

Old Christians guests of Player-Wills

Old Christians, the present (U/16 h.) Limerick county champions, were the guests of Player-Wills at the All-Ireland hurling final between Cork and Kilkenny in Croke Park on Sunday last. Old Christians' officials and players set out on their trip in a special coach from the C.B.S. school at 8.25 a.m. and after a very pleasant trip they arrived in Dublin at 11.35. The officials of Limerick County Bord na nOg also travelled with them. When they arrived at Player-Wills, South Circular Road, Dublin, they were officially welcomed by Mr. R. Byres (secretary Player-Wills), Mr. N. O'Flynn (Public Relations Manager, Player-Wills) and Mr. P. Ussher (Public Relations Staff, Player-Wills).

After a photographic session, Player-Wills officials, mentors and players had their lunch which was exceptionally well prepared and served by Player-Wills' catering staff under the efficient leadership of Kay Geraghty.

After lunch the party travelled to Croke Park and took their seats in the Hogan Stand along with Player-Wills officials.

It was one of the greatest All-Ireland hurling finals in modern times and no doubt Old Christians U/16 players can consider themselves extremely lucky to be present at such an excellent All-Ireland final. It portrayed absolute hurling skill, determination, concentration on ball play and all the ingredients that make an epic All-Ireland final. In short it was hurling at its best. It will certainly help Old Christians players to improve their hurling ability still further as they try to put into practice the great hurling feats and abundance of supreme hurling skills displayed in their presence in Croke Park.

Congratulated

After the match the party returned to Player-Wills for their tea. During the course of the meal Mr. R. Byres congratulated Old Christians on winning the U/16 County Championship in such a close and exciting final. He paid a special tribute to Pat Fogarty who scored the vital goal four minutes from time and that great score assured Old Christians of victory. He also stated how pleased he was to have Old Christians as their guests and he said that Player-Wills had a very happy association with the C.B.S. and the "Tops of the Town" and he was extremely happy to renew that association once again.

Mr. J. Ryan (Chairman, Co. Board na nOg, Limerick) replied on behalf of the board. He thanked Player-Wills for the wonderful reception that they had given to both mentors and players. He also stated that Player-Wills through this gesture gave wonderful encouragement to those boys to continue playing Ireland's national game.

Mr. Guthrie (Chairman of Old Christians senior committee) replied on behalf of the club and he again thanked Player-Wills for their absolute efficiency and for the wonderful opportunity they provided for those boys to see the big stars in action—a feat he urged them to emulate in the future. He went on to say that Old Christians officials and players received V.I.P. treatment all the way.

Mr. N. O'Flynn then presented each member of the party with a special mounted photograph taken earlier in the day. A special word of praise is due to Mr. N. O'Flynn who was in charge of organising the trip along with the co-operation of the club officials; Mr. B. Hurley, Mr. J. F. Cahill and Mr. E. Liston.

Old Christians Club would like to take this opportunity of thanking most sincerely Player-Wills for the wonderful reception they gave to mentors and players alike and for the excellent travelling facilities, meals and tickets they provided for the juvenile club members. The club also wishes to thank Mr. V. McGee who provided the music on the journey and also Mr. G. Kennedy (C.I.E.) who was in charge of the coach. He certainly gave every help pos-

sible and also helped in no small way in making it a most enjoyable and memorable day.

John O'Grady to referee final

John O'Grady (Mungret), who raised an amount of controversy when ordering off Denis Coughlan (Cork) in the Munster senior hurling final at Thurles, will have charge of the All-Ireland under 21 hurling final between Dublin and Galway at the Gaelic Grounds tomorrow (Sunday).

He is also listed to referee the Kerry v. Westmeath, National Hurling League game at Tralee on Sunday week.

John, who is secretary of the City G.A.A. Board, has recently been appointed Manager of Messrs James McMahon's new retail shop at Upper William St.

South Board meeting:

Garryspillane and Kilmallock complimented

Mr. P. J. Ryan, P.C., Chairman presided at a meeting of the South Limerick G.A.A. Board, held at Kilmallock, and other officials in attendance were: Messrs. P. J. Cussen, C. Farrell and F. Groene, vice-chairmen; J. Hickey, secretary; D. Barrett, treasurer, and S. Finucane, registrar.

The chairman said he would like to compliment Kilmallock and Garryspillane on the thrilling encounter they served up at Bruff in the South Limerick senior hurling final, which ended in a draw. The game was very sporting and contested and a tribute to the two teams. He also complimented Mr. P. Cronin, the referee, from St. Finbarr's, on the excellent manner in which he took charge of the game. He complimented the Bruff club for the arrangements. There was a little laxity in the last minutes by encroachment and they would have to ensure that there would be no such encroachment in the replay on the 10th September.

TROPHY

The chairman also expressed sincere thanks to the treasurer, Mr. Denis Barrett, for the beautiful silver trophy he presented for the senior hurling championship and they were very grateful to him for his magnanimous gesture.

Mr. Barrett, replying, said this board helped him some time ago when he had to go to the U.S.A. for a serious operation, and he had that in mind and was glad that he had got the opportunity to show his appreciation by making the presentation of the trophy for senior hurling. He appealed to both teams, in the replay of the final, to have more control over their supporters. He thanked the Dromin-Athlaca, Banogue, Camogue Rovers and Knockaney clubs for helping out with stewards on the occasion of the hurling final.

FIXTURES

The chairman said that as a result of the draw in the senior hurling final they had to arrange the fixtures list as follows:

September 10:
At Bruff, S.H. final replay—Kilmallock v. Garryspillane; referee: J. Moloney, Tipperary; Under 21 F.C. semi-final—Banogue v. Croom.

September 17:
At Kilmallock, S.F. final—Camogue Rovers v. Ballylanders; J.F. semi-final—Galbally v. Bruff.

At Bruff, Under 21 H.C. Kilmallock v. Na Fianna; Under 21 H.C. semi-final—Dromin-Athlaca v. Brures.

October 1:
JHC—Knockaney v. Na Fianna; Under 21 F.C.—Dromin-Athlaca v. Galbally.

At Kilmallock J.H.C. semi-final Banogue v. Castletown.
October 15:
J.H.C. Final.