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One Halfpenny

WEXFORD'S CUP. TAME G.A.A. FOOTBALL FINAL. WEXFORD, 3-4; MAYO, 1-2.

The All-Ireland championship football final was played at Croke Park yesterday before about 3,000 people and Wexford won easily over Mayo, who in their first final gave a creditable display. It was a remarkable final in its tameness. Frost was everywhere around, and we doubt if any match has been played under such wintry conditions as prevailed. It was this principally that was responsible for the lack of enthusiasm – which is the chief characteristic of a final. It seriously affected the attendance. Instead of 3,000 there should have been at least five times that number, and even then it is doubtful if the struggle would have generated much enthusiasm. The players, who did their best, deserve credit, one and all, for turning out on such a pitch, for only in portions could they obtain a firm foothold. The good football we saw was in rare patches, and most of the work was necessarily fluky. Wexford were superior in general team play, but not in defence, the Mayo rearguard doing fine work, and Loftus, in goal, bringing off several splendid saves, which were heartily applauded.

WEXFORD CAPTAIN'S OPINION.

In a chat with our representative, the Wexford captain, Mr. Sean Kennedy, said he was of the opinion that the ground was hardly playable, and he was very anxious about his players. He thought that the Central Council, as the responsible authority, should have taken precautions against frost for this the greatest match of the year. He gave every credit to Mayo, and said that he would feel more satisfied when they met on a fitter ground, which, perhaps, would be next year in the same stage as the Westerners were a fast improving lot of footballers. Mr. T. McCullagh, Secretary of the Wexford Co. Board, also paid a tribute to the plucky stand put up by Mayo, who were good footballers to play against, and took their defeat like sportsmen.

The Wexford captain was presented with the Cup by Mr. J.J. Keane, Chairman of the Athletic Council, in rather informal fashion on the field of play. The trophy, which was presented by the G.S. and W. Rly Co., after Kerry had won the last cup outright, now becomes Wexford's property. Pictures of the match were taken by the Film Co. of Ireland.

THE GAME.

FINE PLAY BY MAYO DEFENCE.

Playing for the Clonliffe goal Mayo got going per Courell, but Phelan sent them back, and a kick from Kennedy left play in the Mayo ground. Here a free fell to Wexford, and S. Kennedy kicked wide. Play was at the centre when Mayo got through, but Mackey intercepted. Wexford attacked, and when Doyle got possession a foul spoiled. Murnagh nullified Mayo's free, and the Wexford men got down again, but Waldron saved cleverly. Wexford were now awarded two free kicks in quick succession. Sean Kennedy sent in a rasper in saving which Loftus conceded a "50" free. Byrne's 50 yards' kick went amongst the forwards but Mayo again fouled. This time Byrne shot inches wide.

SEAN KENNEDY'S GOALS.

A grand run by Courell for Mayo, and a score looked well, until Phelan nipped in and cleared. Then Gus Kennedy got along the wing in fine style. A "50" was forced, and Byrne drove the free to Gus Kennedy, who passed to his brother, Sean. The Wexford Captain shot with great force into the net.

Wexford continued to attack but McEllin broke through and sent to centre field. Mayo got a free, and Robinson put up to Hession, who shot a point. Soon Mayo were defending, and Gus Kennedy got in some grand work, eventually shooting over the bar. Mayo were kept up on the defensive, but Loftus saved finely. He could unfortunately only fist away from a "50" free, and Sean Kennedy meeting the ball on the ground gave him no chance for the second goal. Soon afterwards Reynolds kicked wide.

MAYO'S SECOND SCORE.

Free kicks were now awarded to each team, when the Model County again came out best, and, being severely tested by another free kick from short range by Sean Kennedy, Loftus touched over the bar for a point. A good run by Mayo was a welcome turn. Lyons, travelling well down, sent to Courell, who punched over the

Wexford bar. Leyden relieved in a Wexford attack, and from a free about 25 yards out Robinson (Mayo) failed badly. Mackey, who was doing great work, checked a Mayo attack, and Sean Kennedy sent to Gus Kennedy, who shot inches wide. The Model County returned to the attack, but nothing resulted, and the interval came with Wexford leading 2-2 to 0-2.

A GREAT GOAL.

Restarting Mayo paid a short visit to Wexford ground. Phelan beat them off, and then Sean Kennedy gave Doyle a fine chance, which he missed. McEllin and Leyden led Mayo up the centre, but they were again beaten off, and Crowley came along in taking style. Gibson sent Wexford back, and a free improved Mayo's position: this, however, was cleared by Phelan, and Wexford immediately rushed to the other end. After Doyle had kicked wide, Reynolds got possession, and added a point to Wexford's score.

The Mayo backs were busy for a time, Leyden and Robinson doing great work, but the advantage they worked for their forwards was nullified by Mackey. Then T. Doyle sent to Sean Kennedy, and a splendid combined move culminated in Gus Kennedy netting the ball. This was the best goal of the match. Wexford were now all over their opponents, whose defence play was, however, very fine.

WEXFORD EASE OFF.

From a clever kick by Sean Kennedy across the goal-mouth, Doyle stumbled over the line and fell heavily. Wexford seemed to take matters easy from this point, being content with their load. The Connaught men looked like scoring until Phelan, with a grand kick, put the Wexford forwards moving, but the champions failed from a free. Another move by Mayo was checked by Mackey, whose clearance resulted in Furlong adding a point. In the next minute Loftus effected a fine save with the left hand from a free by Sean Kennedy.

Continuing, Wexford had the Connaught players inside their "50" for several minutes. Gus Kennedy, from an easy position, duplicated his miss of the first half. Mayo made another great effort, and broke through in good style. Courell, however, missed a certain score. In the next minute a good bout of play by Smith and Courell let Boschell in for Mayo's first goal. Loftus made a great save from a fast shot by Sean Kennedy. Leyden was again responsible for Mayo getting into Wexford ground, when Hession had a shot, which McGrath cleared. Play was in Mayo territory when the final whistle sounded, leaving Wexford easy winners, as above.

Mr. M. Dunphy refereed in his usual efficient manner, and handed the ball to the Wexford captain at the finish.

THE TEAMS.

Mayo – P. Loftus (goal), F. Courell (capt), J.E. McEllin, P. Robinson, T. Gibson, J. Waldron, J. Leydon, G. Delaney, H. Hession, P. Smyth, T. Boschell, P. Kelly, J. Reilly, M. Murray, A. Lyons.

Wexford – J. Kennedy (capt), Phelan, Gus Kennedy, P.J. Mackey, A. Doyle, T. Murnagh, J. Byrne, M. Howlett, J. Crowley, R. Reynolds, T. McGrath (goal), F. Furlong, T. Doyle, J. Wall, T. Murphy.

THE TEAMS ENTERTAINED.

The Dublin Wexfordmen's Association, under the presidency of Mr. L. Wickham, J.P., entertained the teams and their friends last night at Connarchy's Hotel, Parnell Square. The arrangements were carried out most efficiently, and at the all-night dance, the Committee of the Association, along with Messrs Wickham, L. Casey, Jas Doyle (sec) and J. Behan (treas), worked untiringly, the function being a great success. Mr. Gus Kennedy, whose smart forward work was a big factor in the champions' victory, delighted all with his capital step-dancing.