

# Irish Independent

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One Halfpenny

## KERRY AGAIN CHAMPIONS.

WEXFORD BEATEN AFTER KEEN STRUGGLE.

G.A.A. FOOTBALL FINAL REPLAY.

KERRY, 2 GOALS 3 POINTS (9 POINTS), WEXFORD 6 POINTS.

At Croke Park yesterday, the replay of the All-Ireland Football final between Kerry and Wexford resulted in a victory for Kerry by 3 points. The spectators numbered close on 20,000, amongst them being the Solicitor-General. There was also a big attendance of khaki-clad soldiers. From 12 o'clock, the principal streets of the city presented a more than usual animated appearance as the crowd who had detrained at the different railway termini, mingled with the locals, and all seemed heading for the one quarter – Croke Park.

Arriving at the ground shortly after 2 o'clock, it was almost impossible to obtain a seat in a favourable position, although the Central Council had made most elaborate arrangements, and had provided three rows of seats around the field. Notwithstanding the recent heavy rains, the playing pitch was in splendid condition, and showed every sign of having undergone a special preparation for the greatest contest.

At 2.20 o'clock there were close on 20,000 spectators present, including a large number of clergymen, while every Gael of prominence was present. Mr. O'Toole, the secretary of the Central Council, had made arrangements for 26 special trains, and we are informed that almost every train arriving in the capital yesterday was well filled. Both teams arrived on the grounds almost at the same time. The Kerry men were the first to appear on the field and received a great ovation, the Wexford team appearing shortly afterwards, and were greeted with loud cheers.

While the Kerry team made two changes on the team that played in the first match – Maurice McCarthy and J. Rice for D. Murphy and W. Keating – the Wexford representatives made but one, and that proved of a temporary nature as R. Hanrahan was forced to retire after a few minutes play, and P. Breen took his original place amongst the forwards. Although the game was a right good one, it was not as exciting or as fine a display of football as the contest played on the teams first meeting. This may be accounted for by the fact that a strong breeze prevailed, which rendered accurate shooting very difficult, and while the Wexford team played a great contest for 50 of the 60 minutes of the game's progress it must be acknowledged they were opposed by a better team than they met on 1<sup>st</sup> November. At football there was little, if anything, between the teams, but when it came to a matter of the players using strategy, there was but one team in it, and that was Kerry, who deserve all congratulations on their success. It may be mentioned here that they have never yet been beaten on a replay, and yesterday's victory was their fifth All-Ireland Championship.

Sharp to time Mr. H. Boland (Chairman Co. Dublin Committee) started the game.

## THE PLAYERS.

**Kerry** – R. Fitzgerald (capt.), M. McCarthy, D. Doyle, J. Skinner, J. Mahony, C. Murphy, P. Healy, C. Clifford, P. Breen, T. Rice, J. Rice, J. Lawler, D. Mulins (goal), T. Costello, P. O'Shea.

**Wexford** – Tom McGrath (goal), Tom Murphy, P. J. Mackey, J. Byrne, P.D. Breen, Tom Doyle, T. Mernagh, P. Murphy, J. Doyle, Joe Mullally, R. Reynolds, A. Doyle, John O'Kennedy (capt.), Gus O'Kennedy, J. Rossiter.

## THE GAME DESCRIBED.

### WEXFORD TEAM'S LEAD.

Wexford won the spin of the coin and elected to play to the Clonliffe goal with a strong breeze. They bounded off per Mullally sending to G. Kennedy, but the latter missed by inches. Kerry got away per McCarthy, but Mernagh spoiled, and T. Costello getting a free, the Kerry skipper missed a great chance. Although playing against the breeze, Kerry were doing well, but a foul spoiled, and Byrne sent down the field, where another foul close in gave J. Byrne the opening to score Wexford's first score with 5 minutes gone. Kerry paid another visit to the Wexford posts, when Mernagh again beat them off, a fast bout ending in P. Breen kicking wide.

A free to Kerry and McCarthy placed for Mahony to test McGrath in goal, the latter clearing in good style. The Munster men were pressing at this period, but J. Byrne proved his worth twice, and play was at the centre when Clifford sent to D. Fitzgerald, who passed to Skinner, the latter kicking wide.

Wexford now rushed down the field, when J. Kennedy and Rossiter were conspicuous, the latter testing Mullins, who drove out, Doyle shooting wide in the same minute. A muff by Healy let through the model county men again, Kennedy being fouled close in, and the same player shot inches wide from the resulting free. Wexford were attacking when Maurice McCarthy conceded a "50." which went for nil, but immediately afterwards J. Kennedy sent over the bar for Wexford's second point.

### AFTER 15 MINUTES' PLAY.

A free enabled the Munster men to get down the field, but their attack was short-lived, as J. Murphy drove them off, and with Breen getting possession he shot wide. Wexford were pressing hard just now, and after Mullins had made a fine clearance Mullally sent to Reynolds, who shot a point, amidst cheers. The Kerry players were hemmed inside their 50 mark for a time, by J. Kennedy and Aiden Doyle missed good chances. Mernagh stopped a good Kerry rush, and the Wexford forwards were again in possession when a foul spoiled. The resulting free was returned and A. Doyle scored a point, J. Kennedy striking the post immediately afterwards.

From a splendid bout of central exchanges Kerry

came out best, but Mackey drove them off. A brace of frees to Leinster and the Kerry posts were again surrounded. J. Kennedy shooting another point. Wexford were still holding the upper hand, but in the fast play the forwards missed twice. At last a foul 25 yards out enabled J. Byrne to notch their sixth point, by which they led at the interval.

### **KERRY'S RECOVERY.**

#### **WINNERS IN A GOOD GAME.**

Resuming, Kerry got away and Clifford being fouled Wexford were penalised. Murphy now drove to Mullally, who made some ground for Wexford. Kerry returned the ball, and after the custodian had cleared P. Breen got on and beat McGrath for a goal, after about two minutes' play. The strong breeze was a great factor to Kerry, who were attacking with vigour, and kept the Wexford backs busily engaged, Mahony levelling the scores by scoring a goal, which was loudly cheered.

A free, taken by Murphy, and Wexford made tracks for the Kerry posts, where Lawler drove them off, and Fitzgerald sent to Mahony, who shot wide. The Leinster representatives were making great efforts to get through, and a good run by Kennedy, who sent to Rossiter, looked dangerous until Lawler intercepted, and Kerry were again attacking when Fitzgerald

had the honour of putting his side leading by scoring a point. Wexford again rushed down the field, but failed to pass McCarthy, who cleared in brilliant style, and T. Rice sent amongst the forwards, where Kerry got a free, the Kerry captain sending over the cross-bar. The next item was a grand run by Wexford, who were awarded two frees in quick succession, the second sailing inches wide. The Leinster men were awarded another free, but Murphy's kick was splendidly cleared by McCarthy, who sent to

Rice, the latter passing to Skinner, who again shot wide.

A loud cheer accompanied another grand rush by Wexford, and with only Mullins to beat Mullally sent wide.

Kerry were soon at the other end, but nothing tangible resulted. Play was stopped owing to P. Breen getting hurt. Resuming, a throw-in to Kerry was nullified by P. Murphy, when Rice got on, and, sending to Fitzgerald, the latter sent wide.

A free to Kerry was muffed by Healy, and J. Doyle came along the wing; he sent to Rossiter, whose parting shot went wide. Wexford now gained a free, which Murphy sent into McCarthy's hands, the latter driving down the field, the ball eventually going wide. Skinner got possession from the goal kick, and sent over the bar.

### **THE CUP FOR KERRY.**

Wexford were not yet beaten, and, in a good rush, J. Kennedy was conspicuous, but Costello nullified the movement, and Wexford were again defending their posts. From this to the close it was Kerry's game, and the final whistle saw them winners of a good game, as above, amidst a scene of tremendous excitement.

Before the players left the field, the massive silver cup presented by the Great Southern and Western Railway for the victors was presented to Dick Fitzgerald, captain of the Kerry team, by Mr. L.J. O'Toole, secretary of the Central Council.

#### **CAPT. KENNEDY'S OPINION.**

The Wexford captain, seen by our representative after the match, expressed the opinion that they were beaten by a team which had improved considerably since their last meeting, but stated that, with a little luck, they should have had a larger score to their credit at the interval, perhaps at least two goals taking the place of the minors scored.