

# THE GAEILIC ECHO

macalla na n-*ḡaeḡeal*

baile áta Cliaḡ Luḡnaḡa, 31, 1946,

Luac 2p.

## CORK OR KILKENNY? Hurling Stars Clash For 1946 Title

**FIFTY-TWO** years ago teams from Cork and Kilkenny first met in an All-Ireland hurling final. This game was played on the wide expanses at the Phoenix Park, Dublin, and was remarkable for the fact that it was the only hurling final ever played on those wide expanses, where Cusack and his comrades hurled in the cradle days of the G.A.A.

That game, which Cork won, started a keen yet friendly rivalry between the counties, and in the championships, tournaments and League the hurlers from the Lee and the Nore have thrilled the crowds where ever they met.

They played for the title on Dan Fraher's field at Dungarvan, at Carrick, and at Croke Park, and again, after a seven years' span, they face each other to-morrow at the National headquarters of the Association they have done so much to build.

It is the tenth meeting of the counties for a title, which Cork has won fifteen times and Kilkenny twelve.

In recent years it has been a neck and neck race between three counties—Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny, Tipp now holding second place with thirteen titles.

For both Cork and Kilkenny this year's final holds special significance, as a win for Cork would set up another record, while a Kilkenny win would bring them into line with Tipperary in the All-Ireland title list.

### A BETTER BLEND.

This is the second year in succession for Kilkenny to represent Leinster in the All-Ireland final, and generally it is agreed that the team to play Cork on Sunday is a better blend than that which lost to Tipperary twelve months ago.

Starting out on the way to the final, Kilkenny beat their neighbours, Wexford, fairly comfortably, and then met

### RECALLED



Jimmy Kelly (Carrickshock), who has been recalled to fill the right half-back position on the Kilkenny team on Sunday.

Dublin in the Leinster final at Croke Park.

This was a game of thrills, with Dublin fighting every inch of the way only to go down before the skill of the Noremen, whose forwards pulled the game out of the fire.

### ANTRIM READILY BEATEN.

Antrim, after convincingly winning the Ulster title, proved no match for the Black and Amber hurlers in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Cork, staging a come-back in the South, defeated Clare at Limerick, and then ended Waterford hopes at Clonmel.

Even though the Leemen were impressive in these two victories, it was generally anticipated that Limerick, conquerors of last year's

champions, Tipperary, would give them a hard game at Thurles, but there was no holding the Leesiders in the game, which proved disappointing to the huge crowd.

Galway was the next hurdle facing the red and white jerseyed hurlers from the Lee, who again proved too good for the opposition which, like Limerick, failed to come up to expectations.

### PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE.

Each side has experienced hurlers, but there is also plenty of youth to bring dash and speed to the game.

Kilkenny will have seven of the side which lost to Tipperary last year, and they also include four other players with All-Ireland experience.

Twelve of the week's action played in the 1944 final, in which P. Healy came on as sub, and the Munster champions should also lack nothing in the way of experience.

Following the publication of their team and the return of Dan O'Connell as manager, Kilkenny supporters have become optimistic about the chances of a black and amber victory.

Cork, under the care of Jim Barry, have gone through their customary thorough preparation, and in the South they are well fancied to win their sixth All-Ireland in six years.

### MINOR FINAL, TOO.

The All-Ireland minor hurling final, Dublin v. Tipperary, which comes before the senior game, is also arousing general interest. The counties also met for last year's title, Dublin creating a first-class surprise by defeating a Tipp side which had swept all before it in the South.

Dublin had a fairly easy passage to this year's final, and under that skilful trainer, Peter O'Reilly, have prepared earnestly to defend the title.

Tipperary conquered Limerick, Cork and Galway, improving as they went along, and with a realisation of Dublin's worth have also trained hard. They are Tipp's sole hopes of winning an All-Ireland this year, and behind them is a quiet confidence that the honours they missed last year will be won to-morrow.

College players again fill a big place on the rival sides, Thurles C.B.S. being strongly represented on the Tipperary side, which is representative of the well known hurling centres of the county.

### NEW RECORD?

It is indeed a high class programme that awaits those who will patronise Croke Park to-morrow, two Munster sides again facing two Leinster sides.

Last year's final drew a record crowd of 69,459, figures which may be exceeded this year, so keen is the public to see Cork and Kilkenny, Dublin and Tipperary in action.

A typical Cork-Kilkenny game is expected for the senior title, fast ball play and clever positioning being traditional with both counties.

It is almost certain to be played in that sporting spirit which has marked every game between the counties.

Dublin and Tipperary minors will also serve up hurling worthy of the high place those counties hold in the G.A.A. as an example to the thousands of schoolboys and youths who will be watching this attractive curtain-raiser.

May the best teams win the laurels and let the losers be the first to congratulate the victors are our last words before the final.



Winning the third All-Ireland in a row, this team equalled the records held jointly by Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary, each of which had won three titles in succession.

### THE LINE-OUT

#### CORK (Red and White)

T. Mulcahy  
(St. Finbarrs)

W. Murphy (B'collig) C. Murphy (V. Rovers) D. J. Buckley (G. Rovers)

P. O'Donovan (Glen Rovers) A. Lotty (S'fields) J. Young (G. Rovers)

J. Lynch (Glen Rovers) C. Cottrill (Valley Rovers)

P. Healy (B'collig) C. Ring (G. Rovers) C. Murphy (B. Rovers)

M. O'Riordan (Blackrock) G. O'Riordan (Civil Service) Joe Kelly (G. Rvs.)

Subs.—D. Creedon, S. O'Brien, J. Lyons (Glen Rovers); John Quirke, E. J. O'Sullivan (Blackrock); B. O'Regan (Ballymartle); S. Condon (St. Finbarrs).

#### KILKENNY (Black and Amber)

S. Donagan  
(E. Ruadh)

P. Grace (Dicksboro') M. Butler (Fanghs) W. Walsh (Carrickshock)

J. Kelly (Carrickshock) S. Downey (St. Brendans) J. Mulcahy (E. Og)

D. Kennedy (Thomastown) Ter. Leahy (Fanghs)

J. Gargan (Fanghs) J. Langton (E. Og) L. Reidy (E. Og)

T. Walton (Tullaroan) P. O'Brien (E. Og) S. O'Brien (D'boro')

Subs.—J. Heffernan (Mullinavat); T. Murphy (Eire Og), J. McGrath (James Stephens), M. Kelly (Dicksboro'), T. Maher (Castle Rovers), J. Meagher (Eire Og).

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# Nine Times Have Cork and Kilkenny Met for Title

## SCORE READS: KILKENNY 5, CORK 4

NINE times already have Noremen and Leemen lined up to battle for the most coveted sporting honour in this country: the All-Ireland Hurling title.

The counties made history in 1931 when they met three times at Croke Park, while they were also involved in a replay away back in 1907.

Their first clash was at the Phoenix Park on a June day in 1894, Blackrock representing Cork and the Confederation Club doing duty for Kilkenny, who lost the game by 6-8 to 0-2.

John Murphy captained the victorious Cork men, who also included Jer Norberg, John O'Leary, Pat O'Keefe, P. Coughlan and John Cashman.

D. Whelan led the Noremen, who included two Graces, Jim Lalor, Ned Teehan of Tullaroan and Jer Doheny. The counties did not meet again until the 1903 home final, which Cork won by 8-9 to 0-8 at Dungarvan, July 16, 1905.

A great Cork team was captained by Steve Riordan, the famed Blackrock skipper, and included the two Coughlans, Jim Kelliher, of Dungourney, Billy Mackessy, Andy Buckley, Billy O'Neill, "Daw" McGrath, Bill Hennessy of Castlemartyr, whom I met recently at Limerick. Denis Buckley and D. Kidney.

### FORGING TO TOP.

M. Dalton led the Noresiders, among whom were Jack Rochford, Jim Lalor, the two Fieldings, Eddie Doyle, Sym Walton, Jer Doheny, Jack Hoynes, Pat Saunders, and Dick Grace.

Cork were now two up out of two meetings, but gradually the Marble County hurlers were forging their way to the top and when a year later they met at Carrick-on-Suir Jer Doheny led the Tullaroan selection to a point victory over the Barrs selection.

Great hurlers of those days filled places on the rival sides. Wearing the now familiar black and amber, first presented to the Confederation Club by John Drennan, were Drug Walsh, Jack Rochford, Pat Saunders, Dan Stapleton, "Icy" Langan, Jack Anthony of Piltown, the Doyle brothers, Dick and Eddie of Mooncoin, Jim Lalor, of Three Castles, Dick Grace and Jack Hoynes. Captaining the Barrs was D. Harrington, and by his side that day were: "Bilux" Moloney, J. Kelleher, D. Sheehan, Jim Harrington, Bill Hennessy, Steve Riordan, Tom Coughlan, Billy O'Neill and Dan McGrath.

No wonder old timers still talk of that Carrick-on-Suir classic that marked Kilkenny's first step upwards on the ladder of fame.

Those were the golden years of Noreside hurling and when the fourth meeting with the Rebel County took place a year later at Dan Fraher's field in Dungarvan town, Dan Stapleton, youngest hurler to ever lead an All-Ireland championship side to victory, saw his Erin's Own selection beat the St. Finbars selection 7-7 to 2-9.

This was the second meeting for the 1905 title, Cork winning the first game at Tipperary by 5-10 to 3-13, but an objection and re-play followed. Dan Stapleton's side included Dan Kennedy, still a popular figure in Kilkenny sporting circles, Dr. J. J. Brennan, Drug Walsh, Matt Gargan, Paddy Lanigan, Jack Anthony, the Three Castles Lalors, and Jack Rochford, Walton, the Doyle brothers, and Kelly, whom they called the scoring machine in those days.

### TWO WINS EACH.

Two wins apiece and the next meeting for the 1907 title gave Kilkenny the lead, a Tullaroan selection beating Jim Kelleher's Dungourney men at Dungarvan by 3-12 to 4-8.

Recently I met one of the men who acted as umpire at that famous game and he said that, in his opinion, it was one of the greatest he had ever seen in over forty years.

Giants of the hurling world were in action in that game in which twenty-



Lory Meagher and Eugene Coughlan (Kilkenny Capt.) (Cork Capt.) Leaders of greatest Hurling Final, 1931.

### Path to Final

#### CORK

- Beat Clare 2-9 to 2-1.
- Beat Waterford 3-9 to 1-6.
- Beat Limerick 3-8 to 1-3.
- Beat Galway 2-10 to 0-3.

#### KILKENNY

- Beat Wexford 7-4 to 2-2.
- Beat Dublin 3-8 to 1-12.
- Beat Antrim 7-11 to 0-7.

seven scores in all were registered. Among the Kilkenny seventeen were the Mooncoin men, Drug Walsh, Dick Doherty, the three DoYLES—Eddie, Dick and Mikie. Piltown had Power and Anthony, while Tullaroan was represented by Matt Gargan, Dick Grace and Sym Walton. Jack Rochford, Paddy Lanigan, Dan Kennedy, Dan Stapleton and Jack Keohane also played their part in that victory.

In the opposition were: Andy Buckley, Bill Hennessy, J. Roynane, Tom Coughlan, Steve Riordan, Billy Parfrey, Dan Kidney, Jerry Beckett and Billy O'Neill.

### LAST AND FIRST.

Winning the 1912 final, Kilkenny made it four to two. This final was the last played with seventeen aside and the Noremen had a further distinction in their win over Tipperary in the 1913 final, first to be played with fifteen aside. Sym Walton was the skipper in 1912, and some time ago the old Tullaroan star showed me one of the hurleys with which he played in those days.

There was little change on the Kilkenny line-outs in those days, the only strange name on the 1912 list being T. McCormack. Cork included Dan Kenefick, whose son captained the Cork team in 1943, Dinny Barry, Billy Mackessy, Barry Murphy, "Bowler" Walsh, J. Kennedy, M. Kidney, T. Nagle and M. Dorney.

Fourteen years elapsed before we had another Cork-Kilkenny clash for the title, which went to the Lee in 1926, Sean Og Murphy captaining another Blackrock selection that beat the Noremen 4-6 to 2-0 on the second last Sunday of October. "Ballyhea" was in goal, while Mick, Mossie, Matt and Dinny Barry made it five Murphys. There was "Eudie," "Balty," "Gah," "Love," Higgins, Paddy Delea, Jim Hurley, Jim Regan, O'Connell and J. Kearney, all names well known to followers of the game twenty years ago.

Dick Grace captained the Kilkenny men, who included three Meagher brothers, Lory, Henry and William, Watt Dunphy, another Doyle from Mooncoin, Peter O'Reilly, Martin Brennan, Dick Cantwell, the Carrolls, and Ned Dunphy.

### MEMORABLE 1931.

Next meeting was the most memorable final of all, and as Kilkenny and Cork supporters trek Liffeywards tomorrow, many will recall those three great games in 1931.

The feats of Matty Power, Paddy Phelan, Peter O'Reilly, the Byrne brothers, Jack Duggan and the Larkins, will be recounted over and over again by the Kilkenny fans, while Lee-side followers will tell of "Eudie," "Gah," "Balty," "Hawker," "Ballyhea," "Fox," Dinny Barry and the other stars who at the third meeting gave Cork victory.

Level chalks as the counties again faced each other for the 1939 final. That September day will be long remembered as it marked the opening of World War No. 2 in Europe, and as if to show its disapproval of this new holocaust the heavens opened that day, Croke Park being swept by a thunderstorm during the second half of a game which Kilkenny won by that one point margin.

With Kilkenny leading 5 to 4 the counties once more meet in what is likely to be as fast and skilful a final as any in which the counties have played since their first clash fifty odd years ago.

Most remarkable of all hurling families, however, are the famous Coughlan family of Blackrock, Cork. Father and six sons played on one team.

### KILKENNY MENTOR



Dan O'Connell, trainer of champions, who in response to a request from eighteen of the hurlers, took charge of the Kilkenny training.

### HOW THEY WON AND LOST THE TITLES

#### CORK (15)

- 1890—Beat Wexford 1-6 to 2-2.
- 1892—Beat Dublin 2-4 to 1-1.
- (Both these games were unfinished).
- 1893—Beat Kilkenny 6-8 to 0-2.
- 1894—Beat Dublin 5-20 to 2-0.
- 1902—Beat London 3-13 to 0-0.
- 1903—Beat London 3-16 to 1-1.
- 1919—Beat Dublin 6-4 to 2-4.
- 1926—Beat Kilkenny 4-6 to 2-0.
- 1928—Beat Galway 6-12 to 1-0.
- 1929—Beat Galway 4-9 to 1-3.
- 1931—Beat Kilkenny 5-8 to 2-5 (after two drawn games).
- 1941—Beat Dublin 5-11 to 0-6.
- 1942—Beat Dublin 2-14 to 3-4.
- 1943—Beat Antrim 5-16 to 0-4.
- 1944—Beat Dublin 2-13 to 1-2.

Cork beat Wexford in the 1902 Home Final (2-8 to 0-6) and Kilkenny in the 1903 Home Final (8-9 to 0-8).

Cork lost to Kilkenny in 1904 (1-8 to 1-9); to Kilkenny in 1907 (4-8 to 3-12); to Kilkenny in 1912 (1-3 to 2-1); to Laoighis in 1915 (4-1 to 6-2); to Dublin in 1920 (4-3 to 4-9); to Dublin in 1927 (1-3 to 4-8), and to Kilkenny in 1939 (3-3 to 2-7).

#### KILKENNY (12)

- 1904—Beat Cork, 1-9 to 1-8.
- 1905—Beat Cork, 7-7 to 2-9.
- 1907—Beat Cork, 3-12 to 4-8.
- 1909—Beat Tipperary, 4-6 to 0-12.
- 1911—Walk-over from Limerick.
- 1912—Beat Cork, 2-1 to 1-3.
- 1913—Beat Tipperary, 2-4 to 1-2.
- 1922—Beat Tipperary, 4-2 to 2-6.
- 1932—Beat Clare, 3-3 to 2-3.
- 1933—Beat Limerick, 1-7 to 0-6.
- 1935—Beat Limerick, 2-5 to 2-4.
- 1939—Beat Cork, 2-7 to 3-3.
- Kilkenny lost to Cork in 1893 (0-2 to 6-8); to Tipperary in 1895 (1-0 to 6-8); to Limerick in 1897 (2-4 to 3-4); to Tipperary in 1898 (3-10 to 7-13); to Cork in 1903 (0-8 to 8-9); to Tipperary in 1916 (3-2 to 5-4); to Cork in 1926 (2-0 to 4-6); to Cork in 1931 (3-4 to 5-8, after two draws); to Limerick in 1936 (1-5 to 5-6); to Tipperary in 1937 0-3 to 3-11); to Limerick in 1940 (1-7 to 3-7); and to Tipperary (3-6 to 5-6) in 1945.

### ÍOMÁNAIDŐE CŐRCAIŐE

(Fonn: "Ireland Boys Hurrah")

#### I.

Seo pláince caoin camán Cōrcaige  
 Seo pláince an cōig fear óeas  
 Ó páipnib pógana ar fóosaib póot'  
 Fuair eát ar tuc a ngeas  
 An fear páipnib ceann oen cáptainn spóide  
 So nápo i breappan taoi,  
 Beid cōice ir ceir, ir eát pé teic  
 Ar íománaice Cōrcaige.

#### Cōppá:

Íománaice Cōrcaige  
 Íománaice Cōrcaige  
 Níl rupeann le tuao  
 Oo baneas an busó  
 O'íománaice Cōrcaige.

#### II.

Ir páipnib ir ir ápo iao cōitce as fear  
 O'n ráe go Peppa Morge,  
 Tá fuinnreos tuic, 'sur eápeann fiadam  
 As fear le n-oir sae cláide;  
 Fíopaó óeap, ir túb oo'n bar.  
 Camán oo stáic aan pí  
 An iongnáó é, go mbeas eú imeas Saóeal  
 Ar íománaice Cōrcaige.

#### Cōppá:

III.  
 An Clár fuair eát pí ápo pa thuman  
 Tá pí pōic Láige spóide;  
 Ir maré iao de Cláic agur Saitim eap,  
 Cú Coming, thó fáige ir Laoigir;  
 Tá Cíobpaó Ápan oite ar íomáint  
 Níl eám ar neap Lummige,  
 Ac teagap iao uille, nuair cōgair i gcomhó  
 Íománaice Cōrcaige.

#### Cōppá:

C. O. C.

Denis Barry Murphy, Cork, came of a great hurling family—generations of them. Says an excited Corkman at a final when D. B. hit a wonderful ball, one of his many:—  
"Dinny Barry Murphy, boy! he'd take the ball out of your eye, boy; and he wouldn't hurt a fly, boy!"



Sean Condon, St. Finbarrs, who captained the 1944 Cork team which completed the record of four wins in succession.

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# Question: Who'll win the 1946 title? Answer: Croke Park will decide to-morrow

—By "Fannidhe na nGleann."

**WHO'LL win between Cork and Kilkenny? That is the big question of the hour; the question thousands are discussing from every angle to-day, and they will very likely be answered to-morrow at Croke Park.**

Two fit teams, eager for victory, should provide hurling fare fit for the fairy hosts of Banba.

There is certain to be thrills aplenty and lashings of brilliant passages to delight what is very likely to be a record hurling final crowd.

In the matter of ball play and positional work there will be very little between the two teams. Neither can lay claim to a pull in experience as the Kilkenny lads have through many tough struggles since they won back the Leinster title in 1945, while Cork will have quite a few of the players who won the four titles from 1941 to 1946.

Youth is fairly evenly scattered and to find a weak spot would take more time than I have to spare.

### WISE MOVES

Cork have strengthened their centre field by the recall of Con Cottrell and Kilkenny have repaired the fissures in their defence by promoting Seamus Downey and recalling Jimmy Kelly.

These moves are generally regarded as wise ones, Downey's promotion in particular helping to raise the Noreiders' hopes. The Cork attack is one of the fastest to play for the county since 1931.

Jerry O'Riordan has filled the full forward berth to the satisfaction of all who have seen him play in the Munster Championship games. He strikes up a good partnership with his brother Mossy and the sprinter Joe Kelly.

Out further Christy Ring will be hard to hold even by the fast young Hugginstown hurler Downey, who has been given a full-size job as the Cork skipper is fast and elusive. Healy and Con Murphy are good flankers for the Blackpool men.

Experience and covering up more than speed are the chief advantages of the Cork defence. All of the six backs have won All-Ireland medals.

### THEY ARE ALSO GOOD

The Kilkenny forward line is every bit as fast and probably a little more canny when it comes to score getting. Gargan, Langton and Sean O'Brien played in the 1939 and 1940 finals. Paddy O'Brien of Eire Og is a very useful full forward who may just prove too good for Con Murphy (Valley

Rovers), and Tom Walton has scarcely ever played a bad game since coming to senior ranks. Reidy is a fast winger who plays in his first final, but was well in the running for his place last year.

Centre field will be important for Kilkenny as Cottrell and Lynch combine very well. We did not see the best of Leahy in the Leinster final as he got a bad knock early in that game. He should hold his own and with Kennedy hitting form there will not be a lot in it one way or another.

The Kilkenny defence was causing some worries to the selectors, but Downey and Jimmy Kelly are expected

to set everybody's mind at ease in this respect.

They are two fast, well-trained teams and it is hard to even guess how the game will go.

Cork expect to win and so do Kilkenny, so then where do we stand? A snap score or two might lead to victory, but whoever wins will not have much to spare.

**Southern form speaks in favour of Cork but Southern form also spoke for the Leesiders in 1939 when Kilkenny won by a point. They are quite capable of repeating that victory this year, but Cork are very confident of recovering the laurels.**

## Deirbhreáras

Távo Saebit na Muman as bailiú arís cori euaibán Cumann Lúit-Clear Saebait—Dúrlar Éite, baite pteapeahait, baite Saebait. Agus ipé áobair a ceapair anpáio ná comráid i gclúide áppa na nSaebait, ior dá púipunn ve'n óeao pgoit, o'feipint. Cumhngimio ar na comhliné uile do bí ior Corcais agus lumnead ar an úpío ro ip na bliantaib do Saib éapainn agus ar feadair na gclúid do feapad eacoppa ann. Ríceann ar pmaointe ar ar bein laochra an dá éonnoae rin i pte n-aoir ar ion raoppe, ar ion clúid agus ar ion na teangan. Ip iomda púige in a úpuit coramtaic ior an dá éonnoae fan raobair rin.

Ip eol uáinn bupreao epóide na nSaebait ear éir Cinn tSaite agus a famat arís ear éir teicead na n-laplaí.

Púit na n-óeú áoiré óeas i úpéapad Muige agus cori máige, ip iomda coramtaic acá eacoppa. Féite, gpeann, pópce, ápú meannman Saebait, eamnead na úpíac agus cáinead na n-álmupac, do píoim an dá úpéam iao uile. Úioa a gceipceanna píúóca aca agus teangnaic eacoppa. Ip féioip uáinn san cumhneam ar iobdairi ceatpáir laob ar ion raoppe, tá beagnaic epúeao bliam ó íoin ann. Áobair mópcair do Corcais ar puo na epúinne cumhne Ceipceatpáir íúic Suibne agus Tomáir íúic Cúpcáin. Tá cumhne Seoiupe íúic íúicneacáa agus íúicé úí Ceat-lacáin beo in-áigne muinnicp lumng agus beio go bpáic.

Távo na cumhni rin, agus mópán eite naé iao, as pte in ar n-áigne inou agus ní tógea fan opáinn. An uile mó ba mian te Ó Néill agus Ó Donnait in ámpip Cinn tSaite, a ba mian teir an Sáppéatáic, a ba mian te íúapair Mac Seapait agus te n-áinopair Mac Cpait, a ba mian te Ceipceatpáic ip Tomáir ip Seoiupe ip íúicéat, beio te feipinc agáinn in Dúrlar Éite an veipe feacáimne íeo.

Deio bpac na raoppe as pólláimán go n-ápo te gaoit, beio ceot na héipeann te cloipinc san bac ó eactpáinnac ip san úlge in a comúid, iomepúeap camáin go n-epéatce agus te mópcair ór comáir pobáit éipeann agus clúppéar go púipreac i meapc an e-púicis teanga na nSaebait á labairc go binn ip go ceotáir.

Agus ívo é agáinn, ip uóicé íinn, móp-comapca fáir na íinne íeo—na píúóice as teacé as bpeacnú páp-clúide íománáideacáa agus an Saebitg óá labairc go púipreac in a meapc. Cúppóir Connpad na Saebitge agus Cumann Lúit-Clear Saebait óá úeabairc éun epúicé céim ar céim ívo é agáinn é.

Deirbhreárasa iao an Connpad agus an Cumann Lúit-Clear. Aca fan acá an púioim-tíonnacáir ar íaoáil na íinne íeo in éipunn. Ar a n-íúicéacáir íin ip mó acá áipe ar íúipréac ear páite úipúge—tópí aca ar éluicé agus ar feipceanna, ppeáimáca an Saebaitacáir inou.

Agus ip ácar íinn a áicpúir gup i úeipeire acá an ceangal ío íoip Connpad na Saebitge agus Cumann Lúit-Clear Saebait as uul ó bliam go bliam. íeapca beio an úúicéceangal ío eacoppa. Ó'íonn cuioúge te n-obair na teangan epúio an gConnpad agus an Ceipceatpáir (íe éomipce an Connpac) ímpedéap beag éluicé gac bliam agus an Cpáob éluicé ve i úpáipe an Cpócais Domnác an Cpéacáir. Toga íúipeann na íípe a beio ía comhínt. Agus an uapir, uapir gup íú é gnoúc.—Copp Tomáir Ágáir.

Ip bupúipí uapir ní ba éuibe ná comópáid ní ba éuibe. Togaó íeap éipeann do óéanam comópáid agus cumhne ar Tomáir Ágáir, íeap gúoide Saebaitac, camnceoir uúicéap Saebitge, íeap ímeapca éluicé Saebait (map bá uat do Ceipceatpáic), íeap ceot, íeapíúipí epúda agus maipcíp beannúgece ve éuro raoppe Saebait. Agus epáob éluicé an Comópáid, ar veipe íúip, í bpáipe an Cpócais map ar íúip íúit íeall ar Saebaitac.

Ip móp íoip inoé agus inou!

"ÍEAR Ó LAOGEAIRE."

### Two Cork Stars



Christy Ring, the Glen Rovers centre half forward, who will lead Cork against Kilkenny.



Jack Lynch, who will partner Con Cottrell at Centre-field.

Kilkenny had a wonderful hurling run from 1904 to 1913. In that decade they won seven All-Ireland titles, and four players, still fit and well (1942) won all Seven Medals. This record is never likely to be equalled. The distinguished hurlers in this selective list are:—Sim Walton, of Tullaroan; R. (Drug) Walsh and Ristead (Dick) Doyle, of Mooncoin; John Rochford (Three Castles).

The Grace family, of Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny, were outstanding in talent—versatile too. Mr. James Grace was on the 1888 invasion team. In the next generation we had three great brothers—John Grace of Dublin Kickham fame; Dr. Pierce Grace, dual All-Ireland winner; Richard (Dick) Grace, brilliant hurler and great leader of men. Of the same blood is Lory Meagher, and John Keogh of U.S.A. fame.



The Cork team which won the 1941 title, first of four in a row to come to Cork.

### Clar An Lae

1.45—M.H. Final—Dublin (holders) v. Tipperary (M. J. Flaherty, Galway).

3.15—S.H. Final—Cork v. Kilkenny (J. O'Flaherty, Offaly).

### First Meeting

FIRST meeting of Cork and Kilkenny in an All-Ireland final was at the Phoenix Park, Dublin, on June 24, 1894, for the 1893 title which Cork won, the score reading Cork (Blackrock) 6-8; Kilkenny (Confederation) 0-2.

The teams were:—  
Cork—John Murphy (Capt.), Jer. Norberg, D. Scannell, M. Murphy, D. Hayes, P. Coughlan, Jas. Young, S. Hegarty, M. Cronin, P. O'Keeffe, J. Callanan, John O'Leary, Jas. Delea, M. O'Connor, John Cashman, W. J. O'Connell, P. Flaherty.  
Kilkenny—D. Whelan (Capt.), J. Delaney, J. Grace, J. Lalor, P. Maher, E. Sheehan, J. Walsh, M. Coogan, M. Barry, M. Morrissey, J. McCarthy, R. Grace, J. King, J. Doheny, P. Brennan, L. Deloughry, P. Malone.

### Moondharrig

(By Rev. J. B. Dollard, Litt.D.)

When from her sleep of ages renowned Tipperary woke  
Her sister, fair Kilkenny, right courteously she spoke:  
"The Gaelic sun has risen; your champions fall in line,  
For Erin's olden glory, to clash camans with mine."

Chorus:  
Moondharrig! Moondharrig! ye leaped into the fray;  
Moondharrig! Moondharrig! how gloriously that day,  
Moycarkey and Moondharrig, a stubborn fight ye fought;  
Moondharrig! Moondharrig! what wonder works ye wrought!

God prosper old Moondharrig and keep her sons secure  
Within the sun-kissed valleys where rolls the stately Suir,  
And when the war's red beacon o'er Erin's mountains glows  
You'll find them in the vanguard that sweeps upon her foes!

### Caitheamh Aimsire

After the final it will be on to the Mansion House for the Siamsa Mor. Year after year visitors from the country for the finals are flocking in increasing numbers to the Mansion House. Well over 250,000 tickets have been sold since the inception of the Siamsa which this year, as usual, will be an official reception for the teams with a presentation of the All-Ireland trophies and addresses by prominent Gaels.

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# Here They Come Once Again MEET KILKENNY'S MEN OF METTLE



Tom Walton scores a goal for Kilkenny in Leinster final.

Here they come again, those stalwarts from the Nore. You can hear the cheers of their thousands of admirers and see the black and amber flags flutter in the breeze as they troop out from the Cusack Stand. They are following on the footsteps of many great Noreside teams of the past, and with the example of the men who brought twelve titles home to the Marble City, they are ready to give of their best against the Munster champions.

Proud of the honour of representing their county, those Kilkenny stalwarts, led by Jack Mulcahy, make their bow to the crowds which pack stands, sidelines and embankments. Here they are.—

**S. Donegan** (Eoghan Ruadh, Dublin)—Hails from Ye Faire Cúit. Kept goal for Dublin in the 1942 and 1944 finals. Has been much in the limelight in Dublin championships in which he played many great games for Ruadh. Threw in his lot with his native county this year and kept a good goal all through the championship.

**P. Grace** (Dicksboro, who fills the right full-back berth, played in the 1939, 1940 and 1945 finals. A sterling defender, who is seldom beaten. Paddy was seen in topping form against Dublin and Antrim in this season's games.

**M. Butler** (Faughs), who fills the full-back position, is another experienced player. Was on the Dublin team which won the 1938 title and also played against Cork in 1942 and 1944, captaining the Liffeymen in the 1944 final. Is a well-known Faughs stalwart who, throwing in his lot with his native Kilkenny this year, hopes to win another All-Ireland medal.

**W. Walsh** (Carrickshock) came on as sub in last year's final against Tipperary. Is a dashing young hurler with all the fire for which Carrickshock men are noted.

**J. Kelly** (Carrickshock) will be remembered for years in Kilkenny as scorer of the winning point in the 1939 final in which he filled a centre-field berth. Played against Limerick in the 1940 final and came on as a sub in last year's final. Has been recalled this year to fill the right half-back position.

**S. Downey** (St. Brendans) is a promoted Junior, who shaped so well in the centre half-back berth against Dublin in the Gaelic League tournament final, that the selectors retained him for the big test with Cork on Sunday. Comes with the reputation of being a skilful hurler.

**J. Mulcahy** (Eire Og), who will captain the team, helped to win the 1939 title, and was also on the teams which lost to Limerick in 1940 and to Tip-

perary in 1945, filling berths in attack. Has been a great success at left half-back, where he will play to-morrow.

**D. Kennedy** (Thomastown), first came into the limelight last season. Played at centre-field against Tipperary in last year's final. Was seen to advantage in this year's Leinster final, and is expected to further enhance his reputation in his first championship clash with the Leesiders.

**Terry Leahy** (Faughs) is a native of Urlingford and brother of Tommy Leahy, who played many great games for his native county. Terry helped the Noresiders to victory over Cork in 1939, and was on the team which lost to Limerick in 1940. Assisted Dublin in the 1944 final, and is once again back in black and amber colours to partner Kennedy at centre-field.

**J. Gargan** (Faughs) is another of the 1939 All-Ireland winners who was also on the 1940 and 1945 teams. Played with Tullaroan and Eire Og in local Kilkenny games and helped Faughs to retain this year's Dublin senior title. A clever forward, who played a leading part in the defeat of Dublin in this year's Leinster final. Plays as right half forward.

**J. Langton** (Eire Og) captained the team which lost to Limerick in 1940 and was on the team which won the title in 1939; also played against Tipperary in last year's final, and has also represented his province in Railway Cup games. A clever forward and accurate placer of frees, Jim will trouble the Cork defence to-morrow.

**L. Reidy** (Eire Og) was a sub on last year's selection and has played himself on to this year's team by his consistently good displays this season. A fast winger, Liam should do well on the left flank of the Noreside attack.

**T. Walton** (Tullaroan) is the only representative of far-famed Tullaroan

on the side. A typical Tullaroan hurler, Tom got a valuable goal against Dublin in the Leinster final. Appears in his second All-Ireland Final as right corner forward.

**P. O'Brien** (Eire Og), who fills the full forward berth, plays in his first All-Ireland Final. Is a grand forward whose brainy work has gained many scores for Kilkenny in this year's championship.

**Sean O'Brien** (Dicksboro) played as full forward in the 1939, 1940 and 1945 finals. A crafty hurler, "Seanie" has been a big success in the left corner. Formerly played for Eire Og, and was a well-known Minor.

## That Point Again

It is amazing how often a point has separated Cork and Kilkenny in an All-Ireland final.

Their second meeting for the hurling blue riband at Carrick-on-Suir on June 24, 1906 (for the 1904 title) went in favour of the Marble County, the score being 1-9 to 1-8. Again at Dunganarvan in their fourth tussle for the All-Ireland crown on June 21, 1908, Kilkenny won 3-12 to 4-8, and when last they met in the final of 1933 that point was again the deciding score, Kilkenny winning 2-7 to 3-3.

## The Curtain Raiser Should Be Good

THE All-Ireland minor hurling final which precedes the senior game on Sunday at Croke Park also brings Leinster and Munster teams into opposition, Dublin defending the title against Tipperary.

The presence of these two teams widens appeal, and those who intend coming to Croke Park should make it a point to be in time for this minor final, as it is likely to be every bit as good, and maybe better, than the senior game. Meeting in last year's final, Dublin created a first-class surprise by defeating a Tipperary team that had swept all before it in the South and West. This team came to Croke Park with even a bigger reputation than the present Tipp fifteen, who have also beaten well fancied Munster combinations as well as Galway in the semi-final.

Dublin also readily conquered all opposition in the East and then travelled to Corrigan Park, where they swamped Antrim.

Tipperary will be keen to wipe out the memories of last year's defeat and there will be no over-confidence as there was twelve months ago.

The Tipp team is drawn from the chief hurling centres in that county. North Tipp is well represented, while there are also players from Mid and West.

The majority of the Dublin boys have learned their hurling in the primary schools and colleges competitions which in recent years have done so much for the National games.

Dublin out for a double by winning the title for the second year in succession will be hard to beat, but this is a star Tipperary side and there will not be a lot in it between two well-trained, eager teams.

Mol an oige agus tiocfaidh sí.

## Kilkenny Hopes Have Soared

KILKENNY hopes are high of another All-Ireland title for the Black and Amber, colours first carried by the Confederation Club and later made famous by many great teams from the silvery Nore and languid Suir.

The return of the "exiles", Mick Butler, Jim Donegan and Terry Leahy has strengthened the team. Those three fill very important positions.

The promotion of young Downey from Junior ranks to fill the centre half-back berth has met with general approval as this Hugginstown youth is a grand hurler.

The recalling of Jimmy Kelly to play at right half-back is expected to strengthen the defence which was the weak part of the team in the Leinster final against Dublin.

Dan Kennedy and Terry Leahy have blended into a good centrefield partnership and with all the traditional craft for which the Noresiders are famed, the forwards are a fast lot who will seize on every opening as they did against Dublin in the Leinster final.

Mick Butler has brought weight to the full-back line and as he hits up a good partnership with Donegan the Cork forwards will have no easy passage to the Kilkenny net.

Mr. Dan O'Connell, who has trained many Kilkenny All-Ireland winning sides expressed himself as very pleased with the present team when our representative spoke to him this week. Mr. Tom Walsh, Chairman of the County Board also told us that he expected the team to play well and that it was his opinion that the Noresiders would succeed where Clare, Waterford, Limerick and Galway failed.



Snap of play in the Leinster final at Croke Park, where Kilkenny defeated Dublin.

## Big Games to Come

There are many big challenge and tournament games listed for the coming weeks. Next Sunday the Arus na nGaedheal hurling and football tournament finals will be played at Croke Park.

Clare (National League champions) and Dublin meet in the hurling game and the football tie is between Louth and Kildare.

The Thomond hurling tournament final, Clare v. Tipperary, will be played at Limerick on Sept. 29.

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CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEDHEAL.

# All-Ireland Football Championship Final

Ράιηε Δη Οηόεαηζ 22Δο η. ηοζηαηη 1946

SENIOR GAME-Οηαηηαηοε V. Ροηκοηάηηη Ar 3.15 a chlog

MINOR GAME— Οηαηηαηοε V. Άτ Οηατ Ar 1.45 a chlog

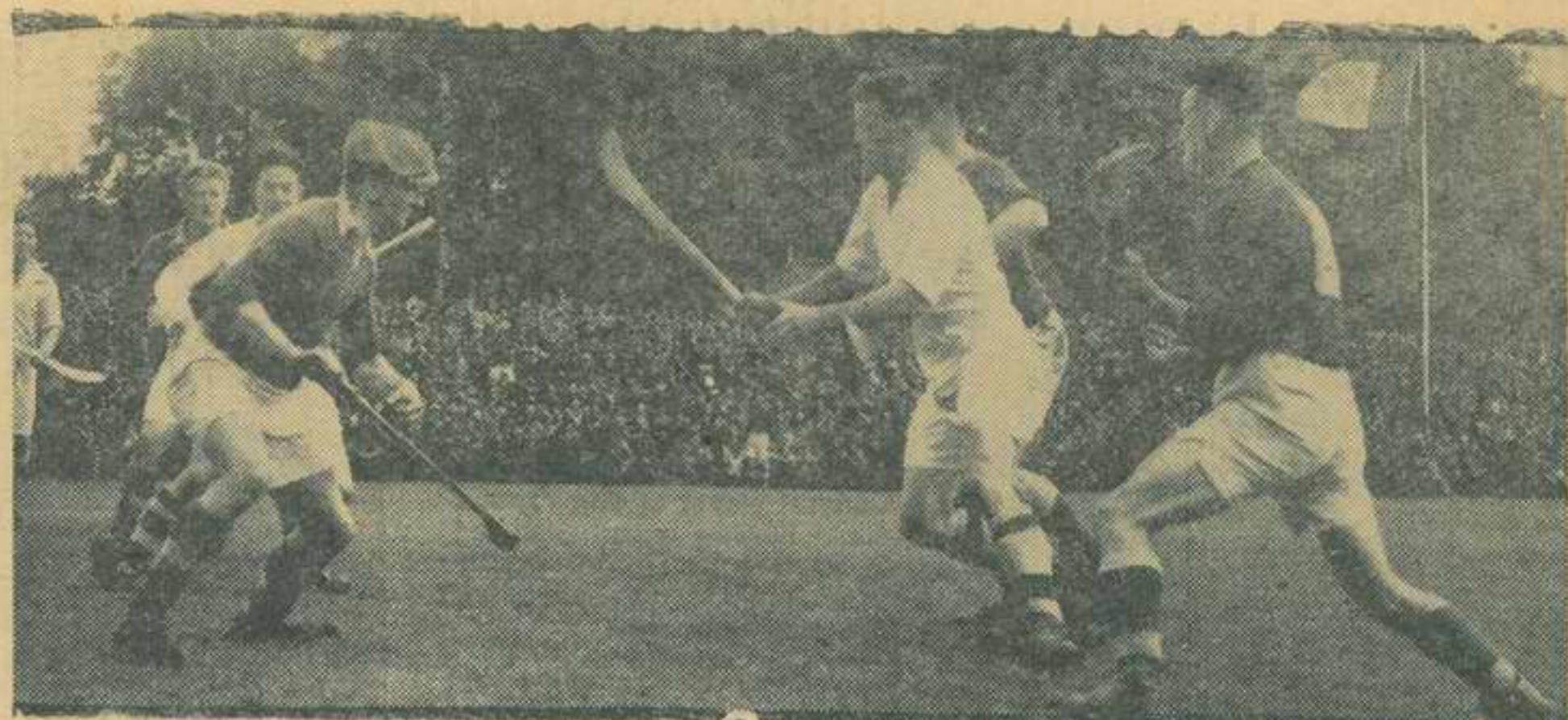
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# Christy Ring And His Men

## CLOSE UP OF THE LEESIDERS



For the sixth year in succession we have a Cork team at Croke Park in an All-Ireland final. Last year it was the footballers and for four years before it was the hurlers who are back again in a bid to recover laurels they lost in 1945 at Thurles.

A blend of experienced and youthful hurlers they have chalked up victories over Clare, Waterford, Limerick and Galway on their way to Croke Park.

The majority are well known to the headquarters crowd for: W. Murphy, A. Lotty, J. Young and J. Lynch, having played against Kilkenny in the 1939 final. Captained by Christy Ring here are the Leaside hurlers:

**T. MULCAHY** (St. Finbarrs), plays in his third All-Ireland final, two of which he helped to win for his County. Is one of the best goalies in the game as he proved in the Munster Championship games this year.

**W. MURPHY** (Ballincollig), is appearing in his sixth All-Ireland final. Fills the right full back berth where he has played many good games for Cork and Munster. Helped to win four All-Irelands in a row and hopes to make it five tomorrow.

**C. MURPHY** (Valley Rovers), who was recalled this year to fill the full back position, played as left full in the 1943 final and at centre half in the 1944 final. A sound hurler who has improved with every appearance this season.

**D. J. BUCKLEY** (Glen Rovers), who will man the left full berth, is one of three brothers who have all played for "The Glen" and for Cork. "Din Joe" was on the teams which won four All-Irelands and, like Bill Murphy, and the rest he is hopeful of making it five. He has also played for Munster.

**P. O'DONOVAN** (Glen Rovers), who will be at right half back, played in all four finals won by Cork from 1941 to 1944. A sound hurler, Paddy will be hard to get past tomorrow.

**A. LOTTY** (Sarsfields), is another who played in the historic 1939 final and was also on the teams which set up the record of four All-Irelands in a row. He has played at right full back, left full back, right half back, left half back and tomorrow he will be at centre half back where he proved an outstanding success this season.

**J. YOUNG** (Glen Rovers), is yet another who played in the 1939 final and also helped to win the four titles in a row (1941-1944). A native of Dunmanway, Jim has played with distinction at left half back and left half forward. Member of a family of footballers and hurlers, his father and brother having won football All-Irelands with Cork.

**J. LYNCH** (Glen Rovers), is well known to the crowds at Croke Park, where he is making his sixth successive All-Ireland final appearance. He has won five All-Irelands in a row—four hurling and one football—and may set up an all-time record by winning his sixth tomorrow. He has played in many positions for Cork but will be in his best berth tomorrow when he partners Con Cottrell at centre field.

**C. COTTRILL** (Valley Rovers), won the 1941, 1943 and 1944 All-Irelands playing at centre half back in the first, and at centre field in the other two. Out of the game for some time he was recalled to partner Jack Lynch at centre field in the Munster final against Limerick. Is a sterling hurler who teams well with Lynch.

**P. HEALY** (Ballincollig), is making



Con Cottrell, whose return to centre-field has strengthened the Cork team.

his first appearance in an All-Ireland final. Played at centre field against Clare and Waterford in the Munster tests. Moved to right half forward he gave a good display against Limerick in the Munster final and was again seen to advantage in this position against Galway.

**C. RING** (Glen Rovers), who will captain the team, is one of the fastest forwards playing to-day. Solo runs are his speciality, he can also combine to effect with his fellow forwards. Helped Cork to win the four All-Irelands from 1941 to 1944 and has also played for Munster several times. Fills his now familiar centre half forward berth.

**C. MURPHY** (Bride Rovers), is the third Murphy to play in this year's All-Ireland, but this Murphy is making his first appearance in a final at Croke Park. A fast young hurler who made his name in local games, Con has been in the scoring

news all through the season. Fills the left half forward position.

**M. O'RIORDAN** (Blackrock), is the sole representative of this famous hurling stronghold on the team. Playing in his first All-Ireland, Mossie is an elusive right corner man who got many scores during the year.

**G. O'RIORDAN** (Civil Service, Dublin), who plays at full forward, is a brother of Mossie's who was prominent in Dublin hurling before declaring for his native Cork this year. Has proved an outstanding success as full forward, solving a problem which confronted the Cork selectors when John Quirke retired.

**JOE KELLY** (Glen Rovers), is as well known as an athlete as a hurler. Was well in the picture at the recent Irish Championships, where he won two titles. Helped his County to win the All-Ireland in 1944 and was a big noise in the defeat of Galway in this year's semi-final. Fills the left corner forward berth.

The Mahers of Killinan, Thurles, were a famous hurling family. Dinny captained Tipperary's first champions; brothers Ned and Jim were well known. John Maher, ex-captain of Tipperary, is a son to Dinny Maher.

The Cork defence in action against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final at Birr.

## Rebel County Confidence

### HANDBALL

All-Ireland Hurling Final morning will as usual have the Depot Court attraction for all patrons of the game. The Senior Hard Ball Singles Final between J. J. Gilmartin (Kilkenny), and A. Clarke (Dublin) at 11.30 a.m. will bring into opposition the two greatest stylists in the game. Both have won All-Ireland titles before, but Gilmartin, the reigning champion, seems to be in a class of his own, while his opponent, Clarke, is a forceful player with perfect hands. The champion may, by his superior alley-craft, pull the game in his favour.

Cork will be dually represented, playing Roscommon in Minor Soft 10 a.m., and Wexford in Junior Soft Singles, 10.30 a.m. The Senior game will start sharp to time and will be refereed by G. Moran (Kildare).

**CORK** seeking their sixteenth All-Ireland senior hurling honours will be represented at Croke Park to-morrow by a team which is rated highly in the Southern counties. Victories over Clare, Waterford, Limerick and Galway have strengthened confidence in the Rebel County, which will send its biggest hosting ever to Croke Park to cheer on Christy Ring and his men.

The players have gone through their customary course of training under Jim Barry, who has seen all the Cork sides of recent years through the Championships. Mulcahy, the tall, lithe Barr's goalie, is playing better than he did in 1944 and with Con Murphy settled down in his new full back position the defence is expected to hold the nippy black and amber forwards.

#### WON FIVE.

The return of Con Cottrell has strengthened the centre-field, where the Valley Rovers man hits up a good partnership with Jack Lynch, playing in his sixth successive final—five of which he has helped to win.

The inclusion of Jerry O'Riordan, now playing with Civil Service, Dublin, his brother Mossy of the far-famed Rockies and Con Murphy from Bride Rovers has brought fresh thrust to the attack, in which P. Healy, C. Ring and Joe Kelly are also listed.

Speed is the big asset of this new Cork forward line, which is the same as that played against Limerick and Galway.

Those who saw the team play against Limerick and Galway say that it is an ideal blend. The defence is steady and experienced with Lotty at centre-half ideally filling a key position.

The experience of Lynch and Cottrell is expected to at least hold the centre-field safe and the forwards with Ring the leader should be able to secure enough scores to bring the title to Cork.

Cork supporters, without being boastful, expect the title to return to the Rebel County.

They fully realise the worth of Kilkenny, whose record in All-Ireland finals is of the best, and if the Black and Amber wins the day Cork players and officials will be the first to shake the hands of the victors.

## What Jim Barry Thinks of It

**GET** in touch with Jim Barry and find out what he thinks of Cork's chances," the Editor told me one evening last week.

Jim is a mighty hard man to contact on the end of a telephone when Cork hurlers or footballers are in training for an All-Ireland.

"Mr. Barry, is it?" a lady asked me when I rang a number in Cork. "You'll find Mr. Barry out training the hurlers." "Out where?" I asked. "Out at the athletic grounds I expect" came back the answer. "What time do you expect him back?" was my next question. "Oh! any time after eleven. Who will I say wanted him?" "Tell him the Gaelic Echo man will ring him at 11.30" I told her as I hung up the phone.

"Is that you?" Jim enquired when I got through around half past eleven, "what's troubling you now?" "I have to get the latest news about the Cork hurlers" I told him.

"There's no latest news about them" came back the answer. "They are all as fit as I could make them and I expect them to play well." "Do you think they'll win?" was my next question. "Well, they should, but you can never be sure with Kilkenny. Look at 1939 when we thought we had a great team and they beat us by a point. We have a good team this year and on the form shown against Limerick and Galway our lads should win another All-Ireland." "Will your backs hold the Kilkenny forwards?" I shot at him over the phone. "I think they will" came back the answer after a slight pause, and I knew I had set him thinking. "Our backs were very sound at Thurles and Birr" he went on. "Those Kilkenny forwards are very tricky and they always play well at Croke Park." There was another pause and then he finished up with: "I think we'll about win as we have a little more experience, but I'm certain it will be a good game."

CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEDHEAL.

# All-Ireland Hurling Championship Final

Πάση Αν Εφόρεις 1αο m. Ροζμαρη 1946

SENIOR GAME—CILL COINNIG V. COIRCAIG Ar 3.15 a chlog

MINOR GAME—Δτ Cλιατ v. Τιοβραο Δμανη Ar 1.45 a chlog

ADMISSION — 1/- and 2/- . ● ● SIDE - LINE — 2/6 EXTRA.

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Come Early and Obey the Stewards

1940

# Dan Stapleton Looks Back Great Players and Teams of the Past

DAN Stapleton, or Supt. Dan Stapleton, Garda Ballistic expert, was the youngest player to ever captain an All-Ireland hurling team. Dan led the Erin's Own selection to victory over Cork St. Finbarrs at Dungarvan in 1907 for the 1905 title.

In Gaelic Memories compiled by Seamas O'Ceallaigh and published by Gaelic Publications, Limerick, Dan gave a fleeting look back on the great players and great teams of his day. The article will be of particular interest to our readers in view of Kilkenny's appearance in this year's final. Here is friend Dan's story:—

"Many great terms and personalities stand out in my memory, but I think the most poignant recollection was, and still is, the year 1898, when Three Castles, Kilkenny, met Tubberadora, Tipperary, in the All-Ireland final. I was then in Rockwell College, and I remember a Clare man, Tim Collison, saying to me: "Poor Kilkenny hasn't got a chance against Tubberadora." Neither had they, as it turned out. Kilkenny had, in six years, appeared in the final four times, and were defeated on each occasion. I vowed that one day Kilkenny would just have that chance, and it came earlier than I expected. Tullaroan, captained by Jer. Doheny, had won the Leinster championship for 1903. During the progress of the championship, a young team—Erin's Own—had sprung up in Kilkenny City, and which I had joined after leaving Rockwell. Erin's Own, in 1904, won the Kilkenny County Championship, and as a result, Tullaroan selected three of their players—Paddy Lanigan (R.I.P.), Tom Kenny, and your humble servant—to assist them in the 1903 All-Ireland. This fresh blood seemed to infuse a new life into Kilkenny, for their hurling became superb, and, during the next ten years, they won the Irish Championship seven times and the Inter-Provincial Railway Shields outright from the pick of Munster.

**PLAYERS OF RENOWN.**  
Those were the days: when some great hurlers appeared on the horizon and people often travelled simply to see the brilliant caman-wielding of these men. To mention some of them: Matty Gargan, with his piston-like grab and low left-handed drive of unerring accuracy towards the posts. Jack Anthony of Piltown, whose wrist-controlled shot I have never seen surpassed and only equalled by Matty Power. John Power of Piltown, whose pucks-out from goal have never been even equalled. On several occasions at Croke Park, from the canal end, John has put the ball over the goal line at the Railway end. Then there were Dan Kennedy, Erin's Own; Tom Murphy, Three Castles, and Tom Semple, Thurles (R.I.P.), all stars at the 70 yards. The two former, on one occasion, tied in the rise and strike of the ball at Kilkenny sports with a puck of 129 yards. On the puck-off Dan won with 131 yards. Jack Rochford, Three Castles, the most brilliant



Jack Rochford and Mikie Doyle.  
"It was a pleasure to watch Jack juggle with the ball."

full-back Kilkenny ever produced. Jack, when all seemed lost, had an uncanny method of nipping in with hurl and turning the ball—sometimes only a matter of a foot or so—but to such effect that it either made his opponent miss or made it impossible for him to carry out his original plan of attack. The spectacular clearances which Jack executed, in this way, are still remembered and spoken of in Kilkenny. Jack was of slight build, but was very fast and wiry, and could take an amount of punishment without flinching. I usually played in front of him, at centre-back, and always my instructions before a match were:—"Protect Jack at any cost." This I did to the best of my ability and avoirdupois, and sure enough I often had the pleasure of watching Jack juggle with the ball to the utter bewilderment of his opponents. Then there was Tim Gleeson, the schoolmaster hurler from Drombane, whose ground drives were some of the most spectacular things which I ever witnessed on a hurling field. Tim found no difficulty in cutting the ball off the ground—often the full length of the playing pitch, and frequently scored points, in this manner, from his own half-back position.

**GREAT NET-MINDERS.**  
I can recall also some famous goalmen: "Fox" Maher and Ned Teehan of Tullaroan; Andy Fitzgerald of Cork; "Hawk" O'Brien of Tipperary, and John Power of Piltown. There were, of course, brilliant and spectacular hurlers from other counties—Bob Keefe, Leix; Mike Cummins, Wexford; Jim Kelleher, W. Hennessy and Billy Mackessy, Cork. Incidentally "Billy" in one All-Ireland final at Dungarvan accidentally displaced three of my teeth, when pulling on a ball near our goal. I never blamed "Billy," as it was entirely my own fault.

The above are some of the impressions which these players, as individuals, made upon me. I recollect them vividly by reason of the fact that I often played in close proximity to them, and so was enabled to recognise the particular brilliancy which was a characteristic separately developed in these men. It was weird, too, the regularity with which they were able to demonstrate these talents, and on occasions, when great games were being played, they were still stars amongst stars.

**A FAMOUS ALL-IRELAND FINAL.**

I cannot conclude this article without mentioning one thrilling All-Ireland final between Cork and Kilkenny at Dungarvan in 1905. It was subsequently immortalised in prose and verse by Rev. Fr. Dollard (Slievenamon). In that match the two teams were level nine times in the last quarter hour. One can best imagine the alternating anxiety and frantic jubilation of the followers on both sides. There were only two minutes to go, with the teams level. Cork had just scored a point; John Power pucked out the ball from the Kilkenny goal to just beyond midfield, where the Cork half-backs and centres and the Kilkenny half-forwards and centres were straining with their hurls to reach the clouds in their efforts to intercept the ball, but there was one player that day whose reach seemed to extend forward for yards beyond all the others—Tom Kenny of Erin's Own. The ball glanced off his hurl out to Jack Anthony, who was standing unmarked a

few yards away. He curled those steel-like wrists of his, without apparent effort, and with perfect timing met the ball in a drop-tip, and sent it sailing over the Cork posts for the winning point. The resultant scene was indescribable. The winners were carried from the field, amidst a deafening uproar from the followers. Poor 'Devils,' who had already lost their voices, were still endeavouring to join in the racket but could contribute nothing better than a hoarse or feeble squeak. Danny O'Connell, the Kilkenny County Secretary, completely lost his voice, and was only consoled when he learned that his friend and companion, Jack Sweeney, had also separated himself from his vocal cords.

**CHANGES IN HURLING RULES.**

During my time I witnessed the transition from 17 to 15 a side, and from the double points and goal posts to the present arrangements. At that time it was thought that, with these changes, there would be less scoring and more matches would end in draws. Such did not prove to be the case—the new conditions were quickly mastered. A new technique was introduced into the forwards' game, and we were treated to more real hurling, with faster and better games.

The shape and weight of the hurl also changed about that time: it was made lighter, with a shorter boss. The back of the hurl was also reduced in thickness—a fact which reduced effective ground striking and developed a tendency to frequently pick and strike the ball in the air. The latter is no doubt more spectacular to a degree, but it is more frequently the cause of head injuries than any other style of playing. I am still of the opinion that the ground striking is the more effective and telling. Indeed, in this year's All-Ireland Final we had a contrast of the two methods, and those who witnessed the game will have no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that the ground striking prevailed.

## The Referees

O'Flaherty of Tullamore who will have charge of the Senior Hurling game is a well-known official of the Offaly County Board. He has handled many important games at Croke Park Thurles and other venues. Has also refereed many big football games.

Referee for the Minor game is M. J. Flaherty, who was a player for Galway and Connacht. Better known as "Inky" Flaherty, he refereed the Leinster v. Munster Railway Cup Hurling semi-final at Waterford last February.

## Famous Tullaroan

TULLAROAN was the first parish to win a Kilkenny senior hurling title.

This was way back in 1887, when the late Henry Meagher, father of Lory, Henry and William who played in the 1926 All-Ireland, was one of the leading lights in the young G.A.A. movement.

It was a Tullaroan selection brought the first All-Ireland to Kilkenny and scattered over the story of the G.A.A. one finds the name of this North Kilkenny parish.

"Sliabh Ruadh," who wrote many hurling songs, penned the following lines in praise of Tullaroan. The song is sung to the air of "Bold Jack Donoghue":—

I'll sing of a place and a generous race,  
Beyond Kilkenny town,  
Who live to-day, as they did alway',  
In honour and renown;  
Where the cheer and the smile the time beguile,  
And sorrow is unknown.  
'Tis our proudest boast—so here's a toast  
To famous Tullaroan!  
The people are gay in a homely way,  
And their hearts are kind and true;  
If you come that way, by night or day,  
There's welcome there for you:  
You can sit by the fire to your heart's desire—  
In far-famed Tullaroan.

They make you one of their own.  
May blessings fall on one and all  
In Famous Tullaroan!  
The girls are gay as the flowers in May  
And as fair as you could find:  
I must declare, if I stopped long there,  
My heart I'd leave behind;  
If I could please but one of these,  
All riches I'd disown,  
And live content what e'er God sent,  
In famous Tullaroan—

The young men, too, are tried and true,  
And as loyal as e'er I found:  
Their fame and name at the hurling game  
Has travelled Ireland 'round;  
In the fight or field they never will yield:  
Just like a wall of stone,  
They've stood the test with Ireland's best,  
The boys from Tullaroan!

The land is tilled and the barns filled,  
And the houses neat and clean:  
The cattle are good, for of course they should,  
For the grass is sweet and green;  
They live content and they pay the rent,  
For each one has his own.  
May God befriend unto the end  
The hearts in Tullaroan!

I'd travel each mile of Erin's Isle  
Such happiness to find:  
Honour and fame and a titled name  
I'd gladly leave behind:  
Tho' poor I'd be, yet blithe and free,  
For happiness I'd own,  
And when I'd die, my latest sigh—  
"God bless you, Tullaroan!"

Jimmy O'Connell, who kept goal for Kilkenny in the 1940 final, which the Nonesiders won by a point.

## Last Meeting

Last meeting of Cork and Kilkenny in an All-Ireland final was at Croke Park on September 3, 1939. Kilkenny won by 2-7 to 3-3 after a game that will never be forgotten by the 39,402 people who paid £3,678 to see it.

The teams were:—

**Kilkenny**—J. O'Connell, P. Grace, P. Larkin, P. Blanchfield, R. Hinks, W. Burke, P. Phelan, J. Walsh (Capt), J. Kelly, J. Langton, Terry Leahy, J. Gargan, J. Mulcahy, Sean O'Brien, J. D. Phelan. Sub: R. Brannigan.

**Cork**—J. Buttimer, A. Lotty, W. Thornhill, W. Murphy, W. Campbell, J. Quirke, J. Young, J. Lynch (Capt.), Sean Barrett, C. Buckley, R. Dineen, W. Tabb, R. Ring, T. O'Sullivan, M. Brennan.

Hurling is a manly game—never meant to be a kid-glove affair. Yet Christy Nolan, the St. Finbarr star, always wore a glove on his left hand when playing wing for Leaside. Championship hurling is a stern exacting game.

C. L. C. S.

INIS LEABAR bliantúil, '46 (Sá uilinn)

An t-ion-leabhar ainmín a churann eolair iomlán ar imreachtair éilúic na nSaebeal

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# THE PLACE OF SPORT IN A NATION'S LIFE

ACTIVE, healthy sport was at one time permissive. Nowadays it has become almost compulsory. We speak of active sport in the physical sense, and of healthy sport in the moral sense. Horsemanship is a sport and an art, for the rider, but it is neither, so far as its vicarious devotees are concerned. It is true also that the best of recreation can be debased by the attitude of those engaged in them.

In writing of Irish games and athletics, we have endeavoured to present and preserve them on the highest plane as personal benefits and national assets. In so far as the pursuit of popular pastimes connotes healthy manhood, can its advantages be overrated? Do these games not represent a source of national strength, productive vigour, and, in the last desperate equation, racial self-defence? Most modern nations have come to value and organise them for their practical worth. The Gael, ages ago, recognised this aspect. The ancient Fiana did not go scouring the plains and tracking in the woods for mere idle amusement. These games are now more important to us than ever.

But something more is needed. This is, an inward response—difficult to define and only too easy to realise in its absence—to the highest and broadest purpose of our distinctive pastimes. An individual may cultivate his natural endowments for his own pleasure and well-being. A race should direct its united strength towards security and progress. The physical allegiance which Irish youth or manhood transfers to pursuits which are, by their origin and nature, harmful and un-native, is as treasonable as the denial of co-operation in the general national life and struggle. Activities that can be associated with potential national crises must have a common plane and an identical outlook. The enemy, nurtured to splendid strength within the bosom of the nation which is as interdependent as the natural family, is as dangerous as the wolf-cub reared in the sheepfold, the hawklet fledged in the dove-cote.

It has been the happy fortune of Ireland to have distinctive pastimes, the merits of which have been demonstrated by the spirit and skill they demand and the worth of the men who have practised them. These inherited games and distinctive athletic feats should be adopted as part of our insular activities; fostered, purified and made a bond and a defence amongst us.

Though far from complete, the revival which has come to our native pastimes is widespread, and gives every indication of permanency. This assertion is made with a full knowledge of the spread of foreign games, more congenial to the temperaments and affiliations of that alienism in our midst which English domination created and Irish sycophancy fostered. No one grudges them their amusements; no one envies them their isolation. Such divided allegiance as they would offer could lend no real strength to Gaelic ranks. The national games command the adhesion of all who subscribe to the whole Irish ideal of nationhood; and they will retain the loyalty of all save those who can neither resist alien allurements nor repress selfish impulses.

The leaning towards imported pastimes is incontestable, and a hundred pleas have been advanced to explain it. They can all be reduced to one, which is never urged—the desire, born of serfdom and all its venalities, to ape and pose as a

superior caste. The small soul cowers in the presence of a dominant personality; the natural coward shrinks even from contrast with the more truculent; the diffident person (to use no harsher term) discards anything that might distinguish him from those whose adventitious influence or power he fears; and hundreds of Irish youths renounce their own games. For those of the foreigner? No; for those of the oppressor within their own dismembered and devastated country.

Most of these would play the native games, but must be permitted to cultivate their adopted affinities at the same time. There is safety, they think, as well as variety in this. In a word, they elect to make Ireland the arena of their athletic exploits while seeking external commendation. The basis of national strength is shattered by this deviation and weakness. If the cosmos of nature and life, which we call Ireland, is not worthy of our undivided allegiance and devotion, it is worthy of none whatever.

This situation and the possibility which it is no disservice to envisage, cast upon convinced Gaels the heavier burden which always falls to the lot of natural soldiers and enthusiastic legions. They must not be content with the present strength or morale of the Gaelic Athletic Association. They must seek to consolidate the one and reinforce the other, even by a drastic process of concentration. A wavering garrison in an outpost can betray a citadel and surrender a city. We want no Cremonas in Gaeldom and must rather trust our cause and future to Gaels of the calibre of O'Mahony's immortal troop, though few, than risk surprise and eventual capitulation.

(From *Our Native Games* by Celt. Published by M. H. Gill and Son, Ltd., Dublin).



Winning the 1942 title, this team set Cork on the road to its great record of four successive All-Irelands.

## A HURLING FOREWORD

HURLING has been more than a game to the Irish Nation; it has been a symbol and an inspiration; a bulwark and a fortress; a university and a racial bond which has never been broken; a tradition and torchlight in days of darkness—from Moytura to Dublin streets; from Curlew Mountains to Kinsale; a clarion call and rallying ground to this day and of the years to be.

A handbook on hurling gives some brief reference to the game's history and significance, tracing its varying fortunes as the spirit of the Nation ebbed and flowed, with hints to players and a resume of G.A.A. activities—such a handbook has long been awaited at home and by our people overseas.

The Gaelic Athletic Association at its foundation in 1884 set itself a far-reaching mission. The Nation's spirit was at a low ebb when Michael Cusack set his hand to the plough. Hurling, the traditional and manly pastime of our people, was in deep decay; its death was threatened. Haphazard and ill-controlled matches were played here

and there, but rules there were none; disputes were many and disorders common. Foreign games and pastimes, organised by recent plantations, were undermining the Nation's morale. Slowly was the Gaelic culture being smothered in a wilderness of imported weeds. The Gaelic Athletic Association set about changing all that; much has been achieved, but there is hard and earnest work in front. To this work our best energies must be directed.

It can be said that Hurling has been accepted by the Gaelic Athletic Association as the prime object of our care and devotion. In our efforts to make it Ireland's National Pastime, without peer or rival, countless difficulties have been encountered; many have been overcome, but heavy problems remain. Hurling's popularity had been confined to certain areas where traditional skill and love for the game were handed down from father to son. The game holds pride of place in these same areas to-day. The Association's efforts have been directed to spread that enthusiasm to every parish in the Thirty-two Counties of Ireland.

Weaker counties have been graded separately and weaker provinces have been substantially helped from the Central funds. Very considerable and continued endeavour has been directed to the establishment of the game in schools and colleges. This work has met with abundant success. It is true that some are still outside the Association, and in more than a few Hurling is unknown and neglected. It is hoped, by good example and precept that all the straying lambs will return to the fold. Every possible means is being availed of to make Hurling the principal pastime of our Schools and Colleges. Where Hurling is encouraged the standard of skill is very high, and our College finals rival Senior All-Irelands in speed and artistry. Thorough and efficient work is being done by Primary teachers for Hurling, especially in the cities. On the whole there is a bright prospect for the game's future in our schools and colleges though our efforts, instead of being relaxed, must be redoubled to fulfil our mission.

The high cost of hurleys has proved a big handicap in the promotion of the game. Different schemes have been adopted to secure good hurleys at a reasonable cost; at the moment a Special Committee are engaged in this important work. Sources of suitable wood are being explored. The Department of Forestry are planting more ash at our request; a plan to register all manufacturers of hurleys with their likely output and scales of prices is being developed. It is hoped to put a good caman in every youth's hand at

### Our Next Issue

NEXT issue of the Gaelic Echo will be in connection with the All-Ireland Football Final on Sept. 22. It will be on sale on Sept. 20. Those wishing to secure copies by post should order at least a week in advance from 14 Cearnog Parnail, Baile Atha Cliath.

The Leahys of Boherlahan have a grand record. Captain Sean Leahy led Tipp over a long winning period. Michael Leahy starred for Tipp and Cork—a grand forward. Brothers Tommy and Paddy Leahy were not far behind. All four helped their county in big games. Captain Sean is Tipp's Hon. Sec. of long standing.

"I was coming from the fair at Ross I saw that bend of growing ash and swore I'd cut that 'makings' true, before the night was done. Tho' tyrants held the woodland then, close guarded by Black Tady Nash, I shouldered home that 'soople' tree before the morning sun. —'Carbery'."



Dr. Tom Daly of Clare, though brief of inches, was a marvellous goalkeeper. His clothed deliveries were three-quarterfield length. He was killed in a road accident on a mission of charity in his native Tulla, Co. Clare.—R.I.P.

## HISTORY OF HURLING



Sean Og Murphy, great leader of Cork's great run of Championships won. Thundering man of high attributes and hurling resource. Now Cork's capable Hon. Secretary and hurling advisor.

Earlier editions of "Carbery's" well-known work on Hurling sold out rapidly and the book has been out of print since 1942. It is opportune that the author should give us an up-to-date edition published at a time when Hurling enthusiasm is at its height and the All-Ireland Finals of 1946 in the offing.

There are many new attractive features. Full records of all the Championships from 1887 to the summer of 1936 are shown. Ancient Irish MS. are quoted showing Hurling's antiquity and the whole story ranges down in easy reading, well documented, to the present day, winding up with a picturesque description of the exciting Railway Cup final of 1946 between Munster and Connaught (Galway).

Instructions in the art from a recognised authority who played in three All-Ireland finals, and studied the game inside and out; pen pictures of Hurling personalities; the story of the founding and early struggles of the G.A.A.—all make fascinating reading. Old and new Captains, whose names are household words, are described; many droll stories of the author's hurling experiences complete a volume which will be avidly read, particularly the descriptions of recent and outstanding finals.

"History of Hurling" can be had of all booksellers or post free for 2/6 from the publisher—"Carbery," 35 Dartmouth Square, Dublin.

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# More Victory Songs Of The Gael

STARTING our sixth year as a publication devoted to the fostering and popularising of our native games we present another sheaf of Victory Songs. Once again we express our thanks to all those who have in the last five years helped to keep this very popular feature alive.

We also hope that our readers everywhere will enable us to prolong the life of what has become a part of the "Echo" by sending us further contributions in the way of songs or poems old or new.

Nothing like a good rallying song to urge a team on to victory and Mr. Cornelius O'Connell of Delaney Park, Dublin Hill, Cork, has sent us this one. Like a true sportsman he finishes up by promising to cheer the victors should Kilkenny defeat us:—

## CORK HURLING TEAM

In Dublin Town, for the Hurling Crown,  
Kilkenny meets Cork from the Lee,  
Cork's hurling skill, gave many a thrill  
When battling for supremacy,  
Kilkenny's biers, 'gainst Cork's hard triers  
Will give Gaels many and many a treat,  
'Tho' prophets say, it's Kilkenny's day,  
Corkmen won't listen to defeat.  
Cork's hurling king, famed Christy Ring,  
Has fought on fields, both near and far;  
Oh! he has shown, how balls are blown  
Beneath and over the cross bar.  
His solo run, Gaels' hearts off' won,  
His dash and daring, head so cool—  
He is the man to lead Cork's van  
And bring back honours to Black-pool.

His clubmates from the famous "Glen"  
Helped Rebel Cork in many a win;  
Jack Lynch, Jim Young, Din Joe Buckley,  
Paddy Donovan and Joe Kelly,  
They'll help to-day, as in forty-four,  
To bring the "Cup" to Cork once more.

All tried and proved, they'll stand the test  
Against fancied Kilkenny's best.

Tim Mulcahy (goal) from St. Finbarrs'  
Is one of Cork's outstanding stars;  
Con Murphy, Valley Rovers (back),  
Will stem Kilkenny's fierce attack.  
Willie Murphy, famed for his long puck,  
Will bring the ball through many a ruck.  
Allen Lotty "Sar's", a hurler grand,  
In Cork's defence will take his stand.

Con Cottrill, Valley Rovers, too,  
At centrefield, will be on view;  
Paddy Healy, Ballincollig crack,  
Will send the forwards to attack.  
Con Murphy, Bride Rovers' star,  
Will help to send one o'er the bar;  
O'Riordans', of the "Rockies" fame,  
Will uphold their predecessors' name.

Gaels of Cork North, South, East and West,  
Will loudly cheer, Cork's final test.  
"Up Rebel Cork!" will be their cry,  
And proudly wave their banners high;  
But, should their hurlers lose the game,  
They'll cheer the victors just the same.  
While it's their hope, their boys' will be—  
All Ireland Champions, by the Lee.

★  
An old Callan friend who has many old poems and cuttings on Kilkenny hurling, sent us the following, which was composed by Mr. James Holden, Newmarket, Hugginstown, Co. Kilkenny:—

## KILKENNY HURLERS.

Now ye Munster Champions your deeds I will recall,  
For the playing of Ireland's final at the hurling of the ball,  
You boast of Cork and Dublin and Tipperary to subdue,  
And that you'd beat Kilkenny for the All-Ireland too.

Kilkenny's Pick it was made quick, on public print 'twas shown,  
From the Gallant Teams of Dicksboro,  
Mooncoin and Tullaroan.

## MORE SONGS

We have many more victory songs for our Football Final and Christmas Numbers. Search those old notebooks of yours and if you find any send them along to 14 Cearnog Parnail, Baile Átha Cliath.

Dublin was appointed the All-Ireland place to be,  
But Kilkenny backs they showed no slacks to crown their victory.

The ball was soon set rolling and Limerick made a dash,  
Saying "We'll rob Kilkenny of some of the hard earned cash,  
Give and take was no mistake, we spared no man or ball,  
For to pull down those Kilkennymen the champions of them all."

The ball was travelling lively as our Gaelic flags were flying,  
There were many cheers without any fears for Tullaroan and Mooncoin,  
The whistle soon was sounded at the referee's call,  
He gave his decision—it was a Kilkenny ball.

Our brave Dick Grace filled a champion's place,  
At the forty yards was fit,  
And like a bird flying through the air,  
He shot it through the net.

Go on Kilkenny, champions that were never known to yield,  
For Mooncoin boys are Ireland's joys when stripped upon the field,  
Safe journey to Kilkenny where ever they are going,  
We'll give three cheers for Dicksboro', Mooncoin and Tullaroan.

★  
Our esteemed Callan friend also sent us the next poem, which deals with the Kilkenny-Limerick final, played on September 6, 1936. The poem, written by Martin O'Hara, is entitled:

## BEFORE THE BATTLE.

"Who'll win the All-Ireland?" I asked Pother day,  
Of a poor travelling man and he passing the way;  
"Well, begob! sir," says he, "you can take it from me  
'Twill be Limerick for sure, then if not Kil-ken-nee."  
"You're as right as the mail, my good man," I then said;  
So I gave him a "wing" and a good slice of bread;  
He shook hands with the cat, then he passed the remark:  
"You'll be crowned on the 6th in the famous Croke Park.

Now, the sixth of September is fast drawing near,  
And the great Gaels of Ireland to Dublin will steer,  
To see the two teams that caused all this great chat,  
'Twixt the traveller, and me, and the poor pussy-cat;  
The Shannon is rising no doubt you must know,  
And the Nore is all ready now to overflow;  
Sure, we don't care a pin, if the day's bright or dark,  
We'll go to see them meet in the famous Croke Park.

So come on again, Limerick; sure, we can't tell a lie,  
For to say you are dead we must first see you die;  
You have proved yourselves champions, but believe what I say,  
That your work is cut out on this All-Ireland play.  
Faith! the boys from Kilkenny are coming once more,  
After taking their bath in the bright silvery Nore;  
So they're all nice and fresh, and as gay as a lark,  
Then you'll get no soft game in the famous Croke Park.

I know the great deeds of the great green and white—  
I'll admit that they're tough ones to meet in a fight;  
And for this All-Ireland, they'll make a great dash—  
Sure, they'll tan the small leather with their swords of ash,  
But the brave black and amber clad boys I know, too,

And their deeds on the battlefield, more than a few;  
Sure, they're only going home now to add one more mark  
To the victories they won in the famous Croke Park.

Now Kilkenny and Limerick march on to the green,  
And prove to All-Ireland who has the best team;  
In a fair, manly battle there's no need for spite,  
Then the best is the best, when 'tis proved they're right,  
So good-luck to you all; I won't say any more  
Till the tide has gone back in the Shannon and Nore.  
Then I'll come out again just the same as a spark,  
On the All-Ireland battle in famous Croke Park.

★  
A Cork writer, Mr. T. J. Carroll, who has already contributed to our Victory Songs series, sends us:—

## THE HURLERS OF CORK.

They thrilled us before with the crash of ash,  
We shouted aloud to the hurleys' clash,  
The final this year is a test fit for men,  
For Cork and Kilkenny are in it again.

'Twas not last year, but the year before,  
That wonderful year nineteen forty-four,  
Cork took on all comers and laid them all low,  
To set up the record of four in a row.

At Croke Park again for fresh laurels they thirst,  
They will have some newcomers for September the first,  
And most of the stalwarts of nineteen forty-four,  
To greet their great rivals the men from the Nore.

Our rearguard, so rock-like, will not give an inch,  
Though quite often tested, yet not known to flinch.  
There's Mulcahy in goal, who ranks with the best,  
Bill Murphy, Con Murphy, and Din Joe the rest.

Three defenders, so steadfast, no skill do they lack,  
That's O'Donovan, Lotty, and Young at half-back,  
A trio of hurlers, we hope, who'll hold sway,  
And so help to keep the Black and Amber at bay.

Jack Lynch, now as always, steady and calm,  
For centre-field play must still get the palm,  
And with him Con Cottrell, steady and strong,  
A sector where Cork will seldom go wrong.

Half forwards, determined, and ready to shoot,  
Forever, and always, have been our long suit,  
And now they are ready with fire, skill, and zest,  
For Healy, Con Murphy, and Ring will not rest.

Our front line of forwards, for victory will fight,  
'Midst all the exchanges from left to the right,  
Undaunted, unworried, in tussle or toss,  
Joe Kelly, O'Riordans, both Jerry and Moss.

Our rivals, Kilkenny, we've met them before,  
In years that are recent and also of yore,  
Opponents, undaunted, we've found them to be,  
For our own skilful hurlers, the men from the Lee.

Our fifteen is ready, it's tried and true,  
Strong, fast, and lively, and right steady too,  
Trained to the utmost, to swing fair and free,  
To bring back the Cup, to the banks of the Lee.

Cló-buairte as munnchín "An Ciarrigeadó" Teo., Tháisi, agus Follpiúste as luic "Macalla na nSaebat," 14 Cearnóg Parnail, Baile Átha Cliath.

## CLONTURK PARK

EVERY deliver in the records of the early days of the G.A.A. comes across the name "Clonturk Park," famous North Dublin City trysting place for the followers of hurling and football in the eighties. Four hurling and four football finals were played on these grounds, which have been built over in recent times.

The late P. J. Devlin in his book, *Our Native Games*, has the following article on Clonturk Park.

One wonders whether during the course of the Gaelic Athletic Jubilee celebrations it occurred to anyone to suggest a pilgrimage to the site of Clonturk Park—the earliest Gaelic Headquarters in Dublin and the venue of many of the most exciting championship contests during the first ten years of the Association.

Clonturk Park and all its environs have been drastically changed since it was the Sunday rendezvous of Dublin Gaeldom and the Mecca for the Gaels of the provinces prior to 1896. The City has swallowed up all that once quiet and historic district, and there can be seen now only part of the hillside that so often held tens of thousands of enthusiastic spectators and scarcely a strip of the arena upon which so many of the foremost teams and athletes of the Association's early days displayed their prowess.

It presented an unsightly picture when last I intruded upon that once familiar ground, and it awakened sad personal and Gaelic recollections. The most depressing of all was that this natural stadium might to-day be the Headquarters of the Gaelic Athletic Association had those charged with the administration of affairs then only possessed the least foresight, business enterprise and confidence in the future of the games. However, such regrets are largely sentimental, as the Association has long since secured an arena of which it can justly be proud.

Clonsilla and Inchicore had provided venues for All-Ireland Championship finals before the first took place in Clonturk Park in 1890, when both hurling and football titles for that year were won there as well as those for three subsequent years prior to 1895. Eight finals in all seem a poor reason to invoke the long past glamour of that place, compared with the long series of finals of which the present enclosure can boast. Yet the fact remains that Tipperary town alone, of all provincial centres, approaches Clonturk as a past venue for All-Ireland finals. Six were played there, and it seems extraordinary to find that a Hurling final has never been played in Thurles, although Football Championships were contested there.

I have very vivid recollections of Clonturk Park before it had become the scene of an "All-Ireland," when it was the venue for Dublin county matches, and famous Metropolitan teams played there. In those days, clubs were more parochial than now, and on a Sunday forenoon one might know what teams were competing by the directions from which their supporters converged on the venue. The ardour these crowds displayed and the inconvenience they experienced in supporting their favourites might shame the tepid enthusiasm of present-day patrons.

I am sure I saw all the earliest Dublin champions who played in Clonturk Park—from the brawny teams of twenty-one aside, when a single goal was worth a bushel of points,—and I am bold enough to assert that the rigours of the games in those days have never been surpassed under altered rules. The play may be more attractive now—it is certainly faster—but pulses beat strongly in the times I am thinking of so wistfully. That is part of the glamour of Clonturk in an old Gael's memory.

I witnessed the first and each of the subsequent championships played beside the fateful Tolka, and still I can feel the tumultuous emotions of the vast crowd present on every such occasion.

Zest for victory and a stern determination to uphold county prestige were predominant forces in that epoch, and passions were naturally aroused, on and off the field. There were some regrettable scenes; but just as bad have occurred since on grounds much better equipped to prevent them. Rules and regulations may have altered; but human nature remains very much the same, and I believe that the reactions to defeat, which some of our players exhibit, is the effect of a subconscious sense of injustice inherited from ages of ruthless oppression.

Two of the four Hurling finals in

Clonturk were unfinished, a regrettable termination that has happily only occurred once since—the ill-starred Football final of 1893 in the Phoenix Park. Most of the men concerned in those incidents have passed beyond human censure, and the blame lay with the officials and advisors more than with the players, as it often does in these days.

*Per contra*, Clonturk holds the distinction of having staged one remarkable Hurling final—that between Kerry and Wexford for 1891 honours, when the team played an extra half-hour to decide the issue. That has never occurred in an All-Ireland final since, nor is it likely to recur, though a rule provides for it. The Championship finals played in Clonturk Park were: Hurling: 1890—Cork, 1-6; Wexford, 2-2 (unfinished, Cork awarded the title). 1891—Kerry, 2-3; Wexford, 1-5. 1892—Cork, 2-4; Dublin, 1-1 (unfinished, Dublin with drawing). 1894—Cork, 5-20; Dublin, 2-0. Football: 1890—Cork, 2-4; Wexford, 0-1. 1891—Dublin, 2-1; Cork 1-9 (the second goal for Dublin was decisive). 1892—Dublin, 1-4; Kerry, 0-3. 1894—Dublin, 0-6; Cork 1-1 (goal then valued at five points). Replay at Thurles unfinished. Dublin awarded the Championship.

The names of the teams that bore the brunt of county struggles in these games call back a spectral array of great players and heroic performances on the field. They must pass unnamed here. They had their full share of the glory of their era.

Clonturk was also the venue of many splendid athletic meetings, including a National Championship fixture, and men who earned honours on that sod inscribed their names imperishably in the annals of native athletics. They, too, are now only a ghostly army belonging to the Past; but it is appropriate to recall that Michael Cusack contested the Weights Championships for 1890 in Clonturk with the famous Dr. Daly of Munster renown.

Clonturk Park was the scene of many events that do not belong to its Gaelic Athletic history. One inspiring day here fingers in our memory. It was organised by Madame McBride (then Miss Maude Gonnet); the assemblage of over 30,000 Dublin children who scomed to partake of a sycophantic feast prepared for them in the Phoenix Park "in honour" of the visit of the English Queen Victoria. That was a gesture of defiance to alien domination and patronage that has never been recalled, and found its climax in Easter Week, 1916.

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