

Irish caps for nine Sligo players

The immense contribution Sligo can make to Irish International basketball was highlighted again recently, when nine young members of local clubs were chosen to represent their country.

While five players had previous honours, there were four new caps added to Sligo's long list of International players.

St. Patrick's, Mercy Convent are to be congratulated once again for their distinction of having two cadettes and three seniors chosen. Barbara Ferguson, "Michele", Circular Road, and Martina Cullen, 1, Dominic Street, were two new caps, selected on the Cadett team, a very rewarding achievement for these talented players.

Barbara Kieley, "Massabeille", Cairns Road; Ann McLaughlin, Carraroe, and Una Mannion, 8, Connolly Street, were chosen for the Senior Team. All three girls, who have excelled in Mercy Basketball, have previous international experience, and Una Mannion has the further honour of being Captain of the Irish team.

The five girls will be in action against England on March 3rd in Essex.

Summerhill College, well represented for many years at international level in schools' competitions, has provided one under-fifteen and two under-eighteen players on the Irish Squad.

Michael O'Brien, Fatima Avenue, son of Sligo All Stars Coach, Mr. Tom O'Brien, has received his first Irish cap, while it is second time round for Tommie Hickey, Lynn's Place, and Stewart Watson, 4, Pearse Road.

Sligo Vocational School have their first International basketball player in Jim Verdon, 49, St. Brigid's Place, a new cap.

All four boys will be travelling to Glasgow this weekend for a match against Scotland. In March, they go to London, to take on England, and later the same month will tackle Wales, at a venue in Ireland.

Sligo coach, Tom O'Brien, who successfully guided Mercy Convent to their European title last season, has been selected to coach the Irish Senior team in their match against England.

Pictured are Top (left to right) Martina Cullen, Barbara Ferguson, Anne McLoughlin, and Una Mannion. Bottom (left to right) Michael O'Brien, Jim Verdon, Stuart Watson, Tom Hickey. Barbara Kieley is not in picture.

