



CHEIKA... busy man

## Lebanon come up Moses

Lebanon..... 32  
Ireland..... 14

RUGBY LEAGUE WORLD CUP

By GARY CARTER

**MITCHELL MOSES** parted the green defence all too often as Ireland's Rugby League World Cup qualification hopes hang by a thread.

And anger almost spilled over, with a flare-up at the half-time hooter.

Now Ged Corcoran's men must upset giants — and many people's tip to win — New Zealand on Friday to have a chance of meeting holders Australia in the last eight.

Parramatta Eels NRL star Moses helped send Reece Robinson, Jacob Kiraz and Elio El-Zakher over for tries while also booting six goals.

And Corcoran groaned: "I'm very disappointed. We put a game-plan together but Lebanon did their homework and saw something in us maybe I missed."

"We were on the back foot for the majority of the game. We'll share our pain but I believe in the calibre of our players."

Ireland lost one battle before a ball was even kicked, the contest to find the Rugby League World Cup's busiest man.

That honour went to Lebanon boss Michael Cheika. The former Leinster chief is still in charge of Argentina's union side as well as being director of rugby at Japanese club side Green Rockets.

His move into the 13-a-side code is for personal reasons, honouring his parents who emigrated to Australia from the middle eastern nation.

Moses' brilliance was the difference.

Ireland shot themselves in the foot when Richie Myler's short dropout was caught by Josh Mansour and he sent Brandon Mortos in.

Louis Senior's double gave Ireland a sniff but El-Zakher's score and Abbas Miski's touchdown killed off their hopes.

Liam Byrne also spent ten minutes in the sin bin, during which Ed Chamberlain replied.

Now Cheika will face rugby league's Kangaroos, if Lebanon beat Jamaica, after defeating union's Wallabies with Argentina in August.

But he said: "I'm not 100 per cent sure the fans understand the coaching dynamics."

"One in the box next to me leaned over before the game and asked, 'Michael, would you like a glass of wine?' They're classics, the Lebs."

SCORERS — Lebanon: tries, Robinson, Kiraz, Mortos, El-Zakher, Miski; goals, Moses 6. Ireland: tries, L Senior 2, Chamberlain; goal, Chamberlain.

UNITED RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

# No 9 IS LUKEING UP

# KICKING ON

## McGrath still hopeful of getting Ireland's call

**LUKE McGRATH** has not given up hope of playing for Ireland again.

McGrath was named man of the match for his display in Leinster's 27-13 win over Munster on Saturday.

But there was no place for him in the 37-man squad Andy Farrell named for the November Tests.

Clubmate Jamison Gibson-Park — yet to play this term — and the Munster duo of Craig Casey — who is sidelined with a groin com-

By NEIL O'RIORDAN

plaint — and Conor Murray were the scrum-halves chosen.

And Connacht's Caolin Blade was chosen among the additional 12 players called up for the Ireland A game against the All Blacks XV.

His exclusion probably did not come as a surprise given his final Test appearance was in Joe Schmidt's last game in charge, the quarter-final loss to New Zealand at the 2019 World Cup.

But he still clings to the dream of pulling on a green shirt again.

McGrath said: "You'd love

said there had been pointers from the Ireland coaching staff about what they wanted him to do better.

He said: "There's a load of little things, but it's so unbelievably competitive. The other lads are playing very well as well, someone has to miss out."

"I've talked to Mike Catt a little bit, maybe not so recently, but I talked to Faz a bit during the summer and I was in camp last November a little bit."

"I've just got to keep playing well, there's a few things I need to brush up on and who knows what will happen in the future?"

One thing in his favour is that, after Murray, he has the best working relationship with Johnny Sexton.

If Saturday's contest was another chance for Joey Carbery to underline his credentials to wrest the Ireland No 10 shirt from him, it did not exactly go according to plan.

Although he missed an early penalty, the Ireland captain reigned supreme, with Carbery forced off with a shoulder problem.

Asked if their targeting of Sexton had worked, Munster coach Graham Rowntree — who may look at short-term signings to plug some gaps in his squad — said: "Yes and no. Most of the tactics involve targeting someone in the backline."

He's a fine player, he's resilient, I've got a lot of respect for him.

"Joey, I can't tell you how pleased I am with him."

"So we'll assess his shoulder in the next few days."

"He's showing great confidence on the ball, great composure."

Sexton turned 37 in August but McGrath said: "He does seem to be going as well as ever, he's so incredibly smart on the pitch."

"He just sees pictures before anyone else, he just creates space for himself."

"He wouldn't be the quickest but he works so quickly."

"He keeps you on your toes, which is great, he was brilliant, he kept us in there when we were getting a little bit frustrated."

The perseverance paid off as Rob Russell grabbed the bonus-point fourth try with three minutes to go.

Relieved head coach Cullen said: "We created so much but lacked that killer punch."

"When we got in close to their try line, it's almost like we're trying too hard to score straight away."

"But in that middle of the field, all the way to ten metres to the try line, we looked very dangerous and created opportunities."



**LUKE LIVELY...** McGrath was man of the match for Leinster in derby win over rivals but (inset) has not played for Ireland since RWC 2019

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**Groundstate are seeking a Digital Marketing Manager for our online e-commerce shop and our wholesale and coffee equipment supply business**

Full time permanent position in Dublin city. You must be qualified in marketing and have digital marketing experience or training. Experience in social media (Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, Twitter etc) is needed.

Groundstate is an Irish owned sustainable cafe roastery based in the Liberties, Dublin 8, and we have expanded our business online to include a click and collect personal and home coffee products business, as well as a wholesale cafe equipment business (commercial coffee equipment, coffee machines, roasters etc as well as our branded coffee to the cafe and restaurant sector)

<https://www.groundstate.ie/pages/commercial-coffee-equipment>  
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As our Digital Marketing Manager you will be on charge of leading the development of new online sales channels via social media, online industry news publications, Google Adwords, SEO, and online subscription messaging platforms.

You will increase awareness of our brand online with the aim of driving traffic to our online shop and catalogues and nationwide subscription offering.

- Key responsibilities and duties:**
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  - Develop a website traffic plan and create goals and KPIs to meet.
  - Utilize strong analytical ability to evaluate end-to-end customer experience across multiple channels and customer touch points.
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  - Deliver effective, cohesive, and engaging brand messaging.
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Location of job is in our offices beside our Groundstate cafe in Dublin 8. Address: 48-50 James's Street, Dublin, D08 YK6N  
For further details please post cv to the above address, or email Andy Joyce [andy@groundstate.ie](mailto:andy@groundstate.ie)

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