

Sligo All-Stars relaxed and lost

Sligo All Stars renewed exchanges with their old rivals, St. Mary's, in the P.P.U. Tournament in Custume Barracks, Athlone, on Sunday, and having set the pace in a thrilling first half, to lead by eight points at the interval, they collapsed completely in the second period and, in the end, went under by three points.

It was a big disappointment to the Sligo team who were having their first competitive outing of the new season and one which will serve them as a reminder of how costly it can be to relax the pressure at any stage of a game, for they have only themselves to blame for losing.

The irony of the matter was the fact that St. Mary's could not be stopped after this victory and, in the final they were always in command against the Dublin side, Corinthians A.

St. MARY'S 45;
SLIGO ALL STARS 42.

Sligo got off to a great start in this game when John McGowan broke from the jump-ball to score from under the basket.

Playing at a pace which had the homesters completely confused Sligo pressed on and got in control. With a comfortable lead to their credit mid-way through the half, Sligo made some stupid mistakes in defence which let St. Mary's narrow the gap but at half-time, they seemed to have the foundations laid for victory.

Going into the second half, leading by 27-19, Sligo got off to a very slow start and they failed to show the same enthusiasm which marked their first half play. Slowly but surely, St. Mary's pulled closer and took the lead with seven minutes remaining.

At this very vital stage of the game, Sligo were unlucky enough to lose their best performer, McGowan, and Tony O'Hara through fouling, and although they tried courageously to pull the game out of the fire, St. Mary's forced them into hurried play and they wasted many chances.

Scorers — St. Mary's: B. Gahan 14, J. McGeehan 4, F. McGeehan 6, P. Burke 10, P. Kelly 11, P. Folan, J. Meyers, P. Macken.

Sligo: J. Plamer 4, S. Burns 8, I. Zauers 2, J. McGowan 14, T. O'Hara 10, T. O'Brien, B. McHugh 4, B. Gorevan.

Made amends

SLIGO ALL STARS 50;
ARMY SCHOOL OF MUSIC ... 34.

Sligo made amends to some extent in their second game when they showed their old form against the A.S.M.

Sligo got off to a disastrous start however, and were mesmerised by the speedy ball-play of their smaller opponents and at the ten-minute mark, it looked doubtful enough whether Sligo would find the measure of the Dublin side at all.

A substitution at this stage rested three of the Sligo first five and the result was quickly noticeable for the reserves put in an enthusiastic fight-back and levelled the score, 19-19, at the interval.

Starting with one change after the break, Sligo slowly pulled ahead and when their first team players came on again, they were five points clear. With most of their work done for them at this stage, the All Stars continued to increase the gap and were never troubled afterwards.

S.A.S.:— J. Palmer 17, S. Burns 4, T. O'Hara 6, J. McGowan 18, I. Zauers, T. O'Brien 2, B. Gorevan, B. McHugh 3.

A.S.M.:— G. Feary 5, T. Doherty 12, L. Hanley 5, P. Mulvally 4, J. Byrne 2, N. Coffey 6.