

The Echo

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The Echo: Nonsense! What nonsense?

Sporting thought for the week:

“A good coach will make his players see what they can be rather than what they are.” Ara Parseghian

Mother of God!

Claretian Conor Martin has revealed how he has been selected to play the role of the Virgin Mary in the Procession of the Way of the Cross in Jerusalem on Good Friday.



Martin: Ready for Easter

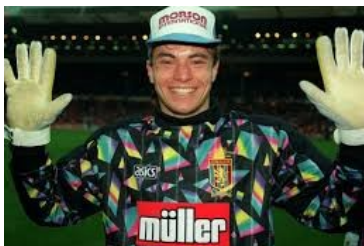
The decision to choose a man for the role has raised anger among many traditionalists. Meanwhile several Claretians have commented that the role of Mary Magdalene would have been more appropriate for a lad of Conor's dubious moral code!

Healy's "My Little Goalie" Keeper Range Launched

Claretian custodian Liam Healy was this week delighted to launch his new range of goalkeeping apparel under the commercial brand *My Little Goalie*.

The range, inspired by disgraced former Australian and Aston Villa shot-stopper Mark Bosnich, is the result of over six months' worth of detailed research by the Hayes man, involving countless trips to Western International Market on Sunday mornings as well as several local charity shops.

The effort though seems to be



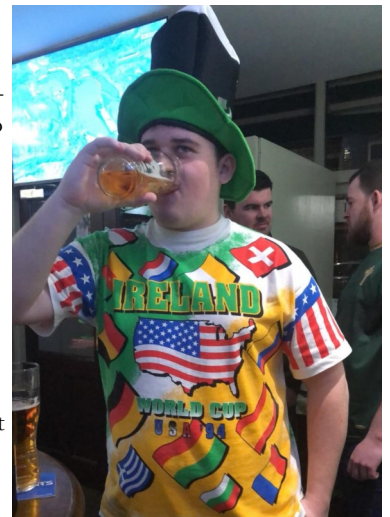
Healy's hero: Mark Bosnich

worth it, and Liam is said to be ecstatic with the end product, claiming its psychedelic styling offers young goalkeepers the chance to "enhance their physical presence in an around the goal area, while also providing a visual distraction for the forward in one-on-one situations".

Speaking to *The Echo*, Healy said: "The *My Little Goalie* range is something I am very proud of. I'd like to thank Mark Bosnich for his collaborative work on this project. He is someone I am trying very much to model my look, my game and my lifestyle on. He is a man I admire greatly."

Healy's comments have raised a few eyebrows on Kingshill Ave, given that Bosnich was once caught up in a sex-tape scandal along with former Villa team mate Dwight Yorke, as well as being banned from the game for taking cocaine.

Officials from St Clarets have decided to distance themselves from the *My Little Goalie* project, insisting that while they support Healy's entrepreneurial endeavours, they will nevertheless be ensuring that he will be wearing the regulation club strip during the season.



Model keeper: Liam Healy

A Right Nerniac

Senior team manager Pat McLoughlin's plans for this week's fixture against Tara have been thrown into disarray by veteran Claretian Keith O'Neill's decision to attend a Declan Nerney concert instead of playing the game.

O'Neill, a well-known "Nerniac", informed the manager of his unavailability via Whatsapp, just week's after McLoughlin had praised O'Neill for his effort at training, even going so far as to offer to make him team captain.

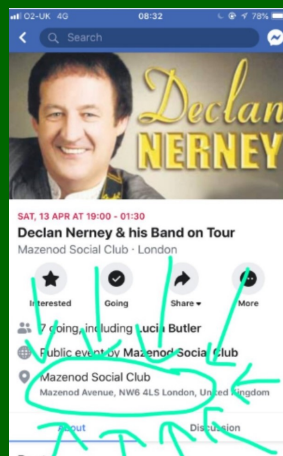
However, all of McLoughlin's persuasive charms were not enough to convince O'Neill to forego a night of jiving and swinging to his favourite dance hall hero.

A clearly disappointed McLoughlin told *The Echo* during his weekly press briefing that he had never before encountered a situation like this.

"In my early days coaching at youth level, I had the odd 12-year old head off on holidays the day before a big game, but that

wasn't their fault, that was the parents.

"And when I was coaching women's football, I had a woman drop out



O'Neill's message to Pat

because she was going to have a baby, I was furious but what could I do? But in fairness to her, she hung in there, and played away until a week before she gave birth and was back out training three days later.

"That's why I find this whole Declan Nerney thing so frustrating. Look it, no one likes a bit of Declan more than I do, but at the same time, to let the team and the club down in the way that Keith has is kinda unforgivable in my book."

McLoughlin continued: "But to be honest, I

should have seen it coming. Keith missed last week's game against Parnells because he had to go and buy a new shirt for the gig this week. I guess it was inevitable that he'd be bailing this week too. The guy has it bad for Declan."

When approached by our reporter, O'Neill defended his decision and lashed out at McLoughlin saying: "In my world, there are only three things; there's God, there's Westmeath and there's Declan Nerney, but I'm not telling you in what order they are. And in case he didn't notice, Pat McLoughlin's name is not on that list."