



LEINSTER BRANCH
Irish Rugby Football Union

**THE KITTY O'SHEA'S
LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL**

in association with HEINEKEN

SUNDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 1996

DONNYBROOK.

LANSDOWNE

V

ST. MARY'S

DUBLIN • PARIS • BRUSSELS • BARCELONA



T H E I R I S H P U B

LANSDOWNE

ST. MARY'S

FULL BACK		Full Back	15. KEVIN NOWLAN	FULL BACK
THREE QUARTERS		Right Wing	14. PADDY LANE	THREE QUARTERS
		Right Centre	13. GARETH GANNON	
		Left Centre	12. RAY McILREAVY	
		Left Wing	11. DAVID LYONS	
HALF BACKS		Out-Half	10. CRAIG FITZPATRICK	HALF-BACKS
		Scrum-Half	9. EOIN MCCORMACK	
FORWARDS		Loose Head Prop	1. BRIAN KEANE (Captain)	FORWARDS
		Hooker	2. DAVE BRESLIN	
		Tight Head Prop	3. EMMET BYRNE	
		Lock	4. KEVIN POTTS	
		Lock	5. STEVE JAMESON	
		Flanker	6. NEIL CAMPION	
		Flanker	7. MARK CUDDIHY	
			8. FRANK FITZGERALD	
REPLACEMENTS			16. JOHN MULDOON	REPLACEMENTS
			17. EUGENE GIBNEY	
			18. PADDY POWER	
			19. RONAN LYNCH	
			20. KARL JENNINGS	

REFEREE:

PAUL SWAYNE (ARLB)

McCormack engineers sweet victory for St Mary's

A FINE second-half performance, inspired by man of the match Eoin McCormack, earned St Mary's the first trophy of the season yesterday in the final of the Leinster League at Donnybrook.

It was a sweet victory for St Mary's, who had looked unlikely candidates for even a semi-final place two weeks ago. However a huge win over Suttonians enabled them to edge Blackrock out on the basis of points scored, and last week a late try gave them victory over Clontarf.

A depleted Lansdowne made most of the running in the first half yesterday, but had no answer when St Mary's, also without a number of key players, raised their game in the final quarter.

The changing fortunes of the two teams were reflected in the displays of the opposing scrum-displays of the opposing scrum-halves. In the first half the Lansdowne forwards won a huge amount of ball for David O'Mahony, and a succession of clever kicks and breaks from quickly tapped penalties from the

ST MARY'S36
LANSDOWNE17

Kieran Garry

scrum-half had St Mary's on the run.

Declan Fassbender had Lansdowne in front as early as the second minute when he converted a close-range penalty. Almost immediately St Mary's outhalf Craig Fitzpatrick spurned a good opportunity to get his side back on terms when he missed a penalty from Lansdowne's 22, but made no mistake five minutes later with a kick from in front of the posts.

However it was Lansdowne who looked sharper and hungrier and Fassbender had them back in front with another penalty on 14 minutes. Four minutes later they were further ahead. From a scrum inside Mary's half the ball was moved to the left. Roddy Corrigan drew the cover but managed to get the ball away to Bobby Geraghty to race through and score in the left corner.

Lansdowne then appeared to relax a little and two penalties from Fitzpatrick, after Lansdowne's forwards were penalised at a ruck and a scrum, left St Mary's trailing by only two points at half-time.

The second half opened with Fassbender landing a penalty for Lansdowne, to stretch their lead to five points. However, from the restart the St Mary's forwards swarmed into Lansdowne's 22. From a ruck the ball was recycled quickly and moved out to the left. Centre Gareth Gannon timed his release to David Lyons perfectly and the winger crossed in the left corner.

Fitzpatrick kicked the conversion and Mary's were in the lead for the first time. Another penalty from the out-half seven minutes later stretched their lead further, and though Fassbender narrowed the gap with a penalty, Fitzpatrick re-established a five-point margin with his fifth penalty at the start of the fourth quarter.

McCormack was running the show by this stage and a succession of fine breaks had

Lansdowne beating a retreat. The decisive score came 11 minutes from time, with McCormack the initiator, as he made ground up the right wing. Full-back Kevin Nowlan made a great inside break and the sudden change in direction left Lansdowne in disarray. Ray McIlreavy got the ball away to Gannon, for the centre to score.

Fitzpatrick added the conversion, again from close to touch, and Mary's were on their way. Steve Jameson embellished the scoreline further with a close-range try five minutes from time.

SCORING SEQUENCE: 3: Fassbender penalty, 3-0; 6: Fitzpatrick penalty, 3-3; 14: Fassbender penalty, 6-3; 18: Geraghty try, 11-3; 29: Fitzpatrick penalty, 11-6; 39: Fitzpatrick penalty, 11-9; 44: Fassbender penalty, 14-9; 45: Lyons try, Fitzpatrick conversion, 14-16; 52: Fitzpatrick penalty, 14-19; 58: Fassbender penalty, 17-19; 62: Fitzpatrick penalty, 17-22; 69: Gannon try, Fitzpatrick conversion, 17-29; 75: Jameson try, Fitzpatrick conversion 17-36.

LANSDOWNE: P Devcich; S Cooney, B Geraghty, R Corrigan (capt), D Fassbender, W Clancy, D O'Mahony, W O'Kelly, B McCoy, A McKean, C McEntee, P O'Connor, G Donnelly, A Doyle, S O'Connor.

ST MARY'S: K Nowlan; P Lane, R McIlreavy, G Gannon, D Lyons; C Fitzpatrick, E McCormack; B Keane (capt), D Breslin, E Byrne, K Poits, S Jameson, N Campion, M Cuddihy, F Fitzgerald.

Referee: P Swayne (ARLB).

