

# Limerick Reader

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1962

## HATS OFF TO SEAN O'SULLIVAN

# History-maker can go one better

## at Gorey 'Honey' his secret weapon

By DES HANRAHAN

**A SPECTATOR at Tarbert Sports in 1956, Sean O'Sullivan was invited to swell a rather slack entry for the 100 yards. He finished a bad last. Someone suggested that he might do better over 440 yards, and in handicap company, and off first, he made all the running.**

The following Sunday, Sean accompanied his brother Michael to another meeting, and ran a promising half-mile, without finishing in the first three. He knew then that if he was ever to make his mark, it would be in the mile, or longer races.

To-day he is unbeatable in this country over distances ranging from 2 miles to 10, and should he win the 5 miles championship event at Gorey next Sunday he will be collecting his eighth Irish title of the season.

He has already made history. That 3 miles dash at Ballinacorney last Sunday, which scattered a top-class field, including last year's star, John Downes—holder of six native titles (starting this term—put him ahead of Peter McArdle and Downes in the records.

Normally, the winning of seven Irish championships in the one season would earn banner headlines. But there was hardly a line in Monday's papers about O'Sullivan's magnificent achievement.

Did Sean worry? Not on your life... he is a shy, easy-going young man, too busy to

court popularity, and too modest to paint anything like a true picture of himself.

From neighbours I learned that he is a hard-working farmer—7 a.m. to 6 or 7 p.m., and later if necessary. He does not drink or smoke, and seldom misses a night's training on the roads leading to and around his native Tourafula.

I am told he averages 3 to 5 miles an evening, and that he has no weight worries. In or out of training, he seldom scales more than 9 stone.

Sean's mother and sister will tell you that he leads a very normal life. He is not a meat-lover,

but there is no question of dieting. As a matter of fact, when I visited their farm on Thursday, he was putting away a feed of bacon and cabbage that would stuff a horse.

Although he won four Irish titles—5,000 metres, three times, and senior cross-country in 1960—before his phenomenal running this season, Sean was just an ordinary runner-up to recently, John Downes could have given him odds and a beating every time they met last year, but there is hardly a man living who would do it this year.

Sean says that he has trained harder, but hastens to add: "John Downes has lost form only temporarily, and he will come again."

**WAS NOT EXTENDED.**

But even John admits that Sean O'Sullivan has hardly been extended in any race this year. His only defeat was in the Army Cross-Country Championship. John Downes ran one of his best races in appalling conditions to win.

Sean O'Sullivan has broken only one Irish record this year—the 10 miles event. At Iveagh Grounds, one of the finest tracks in the country he shattered Peter McArdle's time by fully 46 seconds. Incidentally, McArdle is being freely tipped as America's 10,000 metres hope for the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1964.

In common with Very Rev. W. J. Canon Carroll; Very Rev. J. Browne, P.P.; Granagh; Roger Gould; Donny O'Driscoll; Ronnie Long, and others, who in Limerick and county are helping to keep athletics going, I believe that Sean O'Sullivan would have set up more time records had he been extended.

He has won practically all his races by a furlong or more.

Take into account, too, that a number of the tracks where the championships were held were totally unsuitable for fast times.

### 'In the bag'

With seven Irish titles tucked away, and another "in the bag," one would have thought that the Tourafula farmer would have more Munster championship than four won this year. However, Irish titles have been his objective, and the policy has paid off handsomely.

I asked Sean how many prizes he has won. He just shrugged his shoulders, pointed at a dresser choked full of cups, medals and what have you. "Hundreds" would be putting it low.

While Sean O'Sullivan sets as well as the next, he places special emphasis on the fact that honey has a special place on his list of pleasures.

His advice to the winners of the future? It is very simple. Train, train, and train even harder.

Of course, you can overdo the training. It happens the best of athletes. Racehorses and greyhounds are a fine example, but having turned out some very good coursing dogs in his time there is little fear of Sean O'Sullivan "going stale."

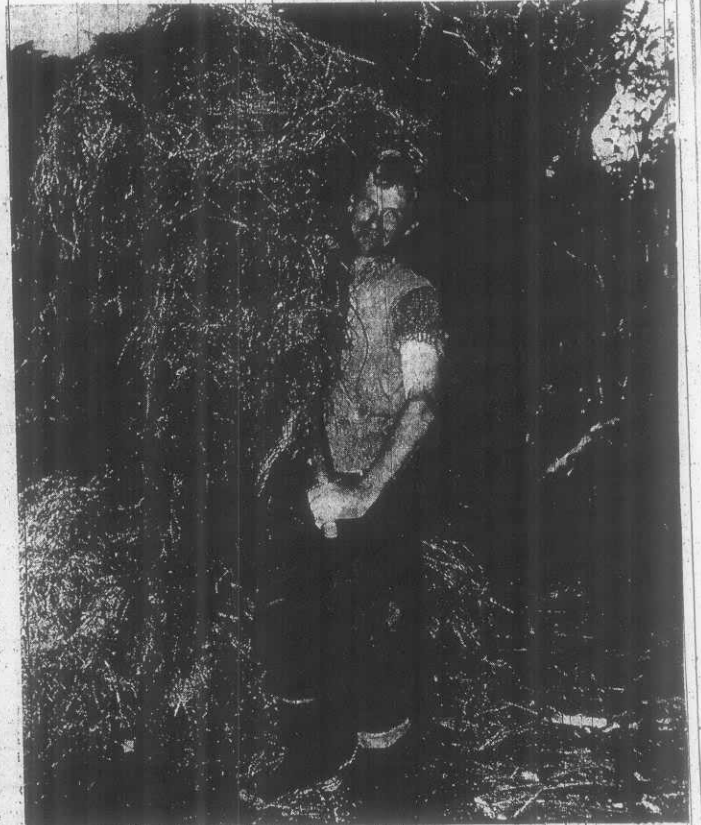
About his chances of winning yet another Irish title next Sunday, Sean says: "I am a homesick man, everything will go right for me, as it has done all season."

### First time at Gorey

Even that Sean will be running at Gorey for the first time, he looks a really good bet to win. He has already taken care—many times over—of the opposition to be met, and he should confirm the running. If he is to be beaten, it could be by his fellow clubmate, John Downes. Sean rates John as his most dangerous rival, but he adds: "Everyone in the field is capable of beating me and I am hoping that luck will stay on my side."

Probably not as stylish as John Downes, but every bit as forceful at the bay, Sean possesses a very fine closing "kick," and that must land him first at Gorey. I know all our readers will wish him well in this moment of tremendous possibility. Eight Irish distance titles in the one season would be fantastic, so go to it, John, and give us something really worthwhile to shout about, while our hurriers and footballers of all codes are getting their second wind.

### Retreat for rugby players



Sean O'Sullivan saying hay on his farm during the week. He should have another "hey-day" on Sunday when it is hoped that he will win the 5 miles Championship at Gorey.

**C.L.C.S.—BORD CLAR LUINNÍ**

**G.A.A. fixtures**

**SUNDAY NEXT, AUG. 19**

**AT NEWCASTLE WEST**

Junior Football Championship:

**ST. MARY'S V.**

**NEWCASTLE WEST**

At 2.30 (S.T.).

Junior Hurling Championship:

**DROMCOLLOGHER V.**

**GRANAGH-BALLINGARRY**

2.45 p.m. Referee, T. O'Sullivan.

**AT ASKEATON**

Junior Football Championship:

**ATHEA V.**

**KILDIMO-PALLAS.**

At 2.30 p.m.

### Sports meeting on Sunday next

The Ballybricken G.A.A. club will hold parish sports at Caherelly, Grange, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick on Sunday next, August 19, and the programme will include the following events:—  
100 yards, 440 yards, 1 mile novice, 16 lbs. shot, 5,000 metres Limerick County senior cycling championship, 2 miles' cycle open

### MOTORCYCLING NOTES

The opening of the Munster Club's new scrambles course at Vernon Mount, Cork on Sunday last, provided one of the best afternoon's cross-country racing ever seen in the south. The new course is an extension of the existing well-known mountain grass-track circuit. A bull-dozer was used extensively to produce a fascinating mile-long switchback right around the huge mansion-turned-clubhouse high on the hill overlooking Cork City at Frankfield.

The Munster Club are certainly to be congratulated on their enterprise. Even on Sunday they had the pleasure of seeing their efforts bearing early fruit, with a record entry and the biggest "gate" ever at Vernon Mount.

Of the three Limerickmen in the field, the consistent Mick MacEoin (B.S.A.) was most successful, coming within an ace of winning on two occasions, and taking home third prize in the Carlsile Cup handicap final, despite having to fix a puncture between races!

For Gerry Lennon (Ariel) it was a day of misfortune.

Though it was his second scramble only, Jim Meany of Bruff (A.J.S.) was circulating remarkably fast—only a couple of tumbles—and there were many falls on Sunday—prevented him from pulling off his first prize.

Carlsile Cup Handicap: Heat 1—1. J. O'Sullivan, Timoleague (250 Greeney); 2. M. P. MacEoin, Limerick (350 B.S.A.); 3. B. Galvin, Cork (250 Greeney).

Final: 1. Campbell, 2. Donnelly; 3. MacEoin.

dedication is commonplace. He will be sadly missed.

**"Chinman of the Year" Positions.**

1—G. J. Leary (Ariel), 223.  
2—M. P. MacEoin (B.S.A.), 208.  
3—M. B. O'Brien (Ariel), 185.  
4—T. W. Morrow (Sun), 87.  
5—P. Heelan (Triumph), 56.  
6—L. G. Watts (James), 44.  
Carlsile Cup—handicap trials: 1—Heelan (Triumph), 22.  
2—Lennon (Ariel), 17.  
3—O'Brien (Ariel), 14.  
4—N. L. Condy (Doo), 11.  
5—B. Bird (B.S.A.), 10.  
6—MacEoin (B.S.A.), 9.

### Abbeyfeale notes

Mr. Aeneas McEnery, Bridge St. Abbeyfeale, was removed to the Regional Hospital, Limerick, on Friday night last after having been struck by a motor car at Kilkenny Abbeyfeale. He sustained a broken leg and other minor injuries. Latest news from the hospital is that he is progressing satisfactorily.

Sr. Mary Anne Immaculate, who died recently at St. Mary's Convent Portlaine Manor, Sussex, was the daughter of Daniel E. and Mrs. Doody, Kilkenny Upper, Abbeyfeale.

Followers of Gaelic football in this area were very pleased at the 7-point win of the Casey-Color for senior football team over St. Patrick's at Bruff on Sunday last.

Let us hope that this Abbeyfeale combination will advance further in the senior grade and help to a revival long overdue.

Some weeks ago a great deal seemed to have been done in cleaning and decorating all the white stipes which supply drinking water to Abbeyfeale town, but since then job was completed something has happened. The water is no longer clear and people are not using it for tea making. We are back again this day of drinking with butter and other vegetables from wells out

## Big water-polo tournament at Corbally

**ON Sunday next, commencing at 3 p.m., one of the biggest water-polo tournaments ever staged in Limerick will be held at Corbally Swimming Baths. Sponsored by the progressive Thomond Club, the competition will take the form of five or six matches between such well-known Cork teams as Neptune, Sunday's Well, Penguin, with Askeaton, Shannon and Thomond representing Limerick.**

The water-polo game at Thomond's recent highly successful Munster Championship proved to be the most popular item with spectators. Hence the decision of the Club (Munster Junior champions for the last few seasons) to hold a tournament that would attract the top teams in the province.

### PROVINCIAL TITLE

Also down for decision at this "At Home" Gala, as it is called, will be the 400 metres Championship of Munster. Top swimmer in this event will be D. O'Mahony (Dolphin), who will start favourite. Other Cork competitors are: K. O'Callaghan (Sunday's Well), J. O'Callaghan and the evergreen Palmer Lyons. Thomond and Shannon will also be well represented in this race.

For the younger competitors there will be several juvenile and under-age competitions. Quite a few local youngsters are showing promise of late, and it figures well for the future of the game to see so many young people in training each evening at the pool.

### Y.M. too strong

L.P.Y.M.A. proved too strong for Cork County "A" on Saturday last in Limerick. The visitors batted first and were early in trouble when Ellis bowled Wash with the score at 2. The next wicket fell at 37 but when Rolf and Whittaker got together they pushed the score up, getting 17 and 38 respectively. N. Gilman was the only other batsman to reach double figures (13) and the side were out for 94. Wiggins (3 for 11) and Ellis with (5 for 28) did most damage.

X.M. started badly, also losing Powell at 6, but Thompson, who had a fine innings, knocked out 42. He was helped by Ellis (22), Mason (10), and Grier (0). Runs came fairly fast and Milne had the distinction of hitting the winning run to leave X.M. winners by 3 wickets as there were 22-2 runs in this game. Whittaker

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1,000 c.c.—1. R. Bar-  
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Volksvagen; 3. L.  
Volksvagen.

1 for 10 lap Race—  
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**AUTOCROSS**

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2.45 p.m. August 26.  
A.T.I. 55.

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J. Quirk and J.  
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