

15/12/96

Mary's fortunate

INSTONIANS	11
ST MARY'S COLLEGE	22

Nell McKane
Shane Park

ST MARY'S maintained their winning start in this Division One fixture at Shane Park, but this was a game they could — and should — have lost to the home side.

Instonians wasted four very kickable penalties, three of them by their hapless young outhalf, Simon Bond, in the first period.

Those misses meant Instonians trailed by one point after dominating the first half, and the Dublin side gratefully capitalised on their let-off to complete their second victory from two attempts.

The St Mary's outhalf, Fergal Campion, showed his

counterpart how it should be done as he kicked five penalties and a conversion, three of those efforts from long range, to give St Mary's a 9-8 half time lead.

He added further penalties at the start and finish of the second half, and for good measure, knocked over a fine conversion after Frank Fitzgerald's 69th minute try.

That score came after a long spell of St Mary's pressure, which culminated with Fitzgerald picking the ball up at the base of a short scrum and powering through the Instonians defence to score a deserved try.

But Campion was the real star for St Mary's — and how Instonians would have loved to have had the outhalf on their side.

He may have had the rub of the green when his third penalty bounced over off the

crossbar, but he also called the shots for a back division that had much more to offer than a rather pedestrian Instonians outfit.

Instonians did, however, manage a first half try through winger Nicky Moffett after 36 minutes, and the luckless Bond was put out of his misery when his half-back partner Ian Knox took over as kicker to land penalties in first half injury time, and five minutes from the end.

Scoring sequence: 15 mins, F Campion pen 0-3; 33 mins, F Campion pen 0-6; 36 mins, N Moffett try, 5-6; 40 mins, F Campion pen 5-9; 43 mins, I Knox pen, 8-9; 45 mins, F Campion pen 8-12; 69 mins, F Fitzgerald try, F Campion con, 8-19; 75 mins, I Knox pen, 11-19; 80 mins, F Campion pen, 11-22.

INSTONIANS: J Peake, G McCausland, M Young, I Gray, N Moffett, S Bond, I Knox, B Barrett, A Adair, C Miller, B Cornelius, K Parker, J Gardiner, K McKee, R Wilson.

ST MARY'S: K Nowlan, D Hickie, R McIlreavy, G Gannon, D Lyons, F Campion, E McCormack, B Keane, B Brown, E Byrne, S Jameson, K Potts, M Reilly, K Devlin, F Fitzgerald. Replacements: D Breslin for B Brown, 37 mins.

Referee: R McDowell (Munster)

interval to give them a five-minute interval break. There was much work to do, particularly after the referee kicked a penalty for Terenure just after the break. But, apart from Coleman's second try six minutes from time, Terenure just weren't able to deliver.

For the most part, Garryowen controlled the game into the wind and were rewarded with a crucial try from their hooker Alan Linnane midway through the half which gave them a 23-11 advantage. Not even the appearance of Paul Hennebry as a late Terenure substitute could turn things around.

Terenure: C Clarke; D Coleman, R Browne, M Smyth, P Walsh; S Cullen, D Hegarty, D Hyland, J Blaney, G Walsh, C Potts, G James, J Kelly, D Moriarty, B Kavanagh. **Replacements:** C Egan for Kelly (half-time), M Quinn for Egan (58 mins), P Hennebry for Cullen (72 mins).

Garryowen: D Crotty; J Clarke, B Everett, D Larkin, D Costello; P Murphy, S McIvor (capt); P Spain, A Linnane, K Ronan, M Coughlan, P O'Grady, D O'Sullivan, B Cronin, D Wallace. **Replacements:** A Birmingham for Wallace (71 mins), J Stokes for Ronan (76 mins). **Referee:** B Stirling.

Instonians..... 11

St Mary's College..... 22

INSTONIANS out-half Simon Bond had a day he will want to forget as St Mary's maintained their impressive start to the Insurance Corporation League. Bond failed to cash in on Instonians' first-half dominance and St Mary's needed no second invitation to punish the Belfast side.

They turned on the power in the second half to wrap up a win that confirms them as real title challengers. But this was a game that Instonians lost as much as Mary's won. Bond had a miserable day with his place-kicking, missing three simple penalties when Instonians were right on top.

That allowed Mary's to steal a 9-8 half-time lead and gave them all the encouragement they needed to go on and control the second half. Mary's out-half Fergal Campion was the star of the show, kicking 17 points — Instonians must only hope that Bond learned a few lessons.

Campion's three first half penalties capitalised on the only three times St Mary's made real inroads into Instonians territory. The home side should have been comfortably ahead at the interval but instead had to rely on a Nicky Moffett try and Ian Knox penalty to keep them in touch.

Campion's fourth penalty came after three minutes of the second half. Then he converted the match-clinching try from Frank Fitzgerald, after the No 8 barged over from a close-in scrum ten minutes from time.

Knox added a second penalty five

minutes later but the last word went to Campion with his fifth penalty right on full time.

Instonians: J Peake, G McCausland, M Young, I Gray, N Moffett, S Bond, I Knox, B Barrett, A Adair, C Miller, B Cornelius, K Parker, J Gardner, K McKee, R Wilson.

St Mary's: K Nowlan, D Hickie, R McIlreavy, G Gannon, D Lyons, F Campion, E McCormack, B Keane, B Brown, E Byrne, S Jameson, K Potts, M Reilly, K Devlin, F Fitzgerald.

Referee: R McDowell (Munster).

Old Crescent..... 3

Lansdowne..... 29

ERIC Elwood was an inspirational figure for Lansdowne at Rosbrien yesterday when he contributed a massive 24 points in his side's demolition of Old Crescent.

The Limerick side which came through Division Two of the league last year unbeaten and also won all its matches in the Munster Development League is certainly finding it tough at the top.

Last week they went down heavily to St. Mary's in Dublin and this time they were a bitter disappointment in front of their home fans.

The Crescent pack was completely unable to cope with the Lansdowne eight, in which Paul O'Connor and Shane Leahy dominated the line-outs and Colin McEntee and Andrew Doyle were always a force in the loose. Lansdowne took an early lead through an Elwood penalty before Brian Begley raised home hopes with an equaliser.

Gradually, however, the dominance of the Lansdowne forwards became more and more apparent. After 19 minutes Elwood kicked them back in front with a penalty and then finished off a delightful switch move to dive over in the corner and then convert with a magnificent kick from close to the left-hand touchline.

The superiority that Lansdowne enjoyed in the concluding stages of the first period was continued into the second. Elwood could do no wrong and even though Lansdowne lost the services of front row forwards Angus McKeen and Mark McDermott they were never in the slightest trouble. Elwood dropped a goal and then landed two penalties with Old Crescent offering little or nothing in response. O'Mahony dived over for a second Lansdowne try and inevitably Elwood converted before also closing the scoring with a late penalty.

Lansdowne: R Govermey, M Kearin, A Reddan, K McQuillan, R Corrigan, E Elwood, D O'Mahony, E Bohan, M McDermott, A McKeen, P O'Connor, S Leahy, A Doyle, S Rooney, C McEntee. **Replacements:** S Cooney for Kearin, S O'Connor for Doyle, A O'Sullivan for O'Mahony, B McCoy for McDermott.

Old Crescent: B Begley, S Madigan, L Doyle, B O'Neill, P McDonagh, S Tuohy, F Downes, P Madigan, M Hayes, PJ McLoughlin, J Forde, D Kirby, L Toland, B Toland, D Bowles. **Replacements:** E O'Sullivan for Bowles, M O'Meara for Hayes, T Stapleton for Madigan, S McCarthy for Downes.

Referee: D McHugh.

Insurance Corporation All Ireland League Division One

Stevenson Park: DUNGANNON 35 (S Bell 2 tries, dr gl, R Carey, J Patterson tries, A Blair 2 pens, 3 cons) BALLYMENA 6 (D McAleese 2 pens)

Lakelands Park: TERENCE 16 (D Coleman 2 tries, P Walsh 2 pens) GARRYOWEN 23 (S McIvor, B Cronin, A Linnane tries, B Everett 2 pens, con) HT: 8-18

Thomond Park: SHANNON 24 (A Foley, M Galwey, J Galvin tries; A Thompson 3 pens) CORK CONSTITUTION 11 (D O'Brien try; R O'Gara 2 pen)

Stradbroke: BLACKROCK COLLEGE 12 (A McGowan 4 pens) OLD WESLEY 11 (R Browne try, A Hawe 2 pens), HT 6-3

Shane Park: INSTONIANS 11 (Moffett try, Knox 2 pens) ST MARY'S COLLEGE 22 (Fitzgerald try, F Campion 5 pens, con) HT: 5-9

Rosbrien: OLD CRESCENT 3 LANSLOWNE 29

Anglesea Road: OLD BELVEDERE 11 YOUNG MUNSTER 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lansdowne	2	2	0	0	55	18	4
St Mary's Coll	2	2	0	0	64	32	4
Blackrock	2	2	0	0	55	24	4
Shannon	2	2	0	0	46	25	4
Dungannon	2	1	0	1	50	32	2
Cork Con	2	1	0	1	33	24	2
Old Wesley	2	1	0	1	29	25	2
Young Munster	2	1	0	1	34	33	2
Terenure Coll	2	1	0	1	38	38	2
Garryowen	2	1	0	1	36	59	2
Old Belvedere	2	0	0	2	24	38	0
Instonians	2	0	0	2	11	44	0
Ballymena	2	0	0	2	21	57	0
Old Crescent	2	0	0	2	24	71	0

Next week: OW v Terenure, OB v Blackrock, Ballymena v OC, St Mary's v Shannon, Garryowen v Dungannon, Lansdowne v Inst, YM v Cork Con

STATISTICS