

Old Christians

Old Christians showed they had at last arrived on the senior hurling scene with a fine win over Croom in the first round of the county championship played on Sunday last in Kilmallock. Croom were ran off their feet from the throw in to the final whistle by an Old Christians fifteen that were hungry for victory. The game was played in splendid sunshine and the pitch was in perfect condition for hurling.

Old Christians took the lead after only three minutes when Mike O'Brien raced through to score a point from thirty yards. Constant pressure on the Croom goalmouth was paying dividends with points by Noel O'Brien (who played his best game this year) and Timmy Sheahan. A Croom point was replied to by a John Hegarty point. Minutes later Noel O'Brien rounded his man and crashed home a delightful goal. Old Christians continued to press hard but had only two extra points by Hegarty and Sheahan to show for it. Pat Howard was his usual dominant self at centre-back with both wing-backs in majestic form. Pat Conway showed some excellent touches all through the hour and Ger Toomey proved what a wonderful player he is with his "never say die" attitude. The strength of Jim Hearn and Charlie Carmody at midfield and the quick striking play of Ray Kiely continued to give Old Christians' forwards plenty of supply which paid off on the stroke of half-time when Tommy Sheahan shook the net for a great goal leaving the score 2-6 to 0-1 at the break.

Croom struck back on the restart showing all the courage that one expects from a team of their calibre. Onslaught after onslaught on the Old Christians goalmouth were turned away by a fullback line in form. The experience of Gary Jones and the enthusiasm of Mark Timmons (who made some classic clearances) and Brian Toomey guaranteed that Tony Fitzgerald had little to do. Gradually Old Christians began to dominate again. Timmy Sheahan put over an absolute gem of a point which was followed by a point by Pat Howard from a free. Tommy Kennedy pointed from play twice in three minutes to stretch the lead to 2-10 to 0-3 going into the final ten minutes. Timmy Sheahan pointed a free which was followed by a goal that resulted from the best move of the game. The ball was cleared by Brian Toomey along the touchline and added to by Charlie Carmody on to John Hegarty who went on a devastating solo run which split the Croom defence completely. Hegarty hand passed to Timmy Sheahan who flicked it on to Tommy Kennedy who in copybook style flashed the ball in to the Croom net. Ray Kiely put the final seal on the game with a very well taken point.

All in all it was a perfect team performance and every player must be congratulated.