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CUP SPECTACULAR . . . featuring the L.F.A. finals plus the F.A.I. Junior Cup 'semis'

RATHNEW REVELS AT TOLKA

TOKA PARK which slumbered through the League of Ireland season, suddenly came to life on Sunday when in something akin to a carnival atmosphere, two Leinster Junior Finals and a Youths' Cup semi-final were decided.

From the word go, there was an aura of excitement about the place and at the end of the day it was not only the successful sides that had triumphed, but also the Leinster Football Association. And even that much-maligned body, the Referees' Society, had reason to be proud!

The whole exercise was a success and the day ran to schedule like a well-oiled machine, just as the stiles did as they clicked away merrily, swelling the L.F.A. coffers (to the tune of £1,200 for the Cup Final alone).

And the spectators who arrived in even greater numbers than expected got every penny's worth in terms of action and excitement, and let it be said that those on the terraces were exemplary in both behaviour and sportsmanship, especially those fans of Ballyfermot United who stood to cheer the cup victors, Rathnew Celtic.

The defeat of Leinster Senior League Premier Division champions-elect Ballyfermot was a real shocker; as was the eclipse of Mount Tallatt Athletic in the Shield final. But if these results were unexpected, then this only added more to the general enjoyment.

The Leinster Junior Cup decider was the centrepiece of the show, and in all ways, it lived up to its star billing.

Pitted in opposition were the skilful, experienced and well co-ordinated Ballyfermot who knew all about Cup tie atmosphere and nerves, having already won the final in 1975 and again reached the last stage the following year, and Rathnew Celtic, a side which in every sense was diametrically opposite to their opponents.

Reigning County Wicklow Gaelic football champions for the past couple of seasons, once summertime is gone Rathnew revert to soccer. While success in this code had previously been confined to the domestic scene, Rathnew really hit the big time this year, beating some notable opposition on the way to the final.

The bus loads of supporters who arrived from the mountain hamlet provided a colourful spectacle, with the more fashion conscious wearing sombrero's covered in the team colour of yellow. By comparison the Ballyfermot followers apparel was more conventional, except for one gentleman who sported the day's largest rosette.

And of couse no cup final is complete without a wandering dog, and just as Kildare referee P. J. Coyne blew the whistle to start the game in motion, the black canine beast did not disappoint: having sniffed around the centre-circle for five minutes he went on his way, allowing everybody to concentrate on the action.

Rathnew soon made their tactics and intentions clear and any ball venturing near their goalmouth was booted in good Gaelic fashion, back to their opponents' half.

In Paudie Doyle they had a courageous goalkeeper and in skipper Sean O'Brien (a Wicklow County regular) and Anthony Doyle, two staunch defenders. Doyle, playing as a conventional sweeper, was particularly uncompromising and the motto on his family crest is surely "Thou shall not pass."

Willie Byrne in midfield for the "Garden" countymen made some useful sorties up front in the early stages. But a yellow card and strong caution from the referee, seemed to cool his ardour.

The first half trend, with the lively Celtic unsettling the usualy methodical United, was echoed on the terraces where the Rathnew choir were in great voice. Indeed as "Rathnew" go, this was more melodic than most.

But when, after 34 minutes, Paul Brazil let fly with a tremendous drive which goalkeeper Doyle only held under the bar at the second attempt, the Ballyfermot section chirped back with "You'll Never Walk Alone."

Into the second half and Ballyfermot United again brought Wicklow to a stunned silence when Liam Crosby raided on the right and Doyle could only palm the blistering shot across the face of his goal. Joe Guisanne was at the far side ready to tap in, but Doyle, with lightning reflexes, turned to smother his effort.

Five minutes later the stadium erupted to herald the winner, and the hero of the hour, Tom Quinn.

Evading the attentions of Eamonn Farrell, Quinn controlled a defensive lob with his left foot and then paced through to slot the ball under the advancing Shay Power.

Rathnew never looked back and returned to the dressing room where their only concern was to avoid the popping corks from the champagne bottles.

Manager Tom Cahill was overjoyed. "Sheer effort took us through," he said, "and victory is just reward for all the hard training since Christmas" he continued. "The lads gave a magical performance and proved that their semi-final win over Sherriff was no fluke."

He picked goalkeeper Paudi Doyle out for particular praise. "Paudie dislocated his thumb with an early save, but soldiered on."

Also in on the celebrations were the goalkeeper's brother, Stephen (7) and young Casey O'Brien, son of captain Sean, who are the Celtic mascots.

FOOTNOTE: In winning the Leinster Junior Cup, Rathnew established two records, becoming the first team from the Wicklow League to take the trophy and even more, uniquely, they did not concede a goal throughout the whole competition.

Referee P. J. Coyne, an Army Corporal stationed in the Curragh, gave an excellent account of himself on this his first major assignment. He has officiated for the past three years in the Counties Division and seems set to go far up the referees' ladder

P. J. (29) lives in Kildare town with wife Eileen and son Jason (3).

RATHNEW CELTIC — Paudie Doyle; Mark Clare, Sean O'Brien, Anthony Doyle, Gerry Doyle, Anthony Clarke, Willie Byrne, Arthur Doyle, Seamus McGettigan, Tom Quinn, Pat Franey. Subs. — Kevin Hill, Sean Hollingsworth.

BALLYFERMOT — Shay Power; Robert Roche, Eamonn Tobin, Anthony Farrell, Eamonn Farrell, Anthony Ryan, Paul Brazil, Mark Kavanagh, Phil Wogan, Liam Crosby, Joe Guisanne. Subs.—Donal Craig, Pat McAuliffe.

Referee — P. J. Coyne. **Linesmen** — J. Wynne, B. Harman.

AS THE spectators made their way home to Baltyer, and the Wicklow Hills after the Junior Cup final, they were quickly replaced by thos coming from Baldoyle and Harold's Cross to watch the Leinster junior Shield final.

The confrontation betwen Baldoyle United fro mthe Amateur League and the A.U.L. side Mount Tallaght Athletic produced the day's best football with all the goals coming in the second half.

United, who brought all the dreams of manager Kit Byrne to fruition went ahead through Joe Cunningham, and although Tallant equalised per Dereck Skinner, it was to be Baldoyle's honour to become the youngest side (and the fourth in five years from the amateur section) to take the Shield. Andrew Walsh scored the winner latching onto a pass from super sub Richard Garvey.

BALDOYLE — Liam O'Toole, John McVey, Eamonn Penkine, James Cunningham, Niall O'Boyle, Anthony McMacken, Andrew Walsh, Stephen Maguire, Michael Clarke, Kenneth Maguire, Aidan Cullen. Subs. — Richard Garvey, Anthony Keane.

MT. TALLANT ATH. — Philip Fitzsimons, Francis Lacey, Michael Tyrrell, Dermot Fagan, Will McCarthy, John Fitzsimons, Dereck Skinner, Pat Voakes, Des Curran, Pat Sweeney, Peter Doyle. Subt.—Gerard Molloy, Derrick O'Neill.

Referee—James Commiskey.

Linesmen—Brendan Griffin, James Connell.

LEINSTER JUNIOR CUP CHAMPIONS

RATHNEW CELTIC who became the first ever Wicklow League team to win the Leinster Junior Cup by beating Ballyfermot United 1-0 in the final at Tolka Park on Sunday.

SIDNEY BEDLOW, Chairman of the Junior Committee of the Leinster Football Association, presenting the Leinster Junior Cup to Rathnew Celtic captain Sean O'Brien.

LEINSTER JUNIOR SHIELD CHAMPIONS

BALDOYLE UNITED who captured the Leinster Junior Shield when they beat Mount Tallant Athletic 2-1 in the final at Tolka Park on Sunday.

Pats to face 'Wall'

F.A.I. JUNIOR CUP
SEMI-FINALS SPECIAL

THE final of the F.A.I. Junior Cup on Sunday week at Tolka Park will be an all-Dublin affair, with St. Patricks C.Y.M.S. from Ringsend and who won the trophy as far back as 1946, battling it out with East Wall United, who have had two previous successes in the competition. Last weekend, both these teams won their semi-final matches by the narrowest of margins, a single goal victory in each case. Both the defeated teams had plenty of chances to record victories but were poor in front of goal.

St. Patricks C.Y.M.S. ... 1
Dingle United 0

Dingle United, who were so unlucky last week to lose a replay of the Liddy Cup final, could be said to have enjoyed little or no luck in this game either, but in this instance their sideline advisers must accept some of the responsibility for when they brought on two substitutes at the same time twenty minutes to go, the Cabra side lost a great deal of the grip they had enjoyed previously in the game.

The important score came in the 79th minute — substitute Michael McCann who had been introduced by St. Patricks five minutes earlier sped along the right wing, the Dingle defenders hesitated and McCann had no difficulty in sending over a good cross to Dessie O'Connor whose shot struck the woodwork but Sean Coleman was on hand to prod the ball home.

In the very first minute of the match, Dingle should have gone in front when Martin Clancy blasted a shot off the crossbar and the same player forces George Desay to make a goal line clearance ten minutes later. Gerry O'Neill was doing great work on the right wing for Dingle and his snap shots at goal always had the CY defence in trouble. It was surprising to see O'Neill, one of the players substituted later, along with Martin Doyle who was also having a reasonable game when on the ball.

After the goal was scored, Dingle threw everything into attack, Richard Moyles was barely wide with two great shots, Martin Clancy struck an upright and then with a minute to go came the save of the match by St. Pats central defender, Larry Dunne when he cleared a certain goal off the line at the expense of a corner.

Other players on the winning team to impress were Peter Dorgan, Dermot Burke and Joe Smith while for losers, Moyles, Noel Dawson and Willie Burke were the pick.

Dingle United — Colm Russell, Anthony Doyle, Edward Byrne, Des Quinn, Noel Dawson, Gerard O'Neill, Joe Hillard, Richard Moyles, Martin Doyle, Martin Clancy. Res. Brian McDonnell, Paul A. Quinn.

St. Patricks CYMS — Pat Healy, Liam Dunne, George Dessy, Dermot Burke, Larry Dunne, Anthony Lawlor, Peter Dorgan, Joe Smith, Des O'Connor, Sean Gregg, Sean Coleman. Res. John Murphy, Michael McCann.

Referee T. Gaskin.

East Wall United 1; St. Mochtas 0

NOEL KELLY, who scored the only goal of the game in the 26th minute, was always the "Walls" most dangerous attacker but he was ably abetted by Brian Smith on the right wing and Larry Kilroy. The "Saints" could be termed very unlucky not to have at least secured another bite at the cherry. They had a tireless worker in player-manager Frank Kelly, the former Tolka Rovers player. In the final fifteen minutes Kelly was wide with two shots and then in the last minute a mile driver struck a defender and rebounded out for a corner kick.

In the early stages of this very sporting game, St. Mochtas were inclined to hesitate against the experienced East Wall defence, which did not stand on ceremony with clearances. It was far too late when they realised they should use more men up front. During this time we had long range shots by Michael Rankin, Vincent Doran and Adrian Nulty but the East Wall defenders, Andy Keogh, Willie Lawlor and Brendan Galligan (in goal) had little difficulty in dealing with them.

St. Mochtas, knocked out of the Leinster Junior Cup rather unluckily a week or two ago, must now concentrate on winning their League but there is little doubt that they will be in contention for major honours in the seasons ahead.

East Wall United — Brendan Galligan, Gerard Reddy, Willie Lawlor, Joe Fitzgerald, Andy Keogh, John Byrne, Brian Smith, John Gahan, Noel Kelly, Larry Kilroy, Paul Graham. Res. Noel Kelly, Michael Byrne.

St. Mochtas — Brendan Kennedy, Brendan McEntee, Paul Brennan, Kenneth Hogan, Patrick Hunt, Adrian Nulty, Michael Roban, Frank Kelly, Michael Rankin, Vincent Doran, Peter Lynch. Res. Thomas Molloy, David Molloy.

Referee — G. Cahill.

GERMAN YOUTHS

WEST GERMANY'S Youths side starts its three-match visit here by taking on a Leinster Football Association selection at Tolka Park, this evening (7.30).

The Germans have never beaten Leinster at this level and the province fields a side which looks strong enough to keep that record intact.

Most notable on the home team are internationals Richie Neill, Dermot O'Neill, Alan Campbell, Terry Byrne and Ronnie Whelan (three Parts) and Bohemians Brendan O'Riordan.

The visitors will travel to Cork after this game and finish their tour with another game against Leinster in eight days time.

LEINSTER SENIOR LEAGUE

C.Y. REACH DECIDER

ST. BRENDAN'S C.Y.M.S. 1 (5 pens.)
CHERRY TREE ATH. 1 (4 pens.)

THE Loughshinney boys, who have being making such an impression on football so far this season, qualified by the narrowest of margins to meet the winners of the Johnston Mooney & O'Brien v Workmen's Club Bendal Cup Semi-final which is being played tonight and there is little doubt that the final at Iveagh Grounds on Sunday will be one of the most keenly contested for many years.

In last Sunday's match, Cherry Tree put up a great fight and should have been well ahead at half time instead of their solitary goal lead, netted by Jim Shields in the 45th minute of the half.

St. Brendan's managed to get on terms with twelve minutes left for play and won the game on the 'penalties rule'.

LYNCH CUP
Longford Town 0 (5 pens.)
St. Josephs Boys 0 (6 pens.)

LONGFORD paid the penalty (in the true meaning) by not taking the many chances which came their way in this thrill-packed game in the Arthur Lynch Cup. There was little doubt at the close of this game who the hero was — St. Joseph's agile goalkeeper, Willie Robinson — has many saves kept 'Joeys' interest alive and one particular full length save must be termed brilliant.

The F.A.I. Junior finalists

EAST WALL (left) who beat St. Mochtas 1-0 in the first F.A.I. Junior Cup semi-final at Tolka Park on Friday.

ST. PATRICK'S C.Y.M.S. right, who beat Dingle United 1-0 in the other semi-final on Saturday.

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