

Basketball

All Stars for glamour event

SLIGO All Stars play in international-class competition this week-end when they travel to Dublin for the glamour event of the Irish basketball calendar, the Glen Abbey Tournament, promoted by Irish Champions, St. Vincent's, Glasnevin.

Last year, All Stars were the sensation team of the tournament because they eliminated the holders U.S. Navy, Scotland, in their opening game; qualified for the semi-final with a narrow win over Corinthians but were deprived of their place in the final by a two-points defeat by old rivals, U.S. Navy, Derry.

Sligo will be all out to help history repeat itself this year because they have been drawn in the same pool with the present holders, Aldershot Warriors, the British Army kingpins whose thrilling victory in the '69 final is still talked about in basketball circles the country over.

All Stars are in no way intimidated by the sizeable reputation of the British side because they played Aldershot in a tournament final in Down last August and though they suffered a heavy defeat, they more than held their way for over half the game.

Sligo will also meet Kelliher's of Tralee in their pool and this should be quite a game because Kelliher's are reported to have improved greatly since they last played Sligo in the National Cup and, in fact, just last week-end they ran up over sixty points against U.S. Navy in the decider of the Cup group though they still finished the losing side.

All Stars had been hopeful of getting a really strong squad together for the event but their hopes received a set-back with the news that Anthony Cronnelly is definitely not available while Brian McHugh is

doubtful and Robert Burns is not yet fully recovered from a recent ankle injury.

Pugh to play

On the brighter side, however, David Pugh will make a welcome return to the All Stars colours and his scoring power will be a great asset. Pugh has been turning in consistently high-class performances for his team, St. Joseph's, in the Ulster League, and he will fit in well with his old team-mates in the All Stars line-out.

Stan Burns, just home from England, hopes to be available for the week-end games too and as a free-scoring player, he will also strengthen Sligo's hand for the competition.

The tournament brings together the leading clubs in the Home Countries for along with Aldershot Warriors, also competing will be Loughborough All Stars, a team comprised solely of international players; ace Scottish club, Boroughmuir, Edinburgh, the favourites; and a highly-rated U.S. Navy team from Scotland, Edzelul.

All Stars play Kelliher's at 10.30 a.m. on Saturday and Aldershot at 5 p.m. the same day. The games will be played at O'Connell Schools, N.C.R.

Sligo All Stars:— T. O'Brien, J. McGowan, R. Burns, J. Palmer, D. Pugh, S. Burns, T. O'Hara, B. McHugh, G. Monaghan, B. O'Hara.

All Stars back in form

Won Enniskillen open invitation tournament

SLIGO All Stars were back in form when they took the Enniskillen Open Invitation Tournament from an entry of ten teams at St. Joseph's School, Enniskillen, last Wednesday night.

The All Stars brought their second string as well but the juniors were not at full strength and they were knocked out in the first round by St. Michael's who went on to reach the final.

All Stars showed the real killer instinct in beating Irvinestown "A" by 35 points to 1—only a free throw deprived Sligo of completely shutting out their opponents and though they were just three points in front at half time in their game against Belleek, they went on to win easily 39—22.

The final against the home team, St. Michael's, was a rather scappy affair and though All Stars were always in control, they were never let settle by the rather unorthodox tactics of the Enniskillen boys.

Sligo were clear leaders at the break and they played the ball around in the second half to set up the shots from the outside.