

Dublin team should do well

By TOM CRYAN

A DUBLIN team bristling with national champions of the grade or another from recent seasons, could enhance Ireland's boxing prestige when tonight they meet London at York Hall, North Green, an East End shrine to the fight game.

Ireland's reputation suffered little in the 7-5 defeat by England at Bletchley on Wednesday. Tonight's organisers expect a spin-off in the shape of a good crowd in an area of London where both amateur and professional boxing is strongly supported.

Three reigning Irish junior champions, Antonio Flood, Sylvie Furlong and Paddy Keogh are in the Dublin squad.

The potentially brilliant Floody from Drogheda and Furlong, who won for Ireland against Wales on his international debut before home town supporters in Wexford last month, are guesting for the Dubs.

ABA STAR

Furlong will face one of the London stars, Pat Stephens, a former featherweight area ABA champion. That will be in one of possibly three lightweight fights. The top attraction here should have been a 1987 Irish senior champion and multiple international Paul Larkin against the highly rated coloured fighter Bobby Gunnan.

When the Irish team arrived in London yesterday



they learned that Gunnan had suffered a cut eye during the week. Officials hope to find an alternative opponent.

Larkin, a squat two fisted puncher, has been out of the ring for over two years and will be bitterly disappointed if he does not get a fight.

OVER THE LIMIT

Floody was to have boxed at featherweight but he was over the limit and will compete at lightweight against

Billy Cousins, who is reported to be quite useful.

Mick O'Brien will be the Dublin featherweight representative and he, like Larkin, has not been particularly active lately. The hard-hitting Glasnevin member was an Irish junior champion in 1984 but of late has been relatively inactive. He meets Neel Dickenson.

An interesting Irishman in the Dublin team is Noel Reid. A national junior welter winner when with Donore a couple of seasons ago, Reid, now attached to Drimnagh, has been out of the ring largely because of his duties with the Army, notably in the Lebanon. Tonight he meets Peter Mulcahy, listed as the wild man of the London team. If Reid has remained as determined

and fit as he was when he won an Irish junior title in 1983, this fight tonight could be explosive.

Elsewhere on the Dublin selection flyweight Derek Zambrá and heavy weight Dan Curran are ex-Irish junior champions. Zambrá won in 1983, Curran a year later. Curran was runner-up to Joe Egan for the senior title last season.

PAIRINGS

Fly — D. Zambrá (Donore) v P. Annan (Leather) — M. O'Brien (Glasnevin) v N. Dickenson (Light) — P. Larkin (Transport) v J. O'Neil (St. Michael's Ennisceorthy) — P. Stephens, A. Floody (Holy Family Drogheda) v W. Cousins, Weller — P. Keogh (Sealock) — D. Marshall, N. Reid (Drimnagh and Army) v P. Mulcahy (Light Middle) — G. Creighton (Phoenix) v T. Taylor (Middle) — C. Thornton (Avon) v K. Nevers, Heavy — D. Curran (CIE) v T. Dixon.



PAUL LARKIN (lightweight) may get alternative opponent.

Rugby Sean Diffley's scene

Leinster have the flair to overcome Munster forwards

THE 100th match between Munster and Leinster at Thomond Park this afternoon is the crucial one in this season's competition. It will point the way clearly to the destination of the Heineken Bowl. If Leinster, impressive against Llanelli on Saturday, win in Limerick, they will be set fair to dethrone champions Ulster in the final match at Lansdowne Road on November 28.

In Galway, Ulster will confront Connacht not in the slightest but compact. Connacht, the perennial triers, have been more successful against Ulster than against any of the other provinces.

Since the Interprovincial Championship became a regular annual competition after World War II, Connacht have beaten Munster four times in 41 matches, have beaten Leinster three times in 41, and have beaten Ulster in seven of their 41 encounters.

Munster were disastrous last season but, following a deplorable trial, got their act together in Ravenhill to draw with champions Ulster. They did so through the good set-scrumming of their pack, which caused a fair degree of trouble for Ulster, who have held the title over the past three seasons.

So, clearly, Pat Whelan, the Munster coach (who watched very intently) at Donnybrook last week when Leinster took on Llanelli, will be hoping that his forwards will turn on the act again. The front five was very solid in Belfast. Indeed, they are probably the strongest pack of the four.

But Leinster's array of weapons is much more extensive. They have the notable ball-winning capabilities of Mike Gibson at the end of th line-outs, the skillful all-round back division and the specialist place-kicking of Tony Ward.

Since the annual matches began in 1947, in the Championship, Leinster have won 23 times to Munster's 15, with three draws. I have a hunch that Leinster will make it 24 today.

The irony is that Munster, with Ralph Keyes, Michael Bradley, Moss and Michael Kiernan, have as talented a backline as Leinster. But will they use them? My guess is that they will try to attempt to resolve the issue through the forwards.

The Donal Lenihan-Finbar Kearney Munster second row is the strongest in the country. Kearney could yet become Lenihan's partner in the green jersey.

— Because of the concern about the interprovincial between Connacht and Ulster will be played at Corinshk Park.

MUNSTER — P. Danaher (Lansdowne), K. Murphy (Constinution), M. Finn (Constinution), Capt. M. Keane (Constinution), B. Bray (Constinution), J. Fitzgerald (Young Munster), T. Kingston (Dolphin), M. O'Connell (Constinution), D. Lenihan (Constinution), P. Keane (Constinution), M. O'Donovan (Shannon), W. Sexton (Garryowen), R. Kearney (Wentwood).

LEINSTER — H. MacNeill (London Irish), J. Sexton (Dublin University), B. Mullis (Oxford University), A. Ward (Greystones), P. Haycock (Terenure College), P. Dwyer (Murry's College), A. Rolland (Blackrock College), N. Poppell (Greystones), N. Kearney (Old Wesley), D. Fitzgerald (St. Mary's College), R. Healy (Constinution), M. O'Connell (Dublin University), D. Fanning (Mary's College), M. Gibson (London Irish), R. Kearney (Wentwood).

CONNACHT — F. O'Beirne (UCG), B. Moran (Waterpark), M. Cosgrave (Wanderers), R. Heran (St. Mary's College), L. Mulcahy (Terenure College), C. Dunne (Bray), C. McCarthy (Wanderers), T. Clancy (Lansdowne), C. Fitzgerald (St. Mary's College), D. Hennessy (Constinution), M. O'Connell (Dublin University), J. O'Driscoll (London Irish), M. Fitzgibbon (Dublin University).

ULSTER — P. Raftery (Ballymena), T. Ringland (Ballymena), D. Lavin (Anstonians), B. Harbinson (London Irish), K. Crossan (Anstonians), P. Russell (Anstonians), J. McDonald (Malone), B. McKibben (Anstonians), J. McDonnell (Malone), J. McCoy (Bangor), J. Rodgers (Bangor), W. Anderson (Dungannon), M. Morrow (Bangor), D. McBride (Malone).

THE WOLFHOUSES are to take part in this year's Hong Kong Sevens after giving up the event a miss last year because of the services of Jonathan Davies in the sevens two years ago but went out to the Australians.

The Hong Kong Sevens, sponsored by the airline, Cathay Pacific, will take place on March 26 and 27. Australia, New Zealand, the British Penguins, Argentina, the French Barbarians, the American Eagles, Spain, Holland and the usual array of the more 'contagious' — as Percy French would put it — Asian countries will participate.

ENGLAND'S rugby season is to have a definite competitive structure, now that the English Rugby Union have decided on a rigid plan for the four domestic competitions.

The Courage Leagues, introduced this set Saturday in the Autumn, with the season, will form next year focus on seven remaining four matches after Christmas — one in January, one in March and the last two in April.

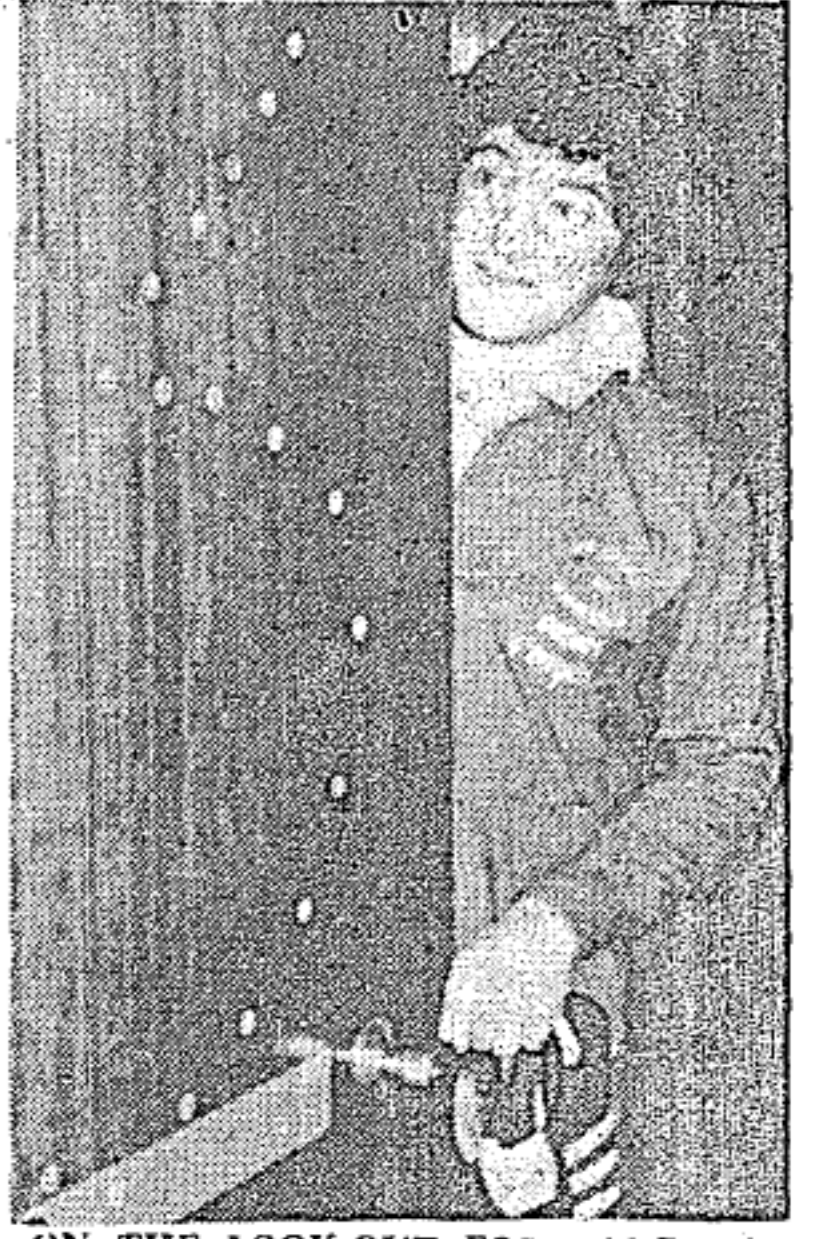
The Toshiba County Championship group games avoid clashes with the League. The John Player Cup and the Toshiba Divisional Championship retain their normal patterns, with the preliminary cup rounds being completed in the first half of the season, and the divisional contests based in the three weeks before Christmas.

Thus the game in England distains, in the main, friendlies. It's not tough competition almost every Saturday.

STARS

GORDON WILSON, the man who, as Archbishop Dr. Donald Caird said: 'left hardly a dry eye in the country' when he spoke following the death of his 20-year-old daughter Marie in the Enniskillen bombing, was a member of the Old Wesley rugby club.

Gordon was born in Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim, and was at school in Dublin at Wesley College. He was a pavilion



ON THE LOOK-OUT FOR LADDERS — Rodney O'Donnell checks that the path is clear before emerging from his room.

Early baby saves Rodney from Friday the 13th

RODNEY O'DONNELL, the Irish and Lions full-back who made rather a name for himself on the 1980 tour of South Africa with his preoccupation for avoiding walking under ladders, has become a father of a baby girl Philippa.

Original gynaecological forecasts were that the baby would be born on Friday November 13. But Rodney's wife Gillian managed to take evasive action and the baby was born a week ago.

In South Africa, his fellow Lions barred Rodney's hotel room door with a ladder on Friday June 13, 1980, plastered the floor of the corridor with tape making dozens of straight lines which Rodney would go to any length to avoid.

Not funny at all was Rodney's injury in a match in Johannesburg when he dislocated his neck following a tackle on Danie Gebber. An operation involved wiring the sixth and seventh vertebrae.

In that case, Rodney was hugely lucky. Another fraction of an inch and he would have been paralysed. But now, in November 1987, he is hugely lucky again.

STARS

THE IRFU are hoping to stage some event next year to coincide with Dublin's Millennium.

What they should do is to erect some sort of memorial to a priceless bit of sporting history which has nothing to do with rugby football.

When we watch the glamorous track and field events, nowadays, the World Championships, the Europeans, the Olympics, we should know that the very first international match in World athletics took place in Dublin — at Lansdowne Road.

That World's first international match was between Ireland and England and it was staged at Lansdowne Road in the Summer of 1876.

The first rugby international was not staged at Lansdowne until 1878.

In that first track and field international, the English team won by nine events to four. Maurice Davin, one of the prime movers in the foundation of the GAA, won the hammer on that historic day.

Surely a small plaque, at least, should mark the occasion in Lansdowne Road.

STARS

Tomorrow's Games: Buffalo at Cleveland; Cincinnati at Atlanta; Dallas at New England; Detroit at Washington; Green Bay at Seattle; Houston at Pittsburgh; Indianapolis at Miami; LA Jets at St. Louis; Minnesota at Tampa Bay; New Orleans at San Francisco; NY Giants at Philadelphia; NY Jets at Kansas City; LA Raiders at San Diego.

Monday's Game — Chicago at Denver.

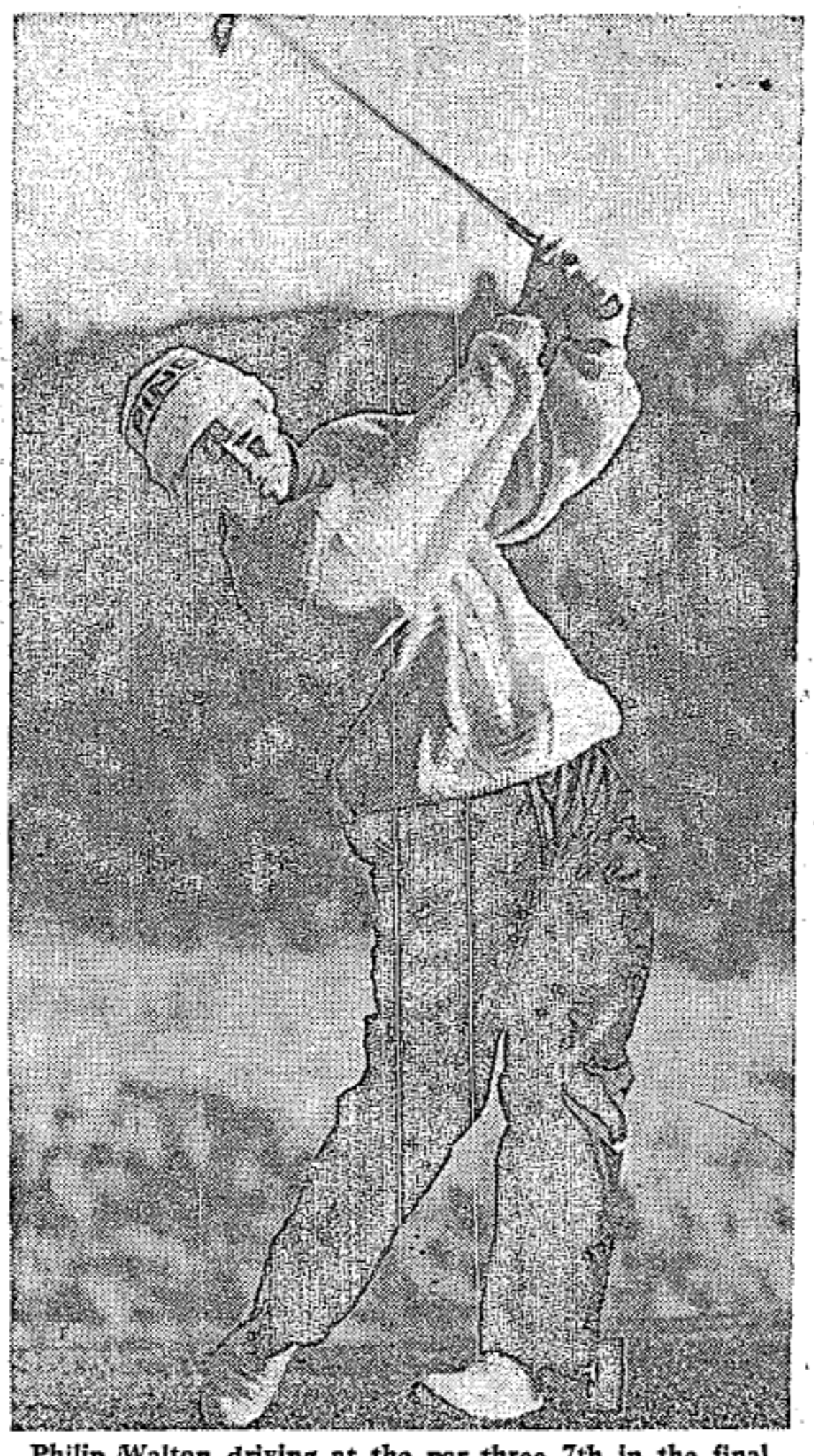
Golf Colm Smith on the PGA championship

Walton is champ in play-off

PHILIP WALTON holed the most satisfying putt of his career at Balrath yesterday. It was a 25 footer for an eagle on the second extra hole to crown himself Irish Professional Champion.

THE FORMER Walker Cup amateur and 2 professional of four years standing, beat the defending champion Des Smyth on the second extra hole of sudden death in a troubled championship. The original 54 hole tourney had to be reduced to 36 because of bad weather but Walton's need yesterday was to establish himself as one of the top tournament professionals in the country.

Smyth, holder for the past two years and three times a champion, was favourite to cover a course he knows better than most. Walton entered the day two shots behind Smyth and three



Philip Walton driving at the par three 7th in the final round of the P.G.A. championship at Balrath yesterday. Walton beat Des Smyth in a play-off.

Rafferty is three behind

AUSTRALIAN PGA champion, Roger MacKay took a one-stroke lead in the third round of the South Australian Open Golf Championship yesterday after shooting a two under par 70.

MacKay, the joint overnight leader with fellow Australian Bob Shearer maintained his steady tournament plan to finish the day at eight under 208 on the par 72 6,747 yard Grange course.

Sydney golfer, Peter Fowler, shot a four under 68 to move into outright third on six under par 210 for the tournament, one ahead of Ireland's Ronan Rafferty who carded a 71.

Shearer dropped four shots in yesterday's round of 76 to lie equal eighth, alongside defending champion Gre Norman and former U.S. Open winner, David Graham on two under 216.

- DETAILS**
- 208—R. MacKay 71, 67, 70.
 - 209—W. Keady 71, 72, 66.
 - 210—P. Fowler 71, 71, 68.
 - 211—Ronan Rafferty (Ireland) 72, 68, 71.
 - 212—B. Ogle 7 2, 7 2, 68: M. Harwood 70, 71, 71.
 - 213—J. Roberts 73, 66, 74.
 - 214—B. Shearer 68, 70, 76: D. Graham 72, 69, 72: G. Norman 72, 69, 73: A. Sorensen 71, 68, 76: 65: J. Ericsson 74, 74, 68: 69: O. Moore 74, 73, 68.

St. Kieran's go marching on!

ST. KIERANS 2-12

ST. PETERS 0-3

ST. KIERAN'S COLLEGE, Skilkeny, chalked up their second win in the Leinster Colleges' Junior Hurling Championship at New Ross yesterday when they beat St. Peter's College, Wexford, in a poor game.

St. Kieran's had 15 points to spare at the finish but they struggled for a long time to translate their territorial advantage into scores. They led by 0-5 to 0-3 at half-time and Cianca Brennan scored the goals which clinched the issue in the last quarter.

SCORERS — St. Kieran's — C. Brennan (2-1), C. Phelan (0-4), N. Martin (0-3), J. Dooley (0-2), C. O'Connell (0-1), P. Carroll (0-1), S. O'Sullivan, J. Casey (0-1) each.

REFeree — A. Murray, New Ross.



DRIMNAGH CASTLE 0-4

ARD SCOLL 0-2

DRIMNAGH CASTLE's backs weathered an Ard Scoll riot storm in the third quarter of this Leinster College (Ard Scoll) Senior Football Championship clash at Griffith Avenue yesterday before setting the vital points.

Declan Byrne and Edward McKean backed the Drimnagh defence with their accurate passes and the points eventually began to flow at the other end. Ard Scoll's poor attacking performance could only manage a point in each half.

SCORERS — Drimnagh Castle — P. Ryan (0-3), S. Kearney, D. Shanley, E. McKean, A. O'Grady (0-1) each. D. Lennon (0-1) each. Ard Scoll — M. Green R. O'Dwyer (0-1) each.

COLAISTE MHIRRE 3-9

BENILDS COLLEGE 3-3

FERGAL O'CONNOR, the 20-year-old Colaiste Mhuire midfielder inspired a five star display to inspire his team to win over Benilds College at Longmeadows yesterday. Colaiste Mhuire led by 1-7 to 0-3 at the interval.

SCORERS — Colaiste Mhuire — M. O'Neill (1-3), D. O'Connell (1-2), G. O'Lithain (1-2).

Mackay goal gives Irish soccer new 'heart'

FORM THE HEART of Midlothian club in Edinburgh came young man Gary Mackay whose goal in Sofia on Wednesday will go down in Irish soccer history. Brought on as a substitute for the vastly experienced Paul McStay of Celtic, who was injured, Mackay scored a dramatic goal which broke a deadlock in Scotland's match with Bulgaria and which had first written all over it.

It was Mackay's first international; it was the first and only goal of the match; it brought the first defeat of Bulgaria in Sofia for four years and 11 months; it gave Scotland their first win in eleven successive matches; and most important of all it gave the Republic of Ireland team its first qualification for a major international competition, the European championship finals in West Germany next June.

And it came with dramatic suddenness after 87 minutes of pure boredom with both teams apparently satisfied with their scoreless draw. The point from a draw was all Bulgaria needed to draw level with Ireland and so through on goal difference, the points made no difference to the Scots but an away draw with the top team would salvage pride.

The result was lethargic possession football with both teams pulling all their players back in a seemingly impenetrable screen of defence.

Nothing seemed more unlikely than a goal but it came dramatically. The Bulgarian left back illevarantly fouled another Scottish sub Durie out on the right and the whole Bulgarian defence stood waiting for the whistle but the Irish substitute played the advantage with the Scots in possession and well placed, and the ball came to Mackay, who stroked it firmly to the net.

For the first time the Bulgarians were strong to action. They stormed the Scots goal and Leighton brought off some fine saves and was beaten once but Malpas cleared off the line and tension grew as the referee played one, two three minutes extra-time before he finally relieved the tension with the final whistle.

Like Miami, New England faces a team with a few internal conflicts.

After Dallas' 27-17 loss to Detroit, Coach Tom Landry was criticised by president and general manager Tex Schramm. Schramm thinks quarterback Danny White should be

Styles clash as Dickerson and Marino meet in Miami

By ALAN LEES

TYPICAL of this strike-affected season is the fact that the game will have fallen from first to last in the AFC East.

Or, looked at another way, one team will improve from last to first.

For one reason and another, the last nine weeks and eight games of football have left all five clubs in that division tied up on 4-4.

What's left, they are calling the Seven Game Season.

It starts tomorrow with the Indianapolis Colts travelling to Miami to put running star Eric Dickerson up against passing ace Dan

Marino, Nmew England hosts Dallas, the Jets go to 1-7 Kansas City and Buffalo plays at Cleveland.

If the Colts are going to beat the Dolphins, Dickerson must repeat one feat from last weekend's loss to San Diego — rushing 138 yards on 35 carries.

FUMBLER BALL

The other notable feat by the 1.4 million dollar a year running back must not happen again. He fumbled the ball away on the San Diego one-yard line and lost the Colts the game.

Colts fans didn't like that one, and began voicing the wisdom of paying the

rifle arm of Marino, who leads the NFL in passing. Miami's other offensive threat is rookie Troy Stratford, drafted as a kick returner out of Boston College (who play Army in Dublin next year). Stratford surprised everyone, including the Miami coaches, by racking up 100 rushing yards against Pittsburgh two weeks ago.

Like Miami, New England faces a team with a few internal conflicts.

After Dallas' 27-17 loss to Detroit, Coach Tom Landry was criticised by president and general manager Tex Schramm. Schramm thinks quarterback Danny White should be



demoted and Herschel Walker should be used as the top back in place of Tony Dorsett.

Walker said he might ask for a trade or retire after the season. He has 236 rushing yards on 64 carries compared to Dorsett's 95 rushes for 307 yards.

"I'm the USFL I ran the ball. Here in the NFL, it doesn't seem they want me to ruin the ball," said Walker. I must not be the type of runner the Cowboys are looking for. If that's

true, I'd rather for them to let me play somewhere else where I am that type of runner — where someone wants me to play."

The Patriots lost 17-10 to the New York Giants last week as Steve Grogan threw three interceptions, including one to Lawrence Taylor at the New York 15 with 1:09 left.

TIGHT RACE

The Patriots were the pre-season favourites in the AFC East, but Coach Ray Berry said he isn't surprised by the tight race.

"Buffalo and Indianapolis have been finishing low and drafting high for a few years," Berry said. "That means they have been im-

proving. It's hard to know what kind of record it will take to make the playoffs."

At Kansas City, the Jets are coming off an impressive 30-16 Monday night victory over Seattle.

But like the rest of the division, New York's Jets have been inconsistent and Chiefs would like to settle a score for last season's AFC wild card player game won by the Jets.

Again typical of this unique NFL campaign, the Chiefs lost in their division, are favourite by the oddsmakers.

At Cleveland, the Bills are riling high after a 21-14 upset of Denver, but the Browns have won their two home games since the strike,

and are fighting for the AFC Control lead.

Cleveland, Houston and Pittsburgh are tied at 5-3 in the AFC Central. The Oilers play at Pittsburgh on Sunday in a battle between two of the league's most improved teams.

Possibly the best game of the week is on Monday night, when Denver host the Chicago Bears. Both teams have been to Super Bowl in the past two seasons, and while Chicago, 7-1, looks like going to the playoffs, the Broncos need a win to improve their 4-3-1 mark, well behind AFC West leading San Diego.

Closer to home, Irish champions Dublin take

on the Charlestown Townies from America's Eastern Football League at De La Salle Football Ground in Palmerston, tomorrow in their last game before travelling to Vienna next weekend for the Rucbowi qualifier against Austrian champs Grazer Giants. The winner will go on to meet Berlin Eagles in the first round of the July 1988 tournament being held in Britain.

Tomorrow's Games: Buffalo at Cleveland; Cincinnati at Atlanta; Dallas at New England; Detroit at Washington; Green Bay at Seattle; Houston at Pittsburgh; Indianapolis at Miami; LA Jets at St. Louis; Minnesota at Tampa Bay; New Orleans at San Francisco; NY Giants at Philadelphia; NY Jets at Kansas City; LA Raiders at San Diego.

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