

Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship Final

Played on Sunday 17th September 1961

St Lachtain's Win Their 1st Senior Title

St Lachtain's 4-5 Near South 0-12

In their second year in senior ranks, St Lachtain's upset all calculations at Nowlan Park on Sunday, when they deservedly beat the highly fancied Near South selection in the county senior hurling final.

The junior champions of 1959 were superior in defence and attack and while they had few players of inter-county standard were a better balanced side with superior team work and better fighting spirit.

While the standard of play was way below that of the finals of pre-parish rule days, it was better than some of the finals of recent years. The hurling was not up to that expected from senior grade, but the toughness of the exchanges and the closeness of the scoring gave the game good entertainment value.

The game was a tense, close struggle throughout and the sides were level eight minutes from the end. The divisional, after finding themselves a goal in arrears after four minutes fought back to equalise after ten minutes and led by two points at the end of the first quarter, a margin which they retained up to half-time. St Lachtain's battling hard with a fairly strong wind advantage in the second half, drew level after seven minutes and at the three-quarters stage, got the goal which really broke the back of the southern team's resistance. It was a disputed score, many holding that the ball had gone over the end line before being sent into the goalmouth preparatory to being sent the net, but as the square was jammed tight with players, it was very difficult to see what actually happened.

Tense Excitement

However even after this score had been awarded the divisional side drew level again eight minutes from the end and there was tense excitement for some time before Freshford regained the lead and went on to endorse it with a further goal and a point.

Apart from the fact that they worked hard for their goals the northern team looked a more dangerous proposition throughout the game. The club spirit which can never be fully emulated by a divisional selection characterised their approach to the game and their undertaking of every tackle. In addition their forward line, despite playing against the wind, harassed the southern defence throughout the first half and though they got two goals came close to getting several more as they swept wave after wave of attacking against the southern defence.

Freshford had sterling individuals in all sections of the field, but few contributed so much to the victory as did goalkeeper J. Cahill, centre back Alfie Hickey and full-back Pa Dillon.

Cahill at times outshone Ollie Walsh in brilliance while Dillon's puck-outs reached prodigious length. Dillon was a tower of strength throughout while with his pivot, Cahill, he broke up attack after attack launched by the divisional sides forwards.

The fact that no goal was scored against them and that their counterparts conceded four, speaks volumes in praise of their prowess. While these players conspicuously caught the eye throughout the hour, their colleagues in defence also, though less brilliantly contributed to the great victor. Jack Delaney weakened by flu, was noticeably below par but J. O Shea, D. Maher and L. Dalton played their parts diligently.

Of the centrefield pair, M. Dalton was the better, continuing to supply his forwards with an ample service of the ball throughout the game. J. Minogue also did his share of strong hurling however, as the centrefield sector was rarely dominated by either side for long.

Lively Attack

In the attack which repeatedly had the southern defence on edge Wally Cody was a splendid leader, putting up a fine show against Jim Walsh. Dinny Butler and Sean Rafferty were the pick of the remainder while John Teehan and J. Cullinane also had their moments.

In the southern defence Ollie Walsh, Tom Walsh, Jim Walsh hurled mightily throughout the hour, though the scoreboard does not do justice to their efforts. While not up to the standard of former games John Doyle, Nicky Forristal, and Dick Bolger played their parts though for the most part they found this fast and enterprising St Lachtain's attack somewhat too much of a handful. At centrefield Owen Dermody was the better of the two though Danny Lannon figured to a considerable extent throughout the hour. Best man in the attack was Denis Heaslip who though only registering only three points tried very hard without much support. Tom Ryan scored two of the finest points seen at the venue for a long time and hurled an excellent first half, tending to fade somewhat in the second half.

Scorers for the winners: J. Ryan 2-0, D. Butler 1-2, S. Rafferty 1-1 W. Cody 0-2,

Scorers for the losers: T. Ryan 0-4, D. Heaslip 0-3, D. White 0-1, F. Aylward 0-1, O. Dermody 0-1, C. Ryan 0-1, M. O'Neill 0-1

St Lachtain's: J. Cahill, D. Maher, P. Dillon, K. Dalton, J. O'Shea, A. Hickey, J. Delaney, M. Dalton, J. Minogue, J. Teehan, S. Rafferty, D. Butler, J. Ryan, W. Cody, J. Cullinane.

Subs: T. Butler, M. Kileen, B. Dalton, D. Keoghane, S. Cahill, M. Teehan, J. Butler, J. Dooley

Near South: O. Walsh (Thomastown), Tom Walsh (Dunnamaggin), Jim Walsh (Dunnamaggin), P. Forristal (Thomastown Rangers), Mick Bolger (Rower Inistioge), John Doyle (Thomastown), Colm Ryan (Dunnamaggin), Owen Dermody (Knocktopher), Danny Lannon (Thomastown), Denis Heaslip (Knocktopher), Danny White (Rower Inistioge), Tom Forristal (Dunnamaggin), Tom Ryan (Dunnamaggin), Frank Aylward (Knocktopher), Mick O'Neill (Thomastown Rangers)

Ref. Paddy Johnston (Éire Óg)

Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship 1961

1st Round

St Lachtain's Advance in See-Saw Battle

St Lachtain's 6-6 St Senan's 5-6

This was surely a game in which the result was in doubt until the final whistle. St Lachtain's advanced to the second round of the senior hurling championship at Nowlan Park on Sunday, but the teams were level three times in the first half and the Kilmacow boys were always within striking distance in the second.

The standard of hurling was poor and only on occasions did it reach what senior hurling should be like. The players were not helped by rock-like ground while in addition some of the goals were rather soft affairs.

Either team could have won this game. None of the players seemed to be giving of their best and it was doubtful if the form which they showed was really their true worth.

After taking some time to get ahead, St Lachtain's led by a goal at half-time having had the advantage of a slight wind. Their form improved on the change over and they amassed a comfortable lead, but just when they seemed on the high road to victory their defence let them down rather badly with the result that the issue was not finally resolved until virtually the final whistle

St. Senan's were a somewhat unbalanced side. While a few players struck reasonable good form, a number were below their best. P.Hoban was their outstanding player in the backs and he was ably assisted by C. Forrestal. At centre-field H. Matthews was a great trier while in attack Pat Forrestal and Mick Fleming were most dangerous.

In a very unsteady St Lachtain's defence, Cahill in goal though usually reliable had a most undistinguished afternoon. Of the full back line only D.Maher played confidently, so that the greatest burden of defence played on the outer line. Here Delaney did an excellent job in marking Mick Fleming, while A.Hickey lent excellent support. But for those, the result might well have been very different. Of the centrefield M.Dalton was the better. In the attack Dinny Butler was the most outstanding while John Teehan also gave a good account of himself. In the full line J. Cullinane was about the best of the trio which

made little headway against Lalor, Clohosey, and Galway.

The scoring:

After four minutes St. Lachtain's opened the scoring with a goal by Dinny Butler, a minute later P. Forrestal equalized. Mick Fleming put St Senan's a point ahead but in the eighth minute the scores were again level when J. Cullinane had a point.

St Senan's went ahead with a goal from P.Forrestal ,but a point each by D.Butler, Cahill, and Teehan left matters even again after 17 minutes. The southerners went into the lead with a point by Mick Fleming and 2 points by P. Forrestal , but a goal by John Teehan balanced in the 23rd minute. A goal by J. Cahill gave St Lachtain's the lead but C. Forrestal from centrefield sent all the way to the net to balance again in the 25th minute. A St Senan's 70 was sent wide By P. Hoban and following good work by Cullinane, Dinny Butler scored his second goal to give his side 4-4 to 3-4 lead at the interval.

On the resumption St Lachtain's increased their lead with a point from Dinny Butler, but this was negated with a point from C.Knox. A goal from J. Minogue, left St Senan's leading by 5-5 to 3-5 at the three-quarter stage. Entering the final quarter P. Forrestal had a goal for the losers, before Tommy Butler who had come on as a sub scored St. Lachtain's sixth goal. S. Walsh replied with a point but Dinny Butler from a free sent over the bar to leave St Lachtain's leading by 6-6 to 4-6 and in the closing minutes of the game ,following a 70 from Paddy Hoban, C. Knox had a goal for St Senan's to leave but a goal between them at the finish.

St Lachtain's team: J. Cahill, D. Maher, P. Dillon, M. Maher, J. O' Shea, A. Hickey, J. Delaney, M. Dalton, J. Minogue, J. Teehan, R. Keoghan, D. Butler, J. Cahill, M. Killeen, J. Cullinane. Sub. T. Butler

St Senan's team: N. Knox, P. Lalor, L. Clohosey, J. Galway, P. Flynn, C. Forrestal, P.Hoban, H. Matthews, C. Knox, T. Dowling, E. O' Neill, M. Fleming, P.Grace, P. Forrestal, S. Phelan.

Ref. Ollie Walsh (Thomastown)

Kilkenny SH Championship 1961 Semi-Final

Played 25th August 1961

Last-Minute Point Win for St Lachtain's

St Lachtain's 2-9 Far South 3-5

Brought on as a sub in the closing stages of the game, the youthful red-haired Tommy Butler scored the point two minutes from full time which put St Lachtain's into the county senior hurling final against the Far South.

Time was running out in last Sunday's semi-final in Nowlan Park and it looked as if the sides would have to meet again to produce a finalist, when St Lachtain's eager young sub gathered the ball in a forward movement and sent the ball over the bar.

Thus the Freshford-Threecastles combination won a game which had been a close affair throughout the hour. As a spectacle the game provided very little in the way of entertainment. The hurling was scrappy and sub-standard and for much of the hour, there was an apparently "could not care less" attitude by both sides which was unusual in a game of such vital importance.

Aided by a fairly strong wind, St Lachtain's got away to a good start and, with their accurate free taker Dinny Butler in the best of form, led by six points at the end of the first quarter, conceding only two points to the southerners.

In the second quarter the Far South made up the leeway, cutting the margin to two points at the half way stage. Though St Lachtain's improved their position in the early stages of the second half, the Southerners came again towards the finish to get on level terms. In view of their performance in the second half they would have deserved a draw but Lactain's were none the less fully deserving of their victory.

DILLON BACK

With Pa Dillon fully fit St. Lachtains had a strong defence. Dillon playing with cool-headed craft in the fullback position and A. Hickey and J. Delaney excelling in the outer line. Hickey completely nullified the challenge of Ned Murphy of Mooncoin, a very capable forward who has many fine games behind him. Delaney, as usual, proved himself the supreme club hurler, never being beaten for a ball and returning to the tackle time and time again.

The Mahers and J. O'Shea also played their part in stemming the activities of the Far South forwards. At centrefield, honours broke about even between St Lachtain's J. Minogue and M. Dalton and the South's E. Power and M. Howley, though the southern pair had the better of matters on many occasions. The forwards were quick to seize an opening, Wally Cody again proving himself a very able leader. D. Butler's accuracy from frees was a vital factor while corner

men J. Cullinane and J. Ryan contributed to keeping the southern defence busy.

Goalkeeper Jack Cahill brought off his share of good saves. Jimmy Murphy of Carrickshock was a tower of strength in the south defence, with prominent showing also coming from goadkeeper, Dick Murphy, defenders, Ed. Connolly, Tom Nolan and Wally McDonald, and in attack, PJ Molyneaux.

THE SCORING

St Lachtain's opened the scoring with a goal by J. Ryan after two minutes. The Far South replied with a point by M. Kelly but Freshford's ace free-taker, D. Butler, negatived with a similar score from a free after six minutes. Wally Cody added a point from play, O'Shea added another from a long-range free and Butler added two more from close frees. PJ Molyneaux replied with a point from the Far South in the fifteenth minute which cut the arrears to 1-5 to 0-2 at the end of the first quarter.

Butler stretched St Lachtain's lead with a point from a free in the sixteenth minute but two minutes later D. Holden pegged them back with a rather easy southern goal. Wally Cody was again on the mark for a point in the nineteenth minute but, just before the end of the half, Ned Murphy had a goal for the Far South to cut the deficit to two points (1-7 to 2-2) at the interval.

Three minutes after the resumption corner forward J. Ryan had a St Lachtain's goal to improve their position, but M. Kelly, from a free, replied with a Far South point. Butler placed Minogue for a St Lachtain's point but Geoff Butler replied with a similar score for the southerners at the three-quarters stage.

In the final quarter the Far South concentrated hard on pulling down the lead. A point by PJ Molyneaux and a goal by Geoff Butler brought them on level terms by the 25th minute. The game looked like ending in a draw when Tommy Butler got the all-important point in the dying minutes.

St. Lachtain's: J. Cahill, D. Maher, P. Dillon, M. Maher, J. O'Shea, A. Hickey, J. Delaney, J. Minogue, M. Dalton, J. Rafferty, R. Keoghan, D. Butler, J. Ryan, W. Cody, J. Cullinane. Sub., T. Buler for Minogue.

Far South: R. Dunply, J. Ryan, G. Nolan, T. Nolan, W. McDonald, J. Murphy, E. Connolly, E. Power, M. Howley. M. Kelly, E. Murphy, D. Holden, G. Butler, J. Murphy, PJ Molyneaux.

Referee: P. Johnston (Eire Og)

County SH Championship Semi-final 1961 LAST MINUTE POINT FOILED FRESHFORD

St. Lachtain's 3-10 Far South2-13

St. Lachtain's (Freshford) were pipped on the post in their bid to reach their first senior county hurling final by the Far South at Nowlan Park on Sunday when the sides finished level (St. Lachtain's, 3-10, Far South, 2-13) after a dull game. A point from a free in the last minute put the Far South on level terms.

The hurling was disappointing and was a bit too robust. There were several skirmishes during the game but they were of a minor nature, but they detracted quite a lot from what might have otherwise been an interesting struggle.

St. Lachtain's following their impressive victory over Tullaroan were expected to have an easy passage enough but their form on Sunday was well below that of their previous championship outing and they were lucky enough to escape with a draw in the end. They had a comfortable two goals lead going into the last quarter but failed to hold on to it.

Apart from this period when St. Lachtain's went two goals ahead there was never very much between the sides and the scores were level four times in the first half and once in the second before the Far South got their equalising point just on time. Freshford could have won this game if they had held the Far South's late rally and this obvious weakness in their defence will have to be remedied if they are to pass on to the final.

Jack Cahill was good in the Freshford goal and D. Maher was very sound in the full back line which was depleted by the absence of Pa Dillon who is suffering from an injury. Ken Dalton and Mick Maher also rendered sterling service in the full line. Jack Delaney figured prominently on the half line with Alfie Hickey and Jack O'Shea giving him very good support.

John Minogue turned in a grand hour's hurling at centrefield where he had a good partner in Martin Dalton but in this sector the Far South pair, Ned Power and Billy McDonald had a slight pull. Nearly all the Freshford forwards sparkled particularly John Teehan, Sean Rafferty and Denis Butler on the half line. Butler and Teehan combining splendidly on a few occasions to get scores. J. Cullinane and Wally Cody also showed well in the full line with Jim Ryan playing his part well.

Dick Dunphy was a good goalie for the Far South with their full back line of Sean Ryan, J. Nolan and J. Delahunty showing few weak spots. Jimmy Murphy gave an outstanding display at centre back and had two useful flankers in M. Howley and N. Connolly. Liam Kelly, Geoff Butler, D. Holden and P.J. Molyneaux were hard triers in attack but the Far South forwards generally will have to be better for the replay. Jack Murphy and N. Murphy also played well.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Dick Dunphy had a great save to his credit early on and the Far South were first to score when McDonald sent a nice shot over the bar. Freshford had a disallowed goal before Geoff Butler increased the divisional side's lead with a point. Cullinane opened Freshford's account with a point and Teehan and Butler combined well to add another point to put Freshford on terms. Teehan put St. Lachtain's ahead with a point but Kelly again levelled. Minogue stretched the Freshford lead with another point but Molyneaux levelled. Butler pointed a Freshford free and Kelly from a free put the sides level for the fourth time. Geoff Butler had a goal for the Far South while Denis Butler sent over the bar from a Freshford free to leave the half time scores:

Far South 1-5; Freshford 0-6

Rafferty won back the lead for Freshford shortly after the re-start when he finished a good movement for a goal and Butler put on a point from a free. In the seventh minute Kelly had a point for the Far South but Wally Cody finished a Freshford attack to the net to give them a lead of four points.

Kelly narrowed the gap with a point from a free and Holden put on another. Teehan (St. Lachtain's) exchanged points and a goal by Cullinane and a point from a free by Butler put Freshford in front by two goals. This was the widest margin dividing the teams during the hour and the Far South, stung into action by Freshford's progress hit back in style.

Jimmy Murphy and Ned Power had points and Kelly a goal followed by a point by Holden to level the scores. Butler put Freshford ahead by a point but in the last minute Ned Power sent over the bar from a free.

St. Lachtain's: J. Cahill, D. Maher, K. Dalton, M. Maher, J.O'Shea, A. Hickey, J. Delaney, J. Minogue, M. Dalton, J. Teehan, S. Rafferty, D. Butler, J. Ryan, W. Cody, J. Cullinane.

Far South: R. Dunphy, S. Ryan, J. Nolan, J. Delahunty, M. Howley, J. Murphy, N. Connolly, W. McDonald, E. Power, L. Kelly, N. Murphy, D. Holden, G. Butler, J. Murphy, P.J. Molyneaux.

Kilkenny SH Championship 1961 Scoreboard

Preliminary Round

Extreme South 7-7 Tullagher 3-12

1st Round

Near South	8-6	Northern Div	5-4
Erin's Own	3-10	Eire Og	2-3
Bennettsbridge	7-7	City Junior Div	4-4
St Lachtain's	6-6	St Senan's	5-6
Tullaroan	6-11	Graigie	6-5
Lisdowney	7-7	James Stephens	6-6
Extreme South	8-9	John Lockes	3-1
Glenmore	3-7	Slieverue	4-4
Glenmore	5-9	Slieverue	4-6

2nd Round

Erin's Own	1-6	Bennettsbridge	1-5
St Lachtain's	6-8	Tullaroan	1-4
Far South	0-10	Lisdowney	0-5
Near South	4-9	Glenmore	5-2

Semi-Finals

Near South	8-5	Erin's Own	2-9
St Lachtain's	3-9	Far South	2-12
St Lachtain's	2-9	Far South	3-5

Final

St Lachtain's	4-5	Near South	0-12
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Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship 1963

Second Round Replay

Fast Game but no Thrills in Replay

St Lachtain's 5-12 Erin's Own 4-6

AS so often happens in replays, all the thrills of the drawn second round senior hurling championship tie between St. Lachtain's (Freshford) and Erin's Own (Castlecomer), were not repeated in the second meeting at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

Admittedly the play was as turbulent and the bodily contact as uncompromising as in the first game, but in many respects the game fell short of expectations.

Throughout most of the hour, the marking was very loose and for some reason the sides were not as evenly matched. Scores came more easily and while the play was fast, the standard of hurling did not reach the same heights.

Nevertheless the unbounded determination and dour rivalry of the sides marked it as one of the best games in the championship outside the drawn match.

Castlecomer got off to a brisk start but despite the advantage of a diagonal breeze led by only two rather lucky goals at half time, both of them coming directly from frees.

Freshford on the other hand appeared the more dangerous side and from early on in the second half looked like winners. But it was not until the last quarter that they really showed their worth.

Loose marking all round was particularly noticeable during the opening minutes and was illustrated by an unusually high score for the first five minutes – 2-1 to 1-1, Castlecomer leading.

Following a general tightening up after this, the exchanges for a while were rather even but loose marking soon permeated the ranks again and play became rather scrappy for a while.

Freshford had a decided edge in the second half and with the half back line constantly nipping 'Comers raids in the bud and the full-backs working with greater cohesion, they allowed their rivals to break through for only two points while their own forwards, getting a more handsome supply of the ball, scored no less than 4-5.

EASY GOALS

Despite conceding two rather easy goals, Michael Bourke in goal for Freshford had some very good saves to his credit.

Martin Coogan and Martin Meally lorded it at centrefield for periods in the first half and Meally was Comer's chief scorer with a personal tally of 1-5. M. Coogan was very sound but was inclined to lose form in the second half, as did Meally.

Their best forwards were W. Lacey and Kieran Meally at times.

Pa Dillon served the back line well and was competently assisted by his two flankers.

Sean Buckley again had an excellent game on the half back line and Alfie Hickey, though suffering from a hand injury, was a tenacious defender and gave a faultless display. Jack Delaney also played well in a line that kept their opposite numbers completely scoreless throughout the hour.

Mick Dalton and John Minogue had a very good second half.

All the forwards contributed much to the victory, the chief marksmen being P. Lacey, J. Dooley and Denis Butler.

GOOD SAVES

Michael Rowe in goal for Erin's Own had a few nice saves but wilted under the heavy pressure in the second half. Best of the defence were Jim Byrne, Tom Shalloe and P. Geoghegan.

THE SCORING

Opening with the advantage of the diagonal breeze Castlecomer were quickly into the attack and after only half a minute, Comerford slammed the ball to the net. The puckout, however, sent Freshford attacking and in the second minute, Lacey levelled.

A cut-in from Martin Meally shortly afterwards put Erin's Own ahead by a point and Lacey for Castlecomer almost immediately stretched the lead with another goal.

A Freshford point from Rafferty left the score after only five minutes of play, Castlecomer 2-1, Freshford 1-1.

From a 21 yard free, Butler improved St. Lachtain's position but his point was negated by M. Meally one minute later. And when Butler pointed again from another 21 yard free, Meally once more replied in kind.

In the eleventh minute, Dooley popped into the picture for the winners to take a nice point. Butler added another from a free four minutes later making the score at the end of the first quarter Erin's Own 2-3, St. Lachtain's 1-5.

THREE WIDES

The next seven minutes saw the sides shoot three wides each and then in the twenty second minute, the game took a surprise turn in favour of Castlecomer. From a cut-in on the 21 yard line Martin Coogan's shot went all the way to the net. And half a minute later, a seventy by M. Meally did exactly the same. As an encore the same player pointed from a centrefield free.

Spurred by the sudden and unexpected turn, Freshford stormed back into the attack and after Butler had pointed from a free, Dooley shot just inches wide of the posts.

Another tussle around the Castlecomer square ended when the ball was forced over the end line. But just before the whistle, Lacey had a minor score.

Castlecomer led 4-4 to 1-7 at half time.

REALLY DETERMINED

Freshford resumed the second half in really determined fashion and set about reducing the six point lead. Minogue soon knocked off a point and in the fifth minute, Dooley reduced arrears further with another. From a 21 yard free, however, M. Meally strengthened Erin's Own position with a point.

Nine minutes elapsed before St. Lachtain's really got into their stride. Lacey set matters moving with a well placed goal and in another attack, Dooley, being closely guarded by the Comer defenders, kicked the ball into the goal.

Castlecomer asserted themselves again for a short while after this and Lacey had a point. But Freshford were soon fringing the pace again and in the twenty second minute, Sean Rafferty shot over the bar. J. Teehan followed with the winner's eleventh point and Lacey added the twelfth.

With time running out, Freshford continued to battle away at the Erin's Own goal and scored two major scores per Teehan and Dooley. A Castlecomer '70' by M. Meally in the dying seconds was cleared.

St Lachtain's: M. Bourke, S. O'Shea, P. Dillon, K. Dalton, S. Buckley, A. Hickey, J. Delaney, M. Dalton, J. Minogue, John Teehan, D. Butler, J. Cullinane, S. Rafferty, P. Lacey, J. Dooley.

Erin's Own: M. Rowe, S. Loughlin, L. O'Keeffe, P. Geoghegan, J. Byrne, N. Holland, T. Shalloe, M. Coogan, M. Meally, S. Coogan, M. Byrne, K. Meally, P. Comerford, W. Lacey, M. Meally

County SH Championship Second Round 1963

Erin's Own Draw With Late Goal

ST LACHTAIN'S 4-4 ERIN'S OWN 3-7

After so many lifeless games in the senior hurling championship, it was indeed a treat to watch St Lachtain's (Freshford) and Erin's Own (Castlecomer) do battle in a second round tie at Nowlan Park on Sunday.

For this drawn game was undoubtedly the hardest fought and most exciting match in this year's championship. And though a last seconds goal by 'Comer, which gave them the right to fight again, will be deeply mourned by Freshford, it was only fitting that a draw should result. After their respective displays of dour determination, it would seem almost a shame if one of them had been eliminated.

Throughout the hour he hurling was fast and even furious and the clashes as tough and uncompromising as could safely be asked for. Bodily contact was heavy but stylish hurling also figured prominently.

Though the game opened very strongly, the exciting atmosphere was not set up until midway through the first half. Two shock goals by St Lachtain's during the first five minutes completely upset the play for Castlecomer and a further goal and point from Freshford without reply from their opponents seemed to spell rout even at that early stage.

UNEXPECTED DRIVE

But when county player Martin Coogan came to centrefield and the 'Comer backs came to terms with the Freshford forwards, Erin's Own stormed into the game with unexpected vigour and reduced arrears to a single point by half-time (3-1 to 2-3).

During the second half the sides were level on two occasions and the lead changed hands twice. And never did more than three points divide the tallies.

Star of the match for Freshford was undoubtedly centre half A. Hickey who did Trojan work throughout the hour. Indeed had anyone of less calibre been occupying the position, Freshford would hardly be preparing for another meeting. Throughout the hour, his superior craft frustrated some of the best efforts of the 'Comer forwards while his clearances almost invariably initiated attacks.

GREAT DISPLAY

On his right flank was a player of only slightly less worth—S. Buckley who gave a great display. Sean Rafferty who came from right corner forward to replace Jack Delaney, injured after ten minutes, was also a sound defender. Best of the full-back line was Pa Dillon who had an exceptionally tough game with 'Comers Billy Lacey.

Martin Dalton and Denis Butler had their moments at centrefield during the first half and J. Minogue who came on in the second half improved matters a little. Best of the forwards were S. Cullinane, Paddy Lacey and Jim Dooley.

MASTERLY DISPLAY

County player Martin Coogan was definitely Erin's Own's best. He gave a masterly display at centrefield and in addition to keeping the forwards well supplied with the ball, he contributed handsomely to the scoring.

Partner Martin Meally had a strong game and not only led the Castlecomer resurgence but was one of the chief scorers. In view of his goal in the last seconds of play, Kieran Meally must also be rated one of the heroes.

Best of the defence were Tom Shalloe, Larry O'Keefe and Pat Geoghegan.

THE PLAY

Freshford stormed into the attack from the throw-in and after sending wide during the first few seconds opened the scoring in the second minute when Rafferty shot to the net.

The long puck-out landed in the Freshford half back territory and Hickey getting possession initiated another attack. His stroke went to Lacey who from far out sent the ball all the way to the goal. Surprised by the two shockscores, Castlecomer tried desperately to assert themselves but due to close marking by a determined Freshford defence shot three consecutive wides.

FRESHFORD DOMINATE

Freshford continued to dominate the exchanges and after shooting two wides, Dooley got possession on the left wing and races goalwards. His low shot was blocked down by the the goalman but he followed up, doubled on the rebound and Freshford were three goals ahead.

In the sixteenth minute, Ryan pointed giving St. Lachtain's a 3-1 to nil lead entering the second quarter.

The Castlecomer resurgence started shortly afterwards and after about a minute of heavy pressure around the Freshford goal Martin Meally sent a rasper to the net.

Spurred by their comeback, Erin's Own soon settled down and got a grip on the game. They forced determined raids into Freshford territory and gradually began to knock down the arrears.

Martin Meally pointed from about 40 yards out and Martin Coogan added another point from a seventy. In the twenty sixth minute, Lacey bet the goal keeper for a goal and before the end, Meally was back for another point.

At the interval, Freshford led by only a single point – 3-1 to 2-3.

EQUALISING POINT

Immediately after the restart, Martin Coogan had the equalising point. But no sooner was the ball returned to play that Cullinane put a point between the sides again. In the fifth minute, Butler increased it to two from a 21 yards free.

Scoreless play followed for the next twelve minutes during which the side had four wides each and 'Comer had two frees.

It was in the seventeenth minute that Coogan with a point once more reduced the leeway for Erin's Own. And it was the same player who again levelled three minutes later (3-3 to 2-6).

Then for the first time in the game, Castlecomer took the lead when Coogan had another point. But the lead was short lived. In a forceful raid on the Erin's Own goal in the twenty third minute, Butler crashed the ball to the net. Teehan with a point stretched the lead to a goal (4-4 to 2-7).

DESPERATE FIGHT

Play now became furious as 'Comer fought desperately for the equaliser. And it came from the stick of Kieran Meally with only seconds left for play. Neither side had time to even try for the winning score.

St Lachtain's – J. Butler, J. O'Shea, P. Dillon, K. Dalton, S. Buckley, A. Hickey, J. Delaney, M. Dalton, D. Butler, J. Teehan, P. Lacey, S. Cullinane, S. Rafferty, J. Ryan, J. Dooley. Subs – L. Carroll for Delaney, J. Minogue for Carroll.

Erin's Own – M. Rowe, S. Loughlin, E. Holland, P. Geoghegan, L. O'Keefe, J. Byrne, T. Shalloe, M. Meally, S. Coogan, M. Meally, M. Coogan, M. Brennan, B. Lacey, P. Comerford.

Referee – Jim Langton

County SH Championship Final 1963

FRESHFORD TRIUMPH IN POOR FINAL

Game Marred by Incidents

St. Lachtain's, 1-7, Tullogher, 0-3

A second half that is best forgotten, marred what could have been a memorable county senior hurling final at Nowlan Park on Sunday, when St. Lachtain's, Freshford, regained the title by beating Tullogher by 1-7 to 0-3.

The game was held up for ten minutes about midway in the second half while the referee, Mr. Ray McEntee, Mount Juliet, Thomastown, restored order, following a melee near the Tullogher goalmouth.

He took advantage of the stoppage to clear a crowd from behind the goal, Referees are loathe, perhaps, to send players to the line, but Mr. McEntee might have eliminated some of the unnecessary pulling, directed at players rather than the ball, had he taken drastic action in the early stages.

The first half provided entertaining hurling and Freshford were somewhat taken by surprise to find themselves only two points in front, 1-2 to 0-3 at the interval. The sportsmanship in this period was fair enough, but the second half put a blot on the game and reflected little credit on the players responsible.

Players from both sides contributed to the incidents and when Mr. McEntee found that warnings were of little use he should have adopted a firmer attitude. While things looked bad on a couple of occasions it is only right to say that not all the players on the two teams were involved and those who did their best to show good example to their colleagues should get full marks.

WRONG APPROACH

Tullogher adopted the wrong approach in the second half. Even though they were playing against the breeze, they were in the game with a chance on their first half showing, but spoiled everything by giving away frees.

There were only five scores in the second half and they were all points from frees by Freshford's right half back, Sean Buckley. Tullogher's three points were scored by Phil Muphy in the first half and they were held scoreless in the second.

There can be no doubt that Freshford deserved to win. They might not have, at any stage, shown the form that carried them so gloriously through the second half against Bennettsbridge but they were the more competent side and it was obvious at the three quarter way stage that the cup was Freshford bound.

Tullogher, making their first appearance in a county hurling final, put up a great show in the first half, but after Nickey Woods was forced to retire, with an injury in the first half, the attack crumbled and their attack lacked the power to penetrate a very sound Freshford defence.

The standard of hurling deteriorated in the second half and scuffles and stoppages made it as dull as it could possibly be. With Tullogher having to move Phil Murphy out to the 40 yards mark following the retiral of Woods the Tullogher inside line was considerably weakened and their attack, generally never carried real thrust.

St. Lachtain's who last won the title in 1961, played well within themselves and Tullogher were fortunate their winning margin was not much greater, even though Tullogher also had a certain amount of hard luck, in their scoring efforts.

GREAT DEFENCE

The Freshford defence played a very vital part in their success. Though Sean Buckley was quiet enough in the first half he came very prominently into the picture in the second half and apart from his five points from frees – the only scores in this half- he gave a great display of defensive hurling generally and was constantly on the mark when the Tullogher attack looked like going places.

Alfie Hickey also played a big part in the Freshford triumph. His clever sense of positioning and his competent dealing with difficult situations proved a major stumbling block to Tullogher while Jack Delaney at left half had his best game for some time and put in a tremendous amount of work.

Mick Burke in the goal also had a great game – even if he was a little overshadowed by his opposite number, Mick Rellis in the Tullogher goal while Pa Dillon, Kevin Dalton and Sean O'Shea contributed to the splendid work of the St. Lachtain's rear-guard, particularly in the second half.

Martin Dalton and John Minogue were fairly well held by Tommy Doolan and Brian O'Neill in the first half but they improved in the second half.

The Freshford attack has certainly seen many better days. J. Teehan got little chance from J. Hamilton in the first half, though he was a bit more prominent in the later stages while Jimmy Cullinane did not make any great impression on Jim Cummins. D. Butler did good work on the 40 yards mark while Sean Rafferty was quick to seize the one opportunity that came his way for the goal. Paddy Lacey and Jimmy Dooley were good triers but failed to get any great return for their work.

Mick Rellis would have been the toast of Tullogher for a long time, if they had won. He saved two or three "impossible" shots from close range and his, saving, generally, was in the top class.

CUMMINS OUTSTANDING

Simon Kennedy and ex-minor Sean Treacy, were sound defenders and proved capable flankers for Philly Murphy at full back. Jim Cummins was one of the most competent hurlers on view while John Hamilton had a great first half. Tom Doolan and Brian O'Neill had a very good first half at centrefield.

The Tullogher attack failed, and only Phil Murphy made any impression. Nickey Woods, while he was there, tried hard and Pat Grace put in some nice hurling but the remainder were not just good enough for this sound St. Lachtain's defence.

St Lachtain's: Mick Burke, Jack O'Shea, Pa Dillon, Kevin Dalton, Sean Buckley, Alfie Hickey, Sean Delaney, Martin Dalton, John Minogue, John Teehan, Dimmy Butler, Jimmy Cullinane, Sean Rafferty, Paddy Lacey, Jimmy Dooley. Sub: Jack Cahill.

Tullogher: Mick Rellis, Jimmy Cummins, Philly Murphy, Simon Kennedy, John Treacy, Billy Murphy, John Hamilton, Brian O'Neill, Tommy Doolan, Andy Lee, Nicky Woods, Paddy Walsh, John Murphy, Phil Murphy, Paddy Grace. Subs: Mick Murphy, Jamesie Murphy.

Figures of the Game

	Goals	Points	Frees	Wides	70's
First Half					
St Lachtain's	1	2	3	4	1
Tullogher	0	3	3	8	1
Second Half					
St Lachtain's	0	5	7	7	0
Tullogher	0	0	2	3	0
Totals					
St Lachtain's	1	7	10	11	1
Tullogher	0	3	5	11	1

Kilkenny Senior Hurling Championship 1963 1st Round

FRESHFORD 'BLITZ' SWAMPED KILMACOW

St Lachtain's 8-3; St Senan's 1-8

A St. Lachtain's 'blitz', which began in the 17th minute of the second half and brought four goals and a point in less than 10 minutes, completely shattered St. Senan's (Kilmacow) in a senior championship tie at Nowlan Park on Sunday, Freshford winning by 8-3 to 1-8.

Up to the time that John Teehan's goal started the Freshford scoring whirlwind, the sides were level (Freshford, 3-2; St. Senan's, 1-8), and it appeared to be anybody's game.

Teehan's goal was in the inspiration Freshford needed and from that to the end they stormed the Kilmacow goal and goals' came so rapidly that the Kilmacow players could do nothing but look hopelessly on.

Led by 3-2 to 0-5 at half time St. Senan's gradually pegged back the Freshford lead and by virtue of tremendous work by Pat Forristal succeeded in getting on terms just at the end of the third quarter.

The Freshford assault co-incided with the departure of star Kilmacow defender Paddy Hoban who retired injured. Up to that time Hoban, a brilliant county minor of some years ago, had played one of his best games for some time and his loss was very severely felt.

It is extremely unlikely, however, that even Hoban at his best would have stemmed this furious Freshford onslaught. They seemed poised for action right through the second half and were waiting for the moment to strike. Some of their goals may have been easy but there was a purpose and determination in their approach that Kilmacow were quite unable to deal with.

HARD PULLING

The game, though free from incidents, was marked by very hard pulling, not all of it judicious and a terrific pace was set from the start. In the first quarter St. Senan's looked like avenging their defeat by Freshford a couple of years ago, when the northern side went on to wind the county final, but they were unable to last the pace and once Freshford got in front with Teehan's goal the game was as good as over.

Hoban's loss, undoubtedly contributed to the St. Senan's collapse. The effect on the Kilmacow morale was obvious but the Freshford total in the end gives a very one-sided impression to a game that was very even for three-quarters of the hour.

Freshford had a very good gaolie in John Butler who had several good saves to his credit. Their full back line of Martin Dalton, Pa Dillon and Kevin Dalton was also very sound while they were equally well served on the half line by Sean Buckley in a rather unusual role, Hickey and John Delaney.

Harry Mathews for St. Senan's was the outstanding figure at centrefield where John Minogue kept the Freshford end up assisted by John Butler. Christy Knox of St. Senans came very much into the picture in the second half. Generally the centrefield exchanges were fairly even.

STROND IN ATTACK

Freshford were very strong in attack and all six forwards had a hand in the scoring. The half line, John Teehan, Sean Rafferty and Jimmy Cullinane were in brilliant form, while their full line; Larry Carroll, Paddy Lacey and Jim Dooley gave complete satisfaction.

Liam Clohosey figured prominently in the St. Senan's full-back line, while Paddy Lalor and Noel Kent did good work under severe pressure. Paddy Hoban was outstanding on the half-line while Sean Fleming also played quite well.

In the Kilmacow attack Pat Forristal stole all the honours and got most of the scores. Senan Cooke, of last year's Kilkenny All-Ireland minor team played well but Mick Fleming was less effective than he has been for some time and the St. Senan's attack, Forristal apart, was rather weak.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

Pat Forristal opened the scoring with a Kilmacow point after two minutes and a minute later Jimmy Cullinane levelled. Pat Forristal put St. Senan's in the lead when he struck the upright from a free and the ball went over the bar. Sean Rafferty finished a Freshford raid to the net to give the winners the lead.

Pat Forristal and John Teehan exchanged points and Forristal had another point. Alfie Hickey centred a Freshford '70' and Jim Dooley finished to the net and when Jimmy Cullinane had a Freshford goal from 40 yards out. Kilmacow brought Mick Fleming to the half forward line but their only reward for hard trying was a point from a free by Forristal to leave the half time scores -

<i>St. Lachtains:</i>	3-2
<i>St. Senan's:</i>	0-5

Mick Fleming raced up-field on a solo run and placed Pat Forristal for a Kilmacow goal. Forristal had three points from frees to put the sides level (St. Lachtains 3-2, St. Senan's 1-8) but the Kilmacow effort ended here and St. Lachtains took over.

Teehan's goal was followed by another by Lacey and a further gaol by Cullinane. Teehan (0-1), Dooley (1-0) and Lacey (1-0) completed the Freshford scoring.

St. Lachtains: J. Butler, M. Dalton, P. Dillon, K. Dalton, S. Buckley, A. Hickey, J. Delaney, J. Minogue, D. Butler, J. Teehan, S. Rafferty, J. Cullinane, Larry Carroll, P. Lacey, J. Dooley.

St. Senan's: W. McDonald, P. Lalor, N. Kent, L. Clohosey, C. Forristal, P. Hoban, C. Knox, H. Mathews, F. Walsh, P. Forristal, S. Cooke, J. Walsh, M. Fleming, M. Foley.

Mr. Tom Ryall, Graigue, refereed.