

# Utd. Bid For Place In Cup Semi-Final

By DAVID O'CONNELL

A CUP-TIE situation is always a pressure one, but rarely have a side entered that arena so relaxed and well prepared as Galway United will on Sunday when they take on Shelbourne at Harold's Cross in the F.A.I. Cup quarter-final (kick-off 4.15).

The panel travel to Dublin tomorrow (Saturday) and later in the day will have the entire squad together for a training session at Home Farm's Whitehall ground for only the second time since manager Paddy Mulligan took over at the start of the season.

The injury news this week was for the main part good. The three doubtful starters, Paul Murphy, John Mannion and Mike Nolan are all likely to be available for selection.

There were fears that Mannion would be under suspension for Sunday, but the Club have appealed against his one match ban to the League's Disciplinary Committee and as a result the ban will not be binding on Sunday. In fact, there is some doubt as to Mannion's points total — it was thought that his last booking only brought him to 16 disciplinary points not 20.

Mike Nolan has been out for the past three games with a leg injury, but according to Mulligan he should be fit for Sunday.

Nolan's probable return is particularly welcome, as his strength has been missed in midfield in recent weeks.

If the victim Paul Murphy passes a fitness test on Saturday evening in Dublin Galway should then have a full panel to choose from. Murphy spent this week in hospital and he was discharged yesterday.

## Impressive

In recent weeks, the Galway back-four have looked very impressive. Brian Gardiner and Denis Bonner have formed a very sound partnership in the centre of that defence, and while Gerry Daly may not be producing his top form of late, Jimmy Nolan on the other side has been doing exceptionally well. His tackling and telling runs forward have brought suitable reward in recent games.

The availability of John Mannion is also a welcome one. The former Athlone player was outstanding against Sligo Rovers last Sunday, and on form complements Mike Nolan in midfield.

Up from the return to form of Brian Duff is something that must instill a strong sense of fear in all opposing defenders. His two goals last Sunday against Sligo will set him in good form for Sunday's test.

It is never easy to beat a Dublin-based side in Dublin, but Galway United's preparations for Sunday give them every chance. Although Shelbourne are close to the top of the table, Galway have nothing to fear from them, as they discovered in the pre-Christmas league game at the same venue.

On that occasion United ran Shels ragged for much of the first half, only to concede a silly goal in the second half. In spite of that goal they still held out with ten men — Paul Murphy was sent off — and were more than deserving of the point they garnered.

## Panel of Sixteen

Paddy Mulligan has named a panel of sixteen for Sunday's game and Stephen Lally, recovering from a broken leg sustained at the beginning of the season will travel with the panel.

Lally, undoubtedly one of the finest prospects seen at Terryland in some time, suffered the injury as a result of a clumsy tackle by a Finn Harps player.

His leg is now out of plaster, but it will be next season before he is available again. As a gesture of thanks Mulligan included the former West United player in the travelling squad for Sunday.

The entire squad stay overnight on Saturday at the Gresham Hotel and will have a training session that evening at Whitehall. Goalkeeper Peter Thomas travels from Waterford that evening, and with Duff and Craig both present,

Mulligan gets a rare opportunity to work on set-pieces with a full side.

"It has been a big disadvantage not having a full side available for this type of training, but this session, thanks to Home Farm, should help get us into a good frame of mind for the following day," said Mulligan yesterday.

"However it will just be the usual approach for us. All the pressure is on Shelbourne. We are going to win and if we only draw we can take them to a replay at Terryland", he continued.

## More Determined

Last weekend's 2-0 victory over Sligo has meant a significant climb in the league table for United, and they are now a respectable six from the bottom, easing any relegation worries that they might have had.

"This game is completely in our

own hands. In the Cup, league form does not matter — it is all a matter of which side wants to win the Cup more, and I believe that we are more determined", said Mulligan, who himself won four FAI Cup winners medals in 1965, 66, 67 and 69 with Shamrock Rovers.

He does not believe that tradition stands for anything in the Cup any more. "In any case Shelbourne have not won the Cup since the early sixties. So neither side can really draw on Cup experience as a factor on Sunday", he said.

"This is completely up to us now. If we really want to win we are more than capable of doing so. The last time we played them there, we got a draw at a time when we were finding it difficult to score, and were conceding some very silly goals. That certainly will not happen on Sunday", added Mulligan.

# CRAIG EXPECTS UNITED TO RISE TO CHALLENGE

by JOHN McINTYRE

STEPHEN CRAIG expects Sunday's Cup tie against Shelbourne to be Galway United's 'toughest game' of the season so far but he also believes that they will rise to the challenge.

Craig, who joined United last November, is satisfied with the set up in his new club and refuses to accept that his move to Terryland was a backward step for him.

The talented United midfielder was transferred from Drogheda united after a bitter wrangle with manager Tony Mucken over a new contract which had such a disillusioning affect on him that he contemplated giving up soccer altogether.

He is quick to point out the role Paddy Mulligan had in getting him to transfer to Galway United. "I have known Paddy for some time and I was impressed with his professional approach," he says.

Craig is adamant that he did not move to Terryland just to get fixed up with another club quickly. "I gave the matter considerable thought before happily signing along the dotted line."

Now twenty-six, Craig is delighted with the progress made by Galway even since he has arrived and he has absolutely no regrets over changing his playing allegiance to United.

A rugby player of some stature also, Craig is not worried by United's many missed scoring opportunities so far this season. "It would be far more serious if we were not creating the chances," he says.

"It takes a while for any attack with new faces to function as a unit but I believe that we will eventually sort out the problem and it will all come right in the end."

A Manager of one of Tony Ward's Sports Shops in Dublin, Craig holds out great expectation of Galway United becoming — and not too far away in the future — a feared force in League of Ireland football.

He is pleased with the level of local support for Galway United also. "There has been a significant leap in attendances at Terryland

since the new administration took over and they are obviously showing their appreciation of the genuine efforts now being made.

"Remember, the Galway United supporters have been virtually success starved since the club was formed some years ago and they must now feel that the big breakthrough is just around the corner."

He is hopeful that United's progress will be maintained at Harold's Cross on Sunday. "It's not going to be easy but we are capable of beating Shelbourne even on their home territory."

# DEMOCRATS LADIES ALSO MAKE MARK

WHILE MOST of the Basketball talk in Galway surrounded the performances of Democrats Men in National League, another National League team from the city — Democrats Ladies — was also performing with distinction.

They played their first season in Division Two of the competition this year and did very well, ending up with a total of ten points. They were well situated on the table, considering their inexperience at this level and they finished in front of Team Sätzenbrou (10), Marion (8) and Eagles (6), the latter being relegated.

This performance in National League by a newly formed team is worthy of the highest praise and is a good reflection on the standard of Ladies Basketball in the West. The other Western Ladies teams in the League was Ballina Pacers, who are in the First Division.

The Galway team is also in the



THE winners of St. Joseph's Youth Club (Shantalla) Indoor Soccer League were (front): Peter Coyne and Damien McNamara, and (standing) Roger Fahy, Joe Potter and Bob Daly, captain.



RUNNERS-UP in the St. Joseph's Youth Club (Shantalla) U-13 Years Indoor Soccer League were: Jonathan Regan and John Walsh (front), and (standing) Patrick Regan, Gerard Fahy and Pat Feeney.

## U.C.G. Pipped

THE Quinquennial Mixed Volleyball Tournament, hosted by the U.C.G. Volleyball Club was held in Moneenageisha Community College Sports Hall over the weekend.

Twenty teams took part in the two day event. Seven teams travelled from Dublin, two from Mayo, two from Cork, one from Limerick, three from Loughrea and five from Galway.

A total of forty matches were played on Saturday from which eight teams succeeded in getting through to the quarter-finals on Sunday.

The semi-final pairings were: U.C.D. "A" v U.C.D. "B" and U.C.G. "A" v U.C.C. "A". Both games were very close with U.C.G. "A" and U.C.D. "A" edging through to the final.

The final was a very close match with U.C.D. winning the first set, U.C.G. taking the second and the teams fighting out a third set in which U.C.G. came from 3-8 down to level at 9-9.

After that points were hard to come by for either team, before U.C.D. "A" eventually won 15-11 after an exhausting match.

The manager of the Bank of Ireland U.C.G. Branch presented the beautiful silver cup to the U.C.G. captain.

The entire tournament was a success from every point of view and now promises to be a permanent fixture on the annual Galway calendar of events.

# Renmore Celebrate Greatest Success

RENMORE A.F.C. 1 : MERVUE UNITED 0

RENMORE scored the biggest success of their history when defeating neighbours Mervue United in the Fr. Duignan Cup Final at Terryland Park on Sunday afternoon.

The game produced passages of constructive football as both sides attempted to produce open, attacking fare.

Renmore received a boost prior to the game when goalkeeper Tom Lally was passed fit to play, despite nursing a chest injury.

Lally had a relatively quiet afternoon, although he did make an excellent save in the second half to keep Renmore's lead intact. His opposite number, Mick Greulich, also had a good game showing a willingness to come off his line on many occasions to halt Renmore attacks.

In a game in which defences dominated, scoring chances were few and far between although Brendan Healy went close to opening Mervue's account ten minutes into the game when his effort from 30 yards went just over the bar.

At the other end Joe Keating controlled the ball well under pressure from Ger Cahill and set up Kieran Holian for a scoring opportunity, but his shot drew a fine body save from Greulich.

Minutes later, Mervue were rather fortunate when Jimmy Gillespie headed onto his own crossbar from a corner on the right, but recovered to clear the ball to safety.

As Mervue swung into the attack once more Brendan Healy was unlucky with a long-range effort which struck an upright. Ger Haniffy was presented with an opportunity minutes later from a through ball by Ger Healy but was tackled strongly by Mike Fitzgerald as he was about to add the finishing touch.

In the second period, Renmore took control of exchanges with Molloy and Walsh setting up numerous attacks from midfield.

However, Mervue created the first real scoring chance of the half as Tom Lally courageously claimed the ball from the feet of John O'Connor with the Renmore defence in disarray.

Renmore took the lead midway through the half when Joe Keating, having his best game of the season, set up midfielder John Walsh for the winner.

Mervue's defence were caught square as Keating lobbed the ball over centre-half Ger Cahill and, as Greulich advanced from his line, Walsh flicked the ball over the "keeper into an open net for a fine goal.

## Uncompromising

Mervue found Renmore's defence in an uncompromising mood in the closing minutes as they fought desperately for an equaliser. The goal did not materialise however despite the attempts of Flaherty and O'Connor.

Ger Hession was a tower of strength in defence and received good support from Fitzgerald as Hutchinson. John Walsh was most impressive in midfield and took his goal in great style. Up front Keating was most industrious and provided plenty of supply for his Bankers.

Mervue can feel a little unlucky at not taking the game into extra time, but will, no doubt, put in a strong challenge for the cup in future years.

Defenders Gillespie and Cahill performed well, while in attack Ger Healy, Joe Healy and Ger Haniffy were most impressive.

Best for Mervue Celtic were Mike Shaughnessy, Peter Folan and Padraic Kilgannon while for West, Frank O'Connell, Niall McCann and Sean Kelly were most impressive.

## Squash Events Continuing At Galway L.T.C.

The Michael Connolly sponsored Ladies Team Tournament and the Mens Vaghan Trophy are underway at Squash Section A, Galway Lawn Tennis Club.

It is the first year for the all-ladies event and it looks as if it is set to continue such has been the success of the event which sees five teams of six competing.

The Mens Club Championships, sponsored by Mickey Walsh, commences on Monday night and will run through to a final on Sunday, March 18th.

At the moment Peter Murphy from Loughrea is just marginally top of the ladder, but he is under pressure from Aidan Kelly.

All three finals will take place over St. Patrick's weekend with the presentation of prizes on the Sunday night followed by a Disco and food.

Six teams in all will represent G.L.T.C. in Ballina over the coming weekend in the Connacht Club Squash Championship which is being hosted by the Stephenites Club.

There are three teams competing in Grade A, B and D Mens and A, B, C Ladies respectively.

The winners of the A Section will represent Connacht later in the season in Dublin in the All-Ireland Club Championships.

# CONLON ENDS THE FRUSTRATION FOR SPENDTHRIFT WEST

WEST UNITED ..... 1  
ATHENRY ..... 0

THE IMPORTANCE of this Premier League tie for both sides was reflected in the do or die efforts of all twenty-four players used. West needed both points to keep them in the hunt for League honours and Athenry needed them to steer clear of the relegation zone.

While it was never a great game the effort and determination put in by one and all made it an exciting one right to the end.

West were determined to put the events of the previous Sunday behind them and attacked from the first whistle and quickly tested the Athenry defence. They were not long in finding out what kind of an afternoon Ward was going to have between the posts, for after only twelve minutes he turned a fierce drive from Joe Keady around a fierce curve into the net.

The Athenry lads will remember it because they, too, had their chances on a day when the opposition could only score once and with better finishing and a lesser goalkeeper than Michael O'Toole to contend with they might have snatched a shock win.

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# Hibs Almost Pull Off Shock Of The Season

HIBERNIANS ..... 4  
SLIGO ROVERS ..... 4  
RESERVES ..... 4

HIBERNIANS almost brought off a major shock in the Connacht Senior Cup at Bohermore Pitch on Saturday against a Sligo Rovers Reserve team that included eight League of Ireland players.

After a scoreless first half Hibs came back from being three-nil down to go 4-3 in front and only a Paul McGee goal in the second half of extra time robbed them of victory.

McGee broke the deadlock early in the second half to give Sligo the lead and by the 70th minute they were three-nil ahead.

But even against a team that included goalkeeper Colin Oakley, Paul Fielding, Mick Savage and McGee, Hibs fought back and a hat-trick from John Tierney, two of which resulted from defensive errors, left them level with their illustrious opponents.

Centre-forward Colm Naughton put Hibs in front with a 25 yards shot in extra time and the Bohermore side looked certain to cause an upset until McGee rescued Sligo with a goal in the second period of extra time.

Hibs: S. Lester, J. Walsh, J. Howley, E. Ward, M. Rafferty, J. Regan, J. Cleary, J. O'Reilly, J. Tierney, C. Naughton and P. Laffey.

U.C.C., Claran Hamill, Queens, John Maughan, U.C.G., Tomas Tierney, U.C.G. capt., Dermot Flanagan, U.C.D., Tom Carr, U.C.C., Eamon Walsh, U.C.C., Padraic 'Bunny' Kelly, U.C.C., Sean Ryan, U.C.D., Brian O'Donnell, U.C.C., Sean Lison, U.C.C., Barry Coffey, U.C.C., C. O'Neill, U.C.C., Shay Fahy, E.C.G. and Greg Blaney, Queens.

James Reidy and Michael Brennan, both of U.C.G., are among the substitutes.

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GALWAY UNITED midfielder John Mannion (left) and central defender Denis Bonner seen here in action against Waterford's Chris Jones who hope to continue their recent good form in Sunday's F.A.I. Cup quarter-final against Shelbourne.



Sean Staunton was the winner of the Bank of Ireland Squash trophy final at Glenina Squash Club. Our photograph shows Mr. Charlie McCormack of the Bank of Ireland presenting the trophy to Sean. Included are, from left: McDara Glynn, squash captain; Jim Corley, runner-up; John Ryan, President Galwegians; Pat Hamley, winner of the Plate final and Martin Cullinane, runner-up.



Mr. Michael Walsh, Wholesaler presents a cheque for sponsorship of the Club Squash Championships at Galway Lawn Tennis Club to Anita Mylotte, Squash Captain. Also in picture are: Aileen Kelly and Tony Poustio of Galway L.T.C.