

Gaelic **echo**

VOL. 6, No. 12.

DECEMBER, 1957

PRICE 4d.

**Did Michael Cusack
Found The G.A.A.?**

-See Page 7

Cork Football

WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?

CORK HAVE FAILED IN TWO ALL-IRELAND FINALS, AND IN RECENT MONTHS THEY HAVE GONE DOWN TO SHOCK DEFEATS BY CARLOW, KILDARE AND DUBLIN.

IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF THE "GAELIC ECHO" WE HAVE INVITED EAMONN YOUNG, PADDY DRISCOLL, NIALL FITZGERALD, SEAN MOORE AND NEALLY DUGGAN TO GIVE THEIR ANSWERS TO THIS VEXING QUESTION.

In addition we have asked our staff writers Bob Dolan and Sean O'Neill to contribute their views: Eamonn Mongey, former Mayo star and leading authority on Gaelic games, also gives his candid opinion. Turn to page 3 and read what they have to say in this absorbing feature "What's wrong with Cork Football."

This month we are also introducing several new features . . . "On The Ball" by Brian McDonald . . . "News, View and Interviews" by Bill Fallon . . . "Plain Speaking" by Con Kelly . . . and the Sean O'Neill and Bob Dolan columns.

In this issue you will also find exciting articles . . . Joe Cunningham's own story on how he broke the Irish mile record . . . The

Doyles of Kilkenny by P. D. Mehigan, dean of Irish sports-writers . . . The sensational All-Ireland football final of 1938 . . . how "Lovely" Johnny Dunne got his name . . . Christy Ring's finest hour as seen by Patrick Brian . . . Question Box by Jimmy Magee . . . AND many, many other outstanding stories.

Our stories are all EXCLUSIVE to the GAELIC ECHO.



THE IMMORTAL TOM LANGAN OF MAYO

"Pass him in the street and he's just an ordinary person. Talk to him for a little while and you'll find nothing unusual about him.

Yet . . . Tom Langan, shy and unassuming, is an immortal of the G.A.A. sport, a man, who

when Mayo were storming the heights of All-Ireland glory between 1948 and 1955, was an idol of Croke Park crowds and one of the greatest personalities in Gaelic Football."

So writes Philip Roderick in his vivid story of Tom, which appears on page 9 of this month's GAELIC ECHO. Turn to page 7 and you can read the rest of this grand story.

EXCLUSIVE

By BRIAN McDONALD.

Joe Cunningham's Greatest Day

I was one of those fortunate to be present at The Iveagh Grounds, Crumlin, on that never-to-be-forgotten last Saturday in August.

Phoenix Harriers were celebrating their 25 years of non-stop activity in Irish athletics by laying on a specially prepared programme . . . a programme that brought nods of appreciation from even the most fastidious fans.

And that magical distance . . . The MILE, was to cause many a faint heart to stop beating before this Autumn day was through.

It was raining rather heavily as I took up my usual position in the

Press box . . . but even so, I felt I was in for some good "copy."

Throughout the early events I fidgetted impatiently, for I had come to see the MILE, and even a 9.9 century would have failed to thrill me.

And then it happened!

A stony voice announced over the loudspeaker system: "Competitors for the mile get ready."

The heavy rain had turned to something approaching an "Irish mist" as I spotted Joe anxiously hopping around in his emerald green togs.

A colleague remarked to me that it looked rather "blue" for Cun-

ningham's attempt on the record.

"Rubbish," I replied.

For I knew my man . . . and believe me, they don't come any tougher.

Heavy track or no heavy track, I had talked with the Metropolitan star in the dressing rooms, and I knew from the determined glint in his blue eyes that the low-sized Dubliner was out for business.

But here let me hand you over to Joe, a 26-year-old, fair-haired giant of the track, who has written, in gold letters, yet another glorious chapter in the annals of the NACA.

"Two weeks prior to this race I had set up new figures for the mile, when I clipped John Joe Barry's long-standing record with a time of 4 mins. 16.5 secs.

That was a night meeting, and I finished in such good trim, that I felt I could and WOULD do better next time out.

I knew that the Phoenix meeting would be my last chance for this year . . . so I decided to give it everything I had.

Mind you, I didn't feel jittery before the race . . . or for that matter any time during it.

Starter Jimmy Bruce got us away to a grand start, and my great friend and fellow scratchman,

Jet-Propelled

Christy Brady, shot off like a startled coursing hare in pursuit of the limit men.

As holder of the Irish 1,500 meters crown I had the greatest respect for Christy, and decided to 'shadow' him. However, Christy must have got out the wrong side of the bed that morning, for he was not his usual self.

At the end of the first lap I decided to take over from Christy.

Front-runners, Basil Clifford and Willie Brennan were pounding along at the head of the field as I came around for the third quarter.

Many people have asked me when I felt I was within sight of a new time, well I reckon it was round about here.

I opened up the choke on this lap, and as the bell went, I was bang up in the front rank.

But the Clock . . . Clifford and Brennan were still to be beaten!

I felt all but jet-propelled as I turned that final quarter into a virtual sprint.

I passed Clifford and Brennan a furlong from home . . . and then set my sights on the tape!

Thank you, Sean

As fast as my legs could carry me and my pounding heart would allow, I harred around that final bend.

I remember well the frenzied shouts of encouragement as I tore up the home straight.

And then it was all over . . . I had breasted the tape . . . but I felt I had hit the clock twice as hard!

I hadn't long to wait for my greatest thrill . . . I had smashed the record with a time of 4 mins. 13.8 secs.

And to Tipperary-born Sean Fitzell, I say, 'thank you.'

For it was Sean who persuaded me to spend the best part of my spare time in running spikes!

To my question if he'll better it, Joe said: "I'll be back again next year . . . and I'll be hitting for single figures!"

It is as much a pleasure to talk to Joe as it is to watch his easy rhythmic running.

And this modest Dubliner is an out and out Irishman.

"Sure, I've had 'feelers' about joining the A.A.U.," he told me.

("But not even the lure of free travel to glamorous and exciting cities would make me leave the NACA.")

Connaught Final At Croke Park!

By PATRICK CARVER.

HOW many of you know that a Connaught senior football final was once re-played at Croke Park?

I didn't . . . at least not until one evening a few weeks ago, when Vincent Cunningham, great Sligo forward of the 1919-1924 era, dropped into the Echo offices, and told me about it.

"I remember it well," he recalls; "Sligo beat Galway in the Connaught final of 1923, and then we went on to beat Tipperary in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park. In the meantime, however, Galway objected to us, and the objection was upheld. A replay of the Connaught final was ordered, and for some reason or other it was fixed for Croke Park."

"Galway beat us all over the place in the first quarter of an hour and scored several goals, but from there on, we took control of the game. With less than a minute to go we drew level."

Disaster

Then came disaster. The Galway full-back kicked a long ball up over the half-way line, "Nacker" Walsh caught it, and ran on to score the winning point for Galway.

"It was a terrible blow to us. You see, if we had got through against Galway, Sligo would have 'walked' the All-Ireland final."

Vincent, who was a contemporary of the great Sligo men, Paddy Colleran, "Click" Brennan, Tommy Conlon and Nicholas Devine, rates Paddy Colleran as the greatest midfielder he has ever seen.

"He was a glorious footballer, and I have yet to see a man as good as him."

How about present-day football? "A far easier game now than it was in my day," says Vincent. "I don't think we'll ever again see teams like the ones we had in Ireland thirty and forty years ago."

Camogie Feature

NEXT month we hope to start a Camogie series featuring clubs and their history. Any Club Secretaries who feel that the history of their club would make interesting reading, should write to The Editor, and furnish any details which they might consider suitable for publication. Country as well as city clubs are requested to take note of this and the sooner we hear from you, the earlier an article on your club will appear in our edition.

As you can see from our articles this month, we are endeavouring to give the publicity to Camogie, which the daily papers have neglected to give, and this we can do only if we get the support of interested clubs.

Do not delay, let us hear from you immediately. All correspondence to be addressed to: The Editor, Gaelic Echo, 13 Parliament Street, Dublin.

IRISH AND PROUD OF IT?

A prominent English Sunday newspaper is, at the present time, featuring a series of articles, purporting to do honour to the outstanding sporting personalities of Ireland.

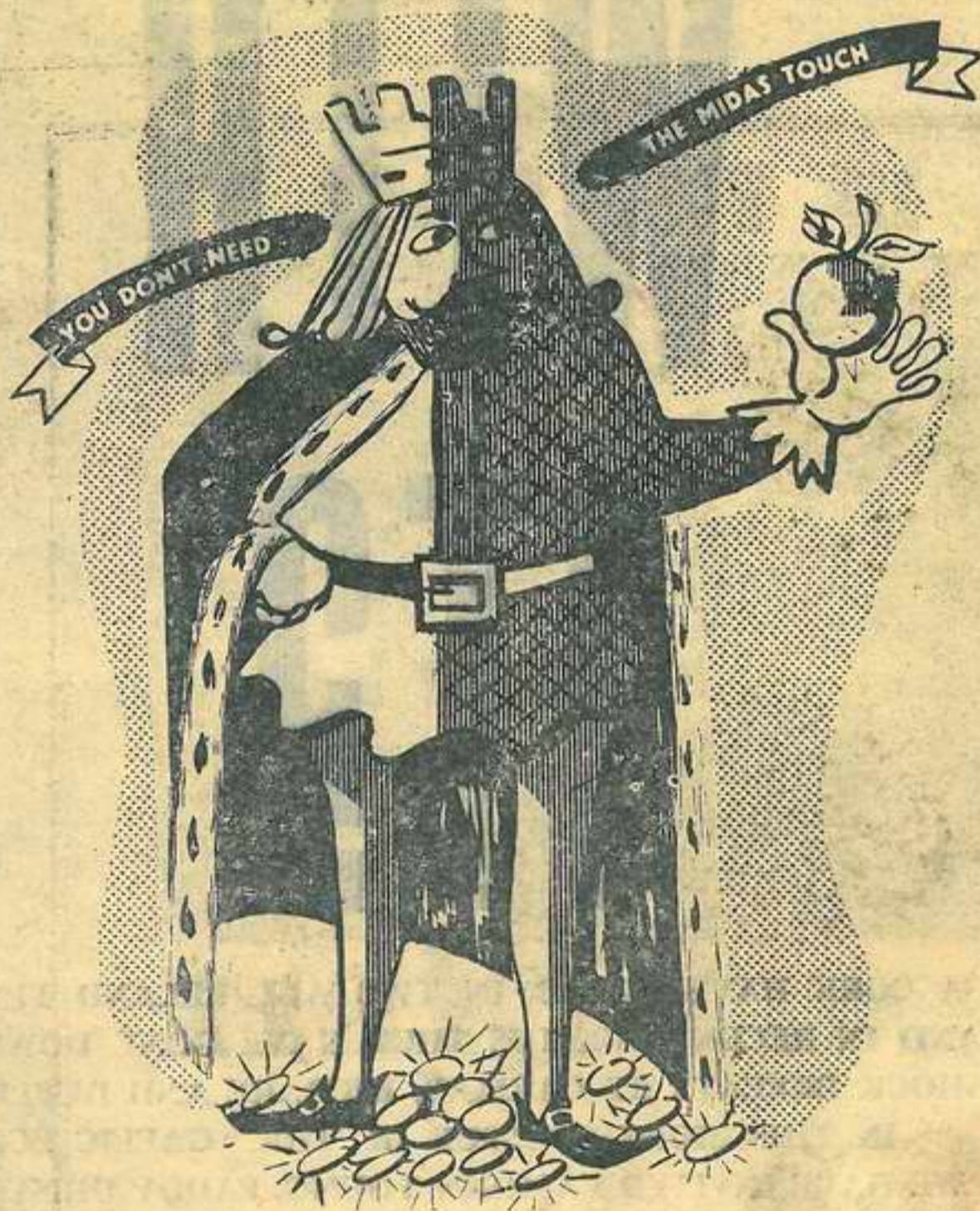
In its issue of November 3, the subject was a Miss Deirdre Wilson, a well-known swimmer. I quote

the following extracts from the article.

Biggest disappointment? . . . "Missing the Vancouver trip for the Empire Games."

Hopes? . . . "Oh, I'd love to go to the Empire Games at Cardiff next year."

SOMEONE OUGHT TO TELL THEM!



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**What's Wrong
With Cork
Football?
I**

In an exclusive interview with Philip Roderick of the Gaelic Echo, EAMONN YO UNG says . . .

**“NOTHING!”
‘Cork’s Day Will Come’**



Denis "Toots" Kelleher of Millstreet, a member of the Cork forward line, which comes in for some pretty harsh criticism in this feature.

PHILIP RODERICK: "Now, Eamonn, tell me—what is wrong with Cork football?"

EAMONN YOUNG: "I'll tell you in a nutshell. We lost the last two All-Irelands by 4 points. That's what's wrong".

RODERICK: "Well yes...but couldn't you break it down a little Eamonn. They say you lack craft for instance".

YOUNG: "If we lacked all the things some people say, we wouldn't have won a National League last year or get within a mule's screech of two All-Irelands.

RODERICK: "Right. Well then tell me why you didn't win the last two All-Irelands.

YOUNG: "Two reasons. One was Galway; the other Louth. Take Galway first. There were against us 13 good men and two—Purcell and Stockwell, who on that day were terrific. Galway deserved their 2-12 but there can't be a lot wrong with team that scored 3-7 against them and beat them 12 months after.

Take Louth next. We had that game won, and don't doubt it, when they scored that very lucky goal. Since then Louth have proved good, and I'm not for a moment taking from their win. They're good lads

and likely to beat us, or anyone else".

RODERICK: "But if you had that Louth game won, why didn't you hold on to it?"

YOUNG: "Because of the lucky goal".

RODERICK: "But should you have been more than two points ahead?"

YOUNG: "Right Philip. You have me there. We should, in my opinion, have been far enough in front to win in spite of their late goal and here may be the reason you ask me all these awkward questions. Forgive me now while I lecture.

The object of play is to put the ball into the hands of a man in a scoring position. When a man is properly positioned for his scoring kick, he'll usually raise a flag. That's when the football finishes; some minutes before that is when it starts".

RODERICK: "I suspect you're going to talk about the open space?"

YOUNG: "Exactly. The first class ball player in anything, has strength, speed, fitness—and ball sense, which makes him move to the right place at the right time. The forward must be an attacker, mentally. He must always be darting in ready to help

his pal and fool his opponent. But some of our lads played too long at midfield, where a fellow can pound along and get in a good day's work without ever showing that split second and calculated action which we saw in Mick Higgins, Tom Langan, Jim Brosnan and Sean Purcell.

Five or six years ago, most of the then Cork forwards also played at centrefield for their clubs. Doney O'Donovan reminded me the other day that, the same is true to-day".

RODERICK: "What do you think of the defence and midfield?"

YOUNG: The backs are sound, though at times they don't mark as closely as they should. At centrefield, we have two big fast men and though there has been some inconsistency here, there's no need to panic".

RODERICK: "So in a nutshell, you blame the forwards?"

YOUNG: "I do no such thing. In fact I've no time for critics who go out of their way to blame players. How some of our reporters get away with the things they say about players amazed me, and I have no time either for backs who blame their forwards or forwards who blame their backs. It takes 15 to win—or lose—a game.

The Cork football team is a bunch of strong, eager and may I say fit men. They're more enthusiastic than clever and must be 4 points better to

win by one. That's why they don't win all the games they should".

RODERICK: "Could your lads have been fitter?"

YOUNG: "Well now . . . I trained them you know, so you're asking me to say I'm a flop. Seriously, I don't think that, in the last five minutes, they could have done everything but tear up the Louth goalposts, in the All-Ireland, if they weren't fit".

Anyway in an All-Ireland, everyone is fit. After a long campaign even the selectors are pretty spry, and I'm convinced that the only All-Ireland that will test a team's fitness will be one of 80 minutes".

RODERICK: "How do you explain away your defeats since the All-Ireland?"

YOUNG: "We were first beaten by Carlow, who since beat Kerry. All-Ireland finalists are not that much better than the rest. The standard is even and who says that Kildare and Tyrone are bad".

If we had won the All-Ireland, these defeats would be hard to explain, but an unsuccessful finalist is still only an also-ran.

The All-Ireland defeats, especially twice in twelve months has a crushing effect and rubs a little brilliance off a man's play—that brilliance which converts a split second chance into a clearance or a score. If we had won the All-Ireland, we would

probably have won our games since then. Certainly Louth have—and yet they could beat us only in the final minutes".

RODERICK: "Are some of the players too old for county football?"

YOUNG: "When is a man too old for anything? How old are Sugar Ray Robinson, Archie Moore, Stanley Matthews? Ever hear of a fellow named Ring who pulled on a red jersey, while some of our inter-county men were away being christened. Playing age is a matter of fast legs, training and enthusiasm and while Nealy Duggan and Paddy O'Driscoll can beat their opponents in club games down in Cork, they're good enough to be selected. The rest are young enough—and youth in itself is no guarantee of selection".

RODERICK: "Have you any revolutionary ideas for 1958?"

YOUNG: "No, and if I had, I'd keep em dark anyway. These days you do things first and talk after, or let the other fellow talk. I'll just repeat what I said when they asked me to train the lads—'There's an All-Ireland in this team and we're going to get it'".

Galway footballers were beaten in the THREE All-Irelands of '40, '41, and '42. Robert Bruce's spider, a poor devil from Antrim, won on his sixth effort in the fourteen hundreds. Our day will come—and we'll make a night of it".

PUBLIC

OPINION

DEMANDS

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COMPETITION**

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Review

(This is NOT an entry form)

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Cork full-forward Neally Duggan makes a despairing attempt to block down Jim Crowley's kick. On the right is Niall Fitzgerald, who usually plays centre half forward for Cork. Will Neally and Niall ever win that elusive All-Ireland medal?

Cork Have Missed Boat!

HUGH O'DONNELL OF THE GAELIC ECHO
WHY have Cork failed? They have faults, yes, but so have most teams. Galway had when they won their title last year, and definitely the Lough of to-day have faults, but in the case of Louth or Galway their faults are spread out and not centred in any particular area of the field. With Cork it is different—their faults are centred ones, all in one area—the attack. And so in every game, no matter how brilliantly the backs and midfield play, the attack is always there to ruin the good work and waste opportunity after opportunity. Had Cork three outstanding backs, an equal number of good forwards instead of six fine backs and no outstanding forward they would probably have won a title . . . and that's my honest opinion. The six or seven Cork forwards we have seen in action over the past two seasons have all, as individuals, been excellent footballers but definitely as a sextet they lacked that accuracy, sense of position and general combination necessary to make the grade. Could these Cork forwards have achieved these necessary qualities? Yes, I definitely believe that five others could—had the sixth been a leader.

What's Wrong With Cork Football?
2

"Forward Switches Short Sighted Policy"

Says Niall Fitzgerald
The team is good if not great—all through the field, and man for man is capable of beating any team in the country. Then what is wrong? I put it down to poor team work. That is mainly applicable to the forward line, which consists of 5 centre-field players and only one player who regularly plays in the forwards with his club. Together with that, this sextet has been switched and changed in every conceivable way in an effort to find a solution to all the inaccuracy. That switching, in my opinion, is a very short sighted policy and it would be much more sensible if a forward line was picked and given its chance for a complete season in their own set positions. Then you have the papers, who are inclined to be over-critical. **AT TIMES I WONDER IF ITS THE NEWSPAPER REPORTERS WHO HAVE GOT INTO A RUT AND NOT THE CORK FORWARD LINE.**

"Cork Selectors Have Sacrificed Accuracy For Vigour"

Says SEAN MOORE
I should like to stress that any opinions I may voice on Football are very immature as I have not got the faintest idea of football theory. My answer to the question: "What's wrong with Cork Football?" is, NOTHING! To support this, I would point to our record over the past three years, when Cork won a National League and were twice finalists in the All Ireland. The merest element of LUCK could have given us two All-Ireland Championships. I attribute our recent defeats principally to this factor. The period of intensive training leading up to the final, and the succession of subsequent matches has sapped the team of its usual enthusiasm. The stimulus of a victory in the All-Ireland would have compensated for this physiological lapse. I am afraid if I were to comment on our individual faults of inaccurate shooting and passing, I would draw unfavourable attention to myself. It is sufficient to say that the traditional Cork Footballer is the rugged vigorous footballer, and, perhaps, our selectors are inclined to sacrifice accuracy and finesse for vigour and courage.

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"Enough Material In Cork To Win Three Titles" Paddy Driscoll



PADDY DRISCOLL

I am glad the question asked is "What is wrong with Cork Football" and not "What is wrong with the Cork Footballers".

This is a sore question to ask any Cork Footballer—especially a Cork forward.

I do not blame them for being sore about it, for take up any newspaper on a Monday morning after Cork has played the day before, and you will see the headlines "Cork forwards are at fault again", or "Cork forwards throw away numerous chances of scoring".

They (the forwards) are always blamed for Cork's defeat, which, in my opinion, is entirely wrong.

No player intentionally loses a match, every player gives his best, and I will say this that there is enough material in Co. Cork to win three All-Irelands, which we will win when we are properly handled.

Give us five good men on the sideline or even give us ONE, who will know when to make a change during a match, I am firmly convinced that we lost two All-Irelands by reason of the fact that our selectors did not make the necessary changes during both games—1956 and 1957.

Cork football will be in the doldrums until such time as we can find a Selection Committee, who are capable of making changes during a game—at the proper time.

They should be shrewd, keen judges of footballers, who should select a team on merit alone, and not look for Club representation.

All above amounts up to "What is wrong with Cork Football?"

THE SELECTION COMMITTEE.

What's Wrong With Cork Football?

3

Cork Squander Tremendous Opportunities

By

EAMONN MONGEY

It is fairly generally admitted that the trouble with the Cork team is the forwards—that they do not make adequate use of the tremendous opportunities their backs and centre-field men give them.

THE MAIN QUESTION THEN IS, "WHY?"

Well, forwards are either naturally accurate or they acquire accuracy. If we assume that the Cork forwards are not naturally accurate, it also seems that they have not taken the necessary steps to acquire accuracy. This may appear a harsh judgment but I have never seen any Cork forward using any new scoring technique.

In my own playing days I was naturally inaccurate but I did try to develop a technique. Firstly, I always tried to face the goal straight on and then aimed at getting the boot, ball and the black spot in the centre of the bar in the one straight line, and then swinging my leg in pendulum fashion for the kick.

This reduced the possibility of error to a minimum and often produced unexpected good results.

The Punch

Use of this technique would also make the forwards take their time at the vital moment and correct another Cork fault of kicking for goal too quickly.

If this technique does not appeal and is not always usable, there is one other available—the punch. It is a rarity to see a Cork forward punch a ball—and it couldn't be any more inaccurate than most of their kicking.

One other point. It has been fairly well proved in Dublin that the best forwards are in the city, not in the county. I often wondered if city dwellers acquire that extra bit of polish which does not come easily to their rural brethren, but which is essential for good results.

Diligent Search

In Cork the majority of the players come from places outside Cork City. Perhaps a diligent search might unearth some polished forwards in the city itself.

Finally, I have heard the question asked: "Is their concentration more on brawn than on brain in Cork?" The cleverest Cork forward I have seen for some time played left corner forward for Erins Hope last year. He was very small and possibly didn't get enough opportunities to prove himself on the Cork team. Then again, perhaps he did.

THIS QUESTION, LIKE MOST OF THE OTHERS, CAN BE ANSWERED ONLY BY CORK ITSELF.

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Man In The Gap



A flying catch by Cork centre-back, Paddy Driscoll, cuts off a surging Louth attack in the Final.

Eamonn Young Should Have Come Back

BOB DOLAN OF THE GAELIC ECHO

YOU ask me what's wrong with Cork football? To come out of Munster for some time.

It's obvious. They just haven't got scoring forwards. That's it in a nutshell.

I think, too, that a tactical error was made by Eamonn Young in not making a come-back in 1956.

There may be other small failings but they don't count. It is lack of scoring power which has prevented Cork from being one of the greatest football combinations

His presence on the "40" would surely have meant that many of the wasted opportunities would have been turned into title-winning scores.

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SEAN CLOHESEY



OLLY WALSH

In this vivid article, P. D. MEHIGAN traces the careers of the wonder Doyles of Kilkenny...

3 BROTHERS - 18 MEDALS

IN the long history of Gaelic families, not one family has achieved the great record of the three Doyle brothers of Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny. Between the three—Eddie, Dick and Michael—they have won eighteen All-Ireland titles, a record that will not be approached for many a long day; it may never be surpassed, though “never” owes no boundary.

I had the honour of playing against all three, both in championship and tournament; a finer bunch of sportsmen I have never crossed camans with. I have particularly vivid memories of the All-Ireland final of 1905, when I hurled against them at Dungarvan, and of the Munster Feis gold medals (1908 to 1910), when Cork and Kilkenny played three times in aid of the struggling Gaelic League funds.

The three famous Doyle brothers were born in their comfortable farm in the townland of Dourmane in the parish of Mooncoin. “They had hurling from the cradle,” a Mooncoin man told me, and they swung ash as sweet and neat as a fiddler’s bow. They were lucky to be growing up at a period when Kilkenny were coming into the hurling limelight, when the young teams of Mooncoin, Tullaroan and Three Castles were blossoming into greatness. They came into manhood at the opportune time and, though Michael, the youngest, was in his teens, he saw his brothers Eddie and Dick line-out against the reigning champions, Cork, in the 1904 Championship Final, played at Carrick-on-Suir on June 24th, 1906. Greatly to everyone’s surprise, Kilkenny reversed the 1903 decision and came home winners of their first All-Ireland by 1 goal and 9 points to 1 goal and 8 points.

Successful Run

This was the beginning of a wonderful Kilkenny run of All-Ireland successes. In the replay of the 1905 final played at Dungarvan, Cork had a very weak goalkeeper and were beaten on the score of 7 goals 7 points to 2 goals 9 points. Both Dick and Eddie shone on that outstanding day for Kilkenny hurling.

Dick Doyle was, so far as my recollection goes, a stouter man than either of his brothers; he was at his best as a half-back, outside his captain, the imperturbable “Drug” Walsh. Eddie was a fast and clean forward and both depended on pure hurling skill allied to fine natural speed.

It was in the 1907 championship that young Michael Doyle joined his brothers; slightly taller, I thought he was of lathy build. He had phenomenal pace and his skill in doubling a ground or overhead ball was a delight to watch. That 1907 final when all three Doyles shone, was played on Dan Fraher’s famous field at Dungarvan, when the great Mooncoin novelist and poet, Father Dollard, threw the ball in. Played on a flaming day in June, 1908, the pace was a cracker; scores ran level in superb hurling and the lead was never much.

The referee was looking at his watch for full time and the scores totted up to 20 points each, when Jack Anthony of Piltown hit a sailing ball to the Cork area; Jimmy Kelly of Mooncoin, the scoring machine, met its fall and with wizard

skill doubled it above the bar. Kilkenny won by a point!

1913 Final

All three Doyles were in action and in 1909, 1911 and 1912, the tenacious and consistent triumphant were to the fore in keeping Kilkenny on top and adding to their wonderful list of All-Ireland championships won, and adding to their store of the prized Celtic Cross medals.

Then came the 1913 final against the famous “Toomevara Greyhounds” who had swept through Munster like a hurricane. In that year the eldest of the Doyle brothers Eddie, retired, after a brilliant hurling career, but Dick and Michael finished the seven titles in brilliant fashion. Kilkenny were the outsiders that day of November, 1913, when champion-

ships were brought up-to-date for the first time. There was a record attendance at Croke Park and Kilkenny’s experience and superb hurling skill defeated the men who beat Cork so decisively. The score was 2 goals 4 points against 1 goal 2 points. Thirty thousand saw the match. On that day each of four Kilkenny men won their seventh All-Ireland medal—Dick Doyle, “Drug” Walsh, Sean Walton and Jack Rochford.

The Doyle boys scattered shortly after their hurling careers ended—Michael opened a successful shop and still flourishes in the Quay at Waterford; Dick Doyle went to farm over towards the Wexford border, whilst the eldest, Eddie, settled down on the home farm of Dourmane. All were hard-working, steady young men and all three prospered.

All three were particularly neat hurlers with a true Kilkenny swing—neat and graceful. They were great clubmen and pillars of a wonderful Mooncoin team in the period of their greatness. Michael and Eddie were deadly shots within range of goal and Dick as I knew him had a remarkable command of oncoming balls from all angles. In social company the Doyles were bright, intelligent men with a wealth of hurling lore and all the traditions of Suirside. They were model citizens and a credit to the game they adorned.

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OPEN FOR DEBATE

The author of this article is a personal friend of the Editor, and at his request, we are not publishing his name. In a covering letter, he writes . . . "As you know, I have always been a great admirer of the Davin family, and I feel that Maurice Davin's part in the formation of our great association, has never been given the proper honour due to it. I hope my article may open up the subject for discussion in your columns".

We hope so, too. If any readers have any opinions to offer on this controversial subject, we shall be happy to publish them.

KERRY ON WAY UP?

Says SEAN O'NEILL

Dick Fitzgerald would never have thought it but if one were to rate the various counties in both hurling and football on present form, the Kerry hurlers would have a higher rating than their footballers.

In two recent major outings in the National League the Kingdom hurlers had Clare and Galway calling on last reserves to get those two league points.

In the former game the Kingdom were short many of their best caman wielders and yet they were in the game up to the last quarter.

Rate With Best

Such hurlers as the Hennessys, Brendan and Michael, John Mitchell, Niall Sheehy, Sean Healy and Ted Hennessy, are top men in any company, and at the present rate of improvement I cannot see why the Kingdom won't rate with Munster's best in another year or two.

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Did Michael Cusack Found The G.A.A.?

"HIS INFLUENCE OUTSIDE DUBLIN WAS NIL"

NOW that the possible renovation of the birthplace of Michael Cusack has set tongues wagging in well-informed circles regarding the birth of the G.A.A. and "who's who" in that regard, perhaps it would not be out of place to quote the late Pat Davin, a brother of Maurice Davin, first President of the G.A.A. In his book, "Recollections of a Veteran Irish Athlete," published in 1938, he wrote:

"In his later years, Michael Cusack used to claim credit for being sole founder of the Gaelic Athletic Association, though Maurice had a big hand in the formation of the organisation and should rightfully be entitled to at least an equal share of the honour.

"He never took the trouble of trying to assert his right to such a title, and Michael's name may go down to posterity as that of the man in whose brain the idea of starting the All-Ireland Association first took shape; yet there are people still living who well know that such was not the fact.

Far From Popular

"In the year 1884, Michael Cusack's influence, as far as athletics were concerned, was practically nil outside Dublin, and even there he was far from popular; elsewhere he was quite an unknown quantity and could not hope to achieve wonders

had he attempted to start even a 'Munster Athletic Club' as he first proposed.

Virulent Opposition

"As a matter of fact the first steps towards the formation of an Association for the revival of Irish games was well under consideration before Michael Cusack ever came into the picture.

"There is no denying the fact that during the early years of the Gaelic Athletic Association, when owing to internal dissension and virulent opposition from a quarter where nothing else could be expected and the very existence of the Association hung in the balance, Michael Cusack was the man who stood in the breach, and fearlessly met all opposition."

No Contradiction

ALTHOUGH PAT DAVIN LIVED FOR ELEVEN YEARS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF HIS WIDELY-READ BOOK, WHY WAS IT THAT NO ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO CONTRADICT THIS STATEMENT?

Should an attempt now be made? In view of the fact that none was made in the years before Pat Davin's death, any efforts now to contradict his statements will certainly lack conviction.

Bouquets For Galway and Tipperary

If some of the spectators at our games are despicable, we cannot say the same of the teams that visited America recently.

I can well understand that hurling might well frighten the life out of anyone who never saw it before, but any intelligent man who sits through a whole match without realising that it is a skilled game and that the hurleys are not in fact hopping of skulls would want an eye test.

When he is a professional sports reporter, and proceeds to describe the St. Brendan Cup games as "mayhem," he is a liar as well.

It is to the eternal credit of the Tipperary and Galway teams that they did not visit the offices of certain New York papers and proceed to show the inhabitants of the Sports Departments what "mayhem" really means.

On second thoughts, perhaps, it is a pity that they did not do so. It might have put manners on one or two individuals who seem to need them badly.

And, there is one other question I would like to ask.

How Many?

Why do so many G.A.A. authorities say that only seven men attended the foundation meeting of the G.A.A. at Hayes' Hotel in Thurles on November 1, 1884?

From a press report of November 7, 1884, we find: "Present were: Messrs. Maurice Davin, Carrick; Michael Cusack, Dublin; John Butler, Ballyhuddy; William Foley, Carrick; John McKay, Cork; Dwyer C. Culhane, Thurles; William Delahunty, Thurles; Jos. Ryan, solicitor, Callan; M. Cantwell, Thurles; J. K. Bracken, Templemore, and D./Inspector McCarthy, R.I.C."

OIREACHTAS RECORDS

1947—
Kilkenny, 2-12; Galway, 2-6.
1948—
Dublin, 3-6; Waterford, 2-6.
1949—
Tipperary, 2-8; Laois, 1-6.
1950—
Galway, 2-9; Wexford, 2-6.
1951—
Wexford, 4-7; Kilkenny, 3-7.
1952—
Galway, 3-7; Wexford, 1-10.
1953—
Wexford, 5-11; Clare, 4-5.
1954—
Clare, 2-8; Wexford, 2-8.
Replay:
Clare, 3-6; Wexford, 0-12.
1955—
Wexford, 3-11; Kilkenny, 3-4.
1956—
Wexford, 0-16; Kilkenny, 1-9.
1957—
Kilkenny, 4-10; Waterford, 3-5

Don't Blame Selectors

If Cork don't win next year's All-Ireland hurling title, don't blame the selectors. Get a load of this Dinny "Barry" Murphy, Jim O'Regan, Pat "Fox" Collins, Connie Murphy and "Micka" Brennan . . . these are the men who will pick Cork's hurling teams for the next twelve months.

No need to tell you that each man of that quintet has won at least one All-Ireland medal and if they are half as good in the council chambers as they were on the playing field, Cork are going to be tops next year. Strikes me the football committee could do worse than follow suit. They might win something then.

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ROYAL HOTEL

O'Brien-Fanatic

By Tony Barry

TAKE a 16-pound weight in one hand. Look at a spot 63 feet away. Now figure out how an ordinary mortal man can heave such a weight, such a prodigious distance.

Can it be done? Of course! You see, it has been done—by Patrick O'Brien, a second generation Irishman. He did it on November 1, 1956—approximately enough in the hallowed Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, scene of Ireland's greatest sporting triumphs back in 1932.



A RISING IRISH STAR—YOUNG PAT O'CALLAGHAN (Jnr.), BUT IT TAKES MORE THAN ABILITY AND A FAMOUS FATHER TO BECOME GREAT—ASK PARRY O'BRIEN. O'CALLAGHAN'S BEST IS MORE THAN 20ft BEHIND O'BRIEN'S.

Many men will putt further than Parry O'Brien, but . . . few will equal, or approach the thoroughness with which he approached the job of putting the maximum distance between O'Brien and his missile.

At college, the 16-pound weight was his constant companion, even on dates, when, if the opportunity presented itself, he would treat himself to a few practice putts!

He had a circle painted in his own backyard and spent most of his time there, heaving the shot out to fantastic distances. After his Olympic win in Helsinki, when he began to perfect his step-back theory, the shot was his bedside companion, and if an idea struck him during the night, out with him, pyjamas and all, to try it out!

Hatred

Having brought his revolutionary technique to a fine art, he dabbled in Yoga, and then came the last phase, when—with the aid of pretaped recordings of his own voice—he lashed himself into a semi-hypnotic trance, during which he concentrated every

ounce of his energy into his dedicated task—shot-putting.

These recordings also served another purpose. They helped to inspire in O'Brien a hatred of his opponents. During competitions, he never spoke to — or acknowledged the presence of—another athlete!

Fabulous

For instant energy during competitions, O'Brien gulps down his own special mixture of honey and wheat-germ. A big change from the former Irish record holder, Denis Horgan, who periodically helped himself to a mixture of brandy and egg-flip!

Thanks to the improved shot method developed by O'Brien (now universally known as the O'Brien technique), men will put the shot over 65'—eventually.

But, somehow or other, I doubt very much whether the world will ever again see an athlete so relentlessly devoted and fanatical to his particular sport, as the astonishing and fabulous O'Brien.

Where Is Shinrone?

Is Shinrone in Co. Offaly . . . or is it in Co. Tipperary? That's a 64-dollar question. I wonder would any reader like to answer it for me?

The reason I ask is that Shinrone beat Rathcormac in the final of

the Co. Offaly intermediate hurling championship . . . and only a few weeks previously another team from Shinrone won the North Tipperary junior hurling championship.

Both teams are from the same parish!

THOSE RED SHOES

By "A.B."

THE sensational improvement in Russian high jump standards in the four years that have passed since 1953, pays fitting tribute to the development of Russian field events coaching. In that year, and up to then, no Russian had cleared 6ft. 6½ins. Since then literally dozens have cleared that classical height to give the Soviet Union a preponderance of the Eastern world's two-metres men. O this development she can be proud SHE CANNOT, HOWEVER, BE PROUD OF THE METHOD THAT IS TURNING GREAT 6ft. 9in. JUMPERS INTO UNBELIEVABLE 7ft. MEN.

The Russian built-up shoe is as unfair as the weights used years ago by broad jumpers, and is as much against the spirit of international athletic laws as the legally-correct, but now outlawed, "Spanish Style" in the javelin.

Carry this sort of nonsense to its farcical conclusion, and we'll have distance runners wearing oxygen masks, pole vaulters with parachutes and shot putters with jet-propelled gloves.

If Joe Duggan, N.A.C.A., shot-put champion, were to learn to balance himself on six-inch soles, it's more than likely that he could heave the shot over 50 feet. An oxygen mask could easily turn Joe Cunningham into a 3 min. 45 sec. miler!

The International Federation will have to do something about these Red Shoes . . . otherwise I can see world athletics getting completely out of hand.

But, if and when they do, will there be trouble from Russia and the other satellite nations? Bet your life there will.

I CAN SEE THE I.A.A.F. GETTING A PRETTY EXPLOSIVE "ROCKET" FROM THE RED ATHLETIC LEADERS!

SHAME

IN the November issue of "World Sports," the Irish correspondent, in his monthly column on matters of Irish sport, gave liberal coverage to the following items:—

1. A golf championship of minor importance.
2. The athletic international between the A.A.U. and Scotland.
3. The soccer match between Manchester United and Shamrock Rovers.
4. Possible A.A.U. competitors for next year's European Games at Stockholm.

And he dismissed the greatest sporting fixture in Ireland with the following words:—

"In the All-Ireland football final, Louth defeated Cork by 1-9 to 1-7."

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TOM LANGAN OF MAYO

By PHILIP RODERICK

PASS him in the street, and he's just another ordinary person.

Talk to him for a little while, and you'll find nothing very unusual about him. Yet . . . Tom Langan, shy and unassuming, is an immortal of G.A.A. sport, a man who, when Mayo were storming the heights of All-Ireland glory between 1948 and 1955, was an idol of Croke Park crowds, and one of the greatest personalities in Gaelic football.

Tom was born in Ballycastle, far out on the storm-tossed coasts of North Mayo, and most of his young years were spent on his father's farm. In 1944, however, he left home to join the Garda . . . but, even now, there's still about him the familiar look of a man who has lived a long time in the open air, close to the sea, and near to the good earth of farming.

New Approach

North Mayo was—and still is, of course—a great football area, and at school in Ballycastle, Tom showed outstanding promise on the field. In time, he graduated to the local team, and from there, to the Mayo minor team of 1939.

A year later, he won a Mayo senior championship medal when Ballycastle beat Balina Stephenites in the county final at Ballina.

In 1941, Tom played his first senior game for Mayo, against Down in the National League semi-final at Newcastle.

"Not a very auspicious debut. I'm afraid", says Tom, "Nothing

went right for me in the first half, and five minutes after the interval I was injured and had to retire."

Tom was dropped after that game and did not return to the Mayo side until 1943, and even then, he was far from being a permanent member of the county side. For the next three years, he was in and out of the senior team.

Then, something happened, that changed his entire approach to the game.

"It was around 1946" says Eamonn Mongey, the great Mayo centre field star—"Up to then, Tom was just another footballer, with a sound kick, a wonderful pair of hands and tremendous stamina. Then Tom realised that a good footballer also had to think hard, and from the day he realised that, he became one of the brainiest and craftiest forwards I have ever known in Gaelic football."

Good Years

First of the good years for Tom was 1948. Mayo beat Galway in the Connacht Championship final at Roscommon.

"A marathon battle", he recalls,

"it took us all our time to get through—two games and extra time."

Mayo went on to meet Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park and won in a canter by 0-13 to 0-3.

"I'll never know what happened to Kerry that day"—he says—"We expected a fierce game, but, for some reason or other, they blew up completely, and we had no trouble in beating them."

Cavan won the other semi-final, and so . . . on the last Sunday of September, 1948, Tom Langan of Ballycastle, made his first appearance for Mayo in an All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

In the opening half, Cavan swept the Mayo men off their feet. Score followed score . . . and at the interval, Cavan were ahead by 3-2 to nil, and steaming towards a comfortable victory.

Minutes after half-time, Cavan went further ahead, and then, when all seemed hopeless, Mayo struck back in a desperate, do-or-die effort, and, as Tom says:

"We gave the crowd something to shout about. Bill Doonan of Cavan took a pass right in front of his own goal, and tried to kick clear. Tom Acton rushed in, smothered the kick, and scrambled the ball into the net.

"In the next ten minutes, we hammered in two more goals and two points, and five minutes from time, Eamonn Mongey kicked a point to level the scores."

But . . . it was not to be Mayo's year. In the dying seconds of the game, Peter Donohue shot over the winning point for Cavan.

The following year, Mayo took the National League title, and won out again in Connacht but, in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park, they crashed surprisingly to Meath who, subsequently, went on to win the final.

Another year passed, and this time, it was Mayo's turn. After winning in Connacht, they qualified to meet Louth in the All-Ireland final.

At the interval, Louth led 1-4 to 1-3 but, right from the start of the second half, the game swung in Mayo's favour.

Trip to America

"Mick Flanagan won that All-Ireland for us"—says Tom—"About ten minutes after the re-start, he got the ball about 30 yards from the Louth goal, went off on a solo run, and punched the ball into the net."

"Winning that All-Ireland was the biggest thrill of my football career."

Mayo were now on top of the football world, and swept through to the National League final against Meath in 1951.

For the winners, there was a trip to America to play New York!

"I had my heart set on making the trip," recalls Tom, "and our defeat by Meath was a terrible disappointment."

Meath led 0-5 to 0-1 at half-time, but after whittling the lead down to two points, Mayo lost a golden opportunity.

"I was fouled on the square"—says Tom, "and we were awarded a penalty. Peter Solon sent in a snashing shot. It bounced off Kevin Smyth, and rebounded into play, but Kevin caught it, and all we could do was force him over for a '50' . . . and that was the end of my American trip."

The following September, Mayo beat Meath in the All-Ireland final at Croke Park.

"A little consolation, but not



One of Tom Langan's last great games—A scene from the re-played All-Ireland semi-final of 1955, in which Dublin defeated Mayo.

enough", says Tom, "Meath left that week for New York."

Tom eventually got to America, when Mayo beat Carlow in the National League final of 1954 but, from there on, the sun was setting on Mayo's years of glory.

Mayo Crushed

There was, however, one last glimpse of sunshine, when Mayo won out in Connacht in 1955, and only failed by a point, in a re-play of the All-Ireland semi-final.

In 1956, Mayo were crushed decisively by Galway in the opening rounds of the Connacht championship.

"Galway murdered us that day" Tom recalls sadly; "after that I decided it was time to call it a day."

New Sligo Camogie Bd.

Sligo now join Galway, Mayo and Roscommon on the Connaught Camogie Council having recently formed a County Board.

Officers elected were: Chairman, M. Jennings; Vice-Chairman, N. Smith; Sec., Miss I. Cooper; Treasurer, Mr. F. Dunning. Mr. F. Dunning and Miss Cooper were also chosen as representatives to the Connaught Council. Messrs. J. Lee and A. Finan were appointed as County organisers.

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FIRST "SPUTNIK" IN IRELAND

THE first Russian satellite
to shine in world ath-
letics was a powerful sprinter
by the name of Junker,
who rocketed into the firm-
ament of sporting fame in
1877, and faded out into
obscurity three years later.

And, here is something
I'm sure few of you know.
Junker competed in Dublin
and Belfast in 1878. He
was the first Russian—and,
to the best of my knowledge,
he's still the only one—to
compete in Irish sport.

That year, Junker—stockily
built, 5ft. 10in. tall and,
according to Montague
Shearman—"an ugly run-
ner"—won the British 100
yards championship, and was
unbeaten over this distance.

He arrived in Dublin on
June 8, 1878, and was a
spectator at the Irish Cham-
pionships in Lansdowne
Road two days later. Dur-
ing the following week he
trained regularly at College
Park, and on Saturday, June
17, he competed in the 100
yards at the Dublin Univer-
sity meeting. On Monday,
June 19, he ran at Belfast
Sports.

Refused to run

How did the Irish sprinters
fare against him? Badly,
I'm afraid. Most of our
top men refused to run
against him, and the few who
did were well out of his
class. He won both his
races in effortless fashion,
in 10.2 secs. and 10.4 secs.

How Junker became a
sprinter is rather a quaint
story. He was a member of
the Baltic Corn Exchange in
London, and one evening
some of his friends began to
chaff him about his clumsi-
ness and slowness. The
Russian became annoyed and
offered to run any of them
over 100 yards for a mag-
num of champagne.

One defeat

The match was arranged
and a large crowd turned up
to see Junker humiliated
. . . but he ran away with
the race and won by over ten
yards.

Shortly after, he joined the
London Athletic Club and
became one of the greatest
sprinters in England. In his
short but brilliant career, he
was only defeated on one
occasion.

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QUESTION BOX

EAMONN MONGEY IN THE BOX

. . . . INTERVIEWED BY
JIMMY MAGEE

JIMMY: "Who is the
greatest player you have
played with or against. Be-
haviour on and off the field to
count?"

EAMONN: "Without any
shadow of doubt—Sean Pur-
cell. For ability on and humi-
lity off the field."

JIMMY: "What sporting
interests have you outside
football?"

EAMONN: "Swimming —
I'm very interested in it. It's
a sport you can enjoy without
competition and it gives a
feeling of conquering some-
thing new and wonderful. I
like a little golf, too . . . but
I'm no Joe Carr."

JIMMY: "If you hadn't
been such an outstanding
footballer, what sport would
you have liked to star in?"

EAMONN: "Hurling. I
wouldn't have minded being
a Christy Ring or a Mick
Mackey."

JIMMY: "Do you like
Rock 'n' Roll?"

EAMONN: "Preserve me
from it. I think it's shocking
and vulgar. And these
Rock 'n' Rollers . . . I'd lock
them all up."

JIMMY: "Any really funny
sporting incident you know?"

EAMONN: "I remember a
match in New York between
Mayo and New York. Sean
Flanagan tackled his man
pretty hard, and the New
York player turned to him
and said—'Do you want a
dig?' Sean replied—'No, not
unless you feel you must.'"

JIMMY: "Which game do
you remember best?"

EAMONN: "The 1951 Rail-
way Cup Match, when Con-
naught beat Munster by a
point. It will always be re-
membered as the 'BOGUE
CLOCK' game. The clock
stopped and started like a
bad engine for about five
minutes towards the end of
the game—due to all the stop-
pages. Incidentally, that

clock was a great idea, and I'd
like to see it back again. If
it had been in use in the 1948
All-Ireland, I think we would
have beaten Cavan, if we had
been allowed the proper
amount of lost time. However,
that 1951 Railway Cup game
is the one I'd like to play all
over again."

JIMMY: "What's your
favourite dish?"

EAMONN: "Bacon and
cabbage—anytime."

JIMMY: "How does Ireland
compare in sport with some of
the other countries you have
visited?"

EAMONN: "Ireland is tops
for true sport. Americans take
their sport too seriously, and
I remember one particular
baseball game in America,
when things got really wild
when one team began to take
over. It wasn't sport by Irish
standards. Then on the Con-
tinent, we have bull-fighting,
where the bravest men fight
the bulls, and the most fickle
men follow it."

JIMMY: "If you could
change any one rule of the
G.A.A., which one would you
pick?"

EAMONN: "I'd enlarge the
penalty area to say, 14 x 21
yards. I'd give two points for
any foul inside this area.
In other words, the maximum
penalty could be five points—
if the free resulted in a goal."

JIMMY: "Anything else?"

EAMONN: "Yes, I'd give
former All-Ireland men two
tickets on All-Ireland Day.
They deserve them."

READERS—Jimmy Magee
will conduct Question Box
every month, so if you have
questions you would like
Jimmy to put to his subject,
why not send them along to
him, c/o "Gaelic Echo."

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NEWS VIEWS INTERVIEWS

IT'S hard enough to get on the Galway senior hurling team at the best of times, but for Castlegar's Seamus Cullinane it's even more difficult still. The reason? Seamus is a teacher in the Aran Islands. Said a Galway official: "We could do with Seamus on the team but in view of the difficulty in getting him from Kilronan, Aran Islands, we are forced to omit him."

Here's a man who was, literally, the driving force behind Louth's All-Ireland victory—and still got no medal. Man in question is hackney-driver, Harry Reilly whose chief mission in life seems to be driving Louth teams to and from their matches. 'Louth had a really great team seven years ago' said Harry, 'but in my opinion, the present team is the fastest and fittest ever to have come out of the county'.

Drogheda is going to have a new G.A.A. club. Thanks to the enthusiasm of men like Tom Kelly, Ed. Ray and Mick Healy, the youth of the Beechgrove and Hardman's Gardens area of Drogheda are going to have a club of their own. After a discussion, it was decided to name the club the O'Rahilly's G.F.C. and the club colours will be green and white—a suggestion made in view of Louth's success in those colours in the All-Ireland final. Here's wishing you the best of luck boys.

When the Galway and Tipperary teams flew out of Shannon for their recent St. Brendan Cup games in New York, there was in the party one William Hough. You don't know Liam Hough? Well obviously you're not a Munsterman. For to thousands of Southerners, Liam is "Mr. Limerick Hurling" himself . . . a man who has held down the post of Treasurer of the Munster Council for twenty-five years. Captain of the Limerick team that swept to All-Ireland honours in 1918, Liam has given a lifetime of service to the development of the G.A.A. in Munster. Quick to appreciate his good work, the Munster Council decided to reward him. And do you know what they gave him—a free seat in the aforementioned plane to New York. Lovely hurling, Liam.

"Men may come and men may go, but I go on for ever". No, I'm not talking about the "Brook" but about the "dirt" which is now part and parcel of our Gaelic Games.

Make no mistake about it, this thing is going from bad to worse. From all over the country reports of sheer savagery continue to roll in. At a recent hurling match in Roscommon, two men came within an ace of death through sheer unadulterated brutality. No wonder the referee said—"It was my first time refereeing a hurling match—and my last!

And yet we are told there is nothing wrong with Gaelic Games. What a lark!

BILL FALLON'S COLUMN

"Time gentlemen, please". The scene. A pub? a dance hall? or a building site? No, you're all wrong—it was the solemn precincts of the Limerick Co. Board.

Matter under discussion was the application of the Cloughaun club that one of their members who was a sub on the Limerick team that won the Bruff Gold Watches tournament should receive a trophy. In the end the Chairman stated that he would settle the matter—personally of course.

He wants to play Santa Claus eh?

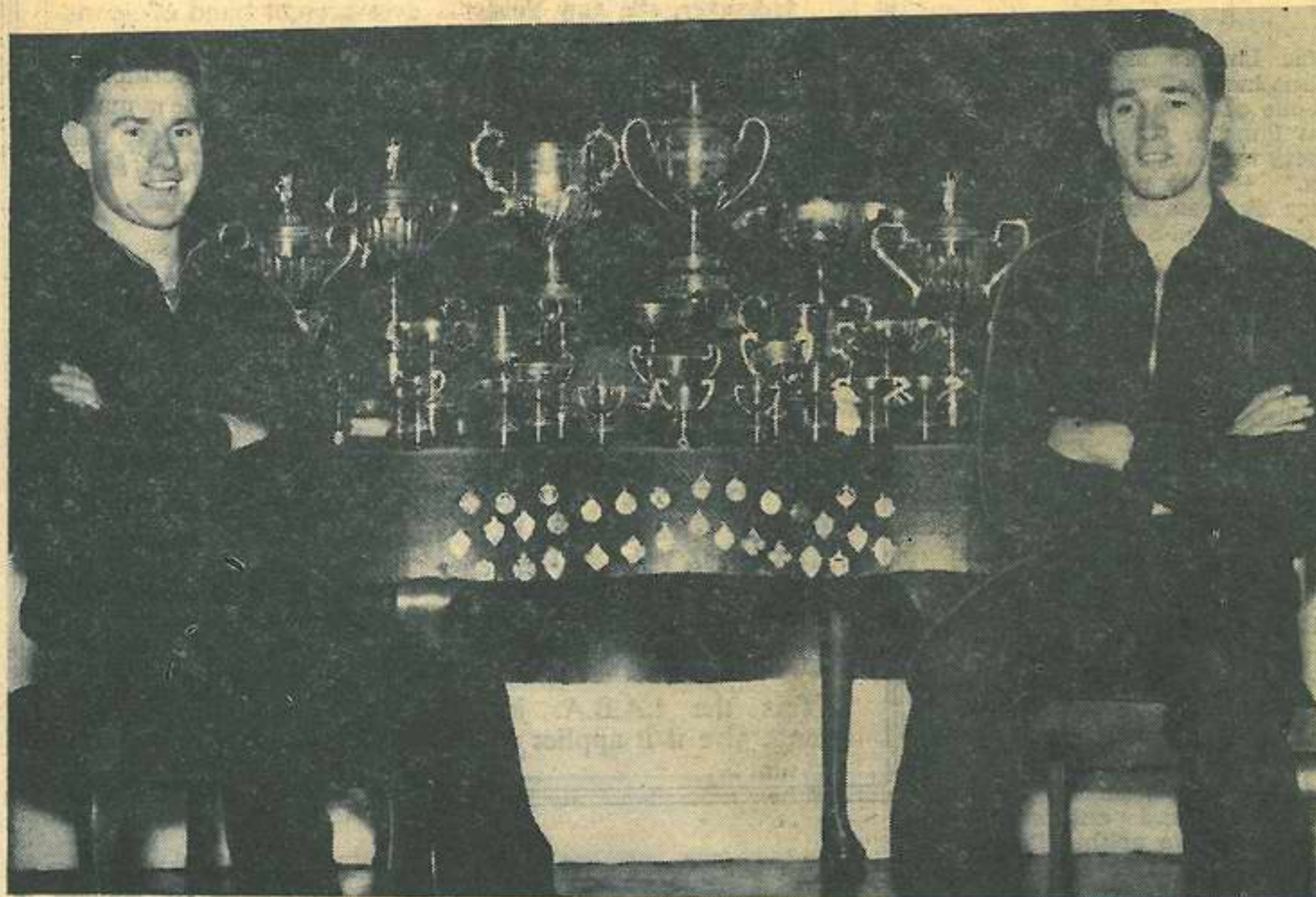
Champions of Tipperary football for the twelfth time are the dashing men from Fethard. Hero of their victory over Loughmore in the final was Mick Byrne—a man who has been playing club football for all of twenty-seven years. Truly a wonderful record Mick!

Interesting feature about this Fethard team is that it includes fourteen Pioneers.

Just imagine it. There was I sitting one hundred grief-stricken miles away and all that beer floating about. What a night the "Quare Fella" must have had!

Remember the All-Ireland football final. Remember that heroic last-minute Cork rally in which only Jim 'Red' Meehan stood between the Leesiders and the Sam Maguire Cup.

I don't know about you but I do know that the people of Jim's native Kells haven't forgotten it. And what's more, they decided to put their appreciation into a practical form. The outcome?—a rollicking Victory Banquet and Presentation in Dundalk in which Jim was the toast of the town.



Ardee has given many great footballers to Louth and to Leinster teams. Somehow they breed them tough up there, fiery, fearless men, with dash and enthusiasm to burn.

Right into that category comes stocky Ollie Reilly, hero of many a Wee County victory and right full-back on the Louth team that triumphed this year. At twenty-two, Ollie has collected more trophies than most do in a lifetime and now, reaching the peak of his football greatness he seems certain to gain many more.

Strange thing about this unassuming young man is that he only took up football seriously about six years ago. Honours came thick and fast and at the tender age of twenty, the Hunterstown farmer 'made' the Louth senior team in a League game against Dublin. Since then he has gone from strength to strength and is to-day, one of the 'fixtures' on the Wee County team.

What did he think of that great victory over Cork. "It was the greatest thrill of my life. I never dreamt it would come so soon. It's the proudest moment of any footballer's career".

* * *

What's this . . . they're going to play G.A.A. games in Wembley Stadium. When I first read this I thought my eyes were deceiving me but no, there it was in cold print and nobody batting an eyelid.

I suppose the "big nob" of the G.A.A. never heard that the English Football Association play all their home internationals there. Or that Wembley is regarded all over the world as the home of English soccer.

Oh now I've got it—the said officials have not in fact read or even heard of Wembley. After all if they read about this famous Soccer centre, they were breaking the foreign games ban and therefore rendering themselves ineligible members of the G.A.A.

Apologies, gentlemen!

Big loss in Limerick N.A.C.A. circles is the departure to England of star runner Benny O'Sullivan. Winner of Many Munster titles, Benny told me before he left—"I'll be back to defend my Irish senior cross-country title next March".

When Pat O'Leary died last year, a dark shadow was cast over Kerry N.A.C.A. fields. For years Pat had been a tower of strength in the Killarney club and with his untimely death went one of their most esteemed members.

Although he has departed the scene, the name of Pat O'Leary is going to live on. At a recent meeting of the Kerry Board, N.A.C.A., it was decided to donate a trophy which will be called Corn Ui Laoghaire for a senior football competition which is now in progress. A nice gesture to a great Irishman!

* * *

Took a walk through Dublin's Phoenix Park recently and who do you think I saw playing football—none other than the bold Eamonn Young of Cork. Assisting Southern Command in the All-Army championship, Eamonn showed all his old football guile and was a constant thorn in the opposing defence. Questioned about a return to inter-county football, Eamonn said—"Nothing doing."

* * *

It was a Minor football championship tie and the local team were taking the father and mother of a hiding. Finally, exasperated one of the players turned to the referee and said—"For heaven's sake will you blow up ref . . . we'll never have time for a pint".

Ah well, boys will be boys!

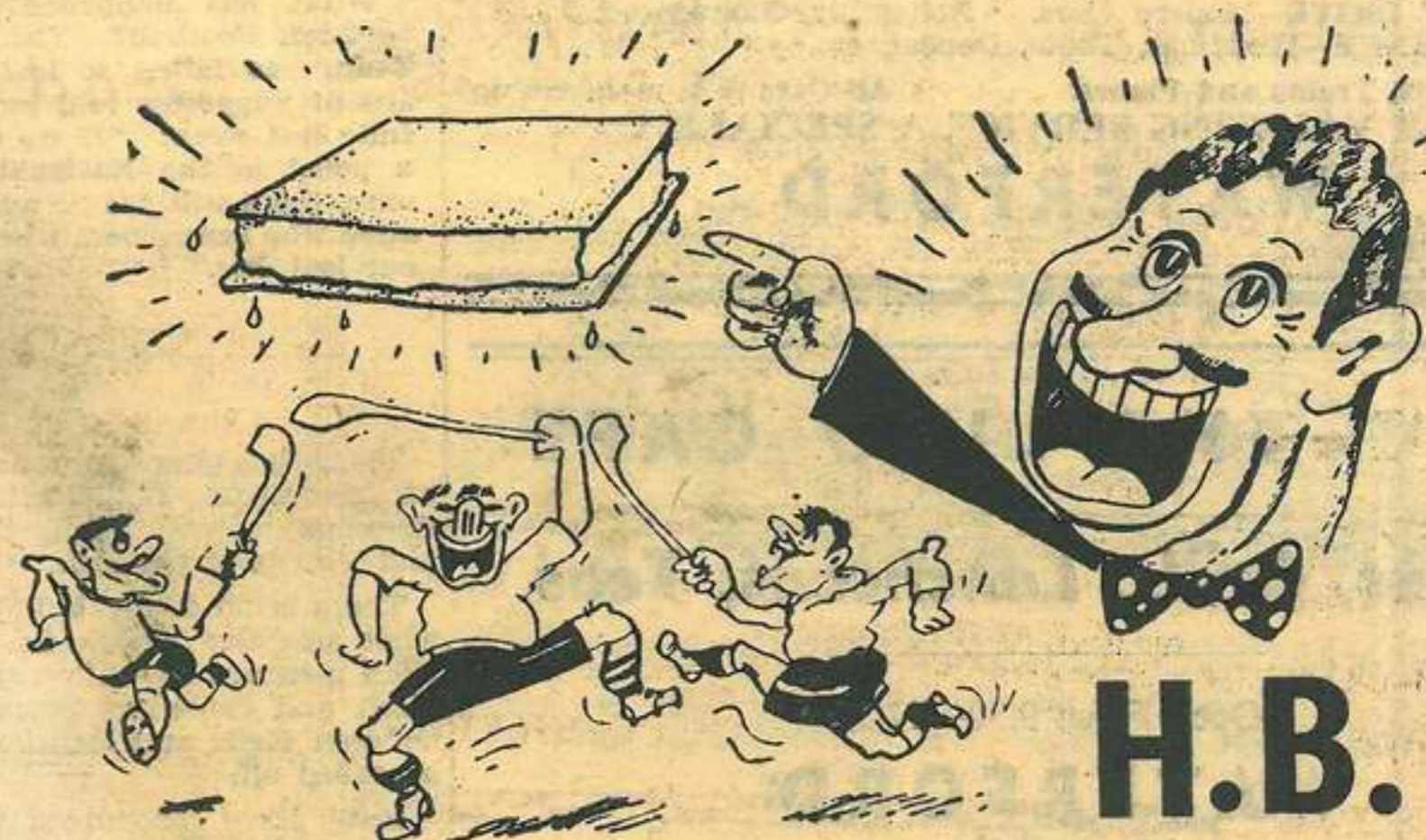
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THE MOST OUTSPOKEN COLUMN ON IRISH SPORT

Did You Ever Hear Such Bull?

Plain Speaking
BY
Kelly

A gentleman named Sean Mac Linigh of Baile Ath Cliath wrote recently to a well-known Munster paper meaning about the number of veterans who are featuring on our playing fields.

"Every one of them," he says, "is keeping a younger man off a team."

DID YOU EVER IN YOUR LIFE HEAR SUCH BULL?

Since when has Anno Domini been a reason to drop a man off a team? Provided a man is good enough there is no reason he should not play until he dies of old age.

If the youngsters are not good enough that is their fault. Personally I would be ashamed to be outplayed by a man old enough to be my father in any sport, especially the more vigorous ones.

Cop yourself on, Sean. **ABILITY IS THE CRITERION, NOT AGE. OFFICIALS . . .**

* * *

Mac Linigh's moan reminds me of another well-worn crib. It is the one about officials. You know what I mean. Cants like "It's the players we want to see not the officials." "Why not leave the Secretary at home and take young Johnny So-and-So to America."

Do the "eejits" who repeat this clap trap ever stop and think about what they are saying?

As one who has experience of competing and officiating in more than one sport, I have nothing but praise for the men behind the scenes who make sport possible.

Any fool can kick a ball around a stadium, but it takes a man in a million to organise a fund raising scheme to get the cash to build the stadium.

With one or two exceptions, our sports officials are a hardworking bunch who lose a lot of time, energy and, in some cases, even money, in promoting sport.

All they ever seem to get in return is kicks and criticism from people who have neither the brains nor the ability to do what they are doing.

GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU A TOAST. "THE OFFICIALS—GOD BLESS THEM."

* * *

What has happened to Roscommon Football? The County Team has fallen so low that an ardent supporter told me sorrowfully last week: "If we don't get a point in the National League soon, there will not be anyone left alive who remembers when we got our last one."

* * *

There has been quite an amount of discussion in Gaelic Echo Columns recently about the rights and wrongs of the Ban.

There is no doubt, however, as to what side the Kells (Co. Meath) GAA men are on. They sat on the pitch and caused a Soccer Match between Kells and Baileborough to be called off.

Many have condemned the Kells people but I, for one congratulate them. Either we are for Gaelic Games or we are against them. There can be no half measures. If other clubs take a headline from Kells the foreign games problem would disappear overnight.

* * *

Clara, Co. Offaly can boast of having three of the oldest GAA players in the country.

They are A. Handy, G. Gregory and D. Bracken, who played on the Clara Hurling Team in the the Clara Hurling Team in the

I WONDER IF ANY OTHER TOWN CAN BETTER THIS RECORD?

WAIT AND SEE, BROTHER!

Last year, at the Olympics, Irish boxers had reason to thank the officials who gave Belfast boxer, F. Gilroy, a raw deal and did him out of his chance of a title. The reason being that if Gilroy had won, his win would have been honoured by the Tricolour and the "Soldiers' Song."

I have no doubt but that the result of all this would have been a "split" initiated by the Orange elements in the I.A.B.A.

However, the raw deal that Gilroy got may only prove to have given Irish boxing officials a breathing space, as I am informed that the Antrim County Board has asked the I.A.B.A. what could well be "the 64 Dollar Question" which is likely to result in a split.

THE WEE MEN FROM THE GLENS WANT TO BOX AT THE EMPIRE GAMES WHICH WILL BE HELD AT CARDIFF, NEXT YEAR, AND HAVE ASKED THE I.A.B.A. CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR PERMISSION.

This the I.A.B.A. just cannot give if it applies the

normal democratic processes and does, as the majority of its members wish, for I have no doubt but the majority will not countenance acceding to this request.

However, I am prepared to predict that if the Antrim boys are refused they will just go ahead anyway and box at the Games.

The I.A.B.A. will have to discipline them, and the fat will be in the fire. A split will be inevitable and the ever-present band of sportsmen here in the South, who are prepared to sacrifice all principles to the many-headed Goddess Sport will, in time, join them by forming a 26 County body.

Prior to this, of course, the rebels in Belfast will have been accorded international recognition, and the I.A.B.A. will be suspended for daring to rule in its own territory.

You don't believe me? Wait and see, brother.

A similar situation got the NACA the bullet.

THE BOXERS WILL NOT BE ANY DIFFERENT.

* * *

Athletics is in the news in North-West Leinster these days. Recently a meeting was held in Kilbeggan to form a Westmeath County Board of the NACA. In addition, a full cross-country programme was drawn up. The first race takes place on Nov. 10, and there will be a race every Sunday until December 15, when the county championship will be held at Knockdrin.

The Leinster Council is helping in this revival by staging the Leinster

Novice Cross-Country Championship in Tyrellspass on January 12. The awakening of interest in Westmeath, which incidentally has now got seven clubs, is causing a stir in neighbouring Longford where there are signs that Longford is not going to be outdone.

At least one new club has been formed there, and I hear that it is hoped to form a County Board before the end of the year. It might be a good idea if the two counties combined for the time being to form a joint Longford-Westmeath Board.

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HIGH JINKS . . . At Drogheda as Wicklow defenders get together in force to break up a promising Louth offensive.

ON THE BALL

A Corkman recently broke the English Native record for 40 miles!

Quite a poser you'll agree for the international powers that be. The official timekeepers stopped their watches on Arthur Kiely at 4 hours 5 minutes 55 seconds, which is pretty nifty going.

Kiely was one of six top men competing at an international meet in Surrey, which saw South African, Gerald Walsh set up two World's best for 40 and 50 miles. His time for the shorter distance was 4 hours 4 minutes 34 seconds.

And that leaves Kiely 1 minute 21 seconds outside this all time high!

The Angle . . . The A.A.U. all but moved heaven and earth to persuade the Irish Olympic Council to send Kiely to the Melbourne Olympics . . . but all to no avail.

And Kiely said no to "feelers" about running in the English singlet!

TALK ABOUT SOMETHING BEING ROTTEN IN THE STATE OF DENMARK, I THINK WE CAN APPLY THOSE FAMOUS WORDS TO SOME OF THE A.A.U. LEGISLATORS.

While there is still nothing concrete to lead one to believe that the athletics split here will be settled in the immediate future, it is heartening to learn that the N.A.C.A.I. continues to grow.

Embracing the 32 counties, and with a truly national outlook, the total club strength is now estimated at over 400 . . . a sure sign of the unity and goodwill within the association.

What of the "foreign" bodies? Down South the A.A.U. club-strength fails to reach double figures, the total being 8.

Their friends up North do slightly better, having 12 on their books.

That gives a "grand total" 20!

A little bit of simple subtraction here and we find that the N.A.C.A.I. have a majority of 360 clubs!

That makes fairly interesting "homework" for some of the A.A.U. bosses, who say we are losing our grip!

Footnote: Take away Belfast and Dublin and the A.A.U. and the N.I.A.A.A. would be as empty as a bag of air.

Dublin and Galway teams have been noted down through the years for their smartness on the pitch.

But recently their appearance off the field has also attracted much favourable comment at social functions and presentations.

Why? Their neatly trimmed and snug-fitting Blazers with the County crest emblazoned on it provide the answer.

How smart the Galway boys must have looked in New York! When County teams go out to play in the U.S. they are not only standard bearers of our national game, but of our culture.

I'm all for this blazer idea. What about it you County secretaries!

If I were you I'd have it item number 1 on my agenda at the next meeting.

with
**BRIAN
McDONALD**

It strikes me, rather forcibly, that some of our G.A.A. referees have a lot to contend with.

Well-known Clonmel man, T. Coffey, was in charge of the whistle at the final of the South Tipperary junior hurling championship between Kilsheelan and St. Lukes.

Towards the end of a rather hard-hitting hour, one of the Kilsheelan players incurred the wrath of referee Coffey—and was promptly ordered to the sideline.

But, mark you, the Kilsheelan boys did not agree with his decision—And, complete with hurleys they stalked off the field!

A dressing room confab then took place, in which a large gathering of Kilsheelan supporters voiced their displeasure of Coffey's decision. The outcome—The match was called off!

Kilsheelan might be well advised to play future matches without a referee.

OFFALY N.A.C.A. FIXTURES

Novice Cross-Country Championship—Roscrea, December 8.

Junior Cross-Country—Tullamore, January 26.

Youths—At Cloghan, on February 19 and Senior at Tullamore on February 26.

A few years back the town of Dunleer, Co. Louth, figured in the sporting headlines of our National newspapers.

And Peter McArdle was the man who put it there.

Unfortunately this champion runner from one to six miles decided to emigrate to the U.S. last year . . . and athletics were let slip in this inland town.

But not for long. A group of staunch N.A.C.A. men called a meeting the other week and the response exceeded all expectations!

No need to mention that the name McArdle is bang in the thick of things!

"L. J." is Hon. President, while the name of "P. B." appears among the list of committee members.

An Official of the revived club told me: "I feel that we have enough young talent here to put Dunleer back on the map".

Knowing the spirit that prevails amongst the energetic officials, I feel sure that Dunleer "will be back again" and I wish them every success.

The unruly scenes that marked the closing stages of the recent Mayo county semi-final between Ardnaree

and Garrymore at McHale Park, gave referee Johnny Mulvey such a "sickner" that he has decided to quit the whistle! And this is really a pity—for Johnny was making a name for himself as one of the best "knights" in the west.

And all this makes me wonder—should our higher officials start a campaign to "clean up" these county needle matches.

They'll want to—or else the matter will get out of hand!

Talking to Eamonn Mongey, Mayo star of a couple of years back, I learned that Johnny must have been very upset to arrive at his decision. "Johnny has handled many an awkward situation in the past with the right amount of tact and discretion—so I reckon that his must have been real "barn-house" stuff.

You just can't keep Kerry folk out of the limelight!

They may not have won this year's All-Ireland title—but two men from the Kingdom helped New South Wales defeat Victoria in the final of the Australian "All-Ireland".

Captained by Knockagoshel-born "Kerry" Murphy, N.S.W. triumphed by 1-4 to 0-2—a win which brought Murphy's tally of medals to five!

Sharp-shooting Chris Sheehy (how that name keeps cropping up!), of Spa, Tralee, totted up the all-important scores.

This could only happen in Ireland!

A Roscommon tournament game between Ballinagare and Oran at Ballinaheglish ended on quite a sensational note—the Ballinagare bright boys brought the ball home!

And just think—the Roscommon County Board spent the best part of a night trying to iron out this unusual situation!

Chairman, Dr. D. Keenan ordered that THE ball be returned inside a week. Mr. Costello thought the matter more serious: "If they don't act within the week—then the matter is one for our Chairman and Secretary".

No wonder Roscommon are struggling—pity the poor officials who have to put up with childish carry-on like this—instead of devoting their time to finding a match-winning combination.

I'm afraid that within the past week or so I lost track of the case of the missing ball.

Anyone care to tell me was it returned?

Did Cavan say goodbye to their chances of National Football League honours when they went under to a hard-toiling Mayo side at Ballina? It looks like it.

"We might have missed out on League honours" says star defender Tom Maguire. "But, we're not worried, we have our sights set on the All-Ireland crown. By the time the Ulster championships come around, the lads will be playing the kind of football that makes winning a must."

When a few of our stalwarts decided to call it a day, many were inclined to write us off for a few years. But how wrong they are! Cavan are on the way in—NOT OUT!

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To-day I'm going to stick out my well-worn neck, and talk about the greatest personality modern hurling has known. You won't get sixty-four thousand dollars for guessing his name; you know it and I know it . . . the incomparable Christy Ring, ageless prince of the ash for close on twenty years.

That's quite a long spell in any sport, and by the looks of things there's no saying when the Cloyne maestro will unlace the boots for the last time.

No one can say when Christy hit the top, it's my opinion that he's been there since he first wore the Cork jersey. With only one year's county hurling behind him. Christy had earned for himself a respect that takes most men years to build.

Anybody like to name his finest hour? He has had thousands of really magnificent ones but to-day, I'm going to stick my neck out for the second time, and tell you about what I think was his greatest!

This should start the greatest shindig since Delila cut off Samson's hair and, believe me, the historians tell us this was a shindig!

By the way, if any of you readers think you can improve on Christy's "greatest," what about writing in to the Editor. The best letter will be published in next month's issue. And you'll do me a favour . . . for it will be one page I won't have to worry about filling!

And now to the hour—March 18, 1946. Remember? Munster beat Connacht, represented by Galway, in the Railway Cup final. And I had no intention of making my way to Croke Park that day!

The wife and the kids (bless their dear little hearts!) had been nagging me all morning to go to the Zoo (the thought of it, I'm sure, took ten years off my life). At the last minute I got a reprieve! My wife decided in favour of a good Western at the local, and trooped off with the four kids!

I arrived in Croke Park five minutes before the start, and was fortunate to get a "key" position on hill "16".

I was in for the thrill of a lifetime.

Connacht had one of their greatest teams on duty that day. Goal-keeper "Seanie" Duggan would not be easily beaten, and Jim Killeen and "Inky" Flaherty were defenders of renown.

The Munster team, too, looked good on paper, and when Josie Gallagher tapped over the first score of the game—a point from a free in the 7th minute, to give Connacht the lead—the fight was on!

Ring showed that his eye was in two minutes later, when he belted over a minor from a free. Within the next two minutes, T. Flynn (Connacht) and Limerick's P. Fitzgerald had swapped goals—both gems. Upfield and downfield the leather was being hurled about with tremendous rapidity, and the hurling was of vintage class.

Munster, in the person of one Tipperary's greatest players, Tommy Doyle, took the lead again. From his flashing stick he crashed home a glorious goal, and supplemented this by raising a white flag.

Back came the men of the West in determined style, Josie Gallagher had three glorious points, and scores were level again when John Killeen sent straight and true over the bar.

Christy was slipping through the Connacht defence with the speed of an antelope . . . but "Seanie" Duggan stood between him and a sackful of goals.

But Duggan couldn't get high enough to prevent him giving the

Munstermen the lead with a point from a free. Within seconds Gallagher equalised . . . and still the battle raged!

O'Brien and Flaherty exchanged points in turn, but Connacht had the last word—agoal by M. Nestor in the 29th minute—before the interval, leaving the score:

CONNACHT, 2-7; MUNSTER, 2-4

What odds on a Munster victory? Even money bet at this stage. They shot out in the market

The Teams

MUNSTER: J. Maher (Tipperary); W. Murphy (Cork), G. Cornally (Tipperary), A. Fleming (Waterford); J. Davitt (Tipperary), P. Lyons (Clare), M. Hayes (Waterford); R. Stokes (Limerick), J. Power (Limerick); S. Herbert (Limerick), C. Ring (Cork), J. Young (Cork); P. Fitzgerald (Limerick), A. O'Brien (Clare), T. Doyle (Tipperary).

CONNACHT (Galway): S. Duggan; J. Killeen, R. Quinn, D. Flynn; M. J. Flaherty, J. Brophy, D. Fahy; Jn. Killeen, P. Gantley; J. Gallagher, P. Jordan, S. Gallagher; M. Doyle, T. Flynn, M. Nestor.

minutes after the second half began. Wee Johnny Maher in attempting to save a point, had the cruel luck to see the ball run down his stick and into the net. . . Connacht six points in front, and moving like champions!

Gallagher then tacked on a point. Ring and Jim Young cut the ad-

THE MAN HIMSELF



vantage down to five points, and a great goal by Young from a pass by Ring left them only two points behind.

Excitement was almost unbearable as Lyons and Jackie Power, balanced the scoreboard with two minors.

SCORES LEVEL AGAIN!

And here it was that Christy showed what makes one player stand out above another. He helped a "70" from Lyons over the bar, and this, added to two he had scored earlier, put Munster three points in front.

Connacht had that victory look as time was running out . . . but Connacht all but snatched that smile away. Josie Gallagher (one of the deadliest strikers in the game then) burst his way through for a goal. It was almost unbelievable . . . 20 points aside!

Ring had made up his mind that this match wasn't going to be a draw!

The time had gone over the hour, and broken time was being played, when Cork were awarded a free.

Ring, with thousands of pairs of eyes fixed on him, squared up for the cut-in. With a delicate twist of those magical wrists of his, he sent the ball blazing over the bar . . . the true stroke of a born craftsman!

Munster were Railway Cup champions. And Ring was the man who made them!

I'VE SEEN RING PLAY MANY FINE HOURS, BUT SOMEHOW THIS HOUR IS THE ONE I SHALL ALWAYS CHERISH. MAYBE I'M BIASSED . . . BUT I DON'T THINK SO!

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The Bob Dolan Column

DUBLIN PLAYING IN THE DARK!

WATCHING the Dublin footballers in their last few games, I could not help but notice that they were like a ship without a rudder. They were playing in the dark.

Why not draw up a panel of players who are showing promise in club football and bring them into training. Call up a group of players and as the National League progresses whittle it down to about 22, with the aid of challenge games and trials and then we could face the championship with confidence.

WHAT DUBLIN URGENTLY NEEDS IS A PLAN.

Young lads like Frank Gilton, Brendan Morris and Co., want to know where they are going and nobody can blame them.

Now is the time to start working towards an All-Ireland winning team.

Incidentally, while it is desirable that we should have some veterans on the team, they should remember that there are minimum requirements in the matter of fitness.

The public deserve some serious effort, even from famous players.

Give Bands Rest

Now that the National Leagues are going along nicely let me appeal to the county boards: let's leave the bands in cold storage until the fine weather comes back!

I think there is nothing more pathetic than to watch frozen, drenched and thoroughly miserable bandsmen trying to stir the hearts of frozen, drenched and equally miserable spectators.

It is really asking too much!

My advice for the authorities in the coming months is:

- (1) Start the games right on time.
- (2) Cut out that band recital.
- (3) Strictly limit the half-time break.

Put these things in order and, you never know. The armchair Gaels might be lured out of their comfortable seats to swell the meagre ranks of those sturdy souls who brave the elements to watch their favourite games!

POSTSCRIPT: My remarks are not intended as a criticism of the bands — particularly the Artane Boys' Band — which gives much pleasure throughout the summer months. But, I am sure, even the bandsmen themselves would be the first to admit that playing outdoors in bad weather, is not the most delightful way of spending a winter evening.

Here we have some very talented youngsters, some recently promoted, some who have already shown their worth, yet most of them don't know where they are going.

One week a lad finds himself playing at midfield — although it should have been obvious to the most casual observer that he is at his best in the full forward

position — then for some reason best known to the selectors he is moved into the left corner. Exasperating, isn't it?

No Stability

Take Lar Foley, for instance. If ever a lad was cut out for a job in the defence it is Lar. Yet, what happens? One match he is the backs, the next one at midfield. Johnny Joyce is another example. He has been gyrating between midfield and the forwards.

Now I could understand a player being shifted about for a couple of matches until the selectors had satisfied themselves that he was definitely in his best position but surely a halt must be called some time.

There is one quality sadly lacking in the G.A.A.—DISCIPLINE! Some of our players and quite a few of our spectators don't know the meaning of the word.

They think because a referee or umpire gives a decision that they don't like, that they can assault the officials and get away with it! It is time that a stop was put to their gallop.

When a man of the calibre of Mayo's County Secretary, Johnny Mulvey, is attacked, surely the end of the line has been reached.

Mulvey has played a most diligent and important part in G.A.A. affairs in Mayo. His deeds are well known and his services as a referee is noted for his impartiality and were in constant demand.

ASSAULTED

Yet at the recent Ardnaree v Garrymore game Mulvey was assaulted by a few players and a group of spectators.

Result: Mulvey says he will not referee another game.

On this reasoning referees will become scarcer than snowballs in the tropics.

The only satisfactory feature of the affair was the attitude of the County Board.

IT SIMPLY WAS—NO NONSENSE, AND QUITE RIGHT TOO!

Of course, Mayo has not a monopoly of incidents.

All-Ireland hurling final referee, Stephen Gleeson had this to say about the Caherline—Kilteely game:

"A general melee and intrusion of the pitch ensued—spectators and players becoming involved in the greatest scene of hooliganism and lowest form of mob rowdiness I have ever witnessed on a G.A.A. playing pitch.

Strong words which demand strong action.

What is the richest prize for winning a G.A.A. tournament?

Well, I don't exactly know but this...I do know, the team which wins...the Rhode seven-a-side tourney could bag £35,000.

Fantastic? Yes it is, but they each were presented with a £5 Prize Bond and well, you never know, they could all draw £5,000 prizes. Unlikely, yes, but one never knows!

Welcome news for Peter McArdle fans. After a long silence since he went to New York, word has come across the sea that Peter is running again.

And not alone running, but as was usual here—winning too!

Running for New York Athletic Club in a five miles cross-country event he outstripped the rest of the field and finished in the useful time of 24minutes, 51 seconds.

I see a new move to heal the athletic split is afoot. A body styling themselves, "The Athletic Union of Ireland" has been formed and its aim is:

"To explore all means of obtaining unity in Irish athletics and obtain international recognition for same".

Well it's a brave venture and I presume that those behind the move know the snags that exist. The object is certainly worthy, so here's wishing them success.

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AS I SEE THINGS

By Sean O'Neill

FOREIGN games, commercialism, professionalism, etc., etc., are all listed and offered as the biggest dangers and enemies of Gaelic Games; but . . . a much greater one than either of these exists and that is the curse of emigration, which has hit G.A.A. circles throughout the country with power-packed punches in recent months.

The Western counties have always been the receivers of the brunt of the storm which sweeps our youth from us, but recent outgoing boats have not been packed thick with Westerners alone—although they made up the greater part of the passenger list.

Just to list a few of the items of our greatest export commodity:—

FROM CLARE: Jimmy Carney, star of Clare football and hurling teams, also Munster hurling; M. J. Green of Doonbeg, county minor 1953, county senior '56 and '57; Denis Corbett, up-and-coming star of Kilrush football team.

KERRY: Just one example—the Ballyheigue senior hurling team had to withdraw from senior competition due to twelve of their team having to seek employment abroad. But that was not all. Both the junior and minor team each contributed seven each—a grand total of twenty-six players from one club.

MAYO: Three members of the Balla Football Club left for England in the space of two weeks.

GALWAY: After playing in a junior football championship game in Galway City recently a car waited to rush three members of the Naomh Feicin team to Shannon Airport and a new life in the U.S.

And last, but probably most disheartening of all is the news that that great hurler, "Diamond" Hayden, has left for England. "Diamond," Kilkenny full-back for almost a decade, gave much to Gaelic games.

He was one of the characters of his era and also one of its finest hurlers, and it looks as if we are really near rock-bottom when Ireland has nothing to offer to one of her finest sons.

* * *

In last month's issue we had a very fine article by Con Kelly on the uselessness and hypocrisy of the Irish Olympic Council and since then we have had another example of this same hypocrisy from the Irish Amateur Boxing Association—whose officials as we know are the dictatorial powers in the Olympic Council.

The Boxing Association claims to be a thirty two County Association, yet at a recent meeting it entertained an application from the Antrim County Board to send a team to the British Empire Games.

THE APPLICATION, INSTEAD OF BEING RULED COMPLETELY OUT OF ORDER, GOT A LENGTHY DISCUSSION AND THEN WITH REAL SLICKNESS THE BUCK WAS PASSED ON TO THE ULSTER COUNCIL WHO WERE TOLD TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER.

This sickening affair proves two things:

1. That the G.A.A. and the N.A.C.A. and their associated bodies are the only genuine All-Ireland National Sports Associations.

2. That those who control our Amateur Boxing are no more conscious of national sovereignty than are the openly pro-British element who rule the A.A.U. and C.R.F.

Recently we had a memorial unveiled to the prince of centre half-backs, Jack Higgins of the Lily Whites and from the four corners of our "four green fields" representatives of Gaeldom gathered to pay tribute to a great player and a great man, but a story that I heard recently (I cannot swear for its validity but I have every reason to hope and believe it is true) brings out more than any memorial the high esteem in which Jack Higgins was held by his countrymen.

It seems a certain member of the Kerry Co. Board and former field opponent of Jack's was passing through Kildare and happened to call to see Jack and to his surprise he found the former star semi-invalided due to a re-occurrence of an injury received on the field years previously.

Deprived of an opportunity to earn a living and with a young family, Jack was worried, but . . . he need not have been for within a matter of days a meeting of the Kerry County Board made immediate arrangements for a tournament to raise funds.

The aid of the Central Council was summoned with full Kingdom drive.

Within a matter of weeks Jack Higgins was the proud possessor of a new lorry and given an opening to a new life for himself and his family.

* * *

I note the recent Galway junior football final had to be abandoned due to the Pearse Stadium pitch being waterlogged. Can it be that this fine Stadium is to be marred by lack of proper drainage?

During last Summer I happened to see another fine pitch (not so far from Galway either), in Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, which was laid-out only three years ago at great expense, proved useless in bad weather due to the same fault—improper drainage.

Lets hope that the situation at Pairc an Phiarsaig is not too serious, but . . . all would be pitch constructors should take heed of the fact that it is almost waste of time, labour and money to construct and lay-out a pitch unless complete drainage is incorporated.

It may be my imagination but somehow I seem to note a constant increase in the amount of incidents in important games both in inter-county and club level for some time back.

Some of the most blatant examples read:

Dromahaire, Co. Leitrim, junior team suspended for six months after general warfare in the Dromahaire v Sean McDermotts game.

Rough play and unsporting tactics in Kerry County final where Kerins and Rahillys defeated St. Brendans. I believe most of the blame rests with the St. Brendan's Club, and true to the tradition of the two patriots whose names the winners honour, that Kerins and Rahillys did try to give the type of game expected at Kingdom finals.

The Limerick Western hurling final necessitated an enquiry to find the culprits in the Dromcollogher and Granagh-Ballingarry teams.

Nasty incident which resulted in a player being sent off spoiled opening round of Louth Old Gaels' Cup game between St. Marys and Oliver Plunkets.

Battle raged after Mayo Junior final between Garrymore and Ballyhaunis, won by the latter, played in Castlebar recently. At least one player was seriously injured.

In Clare intermediate hurling game was called off between Six-milebridge and Rineanna and a player was seriously injured, being struck this time by a spectator.

Yes, the list could go on and on, and it is with no sense of pride or gloating joy that I pen it but rather with a feeling of shame that we the members of the greatest Amateur Association in the world cannot conduct ourselves in a truly manly way and sporting spirit and cease bringing discredit upon ourselves and our country.

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Patrick Carver tells the story of
HOW "LOVELY" JOHNNY GOT HIS NAME

JOHNNY DUNNE was just plain Johnny Dunne at 3.15 p.m. on Sunday, September 3, 1933. It was All-Ireland Hurling Final Day between Kilkenny and Limerick.

At 5 p.m. he was no longer just plain Johnny Dunne. He was "Lovely" Johnny Dunne . . . and so he remained to the day of his death. How did it happen? I'll tell

A Dublin goal in the National Hurling League tie between Dublin and Kilkenny at Nowlan Park.

you. September 3 was a glorious day. Brilliant sunshine danced across the velvet green of Croke Park. The stands and embankments were black with expectant faces. Not a breeze rippled the black and amber flags of Kilkenny and the green ones of Limerick as they hung limply in the afternoon heat.

Within five minutes the Limerick pennants were waving triumphantly as the immortal Mick Mackey strode through to open the scoring with a flashing point. Three minutes later, the Kilkenny colours were flying bravely as Matty Power snapped over the levelling score.

Twelve minutes passed before the Kilkenny men took the lead. Lory Meagher pointed a free from far out . . . but, within a minute Timmy Ryan of Limerick had balanced with another one.

Five minutes from half-time, Mick Mackey raced out to the sideline, whipped up a loose ball, shook off several Kilkenny backs and slammed a point high over the bar. A second later he did it again, and Limerick were two points clear.

Then it was Kilkenny's turn. Just on the whistle, Martin Power had two points, and scores were level for the third time.

Things followed the same pattern in the second half. Johnny Dunne put Kilkenny in the lead with a point, but almost immediately, Christy O'Brien made it 0-5 to 0-5.

Matty Power had another point for Kilkenny. Jack Duggan put them two points ahead. Limerick fought back and O'Donoghue closed the gap to a point.

The minutes ticked away, time was running out. Only a point in it, still anyone's game. Then . . . Matty Power, always ready to pounce on a loose ball, snapped one up near the halfway mark.

He took it on his stick, out towards the sideline. A sudden swerve and he was racing into the centre. A pass to Johnny Dunne, and Johnny was off like a rocket for the Limerick goal.

Five yards . . . ten yards . . . he side-stepped Garrett Howard and sprinted past Tom McCarthy, who had come forward to stop him. He was clear . . . with only Paddy Scanlan — a lonely figure in the Limerick goal — to beat.

Johnny steadied himself and struck. His shot went screaming into the net . . . and the 1933 All-Ireland Hurling final was over. Kilkenny were champions.

It was a lovely goal . . . and so Johnny got his name. "Lovely" Johnny Dunne — Kilkenny hero of the 1933 final.

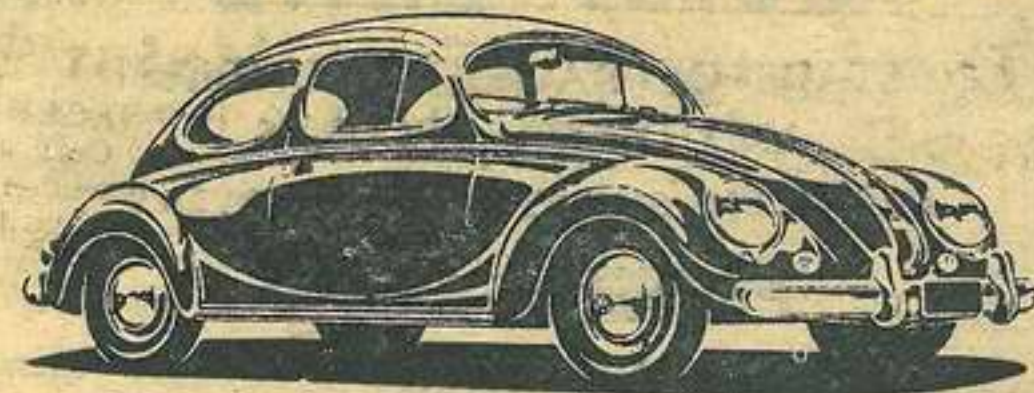
Johnny is dead now . . . but his fame by the Nore is assured. His winning goal, twenty-four years ago, will forever be a proud monument to his memory.



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SAINT Patrick's Hall, Clonmel, is at present making strong claims to be the premier ceili house in the South of Ireland. Formerly the Casino Ballroom, the Hall was taken over some months ago by the St. Patrick's Day Society to be used as a ceili house.

There were many who doubted the wisdom of this move, but the pessimists were confounded when the venture proved to be an outstanding success.

All through the summer the ceillithe drew packed houses, and at the moment are going exceptionally strong. The energetic promoters are leaving no stone unturned to satisfy patrons, and the Gallowglass Ceili Band and Malachy Sweeney have already played in the Hall.

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NO PUBLICITY

There is not nearly enough publicity given to Camogie in either the National news- or the daily papers. Granted the percentage of male readers is greater, but it is surprising to find that the number of male spectators at a Camogie game, more often than not, exceeds the female attendance by a large margin, and believe me, the former can be quite critical and not too sparse with their comments.

In Dublin, for instance, the number of clubs far exceeds those in rural areas, and as many as ten games are played on a Sunday in the Phoenix Park alone, yet when one takes up Monday morning's papers, one finds only the results of these games—if there is surplus space.

And even the results are often inaccurate, as the reporters do not trouble to attend the games until they are practically finished. The scores are obtained from the spectators — sometimes with misleading information.

In contrast, the Provincial papers give prominence to even the least important junior club games, and not only do they give the results, but they give interesting descriptions of the matches.

This is lacking in the Metropolitan newspapers when they report on Camogie games. Senior clubs may get a brief write-up, but junior clubs are known by name only.

Is it not time then that Camogie was given more prominent publicity in our daily papers, which purport to be National, yet give so little publicity to one of our most national pastimes—Camogie.

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Another goal as Limerick sweep Tipperary out of their path towards the National League title. Only Kerry can now stop the Shannonsiders from taking Divisional honours



The fabulous Nick Rackard of Rathnure—probably the greatest product of College hurling

PROFILE Tommy Murphy By Patrick Keating

SCHOOLBOY WHO BECAME A FOOTBALL GIANT

To the west of the bustling town of Carlow, and sheltered by the picturesque Killeshin Hills, lies the homely village of Graiguecullen.

Here, in this one-time citadel of Laois football, is the home of one who is voted by many to be the greatest footballer to don the blue and white, Tommy Murphy.

Often hailed as "The Schoolboy Star," Tommy learned his football at St. Mary's College, Knockbeg, that grand old Gaelic nursery. While still a schoolboy, he had the unique distinction of representing both his college and county in all grades in the same year.

It was back in the Thirties, at the age of sixteen,

Tommy first pulled on the jersey that he was destined to wear with such prominent distinction on inter-county fields. This was the hey-day of Laois football—the era of the famed Delaneys, Jim Slator, Danny Douglas and Tom Walsh.

There was much speculation as to whether young Murphy would make the grade. The selectors had confidence in Tommy, however. Before long, it was justified.

Tall and broad of shoulder, Tommy possessed an uncommonly keen sense of anticipation and rarely mistimed his jumps for the ball. He excelled in the air.

Another feature of his play was his amazing ability to kick a placed ball.

The apparent ease with which he strode up to take the kick, sending it goalwards with unerring accuracy, was a joy to behold.

This feat was emphasised in a 1953 championship game against Wexford. HE SCORED NINE OF HIS TEAM'S TOTAL OF ELEVEN POINTS, ALL OF THEM FROM FREE KICKS, AND MANY FROM THE SIDELINE ITSELF.

One of the first games which Murphy played for Laois was an All-Ireland semi-final replay against Kerry in 1937. He was pitted against the renowned Miko Doyle, and so creditably did he perform on that occasion, that Miko was known to have sought him for hours after the match for the purpose of personally offering his congratulations.

He was a member of the Laois team, which captained by Jack Delaney, travelled to the United States in 1938, and which defeated Cavan, the All-Ireland Champions of that year in New York. In itself, this was a feat which was enough to raise Laois to All-Ireland status.

Now retired from the game because of a knee injury, Tommy's activities are confined to "behind the scenes" work. He is a very energetic member of the Graiguecullen G.F.C.

Recently the club has contrived to bring to the village a long-felt need, a new playing ground which will be officially opened in the near future. Graiguecullen now boasts of strong senior and junior teams as well as two juvenile teams.

It is on these latter that the local followers base their hopes for the future,

for among them are some promising youngsters. Who knows? perhaps a new and brighter era will arise from the ashes of the old.

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SOUTHERN MAIL

By
HUGH O'DONNELL

MANY Munster and Kerry Gaels at that, with whom I have discussed the point, voiced grave disappointment regarding the poor selection fielded by the Kingdom for the Jack Higgins memorial game. Surely the great Kildare man's memory deserved something better from the Kerry-men.

* * *
You Limerick selectors please take note—there is a young man in the city of Cork, Jimmy Hogan by name and he is making quite a name for himself as netminder for the Sarsfield club. And as a matter of fact I have it from good authority that the said Jimmy is likely to appear in the Cork colours in the near future—that is unless you people get there first with a declaration form and you can, you know, because Jimmy is Limerick born and bred, having played with the Adare minors in '53 and '54.

One of the most tragic events of Gaelicdom was the recent death of Garda Thomas Kelly, father of famed Cork hurling forward, Terry Kelly. Mr. Kelly who was sixty years of age collapsed and died while watching another son, Sean, play in a Tracton v Cloughdur junior championship game. Mr. Kelly was a native of Monaghan but had been stationed in Cork for over thirty years.

* * *
Which would you rather see—an All-Ireland final or a Limerick junior game? Well most of us I am sure would rather see the All-Ireland final especially as it costs only two shillings and to have witnessed the Ballysteen v Croag-Kilfinny game down in the County Limerick it would have been necessary to part with no less than two shillings and sixpence!—That is unless you got in over the wall as quite a few did!

* * *
Almost since Waterford men decided that hurling was a game worth playing there has been a member of the Ware family associated with Deise hurling. A recent happy event in that legendary family was the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ware.

Jack, of course, like brothers Charlie, Jim and Murtagh contributed his share to the glory of Waterford hurling. He also trained the team which won the 1948 title.

* * *
Martin Mullins of the County Limerick recently made handball history when he succeeded in winning all four All-Ireland minor titles. This is the first time that the feat of collecting all four titles in the one season has been accomplished in the minor grade.

Another John Ryan in the making?

* * *
Busiest athlete in Munster circles that I know of is Charlie Ellis of the Limerick Regional Club. Last season Charlie competed in no less than twenty one meetings between May and September. At each meeting he contested a number of events and his list of successes is quite a long one. At the National Championships he was second in the 220 yards.

* * *
Waterford and Kilkenny may be "at one another's throats" in inter-county competition but a very definite sense of co-operation exists between the Suir-siders in Dublin where the mainly Kilkenny sponsored team St. Columba's Moondharrig, having won intermediate honours have now moved into senior ranks. One of the stars of this up and coming club is Joe Flannelly, brother of Waterford County star, Mick. On present form it cannot be long until Joe also appears in the Deise colours.

Garda John Shea, who recently retired after 35 years service mainly spent in Limerick, will be remembered by many as a prominent miller during the late twenties and early

thirties. In 1929 he won the Garda one mile title and succeeded in retaining this title for a number of years.

* * *
Cork's utility centre-field star, Gerald Murphy, looks as if he is going to make a new name for himself at full-forward. He had three goals off Nick O'Donnell in their league game and that takes some doing.

* * *
Now in the ranks of the N.A.C.A. after a spell with the A.A.U. Dermot O'Loughlin of Limerick has had quite a year of it in Munster Athletics. His wins during the season include—Shanaglish, 440 and 880 yards. Bruff 880, (Munster Championship). Also member of winning relay team at Banteer in the Mile. He was also second in the 440 at the same meeting.

Good Going Dermot.

* * *
Another recent death in Munster Gaelic circles was the demise of Miss Margaret Hogan, of Kilmallock, sister of Thomas Hogan, one of the victims of the Bloody Sunday murders in Croke Park.



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MY SPORTS REPORT

BY
DON FINLAY

HERO of the New York hurling team which was defeated by Tipperary in the St. Brendan's Cup at New York was goalkeeper Paddy Fleming. Paddy, who nearly beat Tipperary with his own hurley, is, of course, a Tipperary man, and the county selectors must be moaning the fact that at the moment there is not a goalkeeper of Paddy's class in the Premier County.

Aged 30, Paddy is a native of Carrick-on-Suir, and before going to New York in June, 1954, made a big name for himself in Tipperary hurling circles. He was goalkeeper on the Carrick Swan team that won the Tipperary senior hurling championship of 1947, but it was unfortunate for Paddy that he should arrive in the hurling limelight at the same time as the peerless Tony Reddan.

He was sub goalkeeper to Reddan on the Tipperary team that won the All-Ireland final of 1951, and won a Munster medal. He played on a few occasions for the county in league and tournament games and won a number of medals.

Following his arrival in America, Paddy immediately made the New York team, and returned to Ireland with the New York side that played Tipperary at Croke Park two years ago. He has been captain of the New York team for the past two seasons.

In the St. Brendan's Cup game against Tipperary, Paddy had what must have been his greatest hour. In fact he was so brilliant that Mickey Byrne the Tipperary captain, had this to say about his display:

"Pat Fleming was the man of the match. I have seen some great exhibitions of goalkeeping, particularly by Tony Reddan, but I have never seen any better than that of the New York captain".

* * *

Football in Tipperary was never at such a low ebb as it is at the moment, and the outlook for the future is anything but bright. Following last year's great county final between Clonmel Commercial and Loughmore there were high hopes of a Tipperary revival as only the year before the Tipperary minor footballers reached the All-Ireland final.

These hopes failed to materialise, however, and Tipperary football is now really in the doldrums. Who is at fault? Some people blame the selectors, some say the players themselves are at fault, others blame the County Board, and more say that the material just is not there.

It is true that the players do not get any great facilities from the County Board, and it is now a considerable time since a trial was held in an endeavour to unearth new talent. All the blame, however, cannot be laid on the County Board. Many players show a strange lack of interest and rarely if ever does a Tipperary team field as selected.

IN A RECENT NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE GAME WITH KILKENNY ONLY SEVEN OF THE TIPPERARY TEAM TURNED UP. SOME WERE SUFFERING FROM THE 'FLU', AND OTHERS WERE GENUINELY UNAVAILABLE. IT IS DOUBTFUL THOUGH IF EVERYONE WAS INDISPOSED.

Many club officials think that there is only one way to improve

Tipperary football. They say that the county senior team should be regraded junior, and argue that it is better to go a long way in the junior championship than to fall at the first hurdle in the senior.

* * *

What caused the sudden lapse in Waterford hurling? This is the question that hurling followers everywhere were asking following Waterford's four consecutive defeats by Kilkenny, Dublin, Clare and Wexford.

Waterford's downfall came when it was most unexpected. Following their great win over Cork they seemed to be riding on the crest of the wave, and were even favourites in their Oireachtas Cup clash with Kilkenny.

Kilkenny, however, proved that they were still the masters and scored a convincing victory. Nevertheless Waterford were still favourites in their clashes with Dublin and Clare but were surprisingly defeated in the two of them.

Many Waterford followers, however, claim that they know the answers. They say that Waterford were never at full-strength since the All-Ireland final, and that unlike other counties Waterford have not a great reserve of talent from which to choose from if any regulars should happen to be absent.

Whether this is the true reason or not is a point for speculation, but it must be admitted that the absence of Micky O'Connor from Cappoquin has had a demoralising effect on a team which prefers a dry sod.

JOHN RYAN

By HUGH O'DONNELL.

By winning the Dr. Harty Cup and the All-Ireland Senior Hardball Singles title for 1957, John Ryan of Budgetown, Co. Wexford, has captured a place among the all-time greats of Irish handball.

The hardball singles title made it four up for John. He had already won or shared in the other three titles this season—a feat only once previously achieved in Irish handball history.

The powerfully built John is now at the zenith of his handball career. He has won a total of seventeen national titles and the acclaim of not alone his fellow-county and country handball fans but also the admiration of the Gaels of America, who recently had the opportunity of seeing him in action.

THE STORY OF JOHN RYAN'S CLIMB TO FAME IS NO SIMPLE ONE BUT RATHER IS IT ONE OF CONSTANT ENDEAVOUR, PRACTICE AND DETERMINATION.

Way back in 1946 he shared in Wexford's first minor title. A year later he made handball history by becoming the first ever to win a junior title a year after minor honours.

Further glory, however, came slowly, and it took John five years of practice before he made a successful attack on the senior titles. That was in 1952, when he won the softball and hardball singles and shared with John Doyle in the hardball doubles honours.

He was now in big-time handball.

Each year since 1952 John has succeeded in capturing at least one national title, but somehow or other the feat of making it all four—precedented only by the great J. J. Gilmartin of Kilkenny—seemed to elude him, until this season!

Now, at twenty-nine, John has won every honour that the game can offer and so he stands truly champion of champions.

Star of the Ardinnan Woollen Mills team which defeated holders, Bulmer-Magner's in the Clonmel Factory Football League was veteran, Johnny Cummins. Aged 44, Johnny hung up his football boots in 1951 and never thought that he would wear them again. This year, however, he staged a comeback for the Factory Football League, and this former Tipperary footballer has shown that he still possesses a great deal of craft and football ability.

* * *

John O'Brien, 8 Marine Terrace, Dun Laoghaire, whose death occurred recently, was formerly a prominent Tipperary footballer. A native of Golden, Cashel, he was uncle of Rev. A. O'Donnell, St. Patrick's College, Thurles, and Mr. Bill O'Donnell, N.T., a former Tipperary hurling star.

* * *

Another famous Fethard footballer whose death took place recently was Lar Gorman, Barrack Street. He was a noted netminder and kept goal for Fethard for over 20 years. The funeral took place to Rathcoole, and the coffin was draped in the colours of the Fethard Club.

* * *

Willie Walsh, Ballindangan, beat J. Maher, Collins Barracks, in the Cork Senior Softball Handball final at Ballindangan recently. At the same venue Fermoy beat Collins Barracks in the junior softball doubles final.

The Kildorrery Sportsfield Committee are making great efforts to provide a top-class playing pitch in Kildorrery. They recently held a successful carnival as part of their fund raising drive.

* * *

Entries from Glanworth, Mitchelstown, Cahir, Ardinnan, Fermoy, Mallow and other areas have been received for the Mitchelstown C.B.S. Centenary football tournament.

* * *

Speaking at the annual convention of the Tipperary County Board of the N.A.C.A. at Thurles, Mr. Jim Ryan, N.T., Moneygall, Chairman, said we were often told that the principal apathy in athletics was what is termed the split.

The reason, however, might be ignorance of the causes that underlined the split, which had nothing to do with personal spite, bitterness or enmity. There was the question of national principle.

The N.A.C.A. from its formation enjoyed control over the 32 counties and an effort was made by the British to limit their control to the 26 counties. The N.A.C.A. refused to accept the position and were outlawed. Another organisation sprung up which was willing to accept the terms. The N.A.C.A. were denied international recognition and competition because the terms demanded were such that it could not accept them.

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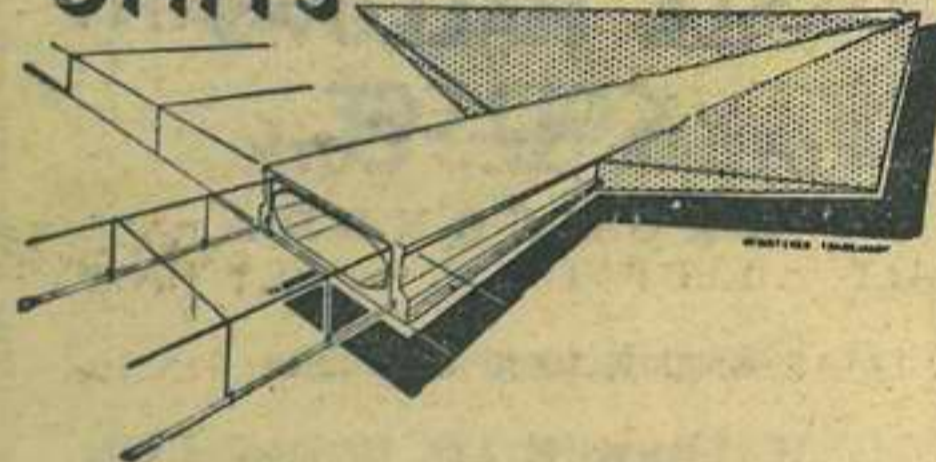
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DUE to the continuance of emigration and the expansion of the Church in the English-speaking world, the need for Colleges such as All Hallows is at the moment, greater than ever.

Naturally, our clergy are most interested in the spiritual welfare of our own exiles. If they are not to be neglected, the spirit of the late Father Hand, Founder of All-Hallows, must be alive in Ireland today, as it was in black 1847.

While the Famine was devastating the country, those in charge of All-Hallows set about the super-human task of extending the College to help in providing priests for the multitudes which the catastrophe was uprooting and scattering overseas.

To try and cope with modern conditions, the College has recently been forced to undertake an expensive programme of reconstruction and extension. The programme has been largely financed by the past pupils of the College and by the generous charity of those in Ireland, who are alive to the dangers and implications of emigration.

**A
HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
TO ALL
GAELIC ECHO
READERS**

Plain Speaking By Kelly

(Continued from Page 12)

Wexford Remarks Were Not Bright

However, do not think that I am biased in favour of our sports officials, and think that they cannot do wrong.

Being human, they are as much subject to error as any other inhabitant of this planet.

Take, for instance, the Wexford NACA officials. Some of the remarks they made at their recent convention were not too bright. Take, for example, the matter of finance. The Wexford athletes, like all sportsmen, suffer from a lack of cash, and their annual meeting saw an amount of belly-aching on that subject. The only idea for fund raising, however, that was forthcoming was to get Government grants.

How, I ask you, can you expect a government to throw away the taxpayers' money on people who seem incapable of helping themselves?

By the way, I did not hear of any mention of Wexford's part in the recent NACA National Collection. The proceeds were divided up at Club, County, Provincial and National level and in any County where even a moderate drive was made, the cash was forthcoming.

With all the organising being done from Headquarters, all the clubs had to do was to turn up at the Church Gates.

This was an excellent idea, but knowing the apathy into which the average athlete sinks during the Winter months, I am prepared to bet that in a number of Counties no one even bothered to go out and collect.

I WONDER IF WEXFORD WAS ONE OF THEM.

Another moan at the Wexford Convention was the lack of qualified coaches. The solution put up by the delegates was once more "ask the Government."

This business of looking for spoon feeding seems to be getting a terrible grip on the country these days. No one seems to want to use their own initiative at all. Everyone seems to think that everything should be laid on by "The Government."

The poor old Government, be it Fianna Fail or Inter-Party, has its hands full of more important things than coaching the athletes of Wexford, or any other county for that matter.

If these people are really sincere in their efforts to raise athletic standards, surely they can go out and get the information required themselves.

After all, the NACA runs an annual Summer School for Coaches, and the National Film Institute has a Library full of coaching films.

* * *

Gaelic Enterprises, the organisation set up by members of the Dublin County Board to raise funds to provide more pitches for Metropolitan GAA Teams, has certainly moved fast.

Although only a few months in existence they were able to give £500 to Balbriggan Park the other week. Congratulations are certainly in order.



PHIL BRADY OF CAVAN
IN ACTION

NEW THEATRE AT SHERRARD STREET

THE new St. Francis Xavier Hall, Sherrard Street, which was opened recently, was blessed by the Very Rev. McNevin, Ard., Pro-Cathedral, assisted by the Very Rev. M. Meade, S.J., Superior St. Francis Xaviers.

The opening ceremony was performed by the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, and the Very Rev. J. Coyne, S.J.

The new hall has been planned as a medium-sized theatre, seating approximately 800. Two side aisles provide accommodation for exhibition stalls, while a 5,000 sq. ft. maple floor has been laid down for dancing.

The hall will form a valuable adjunct to St. Francis Xavier's Church, and will be used as a centre for many functions.

It is hoped to promote regular dances, lectures and concerts, and amateur dramatic societies, capable of staging productions of a high standard, will be welcomed.

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**TURNING
BACK THE
PAGES
OF
G.A.A.
HISTORY**



Galway—All-Ireland football champions of 1956

THE SENSATIONAL FINAL OF 1938

Uproarious Scenes As Galway Win

ONLY TWO MINUTES STOOD BETWEEN GALWAY AND THE 1938 ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL TITLE. ON AND ON STORMED THE MEN OF THE WEST, AND WITH THE KERRY MEN PINNED TO THEIR OWN GOALMOUTH, IT LOOKED LIKE THE BIG PAY-OFF FOR GALWAY.

Only two minutes to "kill" and there was Captain Joe Dunne sending the Westerners on yet another attack with a shrewd pass to Brendan Nestor.

The corner-forward side-stepped his man, cut inside and headed for goal. And then he was promptly floored.

What followed is now described as the most uproarious scenes ever witnessed in an All-Ireland final.

Spectators had seen everything now: this was the climax to the most drama-packed final of them all.

It all began on Sunday, Sept. 25, when Kerry staked their title against the all-conquering men from Galway. From the start, the tension was electric.

The opening quarter was Galway's. Leading by 1-3 to 0-2 coming to the interval, they appeared to be sitting pretty.

Then Kerry struck. Miko Doyle and Timmy O'Leary carved out an opening for "Purty" Landers. Goalkeeper McGauran never even saw the ball till he plucked it out of the net.

Immediately after the interval, Kerry jumped into the lead with points by McAuliffe and Doyle. Back came Galway, and Mulholland collected a Nestor cross to finish to the net.

Battle Joined

The battle was joined in earnest now. Points were exchanged and then O'Leary sent Kerry into a three points lead with a "daisy-cutter" that ended up in the back of the Galway net.

It seemed as if Galway couldn't come back. But they did. A long ball by Nestor was collected by Griffin and the next minute it was the Kerry goalkeeper's turn to do a bit of back-bending.

Seconds to go—this was spine-tingling stuff. Kerry forced two fifties; both were cleared. Then came a third.

Sean Brosnan's kick was punched clear by a Galway defender. In stepped John Joe Landers and there she goes—the winning point for Kerry.

Hats went skywards, the victors were being chaired off the field, and Kerry eyes were smiling. Then somebody noticed something was wrong.

THE GAME WAS OVER AL-RIGHT—BUT KERRY HADN'T WON!

Out there in the middle of the field strode referee Tom Culhane and his score-sheet made the teams even.

Turmoil reigned supreme. The final whistle had gone before Landers had flashed the ball over the bar for that final point. So Tom said anyway.

And so to October 23 and a replay that never touched the heights of the drawn game.

From the start it was Galway's game. A goal by Griffin and a point from Nestor set them off to a flying start. Back came Kerry, and with Sean Brosnan playing great football in the middle of the field, it looked as if they might shake the Galway men.

Pandemonium

That rally never materialised, however. A goal from a Burke free and a brace of points from Brendan Nestor left them leading by 2-4 to 0-6 with two minutes to go, and to all intents and purposes the game was over.

Then pandemonium broke loose. Following the foul on Nestor, the referee signalled for a Galway free. The crowd, misinterpreting the referee's decision, thought the game was over.

On to the field swept the frenzied Galway supporters; off scurried the Kerry men back to the dressingroom. Kerry trainer, Jerry O'Leary, was seen to talk to Brendan Nestor, and the only other Kingdom representatives in view were Sean Brosnan and Timmy O'Leary, cut off by a section of the mob on the other side of the field.

Out on the field, referee Culhane was trying to convey to someone—anyone—that the game wasn't over yet. But nobody was inclined to listen.

Eventually the truth began to seep through and after ten minutes of utter frustration, the game was restarted. Only trouble was that nine members of the original Kerry team weren't there to see it . . . at that moment they were sitting sedately in their hotel—three miles away from Croke Park.

It mattered little, however, for although the Kingdom managed to add a further point to their tally, the final whistle sounded with Galway the victors by 2-4 to 0-7.

By

PETER BYRNE

Why weren't the rest of the Kerry team there to finish the game? Let trainer Jerry O'Leary tell the story:

"When the whistle went there was a wild rush of spectators on to the field. We thought that the game had ended. As all our boys had togged out in the Central Hotel, there was no need for them to remain in the pavilion to undress and so by the time the news of the resumption came through, nine of them had left for the city."

Laois Hurling

By "E.H."

AFTER a lapse of 18 years, Rathdowney won the Laois minor hurling championship on Sunday, 10th November, when they defeated the holders, Portlaoise, at Borris-in-Ossory by the impressive score of 9-1 to 1-3.

This win put the club right back where they belong—among the best in Laois. Rathdowney was once the leading club in the county and produced some of the finest hurlers in the country. They can boast of no fewer than seventeen Senior Championships—no mean feat when you consider how hard it is to win a county title, and such men as Jack Hiney and the late Jack Daly of the 1915 Laois team—which won for the county its only All-Ireland hurling title, have been among its members.

Of the 1949 Laois team, which lost to Tipperary in the All-Ireland Final, three were Rathdowney: Harry Grey, Paddy McCormack and Paddy Hogan.

In the present minor team, Rathdowney have just the lads to carry on the fine tradition of the club, and bring back some of its former glory, and it should not be long before names like Tommy Hickey, Frank Scott, Jimmy Houlihan and the Dillon brothers appear on the county's selections.

Rathdowney is on the road back, the slow, hard road, but with such fine material to work on, they can do it and will.

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HE STEADIED . . . SWUNG . . . AND MISSED!

(By MAC LUA)

AN electrifying tension gripped the record crowd which packed Croke Park as they eagerly awaited the appearance of the contestants.

Suddenly the tension was broken by the appearance of the Black and Amber of Kilkenny, led by their Captain, Jim Walsh. The crowd roared, a roar that re-echoed with the appearance of the brightly shining Saffron and Blue of Clare, led by Captain John Joe Doyle. The All-Ireland Hurling Final of 1932 was about to commence.

If ever an All-Ireland final had a glamorous and exciting build-up, this one surely had. Kilkenny, the master hurlers—whose three

THE recent passing of Larry Blake, hero of many of Clare's greatest hurling hours, prompts one to turn back the pages of hurling history to one of the most sensational and best remembered finals of days gone by—the 1932 battle between Clare and Kilkenny.

The Clare team on that day was:—

Dr. Tommy Daly (goal); "Jumbo" Higgins, "Fowler" McInerney, John Joe Doyle; J. Houlihan, J. Hogan, Larry Blake; J. Gleeson, T. McInerney; M. Falvey, M. Connery, Mick O'Rourke; J. Mullane, "Tull" Considine, Tom Burnell.

battles with Cork in the decider of 1931 had moulded them into what many still believe was the greatest hurling fifteen of all time—were facing the challenge of Clare, the sensationalists who had convincingly and surprisingly defeated Cork in the Munster decider and who in the semi-final against Galway had been led during one period of the second half by no less than five goals and yet in the end had won with five points to spare.

Two great teams studied with the brightest hurling stars of that era—the inimitable Lory Meagher, Matty Power, Ned Byrne, Martin White, Paddy O'Reilly in the black and amber.

. . . The immortal Dr. Tommy Daly, "Fowler" McInerney, who 18 years previously had starred on the victorious 1914 Clare team; John Joe Doyle, Larry Blake—the diminutive half-back whose brilliance was in itself matchwinning; Tom Burnell, "Tull" Considine . . . they were all there ready to do battle.

The game was on with Kilkenny quickly into the attack, only to be driven back by the mighty "Fowler." Clare's centre-field of Gleeson and McInerney quickly settled down and after a number of exchanging sallies Gleeson, from far out, sent directly between the posts to give the Munstermen the lead. Now it was Kilkenny's turn, but once more they met the determined Clare defence.

Persistence won eventually, though when Ned Byrne balanced the scoreboard, it was quickly unbalanced again by Clare's Connery. The Clare half-back line of Houlihan, Hogan and Blake now began to give their county the edge, and Kilkenny conceded a seventy, which was sent over by Houlihan.

The Suirmen struck back and were rewarded with a seventy which was sent over the bar by Eddie Doyle, to leave the half-time score: Clare 0-3; Kilkenny, 0-2.

A determined Kilkenny fifteen took the field after the break and within four minutes that determination had bore fruit with two

Martin White goals and another by Matty Power, to put the Leinstermen eight points ahead. Kilkenny's fast open play, sweeping from wing to wing, had the dour Clare defence in trouble, but slowly Doyle and his men regained their grip and Gleeson took over at midfield. Tom Burnell broke through and crossed to "Tull" Considine.

Needless to say only five points remained, for "Tull", the man who a few weeks previous in the semi-final had almost single-handed built Clare's winning total of nine goals and four points, was the Christy Ring of his era. Again Burnell gained possession and once more Dermody in the Kilkenny goal was beaten. Only two points remained.

With victory now in sight, the Claremen threw everything they had into the offensive—but try as they did the Kilkenny defence stood firm. Time ticked away and Clare spectators stirred restlessly. Only two minutes remained when Gleeson gained possession at midfield. Shaking off two Kilkennymen, his stroke had the ball soaring towards the Kilkenny goal.

The crowd held its breath as the ball dropped. Then a hand snatched the sliotar from mid-air and "Tull" Considine was in possession.

He weaved and turned . . . Paddy O'Reilly, Kilkenny's full-back was three clear steps behind him; only fifteen yards remained between the fabulous "Tull" and the Kilkenny goal with its lone defender.

Fifteen yards between Clare and the All-Ireland title.

MISSED!

HE STEADIED HIMSELF, SWUNG . . . AND MISSED.
Yes, the mighty "Tull" had missed the ball and the chance of a lifetime. O'Reilly cleared for Kilkenny and the game was over.

Printed by the Greyhound and Sporting Press Ltd., Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, for the Proprietors, Gaelic Echo (1954) Ltd., 13 Parliament St., Dublin. Phone 71621.

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1929—Made senior debut against Tipperary, marking Phil Cahill. Helped Ennis retain hurling title and also won county football title with Ennis Dalcassians, holding Clare's greatest ever footballer and Munster star Georgie Comerford scoreless in final.
1930—Now one of Ireland's finest half-backs.

1932—Contested All-Ireland final against Kilkenny. Chosen on the Ireland team to play U.S.A. in Tailteann Games.

1933-'38—Fixture on Munster Railway Cup selection, winning medals 1934, '35, '37 and '38. Also regular member of Clare football team during mid-thirties.

1941—Last major outing when he helped Ennis win county hurling title.

A regular member of Clare hurling selection committee until sons Larry jr., and Michael became eligible for County selection and then with that greatness that was all part of Larry Blake he resigned his position, but continued to help build Ennis Eire Og hurling team who are now County Champions and back bone of Clare's hurling come-back.

Yes, Larry has left us but in hurling sons Larry, Michael, Tony, Finbar and Declan the name of Blake lives on.

And of course those memories—memories of the small, stocky, fleetfooted, half back, clearing time after time turn-Clare defence into Clare attack remain with us.

Memories of greatness, sportsmanship, and true Gaelic.

Next only to Michael Cusack he was Clare's greatest contribution to Gaelic Games.

I MEASC NA NAOMH GO RAIBH SE.

Mac Lua.

To Clare it was a cruel blow, but to the annals of Gaelic games it contributed one of its most colourful chapters. And although few Claremen then realized it—in losing in such a manner they won immortality.

They also proved themselves one of the finest teams to ever take the field, for in meeting and matching the Kilkenny team of that day they were matching the best.

Kilkenny captain, Jim Walsh had no hesitation in saying: "Yes, they were undoubtedly the strongest opposition we have ever met."

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