21st June, '58. C.T.

MAYO ..... 3-10.

SLIGO ..... 1- 6.

Mayo opened their Connaught Senior Football Championship campaign in convincing fashion at Charlestown on Sunday when, before an estimated attendance of eight thousand, they easily defeated Sligo by 3-10 to 1-6.

FEEBLE OPPOSITION.

Everyone was agreed on one point, however, and that was that Sligo offered recore opposition and taking this into account, many shrewd observers were slow to give any opinion onthe teams chances when they oppose Galway at Tuam a fortnight hence. As a means of assessing Mayo's true worth or of giving any indication of the capabillities of the Mayo men, this match was flop, but there are many very qucik to point out Mayo's fine display against Dublin in the League semi-final and who regard that match as the yardstick by which the prospects of the Mayo teams should be measured.

MAYO ATTACK WAS SMOOTH.

Over the past couple of years the Mayo forward division came in for an awful hammering from the critics, while the defence, after a number of consistent displays, was lated on a par with the best in the country. On this account it gives me grezt pleasure for the first time in quite a long period to report favourably on the Mayo attack while, at the same time, it is the first occasion in even a longer period that it benovers me to take the Mayodefence to task. Various reasons may be put forward for the tas display fothe Mayo rearguard but I for one certainly did not like to see this looseness indefence, which was bery apparent, maybe the Mayo defence did not try extra hard after theteam had taken a two-goal lead early on, but it must be put on record that their performance was not at all impressive, and if the team entertains any hope at all of dethroning provincial champions Galway the rear division will certainly have to step up considerably on this performance.

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FIRST HURDLE CLEARED.

While there is a big divergence of opinions about Mayo's chances against Galway in the next round, let us take first things first and give the Mayo players credit for clearing the first hurdle in suchdecisive fashion. At this time last year Mayo were out of the championship race following their shock defeat by Roscommon, but it certainly is pleasing to note that Joe O'Connell, who was so severely censured after the first round championship game last year, was one of the big successes on the side in the coreesponding game this year. Since the game ended on Sunday evening I have been asked to give my view for what it is worth regarding Mayo's prospects against Galway, very shrewd neutral observers have advanced the opinion that Galway will account for Mayo in easy gashion. I do not subscribe to this view. I expect the Mayo men to extend their more axalted rivals to the fullest, and provided they rise to the occasion they might very well emerge victorious.

MCLOUGHLIN MAN OF MATCH.

Getting back to last Sunday's match, which was disappointing insofar that Sligo were fever in the hunt, my choice as man of the match would be Brendan McLoughlin. In recent matches I have seen McLoughlin in action in the centre-field berth against Dublin in the League semi-final against Galway at the opening of the new Westport park and again on Sunday last against Sligo. On each of those occasions he was most impressive but on Sunday last he was sticking out the proverbial mile and his magnificent fielding andgeneral all-round brilliance gave Mayo the whip-hand in this vital sector, His performance was all the more creditable when one considers that his midfield partner, John Nallen, who has achieved quite a big reputation as first-class centrefield man, was very much subdued and certainly played second fiddle to Sligo's Paddy Christie, whom without a shadow of a doubt was the loser's man of the match.

O'LEARY IMPRESSED.

In Mayo's attack I liked best Frank O'Leary on the 40 yards mark. He was always in the picture. His fielding andgeneral distribution of the ball marked him as a

footballer well avoce the ordinary. I have only one criticism to offer about his style of play and that is his solo-running gambit, which he overdid at times. I am not taking away from O'Leary's excellent performance when I refer to his solo-running, for he wasn't the only offender who gummed up forwzrd movements by over-playing the ball.

O'CONNELL TO THE FORE.

Joe O'Connell, at full-forward, though pitted with the difficult task of marking Mace O'Dowd, acquitted homself in fine style. He proved much superior to the Sligo star in all phases of the play, his fielding in particular being brillinat.

The fiar-haired Ballinrobe lad, Tommy Treacy, also had an excellent game and, while he made a few minor mistakes early on, he soon got a grip of himself and proceeded to play a polished brand of football, at the same time blotting out his opposite number.

Ardnaree man, JIM Fleming, again caughr the eye and was adept and skillful in his approach work, while former Sligo player, Sean Gallagher, on the left wing, bobed about like a jack-rabbit and mesmerised his opposite number with his astuteness and spped, depite his lack of inches.

Breaffy man, Liam Malone, at top of the left, performed creditably enough but found Sligo back, J? Killoran, a tough handful.

FLEMING BEST IN DEFENCE.

Most impressive performer in the Mayo defence was Frank Fleming, who gained his position on the team by virtue of an excellent display against Roscommon in the "Irish Press" Shield game recently. Fleming, a glutton for work, was supervly fit and following his good showing is certain to be retained for the vital game against Galway.

Eddie Moriarty, at left halfback, was his usual sound self and subdued the Charlestwwn player, Eamonn Walsh, in effortless fashion.

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Willie Casey and Gabriel Kelly redeemed themselves in the second period after making what might have proved costly errors early on. Once they got into their stride they monopolised the play in their respective sectors.

Brendan Keane, at full-back, was pitted against Mick Christie, who was playing in his last game for Sligo. Christie adopted a roving commission and in this, his last game, it was indeed fitting that he was, for the most part, superior in his duels with Keane.

John McAndrew, captain of the team, was never happy in the centre half-back position and had one of his worst games to date. I doubt it McAndrew will ever play as bad again and I expect him to be one of the kingpins in the Mayo side in their semi-final tilt against Galway.

GREAT SAVE.

Goalie, Mick Corkery, was safe and sure in goal and his great save in goal from McCawley in the first period was one of the memorable incidents of the dull, drab, lifeless game, which lacked the bite and pep which one might expect from a championship encounter.

Of Sligo's disappointing side, centrefield Paddy Christie certainly made his presence felt and was the best Sligo player on view. He got fairly good support from his partner, Hunt, who was seen to good effect on occasions.

In defence, Killoran, O'Connor and Brehoney were best, while in attack McGormack M. Christie, McCawley and, to a lesser extent, Walsh were best.

MAYO QUICK SCORES.

Mayo opened well, and in the second minute Frank O'Leary opened their account with a point from a 35 yeards free. Lee, in the Sligo gaol, saved from Treacy before a well directed shot by Nallen was punched to the net by O(Connell. Going great

guns, Mayo went further ahead with a well-taken point by Jim Fleming, and after a solo-run by O'Leary his shot was punched to the net by Treacy to leave Mayo 2-2 ahead without reply. Both sides shot wide before Sligo had their first score when McCormack placed Christie for a point. In the next minute Corkery brought off his wonder save but Sligo returned for their second minor per McHugh. McHugh came on to the side through the defection of Ray Tully. He occupied the left full-forward berth in room of Harry O'Dowd, who moved back to take Tully's place at left full-back. S. McCormack (Sligo) from a free had Sligo's third point and O'Leary completed Mayo's half-time total when his shot bounced off a Sligo defender and over the bar.

Half-time score: MAYO, 2-4; SLIGO, 0-3.

MAYO WELLL ON TOP.

On resuming, Ray Tully came on for Alf McHugh and as thegame progressed Sligo made a number of positional changes in a n effort to stem the tide. Eammonn Walsh had a Sligo point and at the other end a shot by Nallen was puncher over thebar by Malone and inthe process the Slgio goalie was injuried. Sligo moved Ray Tully to centre half-back in an effort to curb O'LearyIs activities but in the next minute O'Leary placed O'Connell for a point '2-6 to 0-4). Gallagher (Mayo) and Walsh (Sligo) exchanged points and itwas again tit-for-tat when Trwacy (Mayo) and McCormack (Sligo), from a free, had points. O'Leary had a futher point for Mayo from a free and a great shot by Nallen was punched to the net by O'Connell (3-9 to 0-6).

SLIGO'S GOAL.

The Mayo rear division was caugh napping when McCawley got clear of the full-back and gave Corkery no chance with a powerful dribe (3-9 to 1-6). Nallen closed the scoring with a point after good work by Treacy to leave the final score: MAYO, 3-10; SLIGO, 1-6.

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TEAMS.

MAYO: M. CORKERY. W. CASEY. B. KEANE. G. KELLY. F. FLEMING. J. MC-ANDREW. E. MORIARTY. J. NALLEN. B. MCLOUGHLIN. J. FLEMING. F. O'LEARY. S. GALLAGHER. T. TREACY. J. O'CONNELL. L. MALONE.

SUB: J. DONOHUE FOR F. FLEMING.

SLIGO: J. LEE. J. KILLORAN. N. O'DOWD. G. O'CONNOR. B. BOYLE. K. BREHONE. P. CHRISTIE. P. HUNT. E. WALSH. L. MCCAWLEY. S. MCCORMACK. D. BLYTHE. M. CHRISTIE. A. MCHUGH.

SUB: R. TULLY FOR MCHUGH.

REFEREE: Company Sergeant William Jackson (Roscommon).

A word of congratulation to the Charlestown Club officials who had the pitch in excellent trim and whose stewarding arrangements left nothing tobe desired.

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