

Tim Lloyd Of Caherline

I MET an old Limerick hurler and athlete some time ago who said to me: "Why don't you write about Tim Lloyd of Caherline. He was, in my opinion, one of the best hurlers in Ireland—better even than Sean Kennedy of Wexford, a dual All-Ireland star in both hurling and football, and for whom I had a great regard in his day. Tim Lloyd, however, whipped them all and was a man of great resource capable of shining all over the field. A light, hardy fellow, strong as a lion, tenacious as a tiger, he could literally take the ball out of your eye. I never saw the equals of him in all my days watching the great hurling men."

That was high praise surely, especially coming from a man who in his own right won many of the laurels of the early Gaelic arena and was particularly prominent as an athlete in days when it took a really great man to shine amongst the galaxy of stars.

Tim Lloyd was a great hurler surely, but also a most unlucky one, for circumstances prevented him participating in the splendid Caherline County success of 1896, and more tragic still, of being one of the gallant Kilfinane band of 1897, that brought to Limerick its first All-Ireland crown.

Tim first hit the headlines as a hurler of real merit when he appeared in the Caherline colours in games against Boherard and Effin, in the spring of 1896 — both of which he assisted very materially in winning.

HIS TEAM MATES.

In these great matches he had as team mates many fine hurlers, notably Mick O'Neill, Caherline, Captain then, the Muldoon brothers—Paddy and Jim; Johnsie Fennell, a great forward; Dan Hourigan of Newtown; and the far famed Jim Flood, who brought the All-Ireland medal of 1897 to the parish. Other well known Caherline players of the period will be recalled—Mick Fitzgerald, Dan Reardon, Jack Leahy, Jamesy Ryan, Jimmy Collins, H. Brennan, F. Moran, P. Sweeney, M. Hefferman, M. Leahy and M. Jones.

As already stated, Tim missed the County Final of 1896, in which Caherline scored a great win over Ballingarry, 2-6 to 2-1, played at the Markets Field on November 22nd, 1896.

He was unlucky again when Caherline qualified for the County Final of 1898, in which Shamrocks provided the opposition.

Played at the Markets Field on April 16th, 1899, they produced one of the greatest hurling tussles ever witnessed at this historic venue. It was a thrill packed game with the verdict a right popular one, for it decreed that the teams should meet again: Shamrocks, 3-5; Caherline, 2-8.

THE PLAYERS.

The players that figured in that memorable game were:

Shamrocks — Patrick O'Reilly (captain), P. Moloney (goal), Patrick Dwyer, Thomas Reals, Jim Flanagan, Michael Hogan, Johnny Sweeney, M. Slattery, W. Brennan, J. Braddish, J. Howard, C. Kelly, Jack Murphy, Andy Kelly, J. Slattery, J. McMahan, J. O'Dea.

Caherline — Mick O'Neill (captain), Paddy Cremear, J. Mulcahy, Mickey Ryan ("Macanta"), Jim Muldoon, Paddy Muldoon, Jim Flood, W. Ryan, Tim Lloyd, Tim Wixted, Dan Reardon, Johnsie Fennell, M. Lawlor, P. Sweeney, Dan Hourigan, M. Leahy, M. Kiely.

The re-play took place the following Sunday and proved a real disappointment. Caherline left the field ten minutes from time as they maintained the overflow crowd were interfering with the play. Shamrock were leading at the time, 1-6 to 1-2, and were awarded the title by the County Board.

This was a big disappointment for Jim, who thus lost his second chance of a county medal.

He had some consolation, how-

ever, in that his great display on both occasions emphasised his claim to a place on the County team. Kilfinane, who had won the All-Ireland the previous November, and had some time earlier that year figured in a great drawn game and re-play, both at Mallow, with the famed Rockies of Cork in the Munster Final of the Croke Cup Competition, were now in the All-Ireland Final of that test, then second only to the championship.

Tim was brought on to the team to play Kilkenny, at Thurles, on July 9th, 1899, in a great game refereed by that well known figure, Pat McGrath, of Tipperary.

THE ATTENDANCE INCLUDED DR. CROKE.

The attendance at the match included Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel, and great patron of the G.A.A., and to whom the players were presented before the contest, which Limerick won, 3-8 to 1-4, after a terrific struggle — a rousing Shannonside finish bringing the decisive scores.

The winning players were: Denis Grimes (captain), James "Sean Og" Hanley, Maurice Flynn, Patrick Flynn, M. Finn, M. Casey, P. O'Brien, Jim Flood, Tim Lloyd, Dan Riordan, John Hayes, Patrick Mulcahy, John Condon, Patrick Butler, Patrick Buskin, T. Brazill, M. Downes.

Four years later, Tim was captain of the Limerick team beaten by Cork, 4-11 to 3-1, in the Munster Final, played at Tralee, and which was refereed by Tom O'Sullivan, who later wrote the "Story of the G.A.A." The other members of that County team were: W. Ryan (Caherline), T. O'Brien, J. O'Connell, P. O'Dea (Young Ireland); J. Cothrell (Kilfinny), S. Carroll, J. Mackey, M. McCarthy (Castleconnell); P. Gore (Bruree), M. Feely (Croom), P. Flaherty (Rathkeale), P. Butler (Cappamore), T. Flynn, T. Brazill (Kilfinane); M. Quillinan, W. Gammell, M. Whelan (Bruff), M. Clifford (Ballyagran).

A few months later Tim also captained the Caherline side that won the Bruff Senior Hurling Tournament Final, defeating Effin, 6-11 to 0-3. His team mates that day were: Jim Flood, Paddy Cremear, D. Ryan, M. Kiely, J. Muldoon, M. Sarsfield, Jim Bourke, P. Muldoon, C. Hanley, W. Keogh, T. Ward, W. Riordan, Mickey Ryan, J. Neligan, D. Cremear, Matty Bourke (goal).

LIMERICK BEAT LONDON-IRISH.

Tim Lloyd also captained the Limerick teams that had two stirring games with the London-Irish lads when the exiles were All-Ireland senior hurling champions.

On Whit Monday, May 23rd, 1904, the pair met at Elm Park Grounds, Lea Bridge, London, where Limerick won, 3-4 to 0-3. The Shannonside players that day were: Tim Lloyd (captain), W. Ryan, P. Cremear (Caherline); J. Herbert, M. McCarthy (Castleconnell); M. Danaher (Murroe), M. Quinlan (Bruff), Bill Sheehan (Rathkeale); P. J. Kelly, D. Coll (Bruree); M. Clifford, M. Barry, E. Gibbons (Ballyagran), Paddy Leahy, Larry Roche (Cregane); T. Flynn, goal; J. W. O'Brien (Kilfinane).

Limerick won again at the Markets Field, this time, 4-11 to 2-6. The winning players that day were: T. Lloyd, captain; W. Ryan, P. Cremear (Caherline); M. Flynn, goal (Kilfinane); M. Feely, M. Whelan (Bruff), J. Mackey, M. McCarthy (Castleconnell); M. Shinnors (Kilteely), T. O'Brien, J. Flanagan (Young Ireland), M. Danaher, M. Horan (Murroe), Bill Sheehan, Paddy Flaherty (Rathkeale); J. Butler (Cappamore), T. Sheehan (Monegay).

Tim Lloyd realised a cherished ambition when he captained the Caherline team to a pair of County Senior Hurling Championship successes—1905 and 1907. He was again unlucky, however, for it should have been three-in-a-row but for the fact that the County

Board abandoned the 1906 championships, in an effort to get the competitions up to date.

The 1905 final was not played until September 22nd, 1907, when Caherline beat Rathkeale, 3-5 to 2-2, to take the title. The 1907 final was played on February 16th, 1908, again at the Markets Field, and resulted: Caherline, 3-8; Ballyagran, 0-1.

CAHERLINE TEAM OF 1908.

The Caherline team that day was: Tim Lloyd (captain), J. Heelan, Mickey Ryan, Bill Ryan, Jim Flood, Jim Bourke, M. Kiely, T. Kiely, J. Neligan, J. Keogh, Leonard, P. Cremear, D. Riordan, M. O'Neill, J. Clifford, T. Ward, M. Bourke.

James D. O'Neill was the Caherline Club Secretary during this great period.

Shortly afterwards Tim Lloyd left for Dublin where he was soon to establish himself as one of the leading members of the licensed trade, his premises in Earl Street, known as "A.1 at Lloyds" gaining a world wide reputation.

A great horseman in his day, it was his custom to ride a horse from his residence to Kilfinane, a distance of thirty miles, the night before a match, and make the return journey on his mount at the conclusion of the game.