

# Wins for Old Christians, Claughaun and Athea

by S.M.

**OLD CHRISTIANS** helped by a brilliant display by Bernie Hartigan, whipped Ahane in their Limerick Senior hurling championship re-play on Sunday. Claughaun, holders, ousted Kilmallock in the same competition and in football, Athea, the champions, excelled when beating a talented Oola side in a game that produced some wonderful football.

Old Christians ... .. 5-13  
Ahane ... .. 1-2

This was a great anti-climax to the first meeting of the sides, as throughout the hour Old Christians were completely on top and simply toyed with the opposition. Their defence was rock like, Bernie Hartigan was brilliant at midfield, while their forward sextet moved with pre-

cision at all times.

Old Christians played with the wind in the opening moiety but in a tame start it was 12 minutes before either side scored, when Tom Maher pointed for the ex-C.B.S. boys. This set the scoring machine in order and a minute later Seamus Chawke snapped up a clearance to shoot to the net. In a spell of supremacy scores came in rapid succession for Old Christians from Bernie Hartigan, 2 pts. from frees; Joe Leonard, 1 goal; Mick Hennessey, 3 points; before Sean Kelly opened the scoring for Ahane with a point from play, to which P. J. Keane tacked on a white flag from a free.

In the 21st minute, Bernie Hartigan shot a 55 yards touchline puck over the bar, and repeated the effort a minute later to leave his side leading 2-8 to 0-2 at this stage. A brilliant goal from Pat Murphy, who soloed his way through, and a point from Seamus Chawke completed the first-half scoring and left the scoreboard reading at the interval: Old Christians, 3-9; Ahane, 0-2.

#### IMPROVED

Ahane attacked strongly on the resumption but could make no headway against a resolute defence. Even a barrage of four 21-yard frees failed to find their target. In spasmodic raids upfield, Old Christians managed to pick off points per Christy Campbell, Pat Murphy and Joe Leonard to consolidate their lead. In the 18th minute Seamus Chawke clinched the issue for Old Christians when he raised a green flag, and almost immediately Bernie Hartigan shot a spectacular point against the wind from 80 yards range.

In a tame finale, Pat Hennessey scored a goal for Old Christians, and Pat Aherne shot a free to the net for Ahane to take the bare look from the scoreboard three minutes from time.

#### STARS

While this was a success for teamwork, nevertheless Bernie Hartigan and centre-back Tom Maher deserve special mention. It was Hartigan's greatest hurling hour, while Maher lorded it at centre-back and his long clearances were a treat to watch. They got excellent support from the full-back line, with Pat Reale, Dave Tucky, Christy Campbell, Mick Hennessey, Pat Murphy and Seamus Chawke in great form.

For Ahane, P. J. Keane tried his heart out to rally his forces but to no avail, although Frank Berkery, Pat Nash, Sean Kelly, Pat Aherne, Jimmy Hurley and substitute Philly Byrnes played with determination throughout.