

GazetteSPORT

BROGAN'S RUN:

Exclusive interview
with Player of the Year,
Bernard Brogan: Pages 28-29



WORLD SOCCER: JOHANNESBURG VICTORY IN PRIMARY SCHOOL CUP



The victorious Irish team of Philip Redmond, Tichina Fonteyn, Rianne Rowan, Ellen Nolan, Clovis Byrne, Nathan Fitzpatrick, Zoe Barbier, Antonia Scholz, Antonio Cicognati and Alexis Lachaux with their coaches, Albert Sugg and Mikael Allain

On top of the world

FIVE players from the Lycee de Francais (LFI), the French school based in Dublin, and five from St Kilians DSD in Clonskeagh took part in the Primary Schools World Cup in South Africa earlier this summer, and came home as champions of the world after defeating teams from Vietnam, Kenya, Egypt, Mozambique, South Africa, Nigeria and finally, the USA, to lift the ultimate crown.

They started their campaign after having arrived in Johannesburg following a parade of teams through Soweto, to the Nike Football Stadium, where Ireland opened their account with an impressive 4-1 win against Vietnam.

They then had a break before their remaining group games. First up were Kenya. Ireland made a dream start, scoring from the penalty spot in the third minute but they were pegged back

almost immediately when Kenya equalised. Ireland stayed calm and restored their lead just before halftime, before adding two further goals in the second half to end with a 4-1 winning margin.

Their final group game was against Egypt, and the Irish players continued their great start to the competition with a 3-0 victory.

They then faces a tricky last 16 tie against Mozambique, who had finished runners-up to France in their group. It proved a very tight game and with only two minutes to go, a long clearance by the Irish keeper, Tichina Fonteyn, deceived his opposite number in the Mozambique goal to hand the Irish the edge in the tie.

The quarter-final saw the Irish team joined by South Africa, England, France, USA, Canada, Nigeria and Congo in the last eight.

In another close game against the host nation, Ireland took a two goal lead into halftime. The home country roared back to reduce the deficit midway through the second half. Ireland had to live through the nervous closing moments to reach a semi-final.

Marcel Desailly and Bernard Lama witnessed the Irish team race into a three-goal lead against Nigeria in the semi-final and, though their African opponents pulled a goal back in the second half, it was the Irish team who progressed to the final, where they were destined to meet USA, who overcame England on penalties in the other semi-final.

The morning kick off for the final was well attended and the game proved to be one of the best during the competition. The only strike of the game came as the game approached halftime. A

clever corner by Antonio Cicognati to the edge of the box was volleyed to the net by team captain, Philip Redmond.

The second half saw an evenly contested affair between two well matched teams. The Irish reduced the American team to shooting from long range, with Rianne Rowan and Ellen Nolan outstanding in the Irish defence. The final whistle meant that, at least, one Irish team had not only made it to South Africa, but had also come back as champions.

Their success was celebrated in style at the school on October 9, attended by representative of the South African embassy, Antoinette Rademan, who hailed the team's achievements, and was delighted that the children brought back so many happy memories and stories of her country, to share with their family and friends.

Leinster girls denied wins: Ulster prevail in provincials

LEINSTER'S U-18 and U-16 girls were unable to stem the Ulster tide as they finished runners-up in both hockey interprovincial tournaments held in Milltown last weekend.

Wins over Connacht, the South East and Munster set up a final game showdown for the Blues with the northern province.

Mount Anville trio Jenny Maguire, Lisa McCarthy and Aisling Naughton were all on the score-sheet in those games. Alexandra College's Erika Hinkson and Hermes' Emma Russell, pictured right, scored against Connacht.

But an impressive Ulster side, powered by a string of players from Ireland's U-17 side, who played in the Youth Olympic Games, won the decider 3-0.



FastSport

Special Olympics event at the RDS

THE SPECIAL Olympics Families Programme is holding a special fancy dress Halloween event on Saturday, October 30, at the RDS from 2.30 to 5pm.

Special Olympics will also have lots of information stands available on the day for families to avail of, including an Athlete Leadership Programme stand, Healthy Living stand and a Coach/Sport stand.

The event will be a mix of families, siblings, athletes, coaches and volunteers, and there will be a huge range of fun events to take part in.

McGee out in last eight in Greece

CASTLEKNOCK Tennis Club's James McGee was defeated at the quarter-final stage of the Greece F1 Futures event in Kos when he lost 6-4, 6-2 by the unseeded Arsenije Zlatanovic.

Having disposed of Slovakia's Tom Kocevar-Desman in the last 16, McGee was unlucky to come up against the in-form Serb.

McGee, and doubles' partner Barry King, also exited the competition at the semi-final stage in a hard-fought match against the number three-seeded Italians Andrea Falgheri and Claudio Grassi.

Walsh claims 3k gold for Ireland

SWORDS paralympic cyclist Catherine Walsh, and pilot Fran Meehan, took Ireland's first gold medal in the 3km pursuit last week in the UCI P1 Paracycling Track competition in Kaarst, Germany, beating the host nation into silver.

This reversed the results in yesterday's 1Km Time Trial where Ireland's ladies took silver, with the German team taking the gold.