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One Halfpenny

CHAMPIONS. HURLING CONTEST.

KILKENNY RETAINS ITS HONOURS FOR THE THIRD TIME.

THE MATCH WITNESSED BY 25,000 SPECTATORS.

The final contest for the All-Ireland Hurling Championship was played yesterday at Jones's road in presence of about 25,000 spectators. The rivals were Munster and Leinster, represented respectively by the picked hurlers of Tipperary and Kilkenny. The Leinster representatives beat the Munster men fairly and squarely on the following score:-

Kilkenny - 2 goals 4 points (10 points)
Tipperary - 1 goal 2 points (5 points)

TIPPERARY'S DEFENCE

The contest had aroused considerable interest throughout the two provinces since the fixture was arranged, as both counties had great records to their credit. In the case of the Tipperary representatives they had this year beaten all opposition in the Croke Memorial Tournament, including their conquerors of yesterday whom they defeated in the most decisive manner last June at Dungarvan. The only reverse they experienced during the past twelve months was their knockout by Limerick in the final of the Thomand Shield in Limerick a few months back. In order to qualify for yesterday's game Tipperary met and beat the strongest opposition that Munster could put forward and their display against Cork in the final stamped them as one of the best hurling combinations that Tipperary had got together for some years.

THRICE IN POSSESSION.

This was Kilkenny's eleventh appearance in the All-Ireland Final. The defeat by Tipperary in the Croke Tournament Final above alluded to was the only reverse they experienced for some years. Their series of triumphs in the Leinster championships were crowned by their hollow defeat of Dublin in the replay of the final at Wexford Park.

In the preliminary stages of the All-Ireland competitions they were pitted against the selected hurlers of Scotland and England, and after travelling to Glasgow and Liverpool returned victorious in both instances. Kilkenny have now won the championship for three years in succession.

19 SPECIAL CROWDED TRAINS

The interest was so great in yesterday's game that no less than nineteen special trains were arranged for, all of which were largely patronised, but undoubtedly the greatest numbers travelled from Kilkenny and Tipperary. Cork and Limerick were also strongly represented. As a matter of fact, every county in both Provinces sent forth large numbers, augmented by those hailing from Connaught and Ulster.

SUPERIOR AT ALL POINTS.

As to the game, the Tipperary men were strong favourites and their followers were very sanguine of victory. The Kilkenny representatives, while hopeful, had not forgotten their Dungarvan upset. Playing with the advantage of the breeze, Kilkenny were soon attacking, and after five minutes play it

was quite palpable that they would be hard to beat. They played the better game all through, and their victory was more readily achieved than anticipated. They beat their opponents at all points, and were sound winners at the final whistle.

Tipperary gave a most disappointing display, and were sadly lacking in the dash and skill which won them distinction in their recent games. At no part of the contest could it be said they possessed a winning chance, and when one remembers the deeds of Tubberadora, Moycarkey, and Thurles, especially in the closing minutes of a contest, the finish of the Toomevara selection left much to be desired. After the contest Mr. Neale, G. S. and W. Railway, presented the cup given by the Company to Mr. R. Walsh, captain of the winning team.

THE TEAMS.

KILKENNY.

R. Walsh (captain),
Mooncoin.
J.T. Power (goal),
Mooncoin.
M. Doyle, Mooncoin.
R. Doyle, Mooncoin.
R. Doherty, Mooncoin.
J. Kelly, Mooncoin.
Dr. P. Grace, Tullaroan.
R. Grace, Tullaroan.
S. Walton, Tullaroan.
J. Keoghan, Tullaroan.
M. Gargan, Erins' Own.
D. Kennedy, Erins' Own.
L. Lennon, Erins' Own.
J. Brennan, Erins' Own.
J. Rochford, Three Castles.

TIPPERARY.

P. Meagher (captain),
Toomevara.
J. Meara (goal), Toomevara.
E. Cowley, Toomevara.
F. McGrath, Toomevara.
E. Gilmartin, Toomevara.
S. Hackett, Toomevara.
J. Harty, Toomevara.
W. Kelly, Toomevara.
J. Raleigh, Emly.
T. Gleeson, Drombane.
R. Mockler, Horse and Jockey.
J. Murphy, Horse and Jockey.
H. Shelly, Thurles.
P. Brolan, Thurles.
E. O'Keefe, Templetuohy.

Referee – Mr. M. F. Crowe.

At 2.20 amidst loud cheering, the Kilkenny men came on to the field, headed by the Kilkenny Pipers Band, who played them around the ground. Five minutes later a hearty salvo greeted the Tipperary players, the Lusk pipers accompanying them around the playing pitch.

THE GAME DESCRIBED.

The spin of the coin favoured Kilkenny, who took early advantage of a slight breeze, and broke away to Tipperary ground, but were beaten off by Harty, and a good run by Tipperary ended in the ball going wide. A rush from the goal-puck by Kilkenny ended in Gargan sending to Walton, who scored a point in the first minute.

After an unsuccessful visit to the Kilkenny posts the Leinster champions bunched together and surrounded the Southerners' goal, but could not pierce the defence, and play was left at the centre.

Keoghan now sent strongly into Tipperary territory, where Doyle missed. Mockler drove to the centre, whence Dr. Grace sent to Dick Doyle, and a "70" free to Kilkenny followed, which Dan Kennedy rasped towards the goal-mouth, but the ball went wide. Harty headed a strong rush by the Tipps, and J. Murphy getting possession, beat Power all ends up for a goal.

A FAST PACE.

The pace at this period was very fast, the ball travelling from end to end with great rapidity. Kilkenny again attacked with great vigour, and after O'Meara had effected a fine save, M. Gargan scored a goal. The Kilkenny men were still attacking when Brennan and Gargan were prominent.

Kilkenny again made tracks for the Tipperary posts, where Raleigh conceded a "70" yards puck, which D. Kennedy took and scored a point. The Mooncoin heroes continued to hold the upper hand, and M. Doyle, with a grand shot, sent over the bar, thus giving his side a lead of three points after 15 minutes play.

SITUATION AT INTERVAL.

The breeze was still assisting the Kilkenny men, and after the Tipperary captain had beaten off an attack, Raleigh passed along to Kelly, who reduced the lead by a point. Kilkenny got on the goal puck and Brennan, the Erin's Own stalwart, led another attack. The Tipperary captain saved his side twice in succession. Murphy and Gleeson were now conspicuous in a fierce onslaught, but the Kilkenny defence held up, and Dick Grace was responsible for another incursion by Kilkenny after Hackett had driven them off. Gargan got possession, and scooped the ball over Tipperary's crossbar.

The interval whistle sounded shortly afterwards with Kilkenny leading by 1 goal and 4 points to 1 goal and 1 point. The moment the ball was again in motion Tipperary broke through and got a free which Shelly sent well in, but Keoghan saved, and Gargan drove across to Doherty. Mockler now popped in and changed the venue to Kilkenny ground. In a scramble Kelly (Tipperary) got hurt, and was forced to retire, Kenna filling the vacancy.

D. Kennedy then took hold and tapped along the ball to Tipperary ground, where Dr. Grace joined in and passed to Walton, who was beaten by Gilmartin. Raleigh came to the charge, and the Kilkenny posts were in danger, and Owen in goal made a glorious defence. Rain was now falling heavily, and the players had much difficulty to keep their feet.

ATTACK AND COUNTER-ATTACK

Brennan and Gargan beat off the Tipps, who were soon back again to the attack. Harty failed by inches to raise a flag.

The pace now slackened off appreciably, and all Tipperary's efforts to score were futile. Once Kilkenny's captain raced along the sideline, but was stopped by Raleigh, who in turn was beaten by Gargan, and the Tipperary back cleared from an awkward situation.

A free to Kilkenny put play again in Tipperary's ground, where a fast shot from Gargan was saved by the goalkeeper.

However, the ball was soon returned and Kelly passed to Walton, who shot the ball into the net amidst a volley of cheers. This reverse shook up Tipperary. A "70" free came their way. Gleeson took it, but the ball was returned by Dr. Grace, and play was again in the Premier County's territory, the backs being severely tested.

Soon after Power conceded a 70, off which Mockler scored a point. Tipperary were having the upper hand at this period, but the Kilkenny custodian saved his posts in splendid style. Keoghan came to his aid, and broke through and play was again in favour of the Champions.

At last Gilmartin led on the men of Tipperary, but R. Mockler could not find the goal posts. Kilkenny returned per Gargan, when a score looked certain until Raleigh cleared, and Tipperary were again looking for a score. Rochford this time proved himself his worth and the last despairing effort of Tipperary went for nought.

OPINIONS ON THE GAME.

Ald. Nowlan, Chairman Central Council – I never doubted my county men. The champions were a greater team to-day than they have been in any final played for years past.

Kilkenny Captain – Of course I'm glad but not surprised. Our defence was fine, but two things that our men were brilliant in were combination in close play and log passing from side to centre and centre to side. Our players rarely hit the ball without knowing that it was going to land among other Kilkenny men better placed. So we wanted little effort. Tipperary Captain – We were, I think, worth more scores than we got. Perhaps our men took too much out of themselves at the start when they were too eager. They played a great game in the second half.

The Referee – It was a keen, fast game. The captains on both sides were able leaders, but Kilkenny always worked with a perfect understanding of each other's play, and possessed the finish which their opponents lacked.

Since 1887 Tipperary Co. held the All-Ireland Championship 8 times, and yesterday was Kilkenny's seventh victory in the final.