

## SPORT IN BRIEF

## ■ RATHBANE GC

Our Lady Captain Marie Bartlett led her team to victory in the seniors this week with Peter O'Sullivan and Bill Fisher completing the winners line up. In second place were the dream team of Mick Lysaght, Tom Bond, and Frank Mulqueen. Not to be outdone the men's Captain Pat Hannon had his own highlight recording an eagle on the par 4 17th hole. In the Open Singles on Bank holiday Monday James Murphy, fresh from his winter league victory, defeated John Tony Williams on count back, both had 43 points. In Wednesday's Open Singles Barry Healy's score of 38 points saw off the 37 points of Robert Carroll. Well done to all who participated. Next weekend we will host a Singles Strokeplay. Open Singles continues each Wednesday, followed by Seniors each Thursday.

## ■ PUNCHESTOWN

DROMIN-Athlaca GAA club will host their fund-raising PuncHESTOWN Preview Night this Thursday night.

Some of Ireland's leading horse trainers and riders are attending in Bulgaden Castle on Thursday April 15 at 9.00. This week's highlight of the Irish horse racing calendar will be put under the spotlight by leading trainers and riders. At The Races presenter, Kevin O'Ryan, will be hosting the event, which will be attended by top riders; Ruby and Katie Walsh, Nina Carberry, Davy Russell. Also on the list of experts will be Enda Bolger, Paul Nolan, Eric McNamara, Tony Mullins and Robbie Power. According to the organisers at last year's Preview Night, seven out of ten tips proved to be winners at the PuncHESTOWN Festival.

Tickets are €20 each, including food, and can be obtained from Bulgaden Castle or on the door at the event.

## ■ LIMERICK CELTICS

Congratulations to our boys and girls players who were selected to play on the North Munster teams last weekend in UL. Leanne Ahern and Aine Sargent made the girls under 16 team while Ashling Sargent, Ashling Dunig, Sinead McKenna and Emma O'Donoghue made the girls under 14 team.

Celtics boys were represented on the North Munster under 14 team by Cian Reale, Jamie Marshall and Diarmuid Curley. Well done to each of these players who played extremely well and helped their North Munster sides to some great wins.

Our Boys under 12 Tigers team finished an unbeaten league campaign with an impressive win over Limerick Lions to take the Under 12 North Munster League title.

Our boys have some super performances over the season from the entire squad and the squad will be presented with their medals and league trophy at the club awards day in early May.

All our other teams finished up runners up in their leagues which was a super achievement for each of these sides playing their first season in Division one league.

Our under 14 boys finished the season with some super wins and had it not been for a lost to Ennisymon in the early part of the season they could have also finished as league winners. Our under 12 Panthers made a good showing in their first year in North Munster leagues with some great performances in their last outings.

Our under 14 and 12 Tigers both finished joint top of their division one leagues - losing out on their league titles on score aggregate - with both sides only losing one game all season in their North Munster leagues.

Our under 14 Panthers also did really well with some excellent wins over St Colms and UL.

Our Under 16 girls also finished up in runner up spot in Division one with some great wins over New Inn, UL and Cascaders.

We are very proud of the achievements of all our teams this season and well done to all the players, coaches and managers!!

## BOXING SHAW FESTIVAL

## Willie Casey triumphs in Toronto

Jerome O'Connell

LIMERICK pro-boxer Willie Casey is setting his sights on an Irish title fight as his stock continues to rise after his stretched his unbeaten record to five successive wins.

The 28-year old Southill featherweight travelled to Canada last week and scored yet another knockout when defeating Canadian Super-bantamweight champion, Tyson Cave.

The previously undefeated fighter went down to Casey at the 25th annual Shaw Festival in Toronto.

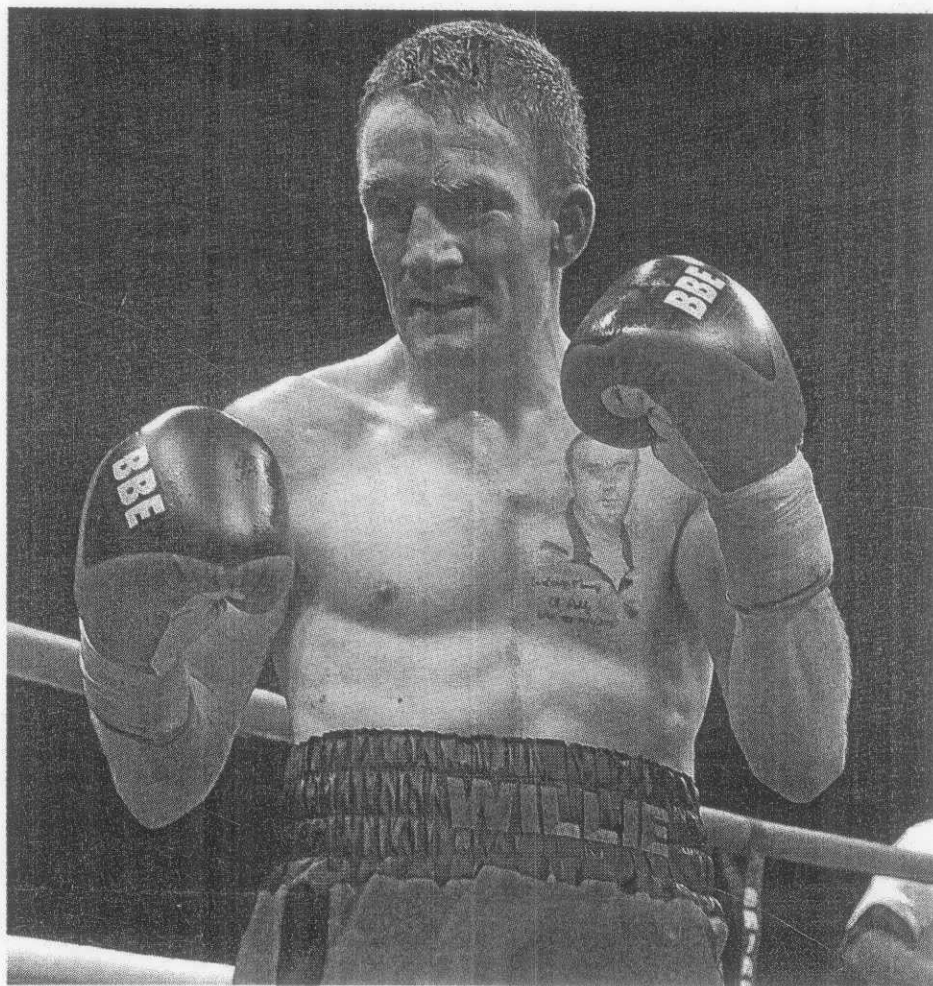
"The third round knock-down I scored gave me the confidence to push on and I pressurised him from then on and stopped him gaining any sort of rhythm in the fight," said a delighted Willie Casey.

The contest was initially scheduled for six rounds, but Casey and trainer Phil Sutcliffe agreed to a late switch to eight.

"We wanted an eight-rounder all along even though it was originally down for six. It worked in my favour although I was still confident of stopping him over six rounds.

"The stoppage guaranteed my win because you never know how the judges are seeing it," explained the Limerick man.

"There are still a few things we need to work on of course, but overall it was a great experience. I had only seen brief video clips of Tyson before this fight. He was fast like we had



Following his win over Tyson Cave Willie Casey has now set his sights on an Irish title

expected and had good movement; it was hard to get him into the corner as he was pretty slick."

If Casey reports no ill-effects this week he could very well be back in the ring at the end of May.

"I'm eligible for the Irish title, but I think we'll maybe

have another eight-rounder first," he said.

"I definitely want to fight on the May 29 DolPhil show in Dublin," said Willie Casey.

The Canadian fight saw him notch up his fourth knockout of his career when stopping Tyson Cave in the eighth round.

Cave had won all of his 10 previous fights.

The Canadian has started well and appeared to be by out-boxing his Limerick opponent, but soon it became apparent that Cave couldn't handle the power of Casey.

Cave was dropped by a left hook in the third and also hit

the canvas in the seventh round.

The home town favourite was again dropped in the eighth and final round by a vicious body shot and when he hit the canvas, the referee stepped in and called the fight for the Limerick man.

Casey is a former Irish intermediate featherweight champion, who is a former member of Our Lady of St. Saviour Boxing Club in Southill.

Casey who is being coached in Dublin by former Olympian and double European championship bronze medal winner Phil Sutcliffe is nicknamed 'The Big Bang' and is managed by Don O'Leary.

Meanwhile, there was underage success for another member of the Casey family over the weekend. Sixteen-year-old Milo Casey won an All-Ireland boys title in the National Boxing Stadium with a win over Joe Sullivan of All-Saints.

The Our Lady of Lourdes-St Saviour boxer had defeated an Offaly opponent in his semi-final.

The club have recently moved into new premises behind the Dominican Church on Glentworth Street and were boosted by another success in the form of Christy O'Donnell, who defeated George Bateman in his final.

The Limerick club also saw Edward O'Donoghue and Terry Harris progress in the championships, but the duo lost out at the semi-final stage.

## Golden Vale Community Games

**Rugby U11**  
Semi-Finals take place next Weekend  
Co-Ordinator: Phil Roche  
Regional v Kilmallock  
Monaleen v Kildimo/Pallaskenry

**U11 Basketball (Mixed)**  
Sunday 18th April at 10am in Foynes Community Centre. This is a new competition in Community Games this year. The teams are as follows - Group 1: A Regional, B Dromcollogher/Broadford, C Abbeyfeale B. Group 2: A Croom, B St Senans, C Abbeyfeale A.

**U16 Girls Basketball**  
Takes place in Athea on Saturday 24th April

**U13 Girls Basketball**  
Sunday 18th April at 10am in Foynes Community Centre. This is a new competition in Community Games this year. The teams are as follows - Group 1: A Regional, B Dromcollogher/Broadford, C Abbeyfeale B. Group 2: A Croom, B St Senans, C Abbeyfeale A.

Soccer Boys A & B competitions are nearing completion. Co-Ordinator: Anthony Fitzsimons  
In the A Competition Top teams from each group to Semi-Finals. The fourth team to semi-finals comes from the Runner up in Group 1 playing the Runner up in Group 2.

We have a huge entry in Gaelic U10 and Rounders U13 Girls. Matches for these competitions will be beginning week ending 24th April. Details of Draws to follow.

National School Choir competition takes place on Monday 26th April at the Woodlands House Hotel, Adare. Check in 7pm.

**Futsal Girls U13**  
This Saturday 17th April in Croagh GAA Pavilion. 10am for Group 1 & 2pm for Group 2. Two to Qualify from each group - Group 1: A Southill, B Rathkeale A, C Crecora, D Bruff, E Treatyside. Group 2: A Rathkeale B, B St Senans, C Croagh, D Croom.

Gymnastics County Final takes place on Wednesday 28th April in Foynes Community

Centre at 7pm.

**Camogie U14**  
Co-Ordinator: Michael O'Brien - Monaleen, Ballybrown/Clarina, Feenagh/Kilmeedy.

**Camogie U12**  
County Only - Co-Ordinator: Michael O'Brien: 1. Adare, 2. Kilfinane, 3. Monaleen, 4. Ballybrown/Clarina, 5. Crecora/Patrickswell.

**Hurling U11**  
Co-Ordinator - Michael Sheahan: 1. Monaleen, 2. Crecora/Patrickswell, 3. Kilfinane, 4. Regional.

Our first All-Ireland weekend takes place 28th-30th May. Limerick have 192 competitors taking part, this is our biggest participation in the May All Ireland Weekend ever. All photographs and birth certificates to be with county secretary this week plus bookings for resident or non resident. Information on weekend can be downloaded from the National Community Games Web page [www.communitygames.ie](http://www.communitygames.ie)

**U13 Boys Futsal Results**  
Group 1 Winners: Croom (Red)  
Group 2 Winners: Croom (blue)

## ST. COLM'S BC

It was a very busy week on the playing front for St Colms Basketball Club with a number of our underage teams in action.

Top billing goes to our primary school girls team who participated in the Listowel Easter Festival and exceeded all our expectations.

Most of these girls will be eligible again next year, so the team was entered this year, more in hope, to garner some experience for next year's competition. The girls went through the pool stages unbeaten with wins over Donoughmore of Cork, Duagh of Kerry (after extra time), Drimnagh from Dublin and Corrib from Galway. They qualified for a quarter final game against Naomh Laichtin and emerged comfortable winners to set up a semi final clash with Mounthawk from Tralee.

Mounthawk however proved a bridge too far

for our girls. They proved much too strong for our girls and deservedly went on to win the competition outright.

Roisin Gleeson, Jane Clohessy, Shona Hickey and Naomi Keogh were the standout players and were ably assisted by Sinead Barry, Kate O'Loughlin, Ruth Butler, Julia Skalska, Jenny Mullins, Rebecca Lillis, Caoimhe O'Dwyer and Emma Guinnane.

Our U16 girls continued their impressive form of late ahead of next weekend's All Ireland Club Championships with back to back victories in the Cork League. They travelled to Cork to play Glanmire and put up their most impressive defensive display to date. Our girls completely shut down the Glanmire attack in the second and third quarter restricting them to only 2 baskets before easing to a comfortable 31-19 win.

Best for Colms on the night were Emma O'Rourke and Lorna Boland.

The girls welcomed Carrigaline to Limerick hoping to register their first victory over their opponents in three seasons. Things did not look good at half time with the girls trailing 23-26. However the girls blew their opponents off the court in a devastating third quarter performance led by Laura Sheahan who came off the bench to score 8 points. The girls outscored their opponents 23-6 in the quarter and were able to coast home for the rest of the game.

Final Score St Colms 54 Carrigaline 40.

Top Scorers for Colms were Orlaith Woods 24 and Niamh Hannan 14.

Our U14 girls had mixed results in the Cork League during the week.

The girls were not helped by the fact that Ciara O'Halloran missed all three games due to a knee injury while Megan Greene was troubled by a back injury and missed both away games. The girls game against Glanmire clashed with the Jeward concert in Limerick meaning there were late call ups for

U13 players Jessica O'Brien and Fiona O'Connell. Despite missing 5 players, the girls put up a terrific performance led by outstanding displays by Lynsey Purcell and Caoimhe Gleeson. This game could have gone either way until the final quarter before the girls tired allowing Glanmire escape with a hard earned 52-32 win.

Aileen O'Connor had her best game of the season scoring 10 points.

The girls welcomed back Megan Greene for their game against Carrigaline but were missing Lynsey Purcell who was attending a wedding.

Despite a disjointed performance, the girls proved too strong in the end with a 38-31 win. Megan Greene top scored on 10 points followed by Becky Cleary 9 and Chloe Dineen 8.

The girls then travelled to Cork for their third game of the week against St Anthony's minus the services of their 3 inside players, Ciara O'Halloran (injured) Megan Greene (rested) and Caoimhe Gleeson (Camogie with Limerick).

Again the girls worked their socks off to only trail by a basket going into the final quarter. However fatigue again played its part with the girls fading very badly in the final quarter to lose by 17 points. Lynsey Purcell, Aoife Keegan and Ciara Stapleton were best for Colms.

Our U12 Poets hosted both Newport and Blazers in the North Munster U12 B league. The girls were missing a number of players due to the holiday period. Nevertheless they proved too good for Newport winning out 20-12.

Blazers however had their measure in the second game and won easily on a scoreline of 37-16. Shona Hickey, Chloe Tobin, Ruth Butler and Briana Donnelly were best for Poets on the day.

Our U12 Saints were also missing a host of players for their game against Blazers. A poor start by the girls allowed Blazers open up an 8 point lead which they maintained to the end for a deserved 23-16 win.

Next weekend sees both our U14 girls and U16 girls compete in the All Ireland club Championships. The draws have not been kind to our girls.

Our U14 girls travel to Mohill in Leitrim where they are included in a pool with Meteors of Dublin and Castlebar.

Our U16 girls will be in Dublin and are included with both Meteors and Tyrone Towers.

The basketball season will soon be coming to an end. However if there are any young girls interested in playing with St Colms next season please feel free to contact Grainne at 086 1582669 or Miriam at 086 8078756 who will provide you with any details you require.