

Rugby

Contrasting fortunes of Bective and St. Mary's

NOT SURPRISINGLY, following that splendid win over the holders, Wanderers, in the semi-final last weekend, Bective Rangers name an unchanged team to meet St. Mary's College in the Leinster Senior Cup final at Lansdowne Road on Saturday.

St. Mary's have made one change from the team that overcame Lansdowne at the penultimate stage. Second-row forward Jim Sweeney has recovered from head and ankle injuries and, predictably, he is recalled in place of Mick Glynn.

By

EDMUND Van ESBECK

Bective's only anxieties as they prepare for their appearance in the cup final since 1964 centre on Al Moroney getting back from a holiday in Majorca in good time and the hope that their hooker John Raphael will escape injury when he leads the England under-23 team against the county champions, Gloucestershire, in Gloucester tonight.

Moroney is expected back tonight or tomorrow from a holiday he had planned many months ago, perhaps at a time when he, like so many of us, did not expect to see Bective in the final, though the club assures me that Moroney had been under the impression then that it was fixed for last Saturday.

ILLUSTRIOUS HISTORY

However unexpected Bective's advance has been, it will be warmly welcomed by rugby followers in general. They have had a lean time over the past decade and have lived in the shadows of the many great teams and players that have represented the club in its illustrious history that stretches back to 1881.

Bective have won the cup 12 times, the first in 1889 and the last in 1962, and during that period some of Ireland's greatest players came from the club, including Louis Magee, John O'Connor, the Collopy's, George, and his two sons Billy and Dick—the only instance of father and two sons having played for Ireland—the Deerings, Seamus and Mark, Mark Delaney and a host of others.

Four Bective men have captained Ireland — John O'Connor, Billy Collopy, Louis Magee, who led Ireland to the Triple Crown in 1899, and the most recent, a man worthy to be categorised with the great players of any era, Bill Mulcahy.

Their opponents on Saturday have reached eminence in more recent times, having gone through many vicissitudes since they were founded on October 1st, 1900.

Although meetings in the cup between St. Mary's and Bective have been very infrequent in recent years, there is nonetheless a long tradition of cup battles between the clubs, and in other very close connections.

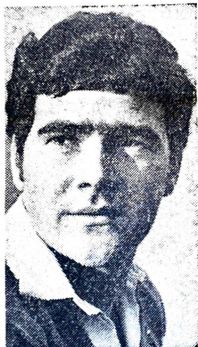
In St. Mary's first season in senior ranks, 1911-12, they surprised many by defeating Monkstown in a first-round cup tie, but then lost to Bective by nine points to six in the semi-final.

The first world war hit the club severely. St. Mary's College, closed down in 1916 and did not reopen until 1926. With the closure of the college, the club was forced out of existence and did not reform until 1932.

When that happened, many of the St. Mary's members moved to Bective Rangers and among those who went to the new surroundings were Paddy Roddy and Joe Clarke, both of whom subsequently played for Ireland. At a much later date, a youngster who made the journey from St. Mary's to Bective was George Norton and, in the new colours, a distinguished inter-



Rival captains in Saturday's Leinster Senior Cup final Al Moroney (Bective), top, and Paul Andreucetti (St. Mary's).



national career was born. Norton is president of Bective this season.

If St. Mary's progress has been fitful, it has been singularly spectacular over the past 16 years, and the success attained in that period is in stark contrast to the days when Father Ernie Farrell led the club in its first senior cup campaign in 1912.

Father Farrell was the first St. Mary's man to play for Leinster, became president of the Leinster Branch and, in addition to his efforts on the rugby front, also found time to become the founder of the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland.

Father Farrell was a leading figure in the reorganisation of the club in 1932 and was around to see St. Mary's regain senior status in 1941. It was not until 1958, however, that they reached the Leinster Senior Cup final for the first time and it was a winning appearance, for they defeated Blackrock College. They were led by Joe Fanagan, now a member of the Irish selection committee, and one of Fanagan's colleagues on that winning team was Ned Carmody, coach to the present side.

Since that initial success, St. Mary's have been among the best teams in the country, even though the next triumph in the cup did not come until 1969, and six of

those who helped defeat Trinity in a replay that year will be on duty on Saturday — John Moloney, Denis Hickie, Sean Lynch, Alberto Andreucetti, Jim Sweeney and Terry Young. The cup was won again in 1971 and the league in its inaugural year, 1972.

Having waited so long to have a player picked for Ireland, when the honour came in 1971, St. Mary's did it in the grand manner, with both Sean Lynch and Denis Hickie gaining their caps and Lynch going on the Lions tour to New Zealand that year.

WITH U.C.D.

When St. Mary's meet Bective on Saturday it will be the first meeting in the cup between the sides since 1963, when St. Mary's B won a semi-final replay by 6-3. The following year Bective went to the final but lost 11-6 to U.C.D. Two who played in that final will be in action again, Al Moroney and number eight Dermot Jordan, but Moroney was playing for U.C.D. on that occasion.

St. Mary's two Lions representatives this year, Tom Grace and Moloney, will both play on Saturday, and the only doubt concerns Henry Murphy who injured a knee last Saturday. Should he be unfit, it will provide a major problem for the club.

Despite the close proximity of the departure of Grace and Moloney for South Africa, Fraser McMullen, Ireland's representative on the Lions selection committee said yesterday: "Although players have been asked not to play after April 20th except under exceptional circumstances, a Leinster final comes into that category, and it is quite in order for the two men concerned to play in what is for their club, the most important engagement of the year."

St. Mary's College—A. Hickie; T. Grace; P. Andreucetti; F. Kennedy; T. Young; H. Murphy; J. Moloney; S. Lynch; A. Andreucetti; T. Feighery; J. B. Sweeney; P. O'Reilly; J. Donnellan; D. Hickie; E. Wiggleworth.

Bective Rangers—K. Toner; K. Byrne; K. Murphy; S. Fitzpatrick; J. O'Driscoll; A. Seen; A. Anderson; A. Moroney; J. Raphael; J. Lawlor; B. Loftord; L. Magee; C. O'Carroll; D. Jordan; E. O'Beirne.

U.C.C. take on Lansdowne

THE annual match between the league champions of Leinster and Munster brings Lansdowne and University College, Cork, into opposition at the Mardyke on Saturday, when the prize for the winners will be the R.T.B. trophy, writes Edmund Van Esbeck.

This series was inaugurated in 1972 to raise funds for a most deserving cause, the Cork Rehabilitation Institute, but quite apart from helping that worthy project, spectators should be well rewarded by what promises to be an entertaining game.

U.C.C., who this season regained the Munster Senior League after an 11-year-lapse, will be striving to bring the cup to Munster for the first time. Since the trophy was put up for annual competition, it has been won by two Leinster clubs, St. Mary's College in 1972 and Wanderers last season.

While U.C.C. hope to field at full strength, Lansdowne will have at least two changes from the side that lost in the Leinster Cup semi-final to St. Mary's last Saturday, when both centres, Tadg Gleeson and John Kerin, received serious injuries.

Gleeson broke a leg and will undergo an operation this morning, while Kerin had badly torn ankle ligaments. Likely replacements are Frank Forrest, a player with vast experience of Munster rugby acquired while playing for Dolphin,

Rugby: Seven-a-side

Finalists