

# Gaelic **ECHO**

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**NIALL FITZGERALD  
OF WATERVILLE**

BY  
**EAMONN YOUNG**

PAGES 16 and 17

## THESE MEN ARE BARRED!



FRANK O'SULLIVAN OF FERMOY

## CAN C.R.E. DENY CHARGES?

# I DEFY THEM TO DO SO

Says **KELLY**

A NEW CYCLING SEASON IS FAST GETTING INTO FULL SWING HERE IN IRELAND, WHERE THE SPORT IS BOOMING AS NEVER BEFORE, AND WITH SOARING STANDARDS OF RACING WE HAVE CYCLISTS WHO COULD BRING HOME WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP HONOURS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN SIXTY YEARS.

Yet in August next when the World Championships are held a puny team from which over ninety per cent. of our cyclists are barred will misrepresent us and disgrace us.

WHY?

Because a handful of Dublin cyclists have taken it on themselves to defy the wishes of the majority and accept Twenty-Six County status and thus debar the large majority from their rightful tilt at World Championships.

This splinter organisation is known as Cumann Rothaidheachta na hEireann.

## APOLOGY FOR ANTHEM

I defy the officials of CRE to deny that their organisation has committed the following sins.

1. Flouted the wishes of the large majority of Irish cyclists by accepting 26-County status.
2. Apologised for playing "The Soldiers Song" at a cycling function in DUBLIN.
3. Competed in races in the Six Counties which were held to honour the Coronation of Elizabeth II. as "Queen of Northern Ireland."
4. Competed with and entertained B-Specials.
5. Allowed members to compete on "Empire" teams.

## LESS THAN 100 RIDERS

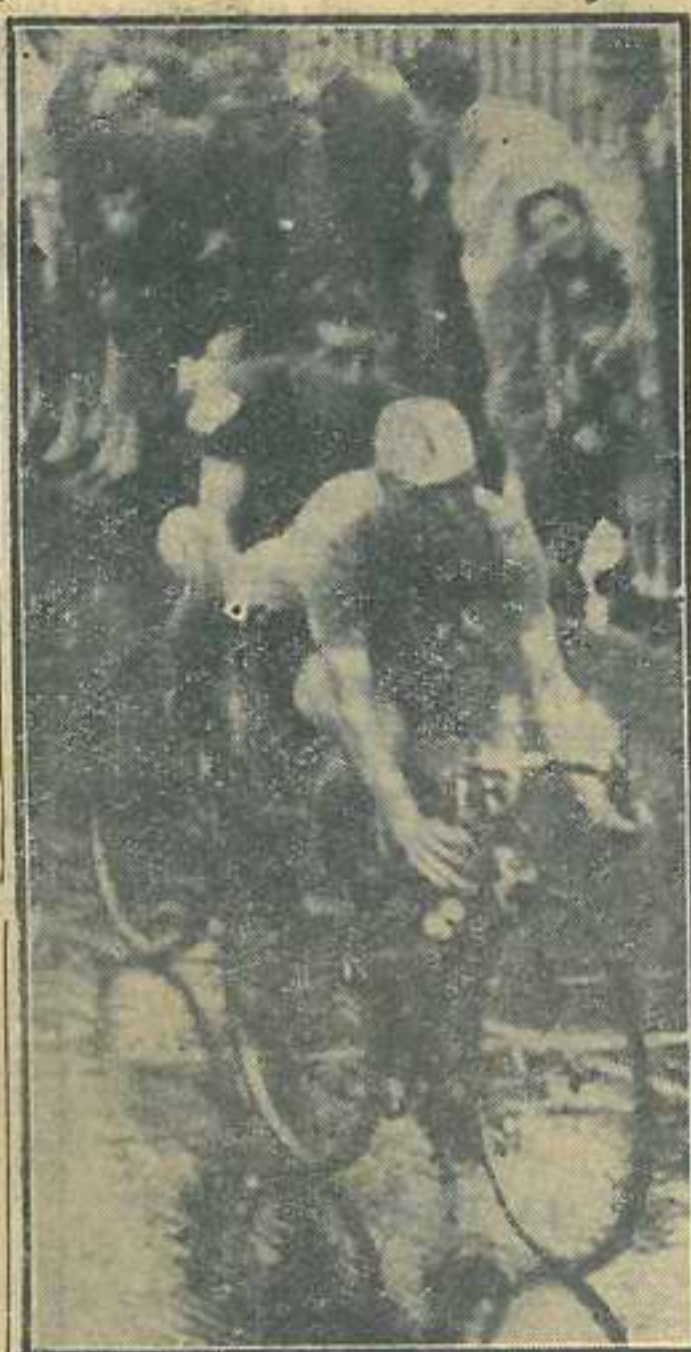
I also invite them to deny the following statements.

1. That although they are alleged to cover the 26 Counties they do not exist outside of Dublin.
2. That their present number of active racing cyclists is far below 100 and is probably only half that number, while the N.C.A. has up to 1,000.
3. That they have made no effort to secure full recognition for Ireland in cycling.
4. That when N.C.A. officials offered to bury the hatchet a few years ago so that a united CRE/NCA could press the International Body to give Ireland its rightful recognition, CRE would not accept the offer.
5. That fifth rate English cyclists have been brought over here to give races an "International" look.

## CHARGES ARE TRUE

BELIEVE YOU ME, THEY CANNOT DENY ANY OF THESE CHARGES BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL TRUE.

ON BEHALF OF THE SPORTSMEN OF IRELAND, I DEMAND THAT THIS MINORITY GROUP OF "SPORTSMEN" PACK UP AND LET THE REAL CHAMPIONS, MEN LIKE FRANK WARD, GENE MANGAN, DAN MacGURK, FRANK BAIRD, BERNIE O'BRIEN AND ALL THE OTHER TOP LINE N.C.A. RIDERS REPRESENT US ABROAD.



FRANK WARD



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**32  
PAGES**

in this issue  
of the  
"Gaelic Echo"

# ON THE BALL

# Officials .. And Their Comedy Of Errors

By  
**BRIAN McDONALD**

IT looks as if the question of referees and umpires—efficient ones, of course—will have to be looked into closely by the G.A.A. top brass.

In recent months we have had the usual quota of unfinished games due to slack handling, but unfortunately these are accepted as a matter of course, and will go on being so until severe measures are taken to deal with the offenders. I have harped on this subject time and time again, but apparently my advice has fallen on barren ground.

However, my grouse this month concerns officials who cannot even know when a point is scored... but worse still, who cannot even add properly.

Here are two examples to prove my point. Both these incidents happened at Dublin senior football leagues ties. In the Geraldines v O'Toole's clash at Croke Park, an umpire at the Railway end appeared to be the only one of the opinion that the ball went wide at the Geraldines goal.

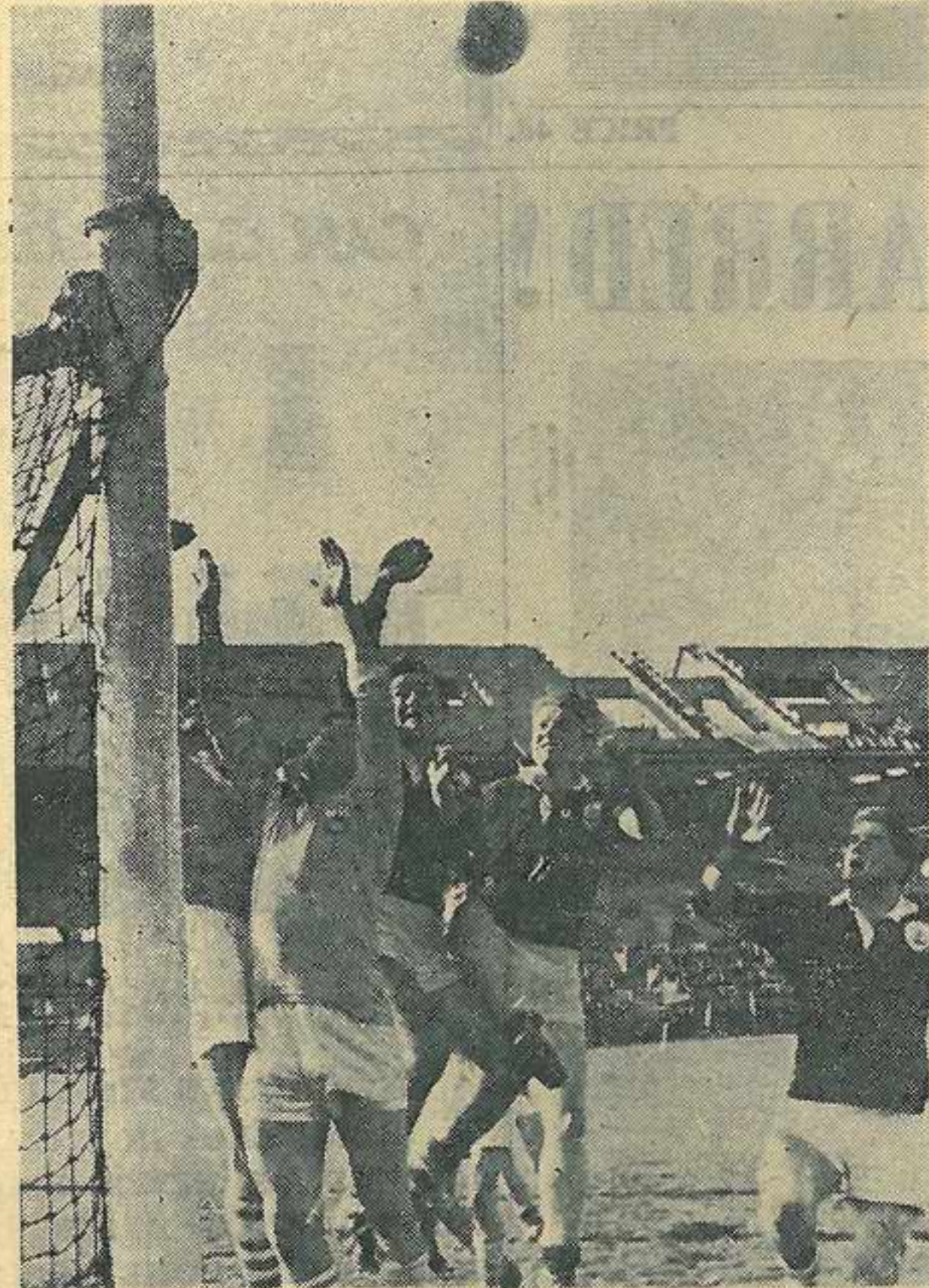
## Adamant

All of the spectators considered it a definite point for O'Toole's and in no uncertain manner made their feelings felt. However, the official remained adamant and refused to raise the white flag.

Yet a minute later the same official put up the white flag, but the irony of it was that this time it should not have been raised, for a goal, not a point, had been scored. So we had the comedy of both flags being hoisted at the same time.

And the result of all this sloppy umpiring was a defeat for O'Toole's—and by a point!

Then look at what happened in the Erin's Isle v. Clanna Gael game. It was a case of "winners" being



because referee Louis Donohue could not keep the score correctly.

Immediately the final whistle sounded Erin's Isle players congratulated their opponents on their point victory. Then Mr. Donohue caused amazement all round by announcing Erin's Isle as winners by a point! The upshot of the whole sorry affair was that Clanna Gael

Goalmouth tussle in Dublin's National Football League win over Galway last month.

appealed to the Dublin County Board, who are investigating the matter.

Erin's Isle are also holding an inquiry. They want to check up on the scores, and see who really did win.

Their delegate, Simon Deignan, the former Cavan footballer, tells me that if they find an error (and I am sure they will) has been made they'll recommend to the Board that the points be awarded to Clanna Gael. That's sportsmanship for you!

"Slack handling and indecisive de-

isions by the knights of the whistle are proving a source of annoyance to players and spectators alike" a prominent official told me yesterday.

These situations should never have arisen, and to make certain that there is no re-occurrence, I suggest that a coaching school be formed for referees and umpires; after all, our soccer friends think this a good policy.

Otherwise, what's the use of playing the games at all if the genuine winners are not going to get the points.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to Derek King, of Cavan. When Mick Higgins (Cavan) could not umpire the Dublin/Galway National football league division III play off at Croke Park, owing to illness, Derek stepped into the gap and did a magnificent job.

For the semi-final between Dublin and Mayo, Mick was again first choice for the whistle, but Mick's lumbago was still troubling him, and he had to cry off for the second successive week.

Again Derek was called in, and handled the game in the same efficient manner as he had done a week earlier.

Derek has proved his ability, so when the all-Ireland championships come along, what about giving him charge of the semi-final or final?

I am sure he would do a first-rate job.

\* \* \*

**DID YOU KNOW THAT MUNSTER, REGARDED BY MANY AS THE 'HOME OF GAELIC FOOTBALL' HAVEN'T WON THE RAILWAY CUP FINAL SINCE 1949?**

\* \* \*

It's not often I mention amateur boxing in this column, but I must have a "rap" at the I.A.B.A.

I am afraid I cannot hand them any bouquets for their four "international" promotions against a Wurtemberg selection recently, or for the teams they selected to represent us. The results speak for themselves—three humiliating defeats and a somewhat fortunate draw. And the biggest insult of all—the I.A.B.A. had the cheek to charge ONE POUND for ringside seats at the "international" at the Stadium. In my opinion, it was little short of highway robbery. I was there myself—and although my boxing days are past, I wouldn't have minded in the least stepping into the ring against some of the boys in the heavier divisions.

\* \* \*

At the last meeting of the Munster G.A.A. Council, Kerry applied for re-grading to junior ranks in the forthcoming Munster hurling championships, and the application was turned down flat.

Reason given was that Kerry were good enough to stay in senior hurling. I wonder is this so?

Recently they lined out at Clonmel against an under strength Tipperary senior team and were walloped by 15-14 to 2-3—a fantastic margin of 50 points. I hate to think what would have been the outcome had Tipperary fielded at full strength.

\* \* \*

I'm told that the Jones Memorial handball club has been formed in Glenbeigh to commemorate the memory of the late Father Tom Jones, one time Irish and World champion, Wexford hurling star, Oliver Gough, now in Dublin and playing with Moondharrig, will probably turn out for Kilkenny in this season's Leinster Championships.

Pat O'Brien, famous Garristown handball player recently returned from Australia showed good form in the Dublin senior championships.

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DUBLIN AND CORK GIRLS IN TRAINING FOR THE 1955 ALL-IRELAND FINAL.



With 16 All-Ireland victories since 1932, the top camogie team in the country is . . . .

# DUBLIN

DUBLIN, ALL-IRELAND CAMOGIE CHAMPIONS FROM 1948 TO 1956—WHEN THEY SURRENDERED THEIR TITLE TO ANTRIM—AND AGAIN IN 1957, DESERVE A SPECIAL PLACE IN THIS SERIES OF ARTICLES DEALING WITH THE HISTORY OF IRELAND'S NATIONAL WOMEN'S GAME, COUNTY BY COUNTY.

**Riobard A. Bramham**  
CONTINUES OUR NEW SERIES  
ON CAMOGIE

Camogie is an offspring of that most revolutionary movement of modern times in Ireland—the Gaelic League. It was in the classrooms and social gatherings of one of the League's most prominent Dublin branches, Craobh an Cheitinnigh, that the pioneers of the game were found. The early development of camogie is really the history of the game in Dublin.

The first match was played in the Phoenix Park on 13th July, 1904, the teams being drawn from the cailini of Craobh on Cheitinnigh. The first competitive game, between the Dublin cailini and Connradhthoiri from An Uaimh, was played in An Uaimh on 18th July, 1904, to be followed by a third encounter played at The

Thatch, Drumcondra, on 8th Oct., 1904, for the delegates to the Gaelic League an t-Oireachtas of that year.

The pioneers of the game in Dublin received invaluable support from the Metropolitan G.A.A. clubs of the time, notably Crokes, Cuchulians and Kevins.

In 1910 a game was played at

Rathmines between Kevins and Crokes.

The first Croke Park game was played there on 7th July, 1912, when there was an attendance of 4,000. The Colleges League, which was formed in Dublin at this time, ensured the success of the game in the Metropolis.

with the exception of those for 1933, 1934 and 1936 (which were won by Louth), while All-Ireland titles came to the Metropolitans in 1932, 1933, 1937, 1938, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955 and 1957.

Dublin camogie cailini have been feted in every Province—their stickcraft, cohesion and general deportment have always made them favourites wherever they went.

Dublin's outstanding club is C.I.E., founded in 1933, and which in 1947 and 1948 represented the Metropolis in the All-Ireland championship games.

There are two County Boards—Junior and Senior—to cater for the many hundreds of players in Dublin.

## Fame Recalled

To recall some of the fame that has been Dublin's down the years it is only necessary to name some of the players and officials such as Miss

## DUBLIN, ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS OF 1955.

M. Gill, Miss A. Ryan, the late Miss Ita McNeill, Miss Emma Delaney, Miss Angela Egan, Maire Ni Chearbhaill, Miss Kathleen Mannion, Brigid Ni Bhraonain, Miss Mary Lahiffe, Miss Brigid Kenny, Miss Peggy Griffin, Miss Rita Fitzpatrick, the Keegan sisters and, of course, the stars of to-day, Kathleen Mills, Sophie Brack, the Neville sisters, Kathleen Cody, Eileen Duffy, Una O'Connor, Anette Corrigan, Breda Reid, Mary O'Sullivan, Betty Hughes.

Yes, these latter cailini are the heroines of to-day. With them I join those of the earlier years whose unselfish work had brought the game to the proud position it holds in the Metropolis to-day.

DUBLIN IS, SURELY, THE HOME OF CAMOGIE.



KATHLEEN MILLS, the "Christy Ring" of camogie.

In 1932, the Provincial and All-Ireland championship games were initiated. It is a measure of the strength of the game in the capital to record that Dublin has won every Leinster title since 1932,

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# Points about Goals

By Kevin O'Sullivan

Since the first GAA rule book was written in 1885, there have been many changes and as a result the present day games bear little or no resemblance to those played 70 odd years ago.

Take for instance the position regarding points and goals.

In the original games there was no such thing as points only goals were allowed.

The first intrusion of points into the game was the introduction of "forfeit points" around 1886. These were the equivalent of present day '50's and '70's and if the ball went over the bar after striking or being deflected by a defender it counted as three forfeit points.

However these forfeit points were never popular and in 1888 they were abolished and replaced by the '50's and '70's which are still in vogue.

Next round in the battle of the points came in 1886 when side posts were introduced and a point was scored if the ball passed outside of the goal posts but inside the side or points posts.

At this stage no number of points equalled a goal, which reigned supreme but in 1882 it was decided that five points would be the equivalent of a goal.

It was not until the 1896 Council that the present three points equals one goal system came.



An exciting incident in last year's Dr. Lagan Cup final between Derry and Tyrone. Tyrone won by 6 points on that occasion, but Sean O'Neill believes that Derry will win out in Ulster this year . . . and may even take the Sam Maguire Cup.

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## PROFILE

# Roddy Gribben of Derry

By Sean O'Neill

THE NAME GRIBBEN SIGNIFIES DERRY FOOTBALL. THOSE BROTHERS FROM NEWBRIDGE HAVE GIVEN GREATER SERVICE TO THEIR COUNTY AND TO GAELIC GAMES THAN PROBABLY ANY FAMILY IN THE ANNALS OF THE GAME—WITH THE POSSIBLE EXCEPTION OF THE DELANEYS OF LAOIS—AND NOW THAT RODDY HAS TAKEN OVER AS COUNTY TEAM MANAGER, WE CAN BE ASSURED OF ONE THING: RESURGENT DERRY WILL BE IN CROKE PARK SOON.

There are six Gribbens on the Newbridge team: Henry, Willie, Roddy, Mickey, Owen, and Hugh Francis. The latter four are regular county players, with the junior of the sextet, Henry—last year a county minor—quickly making the grade.

It was in 1944 that Roddy made his senior debut, and since then a Derry team was not complete without him. The years since have not been very rewarding as far as titles go but there have been many glorious moments and

a long and honourable career has unfolded.

There seemed to be little hope of victory or major honours when suddenly in 1955 things clicked into gear and Cavan were indeed lucky to retain their Ulster crown. Derry had lost but a beginning had been made.

For the first time in football history Derry had disputed the Ulster title, and the seemingly finished career of Roddy Gribben received a new lease. On the Ulster team in 1956, he matched

the greats of the game. Then came 1957 and Cavan once more in the Ulster semi-final.

The Breffni men seemed set for victory as they led by four points well into the second half. Then Roddy Gribben struck, mustering the experience of over a decade's top-class football he crowned a glorious career with as brilliant a goal as has ever been seen in the Northern province. Now there was no holding the Derrymen and for the second time they staked their claim for the Ulster crown. Once again ill-luck dogged the Gribbens, and another year was gone.

1958? Well things look good. With Roddy at the helm Derry have a team mentor that any county could wish for. He has the necessary experience, the craft, the respect, and he has his handful of brothers.

Yes, it could be 1958 and Derry Ulster Champions for the first time in history, or it could be even 1958 and Derry All-Ireland Champions, with the Sam Maguire Cup in Occupied Ireland for the first time.

FORM FAVOURS THEM FOR THE FORMER TITLE AT LEAST, AND WHO CAN TELL BUT THAT THE GUIDANCE AND GENIUS OF RODDY GRIBBEN MAY EVEN BRING THEM FURTHER.

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# Cavan

**"Red" Dalton  
And His  
"Ha'pence"**

By W. D.

MUCH nearer 60 than 50 years ago, Threecastles, Kilkenny, travelled to hurl Thurlés in the Cathedral Town. One of their notables was 'Red' Dalton, a droll character and natural hurler who went along on outings provided they called to the house for him. On this occasion Threecastles brought with them as mascot little Martin Egan, in his early teens.

Before togging out, 'Red' counted his money, amounting to eightpence, and handed it to Martin with the advice: "Be careful of those few ha'pence of mine, young fellow."

Several times during the first half 'Red' shouted the same admonition from the pitch and Martin became most embarrassed on the line.

'Red' was hurling his opponent right out of the game and the latter eventually made him this proposition.

**"Puck Away"**

"Take it easy. You fellows are winning anyway, but you are making a show of me before my own people. Let me take a few skiers and I'll stick you the beer after the match". And 'Red' replied: "Oh, puck away!"

The local, showing instant ascendancy, began soaring the ball into the blue to the accompaniment of loud applause from his supporters. Then, during a lull, 'Red' roared across to young Egan "Keep your fist tight, on those few ha'pence of mine, young fellow!"

The same Martin Egan, raised with hurling from the cradle, has been chairman of the North Kilkenny junior Hurling Board these many years. A gnarled oak specimen of manhood, time has passed lightly over his head and, in his everyday employment he is considered just as fine a workman today as he has ever been.



**"To Foster The Noble And Manly Game In This, Its Native Country" . . . . .**

**TRINITY LED HURLING REVIVAL!**

By Hugh O'Donnell

IT MAY SURPRISE SOME READERS TO LEARN THAT THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WAS NOT THE FIRST ORGANISATION FORMED TO FOSTER GAELIC GAMES, NOR WAS IT BY ANY MEANS THE FIRST TO DRAFT A SET OF RULES TO GOVERN THE GAMES OF THE GAEL.

**First Club**

Five years prior to the historic meeting in Hayes' Hotel, Thurles, in 1844, the "Irish Hurley Union" was formed in Dublin and held its first meeting in Trinity College on January 24, 1879.

For over twenty years previously Trinity wa's a stronghold of hurling, or hurley, as it was more commonly called. To the College

must go the honour of having the first club and also of drafting the first set of rules.

These rules had sixteen headings, all of which with the exception of the last, which stated that "the ball should always be the object of play," were in no way similar to present-day rules. The T.C.D. rules were, however, well drafted and in keeping with the game as it was generally played throughout the country in these days.

The caman used at the time was more to one's particular taste rather than to any universal design.

From Trinity there sprang further hurley clubs and in 1878 there were six clubs in Dublin.

The following year saw the birth of the "Irish Hurley Union" with Mr. W. H. Shaw as its hon. secretary.

**Rules Adopted**

In his address the chairman stated the objects of the "Union" were—"to foster the noble and manly game of hurling in this its native country."

The rules adopted by the "Hurley Union" varied little from those

drafted by the Trinity Club ten years previously, but what changes were made brought the game more in line with the English game of hockey.

Late 1881 saw the birth of Michael Cusack's Academy Hurling Club and this was shortly followed by the Dublin Hurling Club to which Cusack was elected vice-president.

**First Meeting**

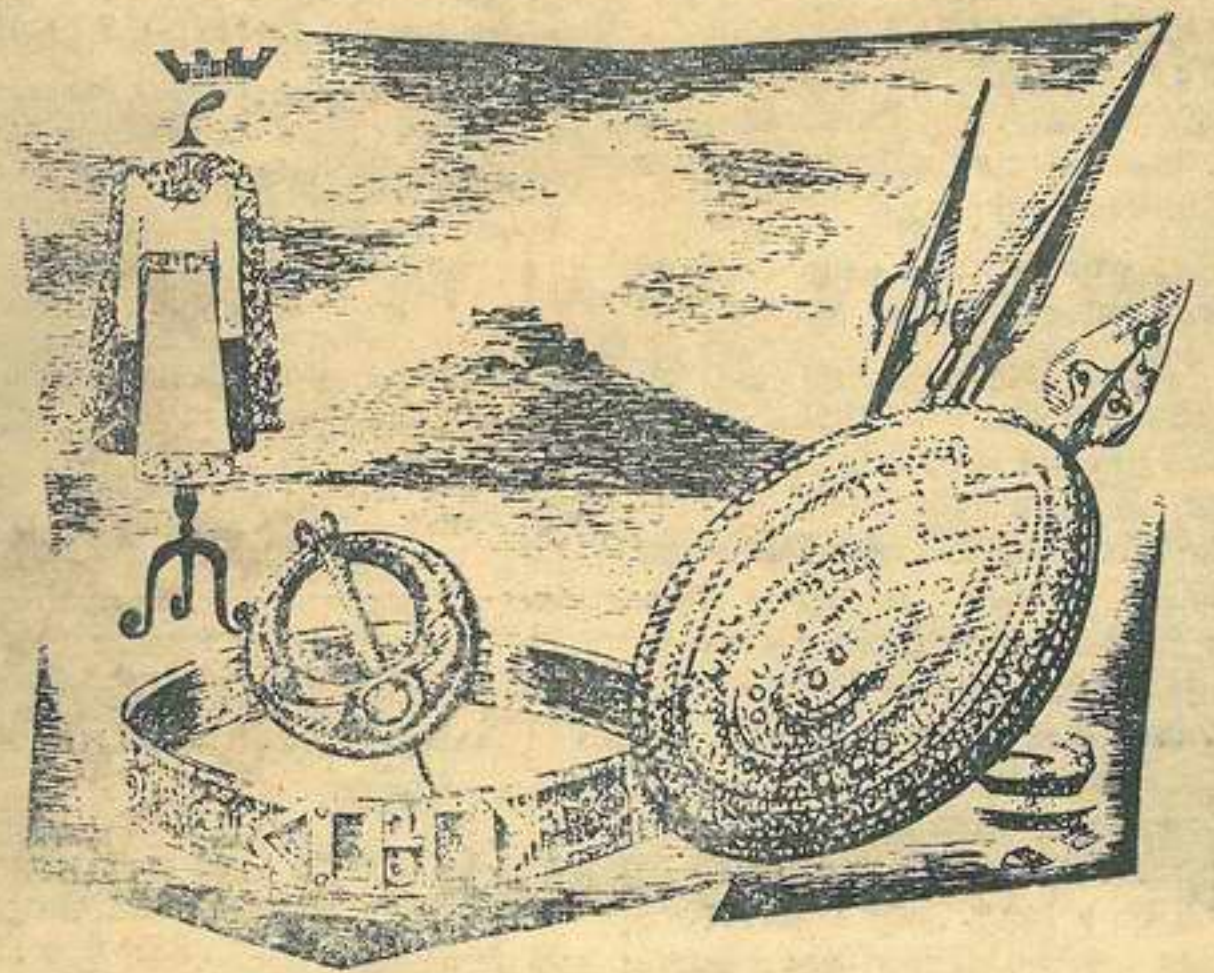
The Dublin Hurling Club held its first meeting at 35 York Street and was attended by delegate from the "Hurley Union" in an un-official

capacity. It was decided that a set of rules should be drafted, but that the rules be so arranged to allow an easy transition from the game as played by the "Hurley Union."

The formation and immediate success of the Dublin Hurling Club was frowned upon by many of the "Union" members and when in 1884 the G.A.A. was formed the "Union" passed from the scene.

Although not entirely National in its ideal, the Hurley Union should be remembered. It did in its own way work for the betterment and fostering "of the manly and noble game in this its own country."

**FASHIONS OF OUR FOREFATHERS**



"His hair was slightly curled and of golden colour; he held a scarlet shield with engraved devices, and golden hooks and clasps of silver; a wide folding purple cloak on him, with a gem-set gold brooch over his breast; a gold torque around his neck; a white-collared shirt, embroidered with gold upon him; a girdle with golden buckles and studded with precious stones upon him; two golden net-work sandals with golden buckles upon him; two spears with golden sockets, and many bronze rivets in his hand; while he stood in the full glow of beauty without defect or blemish." This description of King Cormac Mac Airt, whose reign at Tara began about 227 A.D., is taken from O'Curry's translation of the Book of Ballymote.

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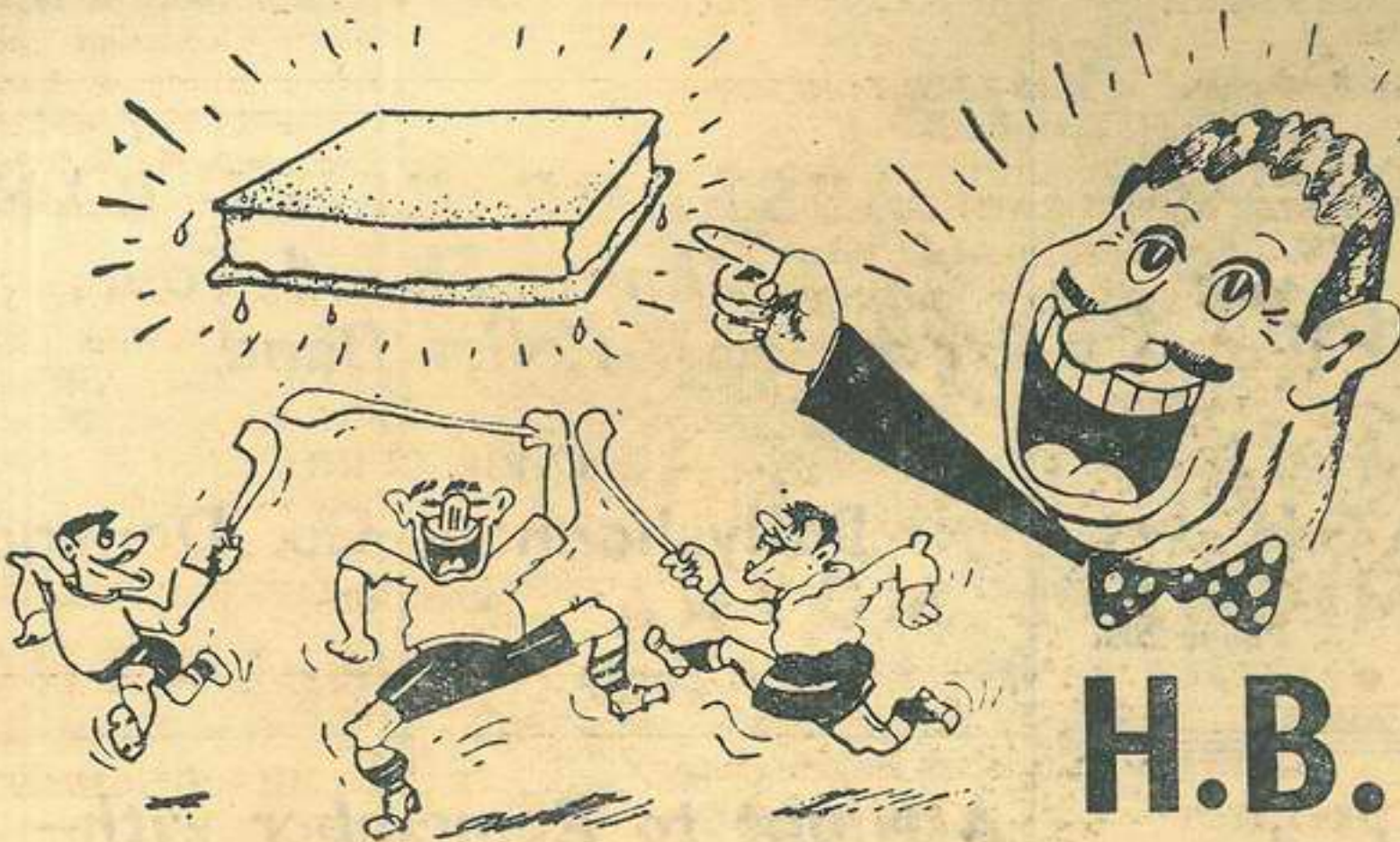
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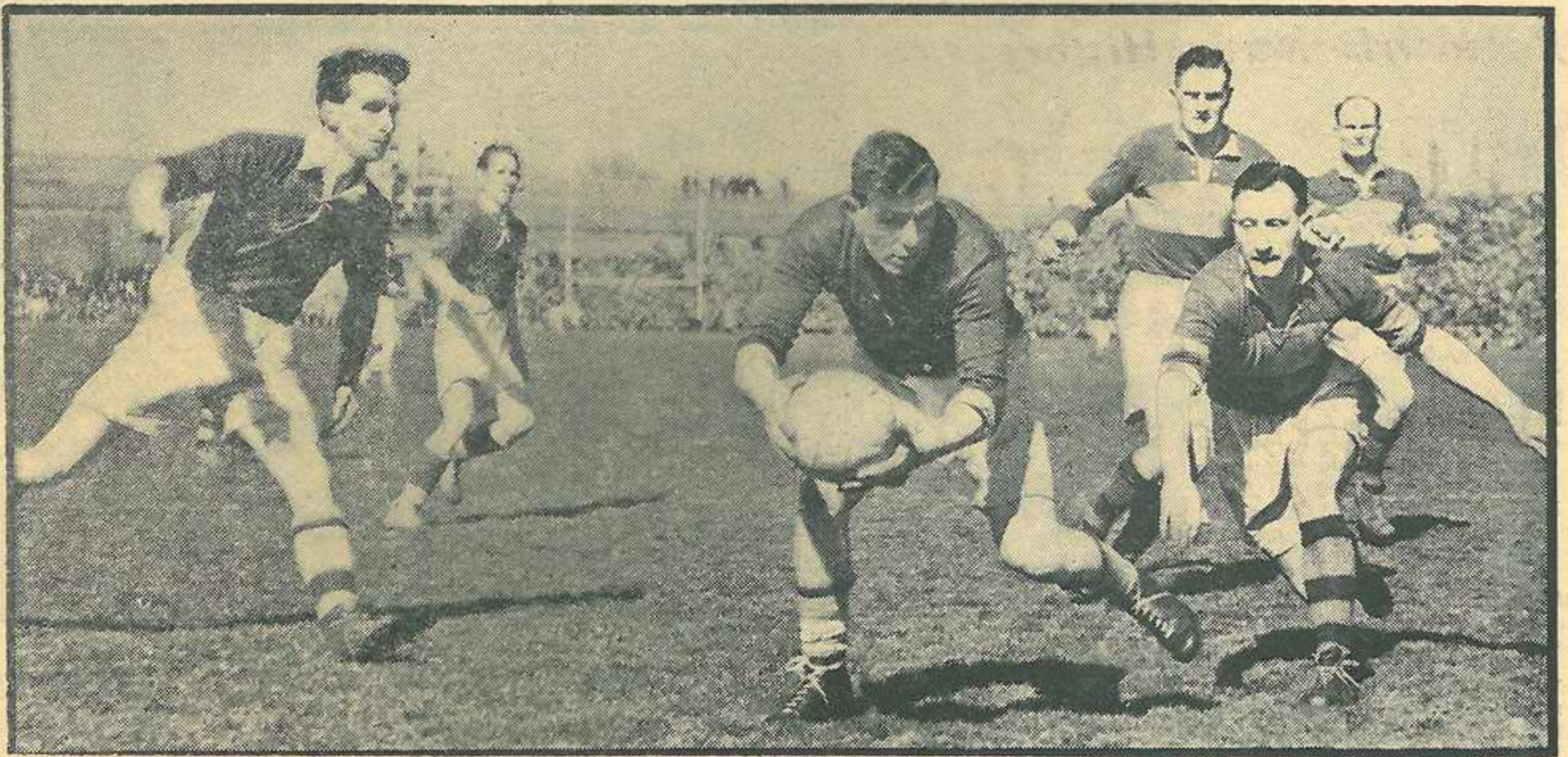
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SEAN O'BOYLE  
OF DUBLIN



Like every other player on the present Dublin senior football team,, Sean O'Boyle's ambition is to win . . .

**An All-Ireland Gold Medal**

IT WAS A FRIDAY EVENING OF JULY OF 1953 . . . AND DUBLIN WERE PLAYING CAVAN IN A CHALLENGE FOOTBALL GAME.

It wasn't a very unusual game and nothing out of the ordinary happened . . . but for one youngster on the Dublin team, it was a red-letter evening . . . the beginning of a glorious career in senior football ranks.

And his name was . . . SEAN O'BOYLE, a young Air Corps man, who was wearing the blue of Dublin for the first time in senior competition.

We had all heard a lot about this youngster . . . about his speed . . . his ball control . . . his superb fitness.

But, would he fit in with the Dublin attack? That was the big question.

From the throw-in that evening, Sean removed all doubts about his ability to fit in with Des. Ferguson, Ollie Freaney, Kevin Heffernan and Co. Within matter of minutes, he had played himself on to a regular place on the Dublin team . . . and into the hearts of all Metropolitan followers.

Since then, Sean has never been dropped from the side, and . . . it will be a long, long time before we see the end of him as an inter-county star.

"Were you always keen on football, Sean?" I asked.

The quiet Dubliner smiled. "It couldn't have been otherwise," he said, "for I spent most

of my youth on the Curragh, which was always a great place

—By—  
**Frank James**

for football. During the emergency I was fortunate enough to see such greats as the late John Joe O'Reilly, Joe Keohane, Simon Deignan and Eamonn Young in action.

"Men like these and their displays fired my football ambitions. But perhaps the real rudiments of the game were first taught to me by Paul Doyle, one of the greatest forwards ever to grace a Kildare side.

"Paul, God be good to him, spent a lot of time teaching us young fellows how to play the game and always stressed the value of the two-footed player."

Sean is certainly practicing what

Paul Doyle preached, for nowhere will you find a man equipped with two better educated feet and he seems equally at home on either wing.

Asked about his greatest thrill in football Sean replied, "I think the greatest 'kick' I got out of the game was the afternoon I was selected for the Ireland football team".

**First Medal**

That representative match in March '56 against the Combined Universities reminds me that it was probably the first time that the football public saw the renowned Sean O'Boyle, the flying forward as Sean OBoyle, the classic half-back. During the game he was switched from left-full forward to left-half back to curb the lightning thrusts of Paud Sheehy and proved a great success.

Sean, who has shared in all of the Metropolitan's successes in recent years including an American trip, is a member of the Clanna Gael club in Dublin. Just recently he won his first medal in Dublin competitions when his club defeated Garda in the St. Vincent de Paul tournament final.

Sean thinks the world of Dublin trainer, Peter O'Reilly, and feels that any success he has had in inter-county ranks, is mainly due to him.

Asked if he would like to bring about any changes in the game, Sean replied:

"I would like to see 13 a side. It would show the game up to better advantage, reduce bunching around the square and afford better fare for spectators."

What about football ambitions for the future? Sean left no doubt as to what that was—an All-Ireland medal.

Sean has seen a lot of Ireland as a player but he is now likely to see much more of it as sales representative for the famous blades manufactured by Steel Products Limited, Carlow.

And my last word . . . may he go on to greater successes, both in sport and in his new profession.

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# Jim Morris Made History . . . When Carlow Shocked Dublin 'Wonder' Team

By Peter Byrne

"And now boys," said our schoolmaster, "I'll leave you with this parting thought. If we win tomorrow, you're off all home exercises for Monday." And with those words, Jim Morris picked up his burly fourteen stone frame, grabbed his coat, and was off into the fading gloom.

When next we saw Jim Morris, he had gone down in history—his name engraved forever in the annals of Carlow football. For this was June, 1944 . . . the most glorious month that ever dawned across the sloping plains of Carlow.

Come back with me 14 years to that humid June afternoon. The scene is Athy and along the streets clusters of people, forgetting the grief of war-stricken days, are making their way towards the local football field.

The occasion is the Leinster senior football final between Dublin's 'wonder team' and the fighting men from Carlow. No need to ask the betting, for the dice is well and truly loaded against the Barrowsiders, bidding for their first ever provincial crown.

But there was more than tradition weighing against Carlow's chances. While the streamlined Dublin fifteen were coasting to an impressive win over Longford in the semi-final, Carlow were causing quite a few heart throbs before delivering the KO to Wexford.

However, any ideas Dublin may have entertained of an easy victory were quickly dimmed when Carlow hit like streak lightning in the opening seconds. A dazzling forward move between Rea and Byrne split the Dublin defence wide open and when Rea was fouled, ace marksman Doyle sent in a fierce drive cracking against the woodwork and back into play. Again Carlow attacked but this time, Peter O'Reilly moved in to break it up and sent his side into the attack. Mick Falvey collected the ball in midfield and then gave it to centre half-forward Maher, who swung over a beauty from 50 yards to open Dublin's account.

It was all Dublin at this stage, and they went further ahead in the 5th minute. A long free by Mick Culhane was dropped by full-back Jim Archbold and you could see some awful shapes on Jim's mouth when Paddy Birmingham stepped in to boot it over the bar.

But Carlow hadn't waited 57 years for nothing and back they came for 'P. D.' Whelan to place Rea for their opening point. In they went again for the kill but there weren't many gaps showing in the Dublin defence where goalkeeper,

Fagan and Peter O'Reilly were having the time of their lives.

John Joe Maher decided there were easier ways of earning fame than by playing on Brendan Murphy and celebrated his switch to full forward by lobbing over Dublin's third point in the 25th minute.

Out in the centre of the field, Carlow's Jim Morris and Luke Kelly were playing ducks and drakes' with the Dublin men but still there was no by-passing the resolute Metropolitan defence. Jack Moore edged his way past Sean O'Mahony but across came Lalor to floor man, ball and all. To the dismay of Carlow supporters, however, Doyle stepped up to the free—and missed.

The Dublin defence were really under the hammer now but the full back line of McIntyre, McCarthy and Sullivan was magnificent and rolled back their every effort. With the minutes ticking away to half-time, Dublin came away and when Maguire and Coughlan were on the spot to tack on further points, it looked like the death knell for Carlow's hopes.

## Second Half

Into the second half now and inside two minutes there was stark, raving uproar. Jim Morris's fifty dropped right in the square and in like a flash came Doyle to slam the ball into the back of the Dublin net.

The battle was joined in earnest now and Carlow, only one point behind, took it up with renewed vigour. Everyone in the ground stood back and applauded the Barrowsiders' great battle against the odds.

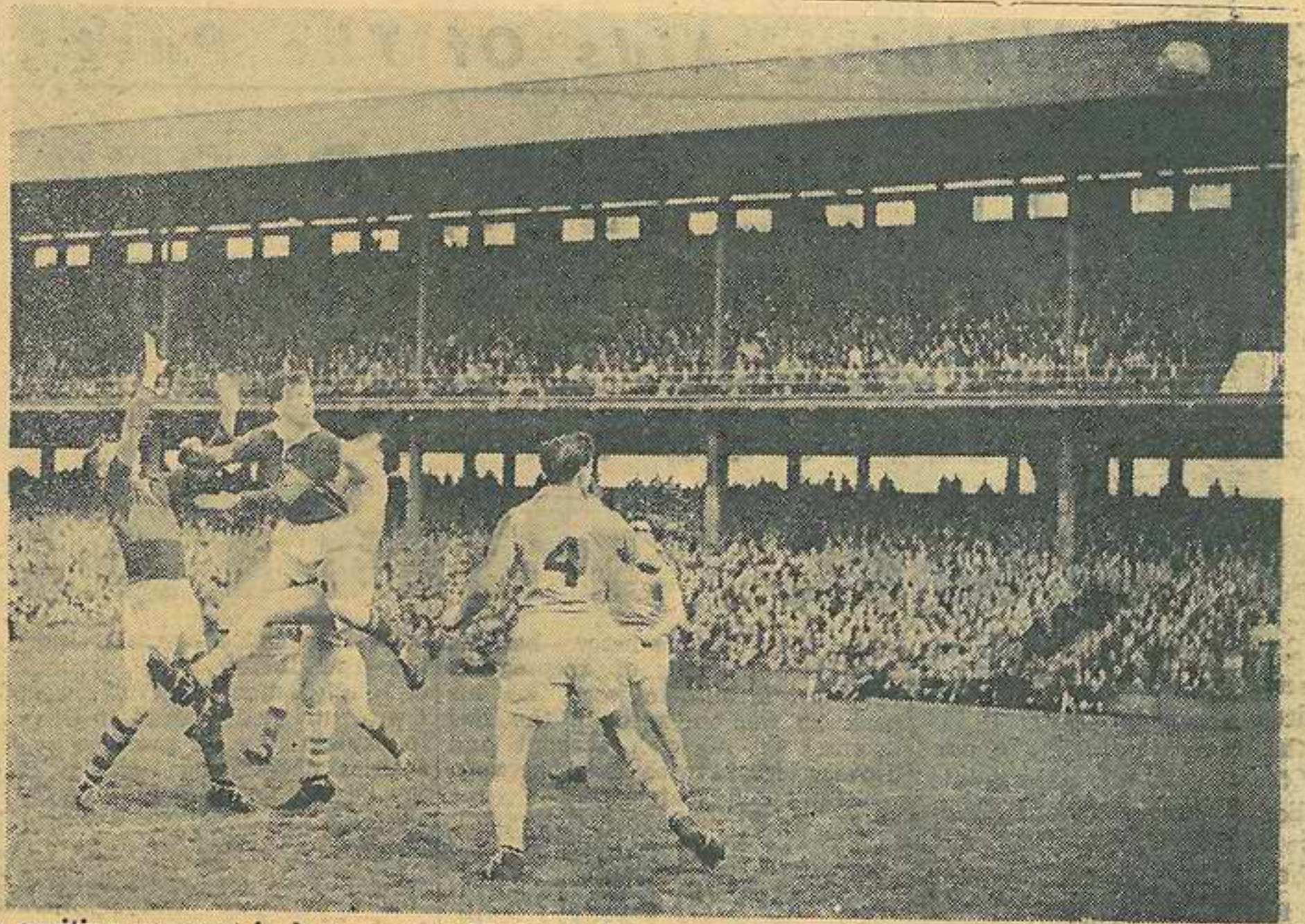
Goalkeeper, Quinlan turned round and glanced at the horse shoe hanging in the back of the Carlow net. The next second it was no longer there as Coughlan raced on to Maher's pass to restore Dublin's lead with a rasping drive to the corner of the net.

Was this the end of the line for Carlow? Was this the reward for Jim Morris's regal midfield display?

"No" said fifteen stout-hearted battlers and back they came again for sharp-shooter Doyle to narrow the gap to three points with a point off a free. That was the cue for the act which was to set Athy ablaze.

Out in the right corner, Sullivan swooped on a loose ball, drew his man and then side-stepped past two Dublin defenders. Across came the precision centre and as the whole of the Dublin rose to it, Doyle stood back, picked his spot—and Carlow were on level terms at last.

The place was soaked in joyous excitement. Spectators cheered their heads off and out on the



An exciting moment in last month's National League semi-final between Dublin and Mayo at Croke Park.

field, 30 leg-weary players strained every aching muscle, drew on every trick of the trade in an effort to grab that vital next score.

Up soared Jim Morris for another ball. Dublin's Mick Falvey stepped back, took one look at our master—and prayed for patience.

On and on stormed Carlow. Bill Hosey was pulled down going through and you could have heard the cheers in Carlow when Doyle pointed to give his side the lead for the first time. This was it—the thrilling, battling come-back that nobody in the fair town of Athy thought possible.

Dublin fought desperately to stay

in the hunt. Majestic Bob Fagan stood between Carlow and a hatful of scores and it was no fault of his when Doyle was again on the target with another pointed free.

Coughlan kept their slight hopes alive when he slipped between a couple of hesitant Carlow defenders to shoot a fine point. One point separating now and the Leinster football crown was never more in the balance.

Everybody hit into everybody else with a will: the ball swung from end to end and then it came.

A fine run by Byrne, a deft pass to Moore and there was Rea racing in to sweep it home for a point, and a two-points' lead for Carlow. 'P.

D' Whelan's men meant business and sure enough Doyle was on hand to lash over another vital point for Carlow.

That was the signal for a blistering full-blooded Dublin onslaught and everybody, defenders and forwards alike, moved into Carlow territory. Four shots, one after the other, screamed towards the Carlow goal but always they were returned—with interest.

DUBLIN KEPT HAMMERING AWAY BUT THERE WAS NO DENYING CARLOW AND THEY WENT ON TO TAKE THEIR FIRST PROVINCIAL TITLE ON THE SCORE OF 2-6 TO 1-9.

TRULY CARLOW'S MOST GLORIOUS HOUR.

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## THOSE IRISH JERSIES

In 1948 an NACA team went to London for the Olympics. Although their names appeared on the programme they were not allowed to compete.

Last year when Father Joe Kelly, a member of that team, was home from Australia, he was presented with the Irish jersey he would

have worn if the team got running.

A few weeks ago in a secret ceremony in Athenry after the All-Ireland senior cross-country championship Martin Egan got his.

Why the hush-hush. Surely every member of this team is entitled to get his jersey.

WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO GET THEM?

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## Odd Training Aids Of The Past

# BEFORE HE RAN, PADDY HAD BACON, CABBAGE, POTATOES . . . AND FOUR PINTS!

THE more we dwell upon the scientific modes of training practiced by the luminants of this era, the more we are apt to contrast these with the unorthodox expedients adopted by our champions of the past. As time marches on each generation naturally profits from the proven deficiencies of the one before.

Yet a high order of strategy was sometimes exercised by the outstanding men who have long ago faded into the discard. Theirs were not all primitive ideas.

### Con Walsh

Con Walsh, of Carriganima, Macroom, now high in his seventies and residing in Seattle, Washington, was one of the greatest of our weightmen. Prior to emigration his greatest day was at the G.A.A. Championships of 1906 in Cork, where he won four All-Ireland weight throwing titles and also the football place kicking test at 74 yards.

On my way to the N.A.C.A. (I) championships of 1937 at Killarney, I met Joe Leahy, of the famous family of jumpers from Gregane, Charleville. Joe told me that Con, in his early days, was more than usually awkward in the hammer circle, and that the Leahys got him to practice step dancing so that he could put his feet where he'd want them. Not a bad idea, even in 1958?

### Step-Dancing

Joe also added that step dancing formed an important part of the jumping training of brothers Con, Pat, Tim and himself.

Con Walsh went on to take the American hammer title of 1911 at 177 feet. His mother died only last year in Carriganima and I have it from an old neighbour of theirs that she must have been round about a hundred years.

Paddy Phelan, Kilkenny's famous hurling half-back of the 30's—than

whom there was no better—had his own shrewd ideas of keeping fit when on unsuitable work. At his peak he was engaged in the fuel business on his own account and drove a lorry twice daily between Kilkenny and Waterford.



He knew that sitting behind the wheel was bound to cramp his style. To counteract this he got one of his brothers to drive the lorry slowly over a quiet stretch of the road, daily, and ran about three miles behind it, in the weeks before important matches. Goal-keeper Jim Darmody told me that one.

A decade and more ago I got talking to the Internationally known bantamweight, Tommy Dennis, who gave dour battle to Dave Connell more than once. Tommy was from the Lusk neighbourhood of North County Dublin. At that time Tommy had some weight difficulties and he explained one of the means he thought out in the way of slimming. Several tons of hay filled one end of a haybarn. Tommy forked it all to the other end. Then, when he had that end cleared, he forked it all back again to where it had been. He was quite satisfied when this resulted in bringing him down a couple of pounds.

Cummin Clancy, from the shores of Lough Corrib, an Irish and British discus throwing champion was lured into a few fights in the ring when a recruit in the Garda Depot. The great cruiserweight, Jim Murphy, expressed the opinion that Cummin would prove as good a heavyweight as we ever had if he could be made interested in the game. But he wasn't interested.

One night at the National Stadium, Cummin stopped an R.U.C. opponent in the first round, hitting him with two or three short hooks which only travelled a few

inches. As novices normally begin on the roundhouse type of milling, especially among the heavyweights. I was intrigued, and asked Cummin to explain how he came to possess such a devastating hook, right at the beginning.

His explanation was most unexpected. Just before he joined up, his 6 ft. 6 ins. brother, Paddy, and himself, cut down half a wood, and Cummin believed that continuous use of the cross-cut over a period cultivated the hook, naturally.

Incidentally, Cummin, at 6 ft. 2½ ins., was the shortest of three brothers. The trio appeared so tall that an American on holiday by the Corrib, opined that the Clancy parents must have sprinkled super-phosphate over their heads when they were children.

I often thought that athletes and hurlers and footballers should train more collectively than they do. Certainly, if they did, some unusual anecdotes would accrue.

Years ago I went for a dip regularly to the Red Rock, Howth. One fine summer day I met there the late Martin Moroney, Irish and International jumps champion, of Miltown-Malbay. The recent lamented demise of Clare's famous hurler, Larry Blake, reminds me of one of Moroney's stories. The pair were students together at St. Flannan's, Ennis, and often tried out each other in sprints. Martin said that the blonde, high-striding Larry was not good enough to hold him in the "hundred" when "unfettered" by a hurley. But give Larry his hurley to run with and he always beat Martin. Figure that one out?

### Primitive

And now let us switch to the really primitive, or at least to performances set up in conditions which would cause the coach of today to ejaculate in genuine horror.

About forty odd years ago a twelve miles road race was held in a certain place in the County Meath. It was won by one Paddy Geraghty. There was various Paddy Geraghtys in that County. The winning reads like just an ordinary item of interest, but the manner of its doing should make the reader sit up and take real notice.

### Four Pints!

For, immediately before the race, Paddy helped himself to an outside and real Irish dinner of bacon, cabbage and potatoes, followed by four pints of Guinness. Then out on to the road he hied himself and rolled over hill and dale to victory.

And last but not least I quote the case of the competitor in the N.A. & C.A. (I) All-Ireland marathon race of 1943, over the standard 25 miles 385 yards, run from Tipperary Town to Clonmel.

When the runners were being called together in Tipperary, my friend, Mick Navin, then Hon. Secretary of the N.A. & C.A. (I) asked one of the competitors, who looked rather disgruntled, if he required a drink. That worthy brightened up and replied: "No, I do not, but as there is a strict ration and I am a stranger in a strange town, I can't get cigarettes here. As you have the kindly thought, maybe you would give me two cigarettes, as I wouldn't like to start without a smoke or two on the long road to Clonmel." That competitor finished among the first three. Ask Mick Navin, who is now living in Clonmel.

# ZATOPEK

By Tony Barry

Seventeen long years after he ran his first race at the age of 17, Emil Zatopek ran his last race at the ripe old age of 36. And so, the time has come to say farewell sorrowfully to the best loved figure in the history of International Athletics.

In his time Emil Zatopek set eighteen World Records. He won four first, one second and one heroic sixth place in three Olympic Games festivals. And in three European Championship meets he won three gold and one bronze medals as well as one fifth place.

His world records ranged from 5,000 metres (just over three miles) to 30,000 metres (well over eighteen miles) and he won the first of his two attempts at the marathon distance. But for a serious operation he might even have won the second.

But when all his world records have been surpassed (of the eighteen he set he still retains five) he will be remembered as the man who heralded a new great era in the history of athletics. Of his own free will he set himself a training regime infinitely tougher than anything that had ever before been practised. Not only that. He showed the world that an ordinary man with no outstanding physical attributes could become great in the field of middle and distance running.

For Zatopek was just an ordinary fellow with nothing special about him other than his will-power. Thanks to Emil Zatopek hundreds of very ordinary people have achieved happiness through great athletic performances. He showed that whereas a great sprinter, jumper or hurdler must be born great performances in distance running are largely a matter of the mind.

It is sad that the familiar figure will never more be seen on the cinder tracks of Europe; that never more will the inspiring and rhythmic chance—"Zat-o-pek, Zat-o-pek"—ring out as the slim, awkward figure hurls himself around the track for another of his great victories. But it would be a far, far sadder thing to see that hectic heroic and legendary figure crumble and disintegrate before the crushing onslaught of a generation which runs as fast as it does as a result of his inspiring example. And so we are glad that our last memory of this great man will be of him in victory, crushing a field of his more presumptuous juniors.

The debt owed to Emil Zatopek by modern distance runners is indeed a great one. The debt owed by us, the spectators, is even greater. And as we say farewell to the First Gentleman of the Track, we thank him for the many hours of heart filling pleasure he has given us.

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# AS I SEE THINGS

By Sean O'Neill

## POOR OLD DAD!

**PARENTS ARE TO BE PITIED WITH THE PROBLEMS THEY HAVE TO COPE WITH THESE DAYS. TAKE THE CASE OF THE UNHAPPY FATHER WHO WROTE RECENTLY TO A COLUMNIST IN A DUBLIN EVENING NEWSPAPER. HIS PROBLEM WAS A MOST DISTRESSING ONE, HE EXPLAINED; HE WAS UNABLE TO OBTAIN ANY KIND OF CRICKET COACHING FOR HIS YOUNG SON.**

The columnist sympathised with the poor demented father, but had no solution for his problem, it was surely a job for the Cricket Union, he explained.

Personally, we see a very simple solution—why not go to live in England.

What about local transport and farmers who might want to use the road? I asked.

It was closed—they had no choice in the matter.

One farmer explained how he had to leave home at 5 a.m. to reach Ballyvaughan with a horse-load of turf, and be back before

Now, I am not criticising the newspaper for reporting such sporting events. As long as there is a public interested, it is their business, but surely it is an insult to the intelligence of the average Dublin-born or based paper reader (I find these pictures are usually confined to city editions) to find the news of the day ousted by a photograph of a junior soccer club in action and secondly, it is a gross insult to imagine that all readers are sufficiently familiar or interested in such a game as soccer to know who Clover Rovers are without having to be told.

And speaking of Clover Rovers and their counterparts, did you ever



Offaly forwards press home an attack against Meath in their first round Leinster hurling championship tie.

Contd. from Col. 3.

everlasting friendship, and before parting, to show their appreciation of his company, the Welshmen presented our friend with a £1 stand ticket (who said Croke Park was expensive?)

The Dubliner, not a Rugby fan, attempted to parry their favour, but they insisted and rather than spoil a beautiful—if somewhat Guinness-inspired—friendship, he accepted.

The following day he passed the ticket on to a friend who in turn presented it to another friend, who in turn gave it to a high State official and he—true to the Gaelic tradition of many of his associates—presented himself at Lansdowne Road, and was escorted to his stand seat. As he was about to seat him-

self, he was suddenly confronted by two members of the law who, not knowing who he was, demanded to know how he came into the possession of a stolen ticket.

There was much general embarrassment all round as identities became known. We do not know if the gentleman retained his seat, but the lesson to be taken from the whole sad—but, as I say, true—story is that Irish officials of State should apply for free tickets from the Rugby Association, or better still, cease to support British influence in Ireland.

**BUT, OF COURSE, EITHER WAY THE RUGBY ASSOCIATION WOULD LOSE £1... AND WE DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN NOW, DO WE?**



If this is not possible, and if the parent in question would care to write to me personally (in care of the editor), I shall be delighted to offer him a very helpful suggestion regarding a constructive use for the cricket bat.

Kildare v. Tipperary in their recent Divisional Final of the National Football League.

the blocking of the road. I wonder how one sporting event or group above another may receive full use of our main roads? Would the N.C.A. obtain the rights to have the route for Ras Tailteann closed at the various stages of passing if they applied?

**OR IS THIS PRIVILEGE OF ROAD BLOCKING SOLELY ENJOYED BY THE ROYAL SOCIETY WHO SPONSOR CAR RALLIES AND THEIR SIMILARLY ROYAL FRIENDS ACROSS THE BORDER?**

There is a certain Irish newspaper which seldom fails to let a week pass without giving us a large, catching sports picture. Under, it usually reads something like this—"Dwyer beats goalkeeper Dobbs to clinch the issue for Clover Rovers."

We are not told who Clover Rovers are or what they are playing. They are, of course, usually a soccer team, and often a junior soccer team at that—but of course, we are all supposed to know all about junior soccer teams.

give a moments thought to the names used by soccer or rugby teams? Not one nationally inspired or patriotic name amongst them—but then this is surely a point in their favour. At least they have refrained from insulting the memory of our dead.

Here is an extract from a recent Dublin newspaper:—

"For many years the principal April the First joke was to leave a telephone message to ring "Mr. Lyons" at 71426, and a somewhat weary voice informed the caller that he had contacted the Zoological Gardens."

This year there has been a change, and the manager of a cinema in Dublin and his staff have answered (to use his own words) "about fifteen hundred calls for Mr. Rooney."

It seems that the film "Rooney" showing there has captured the imagination of the public to such an extent that at least 1,500 misguided souls have bothered to ring the cinema.

Captured the imagination of the public??

**COULD IT NOT HAVE BEEN 1,500 ANGRY IRISHMEN RINGING IN THE HOPE OF SPEAKING TO "MR. ROONEY," AND PERSONALLY TELLING HIM WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF HIS STAGE IRISHISMS, MURDER AND LACROSSE?**

Recently I heard a story—and it is quite true, I believe—that a certain Dublin gentleman of some leisure happened to be joined by a number of hilarious and friendly Welshmen in a city premises a few days prior to the Wales v. Ireland Rugby match.

As the evening drew to a close, the meeting had blossomed forth into an

Sport, what sins are committed in thy name! Shortly after the Easter recess, I happened to be travelling in the West of Ireland, and while passing from Co. Galway into Clare, I was stopped by a limb of the law and told that I could not take the main route by the Corkscrew Hill into Lisdoonvarna.

A car rally was being held, and the road was closed to everybody, and I would have to make a detour by Black Head, just a matter of twenty miles or so, and part of it over a second-class road.

Although in a hurry, I had no choice, and as a law-abiding citizen of the Republic I did as I was bade. Later, and luckily with no car springs broken, I reached Lisdoonvarna. There I questioned a number of locals. It was an annual event, I was told. The road was closed at 2.30 p.m. and opened at nightfall.

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## The Secret Of The "Irish Whip"

AN American authority, when asked what was the secret of "Danno" O'Mahoney's "Irish Whip" which put paid to the accounts of the best world heavyweight wrestlers of his time, replied:

"There is no secret in the "Irish Whip" but in order to exploit it as O'Mahoney does a wrestler needs to be almost strong enough to twirl a man in the air around his head in similar fashion to a weight thrower swinging the hammer in the circle."

We wonder how much did that American authority know? At the Dublin Metropolitan Garda Sports in Croke Park, back in 1934, 'Danno' form Ballydehob, then 21 years old, flung the 16 lb. hammer over 149 ft. in a crude and novice-like fashion, and with two turns instead of the customary three. He was the makings of a great hammerman, too.

# Removal Of Hogan Stand Brings Back Memories

BY PATRICK CAHILL

THE removal of the Hogan Stand from Croke Park, made necessary by large scale building operations, opened up poignant recollections to our sentimental natures. But its re-erection in the Limerick Gaelic Grounds was a commendable gesture for this National symbol of remembrance to Michael Hogan, of Tipperary, could not be transferred to a more fitting location excepting, perhaps, Thurles, the cradle of the G.A.A.

When British soldiers and Black and Tans converged in their hundreds on Croke Park on Bloody Sunday, 21st November, 1920, they trained their guns on the pitch and the crowd of about 10,000, killing seventeen persons, including notable footballer Michael Hogan on the field of play, with Tipperary against Dublin, and wounding about fifty others. This cold blooded act has been described by Dan Breen as about the most diabolical perpetrated by the ancient enemy in that ruthless era.

Limerick's proud association with the G.A.A. is well known, but the main purpose of this article is to awaken the chord of memory to great athletic feats on the hallowed reaches of the Markets Field, Limerick, in the days that are gone.

## World Record

In June, 1884, a few months before the foundation of the G.A.A., Willie Real, of New Pallas, set up a world record of 28 ft. 0½ in. with the 42 lbs. from the shoulder, which lasted for decades. The venue was then known as the New Markets Field.

Two years later a huge concourse of people attended there, beating all records for the Provinces, to see Jim Mitchell, of Emly make an unri-

valled throw of 119 ft. 5 ins. with the old wooden-handled hammer. A packed grand stand showed the fairer sex in a majority of 3 to 1.

In the following June, Clareman John Purcell made a world hop, step and jump record of 48 ft. 3 ins., and on 6th August, 1888, when the Markets Field was honoured with the G.A.A. All-Ireland championships, four world records were broken. Dan Shanahan, of Killinane, advanced to 50 ft. 0½ in. in the hop, step and jump, although two hops and a jump were then allowed. The record remains on our books to this day. Mitchell registered 136 ft. 1½ in. with the hammer in unlimited run and follow style and 59 ft. 5½ ins. with

the 14 lbs. and Real pushed the 56 lbs. 23 ft. 9½ ins.

In 1889, Pat Stokes of Kilsheelan, crossed 11 ft. in the pole vault, an Irish record for the next 40 years until Paddy Anglim reached 11 ft. 3 ins. at Croke Park.

In July, 1898, the great Pat Leahy, of Cregane, Limerick, soared over a 6 ft. 5½ ins. high jump. This performance never found its place in the official lists. It was just an eighth of an inch short of the world high water mark by Mike Sweeney.

The Markets Field saw something new in May, 1899, when Michael O'Neill, of Adare, beat the English professional champion, George Crossland, for £25 a side, over 3 miles, and, to usher us into the new century, we find the American winner of the British high jump title, Sam Jones, appear there, apparently to take the Leahys in his stride. But he found opponents worthy of his steel, for Pat tied with Jones at 6 ft. 2½ ins. and Con Leahy topped 6 ft. 1½ ins.

The Hogan Stand has been graced by famous personages from far and near—high Church dignitaries, Presidents, Consuls and Ambassadors, among others—while at Croke Park, and it will undoubtedly continue to house celebrities from the ends of the earth in the future owing to its close proximity to Shannon Airport.

## THE "SAINTS" HAVE SINNED

(By "KELLY")

ON Easter week-end, the Inchicore Athletic Club celebrated its Silver Jubilee by a relay run from Fair Head in Antrim to Mizen Head in Cork.

This was a good publicity stunt and all credit is due to the Inchicore lads for thinking it up.

However, why did they have to go and sell their birthright for the proverbial mess of pottage.

In this case the mess, and I mean mess, was the relay baton.

This baton was supplied by a certain very well known member of the Yellow Press which recently let us in on the secrets of a G.I.'s Slave Bride.

Now the Inchicore Athletic Club is a member of that athletic holy of holies, the N.A.C.A.

The N.A.C.A. has always stood for everything that is Irish in athletics. Rather than compromise their well known principles they have even given up International competition.

Now, after all this the gentlemen from Inchicore have come and besmirched one of the N.A.C.A.'s greatest ever undertakings by allowing an English Sunday paper to cash in on it.

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# LIMERICK'S LAST ALL-IRELAND

**CROKE PARK, SUNDAY, SEPT. 1, 1940, BATHED IN THE WARM SUN OF EARLY AUTUMN AND THROGGED WITH 50,000 GAELS, ALL EAGER TO PAY HOMAGE TO THE CAMAN KINGS OF THE DAY—LIMERICK AND KILKENNY. AND WHAT RIVALS! THE PAIR HAD FIRST MET IN AN ALL-IRELAND FINAL BACK IN 1898, WHEN THE KILFINANE TEAM, REPRESENTING LIMERICK, BEAT TULLAROAN 3-4 TO 2-4.**

In 1933 Kilkenny had been victors by 1-7 to 0-6, and again in 1935 by the odd point, 2-5 to 2-4.

Then in 1936, back from an American tour and before a record-breaking crowd of well over 50,000, Limerick had humiliated Kilkenny, 5-6 to 1-5.

## Revenge

Now, four years later, the Nore-siders were anxious for revenge and indeed, on paper, looked much the stronger. Then too they had the tradition of twelve successful All-Irelands behind them as opposed to Limerick's five.

As they paraded before the National Anthem, Limerick had the added incentive of a double victory, for in the curtain raiser

their minors had completely overwhelmed Antrim. From the off the pace was a cracker and all Kilkenny. Such an early rush of fast and fiery play brought its justifiable reward in the

**TURNING  
BACK THE  
PAGES  
OF  
G.A.A.  
HISTORY  
With  
TONY BARRY**

shape of a goal by Terry Leahy after than no more than 3 or 4 minutes, soon to be followed, from a free, by another point for the Nore-siders.

**Furious Attack**  
After the initial shock Limerick rallied and with their backs to the

wall began to show what they were made of, and after a quarter of an hour Limerick followers got something to chant about when Pat Clohessy drove one high over the bar from a "70". Heartened, the Limerick men buckled into it with such a will that soon Jackie Power had notched another point and then, in a furious attack, from a melee out on the right wing, put Limerick in front with a grand goal.

## Upper Hand

Back and forth, up and down now Limerick, now Kilkenny seeming to have the upper hand, but never for more than a couple of minutes at a time, and soon Langton equalised for Kilkenny. Once again Kilkenny had the bit between their teeth, and in a series of sweep away attacks just before half-time points by Langton and Phelan put them two points up.

After the resumption Kilkenny re-started where they had left off, and soon their whirlwind attacks had brought further dividends in points by Mulcahy and Jim Walsh.

## Breakaway

All the while, Limerick, fighting like demons, still looked viciously dangerous even though four points in arrears, and under the inspired captaincy of the volatile Mick Mackey were busy repulsing the tide, turning every Kilkenny attack into a Limerick breakaway.

Soon Mackey himself had put them within striking distance of the champions with two grand points. With the score at 1-6 to 1-4 something happened to Limerick and from there on there was no stopping them.

## Rock-Like

Time and time again they swept against the rock-like Kilkenny defence, only to run into what must have looked like a brick wall painted in black and amber stripes. But, inexorably the fierceness of their hurling brought its results, and in one scintillating movement they were in front as the ball flew from Power to Chawke across to the right cornerman, Dick Stokes, who brought the crowd to its feet with a rocket that left O'Connell in the Kilkenny goal gaping.

That did it. Nothing could stay them now, and they went after every ball with a display of speed and fitness awesome to behold.

John Mackey clinched it with another goal and though a great and courageous rally by Kilkenny nearly brought another goal, Limerick still hadn't finished and they had points by Power and Tim Ryan before Mick Mackey dealt the final body-blow with as sweet a point as anyone could wish for.

And that was just about that as Limerick's last All-Ireland ended in a blaze of glory with the final score Limerick, 3-7; Kilkenny, 1-6

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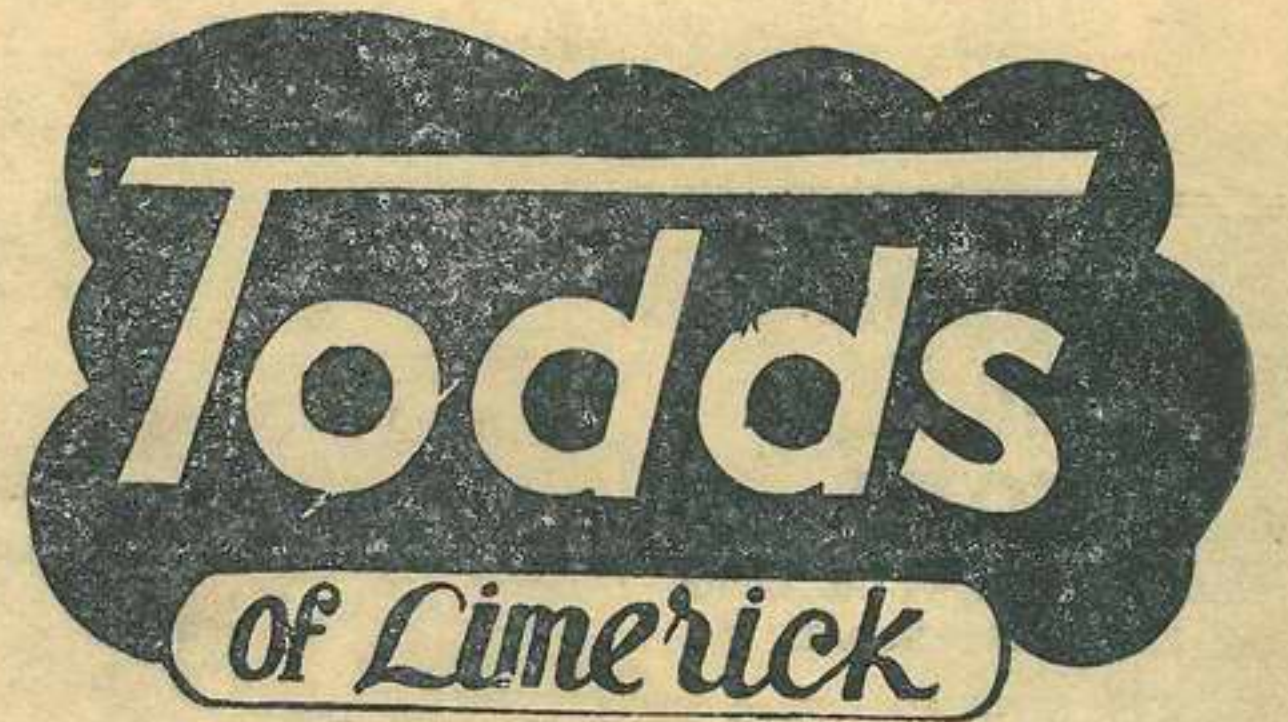
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# Drogheda

By James M. C. Brennan

**WERE IT NOT FOR THE ANACHRONISM, IT COULD WELL BE SAID THAT THE TOWN OF DROGHEDA WAS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP. WHILST DUNDALK IS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPITAL OF THE COUNTY LOUTH, THERE IS NO GAINSAYING THAT THE TOWN OF DROGHEDA IS THE INDUSTRIAL HEART OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP COUNTY. "THE TIME HAS COME, THE WALRUS SAID . . ." REMINDED ME THAT HAD ALICE COME TO DROGHEDA, SHE COULD WELL HAVE SPOKEN OF CEMENT, SHOES, SEALING WAX AND . . . YES . . . BEER. YOU FIND IT ALL IN DROGHEDA. YOU WILL ALSO FIND CHAMPIONS.**

The infamous Cromwell felt that special treatment should be meted out to this (yes, even in those days) then go-ahead hub of industry, and from time immemorial its proximity to the Capitol City seems to have spurred the town on to greater industrial efficiency. Is it now a large town or a wee city?

When we think of Louth, Drogheda hits us slap in the eye, and with Drogheda, of course, comes Peadar Smith. This fair haired "wonder boy" of Drogheda hails from Mell, and from infancy had football "on the brain." After playing for his school, the local C.B.S., you'd find him playing in his free time with his own St. Joseph's. A specialist in the game itself rather than a specialist in any one position . . . the true all-rounder.

In 1945 he was selected as a reserve on the county minor team. The following year he was entrusted with the job of goalkeeping—a position he has never filled since. During his minor days he won two minor championships with St. Joseph's (now the Oliver Plunkets) and three Primary League medals with the C.B.S.

Just ten years ago, Peadar, a dashing, elusive forward, got his big chance in senior inter-county. He soon carved for himself a permanent place on the team, and two years later, in 1949, he travelled to London where he played against Mayo in a tournament game. Years of effort followed . . . some destroying defeats . . . near misses . . . and then in 1950 the bitterest blow of all at the hands of Mayo in the All-Ireland final. Peadar was a sub that day—and saw his chance of that elusive medal slip away from his grasp.

In all, Peadar has annexed roughly 25 medals, including one All-Ireland; 3 Leinster, '50, '53 and '57; one Louth senior medal, '57, and other tournament trophies. Without a doubt, this was the greatest year in the Drogheda fitter's life. He saw the fulfilment of his boyhood—an All-Ireland medal and a Louth senior medal—a couple of weeks from each other.

But there's one dark cloud which, as he says himself, will live in his memory forever. Indeed, only for one behind-the-scenes misunderstanding, Peadar would have given pride of place to Sunday 22nd of September, as the proudest day in his life. As it is, his greatest day was about

50 miles from Croke Park—in Dundalk to be exact—where, on a rain-drenched pitch the battling Oliver Plunkets beat a fancied St. Mary's side to take the Louth senior championship for the first time. And, "to the manner born," Peadar played the game of his life. So it is that for him it will be that 22nd of September as his "greatest hour," but the Plunkets' win will always be closest to his heart.

Peadar is married to a Carlow girl, and is proud in his possession of a bonny boy who, according to Peadar, will one day emulate his father in the colours of the champion county. A fitter by trade, he is employed in Athy in the local asbestos works in the town whom he joined from Cement, Ltd., and with whom he had earlier worked in Drogheda. From all accounts, he has been welcomed with open arms in Athy, and fellow-Gaels in the area presented him with a gold watch as a memento of his great achievement. What a true indication of boundless sportsmanship.

I hope sincerely that my ears are not deceiving me, and that is a sentiment that will be re-echoed by many in Drogheda and the entire County Louth, but I believe that Peadar is retiring at the end of the year. Should such unfortunately be the case, I am quite certain that the boy from Mell will have inspired many youths to follow along the path of the athletic prowess so clearly blazoned by Peadar Smith, and thereby bring further renown to the town of Drogheda which has shown so much in initiative and enterprise to the Irish nation.



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# Paudie Sheehy Of Kerry

By BRIAN McDONALD

FROM his earliest days at Tralee C.B.S., Paudie Sheehy was always keen on Gaelic football, and his love for the game was only equalled by his natural ability, which took but a short time to blossom forth. To-day, the 25-year-old University student is reckoned one of the best forwards in the game.

Fast, clever and with telling accuracy in either foot, you'll generally find him filling the right half-forward position. A cool head and an eye for the slightest opening, Paudie is never a man to be marked lightly, and to give him even half a chance is fatal... he knows the shortest way towards goal, and if this way is barred there's plenty of room over the bar.

Football was in his blood from childhood. His father, John Joe Sheehy, a Kerry stalwart a couple of decades ago, is the proud possessor of four All-Ireland medals. After winning an all-Ireland minor medal in 1950, Paudie made

championship and against Louth in the semi-final. John Joe Sheehan was brought into the side against Armagh, with Jim Brosnan taking my position at right half forward. Kerry won all right

the Ireland jersey in '55 and they were beaten! The next year he was chosen for the Universities, and after half an hour's extra play they were beaten by a point—2-14 to 3-10. And the irony of it all—



Kerry v. Armagh in the 1953 All-Ireland Senior Football final at Croke Park.

the jump to senior status the following year not even bothering to sample junior fare. And it can be said he was well and truly blooded in senior football in his first game.

It was in the Munster final against Cork at Killarney, and a day Paudie will never forget. "I was sitting on the trainer's bench watching the boys show Cork a thing or two, and ten minutes from time, one of our forwards went down injured. The next minute I found myself playing in the game. I hardly had time to settle down before the final whistle went, but I had won a Munster Championship medal the first time I wore the senior jersey."

Paudie wasn't on for the All-Ireland semi-final against Mayo in the first game which ended in a thrilling draw, but he played in the second match, which resulted in a win for the Westerners.

Disappointments are pretty frequent in the life of football, and in 1953 Paudie got the biggest one of all. He was captain of the Kerry team, but was dropped in the final against Armagh. "It was a bitter pill to swallow" says Paudie. "I had played all through the Munster

but somehow or other there's not the same thrill in getting a medal for being a sub. I can tell you, it was tough, very tough, to be dropped for that one match."

The following year Kerry again came out of Munster, hammered Galway in the 'semi' but were beaten by Meath, so Paudie was still without a 'genuine' All-Ireland souvenir. There's a silver lining to every cup of sorrow, and the next year brought the fulfillment of a longcherished ambition—to play in an All-Ireland decider. Their opponents in the final were Dublin, and Paudie wasn't going to let this chance slip by. Kerry struck top form that day, and his All-Ireland medal was assured well before the long whistle.

ALTHOUGH HE HAD PLAYED IN FOUR COMBINED UNIVERSITIES—IRELAND GAMES, PAUDIE HAS YET TO BE ON A WINNING SIDE!

In 1952 he was on the Combined side. The following year he captained them. In '54 he wasn't selected on either side, but he wore

Tadhg Lyne, a team-mate of Paudie's, scored the winning point! Paudie is keeping his fingers crossed this year. He's on the Universities side, but I know which side I'm putting my few bob on. Sorry Paudie!

"Who were the best men I met in the game" that's a question that always crops up, so I promptly put the question to the Kerry star.

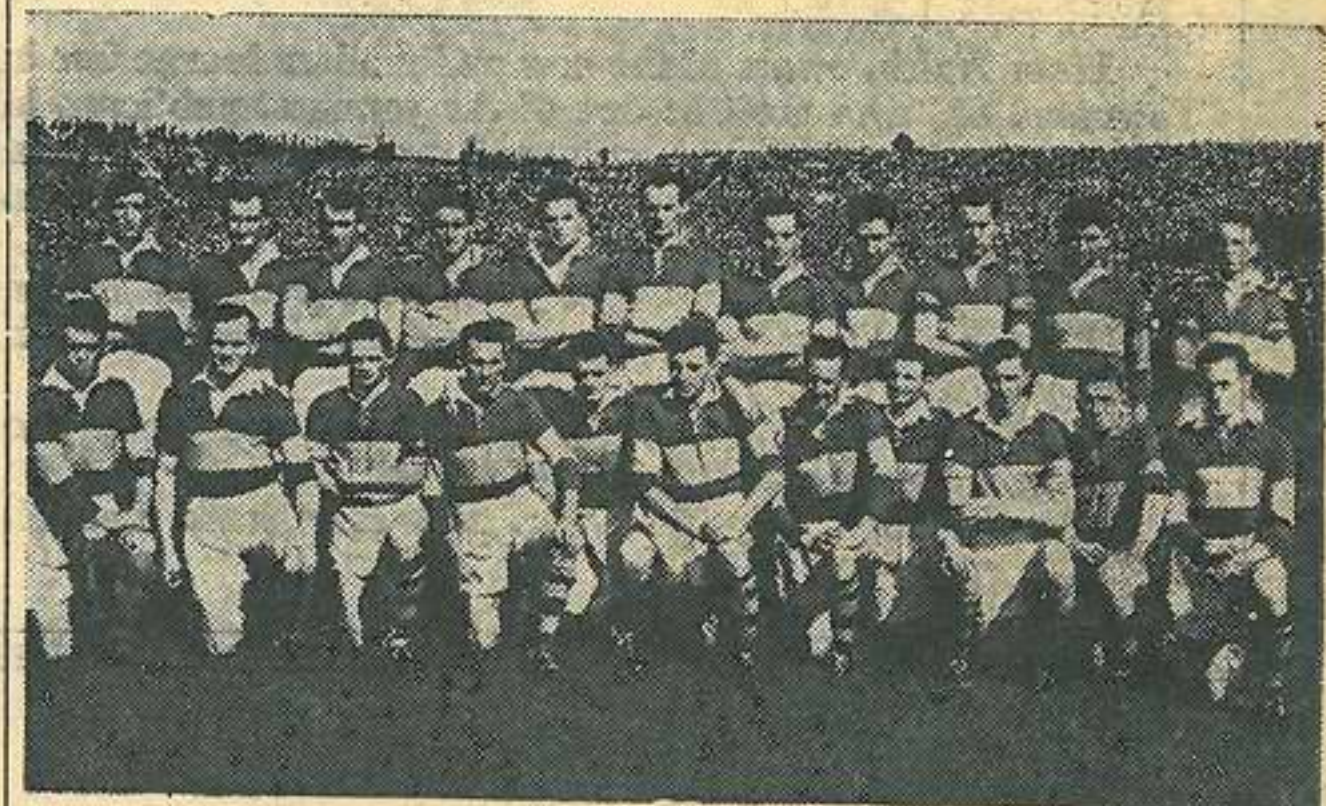
## Jim McDonnell

"The best man that ever played on me" says Paudie "was Jim McDonnell of Cavan. But not far behind him were the Cork players, Denis Bernard and Paddy Driscoll." On the question of famous players, I asked Paudie who he'd rank as the all time greats. "Easy" he replied. And with that he trotted out the names of Pádraig Carney, Jim McKeever, Sean Purcell, Paddy Kennedy, Jim Brosnan and the Lyne brothers, Tadhg and Jackie. Just when I thought he was leaving out the most obvious of all, he disappointed me. Yes, he also included the mighty Paddy 'Bawn'—Prince of Kerry footballers and who, like Christy Ring, has become a legend in his lifetime.

Paudie, at present living in Dublin, plays football with UCD and is also a more than average hurler—he played minor for Kerry in 1949. So it's not unnatural that he attends as many hurling matches as possible.

Who does he put tops in this game? That was another two-marker for the Tralee-man. Christy Ring and Nick Rackard share top billing with Limerick's Mick Mackey "All in all, football has helped me see a lot of Ireland" says Paudie, "and even part of the world. In 1956 I travelled with the Kerry team to New York, where we met our opponents of the previous year's All-Ireland final—Dublin. It's a wonderful country, but I'd settle for Ireland any time."

One last word from Paudie "I'm hoping to get a third All-Ireland medal this year."



KERRY, ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS, 1955.

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May 4th, at Nenagh—CLARE v. TIPPERARY. Junior Football, 2.30 (S.T.). Junior Hurling, 3.45.

May 4th, at Macroom—KERRY v. CORK. Junior Hurling, 2.30 (S.T.). Junior Football, 3.45.

May 4th, at Waterford—LIMERICK v. WATERFORD. Junior Football, 2.30 (S.T.). Junior Hurling, 3.45.

May 18th, at Limerick—CORK v. CLARE. Minor Hurling, 2 p.m. (S.T.). Senior Hurling, 3.30.

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Liam spent three-and-a-half years as a member of the Garda Síochána, is a married man, and has been in Dublin for the past six years.

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## THE BIG GATES AT CROKE PARK

By Kevin O'Sullivan

ONE OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS CONFRONTING G.A.A. FANS NOWADAYS IS THE ANNUAL QUESTION OF ACQUIRING A TICKET FOR THE ALL-IRELAND.

Fifty or six years ago there was no such problem, and if the founders of the Association were alive to-day to see the crowds thronging Jones Road on All-Ireland Day, they would find it very hard to believe their eyes.

There are no official records of actual attendances around and before the turn of the century.

Contemporary newspaper reports tell us of "enormous" crowds at the 1896 finals and "eight to ten thousand" at the 1900, final which incidentally was played in 1902.

However, as the GAA was then a struggling young body, which no doubt released optimistic figures to boost morale, we can take these estimates with the proverbial grain of salt.

If any county can be said to have done more than any other to bring the current capacity crowds, it is Kerry.

The Kerry-Kildare series in 1903 was the best money spinner for a long time. The first clash in Tipperary attracted about 10,000 spectators who parted with £125 at the gate. The replay in Cork was watched by 12,000 while the second and last also replay at Cork broke

all records when £270 was netted from 20,000 fans who cheered Kerry to victory.

Two years later when the Lilywhites avenged that defeat, they had fifteen to twenty thousand witnesses.

The first really big gates came in the famous "Croke Memorial Tournament" in 1913. This was the tournament which really put the GAA on its feet and once again Kerry played its part.

26,000 people paid £750 for the first game against Louth at Jones Road, when the teams drew. This was an all time record which the

experts said would remain for many a long day.

Three weeks later these experts had to eat their words when the gatemen collected the then fantastic sum of £1,183. No official attendance figures were issued. A newspaper report speaks of fifty thousand.

The famous Kerry-Kildare clashes of the twenties produced more records and for the 1926 replay these official figures were 35,000 and £3,370.

In 1929, Kerry were again on the bill for the first 40,000 All-Ireland and nine years later when they met Galway in the 1938 Final we had the first 70,000 and the first £6,000.

In spite of emergency travel restrictions over 79,000 saw the Kingdom men go down to Roscommon in 1944 and in 1955 there was a fantastic 90,000 for the Kerry-Dublin clash.

There the figures rest to-day. No doubt when they are improved upon one of the teams will wear the Green and Gold of Kerry.

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MANY FAMOUS ATHLETIC  
SONS WAS DR. PAT O'CALLAGHAN OF KANTURK.,  
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THROWING CHAMPION OF  
1928 AND 1932, HE WAS THE  
BEST COMBINATION  
WEIGHTMAN AND JUMPER  
THAT IRELAND HAS EVER  
HAD.PERHAPS THE MOST  
SALIENT PROOF OF HIS  
AMAZING VERSATILITY ON  
HOME FIELDS WAS HIS SIX  
IRISH CHAMPIONSHIPS IN  
1931, WHICH HE WON AT  
CROKE PARK. THESE WERE  
IN THE HAMMER, SHOT, 56  
LBS. OVER THE BAR, AND  
FOR DISTANCE, DISCUS,  
AND HIGH JUMPING  
EVENTS.In the Triangular International  
at Glasgow, in 1930, he made a  
joint record for the series, in thehigh jump, with E. R. Brad-  
brooke (England) at 6 ft., 2 ins.  
But it was worth considerably  
more, owing to his "roll" style as  
the bar was set at 6 ft., 5 ins. on  
one upright and just an inch less  
on the other. At the banquet, that  
night, Sir Harry Barclay of the  
British A.A.A., paid Pat a great  
tribute by stating: "We in Eng-  
land have been endeavouring over  
the past forty years or so to de-  
velop just one athlete of the stamp  
of Dr. O'Callaghan, but, so far,  
we have failed."O'Callaghan's great 195 ft.  
4 7/8 ins. hammerthrow at Fermoy,  
in 1937, was denied world record  
status owing to the N.A. & C.A.  
(I.) being then suspended by the  
International Federation. He also  
held the 56 lbs., without follow,  
record at 27 ft. 10 ins. until the  
advent of Ned Tobin.Remarkably well preserved,  
to-day he looks almost as de-  
scribed by a leading Americansportwriter at Amsterdam, in  
1928, after becoming world  
hammer champion . . . "A  
big, boyish-faced figure of a  
man, with a mass of golden  
hair."Kanturk only produced the  
best, for this centre of the Duhal-  
low country was where the  
celebrated Guiney's first saw the  
light of day. Brothers Ted, Jack  
and Pat all won more than one  
Irish All-round titles, and all took  
Irish National gold medals in the  
high jump, while all proved Ire-  
land's best in other athletic  
spheres.And their first cousin, Dave,  
also a Kanturk man, was the best  
and most consistent shot-putter  
on native field, taking in all eras,  
and he is presently the Irish  
native record holder at 48 ft. 11 3/4  
ins. For good measure, he was  
an Irish champion longjumper at  
22 ft., 6 ins., and a 5 ft., 11 ins.  
high jumper.**FANTASTIC RECORD OF DUHALLOW MEN**● Athletes from Duhallow  
have competed for Ireland in  
England, Scotland, Wales,  
America, Norway, Sweden, Den-  
mark, Iceland, Finland, Germany,  
and the Netherlands.● Four men from Duhallow—  
Denis Horgan of Banteer, Pat  
and Con O'Callaghan and David  
Guiney of Kanturk—represented  
Ireland in the Olympic Games.● Pat O'Callaghan won Olymp-  
ic Gold Medals for Ireland at  
Amsterdam (1928) and Los  
Angeles (1932).● Three Duhallow men—Tim  
O'Connor of Ballyclough, Pat  
O'Callaghan of Kanturk, and Denis  
Horgan of Banteer—won Ameri-  
can Championships.● Three Duhallow men—Denis  
Horgan (13), David Guiney (2),  
and Pat O'Callaghan (1)—won  
British Championships.● Pat O'Callaghan and David  
Guiney also won Irish and British  
Universities championships.● Three Duhallow men—Denis  
Horgan, Pat O'Callaghan andDavid Guiney—have held or hold  
National Irish Athletic records.● Athletes from Duhallow  
have to date won over 140 National  
Irish Championships. Be-  
tween them, Denis Horgan (28),  
David Guiney (26), Pat O'Callag-  
han (23), Paddy Guiney (10), Jack  
Guiney (7) and Ted Guiney (3),  
won 97!● I could go on and on . . .  
but I wonder can any other bar-  
ony in Ireland equal or surpass  
such a record? P. D.

The Kanturk captains (left to right): Paddy Smith, captain, hurling team; John O'Mahony, captain, minor football; Michael Lofts, minor hurling; Bernie McLernon, hurling team; Pat O'Connor, juvenile hurling team.

**KANTURK** minor hurling  
and football teams  
created a new record for the  
Duhallow Division during  
1957, being the first minor  
teams from the Division to  
reach the County hurling  
final and the semi-final of the  
football championship.The Kanturk junior hur-  
ling and football teams won  
every 1957 trophy with the  
exception of the junior hur-  
ling championship.In all, Kanturk won the  
"Examiner Cup," the foot-  
ball league, the junior hurling  
league, the junior footballchampionship, and were  
beaten in the semi-final of  
the junior hurling champi-  
onship by Banteer, who ul-  
timately won out the title.And, last but not least,  
Kanturk won the juvenile  
(under 16) hurling champi-  
onship.

Quite a total, isn't it?

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# Niall Fitzgerald Of Waterville

**M**ICHAEL FITZGERALD OF WATERVILLE MUST HAVE BEEN A PROUD MAN THAT SPORTS DAY IN MACROOM, IN 1945, FOR HIS THREE YOUNG SONS, NIALL, SEAN AND MYLES, REWARDED HIM FOR THE PATIENCE HE TOOK IN THEIR TRAINING.

Sean, aged 12, ran and jumped in every competition for his age; Niall, the eldest, won the jumps and the "hundred" under 14, and little 9-year-old Myles walked under the high jump lath of four feet—and then leaped over it.

Johnny Creedon, afterwards—final—was second to Niall in the along with Niall Fitz—to wear a all-round trophy.

red jersey in an All-Ireland Training, training... was

By



EAMONN YOUNG

father, Michael Fitzgerald's motto, and the many hours his boys spent in the Castle field built up their strength for the good days ahead.

Niall Fitz's most active year, in a sporting life, now in its prime, was in 1949.

That was the year he entered for the All-Ireland Colleges pole vault. Gym shoes Niall always used when jumping, but on this day he got a loan of a pair of spanking running shoes from a Glenstal boy. They came off mightily quickly, however, when young Fitzgerald failed twice at eight feet.

From then on it was bare feet all the way, and the lath went up. Four boys got over 9' 6", but only the curly haired Macroom boy sailed over 9' 9" for victory.

In 1949, Niall was selected at full-back on the Munster Colleges' team, and then played at centre-field. Paddy Harrington, Sean Murphy, Marcus O'Neill, Dermot O'Sullivan, Paud Sheehy, Tony O'Shaughnessy, the hurler, and Dinny Falvey played in these seasons of 1949-50 for Munster, while John Mac Knight of Armagh; Colm Smith and Brendan Maguire of Cavan, were young Ulstermen who helped to beat Munster in the second year.

But to make '49 busier still, Niall was an outstanding Cork minor and, in addition, played at centre-field for his club (Macroom) in the senior championship.

A fine display against St. Nicholas (the Glen Rovers football team), one day in Clonakilty, put Niall right on to the Cork senior football National League side that played against Carlow in Niall's own home town of Macroom.

It is easy to imagine how our boy felt. Bad enough to make a hash of his debut, but to do so at home, with his parents looking on! However, he needn't have feared, for he played an absolute "blinder" which the "Cork Examiner" reporter was not slow to note.

Contd. on Page 17.

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Niall Fitzgerald in a game against Kildare at Croke Park, last year



The Cork team: Back row (left to right): D. Troy, T. Furlong, J. O'Sullivan, S. Moore, D. Bernard, J. McAuliffe, P. O'Driscoll, T. O'Callaghan. Front row (left to right): N. Fitzgerald, M. McCarthy, P. Harrington, N. Duggan (captain), D. Murray, D. Kelleher, L. Power.

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about  
'The Gaelic Echo'**

Contd. from Page 16.

## Heartbreak In '57 Final

Now for the County final between Macroom and Collins, at Cork Park, on the following Sunday, so let's get down to training.

The young Macroom team trained like madmen that week, and included long spells of basket ball in their schedule. The result was a tired bunch of boys on the following Sunday, a fact that Stan Egan, Jimmy Cronin and the other soldiers duly appreciated. The game ended in a draw, and on the replay, an even more tired Macroom side was swamped.

In 1950, Niall Fitzgerald was joined on the Cork team by a young tearaway called "Toots" Kelleher. They're still together, and the sweat of many hours' football has cemented their friendship.

But 1950 wasn't a good year for Cork, and neither was 1951, for Kerry put a stop to the red-jerseyed gallop, and in between Niall had a spell with Clanna Gael, Dublin.

But the days in the Cadet School were more exciting, with periods of military study, dovetailing in with glorious hours of games. Basket ball, under the critical eye of Ulster Railway Cup man Capt Jack Gallagher, was a favourite, and with hardy young men like Cathal O'Leary, Billy O'Neill, Ned Roche, Jim Fives and Jack Kissane, to play it, young Fitzie had to go well off the ground.

Maybe it was the weak ankle picked up in the Curragh gym that cost Fitz his place on the Cork football team of 1951-52. This left him without a trip to America which the National League winners gained, but

'53 brought some recompense in the shape of a Cork county championship medal with his old rivals, Collins with whom he now played as a young lieutenant.

In 1954 and '55, Kerry again refused to let Cork footballers out of Munster, but '56 saw the door open at last.

Cork drew with the Kingdom in Cork and won the replay in Killarney. And what a glorious finish that game had for Niall Fitz.

Paddy O'Driscoll placed a free very carefully in his own half-back line. Only a minute left, and the scores level. Would he ever kick it? The sweat, cold, on a hot day, broke out all over me.

Bang! and the ball was gone downfield. Up Fitzie, up, up... he had it. He's running goalwards on a solo; he's running much too far, but the frantic Kerry men are fouling also, so all's fair. Thirty yards out... twenty five... twenty and clutching hands are pulling "Fitzie" down, but as he fell, that right boot gave the white ball a happy little tap.

"Fitzie" was down, but a white flag was up. God help us, we went mad.

Kildare crashed to Cork in the semi-final, and "Fitzie's" great thrill was the All-Ireland of '56 against

Galway, with Gerry Daly, a grand sporting footballer, to beat and his boyhood friends John Creedon and "Toots" to help him.

### Excelsior

That story is already written, and so is that of '57, when Kevin Beahan's sideline kick went to the net off Cunningham, but as Niall Fitzgerald says:

"It would break your heart to lose an All-Ireland but what a thrill all the same; and think of all the good men who never stood on Croke Park."

The Fitzgerald story isn't over. In fact, it's only started, now that "Fitzie" is a proven Railway Cup man.

And how about Myles and Sean? Yes, they're in Australia, where Sean is a fine Australian footballer, having started a team at Nannup, West Australia, in his first six months out there.

Little Myles who walked under the four foot lath, has just won the West Australian pole vault championship at twelve feet. Their father is proud of the three. Why wouldn't he be?

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# THE FABULOUS FINN

WITH SEVEN GOLD MEDALS TO HIS CREDIT, PAAVO NURMI, THE FLYING FINN, IS WITHOUT A DOUBT THE GREATEST OLYMPIAN OF ALL TIME. HIS RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.

Antwerp, 1920—1st 10,000 metres; 1st 10,000 metres cross country; 2nd 5,000 metres.

Paris, 1924—1st 1,500 metres; 1st 3,000 metres team race; 1st 5,000 metres; 1st 10,000 metres cross-country.

Amsterdam, 1928 — 1st 10,000 metres; 2nd 5,000 metres; 2nd 3,000 metres, steeplechase.

Without a doubt his greatest year was 1924, when he collected four Olympic firsts, more than anyone has won in a single Game, and indeed more than some of the greatest Olympians have won in a lifetime.

However, had he run in the 10,000 metres, which was won by his fellow Finn, Ritola, there is little doubt but that his total for the Paris Games would have been five golds, as in a private trial over the distance shortly before the game he clocked 29.58—a world best at the time.

Predicting finality in sport is a hazardous undertaking at the best of times, but it is hard to believe that there will ever be another athlete to surpass Nurmi. Just look at the rest of his 1924 exploits in Paris.

While lesser mortals were collapsing in the tropical heat, the Finn was breaking records. In one afternoon within the space of two short hours he won the 1,500 metres in 3-53.6 and the 5,000 metres in 14-36.6, both times being Olympic records, and being second only to his World Bests.

During six days he won seven races. However, the one that really set the seal upon his greatness was the 10,000 metres cross-country.

This must have been the most gruelling event ever on an Olympic programme. The temperature was 90 degrees in the shade, and instead of taking the competitors out into the green fields, most of the course consisted of the cobbled streets of Paris.

Twenty-one of the three dozen starters collapsed from the heat, but Nurmi, looking as cool as the snowdrifts of his native land, came in two minutes ahead of his nearest challenger.

The measure of Nurmi's supremacy can be assessed from the fact that as a result of the state of exhaustion in which most of the competitors finished, the race was dropped from subsequent Olympic programmes on the grounds that being essentially a winter sport, it was too gruelling for the Olympics, invariably held during the summer months.

The most amazing facet of these performances is that Nurmi could not possibly have been at peak form. A fall in a cross-country race in April had injured his knee, and he had not been able to train for two months. Indeed, he was lucky to qualify at the Finnish Olympic Trials in June.

The great-hearted Finn won his last Gold medal at the Amsterdam Games in 1928, where he took the 10,000 metres with a new Olympic best ever time. That year he was second in the 5,000 metres and the 3,000 metres steeplechase.

However, his last appearance on an Olympic track did not come for another twenty-four years when, in 1952, to the applause of the massed thousands, he trotted around the Helsinki arena, holding aloft the Olympic Torch.

A fitting end to a great Olympic career.

# Pat's Emigration Ends Glorious Era

THIS IS THE END OF A CYCLING ERA IN IRELAND IN GENERAL AND IN CONNAUGHT IN PARTICULAR.

FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS, ONE OR MORE OF MR. AND MRS. MANNION'S SIX LITTLE BOYS HAS BEEN WINNING BIKE RACES BUT NOW WITH THE EMIGRATION OF PADDY, THE YOUNGEST OF THEM, THE LAST POT HAS BEEN BROUGHT HOME TO THE GALWAY VILLAGE OF MOYLOUGH.

The era started away back in 1927 when Martin won his first race at Laught Sports. Thirty years and some 2,500 prizes later a Mannion won for the last time when Paddy took the 10,000 metres Irish Title, appropriately enough, also at Laught.

The other brothers also had their moments. Mick was the first to win an Irish title when he claimed the 5,000 metres in 1941.

Martin won the 10,000 metres in 1942 while ten years later Jimmy brought it back into the family.

The greatest thing about the Mannions was their terrific loyalty to one another. When you raced against them you did not just race against four or five cyclists, you were up against a family.

I often competed against five of them and believe you me it was five too many. No matter which one of them you watched your were wrong.

However, although the

Mannions have been on the receiving end of the chequered flag for the last time we still have one of them on the operating end.

Mick is secretary of both the Galway County Board and the Connaught Council and is making an excellent job of both appointments.

## CYCLING by Kerry Sloane

IN spite of the fact that it is the headquarters of the Northern Ireland Cycling Federation, the "official" body for the Six Counties, Belfast is fast becoming a stronghold of the N.C.A. . .

Every week more and more of the NIFC riders take out NCA licences and now there are four clubs in the northern city where two years ago we did not have one.

One of them the Elk C.C. is staging a two-day event this week-end, a 204 mile "Tour of Ulster", with the first day being run off on 100 miles of road north of the

city and the second day over 104 miles of road south of the city.

Both days will be very hilly and should suit the northern riders who are all good climbers. Jim MacGarry, King of the Mountains, in last year's Ras Tailteann, should do well.

This month will give the long distance merchants more stage racing than ever before.

No less than three multi stage races are scheduled. Two days and a three day.

The two days are the "Tour of Ulster" mentioned above and the "Ras Portlairge." The latter, which starts and finishes in Waterford City each day, will take in Counties Waterford and Tipperary.

The "Ras Laighean" three day, which is being revived after lapsing last year, will take in North Leinster instead of the traditional South Leinster course.

The first day starts at Dublin and finishes in Athlone, a straight 77 mile run. Stage two will be a 120 mile route to Dundalk, while the third day will be a run of 100 miles around Meath and Kildare to finish in Dublin.

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Thrills of all great hurling games can now be recaptured on film.

FIRST G.A.A. SCORE ON FILM WAS MADE BY "GEGA"

# More Than Memories . . .

By Gaelic Echo Correspondent

WHAT All-Ireland Final do you recall with particular pleasure? What incidents thrilled you most? What stars do you remember best?

Second only to the joy of seeing a great game is the pleasure of recounting it to your friends, recalling the play, score by score, arguing what might have happened if only a score was allowed, if only a shot had not gone wide at a vital stage.

The greatness of Cork's Eudie Coughlan, Paddy O'Grady and Paddy Delea; of the Cavan O'Reillys (Tom, John Joe, and T.P.); of Kilkenny's Matty Power, Tommy Leahy, Jack Duggan, Lory Meagher; of Mayo's Patsy Moclair, John Forde and Gerry Ormsby; of Kerry's Joe Keohane, "Gega" O'Connor, "Danno" Keffe and Murt Kelly—the exploits of these heroes are but memories.

But what of the stars of more recent years—Meath's Paddy O'Brien, Christo Hand, Des. Taaffe and Peter McDermott; Cavan's Simon Deignan, Mick Higgins and Tom Duke; Mayo's Padraig Carney and Tom Langan; Tipperary's Tony Reddan, Seamus Bannon, and Seamus Finn; Kilkenny's "Diamond" Hayden and Jim Langton—are their exploits also no more than memories to those who saw them play?

Happily, the thrills of All-Ireland Finals of the past ten years can be recaptured without the benefit of accurate memories. Indeed, the feats of Cavan, Kerry, Louth, Meath, Mayo, Armagh, Galway, Dublin, Tipperary, Waterford, Cork, Kilkenny, Laois, and Wexford teams in the final deciders since 1948 can still be witnessed, not only by those who saw these games, but by everyone.

This is because, through the enterprise and foresight of the G.A.A., all the Hurling and Football Finals since 1948 were filmed and these films have been kept and are available for showing to all.

The idea started with the playing of the 1947 All-Ireland Football final between Cavan and Kerry in the Polo Grounds, New York. Naturally, only a few ardent followers could accompany their fav-

ourites across the Atlantic and, therefore, it was decided to film this unique and historic encounter so that we back home could also live through that pulsating game.

## First Score Ever Filmed

The distinction of being the scorer of the first point ever officially recorded on movie film falls to Kerry's "Gega" O'Connor. This point was the opening score in the Cavan/Kerry Polo Grounds match—which shows how alert the American cameramen were, even at the start of a game to which they were unaccustomed. All the pageantry of that unusual All-Ireland Final is captured in the film; the distinguished attendance which included Postmaster Jim Farley and Mayor William O'Dwyer, the New York Police Band, the Pipers, the baseball caps worn by many of the players.

The film of this game shows some wonderful football movements and solo runs by both the Kerry and Cavan forwards. Stars such as Paddy Kennedy, Mick Higgins, Paddy Donohue, "Gega" O'Connor, Jim Lyne, John Joe O'Reilly and "Danno" Keffe were featured prominently as the play swung speedily from end to end and the Cavan and Kerry nets were shaken by well-taken goals.

The popularity of this film prompted the G.A.A. to engage the National Film Institute of Ireland to make 10-minute films of the Hurling and Football finals in the following year and since then, similar film records have been made of both Finals and have been shown in leading commercial cinemas in the country. From "Gega" O'Connor's first point in the 1947 final to Kevin McDonnell's goal (the final score in the 1957 Football final) all the highlights of the Hurling and Football deciders for the past 10 years will be found in these films. They are available for showing on any standard 16 mm. sound projector and may be obtained at a nomi-

nal charge from the National Film Institute, 65, Harcourt Street, Dublin.

## International Award

Incidentally, the 1955, Football film runs for 20-minutes and contains five minutes of each of the All-Ireland Semi-Final Replays of that year—Dublin v. Mayo, and Kerry v. Cavan—as well as 10 minutes of the Kerry/Dublin epic which closed in such thrilling fashion with Dublin's great fight back prompted by Ollie Freaney's goal from a 21-yard free. This film won a Special Award at the International Sports' Film Festival, held at Cortina d'Ampezza, Italy, in February, 1956.

## Training Film On Hurling

In addition to films of the All-Ireland Finals, the National Film Institute will soon have copies of a 20-minute instructional film on hurling. Titled "Iomanaíocht" and made by Rev. J. C. Moran, C.C., St. Mary's, Kilkenny, this grand production won Second Prize in the Institute's Amateur Film Competition, 1957, and was awarded a special prize by Comhdhail Naisiunta na Gaelige. It features the Boys of St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny, and with the aid of slow motion, gives detailed instructions on how to lift and strike the ball, strike the ball off the ground, block a shot, follow through, carry the ball on the hurley, pass the ball with the hand, etc. It also includes some snippets of County Senior Hurling games including the Cork/Limerick Munster Hurling Final of 1956, in which

Christy Ring's three goals in the dying minutes turned impending defeat into a thrilling victory for the Rebel County.

## Athletics

Also available from the National Film Institute are films on Athletics. These cover practically every type of field events, including sprints, hurdles, middle and long distance races, high and long jump, relays, pole vaults, shot putt, discus and weight events. At this time of the year, naturally enough, these athletic films are in great demand.

The value of films for training purposes is now universally recognised. It came into its own during the last War with the need of armies and air forces to train men speedily for combat duty. It was discovered that by using films for instructional purposes, the ordinary training periods were cut by as much as 50 per cent. in many instances. The National Film Institute has been steadily building up a Library of films since its formation in 1943 and appreciating the value of the film in the restoration of the language, has itself added sound tracks in the Irish language to 36 x 10-minute films.

That the public generally and educationalists, in particular, appreciate the value of the film for training and instructional purposes is abundantly proved by the fact that average annual film bookings from the National Film Institute have increased by over 100 per cent since 1955.



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## PHILIP RODERICK INTERVIEWS . . . .

# JACK MANGAN OF GALWAY

ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING GIANTS OF GALWAY'S GLAMOUR TEAM OF FOOTBALL, JACK MANGAN IS PROBABLY THE FINEST GOALKEEPER IN IRELAND TODAY. HE IS 31 NOW, AND HEADING INTO THE TWILIGHT OF HIS GLORIOUS CAREER . . . BUT BEHIND HIM LIES A RICH HARVEST IN HONOURS AND WONDERFUL MEMORIES.

Jack has played for his county, his province and his country, and just over eighteen months ago, in October 1956, he carved out his new niche in the G. A.A.'s Hall of Fame, when he led Galway to their first All-Ireland victory since 1938.

In his early days — at school in the C.B.S. at Tuam, with Frank Stockwell and Sean Purcell—he had the good fortune to come under the guiding influence of Rev. Brother Murphy, now stationed in Tullamore.

"One of the most compelling personalities I have ever known"—says Jack—"He made footballers out of all of us, and his enthusiasm for Gaelic games was astonishing."

In his first appearance for Galway Jack turned out at full-back . . . and Galway's goalkeeper that famous day—believe it or not—was Frankie Stockwell!

In 1946, while still a schoolboy, Jack played his first game for Galway's senior team, and with the exception of the few occasions when he was injured, he has never since lost his place.

When he made his senior debut, Galway were struggling through lean times, and it was not until 1948, that things began to improve.

That year, Galway reached the Connaught final against Mayo, and went down with colours flying after two drawn games and extra time.

Great days were predicted for Galway after that, but the years that followed were lean ones for the county. Jack, however, went on to represent Connaught and Ireland . . . and to win individual honours and fame on playing pitches all over the thirty two counties.

### Shock Win

In 1954, Galway forged to the top again with a shock win over National League champions, Mayo, in the opening rounds of the Connaught championship at Tuam.

"The Galway selectors experimented with Sean Purcell at full-back that year"—says Jack—"and in the early games that year, the experiment paid off handsomely. Against Mayo, he was head and shoulders over every other player on the field."

Galway went on to meet a little-fancied Sligo team in the final . . . and only barely scraped through.

"It was a desperately close shave", says Jack. "With a minute to go we were three points ahead. Then a high ball soared in towards our goal. Mick Gaffney, the Sligo full forward, a giant of a man weighing over 16 stone, jumped for it and smashed it into the goal with a mighty wallop of his big fist.

I just managed to hold it, and then it felt as if the whole town of Sligo—bricks stones and mortar—fell in on top of me.

I went down holding the ball, and then I saw one of the Sligo forwards dancing a jig in front of me. There was holy murder after that but, eventually, after a discussion with the umpires, the referee awarded us a free out . . . and we were in the All-Ireland semi-final."

Contd. on Page 23

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# Galway Were Into The 1953 Final

ONE COULD ALMOST HEAR A PIN DROP AMONG THE 38,690 SPECTATORS IN CROKE PARK, ON A SUNNY AFTERNOON IN AUGUST AS THE IMMORTAL JIM LANGTON STEADIED HIMSELF FOR A 21 YARDS FREE, DEAD STRAIGHT IN FRONT OF THE GALWAY POSTS.

AND WHO COULD BLAME ANY ONE OF THE CROWD FOR BEING SO SILENT. WERE NOT THE MEN OF THE WEST LEADING BY A SINGLE POINT? AND WERE NOT KILKENNY STRIVING MIGHT AND MAIN TO EARN A SECOND CHANCE IN THIS, THE ALL-IRELAND HURLING SEMI-FINAL?

It looked easy meat for Jim, and I, for one, had marked down a point in my note book.

But Dame Fortune, who so often in the past frowned on Galway, was with them that day. Jim, instead of sending over the point that was there for the taking, missed his lift completely, and striking the ball close to the handle of his stick, the leather never rose more than a few inches from the ground, and much to the consternation of the big Kilkenny following, and equally much to the relief of the wearers of the Western colours, Jim sent the ball skating along the ground, and staunch Galway backs promptly cleared the danger, and so Galway were in their first All-Ireland final since 1929!

## Form Upset

The year was 1953, and ironically enough, Galway had qualified to meet Cork . . . the team that beat them in the 1929 decider, and as things turned out afterwards, beat them by four points in the final of September 6. But Galway's win over Kilkenny did much to send Western stock

soaring high, and at the same time banish Kilkenny's fond hopes of an All-Ireland title.

Yes, all in all, it was quite an upset of form!

And for a long way it looked as if the Noremen would win. They were leading by six points after 17 minutes of the second half, but John Killeen had other ideas. Killeen was placed by Billy Duffy, and a superb piece of stickwork saw Killeen flash the ball to the net . . . Galway only a goal behind.

Galway supporters urged their men on to better effort . . . and they responded.

Again it was Killeen. Getting the ball under the Hogan Stand, he went one way and John Sutton went the other . . . and the Galway man was away.

## Unbelievable

From 40 yards he sent the ball towards the Kilkenny goal, and all goalkeeper Dowling could do was touch it with his fingers.

IT WAS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE . . . GALWAY WERE LEVEL.

Better was to follow. Two minutes later, they were in the lead! A free by Josie Gallagher was tapped to Hubert Gordon, and with all the aplomb of a Croke Park veteran, Hubert sent the ball straight and true over the bar. After Langton's miss the full-time whistle went . . . and Galway were through.

One doesn't have to look hard to find the reasons for Galway's success. This match was won on the sideline. Out-classed and out-scored in the first half, the mentors made a decisive switch after the break.

By **Brian McDonald**

Gordon was transferred from left corner-forward to full-forward, and Duffy and Jim Duggan took over at midfield from Sean Ruane and John Killeen. This new midfield pairing curbed Kilkenny's best man in this sector, John Sutton, and Gordon, who found inspiration in his new position, got the line moving with wonderful cohesion. Killeen, too, benefitted from the change, and was always the master of Paddy Buggy. The Galway line that failed to sparkle in the first half was gone, and in its place was a rejuvenated attack that gave the Kilkenny defence quite a dusting.

No doubt about it, their defence really rose to the occasion in those closing minutes. Sean Duggan and Johnny Molloy cleared their lines with rare abandon, and Brophy did his best work in close tussles with Jim Langton.

However, their job was made a lot easier by the fact that the Kilkenny attack had a bad dose of the jitters, and shot 14 wides in all—7 in each half. It was left to the veterans Langton, Dan Kennedy and Shem Downey to break through the Galway defence. But when the final whistle sounded, not even the most ardent Kilkenny supporters, I feel sure, begrudged victory to Galway . . . a win that brought them back from the wilderness and into the headlines of modern G.A.A. history.



Jack Mangan in action

## Jack Mangan

Contd. from Page 22.

But, it was not to be Galway's year. The gamble of playing Sean Purcell at full back finally came unstuck . . . and the men in maroon went down to the Kingdom at Croke Park.

The following year, Galway went out early in a sensational crash to Roscommon in the opening rounds of the Connacht championship.

Then came 1956, the year Jack will remember for the rest of his life.

Captain of Galway, he led his men victoriously out of the West. Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo were swept aside, and then, after a desperately close and exciting battle against Tyrone, they were through to the All-Ireland final, to meet Cork, who had beaten Kerry in Munster, and Kildare in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park.

Five minutes after half-time in the All-Ireland Final, Galway were tearing away to certain victory with a great lead of eight points.

Cork struck back . . . the Western lead was whittled away . . . now it was down to three points . . . Cork were coming back relentlessly, only a point separated them.

Galway rallied, and went three points ahead, and then . . .

"The final whistle went", says Jack, "and it was over. That whistle was the sweetest sound in the world."

As he stood there in the Hogan Stand at Croke Park, holding the Sam Maguire Cup high over his head, while thousands of hysterically happy Galway supporters thundered out their pride and gratitude, it was the crowning moment in the great career of Jack Mangan.

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# Question Box



Galway, All-Ireland champions of 1956

## BILLY O'NEILL OF GALWAY

INTERVIEWED BY KERRY SLOANE

- K**—Well Billy, although you play for Galway you are not a Galwayman.
- B**—Yes. I am a Cork man from Carrigtwohill.
- K**—Where did you learn your hurling and football?
- B**—The North Monastery, Cork.
- K**—Would you prefer to play for Cork?
- B**—No. I am satisfied to play for Galway.
- K**—Who is your favourite footballer?
- B**—Sean Purcell.
- K**—Hurler?
- B**—“Ringie”.
- K**—Who do you fancy for this year's All-Irelands?
- B**—Galway for the football and Cork for the hurling.
- K**—Do you play any other games?
- B**—Some basketball and a bit of athletics.
- K**—Any Success?
- B**—Well I won the all-Army long jump from 1953 to '56
- K**—What was your biggest sporting thrill?
- B**—Winning an All-Ireland medal.
- K**—Is it true that you have won a medal with two counties?
- B**—Yes. I won a junior hurling with Cork in 1950 and a senior with Galway in 1956.
- K**—Biggest disappointment?
- B**—Failing to win a Harty Cup medal. I was on the North Mon. team that was beaten by St. Flannans in 1946.
- K**—Do you expect to get back on the Galway team?
- B**—No comment.
- K**—If you don't, will you pack up?
- B**—Not likely. I'll keep on playing as long as I can get a game no matter what the level of competition is.

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TA an samradh ag teacht. Ta se buailte suas linn beagnach. Mi aluinn ar fad 'seadh mi Bealtaine. Ta gach aon nith go deas glas agus ur, ur is glas. Ta an t-adh liom-sa sa t-slighe seo. Bim-se ar an mbothar gach aon La.

Teighim o thuaidh seachtmhain amhain, siar, seachtmhain eile is mar sin de. D'ardochadh sa do chroide a bheith ag teastal-trid an dtir, maidean Bealtaine.

Ta se geall le bheith ar neamh fein, mar adubhairt duine eigin liom ag cros-bhothar i gConndae Roscomain cupla la o shoin, agus me ar mo shlighe siar, i dtreo Slighigh.

Do bhi gach ait ag feachaint go deas. Nach mor an truagh ar fad e, go bfuil se, ar na milte, is ar na milte dar ndaoine oga bhailiu leo go Sasanna.

Cuireann se bron ar mo sheana-chroidhe nuair a chim-se scata de dhaoine oga ag bailiu leo as a dtir dhuithchais, go Sasanna, no go dti aon tir iasachta eile Cailliunt ana mhor don tir seo iad, i moran slighthe.

Ta leath-sgeal ag cuid aca, gan aon amhras, ach ar an dtaobh eile, imthigheann an-chuid dar ndaoine oga, agus ni gadh dhoibh imtheacht i-n-aon chur. Ta locht amhain orainn-ne. Cianna Gaodhal, agus se sin, ta fonn faniochta ar an geuid is mo againn. Ceapaimid go mbionn adharca fada ar na buaibh thar lear, no mar a chuireann Frannach e "Is maith linn a bheith ag togaint caisleán sa Spainn."

### MOLADH IS MOLADH MOR

An fhaid is a bhios ag teastal san iarthair, chuala a lan daoine ag cur síos ar an bfeile dramiochta abhi i dTobar a' Choire mi no do o shion. Do mhol gach aoinne e, suas go dti an speir beagnach. Thugadar moladh, is moladh moladh mor do.

Ta ana cheideamhaint ag gabhail dos na daoine abhi pair-teach ionnta (ins na dramaí) agus dos na daoine mar a geiadna a stiuraigh iad. Cathain a thiochfaidh an la na bheid dramaí Gaedhilge amhain ar an ardan, ni h-amhain i dTobar a' Choire ach i ngach aon bhaile eile o Chul rathain go Cul Aodha.

Taimid ag gabhail don Ghaodhluinn anois le dathad blian beagnach, agus cheapfa go mbeadh nios mo dul-chun-cinn deanta againn, na mar ata. Ta rud eigin bun os cionn. Ni rabhamar i ndaire, no nilimid i ndaire.

Ta rud eigin mi-cheart pe ar domhan e. Cloisim a lan daoine ag gearan i dtaobh na Gaedhilge. Ni theastuigheann an Geadbilge uatha, adeir siad. Ni reidhtighim le h-aoinne riamh adeireann rud mar sin. "Si an Gheadhilge teanga ar dtire fein, agus ba choir go mbeadh meas mor, is gradh mor again uirri."

Nior chualas Sasannach riamh ag gearan i dtaobh an Bhearia, agus ag radh nar theastuigh uaidh e do labhairt agus e d' fhoghlaim. Ni h-aon ualach d'aoinne againn teanga breise fiu amhain. Mo naire e, Gaodhal, Sasannach no Frannach na bfuil meas mor aige ar gach nith a bhaineann le-na-thir fein, teanga is uile.

### IS DEACHAIR A RADH

Ni theighim insteac cho minic, ins na "Se Conndaetha" anois is do theighinn blianta o choin, se sin, sar abhi aon tracht ar dheighilt, no ar teora bhreagach a chur 'nar

dtir dhuithchais. Cuid d'Eirinn 'seadh gach fod glas is cuma pioca i gCuige Uladh e no i gCuige Mumhan e, no i-n-aon chuige eile e, mar a gceadna. Do bhios in nDun Geannain, i gConndae Tir-Eoghain seachtmhain, no deich la o shoin. Baile an-staireamhail e.

Is ann a chomhnuigh Aodh Rua O'Neill uar amhain.

Is ann abhi cruinniu cailliul ag Einri Grattan cho maith.

Ta sprid an-naisiunta i-dTir Eoghain fos. Do bhi athas an domhain orm nuair a bhuahdadar Craobh Uladh anuiridh. Ta an-chreideamhaint ag dul dos na Gaedhili n-aiteanna mar sin. Ta mile rud ag obair na gcioinnibh.

Do bhi greas cainnte agam le cupla duine annso is annsud trid an gconndae. Bhi cuid aca ag ceapadh go mbuahdadh Doire craobh Uladh i mblian. Do chuir-feadh se sin athas ar mo chroidha leis. Ar an dtaobh eile, do casadh

roinnt daoine eile orm, agus 'is ag Cabhain a bheidh an buadh, do reir leo suid.

Acn cad mar gheall ar Dhun is ar Art Mhacha? Seo mar ata se, nil a fhios ag aoinne againn fos conus a raghaidh an sgeal. Ta se deachair a radh. Ta rud amhain cinnte, agus 'se sin, go mbeadh gionndar ar mo chroidhe, agus ar chroidhe gacha Gaodhail da mbuahdadh Doire, no aon cheann des no "Se Conndaetha" Craobh na h-Eireann. Ta cupla ceann ag Cabhain cheana agus beidh a thuille aca fos, sar-abfad.

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## THE PASSING of JACK HOYNE

On April 5 another of the old guard, Jack Hoyne, former Tullaroan and All-Ireland hurler, passed over the Great Divide. Jack played with Tullaroan from 1897 to 1912 and with Kilkenny in four All-Irelands, being in the winning of their first two in 1904 and 1905. His customary position was right full back.

A guard of honour was provided at the funeral to Killahy Cemetery by his old clubmates, including Sam Walton, holder of seven All-Ireland medals, the Graces and Pat Clohessy while in the Kilkenny Co. Board representation was Jimmy O'Connell, who guarded the Nore-side posts in the titanic Limerick-Kilkeany matches of the early 30's. Also prominent was Right Rev. Monsignor Francis Meagher, a native of Tullaroan, and brother of Lory, Henry and the late Bill Meagher, all of whom wore the Black and Amber in the era between 1916 and 1937. The Monsignor was home on noday from Deniliquin, New South Wales, Australia.

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Meanwhile, plans to prepare the Galway senior hurling team for their All-Ireland game are taking shape and a series of matches are being arranged to help them put up a reasonably good performance—one can hardly hope for

more—in the final. Kilkenny come west to engage the Westerners early in July and Cork, I believe, have also agreed to play a similar game. What about Galway versus the Rest of Connacht?

Match-play is the only solution to Galway's problem—I am confident that such a match would not only be of benefit to the Tribesmen but would also be of untold help to the game in the other western counties. Perhaps, the recently appointed sub-committee to examine the question of hurling in Connacht might examine this proposal and report on its feasibility, its possibilities, etc. Not on extra grants alone will hurling become popular but on matches, more matches and still more matches.

Mayo's Senior team, by their forward showing in the National League, have earned for themselves a series of invitations to play in tournament and challenge games in the months ahead. Realising the value of such games, if properly utilised, the county committee have accepted gratefully the opportunities so offered, of testing the team against other counties, besides those in Connacht.

Old rivals and friends, Kerry, have thrown in a tour along with the invitation to play in Killarney on Whit Sunday, while Donegal offer the many attractions of Bundoran, the venue for their clash with the Mayo men.

Leitrim's football stock soared sky-high by their splendid achievement in defeating the All-Ireland

champions, Louth, in the McKeever Cup match in Ardee. As foretold in this column, the ever-green Hubert Reynolds filled the full back berth and played a major part in the defeat of this once-adopted county.

With the problem of that position apparently solved, Leitrim supporters are eagerly awaiting the start of the championship and are confident of going one better this year by winning the Connacht title. And with Louth's scalp under their belt, who can blame them for being so confident? What a well-deserved reward a Connacht title would be for those gallant Leitrim Gaels!

Sligo will miss the services of Jim McCabe, their stalwart left back for the past few seasons, who has opted to assist his native Cavan in this year's championship. Concentration on their Junior team may be Sligo's aim this year and with so many of the 1957 St. Nathy's team available, the idea could pay dividends.

Mayo have six of last year's provincial winners available for this season's minor football campaign, i.e., M. O'Boyle (right full back), M. Sweeney (full back), L. Doherty (centre half back), C. McGuire (centre field), M. Lyons (right half forward), and T. Rochford (full forward). Built around this sextet is a capable-looking team, selected after a trial game on Easter Sunday and which shrewd judges assure me is at least as good a team as last year's if not a better one.

Mayo will field a minor Hurling team also this season and play Roscommon in the semi-final for the right to meet Galway in the provincial decider. While no great hopes of a western title can be entertained in this grade of competition, still it must prove a source of satisfaction to that small, but so loyal hardworking band of hurling enthusiasts that they have succeeded in getting a minor fifteen at last, to contest the provincial championships.

Welcome visitors to Ballina to engage the local senior side, the famous Stephenites, were Longford Slashers, title-holders in their own county. A thrilling game was the result with the issue in doubt to the final whistle, which saw the home-sters ahead, 4-7 to 3-7. A return match has been arranged and the Stephenite team, featuring Willie Casey, John MacAndrew and P. J. Downey of the Mayo Senior team and Kieran Denvir of Down and Ulster, should prove a great attraction in the midland town. Secretary of the club is famed sharp-shooter of the Mayo team of the 'thirties, Gerald Courell, who figured on the Tailteann side in 1932.

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\* \* \*

Connacht championship form may be revealed on May 18th, when Galway and Mayo meet in a challenge match at Westport, to mark the opening of the new park there. This will be Westport's greatest day for many years, the final episode in a story of hard work, earnest endeavour and unflinching loyalty to our Gaelic tradition, by a small but enthusiastic band of Gaels who decided that they knew what they wanted and set about getting it.

Aptly named Pairc Naomh Padraig as it lies neath the shadow of Cruach Phadraig, it is a monument to the local football club and to the cailini of the camogie team, who vied with their brothers in an all-out effort to raise funds for the project. For local G.A.A. teams and supporters, it will provide a long-needed want, a venue where they can see the cream of their own county's footballers in action, and from time to time, the leading teams in Ireland. The match to mark the opening will prove of infinite value to both Galway and Mayo, who will be all out to probe the weakness and strength of their respective sides and should provide spectators

with something to shout about. Tommy Hoban, the mighty atom from Westport, and dreaded forward on Mayo team in late thirties and early forties, will be in charge of the whistle. Altogether, a most enjoyable day seems probable, so don't miss it!

\* \* \*

The evil of emigration has once again shown its ugly head in Mayo football and has resulted in Claremorris, whose senior team has been such a force in county football in recent years, asking to be regraded to Junior status. Within the past year, eight of the senior team have emigrated or left the area, so the request of the club was acceded to. Due to the widespread effects of this national evil throughout the county many teams have been forced to withdraw from the Senior football league.

\* \* \*

Starring in Longford football are Mayo men, Seamus Shannon, brother of Bill Shannon, and Phil Ronayne, both of whom were on Longford's junior team and have had outings with the senior team, also.

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### SENIOR FOOTBALL

SLIGO v. MAYO at Charlestown, June 15.  
ROSCOMMON v. LEITRIM at Roscommon, June 22.  
GALWAY v. SLIGO or MAYO v. TUAM—June 29.  
FINAL JULY 13 (Venue to be arranged).

### JUNIOR FOOTBALL

LEITRIM v. GALWAY at Ballinamore, May 4.  
SLIGO v. ROSCOMMON at Ballymote, May 4.  
MAYO v. LEITRIM at Castlebar, May 25, or MAYO v. GALWAY at Tuam, May 18.  
FINAL ON JUNE 8th (Venue to be arranged).

### MINOR FOOTBALL

SLIGO v. MAYO at Ballina, June 22.  
ROSCOMMON v. Leitrim at Roscommon, June 22.  
GALWAY v. SLIGO or MAYO v. Tuam, June 29.  
FINAL JULY 13th (Venue to be arranged).

### 4-CO. HURLING

SLIGO v. MAYO at Ballymote, May 4.  
ROSCOMMON v. LEITRIM at Ballinamore, May 4.  
FINAL at Charlestown, June 15.  
WINNER v. GALWAY (Junior Proper Final) on July 13 or 20.

### MINOR HURLING

MAYO v. ROSCOMMON at Roscommon, June 22d.  
WINNER v. GALWAY on July 13 or 20 (Venue to be arranged).

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**Josie Munnelly's Goal Ended The  
Agony For Laois, As . . .**

**MAYO SWEEP ON  
TO VICTORY**

By P. J. Hanly

I was 11 years of age when the 1936 football final—the 49th in the series—was played at Croke Park on Sunday, Sept. 27, between Mayo and Laois.

I am three times that age now and I am glad I can say that I was not at that game. It even bores me to tears when I read the account of it.

I am not belittling the men of the West—nor the Laois men . . . but this game must have been one of the poorest ever played.

It was a game of which much had been expected . . . but it proved a complete anti-climax. The championships of that year did not deserve such a finish.

Laois were the toast of Leinster after defeating the holders, Cavan, by 2-6 to 1-5 at Croke Park on August 23. Mayo halted the march of the Munster champions, Kerry, at Roscommon on August 9. The stage was set for this unique pairing in the history of the Football Final. Never before—and never since—had Mayo and Laois contested the final.

It was 3.5 on that Sunday afternoon when Sean McCarthy, Kerry's Munster Council Secretary, blew his whistle and got the game under way.

Mayo, defending the Railway end, had the breeze, and were first to attack. O'Brien of Laois eased the pressure with a free but the Mayo forwards headed by Josie Munnelly came back. Full-back, T. Delaney, cleared the Laois lines and sent his forwards into the attack.

**Drove Wide**

Bill Delaney got possession and passed to his brother, Chris, Chris with all the time in the world at his disposal drove wide!

Patsy Flannelly took a Mayo free 70 yards from the Laois goalmouth. The ball went straight into the square. P. Munnelly jumped highest and punched over the bar for Mayo's opening score.

Laois attacked from the kickout but Regan and Ormsby cleared their lines and sent Munnelly Bros. and Co. back into the attack. Grier and Josie Munnelly brought the ball from the 50 yards mark in towards the Laois goal.

Josie passed to his brother who drove hard and true to the back of the net.

Within two minutes he repeated the score to leave Mayo in front by 2-1 to nil after 12 minutes.

Laffey sent wide from a Mayo free. Laois forwards got possession at centre-field. Mayo fouled. Swayne sent the free kick from the 50 yards line in to Bill Delaney. Bill opened the Laois scoring with a point.

'Tot' McGowan kept the Laois forwards out when they seemed likely to come to life but soon the Mayo forwards were swarming around the Canal goal. Laffey's drive went well into the Laois square but the forwards drove wide.

A free to Laois was fielded by Moclair of Mayo. He sent high over the bar for a unique point.

Mayo again attacked but goalkeeper Delaney saved well and a free on the left by Jack Brennan

Walsh of Laois retired injured and was replaced by J. Moran.

Mayo forwards kept on the move but wides in succession from Munnelly and Laffey were the only results.

Bill Delaney sent wide from a Laois free but Patsy Flannelly made no mistake at the other end when he scored a point from a difficult angle.

A brilliant shot by Danny Douglas was saved by Tom Burke in the Mayo goal. The half-time whistle sounded just after Carney had sent wide for Mayo leaving the score—

Mayo, 2-5; Laois, 0-2.

The breeze had died down for the second half. From the throw-in Laois forwards attacked but Burke and Quinn in turn saved point-blank shots from Danny Douglas. Mayo backs cleared to centre-field but Harry Kenny was fouled. His free went to Josie Munnelly. Josie left-footed the ball over the bar to open the second-half scoring spree.

Chris Delaney took a close-in free for Laois and drove along the ground but Tom Burke brought off a wonderful save.

A Mayo movement from mid-field resulted in Josie Munnelly scoring another point. Moclair went down injured but quickly resumed. Mayo sent wide from the free.

**Mayo Attack**

Mayo again attacked and a free to Laois only gave them a short respite. Patsy Flannelly took a free at the 40 yards mark. His shot was caught by Delaney but the rushing Moclair charged him into the net for an opportune goal leaving the score Mayo 2-7, Laois 0-2.

Quinn saved a Laois free. Mayo had two frees in a row but did not avail of their chances. Tom Burke saved from Keogh in the Mayo goal but from the clearance O'Reilly got the ball and sent over for his team's first score in this half.

**Flannelly Goal**

Moclair scored a point for Mayo from the kick-out. A Laois '50' was cleared by Purty Kelly. Laffey sent wide at the other end. Laois forwards kept up the attack but a good chance was wasted. Bill Delaney, from the kick-out sent over for point No. 4. But Moclair replied immediately with a similar score. O'Brien of Laois was injured but able to resume. A Mayo free was

Contd. on Page 27.

**The Teams**

**MAYO:** Tom Burke, "Tot" McGowan, P. Quinn, Purty Kelly, T. Regan, Seamus O'Malley (capt.), G. Ormsby, Patsy Flannelly, Harry Kenny, J. Carney, P. Laffey, Tommy Grier, P. Moclair, Josie Munnelly and Capt. P. Munnelly.

**LAOIS:** T. Delaney, "Rexie" McDannell (Capt.), T. Delaney, Jack Brennan, T. O'Brien, P. Swayne, D. Walsh, Chris, Delaney, Bill Delaney, Danny Douglas, Jack Delaney, Mick Delaney, T. Keogh, J. Keating, J. O'Reilly. Sub.: J. Moran for D. Walsh.

eased the pressure. Far out on the left wing Patsy Flannelly got possession. He let go with a powerful drive that went all the way over the bar to increase Mayo's lead.

Mayo 2-3, Laois 0-1. That was the position after 21 minutes play.

O'Reilly of Laois gathered the ball and passed to Keogh. Keogh shook off the tackles of two Mayo backs and sent over his side's second point. Goalkeeper Delaney was forced to run out from his goal to dispossess the advancing Moclair who seemed certain to notch up another goal for Mayo. He beat Moclair in a desperate lunge for the ball and kept him out.

From the clearance Grier sent over for another point for Mayo.

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The Mayo All-Ireland football champions of 1951.

Contd. from Page 26.

cleared at the expense of a '50' but ball was driven wide.

Twenty-five minutes gone in the second half still no sign of a Laois revival. Kelly cleared from a free and drove to his mid-field pair. Flannelly and Kenny started a passing movement into the Laois half. The ball was passed to Josie Munnelly. He scored yet another point for the men of the West.

### Laois Point

Laois kept on plugging away despite the huge score already registered against them. Quinn cleared his lines, but at the expense of a '50'. Bill Delaney took it but the ball was cleared for another '50'. This shot was sent wide!

Danny Douglas scored a point from the kick-out. Brennan halted the next Mayo attack but they kept coming in.

### Agony Ends

Moclair sent over for another minor. From the kick-out Mayo attacked again. The ball was sent into the Laois goalmouth, Delaney scrambled it away, again it was sent back in and again Delaney cleared. But Josie Munnelly pulled on the clearance and made no mistake the third time. He sent straight to the net for the last score of the game.

The final whistle went to leave Mayo very comfortable winners by 4-11 to 0-5.

The agony was over for the Laois team and their followers.



The immortal Tom Langan of Ballycastle, one of Mayo's all-time stars.

### Fionnbar's Reply To Kelly

Letter Sir,

You can assure "Kelly" that his surprise on learning the identity of the Irish correspondent of 'World Sports' was nothing in comparison to my surprise on learning the identity of "Kelly". If he still wishes to hide behind his nom-de-plume, let me be it from me to force him into the open.

As to his gibes about my giving readers of your paper my "life story" I should have thought that my reasons for giving some facts were obvious.

Apart from the inverted commas which "Kelly" used when describing me as "Irish" correspondent of

"World Sports", he also made the rather wild accusation that I had no qualifications to write on Irish sport and that I "did not appear to have heard of the NACA at all."

He further suggested that someone should tell me "that the instructors are, in fact, NACA men who have held Irish championships." I thought that if I pointed out that I was one of the instructors concerned, it might elicit an apology from "Kelly" for his inaccuracies.

However, it now seems that "Kelly" is unable to take a dose of his own medicine—or should I say "liniment"?

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# SOUTHERN MAIL

By **HUGH O'DONNELL**

KERRY Gaels are annoyed. They had hoped that the ban on full-time training would be removed at Congress. They ask why, if the allowance given to players in full-time training in lieu of lost wages be considered inconsistent with amateurism, should teams on tour in the United States receive generous allowances without any breach of the rule.

Some of the more ardent Kingdom Gaels go so far as to state that they believe the ban to be a direct effort from certain quarters to sabotage Kerry football.

The death of his Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Patrick O'Neill, Bishop of Limerick robbed Southern Gaeldom of the patronage and constant support of a staunch and true Gael. A regular hurler with his native Fedamore in his youth Dr. O'Neill was also a top athlete winning the National senior 120 yards hurdles championship in 1913 with a time of 16.8 seconds. He was second in the long jump event on the same day with a distance of 21' 4".

Tom Gardiner of Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare and Paddy Cunningham of Cappoquin were two other prominent Gaels to pass to their Eternal rewards in the past few weeks.

The former was one of Clare's greatest ever footballers. He was one of the stars of the Tailteann games team in 1924.

Paddy Cunningham was one of the officials in charge of the 1948 All-Ireland winning Waterford minor team.

Tom Riordan, up and coming Kingdom Olympic hope, had the unique distinction of winning the mile and two-mile events in a recent collegiate track meeting between Nevada and Idaho States.

Tom, on a four year athletic scholarship to Idaho University, is studying business methods and economics. His time for the mile was four minutes, 38.3 seconds, and for the two miles, 10 minutes, 31.3 seconds. To make it a real outing Tom also ran second in the half-mile event.

Once upon a time hurling was by British law banned in Ireland. That day has gone but if I have my facts correct it has not completely gone. From what I understand Midleton, Co. Cork hurlers have to obtain permission from the holder of an English title to play on the local pitch.

The pitch, it seems, is owned by a local lord who, I presume, resides in jolly good old England. The ground lease expired and his Lordship has kindly stated that he and his trustees would consider giving full and sympathetic consideration to a reasonable offer from the club to purchase the ground. How long more are we going to

allow ourselves be sheared by ground rents and land leases to people whose only right, in most cases, to the land is that their forefathers had the might to grab it?

Tim Barrett, up and coming Kerry footballer and son of the famed Joe Barrett, has taken up an appointment under the Kingdom Greyhound Racing Co. as manager of the Tralee track.

Twentyone-years-old Tim has been showing some very fine form in the group competitions presently being held in the Kingdom.

By winning the Gael-Linn handball tournament Tom McGarry has proven himself as versatile an all-rounder as ever wore the Limerick jersey. Together with being one of the country's foremost hurriers and handballers Mick is also a first-class footballer and athlete.

The effect of the trouncing received by the understrength Kerry hurling team when they lost to Tipperary in the National League was completely nullified by the sparkling display given by the county's technical schools' team who convincingly beat their Limerick counterparts 8-4 to 3-2—and in Newcastle at that.

The Kerry team was chosen from Tralee, Listowel and Causeway schools. The future of hurling is safe in Kerry for it has taken root. Lets hope emigration does not nip the youthful buds.

The year was 1928 and at a meeting of the Munster Colleges Council held in Mallow the following schools decided not to take part in competitions under GAA or colleges council auspices. The list reads: St. Flannan's College, Ennis; Presentation College, Cork; CBS, Limerick; Farranferris College, Cork, and Waterpark College, Waterford. The reason—owing to the ban on foreign games. Things surely have changed.

- The recent return to form of Johnny O'Connor seems to herald an all-round awakening in Waterford hurling circles.
- Kerry Gaels welcome the return of prodigal son—Micksey Palmer.
- Congratulations to versatile cyclist Gene Mangan on being presented with the Kingdom Cup which is awarded annually to the most successful Kerry sporting personality of the year.
- Leo Dooley of Roscrea seems to be the answer to the Tipperary mentors' prayer of a capable full forward.

## ATHLETICS

# Dallas Long Sets New Schoolboy Standard

By **Tony Barry**

**REMEMBER** in the January issue of the "Echo"—"Meet Master Long"? Writing then of the great new schoolboy shot putter, Dallas Long, I told you how his coach expected him to exceed 66 feet with the 12 pound weight, or two feet more than the existing record.

Well, with the season still in its infancy, Long has had an exhibition putt of 66'-7½", and in addition has shattered the record in his very first competition of the year with 66'-11"—more than 2 feet better than Clark Branson's old standard of 64'-0¾".

Of his seven putts in that competition no less than five were over the record and the remaining two were within five inches of it. In addition, Long had the possibly unique experience of breaking the record with his very first competitive putt of the year. The interesting question now is whether Long can become the first schoolboy over 60 feet with the 16 pound weight. It seems highly unlikely... but you never know.

Incidentally, sixty feet with the 12 pound ball was first beaten by a schoolboy back in 1952 by the late Leon Patterson. The longest recorded competitive putt ever by anybody—senior or junior is 69' 5" by Parry O'Brien in 1954. Master Long is not too very far behind that, is he?

yards!!! If running 400 metres hurdles in 49.7 isn't really great—well, I just pity those poor 440 specialists.

WHAT A MAGNIFICENT PERFORMANCE BY WILLY MORRIS, TAKING THE ALL-IRELAND TITLE AT THE AGE OF 42. AND THIS WAS NO HICK FIELD EITHER, EVEN IF THE DUBLIN RUNNERS DID SEEM TO BE BELOW FORM. IT WAS A SUPERB PERFORMANCE UNLIKELY TO BE EQUALLED OR BETTERED. UNLESS, OF COURSE, MORRIS WINS AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

Contd. on Page 30.

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## Opening Meet

Now to news of another great American athlete, Eddie Southern who in his own day was one of the greatest schoolboy trackmen of all time. In one of the opening meets of the new season, Southern ripped off the equal third fastest 440 yards in track history when he registered 46.2 secs. Coming so early in the season, it seems very possible that this big Texas boy may annex the world record of 45.8, currently in the possession of Jim Lea.

## Non-Specialist

Southern must surely go down as one of the greatest athletes of all time. Last year he was one of the strong men on the Texas world record breaking (4 x 110 and 4 x 220) relay teams. In addition, he has run 120 yards high hurdles in 14.1, 220 yards hurdles in 22.8 and 400 metres hurdles in 49.7. And now 46.2 for 440 yards. You and I probably consider Southern a good hurdler. In fact, he is the greatest combination 120 yards/440 yards hurdler ever. But as he can never become really great at the hurdles he is giving them up to concentrate on the 440

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# DAVIN v MACE

By Hugh O'Donnell

**JEM MACE, THE FATHER OF MODERN SCIENTIFIC BOXING, AND LAST CHAMPION OF THE WORLD UNDER LONDON PRIZE RING RULES, ONCE TURNED DOWN A CHALLENGE FROM NONE OTHER THAN MAURICE DAVIN, CO-FOUNDER OF THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION.**

The year was 1869 and Mace, accompanied by his cousin "Pooley" Mace and Tug Wilson, arrived in Clonmel, and gave displays and exhibitions in the Noble Art.

Mace was then thirty-eight and had been boxing for almost eighteen years, and lest any should think that he was then in the veteran stage, let me remind you that the immortal Jem was to continue for well over another twenty years.

At sixty-three we are told that he could hold his own with the best in exhibition bouts.

Reliable sources tell of the sparring bout between the twenty-four-year-old Jim Driscoll and the seventy-year-old Mace in 1905, and it is said that Peerless Jim could not at times keep Mace's left from his face.

Maurice Davin was no novice in the noble art. A fighting instinct had always been prevalent in the family and almost all of the brothers had done some boxing.

## Perfect Build

Standing 6-1" and tipping 15 stone, Maurice was of the perfect pugilistic build. Light of foot and broad of shoulder, he had a chest measurement of 47."

He moved fast and could hit hard, as some over-confident members of the British forces stationed in South Tipperary learned to their sorrow.

The great Tom Heenan, the Irish-American and first universally recognised heavyweight champion of

the world, taught much while on tour in the Carrick-on-Suir area in the early 1860's, and in the years which followed, Davin disposed of any and all who fancied their luck, including, as I say, a number of British Army champions.

So, when in 1869 the legendary Mace and his stable arrived in Clonmel, Davin, then twenty-seven, journeyed to challenge the former world champion.

Mace did not accept the challenge, stating that he was not in the best of fettle and had been feeling ill for some days, he referred Maurice to his cousin "Pooley" who, taking one look at the powerfully-built and extremely determined looking Davin, declined a contest.

How would a Mace v. Davin fight have gone?—Well... had it been an exhibition bout there is no doubt but Mace, the master boxer, would have been master. But had the former world champion been willing to "come to scratch" in a fight to a finish, then my money would have been on the stronger, fitter and bigger Davin who was undoubtedly the greatest and most versatile all-round athlete in the world at that time.



LARRY KEANE OF THURLES SARSFIELDS (above)

# CAPTAIN ON THE SIDELINE

**THE MAN THEY NEARLY LEFT BEHIND SAW TIPPERARY WIN THE POLO GROUNDS MATCH WITH NEW YORK AND HE HAD A MAJOR SHARE IN THE SENDING OF THE TIPPERARY SQUAD TO THE STATES.**

Back last Spring, Larry Keane of Thurles Sarsfields played in what he considers the toughest match of his career—against Clare in the National League semi-final—and hit a personal high in scoring with three well-taken goals.

He was injured before the final against Kilkenny and his name did not appear among the twenty on the official programme, who were subsequently decided on as the official party for the U.S.A. trip.

But Sarsfields, unofficial "All-Ireland Club champs", dipped into the coffers and presented Larry with an Atlantic ticket, which fine gesture was no more than his due.

For the hefty 26 years old factory worker is a great clubman. He ranks his first Tipperary championship win with Sarsfields in 1952 as his biggest thrill, even bigger than winning an All-Ireland minor medal with Tipperary in 1949 or two National League medals.

## In The Blood

The Keanes, of course, have joined the litany of great families contributing generously to Tipperary's place in the sun — Mahers, Leahys, Ryans, Doyles, Kennys, Michael (Blackie) is current Tipp. goalie and Con, too, has donned the county colours.

By Frank Sales

Con Keane, senior, won Gaelic honours in three countries, during a lengthy span.

He played hurling and football with Munster in 1928, helped Kildare to a U.S.A. championship football victory the following year and as late as 1945 acquired a London championship with Brian Borus.

Young Larry figured on a losing Thurles C.B.S. team in 1942, played county minor in 1948 and 1949, and made his senior inter-county debut in 1951 against Kilkenny.

## Goal To Remember

A tough forward who has played in most positions from midfield out, Larry is as good an opportunist as any player. There is a score of his that is counted by those who saw it as one of the major feats of all time. Playing against Galway at

Nenagh in the 1956 League, Tony Wall cut in a sideline ball between Keane and Johnny Molloy in the corner.

Under "heavy pressure", Larry coolly reached high in characteristic fashion and the ball dribbled down the hurley. Pivoting first, he met it with full force before it reached the grass and it rocketed into the net without touching the ground, so fast that the Galway keeper was still crouched and facing out for some moments before he realised the sliothar was behind him.

Naturally, Keane's big target is an All-Ireland Senior medal and it might be a good omen for Tipperary that he will captain them next year, having captained Thurles this year to another county title. For Larry was captain of the victorious minors in 1949, and starred at centre forward that day, scoring 2-2.

His own modest forecast is "On or off the team myself, I hope Tipperary win this year."

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# ATHLETICS

By  
TONY BARRY

(Continued from Page 28)

And now I am going to step out of line and congratulate young Tommy Dunne on his wonderful performance in the International Cross-country race in Cardiff. Fifth place amongst the cream of Western Europe's distance talent which has never been better, takes some doing. It is as well for us to remember that many of the AAUE athletes are quite young and were not in at the start of the argument. Many possibly do not know what it is all about and are probably more interested in running than in talking.

This season we hope to create a precedent. We are going to try, with your co-operation, to keep a month by month N.A.C.A. track and field ranking list. The innovation here will be that for the first time these lists will be accurate or nearly accurate, depending upon the degree of support we get from you, our readers. It is very difficult to collect these marks, as many meets are not reported, or if reported, insufficient data are given. What we need is a few interested friends who will let us have details of any good marks in their part of the country, and in this way we can assemble a fairly clear picture of the position of athletics in this country.

My thanks to Bill Dooley for the points he made regarding Dr. Pat's hammer record. The most puzzling aspect of this—and I am sure many of our readers will agree with me—was the discrepancy in the measurements. However, Bill seems to have cleared this up for us and I, for one, am very grateful.

## 2 00 ft. Throw

Whether or not it is the news of the U.S.A. versus U.S.S.R. that is the cause, I don't know, but certainly there has been an unusual amount of early season activity down in California. One very busy man has been Rink Babka, 6' 6" and eighteen stone, who in a pre-season trial threw the discus 181 feet.

Nothing very sensational there, but he showed unusual consistency around that mark, and then in a Californian invitational meet, on March 22, he literally hurled his implement "out of the ground." Whether the discus landed in a ditch outside the track or amongst some sideline seating is not quite clear, but his estimated throw was a sensational 200' 1". Measured to the edge of the track, the throw, at 198' 10" was still more than four fabulous feet beyond the world record in the hands of Fortune Gordien.

One week later Babka threw 191 feet, and a further week later, Olympic champ, Al Oerter himself, had three throws over Gordien's record, his best being a mighty 202' 6" ! ! ! !

So this looks like another record which seems doomed to go before the boys decide to call it a day?

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# The Voice Of Ulster

By Sean McHugh

SOMETIME AGO, I STUCK MY NECK OUT AND PREDICTED A CAVAN TRIUMPH IN THE COMING ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIP. NOW, I AM NOT TOO SURE, ESPECIALLY AFTER THE CROSS-FIRE THAT CAUGHT ME AS I WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE NEWRY THE OTHER EVENING.

No, it was not a sten-gun, thanks be to God, but it was almost as bad.

It was a fast-speaking Derryman whose praise of his native fifteen rasped forth with piercing rapidity. To make it worse he was not alone. With him was a County Down-based Kerryman (Have you ever heard a cross between the Caherciveen blas and the East Down dialect? I don't suppose you have . . . but I can assure you it is unique, and worth listening to).

The Derryman was in his element—there would be no holding his county's selection in the northern championship, he claimed, and lest I forget it he repeated it every time the Kerryman stressed the capabilities of his adopted allegiance.

After listening to both for almost an hour I suddenly realised that my presence was by no means a necessary part of their argument, so I quietly slipped away.

They did have some good points, though, in favour of both Down and Derry and the championship does really seem wide open.

Personally, I still stick with Cavan, whom I expect to be much improved at the major hurdles. Derry must rate next with Down, Tyrone and Donegal all in the running.

One way or another it all points to a healthy state of affairs and may the best fifteen triumph.

CASEMENT, Connolly and Mac Diarmuda . . . no, I am not listing Ireland's martyred dead, just recalling how at a simple junior football game played recently at Casement Park the memory of three of our noblest patriots was remembered. The two teams in action were James Connolly's and Sean Mac Diarmuda's. The game was won by the latter.

WHEN Antrim visited Waterford for their National Hurling League game sometime ago, history was made for, I understand, that this was the first visit on record that an Antrim team had travelled to the capitol of the Decies.

DONEGAL Gaels seem to have anticipated the hurling revival demanded by Congress for prior to it they had drafted their own plans of how to tackle things within the county.

All schools with age groups under 16 years will come under the scheme in its first year and it is hoped to organise at least six juvenile teams in each division.

DOWN football is on the up and up, there is no doubt about that and the recent displays of Paddy Doherty marks the Ballykinlar man as one of the finest Ulster forwards in the game at the moment. His single-handed total of 1-9 against Monaghan sometime ago really showed what a task confronts some Northern defenders in the coming championships.

Another young man who is sure to be worth his weight in gold to the Mourne county in the championships is Tony Hadden of Newry. A former county minor star, his brilliant displays in 1954 were the inspiration of the Down minors who reached the Ulster final. Not available for the senior championship last season, Tony is now eligible for the junior team but we cannot see him remaining in the lower grade for too long as his services at midfield on the senior team would appear—to me, anyway—to be absolutely necessary.

CONGRATULATIONS to Roddy Gribben on being appointed Derry team manager. The mentors could not have chosen a better man.

There are quite a few though who feel that it is a mistake not to give Roddy the right of choosing the team as we 1. They ask how can be work with proper effect if he has not got the men of his own choice.

Personally, I think that there need be no crossing but, of course, much will depend on the attitude of the selectors. My advice to them is—give Roddy full scope—he will not let the county down.

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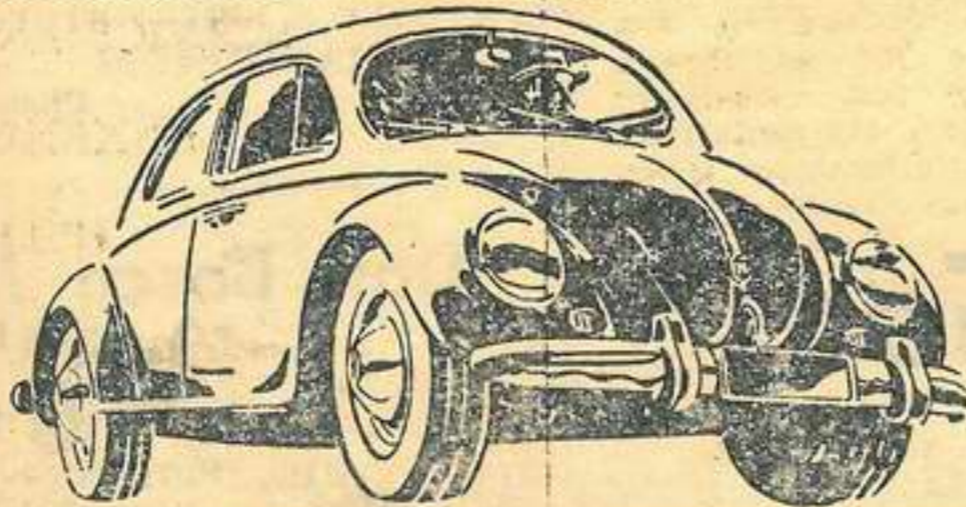
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*By A Special Correspondent*

IS hurling the fastest game in the world? Its only rival is ice hockey, and in Canada, where it is the national game, followers often claim that title.

Played in the smaller area of an ice rink, the players move on skates with an agility that is little short of amazing. They twist, turn, stop and strike the puck as naturally as we run. So, if the speed of the game is measured by the speed of the players, then certainly ice hockey is supreme.

Of course, we claim supremacy in the air, and anybody who has seen the sliotar dazzle the searching eye across an open sky, will not compare it to the sliding "puck" which is retarded by ice.

In Montreal, hockey is king, and the French Canadians in particular are fanatical about the game. For the six-month season in winter, not alone does it suppress all opposition, but it dominates conversation.

The "Forum" stadium seats ten thousand rabid fans, on an average of twice a week for six months. All the seats are season tickets and for the few tickets not retained each year, there is a five-year waiting list.

The game is highly organised on a professional basis and the two outstanding teams over the years have been Detroit "Red Wings" and Montreal "Canadians". Other teams in the big league are New York "Rangers" and "Boston Bruins". The top four in the league, play off in a knockout series, the best of seven games each match.

Can you imagine the best of seven games to decide the All-Ireland final?

Shoulders, usually called 'body-checks', are a feature of the game and as a man travelling at 30 m.p.h. is charged against the

boards it can be very spectacular. Fights are frequent amongst the players and in each game there are usually a few incidents when a tangle of players charging one another with raised sticks. . . .

It is, however, doubtful if these fights are always genuine. They undoubtedly are a spectacular attraction to the excitable supporters. One seldom reads of any serious injury from a fight. The usual penalty is two to ten minutes out of the game.

Substitutes are permitted all the time without limit and when a penalty is incurred the penalized team brings on its best defence while the others bring on their most penetrating attack.

The sports writers analyse the game with an amazing amount of statistics. Each goal scored in the league is credited to the man who beats the goalie as two points while the man who passed the puck gets one point for an "assist". At the end of a season manufacturers are waiting to present the leading scorers with their products ranging from refrigerators to television sets. Some supporters will patronize the oil company which sponsors the hockey programmes on television for no other reason than to express their gratitude.

Three years ago, top scorer in the league, and idol of Montreal, Maurice Richard was suspended towards the end of a season for striking an umpire. The decision was unusually harsh and the Association President was threatened on all sides.

Politicians became involved and the Mayor of Montreal denounced the penalty. The next day happened to be March 17th, and Montreal met Detroit in a vital game. The fans went wild during the game and attacked the Presidents box. Pandemonium broke loose and the game was called off. The fight spread into the streets and thousands of dollars' damage was done including broken shop windows and a burnt newsstand. Next day many papers carried the story "St. Patricks Day Riot in Montreal".

It is probable that there were not ten Irishmen in the ten thousand.

**HANDBALL**

*By Ray Andrews*

**TOM McGARRY WON OUT IN EXCITING GAEL-LINN HANDBALL FINAL**

TO 20-YEAR-OLD TOM McGARRY OF LIMERICK FELL THE HONOUR OF BEING THE FIFTH TO HAVE HIS NAME INSCRIBED ON THE MAGNIFICENT GAEL LINN TOURNAMENT CUP. IN THE FINALS LAST MONTH AT NEWPORT, CO. MAYO, TOM—RIGHT HALF-BACK ON THE VICTORIOUS MUNSTER HURLING TEAM THIS YEAR—UPSET ALL THE ODDS BY BEATING SUCH STALWARTS AS DR. DES. DILLON AND PADDY DOWNEY OF KERRY IN HIS FIRST TWO MATCHES. AND THEN TO SHOW ALL THAT THIS WAS NO FLUKE HE PLAYED A WONDERFUL GAME IN THE FINAL TO HOLD OFF THE CHALLENGE OF JOE MAHER OF LOUTH AND WIN BY TWO ACES.

This final victory by the Limerick lad was all the more meritorious when one considers that the Wee County man had only to play one match—he scored a facile win over Joe Delany of Kilkenny—to get to the final. McGarry, on the other hand, had two very tough matches before he qualified for the decider. He had to go all out to vanquish Des. Dillon.

minutes of the final saw both lads score ace for ace. Then McGarry went into a ten-ace lead. In the process though he hustled Maher out of his usual steady game, and scored some valuable points. The effort took a big toll of his strength. Trailing by ten aces we then saw Maher at his best. Seeing that McGarry was obviously tiring badly, the Wee County man "put on the pressure" in earnest.

With about seven minutes to go the gap was narrowed to one single ace. Maher then "lost his hand" by what seemed to me a very bad decision by the referee. His foot return seemed perfectly all right, but the referee ruled otherwise. McGarry then showed his true worth by standing up to Maher's all-out

onslaught in the final few minutes of the game to win by two aces.

Never have I seen spectators get so excited as they did during those memorable last few minutes.

So Tom McGarry is Gael Linn for 1958. He may not have the style of the other top senior players he will meet in the Championship, but his bustling vigorous play will win him more matches than he will lose. Father Horan and his very able committee in Newport deserve full praise for the way they got the big programme completed without any fuss or delay.

The Leinster Championships, which started a few weeks back, have attracted a record entry of eighty-six competitors. It is good to see that Longford have affiliated to the Handball Association once again, and have entered for Junior Singles and Doubles in Softball and Hardball.

Their new County Secretary, Joe Farrell, represented Wicklow as a junior some years ago. He has whipped up a lot of enthusiasm in the county recently and fittingly enough will represent his native county in all their engagements.

It is also good to see that Wicklow and Westmeath have, for the first time, entered in the Handball grade in the Championship. It is a great pity that counties in other provinces would not follow suit.



TOM McGARRY

In his second match against the Kingdom man, Paddy Downey, he really proved he was a "man of iron." He must have been feeling the strain of the previous encounter, yet to watch him slog it out against Downey one would never think it.

Getting away to a quick start, the Limerick lad took all that Downey had to hand out in the last ten minutes to score a totally unexpected but nevertheless deserved victory. At the end of the match he looked very tired indeed. Not even his most rabid supporters, I imagine, gave him much of a chance of regaining sufficient strength to win out in the final against the winner of the Joe Delaney and Joe Maher clash.

McGarry's chances did not look any "rosier" when Maher finished as "fresh as a daisy" after winning as he pleased in this semi-final.

After a fifteen minute rest the stage was set for what was to be as thrilling a game of handball as one could wish for. The first ten

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# Clare Will Remember Tom Gardiner

A SEVERE blow to Gaeldom, and especially to Clare, was the recent passing to his eternal reward of one of the Banner County's greatest footballers—Tom Gardiner of Lisdoonvarna. A brother of former President of the G.A.A., Seamus Gardiner, N.T., Tom during a career which began in 1917 and finished ten years later, had few equals. He was the inspiration of Clare football at a time when only the brilliance of the Kingdom denied the Shannon-siders of major honours. His inter-county career began in 1917, when as a pupil in the De La Salle National Teachers'

Training College in Waterford he fielded for the Deices. With his native county the following year he became, at left full-back, the rock of the Clare defence. His many great duels with Kerry's famed Jackie Ryan are still remembered on both sides of the Shannon. Chosen on the Munster selection in 1924 for the Tailteann Games competition, his wonderful displays made him an automatic choice for the Ireland team. While a student in U.C.D. he also proved himself a top all-round athlete, clearing 23'-2" in the long jump, 5-11 1/2 ins. in the high, and clocking 10 secs. on a number of occasions for the 100 yards. The 1920's were the days of colour and excitement in the G.A.A. circles

By  
**Sean O'Neill**

and Tom Gardiner has left us many memories. His stories of great games and great deeds were always a joy to listen to. Like the one of how, while playing for U.C.D., he once found himself marking Harry Atkins, now President of University College, Cork.

The game was a rugged one, with a very dour struggle for supremacy between Tom and his opponent. The Clareman must have proved superior, for in the second half Harry moved to the other end of the field, and just to keep him company Tom followed suit.

The following Sunday, Tom, a much-travelled player like many of the greats in those days, found himself fielding for Lees as Tom 'Smith' in the Cork Co. final, and after coming on the field, who should he find holding the whistle but Harry Atkins. Lees won and there was no objection.

Yes, there were many colourful events... like the 1924 Limerick Co. final, when he marked Larry Stanley. The record book tells us that Garda won, but it does not mention that Stanley and Tom reproduced the same grim duel as they had played a week previously in the Dublin semi-final!

Then there was the unprecedented case of a prisoner being released from gaol to help win a Sigerston Cup final. It seems certain influential persons in U.C.D. had friends in other quarters and Tom, a political prisoner, was released, played the game, and was immediately re-arrested.

Yes, Tom Gardiner has left us, but the memory of his deeds as a great player and a great soldier in the fight for Irish freedom lives on. He remained, throughout his life, true to the ideals of a free and Gaelic Ireland. He served his county and his country well.

Yes, indeed, he will be remembered, and the glory of his deeds will be spoken of by future generations in the villages of North Clare—the villages he knew and loved so well. **AR DHEIS DE GO RAIBH A h-ANAM UASAL.**

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# SKOBLA . . . 'A Dead Cert'?

By TONY BARRY  
PERHAPS the most obvious of all 'dead certs' for next year's European Championships in Stockholm is Czechoslovakia's Jiri Skobla. Holder of the European Shot Putt record since 1952, Skobla has raised it, first, over 56 feet and then by degrees over 57 feet, 58 feet to the present mark of 59' 2 1/2".

Born in 1930, Skobla got plenty of inspiration as regards weights from his father who won the Heavyweight Weight-lifting gold medal in the Los Angeles Olympics. However, he soon deserted lifting, and became interested in putting. At the age of 18, Skobla putted the 6 kilo (13.22lbs.), weight 43' 6 3/4" — a mark with which incidentally, Kevin Prendergast's 44' 10" made in the Catholic Students games with the 6.25 kilo (13.75 lbs.) weight compares very favourably.

With the 16 lb. weight he reached 49' 10 1/2" in 1950 but did not compete in the Brussels European Championships. In 1951, he won the Czech championship at 51' 9 3/4" and in that year progressed to 53' 1 1/4". He slipped back to 52' 2 3/4" for 9th place at the Helsinki Olympic Games but on returning home he hit top form, posting marks of 54' 9", 55' 11 1/4", 56' 0 3/4", and closed his 1952 account with European record of 56' 2".

1953 saw him bring his record up by over a foot to 57' 6 1/2" which made him the world's number 2 man behind Parry O'Brien.

In 1954 he took the European Championship at Berne, with 56' 5 1/4" — a championship record, but at the end of the year it was clear that he had stalled somewhat for his seasonal was 57' 1 3/4". The following year Skobla was beset by injuries, and it was not until the end of October that he could secure for himself a respectable mark when he putted 57' 3 3/4" in Prague—still shy of his European Record of two seasons before.

1956 was Olympic year, and Skobla set out to prove he was anything but a back number. And prove it he did, bringing his European Record up by almost 9 inches to a very fine 58' 3 3/4". And at the Olympics Skobla proved himself to be in fine form and when the inconsistent American giant, Kenny Bantam slipped from his peak to the tune of almost 3 feet, Skobla grabbed the bronze medal, with a fine putt of 57' 10 1/2", so preventing an American sweep of the event.

After all that, 1957 has seen

Skobla better than ever. Several times over 58 feet, and twice over 59 feet he had the following fabulous series in a late September dual with Germany in Berlin; 57' 11 1/2", 58' 7 1/2", 58' 6 3/4", 57' 11 1/2", 58' 1 1/2", 57' 10 3/4"—his sixth and worst being better than anyone else in Europe could manage. Such consistency suggests that Skobla, after 6 years as Europe's No. 1, has still a trick or two up his sleeve. It does not seem too much to expect these to include a successful defense of his European title, and the first ever 60 foot shot-putt by a European.

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