

Sport

Sports In Brief

Collingwood campaign stutters

By Brian Murphy

DCU'S PROGRESS to the quarter-final of the Collingwood cup at Saint Claire's yesterday owed itself more to good fortune and Maynooth's profligacy rather than a performance that suggests they will be anything other than makeweights in this year's competition.

In truth, the hosts should be taking their place amongst the other also-rans in the Spillane Cup (for teams beaten in the first round) today; instead they face UUC (University of Ulster Coleraine) in the quarter-final of college soccer's premier competition.

In the build up to the game DCU manager Fran Butler suggested both teams occupied a place in the third tier of college football, and on the evidence of the first-half nobody was going to argue the point. It was all distinctly third-rate.

The DCU team was emasculated by the loss, through injury, of their foremost creative influences - Tony Walsh and Steve Campbell. Their absence was keenly felt in an opening half that saw the hosts completely overrun in midfield.

The home team struggled to contain Maynooth's ubiquitous playmaker Daithi Garry, who was afforded the freedom of Saint Claire's, but his side's attack was foiled by a DCU defence that lived on the edge for long periods of the game.

DCU took a scarcely deserved lead on the half-hour mark. Kieran Kilkenny, the hitherto ineffective DCU striker, pounced on a mistake in the Maynooth defence and he was as shocked as anyone when his close-range prodded effort found the back of the net.

Fran Butler made a slew of changes at the start of the second half and his tinkering paid immediate dividends as DCU took control of midfield and curbed the influence of Daithi Garry.

Alan Donoghue added a



Alan Donoghue (second from left) celebrates DCU's second goal. Photo courtesy of James Spencer

second for DCU on 70 minutes when the livewire striker finished a well-worked corner routine with a thumping header and effectively killed off the Maynooth challenge.

Elsewhere holders UUJ (University of Ulster Jordanstown) came from behind twice against NUI Galway to force extra time, before scraping through 4-2 on penalties.

Perennial favourites UCC (University College Cork) coasted through to the quarter-finals with a facile 4-1 win over Magee College Derry. They secured their passage to the semi-final this morning with a hard-fought 3-2 victory over RCSI (Royal College

of Surgeons Ireland). In this morning's other quarter-final UCD dispensed of QUB (Queens University Belfast) by 5-2.

DCU: Hegarty (McGann), Cullen, Patterson, Dowling, Breslin, Menton Lally, McAdam (Purcell), Kilkenny (Hussain), Donoghue, Walsh (Smith).

Maynooth: Moore, Roarty, McLaughlin, Peters, Maguire (O'Reilly), Brogan, Bohan, Garry, Falconer, Weir, Tighe (Yorke).

Going to press, DCU were two nil down at half-time to University of Ulster, Coleraine.

First Round: Monday Feb 26:

DCU 2 - 1 NUI Maynooth
UU Coleraine 2 - 1 Dublin Univ
UU Jordanstown 2 - 2 NUI Galway (UUJ win 4-2 on penalties)
UL 3 - 1 DIT
Magee 1 - 4 UCC

Quarter Finals: Tuesday Feb 27:

DCU v UU Coleraine (2.30 k.o.)
UUJ v University of Limerick (2.30 k.o.)
UCC 3 - 2 RCSI
Queens 2 - 5 UCD

NZ bans racist fans

TWO NEW Zealand football fans have been banned from their local ground for racially abusing former Irish soccer international Terry Phelan. Phelan, now player-coach of Otago United, spoke out after two Canterbury United supporters were banned from their team's English Park ground for racist abuse. Albert Laverack and son Michael have had trespass orders issued by the New Zealand Police and their season tickets revoked. Both deny making the comments.

Ulster add two new signings

ULSTER have signed Scottish centre Robert Dewey on a two-year contract from Edinburgh. Dewey has represented Scotland at all levels and has featured in Scotland's Six Nations campaign this season. He scored a try against England at Twickenham in the championship last month. The 23-year-old joined Edinburgh ahead of the 2005-2006 season.

Meanwhile, former Belfast Harlequins prop Jarleth Carey has agreed a two-year deal after returning from Rotherham Titans.

Doyle back for United clash

NEMANJA Vidic is a doubt for Manchester United's FA Cup replay with Reading tonight. The Serbian defender missed training on Monday, apparently still feeling the after effects of tough games against Lille and Fulham last week. With a key Premiership trip to Liverpool looming at the weekend, more changes are likely with Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes, Edwin van der Sar and Henrik Larsson among those who could be rested, while Alan Smith is likely to make an appearance from the bench.

Reading defender Andre Bikey returns from suspension. January signings Michael Duberry and Greg Halford are cup-tied but striker Kevin Doyle is back in the squad having missed 6 weeks with a hamstring injury. Manager Steve Coppell has used cup games as an opportunity to field fringe players.

Senior men's hockey team announced

IRELAND coach Dave Passmore has announced the Irish senior men's hockey squad to face the Netherlands next month. Passmore will use the match to evaluate individual player performances as he builds towards both the European Championships in August and the Olympic Qualifiers early next year. 'This match will be a tough task for us, particularly during the club season.'

DCU hockey player scoops 'Examiner' sports star award

By Robert Clougher

DCU STUDENT and hockey player Conor Harte will be presented with the Irish Examiner National Junior Sports Star award tomorrow.

Harte, who plays for Ireland and Pembroke Wanderers, is the 23rd winner of the annual competition and will collect his award at a ceremony in the Berkley court hotel on Wednesday morning.

'Yeah, it was a bit of a shock to be honest,' said Harte, a Kinsale native and first year accounting and finance student. 'My

secondary school from last year nominated me but I didn't hear until anything else until I won.'

DCU is currently without a men's hockey team but Harte hopes that they will have one next year.

'We had a team for the intervarsities - we had the gear and we had players from Fingal and Harlequins - but a few of the guys dropped out at the last minute. We're hoping to have a team next year, though.'

Previous winners of the prize include Roy Keane, Sonia O'Sullivan and Ruby Walsh.

Jordan and Ringland to head Irish round of World Rally Championship

By Conall Morgan

JORDAN Grand Prix founder Eddie Jordan and former rugby international Trevor Ringland were appointed as chairman and deputy chairman of Rally Ireland, the Irish round of the World Rally Championships, this afternoon.

The event, which is coming to Ireland for the first time, will take place in November this year. 'This is a huge sporting opportunity for Ireland,' said Jordan today.

'We have a wealth of talent in motorsport, both as competitors and organisers, and being part

of WRC will allow us to develop that talent for the future.'

Dublin-born Jordan started his career as a driver in karting and Formula 3 prior to setting up Jordan Formula 1 in the early 1990s. It was here that he scored some considerable success, including giving Michael Schumacher his first Formula 1 outing.

A new feature of the cross-border event will be the introduction of a Super Special Stage, where competitors race head to head, and which will give spectators an opportunity to see all the action up close.

The event is expected to draw 150,000 spectators. Whilst the detailed route has yet to be confirmed, Rally Ireland has stated that Sligo, Ty-

rone, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Roscommon, Cavan and Donegal are under consideration as part of the 1,400 kilometre route.

Independent research carried out last year by the University of Ulster estimated the economic impact of a WRC round to be €46 million and Rally Ireland are confident that this figure will be exceeded.

The Rally starts on Thursday 15 November with the Super Special Stage and will finish on Sunday 18 November.

The other members of the Rally Ireland Management Board are: Co-Founders Sean O'Connor and Ronan Morgan, and Chief Executive Officer David Marron.