

Vintage Jameson try sends St Mary's bounding free

WITH one bound they were free. St Mary's, who appeared to be lashed and tied to the good ship relegation at the start of the current season, travelled home from Cork on Saturday with their faces set towards the top of the table and not the bottom.

Such was the quality of their performance at Temple Hill that the Dublin side might have been forgiven for having secret covetous thoughts about the championship itself. For Cork Constitution, many peoples' favourites for glory this year, Saturday's defeat was a jolting reminder of the exigencies of ALL rugby. Losing at home to a non-Munster club can hardly have been part of this year's strategy.

Ciaran Fitzgerald has done a remarkable job with the young transitional squad at his disposal. They don't quite set the field alight but they work away in an organised fashion and have sufficient youthfulness about them to try the exciting and unexpected when the opportunity beckons. When the game took an unexpected and seemingly fatal turn for the worst late on Saturday, St Mary's had the guts to hit back and the imagination to create the game's only try.

CORK CONSTITUTION. 12 ST MARY'S 16

Tom Humphries

Had the home side won — as it looked as if they might when Kenny Murphy struck a late drop goal — it would have been a harsh injustice. Constitution never got the chance to settle. We came expecting the force of weight and experience to crush the Dublin side. The front eight looked as if they were mismatched, yet St Mary's hung in there, survived and finally thrived. The ferocious physical impact that we looked for David Corkery to bring to the proceedings came instead from Kevin Potts and Steve Jameson and Kevin Devlin.

The moments of flashing inspiration came from unexpected quarters, too. Young Feargal Campion at out-half looks a good deal less green with every outing. Nicky Barry made a modest contribution in the centre but David Wall on the wing was brave and dashing and at full-back Gary

Halpin looks to be settling into the position nicely.

At half-time, the sides had swapped a penalty apiece and the 3,000 or so Temple Hill regulars waited patiently for the home side to start flexing their muscles. St Mary's it was who continued to set the game's agenda. Malcolm O'Kelly, the huge second row, was winning more line-out ball than a youngster has a right to expect when jumping against the likes of Ken Murphy and Gabriel Fulcher. The rucking and mauling was excellent and for their application St Mary's gained two penalties, both converted by Barry to provide a six-point lead.

Paul Burke, not having the happiest of afternoons despite the return of Michael Bradley, missed a couple of kickable penalties for Constitution but made amends twice to bring matters back to parity before, in the game's dying moments, Kenny Murphy flicked a lifeless looking drop goal towards the St Mary's posts. Amidst scenes of great jubilation, it limped over.

It was then, with the points seemingly lost, that St Mary's produced a sequence of play which encapsulated their after-

noon's efforts. Potts and O'Kelly thundered into poor Barry Howell as he caught the kick-off. David Wall caught the clearance from the Constitution 22, kicked and followed up, jumping high and bravely. The ball spilled out left to Gary Lavin whose long pass had the suspicion of forward movement about it.

Nevertheless Arthur McEvoy gathered and made yards of ground with a surge back inside. Suddenly the ball was back with the massed powers of the St Mary's pack tucked under Steve Jameson's arm and the only danger being that perhaps there were too many bodies involved in the overlap. Jameson trundled over, though, and a fine game came to an end.

Scoring sequence — 23 mins, P Burke penalty, 3-0; 40 mins, N Barry penalty, 3-3; 43 mins, Barry penalty, 3-6; 53 mins, Barry penalty, 3-9; 60 mins, Burke penalty, 6-9; 63 mins, Burke penalty, 9-9; 79 mins, K Murphy drop goal, 12-9; 80 mins, S Jameson try, Barry conversion, 12-16.

CORK CONSTITUTION — Kenny Murphy, D Dowd, N Murray, D O Mahony, R Dineen, P Burke, M Bradley, B Howell, D Corkery, L Dineen (capt), Ken Murphy, G Fulcher, P McCarthy, C Twomey, P Soden.

ST MARY'S — G Halpin, D Wall, N Barry, G Lavin, A McEvoy, F Campion, P Lynch, V Costello, K Devlin (capt), K Potts, M O'Kelly, S Jameson, W Bowden, B Browne, B Keane (replaced), D Dowling for Bowden (39 mins).

RUGBY ROUND-UP

ALL-IRELAND LEAGUE

DIVISION ONE

At Temple Hill: **Cork Constitution 12** (P Burke 3 penalties; K Murphy dropped goal), **St Mary's 16** (N Barry 3 penalties, conversion; S Jameson try)

At Shane Park: **Instonians 27** (S Laing 4 penalties, dropped goal, conversion; G McCloskey, G McCausland try each) **Sunday's Well 6** (R Daly penalty; E Croly dropped goal)

At Thomond Park: **Shannon 12** (A Thompson 4 penalties), **Old Wesley 6** (N Farren 2 penalties)

At Stradbroke: **Blackrock 27** (N Assat 2 tries; P Wallace, D Beggy try each; A McGowan 2 conversions, penalty), **Dungannon 13** (H McCaughy try; A Blair conversion, penalty)

At Clifford Park: **Young Munster 3** (M Benson penalty), **Garryowen 24** (D Sheehan two tries, K Smith 3 penalties, conversion, D Larkin dropped goal).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Shannon.....	4	4	0	0	86	22	8
Garryowen.....	4	3	0	1	69	30	6
Blackrock.....	4	3	0	1	81	43	6
St Mary's.....	4	3	0	1	56	54	6
Instonians.....	4	2	0	2	50	42	4
Cork Con.....	3	2	0	1	51	49	4
Dungannon.....	4	1	0	3	41	54	2
Old Wesley.....	4	1	0	2	27	42	2
Sunday's Well.....	4	1	0	3	43	67	2
Young Munster.....	3	0	0	3	16	66	0
Lansdowne.....	3	0	0	3	32	83	0

DIVISION TWO

At Donnybrook: **Bective 15** (I Dwyer, K McQuilkin try each; D Darcy conversion, penalty), **Bangor 6** (M McCall 2 penalties)

At Anglessea Road: **Old Belvedere 29** (B Murphy 4 penalties, conversion; W Norse, P Gavin, P McKenna try each), **Greystones 17** (R Murphy try, dropped goal, 3 penalties)

At Rosbrien: **Old Crescent 19** (B Begley try, 3 penalties; A Reddan try), **Dolphin 11** (J Clarke try; C Mahoney 2 penalties)

At Gibson Park: **Malone 13** (C Wilkin-son penalty; B Harbinson, M Rea try each), **Tenure 18** (P Walsh try, conversion, penalty; F Walsh try; C Clarke dropped goal)

At Eaton Park: **Ballymena 9** (D McAliese 2 penalties; D Humphreys dropped goal), **UCD 9** (B Carey 3 penalties)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Tenure.....	4	4	0	0	78	56	8
Bective.....	4	3	0	1	77	36	6
Old Crescent.....	4	2	1	1	94	67	5
Ballymena.....	4	2	1	1	59	45	5
Wanderers.....	3	2	1	0	48	43	5
Old Belvedere.....	3	2	0	1	79	65	4
Malone.....	4	2	0	2	66	56	4
Greystones.....	4	1	0	3	56	95	2
UCD.....	3	0	1	2	32	65	1
Dolphin.....	3	0	0	3	32	58	0
Bangor.....	4	0	0	4	33	68	0

DIVISION THREE

At Sydney Parade: **Monkstown 19** (B McVitt try, 2 penalties, dropped goal; P McDonald try), **Ballina 9** (J Carey 3 penalties)

At The Martyke: **UCC 25** (J Kelly, A O'Shea, D Finn try each; J Kiernan 2 conversions, 2 penalties), **Corinthians 6** (L Caulfield 2 penalties)

At Kilternan: **DLSP 20** (D Clancy 5 penalties; J Corry try), **City of Derry 16** (R McGregor 3 penalties, conversion; D Hunter try)

At Crowley Park: **Galwegians 8** (J Casserly try; E Molloy penalty), **Highfield 14** (S O'Meara 3 penalties; B Herlihy try) At Moher: **Buccaneers 15** (J Maher, G Curley try each; G Dowd penalty, conversion), **NIFC 0**

At Castle Avenue: **Clontarf 25** (M Fitzsimons, G Roche, D O'Brien try each; M O'Brien 2 conversions, 2 penalties), **Waterpark 16** (J Kelleher try; B Moran conversion, 2 penalties; w, dropped goal)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Clontarf.....	4	4	0	0	75	42	8
Highfield.....	3	3	0	0	43	30	6
Waterpark.....	4	3	0	1	78	67	6
NIFC.....	4	3	0	1	64	54	6
Monkstown.....	4	2	0	2	63	47	4
Buccaneers.....	4	2	0	2	59	44	4
Galwegians.....	4	2	0	2	41	33	4
UCC.....	3	1	1	1	40	32	3
City of Derry.....	4	1	1	2	47	51	3
DLSP.....	4	1	0	3	45	62	2
Corinthians.....	4	0	0	4	45	82	0
Ballina.....	4	0	0	4	45	101	0

DIVISION FOUR

At Daingean: **UCG 15** (B Kenny, C Bewley try each; J Kennelly conversion, penalty), **Armagh 15** (I Miller 5 penalties)

At Deramore: **Collegians 17** (B Irvine, S McKay try each; M McCulloch penalty, 2 conversions), **Queen's University 17** (B Styles 2 penalties, dropped goal; A Eagleson try; R Morrow dropped goal)

At Chambers Park: **Portadown 14** (G Callow 3 penalties; P Orr try), **Bohemians 13** (G Ross 2 penalties, conversion; J Downey try)

At Hamilton Park: **Ards 13** (R Warnock try; D Jamshidi try, penalty), **CYMMS 0**

At College Park: **Dublin University 40** (S Tynan 2 tries; J Flavin, C McCarthy, N Ryan try each; J Sherwin 3 penalties, 3 conversions), **Sligo 10** (R Barlow try; D Lillie penalty, conversion).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dublin University..	3	3	0	0	75	22	6
Skerries.....	3	3	0	0	73	23	6
Portadown.....	3	3	0	0	44	25	6
Queen's.....	3	2	0	1	49	30	5
Bohemians.....	3	2	0	1	44	33	4
Armagh.....	4	1	1	2	48	66	3
Ards.....	4	1	0	3	31	48	2
CYMMS.....	4	1	0	3	41	59	2
UCG.....	3	0	1	2	27	44	1
Collegians.....	3	0	1	2	35	64	1
Sligo.....	3	0	0	3	21	74	0

NEXT ON THE LIST

Division One — (Saturday) — St Mary's v Young Munster; Garryowen v Lansdowne; Old Wesley v Blackrock; Dungannon v Cork Constitution. (Sunday) — Sunday's Well v Shannon.

Division Two — (Saturday) — Wanderers v Ballymena; Dolphin v Malone; Bangor v Old Belvedere; UCD v Bective.

Division Three — (Saturday) — Ballina v UCC; NIFC v Clontarf; City of Derry v Galwegians; Highfield v DLSP; Waterpark v Buccaneers; Corinthians v Monkstown.

Division Four — (Saturday) — Bohemians v Queen's University; Armagh v Collegians; Sligo v Ards; Skerries v Portadown; CYMMS v UCG.

No Munster phobia worrying Mary's!

From David Walsh
in Temple Hill

CORK CONSTITUTION 12
ST MARY'S COLLEGE 16

“So what's that about Newlands Cross phobia?” asked Steve Jameson after the game.

Fair question. Here were Mary's down in Cork for the second consecutive Saturday and, once again, winners. Lo and behold!

Newlands Cross phobia? It is a condition suffered by some Leinster teams: once they get the green lights at Newlands Cross going south, they begin to worry.

“Not us,” said Jameson. “We don't mind who we play or where we play them.” On yesterday's evidence, the big second row has a case.

It was a smashing match decided by Mary's guts. In a battle, they out-fought Constitution.

Consider the game right at the end: Mary's bravely hanging on to a deserved point at 9-9 when Kenny Murphy struck for a drop goal. It never got much above crosbar height. It ducked and it dived, but it still made it.

Kenny ran back punching the air. Con were in front, and the game was as good as over. Barry Howell caught the kick-off, but Kevin Potts and Malcolm O'Kelly thundered into him, and you thought “wow, these guys ain't givin' up.”

David Wall then caught the clearance and put the ball back into the Con 22. He followed his kick, jumped higher than David O'Mahony and got the vital deflection to the dropping ball. Mary's were flying right.

Gary Lavlin's pass to Arthur McEvoy looked forward, but there was no whistle. McEvoy surged inside and took play close to the Con line. Suddenly, Mary's had a five-to-two overlap, and there was big Jameson crashing through for the try. Costello, Potts and Wall free at his right shoulder.

“I saw a direct path to the line and didn't want to risk a fumble further on. The sweetest try I've ever scored,” said the big man.

Mary's are now joint second, and that is testimony to Claran Fitzgerald's talent with players. Mary's team is young, inexperienced and has three rookies in its front five.

Con's heavyweights should have been able to push them aside, but Mary's had character and organisation; precisely what you expect Fitzgerald to give to a side.

Malcolm O'Kelly and Jameson won most of the ball thrown at them, and



ON THE BURST: David Begey, Blackrock breaks through the tackle of Ricky Stephens, of Dungannon in the game at Stradbroke.

Mary's constant driving around the fringes kept Con pinned down. Kevin Potts was easily the best forward on the pitch, and provided his young teammates with inspiring leadership.

“We knew what they were going to do,” said Constitution's coach, John Davies, “and in fairness we stopped their runners getting across the gain line, but their ball retention was very good and they kept coming.”

From the moment that Len Dinneen and his pack ran in front of Paul Burke's kick-off, you sensed Con were on one of those days. An afternoon when they were prepared to scrape by.

Gabriel Fulcher and Ken Murphy won Con's line out ball, and there were times when the home team looked like it could charge through Mary's. But Potts, Jameson and Kevin Devlin were always in the way, and Con lacked real bite.

Playing his first league game of the season, Michael Bradley wasn't happy, and he didn't get his backrow running at

Mary's. Too often, Constitution tried to move wide without committing Mary's defence and, without Brian Walsh and Robert Casey, they were ordinary in midfield.

Mary's were the better side in the first half but their neat approach work never had the kind of power that produces tries. Constitution seemed content to amble along, sensing they would eventually click into gear.

Penalties by Paul Burke and Nicky Barry were the only scores of that half, but when Barry kicked another two early in the second half, Con had a game on their hands.

They upped the pressure, and Mary's did well. Two Burke penalties levelled the game 9-9, and then, right on full time, Kenny Murphy dropped what seemed the winning goal.

“The attitude within the team is very good,” said Claran Fitzgerald. “As a group

they are developing a strong character. In a lot of situations, that drop goal would have finished the match.”

But it didn't. No one needed to ask the Mary's boys about their pride. It was there, and it got them a result. And the coach's contribution was fated: “Fitzzy has done a super job,” said Jameson.

“He has those young guys believing in what they can do. But even with my game, he's helped that too.”

And you left Temple Hill with one wonder: what if the IRFU had left Claran Fitzgerald serve his coaching apprenticeship at the lower levels?

Cork Constitution: Kenny Murphy; D O'Dowd, N Murray, D O'Mahony, R Dinneen, P Burke, D O'Mahony, P Soden, C Twomey, P McCarthy, G Pulcher, Ken Murphy, L Dinneen, B Howell, D Cernery. Replacement: P O'Hara for Howell. St Mary's: G Halpin, D Wall, N Barry, G Lavlin, W McEvoy, P Cannon, P Lynch, B Keane, B Browne, W Bowden, S Jameson, M O'Kelly, K Potts, V Costello, K Devlin. Replacement: D Dowling for Bowden.

Referee: B Wallis (Walton).



RUGBY

INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE DIVISION 1

At Stradbroke — Blackrock College 27 (N Assal 2 tries, D Beggy, P Wallace try each, A McGowan pen, 2 cons.) Dungannon 13 (H McCaughey try, A Blair 2 pens, con.)

At Thomond Park — Shannon 12 (A Thompson 4 pens (7, 10, 17, 62 mins). Old Wesley 6 (N Farren, 2 pens (27, 35 mins).

At Temple Hill — Constitution 12 (P Burke 3 pens, K Murphy dr gl) St Mary's College 16 (N Barry 3 pens, con, S Jameson try).

At Shane Park — Instonians 27 (McCluskey, McCausland tries, Laing 4 pens, drop gl, con) Sundays Well 6 (Daly pen, Crotty drop gl).

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shannon	4	4	0	0	86	22	8
Blackrock	4	3	0	1	81	43	6
St Marys	4	3	0	1	56	54	6
Garryowen	3	2	0	1	45	27	4
Instonians	4	2	0	2	50	42	4
Cork Con	3	2	0	1	51	49	4
Dungannon	4	1	0	3	41	54	2
O Wesley	3	1	0	2	27	42	2
Sundays W	4	1	0	3	43	67	2
Y Munster	2	0	0	2	13	42	0
Lansdowne	3	0	0	3	32	63	0

DIVISION 2

At Donnybrook — Bective Rangers 15 (J Dwyer 1 try, K McQuillan 1 try, D Darcy 1 pen 1 con) Bangor 6 (M McCall 2 pens).

At Eaton Park — Ballymena 9 (B McAleese 2 pens, B Humphries 1 drp gl), UCD 9 (B Carey 3 pens).

At Gibson Park — Malone 13 (B Harbinson 1 try, M Rea 1 try, C Wilkinson 1 pen) Terenure 18 (P Walsh 1 try, 1 pen, 1 con, F Walsh 1 try C Clarke 1 drp gl).

At Anglesea Road — Old Belvedere 29 (B Murphy 4 pens, 1 conv, W Norse, P McKenna, P Gavin try each), Greystones 17 (R Murphy 3 pens, 1 try, 1 drp gl).

At Donnybrook — Bective 15, Bangor 6.

At Rosbrien — Old Crescent 19 (B Begley 1 try, 3 pens, A Reddan 1 try) Dolphin 11 (J Clarke 1 try, C Mahony 2 pens).

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Terenure	4	4	0	0	78	56	8
Bective	4	3	0	1	77	36	6
O Crescent	4	2	1	1	94	67	5
Ballymena	4	2	1	1	50	45	5
Wanderers	3	2	1	0	48	43	5
O Belvedere	3	2	0	1	79	65	4
Malone	4	2	0	2	66	56	4
Greystones	4	1	0	3	56	95	2
UCD	3	0	1	2	32	65	1
Dolphin	3	0	0	3	32	58	0
Bangor	4	0	0	4	33	68	0

DIVISION 3

At Ballinasloe — Buccaneers 15 (J Maher try, G Curley try, G Dowd pen, conv), NIFC 0.

At Sydney Parade — Monkstown 19 (W McVitie try, drp gl, 2 pen gls, P McDonald try), Ballina 9 (J Carey 3 pen gls).

At Crowley Park, Galwegians 9 (J Casserley try, E Molloy pen), Highfield 14 (B Herlihy try, S O'Meara three pens).

At Kilmarnock — De La Salle Palmerston 20 (D Clancy 5 pens, J Corr try), City of Derry 16 (J McGregor 3 pens, 1 con, D Hunter try).

At Castle Avenue — Clontarf 25 (M Fitzsimons, G Roche, D O'Brien try each, M O'Brien two pens and two convs), Waterpark 16 (J Kelleher try, B Moran two pens, drop gl and convs).

At the Mardyke — UCC 25 (J Kieran 2 pens, 2 convs, J Kelly try, A O'Shea try, D Finn try) Corinthians Galway 6 (L Caulfield 2 pens).

DIVISION THREE