

Evening Echo SPORT

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El Massivo proved a huge help



Robert O'Shea

THE LONGSHOT

IN this, the second part of our rounding of the zeroes on our profit and loss account, we'd love to explain how we saw Clare's potential to lift the Waterford Crystal Cup at 5/1, yet failed to give them the shout to lift Liam later in the year. But we cannot.

In the football we nailed our colours to the mast by saying Dublin were our fancy, but weren't worth betting at a short price, so we went with an 11/1 Mayo back in May.

However, the Dubs did pay off for us in their semi-final against Kerry, when we said the Kingdom would be up at half-time but lose the match at 5/1.

We had the same on Clare/Cork in the hurling final at that price too, but the ref and a bit of magic from a corner-back intervened.

Colm Cooper was tipped to finally get the player of the year award at 8/1 and while his starring role at club level matched some imperious displays with his county, Michael Darragh MacAuley will likely the nod.

While we did pick three winners at the track at short odds early on, 16/1 and 18/1 runners up in the National and Derby (Teaforthree and Libertarian) could have turned things around for us big time.

However, El Massivo's 10/1 (he was this price when we tipped him, 8/1 in the morning and 3/1 at the post) win at Wolverhampton in September made up for it a small bit.

We were a within a wedge of tipping the British Open winner, stating: "Phil Mickelson is the likeliest of the favourites to have an impact" but went for Hunter Mahan at 80/1."

He was right in the hunt for a third place coming down the last at Muirfield to give us some each-way solace but a few bad shots meant he didn't even make the top seven our bookies were paying out on.

We told you to lump all you had on Ireland to beat Oz in the second Compromise Rules test at 4/9 and sure enough that was a reasonable risk for your entire savings.

There is some hope for the future.

Our SuperBowl picks Kansas City were 50/1 at the start of the season and are now 14s after nine wins and no losses. Things might begin to get a bit more sticky for them from here on in however.

A relegation treble on Palace, Norwich and Stoke at 50/1 with Bet365 looks close to on target, while a straight forecast on Chelsea/Man City in the Premier League race was 13/2 and Chelsea outright at 5/1 might pay off too.

Liverpool were tipped to make the top four at 13/8 and Southampton at 20/1 for the League Cup cannot be sneezed at either.

It's taken me long enough to trawl through all those bets so I'll leave the figure we've lost until tomorrow. Prepare your hankies.

Recommendation: Chelsea. Ajax, Barca, Basel and a Dortmund-Arsenal draw will get you over 20/1 with Bet365.



Members of the successful Coláiste Chríost Rí Hogan Cup winning team as they lined out on May 1, 1983, attending a reunion at Maryborough Hotel recently: L to R (back): Colin Cotter, David Brohan, Jerome O'Mahony, Paul Cleary, Eugene McCarthy, David Kennedy, Jim Murphy, Kevin Kiely. (Front): John Murphy, David Creedon, Frank Quigley, Brendan Searls (capt.), Ger O'Regan, Michael O'Donovan, Declan O'Sullivan, Oscar Dermody, Michael Carey (coach).

Picture: Supplied

Críost Rí recall spirit of '83 final

MEMBERS of the successful Coláiste Chríost Rí Hogan Cup team of 1983 were re-united recently for a special night of nostalgia at Maryborough House Hotel.

The Cork college, who were the first team from Munster to capture the All-Ireland title in 1968, were attempting to win a third title in three appearances against the rank favourites St Jarlath's of Tuam at Croke Park on May 1, 1983.

Having come out of Munster as underdogs and overcame St Mary's, Mullingar, in the semi-final, Críost Rí faced holders Jarlath's in heavy conditions in the first final covered live on RTE Television.

In a pulsating contest in which the eventual winners had to come from behind twice and score a dramatic goal two minutes from time to effectively kill off Tuam.

Quick-fire forward Declan O'Sullivan netted inside the opening

REUNION

By FINBARR BUCKLEY

four minutes to put the Capwell Road side 1-2 up before Jarlath's fought back to lead midway through the opening half.

A second goal by John Murphy coupled by a tremendous save at full-length by Jerome O'Mahony ensured Críost Rí went in at the break leading 2-3 to 1-4.

Tuam threw everything at the opponents in the second-half to go in front again with less than 20 minutes remaining.

Two inspirational long-range points from David Kennedy kept the Leesiders in contention before O'Sullivan crashed home his second goal with two minutes left to secure the title.

The goal was reminiscent of Noel Miller's clincher which broke the hearts of the Martin O'Neill led St Malachy's, Belfast in 1970 which landed Críost Rí their second title in two years.

The four-point win which was later attributed to the belief instilled by coach Michael Carey by captain Brendan Searls.

Searls, who has resided in Santa Barbara for nearly 30 years, still describes the victory as a 'monumental occasion in my life' and on every May 1 recalls the event with fondness.

Organiser Ger O'Regan, who went on to captain the victorious team of 1985, managed to entice film producer Colin Cotter to travel from Las Angeles and Eugene McCarthy to fly in from Birmingham, along with former teaching staff led by Cathal Corkery.

After viewing a replay of the entire match, Searls paid tribute to the coaching staff of Michael Carey, Kevin Cummins and Br Colmcille, while complimenting the hard work put in by O'Leary in organising the function.

Oscar Dermody welcomed the teaching staff in Gaelilge before Michael Carey described the unique tradition Críost Rí had forged over the years.

He went on to dispel the view that the college was fortunate in victory, saying it was a combination of "courageous defence, opportunist goals, inspirational play as emphasised by Searls, who had to leave his customary centre-back birth to cover in mid-field and phenomenal fitness".

He remembers after the match how two-goal hero Deccie O'Sullivan was "dying for a fag", and sought the advice of Principle Bro Pius, who informed him. "he can have the whole 20 if he wants!"

The win was all the sweeter after it ended a 13-year gap, the nature of the win captured precisely by *Cork Examiner* reporter Tom O'Sullivan and the headline: 'Courageous Críost Rí get reward... spirit and courage against the odds'.

Anyone who was in Croke Park on the first Sunday, in May 30 years ago will never forget when the no-hopers surprised everyone, including former Críost Rí coach of the 50s Br Denis, who had the honour of presenting Searls with the coveted trophy.

Rockchapel pushed all the way in replay

Rockchapel 2-15
Ballydesmond 2-12
(after extra time)

DUHALLOW CUP

By John Tarrant

INTERMEDIATE semi-finalists Rockchapel produced the more even performance in extra time to outscore a battling Ballydesmond in a cracking Duhallow Cup quarter-final replay in Ballydesmond last night.

Rockchapel controlled the early exchanges, boosted by

the generous contributions of Batt Curtin, Brendan Cahill and Conor Kepple. And the inside attacking line created inroads, none more so than Liam Collins and Seamus Hickey on netting goals inside 10 minutes. Ballydesmond recovered from a hesitant opening, prompted by the towering play offered by Shaun

Murphy, Bertie O'Callaghan, Donal Kelly and Donncha O'Connor. Cork ace O'Connor created an impression to net and cut the deficit 2-6 to 1-5 at the break. Straight from the restart, the game was in the melting pot after O'Connor netted a second goal. The game ebbed and flowed, Rockchapel shading matters on points to Collins and lan Guiney. However, O'Connor nailed a late pointed free to tie the contest at 2-10 apiece.

Into extra time, Rockchapel took up the running from pointed frees raised by Guiney and Collins. Ballydesmond relied heavily on O'Connor for scores But Rockchapel held more attacking options, Hickey and Collins pointing as did custodian Tony Collins to steer over a 45 right to confirm their semi-final spot against Knocknagree.

Scorers for Rockchapel: L Collins 1-5 (0-4 f), S Hickey 1-3, I Guiney 0-5 f, C Aherne, T Collins

(45) 0-1 each.
Ballydesmond: D O'Connor 2-8 (0-5 f), B Fleming, P Breen, S Kelly, B O'Callaghan 0-1 each.
ROCKCHAPEL: T Collins; M Doody, E O'Callaghan, B Curtin; M Stack, D J O'Callaghan, J O'Callaghan, B Cahill, C Kepple; C Aherne, C Murphy, W Murphy; I Guiney, L Collins, S Hickey.
Subs: N O'Callaghan for Stack, C Guiney for J O'Callaghan, P Murphy for C Murphy.
BALLYDESMOND: F O'Sullivan; Denis Kelly, S Murphy, J Healy; J O'Keefe, Donal Kelly, J O'Leary; B O'Callaghan, S Kelleher; B Fleming, N Fleming, S Kelly; Donal O'Connor, Donncha O'Connor, P Breen.
Subs: S Cronin for D O'Connor, N O'Leary for Breen.
Ref: MJ O'Keefe (Dromtariffe).