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Tullamore Football Club

Bradmola Cup Winners 1965

Edward Whiteley



2010

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NO. 27 **1965 Tullamore Team and Committee**
 Bradmola Cup Triumph

Standing L-R Pat Rylands (Committee) Eugene O'Beirne (Committee), Tom Whiteley, Noel Lynch, Paddy Duffy, John Lowry, Tommy Geraghty, John Martin, John McKenna (Team Manager), Oliver Flanagan (man with Hat).

Kneeling L-R Micky White (Committee), Eamon Byrne, Martin Lowry, Teddy Whiteley, Peter Malone, Jimmy Brady, Timmy Buckley (Committee).

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Season 1964/1965

September 5th 1964

Tullamores Winning Start of the Season

In blazing sunshine a new soccer season opened at Spollenstown on Sunday last. There was an extremely big attendance present to see the home side get off to a flying start with a splendid 4-2 victory over Valeview.

TULLAMORE'S YOUTH POLICY

Tullamore pinned a lot of their faith on a youth policy for this opening fixture and included three members of the side which recently won the Midland youth's league in their attack. It was a policy which paid off handsomely with left-winger Tommy Geraghty making a dream debut on the senior side by scoring twice and centre-forward Alo Glennon capping a very fine display by scoring the best goal of the match. Whilst both players were guilty of errors during the course of the ninety minutes it was due more to lack of experience rather than lack of ability, and certainly both earned the chance to wear the town colours again. The third member of the youth team to be included on Sunday last was Jimmy Dunne, but of course he was more or less a regular member of the side last season. His job then was to prevent goals but with the return of Paddy Duffy to wear the

goalkeeper's sweater Dunne was moved upfield with a view to scoring goals instead. Although he failed to figure amongst the scores he was by no means a misfit in the forward line, his energy and dash adding quite a considerable amount of punch to the home attack of the old hands none did better on Sunday than Teddy Whiteley. Appointed captain for the coming season Whiteley celebrated the occasion with a brilliant performance which to my mind made him the man of the match. He rushed Tullamore into the lead within ninety seconds of the kick-off and thereafter was their most dangerous forward despite close marking. Noel Lynch was one who will probably have derived considerable benefit from this game for on Sunday the edge was gone off his game and the honours of the half back line went to Martin Lowery on the other flank. Lowery was in great fettle all through. At centre half Tullamore introduced a new comer in Joe Martin whose last club was Hammond Lane and in whom Shelbourne were reported to be showing an interest. On Sunday last the newcomer covered a vast amount of ground and he ranged far and wide to cover his colleagues. As against that he looked a trifle slow to fulfill the functions

of a modern centre half and we must wait to see more of him before any verdict can be pronounced as to his real value. To accommodate the newcomer Joe Pyke was switched from his usual berth to left-full where he found it difficult to settle into his new surroundings and it was his partner, Tom Whiteley, who took the full-back honours with a display which was consistently sound rather than occasionally brilliant. That leaves only goalkeeper Paddy Duffy to deal with and the custodian made a triumphant return to Spollenstown.

EXPERIENCED VISITORS

Valeview provided a valuable yardstick whereby to measure Tullamore potential. Last year they simply ran away with the Second Division championship by a wide margin and they got off to a winning start in the present term with 2-1 victory over T.E.K. United on the previous Sunday.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Tullamore were seen in an attacking role from the outset Lynch was wide from a free on the edge of the area after Byrne had handled. The new season was less than two minutes old when home fans were sent wild with excitement as Flanagan cut the ball back from the end-line and Whiteley crashed it past Doyle on the turn. This was a dream start for the home side but it quickly became obvious that they would have their work cut out to hold on to their early lead. First left-winger Donoghue cut into the centre, beat Martin, and skimmed the

bar with a fast shot, and when the visitors forced the first corner of the game in the 7th minute they almost hit pay dirt as Donoghue centre was headed out by Martin and Woodcock blazed over from a good position. A second corner by the same player was sent behind and then Duffy was obliged to dash out and save from Gill. The best chance of all came Valeviews way in the 12th minute when Gill swept a lovely pass out to Woodcock and the wingers centre was dropping into a cluster of forwards when Duffy plucked it out of the air to avert a really nasty situation. Alo Glennon made his first contribution to the game three minutes later with a snap shot from close range which Doyle did very well to grasp in midair. By now Tullamore were in top gear and in the 16th minute a sizzling 25 yards drive from Whiteley whistled by the angle of the crossbar and upright with Doyle beaten to the world whilst one minute later Flanagan scraped the paint off the crossbar following Tullamores first corner taken by Whiteley. The home forwards were making better use of fewer opportunities so that it was not really against the run of play when they increased their lead in the 21st minute it was the two "babes" in the forward line who were responsible with Geraghty placing his centre perfectly for Glennon to rise high and head into the roof of the net.

VALEVIEW RALLY

With a deficit of two goals facing them Valeview renewed their efforts to break down home resistance and Duffy came to Tullamores rescue in the 30th minute

when he turned a rasper from Gill out for a corner and then punched Donoghues centre clear in a crowded goalmouth at the other end a Glennon centre was taken off Geraghtys head by Doyle but in heavy Valeview pressure just before the short whistle the visiting forwards squandered more than one favourable opportunity of reducing the arrears and despite non-stop aggression Duffy remained unbeaten in the home goal.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Valeview, 0.

Within two minutes of the resumption Glennon missed a great chance of increasing Tullamores lead after being put right through by Flanagan, whilst at the other end Duffy did well to smother a close-range shot from Donoghue. When the visitors did eventually score in the 14th minute it was a goal of the soft variety. Ryan pushed a long ball through the middle and with Duffy rashly advancing from his goal Christy O'Neill slipped the ball into the empty net. This goal might have provided inspiration for Valeview but fortunately for Tullamore it was negated within 3 minutes when Geraghty took a pass from Jimmy Dunne, weaved his way into the area and slammed a left-footed drive wide of Doyle and into the far corner of the net to restore his sides two-goal lead. Players on both sides were tiring rapidly now and the exchanges became dead and listless. Geraghty had a chance to increase Tullamore's lead but he poked the ball weakly in to Doyle's hands from six yards range and it was the visitors who came close to scoring in the 24th minute

when Duffy was fortunate to jam the ball against the underside of the bar following a lobbing centre from Woodcock which was chased into the goalmouth by centre forward Gill. Tom Whiteley almost saved a certain goal in the 30th minute when he got back to dispossess Donoghue at the expense of a corner after the winger had been played on side by Lowery. Valeview moved centre-half Byrne up to lead the attack and the switch paid quick dividends in the 33rd minute when Duffy was involved in a collision with O'Neill after the latter had come through from what looked like an offside position and the ball broke loose to Byrne to turn it into an empty net. Again Tullamore nipped a possible revival in the bud by offsetting this goal within two minutes. Lowery started the movement with a beautiful pass to Geraghty and the winger slid the ball past Doyle with the keeper slow to see the danger. After that the points were as good as in the bag for Tullamore, but there was an amazing miss just two minutes from the end when a low centre from Flanagan passed right across the goalmouth beating backs and forwards alike before being scrambled from the side of the area.

Result: Tullamore, 4 ; Valeview, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, O. Flanagan, J. Dunne, A. Glennon, E. Whiteley [Capt], T. Geraghty.

Valeview: E. Doyle, F. Connolly, E. McGrath, K. O'Neill, G. Byrne, N. Ryan,

S. Woodcock, C. O'Neill, J. Gill,
J. McDonald, W. Donoghue.
Referee Mr. R. Lynch

MERIT RATINGS

This year I am introducing a new feature, which I think will appeal to the majority of readers and which will be welcomed by the players. Each week I intend to award points of merit to the three outstanding Tullamore players giving three to the best man two to the runner-up and one to my number three choice. Then at the end of the season the player with the highest total of merit points will be recognised as footballer of the year and will receive a specially engraved medal as a memento. This I think is better than presenting a special reward for the leading scorer as it affords an opportunity for defenders as well as forwards to qualify the feature will also provide an added interest for

readers of this column, who will be kept regularly informed of the up-to-date positions. To start the ball rolling my nominations for merit points this week are:

Teddy Whiteley [3]; Martin Lowery [2]
and Paddy Duffy [1]

AWAY GAME

Tullamore take to the road for their first away assignment next Sunday when they travel to Ballyboden where they will tackle strong opposition from Valley United. This will be a real test for Tullamore as invariably United are a difficult side to subdue, especially on their own ground. It will be interesting to see how the newcomers on the Tullamore side will acquit themselves away from familiar surroundings and of course I will be on the spot to bring you the full story in next week's issue.

September 12th 1964

Tullamore Beaten by Twice Taken Penalty

Although defeated by the odd goal in three Tullamore fared a lot better than most of their supporters hoped for in their league match against valley United at Ballyboden on Sunday last.

It has never been the policy of this column to furnish excuses for defeats but I feel it incumbent upon me to put on record the ill-luck which dogged Tullamore in this game. Their trials and tribulations began before they ever left Tullamore with Oliver Flanagan being obliged to withdraw from the team at the last moment. This setback was overcome sufficiently to allow the visitors to score the only goal of the first half and they were playing well enough at this stage to hold out prospects of a shock victory. Even after Valley United equalised midway through the second half Tullamore were still having slightly the better of the territorial exchanges, but the game was won and lost in a two minute spell from the 33rd to the 35th minute of this half. Blow number one came when Noel Lynch was penalised and although the ensuing spot-kick was sent wide, referee J. Doran ordered the kick to be retaken and at the second attempt left-winger Eamonn Nolan shot United into the lead for the first time. Then less than two minutes later Tullamore had a goal by Teddy Whiteley disallowed for offside infringement.

FORWARDS AT FAULT

Tullamore missed many scoring chances, I counted three occasions when goals were there for the taking but each time over-impetuosity resulted in missed chances. John Hanley never missed the ball in the air, but he lacked the dash, while wingers Glennon and Geraghty were played right out of the game with the latter being particularly disappointing after his promising debut of the previous week. Well held in the centre and on the wings Tullamore were obliged to depend almost entirely upon their inside forwards to provide scoring power and certainly Whiteley and Peter Malone played well up to form without however being able to punch home the goals which Tullamore's outfield play deserved. Martin was in tremendous form at left-half, repeatedly breaking up United attacks and carrying the ball through to the opposing penalty area whilst on the other flank Noel Lynch was almost equally effective, and his first-half goal really put the Tullamore forwards to shame. Between these two fine winghalves Tullamore's newcomer,

Joe Martin showed signs of settling down as a decided asset at centre-half. With Joe Pyke showing much improved form at left-full and Tom Whiteley, consistently sound the visitors had few worries in defence, and it proved to be an unexpectedly trouble free afternoon for goal-keeper Paddy Duffy .

POINTS FROM PLAY

The short narrow pitch was as bumpy as a cross country course so that it was scarcely surprising to find Tullamore slow to settle down. The visitors should have taken the lead early but Geraghty missed the first of many fine chances when he prodded a centre from Glennon well wide of the posts with barron out of position and the net unprotected. Tullamore received a shock in the 10th minute when Furlong whipped a pass from Gleeson past Duffy, but a handling offence had been spotted and the score was disallowed. United were doing most of the early pressing but by degrees Tullamore were gaining a grip. After 28th minutes Valley had a chance of opening the scoring from an indirect free but Nolan's shot was blocked and cleared by Lynch whilst at the other end Lowery had a well placed free punched clear by Barron. The best shot of the game came in the 35th minute when Nolan fired in a rasper which Duffy did very well to touch around the post for a corner, and from Whelan's flagkick Doyle had an equally hard shot palmed clear by the keeper. In the 38th minute Hanley had the ball in the net only to be whistled back for offside. With the end of the first half not too far in the offering Tullamore redoubled their

efforts to snatch an interval lead. A corner proved a stepping stone to this score and when Whiteley floated across a perfect centre from the right Lynch rose high to head the ball in off the upright for the only goal of the first half.

Half time: Valley United, 0; Tullamore, 1.

The second half was two minutes in progress when Tullamore received a rude shock when only an amazing miss by nolan who headed wide from beside the upright following a centre from whelan, prevented the home side from equasising. United had two near misses and they deserved their equalisier in the 23rd minute for they were pressing strongly for some time and whelan dashed in to head past the unprotected Duffy. Tullamore almost had a reply to this inside the minute for Lowery just failed to reach a clever free by Lynch before barron dashed out to scoop the ball clear at the edge of the box, and in further Tullamore pressure, barron tipped a hot shot from Glennon over the bar and Whiteley's corner was cleared off the line following a hectic scramble in the goalmouth. The turning point came in the 33rd minute when Lynch was penalised inside the area and although nolan shot low against the upright and wide from the penalty kick was ordered to be retaken and this time the left-winger made no mistake about planting it in the opposite corner of the net. Tullamore were now trailing for the first time, but they clearly did not intend to remain that way and their luck was dead out when within less than two

minutes a free by Lowery was pushed out by Barron for Whiteley to return it to the net. It looked a perfect goal but the referee, obviously overlooking the fact that the keeper had played the scorer onside disallowed the score. This was the straw that broke the camels back and although Tullamore subsequently threw caution to the wind and staked everything on an all out attack. The entire half back line moved upfield in search of an equalising goal but having come so far Valley were not going to be denied and their first time clearances to touch absorbed sufficient time to nullify the visitor's intentions.

Result: Valley United, 2; Tullamore, 1.

Valley United: T. Barron, A. Sherlock, P. Bevins, P. Behan, B. Spain, W. Edmonds, C. Whelan, W. Doyle, R. Furlong, T. Gleeson, E. Nolan.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, A. Glennon, E. Whiteley, J. Hanley, P. Malone, T. Geraghty.

Referee Mr. J. Doran [Dublin].

MERIT RATING

Our new merit rating feature has been an instant success and has evoked tremendous interest and speculation not only amongst the players but also with supporters. This week the top spot goes to Martin Lowery for one of his best ever displays in the Tullamore jersey and for the other merit points I select Noel Lynch [2], Teddy Whiteley [1]. The overall position now reads as follows; M. Lowery [5] E. Whiteley [4], N. Lynch [2], P. Duffy [1].

CUP CONQUERORS COMING

Spollenstown will be the venue for a most attractive fixture on Sunday next [3.30 p.m.] when Anner United pay a return visit. It will be recalled that it was Anner who eliminated Tullamore from the Bradmola Cup last season at Spollenstown in a real thriller and since then the local side has been thirsting for revenge.

September 19th 1964

Tullamore Hit League Leaders for Six

Tullamore thirsting for revenge for the odd goal defeat sustained in last season's Bradmola Cup against Anner United wiped that slate clean in no uncertain manner at Spollenstown on Sunday last by routing United 6-1 in the A.U.L. The fact that Anner United came to Spollenstown cloaked in the mantle of league leaders and with a hundred per cent record from their three opening fixture's enhanced the value of Tullamore's performance and the prestige of the local club rocked as the result of a truly regal display. With strength in defence, power at wing-half, and machine –gun precision in attack Tullamore swamped the league leaders and reduced a much–vaunted side to a pathetic picture long before the end.

RAMPANT FORWARDS

Last week I had occasion to castigate the Tullamore attack for their lack of punch against Valley United. However back on their home ground, and showing two changes compared with the previous week, the home forwards ran riot on Sunday. Flanagan and Geraghty were rampant wingers who created the openings for their inside colleagues and with Teddy Whiteley getting the

hometesrs off to a flying start with a goal within two minutes of the kick-off and Malone hammering the final nail in Anner's coffin by scoring the sixth goal the visiting defence was swamped by as forceful a display of attacking football as has been witnessed at Spollenstown for a long time. However the key stone of Tullamore's victory lay at centre forward where the gamble of recalling veteran John Lowery to lead the attack paid off handsomely. Before the match the home selectors came in for much criticism for their decision to include Lowery but their decision was fully vindicated and three superb goals from the centre forward quickly silenced his critics. Although lack of fitness resulted in Lowery fading from the picture long before the final whistle he had already left an indelible mark upon the game, his bustling tactics completely upsetting the Anner defence and creating an atmosphere of uncertainty amongst them, which paved the way for further goals by his colleagues.

SOLID DEFENCE

And yet not all the honours of this great success can be lavished upon the attack. The home defence proved

equally instrumental in forging victory for believe me, this win was not gained with the ease which the final score might suggest. Anner possibly enjoyed a slight territorial advantage as reflected in their 8-1 superiority on corners, but their efforts to turn this advantage into match winning scores met with virtually no success. Paddy Duffy was almost unbeatable between the posts including a penalty amongst his many brilliant saves, whilst Tom Whiteley emerged as the best defender on view with a power packed display which blunted the left wing of the visitors attack and with Joe Pyke holding his own against a winger who was slowed up by a leg injury sustained in the opening minutes the visitor's lines from the wings were greatly curtailed. A magnificent half-back trio completed this vintage Tullamore side with newcomer Joe Martin fulfilling the expectations revealed in his previous two outings by the manner in which he completely subdued former Tullamore player, Tony Lowe shadowing him from wing to wing and never allowing him the opportunity to get in any of his famous scoring shots. As his flankers Martin had willing and earnest assistants in Noel Lynch and Martin Lowery with the former once again proving an attacking wing-half without equal by contributing to the Tullamore total. It is going to be really difficult to award merit points this week.

WORTHY OPPOSITION

With Tullamore winning by such a clearcut margin there is the danger that readers who did not witness the game might be tempted to under-rate the

opposition. Yet the credentials which the visitors had to show on their arrival will stand the closest examination. Not only were they clear league leaders but they also boasted the highest scoring aggregate in the league. With twelve goals scored in their first three games they were reputed to be exceptionally well served in attack and if such be the case then the merit attaching to the Tullamore defence must be reckoned as being all the greater. On Sunday Anner never recovered from a blitz beginning which saw Tullamore take the lead within two minutes to increase it to 2-0 inside a quarter-of-an-hour and stretch it to an interval lead of 3-0 then Tony Lowe cut United's deficit just two minutes after the second half had started it looked as though the visitors might succeed in making a match of it but then Tullamore hit a purple patch, which saw them add 3 further goals in a five minute spell from the 25th to 30th minutes.

POINTS FROM PLAY

John Lowery kicked off in overcast conditions and aided by a very slight wind and no sooner was the ball in motion than the home side streaked in to the attack with Flanagan and Malone combining before the former shot inches wide from the side of the area. This brisk start set the headlines for Tullamore and when Geraghty swung a perfect centre from the left wing. After only two minutes play Teddy Whiteley swept Tullamore into the lead after Lowery and Flanagan had impeded each other in front of goal. Anner were being given no time to settle down and within

a further minute Lowery was just wide after centre-half Kearney had completely missed a centre from Flanagan. Playing with real dash and vigour Tullamore continued to hammer away at the opposition and in the 7th minute a ground shot from Geraghty sped by the foot of the post. Flanagan forced Tullamore's only corner of the game in the 9th minute but nothing came of it. Home fans went wild with delight when Tullamore increased their lead in the 15th minute with a goal which proved the unreliability of depending upon the use of the offside trap the Anner defence had been using this gamble repeatedly in their efforts to hold the fast moving home attack but the trap misfired badly when Geraghty's centre was headed home by John Lowery and the score allowed to stand despite the vehement protests of the Anner defence. With Flanagan and Geraghty absolutely rampant on the wings the Tullamore attack continued to give their visitors a real roasting and it was not until the 26th minute that Anner got their first testing shot at Duffy with a free from the edge of the box but the keeper proved equal to the test by turning Liam Lynch's piledriver around the upright.

TULLAMORE IN LUCK

Luck was definitely on Tullamore's side in the 29th minute when Lowe raced through to crack a great shot off the bar with Duffy well beaten and the rebound came straight to Coyne but his header came back off the upright. After this fright the home side took up the running again and the Anner defence was at

sixes and sevens. The uncertainty of goalkeeper Kearney did not help them a third goal was almost conceded when the keeper failed to cut off a great centre from Flanagan, but recovered before Malone could benefit from the lapse. With only four minutes of the first half remaining John Lowery brought the house down with a typical opportunist goal when he fastened onto a long clearance from Tom Whiteley to first time the ball into the roof of the net with defence moving to cover off an expected pass to Teddy Whiteley.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; Anner United, 0.

A three goal lead at this stage left Tullamore in a comfortable position, but not a commanding one and straight from the kickoff Anner furnished proof that they were not yet a spent force. Within a minute right-half Sam Cooke grazed the bar with a header following a fine centre from McSweeney and then the game was ignited when from almost an impossible position on the end line Tony Lowe ripped the ball into the roof of the Tullamore net. Despite this warning the play of the home side became lackadaisical. A couple of good chances were missed in attack, but the defence remained as resolute as ever, presenting few opportunities to the opposition. Tony Lowe took to roaming far and wide in search of freedom but wherever he wandered Joe Martin stuck to him like a shadow and in doing so rendered the visiting attack impotent. At the other end the Anner defence was obliged to return to the application of the off-side trap and time after time

Tullamore movements were halted by one or other of the forwards being caught in the trap. Play, although more or less featureless at this stage swung up and down the field with both sides in turn failing to turn good scoring chances to account.

THREE GOALS IN FIVE MINUTES

For those who insist that goals are the lifeblood of football the period between 25th and 30th minutes of this game must have seemed like a dream come through. With Anner visibly wilting and unable to maintain the cracking pace Lynch started this goal rush and three times they tore holes in the opposing defence Noel Lynch started this goal-ruck when he took a return pass from Teddy Whiteley to race through the centre before guiding the ball neatly past Kearney and into the extreme corner of the net. This was in the 25th minute and two minutes later the home side struck again when Malone pounced on a weak goalkick to flick the ball forward to John Lowery who beat Kearney with a half-hit-shot Anner moved Sam Cooke to centre-forward in a bid to salvage some prestige, but this former Manchester United player met with no greater success than had Lowe, although he was unlucky with a shot which rattled back off the crossbar before Malone closed the scoring in the 30th minute when he went through on his own to chip the ball over Kearney's head into the roof of the net. The points by now safely in Tullamore's keeping but Anner had a wonderful opportunity of improving their position when they were awarded a penalty after Malone

had handled inside the area. This was in the 33rd minute but the lack of scoring power in the visiting attack was emphasised when right-winger Delaney's spot-kick was brilliantly saved and cleared by Duffy. After that it was virtually all one-way traffic and after Joe Pyke had cleared off the goal line following an inswinging corner by Lowe the home forwards spent the remainder of the time indulging target practice without seriously trying to add to their total.

Result: Tullamore, 6; Anner United, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, O. Flanagan, P. Malone, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Anner United: W. Kearney, P. Kelly, H. Buckley, S. Cooke, J. Kearney, L. Lynch, P. Delaney, P. Coyne, A. Lowe, M. Ronan, C. McSweeney

Referee: having had occasion to criticise some recent exhibitions of refereeing it is a pleasant change this week to pay a sincere tribute to Mr. George O'Reilly for the manner in which he controlled last Sunday's game. Always up with the play and firm in his decisions this experienced official contributed his share to a gala occasion.

MERIT RATING

By far my hardest task this week is to arrive at the merit ratings for last Sunday's game. There was not a weak link in the home side so that it is an invidious task to single out three players

for special recognition. However it is a task that must be talked although it is unlikely that my placings will meet with unanimous approval. My number one vote goes to John Lowery for his dashing leadership and three goals. Two points to Tom Whiteley for an outstanding performance in defence, and to complete the top trio I have Noel Lynch for a consistent display of cultured football.

The overall position in our merit rating s now reads as follows;

M. Lowery [5] E. Whiteley [4] J. Lowery [3] N. Lynch [3] T. Whiteley [2] and P. Duffy [1].

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore take to the road again on Sunday next when they face one of their longest trips of the league campaign with an away game against Dalkey United. The latter have accomplished nothing of real note so far this season, but with Tullamore showing such inconstancy between their form at home and away it is by no means certain that they will follow up their epic victory of last Sunday with another winning performance. Anyway join me here next week for an on-the-spot account of the game.

September 26th 1964

Geraghty's Hat-Trick Keeps Tullamore Winning

Tullamore registered their third victory from four matches - and their first away win of the season - on Sunday last when they defeated Dalkey United 4-3 at Hyde Road, Dalkey. An odd goal victory against the bottom club in the league was really no great achievement for Tullamore but in fairness to them it must be pointed out that they were worth a much bigger winning margin. Had their ability to finish matched their approach work the score would have soared but as it was they allowed many more scoring chances to go begging than they turned to account.

NEW LEADER

The feature of the Tullamore lineout on Sunday was the introduction of a new centre-forward for during the previous week officials of the local club succeeded in signing Jim Brady from Clontarf Corinthians and the manner in which he led the attack had much to do with Tullamore's success. The astute distribution of the ball provided many splendid openings for his colleagues and although he remained scoreless himself the manner in which he worked hard for the full ninety minutes was most impressive and raised hopes that Tullamore may at last have solved a problem which has existed for a long

time. There was a touch of irony attached to last Sunday's victory, for three of the four goals came from left-winger Tommy Geraghty who only came into the side at the last minute as a substitute for the injured John Lowery. Geraghty was not slow to make the most of his 'reprieve' and a sparkling first-half hat-trick left Tullamore in a strong position at the interval and at the same time left the selectors with an embarrassment of riches and the problem of where to fit John Lowery into the forward line. Apart from Geraghty Tullamore attack lacked real finishing ability, with Eddie Whiteley obviously feeling the effects of a knock sustained the previous week against Anner United. To Peter Malone fell the distinction of scoring the best goal of the day. A magnificent header which was applauded by members and supporters of the home side and even apart from this effort his all round play reached a high standard. Outstanding in the winners defence was Tom Whiteley at right-full. His fine sense of position and crisp tackling made him an invaluable asset on a day when the home defence was solid as in recent games. Paddy Duffy was not as confident as usual in his handling of the ball, and twice was lucky to regain possession before the opposition could avail of the chances

offered. Joe Pyke was very sound as Whiteley's partner and never put a foot wrong. But the half-back line was nothing like as impressive as it had been of late.

SCORES ON THE CLOCK

Tullamore faced a very strong breeze from the kick-off but the big pitch was in their favour and as early as the third minute they had the home defence in trouble when Brady muffed a great chance off a perfect through pass from Geraghty. Later Whiteley was slow to move to a dream of a pass from the left-winger, so that it was against the run of play when Dalkey opened the scoring in the 8th minute. There was a shade of doubt attached to this goal as the Tullamore player's maintained that the ball had crossed the end line before Glynn rounded Lowery and put across a centre which O'Connor succeeded in forcing past Duffy. Dalkey might have added to their lead shortly afterwards when O'Connor outpaced Martin in a race down the centre, but his shot was badly placed and was well wide of the target, with Duffy advancing from his charge. Dalkey held their lead until the 17th minute, but then Malone paved the way for Geraghty to equalise with a spanking left-foot drive, and when Whiteley placed Geraghty for another Tullamore goal seven minutes later the visitors began to take a very firm grip on the exchanges. Malone had a stinging shot well held by English in the home goal but Tullamore lost a guilt-edged chance of increasing their lead in the 30th minute when Noel Lynch drove wide from the spot after Brady had been

taken down inside the box with the goal seemingly at his mercy. Yet, such was the superiority of the visitors at this stage that such a miss did not appear all that important, but they experienced another fright within four minutes when Duffy was beaten by a hopping ball from Browne, and centre-forward O'Connor might have had the home side back on level terms had he not delayed his shot, thus enabling the keeper to regain possession.

HAT-TRICK COMPLETED

With ten minutes of the first half remaining Geraghty worked his way into the centre from where he completed his hat-trick with another blistering left-footed drive and with a 3-1 lead and wind –advantage to come Tullamore appeared to be in a very strong position.

Half-time: Dalkey United, 1;
Tullamore, 3.

Dalkey contented themselves with switching their wingers for the second half and within a matter of minutes it became apparent, that they were not going to submit without a struggle. Duffy had to be very alert to cover a miskick by Martin just four minutes after the resumption and in further pressure the home side narrowed the gap when a shot from Hennessy was deflected to the net by a defender after Duffy had smothered the ball at the feet of O'Connor in the first place. Tullamore backed by the breeze were now over using the ball with the envitable result that the majority of their attacks sizzled

out at the edge of the penalty area. On the occasions that they advanced further they encountered English in brilliant form, and in quick succession Whiteley, Malone and Geraghty had shots saved and cleared by the keeper. Having remained well on top without being able to improve their position, Tullamore eventually succeeded in stretching their lead in the 23rd minute with the best goal of the game. The opening was provided by Lowery who sent a long ball soaring into the goalmouth where Peter Malone was on hand to flick it home with a beautifully controlled header which defied a gallant effort by English to keep it out of the net this looked like the clinching goal for Tullamore but Dalkey hit back within less than two minutes and Duffy was left flat footed by a searing shot from Mooney which was assisted on its way to the net by a Tullamore defender. With twenty minutes left in the game and only a solitary goal dividing the teams, Dalkey made a determined bid to snatch their first league points of the season. Helped by too casual play of the visitors, Dalkey looked more dangerous now than they had when playing with the winds advantage, and in the 40th minute they looked certain to salvage a point when Lowery allowed himself to be dispossessed by O'Connor, but as the centre-forward bore down upon the goal Tom Whiteley came thundering back to the rescue, and there after there was never much likelihood of another score at either

end.

Result: Dalkey United, 3; Tullamore, 4.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, O. Flanagan, P. Malone, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Dalkey United: G. English, M. Byrne, P. Cahill, P. Morris, T. Maguire, A. Browne, A. Glynn, R. Mooney, J. O'Connor, A. Hennessy, J. Duffy.

Refere: Mr. W. Nolan [Dublin]

MERIT RATINGS

Two newcomers enter the ratings this week and in doing so help to spread the interest which this new feature has evoked. Top place must go to Tommy Geraghty, whose dynamic left foot played such a big part in winning both points for Tullamore whilst for the second week in succession Tom Whiteley collects a brace of merit points for an outstanding defensive display. To complete the trio I give the vote to Peter Malone, not only for scoring that superb winning goal but for his general play throughout the game. With these points added to the total the present position now reads as follows.

M. Lowery [5] E. Whiteley [4] T. Whiteley [4] N. Lynch [3] J. Lowery [3] T. Geraghty [3] P. Duffy [1] P. Malone [1]

October 3rd 1964

Tullamore's Nap Score in Dull Cup Game

Tullamore followed their recent fine league performances with a smooth and facile cup win at Spollenstown on Sunday last, when they experienced little real difficulty in accounting for St. Joseph's by 5-1 in the opening round of the Leinster Junior Cup.

Although the kick off was put back by an hour to facilitate patrons who wished to see the t.v. version of the All-Ireland Final, the attendance on Sunday last was still the smallest of the season to date, and the lack of vocal support from the side line and stand may have contributed to the lack of atmosphere. Tullamore won well despite the fact that they were reduced to virtually ten men for the best part of the game following an accident to left-half M. Lowery. Up to the time of his retiral Lowery had been playing a storming game, with the result that Tullamore were cruising along most impressively

FEEBLE OPPOSITION

Tullamore would be ill-advised to put too much value on this clear cut victory, for the truth of the matter was that St. Joseph's provided feeble opposition the home side were not over impressive, and a total of five goals is scarcely

represented their superiority throughout the field. Little fault could be found with the defence, although at times Paddy Puffy, playing with a heavily bandaged a trifle too venturesome in goal. Tom Whiteley and Joe Pyke formed a solid fullback partnership but it was the solid unyielding work of the halfback line which really swung this game in Tullamore's favour. Lowery and Lynch were both tireless in their efforts, and even after Lowery's enforced withdrawal the line lost little of its efficiency, thanks to a grand display by Peter Malone, who dropped back to plug the gap, and with pivot Joe Martin covering a vast amount of ground in the centre, the teeth of the visiting forwards were well and truly drawn. In attack Tullamore did not fare so well, the experiment of playing John Lowery at outside right proving a failure. It was not until Lowery was switched in to lead the front line that he showed his true form, and through out the ninety minutes only Lowery and Eddie Whiteley showed sufficient penetration in front of the posts, Whiteley was yhe real inspiration behind Tullamore. Left-winger Tommy Geraghty, although held scoreless himself, contributed to his side's success with some very clever centres. New comer Jim Brady making his first

appearance in Tullamore's colours at Spollenstown had a relatively quiet debut, although his goal was a good one and he was deprived of others more by bad luck than lack of effort.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Tullamore opened at a blistering pace and inside the first minute a free by Martin Lowery was nodded narrowly over by Malone. Then came a great centre from Geraghty and centrehalf Hanlon was fortunate to be in the right spot to block a piledriver from Brady right on the goal line. St. Joseph's moved the ball neatly in their first attack, and Duffy was obliged to advance smartly to save from bell at the edge of the area. Goalkeeper Gallagher was unable to hold a stinging drive from Geraghty in the 4th minute, but the ball was scrambled away and at the other end Duffy did well to cut off a dangerous centre from smith. Eddie Whiteley has been making a habit of getting Tullamore off to an early lead this season, and he did it again on Sunday last when he snapped up a pass from Malone to smash home a brilliant goal in the 6th minute. After this reverse St. Joseph's continued to move the ball well amongst themselves but their attack lacked penetration, and time after time their movements were halted by the home half-back line, in which Lowery was outstanding. Tullamore had the first corner of the game in the 10th minute but Whiteley's centre was cleared by Hanlon. However within a further minute Tullamore were back again, and this time Whiteley raced through a gap in the centre to leave

Gallagher helpless with a six yards block-buster. Tullamore were firing on all cylinders at this stage, and a sparkling movement sparked off by Lynch and carried on by Geraghty fizzled out with Brady heading over. St. Joseph's persisted in keeping the ball close even in defence, and it was only some fine covering by Hanlon, Delahunt and Hammond which prevented the home attack from running riot. As it was, Gallagher was in luck when he stuck out his foot to deflect a great shot from Brady in the 24th minute. The visitors were compelled to keep their wong-halves and even their inside forwards well back in defensive positions but they caused a stir in the 34th minute when they broke away from inside their own penalty area, and when Martin Lowery and goalkeeper Duffy collided at the fringe of the home penalty area rightwinger Ray Bell availed of the mixup to crash the ball into the empty net. It was in this incident that Lowery was injured and was carried off, and in the switches that followed Malone was dropped back to left-half with John Lowery moving to centre-forward and Jim Brady taking up position on the right wing. St. Joseph's now became a much more potent combination but twice in the last minute of this first half Whiteley within inches of completing his hat-trick. On the first occasion he was foiled by a full-length save by allagher and immediately afterwards he had a strong free, headed out from under the bar by Delahunt.

Half time: Tullamore, 2; St. Joseph's, 1.

Tullamore resumed with Martin Lowery back at out-side right but it quickly became clear that his presence was little more than a gallant token and he spent the next 45 minutes merely on patrol. A goal to the visitors at this stage might have altered the trend of the game, but instead it was Tullamore who added to their lead when Geraghty cut the ball back from the end line in the 5th minute, and from point-blank range John Lowery headed the centre past the helpless goalie. Seven minutes later John Lowery drew the entire defence but although his shot had Gallagher beaten again the ball slid by the outside of the upright. Geraghty trying very hard to get his name on the score chart, crashed a good ball off the post in the 14th minute, and then Gallagher excelled himself with a flying save off a John Lowery header following a free by Malone. St. Joseph's made a spirited bid to open up the game but their passing lacked accuracy, and the home goal was seldom in danger. Indeed Tullamore's superiority became even more pronounced in the closing quarter and the issue was put beyond doubt in the 31st minute when a great shot from Whiteley came back with a smack off the post and Martin Lowery left it teed-up for brother John to finish to the net. Although St. Joseph's continued to fight bravely their cause was now lost and the home side completed their nap hand nine minutes from the end when great work from Noel Lynch paved the way for Geraghty to get across a floating centre which Jim Brady headed high into the twines.

Result: Tullamore, 5; St. Joseph's, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Malone, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

St. Josephs: F. Gallagher, W. Delahunt, J. Hayes, T. Massey, M. Hanlon, J. Hammond, R. Bell, O. Broughan, B. Smith, B. Moore, P. Hennessy.

Referee: Mr. T. Doyle [Dublin]

MERIT RATINGS

The overall lead changes hands this week for top rating in the first cup-tie of the season goes to Eddie Whiteley for a dynamic display in attack. In the supporting roles I take Peter Malone for his constructive and whole hearted play, first in attack and later at wing-half and to complete this weeks trio John Lowery's dashing leadership earns him a point the overall position now reads as follows

E. Whiteley [7] M. Lowery [5] T. Whiteley [4] J. Lowery [4] N. Lynch [3] P. Malone [3] T. Geraghty [3] P. Duffy [1]

HOME AGAIN

Tullamore will resume their league programme on next Sunday, and they will be at home for the second week in succession when the opposition may be provided by Donore, although is surmise on my part and should not be taken as official.

LEAGUE TABLE

In conclusion and in response to very

many requests, I have much pleasure in being in a position to publish the official A.U.L. League table, which is as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anner United	5	4	0	1	18	12	8
Wayside Celtic	4	3	1	0	11	4	7
Kildare United	4	3	1	0	9	3	7
Tullamore	4	3	0	1	15	3	6
Valley United	5	2	2	1	11	10	6
St. Finbarr's	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
Donore	5	2	1	1	13	12	5

Newtown Rangers	4	1	2	1	8	6	4
Glenmore Celtic	4	1	1	2	8	10	3
T.E.K. United	4	1	0	3	4	8	2
Pearse Rangers	4	0	1	2	7	18	1
Valeview	4	0	1	3	7	14	1
Dalkey United	5	0	0	5	4	13	0

October 10th 1964

Superior Fitness Proved Decisive For Tullamore

By lasting the fast pace better Tullamore chalked another important league victory on Sunday last when they defeated old rivals Pearse Rangers by 3-1 at Spollenstown to maintain their challenge at the top of the table.

It is to the credit of Tullamore that they triumphed without the services of their wing-half Martin Lowery who was unavailable for the day. The home side solved the problem which his absence posed by leaving Peter Malone left-half and recalling Oliver Flanagan to the right wing and the efficiency lost little as a result. Malone was one of the stars on the winning team working industriously all the time. With Joe Martin and Noel Lynch he formed an unyielding halfback line which controlled the middle of the field most of the time. This was by far Joe Martin's best game since joining Tullamore. Further back in defence Tullamore had magnificent performers in Tom Whiteley and Joe Pyke, who is improving as the season advances. On the occasions that they succeeded in breaking through the outer defence they found Paddy in top form. Tullamore were less balanced in attack for both Flanagan and Whiteley were below their best form, this however was compensated for by a big improvement in Jim Brady's all-round play, and the fiery leadership of John Lowery. The tenacity on Lowery's part

was rewarded when he scored his sides second –and most important-goal midway through the second half. This goal, incidentally enabled to preserve his record of having scored in every game in which he has played this season whilst Tullamore's first goal was equally important for left-winger Tommy Geraghty, as it enabled him to remain the clubs top marksman to date.

EARLY ESCAPE

After Whiteley had won the toss and elected to play against a strong breeze in the first half, Geraghty missed an early chance of opening the scoring after being put through by Malone. The home side had an early escape for the game was scarcely two minutes in progress when the visitors inside left Moore crashed the ball off the crossbar from close range. The home defence continued to be subjected to heavy pressure and righthalf Gannon was just wide of the target from a free. Tullamore's first goal chance of taking the lead came in the 8th minute when Whiteley cut into the middle and

rounded Hogan, but his raising shot skimmed over the bar to let rangerts off the hook. Two minutes later a good ball from Geraghty enabled Lowery to beat Hogan in the centre and with a clear path to goal the centre-forward looked certain to score until his hastily hit shot sped the wrongside of the upright.

LUCKY THIRTEEN

The 13th minute proved lucky for Tullamore for when Brady crossed the ball hard from the right wing Geraghty brought it under control with the assurance of a veteran before rocketing it past Moore with his left foot far from taking the sting out of the visitors this reverse seemed to splur them on to greater effort and Duffy did well to punch clear in a crowded goalmouth following a free by Barry almost on the endline. The wood work came to Tullamore's assistance for the second time in the 15th minute when a glancing from Connor was pushed against the bar by Duffy with Pyke dropping back to complete the clearance. Four corners to Rangers in the space of three minutes kept them on the offensive but Martin was unyielding in the centre and quickley dispatched each successive centre to safety at the other end Moore was quick to drop on a snap shot from Lowery and later the keeper did extremely well to turn a point-blank shot from Flanagan behind for a corner. Both goalkeepers were in top form and Duffy brought off a great save in the 24th minute when he sprang like cat to turn a rasper from Connor around the post.

MISSED PENALTY

For the second league match in succession failed to turn a penalty to account. They were awarded one in the 28th minute after a free by Lynch had been needlessly been handled by Gannon, but although Whiteley's spot kick was a good one Moore flung himself arcross to save brilliantly at the expense of an other corner. Play continued to swing from end to end and when Lynch miskicked across the face of his own goal in the 30th minute Duffy was obliged to dive full length to save Connor. Four minutes later Duffy proved his worth again, this time from a fiercely hit free by Hogan from just outside the penalty area. Tullamore were finding it difficult to make much progress down the centre, but they were out of luck in the 37th minute when Tom Whiteley carried the ball up from his own penalty area, and his parting shot just shaved the foot of the post on the wrong side. Only two minutes of the half remained when Rangers equalised most unexpectedly. Their goal came from a 30 yards free taken by Hogan and the fact that Duffy never stirred until the ball was in the back of the net suggested that he may have been unsighted by a wall of defenders. This goal was a major blow to Tullamore's prospects but they might still have turned over with an interval lead had it not been for a splid-second timing by the referee who sounded the short whistle just as Lowery rounded Hogan and was bearing down upon the goal.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Pearse

Rangers, 1.

The second half failed to produce the same standard of football as the first for the exchanges became strangely lifeless. For 15 minutes Rangers were in control but Martin proved a big stumbling block on their path to goal and time after time relieved pressure. As early as the first minute Duffy was brought into action as he saved a smart shot from left-winger Cummins. At this stage Rangers were faster to the ball and more eager in their efforts than the home side but they could make little impression on a sound defence. In contrast Tullamore looked more dangerous in less frequent breaks and they had one tremendous passing movement between Whiteley and Lowery which ended with the former shooting wide in the 8th minute. A good deal of sparkle had left the game now and Tullamore's persistent efforts to break through the middle met with little success against Hogan. By degrees the visitors began to fade and when Moore brought off another fine save from Whiteley at the foot of the post in the 19th minute it was the beginning of the end. Malone paved the way for the break through which followed five minutes later, and his good work was carried on by Geraghty and ended with the winger swinging across a perfect centre which caught the visiting defence flat-footed as Lowery barged through to blast the ball high into the net. This was really the clinching goal but Tullamore were in full cry and after Whiteley had grazed the upright off Flanagan's centre they struck again in the 28th minute when Geraghty pushed

the ball inside for Whiteley to stretch the homesides lead further. Rangers were definitely on the wane now and they lost their last chance of staying in the game with a chance in the 33rd minute when inside left Moore sent clear by Cummins raced in to beat Duffy but had the mortification of watching the ball trickle by the wrong side of the upright. After that Eagan took over at centre-forward with Connor moving to the right wing, but their cause was now a lost one and to add to their misfortune their centre-half Hogan in the dying minutes as a result of a leg injury sustained in a collision with Brady.

Result: Tullamore, 3; Pearse Rangers, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, P. Malone, O. Flanagan, J. Brady, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Pearse Rangers; G. Moore, P. Byrne, B. O'Rourke, E. Gannon, A. Hogan, J. Barry, J. Eagan, T. Murphy, H. O'Connor, E. Moore, P. Cummins.

Referee: Mr. Tim O'Reilly[Dublin]

MERIT RATINGS

A new name enters our list this week with the introduction of Joe Martin who tops this weeks ratings as a result of a magnificent display at centre-half on Sunday. Two points to Peter Malone for another whole hearted performance and to complete a defensive clean sweep I include Paddy Duffy for a brilliant display of goal-keeping. With these

points added the overall position now
reads as follows:

E. Whiteley[7] M. Lowery [5] J. Lowery
[4] P. Malone[4] T. Whiteley [4] P.
Duffy [3] N. Lynch [3] T. Geraghty [3]

CUP DRAW

Tullamore have been drawn at home to
St. Columba's C.Y.M.S. in the second
round of the Leinster Junior Cup.

October 17th 1964

Another Big Win For Tullamore

Tullamore continuing to enjoy one of their best starts to a season for many a year cruised into the third round of the Leinster Junior Cup by crushing St. Columba's C.Y.M.S at Spollenstown on Sunday last.

A clear-cut 6-0 victory was achieved with the minimum of effort so much so, in fact, that at times the home side was merely toying with their opponents from the amateur league with the result that the match lacked a real competitive spirit and as a cup-tie was most disappointing.

At times during the first half home fans must have dispaired of seeing their side score, for apart from a third minute goal from Teddy Whiteley the Tullamore attack fritted away chance after chance with the result that although the issue should have been well and truly settled before the interval the position unstead was very much open. A one goal interval lead in a cup-tie is indeed a slight advantage and had St. Columba's succeeded in scoring in one of their breakways during this period the game might have yielded a lot more in the line of entertainment. On the run of play Tullamore deserved to be leading by a much bigger margin, but their forwards were guilty of some bad misses not the least of which was a penalty driven wide by Martin Lowery. Somebody must have had some hard words to say during the interval for Tullamore resumed full of punch and vigour and a switch between Peter

Malone and J.Brady was followd by an avalance of five goals without reply.

SOUND DEFENCE

For Tullamore Duffy was as acrobatic and daring as ever, and was fronted by a sound pair of full-backs as has ever worn the town colours. Tom Whiteley in particular was outstanding in everything he did, whilst Joe Pyke twice cleared balls off the goal-line when it seemed certain that the visitors must score. The half-back line was not as convincing as in some previous games for whilst Joe Martin never put a foot wrong in the centre, neither Martin Lowery nor Noel Lynch were at their best. Individually the five home forwards fared well but it was not until well into the second half that thry 'clicked' as a unit. John Lowery himself tamed by McCarthy in the first half but once the pivot began to tire after the interval the home leaders

came into their own in a big way. The best scoring chances of the day fell to the right-wing partnership of Brady and Malone. The latter in particular enjoyed a field day against the slack marking of McConnell. St. Columba's enjoyed an unrewarding first visit to Tullamore for they found the set-up in class beyond them and although they battled bravely for most of the ninety minutes they were eventually run right into the ground and were a well whipped side at the final whistle.

EARLY INJURY

We had an unusual opening to this game with Duffy being knocked out within less than thirty seconds after diving to smother the ball at Byrne's feet. However, the 'keeper' was soon back in the game and proved subsequently that they had in no way impaired his efficiency. The homesters sprinted into an early lead when Martin Lowery provided a perfect pass for Whiteley to angle the ball past McLoughlin and in by the far upright. This type of dream start might have demoralised the visitors but Tullamore failed to press home their advantage and the saints were allowed to regain their composure at no further expense. For a spell the home forwards played copy-book football with Malone particularly prominent on the right wing but as chance after chance was missed their play became steadily more ragged with short pass playing into the hands of the opposition to be effective the short passing game must be carried out with precision and accuracy and Tullamore lacked both qualities on Sunday. One of

the best movements of the entire game featured a bout of passing between Lowery and Whiteley in the 20th minute but one pass too many spoiled the prospects of a goal resulting. The visitors were being forced to adopt mainly defensive tactics but in breakways they looked dangerous and Joe Pyke came to their rescue in the 24th minute when he whipped a centre from Mooney off Carruth's toe almost right on the goal-line. John Lowery missed a simple chance of increasing Tullamore's lead when he was put through behind the defence but from dead in front of the posts he shot over as the saints appealed in vain. Three minutes later McLoughlin gathered a dropping ball from Lowery under the bar and then Tullamore completed an unenviable 'hat-trick' in the 28th minute by missing their third penalty in succession. This one came about when a corner by Geraghty was headed goalwards by Lowery and with McLoughlin out of position right-full Kelly adopted the only course open to him by punching the ball out. The indiscretion paid off too, for Martin Lowery sent the ensuing spot kick to the right of the target. St. Columba's were bound to benefit from all these escapes and sure enough their confidence was growing. This they proved in the 30th minute when they had a guilt-edged chance of drawing level following a sparkling movement which ended with inside-left Cahill being played onside but from point blank range he shot straight at Duffy and the keeper succeeded in deflecting the shot at the expense of a corner.

WOODWORK TO THE RESCUE

Tullamore became more direct in their methods as the interval neared and twice within three minutes the woodwork came to the rescue of the visitors first Geraghty put through by Lowery shot against the upright from close range and then Martin Lowery crashed a free off the bar after McLoughlin had ventured to far upfield in possession. Just before the short whistle Tullamore missed again when a rasper from Malone brought McLoughlin to his knees for a smart save.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; St. Columba's C.Y.M.S., 0.

Tullamore obviously received a lecture during the interval for they resumed full of dash and vigour and within a minute Brady had a good header turned out for a corner by McLoughlin one or two further chances were frittered away but then a switch between Brady and Malone brought about a vast improvement. So much so that in the 10th minute they increased their lead when McLoughlin challenged by Lowery lost possession and the ball ran loose to Brady. A quick centre and Geraghty had merely to guide the ball into an empty net. Four minutes later only a magnificent save by McLoughlin prevented Geraghty from adding number three following a weak goal-kick but by now Tullamore were in full cry and it was obvious that they had kept plenty of energy in reserve. Whiteley tied the saints defence in a knot with a solo-run which carried him to the end line but instead of chipping the ball back

into the centre where three colleagues were waiting the inside left elected to have a go himself and shot harmlessly into the side net. Brady repeated this fault within minutes but events were to prove that Tullamore could afford such lapses. They really settled down to work midway through this half and two goals in as many minutes knocked the final spark of resistance from the visitors. Noel Lynch started the goal spree in the 23rd minute when he hit the back of the net after Martin Lowery had squared the ball across from an indirect-free this was followed within two minutes by goal number four when John Lowery cut loose in the centre beat two tackles and sent a rocket into the roof of the net. With the issue now beyond all doubt a lot of the remaining interest left the game and with ten minutes remaining the nap hand was completed when a long centre from Whiteley was returned into the goalmouth for Brady to head past McLoughlin. The match had almost run its course when Tullamore hammered the final nail into the C.Y.M.S. coffin, when Brady rounded off a combined movement with a shot which went in off the post with Lowery closing in to make assurance doubly sure.

Result: Tullamore, 6; St. Columba's C.Y.M.S., 0.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, M. Lowery, J. Martin, N. Lynch, P. Malone, J. Brady, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley [Capt], T. Geraghty.

St. Columbas: B. McLoughlin, L. Kelly, E. McConnell, J. McCarthy [Capt], C.

McCarthy, D. McCarthy, M. Carruth, N. McEvoy, M. Byrne, T. Cahill, W. Mooney.

Referee: Mr. T. Doyle [Dublin] who coincidentally had charge also of Tullamore's first-round cup-tie against St. Joseph's two weeks previously, was the man in the middle again last Sunday. As on the first occasion his decisions were given promptly and with authority and were well received all round.

MERIT RATINGS

With Tullamore scoring six goals last week it may come as a surprise to find

two defenders in the merit ratings. Yet it was the constructive work of the defence which paved the way for the good work to be carried on upfield. Top marks go to Tom Whiteley who thus becomes the closest challenger to his brother Eddie. Two merit points to Joe Pyke for a sound performance which included two goal line clearance and the odd point to Eddie Whiteley as the hardest working forward on the home side. This leaves the overall position now as follows:

E. Whiteley [8] T. Whiteley [7] M. Lowery [5] J. Lowery [4] P. Malone [4] P. Duffy [3] N. Lynch [3] T. Geraghty [3] J. Martin [3] J. Pyke [2]

October 24th 1964

Tullamore Take Point in Away Game

"Spot-Kick" Reports from Stradbrook.

Both Tullamore and T.E.K. United figured in their first drawn game of the season when they shared their league points in a 2-2 draw at Stradbrook on Sunday last. In a game which had almost equal share of bright and dull moments Tullamore lost their chance of registering their sixth win of the reel during the first half when they played attractive football, which merited a substantial interval lead however a combination of brilliant goalkeeping by Maney for the home side and some bad misses by Tullamore forwards left them instead with a 2-1 lead and even this slight advantage was wiped out within a minute of the second-half getting under way. Playing up a very definite hill after the interval Tullamore had their work cut out to hold the opposition and in actual fact it was quite a feat to come home with even one point from a difficult assignment. It was the bustling John Lowery who dominated the forward line and certainly his goal in the third minute got Tullamore off to a flying start. Lowery's early goal was a welcome one but it could not compare with Tullamore's second goal scored by Jim Brady which was one of the best I have ever seen scored in junior football. This was a real gem engineered by Peter

Malone and finished by Brady and certainly it provided the feature of the ninety minutes. Tullamore were superbly served by Martin Lowery at left-half. Noel Lynch failed to reach the same heights as his colleagues but no fault could be found with the performance of Joe Martin in the centre. Tom Whiteley caught a tartar in left-winger Tony Doran who was easily the pick of the home attack and a knock sustained in the early stages did not help the Tullamore defender. Yet with the full assistance of Joe Pyke Whiteley played his part in snatching this away point. Paddy Duffy was by no means overworked between the Tullamore posts.

EARLY LEAD

Tullamore surged to the attack from the kick-off and the game was scarcely 30 seconds in progress before Whiteley forced a corner which he swung across himself. Brady headed further goalwards but the move fizzled out with Lowery heading behind. In no way daunted the visitors continued to press strongly and they took the lead in the third minute. There was a shade of doubt attached to this early goal for as

Martin carried the ball upfield before parting to John Lowery the home defence stood still appealing for offside. No whistle sounded and Lowery went on to plant the ball behind Maney. When I quizzed the scorer in the pavillion after the game he told me that it was perfectly legitimate goal. This shock goal should have given the visitors all the inspiration they required but it also served to bring the best out of United, and only a timely tackle by Tom Whiteley on Doran halted what looked like a dangerous situation from developing further. T.E.K's equaliser came in the ninth minute. Lynch was penalised for pushing at midfield and Turner's free went through a gap in the defence to beat Duffy from very close range. Brady miskicked with only the goalie to beat from inside the area when he had a chance of going ahead. In the 25th minute Duffy was obliged to advance smartly to smother a shot at Mahony's feet just inside the penalty area whilst within a minute the performance was repeated at the other end where Maney had to race out to foil Brady after the latter had been put through by Lowery. With Lynch out of touch at midfield the home side held sway in this vital sector with the result that a heavy burden was thrown on the Tullamore defence but Pyke, and Martin Lowery were constantly on the alert and the view that the visitors looked the more dangerous side in attack was confirmed in the 35th minute when they took the lead for the second time, Maney had just brought off a flying save from Malone, but he was left helpless when Brady fastened on to a perfect through pass from Malone to race

through for a brilliant goal which helped to revive flagging spirits. Duffy came under heavy fire during the closing ten minutes of this half, but he remained unruffled and unbeaten to the whistle.

Half-time: T.E.K. United, 1; Tullamore, 2.

SECOND HALF

There was a sensational resumption to this game for less than a minute had elapsed when Tullamore had their previous lead wiped out. Inside-left Bernard Carroll was the man who made the goal possible and Mahony scored. Tullamore now had a real fight on their hands but even up the hill they continued to play attractive football and twice were unlucked in their bid to regain the lead for the third time first Lowery shaved the upright after slipping around O'Toole and then Maney had to go full length to push a pile-driver from Geraghty around the post. The visitor's best chance of all came in the seventh minute when Malone pushed the ball forward to Lowery and with the home again standing appealing for offside the centre forward raced on to lob the ball over the head of the advancing keeper but it flashed inches over the bar and so a wonderful chance was lost. After these near misses the Tullamore forwards appeared to lose sight of their target and were way off the mark with subsequent efforts. With five minutes remaining to play Lowery had a last chance of snatching a winning goal but from Brady's pass they had earlier switched positions he went away from the goal instead of directly towards it

and the home defence had ample time to seal off the approached route. Just on the call of time T.E.K. made a supreme effort to gain an outright victory but they had to be content with a division of the points as Carroll dived low to head a corner by Mahoney just wide at the foot of the post. A fair result, and a comparatively good one from Tullamore.

Result: T.E.K. United, 2; Tullamore, 2.

T.E.K. United: M. Maney, W. Doyle A. Geoghegan, S. Wheeler, A. O'Toole, J. Turner, O. Mahony, J. Lawlor, M. Power, B. Carroll, T. Doran.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, J. Brady, P. Malone, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. P. Kealy [Dublin].

MERIT RATINGS

It is never an easy task to single out the three individual players most deserving of special merit rating, but this week the task is more difficult than ever due to the uniformity of effort and performance. I think pride of place must go to Martin Lowery for his whole hearted display at wing-half, whilst his

brother John Lowery must also come into the reckoning as the most dangerous member of the attack. By scoring Tullamore's opening goal on Sunday last he preserved his record of having scored in every game to date. Awarding the third point might well be decided by drawing a number of names from a hat, but I will settle for Peter Malone who was consistent in his play and unlucky in his shooting. With these latest points added the over-all position now reads as follows:

E. Whiteley [8] M. Lowery [8] T. Whiteley [7] J. Lowery [6] P. Malone [5] P. Duffy [3] N. Lynch [3] T. Geraghty [3] J. Martin [3] J. Pyke [2]

F.A.I. CUP

The draw for the first round of the F.A.I Junior Cup was made in Dublin last week and in the Midland area Tullamore have been drawn at home to Mullingar. This match is scheduled for November the 1st, but I understand that Tullamore will seek a postponement as this date coincides with an important rugby fixture at Spollenstown.

NEXT WEEK

On Sunday next Tullamore travel to Dublin again to meet St. Finnbar's in a league game with a noon kick-off.

October 31st 1964

Decisive Defeat For Tullamore

Spot-Kick Reports from Greenhills

Tullamores form away from home is bad. Equally unimpressive is their record in matches timed to start at noon. Put both factors together and you can hazard a shrewd guess as to the outcome of last Sunday's league encounter against St. Finbarr's at Greenhills. A 4-1 defeat put a halt to their gallop of six games in a row without defeat and dropped them several places in the league table whilst their opponents of Sunday last move up into second place behind Anner United. This enclosed ground at Greenhills has usually proved a fairly lucky ground for Tullamore as they have scored a number of good league and cup victories on it. However last week they were all at sea against a well balanced St. Finbarr's which got on top from the start. Profiting from a fourth-minute penalty which brought them an early lead the home side had much the better of the exchanges throughout the first half and turned over with a lead of 3-0. The blame for a costly defeat must be placed on the shoulders of the forwards. Against a strong-tackling home defence which hit first and asked questions later Tullamore's policy of short passing just begged to be punished –and punished it was. Throughout the course of the

game three different centre–forwards were tried but none succeeded in providing the required leadership in front of goal it was not for the want of effort that attack after attack faded out for forwards such as Lowery, Whiteley and Brady have seldom worked harder to create openings. Repeated switching between the five failed to bring about any improvement. Tullamore defence fared reasonably well with Tom Whiteley enhancing his growing reputation with another splendid performance and with Joe Pyke holding his wing scoreless the winners were obliged to mount most of their attacks down the centre. This they proceeded to do with the result that Joe Martin found himself with a real handful in centre forward Micky Daly. The provincials had hard workers in the wing-half positions for both Martin Lowery and Noel Lynch were industrious for the full ninety minutes.

LATE START

Although this game was timed for 11.30a.m. it was almost noon before it got under way and even at that the Tullamore players were obliged to tumble out of their cars and straight into their gear. Such an approach is scarcely conducive to good play. They did have the first chance of the game, but Whiteley shot wide from Lowery's

pass in the 3rd minute and it was just sixty seconds later that St. Finbarrs opened the scoring when McHugh was floored inside the penalty area and left-full McEvoy came upfield to score from the spot Tullamore launched their first really dangerous offensive in the 9th minute but this was a one-man effort as Noel Lynch put in a run which carried him past three attempted tackles before a corkscrew shot spoiled the whole thing. Back came the Barrs and only a wonderful tackle by Whiteley on the end line prevented McHugh from creating havoc with one of his dangerous centres. The visitors were almost made a present of an 'O.G' in the 16th minute when Bradys shot was deflected by McEvoy but fortunately for them Ryan was in the right spot to save it. It was Tullamore who forced the first corner of the game in the 21st minute but although Whiteley's flag-kick was a good one Ryan plamed clear in a crowded goalmouth. At this stage Brady was Tullamore's hardest working forward but with Whiteley and Lowery both lying very deep much of the wingers good work was wasted. After 25 minutes Brady was switched to the left wing and Geraghty crossing to the right the switches brought about no great improvement and it was Duffy who kept the busier goalie as he turned a shot from Dixon around the post. The keeper failed to hold Quigleys corner but the ball eventually scrambled away. At this stage a one-goal lead did scant justice to St. Finbarrs but they stretched further ahead in the 26th minute when Daly broke through the centre and left inside-right Wallace with an easy scoring chance from close range. This

goal left Tullamore in a heap of trouble although they should have pulled one back nine minutes later Geraghty missed a sitter in front of the posts after Brady had set the ball up for the winger. A two-goal deficit at the interval might not have been too much for Tullamore to face but they found themselves in deeper water with just four minutes of the first half remaining. Under pressure from Daly, Joe Martin attempted to pass back to his goalkeeper but the pass fell short and like a flash Daly was onto the ball to drive it past the helpless Duffy.

Half-time: St. Finbarr's, 3; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore emerged as a transformed side after the interval and with Malone on the right wing, Geraghty back on the left and Brady at inside-right the attack began to function smoothly Geraghty and Whiteley were both wide within a minute of the resumption and then Lynch had a close free blocked down by a wall of defenders. The visitors piled on the pressure and the best of the Barrs defence was seen during this spell. Ryan was fortunate to be in the right spot to deal with a snappy header from Brady and later the same player had a ground shot saved at full stretch by the keeper it was Tullamore all the way now but for all their pressure there was no sigh of a goal coming until the 12th minute when a handball inside the area earned a penalty which Martin Lowery slammed hard into the top left-hand corner of the net, thus breaking the hoodoo which has hung over Tullamore penalty-takers in recent matches. Play was now confined almost entirely to St. Finbarrs half of the field

but Byrne, McNally and McEvoy succeeded in checking every assault. A free on the fringe of the area was sent skimming over the bar by Geraghty and with excitement mounting with every passing minutes the exchanges took on a cup-tie fevour.

GOAL DISALLOWED

With more than half the second period remaining a second goal to Tullamore might well have paved the way for a grandstand finish and it looked as they had it in the 21st minute. Whiteley swung across an inswinging corner from the right and Noel Lynch rose like a salmon to head in by the upright but the rejoicing was cut short when referee Lynch awarded a free out for an alleded foul on the keeper. This was a cruel stroke of luck for Tullamore but they continued to dominate the game territorially failing only in the important matter of finishing. A player from each side was booked by referee Lynch as the tension mounted and in a final bid to avert defeat the visitors switched Martin up to lead the attack with Martin Lowery dropping back as pivot a wonderful opportunity of staying in the game when a chance was lost eight minutes from the end. When Geraghty provided a perfect pass for Brady to run on to but although the latter pierced the defence and even had Ryan wrong-footed as he bore down on the goal he side-footed the ball inches outside the upright, thus glaringly exposing the real weakness in this Tullamore side.

LATE CLINCHER

Time was now against Tullamore and

the difference between the teams was spotlighted with bare minutes remaining for play. When St. Finbarrs broke away on one of their infrequent second half attacks and leftwinger McHugh sprinted through for an opportunist goal, which Duffy might be faulted for. But I will take even money on Tullamore reversing the result at Spollenstown

Result: St. Finbarrs, 4; Tullamore, 1.

St. Finbarrs: J. Ryan, A. McNally, B. McEvoy, B. Moran, J. Byrne, P. Quigley, V. Wallace, M. Daly, J. Dixon, V. cHugh.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, T. Geraghty, E. Whiteley, P. Malone, J. Brady, J. Lowery.

Referee: Mr. R. Lynch [Dublin]

MERIT RATINGS

Spotting the top performer last Sunday presented few difficulties for Tom Whiteley was head and shoulders over his colleagues and as a result he now takes the overall lead for the first time. I think his partner Joe Pyke is worth a couple of points also for a sound, if not brilliant, performance and to complete the weeks line-up the remaining point goes to Martin Lowery for his solid if unrewarded work around midfield,. This leaves the latest overall position as follows:

T. Whiteley [10] M. Lowery [9] E. Whiteley [8] J. Lowery [6] P. Malone [5] Joe Pyke [4] P. Duffy [3] N. Lynch [3] T. Geraghty [3] Joe Martin [3].

November 7th 1964

The Lull Before The Storm

BY SPOT-KICK

With all other clubs in their league engaged in the opening round of the F.A.I Junior Cup on Sunday last Tullamore's bid to arrange a league match proved unsuccessful and with their own cup-tie postponed for a week it meant that they Midlanders enjoyed their first free Sunday of the season. What has been accomplished in the opening nine weeks of the season. A great deal, really, for Tullamore can look back upon their best start for many years in the league games and cup ties Tullamore can boast of an impressive record, all five games played, marred only by two county failures. Their form in home games has been particularly impressive for all five games played at Spollenstown have been won in most convincing manner with a minimum victory margin of have failed to reproduce the same 'killer instinct' away from home. In their first game on foreign soil they lost to Valley United by the odd goal, a game which should have been won by a wide margin. Then followed an odd-goal win against bottom-of-the-table and pointless Dalkey United but hopes that this victory would lay the bogey were shattered when the Midlanders could do no more than draw with T.E.K. United another lowly placed side and their last visit to Dublin resulted in their heaviest defeat of the season at the hands of St.

Finbarr's from these figures it is evident that the present season is following very much in the pattern set in recent years. And yet, despite these failures away from home Tullamore are right up with the league leaders, sharing third place with Kildare United just three points in arrears of Anner United it is significant in passing to note that the only check to the latter's all-conquering March was the 6-1 trouncing received at Spollenstown. The free-scoring form displayed by Tullamore forwards leaves them second only to Anner United in the matter of goals scored in league games and these are the only two clubs to have passed the 20 mark in five matches. Even more convincing has been Tullamore's form in cup games for in their two outings in the Lenister Junior Cup they have scored eleven goals whilst conceding only one. Need I mention that both games were at Spollenstown.

NO ROOM FROM COMPLACENCY

Lest the above figures may lead to either the players or supporters of Tullamore becoming unduly complacent it should, perhaps, be pointed out that the best of the opposition has yet to present itself. Apart from an outstanding performance against Anner United Tullamore's victories have been achieved against the four bottom clubs in the league and it is sobering to reflect on the fact that defeat has been our

portion in games played against club from the upper half of the league table. Perhaps the best illustration of the position may be gleaned from a glance at an up-to-the-minute league table and that is exactly what I have for your

inspection. Complete with the goal-scoring figures which sometimes can be more revealing than the actual league placings- this league table is right up-to-date and contains comprehensive data of all thirteen clubs in the league:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anner United	7	6	0	1	25	16	12
St. Finbarr's	7	5	1	1	18	10	11
Tullamore	7	4	1	2	21	15	9
Kildare United	6	4	1	1	15	9	9
Valley United	7	3	2	2	17	16	8
Newtown Rangers	6	3	2	1	18	12	8
Wayside Celtic	5	3	1	1	13	8	7
Glenmore Celtic	6	3	1	2	11	10	7
Donore	6	2	1	3	13	13	5
T.E.K. United	6	1	1	4	6	12	3
Pearse Rangers	6	0	1	5	13	22	1
Valeview	6	0	1	5	13	22	1
Dalkey United	7	0	0	7	8	21	0

CUP PROSPECTS

The immediate future is likely to be dominated by cup matches with Tullamore due to make their debut in the premier event of the season the F.A.I. Junior Cup on next Sunday. The opposition will come from Mullingar but not from the town team. Instead Hibernian Celtic come to Spollenstown for the first time shrouded in an air of mystery. With no league form to their credit Celtic play only in cup competitions the visitors are certainly an unknown quantity but even with home advantage to bolster their prospects Tullamore are unlikely to take any chances and will be dead keen to advance to the second round having

already cruised into the third round of the Leinster Junior Cup, Tullamore now find them selves with a stiff assignment. Although the official draw sheet has not yet been received I learn on good authority that Tullamore will be away to Glenmore Celtic.

17TH BIRTHDAY

This week marks the 17th birthday of soccer snippets. It was the first week in november 1947 that this column made its first appearance in the pages of the 'Offaly Independent' and since then every match played by Tullamore has been reported upon. I have gone to the

trouble of digging up a copy of that first report and it turns back the pages of memory to scan through it. The occasion was a first-round F.A.I. Cup match against Mullingar at Spollenstown when the visitors scored three times in the closing ten minutes to out 5-1 winners. I wonder how many readers could name the Tullamore players of so long ago, I have little doubt that the younger generation have ever heard of some of them, in goal was Sean Carthy and he was fronted by Jack Lynam and Jack Walker, Sonny Richard, Terry Adams and John McKenna formed the half-back line whilst the forward line, reading from right to left was Sean Cronly, Joe Whyte, Val Mackey, Joe Kilroy and Harry Larkin. My most abiding memory of this first assignment is the torrential rain that fell throughout the game at the time I made a mental note to look for some sort of covered accommodation for future occasions. Now, seventeen years later, I am still looking for the same thing. Of the game itself I can still recall the brilliant exhibition of goalkeeping by Jimmy Newman for Mullingar and the polished play of international boxer Maxie McCullagh at right-full. The intervening years have furnished a rich store of memories, some joyful, some disappointing. I have covered thousands of miles to bring on-the-spot coverage of Tullamores matches from such centres as Achill Island, Castlebar,

Galway, Kilkenny, Tipperary Cahir, Greystones, Bray, Longford, Athlone, Mullingar, Drogheda and from dozens of venues in and around Dublin.

A.U.L. REVIEW

How many readers are aware that the Athletic Union League get out a monthly booklet which is just chokefull of interesting information. Each month's edition contains up-to-date tables of all the various leagues together with reports of all the different sub-committees of the ruling body. Transfers from one club to another are all listed and also included each month is a list of players who have been regraded from Senior to Junior. The booklet is intended primarily for club secretaries but it will be of interest to all enthusiasts and is a mine of useful information.

INTER-LEAGUE

The Midland area, who drew a provisional bye in the first round of the inter-league competition for the Oscar Traynor Trophy, may, after all be obliged to work their passage into the second round. The latest information is that the Sligo/Leitrim area have made late application for inclusion in this national event and it is more or less certain that they will now meet the Midlands in a home-and-away first-round tie.

November 14th 1964

Tullamore Score 13 Goals

The opening round of the F.A.I. Junior Cup at Spollenstown on Sunday last yielded few thrills and left no lasting memories in its wake, it did however produce a new club record for Tullamore who scored a staggering 13 to nil victory over Hibernian Celtic (Mullingar).

As a match, in the true sense of the word, this encounter never got off the ground. Opening the scoring in the 8th minute Tullamore assumed complete control and a further three goals in just as many minutes left them virtual winners before twenty minutes of the game had elapsed. Another goal was added before the interval to leave the home side 5-0 to the good at the halfway stage after they had faced wind and slope. At this stage Celtic's position was hopeless and even though it was obvious that Tullamore were 'pulling their punches' throughout most of the second-half they simply could not help scoring against as poor a side as has visited Spollenstown in a long, long time.

IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE

Although Tullamore were never seriously tasted in this game their performance was impressive and furnished proof that the forwards have recovered their scoring touch with a vengeance. nBoth winghalves and four

of the five forwards all contributed towards the total with inside-left Teddy Whiteley emerging as top marksman with a personal tally of five to his credit. The home defence had few opportunities to excell for the number of worthwhile attacks mounted by the Mullingar side might easily have been counted on the fingers of one hand. Indeed, open reflection I cannot recall goalkeeper Paddy Duffy being extended even once in the course of the entire ninety minutes. On the few occasions that Celtic did penetrate their opponent's territory Joe Martin, Tom Whiteley and Joe Pyke had little difficulty in repulsing them and with Tullamore virtually 'owning' the middle of the field their wing-halves Noel Lynch and Martin Lowery filled the roles of additional forwards and between them added three goals to the home total. Lynch in particular performed with distinction and even after making due allowance for the lack of real opposition it was heartening to see him return to something like his best form. All had their shooting boots on and even the odd man out Peter Malone who failed to get amongst the goals added his weight by doing the spadework which led in a number of goals.

TARDY START

Ten minutes after the official kick-off time Tullamore still had only seven

players ready for the fray, but referee Tim O'Reilly was in no mood to countenance such behaviour and he had the game under way before the four came racing from the pavilion. Although Celtic had first benefit of the slight wind which blew into the town goal they found themselves on the defensive from the start. The Mullingar goal fell for the first time in the 8th minute per Malone. This was the goal which opened the flood-gates and after Tullamore had forced the first corner of the game in the 12th minute Geraghty went close to increasing the lead three minutes later when he raced on to a pass from Martin Lowery to crack the ball against the crossbar. Tullamore virtually sealed the visitors fate in a three minutes spell between the 17th and 19th minutes. First John Lowery split the defence with a long pass out to Geraghty and the winger's centre was headed in by Whiteley. Celtic had scarcely recovered from this jolt before Holmes was picking the ball out of the net again. This time it was Lynch who was the striker again as he weaved his way through a slack defence to finish the effort with a searing drive which gave Holmes absolutely no chance. Another sixty seconds and the Mullingar net was bulging once more as John Lowery finished off a centre from Geraghty from close range. Four goals up after less than twenty minutes left Tullamore sitting pretty, but the forwards thirst for goals remained unabated. Malone had the ball past Holmes with a neat header in the 27th minute, but this score was one that did not count as the scorer was ruled offside. However, Malone played a

major part in completing the nap hand ten minutes before the interval when he indulged in a brilliant bout of interpassing with Whiteley which ended with the latter sending to the net off the upright.

Half-time: Tullamore, 5; Hibernian Celtic, 0.

The second half was a bare thirty seconds in progress before Whiteley whipped up a close pass from Martin Lowery to crash the ball to the back of the net. Liam Connolly stretched Tullamore's lead to 7-0 in the 14th minute. Twice in quick succession Holmes foiled Connolly by turning good shots out for corners, but the 'keeper was left standing in the 22nd minute when Whiteley scored from point-blank range only a minute separated this goal from the next as Geraghty swung across a corner from the left which John Lowery headed downwards and across the line for number nine.

ODD MEN OUT

Paddy Duffy, the keeper was the odd man out in this game, relying almost entirely on long back-passes from his defence to keep himself warm. Celtic did succeed in breaking the monotony of the exchanges in the 32nd minute when they were awarded a free on the fringe of the penalty area. But Dalton's shot crashed back off the crossbar and over the heads of the inrushing forwards. After this brief lapse Tullamore took up the running again and in the 33rd minute a fine centre from Connolly was first-timed to the roof of the net by John

Lowery. Three minutes later Geraghty supplied a perfect through pass from Whiteley to slip the ball past Holmes and the round dozen was completed in the 38th minute when Connolly crossed the ball from the right and Martin Lowery got into the scoring act to stretch Tullamore's lead to record proportions. Tullamore's leading scorer, Tommy Geraghty, was still without a goal to his credit as the game drew to a close, but with only three minutes remaining for play he rectified this position. Most of the credit for his goal belongs to Noel Lynch who carried the ball the length of the field before setting it up for the winger to apply the finishing touch. In brief, in case you have lost count Tullamore's scorers were Whiteley [5] J. Lowery [3] Lynch [2] Connolly [1] M. Lowery [1] T. Geraghty [1]

Result: Tullamore, 13; Hibernian Celtic, 0.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, P. Malone, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Hibernian Celtic: L. O. Holmes, J. Rickard, P. Reilly, J. Mulligan, M. Dinnegan, F. Lyons, F. Moore, D. Ryland, A. Buckley, T. Scally, D. Walsh.

Referee: Mr. T. O'Reilly [Dublin].

MERIT RATING

We would be almost justified in drawing three names out of a hat this week so uniform was the display of this Tullamore

team. Yet some distinction must be made for the purpose of this feature and this being the case my number one vote goes to Noel Lynch who came back to his best form on Sunday. Having scored five goals on his own Eddie Whiteley must surely be included in any ranking list and he gets two points whilst the remaining spot goes to Martin Lowery whose storming play at wing-half sparked off many of the attacks which yielded scores. With these latest points added we have a most interesting position developing at the top of the ratings with three players now sharing the lead:

E. Whiteley [10] M. Lowery [10] T. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [6] J. Lowery [6] P. Malone [5] J. Pyke [4] P. Duffy [3] T. Geraghty [3] J. Martin [3]

TULLAMORE DEFEAT ENDENDERRY

Although only in its infancy the revived Edenderry A.F.C. has made rapid progress and is now able to field three teams. On Saturday last their second string came to Spollenstown where they were opposed by a Tullamore side comprised mainly of minors. The result was a 4-0 win for Tullamore who had most of the play throughout and who led 3-0 at the interval. Scorers were Connolly [penalty], Murphy, Johnson and Minnock. Best for Edenderry were Slevin, Davey, Hackett and Clarke. Tullamore: J. Dolan, J. Coughlan, P. Farrelly, L. Connolly, S. Hogan, C. Colsh, S. Murphy, S. Minnock, P. Johnson, J. O'Brien, N. Donnelly.

Edenderry: B. Nolan, G. Hackett, F. Farrelly, J. Doyle, P. Davy, E. Farrelly,

G. Slevin, F. Kane, C. Clarke, M. Pollard,
J. Maloney.

Referee: Mr. M. O'Neill [Tullamore]

November 21st 1964

Late Goals Win For Tullamore

Following upon their effortless victory of the previous week, Tullamore started warm favourites to defeat Gentex when the sides met in the second round of the F.A.I. Junior Cup in Athlone, on Sunday last.

Although they ultimately fulfilled expectations by winning 4-2 Tullamore had a much harder passage than they had bargained for, and in a tension-filled game, which failed to produce a very high standard of football, they lasted the pace better on a very heavy sod.

Conditions were probably more to the liking of Gentex than they were to Tullamore. By the simple expedient of using first-time tactics the Athlone side succeeded in knocking their visitors right out of their stride. They were first to the ball in the early stages and although obliged to defend for lengthy

SPOT-KICK REPORTS from ATHLONE

spells, their intelligent application on the offside trap ensnared the Tullamore forwards time after time. Of course the latter were parties to their own down fall by their persistence in keeping the ball close, and their efforts to 'walk' the ball through the Gentex defence met with the summary fate which they merited. In contrast, the home attack

made far better use of fewer opportunities. They opened the scoring in the 20th minute, and stretched their lead to 2-0 with a brilliant goal nine minutes later. Tullamore did manage to pull one back in the 34th minute, but they were still in arrears at the interval. The visitors virtually dominated the second half exchanges. Indeed, the ball was seldom out of the Athlone half, but for all their pressure Tullamore failed to find a way through a gallant home defence. Even a penalty failed to bring about equality, and when Martin Lowery blazed wide from a spoilt-kick in the 26th minute the writing appeared to be well and truly on the wall for Tullamore. The psychological beating which this penalty miss might have had on the game cannot be estimated, but, fortunately for Tullamore, was offset within four minutes by the long sought equaliser. Once they had got on terms there was never any danger of defeat for Tullamore, and the worst fate that could befall them appeared to be an obligation to face extra time. It looked very much as though this might prove to be the case, for with only five minutes remaining for play the Athlone

rearguard was still defying the best efforts of Tullamore to snatch the lead. Then the greater fitness and experience of the visitors asserted itself, and last minute goals by Liam Connolly and Noel Lynch left Tullamore with a hard-earned a win as they have forged for some time.

BAD TACTICS

This was certainly not one of Tullamore's brighter performances, and their mistaken tactics of keeping the ball close cost them dearly all through the game. Most of the fault centered around the forwards whose reluctance to take the shortest route to goal repeatedly gave the opposition time to cover-off and seal the gaps. This was particularly true of the left-wing partnership of Whiteley and Geraghty, which was in a subdued mood throughout. John Lowery scored twice, but his personal duels with the home pivot Tom O'Sullivan, were one of the features of the game. Although the conditions were all against him, Liam Connolly turned in a top-class performance, which culminated with him scoring the vital third goal, which gave Tullamore the lead for the first time. His partner Peter Malone was another to play a major role in Tullamore's victory, and the amount of fetching and carrying which the latter performed was probably the decisive factor in Tullamore's favour. The winners' defence had a relatively quiet afternoon which was just as well in view of the panic which manifested itself on the few occasions that pressure was applied. Centre half Joe Martin was outstanding as the cornerstone of the

defence, his tackling and covering more than compensating for a lack of length in his clearances. Left-half Martin Lowery might well have been the man of the match but for that penalty miss, which marred an otherwise sound performance with his fourth cup goal of the season. Both Joe Pyke and Tom Whiteley have been seen to better advantage, but then it is easy to be critical from the sideline and to overlook the extremely poor conditions under which the players were labouring. Full marks to Gentex for preserving the interest in this game right up to the final whistle. Their do-or-die spirit almost brought about a big upset in form, and they can look back upon their cup exit of 1964 with justifiable pride. They had a trump card in goalkeeper Brendan Kelly, who brought off a couple of magnificent saves. Others to impress for the home side were O'Sullivan, Warby and Waldron in defence, and the right –wing partnership of Curran and Parkes in attack.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Expectations of a comfortable win for the visitors were enhanced in the very first minute when Connolly got across a peach of a centre from the right, and although Whiteley only half-connected with his shot the ball sped by the foot of the post for an early near-miss. John Lowery lost a chance of opening the scoring in the 6th minute when he over-used the ball after being put through by Whiteley. In the 14th minute Kelly had to dash right out to the fringe of the penalty area to smother a shot from Whiteley, after Connolly had got the ball

across from the right. Little had been seen of the home attack in action yet, but they came very close to snatching a surprise lead in the 17th minute with a powerful free, which thudded off Duffy's chest and spun behind for a corner. Next it was Tullamore's turn to be out of luck when John Lowery veered to the left and from an acute angle his shot hopped over off the crossbar. Inside-left Keane had a great shot brilliantly saved under the bar by Duffy, and then, out of the blue, came the first goal of the game. Curran and Parkes had just switched positions on the right wing when the latter's centre was flicked past Duffy by the former's head in the 20th minute. Gerntex were now carrying the fight to their opponents, who were not slow to counter-attack, and excitement mounted as the visitors went all out to assert their mastery. Territorially Tullamore were on top but they were unable to make any impression at all on the home defence, in which O'Sullivan, Kelly and Gibson were working like beavers. Indeed in isolated attacks Gentex looked far more dangerous, and only a brilliant save by Duffy from a point-blank drive from Curran prevented the homesters from stretching their lead.

EBBING CONFIDENCE

Tullamore's pre-match confidence was now ebbing fast, and it took a further plunge in the 29th minute when left-winger Frawley cut the ball back from the end-line, and a magnificent header by Parkes sent the ball crashing in off the underside of the bar, to establish a 2-0 lead for Gentex. Tullamore were

definitely becoming rattled now and signs of panic began to appear in the defence. The situation was saved with just eleven minutes of the first half remaining, when Malone sent a long ball forward and John Lowery gaining possession on the half-way line raced through unopposed to chip the ball over Kelly's head as the keeper advanced from goal.

Half-time: Gentex, 2; Tullamore, 1.

With the wind behind them Tullamore were expected to assume complete control, but events did not turn out that way at all. True enough, they swept to the attack, but each raid fizzled out with the forwards attempting the impossible by trying to 'walk' the ball through this hard-tackling defence. Gradually the home side began to tire on the heavy sod, and the game developed into one long Tullamore attack. Kelly's superb goalkeeping enabled the homesters to cling to their lead but the number of scoring chances muffed by Tullamore continued to grow. Then Whiteley shot straight at Kelly from point-blank range, but this and other misses faded into insignificance when John Lowery was pulled down inside the area in the 26th minute and the ensuing spot-kick was blazed wide by Martin Lowery. With Gentex inspired and Tullamore dejected by this miss the odds of an upset arising were quickly decreasing. However, the pace was taking a heavy toll on the overworked Gentex defence, and their citadel eventually fell in the 31st minute. John Lowery was the scorer, but, in passing, a tribute must be paid to referee Kevin

Nugent for the manner in which he applied the advantage rule in this case. Lowery was fouled at least twice on his way through, but he retained possession and was correctly allowed to go ahead and plant the ball wide of Kelly for the equaliser. Gentex held out for another nine minutes, and only five minutes of play remained when Tullamore took the lead for the first time. This was virtually the match-winning goal, as Malone split the home defence with a long, raking pass which left Connolly with a clear path to goal, and the young winger with all the assurance of a veteran, raced in to hammer the ball past Kelly. The game was won and lost in that minute, and it was merely a case of gilding the lily when the visitors added a fourth goal two minutes later, when following a corner by Whiteley, Noel Lynch worked his way through for a shot which left Kelly helpless. A two-goal win for Tullamore, but they made very hard work of it.

Result: Gentex, 2; Tullamore, 4.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, P. Malone, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Gentex: B. Kelly, J. Waldron, L. Gibson, K. O'Connor, T. O'Sullivan, W. Warby, J. Curran, J. Parkes, F. West, J. Keane, F. Frawley.

Referee: Mr. K. Nugent [Dublin]

MERIT RATINGS

Despite missing that penalty, my notes make Martin Lowery out to be Tullamore's outstanding performance on Sunday, and the three points which he gains this week sweeps him into a clear lead in the overall classification two points to Joe Martin for a very sound and constructive performance in defence, and a newcomer comes into the list this week with Liam Connolly earning a point for a whole-hearted performance under most difficult circumstances. The overall position now reads as follows:

M. Lowery [13] E. Whiteley [10] T. Whiteley [10] J. Lowery [6] N. Lynch [6] P. Malone [5] J. Martin [5] J. Pyke [4] P. Duffy [3] T. Geraghty [3] L. Connolly [1]

CUP NEWS

Tullamore will be on cup duty again next Sunday, when they travel to Dublin to meet Glenmore Celtic in the third round of the Leinster Junior Cup. If further progress is to be made in this event the forwards will need to show improved form. The draw for the first round of the Bradmola Cup was made last week, and in this Tullamore will be away to Seaview Athletic, a club from Division 11[north] of the A.U.L. Also unlucky in this question of cup draws were the minors. As Tullamore have been drawn away to Kilkenny in the opening round of the F.A.I youths cup this latter fixture is scheduled for Sunday week but no date has been mentioned for the Bradmola Cup tie.

November 28th 1964

Tullamore Crush Glenmore

Giving a performance which was far and away their best for many a long day, Tullamore routed highly rated Glenmore Celtic to the tune of 6-0 in the third round of the Leinster Junior Cup at Roebuck Lodge, Clonskeagh, on Sunday last. Because of their poor away record Tullamore started this game in the role of under-dogs but from start to finish they gave their opponents an object lesson in football and for once the Dublin public were given an opportunity of seeing the true form of this Tullamore team.

GOOD OPPOSITION

Before going any further let me get one point clear straight away. A 6-0 winning margin is bound to conjure up visions of weak opposition by those who were not present at the game. In this case nothing could be further from the truth. By their performances this season Glenmore Celtic have proved themselves to be amongst the top flight of Dublin junior clubs.

ROSE TO THE OCCASION

it almost goes without saying that each and every member of the Tullamore team rose to the occasion in this cup-tie

and it is going to be a difficult matter to individualise this week. Strange though it may seem in view of the final result one of the brightest stars on a star-studded lineout was goalkeeper Paddy Duffy the keeper was inspired form and although Celtic had the better of matters territorially throughout the second half they simply could not get the ball past Duffy. Duffy's confidence was well founded for he was fronted by a defence which never put a foot wrong. Joe Martin was the prince of the penalty area.

"SPOT-KICK" REPORTS FROM ROEBUCK LODGE

Joe Pyke and Tom Whiteley completed a defensive screen which had not a single loophole and which enabled wing-halves, Martin and Noel Lynch to adopt an attacking policy from the word go. Their non-stop aggression gained them a firm grip on the midfield exchanges with Lynch coming right back to his best form with a dynamic display on the right. Jim Brady returned to the right wing after a two week's rest cure for it was a capital hat-trick by the winger inside the opening thirty minutes which set the visitors on the victory trail, slim, trim and brimful of energy. Brady has the home defence running around in

circles with his ability to beat his man and to cut in for some first-time shooting. But this was no one man attack. Far from it, indeed, for each of the five forwards proved incisive and destructive both as individuals and as a unit and the net outcome was a most uncomfortable afternoon for the Celtic rearguard. Peter Malone hit up a perfect understanding with Brady and the bouts of inter-passing amongst this pair formed the foundation for Tullamore's goal-rush. In the centre John Lowery time and again crashed his way through like a tank in top gear, providing the openings for his colleagues whilst the 'brains' of the forward line was at inside-left where Teddy Whiteley's intelligent distribution caused havoc. Perhaps Tommy Geraghty was the least effective of this effervescent forward line but a lot of his earlier faults can be forgiven for the manner in which he scored his side's fifth goal the best of the six.

SCORES ON THE CLOCK

From the word go, both sides went at it hammer- and- tongs. With the pace a fast one and with conditions ideal for football. Inside the opening minutes Devaney and Whiteley in turn missed reasonable scoring chances. Doyle got his first taste of what was to follow when he was extended in cutting off a curling centre from Geraghty but it was not until the 11th minute that the game erupted. It looked like a chance lost for Tullamore when Malone clean through himself opted to send the ball out to Brady and the winger's shot was turned behind for a corner by Corberry.

However Teddy Whiteley made full use of the flagkick and his centre was headed on by Lynch for Brady to nod it in by the post. Tullamore's second goal in the 21st minute was the result of brilliant teamwork for John Lowery split the defence with a perfect through pass and although Brady stumbled in running on to it he recovered to score with a beautifully placed drive. Although two goals down, Celtic were in no way deflated and they forced their first corner in the 25th minute with Paddy Malone's centre being headed clear by Martin. A Brady shot hit the upright but if Celtic thought they had escaped they were mistaken for Kerrigan, in attempting to hook the ball clear, merely succeeded in turning it into his own net to stretch Tullamore's lead to 3-0. Tullamore's goal had a narrow escape in the 33rd minute when right-winger Malone sent a drive inches past the far post from less than six yards range. With four minutes of the first half remaining Tullamore consolidated their position with yet another goal this one came from the penalty spot taken by Martin Lowery. Just on half-time John Lowery missed the easiest chance of the day by shooting straight at Doyle from point-blank range.

Half-time: Glenmore, 0; Tullamore, 4.

There was a change in the character of the exchanges on the resumption with Celtic becoming more rugged than polished and for a spell it looked as though they might succeed in knocking their visitors off their game. Certainly more was seen of the home attack in action now and it became the turn of

the Tullamore backs to show their worth. Inside three minutes the visitors had a narrow escape when Gorman shaved the upright with a close free and then Duffy parried a drive from Giffney and dived to deflect a scorcher from Dwyer in quick succession. This was real cup-tie stuff now with the tackling becoming even keener and referee Boylan took the first of three names in an effort to keep the pot from boiling over. The save of the match in the 12th minute, a spectacular diving effort by Doyle which enabled him to turn a fierce left-footed drive from Whiteley around the post but Celtic were quickly back at the other end where they redoubled their efforts to snatch a goal which might change the trend of play before it was too late. Duffy became a human cat between the Tullamore posts as he leaped and sprang from side to side to deal with all manners of shot. In the 26th minute Martin Lowery was penalised for a handling offence within the area but although this provided marksman Gorman with a gilt-edged opportunity he had reckoned with-out Duffy who 'brought the house down' by saving the left-halves spot-kick. This penalty miss virtually sounded Celtic's death knell for although the home side continued to have the better of matters territorially one wondered just how much Tullamore were holding back for a final effort. We had the answer to this within a minute when Whiteley sent a long ball out to Geraghty and scored a grand goal.

PLENTY OF SPIRIT

Whatever else Glenmore might be

accused of they showed no lack of spirit as they battled away in a hopeless cause. Duffy was nothing short of being inspired and the harder the exchanges became the better he appeared to like it. The game had virtually run its course when the Tullamore attack went into action again to be rewarded by another brilliant goal in the 44th minute when a centre from Geraghty was headed on by Lowery and Malone met the ball on the drop to send a magnificent shot zooming out of Doyle's reach – Tullamore's 23rd goal in three games. This was indeed a memorable finish to a memorable occasion.

Result: Glenmore, 0; Tullamore, 6.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, J. Brady, P. Malone, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Glenmore Celtic: J. Doyle, E. O'Brien, M. Corberry, M. Kane, R. Kerrigan, P. Gorman, P. Malone, J. Giffney, R. Devaney, J. Pender, V. Dwyer.

Referee: No report of this game would be complete without a warm tribute to the referee, Mr. F. P. Boylan, whose strict and impartial handling of a tension-packed cup-tie prevented any real rancour from creeping into a match which was hard-fought but sporting from start to finish.

MERIT RATINGS

I feel like lavishing merit points all round this week but I suppose that would never do. Instead I must single

out the leading trio and although this is an invidious task under the circumstances I have no hesitation in starting off with Paddy Duffy. This in itself is a tribute to the strength of last Sunday's opposition. Jim Brady comes next in my reckoning for the right-winger gave ample evidence of what a couple of weeks rest can do for a player who is temporarily losing form. To complete my top three I take Noel

Lynch whose dynamic play at wing half added so considerably to the striking power of the attack. With these latest points added the overall position now reads as follows:

M. Lowery [13] E. Whiteley [10] T. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [7] P. Duffy [6] J. Lowery [6] J. Martin [5] P. Malone [5] J. Pyke [4] T. Geraghty [3] J. Brady [2] L. Connolly [1]

December 5th 1964

Vital League Success for Tullamore

These are changed times indeed. Not so long ago a trip to an away venue in expectations of bringing back good news for readers of this column was mainly a waste of time, but no longer is such the case and on Sunday last at Greenhills, Tallaght, Tullamore registered their third away win off the reel to further emphasise the fact that this is proving to be their most successful season for many a long year. Last Sunday's success may justly be regarded as the most important league victory achieved so far this season. Pitted against Kildare United second in the league table prior to Sunday last- Tullamore displayed both courage and skill in forging a hard-earned 3-2 win which lifts them right up amongst the leaders despite the fact that they have a game in hand of most of their rivals. In truth this victory was worth four points to the provincials as it not only enhanced their own prospects but also blighted Kildare's.

MATCH OF THE DAY

This meeting of two wellplaced sides was regarded as the match of the day in A.U.L. circles and there was a big attendance present as a result. Nor were they disappointed for this was a thrill-a-minute encounter in which Tullamore gave their opponents a goal

start and yet came storming back for a victory which was fully merited on the run of the play. Having conceded the lead after seventeen minutes play Tullamore did well to turn their deficit into an interval lead with two splendid goals in the closing five minutes of the first half. Kildare drew level again fourteen minutes after the interval and with both sides throwing all they had into the fray excitement ran high before the winning goal came nine minutes from the end.

BELOW STRENGTH

Tullamore's performance in winning this difficult assignment is all the more praise worthy in view of the fact that their under-age players were released from this fixture in order to assist the minors in their Kilkenny cup-tie this entailed breaking up a winning combination, never a wise course to adopt. But one which paid off in this case with Geraghty thus missing for the first time this season Tullamore called in Paddy Cronly on the left –wing. Not surprisingly the latter was completely at sea in the early stages, but a 25th minute switch by team-manager Micky White proved to be a match-winning one as Cronly not only proved far more effective on the right flank but the

transferring of Jim Brady into the centre proving a master-stroke. The visiting defence was as tight as a clam all through with Duffy again proving his value as a top-flight goalkeeper and Joe Martin holding the defence together in masterly fashion at centre-half. Martin's arrival enabled Joe Pyke to be released for the left-full berth a switch which has resulted in the latter gaining a new lease of life. Pyke's partnership with Tom Whiteley has gradually developed into one of the strongest links on this Tullamore side. The cardinal factor in Tullamore's accomplishments so far has been the wonderful work of wing-halves Noel Lynch and Martin Lowery. Again last Sunday this pair proved the mainspring around which Tullamore functioned and it is now obvious that Lynch's loss of form was, fortunately, a temporary one and that he is now back to his brilliant best. Recent performances would suggest that Tullamore have the strongest and most constructive half-back line in junior football this season. Early sluggishness in the middle line was rectified by the first-half switches and once Brady took over the leadership of the attack the home defence was subject to pressure which was as intensive as it was prolonged. Peter Malone carved out many openings for his colleagues, but John Lowery was in a very subdued mood and for once was not the dominant force in attack. Every player is entitled to an occasional 'off day' and Lowery was due one after a series of brilliant performances in recent weeks. Teddy Whiteley scored the decisive third goal.

TORSION AND TENSION

Apart from a cold wind which favoured Kildare United during the first-half conditions were almost ideal for football although of course, the actual pitch left much to be desired. In the early stages Tullamore tested goal-keeper Kavanagh as Brady cut in for a shot which was capably handled and cleared by the custodian. Later Kavanagh gathered a well-placed free by Tom Whiteley. It was the visitors who drew the first real gasp from the onlookers as a free by Martin Lowery found Whiteley and the skipper grazed the post with the home defence appealing in vain for offside. A top-class save by Duffy from centre forward flood brought United the first corner of the game in the 8th minute, but the miss of the match came three minutes later at the other end when an indirect free by Lynch just outside the area resulted in three incredible misses by J. Lowery, Whiteley and Malone in turn before the ball was scrambled away by Clifford. Tullamore were very disjointed in attack at this stage and it was in keeping with the general run of the play when United opened the scoring in the 17th minute per V. Brady. Byrne's corners were to become a source of great worry to Tullamore before the game was over, it was by no means all one-way traffic and Tullamore might have got back on terms with a stinging drive from Whiteley but Kavanagh was in the right spot to save well. Then came the switches which brought Brady into the centre. Lowery to the left wing and Cronly to the right and immediately the visiting attack became a more potent affair, with

Cronly missing a real 'sitter' following a long centre from Lowery. Should have increased their lead in the 30th minute when left-winger Hickey was allowed to walk through for a shot which sliced the paint off the butt of the post. Tullamore were coming more and more in to the game. Tullamore's equaliser in the 40th minute was the result of brilliant anticipation by Joe Martin who came racing through a slack defence just as Lynch chipped in an indirect free and Kavanagh had no hope getting to the pivot's point-blank shot. This was the break that Tullamore were waiting for and four minutes later they struck again, when a short clearance by Clifford was returned across the face of the goal by John Lowery and Brady clipped it to the net for the lead.

Half-time: Kildare United, 1; Tullamore, 2.

There was a switch in the United team on resuming and in the 14th minute they scored the equalising goal. This equalising goal brought a real needle atmosphere into the game and Kildare were in no way slow to use their advantage in weight and height as the exchanges toughened. A possible chance for Tullamore to draw ahead again was lost in the 25th minute when Cronly beat Hogg out on the wing and worked his way to the end line. But he squared the ball back too far. Later a good centre from Cronly was headed inches over by Lynch, whilst a minute later a corner by Whiteley was prodded on by Brady but Browne kicked off the goalline with his keeper unsighted. The exchanges were becoming really hectic

now and after Kavanagh had held a strong free by Martin Lowery the winning goal came in the 36th minute in a way it was a lucky goal which won the points for when Tullamore were awarded an indirect free on the fringe of the area Whiteley elected to chance his arm with a pot shot. If Kavanagh had allowed the ball to pass him it would have been a goalkick but instead the keeper tried to save it and in doing so merely succeeded in helping the ball on its way to the net as Brady closed in.

Result: Kildare, 2; Tullamore, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, J. Brady, P. Malone, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, P. Cronly.

Kildare United: P. Kavanagh, J. Browne, L. Hogg, V. Brady, D. Clifford, P. Murphy, T. Byrne, A. Tighe, J. Flood, V. Moore, N. Hickey.

Referee: Mr. B. Burke [Dublin]

MERIT RATINGS

Defenders and forwards alike share in this weeks merit ratings with the top spot going to Joe Martin whose wonderful goal highlighted a splendid performance. Jim Bradys earnest work as leader of the attack earns him two more points and to complete the top three I take Noel Lynch for a whole-hearted display as one could wish for. This leaves the merit table reading as follows:

M. Lowery [13] E. Whiteley [10] T. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [8] J. Martin [8] P. Duffy [6] J. Lowery [6] P. Malone [5]

J. Pyke [4] J. Brady [4] T. Geraghty [3]

L. Connolly [1]

December 12th 1964

Tullamore Continue On Sporting Spree

Tullamore are certainly in goal-scoring form this season and on Sunday last at Spollenstown, they continued on their merry way trouncing Naas 8-1 in the third round of the F.A.I. Junior cup.

This latest victory brings Tullamore's scoring record to 42 for and 4 against in the six cup matches played so far this season and I doubt very much if there is a team in the country with as impressive a record.

Of course victory came as no surprise on Sunday last. Tullamore started in the role of very hot favourites against opposition from a lower grade of football. Hot favourites have an unhappy knack of coming unstuck but this time Tullamore fulfilled expectations and not even the wet and miserable conditions in which the game was played could tarnish the brilliance of their play. The homesters opened the scoring after eight minutes, but then had to wait a further twenty minutes for their second goal, a third was added before the interval, but it was during the second half that they became really dominant. Centre forward Jim Brady included a hat-trick amongst his five goals, scoring in the 9th, 24th and 26th minutes after the interval. Considering the weather and the unattractive nature of the ties, the attendance on Sunday must have been a pleasant surprise to local officials. The fact that the other big local attraction of the day was

cancelled at the last minute probably accounted for the swelling of the Spollenstown coffers.

NEVER IN DOUBT

Although the issue in this game was never seriously in doubt I would not go so far as to say the Tullamore completely dominated the exchanges. The entire Tullamore defence dovetailed to perfection with Tom Whiteley and Joe Martin being particularly impressive. Wing-half Noel Lynch and Martin Lowery served their front line splendidly. Up front the honours of the day went to Jim Brady whose five goals brought him to the top of the sharpshooters list in cup games with a total of eleven. Brady led the Naas defence a merry dance throughout. Teddy Whiteley engineered many of his side's goals with bursts from the half-line. In the other inside berth Peter Malone proved almost equally impressive, but the winners

were weak enough on the wings where neither Paddy Cronly nor John Lowery could be said to have enjoyed a particularly good game.

SCORES ON THE CLOCK

Heavy overnight rain left the pitch very soft which militated against good football. Duffy was called on to save three times before his counterpart Ryan was brought into the game for the first time. Yet it was at the other end that danger lurked and when Brady was put through by Malone his shot from pointblank range was splendidly saved by Ryan. Tullamore opened the scoring in the 8th minute when Martin Lowery made good ground down the right wing before parting to Brady whose shot from the edge of the area was beautifully placed to the corner of the net.

PENALTY MISS

Tullamore should have increased their lead in the 15th minute when a strong centre from J. Lowery was completely missed by Ryan and as Cronly returned the ball across the face of the goal Brady stroked it towards the empty net. Right-full Conway adopted the only course open to him by fisting the ball clear from under the bar, thus conceding a penalty, but this was one occasion on which 'crime did pay' as Martin Lowery shot wide from the spot-kick. At this stage it was anything but one-way traffic and Naas had an equal number of chances but failed to put any of them to good use the homeside was playing football all the time, but it was a negative brand of football with the ball

being shoved back to Duffy from all points short of the halfway line. Brady had another good shot brilliantly saved by Ryan at the expense of a corner and later Brady skimmed the crossbar from an acute angle and the pressure on the Naas defence was mounting all the time Tullamore stretched their lead in the 28th minute when Brady beat left-full Ryan out on the touchline and his centre was finished to the net by Whiteley. Tullamore became more free-moving in attack after this second goal but nevertheless they had to wait until the 40th minute before adding a third when John Lowery dribbled his way down the left wing before firing across a centre which Malone nodded home.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; Naas, 0.

Less than a minute of the second half had elapsed before Ryan was obliged to dive full length to push away a ground shot from John Lowery and the writing on the wall became more legible for Naas when brilliant approach work by Teddy Whiteley paved the way for Brady to crack in number four in the 9th minute. With the rain coming down heavier than ever now the ground was becoming a quagmire. In the 22nd minute Jim Brady had a ground shot held on the line by Ryan whilst two minutes later he snapped up a perfect pass from Malone to hammer home number five. With Lynch and Lowery in complete control at midfield Tullamore were well on top and their sixth goal came in the 26th minute when a long pass from Brady was returned across the goalmouth by John Lowery for Brady to force it home from close range.

Tullamore were now content to play tig with their opponents but Brady's thirst for goals remained insatiable and completed his hat-trick in the 34th minute when a long clearance by Duffy was carried upfield by Martin Lowery and his centre was nodded past Ryan by Brady less than a minute later the home attack struck for the last time as John Lowery side-footed a centre from Brady past the helpless Ryan. In the 42nd minute Naas got a consolation goal when a shot from centre forward McElwaine was deflected by Pyke for an O.G. which was of little consequence.

Result: Tullamore, 8; Naas, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Pyke, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Cronly, P. Malone, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, J. Lowery.

Naas: D. Ryan, D. Conway, P. Ryan, P. Walsh, J. Cremmins, H. Connolly, C. Behan, K. Doyle, E. McElwaine, P. McKenna, N. Dempsey.

Referee: Mr. P. Keeley [Dublin]

MERIT RATINGS

It is easy enough to place our top personallity this week and Jim takes maximum points without opposition. Nor have I any doubt about awarding two points to Tom Whiteley for a very polished performance at right-full. It is the awarding of the final spot in our top three that poses the real problem this week for any one of half a dozen players appear to have equal claims to the odd point however I don't think I will go far wrong by placing Noel Lynch third for the third week in succession. These points added on to last week's total now leaves the overall position reading as follows:

M. Lowery [13] T. Whiteley [12] E. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [9] J. Martin [8] J. Brady [7] J. Lowery [6] P. Duffy [6] P. Malone [5] J. Pyke [4] T. Geraghty [3] L. Connolly [1]

December 27th 1964

Tullamore's Scope For Compensation

With Sunday last being a free day in A.U.L. circles Tullamore welcomed this Christmas holiday which gave them only their second 'free' Sunday since the season opened last August. There is scarcely any need to commence any review of the season to date by saying that it has proved to be the most successful in the history of the Tullamore club. In league and cup games they have been hitting the headlines and although the old year ended with a cup defeat the overall picture is one of happy memories for all attached to the Midland club. Now let us get this latest cup defeat into its proper perspective at the outset. Naturally Tullamore would have welcomed a victory which would have given them a place in the last sixteen of the Leinster Junior Cup, but just because they were denied such a win does not herald the end of the football world for them. Indeed, I would go so far as to assert that defeat may have been a blessing in disguise. Too often a cloud has fallen between two, or more, stools and by dividing their attention over too many competitions have ended up with an empty plate. Secure in the knowledge that they acquitted themselves with real distinction in losing to Galty Celtic by the odd goal of seven, Tullamore can now devote more

attention to the remaining competitions in which they are engaged. These comprise the F.A.I. Junior Cup, the Bradmola Cup and, of course, the league. Of these events most glamour is attached to the F.A.I. Cup, and proof of this is provided by the steadily mounting interest in Tullamore's forthcoming trip to Castlebar, to meet the local Celtic in the fourth round. Despite the distance involved the indications are that the visitors will not lack vocal support. As announced already in this column it is contemplated running a special train for this cup-tie on Sunday week and intending passengers are reminded that their seats must be booked well in advance with any member of the committee.

BRADMOLA CUP

Irrespective of their fate in the Premier Cup competition Tullamore have their sights set on another major 'pot' in the Bradmola cup. This competition which is confined to clubs in the first and Second Divisions of the A.U.L. can be a real money-spinner for successful clubs. It is the biggest trophy in any grade of football and is one of the most coveted trophies of the entire season. Tullamore have never found this a lucky competition and seldom get beyond the

first or second round, but they are intent on making a big impression this year. The luck of the draw ordains that they will be away to Seaview Athletic in the first round but against Second-Division opposition their prospects of advancing are considered reasonably bright.

THE LEAGUE

Although the knock-out competitions are said to be the glamour events of the soccer season it is the league which provided the real test of a team. Luck can play a major part in any cup competition, but in a league campaign which stretches over the best part of six months it is usually ability and merit alone which decide the outcome. So far Tullamore have been faring exceptionally well and it is remarkable that their best performances have been recorded away from home. With the exception of their outting against St. Finbarr's they have been most consistant and successful. Their present league position is a misleading one for they have a couple of games in hand. A better guide to their prospects is provided by the number of points dropped and judged on this basis can be reckoned as joint-leaders with Newtown Rangers both sides having dropped five points. Another big factor in Tullamore's favour is that six of their nine games to date have been played away from home. It is not very often that we have either the space or the opportunity to study the detailed league table so here, complete with goal scoring figures, is the up-to-date position:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtown Rangers	11	8	2	1	37	16	18
St. Finbarr's	12	8	1	3	30	17	17
Anner United	12	8	0	4	37	25	16
Kildare United	11	6	2	3	25	18	14
Glenmore Celtic	11	6	2	3	25	19	14
Valley United	13	5	4	4	34	32	14
Tullamore	9	6	1	2	29	20	13
Wayside Celtic	9	6	1	3	24	12	12
Valeview	11	3	1	7	18	36	6
T.E.K. United	12	1	4	7	18	36	6
Donore	7	2	1	4	14	15	5
Pearse Rangers	12	0	3	9	21	53	3
Dalkey United	12	0	2	10	11	35	2

THE MINORS

Adding to the general feeling of optimism and joy in the Tullamore soccer camp this season is the bright displays of the minor team. With merited victories over Kilkenny and Athlone to their credit they are throught to the third round of the F.A.I. Minor Cup in which they have been drawn at home to either Westport Utd or Ballina town incidentally this match was originally fixed for Sunday week 10th January, but in view of the game in Castlebar it is more than likely that Tullamore will seek a postponement of the minor game. Indeed this clashing of dates is providing quite a headache for local officials, for in addition to fitting in all the cup matches which are looming ahead there is also the problem of arranging a date for the first round of the national inter-league competition for

the Oscar Traynor memorial trophy. In this event the Midlands have been paired against the Sligo and Leitrim League and the latest information to hand suggests that the first leg will be played at Spollenstown on January 24th. However, with the position relating to dates being so fluid at the moment it is quite possible that a new date, or possibly even a new venue, will have to be arranged for this attractive fixture. All things considered it looks like being a busy and eventful new year for soccer fans in the Tullamore area. My wish to you all is that it will also prove to be a successful one.

LEADING SCORERS

Tullamore have been scoring so freely in cup and league fixtures that their list of scorers is unusually heavy for this time of the year. Leading marksman at the turn of the year is Jim Brady with a total of 19 goals to his credit. However the Tullamore attack is no one man affair and proof of this is provided by the fact that no fewer than four forwards have reached double digits already. The full scoring record split between league and cup reads as follows:

LEAGUE CUP TOTAL

Jim Brady	6	13	19
John Lowery	5	9	14
Eddie Whiteley	5	9	14
Tommy Geraghty	6	4	10
Noel Lynch	2	4	6
Peter Malone	2	2	4
Martin Lowery	1	2	3
Liam Connolly	0	2	2
Joe Martin	1	0	1

Alo Glennon	1	0	1
Total	29	45	74

READERS WRITE

My Christmas post included a number of letters from supporters of Tullamore A.F.C. referring to the ill-advised changes made by mentors during the recent cup game against Galty Celtic. Whilst admittedly they have a genuine grouse in this I do not think that any purpose would be served by starting a controversy at this stage. This still being the season of goodwill among men I think it would be appropriate to forget the past and face the future united for the good of the game locally.

January 10th 1965

Soccer Snippets

Tullamore Splash Into The Last 16

Castlebar Celtic, 2; Tullamore, 6.

The much-feared Castlebar hurdle has been crossed and Tullamore came out of the west on Sunday last with reputation enhanced as the result of a fine 6-2 win over Castlebar Celtic in the fourth round of the F.A.I. Junior Cup.

Three goals in each half did the trick and on the form shown in this game Tullamore are going to take some beating in the cup they are now through to the last sixteen and will be keeping their fingers crossed for a favourable draw to ease their way into the quarterfinals.

Tullamore did well to beat Castlebar. They did even better to master the conditions. Heavy overnight rain which persisted throughout Sunday left Celtic park more suitable for young ducks than for footballers. Indeed Tullamore officials were none too pleased when referee J. G. Igoe deemed the pitch playable after an inspection an hour before kick-off time. It must have been a touch-and-go decision for the pitch was waterlogged in places.

This was indeed a game of distinct phases. Tullamore made a dream start by scoring twice in the opening ten minutes and they continued to have much the better of the argument up to the interval by which stage a third goal had been added. With a 3-0 interval lead under their belts Tullamore seemed to be home and dry but a first-minute goal by McCaffrey infused new life into the home side. Playing with rare abandon they threw all they had into the fray and the enthusiasm and joy of the big home following knew no bounds when inside-right Neary reduced the lead to the minimum in the 10th minute. At this stage anything could have happened and a third and equalising goal to Celtic might have left the visitors in queer street. The panic induced by the two quick goals after the interval lingered on as Celtic bombaraded the Tullamore goal but the clinging mud was gradually taking its toll on the

exuberance of the Hoops. As the final quarter was entered Tullamore again took control at midfield and a great goal by Jim Brady swung the game back in Tullamore's favour. This was the decisive goal of the eight scored, for Castlebar were a beaten side after it. Geraghty added a brilliant fifth goal with ten minutes left in the game, and although Celtic staged a late rally which saw defenders and forwards alike moving into the attack this was repulsed, and the final nail driven into home hopes with a last-minute goal from Whiteley.

DESERVING OF AN ENCOMIUM

Considering the extreme conditions under which they laboured Tullamore's performance was nothing short of majestic and all eleven players are deserving of an encomium. A close game was anticipated and with home officials making no secret of their confidence before the kick-off the visitors would have been only too pleased to settle for a draw. Home environment was considered to be worth a goal start to the locals and possibly with this in view Tullamore entered the fray determined to set the pace from the start. How well they succeeded is now past history and the credit for the performance must be shared equally between the eleven players. From goalkeeper Duffy to outside-left Geraghty the team played as much with scarcely a weak link visible. Inevitably some of the players outshone their colleagues and foremost amongst these were the Lowery brothers, John and Martin, centre-half

Joe Martin who mastered the wily McCaffrey magnificently, the twin spearhead provided in attack by Alo Glennon and Jim Brady and the defence-splitting centres provided by right winger Peter Malone. I could easily elaborate on the virtues of this sextet but there is little point in gilding the lily and in any event after driving something like 230 miles in the past twelve hours I have no wish to prolong my stay at the typewriter any longer than is necessary.

SCORING

Tullamore won the toss and with little or no wind blowing at this stage they elected to play 'against the tide' for four minutes the respective attacks prodded and probed without producing a shot between them but eventually it was the home goal which came under pressure first with Martin Lowery shooting narrowly wide following a free by Lynch. Then Glennon shaved the upright from long range but the first goal came much quicker than any of us anticipated. It came in fact, after four and a half minutes play as a great free by Lynch was sent flying past Redmond by Glennon's fiery head. This was a tonic start for Tullamore for not only did it give them the lead which they needed but it also served to unhinge the home defence for the remainder of the game. Left-full Ainsworth had a dangerous free cleared by Martin Lowery in the goalmouth but most of the action was coming at the other end and Redmond came to Castlebar's rescue in the 7th minute when, although he fumbled a free on the end line by Whiteley, he

recovered to make a daring save at Brady's feet. However, the keeper was left helpless three minutes later when Whiteley swept a perfect through pass into the centre and Glennon pounced to stretch the visitor's lead. Celtic's plight might well have become worse in the 17th minute when only a brilliant save at point blank by Redmond prevented Brady from adding a third goal. The Hoops were striving desperately to regain their composure and in spasmodic breaks they looked dangerous in front of goal. This was particularly true of the 20th minute when Neary sent a great ball through to McCaffrey which led to a hectic set-to in the Tullamore goalmouth before John Lowery rooted the ball clear. With Tullamore controlling the midfield play the home defence was subjected to heavy pressure and only sterling work by the Feeney brothers prevented them from falling further into arrears. Celtic's best chance of the first half came in the 27th minute when McCaffrey split the visiting defence with a long ball out to Devanie but the winger was slow to get to the ball which was scrambled clear by Whiteley. And his centre was kicked clear by Duffy and the ball ran loose to Kane who muffed a fine opportunity through over-eagerness. Martin Lowery had a great free cleared by J. Feeney and then a free from closer range by Lynch was headed inches over by Whiteley. Tullamore's third goal came right out of the blue in the 38th minute for there did not appear to be much danger as Malone gained possession far out on the right wing. But with Ainsworth backing off to cover the expected centre, Malone lofted the ball

high into the far corner of the net. Tullamore remained very much on top to the interval and forced three corners in quick succession without improving their position.

Half-Time: Castlebar Celtic, 0;
Tullamore, 3.

Celtic badly needed a quick goal on the resumption if they were to remain in this game with any sort of a chance and they got it within thirty seconds. The scorer was McCaffrey but the real credit for the goal belongs to right-winger Kane who had a powerful drive parried by Duffy, and the centreforward had merely to tap the ball into the open goal. Now the home fans had something to cheer about and their vocal encouragement spurred the wearers of the green and white to redouble their efforts. The rain was coming down harder than ever now and to add to Tullamore's plight the breeze against them had increased considerably in strength. Wave after wave of home attacks were repulsed until the 6th minute when Duffy was badly at fault in allowing a shot from Neary to glance off his hand and into the net. This was a soft goal but it reduced Tullamore's lead to the minimum and the west was awake in earnest as the Hoops went all out for the equaliser. Nerve wrecking minutes saw the Tullamore goal having some very narrow escapes before the fury of the home attack spent itself and the visitors reasserted their grip at midfield. The revival started with a corner by Whiteley from which Brady had a shot cleared off the line by right-full redmond and it mounted in impetus

with Brady skimming the post off Glennon's pass.

DECISIVE GOAL

The mounting pressure had its reward in the 28th minute when Glennon broke through the ranks of the home defence, somehow managed to steer the ball through the miniature lakes in the penalty area and sent a perfect pass through for Brady to score the vital goal which sapped the resistance of the home side. The writing was on the wall for Castlebar now for they had little hope of making up a two goal deficit in the time remaining. Into the bargain the fast pace was taking its toll on mud encased muscles and it was an effort now for the players to splash about. Any lingering doubts which remained were banished in the 35th minute when Glennon laid on a long pass which Geraghty swept to the net with a wonderful left-footed drive. There was a stedy procession towards the exits by now and less than half the original attendance were present to see Teddy Whiteley become the fifth Tullamore forward to score in the 44th minute when he dived full-length to head a wonderful goal off Malone's strong centre.

Result: Castlebar Celtic, 2; Tullamore, 6.

Castlebar: A. Redmond, G. Redmond, D. Ainsworth, V. Feeney, J. Feeney, F. Thorne, L. Kane, M. Neary, D. McCaffrey, F. Roche, J. Devanie.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Malone, A. Gleenon, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. J. G. Igoe [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

How difficult it is to pick out the three outstanding players on the winning team this week and how I wish I could nominate the entire team. However, the task must be faced and for my man of the match I am taking John Lowery who never put a foot wrong at left-full next I would place Martin Lowery for a consistent performance at left-half and the remaining spot must to dynamic redhead Alo Gleenon, who put Tullamore on the victory path with those two opening goals. All of which leaves out merit table now reading as follows: M. Lowery [18] J. Brady [14] T. Whiteley [13] J. Martin [12] J. Lowery [10] E. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [9] P. Malone [7] P. Duffy [6] J. Pyke [4] T. Geraghty [3] A. Glennon [1] L. Connolly [1]

January 23rd 1965

Soccer Snippets

League Leaders Humbled at Spollenstown

Tullamore6

Newtown Rangers3

The loyalty of local soccer fans was put to the test on Sunday last when extreme conditions of cold and rain existed for the visit of league leaders Newtown Rangers to Spollenstown. However, supporters who braved the elements were richly rewarded for this was one of the best, as well as the most exciting encounter witnessed at the venue this season and the result a smashing 6-3 win for Tullamore provided more grist for the home mill. In a game which was as hard fought as any cup-tie three penalties were awarded during the course of the ninety minutes Tullamore enhanced their league prospects enormously and did a good turn for all the other clubs in the league into the bargain. Although slow to settle down the momesters reserved their best form for the closing twenty minutes when once again their stamina proved a telling weapon in their favour as they tore into the tiring opposition. This vital victory was gained despite the handicap of being without their captain

Teddy Whiteley, who was playing for the army against the Leinster Junior League in the Oscar Traynor Cup at the Curragh. Strong and virile in defence where Tom Whiteley outshone the adventurous John Lowery and Joe Martin subdued a towering centre-forward in six foot three Jim Sergeant. Tullamore had excellent linkmen in Noel Lynch and Martin Lowery. This pair revelled in the heavy underfoot conditions. Jim Brady took quite a buffeting as leader of the home attack and he was the victim on each occasion that Tullamore was awarded a penalty. Yet there was no subduing this human dynamo who caused havoc amongst the visitors with his slick distribution and opportunist shooting. Newcomer Eamonn Byrne had a very quite debut, but Liam Connolly who was playing his first league match of the season, had a 'blinder' on the right wing and Whiteley's return for the next match is going to present the selectors with a real outside headache as to whom to omit from this attack. Apart from a number of misdirected passes which could be excused under the prevailing conditions, Peter Malone had a very

good match, working hard and dropping back to assist his defence whenever he was needed. All in all this was a thorough workmanlike display by Tullamore who, refused to be rattled from their normal brand of good football.

RECKLESS RANGERS

Seeing that they came with such an exalted reputation a few words regarding Newtown Rangers may not be out of place. This was only their second league defeat in thirteen matches and their robust defence have the best record in the league. Yet, for all that, I could not reconcile their performance on Sunday last with their high standing.

POINTS FROM PLAY

A strong wind blowing directly across the pitch from the stand side made matters tricky for both teams and each goal in turn was visited without any real danger being threatened eight minutes of aimless play followed as both sets of forwards tried to master the conditions and then Tullamore forced the opening corner of the game with Geraghty's centre reaching Lynch whose header was cleared off the line by centre-half Martin. Liam Connolly was grasping his big chance in fine style and he looked the pick of the home attack at this stage with his perfect ball control and strong running making him a real handful for Gorman to cope with. It was following a bout of interpassing between Connolly and Brady that Tullamore came close to opening the scoring when the latter's

shot was deflected behind by Kavanagh for a corner which might just as easily have resulted in an O.G. Geraghty shot narrowly over as Tullamore began to settle down but they were rocked back on their heels in the 15th minute when Rangers took a surprise lead following a well-placed free by Halpin which passed right across the face of the goal for right-winger Kavanagh to connect with a diving header which beat Duffy all ends up. Having conceded the lead Tullamore's task became all the more formidable and they almost went further into arrears two minutes later when a good shot from Keely was scrambled behind for a corner by Whiteley. Tullamore were short-passing their way into trouble now but they snapped out of it in time and were back on terms in the 21st minute when a long centre from Geraghty was backed-heeled to the net by Brady completely deceiving Kennedy. Spurred on by the support of a packed stand Tullamore got right on top and they took the lead for the first time in the 28th minute when a free by Martin Lowery far out on the touchline was only parried by Kennedy, under pressure from Brady, and Malone nipped in to tap the ball home. Rangers were now plainly rattled and before they could regain their composure they found themselves further in arrears when Brady sent through by Malone, was taken down inside the area with the goal at his mercy. However it made little difference to Tullamore as Tom Whiteley raced upfield to belt the ball into the top right-hand corner from the penalty which followed. Tullamore were firing on all cylinders now but they had a narrow shave when Duffy was caught

too far out of goal by a strong centre from Glennon which was chipped just over the bar by Murray. Then Keely sent a blistering drive scraping over the bar so that it was really in keeping with the run of the play when Rangers pulled one back before the interval. This 44th minute goal was from a penalty taken by right-full Kavanagh.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; Newtown Rangers, 2.

Tullamore benefited from a change of jerseys during the interval, but when they resumed there was more than their wear-ingapparel off colour. Rangers got on top and, aided by the unorthodox and dangerous short-passing amongst the home defenders, they piled on the pressure in no uncertain manner. After four minutes Halpin had a ball booted off the goalline by J. Lowery following a corner by Murray but in a break away Kennedy came to Ranger's rescue with a magnificent double save from Brady and Byrne. Luck was certainly against Tullamore when they turned on the pressure and in the 10th minute Brady cracked the ball off the face of the crossbar and from the rebound Connolly hit the upright with the ball rebounding this time into the hands of the grounded goalie. To rub it in further Rangers broke away after these miracle escapes and promptly snatched the equaliser when Keely cut into the centre to take his chance in style. Four minutes later Keely, receiving from Sergeant, had the ball in the Tullamore net again but this time the score was disallowed for offside. Further Tullamore pressure found the visiting defence unflinching

and another chance was lost in the 16th minute when a centre from Brady was palmed out by Kennedy and Byrne blazed over from a favourable position. Next a centre from Geraghty was scooped off Brady's toe by Kennedy and it began to look as though there was a jinx on Tullamore scoring again. However, the turning point came in the 18th minute when Kennedy failed to hold a curling centre from Geraghty and Brady was in like a flash for another of his opportunist goals which restored Tullamore's lead. Ranger's decline can be traced from this goal for although Kennedy excelled again when flicking a Brady centre off Connolly's head. Tullamore stretched their lead in the 24th minute when a long ball from Geraghty was nodded on by Brady and Connolly closed in to apply the finishing touch. Two minutes later rampant Tullamore struck again. With the tension mounting some of the tackling became over vigorous and just as Geraghty crashed a close free off the bar Brady was felled in the goalmouth. This naturally brought a rebuke from referee Kealy and another penalty to Tullamore which Tom Whiteley again cracked to become the new penalty king of the side.

RANGERS RATTLED

Rangers had by now become a very much disorganised team there was little prospect of them saving even a point against a side which had taken over completely in all sectors. This is not to say that they gave up the ghost. Far from it indeed, for they redoubled their efforts with time running out but

Whiteley, Martin and Duffy were not to be found wanting so late in the day and the nearest the visitors came to deducing the leeway was in the 37th minute when Sergeant grazed the post with a great free kick from just outside the area. This was Rangers swan song and Tullamore finished full of spirit and worthy winners of their most important brace of points of the season.

Result: Tullamore, 6; Newtown Rangers, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, E. Byrne, J. Brady, P. Malone, T. Geraghty.

Newtown Rangers: R. Kennedy, B. Kavanagh, D. Gorman, A. Halpin, W. Martin, N. O'Brien, G. Kavanagh, J. Murray, J. Sergeant, M. Keely.

Referee: Mr. P. Kealy [Dublin]

MERIT RATINGS

Forwards must figure prominently in this week's ratings and the industry and opportunism of Jim Brady makes him a worthy number one choice. Martin Lowery, acting captain for the day in the absence of Whiteley, provided the inspiration of the home attacks and holds his place at the top of the merit table by collecting two more, now whilst the third spot must go to the big discovery of Sunday's game, Liam Connolly. All of which leaves the overall position now reading as follows: M. Lowery [20] J. Brady [17] T. Whiteley [13] J. Martin [12] E. Whiteley [10] J. Lowery [10] N. Lynch [9] P. Malone [7] P. Duffy [6] J. Pyke [4] T. Geraghty [3] L. Connolly [2] E. Byrne [1]

January 30th 1965

Soccer Snippets

Midland League Outplayed

The meeting of the Sligo/Leitrim League and the Midland League attracted a very big attendance to Spollenstown on Sunday last and this first-round tie in the Oscar Traynor Cup provided plenty of entertainment.

It also provided a shock result, for although the Midlands were generally expected to build up a substantial lead for the second leg in Sligo in a fortnight's time they find themselves instead faced with the task of wiping out a three goal deficit at the showgrounds in Sligo as a result of a 6-3 defeat in last Sunday's game.

Although ground conditions were definitely on the sticky side and the pitch was shrouded in heavy mist all through this was a lively encounter with plenty of goals and a fair share of constructive football to help the fans keep out the penetrating cold. Midland lost because they had unexpected weaknesses exposed in defence this coupled with a marked lack of finish by their forwards, off set the advantage of a whirlwind start which saw the home side a goal up before a Sligo player had touched the ball. Indeed it could be

that too good of a start reacted against the locals for after they had established a 2-0 lead they became far too complacent and evidently had ideas that they could afford to toy around with the opposition. Two opportunist goals by the Sligo centre-forward McLynn quickly altered this outlook and although the Midlands regained the lead it was lost again just as quickly with the result that the scores remained locked at 3-3 up to the interval playing into the scoring goal on the resumption still left the Midlands in the role of favourites but by now the visitors were playing with greater confidence and no little degree of skill. More and more the exchanges began to favour them with the result that they had taken a lead of two clear goals midway through this half. The Midlands were beginning to see the light by this time, although they attacked persistently throughout the closing fifteen minutes they failed to make any impression at all on a staunch Sligo

defence which held out at the expense of a continuous stream of corners. Then with lost time being played the visitors broke away to consolidate their position for the return match when McLynn raced through to cap a fine day's work by scoring his own fifth and his sided sixth goal.

NO EXCUSE

The home side can offer no excuse other than indifference for their surprise defeat. Playing on their home ground and with plenty of vocal support to encourage them they had every chance. Moreover, the fact that the side consisted of eight players from Tullamore and three from Mullingar should have given them the additional benefit of teamwork against a side which was drawn from six different clubs. The Midlands worries started in defence where Duffys habit of advancing too far from his goal proved very costly indeed. Admittedly the keeper was not receiving the maximum cover from his defenders, but the fact remains that at least two, and possibly three of the Sligo goals might have been prevented by more positional sense. However, the real weakness lay at centre-half where Joe Martin could never get to grips with McLynn. The Tullamore pivot has built a big reputation in league and cup matches this season but Sunday last proved to be one of those days when nothing would go right for him. Otherwise, the defence fared well enough with Tom Whiteley and Mullingar's Mick Kavanagh hitting up a good understanding at fullback. Martin Lowery played some wonderful

constructive football at left-half, but Noel Lynch was below his best form on the other flank. Jim Brady worked himself to a standstill without ever getting the better of centre-half clatten the Murray brothers from Mullingar, Frank Murray at outside-right and Vincent at inside-left dovetailed into this Tullamore team perfectly and between them they constituted a greater danger to the Sligo defence than their three colleagues put together, although Tommy Geraghty who was being watched by a couple of youths' selectors, had a reasonably good game on the left-wing.

POINTS FROM PLAY

We were treated to an explosive start which saw the Midlands taking the lead within seconds of the kick-off and before any Sligo player had even touched the ball. From Brady's tip the ball was swung out to Geraghty on the left wing and he promptly returned it into the middle where Byrne was on hand to volley the ball past McGoldrick. In the 4th minute inside-right Sweeney got through for a shot which Duffy did well to save. The Midlands stretched their lead in the 20th minute when Geraghty floated across a beautiful centre which Vincent Murray headed past McGoldrick.

DISALLOWED GOAL

The Midlands had the ball in the net again in the 25th minute when Frank Murray cracked a great shot against the foot of the post and the rebound was netted by Byrne but referee Boylan was right up with the play to spot an

infringement and the score was disallowed. Little had been seen of the Sligo attack up to now but in their first real attack they succeeded in reducing the arrears when McLynn picked up a loose ball sold a perfect dummy to the entire defence and crashed a real piledriver high into the home net. This put new life into Sligo. They shrugged off their inferiority complex and started to swing the ball about just as freely as their opponents. A mistake by a Midland player left the ball teed-up for McLynn to equalise in the 32nd minute. Seven minutes later the Midlands regained the lead with what was surely the softest goal of the game as a dipping shot from Vincent Murray completely deceived McGoldrick before ending in the back of the net. With just a minute of the first-half remaining McLynn struck again when he rounded Martin drew Duffy from his goal, and calmly chipped the ball into a vacated Midland net.

Half-Time: Midland League, 3;
Sligo/Leitrim League, 3.

Sligo started the second-half with a flourish and within four minutes of the resumption they had taken the lead for the first time when McLynn slid in to force the ball over the line before Duffy could get across to it. Two minutes later Brady cleverly worked an opening for himself but his final effort was off the mark whilst bare minutes later he was but through by Vincent Murray and this time his shot had McGoldrick well beaten as it skimmed over the top. The big home following was now simply seething with excitement. Indeed never

before have I heard such vocal support stemming from stand and sideline, but it was all in vain. Try as they would the home players could not regain the command. Had an equalising goal been secured at this stage the homesters might well have recovered their composure and gone ahead by victory. The award of a penalty against Martin Lowery for an alleged handball in the 17th minute brought the visitors a great chance to stretch their lead but they reckoned without the agility of Duffy who brought the house down by saving Tiernan's spot-kick. This let-off should have provided the incentive for the homesters to throw off the shackle, but instead it served to spur the men of the west to greater effort and in the 24th minute Duffy was again caught too far out of goal when a centre from Sweeney was flicked home by Foye, now playing on the right wing. This was the goal which really settled the Midlander's fate. The home side's last opportunity of fighting back from the brink of defeat followed within a minute when a handball by Clatten brought a penalty which was entrusted to Tom Whiteley. However he shot straight at McGoldrick and that was that. The closing fifteen minutes saw the Sligo goal under constant fire. Lynch headed over following a corner by Murray. Brady had a great header saved on the line by McGoldrick and Byrne missed a chance of the day when he poked the ball tamely at the keeper from less than six yards out. Just to rub salt into the wounds already inflicted Sligo stretched their lead still further as lost time was being played when McLynn left Martin floundering at midfield and raced

through to give the unprotected Duffy no chance.

Result: Midland League, 3;
Sligo/Leitrim League, 6.

Midland League: P. Duffy [Tullamore] M. Kavanagh [Mullingar] T. Whiteley [Tullamore] N. Lynch [Tullamore] J. Martin [Tullamore] M. Lowery [Tullamore] F. Murray [Mullingar] E. Byrne [Tullamore] J. Brady [Tullamore] V. Murray [Mullingar] T. Geraghty [Tullamore]

Sligo/Leitrim: P. McGoldrick [Calry Bohs] S. Foye [Collegians] J. Henry [St. Joseph's] T. Mohan [St. Joseph's] G. Clatten [St. Joseph's] J. O'Kelly [St. Edwards] A. Tiernan [St. Edwards] J. Sweeney [Shannon R] D. McLynn [Collegians] M. McGarry [Celtic] M. Keane [Collegians]

Referee: Although I personally disagreed with the penalty award to Sligo in the second half on Sunday I'll have no hesitation in paying tribute to Mr. F. Boylan [Dublin] for his all round control of a typical cup-tie.

FOUR CHANGES

Not surprisingly the Midland League selectors have recast their side for the second-leg of the first round tie in Sligo, this game was scheduled for next Sunday, but at the request of the Sligo body a postponement has been granted to the following week. The Midland

team was selected immediately after last weeks match and it shows four changes, two in defence and in attack. Gone are Tom Whiteley and Joe Martin and they are replaced in defence by J. Waldron [Gentex] and J. Farrell [Mullingar] respectively. In attack Frank Murray and Eamonn Byrne have been omitted and the new right-wing partnership features the Athlone pair, Derry Fitzpatrick and J. Beaumont. The full lineout to do duty in Sligo showgrounds is as follows: P. Duffy [Tullamore] M. Kavanagh [Mullingar] J. Waldron [Gentex] N. Lynch [Tullamore] J. Farrell [Mullingar] M. Lowery [Tullamore] D. Fitzpatrick [Athlone] J. Beaumont [Athlone] J. Brady [Tullamore] V. Murray [Mullingar] T. Geraghty [Tullamore].

MOMENT OF TRUTH FOR MINORS

The big attraction at Spollenstown on Sunday next will be the meeting of Tullamore and Westport in the 3rd round of the F.A.I. Minor Cup. With good victories over Kilkenny and Athlone to their credit in the earlier rounds Tullamore will be making their first home appearance of the season in this grade and will be hoping to do well in front of their home fans. Westport come out of the west with impressive form to their credit and in a match which promises to be quite a game the issue appears to be wide open. Tullamore Juniors are likely to have an A.U.L. match in Dublin so interest will be very much divided.

February 6th 1965

Soccer Snippets

Vital League Points For Tullamore

Although they availed of only a fraction of the scoring chances which came their way Tullamore nevertheless kept up their run of brilliant successes when they defeated Anner United 5-3 at Red Cow on Sunday last to further enhance their position as challengers for league honours. At Spollenstown, Tullamore Minors, making their first home appearance of the season were held to a 3-3 draw by Westport in the third round of the F.A.I. Minor cup.

Anner United	3
Tullamore	5

Tullamore who had defeated Anner United 6-1 at Spollenstown earlier in the season, were in no doubt as to the magnitude of the task confronting them when they travelled to Dublin for the return fixture on Sunday last. With both clubs figuring as challengers for the league title the points were almost priceless and this game ranked as one of the most attractive fixtures of the day in Dublin. A flying start and a fighting

finish won the day for Tullamore for they were two goals up within ten minutes of the start. Anner reduced the arrears before the interval and four minutes after the resumption drew level by means of a penalty. This set the stage for a rousing second half but, strange to relate, the standard of football deteriorated considerably and we were treated to a long spell of aimless and uninteresting football during which both sides squandered gilt-edged scoring chances. The turning point came with a brilliant goal by Jim Brady which restored Tullamore's lead and when they were presented with a gift goal midway through this half the game really swung in their favour. Anner made a belated rally and succeeded in cutting the arrears with seven minutes left for play, but it was Tullamore who had the final word with another Brady goal four minutes before the final whistle.

FINE FOOTBALL

The visiting forwards played dazzling stuff in the early stages backed to the

hilt by two fine wing-halves in Lynch and Lowery they had the home defence at sixes and sevens and when they took a 2-0 lead it looked as though they would win this game just as easily as they had the first fixture. One man who cannot be faulted is Jim Brady for the Tullamore leader was in brilliant form all through and finished with a personal tally of three goals to his credit. Peter Malone had an exceptionally good game on the right wing. Whilst Teddy Whiteley linked up well with Brady and was more forceful in front of goal than Byrne in the other inside berth. Left-winger Geraghty got few opportunities to exploit. His explosive left foot and in general play he fell short of the standard set by his colleagues. The Tullamore defence never allowed themselves to become rattled and although goalkeeper Paddy Duffy has had better games than this an injured leg retarded his movements he received adequate cover from a defence in which Joe Martin was right back to top form. By completely subduing home centre-forward Kearney he removed much of the sting from the Anner attack. However it was at wing-half that Tullamore really sowed the seeds of victory and in Lynch and Martin Lowery they had a pair of tireless workers who gave them the edge in this vital sector.

EARLY GOALS

Brady had an opportunity of opening the scoring in the 3rd minute when, following a free by Martin Lowery, he flicked the ball around the advancing Myers only to see it roll wide of the target. The opening goal came in the

6th minute and it was a real beauty as Brady swooped on a long throw-in by M. Lowery and his first-time shot taken on the turn, was in the back of the home net before Myers even saw it. United were more than a little rattled by this setback and before they could recover Tullamore struck again in the 9th minute when Geraghty crossed the ball from the touchline and in attempting to save it Myers only succeeded in helping it on its way to the roof of the net. Two goals up after less than ten minutes left Tullamore in happy mood.

GOAL-LINE CLEARANCES

Anner had a great chance of reducing the arrears in the 28th minute when with Duffy out of position Kearney seemed to have the goal at his mercy until Noel Lynch came to Tullamore's rescue with a thrilling clearance off the line. Home pressure merited reward and with seven minutes of the first half remaining the Tullamore defence was cut to ribbons by a splendid movement which culminated in right-winger Tony Lowe slamming the ball past an unsighted Duffy.

Half-time: Anner United, 1; Tullamore, 2.

The second half opened with a bang and within four minutes Tullamore had their hard-earned lead wiped out when Martin was penalised for a handling offence which looked more accidental than intentional and from the spot-kick Liam Lynch sent Duffy the wrong way with a beautifully placed shot. In breakaways Tullamore missed further scoring chances by Whiteley and Brady but all

was forgiven in the 12th minute when the visitors regained the lead with the best goal of the game. Brady started the movement with a long pass out to Malone and the winger made good ground before getting across a perfect centre which Brady first-timed past Myers. Tullamore increased their lead without any of their players being in any way involved when Buckley, in attempting to pass back to Myers from the edge of the penalty area, sent the ball past his keeper to credit Tullamore with a real gift goal. With their two-goal lead restored Tullamore regained some of their earlier poise and polish and with Anner revealing no real fighting spirit the visitor appeared to be cruising to a facile win. Then with just seven minutes left for play, the game erupted into a frenzy. Anner, who had switched Lowe in to lead their attack, threw caution to the wind and staked every thing on an attacking policy Buckley moved well upfield and in doing so redeemed himself for his earlier lapse by sending in a high dropping ball which had Duffy guessing. It looked as though it was going over the top but then suddenly it dipped and with Brendan Coyne closing in the ball finished in the Tullamore net. Now there was only a goal in the difference and the issue was back in the melting pot. Attack and counter-attack kept spectators on their toes but the final word fell to Tullamore in the 41st minute when Malone sent across a low centre and Brady outwitted both Kearney and Myers to slide home a hard-earned clinching goal.

Result: Anner, 3; Tullamore, 5.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Malone, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Anner United: J. Myers, H. Buckley, W. Kearney, W. Lynch, P. Kelly, H. Killalte, A. Lowe, P. Coyne, J. Kearney, B. Coyne, P. McManus.

Referee: Mr. J.P. Kelly [Dublin]. .

MERIT RATINGS

Without a shadow of doubt top rating this week must go to Jim Brady whose aptitude for scoring goals has had so much to do with Tullamore's brilliant run of success this season. Brady now joins Martin Lowery as joint leader in our merit rating which has proved so popular with both players and supporters. For my second choice I turn to Joe Martin who had such an outstanding game as Tullamore's pivot on Sunday last and the remaining point goes to Peter Malone who contributed handsomely to an important victory with his clever wing-play and accurate centres. All of which now leaves our table reading as follows:

M. Lowery[20] J. Brady[20] J. Martin[14] T. Whiteley[13] J. Lowery[10] E. Whiteley[10] N. Lynch[9] P. Malone[8] P. Duffy[6] J. Pyke[4] T. Geraghty[3] L. Connolly[2] E. Byrne[1] A. Glennon[1]

February 20th 1965

Soccer Snippets

From Spollenstown

Tullamore Through to Cup Quarter Finals

A glorious new chapter in the history of soccer in Tullamore was written at Spollenstown on Sunday last, where the home side qualified for the quarter-final of the F.A.I. Junior Cup for the first time in their history.

In a pulsating fifth round encounter which developed from a tame start to a frantic finish, Tullamore defeated Diamond Celtic 3-2 and now await with real anxiety the draw for the next stage.

The hero of the home success was centre-forward Jim Brady who notched all three of his sides goals, but truth to tell, this was a magnificent victory in which all eleven players must be said to have shared in achieving. Although Brady was a task force in himself each of the players had his own dedicated mission. How carefully it was all planned and executed Celtic now know only too well.

SHAKY START

This was not one of those games which

Tullamore dominated from start to finish. Far from it, indeed, for the homesters were patently suffering from a bad attack of 'jitters' early on and for the opening twenty minutes or so Celtic looked like the team of all the talents. Crisp accurate passing tore holes in the Tullamore defence and with the visiting wing-halves Cunningham and Caulfield exercising almost complete sway at midfield it looked very much as though Tullamore had reached the end of the cup trail. Playing at a pace which made Tullamore look cumbersome in comparison, the visitors launched attack after attack without however, being able to translate their superiority into scores. It was against the run of play when Brady opened the scoring in the 27th minute and it came as no surprise at all when Celtic equalised within three minutes. These were the only scores of an opening half. Playing

into the scoring goal at the pavilion end Tullamore became much more dangerous in attack and heavy home pressure preceded Brady's second goal in the 13th minute. With their tails really up now it was the local side which took over. Brilliantly coaxed and coached by Noel Lynch at right-half the home attack opened up and even the sturdy Diamond defence had their hands full. This Dublin club has built up a big reputation, however, and they were by no means a beaten side yet. They stormed back to equalise for the second time at a critical stage and at that point I am prepared to bet that they would have thankfully settled for a draw and a replay on their own ground. Tullamore had other ideas and with just seven minutes left in the game Brady capped a wonderful performance by netting the winning goal. Unprecedented scenes of excitement marked the concluding stages and the three extra minutes which referee P. Dunne allowed for injury time dragged like hours before the final whistle brought a mixture of relief and exultation to the home camp.

HONOURS ALL ROUND

It is merely stating a fact to say that the home side was manfully represented in all positions some took longer than others to settle down and it is only on this basis that the great can be separated from the good several times the defence appeared to be on the brink of collapse but always somebody came to the rescue in time. For consistency Joe Martin's display in out playing Celtic's leading goal-scorer Gerry Coyle, would take beating but in the final

frenzied minutes it was John Lowery's long clearances which most often brought relief. Tom Whiteley caught a real starter in left-winger Hogan and he took a real roasting for most of the game. For all that the Tullamore right-half stood firm and succeeded in his primary aim of holding his opponent scoreless. Paddy Duffy rendered useful service in goal and his handling of high balls and his courage in diving at low ones provided one of the many features of a great game. Outplayed in the opening half Tullamore wing halves Lynch and Lowery worked their way back into the game and in the final analysis it was their storming second-half which swung the game. Tullamore mentors caused a surprise by preferring Liam Connolly to Eamonn Byrne for this game but their decision was justified. Connolly had the speed to keep the visiting defence at full stretch and apart from having a goal of his own disallowed in the second-half it was he who provided the opening for Brady to open the scoring. Nevertheless it was Brady who emerges as the man of the match. Peter Malone gave him every assistance particularly in the second half but team captain Teddy Whiteley had a relatively quiet day in the other inside berth. Left winger Tommy Geraghty continues to exasperate home fans by the manner in which he appears to be taking little interest in the proceedings and then throwing the opposition into confusion with his deadly left foot and his crisply-delivered centres which are always placed to perfection.

HARD LUCK, CELTIC

One can afford to have profound sympathy for Diamond Celtic. They played delightful football all through but the searing pace which they themselves set was the deciding factor in the long run. They burned themselves out without ever getting into the lead and it was superior stamina which clinched the issue in Tullamore's favour. Goalkeeper Hughes handled well all through, but was beaten rather easily for the all-important winning goal. Centre-half McEvoy had a most trying afternoon against Brady, but wing-halves Cunningham and Caulfield accomplished sufficient in the first half to have won the average game twice over. Once they faded from the scene the writing was on the wall for the visitors, whose forwards must surely be now rueing the many fine opportunities which they allowed to slip through their fingers when the game was definitely running in their favour. With Coyle mastered by Martin the Celtic attack lacked leadership and not even all the tricks of their great left-wing partnership of Sutton and Hogan could compensate.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM PLAY

Coyle tipped-off for Celtic under perfect conditions and with no wind to influence the play we waited anxiously to see what pointers could be taken from the opening exchanges. It was Celtic who went straight into the attack and within two minutes Duffy was obliged to dive at Byrne's feet to prevent a break through. Playing behind an unsteady defence Duffy was kept active and twice knocked the ball off Coyle's head in

addition to dealing with a dangerous long-range free from Caulfield. The visiting forwards were combining beautifully and the home defence gave the impression of being at sixes and sevens as attack followed attack. At the other end Hughes got his first feel of the ball in the 6th minute when he plucked a shot from Malone out of the air but most of the action was at the other end and Tullamore were really in luck in the 10th minute when Byrne hit the post from point-blank range and left-winger Hogan running in fast, blazed the rebound well over. It was obvious even at this stage that Celtic were yards faster to the ball and the Tullamore inside forwards were completely out of the picture as Cunningham and Caulfield carried the ball through almost at will when they did get moving the home forwards were all too often enmeshed in the offside trap laid by the opposing defence a fact which contributed to the large number of frees awarded against the home side. Sutton missed another great chance of putting Celtic in front in the 18th minute when he poked the ball into Duffy's arms from less than six yards out. Tullamore were beginning to find their feet by now and Hughes did well to hold a rasper from Geraghty cleanly in the 23rd minute. Then Whiteley had a dangerous shot which veered just left of the target. Tullamore forced the opening corner of the game when a centre from Geraghty was deflected behind by McEvoy but despite this improvement it was strictly against the run of the play when Tullamore opened the scoring in the 27th minute, Whiteley started the movement with a long ball out to Connolly and the winger proved

his worth by pushing it into exactly the right spot for Brady to hammer it home from amidst a ruck of defenders. Within a minute Brady had a second chance, but this time he blazed Geraghty's centre miles over.

LEAD WIPED OUT

All the good derived from drawing first blood was negated within three minutes for it was just on the half hour that Duffy completely missed a high centre from Hogan and right-winger Tony Lennon was left with a wide-open goal into which he steered the ball despite the unavailing efforts of two defenders to keep it out the visitors might have gone ahead themselves two minutes later but brilliant covering by John Lowery enabled him to get across quickly to clear from Hogan at the expense of a corner. Tullamore had by now improved considerably but they were still playing at a more leisurely pace than their opponents and just before the short whistle John Lowery came to the rescue again by hooking a dangerous shot from Coyle out from under the bar.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Diamond Celtic, 1.

Diamond were still full of beans on the resumption and only two minutes elapsed before Hogan rattled the home crossbar from the edge of the area with Duffy beaten. With Lynch and Martin Lowery coming more and more into the game Tullamore began to reassemble themselves for the first time. The former in particular was creating a big

impression in building Tullamore into an attacking force and for the first time the Celtic defence began to reveal chinks in the 7th minute when Hughes did well to punch clear from Geraghty under pressure then a minute later Martin Lowery came through in possession and his perfect pass to Whiteley was sent screaming inches outside the post. Celtic weathered further heavy attacks by conceding two corners in rapid succession with right-full Doyle clearing off the goal-line on each occasion.

LUCKY THIRTEEN

The 13th minute brought disaster to Celtic and jubilation to Tullamore as Whiteley placed a dream pass across the face of the goal as Brady came hurtling in to head a magnificent goal which restored Tullamore's lead. Two minutes later Liam Connolly had the ball in the Celtic net again following a pass from Martin Lowery but the winger was correctly given offside and the score was disallowed. One of Geraghty's leftfooted specials kissed the outside of the upright as Celtic wilted. Tullamore trying to emulate Celtic's use of the offside trap found themselves in trouble in the 22nd minute when Coyle ran on to a free from Caulfield and with Duffy rushing out the centreforward chipped the ball only inches too high. Tullamore were rampant at this stage and urged on by the attacking style of Lynch and Lowery they peppered the visiting goal. Great work by Doyle, Gaffney and McEvoy kept them out and then a period of Diamond pressure saw them force two corners in as many minutes. These were cleared safely enough but a corner

in the 32nd minute brought the visitors their second equaliser. Caulfield took the kick from the left and it appeared to be going into the net direct even before Lennon added the finishing touch to set the game alight once more. Anything might happen now and a lot depended on which side would last the searing pace the better. Malone playing his heart out in the home attack was just a trifle too hasty as he shot over from a good position but the game was won and lost in the 38th minute. Mind you it was only half a chance as Whiteley took the ball through a retreating defence and pushed it straight to Brady's feet. The centreforward appeared to be well covered but with a low, half-hit shot he sent the ball curling into the corner of the net with Hughes hopelessly unsighted. It was sink or swim with Celtic now and they threw all they had into attack. Twice John Lowery cleared off the very goal-line to deny the visitors extra-time and he did it again with two minutes left in the game as he headed a great effort from Coyle out from under the bar. Seconds dragged like hours now, but the ball never returned to the Tullamore goalmouth and at the final whistle Tullamore were attacking strongly with a great shot from Whiteley being brilliantly turned around the post by Hughes. What a game and what an achievement for Tullamore.

VITAL STATISTICS

First Half	G	C	F	G.K
Tullamore	1	1	2	3
Celtic	1	2	11	7
Second-Half				
Tullamore	2	5	5	3
Celtic	1	5	6	7
Total				
Tullamore	3	6	7	6

Celtic	2	7	17	14
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Result: Tullamore, 3; Diamond Celtic, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, P. Malone, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Diamond Celtic: P. Hughes, J. Doyle, E. Gaffney, P. Cunningham, J. McEvoy, J. Caulfield, A. Lennon, P. Byrne, G. Coyle, J. Sutton, D. Hogan.

Referee: Mr. J. Quinn [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

How invidious it is to have to single out three performances of exceptional merit this week. There is no difficulty at all in deciding the top spot for who else but Jim Brady could be considered as the man of the match. It is the minor berths that are going to cause all the controversy but for my money John Lowery did sufficient in the final ten minutes alone to be placed second whilst the third point and this is the really sticky one goes to Noel Lynch for a tremendously impressive second-half display which altered the entire trend of the game. My only regret is that I cannot find a place for such as Peter Malone Martin Lowery and Joe Martin also. That leaves our up-to-date table now reading as follows:

J. Brady [23] M. Lowery [20] J. Martin [14] T. Whiteley [13] J. Lowery [12] N. Lynch [10] T. Whiteley [10] P. Malone [8] P. Duffy [6] J. Pyke [4] T. Geraghty [3] L. Connolly [2] E. Byrne [1] A. Glennon [1]

BIG TEST FROM MINORS

With the Juniors having survived their biggest test of the season last Sunday the spotlight will be on the minors next Sunday when they lineout against Home Farm in the fourth-round of the F.A.I. Youth's Cup. Never before have Tullamore reached such an advanced stage of this underage competition and

they could not have a greater reward than a home game against the greatest soccer club in Ireland. Win lose or draw it will be a pleasure to welcome Home Farm to Spollenstown for th first-time and with soccer enthusiasm riding the crest of the wave just now this looks like providing another very tasty tit-bit for local fans.

March 6th 1965

Tullamore Advance In Bradmol Cup

The Bradmol Cup – football's biggest trophy is invariably regarded as a bogey competition for Tullamore. Down the years good sides have failed to get past the first or second round of an event which is confined to first and Second Divisions of the A.U.L. so that it may be taken as a sign of the times that Tullamore have qualified for the third round of this season's cup. This achievement in itself is something to be proud of, but the manner in which Tullamore trounced St. Brendan's to the tune of 4-0 at Spollenstown on Sunday last was entirely unexpected. Tullamore fully merited every one of their goals for there was no semblance of a fluke about this performance which was achieved on merit alone. Both in defence and attack the home side displayed a united strength which was entirely lacking from the play of their visitors and although St. Brendan's were allowed to attack for lengthy spells there was never any question of which team was in command of the situation from start to finish.

GERAGHTY DROPPED

Tullamore provided a possible pointer to their F.A.I. Cup quarterfinal team by preferring Liam Connolly to Tommy Geraghty on Sunday last, and the former snapped up his chance to lay

claims to a permanent berth on the team. Although opposed by the Saints' best defender the home winger had a very good game throughout and his willingness to work back proved a big asset. Much the same thing might be said of Peter Malone on the opposite wing but in the main Tullamore's scoring strength was concentrated in the inside forwards. Once again Brady provided a dashing leadership which stretched the opposing defence beyond its limits and although Teddy Whiteley missed twice as many scoring chances than any of his colleagues he nevertheless emerged as top marksman of the day with two goals to his credit whilst Eamonn Byrne added his contribution by scoring the first goal which put Tullamore on the victory trail. Very few direct shots got through to goalkeeper Paddy Duffy. Yet the latter received enough to prove to one and all that this was one of his "good days" and included among his many spectacular saves was a second-half penalty. Duffy had the advantage of playing behind a defence which was conspicuously sound in all sectors. Admirably marshalled by Joe Martin the Tullamore backs gave a superb performance of controlled efficiency with Martin himself a tower of strength in the area in front of goal and John Lowery and Tom Whiteley covering each other to perfection at full-back. So

effective was Martin in this game that George Fitzroy, a junior international of high repute, was played right out of the picture and was moved to inside-right during the second-half wing-halves Martin Lowery and Noel Lynch dovetailed perfectly. All in all then this was a thoroughly convincing performance by the home side and one which must boost their prospects of winning a trophy or two this season even higher than they were prior to Sunday's kick-off.

GOOD FOOTBALL

The first real danger came from Cashin in the 6th minute when the winger fired in a rocket which Duffy excelled in saving at the foot of the post. Tullamore received the boost which was needed in the 15th minute when St. Brendan's offside trap misfired and as Whiteley pushed the ball through the middle Byrne went on to open the scoring despite strong protests from the visitors. A matter of mere inches deprived Tullamore of a second goal in the 25th minute when a spanking 35 yards drive from Martin Lowery was just barely turned around the post by Comerford.

GOAL DISALLOWED

Tullamore had cruel luck to be denied a second goal in the 28th minute when Martin Lowery crashed a free off the crossbar and Brady was in fast to head the rebound past Comerford only to be adjudged offside by referee Tim O'Reilly with the prospect of facing the wind in the second half Tullamore's position was

by now means secure, but they stretched their lead in 37th minute, Noel Lynch was the architect behind the score. He pushed the ball for Brady to apply the finishing touch. Whiteley missed a gilt edged chance to further improve the position two minutes later.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; St. Brendans, 0.

With the wind behind them in the second-half St. Brendan's went all out to wipe out the arrears and when Paddy Duffy made his only mistake of the match in dropping a centre from Hewitt it was Tom Whiteley who came to the rescue by clearing off the line. In the 26th minute Whiteley and Brady combined in a sparkling movement which ripped the Saints defence asunder, but the opening created was missed in turn by Byrne and Connolly and it was not until six minutes later that Tullamore virtually clinched the issue by adding their third goal. Brady switched the ball out to Whiteley and the latter was dead on target this time as he swept the ball past the advancing Comerford.

PENALTY SAVED

With only five minutes remaining for play St. Brendan's were given a wonderful opportunity of a face-saving goal when they were awarded a penalty but Duffy was not extended in saving the spot-kick taken by Cashin. Brady paved the way for Whiteley to hammer the final nail into the coffin in the 43rd minute.

Result: Tullamore, 4; St. Brendan's, 0.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, P. Malone.

St. Brendan's: J. Comerford, T. Golding, T. Flanagan, B. Byrne, T. Costello, P. Ryan, J. Hewitt, T. Little, G. Fitzroy, T. Daly, D. Cashin.

MERIT RATING

This week I rate Joe Martin as Tullamore's outstanding performer for his display at centre-half and his points total rises by three as a result. For the minor berths I am taking Martin Lowery for a polished display at left-half and Paddy Duffy for his breath-taking goalkeeping all of which leaves the

overall position now as follows:

J. Brady [23] M. Lowery [22] J. Martin [17] T. Whiteley [13] J. Lowery [12] E. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [10] P. Malone [8] P. Duffy [7] J. Pyke [4] T. Geraghty [3] L. Connolly [2] E. Byrne [1] A. Gleenon [1]

CUP TIE POSTPONED

Although Tullamore are due to play their quarterfinal in the F.A.I. Junior cup at Spollenstown on Sunday next there is no likelihood of the match taking place. The reason is that Fairview Rangers [Limerick] and UCG have not yet decided their fifth round tie to determine which side will travel to Spollenstown. Incidentally the holders were defeated in a fifth round replay on Sunday last.

March 13th 1965

Soccer Snippets

From Spollenstown

Tullamore Scrape Home By Odd Goal

Although playing well below their best from Tullamore collected both league points in last Sunday's A.U.L. fixture against Valley United by scraping home 4-3 in a game which had home fans biting their nails with tension in the closing stages.

Obviously more intent upon avoiding injury than anything else – and who can blame them in view of next Sunday's vital cup match. Tullamore seldom revealed the talent which has marked them as one of the outstanding clubs this season and on the run of play throughout the second half they might be considered fortunate to have avoided defeat.

Although slow to settle down Tullamore clicked into gear midway through the opening moiety and two goals inside the space of a minute, followed by a third score four minutes before the interval, placed them in a very strong position. However, United came into the picture and scores by Dunne tied the scoring and set the stage for a dramatic finish with visions of Tullamore sustaining their first league check since last October, but they snatched a winning goal and a lucky one it was, too just five minutes from time.

IMPROVEMENT NEEDED

Unexpected weaknesses were exposed by Valley United, but it may prove a good thing that Tullamore got so much bad football out of their system without incurring any real cost. Certainly the home team never moved as such and had United's centre-forward, Dunne, received better support in the visiting attack this off day might have resulted in the loss of two extremely valuable league points. With the possible exception of Liam Connolly had a quiet game on the right wing, the Tullamore

players fared well enough individually. With centre-half Joe Martin unable to cope with Dunne, the defence never revealed any real steadiness and it was the fine covering of John Lowery and Tom Whiteley, coupled with some extremely sound goalkeeping by Paddy Duffy, which saved the day. Nor was there any real link between defence and attack, but this should not be taken as a reflection on winghalves Martin Lowery and Noel Lynch, both of whom were tireless in their efforts all through. Indeed, Lynch was my man of the match for he covered a tremendous amount of ground and his tackling and covering under pressure provided one of the features of the game. Jim Brady although he scored his inevitable goal he has scored in every match since his recall to the team in mid-November found it difficult to make progress against the efficient Brendan Spain and the comparative quieting of their leader may explain in part the disappointing form shown by the Tullamore forwards. Eamonn Byrne had his best league game to date his match-winning goal made him the hero of the day. Although Malone and Whiteley combined perfectly and at times even brilliantly, on the left flank the latter's marksmanship was not on a par with his true form.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Brady looked like opening the scoring in the 10th minute when he was put through by Byrne but waters advanced smartly to narrow the angle and save next Whiteley and Brady combined cleverly to punch holes in the visiting

defence and force a corner on the right but Connolly's flag-kick was flicked away by waters. Tullamore were well in control at this stage and another brilliant bout of passing between M. Lowery and Whiteley, Malone and Brady resulted in the latter's final shot being very well saved by waters in the 15th minute. Dunne brought the ball through an appealing defence to test the home keeper with a crisp shot which Duffy did well to hold. Tullamore's nearest approach to an opening goal came in the 14th minute when Whiteley was put through by Brady and his angled shot sped inches past the far upright but two minutes later home fans were put in happy mood when Tullamore scored twice inside the space of thirty seconds. The first goal was the result of brilliant work shared by Malone and Whiteley with the latter providing the centre which Brady controlled perfectly before ramming it past waters for the lead. The cheers had scarcely subsided before Tullamore struck again and this time the roles were reversed as Brady did the spade-work which enabled Whiteley to loft the ball over waters head as the keeper advanced. The game was now running very much in Tullamore's favour and further good work by Brady and Whiteley resulted in Byrne shooting just wide of the post. With five minutes of the half remaining Valley fought back in a bid to improve their position and a high centre from Nolan beat Duffy and passed across the face of the goal with Whelan failing to connect by mere inches. However, it was the home side which consolidated their position one minute later when Whiteley pushing the ball through an appealing defence for

Martin Lowery to walk it in and beat waters from close range. Tullamore were now heading for another big win, but just before the interval Valley hit back and succeeded in reducing their arrears.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; Valley United, 1.

The game resumed on an unhappy note for Tullamore when Joe Martin slipped when moving to clear and left Dunne with a clear path to goal but again Duffy came to the rescue with a first-class save from close range. In the 7th minute Tom Whiteley missed a penalty by driving it both high and wide of the target. Tullamore's long list of missed penalties this season was augmented further in the 12th minute. This time John Lowery was entrusted with the kick, but although it was a good shot Waters saved brilliantly and this second escape gave the visitors all the encouragement they needed. Within a minute they had cut their arrears to the minimum when Dunne scored a brilliant goal.

VALLEY AT PEAK

Valley were seen at their best in the exchanges which followed a brilliant save by Duffy denied Dunne his hat-trick in the 15th minute and Tullamore had a further lucky escape eight minutes later when Whelan failed to turn a good chance to account following a wild scramble in the Tullamore goalmouth. John Lowery and Tom Whiteley were prominent in breaking up repeated attacks but by now Valley were

all-out to make the best of their opportunity and they were doing all the attacking and after Nolan had headed narrowly over with the home defence spreadeagled Dunne completed his hat-trick by rounding Martin and grabbing a real opportunist goal to tie the scoring and make the outlook bleak for Tullamore. However, the locals drew inspiration from adversity and they stepped up their performance considerably in the fifteen minutes which remained. After Duffy had turned a rasper from Whelan around the post Tullamore regained control of the situation with their immediate object being to regain the lead. After 35th minutes Connolly delivered a crisp centre into the goalmouth and although Byrne's header was saved by Waters, the keeper was bundled over the line, but a free out brought relief to United. Time was against Tullamore now and there remained a bare five minutes for play when Martin Lowery swept a long ball out to Malone and the winger's perfect centre was swept to the net by Byrne for the all-important winning goal. It had been a close shave, but Tullamore had collected another brace of points to keep up their challenge for league honours.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Valley United, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley [cpt], P. Malone.

Valley United: E. Waters, J. Hackett, R. Furlong [capt], P. Behan, B. Spain, T. Kane, C. Whelan, W. Doyle, A. Dunne, J.

Williamson, E. Nolan.

Referee: By a strange coincidence last Sunday's game was controlled by Mr. P. Doran [Dublin], the same official who was in charge when Valley United defeated Tullamore 2-1 in the corresponding match in Dublin earlier this season.

MERIT RATING

Noel Lynch, John Lowery and Eamonn Byrne in that order ate my selections for this week's merit points and that leaves our overall table reading as follows:
J. Brady [23] M. Lowery [22] J. Martin [17] J. Lowery [14] M. Lowery [13] T. Whiteley [13] E. Whiteley [10] P. Malone [8] P. Duffy [7] J. Pyke [4] T. Geraghty [3] E. Byrne [2] L. Connolly [2] A. Glennon [1]

CUP TIME POSTPONED

I have just learned the Tullamore's

quarterfinal tie in the F.A.I. Junior Cup scheduled for Spollenstown on Sunday next, has been postponed for a week. In Limerick last Sunday Fairview Rangers qualified for a visit to Tullamore by defeating U.C.G. most convincingly by 4-0. Tullamore had two observers present to run the rule over the opposition and they returned home full of respect for Rangers who played really good football in routing the Galway students. Rangers displayed strength in all sectors and the Tullamore scouts were particularly impressed by the scoring power of the former League of Ireland player Dewane who accounted for three of his side's four goals. Next week I hope to preview the match in greater detail.

March 27th 1965

Many Inquests On Cup-Tie Defeat

Despite all the confidence which existed in the home camp, Tullamore made their exit from the F.A.I. Junior Cup when they went under by the odd goal of five at Spollenstown on Sunday last. They fell victims to a fighting-fit Fairview Rangers side from Limerick but it took the Shannon-siders extra-time to pull it off at the end of a rousing game which provided a record attendance with plenty of thrills and excitement the visitors emerged worthy winners. Faster to the ball and more deadly in the tackle Rangers turned in a very convincing display which marked them as a team of more than average ability.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

It might be appropriate here to pay tribute to both teams for the manner in which they mastered difficult ground conditions. It was very easy to be critical from the sideline, but anybody who walked across the pitch after the match could not help but marvel that the standard of football had been so high. Rangers had taken the lead before Tullamore really found their touch. Then two brilliant goals shot Tullamore into a 2-1 interval lead and left home fans breathing a little easier.

Rangers proved their fighting qualities by drawing level again within five minutes of the resumption and from that point onwards it was nip-and-tuck all the way without, however, yielding any further scoring. The second-half of extra-time had scarcely got under way before the all-important goal came and what a goal it was. After that Tullamore might have been expected to throw everything into a grand stand finish in a bid to save the day but instead they appeared to accept defeat as inevitable. Tullamore slumped to a defeat which might so easily have been averted. One man who did more than his share to bring Tullamore into the cup semi-final for the first time was Noel Lynch. He excelled at right-half and remained cool right up to the final whistle. Unfortunately his efforts alone were not sufficient to turn the tide and apart from goalkeeper Paddy Duffy who, incidentally, left a sick bed to take his place between the posts, the home defence was a thing of tatters and shreds. The home attack moved smoothly and gave the impression that they had the winning of this game, given a reasonable service from behind. Tommy Geraghty made a triumphant return to the left wing, a delay in

getting his centres across being the only blemish on an otherwise sound performance which was highlighted by the scoring of Tullamore's first goal. On the other flank, Liam Connolly played equally well with less spectacular results but the lack of shooting power in the inside berths so much out of character with earlier performances was the rock upon which Tullamore's cup-hopes perished. Full credit to Fairview for a sound performance. Not many teams can emerge victorious from a cup-tie at Spollenstown. Strong in defence and perserving in attack the visitors made good use of every ball and their ability to mount attacks from well inside their own half of the field proved a telling weapon in their favour. They had a youthful and accomplished goalie in O'Connell and a stonewall centre-half in Heffernan. Flanked by hard-working wing-halves Power and Dillon this middle line was the dynamo which charged the entire team and their efforts were backed to the hilt by an industrious attack in which O'Dwyer's promptings at inside-right drew forth willing support from his four colleagues the best of whom were wingers McCarthy and O'Connor.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GAME

Spollenstown was bursting at the seams to greet Tullamore resplendent in a set of new jerseys and the general air of expentancy was heightened within fifteen seconds of the kick-off when Geraghty earned a free close to the corner-flag. He took the free himself and O'Connell could do no more than palm the ball out from under the bar.

This was a promising start for Tullamore and the packed stand erupted in a frenzy of excitement when Connolly dashed in to head a centre from Geraghty past O'Connell after only three minutes but the cheering was premature and was quickly silenced when the goal was disallowed and a free out awarded instead. The visiting attack swung into action for the first time after this and Duffy had to go full length to push out a ground shot from Pat O'Dwyer after inside-left Ryan had delayed his shot from a better position. Rangers pressed strongly and early signs of panic began to manifest themselves in the home defence. The Shannon-siders forced the first corner of the game in the 8th minute, but Duffy collected McCarthy's inswinging flagkick cleanly to ease the pressure. It was the turn of the Limerick supporters to experience anxiety when Geraghty landed a beautiful centre into the goalmouth, but Byrne was slow to control the ball and the first of many chances was missed. With Tullamore showing no signs of settling down they were jolted in the 12th minute when Rangers swept into the lead with a goal which was both simple and effective. John Lowery delayed his clearance on the left and in a flash O'Connor had whipped the ball off him and got it across as Duffy made a disparing dash from his goal. O'Dwyer met the ball on the drop and despite a gallant effort by Lynch on the goal-line the ball nestled into the corner of the net. Even this reverse failed to rouse Tullamore and they continued their slap-dash approach. An indirect free inside the area was blocked down and then Whiteley, following a quick free by M.

Lowery shot narrowly over. In the 17th minute Duffy and Martin collided in the goalmouth and Tullamore were thankful to see the ball curl behind for a corner. Rangers were doing most of the attacking so far and weak clearances and badly placed goal-kicks were adding to the discomfort of home fans until Lynch paved the way for a revival when he jumped three tackles in succession and set up a good chance for Martin Lowery, but O'Connell saved brilliantly. Tullamore conceded another corner before they clicked into gear almost without warning and in the 30th minute Tom Whiteley sent a long clearance upfield for Teddy Whiteley to switch the ball inside to Brady who shot hard against the crossbar. It looked like another missed chance, but Geraghty pounced on the rebound to slam a right-footed drive past the diving O'Connell for the equaliser this goal transformed Tullamore and with Lynch dominating the midfield sector they began to force the pace. Another good centre from Geraghty was pulled down by O'Connell as Byrne closed in. The football was of a surprisingly high standard despite the tension and conditions and with a bare two minutes of the first half remaining home fans went wild when Brady, receiving from Byrne sent a perfect through past to Whiteley in the outside-left position and the skipper unleashed a tremendous drive which not only left O'Connell groping but tore its way right through the twines.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Fairview Rangers, 1.

Tullamore resumed full of confidence

which remained undiminished even after left-winger O'Connor had blazed wide from in front of an open goal but their enthusiasm waned a bit when rangers drew level in the 5th minute. Again it was a simple goal which did the damage for after Duffy had punched clear following a corner by McCarthy left-winger O'Connor connected with the clearance. It was not a particularly strong shot and Duffy appeared to have it covered until Whiteley's foot deflected it the other way for a costly own goal.

FIRST CORNER

It was not until the 7th minute of this second half that Tullamore forced their first corner and even then the forwards were too slow as O'Connell was given all the time in the world to collect Whiteley's inswinger. The picture changed again within two minutes when Duffy fisted a shot from O'Dwyer behind and after McCarthy's corner had been brilliantly saved by Duffy the keeper's weak clearance went straight to Ryan who crashed the ball off the crossbar. In the 12th minute O'Connor missed a gilt-edged chance of putting Fairview ahead when put clean through by Burns whilst at the other end Geraghty shaved the upright and Byrne had a good shot saved on the line by O'Connell. The Tullamore defence never inspired confidence under pressure and only tremendous covering by Lynch and the occasional lusty clearance from Lowery prevented the visitors from going ahead. One of the worst misses of the match came in the 21st minute when a centre from Whiteley found ace marksman Brady unmarked in front of

the posts but from less than six yards range the centre-forward shot against O'Connell's body. By now the pace had slackened considerably a fact which was to Tullamore's advantage and it was Geraghty's chance to muff a possible chance after Brady had switched a great ball out to the left wing in the 29th minute. Rangers were now becoming guilty of over-using the ball, possibly hoping to hold out for a replay at home, but when they forced another corner the entire team, with the exception of O'Connell, trooped into Tullamore's goalmouth. However, Duffy ended the siege by saving from O'Connor and later flicked a stinger from Burns behind. Brady had another chance to become a match-winner with less than two minutes left in the game but he shot across the face of the goal after luring O'Connell from his charge. It was Tullamore's turn to gather in full strength when Brady forced a corner on the left with time running out fast, but Rangers were equally determined not to be beaten on the post and Meehan came to the rescue by kicking off the line following Whiteley's centre. At the long whistle it was Rangers who were doing the attacking once more.

Full-Time: Tullamore, 2; Fairview Rangers, 2.

EXTRA TIME

Less than a minute of the extra time period had elapsed when Brady broke through the centre but O'Connell advanced quickly to smother the shot. Then Tullamore had their second disallowed goal of the day when a hair-

line decision against Geraghty turned rapturous applause into an imposing thunder of silence. Tullamore continued to press strongly but all the earlier missed were put in the shade in the 8th minute when Whiteley rounded Dwyer inside the area and brought the ball to within spitting distance of the target before inexplicably missing a real sitter and so they changed ends once more, two weary sides caked in mud, but each as full of incentive and ambition as the other. Tullamore made their only switch of the game for the final ten minutes, but it was a feeble effort in a moment of crisis which resulted in Brady and Byrne changing places. Within a minute came the winner and it was a goal which hammered home Tullamore's failing all through the game centre-forward Burns snapped up a loose ball well inside his own half and raced goalwards. En route he by-passed at least four defenders, none of whom made an effort to tackle him, and he put the seal on a memorable individual effort by hooking the ball over Duffy's head and into the roof of the net from an incredibly acute angle almost on the end line. Tullamore now had 9 minutes in which to avert extinction but there was never much likelihood of an equaliser coming against a Limerick defence which was closed tighter than a clam and although Geraghty, Byrne and Whiteley in turn missed possible chances of forcing a replay one felt at the final whistle that the victory laurels rested where they belonged.

Result: Tullamore, 2; Fairview Rangers, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, L. Connolly, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley [capt], T. Geraghty, J. Martin.

Rangers: M. O'Connell, M. Dwyer, T. Meehan, G. Power, S. Heffernan, E. Dillon, S. McCarthy, P. O'Dwyer, S. Burns [capt], P. Ryan, S. O'Connor.

Referee: Mr. W. Nolan [Dublin]

TELL TALE FIGURES

Rangers	G	W	C	F
First Half	1	4	3	10
Second Half	1	6	4	8
Extra Time	1	2	1	3
Total	3	12	8	21
Tullamore	G	W	C	F
First Half	2	6	0	18
Second Half	0	7	3	11
Extra Time	0	0	0	4
Total	2	13	3	33

MERIT RATING

Apart from Noel Lynch who gets an automatic top rating it difficult to know just who to single out for particular merit marks this week. I think Paddy Duffy's goalkeeping was worthy of a brace whilst the only forward I would even consider would be Tommy

Geraghty who made a useful return to the side after being dropped for the previous three or four games with these latest points added the overall position now reads:

J. Brady [23] M. Lowery [22] J. Lowery [17] J. Martin [17] N. Lynch [16] T. Whiteley [14] E. Whiteley [10] P. Duffy [9] P. Malone [8] T. Geraghty [4] J. Pyke [4] E. Byrne [4] L. Connolly [2] A. Glennon [1]

PLUMS TO BE PICKED

Tullamore's defeat on Sunday last does not herald the end of the football world for them. Indeed not, there are still a number of attractive plums to be picked as consolation prizes and Sunday's setback should act as a spur in their remaining matches in the league and in the Bradmola Cup. With seven of their remaining ten league matches at Spollenstown Tullamore must stand a wonderful chance of winning the title but this can only be achieved if last Sunday's memories are banished as quickly as possible. This was not Tullamore's true form and they can prove it by becoming league champions.

April 10th 1965

Two Easy Points For Tullamore

With a minimum of effort Tullamore added a further brace of league points to their growing total when they routed T.E.K. United 6-1 at Spollenstown on Sunday last.

Thus Tullamore exacted a heavy reprisal for the loss of a point sustained when the sides drew 2-2 in Dublin earlier in the season. On Sunday last they were by far the superior side all through a featureless game and the one-sided nature of the exchanges resulted in interest being lost long before the final whistle. It took the home side playing in blue to avoid a clash of colours only three minutes to take the lead and although they led by only 2-0 at the interval they got right on top after the change of ends to finish with a winning margin which in no way flattered them on the run of the play. From Duffy, in goal to Geraghty at outside left they appeared to be more than adequately equipped for the task on hand but so weak was the challenge offered by United that it would be rash to assume that Tullamore were quite as good as they looked. Paddy Duffy fumbled a couple of centres in the early stages, but the longer the game progressed the greater his confidence became. Duffy was fronted by a defence which gave little away. Tom Whiteley was the

essence of consistency on the right, whilst his partner, John Lowery, proved equally effective. Joe Martin had a few miskicks registered against him, but on the whole he had a good game. With Martin Lowery away on international duty Eamonn Byrne was taken out of the forward line to wear the number six shirt and the result was a revelation. Byrne settled into the berth from the word go and was one of the key figures in Tullamore's big win. Noel Lynch playing equally well on the other flank the home forwards had every opportunity to shine. This they did in no uncertain manner and with the six goals being shared by four forwards. Liam Connolly was left as odd man out. Teddy Whiteley showed a welcome return to his best form and his early goals set the pattern for his colleagues to follow. Brady missed a few very easy scoring chances but after a spell of two games without scoring he showed that he still possesses the knack with a valuable brace. Perhaps it was easy for Tullamore to regain their winning way in this game for T.E.K. offered little more than token opposition.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The first dangerous break of the game saw Duffy coming out fast to check a

combined thrust by Mahony and Broughan but although T.E.K. forced the opening corner it was Tullamore who started the scoring in the 3rd minute when Brady and Malone paved the way for Whiteley to send a low drive skidding under Gallagher's diving body. T.E.K. had the chance of a quick equaliser two minutes later when a corner by Corcoran was missed completely by Duffy but Lowery was on hand to clear off the line. The visitors were doing most of the pressing and Broughan might have had them on terms in the 8th minute, but he blazed wide from a favourable position after a free by Cosgrave had been blocked down by Byrne in the goalmouth. A point-blank save by Gallagher foiled Brady when he was put clean through by Whiteley but the 15th minute saw the blues increase their lead when Lynch supplied a neat pass which Whiteley swept to the top right-hand corner of the net. At this stage there was no sign of a complete and utter collapse by United. Instead they hit back strongly and Tullamore conceded corners freely under pressure and with Duffy mishandling a couple of flagkicks the possibility of a goal to the visitors was always present. In the 25th minute Whiteley missed a glorious chance of completing an early hat-trick when he headed a centre from Geraghty weakly into Gallagher's welcoming arms whilst Brady when put clean through by Whiteley shot against the advancing keeper to lose another good chance. United were having their share of the play but they proved weak in front of goal and this fault, coupled with some good saves by Duffy, left them unrewarded. Mahony had a great shot

brilliantly turned out for a corner by Duffy in the 36th minute and two minutes later Mahony beat Martin for pace down the middle, but again Duffy came to the rescue by advancing smartly to smother the inside-rights shot. T.E.K.'s best chance came and went just two minutes before the interval when a miskick by Martin let Mahony through again but a super save by Duffy enabled him to turn a point-blank shot around the post for a fruitless corner.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; T.E.K. United, 0.

With the wind behind them in the second-half the visitors probably had bright visions of at least wiping out the arrears but their position became worse instead of better after only three minutes of the second-half had elapsed. This was in the nature of a gift from the visiting defence for when an attempted back pass from Cosgrave fell short Brady was in like a flash to slide the ball past Gallagher from close range. This was probably the decisive goal of the game for it sapped United's spirit and left them easy prey for the eager-beaver home forwards. The issue was clinched when Tullamore added two further goals in a two-minute spell. The first came from Geraghty in the 10th minute when he crashed home a pass from Whiteley with the T.E.K. defenders standing still appealing for offside. Two minutes later a miskick by Geoghegan left the red's defence wide open again and this time it was Malone who dashed in to apply the finishing touch. All interest had departed by now and in

further Tullamore pressure Gallagher was obliged to go full-length to smother the ball on Brady's feet. By now T.E.K were playing with a rearranged formation. Mahony was leading the attack and power had moved up to take over on the right wing from Gregory, but these switches proved unavailing, although the visitors did enjoy a spell of supremacy during which Brett blazed across the face of the goal and Power had a tremendous drive flicked over the bar by Duffy. However, these misses were put in the shade in the 24th minute when following good work between Brett and Broughan, the former hooked the ball well over from very close range. The complete lack of punch in the visiting attack was making matters easy for Joe Martin and his colleagues, but it was their very insouciance which proved their undoing in the 40th minute when Duffy was that little bit too cocky and his carelessness gave Mahony the chance to ram in a consolation goal. Far from inspiring United to a last do-or-die effort this goal only served to emphasise the poverty of the attack and this was proved to the hilt when two penalties with the space of a minute remained unpunished. The first, awarded against Lynch for a handling offence in the 41st minute, was taken by Brett and saved without undue difficulty by Duffy whilst the second was entrusted to Power and although he succeeded in netting his first effort the kick was ordered to be retaken and this time he blazed high, wide and not so handsome. That really put the tin hat on things and just on the call of time Tullamore completed their total when Brady veered to the left,

beat two defenders on the run, and slipped the ball in by the upright.

Result: Tullamore, 6; T.E.K. United, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, M. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Marti, E. Byrne, L. Connolly, P. Malone, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

T.E.K. United: Gallagher, Doyle, Cosgrave, Power, Geoghgan, Turner, Gregory, Mahony, Brett, Broughan, Corcoran.

Referee: Mr. T. Doyle [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

We would almost be justified in awarding three points all around this week but instead we must stick to the 3.2.1. formula which means that the task of picking the three outstanding players presents itself once more. Despite his late lapse Paddy Duffy must rate highly in any company for the quality of his goalkeeping and to him goes the position of honour. Next I would place Eamonn Byrne for his general effectiveness around midfield and to complete the top three I take Teddy Whiteley whose early goals put Tullamore on the winning trail. This, then, leaves the overall position reading as follows:

J. Brady [23] M. Lowery [22] J. Martin [17] J. Lowery [17] N. Lynch [16] T. Whiteley [14] P. Duffy [12] E. Whiteley [11] P. Malone [8] E. Byrne [6] T. Geraghty [4] J. Pyke [4] L. Connolly [2] A. Glennon [1]

April 17th 1965

Malone's Header Was A Match Winner

A brilliantly headed goal by left-winger Peter Malone was sufficient to see Tullamore through to the fourth round of the Bradmola Cup when at Spollenstown on Sunday last, they defeated Newtown Rangers in a game which was supercharged with tension and excitement from start to finish. This was one of Tullamore's best performances of the entire season for in Rangers they found worthy opponents who fought with fervour, determination and a great deal of skill right up to the final whistle. It was not a day for good football for a blustery wind which blew directly across the pitch interfered with ball control and threatened to spoil the game as a spectacle but such was the skill displayed by both sides that they succeeded in mastering the conditions. The result was a match to remember and a contest worthy of the occasion. Goals may have been scarce, but there was no shortage of excitement with both sides in turn forcing the pace. By their victory Tullamore now earn the right to meet either Grange United or Killester United in the fourth-round at a Dublin venue.

SOUND DEFENCE

Tullamore owe their victory to a spirited defence which never flinched in the face

of fierce pressure. Rangers enjoyed a slight territorial advantage which was reflected by the fact that they forced twelve corners to two by Tullamore. Nevertheless such was the texture of the defensive screen thrown up by the backs that the number of direct shots which got through to goalkeeper P. Duffy could have been counted on the fingers of one hand. To my mind at least John Lowery emerged as the man of the match. Twice in the first-half he came thundering across to save desperate situations when all seemed lost and throughout the game he never put a foot wrong little behind in general efficiency was his partner Tom Whiteley, who was the essence of coolness in moments of stress it was on this partnership that the cup-hopes of the visitors perished for their forwards were never given time to settle themselves for a shot with the result that their efforts were rushed and inaccurate. The good work was carried on by a strong middle line in which centre-half Joe Martin was right back to his brilliant best in controlling the penalty area, his work in the air being particularly impressive. Flanked by earnest rather than brilliant workers in Martin Lowery and Noel Lynch the pivot broke up wave after wave of attack. The home attack failed to run up a big total but for all

that they performed with great dash and vigour. The goal that won the game was a real gem both in conception and execution and throughout the game it was the home forwards who looked the more dangerous combination. With Tommy Geraghty an absentee through injury, Malone crossed to the leftwing with Connolly being brought on at outside right. Although he provided the centre which resulted in Malone heading home the winner Connolly was never happy in the tense atmosphere and the real dangers in attack were Brady and Whiteley, both of whom were close to the target on a number of occasions. Byrne too did much valuable work and made up in accuracy anything which he may have lacked in pace. Considering the importance of the occasion the football was a credit to both clubs. The fast exchanges were typical of a cup-tie in their intensity yet there was not a serious foul committed throughout the ninety minutes –surely a tribute to the sportsmanship of all concerned. Rangers fielded a much changed side from their previous visit to Spollenstown in the league. In fact their lineout showed a total of four newcomers with a new goalkeeper, righthalf outsideright and centreforward on view. Certainly the changes proved beneficial. A tightly knit defence offered stubborn resistance with rightfull Kavanagh centrehalf Martin and goalkeeper Goulding being a shade superior to their colleagues. The visiting attack promised a great deal but in reality achieved very little. The brains of the forward line was inside-right Murray whilst the shooting power was provided by left-winger Glennon, whose deadly left foot was loaded with

dynamite.

EARLY PRESSURE

Within seconds of the kick-off Brady forced Martin to concede an early corner but the tricky cross-wind took its toll by curling Whiteley's flag-kick behind. This same wind was to become a real spoilsport in the ensuing exchanges and played havoc with the constructive movements of both sides. In the 10th minute Whiteley had a close free punched clear by Goulding as Brady closed in whilst at the other end a well placed free by Kennedy at the edge of the area was blasted over by Murray. Tullamore were doing most of the early attacking but it was an aimless type of pressure which met with little success against the closely woven ranks of the opposition. Brady created one brilliant opening in the 20th minute but Whiteley's shot was hastily taken and sped harmlessly past the post. Glennon was much nearer the mark for Rangers two minutes later with a tremendous drive which skimmed the bar and drew a round of applause from home fans. The first of John Lowery's miracle clearances came in the 26th minute when he came across like an express train to whip the ball off Kavanagh after the centre-forward had been put through by Murray. The clearance was made at the expense of a corner and Lowery it was again who came to the rescue by clearing Glennon's centre off the line. Next Martin Lowery came storming upfield to send a return pass from Malone skimming past the foot of the post. Rangers had a great chance of going ahead after 33rd minute when a

mistake by Martin left Kavanagh with a clear path to goal. A score looked inevitable but again John Lowery came storming across to clear at the expense of another fruitless corner. Centre-forward Kavanagh was injured in this clash and it was whilst he was off the field receiving attention that Tullamore scored the all important goal. It was a goal worthy of winning any match for after Whiteley had squared the ball across the face of an open goal with nobody up to tap it in full recompense was made in the 37th minute when Whiteley switched a good ball out to Connolly and the right-wingers shot-cum- centre was swirled out to Malone whose flashing header from fifteen yards out was grabbed by Goulding only after the ball had crossed the line. Kavanagh resumed with five minutes of the first half remaining and almost immediately he forced Duffy to dive out to deflect a free behind for a corner.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Newtown Rangers, 0.

Rangers resumed with rearranged forward formation which featured Keely as leader with Kavanagh on the right-wing and Murray at inside-left. Although a goal down, the visitors continued to place their reliance on good football and the home defence was often hard-pressed to hold out. Ranger's trump card was an ability to switch from defence to attack in a twinkling and these sudden counter-attacks kept Tullamore defenders on their toes. After eight minutes a splendid combined movement between Whiteley and Brady ended with the

former shooting wide from a favourable position at a stage when a second goal would have been invaluable and then in the 16th minute two frees in quick succession by Martin Lowery were headed behind by Byrne and Brady in turn. Rangers returned to the attack but their only reward was a brace of corners. Neither of which troubled the home defence. Tom Whiteley survived confident appeals for a penalty after he had appeared to handle on the goalline and by degrees the fury of the visitors pressure spent itself against the iron-curtain defensive measures of their hosts.

TIMBER!

Murray, Rangers most consistent forward, went very close to putting his side level in the 25th minute when he cut in from the left and with Duffy apparently beaten he crashed the ball off the crossbar from where it was scrambled to safety after Kavanagh was slow to connect. Tullamore had an opportunity to stretch their lead in the 33rd minute but Goulding proved his worth by flinging himself out to smother the ball on Bradys toe after Whiteley had sent a perfect ball down the centre but there was a more blatant miss at the other end when Murray broke through on his own and with only Duffy confronting him he drove the ball hopelessly wide. Time was not on Tullamore's side and every minute that ticked by brought them nearer to the fourth-round. Rangers last chance of forcing extra-time came and went in the 40th minute when an indirect free almost on the penalty spot by Keely was

touched to Murray whose low drive whistled by the foot of the post. Tullamore carried the day after that and at the final whistle they were on the offensive again with Whiteley racing through to shoot strongly mere inches over the bar.

Result: Tullamore, 1; Newtown Rangers, 0.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, P. Malone.

Newtown Rangers: J. Goulding, B. Kavanagh, G. Kavanagh, M. Donoghue, W. Martin, A. Halpin, R. Kennedy, J. Murray, G. Kavanagh, M. Keely, M. Glennon.

Referee: Congratulations to Mr. W. Nolan for a job well done. His strict control of the game enhanced the opinion formed after his handling of the recent cup-tie against Fairview Rangers at the same venue.

MERIT RATING

Defenders head the honours list this week with John Lowery leading the way by virtue of his best performance of the season. Tom Whiteley, too, must come into the reckoning for his solid, unyielding work on the left whilst to complete the picture we have Joe Martin's consistency in the centre to take into consideration. All of which leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

J. Brady [23] M. Lowery [22] J. Lowery

[2] J. Martin [18] T. Whiteley [16] N. Lynch [16] P. Duffy [12] E. Whiteley [11] P. Malone [8] E. Byrne [6] J. Pyke [4] T. Geraghty [4] L. Connolly [2] A. Glennon [1]

SPORTSTAR OF THE WEEK

The choice of nominees this week would appear to rest between two outstanding claimants, and the final decision is not easy to arrive at. One was responsible for scoring the entire Offaly total against Laois in Sunday's under -21 football championship game in Birr, whilst the other played an outstanding part in helping the Tullamore soccer team through to the fourth round of the Bradmola Cup – a stage never previously reached. In deciding on the latter performance I am influenced by the fact that victory here was achieved in a more advanced stage and was thus of greater importance. The Bradmola Cup is the biggest and most valuable trophy awarded in any grade of football. It is a richly coveted trophy, which the Tullamore club has for many years been seeking in vain. Indeed, it has been something of a phantom competition for the local club, and defeat has always been their lot before the second round has been completed. Now their hoodoo has been well and truly laid, and Tullamore are through to the final stages of the event, with the impressive record of not having had a goal scored against them yet. This, in itself, is a tribute to the defence as a whole, so that it is scarcely surprising that it is a defender who ranks as the star of last week's victory. A player who has served the local club

well in many capacities, he has been hailed in turn as a goal-scoring forward and a match-winning defender, and it was in the latter role that he won the plaudits of home fans last Sunday. A

truly magnificent performance at right full-back in this vital game surely earns the title of sportstar of the week for: John Lowery.

April 24th 1965

Tullamore's Five-Star Easter Egg For Home Fans

Tullamore boosted their championship prospects on Sunday last and in doing so treated their big home following to a fine Easter present when they riddled visiting Donore to the tune of 5-2 to register their eight league victory on the trot. Tullamore won with plenty in hand and, unlike the last occasion that the teams met in Dublin almost exactly a month earlier, they did not have to depend on luck to collect the points. Against a Donore side which was sadly depleted the home side was always in control and had they doubled their score they would still not have been flattered by the outcome. Perhaps it was the knowledge that they were supreme throughout the field which blunted the appetites of the forwards or, less nobly, maybe it was just the vagaries of the gale-force wind which defeated their purpose. Whatever the cause the nett result was the same - a relative escape for the visitors who surely deserved to suffer a more crushing reverse on the day's play. From start to finish this game was marred by the weather. Even when backed by the gale both sides in turn failed to benefit substantially and as a spectacle the game suffered as a result. Passing was slipshod and

inaccurate ball control was all too difficult and, at times, even impossible, shooting was wild and ineffectual. In short the game consisted of a surfeit of aimless and unattractive football and the fact that the outcome was never really in doubt certainly did not add to the afternoon's enjoyment.

POSITIONAL EXPERIMENTS

Tullamore juggled their forces about for this game by inter-changing Martin Lowery and Eamonn Byrne and moving Teddy Whiteley for inside-left to inside-right. The experiments cannot be voted an outstanding success and it is significant the usual formation was reverted to early in the second half but perhaps it would be unwise to be too hasty in condemning any experiment which was conducted under the freak conditions which existed last week. Byrne certainly fitted into the half-back line with distinction but the same cannot be said about Lowery in attack, for he was inclined to overcarry the ball and in general applied wing-half tactics to inside-forward play. The home defence got just sufficient work to do to prove their ability and little fault could be

found with the work of goalkeeper Paddy Duffy or full-backs Tom Whiteley and John Lowery, the former, although unfortunate enough to concede an own goal late in the day, was particularly impressive and consistent throughout. Tullamore's real strength lay in their halfback line in which Noel Lynch was outstanding. His vast experience was never more in evidence than under the difficult conditions which prevailed, and his goal – easily the best of the day – was worth going a long way to see. With maximum support forthcoming from Byrne and centre-half Joe Martin this was the sector from which Tullamore drew both their inspiration and their power. Had the forwards responded accordingly then the final score would have been a formidable one. However, far too many chances were allowed to go abegging to make this a really convincing performance by Tullamore and there must be an improvement in the scoring department for the more testing assignments which lie ahead. Although he headed the scoring list again on this occasion centre-forward Jim Brady was not really impressive and missed many chances easier than the two he turned to account. Peter Malone was Tullamore's most industrious forward, but the line as a whole lacked balance with left-winger Geraghty still being hampered by an ankle injury and the inside forwards allowing the visiting defence far too much time to cover off the approach to goal. Donore were only a shadow of the side which had given Tullamore the fright of their lives a few weeks earlier. Their side showed a total of four changes, their absentees including the

goal keeper and both fullbacks of the Dublin encounter. Their half-back line of Reilly, Darker and Byrne was the strongest part of the team but the forwards failed to make any impression at all with sixteen-year-old Treacy emerging as the most dangerous attacker of the five.

EARLY MISSES

By winning the toss Tullamore claimed the considerable advantage of playing with the gale behind them in the first half and from an early stage it became obvious to all that victory would go to the side which mastered the conditions most successfully. Tullamore missed two gilt-edged scoring chances before the game was three minutes old, first Geraghty failed to avail of a wonderful opportunity and then, after Darker had handled inside the area, Eamonn Byrne added to the long list of penalties missed by Tullamore this season by blazing the spotkick high into the clouds. Donore forced the opening corner of the game in the 4th minute when Lowery was forced to kick behind under pressure from Leeson. Four minutes later good work by Lynch presented Geraghty with another opening but the winger's shot was both high and wide. Tullamore continued to pile on the pressure and in the 11th minute Martin Lowery took a pass from Whiteley in his stride but blazed over from close range. Duffy was getting very little to do in the home goal but in a Donore breakaway he did really well to hold a rasping drive from Reilly in the 14th minute. Back came Tullamore for Malone to place a corner perfectly

almost under the crossbar but O'Brien got his hand to it to deflect it over the top. Tullamore at last succeeded in opening their account in the 18th minute when Martin Lowery got through on the right, and with O'Brien being unable to hold his piledriver Brady was on the spot to crash home the rebound. This lead was almost wiped out within matters of seconds, only a superb save by Duffy keeping a testing shot from Treacy out but on the stroke of the half hour the home side forged further ahead when Brady rattled the crossbar and M. Lowery fastened on the rebound to leave O'Brien helpless. Two minutes later Brady headed narrowly wide following a free by Lynch and with half time approaching Donore failed to improve their position when Monks shot wide with Duffy out of goal. However just before the interval the visitors redoubled their efforts and after Reilly had shot straight at Duffy they were rewarded when Duffy could only palm out a shot from Leeson and centre-forward Kavanagh returned the clearance to the net.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Donore, 1.

With such a slender lead to sustain them against the elements Tullamore were far from happy and there was scope for a surprise result as the visitors threw everything they had into attack. Donore had much the better of the exchanges in this half but twelve wides by the forwards pinpointed their failing and in shrewd breakaways Tullamore chalked up their nap hand be that as it may the issue remained in the melting pot in the early stages with Leeson, put

through by Timmons, shaving the upright with a ground shot. Treacy and Timmons exchanged places in the Donore attack without bringing about much improvement whilst Tullamore reverted to their usual formation with equally futile results. Tullamore went three up in the 58th minute when good work by Malone paved the way for Brady to hammer the ball home off a defender, but this gift was almost returned at the other end when Duffy was fully extended in saving a back header from Martin. The tempo had increased by now and in a further breakaway Lynch sent Whiteley through for a shot which Marshall kicked off the goalline with O'Brien grounded. Donore were doing most of the pressing but invariably their efforts petered out inside the penalty area.

MISS OF THE MATCH

The miss of the match came in the 65th minute, when Brady raced through an appealing defence and took the ball right up to O'Brien before jabbing it yards wide with the goal yawning in front of him. Fortunately this amazing miss was followed by the best goal of the day when Byrne slipped the ball back to Lynch at the edge of the box and beautiful footwork by the latter left two defenderrs wrong-footed before he crashed a tremendous drive past O'Brien in the 68th minute. This goal sounded the death-knell for Donore but they continued to plug away in their own uninspiring manner and Kavanagh missed a great chance by shooting over following good approach work by Leeson. Geraghty had one of his

'specials' splendidly saved by O'Briens diving body. Brady missed another 'sitter' four minutes later after a clever centre from Malone, but by this stage it really did not matter. The game had almost run its course before Donore snatched a consolation score and even this was a present from the home defence, as Duffy was left with a birds eye view as a shot from Kavanagh glanced off Tom Whiteley's boot before rocketing into the far corner of the net.

Result: Tullamore, 5; Donore, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, E. Byrne, P. Malone, E. Whiteley, J. Brady, M. Lowery, T. Geraghty.

Donore: D. O'Brien, N. Marshall, M. Timmons, J. Reilly, K. Darker, J. Byrne, K. Leeson, B. Treacy, D. Kavanagh, J. Timmons, O. Monks.

Referee: Mr. T. Doyle [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

There is no difficulty at all in deciding upon Tullamore's man of the match this week Noel Lynch fills the role with certainty and assurance and as a result comes within striking distance of the leaders in our merit rating feature. For the minor berths I am taking Peter Malone and Tom Whiteley and with this week's allocation of points added the overall position now reads as follows: J. Brady [23] M. Lowery [22] J. Lowery [20] N. Lynch [19] J. Martin [18] T. Whiteley [17] P. Duffy [12] E. Whiteley [11] P. Malone [10] E. Byrne [6] T. Geraghty [4] J. Pyke [4] L. Connolly [2] A. Glennon [1]

LEADING SIDES

The position at the head of the league table after last Sunday's games now reads:

	P	W	D	L	PTS
Newtown Rngs.	21	17	2	2	36
St. Finbarr's	22	16	1	5	33
Tullamore	16	13	1	2	27
Kildare Utd.	21	12	3	6	27
Wayside Celt.	17	12	1	4	25
Glenmore Celt.	20	9	5	6	23

May 1st 1965

Big Setback For Tullamore

"SPOT-KICK"
Reports from Kilternan

The sky fell in on Tullamore's league prospects on Sunday last when they sustained their heaviest defeat of the entire season to date in losing by 5-1 to Wayside Celtic at Kilternan. Such a scoreline is going to take some explaining to stay-at-home fans for although this game was regarded as one of vital importance few could have anticipated such a landslide victory for the home team. In actual fact the explanation is quite simple for victory went to the more deserving side. Wayside Celtic were yards faster to the ball, they tackled with determination and they enjoyed that little bit of luck which is so essential in matches of this nature. That, in a nutshell, is my summing-up of Tullamore's first league defeat since last november. Celtic defenders splendidly marshalled by centre-half John Freegrove, blunted the visiting attack with a brand of tackling which was both devastating and deadly this was in contrast to the feeble efforts of Tullamore. All too often the Tullamore defenders backed away towards their own goalmouth and Tom Whiteley alone looked cuple of utilising the necessary first -time methods to

break up their attacks. To be sure John Lowery never shirked a tackle, either. Many of Tullamore's victories this season have been forged by the solid work of their half-back line, but on Sunday last this middle line played well below expectations. Noel Lynch was about the best of the Tullamore team. With Brady held in a vice-like grip most of the sting was removed from the provincial attack and it is significant that Tullamore's only score came from a penalty taken by Noel Lynch. Tullamore, however, were badly handicapped for this vital fixture to begin with they were obliged to line-out without Eamonn Byrne who went down with 'flu earlier in the week. Byrne's experience and craft would undoubtedly have made a difference. Tullamore solved this particular problem by recalling Liam Connolly to the right wing and transferring Peter Malone to the insided berth but they had no such ready made solution for the second bit of bad luck which came their way when the game was still in its infancy. This was the blow which really administered the K.O. to Tullamore for it rendered goalkeeper Paddy Duffy more than 50 per cent incapacitated. It happened in the 17th minute when Duffy sprained his left arm in attempting to save Celtic's first goal and whilst a one-armed man

might be a popular figure in a television show he had little hope of figuring successfully as a goalkeeper. Add the fact that Tullamore twice had the ball in the home net only to have the 'goal' disallowed on each occasion and you can form your own judgement of which side the gods were smiling on. Newtown Rangers become odds on favourites for the title. With only three games remaining on their programme they look certain to collect the title, although one of these games is against Tullamore and provided that the latter do not drop any more points in the meantime, this is the game which will decide the issue.

AS I SAW IT

Tullamore played up hill and within a minute of the kickoff Martin was obliged to concede a corner under pressure from McCluskey. The flag-kick by Byrne yielded no reward, nor did a second corner by Woodcock in the 9th minute. So far the football had been scrappy with neither forward line really dangerous. Tullamore were doing slightly more of the attacking. But the scrappy tackling of the home defence blunted their best efforts and with both Geraghty and Connolly out of the picture on the wings Tullamore's attacks were concentrated down the middle. Whiteley had a well placed centre cleared by freegrove in the 16th minute. But one minute later Celtic snatched the important first goal when a centre from Byrne was headed home by Woodcock after Duffy had missed his punch. It was in this incident that Duffy injured his arm in a collision with the upright.

Tullamore became very disjointed in their efforts and it was not until the 31st minute when Geraghty had a ground shot well saved by McEvoy that they got through for their first direct shot at goal. Duffy made a sparkling save under severe pressure from three forwards to quench a dangerous home attack and Tullamore seemed to be back in the game when Brady hooked a centre from Geraghty into the roof of the net in the 37th minute but an offside decision against the centre-forward quickly negated the score. Tullamore were more and more playing second fiddle to the quick-tackling homesters now and as the interval drew near the game was eventually won and lost in a two minute spell it began in the 40th minute when a snap shot from Byrne found an unprotected spot between Lowery and Duffy to put Celtic two up and culminated in the 42nd minute when Duffy could only parry a strong shot from McCluskey and Byrne raced in to blast the rebound to the net. Now Tullamore badly needed a goal in the few minutes of the first half which remained and they went all out to get it. A free against McEvoy for overcarrying the ball gave the visitors a chance but Lynch's shot was blocked down. The short whistle was imminent when Brady was held on the ground by McEvoy and from the penalty which followed Lynch sent the keeper the wrong way with a cleverly placed spot-kick which revived hopes of a Tullamore revival on the resumption.

Half-time: Wayside Celtic, 3; Tullamore, 1.

An early goal to Tullamore might have succeeded in bringing this game to life but instead it was Celtic who stretched their lead within two minutes of the resumption. Tullamore had recast their lineout by bringing John Lowery up to lead the attack with Martin Lowery dropping back to leftfull and Peter Malone going to left-half, but this 'maze-March' brought about very little improvement and the visiting defence was shown up in very poor light in the 2nd minute when a corner by Woodcock was cleared by Malone but returned in the goalmouth by Woodcock again. For a full ninety seconds the ball bobbled about like a cork in a rough sea before McCluskey nipped in to crash the ball past Duffy. With Celtic's three goal advantage restored Tullamore's chances were virtually snuffed out and a marked lack of fighting spirit by the visitors did little to hold out hopes of a recovery. Indeed Woodcock almost added to the home total in the 4th minute with a header which came back off the woodwork. Whilst minutes later Ward rounded off a sparkling movement by shooting strongly into the side netting. With John Lowery meeting with no more success in his duels with Freegrove than had Brady in the first-half it was left to Whiteley to provide most of the thrust in the Tullamore attack, but the captain's ability to finish off movements was not on a par with his approach work. After the woodwork had foiled Woodcock for a second time in the 16th minute the winger had a great corner cleared off the goal-line by Tom Whiteley whilst at the other end Brady was just wide of the mark after good work by Malone and Whiteley.

SECOND DISALLOWED GOAL

Tullamore had their second disallowed goal in the 27th minute when a centre from Geraghty was finished to the net by Lowery but referee Tim O'reilly had spotted an infringement which nullified the effort. Five minutes later Brady had a great chance to improve Tullamore's position following a free by Geraghty, but from close range he headed into McEvoy's waiting arms. Tullamore were doing more than their share of attacking now, but it was all so haphazard and aimless that the home defence was never extended and with Brady invariably trying to accomplish too much on his own the attacks fizzled out. Lynch had a close free turned behind for a corner, but by now the writing was clearly on the wall and with four minutes left in the game Celtic put the seal on their performance when Byrne raced through from the halfway line, beat Tom Whiteley just inside the area, and slammed the ball past Duffy from point-blank range.

Result: Wayside Celtic, 5; Tullamore, 1.

Wayside Celtic: D. McEvoy, P.O'Neill, L. Cannon, S. Brennan, J. Freegrove, B. Tallon, E. Woodcock, T. McDonald, J. McCluskey, E. Ward, J. Byrne.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, P. Malone, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. Tim O'Reilly [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

If three Tullamore players are to be singled out this week for merit points it must be done strictly on a comparative basis. In a rock-bottom performance none of them was good and it was only in comparison to their colleagues that Noel Lynch, Teddy Whiteley and Tom Whiteley could be termed successes. It is more for effort than achievement that

this trio come to mind, but the points gained will, of course, be just as valuable in helping to determine our footballer of the year. The overall position in the merit table now reads as follows:

J. Brady [23] M. Lowery [22] N. Lynch [22] J. Lowery [20] T. Whiteley [13] J. Martin [18] E. Whiteley [13] P. Duffy [12] P. Malone [10] E. Byrne [6] T. Geraghty [4] J. Pyke [4] L. Connolly [2]

May 8th 1965

Tullamore Bounce Back With Eight Goals

The outcome of this year's league campaign is swinging like a pendulum. Tullamore, whose prospects had appeared so remote following their defeat of the previous week, have come bouncing back into the final shake-up. Heartened by the midweek defeat of Newtown Rangers they were shocked 1-0 by Donore on Wednesday night. Tullamore took the field against Dalkey United at Spollenstown on Sunday last determined to turn their unexpected reprieve to the fullest possible use. The result was a searing 8-3 defeat for the visitors a result which earned vital league points for Tullamore and, at the same time boosted their goal average considerably. Goal average is not taken into account when it comes to deciding the league championship but if it was then Tullamore might live to rue the many chances which they squandered last Sunday. Yes, the forwards scored eight times alright but by all accounts they missed at least twice as many easy chances. Illness confined me to bed whilst this game was being decided, but have no fears, the reputation which this column enjoys for providing on-the-spot coverage from venues both near and far is in no danger for my man-on-the-spot has furnished me with details which are

complete in every respect.

TULLAMORE FLATTERED

Although they finished with five goals to spare Tullamore enjoyed anything but a trouble free passage. For two-thirds of the game they were held to level scoring by bottom-of-the-table Dalkey and it was only during the final thirty minutes that the home side eased the anxiety of the sparse following which braved the continuous rain which fell throughout the game. Up to that point Dalkey had given as good as they got. Indeed they had a slight edge territorially and for a long spell shaped like causing the sensation of the season by inflicting a home defeat on Tullamore, a defeat which would surely have written 'finis' to their title ambitions. However all is well that ends well and Sunday's result leaves the stage set for a rip-roaring finale to the season. Tullamore had the man of the match in inside-right Eamonn Byrne who made a tremendous impact on his return to the side. Clever and direct in his approach Byrne capped a great performance by scoring the best goal of the day. Tommy Geraghty, who always reserves his best form for the home

pitch, was another to cause plenty of trouble for the visiting defence and the stream of centres which he got across from the left wing were a centre-forwards dream come true. Jim Brady spearheaded the home attack by helping himself to four goals. Tullamore's defence received quite a test during the first-half and Duffy's goalkeeping did much to keep them in the hunt until the tide turned. With Tom Whiteley and John Lowery providing excellent cover, the Tullamore net was well protected, but the middle line was less effective than usual with only Noel Lynch displaying anything like top form. Dalkey had outstanding performers in the Byrne brothers at centre-half and centreforward.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Although they won the toss Tullamore elected to play against the wind and rain and with only a springling of spectators present the game got under way. Under conditions which were far from being conducive to good football. Nevertheless than a minute had elapsed when Brady missed the first of many easy chances following a great centre from Geraghty. Dalkey looked impressive in their first attack and Duffy saved well from centre-forward Byrne. In the 3rd minute before Tullamore came again with Brady having as stiff shot well held by English between the Dalkey posts. The visitors very nearly went ahead in the 8th minute for inside-right Kane was close to the mark with a shot which zipped into the side netting. Dalkey were gradually gaining the upper hand and in the 11th minute right-half

McDonald came upfield only to shoot straight at Duffy from a favourable position. An early goal to the visitors might have had costly repercussions for Tullamore, but it was the homesters who missed a fine chance themselves of taking the lead when Whiteley, put clean through by Brady, shot harmlessly over.

OPENING GOAL

Seventeen minutes had elapsed before Tullamore eventually took the lead – somewhat against the run of the play – when good work between Byrne and Whiteley paved the way for Brady to smack the ball hard and low past English. This goal improved the confidence of the home side and within five minutes English did well to save from Brady again. In the 23rd minute Brady had the goal at his mercy from point-blank range, but could do no better than to jab the ball weakly into the waiting arms of English. Dalkey, playing with commendable spirit and enterprise considering that the points were of no value to them, deserved their equaliser when it came in the 25th minute. It resulted from an indirect free by left-half Kelly which Knight doubled on to bury the ball in the back of the net from 20 yards out. This should have served to rouse Tullamore to greater effort and indeed, they should have forged ahead again within a matter of minutes when Geraghty floated across a perfect centre which Brady, from five yards out, somehow contrived to head wide. The centre-forward was not long making amends for this lapse and in the 31st minute he left English groping in

vain following another great centre from Geraghty. Four minutes later Malone had a chance to stretch the home lead, but shot over on the run and the same player was out of luck again in the 38th minute when he hit the foot of the post combining well with Byrne. The visiting forwards dominated the closing stages of the first-half in an all-out bid to get back on terms, but the home defence stood firm and apart from one escape when Byrne was obliged to kick behind at the expense of a corner there was seldom any real danger.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Dalkey, 1.

With the wind behind them Tullamore were expected to assume early control after the break but instead the visiting forwards have them an anxious time of it as they went all out for the equaliser, attack followed attack, but Lowery, Whiteley and Martin proved unyielding foes until the 49th minute when Knight scored a great equalising goal for Dalkey from more than 20 yards range. Things were looking dangerously gloomy for Tullamore now and in a brave bid to change the trend of the game they were foiled by English when the 'keeper' tipped a real scorcher from Whiteley over for a corner. Tullamore were defending almost constantly now and it was only good covering by Lynch and Lowery which prevented them from capsizing.

TWO GOALS IN TWO MINUTES

Without any sort of warning the pattern of this game changes in a twinkling and two goals in as many minutes left

Tullamore in a very different frame of mind. The first of these came in the 59th minute when a strong drive from Whiteley was deflected past English by centre-half Byrne. This was a tragic set-back for the dauntless Dalkeymen and before they could recover they were dealt another body-blow within less than a minute when a handball by Lalor inside the area paved the way for Noel Lynch to add number four from the spot. Dalkey endeavoured to come again and Duffy was fully extended to save a fierce drive from Knight, but Tullamore had the scent of victory now and were not going to relinquish their grip. During the final thirty minutes they played like an inspired side and all the fumbling and fussing of the first-half disappeared to be replaced by a methodical precision which had the opposition reeling. John Lowery paved the way for their fifth goal by bringing the ball well upfield before leaving it to Brady to hammer home in the 66th minute and Geraghty added a sixth in the 72nd minute with a glorious shot which was the culmination of a brilliant solo dash in which the winger beat four tackles. Dalkey had wilted completely now and even when Kane was presented with an easy chance he made a mess of it through over-eagerness. With just under eleven minutes left in the game Eamonn Byrne capped a fine day's work by waltzing his way through a retreating defence to register number seven and really clinch the game in Tullamore's favour. After that the home side could afford to relax and Dalkey gallant to the bitter end came surging back to try and improve their position. First McCann carried the ball through

from deep inside his own half to hit the upright and then, in the 82nd minute centre-half Byrne, who had earlier switched with his brother, pulled one back for the visitors by forcing the ball in off the upright following a corner by Langdon. Tullamore, however, were not to be denied the last word and six minutes from time Brady scored his own fourth and Tullamore's eighth when he headed home following a corner by Malone. Just before the final whistle the centre-forward muffed a great chance of making it 9-3, but by then nobody really cared.

Result: Tullamore, 8; Dalkey United, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Malone, E. Byrne, J. Brady, T. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Dalkey United: E. English, M. Byrne, H. McCann, D. McDonald, F. Byrne, M. Kelly, C. Lalor, D. Kane, D. Byrne, D. Knight, S. Langdon.

Referee: Mr. T. Doyle [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

My very capable deputy informs me that Eamonn Byrne, Tommy Geraghty and Paddy Duffy are the big three in line for merit points this week and this being the case the overall position now reads as follows:

J.Brady [23] M. Lowery [22] N. Lynch [22] J. Lowery [20] T. Whiteley [18] J. Martin [18] P. Duffy [13] E. Whiteley [13] P. Malone [10] E. Byrne [9] T. Geraghty [6] J. Pyke [6] L. Connolly [2]

May 15th 1965

Tullamore Reach Cup Semi-Final

In a season which has been marked by many splendid achievements, Tullamore recorded their finest performance of the lot on Sunday last by defeating famed Grange United 3-0 to reach the semi-final of the Bradmola Cup.

Tullamore became the first side ever to defeat Grange on their home ground and to gild the performance still further, they maintained their record of not having a goal scored against them in this particular competition this season.

Now with a goal average which reads eight for and none against they are through to the semi-final and are only two games away from football's largest trophy. This cup-tie was no garden party indeed I will go so far as to say that it was the toughest ninety minutes that Tullamore have endured for many a long day. The visiting team in general and centre-forward, Jim Brady in particular were subjected to a tremendous buffeting from start to finish. Some of the tackling was downright rough. One does not expect an important cup-tie to be decided with kid gloves, but neither does one expect players to be subjected to the type of treatment meted out to Tullamore on Sunday last. Without, wishing to labour the point, I will content myself by

saying that Tullamore's reputation was enhanced tenfold by the manner in which they stood up to be goaded into retaliation.

STAUNCH DEFENCE

Tullamore's defence came through Sunday's test with flying colours. Upon reflection I cannot recall Paddy Duffy being seriously tested on more than three or four occasions and this was due entirely to the excellent covering the men in front. Tom Whiteley and John Lowery were the complete masters of the respective wingers whilst Joe Martin was supreme at centre-half. Martin had ideal flankers in Noel Lynch and Martin Lowery. Tullamore forwards too played their part to the full in forging this epic victory and although they had to work exceedingly hard to create openings they never shirked their responsibility. Jim Brady emerged from a testing ordeal with his reputation greatly enhanced. Every time Brady moved towards the ball he was attacked from all sides, yet he contrived to reduce the home defence to a state of panic which

earned a record number of frees – including a penalty for Tullamore. Next to Brady I would rank Eamonn Byrne as Tullamore's best forward. Tommy Geraghty's power-laden left foot also contributed to the victory. Peter Malone was almost equally impressive on the right flank. Completing the Tullamore side was Teddy Whiteley and his ability to use the open spaces created by the over-close marking of Brady might have proved very costly to United had the inside-left's finishing been on a par with his approach.

CONTRIBUTED TO OWN DOWNFALL

Grange contributed in no small measure, to their own defeat, by the tactics, which they adopted from the outset.

HOW THE SCORES CAME

During the first ten minutes Tullamore muffed a couple of good scoring opportunities and the indications were that Grange would not be unduly troubled to advance to the semi-final. Fortunately this trend was quickly corrected and with Lynch outstanding around midfield Tullamore found their feet and began to settle down. Lynch had a close free brilliantly saved by Enright before Tullamore had a lucky escape in the 8th minute when the home centre-forward Doyle was knocked off the ball with the goal at his mercy and the award of a corner did not entirely satisfy home fans. The lucky 13th minute produced the only goal of the first-half and it came as something of a shock when a long-range pot-shot from

Geraghty away out on the wing found its way into the corner of the net with Enright evidently thinking the ball was going wide, making little effort to intercept it. This was the spur and the incentive which pointed the way to victory for Tullamore, right-winger Leo Donohoe had a stinging drive blocked an eventually cleared by Duffy in the 20th minute, but three minutes later it was Tullamore who went within a whisper of going further ahead when a strong centre from Geraghty was returned across the face of the goal by Malone and with Enright out at the fringe of the area the big home following were thankful to see the ball curl inches over the bar. Already Grange were playing it hard and conceding frees liberally. From one of these Lynch provided a splendid opening for Whiteley, but the skipper was slow to anticipate the move and the chance was lost. Inside-left O'Neill had a wonderful chance of equalising for Grange in the 26th minute but from point-blank range he scooped the ball high over the target. Further home pressure was foiled by the brilliance of Joe Martin who time after time, outjumped Doyle to clear his lines. Grange were forcing the pace now and on the half hour Duffy was fortunate to be in the right spot to deal with a piledriver from Doyle whilst, three minutes later a cleverly placed free by Richardson was wasted by slow-thinking forwards. With five minutes left in the first half, Geraghty sent the ball crashing off the underside of the bar from where it bounced down inside the line only to be hooked out again for Brady to head wide.

Half-time: Grange United, 0; Tullamore, 1.

Only four minutes had elapsed in the second-half when Dooley was 'booked' for a particularly bad foul on Brady and with the home defence now definitely unsettled Tullamore stretched their lead in the 7th minute when Brady rounded Dooley and had the goal at his mercy when he was taken down from behind inside the area. Tullamore's record of missed penalties this season made this a tense moment but Lynch made no mistake with a low drive which was nestling in the back of the net before Enright could budge. Grange lost their methods without, however, being able to rattle Tullamore into doing likewise. Brady became the main target for heavy tackling, but he kept bouncing up like a rubber ball every time he was floored and although the homeside piled on the pressure almost invariable, a free out eased the position for Tullamore. In the 15th minute right-winger Donohoe had a good effort kicked off the line by Martin with Duffy beaten whilst four minutes later a dangerous inswinging corner by left-winger Donohoe was cut off by Duffy. Later the keeper saved brilliantly following a free by Clarke. Geraghty treated us to another example of the power of his left-foot with a bullet-like drive which Enright just managed to turn around the foot of the post whilst at the other end the woodwork came to Tullamore's rescue when a drive from O'Neill came crashing back off the bar for Dennis to blaze wide from the rebound.

THE CLINCHER

Grange still had more than fifteen minutes to save the day, but Tullamore clinched the issue on the stroke of the half hour. Again it was Brady who 'earned' the free which yielded the goal for when the centre-forward was sent crashing just outside the area Byrne pushed the free through the defence for Whiteley to race on to it and bury it in the corner of the net. Grange moved Smith up to lead the attack in a last bid to stave off defeat, but he met with no more success than had Doyle and it was Joe Martin who continued to dominate the area in front of goal. Tullamore were seldom out of their own penalty area, for the remainder of the game but such was the brilliant defensive work of John Lowery, Lynch and Whiteley that the nearest that Grange came to snatching even a consolation goal was a miskick by Martin Lowery which sped by the post –saved by a matter of inches from becoming an own goal.

Result: Grange United, 0; Tullamore, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Malone, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Grange United: P. Enright, J. Clarke, P. Alwright, J. Smith, A. Dooley, A. Richardson. L. Donohoe, A. Dennis, T. Doyle, L. O'Neill, S. Donohoe.

Referee: Mr. Tim O'Reilly [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Jim Brady stretches his lead at the top of the merit ratings as a result of last

Sunday's game, for his sportmanship under the most provoking conditions merit top billing. From a playing point of view it has been more invidious to single out individual performances for Tullamore had eleven heroes on the field, but for my money victory would not have been achieved at all had it not been for the tremendous defensive performances of Joe Martin and John Lowery. The position at the top of the merit ladder is becoming really exciting now with half a dozen players at least still in the running for the special award which is at stake. The overall position now reads as follows:

J. Brady [26] M. Lowery [22] N. Lynch [22] J. Lowery [21] J. Martin [20] T. Whiteley [18] P. Duffy [13] E. Whiteley [13] P. Malone [10] E. Byrne [9] T. Geraghty [6] J. Pyke [4] L. Connolly [2]

SEMI -FINAL PAIRINGS

The pairings for the semi-finals of the Bradmola Cup are:

Tullamore v Orchard United
St. Colmcilles v Mount Tallant Ath.

Both semi-finals will be played at neutral venues.

May 22nd 1965

Surprise League Check For Tullamore

The one point lead which Tullamore held at the top of the A.U.L. Table was wiped out on Sunday last when Kildare United surprisingly held them to a 2-2 draw at Spollenstown. Now, Tullamore must win all their remaining fixtures if they are to fulfil their ambition of winning their first league title since entering A.U.L. ranks.

The forfeiture of a point on Sunday last may yet prove costly, but on the day's play justice was done. Tullamore have yet to learn that it is fatal to underestimate the opposition and once again this was the main cause of their downfall on Sunday.

The home side started brilliantly and had the Kildare defence at full stretch in the opening stages, but gradually their complacency in front of goal began to spread outwards like a rash. Playing as though the result was a foregone conclusion Tullamore continued to tax the patience of their supporters and by degrees the hard-tackling United began to come into their own. With nothing to lose and everything to gain the visitors adopted a more open approach and by swinging the ball about freely succeeded in throwing a spanner into the home works. Kildare deservedly opened the scoring in the 20th minute, but they held this lead for a bare two minutes before Martin Lowery rammed in a great

equaliser for Tullamore and when the locals went ahead with a goal from Eamonn Byrne only two minutes later they seemed to be well on the road to victory, but United sensing that they were still there with a chance of downing the league leaders hit back and drew level again with just five minutes of the first-half remaining. Thus all the goals of this game were packed into the opening moiety, but the second-half lacked nothing in the way of incidents and near misses. This was particularly true of the closing twenty minutes when Tullamore, by now fully alive to the danger confronting them, went all out to make up for their earlier indifference. Unfortunately for them fate had taken a hand by now and the best efforts of the home side went unrewarded, their nearest approach to a winning goal being a piledriver from Teddy Whiteley which rattled off the crossbar in the 75th minute. With no addition to the scoring Tullamore had to be content with a division of the points, but half a loaf is better than no bread, as the old saying has it and in the heel of the hunt

Tullamore were probably thankful to escape with a point as it was only a great goal-line clearance by John Lowery which prevented the visitors from collecting maximum points with virtually the last kick of the game.

PERSONALITY TRADE

Tullamore's stars on Sunday last were confined almost exclusively to the defence where Tom Whiteley emerged as the outstanding player on view. His tackling possessed the bite of authority all through whilst his covering frequently extricated his colleagues from distress. Little behind the right-full in ability were Joe Martin and John Lowery with the former being particularly impressive in the air. Tullamore failed to exercise their customary control around midfield for although Noel Lynch was eminently sound on one flank Martin Lowery was right off his game and an early switch between himself and Peter Malone failed to bring about any appreciable improvement. It was hereabouts that Tullamore's troubles began, but it became more evident in the play of the forwards. None of the five can look back with anything like satisfaction on this game for the scoring chances missed were legion. The best chances fell to inside left, Whiteley and for the second week in succession Jim Brady took quite a few hard knocks from a quick-tackling visiting defence which did not stand on ceremony when it came to clearing their line. The result was that Tullamore's main scoring hope was well held - in every sense of the word - but his colleagues certainly did nothing to

help by persisting in sending high balls into the goalmouth, thus minimising his chance of outwitting the United defenders. With Tommy Geraghty an absentee Liam Connolly was recalled to the rightwing where he saw little of the ball and made little or no impact upon the exchanges. Byrne shaped as the most likely prospect in attack, but his lack of pace told heavily against him. With the points of no real value to them Kildare displayed a remarkable tenacity. A very strong defence, built around left-full Clifford and centre-half Flood made matters hot for the homesters and with wing-halves Brady and Brown holding away around midfield the visiting forwards did not lack support. Centre-forward Hogg led the attack with plenty of dash and vigour and took both his scoring chances in fine style, but it was the right-wing partnership of Tighe and Barnes which really caught the eye. The half-time and full-time scores were the same:

Tullamore, 2; Kildare Utd, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, P. Malone, L. Connolly.

Kildare United: P. Kavanagh, J. Kenny, D. Clifford, V. Brady, J. Flood, J. Brown, A. Tighe, B. Barnes, L. Hogg, M. Hickey, T. Delaney.

Referee Mr. J. Hayden [Dublin]

MERIT RATINGS

Forwards are right out of favour when it

comes to awarding points this week and it is, I think, significant that all the points are distributed between defenders. Pride of place goes to Tom Whiteley with the minor placings going to John Lowery and Joe Martin and this leaves the position at the top very close and exciting with only five points dividing the leading six contenders as follows:

J. Brady [26] J. Lowery [23] N. Lynch [22] M. Lowery [22] T. Whitelely [21] J. Martin [21] E. Whiteley [13] P. Duffy [13] P. Malone [10] E. Byrne [9] t T. Geraghty [6] J. Pyke [4] L. Connolly [2]

CUP NEWS

And now to offset the above disappointing league news with some brighter tidings relating to the Bradmola Cup. Contrary to expectations Tullamore will play their semi-final at Spollenstown instead of at a neutral venue as is usually the case at this stage of the competition. The semi-final is externally scheduled for next Sunday, but so complex is the entire position now that it appears most unlikely that such will be the case. Protests, refixtures, objections and appeals have combined to cloud the issue and the

result is that a minimum of three games will be necessary before Tullamore's opponents become known for sure. Irish Glass Bottle Co. and Parnell United have yet to decide their third-round tie and the winners must then meet T.E.K. Utd. for the right to oppose Orchard Utd. in the quarterfinal. Not until this lot have sorted themselves out will Tullamore know who their semi-final opponents will be and it appears most unlikely that the way can be cleared before next Sunday. I.G.B.C. and Parnell Utd. have already met twice but on each occasion an objection led to the match being re-fixed now the F.A.I. have been called in to issue a ruling but it does look as though the final, which is traditionally played on the last Sunday in May, will have to be postponed to a later date.

SUSPENDED

Arising out of the referee's report on the recent cup-tie between Grange United and Tullamore P. Enright and J. Clarke, goaleeper and right-full respectively of Grange, have been suspended for the remainder of the season. This decision would appear to vindicate fully the harsh things which I had to say in last week's column.

May 29th 1965

Tullamore Through To Cup Final

Torrential rain which fell throughout last Sunday's Bradmola Cup semi-final at Spollenstown, could not dampen the enthusiasm of home fans as they watched Tullamore sweep to a majestic 6-0 victory against T.E.K. United.

Playing fast, incisive football, the winners turned in a superlative performance under difficult conditions and not only have they qualified for their first major cup final, but they have done so with the proud record of not yet having conceded a goal in the competition.

Seldom have home fans seen their favourites in such devastating form as this for once they recovered from a nervous start Tullamore simply cut the opposition to ribbons and gave them an object lesson in the art of constructive football. It took exactly 37 minutes for Tullamore to open their account, but Eamonn Byrne's goal worked wonders in providing the confidence and inspiration which the provincials needed and they never subsequently looked back. They added a second goal before the interval, but it was in the rain-drenched second-half that they really sparkled. With Tommy Geraghty absolutely brilliant on the left-wing, the T.E.K. defence was led a merry dance and finished the game very demoralised, but their position

could have been worse. For instance three times Teddy Whiteley broke clean through only to shoot straight at goalkeeper Gallagher from point-blank range whilst in addition left-full, Geoghegan twice cleared off the goalline with his keeper beaten and Malone had a scoring effort stopped by the woodwork. It all adds up to a thoroughly convincing performance by Tullamore for on this form their prospects of winning the cup in next Sunday's final against Second-Division opposition must be very bright indeed.

MISLEADING

A 6-0 scoreline can paint a misleading background to this game for it suggests an all-too-easy task for the winners. Such was not the case, however, for although Tullamore won readily enough in the long run they met worthy semi-final resistance from T.E.K. coached by the former Irish international player Peter Farrell, the visitors played a brand of football which was out of all proportion to their lowly league position. Their one big failing in defence was an

inability to cope with a ball crossed from the wings, and in Geraghty Tullamore had just the player to exploit such a weakness. In contrast Tullamore appeared to be well nigh invulnerable in defence. At times Paddy Duffy may have been a little too daring in his exploits but such was the covering of John Lowery and Tom Whiteley that the keeper could almost afford to be flamboyant. On this occasion it was honours at full-back with a series of lusty clearances which more than anything else, knocked a lot of the steam of the United attack. Tullamore had another vital pull in the midfield sector where Noel Lynch proved the value of age experience by turning in a dynamic performance which gave the home attack every chance of acquitting itself with distinction. Given this opportunity the forwards turned it to good account and their performance, both collectively and as individuals, remains unsurpassed by anything I have seen this eventful season. Geraghty played the game of his life on the left wing, fully vindicating at last the judgement of those who had recognised his potential value in the early part of the season. Geraghty's return to the wing transformed the attack, into a streamlined unit of efficiency. Jim Brady although opposed by the visitor's outstanding defender, led the line in dashing style and helped himself to a fine brace of goals in the process. Teddy Whiteley, despite the misses already referred to, showed a welcome return to something like his best form and it was his two goals in the closing minutes which put the seal on Tullamore's performance. The right-

wing partnership of Eamonn Byrne and Peter Malone may have been less effective than their colleagues on the left flank but for all that they blended into the pattern of things and completed an attacking formation which excelled all through.

FRETTED AND FUMED

Home fans were fretting and fuming as the minutes ticked by without yielding their side the lead and there was a gasp in the 33rd minute as a sparkling movement embracing Geraghty, Whiteley and Byrne ended Brady heading inches outside the post. Duffy did well to punch a centre from Johnston behind for a corner before the visitors goal fell at last in the 38th minute. The goal was not entirely expected for more promising movements had fizzled out earlier. However, on this occasion Martin Lowery pushed a pass from Geraghty inside and Byrne slipped it in by the foot of the post to set the stand alight with enthusiasm. Within thirty seconds Tullamore very nearly had their precious lead wiped out as it took a brilliant save by Duffy to keep a rasper from Broughan out but with 3 minutes of the first-half remaining the locals consolidated their position when a perfectly-placed free by Geraghty out on the wing was headed home by Brady – the centre-forwards 40th goal of the season. T.E.K. were knocked right out of their stride by these quick scores and before the interval Tullamore missed at least two further opportunities of stretching their lead.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; T.E.K. United, 0.

We had to wait eleven minutes for the first real incident and then Brady stepped over a centre from Geraghty to leave the ball teed up for Malone but the winger was taken by surprise and a good chance went abegging. However, within a minute the visitors found themselves further in arrears as a corner by Whiteley floated into the penalty area to be first-timed to the net by Geraghty himself. Tullamore were well on the way to Tolka Park now but the defence had to prove itself as T.E.K. launched an all-out offensive in a bid to save the day. A spell of heavy pressure proved of no avail as Joe Martin and John Lowery blotted out the visiting danger-men and after Whiteley had put in a sparkling run which saw him beat three defenders in succession before shooting straight at Gallagher from point-blank range Brady made it 4-0 in the 67th minute following another pin-pointed centre from Geraghty. A dipping shot from Malone looked a certain goal as it dropped over Gallagher's head but the crossbar came to the milkmen's rescue and after a free by Cosgrave had been deflected for fruitless corner at the other end, Tullamore were back for Whiteley to repeat his earlier performance by taking the ball right through a retreating defence to shoot straight at Gallagher when it would have been easier to score.

WONDER SAVE

Gallagher earned a round of applause

with the best save of the day in the 85th minute as he dived across to hold a close-range header from Brady. But Tullamore, now in rampant mood, tacked on two further goals in as many minutes just before the final whistle. The first of these came in the 78th minute when a quick throw-in by Martin Lowery sent Whiteley through to score with a first-time effort which left Gallagher rooted to the ground and then just before the end Whiteley ran on to a centre from Geraghty to score again with the visiting defence appealing in vain for an offside decision.

Result: Tullamore, 6; T.E.K. United, 0.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Malone, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

T.E.K. United: F. Gallagher, C. Cosgrave, A. Geoghegan, P. Grehan, E. Walsh, J. Turner, R. Whelan, O. Broughan, P. Brett, J. Dolan, G. Johnston.

Officials this game was controlled completely by A.U.L. officials with referee R. Lynch being assisted by linemen. B. Burke and J. Kelly.

MERIT RATING

There is no difficulty whatever in deciding on the top personality of this game without doubt Tommy Geraghty must head the rankings for as good an individual performance as has been seen at Spollenstown for a long, long time. It is not quite so simple to decide

upon the minor awards for the claims for recognition are many. However, the tremendous influence which Noel Lynch exercised on the play earns him second place and for the third spot I am taking John Lowery whose first-time clearances, particularly in the first half, served to take a good deal of sting out of the visiting attack. With a maximum of six games remaining until the end of the season the issue is becoming really exciting now, as the following table reveals:

J. Brady [26] J. Lowery [24] N. Lynch [24] M. Lowery [22] T. Whiteley [21] J. Martin [21] E. Whiteley [13] P. Duffy [13] P. Malone [10] T. Geraghty [9] E. Byrne [9] J. Pyke [4] L. Connolly [2]

FINAL PROVISIONAL

It will be just too bad if last Sunday's effort would prove to have been all in vain, and it could happen that it was. Sunday's semi-final was T.E.K.'s third cup match within the space of five days. On Tuesday night they had defeated Parnell United, 3-0 and they followed this up by defeating Orchard United 1-0 on Thursday night. Subsequently Orchard lodged an objection but by then it was too late to cancel the Spollenstown programme. Now should the Orchard protest be upheld, Sunday's game will have counted for nothing and Tullamore will be obliged to face another semi-final test against different opposition. Not only that, but such a course would lead to the deferring of the final until next season. However, we will assume here that the way will be cleared for the final to go on as scheduled at Tolka Park on next Sunday

and this being the case Tullamore intend chartering a special train to Dublin for the occasion. This promises to be a red-letter day in the history of the Tullamore club and readers who are unable to be present in person may rest assured of an extra special on-the-spot report direct from Tolka Park in next week's issue.

SCORES ON THE CLOCK

Although players, spectators and officials are all adequately catered for at Spollenstown press facilities are still non-existent and as a result I am working more from memory than from written notes this week. The sun was shining as Brett kicked-off for the visitors but this happy state of affairs did not last long and before Tullamore had forced the first corner of the game in the 7th minute spectators were scuttling for shelter. The home side looked impressive in their first attack as Geraghty and Whiteley combined in a left-wing movement which fizzled out near the corner flag and it was United's turn to set the pace with the home goal coming under heavy pressure before a shot from Dolan was scrambled clear. Left winger Johnston was just off the mark with a snap shot before Lynch paved the way for Whiteley to force that opening corner in the 7th minute. Geraghty furnished early proof of his potential danger with a drive which had Gallagher beaten as Geoghegan got back to clear off the line and as the game progressed it became apparent the Geraghty was emerging as the central figure in attack. An advance by Gallagher foiled Whiteley at the edge of

the area in the 13th minute, but United were back to force their first corner two minutes later and as Whelan's flag-kick was punched clear by Duffy, Brett dashed in to shoot wide from good position. Tullamore, settling down now and gaining a firm grip around mid-field, launched an all-out attack which ended with Gallagher pushing a piledriver from Byrne around the post. But the visitors were almost presented with the lead in the 21st minute when a miskick by Tom Whiteley tested Duffy to the extremes as the 'keeper flicked the ball off Brett's head. It did not take Whiteley long to make amends for this lapse for twice in quick succession he came thundering across to seal off gaps on the opposite flank.

SPORTSTAR OF THE WEEK

Seldom before have we dealt with so many different subjects in the one article and certainly our boast of providing the most comprehensive sports service in the Midlands is enhanced as a result. However, featuring so many stories brings its own complications and foremost amongst these is the task of selecting a sportstar. From the welter of news, views and opinions which go to compile this week's record-breaking sports feature it is indeed invidious to have to single out one individual. Yet the task is not really all that difficult for one particular performance stands out and compels immediate attention. Tullamore soccer club's achievement in reaching the final of the Bradmola Cup – enhanced by the fact that they have not conceded a single goal in the

competition to-date—set the local sporting scene alight and people who normally take little or no interest in football are now confirmed addicts of 'cup- fever'. Last Sunday's fluent 6-0 victory over T.E.K. United eased Tullamore into their first important cup final and was highlighted by a scintillating performance by a young local player who is in his first senior season. From time to time during the past few months he has shown signs of developing into a top-class winger, but, until Sunday last he lacked consistency. But what a transformation we saw when the chips were really down from start to finish his play was impeccable and his contribution to Tullamore's epic victory was the scoring of one goal and the 'making' of four more. No less a personality than Peter Farrell, the former Irish international halfback was highly impressed by his performance and who are we to quibble with such an expert judgement. Tullamore has produced a number of successful young footballers during the course of the past 20 years or so but few of them revealed such potential brilliance as that displayed last week by:

Tommy Geraghty

CUP BOMBHELL FOR TULLAMORE

At precisely 10.42 p.m. on Monday night last a 'phone call from Dublin shattered Tullamore's dream of appearing in their first important cup-final in twenty years. The call came from officials of the A.U.L. to notify Tullamore that the protest lodged by Orchard United to T.E.K. United in the Bradmola Cup had been upheld. Thus, in a few brief sentences,

all the good work accomplished on the field at Spollenstown the previous day was undone for now Tullamore must contest the semi-final all over again this time against Orchard United. Naturally local officials are hopping mad over the whole affair for they are the unsitting victims of a situation which they did not cause. Orchard's protest was based on the grounds that T.E.K. included a number of senior players on the team which scored a shock 1-0 victory on Thursday night and the fact that T.E.K. did not so much as put in an appearance to defend themselves

against the charge left the protest committee with no alternative other than to sustain the objection and re-fix the Tullamore v Orchard United semi-final for Spollenstown on next Sunday. Accordingly Tullamore now face another stiff test. They have been obliged to cancel the special train which they had engaged to convey their supporters to the final in Tolka Park and the only consolation to emerge from the whole sorry business is that the refixture will afford another top-class attraction for home fans on Sunday next.

June 5th 1965

Tullamore Best In Marathon Semi-Final

All is swell that ends well and Tullamore are through to the final of the Bradmola Cup – for the second time. At crowded Spollenstown on Sunday last they battled their way through to the decided after a total of more than 130 thrill-packed minutes by defeating Orchard United, 3-2 after two periods of extra time.

Not only for its duration will this game remain an outstanding memory for home fans to cherish but also for the spate of thrills, near misses, controversial decisions and talking points which it left in its wake.

This was one of those games which had everything not least being a superlative display of crisp attacking football by two well-matched sides. From the word go both sides went at it hammer and tongs and the pace at the outset was a blistering one. Orchard proved to be a much better balanced combination than T.E.K. the previous week and certainly they offered more formidable opposition. A Tullamore goal by Jim Brady in the 19th minute was offset within sixty seconds by an equally brilliant effort at the other end and when United took the lead four minutes before the interval prospects of a home win were anything but bright. The big talking-point of the day came early in the second half when Teddy Whiteley crashed home what looked like a perfectly good equaliser but although referee Brendan Burke indicated a score he altered his decision following a conference with linesman Jack Kelly,

who had his flag aloft. This looked like the death-knell for Tullamore and but they stuck to their guns and were duly rewarded by a great goal from Whiteley in the 28th minute.

DOUBLE EXTRA TIME

The scores remained locked for the remainder of normal time and the first period of extra time brought about no alteration in the stalemate, both sides were leg-weary as they turned over for a further twenty minute stint and the pace had slowed to a crawl. However, the match-winner came in the third minute of the second half of this spell when John Lowery moved upfield to finish of a corner by Whiteley and the scenes of enthusiasm which followed have never previously been witnessed at Spollenstown. The crowd spilled on to the pitch and play was held up for several minutes by the wildly delighted

swarms of Tullamore supporters. After that Tullamore had to hold out for seventeen minutes, each of which seemed an age as United pulled out all the stops in a bid to save the day. The final whistle heralded another invasion from the sideline as the fans rushed in to cheer off John Lowery in triumph.

PLAYERS' PARS

Conditions and background were so vastly different compared with the previous week that a comparison of the two semi-finals would be of little value. Suffice it to say that Tullamore excelled in both tests and triumphed over all adversity in the long run. The home defence refused to allow themselves to become flustered by the streamlined football of the United attack.

Goalkeeper, Paddy Duffy may have been at fault for the visitors' second goal but he more than atoned for this one lapse subsequently. This was in strange contrast to the performance of John Lowery who was far too much inclined to miskick under pressure but who finally emerged as the hero of the day by moving upfield for that match-winning goal. Tom Whiteley was a model of consistency all through, his well-timed tackles serving to curb the activities of a lively and dangerous winger but the real strength of this Tullamore side lay in their half-back line. Joe Martin was tremendously effective in the centre.

BACK IN THE GAME

He was flanked by two wonderful efficient wing-haves for Martin Lowery,

after a series of sub-standard performances, chose this game to come back to form with a bang and his work, combined with that of Noel Lynch, gave the home side a very decided advantage in a vital sector. They brought out the best in the forwards where Tullamore had the man of the match in their skipper, Teddy Whiteley. Tommy Geraghty was back to his normal form for this game. Although Jim Brady has had better games than this he nevertheless played a leading part in forging the victory. Peter Malone was possibly the hardest worker on the winning side. Orchard United proved very attractive visitors and were worthy ambassadors of Saturday football.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Early on Duffy had to get down to save from Carthy. The pace at the outset was fantastically fast and it was evident that neither side could hope to keep it up for long. With Noel Lynch in tremendous form at left-half Tullamore began to settle down but nevertheless it came as a surprise when they shot into the lead in the 19th minute. Whiteley sent a short pass out to Geraghty and the winger's centre was sidefooted past steadman by opportunist Jim Brady.

QUICK REPLY

The cheers had scarcely subsided before United hit back to equalise in double-quick time per Dunne. Five minutes later United had their first corner of the game but although Carthy's centre was a good one a free out for a foul on Duffy eased the pressure. Orchard came back

in an attacking role and after a free by Burch had sailed harmlessly over the bar Duffy was thankful to Feeney loft the ball inches over the top as the keeper tried in vain to recover his position. Byrne was obviously at sea now and could not get going at all but the visitors had a narrow escape in the 39th minute when Geraghty beat two men in a sprint down the wing and his strong centre was put behind for a corner by Hewson. Tullamore were rocked back on their heels two minutes later when United took the lead in surprise fashion. This was a sore blow indeed for Tullamore but they made strenuous efforts to regain equality before the interval, but the short whistle sounded before Tullamore could make up the lost ground.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Orchard United, 2.

Immediately upon the resumption the main objective of the homesters was to wipe out the deficit. Geraghty missed a great chance off Whiteley's centre early on and then came the most dramatic incident of the game in the 8th minute as an indirect free by Martin Lowery was crashed goalwards by Geraghty and as the ball came back off a line of defenders Whiteley was in to force it home by the upright. Referee Burke had no hesitation in pointing to the centre, indicating a goal, but when linesman Kelly kept his flag raised the referee came over to investigate and then altered his decision and awarded a free out instead. This certainly did not meet with the approval of home fans and I doubt very much if Mr. Kelly

would have won a popularity poll if one had been taken there and then.

After the game I interviewed the linesman and he told me that in his opinion the Tullamore centreforward, Brady was standing offside as Whiteley sent the ball to the net. This disallowed goal might have had a profound bearing upon the outcome of the game, but Tullamore refused to become rattled. Tullamore kept on the pressure. The visiting defence was both compact and steady under all this mounting pressure. Indeed it was Orchard who went close to increasing their lead in the 17th minute after Duffy had been lured too far out following a corner by Carthy.

THE EQUALISER

Then Malone had a fierce drive parried and cleared by Steadman, but the nearest miss of all came from Geraghty in the 25th minute when he hit the outside of the post with a tremendous shot. Such pressure was bound to prove effective sooner or later, this impression was confirmed in the 28th minute when Byrne shoved the ball through to Brady and the latter slipped it inside for Whiteley to take in on the hop and send it to the net for a wonder goal. Now the game was poised on a hair and we awaited developments with bated breath. As the visitors hit back to regain their precious lead Joe Martin came to the rescue with a life-saving clearance against the upright, but Tullamore's cause was in no way helped by a rib injury to Lynch which forced him to go to the right wing with Malone moving inside and Byrne dropping back.

Full-Time: Tullamore, 2; Orchard United, 2.

Tullamore took up their original formation for the first period of extra-time and Lynch proved early on that he had recovered when he broke up a dangerous attack following a miskick by Lowery. Steadman saved three times in succession without being seriously tested, but just before the teams changed ends again the home goal bore a charmed life as the ball was crossed and recrossed in front of the posts without a visiting forward being able to get in a telling shot. Both sides were showing the effects of the fast early pace now as the second-half of the first period of extra-time got under way. Martin Lowery made poor use of a couple of close frees and the only incident of note came at the other end where right-half Burch grazed the bar from far out.

SECOND PERIOD

And so another stage of this marathon battle got under way and for the first-time ever at Spollenstown a second period of extra-time. Only three minutes had elapsed when the ground erupted into a frenzy of excitement as Tullamore shot into the lead. It came after Tullamore had forced another corner on the left and as Whiteley floated the ball across John Lowery came racing up to connect with Brady's final pass and send the ball dancing into the twines. This was the break which decided the issue for although United still had ample time to save the day their best efforts perished in the face of

the gallant work of Joe Martin, Tom Whiteley and Noel Lynch. United had shot their bolt in earnest and in the dying minutes of a fantastic game Malone rapped timber with a really good effort.

Result: Tullamore, 3; Orchard United, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lych, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Malone, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Orchard United: J. Steadman, J. Fogarty, C. Hewson, H. Burch, T. Moran, W. Farrel, A. Denver, D. McDonagh, J. Dunne, T. Feeney, J. Carthy.

Officials: Two of the three officials who had charge of the previous week's void semi-final were back in action at Spollenstown again on Sunday when Mr. B. Burke had charge of the whistle and Messrs. J. Kelly and M. Murray patrolled the lines.

MERIT TABLE

Three individuals spring to mind readily enough this week. Teddy Whiteley must lead the personality parade for a really superb performance which was highlighted by that wonderful second goal. Close on the skipper heels come Noel Lynch for a dynamic display at half-back and the brace of points earned here lifts him to joint leadership of the table. The only spot which causes any trouble at all is the third one which rests between two defenders and it is only on a toss of a coin the Joe Martin gains

perference over Tom Whiteley to leave the overall position as follows:

J. Brady [26] N. Lynch [26] J. Lowery [24] M. Lowery [22] J. Martin [22] T. Whiteley [21] E. Whiteley [16] P. Duffy [13] P. Malone [10] T. Geraghty [9] E. Byrne [9] J. Pyke [4] L. Connolly [2]

THE FINAL

At the time of writing the odds against the final of the Bradmola Cup being decided this season are stacked very high. With all the enclosed grounds in Dublin now closed for the season the authorities are finding it very difficult to find a suitable venue and as the final of this competition invariably attracts a 'gate' of between two and three hundred

pounds it is unlikely that they will consider staging it on a provincial ground. An emergency meeting of the A.U.L. Committee is to be held early in the week to discuss the position but at this stage it looks very much as though the final between Tullamore and Mount Tallant Athletic will have to be deferred until early next season which after all is now only a couple of months in the offing. One final effort is to be made to procure Tolka Park for next Sunday, but if this fails then it is odds on that Tullamore will travel to Dublin for an equally vital league engagement against Newtown Rangers. In either event the outcome is of supreme importance to Tullamore.

August 14th 1965

Bradmore Cup Comes To Tullamore

Great Victory 2 Down to Win 4-2

Tullamore may be entering senior ranks in just two week's time, but on Sunday last, in sun-drenched Tolka Park, they left an indelible imprint upon the junior scene, which they are leaving, by winning the Bradmore Cup - the biggest and most coveted trophy in any grade of football.

By a clear-cut 4-2 margin they eclipsed Mount Tallant Athletic to provide a fitting and lasting memorial to their 'coming of age' season, but the hordes of Midland supporters gathered in the stands had many anxious moments before skipper Teddy Whiteley was carried shoulder-high off the pitch to receive the trophy from Mr. Charlie Liddy, chairman of the A.U.L.

WON IT THE HARD WAY

Tullamore won the cup the hard way for they found themselves in arrears within five minutes of the kickoff and were two down at the end of the first quarter. Bit by bit they fought for a footing and by the time the interval arrived they were back on level terms. Then they had to survive a tremendous buffeting in the third quarter before their superior

stamina proved decisive for only thirteen minutes remained in the game when they took the lead for the first time and the final goal which put the gloss on their performance came less than two minutes from the end. Yet to suggest that Tullamore were anything but meritorious winners would be both unfair and untrue. Throughout a great game they looked the better-balance side and the brand of football they played particularly in the thrill-packed first half -was right out of the top drawer.

CRISIS

Tullamore had three moments of crisis, and it is to their credit that they survived them all. Not many teams could fight their way back from an early two-goal deficit to win so convincingly, but this was only one of the obstacles which the Midlanders took in their

stride. The second was an apparently brilliant goal by Peter Malone, which was disallowed after referee John Carpenter had consulted one of his linesmen at a stage when Tullamore were striving might and main to get a grip, and the third was an injury to their captain Teddy Whiteley, immediately after the start of the second half, which left him limping badly for the remainder of the game. The unquenchable spirit of the side as a whole was exemplified by their skipper who came storming back and virtually on one leg cracked in the goals which won the cup. Such spirit could not be denied its reward, and at the final whistle there could be no disputing the fact that the honours rested in the right place- a fact which officials of the defeated finalists were gracious enough to concede.

TEAM VICTORY

it required teamwork of a high order to forge such an epic victory for there were no failures on this cup-winning team. True, some may have shone a little brighter than others, or may have been more consistently brilliant throughout, but the old adage that a chain is as strong as its weakest link is a reminder that the Tullamore chain was hall-marked on every link. To be sure Teddy Whiteley must get the credit for being the match-winner with his brace of late goals, but really he was merely pulling the trigger after his colleagues had loaded the gun. Whiteley's combination and understanding with Tommy Geraghty provided one of the features of the game and the best tribute to this partnership was the obvious panic which

engulfed the Mount Tallant defence every time Tullamore attacked down the left. Nor did centre-forward Jim Brady go without glory, for he was a constant thorn in the side of the metropolitan defence, and although plainly he was a marked man from the outset he took his chance for the equalising goal in fine style and generally played havoc in front of the Dublin goal. Tullamore's right-wing pairing of Peter Malone and Eamonn Byrne - the latter playing with a strapped ankle - may not have figured amongst the goals, but for all that each played his part in keeping the Athletic defence stretched across the field and Byrne's ability to hold possession in the second half gave his defenders a badly-needed breather from time to time. In defence Tullamore were equally impressive. They might so easily have become rattled after conceding two early goals, but such was not the case. Goalkeeper Paddy Duffy was in his best acrobatic form and his advances from the goal-line were superbly judged efforts, which foiled many promising March on his charge, whilst Tom Whiteley, playing his last game for Tullamore, turned in a five-star performance, which simply underlined how great a loss he is going to be in the coming season. The left flank of defence in the air and seldom on the ground, looked definitely suspect in the early stages when both the mount tallant goals originated from this sector, but after a shaky start John Lowery came right into his own and two clearances off the goal-line towards the end were typical of the man. The most unobtrusive, yet the most effective member of the winning side was,

perhaps, Noel Lynch, who played Mount Tallant's danger-man, SKelly, right out of the picture. SKelly was his side's leading goalscorer last season but on Sunday he never got a chance of adding to his reputation whilst in contrast Lynch greatly enhanced his own. The main cog in the Tullamore defence was Joe Martin. Never beaten the centre-half left a big imprint upon the game and even when the pressure was at its highest he remained cool and unflurried as king of the penalty area. Perhaps Martin Lowery might be faulted for wandering too far from his left-half position at times but this may have been a carefully arranged tactical move on Tullamore's part and it was significant that there was always somebody on hand to cover the gap whenever he went awandering, drawing the opposing defence with him.

WORTHY OPPONENTS

Mount Tallant proved worthy opponents for this bang-in-form Tullamore side and at the end of the opening quarter their supporters must have had bright visions of drinking from the cup before the day was over. Very strong and compact in defence were goalkeeper Synnott and centre-half Kearns were the key figures, they had a grand attacking left-half in Reville who was the dominant figure afield in the first half. In attack the losers had lively wingers in Breeney O'Rourke and Tony Stafford and an industrious leader in the bearded Brendan O'Rourke. However, the inside forwards failed to provide the necessary link-up so that the essential difference between the two teams was one of

teamwork and understanding. A contributory factor to the Athletic's downfall was their inability to sustain the cracking pace which they themselves set for they were fading even before the interval and coming towards the end it was Tullamore who were lasting the pace much better.

POINTS FROM THE PRESS BOX

I suppose there was a touch of irony in the fact that having campaigned unsuccessfully for almost twenty years for covered accommodation at Spollenstown, I should find myself comfortably ensconced in the official Tolka Park pressbox on a glorious sunny August afternoon. Winning the toss gave Tullamore whatever slight wind advantage there was but it was Mount Tallant who set the early pace and within two minutes Tom Whiteley was forced to concede the first corner of the game, but Martin cleared Reville's centre and it was at the other end that the first real salvo was fired when a rasper from Teddy Whiteley whistled just outside the post. Whiteley was to the fore again in the 3rd minute when Synnott had to go flat out to turn a ground shot around the post, but these two near missed counted for nothing when right-winger O'Rourke rounded John Lowery cut inside and placed Brendan O'Rourke to open the scoring from just inside the penalty area in the 5th minute. Tullamore appeared to have a quick reply to this shock for within less than a minute Noel Lynch paved the way for Peter Malone to score what seemed to be a brilliant equaliser, but although referee Carpenter pointed to

the centre he quickly altered his decision and awarded a free out instead after consulting one of the linesmen. This was a double blow to Tullamore and for a spell they became overeager in attack and missed a couple of good openings as a result. In contrast the Athletic always looked dangerous in attack and Duffy did very well indeed to tip a hot shot from Brefney O'Rourke over the bar. Tullamore had a chance of drawing level in the 11th minute when a brilliant attacking movement which embraced Tom Whiteley, Byrne, Malone and Brady fizzled out with Geraghty blazing yards over from a good position and when Teddy Whiteley had a scorching drive finger-tipped behind by Synnott just one minute later it became clear that Tullamore were really up against it. Brendan O'Rourke looked like putting the Athletic two up when he picked up a loose ball on the wing, rounded Tom Whiteley and was bearing down on the goal when he fell over the ball which was quickly whipped to safety by Joe Martin. Tullamore were being kept at full stretch now and a well-placed corner by Reville looked dangerous until Duffy punched clear under pressure from SKelly, whilst at the other end Malone forced a corner in the 17th minute and Byrne's flagkick was knocked off Brady's head by Synnott. If this effort heralded a recovery by Tullamore it was quickly nipped in the bud for five minutes later Brendan O'Rourke flicked a header out to Brefney O'Rourke and the winger twice beat John Lowery before rocketing the ball past Duffy to stretch the blue's lead. Two goals down and playing against a defence which was as tight as a drum,

Tullamore's prospects looked anything but bright and they were in further trouble in the 25th minute when Duffy was fortunate to deflect a shot from the unmarked Brefney O'Rourke behind for a fruitless corner.

LEAD REDUCED

Thirty-one minutes had elapsed when Tullamore suddenly clicked into top gear. Eamonn Byrne carried the ball through from the halfway line to force a corner. Taking the flag-kick himself he curled the ball into the centre where Tommy Geraghty met it first time to cut Tullamore's arrears in half. Now the sparks were flying in earnest as Duffy dived across to turn a header from Brendan O'Rourke over the top whilst a chance of the equaliser was lost in the 36th minute when a great effort by Brady spun out of Synnott's hands with nobody up to avail of the chance. Next a free by Martin Lowery was headed over by Brady and in further Tullamore pressure Geraghty shaved the upright from a close free, with the short whistle only two minutes in the offing Tullamore's pressure was rewarded when a corner by Whiteley was poked goalwards by Byrne and opportunist Brady was on hand to flash the ball inside the post for a deserved equaliser, which could not have come at a more opportune time.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Mount Tallant Ath. 2.

Mount Tallant may have shown signs of tiring just before the interval but they were back in full cry on the resumption

and only two minutes had elapsed when they forced a corner on the right which Brefney O'Rourke smacked hard across for left-winger Stafford to blaze over. Whiteley had a weak shot saved easily by Synnott before the blues came storming back and Duffy made the best save of the day from point-blank effort by Brendan O'Rourke in the 50th minute. The men from the mountains were piling on the pressure in a bid to regain their precious lead and inside the opening five minutes of the second moiety they had forced two corners and shot three wides without finding a chink in the Tullamore armour. With their defence coming well upfield to lend weight to the attack, Mount Tallant were almost caught flat-footed by a quick burst from Whiteley, which carried him through the centre but Synnott was in the right spot to save. The pace had slackened considerably by now and the slower tempo was suiting the metropolitans. A leg injury to Whiteley hindered Tullamore and Geraghty switched inside for a spell, but it was all Mount Tallant now and in the 58th minute John Lowery came to Tullamore's rescue by clearing off the goal line following a corner by Brefney O'Rourke.

FULL-LENGTH SAVE

Tommy Geraghty went within inches of putting Tullamore ahead for the first time when he cleverly intercepted a pass from Hyland to Gilles, but Synnott went full length to make a great save and the keeper was flat out again in the 61st minute to save from Lynch following a corner by Byrne. Tullamore were gradually regaining the initiative and

Brady was clean through in the 65th minute when he was taken down just outside the area and Martin Lowery's free was blocked by a wall of defenders. Brefney O'Rourke and Duffy exchanged places in the Mount Tallant attack without bringing about much improvement and a piledriver from Byrne skimmed the bar. A winning goal was proving elusive to both sides as the game entered its final quarter and only a magnificent recovery by Lynch prevented Brefney O'Rourke from getting through after he had beaten Martin on the ground.

TULLAMORE IN FRONT

Tullamore supporters were by now becoming apprehensive for although well on top territorially, there was no sign of their side taking the lead. Each attack was repulsed with Synnott working overtime between the posts and Stafford, Kearns and Reville all defending heroically. When the decisive goal did come in the 77th minute it was a relatively soft one for after a shot from Brady had been blocked down in the goalmouth the ball ran loose to Whiteley who rammed it home past a keeper who may have been unsighted. Tolka Park erupted into a blaze of red-and-white as the visiting supporters gave vent to their feelings even when Teddy Whiteley missed a sitter a minute later - he miskicked with only the goalkeeper to beat - nobody really seemed to care. The scent of victory was strong and the issue might well have been sealed in the 79th minute when a shot from Brady rebounded off the underside of the bar to be

scrambled away by Gilles. Tullamore continued to be more artful in attack and deliberate in defence and Synnott had to be at his brilliant best in the 83rd minute when he dived at Whiteley's feet after the inside left had been put through by Martin Lowery. Mount Tallant launched one last offensive in a bid to stave off defeat and Tullamore were forced to give ground as the blues hammered away at their goal without being able to get a direct shot through to Duffy. What was virtually their last chance came when they forced a corner on the right and Brefney O'Rourke's centre was only partially cleared and came back to Duffy, who flashed the ball just wide of the target. After that there was no doubt as to which side would take the cup home and with two minutes to go Tullamore put the seal on a great performance when the Mount Tallant defence was caught too far upfield as a long clearance from Duffy to Malone was swept into the centre where Whiteley was waiting to steer the ball to the net. Mount Tallant could not even hope to save the day now, but they were deprived even a consolation goal in the dying seconds when John Lowery hooked the ball out from under the bar after Duffy had been beaten by a good shot from Brendan O'Rourke.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Mount Tallant Athletic, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Malone. E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Mount Tallant Athletic: P. Synnott, S.

Gilles, P. Stafford, J. Hyland, P. Kearns, P. Reville, Brefney O'Rourke, F. Duffy, Brendan O'Rourke, C. SKelly, A. Stafford.

Referee: Mr John Carpenter.

Linesmen: Messrs Bailey and Keeley.

FIGURES OF THE GAME

	Tullamore			
	Goals	Corners	Frees	GL Kicks
First Half	2	6	7	4
Second Half	2	2	6	12
Total	4	8	13	16

	Mt. Tallaght			
	Goals	Corners	Frees	GL Kicks
First Half	2	4	1	7
Second Half	0	3	2	7
Total	2	7	3	14

PRESENTATION OF CUP

Immediately after the game the victorious Tullamore players were carried shoulder high to the stand where Mr. Charlie Liddy Chairman of the Athletic Union League was waiting to present the huge trophy. Making the presentation to Teddy Whiteley Mr. Liddy said he was delighted to see the Bradmola Cup going to Tullamore for the first time. Any team which could come from two goals down to win 4-2 fully deserved to win any cup. He congratulated both sides on playing a fine sporting brand of football which was typical of teams from the A.U.L. and concluded by congratulating Drumcondra F.C. on the splendid condition of the pitch.

LOCAL RESULTS

I regret that space does not permit a full review of the local scene this week, but briefly the results were as follows

Youth's League:

West End, 6; Salts, 0.

Clontarf Corinthians, 4; Juventus, 2.

Pearse Rangers, 3; Salts, 2.

Senior League:

Portlaoise, 3; Harp Celtic, 2.

Season

1965/1966

August 28th 1965

Tullamore Hit Seven On Senior Debut

Tullamore made a dashing entry into League of Ireland football on Sunday last when they exceeded all expectations by routing Athlone 7-2 in their opening fixture in the Castrol Trophy.

With no new signings in their ranks Tullamore fielded the side which had won the Bradmola cup and the ease with which they accomplished their task must pose a query as to the alleged gulf which exists between junior and senior status.

No doubt future events will prove that there is a considerable difference, but it was not evident on Sunday last when Tullamore were in such complete control of the situation that they could afford to toy with their visitors in the closing stages. The last time that Tullamore and Athlone clashed was in the F.A.I. Junior Cup of 1963/64. On that occasion Athlone ran riot to win by 7-2, so that revenge on Sunday last was very sweet from a Tullamore point of view and the exact reversal of the scoreline provided a most encouraging start to the home side's senior career. A first class opening half got the new season off to a great start, and if the standard was not maintained after the interval it was mainly because the essence of uncertainty regarding the outcome was missing. Yes, Tullamore went a long way towards ultimate victory by surging into a 3-1 interval lead after playing against a wind of considerable force and even at this

stage it was evident that the visitors would return pointless from this encounter. Until they became too complacent towards the end the home defence always had the measure of a disappointing Athlone forward line, Paddy Duffy's goalkeeping may have been a trifle too carefree to please caustic critics but no criticism could be levelled at Joe Martin's performance at centre-half. Seldom has the pivot been seen to better advantage and the manner in which he completely dominated the penalty area went a long way towards drawing the teeth of the visiting attack. Tom Whiteley as imperturbable as ever and John Lowery back to something like his best form formed a solid partnership at full-back, whilst further strength was added to the home defence by the ability of both Noel Lynch and Martin Lowery to fit into the general pattern. Adequate though the Tullamore defence proved itself it was the display of the forwards which really

kindled hopes of a successful season. With four of the five forwards on the mark Athlone never knew in which direction the next danger lurked. My personal choice of Tullamore's man of the match would be Tommy Geraghty whose performance particularly in the first half was right out of the book his two goals in this period did much to throw the visitors off balance and if he was not so conspicuous in the second half it was because the play did not come his way so much. Geraghty was but one of the prongs of Tullamore's attack for Jim Brady showed his flair for scoring by bagging a personal total of three while inside-forwards Teddy Whiteley and Eamonn Byrne between them created most of the openings which led to the all important goals and Peter Malone played like a man with a new lease of life on the right wing all in all it added up to a very thorough performance which suggests that Tullamore may not find the transition such a trying period as had at first been supposed. It must be conceded that Athlone failed to produce the challenge expected of them. Their eight local players, augmented by three from Sligo, fell far short of the standard expected in this grade but I understand that they expect to strengthen their forces before very long. Their immediate need is a couple of forceful forwards for it was in attack that they were weakest on Sunday. In fact left-winger John McMoreland was the only one to impress in this sector, although seventeen-years-old Cyril Molloy was a real trier for the full ninety minutes. In defence goalkeeper Martin King was blameless for the heavy defeat and did, indeed,

help to keep the home total from soaring higher with a series of fine saves, including one from a penalty. Willie Bradley was best of the outfield defence, although I liked very much the cool aloofness of Tom Malone at left-half.

PERFECT CONDITIONS

Spollenstown looked like a miniature Wembley for the start of the season and the care and attention lavished upon the pitch during the summer months proved well worthwhile as Tullamore kicked-off into the breeze. The early exchanges definitely favoured Tullamore who would not have been flattered had they scored twice in the opening ten minutes. As easily as the second minute Byrne shot across the face of the goal following good work by Geraghty whilst in the 4th minute Brady drew King from his goal and was in the act of slipping the ball into the open net when right-full Creen, came thundering across to clear off the line at the expense of a corner. Little was seen of the visiting forwards at this stage and Duffy's first test came from a sliced clearance by Martin Lowery which threatened danger until the keeper flicked it over the bar. The fateful 13th minute should have yielded the first goal of the season for when a shot from Byrne was handled inside the area by Bradley it looked like a mere formality for Noel Lynch to sink the spot-kick which would put Tullamore into the lead. However, we reckoned without the agility of King who threw himself across to deflect the ball behind for an unrewarding corner. Such a lapse might have shaken Tullamore's confidence in

their own ability and their reluctance to shoot when within striking distance of the goal did nothing to boost their morale either. However they hit the right track in the 20th minute when Lynch and Byrne combined too cleverly to pave the way for Brady to score with a shot which King got his hands to but could not prevent from crossing the line. This goal did more than give Tullamore the lead for it sparked off a scoring spree which brought two further goals within the space of eight minutes. The first of these was an equaliser for Athlone in the 25th minute for when McMoreland was sent clear by Malone the winger drew Duffy from the goal and then squared the ball across the goalmouth where it was deflected by a defender. Another three minutes saw Tullamore regain the lead and this goal was an individual triumph for Geraghty who carried the ball through from the halfway line before rocketing the ball past King from fully twenty yards range. Tullamore never looked back and after a corner by Whiteley had been headed narrowly over by Byrne they stretched their lead in the 37th minute. The Athlone defence, watching Brady closely was thrown right off balance when the ball was switched out to Geraghty and again the winger found the target with another of his thundering left-footed drives.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; Athlone, 1.

In an effort to curb Geraghty, Athlone switched Bradley to the right of their defence as they set out to wipe out their arrears. Playing more direct football now they penned Tullamore inside their

own half and Hayden was right out of luck with good shot which came back off the foot of the post. After ten minutes McMoreland had a great shot tipped over by Duffy and further Athlone pressure was nullified only by the poor marksmanship of their forwards. By degrees Tullamore lifted the siege and once they increased their lead in the 14th minute all doubts as to the final result vanished. The goal which turned the tide may have been against the run of the play at that particular time but it was a brilliant individual effort by Jim Brady who skipped past three tackles and, given the benefit of the advantage rule by referee Larkin, went on to slip the ball into the net at the second attempt after King had parried his first effort.

OVERCONFIDENCE

With a lead of three clear goals Tullamore became careleass in defence and they paid the penalty for overconfidence in the 18th minute when Duffy failed to get his body behind a weak shot from Parkes and conceded a soft goal as a result. Athlone failed to last the pace and superior fitness enabled Tullamore to regain the initiative in the closing quarter. They stretched their lead in the 25th minute when Malone took a return pass from Brady to score with a ground shot and after the visitors had been deprived of a goal when a cross from Molloy hit the post and came back to Bradley who blazed over from a good position, they brought their total to six in the 28th minute when a weak goal-kick was snapped up by Brady who survived two

strong tackles before smashing the ball past King. It was all over bar the shouting now but with five minutes to go Athlone very nearly had a consoling goal when parked had a shot cleared off the line by Tom Whiteley with Duffy out of his charge and almost immediately the home side broke away for Whiteley to head home a centre from Malone to put the seal on a fine performance.

Result: Tullamore, 7; Athlone, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Marti, M. Lowery, P. Malone, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Athlone: M. King, J. Creene, W. Bradley, R. Byrne, D. McMonigle, T. Malone, C. Molloy, R. Hayden, J. Parkes, J. Beaumont, J. McMoreland.

Referee: Mr. Ignatious Larkin [Dublin]

September 4th 1965

Tullamore Trounced By Rampant Rovers

Tullamore, scorers of seven goals against Athlone the previous week, had the same number registered against them on Sunday last at Glenmalure Park, Milltown when they crashed heavily to Shamrock Rovers in their first away game of the new season.

The final score of 7-1 in Rovers favour more or less tells its own story, but the cost of this defeat - and the others which will inevitably follow – may be charged to experience as Tullamore struggle to find their feet in this exciting new grade.

SPOT-KICK REPORTS FROM MILLTOWN

Scottish novelist, George Smolet wrote in the 18th Century “who bravely dares must sometimes risk a fall”. It might be no harm at all if the players and supporters of the Tullamore club take note of this, for patience all-round is called for if the testing time of rehabilitation is to be survived. Tullamore were very conscious of their new status on Sunday last and to me at any rate it looked as though Rover’s reputation did as much to quieten the visitors as did their skill. This was particularly true of the opening half when Tullamore players repeatedly hung back and allowed the home attack plenty of room in which to work. Make no mistake about it Tullamore got none of the lucky breaks that were going. Twice the woodwork deprived them of certain scores whilst on at least two

other occasions nerves and tension resulted in one or other of the visiting forwards missing scores which were there for the taking. It may also be noted that the visitors played the last fifteen minutes with virtually ten men following an injury to centre-half Joe Martin. Taking all these background details into consideration then the overall picture becomes a good deal brighter for it is certain that Tullamore will have learned a lot from Sunday’s thrashing and if the lesson can be turned to good account in future games then the loss of two Castrol Trophy points will not have been too dear a price to pay.

DEFENSIVE LAPSES

A defence which concedes seven goals cannot expect many tributes and certainly Tullamore rearguard took a real roasting on Sunday. For more than

half the first moiety they held the opposition scoreless, but then three goals in less than fourteen minutes shattered their confidence before the interval. Goalkeeper Duffy could scarcely be faulted for any of the shots which beat him for all of them were shot from close range. In front of him Joe Martin had a great first-half but an indifferent second one, but the full-back partnership of John Lowery and Tom Whiteley (the latter is the new skipper of the side) were consistantly sound although Whiteley was opposed by Rover's best player, Larry Stewart. Much of the visitor's troubles stemmed from thir inability to control the centre of the field for wing-halves. Martin Lowery and Noel Lynch were far too prone to defensive strategy at a time when there was nothing to lose and everything to gain by staking all on attack. Starved of an adequate service from behind, the Tullamore forwards never looked like even testing the capabilities of the home defence and with Malone and Geraghty almost shut out of the game completely too much he lacked that vital yard of pace which would have made all the difference whilst Teddy Whiteley's shooting was well off target and Eamonn Byrne took far too long to distribute his of a strain was thrown on the inside trio. Brady was perhaps the hardest worker afield, but passes. Shamrock Rovers beaten 3-1 by Bohemians in their first outing the previous week, looked a side capable fo great things. With the ball running kindly for them they could afford to indulge in artistic approach work, but once they started shooting in the second-half they proved that they have

the power as well as finesse.

SCORES ON THE CLOCK

Rovers started with a fairly strong win to assist them and within three minutes of the kick-off Duffy was sprawling full-length to save on the line from Lawlor. By right Rovers should have opened their account in the 5th minute when a centre from Steward left Lawlor with a real sitter in front of the posts, but the chance was squandered and Tullamore survived. Rovers had the first corner of the game in the 7th minute, but Stewart sent behind from the flag-kick and Tullamore gradually began to assert themselves. Byrne was badly off target from a good position in the 12th minute Brady shot into the side netting after being put through by Byrne. Cummins got his first real test when he went full-length to save from Byrne, but just when we were beginning to think that this Rovers attack would not burst a paper bag they shot into the lead in the 24th minute. Within less than a minute Tullamore had an opportunity to wipe out this lead for after Byrne had beaten Cummins and squared the ball across the face of the goal Brady dashed in to shoot against the butt of the post. Tullamore badly needed a goal at this stage, but instead it was Rovers who came close to augmenting their lead in the 31st minute when a thundering drive from Canavan skimmed over the centre of the bar. This was the prelude to an all-out home attack, which was to yield two goals in as many minutes. The first came in the 37th minute when Canavan slipped the ball inside to Richardson and the inside-right unleashed a powerful

drive which never stopped until it hit the Tullamore net and one minute later Canavan himself slipped past Martin to rocket home number three from close range. Tullamore although now badly rattled, might still have pulled one back before the interval for with only two minutes remaining Whiteley put through by Brady, missed a wonderful chance from less than six yards range.

Half-time: Shamrock Rovers, 3;
Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore never needed a goal worse than immediately after the resumption and it was only a cruel fate which denied them one in the very first minute when a centre from Malone was crashed off the crossbar by Bradey. Tullamore were pressing steadily now with the freshening breeze adding impetus to their attack so that it was against the run of the play when Canavan raced through from the end-line to leave Canavan with a scorching drive which never rose off the ground. This time Tullamore had a quick reply for within less than sixty seconds Geraghty reduced arrears and sparked off hopes of better things to come with a searing left-footed shot from far out which was deflected on its way to the net. Tullamore were in with a chance again, although admittedly a remote one, but their prospects took a nose-dive in the 16th minute when Stewart cut the ball back from the end-line to leave Canavan with a simple opportunity of completing his hat-trick. Rovers were in rampant mood now. Having scored three times himself Canavan's main object now was to create goals for his colleagues and in

the 23rd minute he broke through from Richardson's pass, drew the defence and left the ball set up for Lawlor to score Rovers sixth. Tullamore were denied even a consolation goal in the 29th minute when Cummins excelled himself in making a daring save at Brady's feet and when Joe Martin was carried off with a leg injury on the stroke of the half hour the visitor's cup of sorrow was filled to the brim. The pivot resumed gallantly after six minutes, but he was no more than a token figure on the right wing for the remainder of the game. Martin Lowery took over at centre-half but by now Rover's appetite for goals had been satisfied and their final goal was delayed until the last minute of the game when a startling burst of speed carried McKenna down the right wing and his pin-pointed centre was guided home by Lawlor from point-blank range.

Result: Shamrock Rovers, 7;
Tullamore, 1.

Shamrock Rovers: J. Cummins, M. Gregg, J. Clarke, D. McGann, A. Cullen, J. Hyland, J. McKenna, D. Richardson, P. Canavan, M. Lawlor, L. Stewart.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, P. Malone, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. J. Hayden [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

With a 7-1 margin registered against them it follows that merit points this week can be only awarded for effort

rather than achievement. Of course this being the case, points could be distributed fairly freely for one thing that Tullamore's performance did not lack was effort. However for the purpose of this feature I am taking Jim

Brady, John Lowery and Joe Martin in that order and will leave it at that. This leaves the overall position after two games reading as follows:

J. Brady [4] T. Geraghty [3] J. Martin [3] J. Lowery [2]

September 11th 1965

League And Cup Defeats On Successive Days

The last week-end was busy, but unrewarding one for Tullamore. Within the space of twenty-four hours they sustained two defeats of widely contrasting nature.

On Saturday at Whitehall, Tullamore were swamped 8-0 by Home Farm in the Castrol Trophy, but they stepped up considerable on this performance the next day when they brought Jacobs to extra-time before losing by a late goal in the first-round of the Leinster Senior Cup. One goal scored in 200 minutes of football reflects the greatest weakness which is afflicting Tullamore just now.

Home Farm	8
Tullamore	0

With Joe Martin on the injured list and Jim Brady, Eamonn Byrne and Teddy Whiteley being rested for the following day's cup match at Spollenstown Tullamore fielded a 'new look' side for their Castrol Trophy match against Home Farm at Whitehall on Saturday. Into the team came Paddy Dunne, Christy Hughes, Liam Connolly and former Mullingar Town player Vincent Murray with John Lowery moving from fullback to lead the attack. Alas, the sudden switch from town league football

to the premier grade proved too big a step and this 'shadow' team crashed to an 8-0 defeat at the hands of a Home Farm selection which showed only three changes from the side which won last season's Leinster Senior Cup and only one change from the side which had run Stoke City to an odd goal the previous week. Tullamore were completely out of their depth in this company, although it is ridiculous to suggest that the score did them justice. I think a fair winning margin for Home Farm would have been 4-0 for they will be the first to admit that their final four goals would never have been scored had Paddy Duffy not lost heart completely. Faced with the prospect of playing two important games on successive days Tullamore threw their prospects of league points to the wind by deciding to concentrate on Sunday's cup fixture. The decision was probably a wise one, as events turned out, for Saturday was one of those days when nothing would go right for them. The troubles started even before the kickoff for a late arrival at Whitehall found the home side stripped and ready

for the fray. This meant a quick dash for the Tullamore players and left them no time to stretch cramped muscles after their journey.

UNINSPIRING DEFENCE

Tullamore's defence never inspired confidence for even Paddy Duffy's amazing loss of form could not be held entirely responsible for the debacle. Without being as consistently sound as usual Tom Whiteley was probably Tullamore's best defender. Paddy Dunne could not bridge the gulf between town league standard and that which prevails in the higher grade, whilst his D.E.W. Athletic colleague, Christy Hughes was equally at sea in these surroundings. Tullamore never got to grips with the opposition in the vital midfield sector for it was not until he switched to centre-half after the interval that Noel Lynch displayed anything like his true form whilst Martin Lowery was far removed from his best in the other winghalf position. With little or no support forthcoming from behind the visiting attack was left to fend for itself with unrewarding results. The drive of Teddy Whiteley and the goal grabbing ability of Jim Brady were sadly missed.

THE SCORING

The goal scoring spree, for less than two minutes had elapsed when Home Farm surged into the lead. Tullamore tried valiantly to recover from this blow and they had the satisfaction of forcing the first corner of the game in the 6th minute, but by and large Home Farm were controlling the ball much better on

the well-grassed pitch. In the 20th minute, Conroy tipped an indirect free to Canavan on the edge of the area and the left half got tremendous power behind his shot which Duffy saved brilliantly, the next minute produced the goal which really unsettled Tullamore for the remainder of the game. It was a long-range effort from Sweetman and with Duffy failing to get his body behind the ball it trickled through his legs and in off the post. Tullamore were floundering now, they took more punishment three minutes later when Duffy could only parry a strong drive from Hunt and Sweetman had the easiest of tasks in guiding the ball in to complete his hat-trick.

Half-time: Home Farm, 3; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore made sweeping changes for the second-half and resumed with Lynch at centre-half, Dunne leading the attack, John Lowery at left-full and Hughes at right-half and when they forced a corner immediately after the resumption it looked as though the switches might bring about the desired result. However, it was a case of the visitors flattering only to deceive and it was the Farm who stretched their lead in the 7th minute. Tullamore's best movement of the entire game came five minutes later when they swept upfield from inside their own penalty area, but they were denied a face-saving score by a brilliant save by Swan from Connolly. Back came Home Farm and in the 23rd minute a sweet pass from Ryan was nodded in by Sweetman to complete the nap hand. Ryan scoring an easy sixth goal and Daly adding number seven by

chipping the ball over Duffy's head from an impossible position on the endline. Five minutes from the end Canavan popped in the closing score with Duffy looking on.

Result: Home Farm, 8; Tullamore, 0,

Home Farm: T. Swan, L. Kennedy, P. Dowling, E. Ryan, K. Kenealy. P. Canavan, K. Osborne, W. Hunt, T. Sweetman, T. Conroy, G. Daly.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, C.

Hughes, N. Lynch, P. Dunne, M. Lowery, P. Malone, L. Connolly, J. Lowery, V. Murray, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. M. Quinn [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Distributing merit points after an affair such as this is certainly no easy task. Never the less it is one which must be faced and for my three points winners I am taking Noel Lynch, Tom Whiteley and Tommy Geraghty in that order.

September 11th 1965

Extra Time Had To Be Played

Tullamore	1
Jacobs	2

Tullamore fared much better than expected in Sunday's Leinster Senior cup-tie against Jacobs at Spollenstown. Shrugging off all effects of their rout of the previous day they matched their experienced visitors throughout the field and brought the game to extra-time before succumbing by the odd goal of three. Of course, Tullamore had a stronger side on duty on this occasion with Byrne, Teddy Whiteley and Brady back in the forward line and two newcomers making their debut in the town colours. The latest additions to the team were Tony Whiteley a third member of the same family at centre-half and Larry Dunne, who has been starring with Portlaoise in the Town League on the right wing. Of the two, Whiteley was by far the more impressive for his play carried the stamp of authority. Given time Larry Dunne, too, may prove a useful acquisition for he worked the ball well and was always willing to 'have a go' himself whenever the opportunity presented itself. Of the regulars it was good to find Paddy Duffy over his bad spell and his goalkeeping did a great deal towards keeping the issue open for

so long. Tom Whiteley and John Lowery had the measure of the opposing wingers all through. It was in attack that Tullamore failed for the forwards were unable to punch home their advantage and scoring chances were lost. In the early stages it looked as though Geraghty would be a match winner on his own. He repeatedly had the measure of his direct opponent, but he faded as the game progressed. Brady was the hardest worker afield, but for all that he could make no impression on the experienced Shay Keogh, whilst Teddy Whiteley gave a good display but missed scoring chances. All in all this was a performance from which Tullamore can take heart.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Although playing against the wind in the first-half Tullamore shaped well in the early stages with Geraghty testing Hoey as early as the first minute and then forcing the first corner of the game three minutes later. O'Rourke displayed his shooting power with an effort which skimmed over the Tullamore bar, but it was the home side which continued to look the more dangerous until the 8th minute when Grant blazed over the bar.

The 13th minute was marked by a brilliant run by Teddy Whiteley who weaved his way past three tackles before being halted by Keogh just inside the area, but then Jacobs came more into the picture. First Duffy saved well from O'Rourke and minutes later the 'keeper excelled himself by tipping a scorcher from Hoey over the bar for a fruitless corner. Not to be outdone Hoey showed his ability at the other end with a brilliant save from Geraghty at the foot of the post and later he dived at Brady's feet after the latter had been put clean through by Lynch. To date Tullamore had been more than holding their own against the breeze and hopes were raised higher by the pressure, but half time arrived without a score to either side.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Jacobs, 0.

Eight minutes after the resumption Geraghty had a stinging left-footed drive deflected for a corner by Farrell and although Whiteley's centre was a good one it was headed over by Brady. Lynch and Byrne combined to send Brady through the middle two minutes later and the centre-forward's final shot shaved the paint off the post. Tullamore appeared to be getting well on top, but Brady, Geraghty, Byrne and Whiteley all shot wide in succession and it was thus against the run of play when the biscuitmen opened the scoring in the 15th minute, when the referee ruled the ball had crossed the line and which was disputed by the home side, Whiteley took over at centre-forward for Tullamore with Brady switching to the right wing and Dunne moving to inside-

left, but the line as a whole continued to squander scoring chances in a game which had suddenly become as dead as mutton. The home side appeared to lack incentive to wipe out Jacobs lead, but with the very last kick of normal time they launched a last offensive which yielded a corner, practically the whole Tullamore side trooped upfield for Whiteley's delivery and when it landed in the goalmouth Brady got his boot to it to stab it in by the post. And so it was into extra-time with both sides beginning to feel the strain. Fears that even extra-time would fail to bring about a decision between two shot-shy teams were set aside three minutes after the interval, but it was a most unsatisfactory end as O'Rourke fastened onto a ball in a doubtful position and scored. The referee was satisfied and it was his decision to allow the goal to stand which shot Tullamore out of their first Senior Cup campaign, although they came very close to saving the day in the last minute when a centre from Martin Lowery to Brady was taken off the goal-line by Doyle.

Result: Tullamore, 1; Jacobs, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, Tom Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, Tony Whiteley, M. Lowery, L. Dunne, E. Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Jacobs: A. Hoey, M. Doyle, C. Farrell, C. Fitzgerald, S. Keogh, P. Murphy, T. Hoey, P. O'Rourke, D. Sullivan, C. Grant, M. Ryan.

Referee: Mr. Scully [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

For our second merit rating session of the week points can be awarded for a much better performance and pride of place goes to Tommy Geraghty, followed by Paddy Duffy and newcomer Tony Whiteley all of which leaves the overall position reading as follows:

Tom Geraghty [6] Jim Brady [4] Joe Martin [3] John Lowery [3] Noel Lynch [3] Tom Whiteley [2] P. Duffy [2] Tony Whiteley [1]

SHELS NEXT

Home fans have another attractive fixture listed for Spollenstown next Sunday when Shelbourne will be the visitors in the Castrol Trophy [3.30 p.m.]

YOUTHS CUP

The first game in the youths' cup was played on Sunday morning last when Clontarf Corinthians defeated Salts 3-2 after the latter had led 2-0 at half-time.

September 18th 1965

Tullamore's Impressive Victory Over Shelbourne

Tullamore balanced their league account at Spollenstown on Sunday last by recording a fine 3-1 victory over Shelbourne, thus registering their second victory in four outings in the Castrol Trophy.

A return to winning form compensated home fans who braved the inclement weather and patrons were treated to a fine display of football, which was highlighted by the scoring of some really brilliant goals. Forced to make two late changes on their original selection, Tullamore made little of the handicap and always seemed to be in command against a Shelbourne side.

ENFORCED CHANGES

Tullamore's enforced changes saw them lineout with Martin Lowery at centre-half and Eamonn Byrne a lefthalf, with Peter Malone being recalled to the right wing. So effective were these switches that the selectors must now find themselves in a real quandary. Byrne proved conclusively that he is more at home as a halfback than an inside forward and with a fine display of ball-playing artistry and snappy passing he laid claim to the title of man of the match. Equally impressive was the performance of Martin Lowery in the unusual position of centre-half for he completely subdued the Reds leader, Whelan. With Noel Lynch completing a solid middle line,

Tullamore had a firm launching pad for their offensives and the forwards responded with a display of crisp attacking football, which kept the visitors on their toes throughout. Tommy Geraghty exploded the myth that he is only a one-footed player by scoring a great goal with his right. Inside-forward Teddy Whiteley had two goals -one in each half – which were of inestimable value to the winners. Tullamore also had strength and guile on the other flank where Liam Connolly showed some very clever touches in the first half and Peter Malone was in hard luck with two good goal scoring efforts oddly enough the weakest link in attack was in the centre where Jim Brady, the prolific scorer of last season, is going through a very lean spell just now. Paddy Duffy, his confidence fully restored, was faultless in goal whilst Tom Whiteley, playing what will probably be his last game for the club, turned in a fine performance and with John Lowery playing a storming game on the other flank the scoring opportunities presented to the visitor were scarcer than feathers on a frog. Shelbourne fielded a side, which

included three players who have appeared on their premier line-out goalkeeper John Heavey and wingers Maguire and Farrell.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Rain was falling at the kick-off and after Lynch had averted early danger the home forwards swung into action and a strong centre from Geraghty was splendidly cut off by Heavey. This was but the prelude to a series of home attacks, the best of which came in the 6th minute when Geraghty, presented with an opening by Whiteley, skimmed the bar with a raising shot from just outside the area. Tullamore were doing most of the early pressing and they forced the first corner of the game in the 8th minute, while two minutes later a great chance of opening the scoring was missed when centre-half Cullen cleared from in front of the posts after a centre from Malone had beaten Heavey. Shelbourne, too, had their chances of drawing first blood and in this respect right-winger Maguire erred badly by slicing the ball well wide following a free by Farrell.

TULLAMORE TAKE LEAD

Tullamore's opening goal in the 12th minute was a real gem when Brady broke to the left and centered knee-high in front of the posts. Teddy Whiteley came hurtling in to deflect the ball out of Heavey's reach with a diving header which entered the net just inside the butt of the post. An early goal such as this was just the tonic which Tullamore needed to wipe out the memory of

recent heavy defeats and even when Shels counter-attacked within a minute the raid was repulsed at the expense of no more than a corner. Farrell placed his flag-kick astutely and when Duffy punched clear under pressure from Kidd and Whelan, Noel Lynch was on hand to complete the clearance. Up and down exchanges at a brisk pace held the interest of spectators and resulted in good scoring chances being missed at either end. The Tullamore miss of the match came in the 18th minute when a movement which developed from a clearance by Duffy and was carried on by Byrne whose centre from the left beat Heavey all ends up but was missed in front of an open goal by Brady. Straight away Shels hit back and Duffy was thankful to beat out a well-placed header by McCarney. Tullamore were more than holding their own now and Connolly had a good shot brilliantly held by Heavey before they stretched their lead in the 27th minute, when a wonderful bout of passing between Geraghty and Whiteley ended with the former rocketing home a great goal with his right foot. Within two minutes of this score Shelbourne missed a gilt edged chance of reducing their leeway when inside-right Walsh shot tamely wide from inside the area and Tullamore survived another crisis in the 34th minute when Martin Lowery was on hand to clear after Duffy had lost possession in the goalmouth. Shels continued to press strongly and a stinging shot from Walsh hit the angle of the woodwork from where it bounced high to safety. Tullamore might easily have drawn further ahead eight minutes before the interval when a great centre

from Geraghty was headed within a coat of paint of the upright by Brady but the first half ended with Shelbourne centre-forward, Whelan, hitting his head off the ground in disgust after he had shot into Duffy's hands from less than four yards range following a centre from Walsh which beat Martin Lowery.

Half-time : Tullamore, 2; Shelbourne, 0.

The quality of the football in the second half failed to match that of the opening period. After an early free by Rohan had been cleared by Lynch play returned to the other end where Brady had a header saved on the line by Heavey. Tullamore were coasting along too casually now and they were fortunate to escape with a corner against them in the 10th minute. In all Shels forced a series of four corners in the first fifteen minutes but with Byrne very prominent in the home defence they were denied a break through until the 22nd minute when a corner by Farrell was only partially cleared by Lynch and Whelan reduced arrears with a crashing drive which shook the rain-drops off the Tullamore net. This goal might have altered the whole trend of the game but before Shelbourne could benefit from it Tullamore had restored their two-gaol advantage within a minute when a centre from Brady was headed against Heavey's body by Whiteley and with the keeper failing to gather the ball Whiteley got a second bite at the cherry and promptly forced the ball home. Shels made strenuous efforts to pull the game out of the fire in the closing quarter, but the weakness in attack, which had affected their play all

through proved their undoing. With the home defence free wheeling and taking liberties which were scarcely justified the chances were there for Shels but although they were well on top coming towards the end they could make little or no impression, their final fling being a break through by Whelan which Duffy foiled by diving at the centre-forward's feet to bring off a plucky save.

Result: Tullamore, 3; Shelbourne, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley [capt] J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, P. Malone, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Shelbourne: J. Heavey, J. Rohan, M. Gannon, G. Weston, L. Cullen, C. McCarney [capt], C. Maguire, S. Walsh, T. Whelan, W. Kidd, B. Farrell.

Referee: Mr. J. Kelly [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Somehow or other it is always easier to distribute our merit points after a winning engagement and Sunday's victory which leaves Tullamore in touch with the league leaders, was achieved in a manner which left no room for argument. Oddly enough the leading candidates for points from this game were players who were performing in positions other than their usual ones. There can be no disputing the fact that Eamonn Byrne was Tullamore's outstanding player on Sunday last and that his nearest rival for the position was Martin Lowery. The third spot is the one which causes some missgiving,

but I think that Teddy Whiteley's two great goals are certainly worth a point in this feature. So, after five matches the overall position now reads as follows:

T. Geraghty [6] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [3] E. Byrne [3] J. Lowery [3] N. Lynch [3] Tom Whiteley [2] P. Duffy [2] M. Lowery [2] Tony Whiteley [1] E. Whiteley [1].

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore face one of their long-distance trips of the season next Sunday

when they travel to Lourdes Stadium to tackle Drogheda in the Castrol Trophy. Still without an away win to their credit Tullamore will be anxious to break the ice and a repeat of last week's form might suffice to achieve just such a happy event. On the home front West End [holders] and Portlaoise replay their cup semi-final at Spollenstown on Saturday afternoon [3.30 p.m] whilst on Sunday morning West End and Juventus meet in the semi-final of the youth's cup [11.30 a.m] to decide which of them will advance to meet Clontarf Corinthians in the final.

September 25th 1965

Feeble Display By Tullamore in Drogheda

Tullamore turned in a typical away from home performance at Lourdes Stadium on Sunday last when going under by 3-1 to Drogheda in the Castrol Trophy.

BELOW STRENGTH

To put things in their proper perspective it must first be pointed out that Tullamore were obliged to field a considerably weakened side. With Tom Whiteley gone to England since Saturday and Joe Martin being joined on the injury list by Eamonn Byrne, the visitors were badly hit and their lack of capable reserve talent blatantly exposed. The absence of three key players calls for a greater all-round effort from the remainder of the side, but unfortunately this was not forthcoming. Prior to Sunday's game both Tullamore and Drogheda shared an equal status in the league table, just three points behind the leaders and it would not have taken a whole lot for Tullamore to remain in close contact. All that was needed was greater speed in thought and action and more accuracy in passing, but these were all attributes which were sadly lacking in Tullamore's makeup last week. When it comes to apportioning the

blame for this setback the visiting forwards must shoulder the lion's share. Admittedly they did not get the best of support from the halfbacks where Eamonn Byrne's constructive work was badly missed. Jim Brady's complete loss of form continues to have an upsetting influence on the attack. Yet it would be unfair to saddle the centre-forward with blame. For one thing he lacked support. It was only in the closing ten minutes that any spark of spirit was evident and by then the damage had been done. Liam Connolly is certainly capable of better games than this but at least lack of experience can be put forward as an excuse on his behalf. Not so with the others. On the other flank Peter Malone only sparked into life in the closing stages and a good final ten minutes was not enough to offset all that had gone before. At defence, at least, there was commendable effort by the wearers of the red and white whose inflexible resistance did much to keep the core within reasonably respectable limits. Noel Lynch remained aloof from the lacadaisical "bug" which afflicted his colleagues. His tendency to overuse the ball within his own penalty area may have caused a few fluttering heartbeats,

but for all that he was by far the best of the Tullamore side. Paddy Duffy's goalkeeping left little room for complaint for he handled the ball safely. Martin Lowery, captain for the day in the absence of Tom Whiteley, fared reasonably well at centre-half, but on this occasion he was overshadowed by his brother, John, who made few mistakes at left-full. As his partner Sean Hogan had a baptism of fire in senior football for he was pitted against Drogheda's best forward in leftwinger Kane. Under the circumstances the newcomer fared well enough to merit at least another chance of proving himself. Christy Hughes faced with the unenviable task of deputising for Eamonn Byrne may not have quite filled the bill at left-half but for all that he accomplished a good deal by the use of spoiling tactics.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Warm sunshine tempered by a diagonal wind which assisted Drogheda in the first-half, attracted a fair-sized gathering of home fans augmented by a sprinkling from Tullamore. Within two minutes of the kick-off the Tullamore goal had a narrow escape as inside-left Gardner blazed over from a good position following a miskick by Hogan and the pattern for the remainder of the game was set shortly afterwards when right-winger Wynne and centre-forward Fitzpatrick combined cleverly in a bout of passing which ended with John Lowery conceding the first corner of the game which was sent behind by Kane. Eight minutes elapsed before Tullamore got a shot at the home goal and then it

was a ground shot from Geraghty which sped just wide of the post. Back came Drogheda and a snap header by Bermingham was saved on the line by Duffy so far the home forwards were cutting lanes through the Tullamore defence and it was only desperate defensive measures which kept them at bay. Tullamore's only corner of the first-half came in the 13th minute, but Geraghty's centre was blazed high over the target by Hughes. Two minutes later Bermingham had a good shot flicked over the top by Duffy and although by now the visiting defence had settled down it was Drogheda who continued to call the tune and it was only their inclination to overuse the ball when within shooting distance which kept them scoreless. In contrast Tullamore were not moving to the ball at all with the result that they were repeatedly left trailing by their fleet-footed opponents and with Byrne and Rooney ruling the roost around midfield the tide was flowing strongly against the visitors. Tullamore had a narrow escape in the 25th minute when Hogan attempting to clear from Fitzpatrick, went within a fraction of turning the ball into his own net.

OPENING SCORE

When Drogheda eventually succeeded in taking the lead it was a relatively simple score which came dead on the stroke of the half-hour, per Bermingham. Then Fitzpatrick poked the ball straight at Duffy following a weak clearance by Martin Lowery and the pressure paid dividends just six minutes before the interval when a strong centre from Kane

was followed by a great header by Bermingham and although Duffy got his hands to the ball he could only push it against the upright from where it ripped its way into the net in the six minutes which remained. Bermingham tried hard to complete his hat-trick, but with Lynch and Lowery to the fore the visiting defence held out.

Half-time: Drogheda, 2; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore recast their forward line during the interval and resumed with Geraghty the only one to hold his original position. Connolly went to the right wing, with Brady as his partner whilst Whiteley took over at centreforward, with Malone on his left. The changes did little to improve the visiting side, although within less than a minute good work by Brady and Whiteley paved the way for Geraghty to shoot weakly at Mooney. In the 8th minute Connolly put Brady clean through the middle, but Mooney saved well to nip this Tullamore revival in the bud. Tullamore were certainly having more of the play now. But their forwards time after time ran themselves into difficulties. Geraghty had a close free blocked by a wall of defenders but the real hard-luck story of the day came in the 23rd minute when Whiteley broke through, beat Mooney and looked certain to score until left full McNamee got back to clear off the goal-line, a goal at this stage might have proved the injection, which Tullamore so badly needed, but the opportunity occurred in the 31st minute, a centre from right-half Byrne completely deceived Duffy and the ball was rushed to the

Tullamore net. That really put the tin hat on Tullamore's prospects for although they subsequently played their best football of the day their only consolation was a good goal by Whiteley which followed equally good approach work by Malone.

Result: Drogheda, 3; Tullamore, 1.

Drogheda: S. Mooney, S. Cullen, G. McNamee, T. Byrne [capt], T. Rooney, B. Wynne, B. Bermingham, G. Fitzpatrick, B. Gardner, C. Kane.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, S. Hogan, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery [capt], C. Hughes, P. Malone, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. Charlie O'Leary [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

It is a case of defenders to the fore this week when it comes to distributing points and by heading this week's last year's overall winner, Noel Lynch jumps up joint leadership of the current ratings also improving their positions as a result of earnest endeavour on Sunday last are John Lowery and Paddy Duffy and I will stand by this trio with this week's points added the overall picture now reads as follows:

T. Geraghty [6] N. Lynch [6] J. Lowery [5] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [3] P. Duffy [3] E. Byrne [3] M. Lowery [2] T. Whiteley [2] Tony Whiteley [1] E. Whiteley [1]

CUP TIE IS POSTPONED

With the torrential rain of Friday last reducing the sidepitch at Spollenstown to a sea of mud the replay of the Town Cup semi-final between Portlaoise and West End [holders] due to be decided there on Saturday last was called off and will now be played at the same venue on next Saturday [3.30 p.m.]

The Saints Come Marching In

Tullamore will be back on home ground next Sunday when St. Patrick's Athletic will provide the Sunday attraction at Spollenstown. This should afford Tullamore an excellent opportunity to regain the winning trail as the Inchicore side are by no means the strongest in

the competition. Home fans have yet to see Tullamore lose a Castrol Trophy game at Spollenstown and the sequence of home wins may be stretched further in this game.

THE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Home Farm	5	4	1	0	20	4	9
Bohemians	5	4	0	1	13	6	8
Ormeau	5	3	2	0	12	6	8
Drogheda	5	3	0	2	19	9	6
Drumcondra	5	2	1	2	10	13	5
Shamrock R.	5	2	1	2	12	8	5
Dalkey	5	2	1	2	9	9	5
Tullamore	5	2	0	3	12	21	4
Shelbourne	5	1	1	3	5	9	3
Dundalk	5	1	0	4	8	15	2
St. Patrick's	4	1	0	3	3	11	2
Athlone	4	0	1	3	3	11	2

October 2nd 1965

Tullamore Trounce St. Patrick's Athletic

Former inter-league goalkeeper Dinny Lowery picked the ball out of the back of his charge five times on Sunday last when Tullamore maintained their hundred per cent home record in the Castrol Trophy by recording a facile 5-1 victory over visiting St. Patrick's Athletic. The amazing inconsistency in the form displayed by Tullamore at home compared to that reserved for away displays was never more marked than on this occasion for the standard achieved last Sunday at Spollenstown was as different from that of the previous week in Drogheda as chalk is from cheese. With only one or two exceptions the home players showed unbounded spirit and enthusiasm for their work and the manner in which they gradually over-run a more than useful visiting side emphasised just how high they could now be in the league table if anything like the same determination was revealed in away matches.

Sunday's achievement was all the more meritorious in view of the fact that Tullamore were very much below full strength. True, Joe Martin was back to bolster the defence, but Eamonn Byrne was still on the injured list whilst Jim Brady was rested for this game. As a result the home side fielded what was essentially an experimental team and

the manner in which they rose to the occasion must have warmed the hearts of their supporters it has now been more or less officially decided to utilise the remaining Castrol Trophy games as a basis for trial and error experiments in the hope that a winning blend may emerge before the start of the league championship proper in November, and the fact that the selectors had the courage of their convictions was reflected by their decision to drop Brady for Sunday's game. This, in itself, is surely a warning to others who may imagine that they can continue to get by on the strength of a reputation whether real or imaginary.

TULLAMORE LUCKY?

Were Tullamore lucky to win by such an impressive margin? Undoubtedly they fully deserved to collect both points but I doubt if a four goal margin really did justice to the visitors. Tullamore had any lucky breaks which were going but who is to deny dame fortune's smile once in a while. The return of Joe Martin to the centre half position added a stature to the home defence. One of the features of the game was the firstclass goalkeeping and in this respect Paddy Duffy outshone his more famous

opposite number Dinny Lowery. Duffy, who had a spell with St. Patrick's before joining Tullamore, was in brilliant form all through. Sean Hogan came through a stiff assignment with considerable success. Tullamore's middle line proved very reliable. Noel Lynch provided the most memorable moment of the game with a goal three minutes before the final whistle the likes of which has never been seen at the venue. Joe Martin's welcome return was marked by an impressive performance which virtually blotted the opposing centre-forward Noel Clegg out of the picture, but left-half Martin Lowery might have fared better had he concentrated on his own position instead of attempting to do the work of three men. It was in attack that Tullamore really sparkled on Sunday. Teddy Whiteley provided such a spirited leadership that he claimed three goals himself as well as bringing the best out of his colleagues. Liam Connolly, came right into his own after the interval with a majestic display of power-packed football and scored a great goal. Of the others Malone worked hard at inside-left, but wingers Geraghty and Keegan seldom eluded the attentions of the visiting fulls.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The game was less than four minutes in progress when St. Pat's forced the first corner of the day. Paddy Duffy made the first of his many fine saves in the 9th minute when he pushed a stinging drive from Forde onto the bar whilst in Tullamore's first real attack one minute later Dinny Lowery was brought to his knees in saving from Geraghty against

the upright. It was immediately following this escape that the visitor's goal fell for the first time for with the defence standing still awaiting the referee's whistle Whiteley took a pass from Malone to hit the ball cleanly past Lowery for the lead. In the 15th minute Tullamore might have added to their lead for Lynch carried the ball right through a retreating defence but his final pass to Whiteley was blazed wide from a good position. The Saints equaliser in the 18th minute was more or less against the run of the play, but it was a good goal for all of that, Hawkins placing Clegg for a shot which hit the roof of the Tullamore net. Once they had achieved equality the visitors went all out to improve their position still further and in the 21st minute a free by Byrne was followed by a good shot from Carbury which John Lowery took from under the bar. The football up to now was of a high standard, yet there was no real life in the exchanges, Clegg, when given the opportunity, proved a dangerous foe, but on the whole he was kept subdued by Joe Martin and it was Tullamore who looked the better-balance side in attack. Dinny Lowery's vast experience paid off in the 29th minute when he dashed out to narrow the angle perfectly as Geraghty broke through from the left, but one minute later the visiting keeper was well beaten following a splendid movement which was started by Keegan, carried on by Connolly and finished to the net by Whiteley. Three minutes later Whiteley came very close to completing his hat-trick when he collected a long clearance from Duffy and cut between two defenders before shooting against

Lowery's body. Connolly forced Lowery to make one of his best saves of the day with a super-charged shot which the keeper did well to tip over for Tullamore's only corner of the first-half and it was the custodian who continued to defy Tullamore in the final ten minutes of the first-half when the home side were in full command of the situation.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; St. Patrick's Athletic, 1.

Quick covering by Joe Martin averted danger for Tullamore after the resumption, but it was St. Pats who had an escape in the fifth minute when, following an inswinging corner by Geraghty which curled past Lowery, left-full Byrne got back to clear off the line. A bad misunderstanding between Martin and Duffy almost presented the visitors with an equaliser in the 6th minute as Clegg nipped between the pair of them but the centreforward's shot skimmed past the butt of the post. With Liam Connolly working hard and effectively around the midfield sector Tullamore were now forcing the pace and although Carbury headed past Duffy following a free by Byrne the score was disallowed for offside.

THE GOAL THAT NEVER WAS

A most controversial decision in the 12th minute brought this game flaring to life and proved to Tullamore that the gods were certainly on their side for after referee McMahon had collided with Noel Lynch in the Tullamore goalmouth and had prevented him from tackling Clegg

the ball ran loose to right-half Mahony whose shot came crashing back off the iron support at the back of the net and as Duffy gathered the rebound he was waved on by the referee, this indeed was a let-off for Tullamore and they never subsequently looked back, instead they piled on the pressure and stretched their lead in the 25th minute when a centre from Keegan was first-timed past Lowery by Liam Connolly for a spectacular goal. Within a minute Duffy brought off a miracle save from Forde at the expense of a corner and now the tempo of the exchanges was certainly fast and furious. Another centre from Keegan was headed a fraction too high by Connolly but in the 32nd minute the issue was sealed in Tullamore's favour when Geraghty pushed the ball inside to Whiteley and latter deceived Lowery with a low shot which skidded under the keeper's diving body into the back of the net. Clegg and Hawkins switched places in the visiting attack without bringing about much improvement and it was goalkeeper Lowery who was fortunate in the 35th minute when a stiff shot from Connolly spun out of his hands and rolled behind for a corner.

GOLDEN GOAL

The final gloss was put on Tullamore's performance with only two minutes remaining for play for when Noel Lynch gained possession just inside the visitor's half, he zig-zagged his way past four tackles, brought the ball right up to Lowery before sending the keeper the wrong way and calmly walking the ball into the net, it was a cheeky goal, it was a spectacular goal, it was a brilliant

goal, and the applause which followed it, was both loud and prolonged.

Result: Tullamore, 5; St. Patrick's Athletic, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, S. Hogan, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Keegan, L. Connolly, E. Whiteley, P. Malone, T. Geraghty.

St. Patrick's Athletic: D. Lowery, J. McAuley, P. Byrne, W. McGrane, K. Bracken, D. Mahony, P. Johnson, R. Hawkins, N. Clegg, S. Forde, J. Carbury.

Referee: Mr. J. McMahon [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

It is a pleasant change to be able to award merit points for accomplishment rather than endeavour alone. Heading the list this week we have Eddie Whiteley whose switch to centreforward was rewarded by three goals which puts him ahead in the individual scoring table for the season. Whilst Whiteley was banging home the goals for Tullamore Paddy Duffy was keeping them out at the other end and his fine goalkeeping performance earns him two points here. It will be a long, long time before Tullamore's final goal last Sunday is forgotten. This was possibly the finest goal ever scored at Spollenstown and it clinches the third merit point for Noel Lynch. Thus putting him ahead in the over all classification which now reads as follows:

Noel Lynch [7] Tommy Geraghty [6] Paddy Duffy [5] John Lowery [5] Eddie Whiteley [4] Jim Brady [4] Joe Martin

[3] Eamonn Byrne [3] Tom Whiteley [2] Martin Lowery [2] Tony Whiteley [1]

LOCAL GAMES OFF

For the second week in succession the replay of the Town Cup semi-final between Portlaoise and West End [holders] had to be called off on Saturday last due to the inclemency of the weather and the state of the side pitch. Now the game has been re-fixed for next Saturday when it is hoped that third time will prove lucky in helping to determine which side will go forward to oppose D.E.W Athletic in the final. Also called off last week-end was the scheduled final for the youth's cup between West End and Clontarf Corinthians and this game is now due to be played on next Sunday morning. West End qualified for the final by virtue of a very hard earned 1-0 victory over Juventus the only goal of a gripping game being scored by Oliver Dooner midway through the second half.

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore take to the road again next week-end when they tackle Bohemians the latter have been keeping in touch with affairs at the top of the league table and have sustained only one defeat to date. This is an impressive record and if Tullamore's performance away from home in earlier engagements can be taken as a guide their prospects of improving their position still further cannot be considered too bright. Yet there was a new spirit evident on Sunday last which if reproduced in Dalymount Park, could go a long way

towards bringing Tullamore their first

away win of the season.

9th October 1965

Tullamore Sparkle in First Away Win

Bohemians, the present glamour club in League of Ireland football, have good reason to respect provincial football standards as the result of recent happenings. Having lost to Athlone the previous week in St. Mel's Park, Bohemians took another plunge on Saturday last, when losing by 3-1 to Tullamore in Dalymount Park. Having previously recorded impressive victories over such teams as Shamrock Rovers, Drumcondra and Dundalk hopes of a home win must have been high in Dalymount last week-end, particularly in view of the fact that both Gerry Frawley and Larry Gilmore of their first team were included in attack. In recording their first away win, Tullamore played their best football of the season to date. Gone was the hesitance and uncertainty which had marked and marred previous performances and in its place Tullamore revealed determination and authority which augurs well for the future. The unexpected, but nevertheless welcome, return of Tom Whiteley gave the defence a real shot in the arm and although Joe Martin and John Lowery were both absentees on Saturday, the Bohs attack had its work cut out in trying to force a way through against the interlocking play of Martin Lowery, Tom Whiteley and Sean Hogan. The latter has improved by leaps and

bounds in recent games, and the manner in which he coped with the experienced Gilmore last week stamped him as a defender of great potential. With Paddy Duffy keeping a great goal for the visitors, the ramifications of this defence proved too solid for the opposition, but it was at halfback that Tullamore really sparkled. In Eamonn Byrne they had the outstanding player on view, his covering in defence being equalled only by his initiative in organising attacks at the other end. Both Martin Lowery and Noel Lynch came through a searching test with colours flying. Tullamore's forwards have seldom been seen to better advantage than on this occasion. The mainspring of the attack was Tommy Geraghty on the left wing for he it was who scored two of the Tullamore goals whilst he had a very big part in the third. Yet this was no one-man show. Far from it indeed, for each of the other four forwards played his part manfully, with Jim Brady recapturing his lost form with magnificent second-half display and Teddy Whiteley and Liam Connolly filling the inside berths with real distinction and ability. Completing an impressive front line Peter Malone's artistry on the right wing made him a thorn in the side of the home defence so that danger was stretched right across

the field with Bohemians never certain from which direction the next thrust would come. Bohemians, lying joint second in the league table prior to this game, had their prospects blighted by the result.

CONDITIONS IDEAL

With Tom Whiteley making a quick dash by car direct from the airport to the ground the visitors' morale received a real boost and although they looked a little self-conscious as they trotted out on the famous Dalymount sod before a surprisingly big Saturday attendance they quickly settled down. Defending the school goal the visitors had an early escape when Duffy had to dive at Kane's feet following a centre from Gilmore but within less than a minute of the kick-off the visitors had forced the first corner of the game with Geraghty's centre being cleared by Holohan, after a Byrne free had been safely fielded and cleared by goalkeeper King. Bohs came surging back for Carroll to shoot strongly over off Foran's centre. Not to be outdone Brady headed behind from Geraghty's centre and in the 6th minute a magnificent bout of interpassing between Whiteley and Brady deserved better than a corner. And so the opening fifteen minutes passed without real incident, the blanket defence of the home side smothering Tullamore's best efforts and the quick tackling and tremendous covering ability of Lowery, Whiteley, Lynch and Byrne proving equally effective at the other end. In the 20th minute Lowery hooked the ball away from Frawley when danger looked imminent and then Tom Whiteley came

storming upfield to send a low shot whistling past the foot of the post as Brady chased in. Bohemians were banking heavily on Gilmore's experience on the left wing, but with Hogan in close attendance all the time the winger had few opportunities to exploit his famous shooting ability. Gradually, Tullamore were getting a grip on the game and it was significant that King was by far the busier goalie, yet it was the Tullamore goal which almost fell in the 25th minute when a weak pass back from Lowery forced Duffy to dive at Frawley's feet. Three minutes later Gilmore sent wide from a free in front of the goal and then, on the stroke of the half-hour. Bohemians shot into a shock lead when Gilmore fastened onto a loose ball, raced to the edge of the area, and sent a scorcher ripping along the ground and into the corner of the net. It was with some trepidation that we awaited Tullamore's reaction to this reverse. Would they succumb or would they fight back. The answer was not long forthcoming for after a corner by Geraghty had been kicked off the goal-line by Kelly with King beaten, the visitors equalised in the 37th minute when a pin-pointed centre from Geraghty was headed in beautifully by Brady to level the scoring. These two quick goals infused a new life to the exchanges and in succession both goals had narrow escapes with King recovering to save at Brady's feet after muffing a shot from Geraghty and Gilmore heading a centre from Foran right out of Duffy's hands and over the bar. Only three minutes of the first-half remained when Bohemians forced their first corner, but Teddy Whiteley was

back to clear Foran's centre. Just before the interval Duffy was injured in saving at Frawley's feet.

Half-time: Bohemians, 1; Tullamore, 1.

Tullamore had an escape within seconds of the resumption when inside left Carroll shaved the upright with Duffy rooted to the ground, but in the exchanges which followed this incident Sean Hogan was seen a new light as he repeatedly checked menacing movements. It was Hogan who got across to cut off Frawley after the latter had rounded Martin Lowery and seemed to have the goal at his mercy in the 3rd minute and it was Hogan who kept Gilmore pinned out on the touchline whenever the winger gained possession. Two minutes later a short corner by Bohs on the left almost caught the Tullamore defence napping but Gilmore's centre was nodded wide by Frawley. Next Geraghty carried the ball through from inside his own half to force a corner, but his effort from the trident was a poor one and Hill had little difficulty in clearing. King was injured in making a daring save from Brady, but with Byrne lording it at midfield Tullamore were now coming into their own and they fully deserved the lead which came their way in the 20th minute when Brady lured Hill to the right wing and then sprinted away to provide the centre which Geraghty forced home from amidst a cluster of players Hill was injured at this stage and after receiving attention on the sideline he resumed on the left wing with Browne taking over as pivot. Bohemians stepped up the pace in a bid

to get back on terms and Gilmore had a close free blocked by a line of defenders. A corner by Carroll caused havoc in the Tullamore goalmouth before Hogan cleared off the line from Frawley and further home pressure found the Tullamore defence in top form with Lowery dominating the penalty area and Tom Whiteley as steady as a rock in his unusual position of leftfull.

THE CLINCHER

The points were by no means secure yet for Tullamore. Bohemians were still full of fight, but they were rocked back on their heels in the 28th minute when Tullamore virtually clinched the issue. The goal came from a free awarded against King for handling the ball just outside his area. Geraghty was entrusted with the kick and although practically the entire home side lined up to form a human barrier in front of their charge, Geraghty scattered the lot of them with a pile-driver which was in the back of the home net before King knew what was happening. After that Tullamore were never in serious trouble although Bohemians pulled out all the stops in a bid to save the day they could find no loopholes. In the visitors defence, Duffy punched a free by Kane off Gilmore's head and Foran had a shot cleared off the goal-line by Lowery, but on the whole it was Tullamore who were ploughing furrows of victory, with Whiteley shaving the crossbar following a good run by Geraghty and Malone nipping through for a shot which King did well to hold. Bohs finished with a flourish, which saw Duffy making an acrobatic save from Kane and later

going full-length to push a ground shot from Kelly clear but viewed over the ninety minutes the 3-1 margin in favour of Tullamore was just about right.

Result: Bohemians, 1; Tullamore, 3.

Bohemians: T. King, P. Browne [capt], T. Kelly, L. Holohan, A. Hill, F. Turner, J. Foran, W. Kane, G. Frawley, E. Carroll, L. Gilmore.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, S. Hogan, T. Whiteley, N. Lynch, M. Lowery [capt], E. Byrne, P. Malone, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr .M. Quinn [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Coming down off the stand in Dalymount Park on Saturday I was hailed by a delighted Tullamore fan whose breathless remark that I would have great difficulty in deciding upon a merit rating this week set me thinking right away about this feature. Really the task is not all that difficult for to my mind Eamonn Byrne stood head and shoulders over his colleagues and without hesitation I place him at the head of affairs. Nor am I in much doubt about the second place, which must surely go to Martin Lowery. It is the third spot that is causing some deep thinking for any one of at least three or four players could qualify for the odd point. Connolly, Whiteley and Hogan all come into the reckoning, but I pass them all over in favour of Tommy Geraghty who thus joins Noel Lynch at

the head of the table which now reads as follows:

T. Geraghty [7] N. Lynch [7] E. Byrne [6] P. Duffy [5] J. Lowery [5] J. Brady [4] M. Lowery [4] E. Whiteley [4] J. Martin [3] Tom Whiteley [2] and Tony Whiteley [1]

LOCAL GAMES CALLED OFF

The two local fixtures arranged for last week-end the semi-final of the Town Cup and the Youths' Cup were both called off as a mark of respect to the late Dr. William Moran, D.D., P.P., V.F.

NEXT SUNDAY

On Sunday next, Tullamore will be seeking their first hat-trick of victories when they tackle Ormeau at Spollenstown, to date Tullamore's four victories have all been interspersed with defeats away from home, but now they have the opportunity to record their third win off the reel. If achieved this would rocket Tullamore well up the league table and with this incentive to spur them on the locals will be all out to lower the colours of Ormeau. However, may not be too easy to do as the Dublin side have proved themselves very capable this season. To date they have defeated Athlone [3-0] Bohemians [2-1] Shamrock Rovers [2-0] and St. Patrick's Athletic [4-1] and have drawn [2-2] with both Drumcondra and Dalkey. Their only defeat was inflicted by Dundalk [4-2] and with such an impressive record it is obvious that the visitors will not submit easily. However, Tullamore have yet to lose a league match at Spollenstown this season and

a repeat of last week's form would leave them with a great chance of improving

their position in the table, which now reads as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Home Farm	7	6	1	-	29	6	13
Ormeau	7	4	2	1	17	10	10
Tullamore	7	4	-	3	20	23	8
Bohemians	7	4	-	3	16	12	8
Dalkey	7	3	2	2	13	12	8
Shamrock R.	7	3	1	3	16	12	7
Drogheda	7	3	1	3	23	18	7
Drumcondra	7	3	1	3	13	16	7
Dundalk	7	2	1	4	14	19	5
Shelbourne	7	1	2	4	14	19	5
Athlone	6	1	1	4	8	22	3
St. Patricks	6	1	-	5	4	18	2

October 16th 1965

Early Goals Smash Tullamore's Home Record

Trailing by four goals twelve minutes after the interval of last Sunday's Castrol Trophy game against Ormeau at Spollenstown, Tullamore seemed all set to sustain a real trimming, but just when the outlook was bleakest they hit back strongly and in a tremendously exciting second-half they got to within a goal of their visitors and then suffered the mortification of being deprived of an equalising goal by the woodwork in the very last minute. Thus the proud home record of Tullamore went by the board and with it two points which would have left them right on the heels of league leaders Home Farm, but if home fans were disappointed in this respect they had ample compensation by way of thrills and excitement. The football all through was of the highest quality, but it was the unsurpassed suspense of Tullamore's gallant, it unavailing, fight back which flavoured this game. With even a fair share of luck Tullamore must have at least forced a division of the points, but this just was not their day. The number of times that the ball was cleared off the Ormeau goal-line with their keeper beaten was almost unbelievable and although it might be suggested that these escapes could be attributed to

good covering as much as good luck there were many amongst Sunday's big attendance who would be hard to convince that such was the case. To emphasise Tullamore's misfortune there was that last-minute shot from Whiteley which came crashing back off the upright and a disallowed goal by Jim Brady earlier on so that all in all the visitors must have used up a season's supply of average luck in forging this 4-3 victory. With Joe Martin and John Lowery still both on the injured list, Tullamore found themselves with further team problems to solve when goalkeeper Paddy Duffy cried off for Sunday's game. It is understood that Duffy's absence had no connection with the recent approach made by Bohemians and he is expected to be back between the Tullamore posts next Sunday. His absence last Sunday was a big blow and one which made all the difference between victory and defeat. His understudy, young Jimmy Dolan, is potentially a good keeper, but it was expecting a lot of him to thrust him into his first senior game at such short notice. Without a doubt he did this best and finished with a number of fine saves to his credit. Certainly, Sean Hogan and Tom Whiteley formed a splendid full

back partnership but there was an unusual slackness in the half back line. In the centre, Martin Lowery had another good game, but the brightest aspect of this game from a home point of view was the second half display of the forwards, they tore into their task with real abandon with all five forwards contributing to the excitement which mounted with every passing minute. To single out any member of the attack is not easy but Teddy Whiteley's brace of goals which put Tullamore right back in the picture go a long way towards making him the man of the match. Yet he had little to spare over Liam Connolly who turned in his best display of the season with an exhibition of forceful football right out of the top drawer. Jim Brady missed a couple of scoring chances early on, but shot back into the game when switched to the right-wing whilst Peter Malone was another to sparkle when the chips were down. With a little more luck with his shooting Tommy Geraghty might have been a match winner on his own for he had the ability to break through on his own, but his shooting was that couple of inches off target all the time. Summing up then, this was a performance of which Tullamore may justly feel proud for not only did they extend a superb Ormeau side which is lying second in the league table, but they outplayed them for long spells and it would be no exaggeration to say that they had sixty per cent of the play territorially. A fact which is borne out by the figures of the game which show that the homesters forced a total of fifteen corners during the course of the game as compared to five for the visitors.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Newcomer Dolan in the Tullamore goal was not long awaiting his first feel of the ball for within a minute of the kick-off Ormeau forced a corner on the left and from Heffernan's centre Leech volleyed the ball goalwards for Dolan to save on the line. Tullamore launched their first attack in the 3rd minute with a strong centre from Malone curling wide of the far upright and two minutes later Whiteley had a well-placed corner cleared out of the goal-mouth by Broughan, precision passing by the Ormeau forwards was causing plenty of trouble for Tullamore and the better scoring chances were falling to the visitors without being availed of. Quirke cut off a good centre from Geraghty before the visitors took the lead with a soft goal in the 15th minute when messing by the home defence was penalised by inside left Leyden, who shot low beneath Dolan's diving body for the lead. Ormeau almost had a second goal within a matter of minutes when only a wonderful recovery by Tom Whiteley enabled him to get across and dispossess Leech just as the centre forward was picking his spot from point blank range Tullamore had a chance to wipe out the arrears in the 18th minute, when Quirke hustled by Brady dropped a curling centre from Geraghty but with nobody up in support the chance was lost. Tullamore were doing most of the pressing and at the end of the first twenty minutes they were 5-1 ahead on corners but against a close marking Ormeau defence their scoring opportunities were few and far between.

The visitors were content to safeguard their net at all costs and conceded corners and frees liberally in the process these tactics paid off and Tullamore's territorial advantage counted for nothing as Ormeau added two further goals in as many minutes. The first came in the 28th minute when Byrne was dispossessed inside his own penalty area and as the ball ran loose inside-right Cuddy seized his chance to blast the ball high into the roof of the net. This was bad, but worse was to follow two minutes later when McGovern evaded an attempted tackle by Byrne and his centre from far out on the wing curled over Dolan's head and into the corner of the net. Byrne made strenuous efforts to atone for these lapses when he carried the ball through the visiting defence to place Whiteley for a shot from point-blank range, but although Quirke had no hope of reaching the ball Byrne bobbed up to clear off the line and when the clearance came to his namesake the second effort also was blocked on the goal-line by Broughan.

DISALLOWED GOAL

Misfortune continued to dog Tullamore's efforts and in the 33rd minute Brady finished off good approach work by Connolly only to have the effort nullified by an offside decision. Ormeau pushed their luck further around the 35th minute when three shots in succession from Geraghty, Whiteley and Connolly were all whipped off the goal-line whilst a great effort by Connolly was headed out from under the bar by Byrne. Tullamore were piling on the pressure in a bid to reduce arrears before this interval and

when Whiteley was put through by Lynch he had a rasping shot flicked over the bar by Quirke. Just before the short whistle Ormeau broke away and Leech looked a certain scorer until Whiteley got across to whip the ball off his toe in front of the goal.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Ormeau, 3.

The pattern of play remained very much unchanged immediately after the resumption with Whiteley breaking through to beat Quirke all ends up only to see left-full back Byrne one more clear off the line and after Dolan had made a glorious save by tipped a hot shot from Heffernan over the bar the exchanges went dead for a short spell. Tullamore switched Brady to the right wing with Whiteley taking over in the centre and Malone moving to inside-left, but the plight of the homeside became worse in the 12th minute when Heffernan squared the ball across from the end-line and Leech hooked it into the net for a great goal. Four goals down now Tullamore were in queer street, but they refused to submit and twice Quirke brought off flying saves from Whiteley and smothered the ball at Brady's feet when the latter was sent clean through by Connolly. However, the tide had to turn sooner or later and Tullamore got the break they were seeking in the 19th minute when Brady sent a good ball down the middle and Whiteley went on to reduce arrears with a well-placed shot. Having tasted blood Tullamore threw caution to the winds and staked their all on attack. Within a minute Whiteley grazed the post and then Quirke had to come out fast to

smother a shot from Connolly when a home goal looked almost certain. The Ormeau defence was taking a real pasting now as Tullamore swarmed to the attack and after Brady had skimmed the bar with a fine effort which followed good work by Malone. Their goal fell again in the 25th minute when Geraghty beat three tackles before laying on a perfect pass which Whiteley slammed home to make it 4-2. Now that they were there with a chance of saving the day Tullamore redoubled their efforts. Geraghty went through from the half way line to skim the bar with a good effort. Back came Ormeau and Dolan made a flying one-handed save from Leyden in the 32nd minute. Not to be outshone Quirke made a wonderful save at the other end when he dived full-length to save on the line from Malone after Martin Lowery had lobbed the ball in from the halfway line. Interest was fast reaching fever pitch now and Spollenstown erupted in a crescendo of cheering in the 36th minute when Geraghty swung across a corner from the left which Byrne shot home through a cluster of players. One goal behind with nine minutes left in the game and the stage was all set for a dramatic finish. Ormeau not nearly as composed now were struggling hard to hold out, but Tullamore were being swept onward by a wave of enthusiasm as they hammered away in search of the equaliser which their efforts merited. Every free and corner kick and there were plenty of both brought practically the entire home side trooping into the Ormeau goalmouth and with time ticking away Malone was just off the mark with a blistering drive. Next

Geraghty scraped flakes of paint off the upright after bursting through on his own and we were into lost time. Every second was precious as Tullamore threw everything but the goalposts at their befuddled opponents. But a gallant bid to avert defeat was foiled when with virtually the last kick off the game Whiteley hit the inside of the post with a terrific drive and the ball came out instead of in for Broughan to scramble it away. What a game and what a finish.

Result: Tullamore, 3; Ormeau, 4.

Tullamore: J. Dolan, J. Hogan; T. Whiteley, N. Lynch, M. Lowery; E. Byrne; P. Malone; L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Ormeau: N. Quirke, P. Cuddy, D. Byrne, M. Rogers, D. Broughan, S. Purcell, D. McGovern, B. Cuddy, M. Leech, J. Leyden, D. Heffernan.

Referee: Mr. J. Hussey [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

The accent was very much on forward play on Sunday so that it is not surprising to find two of our three merit positions being filled by members of the scoring department. I have no hesitation whatever in placing Teddy Whiteley at the head of affairs whilst the second spot must go to Liam Connolly who rose to dizzy heights in this thriller. We switch to defence for our third nominee and, remembering at least two wonderful clearances when all seemed lost, the vote here goes to Tom Whiteley. All of which leaves the overall

position reading as follows:

T. Geraghty [7] N. Lynch [7] E. Whiteley [7] E. Byrne [6] J. Lowery [5] P. Duffy [5] M. Lowery [4] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [3] Tom Whiteley [3] L. Connolly [2] Tony Whiteley [1]

NEXT WEEK

Having now sustained their first home defeat in the competition, Tullamore will be seeking to make amends when they travel to meet Dalkey on Sunday next. As a result of a 2-0 win over Athlone on Sunday last, Dalkey jumped over Tullamore to take 4th place in the rankings with Tullamore slipping to joint fifth, with three games still to go in the competition, Tullamore still have time to improve their position and a win on

Sunday next would give them encouragement for the following week's cup-tie. Joe Martin is almost certain to be fit for Sunday and with Paddy Duffy also likely to be back in goal the defence should be tightened considerably.

GOOD CUP DRAW

Tullamore have been drawn at home to T.E.K. United in the first round of the Intermediate Cup and this game is scheduled for the week-end after next. The winners will have the bonus of another home draw in the second round against the winners of Gas Co. and Ormeau. Home fans would give a lot for a repeat of last Sunday's excitement and thrills.

Defensive Mistakes Cost Tullamore Two Points

Two defensive errors, each of which was punished by the scoring of a home goal to Tullamore forfeiting both points in their Castrol Trophy game against Dalkey United at Hyde Road, Dalkey, on Sunday last. The final margin of 2-1 in favour of United just about reflected the run of the play. Tullamore were back to something like full strength for this game with Joe Martin resuming as centre-half and Paddy Duffy between the posts. In fact John Lowery was the only one missing from the selected line-up, but for all that the visitor's performance fell far short of their best form. Gone was the fire and dash which had characterised the second-half of the previous week's match against Ormeau and in its place we had the all-to-familiar pattern of close passing and indifferent finish. A playing surface which was somewhat on the bumpy side was not at all to Tullamore's liking, but this was by no means a tenable alibi for a defeat which should have been a draw and might even have been a win. Paddy Duffy, with one mistake excepted, handled the ball with confidence and assurance all through, but the fullback partnership of Sean

Hogan and Tom Whiteley were no match for the flying home wingers. The half-back-line, although forced to spend most of the game in a purely defensive role, made few serious mistakes, but at the same time they failed to assert the authority which one has come to expect of them. Joe Martin made a happy return to the centre spot with a dashing first-half performance. Winghalves, Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne can seldom have worked so hard to achieve so little for most of their efforts centred around spoiling tactics which left precious little time for developing constructive movements of their own. Liam Connolly at inside-right fully lived up to the promise shown in recent games, but otherwise the visiting attack fell short of expectations. The experiment of playing Martin Lowery in attack failed to pay dividends and reverted to his customary wing-half Berth Early in the second-half. Nor did Jim Brady appear happy on the wing and at least some of Tullamore's troubles stemmed from the policy of playing men out of position. Dalkey's play on Sunday certainly belied their position in the league table, their

defence in particular ranked equal with any encountered this season with Molloy an outstanding centre-half and Cullen and Martin determined tacklers at full-back.

EARLY ESCAPES

Set to play up hill in the first-half Tullamore soon found themselves under pressure and less than two minutes had elapsed before Dalkey had forced the first corner of the game, Mooney swung across a good centre from the flag and Byrne's header was saved on the line by Duffy. Tullamore made a few spasmodic bids to break through the home defence but to no avail, and apart from a free by Lynch, which Molloy headed clear the home goal was seldom in any real danger. On the whole it was Dalkey who were setting the pace and the Tullamore defence was kept active. They rolled back cleverly to leave Dalkey with few openings, but luck was on their side in the 19th minute when, following a well-placed free by Molloy, tight-half Frank Byrne was whistled back for an offside infringement. Tullamore's best scoring opportunity of the entire game came and went in the 13th minute when a glorious centre from Connolly found Geraghty lying unmarked on the fringe of the area, but although the winger got all his force into a great shot Dave Knight in the home goal flung himself across to deflect the ball around the post for an abortive corner. Geraghty took the flag kick himself, and a good one it was too, but Byrne blazed well over. Dalkey had another fortunate escape four minutes later when a half-hit shot from Byrne spun out of Knight's

grasp, but the keeper had all the time in the world to recover and clear. These two narrow shaves roused Dalkey a bit and they came storming back in the 19th minute with a tremendous drive from Tony Hoey whistling mere inches of the Tullamore bar and this was followed by a dangerous corner from Ledwidge which Joe Martin did well to head clear from the poised Byrne. Both sides were missing golden scoring chances up to now and Tullamore's policy of keeping the play close was getting them nowhere. Duffy came to the visitor's rescue in the 27th minute by punching clear following a free into the goalmouth by right-winger Mooney, but luck was on Tullamore's side four minutes later when, following a corner by Mooney, the ball was headed right out of Duffy's hands and just over by centre-forward Byrne. Dalkey were well ahead on corners by this stage, but Duffy was brilliant in dealing with centres into the goalmouth. However, he knew little about a real daisycutter from Mooney which sped by the foot of the far upright in the 36th minute and it was just following this incident that he made his one mistake of the game, failing to hold a free by Molloy and allowing Byrne to chest the ball over the goalline to give Dalkey the lead. Nobody could deny that the homesters were worth a goal lead at this stage, but Tullamore might just as easily have got back on terms before the interval when Brady was upended inside the penalty area and received no compensating free. However, it was Dalkey who finished the half with a flourish and when Byrne broke clear through just before the

short whistle Duffy was obliged to come out like a sprinter to foil him.

Half time: Dalkey, 1; Tullamore, 0.

With the fall of the ground to aid them after the resumption Tullamore still had bright prospects of saving the game as they resumed with Brady back in the centre, Lowery on the right wing and Teddy Whiteley at inside left. They forced a fruitless corner right from the kickoff, but then back came Dalkey for Hoey to crack a great shot off the Tullamore bar. Wing-halves Frank Byrne and Joe Kelly were giving Dalkey a virtual monopoly of the midfield play and so persistent was the pressure as a result that it came as no real surprise when United added to their lead in the fatal 13th minute. Left-winger, Ledwidge paved the way for the goal with a flawless centre and with Joe Martin being rounded rather easily by Des Byrne the burley centre forward was in a position to pick his spot in the Tullamore net. This left Tullamore in real trouble and for a spell it looked as though this might be the first game of the season in which the provincials failed to score. Lowery went to left-half to allow Byrne to move up in a bid to add ginger to the attack and it was luck more than judgement which saved Dalkey in the 21st minute when Connolly shot past goalkeeper Knight only to see left-full Martin whip the ball off the goal-line.

TULLAMORE RATTLED

Tullamore were becoming more and more rattled as the game progressed.

Just when the outlook was bleakest Tullamore shot back into the game with wonderful goal on the stroke of the half hour. Geraghty moved inside and just as he was about to be tackled he slipped the ball out to Whiteley whose low shot curled into the corner of the net for the best goal of the game. This was surely the spark which Tullamore needed and with fifteen minutes still to go there was ample time to save at least one point. This, however, proved to be wishful thinking. The visitors made little effort to press home their advantage and now the forwards were so busy passing the buck that none of them were willing to take the chance of shooting. Apart from one save from Geraghty in the 33rd minute Knight was seldom even tested in the home goal. Certainly, Tullamore were holding their own territorially now, but their offensives were badly directed and lacked the guile to penetrate this extremely useful defence so that it really did not make all that difference when referee Quinn sounded the long whistle three minutes prematurely.

Result: Dalkey United, 2; Tullamore, 1.

Dalkey United: D. Knight, T. Cullen, B. Martin, F. Byrne, N. Molloy [capt], J. Kelly, J. Mooney, A. Hoey, D. Byrne, H. McCann, M. Ledwidge.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, S. Hogan, T. Whiteley [capt], N. Lynch, J. Martin, E. Byrne, J. Brady, L. Connolly, E. Whiteley, M. Lowery, T. Geraghty

Referee: Mr. Jimmy Quinn [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

It is seldom an easy task to award merit points to a defeated side and certainly such is the case this week. It is comparatively easy to single out Liam Connolly for top rating for his was the only top-class performance of the week, but as is usually the case, it is the minor positions which prove really troublesome. Eamonn Byrne just about earns two points for his unceasing efforts all through and for the remaining spot I do not think we can do better than honour the fine goalkeeping of Paddy Duffy. This then leaves the overall position after ten matches reading as follows:

Eamonn Byrne [8] Tommy Geraghty [7] Noel Lynch [7] Teddy Whiteley [7] Paddy Duffy [6] Liam Connolly [5] John Lowery [5] Martin Lowery [4] Jim Brady [4] Tom Whiteley [3] Joe Martin [3] Tony Whiteley [1]

BUSY WEEK-END

Tullamore face an exceptionally busy week end with a league tie against Drumcondra and a cup engagement against T.E.K. United. An application has been filed to have the league game deferred, but in the light of previous experience this is unlikely to be granted and the indications are that Drums. will be at Spollenstown on Saturday and T.E.K. on Sunday. Should this be the case Tullamore will have no option other than to field a reserve team for the league game and to keep their regulars fit for Sunday's cup-tie. More is the pity as the match with Drumcondra promised to be one of the highlights at Spollenstown this season in view of the fact that Drums are rated one of the

cleverest ball-playing teams in the league. However, there can be no denying the fact that the cup-tie is of the far greater importance. The semi-finalists in this Intermediate competition qualify to participate in the F.A.I. Senior Cup and that is surely a prize worth striving for. The attitude of the league authorities in insisting that league ties must be played even when they clash with cup fixtures is a sore point with the competing clubs. Already it has caused Athlone to be thrown out of the Leinster Senior Cup through no fault of their own whilst Tullamore's experience in the same competition resulted in a shadow team sustaining an 8-0 thrashing from Home Farm on the eve of the day that they played Jacobs in the cup. Now it looks very much as though the same thing may happen this week-end so that it is about time that the authorities adopted a more realistic outlook.

F.A.I. JUNIOR CUP

The fact that local players are not being overlooked this season was proved by last week's draw for the first round of the F.A.I. Junior Cup which is also due for decision this weekend. For the first time in history there will be two teams from Tullamore competing for whilst the official Tullamore club has been drawn away to Pioneers [Athlone] a second local side, Harp Sports Club, come up against Custume Rovers. With no ground of their own Harp are likely to agree to play their game in Athlone whilst I understand that Tullamore will seek a week's postponement of the match against Pioneers

October 30th 1965

Tullamore Oust T.E.K.

Tullamore..... 3; T.E.K. United..... 1

The biggest crowd of the season to date turned up at Spollenstown on Sunday last for the cup clash between Tullamore and T.E.K. United and none of them can have left the ground in a disappointed frame of mind.

Better football than this has certainly been seen many times at the venue, but for sheer excitement and suspense it would have been difficult to surpass this opening tie in the Intermediate Cup. Extra-time was necessary to decide the issue, but at the final whistle the cup-holders and been eliminated and Tullamore were through to the second-round by a 3-1 margin.

To oust the holders in any knock out competition is always an achievement of merit, but Tullamore gilded the lily by accomplishing the feat with a depleted team. Missing from the lineout were centre-half Joe Martin, still not fully recovered from the leg injury, whilst a late defection was centre-forward Jim Brady. Thus Tullamore were handicapped from the outset and when they conceded the lead within six

minutes of the kickoff their prospects of advancing to the second round took a steep nosedive. Yet the locals never succumbed to the panic which threatened to engulf them and although the home defence appeared anything but confident in the early stages they gradually got back on an even keel and an equalising goal almost on the stroke of haltime left them in the happy position of facing the second moiety on level terms, with the breeze behind them and playing into the scoring goal. Yes, everything was in Tullamore favour in the second-half but the minutes ticked by without any sign of these benefits being translated into goals. Faced by an exceptionally strong defence the Tullamore forwards could find no way through a maze of defenders and although they had more of the play in this period they were still seeking the elusive lead at the end of the ninety minutes. This meant a bonus of twenty extra minutes for the spectators and excitement continued to run high with the issue balanced on an hair. Tullamore were still sharing the

exchanges territorially and it was strictly in accordance with the trend of the play when they took the lead for the first time two minutes before the break. Now it was T.E.K. who were struggling and the loss of left-winger Doran did not help their cause. Indeed they never looked like forcing a replay on their own ground and the issue was clinched two minutes after the interval when Tommy Geraghty completed his hat-trick to seal the fate of the holders. Now Tullamore are through to the second round in which they will again be at home, this time to Gas Co. who had a shock 1-0 win over Ormeau on Sunday last.

CONSISTANTLY STEADY

If one makes an exception of the opening ten minutes when they appeared to be at sixes and sevens the Tullamore defence turned in a performance which was consistently sound and steady without ever being brilliant. Goalkeeper, Paddy Duffy was in sparkling form all through. Tom Whiteley took the major honours at full back, but although his partner, Sean Hogan experienced a nightmare first-half he came thundering back after the interval when he was one of the key figures in forging this great victory. Tullamore had real strength in their middle line where Eamonn Byrne proved himself in a class of his own. Wearing the number six shirt Byrne was to be found all over the pitch as the need arose and in actual fact he was a second centre-half, covering Martin Lowery and always being on hand to extricate a colleague from difficulties. Completing a fine halfback line was Noel Lynch. The

home forwards found it tough going all the way. Liam Connolly was the arch-schemer in trying to prise open the red clam whilst Teddy Whiteley, first at inside left and later as leader of the attack, never spared himself in a bid to consolidate his position as Tullamore's leading scorer. Yet it was from the left wing that the goals flowed last week with Tommy Geraghty making amends for an otherwise listless performance by banging home all three of Tullamores scores. John Lowery added real dash and spirit to the home attack and although his reward was scant he certainly kept the visiting defence on its toes. T.E.K. United, present leaders of the Leinster League were favourites to advance in the defence of this Intermediate Cup and they shaped like doing so in the early stages.

POINTS FROM PLAY

T.E.K. went on the offensive immediately and in the first minute Whiteley was forced to kick behind for a corner under pressure from Whelan. The winger took the flag-kick himself and Hogan twice cleared off the goalline before Fogarty ended the siege by shooting over at the third attempt. The visitor's goal had an equally narrow escape within a minute when Lowery sent in a fine shot on the turn which Vance turned around the post for a corner with Byrne just failing to get his head to Connolly's centre from the quadrant. These narrow escapes got the game off to a promising start, but after the initial probing and prodding it was T.E.K. who took up the running. The home defence was subjected to

heavy pressure and sure enough the pressure told in the 6th minute when Giles pushed the ball through for right winger Whelan to lob it past the advancing Duffy for the opening goal of the game. This was certainly putting it up to Tullamore and the locals responded gallantly. A neat bout of interpassing between Lowery and Malone faded inside the area as T.E.K. came again for Bell to test Duffy with a free. Then Whelan topped his shot with Duffy out of position and as the pressure continued Duffy excelled by tipping a long-range free by Walsh over the bar. The Tullamore defence, solid enough individually, was not knitting as a unit whilst the forwards were getting few opportunities to prove themselves, although Geraghty raised hopes of an equaliser in the 18th minute when he beat two tackles to force a corner which Vance saved under pressure from Connolly. Tullamore had a chance of drawing level five minutes later when they were awarded a free in front of the posts, but Geraghty was asleep on his feet as Lynch pushed the ball sideways and the chance was lost. Another chance followed within two minutes when a centre from Geraghty was followed by a shot from Malone which beat Vance but Turner got back to clear off the line. T.E.K. were forcing corner after corner now and these flag-kicks were all proving troublesome and dangerous, but by now Tullamore were showing signs of overcoming their teething troubles and were playing with greater confidence. As the interval neared Tullamore redoubled their efforts to draw level. John Lowery shot wide from amidst a cluster of defenders and

with mere seconds remaining Tullamore were rewarded by the equaliser. It came from a free fully 25 yards out and towards the touchline and as the visiting defence covered off for an expected centre Geraghty sent the ball skidding inside the upright to upset their applecart.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; T.E.K. United, 1.

With the elements now in their favour Tullamore were in a favourable position, but their optimism was shaken as early as the 2nd minute when centre-forward Fogarty missed an open goal from an unmarked position in front of the posts. T.E.K. pressed strongly for a spell, but with Byrne coming right into his own and Duffy as sound as a bell between the posts few chances were afforded the visitors. John Lowery switched to the right wing to be replaced in the centre by Whiteley with Malone moving to inside-left, but still it was the towering Turner who continued to dominate the penalty area and 18 minutes had elapsed before Whiteley skimmed the bar from far out. Malone forced the only corner of the second-half, but on the whole good chances were being wasted through overeagerness on the part of the forwards. Teddy Whiteley set up a great chance in the 30th minute when he shot across the face of the goal following a mistake by Turner, but with nobody up in support the effort was wasted. Whiteley had a free from the end line punched out by Vance and now the visitors were beginning to fade. The football was aimless enough, but the excitement was mounting all the time

and just on the call of time Vance had to go flat to save on the line from Connolly.

EXTRA TIME

And so we were into extra time with the issue just as open as it had been 90 minutes earlier. T.E.K. almost conceded an own goal in the first minute when Turner pushed the ball past his keeper, but it rolled behind for a corner instead. Whiteley headed a centre from Geraghty behind and then in the 8th minute, Spollenstown erupted in a blaze of sound as Tullamore took the lead for the first time. It was a goal worthy of the occasion too as Byrne, Lowery and Whiteley combined in a movement which culminated in the latters centre being headed home beautifully by Geraghty. With T.E.K. losing left-winger Doran at this stage the odds against them were mounting as the teams changed ends for the last time and in a desperate bid to save the day right-full Nolan was moved up to lead the attack with Walsh dropping back. Relieved of the shackles of Nolan's close marking Geraghty seized his chance to complete his hat-trick and clinch the issue in Tullamore's favour, although there was a element of sheer luck attached to his third goal which came from a cross shot which was probably intended as a centre but which, instead hit the inside of the post to rebound to the net. That was that and the holders now had no possible chance of prolonging their interest although they went very close to reducing arrears with less than a minute to go when Hogan whipped the ball off the goal-line just as Nolan was

preparing to nudge the ball inside the post with Duffy out of position.

Result: Tullamore, 3; T.E.K. United, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, S. Hogan, T. Whiteley, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, P. Malone, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

T.E.K. United: Vance, Nolan [capt], Bell McDonald, Turner, Walsh, Whelan, Giles, Fogarty, Lawlor, Doran.

Referee: Mr. D. Mooney [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

This week's placings take little thinking about for the three qualifiers stand out the proverbial mile. Eamonn Byrne stood head and shoulders above friend and foe alike to fill the top position and almost as decisive were the performances of Liam Connolly and Paddy Duffy. This leaves Byrne with a clear lead in the overall positions, which now reads as follows:

E. Byrne [11] E. Whiteley [7] N. Lynch [7] T. Geraghty [7] L. Connolly [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Lowery [5] M. Lowery [4] J. Brady [4] Tom Whiteley [3] J. Martin [3] Tony Whiteley [1]

LONG TRIP FOR TULLAMORE

Tullamore face their longest league trip of the season on Sunday next when they travel to Dundalk to meet the local club at Oriel Park in the concluding game of the Castrol Trophy. Dundalk stand one point behind Tullamore at the moment and a win for the visitors here would ensure that they finish the

campaign in the top half of the table. There can be no disputing the fact that Tullamore have fared much better in senior ranks than had been expected and they will naturally be anxious to follow up their cup performance of last week by defeating the holders of the Castrol Trophy. Yet the task is not an easy one. Brady will be missing from

the line-out for a couple of weeks at least and with goalkeeper Duffy almost certain to sign for Bohemians before the week is out there are difficulties to be solved. Nearer to home, Tullamore's second string will be going to Athlone to meet Pioneers in the first-round of the F.A.I. Junior Cup.

November 6th 1965

Tullamore Lose to Castrol Trophy Holders

Although they were playing within a couple miles of the border, on Sunday last, Tullamore failed to smuggle home the points from Oriel Park, where they fell by 5-3 to Dundalk, holders of the Castrol Trophy.

Although played under the worst possible conditions of wind and rain, this was a lively enough encounter, which produced passages of almost brilliant football and a spate of scoring which went a long way towards keeping interest at a high level throughout the full ninety minutes.

With the Castrol Trophy already won by Home Farm, the points were really of no value to either side on Sunday last, so that the game was used by both Tullamore and Dundalk more in the light of a final trial for the League of Ireland which gets under way next week. Tullamore displayed skill, speed and stamina and a fighting spirit which enabled them to recover from being two goals down after less than ten minutes had elapsed. Such was the quality of their spirit that they had battled their way back to level terms by the interval and in an evenly contested second half it was two goals scored in as many minutes that swung the game in favour

of the home side with Paddy Duffy making his debut in the Bohemians goal last week end [as exclusively forecast by this column several weeks ago] his place between the Tullamore posts was filled by Jimmy Dunne on Sunday last. Dunne, who was Tullamores regular net minder two seasons ago and who played for Athlone last season, was given a real baptism of fire in this game, yet it would be harsh to hold him responsible for any one of the five goals conceded.

Although out of touch after a long absence from the game he made several very fine saves and given a reasonable time in which to settle down, there is no reason to believe that he will not prove an able substitute. A switch between Tom Whiteley and Sean Hogan brought about a big improvement after the interval, but by that time the real damage had been done. Tullamore's middle line was obliged to defend for long periods - a bantam which does not suit their style of play. Noel Lynch was the pick of this halfback line for on this occasion he outshone Eamonn Byrne. In the centre Martin Lowery might as well have been marking a shadow for

McConville roamed all over the place and scorned the orthodox conception of a centre forward. His wandering frequently drew the Tullamore defence out of position and this accomplished player had the speed to break through their ranks almost at will of course he had the perfect foil for such tactics in O'Reilly a really impressive inside-right who had the Indian sign on Byrne from the start. Like their opponents Tullamore had their best forwards in the inside berths for although Liam Connolly found the heavy underfoot conditions unsuitable both Teddy Whiteley and John Lowery packed plenty of punch in front of goal, but there was a marked slackness on the wings where Peter Malone achieved only slightly more than Tommy Geraghty.

POINTS FROM PLAY

With attendance limited to a handful of staunch home supporters huddled together in the stand Tullamore were set to play with the advantage of a strong diagonal wind and a sodden ball and greasy pitch suggested that the football would not reach a very high standard. This was an idea which was scotched early on for it quickly became evident that the players of both sides were going to overcome the conditions. Tullamore had scarcely got the stiffness of a long journey out of their limbs before they found themselves a goal in arrears after no more than four minutes. Inside right O'Reilly provided the opening which split the visiting defence and with Hogan failing to cover the centre Tom McConville lashed a low ball past Dunne from the fringe of the

penalty area. This provided anything but a heartening start for Tullamore and they found themselves in arrears in the 8th minute when Smith's speed down the left-wing upset the defence and his beautifully-placed centre was finished to the net by O'Reilly. Two goals down after only eight minutes, Tullamore were in serious trouble, but they had not yet found their feet and once they did so they began to come into the picture, a free at midfield by Byrne was kicked over his own bar by right-full Cole for the opening corner of the game and when Whiteley floated across a perfect centre from the glag, Malone miskicked whit the goal at his mercy. Then in the 11th minute John Lowery broke through on his own to place Geraghty for a drive with Christy Barron did very well to push around the post for another corner and this time Whiteley's centre was headed narrowly over by Connolly. Tullamore were attacking almost incessantly now and following good approach work by Malone and John Lowery a fine shot from Connolly sped inches the wrong side of the upright. Dundalk almost added to their lead in the 15th minute when Smith cut in from the left but Martin Lowery saved the day by deflecting his shot on to the bar and over. Tullamore's first goal came out of the blue two minutes later, when Whiteley played on side by centre half savage, controlled the ball perfectly on the ground to bring it forward before placing it well wide of Barron. With Tullamore back in the hunt the game assumed a new interest, but Dundalk were intent on restoring their two goal advantage attack followed with Dunne being forced to dive full

length to cope with a real rasper from B. McConville in the 25th minute and then saving less spectacularly from O'Neill and O'Reilly in quick succession. Tullamore were making poor use of their wind advantage at this stage and after Dunne had again saved brilliantly from a header by McConville following a corner by Maguire. However, the visitors were plunged into a two-goal deficit again in the 38th minute and this surely was the goal of the game. It was a brilliant individual effort by centre-forward McConville who skipped past three tackles on a run which carried him from well inside his own half to within a couple of yards of the Tullamore goal from where he fired in a searing drive which beat Dunne all ends up.

SPIRIT UNQUENCHED

Despite this further reverse Tullamore's spirit remained unquenched and a great finish to the first half saw them score twice in three minutes to lock the scoring. The first of these goals came in the 40th minute when Whiteley slipped around Savage and although he hit the upright with his first attempt he regained possession to drive the ball home. Then three minutes later it was Whiteley again who proved to be Tullamore's trump card in attack when he chipped the ball forward over the heads of the defence for John Lowery to race in and score with a fine shot which left Barron helpless

Half-time: Dundalk, 3; Tullamore, 3.

With daylight fading fast the teams had to forego their rest at the interval and

instead just changed ends and resumed immediately. Tullamore switched their fullbacks and set about seeking the lead for the first time. With the wind increasing in strength, the Dundalk winghalves found it difficult to gauge their passes and repeatedly pumped the ball too far ahead of their forwards. Indeed, the football as a whole now was not nearly as good as in the first half with both sides showing inaccuracy in their passing. Tullamore were doing most of the early attacking and twice promising movements were halted by offside decisions against Lowery. Whiteley had a great chance to put the visitors in front for the first time in the 12th minute when he was sent through by a Lowery header, but Savage made a splendid recovery for Dundalk. The home forwards had lost a lot of their snap crackle and pop by now and were indulging in close passing which invariably fizzled out inside the area where there was a marked reluctance to have a shot. Geraghty, very quite on the left wing up to now, had a chance in the 20th minute, but although his shot carried plenty of sting it was badly directed and Barron had little difficulty in saving. Subsequently Barron was twice in difficulties with short passes from his own defenders, but on each occasion he recovered well and it was at the other end that the break almost materialised in the 33rd minute when only a great full length save by Dunne foiled O'Reilly's bid to turn McConville's centre into the net. We were into the last quarter of the game now and suddenly Dundalk dealt a double blow to Tullamore's prospects of saving a point. The first of these came in the 35th

minute when an indirect free by B. McConville was headed through by his brother, Tom, to restore the homeside's lead and two minutes later the issue was as good as clinched when a brilliant bout of passing between O'Neill and O'Reilly culminated in the latter placing the ball well out of Dunne's reach for number five. Dundalk remained on top in the concluding stages with Tullamore's best effort being a fine shot from Malone which Barron did extremely well to tip over for a corner.

Result: Dundalk, 5; Tullamore, 3.

Dundalk: C. Barron, P. Cole, B. Murphy, B. McConville, G. Savage [capt], T. McArdle, D. O'Neill, V. O'Reilly, T. McConville, S. Maguire, J. Smith.

Tullamore: J. Dunne, S. Hogan, T. Whiteley [capt], N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, P. Malone, L. Connolly, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee Mr. Peter Coates [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

After twelve matches, our merit table is now beginning to take shape with the gap at the top being reduced this week. I have no hesitation at all in nominating Teddy Whiteley at the top of the class for his goals on Sunday last were splendidly taken efforts whilst his all-round performance further justifies the selection. Last year's winner of our special award, Noel Lynch moves up the table, too, for there was much to admire about his latest performance whilst to complete the big three I take John Lowery who never flagged in his efforts to keep the attack moving. This then leaves the position reading as follows: E. Byrne [11] E. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [9] T. Geraghty [7] L. Connolly [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Lowery [6] J. Brady [4] M. Lowery [4] Tom Whiteley [3] Tony Whiteley

November 13th 1965

Tullamore Make Winning Start To League

Athlone..... 2 Tullamore..... 3

St. Mel's Park in Athlone has never been a happy hunting ground for Tullamore teams and one would need to go deep into the record books to find their last victory there. Their last, that is, prior to Sunday for on this occasion the visitors scorned tradition by opening their League of Ireland campaign on a winning note by defeating Athlone 3-2.

In a hard-fought encounter which was typical of previous meetings between these neighbouring rivals, Athlone flattered to deceive in the early stages for when they opened the scoring almost straight from the tip-off and then increased their lead to 2-0 midway through the first-half it looked as though the old hoodoo was at work again.

However, since entering senior ranks Tullamore have learned the knack of fighting back and although Athlone continued to have the better of the territorial exchanges they had their lead clipped before the interval. Then, the boot was very much on the other foot in the second-half when it was the visitors who called the tune, and with Athlone failing to last the pace they conceded two goals in the 72nd and 74th minutes and never

subsequently looked like saving the day.

A win in St. Mel's Park is not easily achieved and last Sunday's success should serve as a fine morale booster for Tullamore for next Sunday's cup clask at Spollenstown. Yet, it would be unwise to take this victory at its face value. On the day's play Tullamore merited success but a better performance than this will be required to surmount the cup obstacle. The defence in particular will need tightening for on Sunday last gaps were torn open with alarming ease and it was poor finishing on the part of their forwards as much as anything else which led to a home defeat. Full marks to Jimmy Dunne for a fine display of goalkeeping against his former club for although the keeper might be faulted for Athlone's blitz goal in the 1st minute, he was not alone in misjudging M. Colleran's free

which deceived practically everybody in the ground as it snaked in by the post. Dunne never allowed himself to become disconcerted by this early reverse and his safe handling and eagle eye later deprived the home side of at least a couple of scores. This, mind you, despite playing behind a defence, which looked very unsure of itself for long spells. Centre-half Joe Martin made a welcome return to the centre-half spot and proved that his long absence had in no way impaired his efficiency. He was the key figure in the Tullamore defence. He subdued a dangerous Athlone centre forward McMoreland in a manner which left no room for dispute but the pivot is entitled to expect better support than he received on this occasion, Tullamore were never happy at full back where Sean Hogan was often at sea in the first half and although he improved considerably after the interval it was still Tom Whiteley who claimed the honours in this sector. The visitors were a bit unbalanced at half back where Noel Lynch started in fine fettle but fell later away whilst on the other flank Eamonn Byrne reversed the procedure by starting slowly but gradually building up his game to a arousing climax.

TULLAMORE'S MATCHWINNER

Tullamore had their match winner at centre forward where John Lowery, after playing second fiddle to Athlone's Willie Bradley for more than half the game, suddely found his touch. It was his goal which swung the game around in Tullamore's favour and two minutes later he paved the way for Liam Connolly to score the winner. Earlier

Tullamore's opening score had come from Martin Lowery whose performance at outside-right justified his selection in this position. He had the legs of the opposing left-full Tom Malone, all through, although he did weaken noticeably in the closing quarter. Liam Connolly was another to shine in attack for Tullamore. Athlone, after shaping up well in the early stages, proved a big disappointment to their followers. Even allowing for the fact that St. Mel's Park is considered to be worth a goal start to them they shaped really well before the interval. Imbued with the confidence which only an early goal can give they tore into the opposition obviously intent on wiping out memories of the 7-2 defeat sustained at Spollenstown in the Castrol Trophy. With Willie Bradley dominating the area in front of goal their defence was as steady as a rock. Jamsie Greene outshone Tom Malone at full back and a rugged defence, was completed by goalkeeper Robbie Byrne. Athlone had an outstanding performer in right-half Mick Colleran - a real driving force whose display might have been termed brilliant had it not been marred by a certain inaccuracy in distribution. The home attack might have made better use of the chances which fell to them, but with McMoreland bottled up in the centre the line lacked leadership with balance suffering as a result. Johnny Armstrong's experience on the left wing left him the caster of Hogan, but for my money Athlone's best forward was Johnny Joyce, although the diminutive Cyril Molloy ran him close for the distinction. Summing up, then, this was a hard-tackling affair in which tension was at trigger-point all the time.

Hard knocks were the order of the day, but these were all taken in the best spirit and in the final analysis the reputation of both clubs was enhanced as a result.

POINTS FROM PLAY

There was an explosive start to this game for before the seconds hand of my watch had completed one circuit Athlone had shot into the lead with remarkable goal. It stemmed from a free awarded against Martin for handball just outside the side of the penalty area, and right-half Mick Colleran moved up to take it. The ball remained low as it sped from his boot and although virtually everybody in the ground thought that it was flashing wide of the far post – goalkeeper Dunne was no exception -it curled instead to find a resting place in the corner of the net. This was a start and a half for Athlone and they made the best of it as Tullamore floundered in uncertainty. With the exception of two bursts down the right wing by Martin Lowery it was Athlone who set the pace. But faulty finish reprieved the visitors. Teddy Whiteley had a snap shot deflected for a corner and then the same player shot over following a free on the end line by M. Lowery. Tullamore lost a good chance of the equaliser in the 8th minute when Whiteley shot into the side netting following good work by Connolly and John Lowery, but at the other end the visiting defence was getting a real roasting with Joe Martin and Noel Lynch striving gallantly to stem the tide. It was only in breakaways that the Tullamore forwards were seen in action

and from one of these in the 15th minute Whiteley chipped the ball into the centre where goalkeeper Byrne was fortunate to beat Geraghty in a race for possession. A flying save by Jimmy Dunne foiled a great effort by Beaumont in the 17th minute and the siege of the visitor's goal continued unabated. John Lowery missed a good chance when he blazed over after being put clean through by Connolly, but the Tullamore goal fell for the second time in the 25th minute when Beaumont sent a low ball across the face of the goal and Armstrong, dashing in from the left, met it first time to send the ball rocketing past Dunne.

TULLAMORE REVIVAL

This second reverse served to shake Tullamore up a bit and a possible chance was lost when Byrne was just that shade too slow to benefit from good work by Lynch on the half hour. Then, after Dunne had made a plucky save from Joyce following a miskick by Hogan. Tullamore hit back strongly so that their equaliser in the 32nd minute was deserved. Their goal came as a reward for perseverance on the part of Martin Lowery who, after his first shot had been saved Byrne, followed up fast to force the ball home after he had left Tom Malone trailing on the end line. This goal did more than put the visitors back in the game. It also served to wet the interest of spectators, many of whom, had made the trip from Tullamore. The value of the goal was almost nullified within two minutes when Dunne was fortunate to get an outstretched leg to a point blank shot

from Beaumont after a glorious centre from Armstrong and later Beaumont muffed another fine opening created by the left winger. With the final seconds of the first half ticking away Athlone made a spirited bid to regain their two-goal advantage but were foiled when another of Armstrong's dangerous centres was headed clear by Martin.

Half-time: Athlone, 2; Tullamore, 1.

The exchanges immediately after the resumption were tame enough and we had to wait until the 7th minute for the first stir of excitement as Joyce shot hard and low into the side rigging from a close free. This incident sparked off another Athlone offensive and only another fine save by Dunne prevented Joyce from stretching their lead. The pattern of play was changing gradually now and Tullamore were coming more and more into their own and a stinging 25 yards free by Geraghty was fumbled by Byrne before the keeper recovered to clear. Tullamore continued to press without, however, getting many direct shots at the opposing goal. An exception was a searing drive from Connolly which fully extended Byrne in the 27th minute and then two minutes later, came the turning point. John Lowery moved towards the left, beat Bradley on the turn and raced through for the equaliser with a perfectly placed shot well out of Byrne's reach. With the visitors in full cry it was Athlone's turn to reel and before they could recover Lowery struck again when he nipped between two defenders and laid on a perfect pass which Connolly whipped to the net with a great shot.

TABLES TURNED

The tables had now been turned with a vengeance and it was Tullamore who could afford to play with composure as the home side became flurried and over anxious. With Eamonn Byrne storming into the picture the visitors got right on top around midfield with the result that Athlone's opportunities of saving even a point became fewer and fewer.

McMoreland messed up one of the best chances of all by shooting wildly over from an open position in front of goal. A better chance never presented itself. Some measure of the panic which was engulfing the blues became evident with six minutes left in the game when Colleran blasted an indirect free all the way to the net to present Tullamore with a time absorbing free out and although Athlone forced a string of corners in the closing minutes it was Tullamore who finished with a flourish as Martin Lowery shot past Byrne from long range and the fact that the score was disallowed and an offside decision given against John Lowery instead made no difference at that stage.

Result: Athlone, 2; Tullamore, 3.

Athlone: R. Byrne, J. Greene, T. Malone, M. Colleran, W. Bradley, T. Burns, Beaumont, C. Molloy, J. McMoreland, J. Joyce, J. Armstrong.

Tullamore: J. Dunne, S. Hogan, T. Whiteley, N. Lynch, J. Martin, E. Byrne, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, J. Lowery E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. Jack Kelly [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

With Tullamore starting their League of Ireland campaign with a win - an away one at that - we have many claimants for merit points this week. Yet, I think we can decide the issue without too much difficulty, few for instance, with quibble with the choice of John Lowery as the leading contender after all it was his goal which turned the tide in Tullamore's favour. More over I think I am fairly safe in nominating Liam Connolly for two points for he capped a really good performance by scoring the winning goal. That leaves us with the odd point still in hand and I doubt if we can do better than to award this to Joe Martin who made such an impressive return to the centrehalf berth. This then, leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

E. Byrne [11] E. Whiteley [10] J. Lowery [9] L. Connolly [9] N. Lynch [9] T. Geraghty [7] P. Duffy [7] M. Lowery [4] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] Tom Whiteley [3] Tony Whiteley [1]

BIG TEST

There will be a bumper attraction at Spollenstown on Sunday next [2.45] when Tullamore entertain Gas Co. in the second round of the Intermediate Cup. The draw for the third round of this competition was made during the week and the fact that Sunday's winners will have a home game against mighty Home Farm has added considerably to what was an already attractive cup fixture. After Tullamore had defeated

the holders, T.E.K. Utd. in the first round many of their supporters are inclined to shrug off the challenge of Gas Co. The fact that they are lying close to the bottom of the Leinster Senior League table may suggest that they will be easy meat for Tullamore, but my information is that such is far from being the case. Gas co. have been team building in recent weeks with this cup as their main objective. I am told that they have got together a really formidable side. Certainly they will not lack experience for their lineout includes Mick McGrath [ex-Drumcondra and Waterford] Hubie Ganno [ex-Dundalk and Shamrock Rovers] and the Byrne brothers, Dipper and Paddy from Shelbourne. In addition they have the former Pearse Rangers centrehalf, Hogan, who got several junior international caps in recent years. From this it will be seen that they present a formidable challenge and that nothing short of their best form will suffice to see Tullamore through to the quarterfinal stage. This is a big test indeed but the prize is worth striving for. Gas Co. have a reputation for playing direct football with little room for ceremony and if they get an early run on Tullamore they will not be easily overtaken. In recent games Tullamore have shown their ability to come from behind, but they might not find it as easy to do so against opposition of this calibre. Tullamore hope to have Jim Brady back in attack on Sunday next, but nothing short of a wholehearted display by the entire team will be good enough to maintain their interest in the cup. As I have said already victory on Sunday would give home fans a real

treat in the next round when Tullamore and Home Farm would be fighting not only for a place in the semi-finals but

also the right to be included in the F.A.I. Senior Cup. What greater incentive would there be.

November 20th 1965

Tullamore Reach Cup

Quarter-Final

With cup fixtures at two different venues in the town on Sunday last, Tullamore soccer fans had a busy day with just sufficient time for a quick meal in between.

The big event of the day was at Spollenstown, where Tullamore qualified to meet Home Farm in the quarter-final of the F.A.I. Intermediate Cup by scoring a decisive 3-1 victory over Gas Co. Whilst earlier in the day Harp Sports Club ran up, five goals without reply from Longford Town in the second-round of the F.A.I Junior Cup.

TULLAMORE.....3
GAS CO.1

A two goal winning margin in no way flattered Tullamore in the Intermediate Cup tie at Spollenstown. Although the visitors made no secret of their confidence before the kick-off they were unfortunate enough to come up against a Tullamore side, which clicked into top form right from the kick-off. Playing superlative football, a depleted home side Martin Lowery was an absentee whilst Tom Geraghty, Jim Brady and Sean Hogan were playing under handicap turned in their best performance of the season to date. They were particularly impressive in a sparkling first half, which yielded bouts

of brilliant play and some idea of the strength of the opposition may be gleaned from the fact that they were still on level terms, at the interval. Another side would have been beaten to the ropes by that stage, but Gas Co. proved that their reputation was deserved and although they were outplayed territorially during this first half they came within two minutes of turning over with an interval lead. They drew first blood with a relatively soft goal against the run of the play in the 18th minute and then with stood a veritable seige until just two minutes before the interval when Liam Connolly restored the balance with a delightful flick. The football in the second half never measured up in quality to that seen before the interval, yet the

exchanges never lacked interest and the big attendance gate receipts were the highest of the season was given plenty to enthuse about right up to the final whistle. Once Tullamore took the lead in the 61st minute with a typical goal from Tom Geraghty a home win was almost assured, but they took no chances and added a third per Liam Connolly five minutes later to clinch the issue. The prize for victory on this occasion was a particularly attractive one with the winners qualifying for a home game against Home Farm in the quarter-final and Tullamore were spurred on by this glittering incentive. They were absolutely brilliant before the interval and strictly on the run of the play they deserved an interval lead of at least three goals. During this period the home side was firing on all cylinders safe in defence forceful at winghalf and goal-hungry in attack. The kernal of the side was at halfback where Eamonn Byrne, Joe Martin and Noel Lynch formed a tremendously effective unit. Byrne played the proverbial blinder with his flair for attack making him an extra forward without ever leaving gaps in defence and with Lynch proving almost equally venturesome on the other flank the home attack certainly did not lack support. Joe Martin was as steady as a rock in the centre whilst further back Tullamore had a fine pair of fulls in Tom Whiteley and Sean Hogan, both of whom stepped up considerably on recent form. Three goals was scant reward for the splendid work of the forwards who combined with perfection, which is seen all too seldom. With Liam Connolly achieving a new status at inside-right the line clicked from the

word go and it required desperate defensive measures by the visitors to keep them in check. Connolly was the scheming genius behind Tullamore's victory. With ice-cool assurance this teenager left a big imprint upon the game and his two goals were but just reward for the amount of effort expended. Tom Geraghty was another to show vast improvement on recent form for on this occasion he was moving to the ball always with an eye for an opening and his goal which gave Tullamore the lead for the first time was a valuable contribution. The rumbustious John Lowery gave the visiting defence plenty to think about, even if his scoring efforts were always off the mark, but Jim Brady was out of touch on the right wing although it is only fair to add that he was playing against his doctor's orders advice and was far from being completely fit. Teddy Whiteley completed an impressive attack, which absorbed a good deal of punishment from a visiting defence, which did not stand on ceremony. Gas Co. fielded an experienced side which played attractive football outfield, but which failed to round off their movements in front of goal.

POINTS FROM PLAY

With Jimmy Dunne arriving late for the start Tullamore kicked-off with only ten men. John Lowery deputising between the posts. Only one shot came his way before he was relieved of the sweater and once they were brought up to full strength Tullamore swung into the attack. Byrne had a good free saved by

Walsh and Hogan came upfield to lend support to the attack by getting across a good centre from the end line. Only four minutes had elapsed and already Tullamore were showing signs of the greatness which was to follow, Lowery had the ball in the visitor's net in the 5th minute, but the effort was foiled by an offside decision. Three minutes later Connolly split the defence with a great ball which was nodded wide by Whiteley whilst in their first real attack Gas Co. went close when a dangerous shot from McGrath was fisted clear by Dunne and the ball ran loose to Byrne who shot over from an acute angle. Brady muffed a good chance of putting Tullamore ahead in the 14th minute when he shot wide from close range after Connolly had been bowled over inside the area. Tullamore were having much the better of the exchanges up to now, but inside a twinkling the game underwent a big change. Tom Whiteley was injured and whilst he was receiving attention on the line Gas Co. seized the chance to take the lead in the 18th minute. Kinsella paved the way for the score by shoving a good ball inside and with the home defence caught off balance centre forward Phil Clarke broke through to pick his spot. Tullamore might have become flustered by this undeserved reverse but they kept their heads instead and within a minute a blistering drive from Brady whistled past the far upright. Having proved their ability to benefit from half chances the visiting forwards were now being treated with greater respect and when Martin got across a dangerous centre Jimmy Dunne was on hand to palm the ball to safety. Gas Co. messed up a golden opportunity

of adding to their lead in the 23rd minute when right winger Byrne missed a sitter from point blank range off McGrath's centre. Tullamore looked like equalising in the 25th minute when Lowery broke through from just outside the area, but Walsh dived to save splendidly from close range. The visitors were under heavy pressure now, but first-time defensive measures by Hogan, Caffry and Barry helped them to hold out, with lady luck taking an occasional hand. An indirect free by Lynch to Geraghty was deflected behind for a corner and this in turn was cleared at the expense of another. Tullamore forced their third flag-kick within a minute and this time Whiteley's centre hit the but of the post before being scrambled away. The visitor's stone wall tactics were now defying the best efforts of Tullamore's attack to break through, but a goal looked almost certain in the 36th minute when Byrne carried the ball through to place Brady in possession from what looked like a gilt-edged position but the winger failed to steady himself and his half-volley shot zoomed over the top. Then a left-footed drive from Connolly grazed the post and with Byrne and Lynch in complete control of the midfield sector the visitors were pressed deeper and deeper inside their own half, time, however, was running out on Tullamore and a bare three minutes of the first-half remained when they eventually grabbed the equaliser. This was a goal worth waiting for, however, for when rightfull Whiteley moved right upfield to swing across a perfect centre from near the corner flag Connolly got the toe of his boot to the leather to flick it past Walsh. A more opportune moment for

the equaliser could not have been better chosen.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Gas Co., 1.

The standard of football after the interval, although still good, never reached the same heights as the first-half it would I suppose have been expecting a lot to have the same cracking pace maintained for the full 90 minutes and anyway it was the visitors who showed the first signs of tiring. A clever backheel from Lowery to Geraghty in the last minute was followed by a weak shot from the winger which Walsh had little difficulty in saving and with Tullamore now not nearly as forceful as before the break the exchanges became more even. Tom Whiteley checked a couple of menacing moves before being injured again and spending another short spell on the sideline and he was no sooner back in action than Walsh had to dive smartly to save from Byrne. Tullamore were gradually regaining their momentum and it came as no real surprise when they hit the front for the first time in the 16th minute. Brady made the opening with a defence-splitting pass across the field, which Geraghty ran on to, controlled perfectly, and lashed past Walsh. This was the turn of the tide and with Gas Co. reeling the home forwards became rampant. A sparkling bout of passing between Connolly, Whiteley and Lowery ended with the centreforward hooking the ball over from almost under the bar, but this miss was quickly forgotten when Connolly surprised everyone, himself included I think, by lofting the ball over Walsh's head from fully 35

yards range. It was a freakish goal, but it served the purpose of putting Tullamore well on the way to victory. Their prospects were never subsequently in danger of being blighted for although the Gasmen never gave up the ghost, they had taken on the appearance of a doomed team. Walsh saved them from falling further behind when he recovered quickly after being beaten by a cross for Brady to scoop the ball away from Whiteley and the visitors even staged a commendable rally which saw McGrath smacking the ball against the upright. Two corners in quick succession put the pressure on the home defence, but Martin was now the master of Clarke and with Dunne standing up to some heavy tackling between the posts the crisis was passed. The younger Tullamore side took up the running again in the closing ten minutes and they finished with a flourish when Geraghty fired in a bullet like drive which Walsh did well to tip over. On this form even the mighty Home Farm will have to watch their step when they visit Spollenstown for the quarter final.

Result: Tullamore, 3; Gas Co., 1.

Tullamore: J. Dunne, S. Hogan, T. Whiteley, N. Lynch, J. Martin, E. Byrne, J. Brady, L. Connolly, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Gas Co.: D. Walsh, J. Caffrey, J. Barry, N. Murphy, A. Hogan, P. Byrne, A. Byrne, R. Kinsella, P. Clarke, C. Martin, M. McGrath.

Referee: Mr. John McMahon [Dublin]

November 27th 1965

Home Farm Had All The Answers

Home Farm came, saw and duly conquered on Sunday last when their visit to Spollenstown in the 'B' Division of the League of Ireland attracted a record attendance for the venue.

Their visit proved fruitful too for they were always the masters against a disappointing home side which failed to reproduce recent form and their 4-1 victory was fully deserved.

In a game which never really succeeded in coming up to expectations, the Whitehall side gave a scintillating performance, which fully endorsed their big reputation. Although their forwards netted four goals and played soundly all through it was the visitors defence which really impressed. Their understanding and combination in this respect was all most uncanny and resulted in Tullamore's only goal being delayed until less than two minutes from time. Not only that but the home attack was so starved of real chances that they finished the game without as much as a single corner to their credit. I suppose a team can play only as well as it is allowed to and this may account for the apparent falling off in Tullamore's performance. The home defence fared reasonably well against accomplished and talented they gave every indication of caving opposition and although at times in some fine work by Tom Whiteley, Joe Martin and Jimmy

Dunne usually extricated them from their difficulties. Winghalves Eamonn Byrne and Noel Lynch worked harder than anyone else on the field with the former turning in a brilliant performance. He alone was the equal of the visitors in skill and ability but, unfortunately for Tullamore their forwards responded poorly to the promptings from behind, a lack of co-ordination up front had home hopes strangled from an early stage and unless the forwards have learned the lesson that the advantage lies with the player first tjo the ball Tullamore's prospects of reversing the result when the sides meet again in the cup in two week's time must be considered pretty remote. On Sunday last they were repeatedly beaten to the punch with Liam Connolly, the star of the previous week, being a disappointment. Tullamore introduced a newcomer to attack in the person of Alo Glennon, from Edenderry. Given an opportunity

to settle down in a higher grade of football he may prove a useful acquisition for he has a fine turn of speed and plenty of tenacity but on Sunday last he was out of his depth. Teddy Whiteley worked really hard without however achieving a great deal whilst Tommy Geraghty had his moments on the left wing and was rewarded by scoring his sides only goal.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Jimmy Dunne made the first of many fine saves in the 6th minute when he pulled down a free by Daly and from the keepers clearance Glennon broke clear to shoot over on the run. Farm were setting the early pace and they forced the first of their three first-half croners in the 10th minute when Billy Hunt's inswinger was shipped clear by Connolly. The visitors were reduced to ten men for a six-minute spell following an injury to left-half Pat Canavan and it was during this period that Connolly missed a fine chance of opening the scoring when he shot weakly at Swan following a great run through the middle by Byrne. Flame-head Gerry Conroy was emerging as the danger man in the farm attack and in the 20th minute he skipped past three tackles to have his parting shot well saved by Dunne. One minute later came Tullamore's best movement to-date, when Geraghty, from deep inside his own penalty area, dribbled the length of the field to test Swan with his parting shot but on the whole it was Hoops who were doing most of the pressing at this stage and it was fortunate for Tullamore that Byrne was on hand to clear cleverly after

Dunne had palmed out a dangerous centre from Daly.

CHANCE LOST

Tullamore had a fine chance of taking the lead in the 25th minute when Teddy Whiteley was played onside by a defender but before he could benefit he was beaten to the ball by goalkeeper Swan. At the other end Dunne was equally quick to advance when Hunt broke through and danger was averted once more. Tullamore were bringing newcomer Glennon into the game at every opportunity with the obvious intention of exploiting his speed but left-full Pat Dowling was giving nothing away so that Geraghty's greater experience on the other flank might have paid better dividends. To-date defences had been having much the better of the exchanges with Joe Martin, Eamonn Byrne and Sean Hogan doing great work for Tullamore and Gerry James, Pat Dowling and Pat Canavan equally effective for the Farm. Byrne ranged upfield to fire in a shot which Swan handled with confidence but a far more spectacular save came at the other end where Dunne flung himself across the goal to hold a snappy header from Sweetman. Tullamore must have been feeling well pleased with their efforts to-date but the dreaded opening goal soaked their confidence in the 35th minute. Dunne had just pushed out a rasper from Sweetman and in the scramble which followed Hogan was judged by referee Hayden to have handled the ball on the ground. The result was a penalty to the Farm and Conroy made good use of it by sending

Dunne the wrong way. With the visitors now in front the exchanges took on a new intensity and within two minutes Swan was beaten by a drippint centre from Geraghty but a free out for an alleged foul on the keeper eased the situation for Home Farm. With three minutes to go to the interval Geraghty rounded rightfull Kennedy but his shot was that little bit too high.

TWO SENT OFF

There was plenty of action packed into the remaining minutes of the first half but unfortunately it was the type of action which we could have done without. A clash between John Lowery and Pat Canavan in the 43rd minute resulted in both being sent to the pavilion by Mr. Hayden and the remaining two minutes were played out in a tense atmosphere.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Home Farm, 1.

Play resumed on a more subdued note, with Glennon moving in to lead the home attack and Billy Hunt dropping back to left half for the Farm. Tullamore were clearly unsettled by the preinterval alteration and Home Farm pressed home their advantage and stretched their lead as early as the 4th minute when Daly cut in from the wing and given a free passage by the defence. He slammed the ball hard past Dunne. Tullamore's prospects took a nose dive from this stage. They continued to attack spasmodically but their approach was devoid of guile and was easily contained. Indeed Tullamore's best scoring efforts were

coming from their halfbacks and in succession both Byrne and Lynch had shots capably dealt with by Swan. Jimmy Dunne did very well to flick a dangerous centre from Ormsby over the bar and then followed a five minute spell during which Geraghty had a free just outside the area charged down by a wall of defenders and a second free dwas wasted by Byrne. A brilliant double save by Dunne foiled Ormsby and Sweetman in succession around the 23rd minute, at this stage Tullamore switched Tom Whiteley up to lead the attack and he marked his arrival by shaving the bar with a fair effort.

QUICK GOALS

Home Farm stepped up the pace in the closing quarter and in a two-minute spell they sealed the fate of the home side. The onslought was sparked off by Sweetman who cracked the ball off the Tullamore crossbar after being put through by Conroy but the centre-forward met with greater success in the 31st minute when he lashed in a great goal from 25 yards after he had given Joe Martin the slip. In the next Farm attack rightfull, Kennedy, moved upfield to centre a good ball which Daly headed just wide but the visitors struck again in the 33rd minute when Sweetman provided a perfectr pass which Daly lashed to the net. It was at this stage that we saw Home Farm at their best. Moving the ball about freely they put on a superb show against a fading Tullamore side. The snappy slide-rule passing of the visitors had Tullamore running around in circles like a dog chasing its tail so that it was only when

Farm relaxed their efforts that the locals came into the game again. Even then Connolly muffed a possible chance off a pass from Glennon and after Teddy Whiteley had shot into the side netting from an acute angle the consolation goal came in the 43rd minute when Lynch, from a free on the edge of the area, placed the ball well, just over Swan's head, for Geraghty to head it in, off the underside of the crossbar with Teddy Whiteley following up to make assurance doubly sure.

Result: Tullamore, 1; Home Farm, 4.

Tullamore: J. Dunne, S. Hogan, T. Whiteley, E. Byrne, J. Martin, N. Lynch, A. Glennon, L. Connolly, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Home Farm: A. Swan, W. Kennedy, P. Dowling, W. Newman, G. James, P. Canavan, P. Ormsby, B. Hunt, T. Sweetman, G. Conroy, G. Daly.

Referee: Mr. John Hayden [Dublin].

MERIT RATING

With the home attack turning in such a lack-lustre performance it is little wonder that we must turn to the defence to distribute all our merit points this week. Heading the list once more is Eamonn Byrne who matched the visitors in every phase of the game but lacked the support to turn his ability to account. A newcomer enters the ratings this week in the person of Jimmy Dunne whose goalkeeping kept the farm down to more or less reasonable proportions whilst for the second week in succession

Tom Whiteley claims the third spot for his consistent soundness at rightfull. With these points added the overall position now reads as follows:
Eamonn Byrne [16] Liam Connolly [12]
Teddy Whiteley [10] Noel Lynch [9]
John Lowery [9] Tommy Geraghty [7]
Paddy Duffy [7] Tom Whiteley [5]
Martin Lowery [4] Jim Brady [4] Joe Martin [4] Jimmy Dunne [2] Tony Whiteley [1].

CUP PROSPECTS

What bearing will last Sunday's result have upon the outcome of the forth coming quarter final tie in the Intermediate Cup. It is only logical that this should be the question on most lips in view of the fact that Tullamore and Home Farm are due to meet again within a matter of a week or two. It is a difficult question to even attempt to answer for there are many factors to be taken into accooount. Home Farm must be feeling pretty sure of themselves for their can by no denying that they were a vastly superior side last Sunday. However, those of us who have been watching Tullamore regularly in recent weeks must be aware that they are capable of better performances than this. On Sunday last they seemed obsessed with preventing the visitors from accomplishing anything rather than attempting to be constructive themselves. Had they played their normal type of game they might well have fared better and it is obvious that new tactics will have to be devised for the next meeting. Then again there will be far greater incentive to win next time with a place in the F.A.I. Senior Cup

awaiting the winners. In the past Tullamore have proved themselves capable of rising to great heights when the stakes were high. It is hoped that Martin Lowery will be fit to resume for the cup clash but what is really needed is an infusion of drive and energy in attack. The date for the big game remains undecided it should be played next Sunday week, but as there is an interprovincial rugby match fixed for the Spollenstown venue that week a change will have to be made.

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore return to Dublin after a lapse of six weeks on Sunday when they travel to meet Shelbourne in the league. With five points from three games to their credit Shels are topping the table just now and are obviously a much improved side, in the Castrol Trophy Tullamore won 3-1 at Spollenstown but previous form is unlikely to provide a line for next Sunday's encounter. Shels dropped a point in a scoreless draw in Athlone on Sunday last but on their own ground they are likely to prove a handful for a Tullamore side which will be more than anxious to obliterate memories of last week.

December 4th 1965

Tullamore Lose Ground In League

Next April or May, when the time comes to review the playing season in retrospect Tullamore will scarcely want to dwell upon a bleak November Saturday spent at Irishtown for no matter what may happen in the meantime I doubt very much if the provincials will experience a less rewarding ninety minutes. The score of last Saturday's League of Ireland fixture tells its own dreary story for Shelbourne made no mistake about reversing the Castrol trophy result and by slamming Tullamore 4-0 they maintained their unbeaten record in the league. Tullamore had little more than twenty-four hours notice of this game for it was late on Thursday night that word was received that the cup game against Home Farm was off and that instead Tullamore would have to travel on Saturday for the league fixture against Shelbourne. These Saturday fixtures are at all suitable for the Midlanders and last week they were short the services of Jimmy Dunne and Tom Whiteley in addition to the still-injured Jim Brady. Yet the depleted side was never completely outplayed by their hosts. I know that it is difficult to believe in view of the score, but you can take it from me that Tullamore had very nearly as much of the play as their opponents. Indeed the teams were evenly enough

matched throughout the field, but when it came to snapping up scoring chances Shels. painted an object lesson for their visitors. Home centreforward, Tom Whelan pinpointed this difference by scoring a hatrick of halfchances his three goals were all the outcome of defensive errors whilst in contrast the Tullamore forwards scarcely brought the best out of Maguire in the home goal the five Tullamore forwards did not possess a shot between them. Their approach work was good enough but once they got within sight of the target their confidence seemed to ebb away, and a number of scoring opportunities were lost.

CUP DISTRACTION

Coming events cast their shadow and it was plain on Saturday last that Tullamore's performance was hindered by cup thoughts. Next weeks cup clash against Home Farm remains the immediate objective and it was this distraction, more than anything else, which resulted in Tullamore forfeiting last weeks league points. However, lets face it unless they can step up one hundred per cent on last weeks showing Tullamore's prospects of qualifying for the semifinal of the Intermediate Cup must be regarded as being as bleak as

the conditions which prevailed at Irishtown. Deprived of the services of goalkeeper Jimmy Dunne and skipper Tom Whiteley, the Tullamore defence seldom inspired confidence. Allowing for his lack of recent match play and for the inadequate protection which he received from his backs Micky White in goal did not fare at all badly. Sean Hogan and John Lowery both had their work cut out to cope with the everchanging home wingers. Incidentally the constant interchanging in the home lineout frequently left Tullamore disconcerted and bewildered. Unexpectedly it was the half back line, which proved to be the real achilles heel on the Tullamore side. Joe Martin, sound enough in the air, was never comfortable when the ball came to him on the ground whilst Noel Lynch's lack of pace was exposed. To add to the difficulties both Lynch and Eamonn Byrne were inclined to go too far upfield in support of their forwards and their departure inevitably left gaps which the nippy home forwards turned to good use. Had the forwards utilised even a fraction of the chances which presented themselves then Tullamore's prospects of at least dividing the points would have been bright.

NEWCOMER IMPRESSES

The one bright aspect to emerge from Saturday's game was the introduction of a talented newcomer to the attack. For some time past Tullamore have been angling for the services of John Murray and last week they finally succeeded in signing him from Newtown Rangers. He made his debut in the local colours in

Saturday's game and promptly grabbed all the honours that were going. Admittedly, this was no great achievement under the circumstances but nevertheless the newcomer greeted a very favourable impression in the inside left Berty. Apart from Murray the Tullamore attack was a disjointed affair with Tommy Geraghty the only one who ever even looked like achieving much.

POINTS OF PLAY

The game was less than three minutes in progress before Shelbourne found themselves seriously handicapped as a result of losing insideleft Paddy Dowling through injury. Dowling sustained a twisted ankle which forced him to the dressing room for a twenty minute stint and with Tullamore backed by a really strong breeze the odds in their favour were now considerable. Yet, it as the home side which forced an early corner and although this was cleared the reds were quickly back on the offensive and when Freddie Strahan placed leftwinger McCarney in possession the latter raced through to test the quality of the crossbar with a strong shot which bounced over off the woodwork. Tullamore were shaping well in the early stages, but their failure to press home their advantage was already sounding a warning note. Their first dangerous raid came in the 13th minute when a quickly taken effort from Teddy Whiteley bounced past the foot of the upright a great chance was missed by Tullamore in their next attack when a perfect pass from Murray split the defence and with goalkeeper Maguire badly positioned the ball was running

towards the open net when centrehalf Cullen got back to clear off the line with Martin Lowery arriving too late on the scene. Lack of shooting power was costing Tullamore chances repeatedly as they swarmed around the home goal. Geraghty had a free from the fringe of the area blocked by a line of defenders and as the ball came back to Whiteley he blazed it wildly over. Next Murray had a good effort charged down by Gannon and this time it was Geraghty who drove the rebound harmlessly wide, but the worst miss of all fell to Noel Lynch in the 21st minute when he broke clean through on his own to within five or six yards of the goal then, in attempting to place his shot too well, he had it blocked by Maguire's outstretched leg. Thus three good scoring chances were squandered in one five minute spell and with Dowling resuming in the 23rd minute Shels were back to full strength. They shuffled their attack to enable Dowling to figure on the right wing and in no time at all they had wrested the initiative from the visitors. White saved smartly from Billy Kidd in the 26th minute but four minutes later the Tullamore keeper was left helpless when Joe Martin miskicked in front of goal and Tom Whelan was in like a flash to score from point black range. This setback failed to shake Tullamore from their lethargy and their goal fell for a second time in the 37th minute. Again it was a defensive mistake which presented the reds with a soft goal for after Hogan had failed to clear from McCarney the ball broke loose to Whelan who had all the time in the world to pick his spot. Although they were now two goals up Shels were by

no means home and dried yet. Indeed it was Tullamore who were forcing matters coming up to the interval and Whiteley looked a certain scorer with four minutes to go until Maguire made a frantic race from his goalline to foil the centreforward. The home defence stood up well to some heavy pressure with Cullen very sound in the centre and Byrne and Gannon blocking the approaches from the wings and just before the break they went very close to increasing their lead when Kidd had a strong shot saved by White with Strahan closing in fast.

Half-time: Shelbourne, 2; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore were really up against it as they resumed into the wind and they were dealt a shattering blow within three minutes when a dangerous lob from Byrne was scrambled over the bar by White at the expense of a corner Dunne's flagkick was perfectly placed and although it was partially cleared by Byrne the ball was retuned into the centre where Lynch was dispossessed by Whelan and the centre forwards shot was deflected past White by one of his own defenders, Shelbourne were content to rest on their three goal lead and the result was a slackening of interest. Territorially Tullamore now enjoyed as much of the play as their opponents, but with a blatant weakness on the rightwing of their attack where both Connolly and Martin Lowery were right off form, their best efforts were strangled. A dream pass from Murray in the 24th minute afforded another gilt-edged chance to Geraghty, but he muffed it and Tullamore remained three

goals down. Entering the final phase of the game Tullamore did shake themselves up a little and Whiteley was just off the mark with a long range effort whilst in the 33rd minute Maguire had to dive out to smother the ball at Connolly's feet after the latter had been sent through by Murray. At the other end White saved a snappy shot from Dowling. There was more action packed into the final five minutes then in the entire game up to that point. Whiteley sparked off a late Tullamore rally by working his way through for a close range shot which Maguire did well to hold in the 40th minute and one minute later another gilt edged chance went begging when Lowery side footed a pass from Murray wide of an open goal. Then Maguire had to dive full length to keep out a great shot from Lowery, but almost on the stroke of time Shels. broke clear to register their fourth and final goal. This one stemmed from a midfield long from Dowling which White could only push against the crossbar for Kidd to run in and tap home the rebound with not a Tullamore defender in sight. Referee O'Connor played four minutes injury time and in the last of these Whiteley fired in a ground shot which beat Maguire but spun back into play off the inside of the far upright.

Result: Shelbourne, 4; Tullamore, 0.

Shelbourne: F. Maguire, P. Byrne, M. Gannon, J. Dunne, L. Cullen, F. Strahan, B. Butler, B. Kidd, T. Whelan, P. Dowling, C. McCarney.

Tullamore: M. White, S. Hogan, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Martin, E. Byrne, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, E. Whiteley, J. Murray, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. M. O'Connor [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

I feel very much like drawing three names out of a hat this week. How else can one possibly distinguish performances in a uniformly poor display newcomer John Murray is certainly entitled to top rating for the number of openings which he created virtually unaided and John Lowery must come into the reckoning for some solid, if unspectacular, work at leftfull. That leaves only one spot to be filled and Eamonn Byrne just about earned it. All of which leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

Eamonn Byrne [17] Liam Connolly [12] Teddy Whiteley [10] Noel Lynch [9] Tom Geraghty [7] Paddy Duffy [7] Tom Whiteley [5] Martin Lowery [4] Joe Martin [4] Jim Brady [4] John Murray [3] Jimmy Dunne [2] Tony Whiteley [2]

December 11th 1965

Glory To The Vanquished

Tullamore Gallant In Defeat

Gallant in defeat is a cliché used all too frequently without good cause by sporting commentators. It is a phrase which I am not particularly fond of, but which, nevertheless, must be used to describe Tullamore's performance against Home Farm in the quarterfinal of the F.A.I. Intermediate Cup at Spollenstown on Saturday last.

The Spollenstown venue has been the scene of some remarkable cup-ties, but it is a safe bet that never before has the Tullamore headquarters housed such a sensational encounter as this. The odds against Tullamore in this match were always high, but just prior to the kickoff they soared to astronomical proportions when it was learned that both John Lowery and Eamonn Byrne had cried off the home team. Bare minutes before kickoff time a phone call was received to say that the car bearing the three Dublin based players Noel Lynch, Joe Martin and John Murray had broken down in Kildare and that it would be at least an hour before they could reach Tullamore. Home Farm and referee, Peter Graham agreed to delay the kickoff, but at 2.50 pm. Thirty five minutes after the scheduled starting time the referee had no option other than to order the players onto the pitch. Still hoping against hope that the missing players would turn up soon Tullamore opted to start with eight men

rather than field three reserves and with the rain still pouring down on an already sodden ground the might of Home Farm kicked off against Tullamore's gallant eight. One dreaded to think about what was going to happen, but instead of the anticipated avalanche of goals the spectators present saw a glorious new chapter being written in the history of Tullamore soccer. Tullamore's eight-man team, grouped heavily in a blanket defence, defied the visitors to break through.

GAME OF HIS LIFE

With Martin Lowery playing the game of his life, attack after attack was beaten off and, unbelievably, the home side began a few counter-attacks of their own. The minutes ticked past with the Home Farm forwards becoming almost desperate at their inability to penetrate this wonderful screen and when the home goal did eventually fall in the 33rd minute it was as the result of a penalty

decision which brought a storm of disapproval from all over the ground. Even the Home Farm officials to whom I spoke admitted that it was a harsh decision, but a penalty it was and Terry Conroy slipped the ball past Dunne to break the magic spell. If anything Tullamore's determination was bolstered by this setback and the much vaunted Home Farm side was made to look very ordinary indeed by their depleted rivals. Then, with less than two minutes of the first half remaining, the appearance of the missing men was the signal for a tremendous ovation which, however, was cut short as centreforward Tom Sweetman headed home a centre from the left wing, just as the home defence was in the process of changing over. The enthusiasm of the home side was carried into the second half as they set out to eradicate their arrears. The Home Farm defence was subjected to a rare buffeting, but stood firm and when Daly broke away to score his sides third goal in the 75th minute it seemed to be all over. That is what we thought but the real courage of this Tullamore team had yet to manifest itself they just refused to give in and two goals in the 80th and 81st minutes put an entirely new complexion on the game. An equalising goal was all that was now needed to provide a fairytale ending for Tullamore but it was not to be. Drained of every ounce of energy by their heroic efforts of the firsthalf they simply could not capitalise on the panic which threatened to engulf the visiting defence. In truth it was a case of the spirit being willing, but the flesh being weak and Home Farm hung on to their one goal advantage. They left the field

victorious, but the real honours of the day belonged in the Tullamore dressingroom.

HEROES ALL

One cannot have but the greatest admiration for this Tullamore team, and particularly for the eight who carried the brunt of the battle for so long. Martin Lowery had his greatest game ever in the Tullamore singlet and his complete return to his best form was probably the outstanding feature of a memorable day. The manner in which he eclipsed the freescoring Tom freeman who, with lefthalf Pat Canavan was bound for English league football immediately after this game, was remarkable to say the least and the fact that Tullamore elected to retain him at centrehalf after the interval even when regular pivot Joe Martin was available was a tribute in itself. Yet this was no one man show and Tom Whiteley and Jimmy Dunne helped themselves to a large portion of the credit in defence. The tremendously handicapped home attack contributed to the days excitement, too. Teddy Whiteley put real dash into his leadership of the line before the interval whilst Tom Geraghty on the left wing gave visiting fullback Kennedy a worrying time. Newcomer John Murray, although he paved the way for Lowery's second goal, had a quiet debut at Spollenstown and was not nearly as impressive as against Shelbourne the previous week. The two Liams, Connolly and Keegan, fared reasonably well on the other flank and certainly Keegan was happier on the wing than when transferred to lefthalf in the

second half. Home Farm, despite all sorts of rumours earlier in the week, fielded the same team as had defeated Tullamore 4-1 in the league only two weeks earlier.

SCORES ON THE CLOCK

Tullamore had plenty of sympathy as they started off on their gigantic task with eight players and a first minute corner to Home Farm looked like an omen of worse things to follow. Yet, the first shot of the match came from Teddy Whiteley who broke clear inside his own half and raced through on the left to send the ball skidding across the Home Farm goalmouth. However, it was the visitors who were naturally setting the pace and Tullamore were lucky in the 6th minute when rightwinger Ormsby just failed to connect with a centre from Daly. Sweetman shot wide from in front of the goal and this was followed by another of Tullamore's spasmodic breakaways in which Keegan shot narrowly wide. Daly headed a free by Sweetman well wide of the target, but with Martin Lowery clicking the handcuffs on Sweetman the visiting attack was not moving well at all. With many an anxious glance towards the gate Tullamore continued to waste as much time as they could get away with and every ballooned clearance was greeted with roar of encouragement. A midfield free by Tom Whitlley was off target but when the Farm swept back into the attack their finish was desperately inaccurate with Daly blasting high into the elements off Conroy's pass in the 26th minute. Tullamore actually forced their first

corner two minutes later and Teddy Whiteley's flagkick caused some concern to the visiting defence before it was scrambled clear.

DEBATABLE PENALTY

Dunne made a brilliant fingertip save from Conroy and as Hogan doubled back to complete the clearance he was adjudged to have handled the ball. A storm of disapproval was continued for several minutes after Conroy had beaten Jimmy Dunne from the spot. Soon after Dunne was in action again as he cut off a dangerous centre from Ormsby, and then saved brilliantly from Billy Hunt. It was practically Dunne v. Home Farm at this stage and the keeper saved Tullamore once more when he blocked a piledriver from Daly against the upright. The 40th minute brought the feverish excitement to its peak with the home goal having a series of remarkable escape. Sweetman sparked off the thrills by smashing the ball against the crossbar and when it came loose to Conroy the inside left had his shot blocked on the line. This time Sweetman fastened onto it, but his effort was turned behind for a corner. And yet another siege was lifted. With one minute of the first half remaining Murray made his appearance, being followed quickly by Martin and Lynch, but the arrival of the latecomers cost Tullamore dearly. They were still in the process of sorting things out as Daly floated across a great centre from the left and with Tullamore temporarily without a centrehalf Sweetman rose to head home a facesaving goal for Home Farm.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Home Farm, 2.

Tullamore resumed in a confident mood and a first minute effort from Geraghty, which skimmed the bar, heightened the expectancy. Swept onward by a surge of enthusiasm the home side peppered the farm goal, but their only reward in the early stages was a corner in the 5th minute. Then goalie Tony Swan dived to hold a hot shot from Lowery, who had moved up to lead the home attack. The visiting forwards were more or less out of the picture now, but they missed a possible chance in the 7th minute when Daly took a fine pass from Sweetman only to shoot hastily over. The chance which ultimately cost Tullamore the opportunity of a replay could probably be traced to the 10th minute when Whiteley, put through by Lowery, shot over with the goal at his mercy. A goal at this stage might well have swung the game in Tullamores favour. A long run by Geraghty from inside his own half was halted by James and it was the centrehalf who was proving the big stumbling block to Tullamore all the time. They were doing most of the attacking, but had little to show for their efforts. A free by Geraghty was deflected by a defender but Swan made a fine save and in desperation Tullamore shuffled their ranks again. Lowery reverted to centrehalf with Martin moving to lead the attack and further pressure brought the best out of James, Swan, Kennedy and Dowling. Home Farm went close to adding to their lead in the 19th minute when a surprise shot by Canavan was fumbled by Dunne but the keeper

recovered to clear and it was the Farm goal which had a much closer shave when Keegan missed a sitter off Geraghtys centre. Sweetman, with Lowery hot on his heels, could do no better than force a corner from five yards range in the 24th minute and there followed a speel of Farm pressure during which Dunne saved a rasper from Hunt. Conroy scraped the woodwork with a classical effort and Hunt shot wide from a close free and with the visitors coming more into the picture as an attacking force it was not really against the run of the play that they stretched their lead in the 30th minute when leftwinger Daly slipped around Hogan to score with a shot from the edge of the penalty area. This, surely was the death knell for Tullamore, but again a positional switch which saw Lowery coming back to centreforward, Keegan dropping back to lefthalf and Whiteley moving out to the wing brought results.

THE RECOVERY

Like their opponents, Tullamore opened their account from a penalty in the 35th minute. This time there was no disputing the legality of the award as Lowery was well and truly frassed inside the area, but it took three attempts to get the ball in the net. Lynch took the spotkick which Swan parried, but could not hold. The ball came back to Lynch whose second attempt rolled along the goalline before Whiteley dashed in to nudge it home. Now with ten minutes to go, Tullamore were still trailing, but the recovery had got under way and when Lowery picked up a grand pass

from Murray to leave Swan groping one minute later the fat was really in the fire. Home Farm became badly rattled, but the exertions of the first half were taking toll of Tullamores stamina and it was little wonder that they were scarcely able to lift their legs. Only raw courage kept them going, but they never looked like grabbing the equalising goal, which they must surely have been entitled to. A long punt into the goalmouth by Lynch was safely held in the air by Swan and with Home Farm officials anxiously watching the time the last chance fell to Lowery who had a rasping ground shot saved on the line by Swan. Tullamore had come to the end of their cup trail but what memories lingered on.

Result: Tullamore, 2; Home Farm, 3.

Home Farm: A. Swan, L. Kennedy, P. Dowling, W. Newman, G. James, P. Canavan, P. Ormsby, W. Hunt, T. Sweetman, T. Conroy, G. Daly.

Tullamore: J. Dunne, S. Hogan, T. Whiteley, N. Lynch, J. Martin, M. Lowery, L. Keegan, L. Connolly, E.

Whiteley, J. Murray, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. Peter Graham [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

It should be three points for everybody this week, but I suppose some distinction will have to be made. Top rating must be given to Martin Lowery, the best player of the 22 on view. I think that it is only fair that our selection should be confined to those players who covered themselves in such glory for the entire ninety minutes and this being the case I am taking two other defenders to complete the trio. First there was Tom Whiteley whose crisp tackling and long clearnces were of such value in the first half and for the third point Jimmy Dunnes brilliant goalkeeping swings the issue in his favour. All of which leaves the overall position now reading as follows:
E. Byrne [17] L. Connolly [12] J. Lowery [11] T. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [9] T. Geraghty [7] Tom Whiteley [7] M. Lowery [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] J. Dunne [3] J. Murray [3] Tony Whiteley [1]

December 18th 1965

Late Goals Won For Tullamore

St.Patricks Athletic	1
Tullamore	3

Two goals inside the last thirty seconds of play enabled Tullamore to defeat St. Patricks Athletic in the 'B' Division of the League of Ireland at Richmond Park on Sunday last.

Although, they left their winning effort very late indeed Tullamore fully deserved their 3-1 victory for both technically and territorially they were the masters of the Inchicore side and it was only a lack of punch and accuracy in attack which left the issue in doubt for so long.

In a scoreless firsthalf, the visiting forwards had more than sufficient chances to have settled the issue there and then but time after time the brilliant openings created by insideleft, John Murray were nullified by lack of finish on the part of his colleagues. Tullamore were forced to make some quick changes for Sundays game, after goalkeeper Jimmy Dunne, unility forward Peter Malone and full-back Sean Hogan had cried off - the latter was helping the minor in Athlone. The rearranged formation saw Tommy Geraghty travel the length of the field from outside left to goal, with Christy

Hughes coming in at leftfull and John Lowery resuming as leader of the attack. Under such circumstances an away victory was quite an achievement. As it was it was left to defenders to account for the entire Tullamore total with both winghalves Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne, together with leftfull Christy Hughes, being the marksmen. This, in itself, is a reflection upon the scoring ability of the attack, but all is well that ends well and victory in this game leaves the stage set for an attractive home game against Bohemians – Paddy Duffy next Sunday.

SHOT-SHY FORWARDS

With both sides destitute of scoring forwards this was a game which was remarkably devoid of real entertainment value until those closing hectic minutes. However the closeness of the exchanges all through compensated to a certain extent whilst the football played by both sides around midfield was really good

considering the poor conditions. The small, compact Richmond Park was a sea of mud down the centre conditions, which were all against Tullamores normal style of play whilst the enforced changes also militated against their prospects. Yet, little fault could be found with the defence in which Tom Whiteley was the key figure at rightfull and in which Tommy Geraghty revealed a decided fair for the goalkeeping job. The key to victory, however at halfback where both Byrne and Lynch acquitted themselves with real distinction, the latter in particular showing a welcome return to something like his best form. The one bright feature in attack from Tullamores point of view was the clever openings made by John Murray. Home fans have yet to see the best of this inside left for he was very much below his true form in the 45th minutes which he played against Home Farm the previous week. On Sunday he sprayed the leftwing with flawless passes whilst in addition he had two of the best non-scoring efforts of the game himself. Teddy Whiteley, whilst not as effective in the other inside berth, was trying all the time, but John Lowerys lack of pace in the centre was exposed and it was at leftfull after the interval that he did his best work. Like Tullamore, St. Patricks played some nice football outfield, but their finishing, too, was deplorable with only rightwinger Carberry looking really dangerous. Their defence was sound all through with centrehalf connor a dominating figure and the red headed Ken Bracken a forceful righthalf.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The sun was shining brightly as Whiteley won the toss for Tullamore, but within two minutes the visitors were in trouble as a sliced clearance by Tom Whiteley sped just inches outside his own post for the first corner of the game. After the usual period of probing and prodding Tullamore began to settle down and Murray provided the first of many shrewed touches in the 6th minute when he sent Martin Lowery through, but the winger was well wide with his shot. Eamonn Byrne had a low shot saved against the upright by Hickey and from the keepers clearance Murray gained possession to graze the angle of the crossbar and upright with a fine effort. In their first combined attack St. Patricks were halted by an offside decision against Marshall and when play returned to the other end M. Lowery squared the ball too far back with three forwards waiting in the goalmouth. The home side should have taken the lead in the 10th minute when centreforward Purdy completely miskicked in front of goal, following a centre from Carberry which split the Tullamore defence but generally speaking it was the home defence which was under pressure and it required covering and tackling of a high order by Connor, Bracken and Guerin to keep Tullamore from taking the lead inside left Downey shot over from a close free before Tullamore lost another good opportunity when M. Lowery crashed a pass from Murray into the side netting when the winger did get his sights adjusted he had a great shot brilliantly pushed out by Hickey and the ball ran loose to Connolly whose centre was first timed into the side netting again by Lowery. Twenty four minutes

had elapsed before Geraghty got his first testing shot, but he saved confidently from Purdy in a goalmouth melee. St. Pats forced two corners inside the space of the 28th minute with Geraghty saving well from Hoey following the first and Whiteley clearing off the line from Downey after the second. Tullamore had to wait until the 33rd minute for their first corner and as M. Lowery swung across an inswinger Hickey saved on the line from John Lowery. The Inchicore side pressed strongly coming towards the end of the first half and after a bad pass back from Hughes had gone behind for a corner a free on the edge of the area by Bracken was cleared from under the bar by Murray. With just five minutes of the half remaining the home side had really bad luck when Carberry cut the ball back from the endline for the in rushing Wilson to crash it off the crossbar.

Half-time: St .Patricks, 0; Tullamore, 0.

The second half opened with a bang as St. Patricks went straight into the attack and although their first two raids were beaten off by Tom Whiteley the homesters hit pay dirt at the third attempt. Breaking away from inside his own half insiderright Marshall made good ground before rounding Martin at the corner of the area and firing in a shot, which left Geraghty helpless. Thus it was first blood to the Athletic and in view of Tullamores attacking form up to now the prospects of victory began to wane. Weak shooting by Teddy Whiteley proved no difficulty to Hickey and after five minutes Tullamore rearranged their forces in search of a

remedy. M. Lowery was switched into the centre with J. Lowery dropping back to his best position at leftfull and Hughes moving up to the wing. However, Tullamores play continued to be aimless until the 13thth minute when a snorter from Whiteley was providentially blocked by Hickey with M. Lowery slow to benefit from the partial clearance. Lowery returned to the wing after this with Hughes now leading the visiting attack, but with the Athletic defence first timing every clearance Tullamore had to wait until the 19th minute for their equalising goal. When it did materialise it was as the result of a corner by Teddy Whiteley which Byrne shot low through a ruck of players to paint an object lesson for his forwards, these goals served to increase the tempo of play and Murray had a thundering drive tipped over for a corner by Hickey before Hughes. Put through by Murray, spoiled a great opening with a weak shot. Good work by Lynch paved the way for Whiteley to have a go, but his shot sailed well over the target and with the light fading rapidly St. Pats hit back to force two corners in succession on the right a division of the points looked virtually certain as a close free by Murray was wasted with two minutes to go, but in a storming finish Tullamore scored twice in the final minutes. M. Lowery made the opening for the first with a chip into the centre which Lynch controlled blasting the ball into the roof of the net and no sooner was the ball in play again than John Lowery sprinted down the wing in possession and with the home defence backing away his centre to the penalty spot was headed in brilliantly by

Hughes for the best score of the game.

Result: St. Patricks, 1; Tullamore, 3.

Tullamore: T. Geraghty, T. Whiteley, C. Hughes, N. Lynch, J. Martin, E. Byrne, L. Connolly, E. Whiteley, J. Lowery, J. Murray, M. Lowery.

St. Patricks: C. Hickey, S. Hoey, P. Guerin, K. Bracken, E. Connor, F. Dwyer, J. Carberry, J. Marshall, J. Purdy, D. Downey, P. Wilson.

Referee: Mr. D. V. Byrne [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

In so far as the Tullamore attack failed

to score in this victory it may seem strange to give top billing to one of the forwards. However, anybody who witnessed the game will surely agree that John Murrays impeccable play at insideleft merits for him the top place. We move back to the defence for our second choice, which must be Tom Whiteley and to complete our top three I am taking last seasons overall winner Noel Lynch. To leave the present position reading as follows:
E. Byrne [17] L. Connolly [12] J. Lowery [11] E. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [10] Tom Whiteley [9] T. Geraghty [7] M. Lowery [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [6] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] J. Dunne [3] Tony Whiteley [1]

December 25th 1965

Defenders Score All Goals

The festive spirit was very much in evidence at Spollenstown on Sunday last when two own goals and a penalty comprised the combined score as Tullamore defeated Bohemians by the odd goal.

Truth to tell neither side succeeded in mastering the ground conditions and whereas Tullamore enjoyed a greater share of the play than their visitors their inability to press home their advantage almost cost them dearly. Given the present of an own goal in the 20th minute Tullamore were unable to improve their position before the interval. Indeed they were fortunate to be still in the lead at the change of ends as Bohemians included a penalty amongst their many firsthalf misses. Then, just nine minutes after the resumption the scales of justice were balanced when John Lowery put through his own goal to present Bohemians with their equaliser but fears that a home point might be squandered were proved groundless in the 65th minute when Noel Lynch scored the winning goal from the spot. Thus, for the second week in succession, Tullamore scraped through to victory without a forward contributing to their score.

POOR FARE

Disappointment for home fans began before the kick-off when it was learned that former Tullamore player Paddy Duffy, was not with the visiting team as he had at last been given the opportunity to prove himself with the Dalymount sides premier team. Duffys absence probably simplified Tullamores task for his understudy, Tony Goode, never inspired confidence. Tullamores best prospects of scoring always seemed to stem from the left but with Tommy Geraghty failing to anticipate the delightful prompting of his inside forward John Murray, these chances invariably fizzled out inside the penalty area. In recent games the defence has been more or less carrying the side and it was much the same on last Sunday. Jimmy Dunnes goalkeeping was safe in every respect, the highlight of a fine performance being his triple save following the penalty incident in the first half. In front of him the keeper had the benefit of a strong defence in which Tom Whiteley was always cool and reliable under pressure and in which John Lowerys clearances in the second half helped to break the spirit of the visitors. Tullamore perferred Martin Lowery to regular pivot Joe Martin for the centre half spot and the judgement of the selectors was more or less vindicated. However, on the few occasions on which Lowery was caught

out of position Eamonn Byrne was always on hand to cover for him and this perfect sense of understanding was, perhaps, the big factor in the success attained by the home defence. Like their hosts, Bohemians had their greatest shortcomings in front of goal for their forwards failed miserably, sometimes from the easiest of positions.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Bohs also had the first corner of the game but Kanes inswinging centre was steered to safety by Martin Lowery. The first of Tullamores many missed came as early as the 6th minute when Murray broke clean through the centre with Teddy Whiteley in support but although this pair raced clear of the Bohs defence Murrays shot was well off the mark. The visiting defence appeared none too happy under pressure, and it was the Tullamore rearguard, which was taking the honours at this stage. Yet, the manner in which the home attack was squandering scoring chances was a source of worry, with Keegan muffing the best chance of all in the 14th minute when he was played onside behind the enemy lines. Geraghty was wide from another favourable position so that when a goal did, finally, materialise in the 20th minute it came right out of the blue. There did not appear to be the remotest chance of a goal as the ball ran loose to rightfull McAuley but in attempting to clear he sent a spinning ball past his own keeper and into the corner of the net. Santa claus had arrived at Spollenstown. An already shaky Bohemians defence became almost panic stricken after this and they

were fortunate not to fall further behind in the 29th minute when Murray almost shattered the crossbar with a thundering drive from close range.

PENALTY SAVE

The 30th minute brought with it the highlight of the game in the form of a penalty award to Bohemians, which was entrusted to left winger Carroll. Jimmy Dunne brought home fans to their feet by saving the spot kick but his moment of glory was not yet over. A second and a third time he saved his charge before danger was finally averted the game swung in Tullamores favour again. Bohs best chance of an equaliser came in the 35th minute when Carberry sent Flanagan through the middle to shoot narrowly over. At the other end Teddy Whiteley shot over on the turn and with bohs piling on the pressure before the interval the home goal had a couple of narrow escapes with Kane shooting over and in the last minute of the half Dunne saving at point blank range from Flanagan.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Bohemians, 0.

The change of ends brought no change in the shooting ability of either attack and a spell of inspired play saw golden opportunities being missed at either end. Bohemians were swinging the ball about and they had their reward in the 9th minute with an equalising goal, which had more than a touch of poetic justice attached. Again danger looked remote as the ball was sent down the middle by Houlihan but with Martin Lowery standing still appealing for

offside the outlook quickly changed and in a despairing bid to avert the danger, John Lowery hooked the ball into his own net to tie the scoring. It was stalemate in earnest now and with defences controlling the exchanges there appeared to be no immediate prospect of it being otherwise until the 20th minute when Geraghty was held inside the area to credit Tullamore with a penalty. This was the break which the homesters needed and Noel Lynch made the best of it by slamming the ball past Goode. Although Bohemians still had plenty of time in which to save the day they never appeared likely to do so. Two points for Tullamore, but a victory which left tons of room for improvement.

Result: Tullamore, 2; Bohemians, 1.

Tullamore: J. Dunne, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, L. Keegan, L. Connolly, E. Whiteley, J. Murray, T. Geraghty, E. Byrne.

Bohemians: T. Goode, M. McAuley, T. Kelly, E. Ryan, T. Hill, L. Houlihan, B. Kane, N. Murphy, L. Carberry, C. Flanagan, E. Carroll.

Referee: Mr. P. Coates [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

This week I find myself with four contenders for the three places of honour and it is merely a case of deciding who to leave out. It cannot be Eamonn Byrne who earns top rating once more to stretch his overall lead in this feature. Nor can we omit Tom

Whiteley whose consistency was one of the main strengths of the home defence. That leaves just the odd spot to be filled and a toss of a coin decided it in favour of Martin Lowery. Now I will leave it to your selves to guess who else I had in mind. Anyway that leaves the overall position now rading as follows: E. Byrne [20] L. Connolly [12] J. Lowery [11] Tom Whiteley [11] N. Lynch [10] E. Whiteley [10] M. Lowery [8] T. Geraghty [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [6] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] J. Dunne [3] T. Whiteley [1]

NEXT WEEK

Football on St. Stephens Day will be something new for Tullamore in their A.U.L. days they were always accustomed to a break around the festive season but this year will see them interrupt their celebrations to take in an important league fixture at Leixlip against Ormeau. It was Ormeau who defeated Tullamore by 4-3 in that fantastic Castrol Trophy game at Spollenstown last October and ever since the provincials have been biding their time thirsting for revenge. Now they will have their opportunity on next Sunday when another brace of points would leave them facing the new year with confidence.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Shelbourne	6	4	1	1	13	3	9
Home Farm	5	4	0	1	14	5	8
Drogheda	5	3	0	2	7	2	6
Tullamore	5	3	0	2	9	12	6
Shamrock Rovers	5	3	0	2	6	5	6
Drumcondra	6	3	0	3	11	12	6
Bohemians	7	2	2	3	11	9	6

Dalkey	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
St. Patrick's	5	1	1	3	7	10	3
Athletic							
Dundalk	4	1	0	3	6	14	2
Athlone	7	0	2	5	9	21	2

SEASONAL GREETINGS

And now may I conclude this weeks column by extending the seasons greetings to all readers as well as to the players, member and committee of Tullamore A.F.C.

January 1st 1966

Goalkeeping Errors Beat Tullamore

Ormeau3
Tullamore1

The loyalty and club spirit which exists in the Tullamore camp was put to the test last weekend with provincials being called upon to travel to Leixlip to meet Ormeau in the B Division of the League of Ireland on St. Stephens Day. The temptation to skip this one fixture must have been strong for many of the players, particularly those with family ties, but the call to arms evoked a commendable response which enabled Tullamore to lineout with only one change on their selected team. Unfortunately, the one defection cost them the match, for it concerned the highly specialised goalkeeping position, the one spot which calls for experience above everything else.

"SPOT-KICK" REPORTS FROM LEIXLIP

Now let us get one thing straight right away. By deputising for the absent Jimmy Dunne, P.J. Deering took Tullamore out of a spot, and for doing so at very short notice he is deserving of credit and gratitude on the form which he had displayed in the town

league he appeared to be a ready made solution to Tullamore's problem on Sunday last, but like so many before him, was not long in discovering just how wide is the gulf which divides the two grades of football. Personally, I have no doubts at all that had Dunne been between the posts Ormeau would have finished the game scoreless for their three goals were all easily obtained. Around about this time last year, Tullamore were being hailed as being one of the most prolific scoring sides in the country, but how times have changed. Tullamore have now gone three games without a goal from the forwards and the sides top scorer in the league to date is winghalf Noel Lynch who has a mere two goals to his credit. Outfield the visitors were equals of their hosts. Indeed, they even shaped that little bit better at times and judged by corner kicks, they shaded the honours by a 7-6 margin. Yet, their outfield play counted for nothing with the forwards squandering chance after chance. It was regular fullback, Sean Hogan, making his debut as leader of the attack who held out the greatest promise of breaking the spell Hogan imparted such an enthusiastic dash to his leadership that he had the home

defence unsettled all through his performance was the one bright spot which held out promise of better things to come. Otherwise, Tullamores forward play followed the pattern set in recent weeks with little or no punch on the wings and over anxiety marring the play of the inside men. In previous games these shortcomings were made up for by the power play of the of the halfbacks but this time the same support was not forthcoming. Ground conditions suited neither Noel Lynch nor Eamonn Byrne, both of whom were well below their best form so that it was left to Martin Lowery to hold the middle line, and the defence in general together. This he did remarkably well until a knee injury put him virtually out of the game midway through the second half. It is significant that two of the three home goals came after Lowery had switched to a limping role on the wing. Up to this point the Ormeau centre-forward, Finbar Lane, had been blotted right out of the picture and it is, I think, reasonable to assume that the injury which put Martin Lowery out of action cost Tullamore at least a point from this game. John Lowery was also seen to advantage on Sunday last. His strong tackling and lusty clearances repeatedly repulsed home attacks and on this occasion at least he outshone his fullback partner, Tom Whiteley, who caught a real tarter in leftwinger Byrne.

OFFSIDE COMPLEX

Without wishing to have a charge of sour grapes laid on by doorstep, I feel that no account of this game would be authentic without a reference to the

number of offside decisions given against Tullamore. Most times these decisions were perfectly correct, but on a number of occasions a Tullamore forward was shistled back for no apparent reason, including the case when Teddy Whiteley was shistled up for offside inside his own half of the field.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Tullamore got off on the wrong foot by being set to play into a glaring sun which sparkled on the frost-encrusted ground and inside two minutes they were obliged to concede a corner to relieve home pressure. Indeed the early indications were in no way promising and only a timely tackle by Tom Whiteley stopped Lane in his tracks as the rest of the Tullamore defence back-peddled into their own goalmouth. Deering, wearing the bottom half of a track suit as a protection against the bone-hard ground, got his first feel of the ball in the 6th minute when he went down to save at Leyden's feet, but by now Tullamore were settling down, although their first attack ended with Whiteley being whistled back for offside off Connolly's pass. Two minutes later Geraghty forced a corner off Cuddy and Whiteley's flagkick was returned to himself for the second effort to be sent behind. Even at this early stage, Tullamore's weakness was beginning to manifest itself as time after time the forwards worked the ball goalwards only to shirk the final shot. Nobody appeared prepared to accept the responsibility of missing and the result was a series of irritating short passing

movements, which fizzled out inside the Ormeau penalty area. Thus, the home goal was seldom in real danger, although the 19th minute was an exception as Cuddy was forced to kick behind for a corner as Geraghty cut in from the wing with Quirke out of his goal.

POWER DRIVE

Three minutes later the Ormeau goal had another lucky escape when, from a free on the perimeter of the area and directly in front of the posts, Geraghty sent in a power drive which turned Quirke around in mid air as he pushed it over the bar. Tullamore were by no means having matters all their own way and in the 24th minute John Lowery was thankful enough to concede a corner under pressure from Buckley. Possibly the best individual effort of the ninety minutes came just on the half hour when, following an accurate centre from Byrne, centreforward Lane got his head to the ball to send it skimming a fraction over the bar.

SOFT GOAL

The opening goal, when it came in the 32nd minute, was a simple affair, inside right, Leyden picked up a loose ball just outside the box and although his shot was a weak one the ball passed under Deering's body and finished up in the corner of the net for a real Christmas present to the home side. Not unexpectedly this soft goal had a bearing upon the play of both sides. Ormeau's confidence was boosted whilst in contrast Tullamore became even

more ragged in their general play. With the forwards playing in a straight line their square passing cut no ice against the crisp tackling of the home defence and more often than not ground was lost rather than gained by the man in possession. Murray in particular was overusing the ball and on the whole it was Hogan's bustling tactics which provided the greatest threat to the Ormeau goal. Lack of experience cost the centreforward a certain goal with two minutes of the first half remaining for when he bust through on his own after slipping Kelly he blazed the ball wide instead of merely chipping it over the head of the advancing Quirke. Then in the final movement of the first half, leftwinger, Byrne raced to the byeline and drew Deering right out of goal before squaring the ball across the goalmouth with nobody up to turn it into the empty net.

Half-time: Ormeau, 1; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore got off to a flying start on the resumption and within less than thirty seconds they had drawn level. Although the ball was actually turned into the net by a defender most of the credit for the score must go to Hogan. Sent through by a Whiteley header the centreforward slipped past Kelly and although his shot was going wide of the upright the ball was turned into the net by leftfull Kelly, rushing back to cover off. With the issue back in the melting pot the game took on a new interest and sustained home pressure kept Tullamore defence at full stretch. In the 49th minute Lane missed an easy chance of regaining the lead for Ormeau when he shot wide

from close in with Martin Lowery and Deering in a tangle whilst three minutes later it was the home goal which had a close shave when Quirke just beat Whiteley to the ball after Hogan had sent a good shot down the middle. A series of offside decisions against Tullamore, introduced an irritating note to the exchanges. Deering found himself in trouble again in the 55th minute when he twice had his attempted clearance blocked down by Lane and he was fortunate to see the ball roll behind on the second occasion. By now the entire Tullamore defence had become unsettled and were conceding corners freely in an effort to cover their keeper so that it was a source of wonder that mentors on the sideline did not take the obvious step of moving Geraghty back to guard the net. This lack of foresight probably cost the visitors a point.

HIT WOODWORK

Everything seemed to be running against Tullamore now and they were right out of luck in the 63rd minute when Hogan again eluded Kelly, drew Quirke from his goal and the hit the cross bar with brilliant effort. Next a magnificent diving save by Quirke foiled Geraghty and then came the crucial moment when Martin Lowery was injured. The centrehalf was off the field receiving attention when Ormeau retained the lead in the 70th minute and again it was a soft goal which did the damage as inside left Leech sent in a weak shot from a sharp angle and the ball sailed all the way to the net with Deering rooted to the ground. Lowery resumed as a passenger on the left wing with

Murray dropping back to man the centre, but one felt now that the visitors were more or less reconciled to their fate. A good centre from Connolly was taken off Hogan's head by Quirke in the 75th minute and two minutes later Whiteley blazed wide from in front of the posts with his right foot. Misses such as these could not go unpunished and in the 79th minute Ormeau rubbed salt into Tullamore's wounds when a long range effort from Leech finished up in the roof of the net to complete a "hat-trick" of soft goals. There was never any prospect of Tullamore saving the day after that, although Hogan was out of luck again in the closing minutes when he had a good shot kicked off the goal-line by Kelly with Quirke well beaten. Jimmy Dunne's absence had cost Tullamore at least one, and probably two, vital holiday points.

Result: Ormeau, 3; Tullamore, 1.

Tullamore: P.J. Deering, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, L. Connolly, J. Murray, S. Hogan, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Ormeau: M. Quirke, P. Cuddy, D. Kelly, M. Rogers, K. Kelly, J. Purcell, R. Buckley, J. Leyden, F. Lane, M. Leech, D. Byrne.

Referee: Mr. C. O'Connor [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Defenders continue to dominate our merit rating feature. Martin Lowery was by far Tullamores most impressive performer on Sunday last and as such is fully entitled to head the ranking list this week. Indeed, it is very much a family

affair at the top with John Lowery claiming second place whilst to complete our top three I am taking Sean Hogan who imparted such dash and vigour to his new position as leader of the attack. And so, as we end 1965 with twenty games behind us the overall position now reads as follows:
E. Byrne [20] J. Lowery [13] L. Connolly [12] M. Lowery [11] T. Whiteley [11]

N. Lynch [10] E. Whiteley [10] T. Geraghty [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [6] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] J. Dunne [3] S. Hogan [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

GREETINGS

May the new year bring further success to Tullamore A.F.C. and prosperity and happiness to all readers of this column.

January 8th 1966

Tullamore Best In Eleven Goalthriller

Dalkey United 5
Tullamore 6

Trailing by 4-1 midway through the first-half and still two goals in arrears at the interval, Tullamore staged a remarkable second-half recovery to defeat Dalkey United by the odd goal in eleven at wind-swept Hyde Road on Sunday last. Because it was entirely unexpected this victory was all the sweeter and made ample atonement for the Castrol Trophy defeat sustained on the same ground last October.

In view of the scarcity of goals from the Tullamore attack in recent weeks last Sundays half-dozen was a truly remarkable achievement, particularly as the visiting side fielded a side, which at the best could be describe only as makeshift. Both regular wingers, Connolly and Geraghty were absentees and as it this was not sufficient handicap Tullamore suffered another crippling blow as early as the 7th minute when Martin Lowerys injured knee gave out on him again and resulted in him spending the greater part of the game on the wing. Then in the second half, Sean Hogan sustained a leg injury and he too finished the game as a limping passenger on the other wing, leaving Tullamore with a heavily handicapped attack. This was a game the likes of which is not often witnessed. It was, if you like, a freak performance, but then the weather was freakish also. A gale

force wind, which increased in intensity as the game progressed, ordained that it would be a game of two phases. Backed by the breeze in the first half Dalkey looked like going on a real scoring spree and they had built up a 4-1 lead inside half an hour. On reflection now I think that Dalkeys defeat can be traced back to this stage. Certainly they were lulled into a false sense of security and instead of piling up as big a lead as they could before the interval they became a trifle careless and allowed several scoring chances to pass them by. Their mistake was emphasised very soon after the interval for the second half was only six minutes in progress when Tullamore levelled the scoring. After that it was a ding dong struggle. Dalkey went ahead again with the aid of a penalty kick, but midway through the half Teddy Whiteley scored direct from a corner to lock the scoring

again. Tullamore took the lead for the first time in the 69th minute when Hughes headed home following a corner by Murray and although we did not know it at the time, this was to prove the winning goal.

CREDITS

Just where to begin throwing out the bouquets this week is a bit of a problem. Playing conditions ordained that skill should take a back seat to endeavour and handicapped as this was probably in Tullamores favour certainly they imparted more dash and spirit into their play than for some time past with each and every member of the side chasing chances no matter how forlorn they appeared the return of Jim Brady imbued a new confidence to the attack and although he was far from being one hundred per cent fit after his long lay off his two goals proved that he retained his scoring form. Johnny Murray contributed the two vital goals of the game for it was his brace of first half goals, which left Tullamore in the game with chance after the interval. Then there was the winning goal scored by Christy Hughes a goal which capped a fine performance by Tullamores most valuable utility player. Indeed when Dalkey staked everything on an all out attacking policy which kept Tullamore penned inside their own half for the concluding ten minutes it was Hughes who repeatedly came to the rescue so that all things considered he may be regarded as the match winner in more ways than one. Now let us take a look at how the visiting defence fared and the fact that five goals were conceded

immediately suggest that all was not well in this department. The new signing Eamonn O'Meara in goal, but his display was not as impressive as anticipated. Fortunately, Tom Whiteley was usually on hand to help out and the skipper was right back to his best form for this game. When Martin Lowery switched to the wing his place as pivot, was taken by his brother John. And this proved a successful move for Tullamore. Clearing his lines in typical manner, John Lowery helped to put the brakes on the home attack and on this form he can always be relied upon to fill Tullamores problem position Noel Lynch was the better of the two winghalves for Byrne failed to reproduce his best form. All in all, then this was a victory which was achieved by combined effort and the two point gained as a result shoots Tullamore into fourth place in the league table. For a side which has qualified for inclusion in the F.A.I Senior Cup Dalkey proved a big disappointment. Their main asset was physical strength and fitness for these seashiders were nearly all big men with Molloy a towering figure at centre half flanked by two able assistants in McDonald and Kelly. In attack the home side was best served by their inside trio of Montgomery, Byrne and Hoey, but the chances which were squandered midway through the first half proved costly in the end.

SCORES ON THE CLOCK

With eleven goals crammed into this game we cannot do much more than deal with the actual scoring which started as early as the 11th minute when with Martin Lowery already limping

inside right Montgomery found the target with snap shot from 20 yards range. With the wind blowing strongly behind them Dalkey were doing most of the early attacking, but Tullamore's makeshift attack looked dangerous enough in breakaways, in the 14th minute the home goal had a lucky escape when Knight dropped the ball at Hogan's feet and the centre forward was too surprised to avail of the gift. However, one minute later Tullamore caused a stir by equalising when Whiteley shoved the ball through an open space and Murray raced in to score with strong shot. This goal gave Dalkey something to think about but they hit back quickly and regained the lead in the 20th minute when Hoey cut the ball back from the endline and Byrne hit it home on the turn for a good goal. Brady, playing on the left wing, shaved splinters off the upright when put through by Whiteley, but it was Dalkey who missed a great chance of going further ahead in the 23rd minute when a corner by McCann was completely misjudged by O'Meara and Montgomery blazed wide of the open goal. The game had now taken a definite pattern with Dalkey forcing the pace and Tullamore defending desperately. The pressure paid dividends in the 26th minute when centre forward Byrne slipped around Martin Lowery and with O'Meara between two minds whether to advance or not the ball was in the back of the net before he could decide. Tullamore came back for Byrne to head a Lynch free behind, but the respite was short lived and the 30th minute saw Dalkey increase their lead to 4-1 when Hoey steered the ball through the centre and

with O'Meara hesitating the inside left took the ball in close before slipping it into the net. It was at this stage that Martin Lowery moved to the wing with John Lowery taking over at centre half and Hughes dropping back to left full Dalkey continued to press strongly, but they made poor use of some splendid openings carved by winghalves McDonald and Kelly and in general gave the impression that they were content to toy with the opposition. Just how unfounded their confidence was became known two minutes before the interval when Tullamore were awarded a free just outside the area and Murray, with a thundering drive, sent the ball spinning off Knight's hands into the net. The second half was going to be no formality after all.

Half-time: Dalkey, 4; Tullamore, 2.

The numbers on the Tullamore shirts meant little or nothing after the interval as players switched around in bewildering fashion but now Jim Brady was leading the attack and in the 4th minute he made his presence felt by getting his head to a grand cross from Martin Lowery to flick the ball out of Knight's reach. Only one goal in arrears now with the gale behind them the visitors' prospects zoomed and after Hoey had a good effort scrambled around the post by O'Meara, the Midlanders equalised in the 6th minute when a beautiful bit of combination between Whiteley and Brady ended with the latter blasting the ball to the roof of the net. Inside minutes Tullamore had installed themselves as favourites and as they stormed around the home goal

the Dalkey defence began to come apart at the seams. Only Molloy stood between the homsters and a hiding at this stage, but the pendulum swung again in the fatal 13th minute when Lynch was penalised rather harshly I thought for a foul on Hoey and Molloy came upfield to send the ball low from the spot to the net. Dalkey had no intentions of going under without a fight. Tullamore forced a corner and practically the entire team trooped into the goalmouth for Whiteleys flag kick, but a long clearance by Hoey sent them scuttling back again. To date we had been treated to a variety of goals. Good goals, soft goals and a goal from the spot and the 20th minute added further flavour when another of Teddy Whiteleys corners swung inwards to deceive Knight and the keeper could only help the ball on its way to the net. Level again in this fantastic game, one never knew what was going to happen next but the 24th minute yielded the most decisive goal of the lot and again it resulted from a corner. This time it was Murray who swung the ball in from the right and as forwards and defenders alike rose to meet it, Hughes went higher than the rest to nod the ball home, giving Tullamore the lead for the first time. This goal may have closed the scoring but the excitement was only beginning. With Hogan dropping into obscurity on the wing following a leg injury Dalkey hit back strongly against their handicapped opponents. Gale or no gale they intended saving a point at least and attack after attack was launched, only to be repulsed by Hughes, Lowery and Whiteley. With five minutes to go the seashiders looked like

being rewarded, but McDonalds shot came bouncing back off the woodwork and we could almost hear the sigh of relief from Tullamore. That was Dalkeys swan song and apart from a corner two minutes from the end they never looked like finding a way through as gallant a defence as ever served Tullamore.

Result: Dalkey United, 5; Tullamore, 6.

Dalkey: D. Knight, E. McDonald, J. Cullen, D. McDonald, C. Molloy, J. Kelly, M. Ledwidge, P. Montgomery, F. Byrne, A. Hoey, H. McCann.

Tullamore: E. O'Meara, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, C. Hughes, E. Whiteley, S. Hogan, J. Murray, J. Brady.

Referee: Mr. J. Butler [Dublin].

MERIT RATING

This is one of those weeks when a bright pin might be used to determine our merit rating such was the uniform standard of performance. However, the fact that he capped an all round performance of great promise by scoring the winning goal surely entitles Christy Hughes to enter the list for the first time. Next I would take Tom Whiteley for his unyielding defensive play when the tide was running against Tullamore and also for his general captaincy of the side, for the third spot I am depending on the man who kept us in the game with a chance before the interval, for those two goals from Johnny Murray were invaluable and so at the beginning of 1966 the overall position now reads

as follows:

E. Byrne [20] J. Lowery [13] Tom Whiteley [13] L. Connolly [12] M. Lowery [11] E. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [10] Tom Geraghty [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [7] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] J. Dunne [3] C. Hughes [3] Tony Whiteley [1] S. Hogan [1]

AWAY AGAIN

For the third week in succession Tullamore will be playing away this week end when they are due to travel to Tolka Park to meet Drumcondra. This will be Tullamores first return visit to the scene of their Bradmola Cup triumph and they are bound to benefit from last weeks unexpected victory which coupled with the fact that Drums fell to Athlone last Sunday suggests that

upward trend may be continued. As against that Tullamore have shown a marked dislike for Saturday fixtures so that really the issue in this game is finely balanced. Having started the new year on such a promising note another win would help considerably to keep Tullamore amongst the leaders at the hal way stage of the league.

MARTIN RELEASED

Former centre half Joe Martin who recently lost his place to Martin Lowery has been released by Tullamore and has rejoined his former club, Hammond Lane. Tullamores search for new goalkeeper is not ended yet and they are hoping to sign one in time for next Saturdays game.

January 15th 1966

Tullamore Hit For Six In Home Game

Tullamore 2
Drumcondra 6

The League of Ireland clash between Tullamore and Drumcondra, which was originally scheduled for Tolka Park last weekend, was switched to Spollenstown in midweek at the request of the Dublin club. However, the transfer to their home venue failed to benefit Tullamore who crashed to defeat by a 6-2 margin on Saturday, thus sustaining their heaviest home defeat of the season to date.

These Saturday fixtures are certainly proving a bug bear for Tullamore. Seldom are they in a position to field a full strength side and on Saturday last they were obliged to field without Martin Lowery and Tom Whiteley. It was the absence of their two outstanding defenders, which contributed most to this debacle. At the best of times the Tullamore defence is suspect but stripped of two stalwarts they were weakened and unable to cope with the lively visiting attack. Taken all round this must be regarded as Tullamores poorest performance for many a day and the complete lack of spirit displayed was in marked contrast to that of the previous week. The home defence was as restless as a windscreen wiper all through and with the exception of centrehalf John Lowery they lacked the pace and precision to cope with the opposition. Eamonn O'Meara, making

his first appearance at Spollenstown, improved almost one hundred per cent on his performance of the previous week, but he still has a long way to go before he can be regarded as an adequate replacement for Paddy Duffy. Allowance must be made for the fact that the keeper was playing behind a defence which, to say the least of it, was shakey all through. Sean Hogan could never get to grips with the visiting leftwinger, McArdle and although Hughes was sometimes indcisive in his tackling he nevertheless took the fullback honours. John Lowery was the only member of the home side to impart real effort to his fullblooded tackling and first-time clearances prevented what might so easily have been a complete rout. Eamonn Byrne was by far the better of the home winghalves, his ball control on a sticky surface being really good, but the forward line could almost

be written off entirely. Jim Brady scored both his sides goals, but they were both opportunist efforts and on the whole he was but a shadow of his former self. John Murray was disappointing and Geraghtys strong shooting and deceptive body swerve could have earned rich dividends with a little more effort he was too prone to wait for the ball to come to him Teddy Whiteley was out of form.

EARLY GOAL AFTER LATE START

The late arrival of the referee resulted in the kickoff being delayed for more than ten minutes and right from the start it was Drumcondra who assumed the initiative. They had forced a corner within ten seconds of the kickoff and after Geraghty had been whistled back for offside in Tullamores first attack, the visitors drew early blood with a goal in the third minute per Myles Keogh. Keogh had another crisp shot beaten out by O'Meara and already the lively Drums, forwards were giving the Tullamore defence a roasting. There was an element of doubt attached to Drums second goal in the 10th minute for when Gillis squared the ball across Keogh was on hand to turn it into the net, but Tullamore's appeals that the scorer was offside were brushed aside by M. Byrne. A two goal deficit was nothing new to Tullamore and we awaited the revival as Murray fired in a shot which Byrne did well to hold under the bar. Whiteley and Connolly switched places but the pressure was still on the home defence which looked slow and cumbersome in comparison to the slick play of the

visitors. In the 20th minute Brady was bare inches off the target with a header off Geraghtys centre whilst two minutes later Connolly had a shot kicked off the line by Campbell. Another chance presented itself following an in direct free inside the Drumcondra penalty area for when Lynch nudged the ball to Murray the latters drive was deflected by the goal keepers outstretched leg and the ball ran loose to Eamonn Byrne who shot high into the clouds. Splendid work by John Lowery was saving Tullamore repeatedly now and a chance of reducing the arrears was lost in the 28th minute when Geraghty shot into the side netting from less than five yards range after being put through by a great ball from Murray.

HIT CROSSBAR

Tullamore were enjoying little luck to date and fate was against them again in the 34th minute when goalkeeper Byrne was penalised for handling the ball outside his area. Geraghty crashed the free off the crossbar and although he was given a second chance, when the kick was ordered to be retaken he lofted the ball over the top were within two minutes of interval when Tullamore brought new life into the exchanges with a shock goal. A corner on the right by Whiteley set the stage for Brady to sneak the ball in by the foot of the post. Now, with the prospect of playing into the scoring goal after the interval, things were looking up for Tullamore.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Drumcondra, 2.

Tullamore recast their forward formation

for the second half and resumed with Connolly back on the right wing, Geraghty leading the attack and Brady on the left flank and with no lack of vocal encouragement they set about the task of making up the lee way. Whiteley [Tullamore] and Tom Keogh [Drumcondra] swapped corners in the opening minutes but just when it appeared that the home side were coming into their own they were dealt a crippling blow in the 6th minute when Tom Keogh sent a low centre across the face of the goal and Whelan flashed it past O'Meara to restore the visitors two-goal advantage this, to my mind was the decisive goal of the day for it rocked Tullamore right back on their heels and they never subsequently shaped like making a fight of it. With little or no punch from the inside forward positions Tullamore were unable to get a firm grip on the exchanges whereas Cowzer and Carey were providing a splendid service to the Dublin attack. The lack of scoring power was emphasised in one particular two-minute spell when the ball was crossed and recrossed in front of the Drumcondra posts without a direct shot getting through to Byrne, but the Drumcondra forwards were by no means blameless themselves at this stage and their shooting was wild and inaccurate on a number of occasions. Just when interest was flagging Murray revived home hopes with powerful free which forced Byrne to make the best save of the day as he twisted in midair to turn the ball over the bar, but at the other end Tullamore were lucky when a dropping centre from Whelan completely deceived O'Meara and rolled just wide of the far post. Subsequently O'Meara

saved a point blank effort from Myles Keogh whilst in the 30th minute Hogan came storming upfield to link up with Connolly in a raid which yielded a corner.

GAP NARROWED

Tullamore succeeded in reducing arrears to the minimum again in the 31st minute when Lynch dispossessed goalkeeper Byrne and as the ball ran loose in front of an open goal Brady had merely to steer it into the net. This goal left Tullamore with the best part of a quarter of an hour to salvage a point, but Drums had a quick reply which dampened their ardour. Only four minutes passed before Keogh blasted the ball into the roof of the net from just outside the penalty area and this goal sounded the death knell for home hopes. Drumcondra became rampant in the remaining nine minutes during which their efforts met with mere token opposition. McArdle raced away from Hogan to shave the upright before Whelan, who had moved to the right wing, sent in a long range effort which bamboozled O'Meara and finished in the corner of the net in the 38th minute. With the light fading rapidly there was a steady stream towards the exit and the majority of the original attendance missed Drumcondra's sixth goal in the 41st minute when Whelan was allowed through without meeting any serious opposition.

Result: Tullamore, 2; Drumcondra, 6.

Tullamore: E. O'Meara, S. Hogan, C. Hughes, N. Lynch, J. Lowery, E. Byrne,

L. Connolly, E. Whiteley, J. Brady, J. Murray, T. Geraghty.

Drumcondra: F. Byrne, P. Campbell, F. Dwyer, E. Cowzer, J. Carrick, J. Carey, T. Keogh, J. Gillis, T. Whelan, M. Keogh, D. McArdle.

MERIT RATING

Apart from John Lowery, whose selection at the head of affairs is automatic, it is really difficult to decide upon merit ratings this week. The general performance was so much substandard that only by comparison can any of the others be deemed worthy of award and it is on that basis that I am taking Eamonn Byrne and Tommy Geraghty for the minor berths to leave the overall position after twenty two matches reading as follows:

E. Byrne [22] J. Lowery [16] Tom Whiteley [13] L. Connolly [12] M.

Lowery [11] E. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [10] T. Geraghty [8] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [7] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] J. Dunne [3] C. Hughes [3] S. Hogan [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

NEXT WEEK

Dundalk made their first appearance at Spollenstown on Sunday next and this fixture will mark the halfway stage in the league. In the Castrol Trophy Dundalk defeated Tullamore 5-3 in Oriel Park, but since then the County Louth club has fallen on lean times and have taken root close to the bottom of the league table. Normally, I would regard this as a fairly easy task for Tullamore, but last weeks dismal performance has altered the outlook greatly and unless vast improvement can be shown the destination of the points must be regarded as questionable.

January 22nd 1966

Jack Frost Was The Winner

Those loyal followers who braved the icy conditions to attend at Spollenstown on Sunday last for the league of Ireland tie between Tullamore and Dundalk had their journey for nothing. Both teams were present and ready for the fray, as also was the official referee, Mr. P. Campbell [Dublin] but just five minutes before kickoff time Mr. Campbell after twice inspecting the pitch, declared it unplayable and called the game off. On his second inspection the referee was accompanied by an official of each club and they also confirmed that it would have entailed an unjustifiable risk to play on the frozen surface. One might have expected Dundalk to have pressed strongly for the game to be played in view of the distance they had travelled, but strangely enough, they appeared to be delighted when the referee announced his final decision.

HALF-WAY STAGE

Last Sundays scheduled fixture would have marked the halfway stage of the league competition although in actual fact none of the competing clubs has played a full quota of matches. With cup competitions intervening some league games had to postponed and in this respect it should be noted that

Tullamores league fixtures against Shamrock Rovers, Drogheda and of course Dundalk were all deferred. Be that as it may it is certain that Tullamore face a harder secondhalf programme. Included on their itinerary are visits to Rovers, Home Farm and Bohemians, three of the top four teams just now whilst long distance journeys to Dundalk and Drogheda are also listed. To date, Tullamores achievements have been better than could reasonably have been anticipated from a club in its first senior season. With one or two matches in hand from the sides above them they are holding down a respectable position with Drumcondra. This position might so easily have been better still for valuable points were literally thrown away against both Shelbourne and Ormeau and it is frustrating to think that Tullamore could now be sharing second place with Shamrock Rovers. Had it not been for these lapses nobody can deny that there are weak links on this Tullamore side their defensive record is the worst in the entire league but for an initial venture their move into senior soccer has proved successful.

HARD HIT BY INJURIES

In marked contrast to last season Tullamore have been experiencing a fairly heavy casualty list with Joe Martin, Jim Brady, Martin Lowery and Tom Whiteley all being involved at one stage or another. There is nothing that can disrupt a teams plans quicker than a crop of injuries and I know that local officials are keeping their fingers crossed that their luck in this respect will change for the second half of the league. The loss of Paddy Duffy and the later loss of interest of deputy keeper Jimmy Dunne left Tullamore with a goalkeeping problem which has yet to be solved whilst the lack of scoring power in attack in recent games is another source of worry to club mentors. Incidentally Tullamore and insideleft Johnny Murray have parted company, the latter having rejoined Newtown Rangers from whence he came to Tullamore late in November. This leaves a vacancy in the Tullamore forward line and whilst there club has no concrete plans about filling it they are known to be on the look out for a good striking forward preferably one who can wear the number nine shirt.

NEXT WEEK

Spollenstown should house a really big crowd on Sunday next for the local derby game between Tullamore and Athlone. This pairing is invariably a guarantee of ninety thrilling minutes and Athlones shock 3-1 win over Shamrock Rovers could not have come

at a more opportune time as it is certain to act as a boost for next Sundays clash. Prior to Sunday last the Athlone side was experiencing a rather lean time of it, but successive home victories against Drumcondra and Shamrock Rovers suggests that they have turned the corner. Certainly the Shannon-siders would like nothing better than a win at Spollenstown as Tullamore have won both encounters between the sides so far this season winning 7-2 in the Castrol Trophy and 3-2 in the opening game of the league. Completing the hatrick against their old rivals will not be an easy task on recent form so that the game has all the ingredients of a real thriller. Kick off is at 3 p.m.

LEAGUE TABLE

Now that we have reached the official halfway mark in the league the up-to-date position together with goal average will be of particular interest to all. The table with last weeks results included, reads as follow:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home Farm	8	7	0	1	24	8	14
Shamrock Rov.	9	6	0	3	21	11	12
Shelbourne	10	5	1	4	17	10	11
Bohemians	10	4	2	4	20	16	10
TULLAMORE	8	4	0	4	18	26	8
Drumcondra	8	4	0	4	20	16	8
Ormeau	8	3	1	4	10	16	7
Dalkey Utd	7	3	1	3	15	13	7
Drogheda	7	3	0	4	10	11	6
Athlone	10	2	2	6	19	32	6
St. Patricks Ath	7	2	1	4	11	16	5
Dundalk	6	2	0	4	15	25	4

January 29th 1966

Athlone Best In Local Derby

Tullamore3
Athlone4

With Home Farm slipping up by losing at home to Dundalk on Saturday, Tullamore were afforded a splendid opportunity of closing the gap at the head of the league of Ireland 'B' table when they entertained neighbouring rivals Athlone at Spollenstown on Sunday.

By "SPOT-KICK"

the final whistle heralded their first victory away from home in the league.

However, instead of drawing closer to the leaders, Tullamore slipped a couple of rungs down the league ladder as a result of a 4-3 defeat for which they have nobody but themselves to blame.

There was no lack of excitement in this game, although most of it was crammed into the second half, with Athlone scoring three goals in a fantastic five minute spell which had the home defence floundering. It was only now, with defeat staring them in the face, that Tullamore produced their best form, but they had allowed their visitors too much scope and although the home deficit was reduced to the minimum, Athlone were still showing in front when

WORTHY WINNERS

Athlone were full value for both points from this local derby, perhaps Tullamore did play a better brand of football in the firsthalf, but football which does not produce goals is not of much value to any side and certainly the home team lived to rue the many fine chances which they squandered before the interval. Even with a side which looked weak enough on paper it was Tullamore who had the better of the first half exchanges, but the lack of scoring power in attack was reflected by their solitary goal, and even this was negated in the closing stages before the interval when Athlone drew level with injury time been played. Once

Athlone took the lead 19 mins. after the resumption it immediately became obvious that they would not be easily overtaken and when they added further goals in the 21st and 24th minutes they were really flying high. Now the fight was being carried to Tullamore in earnest and they responded by a show of spirit which, if it had existed for the full ninety minutes would surely have credited them with the points. However, apart from a first class goal by Liam Connolly they failed to penetrate an Athlone rearguard which had been transformed from a more or less shaky unit to a determined one and although their goal came under heavy pressure in the closing quarter the visitors held out for a win which on the days play was fully merited what a pity that Athlone had to detract from their fine performance by their childish delaying tactics coming towards the end. Every throw in every goal kick and every corner was a signal for go slow policy, which infuriated home fans and neutrals alike in the large attendance. The basis of victory for Athlone was laid by their splendid halfback line, which never faltered during the course of the game. Willie Bradley had the handcuffs on John Lowery from start to finish whilst his flankers, Mick Colleran and Tom Malone, gave him every assistance. They were much more forceful around the midfield sector than the home winghalves and it was only natural that the Athlone attack should profit from such a fine service. Dashing led by Johnny Joyce, who gave Martin Lowery a really trying time of it, the visiting attack ripped holes in an already suspect home defence and with more speed in front of the posts

the Athlone reward might have been much greater. The Shannon-siders defence proved itself when defying Tullamores best efforts near the end. It was at this stage that Robbie Byrne and Jamesey Greene showed the stuff of which they were made and their fine covering and quick tackling nipped every home attack in the bud.

WEAK IN KEY POSITIONS

Tullamore were weak in the key positions up the centre of the field. Despite some very good saves from goalkeeper, Jimmy Dolan is just too small for the job and was handicapped when it came to dealing with high shots or centres. The fact that Martin Lowery was outplayed to such an extent by Joyce left the entire home defence unhinged and had it not been for a superb performance by rightfull and captain Tom Whiteley the outcome might have been a lot worse. His partner at full back, Christy Hughes, had the misfortune to put through his own goal at a vital stage, but even apart from this he was never happy in the position. Eamonn Byrne had a storming firsthalf, but appeared to burn himself out after the interval. Yet he was one of the big successes of the day. The Tullamore attack played some very good football on Sunday with Liam Connolly showing a welcome return to his best from. His use of the ball all through was impressive, his work in the air being particularly good. Unfortunately, he was operating with little or no support on the right flank of the attack as Sean Hogan did not fit in on the right wing. The main danger to the visitors

goal stemmed from Tullamores left wing where Teddy Whiteley and Tommy Geraghty hit it off well together, with both figuring amongst the goals. On the whole though this was a disjointed effort by Tullamore and urgently they need experienced players for two or three key positions.

SCORING

The Athlone defence found itself under pressure right from the kick off and before a minute has elapsed a free by Byrne, was crashed off the crossbar by Sean Hogan. This early escape had its bearing upon the visiting defence which looked none too steady as Tullamore returned to the attack for Lowery to force a corner off Bradley in the 4th minute and although Whiteleys centre was well saved at the post by Watson the corner had served to draw first blood for Tullamore. Little had been seen of the Athlone attack in action yet, but in their first raid McMonigle forced a corner with with the resultant flag-kick by Joyce being cleared by Martin Lowery. Lynch shot over on the run and John Lowery broke through to miss a good chance by shooting weakly at Watson before prodding and probing finished and Tullamore got down th business by taking the lead in the 9th minute. The movement which produced the goal stemmed from a throw-in on the right which was gloriously back-heeled by Whiteley to left-winger Geraghty who rounded Malone before sending the ball screaming into the net with a piledriver. This lead should have given Tullamore all the encouragement they needed and indeed for a spell it looked as though the floodgates would

be thrown wide open. Apart from a close-range effort from Beaumont which Dolan saved most of the aggression was coming from the other end with Connolly heaving inches over following a fine centre from Geraghty. A second goal to Tullamore might well have clinched the issue there and then, but instead Athlone were allowed to recover their composure and for the next five minutes or so it was the visitors who held the whip hand. Colleran had a 30 yards free blocked and cleared by Martin Lowery and Joyce had a corner steered to safety by Byrne whilst the best chance of all fell to Beaumont in the 19th minute when he failed to press home his advantage from a favourable position close in. Slackness in the inside forward positions was costing the Blues dearly at this stage, but although Tullamore quickly regained the initiative they proved equally ineffective in front of goal.

HIT BAR

For the second time the crossbar came to Athlones rescue in the 22nd minute, but this time there were many who disagreed with the referees verdict that the ball had not crossed the line. It happened when Whiteley got across a centre which Connolly got his head to and as the ball came down off the bar it appeared to have crossed the line before being scrambled away. However Mr. McConkey said no. Even without it Tullamore should have been comfortably ahead but their forwards continued to overuse the ball with no effort being made to direct shooting. Athlone, too, were missing chances and in the 26th minute Joyce was unfortunate to see his

shot cleared off the line by Whiteley with Dolan out of goal. Back to the other end then where Whiteley shot over from just outside the area and as the interval neared the visiting defence was being hard pressed to hold out. The 45th had come and gone and we were into injury time when Athlone equalised most unexpectedly. Dolan had just saved well from Beaumont, but the clearance ran loose to Collieran and from well outside the penalty area the latter sent in a long range effort which was just too high for Dolan to reach as it curled into the roof of the net.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Athlone, 1.

The second half resumed on much the same note with the Tullamore forwards continuing to take too much out of the ball and already the signs were there that the visitors were gaining confidence. Dolan saved Tullamore from falling into arrears when he cut off a dangerous centre from McMoreland in the 8th minute. With Collieran and Malone firmly controlling play at midfield the pressure was on the home defence and Dolan twice saved the day before the visitors took the lead for the first time in the 19th minute. The home defence was left in a shambles as Bradley came through in possession and a dreadful misunderstanding between Lowery and Hughes ended with the latter pushing the ball into his own net. With their tails up Athlone became a different side entirely. Their goal thirsty forwards suddenly clicked into gear and before Tullamore knew what was happening their goal had fallen again in the 21st minute. This time it was Joyce

who did the damage as he raced through and with Martin Lowery standing to appeal for offside the centre forward had all the time in the world to pick his spot. In full cry now there was no stopping the blues and they struck for the third time in five minutes following another defensive mistake when a centre from Malone was deflected by Lowery's head and McMonigle was on hand to score with a classical header.

SLIDE ARRESTED

Tullamore made desperate efforts to arrest the slide and new interest was kindled when John Lowery placed Teddy Whiteley to reduce the arrears in the 25th minute. At last there was some signs of spirit forthcoming from Tullamore and they hit back strongly in a bid to save the day. Geraghty had a good shot turned out for a corner and when Whiteley's flag kick was partially cleared by Bradley the ball came back to the unmarked Geraghty, but this time his shot was well over the target. Being forced to defend more and more as the game progressed Athlone remained dangerous enough themselves, and in the 30th minute Collieran thumped the ball off the woodwork. Then two minutes later Tullamore appeals for a penalty after Geraghty had been grounded in the corner of the area were brushed aside and an indirect free awarded instead with Byrnes kick being headed over by Hogan. Time had become a valuable friend for Athlone now, the more so after the 40th minute when Hughes pushed the ball across for Connolly to score a great goal from just

outside the area and so reduce the deficit to the minimum. There was an abundance of excitement packed into the concluding minutes with the Athlone defence doing all in their power to delay as much time as possible. Tullamore were afforded few opportunities to snatch an equaliser and when the final whistle sounded the visitors had gone a long way towards wiping our memories of the two defeats inflicted by Tullamore already this season.

Result: Tullamore, 3; Athlone, 4.

Tullamore: J. Dolan, T. Whiteley [capt], C. Hughes, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, S. Hogan, L. Connolly, J. Lowery, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Athlone P. Watson, R. Byrne, J. Creene, M. Colleran, W. Bradley T. Malone, P. Malone, J. Beaumont, J. Joyce, D. McMonigle, J. McMoreland.

MERIT RATING

I have no hesitation about nominating skipper Tom Whiteley as Tullamores best performer on Sunday last. His was a polished display which saved Tullamore from a far heavier defeat and had his colleagues displayed even a fraction of his fighting spirit the outcome of the game might well have been very different. I am particularly pleased to welcome Liam Connolly back into the ratings for after a couple of sub standard performances the inside right was back to something like his true form

last week when his heading of the ball provided one of the features of the game. That leaves the odd point for third place remaining and this must go to Eamonn Byrne whose first half display was right up to his own high standard. And that leaves us with the overall position now reading as follows: E. Byrne [23] J. Lowery [16] T. Whiteley [16] L. Connolly [14] M. Lowery [11] E. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [10] T. Geraghty [8] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [7] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] J. Dunne [3] S. Hogan [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

ROVERS NEXT WEEK

It is unfortunate for Tullamore that two of their stiffest assignments in the entire league are coming up for decision just at a time when they are going through such a lean spell. In the coming weeks the Midlanders will be travelling to Dublin to meet Shamrock Rovers and Home Farm on successive weekends, beginning with a trip to Glenmalure Park to tackle Rovers next week. With the Hoops now sharing leadership of the table with Home Farm they are not likely to take any chances against Tullamore, especially in view of their experience against Athlone recently. Tullamore have bitter memories of their last trip to Milltown. This was in the Castrol Trophy and Rovers won pulling up 7-1, since then Tullamore have gained in experience but for all that they seem to be booked for another testing assignment.

February 5th 1966

Tullamore Shock League Leaders

Recent events should have cultivated a healthy respect by Shamrock Rovers for the ability of Midland footballers not long recovered from a 3-1 defeat sustained in Athlone the Hoops received and even greater jolt on Sunday last, when they were defeated 2-1 on their own ground at Glenmalure Park by Tullamore. This victory which came right out of the blue should serve to halt the downward trend of recent weeks and with at least one of their major problems solved we wont have to worry about a goalkeeper any more Tullamore should soon be back in the thick of things at the top of the table. Incidentally Sundays victory was Tullamores fourth league win away from home whereas they have won only one of their home games. What a change from last season.

SUCCESS MERITED

Tullamores success on Sunday was fully merited and provided ample compensation for the defeat sustained on the same ground in the Castrol Trophy. Tullamores first time tackling and intelligent covering blunted the Rovers attacking machine so much so that they were obliged to wait until just

two minutes for the end for their consolation goal.

GOALKEEPING FIND

For some weeks past Tullamore have been on the lookout for a good keeper but the search is over now following the brilliant debut of former Offaly G.A.A. player Liam Boland. The latter, who played soccer in an outfield position as a minor before changing over to win an Offaly senior football championship medal with Daingean last year, not only filled Tullamores problem position with real distinction, but he also imparted a new sense of security to the side as a whole. High shots and low shots came alike to him and it was fitting that the game should end with Boland fisting out a rocket which seemed certain to deprive Tullamore of a point which they had worked so hard to earn. The keeper had the advantage of playing behind an unyielding defence which afforded him maximum cover and protection superbly guided by skipper Tom Whiteley, the Tullamore defence stood up to everything that Rovers could throw at them in the second half, with John Lowery reverting to his best position at left full and Martin Lowery showing that this form against Athlone

had been all wrong. The game also marked the return to his best form of Noel Lynch whose unceasing efforts at right half was one of the big factors in Tullamores victory, and this despite the fact that he was a doubtful starter after a week long battle against flu. Eamonn Byrne came off second best in his personal duel against Hughie Buckley, yet two clearances by him coming near the end made all the difference between victory and defeat. In the Tullamore attack Jim Brady made another triumphant return to the colours. It was he who created the opening for Sean Hogan to open the scoring six minutes after the interval and it was Brady again who popped up to shatter completely the fading confidence of Rovers minutes later. The remainder of the attack were more industrious than effective although Sean Hogan showed a vast improvement on his form of the previous week. Liam Connollys passing lacked its usual accuracy whilst Tommy Geraghtys reluctance to remain in position on the touchline possibly cost him a couple of scores. Best for a disappointing Rovers side were Jimmy Cummins, Hughie Buckley, Noel Winstanley and John Core.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Rovers started with all the assurance and poise, which their record entitled them to and with their forwards moving the ball about freely they set the early pace. Yet the first real shot of the game came at the other end in the 8th minute when Cummins saved on the goal line from Geraghty. When Tullamore came a second time with two minutes for Teddy

Whiteley to test Cummins with a strong shot which the goalie plucked from underneath the crossbar it began to dawn on spectators that this was not going to be the one sided encounter which may have predicted. Indeed, Tullamore were giving as good as they got now and after a quick free by Webb to Hayes had been cleared by Martin Lowery, Tullamore came back for Geraghty to beat three men in a run from the half way line before being stopped outside the penalty area by Winstanley. So far Cummins had been by far the busier keeper and seventeen minutes had elapsed before Boland was brought into the game for the first time when he safely held a testing shot from Core. There was a marked contrast, in styles becoming evident now with Rovers keeping their wingers far out on the touchline in an effort to stretch the visiting defence and Tullamore bunching more and more with a consequent loss of efficiency. The 25th minute very nearly produced the lead for Tullamore, with Brady scraping the outside of the upright with a ground shot off a pass from Whiteley then Connolly, sent Hogan through an open space but a quickly taken shot posed no problems for Cummins. A foul which earned a caution for centre half Winstanley resulted in Cummins holding Whiteleys free under the bar, but when Rovers moved downfield they looked really dangerous until a magnificent save by Boland foiled Buckley from point blank range and when the ball ran loose to Kennas feet, the Tullamore keeper dived out fearlessly to save at the expense of the first corner of the game. Boland came to Tullamores rescue again two

minutes later when he dived forward to cut off a centre from Hayes and with Rovers now almost rampant it was only their own wild shooting that prevented them from taking the lead. With ten minutes to go to the interval Rovers forced another corner on the left, but the flag kick accurately delivered by Hayes, was whipped off Richardsons toes by Boland and with the minutes ticking away Tullamore had a further fortunate escape when a sizzling drive by Richardson skidded just outside the post.

Half-time: Shamrock Rovers, 0;
Tullamore, 0.

Urgency replaced poise in Rovers play on the resumption and with Tullamore using a double spearhead in Brady and Hogan the home sides grip on the exchanges began to weaken. Noel Lynch, playing a storming game at right half was instrumental in starting a number of good movements and in the 6th minute the roof fell in on Rovers, Brady moved towards the left wing from where he sent across a low ball and although Hogan did no more than graze the ball it was sufficient to flick it out of Cummins reach and into the corner of the net. Now the fat was in the fire as Rovers went all out to wipe out the deficit. Buckley headed behind from less than four yards out before Tullamore struck again in the 9th minute. Again the central figures were Brady and Hogan with the latter prodding a corner by Whiteley Tullamores first corner of the day for Brady to shoot it in from amidst a cluster of players. Mesmerized by this

sudden turn in events Rovers faltered but recovered quickly with Buckley worming his way through for a shot which was brilliantly saved by Boland and the new keeper was there again to deal with a header from Canavan following a corner by Hayes. Left half Webb made poor use of a close free for Rovers in the 18th minute and the quick covering of the visiting defence continued to outwit the best efforts of the Hoops. Canavan looked a certain scorer when he raced through, with the goal at his mercy he was dispossessed by John Lowery who came storming across to whip the ball behind at the last moment. Geraghty was making little impression on the game so far, but in the 24th minute he put in a good run which ended with him being floored just outside the area, Byrnes free was followed by another closer in, but this time Whiteleys effort was taken clear by Winstanley. At the other end right full Gregg moved upfield to have a piledriver tipped over by Boland. The corners against Tullamore continued to mount. Rovers, finished with an 8-2 lead in this respect but corners could make no impression on the visitors 2-0 lead.

FINAL QUARTER

Entering the final quarter, Rovers redoubled their efforts and Buckley missed a simple chance in the 31st minute when, from less than five yards range, he contrived to shoot wide, even after Boland had made his only mistake of the game when he failed to cut off a centre from Hayes the Hoops were denied a score by the astute covering by

Byrne who got back to clear off the line from Canavan. Tullamore were most unlucky not to increase their lead four minutes later when Brady, sent clean through by Whiteley beat the advancing Cummins only to see the ball scrape the outside of the upright. Rovers continued to miss good scoring opportunities and with seven minutes left they had the worst miss of all when Buckley paved the way for Richardson to shoot wide from in front of the posts. Such efforts scarcely merited reward at all, but in the 42nd minute Rovers pulled one back when Buckley split the visiting defence to find the unmarked Richardson who gave Boland no chance from just inside the area. This left the Hoops with just over three minutes in which to pull the game out of the fire, but Tullamore were giving them few opportunities to remain on top, Whiteley had a shot palmed out by Cummins and then a centre from Brady was whipped off Hogans toe by Cummins right on the goal line. Tullamore hearts stood still as Martin Lowery survived a penalty appeal after the ball had played on to his arm and almost immediately after this came the welcome sound to the final whistle just as Boland capped a fine performance by beating out a magnificent shot from Webb which had all the marks of an equaliser on it.

Result: Shamrock Rovers, 1;
Tullamore, 2.

Shamrock Rovers: J. Cummins, M. Gregg, M. McQuillan, J. Core N. Winstanley, G. Webb, J. Kenna, H. Buckley, C. Canavan, D. Richardson, N. Hayes.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Brady, L. Connolly, S. Hogan, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. M. Quinn [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

A new name must enter the merit chart this week for who can deny that Liam Bolands goalkeeping was not the key factor in Tullamores favour. Indeed, defenders take all the points this week and for the subsidiary positions I am naming Tom Whiteley and Noel Lynch, but such was the merit of this victory I would love to find room also for such as Jim Brady, Martin Lowery and John Lowery. Anyways the overall position after 24 matches now reads as follows: E. Byrne [23] T. Whiteley [18] J. Lowery [16] L. Connolly [14] N. Lynch [11] M. Lowery [11] E. Whiteley [10] T. Geraghty [8] J. Murray [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] J. Dunne [3] C. Hughes [3] L. Boland [3] Tony Whiteley [1] S. Hogan [1]

ANOTHER TEST

Tullamore face another stiff assignment next week end when they must travel to meet Home Farm at Whitehall. The Farm have three victories to their credit over Tullamore already this season with a scoring aggregate of 15-3 in their favour. Such figures suggest that Tullamores task is an impossible one, but then much the same could have been said about last Sundays fixture. Having put the skids under one of the

joint leaders the provincials will be eager to repeat the dose against Home Farm. Their away record is a good one and another victory would do no end of good for their future in the league. In

addition the Farm face a tough cup replay in midweek and may be feeling the effects of it so that a Tullamore win, although by no means probable is at least possible.

February 12th 1966

Tullamore Rise To Occasion Again

Home Farm.....0; Tullamore.....0

For the second week in succession, Tullamore had a shock in store for the joint leaders of the B Division of the League of Ireland when they lined out against Home Farm at Whitehall on Saturday last.

Although deprived of an outright win on this occasion by a last minute full length save by the Farm goalkeeper, Tullamore returned home more than satisfied with themselves.

Having taken three points from the two joint leaders in successive weeks they could afford to be feeling smug, for these two fixtures represented Tullamores most difficult phase of the entire league, now, with a couple of easier games coming up. Tullamore should be in a position to improve their league status. At the moment, Tullamore lie four points behind both Home Farm and Shamrock Rovers, with ample time remaining to narrow the gap still further.

NEEDLE BACKGROUND

The background of last weeks game which, incidentally, provided Tullamore

with their first draw of the season, set the stage for a deadly encounter. Tullamores difficulty in fielding a full strength side on a Saturday has become well known to Home Farm the provincials have never yet been able to field their best side against the Whitehall club and the action of the latter in insisting upon a Saturday fixture although their ground was idle on Sunday resulted in the image of the Home Farm club dropping several degrees locally. Tullamore offered to compromise by agreeing to a noon kick off on Sunday, but this offer was rejected and Home Farm insisted on a Saturday game or else. Surley, then there was a touch of poetic justice in the fact that whilst Tullamore managed to muster all their forces with the exception of John Lowery, Home Farm found themselves short three of their most prominent players, Gerry James centre half, George Daly outside left and Brendan Dixen inside right. Of course, the problem of finding adequate

substitutes was easily solved by a club with so many budding stars amongst their reserves, yet the loss of these three key players went a long way towards depriving the farm of the extra point. Anyhow, Tullamore entered the fray in the right frame of mind, determined to teach the home side a lesson.

DEFENSIVE SCREEN

As far as Tullamore were concerned all the honours that were going fell to their defence. They were given little respite throughout the ninety minutes, but they appeared to thrive on hard work and by the end of the game they had well and truly asserted themselves as masters of the home attack. Martin Lowery never put a foot wrong at centre half, completely subduing the hither to free scoring Johnny Murray and thus taking a lot of testing from the farm attack. Unaided Lowery could not have achieved so much but he had willing and capable helpers in Tom Whiteley and Eamonn Byrne, particularly the latter who had a storming first half. Add to this a tearaway performance by Sean Hogan and the equally effective display by Noel Lynch and you have the reason why Boland enjoyed such a comparatively quiet session. Yet, the keeper was always there when required and three saves in particular stood out as highlights of an otherwise dull game. As an attacking force Tullamore figured less prominently. True they had far fewer scoring opportunities than their rivals, but there was the odd occasion when a breakaway resulted in chances being missed. With Sean Hogan being

switched back to the defence to deputise for the absent John Lowery, Tullamore introduced local minor John Minnock on the right wing. This teenager has talent in abundance and is potentially a star of the future. The manner in which he delivered his centres, posed a few problems for the home defence but on the whole he was too immature for a game of this nature. His turn will come before very long. Tullamore were also weak on the left wing where Geraghty worked back too far and invariably found himself with the length of the field to face once he gained possession. Thus Tullamore's real penetration lay in the inside berths, but Jim Brady made the mistake of staying too close to his namesake and the result was that he seldom found himself with sufficient room in which to work. Yet, Tullamore's two best scoring efforts of the game came from Brady. Shortly after the start of the second half he skimmed the home crossbar from close in and then, in the dying seconds he almost became a matchwinner with a ground shot which Tony Swan just got his finger nails to. Perhaps the most damning evidence of all however, was provided by the fact that Tullamore failed to force even a single corner during the course of the game whilst the Home Farm total in this respect was six-two in the first half and four in the second.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The early stages of the game were completely devoid of incident or excitement and although it was Home Farm who set the pace their path to

goal was repeatedly barred by Byrne and Lowery, even when they did get within shooting range the home forwards were badly off the mark with Hayden missing a particularly easy chance from close range in the 11th minute after he had the ball in the Tullamore net earlier from an offside position. Bringing their wingers into the game at every opportunity Home Farm continued to have the better of the territorial exchanges without being able to press home their advantage and with their leader Johnny Murray, being tied down by Lowery the remainder of the line did not appear to know where to turn. To date neither goalkeeper had been called into action, but Swan made his first contribution to the game in the 20th minute when he fisted out a dangerous centre from Minnock. Six minutes later Geraghty blazed wide from an open position but on the half hour the Tullamore goal had a narrow escape, when a weak pass from Lowery to Boland fell short and as Howlett raced in with the goal at his mercy it was Whiteley who came tearing across to save the day. The farm forced the first of their six corners when Lowery succeeded in deflecting a strong shot from Hayden over the bar and a second flag kick followed with two minutes as the home pressure mounted. On the whole the football was of the scrappy variety with neither side capable of mastering the underfoot conditions and only three minutes of the first half remained when Murray broke through for the first direct shot of the game a piledriver from point blank range which Boland saved magnificently at full stretch.

Half-time: Home Farm, 0; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamores best spell came immediately after the resumption as they swung into the attack and after only three minutes Byrne swung a free right across the face of the goal to Minnock whose return centre was flashed wide by Geraghty. Keeping the ball close on a sticky pitch militated against Tullamores chances now, but they went within a fraction of opening the scoring in the 6th minute when Brady broke through on his own to send a blistering shot skimming over the bar, but generally speaking the shooting at both ends was most erratic. A mistake by Boland, who left his goal to chase a ball right out to the touchline, placed the visitors net in jeopardy in the 12th minute, but Byrne got back to clear off the line from Murray whilst two minutes later the Tullamore goal had another narrow escape when Hayden, sent in by Hunt, fired a low ball across the goalmouth with Kennedy failing by mere inches to connect with it before it whistled wide of the far post. Entering the final quarter the Home Farm supremacy reasserted itself and Tullamore were obliged to drop back more and more. A free by Hunt was cleared at the expense of a corner and then an offside decision there could not have been much in it against Newman resulted in a home goal being disallowed in the 25th minute. A fine save by Boland at Murrays feet kept the score sheet blank and with Tullamore defending heroically the Home Farm forwards tended to become panic stricken at their lack of success Howlett blazed wide from a couple of yards range before Boland saved

smartly again from McCarthy, but then, in the very last minute came the most exciting incident of the game as Brady broke through on his own. A ground shot towards the corner seemed to herald a last minute winning goal, but Swan dived to push the ball out with his fingertips. An intruding forward would have had a simple chance from the rebound, but there was not one in sight and this lack of backing cost the visitors a point which they had their hearts set on. Nevertheless, the result was a good one for Tullamore.

Result: Home Farm, 0; Tullamore, 0.

Home Farm: A. Swan, P. Dowling, J. Doran, R. McCarthy, F. Breay, W. Newman, W. Kennedy, W. Howlett, J. Murray, G. Hayden, W. Hunt.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, S. Hogan, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: J.P. Kelly [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Defenders take all the merit points this week, starting with Martin Lowery whose grip within the penalty area never relaxed throughout the ninety minutes. Tom Whiteley comes next for a display of tackling and covering which had the home attack reeling whilst the third point goes to Eamonn Byrne, whose rating would have been higher had he maintained his first half form for the entire game. As it is then, the

overall position after 25 matches now reads as follows:

E. Byrne [24] Tom Whiteley [20] J. Lowery [16] L. Connolly [14] M. Lowery [14] N. Lynch [11] E. Whiteley [10] T. Geraghty [8] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [7] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] L. Boland [3] J. Dunne [3] S. Hogan [1] T. Whiteley [1]

HOME ARE THE HEROES

After their great performances of the last two weeks there should be a big welcome for Tullamore when they return to Spollenstown on Sunday next to play Shelbourne. To date this season Tullamore have been showing for better form away than at home, where they have won but one of their four games. This is in marked contrast to other years but the scales may be balanced more evenly after next Sunday's game. So far honours are even between Tullamore and Shelbourne this season. Tullamore won their Castrol Trophy game by 3-1 at Spollenstown, but crashed by 4-0 in the league at Irishtown. Now this rubber tie could decide the future of both sides, neither of whom can afford to drop any more points. Shels showed that they are returning to form by defeating Athlone 3-1 last Saturday, but with Tullamore playing so well just now they must be fancied to take both points.

LEAGUE TABLE

Finally a look at the league table after last week's results have been filled in.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Home Farm	10	7	1	2	15
Shamrock R.	13	7	1	4	15

Shelbourne	13	6	1	6	13
Drumcondra	10	6	-	4	12
Tullamore	11	5	1	5	11
Ormeau	11	4	3	4	11
Dalkey Utd	10	5	1	4	11

Bohemians	13	4	3	6	11
Dundalk	9	5	-	4	10
Drogheda	9	5	-	4	8
Athlone	12	3	2	7	8
St. Patricks Ath	10	2	1	7	5

February 18th 1966

Proved Themselves In Senior Ranks.

Everything came to a stop for the cup last weekend when all matches in the subsidiary Division of the league of Ireland were deferred for one week to leave the way clear for the first series of matches in the F.A.I. Cup. Although not directly concerned with any of the eight first round matches Tullamore took a keener interest than usual in the cup proceedings, their association with teams such as Dalkey United and Home Farm giving them a more intimate appeal than in previous seasons. When one recalls just how close Tullamore themselves came to qualifying for the premier cup event of the season their interest in the fate of their colleagues may well be understood and appreciated. Indeed some of the glory achieved by Dalkey in getting through to the second round must, surely, rub off on Tullamore in view of the fact that the Midlanders had defeated the seashiders on their own ground only a couple of weeks earlier. This was but one of many fine performances recorded by Tullamore since entering senior ranks last August. When it first became known through this column that Tullamore were seeking inclusion in the B Division of the League of Ireland there were some who asserted that the club management was making a big mistake

in aiming their sights so high and the general outlook was, more or less pessimistic, yet there can be no denying now that the elevation to a higher status has been proved more than justified by performances to date. Tullamore finished in a respectable position in the Castrol Trophy at a stage when they were still finding their feet in senior football, whilst their more recent feats in the league have set the football world talking. Their achievement in taking three points from their last two fixtures against the joint league leaders has furnished conclusive proof that they can no longer be accused of playing out of their depth and no matter what the remaining two months of the season may hold it is certain that Tullamores first term in senior ranks has proved successful.

HANDICAPPED

Tullamores present high ranking is all the more remarkable when considered against the background of handicaps, which have plagued the club since the beginning of the season. With a limited bank balance and inadequate reserve strength every injury assumes more than average significance and Tullamore have had more than their share of such

injuries already this season. Few members of the recognised first team have escaped and a glance through my own records reveals that only one player, Noel Lynch, has figured in every game since the start of the season. That of course explains, why Tullamore have had to call on the exceptionally high number of twenty eight players for their twenty five matches to date. Last season the club went through a full term of 37 matches with a panel of only eighteen players, whilst the highest number of players utilised in recent years was the thirty who figured in the 1961/62 campaign of 34 matches. These figures are, in themselves, interesting, but perhaps the most remarkable feature of the present season has been the number of goalkeepers called upon by Tullamore. Since first choice, Paddy Duffy, left to join Bohemians in October, no fewer than eight different players have filled the position and this I feel sure must rank as some sort of a record. Happily the problem now no longer exists for judged by his performances against both Shamrock Rovers and Home Farm in successive weeks Liam Boland has asserted a fixity of tenure.

HOME GAMES A LIABILITY

Once upon a time and not so long ago either Tullamore were regarded as being almost invincible on their own ground and we were bemoaning the fact that they failed to produce the same form away from home. How radically the position has changed this season. To date Tullamore have played seven of their eleven games away from home

and have won four and drawn one of them. In contrast, their home form has been most disappointing as they have taken only two points from four matches at Spollenstown. What the explanation for this sudden about face can be I would not care to venture an opinion. I have for long held firm to the belief that Tullamore play best when the stakes are highest or, in other words, that they are always capable of rising to the occasion. I think that league events so far this season have proved me right in this respect. Tullamores best performances have come when least expected. For instance, who could have anticipated a win against Shamrock Rovers at Milltown or a draw against Home Farm at Whitehall, who would have been justified in expecting Tullamore to score six goals against Dalkey United after a run of four games in which the forwards had failed to score. Unfortunately the same process works in reverse and a couple of defeats have resulted from fixtures, which looked certain to yield points. This glorious uncertainty is all part and parcel of the attraction of football, for what interest could there possibly be if we knew in advance the outcome of all matches, still the manner in which points were virtually thrown away against Ormeau at Leixlip and against Athlone at Spollenstown, becomes all the more frustrating when viewed in conjunction with victories of more recent vintage. Few can doubt that Tullamore had the winning of the two games referred to and the tragedy is that if the points had been won Tullamore would now be sharing leadership of the league.

RI SING ATTENDANCES

What assets have accrued to Tullamore since moving into senior ranks, this is a question which could provide a complexity of answers, but probably the most significant benefit has been the marked increase in the attendance at home games. Revenue from gate receipts has more than doubled inside the last year, and the upward trend is being maintained all the time. This improvement probably stems from the fact that a better standard of football is now being offered to patrons. The visit of big name clubs such as Shamrock Rovers, Home Farm, Drumcondra, Bohemians and Shelbourne has resulted in lukewarm interest being developed into ardent enthusiasm and people whose only previous connection with soccer was through the written word are now becoming more actively interested. This is, indeed, a healthy state of affairs which must trigger off speculation as to the future of the Tullamore club. Now that senior status has been attained have we reached the pinnacle of desire or dare we look forward to even bigger things at Spollenstown. In other words have Tullamore any ambition towards one day figuring in the First Division of the League of Ireland. Not so long ago a spokesman for the club went on record by saying that Tullamore had no immediate aim in this direction and put forward lack of support as one of the biggest deterrents. If the present trend continues the local committee may well have to reconsider the situation. There is a definite need for another provincial

club in League of Ireland football and a club with the geographical advantages of Tullamore would, I feel sure, stand a favourite chance of gaining admission to the inner circle. At the moment I admit that this is all pure conjecture on my part. To the best of my knowledge Tullamore have not even considered the question of late and certainly they have made no official moves in the matter. Yet it seems certain that the question will arise at some stage in the not too distant future and I would even go so far as to predict that the issue will come to a head within another two, or at most three, years. Perhaps some readers of this column might like to comment or speculate further upon the idea.

COMING EVENTS

Last week ends list of fixtures in the B Division of the League of Ireland have been carried forward to next weekend which means that Tullamore be entertaining Shelbourne at Spollenstown kick off 3.30 pm. Shelbourne were the early pacemakers in the league and were at the head of affairs up to the half way stage. Now they have slipped to third place behind Rovers and Home Farm, and at present stand two points above Tullamore in the table victory is more or less essential for both clubs if they are to remain in contact with the leaders and for this reason a stirring tussle seems assured. Honours are even after two clashes for Tullamore won 3-1 at Spollenstown in the Castrol Trophy, but later crashed by 4-0 at Irishtown in the league. At this stage it might not be a bad idea to look ahead to Tullamore's future commitments. On

Sunday week they travel to Drogheda before returning to Spollenstown to tackle St. Patricks Athletic. Then up to Dalymount Park to meet Bohemians. This will be followed by two consecutive home games against Ormeau and Dalkey United, before tackling both Drumcondra and Dundalk away from

home in the concluding fixtures of the season. After that let us keep our fingers crossed that Tullamore will be placed so favourably that it will be necessary for them to play their postponed fixtures against Shamrock Rovers, Drogheda and Dundalk all at Spollenstown.

February 26th 1966

Tullamore Hit Shelbourne For Six

Tullamore 6
Shelbourne 2

Maintaining their fine from of recent games, Tullamore slammed visiting Shelbourne by 6-2 at mud soaked Spollenstown on Sunday last and by doing so climbed to third place in the league. Not only that but they also narrowed the gap at the head of the table to two points as both the joint leaders Home Farm and Shamrock Rovers, were idle last week end. One of the biggest attendances of the season, turned up to see this rejuvenated Tullamore side in action and they cannot have been other than impressed by the power packed football played by the home side. On a difficult pitch, which ruled out all prospects of fancy football it was Tullamore who remained the masters all through. The Tullamore attack was the more dangerous combination, with Teddy Whiteley right back to his best form and Sean Hogan adding plenty of punch to the goalmouth exchanges.

PERSONALITY PARS

Making his first appearance at Spollenstown since taking over the

goalkeeping job for Tullamore, Liam Boland won round after round of applause with some great saves. Apart from an inclination to concede corners too freely the home defence as a whole, shaped well with the main honours going to Tom Whiteley, Eamonn Byrne and Martin Lowery, Byrne was without doubt the star of the winning side for he never spared himself in the heavy going and always seemed to be in the right spot at the right time, irrespective of whether that spot was in defence or in attack. With Noel Lynch also effective on the other flank, Tullamore had the middle of the field pretty well controlled so that the forwards had all the support they needed. Teddy Whiteley, after a fairly long spell in the soccer wilderness, shot back into something like his best from. He emerged as Tullamores top scorer with a brace of fine goals to his credit the first of them direct from a corner. Jim Brady although he had a hand in two of Tullamores goals, was playing out of position on the wing but one always had the impression that he would have preferred a much drier surface. Sean Hogan may lack the attributes of an orthodox centre forward but the manner in which he bustles around the penalty area can upset any

defence. One player whose contributions to victory may not have been so obvious was Liam Connolly. Yet, it was his long deliveries down the middle which repeatedly unbalanced the visiting defence and it was no more than fitting that the inside right should have closed the scoring himself just before the final whistle. Tommy Geraghty helped himself to Tullamore's third goal. Shelbourne were probably handicapped to a greater extent than Tullamore by the prevailing conditions.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The pitch looked too good to be true before the kick off and, sure enough, appearances were deceptive and it was not long before the green grass disappeared under a layer of brown mud. Liam Boland was the first keeper into action as he saved well from centre forward Foran, but a better chance presented itself at the other end and resulted in Geraghty shooting wildly over from the edge of the area after good work by Byrne. The opening goal came as early as the 5th minute after Gannon had kicked behind for the first corner of the game. Whiteleys inswinging flag kick was perfectly placed and with Hogan and Connolly closing in from either side goalkeeper Maguire took his eye off the ball and did not see it again until he picked it out of the net. In the 13th minute the visitors equalised, Hogan then put Tullamore in front. Three goals in thirteen minutes was certainly setting a cracking pace and the indications were that defenders were finding the conditions more difficult to contend with than were the

forwards.

DANGEROUS DIAMOND

Shelbourne were shaping very well outfield now with their inside forwards and winghalves forming a dangerous diamond around midfield. A short corner by Murphy to Smith was cleared only at the expense of a second flag kick, whilst in the 25th minute a well placed free by Maguire reached McGuigan and only a superb save from point blank range by Boland thwarted the inside right, Whiteley was well wide of the mark in Tullamore's next attack but the game took a definite swing in Tullamore's favour in the ensuing exchanges. Brady paved the way for a great goal in the 30th minute with a pinpointed centre which Geraghty met first time to send the ball flashing wide, of Maguire and into the roof of the net. Within the space of another four minutes Tullamore had stretched their lead further and again Brady was involved for it was after the winger had been tumbled inside the area that Noel Lynch came up to send the ball to the net from the spot, despite a wonderful effort by Maguire whose diving effort enabled him to knock the ball against the upright, from whence it rebounded to the net. Having built up a comfortable 4-1 lead Tullamore were now in full control of the situation and were shaping as though they would run riot entirely, but the remaining minutes of the first half ticked away without further incident.

Half-time: Tullamore, 4; Shelbourne, 1.

Interest in this game might have been killed stone dead early in the second half had Teddy Whiteleys shot from close range found the target. As it was, however, he missed a sitter although he almost made amends later with a shot from a more difficult position which skimmed over the bar. Little was going right for the visiting attack now for although they were enjoying almost an equal share of the play their attacks invariable broke down inside the Tullamore penalty area. When their forwards did find the target they also found Boland in unbeatable form for the keeper displayed a mixture of courage and judgement in coping with the best that the reds could fire at him. The longer the game progressed the deeper the young Shelbourne forwards were sinking into the mire and coming up to the three quarter mark their goal had a number of remarkable escapes. First a fast ground shot from Geraghty kissed the outside of the post before the same player was wide by inches from far out. However, Tullamore were resting more and more upon their interval lead without making any determined efforts to stretch it and Shelbourne proved that they were nothing if not game by fighting their way back into the picture. Inside the space of a minute Boland was forced to make two splendid saves from Foran and Butler, whilst in the 19th minute Foran had the miss of the match when he blazed wide from in front of the posts. Four minutes later Martin Lowery, who had been keeping a close check on Foran all through, slipped up by being drawn too far out but the danger which looked imminent was averted by Byrnes covering back.

Shelbourne still had sufficient time to make a close finish of it but their hopes went up in smoke in the 24th minute when Tullamore completed their nap hand. Liam Connolly started the movement from inside his own penalty area and Whiteley kept up the good work by slipping the ball out to Geraghty and then running on to the return pass to slam the ball home for a great goal. With their confidence restored Tullamore took up the running again and a fine header by Hogan, following a corner by Whiteley, was saved on the line by Maguire. Whiteley was probing and prodding his way through the visiting defence all the time and with his shooting improving with practice Maguire was kept busy between the Shelbourne posts. Nine minutes to go and now Tullamore were virtually certain of the points. Nothing short of a landslide could have saved the reds in the time remaining but they never gave up trying and had their reward in the 34th minute when both the Lowery brothers were caught in a tangle as Butler cut in to reduce arrears. Unfortunately this goal came too late either to do Shelbourne any good or to instil any additional interest to the match. It merely served to rouse Tullamore from their lethargy and John Lowery sparked off another series of attacks with run up the length of the touchline, and although it came to nothing the final nail was driven into Shelbournes coffin with just seconds remaining for play, when Martin Lowery, who had moved to left wing after sustaining a knock a few minutes earlier, sent a low ball across the face of the goal and although Geraghty failed to connect

Connolly was waiting behind him to turn the ball wide of Maguire. A fitting climax to a stirring encounter which was brimful of interest from start to finish.

Result: Tullamore, 6; Shelbourne, 2.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley [capt], J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Brady, L. Connolly, S. Hogan, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Shelbourne: J. Maguire, M. Gannon, T. O'Dea, C. Maguire, C. McCarney [capt], D. Bruce, E. Butler, J. McGuigan, J. Foran, P. Smith, M. Murphy.

Referee: Mr. J. McMahon [Dublin] contributed to the success of this game by the intelligent manner in which he applied the advantage rule, although he was always the master of the situation he did not intrude into the game and he had a rebuke for a section of the home following just before the interval, when he had them removed outside the railing following some unwarranted barracking.

MERIT RATING

Not for the first time this season Eamonn Byrne tops out weekly rating feature this week as a result of a dynamic performance which stamped his personal trade mark on the game. Byrne thus stretches his lead at the top of our table, but there is still a long way to go before the destination of the special trophy will be decided. Teddy Whiteley collects a brace of points for a refreshing display which included the scoring of two goals whilst for the

remaining points we switch to the other end of the field and single out Liam Boland whose goalkeeping all through but especially in the first half must have broken the spirit of the visitors. The overall position now reads as follows: E. Byrne [27] Tom Whiteley [26] J. Lowery [26] L. Connolly [14] M. Lowery [14] E. Whiteley [12] N. Lynch [11] T. Geraghty [8] P. Duffy [7] P. Murray [7] L. Boland [4] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] J. Dunne [3] S. Hogan [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

LONG TRIP

Next weeks report will be coming to you from Drogheda, where Tullamore are due to meet the locals in the league. Tullamore have unhappy memories of their last visit to this venue for they dropped two points here in the Castrol Trophy. However, they are playing so well now that they must be fancied to turn the tables. Having taken points from Milltown and Whitehall in their most recent away games a visit to Lourdes Stadium should hold no special terrors for Tullamore, the more so as Drogheda are firmly anchored very close to the bottom of the league table. It will be a long journey, but I hope to be coming back with more good news.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home Farm	10	7	1	2	25	12	15
Shamrock R.	12	7	1	4	27	17	15
TULLAMORE	12	6	1	5	29	33	13
Shelbourne	14	6	1	7	24	25	13
Drumcondra	10	6	0	4	30	19	12
Dalkey Utd	10	5	1	4	23	17	11
Ormeau	11	4	3	4	16	21	11
Bohemians	13	4	3	6	23	22	11

Dundalk	9	5	0	4	26	26	10
Drogheda	10	5	0	5	15	13	10
Athlone	13	3	2	8	24	40	8

St. Patricks	10	2	1	7	13	30	5
Ath							

March 5th 1966

Depleted Tullamore Lose Ground

Drogheda 3

Tullamore 2

For a team, which had so much at stake, Tullamore revealed precious little spirit in their league match against Drogheda at Lourdes Stadium on Sunday last, where the home side fully deserved their victory by the odd goal in five.

Indeed, if anything, Tullamore flattered by the eventual result for on the run of play throughout the ninety minutes Drogheda deserved a much bigger and more conclusive winning margin. Tullamore were without regular goalkeeper Liam Boland for this game. Boland, who was a flu victim, was not too seriously missed as Pascal Slammon proved a very capable deputy who made a number of fine saves and could not be held in any way responsible for the three shots which beat him, of more serious consequence to the visitors was a leg injury sustained by centre forward Sean Hogan in the 35th minute of the first half, for from that point onwards Tullamore were toiling with virtually ten men. Hogan was off the field altogether for a spell and when he returned just before the interval he could do no more than fill the role of a passenger on the right wing with Jim Brady moving into lead the line. The result was a further

disruption of an already unimpressive forward line, which missed numerous opportunities of at least forcing a draw. This was Tullamores poorest performance of the entire season. Missing was the spirit and determination which had characterised recent performances against more formidable opposition and the manner in which the visiting players stood waiting for the ball to come to them left the big Drogheda attendance wondering just how this side had earned such a big reputation recently.

WEAK IN ALL SECTORS

Tullamores weak links were not confined to any one sector for mistakes were made both in defence and attack. Droghedas three goals all came as the result of defensive mistakes. Apart from Tom Whiteley and Noel Lynch few reputations were enhanced. John

Lowery could never cope with speedy right winger Brendan Wynne who was the home sides match winner. Wynne laid on the first goal for centre forward Phil Clarke and then scored twice himself before the interval. In the centre of the visiting defence Martin Lowery attempted to take far too much out of the ball and his efforts to dribble clear from his own goalmouth often resulted him being dispossessed. Yet, the real culprits of the day were to be located in attack. It was on the extreme wings that the visitors were weakest and whilst the injured Hogan could not have been expected to do any better on one leg no such alibi can be put forward for Tommy Geraghty whose display was not up to the standard expected. Whilst both Teddy Whiteley and Jim Brady earn credit for at least making an effort their attempts at shooting, even when backed by the strong wind in the second half, were pathetic to witness.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The Lourdes Stadium pitch was in fine fettle, apart from one muddy strip in front of the stand, but a high wind ruined the game as a spectacle and made it a match of two distinct phases Drogheda were first to benefit from the wind and they proceeded to make the most of it. Right from the kick off the blues turned on the steam and an early mistake by Tom Whiteley was covered by a fine recovery by Martin Lowery. A great ball from Cheevers to Wynne split the Tullamore defence asunder but the winger just failed to reach the ball on the end line and, strangely enough, the

first real shot of the game came at the other end in the 6th minute when a long clearance from John Lowery was carried on by Teddy Whiteley whose parting shot was beaten out by SKelly. Two minutes later Drogheda forced the first corner of the game off Lynch and then, in the 10th minute came the opening goal, which resulted from a mistake by John Lowery. Wynne whipped the ball into the centre where Phil Clarke rose to head it cleanly past Slammon. Right from the tip off Brady cut through the home defence, but his effort was badly off target and a carbon copy of Drogheda opening goal almost materialised in the 12th minute, but this time Clarke headed Wynnes centre just over. Clarke had the ball in the Tullamore net again in the 14th minute but an offside decision nullified the effort. However, there was no disputing their second goal one minute later for when Martin Lowery was dispossessed inside his own area Clarke switched the ball out to the unmarked Wynne and his shot flashed past Slammon for a well taken goal. Two goals was little or nothing against this breeze and Tullamore were showing no signs of panic, they forced their first corner in the 17th minute but Drogheda broke away from Teddy Whiteleys flag kick and left winger Kane was mere inches to high with an angled shot. The visiting defenders in general and Martin Lowery in particular were repeatedly walking them selves into difficulties by attempting to dribble the ball clear and they were saved from falling further into arrears only a brilliant save by Slammon who turned a piledriver from Kane around the foot of the post following a

corner by Wynne. Slammon was getting plenty to do at this stage and he proved his worth with a couple of great saves from Cheevers, Clarke and Flynn. An indication for the strength of the wind was proved when an intended centre from Brady near the corner flag was blown clear to the halfway line so that it was little wonder that the home side continued to dominate the exchanges. Yet a good opportunity of pulling down the lead came, when Whiteley burst through on his own and his pass to Connolly, left the inside right, with possible chance which however was muffed.

TOTAL COMPLETED

Drogheda completed their total in the 31st minute when Kane cut in from the left and with Martin Lowery backing away from him the winger fired a good ball across for Wynne to smack it home from just inside the penalty area. After this score Tullamore began to show something like their true form and even against the breeze they went close to narrowing the gap. A free by Geraghty and SKelly beaten all ends up and looked certain to yield a goal as Brady closed in but the latters header was an inch or two too high. Then SKelly fumbled a great shot from Byrne with the keeper grounded three of the Tullamore forwards muffed the opening. It was in this incident that Hogan was injured and whilst the centre forward was off the field receiving attention Lynch had a thundering drive brilliantly held by SKelly. Tullamore were simply piling on the pressure now and when John Lowery sent Geraghty away in the

39th minute the winger fired in one of his specials, which SKelly did well to beat out. Hogan resumed on the right wing and almost immediately had a chance of reducing the arrears but from a gilt edged position he delayed his shot and Sullivan got back to clear. Lost time was being played now and a free against Slammon for over carrying the ball almost proved costly as Kanes shot was cleared only at the expence of a corner.

Half-time: Drogheda, 3; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore had been doing well enough in the closing stages of the first half, to suggest that they could cope with arrears of three goals once they got the breeze to their backs. An early goal was what was needed but the visitors almost increased their lead three mins after the resumptioin when only a brilliant save at point blank range by Slammon foiled Clarke after the centre forward had again dispossessed Martin Lowery on the fringe of the area, Drogheda were using the ball better into the wind and their forwards were showing more finesss in their approach work. In contrast Tullamores play was aimless and uninspired and the long range shooting of the forwards was woefully inaccurate. A free by Lynch was headed narrowly over by Brady in the 5th minute and three minutes later Whiteley missed a real sitter with only SKelly confronting him. Then the lucky 13th minute saw the visitors open their account with a surprisingly simple goal. Whiteley and Brady combined well down the centre with Brady chipping the ball over SKellys head and into the net for a goal

which drew a quick response from the home side as Cheevers raced through to test Slammon with a ground shot. The keeper saved well and from his clearance Brady raced clean through, but SKelly advanced smartly to block the ball on the penalty spot. The tempo of the game was certainly increasing now, but lack of power on the wings was providing a crippling handicap for Tullamore, who were obliged to rely more and more upon the quick burst down the centre. Geraghty was guilty time after time of over using the wind so that most of his intended centres dropped harmlessly behind.

Consequently, although the visitors were having far more of the play it was the home attack which looked more dangerous in break aways, in the 34th minute Brady played onside by Sullivan missed a three yards sitter but one minute later the home lead was cut to the minimum when Whiteley fastened onto a miskick by Taggart to slam the ball wide of SKelly for a great goal. Now Tullamore sensing a possible point threw everything into attack with Martin Lowery moving upfield at every opportunity. The clock had become a valuable friend for Drogheda as Byrne, Sullivan, Doyle and Lawlor defended desperately but by now Tullamore had shot their bolt and never really looked like saving the day. It was the home side who took over in the concluding stages and with five minutes to go Clarke veered to the left and sent a low ball across the face of the goal for Flynn to shave the woodwork and at the final whistle it was Drogheda who were on the offensive with row of forwards being caught offside following a free by

Lawlor.

Result: Drogheda, 3; Tullamore, 2.

Drogheda: P. Kelly [capt], B. Doyle, S. Sullivan, J. Taggart, T. Byrne, N. Lawlor, B. Wynne, P. Cheevers, P. Clarke, B. Flynn, C. Kane.

Tullamore: P. Slammon, T. Whiteley [capt], J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Brady, L. Connolly, S. Hogan, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. J.P. Kelly [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

I can think of only three players who revealed anything like points winning form in this game so that it is really a simple matter to decide upon our top three for this week. For consistent effort Noel Lynch heads the rating whilst the only others to come anywhere close to their true form were Tom Whiteley and Teddy Whiteley. This being the case, then, the overall position in our merit rating feature now reads as follows:

E. Byrne [17] Tom Whiteley [22] J. Lowery [16] N. Lynch [14] L. Connolly [14] M. Lowery [14] E. Whiteley [13] T. Geraghty [8] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [7] L. Boland [4] J. Brady [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] J. Dunne [3] S. Hogan [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore return to Spollenstown on Sunday next with good prospects of regaining the winning trail when they

entertain bottom of the table St. Patricks Athletic. The latter have won only two of their eleven fixtures to date with Tullamore in a mood to blot out memories of last Sundays insipid performance it is unlikely that the Saints will gain any reward for their trip. Yet

there is an old adage in football, which says that anything can happen when top meets bottom and although Tullamore have dropped away from the top it might be no harm at all if they bear this warning in mind.

March 12th 1966

Last Minute Goal Wins For Tullamore

Tullamore4
St. Patricks Athletic3

An odd goal victory over St. Patricks Athletic at Spollenstown on Sunday last may not, on paper, appear to be a particularly good feat by Tullamore, yet their 4-3 success was, in fact, one of their best performances of the season, as the Inchicore side fielded almost their full first team. In a pulsating encounter which built into a tremendous climax, Tullamore overcame all sorts of handicaps to keep the points at home and, in doing so, maintained touch with the teams at the top. It was St. Pats. who led by 2-1 at the interval, but Tullamore pulled out all the stops when backed by the wind and finished worthy winners. Their winning goal came late. The scores were level at 3-3 each, then, with less than half a minute actual time left, Noel Lynch set Spollenstown alight with a brilliant goal, which proved conclusive. Having earlier scored from a penalty Lynch thus finished as the games top scorer a just reward for a great all round performance.

PERSONALITY PARS

Although pitted against a very experieced forward line which included

stars of the calibre of Willie Peyton, Ronnie Whelan and Paddy Dowling, the Tullamore defence never flinched. The visitors had their wings clipped by the manner in which Tom Whiteley and John Lowery coped with the challenge presented by Peyton and Jim Marshal respectively. This was the sector in which the game was won and lost for had the visiting inside forwards received the support from the wings which they expected the outcome might have been very different. Tullamore were also supreme at half back for in addition to great display by Noel Lynch both Martin Lowery and Eamonn Byrne showed a welcome return to their best form and the result was a splendid source of support for the attack. Up front, full marks must go to Jim Brady for his untiring efforts to get the better of Dougie Boucher and his combination with Teddy Whiteley resulted in the experienced visiting defence getting a real roasting. Then there was John Minnock, making his first league appearance before a critical home attendance and the manner in which this teenager overcame a nevous start to become one of the key figures of the game in the second half stamped him as a youngster of great potential. Liam Connolly and Tommy Geraghty both fell

below the standard set by their colleagues but overall this was a workman like display of team spirit and individual initiative. St. Patricks decision to include so many of their first team players afforded home fans and unexpected opportunity to see the stars in action and none could help but be impressed by the display of centre half Boucher, left full Holland, right half Ennis and outside right Marshall.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Although Tom Whiteley won the toss Tullamore elected to face the fairly strong wind in the first half. Yet it was the homesters who were first to attack and inside the opening minute Minnock beat Holland on the outside and swung across a good centre which Boucher headed clear. The game was not much older when Brady, missed a gilt edged chance of an early goal by blazing wide from just beyond the penalty spot. Once St. Patricks settled down they looked the more methodical side and they looked dangerous in the 5th minute as a well placed free by Holland lobbed into the goalmouth where Dowling was effectively bottled up by Byrne. The visitors forced the first corner of the game in the 6th minute, but Peytons centre was swept clear by Lynch and in a quick counter attack Tullamore forced their first corner with Whiteley getting across a centre which Connor miskicked, so that it was fortunate for the visitors that goalkeeper Dalton was behind him on the line. So far the football had been bright and open without being really spectacular with St. Pats doing the early attacking, but making little headway

against a home defence in which John Lowery was very prominent. A quick free by Ennis almost caught the home defence on the wrong foot but Boland turned the ball around the post for a corner, which proved fruitless, and then we saw Tullamore beginning to settle down. A dream pass from Lynch was wasted by Geraghty being caught offside in the 10th minute and two minutes later Dalton had to race from his goal to foil Whiteley at the edge of the area after the latter had intercepted a long pass back from Holland. In the 20th minute Dalton was injured in a collision with Geraghty but the keeper was able to resume after attention from the Knights of Malta.

A PENALTY

To date the Athletic had been playing pretty football, which however lacked finishing bite and it took a penalty to put them ahead. It came in the 23rd minute when right winger Marshall raced through a retreating defence and when he was tackled inside the area by Byrne, referee Doyle surprised everybody by awarding a penalty. Tullamores protests were in vain and Peyton shot the visitors into the lead with beautifully placed spot kick. Within two minutes Tullamore had an opportunity to level matters when referee Doyle waved play on with both Whiteley and Brady lying well offside, but the latter failed to take advantage of the gift and his shot was smothered by Dalton. Luck was running strongly against the home side and it looked as though dame fortune was frowning again in the 31st minute when Brady

sent Whiteley through the middle and a great shot came thumping back off the upright. However, Brady followed up well to tap the ball into the empty net and home fans were happy again. In subsequent Tullamore pressure Dalton was obliged to race out and dive at Bradys feet after the centre forward had broken clean through on his own but by and large, Boucher was proving a real stumbling block to the home attack. Martin Lowery saved a nasty situation from developing when he covered back to clear from Ronnie Whelan with the defence at sixes and sevens. But St. Pats. regained the lead in the 36th minute when Marshall rounded both John Lowery and Noel Lynch before slamming the ball home before the interval Tullamore fought hard for an equalising goal and they were within inches of getting it when Brady headed a corner by Geraghty mere inches wide. However St. Pats finished the first half with a flourish and just before the short whistle right half Ennis fired in a high shot which Boland did well to pluck from under the bar.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; St. Patrick's Ath, 2.

The opening minutes of the second half were devoid of real incident and certainly have no indication of the thrills which were in store. Following a free by Byrne in the 6th minute Minnock forced a corner on the right but Whiteleys flag kick was sent behind. Then Minnock tore the visiting defence in shreds before getting a cross a perfect centre which Byrne bashed harmlessly into space and Tullamore had luck on their

side two minutes later when St. Pats raced clear for Marshall to hit the crossbar with a thundering drive. The 11th minute brought another of the games talking points as a glorious centre from Minnock was fumbled by Dalton and as the ball came loose off the keeper Whiteley raced in to score what appeared to be a perfect goal. However, referee Doyle thought otherwise and for some reason known only to himself he disallowed the goal.

MASTERS AT MIDFIELD

Tullamore were really getting their teeth into the game now and with Lynch and Byrne in control around midfield the pressure on the visitors goal mounted. Within a minute of having a goal disallowed the home side hit back strongly and this time there was no dispute as Whiteley swung across a corner from the left, which Byrne crashed home from amidst a ruck of players. The tempo of the exchanges was increasing all the time now as both sides threw all they had into a bid to the lead. Boland displayed both judgement and courage in diving at Dunnes feet, but it was long before Tullamore swept back upfield for Brady to head a Whiteley centre against the woodwork from where it was scrambled clear only at the expense of a corner Tullamore took the lead for the first time in the 25th minute with a goal which was in reality a present from centre half Boucher. Obviously thinking he was outside the penalty area Boucher punched the ball off Bradys head, but unfortunately for St. Pats the incident took place inside the area and although

Noel Lynch did not connect properly with his spot kick the ball dribbled inside the upright after Dalton had dived too soon.

MADE AMENDS

It did not take Boucher long to make amends for this lapse and in the 32nd minute moved upfield to connect with a centre from Peyton and although the ball was whipped back out by a defender referee Doyle earned the wrath of home supporters again by awarding a goal from the centre of the field. It seemed that this simply was not Tullamores lucky day, but as the game entered its final phase they rallied strongly. A searing drive from Minnock was some how turned around the post by Dalton. And although Teddy Whiteleys flag kick was dropped by Dalton, Boucher popped up to clear the ball off the line. This looked like Tullamores swan song for although John Lowery came storming up to get across a centre which Boucher was thankful to turn out for a corner, it looked as though the home side would have to be content with a draw. We were into the last minute of the game, indeed, when Lynch became the hero of the day with a wonderful goal which was easily the best of the seven scored. He shook off two tackles at the edge of the area before picking his spot to earn the title of matchwinner, with a screaming drive which had goal written all over it from the time it left his boot really a fitting climax to a great game.

Result: Tullamore, 4; St. Patricks Athletic, 3.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnoc, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

St. Patricks Ath: R. Dalton, E. Connor, G. Holland, N. Ennis, D. Boucher, R. Hawkins, J. Marshall, P. Dowling, M. Dunne, R. Whelan, W. Peyton

Referee: Mr. T.C. Doyle [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Now for the task of awarding out weekly merit points and an arduous task it is this time. Not for a long time has John Lowery been seen to such constructive advantage as was the case on Sunday last and his performance put him on top of the hit parade. In second place, I am going for Noel Lynch not only for scoring the winning goal but for his all round ability through the field. That leaves us with the odd point still left and few will, I think quibble if this one is awarded to the youngest player on the field, John Minnock, who made such a promising home debut. That then leaves the overall position after 28 games reading as follows:

E. Byrne [27] Tom whitelely [22] J. Lowery [19] N. Lynch [16] L. Connolly [14] M. Lowery [14] E. Whiteley [13] T. Geraghty [8] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [7] J. Brady [4] L. Boland [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] J. Dunne [3] J. Minnock [1] S. Hogan [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

ANOTHER TEST

After a spell of five weeks, Tullamore

return to Dublin next week end to meet Bohemians at Dalymount Park. The fact that Bohs have applied to have their premier fixture against Sligo Rovers postponed because five of their players will be playing on the Irish amateur team that meets England on Saturday means that for the second week running Tullamore will probably find themselves playing against a mixture of first and second team players. This fact does not

enhance their prospects of success, but the points are of such value to them just now that they may be relied upon to display plenty of spirit against a side which lack the incentive to the visitors. Tullamore won in Dalymount Park in the Castrol Trophy [3-1] and it would be a real feather in their caps if they could complete the double at soccer headquarters.

March 26th 1966

Hogan's Hat Trick Was Highlight

Tullamore4
Ormeau1

With Home Farm, Shamrock Rovers and Drumcondra, three of the leading sides in the race for league honours, losing ground over the weekend Tullamore availed of the opportunity to improve their position still further and a 4-1 win against Ormeau at Spollenstown on Sunday now leaves them sharing third place with Dundalk.

With Teddy Whiteley an absentee he was playing for the army in their Oscar Traynor Cup tie in Dublin a reshuffle was caused in the Tullamore line out with the selectors solving the problem very satisfactorily by switching Jim Brady to inside right, Liam Connolly to inside left and bringing on John Minnock on the right wing with Sean Hogan spearheading the attack. The new formation worked very well with Hogan capping a capital display by scoring three goals, and Jim Brady showing return, to his sparkling form of last season. Brady, indeed, was the brains behind the Tullamore attack. His return from the end line, which paved the way

for Liam Connolly's goal was one of the most memorable features of the day. Still and all this was Sean Hogans game without a doubt. Bustling his way around the penalty area the big centre forward unhinged the visiting defence completely and in particular made things miserable for his opposite number, Kevin Kelly, who was forced to concede more than his share of frees in his efforts to curb Hogan who now joins Jim Brady as Tullamores top league scorer. Young Minnock too, paid his way on the wing with an abundance of courage and no little skill. Tommy Geraghty displayed more spirit than in some recent games. A strong half back line in which Martin Lowery was the key figure and Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne able flankers afforded a midfield pull to Tullamore so that the inner defence was seldom seriously tested. On the few occasions that he was tested Liam Bolands goalkeeping was above suspicion, but Tom Whiteley was well below his best form at right full so that the honour in this sector went to John Lowery for a tremendously game performance on the other side. Ormeau who had two previous victories over Tullamore this season to their credit, never looked like completing the

hat trick.

POINTS FROM PLAY

There was little or nothing to choose between the sides in the opening minutes of sparring and inside the first five minutes good chances were missed at both ends. Indeed, with sixty seconds of the kick off Ormeau had an opportunity to open the scoring but Connollys overhead kick passed inches outside the post and the home goal experienced another narrow escape shortly afterwards when an indirect free by Leech was pushed out to Byrne whose drive flashed just wide of the target. Two close shaves within the first five minutes gave Ormeau the initiative, but it was not long before Tullamore got on the war path and in the 6th minute Geraghty floated across a strong centre to Minnock and the wingers shot was only scrambled to safety with the greatest difficulty. A mistake at midfield by Byrne almost had costly consequences for Tullamore when Leech broke clear to send a good ball into the centre from where Connolly headed just inches over. So far little had been seen of the Tullamore attack in action and when Liam Connolly was sent clear by Lynch he elected to shoot from far out with the result that his shot sailed harmlessly wide.

ORMEAU TAKE LEAD

Ormeau were having the better of the exchanges up to now so that they deserved the lead which came their way in the 16th minute. Boland had just brought off a fine save from Leech, but

in the visitors next attack Lynch was dispossessed and Leech shot strongly against the upright. A tremendous set to followed in the goalmouth and culminated in Ben Cuddy shooting Ormeau into the lead from a ruck of players. Things were looking anything but bright for Tullamore now, but gradually they lifted the standard of their game and after Connolly had scraped paint off the post with a fine shot after being sent through by Minnock. Hogan began to make his presence felt. First he chased after a pass from Geraghty which he sent skidding just wide of the post and then he was on hand to head a free by Byrne narrowly over the top. When the equaliser did come in the 27th minute there was an element of luck attached to it, for Hogan was yards offside until Keily attempted to pass back to Watkins, thus playing the centre forward on again and Hogan, never one to look a gift horse in the mouth, neatly steered the ball around the keeper to balance the scoring. Hogan struck again within another four minutes and this time it was a really good goal, which shot Tullamore into the lead. It was sparked off by a long centre from Minnock which Brady nudged forward and Hogan took his chance in fine style to put the home side on the glory trail. From this point onward the game flowed in Tullamores favour and in the 33rd minute a clever overhead kick by Geraghty placed Hogan in possession again. By now the centre forwards jersey was like a red rag to a bull as far as the visiting defence was concerned and Kelly had no compunction about turning the ball out for the only corner of the first half

rather than let it reach the centre. Ormeau did try to pull themselves together before the interval but any chance they might have had was marred by the insistence of their forwards to overuse the ball. Time after time they worked their way through to within shooting range, but invariably one pass too many nullified their efforts and the Lowery brothers were just in the right frame of mind not to afford them time for second thoughts.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Ormeau, 1.

Ormeau opened the second half on a promising note by forcing two corners within a matter of minutes. However, Boland merely welcomed the opportunity of proving his value and after saving brilliantly from Leech following the first one he plucked Byrnes second effort from mid air. Foiled in their bid of an early equaliser the visitors appeared to lose confidence and it was Tullamore who took up the running again with Hogan sending a good ball through to Connolly whose header was scrambled around the post by Watkins. John Lowery threw his weight into attack in the 10th minute with a sally upfield which ended with a curling centre from the corner flag which Watkins was again thankful to push around the upright as Hogan came thundering in. Tullamore were really piling on the pressure now and were worth another score in the 13th minute, but Lynch's free delicately placed was headed against the crossbar by Connolly. Ormeau switched left winger Byrne in to lead their attack and an immediate improvement followed with

Byrne heading a free by Kelly a shade over on the whole however, it was the visitors defence which was under pressure most of the time, with winghalves McGovern and Purcell being forced to adopt purely defensive roles. Even at that Ormeau were fortunate to beat out a snap from Byrne whilst in the 22nd minute, Minnock broke through from the right on his own to fire in a great shot which Watkins again managed to shove to safety at the expense of a corner.

THE CLINCHER

The football had become listless now with no sign of Tullamore pulling to a more comfortable lead, but the door was slammed in the visitors face in the 27th minute with the best goal of the game. It was Brady's goal from start to finish as he outpaced the defence to the endline to cut the ball into the centre at the last second and leave Connolly with the mere task of nodding his head to stretch the lead. This was the clinching goal which sealed Ormeaus fate, but Tullamore tacked on a fourth with eight minutes left in the game when Hogan barged his way past three would be tacklers to score with a shot which never rose more than six inches off the ground. So utterly decisive was Tullamores victory that it more than avenged the two defeats inflicted by Ormeau earlier in the season.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Ormeau, 1.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, J. Brady, S. Hogan, L.

Connolly, T. Geraghty.

Ormeau: T. Watkins, P. Cuddy, D. Kelly, D. McGovern, K. Kelly, S. Purcell, C. Doyle, B. Cuddy, J. Connolly, M. Leech, D. Byrne.

Referee: Mr. J. Boyle [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

A point for every goal he scored earns top billing for Sean Hogan this week, and well does he deserve the honour. Not for a long time has Tullamore had a centre forward built in the old fashioned mould of fire and brimstone, but last weeks dragon slaying effort suggests that a new era is on the horizon. However, victory over Ormeau was no one man affair and for second place I am nominating Jim Brady who shot right back to his best from with a display of plotting and scheming which has seldom been surpassed at Spollenstown. Having taken two forwards to fill the premier position we switch back to the defence and single out Martin Lowery for the third point and with these points added the overall position now reads as follows:

E. Byrne [27] Tom Whiteley [22] J. Lowery [19] N. Lynch [16] M. Lowery [15] L. Connolly [14] E. Whiteley [13] T. Geraghty [8] J. Murray [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Brady [6] L. Boland [4] S. Hogan [4] J. Martin [4] J. Dunne [3] C. Hughes [3] J. Minnock [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

LEAGUE TABLE

The up to date league position including

last week ends result now ready as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home Farm	13	9	2	2	30	15	20
Shamrock R.	14	8	2	4	30	19	18
Dundalk	13	8	1	4	45	33	17
Tullamore	15	8	1	6	39	40	17
Drogheda	14	7	1	6	20	18	15
Dalkey Utd	12	6	2	4	27	21	14
Drumcondra	13	7	0	6	36	29	14
Ormeau	14	5	3	6	23	35	13
Shelbourne	16	6	1	9	26	29	13
Bohemians	17	4	4	9	26	29	12
Athlone	16	4	2	10	29	47	10
St. Patricks Ath	13	3	1	9	18	35	7

NEXT SUNDAY

Tullamore will have their consecutive home game on Sunday next when Dalkey United are due at Spollenstown for a game which could have a vital bearing upon the top of the table. Dalkey, with several games in hand, fancy their chances of coming with a late run, but defeat on Sunday next would seriously jeopardise their prospects. Needless to say Tullamore too are anxious to keep on the winning trail so that with so much at stake For both sides a real thriller seems to be in prospect. The game will scarcely prove as sensational as was the case when the sides met at Dalkey on the first Sunday of 1966 for on that occasion Tullamore came from being 4-1 down to force a 6-5 victory. Perhaps we will not be treated to so many goals next Sunday, but for all that I am looking forward to an epic against a club which made such a big impression in the F.A.I. Senior Cup before going under to Waterford.

April 2nd 1966

Another Great Victory For Tullamore

Tullamore, 5; Dalkey United, 1.

It seems that Tullamore and Dalkey United are destined to oppose one another under the worst possible playing conditions at any rate their meeting at Spollenstown on Sunday last, in a gale force wind and showers of icy rain brought back memories of very similar conditions at Hyde Road when they met in the first leg of the league in January on that occasion Tullamore had to battle their way back from heavy arrears to forge a hard earned victory by the minimum margin but on Sunday last they were never headed during the course of the game and finished up the easiest of winners by 5-1. This third victory in succession keeps Tullamore in step at the top of the table and improves their ranking from joint third to clear third behind pace making Home Farm and Shamrock Rovers.

NO FACILITIES

When, I wonder, are Tullamore A.F.C. going to get around to providing some sort of covered accommodation for the press, the handicaps imposed by wind and rain on Sunday last made accurate note taking an impossible task with the result that I am left to work now with a

sodden note book which forces me to rely more on memory than should be the case. I am eighteen years campaigning for some sort of covered protection and the lack of response from the club tempts one to question the sincerity of the vote of thanks which is passed with the press at every years annual general meeting.

ALL ROUND STRENGTH

There was scarcely a weakling visible on the home line out on Sunday. From goalkeeper, Liam Boland, to left winger Tommie Geraghty, each player slotted into position discharging his own duties and always ready to cover back for a colleague in an emergency. It was this solid teamwork which swept the side to such a convincing victory for although Dalkey had a couple of outstanding individual performers they lacked the all round balance of the home side.

Possibly this was Liam Bolands best display since joining Tullamore. He was the complete master in his own goal area and the manner in which he dealt with high balls whether they were direct shots or crosses from the wings evoked round after round of deserved applause. A strong defence saw that the keeper was not overworked and with Tom

Whiteley and John Lowery forming an impressive frontage Boland was afforded maximum cover, as has been the case on so many previous occasions Tullamores half back line proved to be the foundation around which victory was built. Martin Lowery never put a foot wrong in the centre, but more than anything else it was the grip exercised by wing halves Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne with really swung the game so decisively in favour of the home side. Backed by such splendid support the home attack functioned smoothly throughout and the five pronged menace proved too much for even the strong Dalkey defence to cope with. Perhaps there was an element of luck attached to some of the goals but on the run of play justice was done, and a smaller winning margin would not have reflected the superiority which was Tullamores throughout the field. Indeed the scales of justice were nicely balanced in this game, for if one or two of the home goals were tinged with doubt they were more than offset by two shots which came back off the woodwork and three which were blocked by the outstretched leg of English in the visitors goal. Perhaps the most pleasing aspect of the winners attack was the return to form of Tommie Geraghty in the left wing. His goal just before the interval came at just the right time, whilst his second half performance was sheer elegance to watch as he tore holes through the opposing defence, with Jim Brady turning in another immaculate performance and Sean Hogan outwitting his opposite number to grab two vital goals the home attack was firing on all cylinders with Liam

Connolly and Teddy Whiteley completing a line which squandered very few opportunities. Dalkey were unfortunate in so far as they were forced to field without several of their regular side, most notable of the absentees were goalkeeper Dave Knight and inside forward Paddy Montgomery.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Having won the toss Dalkey surprisingly elected to play against the strong wind, but the manner in which they controlled the ball in the early stages immediately stamped them as dangerous opponents. Yet the first danger came from Tullamore in the 4th minute when Brady sent a glorious ball through to Geraghty, who had started on the right wing but quickly switched places with Teddy Whiteley. Geraghtys shot looked a winner all the way until English succeeded in pushing it against the upright from where it rolled behind for the first corner of the game and Hogan just failed to connect with Geraghtys flag kick. This, indeed, was a heart warming start but it was not long before Dalkey swung into the attack and Boland made the first of his many fine saves by going higher than everybody else in the goalmouth to collect a lobbing centre from Hoey. It came as no surprise when Tullamore opened the scoring in the 9th minute. Backed by the wind they were gradually taking control and following a clash between Hogan and Maher Tullamore were awarded a free which might just as easily have been given in the opposite direction. Whiteleys free was perfectly placed to the right of the post from

where Jim Brady nipped in to head past English, subsequently Brady was foiled of a second goal by the keepers outstretched leg and when Dalkey returned to the attack the home goal came under seige with shots from all angles being blocked by Martin Lowery, Noel Lynch and Tom Whiteley in quick succession. In the 18th minute Tullamore should have increased their lead when a perfect through pass from Connolly left Brady with only the goalie to beat but although he succeeded in doing so the ball came crashing back off the crossbar. Dalkeys gambit of playing Molloy and Maher as twin centre halves was proving very effective and despite heavy pressure the home side was deprived of scoring chances and even against the wind the visitors were having a fair share of the play. Midway trough the half a free by Maher looked like producing athe equaliser but Lynch headed clear off the line and John Lowery was on hand to complete the clearance. A second free to Dalkey, taken this time by Fran Byrne, was pulled out of the clouds by Boland and with the visitors controlling the ball much better in the freak conditions. Tullamore prospects did not look too bright. If anything the strong wind was proving a liability to Tullamore. Repeatedly the ball was being sent too far ahead of the forwards and with 30 minutes gone Tullamore still had only one goal to show for their efforts. A wild clearance by John Lowery gave Dalkey their first corner of the game in the 31st minute and one minute later a second corner by Hoey reached Kane whose shot had Boland beaten before it was cleared off the line by Lynch.

Tullamore finished the first half with a flourish. In the 35th minute Brady robbed Maher at the corner flag and his centre was poked in by Hogan and although English appeared to drop on the ball before it crossed the line referee McMahon was already pointing to the centre of the pitch and Tullamore were two up. Even a two goal lead appeared insufficient to see the home side through against the breeze in the second half so that one could almost hear the sigh of relief which greeted a third goal just two minutes before the short whistle. This time it was Geraghty who was the marksman, his swinging left footed drive curling out of Englishs reach into the corner of the net. A replica almost followed within a matter of seconds, but this time the wind carried a curling shot from Connolly into the side rigging.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; Dalkey United, 0.

More than anything else Dalkey wanted a quick goal after the resumption to revive them. Instead it was Tullamore who increased their lead with forty five seconds of the resumption when Hogan connected with a centre from Geraghty for what was probably the most important goal of the day a second centre from Geraghty in the 3rd minute left Teddy Whiteley clear of the defence with a great chance of stretching the lead further, but he failed to control the ball and shot harmlessly behind. Dalkey buckled to their task and in the 5th minute a soaring drive from Kane was brilliantly fisted over by Boland. Fighting desperately to gain a grip on

the game Dalkeys efforts were repeatedly ruined by the poor finish of their forwards and with the home attack becoming enmeshed in the offside trap laid at the other end the football lost a lot of its early sparkle.

REVIVING SCORE

Dalkey had their prospects revived in the 18th minute when a mistake by Martin Lowery let Langan through and when Boland attempted to fly kick the ball to safety he merely succeeded in crashing it off the intruding Fran Byrne who recovered quickly to guide the ball into the empty net. This goal sparked off a Dalkey rally, which saw their entire side, with the exception of goalkeeper English troop upfield at every opportunity. It was at this stage that Boland really came to Tullamores rescue with a series of saves, which broke the hearts of the opposition forwards. Molloy moved up to lead the Dalkey attack and in the 32nd minute he seemed certain to score until Tom Whiteley came tearing across to whip the ball off his toe just six yards out from an open goal. Any chance which the maestros might have had of making up the arrears went by the board with ten minutes left for play when Molloy was carried off with a back injury sustained in a clash with Boland and now the plight of the ten men eased beyond redemption. Their resistance faded and it did Tullamore put in a storming finish which yielded them a final goal just before the final whistle when Lynch strolled through a defence, which had been opened by Brady to complete the nap hand.

Result: Tullamore, 5; Dalkey United, 1.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, T. Geraghty, J. Brady, S. Hogan L. Connolly, E. Whiteley.

Dalkey United: G. English, E. McDonald, F. Bolger, C. Molloy, J. Maher, J. Kelly, F. Byrne, B. Kane, J. Langan, D. McDonald, A. Hoey.

MERIT RATING

Seldom before have I experienced such difficulty in deciding upon the leading trio as is the case this week. I feel sure that I could nominate any three of the team in any order at all and I would scarcely be doing an injustice to anyone but, unfortunately I cannot accept the easy way out. Pinned down to hard facts I must give my number one vote to Liam Boland for an exhibition of inspired goalkeeping. No matter, who I take for the minor places I know that I will make myself unpopular in some quarters but for all that I am giving two points and one point respectively to Tommie Geraghty and Eamonn Byrne. All of which leaves the over all position now reading as follows:

E. Byrne [28] Tom Whiteley [22] J. Lowery [19] N. Lynch [16] M. Lowery [15] L. Connolly [14] E. Whiteley [13] T. Geraghty [10] L. Boland [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Murray [7] J. Brady [6] S. Hogan [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] J. Dunne [3] J. Minnock [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore will have their fourth consecutive home game on Sunday next when they will have Drumcondra as visitors to Spollenstown. However this game is not a League of Ireland fixture but instead a deferred Castrol Trophy game, accordingly the points are not of such supreme importance. Nevertheless Tullamore would welcome

the opportunity of reversing the result of the January league game which the Tolka Park side won by 6-2 at Spollenstown, such a result would boost their morale for the closing stages of the league which will be resumed the following week when Tullamore make the hazardous journey to Oriel Park to tackle giant killing Dundalk.

April 9th 1966

Winning Run Checked

Tullamore0
Drumcondra 1

The only goal of the game, scored just two minutes before the interval, sufficed to give Drumcondra the points in their Castrol Trophy match against Tullamore at Spollenstown on Sunday last and ended an unbeaten home run for Tullamore which stretches back to January.

It was a result which left everybody happy after the game for even in defeat Tullamore played remarkably well against a side which included six players with first team experience. Truly, the home side lost no caste in defeat whilst victory for Drumcondra assured them of the runners up medals in this competition. Mark you on the run of the play Tullamore would not have been flattered by a draw. They had as much of the game territorially and finished level on corners –five each. It was in the matter of finish that they failed for with Paddy McGrath dominating the visitors penalty area Tullamore were confronted by an unyielding defence which blocked the path to goal as effectively as a steel door, the home forwards did have three or four opportunities, which might reasonably have been expected to yield scores, but

twice the woodwork came to Drums rescue. Apart from one lapse John Lowery had a fine game at leftfull. His tackling quickly blunted the visitors right wing and had he possessed the same spectacular flair for moving upfield as did his partner Tom Whiteley the added strength from behind would have proved invaluable for goalkeeper, Liam Boland, Sundays game furnished a new experience for this was the first time in seven games with Tullamore that he finished on the losing side. Not that any blame for the defeat can be apportioned to the custodian, the one shot which did beat him was a beauty and was more than offset by the many brilliant saves he made during the course of the game.

BRILLIANT HALF-BACK TIME

Tullamore were unquestionably masters of the midfield play in this game. Eamonn Byrne was unrivalled in this sector and with his efforts being backed to the hilt by Noel Lynch and Martin Lowery the chances presented to the visiting attack were few and far between. There was a lack of balance in the home attack where performances ranged from superlative display by Teddy Whiteley to a less than adequate showing by both Tommie Geraghty and Liam Connolly. Sean Hogan was really up against it in the centre where McGraths vast experience enabled him

to blot the home leader right out of the game, but Jim Brady put real effort into his play and with any sort of average luck would have been on target one or twice.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Tullamore opened with the breeze in their favour, but within three minutes of the kick off their goal had an escape with Martin Lowery miskicked in front of his own goal and only a timely interception by Eamonn Byrne averted disaster. Drumcondra forced the first corner of the game on the left, but nothing came of it and once Tullamore got moving a splendid bit of combination between Hogan and Whiteley split the opposing defence and Prole was glad enough to concede a corner. A great burst by Byrne from just short of the half way line ended with a curling shot being carried just wide of the far post and now the Drumcondra defence was getting an early roasting, and matters were not improved for them in the 9th minute when Brady shoved a glorious pass out to Whiteley and again Prole was obliged to concede a corner to avert more serious consequences. So far there had been plenty of action at either end, but the first real shot of the game was delayed until the 14th minute when Geraghty got through and had his final effort stopped by Byrne. With Lynch and Byrne well on top in the half back exchanges the visiting forwards were not seeing too much of the ball but inside the space of a minute their left winger, Brendan Byrne, missed two fine opportunities of putting his side in front.

His first chance came as he raced through a defence which stood appealing for offside, but his shot was well off the mark as it flashed behind and in the very next minute the same player was put through again only to ruin a great chance with a wild shot which sped harmlessly past the post this lack of accuracy in front of goal proved infectious and in Drumcondras next raid Gillis sent a perfect through pass to Doyle only to see the left half blaze it high wide and not so handsomely. Just on the half hour it was Tullamores turn to miss a possible chance when Brady was played onside to a pass from Whiteley but from close range he scooped the ball over the top. At this stage Whiteley and Connolly exchanged positions in the home attack and after Brady had forced another fruitless corner Drums swept back for Byrne to test Boland with a stinging drive which the keeper did well to turn around the post. Byrne took the flag kick himself, but Martin Lowery came to Tullamores rescue by kicking the ball clear. A close indirect free from inside the area presented Drumcondra with another chance, but again the home defence repulsed the effort at the expense of a corner. With the minutes of the first half fast ticking away and Tullamore with no material gain after enjoying the backing of a stiff breeze their prospects looked anything but promising as a centre from Connolly was headed in to Byrnes hand by Geraghty. The plight of the home side worsened with only two minutes of the first half remaining, seeing that this was the goal which won the match it was fitting that it should have been a good one for as Gillis sent

the ball floating into the centre Tony Leavy came hurtling through the air to head a picture goal past the helpless Boland. Tullamore had a last minute opportunity to offset this score when Geraghty fired in a tremendous drive which beat Byrne in mid air, but left half Doyle was on the line to kick clear.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Drumcondra, 1.

Had their luck been in Drumcondra would have increased their lead immediately after the resumption for left winger Byrne raced in to beat Boland with a rising shot, but then saw the ball rocket back off the angle of the woodwork. After this escape, however, Tullamore began to play with more purpose and it was clear that they were using the ball better against the wind than had been the case when they had its assistance. A glorious centre from Connolly was blazed back across the face of the goal by Geraghty with Hogan just failing by inches to connect with it and then, as Drumcondras Keogh and Gillis switched positions in attack a new needle atmosphere was introduced to the exchanges with the tackling becoming keener all the time. For the most part Drumcondra were now being kept pinned inside their own half of the field, but such was the quality of their defence that Tullamore, for all their pressure, were unable to get through for a clean shot at goal. The home sides luck was dead out in the 21st minute when Connolly pounced upon a loose ball following a partially-cleared corner but again the woodwork saved Drums, as the ball came crashing back off the bar. However, luck was not all on the

one side and it was Tullamore who had cause to breathe a sigh of relief four minutes later when a tremendous drive from Keogh was net-wards bound until it came back into play off the inside of the far upright. Drumcondras attacks were sporadic affairs now and it was Tullamore who were doing practically all the forcing. However, their efforts met with little success against the rock like visiting defence and McGrath, repeatedly beating Hogan in the air inspired his colleague as he repulsed attack after attack. With ten minutes left in the game Drumcondra reverted to their original formation and Tullamores big chance of saving the game came in the 36th minute John Lowery had moved upfield for a Whiteley corner and although this was cleared the ball was returned into the centre by Brady. It looked as though Lowery must score, but instead the ball screwed off the side of his boot and that was that. Tullamore never again looked like scoring, although they remained on the offensive right up to the final whistle.

Result: Tullamore, 0; Drumcondra, 1.

Drumcondra: F. Byrne, J. Larkin, R. Prole, E. O'Connell, P. McGrath, S. Doyle, T. Keogh, E. Cowzer, T. Leavy, J. Gillis, B. Byrne.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, E. Whiteley, J. Brady, S. Hogan, L. Connolly, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. C. O'Leary [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Eamonn Byrne must stretch his overall lead in our merit rating feature as a result of last Sunday's performance. His was a display of elegance and power unsurpassed by friend or foe and maintained for the full ninety minutes. Challenging him for the honours of the week were Teddy Whiteley and Martin Lowery, in that order, so that the overall position now reads as follows:

E. Byrne [31] Tom Whiteley [22] J. Lowery [19] N. Lynch [16] M. Lowery [16] E. Whiteley [15] L. Connolly [4] T. Geraghty [10] L. Boland [7] J. Murray [7] P. Duffy [7] J. Brady [6] S. Hogan [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] J. Dunne [3] J. Minnock [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

NEXT WEEK

After a long run of home games, Tullamore take to the road again on Sunday next when they travel to Oriel Park there to tackle Dundalk, in what well may be their most crucial game of the entire league. Dundalk, like Tullamore are breathing down the necks of the league leaders. A slip by either at this stage would prove very costly indeed, so that it is easy to appreciate the importance which is being attached to next Sunday's game. On their last

visit to the border town, Tullamore sustained a 5-3 defeat in the Castrol Trophy. Since then both sides have improved considerably so that it is not easy to assess prospects. It is a game which promises much and although the journey is a long one I am looking forward to the trip with high hopes of bringing back another success story for readers of the Offaly Independent.

COMING EVENTS

By right the fixture against Dundalk should conclude the league programme for the season, but the fact that five fixtures were postponed during the winter months means the season must now be extended by a month.

Arrangements have been concluded for the playing of the postponed matches and it may be as well for readers to make a note of the following dates.

Saturday 16th April away to Drumcondra.

Wednesday 20th April away to Bohemians [8 p.m.] kick off under floodlights.

Sunday 24th April home to Drogheda.

Sunday 1st May home to Shamrock Rovers.

Sunday 8th May home to Dundalk.

April 16th 1966

Tullamore Win Top-of-the-Table Clash

Tullamore.....4; Dundalk..... 0

By a clear four goals margin Tullamore defeated Dundalk in last Sundays key league of Ireland 'B' game at Spollenstown and by doing so they jumped into undisputed second place in the league table one point ahead of Shamrock Rovers.

Much had been expected from this vital clash between leading teams the fare provided fell as flat as a pancake and the second half exchanges in particular must rank as one of the most boring forty five minutes of the season.

to be complacent as they toyed with the opposition and it was not until the closing stages that they shook off their lethargy to ram in another brace of goals in the 87th and 90th minutes.

VERY BAD OR VERY GOOD

Don't ask me how Dundalk came to be in such an exalted league position. On this showing they looked more like a bottom of the table side and one can only conclude that they are capable of fielding much stronger sides than that which represented them at Spollenstown. Without ever being off the bit, Tullamore were in complete control all through a game which was ruined as a spectacle by the under foot conditions which prevailed. So superior were Tullamore that the second half was merely a formality. Tullamore turned over with an interval lead of two nil after facing the wind in the first half. There after the home side could afford

This clash against Dundalk was expected to furnish Tullamore with their stiffest task of the run in and even the task that the venue was switched from Dundalk to Tullamore in mid week failed to instil anything like over confidence. Was this, then a super performance by the home side or did the visitors fall below the expected standard. For my own part I have no hesitation in subscribing to the latter viewpoint. On Sunday, the home defence was virtually untested. Liam Boland made a couple of very fine saves and once or twice the backs came to the rescue by kicking off the line with their keeper beaten, but on the whole the Dundalk

attack was hammering at a closed door so much so that at times in the second half the home defence could afford the luxury of being over casual within their own penalty area. Tom Whiteley, John Lowery and Martin Lowery had them well and truly tamed before the game had run one third of its course and with Eamonn Byrne roving all over the place to pop up in the sector where his services were most in demand the white clad forwards remained on starvation rations for the full duration of the game. Byrnes complete mastery around midfield, coupled with effective support from Noel Lynch, saw to it that the home forwards saw plenty of the ball, so much in fact, that 4 goals represented a meagre enough harvest. One weapon the visitors used to full advantage was their application of the offside trap and it was this, more than anything else, which kept the scoring down to reasonable proportions. Time after time the home attack became enmeshed in the trap and their failure to devise means of outwitting it became quite a source of worry. Three goals were disallowed on this account with Jim Brady and Sean Hogan being the main culprits yet it was Bradys snipe like ability to snap up a scoring chance, which enabled him to perform the hat trick with two disallowed goals to spare. Although Brady was the marksman in chief on this occasion the scoring potential of the home attack was wide spread. Teddy Whiteley worked tremendously hard all through without reaping any real reward for his efforts but Tommey Geraghty having enjoyed a very successful ninety minutes, had the satisfaction of closing the scoring in the

last minute. Liam Connolly too, was worth a goal or two, though the underfoot condition were not entirely to his liking he remained dangerous in the air and his centres from the right wing were invariably well directed.

EARLY PRESSURE

Although set to play against the breeze in the first half Tullamore were not long about taking the offensive and straight from the kick off Geraghty raced through to fire in a shot which goalkeeper Lyons was thankful to tip around the post. A second corner followed before the game was a minute in progress and it was obvious that Tullamore were in search of an early goal. However, a greasy ball and a slippery pitch posed problems in plenty a typical example being provided when the ball screwed off Whiteleys boot just as he had the goal at his mercy. Just five minutes had elapsed when a long range shot from Byrne dipped over Lyons head and into the net, but the cheers were quickly stifled by an offside decision against Brady. Dundalk were making little impression in these opening exchanges, although Billy Kennedy was emerging as their most dangerous forward with show of power and purpose which made him the ideal linkman. Many good opening were frittered away by the home attack before the first goal duly arrived in the 25th minute. Teddy Whiteley provided the opening with a powerful drive, which proved too hot for Lyons to hold, and as the ball rebounded off the goalkeepers hands Brady nipped in to smash it home. Two minutes later Brady went

through on a great solo effort but his parting shot was turned behind and then Connolly provided a neat centre, which was turned to the net by Brady, for a goal which was disallowed for offside by the scorer, little was being seen of the visitors attack in action and it was not until 20th minute Boland was brought into the game for the first time to cope with a free by Billy Kennedy switches in the visiting side which saw Tommy Rowe move from right full to out side right and Kennedy from inside right to inside left brought about little improvement, although Dundalk forced their first corner on the right in the 23rd minute a futile effort which was quickly cleared. Back came Tullamore for Lyons to turn a piledriver from Geraghty around the post and later throw himself daringly on Bradys feet, but by and large the home attack was being constantly snared in the offside trap so that one goal remained their reward for almost constant pressure until the 30th minute. Then Brady struck again with a fast shot, which Lyons could only parry and Brady followed up to tap in the clearance. Boland did well to tip over a great shot from McArdle in the 33rd minute and for a spell after this it looked as though Dundalk were going to make a fight of it. A corner by Savage was kicked off the goal line by Tom Whiteley and another flagkick followed in double quick time, before Boland made the best save of the day with a brilliant recovery after McMahon had broken through to the penalty spot.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Dundalk, 0.

Boland had finished the first half on a

high note and he also provided the first real thrill after the interval when he raced out to dive at McGuire's feet after the left half had walked right through the home defence. It was not long however before Tullamore were back in full cry with Hogan breaking through to leave Lyons spreadeagled, only to see only to see the ball come back off the woodwork Brady had his second disallowed goal in the 7th minute and this was followed by a sparkling run by Geraghty which sent Whiteley clear for a shot which skimmed the bar. There after the exchanges became as dead as mutton and a heavy shower did little to improve matters. Tullamore were content to stroll through the remainder of the game their only anxious moment coming midway through the half when Lynch got back to clear of the line from Towe. The end was very near when Brady completed his hat-trick. Indeed there were just three minutes left in the game when he knifed his way through from the halfway line to beat Lyons with a great shot, but just to prove that Brady was not the only marksman on the team Tommy Geraghty collected a pass from Connolly with just seconds left and as the visiting defence stood appealing for offside he went through unmolested to put the seal on a vital victory.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Dundalk, 0.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, L. Connolly, J. Brady, S. Hogan, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Dundalk: P. Lyons, T. Rowe, B.

Murphy, P. Mahon, T. McConville, S. McGuire, D. Smith, B. Kennedy, T. McArdle, G. McMahon, G. Savage.

Referee: Mr. P. Graham [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Eamonn Byrne seems virtually assured of finishing on top of this seasons merit rating feature. He heads this weeks rating for a truly regal performance, which saw him master the underfoot conditions as well as the opposition. Second in line for honours must be Jim Brady who soared to the top of the league scoring chart with an invaluable hat trick whilst the odd point goes to the hardest worker afield Teddy Whiteley. All of which leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

E. Byrne [34] Tom Whiteley [22] J. Lowery [19] N. Lynch [16] M. Lowery [16] E. Whiteley [16] L. Connolly [14] T. Geraghty [10] J. Brady [8] L. Boland [7] J. Murray [7] P. Duffy [7] S. Hogan [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] J. Dunne [3] J. Minnock [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

ANOTHER TEST

With the end of the road now in sight every game has assumed vital importance for Tullamore and they face another stiff test next week end with a Saturday game against Drumcondra in Tolka Park. Not only are Drumcondra still in the hunt for honours themselves they lie three points behind Tullamore with a game in hand but they have the psychological advantage of having defeated the provincials twice already this season. This latest conquest is only

two weeks old and their 1-0 victory in the Castrol Trophy at Spollenstown is still very fresh in the mind. On that occasion, however, Drums. Had the assistance of a number of their first team who are unlikely to be included on Saturdays line out. I watched Home Farm gain a rather fortunate 2-1 win over Drumcondra last Saturday, but I was rather more concerned with the state of the Tolka Park pitch than with the actual performance of either side. Spollenstown was in poor enough shape last Sunday, but it was Wembley compared to Tolka Park on the previous day and unless the pitch dries out considerably within the week I can warn the Tullamore team that they are in for a real mudlark.

MIDWEEK FIXTURE

Before we meet again in this column Tullamore will have had the unusual experience of playing a competitive game under floodlights, for they are due to meet Bohemians in Dalymount Park on Wednesday next. However, former Tullamore goalkeeper Paddy Duffy will not be playing against his old colleagues for he told me last week that he is standing down for this game and will be replaced in the Bohemians goal by Tony Goode.

LEAGUE TABLE

With Tullamore figuring so prominently in the race for honours it is only natural that local followers are showing a keener than ever interest in the actual league positions and for your benefit I give here under the up to date league

table, complete with goal average.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home Farm	16	12	2	2	40	17	26
Tullamore	17	10	1	6	48	41	21
Shamrock Rovers	16	9	2	5	33	21	20
Dundalk	16	9	1	6	49	42	19

Drumcondra	16	9	0	7	41	32	18
Drogheda	16	8	1	7	26	20	17
Dalkey United	15	7	2	6	30	29	16
Shelbourne	19	7	1	11	29	34	15
Bohemians	18	5	4	9	29	29	14
Ormeau	16	5	3	8	26	47	13
Athlone	18	4	2	12	32	54	10
St. Patricks Ath	15	4	1	10	21	38	9

April 23rd 1966

Tullamore Triumph In Tolka Thriller

TULLAMORE3
DRUMCONDRA1

Tullamore returned to the scene of their Bradmola Cup triumph on Saturday last and they hit the jackpot again with a convincing 3-1 victory over Drumcondra, thus enhancing their own league prospects whilst at the same time dealing a severe blow to the hopes of the Tolka Park side. My prediction of last week that this game would develop into a real mudlark proved only too true forty eight hours of incessant rain, coupled with a midweek cup tie at the venue, left the pitch in a sorry state. Indeed conditions were really appalling for football with quadrants of green grass at the corner flags merely serving to emphasise the carpet of mud which rested on the remainder of the playing area. Yet, such was the importance of the fixture for both clubs, that the players succeeded in mastering these vile conditions and served up a game which under the circumstances, was truly magnificent. A really fast pace was maintained for the full ninety minutes, and with plenty of goalmouth action and some incredibly good football outfield the small attendance, which braved the weather was amply rewarded. Saturday's success marked the first occasion that Tullamore have

beaten Drumcondra. Even in their junior days Tullamore always found Drums a bogey side and the fact that the metropolitans had two victories to their credit over Tullamore already this season did not enhance prospects for Saturday last. Yet, notwithstanding the fact that the home side included four regulars of their first team for this vital tie, there can be no disputing the merit of Tullamores performance. On the run of the play they fully deserved victory and another couple of goals to spare at the finish would not have flattered them. Only in the opening ten minutes were Drums allowed to dictate the play and once the visitors settled down they quickly assumed a grip on the exchanges which they held right up to the final whistle. From a comfortable seat in the stand it would be easy to be critical but, happily, there is very little need for censure this week. Tullamore realised the importance of the occasion and, to a man, they gave of their very best. Admittedly a couple of good scoring chances were allowed to go abegging in the first half but on a day when it was quite a feat for the players to retain their footing such lapses must be overlooked

BRILLIANT DEFENCE

Last Saturdays three goals leaves Tullamore with the distinction of being the highest scoring side in the league with a total of 51 goals from 17 games, but it was the defence which really claimed the honours on this occasion. Another regal performance by goalkeeper Liam Boland imbued the men in front with real confidence. Individually and as a unit the visiting defence threw up an impregnable barrier constantly outwitting even the most menacing raids of the experienced home attack so that the real scoring chances which came the way of Drums were fewer than feathers on a frog. Only minor handling mistakes marred the display of Boland when the ball was as easy to hold as a bar of wet soap and one save in particular midway through the first half was right out of the topdrawer in front of the keeper Tom Whiteley and John Lowery combined to seal off the approaches from the wings with masterly exhibition of effective full back play. There were no fancy frills attached but for down to earth defensive measures neither was found wanting. Once again Tullamore found themselves very much indebted to the work of their middle line. Eamonn Byrne put in a tremendous first half and was content after the interval to adopt a more defensive role without shedding an ounce of lustre whilst on the other flank Noel Lynch was covered as much in glory as he was in mud after a tireless fetch and carry performance. However the real cog around which the defence revolved was Martin Lowery for this was the pivots finest game for a long time. His complete dominance over his opposite number, Monaghan, drew the

teeth of the home attack, leaving the front line leaderless and devoid of a spearhead and completing a middle line which provided a launching pad for many of the Tullamore attacks. Ability is of little account without opportunity and it was the service from behind which afforded so many of the openings for the forwards. Up front the visitors had three schemers and two strikers with Teddy Whiteley, Jim Brady and Liam Connolly loading the guns for Sean Hogan and Tommy Geraghty to fire. The heavy conditions suited Hogan down to the ground as he bashed his way around with real abandon scoring twice in the process. More refined was the approach of Whiteley who, even in these treacherous conditions, succeeded in weaving match winning patterns through the opposing defence with the skill and adroit footing of a mountain goat. Brady filled the role of terrier, always snapping at and harrassing the home defence and drawing attention to himself to allow freedom to his colleagues. Perhaps Geraghty was the most versatile of the lot for he combined guile with shooting power and was probably the biggest single thorn in the side of the Drumcondra defence. With a little more fighting spirit he could be a match winner every week. What of Drumcondra with the points of equal importance to them they fielded their strongest possible line out in a bid to consolidate their position. That they failed was due in no way to a lack of effort but simply because they were opposed by a better side. Their defence, built around centre half Fran Brennan, right half Eamonn Rooney and right full Jim Larkin, was given the run

around and never exercised the same control as was the case at Spollenstown two weeks earlier, whilst their attack, in which Johnny Campbell was the key figure, was never allowed the latitude to develop their talents.

POINTS FROM PLAY

With the rain showing no sign of abating conditions were atrocious at the start and although Tullamore were first to attack Brady was bottled up at the edge of the area. Obviously it was going to take the players a while longer than usual to sort themselves out under such conditions and during these early probing stages it was Drumcondra who impressed as the more streamlined outfit, they forced the first corner of the game in the 6th minute, but this was a cheap price to pay as J. Campbell's rasping shot had all the hallmarks of a goal until Boland got his hand to it and succeeded in pushing it over the bar and when F. Campbell's flag kick came dipping into the goalmouth Teddy Whiteley was back to take it clear. So far Drums were shaping the better but signs of an improvement manifested themselves when Geraghty put in a good run down the wing before being stopped inside the area by Larkin in the 11th minute and one minute later Geraghty was back and this time his centre cum shot dropped off the crossbar to be kicked wildly by Carrick. Tullamore were gradually finding their feet and from this point onwards they became the masters. Several of their raids were repulsed by Brennan, Rooney and Carrick whilst other opportunities were lost by poor finishing in front of the

posts but by and large it caused no great surprise when the visitors forged into the lead in the 18th minute. Geraghty started the move with a short pass inside to Brady who in turn pushed it on for Hogan to slip it just inside the post a combined effort by the forward line which gave Tullamore the advantage of drawing first blood. Underfoot conditions, bad at the outset, were all the time becoming worse but could not prevent both sides from playing some fine football and within four minutes of taking the lead Tullamore missed a glorious chance of augmenting it when Connolly squared the ball right across the face of the goal with Clinton out of position only to see Brennan clear off the line from Hogan. A short clearance by Boland in the 24th minute had Tullamore in difficulties but the keeper atoned with a wonderful save from Monaghan and within a minute Tullamore were very nearly two up when a sizzling shot from Geraghty was stopped from entering the net by Hogan who, in turn had his close range effort smothered by Clinton. Drumcondra were making valiant attempts to regain their grip and in a sudden surge of supremacy J. Campbell ripped his way through from the halfway line to fire in a low shot which kissed the outside of the upright, whilst in the 28th minute only a fearless dive by Boland prevented Cowzer from snatching the equaliser. Both sets of forwards were missing good openings but in the outfield play Tullamore were calling the tune so that it was more or less against the run of the play when Johnny Campbell equalised in the 34th minute. Left half Carey did the spade

work, making good ground up the wing before cutting the ball inside for Campbell to score with a deceptive shot which went in off the upright.

QUICK REPLY

Before this turn in fortune could have any damaging effect Tullamore hit back quickly and they were back in the lead within three minutes. Again it was Geraghty who created the opening with a good ball into the centre which Hogan dummied brilliantly, drawing Brennan with him, and leaving the way clear for Whiteley to run through the middle and beat Clinton with a well placed lob. With Byrne, Lowery and Lynch controlling the centre of the field the pressure was very much on the home defence for the remainder of the first half and another goal or two at this stage would not have flattered the wearers of the red and white. They almost had one just before the short whistle when Byrne sent a glorious through ball to Geraghty who took it on the run to send in a great shot which Carrick was fortunate to turn behind for a fruitless corner.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Drumcondra, 1.

With the rain still bucketing down a curtailed interval was spent on the field and Tullamore faced the resumption with Brady leading the attack, Hogan on the right wing and Connolly inside him. In the early exchanges the visitors proved that they had no intention of surrendering the initiative and within three minutes Brady made his presence felt when, put through by a long

clearance from Tom Whiteley, he fired in a fierce drive which Clinton excelled in turning out for a corner. Two minutes later, however, came the goal which clinched the issue when Whiteley placed one of his inswinging corners perfectly and although Hogan got his head to it as it crossed the line I have no doubt that the flag kick would have gone in direct either ways. With a two goal lead to fortify them, Tullamore could now afford to play it safe, banking on their defence to see them through. Byrne became more or less a fixture at left half with the result that the home side was afforded greater freedom around midfield. Territorially they began to take control but they were seldom allowed to advance further than the perimeter of the penalty area. A free against Byrne for hands on the edge of the box was driven wide by Campbell but the biggest miss of the match came at the other end in a break away when, in the 12th minute a fine centre from Geraghty was headed over by Brady from almost under the bar. Martin Lowery was proving as safe as a bank under pressure. Whilst the covering of Tom Whiteley and John Lowery afforded few second chances to the desperate home forwards. Either they shot hastily immediately they gained possession or else they found themselves dispossessed in double quick time. This was the pattern for most of the second half but even in odd sallies upfield Tullamore continued to look dangerous. Hogan had a shot saved on the line by Clinton and Whiteley thumped a good one off the bar after Geraghty had chipped the ball back from the end line. In between Drums missed a glorious

chance of narrowing the gap when right winger Keogh crosseed the ball in front of the posts with nobody up to deflect it to the net. Drumcondras first corner of the second half was delayed until the 30th minute and it proved a good one as Keoghs centre was punched out by Boland to Monaghan whose second attempt was blocked on the line by Martin Lowery. In a vain bid to improve the position Drums switched Keogh and Campbell but the gambit brought little success. At times now Clinton was a lone sentry in the Drumcondra half of the field but for all their pressure the homesters were getting remarkably few direct shot at goal and those that did filter through were capably dealt with by Boland. Tullamore had their last serious raid in the 36th minute and it produced a corner, which Hogan swung across for Whiteley to send it whistling past the far upright with a glancing header. After that the visiting defence took over entirely, clamping down on every effort of the Drums attack to find a way through and apart from forcing two corners in quick succession inside the closing minutes the home side never even looked like improving their position.

Result: Tullamore, 3; Drumcondra, 1.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, L. Connolly, J. Brady, S. Hogan, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Drumcondra: P. Clinton, J. Larkin, J. Carrick, E. Rooney, F. Brennan, J. Carey, T. Keogh, J. Campbell, G. Monaghan, E. Cowzer, F. Campbell.

MERIT RATING

Martin Lowery must top the ratings this week after giving such a distinguished performance at centre half. Yet, it is a narrow margin which puts him ahead of the remainder of the side and the real difficulty this week is to determine the minor placings. Liam Boland, Eamonn Byrne, Teddy Whiteley, Sean Hogan, Tom Whiteley and Tommy Geraghty must all come into the reckoning and in selecting TeddyWhiteley [2 points] and Geraghty [1] I know only too well that these are decisions which will not meet with universal favour. However, these are my three for the week and with their points added the overall position now reads as follows:

E. Byrne [34] T. Whiteley [22] J. Lowery [19] M. Lowery [19] E. Whiteley [18] N. Lynch [16] L. Connolly [14] T. Geraghty [11] J. Brady [8] L. Boland [7] J. Murray [7] P. Duffy [7] S. Hogan [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] J. Dunne [3] J. Minnock [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

DOUBLE HELPING

The fans can look forward to a double helping of news in next weeks issue with Tullamore down to meet Bohemians and Drogheda, respectively, on Wednesday [8p.m.] and Sunday. Strictly on form Tullamore should account for both, although the sensation of playing under floodlights for the first time in Dalymount Park may prove a handicap whilst it is also worth bearing in mind that Drogheda have won both previous encounters against Tullamore this season. At this stage of the year there

is always the likelihood of coming up against sides strengthened by the inclusion of first team players but with so much at stake now Tullamore can be fancied to hold their own in any company. Victory in Dalymount Park

and at Spollenstown would certainly leave the scene set for the most attractive tie of the season when Shamrock Rovers come to Spollenstown on Sunday week.

April 30th 1966

Tullamore Unimpressive In Victory

TULLAMORE3; DROGHEDA1

Without ever reproducing anything like the splendid form shown in recent games, Tullamore, stretched their sequence of victories in the B Division of the League of Ireland to six when they accounted for Drogheda by a 3-1 margin at Spollenstown on Sunday last.

I suppose the primary purpose- that of adding two further points to their league total- was achieved on Sunday, but it was an uninspiring performance which did little to provide a boost for the next Sunday's vital clash against Shamrock Rovers at the same venue.

In the first half Tullamores chances did not appear too bright when against the wind, they turned over on level terms [1-1] but then two goals in the opening ten minutes of the second moiety altered everything. Tullamores confidence was restored and although they faced a barrage of pressure before the final whistle their defence proved equal to the occasion. During the course of a scrappy game Tullamore forced four corners in the first half and one in the second whilst these figures were reversed in the case of Drogheda thus giving a fairly accurate idea of the strength of the wind. At inside left were Teddy Whiteley had a great game. His incisive thrusts through the centre

frequently unhinged the visiting defence and his single goal was poor enough reward for so much effort. Jim Brady was another to enjoy considerable success in attack and he instigated many of the home attacks. Sean Hogan, switched from centre forward to outside right at an early stage, once more proved his value as an opportunist and by scoring the third goal he edged in front of Brady as the clubs top marksman in the league. Liam Connolly had quite a good outing his varied distribution of the ball amongst the other forwards being a feature of his game, but Tommy Geraghty achieved very little success throughout the course of the 90 minutes. On this occasion Tullamore failed to achieve their usual supremacy around midfield, although Noel Lynch had a storming game and was easily the pick of the middle line. Conditions were against Eamonn Byrne and his passing was unusually ragged whilst Martin Lowery slumped from the form of the previous week. As a stopper centre half he fared well enough, but his clearances lacked

construction and more often than not ended up in touch. Tom Whiteley had the more difficult task of the full backs and the manner in which he shadowed the visitors most experienced forward, Tommy Hamill, right out of the game gave him the edge over his partner. John Lowery, some of whose clearances were wild. Goalkeeper Liam Boland, who has the distinction of never having played on a beaten Tullamore side in the league, contributed his share to this latest success.

DULL FARE

With both sides captained by their respective left fulls, it was left to Tom Whiteley to win the toss for Tullamore and his correct call won wind advantage for the home side yet it was Drogheda who were first into the attack, with Cowley collecting a pass from Bermingham to shoot narrowly over within two minutes of the kick off. Geraghtys effort at the other end met with similar fate in Tullamores first attack, but in the 4th minute the Drogheda defence was sent reeling as Geraghty got the ball across to Hogan and the latter pushed it on to Connolly for the winger to return the ball right across the face of the goal and out by the far post. Next Clarke in the Drogheda goal was obliged to go down on a shot from Whiteley, but just as it appeared that Tullamore were assuming control the visitors hit back strongly with a curling centre from Bermingham which Boland did well to pluck off Cowleys head. Cullen was already proving a stumbling block to the scoring ambitions of Tullamore and in the 9th

minute the centre half came well upfield on a solo run which was not halted until Boland saved his parting shot. The visitors missed an easy chance of taking the lead when Geraghty, back in his own area, was dispossessed by Bermingham whose shot from very close range whistled past the upright.

THE LEAD

Having survived this crisis Tullamore sent their supporters into a happy frame of mind by taking the lead in the 12th minute. Lynch set the ball rolling with a great ball through the middle which Whiteley beat both Cullen and Sullivan, and ran on to plant the ball past Clarke for a great goal. Drogheda redoubled their efforts after this reverse and after a free by Wynne had been cleanly taken in midair by Boland, the Boyne-siders got back on level terms in the 20th minute it was one of the oldest tricks in the soccer book which brought them their equaliser for when they were awarded a free just outside the penalty area right full McNamee raced upfield to distract the defence as Wynne slung the ball across to Hamill and the wingers return centre was popped past Boland by Bermingham, who was standing almost on the goalline. Now it was Drogheda who had their tails up and within a minute Byrne kicked behind to concede his sides first corner of the game, Wynne sent his flag kick behind, Tullamore switched Brady in to lead the attack with Hogan moving to the right wing and in the 26th minute the move almost paid dividends when a sweet pass from Byrne was knocked off Bradys head by Clarke. Six minutes later a

classical header from Brady had the visiting defence going the wrong way as Connolly skimmed the bar. Tullamore pressed strongly in a bid to regain the lead before the interval and John Lowery lent his weight to the attack, by moving up for a Whiteley corner, but his header whistled past the wrong side of the post. Tullamore were far too obvious in their methods and their square lying formation in attack posed few problems although a neat piece of combination between Lynch and Hogan looked promising until Sullivan stepped in to save the situation for Drogheda.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Drogheda, 1.

Tullamore began to control the ball better against the wind and before the second half was three minutes old Whiteley was out of luck when he weaved his way through, beat Clarke all ends up, and then saw the ball skim past the far upright. Then, following a free by Lynch, Whiteley had a good shot saved by Clarke, but the pressure was rewarded in the 49th minute when Whiteley lobbed the ball against the crossbar and Hogan was on hand to tap the ball home from close range. Once in the lead Tullamore played with greater assurance, and they consolidated their position in the 54th minute with a goal which brought a storm of protest from the visitors. There was no disputing a handball by Gardiner, but where as referee Warby decreed that the offence had taken place inside the area the visitors were equally adamant that it was outside. A penalty it was, however, and Noel Lynch stepped up to hit the back of the net

with a perfectly placed spot kick Droghed proceeded to show more spirit after this decision and they piled on the pressure without achieving a great deal. An indirect free on the end line heralded an all out attack but Boland emerged from a ruck of players with the ball safely grasped and it was not until the 60th minute that the visitors succeeded in forcing their first corner of the second half. Teddy Whiteley, the scarlet pimpernel of Tullamores, continued to cause havoc as he popped up here, there and everywhere and he was out of luck again in the 71st minute when he raced on to a through pass from Brady to fire a rising shot just over the target. Five minutes later, Whiteley placed a corner right across the face of the goal and when the ball was returned by Hogan it was Geraghty again who missed a glorious chance by blasting it wide. Time was an enemy for Drogheda now as they stepped up the pace in a bid to save the day and three quick corners in succession reflected the trend of play at this stage. The third of these flag kicks taken by Wynne resulted in Boland making his only mistake of the game as he dropped the ball in a crowded goalmouth but disaster was averted by Tom Whiteley who whipped the ball off the goalline as Flynn closed in for the kill.

PENALTY CLAIM

Tullamore had luck on their side with eight minutes left in the game for when Martin Lowery was whistled up for a handball he appeared to be well inside the penalty area so that it came as a great relief when nothing more serious

than a free kick outside the box was awarded and this was driven harmlessly over the bar by Wynne. One minute later a shot from Brady came back off the woodwork and in a twinkling Drogheda had switched from defence to attack with Cowley breaking through the centre only to be denied a consolation score by the bravery of Boland, who flung himself at the centre forwards feet to earn the biggest ovation of the day. After that it was as good as over for although Drogheda continued to peg away right up to the final whistle they were fighting a hopeless cause with their forwards unable to make any sort of impact.

Result: Tullamore, 3; Drogheda, 1.

Tullamore: L. Boland, J. Lowery, T. Whiteley [capt], N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, L. Connolly, J. Brady, S. Hogan, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Drogheda: P. Clarke, G. McNamee, S. Sullivan [capt], G. Gardiner, L. Cullen, T. Byrne, B. Wynne, B. Bermingham, M. Cowley, B. Flynn, T. Hamill.

Referee: Mr. F. Warby [Athlone]

MERIT RATING

With only three matches remaining to be played it is certain that Eamonn Byrne is to be the winner of the special trophy presented by this column. He does not figure in this weeks rating which must be headed by Teddy Whiteley who performed such feats of valour for the full duration of the game. Last years outright winner, Noel Lynch,

moves up the table by adding two points to his total whilst the odd point is claimed by Liam Boland whose goalkeeping was as reliable as ever, even under the barrage delivered on this latest occasion. This, then, leaves the up to date position reading as follows:

E. Byrne [34] Tom Whiteley [22] E. Whiteley [21] M. Lowery [19] J. Lowery [19] N. Lynch [18] L. Connolly [14] T. Geraghty [11] L. Boland [8] J. Brady [8] J. Murray [7] P. Duffy [7] S. Hogan [4] J. Martin [4] C. Hughes [3] J. Dunne [3] J. Minnock [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

THE ACID TEST

Tullamore have tasted but one defeat in their last ten league games, but on Sunday next the face the supreme test when they lineout against Shamrock Rovers. This is the game, which all soccer fans have been waiting for and now that so much is at stake the occasion has taken on that little bit extra in the way of public appeal. Tullamore are at present four points ahead of Rovers, but the fact that the latter have two matches in hand cancels out this advantage so that the winners of next Sundays game will be well on the way to claiming the position of runners up. Tullamore have chalked up some notable victories this season, but all previous tests fade into insignificance compared with the task, which now confronts them. Only last week Rovers B team proved good enough to defeat Dundalks premier side so that Tullamores task is a formidable one. Yet who is to say that they are not capable of rising to the occasion, in the

Castrol Trophy Rovers trounced Tullamore 7-1 at Milltown, but it was a very different story when the sides met at the same venue in the league when the Midlanders scored a great 2-1 victory which started them on their all conquering run. On home soil Tullamore may prove capable of emulating that fact, but no matter how things work out this looks like being the highlight of the season at Spollenstown.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home Farm	17	12	3	2	41	18	27
Tullamore	19	12	1	6	54	43	25
Shamrock Rovers	17	9	3	5	34	22	21

Drumcondra	18	10	-	8	44	35	20
Dundalk	18	9	2	7	50	43	20
Drogheda	18	9	1	8	27	23	19
Dalkey United	15	7	2	6	30	29	16
Shelbourne	19	7	1	11	29	34	15
Bohemians	18	5	4	9	29	29	14
Ormeau	17	5	3	9	26	49	13
St. Patricks Ath.	16	4	2	10	22	39	10
Athlone	18	4	2	12	32	54	10

It is of interest to note from the above that whilst Tullamore boast the best attack in the league, Shamrock Rovers can claim the best defensive record, thus providing a further touch of glamour to next Sundays big game.

May 14th 1966

Dundalk Concede Walk Over To Tullamore

Tullamore gained two valuable points the easy way on Sunday last and, at the same time escaped one of their longest journeys of the season when Dundalk conceded a walk over to the Midlanders.

Tullamore had all their arrangements completed for a trip to Drogheda. Oriel Park is undergoing reconstruction just now and Dundalk have been playing their home games in Drogheda for the past couple of weeks when word was received on Saturday morning that the game was off. Subsequent enquiries revealed the fact that Dundalk, like Athlone, have withdrawn from the league and do not intend playing any of their remaining fixtures. It is likely that some of the other clubs will follow suit for once the season passes the end of April the professional clubs find themselves in difficulties with their players. Such of course is not the case with Tullamore who will conclude their programme with a game against Bohemians under the Dalymount Park floodlights on Friday night of this week.

STILL CONCERNED

Needless to say, Tullamore are still very much concerned in the struggle for runners up honours, in this respect a

prolonged struggle with Shamrock Rovers will keep competitive interest in the league alive to the end whilst Tullamore have only one match remaining Rovers have yet to play Dalkey United both home and away. With Athlone having dropped out of the reckoning, Rovers will collect two easy points and will, as a result, lie just one point behind Tullamore with the advantage of a game in hand. Tullamore will then be looking to Dalkey to do them a good turn by taking at least one point from either of their games against the Milltown side. The prospects of this happening are remote, for Dalkey have faded from their early season form and will lack any real incentive to deprive Rovers of the points. Even should one of their two meetings end in a draw it is still likely that Rovers would finish as runners up on goal average as their defensive record is far superior to that of Tullamore. At the moment Rovers have scored 41 goals and conceded only 24 to give them an average of .888 whilst Tullamores figures of 54 for and 48 against leaves them with a goal average of .585. It is unlikely that these figures will be altered to any great degree in the few games which remain so that barring an outright defeat for the Hoops the runners up medals would appear to

be within their grasp

ACHIEVEMENT OVERLOOKED

If these predictions are correct there is a very great danger that Tullamores wonderful showing in their first season in senior ranks may be overlooked in the disappointment of the moment. When the plunge into the League of Ireland was first mooted in this column I recall writing the task confronting the new arrivals was a gigantic one and I went on to warn supporters not to expect too much in the first season. At that time I suggested to finish anywhere in the top half of the table in their first season would be a commendable performance. Subsequent events proved Tullamore capable of holding their own in any company and one of the most significant features of the season now fast ending was that no club succeeded in defeating Tullamore than twice in the league. Few could have anticipated the provincials finishing in the top three places and yet, unfortunately, it is the heavy defeat sustained against Shamrock Rovers in the final home game of the campaign, which is being harped upon now. Forgotten are the memorable displays of earlier games. The 2-1 victory over Rovers in Milltown, the scoreless draw against Home Farm at Whitehall, the first ever victory over Drumcondra in mud soaked Tolka Park, the 4-3 victory registered against a St. Patricks Athletic side which contained six members of their first team and that fantastic game against Dalkey United when arrears of 4-1 was transformed into a thrilling 6-5 victory are all praiseworthy performances

which are now overlooked, local interest had being built to such a climax during the closing weeks of the season that Tullamores feat in finishing third is being hailed as a disappointment.

UNFAIR TO PLAYERS

Such an outlook is, of course, most unfair to the players who have worn the red and white with such distinction since last August. To be objective the season must be viewed as a whole and once this is done there can be nothing but praise for Tullamores efforts. It cannot be overlooked that most of the defeats sustained came before the team had settled down into a compact unit. Injuries, last minute defections and repeated chopping and changing all presented handicaps which persisted throughout the first half of the season and it was not until the end of January that the correct blend was struck. Only two league defeats followed and one of these was an odd goal set back sustained against Drogheda on a day when Tullamore were without their regular goalkeeper Liam Boland. Mention of Boland brings to mind immediately the impact which his play had upon the general effectiveness of the side as a whole. When Paddy Duffy left Tullamore to join Bohemians in mid season his departure left a void which local officials experienced great difficulty in filling. Indeed the fact that the goalies sweater was worn by no fewer than nine different players during the course of the season mist credit Tullamore with some sort of record at least. The experience gained during the season must stand to Tullamore for the

future the majority of the present side have many years football in them yet, and although it may be a bit early to be thinking of next season it must be heartening to know that the intention is to have all this years panel available again. A couple of judicious signings could make Tullamore a really formidable side for the future and in this respect it is to be hoped that the men behind the team will not delay going after the men they require until it is too late. Such was the case at the beginning of the present term and when Tullamore attempted to strengthen their playing reserve they were unable to do so. The 1965/6 season ends for Tullamore on Friday night and then is the time to plan for the future. Like everybody else the committee of Tullamore A.F.C. are entitled to a break from football during the summer months but this should not prevent them from leaving everything in shipshape order. After all a new season begins in August, and that is only three months in the offing.

THE LAST WIND UP

And so to the last competition outing of the present season the game against Bohemians. In the hope that Rovers may yet falter on the run in Tullamore can ill afford to take any chances and must be prepared to give of their best

for the ninety minutes. Apart altogether from the value of the points at stake it would be nice to wind up the season with win, particularly at the headquarters of the game. Tullamore have won both previous encounters between the sides this season, defeating Bohemians 3-1 at Dalymount in the Castrol Trophy and 2-1 in the league at Spollenstown. There is no obvious reason why the Midlanders should not complete the hat trick this weekend although the experience of playing under floodlight for the first time may require some getting used to. After that it will just be a question of sitting back and awaiting the outcome of Shamrock Rovers two clashes against Dalkey United.

FOOTBALLER OF THE YEAR

Perhaps this would be as good a time as any to extend congratulations to Eamonn Byrne on winning the special trophy award annually by this column to Tullamores footballer of the year. As regular readers are aware the destination of this award is determined on a points basis but Eamonn Byrnes lead now is such that he cannot be overtaken in the last match of the season this being the case I am looking forward to presenting Eamonn with his trophy in the dressing room after Friday nights game.

May 21st 1966

Tullamore Finish On Winning Note

Bohemians0
Tullamore1

Tullamore ended their first season in senior soccer as they had started it last August on a winning note. Their final victims were Bohemians who fell by the only goal of a disappointing game in Dalymount Park on Friday night last when the majority of the visiting players shared a new experience with the giant floodlights being switched on for the

SPOT-KICK REPORTS FROM DALYMOUNT PARK

concluding 14 minutes. Regrettably the artificial light only served to emphasise the shorcoming of both teams for this was a typical end of the season affair in which the players gave every indication of being badly in need of a rest from competitive football. The outcome was a display of unenterprising football in which respective attacks were well and truly mastered by straight forward defensive measues so that it was at least fitting that the only goal of the ninety minutes whould have come from the penalty spot, and sinking the spot kick Noel Lynch assured Tullamore of the points. Victory assured Tullamore of third place at least in the final league table with the outside hope that a slip by Shamrock Rovers in their final outing

against Dalkey United this week would gain the runners-up medals for the provincials. Considering that incentive towards victory was theirs, and theirs alone, Tullamores display was disappointing. This was particularly true of the attack which frittered away numerous scoring opportunities by persisting in keeping the ball close in front ofthe posts a policy which played right into the hands of the quick tackling home defence. It was not, a great finish to the season but at least Tullamore had the satisfaction of adding to their points total to leave their final league record reading fourteen wins, one draw and seven defeats with a soring average of 55 for and 48 against.

DISHEARTENING NEWS

On arrival at Dalymount Park on Friday night Tullamore were greeted by the disheartening news that their arch rivals, Shamrock Rovers, had defeated Dalkey United 3-1 two nights earlier. Incidentally, the fact that Dalkey included only two members of their regular team will not go down well in Tullamore and unless they treat the return ficture this week more seriously Tullamores prospects of being brought back in to the limelight would appear to be wishfull thinking however, I am

getting away from the immediate task, which is a review of last weeks game.

PERSONALITY PARS

For only the third time in the entire season Tullamore kept their goal intact on this occasion. This was due in the main to some very fine goalkeeping by Liam Boland, backed by sound covering by his colleagues, Tom Whiteley was the key figure outfield and in quick succession the Tullamore skipper mastered a variety of opponents as Bohemians chopped and changed in a vain bid to find the key which would prize open the visiting defence. As his partner at full back John Lowery was as adventurous as ever, combining some wild clearances with brilliant sallies upfield, which frequently left the home defence flat footed. Circumstances compelled the Tullamore halfbacks to concentrate heavily upon defence in this game, but in doing so they lost no caste, Eamonn Byrne, as befitted Tullamores player of the year, worked tirelessly around the midfield sector, repeatedly breaking the rhythm of the home attack and forcing his opposite number into hasty passes which lacked accuracy. In the centre Martin Lowery more than held his own against Athlone man Gerry Frawley, so that it came as no surprise when the latter was switched to the wing in the closing stages, whilst Noel Lynch completed a formidable middle line and his goal from the spot enabled him to finish as Tullamores third leading marksman in the league not a bad distinction for a half back. It was in attack that Tullamore failed badly. On the wide

open spaces of Dalymount they lacked any semblance of teamwork and it was left to the individual thrusts of Jim Brady and Teddy Whiteley to provide the only real danger. The latter, incidentally was playing in his second match of the day as he had earlier assisted Curragh Command to win the Cunningham Cup in an army competition. Sean Hogan was lost on the hard ground and the failure of the sideline mentors to switch Brady into the centre until a very late stage probably cost the side a couple of goals. Liam Connolly distributed the ball well amongst his colleagues but he lacked the aggression to have a go himself when within shooting range, whilst on the left wing Tommy Geraghty made very little use of either his speed or his shooting power. It was surely ironical that Bohemians best player should have been a native of Tullamore. This was Con Flanagan who possessed the pace and the ability to worry the visiting defence and with any sort of support he could have been a match winner on his own. As it was he was left to do a solo act at inside right. Tony Goode, deputising for Paddy Duffy between the posts made some capital saves during the course of the game but the only other players to attract for Bohemians were right full Mick Broderick and left half Mick McAuley.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Afternoon rain had cleared away by starting time and at the kick off Bohs. were set to face a strong setting sun. Tullamore had the support of the crowd as the large contingent, which had

travelled for this final fixture far outnumbered the home fans. Yet it was Bohs. who set the pace from the kick off and they pressed strongly before Tullamore got into their stride to force the first corner of the game in the 5th minute and as Whiteleys flag kick dipped into the goalmouth Goode knocked it down for Hogan to hook it over from close range. The visitors had a lucky escape one minute later when Boland was completely deceived by a hopping ball from Flanagan so that it was fortunate that Lynch was positioned behind the keeper to clear off the line at the expense of a corner. Tullamore were anything but steady as yet and the exchanges were lifeless until the 15th minute when the visitors swept the field and when Hogan turned back a fine centre from Brady the ball was swept just wide of the post by Connolly. Although doing most of the attacking, Bohemians were making little real progress and Frawley missed a real sitter in the 19th minute when he blazed wide from in front of the posts. Murphy and Carberry exchanged positions on the wings and when the former broke clear from inside his own half he split the Tullamore defence with a long, crossfield pass to Carberry which the latter made little use of. Bohemians were still shaping as the more likely side to open the scoring and they almost did so in the 21st minute when Frawley outjumped Martin Lowery to head a great pass from Flanagan inches over. Tullamore, keeping the ball very close in attack, were making no headway beyond their own half of the field but coming up to the half hour mark they improved considerably so that Goode

was afforded the opportunity of proving his ability. This he did in fine style by saving a rasper from Connolly after the latter had been put through by Byrne and a low shot from Lynch met with a similar fate. However, the keepers best save of the day came in the 30th minute when he cut off a curling centre from Geraghty just as Connolly and Brady moved in for the kill.

THE ONLY GOAL

The all important goal came four minutes later and although it was scored from the spot there was no denying the merit of the score. It stemmed from a long centre from Geraghty which Brady fastened on to and as the winger cut in from the right he beat Goode with perfectly placed shot which was headed for the net until left half Holohan took the only course open to him by fisting it over the bar, however he was merely delaying the inevitable as Lynch made no mistake from the spot. Once in the lead Tullamore proceeded to play with greater confidence and they lost a great chance of going further ahead in the 38th minute when Geraghty sent clean through by Whiteley, shot against the upright from point blank range and then failed to recover his balance in time to cope with the rebound. One minute later Bohs. should have been back on terms when Murphy knifed his way through from the left but with the goal at his mercy he elected to switch the ball to Frawley who was correctly whistled back for offside.

Half-time: Bohemians, 0; Tullamore, 1.

Bohemians reverted to their original formation for the second half and after a rasper from Brady had been turned over the bar by Goode in the second minute the home side piled on the pressure. Four corners in the opening ten minutes after the interval kept Tullamore defence at full stretch and during this spell the visitors owed much to the defensive play of Tom Whiteley, Byrne and Martin Lowery. Lack of finish was costing the home side dearly and this failing was never more evident than in the 10th minute when Carberry blazed widely into the empty terrace at the tramway end with all the time in the world to pick his spot with Tullamore being pressed back into their own penalty area the home defence moved upfield in support of their forwards and one of the best shots of the game came from left full Kelly a real piledriver, which Boland excelled in tipping over for a corner. The outfield play continued to be scrappy and midway through this half the long awaited switch between Brady and Hogan at last materialised. Still it was Bohs. who were in command and it took another flying save by Boland to keep out a drive from Murtagh. Referee Billy O'Neill called for the lights in the 27th minute but it was another four minutes before they were switched on. By which time visibility had become really poor. Hogan broke clear on his own and his ground shot looked a good one until Goode dropped on it to save on the line and then with twelve minutes left for play, Frawley switched to the right wing with Murphy moving into the centre. A free against Boland for over running the penalty area

brought no reward for the home side who by now had become depressed at their lack of success. Although they continued to dominate the territorial exchanges it was Tullamore who looked more dangerous in spasmodic breakways and in one of these Brady sent Whiteley through the middle for a shot, which had spectators applauding a goal until it was realised that the ball had shaved the wrong side of the post. Although the play still lacked character the excitement was mounting as the end neared and when a shot from right half Stellard was deflected on its flight towards the Tullamore net, Boland had to change direction in midair to keep it out. Then, almost on the call of time, Tullamore missed another opportunity of stretching their lead when Whiteley sent Brady through on his own and the centre forward shot against the advancing Goode but Bohs. were back on the attack at the final whistle with a last minute corner by Frawley bobbing about the Tullamore goalmouth before Flanagans final shot sped over the bar to sound the death knell of home hopes. Friday the 13th had proved unlucky for Bohemians.

Result: Bohemians, 0; Tullamore, 1.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Brady, L. Connolly, S. Hogan, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Bohemians: T. Goode, M. Brodrick, T. Kelly, H. Stellard, M. McAuley, L. Holohan, N. Murphy, C. Flanagan, G. Frawley, T. Murtagh, L. Carberry.

Referee: Mr. W.A. O'Neill [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Although the destination of the trophy awarded in connection with this feature has been long since decided the inscription plaque was presented to Eamonn Byrne in the Dalymount Park dressing room after Friday nights game. The final chapter must be written now. It is fitting that the outright winner should head the ratings for the final week and certainly Eamonn Byrnes display on friday night merits top rating. Oddly enough it is Tom Whiteley who, over the full season was the closest challenger for the honour, must take second place also in the weekly rating

for his was a performance of real value last week significantly defenders dominate this final rating session and for third place I am taking Liam Boland whose goal keeping was superb throughout a busy night. With these points added then the final position in our exclusive merit chart reads as follows:

E.Byrne [37] Tommy Whiteley [27]
Teddy Whiteley [21] Martin Lowery [19]
John Lowery [19] Noel Lynch [18] Liam Connolly [15] Tommy Geraghty [11] Jim Brady [10] Liam Boland [9] Paddy Duffy [7] J. Murray [7] Sean Hogan [4] J. Martin [4] Christy Hughes [3] Jimmy Dunne [3] John Minnock [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

May 28th 1966

Tullamore Deprived Of Honours

Days, and even weeks of speculation regarding the final outcome of the League of Ireland B Championship were cut short at Milltown on Monday night of last week when Shamrock Rovers, playing their last league match of the season, came from behind to force a draw with Dalkey United. The point thus gained brought Rovers level on points with Tullamore and by reason of their superior goal average earns for them their runners up medals and honours. Dalkey went very close to doing a good turn for Tullamore. Showing much more zest than was the case in their game against Rovers at Hyde Park a week earlier they made all the running, and were in front until twelve minutes from the end. Earlier they had made a dream start when their centre forward Dermot Browne, shot them into the lead in the opening minutes. With so much at stake Rovers were not slow to react and inside left Damian Richardson put them back on level terms in the 12th minute. Left winger Hyland put the Hoops in front for the first time four minutes after the interval, but Dalkey continued to display commendable spirit and they were back on terms again following a great shot from Montgomery and when Browne

gave them the lead midway through the second half there were distinct possibilities of a shock result which would have favoured Tullamore. However, it was not to be and with just twelve minutes to go Richardson broke clear to float across a perfect centre which Mick Mitchell headed home. From an on the spot observer I have learned that Rovers had luck on their side in snatching this vital point. Notwithstanding the fact that they twice hit the woodwork in the second half the Hoops were flattered by the result, as two of their goals were simple affairs.

LITTLE CONSOLATION

However, this knowledge will be of little consolation to Tullamore who have been deprived of runners up medals in their first season by the ridiculous margin of .227 of a goal. How much more satisfactory it would have been had a play off been arranged between Tullamore and Rovers to decide the issue. During the course of the season the sides met twice and, oddly enough both won on the grounds of their opponents. On the last Sunday in January Tullamore shocked the football world by winning 2-1 at Milltown whilst

the Hoops exacted a heavy measure of revenge when they triumphed by a decisive 5-0 margin in the final game of the season at Spollenstown. Tullamores performance in that game was far removed from being their true form and nothing would have pleased them better than to be afforded an opportunity of proving it. Even after I wrote in this column a couple of weeks ago that goal average would determine the runners up in the event of two or more teams finishing level on points a certain amount of doubt persisted and it was not until last week end that the position was finally clarified.

DISAPPOINTMENT

The immediate reaction in the Tullamore area is, naturally one of disappointment. Yet one can sense the pride of local followers in the achievements of the town team this season. It is, of course most frustrating to be denied runners up reward by such a carcical margin as .227 of a goal. Tullamore may have been denied the medals, but nobody can strip them of the honour. The fact that the provincials fared so successfully in their first season in senior ranks as tended to cultivate the idea that outright success will come their way almost automatically next season, but this could prove to be a great fallacy. Even with the added experience behind them Tullamore cannot be assured of any thing like the same results when a new season comes around in August. Indeed it may be a long, long time before Tullamore again figure so prominently in the race for league honours.

FACTS AND FIGURES

It is usual for us, at the termination of the official playing season, to analyse the figures of the preceding nine months. This can be both interesting and informative and I know that there are many keen followers of the game who look forward to this statistical break down.

Throughout the course of the season Tullamore played a total of 36 matches, in addition to which they received a walk over from Dundalk in the league. These games can be divided into three categories as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
League of Ireland	22	14	1	7	55	48	29
Castrol Trophy	11	4	0	7	27	35	8
Cups	4	2	0	2	9	7	0

As examination of these figures reveals th significant fact that the number of goals scored throught the entire season [91] is allmost identical with the number conceded [90]. Only one Tullamore player figured in all 36 matches played. This was Noel Lynch. Other players with high attendance figures for the season were Tom Geraghty [35] Martin Lowery [34] Teddy Whiteley [34] Liam Connolly [32] Tom Whiteley [32] Eamonn Byrne [32] John Lowery [30] Sean Hogan [27]. In all a total of 29 players was utilised, a figure which will come as a surprise to many.

Top scorer for the season, was Teddy Whiteley with a total of 20 goals to his credit, and he was followed by Jim Brady [16] T. Geraghty [15].

The scoring figures reads as follows:
Teddy Whiteley [20] J. Brady [16] T. Geraghty [15] S. Hogan [11] N. Lynch [9] L. Connolly [7] E. Byrne [3] J. Lowery [2] M. Lowery [2] C. Hughes [2]

J. Murray [2] P. Malone [1] T. Geraghty [1]

Total: 91

Incidentally Tullamores scoring figures were well down compared to the previous season when they scored a total of 151 in 37 matches and Jim Brady set up a new club record with a personal contribution of 45 goals.

Season 1966/1967

August 28th 1966

Athlone Confirm Superiority

Tullamore failed to exact any sort of revenge for their week old cup defeat when they travelled to St. Mels Park, Athlone, on Sunday last for the opening tie in the Castrol Trophy. Indeed it was Athlone who confirmed their superiority in no uncertain manner by finishing with a decisive winning margin or 4-1 in a game which attracted a surprisingly small attendance for a local derby match. Tullamore brought a bus load of supporters with them for the occasion but home support was meagre. Yet those followers who turned up in preference to staying indoors to watch the big game on television were amply rewarded by a fighting display from the blues, who survived a first half buffeting before getting right on top after the interval. The standard of football all through was unbelievably scrappy and both sides have plenty of room for improvement if any worth while challenge for the seasons honours is to emerge from the Midlands.

SPOT-KICK REPORTS FROM ATHLONE

Tullamore showed three changes compared with the previous week, and with Martin Lowery and Eamonn Byrne back in the half back line, and new signing Mick Colleran also included, they

appeared, on paper at any rate, to be much better equipped all round. Their only departure from a full strength side was Tom Whiteley who missed the game because of holidays so that a 4-1 trimming under the circumstances really leaves their selectors with an outsize in headaches. On the other hand Athlone can face the future with reasonable confidence. Although they still have a couple of problems to solve, their team, which showed only one change, Frank McManus filling in for the injured Creene at left full, showed signs of knitting together nicely, they certainly succeeded in mastering the trick conditions much better than their visitors and the indications are that St. Mels Park will again prove to be an unhappy venue for visiting sides during the coming season. The home defence proved unyielding throughout the ninety minutes with Willie Bradley a commanding figure at centre half and Jimmy Dunne as safe as a bank between the posts. These were the central figures in a defence which gained in confidence as the game progressed and with Robby Byrne and Frank McManus blending into the scheme of things the shackles were on a Tullamore attack which promised a great deal but achieved absolutely

nothing. Johnny Joyce proved the stronger of the home wing halves, whilst in an attack which wasted at least as many chances as they availed of, the burly Jimmy Burnside emerged as a dashing leader who caused havoc in the Tullamore defence. Charlie Scanlon and Jim Sweeney both proved more penetrative in the inside forward berths than had been the case the previous week, the latter in particular proving an able marksman by getting his name on two of his sides goals. Joe Beaumont also had his moments, but left winger Johnny McMoreland missed a couple of scoring chances which if accepted, could have turned the Tullamore defeat in to a rout. Tullamore never looked like clicking as a team on Sunday and glaring weaknesses were exposed both in defence and attack. Their troubles really started in goal where Liam Boland had anything but a successful outing. Of course it is never easy for a keeper to impress behind a vulnerable defence and on Sunday Boland was operating behind a screen of shreds and tatters. Martin Lowery made an unhappy return to the side at centre half, for he was always struggling to subdue Burnside and the fact that his flankers in the middle line, Eamonn Byrne and Mick Colleran, were obviously unfit only made matters worse. John Lowery was reasonably sound at left full but again newcomer Tony Whiteley, deputising this time at right full for Tom Whiteley, was found to be lacking in pace. Yet even the weaknesses in defence might have gone unpunished had the forwards proved capable of availing of even some of the chances which came their way. Even when due allowance has been

made for the difficulty encountered in attempting to control the ball on a bumpy surface there can be nothing but criticism of the efforts of the visiting attack. In the first half particularly the finishing of the Tullamore forwards was pathetic to watch. Jim Brady was completely out of touch in the centre and the experiment of including N. Lynch in attack proved a failure. Liam Connolly marred an otherwise sound performance by inaccuracy of passing, whilst the fly in the ointment as far as Teddy Whiteley was concerned was his inability to finish accurately. On the left flank Tommie Geraghty had as good a first half as any of his colleagues but like the rest of them he faded badly after the break. Not a great game, then, and certainly one in which the goals scored all five of them were very much sub standard.

POINTS FROM PLAY

It took Athlone a remarkably short time to settle down and only two minutes elapsed when Burnside showed a clean pair of heels to Martin Lowery and Tony Whiteley came across fast to save the situation for the visitors. Then Burnside laid on a great ball for Scanlon which the latter flashed across the face of the goal with the visiting defence in a dither of uncertainty. Playing fast crafty football the home forwards looked very dangerous in these opening minutes, but the first corner of the game came at the other end when Lynch forced McManus to kick behind. Whiteley's flag-kick was missed by Jimmy Dunne as Lynch rose to head narrowly over the bar in the 7th minute. Two minutes later Geraghty topped his shot from a good

position before the Shannon-siders came thundering back into the attack with Beaumont getting through for a weak shot at Boland. Athlone forced their opening corner in the 13th minute, Beaumont's centre being headed inches over by Scanlon and another near miss followed within a minute when a fast break by Burnside carved an opening for Beaumont, who scooped the ball over the target from close range.

CHANCES MISSED

Once they settled down the Tullamore forwards worked several fine openings but outfield promise was never fulfilled in front of goal. A sharp trust by Brady forced a corner which was duly cleared at the expense of another, but the seige ended with a free out being awarded against Lynch. By now it was becoming increasingly obvious that the first goal would have a vital bearing upon the outcome, but the visiting forwards could find no way past Bradley and long range shooting was providing no serious trouble for Jimmy Dunne. A Geraghty shot from just outside the box might have done the trick had it been six inches lower and the left winger was to the fore again in Tullamores next attack with a centre across the face of the goal which Brady contrived to head over from almost under the bar. Mick Colleran, having a quiet debut against his former colleagues popped up to display the force of his shooting with an effort which was well off target and then, in the 36th minute came the break for Athlone. This goal was the outcome of a comedy of errors, which started with a miskick by Martin Lowery, but the

danger seemed to have been averted when Tony Whiteley got across to dispossess Sweeney. However, the full back attempted to shepherd the ball back to his keeper and with Boland slow to come out, Burnside nipped in to plant the ball in the corner of the net. This was in the 31st minute and almost immediately Tullamore had an opportunity to repair the damage when Teddy Whiteley skipped past Byrne and Bradley to leave himself with clear path to goal, but shot straight into Dunnes waiting arms. Another minute and the Tullamore defence, found itself in a real tangle so that they were grateful to escape with a corner after Boland had been drawn well clear of his charge. Connolly and Whiteley exchanged places with out bringing about much improvement in the visiting attack and with five minutes of the first half remaining Brady missed when he shot wide from point blank range after being played outside by a defender. These repeated misses had by now sapped a lot of the confidence out of Tullamore and their play was becoming even more ragged as the interval neared. A glorious centre from Whiteley was plucked off Geraghtys head by Dunne and then, with only seconds of the half remaining, Tullamore snatched a shock equaliser. Lynch started the movement with free which was added to by Colleran and as the home defence converged on Brady the ball ran on for Geraghty to nudge it inside the upright.

Half-time: Athlone, 1; Tullamore, 1.

Tullamore resumed on a lively note with Lynch going through in the first minute

to fire in a blistering ground shot, which Dunne did well to tip around the post. Then Athlone showed that they had no intention of falling away by sweeping down field and when Burnside laid on a neat pass Scanlon went low to head it inches past the far upright. Jimmy Dunne came to the blues rescue in the 58th minute when he dashed out to smother a shot on Bradys feet at the fringe of the area whilst at the other end a free by Joyce was brilliantly held in a crowded goal mouth by Boland. Corners were swapped in some scrappy exchanges before Athlone took the lead again in the 64th minute. Again it was a mistake in defence which cost the goal as Boland seemed to have a corner by McMoreland cut off before he dropped the ball and Sweeney stabbed it into an open goal. Then McMoreland sliced wide after being put clean through by Burnside whilst on the other flank Beaumont missed and equally fine chance following a miskick by John Lowery. Athlone added their third goal in the 74th minute and again the visiting defence was shown up in poor light as Burnside slashed the ball home with defenders all around him seemingly rooted to the ground. Teddy Whiteley now took over as leader of the visiting attack with Brady going to the right wing, but after Burnside had burst through again to shave the post, further switches saw John Lowery being moved up to lead the attack with Liam Connolly dropping back and Whiteley going to inside left. These moves were born of desperation and Tullamores plight became even worse ten minutes from the end when a weak goal kick by Tony Whiteley led to a heavy attack on the

Tullamore goal, which culminated in Sweeney forcing the ball over the line despite the efforts of a defender to fist it out. Athlone were now the complete masters and in no danger of being overtaken by their opponents who had been run off their feet and Sweeney might well have completed the nap hand in the 83rd minute when he raced through to skim the crossbar with a rising shot. Tullamores final chance of putting a more respectable appearance on the score board came just two minutes from time when Whiteley carried the ball through the middle only to spoil the effort by bad finish and at the whistle it was Athlone who were pressing once again, with a free by Gerry Mitchell being headed behind by Whiteley to leave the final tally of corner kicks 9-8 in favour of Tullamore poor compensation for the state of the score board.

Result: Athlone, 4; Tullamore, 1.

Athlone: J. Dunne, R. Byrne, F. McManus, J. Joyce, W. Bradley, G. Mitchell, J. Beaumont, S. Scanlon, J. Burnside, J. Sweeney, J. McMoreland.

Tullamore: L. Boland, Tony Whiteley, J. Lowery, M. Colleran, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, L. Connolly, N. Lynch, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. J. McMahon [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

If ever an occasion warranted drawing names from a hat this was it. My first impression is that not one

member of the Tullamore team deserves any sort of merit rating, but I suppose some sort of distinction is called for. This being the case, and bearing in mind that it was only in comparison with the utter eclipse of their colleagues that

they looked in any way impressive, I take Tommy Geraghty, Eamonn Byrne and John Lowery as being the least blame worthy in a performance which Tullamore will want to forget in a hurry.

September 3rd 1966

Late Goals Were Of No Avail

Tullamore2

Shamrock Rovers4

Two goals scored by Teddy Whiteley in the last three minutes enabled Tullamore to put a more or less respectable appearance on the score board in their Castrol Trophy fixture against Shamrock Rovers at Spollenstown on Sunday last, but this whirlwind finish did not go far towards compensating spectators for the barren 85 minutes which had preceded it.

The home goals came too late to have any real bearing upon the result, for at the time Rovers were cruising comfortably towards victory, having built a 1-0 interval lead into a secure 4-0 advantage with time running out.

The name of Shamrock Rovers is like a magnet to soccer fans and despite the many counter attractions there was a big attendance for a game which proved a big disappointment, it was a game played in a subdued atmosphere through out for spectators were given nothing to shout about in a spiritless encounter which contained only occasional glimpses of fast, attacking

play. Even Rovers failed to sparkle in the first half. Tullamore showed a big improvement in their play compared with the previous week, but they still have a long way to go to recapture last seasons form. Lack of fitness appears to be their biggest hindrance just now, for on Sunday they were yards slower to the ball than their fleet footed opponents. The return of Tom Whiteley injected the defence with much needed confidence and with Liam Boland coming back to something like his true self in goal the visitors were obliged to work hard for their scores. Martin Lowery was impressive in the first half when his perfect positioning left him the master of the area in front of goal. Wing halves Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne both worked tremendously hard in an effort to curb the visitors attack. The home attack was not balanced and on this showing it must be conceded that John Minnock is not yet ready to take his place in senior football. Liam Connollys passing was off the mark and with Tommie Geraghty more or less out of the picture on the left wing it was left to Teddy Whiteley and newcomer Mick Colleran to provide the main threat to Rovers. The signs, then, are that Tullamore are gradually coming back to

their true form although there is ample room for considerable improvement still. Rovers fielded the bulk of the side, which swept them to runners up honours in the league last season.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Tullamore started well by winning the toss, but although they elected to play with the aid of the wind their defence was soon under pressure, with Stewart forcing a corner off John Lowery after only two minutes play. There was no sign of urgency in the play of either side in the early exchanges, although Boland had to be alert to deal with a shot from Richardson in the 5th minute whilst in Tullamores first real attack Whiteley turned the ball back beautifully from the end line and squared it across the goal with nobody up in support as Cummins came out to gather. Then in the 7th minute Noel Lynch put a great ball through to Colleran and the centre forward provided a sample of his shooting power with an effort, which whistled past the post. Both sides were revealing weaknesses in front of goal surprising in the case of Rovers but Tullamore were out of luck in the 15th minute when Geraghty forced a corner on the left following a great ball from Connolly which ripped the visiting defence to shreds. Whiteley placed his flag kick perfectly just ahead of Colleran and latter's effort was kicked off the line by Clarke with Cummins well beaten. A goal at this stage would have been invaluable for Tullamore and it was through no fault of Colleran that they failed to open their account. Indeed the centre forward had the ball in Rovers

net in the 18th minute following brilliant combination between Whiteley and Geraghty, but the whistle had sounded for an offside infringement, which nullified the effort. With Martin Lowery covering the area in front of goal the visiting forwards were getting now where with their square passing whilst at the other end the home attack were striving hard for the opening goal which might have provided the key to victory. Winstanley was satisfied to concede a corner to get away a shot from Geraghty and then Cummins saved his side again when he dived out to cut off a low centre from Geraghty in the 32nd minute.

ROVERS OPENING SCORE

With nothing to show for their efforts after more than half an hour Rovers were beginning to grow anxious and the result was a quickening in the pace of their game. Following a free by Clarke at the side of the Tullamore area Canavan had a snappy header held under the bar by Boland, but the home defence was steeped in luck in the 34th minute when, following a short pass back to Boland, Canavan nipped in to smack the ball off the foot of the post from where it rebounded to Lawlor whose shot was deflected around the post by Martin Lowery for a corner which proved abortive. However one minute later Rovers surged into the lead with a goal, which was the essence of simplicity. Core paved the way for it by lobbing the ball forward to where Canavan stood unmarked just inside the penalty area and the centre forwards well placed shot was planted well out of

Bolands reach. Now it was up to Tullamore to come from behind but their attack had proved so shot shy that their prospects of doing so looked remote and their position almost became worse just before the interval when Richardson had the ball in the net only to be whistled back for offside.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Shamrock Rovers, 1.

Facing the wind now Tullamores task became twice as difficult, but they made a spirited start after the resumption with Connolly cutting through for a shot, which however, posed no problems for Cummins. Much more dangerous was a great shot from Lawlor at the other end which Boland excelled in tipping over the bar, by and large Tullamore were having slightly more of the play at this stage. Connolly blazed over following a free by Byrne and then, in the 54th minute, only plucky dive at Collerans feet by Cummins deprived the homesters of a deserved equaliser. Two goals in as many minutes suddenly knocked Tullamore right out of the picture. The first of them came in the 60th minute when Loughheed, who was coming more and more into the game as a dangerous winger, got across a perfect centre which Richardson had merely to nod past Boland. These quick goals deprived the remainder of the game of real interest, but at least they served also to inject the visitors with real confidence so that the quality of their foot ball improved and home fans were treated to some brilliant passages of inter passing. Left winger Loughheed had by now blossomed out as the main threat to the home defence and another

great run by him ended with low shot into the side rigging.

TULLAMORE RALLY

Showing more spirit than in either of their previous games this season Tullamore hit back and a long range shot from Colleran dipped dangerously before being fisted over the bar by Cummins and then followed two corners in quick succession to Tullamore as they battled valiantly to gain a grip. Another wonder save by Cummins from Whiteley foiled them in the 79th minute, but any chance they might have had of making a fight of it in the closing stages evaporated when with five minutes remaining Loughheed and Lawlor combined beautifully on the left, with the winger getting across a great centre which Stewart threw himself at to increase the visitors lead with flying header. Four goals down with less than five minutes remaining left Tullamore in a hopeless position, but to their credit they kept plugging away and were rewarded in the 87th minute when Teddy Whiteley, from just inside the area, fired in a shot which scraped the under side of the bar on its way to the net. No sooner had home fans ceased cheering this goal than they were given more to crow about and again it was Whiteley who was on hand to tap the ball in after Cummins had parried a rasper from Lynch, a blazing finish by Tullamore which held out hopes of better things to come in the not too distant future.

Result: Tullamore, 2; Shamrock Rovers, 4.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, L. Connolly, M. Colleran, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Shamrock Rovers: J. Cummins, J. Gregg, J. Clarke, C. Kennedy, N. Winstanley, S. Core, L. Stewart, D. Richardson, C. Canavan, M. Lawlor, C. Loughheed.

Referee: The failure of an official referee to put in an appearance delayed the start of Sundays match by more than fifteen minutes and resulted in John McKenna being shouldered with an invidious task. No matter what happened the secretary was sure to be criticised by one side or the other, but to impartial observers it must have been obvious that he controlled the game without fear or favour to any of the parties involved.

MERIT RATING

That three minutes spell just before the finish lifted Teddy Whiteley into top position in the merit ratings. His display all through the game had assured him of a place in the top three, but his brace of goals sent him rocketing to the top. Newcomer Mick Colleran did sufficient in his first appearance in the Tullamore colours at Spollenstown to earn second place and the remaining spot goes to Tom Whiteley who kept a dangerous opponent well subdued for more than two thirds of the game. And so, after only three matches, we already have eight players figuring in the honours list in the following order:

J. Lowery [3] T. Geraghty [3] L. Connolly [3] E. Whiteley [3] E. Byrne [2] M. Colleran [2] L. Boland [1] T. Whiteley [1]

September 10th 1966

Tullamore Take First Point

Tullamore0 Home Farm0

The gradual improvement shown by Tullamore in their three previous games was carried further on Sunday last at Spollenstown, when they held mighty Home Farm in a scoreless draw to collect their first point in the Castrol Trophy.

Even though they were favoured by home advantage this was a fine performance by Tullamore the more so as they were obliged to field without their sterling wing half, Eamonn Byrne, who was not available on Sunday. Home Farm may have enjoyed a greater share of the play, but their forwards were well and truly held in check by a

SPOT-KICK REPORTS FROM SPOLLENSTOWN

home defence and even when the outer shell was pierced Paddy Duffy, making a return to the Tullamore goal to deputise for the injured Liam Boland showed that he had lost none of his acrobatic ability. It was Duffy who stood between Home Farm and a comfortable victory for he was the busiest man on the field in the second half when his timely advances and safe handling time after time thwarted the visiting forwards. Home Farm had their wings clipped by the performance of both Tony Whiteley and John Lowery, both of whom kept the Dublin wingers well subdued, but it was

Tullamores strength at half back which contributed to the side gaining their first point. Martin Lowery, took much of the sting from the visiting attack, whilst Noel Lynch had one of his very best games, covering a vast amount of ground and moving from defence to attack as the occasion demanded, the result was that he was twice in position to clear off his own goal line whilst at the other end he almost won the game for Tullamore with a late effort which carried him through the opposing defence. There is no point in saying that Eamonn Byrne was not missed in the other wing half berth. He was, but not to the extent that might have been expected thanks to the fine play of Liam Connolly who dropped back to fill the left half position with distinction. Overall, then, the home defence could be said to have passed a stern test with flying colours. But what of the attack, although failing to score they stepped up a good deal on earlier performances and against a less competent defence their reward would surely have been a lot greater. As it was they tried hard,

and what more can anybody expect. As leader of the line, Sean Hogan found himself pitted against an outstanding member of the Dublin side in Liam Kennedy. One of the most pleasing aspect about the play or the home attack was the manner in which right winger Tom McCarty worked well back sometimes as far as his own penalty area to help out in defence when needed. In addition he showed a fine burst of speed and the ability to control the ball when in possession but the number of times he picked himself off the ground suggests that the studs of his boots need immediate attention. Mick Colleran provided the punch in the home attack and Teddy Whiteley had a couple of fine efforts to his credit whilst on the wing Tommy Geraghty had the ability to worry the visiting defence.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Winning the toss did not really afford Home Farm much advantage, for neither side could benefit from a stiff breeze, which blew directly across the pitch towards the railway side. Home Farm looked the more composed side in the early stages and in the 5th minute Martin Lowery was obliged to concede a corner under pressure from Daly. Within two minutes the home attack had an opportunity of showing their paces and a good through ball from Colleran resulted in McCarthy forcing a corner off Dowling, which Whiteley sent behind. This was a lively enough beginning but gradually the standard of play deteriorated with neither side capable of judging the strength of the wind. Tullamores favourite gambit in attack

was the long ball from Colleran out towards the left wing to Geraghty who came closest to giving the home side the lead until Boyle saved at the upright. At the other end Duffy handled a shot from Howlett with almost contemptuous ease whilst six minutes later Boyle, had to advance smartly to save and clear from Whiteley.

HEAVY RAIN

A down pour just before the interval further increased the difficulties for the players and served to underline once again just how necessary some sort of covered press accommodation is if matches are to be properly covered in bad weather. My notes for this phase of the game are too sodden to decipher but from memory I can recall the Farm left winger, Paul Shiels, setting up one glorious opening by cutting inside Tom Whiteley and drawing Duffy from goal, but as the ball dropped loose at his feet George Daly blazed it wildly over the empty goal. Then there was the time that Hogan was sent through by I think Noel Lynch and it looked like the lead for Tullamore until Hogan hesitated and the chance was gone. With the rain clearing off again Home Farm made strenuous efforts to snatch the lead before the interval, but their close passing proved their downfall as Duffy, the two Lowerys and Tom Whiteley repeatedly broke up raids before they could be properly developed. Tullamore took up the running as the interval neared and the Home Farm defence was fully extended to cope with a free by Teddy Whiteley and a shot from McCarthy following a pass from Hogan.

Just on the call of time a dangerous free by Dowling dipped into the home goal mouth, but Martin Lowery came to the rescue again.

Half-time: Tullamore, nil; Home Farm, nil.

Home Farm resumed on the offensive and within a minute Howlett got across a fine centre but could only push out for Liam Connolly to complete the clearance, but it was not long before Tullamore were back in full flight, with McCarthy forcing a corner on the right. Two long range efforts from Colleran were well off target and it was not until the 62nd minute that the game suddenly sprang to life with a piledriver from Daly being brilliantly parried by Duffy and Lynch dropping back to clear off the line at the expense of a corner. The home defence was not really being tested as Home Farm got right on top and it took another goal ie clearance this time by John Lowery to keep their hungry forwards at bay.

NO BITE

Although well on top territorially Home Farm were no nearer taking the lead and as the game entered the closing quarter it was evident that the visiting attack was becoming over anxious. However, their apprehension was nothing compared to that of their mentors on the side line. Just when it seemed that Tullamore were tiring badly they came surging back as an attacking force and between the 75th and 78th minutes they had two efforts which were only inches away from giving them the lead. The

first of these was a glancing header from Teddy Whiteley following a free by Lynch and the second was almost a carbon copy, the only difference being that this time it was Connolly's head which sent the ball scraping over the bar. Three minutes left and still not a goal in sight. The Farm almost had one with three minutes to go but a wonderful one handed save by Duffy deflected a blistering drive from Dixon over the bar. Still, it was Tullamore who put in the best finish with a centre from Whiteley being taken off Hogan's head by Boyle and the keeper saving on the line from Colleran, Home Farm's first check of the season and Tullamore's most promising performance to day. Even the absence of goals could not entirely deflate home fans who left Spollenstown with bright visions of Tullamore soon recapturing their match winning form of last season.

Result: Tullamore, 0; Home Farm, 0.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, L. Connolly, T. McCarthy, M. Colleran, S. Hogan, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Home Farm: P. Boyle, J. Keeley, P. Dowling, B. Dixon, L. Kennedy, T. Barry, B. Howlett, G. Daly, P. Shiels.

MERIT RATING

Three more names are added to our rating list this week when defenders come into their own. With the Tullamore half back line proving the sheet anchor. It is not surprising to find two of our three selected players hailing

from this sector but for the man of the match I take goalkeeper Paddy Duffy who had a really outstanding game on his return to the side. This leaves the minor berths to be filled and for these I nominate Martin Lowery and Noel Lynch to leave the overall position reading as follows:

L. Connolly [3] J. Lowery [3] T. Geraghty [3] Ted Whiteley [3] P. Duffy [3] M. Lowery [2] E. Byrne [2] M. Colleran [2] L. Boland [1] Tom Whiteley [1] N. Lynch [1]

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore make their first visit of the season to Dublin next week end to play Shelbourne in what will probably be a Saturday game. Tullamore won two of their three clashes against Shels. last season but they crashed by 4-0 at Irishtown. With signs of a return to top form now evident it may be that the Midlanders will record their first win of the season, but win, lose or draw you can look forward to an eye witness account of the game in next weeks issue.

September 17th 1966

Shadow Team Outclassed By Shelbourne

Shelbourne4 Tullamore0

When Tullamore took the plunge into senior ranks last season one of the biggest problems confronting them was the fact that they would be required to play some of their away fixtures on a Saturday.

Just how unsuitable a Saturday game can be for a provincial club was brought home forceable at Irishtown last week, when Tullamore, paying their first visit of the season to Dublin were obliged to line out with a skeleton team.

John Lowery, Paddy Duffy and Tom Whiteley were all working; Liam Boland and Tommie Geraghty were injured. Mick Colleran was injured.

Added together these defections left Tullamore in a hopeless position for a game against the unbeaten joint leaders of the Castrol Trophy so that a 4-0 defeat was no worse than might have been expected under the circumstances. Indeed, against a home side which never relaxed their efforts, the margin of defeat was highly satisfactory and paid tribute to the fighting spirit of the depleted visitors. Circumstances ordained that Tullamore concentrate heavily upon defence on Saturday, with all the forwards lying very deep and thrusting in the occasional breakaway to catch Shels on the wrong foot. These were tactics which worked well enough

up to a point, but the lucky breaks which might have enabled the provincials to snatch an odd goal or two never came. In the second half in particular, the visitors were dreadfully unfortunate not to have scored. On three occasions at least they appeared certain to do so, but their luck was dead out when it came to applying the final touch. A goal at this stage mighty not have made any difference to the outcome for Shelbourne had the points in safe keeping at the interval, at which stage they lead 3-0 after having played against a stiff breeze, but a goal or two would have repaid the courage and determination which characterised the play of Tullamore all through. Anything other than a resounding home victory on Saturday would have been out of the question and when all is said and done a 4-0 defeat was not so bad under the

circumstances. Incidentally, this was the same score by which Shelbourne defeated Tullamore on the same ground last season in the league.

PERSONALITY PARS

Any criticism of individual performances this week must be tempered by an appreciation of the handicap under which the visitors laboured. The only sector of the Tullamore side which performed with anything like its customary efficiency was the half back line which, significantly, lined out as selected. Had it not been for the combined efforts of Noel Lynch, Martin Lowery and Eamonn Byrne I shudder to think what the outcome might have been, for this trio worked with tremendous gusto in their bid to check the rampant home attack. Admittedly, Lowery reaped the benefit of lenient refereeing, but there was also much to be admired about his positional play and his quick recoveries. Both Lynch and Byrne have for long being recognised as the stalwarts of Tullamore, but it is doubtful if their value was ever emphasised so much as was the case last week when they repeatedly succeeded in halting the progress of the home attack. The experimental partnership of Tony Whiteley and Sean Hogan fared reasonably well against really good home wingers, but one could not help but feel particular sympathy for goal keeper Jimmy Dolan with some brilliant performances to his credit in the town league young Folan has been on the fringe of greater honours for the past year or two. Unfortunately, for him his big chance always comes when the

defence in front of him is well below full strength and although he finished last week's game with a couple of smart saves to his credit his general form was well below that which he is capable of. Not that he had much chance of saving any of the four goals, all of which were scored from relatively close range. The Tullamore attack was far too disjointed to be effective against a Shelbourne defence which tackled crisply and left few loopholes in front of goal. Of necessity the visitors had to depend to a large extent on the individual burst, with Teddy Whiteley and Liam Connolly providing the only touch of experience up front. Whiteley never ceased trying and it was he who brought the best out of home goalie Leo Byrne with a couple of second half efforts which merited reward. Of the new comers on view I was impressed most by Michael Connolly on the right wing. Here was a player who was not afraid to cut inside and have a go, whilst his centres were delivered with considerable accuracy. Moreover in company with his colleagues, he was always ready to drop back and help out in defence. Under normal circumstances, and with more experience around to guide and help him, he might have been a big success. As it was he was by no means a failure. Unfortunately, the other newcomer on duty, Anthony Owens had an off day, but any player who will travel to Dublin at less than a minutes notice to help out the club in an emergency is worthy of an encomium and sets an example which others could, with profit, emulate. Shelbourne played some very attractive football, but then they could afford to indulge in fancy passing movements

against this type of opposition.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Although Shelbourne won the toss they elected to give Tullamore the benefit of a strong end- to- end breeze on their very exposed iristown pitch.

Shelbourne should have taken the lead in the 4th minute when Garvan set up a wonderful chance for centre forward Hand, but the latter missed from point blank range in front of goal and Dolan raced out to fly kick the ball to safety. Two minutes later O'Connor forced the first corner of the game off Lowery and when Eddie Butlers flag kick came dipping into the goalmouth Hand nudged it into the net with his elbow, only to be detected in the act by the referee who immediately awarded a free out instead of a goal. However, this was merely delaying the inevitable and in the 8th minute Shels opened their account when Maguire came through again and his centre was headed in beautifully by Hand. That Tullamore were not prepared to become a chopping block for the reds was amply demonstrated within three minutes when M. Connolly made ground on the right wing before getting across a good centre which was missed in turn by both L. Connolly and Whiteley, and another possible chance went begging in the 13th minute when Byrne put in a dazzling solo run which carried him through the home defence for a shot, which skimmed over the bar. Next Whiteley worked a corner which was taken by M. Connolly and from his centre Liam Connolly flicked in a header which was taken off the line by right full John Byrne so that all in all Shelbourne

were not having matters quite as easy as they expected. Nevertheless it was the home side which was playing the football, and the corners in their favour mounted steadily as Tullamore were forced more and more on to the defensive. Good work by Tony Whiteley and Martin Lowery, allied to some very indifferent finishing by the reds inside forwards, Gerry Garvan, own hand and Jim O'Connor, prevented the score from mounting until the 26th minute when O'Connor raced clean through the defence to score with a shot from close range which gave Dolan no chance.

POSITIONAL SWITCHES

At this stage John Minnock, who had been very much out of the picture on the left wing, changed places with Owens and in Tullamores next attack M. Connolly got across a dangerous centre which was cut off in the nick of time by goal keeper Byrne, but it was Shels who almost increased their lead in the 28th minute when O'Connor fired in a shot which Dolan could only parry and the ball ran loose to Hand whose return shot was cleared off the line by Tony Whiteley. In the 36th minute Dolan appeared to have a low shot from Hand well covered, but the ball glanced off his hands to curl behind him and into the corner of the net. Two minutes later left winger, Butler had the ball in the Tullamore net again, but this time he was in an offside position and the score was disallowed. Tullamore staged a half hearted rally as the interval neared and, following a free by Lynch, Teddy Whiteley back heeled the ball cleverly to M. Connolly who shot wide on the run.

Half-time: Shelbourne, 3; Tullamore, 0.

Three goals down with the prospects of facing a wind which had if anything, increased in force, left Tullamore in an unenviable position as they resumed with Hogan leading the attack. Owens dropping back to left full and Whiteley and Minnock forming the left wing pairing. Hopes that Shelbourne might be content to take things a little easier in the second half were quickly shattered. With repeated reminders from the sideline that Tullamore had scored six against them last season at Spollenstown they were obviously intent on rubbing it in and the siege was on right from the resumption. Within a minute they had forced a corner on the left and although Butlers centre was scrambled away, the home side were back stretching their lead in the 50th minute when Paddy Smith squared the ball back from the end line for Gerry Garvan to head past Dolan. In the home sides next attack Dolan was fortunate to scramble a low shot from Smith around the post, but subsequently the keeper saved brilliantly from Garvan following a Butler corner. Tullamore were a well beaten side at this stage but with any sort of normal luck they might have sneaked a goal or two in the closing quarter. Connolly had a shot well saved following a free by Byrne whilst the crowning blow of all came in the 79th minute when a centre from M. Connolly was flicked on by Minnocks head and how goalkeeper Byrne changed direction in midair to tip the ball over the bar I will never know. Shels launched their final

all out attack in the 80th minute when Hand crashed the ball off the centre of the crossbar and over, but further proof that this simply was not Tullamores lucky day was furnished three minutes later when. With Byrne out of his goal the ball crossed and recrossed the goalmouth at least four times with always a knee, a leg or some other part of a red clad anatomy popping up to prevent it from crossing that tantalizing white line.

Result: Shelbourne, 4; Tullamore, 0.

Shelbourne: L. Byrne, J. Burne, M. Gannon, C. Maguire, B. Place, P. Kellaghan, P. Smith, G. Garvan, O. Hand, J. O'Connor, E. Butler.

Tullamore: J. Dolan, Tony Whiteley, S. Hogan, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Connolly, A. Owens, E. Whiteley, L. Connolly, J. Minnock.

Referee: Mr. L. McConkey [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

I recall reading somewhere or other that defeat should never be regarded as a source of discouragement, but rather as a fresh stimulus. This being the case Tullamore are being afforded plenty of stimulus this season. Whether or not they will benefit remains to be seen. Certainly they showed up well in the face of adversity last Saturday and if the same spirit can be imparted under normal circumstances the future cannot be too bleak at all. I can think of no better distribution of merit points this week than to take this half back line en

bloc. The only problem is to know which order to place them in, but I think that if we read from left to right and take Eamonn Byrne, Martin Lowery and Noel Lynch we will not be too far wrong. With these points added, then, the overall position after five matches now

reads as follows:

Eamonn Byrne [5] Martin Lowery [4]
Liam Connolly [3] John Lowery [3]
Tommie Geraghty [3] Teddy Whiteley
[3] Paddy Duffy [3] Mick Colleran [2] N.
Lynch [2] Liam Boland [1] Tom Whiteley
[1]

September 26th 1966

First Win For Tullamore

Tullamore4 Drogheda0

It was like old times at Spollenstown on Sunday last after Tullamore had chalked up their first win of the season by defeating Drogheda by a 4-0 margin which did no more than reflect the superiority of the home side.

Playing with a great deal more drive and spirit than had been the case in their earlier outings, Tullamore delighted their followers by scoring twice in each half against a side which started at a cracking pace, but then failed to maintain it.

It would, I suppose be easy to over estimate Tullamores ability immediately after their initial triumph, but there could be no mistaking the marked improvement, which characterised their performance against Drogheda, winners of their last three games on the trot. The occasional misdirected pass in attack and an odd breath stopping mistake in defence served as a reminder that there is still room for even greater improvement, but on the whole Tullamores display was as pleasing as it was effective. There were times in the second half when the home defence appeared to be taking matters a little too easily, but this apart, it would be difficult to fault the all round performance of the winners. The biggest improvement was evident in

attack where the experience of playing Martin Lowery on the left wing to the exclusion of Tommie Geraghty proved a big success. Lowery added punch and spirit to the front line and with Mick Connolly fulfilling the promise shown the previous week against Shelbourne on the other flank Tullamore at last, had strength on the extreme wings to take the burden off the inside trio and impart a proper balance to the attack. Connollys home debut was of the dream variety. Showing little or no evidence of nerves he settled down at an early stage and had the satisfaction of paving the way for the two first half goals and, in addition, was only narrowly off the mark with a couple of efforts of his own. A few more displays like this and the position will be his to keep.

PLAYED WELL

On this occasion the home wingers outshone their inside colleagues, although Liam Connolly, Mick Colleran and Teddy Whiteley all played their parts to the full and Collerans tussles with the Drogheda centre half, Byrne,

provided one of the absorbing features of a highly enjoyable encounter with honours about even at the final whistle. Despite the lively showing of the Tullamore forwards it was wing half Noel Lynch who headed the scoring chart by scoring both the second half goals which clinched the game in Tullamores favour one of them from a penalty. Apart altogether from his scoring achievements Lynch emerged as one of the key figures in this winning display for his covering and tackling throughout was superb and the forwards could not but benefit from his distribution of the ball. With Martin Lowery drafted into the attack a replacement had to be found for the centre half berth and the recall of Tony Whiteley filled the bill nicely. His marking of Noel Lawler was also close, his superiority in the air being particularly obvious, and if he can impart a little more drive into his play this experimental placing of the team could become permanent. Without being a really dominating force Eamonn Byrne completed a middle line, which laid the corner stone of victory. With the half backs adopting a strong forcing style of play which aided the attack as much as the defence the hard core of resistance to Drogheda came from full backs John Lowery and Tom Whiteley and goal keeper Paddy Duffy, how well this trio succeeded in their task is reflected in the fact that the visiting forwards were obliged to rely more on long range shooting as the game progressed Whiteley was, perhaps the stronger full back, but in the final reckoning it was Duffys spectacular goal keeping which kept his net intact.

DROGHEDA'S RECORD

There will no doubt, be the inevitable knockers who will attempt to belittle Tullamores performance by questioning the strength of the opposition. However, facts speak for them selves and Drogheda who defeated Dundalk [3-2] Drumcondra [3-2] and Athlone [5-3] in their three previous engagements have a record which pays tribute to their efficiency. On Sunday they set a really cracking pace from the kick off and in the opening minutes they shaped as though they intended sweeping Tullamore off the pitch. Throughout the game they played some splendid football, but their big failing was in finish and time after time brilliantly created openings were squandered by rank bad finish on the part of their forwards. In right half, Brendan Wynne, they had one of the most impressive players on view, whilst outside right Jimmy Kenna, inside left, Barry Flynn, goalkeeper Paddy Clarke and right full Peter Kelly were others to impress on a side which failed to last a pace which they themselves had set at the beginning.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Tullamore came under heavy pressure right from the kick off, with Drogheda missing a good chance of an early lead when Wynne intercepted a pass from M. Lowery to Byrne and broke through for a snap shot which whistled just wide of the upright. Right winger Kenna provided a sample of his pace and power when he stormed in from the wing to bury the ball in the side rigging

and in reply to this opening blitz Tullamores only reply was a tentative long range effort from Liam Connolly which posed no problems for Clarke. Yet the first corner of the game fell to Tullamore in the 4th minute and although Mick Connollys centre was cleared Tullamore were back three minutes later when a splendid combined movement which saw the ball travel right across the forward line from M. Lowery to Colleran to Whiteley and to Mick Connolly ended with the latter shooting narrowly wide. Another of those missed opportunities which Drogheda were to rue before the end of the game, came in the 9th minute when Kenna cut between two defenders to leave himself perfectly positioned to open the scoring, but from inside the six yards area he shot straight at Duffy. Tullamores passing at this stage was as shoddy as in any of their previous outings and with Wynne always prominent the visitors looked like taking control of the exchanges. Their passing was crisp, fast and accurate, but it carried them just so far and no further against a home defence in which Whiteley, Lowery and Byrne were gradually settling down after a shaky start.

THE LEAD

Without being right against the run of the play Tullamores opening goal came as a surprise in the 18th minute. Liam Connolly initiated the movement with a long pass out to his namesake on the right and when the winger got the ball across in front of goal Colleran knocked it down to Martin Lowery, whose shot

hit the inside of the post and rebounded into the net off goalkeeper Clarkes head. Drogheda did not relish the idea of being in arrears and they redoubled their efforts to crack the home defence. Within four minutes they almost succeeded when Kenna gaining possession inside his own area, raced the length of the field before being foiled by Duffy diving at his feet. Play was swinging more regularly from end to end now with Tullamore gaining in confidence all the time. Clarke was forced to dive to keep out a low drive from Liam Connolly and then good work by Mick Connolly resulted in his centre being whipped off Whiteley head by Clarke with the partially cleared ball being kicked behind by Kelly to complete the clearance. After Duffy had saved a nasty situation from developing by knocking a centre from Kenna off McCanns head Tullamore increased their lead in the 27th minute when John Lowery sent his brother, Martin, away on the left and the wingers strong cross field pass was returned into the centre by Mick Connolly for Whiteley to snap up a half chance by cracking the ball past Clarke. This was really carrying the fight to the visitors and, to their credit, they responded well. They swept back into the attack to force a corner on the right and Wynnes flag kick was perfectly placed so that Duffy could do no more than palm it out to Culligan and the latter blasted it hopelessly high over the target. Having fought so hard to gain the initiative Tullamore had no intentions of surrendering it again and they went close to adding to their lead in the 33rd minute when, following a cleverly placed free by Byrne, Martin

Lowery cracked the ball into the side netting from an acute angle. Drogheda finished the first half just as they started it on the offensive. Wynne came through the middle from deep inside his own territory, but again his final shot was much too high and Drogheda's nearest approach to a score so far came just two minutes before the interval when a corner by McCann reached Barry Flynn and the inside lefts blistering drive was tipped over brilliantly by Duffy.

Half-time Score: Tullamore, 2;
Drogheda, 0.

Corners were swapped on the resumption without any harm being done at either end and with the pace slackening a little interest tended to flag. However, the game flared back into life in the 54th minute with the Tullamore goal bearing a charmed life as a corner by McCann was cleared off the goal line three times within the space of thirty seconds and with the home defence inclined to take liberties Drogheda were suddenly back in the picture. However, with Lynch and Byrne controlling the midfield sector the visitors were never allowed too much latitude and it was Tullamore who came nearest to scoring again when in the 62nd minute Mick Connolly provided a glorious centre, which Colleran headed against the woodwork. Colleran was thriving on the openings being made by his wingers and he made Tullamore's third goal in the 66th minute when he snapped up a short corner by Whiteley and swung the ball into the middle where Noel Lynch was poised to head a glorious clinching goal right out of

Clarke's reach. This score sounded the death knell for Drogheda and they shipped another body blow within two minutes when Colleran was fouled inside the area and from the spot kick Noel Lynch sent Clarke the wrong way with a deceptive body swerve as he ran up for the kick. With the points now virtually assured Tullamore could afford to coast through the remainder of the game, although it required an exceptionally fine save by Duffy to tip a fierce free by Wynne over the bar. At the other end Clarke made an equally fine clearance when he deflected a shot from Whiteley around the upright, but by and large the home side was becoming rampant and Clarke was in action again as he dropped to save a low shot from Lowery against the post. Colleran might have completed Tullamore's nap hand in the 83rd minute when he raced past Byrne and drew Clarke from his goal but then failed to control the ball in front of the empty net. Whilst Drogheda's final chance to atone for their many earlier misses came when Kenna raced through to drive wide from point blank range a miss which served to emphasise the one real weakness which had afflicted the visitors all through.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Drogheda, 0.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, Tom Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, Tony Whiteley, E. Byrne, M. Connolly, L. Connolly, M. Colleran, E. Whiteley, M. Lowery.

Drogheda: P. Clarke, P. Kelly, G. McNamee, B. Wynne, T. Byrne, D. Culligan, J. Kenna, C. Clarke, N. Lawler, B. Flynn, K. McCann.

Referee: Sergeant T. Cannon [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Although merit ratings are assessed irrespective of whether Tullamore win, lose or draw it always appears easier to tackle the task after a victory and this being the first such occasion this season an added zest is imparted. Paddy Duffys goalkeeping has had such a steadying influence upon the play of the Tullamore team as a whole that I cannot think of anybody more deserving of top honours this week. Newcomer Mick Connolly too, deserves recognition for a very promising home debut and in by book he fills second place whilst to complete the trio I am taking Noel Lynch, whose tireless play was featured by the scoring of both second half goals. With these points added the overall position now reads as follows:

Paddy Duffy [6] Eamonn Byrne [5]
Martin Lowery [4] John Lowery [3] Liam
Connolly [3] Tommie Geraghty [3]
Teddy Whiteley [3] Noel Lynch [3] Mick
Connolly [2] Mick Collieran [2] Liam

Boland [1] Tony Whiteley [1]

NEXT WEEK

Now that they have at least got on the winning trail Tullamore will be anxious to climb another rung up the league ladder next week end when they travel to meet St. Patricks Athletic at Richmond Park. St.Pats. usually play their home game on a Saturday, but in view of the chastening experience of these fixtures Tullamore have made a special appeal to have the game played on Sunday. St.Patricks were one of the clubs which Tullamore defeated three times last season, finishing the series with scoring aggregate of 12 for and 5 against. In the current season the Athletic have been meeting with mixed fortune, winning two and drawing one of their five games. On Sunday last they lost 2-0 to Athlone in St. Mels park and against a Tullamore side, which is coming bang into form just now they may have another unprofitable outing against provincial opposition next week end.

October 1st 1966

Tullamore Win Away From Home

Continuing their steady climb up the Castrol Trophy league table, Tullamore collected their first brace of away points on Sunday last by defeating St. Patricks Athletic 3-2 in Richmond Park.

Considering that they were forced to line out without both Paddy Duffy and John Lowery this may be regarded as a highly satisfactory result from Tullamores point of view and although the winning trail has been hit a little to late to hold out much hopes of finishing with the leaders in the present competition the progressive improvement shown in recent outings suggests that the provincials will repeat last seasons challenge in both the Intermediate Cup and the 'B' Division of the League of Ireland. Although they finished with only a goal to spare, after St. Patricks had come from 2-0 down to level the scores with six minutes left for play, Tullamore were always shaping as likely winners. They benefited greatly from a flying start which saw them score twice inside the opening ten minutes and although their play subsequently slumped to a lower standard they furnished proof of their fighting spirit by hitting back for the winner after the home side had drawn level coming near the end. Penalties

played a big part in deciding the destination of the points from this encounter. It was a spot kick which imbued a nervous Tullamore side with confidence in the early minutes as Noel Lynch opened the scoring and it was another penalty sent wide by home pivot Roche which reduced the home side to a straggling bunch of individuals just on the half hour. It has for long been recognised in football circles that a winning team must enjoy its share of good fortune and in this respect Tullamore had nothing to complain about last week. For a spell in the early stages it did, indeed, look as though Paddy Duffys enforced absence, he chipped a bone in his ankle during training earlier in the week and will be out of the side for at least three weeks would mean the difference between defeat, with Liam Boland still unavailable it meant that third choice Jimmy Dolan was called in to guard the net and he looked extremely nervous coping with the first couple of balls which came his way. However, a truly brilliant save midway through the first half gave him all the confidence he needed and there after he emerged as one of the heroes of the visiting side. Little by little the Tullamore defence tightened their strangle hold on the

home attack forcing them to part hastily with the ball and harrying them into inaccurate shooting. Tom Whiteley was a tower of strength all through for not only did he bolt his opposite number, O'Connell, out of the game, but he was always on hand to cover up for his colleagues when necessary. On the other flank Sean Hogan deputising for John Lowery, adventurous in his methods. His exceptionally strong clearances proved valuable. Once again Tullamores middle line figured prominently as an asset. T. Whiteley, in the centre, and his flankers, Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne, asserted their authority for an early stage, proving equally adaptable to defence and attack and completely subduing the home inside forwards. In attack Michael Connolly, who came under close scrutiny in view of his promising performance in recent weeks, again gave every satisfaction. Liam Connolly worked industriously for the full ninety minutes but Mick Colleran was more subdued on this occasion, although it was he who initiated the movement, which culminated with Martin Lowery scoring the winning goal. Teddy Whiteley, until forced to retire with an ankle injury in the 62nd minute was the winners most direct forward. He was replaced by John Minnock who laid on the final pass for Lowerys winning goal to justify his short appearance on the pitch. And what of Tullamores match winner, Martin Lowery to him went the distinction of winning the points for the visitors.

EARLY GOALS

There was no lack of incident in the early stages of this game, indeed, Tullamore almost went one up as early as the second minute when Colleran sold a dummy to the home defence and sent Mick Connolly through for a scorching shot which Hickey excelled in saving. This explosive start held out promises of a great struggle and St. Pats returned the compliment by sweeping down field and Dolan had to move smartly to reach a cracking shot from O'Sullivan. Excitement continued to run high and the high tension had its bearing upon the opening goal in the 5th minute when right half Hand inexplicably handled a harmless looking ball which goalkeeper Hickey appeared to have well covered. It was a gift to Tullamore, and Noel Lynch made no mistake about burying the ball in the top left hand corner of the net from the spot. This was a great start for the visitors and even better was to follow for three minutes later Mick Connolly cut in from the right, drew Hickey away out to the side of the area and then slipped across a neat pass which Liam Connolly had mearely to tap into the open goal. Two goals in front after only eight minutes play left Tullamore in a very healthy position and they continued to have the edge throughout the field, with the defence covering off well on the occasions that the home attack got moving. The home side gradually recovered their composure and should have reduced their arrears in the 18th minute when Dolan lost possession following a centre from Carbury, but in succession both Barber and O'Connell failed to force the ball into an unprotected net. Three minutes later

Hickey made another first class save at the other end when cleanly holding a great drive from Teddy Whiteley after the latter had been put through by Lowery.

MISSED PENALTY

There can be no excusing the miss registered by the home side in the 29th minute, for when Tom Whiteley handled at the edge of the area it looked like a certain goal as Roche moved up for the spot kick, but to the consternation of the home following his ground shot sped outside the upright. After this the home attack became more unsettled than ever and Teddy Whiteley looked like stretching the visitors lead in the 33rd minute when he broke through the home defence and was streaking for goal until he was pulled down just outside the box, Collerans free whistled past the foot of the post and the incident which swung the game in Tullamores favour followed within minutes when Dolan made a tremendous save off a header by Harkins. The keeper never looked back after this and his many brilliant saves were to prove costly to St. Pats. Mick Connolly, put through by a glorious crossfield pass from Colleran, fired in a nasty ball, which Hickey fumbled, but recovered to clear. With seven minutes of the first half remaining Hickey atoned by cutting off a centre from Colleran but the home sides best chance of a goal apart from the penalty miss came thirty seconds later when Barber outwitted Tony Whiteley and streaked through on his own, but from point blank range Dolan made the save of the day. Left

full Millington was coming forward at every opportunity and as the interval neared he set up a possible chance in the 43rd minute by lobbing in a free which could have proved dangerous had not two of the home attack wandered offside whilst in the dying seconds of the half it was Millington again who raced the length of the field to crack the ball off the under side of the crossbar, from where Byrne was thankful enough to boot it behind for a corner.

Half-time: St. Patricks Athletic, 0;
Tullamore, 2.

Dolan was early into action on the resumption saving well from Barber in the opening minute and when St. Pats came again Tom Whiteley came from nowhere to whip the ball off barbers toes just as the centre forward was preparing to pick his spot from close range. Three minutes after the resumption Tullamore swept downfield with Byrne sending a short pass to Liam Connolly and the latter sending Whiteley through on a perfect pass clear of the defence Whiteley raced to the edge of the area but then shot too soon and saw Hickey gather and save. Tullamore were more or less content to rest on their two goal lead at this stage and their general play became careless indeed had it not been for the work of Lynch and Byrne the side could have been in real trouble. Then followed Teddy Whiteleys injury and the introduction of John Minnock as a substitute with Martin Lowery moving to inside left. St. Pats had a long spell of aimless pressure and it was not until the 69th minute that they even looked like

finding a way through a well grouped defence when Harkins sent Barber through but Tom Whiteley again proved to be Tullamores saviour as he came across to dispossess the centre forward. The home side were worth a goal for all the pressure they were applying and they got it in the 70th minute when a snap shot from 25 yard out by inside left O'Sullivan unexpectedly sailed all the way to the Tullamore net. Having foolishly surrendered the initiative Tullamore were now finding it difficult enough to get back into the game. Their inside forwards were making little headway against an improved home defence, but Mick Connolly raised hopes of another goal in the 77th minute when he beat Millington cleverly on the inside, but his centre was cut off by Hickey who one minute later, excelled by tipping a fast shot from Liam Connolly over for a corner. Two corners in quick succession to St. Pats kept the pressure on the visitors goal and a switch between O'Sullivan and Millington improved the home attack.

LATE GOALS

Having opened with a brace of early goals this game now ended on much the same note. With only six minutes to go Martin Lowery conceded a silly free just outside the penalty area and Roche atoned for his early penalty miss by slamming the ball all the way to the net to put the home side level for the first time in the game. It looked very much as though Tullamore would have to be now satisfied with a share of the points but less than a minute later they hit back to regain the lead. Mick Colleran

started the movement by sweeping the ball out to the left wing where substitute Minnock was waiting to float it back into the centre and there was Martin Lowery waiting to head it cleanly past Hickey. That was the end of the road for Pats, for although they put in a grandstand finish which earned them three corners in the closing minutes they never looked like piercing a gallant defence in which Tom Whiteley and Sean Hogan played with their backs to the wall.

Result: St. Patricks Athletic, 2;
Tullamore, 3.

Tullamore: J. Dolan, Tom Whiteley, S. Hogan, N. Lynch, Tony Whiteley, E. Byrne, M. Connolly, L. Connolly, M. Colleran, E. Whiteley, M. Lowery [substitute J. Minnock for E. Whiteley in the 62nd minute]

St Patricks Athletic: Hickey, Hoey, Millington, Hand, Roche, Harkins, Carbury, O'Callaghan, Barber, O'Sullivan, O'Connell.

Referee: Mr. D. Horgan

MERIT RATING

Tom Whiteley stands out as first choice in this weeks merit rating feature for, without a doubt, he was the best defender on view and contributed more than his share to Tullamores first away win of the season. Next in line I would nominate Jimmy Dolan who overcame such a shaky start to bring off some really first class saves when it mattered most and to complete the personality parade I take Eamonn Byrne, whose

untiring efforts around midfield kept Tullamore well on top in this vital sector. After 7 matches then, the following is the overall position:
E. Byrne [6] P. Duffy [6] M. Lowery [4]
Tom Whiteley [4] L. Connolly [3] J.
Lowery [3] T. Geraghty [3] E. Whiteley
[3] N. Lynch [3] M. Connolly [2] J.
Dolan [2] M. Colleran [2] L. Boland [1]

SATURDAY GAME

Much and all as they dislike them, Tullamore find themselves faced by a Saturday fixture for the coming week end and at Spollenstown too. The reason is the big rugby attraction at the

Tullamore headquarters on Sunday, which forces the soccer club to bring forward their Castrol Trophy game against Bohemians. This is a game which Tullamore badly need to win to improve further their league position, but it is unfortunate that they should find themselves pitted against one of the most improved sides in the competition on such an occasion. It remains to be seen just how many of the home side will be available. With even a semblance of a full strength side, Tullamore could be fancied to record a home win, but more than two absentees would make their task virtually impossible.

October 8th 1966

Tullamore, 2-0 Down, Rally To Win

Tullamore, 4; Bohemians, 3.

Tullamore brought off one of their best victories for a long, long time on Saturday last at Spollenstown when they came from behind to snatch a merited success by the off goal in seven against a Bohemian side which had won its three previous matches on the trot.

What made this a really good performance was the fact that whilst the visitors fielded a strong side, which included two amateur internationals in Bobby Wade and Tom Keating.

Tullamore once again experienced great difficulty in mustering together a side for a Saturday fixture, indeed less than five minutes before kick off time it looked as though the home side would be unable to field a team at all and when they did eventually take the field they did so with only ten men and minus the services of such as Eamonn Byrne, John Lowery, Mick Colleran and Sean Hogan. It was known early in the week that Byrne would not be available but the late defection of the other three, without notification, left the home committee in a pickle of trouble and served to illustrate the difficulties under which the management is labouring in their efforts to keep the club active in a high grade of football. The greatest credit then is due to Tullamore for

achieving a victory, which was of the utmost importance. Their feat is all the more remarkable when it is recorded that Bohemians had jumped into a two goal lead within seventeen minutes of the kick off and although Tullamore succeeded in pulling one back before the interval the visitors stretched their lead again within a minute of the resumption. However one asset which Tullamore had in abundance on this occasion, was courage and spirit and although they would have gladly settled for a division of the points under the circumstances they exceeded all expectations by earning both points. Now with six points from their last three games Tullamore are rapidly making up for an indifferent start to the season and have climbed to a respectable position in the league table.

BRADY'S RETURN

It was a lucky break for Tullamore that Jim Brady picked last weekend to come down to see his former colleagues in

action. It was pure chance that he came along with Noel Lynch, but Tullamore were in no position to look a gift horse in the mouth and in double quick time Brady was back in the number nine shirt. Just how fortunate this was for the winners was proved when, entering the final quarter of the game still a goal in arrears, Brady took the game by the scruff of the neck, scoring two great goals to alter the entire outlook, and all within the space of two minutes. It was a dream return to action for Brady and his contribution to the scoring might have been even greater had the ball not run so unkindly for him through out the first half. Another player to make a reappearance in the town colours on Saturday was Tommie Geraghty who found himself back in favour after being rested for the previous two games. There was no fairy tale ending in his case, although he did provide the vital opening which enabled Brady to net the winning goal, and in general showed the benefit of his rest. In defence it was Tom Whiteley who did most to blunt the visiting attack by the manner in which he kept the experienced Tom Keating in complete subjection, but new comer John Dooner did exceptionally well when he came on at very short notice. With E. Byrne an absentee the middle line proved to be the sheet anchor of the home side. Liam Connolly dropping back to deputise for Byrne, had a great outing, capping a fine performance by scoring the goal which shot Tullamore back into the picture in the second half. Whilst Noel Lynch proved one again what a great club man he is with a dynamic display which reached its zenith in the

concluding stages when the visitors were going flat out to save a point. All things considered, then, this was a heart warming performance by an understrength Tullamore side which was pitted against a Bohemian line out which is considered one of the best in the grade this season.

POINTS FROM PLAY

With Tullamore trying to get a team together the kick off was delayed for ten minutes, and even then the home side could muster only ten men for the start. Against weakened opposition Bohemians were quickly into their stride and within a minute Jimmy Dolan was in action as he saved well from Keating. It was practically one way traffic in the early stages as Bohs laid siege to the home goal and Dolan made one particularly fine save when blocking a point blank drive from centre forward Paul Redmond. Such pressure was bound to tell and sure enough the visitors opened the scoring in the 6th minute when right full Pat Conway a brother of Jimmys linked up with Harry Cobbe on the right wing to work his way to within 25 yards of the Tullamore goal, from where he fired in a rocket of a shot which snaked under the bar and just out of Dolans reach. Tullamore held their opponents to this one goal lead until the arrival of John Dooner brought them up to full numerical strength in the 12th minute. Then we saw the home side begin to make their presence felt. Teddy Whiteley had a good centre cut off by goal keeper Mooney and when Dooner sent Brady through with a long pass the first corner of the game

followed in the 13th minute. Minnock got his head to Whiteley flag kick but the effort lacked force and Mooney experienced little difficulty in saving.

PRESENT FOR BOHS.

Disaster befell Tullamore in the 17th minute when a horrible defensive mix up presented Bohs with a gift goal. Dolan had moved out of goal to complete a clearance from Redmond, but in attempting to fly kick the ball towards the wing, he miskicked and sent it instead straight to Eamonn Carroll whose first time effort from far out sailed into the unprotected net to put the visitors two up. A third goal might easily have followed within a matter of seconds when Carroll raced through, drew Dolan from his goal and then rounded the keeper, but before he could get in his shot Dooner came across fast to clear at the expense of a corner. At this stage Bohemians looked by far the more composed side and their polished play looked like devouring a home side, which was showing more enthusiasm than skill. Carroll had another effort kicked off the goal line, this time by Tom Whiteley, before play returned to the other end where Mooney saved well from a Lynch free. Then in the 24th minute came the goal, which set the game alight. Tommie Geraghty was the instigator of it with a long ball through to Teddy Whiteley and although the latter was moving away from the goal he flicked the ball beautifully up into the extreme corner of the net to narrow the gap, and infuse some degrees of confidence to this largely inexperienced home side.

Further Tullamore pressure saw centre half John Norris thankful to turn a centre from Mick Connolly behind for a corner and from the flag kick Connolly sent the ball swinging outwards to Martin Lowery whose blistering shot was brilliantly tipped over the top by Mooney. By now Tullamore had settled down to play good football. Gone was the uncertainty which had marked their early play and when Brady worked his way in close in the 28th minute it looked like a certain equaliser until Mooney saved from point blank range. Not to be outdone, Jimmy Dunne made an equally fine save at the other end when turning out a flying header from Holohan. There was never much likelihood of another goal before the interval, for now both defences had the measure of their opposite numbers, and the nearest approach to a goal came just eight minutes before the short whistle, when a free by Lynch just outside the area was blocked by a line of defenders after Mick Connolly had been taken down from behind as he raced through an open defence.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Bohemians, 2.

Tullamore resumed with Minnock and Connolly switching positions on the right wing but within a matter of seconds they were rocked back on their heels when a weak clearance by Lowery went straight to Carroll whose snap shot from just outside the area rocketed into the roof of the net to re-establish the visitors two goal lead. This goal had a profoundly unsettling effect upon Tullamore, with the result that Bohemians assumed almost complete

control. They forced four corners in the opening five minutes of the second half and although all these were cleared without cost Tullamore could make little impression on the exchanges outfield where their short passing repeatedly ran them into difficulties. The third quarter was by far Tullamores leanest period but they came surging back into the picture in the 62nd minute when a corner on the left by Whiteley was partially cleared to Liam Connolly who promptly first timed the ball back into the roof of the net. Now the game was rapidly building towards a climax and another cracking drive from Connolly very nearly brought Tullamores equaliser, Mooney just succeeding in deflecting the ball around the post. Brady, who had never ceased trying, now prepared to make his crashing impact upon the game. First he squared across a low centre to Geraghty which the winger pulled on first time to force another great save from Mooney and when Brady put Geraghty through a second time the winger flashed the ball low across the goalmouth with nobody up to benefit from it. Connolly and Minnock reverted to their original positions and from this stage Tullamore never looked back. Tullamore were not to be denied and deservedly equalised in the 76th minute when Brady raced between two defenders to crack the ball past Mooney. The ground erupted into a frenzy of excitement and this had scarcely abated before Tullamore had jumped into the lead for the first time. Geraghty sparked off the movement, which yielded the winning goal with a shot, which Mooney could only parry and as the ball broke loose Brady was on the

spot to hammer it into the net. This left Bohemians with just twelve minutes to save the day and they fairly bombarded the home goal in an effort to steal a point. Dolan was injured when making a fine save against the upright from Keating but resumed after attention. Tom Whiteley and Noel Lynch were now the inspiration of the home defence as they blocked, parried, and cleared repeatedly. Whiteley even found time to range far upfield on a solo run which carried him well inside enemy territory from where he swung the ball across to Brady for the latter to fire in a great shot which Mooney did well to hold, with three minutes left Carroll skimmed the bar but the best effort of all came during injury time when Keating switched a free out to Kavanagh and the left half fired in a searing drive which scorched the paint on the outside of the upright. A total of four minutes injury time was added on by referee Carpenter and although each of them seemed as long as an hour the home defence held out, with Noel Lynch popping up in all kinds of unexpected places to avert danger when the visitors seemed on the point of saving a point.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Bohemians, 3.

Tullamore: J. Dolan, T. Whiteley, J. Dooner, N. Lynch, M. Lowery [capt.], L. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Minnock, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Bohemians: S. Mooney, P. Conway, R. Wade, M. McAuley [capt.], J. Norris, M. Kavanagh, H. Cobbe, L. Holohan, P. Redmond, E. Carroll, T. Keating.

Referee: Mr. John Carpenter [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

So many performances on Saturday last were deserving of merit points, that it is extremely difficult to confine oneself to just three nominations. However, both winghalves contributed so much to victory that I have no hesitation in placing Liam Connolly at the head of affairs with Noel Lynch in close proximity. That leaves one position to be filled and who better to nominate than the man who marked his return to the side by scoring the goals which won the spoils- Jim Brady. And so, after eight matches, the overall placing now reads as follows:

Liam Connolly [6] P. Duffy [6] Eamonn Byrne [6] Noel Lynch [5] Martin Lowery [4] Tom Whiteley [4] John Lowery [3] Tommie Geraghty [3] Teddy Whiteley [3] Mick Connolly [2] Jimmy Dolan [2] Mick Colleran [2] Jim Brady [1] Liam Boland [1]

LEAGUE TABLE

Although slow to settle down this season Tullamores recent run of success has lifted them to fifth place in the Castrol Trophy league table which, as a result of last week ends game now reads as follows:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shelbourne	7	5	2	0	18	6	12

Dalkey United	6	5	0	1	22	7	10
Home Farm	6	3	3	0	11	4	9
Shamrock Rovers	7	4	1	2	16	12	9
TULLAMORE	7	3	1	3	14	17	7
ATHLONE	6	3	0	3	14	14	6
Bohemians	6	3	0	3	13	16	6
Drumcondra	6	2	2	2	9	10	6
Drpgheda	7	3	0	4	12	18	6
St. Pats Ath	7	2	1	4	14	14	5
Dundalk	7	1	0	6	9	24	2
Ormeau	6	0	0	6	5	15	0

NEXT WEEK

On paper Tullamore would appear to have a relatively easy task on Sunday next when they travel to Leixlip to play Ormeau. A glance at the above league table will reveal that the latter have yet to gain a point this season. Whilst their record of having scored only five goals in their six outings is even less impressive, I still have better memories of Tullamores last visit to this venue. That was on St. Stephens Day last year when Tullamore dominated the play and yet lost by 3-1 and I remain convinced that it was the points needlessly forfeited in this fixture which eventually cost Tullamore runners up honours in the league. Now the provincials have an opportunity to gain revenge and another brace of points would serve very nicely to further their prospects of joining issue with the league leaders approaching the climax of the Castrol Trophy.

October 15th 1966

Tullamore Extend Winning Sequence

Ormeau.....1 Tullamore.....2

Tullamore shot up to join Home Farm and Shamrock Rovers as joint third in the Castrol Trophy league table on Sunday last when they extended their unbeaten run to a fifth game by defeating Ormeau 2-1 at Leixlip.

Mind you, it took the visitors all their time to collect both points against a home side whose performance gave the lie to their bottom of the table rating and in the hell of the hunt it was their splendid defence which saw Tullamore through to a very important victory. In many respects this was a disappointing game in which the standard of football was adversely governed by ground conditions which were certainly not in keeping with League of Ireland standards.

EXPERIMENTAL DEFENCE

Possibly influenced by the poor record of their opponents Tullamore chose Sunday last to carry out some experiments in defence. These consisted of trying Sean Hogan in the key position of centre half a real problem spot for Tullamore this season and switching Martin Lowery to left full to the exclusion of his brother John.

These moves met with partial success. Restored to his favourite position in which he starred as a minor two years ago, Hogan dominated the area in front of goal, his work in the air being particularly impressive. With Tony Whiteley now serving with the Irish Peace Keeping Corps in Cyprus there is an urgent necessity for Tullamore to solve this long standing problem before they embark on the Intermediate Cup trail at the end of the month and on Sunday last Hogan certainly fared well enough to merit at least another trial in the position. Not so successful was the placing of Martin Lowery at left full, for this talented footballer was quite unsuited to this berth, fortunately for Tullamore Tom Whiteley chose Sunday last for one of those brilliant displays which have marked him out as probably the best defender in this grade of football. Such was the cover afforded by the defence that goalkeeper Jimmy Dolan enjoyed a remarkably uneventful

evening considering the amount of attacking done by the opposition. Although Eamonn Byrne was slower than usual to warm to his task himself and Noel Lynch really came into their own in the second half to complete a Tullamore defence which finished the game as the complete masters of the situation. Tullamore were not nearly as well served in attack as in defence. Liam Connolly was never happy on the right wing and it was not until he switched with Mick Colleran later in the second half that he came into his own. Colleran himself benefited from the switch also. Jim Brady took quite a buffeting as leader of the visiting attack, he allowed himself to be lured into the offside trap. The left wing partnership of Teddy Whiteley and Tom Geraghty was the most dangerous sector of the Tullamore attack on this occasion. The former became match winner in chief by scoring both his sides goals in a seven minute spell midway through the first half whilst it was in the closing stages that Geraghty turned on the heat by becoming an additional defender to help repulse the steadily increasing home pressure. So well did he fare in this role that one was tempted to ponder on the possibility for transforming him into a left full.

POINTS FROM PLAY

It took Tullamore some time to find their feet on this uneven ground which took its toll as early as the first minute when a good centre from Liam Connolly bounced badly for Byrne in front of goal and resulted in the left half blazing the ball high over the target. Tullamore

enjoyed the better of the opening exchanges and they forced the first corner of the game in the 3rd minute when Finbar Lane was obliged to kick behind under pressure from Connolly. Ormeau looked dangerous enough in their first attack, with a stinging shot from Ronnie Flood, following a free by McGowan, just snaking outside the post. Noel Lynch had a close free saved by Aidan Hoey into the home goal before Ormeau returned to open up a bombardment which might have brought better results had their forwards not persisted in keeping the ball close. A dangerous burst by Dessie McGowan from well inside his own half was checked just in time by a timely tackle by Lynch in the 12th minute and there followed a spell of Tullamore pressure during which Brady was repeatedly caught in the offside trap laid by the home defence. The home side forced their first corner in the 16th minute, but Doyle's centre was headed clear by Byrne. Then four minutes later the stalemate which looked likely to develop, was broken by a quicksilver burst by Teddy Whiteley. After Colleran had cleverly sold a dummy to the home defence following a long- long clearance by Hogan it was Whiteley who broke through a home defence which was caught standing square and as Hoey came out in a futile bid to narrow the angle the inside left slipped the ball around him and watched it slide just inside the upright with not more than a couple of inches to spare. Almost immediately Mick Colleran lost a great chance of adding to this lead when he shot over from close range, but in the 27th minute Tullamore went two up with

a goal which was almost identical with their first goal. Again the home wing halves ventured too far upfield and were left flat footed as Whiteley broke through the centre, drew Hoey from his goal and chipped the ball delicately wide of the keeper and inside the post.

GOAL DISALLOWED

Ormeau were right out of luck in the 72nd minute when a centre from Christy Doyle was headed home by centre forward flood for what looked like the equaliser, but referee Grahams whistle had gone for an offside infringement and Tullamore were reprieved. Tom Whiteley was outstanding in the closing ten minutes Ormeau threw all they had into a bid for a goal which would have made all the difference to them. Time after time he cleared his lines and with Geraghty dropping back to become a more than useful auxiliary defender the home attack simply could not find a way through. Only on odd occasions was the Tullamore attack seen in action now, but ten minutes from the end Whiteley might have clinched the issue had he not blazed wildly over after cutting around Cuddy. Then, when Ormeau returned to the attack, Dolan did well to reach a deflected header from Byrne and at the final whistle it was still Ormeau who were pressing hard, still seeking in vain to find a way through a Tullamore defence which seemed to have as many tentacles as an octopus.

Result: Ormeau, 1; Tullamore, 2.

Tullamore: J. Dolan, T. Whiteley, M. Lowery, N. Lynch, S. Hogan, E. Byrne,

L. Connolly, M. Colleran, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Ormeau: A. Hoey, P. Cuddy, F. Lane, T. Hoey, D. Byrne, D. McGowan, C. Doyle, R. Bailey, R. Glood, J. Leyden, D. Heffernan.

Referee: Mr. P. Graham [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

There can be no doubt at all about this weeks leading personality, for the vote must go to Tom Whiteley, who thus goes to the top of the overall ratings. To make it a family affair Teddy Whiteley, scorer of both the goals on Sunday, takes second place with Tommie Geraghty claiming the third spot to leave the overall position now reading as follows:

T. Whiteley [7] L. Connolly [6] E. Byrne [6] P. Duffy [6] N. Lynch [5] E. Whiteley [5] T. Geraghty [4] M. Lowery [4] J. Lowery [3] M. Connolly [2] J. Dolan [2] M. Colleran [2] L. Boland [1] J. Brady [1].

NEXT WEEK

Although Tullamore must be rueing the points forfeited in their opening three fixtures they are, nevertheless, poised to deliver a challenge to the league leaders. Last weeks results favoured them to a great extent as league leaders. Shelbourne dropped a point to St. Patricks Athletic in a 2-2 draw and Shamrock Rovers slumped to a shock 3-0 defeat against Drogheda with two of their remaining three games due for Spollenstown Tullamore can be fancied

to add to their points tally. Probably their hardest remaining test will be on Sunday next when they entertain Dalkey United who stand two points above them in the table. This is a clash which can have a vital bearing upon the final league placings and it should attract an even bigger than usual attendance to Spollenstown.

HOME DRAW

Tullamore have been favoured by a home draw in the first round of the

F.A.I. Intermediate Cup, in which they have been pitted against St. James Gate. The Gate have been faring very prominently in the Leinster Senior League this season and will pose a big problem on the last Sunday of the month but with home advantage to sustain them Tullamores prospects must be rated as at least fifty fifty. No need to remind readers that this is the competition which carries with it a chance of participation in the F.A.I. Senior Cup later in the season.

October 22nd 1966

Tullamore Move Up To Second Place

Tullamore received further reason for rueing the points squandered at the start of the season when at Spollenstown on Sunday they defeated Dalkey Utd by the odd goal in three to move up into second place in the league table.

The provincials have now gone six games without defeat in the Castrol Trophy but it is extremely doubtful if the effort will bring any reward, with only two further series of matches to be played.

Yet this run of victories is not entirely without reward, for the confidence of the side has been increasing with every outing and with the Intermediate Cup now only a week in the offing the morale of the team should be very high indeed when St. James Gate come to Spollenstown to provide the first round opposition. Sunday's game was brimful of excitement and also of good football. Dalkey, who had lost only one of their previous games this season, had the greater incentive towards victory for the two points at stake would have sent them up to join Shelbourne at the top of the table. However, it was Tullamore who won the honours of the day and although their margin of victory at the finish was slight it was thoroughly deserved. Indeed, another goal or two would not have flattered them in any way for after an evenly contested first

half they got right on top after the interval and had two thirds of the play territorially. Tullamore fielded the same team as had struggled to a 2-1 victory over Ormeau the previous week with the exception that Paddy Duffy was back in goal in place of Jimmy Dolan, but the quality of their play was vastly improved.

MAN OF THE MATCH

The man of the match tag this week surely belongs to Noel Lynch. Not only was he Tullamores best player but he ran Dalkey centrehalf Colm Molloy very close indeed for the distinction of being the best player on view. However, this victory was not achieved by any one man show. Tom Whiteley had another blinder at right full and with first Martin Lowery and later Sean Hogan completing a formidable combination not many direct shots got through to Paddy Duffy. Eamonn Byrne completed a defensive set up which the visitors were never able to crack, but if the Dalkey forwards found it hard to penetrate the Tullamore defence the same thing applied almost equally at the

other end where the home attack so often worked their way in close only to mar their approach work with finish which was indifferent. Mick Colleran became Tullamores match winner by scoring the decisive goal twelve minutes from time. Liam Connolly who caught the eye on the flank with a fine display of fetch and carry which was highly lighted by his ability to go higher than anybody else it was centre forward Jim Brady who did most to upset the Dalkey defence. Although dwarfed by his opposite number, Colm Molloy, he led the visitors a merry dance through out, but it was certainly not a lucky day for the centre forward, who twice hit the upright and had another goal worthy shot deflected off the goal line by an outstretched leg. For sheer hard work and perseverance it would have been difficult to surpass the display of Teddy Whiteley who always was to be found in the thick of things. On the left wing Tom Geraghty repeatedly ran himself into difficulties, yet it was he who provided the opening for Collerans winning goal.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Although set to play against the wind in the first half Tullamore made a bright beginning glorious centre from Geraghty and after only two minutes a back header mere inches wide of the upright by Brady. Even better was to follow, for in the 5th minute a good ball down the middle by Teddy Whiteley was pulled on first time by Brady to beat Cooney all ends up and although left full Brendan Martin made a valiant attempt to hook the ball out he only succeeded in

helping it on its way to the net. This early goal served to unsettle the Dalkey defence for a spell during which goalkeeper Cooney saved them from falling further into arrears by tipping a screaming drive from Colleran over for a corner the first of the game in the 10th minute when centre forward Kane broke through the middle before switching the ball out to Wildes on the left and the wingers dipping centre was no more than a foot off target.

THE EQUALISER

The Tullamore defence paid the penalty for complacency in the 16th minute for a good deal of needless messing went on before the ball broke loose to Kane who shot on the turn and sent the ball flashing past Duffy to put the visitors right back in the game. Now it was Tullamores turn to wilt temporarily and great football by Dalkey brought them three corners in as many minutes before Lynch rallied the home side by starting a movement which was carried on by Whiteley and Geraghty in a bout of interpassing which cut lanes in the blues defence and which was halted only just in time by a timely interception by Martin. With half an hour gone Lowery and Hogan switched positions in the home defence and five minutes later Brady worked a clever corner on the left and then from Geraghtys centre, got in a smart header which Cooney did well to hold on the line. Tullamore finished the first half on a lively note and after Geraghty had gone close in the 40th minute the same player fired in a real piledriver which Cooney could only push out to the intruding Whiteley who

blazed well over from a close in position.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Dalkey United, 1.

Once they got the wind to their backs Tullamore beame a more aggressive side and five minutes after the resumption a centre from Colleran was headed against the woodwork by Brady. The home side was now playing more to the right wing, but there was something missing from their play and it was not until a lightening burst by Whiteley split the United defence to ribbons that the attendance came to life to impart some real atmosphere to the proceedings. From that point onwards the onlookers were given plenty to shout about. The pace of the exchanges was stepped up, but still it was Tullamore who were calling the tune to which Dalkey danced and with Lynch and Byrne in control of the midfield sector the visiting defence was given little respite. Even when their own goal was under fire the home side appeared to be in command of the situation and when Duffy was caught too far out of his goal by a centre from right winger Noel Brock disaster was averted by Tom Whiteley who got back to clear off the line. Then in the 65th minute Duffy turned a good shot from Kane out for a corner and the insueing minutes became charged with tension and brimful of incident. Brady forced Tullamores first corner of the second half in the 66th minute and a minute later he smacked the ball off the crossbar with nobody following up to turn the opportunity to account. Then the action switched to the other end where the home goal bore a charmed

life as Wildes squared across a ball from the left wing which was missed by four defenders in immediate succession before going out of play on the other side. Dalkey struck again within a minute and this time it was Kane who came skipping past three attempted tackles before being stopped in his tracks by Hogan. Entering the final quarter of the game it looked as though defences would carry the day and that both sides would have to settle for a point, but all the time it was Tullamore who were doing most of the attacking and they might have had the issue settled much earlier than was actually the case had their forwards proved as adept at finishing as they were at creating openings. However, that this was a failing common to both sides was proved in the 76th minute when a bad pass from Byrne was intercepted by Brock, but faulty finish spoiled what could have been a golden moment for the visitors.

THE WINNER

With both defences in command it was obvious that it would take a goal out of the ordinary to win this game, and it came with just twelve minutes remaining for play. Lynch sparked off the match winning movement with a long ball up to Geraghty and although it looked as though the winger was once more going to run himself into difficulties he recovered in time to switch the ball out to Colleran. With the defence backing off in anticipation of a centre Colleran instead elected to have a go and from a very acute angle he sent the ball crashing into the corner of the net for one of the greatest goals

seen at Spollenstown this season. Dalkey were badly shaken by this setback and the wonder was that Tullamore did not avail of the opportunity to stretch their lead in the time remaining. Certainly they had the opportunity to do so. In the 80th minute Brady left the ball on a plate for Whiteley after rounding Molloy, Sunday was not a good shooting day for the inside left and again he missed when it would have been easier to score. With time running out for them Dalkey made a last determined effort to save the day and when they forced a corner on the left the towering figure of Molloy came upfield for wildes centre. His journey almost proved worthwhile too and he might have saved a point had Duffy not knocked the ball off his head just in time. Brady, put through by Lowery, had a bad miss from less than five yards range, but in the next attack the centre forward was out of luck when after a sparkling run from just short of the half way line, he saw his parting shot blocked on the line by Cooneys ourstretched leg. Two corners in the dying seconds by Kane testified to the fighting spirit of this Dalkey side but courage alone was not enough to pierce a home defence, which was growing in confidence with every passing tic of the clock.

Result: Tullamore, 2; Dalkey United, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, M. Lowery [capt], N. Lynch, S. Hogan, E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Dalkey Utd: W. Cooney, F. Warren, B. Martin [capt], N. Durning, C. Molloy, J. Kelly, N. Brock, J. Boyle, B. Kane, J. Langan, G. Wildes.

Referee: Mr. Charlie O'Leary [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

What a pity that only three players can be included in this feature, and what a task it is to decide on the leading trio. Of course Noel Lynch emerges as an automatic first choice, but after that the position becomes more complicated. Tom Whiteleys unerring defence and his flair for moving up in support of his forwards when ever the opportunity presented itself makes him a worthy number two and to complete the picture I am taking Jim Brady whose luck was not on a par with his initiative. All of which leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

Tom Whiteley [9] Noel Lynch [8] Liam Connolly [6] Paddy Duffy [6] E. Byrne [6] Teddy Whiteley [5] Tommie Geraghty [4] Martin Lowery [4] John Lowery [3] Mick Colleran [2] Mick Connolly [2] Jimmy Dolan [2] Jim Brady [2] Liam Boland [1]

October 29th 1966

Tullamore Keep On Winning

Drumcondra1 Tullamore2

Although they shocked their bus load of supporters by falling into arrears wilthin two minutes of the kick off in last Sundays Castrol Trophy game against Drumcondra in Tolka Park, Tullamore came up trumps in the end and registered their sixth win on the trot with a hard earned 2-1 victory.

The points gained from this fixture, allied to shock defeats sustained by Shamrock Rovers and Dalkey United on Sunday, shoots Tullamore into clear second position in the league table.

But although all chance of catching pacemaking Shelbourne have now disappeared it is clear that the provincials are going to make a very strong bid for runner up honours.

Although they finished with a 2-1 winning margin on Sunday, Tullamore were not nearly as impressive as the previous week. Indeed, in some respects they may be considered lucky to survive the spirited challenge of the home side. Fired by that early goal, Drumcondra played well above themselves and the result was that the visitiors found themselves with a real fight on their hands. Their equaliser was delayed until the very last kick of the first half and although they took the lead five minutes after the resumption their defence was subsequently

subjected to severe pressure for the remainder of the game. Territorially, Drumcondra dominated proceedings after the interval. They hammered away at the Tullamore posts, but a combination of bad finishing by their own forwards and a fearless display of goalkeeping by Paddy Duffy denied them an equalising goal which it must be admitted, their approach work merited. Tullamore have now run up a sequence of five victories by the odd goal, but Sundays was surely the least impressive.

DOUR DEFENCE

In the final analysis it was the quality of their defence which won the points for Tullamore. Duffys goalkeeping which was one of the features of an otherwise

drab encounter, went a long way towards breaking the hearts of the home attack, but the keeper was splendidly supported by his covering colleagues Tom Whiteley, Martin Lowery and halves Byrne and Lynch all dovetailed into a screen which defied penetration. Tullamores attack moved well outfield and looked reasonably well balanced right across from wing to wing. The punch was provided by Mick Colleran on the right wing who gave another example of the force of his shooting by scoring an explosive equaliser at a stage when Tullamore needed a goal most. Craft and guile was supplied by Jim Brady whose, tireless and boundless energy was rewarded by a superb winning goal whilst the unglamorous, but vital role of foragers was filled perfectly by Liam Connolly and Teddy Whiteley. The former was Tullamores outstanding player in the first half when the only flaw in an other wise perfect display was an unfortunate penchant for directing his passes straight towards the opposition. After 32 minutes of the second half Connolly sustained a nasty eye injury which forced him to withdraw from the fray, his place in attack being taken over by his namesake Mick Connolly. Teddy Whiteley worked and schemed to good purpose, but his luck continues to be right out when it comes to applying the finishing touches to his outfield work. Completing the forward formation, Tullamore had Tommie Geraghty on the left wing. His curling centres were a constant source of worry to the home defence, but all too infrequently he was allowed the scope to bring his lethal left foot into use as a

direct weapon.

EARLY GOAL

This was as good as a home game for Tullamore as far as vocal support was concerned and the stand in Tolka Park contained more support for the visitors than for the home side. With little or no wind to influence the exchanges the only advantage Drumcondra gained by winning the toss was that of having a glaring sun to their backs at the start. There was a very lively start to the game and within a minute of the kick off a centre from Colleran was first timed over the bar by Geraghty. Geraghty was off target again in Tullamores next attack, but these promising overtures counted for nothing when Tullamore were plunged into arrears in the 2nd minute. Noel Lynch was at fault in squaring the ball across his own goalmouth and with the defence caught completely unawares inside left John Gilles stepped in to crack the ball goalwards and with Duffy beaten Martin Lowerys effort to hook the ball clear only succeeded in pushing it further into the rigging. A goal down at such an early stage knocked Tullamore out of their stride, but they came back for Whiteley to force the first corner of the game. Then back came Drumcondra and when Leavey rounded Lowery and closed in on the goal it looked any odds that he would increase the home lead until Duffys outstretched leg deflected his point blank shot, Duffy was caught too far out of goal by a centre from Phipps in the 12th minute, but this time danger was averted by Tom Whiteley clearing off the goal line. Tullamore were finding

it difficult to settle down now and only good work by Liam Connolly prevented them from being completely submerged at this stage. By degrees the visitors gained a footing and in the 13th minute, following a free by Byrne, Whiteley squared the ball right across the face of the goal then after Connolly had been upended just outside the area, Geraghtys block busting free was blocked by a line of defenders. Goalkeeper Smyth saved smartly against the post from Colleran and it was not until the 25th minute that Drumcondra forced their first corner, Phipps centre being headed over by Brookes. With Phipps leading Hogan a merry dance on the left wing the visiting defence shipped some heavy punishment, but with Lynch, Whiteley and Lowery standing firm each home attack was repulsed as quickly as it was launched and nearing the interval it was Tullamore who took over the role of pace markers. The Drumcondra defence had luck on its side in the 30th minute when a long range shot from Geraghty sailed past Smyth and came back off the inside of the upright at the other side. Next Lynch sent Brady through for a shot which was headed out from under the bar by Campbell and with six minutes of the first half remaining good work by Brady paved the way for Whiteley to fire in a snap shot which curled just wide of the far upright. Geraghty attempting to walk the ball in, was checked by Smyth and Lynch came up to crash a stinging drive six inches wide of the target. This was pressure and a half, but with the minutes ticking away there was no sign of it yielding an equalising goal. Indeed the official 45

minutes had run its course and we were well into injury time when the home goal fell for the first time. Brady created the opening by back heeling the ball out to Colleran and from the edge of the area the right winger sent the ball crashing past Smyth and no sooner had the game been restarted than the half time whistle sounded.

Half-time: Drumcondra, 1; Tullamore, 1.

Drums made sweeping changes for the second half. Right half Kevin Dempsey moved up to lead the attack with Campbell going to right half and Leavey dropping away back to right full. The home side opened well by forcing a corner in the first minute only their second flag kick of the game, but it was Tullamore who quickly regained their pre-interval grip and a clever flick from Brady sent Colleran through for a cracking shot which went narrowly wide, the goal which won the points for Tullamore followed in the 50th minute, and it was a typical bit of opportunism by Jim Brady which brought it as he cut between Gleeson and Leavey to flight the ball well out of Smyths reach. Drums made a quick recovery from this setback and in the 54th minute a dangerous free by Gleeson was nodded clear by Lynch. The ensuing exchanges went very much in favour of Drumcondra as they piled on the pressure, but with Duffy in brilliant form between the posts they were repeatedly repulsed. The keeper made one particularly fine save in the 56th minute when he dived across the goal to turn out a great header from Brookes but

this was only one of the many saves made by Duffy which made all the difference between victory and defeat for Tullamore. Tullamores task was simplified by the lack of real penetration in the home attack and with Lynch and Byrne falling well back in defence home hopes dwindled with every passing minute. Lowery went within inches of putting the ball in his own net when deflecting a strong shot from Leavey and with thirteen minutes to go the visitors lost Liam Connolly with a split eyebrow. Mick Connolly came in as substitute on the right wing but still it was Drums. who were doing the pressing and Duffy did well to pluck a dangerous shot from Campbell down from under the bar. With the home attack unable to make any progress the game had every appearance of fizzling to a tame finale until a brace of late corners brought the entire home side trooping upfield only to be sent back by Byrnes clearance and the final excitement of the day came at the other end with Brady grazing the foot of the post with the last kick of the game.

Result: Drumcondra, 1; Tullamore, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, S. Hogan, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Drumcondra: N. Smyth, P. Campbell, K. Dempsey, E. Tyrell, J. Gleeson, D. Brookes, T. Phipps, J. Hyland, T. Leavey, J. Gilles, W. Mulhall.

Referee: Mr. C. O'Leary [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Paddy Duffy, Jim Brady and Liam Connolly that is how I place the top three in Sundays victory and with the points added the overall totals now reads as follows:

Tom Whiteley [9] Paddy Duffy [9] Noel Lynch [8] Liam Connolly [7]
Eamonn Byrne [6] Teddy Whiteley [5]
Tommy Geraghty [4] Martin Lowery [4]
Jim Brady [4] John Lowery [3] Mick Connolly [2] Mick Colleran [2] J. Dolan [2] Liam Boland [1]

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shelbourne	10	7	3	9	30	13	17
TULLAMORE	10	6	1	3	20	20	13
Home Farm	8	4	4	0	13	5	12
Dalkey United	9	5	1	3	24	11	11
ATHLONE	9	5	1	3	20	16	11
Shamrock Rovers	10	5	1	4	21	20	11
Drogheda	9	5	0	4	17	18	10
St. Patricks Ath.	10	3	2	5	21	19	8
Drumcondra	9	2	3	4	11	14	7
Bohemians	7	3	0	4	15	21	6
Dundalk	10	1	1	8	11	33	3
Ormeau	9	0	1	8	10	23	1

MOMENT OF TRUTH

Tullamore face their most important task of the season to date on Sunday next when they set out on the trail, which can lead eventually to fame and fortune. This of course is the opening round of the F.A.I Intermediate Cup in which Tullamore are paired against St. James Gate, victory in the early rounds of this competition serves a two fold purpose for not only does the successful side advance a stage further in the cup

itself but they also draw nearer to a place in the draw for the F.A.I. Senior Cup. Tullamores luck in this particular competition has been remarkably good, for they have never been drawn away from home. The sequence has been carried a stage further now and home advantage on Sunday will be a big factor in Tullamores favour. The Gate have been faring well in the Leinster

League in recent weeks and are certain to pose a big problem. Yet with six consecutive victories to their credit it is difficult to oppose Tullamore on this occasion. There are rumours in the air that a new centre half has been signed in time for inclusion on Sunday next and added strength in this key position would boost Tullamores prospects further.

November 5th 1966

Tullamore Advance In Inter Cup

Tullamore took the first step towards possible fame and fortune on Sunday last when at a well attended Spollenstown they defeated St. James Gate by 5-3 in the first round of the F.A.I. Intermediate Cup.

In a humdinger of a cup tie which provided splendid fare the home side recovered from an early set back, spurted into a 4-1 lead twelve minutes after the interval, with stood a barrage of pressure which cut their lead to a single goal by then finishing with a flourish by ramming in a clinching goal four minutes from the end.

With eight goals and a bucket full of thrills packed into ninety minutes, this was a game which was worthy of the big attendance. It was a game contested at a cracking pace from start to finish with Tullamore proving themselves the fitter side in the long run. After a series of five victories by an odd goal this comparatively clearcut success by tullamore might be expected to infuse fresh enthusiasm and confidence to Tullamore, hopes of having a new defender on view for this cup tie went up in smoke when new singing Paddy Needham [ex Drumcondra], cried off through illness. To complicate the position further goalkeeper Paddy Duffy was a doubtful starter right up to the kick off and few of the spectators who

criticised his seemingly careless left footed clearances realised that the keeper was badly handicapped by an injured groin which greatly restricted his movements. It was not a great day for Duffy, but considering the circumstances it might have been a lot worse, after a fairly long spell on the sideline John Lowery was recalled for this game. Not surprisingly he looked a little rusty but a couple of typical second half clearances proved invaluable to Tullamores cause. On the other side Tom Whiteley sustained a nasty knock in the very first minute and it was well into the second half before he regained his composure. Martin Lowery came to the rescue with sound display as pivot and whilst both Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne were slow to get into their stride they certainly made their presence felt when the gate pressure was at it peak. It was in attack that Tullamore shone brightest on Sunday and a superb exhibition of fast aggressive play had the opposing defence in a tizzy throughout. Jim Brady and Teddy Whiteley were the terrible twins of a front line which fired on all five

cylinders. Between them they scored four of the five home goals but it was their all round approach work rather than their striking power which instilled such panic in the ranks of the opposition. However, the real match winner for the home side was Liam Connolly, who from the inside right position provided a perfect backing for the strikers and an ideal midfield link. It was a role which lacked the glamour of the goalscorers, but one which was absolutely vital to Tullamores advance to the second round. The winners also had shooting power on the wings with Tommie Geraghty showing that he can use his right boot just as effectively as his left by scoring a great first goal and Mick Colleran keeping the Gate goalies hands warm with some great shooting. What sort of opposition did Tullamore encounter in this cup tie. Well, it was pretty formidable, with a neat combination of youth and experience blending together to test the home side to the full.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The Tullamore defence made difficulties for themselves by keeping the ball close inside their own area, but it was at the other end that danger first threatened, Geraghty spoiling a good opening created by Whiteley by being caught off side in the 6th minute. A bad pass back from Kenny presented Tullamore with the first corner of the game one minute later but the scales was quickly balanced in this respect when a dangerous centre from Norris was turned behind by John Lowery. Whiteley and Brady were showing early

signs of the combination which was to provide such a nightmare for the visiting defence and as early as the 10th minute Whiteley sent Brady through for a great shot which earned another corner. The home goal had a lucky escape in the 14th minute when a bad mix up between Duffy and John Lowery left Norris with a gilt edge chance, but the winger shot into the side net to let Tullamore off the hook. The Gate were proving a real handful at this stage and their forwards were quicker to the ball so that it was not entirely against the run of the play when they opened the scoring in the 17th minute. Eamonn Byrne was partly at fault for this score for he dallied with the ball after receiving from Lynch and was dispossessed on the half way line by Harry Bernard whose quick thrust up the centre found a chink in the home defence and paved the way for Ken Brearton to slip the ball around the advancing Duffy. The visitors held this lead for only four minutes and then Geraghty surprised everybody with a snap right footed shot from the edge of the area which sailed to the net before goalie Paddy Bernard knew what was happening. Jim Brady was as busy as a bee all the time and in the 24th minute he created a fine opening by beating Kenny on the end line and squaring the ball right across the face of the goal, but three minutes later luck was on Tullamores side again when a corner by Norris was missed completely by Paddy Duffy and it was fortunate that Geraghty was back in defence to take the ball clear. Duffy was in trouble again in the 30th minute when a strong free by Bernard almost slipped through the keepers fingers and it was only at the

second attempt that he kept it from crossing the line. There was no sign of the pace slackening as the interval neared and with eight minutes to go a free by Cosgrave away out on the touchline was headed goalwards by Maguire for Duffy to make a brilliant save by tipping the ball out for a corner. Only one minute of the first half remained when Tullamore shot into the lead for the first time and it was Brady and Whiteley who jinked their way through and with the Gate defence standing still appealing for offside, Brady went through to chip the ball past Bernard.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; St. James Gate, 1.

Tullamore resumed on a lively note with Geraghty bringing Bernard to his knees with a long range shot in the first minute. At the other end a good free close to the corner flag by Cosgrave was punched over by Duffy but in the 6th minute dame fortune smiled on the visitors when Bernard lost possession of an inswinging corner by Whiteley and was fortunate to have English behind him to clear off the line. A bad misunderstanding between Martin Lowery and Tom Whiteley almost proved costly in the 51st minute as it let Brearton clean through for a shot which was no more than a foot off target but the game took a decided swing in Tullamores favour in the minutes which followed. Good work by Brady on the right paved the way for Whiteley to stretch the home lead with a shot which went in off the upright in the 54th minute, this left Tullamore in a happy

position and when they added goal number four three minutes later it looked as though we were in for a tame finish. Again it was the terrible twins who combined to make life miserable for the Gate defence Brady skipping between English and Kenny before firing in a shot which Bernard could only push out to Whiteley who, of course, had no difficulty in returning it to the open net.

SCORING SPATE

With a 4-1 lead Tullamore seemed an easy win but any inclination which they might have had to take things easy were rudely shattered within a matter of minutes. The spate of scoring continued, but this time it was the Gate who were hammering home the goals. In the 59th minute inside forward Brearton was brought down by Duffy and from the penalty which followed Harry Bernard rammed the ball to the net. Now there was a possibility of a close finish, after all, and when the visitors added another goal to narrow the gap to the minimum with a further two minutes the possibility became a certainty. Heavy pressure by the visiting forwards culminated in Maguire getting across a fine centre into a crowded home area and Kevin Cosgrave was there to drive it through a ruck of players. It was at this stage that Liam Connolly came up trumps for the home side. He was tireless in his efforts around midfield and with Byrne and Lynch also coming more into the picture a side which had earlier seemed to be running out of steam suddenly found a new lease of life. The visitors rearranged their forward formation

without bringing about any considerable improvement and in the 71st minute it was Tullamore who came close to scoring again when a searing drive from Geraghty was touched around the bottom of the post by Bernard in the nick of time.

LUCKY ESCAPE

Fate had been kind to Tullamore all through this game, but the greatest stroke of luck came in the 75th minute when Duffy was beaten to a frazzle by a crackjack of a shot from Norris and as he sprawled on the ground he had a worms eye view of the ball coming back into play off the underside of the crossbar. With in a minute the home goal had another escape when Duffy failed to hold a corner from the left and John Lowery popped up to clear off the line. These set backs sapped a lot of the resistance from the brewery side and by degrees Tullamore regained the initiative against a side whose stamina was running out and with just four minutes left for play they clinched the issue with a fifth goal. Once more it was the combined talents of Brady and Whiteley which did the damage, the latter sending the centre forward clean through and although he only half hit his shot at goal the ball curled wide of Bernard and into the corner of the net. That was the end of the road for the Gate and before the final whistle they almost conceded a sixth goal when a great shot from Brady was turned around the post by Bernard.

Result: Tullamore, 5; St. James Gate, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery [capt], E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

St. James Gate: P. Bernard, K. Nolan, J. Kenny [capt], T. Cosgrave, D. English, P. Maguire, K. Cosgrave, H. Bernard, K. Brearton, J. Maguire, S. Norris.

Referee: Mr. J. Boyle [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

This weeks top trio stand out like a sore thumb and our nominations must be Liam Connolly, Jim Brady and Teddy Whiteley in that order, that leaves Connolly top of the pole after twelve matches, the full placings being as follows:

Liam Connolly [10] Tom Whiteley [9] Paddy Duffy [9] Noel Lynch [8] Jim Brady [6] Teddy Whiteley [6] Eamonn Byrne [6] Tommie Geraghty [4] Martin Lowery [4] John Lowery [3] Mick Connolly [2] Jimmy Dolan [2] Liam Boland [1]

LOCAL DERBY

The 'B' Division of the League of Ireland swings into action on Sunday next when the first series of matches is listed for decision. It should be a particularly attractive occasion for spectators at Spollenstown as Tullamore open their campaign with a home fixture against neighbouring rivals, Athlone. Both provincial clubs acquitted themselves very well in the Castrol Trophy and the

chances are that either may yet finish as runners up in this pipe opening competition. However, the league is of infinitely more importance and the first bid for points, which lead to the Blackthorn Cup, should prove a lively local derby. To date the sides have met twice already this season with Athlone proving best in both the Leinster Senior Cup and the Castrol Trophy. Now

Tullamore are more than a little bit keen to turn the tables and they are favoured by recent form. They have run up a sequence of seven consecutive victories whilst on Sunday last Athlone were beaten in the Intermediate Cup by St. Brendans. With the added advantage of playing at home everything appears to be in Tullamores favour of making a winning start to the league.

November 12th 1966

Winning Start By Tullamore In League

Athlone1 Tullamore3

Having finished the Castrol Trophy in a blaze of glory, Tullamore kept up their winning way on Sunday last by defeating neighbouring rivals, Athlone 3-1 in the opening match of the League of Ireland 'B' Division.

In a game, which yielded a poor standard of football Tullamore always held the whip hand although they were obliged to pull out all the stops to do so.

As has frequently happened in the past Tullamore found playing conditions in St. Mels Park difficult to fathom and it was well into the second half before the visitors really settled down to play the brand of football which has brought them eight consecutive victories, indeed, all the scoring in this game was with Tullamore taking the lead in the 50th minute, being pulled back to level terms in the 65th minute, regaining the lead one minute later and finally clinching the issue five minutes from the end. Stated like that it sounds like an exciting tussle, but in actual fact this must rank as one of the poorest local derby matches of recent years. It was a dour contest rather than an exciting one, with petty fouling marring the continuity of play and defences on the

whole, having by far the better of matters. This was scarcely to be wondered at, for ground conditions gave all the advantages to defenders with the uneven nature of the pitch making it virtually impossible for the respective forward lines to develop anything like constructive movements.

PENALTY CLAIMS

Tullamore would have finished with much greater winning margin had their numerous claims for penalties been successful. Twice in the first half and twice again after the interval their claims were made but on each occasion local referee Freddie Warby waved play on. To rub salt into Tullamores wounds it was from the spot that Athlone got their only goal. Mr. Warby was in an invidious position, for it is never easy for a local man, to officiate in such a tense affair and one must query the wisdom of the League of Ireland in

making themselves a party to such an arrangement. For the third week in succession Tullamore's new signing Paddy Needham, failed to line out and John Dooner was drafted into the side at left full. Goalkeeper Paddy Duffy was also an absentee, but Liam Boland proved an able deputy between the posts. The real strength of the visiting side lay at half back where Martin Lowery had an outstanding game in the centre. He proved himself the master of the penalty area and his subduing of Johnny Parkes took a lot of the sting from the Athlone attack, Noel Lynch was another to serve Tullamore very well, his covering in the second half being particularly impressive, whilst Eamonn Byrne completed a middle line which gained an early grip on the midfield play and never relaxed it. In the first half the Tullamore forwards made the mistake of keeping the ball too close with the result that they played right into the hands of an uncompromising home defence, but a change of tactics which saw the long ball down the middle being cleverly utilised after the interval proved a match winning gambit. For the second week in succession Liam Connolly turned in a storming performance which stamped him as the outstanding player on view. He got through a tremendous amount of work in providing a winning service for the strikers in the visiting attack and recent displays point to the fact that he is the most improved player of the season in Tullamore. Once again Jim Brady proved himself a wonderful opportunist as leader of the line and his two goals last Sunday now leaves him joint top scorer with Teddy Whiteley. Had the

latter availed of some of the simple chances which came his way in Athlone he would now be out on his own as Tullamore's leading marksman. Three times he had what appeared to be certain goals at his mercy, but on each occasion he was either bundled off the ball before he could get in his shot or else he was off the mark with his shooting. One of the hardest working forwards was Mick Colleran, who had a very effective second half, but who failed to achieve his ambition of scoring against his old club. Tommie Geraghty put Tullamore on the victory trail by scoring the opening goal, but his all round performance lacked spirit.

ATHLONE DISAPPOINTING

Frankly I was disappointed at the performance of the home side. In view of their impressive record in the Castrol Trophy I had expected them to furnish stiffer opposition than this. Their defence, with Jimmy Dunne, Harry Barclay and Johnny Joyce always prominent, proved capable enough, but they were always toiling around the centre of the field and their forwards could make no impression at all on the exchanges. A second half switch between wingers Malone and Grennan failed to bring about much improvement and any chance which they might have had of saving the day vanished when inside left Joe Beaumont received his marching papers from the referee fifteen minutes after the resumption.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Winning the toss gave Athlone the

advantage of a glaring sun and a stiff breeze in the first half, but they were obliged to start with ten men and this enabled Tullamore to set the pace in the early stages. Whiteley had a strong shot safely fielded by Dunne and then sent Brady through to shoot behind from a favourable position in the 5th minute. Dunne had little difficulty in dealing with a long range effort from Geraghty and in further Tullamore pressure Colleran failed to control the ball inside the area after being put through by Connolly. It was very much one way traffic at this stage and Jimmy Dunne was kept very busy in the home goal, making one particularly fine save at the foot of the post from Geraghty. Once Athlone settled down they proceeded to make a match of it and it was they who forced the first corner of the game in the 12th minute off Byrne. Malones flag kick was cleared by Lowery and with in the space of a minute Tullamore forced three corners at the other end. All three were taken by Whiteley and from the first of them Colleran missed a sitter in front of the posts. The home attack combined well for the first time in a splendid movement which had the Tullamore defence reeling as Burns squared the ball back from the end line and with Boland beaten the visitors were grateful to scramble the ball away with the urgency of panic. Neither attack was being given much latitude with the result that play was confined for long periods to some rather untidy midfield play. On the whole, however, Tullamore looked the more likely side to succeed and this viewpoint was emphasised further when Colleran hit the outside of the post from

a corner. Then Whiteley controlled the ball beautifully as he beat two defenders, lured Dunne from goal and chipped the ball into the open goalmouth where there was nobody up in support. The first of Tullamores penalty claims came in the 31st minute when Brady was clean through and was pulled down from behind. Immediately after this incident Athlone broke away for left winger Grennan to flash the ball across the visitors goalmouth. Both sides made spirited efforts to snatch an interval lead and after Beaumont had finished badly for Athlone the visitors swept downfield for Colleran to graze the bar with a arising shot. With ten minutes of the half remaining Whiteley missed an open goal after being sent clear by Geraghty whilst in the closing stages of a disappointint half Dunne saved Athlone by tipping over a pileriver from Colleran to leave the visitors 5-1 ahead on corners.

Half-time: Athlone, 0; Tullamore, 0.

Malone and Grennan changed wings on the resumption and within three minutes Tullamore had another penalty claim ignored after Whiteley had been bowled over after a quick break inside the penalty area. After some splendid openings had been wasted it was ironical that Tullamore should open the scoring in the 50th minute with a score, which was of the freak variety. Certainly there was little force behind Geraghtys shot from outside the area, but just as Dunne was preparing to collect, the ball bounced awkwardly and skidded over his shoulder and into the net. Tullamores lead was almost short

lived, for a miskick by Dooner left the path to goal open for Grennan until Lowery made a good recovery to check the winger. Brady missed a good chance of stretching the visitors lead when he shot straight at Dunne after being put through by Whiteley, but Athlone were dealt a severe body blow in the 60th minute when Beaumont was sent off after exchanging words with the referee. Now the odds were in favour of Tullamore, but the home side played with a good deal more spirit and deservedly equalised in the 65th minute when Lynch was penalised inside the area and Burns knocked the spot kick well out of Bolands reach.

QUICK REPLY

This equaliser put new life into the exchanges, but it took Tullamore less than a minute to regain the lead, good work by Colleran paving the way for Brady to slam the ball past Dunne from close range. Tullamore now had their tails up again and they remained on top in some hectic exchanges during which Colleran was pulled down in the goalmouth. The effort of playing a man short was by now taking its toll on the home side, and with Connolly, Lynch and Byrne rampant around midfield the pressure on the home goal mounted steadily. A long range shot from Connolly almost deceived Dunne who was fortunate to recover and clear at the second attempt whilst the keeper did exceptionally well to parry a rocket from Colleran in the 78th minute, with Geraghty missing a simple chance from the rebound. The clever application of the off side trap by the home defence

enabled them to hold out until five minutes from time, when a long clearance from Dooner sent Whiteley away on the left wing and his squared pass was hammered home by Brady to seal Athlones fate. After that it was all over bar the shouting, although Athlone went close to putting a better face on the scoreline when centre forward Parkes was allowed to walk through the Tullamore defence and only quick thinking by Boland averted a score.

Result: Athlone, 1; Tullamore, 3.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Dooner, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Lowery, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Athlone: J. Dunne, R. Byrne, H. Barclay, M. Daly, A. Samuels, J. Joyce, P. Malone, T. Burns, J. Parkes, J. Beaumont, M. Grennan.

Referee: Mr. F. Warby [Athlone]

MERIT RATING

Liam Connolly stretches his overall lead in our merit rating feature by topping the chart for the second week in succession, but he had little to spare over Martin Lowery on this occasion. The top three is completed by nominating Tom Whiteley for the odd point, to leave the present position as follows:

Liam Connolly [13] Tom Whiteley [10] Paddy Duffy [9] Noel Lynch [8] Martin Lowery [6] Teddy Whiteley [6] J. Brady [6] Eamonn Byrne [6] Tommie Geraghty [4] John Lowery [3] Mick Connolly [2]

Jimmy Dolan [2] Mick Colleran [2] Liam Boland [1]

CUP DAY

Sunday next will be cup day in real earnest with the second round of the Intermediate Cup and the opening series of matches in the Junior Cup all down for decision. Tullamores luck as regards home fixtures has run out and for the first time since entering senior ranks they have been drawn away from home in an important tie. On Sunday next they travel to Mount Prospect Avenue to oppose Belgrove, who last Sunday got through at the second

attempt against Ormeau in the replay of their first round tie. The evidence to date is that the standard of football in the League of Ireland B Division is superior to that prevailing in the Leinster Senior League, from which Belgrove hail. This being the case the provincials must stand at least a fifty-fifty chance of advancing a stage further. In which case they will qualify for another away game in the third round against either Glebe North or U.C.D. On the junior front Tullamore will be away to Mullingar in the first round of the F.A.I Junior Cup whilst Goodbodys [Clara] travel to meet Portlaoise in the same competition.

November 19th 1966

Tullamore through to quarter finals

Belgrove0
Tullamore5

Contrary to expectations Tullamore experienced no difficulty whatever in cruising into the quarter finals of the F.A.I. Intermediate Cup on Sunday last when their forwards hit peak form in routing last years Leinster Senior League champions Belgrove, by a decisive 5-0 margin. Taken at its face value this result would almost suffice to entitle Tullamore to rank as favourites to win the cup outright. This was a five star performance by a Tullamore side, which did not reveal a single weak link. From the very first whistle Tullamore were geared to carry the fight to the opposition and within three minutes of the start the home side found themselves in arrears. Yet to suggest that it was a one sided affair would be wrong. Belgrove enjoyed every bit as much of the play as did their visitors. Indeed, Belgrove finished with nine corners to their credit as compared with eight by Tullamore, but as a potent force they never got within shouting distance of the provincials. In these days when soccer has become dominated by all sorts of new fangled tactical plans it was refreshing to find

Tullamore reaping such dividends from the old fashioned long ball through the middle. Time after time the home defence was torn to shreds by this gambit and their inability to cope with one of the fundamental aspects of the game was one of the decisive factors which brought about their downfall on a tight, compact pitch, Tullamore defence throttled the life from the Belgrove attack. With Paddy Duffy in one of his unbeatable moods he broke the hearts of the home forwards with a series of spectacular saves which he repeatedly turned what looked like gilt edged scoring opportunities into fruitless corners. The keeper received maximum cover from a defence in which Tom Whiteley and the Lowery brothers were always the masters of the situation. The Tullamore middle line has been seen to better advantage than was the case on Sunday, for Eamonn Byrnes best form continues to elude him and although he was good on Sunday he was not the all powerful figure of last season. On the other hand Noel Lynch is enjoying a new lease of life and his covering and timely tackles have become quite a feature of Tullamores play in their recent run of nine consecutive victories. Good and all as

the display of the defence was on Sunday it must take a back seat when compared with the performance of the forwards. Four of the forwards got their names in the scoring list, but it was the odd man out, Liam Connolly who outshone them all. Operating behind his colleagues he fulfilled his duties as linkman to perfection some times posing as a double centre half with Martin Lowery and then surging forward to add impetus to the attack and achieving near perfection in both roles. It was Connolly who loaded the guns for the others to fire and just how well this plan of action succeeded is reflected in the score line. When it came to reaping the benefits of Connollys midfield work none succeeded better than Tommie Geraghty on the left wing. His shooting all through was explosive and accurate so that two goals did not really flatter him to any degree. On the other flank Mick Colleran was equally forceful with his shooting whilst in between the winger Jim Brady and Teddy Whiteley combined all their artistry and combination to complete a forward division which kept the home defence stretched right across the pitch. To appreciate fully the merit of Tullamores performance it is necessary to take stock of the calibre of the opposition. On paper Belgrove had what appeared to be a powerful side, which was liberally sprinkled with experience.

FLYING START

Tullamore were into their stride from the very first whistle and before the home defence had even thought about settling down they found themselves a

goal down after only three minutes. Colleran cut the ball back from the end line, but there was nobody covering the goal mouth as Geraghty nipped in to flash the ball low past Grogan. In the 10th minute a glorious through ball from Geraghty to Brady was turned behind by right full Dowling to credit the visitors with the first corner of the game. Another corner followed within a minute when Geraghty waltzed past Dowling to send in a snorter, which Grogan deflected around the post. Belgrove showed signs of recovering their composure and heavy pressure around the 17th minute earned them three corners in quick succession whilst six minutes later a dangerous centre from Coleman on the right wing gave Duffy an opportunity to prove his worth. The home goal fell for the second time in the 25th minute, and again it was the long ball down the middle which did the trick. Byrne initiated the movement with a great ball through to Brady who switched it out to Colleran and in no time at all the ball was humming its way to the back of the net. Belgrove made strenuous efforts to fight their way back into the game, but their best efforts went unrewarded.

Half-time: Belgrove, 0; Tullamore, 2.

Tullamore resumed on the offensive, with a first time effort from Whiteley being turned around the post by Grogan, but the home side suffered a serious blow in Tullamores next raid when centre half Tom Brady got a knock on the knee, which forced him to retire from the fray. This brought about a general reshuffle in the home ranks.

Belgrove were struggling for a foothold, but their hopes of a revival were blasted into oblivion in the 56th minute when Whiteley cut in from the left, rounded Dowling and lured Grogan from his goal before sliding the ball across for Brady to guide it in. This was the goal, which sealed Belgroves fate. They continued to fight doggedly, but they realised themselves, I think, that they had come to the end of the cup trail and their forwards were relying upon long range efforts in a bid to find a way through, a 30 yards free by Murray was taken cleanly by Duffy and a corner by Dodrill met with a similar fate. Meanwhile the Tullamore attack was warming to its task and they brought their total to four in the 69th minute when Brady, from just short of the halfway line, sent Whiteley through the centre and the inside left nipped between two defenders before gliding the ball wide of the advancing Grogan. Within a minute Colleran had the ball in the net again, but this time the score was disallowed for offside by Brady, Tullamore struck again in the 80th minute. Fittingly it was Liam Connolly, who set the stage for this one. He pushed a good ball out towards the left where Geraghty met it on the volley to send the ball crashing past Grogan with almost unbelievable force. Belgrove were denied even a consolation goal. So ended Tullamores most convincing display of the season and even the knowledge that they will enjoy home advantage in the quarter final cannot be too consoling to Glebe North at this stage.

Result: Belgrove, 0; Tullamore, 5.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Belgrove: M. Grogan, M. Dowling, T. Toal, B. Murray, T. Brady, P. Lynch, J. Coleman, T. Doherty, S. Farrell, D. Toal, J. Dodrill.

Reserve: J. Sullivan for Brady.

Referee: Mr. Denis Horgan [Dublin] handled this cup came with firm authority all through and by doing so contributed to the enjoyment of a game which not even adverse weather conditions could destroy.

MERIT RATING

And now it is time to face the one paragraph which I have been dreading ever since the final whistle blew on Sunday. This is one of those weeks when it would be so much easier to draw three names out of a hat. Indeed, such a course would almost be justified, so even was the standard of the performance. Yet I feel that it would be cheating for me to do so and instead I must make a choice and stand by it. This being the case I will take a deep breath and place the points earners as Tommie Geraghty, Paddy Duffy and Liam Connolly. And that leaves the overall position now reading as follows: L. Connolly [14] P. Duffy [11] T. Whiteley [10] N. Lynch [8] T. Geraghty [7] E. Byrne [6] E. Whiteley [6] M. Lowery [6] J. Brady [6] J. Lowery [3] M. Connolly [2] M. Colleran [2] J. Dolan [2] L. Boland [1]

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore return to league duty on Sunday next when they visit Whitehall to play the holders of the Blackthorn Cup, Home Farm. In what could be the most crucial game of the league for the visitors, since entering senior ranks Tullamore have never succeeded in defeating Home Farm, but that is not to say that they have ever accepted defeat easily. Invariable the meeting of these sides produces a thriller and next Sunday should be no exceptions in this respect. Although Home Farm are not

the force they were last season they have been showing signs of late of recapturing their true form. They are rated as favourites to win the Castrol Trophy in which they are unbeaten whilst on Sunday last, they registered a great 2-0 win over the holders, transport, in the Intermediate Cup. Obviously they are going to pose a serious threat to Tullamores long unbeaten run on Sunday, but the Offaly side is doing so exceptionally well just now that they are quite capable of taking at least one point from this fixture.

November 26th 1966

Tullamore defeat Home Farm for the first time

Home Farm1
Tullamore2

Tullamores amazing run of successes was carried a stage further on Sunday last when the provincials recorded what surely must have been their sweetest win of the season to date by defeating Home Farm by the odd goal in three at Whitehall. This is a result that Tullamore have been striving for ever since they entered senior ranks. In the past they have gone close to defeating the glamour side of Irish football but prior to Sunday last the closed they ever got to doing so was to force a division of the points. Sunday however saw their dreams come true and the manner in which, the mighty were vanquished, added to the merit of the performance. Circumstances favoured the Farm in this meeting. Not only had they the advantage of a home venue but, as usual, they caught Tullamore with a depleted team. It is a strange, but never the less true, fact that Tullamore have never yet been at full strngth for a fixture against Home Farm. And Sunday last was no exception as Martin Lowery was an absentee due to domestic reasons and Sean Hogan was called in to act as deputy at centre half.

Add to this the fact that Home Farm got off to a dream start by scoring in the 3rd minute and you will have some idea of why the players were feeling so elated in the dressin groom after the game. To be sure the visitors had luck on their side at times during Sundays game, but it required more than luck alone to bring about what was only Home Farms second defeat of the season and their first in a points competition. Having survived a first half during which their defence was a thing of shreds and tatters Tullamore, more or less against the run of the play, equalised just on the stroke of half time and they reappeared after the interval as a transformed side. Their tackling became more positive the forwards began to knit together as a unit, the defence settled down to defy the opposing forwards and in general, the visitiors began to make life miserable for their host.

LYNCH THE MATCHWINNER

By far the most consistent player on the Tullamore side was right half Noel Lynch, for the full ninety minutes Lynch outshone rivals and colleagues alike with a whole hearted performance which

must rank as one of the best of his career. The assistance he gave to Hogan must have been invaluable for a player acting as an understudy in such a vital encounter. But he was by no means alone in his heroic efforts. Goalkeeper, Paddy Duffy, Tom Whiteley and Sean Hogan were others to blunt the edge of the home attack, whilst John Lowery, after nightmare beginning, gradually settled down and in the closing stages made an invaluable contribution to the cause by twice clearing the ball off the goal line. In the first half Tullamore forwards scarcely got a single shot through to the home goal but after the break, as they warmed to their task it was a very different story. One always had the feeling that if Tullamore were to achieve anything it would accrue from the wings where both Mick Colleran and Tommie Geraghty had the beating of opposing fulls Liam Kennedy and Pat Boyle. Home Farm had the centre fairly well sealed off, for their middle line of Gerry James, Frank Brady and Billy Hunt succeeded brilliantly in throttling the provincial inside forwards of whom Teddy Whiteley was the liveliest. Centre forward Jim Brady was particularly subdued for 89 minutes of the game, but then proved his value as an opportunist by grasping his one big chance to score the all important winning goal eight minutes from the end of a memorable game.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Within seconds of the kick off the Farm right winger, O'Flaherty, raced through to shoot wide, thus setting the pattern

for the opening 45 minutes. A bad miskick by Lowery in the 3rd minute saw Hogan grateful to balloon the ball behind for the first corner of the game and when Brendan Dixon swung the flag kick into the centre inside left Joe Kealy was on hand to blast it through a ruck of player and past the unsighted Duffy. A goal at such an early stage left the Tullamore defence in a jitter and imbued the home side with fresh confidence which remained unshaken even when Geraghty forced a corner at the other end and then sent Whiteleys centre whistling mere inches wide of the target. A second chance came the way of Geraghty soon after when Colleran laid on a great pass, which the left winger blazed wide. It was only spasmodically that the visiting attack was seen to advantage as for instance, when Geraghty created an opening for Whiteley and the latter had a fine effort held under the bar by Boyle. Duffy saved well from Dixon following a mistake by Byrne in the 13th minute and two minutes later George Daly had the miss of the match as he raced through the centre on his own and with only Duffy to beat he blazed yards wide from close range. Duffy saved Tullamore again in the 18th minute. With far fewer opportunities the Tullamore attack looked relatively more dangerous and in the 26th minute Colleran was just narrowly wide from a close free. On the half hour Home Farm forced two corners on the left in quick succession and from the second of Howletts centres Daly had a snappy header well held by Duffy. Next right winger Kevin O'Flaherty left Lowery floundering as he cut in, but his parting shot was whipped clear by Tom

Whiteley whilst at the other end goalie Boyle was out fast to foil Brady at the edge of the box at the expense of a corner which Whiteley delivered into the side netting. It was not long before Duffy was back in action again and in the 35th minute he saved well when pouncing on a free by Gerry James. The corners continued to mount in Home Farms favour but the scoring chances missed by their forwards was emphasised when Tullamore surprisingly equalised with less than a minute of the first half remaining. It was a thundering drive from Geraghty which provided the opening, for although Boyle succeeded in turning the ball around the post Whiteleys corner sailed across to Byrne who had goalkeeper Boyle beaten all ends up when a defender fisted the ball out from under the bar and from the penalty which followed Lynch slammed the ball hard and low past Boyle.

Half-time Home Farm, 1; Tullamore, 1.

That last minute equaliser did wonders for Tullamores confidence and they reappeared after a short interval brimful of fighting spirit. Within seconds of the resumption they had forced two corners in succession. Then the keeper dropped to his knees to save a snappy free by Geraghty whilst a corner by Colleran was headed into the side netting by Whiteley. Even though they were deprived of the initiative for the first time Home Farm remained a dangerous combination and Duffy was obliged to come out very far to save from Daly at the expense of a corner. With 62 minutes gone Home Farm were fortunate to survive a claim for a

penalty after a handball inside the area.

MISSED PENALTY

What was probably the real turning point of the game came in the 75th minute when a close free by Gerry James was tipped over the bar by Duffy under pressure from Daly and as Howletts flag kick came dipping into a crowded goalmouth Lynch handled in the area. It looked a certain goal for the farm as Gerry James, who boasts a hundred per cent record of success with spot kicks, came up to take the twelve yard shot but for once he failed and Duffy dived to his left to push the ball clear. A home goal at this stage might well have sapped Tullamores enthusiasm but the reprieve gave then new life. By now the defence was performing splendidly and although Duffys goal came under a barrage of pressure the home forwards simply could not find a chink. Lynch was always in the thick of the fray whilst Whiteley and Lowery were covering the goal area magnificently. Twice Lowery kicked clear of the goal line, whilst in the 79th minute Duffy made the best save of the day with flying dive which turned a great header from Daly around the post. Only eight minutes remained for play now and Tullamore were more than satisfied with what appeared to be a certain division of the points.

WINNING GOAL

Then, in a twinkling, partial success was transformed into glorious, outright victory. The Tullamore goal had been under tremendous pressure caught too

far upfield. A quick pass possession between Geraghty and Byrne and a long, probing ball down the middle found Brady standing on his own. He appeared to be in an offside position but referee Byrne waved him on and with the home defence standing still to appeal Brady never one to look a gift horse in the mouth raced in to plant the ball past Boyle and turn his one real chance of the game to good account. After that the Farm redoubled their efforts to preserve their unbeaten record, but having come so near to tasting success Tullamore were not to be denied and a gallant defence held out for the remaining seven minutes which dragged like hours.

Result: Home Farm, 1; Tullamore, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, S. Hogan, E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly [capt], J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Home Farm: P. Boyle, L. Kennedy, P. Boyle, G. James [capt], F. Brady, W. Hunt, K. O'Flaherty, B. Dixon, G. Daly, J. Kealy, W. Howlett.

Referee: Mr. D.V. Byrne [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Seldom before have I found it so easy to decide upon the recipient of three points as is the case this week. Without a shadow of a doubt it was Noel Lynch who stole the honours of the day, in a game, in which the Tullamore defenders recovered, from a very shaky start to dominate the vital closing stages.

Under these circumstances it is scarcely to be wondered at, that the forwards are left out in the cold in this feature and for the minor awards I am taking Tom Whiteley and Paddy Duffy. With these points added the overall position now reads as follows:

Liam Connolly [14] Tom Whiteley [12] Paddy Duffy [12] Noel Lynch [11] Tommie Geraghty [7] Martin Lowery [6] Teddy Whiteley [6] Eamonn Byrne Jim Brady [6] John Lowery [3] Mick Colleran [2] Mick Connolly [2] Jimmy Dolan [2] Liam Boland [1]

ANOTHER TEST

Last Sunday's victory sent Tullamore zooming up to take over the leadership of the league table and stretched their winning sequence to ten in a row. However they are not getting much chance to rest on their laurels as each week presents them with another formidable challenge. On Sunday next they will return to Spollenstown where they will have Shelbourne as visitors in the league. No need to remind you that Shels went through the Castrol Trophy without defeat and are still unbeaten in the league, although they surprisingly dropped a home point to Athlone last week when held to a 2-2 draw at Irishtown. Tullamore have an old score to settle with the reds for it was Shelbourne who inflicted the heaviest defeat of the season on Tullamore when they defeated them 4-0 in the Castrol Trophy. However, on that occasion it was a Saturday fixture Tullamore fielded what was little more than a shadow team and on Sunday next they are likely to be a much stronger force. In addition

this will be their final outing before tackling the vital cup game against Glebe North on Sunday week. Defeat on Sunday could prove disastrous to the

morale of the side whilst, in contrast, another impressive victory would help quite a bit to instil additional confidence for the tough trip to Balbriggan.

December 3rd 1966

Tullamore Held In Thriller

Tullamore0 Shelbourne0

Seldom before have I ever heard Tullamore supporters render such splendid vocal support to their side as was the case at Spollenstown on Sunday last with Shelbourne boasting an unbeaten record since the start of the season came to town. Determined to put a stop to Tullamores long run of victories which dates back to early September, when ironically enough, it was Shelbourne themselves who were the last side to defeat the provincials.

The clash between these top of the table teams proved a big attraction and the attendance at Spollenstown was the third highest of the season to date for an encounter.

Scoreless draws have a reputation for being dull, boring affairs, but last Sundays game certainly proved an exception to this rule. There was scarcely a dull moment from start to finish and it would be difficult to conceive any game providing a more exciting climax as Tullamore threw everything they had at their visitors in a grandstand bid to penetrate a cast iron defence. A division of the points probably left everybody in a happy frame of mind at the final whistle. Tullamore enjoyed a big share of the territorial exchanges but their superiority true the field was not turned to proper account by the forwards. Even after allowance has been made for the wonderful work of the reds defence censure must still be passed on the

home attack for failing to snap up some easy chances in the early stages. On at least three occasions the ball was driven wide of the target when it would have been almost easier to slip it into the net. However, Tullamore were unlucky to see their best scoring bid of the day a rasping drive from John Dooner come back off the inside of the post in the 79th minute. Dooner was deputising on the left wing for flu striched Tommie Geraghty and this enforced changes may have had something to do with the loss of cohesion up front. The passing of the home forwards lacked its usual crispness whilst in addition their timing was way off. Mick Colleran emerged as the most consistent member of the line. Teddy Whiteley played with his ribs heavily strapped and under the circumstances it was scarcely to be wondered at that he failed to produce his best form. Centre forward, Jim Brady took quite a buffeting from the visiting defence and was obviously a marked man from an early stage.

Whenever the ball came to him on the ground he had the beating of centre half Brendan Place, but with Shels using Freddie Strahan as a second centre half, Brady was no sooner past one tackle than he was confronted by a second. Liam Connolly, playing his deep lying role as usual, had an excellent ninety minutes. The inclusion of John Dooner on the wing added punch and spirit at the expense of experience and confidence. The home defence came through this test with flying colours. None of the backs was ever in danger of being over worked, but the manner in which they discharged their duties created a very favourable impression. Liam Boland, deputising for Paddy Duffy who was not available on Sunday, handled the ball cleanly and with confidence and a couple of his saves were right out of the top drawer whilst in front of him the keeper had reliable defenders in such as Tom Whiteley and Lowery brothers, John and Martin, each of whom contributed in his own way, to the saving of a valuable point. At half back Eamonn Byrne was slow to get into his stride, but once settled down he became a dynamic force and a perfect foil to the cultured and effective work of Noel Lynch on the other flank. Some value of the score, which Shelbourne set on maintaining the unbeaten record, may be gauged from the strength of the side, which they had on duty. In addition to former Irish international Freddie Strahan, they had at least three other players who have been holding down regular places on their first team.

HOW PLAY WENT

The opening minutes were packed with incident, with each side in turn looking dangerous. A feature of these early exchanges was the eagerness with which Tullamore were shooting from long range and particularly dangerous was a snap shot from Connolly which Byrne did well to hold. Tullamore's best attack of the first quarter came in the 8th minute when Connolly sent Brady away inside his own half and the centre forward raced right through the opposing defence before shooting narrowly over. A weak pass back from Martin Lowery almost presented Shels with a gift goal in the 10th minute, but Boland came out fast to snatch the ball off Murray's toes. Three minutes after Dooner got his head to a high centre from Whiteley to flick the ball over, but it was Shels who forced the first corner of the game in the 14th minute. Home hearts skipped a beat when the Tullamore defence indulged in some dangerous close passing inside their own area, but they got away with it and in the 19th minute a shrewd pass from Brady created an opening for Dooner which was wasted by a weak shot which posed no problems for Leo Byrne.

MISSED OPPORTUNITY

One of Tullamore's worst misses came one minute later when a great ball from Colleran sent Whiteley through the middle, but as Byrne rushed out Whiteley sliced the ball wide of the goal. It was exhilarating fair, lacking only a goal to set it on fire, and this we almost had in the 24th minute when a pass back from place was badly fumbled by Byrne and Brady dashed in to stab the ball

wide of an open goal. It was misses such as this, which were depriving Tullamore of the reward which their approach work merited. The visiting attack were moving the ball well now and in the 35th minute right winger Tony Boushell slipped past two tackles before being stopped in his tracks by Lynch.

HIT POST

One of the best movements of the game came just five minutes before the interval when Maguire and Boushell combined splendidly to send Murray through for a shot which came back off the foot of the post to be cleared by Martin Lowery and before the short whistle Tullamore returned to the attack for Brady to force a corner through sheer tenacity on the end line.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Shelbourne, 0.

Both sides resumed still full of fire and determination and in the 54th minute Brady skipped past a series of tackles to unleash a blistering drive which was brilliantly turned around the post by Byrne. Tullamores biggest fault now was the close passing of their forwards, which repeatedly played right into the hands of the hard tackling Shels defence. Heavy home pressure found this defence to be unyielding, the nearest approach to a goal coming when Martin Lowery tipped an indirect free to Colleran whose rising shot scraped over the bar. There followed a spell of Shelbourne supremacy, which yielded two corners in quick succession before a free out for a foul on Boland eased the situation. Whiteley and Colleran

exchanged places in the 65th minute and almost immediately the former raced through for a shot which Byrne saved against the upright whilst in a subsequent raid a free by Byrne was headed over by Dooner. With home supporters now in full cry the roar from the stand and sidelines became deafening and the team reacted by surging to the attack with renewed vigour. A free by Strahan sent Tullamore back and in the 75th minute John Lowery linked up with his forwards in a movement which saw him come up the left wing for a shot which was saved by Byrne. Three minutes later Murray missed a gilt edged chance of putting the visitors ahead when he cut through and seemed certain to score from point blank range until he miskicked and enabled Boland to save.

SAVED BY THE BAR

Entering the last quarter with the chips down Tullamore assumed almost full control. They pounded the visitors goal from all sides and in the 79th minute experienced the cruel misfortune to see a great shot from Dooner come back off the angle of the crossbar and upright. From that point onwards Tullamore remained the masters without being able to find a chink in the reds defence.

Result: Tullamore, 0; Shelbourne, 0.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery [capt], E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, J. Dooner.

Shelbourne: L. Byrne, D. Kennedy, F.

Strahan, C. Maguire [capt], B. Place,
B. Orr, T. Boushell, J. Murray, J. Killeen,
D. Hickey, P. Kellaghan.

Referee Mr. C. O'Connor [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

I feel none to happy about nominating
this weeks points winners, there was a
uniformity about the performances of
the entire team which makes it difficult
to single out any one above the others.
Yet, the task must be faced and, this
being the case, I am taking Mick
Colleran, Liam Boland and Liam
Connolly in that order to leave the
overall position now reading as follows:
Liam Connolly [15] Tom Whiteley [12]

Paddy Duffy [12] Noel Lynch [11]
Tommie Geraghty [7] Martin Lowery [6]
Jim Brady [6] Eamonn Byrne [6] Teddy
Whiteley [6] Mick Colleran [5] John
Lowery [3] Liam Boland [3] Mick
Connolly [2] Jimmy Dolan [2]

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Drogheda	4	3	0	1	6
Tullamore	3	2	1	0	5
Shelbourne	4	1	3	0	5
Drumcondra	4	2	1	1	5
St. Patricks A.	2	2	0	0	4
Ormeau	3	1	1	1	3
Home Farm	3	1	1	1	3
Shamrock R	3	1	1	1	3
Bohemians	4	1	1	2	3
Dalkey United	3	1	0	2	2
Athlone	3	0	1	2	1
Dundalk	4	0	0	4	0

December 10th 1966

Tullamore Force Home Replay

Glebe north1 Tullamore1

Although subjected to almost continuous second half pressure a gallant Tullamore defence held out to force a 1-1 draw with Glebe North in last Sundays F.A.I. Intermediate Cup third round tie at Balbriggan on Sunday last.

Twenty minutes extra time failed to break the deadlock and so the teams must meet again next Sunday at Spollenstown. Those who saw this drawn game will relish the prospect of a second helping, for it was a splendid encounter contested in a sporting manner and at a cracking pace.

Tullamore may consider themselves fortunate to get a second bite at the cherry for they were forced to defend for long periods and judged on a territorial basis it was Glebe North who were left to rue the faulty finish of their forwards.

A total of fifteen wides by the home forwards tells its own story and even after full allowance has been made for the superb quality of the Tullamore defence the Glebe attack must shoulder a good portion of the blame for failing to win this tie at the first attempt. In a typical cup tie there was no shortage of thrills and excitement, particularly in the extra time period when failing light infused a somewhat unreal atmosphere

to the exchanges with players at the far end of the pitch emerging like shadows from the gloom. Had either side succeeded in scoring a winning goal during this phase it would have been little short of tragic, for by then neither deserved to lose and a second meeting was really the ideal outcome of a great game.

MARTIN LOWERY THE HERO

The toast of the Tullamore dressingroom after the game was Martin Lowery who turned in a regal performance at centre half for the visitors. Whether in the air or on the ground Lowery proved himself the king of the penalty area and played a real captains part in earning a second

chance for Tullamore. Behind him goalkeeper Paddy Duffy was another who was instrumental in averting defeat, for his handling of the ball all through was a source of confidence. The efforts of Lowery and Duffy were back to the hilt by the full back partnership of Tom Whiteley and John Lowery. At wing half Eamonn Byrne emerges as a real force only late in the game when his clever covering averted several dangerous situations from developing, but Noel Lynch was consistently effective and had the distinction of scoring Tullamores only goal from the spot.

FORWARDS FAIL

It is a long time now since I have seen the Tullamore attack in such a subdued mood. With two members of the line Tommie Geraghty and Teddy Whiteley just recovered from bouts of flu the attack never functioned smoothly and it must be a source of encouragement to supporters of the Midlanders that it is unlikely that future form can ever reach such a low level. Geraghty had one great shot early in the game which came back off the woodwork, but otherwise he was seldom seen to advantage whilst Whiteley was off the mark with his shooting on the few occasions that he was left with an opening. To add to Tullamores difficulties in this sector Jim Brady was right off form in the centre. Mick Colleran emerged as the best of the visitors attack with his strength and shooting power making him as the forward most likely to succeed, although Liam Connolly got through quite an

amount of useful work around midfield. If the visiting forwards failed to impress in an attacking role most of them earned high marks by the manner in which they dropped back to help in defence for at times in the second half Tullamore were playing with nine defenders and only two forwards filling orthodox roles.

STRONG OPPOSITION

What sort of opposition did Tullamore meet in Balbriggan, well, the fact that the former Drumcondra and Waterford player Mick McGrath, was relegated to the position of 12th man provides a gauge to the strength of the seashiders. The home side, like their visitors, were splendidly served by a powerful defence in which goal keeper Oliver Adamson, right full Donald Kierans and centre half Tony Guildea were outstanding, in addition Jim Corr provided the ideal link between defence and attack whilst up front Joe Barnett on the left wing and Sean Dunne at inside right posed the biggest problems.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The opening shots of the early skirmishes were fired by Tullamore, who forced the first corner of the game in the 6th minute, but Duffy was the first keeper to touch the ball when, two minutes later he came out to the edge of the area to collect a throw in from Lynch, Duffy was also the first keeper to be tested by a shot when he collected a snappy effort from Sean Dunne in the 10th minute and thirty seconds later the goalie did well to smother the ball at

Liam Grants feet following an indiresct free. The 13th minute very nearly proved disastrous for Balbriggan for Adamson was beaten all ends up by a powerdful drive from Geraghty which smacked off the underside of the bar, dropped like a stone on the line and was just scrambled away in the nick of time by Guildea. The ball was swinging from end to end now with both defences coming under pressure in turn and in the 15th minute Tullamore goal had a fortunate escape when Liam grant broke through the centre and shot over, with Barnett standing unmarked on his left. Next Lynch ballooned the ball over following a free by Byrne, whilst Whiteley had a good effort tipped over the bar by Adamson. By degrees Glebe were taking over the role of pacemakers and Tullamore found themselves obliged to defend more and more. A well judged tackle by Byrne averted possible danger when Liam Grant sent Dunne through the centre, but with the pressure mounting Tullamore were forced to concede two corners in quick succession. Brady was making little headway against the first time tackling of Guildea, but the centre forward went close in the 36th minute with a ground shot which Adamson just managed to push around the post. With the interval almost at hand Glebe returned to the attack and a well placed free by Sean Dunne was held under the bar by Duffy. The two best chances of the closing stages fell to Tullamore. First Brady stumbled when moving on to a squared pass from Colleran and then Adamson was brought to his knees by a rasping free from Geraghty.

Half-time: Glebe North, 0; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore resumed on the offensive and withn a minute Whiteley squared a good ball out to Colleran, and the wingers shot whistled narrowly past the post. However, it was not long before the Balbriggan side got back on the attack, with an inswinging corner by Barnett being fisted off Grants head by Duffy at the expense of a corner. This was the start of a siege on the Tullamore posts during which Martin Lowery, Tom Whiteley and Lynch in turn came to the rescue of the visitors.

TULLAMORE OPENING SCORE

With the game running strongly in favour of Glebe it was more or less against the run of the play when Tullamore opened the scoring in the 56th minute. Whiteley had forced a corner on the left and he took the kick himself, flighting the ball in under the bar from where it was beaten out by Adamson and in the ensuing scramble Guildea handled inside the area, Lynch came up for the spot kick and maintained his hundred per cent record this season by placing it well out of Adamsons reach. This goal might have been expected to place the visitors in a strong position, but instead it served to whip up the opposition and Glebe redoubled their efforts. A thundering drive from Barnett was brilliantly tipped over by Duffy whilst at thte other end Adamson came out fast to smother the ball at Geraghtys feet. Whiteley and Colleran switched places in the Tullamore attack and when the latter got across a peach of a centre in the 61st minute Brady let

it run through to Whiteley who blazed over from a favourable position. Glebe came storming back for Grant to head a free by Dunne inches outside to spark off another tremendous onslaught.

THE EQUALISER

The pressure on the Tullamore goal mounted until it simply could not be denied its reward and in the 71st minute came the equaliser. Duffy had just brought off another first class save by finger tipping a rasper from Barnett over the bar and when Dunne placed his flag kick right across the face of the goal Barnett met it on the drop to send the ball rocketing into the net. Encouraged no end by this success the home attack swarmed around the Tullamore posts like wasps around a jam jar. Tullamore pulled half their forward line back to stem the tide and Connolly and Colleran did much useful work as emergency defenders, but it was Martin Lowery who was the real hero during the crisis which preceded the long whistle.

Full-time: Glebe North, 1; Tullamore, 1.

EXTRA TIME

Notwithstanding the fact that both sides were rapidly tiring the pace continued to be a fast one as extra time got under way with the light fading fast. Glebe remained in the drivers seat as a fast header from Dunne zipped inches over the bar and Duffy held a low shot from Kierans, but gradually it became apparent that the homeside had now shot their bolt and Tullamore began to emerge from their defensive shell. The

visitors went close to regaining the lead when Adamson fumbled a close in free and was thankful that Webster was behind him to kick off the line. Then Kieran very nearly put through his own goal as he deflected a shot from Brady inches over the bar before Glebe returned to the attack with agreeat centre form McGrath dropping at the far post where it was hooked over by Barnett. With just one minute to go before the change of ends Tullamore had a chance from a close free, but Geraghty blazed high oner the bar, thus losing a chance to redeem a disappointing performance. With the light becoming really bad now the sides changed over again and McGrath put in a jinking run from his own penalty area, which carried him to within shooting distance of the Tullamore goal before he was stopped in his tracks by Byrne.

HIT POST

That the seaisiders were by no means a spent force yet was proved conclusively in the 105th minute when Barnett by far their most dangerous forward got across another great centre from which Dunne hit the foot of the post, but whis was to be the home sided final fling and it was Tullamore who finished the game in the role of attackers. Whiteley squared the ball right across the face of the goal from a free to earn a corner and when Colleran sent the ball across from the flag Lynch first timed it hight over the bar. Adamson was proving himself every bit as valuable to Glebe north as Duffy was to Tullamore and with time running out he got his body well behind a rasping shot from Whiteley, but

although the home side mounted one final assault which brought them a corner in the dying seconds nothing came off it as Dunne sent the flag kick behind. Thus the respective defences held sway to the final whistle, and who would have wished it otherwise.

Result: Glebe North, 1; Tullamore, 1.

Glebe North: K. Adamson, D. Kieran, J. Webster, J. Corr, A. Guildea, F. Grant, J. McGrath, S. Dunne, L. Grant, S. Kieran, J. Barnett.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: We had the unusual experience of having three officials in charge of this game and the fact that referee Denis Horgan had the assistance of two of his colleagues, Brian Touhy and Christy O'Connor running the line provided proof that this would be an ideal setup for all important games. It was Mr. Horgan who had charge of Tullamores previous cup game against Belgrove and, as was the case on that occasion, his handling of Sundays game left nothing to be desired.

FIGURES OF THE GAME Tullamore

	Gls.	Crs.	Wides	Frees
1 st Half	0	2	3	6
2 nd Half	1	3	3	3
Extra Time	0	2	2	3
Total	1	7	8	12

Glebe North

	Gls.	Crs.	Wides	Frees
1 st Half	0	3	6	4
2 nd Half	1	2	8	8
Extra Time	0	2	1	3
Total	1	7	15	15

MERIT RATING

The destination of our merit rating points this week almost decided itself. Without a shadow of a doubt Martin Lowery must top the list. Indeed I overheard one Tullamore supporter say as he left the field that Lowery should be given the whole six points for his performance. That, of course is not possible but he certainly earned the tribute. Supporting Lowery as points winners this week are Paddy Duffy and Noel Lynch and this leaves the overall position now reading as follows:
Liam Connolly [15] Paddy Duffy [14]
Noel Lynch [12] Tommy Whiteley [12]
Martin Lowery [9] Tommie Geraghty [7]
Eamonn Byrne [6] Teddy Whiteley [6]
Jim Brady [6] Mick Colleran [5] John Lowery [3] Liam Boland [3] Jimmy Dolan [2] Mick Connolly [2]

THE REPLAY

Last Sundays game in Balbriggan yielded a tidy little sum and the indications are the clubs will share another nest egg when the replay takes place next Sunday at Spollenstown [2.30 p.m.] certainly the drawn game serves as the best possible advertisement and a repeat of last Sundays thrills will go a long way

towards satisfying home fans although they were outplayed for long spells in Balbriggan. I expect the Tullamore forwards to fare much better on their home ground. The fact that the attack has now gone two games without scoring from play suggests that something has gone wrong in this sector, but the tide may turn in the

replay. Certainly, the Midlanders defence proved itself on Sunday and if the forwards can put a little more effort into their work I am confident that even this superb Balbriggan defence will be cracked sufficiently to allow Tullamore through to the semifinal and the F.A.I. Cup.

December 17th 1966

Tullamore Win Thriller In Extra Time

Down through the years many great matches have been played at Spollenstown, but the best of them pale into insignificance when compared with last Sundays quarter final replay in the Intermediate Cup when, by defeating Glebe North 4-2 after extra time.

Tullamore qualified for a place in the last four of this event and, at the same time ensured that their name would go into the hat when the draw for the first round of the F.A.I Senior Cup is made in Merrion Square, on February 13th.

Even a wet and windy December day failed to dampen the ardour of a huge attendance, which included a strong contingent, complete with flags, bells, and rattles from Balbriggan. And what tremendous value they got for their money. This was a game that had practically everything. Great goals, disputed decisions, a disallowed goal and a penalty were but some of the features which will keep local soccer fans talking for many a long day to come and although it required extra time to decide the issue justice was done in the long run. The drawn game in Balbriggan the previous week set both teams a high target to aim at, but the replay even succeeded in surpassing it.

POISED FOR VICTORY

Make no mistake about it. Balbriggan were poised for victory when they took the lead for the second time just before the change of ends in extra time. Their

defence had proved so impregnable all through that it looked most unlikely that the tiring home forwards could pull the game out of the fire at this stage. However, we reckoned without the fighting spirit which has become almost synonymous with Tullamore soccer this season and when Noel Lynch slammed in the equaliser after Jim Brady had been taken down in the area we were quite content to look forward to a third meeting at a neutral venue next week. However these red shirted Tullamore forwards had other ideas and in a grand stand finish they had the hitherto composed Balbriggan defence reeling. Geraghty headed in a free by Lynch to put Tullamore ahead for the first time and less than a minute later the visitors fate was finally sealed when Brady struck again, controlling a pass from Connolly perfectly to slip it past the advancing Adamson. These were but the bones of the game, but the entire 110 minutes will go into the annals of Tullamore football as being the most

mementous in the history of the club.

PERSONALITY PARS

Such are the vagaries for football that Paddy Duffy one of the real heroes of the drawn game the previous week would have been regarded as the villain of the piece had Tullamore lost the replay. He was badly positioned when Dunnes inswinging corner sailed all the way to the net for the only goal of the first half and then, after Tullamore had equalised he fly kicked a clearance to Frank Grant and then failed to get back in time to prevent the winghalf lobbing the ball into the empty net. Although they were not subjected to anything like the pressure of the drawn game the home defence came through with flying colours on Sunday. This time it was Tom Whiteley who emerged as the central figure in a superb rearguard, for the manner in which he shadowed Joe Barnett out of the game stamped him as the outstanding defender on view. John Lowery also sealed off the approaches from the wings and although Martin Lowerys play did not quite reach the heights of the previous week he never the less succeeded in his task of holding the visitors top scorer, Liam Brant, scoreless. Tullamore had two dynamic and tireless wing halves in Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne whilst up front the home attack played well above their form of the first game. Mick Colleran, revelling in the heavy conditions, was the driving force. He wore the number seven shirt but in reality he roamed all over the field as the play dictated and was to be found on the left flank or in the centre just as

frequently as in his own berth. When it comes to opportunism you must hand it to Jim Brady. On Sunday he scored the first and last goals, and in between earned the penalty which put Tullamore back in the game. Both his goals were gems and altogether he made life miserable for the visiting defence. Teddy Whiteleys true form continued to elude him and on Sunday he was but a shadow of his real self, whilst Tommie Geraghty, although redeeming himself by heading a great third goal in extra time, was another to disappoint the big home following. The remaining member of the winning team, Liam Connolly, got through a tremendous amount of work behind the attack, but a role of this nature is unspectacular and Connollys real contribution towards victory could easily be over looked. Glebe North, like Tullamore, improved on their display of a week earlier. In Oliver Adamson they had a brilliant goalie whilst right full Donal Kieran, and centre half, Tony Guildea were staunch defenders. Wing halves, John Corr and Frank Grant played second fiddle to their opposite numbers aaround the middle of the field and the result was that the forwards were obliged to fend for themselves and apart from a great performance by inside right, Sean Dunne the visitors attack simply did not have the ability to prize open the clam like home defence.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Both sides were tense in the opening stages and although the ball was swung freely from end to end no danger threatened until the 8th minute when Tullamore forced the opening corner,

Lynch shooting over after Collerans centre had been partially cleared by Guildea. With defences on top at either end scoring chances were few and far between, but Tullamore might have taken the lead in the 17th minute when Kieran miskicked following a free by Lynch and Geraghty was left with an opening from close range. However, the winger shot wide. Three minutes later Adamson made the first of his many fine saves when he held a snappy shot from Geraghty under the bar, whilst in further home pressure a blazing shot from Bready was deflected behind for a corner by Webster. It was not until the 22nd minute that the visitors forced their first corner of the game, McGraths kick being swept to safety by Connolly. A dangerous Balbriggan movement which embraced Corr, McGrath and Dunne was cut short by Duffys well timed advance and when Tullamore returned to attack they forced another corner and from Whiteleys centre Brady had a good effort saved at the foot of the post by Adamson. On the half hour Connolly headed just over following a free by Geraghty whilst the first big talking point of the game arrived one minute later when Adamson fumbled a shot from Geraghty and as Webster fell on the ball right on the goal line Tullamore made confident appeals for a penalty. For a second it looked as though referee Horgan was in agreement but on consulting his linesman he allowed play to continue.

DANGEROUS SHOT

Tullamore had luck on their side in the 33rd minute when a magnificent shot

from Dunne whistled inches outside the far post with Duffy beaten, but the escape was only temporary and in Glebes next attack they forced a corner on the left. Dunne took the flag kick and to the delight of the Balbriggan supporters and the dismay of their Tullamore counter parts the ball sailed all the way to the far corner of the net with Duffy badly positioned beside the near upright. With one minute to go to the interval Dunne had the ball in the Tullamore net again, but this time he was blatantly off side and the score was correctly disallowed.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Glebe North, 1.

With the elements behind them and playing into the scoring goal Tullamores plight was not too serious as they resumed with Whiteley on the right wing and Colleran at inside left. Their prospects soared only four minutes after the resumption when Brady snapped up a return pass from Whiteley and burst through the centre, where he controlled the ball beautifully before slamming it well out of Adamsons reach for the equaliser, now the game was not only alight but blazing furiously. Tullamore looked like taking complete control as a great ball from Colleran sent Whiteley clear on the wing, but the latter slipped at the crucial moment and another good chance was lost. Next a thundering drive from Colleran almost took Adamsons fingers off as he somehow managed to divert it over the bar but in the 55th minute Glebe came storming back as Dunne was allowed dribble the ball in alarmingly close before having his shot saved by Duffy.

GREAT GOALKEEPING

Adamson was putting on a wonderful one man show between the Balbriggan posts and in the 59th minute he saved the visitors again by knocking a good pass from Connolly off Bradys head, Brady switched to the right wing to allow Whiteley a turn in the centre, but it made little difference and although Tullamore were well on top at midfield their forwards were lying much too deep to turn their scoring chances to account. Every good goalie needs his share of good luck and fortune smited on Adamson in the 71st minute when a long range free by Byrne dipped dangerously and went behind off the keepers knee. At this stage Tullamore were attacking almost incessantly and in the 77th minute the power of Geraghty shooting was reflected when from a free he knocked Adamson, right off his feet and the goalie had to receive attention before resuming. Talking point number two came just six minutes from the end of normal time when a free on the end line by Geraghty was finished to the net by Brady, but the roar from the stand was cut short when the referee disallowed the goal and instead awarded a free out for a handling infringement. 88 minutes gone and extra time looming on the horizon. A close free to Tullamore and anything can happen. Geraghty unleashes another piledriver but again it is Adamson who foils home hopes by holding the ball cleanly under the bar.

EXTRA TIME

With only two goals being scored by two fresh teams in ninety minutes play it did not look as though an additional twenty minutes could make much difference to the scoreboard. Both sides were showing the effects of the punishing pace as Tullamore kicked off again and within a matter of seconds Whiteley shot strongly into the side netting. At the other end Grant headed a centre from Barnett over the bar but in the 100th minute disaster befell Tullamore in the shape of a careless clearance from Duffy who had advanced to the edge of his box to clear. The ball was returned quickly by Frank Grant but even as Duffy made a desperate attempt to get back it was all too obvious that the ball was going to roll gently into the empty net before he could reach it. A stunned silence told its story of despair as the sides changed over for the last time and with Glebe once more in front it was evident that only a super human effort was going to break down their defence. Yet their goal was to fall three times in the ten minutes, which remained a truly extraordinary climax to a wonderful game. Tullamores break came in the 102 minute when Brady was going through like a steam engine before being taken down from behind. It was a clearcut penalty, but not for a ten pound note would I have swapped places with Noel Lynch as he prepared to what was probably the most important kick of his playing career. The silence could have been cut with a knife as the stage was set and then a mighty roar told the tale Lynch had shot into the left hand corner of the net as Adamson, remembering the previous weeks spot kick, had gone to the right. It looked odd on a third

meeting at a neutral venue then, but these lion hearted Tullamore players had other ideas and things began to happen quicker than I could jot them down. With two minutes to go Lynch paved the way for the winning goal with a perfectly placed free across the goal mouth and from amidst a cluster of players it was Geraghty who rose like a salmon to head the ball in. This was virtually Tullamores passport to the semi final but just to make sure they added another one within a minute. This was a typical effort by Brady as he controlled a through pass from Connolly with defenders converging on him from all angles and as Adamson dashed out from goal he was passed in midair by the ball going in the opposite direction to snuggle into the corner of the net. After that was it any wonder that the Tullamores players were carried shoulder high from the pitch.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Glebe North, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Glebe North: O. Adamson, D. Kieran, J. Webster, J. Corr, A. Guildea, F. Grant, J. McGrath, S. Dunne, L. Grant, S. Kieran, J. Barnett.

Officials the same team of officials who had controlled the drawn game were again in charge of the replay, with Mr. Dennis Horgan in the centre and Messrs Christy O'Connor and Brian Tuohy running the lines. In such an explosive atmosphere as this it would have been

next to impossible to please everybody, but this trio went as near to doing so as makes no difference and in the dressing room after the game they were unanimous in voting this one of the best games they had ever officiated at. Praise indeed from three senior men of such standing.

MERIT RATING

And now for the most distasteful task of the week. How invidious it is to have to choose three players from the ranks of such a gallant team. If it must be done then I nominate Noel Lynch, Mick Colleran and Tom Whiteley in that order to leave the overall position reading: L. Connolly [15] N. Lynch [15] P. Duffy [14] T. Whiteley [13] M. Lowery [9] T. Geraghty [7] M. Colleran [7] E. Whiteley [6] E. Byrne [6] J. Brady [6] J. Lowery [3] L. Boland [3] M. Connolly [2] J. Dolan [2]

NEXT WEEK

After a couple of tough cup ties Tullamore will be back on league duty next week-end when they travel to meet Bohemians in Dalymount Park. The visitors will be seeking to extend their unbeaten run to thirteen games, so let us hope that this does not reflect an unlucky omen.

FIGURES OF THE GAME

Tullamore

	Goals	Corners	Frees	Wides
First Half	0	4	9	5
Second Half	1	4	8	5
Extra	3	3	4	2

Time				
Total	4	11	21	12

Glebe North

	Goals	Corners	Frees	Wides
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First Half	1	3	5	3
Second Half	0	1	7	3
Extra Time	1	0	2	1
Total	2	4	14	7

December 24th 1966

One Goal Won Two Points

A solitary goal, scored early in the game by Liam Connolly, sufficed to give Tullamore both points from their League of Ireland 'B' Division game against Bohemians at Dalymount Park, on Sunday last, thus maintaining their unbeaten sequence and keeping them in touch with affairs at the head of the table.

The visitors made hard work of winning and were obviously still suffering from the effects of their marathon against Glebe North, yet to take 2 points from Dalymount was no mean achievement and leaves Tullamore in the happy position of having gained three victories from three difficult away assignments.

Inevitably Tullamore's performance suffered by comparison with the thriller of the previous week. With cup tension lifted the provincials were in a more relaxed mood and were certainly far removed from their best form.

Territorially, they allowed Bohemians to dominate the exchanges particularly through out the second half, but the defence saw to it that possession was more of a liability than an asset for the home forwards. Repeatedly, Bohemians were allowed to come forward as far as the fringe of the penalty area, but no further. The result was that although Paddy Duffy was kept extremely active he was never seriously extended and dealt more than capably with the shots which came his way. Eamonn Byrne

was right back to his best form in the middle, a corner was conceded in which Whiteleys covering in the closing stages was primarily responsible for depriving Bohemians of an equaliser. Martin Lowery too emerged with honours from the fray whilst the effectiveness of the middle line was completed by the steadying influence of Noel Lynch. This trio bore the brunt of the battle, but their efforts were backed to the full by Tom Whiteley and John Lowery who succeeded admirably in curbing the danger threatened by the home wingers. If the Tullamore defence came through this test with enhanced reputation the same cannot be said regarding their forward colleagues. The absence of Jim Brady had a most unsettling effect on the front line, which, from start to finish lacked striking power. The experiment of playing Mick Colleran in the centre failed to pay off, for he was never happy working in a confined space, Brady's place was filled by John Dooner on the right wing. What little thrust there was in the Tullamore attack came from Liam Connolly and Teddy Whiteley so that it was entirely

fitting that this pair should have combined to provide the only goal of a drab game. Considering that Bohemians included a number of players with first team experience their display was disappointing in the extreme. Under pressure in the early stages the home defence creaked more than a little and it was only sterling work by their half back line of Mick Kavanagh, Paul Doyle and Eddie Ryan which kept them in the game at this stage. Their forwards played dainty football, but there was absolutely no bite in their play so that although they worked the ball cleverly goalwards they lacked the penetration which might have rewarded their approach work.

POINTS FROM THE PLAY

Play opened on a lively enough note and within two minutes of the kick off Geraghtys shooting power claimed another victim when right half Kavanagh dropped like a stone after heading out a pile driver which was heading for the net after goalkeeper Mooney had succeeded in smothering a shot from Colleran. It took several minutes to revive Kavanagh and with the home defence under pressure left full Noel Robinson was grateful to kick behind from Colleran to concede a corner which Whiteley sent behind. Bohemians first big chance in attack came in the 7th minute when Cobbe and Keating combined beautifully on the left for the latter to square the ball across the goalmouth to Wylder who, fortunately for Tullamore failed to connect properly from close range. The goal which won and lost the match came just two

minutes later and was the one bright feature of the game. It stemmed from a weak shot by Geraghty which Mooney turned around the post and when Whiteley floated the ball across from the left Connolly timed his leap perfectly to head the ball almost out of Mooneys hands and into the net. This looked like the prelude to an easy Tullamore victory and a series of corners kept them on the offensive, but in a two minute spell Bohs missed a brace of good chances of drawing level. First a free out on the sideline by Keating was headed narrowly over by Cobbe in the 13th minute and then two minutes later a free by Ryan had Duffy beaten when Byrne headed out from under the bar. After these escapes Tullamore returned to the attack with a centre from Colleran on the endline being cut off by Mooney. Bohs were playing forcefully in defence at this stage and when they forced a corner on the left Duffy did exceptionally well to fist Keatings centre off Cobbess head.

NARROW ESCAPE

Tullamores citadel had a very fortunate escape in the 23rd minute when an astute pass from Keating sent Mulhall clear and from the edge of the area the inside left sent a sizzling drive scraping over the bar. Bohemians were coming much more into the game in this second quarter and it required some good work by M. Lowery, Byrne and Whiteley to hold them in check, whilst ten minutes before the interval Duffy came to the rescue by pushing out a point blank drive from Paul Redmond with Tom Whiteley getting back to complete the

clearance. Tullamore went back on the attack in the closing stages before the interval when a free by Lynch was headed over by Geraghty and a daisy cutting effort by Colleran was turned around the post by Mooney to leave Tullamore leading 7-1 on corners, but only one goal ahead.

Half-time: Bohemians, 0; Tullamore, 1.

Tullamore resumed with Whiteley leading the attack and Colleran moving to inside left, but it was not long before Bohs started to pile on the pressure and in the 49th minute they missed a good chance of the equaliser when a shot from Mulhall was punched out by Duffy and went straight to the feet of Redmond who, from point blank range, missed a great chance by shooting wide. It was at this stage that Eamonn Byrne really came into his own as the outstanding figure around midfield and his covering nipped many a home attack in the bud. His efforts supported by Martin Lowery, Tom Whiteley and Noel Lynch kept the home attack tied down although the lack of punch in the opposing attack aided their efforts. Indeed, Tullamore could afford to become almost complacent in defence as they passed the ball to and fro between themselves within their own penalty area. It was dangerous, but Tullamore were playing with the confidence to justify such brashness and get away with it and although the transfer of Keating to centre forward infused a little more punch to the home attack it was not sufficient to break Tullamores grip on the exchanges, Redmond shot into the side rigging of

the Tullamore goal in the 65th minute but two minutes later Tullamore missed a glorious opportunity of stretching their lead when Colleran was sent clear of the defence by Lynch. With an open path to goal he looked certain to score, but he elected to shoot from far out instead of carrying the ball through and Mooneys look of relief could be seen from the stand.

DOONER INJURED

In the 69th minute Dooner went off injured and was replaced on the right wing by Sean Hogan, but the exchanges continued to be dull and lifeless, with Bohs doing most of the pressing but Tullamore looking infinitely more dangerous in spasmodic breakaways. Colleran sent Mooney the wrong way with a clever shot which whistled mere inches wide of the target whilst at the other end Duffy held a snappy drive from Mulhall at the foot of the post but there was a marked lack of excitement as the game dragged to a wary conclusion and for me at least the final whistle never sounded so welcome.

Result: Bohemians, 0; Tullamore, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Dooner, L. Connolly, M. Colleran, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.
[sub: S.Hogan for Dooner]

Bohemians: S. Mooney, J. Doran, N. Robinson, M. Kavanagh, P. Doyle, E. Ryan, G. Wylder, P. Redmond, H. Cobbe, R. Mulhall, T. Keating.

Referee: For the third week in succession Tullamore played under the whistle of referee, Denis Horgan. Although this latest game lacked the fire and excitement of the cup clashes against Glebe North it posed similar problems for the man in the middle who of necessity, had to regard it as simply one more game to be controlled.

MERIT RATING

The honours of Sundays game rest undeniably with the Tullamore half back

line and it is without hesitation that I nominate Eamonn Byrne, Martin Lowery and Noel Lynch in that order for the latest distribution of merit points, accordingly the overall position nowreads as follows:

Noel Lynch [16] Liam Connolly [15]
Paddy Duffy [14] Tom Whiteley [13]
Martin Lowery [11] Eamonn Byrne [9]
Mick Colleran [7] Tom Geraghty [7]
Teddy Whiteley [6] Jim Brady [6] John
Lowery [3] Liam Boland [3] Mick
Connolly [2] Jimmy Dolan [2]

December 31st 1966

Soft Goals End Unbeaten Run

It had to happen sooner or later, after a run of fourteen games without defeat Tullamore went under to Ormeau by the odd goal in three at Spollenstown on Monday last in a game which provided a large holiday attendance with a feast of clever football. Tullamore did the lions share of the attacking but a combination of brilliant goal keeping by Aidan Hoey and a series of unbelievable misses by the home forwards served to keep the home side scoreless from play.

DEPLETED SIDE

If this game served any purpose it was the emphasis which is placed on the fact that Tullamore suffers from a depth of reserve talent, Paddy Duffy and Mick Colleran were missing from the regular line out and their replacements failed to measure up to the required standard. Liam Boland acted as substitute goalkeeper and utility forward Sean Hogan had a most unhappy outing. Nor was there any improvement when Hogan was replaced by John Dooner in the second half, of course with an important minor cup game listed for the following day Tullamores choice of reserves was limited, but it does appear as though there is an urgent need to

build up a pool of reserve players who can be drafted into the side when emergencies such as this arise. Last year it was the points conceded to Ormeau on St. Stephens Day which ultimately cost Tullamore runner up medals in the league and last Mondays set back has not enhanced prospects for the present campaign.

PERSONALITY PARS

One factor stood between Tullamore and a much heavier defeat and that was the excellence of their wing halves, Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne. Without this pair Tullamores plight would have been a great deal worse for it was their positional sense and ability to cover a very big area which put the brakes on an Ormeau attack which at one stage threatened to run riot. Between these two Martin Lowery proved effective as a stopper centre half. Tom Whiteley had the task of marking Ormeaus most dangerous forward, Christy Doyle. And he had his hands full in trying to do so. John Lowery was steady enough at left full in the first half but failed to recapture his form of other years when moved up to lead the attack after the interval a switch which, in the past had

pulled many a game out of the fire for Tullamore. It was in attack that Tullamores shortcomings were most blatantly exposed. The forwards as a whole played as though they had eaten far too much plum pudding the previous day. Tommie Geraghtys failure to hold his position on the wing resulted in many a good chance being wasted whilst Jim Brady was played right out of the game by Ormeaus centre half Cuddy. Liam Connolly was about the pick of poor line. A couple of his headers were bare inches off the mark but the decision to move him to the right wing towards the end was surely a grave tactical error as his heading ability was absolutely wasted there. Teddy Whiteley showed a welcome return to something like his best form.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Although set to play against a fairly stiff breeze it was Tullamore who attacked from the start and within four minutes of the kick off Geraghty had missed a good chance of opening the scoring when he sent behind from close range after receiving from Byrne. However one minute later we were given a preview of what was to come when a dangerous centre from Doyle on the left beat the Tullamore defence and left them in a tangle as right winger Connolly raced into hit the butt of the upright. Hoey was the first keeper to be called into action as he saved a header from Liam Connolly following a free by Byrne, whilst in Tullamores next attack a glorious through pass from Geraghty was whipped off whiteleys toes by Hoey. So far the game had been going

according to expectations, with Tullamore looking the more dangerous side, but in the 10th minute it was Ormeau who surprisingly took the lead when a curling centre from Doyle found Boland at sea and when the ball was returned across the face of the goal by Connolly there was Doyle ready to hammer it low and hard to the corner of the net. This early goal should have hoisted the danger signals for Tullamore but although they returned to the attack there was no great urgency in their play. Lynch had a free turned around the post by Hoey and when Whiteleys centre was headed in by Liam Connolly, left full Kelly kicked it of the goal line. Geraghty should have had the equaliser in the next attack, but from point blank range he shot against Hoey. Tullamore were fortunate not to find themselves two down in the 14th minute for Lane looked a certain scorer when he broke clean through the middle but the centre forward fell over the ball with only Boland to beat and the keeper was able to scramble the ball away. Ormeau were playing delightful football now. A long range lob by Tom Whiteley was knocked off Bradys head by Hoey and the visitors had a slice of luck in the 20th minute when Hoey was completely beaten by a shot from Whiteley and Kelly again cleared off the line at the expense of a corner. The attempted application of the off side trap very nearly misfired on Ormeau when Teddy Whiteley swept through the middle before switching the ball out to Hogan but from close range the wingers shot was smothered by Hoey.

SOFT GOAL

Ormeau consolidated their position in the 23rd minute and it was a soft goal which did the damage. Again it was Doyle who laid the foundations with a centre from the left which found Lane standing unmarked in front of goals and the centre forwards simple header was dancing in the back of the net before anybody realised that danger threatened. This left Tullamore in real trouble but they had come from similar positions in the past and even at this stage I don't think that home fans believed that their long unbeaten run was coming to an end.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Ormeau, 2.

Hogan was missing when the teams reappeared after the interval and Tullamore played with ten men until Dooner came out four minutes after the resumption. Straight away Tullamore went on the offensive with a centre from Geraghty being headed inches over by Whiteley. A spirited burst by John Lowery carried him right through to the Ormeau penalty area where his pass to Dooner was blasted yards wide and when Ormeau counter attacked they went close to adding to their lead when former Tullamore player tony Hoey, beat Boland all ends up and saw his shot cleared off the line by Tom Whiteley. Brady had been having a lean time of it against Cuddy but his big chance came in the 52nd minute when he was sent clear by a long delivery from Boland. It looked odds on a goal, but from very close range Brady shot straight at Hoey for the miss of the match. Tullamore were well on top at

this stage but the finish of their forwards was lacking in punch. Byrne was out of luck in the 63rd minute with a rocketing drive, which smacked off the angle of the wood work and then Lynch carved a lane through the Dublin defence before being checked at the edge of the area.

GREAT GOALKEEPING

By now the game had developed into a contest between the Tullamore forwards and the Ormeau defence and we were treated to an exhibition of first class goalkeeping by Hoey as Tullamore threw all they had into attack. Lowery was drafted up to lead the front line with Dooner dropping back, but for most of the time Boland was left in isolation in the Tullamore half of the field with the majority of the remaining twenty one players swarming around the Ormeau penalty area. The corners mounted in Tullamores favour but still there was no sign of a break through until the 74th minute when a centre from Geraghty was handled rather needlessly inside the area by a defender and from the spot kick which followed Lynch slammed in a goal which rekindled home hopes but Tullamores best efforts were unsuccessful.

Result: Tullamore, 1; Ormeau, 2.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, S. Hogan, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.
[Subs: J. Dooner for Hogan]

MINORS BEATEN

A further indication of the slender reserve material at the disposal of the Tullamore Club was provided at Spollenstown on Tuesday when the home side was eliminated from the Leinster Minor Cup by Stella Maris. Defeat here was not entirely unexpected as the visitors came with a big reputation.

CUP DRAW

Tullamore have been paired against Home Farm in the semi final of the F.A.I. Intermediate Cup and the game will be played at Tolka Park.

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore have an away league fixture against Dalkey United on Sunday next.

January 7th 1967

Tullamore Lose First Match Of The Year

As far as Tullamore were concerned 1967 started on the same note as 1966 ended with a defeat. On Sunday last at Hyde Road a cup conscious visiting side failed to take their chances in attack and forfeited the league points to Dalkey United on a 2-1 margin. When going under to Ormeau the previous week Tullamore at least had the excuse that they were below full strength, but this alibi will not hold water as far as last Sundays fixture is concerned. This time Tullamore had all their regulars on duty and defeat against one of the bottom teams in the league is not a happy augury for next week-end's cup semi final against Home Farm.

"SPOT-KICK" REPORTS FROM DALKEY

Coming events cast their shadow, and on Sunday last it was obvious that none of the Tullamore players was going to risk being put out of the cup game through injury. Their every movement was restrained, and the rhythm of the side was completely upset as a result. All the faults discernible against Ormeau the previous week, were again in evidence. The worst of these was a reluctance to move towards the ball, for invariably the visiting player seemed to

be waiting for the ball to come to them so that many an attack broke down before it was properly conceived. Then when the forwards did gain possession they never seemed quite sure what to do with the ball. They dilly dallied around the penalty area, affording valuable seconds for a compact Dalkey defence to seal the approaches to goal and when a shot was attempted lack of accuracy left Cooney trouble free between the home posts. In contrast to the forward formation the Tullamore defence is causing no real worries to team mentors. Although Paddy Duffy might be faulted for the first goal on Sunday he was not entirely to blame as he was left with very poor protection in a goalmouth melee. Tom Whiteley was outstanding at right full whilst Martin Lowery was steady enough the centre. However, on this occasion the usual power was missing from the wing halves. Noel Lynch was particularly subdued all through and although Eamonn Byrne got through a great amount of work he was not the constructive force which he can be. The lack of positive support from behind made more difficult the task of the forwards. Nevertheless, on the run of the play, they should have finished with

a bag of goals. On corners Tullamore finished with an advantage of 11-2, but corners do not win matches and when it came to putting the ball in the net the reds failed time after time. The one forward to possess real drive and initiative was Mick Colleran who showed once again how tremendously difficult it is to knock him off the ball once he gets steam up, unfortunately, however his efforts at shooting fared badly like that of his colleagues. To cap it all, even despite their shortcomings Tullamore might have salvaged a point had they been awarded a penalty just before the interval when Brady was sent flying inside the area but referee Paddy Graham brushed aside all appeals.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Tullamore set the pace from the kick off and the game was very much in its infancy when Jim Brady set the pattern for much of what was to follow when he shot well side on the run in after Geraghty had given him a clear path to goal. The home goal came under heavy fire in these opening minutes and after Cooney had gone full length to push out a shot from Connolly two further corners were conceded in rapid succession. This early spate of enthusiasm quickly burned itself out and in Dalkeys first serious attack in the 6th minute a badly directed pass by Liam Connolly inside his own area afforded a good chance to centre forward Bill Kane who, however, shot over. It was not long before Tullamore were back around the Dalkey posts and in the 10th minute Brady got across a great centre from an acute angle on the end line and it took all

Cooneys acrobatic ability to enable him to flick the ball over the bar for another corner. Two minutes later Dalkey forced their only corner of the first half, but Durnings centre posed no problems for Duffy, who pulled the ball down cleanly from under the bar. Paddy Duffy caused Tullamore hearts to skip a beat with one of those drop kicks which he is so partial to and as the ball sped straight to right winger, Jim Boyle, it was Eamonn Byrne who got back to avert disaster with a timely tackle. A free by Byrne was dropped into the Dalkey goalmouth with nobody following up to challenge Cooney as he dashed out to clear and then Teddy Whiteley went very close with an overhead effort which skimmed over the bar. Tullamore were piling on the pressure now, so much so that at times the entire defence was moving up in support of their forwards, leaving the way dangerously clear for a quick counter attack. Tullamores best effort to date came in the 24th minute when a great through ball from Geraghty found Brady perfectly positioned for a header which Cooney just succeeded in reaching on the line.

TWO GOALS IN TWO MINUTES

For all their territorial superiority Tullamore found themselves plunged into arrears in the 34th minute when their defence was caught standing square as Boyle got the ball across from the right wing. In the goalmouth melee which ensued Duffy appeared to have the ball safely covered, but with scant support from his backs he took his eye off the ball and it was forced past him

by centre forward Billy Keane. Tullamore did not remain long in arrears, for within two minutes they were back on level terms when Whiteley sent Geraghty through with a beautifully timed pass which he shot straight at Cooney, however the keeper was able to do no more than push the ball back to the winger and at the second attempt Geraghty made no mistake about sinking the ball in the back of the net. Tullamore had the better of the subsequent exchanges up to the interval but apart from the occasion when Brady was bowled over inside the box without redress they seldom looked like penetrating a solid home defence in which Colm Molloy and Frank Warren formed almost effective full back partnership.

Half-time: Dalkey United, 1; Tullamore, 1.

A short interval was followed by another spell of intense Tullamore pressure during which Whiteley had an inswinging corner pulled down from under the bar by Cooney, but the game was won and lost just four minutes after the resumption. It was a beautifully executed movement which earned the decisive goal. The ball was worked down the right wing in a concatenation of short passes and when the final centre was finally bowed in from the wing by Jim Boyle there was inside right Fran Byrne waiting to head it past the rooted Duffy. Simple but deadly effective even now it seemed only a matter of time before the Tullamore forwards would find the range and pull the game out of the fire. But success had fired the

enthusiasm of the home side and having taken the lead for the second time they were obviously determined to hold on to it this time. Indeed Dalkey began to come more into the game and after Duffy had averted a dangerous situation by dashing out to dive at Brocks feet in the 11th minute the visitors had luck on their side when Kane burst through the centre to smack the ball off the bar from where it rebounded to Molloy, whose shot was blocked on the line by Tom Whiteley.

AIMLESS PRESSURE

With Colleran always looking dangerous Tullamore returned to the attack, but it was an aimless type of pressure, which scarcely deserved to be rewarded. A centre from Geraghty was fielded by Cooney, but in dashed Colleran to knock the ball from the keepers hands and earn yet another corner for the visitors. Brady had a snappy header saved by Cooney but Tullamores best chance of all came five minutes from the end when Brady left the ball teed up in front of the posts only to see Colleran blaze yards wide. This was the miss which finally sealed Tullamores fate for with the light fading fast they never looked like getting through the home defence. Although a last minute effort from Geraghty scraped past the bar as it whistled over.

Result: Dalkey United, 2; Tullamore, 1.

Dalkey United: C. Cooney, C. Molloy, F. Warren, D. McDonald, T. Hill, J. Kelly, J. Boyle, F. Byrne, W. Kane [capt], E. Durning, N. Brock.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery [capt], E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, T. Geraghty, E. Whiteley.

Referee: Mr. P. Graham [Dublin]

The omission of our merit rating feature from last weeks column caused quite a stir, but there is no need for alarm. Actually it was the short working week, which caused the trouble as it was quite a rush to get the Offaly Independent out and many of our regular features had to be curtailed. However, there is no harm done. The trio selected as points winners after the Ormeau game were Eamonn Byrne, Noel Lynch and Liam Connolly in that order and their points have been added to the total as usual. As for last Sundays game I am taking Tom Whiteley, Martin Lowery and Mick Colleran as being the best of a bad lot and that leaves the up to date position now reading as follows:

Noel Lynch [18] Liam Connolly [16] Tom Whiteley [16] Paddy Duffy [14] Martin Lowery [13] Eamonn Byrne [12] Mick Colleran [8] Tommie Geraghty [7] Jim Brady [6] Teddy Whiteley [6] John Lowery [3] Liam Boland [3] Mick Connolly [2] and Jimmy Dolan [2]

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Shamrock Rvs.	8	5	2	1	17	11	12
Dromcondra	7	4	1	2	22	12	9
Drogheda	8	4	1	3	14	14	9
Bohemians	9	4	1	4	20	15	9
TULLAMORE	6	3	1	2	8	6	7
St. Pat's. Ath.	4	3	1	0	14	8	7
Home Farm	6	3	1	2	12	8	7

Ormeau	7	3	1	3	10	15	7
Shelbourne	7	1	4	2	12	12	6
Dalkey Utd.	5	2	1	2	8	5	5
Athlone	6	0	2	4	10	22	2
Dundalk	7	0	0	7	5	24	0

CUP SEMI -FINAL

Friday night of this week promises to be an eventful one for the Tullamore club. The number one attraction will be the semi final of the F.A.I. Intermediate Cup against Home Farm, but whilst Tullamore are striving for a place in the decider against either Tramore Athletic or Bridewell this pair meet in the second semi final in Cork on Sunday. Their cup fate will be in the process of being decided when the draw for the F.A.I. Senior Cup is made in Merrion Square. Both events will have a profound bearing upon Tullamores future, but it is to Tolka Park that supporters of the club will flock. Prior to Sunday last I would have been inclined to think that the provincials had at least an even money chance of success. Now I am not so sure that the odds are so favourable. Whilst Tullamore were losing for the second week in succession, Home Farms confidence was being boosted by a decisive 5-1 victory over Ormeau. The fact that Friday nights game is being played under floodlights is another factor which tends to make a forecast difficult. Tullamore have played under the Dalymount lights without mishap but it is universally recognised that the Tolka Park system is not nearly as good nor as effective. In what is likely to be a low scoring encounter Tullamore will be doing well if they succeed in forcing a replay which incidentally, would take place at Spollenstown the following Sunday week.

January 14th 1967

Tullamore And Home Farm Draw

Although Tullamore failed to defeat Home Farm in last Friday nights Intermediate Cup semi final in Tolka Park they did the next best thing by holding the Whitehall side to a 1-1 draw, thus earning a home replay on Sunday next.

Now not only have Tullamore bettered their prospects of reaching the final, but the prospect of what promises to be a record gate at Spollenstown had treasurer Brendan McGowan smiling all over the place on Friday night.

To have held the mighty Home Farm to level scoring was a great performance when one considers the difficulties under which Tullamore laboured in this drawn game. Their first experience of the Tolka Park lights placed them at a disadvantage from the outset and their chances were by no means enhanced by the late arrival of their special train which delayed the kick off by ten minutes and left the players with a wild scramble from Kingsbridge to Drumcondra with scarcely time to draw their breath before they were out on the field against a side which had spent a good quarter of an hour limbering up and becoming acclimatiesed. Indeed, the provincials were very much at sea in the early stages and when George Daly headed the Farm into the lead after only five minutes play it looked like the prelude to a night of misery for the very large Tullamore contingent which had made the trip by train and car.

TRIBUTE OF THE WEEK

At this stage I must pay tribute to these Tullamore supporters. There must have been many sore throats in Offaly on Saturday morning, for never before have I heard such splendid vocal support accorded to a team in any sport. Their bell ringing, bugle blowing support was a secret weapon which went a long way towards lifting their favourites home and even veteran colleagues in the press box were impressed by the cataphonic din which at one stage in the second half brought an appeal for resraint over the loudspeakers because the referees whistle could not be heard. Such splendid support deserved reward, and it got it in the form of a really attractive replay at Spollenstown. As for the game itself, it may best be compared with the drawn quarter final tie against

Glebe North. These two matches had much in common, so now let us hope that the eventual outcome of the tie will follow the same pattern. As expected defences held the upper hand practically all through and in this respect a great deal of credit must be given to the Tullamore rearguard. Right through the ninety minutes they never relaxed their grip. Individually and as a compact unit they snuffed the life out of the Home Farm front line, reducing the Dublin attack to a ragged line which was stamped into missing reasonably easy scoring chances towards the end. Tom Whiteley had the key role in defence that of keeping danger man George Daly in check and the manner in which he succeeded laid the cornerstone of Tullamores success. Daly was kept well out on the touchline and given precious few opportunities of adopting his usual role of popping up in the centre at odd moments to surprise the defence and, once deprived of their main inspiration, the remainder of the farm attack looked very ordinary indeed. Tony Macken took over the role of danger man from the right wing and it was from here that the main threat to Tullamore stemmed from as the winger had the beating of John Lowery and combined accurate centres with some pretty powerful shooting.

"BUFFER" HALF-BACKS

Tullamores middle line of Lynch, Lowery and Byrne, acted as a buffer which broke the rhythm of the Farm attack with Martin Lowery in the centre emerging as one of the key figures of the night. Both in the air and on the

ground he had the measure of Farms minor leader, Denis Stephens, whilst in addition he could always be relied upon to cover off in other directions also. Eamonn Byrne is not regarded as a goal scorer, indeed, when he equalised for Tullamore just two minutes before the interval he was notching his first goal of the season, but just how valuable this goal was to prove needs no emphasis here. Apart all together from his scoring contribution, however, Byrnes general value to the side was inestimable as he chased here, there and everywhere sealing off gaps in defence and initiating attacks at the other end whilst Noel Lynch, although more subdued than of late, completed a middle line which was surely Tullamores strongest sector. Behind the defence Paddy Duffy was blameless throughout the ninety minutes. His handling and positional sense was first class and one save in particular from Macken just before the final whistle was really brilliant. The Tullamore attack, although failing to score, showed vast improvement on recent displays. There was always a threat of danger when they got moving and in Mick Colleran and Tommie Geraghty they had the wingers to stretch the farm defence to breaking point. At times Geraghty looked the complete footballer and from an early stage it was obvious that the Farm defenders had been warned to keep a particularly close eye on him. He had one blinding drive in the first half, which whistled past the angle of the woodwork with the keeper completely beaten. In the centre of the line Jim Brady worked industriously without making much headway against

his namesake, Frank Brady, who is a brother of the Irish international player Ray Brady and on the few occasions that the centre forward did get by he found himself immediately confronted by a second challenge from Gerry James who was filling the role of double pivot. Teddy Whiteley chose the big occasion to come back to something like his best form. He showed tremendous zest in a couple of individual thrusts through the middle although his best shooting efforts were still that little bit off target. Completing the side Liam Connolly proved a tireless worker all round the centre of the field helping out in defence just as frequently as he did in attack.

HOME FARM'S BEST

In the early stages Home Farm shaped as though they would finish the game with plenty in hand, but in the final analysis they may be considered fortunate to have earned a second chance. Their powerful defence, in which Frank Brady, Gerry James and Pat Dowling were the key figures saved them from defeat for their forwards were well held for most of the game. As stated already Tony Macken was the pick of the front line, but with inside forwards Billy Hunt and Billy Howlett well contained by Lynch and Byrne centre forward Stephens lacked support and proved responsible for two of the games most glaring misses.

LATE START

Home Farm were out on the field kicking around before Tullamore even arrived at the ground and the kick off was put

back ten minutes before Tullamore trotted out, looking very smart in a set of new stockings. Right from the word go Home Farm adopted a tough attitude and within seconds of the kick off Jim Brady was sent sprawling. The Dubliners set a very brisk pace and Tullamores only chance of the opening minutes fell to Colleran who, however, was slow to move to a good through pass from Whiteley. Tullamore were still in the process of settling down when they found themselves a goal in arrears after only five minutes. Right full Liam Kennedy carried the ball down the touchline and his pin pointed centre to the far post was headed in brilliantly by George Daly to give Home Farm all the confidence they needed. Such an early reverse was bound to affect Tullamore and for a spell they became very disjointed and unsettled. Duffy saved them from falling further behind when he dashed out to foil Stephens at the edge of the area and in the 9th minute the keeper dealt very confidently with a dropping free from James. At the other end Jim Brady had a good shot deflected for a corner by Dowling and a second flag kick followed four minutes later when Geraghty delayed his centre and yet forced James to kick behind. By now Tullamore were holding their own territorially and play was swinging evenly from end to end. Duffy made a daring save from Stephens in the 15th minute to redeem a miskick by John Lowery and then two great efforts in quick succession from Geraghty went within inches of giving Tullamore the equaliser. Put through by a great ball from Lynch, Geraghty shot inches over with Boyle hanging from the crossbar

whilst the wingers second drive, taken on the run went even closer to restoring equality. Tony Macken was giving John Lowery a roasting out on the right wing and in the 19th minute he worked his way past two tackles to stab the ball just wide of the post. A Geraghty free pierced a wall of defenders before being scrambled away, but Tullamore were lucky in the 22nd minute when Martin Lowery was caught too far upfield and Farm counter attacked with Hunt, Stephens and Howlett coming through in a line before the ball was knocked a little too far ahead and Duffy raced out to avert disaster. A snap shot from Liam Connolly whipped past the post, but Home Farm were never more dangerous than when on the defensive, as their quick breaks from inside their own half were invariably loaded with trouble for Tullamore. In the 29th minute a free by Gerry James was blocked and cleared by Byrne, but now the pace was slackening slightly in Tullamores advantage. A ground shot from Jim Brady had the crowd on their feet before it was realised that the ball had ripped by the outside of the post. On the ground Brady had the beating of his opposite number, but he was not getting the service he required and more often than not he was beaten in his overhead duels with his namesake. Stephens missed another good opportunity of stretching Home Farms lead when he rounded Martin Lowery and raced clean through the middle before shooting straight at Duffy and eight minutes before the interval it was Stephens again who broke through, only to be detected by referee Graham bringing the ball under control with his

hand. Nearing the break Home Farm were making strenuous efforts to draw ahead and a great centre from Daly was touched on by Stephens to Macken, but a wonderful save by Duffy foiled the right winger. Then, quite suddenly, Tullamore clicked into top gear and had the Home Farm defence at full stretch. Whiteley had a shot from an acute angle turned behind for a corner whilst the Dublin defence was now content to concede frees and corners liberally under pressure.

THE EQUALISER

This was Tullamores best period of the game and with just two minutes of the first half remaining their followers were sent into raptures when an all out assault ended with Geraghty shooting against the foot of the post and as the ball came loose Byrne was there to stab it through a ruck of players and past Boyle.

HALF TIME:

HOME FARM	1
TULLAMORE	1

The interval disrupted Tullamores concentration on the resumption it was Home Farm who were back in the drivers seat. With Tom Whiteley and Martin Lowery steadfast the Tullamore defence stood up well to the probes and proddings of the Farm attack. There was an obvious lack of kill in both front lines and although Duffy was the busier keeper he was not seriously troubled by the haphazard finish of the blues. Indeed it was Tullamore who came nearest to taking the lead when, in the

60th minute Whiteley left the ball teed up for Geraghty, but the best that the winger could do was to force a corner and from Whiteleys delivery Brady was slow to close in. A long range free by James was touched over by Hunt and then a brilliant run by Whiteley carried him through the home defence, but his finishing effort was weak. With interest and excitement mounting by the minute Macken missed a chance for the Farm midway through the half when he created a fine opening on the right but then delayed his shot and was dispossessed by John Lowery on the end line. Home Farm altered their tactics at this stage and switched to the use of the long pass without however achieving any better results against a Tullamore defence which was now taking the real honours of the game. The provincial attack was also impressing as Whiteley swept a pass from Brady in to the side net and Geraghty missed one of the best chances of the night when he stood still as a great through ball from Colleran came his way. The misses were by no means confined to one end and it was Stephens who held his head in anguish in the 80th minute as he blazed over from point blank range after being put through by Daly. Tullamore showed signs of wilting in the closing ten minutes when the pace began to take its toll, but still the defence refused to submit and following a long clearance from Tom Whiteley, Boyle did well to whip the ball off Teddy Whiteleys toes.

LATE ESCAPE

Had the Tullamore goal fallen in those last dramatic minutes it would have

been a real tragedy for they had fully earned a replay. Yet all the good work of the previous 88 minutes was almost nullified two minutes from the end when Macken jinked his way in to the centre before firing in a rocket of a shot which looked a winner all the way before Duffy became Tullamores saviour with a brilliant save on the line. The final whistle caught me by surprise for unknown to me my watch had stopped and I was all set for another nine minutes play when the final shrill blast brought me back to reality and the knowledge that Tullamores prospects of reaching the final had improved by about fifty percent.

Result: Home Farm, 1; Tullamore, 1.

Home Farm: P. Boyle, L. Kennedy, P. Dowling, G. James, F. Brady, J. Keely, A. Macken, W. Hunt, D. Stephens, W. Howlett, G. Daly.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Officials for the second week in succession, Tullamore played under the whistle of referee Paddy Graham [Dublin] who on this occasion had Messrs. Butler and Boyle as his linesmen.

MERIT RATING

There are at least six players worthy of merit points this week but unfortunately I must limit the choice to three and reluctantly I must pass over the claims

of Paddy Duffy, Eamonn Byrne and Mick Colleran in favour of those of Tom Whiteley Martin Lowery and Tommie Geraghty. The overall position will be found at the end of this report.

FIGURES OF THE GAME

TULLAMORE

	Gls.	Cnrs.	Wds.	Frees
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1 st Half	1	8	9	9
2 nd Half	0	1	4	6
Total	1	9	13	15

HOME FARM

	Gls.	Cnrs.	Wds.	Frees
1 st Half	1	2	4	7
2 nd Half	0	3	12	6
Total	1	5	16	13

January 21st 1967

Tullamore Flop Before Record Attendance

Spollenstown was bursting at the seams for last Sunday's replay in the semi final of the F.A.I. Intermediate Cup when all previous attendance figures were put in the shade by a huge gathering which came well equipped with flags, bells, rattles and all the other paraphernalia which one usually associates with cup football.

Their hope, of course was to welcome a home win which would have put Tullamore into the final, but unfortunately such hopes never even looked like being realised.

Never once during the course of the ninety minutes did Tullamore succeed in reproducing the form of the drawn encounter and at the end of it all they were greatly flattered in losing only by an odd goal.

UNWORTHY FAVOURITES

The mantle of favourites is one which does not become Tullamore, put them in against the odds and more often than not they will come up trumps, but let it become known that they are regarded as favourites for a fixture and they are almost sure to come a cropper. That is just what happened in this cup tie. Against Home Farm in Tolka Park there were few who gave the provincials more than an outside chance of victory and they rose to the occasion manfully to earn a second chance on merit. Then, with the scales tilted more in their

favour on Sunday last, they failed completely to come up to expectations. Unwelcome though it may be I am forced to the conclusion that the occasion proved too big for the home side. The players were all keyed up to concentrate on the pitch and unfortunately they failed to unwind as the game progressed. Had they scored first possibly everything would have worked out alright, but once Home Farm drew ahead in the 17th minute panic seemed to engulf the home side and even a quick equaliser and a brilliant one it was too failed to get them back on an even keel. When Home Farm added a second goal to lead 2-1 at the interval after having played against the wind the writing was on the wall for Tullamore. Territorially they held their own in the second half, yet they never figured as a threat to the visitors goal except on one or two isolated occasions

and with Home Farm playing an undistinguished brand of football the big fixture fizzled out to become the big fiasco.

WRONG TACTICS

When one gets down to the task of attempting to pinpoint the cause of defeat many possible suggestions present themselves for consideration. High on the list must come the use of mistaken tactics by the home side, for against a defence as tightly knit as Home Farm's was known to be the only sensible course to adopt was to bring the wingers into the game at every opportunity with a view to keeping the defence stretched across the pitch. Instead, Tullamore persisted in attempting to barge their way through the middle and the policy of the halfbacks in sending high balls into this sector played right into the hands of the Farm rearguard.

PERSONALITY PARS

Now for the task of reviewing the individual performances on the Tullamore team. The goals that Paddy Duffy let in were both admittedly strong, well placed efforts but both were scored from well outside the penalty area and at that range Duffy might have been expected to deflect them over the bar at least. The fact that Home Farm's dangerous wingers, Tony Macken and George Daly, were both kept comparatively subdued is a tribute to the effectiveness of Tom Whiteley and John Lowery at full back. Lowery had his best game for a long time and his

crisp tackling blotted Macken right out of the picture as a direct menace. It was at half back that this game was won and lost. At times Eamonn Byrne was really brilliant in his efforts to get the attack functioning smoothly whilst Noel Lynch was every bit as impressive on the other flank. Yet both must share in some measure the blame for both the Farm's goals which stemmed directly from their retreating from the man in possession instead of adopting a more positive approach. Likewise Martin Lowery in the centre marred an otherwise sound performance by the manner in which he placed his clearances. Yet, despite these failings, Tullamore's middle line served the side well. It was in attack that Tullamore failed most noticeably and most consistently. Apart from Jim Brady, who played his heart out in the centre, the front line was devoid of both thrust and creative ability. Brady frequently surrounded by three opponents, still possessed the guile to inject the opposition with panic but all too often he was left to plough a lonely furrow and the type of service received from his colleagues did nothing to help his cause, next to Brady I would rate Teddy Whiteley as Tullamore's best forward although how he failed to score when put through by Colleran midway through the second half I will never know. L. Colleran himself was disappointing for although whenever spared himself on the right wing his moves were always too obvious and easy to counteract. In the early stages Liam Connolly shaped as though he might emerge as a key figure but he tired in the second half. That leaves

only the enigmatical Tommie Geraghty to deal with. One always has the impression that at any moment Geraghty will cut loose to win a game such as this on his own. On Sunday he had countless opportunities of doing so, but more than anybody else, he appeared to be over awed by the occasion.

ONE CHANGE

Whilst Tullamore were content to rely upon the side which had represented them in the drawn game Home Farm saw fit to make one change in attack where Brendan Dixon came on at centre forward and Denis Stephens moved to inside left to the exclusion of Billy Howlett. Personally, I thought Home Farm played better in the drawn game than they did on Sunday, for once in the lead they were content to fall back and hope for the best.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Considering that a rugby match had been played on it only the previous day the pitch was in fine shape as Brady kicked off with the breeze behind Tullamore, after a minutes silence had been observed as a mark of respect to Stephen Bird whose tragic death only a few hours earlier had cast a shadow over the game. Tullamore started in confident mood and an early centre from Colleran had the Farm defence in a knot as goalkeeper Boyle collided with one of his defenders. The early pressure was unmistakably on the visitors goal and in the 8th minute Byrne put in a storming run before sending

Geraghty clear on the left and as the wingers centre floated across Boyle did well to smother it at Bradys feet. The quick, hard tackling of the Farm defence quickly blunted the home attack but it was Tullamore who continued to do the pressing and following good work by Geraghty on the left Colleran had a stinging shot blocked in the goalmouth. Tullamore had been so impressive during these opening exchanges that it came as a rude shock when Home Farm opened the scoring in the 17th minute. As usual the Farm started the movement deep inside their own half of the field and as Keeley came through the centre the entire home defence retreated before him giving him an easy passage to within 25 yards of the goal where he switched the ball to the unmarked Denis Stephens and the latter sent it rocketing to the roof of the net.

WORTH TWO

The first goal in a game such as this is usually worth two and Tullamore made frantic efforts to repair the damage both to their prospects and their morale. Within a minute they had forced a corner the first of the game and although Collerans centre was cleared Tullamores equaliser was not long delayed. In fact it came in the 20th minute and it was one of those goals, which soccer fans often dream about but seldom see. Byrne provided the opening with a gloriously judged centre from the touch line and as it dropped into the goalmouth Jim Brady met it first time to send it whistling past Boyles groping fingers and into the extreme corner of the net for one of the greatest

goals seen at the venue for a very longtime. Now it was Home Farms turn to look shaken as Tullamore came surging back on the offensive. Geraghty had a free blocked down in the goalmouth whilst on the stroke of the half hour a centre from Colleran was headed narrowly over by Brady. Four minutes later Byrne was obliged to concede a corner under pressure and after the flag kick had been partially cleared the ball ran loose to Macken who had a fierce drive turned over the bar by Duffy and the keeper saved well again when he pulled the resultant corner by Stephens down under the bar. This was lively cup football now although it lacked the artistry, which had made the drawn game so memorable. Home Farm may have been a trifle fortunate to survive a tremendous bombardment entering the last ten minutes of this half for when Brady worked his way through the defence he created a glorious opening for Geraghty, but the winger blazed over wildly from a good position.

CARBON COPY

Home Farm regained the lead in the 40th minute and in many respects this goal was a carbon copy of their first. Again the move which produced it started around the halfway line and with Martin Lowery caught a little too far upfield the ball dropped over his head to Billy Dixon and the latter's crisp shot from the edge of the area left Duffy glued to the ground. Although we did not realise it at the time this goal sounded the death knell for Tullamore's cup ambitions. The home side did try to get back on terms

before the break, but Colleran shot badly wide when put through by Whiteley and the winger was off target again following an indirect free by Lynch. However with injury time being played the Athlone man was within inches of scoring the equaliser with a strong free which whistled bare inches to the wrong side of the post.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Home Farm, 2.

In a bid to infuse more striking power to their front line Tullamore resumed with Whiteley on the left wing and Geraghty inside but hopes of a home comeback faded rapidly as Home Farm assumed control straight from the resumption. Tullamore fell to pieces and appeared to have no answer at all to the quick tackling and shrewd covering of Gerry James and Frank Brady. The visitors might have stretched their lead early on only for a good save by Duffy who pulled down a snappy header from Daly and when Tullamore did get moving in the 57th minute Brady made a gallant bid to burst his way through, but had to be content with a corner. Whiteley crossed to the right to take the kick and he placed it perfectly for Byrne to head it a fraction wide. Teddy Whiteley, improving as the game progressed made a brave bid in the 60th minute when he drew Boyle from his goal and his shot was netwards bound when Keeley got back to clear it off the line at the expense of another corner. Five minutes later Whiteley and Geraghty reverted to their original positions and from an indirect free inside the penalty area Geraghty shot wide. By now Tullamore recorded some of their earlier

poise and although they continued to be ineffective in attack they were at least doing as much of the attacking as their opponents. What may well have been the turning point of the game came in the 68th minute exactly midway through the second half when a great ball from Colleran sent Whiteley careering through the centre with Boyle between two minds whether to come out or not it looked a certain score but luck was not with Tullamore on Sunday as the ball scraped the wrong side of the upright. With ten minutes to go Home Farm had the ball in the Tullamore net again, but this time it did not count as the whistle had gone for a heavy charge on Duffy. Tullamores last chance of saving the day came in the 85th minute when Brady cut between two defenders to leave himself with a half chance from a difficult position but he topped his shot and sent the ball harmlessly over and that, as far as Tullamore were concerned, was that a disappointing game a game which cannot have won many new friends for the sport amongst the record attendance.

Result: Tullamore, 1; Home Farm, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Home Farm: P. Boyle, L. Kennedy, P. Dowling, G. James, F. Brady, J. Keeley, A. Macken, W. Hunt, W. Dixon, D. Stephens, G. Daly.

Officials with referee of the drawn game, Mr. P. Graham booked for duty in

the League of Ireland in Limerick on Sunday he was replaced at Spollenstown by Mr. Christy O'Connor whose handling of a difficult cup tie left no grounds for complaint. On the line were the same officials who had officiated in Tolka Park messrs Butler and Boyle.

HOME FARM

	Gls.	Cnrs.	Wds.	Frees
1 st Half	2	2	5	5
2 nd Half	0	4	8	12
Total	2	6	13	17

TULLAMORE

	Gls.	Cnrs.	Wds.	Frees
1 st Half	1	1	11	8
2 nd Half	0	3	4	3
Total	1	4	15	11

MERIT RATING

How to rate performances on Sunday is quite a tricky problem. On the score of endeavour and also of achievement Jim Brady deserves top billing. Eamonn Byrne must be worth two points for all his efforts and for the third I am content to take John Lowery. All of which leaves the overall position now reading as follows :

T. Whiteley [20] M. Lowery [18] N. Lynch [18] L. Connolly [16] E. Byrne [14] P. Duffy [14] J. Brady [11] T. Geraghty [8] M. Colleran [8] E. Whiteley [6] J. Lowery [4] L. Boland [3] M. Connolly [2] J. Dolan [2]

LOCAL DERBY

Now that Tullamore are out of one cup and will have a wait of another couple of

weeks before turning their attention to another they will have an opportunity of concentrating upon improving their league position. The league has now reached the halfway stage and although Tullamore have a number of games in hand they are well up with the leaders. On Sunday next they will have Athlone as visitors to Spollenstown for a local derby match and although last Sunday's attendance is unlikely to be challenged there should nevertheless be a good gathering. Despite their contrasting

records this season Tullamore cannot afford to treat their visitors with anything other than the greatest respect. Twice already this season Athlone have come out on top in these local derby games. Winning 1-0 in the Leinster senior cup and 4-1 in the Castrol Trophy. Tullamore cut the overall deficit by winning 3-1 when the sides met in the first round of the league and now they will be very anxious to balance the scales in this final meeting.

January 28th 1967

Tullamore Best In Local Derby

Tullamore6 Athlone3

Nine goals six of them for the home side an abundance of goalmouth excitement, hard tackling local rivalry and flashes of great football. These were the ingredients which sent to make up last Sundays soccer offering at Spollenstown when Tullamore, showing much more liveliness in attack than was the case the previous week, regained the winning trail and collected a brace of points which keeps them well placed near the top of the league table.

Tullamores final winning margin may have flattered them slightly, for although there could be no disputing the fact that they were technically the superior side throughout the task of their forwards was simplified by the lack of pace in the Athlone defence. By utilising the long ball to the wings Tullamore emphasised this failing and the service supplied by Mick Colleran and Tommie Geraghty went a long way towards laying the corner stone of victory. The home side started off with ideas of using this game to experiment

with new formation and at the outset they had Mick Colleran at left half Eamonn Byrne up in the attack and Liam Connolly out on the right wing. However, it was not very long before the tenacity of the Athlone side made it clear that this was no occasion for experiments and within twenty minutes of the kick off Tullamore had reverted to their orthodox placings. It was not until then that they began to assert their authority and two goals in as many minutes shot them into a comfortable lead against the wind and although Athlone pulled one back before the interval they were still in a perilous. The visitors shocked Tullamore by drawing level only two minutes after the resumption but then a brace of quick goals against his old club by Mick Colleran sent the homesters into a 4-2 lead. Showing plenty of fight and courage Athlone succeeded in narrowing the gap again midway through the second half, but it was Tullamore who finished much the stronger and further goals by Connolly and Brady left them well clear at the final whistle.

SPORTING SPIRIT

Although fiercely contested by both sides, this was a game which was decided in a sporting spirit which reflected credit on both participants. A fact which was appreciated by an attendance which included a strong contingent from Athlone. Individually it would be difficult to fault the performance of any member of the winning team. Both in defence and attack they possessed the poise, which enabled them to take control of the game at vital stages, although there was a tendency to drop the level of the game every time they went ahead. Paddy Duffy finished the game with several fine saves to his credit whilst in a home defence which had matters easier than usual. Tom Whiteley was the key figure at right full. Martin Lowery controlled the path to goal effectively although found Johnny Joyce more of a handful in the second half than Gerry Frawley had been in the first. Once the Tullamore team had reverted to their normal positions Eamonn Byrne and Noel Lynch took a firm grip on the midfield play. Liam Connolly was outstanding in this sector and his second goal which was Tullamores fifth, was easily the best of the game. Jim Brady was another to play havoc with the visiting defence and although he failed to figure amongst the scorers Teddy Whiteley made a valuable contribution to the victory as it was as a result of his astutely placed corners that three of the home goals materialised. Wingers Colleran and Geraghty added to the strength of the home attack and the formers two goals against his old club

more than vindicated the decision to restore him to the wing early in the game. An admirable display of courage enabled Athlone to prolong interest in this game, although their defence at times looked cumbersome and slow they stuck to their guns with Robbie Byrne, Michael Daly and Peter Moralee figuring most prominently. Johnny Joyce and Joe Cahill looked the pick of an attack which made good use of their limited chances. But a first half injury sustained by Gerry Frawley served to handicap the front line as a whole.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The home side set the early pace and forced the first corner of the game in the 6th minute when Whiteleys inswinging effort was palmed out by Eddie Costello. Athlones first dangerous raid stemmed from a free on the halfway line by Joyce which dipped into the goalmouth where it was safely gathered by Duffy. Tullamore might have taken the lead in the 9th minute when Geraghty sent Brady through and the centre forward had Costello beaten when Moralee got back to kick behind for a corner. The visitors goal was coming under increasing pressure now and it was Robbie Byrne who came to the rescue when he whipped a good shot from Connolly off the line with Costello beaten whilst in the next home attack Costello did well to save on the line from Whiteley after the latter had been sent through the middle by Geraghty. It was Athlones turn to go close in the 20th minute when Cahill got across a perfect centre from the left and in attempting to head clear John Lowery

corkscrewed the ball towards his own net where Byrne was fortunate to be on hand to clear from under the bar. It was at this stage that Tullamore restored Colleran to the right wing and brought Byrne back to left half and almost immediately there was an improvement in the general play of the side, which culminated in Tullamore taking the lead in the 26th minute when Whiteley sent across a glorious centre from the left and Byrne did well to head it out from under the bar. The ball came loose to John Lowery who flicked it forward for Liam Connolly to first time it past Costello. Once in the lead Tullamore's play became more relaxed and within two minutes Costello was picking the ball out of the Athlone net again after Brady had hooked in another of Whiteley's well placed corners. The visitors had their backs to the wall now, but they defended stoutly until they regained their composure. They had to wait until the 29th minute before they forced their first corner of the game and although they packed plenty of effort into the subsequent exchanges the fact that Tullamore were so much on top at wing half made the task of the visitors all the more difficult. They were further handicapped by an injury to Frawley in the 33rd minute and after receiving attention on the side line he resumed on the right wing with Joyce coming up to lead the attack. Despite these setbacks Athlone continued to offer stiff resistance and for a spell coming up to the interval they appeared to be gaining control. A very good centre from left winger Cahill was fisted over by Duffy under extreme pressure and then, in the 37th minute the visitors were rewarded

for their efforts when another fine centre from Cahill was only partially cleared by Duffy and the ball was returned quickly to the net by right half Micheal Daly. This goal did a lot for Athlone and before the interval they piled on the pressure with Duffy making one particularly fine save from Cahill.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Athlone, 1.

With the wind behind them and blowing heavy rain into the faces of the opposition Tullamore could afford to face the second half with confidence. However, if they thought that they were going to enjoy a trouble free passage they were quickly disillusioned when Athlone set a cracking pace on the resumption, with Frawley thumping the ball over off the bar in the very first minute. Then almost immediately the visitors got back on level terms when Frawley was grassed inside the area and from the spot kick Tom Burns smacked the ball past Duffy. With their lead whipped out Tullamore were obliged to start from scratch once more, but their forwards were combining now with a smoothness which augured no good for the visitors. Geraghty crashed a free off the woodwork before another couple of quick goals tilted the scales again in favour of the locals. The first of these came in the 53rd minute when a long ball from Connolly to Brady was switched out to Colleran on the right and the winger raced in to beat Costello with a spanking shot. Then 2 minutes later Colleran struck again, although this time there was an element of luck attached to his goal as his shot from far out on the wing deceived Costello before

dropping in by the far upright.

RELAXED

With their two goal lead restored Tullamore relaxed their efforts again allowing Athlone time to regain their composure and only the fact that the visiting forwards persisted in keeping the ball to close in attack prevented them from improving their position. However, the pattern of the game changed again in the 68th minute when Athlones indomitable spirit enabled them to cut the arrears to the minimum when Duffy was caught too far out of goal by a centre from Frawley and the keeper could do no more than knock the ball loose to Cahill for the left winger to slap it back into the empty net.

SEE-SAW SCORING

The see saw nature of the scoring was paving the way for a great finale and with the spectators quick to respond with vocal encouragement the game suddenly assumed all the characteristics of a cup tie. With the pace beginning to take its toll Tullamore regained their grip around the centre of the field and in the 70th minute we were treated to the best goal of the day when Whiteley swung a corner from the right to the edge of the area where Liam Connolly timed his jump perfectly to go higher than anybody else and head the ball like a bullet to the roof of the net. Of the nine goals scored on Sunday this was probably the most important. It not only boosted Tullamore to a new sense of confidence but it also served to place an intolerable burden upon the visitors

who knew that they had but ten minutes left in which to swipe out arrears of two goals. For a short spell it seemed as though Athlone might, indeed come again for a header from Frawley following a corner by Grennan was mere inches too high. Then, after Whiteley had hit the upright after outwitting the entire defence. Athlone had their final chance of making an impression when Duffy was left all at sea by a great cross shot from Cahill and it was left to Lowery to come to Tullamores rescue, that marked the end of the road for Athlone and with just two minutes remaining for play Tullamore boosted their total to six when Brady lured the entire defence including the goalkeeper out to the side of the area before sending the ball rolling ever so gently into the unprotected net.

Result: Tullamore, 6; Athlone, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, J. Lowery, T. Whiteley, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, M. Colleran, L. Connolly, E. Whiteley, J. Brady, E. Byrne, T. Geraghty.

Athlone: E. Costello, R. Byrne, H. Barkley, M. Daly, P. Moralee, J. Joyce, M. Grennan, J. Beaumont, G. Frawley, T. Burns, J. Cahill.

Referee: Mr. J. Scanlon [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

With six goals to their credit for the first time this season it is little wonder that forwards dominate our merit rating feature this week. To my mind Liam Connolly emerged as the pick of the

home side and I am quite content to place him in first place. Jim Bradys general qualities as leader of the attack had a decided bearing upon the outcome and he gets two points whilst for third place I am content to take Teddy Whiteley who, although failing to score himself, had a big say in half of his sides total and that leaves the

overall position now reading as follows:
Tom Whiteley [20] Liam Connolly [19]
Noel Lynch [18] Martin Lowery [18]
Eamonn Byrne [14] Paddy Duffy [14]
Jim Brady [13] Tommy Geraghty [8]
Mick Colleran [8] Teddy Whiteley [7]
John Lowery [4] Liam Boland [3] Mick Connolly [2] Jimmy Dolan [2]

February 4th 1967

The Lull Before The Storm

As anticipated in this column last week, Tullamore found themselves idle over the weekend after their request for a postponement of their league fixture against Shamrock Rovers had been granted. This was Tullamores first idle week end since the beginning of the season last August and the break in activity was more than welcome by players and officials alike.

CUP PROSPECTS

Needless to say the most important fixture of the entire season as far as Tullamore are concerned will be their debut in the F.A.I. Senior Cup against Bohemians in Dalymount Park on Sunday week. This is the game which every football fan in the area has been looking forward to and preparations have been going on for some time past to ensure that there will be no shortage of vocal support on the big day. Nobody really expects Tullamore to win this game, but what exactly are their prospects it is undoubtedly in their favour that they enter the fray with nothing to lose and everything to gain and this against a team which has been showing signs of stress in recent outings. During the past week rumour has been rife that Tullamore intended adding to their playing strength and one daily newspaper even went so far as to

report that the Midlanders had entered into negotiations with Sligo Rovers for the transfer of two players. Nothing could be further from the truth and at no time did Tullamore get down to discussing terms with Sligo or any other club. Nevertheless, if one or two players of the desired type did become available there is little doubt but that Tullamore would step in very quickly to secure their services. To be eligible for the first round of the cup a player must be signed fourteen days before the game and this means that Sunday last was the deadline. It is no secret that officials of the Tullamore club were in Dublin on Sunday last running the rule over two possible new signings but at the time of writing there is no indication of how impressive these players were and whether or not Tullamore have actually signed them. Only one opportunity remains to test new material under match conditions and if the locals are toying with the idea of strengthening their side next Sundays league game at Spollenstown against Home Farm will provide an ideal opportunity of putting any new comers on trial. Since entering League of Ireland ranks Tullamore have met Bohemians 'B' team on five occasions and have won all five games. In addition Tullamore have never been beaten in Dalymount Park so that there

is no likelihood of them feeling ill at ease there on Sunday week.

VIEW POINTS

Shortly after the draw for the first round of the cup was made I thought it might be of interest to readers to ascertain the opinions of club officials and players regarding the implications of Tullamores first round fixture and a couple of quick interviews yielding the following. Mr. John McKenna [hon.Secretary] my new year wish for 1967 was a home draw in the first round of the F.A.I. Cup or failing that, an away draw to one of the top teams in Dublin. We are very pleased at having drawn Bohemians and I am confident that the team will put up an excellent show. At their best Tullamore could well confound the critics and provide the shock of the year. As team manager I am proud of the manner in which the players have co-operated with me team spirit has always been synonymous with Tullamore players in the past and the present side is no exception. This attribute has been a tremendous asset this year and we look forward to the match against Bohemians with quiet confidence. On behalf of the players I would like to avail of this opportunity to pay a special tribute to our supporters for their wonderful vocal encouragement. Such loyal support can act as a tonic to the team. Mr Eugene O'Beirne [Chairman] I am in no way disappointed with the first round draw. Whilst realising that Tullamore will be up against formidable opposition, I see no reason for being pessimistic. If the ball runs kindly for us we could bring off a surprise win and in

any event I remain confident that the lads will uphold the sporting tradition of the club. Mr. P.J. Carrather [President]- I am delighted with the draw. Whilst Tullamore may not have much chance of advancing to the second round this is my idea of the ideal fixture for them. It should not be forgotten that Tullamore have proved a bogey side for Bohemians 'B' team in recent years and last year succeeded in defeating a side which contained seven of the present 'A' team. The fact that the match will be in Dalymount Park should ensure a good attendance and I feel sure that all past members of the club who are now living in Dublin will be there to lend support on February 12th. Paddy Duffy [goal keeper] having played for Bohemians in the cup last season I am particularly pleased with the draw. The boys are playing so well just now that the possibility of a surprise cannot be entirely ruled out. This is one game which I would love to win but win lose or draw, I am looking forward very much to the game.

LEAGUE PROSPECTS

Enthusiasm for the forthcoming cup match has been whipped up to such an extent that Tullamores bid for League of Ireland 'B' honours may tend to be overlooked. Yet this is the bread and butter competition the stable diet on which players and spectators must exist when the dizzy days of cup favour have passed. Yet Tullamore are desperately keen to land the Blackthorn Cup and, moreover, they are well placed to do so. At the moment they occupy sixth place in the league table, but with the

exception of league leaders St. Patricks Athletic, all the clubs above them have more games played as many as four in some cases. What may easily prove to be the key game of the remainder of the league programme is billed for Spollenstown on Sunday next when Home Farm, fresh from their victory in the Intermediate Cup final last Sunday, return.

LEAGUE TABLE

Several readers have commented recently that the Offaly Independent is the only paper which regularly publishes a complete league table, which gives full details including goal average. This, I feel, is how it should be for frequently the figures contained in the scoring columns can be more informative than the bare positions of the teams. Anyhow the full league table up to, and including

last weeks matches reads as follows:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
St. Patrick's Athletic	8	7	1	0	23	10	15
Shamrock Rovers	11	6	2	3	26	17	14
Drumcondra	11	6	1	4	32	23	13
Drogheda	12	5	2	5	21	21	12
Bohemians	12	5	2	5	23	16	12
Tullamore	8	5	1	2	17	11	11
Shelbourne	11	3	4	4	23	19	10
Home Farm	7	4	1	2	15	8	9
Dalkey Utd.	8	4	1	3	14	12	9
Ormeau	10	4	1	5	13	19	9
Athlone	9	1	2	6	17	35	4
Dundalk	11	0	0	11	11	44	0

SYMPATHY

On behalf of all readers of this column may I conclude this week by extending sincere sympathy to the White family of Cloonagh on their recent bereavement.

February 11th 1967

Tullamore Slam Home Farm In League

Tullamore, 4; Home Farm, 1.

In a final outing before tackling Bohemians in next Sundays cup tie, Tullamore showed just how unlucky they were to be eliminated from the F.A.I. Intermediate Cup when, at Spollenstown on Sunday last, they whipped Home Farm to the tune of 4-1, thus completing the league double over the Whitehall side and leaving themselves in fine fettle for next weeks test. Apart altogether from the fact that the points at stake in last Sundays game were priceless to both sides Tullamore were determined to prove that their cup form against the same opposition three weeks earlier was all wrong. Despite the fact that they were obliged to lineout without Mick Colleran, who is nursing an eye injury but hopes to be fit for Dalymount, Tullamore proved their point decisively and their final winning margin did nothing to flatter them on the days play. If anything they should have won even more decisively, for they had what appeared to be a perfectly valid goal disallowed and in addition twice struck the wood work with goals there for the taking. It was a sweet revenge against a Home Farm side which was brimful of

confidence after their cup triumph of the previous week and as a morale booster for next Sundays supreme test the game was of inestimable value. A staunch home defence which stifled the best efforts of the Farm attack in the embryo stage and a quick silver forward line which combined well and shot accurately were the key factors in this victory. With Paddy Duffy as effective as he was spectacular between the posts the entire home defence was imbued with confidence. In front of him Tom Whiteley got a bit of a roasting from danger man George Daly but he stuck to his guns all through a fast and exciting encounter and never allowed Daly the latitude to become a real menace. His partner John Lowery, raised the biggest cheer of the day when he sallied upfield to score Tullamores third goal at a vital stage. However, more than anything else it was the brilliant work of their half back trio which swept Tullamore to victory. Eamonn Byrne was always in the thick of the fray, and with Noel Lynch and Martin Lowery also in top form Tullamore gained the supremacy around midfield, which is so essential in modern soccer. Up front the Tullamore forwards turned every half chance to account. All

five positions were manned by players who knew the direct approach to goal and with danger laced right across the pitch Home Farm could never be sure where the next threat to their goal would come from. Yet the biggest and sharpest thorn in the side of the farm defence must have been Jim Brady who never ceased probing, prodding and, in general making life miserable for every hooped jersey in his immediate vicinity. Combining well with Teddy Whiteley, Brady used every trick in the book to outwit his opponents. Of the remainder it was Liam Connolly who set Tullamore on the victory trail with a brilliantly headed effort which opened the scoring, whilst substitute John Minnock proved an able deputy for Colleran and capped a very fine display with what was probably the best goal of the day. However, Tommie Geraghty will have to be prepared to fight much harder for possession next Sunday.

HOME FARM DEFLATED

Although they fielded without goalkeeper Pat Boylan and inside forward Denis Stephens Home Farm simply overflowed with confidence at the outset it is a long time since Home Farm have been humbled to such an extent and I can tell you their officials did not like it one little bit.

LIVELY PACE

Tullamore forced the first corner of the day in the 3rd minute, Geraghty forcing Kennedy to kick behind, but Whiteley sent the flag kick behind. Remaining on the offensive, Tullamore almost had a

quick goal in the 4th minute when a snap shot from Brady was pushed on to the crossbar by goalkeeper Chester with James dropping back to complete the clearance. Once the players had settled down Tullamore began to take control. The farm defence was being subjected to heavy pressure now and were never slow to concede corners in their bid to hold their net intact and from one of these Whiteley swung across a beauty which deceived Chester and was kicked off the goal line by Dowling. In their next raid Tullamore went close to scoring when a snappy header from Geraghty was saved on the line by Chester, but the game was now definitely running in Tullamores favour and on the few occasions that the visitors succeeded in mounting a worthwhile attack the indifferent shooting of their forwards proved costly. With just over thirty minutes gone Minnock shot wide off Byrnes free but two minutes later the locals surged into the lead. A well placed one by Minnock from the right went straight through to Geraghty whose return centre was flicked on by Bradys head for Connolly to send a fine header dancing into the twines. Once in the lead Tullamore were in a position to pace the game to their own liking, but Home Farm were in no mood to remain long in arrears and in the 38th minute they were back on level terms when Daly provided an ideal through pass which Dixon sent to the net. Goals were coming quicker than I could record them now and within a further sixty seconds Tullamore were back in the lead thanks to a real beauty from John Minnock. Byrne laid the foundations with a great free from 30

yards out which Brady barely succeeded in getting his head to. Chester palmed the ball out but it ran straight to Minnock who slammed it into the net with a tremendous drive. Home Farm became badly rattled nearing the interval and were twice fortunate not to fall further into arrears.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Home Farm, 1.

Home Farms best phase of the game came immediately after the resumption when they went all out for a quick equaliser. They forced two corners in the opening minutes and these preceded a spell of fierce pressure which only served to prove that the Tullamore defence was unyielding. Wave after wave of Dublin pressure was repulsed by Martin Lowery and his fellow defenders with Eamonn Byrne doing more than one mans work in covering off in his own area. Then, when the seige was lifted in the 11th minute Geraghty fired in a blazing shot which Chester somehow managed to deflect around the post and Tullamore were back in business. Whiteley shaved the outside of the upright off Bradys pass then Chester was obliged to dive at Bradys feet to smother a great centre from Geraghty. These were but the pinpricks before the cannon shots and in the 64th minute Tullamore stretched their lead with a remarkable goal. John Lowery was the scorer for he followed a sprint upfield by swinging the ball across into the goalmouth where Chester gathered it safely. However, with Brady in close attendance the keeper toppled backwards across the line in possession and when the referee arrived on the

spot he immediately pointed to the centre to put Tullamore into a comfortable 3-1 lead.

GOAL-HUNGRY FORWARDS

With the points as good as won it might have been prudent for Tullamore to have dropped back on the defensive at this stage. However the forwards were still thirsting for goals and in the 71st minute they were back to chalk up number four. This time it was Brady again who played the biggest part in setting the stage and when he was sent clear through by a long clearance from Tom Whiteley the Farm defence was left with no alternative other than to take him down from behind. Unfortunately for them Brady was inside the area when he was grounded and from the spot kick which followed Noel Lynch flashed the ball along the ground out of Chesters reach. Home Farm must have realised now that they were well beaten, but to give them their due they never gave up trying.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Home Farm, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Home Farm: G. Chester, L. Kennedy, P. Dowling, J. Kealy, F. Brady, G. James, A. Macken, W. Hunt, B. Dixon, W. Howlett, G. Daly.

Referee: Mr. J. Gamble [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Although he failed to figure amongst the scorers I think that Jim Brady deserves to top the ratings this week. Not only was he vitally concerned in the approach work which led to a couple of the goals but his all round dash and exuberance frequently had the Home Farm defence rated the best in the country in a real tangle. Next to him I would place Eamonn Byrne whose red head kept popping up all over the place and especially where it was most needed and to complete the big three I will settle for Paddy Duffy who, despite a couple of misplaced clearances, turned in a first class display of goalkeeping. And that leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

Tom Whiteley [20] Liam Connolly [19] Martin Lowery [18] Noel Lynch [18] Jim Brady [16] Eamonn Byrne [16] Paddy Duffy [15] Tommie Geraghty [8] Mick Colleran [8] Teddy Whiteley [7] John Lowery [4] Liam Boland [3] Mick Connolly [2] Jimmy Dolan [2]

THE SUPREME TEST

Tullamore face their supreme test on Sunday next when they embark upon their first venture into the F.A.I. Senior Cup. Athlone and Longford town have blazed the trail before them as representatives of Midland soccer. Athlone won the cup in 1923/4 and Longford more than one succeeded in reaching the semi final stage. Is there any reason then why Tullamore cannot do equally well. Apart from the fact that they will be making their first

appearance in the competition and are bound to be feeling nervous as a result. I do not think that there are any valid grounds for permission. To be sure they will be up against it but last Sunday's great win would put them in just the right frame of mind. Bohemians may have built up a glittering reputation during the early part of the season, but in recent weeks they have not been living up to it. Four defeats in a row were followed by a shaky enough victory by the odd goal over Cork Hibernians on Sunday so that the indications are that the amateurs have burned themselves out. Nevertheless, with home advantage they will start red hot favourites to advance to the second round but if Tullamore can only realise that the opposition like themselves consists of eleven players they may well rise to the occasion. This season there have been shock results in both the F.A.I. Cup and the Scottish Cup and there is no reason why Bohemians should not follow in the wake of Glasgow Rangers and West Ham United. I do not really expect Tullamore to win, but if they succeed in proving me wrong they can be assured of a heroes welcome in this column next week.

SPORTSTAR OF THE WEEK

On the eve of Tullamore's entry into the F.A.I. Senior cup it is fitting that we should feature a soccer representative as sportstar of the week. However, it is not only sentiment which prompts the selection for last Sunday's great 4-1 victory over Home Farm was far and away the best local performance of the week. Having been unluckily eliminated

from the F.A.I. Intermediate cup by Home Farm only a couple of weeks earlier Tullamore were simply thirsting for an opportunity to prove this result all wrong and the manner in which they demolished the Whitehall side in the league on Sunday added weight to the assertion that they were unfortunate enough to have struck one of those off days for the cup game. Tullamore have now completed the league double over Home Farm, for they beat them 2-1 in Dublin earlier in the season and in view

of the fact that the Farm are holders of the league title this was no mean achievement. In both league games Tullamores outstanding player was their centre forward a man who has given tremendous service to the club in recent years. A prolific scorer and an ardent worker he is the man who carries the greatest responsibility in next Sundays big game, for if Tullamore are to upset the odds and triumph you can bet your boots that their match winner will be:

Jim Brady

February 18th 1967

Tullamore Out-Classed

“Hat-Trick” Puts End To Cup Hopes

Tullamores debut in the F.A.I. Senior Cup had no fairy tale ending for the hundreds of supporters who converged on Dalymount Park, on Sunday last, from all over the Midlands to see the Offaly side do battle with Bohemians.

Of course, none but the super optimistic expected anything other than a home win in this game and, on the face of it a 3-0 defeat was as good a result as could have been hoped for.

Yet, to the impartial regarding the game one is forced to admit straight away that the final score flattered Tullamore. On the amount of the play which they enjoyed the Phibsboro side could have doubled, or even trebled, their score without leaving Tullamore with a grievance and if this sounds like a harsh criticism let me immediately soften it by adding that there were extenuating circumstances in Tullamores favour. To assess truly the merits or demerits of this performance, then it is necessary to hold a stocktaking session weighing each contributory factor. As I write three hours have elapsed since the final whistle sounded and I have had sufficient time to sort out my recollections of the game. First of all let us look at the extenuating circumstances which I have referred to. The bad breaks started for Tullamore on the eve of the game when it became known that right winger Mick Colleran was a definite non-starter. The absence

of the tremendously strong and hard shooting Athlone man was a mortal blow to Tullamores already slim prospects not only was his weight and shooting power missed, but the very fact of having to field with a depleted side must have had an adverse influence on the morale of the side as a whole. Blow number two to Tullamore fell in the dressing room shortly before the kick off when referee D.V. Byrne insisted on a change of colours. This decision was all the more difficult to comprehend in view of the fact that Bohemians and Tullamore have played many times in the past without any such need arising. However, on Sunday the provincials had no options but to borrow a set of white shirts and in this unfamiliar gear they took the field to a stunned silence before they were recognised by their legion of supporters. Bad luck continued to dog Tullamore during the game itself, with the crowning blow being reserved until sixteen minutes after the interval when

Jim Brady had a great goal disallowed and the award of a free to Tullamore instead provided very poor compensation. Then there were some in the Tullamore camp who were vehement after the game that Bohemians third goal should have been disallowed on the grounds of offside. This is an opinion that I cannot share as, from by position in the press box, centre forward ben O'Sullivan appeared to be perfectly positioned when Martin Lowery was lured too far upfield, but obviously some of the Tullamore defenders were expecting the whistle and there was a momentary lapse in concentration as they turned to appeal to the referee.

TECHNICAL SUPERIORITY

Now let us see what the debit of the ledger reveals. Territorially Bohemians won this game hands down. This was particularly true of the first half when the home side dominated the game to such an extent that the ball was seldom out of the Tullamore half of the field and the only danger to tony swan in the home goal was the possibility of catching cold through inactivity. Oddly enough Tullamore improved considerably when playing against the wind in the second half, but then so, too did Bohemians and it was during this phase that we saw their forwards really open up with a series of incisive attacks which grew in intensity as the superbly fit home side ran their tiring opponents into the ground. In addition to the three goals scored by Ben O'Sullivan in the 55th, 70th and 81st minutes Bohs. also missed a penalty hit the crossbar

and shot 23 wides. These then are the facts of the game and I will leave it to readers to draw their own conclusions. Not that Tullamore need to feel in any way disheartened by a defeat which was almost inevitable. Far from it indeed for the visitors could afford to leave Dalrymple Park with their heads held high after a display of defensive power which had kept home fans on tender hooks for 55 minutes. The experience gained from such an encounter can be turned to good account in the future and the best summing up came from an unknown supporter sporting a Tullamore favour who was heard to say as he came down off the stand "we'll be back next year".

PERSONALITY PARS

As far as the Tullamore side is concerned the handing out of bouquets begins and finishes with the defence. Seldom can such a gallant performance have been surpassed in the history of the F.A.I. Cup for although they were outwitted, outpaced and out gunned by their fleet footed and lively opponents they stuck to their guns so manfully that they were able to thwart the ambitions of the home side for the entire first half. Buttressed by goalkeeper Paddy Duffy and centre half Martin Lowery the provincial defence scaled new heights in this game. Sheer pluck and determination went a long way towards spanning the gulf in experience and speed which divided the sides and it was not until the last dregs of vitality had been sapped from their weary legs that they eventually capsized. Martin Lowery has a flair for rising to the big

occasion and he did it again on Sunday. Although conceding several inches to his opposite number he repeatedly beat him in the air and although the fact that O'Sullivan finished the game with a hat trick to his credit might seem to be a reflection on the Tullamore leader it must be pointed out that the home centre forward was obliged to wander far and wide in search of openings. Second only to Lowery on Sunday was Paddy Duffy, playint against his cup colleagues of last season. Duffy was magnificent between the Tullamore posts, making breath taking saves from all angles and being completely blameless for the three shots that did elude him. Yet two men alone could not have prevented a rout on Sunday and the support which was so essential was readily forth coming from their colleagues. Although Tom Whiteley got a real roasting from left winger Eamonn Carroll he unflinchingly stood up to it and by his close marking he frequently stampeded the winger into hasty shooting which accounted for a big proportion of those 23 wides. John Lowery lacked pace on the other flank but such was the superb covering of this Tullamore rearguard that the benefits derived by Noel Dixon could never be properly exploited. Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne fitted into the scheme of things perfectly, but their roles were purely defensive ones and they spent practically all their time inside their own penalty area, contributing to the human barrier which defied the goal hungry home forwards for so long. Under such circumstances it was inevitable that the forwards would have to provide for themselves. With no worthwhile

backing from behind they were left to exist on starvation rations and the result was that the number of worthwhile attacks initiated by the visitors could have been counted on the finger of Dr. Kimbles famous one armed man. Jim Brady was much too closely marked out of the game by Cahill to be effective and it was left to Teddy Whiteley to constitute the main danger to Bohemians. Whiteley was a tremendously hard worker, but with little or no support his efforts usually faded out before shooting range was reached. Tullamores greatest affliction was their lack of strength on the wings. Substitute right winger John Minnock was, understandably, out of his depth against the experienced Bobby Wade and with Tommie Geraghty all most equally ineffective on the opposite flank Tullamores supply lines were severed from the wings as well as from the rear.

BEST FOR BOHS

Bohemians may not have won by as wide a margin as many of their admirers had hoped for but they were always in such control of the game that they experienced no really anxious spells. Such was their territorial superiority that full backs Young and Wade could afford to take it in turns to range far upfield in support of their forwards, whilst wing halves Holohan and Kelly were extra forwards for almost the ninety minutes. Yet, Sean Thomas can scarcely have been satisfied with the display of the forwards. Without O'Sullivan the home attack would have been a sorry sight for although inside forwards Billy Newman and Paul Flood

worked the ball cleverly in approach work their finish was not on a par a fact which applies equally well to left winger Eamonn carroll. Playing into the school goal after Martin Lowery had won the toss gave Tullamore the advantage of a stiff wind in the first half, but from the kick off it was Bohemians who swept into the attack and in their first raid they were awarded a free just outside the area which Newman swung into the goalmouth where flood was whistled back for off side. It was obviously Bohemians plan to go all out for an early score or two in the hope of disheartening their visitors. However, this was a gambit which came unstuck in the face of Tullamores spirited resistance. In pursuance of their policy Bohemians threw all they had into a bid for an early goal and as early as the 4th minute Duffy earned a round of applause when he threw himself across the goal to turn a rasping shot from Kelly around the post and when O'Sullivan stabbed a great ball through to Newman it was Martin Lowery who saved the day with a perfectly timed tackle on the inside right. Next Duffy plucked a header from O'Sullivan out of the air and then in the 10th minute Newman beat the defensive cover and slipped the ball through to flood in an unmarked position only to see the latter blaze over from point blank range. Bobby Wade added his weight to the home attack with a long run down the wing and a testing ground shot which Duffy did well to hold on the line. Tullamore now were waging a desperate defensive campaign and this was the pattern throughout the entire first half when only the occasional long clearance

from Duffy or Tom Whiteley sent the ball back into home territory. Carroll missed a bundle of good scoring chances for Bohemians when harried into hasty shooting by Tom Whiteleys close attention whilst Kelly and Newman both had promising excursions halted abruptly by Eamonn Byrnes astute covering. And so it continued a dour and uncompromising battle between the Tullamore defence and the Bohemians attack and as the minutes ticked away the play may have flowed in favour of the home side, but the honours went to the visiting defence. Only on very rare occasions did play swing to the other end and in one of these isolated raids Teddy Whiteley broke clear to present Brady with a half chance, but before the centre forward could get into his stride he was stopped in his tracks by a superb recovery by Cahill. Then Bohs were back on the attack again with Duffy saving at the post from O'Sullivan and a centre from Newman being blocked by Lynch in the goalmouth. Nearing the interval with nothing to show for their efforts Bohemians redoubled the intensity of their attacks and in the 34th minute Holohan and Carroll combined to split the visiting defence to shreds but again Duffy foiled them at the foot of the upright. Duffy was unbeatable during this seige and his best save of the day came shortly before the break when he brought the house down with a brilliant save from Newman after Dixon had floated across a perfect centre from the right. Two corners in succession in the dying seconds before the interval provided poor compensation for Bohemians and one could almost sense their uneasiness

as they went through the tunnel for the five minute break.

Half-time: Bohemians, 0; Tullamore, 0.

Having fared so well when assisted by the wind in the first half the Tullamore defence now found themselves facing the additional hazard of a breeze blowing straight down the pitch. Within seconds of the resumption a sparkling run by Carroll carved a lane in the visiting defence, but floods of eagerness lured him into an off side position and another crisis was safely passed. Whiteley easily Tullamores best forward, shot into the side netting off Geraghtys pass but this provided only a brief respite before Bohs were back in full cry again at the other end where they were at last rewarded in the 55th minute. Left full Wade made the opening with one of his upfield sallies and when he took a return pass from Dixon his header went knifing into the goal mouth where O'Sullivan's head helped it on its way to the net.

RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

The overdue breaking of the deadlock resulted in the atmosphere becoming more relaxed a fact which apparently suited both sides. Tullamore in particular appeared to benefit and for the first time their forwards began to move with some cohesion. Although their goal had a very narrow escape again when Young crashed a free off the underside of the crossbar. Tullamores best attacking phase of the game followed. First Brady drew the defence before sending a great ball through to

Geraghty, but the winger muffed a fine chance and then, in the 61st minute fortune really frowned on the visitors when Brady, with a great opportunist effort, slammed the ball past Swan and into the net after Cahill had handled the ball to no avail just outside the penalty area. However, the roar of appreciation from the Tullamore supporters was stifled to a groan of despair when referee Byrne making no use at all of the advantage rule disallowed the score and instead awarded a free to Tullamore. Just to rub salt into the wound Geraghty blazed the free yards over the bar and what may well have been the turning point of the game had come and gone. With backs up Tullamore now showed some real aggression, but their rally was short lived and in the 68th minute they experienced a real escape when Duffy was caught out of position and to prevent a certain goal Lynch was obliged to punch the ball out from under the bar. It looked like a certain number two for Bohs but Carroll hit the upright from the spot and the ball was quickly scrambled to safety by a relieved Tullamore defence. However it was only a temporary set back for the amateurs and within two minutes Carroll made amends with a glorious, pin pointed centre which O'Sullivan flicked home with a delightful header. This was the goal which sealed Tullamores fate, for they had absolutely no hope of making up arrears of two goals. Indeed their plight might have become worse when Carroll and Newman combined to cut a lane through the defence, but once more Duffy came to the rescue with a fine save from the winger.

TULLAMORE SUBSTITUTE

Tullamores plight was bad enough at this stage, but just to prove that their luck was really out they lost centre forward Brady in the 76th minute, the centre forward being taken off with a rib injury sustained in a clash with Swan. John Dooner came in as a replacement with Teddy Whiteley taking over the leadership of the line, but the damage had been done by now and it only remained to be seen whether or not Bohemians could consolidate their position. This they did with nine minutes remaining for play and this was the controversial goal Marting Lowery moved too far upfield and was robbed by O'Sullivan just short of the halfway line and with the visiting defence hesitating to appeal for off side the centre forward strode through to complete his hat trick from close range. Even now there was a flicker of resistance from Tullamore and they threw caution to the wind in a bid to force a consolation goal. Three corners two by Whiteley and one by Dooner within the space of two minutes brought no reward and when Lynch slipped a sweet pass out to Minnock the winger shot badly wide from a good position. Duffy prevented Newman from adding to the total with a flying save in the dying minutes Martin Lowery himself came up field in possession but the best that Geraghty could do from his pass was to force the final corner of the game. Tullamores bid for fame and fortune had come to an end.

Result: Bohemians, 3; Tullamore, 0.

Bohemians: A. Swan, W. Young, R. Wade, L. Holohan, P. Cahill, T. Kelly, N. Dixon, W. Newman, B. O'Sullivan, P. Flood, E. Carroll.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, Tom Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, L. Connolly, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.
Sub: J. Dooner for Brady.

Officials the disallowing of Bradys goal did not endear Mr. D.V. Byrne to Tullamore fans. Mr Byrne had the assistance of Messrs. Doyle and O'Connor on the line.

FIGURES OF THE GAME

BOHEMIANS

	Gls.	Cnrs.	Wds.	Frees
1 st Half	0	5	11	9
2 nd Half	3	1	12	8
Total	3	6	23	17

TULLAMORE

	Gls.	Cnrs.	Wds.	Frees
1 st Half	0	0	2	6
2 nd Half	0	5	3	4
Total	0	5	5	10

MERIT RATING

Such was the nature of this cup game that it almost goes without saying that defenders took the lions share of the honours for Tullamore. Martin Lowerys display at centre half must rank as one of his greatest performances and in gaining top marks he moves to the head

of our overall ranking list. A very close second was Paddy Duffy whose superb goalkeeping was one of the features of the game whilst the only forward to make any impression was Teddy Whiteley whose whole hearted efforts surely merit one point. And that leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

M. Lowery [21] Tom Whiteley [20] L. Connolly [19] N. Lynch [18] P. Duffy [17] E. Byrne [16] J. Brady [16] T. Geraghty [8] M. Colleran [8] E. Whiteley [8] J. Lowery [4] L. Boland [3] M. Connolly [2] J. Dolan [2]

THE LEAGUE

With interest in all cup competitions now

ended for the season Tullamore can devote their full attention to the league campaign and in view of their well placed position at the moment it is reasonable to expect that they will put in a strong challenge for the Blackthorn Cup. St.Patricks Athletic are the pace makers in this event, with an unbeaten run of nine games. However the Inchicore side has yet to play both Tullamore and Home Farm twice, so that it is not expecting too much that they will forfeit points from their remaining fixtures. Tullamore can scarcely afford to drop further behind and next week end they face a stiff test with an away assignment against Shelbourne at Irishtown.

February 25th 1967

Tullamore "Shell-Shocked" In League

Shelbourne2
Tullamore1

Tullamore lost two ultra valuable league points at Irishtown on Saturday last when they went under to Shelbourne by the odd goal in three in as poor a game as it has been my lot to watch for a long time. Once again the unsuitability of a Saturday fixture for a provincial club was reflected by the skeleton side which Tullamore was obliged to field, knowing only too well the limitations of their resources on a Saturday. Tullamore made an urgent but unavailing plea to the Shelbourne directors to have the game switched to Sunday. However the Ringsend side refused to budge and insisted on their right to play on Saturday. This attitude resulted in Tullamore being forced to scout around for eleven players and the side which eventually took the field lacked the services of Tom Whiteley, Mick Colleran, Liam Connolly and Jim Brady and left the visitors in the unenviable position of having no 12th man had the necessity arisen.

"SPOT-KICK" REPORTS FROM IRISHTOWN

The Irishtown venue has never been a happy hunting ground for Tullamore. Indeed the Offaly side invariably seem

to reserve their very worst displays for this wind swept and terribly exposed pitch, and Saturday last was no exception in this respect. Conditions for football could scarcely have been worse, for in addition to a howling gale which made ball control virtually an impossible art, the players had to contend with drenching rain and biting cold. Such conditions were bad enough for the players but at least they had the advantage of being able to keep on the move but personally I regard this as the most uncomfortable 90 minutes I have had to endure since this column first made its appearance in the Offaly Independent almost twenty years ago. With not a vestige of cover in sight I found it impossible to take notes of any description so that I am now obliged to depend upon memory for the highlights of the game. To solve their team difficulties, Tullamore brought in Sean Hogan, John Minnock and Mick Connolly from the reserves and introduced a new signing in centre forward Frank O'Byrne and it was upon the latter that most interest centred. Although quite young O'Byrne has seen service with Bohemians and Shelbourne whilst in addition he had a months trial with Millwall in England so that he does not lack experience. On Saturday it was

difficult to assess his values to Tullamore and we must defer judgement on his capabilities until he has been seen in action under more favourable circumstances. However first impressions were that he may develop into a worth while prospect John Lowery, Noel Lynch, Frank O'Byrne and in the first half, Martin Lowery, were exceptions to this general criticism, but for the remainder it appeared to be just a case of fulfilling a fixture with no real concern as to the outcome. If anything it was the reserves who contributed the greatest amount of effort, for both Minnock and Connolly worked industriously in the attack, with the latter being particularly impressive on the right wing. The absence of Tom Whiteley merely served to underline his value to the side. Without his steadying influence the defence floundered and it was only good goalkeeping by Paddy Duffy and tenacious tackling by John Lowery and Noel Lynch which enabled the visitors to hold a lively Shelbourne attack scoreless until well into the second half. Throughout the first half Martin Lowery was the bulwark of the provincial defence. Teddy Whiteley worked really hard and Mick Connolly put in a couple of good runs on the right, but the remainder of the front line was completely out of touch, with Geraghty repeatedly trying to take too much out of the ball.

POINTS FROM PLAY

At the best of times Irishtown Stadium is a bleak spot but on Saturday the conditions there would have made an eskimo flinch, with a galeforce wind

howling in from Dublin bay. It was Shelbourne who gained an early grip on the exchanges and the Tullamore goal came under heavy fire with Duffy saving well from Shiels and Walsh in the opening minutes. Tullamores first dangerous attack was delayed until the 18th minute when Mick Connolly left Strahan standing as he raced down the wing before firing across a great centre, which Minnock just failed to reach inside the penalty area. For the most part play was being confined to the midfield sector with the respective centre halves, Lowery and Byrne, dominating the central approach to the goals. Teddy Whiteley created a good opening for O'Byrne in the 25th minute but the centre forwards cross was carried too close to the goal area by the wind and Byrne was able to cut off the delivery. So inept were both forward lines at this stage that it was not until the 31st minute that Shelbourne forced the first corner of the game when Martin Lowery came to Tullamores rescue by turning the ball behind off Shiels boot after the winger had sprinted clear from the halfway line. With just five minutes of the first half remaining Tullamore had a chance of going ahead when Whiteley carried the ball through from inside his own half to send a great ball out to Geraghty on the left. The winger angled his centre perfectly towards the intrushing O'Byrne, but before the ball could reach the centre forward it was cut off in midair by goalkeeper Byrne. In the time remaining Shelbourne lost left winger Shiels who retired with an injury sustained in a clash with one of his own men.

Half-time: Shelbourne, 0; Tullamore, 0.

The Tullamore goal had two narrow escapes on the resumption when Shelbourne brought on McArdle to replace Shiels. First Martin Lowery was badly beaten by Des Hickey and the inside right was left with an open path to goal and was foiled by Duffy dashing from his goal to fly kick the ball to safety. Almost immediately after this escape another misunderstanding between Duffy and Lowery had the visiting defence floundering again and thankful that there was no red shirt up to make the most of the confusion. These two incidents sowed the seeds of discontent in the Tullamore penalty area and left it vulnerable to the thrustful attacks of the home side.

PENALTY MISS

Tullamore had a great opportunity of drawing first blood three minutes after the interval. They were awarded a free just outside the area and although Geraghtys drive was going wide Walsh needlessly handled it to concede a penalty. Noel Lynch was entrusted with the spot kick which might have given Tullamore the impetus to rise the standard of their game but although he placed his shot well to Byrnes right the keeper dived to deflect the ball around the post for a corner. The writing was now on the wall in big black letters for Tullamore, but they had one further opportunity of opening the scoring in the 58th minute when Whiteley broke through on his own, but with only the keeper to beat, he stumbled on the run in and that was that. More and more

now the game was taking on the appearance of a scoreless draw and, no doubt, Tullamore would have been content to settle for a division of the points under the circumstances. However, it was not to be and in the 64th minute Shelbourne at last succeeded in opening the scoring. With victory now in sight the reds became a more determined force and within a further two minutes they had stretched their lead when Lowery was lured too far upfield and Des Hickey rounded him to race in and send the ball clean through the net with an unsavable drive. Tullamore were now reeling and Kelly had the ball in their net again within a minute, but this time the score was disallowed for an offside decision. against hickey.

COACH'S PART

With their coach, Gibby McKenzie running up and down the line lending every encouragement, Shelbourne were now well in command of the situation against a Tullamore side which was badly lacking in leadership. No effort was made to improve the position by means of positional switches and the visitors were content to plod along towards inevitable defeat. In the 75th minute a piledriver of a free by Geraghty was deflected for a corner by a wall of defenders but Tullamores consolation goal was delayed until two minutes from the end when Whiteley created a perfect opening for Geraghty to blast the ball past Byrne.

Result: Shelbourne, 2; Tullamore, 1.

Shelbourne: L. Byrne, Kennedy, Strahan, Kelligan, J. Byrne, Orr, Butler, D. Hickey, Kelly, Walsh, Shiels, [Sub: McArdle for Shiels].

Tullamore: P. Duffy, S. Hogan, J. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Connolly, E. Whiteley, F. O'Byrne, J. Minnock, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. P.P. Cotes [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

I am not at all sure that any points at all are deserved this week, but I suppose the continuity of this feature demands that some effort be made to determine a rating. Forced to select three performances from last weeks debacle, I can think of none more deserving than those of Noel Lynch, Mick Connolly and Martin Lowery and with these points added the overall position now reads as follows:

M. Lowery [22] N. Lynch [21] T. Whiteley [20] L. Connolly [19] P. Duffy

[17] E. Byrne [16] Jim Brady [16] E. Whiteley [8] T. Geraghty [8] M. Colleran [8] J. Lowery [4] M. Connolly [4] L. Boland [3] J. Dolan [2]

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore will be anxious to leave last weeks form behind them as quickly as possible. The loss of the points against Shelbourne has set the provincials back several places in the league table. St. Patricks Athletic and Shamrock Rovers both won over the weekend and have thus improved their positions at the head of affairs. Tullamore will have an opportunity to get back into the fighting line on Sunday next when they will have Drogheda as visitors to Spollenstown. When these sides met in the Castrol Trophy at the same venue Tullamore triumphed by 4-0 and it was this game which sparked off Tullamores run of fourteen games without defeat so that victory next Sunday might be a happy pointer to the future.

March 11th 1967

Tullamore Can Still Win League

Immediately after Tullamore had been cut to ribbons by Drogheda at Spollenstown on last Sunday week, the general feeling amongst supporters of the club was that all hopes of winning the League of Ireland 'B' Division championship had gone up in smoke. Indeed in some quarters I heard it suggested that the remainder of the season should be devoted to seeking out new talent and giving local players an opportunity of gaining experience under match conditions as it was felt that there was no point in perserving with the regular lineout now that all hopes of winning the title had been quashed. Those who favoured such an argument pointed out that at least two or three of the present side have now come to the end of their playing days and that consequently replacements will have to be found for next season. There is a lot to commend this school of thought, but before any decision is finally taken on the matter it might be as well to probe a little deeper into the true facts. Having an hour or two to spare during the week I got down to the task of studying the remainder of the league programme with a view to discovering exactly what Tullamores prospects are, and I confess right away

that the possible implications of the coming months really surprised me. Moreover, I am convinced that despite the big lead at present held by St. Patricks Athletic it would be folly to regard the Inchicore side as being home and dried in the title race.

REDUCED TO SIX

Broadly speaking it is safe, I think, to reduce to six the number of clubs which, in theory, can win the league. These are Shamrocks Rovers, St. Patricks Athletic, Tullamore, Home Farm, Drumcondra and Drogheda, and the remarkable point about the remainder of the league programme is the number of clashes which it features between member of this "Big Six". Between now and the end of the season there will never be a week which does not contain at least one such fixture and to illustrate my point I have prepared the following chart which shows the exact programme which awaits each of the contenders for the league title. In all cases I have taken into consideration postponed matches involving any of the sides in question. Now here goes -

Shamrock Rovers - away to Tullamore

Shelbourne, Drogheda and Athlone.
Home to Tullamore Drumcondra
Dundalk and St. Patricks Athletic

St. Patricks Athletic - away to Dalkey
Tullamore, Shelbourne, Home Farm
Drogheda and Shamrock Rovers. Home
to Ormeau, Home Farm, Tullamore,
Shelbourne, and Bohemians.

Tullamore - away to Shamrock Rovers,
Drogheda, St. Patricks Athletic, Ormeau
and Drumcondra. Home to St. Patricks
Athletic, Bohemians, Dalkey United,
Dundalk and Shamrock Rovers.

Home Farm - away to Athlone,
Shelbourne, St. Patricks Athletic,
Drumcondra, Drogheda, Bohemians and
Dalkey United. Home to Dalkey United,
Athlone, St. Patricks Athletic, Ormeau
and Drumcondra.

Drogheda - away to Shelbourne and
Bohemians. Home to Tullamore, Home
Farm, Shamrock Rovers, St. Patricks
Athletic and Ormeau.

Drumcondra - away to Dundalk, Dalkey,
United, Shamrock Rovers, Athlone and
Home Farm. Home to Dalkey United,
Home Farm and Tullamore.

COMPLEX SITUATION

Without delving too deeply into the complexities of the situation a casual glance through these fixtures for the coming weeks will give some idea of just how open the issue really is in the top half of the league table. Apart altogether from the inevitable loss of points when two of the leading clubs are

in opposition allowance must be made for the usual crop of "shock" results. These can have a vital bearing upon the ultimate league placings, as St. Patricks Athletic know to their cost after their recent visit to Athlone, and neither Shamrock Rovers nor Home Farm can be feeling too complacent about their scheduled trips to St. Mels Park. Shelbourne, too, boast and unbeaten home record out at wind swept Irishtown and they can be relied upon to do damage to the prospects of some of the leading clubs when they get them out to the stadium. It must be in Tullamores favour that they are finished with these two "bogey" venues for the season and although six of their remaining 11 matches are away from home I still feel that they can emerge as serious challengers in the final shake up. If asked to pinpoint their most hazardous undertakings during the coming weeks I think I would settle for the trip to Drogheda Tullamore have never yet taken a point out of Lourdes Stadium and the two clashes against Shamrock Rovers. What it all really boils down to is the fact that Tullamore hold their fate in their own hands and will have nobody but themselves to blame if they cannot at least emulate their feat of last season when they were deprived of the runner up medals in the league only after a play off against Shamrock Rovers which went to extra time.

END OF SEASON

Of course, one factor which can have a very big bearing upon the eventual outcome and which therefore, must be

taken into consideration in an article such as this, is the fact that the Senior League of Ireland is scheduled to finish on April 16th after that date the clubs which are not engaged in the top four events for the Independent Cup will have their full playing staffs available and may, if they so desire, play them in the concluding stages of the "B" League. Shamrock Rovers found themselves in this position for last seasons play off at Spollenstown but to the credit of the Milltown club they spurned the opportunity of strengthening their lineout and depended instead upon the side which had represented them Throughout the season in the "B" Division. However, the fact remains that any club is at liberty to call in as many first team players as they wish and if the points at stake in the closing matches of the league are priceless then clubs such as Drogheda, St. Patricks and Drumcondra will have a considerable advantage over sides such as Tullamore and Home Farm. And that brings us to the question of when the league is likely to finish. According to the official fixture list the last series of matches is scheduled for April 16th, but with so many postponed matches to be fitted into the closing weeks it may be taken for granted that there will be an extension of time. Tullamore are in a particularly unfortunate position in this respect, for they will be denied the opportunity of playing some of their fixtures in midweek. With eleven fixtures in the league remaining not to mention a postponed Castrol Trophy game against Dundalk Tullamore cannot hope to conclude their programme before mid May at the earliest. This, in

itself, could pose problems as the end of April marks the end of the official playing season and if Tullamore are still in the hunt for honours at that stage they may well find themselves compelled to travel to Dublin for one or two midweek fixtures.

CASTROL TROPHY

Mention of the Castrol Trophy in the preceding paragraph reminds me that many local followers appear to have lost sight of the fact that Tullamore are at present lying second in this competition with one outstanding fixture remaining to be played. Tullamore cannot hope to catch Shelbourne, but they must stand a chance at least of finishing as runner up, their only challengers for the minor berth are Home Farm whose outstanding matches are against Athlone, Bohemians and Drumcondra. Just in case you have forgotten the position at the top of the table let me refresh your memories with the following table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Shelbourne	10	7	3	0	30	13	17
Tullamore	10	6	1	3	20	20	13
Home Farm	8	4	4	0	13	5	12
St. Patrick's Ath.	11	5	2	4	23	20	12
Athlone	9	5	1	3	20	16	11
Dalkey Utd.	9	5	1	3	24	11	11
Drogheda	9	5	0	4	17	18	10
Shamrock Rov.	9	4	1	4	21	20	9
Drumcondra	9	2	3	4	11	15	7
Bohemians	8	3	0	5	16	23	6
Dundalk	10	1	1	8	11	33	3
Ormeau	8	0	1	7	11	23	1

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore could have a fair idea of their fate after next week end when they are due to travel to Richmond Park to meet league leaders St. Patricks Athletic. The latter have been setting a cracking pace at the top of the table and have dropped only three points from the eleven matches they have played. For once Tullamore will be hoping for a Saturday

fixture in view of the opening of the mens mission on Sunday, but up to the time of writing it is not known whether the game will be played on Saturday or Sunday. Provided that they can field something like a full strength side I have high hopes of Tullamore taking at least one point frm this difficult fixture.

March 18th 1967

Tullamore Hold Leaders To Draw

St.Patricks Athletic2
Tullamore2

Tullamores undbeaten record in Richmond Park was preserved on Sunday last when the visitors shared the points with league leaders St. Patricks Athletic in a 2-2 draw. To have taken a point from one of their most difficult away fixtures was a very satisfying achievement by Tullamore and one with which they were quite content, especially as they were without Noel Lynch for the occasion. Playing really good football Tullamore swept into a 2-0 interval lead which augured well for their chances. During this period there was no question as to which was the better side for Tullamore were on top in practically all sectors. Their forwards were particularly impressive, with Jim Brady leading the home defence a merry dance with his quick bursts and superb ball control, which turned to good use a splendid service from Frank O'Byrne. With Teddy Whiteley returning to scoring form after a lean spell of long duration the visitors provided a three pronged menace in the centre, but they did not enjoy the same success on the wings, where John Minnock had a very quiet game on the right and Tommie Geraghty missed a

couple of good scoring opportunities on the left. In defence Tom Whiteley took the major honours for Tullamore with Martin Lowery and John Lowery both lending valuable support. During the first half, Paddy Duffy brought off a number of very fine saves. Eamonn Byrnes covering in defence was first class and Liam Connolly deputising for Lynch was very impressive in the air but lacked the ability to tackle which is part and parcel of the make up of a wing half. A home goal after only 90 seconds of the resumption had a profound and disturbing influence on the game and from that point onwards it was St. Pats. Who took the bit between their teeth. They bombarded the Tullamore goal and smacked in the equaliser in the 64th minute the league leaders were in such control of the situation at this point that they seemed certain to complete their comeback by scoring another couple of goals, but Tullamore, although never recapturing their form of the first half, held on grimly and at times even looked capable of regaining the initiative themselves.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Tullamore forced the first corner of the game in the 5th minute without gaining

any real advantage from it and when play swung to the other end a high centre from left winger Pat Cunningham was brilliantly taken out of the sky by Duffy. A corner by Whiteley was punted out of a crowded goalmouth by Doherty, but in the 17th minute the visitors went into the lead with a goal which was absolutely brilliant both in design and execution. O'Byrne laid the foundations with a perfect through ball down the centre which split the home defence to shreds and before they could recover Brady had waltzed his way through to pick his spot and leave Doherty helpless with a crisp delivery. This goal was a real tonic for Tullamore, and although St. Pats. hit back hard in search of a quick equaliser right winger Carberry was stopped in his tracks by Eamonn Byrnes astute covering. In the 34th minute hand muffed a gilt edged opportunity when he rounded Lowery and raced in to within six yards of the goal before blazing wide. Within the space of two minutes the home attack frittered away three golden chances. Tullamore were looking much more dangerous in front of goal and they deservedly stretched their lead in the 40th minute. Again it was O'Byrne who provided the opening with a perfectly judged pass out to Teddy Whiteley and the latter cut in along the endline and had his reward when his low, hard shot across the face of the goal was turned inside the upright by goalkeeper Doherty. In the time which remained before the short whistle Masterson was wide with a long range free for St. Pats. Whilst at the other end Doherty saved what appeared to be a certain third goal when he dashed out to the edge of the

area to dive at Whiteleys feet after the latter had been sent clean through by Brady.

Half-time: St. Patricks Athletic, 0;
Tullamore, 2.

The home side obviously received instructions to go all out for a quick goal after the interval and they carried out these instructions to the letter. Within a minute of the resumption they had forced two corners in quick succession. The first of these was cleared but the second yielded them a quick dividend as Duffy safely gatehred Carberrys inswinger, but then, under pressure from Hand the keeper dropped the ball and left winger Cunningham was on hand to tap it in. St.Pats. forced another corner in the 48th minute only Byrnes good positional sense enabled him to dribble clear from the penalty area. St.Pats. were doing all the pressing now but with Tom Whiteley holding the Tullamore defence together the storm was weathered and in a quick break upfield the visitors were unlucky not to have stretched their lead in the 55th minute when O'Byrne headed a centre from Geraghty against the crossbar and as the ball dropped on the goal line Hoey got back to clear from under the bar. One minute later a corner by Whiteley had the home defence in a tangle, but although O'Byrnes header had Doherty beaten all ends up the ball was again whipped off the goalline, this time by King.

THE EQUALISER

Just when it seemed that Tullamore

were regaining their composure St. Pats. came surging back to gain their equaliser in the 64th minute, this goal put the home side back in control again and in a bid to ginger up the attack Tullamore switched Whiteley and Geraghty. What was probably Tullamores best scoring chance of the second half came in the 75th minute when Brady reduced in effectiveness now as a result of a shoulder injury knocked a great ball back to Geraghty, but from a well placed position the latter blazed wide of the target. St. Pats finished strongly with an all out bid for a winning goal and in the 90th minute they forced another corner their 8th of the second half but before Hawkins could take the kick the long whistle sounded bringing much relief to Tullamore.

Result: St. Patricks Athletic, 2;
Tullamore, 2.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, L. Connolly, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, F. O'Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

St. Patrick Ath: A. Doherty, J. Hoey, J. King, B. Masterson, J. Kinsella, J. Noonan, J. Carberry, M. Creevy, C. Hand, R. Hawkins, P. Cunningham.

Referee: Mr. N.D. Kiernan [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

It is mainly on first half performances that this weeks rating is made, for there was an almost universal slump in the

achievement during the second moiety. One man who certainly made his presence felt amongst the home defenders was Jim Brady and he it is who tops the ratings this week. At the other end of the field Tom Whiteley was in magnificent form and the two points gained here brings him up to joint leadership in the overall placings. For third place I am content to nominate Teddy Whiteley who was Tullamores most industrious worker and who showed a return to scoring from by netting his first goal since last Januray. This then leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

Martin Lowery [212] Tom Whiteley [22]
Noel Lynch [21] Jim Brady [20] Liam Connolly [19] Eamonn Byrne [19] Paddy Duffy [17] Teddy Whiteley [11] Tommie Geraghty [8] Mick Colleran [8] John Lowery [4] Mick Connolly [4] Liam Boland [3] Jimmy Dolan [2]

CUP REMINDER

Memories of Tullamores bid for cup fame will be revived at Spollenstown on Sunday next when Bohemians come to town for a vital league game. Of course the big difference is that this time Tullamore will be facing opposition of their own calibre as it will of course be Bohemians "B" team, that will be seeking the league points. Tullamore have a very good record against the Phibsboro side and as the points at stake are of far greater value to them than to the visitors they should have the incentive to get them back on the winning trail.

March 25th 1967

Missed Penalty Proved Costly

Tullamore, 1; Bohemians, 1.

A penalty miss fourteen minutes after the start proved costly for Tullamore at Spollenstown on Sunday last when the home side had to be content with division of the points from a 1-1 draw with Bohemians. With league leaders St. Patricks Athletic, having suffered defeat at the hands of Home Farm the previous day, the opportunity was there for Tullamore to improve their position but the incentive evoked little response from the team which on the general run of the play was fortunate to earn a draw. Missing was the sparkle and drive which had characterised so many of Tullamores performances during the first half of the season. The strong wind which did much to ruin the game as a spectacle, for the players never succeeded in mastering the conditions and the ball was as often in touch on the railway side of the pitch as it was in play.

HIT BY INJURIES

To be fair to Tullamore it must be pointed out that they have run into a rash of injury trouble at just the wrong time. The protracted absence of right winger, Mick Colleran, has seriously

disrupted the striking power of the attack, which was further reduced in potency on Sunday last by the absence of centre forward Jim Brady. Bradys true value to the side was never more fully exposed than in his absence. Without him the home attack floundered and sank and it is significant that Tullamores only goal on Sunday was scored by wing half Eamonn Byrne. In a front line, which never combined fluently Liam Connolly and Teddy Whiteley both worked industriously while once again it was the lack of penetraton on the wings which went a long way towards sealing Tullamores fate. The Tullamore defence although conceding only one goal never really inspired confidence. Paddy Duffy was safe enough between the posts on a day when it must have been extremely difficult to judge the flight of the ball and John Lowery got through a lot of work at left full to share the honours of this sector with Tom Whiteley. The saviour of the side was, without doubt, Eamonn Byrne, who repeatedly broke up dangerous attacking movements before they could gather momentum, but Martin Lowery, was equally effective in the centre. The return of Noel Lynch restored the Tullamore half back line to full strength and apart from that penalty

miss Lynch contributed his full share to the exchanges. To sum up, then this was a game in which the quality of the football was adversely influenced by the conditions but the general excitement engendered by goal mouth thrills at either end went a long way towards compensating onlookers.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Although the high wind was blowing more or less diagonally across the pitch it was Bohemians who were favoured by it at the outset and within minutes of the start some idea of the strength of the wind was provided when the visiting inside right Paul Redmond, sent a shot yards wide of the target, in the visitors next attack in the 5th minute a well judged centre from left winger Mulhall was brilliantly cut off by Duffy who set his forwards moving with long clearance and when Byrne switched the ball out to Geraghty the winger got across a great centre which dipped across the face of the goal with nobody up in support.

PENALTY MISS

The 14th minute provided one instance when crime certainly did pay. Teddy Whiteley had sent Frank O'Byrne careering through the centre with a perfect through pass and a goal seemed a certainty until the centre forward was bowled over from behind. Still, it seemed to be only delaying the inevitable as Lynch placed the ball for the spot kick but to the consternation of the home following the usually reliable Noel sent the ball skidding yards outside the upright. Encouraged no end by this

escape Bohemians got a firm grip on the game and with their players moving the ball quickly and accurately they began to bore holes in the home defence. An indirect free on the edge of the area was cracked narrowly over by Mulhall off Robinsons pass and then the home defence was reduced to a shambles as the ball bobbed around the penalty area before inside right, Redmond, lofted it over the bar. In the 22nd minute Tom Whiteley popped up in the right spot to deflect a point blank shot from left half O'Loughlin behind for a corner. The home goal had another narrow escape seven minutes later, and this time the trouble was of Tullamores own making as John Lowery, in attempting to clear, headed the ball almost out of Duffys hands and was fortunate to see it spin outside the upright for nothing more costly than another corner which almost proved fruitful as Mulhalls centre was headed inches over by inside left, Mick Sandom. In further Bohemians pressure Mulhall had a rasping shot turned around the post by Duffy and with the visitors so much on top now the wonder was that their scoring efforts were being contained so well. With wing halves Kavanagh and O'Loughlin linking up with the attack Bohemians were calling the tune, but they were almost caught napping at the other end when an inswinging corner from Whiteley was knocked off Liam Connollys head by goalkeeper Waters just in the nick of time.

THE LEAD

With only nine minutes of the first half remaining, Tullamores prospects of

holding out against the wind were being enhanced all the time, but then came disaster as a centre from Sandom reached Mulhall just outside the area and with a snap shot the winger curled the ball well out of Duffys reach for a very well taken goal. In the time which remained, Tullamore were fortunate that they did not fall further into arrears, for in the 40th minute a free by Robinson split the home defence and centre forward Harry Cobbe just failed in his bid to cut the ball back from the end line and then, just before the short whistle, Robinson came upfield again to send a close free whistling outside the post.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Bohemians, 1.

Tullamores position at the interval was not at all bad, for a one goal deficit was little or nothing with wind advantage to come and resuming with Connolly leading the attack and O'Byrne at inside right Tullamore sent their supporters hopes soaring when they equalised within two minutes. It was a corner by Whiteley which really did the trick for after waters had failed to cut off the centre the ball was only partially cleared by Winstanley and Eamonn Byrne hooked it over the heads of the defence and into the corner of the net. This surely was the tonic which Tullamore needed but it failed to galvanise the side into life. Indeed it was Bohs. who almost regained the lead in the 52nd minute when a bad mistake by Martin Lowery conceded a corner which might just as easily have been a goal. With the wind behind them one might have expected Tullamore to be setting the

pace now but the forwards were lying much too deep to be effective with the result that Connolly was frequently left to chase forlorn chances all on his own. This was the pattern which persisted throughout most of the second half when Tullamore more often than not had eight men back in defence when, instead, they should have been throwing everything in to attack. Whiteley took over for a spell at centre forward but he fared no better against Winstanley than had either of his predecessors in the position and it was left to winger Geraghty that the best scoring chances fell. The winger muffed a great chance in the 74th minute when he was waved on from what seemed to be a doubtful position behind the defence and almost immediately he squandered another opportunity by sending behind from a corner however with thirteen minutes remaining for play Geraghty was on target with a glorious centre which Minnock first timed inches wide and this although we did not know at the time was to be Tullamores last real chance of snatching the winner Bohemians were content to hold out for a draw and with their defence, splendidly built around Winstanley, Kavanagh and Conway, the masters of the home attack, they played out the remaining time without any great difficulty. Indeed only a smart save by Duffy from Sandom, following a free on the halfway line by Kavanagh prevented the visitors from taking both points. Had they done so Tullamores league prospects would have been destroyed instead of merely tarnished.

Result: Tullamore, 1; Bohemians, 1.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery [capt], E. Byrne, J. Minnock, L. Connolly, F. O'Byrne, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Bohemians: T. Waters, P. Conway, N. Robinson, M. Kavanagh [capt] N. Winstanley, S. O'Loughlin, N. Slattery, P. Redmond, H. Cobbe, M. Sandom, R. Mulhall.

Referee: Mr. Jack Kelly [Dublin]

COMPARISONS

Looking back on my file for the corresponding game in Dublin which was played on December 18th and which resulted in a 1-0 win for Tullamore, it is interesting to note that Bohemians showed no fewer than six changes for last Sundays game whereas Tullamore had only two changes, O'Byrne and Minnock coming in for Colleran and John dooner in the forward line.

MERIT RATING

Eamonn Byrne stood out as Tullamores man of the match on Sunday and is almost an automatic choice to top the ratings. However, it is not so easy to decide upon the destination of the minor awards, although I am content to settle for John Lowery who alone showed a flair for aggression and Liam Connolly, who at least put some real effort into his

play. This, then, leaves the overall position now reading as follows:
Martin Lowery [22] Tom Whiteley [22] Eamonn Byrne [22] Noel Lynch [21] Jim Brady [20] Liam Connolly [20] Paddy Duffy [17] Teddy Whiteley [11] Tom Geraghty [8] Mick Colleran [8] John Lowery [6] Mick Connolly [4] Liam bolalnd [3] Jimmy Dolan [2]

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore return to the venue which they probably dislike more than any other on Sunday next when they travel to Leixlip to oppose Ormeau. Points are invariably difficult to come by on this rough and ready ground and Tullamore will have unhappy memories of previous visits. It was Ormeau who ended Tullamores long unbeaten run on St. Stephens day and the fact that they won at Spollenstown on that occasion emphasises just how hard Tullamore are going to find it to get back on the winning trail. Tullamore have now gone five consecutive games without a win and if they are to retain any chance at all of remaining even remotely in touch with the league leaders their present slide must be halted without further delay. A win on Sunday would be a very acceptable "Easter egg" for Tullamore and in view of the importance of the occasion I have a feeling that the silver lining to this particular cloud is now in sight.

April 1st 1967

Tullamore Close On Leaders

Tullamore reaped a giant size Easter egg last week-end when circumstances in the "B" Division of the League of Ireland were all in their favour and resulted in a jump of four places up the league table. In a week end of shock results St. Patricks Athletic, Shamrock Rovers and Home Farm all sustained unexpected defeats on Saturday and with the leading teams dropping back Tullamore stepped in to boost their prospects with a fluent 3-0 victory over Ormeau at Leixlip on Sunday. Although they occupy a lowly position in the league, Ormeau have always proved to be something of a bogey side for Tullamore and on Sunday the visitors chances seemed to be anything but bright when it was learned that Tom Whiteley, John Lowery, Jim Brady and of course Mick Colleran, were all absentees for one reason or another. To make matters worse Noel Lynch was unfit and had no intention of playing until forced to do so by Tullamores plight.

"Spot-Kick" Reports From
Leixlip

There was quite a scramble, then to field a team at all and when Tullamore took the field it was with two substitute full backs and a makeshift forward line, with not even a twelfth man available had the necessity arisen. However, the

visitors seemed to draw strength from adversity and, playing with a good deal more spirit that has been the case in recent weeks they turned in a performance which richly merited the points at stake. Playing with a gale forced wind behind them in the first half, Tullamore built up a 2-0 lead which was augmented second before the interval with a third goal from the penalty spot. There after, the provincials were content to hold what they had and, backing heavily upon defence, they pulled down the shutters.

TEAM EFFORT

Our customary individual review of players would scarcely serve any purpose this week for this latest victory was gained by solid team spirit and old fashioned courage. Realising the handicaps under which they laboured Tullamore did not make the mistake of attempting to outplay the opposition in an orthodox manner. Instead they relied upon upsetting Ormeau by tenacity of purpose and with every member of the team willing and eager to share in the work a fine example was provided of what real spirit can achieve. In defence goalkeeper Paddy Duffy got surprisingly little to do and although the

mainstay of the team was the middle line of Lynch, Lowery and Byrne the latter was really outstanding the makeshift combination of Liam Connolly and John Dooner at full back succeeded in clipping the wings of the home side. At the outset both appeared to be "at sea" in their strange positions, but they warmed to their tasks as the game progressed so that at the finish they were numbered amongst the heroes of the day. In attack Tullamore used "smash and grab" methods with profitable results. Twice within the space of three minutes midway through the first half Teddy Whiteley ran on to long passes down the middle to place the ball accurately out of Aidan Hoey's reach and these golden goals must serve to establish the army man as Tullamore's match winner. Always alive to the slimmest of chances Whiteley was the main striking force in the visiting attack. Nevertheless his efforts alone could not have reaped reward were it not for the assistance and support received from his colleagues. Frank O'Byrne led the line cleverly. But it was newcomer Seamus Murphy making his first appearance on the town team who displayed the boundless energy and determination which ultimately spread throughout the remainder of the team. Tommie Geraghty, who has so often in the past been criticised in this column, earns high marks for last week's performance. John Minnock, too, achieved more as an auxiliary defender than as an orthodox inside forward and his ability to hold the ball in the second half afforded valuable seconds of respite.

POINTS FROM PLAY

With a gale force wind blowing down the pitch Tullamore had the elements on their side at the outset and they pressed for some time. Yet it was the home side which was afforded a splendid opportunity of taking the lead in the 5th minute when Liam Connolly was penalised, but Christy Doyle shot wide from the spot. Drawing strength from this escape Tullamore were soon back on the offensive, with Byrne scraping the bar with a well judged effort a rasping shot from Murphy scraped over the Ormeau timber but Tullamore's best scoring bid to date came in the 24th minute when Lowery carried the ball through the centre and his high lob into the goalmouth was headed against the crossbar by Geraghty.

QUICK GOALS

The game was running so strongly in Tullamore's favour that the real wonder was that their opening goal was delayed until the 28th minute when a long clearance from Duffy was sent through the centre by Byrne and Whiteley rounded centre half Byrne to slam a great shot past Hoey. Once pierced the home defence lost a lot of its assurance and in the 31st minute Tullamore were back to claim their second goal. In many respects the pattern was the same the only difference this time being that it was Frank O'Byrne who provided the through pass which Whiteley raced on to before cracking the ball past the advancing Hoey with centre half Byrne in hopeless pursuit. Several more chances fell to Tullamore before the

interval. A 2-0 lead at this stage was paltry enough in view of the conditions but with less than thirty seconds of the first half remaining Tullamore stretched their lead. This time the goal was from the spot after O'Byrne had been tumbled in the area with only the keeper to beat. Geraghty was entrusted with the kick, and a beauty it was as he sent the skimming along the ground to the left of Hoey to place the visitors in a much stronger position.

Half-time: Ormeau, 0; Tullamore, 3.

Tullamore had yet to face their real moment of truth. With the gale blowing harder than ever their goal was quickly under pressure and in the opening minutes of the second half Duffy did extremely well to tip a rasper from Tony Hoey over the bar. Later, however the keeper was guilty of two bad errors of judgement when, in quick succession, he had his attempted drop kicks blocked by Hoey, but on each occasion the ball was somehow scrambled to safety. Although there was no slackening in the intensity of home pressure the Ormeau forwards played into the hands of their opponents by adopting mistaken tactics. Too often they relied upon pumping high balls downfield and almost invariably Eamonn Byrne was in the right position to turn back the tide. Liam Connolly and Martin Lowery too combined to blunt the home attack whilst always there was the steadying influence of Noel Lynch to keep the defence united and strong. Frequently Tullamore had ten players back in defence and this strength in numbers served them well against an Ormeau attack which became

more and more frustrated as their efforts went unrewarded. Geraghty was particularly active, roving up and down the left wing and switching from defence to attack with equal facility. The visitors were helped by the inclination of the Ormeau forwards to keep the ball close time after time they worked their way in close but then failed to apply the finishing touch as their forwards tip tapped their way to destruction.

PENALTY SAVE

Precisely midway through the second half Ormeau had a great chance of breaking their duck when they were awarded a second penalty, this time awarded against Dooner, but although right full Pat Cuddy was on target with his spot kick Duffy parried the ball and then completed his clearance.

Result: Ormeau, 0; Tullamore, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, L. Connolly, J. Dooner, N. Lynch, M. Lowery [capt], E. Byrne, S. Murphy, J. Minnock, F. O'Byrne, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Ormeau: A. Hoey, P. Cuddy, F. Lane, D. McGovern, D. Byrne [capt], I. McKenna, C. Doyle, J. Leydon, P. Pidgeon, T. Hoey, J. Connolly.

Referee: Mr. P. Brady [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

There is really no great difficulty in pinpointing the "big three" this week. Goal scoring Teddy Whiteley tops the ratings for both his goals were

extremely well taken efforts which swung the game in Tullamore's favour next comes Eamonn Byrne who was here, there and everywhere in a hectic second half for the third spot I select Tom Geraghty whose willingness to work back almost to his own goal line in the second half helped considerably to quench the spark of resistance from Ormeau. As a result of these latest ratings Eamonn Byrne now takes a clear lead at the top of the table:

Eamonn Byrne [24] Martin Lowery [22] Tom Whiteley [22] Noel Lynch [21] Liam Connolly [20] Jim Brady [20] Paddy Duffy [17] Teddy Whiteley [14] Tommie Geraghty [9] Mick Colleran [8] John Lowery [6] Mick Connolly [4] Liam Boland [3] Jimmy Dolan [2]

STIFF TEST

This coming week end promises to be an eventful one, which could have a big bearing upon the ultimate outcome of the league. With St. Patrick's Athletic and Drogheda in opposition at Lourdes Stadium it is obvious that one of the leading teams will have to lose ground and this fact adds greatly to the meeting of Tullamore and Dalkey United at Spollenstown where incidentally the kick off will be put back to 4.30 p.m. At the moment Dalkey are lying one point ahead of Tullamore and as they have lost only one of their last six matches the strength of their challenge cannot

be underestimated. Tullamore have not been doing particularly well in home matches of late and their last win at Spollenstown was as far back as the first week in February. However next Sunday's game is of such importance that an extra effort is sure to be forthcoming from the locals and if the spirit revealed at Leixlip can be matched at Spollenstown then Tullamore's prospects of leapfrogging Dalkey must be bright. However it must be remembered that Dalkey won the corresponding match on New Year's Day by 2-1 and with the points of equal value to them they are sure to make a big effort so that the game has all the hallmarks of a real thriller. Don't forget that the kick off is an hour later than usual.

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Drogheda	18	10	2	6	47	32	22
St. Patrick's Ath.	14	9	2	3	38	22	20
Shamrock Rovers	15	9	2	3	37	24	20
Dalkey United	14	8	2	4	26	21	18
Tullamore	14	7	3	4	31	25	17
Drumcondra	15	8	1	6	37	28	17
Shelbourne	16	6	4	6	33	31	16
Bohemians	17	6	4	7	28	25	16
Home Farm	13	7	1	5	28	20	15
Ormeau	16	5	1	10	21	31	11
Athlone	14	3	2	9	26	47	8
Dundalk	16	1	0	15	17	63	2

April 8th 1967

Late Goals Saved Tullamore

Tullamore3
Dalkey United3

Just when it appeared that Tullamore were about to lose the valuable league ground which they had gained the previous week they shook off their lethargy to score two late goals which earned for them a division of the points in their home fixture against Dalkey United at Spollenstown on Sunday last. With five minutes left in the game the visitors were leading 3-1 and looked all over winners but then, amidst increasing excitement, Teddy Whiteley and Tommy Geraghty rammed home a goal apiece and by doing so earned a point which may yet prove to be priceless. Jim Brady was back in the Tullamore attack for this vital encounter and with Tom Whiteley and John Lowery also resuming the team was back to something like full strength, although Noel Lynch was a notable absentee from a half back line. Against a Dalkey side which boasts one of the best defensive records in the league, Tullamore found it very difficult to make any sort of headway and when they changed ends a goal in arrears after having enjoyed the benefit of a strong wind in the first half they were in real trouble. They fell

further behind sixteen minutes after the interval, but their fighting spirit stood to them in those hectic closing stages and it was only just that their tenacity should have been rewarded.

DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

A swirling wind which blew diagonally across the pitch made ball control extremely difficult and the standard of football suffered. Admittedly it was not the luckiest of days for the home side. The ball seldom ran kindly for them and at times the Dalkey goal bore a charmed life.

PERSONALITY PARADE

A new star emerged in Tullamores colours in this game. He was John Minnock, a product of town league football who has been showing steady improvement since his promotion to the town team. On Sunday he blossomed forth in earnest his whole hearted play being backed by a fair amount of skill which made him an outstanding asset. It was left to Minnock and Tommie Geraghty to keep the Dalkey defence on their toes. Jim Brady, a little rusty after his enforced lay off, still contrived to

create a number of good openings with Teddy Whiteley, whose all important goal offset a number of earlier misses. Frank O'Byrne completed a home attack which performed better as individuals than as a unit. Behind the attack Tullamore had a servicable wing halves in Liam Connolly and Eamonn Byrne, whilst Martin Lowery started the game in very promising style but gradually found the Dalkey centre forward, Frankie Byrne, too much of a handfull. Whiteley and John Lowery fared reasonable well against tricky wingers. Although beaten three times Paddy Duffy was blameless between the posts and contributed his share to the general thrills and excitement.

POINTS FROM PLAY

A lively ball, coupled with the strength of the wind, made matters very difficult at the outset, but Tullamore had a great chance of an early goal when in the 4th minute, Geraghty broke through on his own to prod the ball wide of the post with goalkeeper Cooney rooted to the ground. However, it was not long before Dalkey began to assert themselves and they shocked their hosts in the 8th minute by jumping into the lead as a result of a freakish goal. A free by Molloy away out on the right wing appeared to be sailing harmlessly over the bar, but it was caught by a sudden gust and dipped down to rebound into play off the crossbar. With the perplexed Duffy caught completely by surprise the ball ran straight to Byrne who was left with the easiest of tasks to ram the ball back into the net. Tullamore were more than a little put

out by this turn of events and for a spell it looked as though Dalkey would assume complete control but by degrees the home side regained an even keel and in the 11th minute a dream pass from Geraghty set up a perfect opening for Whiteley but the latter, evidently under the impression that he was in an offside position made no move. Geraghty was really going to town now, repeatedly going past Molloy on the outside and laying on a stream of passes for his colleagues. It was Geraghty who forced the first corner of the game and it almost yielded an equaliser for Tullamore as Whiteleys flag kick curled in late to scrape over the bar. In the 16th minute John Lowery moved upfield to send O'Byrne through for a shot which Cooney failed to hold, but with no other forwards up in support the keeper regained possession to clear. Dalkeys sharp inter passing movements were causing plenty of trouble for the home defence and after O'Byrne had headed over another of Geraghtys pinpointed centres the home goal fell for a second time in the 23rd minute. This was the best score of the game a really sizzling shot from right half Dave McDonald from just outside the area and although Duffy got one hand to it he could do no more than push the ball higher into the corner of the net. Two goals down and in danger of falling further into arrears Tullamores plight was now really serious, although a Geraghty special went close to reducing the leeway until Cooney got a hand to it to deflect it on to the crossbar. At the other end Duffy came to Tullamores rescue by dashing out to smother the ball at Homan's feet but Cooney proved

himself equally proficient by breaking up a fine bout of passing between Brady and Whiteley. Dalkey were proving much more direct in their methods, but Tullamore continued to slug it out and twice Geraghty went close. First he had a free kicked off the line by Molloy and then an inswinging corner from the winger was palmed out in the nick of time by Cooney for John Lowery to shoot wide. As the interval neared Tullamore, urged on by desperation gradually stepped up the pace and in the 41st minute they had their reward when great work by Minnock ripped the visiting defence to shreds and ended with a floating centre which was headed to the net by Geraghty. The value of this goal was very nearly nullified before the interval when Frank Byrne outpaced Martin Lowery and squared the ball right across the Tullamore goal mouth to left winger Doran who blazed wide.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Dalkey, 2.

Tullamore resumed knowing full well that they had their work cut out and following a perfectly delivered free by Connolly which dropped to the left of the posts, Jim Brady got in a shot which Cooney had to be very alert to reach. Seven minutes after the resumption a free by O'Byrne opened the way for Geraghty, but the winger muffed this one by poking the ball outside the post. Tullamore were enjoying more of the play now but just how dangerous Dalkey remained was proved in the 61st minute when they increased their lead to 3-1. This surely was the knock out blow for Tullamore. But no they flung themselves back into the fray to force a

series of corners which failed to yield any reward. Cooney dived full length to collect a half hit shot from O'Byrne in the 65th minute and the keeper was dead lucky minutes later to escape with a corner after a free by O'Byrne had spun out of his grasp. With Byrne coming right into his own in the midfield exchanges Tullamore were almost continuously on the attack, but at times the forwards appeared to be going around in circles against a Dalkey defence which dovetailed into a compact unit of resistance as the pressure mounted. With Tony Hill barring the path down the middle wave after wave of Tullamore attacks were repulsed and although Whiteley was on the mark with a shot which hit the angle of the wood work in the 82nd minute time was now on Dalkeys side. Cooney working overtime between the Dalkey posts saved at the foot of the post from Minnocks corner and with only five minutes left in the game any result other than a win for Dalkey appeared remote.

ROUSING CLIMAX

But what tension and excitement was packed into those final five minutes. Teddy Whiteley lifed the roof off Spollenstown when he swept onto a through pass from Byrne to slam the ball out of Cooney's reach and with only the minimum margin dividing the teams Tullamore drew on hidden sources of stamina in an all out bid to save a point. They piled on the pressure and had their crowning success with less than two minutes remaining for play when Geraghty put the seal on a grand

display by firing in a crisp daisycutter which was a winner from the time it left his boot. Even then the drama was not finished and Dalkey came storming back in a bid to retrieve the situation. Duffy was penalised for carrying the ball beyond the confines of his area, but Kane shot over from the free and this represented the visitors final chance of pulling ahead to a victory which, at one time they seemed certain to achieve.

Result: Tullamore, 3; Dalkey, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, L. Connolly, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, F. O'Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Dalkey United: W. Cooney, C. Molloy, F. Warren, D. McDonald, T. Hill, J. Kelly, J. Boyle, L. Homan, F. Byrne, W. Kane, T. Doran.

Referee: Mr. F. Boylan [Dublin]

AWAY MATCH

With the race for league points really hotting up now that the straight has been reached Tullamore take to the road again when they visit Tolka Park to oppose Drumcondra. The date for this fixture is still unknown for Tolka Park will be the venue for the game between Shelbourne and waterford on Sunday. Drumcondra have habit of playing their 'B' Division matches on a Friday night under floodlights and it may well be that Tullamore will agree to a floodlit fixture rather than risk having to play with a depleted side on Saturday. No matter

when the game is actually played the points will remain of the utmost value to the visitors. In the past Tullamore have shown a liking for this venue and if memory serves me correctly, they have yet to lose a League of Ireland fixture here. Drumcondra still retain an outside chance of figuring in the final shake up and will be very anxious to win this game. But then so too will Tullamore and as the provincials have been showing very good form in their away matches of late they must stand at least an even money chance of improving their position still further.

MERIT RATING

It is not merely because he scored two of Tullamores goals that Tommie Geraghty tops the rating this week, but rather because of the all round quality of his play which stamped him as the outstanding forward on view, John Minnock enters the ratings for the first time and collects two points for an outstanding performance and the ratings are completed by the awarding of the remaining point to Eamonn Byrne whose positional sense meant so much to Tullamore throughout the game. This then. Leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

Eamonn Byrne [25] Martin Lowery [22]
Tom Whiteley [22] Noel Lynch [21]
Liam Connolly [20] Jim Brady [20]
Paddy Duffy [17] Teddy Whiteley [14]
Tommie Geraghty [12] Mick Colleran [8]
John Lowery [6] Mick Connolly [4] Liam Boland [3] Jimmy Dolan [2] John Minnock [2]

April 15th 1967

Tullamore Complete Hat Trick Over Drumcondra

Drumcondra3
Tullamore4

Tullamore confirmed early season form by defeating Drumcondra by the odd goal in seven at floodlit Tolka Park on Friday night in a game which was remarkable in many respects. Having previously accounted for Drumcondra by 2-1 in the Castrol Trophy in Tolka Park and by 3-2 at Spollenstown in the league Tullamore were favourites to continue the winning run on Friday night, but although they duly succeeded in capturing the points the visitors were obliged to fight mighty hard throughout the second half which featured a remarkable comeback by the home side. Tullamore made such a brilliant start to this game that they appeared to have the issue well and truly decided long before the interval. A lightning start saw Tullamore score twice in the opening ninety seconds and they had increased this lead to 4-0 with the interval in sight. Drumcondra did succeed in pulling one back just before the short whistle, but even so the visitors had played with such outstanding ability during the opening 45 minutes that they remained very hot favourites to emerge as easy and

decisive winners. A transformed home side which revealed courage and stamina had other ideas and when they scored again within a minute of the resumption and had another goal disallowed within a further sixty seconds it began to dawn on us that this game was by no means decided yet. Indeed it was Drumcondra who dominated a hard fought 2nd half and when they cut their arrears to the minimum with more than 30 minutes left for play it was they, and not Tullamore who assumed the mantle of favourites. Over anxiety on the part of the home forwards now became a decisive factor and a couple of bad misses in front of goal, coupled with a half dozen or so 'miracle' saves by Paddy Duffy prevented Drumcondra from closing the gap completely.

TWO PHASES

With Eamonn Byrne and Liam Connolly the latter deputising as right half for the absent Noel Lynch spoon feeding the forwards the front line responded magnificently. Although the right wing partnership of Seamus Murphy he was preferred to Frank O'Byrne and John Minnock was comparatively to inexperienced to play a leading role in a

test of this severity the remainder of the visiting attack simply sparkled during the opening 45 minutes. Jim Brady had the Drumcondra defence going around in circles with his quick thrusts down the middle and with Teddy Whiteley and Tommie Geraghty both in rampant mood the game flowed strongly in Tullamores favour. So much so that the defence had a relatively easy time of it, but the picture altered dramatically immediately after the interval. A quick home goal sowed the seeds of panic in the Tullamore defence and with the limitations of Martin Lowerys left foot being fully exposed the home side concentrated their efforts down the middle, Byrne was obliged to drop back to act as a shadow centre half and with Connolly also forced to yield ground it was inevitable that the home inside forwards would exploit the gaps left at midfield. Tommie Whiteley and Eamonn Byrne were Tullamores saviours during the second half seige, for both retained their composure and with Duffy rising to the occasion manfully with a series of superb saves the storm was weathered. To describe Tullamores victory as lucky would not be entirely correct. Their first half performance was one of the best I have seen from the side this season and the manner in which they clung to a diminishing lead after the interval stamped them as worthy winners of a very fine game. Oddly enough one of Drumcondras best players was their right half and captain Con Flanagan who is himself a native of Tullamore.

BLITZ BEGINNING

After the usual period of exploration

Tullamore were awarded a first minute free and although Connollys delivery was blocked by a line of defenders the ball ran loose to Geraghty who quickly pushed it back for the oncoming Eamonn Byrne to smash it to the net. Before Drumcondra had recovered the visitors struck again in less than thirty seconds. This was a gem of a goal. It started with Byrne shoving the ball forward to Geraghty for the winger to flick inside where Brady was waiting to carve his way through the defence. Brady held possession just long enough to draw the defence and then sent the ball through the open space where Whiteley was waiting to sweep on it and crack the ball past Smith. Two goals up after ninety seconds. To give Drumcondra their due they hit back strongly in a bid to retrieve the situation and they forced the first corner of the game when Byrne was forced to kick behind from Weston. The early drama was not yet finished for in the 4th minute a needless handball by Martin Lowery afforded Drumcondra an opportunity to regain their footing. However, inside left John Hyland made poor use of the spot kick which Duffy saved. With Byrne and Connolly in control at midfield the game was running strongly in Tullamores favour, but in the 14th minute they were in luck when centre forward Paddy Conway squared the ball across the face of the goal where Phipps muffed a wonderful chance from close range. Liam Connolly was proving himself one of the big successes on the visiting team now. Tullamore missed a great chance of improving their position in the 28th minute when a sharp burst by Brady

split the opposing defence wide open. Smith was lured from his goal and when Brady slipped the ball back across the mouth of the goal Whiteley erred badly in lofting it over the yawning target. Brady himself was out of luck in Tullamores next raid, for again he knifed his way through the centre, but although he succeeded in beating the advancing Smith he saw the ball role wide of the far post. Tullamore were now the masters and their snappy passing movements were causing havoc in the home penalty area so that it caused no real surprise when they increased their lead in the 37th minute. This time the Drumcondra defence was reduced to a shambles by a passing movement which embraced Minnock, Brady and Whiteley and with McGrath and his colleagues running around in circles it was left to Brady to apply the finishing touch. Showing an obvious liking for scoring their goals in pairs. Tullamore were back for number four within a minute when Geraghty twice beat Phil Campbell out on the left touch line before cutting in for a shot and although Smith succeeded in blocking the wingers first attempt he was left helpless by the second.

REVIVAL

Drumcondra, although their position now seemed hopeless refused to submit. Instead they infused a new coherence into their play and with four minutes of the first half remaining Hyland went close with a sizzling drive which shaved the foot of the post and then with injury time being played the home side at last succeeded in breaking

their duck when Hyland beat Byrne on the run in and squared the ball across to present Weston with a simple chance. Indeed in the seconds which remained for play following this goal Drums went very close to scoring.

Half-time: Drumcondra, 1; Tullamore, 4.

Drumcondra resumed full of fight and vigour. A couple of all out raids were repulsed but the Tullamore goal fell never the less with sixty seconds, per Kingston. Almost immediately Phipps had the ball in the Tullamore net again, but this time he was ruled offside and the score disallowed. The sudden turn in events had a profoundly disturbing influence on the Tullamore defence which, for a spell looked liable to fall apart as Drumcondra launched attack after attack. Left winger Phipps who had scarcely been in the game before the interval, now became the dangerman in a series of onslaughts which forced the visiting defence to give ground and when Tony Leavy hammered the ball past Duffy after the keeper had been caught too far out of his goal in the 59th minute. Tullamores big lead had been reduced to the minimum. It was all one way traffic now as Flanagan sent a searing pass flashing across the goalmouth and wide of the far post and Duffy made the save of the night when he tipped over a tremendous drive from Conway. Byrne, Tom Whiteley and Connolly fell back almost to their own goal line at this stage Tullamores whole objective appeared to be to slow the tempo of the game to their own liking. Tullamore even found the strength to return to the

attack now and again, and in one of their rare raids Brady flicked a great ball through to Minnock but although the latter succeeded in beating Smith the ball was whipped off the line by Tyrell. Drums were quickly back in full cry and in the 82nd minute Leavey had a piledriver brilliantly tipped over the bar by Duffy. With only four minutes to go goalkeeper Smith added a touch of variety to the proceedings by heading clear from Brady outside the penalty area. The closing minutes dragged like hours, but after a through pass from Flanagan had been brushed aside at the expense of a corner the long whistle at last brought respite to the over worked visiting defence and credited Tullamore with their hardest earned points of the season.

Result: Drumcondra, 3; Tullamore, 4.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, Tom Whiteley, J. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Lowery [capt], L. Connolly, S. Murphy, J. Minnock, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Drumcondra: N. Smith, P. Campbell, N. Tyrell, C. Flanagan [capt], P. McGrath, J. Kingston, T. Leavey, G. Weston, P. Conway, J. Hyland, E. Phipps.

Referee: For the second week in succession Tullamore had Mr. F. Boylan [Dublin] in charge of the whistle and he maintained been drawn outside his record of never having officiated at a game in which Tullamore were defeated.

MERIT RATING

At least six players deserve inclusion in this weeks ratings. But there is room for only three. Taking the bull by the horns I am naming Tom Whiteley, Liam Connolly and Tommie Geraghty in that order and with these points added the overall position now reads as follows: Eamonn Byrne [25] Tom Whiteley [25] Liam Connolly [22] Martin Lowery [22] Noel Lynch [21] Jim Brady [20] Paddy Duffy [17] Teddy Whiteley [14] Tommie Geraghty [13] Mick Colleran [8] John Lowery [5] Mick Connolly [4] Liam Boland [3] John Minnock [2] Jimmy Dolan [2]

LAST GAME

Next week end marks the end of the official league programme and Tullamores home fixture against Dundalk is the last one listed on their schedule. However, the provincials must now pay the price for their extended cup runs and in actual fact they still have six league games to play before they can call it a day. Sundays fixture should, on form present no difficulties for Tullamore, for Dundalk have been having a very lean time of it and have won only two games of their 26 fixtures in the league and Castrol Trophy. Yet this is just the type of game which Tullamore are in the habit of losing and to approach Sundays game with anything other than determination could prove fatal. My advice to the locals is to forget Dundalks inglorious record and treat this game as they would a fixture against any of the top teams. With tough matches ahead against St. Patricks Athletic, Bohemians and Shamrock Rovers [home] and

Rovers, Drogheda and Dundalk [away] points.
Tullamore cannot afford to drop any silly

May 6th 1967

Tullamore, Two Down, Win 4-3

Tullamore4
St. Patricks Ath3

Recovering well from a disastrous start which saw them concede two soft goals Tullamore maintained their challenge for league honours by taking both points from their fixture against St. Patricks Athletic at Spollenstown on Sunday last.

By their success Tullamore move up to join Shamrock Rovers on the second rung of the league ladder and the meeting of this pair at Milltown on Sunday next now seems likely to have a vital bearing upon the eventual destination of the title. Last Sundays victory was not gained without difficulty against a St. Patricks side which fought with grim determination the homesters found it difficult to settle down and when they conceded two easy goals when playing with the strong wind behind them the outlook was as blue as the borrowed jerseys in which Tullamore played to avoid a clash of colours with their visitors. To their credit Tullamore recovered splendidly and two goals in as many minutes had them back on level terms before the first quarter ended. They added another before the interval but a lead of one goal scarcely seemed sufficient to see them through against a

strong breeze. Sure enough St. Patricks equalised early in the second half and for a long spell there after it appeared as though a division of the points would knock both sides out of the league race. At this stage Tullamore were having much the better of the play territorially but a series of fine saves by Tony Doherty in the Inchicore goal and an equal number of bad misses by the home forwards combined to frustrate Tullamore until thirteen minutes from the end when Eamonn Byrne became a matchwinner with a really great goal which was entirely worthy of the occasion and which put the seal on a wonderful display by the left half.

DEFENSIVE WEAKNESS

After the first flush of victory had passed Tullamore will do well to look upon the lessons which this game provided. By no stretch of the imagination could the performance of the home defence be regarded as satisfactory, for the visiting forwards were given far too much room in which to work and the total lack of understanding between goalkeeper Paddy Duffy and the men who fronted him was most disturbing. These are faults which must be eradicated before

Sunday next, as it is unlikely that Shamrock Rovers will allow such lapses to go unpunished. Although they may have failed to knit together the individual members of the home defence came through a testing assignment fairly well. Outstanding were Eamonn Byrne at left half and Tom Whiteley at right full and it was the combined efforts of this pair which made all the difference between victory and defeat. Martin Lowery improved after the interval and although Liam Connolly pulled his weight as understudy for Noel Lynch at right half the latter's continued absence is being sorely felt. If the home defence was sometimes shaky under pressure there could be no disputing the fact that the forwards were in fine fettle. Brilliantly led by the dynamic Jim Brady who constantly outwitted his opposite number the Tullamore attack ripped holes through the opposition and would have finished with a far greater winning margin had it not been for Doherty's great goalkeeping. Brady opened up the play at every opportunity, bringing Whiteley and Geraghty into the picture and then switching the direction of the attack by swinging the ball out to Minnock. Tommie Geraghty was like a sprite on a spree on the left wing as he raced around Larry Bates almost at will and then with two goals to his credit he finished as the top scorer of the day. Likewise Teddy Whiteley had the ability to come through and with John Minnock always willing to bore in from the right flank the visiting defence was stretched right across the field. Frank O'Byrne may have lacked the penetration of his colleagues but his passing was deadly

accurate and it was he who provided the opening for Byrne's winning goal. To sum up then this was a game which Tullamore deserved to win but almost failed to do so.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Although set to face a really stiff wind it was Tullamore who were first into attack as Minnock headed over a pass from Byrne but it was not long before St. Patrick's furnished proof of their determination. A swinging attack sent the home defence reeling and when a deadly cross from Gerry Monahan was returned into the goalmouth by Christy Kane, Duffy did well to tip the ball over for the first corner of the game. Jim Brady went close to giving Tullamore a fifth minute lead when he slipped past centre half Kevin Kelly but right full Bates got across to avert the danger at the expense of a corner. Tullamore were combining well in attack in these early movements but already there were signs that the finishing ability of the forwards was not on a par with their approach work and in the 11th minute the homesters were rocked back on their heels when St. Pats scored against the general run of the play. The goal stemmed from the free on the halfway line which Kelly sent low into the goalmouth and with Duffy being impeded by one of his own men Mick Creevy was able to poke the ball through for the lead. Within a minute St. Patrick's had doubled their lead and again the Tullamore defence was at sixes and sevens as a good ball from midfield was squared across the face of the goal by right winger John Carbery

for Gerry Monahan to slam it to the net. With a deficit of two goals hanging like a millstone around their neck Tullamore were in real trouble, but Teddy Whiteley raised hopes of a revival when he outpaced the visiting defence to shoot over. Then Eamonn Byrne shaved the upright with a first time effort after he had taken a return pass from Minnock and with Tullamore surging back into the picture they deservedly cut their arrears in the 18th minute when left full Jim Hoey needlessly handled inside the area. Geraghty was entrusted with the spot kick and he made no mistake with a low shot which Doherty was powerless to cope with within a minute Tullamore should have been on level terms when a delightful piece of work by Brady reduced the Athletic defence to a shambles. Goalkeeper Doherty and centre half Kelly were left in a real tangle out at the edge of the area as Brady nipped between them to send the ball rolling inches outside the far post. This was a cruel blow but within a further minute it was forgotten as Brady sent Whiteley racing through on his own. For a moment it looked as though the inside left had topped his shot wide but the ball curled in nicely to nestle into the corner of the net for the equaliser. Tullamore were all over their opponents now and their third goal in a five minute spell nosed them into the lead for the first time in the 23rd minute when Brady again did the spadework which resulted in Geraghty smacking the ball past Doherty. With five goals packed into twelve minutes this game was really alive as Tullamore continued on the offensive and only a brilliant save under the bar by Doherty prevented Geraghty

from adding another. Geraghty playing a blinder on the left wing left a smudge on the cross bar from a 20 yards free and the visitors goal had another close shave when Doherty just succeeded in finger tipping a long range drive from John Lowery over the top.

SPELL BROKEN

Tullamores spell of supremacy was temporarily halted as St. Pats. battled their way back, but two fruitless corners was their only reward before Tullamore returned to the attack when a great ball from Liam Connolly sent Geraghty scampering away for a screaming shot which kissed the outside of the upright. Doherty was St. Patricks saviour as Tullamore threw all they had into a bid to increase their lead before the interval and the keeper brought off a flying one handed save from Brady before the short whistle.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; St. Patricks Athletic, 2.

Doherty was in action within seconds of the resumption when he finger tipped a floating centre from Whiteley to safety but with the wind behind them the visitors were now a much more potent force. They pressed strongly without making much impression on Tom Whiteley and his fellow defenders and in less frequent attacks it was Tullamore who looked the more dangerous in front of goal. Brady skimmed the crossbar when put through by Whiteley and Doherty was brought to his knees by Minnock after the winger had cleverly beaten Hoey, but the chinks in the

Tullamore defence were exposed again in the 60th minute when Martin Lowery was forced to concede a corner under pressure. Centre forward Ray Hawkins, took the flag kick from the left and with the defence badly positioned left half Vinnie O'Reilly was able to pick his spot before shooting past Duffy. With their lead wiped out Tullamore now found themselves faced with the prospect of having to settle for a division of the points and the knowledge that one point was almost valueless under the circumstances added urgency to their subsequent play. A 62nd minute centre from Geraghty was headed on to the roof of the net by Brady and after the visitors had been fortunate to survive an appeal for a penalty when Kelly appeared to handle inside the area their goal experienced another escape when Byrne sent Whiteley clear into an open space and a goal seemed inevitable until Doherty dashed out to save at the feet of the inside left. There followed a spell of intense Tullamore pressure during which the visitors goal appeared to bear a charmed life. Twice Brady had worthy efforts brilliantly saved by Doherty, whilst on another occasion Brady had the goal at his mercy but inexplicably shot straight at the goalie from less than six yards range. Tullamore did every thing to put the ball in the net during this seige and with their half backs well up in support of their forwards the visitors penalty area at times became a congested area. Blue jerseys swarmed around the St. Pats goal as a free by Geraghty was palmed out by Doherty, but with just thirteen minutes remaining for play Tullamore snatched the vital, winning

goal and what a goal it was O'Byrne initiated the movement with slide rule through pass to Byrne which the latter sent skimming along the ground and just inside the upright for a goal which nearly took the roof off Spollenstown. Even then Tullamore were not out of the wood. They had to face a determined rally by St. Patricks which saw the visitors force a series of corners in a vain bid to salvage a point and it was during this closing period that the best was seen of Tom Whiteley as he repeatedly broke up attacks and set his own forwards moving with well placed clearances. Twice during the closing five minutes the home defence faced the agony of indirect frees inside their penalty area, but on each occasion the danger was averted. Nevertheless the final whistle never sounded sweeter to Tullamores ears.

Result: Tullamore, 4; St. Patricks Athletic, 3.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, L. Connolly, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, F. O'Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

St. Patricks Ath: T. Doherty, L. Bates, J. Hoey, J. Kinsella, K. Kelly, V. O'Reilly, J. Carberry, M. Creevy, R. Hawkins, G. Monahan, C. Kane.

Referee: Mr. P. Graham [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

There were so many distinguished performances on Sunday last that it is not easy to reduce the points seekers to

three. Actually there are four players who I would like to include this week but I must content myself with three, and they are Tommie Geraghty, Eamonn Byrne and Jim Brady. Each of who in his own way made an outstanding contribution to an important victory. With only four matches remaining the overall position now reads as follows:

Eamonn Byrne [27] Tom Whiteley [25]
Liam Connolly [22] Martin Lowery [22]
Jim Brady [21] Noel Lynch [21] Paddy
Duffy [17] Tommie Geraghty [16] Teddy
Whiteley [14] Mick Colleran [8] John
Lowery [6] Mick Connolly [4] Liam
Boland [3] John Minnock [2] Jimmy
Dolan [2]

THE ACID TEST

Tullamore face their most crucial test of the entire season on Sunday next when they travel to Milltown to beard famed Rovers in their own den. This is a game which is of the utmost importance to both sides and if Tullamore can succeed in taking even one point from it they will have done a good days work. It must be of some encouragement to the Midlanders to recall that they won the corresponding match last year by 2-1

but with so much at stake now Rovers are likely to be even more formidable. Both clubs share the distinction of having sustained fewer defeats in the league than any of the other clubs. Four defeats in eighteen league matches is quite a record to be proud of and explains why both Rovers and Tullamore occupy such exalted positions coming towards the end of the trail. Now it is time for the show down and it must be a source of inspiration for Tullamore to know that they have won five and drawn one of their eight away games in the league to date. Indeed their away record is better than their home one and that is a factor which must stand to them on Sunday. Possibly Rovers will have the edge in speed and fitness but a fighting spirit can outweigh these advantages and Tullamore have proved in the past that their spirit is unquenchable when the chips are down. A draw would probably be acceptable to Tullamore in view of the fact that Rovers have yet to visit Spollenstown but win, lose or draw it promises to be a humdinger of a game and you can of course, depend upon an eye witness and impartial report in next weeks 'Offaly Independent'.

May 13th 1967

Rovers The Complete Masters

Shamrock Rovers3
Tullamore1

Shamrock Rovers improved their position at the head of the League of Ireland "B" Division table on Sunday last when they over came the challenge of close rivals Tullamore much more easily than the winning margin of 3-1 might suggest. A well attended fixture at Milltown saw the visitors fail completely to reproduce recent winning form. Rovers built up their attacking movements from deep inside their own half of the field and it was no strange sight to see either or both of their full backs overlapping their forwards in the final spurt for goal. The emphasis all the time was on teamwork of a very high order and even though the results were slow about coming it was always obvious that the Hoops were moving with far greater purpose than their visitors.

SLOW START

It took Tullamore a very long time to find their feet on the Milltown sod. What was badly needed was a quick goal to restore their confidence and it is ironical that what was to prove the best

scoring chance of the day fell to Geraghty as early as the second minute when he broke through to within point blank range of the goal only to shoot straight at goal keeper Jimmy Cummins. Had Tullamore scored at this stage there is no knowing what the eventual outcome might have been. A Tullamore defence which has been cracking ominously in recent games was again suspect on Sunday and although they succeeding in holding out until the interval it was two mistakes in this sector which paved the way for Rovers to score twice with four minutes of the resumption. Throughout the first half the home side held complete sway around midfield. With Eamonn Byrne far removed from his best form Tullamore were always struggling hereabouts and only superlative performance by Tom Whiteley and some smart goal keeping by Paddy Duffy stood between the visitors and a really decisive reverse. Although pitted against Rovers best forward Noel Hayes, Whiteley seldom put a foot wrong and in addition to controlling his own side of the field he found time to cover off in other sectors also. To some extent Tullamore repaired the ravages which afflicted them by a second half switch

which saw Liam Connolly and Martin Lowery exchange places, but by that time the damage had been done. It was in attack that the visitors were most disappointing for there was little or no cohesion amongst the forwards and apart from the odd break by Jim Brady in the centre the line as a whole seldom threatened danger. When Brady sustained concussion in a clash with Cummins five minutes before the interval he spent a spell on the sideline, and although he resumed after the interval he was never quite the dynamic force he can be. Yet he was by far the best of the Tullamore line and in addition to scoring their only goal he was most unfortunate to see another of his efforts kicked off the line by a defender with Cummins beaten all ends up. Of the remainder Teddy Whiteley, perhaps worked harder than anybody else on the field but the success achieved by the inside left was out of proportion to the effort expended. Tommie Geraghty, no doubt upset by his early miss, never showed the fine form of recent weeks whilst on the other flank Frank O'Byrne was right out of touch and it was left to the comparatively inexperienced John Minnock to provide the best support for Bradys promptings.

THE OPPOSITION

In view of the importance of this fixture and the fact that Rovers will be coming to Spollenstown for the return game on Sunday week perhaps it would not be out of place to run the rule over their personnel. In a defence which was as tight as a drum I was particularly

impressed by full backs Greg and Clarke who combined to afford first class cover to their keeper Cummins. At centre half Christy Canavan had a big advantage in height and weight over Brady and yet could do no more than break even with the Tullamore leader. Wing halves Peake and Loughheed provided a great service for their forwards and if the front line was slow to find the target their approach work all through was first class. Richardson led the line with vigour and authority, but it was left winger Hayes who really impressed with inside right lalor a close second.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Straight from the kick off Rovers provided a sample of what to expect when Hayes sprinted down the left wing and cut the ball back beautifully from the end line to provide Richardson with a chance which the centre forward sent skimming over. Tullamore looked every bit as impressive in their first attack and Geraghty seemed a certain scorer as he raced in. A chip over the keepers head would have done the trick, but instead the winger elected to shoot and the ball crashed off Cummins from very close range. Perhaps this missed opportunity had a greater bearing upon Tullamores morale than was at first thought. Subsequently their play became very disjointed and at times they were even running around in circles against the clever into passing of the opposition. Nevertheless it was Brady who forced the first corner of the game in the 7th minute, but Minnock's centre from the flag was placed too close to the goal and Cummins experienced little difficulty in

collecting. This was a fault which was to be repeated many times during the remainder of the game. Another chance for Brady shortly after when he raced on to a perfect through pass from Whiteley to chip the ball narrowly over but by now Rovers were getting into their stride and it required a brilliant save by Duffy to tip a deflection from Byrne over the top. Rovers were now in full cry and with their wing halves well up in support of their forwards the Tullamore goal came under heavy pressure. Every home attack was loaded with menace, but the finishing of the Hoops attack was not in keeping with their approach work and as a result a number of promising movements fizzled out inside the penalty area.

NEAR MISS

With far fewer opportunities the visiting attack looked almost equally dangerous and when another of Whiteleys well placed balls down the centre sent Brady scampering past Canavan the centre forward was only inches over with a shot which dipped over the bar with Cummins stranded in no mans land. Then after a free by Connolly inside the centre circle had been safely gathered by Cummins with out hindrance, Brady laid on a perfect pass across the face of the goal but Geraghty was too far out of position to make use of it. This failure to hold their positions was a fault common to the entire Tullamore team now as they raced hither and tither and the visitors were more than a shade fortunate in the 25th minute when a great movement down the left wing resulted in Hayes getting across a

centre which found both Richardson and Baily unmarked in front of goal. However, too many cooks can spoil the broth and such was the case now as they impeded each other with the goal at their mercy. Another stroke of luck fell to Tullamore within a further minute when Hayes rounded Whiteley to cut in along the end line from where his angled shot hit the far upright and rebounded into Duffys hands. Next Richardson shaved the post with a crisp drive and with Rovers using the full width of the pitch the Tullamore defence got a real roasting. Six minutes from the interval Brady laid on a grand centre for O'Byrne and for a second it seemed as though the latters header was there, but instead it ripped inches over the bar. Almost immediately after this Brady was removed from the action with severe concussion and for the remainder of the period Tullamore played with ten men. A flying full length save by Duffy kept out a piledriver from Hayes and in the time which remained to the short whistle the Tullamore goal bore a charmed life.

Half-time: Shamrock Rovers, 0;
Tullamore, 0.

Brady was back in his usual position on the resumption, but Tullamore switched O'Byrne and Minnock. The visitors were given no time to settle down, for with in less than a minute of the resumption Rovers had taken the lead. In a way it was a simple goal brought about by a mistake by John Lowery who, in attempting to clear, crashed the ball against Baily from where it ran loose to Canavan who had little difficulty in going

through to score a soft goal. This score did the trick for Rovers. Now that they had tasted blood they attacked with renewed vigour and in the 49th minute with the Tullamore defence standing appealing Lalor raced through unopposed. Duffy hesitated about advancing and this proved his undoing as the inside right slipped the ball past him into the net. These quick goals were a real body blow to Tullamore and for a spell they were in imminent danger of falling asunder completely. Trojan work by Tom Whiteley and to a lesser extent Eamonn Byrne helped to restore the side to something like an even keel and a switch between Connolly and Martin Lowery improved matters further. So effective did this move prove that for a spell it seemed that Tullamore might even yet come from behind to snatch a point. Minnock got through for a shot which grazed the post and then in the 60th minute, Whiteley had the best shot of the entire game, a screaming drive which Cummins somehow succeeded in turning around the post for a brilliant save. Next Martin Lowery dropped a free into the roof of the net and in the 63rd minute Brady slipped Canavan and was clean through and on the point of shooting when Peake got across to kick the ball off his toe for a corner.

COUNTER ATTACK

Tullamore were putting in their best work of the game at this stage, but their revival was nipped in the bud when Rovers broke away to score their third goal in the 70th minute. The home goal had been under pressure but a quick

break caught Tullamore unprepared as Richardson and Mitchell worked the ball down the left and from the latter's accurate centre Baily headed in the goal which really settled Tullamore's fate. By now the visitors had given of their all and it had not proved good enough to halt Rovers and when Lowery and Minnock did the homework which resulted in Brady beating three tackles before slamming the ball hard past Cummins in the 75th minute it was little more than a token gesture of defiance which only helped to put a more respectable appearance upon the scoreboard. Tullamore had the time to follow up this goal with further pressure, but they had been run into the ground by the superb fitness of the Milltown men and the nearest they got to another goal was nine minutes from time when Brady had Cummins beaten to a frazzle only to see Clarke clear off the goal line. Indeed it was Rovers who came nearest to scoring again before the final whistle as Baily blazed wide from right in front of the posts.

Result: Shamrock, 3; Tullamore, 1.

Shamrock Rovers: J. Cummins, J. Gregg, J. Clarke, T. Peake, C. Canavan, C. Loughheed, R. Baily, M. Lalor, D. Richardson, M. Mitchell, N. Hayes.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, Tom Whiteley, J. Lowery, L. Connolly, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, F. O'Byrne, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. C. O'Leary [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

Without a shadow of a doubt Tom Whiteley must head the ratings this week nor is there much doubt in my mind regarding the distribution of the remaining points which to Paddy Duffy and Jim Brady. This means that Tom Whiteley has now taken over as leader in the overall table which now reads as follows:

Tom Whiteley [28] Eamonn Byrne [27]
Liam Connolly [22] Martin Lowery [22]
Jim Brady [22] Noel Lynch [21] Paddy
Duffy [19] Tom Geraghty [16] Teddy
Whiteley [14] Mick Colleran [8] John
Lowery [6] Mick Connolly [4] Liam
Boland [3] Jimmy Dolan [2] John
Minnock [2]

POINTS AWARDED

At last weeks management committee meeting of the League of Ireland, Tullamore were awarded the two points from their fixture against Dundalk. It will be recalled that Dundalk failed to put in an appearance at Spollenstown on April 16th and now in addition to forfeiting the points from the fixture the border club has been ordered to pay Tullamore club the sum of 13-10-0 to offset the expenses incurred on that occasion.

At the same meeting in Dublin last week arrangements were made to decide all postponed matches in both the "B" Division of the league of Ireland and the Castrol Trophy. Recently in this column I drew the attention of readers that Tullamore still had a chance of gaining runners up in the Castrol Trophy. Shelbourne have already won this competition with an unbeaten record and the position of runners up rests between Tullamore and Home Farm. Tullamore have only one match remaining on their programme and this will be decided on Sunday next when Dundalk will provide the opposition at Spollenstown. In contrast Home Farm still have three matches to play home to Athlone and Drumcondra and away to Bohemians. As Home Farm are at present 1 point behind Tullamore they hold the advantage, but a win against Dundalk next Sunday would strengthen Tullamores prospects considerably. Dates have now been arranged for Tullamores outstanding fixtures in the league. On Sunday week they will have Shamrock Rovers as visitors to Spollenstown and they wind up their programme for the season with away fixtures against Drogheda [May 28th] and Dundalk [June 4th].

May 20th 1967

Level scoring but full points for Tullamore

Tullamore4
Dundalk4

In keeping with the tradition which has been built up in previous meetings between Tullamore and Dundalk strange things happened at Spollenstown on Sunday last when the sides met in their concluding fixture in the Castrol Trophy. Just for the record let me say at the outset that the game resulted in a 4-4 draw, but there were no long faces in the Tullamore dressingroom after the match. This meant that in reality the match was little more than a friendly and in the exchanges which followed spectators were made very much aware of this fact. With the competitive atmosphere missing the exchanges lacked bite and it was obvious that the players were treating this as little more than a training spin. Tullamore, let it be added were the biggest offenders in this respect, for they fooled around complacency and were shaken out of their lethargy only after Dundalk had jumped into a surprise 2-0 lead within ten minutes of the start. Once they put their minds to it the home side wiped out this lead before the end of the first quarter, but then all the old faults reappeared and for the remainder of the

game we were treated to an uninspired exhibition of aimless football. There were spasms of really good football during which the ball was moved about freely, with both sets of forwards showing nice touches of combination. During these spells the ball was moved goalwards with real purpose and some of the goals which resulted could be compared with the best of the season.

NEWCOMERS ON VIEW

Tullamore had two newcomers on view in this game but the circumstances under which the match was contested made it extremely difficult to gauge the true merits of centre half John Norris and inside right Charlie Bannon. To be candid, first impressions were not at all favourable in either case, but I am prepared to concede that circumstances probably prevented them from revealing their true form. Norris might have possibilities, for on Sunday he was up against Dundalks best forward in Christy Barron. With Norris being introduced in a bid to solve Tullamores most pressing problem the way was left clear to switch Martin Lowery to right half. However, this move failed to bring about the expected results and for much of the

time Dundalk held sway in this sector. Paddy Duffys goalkeeping provided spectators with couple of thrills, for his carefree clearances were in contrast to those of Jimmy Dolan guesting in the Dundalk goal the latter played a capital game and did much to ensure a draw for the visitors not only did he handle the greasy ball with confidence but his clearances were invariably placed to the best advantage. John Lowery had a particularly good game in the home defence, for he kept the opposing winger subdued and in addition moved upfield himself whenever the opening presented itself. Nor could the display of Tom Whiteley be faulted in any respect. The forwards combined splendidly at times with Whiteley, Brady and Geraghty linking up in a series of passing movements which ripped holes in the Dundalk defence. Teddy Whiteley had one of his best games for a long time and both his first half goals were brilliantly taken efforts whilst Jim Brady was another to make his presence felt.

EARLY GOALS

Tullamore opened full of confidence, but they were rocked back on their heels in the 5th minute when wing half Paddy Crossan put Dundalk into a shock lead. When the visitors followed this up by forcing the first corner of the game it became clear that this was not going to be the one sided affair which many expected. Tullamore launched their first serious attack in the 9th minute but out came Dolan to fly kick the ball to safety. Tullamore were plunged further into arrears in the 10th minute when left winger Smyth, given the benefit of the

advantage rule, raced down the touchline before swinging across a great centre which was flashed to the net by Danny Davidson. By now Tullamore were aware that they had a fight on their hands and Whiteley went close to reducing the deficit with a good effort which was cleared off the goal line by John Dooner but in the 15th minute Whiteley made no mistake when he fastened onto a pass from Eamonn Byrne to crack a low shot past Dolan. Further home pressure saw Brady jink past both Flynn and Crilly before having his point blank shot smothered by Dolan. At the other end Brady shot inches over but when Dundalk returned to the attack a free by Crossan was headed out from under the bar by John Lowery.

GREAT EQUALISER

One of the features of this otherwise drab game was the quality of the goals, and in the 23rd minute came the best of them all as Whiteley raced onto a perfect through pass from Byrne to hammer home a wonderful equaliser. Now that they were back on level terms Tullamore began to play with a little more cohesion in attack and they took the lead for the first time in the 28th minute when Jim Brady got his head to a long clearance from Teddy Whiteley to flick the ball into the net. Dolan may have erred in taking his eye off the ball on this occasion but he made amends within a couple of minutes when he dived full length to push out a free by Martin Lowery. Not to be outdone by his understudy Duffy made an equally fine save at the other end but in the

37th minute Duffy was penalised for over carrying the ball and when Fitzpatrick pushed the indirect free forward Barron smashed it low just inside the upright to put Dundalk level again.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; Dundalk, 3.

Within five minutes of the resumption Whiteley looked all set to restore Tullamores lead as he side footed the ball past the advancing Dolan, but luck deserted him as the ball trickled the wrong side of the post. However in the 57th minute the home side got their nose in front when Brady was grassed inside the area and from the spot kick Geraghty made no mistake with a very well placed spotkick to establish a 4-3 lead. Then followed the most amazing miss of the match as Geraghty put in a sparkling run down the left wing and his centre was scooped over the bar by Connolly from right in front of the posts. Next Brady and Bannon initiated a promising movement down the right wing and when the ball came across to Geraghty he shot straight at Dolan from point blank range. In the 62nd minute when Crossan took the ball to the bye line before cutting across a good centre which Duffy failed to cut off the ball ran on to Barron and with a classical header the centre forward flicked it in off the far post for Dundalks fourth goal. That finished the scoring but it roused Tullamore to greater efforts. Connolly had a fierce shot pulled down from under the bar by Dolan and the keeper also saved well when turning a long range shot from Martin Lowery around the post. Dolan was in an inspired

mood now and he saved Dundalk again when he saved at Bannons feet in the 75th minute and five minutes later firmly held a rasping shot from Connolly. Throwing everything into attack Tullamore swarmed around the Dundalk goal like wasps around a jam jar. John Lowery and Norris both put in good runs to augment the attack, but the visiting defence stood firm.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Dundalk, 4.

Tullamore: P. Duffy, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, M. Lowery, J. Norris, E. Byrne, L. Connolly, C. Bannon, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Dundalk: J. Dolan, P. Crilly, J. Dooner, P. Crossan, G. Flynn, L. Moore, D. Davidson, R. Hoey, C. Barron, G. Fitzpatrick, J. Smyth.

Referee: Mr. P. Graham [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

The return to scoring from of Teddy Whiteley earns him top rating this week and for the minor berths I am taking John Lowery and Eamonn Byrne. With these points added the overall position now reads as follows:

Tom Whiteley [28] Eamonn Byrne [28]
Liam Connolly [22] Jim Brady [22]
Martin Lowery [22] Noel Lynch [21]
Paddy Duffy [19] Teddy Whiteley [17]
Tommie Geraghty [16] John Lowery [8]
Mick Colleran [8] Mick Connolly [4] Liam Boland [3] Jimmy Dolan [2] John Minnock [2]

Season

1967/1968

September 3rd 1967

Tullamore Crash In First Outing

Drogheda3
Tullamore0

That there is no substitute for match fitness was proved to the hilt in Lourdes Stadium on Saturday last when Tullamore having their first outing of the season crashed 3-0 to a Drogheda side, which enjoyed the benefit of two previous outings. Of course it will be argued that Tullamore were considerably handicapped for this outing. As usual a Saturday fixture found the Offaly side fielding a depleted side and last week they were without the services of goalkeepeer Leslie Fitzsimons, who was on holidays and Tom Whiteley and John Lowery, both of whom were working. To add to their difficulties reserve keeper Liam Boland was also unavailable and this resulted in third choice, Jimmy Dolan donning the sweater. Yet it is a sobering thought that whilst Tullamore were weakened in defence it was the attack which let the side down. An experimental rearguard in which Tony Whiteley and Martin Lowery formed the full back partnership fared reasonably well until tiring quickly after the interval. John Norris was the lynchpin in this sector, effectively blotting the home centre forward Leo Nawn right out of the picture. Noel Lynch too worked tremendously hard

and with considerable success but Eamonn Byrne was off key. This defence succeeded in holding the home attack until just four minutes from the interval. At the interval Tullamore could afford to feel confident for arrears of one goal were more than off set by the strength of the wind and it seemed reasonable to expect that the forwards would have thir turn in the second half. An early goal might have provided the impetus to carry them through, but when, instead Drogheda scored again eleven minutes after the resumption Tullamore were knocked right back on their heels and they never recovered. They had the opportunity to come from behind, and even to win, but when it came to putting the ball in the net the forwards lacked the sharpness which only match practice can provide. Even after Drogheda had scored their third goal the best of the day in the 71st minute Tullamore continued to squander their chances and two minutes from the end they capped all their earlier misses when Tommie Geraghty and Mick Connolly between them failed to steer the ball into an open goal after Clarke had been lured well out of position by Brady. The visiting attack failed completely as a unit, but judged individuallly the picture was not quite so bleak. Jim Brady was the hardest

worker in attack and his efforts were sustained right up to the final whistle. Also there was much promise in the performance of John Minnock who revealed some delightful touches on and off and if Tommie Geraghty did not work as earnestly as might have been expected he did come nearer than anybody else to scoring in the first half when he hit the bar with one effort and had another turned around the post by Clarke. Mick Connolly, for whom I predicted a bright future last season, failed to settle down on this occasion and is capable of better things. Teddy Whiteley will not always find himself pitted against such an experienced opponent as Noel Ennis.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Within sixty seconds of the kick off both goalkeepers had been afforded the opportunity of getting the feel of the ball for Clarke handled a free by Geraghty safely and Dolan came out smartly to cut off a centre from left winger McKeown. The first application of the new rule which curtails to four the number of steps to be taken by a goalkeeper in possession resulted in Dolan being penalised in the 4th minute but Seamus Mohans free was blocked by a wall of defenders and it was Tullamore who went nearest to opening the scoring in the 7th minute when Whiteley carved out an opening which ended with Geraghty smacking the ball off the crossbar. Noel Ennis was quickly emerging as a strong linkman for Drogheda and in the 14th minute he had home fans roaring prematurely with a sizzling drive which flashed into the side

rigging. But back came Tullamore to force the first corner of the game when Whiteley cut in along the endline and his centre was fisted over by Clarke. Tullamore were doing much better than expected against the wind and only the solid defensive work of Peter O'Kelly at centre half held the home defence together.

NEAR MISS

On the half hour Geraghty almost put Tullamore into the lead when he picked up a perfect pass from Minnock and although his ground shot lacked real force the ball spun out of Clarke's grasp and rolled behind for a corner which might just as easily have been a goal. Geraghty's shooting was providing the main source of worry for the home defence but off the ball the Tullamore winger was not nearly as effective and his lack of recovery when beaten was very marked. Just four minutes before the short whistle Drogheda nosed their way into the lead when a cross field pass from McKeown was met on the drop by Noel Ennis and the ball ripped into the roof of the Tullamore net out of Dolan's reach.

Half-time: Drogheda, 1; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore faced the second half with confidence, for the breeze was strong enough to offset their one goal deficit and the opening exchanges after the interval did nothing to dispel this feeling. It was Tullamore all the way as they surged to the attack and Brady was only inches off the target when he swept a centre from Geraghty over the bar. Drogheda had a promising attack

broken up by Tony Whiteley who dispossessed Nawn on the bye line at the expense of a corner but this was only a temporary respite for the home side and Tullamore were quickly back on the offensive, and they should certainly have been on terms in the 55th minute when Brady skipped past two tackles, rounded the advancing Clarke but still failed to put the ball in the vacated net. A goal at this stage would have been invaluable, but in a twinkling the whole outlook of the game altered when Drogheda swept back on a counter attack and although a shot from Nawn looked innocent enough it completely deceived Dolan to finish snugly in the corner of the net. Tullamore collapsed like a pricked balloon after that. Their stamina exhausted they were obliged to give ground against a Drogheda side which was riding the crest of a wave of confidence and only the unyielding defence offered by Norris and Lynch stood between them and a real hiding. Lynch was playing his heart out in a vain effort to get his forwards moving and when he sent Geraghty away on the left the latter's long solo run finished with him leaving the ball on a plate for Connolly, but the winger muffed the chance by blazing wide. This was to be the pattern for Tullamore in the time that remained, but it was more bad luck than bad finish that kept out a tremendous effort from Minnock in the 62nd minute when he first timed a pass from Connolly into the side netting. Norris and Lynch were keeping the visitors on top around midfield, but despite this grip the Tullamore forwards could make no real impact and a tendency to fall into the offside trap far

too easily added to their difficulties. In contrast Drogheda were now moving with a great deal more confidence and after Nawn had a close shot deflected for a corner by Norris they sealed the issue in the 71st minute when a strong corner by Webb was returned into the goalmouth by Murphy for Nawn to flick it past Dolan with neat header. That was the point of no return for Tullamore and I feel that they erred in not bringing their 12th man, Michael Flanagan, into the game. With the game won and lost this would have been a splendid opportunity to blood a young player who may well be a regular member of the side before the season ends and the experience to be picked up in the closing twenty minutes would have been a small price to pay even if Drogheda did succeed in scoring another goal or two as a result.

Result: Drogheda, 3; Tullamore, 0.

Drogheda: M. Clarke, B. Doyle, T. Garry, N. Ennis, P. O'Kelly, G. Webb, P. Murphy, J. Gillis, L. Nawn, S. Mahon, P. McKeown [Substitute: C. O'Reilly for Doyle]

Tullamore: J. Dolan, Tony Whiteley, M. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Norris, E. Byrne, M. Connolly, J. Minnock, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. Charlie O'Leary [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

This feature has proved so popular both with players and supporters since its introduction in season 1964/5 that it

has now become an integral part of the Tullamore soccer scene and I am only too pleased to donate another trophy for the new term. As in previous years the destination of this trophy will be decided by performances over the entire season with merit points being awarded to the three best players in every competitive match. We have a tough job on our hands to start with for it is difficult to know where to turn to after last Saturdays affair in Drogheda. Few reputations were enhanced, whilst, quite a few were tarnished but to set the ball rolling I am content to distribute the first points this year to John Norris [3] Lynch [2] and John Minnock [1]. Now watch these figures grow each week between now and next April or May.

DEADLOCK IN CUP

The deadlock between Tullamore and Athlone in the first round of the Leinster Senior Cup resulted in the match scheduled for Spollenstown on Sunday last, being called off earlier in the week. This was the game which Tullamore tried to have decided two weeks earlier. On that occasion Athlone were reluctant to play the cup match in preference to a Castrol Trophy fixture and ended up by playing neither. This meant that it had to be played last Sunday according to rule. Tullamore succeeded in having their Castrol Trophy game against Drogheda brought forward to the Saturday. But Athlone were not so fortunate as Shamrock Rovers refused to visit St. Mels Park on Saturday and insisted on their fixture being played on Sunday. Rovers were within their rights in doing so, of course, but it certainly

left Athlone in a bit of a pickle and the indications now are that they are out of the Leinster Senior Cup through no real fault of their own. The whole thing boils down to the complete lack of liaison between the League of Ireland and the Leinster F.A. And until such time as some basis of understanding is reached between these two bodies clubs such as Athlone and Tullamore will continue to be made the scapegoats. If Tullamore, as seems likely, go forward to the second round by default they may very well find themselves in a very similar situation the week end after next. The second round tie against Johnston Mooney and O'Brien who created a huge shock by defeating Glebe North is fixed for Sunday September 17th but Tullamore have a home game against Shelbourne in the Castrol Trophy on that day and unless Shels agree to bring forward this latter fixture to the Saturday, Tullamore are going to find themselves in real trouble. Perhaps the position will be clarified before next weeks column appears.

HOME DEBUT

No doubt Tullamore fans will be keeping their fingers crossed that third time will prove lucky when another bid is made next Sunday to get the season started at Spollenstown. Bohemians will be the visitors for the occasion and Tullamore will be hoping to show a big improvement on last weeks form and as they have a good record against Bohemians "B" in recent years they may succeed in hitting the winning trail just in time to bolster their prospects for the following weeks cup tie.

September 10th 1967

Driving Finish Atones For Poor Start

Tullamore5 Bohemians5

A tremendous second half recovery enabled Tullamore to turn a 4-1 interval deficit into a highly meritorious 5-5 draw against Bohemians in the Castrol Trophy at Spollenstown on Sunday last when the very big home attendance was treated to as thrilling a climax as has ever been witnessed at the venue.

The spectators deserved this second half bonus, if only as compensation for having endured as listless an opening 45 minute as one could imagine.

During that opening phase Tullamore were dreadfully suspect in defence, unimaginative at midfield and wasteful in attack failings which were fully exploited by an eager beaver Bohemians side which contained three youths internationals. Bohs. were three goals up after fifteen minutes and playing with such assurance that they seemed destined to run up a cricket score before the game ended. Indeed, they wasted their share of scoring opportunities before the interval and despite enjoying a very decided territorial advantage in the second quarter they failed to add to their total until just one minute before the short whistle. By this time Eamonn Byrne had pulled one back for Tullamore, but that 4-1 scorline still represented a millstone around the neck of the home side. Desperation can breed inspiration and

Tullamores plight called for drastic action during the interval. It came as no surprise at all to find the locals resuming with a completely rearranged formation which included the substitution of Mick Connolly for Mick Flanagan and the switching of Martin Lowery from the left wing to right full. Indeed apart from goalkeepers on the home side to retain players in their original positions on the resumption were the three half backs and Jim Brady and Teddy Whiteley in attack. At the time it looked like a forlorn long shot, but it worked. Lowery succeeded in plugging the gap in defence and with Connolly making a big difference in attack things began to hum. John Minnock, easily the outstanding player on view, clipped the visitors lead further six minutes after the resumption and then paved the way for Tullamores third when he was taken down in the area. Geraghty sank the spot kick to narrow the gap to the minimum but when Bohs broke away to score their only goal of the second half and stretch their lead

to two again it certainly looked as though Tullamores bid was to be foiled. However the players had other ideas and continued to fight tooth and nail against a Bohemians side which was in danger of falling apart at the seams. Mick Connolly hit the target amidst growing excitement and then nine minutes from the end Jim Bradys head connected with a centre from Geraghty to equalise. Now the fat was properly in the fire and the panic which engulfed the visitors under this unexpected blitz was reflected by the sending off of one of their players and the booking of two others. In the time which remained Tullamore might be considered very unfortunate not to have snatched an outright victory, for it was only some inspired goalkeeping by King, together with a large slice of good fortune when Brady rapped the woodwork, that enabled Bohs. To holdout to take a point from a game which at one stage they appeared to have neatly tied up.

INDIVIDUAL REVIEW

In attempting to assess the individual displays last Sunday one is forced to view the game in its two phases. Before the interval the home side looked so completely disjoted and spiritless that the outlook for the season looked exceptionally bleak. But what a transformation there was after the reshuffle it was as if we were now watching an entirely different Tullamore side in action. Gone was the indecision in defence and the squandermania in attack and suddenly Bohemians must have known that victory was far from being assured. Martin Lowerys

presence acted like a bolt on the defence, locking the individual members into an unyielding barrier which clamped down on the opposition. Even Lynch and Byrne found further reserves of energy to step up their performacne and with a good supply of the ball coming through to the forwards the visiting defence began to feel the strain. Up front John Minnock's stature soared as a result of a really brilliant display whilst Mick Connolly proved that his form in Drogheda was all wrong by emerging as another of Tullamores second half heroes. Jim Brady on the whole, had a quiet outing but that glancing header which brought the equiliser atoned for a lot of the aimless stuff which preceded it. Teddy Whiteleys ability to break quickly from inside his own half paid rich dividends and if he did not get his name amongst the goals he paved the way for more than one of them. Geraghtys second half improvement after he had reverted to his best position on the wing must surley have hammered home the conviction that it is a waste of time playing him elsewhere. All in all a thoroughly satisfying start to the season at Spollenstown and a guarantee that all succeeding matches will carry the same entertainment value would ensure big attendances for the remainder of the term. Before tackling a description of the play it might be as well to assess the standard of the opposition and this is best gauged by the fact that they could afford to leave youths international Eddie Phipps on the line as 12th man.

POINTS OF PLAY

The game was only two minutes in progress when Bohemians struck their first blow. This was only the start of Tullamores troubles and they were fortunate not to find themselves two down after the next Bohemians attack when it required a super effort by Fitzsimons to turn a screaming shot from Ronnie Conway over the bar. Bohemians struck blow number two in the 9th minute when an attempted pass from Geraghty was intercepted at midfield and the ball was pushed through the middle for Sandom to push it past Fitzsimons who was injured in the attempt to avert disaster. Very little was being seen of the home attack, but King in the visitors goal proved himself to be alert by grabbing a snap shot from Brady which looked promising. Tullamore went three down in the 15th minute.

TULLAMORE HIT BACK

By now the indications were that Tullamore were in for a real drubbing, but the hopes of their following were raised a notch when they pulled one back in the 17th minute. Martin Lowery provided the opening with a centre which Whiteley added to before Winstanley headed against his own crossbar and as the ball dropped Eamonn Byrne was on hand to stab it over the line. This was a step in the right direction and Tullamore came more into the picture subsequently. Bohs again took up the pace making. They forced a long series of corners and missed some scoring chance. In fact the visitors fourth goal was delayed until a minute before the interval when a

centre from Christy Doyle was whipped first time to the net by Cobbe, with Fitzsimons apparently deceived by the unexpectedness of the shot.

Half-time: Tullamore, 1; Bohemians, 4.

Mick Flanagan was missing when Tullamore lined up for the resumption and in a rearranged formation Mick Connolly came on at outside right. Yet it was Fitzsimons who was the first keeper into action when he saved a rasper from Keating on the line. The first fruits of Tullamores revival bid came in the 48th minute when Minnock split the Dublin defence wide open with a long pass out to Geraghty and when the winger returned the ball into the centre Connolly had a good header brilliantly saved by King. Geraghty figured prominently in Tullamores next raid, too when he rounded off a nice passing bout with Whiteley by blazing wide. All the time reward was just around the corner for Tullamore and they started on the long haul back in the 51st minute when Byrne ran half the length of the field to force a corner and Whiteleys inswinger was finished to the net by Minnock. The home boys had their tails up now and two sharp bursts by Whiteley stretched the Bohs defence to breaking point without yielding a score. All the time however, Tullamore were growing in confidence and with Lynch and Byrne gaining a firm footing the entire trend of the game had altered.

NEAR MISS

By now Minnock had been ear marked

as the danger man by the Bohs defence and when he attempted to cut in along the bye line in the 67th minute he was immediately chopped down, thus paving the way for Geraghty to score with a perfectly taken penalty. Tullamore were drawing too close for comfort now, as far as Bohemians were concerned, and the visitors were stung into a counter attack which resulted in a score by Slattery. This goal looked like snuffing out Tullamores resistance, but instead they answered the challenge by piling on still more pressure and the scoring spree continued merrily on its way two minutes later when a corner by Minnock was pushed on by Martin Lowery for Connolly to apply the finishing touch from close range. This score was hotly disputed by Bohemians so hotly, indeed that centre forward Slattery was booked by the referee for giving back chat his name was followed into the little black book by that of right full Pat Conway within four minutes and with the tension now nearing breaking point panic threatened to engulf Bohs. Right winger Christy Doyle, warned twice previously went to the line following a needlessly severe tackle on Geraghty in the 81st minute and Bohemians paid on the double for the offence. In addition to losing Doyle and being reduced to ten men they also had their lead wiped out, for it was from the free which followed that Geraghty swung the ball into the goalmouth where Bradys head did the rest. Having fought back so courageously from such an impossible position Tullamore needed only a winning goal to garnish their performance but no matter how they tried this lucky break availed them.

A winning goal would, of course have put the gloss on a really wonderful performance, but even as it was my guess is that Tullamore were more than satisfied to settle for a division of the points.

Result: Tullamore, 5; Bohemians, 5.

Tullamore: L. Fitzsimons, M. Flanagan, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Norris, E. Byrne, J. Minnock, E. Whiteley, J. Brady, T. Geraghty, M. Lowery.
[Sub: M. Connolly for Flanagan].

Bohemians: T. King, P. Conway, N. Robinson, B. Cordan, N. Winstanley, H. Cobbe, C. Doyle, R. Conway, M. Slattery, M. Sandom, T. Keating.

Referee: Mr. M. Quinn [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

John Minnock tops the chart this week with plenty to spare, for his was a majestic performance which was directly responsible for turning certain defeat into a creditable draw. Having decided on the destination of the three points it becomes a little more difficult to fill the minor berths but in nominating Tommie Geraghty and Eamonn Byrne I don't think we will be too far wrong. And that leaves the overall position after two matches reading as follows:

John Minnock [4] John Norris [3]
Tommie Geraghty [2] Noel Lynch [2]
Eamonn Byrne [1]

Although Tullamore stand on the last rung but one of the Castrol Trophy league table their position is misleading

as they have fewer games played than any other club in the competition. If one wanted to be more cheerful regarding prospects it could be pointed out that to date Tullamore have dropped, the same number as the leaders.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shelbourne	4	1	3	0	6	4	5
Shamrock R.	4	2	1	1	7	6	5
Drogheda	4	2	1	1	10	6	5
Drumcondra	3	2	0	1	8	3	4
Home Farm	3	2	0	1	6	6	4
Athlone	3	1	3	0	6	5	4
Dundalk	4	1	3	1	13	12	4
Belgrove	4	1	3	1	9	8	4
St. Pat's Ath.	4	1	1	2	7	13	3
Bohemians	4	1	1	2	10	12	3
Tullamore	2	0	1	1	5	8	1
Dalkey Utd.	3	0	0	3	7	11	0

With Tom Whiteley on holidays and unavailable for another two weeks Tullamore face a testing weekend, which will see them in action at Spollenstown on both Saturday and Sunday – if things turn out as expected. The position is that Tullamore are due to meet Johnston Mooney and O'Brien in the second round of the Leinster Senior Cup on Sunday and this means that they must endeavour to get Shelbourne to bring forward their Castrol Trophy.

SPORTSTAR OF THE WEEK

Notwithstanding the fact that we have covered nine different sports in the

above paragraphs it is by no means an easy task to decide upon a sportstar. Frankly, I had been keeping this space reserved in the hope that we would be celebrating an all Ireland handball victory this week, but, unhappily, we now have to look elsewhere and for the second week in succession soccer comes to the rescue. Admittedly Tullamore are still seeking their first victory of the season but on the evidence of their fine showing against Bohemians at Spollenstown last Sunday their entry into the winners enclosure cannot be delayed much longer. Tullamores display throughout the first half of Sundays game was so completely inept that their prospects for the season looked extremely bleak. Then within the space of the second forty five minutes all the gloom was dispersed as Tullamore came storming back from the brink of defeat to turn an interval deficit of 4-1 into a highly deserved 5-5 draw. It is particularly gratifying to record that the architect of Tullamores moral victory for it was nothing more or less than that was a young local player who has come to the top through town league activity. For some time past his potential ability has been noted but on Sunday he turned in his finest performance yet. He scored one of the goals himself, in addition to which he had a hand in two others so that his contribution was a sizeable one which earns this weeks sportstar nomination for-

JOHN MINNOCK

September 16th 1967

All-Local Side Crashes Heavily

The absolute depth of suitable reserve material at Tullamores disposal was nakedly exposed at Spollenstown on Saturday when a young Shelbourne side cantered to an 8-0 victory over what could be termed Tullamores reserve team in the Castrol Trophy with the majority of their regulars being rested for the following days cup tie Tullamore fielded an all local side which included only four members of the premier eleven and the result was that the match if such it could be called did not furnish even a worth while work out for the visitors. A soft goal two minutes after the kick off undermined Tullamores confidence still further and although they offered reasonable resistance up to the interval, at which stage Shels were 3-0 ahead. They fell asunder in the second half when the defence as a whole gave up the ghost and were content to stand by and watch their visitors run up a procession of goals, many of which could have been prevented by a little bit of spirit. The exception to lack of effort was John Minnock who worked really hard in an unaccustomed role to instil some sort of drive into his colleagues, but with practically no support the right half was fighting a losing cause from the start. Martin Lowerys return to the centre half

berth proved disastrous for Tullamore as he had the misfortune to deflect the ball past his own keeper twice in the first half. Any degree of defiance in the Tullamore defence was provided by the full backs for Tom Geoghegan showed definite promise on the right where he was pitted against Shelbournes most dangerous raider, Dessie Emerson, whilst John Lowery, at least stuck to his tasks for the full duration of the game. Behind the defence goalkeeper Liam Boland handled direct shots confidently enough, but proved vulnerable to the high crosses floated across with such regularity by Emerson and Christy Maguire. Tullamore never made a showing in attack at all. The couple of opportunities which did come their way were squandered by poor finishing ability.

SCORING

Shels started the goal rush within two minutes of the start when, following a free against Boland for over carrying the ball, Downes chipped his centre across for Mick Jordan to head the reds into the lead, Tullamore might have had a quick equaliser, but a great centre from Geraghty which hit the butt of the post before crossing the goalline was marred

by an offside decision against Christy Hughes, the first of many. Boland did well to deflect a point blank shot from Jordan around the post before Geraghty missed a gilt edged chance at the other end by shooting weakly straight at O'Brien. Shelbournes second goal was of the gift variety, for a low shot from right half Downes looked harmless enough until it was deflected wide of Boland by Martin Lowery in the 14th minute. There followed a long spell of Shelbourne pressure broken only by a fine save by O'Brien when he turned a free by Geraghty around the post, but it was not until the 33rd minute that the visitors increased their lead and then it was another o.g. by Lowery that did the damage as he deflected a shot from Dempsey to his own net. Dooner had his name taken for dangerous play and Minnock hit the bar from a free in the time which remained before the break.

Half-time: Tullamore, 0; Shelbourne, 3.

Five minutes after the resumption Robert Grace was afforded a fine opportunity of putting Tullamore back into the game when he was given a clear run from the halfway line but lack of pace was evident as he was overtaken from behind and dispossessed by Brian Orr. Two further good chances were missed by Tullamore when Dooner cut in along the end line to hit the side net and Geraghty broke clean through only to shoot into O'Briens waiting arms before Dessie Emerson clinched things for the visitors by adding two further goals in as many minutes. After that Tullamore threw in the towel and it was obvious that at least a couple of home

players could not have cared less what was happening. Centre forward Mick Jordan made it 6-0 in the 74th minute after Lowery had been caught too far upfield and one minute later the home pivot was again missing when Dempsey strolled through the wide open defence. The final nail was driven into Tullamores coffin ten minutes from time when right half John Byrne slid the ball into the empty net after Boland had been drawn out to the touch line by Emerson. After that the final whistle must have sounded like sweet music to the handfull of home supporters who had remained on to endure this greatest ever home humiliation.

Result: Tullamore, 0; Shelbourne, 8.

Tullamore: L. Boland, T. Geoghegan, J. Lowery, J. Minnock, M. Lowery, M. Connolly, C. Hughes, R. Grace, T. Geraghty, D. Murphy.

Shelbourne: M. O'Brien, J. Killeen, P. Kelleghan, J. Byrne, B. Orr, D. Dunne, C. Maguire, M. Dempsey, M. Jordan, J. Doherty, D. Emerson.

Referee: Mr. Jack O'Byrne [Dublin] who is a brother of Tullamores inside forward of last season Frank O'Byrne.

MERIT RATING

No merit points are deserved after this shambles but if such has to be awarded I go for John Minnock, Tom Geoghegan and John Lowery as being the best of a bad lot. With two sets of ratings added this week the overall position after four matches now reads as follows:

John Minnock [7] Tommie Geraghty [5]
John Norris [4] Noel Lynch [2] Tom
Geoghegan [2] Martin Lowery [2]
Eamonn Byrne [1] John Lowery [1]

NEXT WEEK

Tullamore pay their first visit of the season to Dublin next week end when they are due at Richmond Park to meet St. Patricks Athletic in the Castrol

Trophy. Now that they have broken the ice with a cup win the provincials will be anxious to improve their position in the league table against an Inchicore side which has won two and drawn one of their five matches to date. With Tom Whiteley still on holidays the visitors will miss his services in defence but despite this their prospects of opening their account are reasonably bright.

September 17th 1967

Seventeen Goals Scored At Spollenstown

After the 5-5 draw against Bohemians the previous week last week ends double bill at the venue provided a real avalanche of net shakers. On Saturday Tullamore were on the receiving end of an 8-0 thrashing when Shelbourne went on a scoring spree against a skeleton home side which included only four regulars but on Sunday Tullamore picked the right time to hit winning form when they opened their account for the season by defeating Johnston, Mooney and O'Brien 5-4 in the second round of the Leinster Senior Cup.

Tullamore, 5; J.M. & O'B, 4.

As the score might suggest this cup tie was packed with thrills and excitement with a fluctuating scoreline going a long way towards compensating for a lack of real classic football. Although they were first to score the Leinster League side trailed 3-1 at the interval and Tullamore appeared to be well on the road towards the third round. Then came a spell of unfounded complacency by the home side and suddenly the game had taken on a completely different outlook with the visitors jumping ahead by 4-3. The Bakers were still that one goal ahead with only six minutes left for play, but then Tommie Geraghty tied the scoring

with a long range effort from far out on the touch line and the odds were short on extra time being necessary.

Tullamore with five players on duty who had played the previous day against Shelbourne, would scarcely have lasted an extra twenty minutes but they were spared the ordeal when Teddy Whiteley became their match winner with less than three minutes to spare. This was Tullamore's first win of the season, but there is room for vast improvement still. On Sunday the home defence was anything but inspiring, with Fitzsimons handling the greasy ball indifferently and wing halves Lynch and Byrne unable to match their opposite number for speed. It was John Norris who held the defence together, although the Lowery brothers who formed the full back partnership in the continued absence of Tom Whiteley fared well when the pressure was on. The home attack as a whole turned in a very capable performance although Jim Brady has lost some of his speed and dash of former years this may be attributable to early season lack of fitness and I am convinced that he has many more goals in his scoring boots and requires only intelligent support from his colleagues to enable him to reap the harvest. On Sunday some of

his best work went unrewarded because he was left to plough a lonely furrow in the centre. The enigmatical Tommie Geraghty was in his most exasperating mood, at times brilliant and then just as quickly less than mediocre, but overall he emerged as Tullamores most dangerous raider and the man who pulled the game out of the fire with that late equaliser. John Minnock carved lanes through the opposition in the first half but then the strain began to tell and he faded somewhat after the interval but. One man who kept going at full pace for the ninety minutes was Teddy Whiteley so that it was entirely fitting that the distinction of scoring the winning goal should fall to the inside left.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Play opened on a brisk note, with Tullamore almost shooting into the lead in the very first minute when Byrne sent a good ball through to Brady who switched it outside quickly to Geraghty for the winger to curl a dangerous ball just wide of the far post. This was a promising start for the home side but they were shocked in the 8th minute when Fitzsimons fumbled a free taken by Carberry and Tom Kane was in like a flash to rocket the visitors into the lead. Once in front the Bakers became a stronger force and they followed up by forcing the first corner of the game, with Owens heading over from Carberrys flag kick. The visitors missed a good chance of increasing their lead in the 12th minute when a well taken free by Kavanagh was partially knocked down by Fitzsimons and from close range

O'Grady blazed over. The Leinster League side was having the better of matters at this stage. They were faster to the ball and more forceful in attack so that it took Norris and his colleagues all their time to keep them at bay. In contrast Tullamore were proving shot shy in front of goal and apart from one effort from Whiteley which sped narrowly over the top in the 20th minute their attack did not look capable of making much impression on the J.M. & O'B. defence in which Kavanagh, Mullins and Byrne were the stalwarts. When Tullamores equaser did materialise in the 23rd minute it was a real gem. It stemmed from a glorious entre from Geraghty which was returned from the end line by Mick Connolly for Brady to head past the hopelessly beaten Paul Owens.

SOFT LEAD

Tullamore hit the front for the first time in the 30th minute and there was a large element of luck attached to the goal for following good approach work by Brady and Geraghty the ball broke to Whiteley whose shot spun out of the keepers hands to roll across the line. The benefits of this goal quickly became evident. Tullamore became more aggressive in their outlook, but for all that they had a narrow shave in the 38th minute when only a wonder save by Fitzsimons who dived fearlessly at Kanes feet when all seemed lost, enabled the homesters to preserve their lead. The visitors were out of luck again two minutes later when an inswinging corner by Carberry was blocked three times in the Tullamore goalmouth

before eventually being scrambled away. Having wriggled off the hook twice Tullamore caught the opposition napping with a quick counter attack which produced the best individual effort of the day as Minnock wormed his way past three tackles before unleashing a powerful drive which was a winner all the way even before left full Mullins deflected it further into the net.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; J.M.& O'B, 1.

Tullamores interval position inspired hopes of a comfortable home win and when they resumed with a sparkling movement which embraced at least five different players before Mick Connolly rounded it off by thumping the ball off the woodwork these hopes were bolstered further. A fourth goal was narrowly missed in the 51st minute when a sizzling shot from Geraghty had Owens fully stretched and beaten as Mullins just beat Brady to the breaking ball on the goal line to clear at the expense of a corner. The tide began to turn in the 55th minute when an indirect free in the bye line by O'Grady was headed through a slack defence by right winger Kane to cut Tullamores lead to the minimum. Although they lost right full Charley Kavanagh with a leg injury two minutes later the visitors were right back in the game and with Geoghegan coming in to fill the vacant spot in defence they got the bit between their teeth. Aided by a certain amount of complacency in the home camp the visitors gained a firm grip and were well worth the equaliser which came their way in the 59th minute when a misdirected pass from Connolly was

intercepted by Carberry who raced to the edge of the box before firing in a rocket which Fitzsimons never saw until he picked it out of the net. Tullamore might have wiped out the advantage of this goal within a minute but when Geraghty was sent clear by Brady he blasted wide from in front of an open goal. Having come from behind to get on level terms the Bakers now had the smell of victory strong in their nostrils and, sure enough, they hit the front in the 70th minute when good approach work by Kane and Owens on the right paved the way for centre forward Barney O'Sullivan to hit the jackpot. That left Tullamore with just twenty minutes to do something or have the fruits of victory snatched from under their noses. Twenty minutes that provided an agony of action as Tullamore braced themselves for an all out onslaught. Brady headed over a Geraghty centre and then Owens was fortunate to get an outstretched leg to a Geraghty pile driver. Next Byrne headed inches over following a corner by Minnock and Owens saved the visitors again with a fine save against the upright from Geraghty all the time the seconds were ticking away and with them Tullamores hopes of qualifying for the third round. However the home side were still dominating the exchanges and they were rewarded at last in the 84th minute when Geraghty curled in a forty yard effort from the touch line which sailed all the way to the roof of the net. Now extra time looked a certainty, but with just minutes left Spollenstown erupted in a frenzy of excitement as Mick Connolly started a move on the right which was carried on by Minnock

before Whiteley applied the finishing touch from close range.

Result: Tullamore, 5; J.M.& O'B, 4.

Tullamore: L. Fitzsimons, M. Lowery, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Norris, E. Byrne, M. Connolly, J. Minnock, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

J.M.&O'B: P. Owens, C. Kavanagh, H. Mullins, C. Roberts, P. Byrne, T. Ronan, T. Kane, T. Owens, B. O'Sullivan, N. O'Grady, T. Carberry.
[Sub: Geoghegan for Kavanagh in 57th minute]

MERIT RATING

Tommie Geraghty must top the chart this week, not only for his valuable long range goal at a vital stage but for his work through out the ninety minutes which stamped him as the man who the visitors had most to fear from. Martin Lowery, too, must come into the reckoning for his work in defence whilst the third point goes to John Norris who was possibly the winners most consistant defender. The overall position will be found at the end of the match report dealing with Saturdays clash against Shelbourne.

September 24th 1967

Second Half Rally Fails Narrowly

St.Patrick's Ath.5
Tullamore4

For the fourth game in succession Tullamore found themselves engaged in a high scoring encounter when they came up against St. Patricks Athletic in the Castrol Trophy on Saturday at Richmond Park. A tigerish second half display of courage and determination failed to atone for a slack start which saw the home side score four times in the opening sixteen minutes and at the end of a very entertaining ninety minutes Tullamore were still striving for a fifth goal which would have given them a share of the spoils which they richly merited. The Tullamore defence was badly hit by the absence of both Tom Whiteley and John Norris. St.Pats. were rampant during the first quarter of an hour and a goal within ninety seconds of the kick off sparked off a scoring spree which boosted the Inchicore side to a startling 4-0 lead. Tullamore could only nibble at this lead before the interval and although they did succeed in pulling one back they still faced a formidable task on the resumption. Displaying wonderful spirit the visitors dominated the 2nd half and their 3 goals during this phase of the game testified to the ability of their forwards. Unfortunately St. Pats

sneaked in another goal in one of their infrequent raids and this proved to be the decisive score of the day. By midway through the second half Tullamore had reduced the deficit to the minimum but although the homeside held out for the remainder of the game amidst a welter of excitement, which had their new coach Peter Farrell biting the stem off his pipe in the dugout.

WEAK AT WING HALF

The absence of two key defenders was bound to have a weakening effect upon Tullamore and their defensive troubles were added to by the inability of both Noel Lynch and Eamonn Byrne to seal off the middle of the field. Part of the trouble was that both Lynch and Byrne were so intent upon covering the area immediately in front of goal that they left wide gaps in their own departments and the sprightly Inchicore forwards turned these to good use. Tony Whiteley proving a poor substitute for his cousin. Leslie Fitzsimons [goalkeeper] had a nightmare experience behind a beaten defence. The real tragedy of it all was that there were plenty of goals in the Tullamore forward line if they had been given half a chance. Jim Brady was much sharper than of late in the centre and both his goals were very well

taken efforts despite the close marking of Boucher. In addition he proved himself to be a puissant leader who created quite a few openings for his colleagues. Yet, it was Tommie Geraghty who once again emerged as the main dangerman to the opposition. He operated on the left wing like a sprite on a spree continually outpacing Jim Kinsella and spraying the goalmouth with centres which just begged to be translated into goals. Then, typically it was he who missed the easiest chances of the equaliser in the closing quarter. John Minnock forced to play deeper than usual in a vain attempt to plug the midfield gap found the role a shackling one which prevented him from producing his best form, but Teddy Whiteley stepped up considerable on recent form. His goal was a real beauty, although he missed at least three easier chances due to erratic shooting. With Tullamore playing the left wing at every opportunity Mick Connolly was starved for long periods on the right but the few glimpses we got of him in action confirmed the opinion that he has what it takes to complete a scoring line which has run up the satisfactory total of fourteen goals in three matches.

POINTS FROM PLAY

St. Patricks opened the scoring after only ninety seconds when right half Paddy Cullen slipped the ball over Lynchs head and with Martin Lowery out of position John Burke bore down upon the undefended Tullamore goal to slip the ball past the helpless Fitzsimons. Tullamore went into the attack but a

scoring chance was missed. Tullamore went two down in the 9th minute and again it was a defensive lapse which proved costly. One minute later Fitzsimons went full length to turn a free by Linnie out for a corner and it was St. Patricks who continued to rule the roost as they piled on the pressure. They had their third goal in the 14th minute when a snap shot from 35 yards by Linnie sailed all the way to the roof of the net and centre forward Burke bored in to hit the post with a low drive before the Saints tacked on number four two minutes later when Fitzsimons failed to cut off a centre from Patton and the ball dropped at Burkes feet to be pushed over the line. At this stage we were just wondering what the final outcome would be for Tullamore were completely at sixes and sevens.

SAINTS RELAX

With a 4-0 lead under their belt St. Patricks were lulled into a false sense of security as they relaxed their efforts and for the first time Tullamore came into the picture as an attacking force. Brady forced their first corner off Geraghtys pass and then Geraghty himself had a powerful drive brilliantly saved by Doherty. In the 33rd minute Teddy Whiteley sent a perfect ball through to Geraghty without drawing any response but the visitors opened their account one minute later, again it was Whiteley who instigated the move with a pass to Minnock and although the latters close range shot was parried by Doherty the ball broke loose for Jim Brady to slam it home from a very acute angle this was the spark which the visitors needed to

set them alight and the home goal came under heavy pressure for the remainder of the first half. Geraghty hit the bar from a 10 yard indirect free and at the other end we had a rather unusual incident just one minute before the interval when, from an indirect free, heating shot direct to the net Fitzsimons stepping aside to earn a goal kick.

Half-time: St. Patricks Ath, 4;
Tullamore, 1.

During the interval I was more than a little surprised at the air of confidence prevailing amongst the Tullamore players despite the 4-1 deficit. Straight from the kick off Brady had a shot blocked in the goalmouth by left full Kevin Kelly and when the ball came back to him he shot into the side netting. Then Doherty had to advance smartly to first time the ball to safety off Bradys toe following a long clearance from Martin Lowery. These opening probes were followed by what was probably the best goal of the day in the 47th minute when Minnock made ground on the right before slipping a great pass across to Whiteley and the inside left, from just outside the penalty area, chipped the ball delightfully into the far corner of the net. This was the morale booster which Tullamore needed so badly and they were quickly back on the warpath. A free on the fringe of the box by Geraghty was deflected off course by a wall of defenders, forcing Doherty to turn in midair to bring off a fine save, but by now St. Patricks had thrown off their complacency and they set up a counter attack. This goal might have been expected to knock the steam out

of Tullamore. Instead they responded by redoubling their efforts and three minutes later Geraghty took a return pass from Brady to whip in a low shot which Doherty got his hands to but failed to prevent from crossing the line. Back in full cry again Tullamore laid seige to their opponents goal with John Lowery frequently moving upfield to add his weight to the attack. Brady sent Whiteley clear in front of the posts but his rising shot skimmed over. However Tullamore got within a goal of their hosts in the 66th minute when a free by Geraghty was charged down by a wall of defenders, and Brady stepped in to slam the rebound into the corner of the net. This was the stuff of which football is made and how thankful St. Pats must have been at this stage for these give away goals which had come their way earlier. Now they had their backs to the wall as Tullamore gambled by throwing everything into attack. Doherty got his fingertips to a centre from Geraghty and was grateful enough to see the ball drop behind for a corner and another flag kick followed as Creevy knocked the ball behind from Minnock.

WOODWORK TO RESCUE

Tullamore had their share of good fortune also as an effort by St. Patricks hit the angle of the woodwork. However, Tullamore were soon back at the other end where Brady switched the ball to the unmarked Whiteley in front of goal only to see the inside left shoot over with only Doherty to beat. Geraghty too had a couple of misses. St. Pats hit timber again in the 78th minute and when the rebound broke

loose to O'Rourke the latter had a fine shot from close range brilliantly turned out for a corner by Fitzsimons. After so much excitement and incident the game tapered off to a rather tame climax for by now both sides were almost out on their feet and the concluding ten minutes were devoid of goalmouth incidents.

Result: St. Patricks, 5; Tullamore, 4.

St. Patricks: T. Doherty, J. Kinsella, K. Kelly, P. Cullen, D. Boucher, R. Creevy, D. Keating, R. Linnie, J. Burke, B. O'Rourke, K. Patton.

Tullamore: L. Fitzsimons, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, M. Lowery, E. Byrne, M. Connolly, J. Minnock, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Referee: Mr. L. McConkey [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

The forwards fall over themselves this week for inclusion in our hit parade, and all three merit spots go to member of the attack. For the second week in succession Tommie Geraghty tops the chart but it is only by a very slender margin that he edges out Jim Brady, with Teddy Whiteley coming in to the

third spot. All of which leaves the overall position now reading as follows: T. Geraghty [8] J. Minnock [7] J. Norris [4] J. Brady [2] N. Lynch [2] M. Lowery, [2] T. Geoghegan [2] J. Lowery [1] E. Byrne [1] E. Whiteley [1]

ATTRACTIVE VISITORS

Tullamore will have their old rivals of last season, Home Farm, as attractive visitors to Spollenstown on Sunday next. The sides met five times in all last season with Tullamore winning both legs in the league and holding the Farm to a scoreless draw in the Castrol Trophy at Whitehall. The sides also finished level in the semi final of the Intermediate Cup in Tolka Park before the Farm won the replay at Spollenstown and then went on to win the trophy. Rivalry between Tullamore and Home Farm has always been keen and Tullamore expect to be at full strength for the first time on Sunday next when Tom Whiteley is due to resume at right full. This time last year Tullamore were fighting it out at the top of the table. Now their biggest concern is get away from the bottom rungs and it would afford them additional satisfaction if they could claim Home Farm as their first victim in the Castrol Trophy.

October 1st 1967

Four For Geraghty In First Win

Tullamore4
Home Farm2

Fielding at full strength for the first time since the start of the season Tullamore registered their first victory in the Castrol Trophy at Spollenstown on Sunday when they disposed of Home Farm by a 4-2 Martin. The dreadful weather which prevailed for this game cut the attendance down to a hard core of supporters. Yet the rain which fell continuously for the ninety minutes could not dampen the enthusiasm of home supporters as they watched their favourites regain something like last seasons form. Boosted by an early goal Tullamore were never headed during the course of the game. Their 2/1 interval advantage was slender, but deserved and they clung to this lead throughout the third quarter. Most of the excitement of the day was crammed into the final ten minutes as Tullamore stretched their lead to 3/1 Home Farm reduced it again to 3-2 and then Tullamore clinched it with a fourth goal three minutes from time.

AVERAGE MAINTAINED

Tullamore kept up their scoring average

of four goals per game on Sunday, despite the fact that the selectors decision to alter a free scoring forward line by moving Martin Lowery up to the exclusion of right winger Mick Connolly very nearly backfired on them. In previous outings Tullamores scoring honours have been widely distributed along the front line, but on Sunday Tommie Geraghty stole the thunder all on his own by netting all four home goals from the left wing. This was a splendid individual performance which confirmed the widely held opinion that in their left winger Tullamore have one of the best footballers in the Second Division. On Sunday Geraghty may have been the star performer but he had the backing of a fully trained chorus. The greatest improvement was evident in the home defence where the return of Tom Whiteley and John Norris imparted a steadying influence which revealed goalkeeper Leslie Fitzsimons in a new light. With proper protection in front Fitzsimons emerges as one of the stars of the home win. His handling of the greasy ball was sure and certain his clearances were lengthy and accurate. Tullamore employed a double centre half gambit with considerable success, with Noel Lynch acting as a shadow to

Norris to combat the down the middle thrusts of Tony Mackin. Eamonn Byrne adopted a more conventional role as he ranged hither and thither, putting in a tremendous amount of work in the process. In attack Tullamore were flying on one wing for most of the game, for whilst Geraghty led the visiting defence a merry dance on the left, Martin Lowery never fitted into the scheme of things on the other flank and it was not until Teddy Whiteley was switched to the right wing in the second half that the home attack began to function smoothly. At times the forwards were inclined to lie too far back and this was particularly true of John Minnock who filled the role of an additional wing half. It was all obviously part of a well planned campaign which paid rich dividends, but at times Jim Brady was operating virtually on his own as the spearhead of the home attack. By the looks of things Home Farm have lost fewer players than usual during the summer months for on Sunday they had the majority of last years side on duty. Billy Howlett, Bill Hunt and Dermot Brady formed a strong link line, but it was goalkeeper Paddy Boyle who saved the visitors from a heavier defeat. In an experienced forward division George Daly got little change out of Tom Whiteley and it was to their inside forwards Joe Keeley and Liam Kennedy that the farm looked to for inspiration.

EARLY GOAL

With the rain falling steadily, pinpointing once more the necessity for some sort of press box at Spollenstown the

prospects of an entertaining after noon looked remote enough. However, the opening exchanges proved lively, with Boyle saving from a Geraghty free in the very first minute and then Home Farm sweeping upfield to force a corner at the other end. The promise aroused by these early forays was fulfilled in the third minute when Geraghty struck the first of his four body blows by pouncing on a clearance from Boyle and sweeping his way past two defenders before unleashing a low drive which was a winner from the time it left his boot. This was a change of fortune for Tullamore who, in their recent outings, had cultivated the nasty habit of conceding early scores and after Keeley had shot over from a free for the visitors the home lead was almost augmented in the 10th minute as Brady scooped a good pass from Whiteley narrowly over. Brady bobbed up as a danger to the visitors again two minutes later, when only a timely advance by Boyle enabled him to dive at the centre forwards feet. The visitors goal fell for the second time in the 33rd minute when Brady boring in, beat Boyle and was about to jump for joy when a defender got back to fist the ball out. It was of course only delaying the inevitable for Geraghty made no mistake from the spot and Tullamore were ahead by 2-0. Home Farm could not now afford to delay their big effort any longer and the speeding up of their offensive was rewarded three minutes later. A long range free by Eamon Byrne was superbly handled by Boyle, but it was Fitzsimons who brought the house down with a wonder save three minutes before the interval when he succeeded

in tipping a rasper from Keeley out for a corner. Home Farm forced another corner in their next attack but before it could be taken referee Paddy Graham blew for half time.

Half-time: Tullamore, 2; Home Farm, 1.

Conditions were so bad that the customary break was dispensed with on this occasion and instead the teams changed ends with the minimum of delay and the resumption was marked by one of the most amazing misses that I have ever witnessed on a football field. It happened after only two minutes when Brady raced through and beat Boyle as he advanced from his line. Then he shot towards the open net only to see the ball arc towards the far post. As if that was no bad enough, worse was to follow as Lowery thrust in from the right to apply the finishing touch, but from less than a yard out he somehow contrived to muff the chance as he sent the ball along the goal line and back into the hands of the amazed, but nevertheless delighted, Boyle having failed to cash in on such a scoring opportunity Tullamore very nearly had their slender lead wiped out within further seconds as Home Farm swept downfield and George Daly, for almost the only time in the game, got past Tom Whiteley to smack the ball off the bar. The Home Farm goal was enjoying a charmed life during this phase of the game and their luck held good again in the 50th minute when Geraghty raced on to a pass from Byrne with the Farm defence standing still to appeal. The wingers centre found Lowery unmarked on the edge of the area, but again he

failed to seize his big scoring chance and blasted the ball wide. Again a home miss was almost followed by a goal for the visitors as a corner by Keeley was whipped off the goal line by John Lowery and another escape followed when Fitzsimons failed to hold a free by Keeley and it was more by chance than design that the ball was scrambled to safety.

VITAL SWITCH

It was at this stage tht Tullamore switched Teddy Whiteley to the right wing, with Lowery moving across to inside left and there was an almost immediate improvement in the home attack. Having beaten off a couple of raids Home Farm even got on top for a spell and they proceeded to force the pace in a bid for the equaliser. Nine minutes remained for play when Tullamore made it 3-1 as Brady stabbed a great pass out to Whiteley and the latters centre was swept to the net to complete Geraghtys hat trick. True to their fine tradition, Home Farm redoubled their efforts to pull the game out of the fire as right winger Tony Cogan hit the post and Keeley forced the rebound to the net but it reduced Tullamores lead to the minimum again and left the concluding stages loaded with atmosphere and tension. Fitzsimons made another of his fine saves by deflecting a pile driver from Cogan around the post at a stage when an equaliser might well have inspired the visitors to even greater achievements. This, in fact, was Home Farms swan song and their fate was finally sealed in the 87th minute when a

centre from Whiteley was pushed on by Brady for Geraghty to slam it home to complete a great days work and credit Tullamore with a victory which must give them great heart for next Sunday important cup tie.

Result: Tullamore, 4; Home Farm, 2.

Tullamore: L. Fitzsimons, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Norris, E. Byrne, M. Lowery, J. Minnock, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.

Home Farm: P. Boyle, B. Coyne, F. Lee, B. Howlett, B. Hunt, D. Brady, T. Cogan, J. Keeley, T. Macken, L. Kennedy, G. Daly.

Referee: Mr. T. Graham [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

It does not require much head scratching to decide upon the ratings this week. Tommie Geraghty and Leslie Fitzsimons are automatic choices for the two top places and even if the third spot is not quite so easily filled I think that Eamonn Byrne did more than sufficient to earn it. This incidentally is the first time that I can recall the same player topping the chart for three weeks in succession and it leaves the overall position now reading as follows:

Tommie Geraghty [11] John Minnock [7] John Norris [4] Noel Lynch [2] Eamonn Byrne [2] Jim Brady [2] Leslie Fitzsimons [2] Martin Lowery [2] Tom Geoghegan [2] John Lowery [1] Teddy Whiteley [1]

CUP ASSIGNMENT

Last Sundays victory has come at an opportune time, for it would serve to instil confidence for next weeks Leinster Senior Cup assignment against T.E.K. United at Monkstown. At stake there will be a place in the semi finals and although it cannot be viewed as an easy task neither can it be regarded as an impossible one. Indeed on a line through Johnston Mooney the odds would appear to be in favour of the provincials for whereas Tullamore defeated the Breadmen 5-4 in the previous round T.E.K. fell to them by 3-1 in the Leinster League only last Sunday. That win over Johnston Mooney, coupled with a walk over from Athlone represents Tullamores passage to next Sundays game whilst T.E.K are there as a result of 3-1 victories over both Dalkey United and St. Brendans. Tullamore are the sole survivors of the "B" Division of the League of Ireland in this competition and as such will be anxious to uphold the prestige of the league. A word of warning however this ground at Stradbroke has never been a happy hunting ground for Tullamore who more than once in their junior days found its narrow playing area difficult to fathom. Indeed I feel sure that they would be more than happy to settle for a draw on Sunday.

SPORTSTAR OF THE WEEK

With sporting fixtures being drastically curtailed by the weather we are left with a restricted first from which to select a sportstar however no matter how wide and varied the fixture list might have been it is doubtful if we

could have come up with a more deserving nomination than that provided by the Castrol Torphy fixture at Spollenstown on Sunday. Tullamore took the field against mighty Home Farm in the role of under dogs, for they were still without a win to their credit in the competition. However, on Sunday they were at full strength for the first time and they rewarded spectators who braved the elements by a display of power packed football which even the dullness of the day could not hide. A winning margin of 4-2 scarcely reflects the superiority which was theirs for the full 90 minutes for they missed almost as many scoring chances as they availed of. One man however who made the most of his opportunities was their

outside left, for he made this a personal triumph by scoring all his sides goals two in each half. When in the mood this player has proved himself a natural footballer of tremendous potential and as Home Farm know to their cost, he was vey much in the mood on Sunday a gifted player with a scoring shot in each foo the has sometimes been accused of not putting his heart into the game but this criticism was certainly not valid on Sunday as he tore holes in a defence which was reputed to be the strongest in the league and it is without the slightest hesitation that I nominate as sportstar of the week:

TOMMIE GERAGHTY

October 14th 1967

Tullamore Through To Quarter Finals

T.E.K. United0
Tullamore1

Tullamore scraped through to the money making stages of the Leinster Senior Cup on Sunday last when a 1-0 victory over T.E.K. United at Stradbrook earned for them a place in the last eight. One goal and a late one at that sufficed to do the trick, but although Teddy Whiteleys match winner was delayed until three minutes from the end justice was done on the days play and there can be little doubt that the visitors fully deserved their success. Indeed, another goal or two would not have flattered them to any great extent and in any case victory by no matter how slender a margin was quite an achievement when gained against a side playing on a home ground which was worth at least a one goal start before a ball was ever kicked. Perhaps Tullamore have become spoiled by the standard of grounds on which they have been playing since entering the League of Ireland. Certainly last Sunday represented a big come down in this respect for not only was this Stradbrook venue tight and compact but it could have done with a mowing also. Under the circumstances local knowledge

afforded a huge advantage to the home side and although Tullamore overcame the handicap and finished with a win they can look back on this as being one of their hardest matches for a very long time. Vocal support provided by a bus load of followers organised by the supporters club kept the visitors on their toes. Norris and Tom Whiteley were the strong men in this sector, although it was fairly obvious that Tullamore had hatched out a defensive campaign prior to the game. In many respects it was the same recipe which had brought success against Home Farm the previous week. Noel Lynch stuck close to Norris, providing a double barrier against down-the-middle onslaughts, and John Minnock was taken out of the forward line to provide an additional worker around midfield. Eamonn Byrne worked with real gusto to give Tullamore a vital advantage where it mattered most. Primarily it was mistaken tactics which kept the Tullamore total down to the minimum, for despite the underfoot conditions the Tullamore forwards persisted in attempting to play football in the meaning of the word. The result was that passes which would have run true on a level surface more often went

astray whilst efforts to control the ball on solo runs were doomed to break down in the embryo stage. It seemed odds on extra time being required to break the deadlock. But in the 87th minute Teddy Whiteley worked his way through for the golden goal which put Tullamore into the hat for the quarter final draw. It was perfectly fitting that the scorer of the all important goal should have been Teddy Whiteley for he was Tullamores hardest working forward throughout the entire game. For a long time reward eluded his efforts but he persevered and after he had hit the jackpot he went close with two other attempts in the limited time that remained at his disposal. Tommie Geraghty, after three great games in a row, failed to come up to scratch on this occasion but then he was pitted against Uniteds best defender in right full fogarty. Nor has Martin Lowery recaptured his best form yet.

POINTS FROM PLAY

Once they had overcome the inclination to bunch on the narrow pitch Tullamore had much the better of the early exchanges and with many of the home passes failing to find their intended mark much of the play was confined to the home half of the field. So pronounced was this trend that Fitzsimons in the Tullamore goal received only one direct shot to deal with in the opening twenty minutes. Instead it was Tullamore who went into the attack and their first real chance came in the 12th minute when the home centre half Turner just beat Brady to a glorious through pass from Whiteley.

Tullamore forced the first corner of the game one minute later, with Whiteleys flag shot being fisted clear by Gallagher. Good work by Brady was wasted in the 26th minute when he mastered Turner out on the left wing before firing across a hard centre which passed right across the face of the goal with nobody up to touch it in. Three minutes later Martin Lowery lifted a centre from Whiteley over from close range but Tullamores worst miss of the entire game came in the 22nd minute when splendid approach work by Minnock and Whiteley put Brady clean through and the centre forward blazed wide of an open goal. It was only now that T.E.K. began to find their feet and when they broke downfield by means of a free by Corrigan from the halfway line Byrnes came to Tullamores rescue with a clever interception. The visitors were quickly back on the offensive and when Brady was chopped down just short of the area Geraghty wasted a good chance by blazing over from the free.

NARROW ESCAPE

Although it would have been very much against the run of play T.E.K. went very close to opening the scoring in the 31st minute when Corrigan the former Cork Celtic and Shelbourne player fired in a rocket of a shot which was headed for the roof of the net until a fantastic leap by Fitzsimons enabled him to deflect it over the bar. This near success imbued the home side with fresh confidence and their attacks increased both in frequency and intensity, for the first time really testing the mettle of the Tullamore defence. Norris, Whiteley,

Lowery and Lynch proved equal to the demands made of them and their blanket defence kept the wolves from the door with the result that only an occasional direct shot filtered through to Fitzsimons. When Tullamore took up the running Bradys weak shot resulted in good approach work by himself. Whiteley and Minnock being wasted and it was the Milkmen who finished the first half much the stronger by forcing two corners in as many minutes.

Half-time: T.E.K. Utd. 0; Tullamore, 0.

Tullamore had the fall of the ground in their favour after the interval, but it did not make much difference and defences continued to have better of matters. A 52nd minute corner by Whiteley was cleared to safety before Brady sent Whiteley through for a shot from an acute angle which curled just wide of the far post. A full length dive by Fitzsimons foiled Brett of a likely lead but at the other end Gallagher proved just as dependable by diving at Bradys feet. Geraghty and Whiteley switched berths in the visiting attack without bringing about much improvement for Fogarty, and Corrigan continued to repulse the best efforts of the opposition to pierce their ranks. Fitzsimons caused Tullamore hearts to miss a beat in the 61st minute when he lost possession in a goalmouth melee but Gerry Wilde, presented with gift opening blazed wide of the open goal. And so it continued. An agony of action it you like as both sides stepped up the pace entering the final quarter and that all important goal remaining as elusive as ever. T.E.K. missed their big chance of the game in

the 70th minute when Butler broke clear on the right wing with the Tullamore defence appealing in vain. His centre reached Brett in front of an open goal but the centre forward shot hastily and then held his head in anguish as the ball flashed well wide of the far post. Further positional switches saw Lowery move to the right, Whiteley came across to link up with Geraghty and when Brady muffed a good chance when put through by Whiteley in the 75th minute the odds on a scorless draw shortened further.

SUPER-CHARGED

The tension was super charged in the closing ten minutes and seven of these had elapsed when Whiteley struck. It was a really simple goal that decided the issue in the heel of the hunt for Whiteley, finding himself in possession on the fringe of the area advanced a couple of strides before getting in a low shot which deceived Gallagher and it nudged its way in by the side of the upright. After that there was never much of a chance of the Milkmen saving the day. Instead it was Tullamore who came close to increasing their lead as Geraghty had a fierce drive tipped over by Gallagher and Whiteley ripped one into the side netting in addition to extending Gallagher with another effort which the keeper did well to hold on the line.

Result: T.E.K. Utd. 0; Tullamore, 1.

Tullamore: L. Fitzsimons, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Norris, E. Byrne, E. Whiteley, J. Minnock, J. Brady, M.

Lowery, T. Geraghty.

T.E.K. Utd. Gallagher, Fogarty, Bell,
Corrigan, Turner, McDonald, Butler,
Sherlock, Brett, Broghan, Wilde.

Referee: Mr. Denis Horgan [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

It is not so easy this week to single out the best performances in this important victory, but the trogan work performed by Eamonn Byrne entitles him, I think, to top billing. As the best of the forwards Teddy Whiteley merits inclusion apart altogether from the fact that he was the literal match winner and to complete the picture I am taking John Minnock who got through so much valuable work from his deep lying position after seven matches reading as follows:

Tommie Geraghty [11] John Minnock [8] Eamonn Byrne [5] John Norris [4] Teddy Whiteley [3] Martin Lowery [2] Noel Lynch [2] Jim Brady [2] Ieslie Fitzsimons [2] Tom Geoghegan [2] John Lowery [1]

RETURN FIXTURE

By an odd quirk of fate Tullamore and T.E.K. United will be renewing cup rivalry in the very near future. The draw for the first round of the

Intermediate Cup gateway to the F.A.I. Senior Cup has paired them together again. But this time Tullamore will enjoy home advantage, the game being fixed for Spollenstown on October 29th.

NOW FOR ROVERS

With two successive victories to their credit Tullamore can face next Sundays return to the Castrol Trophy with confidence, even though the opposition will be provided by league leaders Shamrock Rovers. The Hoops are always attractive visitors to Spollenstown where their brand of fast open football usually attracts a big attendance. Rovers won the corresponding match last season, when they had ground advantage, by 4-2 but they came a cropper at Spollenstown in the league when a hattrick by Geraghty paved the way for a 4-1 home win having already lost in Athlone this season their only defeat so far Rovers must view their trips to the country with trepidation and defeat on Sunday would seriously jeopardise the prospects of winning this trophy for the first time. Since Tom Whiteley returned the Tullamore defence has been consistently sound and if the forwards can put a little extra life into their shooting they could well pull off a surprise win here and in the process do a very good turn for neighbouring Athlone.

October 21st 1967

Rovers Routed By Rampant Rivals

Tullamore7
Shamrock Rovers2

If Tullamore were seeking inspiration for this weeks Leinster Senior Cup quarter final they must surely have been feeling pretty pleased with them selves after last Sundays Castrol Trophy fixture against league leaders Shamrock Rovers at Spollenstown by a whopping 7-2 margin. Tullamore floored their exalted visitors and in the process they not only completed a hattrick of notable victories but at the same time did a good turn for all other sides in the competition. With consecutive victories to their credit over Home Farm, T.E.K.United and now Shamrock Rovers it is clear the Tullamore have overcome the customary tardy start to the season and irrespective of what happens in Dalymount Park tonight, all soccer fans will make the pilgimage to St. Mels for next Sundays clash against Athlone who, incidentally were well represented amongst the big attendance at Spollenstown last week. However, I wonder would it be wise to take last Sudnays result strictly at its face value whilst victory over Rovers is always an achievement, it must be admitted that they were a party to their own downfall

at Spollenstown when their advantage in weight and height proved of no avail against a home side which placed its faith in direct methods. Whilst the home side were all the time taking the direct route towards their opponents goal. Rovers were more inclined to play a square passing game which got them no where, and the total lack of penetration in the Milltown attack is best gauged by the fact that their second goal was scored by centre half, Frank Brady whilst their first was contributed by former inter-league full back John Keogh, who was operating at inside right. Nor did Rovers troubles end with mistaken tactics. Their defence was surprisingly vulnerable, particularly in the first half when goal keeper Jim McConnellys inability to cope with high centres cost his side two vital goals.

ALL ROUND STRENGHT

Yet despite the shortcomings of the visitors this was a most impressive performance by a Tullamore side, which was exceptionally well balanced. Their defence was faultless, with Leslie Fitzsimons contributing a couple of great saves at vital stages and John Norris a strong and forceful emerging as the key

figure in this sector. The strong, lusty clearances of Tom Whiteley and John Lowery repeatedly sent Rovers scuttling back to their own half and it was this flair for turning defence into attack with the minimum of delay that proved to be Tullamores most deadly weapon. Noel Lynch has found a new lease of life in the role of sweeper behind the Tullamore defence and on Sunday his solid if unspectacular, play went a long way towards halting the progress of the visitors down the middle. With Eamonn Byrne and the deep lying John Minnock both getting through a tremendous amount of work Tullamore held the edge where it mattered most and the virtual loss of a man in attack was more than off set by the willingness of Jim Brady and his colleagues to work for their openings. Brady bounced right back to top form on Sunday when he headed the scoring honours with three goals to his credit although Teddy Whiteley was out of luck when it came to scoring his all round play was of a high standard and he was another of the home brigade who could not be accused of shirking work. Tommie Geraghtys biggest failing was his inability to keep onside during the first half when he was whistled back just when Tullamores attacks were building to a climax. On the other flank Mick Connolly made a couple of sharp bursts in the first half and may have been a little unfortunate to have been taken off at half time, although the introduction of Martin Lowery gave Tullamore the not inconsiderable advantage of a fresh man for the second moiety.

HEAVY GOING

Rain was falling steadily making the underfoot conditions treacherous, as Mitchell kicked off for Rovers, but the opening pace was brisk with the visitors moving the ball about freely. Yet it was Tullamore who were first to threaten danger as John Lowery dropped the ball into the goalmouth from where Bradys head sent it skimming over the top. The first indications that the Rovers defence was suspect came in the 5th minute when Gregg, under pressure from Geraghty, sent a badly placed pass back to McConnell and the ball rolled behind for a corner which Whiteley sent ripping into the side net. Tullamore were shaping with great promise and after Norris had shot narrowly over from a free Mick Connolly beat Jackie Clarke cleverly but was too slow o follow up his advantage. The scoring spree got under way in the 19th minute after Brady had forced a corner on the right. Whiteley placed an inswinger perfectly and although it looked like a goalkeepers ball Eamonn Byrne went higher then friend and foe alike to rocket the ball into the roof of the net.

GIFT GOAL

It was from this opening goal that the rot set in for Rovers and just how panic stricken their defence would become was proved within a further four minutes when they presented Tullamore with what was virtually a gift goal. It stemmed from a long, speculative shot from Tom Whiteley, which right full Gregg attempted to turn back to McConnell, but again his timing was off and in attempting to retrieve the

situation the keeper only succeeded in knocking the ball over the goal line as referee Charlie O'Leary raced up to make sure before pointing to the centre. By now Rovers were beginning to realise that they had a real fight on their hands and they responded by surging to the attack and earned their first corner in the 25th minute. It very nearly proved a fruitful one, too, as Lougheds centre was sent flashing past the post by Noel Hayes. Rovers returned to the attack and a dipping centre from right winger Cuddy was brilliantly cut off by Fitzsimons before Tullamore took up the running again to stretch their lead to 3-0 in the 27th minute gain it was a well placed corner by Whiteley which did the trick after Geraghty had harried Gregg into kicking behind and as the ball came across the defence appeared rooted as Brady rose to nod past McConnell. For a spell it looked as though Rovers might capsize completely when Gregg conceded another corner. Whilst McConnell did well to smother the ball at Bradys feet after the centre forward had bored his way in along the end line. Tullamores complete ascendancy at this stage was almost as staggering to their own followers as it was bewildering to the opposition but a touch of reality was introduced to the proceedings when Rovers hit back to open their account in the 39th minute. Their goal was the result of an indirect free just outside the area, which Clarke sent to Keogh and the inside right did the rest as he raced through to hit the roof of the net with a rising shot. This was the break which Rovers had been hoping for and they very nearly pulled another one back two minutes later when Fitzsimons excelled

in deflecting a sizzling drive from Mitchell over with the interval near Rovers were now on top and they went within inches of scoring in the 44th minute when Loughed beat Tom Whiteley out on the wing and got across a stiff centre which Mitchell sent flashing past the post.

Half-time: Tullamore, 3; Shamrock Rovers, 1.

Tullamore resumed with Martin Lowery on the right wing in place of Connolly, but it was Rovers who looked the more dangerous side as Cuddy broke through to shoot wide from close range. Possibly lulled into a false sense of security the home defence showed an inclination to take chances and they would have paid the penalty in the 57th minute if left half Core had kept his final effort a bit lower following a beautifully contrived movement which embraced the entire attack. Tullamores fourth goal was a little against the run of the play when it came in the 59th minute. They had been on the defensive but suddenly swept upfield where they were awarded a free just short of the half way line. Norris placed his shot perfectly to find Geraghty and although the wingers shot was pushed against the crossbar by McConnell, Geraghty got in a second shot as the ball dropped and this time he found the target. With a 4-1 lead home supporters could afford to breathe more freely again. Tullamore were again in firm control of the situation and were out of luck in the 61st minute when a long solo run by Tom Whiteley ended with him being fouled outside the area and from the free

Norris placed Geraghty for a shot which McConnell did very well to save against the upright. Entering the last quarter Tullamore moved M. Lowery in to lead their attack, with Brady switching to the right wing, but they had to survive a few anxious moments before they sealed the issue. For instance Mitchell had the goal at his mercy in the 70th minute but shot straight at Fitzsimons whilst another couple of promising probes came to nothing against the home defence in which Norris, Lynch, Minnock and Whiteley were giving nothing away. The Rovers forwards could make no headway at all against the tight marking and quick tackling of this group it was left to centre half Frank Brady to put the Hoops back in the picture with a flashing header in the 73rd minute. This however, was a goal which brought a prompt reply and within a minute it had been nullified when Norris sent Martin Lowery clear and the latter laid on a perfect through pass for number 5. There was a period of free scoring and the third goal in as many minutes followed when a shot from Whiteley was safely gathered by McConnell. However the keeper attempted clearance was blocked down by Martin Lowery, who was quick to fasten on to the loose ball to drive it to the open net. That left the points nicely tied up for there was never much danger of Rovers making up the leeway in the fifteen minutes which remained. They tried hard to reduce it and Keogh in the 80th minute blazed over following a splendid movement between Hayes and Loughheed. Hayes was also to the fore in the next attack and he looked as though he might pull one back until he

was stopped by Lynch at the cost of a corner. That was Rovers last chance to make a dent in their arrears and it was left to Jim Brady to complete the rout in the 90th minute when he closed in to head a perfect centre from Geraghty out of McConnells reach. The rain was still falling at the final whistle, but Tullamore were walking on air and scarcely noticed it.

Result: Tullamore, 7; Shamrock Rovers, 2.

Tullamore: L. Fitzsimons, T. Whiteley, J. Lowery, N. Lynch, J. Norris, E. Byrne, M. Connolly, J. Minnock, J. Brady, E. Whiteley, T. Geraghty.
[Sub: M. Lowery for Connolly]

Shamrock Rovers: J. McConnell, M. Gregg, J. Clarke, C. Canavan, F. Brady, J. Core, B. Cuddy, J. Keogh, M. Mitchell, N. Hayes, C. Loughheed.

Referee: Mr. Charlie O'Leary [Dublin]

MERIT RATING

After such a splendid performance it is only natural that we are going to find it difficult to decide on the top three performances on the home team. Indeed we might do just as well by the use of a pin or by drawing names from a hat such was the uniformity of standard that prevailed. I am not going to use either of these two methods in naming John Norris, John Minnock and Tom Whiteley as the men most intimately concerned with what was undoubtedly Tullamores finest hour for a long time. And that leaves the overall position in

our merit rating feature now reading as follows:

Tommy Geraghty [11] John Minnock [10] John Norris [7] Eamonn Byrne [5] Teddy Whiteley [3] Noel Lynch [2] Tom Geoghegan [2] Martin Lowery [2] Jim Brady [2] Leslie Fitzsimons [2] John Lowery [1] Tom Whiteley [1]

BUSY WEEKEND

With a cup quarter final and a local derby on their plate Tullamore look like having an exceptionally hectic weekend. Tonight [Thursday] they travel to Dalymount Park to oppose St. Patricks Athletic first team in the Leinster Senior Cup. This will be the second time in nine months for Tullamore to throw down the gauntlet to a team from a higher grade. In February they cut little ice against Bohemians in the F.A.L. Senior Cup at the same venue and there is little reason to expect that they will meet with any greater success against St. Pats. Only recently St. Patricks "B" defeated Tullamore so that logically this cup tie should be a cake walk for the Inchicore side. Yet the very fact that the provincials will have everything to gain and nothing to lose must be a factor in their favour. A repeat of recent

form would put Tullamore in with a chance. To be sure it is a slender one, but the history of cup football is studded with shocks and Tullamore are in the right frame of mind just now to spring a major surprise against Irelands recent representatives in the Fairs Cup and so gain a place in the semi finals.

AND NOW FOR ATHLONE

On Sunday, Tullamore face a shorter journey when they visit St. Mels Park to oppose Athlone but victory here will be just as coveted as it is in Dalymount. Rivalry between these neighbouring sides has always been razor keen and the fact that Athlone are up near the top of the league table whilst Tullamore are three rungs from the bottom provide no real guide to the possible outcome of Sundays clash. Athlone were well represented amongst the attendance at Spollenstown last Sunday and they were clearly impressed by what they saw. Defeat at this stage could wreck Athlones cherished dreams of winning the Castrol Trophy for the first time and this incentive, coupled with the advantage of the home venue, will make Tullamores task all the more difficult.

October 28th 1967

Victory For St. Pats - Honours For Tullamore

St.Patricks Athletic, 2; Tullamore, 1.

"We wuz robbed", the immortal words first uttered by Yussel [The Muscle] Jacobs in Yankee Stadium away back in the summer of 1932 are usually associated with boxing, but I dare say that they passed through the minds of quite a few Tullamore supporters as they came away from Dalymount Park on Thursday night of last week after having seen their favourites eliminated from the Leinster Senior Cup by as controversial a goal as I have witnessed since starting this column twenty years ago. The goal that sealed Tullamores fate came just four minutes from the end of actual time a further two minutes injury time was added when the home centre forward, Johnny Campbell fired in a shot which struck the underside of the crossbar and dropped down before being booted clear by a defender. It looked like a narrow escape for the visitors, but in actual fact it was much worse. As the Tullamore players came rushing out of their goal mouth they were stunned to see referee Leo McConkey pointing to the centre spot. A goal was being awarded and by the looks on their faces the St. Patricks players were every bit as surprised as

their opponents and a full thirty seconds elapsed before the scorer was besieged by his delighted comrades. This then was the goal, which enabled St. Patricks to advance to the semi finals by a 2-1 margin. But in every respect last weeks game was a moral victory for Tullamore. They more than matched their higher division opponents in the skills of the game enjoyed a territorial advantage all through, played with greater dash and after fate had dealt them that cruel blow in the 86th minute they came within a hairsbreadth of forcing a replay when Teddy Whiteley missed a sitter and Jim Brady headed the ball out of goalkeeper Dinny Lowerys hands only to see it come back off the upright. And all this mind you was achieved by what virtually a ten-man team for Tommie Geraghty played with a heavily bandaged knee which impaired his efficiency by more than fifty per cent. A fully fit Geraghty would almost certainly have tipped the scales in favour of the visitors.

MAN OF THE MATCH

Tullamore had the outstanding player on the field in their inside right, John

Minnock, who played a storming game all through. Minnock was but one of many heroic figures on this gallant side. The defence was as solid as a rock with John Norris, Leslie Fitzsimons and Eamonn Byrne reaching new heights and Noel Lynch performing the duties of sweeping with great success. At full back Tom Whiteley and John Lowery faced the most arduous tasks for St. Patricks had their main strength on the wings where the speed of both Monaghan and Carroll posed gigantic problems. The visiting fulls however more than rose to the occasion and although they were fully extended all through they succeeded brilliantly in curbing the threat from the wings. The handicapped Tullamore front line lacked the necessary punch in front of goal. This undoubtedly was Tullamores finest ever display.

POINTS FROM PLAY

The Inchicore side launched the first dangerous offensive in the 8th minute when Whiteley was obliged to concede the first corner of the game to stop Carroll. Fitzsimons made the first of many great saves when he blocked a point blank shot from Noel Campbell and as St. Pats. went all out for an early lead Tullamore were pressed further and further back in defence. With Norris and Lynch outstanding the visitors succeeded in containing the Saints attack and the long range shooting of Noel Dunne and John Campbell posed no problems at all for an informed Fitzsimons. Fears that this would develop into a one sided struggle were quickly dispersed as Tullamore began to

come into their own and a glorious shot from Minnock passed right across the goal mouth and Geraghty was blocked by Boucher after he had left dawning trailing. The nearest approach to a goal came in the 11th minute when Geraghty cut in along the end line and succeeded in by passing Dinny Lowery, but left full O'Reilly managed to head off the line at the expense of a corner. A beautiful worked movement between Minnock and Byrne opened the way for Whiteley to get in a searing ground shot which Lowery had to go full length to hold on the line before the unhappy Brady switched places with Martin Lowery.

THE LEAD

This was full blooded cup football in all its glory, with each side in turn testing the mettle of the other and the first goal of the night came in the 16th minute. In a goal mouth melee Norris headed clear, but the ball went straight to Johnny Campbell who shot low and hard into the extreme corner of the net to give the homesters the tonic, of drawing first blood. It was an advantage which they failed to hold for long for after Tullamore had forced two quick corners and Minnock had scraped the bar with a tremendous drive the visitors equalised in the 20th minute when Geraghty lobbed across a free from the side of the penalty area and with the home defence slow to move out in a bid to exploit the offside trap Eamonn Byrne was left on his own as he brought the ball under control before blasting it past Lowery. St. Pats went all out and Hennessy who had moved up in a bid to find a way through received a back heeled pass

from Monaghan in the 33rd minute the wing half sent the ball screaming just wide of the post. At the other end Brady sent through by Minnock earned a corner with a scorching groundshot and Tullamore were dead out of luck just before the interval when Norris lobbed in a free from which Martin Lowery beat his namesake only to see O'Reilly head off the goal line again. This incident was matched at the other end Noel Lynch who got back to head off the line after Dunne had beaten Fitzsimons from very close range.

Half-time: St. Patricks Athletic, 1;
Tullamore, 1.

With the wind behind them Tullamore ripped into the second half brimful of confidence. Teddy Whiteley shot inches outside with Lowery helpless and then the keeper got one hand to a great shot from Brady in the 50th minute. Not to be outdone Fitzsimons earned a standing ovation by pulling down a dangerous shot from Carroll and the goalmouth thrills continued when Lowery did very well to turn a free from Norris out for a corner. In the 58th minute the gallant Geraghty was at last obliged to give up and his place on the wing was taken by Mick Connolly. This was the signal for an all out home attack, but in quick succession Hennessy and Dunne blazed over and it was left to Minnock, Norris Byrne and Lynch to dominate the midfield play. The favourites were taking a real roasting now as Tullamore swarmed around their goal area Norris, Whiteley and Brady in turn tested Dinny Lowery and even after Monaghan and Carroll

had switched positions the home attack was seen in action only spasmodically.

THAT GOAL

And so to the big talking point of the evening as Johnny Campbells shot struck the underside of the bar and came out. I am not going to argue that it was not a goal. The press box in Dalymount is too far removed from the school goal for anybody to be able to assert one way or the other. The upshot of it all was that Tullamore were left with just four minutes in which to pull the game out of the fire. They tore into their task and within a minute Whiteley raced clean through to graze the post after leaving Lowery standing. Brady broke through for a shot which Lowery smothered at the centre forwards feet. The final proof that it simply was not Tullamores lucky night came a minute from time when, following another of Norris perfectly placed frees, Byrne headed the ball out of Lowerys hands only to see the ball come back off the post. Although denied a place in the semi final or even the opportunity of a replay Tullamore left the pitch in the knowledge that their performance had been infinitely more impressive than that of the winners.

Result: St. Patricks Athletic, 2;
Tullamore, 1.

St. Patricks Athletic: Lowery, Dowling, O'Reilly, Roche, Boucher, Hennessy, Monaghan, Dunne, Campbell [J], Campbell [N], Carroll.

Tullamore: Fitzsimons, Whiteley

[Tom], Lowery [J], Lynch, Norris, Byrne, Lowery [M], Minnock, Brady, Whiteley [E], Geraghty, [Sub: Mick Connolly for Geraghty].

Referee: Mr. L. McConkey [Dublin]

Figures of the game

ST. PATRICKS ATHLETIC

	Gls	Crs	Wds	Frs
1 st Half	1	3	12	15
2 nd Half	1	2	8	14
Total	2	5	20	29

TULLAMORE

	Gls	Crs	Wds	Frs
1 st Half	1	5	3	10
2 nd Half	0	3	8	12
Total	1	8	11	22

MERIT RATING

Notwithstanding the all round brilliance of Tullamore on this occasion there is no real difficulty in nominating the top trio. John Minnock of course, must be first choice and for the minor berths I am taking John Norris and Leslie Fitzsimons. The up to date position will be found at the end of the column.