

## Navy stopped All Stars

**S**LIIGO All Stars were out of luck in Derry last week-end when they failed to qualify for the final of the NAVCOMMSTA international basketball Tournament although they received some consolation from a convincing sixteen-point victory over Corinthians, Dublin.

All Stars were eliminated by the homesters, U.S. Navy,, who went on to lose the final by eleven points to holders, St. Vincents, Dublin.

Sligo had their strongest team in action for some time and they looked to have the measure of their American opponents. Although they were slow to settle down, they began to find their usual rhythm mid-way through the half and they eased into a ten-point lead.

Navy's slow, controlled game kept the home team in touch and they refused to show signs of strain even though Sligo exerted strong pressure and it was this cool approach which brought them back in the reckoning to close the gap to 36-30 before the end of the half.

### Cut deficit

All Stars lost Stan Burns early in the second period with five fouls and Navy, who were improving steadily, cut the deficit despite Sligo's all-out efforts to keep in front.

The homesters hit a purple patch entering the last ten minutes of play and six baskets separated the sides when John McGowan sank two shots in a row to bring Sligo back with a chance.

Navy were far too experienced to lose control at this stage and they played out time knowing Sligo could not make up the extra points to challenge their lead. Final score—U.S.N. 67; S.A.S. 63.

Sligo All Stars:— J. Palmer 20, J. McGowan 15, T. O'Hara 12, B. McHugh 6, R. Burns 4, S. Burns 3, A. Cronnelly 3.

### Sweet revenge

Sligo scored sweet revenge over Corinthians in their second pool match (65—49) yet they had to recover from a very bad start before taking control of the game.

Corinthians tried to stop the All Stars with a man-to-man defence

and their tactics succeeded for quite a while but a succession of fast-break scores unsettled the Dublin players and Sligo edged in front.

All Stars had a few baskets in hand at the interval break and they really got down to business in the second half. They brought on a few of their less tried players yet they continued to forge ahead.

They were twenty points to the good with eight minutes remaining and at this stage, they began to ease off. Corinthians came back into the game in the final few minutes but they were never in the hunt.

Sligo All Stars:— J. Palmer 26, T. O'Hara 9, B. McHugh 8, J. McGowan 6, R. Burns 6, S. Burns 4, G. Monaghan 4, A. Cronnelly 2.

All Stars found it very difficult to play in the heated gymnasium, particularly after completing an outdoor training schedule over the Christmas. Even their fittest men were exhausted by the excessive heat and they will have to do specialised training in preparation for their National Cup game against the Navy team in Derry in March.