

The Claretian Echo

The paper with its finger on the pulse of the Joseph McDermott controversy

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St Clarets GFC: For when you fancy an omelette, but you just can't get an oeuf

Mac Junior in rugby storm

Public opinion

Mike Shea (ex-nanny to the McDermotts).

"I knew this would happen as soon as I left their service. I was the glue that held the home together. I was the yin to their yang. It upsets me."



Gary Wynne (has a huge man-crush on John McDermott).

"Well I think that John looks fabulous in the St Clarets jersey. It accentuates his physique."



Stephen Finnegan (former St Clarets heart throb)

"What can I say. I'm still the best looking and most talented player ever to play for the club."



A bitter row has erupted between the Irish Rugby Union and the suits at Twickenham concerning the playing allegiance of prodigious young talent Joseph McDermott.

The six-month old scrummaging sensation, has caused a stir across the rugby world by appearing in both Irish and English international jerseys in the space of the same week.

Officials at Twickenham were convinced that they had first dibs on the player whose rugby talents have been described as: "How the love child of Graham Rowntree and Jason Leonard would turn out", when pictures



Joseph : happy at the Red Rose cafe



Reluctant leprechaun: Joseph being forced into the Irish strip.

of the young Claretian appeared on Twitter earlier this week wearing an England top.

However, rugby chiefs in Dublin were quick to respond by posting their own pictures of Joseph sporting an Ireland jersey.

The International Rugby Board have been forced into an emergency session to try to establish the authenticity of the pictures, and ascertain just how much force was being used to make young Joseph wear the shirts.

Independent adjudicators contacted by *The Echo* feel that Joseph is dis-

playing a greater resistance to the Irish jersey, a fact that will no doubt upset his patriotic father, John.

Deliberations on this matter are expected to take several weeks, and in the meantime, neither Declan Kidney or Stuart Lancaster can cement their plans for the upcoming Autumn series of internationals, until they know exactly where McDermott's loyalties lie.

McDermott junior refused to comment, merely saying: "Goo goo da da ma".

Model mother's rage at model father

The origins of the Joseph McDermott affair have been sourced back to a previous attempt by his father, John, to break into the modelling world.

The Echo can reveal that McDermott hired close friend and confidant Paddy Donaghy to take pictures of him sporting the new St Clarets supporters jersey early this year.

When this picture (along with several other less family-friendly snaps) were discovered by McDermott's outraged wife Rebecca, the fiery mother-of-one responded in the only way she

felt her husband would understand, by introducing their son to the seedy words of sports apparel modelling.

As the episode continued to spiral out of control, John is said to have whisked his son away in the dead of night to a local photo studio to have his hair snapped in the green of Ireland.

This move has left the furious Rebecca speechless—a remarkable achievement by all accounts, judging by what her neighbours had to say when interviewed by *The Echo*.



Vanity Unfair: McDermott's pose.