts."

Another Shannon man to get in the "wards" was scrum-half Sean O'Carroll, who too suffered a bad head injury. He was not quite as seriously injured as Clancy, but he also displayed great courage in remaining on the field.

Despite the great endeavour on these players' parts, Garryowen were not to be denied and won readily in the end, 13-0. David Keane, their 18-year-old out-half, put them on the road to victory with an early try and they held their 3-point lead up to the interval. The turning point of a most exciting game came shortly after half-time when Eamonn Keane hit the scrum-half with a drop-kick for Shannon. If this had gone over there can be no telling how the game might have gone. As it was, the "Light Blues" stretched their lead five minutes from the end when their excellent scrum-half, Brian O'Farrell, raced round the scrum on the Shannon "25" ported to Noel Murphy, who put Dick Doolan's head over the posts. Colbert converted and handed a 40-yard penalty shortly afterwards to make the Garryowen victory more complete.

There can be no doubting the merit of the Garryowen triumph and a lasting memory of this game and the year gone by, will be the fine head of Eamonn Clancy and his undaunted courage.

## The schools' thrill of the year!

"WE have fifteen men to do our work, and they'll do it, you will see." Thus rang out the cheers of the jubilant Crescent College supporters after they had seen their side carry off the Munster Junior Cup for the third time since the trophy was presented in 1931.

But while the Limerick college were jubilant, one had to sense pity for the very gallant losers, Munster, who had appeared in their first Junior Final in 20 years. A goal near the finish gave Crescent a 13-0 win.

This was, surely, the top schools' game of the year and one in which the finer arts were clearly displayed. Both packs tore into each other with rare abandon, and with clean handling out of touch, the respective back divisions saw plenty of the ball.

We had some top-rate tries and a terrific finish, and at one stage it looked as if it would be a close time to decide the destination of the trophy. Munster had a very T. Harty, M. Brogan and P. Fitz definite first half superiority, but Gerard forwards, the second pack, with the fine break, they got over for the vital scores. Crescent had their heroes in the pack. Brian Doolan, centres Des Pookery, full-back Ivan Morris and scrum-half Michael Walters. In the pack they were best served by prop (14) John Barry, Tom other with rare abandon, and with clean handling out of touch, the respective back divisions saw plenty of the ball.

Munster had an excellent captain in Gerard Barry, and other players of note were: Edward Owens, E. Lavigne (goals), and Frank Dwyer. The trophy, Munster had a very T. Harty, M. Brogan and P. Fitz definite first half superiority, but Gerard forwards,

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Geary was having a great set-to with Dr. Billy O'Sullivan. He was inclined to have the edge and turned one up on his redoubtable opponent. In the fifth match, Kevin Hayes lost the first three holes to Jack Lawlor but gave a fighting performance in pulling down the deficit to one after nine holes. Limerick, thus, were doing very well and had a great fillip when Walsh availed of some very slack putting by Harrington to win on the 17th. Meanwhile, McPolin was just ahead, Geary was forging away to victory. McMahon was keeping his nose in front, though Hayes had fallen back a little again.

**GRANAGH N.A.C.A.I. MONSTER "45" DRIVE**  
Will be held at The Schools, Granagh, on FRIDAY, JAN. 12 At 8 p.m. Prizes, £10.  
Cards (partners) may be had from the Hon. Secretary, or at the Schools on the night of the Drive.