

Insurance Corporation League Division One

Saturday 30th January, 1993 – Kick-off: 2.30 p.m.



HOLSTEN Pils



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

GREYSTONES R.F.C.

15. Aidan White Full Backs

15. Michael Carney

14. Anthony Gillen

14. Alan Keyes

13. Gary Lavin Three Quarters

13. Rory Vance

12. Vincent Cunningham

12. Steven Sexton

11. David Wall

11. Philip Quinn

10. Nicky Barry Half Backs

10. Collie Dunne

9. Mark Thorne

9. Connor Heaney

1. ~~Brian Keane~~ P. McGILL

1. Nick Popplewell

2. Michael Corcoran

2. John Murphy

3. Derek Dowling

3. Mark Phelan

4. Tim Coughlan

Forwards

4. Clive Woolam

5. Steve Jameson (Capt.)

5. Reggie Corrigan

6. Kevin Potts

6. Des Rigney

7. Kevin Devlin

7. Victor Maginnity

8. Brent Pope

8. Alan Dignam

Replacements

Gareth Halpin

John Muldoon

Philip Kenny

John Carville

Páidge McGill

Referee:

Steven Hilditch

(U.R.S.)

Touch Judges:

Michael Gillick

(A.R.L.B.)

Philip Gray

(A.R.L.B.)

Replacements

Brian O'Flanagan

Connor O'Sullivan

Dave Barrett

Ian Sherwin

Ivan Power

OUR GRATITUDE TO TODAY'S MATCH AND GILBERT MATCH BALL SPONSORS

Bank of Ireland

Five Star St. Mary's

A SUPERLATIVE display. This five-try, star performance by St Mary's College at Templeville Road sets the Insurance Corporation League up for a cracker of a finish.

Next weekend in Cork it will be those narrow leaders, Constitution, against Mary's.

And the final flourish for the Dublin club, in the last tie of the All Ireland, will be a confrontation with Young Munster at Templeville Road.

That's the scenario. It's unlikely now that any others will intrude as the trio battle it out.

Yesterday's tie at Templeville Road was the best by far of the League games I've seen this season. Best in style, in skill. Fast, furious and technically of a high standard.

Noel Murphy, the Irish manager, has expressed his doubts about the standards of skill in the League. Yesterday would have warmed the cockles of his heart and swept away any reservations.

The performance of the St Mary's pack, driving, mauling and handling in support so efficiently, was very impressive.

But it was the technical artistry of

ST MARY'S COLL..... 41 GREYSTONES..... 15

By Sean Diffley.

the backs that really captured the fancy of the 4,000 crowd.

On yesterday's display there can be no better out-half in the country than Nicky Barry. His scrumhalf, Mark Thorne, did his job with aplomb and Aidan White added to his burgeoning reputation at full-back.

And if there had been any Irish selectors present they would have had every reason to have another glance at flanker Kevin Devlin, the best forward on the field.

But it takes two to tango and St. Mary's met opponents worthy of their steel. Greystones were without Colin Woolan at lock which affected their line-out and even with the breeze in the first half were never really establishing enough authority.

And the loss of Collie Dunne early in the second half, taken to hospital for observation with concus-

sion, did not help although the writing was on the wall at that stage.

It was Dunne who had kicked all five penalty goals in the first half. Tony Gillen had scored a Twickenham type of try when Aidan White's penalty attempt rebounded off the crossbar.

White converted that and kicked two penalties but Greystones led 15-13, hardly sufficient with the breeze against them after the interval.

It was all Mary's after halftime. Gillen scored his second try and prop Derek Dowling, wing David and Kevin Devlin scored the others. White kicked two penalties and a conversion to conclude a most entertaining afternoon - except, of course, for Greystones.

St Mary's - A White; A Gillen, V Cunningham, G Lavin, D Wall; N Barry, M Thorne; P McGill, M Corcoran, D Dowling, T Coughlin, S Jameson, K Potts, B Pope, K Devlin.

Greystones - M Carney; A Keyes, R. Vance, S Sexton, P Quinn; C Dunne, C Heaney; N Poplewell, J Murphy, M Phelan, R Boyd, R Corrigan, D Rigney, V Magennis, A Dignam. Replacements - I Power for Dunne 54 mins; I Sherwin for Quinn 70 mins.

Referee - S Hilditch. (Ulster).

St. Mary's superb

John Redmond

St. Mary's College, 41
Gillen (2), D Dowling, D Wall, K
Cullen, A White 2 cons, 4 pens,
Greystones 15

C. Dunne 5 pens,
Man Of The Match
Mark Thorne
Attendance: 4,500

rampant demonstration of the team's full potential, as dominant forwards liaised with brilliant backs in what was unquestionably one of the season's greatest single club performances.

There were so many individual stars making up the galaxy that you had full-back Aidan White, winger Tony Gillen, centre Vinnie Cunningham, half-backs Nicky Barry and Mark Thorne, front row forwards Michael Corcoran and Derek Dowling, second row Steve Jameson and open side flanker Kevin Devlin all in with genuine claims to be nominated Man of the Match.

Taking everything into account, I let team captain Jameson, who himself led by a stirring example, finally make up my mind

by his summing up of the great game.

Said the towering man from Ballyjamesduff with high hopes of leading a Dublin team to glory: "We certainly turned it on today after I reminded the lads at half time how Shannon caught us napping in the second half last week. We showed we had learned our lesson by the high level of our performance and among all the fine contributions, I thought our young scrum-half, Mark Thorne, was the outstanding one."

Mind you, Nicky Barry, with his best performance of the year, also complemented the efforts of the forwards on a day when you wondered how he can't get into the Irish team.

Weary Greystones, with their title hopes now

probably lost, trooped off lamenting the ill-luck of three deadly blows before the start, just after the start and during a tremendously exciting second half.

The troubles began when second row Clive Woollam cried off with a sore throat; their woes were compounded by the manner in which they conceded seven points within four minutes and their hopes were finally nailed when they lost out-half Colille Dunne just five minutes into the second half.

The absence of the big and abrasive Woollam meant they virtually conceded the lineouts and duly Jameson and Tim Coughlan had a field day.

Psychologically, too, it was devastating for Greystones

to watch White's early penalty hit the crossbar only to bounce off the legs of the invading Gillen, who then just beat the dead ball line to score the softest of tries behind the posts, to which White gleefully added the points. Grey-stones had been caught cold before they had even warmed up.

They clawed their way back by means of five penalty goals from Dunne and that enabled them to lead 15-13 at the interval, after White had added two penalties.

However after Dunne departed with concussion, and was later taken to hospital as a precaution, straight away St. Mary's struck as Jameson took the

line-out when play resumed and Dowling supported the rolling maul to get a decisive try. The landslide had begun.

On the half-hour, White landed another goal and as St. Mary's ruled supreme, winger David Wall and the Kevin Devlin added with further tries. White converted one and he landed a late penalty at a time when Mary's had sapped all confidence and resistance out of the shattered Greystones team.

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE: A White; A Gillen, V Cunningham, G Lavin, D Wall, N Barry, M Thorne, P Gill, M Corcoran, D Dowling, T Coughlan, S Jameson, K Potts, B Paine, K Devlin.

GREYSTONES: M Carney, A Kegan, R Vance, S Sexton, P Quinn, C Dunne, C Henery, N Pappalardi, J Murphy, M Pothan, R Boyd, R Corrigan, D Rugey, A Dugan, V Macenivny.

Referee: S Hilditch (Ulster).

Ballymena pip Shannon

Ballymena 9
D. McAleese 2 pens, 5. Long pen,
Shannon 6

R. O'Shea 2 pens,
Man Of The Match
Eddie Holey
Attendance: 1,500

BALLYMENA full back Stuart Laming emerged as the team's hero in the Insurance Corporation League relegation battle against Shannon at Eaton Park yesterday.

With the game looking to have run its course and both teams looking satisfied with a 6-6 scoreline, up stepped Laming to nonchalantly bang over a touch line penalty as the game wandered into injury time.

It was no more than Ballymena deserved, after they held a first half onslaught from their visitors, who had a stiff wind in their favour.

Despite surges by flanker Eddie Holey, who overshadowed his more illustrious back row partner, Mick Fitzgibbon, Ballymena held firm and grabbed half time advantage when Derek McAleese converted a penalty just before the interval.

But with Division Two staring them in the face, Shannon came back strongly after the restart, as two Billy O'Shea penalties gave them an advantage which they never looked like losing.

However, McAleese converted his second penalty in the 73rd minute and then Laming shattered his hero status after touch judge Derek Henderson drew attention to the referee and a Shannon forward was penalised for punching.

Referee: S. Hilditch (Ulster).

St Mary's come back to earth after brief moment in heaven

FOR a few moments in their victorious dressing-room on Saturday, it seemed that a priceless bonus had come St. Mary's way. News of the demise of Constitution had been somewhat premature, however, and emotions underwent a sharp adjustment when it became clear that the Cork side had actually taken over leadership of the All Ireland League.

Then came the realisation that the challenge, in fact, was essentially unchanged: Constitution would have to be beaten at Temple Hill next weekend. And even allowing for previous defeats by Constitution, the prospect seemed far less daunting for a side that had surprised even themselves by the comprehensive nature of this triumph before an attendance of 4,000 at Templeville Road.

It made St. Mary's the league's top scorers with 144 points from their six matches — an average of 24 points a match — while defensively, there was cause for further satisfaction. And behind those statistics lay evidence of splendid attacking skills, reflected in five tries against a side that had thwarted Garryowen a week before.

For Greystones, there was the grim realisation of limitations behind the scrum, a weakness they had been aware of but not to the extent exposed by rampant opponents. Their plight was heightened by the loss of out-half Collic Dunne with a damaged shoulder 15 minutes into the second half.

A delay of several minutes while Dunne was receiving on-pitch attention seemed to fire St. Mary's to a determined victory surge. Before the incident they had a slender lead of 18-15, when play resumed they immediately

ST MARY'S 41
GREYSTONES 15

Dermot Gilleece

scored a try, widening the gap to eight points.

Steve Jameson, the St. Mary's skipper, won a lineup deep inside the Greystones 25. Then came a splendidly controlled maul from which prop Derek Dowling scored a try. From that point a home win seemed virtually assured, particularly when a rousing revival by the Greystones pack failed to provide the crucial lift a score would have given to willing forwards.

Committed pack bring smiles to Ballymena

BALLYMENA 9
SHANNON 6

THE depression that has enveloped Eton Park was lifted on Saturday when a late penalty insured a success that had its roots in a committed Ballymena pack.

Shannon's forward unit toiled ceaselessly, with international Mick Galwey leading by example. However, the home pack were up to the challenge, Derek McAleese slotting over a kick just as the interval whistle was due.

In the second spell the visitors launched a full-blooded assault on Ballymena's territory. Their concerted strategy bore fruit, with right-winger Billy O'Shea con-

"We had a slow start," admitted Jameson afterwards. "When we began to get the measure of the Greystones pack, however, our backs responded with some brilliant play. I was surprised at how easy it became in the end."

The Mary's start had certainly been less than inspiring, especially in view of a rather fortunate opening try by right wing Tony Gillen. After Aidan White's 25-yards penalty attempt had hit an upright and bounced down below the crossbar, Gillen somehow propelled the ball forward with his legs and then got the touch within inches of the dead-ball line.

Greystones, meanwhile, seemed satisfied to accept the rewards that Dunne's boot was

verting two penalty awards to steer his side into a 6-3 lead.

With Colin Wallace and Kenny Andrew in perpetual motion in the back row and David Tweed awesome in the line-outs, the home side forced their way back and McAleese brought them level with his second penalty.

In the closing moments Stuart Laing stepped up to thump over a magnificent penalty kick from close to the touchline to seal an important victory.

BALLYMENA: S. Laing; P. Chambers, M. Rainey, D. Nicholl, A. Simpson, D. McAleese, A. Malcheit, D. Wallace, J. Caskey, P. Miller, S. Lusk, D. Tweed, C. Wallace, D. Allen, K. Andrew (capt). Sub: B. Logan for Andrew (30 mins).

SHANNON: P. Murray, W. O'Shea, N. O'Shea, R. O'Donnell, A. Bourke, J. Galvin, O. Keely, P. Cullinane, P. Kenny, M. Fitzgerald, M. Galwey (capt), K. Maher, M. Fitzgibbon, A. Foley, E. Harvey, Sub: P. O'Grady for Foley (48 mins).

extracting from undisciplined play by the opposition. A week before, the out-half had missed five reasonable efforts at goal against Garryowen. As if to highlight the unpredictability of place-kicking, however, he landed five penalties from five attempts on this occasion, to give his side a half-time lead of 15-13.

But the wind was certain to be a crucial factor. Fresh in strength and sweeping straight down the pitch, it should have provided more than a two-point advantage to a side with ambitions of ultimate success.

Mary's were clearly aware of this as their backs swung into decisive action from the start of the second half. Within six minutes they were rewarded with Gillen's second try, a delightful effort at the corner flag, after out-half Nicky Barry had made the initial break.

Eventually Mary's achieved almost total dominance. Among their late scores was a particularly deserved try by open-side flanker Kevin Devlin, who had produced a most impressive performance. There was also fine line-out work by Tim Coughlin and Jameson, while as a unit the pack rucked and mauled to excellent effect.

Fullback White landed four penalty goals and two conversions, while the Mary's tries came from Gillen (2), David Wall, Dowling and Devlin. Dunne's five penalty goals accounted for Greystones' total.

ST. MARY'S: A. White, A. Gillen, G. Lawin, V. Cunningham, D. Wall, N. Barry, M. Thorpe, P. McGill, M. Corcoran, D. Dowling, T. Coughlin, S. Jameson, K. Potts, B. Pope, K. Devlin.

GREYSTONES: M. Carney, A. Keyes, R. Varoo, S. Saxton, P. Quinn, C. Dunne, C. Heaney, N. Poplewell, J. Murphy, M. Priden, R. Boyd, R. Corrigan, D. Rigney, A. Dignan, V. Maganally. Replacements — 1. Power for Dunne (65 mins); 1. Sherwin for Quinn (70 mins). Referee: S. Hilditch (USR).