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One Halfpenny

ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINAL.

**MAGNIFICENT
DISPLAY BY DUBLIN
BRINGS VICTORY IN
ITS TRAIN.**

**CORK FORWARDS FAIL
TO REALISE
EXPECTATIONS.**

**HISTORIC MATCH AT
CROKE PARK
WITNESSED BY
RECORD CROWD.**

Befittingly auspicious were all the essential circumstances attending the decision of the 1920 Hurling Final at Croke Park yesterday – favourable weather, a vast crowd comprising earnest devotees of the national pastime from every province, and a spirit of enthusiasm and anticipation that was amply justified in the game that was played. So many long-familiar faces were to be seen that it recalled many a thrilling final of old. At no other ever event is such a commingling of earnest workers in the national movement to be met. Men imbued with national instincts, knowing, perhaps, little of the actualities of the game, foregather because it is the hurling final – the one distinctive and unrivalled game to which we owe our racial virility.

THE TAILTEANN YEAR.

In this, the Tailteann year, the event seemed to gather fresh laurels. By its belatedness all recollected the ordeal through which Gaels had passed. In the vigour and sparkling buoyancy of the players all recognised the indomitable spirit of the true Gael. The airs the Cork pipers played were a fitting prelude to the opening scene.

WHERE CORK FAILED.

It was a great, though certainly not the greatest, hurling final of recent years, and the victory of Dublin in the second half was conclusive proof of their capacity to measure their opponents' strength and when to apply their own. The opening half showed the Munster champions playing a typical Cork game – fast, accurate and of a wide range, and undoubtedly they had the better of the exchanges in this period. But it was soon apparent that, despite the advantage of a strong breeze and sun, that they lacked the power to break down the Dublin defence, in which Daly, in goal, as ever, Tobin, Hayes and Clune constituted a truly formidable last line. O'Gorman and Hayes had many equivocal tussles in the goal front, and, on the whole, the Dublin back came out the better and succeeded in frustrating Cork's most dangerous penetrations.

UP AGAINST A STONEWALL BARRIER.

Lucy and Kennedy made some great efforts but found themselves up against a stonewall barrier, and when it gave way Tom Daly flashed out and retrieved in magical style. Yet Cork had most of the pressing. Meantime Dublin had paid the Cork lines many visits but Sean Murphy was particularly active and resourceful and his clearances were both sure and long. Still Callanan, Mockler, Neville and Tom Moore were more than troublesome, and Neville had unquestionably hard luck in the shot that hit the crossbar when Gray was beaten and many are still dubious where exactly the ball subsequently went. It was declared an overline however.

A FAULTLESS DISPLAY.

It must be said that despite the quick sequence of goals that went past him in the second half, Gray gave a faultless display in the Southern posts, and in the hardest stress of the Dublin assaults effected some glorious clearances. After a sparkling and very strenuous 30 minutes Cork just held a lead of a goal. The play of the Munster forwards did not at all satisfy Southern partisans, who were not too jubilant at the interval, but had great hopes in the staying power of the team. The contest was not long resumed when their misgivings were turned into sheer despair, when, with lightning speed, Dublin added goal after goal till four had gone through with as many points as well before Cork ever really got well over the half-line.

SUPERB HURLING BY DUBLIN.

The hurling of the entire Dublin team at this period was superb. At every point, in every art and trick of the game, the Leinster men swept the Cork midfield and defence aside, and Burke, Moore, Neville, and Callanan fed continuously by Mockler and Walsh, had a regular carnival of shooting. Cork were completely off their game, and Sean Murphy alone kept up a consistent struggle without any semblance of success. It seemed to be approaching an anti-climax to the dazzling first half.

A SPLENDID RALLY.

Cork were not done, however, but had taken long to recover from the effects at Dublin's whirlwind second opening. They got away at last and Kennedy roused Southern hearts and cheers again with a splendid goal. Ring had placed a few frees to no purpose, but at last he put one close to Hassett, who received and made a great effort. Cork were now fighting hard, and Hassett improved matters with a goal clear in off a nicely-placed free.

DUBLIN'S THIRD FINAL.

This gave new life to Munster enthusiasm, but Dublin were by no means disturbed, and without flurry again resumed control, pressing and adding another minor. Cork were full of play, but time was spent and Dublin had won their third All-Ireland Hurling title in unmistakable style.

RECORD CROWD.

The crowd, officially returned at 22,000 was probably a record for a hurling final, and the company included Mr. A. Griffith, President of Dáil Eireann, a galaxy of Ministers and T.D.s and officers in uniform.

The Cork I.R.A. Pipers' Band discoursed a splendid selection of airs, and the Transport Brass and Reed Band also contributed pleasantly to the waiting intervals.

"WE WILL COME AGAIN."

It was a grand game, a splendid muster and a glorious spectacle, well worth waiting for, and as a Cork player laughingly remarked when all was over "We will come again." Details:-

THE PLAY.

Dublin defending Clonliffe goal against the breeze and a little sun, were at once invaded by Cork, but the attack was repulsed, and J. Cleary sent Dublin further up when a free for Cork, taken by Hassett, relieved, and Cork again reached the home defence. After a brief stoppage play came to midfield, and Ring sent well down but Lucy shot wide. From Dublin ground to midfield the play drifted, and thence Dublin got away from a side puck, but the Cork backs held out, and M. Murphy again put Cork on the aggressive till O'Gorman sent over. Cork were now playing the faster game, and pressing, Clune relieved, and Dublin crossed the half-line, but D. Ring had another penalty, and play again went against Dublin, and from another free within 15 yards Dan Ring put over the first score – a point for Cork.

CORK DEFENCE ALERT AND STRONG.

Dublin broke loose on delivery, but the Cork defence pivoting on Sean Murphy, was alert and strong, and the attack fell away and from the far side-line play swung into Dublin lines, but the home backs drove it off to midfield. Returning, O'Keefe drove out for Cork but they held away after goal puck, and N. Murphy tested the Dublin backs, who replied soundly, and the Metropolitans invaded, and a couple of touch-line pucks put them well inside Cork defence – only to finish with an over by Neville.

HARD CLEAN HURLING.

Swinging finely of the ball, Cork came away at once but Walsh drove back, and Dublin again got going, but Mockler sent over. M. Murphy sent Cork up: Doherty replied with interest. A free to Dublin was followed by a 70 (Mockler), who sent in a beautiful drive which Sean Murphy diverted to the wing. It came again; Murphy drove away and hard, clean hurling ensued in Cork ground till Doherty sent wide the fourth “over” for Dublin. Cork replied, and “Builder” Walsh repulsed them. Fast, sharp exchanges followed. Ring brought the ball away for Cork, and they broke through, but Daly, in goal, saved with characteristic coolness. A short-lived Dublin incursion was beaten to centre, from where Cork again got to close quarters with the home backs.

A GREAT GOAL.

A “70” resulted, which Hasset sent over. Another 70 went to touch, and from midfield Keeffe went well down and play was fast and close on Cork right forward wing. Doherty and Clune relieved, and a free by M. Hayes gave Dublin further relief. It was only momentary, however, for Gorman finished a fast returning attack with a great goal. Dublin burst right away, and Gray saved a hard shot, and the invasion finished by Callanan sending wide. Dublin were now playing better, and a good shot by Tom Moore just went wide.

NARROW ESCAPE FOR CORK.

A quick scoop by Cork was frustrated by a touch puck for Dublin, who came away in grand style, and J.J. Callanan finished with a splendid ground stroke, which lofted from Gray's boot, hit the crossbar, and went over – a very narrow escape for Cork. O'Keefe once more put Cork attacking, and from a free well up Hasset added a point.

Splendid hitting in midfield followed. Cork got away, and Daly once more effected a timely save – driving the ball to the wing in the midst of a dangerous onrush. Cork centred again, and a 70 was conceded. The ball came in Dublin's favour again, however, and F. Burke tested Gray, but found him alert and unerring.

DUBLIN'S FIRST SCORE.

Dublin pressed again, and Mockler, from a Dublin on the aggressive, F. Burke helped drove over, and from midfield play came fast, till Daly saved once more. J. Walsh put Dublin on the aggressive, F. Burke helped, and Dublin scored a 70, from which Mockler drove over a great point. Dublin were now predominating in close work. A stoppage owing to Lucy being hurt. He retired and J.B. Murphy took his place, and on resumption half time came with the score:-

CORK – 1 goal 2 points
DUBLIN – 2 points

PLAYING LIKE CHAMPIONS.

On resuming Dublin attacked and F. Burke sent wide: The Leinster champions held the hurling in dogged fashion, but Cork got away at length. C. Sheehan centring well, but Dublin repulsed the attack, and J. Walsh receiving, scored a grand point from far out on the left wing.

Cork rushed up and Hasset put in a great puck, but the home defence was invulnerable, and Dublin swept up field in artistic fashion. A penalty relieved for Cork. Dublin again got down on the right – Sean Murphy held the attack for a moment, but receiving opportunely, Joe Phelan sent in Dublin's first goal. On delivery almost from a drive on the left J. Walsh added a second major which gave Dublin the lead for the first time. The Metropolitans were now playing a great game. Cork got across the line at last till Tobin drove the off and the game lay at midfield.

DUBLIN HOLD SWAY.

A great Dublin dash was met by a brilliant defence, and Ring brought the ball away. But the supremacy of the home team was now very apparent, and from another close investment Burke added a minor for Dublin. Still holding sway Dublin dashed away and Neville, from a nice position, put in another goal. A continuance of Dublin pressure followed, and from a 70 Mockler sent in a splendid shot, which Gray, in goal, repelled, but Phelan, receiving, finished with a major. Cork now revived and got into Dublin lines where J.B. Murphy put over a point. From midfield Dublin came away, but Cork worked up till M. Hayes held the shock and J. Cleary sent Dublin off again. Fine exchanges between Cleary and Halloran ensued till Neville was hurt, but not seriously, and Dublin had another point by Mockler, off a free.

A GREAT DEFENDER.

Sean Murphy was most conspicuous all the while in the Cork defence, but relief was very brief, and from a 70 Mockler put over another point. Dublin put out, but soon had another penalty well 90 yards away, and Mockler with a tremendous drive put over the bar. From a Dublin attack, which crossed the Cork lines, T. Hayes scored a point.

SURPRISE SPRUNG ON DUBLIN.

A quick dash by Cork was sprung on the Dublin lines, and Kennedy, receiving, shot a magnificent goal, their first score in the second period after a long spell of defence. Keeping up a refreshed pressure they put over. Dublin had a similar result twice in quick succession, and Cork again broke away. Dublin incurred a penalty and Hassett, with a delightful stroke, put in a goal – a splendid effort. Cork were now hurling with increased spirit, and made several sharp attacks, but Dublin got away, but not for long and coming with fine dash Cork again broke the defence, and Kennedy added another major.

HURLING WITH CONFIDENCE.

With time running out Cork put great steam into their play, but Dublin were hurling a confident game, and F. Burke shot a long range point for the Leinster side. Fast exchanges ensued; Dublin sent over: Keeffe sent Cork away, and from a free in a good position by Ring Cork forced a 70. Another followed. Ring shot rather softly, and Cork were driven off. From good midfield play Dublin came away vigorously, and Gray saved in the nick of time. Dublin sent over, a 70 followed by Mockler, which Gray again extricated, and play went to the sidelines.

A GOAL DISALLOWED.

Cork were now striving with redoubled vigour and wonderful freshness, and Ring drove a free well in, which Hassett seized and put into the net, but the score was disallowed for encroachment. With both teams playing grandly the whistle came, leaving Dublin winners on the score:-

DUBLIN – 4 goals, 9 points

CORK – 4 goals, 3 points.

Mr. T. McGrath, Clare, who refereed, made a most successful debut in that capacity at Croke Park. He handled the teams splendidly and brought a great game to a most satisfactory conclusion.

THE TEAMS.

DUBLIN – R. Mockler (capt.), M. Hayes, M. Neville, T. Moore, T. Hayes, Jas. Cleary, E. Tobin, R. Doherty, Jas. Walsh, T. Daly (goal), F. Burke, J.J. Callanan, Joseph Phelan, J. Ryan (Grocers), J. Clune (Kickhams).

CORK – R. O’Gorman (capt.) (Middleton), J. Kennedy, E. Gray (goal), J. O’Keeffe (Carrigtwohill), J. Hassett, C. Lucey (Collegians), P. Halloran (St. Marys), B. Aherne, S. Murphy, E. Coughlan, M. Murphy (Blackrock), F. Kelleher (Shamrocks), C. Sheehan (Redmonds), Denis Ring, Dan Ring (St. Finbarrs).