EIRE OG'S VICTORY A TEAM ACHIEVEMENT

First County minor title for Nenagh Club

EIRE OG ..... 8 - 8 : MOYCARKEY - BORRIS ..... 1 - 7

Second half power and precision hurling of a quality that would have surely devastated any opposition, laid the foundation for Eire Og's overwhelming of Moycarkey-Borris in the final of the Tipperary minor hurling championship by 8-8 to 1-7 at Thurles on Sunday last. If the neutrals sighed in vain for thrills, tension and uncertainty, Nenagh followers had the acceptable compensation of their team in full cry, giving the best exhibition of stickwork a Nenagh team has produced in many a day.

Nenagh were winning the title for the first time in the history of the club, but it was a fact hard to credit in the second half as their hurling bewitched and bedevilled Moycarkey so much that the losers were fortunate that they were not even more than 8-8 to 1-7 in arrears at the final whistle.

Moycarkey were holders of the title as well as favourites to retain, having defeated Eire Og in last year's under 17 Co. Final. Even though the match was much too one sided to entertain in the second half, Eire Og played with vigour, purpose and cohesion which suggested that every player knew what the other was thinking. Eire Og could only finish on level terms, 1-4 each, after playing with the aid of the wind in the first half, but such was the splendour of their performance in the second half that after 20 minutes Moycarkey's hopes were quite patiently submerged beyond redemption.

In the second half Moycarkey had little to offer other than spirit against the force which engulfed them. Hurling heart alone was of little value against such brilliant opponents, but Eire Og's most carefree optimits could not have foreseen so handsome a victory.

Eire Og made a match winning move at halftime when they brought full forward Willie Brennan to midfield to partner Liam Heffernan. Brennan hurled with tremendous courage when he came outfield, and with Billy Condon and John Grace "flying" on the wings the Nenagh side between the 10th and 22nd minute crashed home six goals.

FIRST SCORE

In the very first minute Eire Og had their first score—a point by John Grace. The Nenagh side attacked again but Eamon Dermody saved from P. J. Cooney. Eire Og increased their lead as Denis O'Connor availed of a defensive blunder to crash home a goal. John Grace pointed an Eire Og free and after 12 minutes Mick Ryan pointed a Moycarkey free to narrow the gap. Martin Hogan had a chance for Eire Og but was narrowly wide before Mick Ryan pointed another Moycarkey free and with 17 minutes gone Eire Og were ahead by 1-2 to 0-2.

Mick Ryan pointed another Moycarkey free to narrow the gap to two points. As Willie Brennan tried to work his way through for the Nenagh side he was fouled and John Grace pointed the free. Mick Ryan was wide with two Moycarkey frees before Willie Brennan hit a great point off the ground for the Nenagh side. Mick Ryan pointed another Moycarkey free and then just on the stroke of halftime Martin Ryan crashed home a goal that left the sides level 1-4 each.

Moycarkey hit the front in the very first minute of the second half when Mick Ryan had a point. Eire Og got on level terms when John Grace pointed a free. Martin Hogar centered beautifully but the ball was cleared. Hogan again crossed a ball that Rody Cawley added to and Hogan was back in to earn a free for Eire Og that John Grace pointed. Moycarkey got on level terms again with a point from Mick Ryan.

Twice, Michl. Maguire came to Eire Og's assistance with well timed saves and in the 10th minute John Grace set them on the trail of their first ever minor championship when he crashed home a goal from 30 yards. Less than a minute later Denis O'Connor slammed home another Eire Og goal and the North champions were ahead by 3-6 to 1-6

"HAT TRICK" OF GOALS

The next 10 minutes clinched it for Eire Og and four golden goals put the prize to all intents and purposes in solid Eire Og keeping. After John Grace had pointed a free, Martin Hogan sent in a stinging drive that went into the net of the goalkeeper's hurley. Back came Eire Og again and Denis O'Connor took a pass from Rody Cawley to complete his own "hat-trick" of goals.

There was no stopping the Nenagh boys as they moved the ball swiftly and decisively along. Billy Condon hit goal number six. Moycarkey set up the odd attack but Michael Maguire was equal to the occasion. Back swept the North champions and Billy Condon shot home another goal and Eire Og were ahead by 7-7 to 1-6 with a little over 20 minutes of the second half gone. John Grace added another Eire Og point before Rody Cawley tried a shot but was wide. Moycarkey reduced arrears in the 27th minute when Michael Ryan had a point from a free but Eire Og had the final say, Martin Hogan crashing home a goal after a free by John Grace.

TEAM ACHIEVEMENT

Before assessing individuals it is as well to state that this was a team achievement in which individualism rated second position. No one player inspired it, the inspiration was in all 15. A move that had a vital bearing on the game was the switching of Willie Brennan to midfield at the start of the second half. The big full-forwards swinging the ball up the mination and with the Eire Og forward swinging the ball up the wings the goals soon followed. Brennan's partner, Liam Heffernan, was consistently good over the hour, despite being opposed to county minor Billy Gooney.

John Grace, recovered from his shoulder injury was a lively left half forward and deadly accurate from frees, while Billy Condon, Martin Hogan and Denis O'Connor took their scoring chances well. The fullback line of Eddie Murphy, Matt Sheary and Mtn. O'Meara were a very reliable trio when they were often under pressure, Michael Maguire, after an uncertain start, made some very good saves. P. J. Cooney turned in a great hour on the halfback line and with Martin Moroney and Tim Fogarty made up a resourceful line that knit together well.

Joe Rice and Rody Cawley, in the centre-forward and full-forward berths respectively played key roles in opening out the defensive screen that Grace, O'Connor, Condon and Hogan found the scoring positions with confident success. It was a great achievement by the Eire Og team who were a credit to all concerned.

Moycarkey never gave up trying but in the second half could not match the Eire Og lads. County minor Willie Ryan did good work in the first half but faded as Eire Og kept moving the ball up the wings. The Mid champions were well served by Michael Ryan, Billy Gooney, Tom Purtill, Dan Hayes and Martin Ryan.

Eire Og scorers were: J. Grace (1-7), D. O'Connor (3-0), M. Hogan and B. Condon (2-0 each), W. Brennan (0-1). Moycarkey scorers were M. Ryan (0-7), Mtn. Ryan (1-0).

Eire Og: Michl. Maguire; Eddie Murphy, Matt Sheary, Martin O'Meara; P. J. Cooney, Tim Fogarty, Mtn. Moroney; Billy Condon, Liam Heffernan; John Grace, Joe Rice, Rody Cawley; Martin Hogan, Willie Brennan, Denis O'Connor.

Moycarkey: Eamon Dermody; John McCarthy, Dan Hayes, Jim Flanagan; Pat Ryan, Willie Ryan, Tom Caeser; Tom Purtill, Billy Gooney; John Ryan, Mtn. Ryan, Liam Dempsey; Matt Ryan, Pat Guilfoyle, Michl. Ryan. Sub. Mtn. Ryan for Dempsey.

Ref.: P. Verdun, Solohead.

CUP PRESENTED

The Sean Treacy Cup was presented to the winning captain Matt Sheary by Mr. Tom O'Hara, vice-chairman of the Tipperary G.A.A. Board. Mr. O'Hara said he would like to congratulate both teams on a fine sporting display. They saw hurling played as it should be played.

Matt Sheary said it was a big day for him to collect the cup for the first time on behalf of the Eire Og Club. It was a good sporting game and they could have more of them. He congratulated Moycarkey and called for three cheers for the losers.

Matt Sheary, captain of the Eire Og (Nenagh) minor hurling team, being carried shoulder high at Thurles Sportsfield on Sunday, after the team had won the County minor title for the first time.

TIPPERARY TEAM TO PLAY LAOIS

There are six changes in personnel on the Tipperary team to play Laois in the National Hurling League at Cloughjordan on Sunday next from that which lost to Cork in the Oireachtas semi-final.

John Gleeson, Mick Roche, Len Gaynor, Francis Loughnane and Michael Keating, who were unavailable for the game in Cork return to the side. The only newcomer is Joe Tynan, Roscrea, who has been a member of the minor and under 21 teams for the past couple of years.

These replace Phil Ryan, Brendan Teehan, Jim Fogarty, Sean McLoughlin (Borrisokane), Patk. O'Connell and Mick Coen. John O'Donoghue is still on the injured list and Peter O'Sullivan again deputises in goal. John Flanagan and P. J. Ryan are both under suspension.

The team is P. O'Sullivan (Cashel); N. Lane (Lorrha), J. Kelly (Cappawhite), J. Gleeson (Moneygall); J. O'Connor (Cashel), M. Roche (Carrick Davins), L. Gaynor (Kilruane); T. J. Semple (Sarsfields), F. Loughnane (Roscrea); N. Dwyer (Borrisoleigh), M. Keating (Ballybacon), N. Seymour (Kiladangan); J. Doyle (Sarsfields), R. Ryan (Toomevara), J. Tynan (Roscrea).

Subs.: P. Roland, M. Nolan, D. Maloney (Roscrea); P. O'Connor (Cashel), B. Teehan (Gortnahoe-Glengoole), and P. Ryan (Sean Treacy's).

HURLING IN EAST CLARE

County Board and intermediate final

At a general meeting of the Smith O'Brien's Hurling Club in Killaloe on Saturday night, Mr. Andy Curtin (presiding) said that he would first like to congratulate the intermediate team for the way they turned out for all pre-championship practice matches and training. This was a healthy sign and showed a very deep interest by the players themselves. Referring to this year's public collection, he paid tribute to the collectors and stressed the sincere thanks of the club to all those who contributed so generously and made the collection one of, if not, the highest to date.

The main purpose of the meeting was to select delegates to attend a meeting of the Co. Board at Ennis the following Monday night. The following were elected —A. Curtin, M. Daly, P. McNamara, T. Fitzgerald and T. Duggan.

There was a very full discussion on the intermediate championship final played at Tulla the previous Sunday and of the incidents that lead to the referee calling off the match a few minutes from full time. It is expected that the referee's report on the game will have been received and a discussion on the matter will be heard at Monday night's meeting of the Board.

Foot Note: A preliminary discussion on the referee's report on the intermediate hurling final between Bodyke and Smith O'Brien's took place at Monday night's meeting of Clare Co. Board. A further discussion and a decision as to what disciplinary action will be taken, will be decided at a meeting of the officers of the Board to which representatives of both clubs involved—in addition to the referee—will be invited to attend.

Camogie game for Nenagh

At a North Tipperary Board meeting held in Nenagh recently the following clubs were represented: Lorrha, Knockshegowna, Shannon Rovers and St. Mary's.

The North Tipperary Novice Semi-final was fixed to be played on Sunday next, November 2, at 1 p.m., at Nenagh, between St. Bernadette's (Roscrea) and St. Mary's (Kilcommon/Newport). P. Meehan is referee.