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One Halfpenny

TIPPERARY CHAMPIONS.

ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINAL.

EXCITING STRUGGLE AT CROKE PARK.

TIPPERARY, 5-4; KILKENNY, 3-2.

“The best hurling final for many years,” was the unanimous decision of those who witnessed yesterday’s game between the above at Croke Park for the final of last year’s hurling championship. Neither county, strange as it may seem, was represented by its best men, and in this connection Kilkenny suffered most, as both the Dickboro’ and Mooncoin clubs were practically unrepresented, while Tipperary were minus the services of the Toomevara players.

From 11 o’clock large crowds were streaming into the grounds, and at 12 o’clock, the advertised starting time, it was estimated that about 5,000 spectators were present. The ground was in surprisingly good order, while no fault could be found with the playing pitch. Ald. Nowlan, President of the Association, together with the representatives of the Central Council and members of the Provincial Councils, looked after the arrangements, which, in the hands of the Secretary, Mr. L. J. O’Toole, left nothing to be desired.

The game for fifty minutes was fought out in the most stubborn fashion. Play was desperately keen in the first quarter, and 16 minutes had elapsed when the first score fell to Tipperary, who from this to the interval had slightly the better of the argument, leading by 1-2 to 0-1.

The game was again fast on resuming. Kilkenny beat off some attacks by their opponents, and playing in splendid style, took a lead of a goal and two points at three-quarter time. It seemed that they would repeat their victory of three years back.

However, Tipperary called on for a special effort, responded in grand fashion, putting in some splendid execution and sweeping down on the Kilkenny posts. They ran in several scores, winning rather easily, and thus putting another All-Ireland honour to the credit of the Premier County. Mr. W. Walsh (Waterford) as referee got through his arduous task with much credit.

THE GAME. KILKENNY SHINE IN DEFENCE.

A start was effected at 12.15. Kilkenny got away per Walsh, and looked like scoring, but the ball went into touch in goal. A fast bout in the centre followed, Kilkenny again coming out best, but the ball went into touch. Play was at the centre when a free to Tipperary gave O'Donnell a chance. This was nullified by Clohissey. Leahy no sent in a hard shot, which was splendidly saved by the Kilkenny goalkeeper. In the next minute Shelly (Tipperary) missed a great opening. Dick Grace (K.) got through, and then Walton was dispossessed by O'Donnell, who transferred to the other end Kerwick, the Kilkenny goalkeeper, again cleared. The Tipps. continued to attack, and Kennedy sent out of danger, and the same player effected a great save from a free by O'Donnell (T.) The pace was very fast, and the hurling magnificent.

Kilkenny looked dangerous until Doherty intercepted putting Tipperary again in possession. Hanrahan then beat D. Walsh, and drove clear. Tipperary forced a "70," which Leahy dropped amongst the forwards, but Holohan cleared to the centre, and a Kilkenny attack was nipped in the bud by Power. Tipperary returned in a great dash, which wound up by Shelly shooting wide. Getting possession from the goal-puck, Tipperary returned, and Kerwick, in goal, made a great clearance. With play near the centre Power was injured, play being suspended.

TIPPERARY SCORE.

Resuming, Collison got possession, and sent well down. A foul by a Kilkenny player gave P. Leahy, the Tipperary captain, the chance of shooting the first point, after 16 minutes play. Dick Grace got on the goal puck, and made some ground, but Power relieved and play was near the centre for a short time. The Marble Co. men got along the

right wing, and Tobin missed a good chance by sending wide. Tipperary rushed off from the goal puck and in a flash Collisson got on and shot the second point for Tipperary, who deserved this lead. After D. Grace and O'Donnell had exchanged good drives, a regular Tipperary dash ended in D. Walsh beating Kenwick for the major score.

D. Kennedy made a lot of ground for Kilkenny, when Power relieved, and play was at the centre where Kilkenny got a free. Dan Kennedy, - with a huge puck, sent wide. Another free by Kennedy was sent wide. Another free by Kennedy was intercepted by Power, but the Kilkenny men dashed through, and Walton made Kilkenny's first point. There was immediately another onslaught on the Kilkenny posts, and after Kerwick had cleared, R. Walsh shot wide. Kennedy and Grace got going for Kilkenny, when Leahy beat them off. Grace returned the puck, and a free by Kennedy made further ground, the ball being in Tipperary's quarters at the half-time whistle, which found Tipperary leading 1-2 to 0-1.

AN EXCITING PERIOD.

Restarting, Kilkenny got going, but were sent back by O'Donnell. D. Kennedy brought play again into Tipperary grounds from a goal puck. After a sharp attack Tobin scored a goal. Kilkenny's success was loudly cheered. Tipperary came best out of some fast exchanges, but were beaten off, and Kilkenny were again on the attack, but nothing tangible resulted, and M. Kennedy drove over into touch. Fast play was still the order, both ends being visited in vain. Tipperary were awarded a free, about 50 yards out, and Leahy shot a point. A splendid dash by Kilkenny followed. The defence was beaten down, and Walton getting possession shot over the Tipperary bar. Kilkenny continued on the aggressive, a grand fast bout ending in M. Kennedy beating Dwan for a goal,

which gave the Marble County team a two points lead. The referee now relegated a player from each side to the side line for serious transgression of rules. Kilkenny continued to hold the upper hand and M. Kennedy getting possession from a side line puck shot a goal. A great dash by Tipperary and the Kilkenny goal man saved his posts, but Tipperary returned and Murphy netted the ball.

TIPPERARY'S SUPERIORITY.

After play had been suspended for a short while the Tipps. again attacked, and the ball was rushed into the net. In the next minute d. Walsh shot a point. The turn of affairs caused great excitement, and Tipperary, to the accompaniment of loud cheering, played all over their opponents. Kerwick saved the goal twice in quick succession. Continuing the attack, Tipperary forced a "70" free, which J. Leahy

placed nicely for Shelly to tip into the net. Tipperary were just now playing their best game. Fitzpatrick and Clohissey were conspicuous for Kilkenny, but O'Donnell set them off, and play was again in Kilkenny ground, where touch in goal averted danger. Dan Kennedy made up a lot of ground for Kilkenny, and, Walton driving in, the full forward had a great opening, which was missed, however.

The pace now slackened perceptibly. Tipperary came best out of midfield play, and with Leahy sending to Shelly he added a goal. P. Leahy, the Tipperary captain, was hurt, but resumed, and immediately a rush was made on the Kilkenny posts. J. Walsh beat them off, and Whelan sending them further another good chance was lost by Kilkenny. Collisson got the goal puck, and put Tipperary again in possession. When the final whistle sounded play was in Kilkenny ground. There was much enthusiasm at the close, when Tipperary retired good winners.

THE TEAMS.

Tipperary – D. Walsh, R. Walsh, J. Murphy, H. Shelly, P. Leahy (captain), J. Collisson, J. Fitzpatrick, J. Power, T. Shanahan, W. Dwyer, Wm. Dwyer, A. O'Donnell, J. Leahy, J. Doherty, T. Dwan (goal).

Kilkenny – T. Kerwick (goal), J. Walsh, J. Hanrahan, J. Ryan, D. Kennedy, J. Holohan, P. Clohissey, R. Grace, P. Walsh, J. Byrne, R. Tobin, S. Walton (captain), W. Finn, M. Kennedy, J. Whelan.