

Old Christians' hour of glory

KIERAN CANTY SUPREME STAR

Old Christians are All-Ireland Club Champions, and how well they deserve that great honour. It is a wonderful tribute to their utter dedication to training, and absolute co-operation with all club members concerned. The preparation for this great event began last March, and their interest and love of hurling was so great, that their training came so easy to them. Some of the players even travelled long distances from holiday-resorts to attend evening training sessions. It was a long campaign, and when the final whistle sounded in Semple Stadium Thurles, they went wild with delight, as they realised only too well that they had brought honour, not only to Old Christians, but to their own home county of Limerick. It was another personal triumph for their captain, Kieran Canty, who proved beyond doubt, that he is the No. 1 hurler (under 14) in the country, a tribute to his utter dedication and love of hurling.

Old Christians 4-7
Carrick Davins (Tipp) 0-1

Old Christians played against their host club, Carrick Davins in Davin Park on Saturday morning, and they certainly showed that they meant business. They began their scoring spree with a brilliant goal scored by K. Canty from a sideline ball from 35 yards out. As time wore on, they took their scores with the ease and skill of true champions. As the half time whistle sounded, they had matter well in control. Early in the second half Carrick Davins registered what was to be their only score of the match, a point. Old Christians had now qualified for the second round. K. Canty, M. Sullivan, A. Mullins, R. Browne, A. McNamara, C. Flynn, J. Lillis, and T. Kennedy (when he came on as a sub), played exceptionally well in this game.

Scorers for Old Christians, were:—K. Canty 1-6, J. Lillis, R. Browne, and C. Flynn 1-0 each, T. Kennedy 0-1. This game took place at 11.00 a.m. on Saturday morning.

Old Christians 5-2
Rower Instioge 4-0
(Kilkenny)

In the afternoon, Old Christians travelled to Clonmel to play against Rower Instioge, and what a game it turned out to be. They certainly put it up to Old Christians, as it was a close and keenly contested match throughout. Halfway through the first half, Old Christians were 3-1 to 0-0 ahead, but then Kilkenny turned on their magic, and scored three goals within six minutes. At half time Old Christians were ahead by 3-1 to 3-0.

Old Christians had to play against the wind in the second half, and only 0-1 ahead, but they were determined "not to give an inch." Shortly after half time, Old Christians were awarded a 21 yards free. K. Canty came up calmly, and coolly planted it in the net for a great goal. He repeated that performance on five occasions during the festival. Encouraged by this great feat, Old Christians regained their grip on the game, and eventually won by five pts.

K. Canty, P. Fogarty and H. O'Neill played outstanding hurling in this match. It also marked another outstanding display by C. Flynn. Others who played well, were, M. Costello, A. Mullins, M. Sullivan, and J. Lillis.

Scorers for Old Christians were: P. Fogarty, 2-0; K. Canty, 1-1; J. Lillis and H. O'Neill, 1-0 each; M. Costello, 0-1. Old Christians had now qualified for the semi-final.

Old Christians 4-4
Na Piarasigh (Cork) 1-0

Old Christians travelled to Cashel to take on the Cork Co. Champions, Na Piarasigh, at 4.30 p.m. It is certainly no exaggeration to say that the Na Piarasigh mentors were a little more than confident of the outcome, but Old Christians had other plans in mind, and history can tell with what deadly efficiency they put their plans into effect, and they had drastic consequences for their opponents. Old Christians got off to a great start with a great goal from a 21 yards free, taken



Kieran Canty, captain of Old Christians Felie na nGael, winners, 1972, signs the visitors' book at the Mayor's office watched by the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. Paddy Kiely, on the occasion of the recent Civic Reception.

by K. Canty. He followed this great effort a few minutes later with another goal from play. Old Christians were ahead at half time by 2-2 to 0-0. K. Canty again opened the scoring in the second half with a point. As the game wore on Old Christians began to dominate the game more and more, as their intensive training paid off. Na Piarasigh were beaten for speed in almost all sectors of the field. The Cork club did, eventually succeed in raising the green flag. They registered their only score in the last five minutes, but alas! it was too late. This game marked another great display by the Old Christians backline. M. Sullivan (who emerged as one of the star backs of the series), J. Kavanagh, M. Manning, F. Brosnahan (one of the youngest players on the team, and he justified his selection, with wonderful displays), played extremely well in the backline. T. Kennedy and S. Hayes, who came on as subs in the forward line, played extremely well also, and both raised white flags.

Scorers for Old Christians were: K. Canty 3-2, R. Brown 1-0, T. Kennedy and S. Hayes 0-1 each. Everything was now set for an epic final.

Old Christians 5-4
Eire Og, Nenagh 1-0
(Tipperary)

On Sunday afternoon, Old Christians travelled to Semple Stadium, Thurles, to take on Eire Og, Nenagh. Just a few minutes before the game commenced, the prize winning teams in the dress parade were announced. Old Christians won first prize for the best dressed team. Encouraged by this success, they were even more determined to win supreme honours on the field of play, and those of us who were extremely fortunate to be present at such an epic encounter, know only too well how they succeeded in their mission. Seconds after the start of the game, P. Fogarty rose to

team), the O'Neill family, Mr. and Mrs. O'Sullivan, Mrs. Brosnahan, the Canty family, the Costello family, Mr. and Mrs. Kavanagh, the Storan family, Mr. and Mrs. McInerney, Mr. and Mrs. Browne and Mr. and Mrs. Fogarty.

Old Christians club would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who helped the team in any way in this successful venture. They would like to thank in a very special way, the Carrick Davins GAA Club for their kind hospitality during their stay with them. They would also like to thank Mr. P. Moran of Denis Moran Ltd., who designed and presented the banner to Old Christians.

Old Christians heroes lined out as follows: Johnny McInerney; John Kavanagh, Brendan Storan, Michael Manning; Michael O'Sullivan, Anthony Mullins, Francis Brosnahan; Robert Browne, Kieran Canty (captain), Michael Costello, Anthony McNamara, Christy Flynn, Hugh O'Neill, Patrick Fogarty, John Lillis.

Reserves: Thomas Kennedy, Stephen Hayes, Ger Hartigan, Richard Fitzgerald, Des Fleming, Sean Daly, Paul O'Brien, Willie O'Shaughnessy.

ATHLETICS

Margaret O'Connor (Limerick A.C.) Champion of Munster

Limerick housewife Margaret O'Connor, who won the Munster Championship Ladies' 440 yards title last Sunday, began running after doing her Leaving Certificate in 1965. She attended Maryfield College, Dublin, where she was one of the stars of their senior hockey team, but, because of her speed, she won four races in the school sports and felt she might have possibilities as an athlete. She went to some training sessions in Clonliffe Harriers but thought that they were too serious about their athletics there and instead joined Raheny Shamrock A.C., where the ladies' club coach was Paul O'Connor.

In 1966 she had her first open competition and she did well in taking the bronze medal in the Irish 100 Metres Championship, towards the end of the season, at Banteer. These were the last championships before the formation of B.L.E. in 1967. She also finished third in the Tallteann Games Senior Ladies' 100 Yards, the only time this was an open senior competition in recent years.

In 1967 she took the Dublin and Leinster 100 metres titles and broke the Leinster 100 metres record with a time of 12.3, which stood until 1969 when Claire Walsh did 12.1 at Santry Stadium.

When Paul proposed to her in 1968, he jokingly said he would marry her when she had won as many prizes as he had. They got married in October, but she won't say whether she reached the target or not. In 1969 they moved to Limerick and, after the birth of their baby, Fiona, Margaret began to train again in 1970. By 1971 she was beginning to make the headlines again and had a treble in the Limerick Championships, winning the 100, 400 and relay races. She began to train more for middle distance races and at the end of the 1971 season, she won four 800 metres races at open sports meetings. At Carrick-on-Suir she beat Irish international Beatrice Lambert in a fast 2 mins. 18.1 secs., which was the sixth fastest time in Ireland last year.

This year, after a training programme which started last September, she again had a treble in the Limerick Championships, but added a further medal by taking the bronze in the 1,500 metres.

She was suffering from a dose

the occasion as he did earlier on against Kilkenny, by scoring a great point from a 35 yards drive on the ground. Old Christians were ahead by 2-2 to 0-0 at half time.

M. Costello scored a great goal after half time, and this was followed a few minutes later by another great goal from a 21 yards free from their expert free taker in chief, K. Canty. Eire Og did succeed in breaking through Old Christians' back line on one occasion, and raised a green flag, but Old Christians came back again and put their ultimate victory beyond doubt, with some more excellent scores. J. McInerney emerged as one of the star performers of the game, with a number of excellent saves. Another player who made a big imprint on the game, was H. O'Neill, their industrious corner forward.

Others who played well were: R. Browne (one of their brilliant mid-fielders), A. McNamara, M. Costello, P. Fogarty, C. Flynn (their star half forward), M. Sullivan, F. Brosnahan and J. Lillis (who played consistently well throughout the competition).

Scorers for Old Christians were: K. Canty 1-2, C. Flynn 1-1, M. Costello, J. Lillis and H. O'Neill 1-0 each, P. Fogarty 0-1.

Old Christians returned to Limerick in triumph as All-Ireland Club Champions under 14 hurling. On the following Tuesday, the Mayor, Councillor Pat Kiely, awarded them the great honour of a civic reception at the Town Hall, a reward they justly deserved.

This great success was also due in no small way to the club members, and parents who supported them throughout their stay in Tipperary, among whom were:

Mr. E. Liston chairman (juv. committee), Mr. B. Hurlley (team manager and selector), Br. J. F. Cahill (trainer and selector), Br. Perkins, Mr. E. Whelan, Mr. S. Keogh (P.T. instructor for the