

Irish Independent

Vol 15 No. 303

February 17, 1919

One Halfpenny

G.A.A. FOOTBALL FINAL. THE CHAMPIONS SCRAPE HOME. TIPPERARY'S GALLANT STRUGGLE.

WEXFORD.....5 pts. TIPPERARY.....4pts.

By defeating Tipperary, Munster champions, the Wexford footballers won their fourth All-Ireland Football Championship in succession, thus establishing a wonderful record. The game was played at Croke Park in presence of about 10,000 spectators, and was the best seen for years; in fact, it was reminiscent of the games played between Kerry and Wexford some years back. There was never a dull moment throughout: the pace was a cracker, and the football right good. The only drawback, perhaps, was the large number of frees awarded to either team.

Tipperary, who gave evidence of their course of training at Dungarvan, forced the pace, and, playing in splendid style, had two points to their credit during the first quarter. Wexford settled down better after these reverses, and, scoring three points in quick succession, led at the interval. The second portion was of the most stubborn description. Tipperary attacked in gallant style, but met a rock-like defence. Wexford added on a point, but Tipperary showed up splendidly afterwards, and, after drawing level, looked like gaining the honours.

FIRST HALF

WEXFORD – Frees, 9 (5 in Tipp half); 50's, nil; wides, 6; overs, nil; points, 3 (18 mins, 22¼m, 28½m); goals, nil.

TIPPERARY – Frees, 9 (3 in Wexford half); 50's, 1; wides, 1; overs, 1; points, 2 (9m, 15m); goals, nil

SECOND HALF

WEXFORD – Frees, 4 (2 in Tipp half); 50's, 4; wides, 1; overs, 1; points, 2 (10m, 24½ m); goals, nil.

TIPPERARY – Frees, 10 (5 in own half); 50's, nil; wides, 1; overs, 1; points, 2 (22m, 24m); goals, nil.

In addition to the large number of frees, there were many “hopped balls.”

Wexford, in characteristic fashion, rose manfully to the occasion, and literally snatched victory out of the fire.

Tipperary played a splendid game right through, their centre-field and defence being equal to anything ever witnessed in football, while their

fielding was excellent: but their forwards lost them the championship. Wexford, on the other hand, also played a great game, and, considering they were minus some of last year's stalwarts, notable Shaun Kennedy, “Furlong” and Murnagh, all now retired, they deserve congratulation on their victory.

THE PLAY. CHALLENGERS BEGIN WELL.

Winning the toss, Wexford played for the city goal. Tipperary got away when a foul spoiled, the free giving them a footing in Tipperary ground. The pace was fast, and some interesting exchanges left play at the centre. Wexford were penalised and Tipperary were attacking when a second free by T. Ryan resulted in a “50,” which was cleared. Doran kicked into Wexford ground. The ball was returned, and Tipperary had another free. Shelly put Munster on the attack, when a wide resulted. A grand rush by Tipperary, and McGrath came out to save. T.

Kennedy, getting possession, made ground for Wexford, but they were beaten off, and Tipperary again got going, when Heffernan kicked wide. Wexford, per Byrne, advanced, and from a free the same player sent to Gus Kennedy, who shot inches wide. Doyle nullified a free to Tipperary, but Munster again broke through, and McCarthy crossing to Skinner, the latter kicked a point for Tipperary. Byrne and Hodgins worked through, another wide resulting. From the centre, when Ryan sent down, Skinner tested McGrath in the Wexford goal. He cleared, and although the ball was returned nothing tangible resulted. Wexford combined finely, and Byrne transferred to Todd, who missed a great opening. T. Ryan took a free for Tipperary, and McCarthy, getting possession, shot their second point half-way through the period. A free to Wexford 50 yards out was returned, but a second free enabled Byrne to open Wexford's scoring.

TIPPERARY LOSE LEAD.

Hodgins and Howlett put the champions on the attack and the Tipperary backs were seen to great advantage. Another Wexford attack was nullified by a foul. From a free to Wexford Gus Kennedy sent in to Redmond, whose shot was splendidly saved by Carroll, the Tipperary custodian. Soon afterwards, however, Todd equalised the scores by shooting a point. At the other end Mackey was fouled and the resulting free put Wexford attacking. Shelly clearing in grand style. Tipperary, moving up per McCarthy, were beaten off, and Gus Kennedy led a fruitless Wexford move. In the next minute this player, who was in fine form, shot inches wide. Wexford were now doing best, and Byrne, from a free, placed to Redmond, who scored a point, giving the champions the lead, which they looked like increasing until McNamara repulsed in fine

style. Tipperary were in the other half when the interval came with the champions leading by 3 points to 2.

WEXFORD'S NARROW WIN.

Resuming, Hodgins got away, and McNamara stopped him, whilst from a free to Tipperary, Byrne saved. Tipperary attacked fiercely, and Mackey made a marvellous save. A free to Wexford put the Tipperary goal in jeopardy, and, although Kennedy, Hodgins and Todd participated, the Tipperary defence forced a wide. Wexford then had a "50" free, and Byrne's shot was cleared by E. Egan. T. Doyle held up a Tipperary rush, and the Wexford forwards were in possession when a foul spoiled. McNamara changed the scene of operations, but again Doyle intercepted, and let the Model Co away to force a "50" free. From this Byrne drove the ball well in. Kennedy received and passed to Todd, who shot over the

bar. McCarthy secured the ball from the goal-kick, and, sending to Skinner, the latter missed badly when a score looked certain. A couple of frees to each in turn yielded nothing, and then at a short interval, a player on each side was hurt, but they resumed.

HARD LINES FOR MUNSTER MEN.

Tipperary set up a strong attack, and Heffernan kicked a point after the whistle had sounded. The score was disallowed and a free given in front of the posts. A goal was tried for without result, as Mackey again proved his worth. Tipperary were having the better of the argument just now, and getting a free close in. T. Ryan shot a point. McNamara broke up a grand rush by Wexford, and the Tipperary forwards, getting possession, Skinner sent to McCarthy, who levelled up the scores by shooting a point, amidst tremendous cheering.

Almost immediately afterwards a fine movement by Wexford resulted in a score as Kennedy sent to Redmond, who kicked a point. In a Tipperary attack Doyle sent out, and then Kennedy, for Wexford, put in a grand run, but the final effort went wide. The play at this period was most exciting with but one point separating the scores. Tipperary were attacking, and McCarthy missed a great chance. A free to Wexford, and McNamara, who was playing a great game, again beat off their attack. The champions continued to play strongly to the end, and were in Tipperary ground, when the final whistle went.

Mr. P. "Patrick" (Leix) had a busy time as referee.

THE TEAMS.

Tipperary – A. Carroll (goal), J. McNamara, N. O'Shea, J. Shelly, W. Ryan, E. Egan, T. Powell, J. Quinlan, J. Ryan, W. Ryan, W. Grant, J. Skinner, H. Heffernan, A. McCarthy, J. Shea.

Wexford – T. McGrath (goal), N. Stewart, P. Mackey, J. Byrne, T. Murphy, T. Doyle, M. Howlett, W. Hodgins, J. Doran, J. Crowley, R. Reynolds, P. Todd, A. Doyle, G. Kennedy, J. Redmond.

D. Troy, the Limerick hurler, who was rather seriously injured in the match against Dublin a week ago, was present yesterday at the All-Ireland final and although having his head enveloped in bandages, he looked well. His skull was not fractured fortunately.