

Two Championships for Sligo

SLIGO brought off a championship double last Sunday when the minor and juvenile teams scored impressive victories over Mayo and Leitrim in the finals of the provincial championships at Summerhill College, Sligo.

This means that Sligo will be contesting three national titles because the seniors have already qualified for the All-Ireland semi-final following a victory over Galway at the same venue a few weeks ago.

SLIGO MINORS 72;
MAYO MINORS 67.

This was a final reminiscent of the halcyon days of Sligo minors when they won seven Connacht titles in a row and it could very well signal the start of another era for the younger players.

Close and exciting all through, there was a tense climax when Mayo equalled a few minutes from the end and thanks to the determination of captain, Brian O'Hara, Sligo scraped through.

It was a victory richly deserved because Sligo played the more controlled game. Though there was never a great deal in it, Sligo were always in command and at no stage did they fall behind.

For their part, Mayo gave a spirited performance which augurs well for the future of the game in that county but they could not match the Sligo boys in the vital art of shooting.

Sligo were 31-26 ahead at the break and they increased this lead to fourteen points at one stage but Mayo showed their fighting qualities to level the account at 65-65 with just over a minute to go.

O'Hara stepped to the line following a foul and he made good both his shots to put Sligo ahead again and the all-action Gerry Gallagher added a score from play to clinch the title.

Mayo's rally brought them a couple of points but Sligo were masters at the finish.

There were several good performances on the Sligo team which was considerably strengthened by Summerhill College players, Gallagher and Sean Moloney.

Sligo: G. Gallagher (22), B. O'Hara (21), F. Rogers (11), S. Maloney (10), S. Watson, R. Rooney, J. Burns (1), G. Harte.

Summerhill College student on Irish team

FIFTEEN years old Francis Rodgers, a student at Summerhill College, Sligo, became Sligo's ninth international when he was selected on the Irish under 15 team to play England in Dublin next month.

Francis was selected at a trial in Dundalk on Saturday, and on Sunday he played an important part in Sligo's Connacht Championship double.

He showed his ability in the minor final by scoring three baskets in a row at a vital stage in the second half after earlier helping the juveniles to a runaway win.

Francis lives at Tonaphubble, Sligo.

SLIGO JUVENILES 52;
LEITRIM JUVENILES 19.

SLIGO juveniles showed their paces in decisively beating a sporting Leitrim team to win the new Connacht Juvenile Trophy.

But it was not until the second half that the Sligo boys began to shake off the effects of a drastic first half which saw them struggle — pathetically at times — into a 16-9 lead.

Luckily Leitrim were not able to take advantage of Sligo's poor first-half performance because they could easily have had the game wrapped up at the interval such was the low quality of Sligo's play.

But the game eventually sparkled into life and when Sligo finally got into their stride, they turned on the scoring machine and moved smoothly and efficiently.

Sligo used all their players and still had the edge on the Leitrim boys. Each man helped along the way but when the chips were down, it was Stuart Watson and John Burns who got the points.

Sligo: S. Watson (17), J. Burns (16), F. Rogers (8), M. O'Brien (4), E. Eames (4), J. Verdon (3), J. Cawley, T. O'Brien, D. Cassidy.