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TODAY'S MATCH SPONSOR:

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SHANNON XV

15 P.Murray

14 B. O'Shea

13 N. O'Shea

12 J. Nolan

11 A. Burke

10 J. Galvin

9 O. Kiely

1 P. Cullinan

2 P. Kenny

3 M. Fitzgerald

4 M. Galwey (Capt)

5 P.O'Grady

6 K. Maher

7 A. Foley

8 E. Halvey

REFEREE

R. McDowell M.A.R.

TOUCH JUDGES

J. Clancy M.A.R.

N. Sexton M.A.R.



MATCH BALL SPONSOR



KICK OFF: 2.30 p.m.
Saturday, 23rd January 1993

St. MARY'S

15 A. White

14 A. Gillen

13 G. Lavin

12 V. Cunningham

11 D. Wall

10 N. Barry

9 M. Thorne

1 B. Keane

2 M. Corcoran

3 D. Dowling

4 T. Coughlin

5 S. Jameson

6 K. Potts

7 B. Pope (Capt)

8 K. Devlin

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lecture both captains and award a have done. It was a great effort.

fience, it was invigorating

Honours shared after intense contest

AFTER Saturday's 3-3 draw at storm-tossed Thomond Park, St Mary's College remained on course for the All-Ireland League and Shannon collected their first point of the championship. Accordingly, both sides were content with the outcome of a game that was fought with the utmost commitment and intensity and only disappointed in that it failed to produce a single try.

The elements, rather than any shortcomings on the part of the players, were largely responsible for this. A howling wind blew down the pitch from the city end and torrential rain that had fallen overnight and throughout the

early morning meant that the game was in considerable doubt up to an hour before the kick-off.

In the circumstances, both teams coped manfully and after this will look upon the remainder of the campaign with understandable confidence. Surprisingly, both played better against the wind and St Mary's supporters were certainly entitled to cheer loudly when the half-time whistle sounded with their side on level terms.

In fact, St Mary's were superb in that opening half as they took on Shannon at their own game and did so amazingly well. Steve Jameson and Tim Coughlin were

SHANNON.....3
ST MARY'S3

outstanding in the lineouts and it was from this platform that St Mary's set up a series of devastating rolling mauls which used to be the hallmark of Shannon, who found themselves driven back a good 50 yards in one magnificent surge as early as the fifth minute.

Nevertheless, Shannon were in front four minutes later when St Mary's fell offside and Billy O'Shea kicked the easy goal. St Mary's came back, however, and, when they forced a penalty inside the Shannon "25", Aidan White

punched the ball low and true through the gale and just over the crossbar.

From then until half-time, St Mary's continued to win valuable possession with their scrum half Mark Thorne consistently seeking out his fullback White, who found sound touches which often saw the ball being swept not alone over the touch line, but also over the boundary wall.

This was not very attractive, especially for the frustrated Shannon supporters, but from the St Mary's point of view it used up valuable time and, when Jim Galvin and O'Shea both failed with penalty shots coming up to

the interval, Mary's turned over in a very promising situation.

However, it was Shannon who raised the tempo. None did better than their international second row and captain, Michael Galwey, who led by example and who received outstanding support from young Anthony Foley and Eddie Halvey in the back row.

Shannon camped on the St Mary's line for an absorbing ten minute spell, during which the visitors' defence had to be at its strongest to withstand the fierce pressure. Gradually, St Mary's raised the siege, but, in fact, were never able to impose the same kind of pressure that had been

seen from Shannon in the first half.

This was largely due to the difficulty their pack had in regaining their earlier supremacy and also because much of the kicking of their out-half Nicky Barry was wayward and ill-directed.

SHANNON — P Murray; W O'Shea, N O'Shea, J Nolan, A Burke; J Galvin, O Kieley, P Cullinane, P Kenny, M Fitzgerald, M Galwey (capt), P O'Grady, K Maher, A Foley, E Halvey. Replacement — R O'Donnell for Nolan (80 mins).

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

Referee: R McDowell (Munster).

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RUGBY ROUND

ALL-IRELAND LEAGUE Division One

At Temple Hill: **Cork Constitution 13** (K Murphy two penalties, conversion, N Murray try); **Young Munster 16** (A O'Halloran three penalties, conversion, N McNamara try).

At Dr Hickey Park: **Greystones 24** (A Keyes, P Quinn, V Magennety tries, C Dunne penalty, three conversions); **Garryowen 15** (D Larkin two dropped-goals, K Smith three penalties).

At Thomond Park: **Shannon 3** (B O'Shea penalty); **St Mary's 3** (A White penalty).

At Stevenson Park: **Dungannon 26** (J Boyd two tries, W Anderson try, A Blair penalty, dropped-goal, conversion, K Megarry penalty); **Ballymena 15** (D McAleese five penalties).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Young Munster.....	6	4	1	1	84	69	9
Cork Con	5	4	0	1	97	75	8
St Mary's	5	3	1	1	103	51	7
Greystones	5	3	1	1	91	69	7
Garryowen	5	2	0	3	97	84	4
Dungannon	6	2	0	4	108	136	4
Old Wesley	5	2	0	3	64	108	4
Ballymena	5	1	0	4	59	94	2
Shannon	4	0	1	3	30	48	1

Leading points scorers: **60** — A White (St

Shannon.....3

St Mary's College.....3

SHANNON played with a gale of wind at their backs in the first half and yet were unable to turn territorial advantage into all important scores.

They took the lead after nine minutes with a penalty by Billy O'Shea but were never really able to impose their authority and it was back to level pegging when Mary's fullback Aidan White landed a penalty after 14 minutes.

If Mary's thought they had the crucial points for the taking as they turned over the play with the elements, Shannon had other ideas altogether. Their renowned fighting qualities were very much to the fore as they drove Mary's back in ruck and maul. They forced scrum after scrum and teenage No 8 Anthony Foley was all but over on a couple of occasions. Mary's biggest problems were at half back where Nicky Barry had a most indifferent afternoon and can hardly have impressed Irish coach Gerry Murphy and selector Pat Whelan.

SHANNON: P Murray, W O'Shea, N O'Shea, J Nolan, A Burke, J Galvin, O Kiely, P Cullinane, P Kenny, M Fitzgerald, M Galwey (capt), P O'Grady, K Maher, A Foley, E Halvey, sub: R O'Donnell for Nolan 80 mins

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

Referee: R McDowell (Munster)

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Back to the basics of traditional Irish rugby

SHANNON
ST. MARY'S COLLECT

By Mick Doyle

AFTER the reality shock syndrome of Murrayfield, and the biddy excesses of the Murphy gig for the media on Friday night, I drove to Limerick with high expectations of normally singing and ecstatic abandon for myself and sounding distinctly like Mickey Mouse on helium.

I was excited to be going to watch Shannon take on St. Marys at Thomond Park in a match of serious proportions for two clubs whose core values have been preserved and fine tuned over many battles.

That the game was played at all was a miracle. One of my companions at the game Cormac Liddy, told me that the game was declared on at 2.0pm when the pitch had been unplayable at

noon, it stood the test well throughout this bruising game, like most things associated with Limerick. The anaemia and humiliation of Murrayfield was wiped out and in its place flourished all the hallmarks of traditional Irish rugby full of passionate pride allied to the improved levels of fitness, organisation and competitiveness which this Insurance Corporation League has generated.

In totally antagonistic conditions courtesy of a south western gale that raged throughout, both teams set off in quest of glory and bombarded each other in remarkably sporting fashion for the full 80 minutes.

Both sides played better and more focused rugby against this gale proving that they let each other off the hook when it was in their favour for totally different reasons. In the first half Shannon ran too much possession through Foley, Halvey, O'Grady and Galwey when Galvin could have pin-pointed projectiles at

Mary's full back Aidan White and gone for better positions in attacking situations.

The odd time that they ran at the Mary's line proved fruitless due to resolute Mary's tackling by Gillen, Lavin and Cunningham and not through any lack of intent or endeavour on Shannon's part. White was a tower of strength for Mary's in the first forty minutes and continually relieved his side by some superb, astute left-footed touch kicking into the teeth of the storm.

The Mary's pack drove Shannon back time after time with 20 or 30 metre rolling mauls and kept the ball intelligently close; unfortunately they created very few scoring opportunities.

Their pack with Pope, Coughlin, Jameson and Corcoran most prominent kept them in the game in this first half in which Shannon should really have clocked up 12 points at least. For all their efforts Billy O'Shea kicked a penalty after ten

minutes which was equalled by Aidan White five minutes later.

side with his powerful surge, but surprisingly, his forwards did not make more use of this driving possession. Sonny Kiely kept probing and pushing and needed constant watching.

The second half was a reprieve in reverse - Shannon, against the wind did better, kept possession but gave away too many scrums for comfort. The whole game was punctuated by some brilliant tackling, superb mauling, totally unselfish commitment and good skill under atrocious conditions. Mary's frittered away hard-won possession in this half by not kicking into attacking positions.

I felt that having kept the score to three points all at half time, they should have grabbed the game and used the wind to win in the second half. Shannon, however, won't complain. Both sides tried to be almost too

macho and like scrummaging in the early eighties, mauling and short-burst-by-forwards have now developed a life of their own and have become ends in themselves.

The ability to use the ball to best advantage seems to have become submerged with too many teams not utilising their full potential or range of skills. Again, yesterday's performance by Mr. McDowell, the referee, mirrored current Irish refereeing shortcomings whereby the ref. has become far too intrusive and too central to the play and the result.

Irish referees I believe, may be responsible for a substantial amount of stop/start pointless play and have destroyed the flow of many a game. Players become frustrated and real rugby patterns find it difficult to emerge. If my feelings prove to be a fact obviously this should be addressed and comparisons made with refereeing in adjacent

countries. This was a satisfying game nevertheless.

For me, the performance of Aidan White at full back in which he displayed composure, consistency, counter-attacking ability, class and culture was a feature and if he didn't imprint himself on the brains of Gerry Murphy and Pa Whelan who were present, I would have serious doubts about them both. And of course, Mick Galwey is a vital, vibrant ingredient that must be included in the next Irish team for so many reasons.

At the end of it all, I drove home happy to have visited Thomond Park.

Shannon: P. Murray, B. O'Shea, N. O'Shea, J. Nolan (R. O'Donnell (79 mins), A. Burke, J. Galvin, O. Kiely, P. Cullinane, P. Kenny, M. Fitzgerald, M. Galwey (capt), P. O'Grady, K. Maher, A. Foley, E. Halvey.

St. Marys: A. White, A. Gillen, G. Lavin, V. Cunningham, D. Wall, N. Barry, M. Thorne, B. Keene, M. Corcoran, D. Dowling, T. Coughlin, S. Jameson (capt), K. Poole, B. Pope, K. Devlin. Referee: R. McDowell (MAR).

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