

Old Christians greatest success

Old Christians Club recorded what many described as their greatest success at Thurles Sportsfield last month when they captured the Feile na nGael trophy.

They also became the first club to wear numbered stocking pads, and were nominated the best dressed team in the tournament. Each member of the 23-strong panel was presented with a specially designed travelling bag, and slip-on shoes were also worn.

Even before the first sliotar was thrown in, Limerick's representatives set many tongues wagging. Two days later they were still the most talked about club in the tournament . . . thanks to a series of well earned wins.

Old Christians helped create a new image for Limerick hurling. Under the management of Billy Hurley, Ned Whelan, Eddie Liston, Stephen Keogh and Brothers Cahill and Keane, they thrilled thousands of followers in qualifying for the decider against Nenagh.

Captain Kieran Canty was the ideal leader. There was no scarcity of talent in their side and this was demonstrated throughout the tournament, which attracted teams from all over Ireland. Carrick Davins were their first victims. Old Christians played four games and scored a total of 20 goals 18 points, while conceding only 6-1.

Welcome

A heroes' welcome awaited them on their return to Limerick. Said Billy Hurley: "It was like as if Limerick had won the All-Ireland hurling crown. Enthusiasm ran high and the lads were thrilled that their victory in Thurles was recog-

nised by all genuine sports fans."

Mr. Hurley, who has been associated with the club for close on eight years, opines that they can retain their trophy again next season. "Thorough preparation means a lot. We put an amount of hard work into training and if we get the same response in 1973, the trophy will remain in Sexton Street."

The Old Christians team bristles with young stars. Brendan Storan, Francis Brosnihan, Robert Browne, Richard Fitzgerald, Tom Kennedy, Willie O'Shaughnessy and Kieran Canty won high praise for their displays in Thurles.

And the players were thankful to the team's management committee for their whole-hearted support.

Popular

Old Christians proved so popular that they were invited back to Carrick-on-Suir for a seven days holiday. Needless to say, they accepted the offer.

This was the second successive year that they qualified to represent Limerick. Francis Brosnihan and company disposed of Cloughaun, Monaleen and Patrickswell in the City Championship. Adare were their next victims, and the city boys disposed of Cappamore in the County final.

The champions from all 32 counties qualified for the Feile na nGael trophy.

Various forms of entertainment were provided for the young visitors.

Old Christians are thankful to Mr. Pat O'Neill, John Davern and Pat Fitzgerald for their assistance throughout the season.