

Garryowen

D. LARKIN	15
R. WALLACE	14
K. SMITH	13
P. DANAHAR	12
P. MURPHY	11
N. BARRY	10
I. BARRY	9
P. HOGAN	8
D. O'SULLIVAN/M. O'DONOGHUE	7
W. SEXTON	6
R. SHEEHAN	5
P. SHEEHAN/R. COSTELLO	4
B. O'KANE	3
D. MURPHY	2
P. SPAIN	1

Ball Sponsor: Ernst & Young
Chartered Accountants

St. Mary's College

FULL BACK	15	S. HENNESSY
RIGHT WING	14	A. WHITE
RIGHT CENTRE	13	V. CUNNINGHAM
LEFT CENTRE	12	R. HERNAN
LEFT WING	11	D. WALL
OUT HALF	10	G. DOYLE
SCRUM HALF	9	S. O'BEIRNE
FORWARDS	8	D. FANNING
	7	B. GALVIN
	6	N. MCCARTHY
	5	S. JAMESON
	4	K. POTTS
	3	D. GILLEN
	2	D. WHITTY
	1	B. KEANE

Referee:

Steven Hilditch U.S.R.

Touch Judges:

J. Clancy M.A.R.
B. Mullins M.A.R.



FRANK HOGGAN



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Garryowen hang on in drop kick battle

GARRYOWEN..... 15
ST MARY'S..... 13

WHILE Garryowen savoured a thrilling victory at Dorradoyle on Saturday, they would have been aware that the joy of the moment would be diluted considerably by an honest analysis of how it was achieved, writes Dermot Gilleece.

As serious challengers for the inaugural All-Ireland League, much soul-searching is necessary before they set off on a forbidding visit to Ballymena next weekend.

The fact was that only the depth of a crossbar allowed them to survive a tie in which drop kicks at goal became a crucial element. There were eight such kicks in all, of which the St Mary's out-half Gearoid Doyle landed two out of five while Garryowen's Nicky Barry was successful with one out of three.

With 15 minutes remaining, Garryowen were holding on, rather precariously, to a lead of 12-10. At that point, Doyle attempted a drop at goal, which missed the target. Before being grounded behind the line, however, it had been touched by a Garryowen hand, which meant the awarding of a five yards scrum.

From the set-piece, Doyle made yet another drop and, this time, was successful. St Mary's then led by 13-12.

Then, in a desperate rally, Barry was wide with a drop

attempt at the other end of the pitch. But he found the target two minutes later, from 25 yards. Now, Garryowen were leading once more, by 15-13. With only three minutes remaining, however, Doyle — with a drop goal attempt, naturally — was deprived of a potentially winning score for St Mary's when the ball hit the crossbar.

Thrilling stuff for the 2,000 spectators, the sort of excitement that prompted St Mary's official Joe Fanagan to enthuse, even in defeat: "That's what rugby is all about — a fiercely competitive match played in a marvellous spirit."

The closeness of the finish could be attributed to two key factors. Totally dominant in the first half, Garryowen made a number of handling errors and place-kicker Ken Smith missed two reasonable penalty attempts from inside the 10-yard line. So they led by only 12-6 at the interval.

Then there was the renowned resilience of St Mary's whose successes over the years have been based on an ability to soak up punishment before storming back into contention. Rarely has this great quality been more in evidence than it was on Saturday.

"We knew they would never lie down," Garryowen's New Zealand coach, Murray Kidd, said afterwards. "That's what made it so

important for us to take our first-half chances, which we didn't."

Mary's gave the home side a particularly torrid time out of touch and they also scrummaged very effectively. Indeed number eight Paul Hogan was one of the few successes in a severely pressurised Garryowen pack which may anticipate an even tougher time against Ballymena.

The Garryowen half-backs worked well though one suspected that much of the steam was knocked out of scrum-half Ian Barry by a flying St Mary's fist, in the 33rd minute. Dan Larkin fielded with predictable assurance at full-back and was frequently a force in attack but the threequarters lacked penetration, with the notable exception of right wing, Richard Wallace, who scored a delightful try.

The other Garryowen scores were a drop-goal by Barry and two penalty goals and conversion from Smith. Right wing Aidan White scored an opportunist try for St Mary's who also had two drop-goals from Doyle and a penalty goal from Stephen Hennessy.

GARRYOWEN: D Larkin; R Wallace, P Danaher, K Smith, P Murphy; N Barry, I Barry; P Spain, D Murphy, B O'Kane, P Sheehan, R Sheehan, W Sexton, P Hogan, M O'Donoghue.

ST MARY'S: S Hennessy; A White, V Cunningham, R Heman, D Wall; G Doyle, S O'Beirne; B Keane, D Whitty, D Gillen, K Potts, S Jameson, B Gavin, D Fanning, N McCarthy.

Referee: S Hilditch (Ulster).

Garryowen snatch victory

Garryowen 15

K. Smith 2 pens., conv., R. Wallace try;
N. Barry dr. gl.

St. Mary's College 13

S. Hennessy pen; G. Doyle 2 dr gls.,
A. White, try.

Man Of The Match

Paul Hogan

Attendance: 2,000

Garryowen pulled off the second win in Division One of the All-Ireland League in this pulsating encounter which enthralled a capacity crowd at Dooradoyle in Limerick yesterday.

Garryowen just about deserved this victory. St. Mary's will rue the lost chance when out-half Geroid Doyle's attempt at a drop goal late in the game hit the crossbar and allowed Garryowen to clear their lines.

But equally, Garryowen can point to a lost chance when Nicky Barry charged down another attempt at a drop goal by Doyle and hacked on only to see the ball skidding over the dead ball line. That wasn't the final note of drama, as St. Mary's desperately tried to snatch success in the remaining nail-biting minutes.

Garryowen owe much to their great pack, in which No. 8 Paul Hogan was an outstanding figure. The St. Mary's forwards also shone, with good performances from Kevin Potts and Noel McCarthy, but at the end it was the greater hunger for success which gave Garryowen this latest moment of glory. Garryowen looked likely to run riot in the first 15 minutes, as the game was played out within the St. Mary's 22 metre area. But in the event, it was St. Mary's who scored first with a well-taken penalty goal by Steve Hennessy from 38 metres when Garryowen were penalised at the line-out.

But after 22 minutes' play Ken Smith equalised for Garryowen with a penalty goal from 22 metres when St. Mary's went offside at a ruck. Five minutes later Philip Danaher and Nicky Barry combined well to open up the short side and send right wing Richard Wallace careering over for a superb try which Smith converted magnificently from far out on the right hand touchline.

Just two minutes later, Smith put Garryowen into what looked like a comfortable lead with his second penalty goal, this time from a longer range. But in injury time in the first half, Doyle revived St. Mary's hopes with a well-taken drop goal which put his team back into the match.

Four minutes into the second period, St. Mary's hopes of victory were further enhanced. Their forwards won a good line-out, the ball was spun across the line and former schools international Aidan White launched for an excellent try which Hennessy failed to convert.

Twenty-five minutes of the second half had gone when St. Mary's regained the lead. Once again, Doyle was the architect. His attempt at a drop goal was touched by a defender and from the five metres scrum which followed, Doyle made no mistake when he banged

over his second drop goal of the match.

That left St. Mary's hanging on to a precarious one-point lead but with only five minutes remaining.

Nicky Barry knocked over a beautifully taken drop goal to give the home side a hard-earned victory

GARRYOWEN — D. Larkin; R. Wallace, K. Smith, P. Danaher, P. Murphy, N. Barry, I. Barry, P. Sparr, G. Murphy, B. O'Kane, P. Sheehan, R. Sheehan, W. Sexton, M. O'Donoghue, P. Hogan

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE — S. Hennessy, A. White, V. Cunningham, R. Hernan, D. Wall, G. Doyle, S. O'Beirne, B. Keane, B. Whitty, D. Gillen, K. Potts, S. Jameson, N. McCarthy, B. Gavin, D. Fanning
Referee — D. Hilditch (Ulster).

LANSDOWNE OUST INSTONIANS

Instonians 10

P Russell 2 pens; K Crossan try

Lansdowne 26

N Downer 2 tries; C Whelan try, pen, try; S Buckley 2 pens, 2 conv.

Man Of The Match

Noel Mannion

Attendance: 600

scrum three times — put Lansdowne a further six points in front as Buckley went through the formality of converting.

It was obvious from much earlier, however, that the Instonians pack was in dire trouble and in their effort to get a balance, prope John McKibbin was switched to his regular second row spot while Victor Kirke moved up to partner Gary Bell and Adair. But it didn't work.

Instead, it was Lansdowne, their back row in particular doing heroic work, who continued to dominate and Downer went in for his second try following a pushover in the 23rd minute. Buckley again converted but failed when Craig Whelan ran from almost halfway to score his side's fourth try.

At this stage, John Collins had come in for Vincent Ryan while Instonians were still struggling to find their footing. Admittedly, Russell kicked his second penalty midway through the half while it was Russell who set up the movements from which Keith Crossan eventually went in at the corner flag.

Not a day to remember as far as Instonians are concerned when one realises that Lansdowne came north with Glennon, Sexton, Ahern, White and Fitzgerald, all on the injured list.

INSTONIANS — S. Monteith, P. Irvine, D. Irwin, M. Wylie, K. Crossan, P. Russell, K. O'Donnell, G. Bell, A. Adair, J. McKibbin, V. Kirke, C. Hamilton, R. Wilson, D. Crawford, D. Cross.

LANSDOWNE — C. O'Shea; C. Whelan, P. Clinch, G. Ahern, R. Hennessy, S. Buckley, N. Downer, T. Clancy, W. Burns, A. McKeen, P. O'Connor, V. Ryan, P. Ward, C. Quinn, N. Mannion. Replacement — J. Collins for Ryan
Referee — P. Robin (France).

CONSTITUTION GRAB VICTORY

Constitution 18

K. Murphy, B. Howell, B. Walsh, tries; R. Keyes, 2 pens.

Malone 14

S. Cowan, S. Porter, tries; C. Wilkinson, pen, drop-goal.

Man Of The Match

Graham Ellis

Attendance: 1,200.

penalty, but 'Con' took their chances and scored a superb try through Kenny Murphy and a penalty from Ralph Keyes.

Early in the second half, 'Con' exerted tremendous pressure and got their rewards with tries from Barry Howell and Brian Walsh.

After that, they sometimes lived dangerously, but did not crack until Porter went in for an unconverted try. And, having absorbed the pressure, the impressive Keyes kicked a simple penalty after Malone's scrum on their own line was once again disrupted.

CONSTITUTION — K. Murphy; D. O'Dowd, C. Murphy, N. Murray, B. Walsh, R. Keyes, M. Bradley (capt), P. Soden, P. Derham, P. McCarthy, D. Lenihan, S. Hayes, O. Barrett, B. Howell, C. Slattery. Replacement — L. Dineen for McCarthy.

MALONE — C. Wilkinson; S. Porter, W. Whelan, M. Field, N. Holmes, S. Collins, S. Cowan, M. Reynolds, J. McDonald (capt), R. Mackey, C. Morrison, G. Ellis, S. Duncan, S. Fitzpatrick, D. McBride.
Referee: F. Cateret (France).

Considering the fact Lansdowne's three quarters saw the ball no more than half a dozen times during their upfront, all-action clash with Instonians at Shane Park, it is interesting to note that tries produced the winning blend for the Dubliners.

All-Ireland points were at stake — vital points for both sides — and the Shane Park line was crossed no fewer than four times in the last 41 minutes... although the score two minutes after the restart was a penalty try awarded for persistent dropping of the scrum by the home side.

Sixteen points was the margin of victory for Lansdowne — and after their defeat by Shannon last month, the win was something to savour. Yet, for the first 20 minutes, it looked as though Instonians would continue on their winning way.

The pack, reshuffled in the absence of the injured Brian McKibbin, seemed to do everything right and it was exactly 22 minutes before Lansdowne managed to cross the Instonians 22 metre line.

Shane Buckley was the man to break the deadlock when Instonians hooker Andy Adair was penalised for going over the top. Buckley struck the ball cleanly and Lansdowne were three points clear.

The game had hardly restarted when former Ulster out-half Ruttie levelled matters with a penalty but Buckley again put his side in front with a massive kick five minutes later.

Four minutes from the break, Buckley was just inches wide with another kick at goal and French referee Robin was actually looking at his watch when Lansdowne went in for their opening try. Noel Downer was the man who touched down following a five yards scrum.

Seven points adrift then at half time, it looked as though Instonians might recover — as they had done many times in the past — in the second half. But a penalty try — awarded for dropping the

A last-minute penalty goal by Ralph Keyes allowed Constitution breathing space and assured them of victory in a hotly-disputed All-Ireland League Division One game at Temple Hill yesterday.

Constitution scored three tries to two, but the fact is this was a fortunate victory. For long periods of the game, they had to defend as Malone, boosted by a superb line-out performance from Graham Ellis and Colin Morrison, carried the game to the Cork side.

It was surprising that, after jumping into a 15-10 lead with the wind at their backs early in the second half, that 'Con' should go off the boil. But that was at least partly due to the superbly motivated Malone pack, whose only serious deficiency was in the set scrums.

And there they paid a terrible price, for 'Con' made them pay by way of a pushover try.

Malone had a distinct territorial advantage in the opening period and deservedly led at the break. They surely would have been more satisfied however, with a bigger advantage than the three-point lead they managed to hold.

Stephen Cowan got a try and Colin Wilkinson dropped a goal and kicked a

St Mary's denied by woodwork

GARRYOWEN 15

ST MARY'S 13

From A Special Correspondent at Dooradoyle

GARRYOWEN: D Larkin, R Wallace, K Smith, P Danaher (capt), P Murphy, N Barry, I Barry, P Spain, D Murphy, B O'Kane, P Sheehan, R Sheehan, W Sexton, M O'Donohue, P Hogan

ST MARY'S COLLEGE: S Hennessy, A White, V Cunningham, R Hernan (capt), D Wall, G Doyle, S O'Beirne, B Keane, D Whitty, D Gillen, K Potts, S Jameson, N McCarthy, B Gavin, D Fanning

Referee: S Hilditch (Ulster)

THE width of the Dooradoyle crossbar stood between St Mary's College and the famous victory over Garryowen in a magnificent All Ireland league division one match played before 2,000 wildly excited fans.

The St Mary's out half Gearóid Doyle fired a drop goal attempt three minutes from the finish which looked certain to give his side the points that would have edged them in front at a crucial stage of the proceedings but instead the ball struck the crossbar and bounced back into the grateful arms of the Garryowen captain Philip Danaher who cleared.

So Garryowen won their second match in the event by 15-13 and it was a game that further emphasised what a great boost

this new event is for the game in this country. The commitment of the big, vigorous packs was total and both sides were more than prepared to launch attacks through their three-quarter line.

Garryowen looked clearly the stronger side in the opening half so it came as quite a shock to them when they fell behind in the 14th minute when number eight Paul Hogan who would go on to establish himself before the end as the man of the match was penalised at a line out and Stephen Hennessy put Mary's in front with a fine kick from 40 yards.

Garryowen deservedly drew level through a penalty goal by Kenny Smith after 20 minutes and shortly afterwards went ahead with a lovely right wing

try from Richard Wallace who raced home from 25 yards. Smith converted with a magnificent kick and within minutes stretched his side's lead to 12-3 with his second penalty. But Smith then missed with two shots at goal and when Doyle reduced Mary's arrears with a superb 25 yard drop goal three minutes into injury time a 12-6 lead appeared scant reward for Garryowen's supremacy.

St Mary's quickly set about redressing the balance in the second half. After four minutes they won a ruck in the left hand corner and flashed the ball across the pitch to give Aidan White a clear run in. Hennessy missed the conversion. It was to prove crucial.

Doyle was now availing of the advantage being gained up front by his forwards and he drop kicked his side in front at 13-12 in the 25th minute. Garryowen were now desperate but drew inspiration from adversity. They piled into the attack and after Barry was inches wide from 45 yards with a drop kick attempt he made no mistake from close range. Garryowen had to survive Doyle's drop kick that came back off the crossbar before, on the stroke of full-time, when Nicky Barry blocked down another drop goal attempt by Doyle, hacked the ball downfield and was beaten for the touchdown by inches.