

Limerick Leader

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1963

FIRST CAP FOR JIM FAIRBROTHER

Big honour for St. Francis Boxing Club

(By 'LIMERICK LEADER' STAFF REPORTER)

TWENTY-ONE-YEAR-OLD St. Francis Boxing Club middleweight, Jim Fairbrother, has achieved his great ambition by being selected to represent his country. He will box for Ireland at the Albert Hall, London, to-morrow evening, having come on as a substitute for Ulster's Barney Wilson.

Great credit is due to Fairbrother and his selection emphasises the young boxer's ability.

Jim had not boxed until a few weeks back because of injury, having been absent from the ring for more than eight months.

The news, which reached the St. Francis Club at 10 o'clock last night, came as an extremely pleasant surprise. In the middle of last week, Fairbrother was asked whether he would be fit to box against England and he replied in the affirmative. The reason for his being in training is that he was preparing for a forthcoming triangular contest at St. John's Pavilion.

Wilson sprained an ankle doing roadwork, and so has had to forfeit his first international singlet.

MIDNIGHT TRAINING

There was drama at the St. Francis Club last night when Fairbrother went on the scales to discover that he was 2 lbs. overweight. However, trainer Eamonn Ryan and Secretary Ferdie Roche immediately had him doing roadwork and at 1 o'clock this morning he put in six hard miles on the Dock Road.

Eamonn Ryan is now very confident that Jim, who flies out from Shannon Airport to-night, will be well within the limit and fighting fit when he enters the ring against Alf. Matthews, the British champion. This, indeed, is a very formidable ordeal, but all Limerick will be behind him at the Albert Hall and wishing him the very best of luck.

FOURTH TEST FINISHES IN DRAW

BARRINGTON'S BRILLIANT UNDEFEATED 132

WITH Australia's famous captain, Richie Benaud, content to play out for a draw, the last day of the fourth cricket Test match at Adelaide belonged to England and mostly to their No. 3 batsman, Ken Barrington. At the close, England were 223 for 4, still 132 behind, but Barrington's brilliant undefeated 132, according to famous Australian Test cricketer of old, Jack Fingleton, "was the best innings of the series to date."

Australia continued this morning with their second innings score at 225 for 6. O'Neill, first innings century scorer, was out for the addition of only one run for 23. Fast bowler Mackenzie then joined his captain, Benaud, and progress was slow. At 254, Mackenzie gave a catch at the wicket off Statham's bowling with his score at 18, and

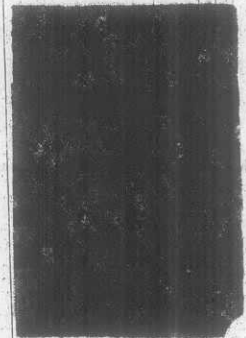
MARKETS FIELD IN POOR CONDITION

BIGGEST question facing Limerick at the moment is whether or not the Markets Field will be playable for the coming of bang-in-form Shamrock Rovers on Sunday next. The recent heavy spell of frost and snow has taken its toll, and this afternoon the local headquarters resembled a quagmire.

Groundsman Willie Hayes will be at it hammer and tongs for the remainder of the week to try and make the field playable. It would cause a dreadful pile-up if this tie were to follow in the wake of the Cork Hibernians and Waterford games which already constitute a big back-log of fixtures.

Rovers returned to their very best last week when trouncing Shelbourne at Milltown and at the far end of Dublin Limerick were tumbling to inglorious defeat at the hands of Drumcondra. It is quite possible that player-manager Ewan Fenton will announce a change or two for this vital meeting. The front line were most disappointing in that tie and heads can be expected to roll.

The defence, too, was not up to scratch against the quick-silver Drumcondra front line and the half line got more than they bargained for. However, despite the fact that they surrendered both points, Limerick could and should have earned a division had the front line availed of their chances and cashed in on their second half superiority. Blatant chances were lost and Al Finucane and Dick O'Connor must take most blame. It is obvious at this stage that some shooting power will have to



Eddie Bailham... Shamrock Rovers free-scoring attacker will be in action at the Markets Field.

be found.

It also seems likely that Rovers will make a change or two, even sequence on Sunday. They still think that they broke a long losing have problems in their front line as Faddy Ambrose has not yet found his true form.

It should be one of the top games of the season, and if the pitch is dried up sufficiently there should be a feast of good football for what should be a very large attendance.

SOCCER FIXTURES

F.A.I. Minor Cup area semi-finals.
Fairview Rangers v. Ballynanty Rovers, 'Janeshoro' Park, 11 a.m. T. Kennedy.
Limerick "C" v. Askeaton, Janeshoro Park, 1 p.m. T. Brown.
Fr. Lyons Cup—1st Round.
Shelbourne v. Janeshoro, Shelbourne Park, 11 a.m. P. Moloney.
Astor Ath. v. Pike Rovers, Shelbourne Park, 12.45 p.m. G. Barry.
Weston Villa v. Ballynanty Rvs., Caledonian Park, 11 a.m. P. Kiely.
Rossa Villa v. Fairview, Caledonian Park, 12.45 p.m. T. Power.
Car Rovers v. Prospect, Wembley Park, 11 a.m. P. Rockett.
Wembley Rovers v. Rangers, Wembley Park, 12.45 p.m. E. Cleary.
Caledonians v. Island United, Barrack Field, 11 a.m. A. Shaw.

Ronan Nolan... longest serving member of the Shamrock Rovers defence.

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