

Ballysteen Were In Rampant Mood Against Abbeyfeale

BALLYSTEEN scored a runaway victory over Abbeyfeale in the semi-final of the West Limerick Junior Football Championship, which was decided at Newcastle West on Sunday.

The winners were leading by 2-1 to nil at the interval, and the issue was never in doubt from an early stage of a game that provided little enthusiasm for the fair crowd present.

DISAPPOINTING.

Both the game and the measure of patronage accorded it fell far short of the expectations usually associated with a western semi-final. Abbeyfeale, of whom much was expected, were short of a number of the stars that helped them win the earlier rounds of the competition. They were certainly no match for the Ballysteen boys who, right from the start, played with the combination of a winning team. Not that there was anything brilliant or spectacular about their victory, although it was as well deserved as it was convincing.

BALLYSTEEN'S GOOD START.

Ballysteen, as already indicated, had the best of matters in the opening exchanges, and despite determined enough but unavailing resistance from the Fealesiders, they seemed well on the way to victory at half-time. The winners continued to force the pace in the second moiety and were all set for victory up to the last quarter when Abbeyfeale made a feeble but fruitless rally. As a result they succeeded in notching three points, two of them from frees. The winners, however, replied with a goal which finally marked paid to the Abbeyfeale account.

"INGLORIOUS"

It was a rather inglorious exit for the Fealesiders. Ballysteen were well served throughout by Paddy Fitzgerald, of Limerick hurling renown, better than ever after his recent illness. He was ably assisted by his brothers, Jim and Mick; Maurice Hayes, Peter McGough, Willie Leonard and the Ranahan brothers, Jerry Lyons, Nelius O'Connell, J. Wren and J. Hartnett did good work for Abbeyfeale. Mr. J. Mulvihill (Kilcoleman) was a strict but capable and impartial referee.

THE PLAY.

There were wides at both ends before Ballysteen moved on in a determined drive from which the hard-working Maurice Hayes sent in a long kick which finished up in the Abbeyfeale net. Abbeyfeale retaliated with determination from the kick-out, but

McDonagh cleared and Ranahan again put the winners attacking. After keeping up the pressure for several minutes, Paddy Fitzgerald put Ballysteen attacking from a free, from which the sharp-shooting Bill Leonard crashed home another great goal for the winners. Before the interval Ballysteen had a further score when Jimmy Fitzgerald pointed from a close-in free. After a fine bout of work by Peter McGough, who was outstanding throughout. At half-time the score was—Ballysteen, 2-1; Abbeyfeale, Nil.

ABBEYFEALE PRESS.

Abbeyfeale pressed hard in the opening minutes of the second moiety, but Peter McGough was to the rescue with one of his big drives. Following up at the other end the same player added a Ballysteen point from a clever pass from Mann. After Ballysteen had again pointed from a melee in front of the Abbeyfeale net, the Fealesiders rallied somewhat and "Dodo" Wren pointed from a favourably placed free for Abbeyfeale's first score. Maintaining the pressure the Fealesiders again moved in from a long drive by Jerry Lyons and Jack Hartnett sent over the bar for a clever point. Ballysteen promptly replied with a goal per Bill Leonard and in return "Dodo" Wren again pointed for Abbeyfeale's third and last score—a point. Before the long whistle Paddy Fitzgerald added a further goal for the winners. Final score—Ballysteen, 4-3; Abbeyfeale, 3 pts.

Ballysteen—M. Hayes, P. Ranahan, W. Ranahan, W. McDonagh, M. Fitzgerald, Mce. Hayes, D. Ranahan, P. Fitzgerald, M. Mann, T. Mann, J. Fitzgerald, D. Naughton, P. McGough, W. Leonard.

Abbeyfeale — N. O'Connell, L. Collins, D. Leahy, J. Hartnett, J. Wren, T. Mann, B. O'Connell, J. W. O'Connell, J. Lyons, J. Leahy, T. O'Connell, D. O'Connor, N. Leahy, J. McEnery.

Ballysteen G.A.A. general meeting

At a largely attended meeting held recently in the Library, Ballysteen, it was unanimously agreed that a G.A.A. club to cater for the younger players, was required in the parish. It was decided accordingly that the club, which had been active since 1928 and lapsed only last year, should be revived, and that teams would be again fielded for the football code in the junior, juvenile and under 14 groups.

It will be recalled that the Ballysteen team, which captured the county senior title in 1964, was merged with Askeaton last year, and retained the title. The transfer of the seniors to Askeaton left the Ballysteen parish without any team, and this position was now being rectified.

The election of officers then took place, and Mr. C. Carroll, who had reorganised the club as far back as 1928, and saw teams succeed in winning the senior, County Cup and junior football competitions, was elected President. Other officers elected were: Chairman, Mr. M. Mann; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Nash; Secretary, Mr. S. Braddish; Treasurer, Mr. M. Ranahan.

Committee members are:— Messrs. James Meskell, Michael Hayes, Bill McDonagh, Tom Downes, John Ranahan, Austin Braddish, Pat Somers.

Captain of Junior XV—John Ranahan.

Captain of Juvenile XV—Jack Keefe.

Captain of Under 14s—Pat Ranahan.

Club colours, green and gold.

BALLYSTEEN G.A.A.

At the recent A.G.M. the following officers were elected:

Chairman: M. MANN.

Vice-Chairman: S. BRADDISH.

Secretary: T. GALLAGHER.

Assistant Secretary: A. MORAN.

Treasurer: A. MORAN.

COMMITTEE: M. Mann, A. Moran, O. Mann, W. Lenihan, Fr. Cussen, S. Braddish, S. McDonagh, P. O'Donoghue, J. Holland, T. Gallagher, T. McDonagh, M. McMahon, D. Hayes, P. Neville, G. Ranahan, J. Neville, D. Neville, J. Gallagher, P. McDonagh, M. Somers, P. Walsh, O. Hayes.

Captain Junior Football: P. McDonagh.

Vice-Captain: D. Hayes.

Under 21 Football Captain: A. Moran.

Vice-Captain: J. Neville.

Selectors: J. McMahon, S. Braddish, P. O'Donoghue

OUT IN THE

On Sunday last, Ballysteen, Limerick senior football champions, came to Ballylongford to do battle with Shannon Rangers, champions of Kerry.

Rangers won easily, but not as easily as the score of 5-9 to 4 pts. might suggest. For twenty-five minutes of the first half it was as fine a game of football as one could hope to see, but then, for no apparent reason, Ballysteen collapsed completely.

In the early stages the pace was fast and furious and they looked as if they might have the measure of the Kerry men. The Ballysteen boys literally ran their opponents into the ground. They were first to the ball and they fielded better. At one stage they led by three points to two but poor finishing by the full-forward line did not give them the boosts that all teams need if they are to figure in the final reckoning. In short they did not receive sufficient wages for the amount of energy and labour supplied. Opportunist goals early in the second half by Bryan McCarthy paved the way for Rangers' victory. The same player wound up with the astonishing total of 4-1. Other Rangers scorers were: P. O'Donoghue, 1 goal; B. Connor, 1 point. E. O'Donoghue, 1 point and a rampant Dan McAuliffe, 6 points. Ballysteen scorers were T. Carrig, 2 points; T. Perriman, 1 point, and F. Kenny, 1 point.

The total collapse of Ballysteen was inexplicable and disappointing. After the match I held a post mortem with a few Limerick cronies in Timmie Kennelly's publichouse in Ballylongford.

Here, Dan McAuliffe, who earlier got 6 points for Shannon Rangers, was serving behind the counter. One thing emerged from our discussion and that was that Ballysteen were not fit enough to last a gruelling hour. This can be attributed to lack of match practice. Physical jerks are not enough when there are 11,200 square yards of territory to be covered, this being the area of the rock-hard Ballylongford field.

Rangers, after their English tour, were fit as fiddles, and if Ballysteen had been able to keep up their early pace things might have turned out differently.

A word of praise is due to their many supporters. No barracking; no name-calling. They took their defeat well and refrained from booing on at least two occasions when they were entitled to do so. Another word of praise is due to that fine Ballysteen player, Tom Carrig. A fine footballer, he was never suppressed, and is surely worthy

of inclusion in the next Munster football team.

* * May 1965

West Limerick Junior Football Re-play

Ballysteen, 2-6; Croagh-Kilfinny, 0-4

Ballysteen proved much too good for Croagh-Kilfinny in the West Limerick Junior Football Championship re-play decided at Ballinagarry on Sunday, following the drawn game of a week before. By way of contrast with the drawn game, the re-play proved a rather disappointing affair as Croagh-Kilfinny never seemed to get into their stride and the Shannonsiders coasted home to a rather easy victory. At half-time the winners were leading by 1-3 to 0-2, and in the second half Ballysteen added a further goal and three points to their tally, while Croagh-Kilfinny sent over two more points. Mann, Carrig (2), McMahon, Sheehan, Hayes and Sheehan were best for the winners, while Costelloe, Neville, Spillane and Rielly were much in the picture for Croagh-Kilfinny.

Mr. Sean Finn (Glin) refereed.

The teams were:—

Ballysteen—J. Downes, M. Carrig, M. Mann, D. Nestor, D. Neville, D. McMahon, W. Walsh, M. Hennessy, P. Sheehan, F. Kenny, T. Carrig, M. Walsh, M. Hayes, M. Sheehy, T. Downes.

Croagh-Kilfinny—F. O'Donnell, P. Marron, T. Mulcaire, K. Fitzgerald, S. Costelloe, F. Whelan, J. Wilmot, G. Shire, T. Neville, D. Neville, F. Spillane, M. Spillane, G. Fitzgerald, N. Rielly, N. Fitzgerald.

Senior Football:

1-12-79

Ballysteen and Bruff for County Final

BY SEAN MURPHY

Ballysteen	3-12
Fedamore	3-4
Bruff	0-11
Pallas	0-3

BALLYSTEEN and Bruff qualified to meet in the County Junior Football Championship Final when they scored decisive victories over Fedamore and Pallas respectively in two poor semi-finals, played in dreary conditions at Pairc na nGael on Sunday last.

In the opening encounter, Ballysteen, who look potential champions, were always in command against a Fedamore team that failed to reproduce their earlier championship form.

Heavy underfoot conditions and a sharp breeze were not conducive to skillful football but Ballysteen, inspired by Donal Moran, Anthony Moran and Dominic Hayes, mastered the conditions well and notched some superb scores and finished worthy and decisive winners.

Best for Ballysteen were Ger Rannahan, up to the time of his injury; Dominic Hayes, Willie Walshe, Donal Moran, Anthony Moran and Paddy McMahon; while Neilus Noonan, John Condon, Noel Burton, Tony McNamara and Pat O'Callaghan were most prominent for the losers.

SCORERS

Ballysteen: D. Neville 1-2, D. Moran 1-1, W. McMahon 1-1, A. Moran 0-5, P. Walshe 0-2, G. Rannahan 0-1.

Fedamore: N. Burton 2-0; S. Fitzgibbon 1-0, P. O'Callaghan, T. Clohessy, M. Hedderman, M. Morrissey 0-1 each.

TEAMS

Ballysteen: M. McMahon; J. Neville, P. McMahon, V. Fitzgerald; G. Rannahan, D. Hayes, P. McDonogh; D. Neville, D. Moran; M. Fitzgerald, A. Moran, S. McDonogh; M. Cussen, P. Walshe, W. McMahon. Sub.: P. Sheehan for G. Rannahan.

Fedamore: K. Carmody; P. McNamara, P. Cox, B. Burton; P. O'Callaghan, N. Noonan, J. Cregan; T. McNamara, J. Condon; E. Prenderville, N. Burton, M. Morrissey, T. Clohessy, M. Gorey, W. O'Mahony. Subs. S. Fitzgerald for P. Cox; M. Hedderman for P. McNamara.

Junior football final replay:

Ballysteen -at the 2nd attempt

Ballysteen0-8
Bruff0-3

Ballysteen captured their third county junior football championship in impressive style at the Gaelic Grounds on Sunday, when they scored a fully deserved five-point win over Bruff. This decider which was a replay, was closely contested throughout.

The closeness of the exchanges, particularly in the second quarter, by a few players did not enhance the image of Limerick football. Both sides could well have been reduced in numerical strength, were it not for the patient handling of the official in charge. The atmosphere at this stage was not helped either by the conduct of a handful of supporters.

After the break both sides concerned themselves with football and the referee had no further trouble.

Ballysteen won the toss and elected to play with the assistance of the strong wind. They camped in Bruff territory right through the first fifteen minutes, and it was not uncommon to see their three full-backs on the edge of the Bruff square.

Anthony Moran, Paddy Walsh and Donie Moran kicked over some great points to put Ballysteen five clear points ahead. Were it not for courageous covering by Dan Carroll, Anthony Gubbins and Tim McAuliffe in the Bruff defence, this advantage might have been doubled.

Bruff had their first score in the 21st minute, a point from the boot of Dom Kiely. The Ballysteen defenders were kept busy after this score until the break and were a trifle lucky that a Bruff forward failed to gain possession of a ball which crossed their goalmouth in the 25th minute.

At the end of the first moiety, Ballysteen led 0-5 to 0-1, and the deficit would have been reduced to the minimum had Bruff made use of three close in frees early in the second half. These misses upset their morale and raised the hopes of the opposition.

After being let off the hook on three occasions, Ballysteen began to take control at midfield. Their half-backs were also very effective in the second half and dealt capably with everything Bruff could offer.

Ballysteen added three points to their interval tally, while Bruff

could only manage two while playing with the breeze.

Anthony Moran was the outstanding player on the winners line-out. Others to impress were Don Hayes, Ger Ranahan, Paddy McMahon, Michael Fitzgerald, Donie Moran and Paddy Walsh.

Dan Carroll, Dom Kiely and Anthony Gubbins of Bruff were well supported by Tim McAuliffe, Tommy Hehir, John Bulfin and Mossy Wrenn.

Ballysteen scorers: A. Moran 0-5; P. Walsh, D. Moran and S. McDonagh 0-1 each.
Bruff scorers: D. Kiely 0-2, D. Wrenn 0-1.

Ballysteen: M. McMahon, J. Neville, P. McMahon, V. Fitzgerald, G. Ranahan, D. Hayes, P. McKeogh, D. Neville, M. Fitzgerald, D. Moran (capt.), P. Walsh, A. Moran, M. Cussen, N. McMahon, S. McDonagh. Sub.: J. Holland.

Bruff: T. Hehir, D. Carroll, T. O'Sullivan, T. McAuliffe, M. Wrenn, A. Gubbins, J. Brosnihan, D. Kiely, G. Hayes, D. Wrenn, G. Donovan, M. Hehir, J. Bulfin, G. Connell, N. Bulfin. Subs.: S. Bulfin, B. Hehir.

Referee: J. McCarthy (Claughaun).

Ballysteen GAA

The AGM was held recently. Following officers were elected: chairman Anthony Moran, secretary David Noughton, treasurer Peter O'Donoghue, selectors John Downes, Sean Neville, Richard Ranahan, Jim Mahon, Mike Ranahan. The club wish to thank all the players and spectators for all their hard work during 1979 which helped to win the county junior football final. All players are expected to turn out for training at Killoonnan GAA ground every Tuesday and Thursday nights.

BALLYSTEEN 6-8-81 3-12
FR. CASEY'S 3-7

In the second senior football semi-final at Newcastle West on Sunday, Ballysteen's titles ambitions were advanced a further vital stage with their win over Fr. Casey's.

This game provided bouts of brilliant play and grew in excitement as the hour progressed. With 2 evenly matched sides the game flowed freely and fluently and in the final

analysis it must be the Fr. Casey's inadequacy in front of goal that let the winners off the hook.

Proving the advantage of combined play, the winners had the respectable lead of 5 points at the interval, 1-9 to 2-1.

Ballysteen must be pleased with the result. They did all that was asked of them against a really strong opposition, and it may be argued that had the losers finish

matched their approach it may well have presented a different scoreline.

Referee: Timmy Woulfe (Athea).

Ballysteen: M. McMahon, J. Holland, P. McMahon, V. Fitzgerald, G. Ranahan, D. Hayes, P. McDonagh, D. Neville, D. Moran, A. Moran, W. McMahon, J. Neville, S. Ranahan, M. Cussen, S. McDonagh.

Fr. Casey's: L. White, N. Quirke, D. Lane, T. O'Connell, M. Flynn, W. Scannel, D. Murphy, J. O'Donnell, G. O'Donnell, D. Woulfe, D. Keating, P. Callaghan, C. Leahy, R. Quish, M. O'Rourke.

19-4-80
BALLYSTEEN DRAW WITH
FR. CASEY'S

In their first game at senior level, Ballysteen drew 1-4 to 0-7 with Fr. Casey's in the first round of the senior football championship, at N.C. West, on Saturday evening.

Abbeylea opened the score with a well taken point from play by Billy Scannel which was quickly equalised by Anthony Moran for Ballysteen.

After a brisk start the game slowed down and though it provided good individual skills it lacked the essential combined play, and feeble finishes from the Fr. Casey's forwards did little to disturb the Ballysteen goalkeeper.

A point from a free taken by D. Woulfe of Fr. Casey's brought the interval score to Fr. Casey's, 0-2; Ballysteen, 0-1.

The only goal was powered by Anthony Moran, Ballysteen from a penalty for a three man tackle in the second half. This vitalised Fr. Casey's and the Ballysteen defenders were at panic stations as Fr. Casey's stormed the goalmouth, two points in quick succession from Gearoid O'Callaghan brought the game to life, but top marks must go to Ballysteen's Anthony Moran for his superb point late in the second half.

Ballysteen Notes 82

At the recent A.G.M. the following were elected: Chairman, Sean Neville; vice-do., Michael Mann Snr. and John Downes; secretary, Anthony Moran; asst.-do., Michael Ranahan Jnr.; treasurer, Johnny Loughnane; asst.-do., Peter O'Donoghue. Selectors: P. Walsh, J. McMahon, P. McMahon, J. Downes, M. Ranahan Jnr.

Captain of senior team, V. Fitzgerald.

Three teams to be affiliated: Senior, junior and u-21 football.

Ballysteen 3.3.85

We would like to thank our various sponsorships for their support this year, Jim Liston, River Room Motel, Newcastle West; James Holland, Tom Downes, Tim Daly, Maureen Delaney, John Magnier, Seamus Braddish.

A special word of thanks to Tom Downes, who also presented the local soccer team with a football. The GAA team have also entered for the senior county league. The soccer team are at home to Kilfinny on Sunday next at 11 o'clock.

17/12/79



Ballysteen, defeated by Castlemahon in the 1979 Junior Football at Rathkeale on Sunday.

44-81



BALLYSTEEN — WEST SENIOR FOOTBALL RUNNERS-UP. 1980

BACK ROW: Left to Right— Fr. M. Cussen, T. Nelson, J. Holland, P. McMahon, V. Fitz, M. McMahon, P. McDonagh, P. Sheehy, A. Moran, D. Neville, W. McMahon.

FRONT ROW: Left to Right— P. Sheehan, B. Lenihan, D. Hayes (Capt.), S. Ranahan, J. Neville, D. Moran, C. Ranahan, S. McDonagh.

1980



Ballysteen, who drew with Askeaton, in the West final. Below, Askeaton.

Sept 1980