

OLD CHRISTIANS HAD RUN-AWAY VICTORY OVER AHANE

OLD CHRISTIANS 5-13
AHANE 1-2

Old Christians won so handsomely by 5-13 to 1-2 against Ahane in the first round replay of the Senior Hurling championship at the Gaelic Grounds last Sunday, that it would seem presumptuous to pass judgement on their merit or the figure they will cut when the opposition is made of sterner stuff.

Old Christians playing with the wind in the first half had chalked up a respectable lead at half time 3-9 to 0-2 and it was only in the dying seconds of the game that Ahane got their one and only goal, and, which, in fact, was their only score of the second half when they had the advantage of a very strong breeze.

Ahane looked promising in the early stages of the game and P. J. Keane kept the forwards well supplied but they lacked cohesion and drive. Just before Christians opened the scoring with a point from T. J. Maher after ten minutes had elapsed, the Ahane forwards lost a golden opportunity when following a free by Keane they fumbled the ball in the square and eventually it went harmlessly wide. But often in that opening spell the ex-C.B.S. boys struck me as a side that tended to let Ahane set the pace, in the assured knowledge that they had their armour plating to fight back and repulse and repulse the very best the losers had to offer.

This they did in no uncertain manner when centre forward Tony Brennan crashed home a great goal after 12 minutes play and they stretched their lead further when Bernie Hartigan tapped over a point from a 40 yards free and the same player had a similar score from a free from the centre of the field to leave the score 1-2 to nil after mid-way in the first half.

Hartigan was supreme

Although P. J. Keane had command at centre field in the early stages, once Bernie Hartigan got going he really went to town. Rarely if ever did I see him in such splendid form, and it was a pleasure to observe the manner in which he kept moving and popping up here, there and everywhere as the occasion demanded. Equally pleasant from the point of view of the spectators was his complete concentration on the ball and even on the rare occasions when one or two of his opponents might have tackled him somewhat more vigorously than was necessary, he took no notice whatever and never allowed himself to become ruffled. If every other player approached the game in the same spirit, our standard of sportsmanship would be second to none and our games would benefit as a result.

After Mick Hennessy had added another point for Old Christians, Ahane laid on a dangerous raid but Pat Reals, David Tuohy and T. J. Maher held them at bay. There was a slight flare up at this stage but otherwise the game was not marred by any unmanly incidents. Ahane continued to press for a score when play was resumed but Maher who had a great game at centre back sent a long raking clearance to Joe Leonard and he slammed home a great goal. Mick Hennessy added a point which left the score at 2-4 to nil on the 22nd minute. A free to Ahane from 30 yards out screwed

off P. J. Keane's hurley and went over the side-line. Seanie Kelly collected from a clearance by Teddy Ryan and opened the scoring with a beautiful taken point for Ahane and P. J. Keane added another from a 30 yards free.

Bernie Hartigan tested the Ahane goalie Mick Ryan who brought off a great clearance before Mick Hennessy picked off another point for Christians. Again Hartigan tested the Ahane goalie with a rasper but could not get through. Hartigan sent over two beautiful points from side line pucks and with Pat Walsh, Mike Tierney and Frank Berkery doing their utmost in defence Ahane swung back into attack but their forwards could not penetrate the solid defensive lines of their opponents. On the approach of half time Joe Leonard passed the ball to Pat Murphy and from 40 yards Murphy sent all the way to the Ahane net for a really fine goal. Bernie Hartigan hand passed a ball to Seamus Chawke who sent it over the bar just before half time which left the score board reading 3-8 to 0-2 at half time.

Old Christians hold control in second half

Ahane resumed the second half with veteran Willie Keane recalled to the full forward position and immediately they took advantage of the strong breeze but they could not break through for scores. In fact it was Christy Campbell opened the scoring after ten minutes play with a point for Christians. Joe Leonard palmed over another point and after Pa Murphy had got their third, he set up a beautiful movement which placed Seamus Chawke for a great goal. P. J. Keane tried for goals from two close in frees, but nothing emerged.

With ten minutes left in the game Bernie Hartigan picked off another point from 70 yards out and five minutes later Joe Leonard passed a ball to Tony Brennan who sent all the way to the Ahane net. A great effort by Willie Keane was stopped by the Old Christians goalie Declan O'Reilly and in the dying seconds Pat Aherne—go Ahane's only goal to leave the score at full time 5-13 to 1-2 in favour of Christians.

Ahane—M. Ryan, Mike Tierney, Tom Toomey, Frank Berkery, Jim Hurley, Pat Nash, Teddy Ryan, Gerry Houlihan, P. J. Keane, Seamus Kelly, Joe Aherne, Pat Aherne, Seán Hynes, Willie Humphries, J. J. Hartigan.

Old Christians — Declan O'Reilly, Dave Greaney, Jim Guinnane, Pat Reals, Mike Keogh, T. J. Maher, David Tuohy, Bernie Hartigan, Tony Brennan, Pat Murphy, Joe Leonard, Seamus Chawke, John Flanagan.

★ SOUTH LIMERICK C'SHIPS

In the South Limerick minor football championship played at Kilmallock, Garrystillane defeated Camogue Rovers by 2 goals and 10 points to 1 goal and 5 points.

In the South Limerick Juvenile Hurling championship Kilfinane defeated Garrystillane by 3 goals and 3 points to nil.

Herbertstown defeated Glerroc by 5 goals and 6 points to 6 goals.

Effin defeated Dromin-Athlaccá by 3 goals and 4 points to 2 goals.