

MUNSTER ACHIEVE MAGNIFICENT VICTORY

Ward kicks eight points as All Blacks are tamed for first time on Irish soil

MUNSTER 12 NEW ZEALAND 0

FOR THE better part of this century, successive generations of Irish rugby men have had unsatisfied longings of seeing an All Blacks side beaten on Irish soil. Yesterday at Thomond Park, a ground that embodies so much of the rugged splendour of the way we play the game, that long wait was terminated when Munster wrote a chapter into Irish rugby history of romance and glory. And all those privileged to have seen it will talk with pride of this victory to the end of their days.

For many years Munster, more so than any other Irish side, have had successive near-misses against the All-Black and other touring teams. Not so this time, as a great and magnificent victory was achieved against the improbable and an incredible 12-0 success fashioned on the traditional Munster attributes of boundless energy, unquenchable spirit and courage beyond the call of duty.

Thomond Park, at the heart of Munster rugby, has seen many great and memorable days but never anything to equal this. The ground was packed with a record 12,000 plus attendance and it morning threatened a damp afternoon, the heavens relented and the sun broke through before the teams came out. Perhaps it was a portent of things to come.

When it was all over the All Blacks had been humbled, the crowd poured on to the pitch to acclaim their heroes and no 15 men who had worn the famous red jersey of Munster have ever done so more creditably or honourably.

UNIFIED FORCE

Here was a unified force of breathtaking intensity. All offered courage as the counter to superior ball-winning ability up front. Yet the discipline was nothing short of wonderful and it was allied to controlled aggression, for not once did Munster concede a penalty in their own half of the field. Indeed, to the great credit of both sides, there were remarkably few penalty awards as the spirit of the game in its true meaning was exemplified in a memorable encounter.

Munster knew their limitations and played with commendable restraint within the range of their attributes. Their mission up front was to spoil the bigger and more powerful All Blacks pack and this they did to telling effect.

The pattern was set from the outset when Donal Canniffe, the Munster captain and scrumhalf, tested the All Blacks full-back, Brian McKechnie, with a high and

awkward kick. McKechnie proved fallible to the effort and he was to have an uneasy game. The pursuit of Canniffe's kick was immediate and the All Blacks knew they were in a game.

Report by EDMUND VAN ESBECK

intricate midfield variations. Repeatedly Munster downed man and ball and instantly there was a colleague in to offer assistance and shuffle the ball upfield. Canniffe, at the heels of his forwards, has never played better and how he demonstrated the value of a scrum-half who will aid his back row, kick when prudent and leave the niceties to the opposition.

INSPIRING TACKLES

Twice in the early stages, the tourists' backs threatened danger, notably when Wilson came in from the blind side wing to make the extra man. But they were met by first-time tackling and two tackles in particular by Seamus Dennison were the material of inspiration to his colleagues.

Within 11 minutes the match was a tight. Munster won a ball inside their own half; Canniffe fed Tony Ward and the out-half, in his inimitable style, produced the most delicate of left-footed chips out to the left. It was pushed behind the All Blacks cover and Jimmy Bowen gathered in his stride at half-way and was patted by his opponent Wilson. Bowen made 30 yards and broke McKechnie's tackle. With cover threatening to engulf him, Bowen looked to the support, held his pass intelligently, then timed it to perfection to Christy Cantillon coming up in support on the right, and the flanker went over for a try near the post. Ward converted and Munster were on their way.

The All Blacks continued to dominate the line-out, but time after time the Munster forwards broke through to harass Donaldson at the base of the scrum. The Munster back row of Cantillon, Spring and Tucker was magnificent, those in front scarcely of lesser calibre as they took on the opposition and fought for every ball with great intensity.

CANNIFFE'S ROLE

The All Blacks, when they mounted attacks, found Munster well armed to deal with their

His partner Ward had a regal game. He took every pass thrown at him irrespective of its trajectory and one crucial pass came from a scrum near the All Blacks line after 20 minutes. Munster won the ball. Canniffe, under heavy pressure, got it away. Ward took the ball off his toes and dropped a goal that brought acclamation that could be heard in the Galtee Mountains.

That score, after 20 minutes, left Munster 9-0 ahead. Too good to be true? Frustration began to creep into the All Blacks game, yet they did most of the attacking to the interval, with no reward. The great All Black effort came, as we knew it would, and for 20 minutes into the second period Munster were pinned inside their own half. New Zealand, exploring the possibilities on the blind side, were checked. Bowen, who yesterday proved a player of considerable ability and no little courage, shook Wilson with a great saving tackle. Ward, delicate and perceptive, uncharacteristically failed to get touch, but then was on hand to bring off a great mark near his line.

The Munster forwards were magnificent to a man and Pat Whelan's exhortations could be heard almost above the shouting and tumult on the terraces. It was agony and it was ecstasy as the sound of battle roared around the ground. Could Munster then beat the All Blacks just as a Munster team had been the first provincial side to beat the Australians in 1967? Could they

hold the pressure for 20 more minutes?

They did better. As the siege was lifted and the spiritual exhaustion no less than the physical effort drained their opponents, Munster brought play deep into All Blacks territory. The move was repulsed. Barrett, splendid in mid-field, halted an attack and Moss Finn and Larry Moloney, like their colleagues fired with the scent of battle, each halted an All Blacks advance. Then, with 69 minutes gone, Munster went on the offensive.

From a scrum near the All Black post, Canniffe was unable to get the ball away, but the splendid Tucker was on hand to give Ward the perfect pass and he struck, with precision and assurance, the ball high between the posts. So it was

There are no changes on the Munster team to play Comacht at Limerick on November 19th.

12-0 to Munster, 11 minutes to go and a scoreline beyond the realms of even wild dreams.

Munster not alone held out, they did more of the attacking in the closing stages and as the cry of support and exhortation intensified from stand and terrace Munster and Irish rugby had known no better day.

It was an occasion to brighten life with recollection in the years ahead, a famous deed, a notable achievement and a glorious victory. And as the crowd poured out of the ground, there was more than a faint touch of a tear in the eyes of many an oldtimer.

MUNSTER—L. Moloney (Garryowen), M. Finn (UCC), S. Dennison (Garryowen), G. Barrett (Constitution), J. Bowen (Constitution), A. Ward (St. Mary's), D. Cantillon (Lansdowne), captain, G. McLoughlin (Shannon), P. Whelan (Garryowen), L. White (London-Irish), M. Keane (Lansdowne), B. Foley (Shannon), C. Cantillon (Constitution), D. Spring (Dublin University), C. Tucker (Young Munster).

NEW ZEALAND—B. McKechnie; S. Wilson, L. Jaffray, B. Robertson, B. Williams, E. Dunn, M. Donaldson, B. Johnstone, J. Black, G. Knight, A. Haden, F. Oliver, G. Mourie, captain, A. McGregor, W. Graham, replacement—W. Osborne for Robertson (14 rains). Referee—C. Thomas (Wales).

Rives to captain France against USSR

Jean Pierre Rives, "the blond bombshell of Toulouse", was named as France's captain for the match with the Soviet Union at Toulouse on November 11th. He takes over from Jean Pierre Bastiat, who is out of the game until at least the end of the year because of a knee injury sustained in a club match two weeks ago.

A dynamic wing forward, Rives was first capped against Australia in 1975, and has since carved out a reputation as one of the finest exponents of the position since the



Pat Whelan, the Munster hooker, smothering an attack, with Les White emerging through a ring of New Zealand players to lend support in the representative match at Thomond Park yesterday.

"WE PAID FOR OUR MISTAKES" — THOMAS

Munster's coach Tom Kiernan, who played in both the 1963 and 1973 matches, commented: "I suppose on the law of averages these things are bound to happen. They have been in trouble here before.

"Our discipline and control combined wonderfully with our traditional aggression and, against this, New Zealand's play deteriorated in frustration. This game will really matter in Irish rugby history. The tacklers always hit their man and were never fooled by the variety of New Zealand's moves."

Russ Thomas, the All Blacks manager, magnanimously commented: "It was a marvellous effort by Munster—a great thing for Irish rugby. We made too many mistakes as we have done even in our four victories. This time we paid for them, but we will learn much from today."

All Blacks captain, Graham

Soccer: European competitions

A score draw would put Bohemians through

BOHEMIANS ARE ready to grasp at the chance of a lifetime when they attempt to become the first League of Ireland club to reach the quarter-finals of the European Champions' Cup at the expense of Dynamo Dresden in Dresden this afternoon. They embark on their formidable task in the knowledge that a scoring draw will suffice to put them into the last eight after a 0-0 scoreline in the original game at Oriel Park a fortnight ago.

Like Shamrock Rovers, who take a three-goal deficit into their return to the Cupwinners' Cup with the Czechoslovakian club, Banik Ostrava, at Milltown this afternoon, the way ahead is strewn with pitfalls in their efforts to succeed where the celebrated Liverpool team failed two years ago.

Liverpool, then in the summer of their years, confessed to some relief at escaping with a 2-1 defeat from Dresden and having regard to the fact that Dynamo have since gone on to win the East German championship for the last two years, one can readily appreciate the dimensions of the Dubliners' task.

Yet Bohemians succeeded in blunting a team which included five current East German internationals at Oriel Park and

—BY— PETER BYRNE

Kelly has told me that his knee ligament injury has pretty well cleared up," said Bohemians' manager, Billy Young. "I am naturally encouraged that both players are in the team, particularly Kelly who has an important role to play if we are not to become submerged in midfield."

It is Kelly's task to contain Weber, the outstanding member of the Dresden team at Oriel Park and if he can break even here, then the Irishmen will, indeed, be entitled to look opportunity in the eye.

It is extremely unlikely that Radimec's breaks from the back will be as numerous on this occasion, but he is obviously a player to fear if Rovers are to succeed in the fundamental task of preventing Banik from adding to their three goals.

While Giles's inclusion gives cause for renewed hope for Rovers, the news of their other casualties is considerably more bleak. Pierce O'Leary, their emerging left-back, suffered a groin strain in their game against Cork Liberties at the weekend and was ruled out after a preliminary test yesterday. Additionally, Eddie Byrne's recovery from a damaged hamstring has not proved as smooth as was originally anticipated and he now joins two Republic of Ireland players, Noel Synnot and Eamonn

