

Basketball

Sligo Convent players retain title

Sligo Convent of Mercy under 16 team retained their champions' title by beating Killester All Stars in a thrilling Top Four Tournament final in Dublin on Friday.

The Sligo girls made a fantastic come-back in the final three minutes after trailing from half time and they took the trophy by a single basket.

The Convent Under 15 team made a gallant attempt to win the National Juvenile Tournament they have dominated for the past two years but they were beaten in the final by a fine Killester team.

The Convent senior team made a tame exit from the Meteors Ladies Invitation Tournament although they were favoured by many to win.

Old rivals Corinthians cost them their place in the final by winning the semi-final in convincing style by 42-28.

Sligo seemed sure to go through after streaking into a 14-4 lead within minutes of the start but they suddenly lost their grip and Corinthians were well in touch at half time.

The taller Dublin girls got down to the task in the second half and after taking the lead for the first time at 25-24, they never looked back.

Earlier Sligo had eliminated Irish Universities and National Bank but at no stage over the week-end did they hit their true form.

Showed old dash

Sligo All Stars showed some of their old dash in two entertaining and exciting exhibition games in conjunction with the Meteors girls' tournament.

They caused a minor sensation by beating the Irish Universities 67-65 after leading 34-27 at the interval but they failed to get the upper hand against a Tournament Selection and lost 68-60.

A slow start cost them the game because they were behind 9 points to nil after three minutes and it was score for score from then to the finish.

Scorers were — J. Palmer 39, J. McGowan 35, G. Monaghan 31, A. Cronnelly 8, G. Gallagher 8, B. O'Hara 4, S. Watson 2.

Walk-over for Cork

Cork have been given a walk-over into the final of the All-Ireland Senior Championship because Sligo refused to play them in Galway. This decision was upheld at a meeting of the National Executive in Dublin last Sunday when an objection by Sligo to a change of venue was dismissed.

Sligo's case was given a most unsympathetic hearing and because of the attitude adopted by the National Executive, it is considered an appeal would not bring about a change of heart.

Sligo had been fixed as the venue for the game a week before the fixture but Cork objected on the grounds that the Sligo court was not suitable. Their objection was upheld at an emergency meeting of the Executive and the game was switched to Galway.

Sligo's refusal to play was on the grounds that they were not consulted about the change.

Must beat U.S. Navy

Sligo All Stars must beat U.S. Navy Derry by at least five points when the sides meet in Derry in the National Cup next Sunday afternoon.

Derry beat Sligo by four points in Sligo early this month and unless All Stars take the bonus points for an aggregate victory, they are as good as out of the competition.

Two fine performances in Dublin last week-end have given Sligo a boost to their hopes and they can be expected to put up a much more determined fight next Sunday.

The Derry court is almost home to the Sligo players who play much better in a full-size gym and they have already inflicted two defeats over the Navy players on their home base.

All Stars hope to be at full strength for the game and their recent hard training should pay dividends.