

Young rugby stars can tag along

By JENNIFER O'CONNOR

MUNSTER'S win over Biarritz in the Heineken Cup will only serve to strengthen Limerick's connection with the sport according to officials in the city's Sports Partnership.

Tina Hayes of Limerick City Sports Partnership said that the win will have far reaching effects

in getting Limerick children more actively involved in the sport.

"It was a weekend that will never be forgotten by the thousands and thousands of Munster fans who supported the team and joined in the fabulous homecoming celebrations in Limerick.

"And the strong tradition of rugby in Limerick will inevitably go from strength to strength as a result of this wonderful victory,"

she said.

The Sports Partnership are working with the IRFU and local schools in the city to provide training in tag rugby to the primary school teachers in city area in the hope of laying the foundations for the lifelong involvement of children in sport, and also the future rugby players and champions.

Tag rugby is one of the fastest

growing recreational and invitational "tags" on either side allowed and opposition in these tags in A side is all which they need a turnover is

"Buntús Ríng previous Limerick sc

City memorial for Con Leahy, Olympic gold medal winner

By MAIRÉAD NÍ CHAOIMH

LIMERICK athlete Con Leahy made history in 1906 when, after an Olympic victory, he refused to accept his gold medal while God Save the Queen was being played.

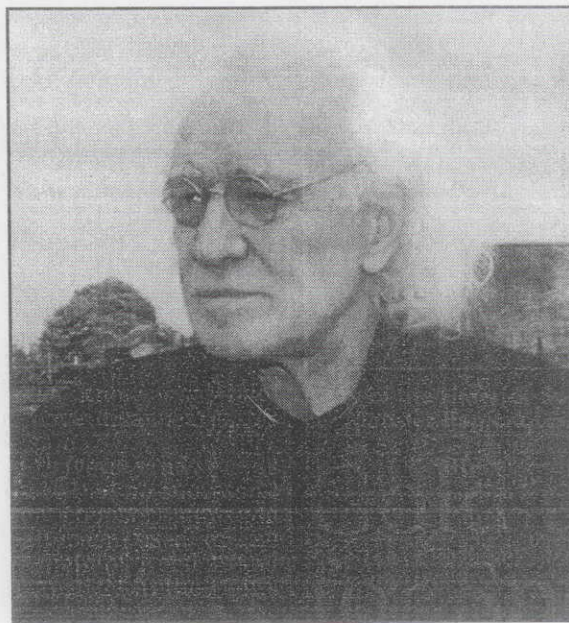
Instead he, along with two other Irish medal winners, did a victory lap of the stadium in Athens, proudly holding the Tricolour aloft to the applause of the crowd.

Leahy will always be remembered not only for being the only Limerick man to win an Olympic gold medal, but he has also gone down in the history books as the sportsman who brought the cause of Irish independence to a worldwide stage.

This weekend, 100 years after the victory, relatives of Leahy will travel to Limerick, some from as far afield as Britain and America, to attend the unveiling of the Leahy memorial.

It consists of a simple bench with a short inscription along the top.

Graham Morphy, who



Richard Harris, who, with Con Leahy, will also be honoured in Limerick

now lives in Monaghan, is Leahy's nephew, and he will attend the ceremony along with a large representation from the extended family.

According to Mayor Diarmuid Scully, "given the month that is in it, when we are currently honouring our Munster heroes, it is appropriate to honour other sports-

men, in particular Ireland's first Olympian."

He said that Leahy "made headlines all over the world" when he won the gold medal for Ireland.

Leahy also won gold in the high jump in 1906 and silver in the triple jump.

"We should honour our Olympians, especially if we are to become the

sports capital of Ireland," he said.

"The manner in which Con won that medal was historically significant. He brought the cause of Irish independence to an international audience," said Mayor Scully.

Leahy came from the famous athletic Leahy family from Cregane, County Limerick, near Charleville, who were unrivalled in their field.

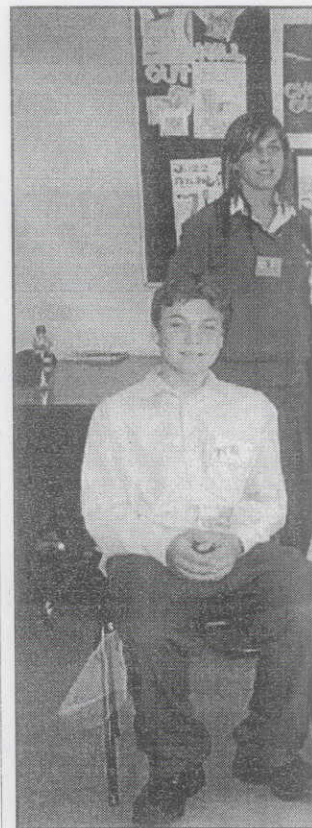
Mayor Scully said that family members were pleased that their famous ancestor will be honoured in Limerick.

He will be in good company, as acting legend Richard Harris is also to get pride of place on the city's newly pedestrianised streets.

A bust of Richard Harris will be placed on Bedford Row in the coming months.

The Leahy bench, however, is only to be placed temporarily on Bedford Row. When the pedestrianisation of Thomas Street is complete the bench will be placed there permanently.

Mayor Scully suggested that other figures from Limerick's arts world also be honoured on Bedford Row, and that Thomas Street be reserved for sporting heroes.



Some of the students at Castletroy art classes

Art classes

By COLM WARD

CORA McCarthy is sitting in a classroom in Castletroy College. It is Monday afternoon and she is working with two transition year students preparing a piece of artwork for an upcoming exhibition.

All seem at ease with each other as they discuss their project and life in general. There is no tension—just a healthy sense of fun and mutual respect.

What makes this scene unique is that Cora is a member of the Monaleen Active Retirement Group. Together with some of her fellow members, she is taking part in a