

Intermediate Football Championship

Clarets fail to impress

**St Clarets 2-9
Harlesden Harps
0-10**

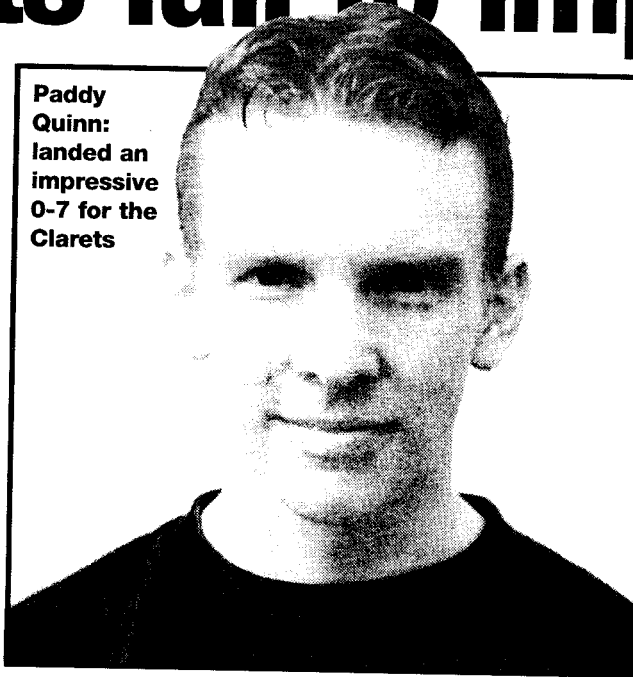
ANY PRE- CHAMPIONSHIP notions that St Clarets had that they would be having an easy ride in the Intermediate grade, were quickly put to bed on Saturday last, when Harlesden Harps made them fight all the way for the points.

Harlesden, last year's beaten Intermediate finalists, obviously are looking to go one step further in what promises to be an excellent Intermediate Championship campaign. Certainly they started like a team that meant business and by the quarter hour mark they were still holding the Hayes side scoreless and had a couple of points on the board themselves.

Their midfield pairing of Bobby and Paul Brennan were totally dominating all the aerial battles and were leaving London midfielder Paddy Quinn with only scraps to work with.

However, despite being almost exclusively camped in the Clarets half of the field, the return of two points was probably always going to haunt them as the game progressed and John Kelly's team began to find their

**Paddy
Quinn:
landed an
impressive
0-7 for the
Clarets**



Championship feet.

Those early Harps points from Mark Charles and Rory O'Gorman were eventually cancelled out by a point for newcomer Derek McMahon on sixteen minute and a minute later when Mark Burgess scored a spectacular solo effort for the Hayes team to push them into a lead they would not lose.

Paddy Quinn landed the first of six frees for the day two minutes after that goal before Bobby Brennan, O'Gorman again and a fisted point for John Devine

brought the Harlesden boys back into contention.

With half time looming Paddy Quinn managed his only point from play and then Harps' keeper Aidan McGrory pulled off a great double save to deny John McDermott just on the half time whistle.

Two minutes after the restart, McDermott managed to get the better of his first half victor, when he fisted the ball into the net after Patrick Lynott had done well to keep a high ball from McMahon in play.

The four point advantage gained from that goal was to give the Clarets the cushion they needed to push on and win the game.

Too often the Harps defence was guilty of committing silly fouls close in on goal and Quinn had little problem lifting a further five frees over the bar.

Harlesden did have their moments and hit the Clarets post twice in the game, with Paul Myers well beaten on both occasions, but in general they were too wayward in front of goal to punish a Clarets team that were playing well below the standard that most would expect of them at this level.

Certainly most of the other Intermediate teams will have taken great heart from this Harlesden performance and maybe, just maybe, the Intermediate Championship won't be as predictable as many would like to believe it to be.

Scorers:

HARLESDEN HARPS: R O'Gorman 0-4, B Brennan 0-2, J Devine 0-2, M Charles 0-1, J McGinley 0-1.

ST CLARETS: P Quinn 0-7, M Burgess 1-0, J McDermott 1-0, D Sheehan 0-1, D McMahon 0-1.