

Insurance Corporation League Division One

Saturday 9th January, 1993 – Kick-off: 2.30 p.m.



HOLSTEN Pils



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE R.F.C.

30 pts

15. Aidan White Full Backs

14. Anthony Gillen

13. Gary Lavin

12. Vincent Cunningham

11. David Wall

Three Quarters

10. Nicky Barry

9. Mark Thorne

Half Backs

1. Brian Keane

2. Michael Corcoran

3. Derek Dowling

4. Tim Coughlan

5. Steve Jameson (Capt.)

6. Kevin Potts

7. Kevin Devlin

8. Brent Pope

Forwards

Replacements

Gareth Halpin

John Muldoon

Philip Kenny

John Carville

Ciaran Shanley

Referee:

Bertie Smith

(M.R.A.)

Touch Judges:

Gordon Black

(A.R.L.B.)

Philip Gray

(A.R.L.B.)

DUNGANNON F.C.

12 pts

15. Stanley McDowell

14. Brian Smith

13. Paul Archer

12. David Lewis

11. Tyrone Howe

10. Keith McGarry

9. Ashley Blair

1. Davey Millar

2. Hugh McGaughey

3. Gary Leslie

4. Willie Anderson (Capt.)

5. Peter Buchanan

6. Jeremy Hastings

7. Jonathan Boyd

8. Paddy Johns

Replacements

Richie Weir

Laurence Hastings

OUR GRATITUDE TO TODAY'S GILBERT MATCH BALL SPONSORS

The Ryan Hotel Group

Dungannon prove no match for St Mary's

ST MARY'S raised hopes of All-Ireland league honours among their supporters with a well-earned and comprehensive victory over Dungannon at Templeville Road on Saturday. Dungannon will struggle to maintain their top division status after a poor second-half display which saw them concede three tries.

Dungannon's remaining programme against Ballymena, Old Wesley and Shannon does not offer them much chance of reprieve, although they still retain slender hopes of survival.

St Mary's showed all the verve in the second half of a previously dull match, and it was Aidan White who provided the outstanding performance. He had every reason to be pleased with his display which yielded a personal tally of three conversions, three penalty goals and two scoring passes for a brace of tries by wing David Wall.

But if it was White who caught the eye most frequently, among the St Mary's backs, it was Brent Pope, Kevin Potts and Steve Jameson, the captain, who really laid the firm foundation for victory with storming performances. Michael Corcoran played more particularly well-timed intervention and dash helped to set up one of Wall's tries.

Behind the scrum, Mark Thorne and Nicky Barry were eminently sound, while Vincent Cunningham had an excellent match in the centre and got good support from Garry Lavin.

Dungannon took the rather odd option of playing Paddy Johns at wing forward with Jeremy Hastings at number eight, but at no stage could Dungannon gain parity either in set scrum or lineout, where Johns was particularly disappointing.

Dungannon had the benefit of a strong wind in the first half but although Keith McGarry used it well to gain good ground, his side seemed unable or unwilling to test the St Mary's defence by running the ball to any significant extent. The most they seemed able to do was to force the St Mary's pack into error and indiscipline and it was this which yielded them their nine points at half time; White replied with two penalties in response to Andy Blair's three.

Another penalty by White brought the sides level after five minutes of the second half but McGarry put Dungannon ahead once more a minute later and they seemed to lift their game for a time. They were pressing down the left flank after 12 minutes when a slack pass allowed Corcoran to intercept and, after he had set up a ruck, a series of well-controlled mauls gave Thorne the opportunity to open up a gap and White came into the line to send

ST MARY'S 30
DUNGANNON 12

Sean Kilfeather

Wall over. White converted.

White then hit an upright with a penalty effort before Dungannon were caught out by a quick throw in and Cunningham, Barry, White and Wall combined for the latter to crash over in the corner. White converted from the touchline to make the score 23-12 with 20 minutes left.

Dungannon's confidence ebbed and with five minutes to go they conceded another try when a typical Pope burst set up a ruck. The ball came back quickly to Thorne who found the unlikely figure of Jameson at his elbow and the big forward was unstoppable as he dashed over for White to convert once more.

ST MARY'S — A White, A Gillen, G Lavin, V Cunningham, O Wall, N Barry, M Thorne, B Keane, M Corcoran, D Dowling, S Jameson, T Coughlin, K Potts, K Devlin, B Pope.

DUNGANNON — S McDowell, B Smith, R Carey, D Lewis, T Howe, K McGarry, A Blair, D Millar, H McGaughey, G Lesley, W Anderson, P Buchanan, J Boyd, J Hastings, P Johns.

Referee — B Smith (Munster).

Carling confident of playing

England captain Will Carling insisted yesterday that he would play France in the international championship on Saturday despite an ankle injury sustained at Twickenham after a collision with Harlequin's Orrell. But he said: "I will be training tonight with the rest of the squad." Flanker Peter O'Connell and scrum-half Steve Gull, who also took knock during the championship match, were fit. England manager Brian Nicholson said "at this stage the prospect of playing is good."

Winterbourn cut below his train after Morris had his thigh responded to Carling.

I wanted to say that the ankle and so on ruck. I'm from the Sin years. France miss Rome injured. He's more in the

THE

By David Walsh

What was especially striking about this dismissal of Dungenannon was the thrust of St. Mary's attack: three very fine tries on an afternoon when only the most skilful could run and handle. The northern side didn't deserve to lose by 18 points; eight or ten would have better reflected the balance of the game.

Then, it was a gamble. Now, it is succeeding. Polls is the one making it happen, applying the honesty of the second row to the new role of exploiting the greater freedom of the back row. In Polls and Brent, Mary's have two very tough rombs patrolling the fringes.

Mary's, of course, had more than that. Devilin is a good opsponder. He arrived first and his tackle slowed the others down, often setting up targets for Polls and Pope. The longer the game went the more forcefully Mary's defended and the more they tied down their rivals.

But it was the team's incisive running which carved up Dungannon, two sequences ended with White ending David Wall surging for the corner. Wall scored both times and there was a wonderful sense of a team



Mary's third try wasn't without its

quality either. Thorne making a nice break and linking with Jameston. The big second row had twenty yards to run and a few tackles to avoid. You wouldn't have given tuppence for his chances but away the big fellow went; barging, weaving, running even, until eventually the line came and he col-

It looked much less comfortable at

the beginning. Dungannon set out with the wind at their backs and sailed swiftly into Mary's territory. Close to the Mary's line they encountered fierce resistance and could never get near the try-line. Still their pressure brought concedances, two of which Ashley Blair converted for a six-nil advantage. Seventeen minutes had passed and

Eight minutes later Mary's did it again, this time with even more panache. Blar kicked a ball directly for touch, both packs lined up ten yards outside the Dungannon 22m. As they did, Gillen, at halfway, threw quickly to Cunningham and the centre surged across midfield, linking with Barry.

This time, Barry was happy to be a link, giving to Lavin, from there to White and the full-back took Johns' tackle before giving Wall the scoring pass. This time Wall had to beat Boyd's cover tackle, a feat managed stylishly.

White landed both conversions and also added the points when Jameson ran in the final try. He is a very good goalkicker.

Barry has been slow to settle at Mary's, but he did well yesterday. Cunningham's was the quality performance; taking, giving and being involved in everything that Mary's did well.

Skipper Jameson could afford to be gracious about Dunganmon's performance: "They are a very well-drilled side. Things went with us today, the kind of things that went against us last season."

And the captain's try?

"Well I got it at halfway, with guys between me and the line . . .

And Mary's, do
League contenders?

"Don't you?"

SI MURPHY - A White; T Gillen, C Lavin, Y

Cunningham, D Wall; N Barry, M Thorne; B
Kane, M Corcoran, D Dowling, T Coughlin

S. Jamieson (capt.), K. Polls, B. Pope, K. Devlin, K. Aitken, M. & C. Curran, D. Downing, J. & C. Ogilvie.

Dugganmon • S McDowell; B Smith, P

Archer, D Lewis, T Howe; K McGarry, A
Blair, D Miller, H McGahey, G Teller, W

Anderson (Capt.), P Buchanan; J Hastings, P

Johns, J Boyd.

Referee - B Smith (Munster).
