

Penilee were superbly organised

Sligo All Stars were unable to cope with a superbly organised Penilee Squad in the return game of the British and Irish Club Championship at Inchicore last Saturday night and they went down but with a great fighting display by 76-65.

Within the first five minutes it became apparent that the Glasgow boys were in top form. They shot with deadly accuracy from the outside, outran Sligo with their fast-break play and thanks to 6 ft 10 ins. Great Britain centre, Willie Cameron, dominated the backboards almost exclusively.

All Stars were never able to get off the ground in the opening half and though they were still well in the game after ten minutes, their downfall was brought about in the next five minutes when Penilee coasted into a 37-16 lead.

Sligo's task appeared impossible when they finished the half 43-22 behind and particularly when Penilee increased their lead by six points within three minutes of the start.

Fighting characteristic

But once again, Sligo displayed the fighting characteristic which has now become a feature of their game and with the passing of another three minutes, Penilee were pulled back to 49-33.

The ebb and flow continued. The Scots regained their twenty-point lead Sligo reduced the gap but entering the last ten minutes, the deficit was a huge twenty six points—67-41.

Sligo became inspired when the Scottish giant was fouled out with seven minutes on the clock and they hit Penilee with an all-out onslaught which had immediate effects on the scoreboard.

Giving every last ounce of energy to the task, Sligo crept back into the reckoning and with two minutes left, they were only nine points behind and still coming.

At least so it looked but Penilee pulled a few great scores out of the bag to stem the flow. Sligo kept the pressure up and were in complete control at the end—a few minutes more and they might even have outstripped the Scots.

As it was, however, All Stars were completely happy with the game. They could not have tried any harder and but for a host of shots which rolled around the ring in the first half, the story might have been a very different one.

Sligo All Stars:— J. Palmer (23), J. McGowan (13), T. O'Hara (11), J. Monaghan (8), A. Cronnelly (6), B. O'Hara (4), T. Hickey, G. Gallagher, T. O'Brien.

Helping Connacht to defend trophy

Sligo All Stars players John McGowan, Joe Palmer, Anthony Cronnelly, Brian O'Hara and Jerry Monaghan, will be helping Connacht defend the Interprovincial Trophy when the Championships take place in Galway next Saturday.

Connacht are drawn against Munster in the opening game on the programme and they will be hoping to secure their passage into the final against either Leinster or Ulster that night.

An added attraction will be the announcement of the Irish panel for this year's international programme.

New Irish coach, Tom O'Brien, Sligo, has indicated he will nominate his panel of sixteen at the week-end games.