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One Halfpenny

LEIX CHAMPIONS. FIRST HURLING HONOURS WON FROM CORK.

GREAT GAME IN DUBLIN.

LEIX, 6-2 (20 POINTS); CORK, 4-1 (13 POINTS).

Yesterday, at Croke Park, Leix (Leinster) beat Cork (Munster) by six goals and two points to four goals and one point in the final of the All-Ireland Hurling Championship. Mr. Wm. Walsh (Waterford) refereed, and controlled the game in a masterly way, giving satisfaction to all.

There were between ten and twelve thousand spectators. The gate receipts were £362. In connection with the event seventeen special trains were requisitioned from the Great Southern and Western Railway, and each train was taxed to its utmost to cater for those anxious to make the journey to the capital. Ample arrangements were made at Croke Park, and these reflected credit on Mr. L.J. O Toole, Secretary Central Council, and the various officials.

The rain which threatened all the morning came down freely some time before the start, and continued to fall throughout the game. In spite of this it was one of the best hurling finals ever played at Croke Park, and taking into consideration the weather conditions, the hurling was splendid. Cork held the lead for the greater portion of the first half, chiefly due to the inaccurate shooting of the Leix forwards. Shortly after resuming, the Leix men played up in splendid style, and after five minutes they never left the result in doubt. Almost man for man they proved the better side, and finally won, in handsome fashion, their first All-Ireland Championship, much to the delight of Father Kearney, President of the Maryborough Club, and those associated with him.

GAME AT A GLANCE

FIRST HALF

	Frees	70's	Wides	Goals	Points
Cork	7	2	3	7	-
Leix	4	2	8	4	2

SECOND HALF

	Frees	70's	Wides	Goals	Points
Leix	4	-	8	4	-
Cork	4	2	4	1	1

Seventies – Six 70's were awarded altogether in the match: four of them went wide, and Leix converted one into a point, the other being cleared.

Injuries to players – Only one player, Campion (Leix) was compelled to retire hurt, this being near the close of the game, and he limped off.

THE GAME.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Sharp to time Leix walked on to the field, and their appearance was somewhat unconventional, as all wore mackintoshes. They were soon followed on by Cork, headed by the Barrack street (Cork) Band.

The teams having been photographed, were taken in hands by Mr. W. Walsh (Waterford), and Cork, winning the spin of the coin, played for the city goal.

CORK'S LEAD.

Rain was falling steadily when the game began. Some fast exchanges having taken place, Leix were awarded a free at mid-field, but Finlay's puck was returned by Walsh, and Cork getting into Leix ground, Walsh shot over. The Leinster men got away with the goal-puck, per McEvoy, and, being awarded a "70" free, Finlay's shot sailed inches wide. The Leix team were going best at this period, and after O'Flaherty had stopped a good run, Carroll got possession, but shot wide for Leix.

CORK'S SCORING BUST.

The Lee-siders were busy defending when a free brought them relief. Walsh missed a score by inches. Leix now made lanes through the Cork defence, and when a score looked certain, the upright stopped a fast shot from Hiney. The Munster team got possession

from a rebound, and after a grand bout of play Kennedy put up Cork's first goal, after five minutes play. Cork were just now having the better of the argument. After O'Keefe effected a grand clearance, the Cork backs were busy, but Jos Phelan missed a fine chance for Leix.

Cork got possession from the goal-puck, but Carroll proved the stumbling-block, and play was at the centre-field when Nagle drove to Halloran, who beat the Leix custodian for Cork's second goal. With only eleven minutes gone, matters were looking gloomy for the Leinster men. However, a free came to the rescue, but Finlay's shot was nullified by Con Sheehan, who was playing a great game; while in the next minute a splendid effort by O'Flaherty saw the Blackrock man's effort sent wide. When O'Flaherty shot their third goal, from a free about 50 yards out, it looked as though the Munster men were about to win easily.

LEIX'S FINE RECOVERY.

The Leix men stuck to their work most tenaciously, their only fault being endeavouring to lift the ball in close play. Cork, per Rainsell, staved off an attack by Leix, and after Dunphy had returned a good drive by Nagle, Cork gained a "70" free, which O'Flaherty shot wide. Leix returned quickly, and opened their account with a point by Finlay. Play was near centre field when an infringement by Fitzgerald gave Finlay another free. He placed it well forward, and Phelan made the first goal for Leix, after twenty-two minutes had elapsed. Cork lost little time in returning, but the Brothers Finlay, Phelan and O'Keefe kept them out. However, O'Flaherty got in a grand shot, and missed the scoring area by inches.

The Brothers Carroll now headed a great rush by Leix, which Con Sheehan intercepted, but Campion and Daly were responsible for Leix again assuming the offensive, and Phelan beat Barney Murphy for their second goal. Later the Cork custodian saved finely from Hiney.

The Leix custodian next conceded a "70" free, and O'Flaherty sent the ball to Hyde, who shot wide. Shortly before the interval Finlay shot a point for Leix, and half-time now arrived with Cork leading on the scores : - Cork, 3 goals (9 points); Leix, 2 goals 2 points (8 points).

THE LEAD CHANGES HANDS.

Re-starting, Leix got away, but a wide resulted. Byrne led a big Cork rush, which had a similar ending, and then play fluctuated for a time, both teams being awarded frees. A grand attack

by Leix ended in Hiney putting his side leading by scoring a goal, after 6 minutes' play. Cork flattered for a short while, but their efforts to score were nullified by the sound defence of Dunphy, O'Keefe and Carroll. Sheehan now beat off an attack by Leix, but McEvoy returned the ball, and with Hiney failing to take the pass, the sphere rolled wide of the scoring area.

Leix were still going strong and Barry Murphy saved in fine style a fast shot by Finlay. Returning to the attack the Leinster representatives swarmed around the Cork posts, and from a ruck the ball found its way into the net. Cork put renewed energy into their work, and the Leix goalkeeper conceded a "70", which O'Flaherty shot wide. Rush and counter-rush for a brief period afforded some thrills for the big crowd.

CORK OUTPLAYED.

Leix improved the older the game grew, and eventually they played all round their opponents. Finlay getting a free 50 yards out dropped the ball amongst the forwards, and Carroll shot a goal.

Cork were not yet beaten, and attacked in fine style. O'Keefe intercepted, but they returned, and Hyde scored a point, followed immediately afterwards by a goal from Kennedy.

The closing minutes were in favour of Leix, who added on a goal just before the final whistle, leaving them good winners of a great game.

THE TEAMS.

Leix – J. Finlay (capt.), J. Walsh, J. Phelan, J. Finlay, J. Phelan, P. Ryan (Ballygeehan), J. Hiney, P. Campion, J. Daly (Rathdowney), E.P. McEvoy (Abbeyleix), John and Jos. Carroll, R. O'Keefe, Jas Carroll (Kilcotton), J. Dunphy (Rapla).

Cork – C. Sheehan (capt.), T. Riordan, F. Buckley (Redmonds), B. Murphy (Cloughduv), J. Murphy, L. O'Flaherty (Blackrock), W. Walsh, M. Byrne (Sarsfields), J. Murphy (St. Finbarr's), J. Halloran, J. Nagle (St. Mary's), W. Fitzgerald, W. Hyde (Collegians), M. Rainsell (Midleton), J. Kennedy (Carrigwohill).