



MATCH DAY
SPONSOR



GILBERT MATCH BALL
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INSURANCE CORPORATION LEAGUE - DIVISION ONE



St. Mary's RFC

15. KEVIN NOWLAN
14. DENIS HICKIE
13. RAY MCILREAVY
12. GARETH GANNON
11. JOHN MCWEENEY
10. CRAIG FITZPATRICK
9. CONOR MCGUINNESS
1. BRIAN KEANE (Capt.)
2. BARRY BROWNE
3. EMMET BYRNE
4. STEVE JAMESON
5. KEVIN ~~POITS~~ *DAN BOLLIE*
6. MARK REILLY
7. MARK CUDDIHY
8. VICTOR COSTELLO

SUBSTITUTES

16. EONN MCCORMACK, 17. PETER GILBOURNE,
18. DAVID BRESLIN, 19. PETER COYLE,
20. DAN BOURKE

REFEREE:

Alan Watson
(URS) (Uister)

SATURDAY
8th March
1997
at 2.30 p.m.

Templeville
Road



Touch Judges:
Alan Lewis
(ARLB),
Jim Fitzsimons
(ARLB)



Carrigrohane RFC

15. DAN LARKIN
14. JACK CLARKE
13. BARRY EVERITT
12. JOE BROOKES
11. DOM CROTTY
10. KILLIAN KEANE
9. STEVE MCIVOR
1. PAUL SPAIN
2. ALAN LINNANE
3. KIERAN ROWAN
4. MICK COUGHLIN
5. SHANE LEAHY
6. PAUL HOGAN (Capt.)
7. DAVID WALLACE
8. BEN CRONIN

SUBSTITUTES:

16. PADDY O'GRADY, 17. COLIN FORDE,
18. PAUL MURPHY, 19. DARA O'SULLIVAN
- PAT HUMPHREYS

ST. MARY'S RFC
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Firestone

FIRESTONE "MAN OF THE MATCH"
AWARD WILL BE PRESENTED
AFTER THE MATCH.

Garryowen title hopes extinguished

John O'Sullivan

St Mary's College.....35
Garryowen.....27

ST MARY'S College superior potency behind the scrum proved decisive and they made light of international winger Denis Hickie's absence through injury to prevail in a high-scoring contest at Templeville Road yesterday.

Garryowen's lingering title hopes were quashed. The three-quarter line was largely pedestrian and they will rue the opening exchanges of both halves, when they conceded four tries.

Mary's appeared content to reflect upon several well-worked scores, without attaching the necessary ruthlessness that would have ensured victory long before full-back Kevin Nowlan's second try in injury time.

At that stage, Garryowen trailed 30-27 and were desperately trying to batter a way through the Mary's defence. Hooker Barry Browne lifted the siege with a crunching tackle and the home side swept downfield.

Garryowen tried to run from inside their own 22, Mary's excellent centre Gareth Gannon smothered Joe Brookes in the shadow of the posts, and forced him to concede a five-yard scrum, from which Conor McGuinness put Nowlan over for his second try.

Two Fitzpatrick penalties put Mary's 6-0 ahead before left wing David Lyons grabbed his first try on 23 minutes. Fitzpatrick converted but failed two minutes later when Lyons crossed for a second time.

Garryowen hit back when Kilian Keane crossed for a try. The Ireland 'A' out-half missed the conversion but added a penalty on 40 minutes and just before the break, full-back Dan Larkin crossed again, Keane again failing to convert.

But within six minutes of the resumption, Garryowen had conceded two further tries to McWeeney and Nowlan. Fitzpatrick converted McWeeney's excellent try from a blindside break by McGuinness but did not improve upon the second.

Garryowen wrested control back and Keane's second try and another from replacement Paddy O'Grady, both of which the out-half converted, had Mary's waiting for the rescue of the final whistle, until Browne and then Nowlan intervened to assuage rising panic.

St Mary's College: K Nowlan; J McWeeney, R McIlreavy, G Gannon, D Lyons; C Fitzpatrick, C McGuinness; B Keane (capt), B Browne, E Byrne; S Jameson, D Bourke; M Reilly, V Costello, M Cuddihy. **Reps:** K Jennings for M Reilly 30 mins; E McCormack for McIlreavy 62 mins.

Garryowen: D Larkin; J Clarke, J Brookes, B Everett, D Crotty; K Keane, S McIvor; P Spain, A Linnane, K Ronan; M Coughlan, S Leahy; P Hogan (capt), B Cronin, D Wallace. **Rep:** P O'Grady for Leahy 60 mins.

Slack Mary's taken to wire by Garryowen

TWICE Garryowen were dead and buried and twice they clawed their way upwards, resurfacing like the hand in the final scene from the movie *Carrie*. But they couldn't drag Mary's downwards and the points went where they belonged.

It was a curious match, one where the tries came in torrents and the match swung one way and then the other. From an armchair far away, you would reckon it a cracker. It wasn't. Both teams played without the intensity that the League demands and Mary's were fortunate that Garryowen were out of sorts.

Mary's have a fair amount of talent and Victor Costello is regaining the confidence lost through that bad experience at London Irish. Neither are they a soft touch — how else could they have beaten the four Limerick teams in this season's League? — but there is a vulnerable seam. We saw the full range yesterday. Mary's began at a sprint and had 18 points inside the first 25 minutes.

They were sprightly and inventive through that period, the second of David Lyons' two tries was a treat. Craig Fitzpatrick neutralised most of Garryowen's cover with his cut-out pass and then full-back Kevin Nowlan showed us a different, more delicate skill with his gently popped pass for John McWeeney. Marauding far from his home on the right wing, McWeeney slipped it on to left wing Lyons and he flew through.

David Walsh

St Mary's College	35
Garryowen	27

That seemed to be that. Mary's had 18 points and Garryowen looked a bad imitation of the fighting teams we expect from Dooradoyle. But Mary's are no killers and not only did they ease off the throttle, but they invited their rivals into the car. Keane got a try, then a penalty and Dan Larkin got the team's second try. At the break Mary's lead was down to five points, 18-13.

Ciaran Fitzgerald, you know, had some serious things to say to Mary's at half-time. One guess is that he told Mary's to begin the second half like they had started the first, for that is precisely what they did. Two minutes after the resumption Conor McGuinness worked a little space for McWeeney on the short side and away went the right wing.

It remains a bit of a mystery how Paul Hogan, Ben Cronin and Dominic Crotty managed to be there and do nothing... but there you go, these things happen. Once McWeeney got clear, he was very good, jinking extravagantly off his right foot and breezing past Dan Larkin as you might a postbox.

Three minutes later, full-back Nowlan got Mary's fourth try, a bizarre score which testified to the game's B-movie feel. Steve McIvor's clearance dropped short of the touchline, Nowlan caught it and coun-



Costello: new-found confidence

tered. Seeing congestion in his path, he tried to dink a little kick for himself to chase. But he overkicked and the ball looked sure to end in Garryowen hands.

But no Garryowen man moved quickly enough and, when the ball bounced wickedly, Nowlan had only to catch and fall. Now it was 30-13 and, surely, the Limerick men were dead. Not quite. Keane got his second try, then replacement Paddy O'Grady got the team's fourth, 30-27 and still some 17 minutes to play.

Mary's seemed desperate to lose the game but, somewhere in that final quarter, they picked up the pace again and finished strongly. Gareth Gannon knocked down Kenny Everitt with a big tackle and Nowlan surged through for his second try.

And so, at their third attempt, Mary's had finally killed off their rivals.

St Mary's: K Nowlan; J McWeeney, G Gannon, R McIlreavy (E McCormack, 62min), D Lyons; C Fitzpatrick, C McGuinness; B Keane (capt), B Browne, E Byrne, S Jameson, D Bourke, M Reilly (K Jennings, 31min), V Costello, M Cuddihy.

Garryowen: D Larkin; J Clarke, B Everitt, J Brookes, D Crotty; K Keane, S McIvor; P Spain, A Linnane, K Ronan, M Coughlan, S Leahy (P O'Grady, 60min), P Hogan (capt), B Cronin, D Wallace.

Scorers: St Mary's. Tries: Lyons (2), Nowlan (2), McWeeney; Cons: Fitzpatrick (2); Pens: Fitzpatrick (2).

Garryowen. Tries: Keane (2), Larkin, O'Grady; Cons: Keane (2); Pen: Keane.

Referee: A Watson (Ulster).

Mary's put Garryowen away

ST MARY'S **35**

GARRYOWEN **27**

Mick Clifford
Templeville Road

ST MARY'S had to win yesterday's league game three times before finally despatching Garryowen in a pulsating contest. The home side were hauled back from 18-0 after the first quarter and 30-13 lead at the three-quarters mark before a last minute try secured the points.

For Garryowen, this defeat effectively ended their title challenge. Their game was marred by spilled balls and stray passes, and they showed urgency only when chasing

the game. But Mary's were worth their win. Time and again their pack provided Conor McGuinness with good ball and a young back line, particularly Gareth Gannon, was always up for it.

Craig Fitzpatrick kicked two penalties before Mary's had their first try after 23 minutes. McGuinness fed Fitzpatrick from the base of a ruck, and Costello and Gannon both handled before Lyons raced over. The winger, who was replacing Irish international Dennis Hickie, crossed again three minutes later after a loose Garryowen pass was gratefully accepted by Mark Reilly.

Cue for Garryowen to get their act together. Pressure generated by their vigorous

back row brought them to the Mary's line and McIvor popped a pass for the onrushing Keane to score.

Garryowen were in the ascendency for the last 10 minutes of the half but they only had a Keane penalty to show for all their possession until Dan Larkin scrambled over a minute before the break.

Mary's third try soon after the restart highlighted their opponents' Achilles heel. Ponderous attempts to gather a McIvor punt found Garryowen pinned back and robbed of the ball. McIvor supplied McWeeney, who raced through a demused defence to record the try. A fortunate bonus gifted Nowlan with another four minutes later. That should have settled

matters but Garryowen refused to die. Keane crossed soon after and Paddy O'Grady had just joined the fray when he surged over from a ruck on the line. A grand finale ensued and, true to form, the visitors turned over the ball three times at the height of vital attacks. It was left to Nowlan to confirm Mary's superiority with a try on the final whistle, following superb tackling from Gannon.

ST MARY'S: K Nowlan, J McWeeney, R McIlreavy, G Gannon, D Lyons, C Fitzpatrick, C McGuinness, B Keane, B Browne, E Byrne, S Jameson, D Bourke, M Reilly, M Cuddihy, V Costello. Replacements: O McCormack for McIlreavy, 61 mins; K Jennings for Reilly, 30 mins.

GARRYOWEN: D Larkin, J Clarke, B Everitt, J Brookes, D Croft, K Keane, S McIvor, P Spain, A Lunnane, K Ronan, M Coughlan, S Leahy, P Hogan, D Wallace, B Cronin. Replacements: P O'Grady for Leahy, 60 mins.

Lansdowne watch as title scuppered by boring Bally