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ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL FINAL. TIPPERARY ACHIEVE MAGNIFICENT AND WELL- EARNED VICTORY OVER DUBLIN. 25,000 SPECTATORS WITNESS BRILLIANT MATCH.

The 1920 football final, played yesterday at Croke Park, will rank with the best and most exciting championships in the history of the G.A.A. On a baked ground and under a broiling sun the pace was set acracker and never lagged, but rather intensified to the last whistle. And it was the pace that told, and to Tipperary's tremendous stamina and indomitable spirit their success be attributed.

DUBLIN'S UNDOUBTED CLEVERNESS.

Although Dublin led by 1-2 to 0-3 at the interval, there was very little to choose between the teams. The home players undoubtedly possessed much cleverness and were fielding well and getting away in good style. But the opposing backs, led by O'Shea, never flinched and this player proved an unsurmountable obstacle to all Dublin attacks. Time and again he intercepted and held up the offensive and drove danger away, and to the defence, which pivoted upon him the meagreness of the Dublin score was due.

A VERY INDECISIVE ADVANTAGE.

The Metropolitans had the better of the first half, but it was a very indecisive advantage. Several penalties failed to materialise into scores, and the forwards found the barrier against them a terribly active and alert one. All forward movements were sharply encountered and brought to nought with grim determination, and the battle for points proceeded with unflagging verve through 30 minutes of very excellent football, with the result that Dublin just led by a couple of points.

TERRIFIC TIPPERARY ONSLAUGHT.

On resuming, after a long interval, Dublin resumed the offensive and looked like increasing their advantage. But O'Shea was still the chief stumbling block, and no score resulted, though many dangerous manoeuvres were brought almost to a climax. There seemed a momentary lull in the pace, but it was only the prelude to a terrific Tipperary onslaught that was loosed with characteristic vigour and never relaxed till the final whistle. The going had been too much for the Leinster men, the tackling was of an unrelenting character, and bit by bit the Munster champions wore down the Dublin defence and asserted an unmistakable supremacy. The game at this period was of a thrilling character.

BUOYANT ENERGY OF TIPPERARY.

Scorers did not come soon, but at length Tipp. had a point, then the equaliser followed by a great goal. They were putting in a brisk finish and the strain was terrible. Try as they might Dublin could effect little against the buoyant energy of Tipp. and a further score was added. With four points ahead Tipp. held the pace and dominated the exchanges. Their fielding was very good and shooting accurate and long. It was a great exhibition to which every unit in the team contributed, and after a couple of brief stoppages the full time came amid a wave of rapturous cheering, and Tipp. had redeemed their football prestige by a splendid victory which demonstrated that wonderful pluck which has so often carried them to victory on similar fields.

A GREAT TEAM.

It would be invidious to individualise any players, but O'Shea undoubtedly shone as the best back on the ground. McNamara and Lanagan kept up their ends in a solid fashion. Shelly was prominent in centre half, and Tobin a tireless worker in midfield. Powell, McCarthy and Vaughan led the attacks in spirited style. In fact on a great team, there was not a passenger on the side.

THE DUBLIN PLAYERS.

For Dublin – Robbins, Norris and Reilly gave a great display behind and Donovan and Murphy were assiduous and effective in the centre sector. Frank Burke's goal was a meritorious effort which crowned a great hour's play, and the Synnotts, Joseph and Stephen, were always dangerous. The side, however, did not stay the pace like Tipperary, and were a beaten team at the last whistle.

There were numerous, but not an abnormal number of frees, and game was too fast for much fouling. The tacking was very severe and on such a pitch the game a severe ordeal. The referee handled the teams well and though, of course, his decisions did not always please partisans the match was won by superior merit and greater reserve of strength and speed.

WORTHY OF THE ISSUE.

The attendance was a splendid one – about 25,000 being present including many notabilities. The Transport Workers and Kickham (Tipperary) Brass and Reed Bands and O'Toole Pipers discoursed pleasing selections before and during the contest, and the proceedings were most enjoyable – the great crowd being unanimous in their opinion of the game – that it was worthy of the issue and of the teams engaged.

THE GAME.

Tipperary won the toss and put Dublin to defend the Clonliffe goal against the sun. The wind at first blew centrally, but later swung round citywards. When Comdt-Gen. Brun had thrown in the ball Dublin dashed away and shot hard, a 50 being conceded, which P. McDonnell kicked over. On delivery Tipperary backs met a swift Dublin attack in great fashion, and a penalty against J. Murphy enabled Shelly to send far up. Tobin secured and drove in but Norris cleared. Tipperary came again, however by Tobin, and after a hard bout Powell secured and put over the first point after 8 minutes play.

CARROLL SAVES FINLAY.

Tipperary continued to press and sent over (Arrigan). Dublin then had a free far up, Murphy sent well in and a hot attack on Tipperary lines ended by the ball going out wide. Carroll saved finely in the Tipperary goal and Tipp. had a free in their own lines. Dublin again sent over, Robbins had a penalty 50 yards out, and a "50" free followed, which P. McDonnell again drove wide. Shelly next cleared for Tipperary, and they got to half way. Norris stopped a rush on the right wing, and J. Murphy supplemented with a good punt.

SUPERB PLAY.

Dublin returned to the attack, however, and a superb game ensued in which the Tipperary defence stood up splendidly. A penalty against Reilly let Tipperary away from half-line, Shelly kicked to the left wing but the ball went into touch. Another Tipperary free close in was taken by V. Vaughan who added another minor four minutes from the interval. Dublin again got going and Stephen Synnott put over a point. Neutral play followed till a free by Carey reached Tipperary home zone. A 50 was yielded, but the kick (McDonnell) was poor and play swept along the right wing. Another penalty was driven out, but Dublin were yielding very well till a penalty against Synnott gave Tipperary relief. A penalty half way put Tipperary again in possession. Another free gave Dublin a clearance and Tipperary were again in control, with fine play by Norris and Reilly checked. They kept up a vigorous attack, however, and a brief stoppage occurred. A hop restarted and Tipperary worked for a 50. Shelly drove almost to the goal-mouth but the whistle came leaving the half-time score:-

Dublin 1 goal 2 points

Tipperary 3 points.

Tipperary were first in motion on resuming. Reilly drove off the attack and S. Synnott secured, but Tobin got Tipperary away. Fast exchanges followed and G. Doyle put Dublin forward where McDonnell had a free.

He drove across and O'Shea cleared. Murphy passed out to Burke and O'Shea again repulsed. Dublin were getting the better of fast and keen exchanges. Tipperary came through at last and had a free well placed in goal-front and drove over for a great point four minutes from re-start.

DUBLIN'S FIRST POINT.

The Tipperary defence again proved too strong, however, but, at length J. Reilly secured and driving well down P. McDonnell put up Dublin's first score, a point, after ten minute's play. Tipperary had a free half way which Arrigan kicked and the ball went over from J. Ryan. Tipperary came again, and Shelly kicking to Jim Ryan, he put to Powell, who finished with a smart point (12 minutes). O'Shea next cleared another Dublin assault.

A MAGNIFICENT GOAL.

The ball came to the end line, was quickly carried over, and E. Burke from about 30 yards out, shot a magnificent goal, amidst great enthusiasm (13 minutes). It was a splendid effort. Murphy then came along the right wing and a couple of frees to Tipperary followed. McNamara was penalised, and Dublin got away, but O'Shea frustrated all efforts to break in and fast exchanges were the order for a time. At length S. Synnott passed to Burke who just missed narrowly. A free to Dublin and Donovan kicked to Burke's wing but O'Shea was about. A free by McDonnell was beaten away. O'Shea saved a fine slot by S. Synnott.

O'SHEA EVER IN THE PICTURE.

Murphy sent Dublin down and O'Shea once more effected a great clearance. Doran frustrated another attack and Tipperary went off at great pace: the defence again prevailed, and both ends were visited in quick succession. Donovan was putting in strong work for Dublin and the game was becoming faster and keener. Tipperary had another penalty which Vaughan drove to goal-mouth, but after a severe struggle the attack was beaten to the wing.

FAST AND FEARLESS.

There was little advantage on either side for a while and play was sustained in a fast and furious style without any sign of relaxing. A dangerous Dublin attack developed but was finished by S. Synnott sending wide. Tipperary dashed along their right wing. A free eased the pressure on Dublin. Great reciprocal kicking followed. Again Burke crossed in and S. Synnott, in a good position, missed the posts. The ball subsequently found touch. Coming again and a great shot hit the post and play drifted to midfield. Dublin were exerting pressure now but could not make an effective lodgement, though Burke again kicked into the goal-mouth.

TIPPERARY ATTACK BEATEN OFF.

Norris next beat a Tipperary attack. The Munstermen broke through till a free relieved. A succession of penalties followed and Tipperary were rousing themselves and play reached Dublin territory. They were shaping very menacingly but Robbins relieved. They came again keen and sure and swift as deer. A point came at last (Arrigan) and almost before the cheering had died away they shot a goal, but the whistle was gone and the score was disallowed.

PREVIOUS EXHIBITIONS ECLIPSED.

Tipperary were now pressing with surprising vigour and excitement was rising – stirred by a marvellous burst of play that quite eclipsed all previous exhibitions. Dublin backs were having an anxious time, and Tipperary were playing with extraordinary fire. Shelly drove off a Dublin incursion promptly, and when it returned O'Shea again relieved and play settled down in mid-field. Tipperary had a free and drove out. Dublin had a penalty in their own lines. Tipperary returned a bounce and swarmed around Dublin posts. They pressed persistently and put over. It was a grim struggle till O'Shea was injured, but resumed amidst cheers. Tipperary again asserted themselves on resuming and many Dublin players seemed tired on the going.

SPLENDID VICTORS.

A free gave Dublin a momentary respite, and Tipperary again went over (Doran). At length they got well in and Grant, passing to McCarthy, he put to Powell to send in on goal. They seldom relaxed their grip now and drove wide a minute after which they followed by a point by McCarthy. Dublin struggled through but a foul spoiled and Tipperary put over the line, and play remained in Dublin ground for the remaining minutes. Tipperary finally emerging splendid victors on the score:-

Tipperary 1 goal, 6 points,
Dublin 1 goal, 2 points.

TEAMS

Tipperary: A Carroll (goal), J. McNamara, Ed O'Shea, G. Lanigan, Jas Ryan, J. Shelly, W. Grant, M. Barrett, M. Tobin, J. Ryan, J. Doran, G. McCarthy, Vin Vaughan, M. Arrigan, T. Powell.

Dublin: J. McDonnell (goal), W. Robbins, Joe Joyce, P. Carey, Joe Synnott, Joe Norris, John Reilly, J. Murphy, W. Donovan, J. Carey, P. McDonnell, G. Doyle, John Synnott, S. Synnott, F. Burke.

Referee: Mr. W. Walsh,
Waterford.