

Rovers Meet Mervue United In O'Connor Cup On Sunday

The soccer season should really come alive on Sunday next, when Mervue United and Rovers meet in round two of the O'Connor Cup at Terryland Park at 3.30 p.m. Both sides are extremely fit as was proven when they had convincing wins in the opening rounds.

Rovers have a very young side and this will be a big test for them. The return of Michael Murphy has strengthened their defence considerably and with Derek Lee playing very well, should give little away at the back.

Alan Lee leads their attack and with Gerry Curran, Tom Murphy and Peter Mernagh should cause plenty of problems for Mervue's defence.

Mervue are keen to win this competition and had a dream start when beating an understrength Bohemians team 7-3 in the first round. Their strength can be seen from the fact that they have 45 players training regularly. Gerry Lynskey is a very solid centre half and with the Long brothers have struck up a very sound understanding. Peter Folan will probably return at half back for his first game of the season.

I fancy Rovers to advance to the semi-final as they seem to be much sharper around goal, but it could go to extra-time.

FIXTURES

Saturday, 5.30 p.m. Digital Ground, O'Connor Cup, Decspo v O.L.B.C.

Sunday 11.30 a.m. Terryland Park, O'Connor Cup, Salthill Athletic v Claddagh Rangers; 3.30 p.m. Terryland Park, O'Connor Cup, Mervue United v Rovers.

Sunday 3 p.m. West Park, O'Connor Cup, St. Anthony's v Red Gap Rovers.

BOYS' CLUB TO ADVANCE

Decspo and Our Lady's Boys' Club meet at Digital Ground,

Ballybrit on Saturday evening at 5.30 p.m. in the same competition.

Boys' Club who had such a fine season last year must be odds on to advance but Decspo who had a

really superb job with the minors and they look forward to Saturday's games with great confidence. Martin Walshe who has a long and vast experience of football has named the panel but not the individual sides.

PANEL

Tony Murphy, Peter Mernagh, Gerry Curran, Stevie Curran, Martin Flannery (Rovers); John Shaughnessy, Paul Fallon, Mike Walshe (West United); Philip Smyth, Bernard Shapiro, Martin Ridge (Renmore); Tom Flaherty (Devon); Tom Hanley (Bohemians); Alan Nolan, Vincent Shaughnessy, Kieran Flaherty (Mervue); Martin Boyce (West United); Eddie Warde (Bohemians); John Shaughnessy, Noel Graham, Mike Parsons (Tuam Celtic) and Gay Costello.

The two minor games are: Galway Town A v's Mayo, k.o. 3.00 p.m., Galway Town B v's Sligo, k.o. 4.30 p.m. Both games are in Castlebar.

Galway Town Under-15 team also travel to play last years Connacht Cup (Under-15) runners-up in a friendly game. This is the first time that this particular team has travelled and it is hoped by all concerned that they will do well.

Last year's Under 14 champions Devon Celtic dominate the panel with seven representatives. This should be a good and exciting game and a victory for the Galway team we hope.

The Under-15 panel is: Francis Kelly (Devon Celtic), Billy Croker (Rovers), Tony Sherlock (Renmore), Cathal O'Connor (Devon), Kevin Cooney (Renmore), Val Murray (Devon), Michael Sweeney (Bohemians), John Hanniffy (Devon), Murt Fahy (Bohemians), Ray Kelly (Mervue), Ray Glynn (West United), Martin McDermott (Devon), John Hosty (Mervue), John Walshe (Devon), John Devlin (West), Kevin Smyth (Mervue), Johnny Devlin (West) and Michael Lally (Devon).

PLAYERS MEET AT THE C.Y.M.S.

All players on the above panels to meet at the C.Y.M.S. Mill Street not later than 11.25 p.m. on Saturday morning.

The Under-15 game will be played at 1.30 p.m. sharp before the two minor games.

UNDER-13 LEAGUE

FIXTURES

Renmore v Salthill, Renmore Pitch, Saturday at 3.00 p.m.

Salthill after a very poor start will be hard pushed to take even a point from a well balanced Renmore side. Renmore who had a shock win over Mervue in the previous round will be striving to maintain their high league position. Dermot Coll and Jimmy Nolan are two good forwards who could cause a lot of trouble for the Salthill defence. Ronan Sweeney and Noel Cleary are two good players and they should be able to provide some test for the league fancied Renmore team.

Renmore: Shaughnessy, Molloy, Power, Ray, Sheridan, Molloy, Shapiro, Coll, Greaney, Nolan, Knight, Connolly, Cooney.

Salthill: O'Reilly, O'Brien, Armitages, O'Brien (D), Cleary, Sweeney, Rooney, McMorrow, O'Brien (P), Ulard, McSweeney, Carmody, Connolly, Griffen, McDermott, Griffen (D).

Corrib Shamrocks v Hibernians, Headford Road, Saturday at 12 noon.

Shamrocks who have now fully recovered from a shaky start to the season should be able to collect full points from this young Hibernians side in this Under-13 league encounter. Shamrocks will be to strong in the middle of the field for the Bohermore lads, Kieran Joyce, Brian Long and Michael Finn are all in top form and should be able to bag a few goals. Hibernians have time on their side and perhaps soon their persistence will pay off.

Mervue United v Corrib Rangers, West Pitch (2) Saturday at 12 noon.

Mervue who received a shock set back last week at the hands of local rivals Renmore will be trying to get back into full form again in this clash with league newcomers Corrib Rangers. Mervue who often dominate play find it very hard to score this was very evident in their last game. Corrib Rangers with a balanced side are still seeking their first victory with their young side. They have many fine players such as Sammy Hughes, Alex Russell, Anthony Carroll and Cieran Casey who could if given the opportunity cause trouble in the East City sides backline. Overall it looks like another win for Mervue.

Woodquay v Devon Celtic, West Pitch (2) Sunday at 4.00 p.m.

Woodquay who are finding it hard to get their best form will find that their game against Devon Celtic will be a hard one to win. Although they have many fine players in their side they will find that the bigger Devon side with Guerin, Lally and Begley in the middle they will be a hard side to beat.

Devon Celtic: O'Keefe, Kinneen, Rabbitte, Keogh, Begley, Connaire, Guerin, Lally, Glynn, Heffernan, Kelly, Bennett, Cunningham, Golby, O'Donnellan, Wade, Doran.

Rovers v West United, Shopping Centre Pitch, Saturday at 12 noon.

This game will have all the usual ingredients of the West City clash between these two old rivals. West will be the pre-match favourites but form matters little when these two clubs clash. Both seem to rise to the challenge of the Derby game. A narrow West win looks on.

Rovers: McNamee, Ryan, Mernagh, Ryan (B), Dooley, Thornton, O'Connor, Lynskey, Feeney, Cubbard, Finnerty, Bray, Curran.

Bohemians v Tuam Celtic, West Pitch (2) Saturday at 3.00 p.m.

Tuam the dark horses of Division B take on the fancied Bohemians side in this eagerly awaited clash. Bohemians with two wins already and Tuam with the same record realise that a defeat could put them out of contention for the league. The result should be a hard tight game with both sides playing for the points up to the final whistle.

SYMPATHY

The Corrib Rangers Soccer Club passed a vote of sympathy at their recent meeting with the Duane family New Road on the death of Mr. Duane.