

5.



Saturday, May 1st, 2004

Front Page

Gerry recalls day when sheep outnumbered spectators

Sport

Official opening of
Gaelic Grounds

Senior hurlers complete
league

County senior football
championship

Stephen McDonogh
announces retirement

AIL rugby semi finals

An anxious month for
Limerick FC

Profile of Gerry Collins

Greyhound column

Horsereading column

Athletics column

End of Munster's
European Cup

News

Sean Murphy talks to Gerry Collins

LIMERICK senior footballers are now a high profile outfit grabbing the headlines and media spotlight for some first-rate performances.

Last year they just missed Division 2 honours when failing to Westmeath at Croke Park, but went one better this year, when losing one game to Galway in Division 1 and narrowly beaten 0-12 to 0-10 in the National League semi-final to great rivals - Kerry.

Picture then the bad old days, when Limerick were hard pressed to field a team and often had to all on the services of taxi drivers.

One man who wore the green jersey of Limerick with pride in the decade - 1977 to 1987 is Gerry Collins, a native of Croom but now resident in Milford Grange, and for his dedicated service to the senior footballers he has just one McGrath Cup medal to show.

He won that when Limerick beat Tipperary in Pairc Ui Chaoimh and later London and Buislip.

Gerry made his inter-county debut against Clare in atrocious conditions in Miltown Malbay. The west Limerick contingent were to travel to the venue via the ferry from Tarbert to Killimer, but were unable to do so because of weather conditions and had to make the extended journey through Limerick city.

The Limerick team were forced to line-up with two taxi drivers until their arrival.

Big crowds, and all-ticket games are great to read about, but, remember, two years ago Limerick were the third worst team in Ireland with only London and lowly Kilkenny beneath them in the ratings ladders.

Gerry remembers playing Kilkenny in Johnstown when there was only five spectators and 300 sheep watching their efforts.