

26/1/97

RUGBY: Large Jameson the toast of delighted Dubliners

Mary's end in x



Kieran Rooney

Young Munster 11
St Mary's College 19

AT last — a victory for St Mary's College in Limerick. With the Insurance Corporation League in its seventh year, the Templeville Road outfit travelled to Clifton Park yesterday fed up with people telling them that they had never managed to record a win in what is very much the capital of Irish club rugby.

While coach Ciaran Fitzgerald argued that it wasn't something that particularly bothered him, others quite clearly thought differently. Big lock Steve Jameson described the victory as 'sweet' after playing on a succession of losing St Mary's sides in Limerick.

If St Mary's were to end that record and prove themselves championship contenders they were going to have to graft, even against a Young Munster side which has made a disappointing start to their campaign.

Well, St Mary's, and in particular Jameson, grafted for the entire 80 minutes.

They needed to. After leading 16-5 at the interval they saw Young Munster reduce the deficit to 16-11 within 15 minutes of the second half. The home side, with the wind now at their backs, must have fancied their chances.

But it was St Mary's who controlled the remainder of the game, mainly through the superb work of Jameson in the line-outs and their excellent mauling. They never really looked like conceding a further score and deservedly had the final word when their out-half Craig Fitzpatrick landed his fourth penalty in injury time.

The decision to award that penalty seemingly did not please Young Munster flanker Des Clohessy, who had to be restrained at the final whistle. But referee Sean Buggy reported afterwards that he was not troubled and there were no problems.

Nor did Ciaran Fitzgerald have any problems with a game



Held up: Cork Constitution scrum-half Brian O'Meara is tackled by Lansdowne's Stephen O'Connor at Lansdowne Road yesterday.

which threatened to boil over early on but never did. Not surprisingly, both Fitzgerald and Young Munster coach Dan Mooney picked out Man of the Match Jameson for particular mention.

Mooney said: "I'm very disappointed. We knew we needed a victory badly but you will not get wins in the modern game against a side which dominates the line-outs."

"But all credit to St Mary's. For a team to come down and play as well as they did, they deserve a lot of praise. They fully deserved their win and undoubtedly look like championship potential."

Yesterday wasn't a day for anything fancy. St Mary's tried to move the ball along their talented backline but repeatedly came up against an outstanding Young Munster defence.

On the one occasion that St

Mary's really got it right, 26 minutes into the first half, they scored their only try. Denis Hickie, keen to impress before the Irish side to face Wales is announced, played a key role, taking a pass from Fitzpatrick before slicing through the middle of the Young Munster defence.

The ball was then transferred smoothly before full-back Peter Nowlan sent left-wing David Lyons over to the left of the posts. Fitzpatrick's conversion left St Mary's with their 16-5 half-time advantage. Earlier, the impressive Fitzpatrick had landed three penalties while scrum-half Derek Tobin had responded with a good opportunity try for Young Munster.

Still, the game was up for grabs. Victor Costello was doing the odd good thing on his return for St Mary's but will clearly need more time to find

his true form after his unhappy period at London Irish. Hickie, for his part, did exceptionally well to set up the try but was seeing little of the ball. So Young Munster knew they were in with a chance if they made the right sort of start to the second half. They did.

Within 11 minutes, out-half Aidan O'Halloran had landed a penalty to reduce the deficit to 16-8. Four minutes later the same player struck again with another penalty to cut the St Mary's lead to just 16-11. It was time for the St Mary's forwards to produce.

This they did in the most emphatic manner. Jameson won every line-out ball worth winning and Kevin Potts was also prominent. That they didn't add to their total until injury time was down to the Young Munster defence and some bad luck.

Fitzpatrick, having seen a kick rebound back off the crossbar in the first half, could hardly believe his eyes when another penalty hit an upright with nine minutes remaining.

Sensibly, St Mary's keep things tight and were rewarded for their pressure three minutes into injury time. When Fitzpatrick kicked his fourth penalty of the afternoon, so St Mary's stay in front of the pack in the race for the title, next stop Lansdowne at Templeville Road in two weeks time.

Young Munster P. Breen, J. Carey, N. O'Meara, M. Lynch, N. McCarthy, A. O'Halloran, D. Tobin, N. Heneghan, M. Ryan, R. Fitzgerald, M. Fitzgerald, D. O'Meara, M. O'Halloran, D. Clohessy, D. Mulvaney (capt), G. Egan. Representative: D. Mulvaney (for Ebanus 115 min).

St Mary's: K. Newman, D. Hickie, E. Gibney, G. Gannon, D. Lyons, C. Fitzpatrick, E. McDonnell, B. Kavanagh (capt), B. Breen, E. Ryan, D. Breen, S. Jameson, K. Potts, V. Costello, K. Davern. Referee: S. Buggy (IAR).

St Mary's finally lay Limerick hoodoo

ST MARY'S COLLEGE went to Tom Clifford Park last Saturday, as leaders in the Insurance Corporation All Ireland League and burdened by the legacy of never having won a league tie in Limerick since its inauguration.

But St Mary's signed the scene with their honour and resolution and ended the seven-year hitch by defeating Young Munster, having laid the Limerick bogey and, at the same time, keeping their unbeaten record intact.

It was a vibrant contest and no place for the faint of heart. Application and courage are essential requirements for the visitor to this most formidable rugby territory. St Mary's answered the call on all counts. And if the result was in doubt until the third minute of injury time when St Mary's stretched a five-point lead into eight insurance points, there is no doubt that they deserved to win.

There were several in their side who had not previously experienced the demands of a match at Clifford Park, a factor that St Mary's coach Ciarán Fitzgerald said, "helped them insofar as they were not really concerned about the fact we had never won in Limerick." But it was a man who has been at the heart of St Mary's efforts for several years now, and who has been at the centre of some controversy at Clifford Park in the past, second row Steve Jameson, who emerged as the key figure in this victory.

Jameson had an outstanding match and his play in the line-out was a crucial element in helping his side to victory. He was very ably assisted by a pack of forwards who passed the examination set them with merit and another veteran, Kevin Potts, also played splendidly.

For St Mary's it was, as Fitzgerald said, "a very big and important win. They defended superbly. We tried everything to break them down, but apart from one try, they countered us."

But that try in the 26th minute was not alone a crucial score, it was splendidly created and clinically executed, a sweeping movement from right to left with Denis Hickie coming in off the right wing to create an extra man and full back Keith Nowlan up to give Dave Lyons the scoring pass. Craig Fitzpatrick, who had another fine match, converted and St Mary's led 16-5.

Fitzpatrick had earlier kicked three penalty goals, while scrum-half Derek Tobin had scored a try for Young Munster in the seventh minute after he capitalised when St Mary's failed to clear from a scrum near their line. That had left the home side 5-3 in front — Fitzpatrick had kicked a penalty as early as the first minute — and then added two more in the ninth and 20th minutes.

YOUNG MUNSTER 11
ST MARY'S 19

Edmund Van Esbeck

St Mary's had enjoyed the benefits of a cold crosswind and had stood up well to the Young Munster pack. Indeed, St Mary's mauled and drove with great effect throughout, scrum-half Eoin McCormack was a splendid link between backs and forwards. It was, too, unfortunate for Young Munster that they lost their captain and number eight Declan Edwards in the 16th minute. He had played very well in the short time he was on the field.

Young Munster faced the second period with an 11-point deficit. When Aidan O'Halloran kicked two penalty goals in the 51st and 55th minutes, they stood just five points adrift and the stage was set for a really big comeback. But it did not materialise. "At that stage I felt we could and would win," said a very disappointed Young Munster coach Dan Mooney. "But St Mary's weathered our pressure and we did not help ourselves by giving away needless penalties when we got into their half."

That assessment was accurate, as that is what Young Munster did. Then, in the closing stages, St Mary's kept play in the Young Munster half. Jameson's line-out play was majestic at this stage and St Mary's regularly had the throw-in as Young Munster kicked to touch out of defence.

Three minutes into injury time, with only five points separating the sides, Young Munster were penalised (rather harshly in my view) for offside and Fitzpatrick completed a fine performance by kicking his fourth penalty. He scored 14 points and also hit a crossbar and an upright with two other attempts. The final penalty award was disputed vigorously by Young Munster's very hard working flanker Des Clohessy. As a result, referee Sean Buggy won few friends at Tom Clifford Park and in fact, ended up having to be escorted from the field.

"St Mary's well deserved to win. They played well and tied us down in the closing stages with good mauling. We needed those points, but we will now focus on the next match and I feel sure we will move to safety," said Mooney.

SCORING SEQUENCE: 1 min: Fitzpatrick penalty, 0-3; 7: Tobin try, 5-3; 9: Fitzpatrick penalty, 5-6; 20: Fitzpatrick penalty, 5-9; 28: Lyons try, Fitzpatrick conversion, 5-16; 51: A O'Halloran penalty, 8-16; 55: A O'Halloran penalty, 11-16; 83: Fitzpatrick penalty, 11-19.

YOUNG MUNSTER: P Boland, J Carey, N O'Meara, M Lynch, N McNamara, A O'Halloran, D Tobin, N Hartigan, Mark Fitzgerald, Mick Fitzgerald, M O'Halloran, D O'Meara, D Clohessy, D Edwards, capt., G Earls. **Replacement:** D Mullane for Edwards, 16 minutes.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE: K Nowlan, D Hickie, E Gibney, G Gannon, D Lyons, C Fitzpatrick, E McCormack, B Keane, capt., B Browne, E Byrne, D Bourke, S Jameson, K Potts, V Costello, K Devlin. **Temporary replacement:** M Cuddihy for Costello.

Referee: S Buggy (ARLB).

Mary's scale the Limerick wall

Tom English at Tom Clifford Park

Young Munster 11 St Mary's College 19

P Boland, J Carey, N O Meera, M Lynch, N McNamara, A O'Halloran, D Tobin, N Hartigan, M Fitzpatrick, Michael Fitzgerald, M O'Halloran, D O Meera, D Clohessey, D Edwards (D Mullane 16min), G Earls.

Scorers: Fitzpatrick (P 2min) 0-3, Tobin (T 7min) 5-3, Fitzpatrick (P 9min) 5-6, Fitzpatrick (P 22min) 5-9, Lyons (T) & Fitzpatrick (C 26min) 5-16, O'Halloran (P 51min) 8-16, O'Halloran (P 55min) 11-16, Fitzpatrick (T 80min) 11-19. Weather: clear. Ground: good. Referee: S Buggy (LAR).

A SIZZLING game, packed with incident, and a momentous victory for St Mary's, who finally nailed their Limerick hoodoo after six long and barren years.

They came here as League leaders, ideal fodder for a Young Munster team which has made a habit of wrecking the dreams of title chasers. At the end, Steve Jameson, the man of the match, climbed the stairs of the bus that doubles as a press box at Tom Clifford Park and revealed the enormity of his pride. "I've been coming here all these years and every time things have gone against us," he said. "We had a huge mental barrier to cross and we crossed it. Today was sweet."

The lock deserved enormous credit, for he had a huge game. And with this victory comes further evidence of his team's worth. They will be ferociously difficult to beat this season, as Shannon — and now Munsters — have found out. Their spirit is astonishing. They weathered a torrent of Munsters pressure in the second half before striking out to make the game safe in injury time.

In Jameson and Dan Bourke they had two class lineup exponents. Kevin Potts was a tearaway at bedside and Victor Costello — or Victory as he was called in the match programme — provided evidence in the first and final quarters that his move home from London Irish was the right one. Behind the scrum, Mary's have a fly-half of immense talent. He did for Shannon last month, and he carved Munsters apart yesterday.

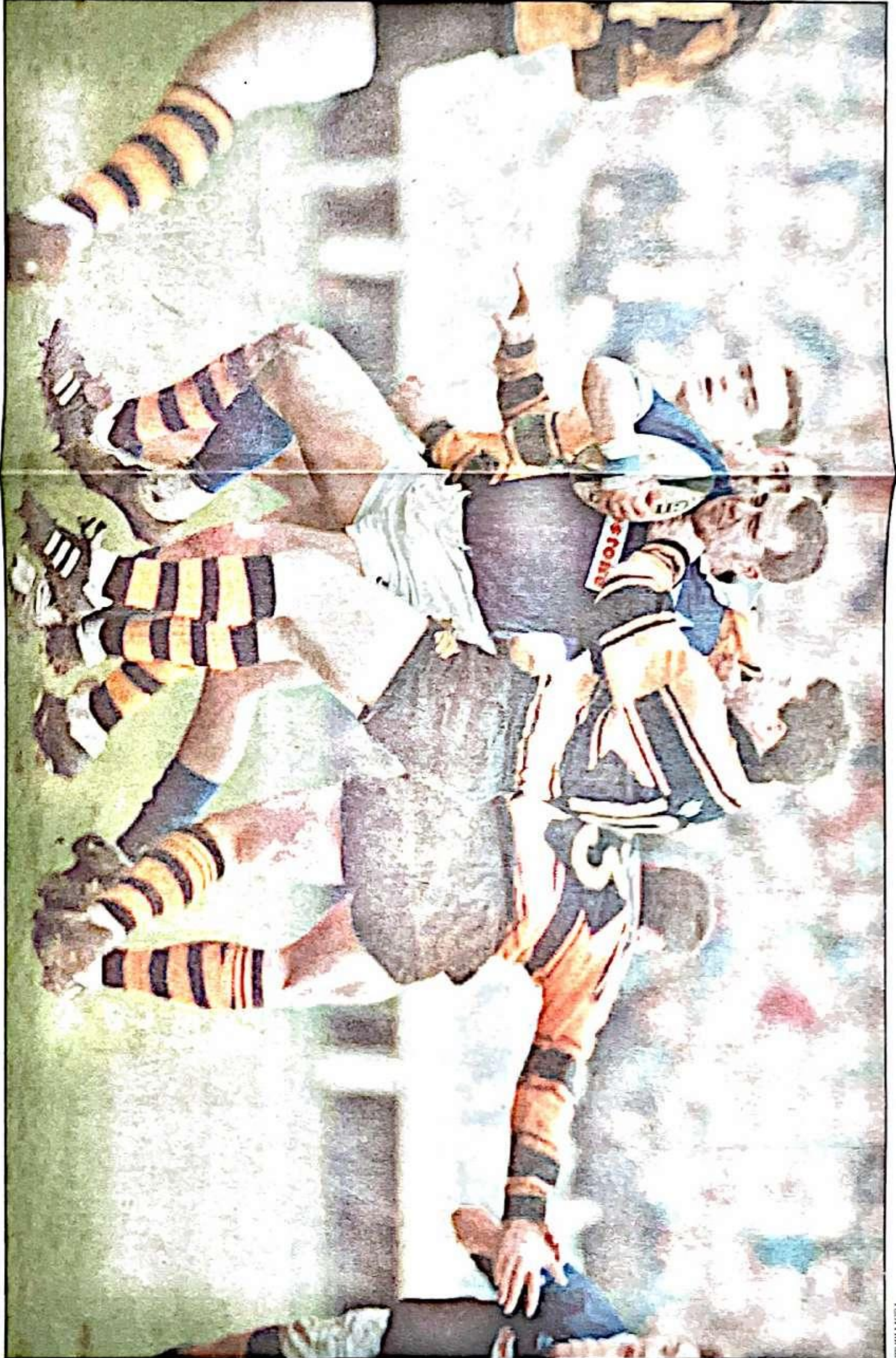
And yet it all started hideously for the visitors, Fitzpatrick's early penalty being cancelled out by a Munsters try on seven minutes. It was an embarrassment to Mary's.

They had a scrum near their own line, Munsters shoved like hell and sent them sliding backwards. Derek Tobin, Munsters' splendid scrum-half, picked up and nipped over for the score. The home support went berserk. Aidan O'Halloran missed the conversion, though, and Munsters were not to score again for 42 minutes.

Mary's got their noses in front with a second, swinging Fitzpatrick penalty. Then all hell broke loose on the pitch. Ger Earls, the Munsters open side, and his opposite number, Kevin Devlin, lashed out at one another. Within a minute Mick O'Halloran and Emmet Byrne were doing the same. The history between these sides is laced with bitterness and we were given an ugly reprise of it here.

Mary's stepped up the pace and the wind carried them forward. They kicked intelligently for touch and released their back line brilliantly. After Fitzpatrick had put them into a 9-5 lead, a stunning move gave Fitzpatrick started it, breaking clear of the Munsters cover and slipping a sublime reverse pass to Dennis Hickie. The right wing shifted it to Eugene Gibney, who let it out to Kevin Nowlan and he sent David Lyons, the left wing, over in the corner. Wonderful stuff.

Mary's kept coming. The Young Munster tactic of kicking away possession was pointless, as Jameson & Co cleaned



Welcome to the Killing Fields: Aidan O'Halloran, the Young Munster fly-half, gets to grips with the St Mary's College centre Eugene Gibney in a match which saw tempers fray up at the ensuing lineup and Mary's. For a while it did, but Munsters' continual kicks for itors' backs. Fitzpatrick was touch floundered on the rock of unlucky when a penalty after 32 minutes slapped off the crossbar, but still they were looking totally in command. The Munsters faithful prayed that in the second half the wind would do for them what it had done for

Mary's. For a while it did, but Munsters' continual kicks for itors' backs. Fitzpatrick was touch floundered on the rock of unlucky when a penalty after 32 minutes slapped off the crossbar, but still they were looking totally in command. The Munsters faithful prayed that in the second half the wind would do for them what it had done for

Young Munster, however, are not ones to jack it in when things are going against them. Their supporters roused them in the middle of the half, banging on the advertising boards as

their men drove forward. Aidan O'Halloran landed two penalties and their pack came alive. Des Clohessey and the promising prop Niall Hartigan bringing them back into contention.

Fifty-five minutes gone, 11-16 to Mary's. The tension mounted and it proved too much for some people. However, came up short and broke after sustained Mary's pressure. But once more, from a stifling breeze, battled towards the home side's line. Munsters killed the ball like it was a new-born babe. Mary's Fitzpatrick had an opportunity to put further distance between the sides. But, for the second time, his kick struck an upright. On 74 minutes Munsters

Munsters searched desperately for a way through the Mary's defence. Their back line, how-

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points. A famous victory.

Tom Horan

Sweet revenge

YOUNG MUNSTER 11

ST MARY'S 19

David McKechnie

Tom Clifford Park

SO much for never having won in Limerick. Many more performances like this from St Mary's and any other bad memories they may have could fall just as comfortably by the wayside.

Against Young Munster, they showed the attacking spark that was expected, but it was the pack that really shone. Victor Costello had a wholly satisfactory comeback game, while Steve Jameson was simply awesome in the lineout.

When Young Munster were having their best spell, early in the second half, it was hard to remember an instance where Jameson failed to win a lineout. Such was his dominance, the home side failed to get any rhythm in their rucking and were often fragmented and slow to support.

It wasn't just up front where St Mary's dominated. With one try apiece on the final scoreboard, Craig Fitzpatrick also had a fine afternoon with several vital kicks, particularly in the opening period. Kevin

Nowlan and Dennis Hickie ran as gamely as ever and contributed handsomely to the game's best score after 26 minutes.

With Hickie bursting through the centre, he played a delightful interchange with Nowlan. David Lyons was the spare man and he powered up the left to touch down in the corner.

Fitzpatrick's conversion settled St Mary's into a 16-5 lead they always looked capable of hanging onto. The game up until then had been a lively affair, punctuated by a series of needless penalties.

With the wind at his back in the first half, Fitzpatrick was in every mood to take full advantage. He kicked three penalties from similar positions in the opening 22 minutes and those scores overhauled Young Munster's seventh minute unconverted try.

With St Mary's penned back in their own corner, they failed to control their own put-in and Munster's scrumhalf Derek Tobin snatched it and spun into the corner. However, that score looked more and more like a once off as St Mary's handling got better and better.

Still, they got a fright at the start of the second half as

their 16-5 half time lead was quickly whittled back.

It was Aidan O'Halloran's turn to have the wind at his back, and he responded accordingly. Within 14 minutes of the restart two penalties had dragged Young Munster back to within five points and the visitors looked rattled.

The reason they didn't capitalise was all of their own doing: too often they didn't support and wasted valuable possession. Tobin prompted where he could and Des Clohessy was his aggressive self, but the intense pressure St Mary's looked like they could be vulnerable to never materialised.

Instead they came back and it was Young Munster's defence that was tested most for the remainder of the game.

SCORING SEQUENCE

2 mins: C Fitzpatrick pen 0-3; **7 mins:** D Tobin try 5-3; **9 mins:** C Fitzpatrick pen 5-6; **22 mins:** C Fitzpatrick pen 5-9; **26 mins:** D Lyons try, C Fitzpatrick con 5-16; **31 mins:** A O'Halloran pen 8-16; **34 mins:** A O'Halloran pen 11-16; **83 mins:** C Fitzpatrick pen 11-19

YOUNG MUNSTER: P Boland; J Carey, M Lynch, N O'Meara, N McNamara; A O'Halloran, D Tobin; N Hartigan, Mark Fitzgerald, Mick Fitzgerald; M O'Halloran, D O'Meara; D Clohessy, D Edwards, G Ennis.

ST MARY'S: K Nolan; D Hickie, G Gannon, R McIlreavy, D Lyons, C Fitzpatrick; E McCormack, B Keane, B Browne, E Byrne, S Jameson, D Bourke, K Potts, V Costello, K Devlin.

Referee: S Buggy (LAR)

26 Jan 1997

11

RUGBY

Heineken Cup Final

Cardiff Arms Park: BRIVE 28 (S Carrat 2 tries, S Viars, G Fabre tries, C Lamaison con, pen, dr gl) LEICESTER 9 (J Liley 3 pens) HT 8-6

Insurance Corporation

All Ireland League

Division One

Eaton Park: BALLYMENA 25 (M Beatty try, R McIlmoyle 6 pens, con) SHANNON 37 (B O'Shea, P McGooley, A Foley, E Halvey, A Quinlan tries; A Thompson 2 pens, 3 cons)

Stradbroke: BLACKROCK 8 (P O'Brien try; A McGowan pen) TERENCE 22 (P Walsh try, pen, 2 cons; N Hogan, R Browne tries)

Dooradoyle: GARRYOWEN 39 (J Brooks, D Larkin, P O'Grady, P Hogan, S Leahy, tries, J Clarke 2 tries, K Keane 2 cons) INSTONIAN 9 (S Bond 3 pens)

Lansdowne Road: LANSDOWNE 30 (R Corrigan, D O Mahony, M McDermott tries, penalty try, E Elwood 2 cons, 2 pens) CORK CONSTITUTION 6 (R O'Gara dr gl, pen)

Anglesea Road: OLD BELVEDERE 36 (P McKenna, C Bewley, S Tormey 2, D Shanley tries, W Treacy 4 con, pen) DUNGANNON 23 (G Leslie, S Bell, W Dunne tries, A Blair dr gl, pen, con)

Donnybrook: OLD WESLEY 6 (A Hawe 2 pens) OLD CRESCENT 18 (S Tuohy 6 pens)

Tom Clifford Park: YOUNG MUNSTER 11 (D Tobin try, A O'Halloran 2 pens) ST MARY'S COLLEGE 19 (D Lyons try, C Fitzpatrick 4 pens, con)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Mary's Coll	5	4	1	0	119	77	9
Lansdowne	5	4	0	1	149	60	8
Shannon	5	4	0	1	120	80	8
Garryowen	5	4	0	1	152	121	8
Terence Coll	5	4	0	1	84	63	8
Blackrock Coll	5	3	0	2	105	79	6
Cork Con	5	2	1	2	93	86	5
Dungannon	5	2	0	3	145	128	4
Old Belvedere	5	2	0	3	83	84	4
Ballymena	5	2	0	3	80	112	4
Young Munster	5	1	0	4	75	109	2
Old Wesley	5	1	0	4	48	95	2
Old Crescent	5	1	0	4	73	117	2
Instonians	5	0	0	5	39	154	0

Next fixtures: 8 February: Inst v OW, OC v OB, Shannon v Garryowen, Con v Ballymena, St Mary's v Lansdowne, Dungannon v Black-

Division Three

Uprichard Park: BANGOR 8 (S McKinty try, N Powderley pen) GALWEGIAN 41 (K Barrett 3 pens, con; G Heaslip 2 tries; D Redden 2 tries; P Rowe, B Gavin tries)

Chambers Park: PORTADOWN 38 (A Matchett, M Begley, M Ericson, T Octave tries; S Laing 4 pens, 3 cons) DUBLIN UNIVERSITY 12 (I Quigley try, con; J Cunningham try)

Deramore: COLLEGIANS 14 (M Robinson, J Gilmartin tries; A Torrens 2 cons) UCD 18 (R Ormonde 2 pens, con; J Sharpe, S Cantwell tries)

Corinthian Park: CORINTHIANS 12 (A White 4 pens) WATERPARK 5 (J McNally try) HT: 6-0

Thomond Park: BOHEMIANS 5 (M Benson try) BUCCANEERS 6 (K Slevin pen, D Lillie dr gl)

Free: Queen's University

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galwegians	5	5	0	0	107	44	10
Buccaneers	4	4	0	0	75	37	8
UCD	6	3	1	2	105	108	7
Portadown	4	3	0	1	1100	54	6
Bohemians	4	3	0	1	83	26	6
Collegians	5	2	0	3	73	70	4
Queen's Univ	4	2	0	2	70	76	4
Corinthians	5	1	1	3	58	93	3
Dublin Univ	5	1	0	4	98	135	2
Bangor	5	1	0	4	66	139	2
Waterpark	5	0	0	5	43	96	0

Next fixtures: 8 Feb: DU v Corinthians, Galwegians v Bohs, QU v Collegians, Portadown v Bangor, UCD v Buccaneers, Free: Waterpark

STATISTICS

(before yesterday's games)

Try scorers:

3 S McKinty (Bgr), J Culhane (Boh), D Reddan (Gal), D Finn, J Sharp (UCD)

2 B Rigney, J Screene (Buc), M Jackson (Col), J Cunningham, D McElligott, A Turtle (DU), A Hood (QU), R Ormonde, R Staunton (UCD)

Point scorers:

42 S Laing (Por)

36 I Quigley (DU)

33 M Benson (Boh), R Ormonde (UCD)

32 B Hall (QU)

27 A White (Cor), 23 R Collins (Col), 19 T

Stuart-Trainer (Buc), G Wright (Col), 17 U