

St. Mary's RFC 1995/96 Rugby Season

First XV (Captain Barry Browne, Coaches: Ciaran Fitzgerald, Jim McShane, Ray Heenan, Manager: Greg Maher)
The Insurance Corporation League campaign started off well with four successive victories, including one over the League title holders, Shannon. The Club was in joint first position going into the ridiculously long five-month break before the second series of games. Unfortunately, we were to win only one, and draw one, of the last five games, finishing our campaign in 5th position of eleven teams. We also had a disappointing run in the Leinster Championship, a competition which was played during the Interprovincial Series and the European Cup, when many of our senior players were unavailable due to representative commitments. The Club was beaten by Old Wesley, the eventual winners, in the Smithwicks' Floodlit cup. In the Alusket Leinster Senior Cup we were beaten in the first round by Lansdowne, the eventual runners up.

J1 (Captain Dermot Quigley, Coaches: Steve Hennessy, Hugh Maguire, Manager Brendan Foley).
The J1 team had a frustrating end to the season. In the restructured Junior League where each team plays all other teams once, the J1s were runners up to Old Wesley. Despite having beaten Old Wesley, a couple of losses at the beginning of the campaign cost them dearly in the end. In the Metropolitan Cup they were narrowly defeated by Blackrock in the semi-final.

J2 (Captain John Evrington, Coaches: Eugene Meagher, Eoin Quinn, Manager Pat O'Beirne).
The J2 team won the inaugural Leinster Branch 10-a-side competition in September. They also had a good run in the League, but two losses meant that they didn't make the play-off stages. However, the team finished the season in style, retaining the Albert O'Connell Cup.

J3 (Captain Niall Rynne, Coaches: Paul Flood, Pat O'Brien, Manager Robin Bailey).
The J3s also won the inaugural Leinster Branch 10-a-side competition at his level, making it a double for the Club. They retained the Old Wesley 15-a-side Festival trophy, they made it a treble by winning the league but unfortunately ran out of steam at the end of a long, hard season, losing in the Cup final to Monkstown.

J4 (Captain Kevin Lumm, Coaches: Donal Swift, Philip and Derek Jennings).
The J4s had a particularly successful season, retaining the League and winning the Cup. In so doing, they recorded the sixth double which our junior teams have won in the last eight seasons.

J5 (Captain Bobby O'Connor, Coaches: John Boyle, C. J. McHenry).
The J5s competed in an unofficial league competition but early losses meant they didn't qualify for the knock-out stages. They were also unfortunate to lose in the early round of the Cup.

J6 (Captain and Coach: Patsy Fogarty, Manager Dave Mowlds).
The J6s were beaten in the final of the Cup, the second successive year to lose out only at the final hurdle.

J7 (Captain, Coach and Manager: John Boyle).
The J7s went out early in the Greenlea Cup competition.

J8 (Captain Declan Coleman).
The J8s also made an early exit from their Cup competition.

U19 (Captain Mark O'Brien, Coach: C. J. McHenry, Manager Mick O'Connor).
The Under 19s performed well in the McCorry Cup competition although they did not reach the knock-out stages. The Under 19s squad also formed the basis for our representation in the inaugural Leinster Under 20 competition. They played whole-heartedly and represented the Club admirably, against teams where the players were, on average, a year older than ours.

Mini Rugby

The Mini and Youth Rugby sectors are now firmly established and last year was marked by some notable successes. There are approximately 120 children between the ages of 7 and 14 involved in Mini and Youth Rugby, with teams at Under 7, Under 8, Under 9, Under 10, Under 11 and Under 12 in Mini Rugby and Under 13 and Under 14 in Youth Rugby.

Brendan Spring -

Director of Rugby and Chairman of the Rugby Council.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS FOR 1995/1996 SEASON.

Ireland :	Victor Costello
Ireland 'A':	Malcolm O'Kelly
Ireland Under 21:	Malcolm O'Kelly, Conor McGuinness, Fergal Campion.
Leinster:	Victor Costello, Malcolm O'Kelly, Steve Jameson, Vincent Cunningham, Gary Lavin, Fergal Campion.
Connaught:	Kevin Devlin (Captain)
Ireland-Hong Kong Sevens:	Vincent Cunningham
Leinster Development Squad:	Garry Halpin, Philip Lynch
Leinster Under 20:	Karl Jennings, Denis Hickie, Eoin McCormack, Gareth Gannon.