

# Irish Independent

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## POOR HURLING CONTEST. LIMERICK OVER-RUN DUBLIN AT CROKE PARK. BIG ATTENDANCE AND FINE WEATHER

**LIMERICK.....8 Goals 5 Pts.  
DUBLIN.....3 Goals 2 Pts.**

The 1921 All-Ireland Hurling Championship Final was played at Croke Park yesterday, and after a display of hurling which was the poorest seen in the final for many years Limerick ran out winners from Dublin (1920 champions) by a margin of 5 goals 3 points. The official gate receipts were £1,030 and the attendance between 18,000 and 19,000. The weather was bright, but cold, and the ground in excellent order. Mr. D. McCarthy, T.D., President G.A.A., presented the Liam McCarthy cup to the winners, this being the first time the trophy was put up for competition.

### BIG SCORE

**19,000 SPECTATORS FOR POOR  
CONTEST**

**THREE MEN INJURED**

**Limerick, 8-5; Dublin 3-2.**

In beautiful weather, and before a very large attendance, Limerick scored an easy victory over Dublin at Croke Park yesterday in the final of the All-Ireland Hurling Championship for 1921.

To say it was one of the most disappointing finals ever played is but stating a cold hard fact. It could not at all compare with that for 1920, in which Dublin won well from Cork in May last. Limerick, showing great strength, dash, and staying power, had matters pretty much their own way right through the hour. At no time did Dublin display championship form, and it is difficult to believe that but a few weeks before they gave quite a brilliant exhibition against Kilkenny in the Kevin Barry Memorial Tournament. It puzzles one to account for the surprising change, which is really inexplicable if we are not to revert to the old excuse of staleness or over-training.

It is idle to suggest that the home team had not had sufficient preparation. In this respect they certainly had an advantage over their opponents, who were yesterday their masters at all points of the play. The Dublin men were simply snowed under;

they made a bad beginning, and, as events proved, were beaten from the start. Only a few amongst the number showed any semblance of their usual hurling prowess, those including Clune and Walsh, who fought hard in the back division. In the front line and at midfield they were completely outclassed.

### CREDIT TO WINNERS.

Limerick gave an all-round good display and are capable of much bigger things than that with which they were confronted yesterday. Their backs and centres are remarkably sound, while their forwards – notably McConkey and McGrath – are exceptionally good in the line of attack. Considering the circumstances of the times, and the recent disorganisation of the game in their county, they produced a splendid team, and are deserving of congratulation on their victory.

The Dublin team showed two changes on that which won from Cork last year, J. Ryan (Grocers) and J. Phelan (Collegians) being replaced by M. Darey (Collegians) and J. Bannon (Faughs). Ten of the Limerick team played on the selection which beat Wexford in the All-Ireland final for 1918. They are Lanigan, Humphreys, Ryan, Keane, Gleeson, McInerney, McConkey, McGrath, Murphy and Hough.

### A GREAT CROWD.

The sod was in the pink of condition for the game. Immediately the gates were thrown open, shortly after 2 o'clock, there was a steady stream through the turnstiles until an hour afterwards, when all the available seating and standing space was well filled. A big crowd came from Munster, but considering the times and the lack of travelling facilities the attendance was representative of several counties other than those concerned in the game.

The official figures are:- Attendance, 18,000-19,000; Gate, £1,080.

The proceedings were enlivened by the Transport Workers' and Artane Boys' brass and reed bands, which discoursed pleasing music during the intervals. It was an inspiring scene when the teams took the field, the Dublin men attired in blue and the boys of Garryowen decked out in jerseys of green and white, with stockings of the same hue. Both sides were heartily cheered.

### THE OFFICIALS.

Mr. Willie Walsh, Waterford, had a busy time as referee, and while his decisions did not at all times meet with approval, it must be admitted that he showed strict impartiality.

Other officials were:

- Umpires – Messrs. T. McGrath, Clare; R. O'Keefe, Leix; P.D. Breen, Wexford (Chairman, Leinster Council); and J. O'Brien, Clare.
- Linesmen: – Messrs. O'Farrell, Roscommon; and P. McFadden, Antrim.

The ball was thrown in by Mr. James O'Mara, of the O'Mara Opera Co., who is a native of Limerick.

### THE PLAY LIMERICK ALWAYS ON TOP MANY WIDES AND OVERS

Limerick were first away to cross the Dublin end. Returning from the puck out, Gleeson sent across to Keane, who was fouled. Gleeson took the free, and the ball was turned into the net by McGrath. No score was allowed owing to an encroachment of the parallelogram. Dublin worked away but were forced to retire before a stout Limerick defence, and a good bout of hurling was seen at midfield. Moving forward, Dublin sent wide. Limerick dashed away and sent over a little later.

Hough stayed a Dublin onrush, but the home team kept up the attack for Tom Hayes to drive wide. After Limerick forwards had missed, Dublin got into good position, but spoiled by fouling. Hough's free was well taken, but McConkey failed to find the objective with a rasping shot. Lanigan, who all through played a great game for Limerick, met with an injury to his head but resumed. A free to Limerick was sent over from far out by Hough. The Munster men were having much the better of the play, which did not at all approach the expected standard, the Dublin men appearing to be completely off their game. After Limerick had again gone out they were awarded a free which was placed to good advantage by Gleeson, McGrath sending into the net for the first score of the game. A free to Dublin brought them a point by Tom Hayes from about 75 yards out. The same player was injured in the head a little later, but continued on. Limerick got a free which was centred by Gleeson, but the Dublin defence prevailed in face of a spirited onset. Hough saved a Dublin onslaught, but the pressure was continued and the Limerick citadel was in danger till Neville sent wide. Gleeson, seldom at fault, scored a point for Limerick from a free.

From a hop by the referee Limerick bounded away and were pressing with vigour when M. Hayes elected a fine clearance for Dublin. A free by Gleeson brought Limerick back and after an exciting tussle in front of the sticks McConkey sent into the net for a goal. Limerick continued to hold the upper hand and Humphreys just missed in a try for a score. The Dublin rere line was still being hotly tested when Walsh relieved for the Metropolitans to go forward and over. From a free Clune again set Dublin attacking. The Limerick defence prevailed and either end was visited in turn before Dublin forced a "70." which was taken by Tom Hayes and cleared by Mullane. In a flash Limerick were away. Lanigan sending in for D'Arcy to save for Dublin.

Hereabouts the play showed some slight improvement, which, however, was maintained for only a brief period. Limerick were attacking when a free to Clune eased for Dublin, who went forward for Mockler to get a point. Walsh and Burke put Dublin pressing, but they were beaten off, and the Limerick forwards, Howard, McGrath and McConkey, engaged in a grand attack for McConkey to beat Daly for a well-won goal.

Determined play marked a great effort by Dublin to get through, but the Limerick defence was unbeatable and, the scene of action

changing, the Dublin backs, of whom Clune was the more prominent, were kept moving. Limerick forwards, though up against strong opposition, were showing splendid form. Frequent fouling and minor accidents brought irritating delays. Limerick kept up a persistent onslaught, which was rewarded in McConkey going through for a magnificent goal. McInerney had saved for Limerick, and play was at midfield when the interval came – Limerick, 4-1; Dublin 0-2.

## SECOND HALF PLAYERS RETIRE AS RESULT OF INJURIES.

Tom Hayes was obliged to retire from the Dublin side, and was replaced by J. Kennedy (Faughs). The second half opened with a surprise, Dublin attacking for Neville to net a goal from a very difficult angle. After Clune had saved a Limerick rush Dublin again assumed the offensive, but sent wide. From a free at midfield Clune placed front of the sticks for Murrane to bring off a grand save for Limerick. From a free by Gleeson Limerick engaged in a brisk attack, a goal from Howard being received and sent into the net by McGrath.

### GAME AT A GLANCE

#### FIRST HALF

	Frees	70's	Wides	Overs	Goals	Points
Limerick	7	0	4	4	4	1
Dublin	4	1	3	2	0	2

#### SECOND HALF

	Frees	70's	Wides	Overs	Goals	Points
Limerick	2	3	3	2	4	4
Dublin	8	0	8	2	3	0

There were three stoppages in the first half owing to accidents, and the same number in the second half.

A brace of frees brought Dublin forward, but the scoring attempt was fruitless. Play was soon in Dublin ground, Hough and Gleeson doing the leading in a strong Limerick advance. The Dublin end was crossed without result. Cleary sent Dublin away from midfield, but a couple of the metropolitan players showing an inexcusable disregard for the rules, Limerick got back for a free. Joe Bannen (Dublin), as a result of a second accident, had to retire. Limerick took up a victorious offensive, and rushed a major from a cluster in front of the Dublin sticks. The visitors were still in dangerous ground when a free brought relief for Dublin, who went attacking, to be beaten off by the dashing tactics of the Limerick backs. Dublin returned for Neville to send wide. A fine drive by Lanigan was checked by Daly, who in saving conceded a "70." Hough's puck was weak, and two successive frees aided Dublin, Clune missing by inches from the second.

### POINT FROM "70."

Limerick were showing marked superiority, and the play was very poor and devoid of interest. A "70." well-judged by Hough was sent over the point for Limerick by McGrath. Dashing away on the puck out Clune took a good free for Dublin, and the forwards rushed a goal. Limerick were away in a flash. A stinging shot from Lanigan was stayed by Daly, but before the Dublin custodian had time to recover himself McConkey had burst through for a major. Howard added a point for Limerick immediately after. Limerick showing decided supremacy kept up the attack, and twice crossed the Dublin end without result. In a further assault Gleeson made no mistake for a goal. Dublin had a brief innings from which Mockler scored a major. C. Ryan (Limerick) met with an accident, but resumed. The Dublin backs were busy, and after McConkey had struck the upright Daly brought off a couple of fine saves. Clune sent Dublin away to find the Limerick backs clearing at ease. Limerick kept up the offensive, Dublin making a poor show against the dashing style of the visitors, who were now winning as they pleased. The long whistle found the home team well beaten.

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### THE TEAMS.

**Limerick** – R. McConkey (capt.), W. Murphy (goal), J. Lanigan, P. McNerney (Young Irelands), T. Mangan, G. Howard, M. Mullane (Crocm), J. Humphreys, W. Ryan (Cappamore), J. Keane (Castleconnell), C. Ryan (Pallas), T. McGrath (Cloughaun), W. Hough (Newcastle-West), W. Gleeson, D. Murnane (Fedamore).

**Dublin** – R. Mockler (capt.), M. Hayes, E. Tobin, J. Bannon, R. Doherty, T. Hayes, Jim Walsh, T. Moore, James Cleary, M. Neville (Faughs), T. Daly (goal), M. D'Arcy, J.J. Callanan, T. Burke (Collegians), J. Clune (Kickhams). Sub J. Kennedy (Faughs).

### PRESENTING THE CUP.

After the match several of the winning team, including the hero, McConkey, were carried shoulder high from the field. A scene of enthusiasm was witnessed when Mr. D. McCarthy, T.D., as President of the G.A.A., in the unavoidable absence of the donor, Mr. Liam McCarthy, London, presented the Limerick captain with the perpetual Challenge Cup. Of rare and costly design, the trophy was an object of admiration during the day. Mr. McCarthy congratulated the winners, on whose behalf the captain suitably returned thanks.