

Fitzgerald dismissed as Mary's vent frustration

CIARAN FITZGERALD has been dismissed as coach of St Mary's College. Sources at the club revealed last night that the former Irish captain has been replaced by Steve Hennessy, currently the coach of the third team at Templeville Road and a former full-back and captain of the club.

It is believed that Fitzgerald, in charge for three years, wanted to remain for another season, but the club's rugby council ruled that out. They felt that Mary's had gone as far as they could go under Fitzgerald and that it was time for a change. Hennessy's appointment will be confirmed early this week.

Mary's have grown tired of the end-of-season collapses which had become the norm under Fitzgerald's regime. Time and again the club had started the season strongly, only to fade away.

This season could serve as a microcosm of Mary's under Fitzgerald. They started well and were near the top of the division early in the campaign. On January 25 they managed to break their Limerick hoodoo when they beat Young Munster at Tom Clifford Park.

It looked to be a hugely significant result, their first victory on Shannonside in the history of the All Ireland League and one that might give them the impetus to go on and win it.

On February 8, however, Lansdowne went to Templeville Road as underdogs and beat Mary's 19-13. Fitzgerald may not have known it then, but that was the beginning of the end.

