



Spanell
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TERENURE COLLEGE R.F.C.

argus
CAR & VAN RENTALS



TERENURE COLLEGE R.F.C.

15	Ciaran Clarke
14	David Coleman
13	Girvan Dempsey
12	Michael Smyth
11	Peter Walsh
10	Shane Cullen
9	Derek Hegarty
1	Donal Hyland
2	James Blaney
3	Peter Bruce
4	Rory Sherrif
5	Pat Holden
6	Joe Kelly (Capt.)
7	Brendan Kavanagh
8	Garran Sheahan
Substitutes	
	Paul Hennebry
	John Sherry
	Byron O'Doherty-Campbell
	Colin Potts

Today's Match is sponsored by
Michael Jordan
O'Reilly's Auction Rooms



Sole Sponsor of the
AIB League

ST. MARY'S COLLEGE R.F.C.

15	Kevin Nowlan
14	Denis Hickie
13	Ray McIlreavy
12	Garret Gannon
11	John McWeeney
10	Craig Fitzpatrick
9	Conor McGuinness
1	Emmet Byrne
2	Barry Browne
3	Dave Coen
4	Steve Jameson (Capt.)
5	Frank Fitzgerald
6	Trevor Brennan
7	Mark Cuddihy
8	Victor Costello
Substitutes	
Referee:	
	Sean Buggy (A.L.B.R.)
Touch Judges:	
	Noel Butler (A.L.B.R.)
	Conor Byrne (A.L.B.R.)

Today's **GILBERT** Match Ball
is sponsored by Charlie Chawke
THE DROPPING WELL



Mary's hopes

Center

Torunur 12
St Mary's 12

Yesterday it was more of a collision than a meeting and it was absorbing stuff from first to last. It was informative too, particularly about St. Mary's, who at this early stage of the race revealed a lack of composure under pressure which the Limerick teams will now seek to exploit.

Despite being under the cosh for most of this match, where their replacements were coming and going at an alarming rate, they had character to win but could not take them. As for Terence, they have moved on from last season, when they played good rugby but lacked the self-belief to go that vital extra step.

They will have been delighted with yesterday's win — local rivalry aside — but when it comes to the bigger picture they are still missing a critical component: the man who puts the ball over the bar.

Yesterday Peter Walsh managed just one from six attempts on goal and while the strong wind was a mitigating factor, Walsh's history in this area is not encouraging. Were they to solve that problem, they would have every reason to be confident for the arrival of Rory Sheridan. Walsh has improved their line-out and their ability of their forwards to play fast and aggressive rugby is impressive.

Combine that with quality half-backs, where Derek Hickey has a particularly bright future, and Terence should at least be looking at an end of season pay-out. When you think of the grief they endured for years in this competition, that's progress.

Mentally too they have the right stuff and they needed it after closing out the first half, where they had the wind at their backs but no lead to sustain them after the break. Having

IRELAND scrum-half **Conor McGuinness** will have to wait a couple of days before knowing the exact nature of the knee injury which forced him off the field in yesterday's match at Lanklands Park.

Having come into the game with a strained left knee, he then damaged the other knee in a tackle during the first half. An X-ray last night showed no fracture, but he will see a specialist early this week for a further examination.

He has already ruled himself out of St Mary's League match against Dungannon on Saturday, and his availability for Ireland's match against Italy on 20th December should be determined later this week.

had most of the pressure for that first period, they were just 3-0 up after 28 minutes by which stage Walsh had hit one from three attempts.

Then came a significant setback, when a floated pass from Paul Hennebery was well-read by John McWeeney on half way and the wing raced most of the way and then hobbled the last few metres after pulling a hamstring.

To confirm the difficult kicking conditions, Richard Ormond missed the conversion. By that stage both St. Mary's half-backs were off the field — Craig Fitzpatrick with a suspected broken thumb and Conor McGuinness with a combination of shin and knee problems.

The latter was apparent before the game — at least he was incapable of running freely in the warm-up — and you wonder about the wisdom of Ireland's top scrum-half playing when he is clearly in trouble.

Terenure got the perfect start to the new half with a glorious sniping try from Hegarty and then the same

player cleverly checked the cover before feeding Ciaran Clarke, who put Walsh over in the corner for the try of the game.

But Mary's played their own part in that score, starting with Trevor Bretnan conceding a penalty for a high tackle on David Coleman. Three penalties later — in about 90 seconds — and Terence had the position from which Hegeraty carved out Walsh's try.

By 55 minutes Paul Hennebery had half-dummed and half-crashed his way over to make it 18-5, again with no conversion, and Mary's were looking a beaten side.

But they responded well enough with a determined try from Costello and then after good work on the short side from Garrih Gannon, who comfortably had the measure of Michael Smyth, and Ray McIlreavy, David Lyons thought he was in only to be called back for a foot in touch.

Photographer: Dara MacDonall.

From there, Terenure played intelligently, punching the ball up the couchline and doing so in a variety of ways. They were well worth the win. And they knew it.

[illegible]

Mary's hit by a little local difficulty

Tom English at Lakelands

IF ONLY they could all be like this. For a league that has got off to a woeful beginning, here was a game to gladden the heart. In a riotous final quarter, Terenure managed to cling on to a victory the importance of which only they can fully understand.

The rest of us could guess from the remarkable scenes at the end: Derek Hegarty, the excellent scrum-half, sinking to his knees and offering up a prayer; Claran Clarke prancing to the touchline to embrace his coach. For St Mary's there was but the chilling reality of an eighth successive defeat at the hands of their great local rivals, already their title aspirations are treading water.

To lambast them for losing their bottle would be unwise and unjust. Terenure played like demons and deserved their victory, yet still the visitors nearly pulled it out of the fire towards the end. With seven minutes left and Terenure leading 18-12, the St Mary's mid-field catapulted themselves towards the home side's line. Garrett Gannon and Ray McIlwray linked to send David Lyons scampering down the left wing. Coming across was Clarke, who attempted to shove his man into touch. In the referee's eyes he just about managed it before Lyons dived

Terenure College 18 St Mary's College 12
 C Clarke, D Coleman, J Sherry, S Smith, G K Howell, D Hickey, R McIlwray, D Dempsey, M Smyth, P Walsh, P Hennehy, J Fitzpatrick, R O'Malley, J O'Connell, C Blaney, P Byrne, D Hegarty, D Hyland, J Hennehy, P Hickey, J Kelly, G Sheehan, B Kerrigan.
 Secret: Walsh (P 20m) 3-0; McIlwray (T 20m) 3-5; Hegarty (T 40m) 8-5; Walsh (T 47m) 13-5; Hennehy (T 55m) 18-5; Costello (T) 8; O'Malley (C 65m) 18-12.
 Referee: S Buggy (Leinster).

over the line. In a lot of other observers' eyes, he did not. To many it seemed a good score, but it was not given and the game was effectively over.

Before the start Steve Hennehy, the St Mary's coach, said that his side were — to use an in phrase — going to play in Terenure's faces all day. They did and their hosts never flinched for a second. No

surprises, then, that this thunderous game produced so many injuries. The St Mary's half-backs had gone after quarter of an hour; Craig Fitzpatrick, the fly-half, with a suspect broken thumb and Conor McGinness, the scrum-half who was bi-

zarrily allowed to play while carrying a knee injury, with a further damage to the knee. David Coleman, the Terenure wing, broke an ankle.

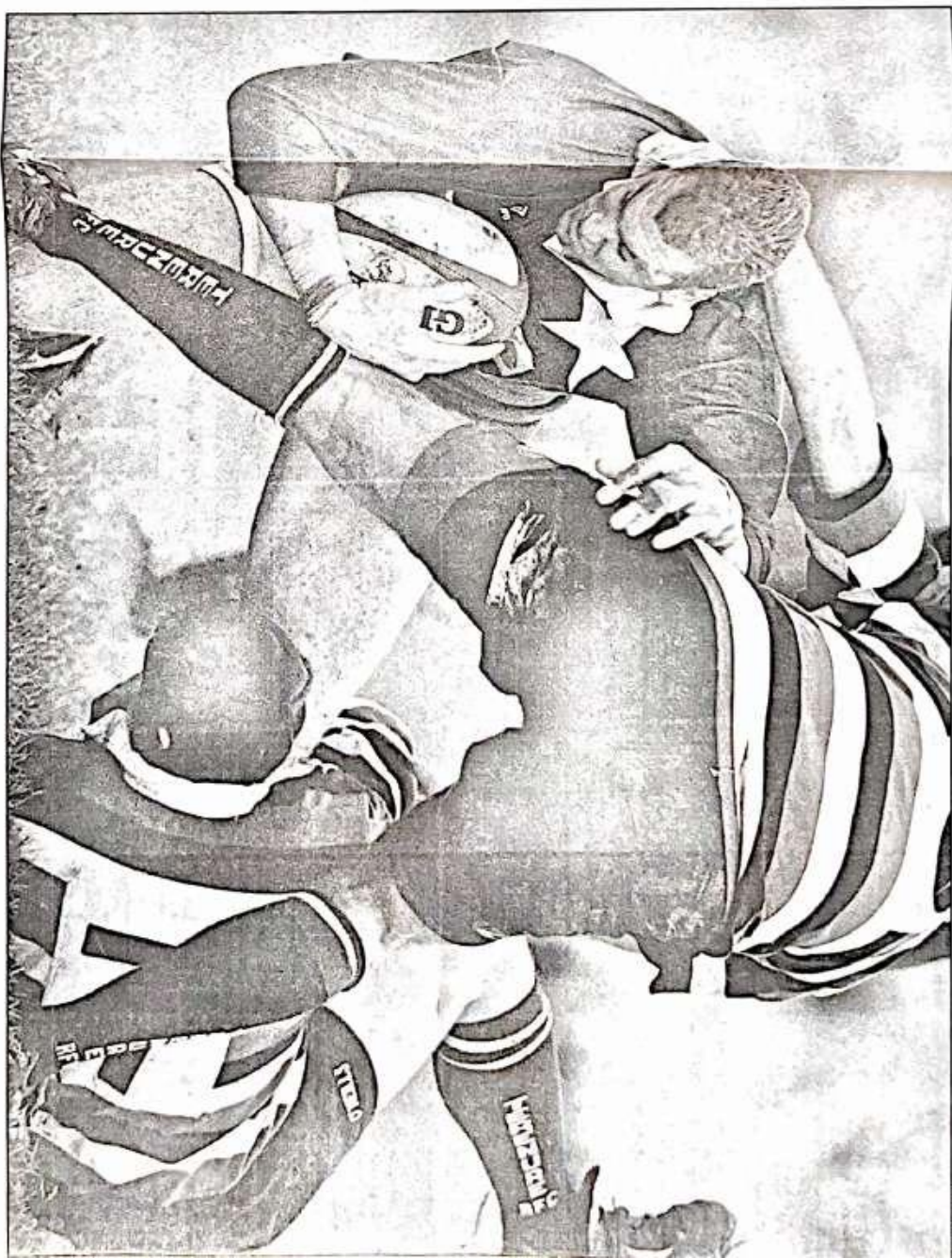
The game started tamely enough with a Peter Walsh pen-

ally for Terenure after two minutes. The early exchanges were scrappy, Mary's turned over ball while Terenure could do little with it. Then Mary's exploded and so did the game.

After 18 minutes Paul Hennehy threw a suicidal pass across his midfield which was intercepted by John McWeeney. The Ireland wing darted away to score under the posts but in the process pulled a hamstring and he also joined the list of the walking wounded. Richard O'Malley, the replacement fly-half, missed the simplest of conversions, yet

with Mary's dominating the lineouts and Mark Cuddihy and Victor Costello becoming the game's most dominant players, you sensed that this was going to be a reasonable day at the office for the title hopefuls.

In a way it was ironic that Terenure, with an enormous



No way out: Victor Costello, the St Mary's College No 8 and one of the game's better players, has his progress checked by the Terenure back row

wind on their back in the first half, turned around 53 behind and then proceeded to battle into that same wind and play superbly. In the space of three minutes just after the restart they murdered Mary's. After several phases of play they won a five-metre scrum. Hegarty

picked up at the back and slipped through the cover undetected to score. Another easy conversion was squatted but the home crowd were loving it.

Lakelands is no Theatre of Dreams but yesterday it was of ten highly passionate. Three minutes after Hegarty's score, Terenure did it again to raucous celebrations around the pitch.

Costello was caught offside on the right wing and Terenure moved it through a succession of hands across to the left for Walsh to crash over.

At this stage Mary's were losing their discipline and giv-

ing away penalties and after 55 minutes they allowed the home side through again. Donal Hyland creating space for Hennehy to scythe through the Mary's defence. At 18-5 ahead you thought the game was over.

By Terenure's joy. They were not forget this one in Mary's summoned some-

Terenure win battle of Dublin

6W in style

TERENURE 18
ST MARY'S 12

PETER O'REILLY
at Lusklands Park

IN THE final minute, referee Sean Buggy whistled for a scrum under the Mary's posts but appeared hesitant as to which side should be awarded the put-in. When at last he opted in Terenure's favour, their players punched the sky in jubilation - it was that sort of match, with a forceful breeze blowing down the pitch making possession the key to success. And despite those conditions, it was gripping, breathless stuff from first to last.

It was the team facing the gale that invariably played the more productive rugby and in the final analysis Terenure's success was based on a 15 minute spell after the restart when they scored three tries - but they will also look back with pride on an heroic defensive effort during Mary's intense rearguard in the final quarter.

The visitors' dismal record at this venue thus continues - they have not won a competitive game at

Lusklands since 1989. It would be easy to suggest that again, they lacked the requisite amount of bottle to win a full-blooded local derby or that they were unfortunate in losing their halfbacks early in the first half.

On the first count, Conor McGuinness was clearly unfit and should not have played at all. More pertinently Mary's - for all their international and championship ambitions - were simply outplayed.

In the third quarter, Terenure played some irresistible rugby - both up front and further out, with man of the match Derek Hegarty being a most effective link. It didn't matter that Peter Walsh had an off day with his placekicking, landing just one from six attempts. On this form, they look the likeliest of the Dublin sides to buck Limerick's domination of this competition.

Admittedly their first half display gave little indication of this. They defended reasonably well, with Brendan Kavanagh restricting Victor Costello's yardage gains off the base of the scrum but their forwards handling was ordinary and they relied mainly on full back Claran Clarke's howlers as a



St Mary's Steve Jameson tackles Terenure's Derek Hegarty on

means of progress, one kick from inside his own 22 bobbling over the deadball line at the far end.

Paul Hennebury did manage to send his fullback knifing through the middle but when Buggy called him back for a supposedly forward pass, the Terenure fans must have suspected it was going to be one of those days. It was even more so when Mary's winger John McWeeney

intercepted Hennebury's next pass to run in from the halfway line. The one cap international tweaked his hamstring in the process but it hardly seemed to matter. Walsh's solitary penalty was all that Terenure had managed from 40 wind assisted minutes and Mary's turned around with the wind at their backs 5-3 ahead.

The problem was that Mary's much vaunted back line had failed to threaten, despite some neat handling and running from deep. In contrast, Terenure began the second half with genuine intent and had the scoring power to back it up. Garrahan Sheehan's neat catch off Hennebury's restart gave them the impetus as they rolled into Mary's 22 from a scrum five metres out. Hegarty blasted through a gap on the open side and 'Nure were in business.

Mary's kicked long from the restart, challenging their opponents to run the ball back at them and they were impressively up to the task. Meanwhile, Mary's were losing their discipline and after conceding a series of penalties, found themselves in danger territory again.

As the ball swung left from a tapped penalty, it was the contribution of

It seemed as though Mary's had been played off the park so little had they seen of the ball. But a fight back was inevitable and when James Blaney missed his jumper at a line-out near the left corner flag, Costello finally derived some reward for his repeated raids at the Terenure defense. Richard Ormond's conversion made it 18-12 but as his side went in search of the winning score, they found Terenure resolute. They came close when Gareth Gannon put David Lyons in the clear but Clarke's desperate shove forced him to step on the touchline. In truth, for Mary's to have stolen this one would have been unjust.

SCORING SEQUENCE:

2nd min: Walsh pen 3-0;
29th min: McWeeney try 3-5; 2nd half: 44th min: Hegarty try 8-5; 47th min: Walsh try 13-5; 55th min: Hennebury try 18-5; 69th min: Costello try/Ormond con 18-12

TEAMS

TERENURE COLLEGE: C
Clarke, D Coleman, G Dempsey, M Smyth, P Walsh, P Hennebury, D Hegarty, D Hyland, J Blaney, P Bruce, R Sheriff, P Holden, J Kelly (capt), B Kavanagh, G Sheehan.

ST MARY'S COLLEGE: K
Nowlan, D Hickey, R McInerney, G Gannon, J McWeeney, C Fitzpatrick, C McGuinness, E Byrne, B Browne, D Coen, S Jameson (capt), P Fitzgerald, T Brennan, M Cuddihy, V Costello.

SUBS: Terenure: S Cullen for Hennebury 55; J Sherry for Coleman 64; B O'Doherty for Campbell for Hyland 64; C Potts for Sheriff 82; St Mary's: R Ormond for Fitzpatrick 10; E McCormack for McGuinness 15; D Lyons for McWeeney 29; M Kelly for Brennan 55; D Dowling for Byrne 60.
REFEREE: S Buggy (AIB)