

# LATE NEWS

# HANDBALL NOTES

**L**IMERICK became the first county this year to win a national handball title when P. O'Neill (Hospital) and J. Keyes (St. Munchin's) defeated M. O'Sullivan and P. Hughes (Kilkenny), 21-13, 21-18, in the All-Ireland Minor Handball final at Croke Park on Sunday last.

Not since the days of the peerless Johnny Bowles has a handball title come to the county and our sincere

18-12 it looked very much that fortune would not favour us, yet they rallied well and Keyes in one hand tossed eight aces to make game (21-18). O'Sullivan for Kilkenny gave a very fine display but luckily his partner, though good, was not up to the same standard.

Limerick, interested still in the two minor softball finals, could, with a little luck, achieve a treble All-Ireland success. The senior handball doubles game, in which Wexford, represented by John Ryan and John Doyle, defeated Kerry's Jimmy O'Brien and Paddy Downey by the odd game in seven, turned out to be a thriller.

Kerry won the first three games 21-20, 21-20, 21-18, and were playing so well that many expected the rubber to finish with the fourth game. The play in these three games, however, was not in keeping with the closeness of the scores.

Ryan shook off his lethargy at the commencement of the fourth game and ably assisted by his partner, gave a display of handball not often witnessed. The Kerry players, good and all as they undoubtedly are, could not cope with his devastating play, which continued to improve as the games progressed. There was no doubt at all about the Wexford players' superiority in the last four games, which they won, 21-11, 21-15, 21-11, 21-3, and so retained their title.

The large attendance present included Rev. W. J. Canon Carroll, P.P. (Rathkeale), Chairman, Munster Handball Council; Rev. Canon Punch, P.P. (Mungret), President, Limerick County Board G.A.A.; Rev. M. Canon Hamilton, P.P. (Newmarket-on-Fergus); Messrs. J. Bergin and J. Lynch, President and Secretary, respectively, Irish Handball Council; Mr. T. B. Kennedy, Sec., Munster Handball Council; Mr. F. Sheehy, M.A., Chairman, Kerry Co. Board G.A.A.; Mr. Nelius O'Connell (Abbeyfeale), who could not do enough for our players' needs, and Messrs. W. W. Gleeson, P. Bartley and Bill Bagnell, of the Limerick Men's Association in the capital.

Future fixtures include: - Sept. 25th at Croke Park M.S.S. final, Limerick v. Offaly.

Oct. 2nd at Ballypatrick (Clonmel) M.S.D. final, Limerick v. Offaly or Tyrone.

## MUNSTER SOFT BALL CHAMPION



Tom McGarry (18), Thomondgate, who will contest the All-Ireland Soft Ball Singles Championship final against Offaly at Croke Park on Sunday, Sept. 24th. He is also in the final of the minor soft ball doubles.

congratulations go out to these two young players on their fine achievement. Pat O'Neill in particular has been near the honours list on more than one occasion and his success was not undue.

Both O'Neill and Keyes have given better displays than last Sunday's and at one stage in the second game when Kilkenny led

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ual Rally. The annual rally of the Munster Regional Group will take place at David Y.H., on Sunday, September 25th. A bus will leave