

# Evening Echo SPORT

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## Gold wrapping paper tears a family apart



**Robert O'Shea**

**THE LONGSHOT**

IT IS time again for our annual Christmas tale, when the winter sprites hijack our betting advice duties and supply you with some uplifting and sentimental festive fare.

Today we visit a man who works very hard to put food on the table for his family. The stress of it all means he is often choked with frustration, as is his wife, who must scoop the beef, roast potatoes and veg he has put on the table on to plates.

This particular year, a few days before Christmas, he punishes his five-year-old daughter after learning she has used up the family's only roll of semi-expensive gold wrapping paper.

"Go to your room," he yells, but regrets it immediately, as this little girl doesn't have a room of her own, but rather sleeps on the sofa in the very sitting room where they stand.

He picks up the cardboard tube that had recently been glistening and lifts it up to his eye, pretending to use it as a telescope while looking out the window.

The little girl's tears turn to laughter. "Daddy, daddy, what are you looking for?"

"Dar's gold in dem dar hills," he cries.

He doesn't believe it, but that doesn't stop him sending the girl out to look for it. She returns a few hours later, empty-handed and shivering.

He becomes more upset on Christmas Eve when he sees she used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate a shoebox she has put under the tree.

"Where did you get the money to buy something to put in a shoebox?" he grumbles.

The next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brings the box to her father and says: "This is for you, Daddy!"

He opens the box, embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, regretting too how he had punished her.

The box is empty.

"Don't you know?" he yells, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

He throws the box at his wife.

The little girl looks up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispers: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The man is stunned. He looks down at his little daughter, then over to his wife, who is rubbing her elbow where the box has hit her. Years of anguish have built up to this point.

He cannot hide his tears as he races towards the back door, not wanting his family to see him cry.

Once outside he composes himself, and after a few moments, takes out a cigarette and lights it. The tears come again. He knew they wouldn't get him a Playstation 4.

**Recommendation:** United, City, Chelsea, Everton and Newcastle will net you 10/1 with Coral.



At the Cork City Sports Athlete of the Month Award for November were Tony O'Connell, chairman, presenting the award to Sam Healy, Carrigaline Community School. Also included, l to r, Donal Murnane, IT Director Cork City Sports, Ruarai O'Connor, general manager, The River Lee Hotel, Leah Feaghan, Cork 96FM C103 and Terry O'Rourke, secretary of the CCS.

Picture: Martin Collins

## AWARDS

By JOHN TARRANT

**WINNING** the intermediate boys combined events competition at the recent All-Ireland Schools in Athlone has gained Leevale athlete Sam Healy the Cork City Sports Athlete of the Month award for November.

Although only celebrating his 17th birthday this week, this is the second time in just over 12 months that the Carrigaline Community School pupil has received this prestigious honour.

His Athlone victory, where he amassed a total of 3,389 points over the five events, qualified him for the Schools International which took place last Saturday at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow.

There he took second place when finishing just nine points behind the winner, Linton Gardiner from England, despite improving his points total to 3,469.

It has been a busy and productive 2013 for the fifth year student, who recorded a brilliant double at the Tailteann Games in Tullamore last June when taking the long jump in a personal best of 7.06m along with the 100m hurdles in 13.05, which was another new PB.

He also won the long jump at the Aviva Schools International at the Morton Stadium in Dublin the following month where his 7.01m final

# Carrigaline's Healy is a rising star

jump brought him from third to first and then in August achieved another victory at the Celtic Games in Wales.

The multi-events consist of long jump, shot putt, hurdles, 200m and 800m.

However, Healy prefers the long jump and hopes to concentrate on that, along with the hurdles and high jump, for the coming season.

Although next summer's World Junior championships at Eugene in Oregon may be outside his reach as the qualifying standard there is a stiff 7.55m for the long jump, con-

sidering this is only his fourth year in competition, he has made tremendous progress.

A dedicated approach to training sees him training six days a week and he also acknowledges the support received from his three coaches — Seamus Power in the hurdles, Stephen Fleming, long jump, and Eamon Flanagan in the high jump.

Accepting the award, Sam thanked his parents, Ger and Paula, for driving him to all the various competitions and to his teacher Denis O'Sullivan and

school principal John Hourihan.

Tony O'Connell, Chairman of the Cork City Sports, congratulated Sam on all his achievements to date and thanked the sponsors of the monthly awards, the *Evening Echo*, Cork 96FM & C103 and The River Lee Hotel.

Attending the function was Sam's hurdles coach Seamus Power while Donal Murnane represented his Leevale club.

Also in attendance was Sam's sister Molly along with his grandparents Pat and Marie O'Reilly and Una Healy.

## McGee and Rennie on top in derby clash

### CORK RINGS

By Derry Desmond

THE RESIDENCE were at home to the Glenryan and found themselves on the wrong side of the results in this local derby.

Thomas Downey and Keith O'Callaghan were in great form for the home side but the Glenryan had more consistency in their throwing especially from John McGee and Ger Rennie.

The Chimes travelled to Tom Lynch's and came away the win, Danny Dien and Noel Brady threw well for the Chimes while Roger

Moore was best for Tom Lynch's.

in the other games River Lane beat the Fox's, and the Sportsmans beat the Fairfield.

The Local had John Desmond and Gary O'Connor on form in their home win over the Residence whose best were Eric Dineen and Darren Allern.

River Lane travelled to St. Vin-

cent's hoping to keep their win rate going.

The Saints took an early lead with great from Tom Spillane and Gerry Walsh but the lane won it in the end with some great scoring from Ed McMullin and Ju Nolan. Ma's had Eddie Fahy and Dave O'Mahony in form in their away win over the Beergarden, whose best team Chris O'Connor. The Sportsmans had Pat Higgins and Gel Coleman on form for the visit of Quirkies. Alan Twomey and Pat

Buckley threw well for Quirkies but it was a home win for the Mans at the end. The Hill had a good win away to Ma's in a close fought game. Mossy McAuliffe and Paul Hayes were best for the Hills while Anto Murphy shone for Ma's.

The Glen Ryan had Steve Cunningham to the fore in their home win over the Abbies, whose best was Tim Power. Ma's had Mick Keane and Fred Walsh on form in their home win over the Gill, whose best was Mark Hennessy.