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ALL IRELAND LEAGUE: *Constitution win the first title as Old Wesley and Young Munster clinch promotion*

St Mary's manage to survive the points race

ROUND-UP

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THE very concept of avoiding relegation with style may be an incongruous one but St Mary's yesterday seemed content not to explore the possibilities. They needed to avoid a defeat by 30 points or more to Instonians at Templeville Road and did so successfully, losing only by 13, 6-19. The more uncertain issues of promotion in Division Two were resolved with Young Munster and Old Wesley ensuring their passage to Division One.

In the provincial leagues Blackrock won the play off for the title in Leinster, and they will be joined in the round robin tournament for a place in Division Two by Dolphin who clinched the Munster title.

Instonians, motivated by nothing more momentous than a mid table finish in Division One, were much better adapted to the battle and deserved their win over St Mary's. Their performance was marked by two tries, one of them by winger Keith Crossan, playing his first game since he broke his leg in November.

Crossan picked up the ball on half way after a Mary's attack had broken down and made the corner with customary pace. That score came in the first half and was supplemented with three penalties by Peter Russell to give them a 13-6 lead. Steve Hennessy kicked two penalties in reply for Mary's.

The only score of the second half was a try by prop Gary Bell, converted by Rus-

sell.

Young Munster did what was within their powers in their quest for promotion with a 32-0 defeat of Athlone; Old Wesley did the rest with their victory over Tere-nure and now both are guaranteed Division One status next season.

Munsters scored six tries, two each for Ian Duggan and Ger Casey, while Mike Benson and Ray Ryan got the others. Casey and Benson added the other points with the boot.

The clash of Malone and Lansdowne in Division One pitched together two teams whose respective fates were beyond them. Lansdowne were even denied second place by Carryown's superior points difference. Not even a miracle, far less points difference, could save Malone from relegation.

As befitted their status Lansdowne's morale appeared to be greater in the early stages and they led 13-4 at half time. Paul Clinch and Tom Clancy scored tries, Shane Buckley converted one of them and kicked a penalty; Maurice Field scored a try for Malone in reply.

Malone, to their credit, saw their self respect threatened and rallied to its defence in the second half with two tries from Stuart Porter and Michael McAllister, one of them converted by Richard Cullen. Lansdowne though did just enough to hang on to victory with another penalty from Buckley.

Ballymena and Shannon seemed to enjoy the pressureless vacuum of mid-table with a game which produced eight tries. The visitors Shannonn had the better

off to win 28-22.

Two of their four tries came from Billy O'Shea with Mick Moylert and Jeff Moylen claiming one each. Ballymena's Davie Smyth also crossed the try line twice, with one each from Alan Simpson and Bruce McKenzie.

The other two All Ireland League games in Ulster were in Division Two. Bangor, for so long in the season an irresistible force in the league, finished their campaign with a 15-12 win over Sunday's Well but each must be content with the prospect of meeting each other again next season. The thought will rest more easily on Well minds.

The other match will not be repeated in the league next year. NIFC's relegation was compounded by a home defeat to

CIVMS, themselves relegation candidates until recently. CI won 19-9, scoring the only try of the match through Paul Kinley. Like NIFC, Corinthians were condemned to relegation before yesterday, and, like North, there was little to warm them in their last match in Division Two, losing to Greystones, 6-38. Greystones utterly dominated, particularly in the second half, and ran in six tries, to none in reply from Corinthians.

In the Leinster Senior League play off game at Anglesea Road Blackrock defeated Clontarf 13-3. Only a Brendan Mullin penalty divided the teams at half time, but then an intercept try from Alain Roiland and another try from George Roche sealed the title for Blackrock in the second half.