

St Mary's fighting qualities produce good win

AN afternoon in the life of a sports hack. Sitting, perched somewhere above the St Mary's clubhouse. Making smalltalk to the friendly young woman holding the broily which keeps the wind and the rain off the precious parchment. May she go onto to hold broillies for Ireland someday. And wondering all the while how to turn this listless match into six hundred words of prose.

St Mary's did just about enough to recover from the disappointment of an early battering at the hands of Munster foe. Having lost to Shannon last week and fac-

ing a visit to Sunday's Well this week, Saturday was an afternoon from which it was imperative to pull some points. For a side like St Mary's, currently going through a phase of reconstruction, snatching wins on blowy afternoons at Templeville Road is the key to survival this year. It looks as if Ciaran Fitzgerald's side will have enough scrapping in them to make a fight of it.

For Instonians, back in the big time after a few years in the badlands, Saturday represented a failure to build on a rewarding opening day win when they

ST MARY'S 13
INSTONIANS..... 9

Tom Humphries

snuffed out an enterprising Dungannon side. Instonians have an appealing blend of experience and youth running through their set-up.

The Instonians' pack will need to have better days than this. St Mary's, with a young and ostensibly light looking forward unit

making it's way without the passionate urgings of the now departed Brent Pope, managed to make do throughout. Malcolm O'Kelly a massive (6ft 7in to be precise) twenty-year-old made a superb contribution in the lineouts and kept his safe hands busy in the loose as well.

Beside him Stephen Jameson did lots of donkey work and lots of prompting, while Victor Costello's presence added a little variety to the lineout routines. St Mary's played the opening 20 minutes or so with the sort of desperate passion that usually

characterises late season relegation tussles. They lost three points to a Stuart Laing penalty early on, but their reward for effort was a 10 point lead amassed after 25 minutes.

Nicky Barry, playing at centre and having returned on Friday from a business trip to the Seychelles, looked none the worse for either and scored two penalties to provide the home team with the advantage. Costello then unearthed the ball from the base of a 25th minute scrum and fed Gary Lavin who transferred neatly to Kevin Potts who went thundering

past and covered the 20 yards to the try line in unstoppable fashion. Nicky Barry converted. Sadly that was St Mary's last score of the afternoon.

SCORING SEQUENCE: 5 mins, S Laing (Instonians) pen; 9 mins, N Barry (St Mary's) pen; 13 mins, N Barry pen; 26 mins, K Potts (St Mary's) try; N Barry conversion; 31 mins, S Laing pen; 50 mins, S Laing pen.
ST MARY'S: G Heipon, J Gillen, G Lavin, N Barry, D Wall, F Campion, P Lynch, B Keane, B Browne, W Bowdlen, S Jameson, M O'Kelly, K Devlin (capt), K Potts, V Costello.
INSTONIANS: S Laing, G McCausland, K Crossan, A Hewitt, I Gray, P Nelson, N Robson, B Barrett, A Adair, G Bell (capt), J McKibben, C Hamilton, K McKee, J Kernohan, R Wilson. Replacements: N Crooke for R Wilson 66 mins S Burrows for K Crossan 7 mins.
Referee: R Duhau (RFU).

O'Kelly shines as new look Mary's make their mark

ST MARY'S COLLEGE..... 13 INSTONIANS..... 9

From Sean Diffley at Templeville Road

"IT was important for us, a new-look side, to establish ourselves as real First Division challengers." Thus spoke a relieved St Mary's coach, Ciaran Fitzgerald, presiding at Templeville Road over the rising from the dead embers of the bad day against Shannon last weekend.

The scoreline doesn't at all indicate how superior Mary's were. The continuous downpour, of course, hardly provided the setting for a side anxious to run the ball.

There were, for Mary's yesterday, a number of pluses. Fitzgerald pointed to the displays of their three 20-year olds, the accomplished outhalf, Fergal Campion, the solid prop Warick Bowden and, perhaps the most promising of all, the tall lock, Malcolm O'Kelly, who with Steve Jameson, dominated the line-outs.

Irish team chairman, Noel Murphy, was present to assess the form of the Instonians backrow pair Roger Wilson and Kevin McKee and wing, Innes Gray, but probably came away with more glowing notes about young O'Kelly instead.

A typical burst by Kevin Potts provided the only try which the stylish Nicky Barry converted. Barry also kicked two penalty goals. All that came in the first half in which Start Laing kicked two penalty goals.

Strangely, the only score of the second half was Laing's third penalty goal.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE - G Halpin; T Gillan, G Lavin, N Barry, D Wall; F Campion, P Lynch; B Keane, B Browne, W Bowden, S Jameson, M O'Kelly, K Devlin, K Potts, V Costello.

INSTONIANS - S Laing; G McCausland, K Crossan, A Hewitt, I Gray; P Nelson, N Robson; B Barrett, A Adair, G Bell, J McKibbin, C Hamilton, K McKee, R Wilson, J Kernohan. Replacements - J Crooks for Wilson 65 mins, S Burrowes for Crossan 72 mins.

REFEREE - R Duhau (France).