

## This is YOUR Paper

THE newspaper you are now reading, the GAELIC ECHO, is a newspaper of the Gaelic people, by the Gaelic people and for the Gaelic people.

It caters for all of the thirty-two counties of Ireland and contains news and gossip on our National Games from each of those counties—without exception.

The news is compiled from correspondents in villages, towns and cities, assimilated by our Editorial staff and published without fear or favour.

To facilitate clubs who wish to communicate with others to arrange games, exchange information or inform the public of any changes in the structure or panel of officers of the club, we shall arrange to publish a Club Notice to that effect, free.

Like any mortals, we know that we are not above criticism and any views, suggestions you wish to make will be welcomed and space will be made available in our columns.

Finally, the GAELIC ECHO is a newspaper whose sole function is to keep you, the public, informed on the position and state of our National Games and as such should find its way into the home of every true Gael.

## Hat-Trick

WHAT must be a record for a footballer was set up by Lieut. T. McNulty, Roscrea, when he won three football championship medals in eight days.

On October 30 he won the North Tipp. Junior Football Championship (1954 final) with Inane Rovers; on November 3 he won the All-Army Senior Football Championship with the Eastern Command, and November 6 he won the North Tipp. Junior Football Championship (1955 final) with Inane Rovers.

## Kerry Visit

LONDON Football Champions, Naomh Mhuire, are expected to visit Kerry to play local teams in the near future.

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ENQUIRIES INVITED

## CHALLENGE FOR ST. VINCENTS

REMEMBER on this page last month we carried Peadar Byrne's article on the famous Dublin Club, St. Vincent's? Well, this month we have a challenge for St. Vincent's.

It comes from M. O Ceallaigh, Secretary of the Tuam Stars, who writes: "Tuam Stars will play St. Vincent's any time, and I guarantee that Tuam will win."

The letter reads: "One would think that there was no other team in Ireland except St. Vincent's. Now what do you think of Tuam Stars, or have you ever heard of them?"

"Tuam Stars beat the All-Army Champions twice this year, although the Army had the services of such players as C. O'Leary (Dublin), Kissane (Galway), B. O'Neill (Galway), J. Young (Dublin), P. Deering (Wicklow), M. Fives (Waterford) and O'Neill, Galway's sub-goalkeeper.

Our reply: We have heard of Tuam Stars and know that they won the North Board's S.F.C. this year. We also congratulate them on their performance in beating the Army, and we look forward eagerly to the game with St. Vincent's when it comes off.

### AFTER FORTY YEARS

## Paddy Duffy Leaves the Louth Tiller

By JOHN COMYN

A NAME which has been to the forefront of Irish sport for nearly fifty years was missing from the list of nominations at the Louth G.A.A. Convention which met in Whitworth Hall, Drogheda, on January 22. It was that of Paddy Duffy, who last year was elected to the Secretaryship for the forty-first time.

And there was not the least doubt that had he chosen to let his name go forward this year he would have been unanimously returned to office.

MR. DUFFY'S DECISION TO RETIRE FROM ACTIVE DUTY WILL BE AN ALMOST IRREPARABLE BLOW, NOT ONLY TO HIS NATIVE COUNTY BUT TO THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

Born in Drogheda in 1885 his recollection of football goes back over 58 years, when, as a spectator, he attended his first game—Louth v. Cavan—at Clonturk Park (then a major venue of national games).

### RECOLLECTIONS

Ten years later he joined the Newtown Blues and played as a junior with the club team before transferring to the other Drogheda club of the time.

Old allegiance dies hard and Paddy still recalls the Tredagh Club which he says was the best Drogheda produced. The club



PADDY DUFFY G.A.A. LOUTH

### PADDY DUFFY

rented a field at Shamrock Lodge, at £40 a year, and he remembers it as a major venue where many Championship titles were competed for.

(TURN TO PAGE 16)

# Sports Star of 1955

## KINGDOM NAMES TADHGIE LYNE

By DIXIE

SPORTS followers in the Kingdom had a great year in 1955. Five Kerry men won the team prize in the 1,000 miles Ras Tailteann, and Killorglin's Gene Mangnan won the individual prize in that race. In a pulsating All-Ireland Football Final the wearers of the green-and-gold took home the Sam Maguire Cup once again, while in the handball court and on the basketball front Kerry men were well to the fore.



TADHGIE LYNE (Irish Press)

But there is one name which crops up regularly in all fireside discussions on the past year's achievements. One man gets more praise for his sporting displays, and nine out of ten Kerry men vote him the country's "Sports Star of the Year."

He is the quiet unassuming six-footer from Killarney—TADHGIE LYNE. And no one deserves the title better. Not alone did he play a leading part in Kerry's All-Ireland victory, but proved himself one of the finest basketball players in Munster.

### FIRST MEDAL

Tagdhie learned his football at St. Brendan's and first came into the limelight in 1951 when he helped Dick Fitzgerald's win the Kerry S.F.C. The same year he played on the Kerry junior fifteen.

And it was no surprise to see him make the County Senior team the following year.

Lyne was at left half-forward for Kerry on July 20, 1952, when they failed badly to Cork at the Athletic Grounds. Never have I seen a Kerry team so outclassed as then, and only for veteran Paddy "Bawn" Brosnan and goalie O'Neill the defeat might have been heavier.

Came 1953. Ned Roche, John Cronin and Tom Moriarty declared for their native county, and in the Munster Final the Kingdom men were never seriously troubled by Cork at Fitzgerald Stadium.

### ALL-IRELAND

After two games Kerry beat Louth in the All-Ireland semi-final and Tadhgie had his first All-Ireland medal when they conquered Armagh in the final.

Tadhgie played no small part in the win. His lengthy kicking, faultless fielding and deadly anticipation were features of that glorious battle. He kicked five points that day.

In 1954 he was out of the game for a long spell, due to a shoulder injury. He went in as left full-

(TURN TO PAGE 16)

## It's a Cup not a bucket!

"BRINGING a cup from one public house to another puts it in the same category as a bucket," said Very Rev. P. McDonnell at the presentation of the Louth Senior Championship trophies to St. Mary's G.F.C. in Ardee.

For big games publicans applied for exemption orders and some people then associated the G.A.A. with drinking. He would like it to be known that the G.A.A. had nothing to do with these exemption orders.

Rev. Fr. McIvor, C.C., said a trophy should be treated with respect but to bring it from one public house to another was not the way to do it.

## Factory League's Social Service

"THE victory element should not be allowed to predominate. We should appreciate the social service being rendered by the League to industry in Leinster," declared Mr. Martin Keenan, Secretary of the Inter-Factory League when it met in annual Convention in Kilkenny recently.

The true spirit of the League was where workers appreciated that they were not merely cogs in the wheel of a particular industry but contributors to the National effort and common good.

Presidents: Messrs. F. Governey Carlow; J. Keenan, Portlaoise; W. P. Fox, Portlaoise; W. A. Smithwick, Kilkenny and J. Daly, Kilkenny.

Chairman: Mr. D. Crowley, Kilkenny; Vice-Chairmen: Messrs. J. Walsh, Carlow and M. Meaney, Kilkenny; Secretary, Mr. M. Keenan, Portlaoise; Treasurers: D. Fox, Tullamore and M. Keenan; Registrar: J. Conway, Portlaoise.

## NORTHERN STANDARD

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# London Calling

By Eamon Leahy

LOOKING at the addresses of G.A.A. club Secretaries in London I was surprised to note that they all live in the North, West, North-West or South-East of the city. Strange as it may seem East London has no G.A.A. club, despite the fact that hundreds of Irishmen live in that area.

As far as I am aware the nearest G.A.A. club to the Stepney-Mile-End-Bow area is in Wanstead. Those of you who know London will say that that is not far, but why should Irishmen have to travel even that far when there are enough of them in the area to form at least six clubs.

Are they lazy and indifferent? No. They are enthusiastic but like all Irishmen they lack push.

Here and now I appeal to all the Irish living in Bow, Whitechapel, Stepney, Mile-End and Aldgate to take up their camain and form a club in those areas.

Through this column during the year I hope to record the birth of many new clubs which I am sure will be set up.

I appeal to all G.A.A. clubs in London to stand behind us in our forward march for the promotion. Go dti an mhi seo cughainn, slan agus Beannacht De oraibh go leir.

## London Club's Officers

LONDON'S Cu Chulainn G.A.A. Club had a very satisfactory year in 1955. This was the general opinion of the annual meeting held last month. Hurling and football teams put up good displays throughout the season but no honours came their way.

Maybe 1956 has something better in store for these gallant exiles!

Hurling officers: President, Very Rev. Fr. Cremins, P.P., Kingston-on-Thames (Kerry); Vice-President, Rev. Fr. Dermot, O.F.M. (Forest Gate); Chairman, Dan Purcell (Kilkenny); Vice-Chairman, Joe Ahearne (Tipperary); Secretary, Billy Kiely

(Waterford); Treasurer, Bill Daly (Clare).

Captain, B. Kiely; Vice-Captain, Liam Dowling (Cork).

Committee: Eddie and Jack O'Brien (Limerick), and Tommy Murphy (Wexford).

Football officers: Chairman, Paddy Kenny (Roscommon); Vice-Chairman, John Dunne (Laois); Secretary, Gerry Hayes (Cork); Treasurer, Albert Gaffney.

Captain, Edward McArdle (Monaghan); Vice-Captain, Michael O'Connell (Laois).

Committee: T. Lowry (Cork), T. McCormack, Hugh O'Bourke (Louth).

# What's Wrong in Laois?

By O'MORE

WHAT is wrong with the National Games in Laois? That's a question many Laois supporters are asking and which was posed by both Hurling and Football Board Secretaries when the annual Conventions met recently.

Football Board Secretary, Ted Laffey told the Football Convention in Stradbally that the County team had gone from bad to worse and that serious consideration was necessary if the team was put back on the road to success.

Hurling Board Secretary, Tom Stenson—who did not seek reelection—sounded a warning in his annual report to the Hurling Convention at Mountrath.

### THE PROOF

"Proof of the deterioration in hurling was the relegation of our Senior team to Division II," said Mr. Stenson, "and something must be done to stop the rot."

Portlaoise Hurling Club sought to have the method of selection for Senior teams changed.

As the Club's delegate Dan Kerry put it: "We have the material and we have had some great games in the local Championship. We feel that a change in the selection method might improve things."

But the majority seemed to think that players were not pulling their weight and the proposal was beaten by 33 votes to 28.

### SOLUTION

If players are not pulling their weight the obvious solution is not to select them, though why players should not give of their best takes some understanding.

Maybe next year will see an improvement. We hope so.

# Late Bro. Doody

TIPPERARY G.A.A. has lost a great worker in the death of Bro. Edward Doody, Superior, Christian Brothers, Thurles.

He was chairman of the junior and minor selection committees; vice-chairman of the Mid-Tipperary Rural Schools' Committee and Co. School Board representative on the Co. Board.

### CREDIT

Main credit for the success of the last three All-Ireland Minor titles which went to Tipperary lies with Bro. Doody, for many of those teams learned their hurling under his astute guidance.

He trained the Thurles team which competed in the Dr. Harty Cup and which has reached the semi-final of the competition this year.

A fellow-selector speaking of him recently said: "There were few men with his judgment in picking and placing a team."

Tipperary will miss Bro. Doody, the G.A.A. has suffered a big loss by his death but most of all he will be missed by those boys who learned to love him for his kindness and interest.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam.

# FOOTBALL IN LIMERICK

# Turning Back the Pages of History

With "DIXIE"

LIMERICKMEN will long boast of the hurling-field deeds of "Tyler" Mackey and his two sons, Mick and John. But did you know that it was in football that the Shannonsiders first hit the headlines when they captured the first two All-Ireland titles in this code?

Yes, the far-famed Commercials won two All-Ireland football crowns before Kilfinnane brought the hurling Blue Riband to the county.

But the story has changed since then, and it is a sad commentary that the county which was so prominent in football in the infancy of the G.A.A., cannot now muster a senior team. And judging by the small attendance at the 1955 S.F.C. Final, there is little football interest in the county.

### LOOKING BACK

Let us glance back through the football annals of the county.

In all, 59 county senior football championships have been decided, and Limerick City Club, Commercials, lead the field with a total of 16 titles.

They won the first three titles—1887, 1888 and 1889—and were back again in 1895 to take five in a row, a feat accomplished by only two other clubs in the county—Ahane and Treaty.

Their other titles were in 1902, 1904, 1905, 1910, 1911, 1919, 1920 and 1927.

Commercials went out after 1927 and the club was defunct for many years. It was revived a few years back and succeeded in winning the City Junior Championship on a few occasions.

Second on the roll of honour comes Glin with seven victories. They won the first title in 1926, and four in a row from 1928 to 1931, with further victories in 1933 and 1934.

### KERRY BORDER MEN

The men from the Kerry border town of Abbeyfeale have a place all on their own in Limerick's football story. Father Casey and his great football men will never be forgotten. They won their titles in 1914, 1915, 1932, 1941, 1942, and 1947.

Treaty Sarsfields were the glamour team of Limerick football from 1946-1952. They won six titles in these seven years, and it was during their glory spell that Limerick won the Munster junior football crown in 1950.

Treaty men to play a leading part in this victory were the O'Shea brothers, P. J. and Billy, Joe O'Leary now a well-known referee; Timmy Murphy and Mick Flanagan.

Treaty have done great work for football, and one of their biggest successes was their point victory

over the Kerry champions, Castleisland, in 1951.

### FIVE IN A ROW

Ahane had their five in a row from 1935 to 1939, and they also captured hurling honours those years.

The Shannonsiders won a Munster Junior Championship during Ahane's term on the throne, and the hurling brothers, Mick and John Mackey played at midfield.

St. Patrick's took the crown from Commercials in 1890, and they had their second win the following season. They captured two further titles in 1943 and 1944, and in 1954 they won their fifth title with a very young team.

Oola were very prominent in the pioneer days of the Association and they won county titles in 1900, 1918, 1922 and 1925.

Kilmallock have three titles to

their credit—1908, 1909 and 1916—and Foynes, Garda, Western Gaels, 9th Desmonds, Ballylanders and Claughaun all boast one each.

Western Gaels became the first Divisional side to win a county title. Drawn mostly from the parishes of Rathkeale, Foynes, Kilcolman and Ballylahill they had a two-point victory over Treaty in the 1953 decider.

### 1956?

Last year's champions, Claughaun are all out to win their second title in 1956, and in Dermot Kelly, Ralph Prendergast, Mick Tynan and Dom. Scanlon, they have men capable of holding their own in any company.

Last season's runners-up, Treaty, will also be there with the O'Briens Mick McInerney and Billy Callaghan helping.

Stiffest challenge to the title-holders could come from the Garda and St. Senan's. St. Patrick's and Glin, 1955 Junior Champions, will be well in the running.

Western Gaels, who will pick their side from Abbeyfeale, Athea, Kilcolman and Newcastle West, are a good long-odds bet.

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## Gaelic Echo

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FEBRUARY, 1956

## Bloody Sunday Suggestion

**SUGGESTION** to the G.A.A. authorities: Why not hold the annual "Bloody Sunday" commemoration ceremony immediately before the All-Ireland Football Final, rather than, as at present, on the Sunday nearest to November 21?

As older readers know, and as younger readers may need to be reminded, "Bloody Sunday" was the ill-fated day (November 21, 1920) on which British armed forces surrounded Croke Park and fired on the spectators who were watching a challenge football match between Dublin and Tipperary. Many of the spectators were killed and wounded, and one of the Tipperary players, Michael Hogan (after whom the Hogan Stand is named), of Grangemockler fell dead on the pitch, to the right of the Railway goal.

Almost every year since, the memories of those who died have been honoured by a short, simple ceremony, which concludes with the recitation of a decade of the Rosary (All honour to Roscommon, by the way. This year they waived their right to play Dublin at a home venue so that the ceremony could be held in the presence of a large crowd of spectators and to ensure that, as is proper, the Dublin players could attend. Roscommon lost the match, but they won what was far more valuable the admiration and esteem of everybody who is capable of feeling a patriotic urge).

This annual commemoration has been attended all along by veteran players of the tragic Dublin-Tipperary match. But, of course, their ranks are gradually thinning, and it is inevitable that in the course of time they will be no longer seen in their accustomed place. That is why I suggest that the ceremony be held on the Sunday of the All-Ireland Football Final.

Let this should seem illogical, let me hasten to explain. First of all, Croke Park on the occasion of the Final is packed to its maximum capacity, and the crowd is truly representative of the entire country—of all the provinces and all the counties. It should be a simple matter, with the aid of a microphone and loud-speakers, not only to ensure this capacity crowd's interest in the proceedings (which could very well include a short commemoration speech), but also their participation—by their responses while the decade of the Rosary is being recited.

Meaning no disrespect to the veterans and the other participants who have kept it going through all the years, the ceremony would thus be no longer a confined affair, and its perpetuation long after that faithful band have gone to their eternal reward would be ensured.

Come to think of it, why not arrange for the ceremony to be broadcast? This would bring it to the attention of an even larger audience.

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## Gaelic Games Men No. 1

# PADRAIC CARNEY OF MAYO

By Sean O'Neill

**THERE** is little doubt that the greatest footballer this decade has produced is Padraic Carney of Swinford, Co. Mayo. His outstanding all-round football ability places him on a level with the giants of previous generations such as Dick Fitzgerald, John Joe Sheehy, Jack Higgins, Patsy Flannery and Larry Stanley.

His manliness, sportsmanship and true love of the game made him a figure respected and admired by all.

Padraic first appeared in the green and red of Mayo in 1946 as a minor and his performances were such that he was immediately promoted to Senior ranks.

### MIDFIELD WIZARD

At that time a great football resurgence was taking place in Mayo and in 1950 the men from the west blazed their way through Connacht to meet a confident Armagh team in the semi-final. Before Armagh could settle down Carney made centre-field his own and with unerring accuracy he placed full-forward Tom Langan for two quick goals. That was that.

The final proved a thriller. Mayo, mainly due to Carney's brilliance, gained a two-point win over Louth and the following year they repeated the dose.

### FLYING FOOTBALLER

In 1952 Carney switched to centre-half forward and there was an even bigger asset to his county. He was the inspiration of every attack and whether playing for his county, Connacht or Ireland he was the "star of stars."

But 1953 was the year in which Padraic really hit the headlines as "Mayo's Flying Footballer." Early that year he left for the U.S. to continue his medical studies.

Mayo in the meantime made the National League Final and felt that Carlow, who had convincingly beaten Armagh in the semi-final, were a tough proposition.

### GREATEST HOUR

So the Mayo selectors made the history-making decision to fly him home for the final. Carney repaid them many times over by playing one of his greatest hours and a display of place-kicking, the equal of which might never be seen in Croke Park again.

Padraic went back to the

States after the game leaving a vacancy on the county team which will never be so capably filled again.

His loss was very evident in last year's All-Ireland semi-final

against Dublin when the Mayo-men lost by a point.

I am sure when the final whistle went that day many a Mayo supporter sighed for the "Flying Footballer."

## MacLughadha's G.A.A. Oscars

**GAME OF THE YEAR.**—Football: All-Ireland Final, Kerry v. Dublin. Hurling: Munster S.H.C. first round, Clare v. Cork.

**OUTSTANDING SPORTSMAN.**—Football: Dan Lyne, Kerry. Hurling: Willie Rackard, Wexford.

**OUTSTANDING SPORTSMAN.**—Football: Dan O'Mahoney (Dublin). Hurling: Nick Rackard (Wexford).

**"FIND" OF THE YEAR.**—Football: John Culloty (Kerry). Hurling: Jimmy Kearney (Clare).

**INDIVIDUAL DISPLAY.**—Football: Willie Casey (Mayo), in the All-Ireland semi-final re-play. Hurling: Dermot Kelly (Limerick), in the Munster final.

**SURPRISE.**—Football: Meath's easy N.F.L. final win over Mayo. Hurling: Limerick's defeat of Clare in the Munster final.

**SCORE OF THE YEAR.**—Football: Olly Freaney's (Dublin) goal from 14 yards free in the All-Ireland. Hurling: Jimmy Smith's winning point for Clare in the Munster S.H.C. game against Cork.

**OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR.**—Football: Peter O'Reilly (Dublin). Hurling: Mick Mackey (Limerick).

**MOST PULSATING MOMENT.**—Football: That following Dublin's goal in the All-Ireland final. Hurling: Christy Ring with the ball in his hand about five yards from the Clare goal, when Cork were a point in arrears, in the Munster Championship first round.

**SPECIAL AWARD.**—To Cavan's Jim McDonnell for his never-say-die spirit in the Kerry-Cavan All-Ireland semi-final replay.

## WHAT'S WRONG IN KERRY

Leading the country with eighteen All-Ireland Senior Football Championships tucked away, Kerry cannot say that it has been all-powerful in the National League campaigns. Twenty-four years have passed since they were crowned League winners!

In point of fact, Kerry have won the League on four occasions, 1927/28, 1928/29, 1930/31 and 1931/32. Those were double successes because they also won the All-Ireland Championships of those years.

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In recent years bold bids have been made to win a League but the best wishes of Chairman Frank J. Sheehy and officers of the County Board have not been realised.

For years the fault could justly be laid at the feet of the players. Many of them were known to be always available for championship matches and only too eager to don the county's green and gold jersey but when it came to the League matches there were many absentees and time out of number the officials found it exceedingly difficult to muster even the bare fifteen to travel for an engagement.

But that has all changed now because of appeals by the County Board. This year when Kerry had captured yet another All-Ireland, attention was immediately directed to the National League; not alone to bring off the double and break with the old tradition but, by qualifying for the the semi-final stage, netting for the Board about £1,000 which it was hoped could be spent on the fields of the county.

That was why you had a full muster of the lads at the Athletic Grounds when Kerry faced Cork in a match which was expected to give a pointer to the group winners. If was a disappointed lot of Kerry-men that marched off the rain-soaked pitch two points in arrears after a gruelling hour's play.

It looks as if Kerry will have to wait for the 1956-'57 League now.



# "LITTLE THINGS MEAN A LOT"

With This Thought

DONAL MURPHY

Proposes Some

Let's start with the most important class in any sport, the competitors. What is your attitude to the sport, cyclists, runners, jumpers, throwers? Do you realise that you have a duty to develop to the utmost God's gift to you of athletic talent? Assiduous training should come next to prayer, work and family duties.

Remember you also owe it to your club and your country. To the one, because of your friends' interest and "for the honour of the little village"; to the other, because Ireland's standards will rise through the efforts of thousands of athletes who are brilliant parochially and only moderate nationally. They are the ones who will restore intense competition in a hundred local areas, who will push the few stars into a better world spotlight.

So resolve to train harder, lads. Don't stay in this evening because it's cold or a little wet; just clothe yourself more carefully. Study your event through reading, films, discussion with other athletes and coaches. Remember, obstacles of the moment are there to increase the glory of your achievement later.

But don't let athletics get on your mind to the exclusion of more important things. It is just a relaxation and a pastime, even though one with a purpose.

Your appearance on the track can cause a favourable or unfavourable impression of athletes in general, so brush that track-suit and coax the Lady of the house to iron those shorts before Sunday! A special memo—face up to that exasperating task of cleaning the spikes after every training session; they will last twice as long if you do.

Allow me to conjure up a picture for you now. It is of the intense fury on the face of an Hon. Secretary or Handicapper of a Sports Committee, working at 3 a.m. He has just encountered an entry which is three days late and it is written on the back of an envelope which has evidently been rescued from a fire. It reads: "J. Hogan, Ballybegbideach A.C.; 100, 220, 440, 880, H.J., L.J., Discus; haven't competed for ages."

Please, please, chaps, fill the standard entry forms thoroughly and honestly and only for the events in which you intend competing. Such is the rule by which you are bound.

At meetings do use fair tactics, even if provoked by meaner spirits. Don't get for the members of your Club the reputation of being jostlers or spikers. And leave that 15½ lbs. shot at home. Most times, too, you are the cause of extreme annoyance to officials and spectators when you congregate in the centre of the arena.

You have often been called, often unjustly, "Pothunters." It is easy to become cynical and smart, to value the prize the winning of the race; it is far better, however, to preserve a streak of idealism and to delight in the hard-fought battle, even though lost.

But fight for your rights, athletes. Insist on your Club

giving you plenty of competition and field events equipment and coaching facilities. Protest to the proper quarters and in a dignified manner if you believe you are treated unjustly in competition. And strengthen your organisation, you are its backbone, by voting for progress in officers and schemes, at Convention time.

## The Late Greats

Some hundreds of competitors retire at the end of each season because of age or pressure of more important affairs or unfortunate injury. May I speak to you who have for years enjoyed the big and little moments of an exciting career?

May I exhort you not to sever all connections with your former friends and foes, but to lend a helping hand with the administration of the sport?

Perhaps you could join the committee of your late Club and give it the benefit of your experience in its problems. Or you could just assist as steward at the race round town. Or, if you have the flair for such, supply the local newspaper with the gossip of competition. Maybe you would contact a few men of public spirit in the neighbourhood who, like yourself, are interested in the physical and moral welfare of the youth. And revive that lapsed Sports Meet, to strike a heavy blow for the movement.

Best of all, you could coach the youngsters, who lately cheered you, in the skills of your art. And I will grant you wings and a halo and a harp if you take the trouble to improve your knowledge of training and technique by spending portion of your holidays at either Jack Sweeney's

or Loughborough Summer Coaching Schools.

You, Chairman, Hon. Secretaries and Hon. Treasurers and allied officials, have the heaviest task of all which is also the most important. In your fixtures you have to please the local hundreds and thousands who go to make Ireland's sporting million.

It must be said that in too many instances these fixtures rather tend to dull the spectators' taste for athletics. And have no doubt about it, the spectators are the most important people at a Sports Meet, cross-country race or cycling gala.

With the prevalent negative idea in many areas that the public should support athletics anyhow, has grown the negligent presentation of athletic entertainment. Some Committees are quite satisfied to let a 20-event programme run (or rather amble) from 3 o'clock to 7 o'clock, giving the minimum of information to the attendance that does not understand—sometimes does not see—the dull happenings inside. It were better that such meets were not in existence at all; for it is ourselves in our sloppy organisation of them who are to blame for the decline in public support.

Limit your programme to fifteen events, including at least one novelty event such as musical chairs for children. If possible sponsor a little-known event such as javelin, discus or hammer-throw or hurdles.

Now get your officials to concentrate on the fluid execution of this manageable programme, so that there are no irksome delays between events. Provide a printed programme for spectators to recognise the stars. Most im-

portant of all, appoint an M.C. on the microphone. He is the one who will direct operations. He will coax and threaten competitors to their marks in good time, introduce the attendance to the stars, and call attention to the highlights of the competition, all in a fresh, entertaining manner.

Can we recapture the glory of yore? "Never," bleat the fatalists, "we can't compete with team games; we could never hope to have the same glamour." The fanatics thunder: "Of course we can; why couldn't we?"

We have all been in the thick of such an argument on occasions. It is not with the thought of adding fuel to the flames of theory that I pen this. Rather it is with the object of framing some practical suggestions that, implemented, might in 1956 help the sport a few yards forward in its straggling course, recognising the uniform sincerity of followers in desiring that advancement.

# New Season Resolutions

Try to solve the problems of the day several nights before. I know two judges of field events—officials for the day only—who make an annual study of the rules in the week preceding a certain fixture. Take some trouble and you will be rewarded on the Monday morning, not by headshakes and grouses, but by plaudits and eager reminiscences giving the assurance of an increased attendance next year.

Do you imagine that the casual spectator of a cross-country race has any idea of how it is progressing? No. How can he enjoy what is at its best a thrilling spectacle? By your providing a microphone with a commentator to introduce the leaders and to read the team-scores prepared at the end of each lap by three or four intelligent officials.

## The Chiefs

Very humbly I address myself to the Men at the Head of Affairs, national and county executives. The last couple of seasons have seen a great enkindling of ideas which have produced the County Dublin Novice League, the Ballinasloe Relays Meet and Inter-Provincial matches, all fresh and admirable features of the scene. The point I want to make is that the country is bursting with organising talent.

It is my firm belief that the

days of the Open Handicap Meet are numbered. It has itself too many shortcomings and in addition too many avenues for possible failure as a sporting entertainment.

Who will take the bold step of organising the promoters of a County's meet into a League, running a complete programme of events shared between the competing clubs' fixtures? Watch the public interest grow as keener team and personal rivalry replaces the present nebulous medals-for-handicap system. Whoever sponsors an Inter-County contest will surely reap a rich harvest.

Re-organisation of athletics and cycling on the G.A.A. system would certainly give a stimulus to public interest. Not alone that, I am sure that only such a pattern can revive the sport.

## Ad Omnia

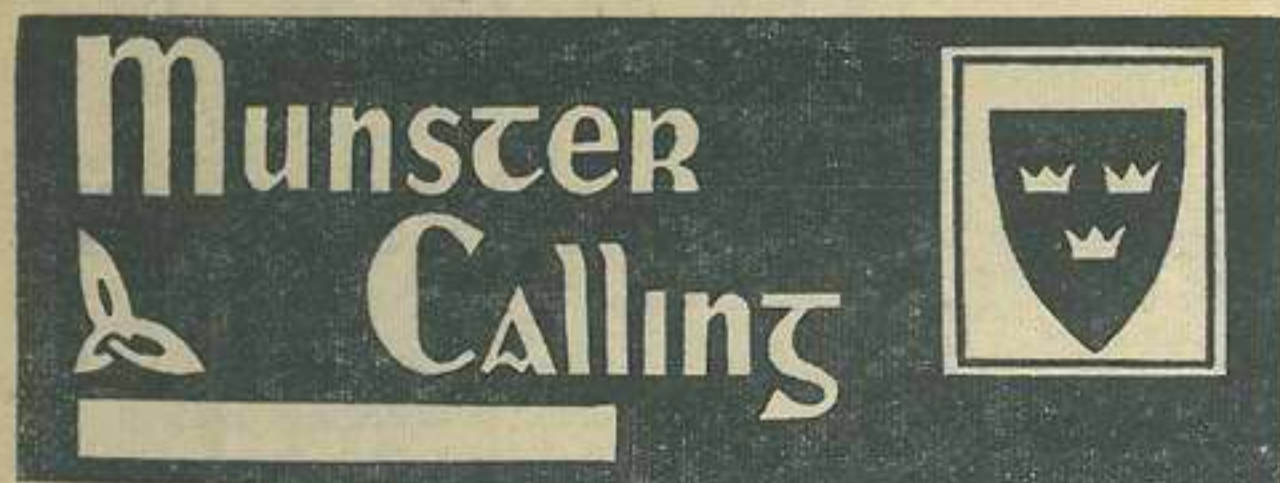
Finally, I will descend from the second person, particular, to the third, general. Let us all resolve to be in 1956 ardent missionaries for track and field and wheeling.

We will, please God, take every opportunity to impress on the public that our sport is the one in which every youth of normal physical and mental health can find at least one event at which he can enjoy, perhaps excel, himself. It can do him immense good and, in moderation, no harm. Don't remind them, though, of the recent murder trial on which the accused was pronounced "insane, his only interest in life was athletics!"

Help other sporting bodies and they will help us. Let those of us who can show players of team games how to get and stay fit athletically.

(TURN TO PAGE 13)





## WATERFORD'S NEW PITCH

**WATERFORD CORPORATION** has purchased a seven-acre field at Poleberry, known as "Young's Field," for a playing pitch for De La Salle hurling and football clubs. In view of the extension of the city boundary and new housing estates, it was decided that a playing pitch would now have to be acquired in that part of the city.

### Tipp. Insurance Men

**TIPPERARY** is well represented in the ranks of the New Ireland Assurance Co. Hurling Club. Mick Cleary (Moyné), Jim Fogarty (Drom) and Frank Malon (Castleney) were on the team which won the club's first senior trophy at Dublin's Parnell Park by beating U.C.D. lately. The team's trainer is another Tipperary man, Sgt.-Maj. Jim O'Brien of Nenagh and Club Secretary is Michael Brennan from Moyné.

### Tramore Elects

**TRAMORE G.A.A.** Club has appointed: President, G. Torpey; Chairman, T. Brennan; Vice-Chairman, R. Fitzgerald; Secre-

tary, T. Barry; Treasurer, T. O'Neill. Committee: F. Glynn, D. Cowman, P. Cowman, C. Murphy and K. Sheehan. K. Sheehan is Junior Football Captain, and Chris Cowman is Junior Hurling leader.

### Hurling Men

**GLOUNA** (Co. Clare) Hurling Club has elected: President, John McInerney, N.T.; Chairman, John Barry; Vice-Chairman, M. McNamara; Treasurer, P. J. O'Looney; Secretary, Sean Conneely; Assistant Sec., Jack Kennedy. Committee: J. Vaughan, P. Fitzpatrick, J. Fitzpatrick. Captain, Sean Torpy; Vice-Captain, M. McNamara.

### Cork Race

**TED GEARY**, Ballymore (Cobh) A.C., won the County Cork Senior Cross-County Championship with sixty yards to spare at Ballinahassig. He beat last year's title winner, D. Collins of Rising Sun, whose team took the team award.

## WHAT PRICE

# CORK FOR THE DOUBLE?

Asks E. V. MURPHY

**IT'S** a long cry from now to the summer months when the Munster finals will be decided. But the draws have been made, so let's have a little preview of the way things could turn out.

Can Cork recover the Munster crown this year and early next September pass out of Croke Park supreme champions?

There are hosts of Corkmen who already regard the first part of this double-barrelled query as already answered for there is an optimistic feeling abroad that the Leesiders eclipse last season was merely temporary and that Cork's hurling standard will be found flying as valiantly as ever.

### BACKING

And on paper there is a lot to back up this assertion, brash as it may sound at this early stage.

Despite the reverse by Clare in the championship and the inevitable let-down for a time after it, the Cork side has been remarkably consistent and faces the resumption of the Hurling League in a very confident mood.

True there are the All-Ireland Champions in the way to winning the laurels Division "A" and moreover they have to be faced in Wexford on February 12.

But the Leinstermen will then know what it is to be up against a side dead-set on regaining the ground lost so unexpectedly last year!

All that happened subsequently last year seems to point up the claim that the Cork side was caught napping badly by Clare.

The Banner County then crashed to Limerick in the final when the title looked ready to be served up on a platter.

### POINTLESS LIMERICK

Limerick are now at the bottom of the table in Division "B" without a point to their name. So are Waterford in Division "A." That leaves only Tipperary and they, of course, can be the nigger in the woodpile.

Cork should have no difficulty in disposing of Waterford in the first round and then they come up against Tipperary in the semi-final.

Limerick meet Clare in the other semi-final but undoubtedly the highlight of the championship will be the meeting of the Rebel and Premier counties on July 1, at a venue yet to be chosen but which almost certainly will be Limerick.

The senior football draw implies another Cork v. Kerry final for these two counties have established a monopoly in the south.

Tipperary meet Clare in the first round and the winners meet Kerry in the semi-final. Cork's opponents in the other semi-final are Waterford.

It therefore looks a ready-made final—and it is Cork's turn to stage the final this year at the Athletic Grounds.

Cork's forwards, universally blamed for the side's defeats for the past couple of years seem at least to have turned over a new leaf, taking current league form as a criterion.

So what price Cork for the Munster double this year?

**WATERFORD** failed to gain any honours on the 1955 playing fields, but on the home front hurling and football in all grades was of a high standard. In the Provincial Championships the most promising of the county's teams was the Minor Hurling side which went to the Munster final. Another achievement of note during the year was the winning of the Dr. Kinnane Cup—Waterford becoming the first holders.

The Decies Senior Hurlers went out in the first round of the Munster Championship to an unknown Limerick side which, before the season was much older, had come to the forefront and won the Provincial title.

In football, the Senior team, after getting a walk-over from Limerick, faced the might of the Kerry men and were not disgraced in defeat.

Junior hurlers were fancied to do much good, but failed unexpectedly to Kerry, and the Junior and Minor footballers fell to Cork in the opening rounds of their respective competitions.

### MOUNT SION'S TITLE

Following this list of defeats we turn to the County Senior Hurling Championship which provided hurling of sterling quality, and 1954 winners, Mount Sion, although they took the Cup again, had a tough fight with Abbeyside in an epic final.

Although no champions were crowned in the Senior Football competition, followers of the big ball code got value for their money.

But the one disappointing aspect of the year was the fact that spectators invaded the pitch five minutes from full-time in the final re-play, and later the County Board carried a proposal that the final be abandoned.

Mount Sion and Brickley Rangers figured in the disputed final, and

the latter, although they had never won a County Championship, were favourites.

Both teams served up first-class football and drew on the first meeting, and on the second occasion the standard was every bit as high when referee, Tom McGrath, after trying to clear the pitch, abandoned the game. Score at that stage was Mount Sion, 1-6; Brickley Rangers, 0-6.

Yes, apart from that one "affair" Waterford Gaels can look back on the "old year" as a progressive and heartening one—and look to the 1956 season with confidence.

## Waterford's 1955

# High Standard on the Home Front

By COASTMAN

## "We Are at the Cross-Roads"

**"WE HAVE NOW COME TO THE CROSS-ROADS WHERE WE WILL HAVE TO ANSWER THE QUESTION: 'DO WE WANT A GAELIC IRELAND OR NOT?'"** SAID MR. JIM MOLONEY, CHAIRMAN, WEST WATERFORD BOARD AT THE CONVENTION IN RING GAELTACHT.

Mr. Moloney said it was a downright shame that it was necessary for him to have to speak in the language of the foreigner in order to make himself understood by all.

The Chairman said that too many Clubs felt that they were doing great good for Ireland by having an active Club, but the fact was that they, within the G.A.A., were falling down on the most important aim of all—the furtherance of the use of the native language.

"Remember," he said, "that it was not just for an Ireland politically free that so many sons and fathers went out to fight and die. They wanted Ireland to be Gaelic as well."

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ACTION—DUBLIN v. WICKLOW

## “New Look” Meath Are a Power

By D. J. KELLY

ONE of the football wonders of the past year has been the resurgence of Royal Meath—a resurgence that, to all true lovers of the game, is as welcome as it has been electrifying.

Whoever thought that the Meath humbled by Dublin in the National Football League final and again in the Leinster Championship at Croke Park, would be back among the “Great Powers” within so short a spell?

Against Dublin in the Leinster Championship game, they played very well in the opening minutes, but once Kevin Heffernan had split their defence—that hitherto almost impregnable defence—wide open with almost ridiculous ease, the Meath challenge collapsed like a pack of playing cards.

I hasten to add, however, that there was one man who kept up the challenge, one man, who, for the full sixty minutes, refused to be subdued. That man was Ballinlough's own Mattie McDonnell, one of the truly “greats” in present-day football.

### FARMING BACKGROUND

Perhaps, it was Mattie's farming background that provides the key to his indomitable spirit—a farmer to be successful must possess it—but whatever it was, McDonnell had a superb hour, out-fielding his opponents at will and tackling with a tenacity that almost defies description.

Little wonder then, when Fr. Tully, that doyen of County Chairmen, realised that his team must be re-cast, that those stalwarts who had rendered the Royal County such yeoman service, had reached the Autumn, nay Winter in some cases, of their playing days, should choose McDonnell as the “keel” on which the “hull” of his “ship” to carry Meath's destinies to glory, must be built.

How successful was the gambit, we now know, and if you doubt it, ask Mayo, Cavan, Sligo, Longford, Westmeath or Louth, all of whom have suffered defeat at the hands of “new look” Meath.

Their displays against those counties have proved that Meath,

in record time, have bridged the gap between mediocrity and greatness.

### THE “SECRET”

The combination of youth as depicted by such as Jim Ryan, Willie McGuirk, Peter McKeever, Tom Smyth, Tony Sheridan, Jackie Lynam and others, and youthful experience as exemplified by Michael Grace, Patsy McGearry, Kevin Lenehan, Ned Durnin, Tom O'Brien, Tom Moriarty and Mattie McDonnell, has yielded results even beyond the wildest hopes entertained by Fr. Tully and his fellow-mentors.

But the “real” secret of Meath's success is their spirit, that same spirit which enabled Mattie McDonnell to match kick for kick and catch for catch with the rampant Dublinmen at Croke Park.

Love of County, love of the game, realisation of the Honour of representing your county—those are the ingredients from which this spirit is “manufactured.” Would that other counties—too numerous to mention—were in possession of it.

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## Report from Leinster



### Athletes on the Increase

REGISTERED membership of Offaly N.A.C.A. is expected to reach an all-time high in the coming year. Reporting to the Annual Convention in Tullamore recently, Secretary S. O'Kelly said that the formation of three clubs had increased membership considerably. He added: “With the formation of some more new clubs and the revival of old ones in the coming year, our total registered membership should create a record.”

### DROGHEDA OFFICERS

S.T. Dominics C.F.C. (Drogheda) officers for 1956 are:—President, Rev. J. Lennon, C.C.; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Bro. Mullen, Drogheda, C.B.S., P. White, M. Seagrave and M. Bogue; Chairman, E. McEvoy; Vice-Chairman, G. Hoey; Secretary, J. Mullen; Treasurer, N. Callan. Committee: D. Kelly, J. Hoey, P. Callan, D. O'Donnell, D. McEntee, J. Cullen, W. Loughran, J. McGinn and M. McCormack.

### NEW PITCH

ARKLOW (Wicklow) G.A.A. Club have acquired a new playing pitch. If all goes well club-members hope to have it ready early in the coming season. The Club is also answering the call for a hurling revival in the county and sponsored a successful parish hurling league lately. Sixty junior and minor hurlers took part.

### CONGRATS. FROM LONDON

WEXFORD'S prowess in taking the All-Ireland and Oireachtas trophies during the past season did not go unnoticed by Wexfordmen in London. When the London-Wexfordmen's Association met before Christmas for their Annual Meeting, Secretary Sean O Murcu paid a well-deserved tribute to the team.

### PRESENT FOR BILLY

ALD. N. Corish, Mayor of Wexford, presented All-Ireland hurler Billy Rackard with an inscribed gold watch on behalf of Clarke's Hurling Club, Wexford, at a Ceili in the Redmond Hall. Billy, thanking the Club and the Mayor, said he would treasure the watch even more than his All-Ireland medal.

### BECOMING A HABIT!

THE presentation of medals is becoming an annual affair here” said Rev. P. Kenny, C.C., Cullohill (Laosi) when he presented the Laois Senior Championship

medals to members of the victorious Cullohill team. Cullohill's Senior victory made it a “hat-trick” for the village, as they won Junior and Intermediate honours in '53 and '54.

### TOWN'S FIVE TITLES

BAGENALSTOWN (Co. Carlow) hurlers and footballers swept the decks in Carlow competitions during the past season, taking five of the county's eight titles. The Senior footballers broke Palatine's stranglehold on the S.F.T. title and the minors took the minor crown. The minor hurlers took the championship and tournament titles and the Junior hurlers snatched the hurling tournament title. Remaining winners: Clonmore (S.F.C.); Milford (J.F.C.) and Courtnehan (J.H.C.).

### PERSONALITIES ON PARADE

## S. HERBERT'S PROUD RECORD

Writes “DIXIE”

ONE of the few veterans of the Ahane hurling team that came back to the limelight last October by capturing the County Senior Hurling Championship after a lapse of seven years, was that curly-haired marvel, Seán Herbert of Sallymount. Seán learned his hurling at that famed nursery, Limerick C.B.S., and figured in Ahane colours at an early age, playing a leading role in all their successes from 1943 to 1948.

### RAILWAY CUP HONOURS

Seán was one of the heroes of the great Limerick senior team that failed to Tipperary in the 1945 Munster Final. His stylish display earned him a place on the Munster team that overcame Leinster and Cennaught to take Railway Cup honours the following Spring. Well known hurlers to share that success include Jimmy Maher, Tommy Doyle (Tipperary), Dr. Dick Stokes, Jackie Power (Limerick), Christy Ring and Dr. Jim Young of Cork fame. He won further Railway Cup medals in 1948, 1952 and 1953. Christy Ring was the only member of the 1946 side to figure in the 1952 and 1953 victories.

### PLAYED IN FIVE MUNSTER FINALS

Seán played in five Munster Finals with his native Limerick—1944, '45, '46, '47 and 1949—but Dame Fortune failed him on every occasion, and it is a pity that after such a long career he has not got

## Tallest Footballer?

ALTHOUGH Leitrim have no Championship titles to their credit and are not a strong force the county holds one All-Ireland record. They claim J. P. Newton of Barnacoola as Ireland's tallest footballer. J.P., who measures 7 ft. 6 ins., has played with the county team on a number of outings. Is he the tallest player in the game to-day?

## Dublin for New York?

Kerry and Dublin, 1955 All-Ireland finalists, have been invited by the New York G.A.A. to play in the New York Polo Grounds on July 1.

Dublin, have accepted the invitation, subject to sanction by the Central Council.

The date is not yet official as it will depend on the 1956 Baseball League schedule which has not yet been issued.

a Munster Championship medal to his credit.

### BROTHERS PROMINENT

There's an old maxim that “hurling runs in families,” and this is true in the case of the Herberts. Seán's uncles were prominent camán wielders in days gone by, whilst his brothers, Tony and Mick, have won much fame on the playing fields. Tony won All-Ireland honours with Limerick in 1940, and since then has been starring in the Metropolitan colours.

Mick, the youngest of the three, was full-back on the 1949 Limerick senior team that went down to Tipp. in the Munster Final, but he had to retire from the active arena following a very serious head injury sustained in a club tie later that year.

### 1955 FINAL

One of the most stylish hurlers ever produced by the Shannon, Seán Herbert played a leading part in the 1955 County Championship success. Other old-timers to assist Seán in this game were Jackie Power, Tommy O'Brien and Paddy Byrnes. Well, I am sure Seán enjoyed this final even better than other glorious Ahane victories, as he had fought might and main with the Club to get back on the hurling map once more.

Congratulations, Seán, and I hope to see you figure in many more tussles with your native Castleconnell



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# Paddy Fleming's Work for The Swan

By TOM DELANEY (Ex-Laois Footballer)

"GLORY be to God, what a transformation!" That was the exclamation of an emigrant when he returned to his native place, The Swan, Athy, after nearly thirty years in America. Truly, the transformation was colossal. For there in the heart of the country—eight miles from the nearest town—was a factory which supplied manufactured stoneware articles to the four corners of Ireland.

When our American friend left his native place in 1922, the site upon which the factory now stands was a barren waste. The area could not be called fertile and nothing faced the young men of The Swan district but the emigrant ship.

But here, too, was born a man who was destined to become a national figure and one of Ireland's leading industrialists. His name? Paddy Fleming.

From his earliest years Paddy heard the stories of Ireland's woes from his patriotic father—of the evil effect of the famine; of the mass evictions during a period of despotic landlordism and the closing down of industries which could not compete, without protection, with the mass producing concerns on the other side of the Irish Sea.

**EASIER WEEK**

On that April morning in 1916 when Padraig Pearse and his colleagues, in the name of the dead generations, threw down the gauntlet, and proclaimed to the world the right of Irishmen to be masters in their own land. Paddy Fleming entered the venture with wholehearted earnestness.

In the history-making epoch from 1916 to 1921, whether as a soldier in the field, a leader of prison resistance, or an emissary overseas, he won nationwide renown.

When the time of hostilities ceased and that of reconstruction commenced Paddy Fleming, urged on by his parents, decided to establish at the very doorstep where he first saw the light of day, an industry which would not only give much needed employment in the district, but would play a prominent part in the nation's economy.

In passing, it should be mentioned that Nature has smiled

kindly on the founder's efforts, as the land around abounds with raw material.

**PRODUCE**

The stoneware goods produced at The Swan factory are: pipes, flues, bricks, and all accessories necessary for building and sewerage schemes.

The firm's present employment roll exceeds the two hundred mark.

In this Irish firm the recreational angle is not neglected, and as far back as 1942 a team of factory employees won the Laois Intermediate Football Championship, and the following year were runners-up in the Senior Competition.

From time to time playing members of the team have been selected on Laois sides in representative games.

Long may the noise of its machinery continue to make sweet music in the employees' ears, and long may the name of Fleming be associated with its activities.

## Is Gaedheal Mise

LE MICEAL O BRIAN

I AM an Irishman; maybe I am blessed. Although a person born in Ireland can be an excellent Irishman without knowing Irish, however I would like to think he would be a better one were he to have mastery of our language.

I think it's a terrible thing to surrender on this vital issue and let our language wither and die. Some people are amazed to find that those schooled in Ireland can regard themselves as being properly and fully educated, and yet not speak one word of Irish. But perhaps it is that I lived in a very Gaelic zone that I see things in a different light, and the subject of the language revival a possible one if individuals would take the matter more conscientiously. We must not wait for miracles to fall into our hands. It is a rational individual effort that is called for to-day. There is plenty of Irish in most of our young people to-

day, may we put the question why it is being kept under. Are there any other countries in the world with their youth ashamed or reticent about using their native tongue? Few, I am sure, if any.

You have a part to play for the revival of our language. You must bring yourself to love Irish with a strong love that will bring its use into our every day work. There is no finer place to make a greater effort than within the ranks of—"The Gaelic Athletic Association." Seamus Mac Fearnoin is indeed a shining example to all true Gaels, we would do well to copy such a man who is the president of the G.A.A.

There is no need for anybody to be an extremist, the unfortunate state of our country demands that we still use English, yet in many circumstances, but remember use Irish only when you are free to do so.

## Down Notes

By FRANK MCKEE

DOWNPATRICK have had a highly successful year. They bid fair to add the Senior League, B. Section, to the numerous other trophies they annexed earlier this year.

Not a little of their success may be due to the fact that Jim McKeever, the Derry, Ulster and All-Ireland footballer, is teaching with the De La Salle Brothers in the county town and has rendered invaluable service to the local Club.

BALLYKINLAR, in an effort to clear the huge debt incurred by the creation of a new pitch, are running a number of competitions in which they are being helped by the Down Clubs. Their efforts deserve every success.

PADDY DONNAN, once the king-pin centre-forward of Down's attack, has had very hard luck in the past twelve months. Down fans will wish him a speedy and absolute recovery from his unfortunate injuries.

DOWN may be deprived of the services of big P. J. McIlroy from Leitrim. Rumour has it that this burly mid-fielder may have to "cross the water" in the near future in pursuit of his job. He is with the Forestry Division of the Six-County Ministry of Agriculture.

## The Gaelic Club

MICEAL O BRIAN

This very popular Irish club was first founded in London in 1938. Here, indeed, is one of the most Gaelic clubs in Britain. According to its constitution this club was founded for the purpose of fostering and preserving Irish culture, i.e.: the Irish language, hurling and football, camogie and indeed a very fine dramatic society. Rambles and the annual outing are also some of the highlights of this club, not forgetting of course the weekly ceili which is at "The Sante Hall, Fulham Road."

Those who are elected on the committee of An Cumann Gaedhealach feel a great honour has been bestowed on them, they feel it their duty to work for the good of the club. The past year has been no exception, being led by W. Rollison the committee of 1955 assured me it was their best financially and otherwise. Although many of the club's members returned to take up positions in Ireland during the past year, their places have been filled by other members who feel that the good work of keeping alive our Irish culture amongst our exiles in London must and will go on. There is a Cead Mile Failte to An Cumann Gaedhealach to all Irish

people or those of Irish descent. Miss Ann Murray who will be better known to listeners of "Take The Floor" programme recently paid a visit to London and was naturally a visitor to The Cumann Gaedhealach ceili. Her delightful rendering of several Irish ballads was in keeping with the very Irish atmosphere which is at all times an example to other clubs.

## Optimistic

Will Monaghan make their mark in the Ulster Championship series of 1956? There is a new upsurge of enthusiasm in the "county of the little hills," and hopes are high that at least one provincial title, be it minor, junior or senior, will come Farney way this year. At the County Convention in Monaghan recently, where the outgoing team of officials were returned practically unopposed, optimism was the keynote. Certainly the county has seldom been better equipped in the amount of youthful football talent at its disposal. It may be, therefore, that 1956 will be Monaghan's year. And surely where hope springs eternal the clouds must ultimately lift.

## Remedy for your Hurley Trouble

HURLEY trouble is a common complaint with many clubs in Ireland and often the question is asked: Where can we get a supply of genuine ash roots?

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The firm caters for schools too and have perfected an inexpensive type of ash hurley, with re-inforced boss, which is made in three sizes.

## Monaghan Matters

L. McGRATH.

THAT was a great night down 'Blayne way recently when the local all-conquering minor football team celebrated their dual Cup and Championship success at a thronged Ceilidhe and Old Time in the local Schoolhouse. For Mickey Duffy, the 'Blayne midfielder, it was a particularly notable occasion. It was his third successive year to captain the 'Blayne minor team, and his was the inspiration behind their great run of successes. A very versatile athlete, Duffy is a well-known amateur boxer. Two years in succession he was narrowly out-pointed in the final of the Ulster Junior Flyweight Championship.

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Pictures at Right

# Action Pictures of All-Ireland Final Kerry v. Dublin

Composite Photo Block by Courtesy 'Slainte' Mineral Water Co., Ltd.,

## Wicklow Gaelic Games of 1912

BY JOHN KENNY

MANY old timers maintain that Wicklow had its greatest football team in 1912. As I sat by the fireside one night not so long ago with a prominent Gael and county footballer of that period, many great games were re-counted and re-played, and such household names of that era as Tom Kavanagh (Rathnein), Joe Kavanagh (Annacorra), J. M. Nichols (Wicklow) and the peerless Jim Jordan (Avondale) were mentioned again and again. My source of information, the "Old Gael" himself, was very modest about his doings, but from what I could gather he played no small part. What impressed me most was

that in the first round Leinster Senior Football Championship, played in July, 1912, Wicklow beat Wexford on the score 4-4 to 1-3, and at least ten of this Wexford team went on to record their great four in a row All-Ireland wins. From this it can be gathered that without a doubt Wicklow had a very promising side in 1912.

The same team that beat Wexford went on to meet Dublin in the second round and were narrowly defeated after deciding not to take a walk over on the first occasion when Dublin refused to travel. But alas when 1913 came and it seemed that great things were ahead a club difference divided the county and stripped the county team of its most prominent players. This indeed was a grave blow to Wicklow football.

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### On Leinster Team

Once again Gerry O'Reilly has secured his place on the Leinster Railway Cup football team, to the great satisfaction of everyone inside the county and many outside. For no one has tried as hard as Gerry to put Wicklow football on the map. Here is luck to him on the road to another Railway Cup win.

### Vice-Chairman as Well

ST. Vincent's and Dublin football captain, Denis Mahoney, has now acquired another title. At the recent Dublin County Convention he was elected Vice-Chairman by 86 votes to 84 for Dr. J. J. Stuart.



DUBLIN  
Back row: O. Freaney, P. O'Flaherty, J. McGuinness, J. Crowley, M. Moylan, J. Lavin, T. Jennings (sub.), J. Brennan (sub.), K. Heffernan, J. Grey (sub.), P. O'Reill (trainer). Front: S. O'Boyle, C. Freaney, C. O'Leary, N. Allen (sub.), M. Whelan, N. Maher, D. Mahoney (capt.), S. Manning (sub.), W. Monks (sub.), P. Haughey, Ferguson.

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# VICTORY IS ONLY ONE PRIZE

By D. J. KELLY

**C**EAD MILE FAILTE—that grand old Irish Welcome—must surely echo throughout the length and breadth of our native land this month of February as our hurlers and footballers once again take the field in pursuit of the many honours our National Games can bestow.

Perhaps, some of us have forgotten that victory is but one of the many prizes that our players can strive for and often in the heat of battle that fact may escape us. But now, on the eve of resumption, let our thoughts dwell on the heritage that is ours, so that in times of stress, the hopes and accomplishments of Cusack and our forefathers will be the beacon to guide us through the darkness.

## NO ROOM FOR COMPLACENCY

Sportsmanship, that is true sportsmanship, was their ideal, and when one considers the many trials and tribulations with which they were faced before success was attained, how can we find it in our hearts to sully or defile the very game that is a monument to their achievements?

Not for them the jersey-pulling, foot-tripping and pugilistic exhibitions that so often, in modern times, become the weapons of a man to whom victory alone is acceptable. But if that was repugnant to our forefathers, why should it be tolerated by us?

Our games are manly games and should be played in a manly manner. There can be no room for complacency about this.

## LIES WITH ALL OF US

The cure lies, not with the offender alone, but with all of us from Club chairman, through the executive committees, fellow-players and the club supporters.

Such conduct is foreign to our nature, foreign to our game and foreign to our ideals. That being the case, we should BAN it.



**KERRY**  
 Back row: E. Fitzgerald (sub.), M. Palmer, S. Murphy, E. Roche, J. O'Shea, J. Cronin, M. Murphy, T. Moriarty, R. Buckley (sub.), T. Lyne, J. Brosnan, J. J. Sheehan.  
 Front: G. O'Sullivan, C. Kennelly (sub.), D. O'Shea, J. Culloty, P. Sheehy, J. Dowling (capt.), G. Mahoney, D. O'Neill (sub.), T. Costello, D. Dillon (sub.), D. McAuliffe (sub.), T. Crowley, Kerry Co. Sec.  
**J. DOWLING WITH CUP**

For our athletics readers, here are the world records, as compiled by Philip Roderick:—

Event	Time	Name	Year
100 yards	9.3s.	M. E. Patton, U.S.A.	1948
		H. D. Hogan, Australia	1954
		J. Golliday, U.S.A.	1955
220 yards	20.2s.	M. E. Patton, U.S.A.	1949
440 yards	46.0s.	H. McKenley, Jamaica	1948
880 yards	1m. 58.0s.	L. Spurrier, U.S.A.	1955
1 mile	3m. 58.0s.	J. Landy, Australia	1954
2 miles	8m. 33.4s.	S. Iharos, Hungary	1955
3 miles	13m. 14.2s.	S. Iharos, Hungary	1955
6 miles	27m. 59.2s.	E. Zatopek, Czecho-Sl.	1954
10 miles	48m. 12.0s.	E. Zatopek, Czecho-Sl.	1951
15 miles	1 hr. 14m. 01s.	E. Zatopek, Czecho-Sl.	1955
1 hour	12 miles & 809 yds.	E. Zatopek, Czecho-Sl.	1951
100 metres	10.2s.	J. C. Owens, U.S.A.	1936
		H. Davis, U.S.A.	1941
		L. Labeach, Panama	1948
		N. H. Ewell, U.S.A.	1948
		E. McD. Bailey, Trinidad	1951
200 metres	20.2s.	H. Futterer, Germany	1954
400 metres	45.4s.	M. E. Patton, U.S.A.	1949
800 metres	1m. 45.7s.	L. Jones, U.S.A.	1955
1500 metres	3m. 40.8s.	R. Moens, Belgium	1955
		S. Iharos, Hungary	1955
		L. Tabori, Hungary	1955
		G. Neilsen, Denmark	1955
1,000 metres	2m. 19.0s.	A. Boysen, Norway	1955
		I. Rozsavolgyi, Hungary	1955
2,000 metres	5m. 02.2s.	I. Rozsavolgyi, Hungary	1955
3,000 metres	7m. 55.6s.	S. Iharos, Hungary	1955
5,000 metres	13m. 40.6s.	S. Iharos, Hungary	1955
10,000 metres	28m. 54.2s.	E. Zatopek, Czecho-Sl.	1954
20,000 metres	59m. 51.8s.	E. Zatopek, Czecho-Sl.	1951
25,000 metres	1hr. 16m. 36.4s.	E. Zatopek, Czecho-Sl.	1955
30,000 metres	1hr. 36m. 23.8s.	E. Zatopek, Czecho-Sl.	1952
120 yds. hurdles	13.5s.	R. Attlessey, U.S.A.	1950
220 yds. hurdles	22.3s.	H. Dillard, U.S.A.	1947
440 yds. hurdles	51.3s.	Y. Lituyev, U.S.S.R.	1954
110 metres hurdles	13.5s.	R. Attlessey, U.S.S.R.	1950
200 metres hurdles	22.3s.	F. Wolcott, U.S.A.	1940
400 metres hurdles	50.4s.	Y. Lituyev, U.S.S.R.	1953
High Jump	6' 11 1/2"	W. Davis, U.S.A.	1953
Pole Vault	15' 7 3/4"	C. Warmerdam, U.S.A.	1942
Long Jump	26' 8 1/2"	J. C. Owens, U.S.A.	1935
Hop, Step & Jump	54' 3 3/4"	A. F. Da Silva, Brazil	1955
Shot-put	60' 10"	P. O'Brien, U.S.A.	1954
Discus	194' 6"	F. Gordien, U.S.A.	1953
Hammer	211' 8"	M. Krivonosov, U.S.S.R.	1955
Javelin	268' 2 7/8"	F. Heid, U.S.A.	1955
Decathlon	7,983 points	R. H. Johnson, U.S.A.	1955

Bests on record for the 3,000 metres steeplechase and the Marathon are 8m. 40.2s. by J. Chromik, Poland, this year, and 2 hrs. 17 m. 39.4s., by J. Peters, Great Britain in 1954.

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# A Remedy for Down's Ills

By DONAL SPIERS

**HOW MANY TIMES HAVE DOWN PLAYED IN AN ALL-IRELAND FINAL? HOW MANY TIMES IN A SEMI-FINAL? DO THEY PLAY FOOTBALL UP THERE AT ALL? WHAT IS WRONG WITH FOOTBALL IN DOWN?**

I'll tell you. The Ulster team is picked by a bus-load gathered from the four corners of the province, and the Down team is picked on the same principle.

There are enough men on the selection committee to pick a team gathered from the 31 counties and each selector is Secretary, Chairman, Treasurer, or in some way closely connected to a club team in Down.

### PET PLAYERS

Each selector has his pet player who must be on the team regardless of the consequences.

The result? The Sam Maguire Cup never came within a "peg's gowl" of Down and it never was farther away than it is at the present time.

Good county teams are based on good club teams and there will be no good club teams in Down until the County and Divisional Boards wake up to this fact.

I know one team in senior football in Down which took part in exactly 18 games in the past 12 months — and three of those

games in a tournament not sponsored by the County Board!

### CLUB FOOTBALL FIRST

Antrim County Board were laughed at because they withdrew

from the National League. But they are concentrating on club football and I shall be very much surprised if their policy does not pay off.

The material is in Down.

The spirit is there—in the young footballers—but is it in the County and Divisional Boards?

The annual Convention may see a resurgence of spirit in the clubs—enough to make the clubmen see the light and open the road to Croke Park for Down.

## Ulster Games for 1956

**DR. McKENNA CUP** and Ulster S.F.C. games arranged by the Ulster Council for the coming season:

### DR. McKENNA CUP

April 15—Down v. Antrim at Newcastle, April 29; (1) Armagh v. Tyrone at Lurgan; (2) Fermanagh v. Monaghan at Irvinestown.

May 6—(3) Derry v. Donegal at Magherafelt; (4) Cavan v. Down or Antrim at Kingscourt or Belfast.

May 13—Semi-finals (a) If Armagh v. Derry at Belfast; if Armagh v. Donegal at Letterkenny; if Tyrone v. Derry at Coalisland; if Tyrone v. Donegal at Letterkenny.

(b) If Cavan v. Monaghan at Castleblayney; if Cavan v. Fermanagh at Cavan; if Down v. Monaghan at Carrickmacross; if Down v. Fermanagh at Clones; if Antrim v. Monaghan at Castleblayney; if Antrim v. Fermanagh at Clones.

Final on May 20 or 27.

### SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

June 3—(1) Tyrone v. Derry at Dungannon; June 10—(2) Monaghan v. Donegal at Carrickmacross; June 17—(3) Cavan v. Antrim at Belfast; June 24—(4) Down v. Armagh.

July 8—Semi-finals (a) Winners (1) v. Winners (2); (b) Winners (3) v. Winners (4).

(a)—If Tyrone v. Monaghan at

Lurgan; if Tyrone v. Donegal at Clones; if Derry v. Monaghan at Lurgan; if Derry v. Donegal at Dungannon.

(b)—If Cavan v. Armagh at Castleblayney; if Cavan v. Down at Castleblayney; if Antrim v. Armagh at Lurgan; if Antrim v. Down at Lurgan.

July 29—Final Winners (a) v. Winners (b).

## Focus on Ulster



## Armagh Champions

### Armagh Champions

ARMAGH, 1955 county winners, were: Senior, Armagh Harps; Junior, Ballyhegan, and Minor, Armagh Harps. North Championship winners were Ballyhegan; Mobane came through in the South, and Colleyland took the Mid-Armagh title. North Minor Championship honours went to Clann na Gael (Lurgan); Forkhill took the South trophy, and Armagh Harps won the Mid Division. In the S.F.L. Crossmaglen meet Colleyland in the semi-final and Wolfe Tones play the winners.

Ulster and All-Ireland footballer, is teaching here and has rendered service to the club.

### McILROY TO GO?

DOWN may be deprived of the services of P. J. McIlroy. Rumour has it that he may be leaving the county in the near future on transfer. He is with the Forestry Division of the Six-County Ministry of Agriculture.

### Medals for Seniors

CASTLEBLANEY senior hurlers were presented with their Co. Championship medals by Hurling Board Chairman, Mr. P. Bluett at a celi in the Town Hall. Mr. Bluett said he hoped that next year he would be back not only to present county medals but also the Ulster J.T.C. trophies.

### Young Athlete

SIXTEEN-AND-A-HALF-YEAR-OLD Pat Kearns of Newry Shamrock Athletic Club beat a field of almost eighty runners in the Ulster Junior Cross-County Championship at Armagh. Kearns was the youngest winner in the race's thirty-five year history, and gave Newry Club the honour of winning the race for the second successive year.

### ANNIVERSARY

THE fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Ulster Council will not pass unnoticed. Special celebrations have been planned and a souvenir booklet is at present being prepared by Secretary Gerry Arthurs of Keady. Donegal, too, will celebrate its Golden Jubilee this year and they also are thinking on the lines of a booklet.

### SUCCESS

DOWNPATRICK have had a highly successful year and look like adding Senior League honours to their other trophies. Success may be due to the fact that Jim McKeever, the Derry,

## Football Special

ARMAGH HARPS supporters went to Casement Park for the Lagan Cup final by bus. But it was no ordinary bus—it is owned, operated and maintained by the City Club!

The Club bought the bus several weeks ago in London, thereby following the example of Castlecullen (Co. Down Champions), who bought one last year.

It looks as if Harps are going to do a good deal of travelling this Summer.



The Tyrone team which played Donegal in the Dr. Lagan Cup.

## Phelim Brady's

A TEAM which will be composed mainly of Armagh-born players living in Belfast has been entered for the South Antrim League. The name: Phelim Brady's.

On the committee will be well-known Primatial county men such as Peter McCoy, John Tyrne, Seán Woods, Liam Boylan and Roger Murphy.

The team should be successful with such hard-working officials at the helm.

## Monaghan Officers

Officers elected at Monaghan Co. Convention:—Chairman, M. Duffy; V.-C., Rev. T. Quirke, C.C.; Secretary, L. Burns; Asst. Sec., K. Cumiskey; Treasurer, E. J. Clerkin; Registrar, P. McCully; Central Council Representative, M. Duffy; Ulster Council Representatives, F. O'Duffy and J. Murray.

## Give the North a break?

asks Charles E. O'Neill

FOR the third year in succession Armagh will represent Ulster in the concluding stages of the National League. In 1954 and 1955 the men from the North travelled to Croke Park for the semi-final games, but this year Ulster Gaels are demanding that, for a change, Casemnt Park be the venue of Armagh's semi-final.

Money is very scarce up North, and it is not fair to ask a team to travel to the same venue for three years in succession.

So, President McFarren, your first big assignment for 1956 is to see that Ulster's finest G.A.A. pitch and the staunch G.A.A. supporters of the area get a break.

Stop your BLETHER . . . Walk on . . .

## BALLYBAY LEATHER



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## College Competitions

MAYO Colleges, as well as competing in the Connacht Colleges' Championships, also engage in two County Mayo competitions. They are: The Flanagan Cup (under 18) League and the Colleran Cup (under 16), on the knock-out system.

Westport C.B.S., Ballinrobe C.B.S., St. Colman's (Claremorris), African Mission College (Ballinacorney), De La Salle (Castlebar) and St. Patrick's (Swinford) take part in these competitions.

African Mission are 1955 holders of the Flanagan Cup and Westport C.B.S. hold the Colleran Cup.

The 1955 Flanagan Cup Competition is well advanced at present and the Colleran Cup will be decided before Easter.

These two competitions have provided many of Mayo's minors and are an important factor in providing the county's Seniors.

## "Athletics Are Good"

I AM very glad to be associated with an organisation which is encouraging athletics in the county, as we all realise that participation in sport is very good for youth of the country, mentally, physically and spiritually," said Most Rev. Dr. Moynihan, Bishop of Kerry, at the Kerry N.A.C.A. Co. Board Convention.

## A Tribute

At the recent Convention the Gaels of Monaghan paid a great tribute to one of the county's football "immortals," the one and only Christy Fisher, who was re-elected as representative to Annual Congress for the 21st successive year.

# Connacht Commentary



## EAST MAYO SELECTS

EAST Mayo G.A.A. Board's 1956 officials are:—President, Rev. P. Feeley, C.C.; Vice-Presidents: Rev. G. Henry, C.C.; Rev. P. Towey, P. J. Honan and M. J. Cassidy; Chairman, M. Tarmey; Registrar and Treasurer, W. Clinton; Secretary, T. Molloy; Representatives on Co. Board: V. Harrison, P. Waldron, P. J. Gilmartin and P. J. Leffoy. Representatives on Co. Selection Committee: Rev. G. Henry, M. O'Keefe, T. Curley, and P. J. Gilmartin.

### Peter Leaves

WELL-deserved tributes were paid to Mayo's Engineer-Footballer, Peter Solan, at a function in Castlebar prior to his departure for Natal, South Africa. Sean Flanagan, his team-mate, made a presentation to Peter on behalf of Mayo Gaels.

### For Dublin

PADDY Prendergast, Mayo and Connacht full-back, will field out for the Dublin Na Fianna senior team in the Co. Dublin League and Championship, this year. Paddy has recently moved to Dublin in his employment and should be quite an asset to the club team.

### Football Officers

GALWAY Football Board has elected: President, J. J. Nes-

tor; Chairman, Rev. P. Mahon; Vice-Chairman, J. Cotter; Secretary, J. Dunne; Treasurer, M. B. Farrell. A motion asking that one of the county's old footballers be appointed county team trainer was deferred to the first meeting of the new Board.

### Mayo Champs

MAYO'S 1955 title-holders are: S.F.C., Ballina; J.F.C., Crossmolina; M.F.C., Castlebar; S.F.L., Claremorris; J.H.C., Castlebar. It looks as if the best football talent is in the north of the county. Ballina and Crossmolina put up good shows when winning their respective grades.

### Collective Training

ROSCOMMON Gaels want the era of collective training brought back. Recently at the County's Convention, a motion that Congress be asked to remove the ban on this form of training was passed. Another motion passed asked that the sales of British newspapers in G.A.A. grounds throughout the county be forbidden.

## Eagerly Awaited

A famous old Monaghan Club whose come-back to Monaghan senior ranks is eagerly awaited this year is Killeevan Sarsfields, who have regained senior status by virtue of winning the Intermediate Championship last year. Rumour has it that Sarsfields, who were strengthened last year by a few prominent Rockcorry players, may be further strengthened by a couple of Clones stalwarts in 1956. The name of county mid-fielder Ted Duffy has been mentioned in this connection.

# NOEL CROWLEY WAS CLARE'S GREATEST FOOTBALLER

BREANDAN MacLUGADA

TO name a county's ever greatest footballer or hurler is always a difficult and somewhat dangerous task. Each generation produces its own crop of stars which are always accepted by that generation as the greatest of them all, without a thought for the men of the past. I can only speak of the younger generation of Claremen and I am sure that from them I will find no opposition when I name Noel Crowley as Clare's greatest footballer.

Noel, a native of Cooraclare, came to the fore when football in Clare was at a very low ebb, and while he remained with it he guided it and lifted it to a new era of prosperity and hope.

Crowley's first football game was for a Cooraclare juveniles when he was ten. In 1942, he was selected for the Clare minor team, two years later he was the star of his parish team when they captured the County Senior Championship. Shortly afterwards Noel became a resident in Dublin and threw in his lot with Sean McDermotts to join Tommy Kelly, Dave Fitzgerald, the two Bradleys, Peter Daly and the other Claremen who figured for "Seans" in those days.

It was in 1946 that Crowley was first selected for the Clare seniors and in a very short time he had covered himself in glory to become the county's ablest forward. Eighteen months later he was chosen as a substitute on the Munster Railway Cup team. Munster reached the final in that year, 1948, but found Ulster their masters in the decider. The game looked almost over, until the young Clareman came on and then there was a complete change. Crowley ran rings around the previous to then impenetrable Ulster defence, and in almost shorter time than it takes to read of it, he had scored two goals and three points and the Cup went to Munster.

Lightning goals from Crowley's left boot again brought the Railway Cup to Munster in 1949

(Crowley scored three goals against Leinster). A few months later he was the inspiration of the greatest shock in years when he led an unheard of Clare team to a five-points victory over an All-Ireland hungry Kerry fifteen in the Munster semi-final. Without a doubt this Crowley was a man of shocks and sensational surprises.

Although failing to Cork in the Munster final that year, Clare football was on a new level and a draw with Kerry in the league and a great display against Mayo had Clare pulses beating overtime.

In 1950 Noel was an automatic choice for Munster and that year he received the greatest honour in Gaelic games when he was selected on the first Irish team to play the Combined Universities.

Back in Tralee with the Clare team two months later to face a much wiser Kerry team, Noel was again Clare's ace to which Kerry had no answer, and it was only in the last second of the game that Kerry were lucky enough to draw level. (Kerry won the replay in a downpour in Limerick).

Noel was again selected for Munster in 1951, but much of his old dash was missing so he hung up his boots as far as inter-county football was concerned. Crowley had played six years of brilliant and at times sensational football; he had kept Clare football at a level of hope and without his guidance and brilliance they faded into their now oblivion.

Although never again to appear in the saffron and blue, Noel still strives to forward the football of his native county through organising Clare non-resident teams and raising funds in Dublin, with him and his co-organiser, Eddie Lynch, there is always the hope that the day of Clare resurgence will come.

Always a true sportsman and lover of the game and of his county, both on and off the field, Noel Crowley was to me the greatest of them all.

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# JUNIOR GAELS' PAGE



## SLANU INTINNE FA SHLAINTE CHUIRP

M. O DUBHGHAILL

So it is February. January, of course, we pigeon-hole as that spectre-in-the-attic month of broken resolutions. In the same context, we are now in February of forgotten resolves. Now is the hour, then, to renew a fixed determination of loyalty to Gaelic Athletic ideals—to be not merely Athletic but Gaelic and National as well, do chum Glóire Dé agus Onóra na h-Eireann.

But spot-lighting here as we expense of the mental. Whether that stigma is universally applicable, or not—that is the question? Anyway it has given rise to very many good stories.

Understand then that it is no part of our gospel to develop athletic morons. So let your studies and your games proceed in complementary harmony.

Cultivate to the maximum of your ability, the old, but new ideal of mens sana in corpore sano: slánú intinne fá shláinte chuirp.

ing coach to the examination board: Either John passed his final with credit or else ?! Or else the rival Brooklyn Dodgers won the next world series!

### A BARGAIN

A bargain was struck. Provided Mr. Brown spelled correctly a single word, he was through his exam., le honóiracha. Knowing his man, the coach ramped and raved at the monstrous difficulty of the prescribed 'test'! A compromise was reached—if student Brown got even one letter correct, in a common six letter word—pass—honoris gratia.

The word was 'coffee'. The moron's spelling attempt 'kauwvi'! Clog srónaíolacht a chine an fear bocht. Now match that if you dare!

You'll realise at once that much of the foregoing influenced our selection of our hero of the month.

Pictured here you see Donnchadh Mac Con Roí, with 'sciath na fearúlachta,' with which he was honoured as the most meritorious in the Leaving Cert. class in C.B.S. Westland Row.

Shaothraigh Donnchadh an intinn agus an corp in éineacht. Ghnóthaigh sé go hard i sgrúduithe na h-Ardteistiméaracha; agus thairis sin, bhí se na bhall d'fhoireann na lúithnirí a bhuaidh corn Sinnsearach Scoileanna Atha Cliath do Sraith an Iarthair, c6 maith le bheith na bhall den fhoireann pheile.

Faol mar a scríobh ardmháistear a scoile "ba eisiomlaír don scoil go léir é." Rath Dé air, anois agus i dhólamh.

## CLUB EANNA

A Chairde Oga,

Now that we have our own page for Junior Gaels we shall be able to have news from every school and college in Ireland. And also we shall be able to discuss between ourselves the views of any boy or girl who wants to air an opinion on this page. We hope that you will use this page and that, from now on, the letters will start pouring in to us from all parts.

The GAELIC ECHO reporters, as you know, are very busy men; they go to all sorts of places in search of news but, naturally, they can't be everywhere.

So if your school or college is not mentioned in this paper don't blame the GAELIC ECHO—blame yourselves. We want to hear from each and every one or you and everyone, boy or girl, will be welcome. We'll be looking forward to your letters; we know you won't let us down.

In the new club which we have established there is a beautiful membership card ready for each boy or girl who sends in his, or her, name (and address) to us. And (keep it quiet!) I have a special prize here for the boy or girl who is first to join our club.

Perhaps YOU are the one to whom that prize will be presented. Hurry—and if you have a picture send that in also, because we need pictures of the Junior Gaels for this page.

However, remember that we can return no picture to its owner, so you should only send us pictures of which you already have other copies at home.



ST. JOSEPH'S, FAIRVIEW

### Junior Crossword No. 2

Correct Solution of January Competition.

Across—(1) Favitt. (2) Aherlow. (3) Vane. (4) In. (5) Moore. (6) Sentence. (7) Seminole. (8) Eat. (9) Or.

Down—(1) Davis. (2) Ahane. (3) Toronto. (4) Peeler. (5) Name. (6) NT. (7) Lo.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

We are pleased to announce the winners of our January Junior Crossword.

1st Prize—Mairead Hurley (11), Main Street, Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare.  
2nd Prize—John Britton (15), Cloneen, Fethard, Co. Tipperary.  
3rd Prize—Mary E. Whelan (11), 6, St. Aidan's Villas, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

# PRIZES!

—AND NO ENTRY FEE

### CLUES

#### CROSSWORD No. 3.

Across—(1) French soldiers landed at this Mayo sea-port in 1798. (2) This gives us light when we need it. (3) Abbreviation for "Knight of the Holy Sepulchre," a Papal honour. (4) Abbreviation for "Irish News Agency." (5) Old . . . van Winkle took a very long sleep in the Kaatskill Mountains. (6) The large . . . in which a circus is held is known as "The Big Top." (7) There's one on either side of your head. (8) This is nowhere near what Shakespeare calls "the very witching time of night."  
Down—(1) St. Brigid had her convent in this place. (2) In Russia many boys bear this name. (3) A popular flower. (4) One of the four Evangelists, this man was also a doctor and artist. (5) Sergeant Custume and his men gave their lives for Ireland on the Fridge of . . . (6) If this bites you there is very little hope of survival. (7) A Scottish boy's name. (8) A very small child, or a sum in addition.

### CUT HERE ENTRY FORM

Name .....

Address .....

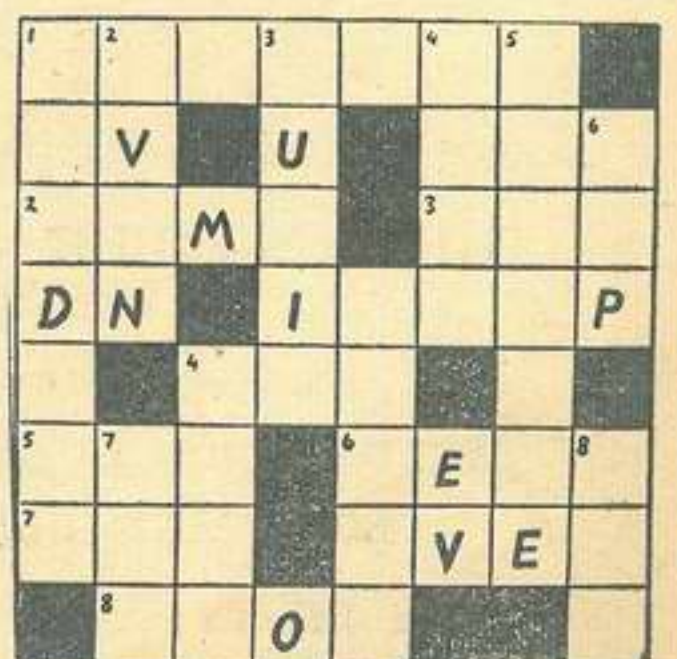
Age ..... Jan. '56

### RULES

- 1.—All entrants (boys or girls) must be under 17 years at date of entry.
- 2.—Prizes will be awarded to the first three correct solutions opened.
- 3.—All entries must be accompanied by Entry Form properly completed.
- 4.—The closing date is Feb. 24th, and the Editor's decision is absolutely final.
- 5.—Entries should be addressed to:—  
Crossword,  
Gaelic Echo (1954) Limited,  
13 Parliament St., Dublin.

### PRIZES

- 1st Prize—One Guinea.
- 2nd Prize.—Hurley or Camogie Stick.
- 3rd Prize.—Silver Medal.



## Cork Junior All-Ireland Medals Presented

THERE was a large attendance at a dinner and reception given by the Cork County G.A.A. Board in the city to honour the junior teams which won Munster and All Ireland honours last year. Medals were presented to the members of the teams by Mr. A. O. Scanail, chairman of the Board. The speakers included Mr. J. Barrett, C.U.D.C., Kinsale, vice-chairman of the Board; Mr. Seumas O Seaghadh, Mr. Con Murphy, Valley Rovers, and Captain Eamonn Young.

Here's your great chance—Send your Entry NOW





Above are pictured Knockbeg's (Carlow) Senior Football team of 1954, and St. Kieran's (Kilkenny) Senior Hurling team of last year. Both Colleges are going well in this year's competitions.

# LÁ DÁ RAIB

Is deacair cannt pé lúe éleapa ra tír seo faoi láthair san comparáir a déanamh roimh iad agus lúe-éleapa ar an Mhór Roinn no mp na Stáit nó i Sapanna féin, agus is fíor bócc an comparáir é. Cuirtear a lán leat- pteal eun toparis mar mínuí ac ve gnáit ní éiríim teo mar bíim iméighe ríor ar bóie-rín na rmaoince agus bíim as mactnam ar eactraí leat céat blian ó íom, nuair a bí éirte eun toparis ar páite an imeapá.

Bím as cuimneamh ar an sceaápar fear rín a fear teo péin ar dáiméir an doimain agus abuaró an épaob Olympic. Do rusaápar an bua, tuine in úiaró a céite, sac tuine aca á feabá-rú, agus eom lúe agus a éamís meirís na h-áoirte ar fear amáin, bí fear eile ann eun a áit a éogaint. Sa t-plí o'fan épaob caiteamh an éapúir teo ón bliam 1900 go oí 1936. Ac amáin real saipio ve ceirte bliam.

**O FLANNAGÁIN**  
Ué Seán Ó Flannagáin Ó Cill Macatóis an céat saipioe a buair épaob an doimain. Uí caiteise maie aige ar an épaob nuair a buair pé go Meirceá ra bliam 1897, agus níob fáda ann toó sup buair pé épaob na Stáit. Mar rín seibmíto i bpáip é i mí Iuit, 1900 as an tarna eúine Olympic. Buair pé an éapúir san moían tpiobtóire te fáro céat agus fearpa reacte tpois ceirte oplaig. Uí épaob an doimain buairóce toon céat uair as éirteannat.

**ASUS MAC CRAIC**  
Tornuis an comórtar, ma éomuib bí saipiois an doimain agus eom-mat bó bí éirteannac, Maciar MacCraic ó donac Úr-muian, a bí tairéir eáit a eúit-leam timceall na h-éirteann. Níorb fáda an comórtar ar rúil sup úipuro an beirte éir-teannac eun éinn ar fáo teo péin.

Uí Ó Flannagáin eun toparis ac cuair ac Craic tar a máire; mar rín a leat pé go oí 30 raib Mac Craic tpois eun toparis—a máire céat agus reactmóga tpois uair.

Uí fearp amáin pásta as an pean laoc, éap pé an éapúir, tim-ceall, timceall, agus annpan te sac a raib ma eúitann eáit pé uair é, agus eun pé ceirte ór-leig go leic níor ría ná an máre ab fáro uair. Uí an épaob toon tpiú uair as an bfeap Ó Cill Macatóis. O'fíll pé go oí Meirceá apir agus mar épaic agus bean-

## DO YOU KNOW?

That Jim Crowley of Dublin and Mick Higgins of Cavan were both born in New York.  
That the famed "Danno" Mahony, Kerry's star goalkeeper for over a decade was a Corkman.  
That a few years ago four Rackards were playing for Wexford, with Nicky, Bobby and Willie, was Jimmy who played in goal.  
That Tony Reddan is a native of Galway.  
That Jackie Hughes and Tom Gallagher, two of the stars on the New York team which was recently beaten by Dublin are actually American born.  
That Des Dillon of Clare, and Victor Sherlock of Cavan both won All-Ireland handball titles.  
That in 1950 Nick Rackard played on both the Leinster football and hurling teams. He was full forward on both teams.  
That London and Kerry have each won a senior hurling All-Ireland title.  
That J. Conidine of Sagart, the new Dublin half-back is a Clareman.  
That there are five All-Ireland medal holders T.D.s. They are Dan Spring of Kerry, Jack McQuillan of Roscommon, Jack Lynch of Cork, and Henry Kenny and Sean Flanagan of Mayo.

naet eáit pé an éapúir céat agus octmóga tpois bliam ina úiaró rín. Annpan o'éirig pé ar, agus o'fíll pé go oí a baile péin te tpiú donn óir Olympic. Uí Ó Flannagáin tpois-nuigce ac bí éirteannac eile ann eun a áit a togaime.  
(An mí seo éunáinn leantap leir an rseal).

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# UNIVERSITY GAMES A WASTE OF TIME

Says "DIXIE."  
SPRING is here again and by the time this appears in print G.A.A. followers will probably have the provincial and Irish selections off by heart. We all look forward to the Railway Cup games, and a record crowd can be expected to turn up at Headquarters on St. Patrick's Day to cheer on their heroes in their bid for Railway Cup medals.

Then, of course, there is the Ireland v. Universities double fixture. My opinion is that these games are a sheer waste of time, and this is borne out by their decreasing popularity year after year.  
Last year, however, the students sprang a surprise by beating their more fancied opponents but the football standard was very low. I wonder will these reversals add any pep to the 1956 fixtures.

A much more satisfactory arrangement, I think, would be Ireland v. The Rest fixtures, which would tax the Croke Park capacity to its fullest, as fans could see the thirty best men in each code in action.  
Well and good if an annual game between Ireland and U.S.A. could be arranged. This, too, would put the country's best players on view.  
Here are my teams for the Ireland v. The Rest games:

**HURLING:**  
Ireland: Art Foley (Wexford); Billie O'Neill (Galway), Nick O'Donnell (Wexford), Jim Finn (Tipp.); Willie Rackard (Wexford), Pat Stakelum (Tipp.), Jim English (Wexford); John Hough (Tipp.), Jim Morrissey (Wexford); J. Duggan (Galway), Dermot Kelly (Limerick), Jim Smith (Clare); C. Ring (Cork), Nick

Rackard (Wexford), Tim Flood (Wexford).  
Rest: Tom Boland (Galway); B. Rackard (Wexford), D. McInerney (Clare), John Doyle (Tipp.); B. Duffy (Galway), W. Walsh (Kilkenny), M. Morrissey (Wexford); Mick Ryan (Dublin), Sean Clohessy (Kilkenny); Joe Salmon (Galway), Des. Dillon (Clare), Jim Carney (Clare); John Clifford (Cork), P. Kehoe (Wexford), P. Egan (Galway).

**FOOTBALL:**  
Ireland: Owen Roe O'Neill (Mayo); Jerome O'Shea (Kerry), Pat Prendergast (Mayo), Willie Casey (Mayo); Jim Crowley (Dublin), John Cronin (Kerry), Eugene Moriarty (Mayo); John Nallen (Mayo), John Dowling (Kerry); Jim McDonnell (Cavan), Mattie McDonnell (Meath), Tadgh Lyne (Kerry); Cathal O'Leary (Dublin), Kevin Heffernan (Dublin), Jim Curran (Mayo).  
Rest: Jack Mangan (Galway); Paddy O'Driscoll (Cork), "Gun-er" Brady (Cavan), Mickie Palmer (Kerry); Sean Murphy (Kerry), Tom Maguire (Cavan), Gerry O'Reilly (Wicklow); Jim Rodgers (Wicklow), Sean Purcell (Galway); "Snitchie" Ferguson (Dublin), Olly Freeney (Dublin), John Culloty (Kerry); Peter Solon (Mayo), Peter O'Donohue (Cavan), Nace O'Dowd (Sligo).

## Gaels are Crying out for an All-Ireland Inter-Club Competition

"DIXIE"  
GAELS everywhere are asking heavy one and there are very few the six-mark question, "When prospects of fitting in an inter-club series."  
Why not run the National League on the knock-out system? Well, it's worth a trial!  
In considering this we must remember that the minor and juvenile clubs are the foundation stone of the Association. Any club can forward a motion to their County Board proposing an All-Ireland Inter-Club Championship and should they get a majority the motion will be tabled for discussion at Congress in Easter.  
So now, young Gaels everywhere, is there anything in particular you want raised at Congress? Is there any playing rule you want changed? If the answer is yes, then go along to your local clubrooms on the Annual General Meeting day and have the matter discussed with your local Gaels.  
Such a competition should undoubtedly prove most attractive. Remember the great tussles between St. Vincents of Dublin and Glen Rovers a few winters back. Those of us lucky enough to witness the county finals in well-known hurling counties such as Dublin, Cork, Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipp. and Limerick must admit that the deciders in these strongholds have often produced hurling equal to that seen in top class inter-county games. Yes, indeed, the meetings of Rathnure and St. Aidans in Wexford, Glen Rovers and Blackrock by the Lee, and St. Vincents and Faughs in Dublin, have a glamour all on their own.  
KNOCK-OUT?  
Many claim that the Central Council's programme is a very



GALLANT IN DEFEAT

# Mayo and Galway Must Qualify

By TONY O'HAGEN

KERRY'S victory in the All-Ireland Football final, Wexford's in the Hurling decider, and Dublin's win over New York in the St. Brendan Cup game, have been classified as "great" by many Sports journalists, but spare a thought for the "also rans," and particularly the counties most gallant in defeat.

Many will disagree with me, but my choice would be Galway for hurling and Mayo for football. I must admit at the outset that my vote for Galway may be based more on sentiment than actual performance but I think Mayo must qualify for the football "label."

Consider Galway's unenviable position. Untried, they were "thrown" into the arena against a Wexford side which, in the past four years, has met and humbled the might of Munster and Leinster.

That the present Wexford fifteen were potential champions was the forecast of many a shrewd judge in the 1953-'54 season, but early last year, with that fabulous trio—Nick, Bobbie and Billy Rackard—and Jim English, Nick O'Donnell and Tim Flood playing better than ever, it was obvious that nothing short of a superhuman effort could stop them.

**NEVER FALTERED**

And so it was left to Galway, lone standard-bearers of the West, to halt that mighty array of talent.

Did they flinch? No, they tackled that job manfully and even though they failed, they did so only after giving of their best. And a truly gallant "best" it was.

If it were only for their tenacity, Galway would reap the game's highest honours. Let us hope that something will be done to enable them to be fighting fit when such a task is again thrust upon them.

And Mayo? Well, like their fellow-Westerners, Galway, they were not given an "earthly" against Dublin's machine (did I hear someone with a Kerry accent say it needs oiling?)

**UNLUCKY**

If you were among the thousands who witnessed their two epic games against Dublin, I feel I should not have to go further. They were decidedly unlucky in the first game and failed by the narrowest of margins in the second.

After seeing both games, I felt that Owen Roe O'Neill, Willie Casey, Paddy Prendergast, Sean Flanagan, Eamonn Moriarty, John Nallen and Jimmy Curran were the best men I had seen in their

respective positions for more years than I care to remember.

But, you might say, five of the

seven mentioned are defenders! To impress you that much, they must have been under severe pressure! True, they were, but so were Paddy O'Flaherty, Denis Mahony, Jim Lavin, Mossie Whelan, Jim Crowley and Nickey Maher. And they impressed me too!

So, where does that leave us? Well, it left us with Dublin gallant winners by a point and Mayo (in my opinion) most gallant in defeat.

## MAYO'S HAT-TRICK

By JIMMY LAVELLE

MAYO Gaels can look back on 1955 as a very successful year both in home and inter-county football. The wearers of the Green and Red did not win an All-Ireland title but brought off the "hat-trick" in Connacht with titles in three grades.

The drawn All-Ireland semi-final between Mayo and Dublin was the most memorable game of the year, when the men from the West went within an ace of winning to upset all pre-match forecasts.

**THRILLER**

The replay was also a thriller and in a tough game Mayo had to concede the laurels by a single point, providing the 71,000 spec-

tators with plenty of material for the usual "inquest."

Following and impressive passage to the semi-final, Mayo's juniors had to give way to Derry before a large attendance at Charlestown.

The same fate awaited the minors who travelled to Limerick for their date with Tipperary, an evenly balanced side, who put their height advantage to good use.

## "We Must be Fit"

NO team in any grade can win an All-Ireland final unless every player is physically and psychologically conditioned for the occasion," said Galway County Secretary Mr. J. Whelan to the annual Convention of the County Board.

He said that Galway had often given hurling lessons to many teams for about 40 minutes of the hour and then wilted and withered.

This had happened in the All-Ireland final, and whether this was due to lack of competition or lack of fitness he could not say.

But, he added, the display of the team in the Sligo and Birm Tourn-

aments and the National League showed no reason for despondency.

## Old Hurler's Death

THE death has taken place of Mr. John Coy (85), of Moneen, Ardahan, Co. Galway.

He was one of the few remaining links with the first years of the G.A.A. Coming from a famous hurling townland which supplied 17 members of the Ardahan team which won the County Championship three times in the last years of the 19th century, he and his two brothers were famous for their prowess on the hurling field.

## Camogie Revival

GALWAY CAMOGIE BOARD are to make an all-out effort to improve the camogie position this year.

It has been proposed to call a meeting of all players and those interested in the revival of the game for Galway shortly.

The Board is very anxious to start the County Championship, the City League, the Schools' County Cup, and the Galway City Schools' Cup in February.

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## NOVITIATE OF ST. JOHN OF GOD

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Co. Mayo

The need for vocations to the Religious Life was never more urgent than to-day. Girls who think they have a Religious Vocation, and who desire to serve God by caring for the sick in Australia, will please communicate with

REVEREND MOTHER.



**Popular**

Dear Sir,—May I take this opportunity of congratulating you on your excellent Gaelic paper—THE GAELIC ECHO. It affords its readers an excellent coverage on Gaelic games and a mixed bag of interesting articles which combine to make it the most popular periodical of G.A.A. affairs.

I was glad to see the article on the Clones St. Tierneys G.F.C. which appeared in the September issue of the GAELIC ECHO. I think they are a credit to the County of Monaghan and richly deserve the publicity they get in housing an Ulster Final for the second successive year.

Up to a few years ago, Clones was the regular venue for Ulster Finals but in 1952 Monaghan broke through to the Ulster Final only to be unluckily beaten by Cavan at Cavan.

In 1953, the final was at the then popular Casement Park, but in 1954 Clones again played host to a crowd of 30,000 in that year's decider. This year 25,000 watched the final, but full marks must go to Clones for a great achievement.

Renewing my congratulations on an excellent fourpence-worth.

"CLONES FAN."

Clones, Co. Monaghan.

**Welcome Feature**

Dear Sir,—As a constant reader of your popular paper I was delighted to read the article about the G.A.A. in Galway in the December issue. For some time past we here in Galway have seen very little about the Gaelic activities of our county in your paper and the recent feature was most welcome.

In past issues there have been articles, features, and plenty of items from the other counties, so we hope you will not neglect us in the future.

I think it only fair that you devote at least a few columns to our county and the men who are trying to keep the G.A.A. alive in it in each of your issues.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN MULLIN.

Derrarthamone, Carraroe, Co. Galway.

**"First Taste"**

Dear Sir,—I wish to become a member of Club Eanna. I bought the January edition of the GAELIC ECHO. It was my first taste of the paper, and, believe me, it was delicious! I particularly liked the article about the 1946 All-Ireland Finals. I placed my order for the GAELIC ECHO with my newsagent a couple of days ago.

My biggest thrills in sport so far are (i) When I was brought to last year's Hurling Final, and (ii) When Bill Carlos, who is a past pupil of Roscommon C.B.S., came into our classroom when he was over here with the New York football team a few months ago. My favourite footballers are Gerry O'Malley and Aidan Brady (Roscommon).

Yours sincerely,

LIAM HOURICAN (aged 11) Roscommon.

★

**WHEN IN CORK VISIT THE**

**S A V O Y**

FAMOUS FOR THE  
FINEST FILMS  
and  
FINEST FOOD!

Savoy Cinema & Restaurant  
PATRICK ST., CORK

★

**WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?**



**He Likes Our Paper**

Dear Sir,—Thank you for sending me on those two issues, and having read through them I must say I am highly impressed and pleased with the GAELIC ECHO. It is a paper which I will surely enjoy.

As a Clareman, I was of course very interested and pleased with your "write-up" in the August issue of our two county players, Jimmy Carney and Dan McInerney. As a follower of hurling generally, and Clare hurling in particular, I was always proud of Dan "Mac," and my humble, but sincere thanks to "MacLughudha" for his tribute to a great player.

However, there is one little thing I would like to say. "MacLughudha" has mentioned a number of forwards against whom "Mac" has excelled—but he leaves out Mick Mackey.

In early 1946, Clare were playing Limerick in the National League at Limerick. Limerick needed only a draw in this game to win group honours and go on to the final. However, Dan played a major part by holding the great Mick scoreless, and Clare went on to win 6-2 to 4-3. This, I think, was his greatest hour.

Of course he was corner-back that day. And although Mick was nearing the close of a great career he was still a very dangerous forward. At least very few backs would hold him as Dan did that day.

But I am highly delighted of

having read of Dan in your paper and look forward to many more such articles in the future months. Best of luck and God Bless.

Yours sincerely,  
"CLAREMAN."

Brittas, Co. Dublin.

**My Choice**

Dear Sir,—I was interested to read your references to the "Ireland" hurling and football teams and would like you to include my team:

S. Morris (Cavan); J. O'Shea (Kerry), W. Casey (Mayo), M. Moylan (Dublin); J. McDonnell (Cavan), J. Crowley (Dublin), N. Maher (Dublin); J. McKeever (Derry), J. Nallen (Mayo); O. Freaney (Dublin), N. O'Dowd (Sligo), T. Lyne (Kerry); J. Curran (Mayo), S. Purcell (Galway), P. Sheehy (Kerry).

I believe that on their displays last year O'Shea, Casey, Crowley, McDonnell, McKeever and Lyne should be automatic choices and the other nine players, though possibly not up to the standard of the above sextet, would make up a fine selection.

Yours faithfully,  
"ULSTER FAN."

Downpatrick.

**My Selections**

Dear Sir,—I would like to publish, through your most enjoyable paper, my selections of the top players of the year, and also what I would like to see chosen as the Munster hurling team.

Hurling: (1) Dan McInerney (Clare); (2) W. Rackard (Wexford); (3) T. Flood (Wexford); (4) J. Smith (Clare); (5) D. Kelly (Limerick); (6) J. English (Wexford); (7) S. Clohessy (Kilkenny); (8) J. Duggan (Galway); (9) N. Rackard (Wexford); (10) J. O'Connor (Waterford).

Football: (1) T. Lyne (Kerry); (2) J. O'Shea (Kerry); (3) W. Casey (Mayo); (4) E. Moriarty (Mayo); (5) J. Crowley (Dublin); (6) K. Heffernan (Dublin); (7) S. Flanagan (Mayo); (8) J. Cronin (Kerry); (9) P. Donoghue (Cavan); (10) J. McAndrew (Mayo).

Munster hurling team: A. Reddan (Tipperary); M. Leahy (Clare), D. McInerney (Clare), J. Doyle (Tipperary); J. Finn (Tipperary), P. Stakelum (Tipperary), J. O'Connor (Waterford); J. Smith (Clare), D. Sheedy (Clare); L. Devaney (Tipperary), D. Kelly (Limerick), J. Carney (Clare); J. Clifford (Cork), J. Hartnett (Cork), C. Ring (Cork). Subs: M. Hayes (Clare), J. Lyons (Cork), A. O'Shaughnessy (Cork).

I remain yours truly,  
JOSEPH WALSH

Knocklong.

**Medals for Minors**

KILKENNY Co. Secretary Paddy Grace told the Kilkenny Minor hurlers that they should ever be on their guard against the menace of foreign games when they were presented with their Leinster Championship medals. He said it was very gratifying to see that over 360 young gaelts took part in the city's under-16 hurling league this year.

**"My Ireland Teams"**

By SEAN O'NEILL

**FOOTBALL**—P. Flaherty (Dublin), W. Casey (Mayo), P. Prendergast (Mayo), M. Palmer (Kerry), S. Murphy (Kerry), J. Cronin (Kerry), M. Doyle (Kildare), J. Crowley (Dublin), J. Nallen (Mayo), C. O'Leary (Dublin), M. McDonnell (Meath), T. Lyne (Kerry), P. McGearry (Leitrim), K. Heffernan (Dublin), I. Jones (Tyrone).

**HURLING**—A. Foley (Wexford), W. Rackard (Wexford), N. O'Donnell (Wexford), J. Doyle (Tipperary), J. Finn (Tipperary), W. Rackard (Wexford), J. English (Wexford), M. Ryan (Dublin), S. Clohessy (Kilkenny), J. Duggan (Galway), D. Carroll (Kilkenny), J. Smith (Clare), C. Ring (Cork), N. Rackard (Wexford), T. Flood (Wexford).

**Senior Crossword No. 1**

Correct Solution of January Competition.

**Across**—(1) Ballydehob. (2) Eric. (3) MO. (4) AB. (5) War. (6) Eau. (7) Normal. (8) Insignia. (9) Us. (10) AG. (11) FA. (12) Scre. (13) Isis. (14) Mural.  
**Down**—(1) Bernini. (2) Arc. (3) Likeness. (4) Em. (5) How. (6) Berlioz. (7) Sari. (8) Ming. (9) Loafer. (10) Nuns. (11) Ara.

**Congratulations**

We are pleased to announce the winners of our January Senior Crossword. Only two correct solutions were received.

1st Prize—Labhrás O Donnghaile, Carraig Bán, Loc Garman.  
2nd Prize—Miss Dymrna Gardiner, 4, University Road, Galway.

**CLUES**

**Across**—(1) A kind of apple. (2) Judas was one, and so was Dermot McMurogh. (3) These initials precede the surnames of two famous men—a Kerry footballer and an English poet. (4) A mischievous spirit. (5) According to the song, this was the answer John received from his beloved. (6) Mark well anything which bears these two letters. (7) Many of us might not be able to tackle this Crossword were it not for one. (8) A very beautiful flower. (9) You'd have to go towards the rising sun to see this well-known city. (10) You find these in the ground, and also in siphons. (11) He may put his shoulder to the wheel but a wrestler doesn't like his shoulder to be put to this. (12) This unpleasant fellow finished Cleopatra, we are told.

**Down**—(1) An effeminate, dandified coxcomb. (2) A famous American college. (3) A poet couldn't get far without his foot. (4) One inside you is good when there's one in the air. (5) No doubt Dr. Johnson would wish the bride many years of felicity. (6) Assassination in South America ended the career of this man, once one of Joe's friends. (7) With this fellow wrapped around you, you wouldn't die of old age. (8) These make hedge-trimming easier. (9) Add an exclamation of surprise or joy here and you have a Nebraskan city. (10) The soldier carries it—and it could also be the name of the girl he left behind him. (11) If Christopher Columbus had had one he would have been saved quite an amount of worry. (12) When the Mexican says this, everything is O.K.

**SENIOR CROSSWORD No. 2**

NO ENTRY FEE

1st Prize—Magnificent Philishave 12 Electric Razor, or Costume or Suit Length of Irish Tweed.

2nd Prize—£2 2s. 0d.

3rd Prize—£1 1s. 0d.

**RULES**

- 1.—Competition open to adults only (Male or Female).
- 2.—Prizes will be awarded to first three correct solutions opened.
- 3.—All entries must be accompanied by Entry Form properly completed.
- 4.—The closing date is February 24th, 1956, and the Editor's decision is final.
- 5.—Entries should be addressed to:  
Senior Crossword,  
Gaelic Echo (1954) Limited,  
13, Parliament St., Dublin.

CUT HERE

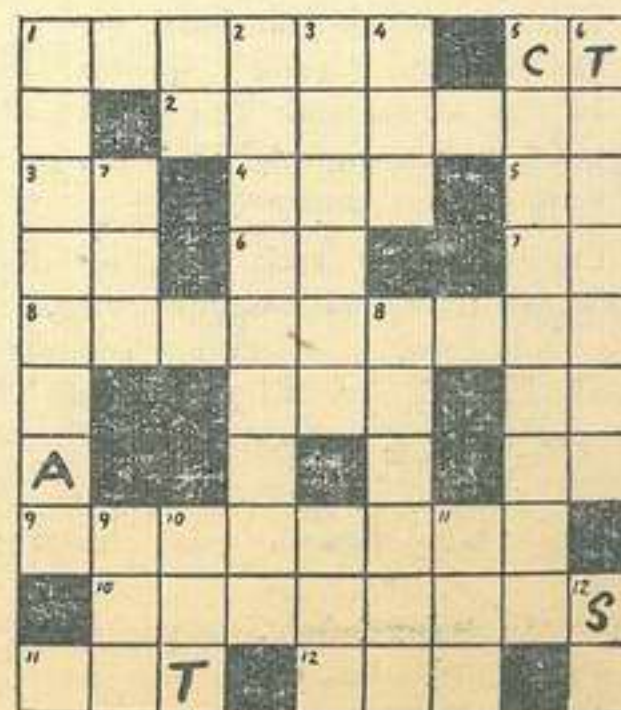
**ENTRY FORM**

Name .....

Address .....

Jan., '56.

Don't Delay—Post Your Entry Now!





# Football in Clare is on the Road Back

By SEAN O'NEILL

IN the July issue of the GAELIC ECHO I mentioned that a football revival was due in Clare, and now only six months later I am glad to say that I was right, because within the last few weeks a very definite resurgence has taken place among the footballers of the Banner County.

So far they have collected full points in Division 4B of the National League, with victory over Waterford, Limerick and Kilkenny—not a great achievement you might say, but when you realise that Clare had not won either a senior or junior football game in almost six years, you will have to admit that their recent success is really something.

### DEFEAT AFTER DEFEAT

It is not easy to understand how a county who in the late forties were a force in Munster football could have sunk so low as did Clare. In July, 1949 they brought off the surprise of the year when they defeated Kerry in the Munster semi-final, three weeks later they lost to Cork in the final. The following year they drew with Kerry in Tralee, enthusiasm was now really running high in the county.

The replay came off in Limerick three weeks later and Clare were routed, losing 5-6 to 2-4 in torrential rain. This game proved the anticlimax of Clare football wrecking the morale of both players and mentors. Defeat after defeat followed, Cork scored at will in the 1951 Munster Championship and in '52 Waterford beat them. This seemed the last

straw but it was nothing in comparison to what was to follow.

In 1953 they did not compete in the National League and the following Spring permission was given for them to regrade to Junior, but even as juniors with a full selection of both residence and non-residence players they were defeated in the first round of the championship. This really was rock-bottom, players had no interest, the selectors had given up hope and the Gaels of the county became apathetic about football.

### OUT OF BLUE

Then it happened. Out of the blue came the 1953 minor team who to both their own and everybody else's surprise went ahead to win the Munster title. In the All-Ireland semi-final they trounced a highly fancied Louth fifteen and, although they lost to Mayo in the final, there was now firm ground for hoping that in a year or two Clare could field a senior team of a capable standard, and now that time has come.

### NEW HOPE

There is every ground for hope in this young Clare fifteen, although lacking in experience they have the ability to learn and the average age of the team is only twenty one. Reidy in goal, although very young has proven himself a capable net-minder. In front of him, Michael Guthrie, formerly of Lisdoonvarna and Ennistymon C.B.S., and at present playing with O'Tooles in Dublin, is improving with every game.

### VETERAN

Flanking him are Eddie Cotter, veteran of the team who has been chosen for Munster on many occasions, and Garda Senan Connell. Mainstay of the half-back line is Francis Meaney who played for Tipperary last year but who is now back in the saffron and blue of his native county.

Two of the 1953 minor team, James Power and M. J. Greene make up the rest of the defence. Tommy Mangan another star of the 1953 minor team and Garda Sean Liddy make a high fetching and capable mid-field pair.

Garda Peadar Lynch, who a short while ago when playing with Westerns in Dublin proved himself one of the very best players in the metropolis, is proving himself just as good an inter county player. In the centre is Flan Meaney, a brother of Francis, and without a doubt one of the most stylish footballers in the game. Michael McGrath, another star of the 1953 minor team who is showing himself just as good a senior, is on the right.

### FOOTBALLER TOO

Jimmy Cearney, the hurling find of the year, has become quite a football find as well, figuring at full-forward. Peadar O'Brien of Faughs Ennis, and D. Clancy, complete the team that has given new hope to the Gaels of the Banner County.

They are young and full of enthusiasm and are just what the county needed, so watch out Kerry and Cork, Clare has thrown off her shackles of hardy-annuals and is on the march with her youth.



Olly Freaney (13), Dublin, the year's top football scorer, in action against Galway last year. Also pictured are Galway's Tom Dillon (4) and goalie Jack Mangan.

(Irish Press)

## Paddy Duffy Leaves the Louth Tiller

(FROM PAGE 1)

Paddy Duffy was first appointed to Louth Co. Board in 1905 as a Newtown Blues representative and became Secretary in 1910, a position which he held until 1920 when he was succeeded by Tom Burke (now President).

From 1923 to 1925 he was Chairman of the Board and he returned to the position of Secretary in the latter year. He has been Louth's Co. Sec. ever since.

Paddy holds the unique record of representing the Louth Co. Board on the Leinster Council for 36 years.

Determined, just and outspoken, the G.A.A. has had in Paddy Duffy one of its staunchest champions. His knowledge of the game and the rules is profound but it was in the efficient discharge of his official duties that he shone most.

### POPULAR

He was essentially a man who got things done, and was tremendously popular with all G.A.A. followers in the county.

It is their earnest hope that Paddy will still be a regular on the sideline, passing on his expert advice to the players, who may yet realise one of Paddy's most cherished ambitions—an All-Ireland crown for Louth.

## Sports Star of 1955

(FROM PAGE 1)

forward in the All-Ireland final that year, and although it was obvious that he was not at home in that position, he rattled off five points.

### IRISH CAPTAIN

Later in the season he was honoured by the Munster selectors, and also captained the Ireland team which beat Combined Universities.

Tadhg had his best season in 1955.

All through the Munster Championship he played consistently stylish football, but against Cavan, on both occasions, and against Dublin in the All-Ireland Final, his fielding was superb and his anticipation uncanny.

On the basketball front Tadhg is also a force to be reckoned with. He has won numerous Town League and Co. Championship medals with Killarney United.

He has been a regular on the Kerry team for the past three years.

Not alone is Tadhg's Lyne a fine athlete but he is also a

first-class sportsman, and over the past three years has left an impression that will not easily be effaced.

## Hurleys for Australia

A SUPPLY of hurleys will be sent by Laois County Board to Mr. J. J. Hennessy, New South Wales, Australia.

Mr. Hennessy, in a letter to the Board, said the hurleys would help to foster the games in the area.

## Emigration

I REGRET that emigration and unemployment are still major problems in our area, and despite the establishment of a few progressive industries much more would need to be done to curb this wholesale exodus of our young manhood," said Chairman Martin Sweeney at the South Sligo G.A.A. Divisional Board Convention in Tubercurry,

Olly Freaney (13), Dublin, the year's top football scorer, in action against Galway last year. Also pictured are Galway's Tom Dillon (4) and goalie Jack Mangan.

(Irish Press)

## J. Clarke Asks

# Are Our Alleys Wide Enough for Doubles?

Are present day ball-courts wide enough for doubles competition? That is a subject which has been receiving consideration of late, in America, Canada and Mexico.

I doubt, if the matter ever cost our legislators a thought. Still, its reasonableness would appear to commend it, at least, for discussion.

Never at any stage in the development of the Irish game, had we a separate court for doubles, even in olden times, when many a venue was as much as ten feet longer, but rarely wider, than their present day counterparts.

Big contests, then, and up to about thirty years ago, when the G.A.A. took over, were popularly in singles, so there would be little interest in the subject in organising circles at that time.

But to-day, with doubles championships claiming equal recognition with singles, the position is not quite the same.

### FAVoured IN U.S.A.

This fact appears to have been recognised in some centres in America, where opinion favours a court wider by a few feet for doubles, than that recommended for singles.

It stands to reason, that if present day Irish courts are considered as laid to desirable floor measurements (60 x 30 ft. approx.) for singles, then it seems to follow they must be too narrow—probably too short as well—for doubles.

Then again, if it is felt that two players can adequately and comfortably, cover the modern court, then four must certainly be cramped in it.

And such is just the position. In many of our big double-handed contests, where men trained to singles, find it difficult, not so much in endeavouring to combine with their partner, but in trying to leave him anything like a fair share of the play.

Wider courts should go a long way towards removing this difficulty, and thus rendering the

game more enjoyable for competitors.

### A SOLUTION

The erection of separate courts here, for singles and doubles, would doubtless present difficulties still if sufficient space were available, the building of two venues—one of either type—on a common front wall, might be a solution, if the question of cost could be surmounted.

The matter would not be quite so difficult across the Atlantic, where championship courts are 20 ft. shorter and 10 ft. narrower than ours, and are generally built in batteries of 3 or 4 upwards, and quite often on a common front wall.

In the latest blue print for Spanish courts, as many as six are shown as being possible of erection, in compact fashion, where space is a consideration, using not only the common front wall system, but "side-front" variation as well, i.e., where the high side wall of one venue is used as the main playing wall of another.

## Late Matty Callinan

By TOM DELANEY

MR. MATTY ("RATCHIE")

CALLINAN, former Graiguecullen, Laois and Leinster footballer, who died during the past month was a player of the first class.

The writer played many games against this grand footballer and what he lacked in inches he more than amply supplied in dash and skill.

He was a permanent member of the Laois team from 1929 to 1937 and was the first Laois man to be selected for the Leinster team in 1931.

Matty played with his home club, Graiguecullen, until about 1942 when he retired.