

Rampant St Mary's sound

Grant Robbins

St Mary's..... 70
Dungannon..... 29

DUNGANNON hit the wall at Templeville Road yesterday and by the end were running on memory as St Mary's issued a timely reminder that they cannot yet be written off for the All Ireland League honours.

The defeat last weekend at Terenure was swept aside with a scintillating display of attacking rugby, the upshot of which saw St Mary's run in ten tries, all but one finished off by their much-vaunted backs.

Steve Jameson's men built an early 14-0 lead, having established the ascendancy up front. Their continuity and handling was superior, while Dungannon defended stubbornly until passing beyond the point of exhaustion in the second-half.

Ultimately, tries for Dungannon by Jeremy Hastings and Ronnie Carey shortly before the interval flattered to deceive as the first 22 minutes of this contest had ripped the heart out of the visitors.

St Mary's, despite the absence through injury of Conor McGuinness, John McWeeney, Trevor Brennan, Emmet Byrne and Michael Fitzpatrick, ran with the ball in hand at every conceivable opportunity.

They were 35-15 in front at the interval, through a brace from Ray McIlreavey and Denis Hickie and another from lock

Frank Fitzgerald, Dungannon's only other retort was a Robin Morrow penalty.

The pattern of the first period was repeated in the second, with Victor Costello punching gaping holes in the visitors' defence, allowing the Mary's backs, and Eoin McCormack in particular, to run riot.

By the hour mark St Mary's were 63-15 ahead, two further tries by Hickie, another from Irish full-back Kevin Nowlan — a highly influential figure all afternoon — and substitute Fergal Campion ending Dungannon's comeback.

Out-half Richard Ormond, who produced a flawless afternoon with the boot, converted all 10 tries, at least, half of which looked to be from almost impossible angles and surely cemented his place in the side.

Stephen Bell replied with a late try for Dungannon but in the dying minutes, Hickie finished as he had started, racking up his fourth try with the minimum of effort.

St Mary's: Nowlan, Hickie, McIlreavey, Gannon, McNamee, Ormond, McCormack, Lynch, Browne, Coen, Jameson (capt), Fitzgerald, Jennings, Cuddihy, Costello. **Reps:** D Lyons for McIlreavey, 33 mins; F Campion for Gannon, 48 mins; P Power for Browne, 54 mins; M Pelly for Cuddihy, 75 mins; D Dowling for Costello, 78 mins.

Dungannon: Hood, Moffett, Redpath, Clarke, Carey, Morrow, Bell, Millar, Farrell, Leslie (capt), Simpson, Walker, Boyd, Girvan, Hastings. **Reps:** M Smith for Girvan, 40 mins; H McCaughey for Farrell, 59 mins.

Garryowen..... 37
Old Belvedere..... 22

OLD Belvedere finished on a high note at Dooradoyle yesterday with two well-taken tries but they never looked like causing another dent in Garryowen's League aspirations.

The home side hit back well after their shock defeat against Dolphin the previous week. Old Belvedere had little more than guts and courage to offer but the game might have turned out differently had the visiting side been able to capitalise on the gilt-edged chance they created from a Garryowen defensive lapse in the opening few minutes. Garryowen survived that scare and were never in serious trouble afterwards.

Steve McIvor at scrum-half and David Wallace in the back row were outstanding as the home side created a series of chances which led to a penalty for out-half Barry Everitt followed by tries for winger Conor Kilroy and Wallace. Kilroy converted Wallace's try to leave Garryowen 15 points ahead after 20 minutes.

Old Belvedere settled with a try by flanker Fergal O'Beime which out-half Robbie Rein converted but Garryowen struck again before half time when another piece of skill by McIvor opened the way for full-back Dominic Crotty to score a fine try which Kilroy converted to put Garryowen 22-7 ahead at the interval.

McIvor began a move from inside his own half, which he then finished off himself with a 30 yard run for the try of the second half. Kilroy converted to make it 29-7.

Rein landed a Belvedere penalty

but Colin Varley a Garryowen's dominant try. Belvedere finished tries by Murray, I and Steve Sexton had the last say with goal.

Garryowen: D Crotty, J Clarke, Hartigan, C Kilroy, B Everitt, S P Humphreys, K Roman, S Leat P Hogan, A Birmingham, D V Keane for Hartigan 39 mins, P (Humphreys 66 mins, G Walsh Varley for Leaty 52.

Old Belvedere: W Treacy, S Se M Ridge, R Browne, R Rein, McConnell, P Kenny, T Kearns, McDonald, F O'Beime, T Murphy

Dolphin.....
Young Munster.....

AT half time there was a glimmer of hope for Dolphin though a five-point deficit was a perilous enough.

By the end the doubt about the we Young Munster victory was outclassed have enough possessions as Young inspired by captain and Irish international Peter Clohessy, too many points out of a possible far will leave them over the Christmas

They struggled at the width of Dolphin play and could only and look at the interval which the home through winger M

After Conor N Aidan O'Hall exchanged penalties