

THE GAELIC ECHO

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TOP LINER IN THREE SPORTS

BUSIEST sportsman in the South this year was Denis Donovan of Bandon. Denis has played full-forward for the Cork Senior Hurlers during some of the League games in the early part of the season, and a solid, if rather unspectacular, man he was in that position. Footballer, too, it caused something of a surprise to find him selected as full-forward for the County Senior Football team. His selection was due, I imagine, to the fact that his great strength and weight enable him to smother satisfactorily even the most competent full-back. And even though he may not be a prolific scorer, he has almost invariably succeeded in disrupting the defensive plans of the opposing backs, a most valuable function for a forward next to scoring himself.

FOUND MURPHY A PROBLEM

At Killarney, however, he found full-back Murphy rather a problem. More to his liking would have been the replaced Ned Roche whose style and methods are not much unlike his own. He did not shine

the game. Here, indeed, his great strength is a decided advantage, as also is his wonderful determination, which, translated into bowlplaying lore, reads "guts." Denis has an abundance of "guts," and this fact counters a certain lack of style on his part. He



DUBLIN ATTACK - -

Photo: Cathal O'Leary soars above all to take a high ball in a raid on Mayo's goal in drawn All-Ireland Semi-Final. Courtesy "Irish Press."



Photo: Peter O'Donoghue was obviously delighted after Brian Gallagher had scored Cavan's only goal in Cavan v. Kerry Semi-Final. Courtesy "Irish Press."

against Murphy, though he scored one useful point, and many of the Cork supporters predicted that he would not see many more games as full-forward for Cork.

STILL FAR FROM HIS BEST

This, I may add, was not the opinion of team-trainer Eamonn Young who assured me recently that Donovan has still to reach his best as a footballer and that it was his opinion that this player had much more football in him than was universally recognised. With more experience and some more big games we ought to see a big advance in his playing, said Captain Young, and few men know Gaelic football and the men who play it better than friend Eamonn.

TOP BOWLPLAYER

Whatever Denis Donovan's future as a Gaelic player may hold I am certain that he can reach the very top grade as a bowler if he takes seriously to

fears no man on the bowling road, just as he fears no opponent on the Gaelic pitch. is unfortunate for Denis Donovan.

It is a pity, however, that his multiple activities should cut across each other. This season his football engagements have kept him out of the championship bowling tournament, for, unfortunately for Denis, his bowling and football fixtures rather clashed. But then the games do not mix too well at any time which also

FOOTBALLER STAKELUM

ONE of the most improved footballers in the Mid-Division is Pat Stakelum (Holycross), better known to Gaelic enthusiasts outside the county as a hurling centre-back of rare talents. Pat only took up the catch-and-kick code about two years ago.

Thank You, Denis

FORGIVE us, of the Editorial Staff of the GAELIC ECHO, if we take this little box to do a little boasting this month. Remember our front page story last month. Remember the headline we had on it: "CARLOW FOOTBALL STAR MAY VAULT 12'." On the very day that the August issue of the GAELIC ECHO appeared, Denis Hyland duly obliged by bringing our predictions true. At the N.A.C.A. Championships in Iveagh Grounds he vaulted 12' 2" for a new National record, becoming the first Irishman to clear 12' officially. Thank you, Denis, and congratulations on a magnificent performance. When you reach 13' we intend to give you a full page in the GAELIC ECHO.

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OLIVER DREW AND THE IRISH CHAMPIONSHIP

By J. CLARKE

WHILST searching recently through my album of great players of the past, I came across one of the only two pictures I possess of the late Oliver Drew of Cork, and it bears the part legend "Oliver Drew—Handball Champion of Ireland." Which immediately recalled to mind the query: Did this brilliant young player ever, in fact, win the National title?

O'Sullivan in his "Story of the G.A.A. (1916)" records an interview with the late John Lawler during the course of which it was stated: "Drew went to America after holding the Championship of Ireland for three or four years"—but the period, unfortunately, was not given.

Twenty-six years later, in a series of articles on the game, McElligott actually fixed a year for us when he wrote: "Kilkenny men still recall the Irish final of 1904, when Bill O'Herlihy lost to Oliver Drew in the old City court there."

WORLD CHAMPION

In 1947, Mehigan, in his article, "Whither the Grand Old Game of Handball?" after listing the succession of Irish champions which did not include Drew, the Cork man, but instead referred to him thus: "Oliver Drew of Cork, dandy player, beat Herlihy, emigrated and created a sensation when beating Michael Egan for the World Championship."

Mehigan, thus, in my opinion, comes nearest the true position. But let us examine the facts.

Drew first came into prominence when winning the Munster Doubles Championship with O'Herlihy in 1900.

Tim Twohill (Cork) was then Irish champion, having won the title in 1898, beating O'Herlihy on two separate occasions for it that year.

He was still champion in 1903, when beaten by Egan (U.S.)—the World Champion—in a title contest.

Later that year, O'Herlihy won the All-Ireland Tournament at Cork, an event quite often recognised in the old days as the equivalent of the Irish Championship.

CLAIMED TITLE

In 1904 Drew beat O'Herlihy in a challenge for £100, and forthwith challenged any man in the country for the Irish Championship, including

In Memoriam

THE sincere and heartfelt sympathy of all Gaelic sportsmen goes out to Rev. Father Lavin and John Joe Lavin, the inter-county footballer and former Irish hop-step-and-jump champion, whose mother died in Dublin last month. The Lavin family has always been actively interested in Gaelic affairs, and John Joe is, of course, a Director of this newspaper. We deeply sympathise with them in the great loss of their mother. May she rest in peace.

Twohill, named as the holder. There being no acceptors, Drew claimed the title, sailing shortly afterwards for America.

Still, Twohill continued to be recognised as Champion until beaten by Bowles of Limerick the following year in the semi-final of the Cork Tourney.

It will thus be seen that the 1904 contest to which McE. refers was simply a challenge, neither of the contestants being Irish Champion; while the O'S. interview would appear likewise difficult of substantiation.

Further, it must always be borne in mind that by longstanding custom the holder of the Irish title had the right to dictate the terms under which he was prepared to defend his crown.

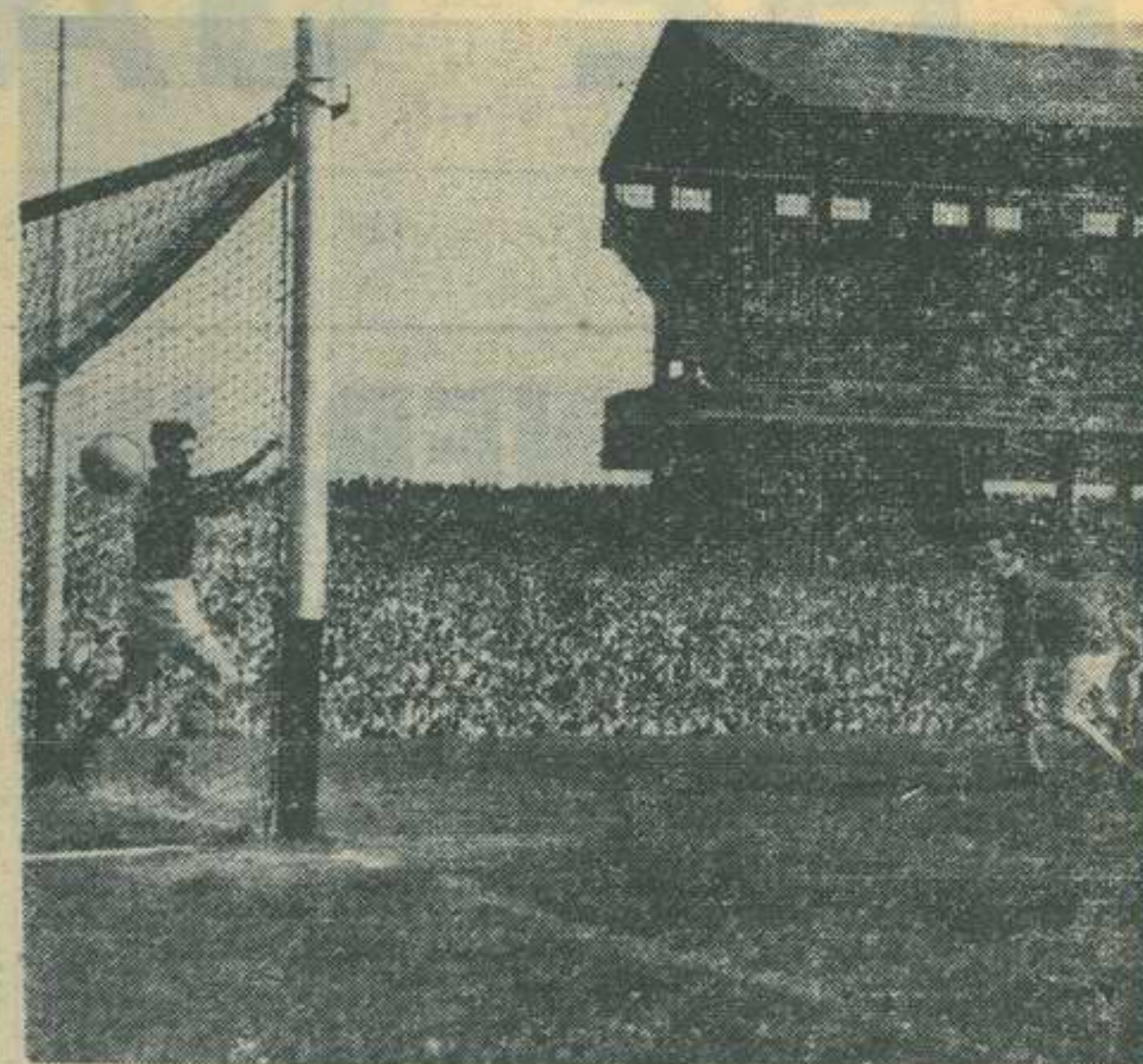
It is with regret, therefore, that I find myself unable to include this brilliant young player in my collection of Premier National Champions, but am happy instead to find an honoured place for him in an even more exclusive collection—namely, amongst that small and gallant group that enjoyed the signal honour of doing battle for the supreme title itself, that of Champion of the World.

What say our readers now?

Rumour Has It

RUMOUR has it in Tipperary that Michael Ryan and Patrick Croke of the Dublin senior hurling team will declare for their native Tipperary in 1956. Both are former star Tipperary minors.

A WINNER ALL THE WAY



Dublin's fifth goal enters the net as Lenehan and McGearty watch helplessly in the Leinster Final.

Unlucky Club of Leitrim Football

By FIFTY

THE unlucky Club of Leitrim football? Well, Aughwillian can unquestionably claim this dubious honour. Although formed as far back as 1940, they have not yet won the Leitrim Senior Football Championship. Time and time again they have fought glorious battles with Ballinamore, Fenagh, and Cloone, but never yet have they succeeded in winning premier honours.

As recently as December, 1952, they played Barnacoola in the Junior League Final, and at half-time had piled up a convincing lead of ten points. In the second half the rot set in, and eventually they were overhauled and finally lost by two points. Barnacoola won the Senior Championship in 1953.

Five Quinns Played

The Quinns figure prominently with this Club, and at one time there were five of them playing on the side. There was Columba Quinn, who at one time was County Secretary of the Leitrim Board, and there were Paddy, Frank, Dessie and Eamonn, who all figured with distinction for the club and county, along with M. Kelly, M. Gallagher, the McTeagues, Kellegher, Plunketts and Creamer.

Interest Waned

The Rev. Father Young up to a few years ago took a great interest in the club, but since his departure interest has waned more than a little. However, Aughwillian continues to field teams, and one of these fine days who knows but that they may bring the McTeague Halligan Cup home for the first time.

First Title in 36 Years

ALTHOUGH Clare failed to win either the Munster senior or junior hurling title they won at least one Munster title, thanks to two stout-hearted men, Pat Kirby and M. Wiley, who last month won the Munster handball doubles at the Horse and Jockey when they beat the Cork pair, M. Fox and J. McGrath. This has been the first time since 1919 when two Tuamgraney men, Tommy O'Brien and Denis Byrnes, won the same honour, that Clare have won a Munster handball title. Clare now meet Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final.

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- or
- 2.—The most exciting Gaelic match I have seen.

All Essays must reach our Offices before the 15th Sept. The winners will be notified by post before our Oct. issue, and, if space permits, the winning Essay will be printed in the next issue of THE GAELIC ECHO. Special consideration will be given to entrants under 14 years of age, so please state your age clearly. No original manuscripts will be returned unless accompanied with a stamped addressed envelope.

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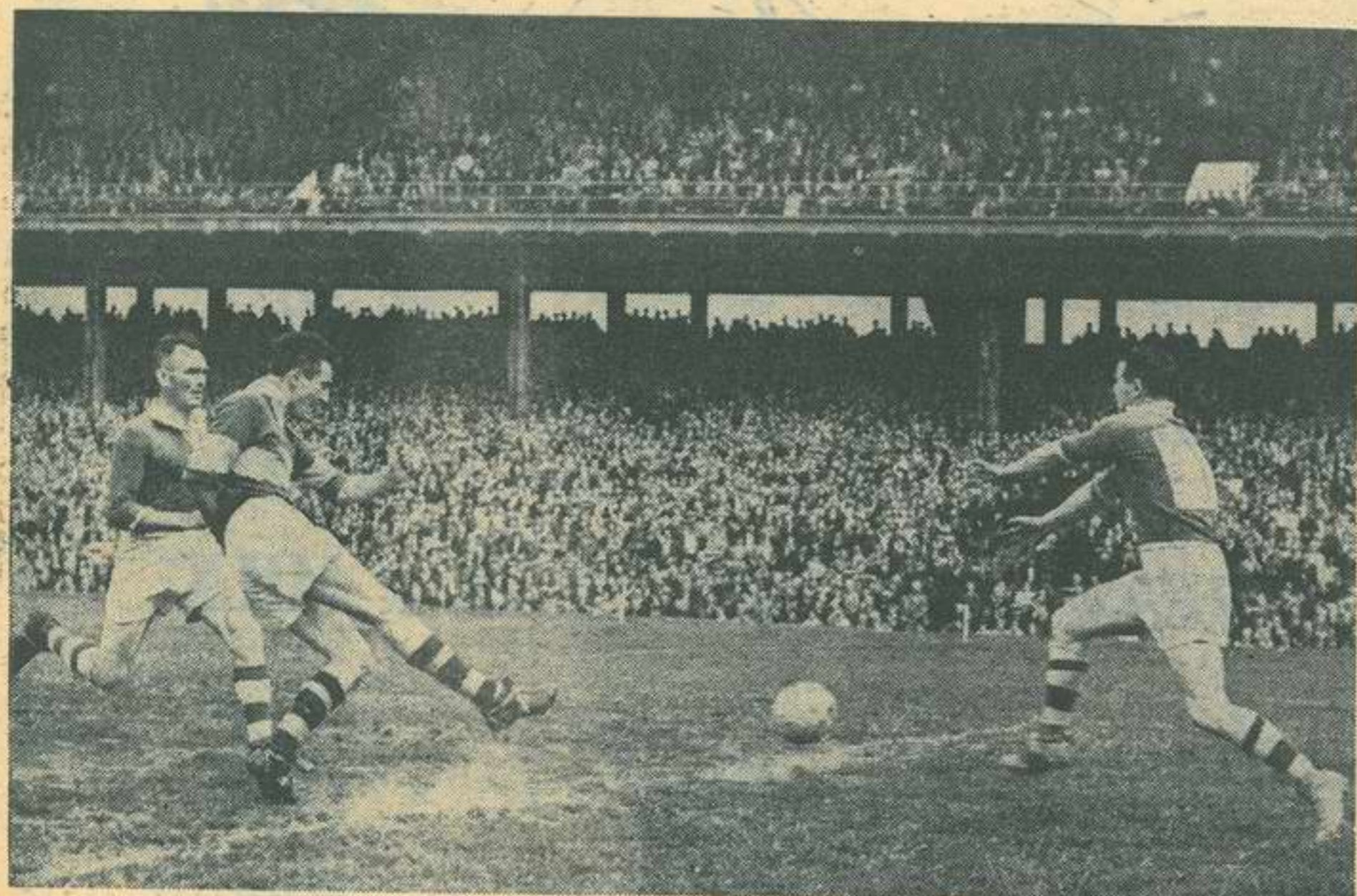
ENJOYING THE CAVAN v. KERRY GAME (at right).



CLARE v. GALWAY IN ST. BRENDAN TOURNAMENT



Dublin score by free from Freaney. Flanagan, Haughey and Prendergast watch.
Courtesy "Irish Press."



ALL-IRELAND SEMI-FINAL: CAVAN v. KERRY



Cork girls prepare for All-Ireland Final.

All pictures by courtesy "Irish Press."

GREATEST CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THE HISTORY OF N.A.C.A.

BY DONAL MURPHY

WITHIN eight days, late July and early August, we saw three glorious sessions of athletics that lifted the sport several pegs on the standard of public attraction. At the All-Ireland Championships there were records in the 880 and Pole Vault, and the Inter-Provincial Contest in Athlone produced two more in the Three Miles and Javelin; beside the peak figures the general level of performances shot up tremendously.

RETAINED TITLES

Dinny Hyland, Rory O'Dwyer and Mick Hehir (56 lbs. over Bar) won their fourth titles in a row, and Hehir failed by just 1½" in the 56 for distance to record a fourth double in a row. Owen Dalton's sprint treble was another notable feat, and the long jumping was of stellar quality.

The Association's decision to set qualifying performances for would-be entrants was fully justified.

LEINSTER WIN

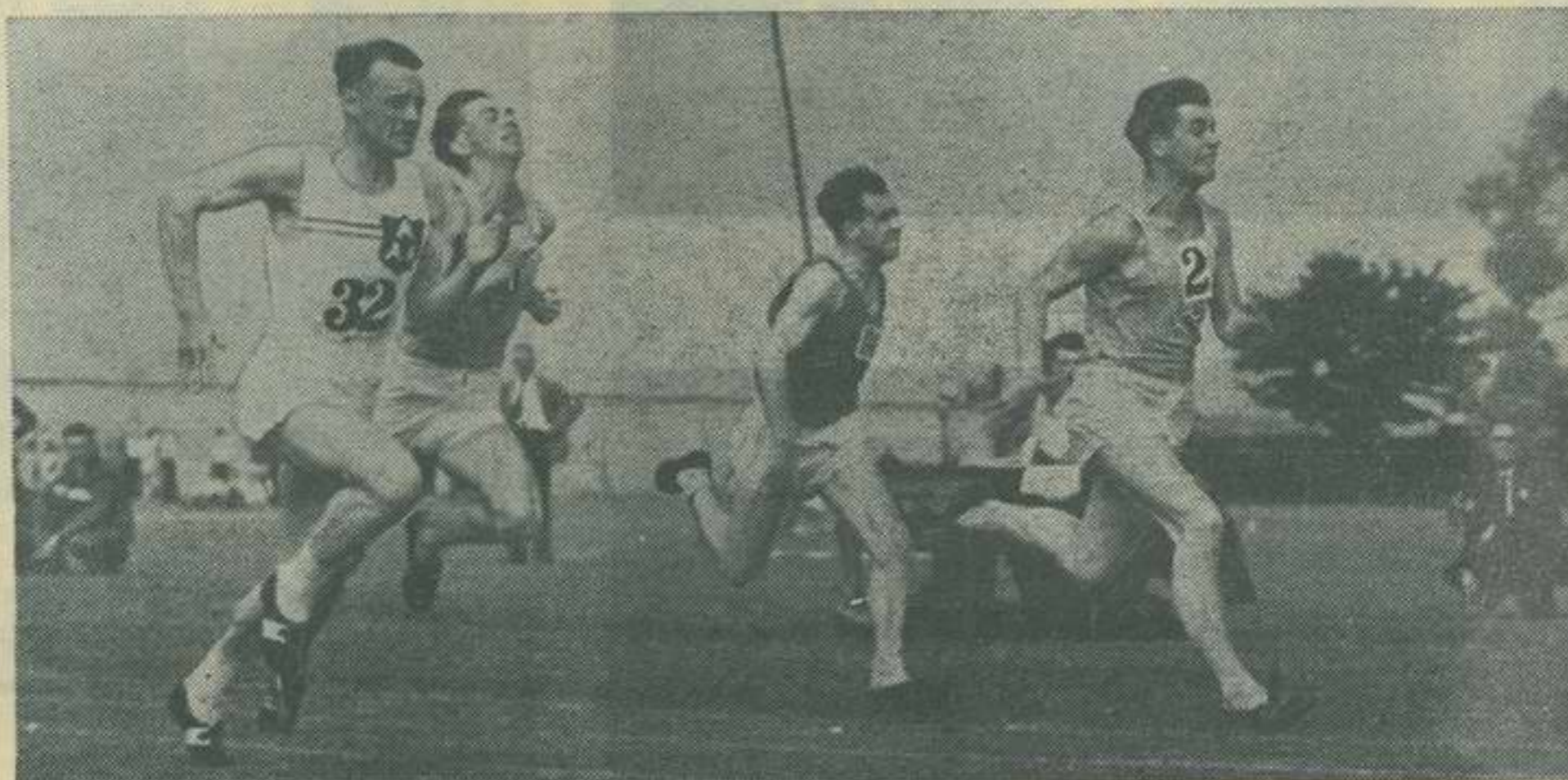
On a 3, 2, 1 scoring basis the Provinces finished the Championships—Leinster 64, Munster 25, Connacht 14, Ulster 12. But in the Inter-Provincial at Athlone the result was: Leinster 63, Munster 52, Connacht 43, Ulster 27. The change was partly due to the different scoring—5, 3, 2—but also to the presence in the teams of the Leinster's opponents of several who had not made the trip to Dublin for the Championships.

The revival of these tests was approved by the attendance of 90 per cent. of the top-class athletes, and their only rewards were the very honoured Provincial Singlets—an answer to the critics who think competition cannot be held without the usual plethora of prizes.

Dalton Wins First Of Three

60 Yards (Saturday)—Heat 1—
1. Owen Dalton (U.C.D.), 6.7 secs.;
2. Sean Naughton (Nenagh); 3.
W. J. Murphy (Ballinasloe).
Heat 2—1. Lt. Tom O'Mahoney
(Costume, Athlone), 6.8 secs.; 2.
Frank O'Gara (Corrigan); 3. Reg-
gie Healy (Celtic) and Gerry Twomey
(U.C.D.).

The line-up for the final, starting with Lane 1 on the Stand side, was: O'Gara, Naughton, Murphy, O'Mahoney, Twomey, Healy, Dalton. Ace Starter Jimmy Bruce had no trouble after four false starts in the heats. Dalton swept away to a powerful run that retained him the title by inches in 6.6 secs. O'Gara was awarded runner-up spot though he congratulated neighbour Naughton on breaking the tape at their end. As in Belfast in '53 the judges failed to award a third placing.



Owen Dalton of U.C.D. on his way to victory in the 60 yards championship. Dalton also won "100" and "200."

Relay (Saturday)—The walk-over accorded U.C.D. was a significant note of the strength of the students in track. But surely there should be many clubs ambitious (or humble?) enough to race for All-Ireland silver medals.

120 Yards Hurdles (Sunday)—
Jack Whelan (St. James' Gate) did not seem to be likely to win a sprint title so he mastered hurdling and at his first attempt won this title. Holder Callanan was in poor form but placed second on disqualification of the Youths' champ, E.

Brennan.

McCabe Wins

Marathon (Sunday)—Shades of the European Championships. One "brave wee mon" from Belfast, Paddy McCabe, led D. J. Lennon of Banbridge onto the track by 60 yards and gamely increased that lead from a tiring rival who had headed him twice. Another Lennon,

A. J., was third. McCabe's win was a repeat of 1954, when D. J. Lennon was third.

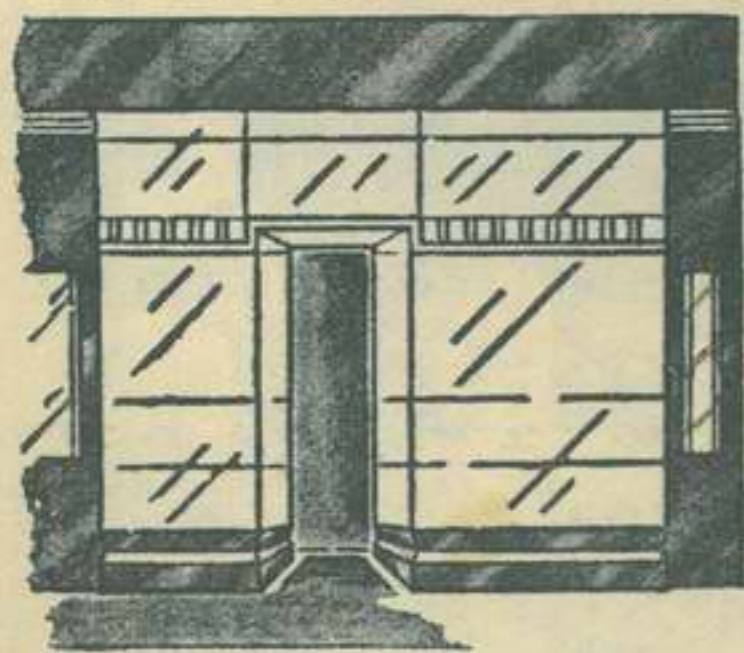
Joe Misses Record

Mile (Sunday)—Expected record-breaker Joe Cunningham, shot into the lead from Lane 8. His Metropolitan Harriers' team-mate Paddy Carmody took over for a blistering 59 quarter, planned beforehand. The pace lagged to 2.9 for the half and J. J. Kelly went out to warm it up, clubmate Derry McOermott taking over to pass the third post. Cork's Ted Geary came up but it was Cunningham who led the rush down the back-stretch. Michael Byrne matched his strides till the bend where Joe flew right away. Gorman came late from the pack and never looked like catching the flying Metro. man.

Easy Win For McArdle

4 Miles (Saturday)—His victory in this probably cost Peter McArdle (Fort Creagh, Dundalk) a leading role in the Mile on the following day. His win was an easy one, once he decided to leave Paddy Carmody whose style was rather more sluggish than its usual sparkling self.

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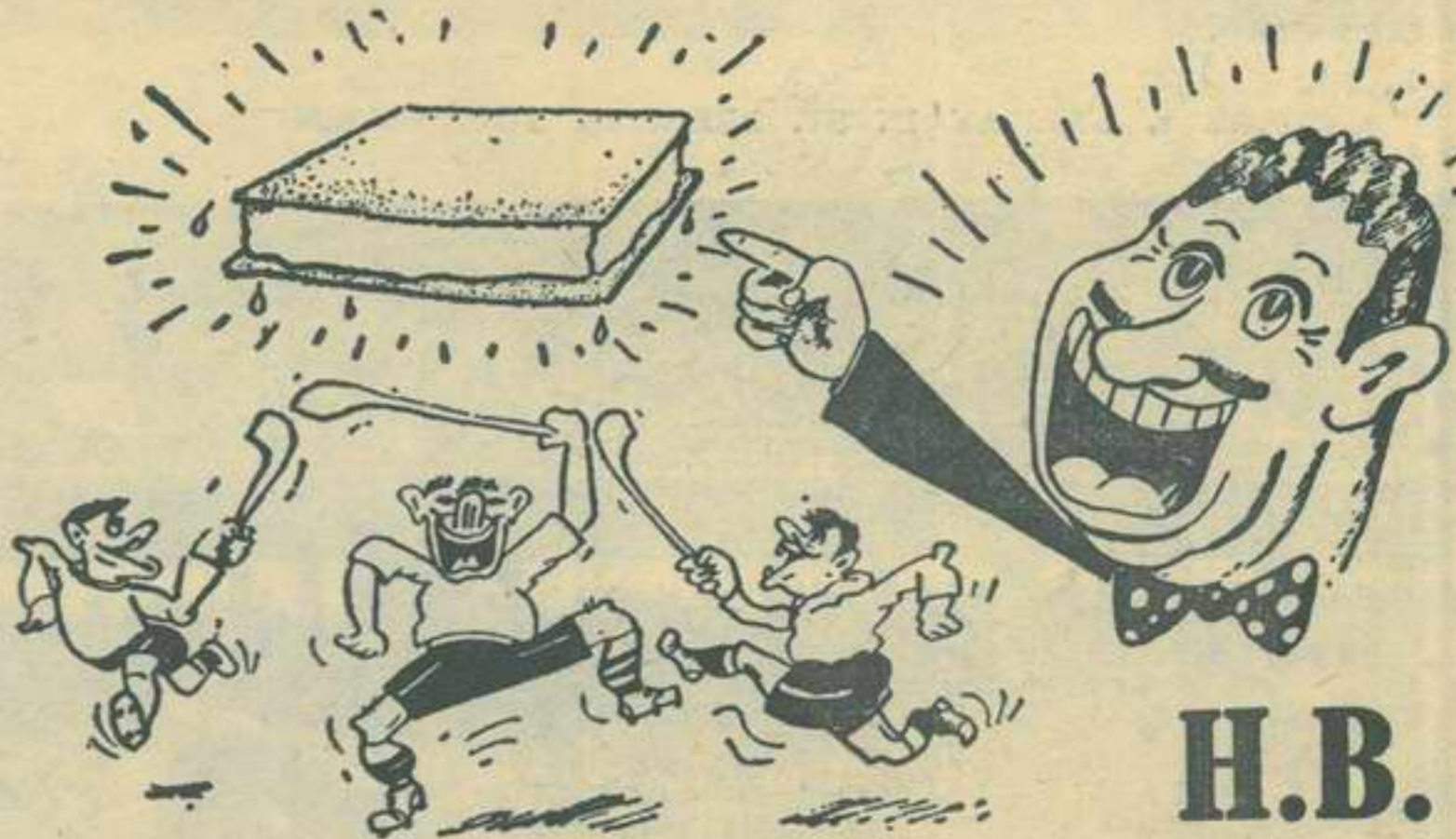
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Record Goes

880 (Saturday)—Gerry Gorman did a Zatopek act in his heat, just easing into fourth place, his twinkling late run foreshadowing the master-judgment displayed in that thrilling final. It was gallant J. J. Kelly for whom the crowd roared as the Phoenix man strode ahead into the straight, having dictated



Gerry Gorman has since brought his Irish Record down to 1 min. 53.6 secs.

the pace (59.8 at the bell) in an effort to shake off the speedy medical interne. Kelly's bandage, on a thigh muscle pulled the previous night, had slipped over his knee. Gorman's flashing run-in took him through the tape in a record 1-55.6. Kelly clocked 1-55.8, and Sean O'Cleirigh, repeating his 1954 3rd, about 1-56.5.

**CALLANAN
LOSES TITLE**

High Jump (Sunday)—Maconn MacNamara exceeded his 5' 10" Youths' victory by an inch and took Fionnbar Callanan's title. Impressive about this pair was their wholehearted leaps. Mick Allen (Cork) was jumping from too far out and into the bar; Mick Jennings (Newry) and T. Morrissey (do.) proved nice tidy crossers of the bar and promised future great things with 5' 8". But not a single competitor got that long last stride culminating in a lean back from the bar before a straight leg swing.

**World Class Long
Jumping**

Long Jump (Saturday)—The most satisfying competition of the lot. There were personal bests by the first three, Callanan 24' 5", D. J. Foley (Killerig, Carlow) 22' 11 1/2" and Noel Roche (Civil Service) 22' 5 1/2". There were seventeen separate jumps bettering 22' but three were fouls by Callanan whose last two jumps—a 24' 3 1/2" one fouled by exactly an inch and the big one which lifted him right into world class—were models of a fast approach, the vital gather two strides from the board, and the concentration on upward spring. Roche and Paddy Naughton (Nenagh) actually had the fastest runs up. Jacky O'Gorman (Clonmel) in his first jump for four weeks got 22' 1 1/2" and led the first round but failed to qualify with the superlative competition.

**FIRST 12'
POLE
VAULT**

Pole Vault (Saturday)—Dinny Hyland's record 12' 2" deserved the wonderful ovation an appreciative crowd awarded it. Strangely he swung slowly at 10' 6" and 11' 6" and missed each first time. But the one that gained him fame was a fast smooth effort. If he practices often enough at about 11' 3", he'll do 13' next season.

Four in a Row for Rory

Hop-Step-Jump (Sunday)—Rory O'Dwyer of Ardroom, Castletownbere, Co. Cork, a young National Teacher, could eclipse Dan Shanahan's ancient mark of 50' 0 1/2". After bruising his heel badly in a 47' plus effort at practice on Saturday he nevertheless painfully managed 46' 4 1/2". A smooth, coordinated lepper he needs more top-class competition. What about some big meets sponsoring this lovely event? Rory's other jumps were 45' 7 1/2", 45' 6" and 43' 3 1/2", with two misses to rest the heel.

Bad Weight-putting

Shot Putt (Saturday)—A retrograde event: Mick Gleeson (Gate) with 40' 6 1/2" won well back from the standard for the event of 42' 0". The reason: horrible technique by all the big fellows. Such a collection of upright stances, slow glides and half-hearted torso-punches. The couple of sound styles were ironically by lightly-built men; outgoing champ. Paddy Costello does use an ambitious Parry O'Brien stance but has not the speed-strength to rise from it.

Champion Loses

Discus (Sunday)—G. Bergin (Newbridge) lost his crown to Mick Gleeson, 124' 5" was the second sub-standard win, this time by seven inches. Inter-variety champ. M. Kelly (U.C.G.) slung the plate 122' 8" and shaded Bergin by three inches for the silver medal. As in all his events, Gleeson does not get full power behind the release; in this, his favourite event, he does not make full use of the circle. either Bergin and Nugent do get strong and fast releases. All seem afraid of the back-to-the-line-of-throw stance.

Another Title for Dalton

100 Yards (Sunday)—Heat 1—1, Fionnbar Callanan (U.C.D.), 10.7 secs.; 2, Charlie Vaughan (St. Finbarr's); 3, G. Twomey.

Heat 2—1, Sean Naughton, 10.8 secs.; 2, O. Dalton; 3, T. J. O'Mahoney and F. O'Gara.

Just as in the heat, Naughton, the boy the scribes forgot in the forecasts, provided the thrill with a flying start which carried him clear of the pack for 80 yards. Then he tied up and Dalton came steaming up in Lane 1 to get home a foot in front of O'Mahoney who conquered the Tipp, champ in the last stride. The holder, Mick Manning (Croom), suffering from a late start to his season, and the after-effects of boils, could only finish fifth in star-studded Heat 2.

Hehir Still Supreme

56 Lb. Throws—Mick Hehir was again supreme at slinging the weight over a bar 14' 6" above his head but met his match in the event for distance in Kilkenny's powerful M. Comerford. That was a great duel. Comerford leading the holder slightly in every round to the fourth, when Hehir came up. Then again the Kilkenny man improved and just got in front. The series were:—

Comerford: 25' 8 1/2", 25' 11 1/2", 26' 3 1/2", 26' 3", 26' 9 1/2", 26' 8 1/2"

Hehir: 25' 1", 25' 10 1/2", 25' 11 1/2", 26' 6", 26' 3", 26' 8."



Fionnbar Callanan, young Dublin Solicitor whose 24' 5" long jump now brings him into second place on the all-time Irish ranking list. Leader is Peter O'Connor at 24' 11 1/2".

Manning Goes Out

220 (Saturday)—Munster champ Twomey, celebrating his 21st birthday, disappointed by fighting so hard that he eliminated himself in the heats, and the holder, Manning, eased up in his heat to spare himself for the final and was caught by slower-but-steadier Vaughan. Dalton took command of the final and raced superbly in 22.9, very good time on a bone-hard track that slowed the 100 to 10.5. O'Mahoney confirmed suspicions of his speed-strength with a bare yard deficit.

Good Quarter

440 (Sunday)—The poorest of the sprints; the qualifiers in each heat just jogged home. As expected the final was a straight match between Army Engineer Lieut. Tom O'Mahoney, whose performances already after ten weeks training only had been brilliant, and Corporation Engineer Pat Cooke. In the Army and Dublin championships, respectively, they had clocked 51.5. The Army man raced flat out from the gun; Cooke strolled off his blocks. That was how O'Mahoney led into the straight and, preserving streamlined form, held off Cooke's finish. Fionan O'Kelly repeated last year's minor placing. Incidentally, Cooke

had been second in 1954 and the winner's time, 51.1, was a repeat of Holder Albert Hardin's time, whose injured leg caused his retirement in the heats.

**Great Win for Veteran
Doherty**

Hammer (Saturday)—The senior athlete of the fixtures Garda J. J. Doherty kept just ahead of his pupils, Kelly and Crahen. He was well back from last year's 159' 3" but his throwing was consistent, though he was suffering from a cold. His four measured were: 147' 4", 147' 5", 147' and 147' 2", but an extra unofficial throw measured 158' 11".

Javelin Goes to Nigerian

Javelin (Saturday)—This time it was Gleeson's turn to be deposed after himself performing the execution in the other weights. Paddy Ozieh, Nigerian student of science at U.C.C., did the trick by flinging the spear 176' 6". Good all-rounder Nugent of Armagh got 165' 100" and Gleeson only 163' 6". If someone had waved a magic wand and gotten that trio to arch their bodies as bows to the arrow that is the javelin and really pull the missile the figures would have been in the 190' plus range.



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BILLY KENNY BACK FROM CANADA

ENJOYING a well-earned holiday in his native Mayo is former football star, Dr. Billy Kenny, with his wife, both of whom have been living in Canada for the past few years. He was warmly welcomed by his friends on his return, and it was a happy Billy who cheered his team-mates to a resounding victory in the recent Connacht Football Final.

HOPES TO SEE MAYO WIN

By the time this appears in print the fair-haired Doctor hopes to have seen the Men of the West lower Dublin's colours in the All-Ireland semi-final. When members of

ANOTHER ST. JARLATH'S STAR

Like many others whose names are household words in

Ferguson (Dublin) challenges Irwin and Moriarty in All-Ireland Football Semi-Final.

the Gaelic Football World, Billy was educated in that great nursery of Gaelic Football, St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, and when he went to University College, Galway, later, he had the honour of Captaining the College to victory in the Sigerson Cup competition of 1948.

He expects to be returning to Canada early in September, but it is the fervent wish of all Mayo Gaels that the boys in Green and Red will give him reason to carry back some happy memories of his visit. Maybe his home-coming has already inspired them.

Billy also partnered his fellow-star Padraic Carney at mid-field on the Combined Universities team in 1950.



Courtesy "Irish Press."

the team were training in Castlebar recently one of the most interested onlookers was Billy. He used to drive to the County Town in the evenings to watch his old team-mates Tommy ("Goalie") Byrne and John "Dinny" Forde putting the lads through their paces.

THE BEGINNING

Billy himself first caught the eyes of the Mayo Selectors when, playing in a challenge game against Cavan in Breffni Park in the Spring of 1948, he played a "blinder" on Simon Deignan. At the dinner which followed I recall Patsy Lynch expressing the hope that Mayo and Cavan would meet in that year's All-Ireland Final.

His hopes were indeed realised, and on September 25th the two counties did meet in the All-Ireland Football Final, and Patsy Lynch's boys were victorious by 4-5 to 4-4.

FIRST ALL-IRELAND MEDAL IN 1950

Billy Kenny was playing at right half-forward on that occasion, but had to wait until two years later to gain his first All-Ireland medal, when Mayo defeated the gallant Wee County by 2-5 to 1-6 in the 1950 Final. Unfortunately this was his last game with Mayo because he was carried off with a broken leg after 11 minutes. Worse was to come, for complications set in which kept him in hospital for several months with a serious illness—an illness which, in fact, necessitated his retirement from the game.

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THRIVING NEWBRIDGE INDUSTRY

The Story of Irish Ropes

By PHILIP RODERICK

ONE of Irish Ropes' greatest successes has been the manufacture of "Tintawn." The production of sisal carpeting such as Tintawn always had a high place in the plans of the company. "Tintawn" saw quite a lot of the Laboratory and Research Departments, before it ever saw the carpet stores. The basic excellence of "Tintawn" lies in the use of the finest of fine sisal; the most careful selection is made at Newbridge and only that which comes from top level sisal estates is allowed to go into the product.

"Tintawn" is a smart, modern floor covering, lovely to look at, extremely hard wearing, and the colours are virtually fast to light and water.

Better still it is reversible—giving in fact two carpets for the cost of one.

ON a sunny day in June, 1933, the little town of Newbridge was quiet and peaceful. To those who knew it, it was strangely quiet. The clatter of horses' hooves from the great barracks, built by the British more than 100 years before, to defend the Realm against Napoleon, no longer sounded. They had died away with the formation of the Irish Free State, and there were those who thought then that Newbridge might never again see the prosperity which the garrison had meant to it for so long.

It was to this quiet town that a stranger came on that June morning. Who was he... what was he doing in Newbridge? There were rumours... hopes. Inside a month came the answer when the great bolts on the barrack gates were pulled back to admit recruits—not soldiers this time, but local men who were to form the initial

staff of a venture destined to help bring back prosperity once again to Newbridge.

Eric Rigby Jones, descendant of a family long renowned in the rope making industry in Liverpool, had taken over a large portion of Newbridge Barracks for a new Irish industry. And so Irish Ropes was born.

On September 25th of that year a switch was thrown and the machines of Irish Ropes purred into production. Thus began, what in a comparatively short time grew from an infant industry, employing six Newbridge men to a vigorous, powerful factory, employing over 450 people, supplying virtually the whole of Ireland's cordage requirements, marine, agricultural and industrial, and enjoying a substantial export trade to the "ends of the earth."

The first objective of Irish Ropes Limited was to make Ireland virtually independent of cordage imports. This has been achieved, despite many "ups and downs in the history" of the company, plus the trying years of the last war.

IN CONSTANT DEMAND

To-day the export trade of Irish Ropes has risen to considerable dimensions. In recent years the company has built up connections around the Globe, and now the products manufactured in Newbridge are in constant and ever-increasing demand in over fifty areas throughout the world from Canada to New Zealand, and even in small islands of the Pacific.

This is indeed a very brief story of the magnificent progress of Irish Ropes, but down in Newbridge all look with hope, courage and confidence to the future in the belief that efficient hard work will enable the company to continue to increase and multiply. At the same time they can look back with satisfaction over the years of growing and remember with gratitude the many people, unknown and known, who in one way or another helped them to achieve success.

They think too of the planters and growers of the quality fibres so vital to industry, the research workers, engineers, seamen, merchants... and last but by far from least, the loyal hands at Newbridge and Dublin who by their pride in workmanship and achievement have played so great a part in putting the products of Irish Ropes on the markets of the world.

BISHOP & CO. LTD., of Barrow Street, supply paper, packing containers to Irish Ropes for binder twine, etc.

This company—established over a quarter of a century—are manufacturers of paper sacks for holding sugar, animal feeding, and various other commodities. These also manufacture jute, cotton, and rayon bags, which are used for holding flour, seed and grain.

G.A.A. IN IRISH ROPES

THE Company, through its employees, has quite a connection with the local football team in Newbridge, and of course there is also the factory team.

In the 1953/1954 season, the Irish Ropes team won the Leinster Factories League, and this year they are in the final.

Employed in the company are many present and past "Lily-Whites," including the Hanlon

brothers, Con. Maher, "Bunny" Winders, "Miko" Doyle, Frank Timmons, Jimmie and Hughie Murray, the Dowling brothers, Jim Gaffey, John Ahern, Mick McCarthy, and last, but not least, Mick Geraghty, who also captained Sarsfields, the local club. Quite a number of the employees of the factory are also members of Sarsfields Club.

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The Story of Lincoln and Nolan

A DAY or so before Christmas of 1923 a small private Company was registered in Dublin. The record shows that the original Directors were Andrew Nolan, Richard Archer, and George Robinson, and the Company was registered as Lincoln and Nolan Limited.

They acquired a Coach Builder's premises, which had been established since 1810, in Lower Baggot Street, and even though the Company has since expanded to tremendous dimensions, these premises are still the registered offices of the Company.

At that time Lincoln and Nolan were handling General Motors products which included the famous Buick car, and in a matter of three years development had been so rapid that the Company was turning over £85,000 worth of business in a year—a very considerable figure for a small motor company in those days.

The reputation of the firm grew, and in 1927, when the Directors of the Austin Motor Company were looking around for someone to represent them in Ireland, they selected Lincoln and Nolan to handle their franchise in this country.

A compliment, indeed, less than four years after the formation of the Company.

This meant a complete change in the pattern of business. From selling relatively high-priced cars, they turned to a range of much less expensive vehicles, which included the famous Austin Seven. It meant the appointment of dealers and additional premises. Houses adjoining the existing factory were purchased—special servicing equipment was installed—mechanics were sent to the Austin factory for training. Lincoln and Nolan were expanding again.

Eight years passed and with them a story of progress—but nothing compared to what was to come.

In 1933 the Government passed an epoch-making legislative measure forbidding the importation of complete cars.

Who Was Lincoln?

THIS question has been repeatedly asked by many people throughout the years, and even letters addressed to "Mr. Lincoln" have been delivered to the Company. Callers at the offices of the Company have asked to see the man who was obviously the senior director, since his name came first in the title of the Company.

There never was a Mr. Lincoln. That part of the name came from the Lincoln Motor Company, which in turn took its name from Lincoln Place, Dublin. George Robinson and Richard Archer were Directors of that Company. Andy Nolan was in business as an individual. He was sole concessionaire for Buick, made by General Motors Corporation of America. The Lincoln Motor Company were given the opportunity of handling other General Motors products, and it seemed logical to make use of Andy Nolan's experience in that field. So the three got together—and Lincoln and Nolan was born.

The present Board of Directors is: The Most Honourable, the Marquess of Headford (Chairman), Arthur F. Palmer Phillips (Sales Director), Thomas P. Hogan, A.M.I.E.E., and John W. Freeman.

H. Martin Briery is the present Managing Director of Lincoln and Nolan, Ltd., and Associated Companies.

In future cars would have to be imported "in pieces" and assembled here in this country by Irish labour.

So once again the Company had to expand to meet this new problem. A new factory was built, and by the third week of May, 1936, men were working in it. By the end of June fourteen cars had been made and sold—by the end of the year 217 had been sold, and the weekly bill for productive labour had grown to over £300.

It is worth mentioning here that Lincoln and Nolan were one of the first companies in the world to assemble Austin cars, and since those early days the Company has had visitors from many countries to see how they tackled the job, and they are still coming. They were the first overseas market to commence assembly of the new Austin A.30.

In 1938 Lincoln and Nolan were appointed sole concessionaires for the Rover car. This, coupled with the rapid expansion of the Austin market meant more new premises, and early in 1939 another 15,000 square feet of factory space was added to the building in New Wapping Street.

Then came war, and although a trickle of supplies reached the factory up to March 1941, operations were finally closed down in August 1942 for the duration.

In 1946 the factory reopened and the history of Lincoln and Nolan since then has been a story of brilliant progress.

However, tragedy struck in 1949 when "Andy" Nolan died, and eventually in that year the surviving Directors decided to sell the business they had built up.

It was sold and a Public Company was formed in January, 1950. It speaks volumes for the reputation of the Company that when the shares were offered to the public they were over-subscribed eight times, and the lists were closed in half an hour.



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The Man in The Glasses—Nicky Maher

By SEAN DEE

NICKY MAHER of Ireland, Dublin and St. Vincent's fame is not only a great footballer but is one of the most modest, unassuming and sporting players performing under the Gaelic code. But the most unusual feature about this twenty-seven year old left half-back who works in the family licensed trade business is the fact that due to a slight shortsightedness he finds it necessary to wear glasses while playing.

These glasses are protected on the field by specially American-manufactured perspex goggles.

The fact that Nicky has persevered at Gaelic games (he is a fine hurler also) is a tribute both to his enthusiasm and courage.

Nicky Maher went to school in St. Canice's primary

certainly embarrass Micky, who is that kind of man.

Briefly, I saw the All-Ireland Minor football and hurling medals for 1945 (Dublin brought off the double that year), the 1946

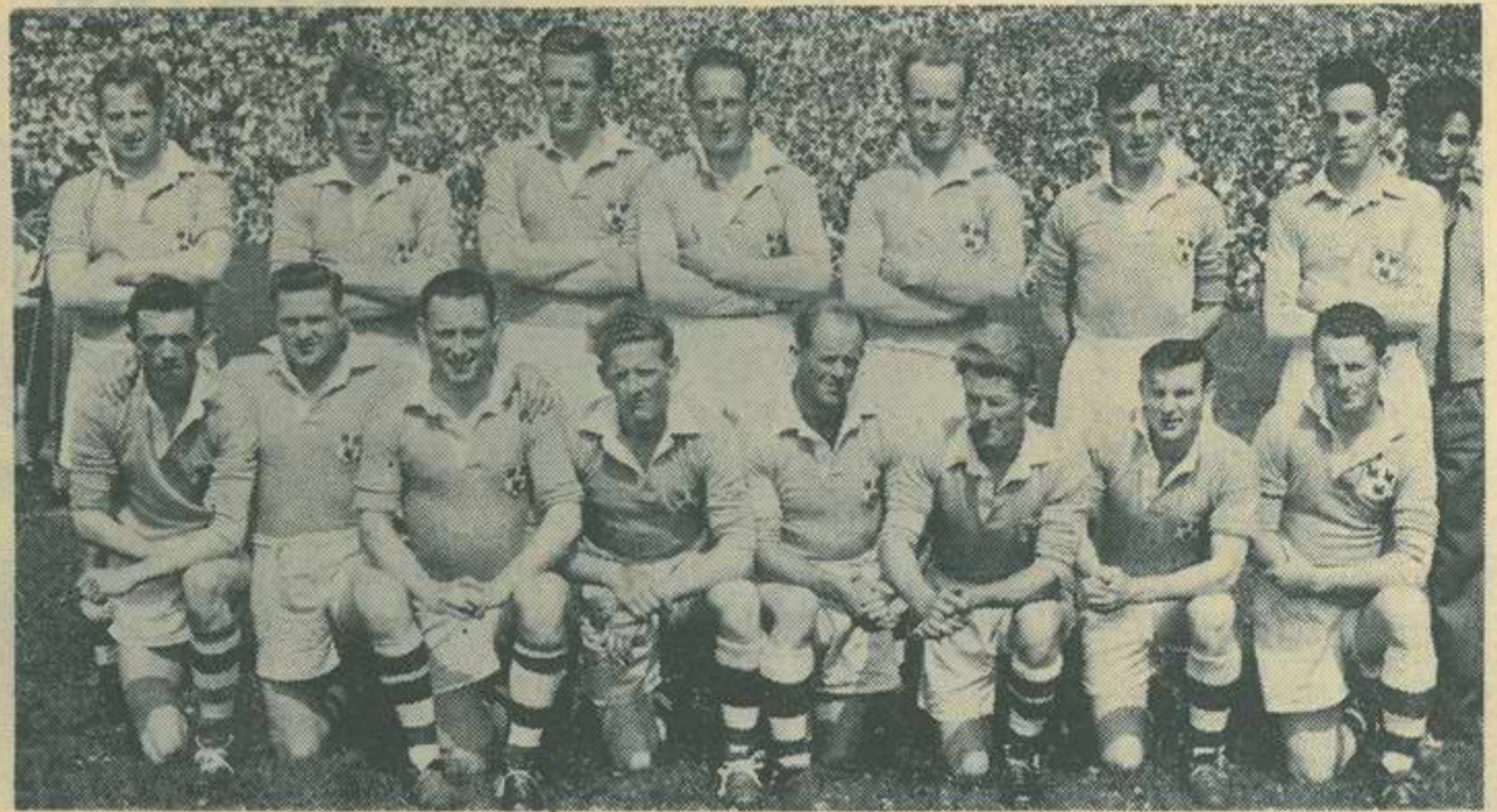
Outstanding Efforts

In the Minor Hurling semi-final between Kilkenny and Tipperary, two players proved to be in a class by themselves. One was Ray Reidy, the Tipperary centre half-back, who monopolised play in his section of the field to an amazing degree.

Feature of Reidy's display was the effortless ease of his hurling.

The Kilkenny goal-keeper, Oily Walsh, the talk of the Leinster final, proved to be no "flash-in-the-pan" between the posts. It was rather a pity the Kilkenny mentors did not think of moving him to centre-field before they did ten minutes from the end, when he sparkled in a great Kilkenny revival.

It's a safe prediction that both these boys will be outstanding seniors.



Dublin must try again on the 11th, when they meet Mayo in the replay of the All-Ireland Football Final.

school and to O'Connell's. His first clubs were Dublin Kickhams for football and Eoghan Ruadh for hurling. Later he joined his present club—the renowned St. Vincents.

MEDAL COLLECTION

I intended to make a detailed list in chronological order of the many championship medals won by Nicky Maher as school-boy, Minor, Junior and Senior until I saw some of them. However, with visions of my beloved but space-conscious Editor hovering before me, I changed my mind.

Nicky Maher has won so many medals that when piled before me on a table I had the thought that it might be simpler to say that the bulk was so many feet wide and so many inches high.

Well, possibly that is an exaggeration. It would

Minor hurling medal, the 1948 Junior All-Ireland football medal (Nicky was a forward that year), a host of tournament medals, senior and junior schools medals and all the Dublin championship medals with St. Vincents as well as an Intermediate hurling medal with St. Vincents—and so on almost ad nauseam.

I had the facetious thought as I examined the medals that there were three essential differences between Nicky Maher and the late Reich-marshall Goering.

Nicky Maher has (1) more medals than Goering; (2) he won them; (3) while Goering loved to display them, Nicky modestly goes to the other extreme.

But don't get me wrong! Nicky Maher is quite proud of his association with St. Vincents and Dublin and the many victories with club and county, and would be prouder

still if he could place this year's All-Ireland football medal on top of his pile.

Our Best Long-Jumpers

HERE are the all-time rankings in Irish Long-Jumping:

- 1.—Peter O'Connor, Waterford, 24' 11 1/2".
- 2.—Fionnbarr Callanan, Dublin, 24' 5".
- 3.—Tim O'Connor, Cork, 24' 4".
- 4.—Paddy Anglim, Tipperary, 24' 2".
- 5.—W. J. M. Newburn, Westmeath, 24' 0 1/2".
- 6.—Percy Kirwan, Waterford, 23' 10 1/2".
- 7.—Matt Roseingrave, Galway, 23' 7 1/2".
- 8.—J. J. Bresnihan, Limerick, 23' 7 1/2".

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THE JIM MAHER STORY

A GREAT GAEL AND HIS MEMORIES

TOWARDS the close of the nineteenth century Clonturk Park (Dublin) was the principal venue for important inter-county games and Jim Maher tells me that he saw at least four All-Irelands played in this historic venue by the Tolka. Dublin "Young Irelands" were then a great force in the football world. Led by the renowned George Roche (a Wexford man) who manned the full-back position they went from conquest to conquest. Jim saw them beat the famous Cavan "Slashers" at Clonturk Park in the All-Ireland semi-final and was present at the same venue when the Metropolitanians faced the equally-famous Kerry Laune Rangers in the All-Ireland final.

The Immortal J. P.

That was a memorable All-Ireland. Kerry, captained by the immortal J. P. O'Sullivan, were, perhaps, the finest body of men that ever graced a Gaelic arena. They were a side of well-nigh impregnable strength through the field and their destructive powers were too much for most teams. J. P. was the free-kick specialist, deadly accurate with every ball. The strange feature of his kicking was that he seldom shot for points. He would place his shot near the goal for his men to rush the ball through for major scores. The Rangers hoped that these tactics would give them victory over Dublin, as they had done against many other counties. But Dublin had a brilliant set of backs, who refused to be beaten. They were also men of powerful physique and those who, like Jim Maher, saw that match will ever cherish memories of the thrilling goalmouth tussles between the "Young Ireland" backs and the Lanue Rangers forwards. Dublin won that All-Ireland and certainly earned the title the hard way. Incidentally, they included in their line-out Jack and Mike Kennedy from North Tipperary. In the period 1891-1908 Dublin won the All-Ireland senior football championship eleven times—a truly remarkable feat.

Kerry's Only Hurling Title

Jim also saw Kerry win their first—and so far only—All-Ireland senior hurling crown at Clonturk Park in 1891. The boys from Wexford were their opponents. Scores were level at actual time and the referee called the two teams together and said: "You can play fifteen minutes aside if you wish." They agreed. "We cheered ourselves hoarse when Kerry won because they were a Munster team," says Jim. Most of the players hurled in their bare feet that day. Kerry were led by J. Fitzmaurice, whose son was a well-known and popular lay teacher in Thurles C.B.S.

Peerless Tubberadora

One of the most glorious chapters in Tipperary's hurling history was written by the sweeping hurlers from Tubberadora, led by the legendary Mikey Maher. With their jockey caps, sashed jerseys and long-bossed hurleys, they were as distinctive in their hurling style as they were in appearance. Their names are still recalled with pride in the homes of Tipperary—Mikey Maher, Ned Maher, John Maher, Jack Maher ("Jack of the Fields"), John and Denis Walsh, Bill Devane, Jim and Thady Flanagan, Ned Brennan, John Connolly, Phil Byrne, Peter Maher, Fergus Moriarty, Paddy Riordan, Jim Leeson, Will Kerwick. That

was the line-up in 1895 and the following year such famous hurlers as E. D. Ryan, Cashel (who is still hale and hearty and can recall many memories of that famous era), Mick Wall, Tim Condon and Paddy Doherty made their appearance.

Three All-Ireland Titles

Tubberadora easily won the All-Ireland Championship in 1895, defeating Kilkenny (Tullaroan) by 6-8 to 0-1 in the final. They were back in Jones' Road the following year to beat Dublin Commercials by 8-14 to 0-4—the highest score ever recorded in an All-Ireland. Tubberadora did not take part in

By RAYMOND SMITH

Maher his county medal, was unique in the annals of G.A.A. history. Three teams took the field to play that decider. It happened this way: Grocers (Jim's team) had been opposed to Commercials in the semi-final. Just before the start of that match, the Commercials captain told "Black Dan" Ryan, the Grocers' captain (uncle of Seamus Bannon, incidentally) that they had not their full team and they would be grateful if Dan agreed to put back the match. Dan, a true sportsman, instantly agreed as he did not wish

Tipperary Star' in those years," he comments, "more would have been known of our enviable record."

In 1909 Mr. Edward Long ("Ned" to his friends), a highly-educated and well-travelled man with a broad national outlook, founded "The Tipperary Star," and it was to become one of Ireland's best-known and most widely-read provincial papers, being noted particularly for its excellent coverage of Gaelic games. The late Mr. Long took a great interest in the Thurles team and in the progress of the Association generally (he was, by the way, one of the first

reason to place confidence in the assembled hurling skill of Tom Semple, "Hawk" O'Brien, Jack Mockler, Jack Mooney, Hughie Shelly, Paddy Brolan, Joe McLoughney, Martin O'Brien, Tom Kerwick, Tim Gleeson, Paddy Burke, "Gaffer" Kenna, Jer Hayes, Pat Riordan, Jim Burke, Tom Allen and others. What finer blend of power, style and ability could reasonably be desired? Some of them have passed on but any day of the week in Thurles you can meet and talk with Paddy Brolan, Joe McLoughney, Hughie Shelly, Jack Mockler, Tim Gleeson and Martin O'Brien.

Tribute to Tom Semple

Jim Maher names Tom Semple as one of the best and coolest hurlers he ever saw. And he pays this further tribute to him: "We would not have Thurles Sportsfield for Gaelic games to-day were it not for his personality and influence." Semple would pick and train the team himself. There was no selection committee in those days. Martin O'Brien, Tim Gleeson and Paddy Brolan were outstanding back-men and "Hawk" O'Brien a brilliant goalkeeper. Jack Mockler and Jack Mooney formed a powerful midfield partnership; they were both players of iron nerve and stamina and almost impossible to pass. Joe McLoughney, although not so powerful in physique, was nevertheless, a grand forward, fast and elusive on the wing and he never let his team down. Hughie Shelly was one of the best forwards of his day and feared by every county as a real scoring machine.

Thurles beat Dublin Faughs in the 1906 All-Ireland Final, played at Kilkenny, by 3-16 to 3-6. They took the 1908 title (on a replay) from Dublin at Athy on the score 3-15 to 1-5.



ON PARADE



Wexford and Limerick the All Ireland semi-finalists march around Croke Park before the game on Sunday, 7th August

the Championships in 1897 but they again made their presence felt the following season when they triumphed over Cork after a replay in the Munster decider. And then on to the All-Ireland and they set the seal on their fame by trouncing Kilkenny 7-13 to 3-10. In three years they met with no defeat in a championship encounter while they also won a Croke Cup during their successful run.

Twenty-One Years After

Johnny Walsh (father-in-law of Mr. Phil Purcell, Tipperary Co. Secretary) was one of the steadiest full-backs that Jim Maher ever saw. He had a wonderful sense of position and preferred to hit the ball first-time as it came rather than block it down. Johnny won five All-Ireland medals, as did his brother Denis and Mike Maher, captain of the team. Denis Walsh set up a record by winning his first All-Ireland medal in 1895 and coming back twenty-one years later—in 1916—to win his fifth with Boherlahan, who got the better of Kilkenny in a memorable finish. Denis was a brilliant hurler, strong and resolute and very hard to stop when he did get going. Jim Maher still recalls vividly the great goal he saw him scoring in that final—gaining possession at midfield Denis brought the ball in along the ground, passing several famous defenders all in one movement, to crash the ball home.

A chapter of praise could be written on every member of the Tubberadora team—a splendid side and heroes all.

A Peculiar Dublin Final

The 1899 Dublin Senior Hurling championship final, that gave Jim

to take a walk-over. But then he was told that Commercials had, in fact, their full team outside the ground. When Dan heard this he informed the Commercials captain that they might as well play as the Co. Board would probably suspend both clubs if they did not do so. But Commercials, for some peculiar reason, would not play that day and Grocers were then given a walk-over by the Dublin Co. Board.

On the day of the final, however, as Grocers and Faughs, the other finalists, were taking the field, Commercials caused a sensation by also coming out. So there were three teams on the pitch. Dan Ryan asked Danny McCormack, captain of the Faughs and a native of Borrisleigh, Co. Tipperary, to take his team off the field and Grocers would first play Commercials for the semi-final. McCormack complied with the request but Commercials followed suit. Faughs came back on and Commercials did likewise. As it was becoming a see-saw affair, there was nothing to it but to call off the fixture.

The Dublin Co. Board suspended Commercials for three years. In the delayed final Grocers had an exciting win over Faughs.

Back in Thurles

Jim returned from Dublin to start business in his native Thurles in 1905. And now commenced a long and happy association with his old club, Thurles Sarsfields. Jim regrets that there was no local paper in Thurles in those successful years for Tipperary hurling prior to 1909, when eight All-Ireland titles were won. "If we had a paper like 'The

shareholders in Thurles Sportsfield) and Jim Maher and himself would meet almost daily to exchange views on Gaelic, national and other topics. Incidentally, Jim has in his possession a copy of the first issue of "The Tipperary Star."

First Secretary of the Thurles Blues was Mr. James ("Jimmy") Kennedy and "one of the best in the Association," is the tribute Jim pays to his old friend. The Games of the Gael have always been dear to Mr. Kennedy's heart and his work for the Sarsfields club in its struggling early years and for Thurles itself, when later he became Town Clerk, will never be forgotten by the townspeople.

The "Blues" March to Glory

The Thurles Blues first hit the headlines in 1906 when they won All-Ireland honours for Tipperary. That year, also, under the captaincy of the great Tom Semple (who had previous to that hurled under Mikey Maher) they won the first of their four successive Co. titles—a feat not equalled since by any other Tipperary club. Jim Lanigan remarked to John Maher, famous Tipperary captain and centre-back and nephew of Jim Maher, when Sarsfields, under his leadership, had completed the three-in-a-row in 1946: "You should try and equal Tom Semple's record next year, John." But John had retired after a glorious career when the 1947 season came round and Sarsfields failed to make it "four-in-a-row," although the team of that year was one of the strongest ever to represent the club.

Thurles supporters had every

When Thurles Met Dungourney

Perhaps, one of the greatest victories of the Thurles Blues was that over Dungourney in the 1909 Munster Final. The Green and Gold combination were led by the peerless Jim Kelleher. They were strongly fancied to win out. Thurles hopes were low at half-time when the Cork men were ahead by 1-6 to 1-2. But Tom Semple's team showed its mettle in the second half, fighting back in traditional style to win by 2-10 to 2-6.

That victory was commemorated in song:

"What is you fear, boys, whilst Semple is with you,
That gallant old captain who leads in the fray?
Why should you doubt when you think of the past, boys?
That one word 'Dungourney' ought all trouble away;
Let Erin see what the 'Old Blues' can do:
Practice at dawn and train soon,
On! on! the battle cry is:
'Thurles Aboo!'"

A Great Mooncoin Team

In the All-Ireland Final at Cork Athletic grounds Tipperary went down to Kilkenny on the score 3-4 to 0-12. The Thurles cup was intolerably filled with bitterness that day. It was the first time they had failed to score a goal in any match. The final was decided in the middle of Winter—on a cold December day—and the wonder was that the match was played at all such was the state of the pitch, which was well-nigh unplayable.

(Continued page 11, col. 1)

Continuing The Jim Maher Story

Thurles blamed the pitch, more than anything else, for their unlucky defeat. But, as it was, they should have won, as Jack Mooney and Jack Mockler hardly let a ball pass them at midfield for almost twenty minutes of the second half. Tipperary could not get the decisive goal, however, hard though they tried. W. Heneberry was in brilliant form between the posts for Mooncoin. "That was a great Kilkenny team," comments Jim Maher. Led by the wily "Drug" Walsh, it included such renowned hurlers as Jack Rochford (a powerful full-back and winner of seven All-Ireland medals), Sim Walton (a forward without peer in those days), Jimmy Kelly (who scored seven goals in the 1907 All-Ireland replay against Cork) and the three Doyle brothers (who between them won a total of eighteen All-Ireland medals).

WILL NEVER DIE

The glory of Tom Semple and his gallant band of hurlers will never die just as the glory and fame of Mick Maher and Tubberadora, Johnny Leahy and Boherlahan, "Wedger" Meagher and the Toomevara "Greyhounds" will never die.

And so our story ends. The real history of those stirring early days of our great Association and the giants who then graced the playing fields of Ireland, is not to be found poring over the record books and studying cold statistics but in talking to gaels like Jim Maher, who have been through it all, and listening to the little intimate stories they have to tell. I have enjoyed talking to Jim about those days. He has a wonderful storehouse of memories and I only hope that in recalling some of them in "The Gaelic Echo" I have given as much pleasure to readers everywhere as I have got myself in journeying with Jim Maher back through the years.—Copyright.

IN MEMORIAM

With a feeling of deep sadness and an expression of sincere sympathy we the Gaels of Tipperary chronicle the death of Sergeant Mawn who on the morning of the 25th of July bid adieu to a county and a country he loved so well.

Coming of a very old and respected Co. Leitrim family this man had become a Tipperary citizen by the fact of his 25 years service in that county. His longest term was spent in Holycross. In that area he won the respect and admiration of all. He also took a keen interest in the G.A.A. of that district and he always spoke strongly in support of the Irish language. He will be sadly missed.

J.C.L.

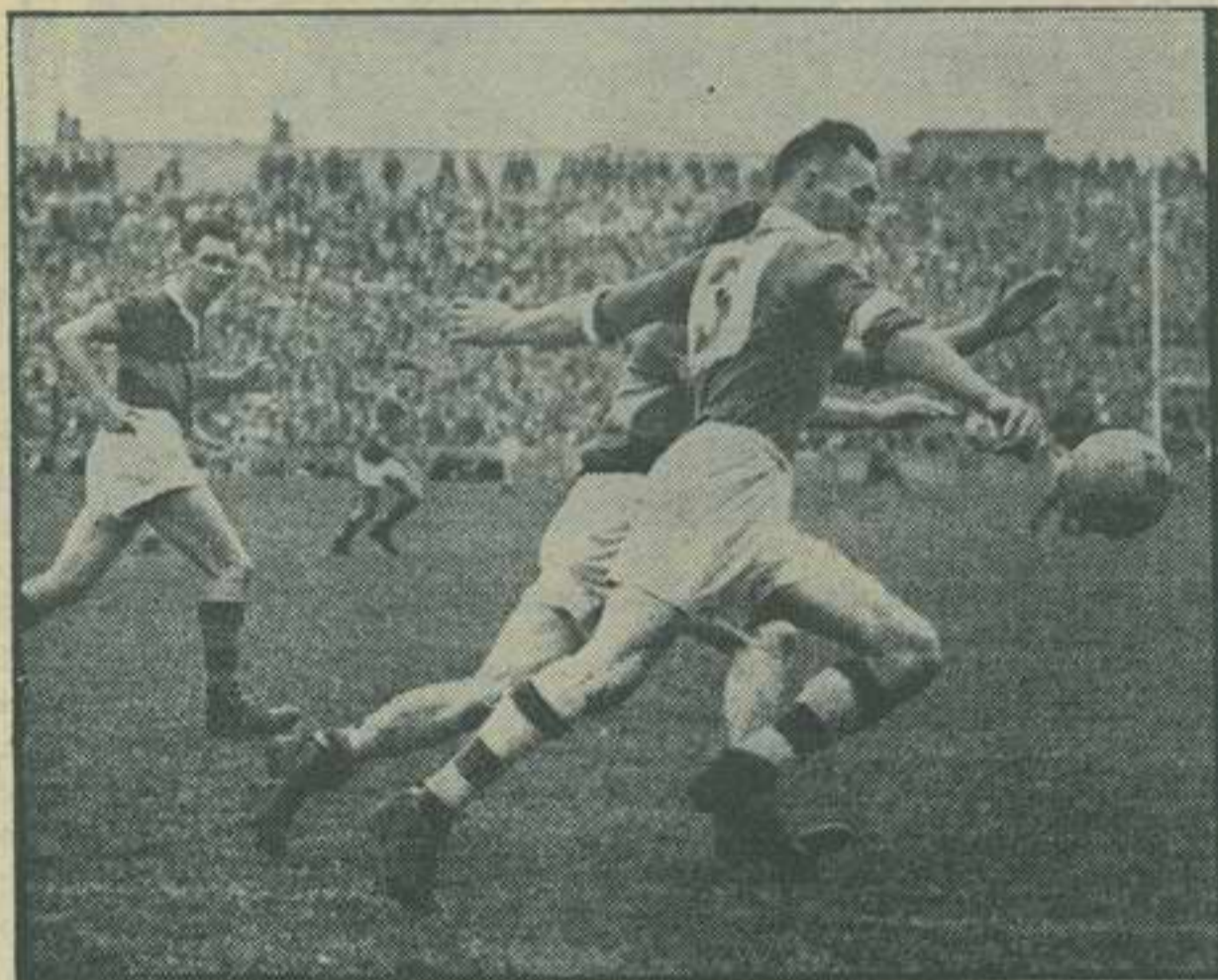
Action At Croke Park



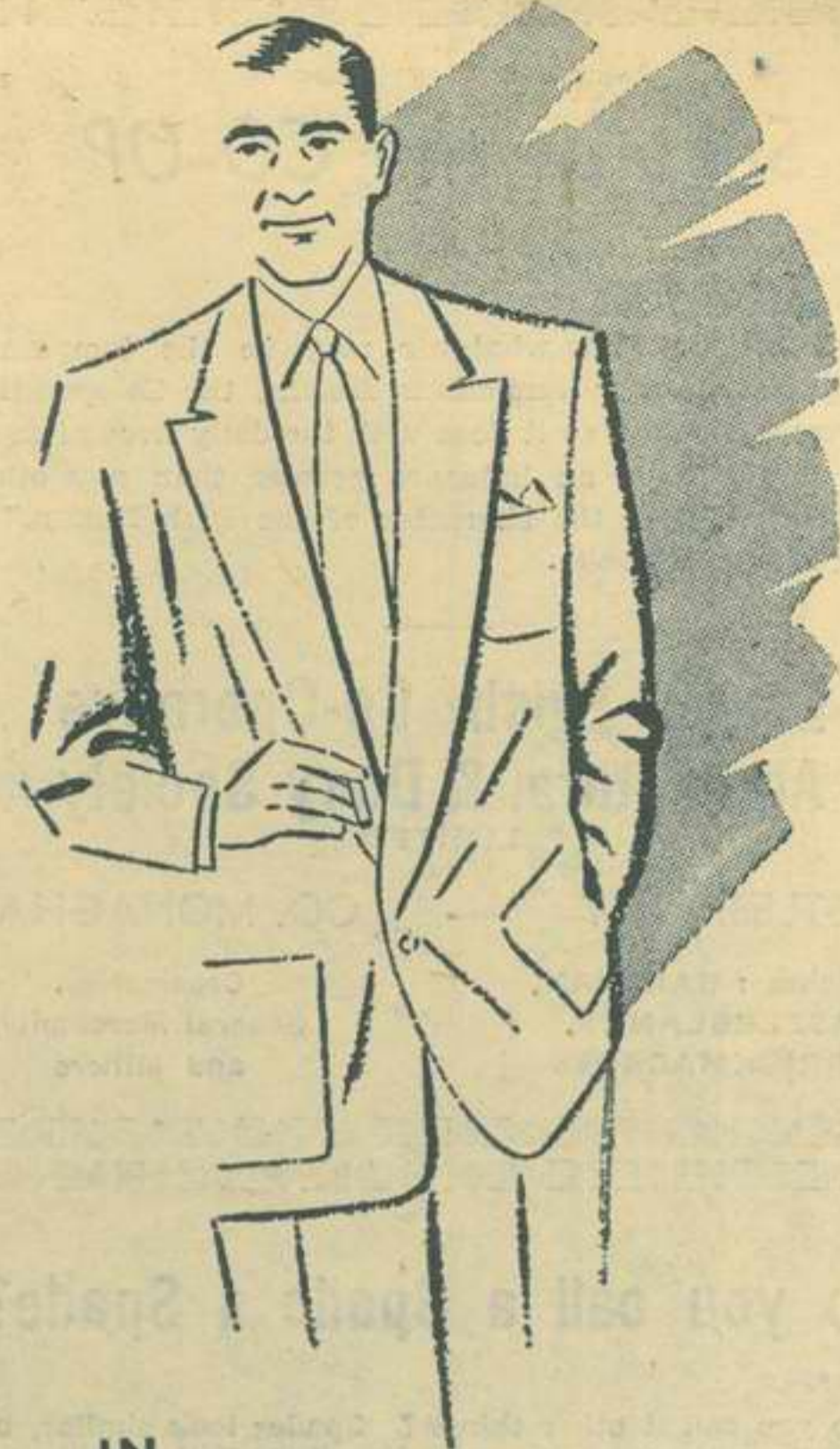
CAVAN v. KERRY

Bansha Out After 8 Years

Beaten at last are Bansha Galtee Rovers who are out of the Senior Football Championship for the first time in West Tipperary since 1947. The final will be now contested by Rockwell Rovers and Arravale Rovers.



All Out. Phil Brady of Cavan clears well against Kerry in All-Ireland Football Semi-Final.



IN ALL IRELAND

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Congratulations Paddy

BEST wishes to Paddy McCarthy, former Limerick county star and now a member of the Thurles Sarsfields Club, on his recent wedding. Paddy won his place on the Tipperary junior team this season; he has played full-back on the Thurles senior team. He is also a footballer and handballer of no mean ability.

Giants of the G.A.A.

By LEO BOWES

No. 4 Jim Smith of Cavan

One of the Gaels responsible for putting Cavan on the football map was Jim Smith, B.Comm., captain of the team that brought the first All-Ireland football crown to the Ulster highlands. That was in 1933, but the powerful Jim also appeared in three other All-Ireland football finals. In 1928 when he headed the side that put up a gallant display when going under to Kildare 2-6 to 2-5, in 1935 when the Slashers avenged this defeat by trouncing Kildare 3-6 to 2-5, and in 1937 when the Cavan stalwarts lost to Kerry 2-5 to 1-8 after a replay.

ELUSIVE FOOTBALLER

A very popular figure everywhere, Jim Smith was the owner of an enviable physique. As a midfielder he was outstanding but later also shone as a full-back. He learned his craft the hard way, never shirking those dull practice matches or training sessions, and whenever the opportunity arose he availed of a bit of "fonging" with alacrity. He was renowned for his long accurate drives and safe hands. He was described by a contemporary as "an elusive and tricky footballer who could take rough and smooth with coolness personified, while his wing clearances were clever and secure."

MANY TROPHIES

In his possession are a collection of trophies, substantial evidence to prove that he was a definite asset to the Garda and Dublin teams in many a sterling tussle on the grassy sward.

Yes, as long as enthusiasts discuss Gaelic football the name of Jim Smith will be mentioned with admiration and respect.

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SMALL MONAGHAN CLUB ACHIEVES HUGE TASK

On Sunday, July 31st last, St. Tiernach's Gaelic Football Park, Clones, housed its tenth Ulster football final since 1944, the year in which the great Ulster Park was first purchased and officially opened. What a change has taken place in those seven acres of rough hilly ground! What a monument to that handful of men with courage and vision that purchased and developed those same acres and brought them to their present eminence as a centre for Ulster Gaelic Football! All this work, and the responsibility for raising the huge amount of money necessary for its purchase and development, fell on the

shoulders of the local St. Tiernach's Club. It would take more than the space available in this paper to give even a brief outline of the amount of work involved and the difficulties to be overcome in the creation of this great park.

Unique in G.A.A. History

We think it must be unique in the history of the G.A.A. that a small club should have undertaken and carried to a successful conclusion, such a colossal task. They are not yet content to rest on their laurels. Much more remains to be done and will be done.

£800 Spent This Season

Last season, amongst other expenditure, the club purchased a triple gang mower at considerable expense. Its proud possessors have been repaid handsomely in the improved sod already apparent on the playing pitch. This season again, approximately £800 had been spent on improvements to the enclosure and surrounds before the Ulster Final was played.

This same little club year after year takes full responsibility for the preparations and stewarding necessary at all big matches.

Set A Headline

It has been truly said that the small band of earnest workers who co-operated in this great work have set a headline in the manner in which they worked together as a team. Long may they be spared to continue agus bail ó Dia ar an obair.

Meet The Men Who Did It



Left to right: Pat McGrane, Jim Currin, Brendan Kelly, Jim Murphy.

Proud Record In London G.A.A.

By EAMONN LEAHY

THE Thomas McCurtain Hurling and Football Club is one of the very few in England which has its own Gaelic ground. The Club was founded in 1924 by a famous Cork footballer, Mick Looney, Sean Twomey of Limerick, Brian McSweeney, Pat McCarthy and E. Kiely of Cork.

200 MEMBERS

The Club has a long and proud record and has won various competitions in London. It has been affiliated to the London County Board G.A.A. all these years.

They have a membership of 200 (all active members) and boast a fine senior and junior hurling team and junior football team. The latter team won the League Cup in 1954.

Members of the Club are mostly from Cork, Tipperary and the rest of Munster with a sprinkling of Roscommon and Meath men. A very fine combination indeed.

The members of the committee are as follows:—

President: Alderman Denis O'Dwyer of Limerick.

Vice-President: Councillor R. Blackburn (of Irish descent).

Chairman: Dave Lennon of Cork.

Secretary: Colum Murphy of Cork. Colum is brother of the well-known hurler, Con Murphy (Dublin).

Delegate to London County Board, Dan Lowry (Meath).

Hurling Board delegate, P. J. Collins (Clare).

THE SPIRIT WAS THERE

Dan McCaffrey as a boy was making a big name for himself in his native Stradone, Co. Cavan, when fate brought him to England. But with Dan the Gaelic Spirit was always there.

In London the soon became acquainted with the game and associated himself with the "Round Towers" Club for which he played. After two years Dan returned to Dublin and joined the Garda, and has figured prominently with their Football Club ever since—playing now at centrefield. He has also figured with the Cavan senior team and has one Ulster Championship Medal to his credit.

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Jimmy Kennedy Picks Wexford

REMEMBER Jimmy Kennedy, the lad who wore Tipperary's blue-and-gold with distinction, a few seasons back? The slim, fair-haired maestro of the caman with the finely-drawn features of the trained athlete, whose scoring exploits in 1949 and 1950 made his name a household word. The picture of "The Hurler" in the minds of many thousands was of his eager figure striding

By **DONAL MURPHY**

stepped up to take a free the umpire always picked up the white flag in readiness.

TRIPS ABROAD

On a par with his two All-Ireland successes in 1949 and 1950 and his three trips to London for the holiday matches, Jimmy places the 1950 trip to New York for the National

PLENTY OF SLEEP

The lad from the shores of Lough Derg, who started his career as centre-forward and became the greatest winger of those seasons believes in sprinting flat out for every ball in training. He told me he found heavy work inimical and criticised training methods that prescribe similar work for all hurlers regardless of physique, preferring the dictates of great

LIMERICK V. WEXFORD



A tense moment near the Wexford goalmouth in the All-Ireland semi-final
Courtesy "Irish Press"

smoothly, striking sweetly and raising yet another flag for the Premier County.

SAVED TIPP.

Recall that famous replay of Tipp's '49 championship tie with Cork. A few minutes to go to the long whistle and Tipp. are three points in arrears. Sonny Maher at full forward gathers a ball around, flicks it out of the square, and Kennedy standing alone on the wing, swings in to receive it. Without change of rhythm he meets it in an inspired shot that the goalie never saw. Tipp. were alive to fight and win extra-time play and thereafter the Munster and All-Ireland Championships.

ACCURATE JIM

Jimmy scored 3 goals and 6 points against Limerick once, and chalked up ten points on the Munster Final scoreboards in 1949 and 1950. When he

League Final. He recalls with pleasure speaking to Marty Maher at Westpoint and seeing the Joe Louis-Ezzard Charles championship fight.

STILL DISCUSSED

When Jimmy's star waned he was still the subject of much conjecture and discussion. A glut of matches may have knocked the spark from his play: he is inclined himself to think it was mental laxity. For he had won almost every trophy of the game; besides the premier ones his collection of medals includes a 1950 Railway Cup one, Oireachtas trophies, 2 Dublin championship and a Fitzgibbon Cup, 1 with U.C.D., 1944 All-Ireland Colleges, both individual and interprovincial, with St. Flannans', Ennis, and a North Tipperary junior trophy with Kildangan. He had represented Dublin in the 1948 All-Ireland final and captained Leinster in the 1949 Railway Cup decider.

U.C.D. trainer and Tipperary hurler, Mick Darcy, for short, snappy runs.

"And I got plenty of sleep," he emphasised.

Omitting to ask the names of a hurler's doughtiest opponents would be like forgetting to quiz Eisenhower on atomic power. Jimmy Murray (Laois) and Josie Harnett (Cork) were Jimmy's choices, after much deliberation only, for he declared himself: "Honestly, I think I never had a soft match; the class was very good."

Twenty-nine years old Jimmy who holds a post with a Nenagh firm of maltsters and grain merchants and is the father of a month old camogie player, expects to see Wexford win the blue riband on September 5th.

AS GOOD AS EVER

POPULAR Thurles Sarsfields and Tipperary defender, Micky ("Rattler") Byrne, is enjoying his best ever season. His displays for his county at right-corner back have made him the idol of the crowds and he has been equally impressive playing at full-back for his club. No wonder that he has been honoured with the captaincy of the Sarsfields senior team for another year. Micky is like a terrier to the tackle and he is so fast on the ball that he often gets in his clearances before the opposing forwards have made a move. He wins friends everywhere he goes with his ready wit and gift of repartee. He is as popular with supporters of the other Tipperary clubs as he is with Thurles followers. Some may term him a veteran, but the Sarsfields defender seems to be getting better with the passing years.

Phelim Murray III

ROSCOMMON supporters and, in 1943 and again in 1944 when indeed, Gaelic supporters his brother Jimmy captained the everywhere will regret to hear team. A native of famed Knock-that former star Phelim Murray crockery, Phelim, who is married, has been ill in a Dublin hospital is by profession an engineer. May for some time. Phelim won All-Ireland honours with Roscommon more.

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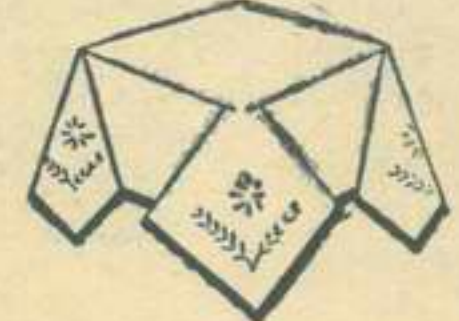
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WILL DEE EAT HIS SHIRT?

I WENT to see the All-Ireland hurling semi-final with a preconceived theory.

I had not seen Limerick play this year, but from Press reports I expected history to be made. I expected a revolutionary development in the game of hurling.

Youthful Zest

Limerick, the pundits informed us before the game, were brimful of the enthusiasm of youth. The new rule had speeded up the game to such an extent that the match was into Limerick's "barrow" with their tremendous dash and elan. Hurling, we understood, was finished with veterans! Youth must be served!

What nonsense!

Best in Ireland

It's still the old dog for

for those with All-Ireland aspirations. *And I'll eat my nylon shirt if they don't beat Galway in the All-Ireland Final*

Limerick Coming Side

How about Limerick? Need Limerick folk be dispondent? Far from it!

This Limerick team contributed to a first half-hour such as a Croke Park crowd haven't seen for years. And it wasn't just youth and speed that gave them that half-time lead, but some brilliant stickwork that matched the Wexfordmen. For come to think of it how otherwise would they be Munster champions?

It was in the second half we got the answer to our questions. Limerick were "green." How Mick Mackey on the sideline must have longed for an old head to steady the young-

Sporting Spectators

Feature of this game was the sporting spirit of, not only the rival players (that was taken for granted), but of the spectators from both counties. Each lot gave credit where credit was due to the rival team. Rarely have I heard less partisan supporters whose enthusiasm for their favourites was not lessened one whit because of this.

Fate of Prophet

Now that I have stated so dogmatically my choice for All-Ireland Champions for 1955, I may add that the nervous whine which you may hear in Croke Park on All-Ireland day will be DEE imploring Wexford to win. I understand nylon doesn't taste nice!

Art Foley of Wexford Waits For Limerick Attack



the hard road! Once again we underestimated the 'Boys of Wexford.' Let there be no mistake about it Wexford are the best hurling side in the country.

Youth and dash are all very well in their own way, but there is no real substitute for five years of hard championship, league and tournament campaigning.

When Wexford first began to make the headlines they were no great "shakes"; their greatest assets being weight and enthusiasm. Believe me, there is no sign of mediocrity about their play now. They are battle-hardened and cool in a crisis. They are solid from goal to goal, with a leavening of greatness in vital positions—the latter a 'must'

sters. But Limerick's year will come in the near future—of that no spectator at Croke Park was in any doubt.

Clare's goalkeeper, S. Hayes, clears attack by J. Molloy of Galway in St. Brendan's Tournament.

Photo: Courtesy "Irish Press."



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GENIUS-KISSED CAMAN WIELDER BOBBIE RACKARD OF WEXFORD

By PADDY DALY

WHO is the best man in hurling to-day? That is a six-marker not easily overcome. Thousands will plump unhesitatingly for the fabulous Christy Ring. Doubtless, dashing Vin Twomey will have countless friends. So also will Tipperary's Pat Staklum and Paddy Kenny. Kilkenny will settle for stylist Seán Clohessy, and Shannonsiders will proudly tell you that Dermot Kelly is the greatest hurler since the legendary Mick Mackey. The above-mentioned stars are all master stickmen, but, for my money, the greatest of them all is Wexford's bold Bobbie Rackard, "the boy from Killane." My choice may bring showers of criticism, but it will also, I feel sure, bring torrents of votes of complete agreement.

I recall having seen Bobbie in action for the first time in the Leinster Final of 1950. You may remember that Kilkenny snatched a narrow and emphatically lucky win that day. Wexford, after looking all over the winners, seemed to tire in the closing minutes, and inexperience told in the end. One man who never faltered, however, was Bobbie Rackard, whose "blinder" earned round after round of applause from hurling fans all over Ireland. I immediately earmarked him as a truly great half-back.

Then came November, 1952, and the epic Oireachtas Final versus Galway. As has so often been the case in the past, Bobbie was once again the "man of the match." Time and time again he broke the hearts of Galway followers with his split-second intrusions and tremendous clearances. He strode the field like a Colossus to suggest the inadequacies of mere dictionaries to tell the tale of a performance that left every one of us alone with a personal hugged joy.

BACK AGAIN AFTER ILLNESS

Many said he could never equal, let alone surpass, that superb display, and his subsequent serious illness certainly justified that statement. But last year's All-Ireland saw gallant Bobbie back with a bang to his brilliant best. Before 85,000 admiring, sometimes unbelieving, sometimes moist eyes he gave the greatest display of superlative caman-craft man has ever known. As long as hurling is played, his immaculately miraculous performance will be recalled as one of the greatest hours any player has ever enjoyed. Who else but the Rathnure six-footer could have done that after such a long illness? In my opinion, that display will never again be equalled by any man. Thanks, Bobbie, for the memory.

Bobbie has blasted the reputation of many highly-rated forwards. In a League match against Cork a few years ago I saw him out-hurl "Ringey" more than any other defender "Christy boy" has opposed.

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Bobbie of other years. Nevertheless, he is still a great defender as was proved when he switched places with brother Billy in this year's championship series. His exploits in the corner against both Limerick and Kilkenny were a revelation. The mediocrity of his speed is concealed by the majesty of his long clearances and his exclusive brilliance in close-quarter play, between defence and attack.

ALL-TIME GREAT

For his sheer hurling genius, his courage, his daring, his indomitable spirit, his modesty, his loyalty, his sportsmanship in victory or defeat, Bobbie deserves a pre-eminent position among the all-time "greats" of Ireland's hurling men. No team are more deserving of the Blue Riband than Wexford. No family has ever done more for the G.A.A. than the mighty Rackard brothers. No man is more deserving of that elusive All-Ireland medal than the genius-kissed caman-wielder and to-day's outstanding hurler—Bobbie Rackard.

Birmingham Team Visits Roscommon

BY GUS SMITH

Another happy link in the chain of relations between the G.A.A. in Britain and Ireland was made during August, when a St. Paul's team from Birmingham visited Roscommon to play a local junior club Kiltewan, who incidentally, were sponsors of this unique match.

The visitors were accorded a warm welcome when they tramped off the pitch after losing by 2 pts. to a strong Kiltewan selection. At an enjoyable function held that Sunday evening medals were presented to victors and vanquished alike. Mr. Paddy Walsh, Chairman Kiltewan club and a County selector, presenting the medals said he hoped that his club would play th return match in Birmingham next year.

Chief credit for the organising of the trip must go to Mr. T. Dolan, secretary Kiltewan, who worked very hard to make it the success it undoubtedly was.



Dublin v. Antrim in All-Ireland Minor Semi-Final.

The Longest Puck

Dear Sir—This month's "Gaelic Echo" was the best fourpence worth I got for a long time. I was very glad to read the song about the "Bould Christy Ring." It makes my heart warm.

If you want to know who has the longest puck in Ireland take it from me that it is between Willie Murphy and Miah Lynch of Cork. In the Cork Gaelic Grounds.

Miah Lynch of St. Finbarrs sent the ball wide from a puck-out. In 1946 in the All-Ireland final between Cork and Kilkenny. Cork's right full back, Willie Murphy sent the ball within 10 yards of the Kilkenny goal from a puck-out.

Make certain to print this in next month's paper.

Yours faithfully,
"The Beara Bashers."
Co. Cork.

New Secretary

Kerry has a new County Secretary. On being transferred to the Department of Social Welfare, Store Street, Dublin, Jerry McCarthy resigned from the post which he has held for the past few years. A meeting of the County Board appointed Secondary Teacher Tadhg Crowley to take over. Tadhg shows the boys of the C.B.S. how the game is played.

BOWLPLAYING IN 1955

By FLOR CROWLEY

IT is doubtful if the very ancient and very Gaelic game of bowlplaying has ever before been so well and so widely organised in the South as it is in 1955. This position is primarily due to the efforts in 1954 of a dozen or so keen enthusiasts from Cork City who set about the task of placing the game on a definitely organised basis, governed by a fixed and general set of rules. These sportsmen, Jack O'Shea, John Barry, Jimmy Deare, John O'Mahony, Tom Healy, Pearce McSweeney, Con O'Connell, Jim Crowley, Jim Cadden—to name but some of those who were the architects of this resurgence—ran off in 1954 one of the most successful bowling tournaments ever undertaken. Their venues were the three near-city roads, Waterfall, Dublin Hill and Cloghroe. The final was won by Liam O'Keefe, a Waterfall man resident in Bantry, who defeated Ned Barry, the second of the three famous Waterfall brothers, whom he beat narrowly in a two-day final at Cloghroe.

UPSETS IN CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1955 championship is being played at our West Cork venues, Dunmanway, Macroom, Kiltrea, Clancool, Enniskeane and Ballimeen. This year the tournament is being run off under an entirely West Cork executive, headed by schoolmasters and ex-players, E. Carroll and F. Crowley. Round 1 has already been completed, and the two main surprises of that round were the defeat of both of last season's finalists by two much less fancied opponents, Tom O'Neill of Blarney Street who beat O'Keefe and Dan Collins of Upton who beat Ned Barry.

MICK BARRY FAVOURITE

It is much too early in the competition to forecast any sort of result, but most impressive players in Round 1 were John Barry, Dan Collins and Pat Sullivan of Upton. Mick Barry, most outstanding player of the last decade, received a walk-over from Denis Donovan of Fisher's Cross, who defeated him in the 1954 competition, and it is not at all unlikely that Mick's great strength and lift may be deciding factors in the current championship.

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Southern Sports Gossip

By RAYMOND

HERE and there amid the fifteen hundred, or so, that congregated at Kilworth Camp recently for the F.C.A. Platoon Tests one noticed a familiar figure of the Gaelic and sporting world. Many others there were, no doubt, whom one did not notice in the bustle and hurly-burly of the busy Camp where one concerned himself very little with matters that did not appertain to himself personally or to the welfare of his own Platoon generally.

A few of the not-so-young "boys" of Gaelic Football were to be seen taking their part in the Camp's military activity. A salute and handshake from the ever-genial Seán Vaughan of Kealkil, in F.C.A. life Captain Vaughan, O/C of Bantry Battalion, reminds one of that 1926 All-Ireland Semi-final (Football) at Cork when the Cork Seniors met the then all-conquering Lily Whites of Kildare at the Athletic Grounds. A hard match it was, with a dour and dogged Cork side battling manfully against the verve and polish of one of the greatest Kildare teams of all time; battling unsuccessfully, too, for not even the most unrelenting purpose could withstand such great football as Paul Doyle (R.I.P.), Jack Higgins, Matt Goff and the Loughlins played that day.

Great Game

In the thick of it, solid and unshakeable, was Jack Vaughan, playing centre-back for Cork, and playing one of the greatest games of

those Corkmen who were really good at a time when Gaelic Football in Cork was at its lowest ebb, in the 1930's when Timothy Cotter and Tim Harrington of Bantry, the Lynch brothers and John Dillon of Dunmanway and Sandy O'Driscoll of Bandon were the nucleus of the Cork side. "Knocky," normally a corner-back, often had to fill other positions—and the fact is that it is not long ago that he togged off as full-forward for a certain local team.

Like Sean Vaughan, he is still a rock of a man, and many a strippling of 20 stepped out of his way at Templemore last July when he decided to try on his boots once again.

A "Horse" of a Man Dick Harnedy

"Who is that horse of a man in there who is belting the ball all over the place?" So inquired a youth-

and ankle-short stockings showed calf muscles that would have done justice to a Charles Atlas. It was 1954 Kerry minor Jo White, most stylish footballer on view amid that heterogeneous gathering that represented every County in Munster; most stylist and most spectacular, and one might hazard a guess one of Kerry's seniors in the not very distant future!

The Ever-Young Eamonn

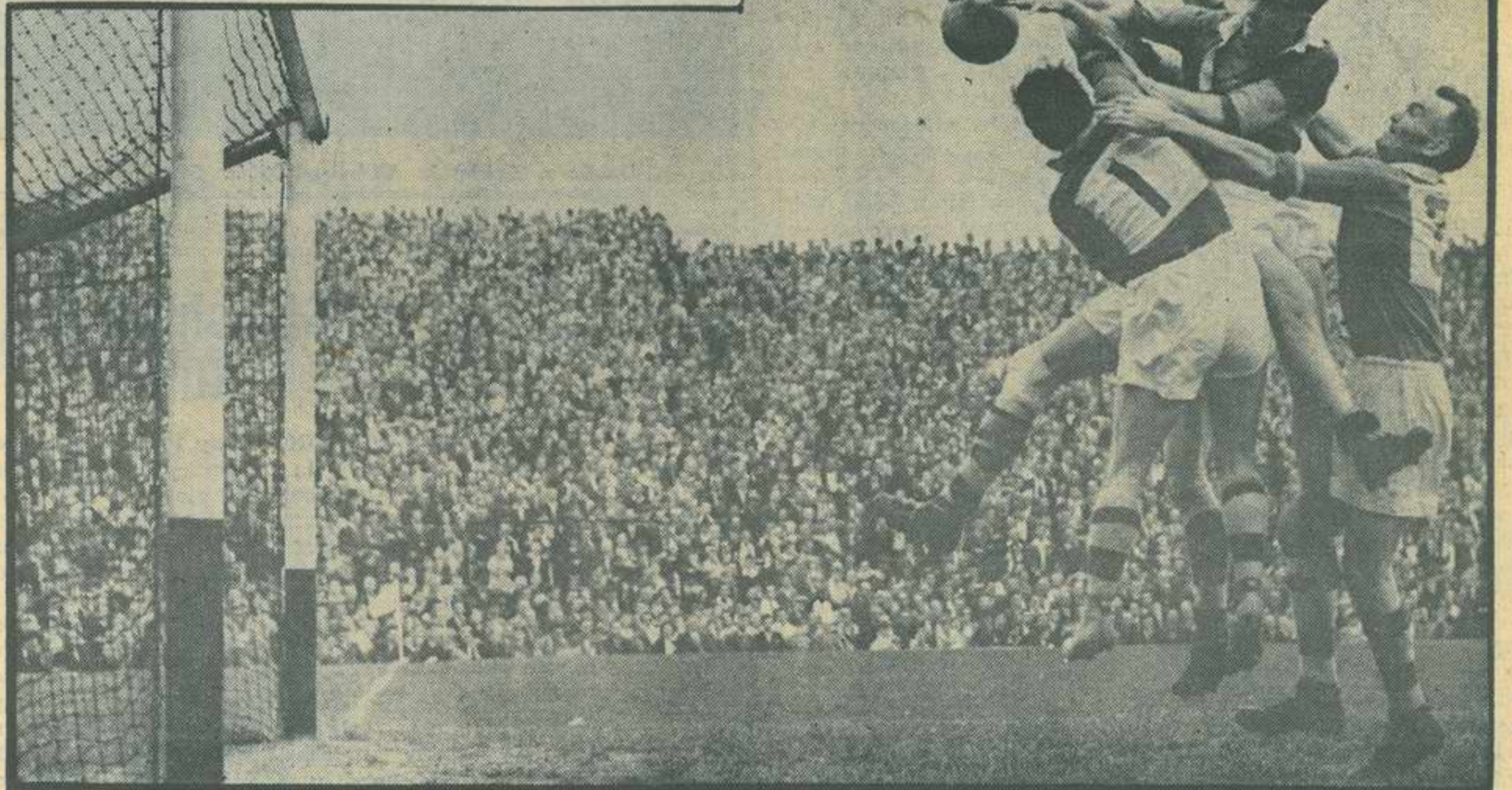
Togged out, nearly always togged out when the fag of umpiring tactics was done for the day, was the ever-young Eamonn, no older now than he was when I first saw him play with a senior club team as far back as 1939—but of that and of subsequent years we hope to have more anon! There in between the boys, a word of praise here, a word of advice there, Eamonn was in his glory, grabbing a ball when he wanted to, never failing to get it

wear the green and gold since the days of Joe Barrett. Almost a colossus among men, Joe was a giant among footballers, and one wonders if the news that his old opponent of the Polo Grounds, Peter Donoghue, has been staging a come-back—one wonders if the news has not awakened a thought or two of the return trall in the mind of the mighty Joe!

Ireland's Premier Hop Stepper

Four time Irish hop, step and jump champion, Bob Dwyer, the lithe and sprightly schoolmaster from Ardroom in the historic peninsula of Beara, confirmed his claim as premier Irish jumper when he captured the event in the recent Inter-provincial contests at Athlone. A few weeks earlier I saw him set up a new Cork County record at Clonakilty with a leap of 47

Dramatic moment . . . a minute to go and T. Lyne, Kerry, goes up to punch home Kerry's vital second goal.
Photo: Courtesy "Irish Press."



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Mean-scoil

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his long career. Cork did not win but, as Sean still claims, they left the stylists of Kildare to realise that they had been in a match! To-day, twenty-nine years afterwards, Sean Vaughan still looks fit and fresh enough to fill that centre-back position again. He carries with him a few scars of his playing days, of his hurling days, too, for he played many a hard game with The Barrs in the middle twenties, and I am not sure that he does not value these old scars mightily as trophies of a passed glory. A modest man is Sean, never emulating the "broken soldier" who was so ready to "show how fields were won," but yet a man who grips your interest once you have succeeded in getting him to talk of his Gaelic past.

"KNOCKY" CRONIN

Another of the same calibre is Lieutenant "Knocky" Cronin, O/C of the Macroom Battalion. Built almost on identical lines as Sean Vaughan, "Knocky" was one of

ful companion one evening as we watched the "troops" at play down the field. The "horse of a man" was old friend Dick Harnedy of Duhallow, and nobody but a green and callow garsún would have had to ask the question for Dick must be one of the best-known figures in Munster Gaeldom. That afternoon he seemed to be able to get that ball when he pleased and kick it where he pleased despite the close attentions of a score of men twenty years his junior.

A time there was when Kerry and Dick Harnedy represented Munster in football, just as a time came at a later date when Kerry and Eamonn Young represented Munster. In those days there were not many forwards in Ireland who could get beyond the redoubtable Dick. Playing left half-back for Cork and for Munster, Dick was a tiger of a man. He still is a tiger of a man, with little evidence upon him that a goodly line of years has passed his way!

Potential Kerry Senior

Out around centre-field roamed a grand young footballer with the typical Kerry hands and the traditional Kerry kick. Scanty togs exposed wonderfully muscled thighs

when he tried, and always placing it where it should be placed. So effortless, so untiring was the man's style that we wondered why he, and not some others, should have been on the side-line at Killarney!

A Heavier Joe

Not so enthusiastic, yet still keen, were two other figures that one could not fail to note, Captains Joe Keohane of Kerry fame, and Sean Minogue of Cork and Tipperary. Joe has been putting on avoirdupois since he hung up his boots, but not one in a million could ever mistake him for anybody else but the great Joe Keohane, greatest full-back to

feet, and the thought-that struck me that day was that with his style and speed, with his very accurate take-off and immaculate finish to the pit, there should be 50 feet in him. At Clonakilty he had to counter a rather ugly oblique mind, and was further handicapped by a soggy run-up, otherwise he would probably have done much better than 47 feet. I shall be surprised if he doesn't yet do a good deal better, for to even a casual observer he appears to have in him the makings of another Dan Ahearne or Eamonn Fitzgerald. Too long has the "hop" been the cinderella of Irish athletics. We look to see Bob Dwyer place it in its proper sphere.

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