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SPORTS AWARDS
Have your say
in *The Echo*
Sports Awards
See Page 83



SOCCER
Crumlin sends
Glenville out
of Leinster Cup
See Page 86



GAA
Davis ladies
in Leinster
C'ship glory
See Page 91



Glens make a surge

GLENNANE finally opened the floodgates this season when winning out 5-0 against Leinster Hockey League Division One table props Avoca.

Eddie O'Malley both started and completed this rout, his opener coming on seven minutes.

Rowland Rixon-Fuller, Richie Shaw and Neil Byrne, also got their names on the scoresheet before O'Malley wrapped it up.

The previous day the team let slip the chance of a valuable win when they surrendered a two-goal lead against Railway Union, drawing 2-2.

Jonathan Kane accounted for both Glenanne scores, his first coming when he latched on to a through ball by Eddie O'Malley.

He bagged his and his team's second after he turned in Sam O'Connor's crossfield delivery.

Yet the Tallaght side knew they would be made scrap for this match when Kevin Wong halved the deficit.

And the visitors eventually managed to pinch a share of the spoils when Karl Chapple got his stick to Rob Abbott's delivery.

Loreto takes Youth Award

LORETO Hockey Club was declared the 'Youth Club of the Year' at last weekend's Electric Ireland Irish Hockey Awards in the Alexander Hotel.

The winners fended off competition from Cork Harlequins, Annadale HC, Lisnagarvey HC and Rathgar all of whom were short-listed for the prize.

Loreto was shortlisted for the 'Club of the Year', but that prize went the way of Greenfields HC.



Susie Mitchell of Sundrive Track Team on her way to the Individual Pursuit gold medal in the World Track Masters Championship in Manchester

Sun-drives Mitchell on to World gold

SUNDRIVE Track Team's Susie Mitchell turned in a breathtaking performance to win gold in the Women's 35-39 2km Pursuit at the World Track Masters Championships in Manchester.

Lining out against some of the top masters riders just five months after giving birth to her baby Tori, Mitchell was targeting the bronze medal ride-off simply to earn a second run in order to maximise her experience with a view to mounting a serious title challenge in 2013.

With only three-hours of indoor training (the vast majority of her preparation

being conducted on the outdoor track) coming into this event, Mitchell turned quite a few heads after she pipped the well-practiced Adel Tyson-Bloor by 3/100ths of a second, subsequently clocking the second fastest time and securing her place in the gold/silver ride-off.

And while she was two seconds down on her opponent Rebecca Wheadon of Australia, her coach Hugh Byrne said "we believed we had a couple of ace cards to play" and they did just that to great effect.

Having been competing on 88 inch gears in order to develop her pedalling,

Mitchell moved up to 90 and also replaced her five-spoke front wheel with a full disc front that served to provide her with the extra pace needed.

A steadier start provided her with the platform she needed to push for the coveted title which she secured with a strong surge over the final two laps.

The Sundrive star has certainly come a long way since taking her first medal for the club last year- bronze in the Leinster Championships.

Since then she has captured the same colour in the National Women's

Olympic Omnium before winning the National Team Sprint with Sundrive clubmate Sarah Gunn.

Bronze in the National Pursuit Championships prompted a re-evaluation of her strengths and it was at this point that she and her coach opted to focus on this discipline- a move that most certainly paid off in Manchester.

Also in among the medals here was Orwell Wheelers' Orla Hendron who took two bronze in the Points Race and Women's Pursuit while Terry Mackin of Banbridge also finished third in the Men's 35-39 Kilo event.



Mick Cooke leads the Drogos to Europe

DROGHEDA United manager Mick Cooke saw his boys secure a place in the Europa League after they edged a 2-1 victory at home to newly-crowned champions Sligo Rovers.

Cooke, from Clondalkin, has enjoyed a superb season in charge of the Louth side, having led them to the EA Sports Cup crown and now up to second place in the Airtricity League.

Against Sligo Rovers Alan McNally opened the scoring for Drogheda on the half hour mark when he got his head to Philip Hand's teasing corner kick and rattled the net.

Yet Sligo summoned up a response almost immediately after the break when Liam Buchanan rattled the net before Brian Gannon unloaded a winner in the final minute of the tie.

St Mary's pair in squad

ST MARY'S players Jonathan Sexton and Kevin McLaughlin have been included in Declan Kidney's 31-man Ireland squad that will face off against South Africa, Fiji and Argentina in the 2012 Guinness Series.

"There are world ranking points on offer, so the underlying challenge for us is to work towards retaining and improving our ranking position ahead of the Rugby World Cup pool draw" said Kidney.