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One Halfpenny

CLARE HURLING CHAMPIONS.

**A TAME
STRUGGLE.**

**LEIX LOSE BY
SIX SCORES TO
ONE.**

**BIG CROWD AT
CROKE PARK.**

**CLARE – 5 goals 1 POINT (16pts.)
LEIX – 1 GOAL (3pts.)**

Clare yesterday defeated Leix in the final of the All-Ireland Hurling Championship by 5 goals and 1 point to 1 goal.

The match was played in fine weather, at Croke Park, Dublin before a crowd of 12,127. The receipts were £475.

Clare's victory was easily achieved. They excelled in both science and dash. Not only in attack did they demonstrate marked superiority, but their backs gave a grand display, which was generally admired.

The All-Ireland Hurling Final, Clare v Leix, in which Clare scored a valiant victory yesterday, in the Croke Memorial Park, Dublin, was witnessed by from 12,000 to 15,000 spectators. From 1p.m. until the close a constant stream of people passed through the turnstiles. The city presented an animated appearance throughout the forenoon as successive contingents arrived by each of the 13 special trains.

There was a special tram service to and from the ground. The official gate receipts were £475.

Although not yet completed, the renovation of the ground showed a marked improvement and afforded almost every spectator a clear view of the entire game. Amongst the huge crowd were Mr. Wm Redmond, M.P.; Ald. Nowlan, President of the Central Council; the members of the Leinster and Munster Councils and many provincial clergymen. Several ladies with collecting boxes in aid of the rifle fund for the Irish Volunteers reaped a rich harvest, a strong contrast to the cold reception given to the few ladies soliciting support for the Women's Suffrage cause.

The weather was ideal, the order admirable, and the game was followed with sportsmanlike enthusiasm and generosity. Both teams were well supported by followers wearing badges and favours; Clare, though coming from a far greater distance, appeared to have the majority of adherents.

The general arrangements were well carried out under the direction of Mr. L. J. O'Toole, Secretary and Manager, who was ably assisted by an efficient number of stewards, members of the Co. Dublin Committee, and local hurling clubs.

THE GAME DESCRIBED.

Beyond the appended details, the game requires little comment. Early in the contest it was quite apparent that the Clare men would prove more than a match for the Leinster champions. The latter never seemed to settle down to their work, as they did in their games with Dublin and Kilkenny, and although they had much more of the play than the scores indicate, it must be stated that they were

outclassed, especially in the finer points of the game. The Clare representatives played with the same dash that characterised their performances against Limerick and Cork, and hurled in fine style throughout, the play of their back division being a treat to witness. The winners were loudly cheered, several members of the team being carried to the dressing room.

Mr. John Lawlor (Kilkenny), the referee, got through his arduous task in the most satisfactory manner.

PATH TO THE FINAL.

Clare's passage to the final was a stiff one, as the following record of matches in the championship will show:-

May 10 – Beat Kerry.....7-3 to 4-1

Aug. 30 – Beat Limerick....4-2 to 0-2

Sept. 30 – Beat Cork.....3-2 to 3-1

The following is Leix's record in the championship tournament:-

May 24 – Beat Wexford.....4-3 to 1-4

July 12 – Beat Dublin.....4-3 to 3-4

Aug. 12 – Beat Kilkenny.....3-2 to 2-4

It will be remembered that Kilkenny won the All-Ireland Championship in 1911, 1912, and 1913, and their defeat by Leix at Kilkenny was one of the surprises of the year.

THE TEAMS.

Clare – A. Power (capt.), J. Power, M. Flanagan, H. Considine, J. Spellessey, M. Maloney, T. McGrath, N. Grace, J. Shallow, P. McInerney (goal), J. Fox, R. Doherty, J. Clancy, P. McDermott, P. Maloney.

Leix – Richard Reilly (goal), William Lenihan, Thomas Higgins, Fintan Killeen, Thos. Finlay, R. O'Keefe, Thos. Jones, James Carroll, Patrick Goulding, Edward McEvoy, John Daly, Timothy Hyland, John Carroll (capt.), Jas. Jones, John Hiney.

THE FIRST PERIOD.

Leix, playing for the Clonliffe goal, got away, when an infringement spoiled, the resulting free putting play in Leinster ground, where O'Keefe pucked a free for Leix. Considine got in a splendid run, and, sending to Grace, the latter shot inches wide.

Leix, per O'Keefe, were soon at the other end, where Carroll shot wide. Continuing, the Leinster men were attacking, and McInerney saved his side amidst cheers. Fast central exchanges now took place and Power got in a huge stroke, Considine getting possession. He missed a great chance.

Although the pace was fast the hurling was not up to expectations.

McGrath was conspicuous for Clare, and, sending to Cleary, the latter beat Reilly for the major score after nine minutes. The Leinster men, aided by a free, were again attacking, O'Keefe's parting shot going wide.

Owing to Spellessey getting injured play was stopped for a time. Resuming, Clare got into Leix ground, where Killeen spoiled. Coming again, Considine sent to Clancy, who missed a great opening.

Play was at the centre when a free to Leix saw the Clare defence to advantage and Power sending out of danger. McGrath scored Munster's second goal, with sixteen minutes gone. Clare were having much the better of the game, and Considine sent over the crossbar. Leix getting possession of the goal puck looked dangerous, but the defence play of Shallow and Power drove them off. Clare were again in control. Considine passed to Doherty, who sent wide. A minute later, after a stiff attack, Guerin scored Munster's third goal,

the waving of the green flag drawing forth loud cheers. Clare monopolised the greater part of the play to the interval, when they led by 3-1 to nil.

SUPERIORITY OF CLARE.

Resuming, McEvoy got on the ball and Leix were nicely placed when Hyland muffed a good chance. Lenihan was conspicuous and pucking down the field. Carroll beat the Clare custodians and netted the ball. This success put great heart into the Leinster team, and for a while the Munster backs were busy, while the ball was shot wide three times in as many minutes. Fox, one of Clare's stalwarts, was now forced to retire. Malony filling the vacancy. The game now livened up very much, and Leix were attacking when Power drove out of danger, and the Leinster posts were again in jeopardy. O'Keefe came to the rescue. A good rush was stopped by Power, and racing down the field Clare swarmed their opponents' posts, when O'Keefe made another

clearance, and play was again in Clare ground, Daly shooting wide and Carroll followed his example immediately afterwards.

In a fast bout the Leinster representatives had the upper hand, but their efforts at close range left much to be desired, as their forwards failed repeatedly. Power and Shallow were defending well, and the ball getting to the centre, McGrath drove to Clancy, who had little difficulty in netting the ball.

After Leix had paid another barren visit to Clare ground, the Munster men rushed down the field and, although temporarily stopped by O'Keefe, McGrath shot a grand goal. This proved the final score, and although a player from the Banner County was delegated to the side line shortly afterwards, the Munster men had the better of the game to the finish.

SOME PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS.

WINNER.

RUNNER UP.

'87	Thurles, Tipperary	Meelick, Galway
'88	Unfinished due to U.S.A. Invasion.	
'89	Kickhams, Dublin	Tulla, Clare
'90	Aghabullogue, Cork	Castlebridge, Wexford
'91	Ballyduff, Kerry	Crossbeg, Wexford
'92	Redmonds, Cork	Faugh-Davitts, Dublin
'93	Blackrock, Cork	Confederation, Kilkenny
'94	Blackrock, Cork	Rapparees, Kilkenny
'95	Tubberadora, Tipperary	Tullaroan, Kilkenny
'96	Tubberadora, Tipperary	Dublin Commercials
'97	Killinane, Limerick	Tullaroan, Kilkenny
'98	Tubberadora, Tipperary	Threecastles, Kilkenny
'99	Moycarkey, Tipperary	Blackwater, Wexford
'00	Two-Mile-Borris, Tipperary	London Desmonds
'01	London-Irish	Redmonds, Cork
'02	Dungourney, Cork	Brian Boru, London
'03	Blackrock, Cork	Hibernians, London
'04	Tullaroan, Kilkenny	St. Finbarrs, Cork
'05	Erin's Own, Kilkenny	St. Finbarrs, Cork
'06	Thurles, Tipperary	Faughs, Dublin
'07	Tullaroan, Kilkenny	Dungourney, Cork
'08	Thurles, Tipperary	Kickhams, Dublin
'09	Mooncoin, Kilkenny	Thurles, Tipperary
'10	Castlebridge, Wexford	Castleconnell, Limerick
'11	Tullaroan, Kilkenny	Castleconnell, Limerick
'12	Tullaroan, Kilkenny	Blackrock, Cork
'13	Mooncoin, Kilkenny	Toomevara, Tipperary