

All Stars were all powerful

Sligo All Stars left no one in doubt about their contentions for the National Cup when they efficiently overpowered the Dublin club Corinthians, by 78 points to 47 in a fast and entertaining Cup game at Summerhill College. Sligo, on Saturday night.

This victory leaves just one hurdle to be crossed on the path to the play-offs and the future of the Sligo team will be decided in less than a month's time when they meet the Trelee side, Austin Stacks, in the section final in Sligo.

And what a game this promises to be because All Stars are in the unenviable position that they must make up a deficit of fourteen points from the away leg they lost in Trelee before Christmas and this will be a huge task against the unbeaten Munster men who will go through to the final with the bonus points if they can hold Sligo to less than fourteen.

Already the game is being talked about as the match of the season and it certainly promises to be Sligo's greatest ever challenge on their home court.

If they play anything like they did last Saturday night then Sligo should stand a fair chance of pulling through because the most noteworthy aspect of their convincing win over Corinthians was the manner in which they turned defence into attack with such lightning speed.

On Saturday, the All Stars fast break was like a well-tuned machine turning out the scores with effortless ease. The Sligo rebounders cleared their backboard and immediately got the ball out to the waiting forwards for quick scores.

It was this tactic which caused havoc to the Corinthians man-to-man defence, for try as they did, they never came to grips with the situation and from a very early stage, they were doing all in their power to tag along with the all-action Sligo players.

All Stars were clear leaders after only ten minutes when they held a 21-10 spread over their opponents and they had built this into a solid 41-20 lead by the interval.

Sligo began to introduce their second string players straight from the start of the second half and these boys showed the same fire and drive as the starting players although for the opening five minutes or so, All Stars were not so well organised when Corinthians threw out a zone against them. This changed the pattern of the game and the play was slowed down somewhat as a result but once Sligo adapted, they continued to forge ahead and could easily have gone for a bigger margin but they had long before driven their point home.

This was a good all round performance by the Sligo lads. International players John McGowan, A. Cronnelly and Joe Palmer all showed good form for their forthcoming trips to Scotland and Holland, while Gerry Monaghan had one of his best games of late.

The O'Hara's, Tony and Brian, were in top tune, while Stan Burns made a welcome return to the ranks. Cormac Carty performed well for the short appearance he makes as did Eric Hansen who has a big future ahead of him in the game.

Sligo All Stars:— J. McGowan 24, A. Cronnelly 18, J. Palmer 16, G. Monaghan 10, B. O'Hara 4, S. Burns 2, C. Carty 2, E. Hansen 2, T. O'Hara, T. O'Brien.

SUMMERHILL'S FINE TREBLE

Summerhill College scored a treble over C.B.S., Ballinrobe, in the semi-finals of the Connacht Schools' Basketball competition and thus qualify to meet Tuam C.B.S. in the Provincial Finals.

The Senior game was exciting, for Summerhill made a brilliant second-half recovery and forged ahead to win 87-63. Ballinrobe had scored 10 points before Summerhill really settled down.

At half-time Ballinrobe were 1 point ahead. G. Gallagher, S. Watson and F. Rogers were very impressive throughout.

In contrast, the junior game was played on a lower key. The Summerhill side was never really pressed, leading all the way to win 58-20.

The juvenile game was a close tussle between the two sides as scores came slowly. Summerhill got the edge towards the end and won 32-29.