

Gaelic Echo

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Scenes from last month's final between Kildare and Dublin at Croke Park. In these pictures Dublin had mixed fortunes. LEFT: Both Dublin full-back Timmons and Kildare full forward Dowling were beaten by a high ball, but goalkeeper O'Flaherty and Brennan were on hand to cover the ball. CENTRE: Des Ferguson went down but held possession, although closely watched by Danny Flood. RIGHT: O'Flaherty and Timmons were well beaten as this Kildare point went soaring over the bar. FINAL RESULT: Dublin 3-13, Kildare 3-8.

The G.A.A... And The British Declaration Of Allegiance

By SEAN McHUGH

THE G.A.A. IS A NATIONAL MOVEMENT. ITS PURPOSE IS TO FOSTER NOT ALONE OUR NATIONAL GAMES, BUT ALSO OUR LANGUAGE AND NATIONAL CULTURE AS A WHOLE. IT RECOGNISES NO BOUNDARIES OR BORDERS, AND ITS ONLY AUTHORITY IS THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND. IN OTHER WORDS, THE G.A.A. REPRESENTS AN IDEAL, AN IDEAL BASED ON THE SIMPLE PRINCIPLE OF IRELAND, THE SOVEREIGN, INDEPENDENT AND INDIVISIBLE NATION.

And yet a high official or even President of the Association may have signed a declaration of allegiance to a foreign power. He may have signed the following:—

"I declare that I shall be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors according to law."

If he is a teacher or civil servant under the Stormont Government he has done so.

Compromise

Now I realise, quite clearly, that this declaration is forced upon teachers and such like in occupied Ireland. I also realize that few nationally or GAA-minded teachers or Civil Servants consider this declaration little more than an empty formula and never give it a second thought but continue in their good national work. But, on the other hand, they have given it a first thought and whether we like to admit it or not the signing of the declaration is a compromise of national ideology.

Personally, I number among my friends many fine Northern nationalists who have signed on the dotted line and I would like to state clearly that I refer to no particular man or group or former or present officials of the Associa-

tion, in introducing this subject. But I feel that it is a subject which merits discussion and consideration.

It may be argued that it is more practical for, say, a teacher to sign the declaration and work in the producing of good nationally-minded students rather than be forced into unemployment and become a liability on the nation or to emigrate and become its loss. This argument undoubtedly carries weight. But then accepting that the man who has signed the form, empty and void though it may be, has at least recognised the fact that an alien power may demand and force his signed allegiance and that he has bowed, even if only briefly, the knee.

I ask you is that man (here again I stress that I refer to no man in particular) the best suited to be an official of the Gaelic Athletic Association?

Ridicule?

He may be a great Irishman, true to all the ideals and principles of a Gaelic and Free Ireland but is he not open—wide open—to scorn and ridicule from certain non-national quarters?

Is it, as I say, a question which merits some thought.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THE CORK G.A.A. BOARD

MADNESS?

ASKS KELLY

HAVE THE MEMEBERS OF THE CORK COUNTY BOARD GONE MAD?

I think so and can quote four good reasons for my decision.

1. The Eamonn Young Case. There is no doubt that Eamonn Young is one of the most loyal, conscientious and hard-working members of the G.A.A. in general and the Cork County Board in particular.

YET HE WAS SUSPENDED FOR A MOST STUPID REASON.

2. U.C.C. played Cork Garda in a Kelleher Shield game recently. They won by 4-7 to 0-2. Then the Co. Board awarded the match to the Garda team because U.C.C. were twenty minutes late coming on the field.

SINCE WHEN HAS EXECUTION BEEN THE PENALTY FOR PETTY LARCENY?

3. A Special County Trial for minors was held recently in Bantry.

Only one selector thought it worth his while to attend.

WHAT A MONUMENTAL WASTE OF TIME FOR 30 YOUNGSTERS.

4. Cork, as one of the lead-

ing hurling counties, should be the most interested in the future of the game, which is making little or no progress.

Yet, at the recent Congress, Cork not only failed to provide any constructive ideas for

furthering the game, but went so far as to oppose the efforts who were trying to get something done.

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THE SEARCHLIGHT OF HISTORY REVEALS THAT

CORK Has A Special Place In Camogie

THAT CORK HAS EARNED A SPECIAL PLACE TO-DATE IN THE ANNALS OF CAMOGIE AFFAIRS IS A POINT THAT WILL BE READILY CEDED BY THE STRONGEST OPPONENTS OF THE REBEL COUNTY.

The searchlight of history reveals a highly successful cycle of All-Ireland victories (six, to be exact, won in 1934, 1935, 1936, 1939, 1940, 1941), and an almost ceaseless endeavour, in administration, to put the game on a sound footing.

In a short feature, such as this, it is not possible to deal, in a fitting manner, with the early history of the game in the Munster Capital.

I propose, therefore, to commence with the entry of Cork, in 1934, into the then newly formed All-Ireland Camogie Association.

349 Clubs

Miss J. Foley (Cork City), Mrs. P. O'Flynn (Mallow), Mr. Ben Purcell (Cobh), and Miss J. Crotty, were prominently associated with that glorious era of Camogie in Cork, which gave the County a hat-trick of All-Ireland titles. The team was led on that occasion by Kate Dunlea, of the then county champions, Muskerry Maids.

In 1934 there were 349 Camogie Clubs in Cork, but this fell to 123 in 1938.

Riobard A. Bramham

CONTINUES OUR NEW SERIES ON CAMOGIE

At the 1939 Cork Convention the male officers resigned en bloc to give the administration of the Board to the ladies, the new officials being Miss L. Kirby (Chairman), Miss R. Fitzgerald (Sec.), Miss M. Cronin (Treas.), and Miss K. Coughlin (Registrar).

That year (1939) Cork took another All-Ireland title, a feat they re-

peated in 1940 and 1941—the latter being the last occasion on which the O'Duffy Cup went South.

For many years the Munster Council had been non-existent. In 1942 the Cork Board set about reorganising the Council. In 1946 four Counties participated in the Munster championship.

(CONTD. ON PAGE 6)

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THE OLYMPIC GAMES

By Philip Roderick

APRIL 6, 1896, WILL FOR EVER BE A MEMORABLE DATE IN OLYMPIC HISTORY. ON THE MORNING OF THAT DAY, WITH GOLDEN SUNSHINE DANCING ACROSS THE EMERALD GREEN INFIELD OF THE AVEROFF STADIUM IN ATHENS, KING GEORGE I. OF GREECE PROCLAIMED THE FORMAL WORDS WHICH OPENED THE FIRST OF THE MODERN OLYMPIADS.

AFTER A LAPSE OF FOURTEEN CENTURIES, THE OLYMPIC GAMES WERE ONCE AGAIN UNDER WAY.

It was a happy day for Baron Pierre de Coubertin, standing beside the King, looking down on the assembled athletes of seven nations, who had come to Athens to compete in the Olympics. For him, a dream had come true.

De Coubertin, a French nobleman, had originally been destined for the Army, but at an early stage in his life, he came to the conclusion that there were better and easier ways of promoting international peace than by settling differences on the battlefield. He visualised a great sports festival, which would bring the sportsmen of the world together in friendly competition—a festival which would, in time, cement the friendships of sport into the greater friendships of nations.

So he became a peace crusader. He travelled the world, preaching his gospel of friendship through sport, and found willing disciples in every country. With willing hands to help, he tackled the gigantic task of reviving the Olympic Games.

Not unnaturally, when the first celebration was planned, Greece—the home of the ancient Games—was invited to act as host for the first of the modern Olympiads.

Deeply appreciative of the honour, the Greeks threw themselves wholeheartedly and enthusiastically into preparations, but unfortunately, their enthusiasm outweighed their resources. But for the timely intervention of one George Averoff—a merchant prince of Athens—it is more than likely that the preparations for the first Games would have dissolved in disaster.

At a critical stage in the proceedings, when money was dwindling fast, and public interest was ebbing, Averoff stepped in with the princely

donation of 1,000,000 drachmas. In recognition of this magnificent gift, the new Olympic Stadium was named in his honour. It was built in a natural bowl, surrounded by green hills, on the outskirts of the city.

Messages were sent to the nations of the earth, inviting them to come to Athens for the first of the modern Games.

Scene Set

And now the scene was set. The opening words echoed over the ground. The Olympic Games were on.

Down in the arena,—lined up, facing the Royal Box—were teams from France, England, Hungary, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, and the United States of America. Some were official teams—others, like the American team, were not.

The American team was composed mainly of athletes of the Boston Athletic Club, plus several individual entries. In the latter

group was a young man, James B. Connolly, down to compete in the hop, step and jump.

History has it that James was a student at Harvard University, when he heard of the Games in Athens, and that his request for leave of absence to travel to Greece was turned down by the University authorities. So, James took the only course left to him. He

The Results

100 METRES

1. T. E. Burke, USA.
 2. F. Hoffman, Germany
 3. I. Szokoly, Hungary
 4. T. P. Curtis, USA
 5. F. A. Laner, USA
 6. I. Chalkondulis, Greece
- Time—12secs.

400 METRES

1. T. E. Burke, USA
 2. M. Jameson, USA
 3. F. Hoffman, Germany
 4. H. Gmelen, Great Britain
- Time—54secs.

800 METRES

1. E. H. Flack, Great Britain
 2. F. Dani, Hungary
 3. D. Golemias, Greece
 4. A. Lermursiaux, France
- Time—2min. 11secs.

1,500 METRES

1. E. H. Flack, Great Britain
 2. A. Blake, USA
 3. A. Lermursiaux, France
 4. K. Galle, Germany
- Time—4mins. 33.2secs.

110 METRES HURDLES

1. T. P. Curtis, USA
 2. G. Goulding, Great Britain.
- Time—17.6secs.

MARATHON

1. S. Louis, Greece.
 2. C. V. Vassikalakos, Greece.
 3. J. Kellner, Hungary
 4. L. Vretos, Greece
 5. Papasiemeon, Greece
 6. R. Delijanmis, Greece
- Belokas of Greece finished third but was subsequently disqualified.
- Time—2hrs. 55m. 20secs.

LONG JUMP

1. E. H. Clark, USA 20' 9 1/2"
2. R. S. Garrett, USA 20' 3 1/2"
3. J. B. Connolly, USA 20' 0 1/2"
4. A. Tuffrey, France 19' 7 1/2"
5. A. Grisel, France 19' 1 1/2"
6. K. Schumann, France 18' 8 1/2"

HOP STEP AND JUMP

1. J. B. Connolly, USA 45' 0"
2. A. Tuffrey, France 41' 7"
3. Persakis, Greece 41' 0 1/2"
4. I. Szokoly, Hungary 40' 4 1/2"
5. L. Zumis, Greece
6. I. Chalkondulis, Greece

HIGH JUMP

1. E. H. Clark, USA 5' 11 1/2"
2. J. B. Connolly, USA 5' 7 3/4"
3. H. Sjoberg, Sweden 5' 7"
4. F. Hoffman, Germany 5' 7"
5. R. S. Garrett, USA 5' 6 1/2"

POLE VAULT

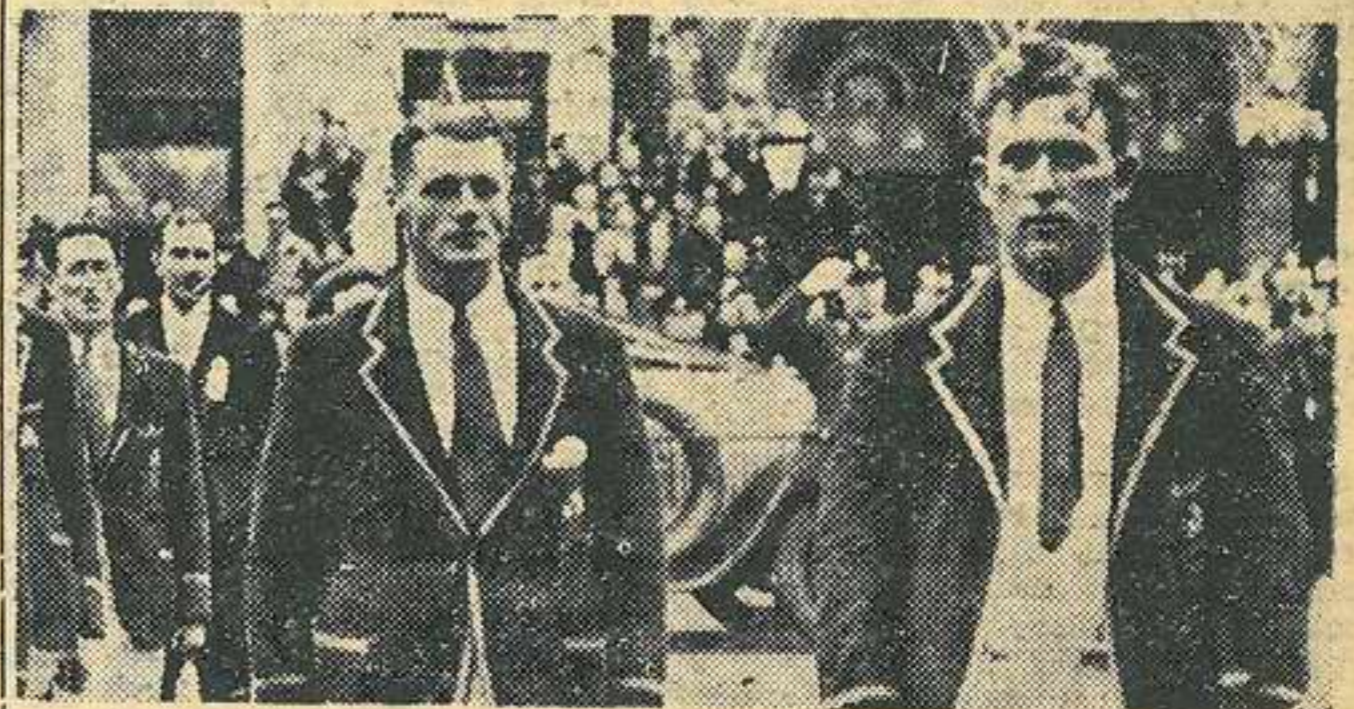
1. W. T. Hoyt, USA 10' 9 3/4"
2. J. Taylor, USA 10' 8"
3. Theodoropoulos, Greece 9' 4 1/2"
4. Damaskos, Greece 9' 2 1/2"
5. Xydias, Greece 9' 2 1/2"

DISCUS

1. R. S. Garrett, USA 95' 7 1/2"
2. P. Paraskevopoulos, Greece 94' 11 3/4"
3. Versis, Greece 86' 11 1/2"
4. H. Sjoberg, Sweden

SHOTPUT

1. R. S. Garrett, USA 36' 9 3/4"
2. P. Gouskos, Greece 36' 7"
3. G. Papasideres, Greece 33' 11 1/2"
4. L. Robertson, USA 32' 7 3/4"
5. G. Wincler, Denmark



Bob Tisdall (Nenagh) and Pat O'Callaghan (Kanturk), Ireland's Olympic Champions, at Los Angeles in 1932.

walked out of the University. Many years later, when he had achieved fame as an author of sea stories, he returned to Harvard—by invitation—to lecture in literature. The first event to be decided at Athens was the hop, step and jump—Connolly's pet event—and after the first round he was well ahead with a jump of 43ft. 2 1/2 ins. No other competitor beat 40ft. in the first round.

With his third jump Connolly improved to 45ft., which made

him an easy winner from Tuffrey of France, who cleared 41ft. 7ins. for second place.

Connolly was the first to mount the victory rostrum, to be crowned with the traditional laurel wreath of victory... the American Flag was hoisted to the top of the 200ft. flagpole... and massed bands thundered out the "Stars and Stripes." Fifty thousand cheering spectators rose to their feet to acclaim him.



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE.

The Olympiad Of 1896

Thus James B. Connolly—late of Harvard University—became the first Olympic champion of the modern Games.

In the days that followed, the huge crowds must have wearied of the "Stars and Stripes" and of the American Flag floating at the mast-head. As event followed event, the Americans swept to victory after victory.

Dramatic Win

Only twice was their winning march checked—on both occasions by Flack of Australia, competing for England. He won the first heat in the 800 metres in 2m. 10.0secs. from Dani of Hungary; the second was won by Lermuasiaux of France from Golemis of Greece in 2m. 16.8secs. In the final, Flack took the lead at the gun, and led all the way to win comfortably from Dani in 2m. 11secs. Later in the Games he took the 1,500 metres by three yards from Blake of the USA in 4m. 33.2secs. Of the 11 events at the Stadium, the Americans won nine. Following Connolly's victory, Bob Garrett set the pace by beating the Greeks at their national pastime—throwing the discus.

The story of his dramatic victory has been told all too often to be repeated here at length, but when he beat the Greek champion Paraskevopoulos, the entire stadium sank into depths of abyssal depression.

U.S. Winners

Greek hearts grew heavier as the days went rolling by. Ellery Clark of Boston won the high jump at 5' 11½", and the long jump at 20' 9¾"; Tom Curtis took his heat of the 110 metres hurdles in 18secs.

and then went on to win the final in 17½ secs., and William Hoyt cleared a very creditable 10' 9¾" in the pole vault.

In Fairness

Then along came Tom Burke, the American quarter-mile champion of 1895, who ran away with the 100 and 400 metres championships. His times of 12secs. and 54 secs. may appear farcical by today's winning Olympic performances, but in all fairness, it must be put on record that the track at Athens was composed of very loose cinders, which gave little support to the runners.

Burke had already a 49.6sec. quarter-mile to his credit, and on his return from Athens, won the American national championship in 48.8secs.

Modest Effort

Bob Garrett won the shot with the extremely modest effort of 36' 9¾", a performance far below the average being done at that time by Irish and American weightmen, but at Athens it was sufficient to take an Olympic gold medal.

With one event to go, the Greek spectators had sunk into despairing apathy. Throughout the week of competition, they had watched title after title go to the "foreigners". As hosts they politely applauded, but their hearts ached for a home victory.

And now the only event left was the marathon, and few believed that would come to Greece. But that first Olympic marathon brought one of the greatest stories of all Olympics—one that must always find a place in any sporting history.

To begin this story, we must leave Athens and go out to the hills overlooking the city, where the

shepherds watched over their sheep. Among them was a tiny Greek, by name Spiridon Louis. He was a lonely little man, known to be a tireless runner and a great patriot. Reports of the great triumphs by foreign athletes drifted out to the hills, and like his countrymen, Louis too, was saddened by his country's failure at the Averoff Stadium.

Brooding alone in his night's vigil, inspiration came to him. He would run in the marathon. And why not? He knew his own powers as a long-distance runner. So, turning his flock over to a friend, Louis set off for the city. For two nights and two days before the race, Louis prayed on bended knees, and for the 24 hours before the marathon, he fasted.

Identical Course

Then with 24 other competitors, he left for the village of Marathon where the race was to commence. It was to be run over the identical course traversed by the Greek warrior, Pheidippides, who dropped dead in Athens, having run from Marathon with news of his country's overwhelming rout of the invading Persians.

The runners came to the starting line. Colonel Papadiamantopoulos of the Greek Army fired the gun, and 25 stout-hearted men began the long and tiring journey back to Averoff Stadium in Athens. Lermuasiaux of France dashed into the lead in the first mile, and setting a fast pace, he drew away from the rest of the field. As mile followed mile, the Frenchman kept up the pace, and stretched his lead. At ten miles he was nearly half a mile ahead, but a few miles further on he shot his bolt, and gradually the field began to close on him. At 18 miles they caught him, and Arthur Blake of the USA moved to the front.

In the meantime, mounted couriers took news of the progress of the race back to the Stadium, but gloom settled down on the waiting thousands as each report told the sad news that foreign athletes were leading.

When all hope seemed gone, word came that brought new heart to the Greeks. Blake had dropped out. An unknown Greek runner was in the lead. He was even then approaching the ground.

Silence descended as the eyes of the stadium turned towards the entrance. Excitement grew—then a mighty roar went pealing over the arena as a tiny figure ran on to the track.

It was Spiridon Louis. Slowly he moved around the track, flanked by Prince George and Prince Constantine who ran with him. All over the stadium delirious crowds rose to cheer him. Pandemonium broke loose as he breasted the tape, and thousands of his countrymen rushed from all sides to greet the unknown shepherd, who had vindicated Greek honour.

National Hero

Women tore jewels from their dresses and flung them at his feet—a happy clothier vowed to dress the winner free for life—a weeping baker swore to feed him for the same period—even a lowly boot-black promised to polish his shoes for as long as he lived.

Gifts were showered on the bewildered shepherd from all sides. Spiridon Louis was a national hero.

For a while there was a distinct possibility that Louis would be trampled to death by the enthusiastic crowd, but the Greek princes came to his rescue, and hurried him away to a dressing room.

Long after he had disappeared from view the cheers rose, and as other Greek runners reached the stadium, they were greeted with scenes of unforgettable joy.

With the dramatic marathon, the first of the modern Olympiads came to a close. The last gesture by the hosts was a Royal breakfast at the Palace, where the athletes and officials came together for a last reunion.

De Coubertin spoke of the next Games, to be held in his native France. The nations promised to be there. All vowed that the next Games would be even greater than Athens. But the world waited many years before the success of the Athens Games was repeated.

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ON THE BALL

WITH BRIAN McDONALD

LAST FEBRUARY THE CORK COUNTY BOARD OF THE G.A.A. SET A PRECEDENT—A MOST UNHAPPY ONE, I'M AFRAID—WHEN THEY SUSPENDED EAMONN YOUNG, THE FAMOUS CORK FOOTBALLER, FOR WRITING HIS

Headquarters, and one which the G.A.A. top brass will want to forget in jig time.

And I suppose that's just exactly what they'll do . . . instead of giving the matter some solid, thoughtful thinking, for if they did, I doubt very much if any of the culprits

Down's Paddy Doherty has certainly left his mark on this year's Ulster Junior football championship. In a first round tie he scored Down's total of one goal and eight points . . . in the next round, Down defeated Fermanagh, and Paddy again was the sole marksman, totting up ten points. In their next outing, his county

counties and the other is in the 6 counties.

And this poses a very sticky problem for the Ulster G.A.A. Five players in Pettigo, Co. Donegal want to play for a team in Pettigo, Co. Fermanagh.

The only solution put forward so far is that the Pettigo area should be "temporarily transferred to Co. Fermanagh".

Anybody like to tell what the outcome of the affair was?

I started off this column on a pretty severe note, so I'd like to end it in a pleasant vein, and hand out extra special bouquets to the thirty men who played in the Wexford-Limerick National Hurling League final.

It was one of the most refreshing contests I have seen in a long, long time, and to referee Josie Gallagher (Galway), a sincere "well done", for he handled the encounter in a manner that satisfied everybody.

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AT CROKE PARK . . . Kevin Heffernan tries to fist the ball to the net as Ireland backs Tom Conlon, Paddy Driscoll and Tom Dillon close in.

LIFE STORY IN AN ENGLISH SUNDAY NEWSPAPER. MUCH HAS BEEN SAID AND WRITTEN ABOUT THIS WHOLE, SORRY AFFAIR IN OUR NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS, AND COLLEAGUE PATRICK CARVER HAS ALSO GIVEN THE CORK BOARD QUITE A SLATING, AND RIGHTLY SO, IN MY OPINION. GENERAL OPINION IS THAT THE CORK BOARD ACTED VERY RASHLY, BUT APPARENTLY THEY ADOPTED THE POLICY THAT, LIKE THE INFAMOUS "JOHNNY," EVERYBODY ELSE WAS OUT OF STEP!

Now, there's just one little argument I'd like to put, in favour of Eamonn Young, and it's one that has slipped the attention of all our sportswriters.

Remember the Kildare-Tyrone semi-final of the National Football League game at Croke Park? This game was the most disgraceful display of downright bad sportsmanship that I have ever seen at

would ever lace a football boot again.

It began with several bouts of fisticuffs, and gradually developed into a savage riot. At one stage during the second half five players lay stretched on the ground . . . but that's not all. Players, supporters and team managers fought bitterly in front of over 25,000 spectators. One player actually ground his boot into the face of another. I am sure those of you who were at this fracas remember it to the last detail, and those of you who weren't must surely have read the hard and bitter facts.

Where does Eamonn Young come into all this?

WELL, I'LL TELL YOU.

Eamonn was suspended under Rule 12 of the Official Guide . . . "Conduct calculated to bring the G.A.A. into disrepute . . ."

But in my opinion the "sportsmen" that were permitted by the G.A.A. to play in Croke Park that Sunday, not alone brought the Association into disrepute, but into utter and total disgrace.

And my final word on the matter . . . I read the Eamonn Young story, and I'm afraid I can't agree with the Cork County Board that there was anything disreputable in it.

I think you'll agree that my views on the matter make very, very interesting reading.

defeated Antrim by 0-10 to 1-5 . . . and Paddy shot nine of those points. So out of a total of 1 goal 28 points, Paddy accounted for all but ONE point.

ANYBODY LIKE TO BEAT THAT?

EARLY last month, an Irish basketball side, all were well-known inter-county players, met a Dublin "team" in a game at Parnell Park, by which it was hoped to put a few pounds—much needed, I'm told—into the Basketball Stadium Fund. But the few pounds turned into coppers, and the profit realised was the fabulous sum of £2-10-0!

For this fiasco, I feel most of the blame must be shouldered by the Dublin County Board of the G.A.A.

The "team" they put out to represent Dublin was a gross insult to the star-studded side picked by the Basketball Association. The overall result was a one-sided affair, in which the Basketball selection never had to shake themselves out of a jog trot to ensure victory.

I tackled an official of the Dublin Board about it, and I was told: "At the time it was impossible for us to field the Dublin league team, as most of the players we approached were not available that evening".

That's an excuse which I'll accept, but why had the Board to arrange four Dublin club games for that evening?

I think that the Dublin Board should never have accepted the fixture unless they were in a position to have fielded a full strength team.

INCIDENTALLY, THE ONLY REASON THAT THE BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION DIDN'T LOSE MONEY ON THE VENTURE WAS THAT MANY OF THE PLAYERS PAID THEIR OWN EXPENSES FROM THE COUNTRY, AND THAT INCLUDED STAYING OVERNIGHT IN THE CAPITAL.

As most of you know, Pettigo is one of the most unusual towns in this country—portion of it is in the 26

LIFE BEFORE THE GREAT SWEEPSTAKES

THE PEDESPEED. Upon one side of each of the stirrup-like appliances a metal plate is firmly fastened, each having a short axle projecting from its centre, upon which a wheel is mounted. The Pedespeed is light and strong and the inventor, a large and heavy man, claimed that he could use it for two hours without fatigue. Practice is necessary, but with practice considerable grace and skill can be acquired. When used by ladies, shields may be employed to cover the tops of the wheels, so as to protect the dresses. From *The English Mechanic*, 1870.



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ULSTER

There is a welcome sign that the mad rush to the Continent for holidays is not so widespread now as in previous years, and that the Irish people are gradually beginning to realise there is a wealth of beautiful scenery and first-class resorts in their own country that will well repay a visit.

It is certainly rather silly to contemplate an expensive Continental holiday, with its attendant high travelling costs, when there are so many places worthy of a visit close at hand.

This spirit of "See Ireland First" has meant that in the last few years many more people from the South have visited Ulster and have discovered the manifold wonders of this, our most historic province.

Belfast tourist chiefs estimate that more than 100,000 people from South of the Border visited the province last year, and they hope that this number will be substantially increased this year.

No matter what type of holiday you desire, it may be had in Ulster. Whether you want to get away from it all by relaxing in some quiet spot and forgetting your cares, or whether you are the social type that likes

entertainments as an essential part of a holiday, Ulster can satisfy you.

With so many wonderful resorts to describe, it is hard to know where to begin, but as it is just across the Border, we will start company and look on dancing and

with Co. Down—"The Mourne County." The largest and most famous of the Co. Down resorts is Bangor, on the southern shores of Belfast Lough. Here you will find a well blended combination of beauty and gaiety, only half an



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Years of experience in handling large holiday crowds backs up Bangor's claims that it caters for all tastes. An added attraction of Bangor is, of course, its proximity to Belfast, where the womenfolk will no doubt be lured by the wonderful variety of goods displayed in the fine stores of the Northern capital.

Other famous County Down resorts are Warrenpoint and Rostrevor, nestling by the side of Carlingford Lough. These two charming towns are ideal excursion centres for touring the Land of Mourne.

Another famous holiday resort in County Down is Newcastle. This beautiful town nestles at the foot of Slieve Donard, Ulster's highest mountain, and it is justly famous for the amenities it can offer.

Further North

Further north along the coast of Co. Down is Donaghadee, which can boast of a fine harbour and promenade, giving delightful views of the nearby Copeland Isles. Donaghadee caters for all tastes, and we can guarantee that visitors will find it a healthy, carefree holiday centre.

The Antrim Coast Road built, they say, as a famine relief scheme in the hungry forties of the last century, is still a source of wonder to visitors. It hugs the water's edge for over 30 miles and passes through some of the most breathtaking scenery imaginable—towering cliffs, quaint towns and rolling grasslands.

Delightful

Along the Antrim Coast Road we find delightful little towns where discerning visitors spend their holidays—Cushendun, Cushendall, Carrlough, their very names are enough to make us want to visit them. Here, too, is Larne, a charming town that makes an ideal centre for tours of the beautiful glens of Antrim. It is a region of cascading waterfalls, gently rising hills, neat farms, and tidy cottages.

Ballycastle, wedged right up in the north-eastern corner of the county, achieved world-wide fame

(CONTD. ON PAGE 8)

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CAMOGIE IN CORK



THE U.C.C. CAMOGIE TEAM OF SOME YEARS AGO.

(CONTD. FROM PAGE 2)

It was in 1942, however, that Camogie history was made in Cork when the All-Ireland final of that year, between Dublin and Cork, was broadcast from Radio Eireann. I was the commentator on that occasion.

In 1944 Cork were defeated by Clare in the Munster championship, while in 1945 Waterford were the Rebel County's conquerors. Prominent players of this period were: B. Linehan, M. O'Sullivan, M. O'Shea, The Barry Sisters, M. Morris, S. Horgan, The Regan Sisters and K. Keane.

From 1946 to 1951 Tipperary were Munster champions. Cork won the

the position in 1953.

In 1954 Cork cailini really came into their own with a brilliant Provincial win, followed by a scintillating, but unavailing game against Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final. The 1955 All-Ireland Final, in which the Munster cailini matched Dublin's best, is still fresh in the memories of those privileged to see it.

In 1956—third time lucky—the Munster cailini conquered their Dublin rivals, only to go under to Antrim in the final.

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DRASTIC AND LASTING EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY TO STAMP OUT THOSE . . .

INCIDENTS

FOOTBALL INCIDENTS! YES, WE ALL AGREE THAT THEY MUST END. MANY SUGGESTIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED BUT PERSONALLY I FEEL THAT MORE DRASTIC AND LASTING EFFORTS ARE NECESSARY THAN JUST IM-

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PROVING THE STANDARD OF REFEREEING OR GIVING POWER OF DECISIONS TO UMPIRES OR SIDE-LINE MEN.

This latter suggestion would prove an incumbrance with pauses and moments of indecision if umpires had to explain and demonstrate to the referee and these delays would only add to frayed tempers.

Why not take these definite and decisive steps though? Adopt the following rules.

- 1—All fouls committed inside the fourteen yard mark—a penalty.
- 2—All inside the "21" line—a "14" free.
- 3—All between the "21" and "50" mark—a "21" yards free.
- 4—Any foul committed outside the "50" yards mark a free from the 50 yards line.

Drastic you say. Well, maybe, but only drastic measures can cure the present cancer in football games.

This suggested system would almost certainly eliminate ninety per cent of deliberate fouls. It

By
Sean O'Neill

would no longer prove a worthwhile chance for a full-back to foul a full-forward—being seen would mean a penalty and an almost certain goal. Better let him play the ball.

The game would be the case for all fouls inside the fifty yard mark—an almost certain point resulting from a 14 or 21 yard free.

The fine would prove too great a price for the foul so there would be drastic and immediate reduction of them.

Stop Mauling

Would it interfere with the play? Spoil the game? I think not. Why should it? If anything it would improve play by stopping mauling in the square for one thing. It would open, and speed up the game giving the opportunity for continued bouts of play or exchange without any spoiling breaks.

This suggested system need only be adopted for a period. A period sufficiently long to root out this present tendency in football. A period sufficiently long to develop our juveniles and minors in a non-

foul atmosphere so that the senselessness and impracticability of fouling would be impressed deeply into their young minds.

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Summer Holidays In Ulster

PORTRUSH

CONTD. FROM PAGE 6

in the song "The Out' Lammas Fair," and this fame is reflected in the number of visitors that spend their vacations here every year. Nearby is Rathlin Island, which is well worth a visit.

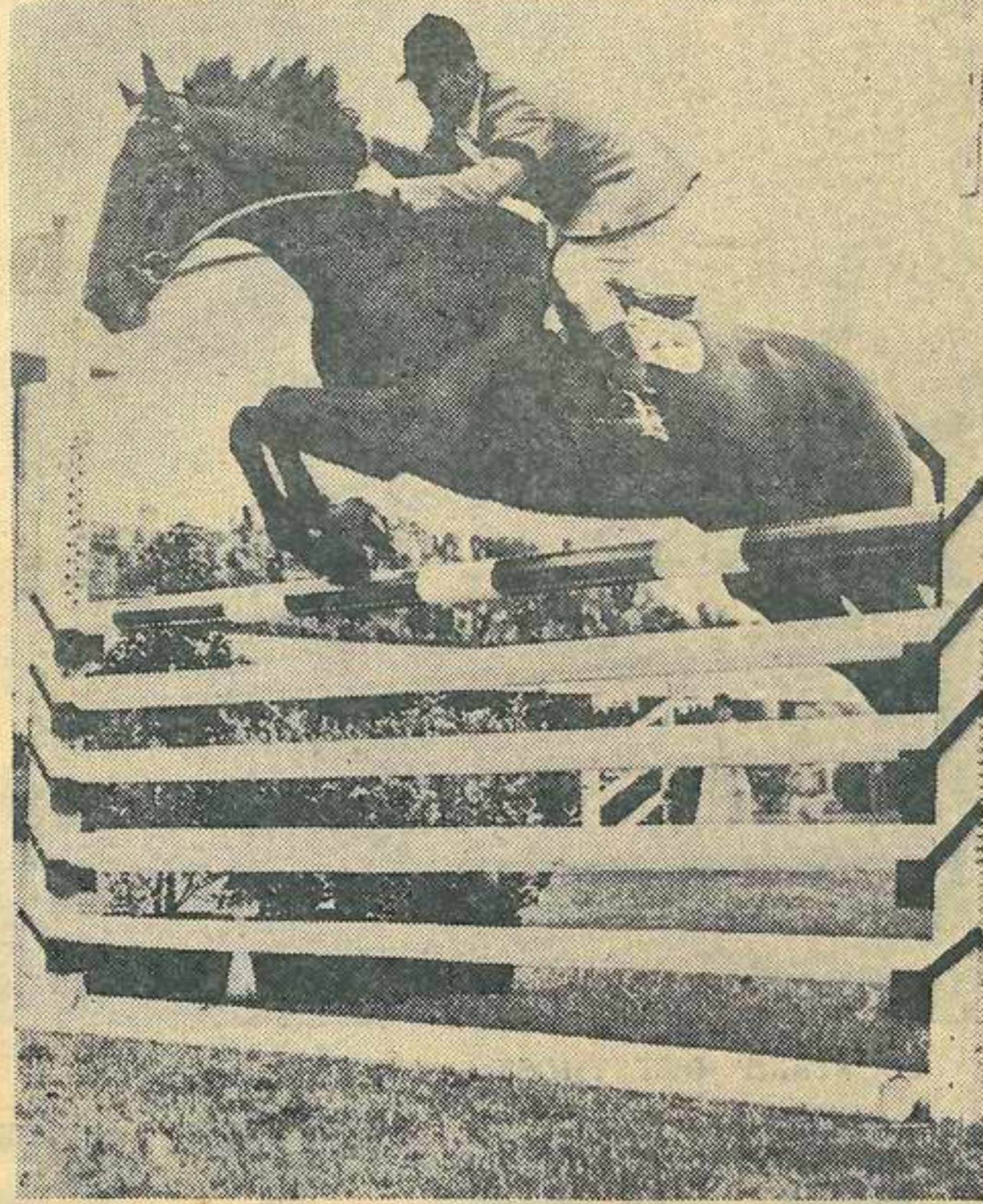
Travelling westwards from Ballycastle we come to one of Ulster's most famous holiday spots—Portrush. This is a gay town, appealing to both young and old, with its Blue Pool, Dunluce Castle, the Giant's Causeway, its famous golf course and its many amusements. It is indeed a place whose merits cannot be overlooked by anyone contemplating a holiday in Ulster.

Portstewart

Just over the Antrim border, in County Derry, lies Portstewart. Quieter than Portrush, but just as popular, this North Atlantic resort can offer an exquisite strand, with first-class bathing.

A place of great historical interest is Derry, the "Maiden City", situated on the shores of Lough Foyle. As well as having many attractions within its famous walls, Derry has the added advantage of being the gateway to Donegal, and a starting point for numerous bus tours of this county.

Talking of bus tours, the Ulster Transport Authority run numerous interesting tours from various centres and the charges are most reasonable. These include day trips to the Mountains of Mourne, the Giant's Causeway and the Antrim Coast Road. U.T.A. also run extended motor coach tours lasting four to ten days, taking in the most interesting holiday spots and stopping at first-class hotels.



Throughout the summer there are several popular show jumping events at various centres in Ulster.

DONEGAL

THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS IN WITH A SWISH. MOST OF YOU HAVE MADE YOUR HOLIDAY PLANS BY NOW. NO DOUBT. BUT PERHAPS THERE

ARE SOME, LEAVING IT UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT, WHO HAVE NOT YET MADE UP THEIR MINDS.

Spain, Italy, France, Germany? You must go there too. It is so impressive, so travelled-sounding, to drop the names when you come back (forever after); and the few words of the language you learned, they must be tossed about among the friends. . . .

But why not a holiday at home. Do you really know Ireland? Even if you do there are many places worth going to again.

Nature's Beauty

Let's see. Why not Donegal? Yes, there is a place to be seen, a thousand times. You never tire of it. The beauty is indescribable: the great mountains with lovely lakes nestling in their laps; the tangled ribbon of roads winding among little hills; the breathtaking colours of the bogland stretches; the enchanting beaches along the fretworked coastline . . . and much more.

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Yes, Donegal is worth a visit this year.

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"Gaelic Football Has Changed Out Of All Recognition Since My Day"

MEMORIES.... Gaelic And Golden

By A Special Correspondent

Those of us who, now growing old and feeble, are ever wont to recall the days of our boyhood, and the memories we associate with them. We often speak of them as "the good old day". We look upon our comrades of those times as heroes, men of iron. We are never inclined to bow the knee to the men of to-day.

In making a contrast, however, we are mindful of the great changes that have taken place since "our" day. The players in "our" day were certainly stronger and of greater physique than the men of to-day.

Not that the games in these days were rougher or more crude than the games we witness at present. On the contrary, we took hard knocks and gave hard knocks in these days, too.

But "scenes" and exhibitions of bad sportsmanship were conspicuous by their absence in our time. "Scenes" like those witnessed at headquarters recently were un-

known in our day. We ever strove manfully to avoid defeat, but when it came our way, we accepted it in the heroic spirit.

Fouls in our day were not even half as numerous as at present. I have still a vivid recollection of a famous Croke Cup Final played in the present Croke Park. Jone's Road is what we called it then. As a matter of fact it was not the property of the Gaelic Athletic Association in those days. It was simply a rented field. However, with the proceeds accumulating from the "record gate", the field was purchased, and named Croke Park in memory of His Grace, the late Archbishop of Cashel, who died about the year 1903.

Clean And A Thriller

Louth and Kerry were the two teams concerned on this occasion. During all the first half, the referee had no need to use his whistle.

Not a single foul was committed by either side. It was well into the second half before the first foul was committed—just a technical one. I always look upon that contest as one of the finest I ever witnessed.

I often sigh for a repetition of it. An old friend of mine, Joe Mulligan from Dundalk, was playing that day. The light of heaven to his soul, a man of powerful physique and a great back.

Another old friend of mine, also gone to his heavenly reward, who played midfield for Kerry that day, was Coneyen Murphy, from Listry, outside Killarney. Coneyen was by no means a tall man, but he was well built.

He could soar up into the sky for a ball and take it down cleanly. He was certainly a marvel and he wouldn't hurt a child.

I saw matches before this particular one, and of course, many more since, but that match still haunts my memory as being the beau ideal of good sportsmanship, magnificent football and a real classic.

Styles Contrasted

Gaelic football has changed out of all recognition since my early days. Some changes are for the improvement of the game, whilst others are more of a defect than an asset.

Players to-day are more speedy than we were. The game is faster. The modern mode of substituting the cross bar for the 'points' post is a decided advance in the right direction.

However, modern Gaelic football to my mind falls short of the standard in our days in some respects. I have, for instance, no place for this 'hand to toe' style of football.

I'd say it is responsible for most of the fouls, and the 'scenes' that occur in our playing fields all over the country. The idea to-day seems to "walk" the ball into the opponent's net.

We made the ball travel in the old days—and I have yet to meet the man, who can travel faster than a flying ball. He doesn't simply exist. No Olympic champion even, will claim that distinction.

Another defect that I notice very prevalent to-day is the "foul" pick-up. In ninety cases out of a hundred, the ball is lifted with the aid of the hand on to the boot. I'd like to see a rule included in the Official Guide forbidding the pick up of a dead ball, by that I mean a ball not in motion.

In the old days, we used "lash" at "dead" balls, yes and at rolling ones too.

It seems to be a lost art nowadays, hence we have all the unnecessary 'mauling' of players that prevents our Gaelic matches, from being what they really should be—classics.

FENIANS HELPED TO FOUND G.A.A.

By HUGH O'DONNELL
THIS year of 1958 is the centenary year of the foundation of the Fenian movement. How many of us know that without the Fenians it is quite possible that there would never have been a Gaelic Athletic Association.

There are some who believe that it was members of the I.R.B., who first suggested and urged Michael Cusack to form a Gaelic Athletic Association. Whether this is true or not we don't know for definite . . . but we do know that they did help, encourage and work with Cusack in the foundation and spread of the Association.

It was a Fenian, William Nally, of Mayo (some years later he died mysteriously in Mountjoy Prison) who probably first showed Cusack how an athletic association could save the country through militant nationalism. There were many Fenians associated with the formation of the Dublin Hurling Club, but they wisely decided not to take a prominent active part in the GAA itself so as not to have it associated with politics and militant action.

The Fenians like Nally saw a

great future for the GAA. They saw how it would unite the young manhood of Ireland in a virile healthy pastime, enclosing them in a Gaelic environment and giving them a consciousness of national pride and idealism.

They visualized how the youth of Ireland united in this simple bond

They visualised how the youth of Gaelic friendship would in the future be an inexhaustible reservoir for militant nationalism. And so they placed their confidence and trust in the genial, outspoken Cusack and he did not fail them.

He built a great movement—the most successful national movement Ireland has ever known and for that the name of Michael Cusack will always be cherished.

Would he have succeeded without the hidden but far-reaching and ever guiding hand of the I.R.B.? Maybe, maybe not.

But in this, the centenary year of the foundation of the I.R.B., I think it would be indeed improper if the G.A.A. let it slip without acknowledging in some simple but fitting way the noble men of 1858 THE FENIANS.



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Necessity Knows No Law Eamonn Walked From Tipperary To Kilkenny ... TO PLAY HURLING!

THE hurler and footballer of the present day usually has some sort of up-to-date conveyance almost backed up to his doorstep to take him to the different venues. If a would-be player was forced to take an extra long walk to the scene of activities the question might arise regarding his fitness to don togs. His would have been referred to as an ordeal and a reserve probably put on in his place on that account.

Part and Parcel
But long walks, sometimes spread over more than one County, were part and parcel of the game in the old days and I quote two authentic instances indicating the more durable qualities of the old standard bearers.

My good friend, octogenarian Mr. Eamonn Mansfield, cousin of Charles Joseph Kickham, immortal author of "Knocknagow", made something of a hike on one particular match in his early days. In 1899, when he was a teacher in Ballindangan, in North Wexford,

By
Patrick Cahill

he captained the local football team. On holiday in his native Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, he received an urgent message on a Friday to say that his team was playing on the following Sunday and to come if at all possible.

There were very few bicycles available in 1899 and Eamonn hadn't got one. But that did not deter him. On the day before the match he started on foot out of the County Tipperary, and travelled right across Kilkenny. He walked and trotted, and trotted and walked, wending his way out through the Sculloge Gap, and arrived at his destination in approximately eleven hours, covering about fifty miles. He captained his team to victory at Clashganny, Carlow, the next day.

(CONTD. ON PAGE 12)



From the expression on Thady Turbett's face we think he knows where the ball has gone . . . and very obviously someone else was at fault.

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The Monaghan Feis Has Amassed Many Historical Associations

NOW in its 53rd year Monaghan Feis has survived the difficulties which have sounded the death knell of many other phases of the Gaelic revival, and it is still the great annual cultural event of the county.

Organised by a county committee, the Feis alternates between the five towns of Monaghan and this year finds its home in Caislean Mathuna—"Castleblayney of the foreigner." The beautiful Castle Grounds and now in the possession of the Franciscan Nuns, who very graciously permit the Feis in the precincts of their Guest House, will resound to our traditional music and song, when the Feis opens on Sunday, June 8.

Held In 1905

The first county feis was held in Carrickmacross in 1905 while the 1906 event was convened at this year's venue and in the intervening years the feis has amassed many historical associations.

This Bishop of Clogher has always been its patron and the present Bishop, His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, has on more than one occasion performed the opening ceremony.

Eloquent

Of the many eloquent speakers who delivered the Feis oration the following came to mind: Seamus Mac Grianna ("Maire"), an Mac Giolla Bride (Ashbourne), Proinsias Mac a'Bheatha (Giun na buaidhe), Padraig Mac Con Midhe (ex President G.A.A.), An Sagart Eamonn O Doibhlinn (Donaghmore), and this year Peadar O Ceallaigh (Editor of

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Amarch) joins that distinguished

company. Among the adjudicators who officiated in days now long past we find the names of Eamonn Ceannt (executed 1916 leader) and Alice Milligan (the famous poetess).

A chairman in the early days was An Sagart O Dalaigh—now a canon and P.P., Castleblayney and chairman of this year's local committee which executes the decision of the County Committee.

Chairman

Chairman for many years was Rev. Fr. McCarville, now Parish

Priest of Inniskeen and the present holder of the office, Rev. Fr. P. O'Brien, St. Macarten's Seminary, Monaghan, has kept the flag flying since its revival following the war years, during which the Feis was abandoned because of transport difficulties.

Special Mention

Among the many secretaries who worked arduously to maintain this cultural institution, the late Bro. Egan (R.I.P.) of Monaghan comes to mind, having held the office for many years and Bro. Cornelius of Carrickmacross, now in California, is another who is worthy of special mention.

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As I See Things

By SEAN O'NEILL

Does Radio Eireann Favour Soccer?

THAT there are those who, for one reason or another, prefer alien games and their environments to those that are native and national, I admit.

That these games are covered and reported on by commercial newspapers, I understand... for that is business.

But that Radio Eireann, the broadcasting station of the State, paid for and maintained by you and by me should give priority to a soccer game over an important national game is something which I do not understand.

This happened on the day of the Dublin v Mayo National League semi-final when the Athlone wave-length was given over to a soccer game and those who wished to listen to the gaelic game had to turn to Cork wave band.

This was a gross insult to gaelic games and the ideals which they represent.

Why did it happen?

Well, I can assure you it was not because the majority of listeners wished to listen to the soccer game. Far from it, I would say the ratio was five to one in favour of the Dublin v Mayo game. Could there have been another reason?

I don't work in Radio Eireann so I can't tell, but I can tell you what you should do.

Write to the Director of Sports Broadcasting, Radio Eireann, G.P.O. Dublin and ask him.

Maybe he knows?

CALL A TUNE

THE truly great musician can play many tunes. He can soothe you with melody... move you with sweetness... or he can even 'send' you with blues.

To the list of the present popular greats such as Armstrong, Calvert, etc., must surely be added the name of Lord Killanin, president of the Irish Olympic Council, for he is a 'musician' of amazing versatility.

YOU CALL IT AND HE CAN PLAY IT.

Should the occasion demand the rousing chorus of 'Ireland and Ireland only' his Lordship, as we saw prior to the Olympic Games, can skirl the pipes with the best; or should it be more suitable to play the gentle strains of 'Be ye Loyal' as it was at the annual dinner of the Irish Club, London, some time ago the good lord can also oblige.

On this occasion rising to propose the toast "Our Guests" the I.O.C. president said among other things: "We hope that those who come here (to England) through economic circumstances or on their own account will be loyal while on this side of the Channel. We are proud of those of us such as Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick (former permanent under secretary of the British Foreign Office), Sir Gilbert Laithwaite (head of the Commonwealth Relations Office) and Sir David Kelly who have made their lives on this side such a success."

How aptly his Lordship included himself in the company of Kirkpatrick and Laithwaite, all important gentlemen in the network of British propaganda and influence and all major contributors to the forwarding and maintaining of the glorious Empire.

His suggestion of being loyal when on the English side interests me very much. It must be terribly exciting for people—like the president of the Irish Olympic Council—who cross the Channel so very often and who can change disloyalty to loyalty on each occasion.

ITS AMAZING HOW THEY DON'T GET MIXED UP AT TIMES.

Or do they?

OUR AAU?

ONE of our Sunday newspapers, urging its sports readers to be sure to order their copies for the following Sunday recently ran a long list of what sports events its coverage would entail. It ran—

"John Doe travels to Paris and will give you a first hand account of this end of season rugby game."

"John Doe" our authority on hockey goes to Hove. Ireland have a chance of the Triple Crown here and he will tell you how they won or lost.

"John Doe" will be at Hamden Park. Both England and Scotland are in the World Cup and 'John' who saw the I.F.A. beat Italy in Belfast will compare that game with the one in Glasgow."

NO COMMENT.

Recently a Sunday newspaper columnist ran a sports exclusive on the possibility of a meeting between Ronnie Delany and Herb Elliott, the sensational young Australian miler, this summer.

During the whole of his article the writer constantly referred to the AAU as OUR AAU.

I wonder what possessed him to be so possessive?

IT'S NOT OUR AAU. WE NEVER ASKED FOR IT AND WE DON'T WANT IT, SO IF WE MUST MENTION IT LET'S CALL IT SIMPLY THE AAU.

The great Tostal events (God help us!) were listed as follows by a certain daily newspaper.

Most spectacular attraction will be the international tattoo at the Santry Stadium (latest definition of the word international reads mainly British).

2. Most spectacular sporting event—Golf tourney.

3. Other sporting events—International athletics meeting at Santry; international polo matches at Phoenix Park; GAA hurling and football league finals at Croke Park; Tostal Stakes race at Baldoyle.

PERMISSION!

The finals of our National games which drew a total attendance of 100,000 spectators are only 'also rans' in comparison to golf tourneys and displays of the tracking ability of British police and their unfortunate dogs.

AND ANYWAY WHO GAVE THESE PEOPLE PERMISSION TO SUGGEST THAT THE LEAGUE FINALS WERE SPECIALLY STAGED FOR THE BENEFIT OF AN TOSTAL.

If we must at times express sorrow at tragedies of alien sport let us also rejoice in its greatest moments of nobility and true sportsmanship. Let us congratulate the French based Algerian Soccer players who realised that fatherland and nationality transcends international competition and self glory and who acted accordingly.

What an example to our own compromisers!



Who gave permission to list hurling and football games as special Tostal events? ... asks Sean O'Neill.

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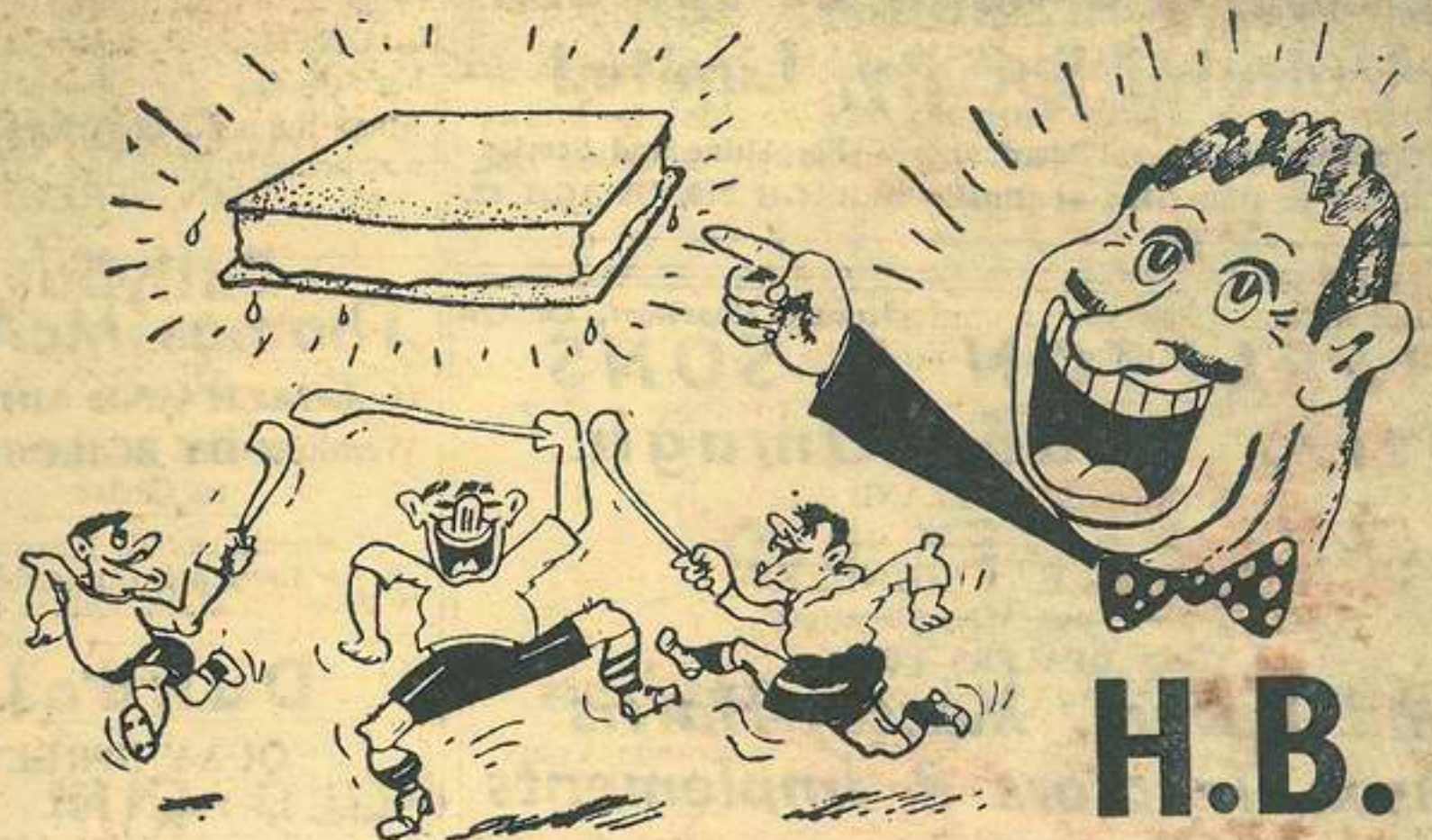
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The Voice Of Ulster

By Sean McHugh

TWO youngsters from neighbouring counties, both centre half backs and both sons of famous football fathers, are making a big impression on Northern Gaeldom presently.

Newcomer No. 1 is teen-aged Brian Donaghy of Crossmaglen, Co. Armagh, who recently held Down's automatic scoring register Paddy Doherty to two points from play. Brian, just nineteen, is the son of Jack Donaghy, star of the Armagh junior team which captured the 1926 All-Ireland title.

Young Donaghy has all the class and ability to make the grade. His presence has already given a new solidness to his county's defence. Armagh seem to be on the way back so who can tell but Brian may have the opportunity to win even greater honour than his illustrious Dad.

Centre half back Number two is Down's James McCartan. A versatile player, James has helped his home team, Glenn, for a number of years, starting in almost every position from goal out. Chosen somewhat prematurely on the county team at full forward two years ago, McCartan failed to make the grade. But now things have changed and when he took over at centre half from Seán Fearon recently he became the rock of the county defence and judging on his present form he should long remain so.

Young McCartan's father Brian McCartan had few equals on Ulster fields in his day.

If Paddy Doherty continues his scoring feats I shall have a job for some mathematician at the end of the 1958 season. I shall want a total of all scores registered by the Ballykinlar man in intercounty competition (junior and senior) for the season and also the total scored by Down in all the games in which Doherty took part.

This done, I expect to find that Paddy will have a total to exceed that of any intercounty footballer, in an equal number of games, for quite some time. Secondly and of this I think there will be no doubt that Paddy will have scored a greater percentage of his county's total than any player that ever laced a boot.

How about someone taking a note of all those scores and letting me know the result next December?

A rather unusual decision had to be reached at a recent meeting of the Monaghan County Board when the referee of the Donaghmoyné versus Inniskeen junior game stated in his report that he had miscalculated the time in the second half of the game and blew the final whistle six minutes too soon.

The Chairman ruled that as the referee's decision is final and as he had ended the game the decision of Inniskeen as the winners stood.

The score had been 1-3 to 0-4 and although it is hard luck on Donaghmoyné the referee must be commended for his honest admittance. To err is human.

The fifteenth of May was a big day for Mulahoran, Co. Cavan. Gaels when the official opening of their new Handball Court took place. The opening was performed by Mr. Seamus Gilheany, N.T., Cavan, and the occasion was celebrated by some very fine games, much music and ceili dancing.

The clash of the ash now echoes freely in the glens of Tir Chonail. A grant of £50 from the County Board, plus another £50 from the Ulster Council has the County Committee in full swing.

Enthusiastic plans have been laid with the emphasis on the under-sixteen age group.

The Donegal County Board has decided to take definite steps to prevent the poaching of their players by Fermanagh Clubs.

Monaghan town Gaels now boast of a new pitch.

Cuis bron do Gaedhil Uladh uilig bas Dhonail Mhic a 'Bhaird. i measc na naomh go raibh a anam uasal.

Necessity Knows No Law

(CONTD. FROM PAGE 10)

Eamonn was a really good athlete as well, and winner of a share of prizes in the "half" and mile. He ran prominently in the All-Ireland senior cross-country championships of 1903, in Elm Park, Dublin. Several uprooted trees lined the course for the Big Wind had taken place about a week before. This is not to be confused with the more historic Big Wind of 1839. I mention this in case I be accused of going haywire on dates.

Team games and athletic exercises certainly seem to have been beneficial to Mr. Mansfield, who later had an outstanding career through 34 years as a National Teacher (during which he was one of the very best known Presidents of the I.N.T.O.) and 17 years as a Land Commissioner. Happily, he is still with us.

Sacrifices

When the great Tom Kiely, of Ballyneale, Carrick-on-Suir, multiple National and International champion, who was never beaten in an all round contest, played with the noted Grangemockler team, he also made his sacrifices to get to the field of play.

Hasty Meal

In the early '90's Grangemockler were listed to play in Clonturk Park, Dublin. Tom arose in the early morning hours on the day before, milked a large number of cows, had a hasty breakfast, and then set out on the early stages of his trek to Dublin. Walking from Ballyneale, through Lisadobber, and up Glenbower Hill, he reached Grangemockler to pick up a few of the locals. This portion of the journey entailed considerable climbing, as he had already attained some altitude over his native place. But heavier collar work lay ahead and the party swung across country, over a shoulder of Slievenamon, and on to Fethard. They got an evening train to Dublin and won their match in Clonturk Park.

Apart from the mode of travel, the game was much rougher and tougher in the budding years of the G.A.A. Kiely was already a member of the Grangemockler team when the rule debarring wrestling was brought in, in the year 1887.

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CYCLING

Colm's Record Still Stands BUT COLM DOESN'T!

By
KERRY SLOAN

HARD LUCK STORY OF THE CYCLING YEAR SO FAR IS THAT OF THE GATE RACING CLUB'S STAR, COLM CHRISTIE.

COLM, WHO WAS THE ALL-IRELAND MASSES START CHAMPION IN 1952 AND '53 AND WINNER OF THE FIRST RAS TAILTEANN MADE A COME BACK THIS YEAR.

Last December he was a sixteen stone giant and I remember betting him that he would not get back.

Well, Colm got back alright and rode the Liam Hely field into the ground to take the chequered flag in the Harp C.C.'s annual classic.

He was all set for a great season. That is until one morning a few weeks ago when he got up late and

had to attack his own record from Drimnagh to the E.S.B. headquarters, where he works.

The record still stands but Colm doesn't. He fell off going around a corner and damaged his knee and will have his leg in plaster for a month.

What has Waterford's Olympia C.C. done to deserve the treatment they have got for their Ras Portlairge Two Day for the past two years.

This is a very well run race with good pots. Last year was its first year and they only got sixteen starters. Everyone said the reason was that they put it on at the last minute and it was not included in the racing calendar.

This year there was no such excuse as the race was well advertised. Yet they only got nineteen riders.

IT IS A DOWNRIGHT SHAME.

Kevin Hennessy, the former well-known tracker has been out of cycling for the past two years as he was building up a business in Youghal.

Now, however, he is back on the scene again and has a very go ahead club operating in Youghal, St. Christopher's C.C.

They ran a tip top race, a 50 miles massed start as part of Youghal's Tostal. It had all the well known touches which hall mark Kevin's promotions and if the large field, the crowds and the high class prizes are anything to go by the race will be an annual affair.

Kevin's inactive two years have given him quite a corporation and he now looks the real prosperous businessman.

He is a lot heavier than he was on the day of Blarney Sports five or six years ago when he made a three point landing on his ear on the last bend of the three mile race.

Kevin led coming down the back straight and I was right behind him. He was going too fast to pass on the outside and anyway if I tried to get around him he would have run me wide (Yest you would, Kevin!)

The only alternative was to come on the inside and there was not much room there. On the last bend he moved out a little and I made my bid on the inside.

As I expected when he saw me coming he chopped down but I was ready for him. As a matter of fact I was a little too ready for him and he gave the crowd a big thrill as he flew through the air like the man on the flying trapeze.

He kicked up "murder" but to my relief and amazement the corner steward who must have been blind said that I never touched him.

I found out just how Kevin felt one month later in the semi-final of the All-Ireland 1,000 metres when I got the same treatment I had given

Kevin from a cyclist who shall remain nameless.

Once more the corner steward was blind. However, it was good enough for me.

After a lapse of many years there is a cycling club in Carlow again. As a result of a meeting held there recently a club called Carlow Rovers C.C. has been formed.

Among the members are Denis O'Connor of Harp, Alec Davis of Navan and Ultan Fitzpatrick of Athlone who are all working there at the moment.

I understand that an evening race will be promoted on some mid-week evening this month for the Auctioneers Cup a 100 guinea trophy which has been in the possession of Mr. Browne of the Leinster N.A.C.A. since the old club fell by the way-side.

The All-Ireland Hurling Final of 1902

TIPPERARY WON IN EPIC FINISH

ON A BLEAK SUNDAY MORNING IN 1902 A SHIP DOCKED AT DUBLIN PORT. AMONG ITS PASSENGERS WERE THE LONDON-IRISH TEAM ON THEIR WAY TO MEET TIPPERARY IN THE HURLING FINAL AT CROKE PARK. THEY WERE WEARY, SEASICK, TRAVEL-STAINED, YET THEIR SPIRITS WERE HIGH IN ANTICIPATION OF A VICTORY OVER THE BOYS FROM THE GOLDEN VALE.

Meanwhile, a late train carrying the Tipperary lads had pulled into Dublin and had been met by an enthusiastic crowd of supporters, whose enthusiasm carried them after their heroes into the restricted spaces of the changing-rooms.

Zero hour dawned on that grey October afternoon when, at 2.10 p.m., Dublin's Lord Mayor, Mr. T. Harrington, M.P., threw in the ball, under the eye of Mr. John McCarthy of Kilkenny, who was referee of the match.

Winning the toss, Tipperary swept down the field and stormed the Railway goal. Almost at once, Hayes, Tipp's captain, scored a point, which was rapidly followed by another from Maher from a free, while O'Keeffe doubled in a third score.

Maher rocketed home a fourth point for Tipperary, bull-doing his way through the stiff defence of Flynn in the London-Irish goal, to finish the quarter with a score of four points to nil for Tipp.

But the London backs were beginning to show their worth, with sure, quick clearances that surprised the spectators and dammed the tide that had hitherto been flowing in the one direction. With their defence, the swing of the game veered around and McNamara, McNamara and Coughlan glued themselves to the ball and clicked up three rapid points for their side within almost as many minutes.

Excitement

The pace quickened, and one exciting battle followed another all over the pitch in a non-stop succession that brought the crowds to their feet, as the London-Irish duelled determinedly with the southern champions.

When Gleeson of Tipperary withdrew as a casualty, J. Maher came on in his place and Semple sent the forwards away to score Tipp's fifth point almost on the half-time whistle. When the whistle went, it showed Tipp, in the lead by 5 points to 3.

As the cross-Channel visitors moved off to the changing rooms, the packed sidelines roared their appreciation, especially for the surprising defence that had proven such a stumbling block against the blitz of Tipp's best attackers.

With the wind behind the London Irish, the second half commenced.

**TURNING
BACK THE
PAGES
OF
G.A.A.
HISTORY
With
John J. Dunne**

The visitors drove strongly into attack with a balanced enthusiasm that quickly won its reward in their fourth point. In the vital third quarter too, came the fifth point for the London-Irish that brought the score equal and the serried ranks of spectators to their toes in anticipation of a thrill-packed finish.

And that expectancy turned to frenzied excitement when Coughlan in the forward line doubled through a sixth to shoot his side into the lead. Now the London-Irish were in the lead, and there was no holding the crowd! In fact, the railings could not hold them, and barriers broke down, and all the resourcefulness of good stewarding

were called upon to keep the pitch clear.

Everybody's eyes were on the dazzling left-handers of Sean Oge Hanley which were proving themselves to be such a vital weapon of the London-Irish. Then Dan Horgan, captain of the cross-Channel lads, shot forward to clear a loose ball and his hand fouled it. It had stopped in a rut instead of the hop he had expected!

Opportunity

But the London-Irish misfortune was Tipperary's opportunity. Tipp, one point behind and a bare three minutes to go!

Hayes dropped a free on the goal-mouth, and Maher and his forward line swept home through the London defence for a goal. The recovery was weak, and Gleeson, Hayes and O'Keeffe pounced on the puck-out to score the decider for Tipp, almost on the final whistle!

The crowd went wild. There were cheers, unending cheers it seemed, for Tipperary who had kept the title at home, but there were cheers too, for the gallant visitors, cheers that perhaps were still ringing in their ears a year later when they returned to beat Cork by 8 points to 4 in August 1903.

There are not, perhaps, many left to-day with vivid memories of that bygone struggle on the green sward of Croke Park when both the GAA and the century were very young, but there may be some for whom a reminder of the line-out will stir nostalgic recollections.

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London-Irish: D. Horgan (capt.), T. J. Doody, M. Horgan, S. Lynch, J. O'Leary, J. O'Connell, J. Healy, J. McMahon (Desmond Rovers); D. Roche, P. McNamara, D. McNamara, J. Hanley, J. Dennis (Emmets); J. G. Coughlan, J. Keogh (Brians) J. Keogh, J. O'Brien (Hibernians).

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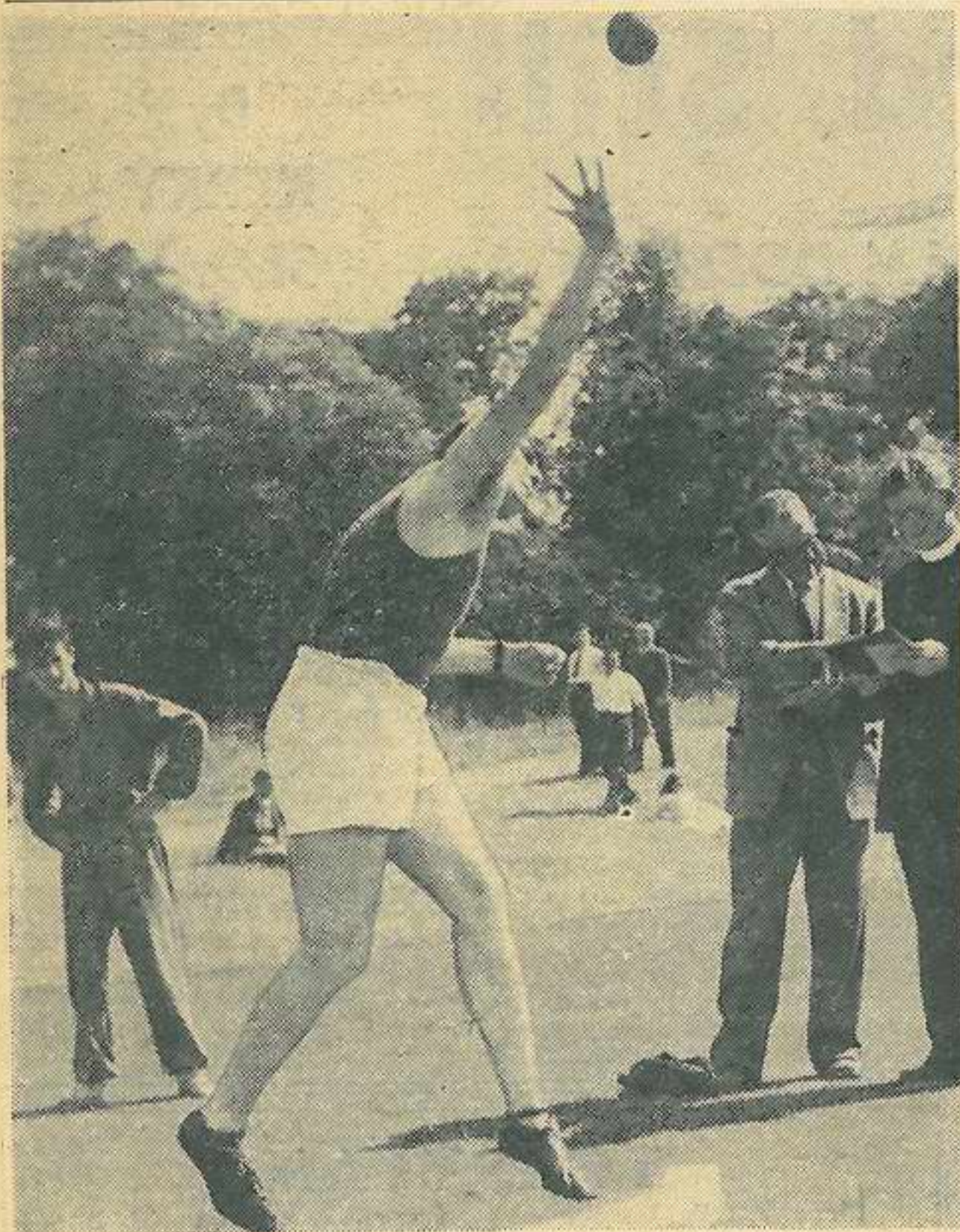
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RAFER JOHNSON OF KINGSBURG

PEOPLE WILL FOREVER ARGUE AS TO WHO WAS THE BEST OF ALL TIME IN ANY PARTICULAR SPHERE OF SPORT. THE ARGUMENT CAN NEVER, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS BE SETTLED AND PROGRESS BEING WHAT IT IS THE TRACK FANS OF A GENERATION FROM NOW WILL THINK OF A MAN LIKE KUTS AS A SECOND RATER—MANY HAVE ALREADY FORGOTTEN THE TRIUMPHS OF ZATPEK.

There can, however, be precious little argument about the man who is probably the greatest all-round athlete of our time. He is Rafer Johnson from Kingsburg in the fertile San Joaquin valley of California, breeding ground of so many great Olympic champs, among them Mathias and Iness. Rafer first came to our notice in early 1955 when as a college freshman he won the Pan-American decathlon title in the rarefied air of Mexico City.

Later in the year Rafer's home town honoured him by staging the American national decathlon championships. The amiable young giant showed his gratitude by adding no less than 98 points to Bob Mathias's world record with a mark of 7985 points. Rafer had arrived and Americans started to talk about a successor to Bob Mathias as Olympic champion.

Not To Be

But it was not to be. Despite great early season form when he also proved himself a world class specialist with marks of 25' 5 1/2" in the broad jump and 13.8 in the high hurdles Rafer did not win his title. Having already got his ticket to the kangaroo country by qualifying in the Broad Jump, Rafer went to Crawfordville for the Decathlon trials. There he came out on top despite a bad knee which was to prove very troublesome in the months to come.

At Crawfordville the second man was none other than Milt Campbell who as a New Jersey schoolboy had been runner up in the 1952 Olympic Games in this event.

Since then Milt Campbell had concentrated on the high hurdles

in which event he planned to compete in Melbourne. To his bitter disappointment he failed to qualify in the tryouts. Deeply religious like most of his race the heartbroken negro took this as a sign that he was once again to compete in the gruelling, soul-destroying, ten-event man-killer. And getting to work he assured himself of his place.

When the Olympics came around five months later it was seen that Rafer's knee was still being troublesome. To save himself he withdrew from the broad jump. But it was not his turn. Working himself to a standstill big Milt went through the

greatest decathlon ever seen in an Olympic arena, his only disappointment being that he failed to annex the world record. Meanwhile, Rafer was in absolute agony with every movement he made; a lesser man would have long since given up the ghost; but that huge body concealed the biggest heart and the greatest competitive spirit in Melbourne.

And so he hurled himself over the high jump lath; pulled that body, never built for vaulting, 12' 9 1/2" skywards; and flogged his aching limbs through the big man's hell, the 1,500 metres, to assure himself of the most deserved medal of the whole festival.

(Continued on page 28)

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Performances at Stockholm this August will be higher than at the Olympics in 1956

WORLD RECORDS MAY CRASH AT SWEDEN

By FIONNBAR CALLANAN

ALL being well, I shall be in Stockholm next August for the European Athletic Championships, and I shall be reporting in detail on the Championship events for the "Gaelic Echo." I think it is quite true to say that, in many events, the standards at Stockholm will be higher than at Melbourne eighteen months ago.

Between now and my departure for Stockholm, I will endeavour to keep readers of the "Gaelic Echo" informed of the performances and progress of the athletes who will be contenders for the 20 individual events and two relay titles.

This particular article will deal with performances to mid-May, and it will become quite obvious that the opening weeks of the season in Europe promise well, both in terms of high standards and close exciting competition.

SPRINTS.

An odds-on favourite for both sprint titles is the German student, Manfred Germar who, last year had European record performances of 10.2 and 20.4 for 100 and 200 Metres. Already this year, he heads the ranking with a best time of 10.4 and some other clockings of 10.5 and 10.6. He shares first place with the one-eyed Yugoslav, Stanko Lorgar, who is better known as a hurdler.

Several other Europeans including 3 Russians and 2 French runners have had times of 10.5, so it is quite certain that there is no place in the Stockholm event for athletes who cannot do 100 Yards in 9.6. In fact, Germar has already stated that he expects to become the first runner in the world to cover 100 Metres in an even 10 seconds!

The 200 Metres timings so far have not been impressive, but that is more or less to be expected. Again it is fairly certain that places in the Championship final will be reserved for those capable of doing 21.2 seconds or faster. The best to date is 21.3 by Mandlik (Czechoslovakia).

For the 400 Metres, British run-

THE LEADING FIELD EVENT PERFORMERS FOR 1958

(to May 15)

High Jump:
B. Chavlakadze (Russia) 6' 9½".
B. Holmgren (Sweden) 6' 9½".
J. Lansky (Czech.) 6' 9½".

Pole Vault:
G. Roubanis (Greece) 15' 0½".
V. Bulatov (Russia) 14' 11½".

Long Jump:
I. Ter-Ovanesyan (Russia) 25' 6¼".

Hop, Step and Jump:
K. Tsigankov (Russia) 51' 11¼".
Y. Chen (Russia) 51' 9¼".
B. Verechagin (Russia) 51' 3¾".
O. Ryakhovskiy (Russia) 51' 1¼".

Shot Put:
B. Todorov-Artarski (Bulgaria) 57' 10".
S. Meconi (Italy) 57' 2¼".

Discus:
A. Baltusnikas (Russia) 185' 7½".
J. Szecsenyi (Hungary) 183' 1¼".

Javelin:
V. Kuznetsov (Russia) 263' 6¼".
G. Lievore (Italy) 262' 4¾".

Hammer:
M. Krivosov (Russia) 218' 1¼".
V. Rudenkov (Russia) 209' 7¾".
Z. Bezjak (Yugoslavia) 209' 0½".
K. Racic (Yugoslavia) 209' 0½".
O. Kolodyi (Russia) 205' 3".

ners seem to have been quickest into their strides. Salisbury (47.3), Wrighton and Johnson (both 47.5) are quite appreciably ahead of all other quarter-men.

The only other sub-48 clocking is by the Italian Scavo, with 47.9. It is interesting to note that Derek Johnson seems quite adamant in his decision to concentrate on this distance during 1958, in spite of his great performances at 800 Metres last year.

MIDDLE DISTANCES.

I have not heard of any performances below 1:50:0 for the 800 Metres to date, but again it is to be expected that athletes will be aiming to reach peak condition in August, and will not have reached full fitness yet.

There are, however, a sufficiently large group of athletes who have done between 1:50:0 and 1:54:0 to indicate that the great race for the last European title in 1954 may be emulated.

In the classic 1,500 Metres event, the first performance of real calibre has come from an athlete who had the misfortune to be spiked by John Landy in an Olympic heat in Melbourne.

This is the East German runner, Siegfried Herrmann who took a rest from the track during 1957. He has opened his 1958 account with a very impressive 3:43.9, and with Olympic silver-medallist, Klaus Richtzenhain will make a very strong German partnership.

Unification

Incidentally, the International Amateur Athletic Federation has again insisted on the unification of East and West Germany for these Championships. Irish athletes, frustrated by "the split", will find this ruling incomprehensible.

The only other really good timing for the 1,500 Metres has been the 3:45.0 by Hungarian, Lajos Kovacs whose more renowned compatriots, Iharos and Rozsavolgyi, have not yet appeared in public competition. Personally, I am most impressed with the news that Dan Waern (Sweden) has been training by running 10 laps of 56 seconds each, all in a period of 25 minutes! He must be one of the really big factors in considering the possibility that Ronnie Delany will be dethroned as "King of the Metric Milers".

Above the 1,500 Metres distance, there have not yet been any top-grade achievements outside Russia and, even in Russia, the times are well outside the known capabilities of the athletes concerned. Perhaps the best of these was the Steeplechase of former world-record holder, Semyon Rzhishchin, with 8:49.8, just 10 seconds outside his own personal record.

HURDLES.

It is probably true to say that the track event which has shown most promise already this year is the 110 Metres Hurdles. Again a German, Martin Lauer, is a firm favourite for the European title and he has already done 14.0, to share first place with Lorgar, the Slav whom I have already mentioned when dealing with the sprints. In third place, at 14.1, is the Russian, Anatolii Mikhailov, who has accomplished this time twice. Lauer did 13.7 last year, while Mikhailov did 13.9, so that this trio now head the European rankings for all time.

In the 400 Metres Hurdles, top-class performances are still rather rare this year, the best time being 51.6 by the Russian veteran, Yuri Lituyev, silver-medallist both at Helsinki in 1952, and Berne in 1954.

FIELD EVENTS.

In this department, there has al-

ready been several performances meriting inclusion in the all-time rankings, and I feel that the best thing I can do is to list a few of the really outstanding marks in each event. They will, I am sure, speak for themselves.

Regarding the high jump, I should mention that the Russians are still using the built-up shoe, which may be banned before the Championships. And in the Shot Put, the biggest news concerns the training of England's Arthur Rowe who is reported to have beaten 58' 6" on a number of occasions.

Next month, I should have a much better picture of the prospects for Stockholm.

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June 1st, at Ennis—Junior Football Semi-final: Clare v. Kerry.

June 8th, at Kenmare—Senior Hurling: Waterford v. Kerry.

June 15th, at Dungarvan—Senior Football: Waterford v. Clare.

June 15th, at Mitchelstown—Junior Hurling Semi-final: Tipperary v. Cork.

June 22nd—S. and M.H. Semi-finals. June 29th—S.F. Semi-finals.

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DOWN BY THE SHANNON SIDE THOSE FAMOUS HURLERS ROSE

By HUGH O'DONNELL

YES THOSE WERE THE DAYS OF THE MID-THIRTIES, THE DAYS OF THE MACKEYS, OF CLOHESSY, OF TIMMY RYAN, OF JACKIE POWER AND CO.—THE DAYS OF LIMERICK'S GREATEST HOURS OF GLORY.

Memories which had faded into the shadowed past have now suddenly been reborn and fired by a vibrating present. The tales of 1934, '35, '36 and 1940 are now told and relived once more—for Limerick is alive and on the road back.

Yes indeed, . . . there is no doubt about it but Limerick is on the way back in quest of former glory. Theirs' is a young team but it is also an experienced one.

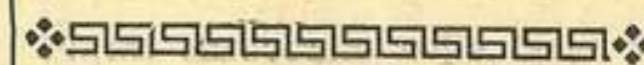
It was, as most of us remember, almost three years ago that the then teen-aged Limerick youths caused the sensation of the year by —2-16 to 2-6—a highly fancied Clare fifteen in the Munster final. Clare had just surprised both Cork and Tipperary, and were a good, strong and capable team. Their opponents in that '55 final were unknowns—most of them teenagers. At the end of the hour's play a new chapter had begun in the annals of Shannonside hurling. New stars had come to light.

when suddenly, the master of the game himself, Ring, let lose with three goals in almost as many minutes. Victory was snatched from their hands almost before the Shannonsiders knew it and another year was gone.

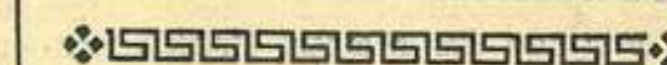
The defeat of the Limerick lads in the opening round of the championship by resurgent Waterford seemed to remove the green and white from the public eye during last season.

Rather Lucky

What most people forget was that Waterford were rather lucky in surmounting that first hurdle and had things not been so, Limerick would probably have contested and maybe won the All-Ireland title.



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Fabulous Total

Dermot Kelly's fabulous tally of one goal and twelve points marked him as the new Mick Mackey. With him were Vivian Cobbe, Jim Quaid and others . . . and Limerick was alive with expectation.

The expectation was short-lived, however, for their was quite a difference between running riot through an overconfident and somewhat undisciplined Clare selection . . . and beating the might of determined Wexford.

Munster Final

Then came '56 with Limerick in the Munster final once more. Victory seemed to be theirs'

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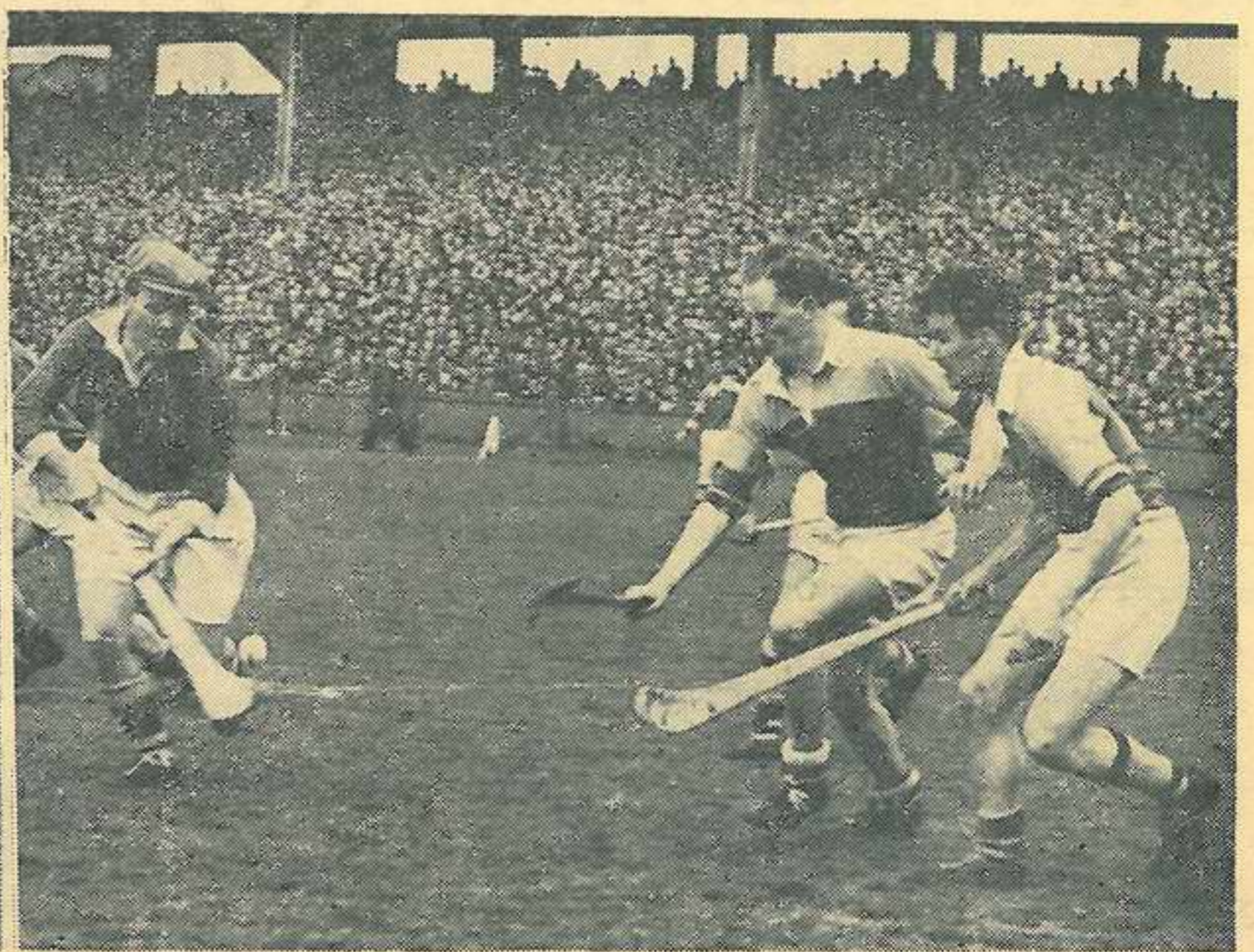
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DOUBLE TROUBLE . . . The Wexford defence is under pressure in both these Croke Park pictures. LEFT: Wexford's full-back Nick O'Donnell is on the outside looking in as goalkeeper Nolan and Limerick's full-forward, Mick Tynan (No. 14), go for the ball. RIGHT: Willie Rackard and John Redmond (Wexford) advance on Stokes (Limerick).

Score By Score In The N.H.L. Final

FIRST HALF

2 mins—A Limerick goal by Vivian Cobbe.
10 mins — A Wexford point by Oliver Gough.
14 mins — A Limerick goal by Vivian Cobbe.
17 mins—A Limerick point by Nick Stokes.
18 mins—A Wexford goal by Oliver Gough.
18½ mins—A Wexford point by Oliver Gough.
20 mins—A Limerick goal by Liam Moloney.
22 mins—A Limerick point by Vivian Cobbe.
24 mins—A Limerick point by Liam Moloney.
28 mins—A Wexford goal by Padge Kehoe.
28½ mins — A Limerick point by Joe Shanahan.
30 mins—A Wexford goal by Padge Kehoe.

SECOND HALF

½ min—A Wexford point by Oliver Gough.
3 mins—A Wexford goal by Oliver Gough.
4½ mins — A Wexford point by Oliver Gough.
6 mins—A Limerick goal by Liam Moloney.
8 mins—A Limerick goal by Nick Stokes.
12 mins — A Limerick point by Liam Hogan.
14½ mins—A Limerick point by Joe Shanahan.
17 mins—A Wexford point by Jim Morrissey.
22 mins—A Wexford goal from a melee.
26 mins—A Wexford point by Jimmy O'Brien.
28 mins—A Wexford point by Padge Kehoe.
28½ mins—A Limerick point by Tom Casey.

LEINSTER AERO CLUB DISPLAY

THIS year the Leinster Aero Club, based at Weston Aerodrome, Leixlip, is breaking with tradition in holding their Annual Air Display on Saturday, 28th and Sunday, 29th June, and not at Whit weekend. Apart from having difficulty in making arrangements in time for Whit, they felt that having had three fine Whit weekends in succession, it would be straining their luck too far to expect good weather again this year.

The 1958 display will be up to the high standard we have learned to expect from the Leinster Aero Club, and will include items by club members in club and privately-owned aircraft, parachute descents by members of the Irish Parachute Club, gliding displays, etc.

An item of interest to farming folk will be demonstrations of aerial crop spraying and dusting. By this method, fields which would take a whole day to spray can be done in a matter of minutes.

For added thrills we will look to Rene Vincent of Paris, who will do a complete trapeze act while suspended, not from a slow-moving helicopter, but from an aircraft travelling at 100 m.p.h., ending up by dropping off and alighting by parachute. He will also do his famous "triple drop", which thrilled the crowds a couple of years ago.

There will be many other items—some novel, some amusing—and altogether a very enjoyable day can be promised to the large crowds expected at Weston Aerodrome on both days.

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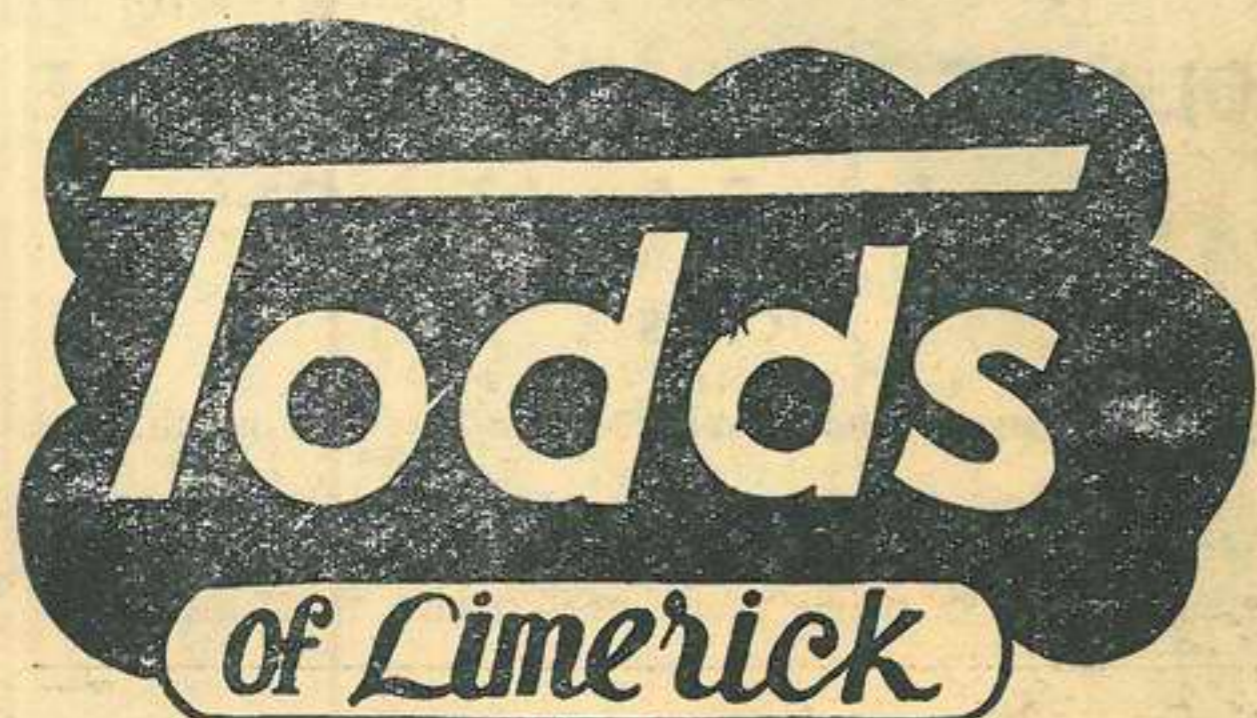
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By **HUGH O'DONNELL**

Clare Innovation Is Big Success

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The competition is decided with three competitors from each team competing in each of the sixteen standard events. Three points are awarded to the winner, two to the second man and one to the third. The team with the eventual highest total of points triumphs and the competition is on the knock-out system.

The Clare County N.A.C.A. Board believe that this competition could prove a very popular inter-county one.

Personally I go further and say

that I believe that this could be the key to our athletic revival problem. The parish team is the only thing that will work up the incentive and interest. The glory of the little village becomes the cry.

The wonderful displays of Limerick born and bred Jimmy Hogan continue in the Sarsfield goal. How long more are the Limerick hurling mentors going to take before they realise that young Hogan could be the cure to many of their present ailments.

Eye-opener

I am told that the standard of the Listowel eleven-a-side juvenile hurling league was an eye-opener to the pessimists of Kerry hurling.

A strenuous handball game in the morning and an inter-county hurling game in the evening is an almost every Sunday happening for Clare's Pat Kirby. Sometimes it's the other way around with the handball coming after the hurling game as it was recently when Pat had to rush from Nenagh where he was helping the county senior hurling team, to defend his county senior softball singles title against J. Slattery. The result 21-11, 21-18—Kirby the winner.

Highlight

A clash between Pat and Tom McGarry of Limerick, recent winner of the Gael-Linn Cup is eagerly awaited by the Shannon-side, Kirby, who had done so well in the '56 and '57 Gael-Linn Cup games was rated as one of the favourites for '58 but an injured right hand put paid to that.

A singles, Kirby v McGarry, is sure to be the highlight of the coming Munster handball championships.

Des Is Fit

Talking of Clare handball, Des Dillon, star of the great 1954 and '55 Clare hurling team, seems fitter than ever on the ball court. Not a Sunday passes without a top competition game. How about giving him another hurling try, you Clare mentors?

Comhdhail Distinction For Language Workers

Comhdhail Naisiunta na Gaeilge announces the appointment of eight new Buanbhaill (Life Members), bringing the total who may hold this distinction to the permitted maximum of 240. Appointments are made from time to time to fill vacancies which may have occurred in the list.

Buanbhaill are nominated for by a specially appointed committee of which the President of Comhdhail Naisiunta na Gaeilge acts as Chairman. Before final appointment, the nominations have to be ratified by a secret postal ballot by the existing Buanbhaill.

Buanbhaill are chosen from among those who are giving

continued and distinguished service to the Language Movement.

The eight on whom the honour is now conferred are: **BRIAN MAC CAFAD**, Bundoran, who resigned his post as Director of Comhdhail Naisiunta na Gaeilge last summer, to return to the service of the Donegal Vocational Educational Committee.

AN TATH. AODH O CNAIMHSI, who has been placed in charge of the new secondary school for boys in the Gweedore Gaeltacht. He was one of the original members of Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge.

SEAMUS DALTON, head

of the Oireachtas Translation Section.

AN TATH. TOMAS O FIACH, Maynooth, President of Cumann na Sagart.

GEAROID MAC GIOLLA DOMHNAIGH, Belfast, Secretary of Comhaltas Uladh.

MICHEAL O RIAIN, Dublin, Secretary of An Comhchaidreamh, the joint Gaelic Societies of the Irish University Colleges.

SEAN O RIORDAIN, Cork, well-known Gaelic poet, and **DONNCHADH O SUILLEABHAIN**, Dublin, General Secretary of the Gaelic League and the Oireachtas, and vice-chairman of Cumann Dramaiochta na Scol.

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Le DOMHNALL O CATHASAIGH

Do scriobh buachaill og o Chonnda na Midhe chugam-sa, cupla la o shoin. Seo cuid den litir "A Dhomhnall ui Chathasaigh, os rud e go mbionn tu ar an mbothar gach aon la, nach ait an nidh e, nar dheinis aon tagairt, olc, maith, no donaidhe dom Chonnda, — an connda is fearr orra go leir, no an amhlaidh na rabhais riamh annso, no na bfuil aon eolas agat ar no ar an stair ata ag gabhail leis".

Tog bog e a Sheain, ta's agam na bfuilim ana-chliste ach ag an am cheadna nilim cho dur is a cheapann tu b'feidir. Nior dheineas aon tagairt do Chonnda na Midhe fos, ta se sin fior ach ta se luath sa lo fos a bhuaichailin.

Do bhios i gConnda na Midhe, cead uair, 'seadh is mile uair is

cheanntair aige. Bhi stair Chiarraidhe aige. Bhi stair na h-Eireann aige. Bhi stair na domhain iomlain nua is sean aige. Ta suil agam go mbuailfead-sa leis aris, sa tir eile ud, ata mile uair nios aine na Cill-Airne fein agus sin moladh mor, ach ta a leitheid d'ait ann, agus slighe go leor duinn go leir ann.

Cluichi, Tir Is Teanga

Beidh na cluichi mora go leir ag tosnu aon la anois. An fhaid is a bhios ag gabhail tre Chuige Mumhan, do chuata lan cainnte i dtaobh Craobh na Mumhan-iomaint. Do chloisfeá fear amhain agus is ar Luimneach a chuirfeadh se a chuid airgid. Mholfadh se suas go dti an speiriad. Do bheadh fear eile ar

toradh. Do bhios ag eisteacht le beirt fhear ag aragoint i dtigh osta i-n-iarthair na h-Eireann seachtmhain no mar sin o shoin. Do bhi dinne aca ag iarraidh a chur 'na luighe ar an bfeair eile go raibh an teanga, se sin ceist na teangan abfad Eireann nios tathachtaidhe na ceist na gcluichi.

Seana-cheist i seo, agus is minic a deantar i do phle, agus is annamh riamh a reidtigheann an da thaobh. Seo mar ata, ta ceist aithbheochana na teangan an-thabhtach, agus ta ceist na gcluichi an-thabhtach cho maith.

Ar sgath a cheile a mhaireann said. I-n-ionad is a bheith ag caint, is ag aragoint i dtaobh tabhtachta na Gaedhilge is tabhacht na gcluici.



St. Jarlath's, Tuam, became the first side to win the All-Ireland Colleges' football title twice by beating Franciscan College, Gormanstown, in the final at Croke Park last month.

docha. Do bhios ann blianta is blianta sar a rugadh tusa adearfainn. Ni h-amhain san, ach ta meas an domhain agam ar chonnda na Midhe, agus ar mhuinntir na Midhe, is ar na peileadoiri agus ar na h-iomanaidhe o Chonnda na Midhe. Ta eolas agam ar gach orlach de, o Sheana Chaislean go Dun na Boinne.

Ta a lan seana-chairde agam i Midhe. Ta comhnaidhe ar chuid aca san Uaimh, cuid eile aca i gCeanannas Mor, cuid eile fos i n-Ath Buide, agus i-n-Atha Truim. Ta cuid aca i mBaile gibb, cho maith. Ni h-amhain, go bfuil daoine breaghtha sa Mhidhe ach nil aon teora leis an stair a bhaineann lei.

D'ardochadh se do chroidhe a bheith ag teastal tre Mhidhe, is an talamh is fearr sa domhan iomlan, ar gach taobh diot "Foighne, foighne a Sheain, deanfad cur sios ar do chonnda aluinn la breagh eigin.

Ailneacht Is A Thuille Ailneachta

Thois gCiarraidhe do chailtheas an chuid is mo den mhi seo caiththe. Do bhi beagainn gnotha agam i ngach bhaile ann beagnach. Do bhios i Liostuathail, i dTraigh-li, i gCill Airne, sa Daingean, is a gCathair Saidhbhin. Do bhi an t-adh liom, mar do bhi an aimsear go h-aluinn ar fad. Ni raibh scamall sa speir an la a bhios i gCill-Airne. Nil aon nidh gur fu tracht air sa bhaile fein.

Gnath-bhaile e, ach ana-chuid tighthe osta ann dar ndoigh. Do chasfaidhe daoine ort o gach aird den domhan ann sa samhradh, daoine bana, daoine buidhe, is daoine gorma. Ma theastuigheann ailneacht uait, caithfidh tu dul taobh amuigh den bhaile ar fad.

Ar an mbothar go Cill Orglan do gheobhfa an radharc is fearr adearfainn. Ta na sleibhte is na locha ar thaobh do laimhe chle, agus tu ag dul sa treo san.

Is ar an mbothar san do chifea ailneacht is a thuille ailneacht. Timcheall le leath-slighe ar an mbothar san do chomhnuigh an-chara liom, ach d'imthigh se uaim anuiridh-beannacht De air, is solus na bflaitheas da anam uasal. Seo-samh o Conchubhair a b'ainm do, fear leigheannta amach is amach.

Do bhi Gaodhluinn is Bearla aige 'seadh is bhi Laidean is Frainncis aige cho maith. Ba mhaith leat a bheith ag eisteacht leis. Bhi stair an

thaobh Thiobrad Arann agus do casfaidhe fear eile ort, agus do chuirfeadh se an dubh na gheal ort, gur Corcaigh no Portlairge a dheanfaidh an beart i mbliana.

Nil a fhois agam-sa. Taim-se an amharasach, conus a raghaidh, an

do bheadh se abfad Eireann nios fearr iarracht a dheanamh, an da ghluaiseacht do chur ar aghaidh taobh le taobh, mar nineart go cur le cheile. Deanamis-ne ar goin fein a leightheoiri, mar is fearr sampla na teagasc.

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His style was distinctive and rather unorthodox, but as he bounced about the ring like a rubber ball, he kept swinging and hooking, with a lethal punch in both hands. Often he landed solid deliveries when both his feet were off the floor.

His was an ideal, happy-go-lucky temperament, and he was

By
WILLIAM DOOLEY

blessed in being on the beam about half way between feather and lightweight limits, so that he never had any weight worries in the higher grade in which he won lasting fame.

Maxie had bad luck in the European championships of 1947, in Dublin, in being forced to retire with a badly cut eyebrow, against an inferior opponent. Jose Vissers, of Belgium, won the title but McCullagh beat him in Dublin the following year.

In an early series of the 1948 Olympic Championships at the

Wembley Pool, Maxie beat Britain's Ron Cooper well, having the latter seated in most undignified fashion on the centre of the ring floor when the final gong sounded. Again Maxie was an unlucky aspirant for he lost an unpopular decision to Svend Wad, of Denmark, whom he had beaten some months previously in Ireland. Wad went out on points to the eventual Olympic champion, Gerald Dreyer, of South Africa, but had McCullagh got to Dreyer, he may have beaten him, for the evasive, defensive tactics of Wad

were less suited against Dreyer than the dynamic qualities of the Irishman should have been.

Finest Hour

McCullagh's finest achievement was the winning of the European lightweight title of 1949 at Oslo, Norway, where he fought his way through the toughest opposition like a real fighting Irishman. In one of his bouts there, Lajos Feher, of Hungary, hit him so hard in the stomach that he felt he could have sat down and cried... for Mullingar, and Ireland. Those laurels gave McCullagh the proud distinction of being the first Irishman to win a European championship outside of Ireland.

Desire To Excel

The standards carved by McCullagh with his fighting fists have since imbued other Westmeath boxing representatives with an added desire to excel. In October, 1954, Eddie Duffy, of Athlone, knocked out the German champion, Alfred Schweer, in the 3rd round, for the only knockout on the programme in the Ireland-Germany international at the National Stadium, Dublin, and, in the same year, Mullingar's lightweight, Eddie Byrne, waged a Homeric battle against ex-European champion, Herbert Schilling, in Frankfort-on-Main, Germany.

BURKE v. BOWEN

All-Time Record Of Fighting Endurance

THERE just had to be a son of the Emerald Isle in the longest glove fight in history. It was fought at New Orleans, Louisiana, on April 6th, 1893, between Irishman Jack Burke, and a mulatta, Andy Bowen, for the lightweight championship of the American South-West.

Midnight Came

Various stage artists viewed the early rounds, then adjourned to play before two houses in the city. When they came back, the contestants were getting warmed into their work. Midnight came, and some of the spectators went away to seek refreshments. The fight was waxing even when they returned.

After several hours the fighters took things rather easily, to get a breather, and a section of the crowd began singing "Home Sweet Home."

It has been set on record that, after 110 rounds had gone by, occupying 7 hours and 19 minutes, the referee declared it "No Contest" owing to the men being unable to continue.

World Record

Another version is that Burke fell flat on his face in the 110th round, all-in, and that the referee, in league with the gambling fraternity, who had their money mainly on Burke, gave this decision to save the gamblers, as it meant that no bets could be paid. After setting up a world record in endurance, the men were deserving of a better fate than to have their never-to-be-forgotten bout adjudged "No Contest."



GOAL . . . Paddy Lalor scores again for Laois as Westmeath go out of this year's Leinster Senior Hurling Championship at Tullamore.

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Westmeath have yet to appear in Croke Park on All-Ireland Day.

Long Service Hurling Stars

When the top hurling forwards of all time come under discussion the name of Galway's Michael King should never be omitted. But the day he scored 13 points as centre forward for Ireland against America in the Taitteann Games of 1928 at Croke Park will not be accepted as his greatest by those who know their hurling history.

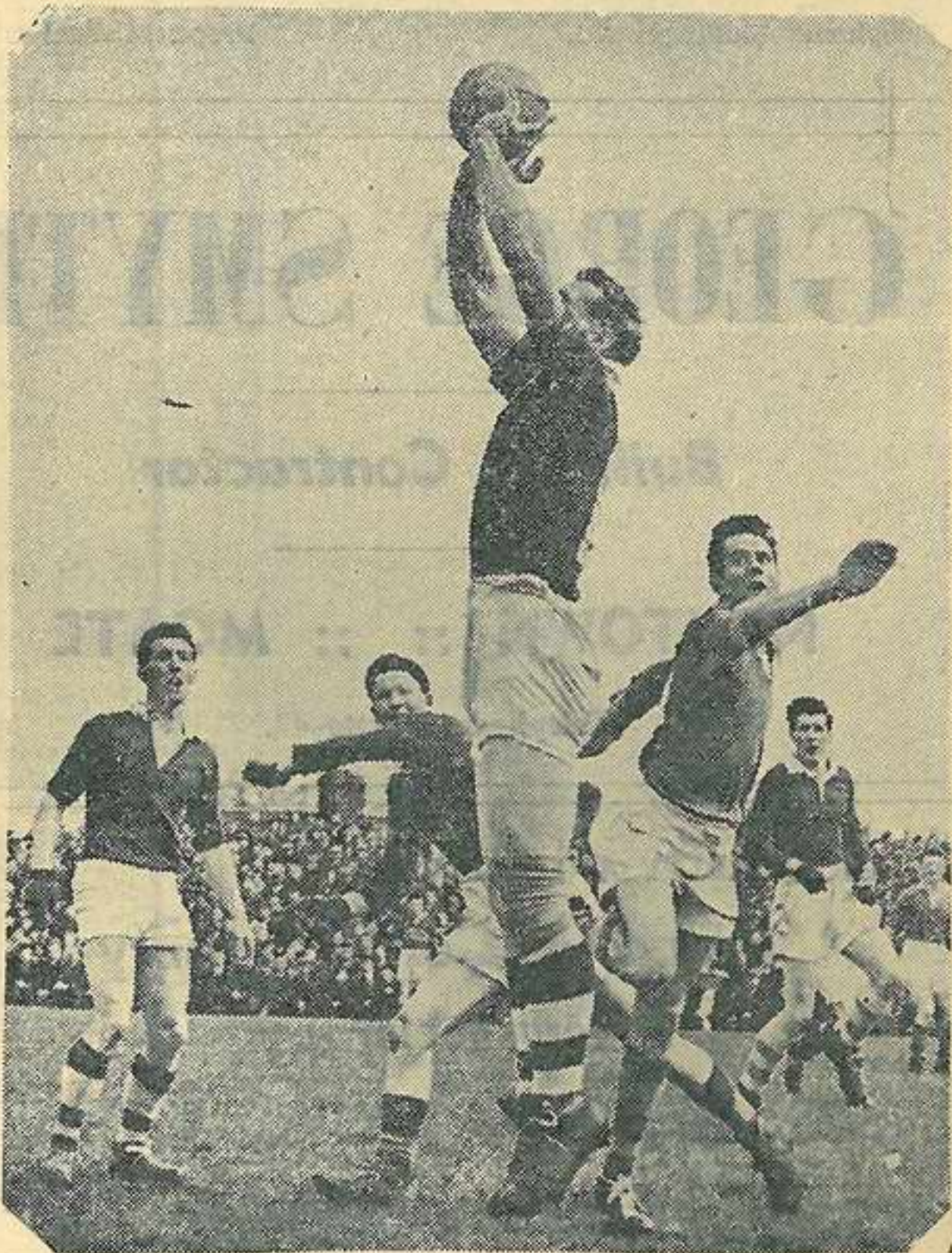
For the cream is taken off the milk to some extent with the realisation that the man who was playing on King on that occasion was veteran Jack Keoghan who won an All-Ireland with Kilkenny for the year 1907—21 years before. Much of his speed and spring had long departed.

The "Americans" frankly admitted they should have switched their stalwart full-back, Jack Halligan, of Offaly, a much younger man, to police King, and brought back Keoghan into Halligan's place.

But when it comes to a record period of time over which a man has won All-Ireland senior medals it would appear that the honour must go to the late Johnny Walsh of Boherlahan, who died a few months ago. Johnny took his first gold medal with Tipperary in 1895 and his last in 1916.

WHAT'S WRONG IN WESTMEATH G.A.A.?

— BY —
Kevin McKeon



John Dunne, one of Westmeath's football stars, in a championship game against Longford.

What is wrong with Westmeath Hurling and Football?

I have asked that question recently of many prominent G.A.A. men in the county but, unfortunately, I am no wiser for the asking.

The midland county is large and prosperous. It has a good population of young able-bodied men and also has two Army garrisons, normally prolific sources of talent.

Yet, except for lapses in 1929 and 1926 when Westmeath won a Junior All-Ireland Hurling and Football title the county has never put the engravers of All-Ireland Trophies to any great trouble.

I have had many answers to my question. The "simon pures" have told me that there is nothing amiss and that they do not play the games for mere pots.

That may be, but I have yet to meet a man who plays games just to lose.

In addition, Westmeath has nothing to boast about as far as sportsmanship is concerned.

The standard of hurling played in the county is lamentably low and can be positively dangerous at times.

The more fiery GAA men point out that as a county which was well garrisoned by the British, Westmeath is strongly infected by foreign games, especially soccer.

That still does not answer my question for the standard of the foreign games is as low as the standard of Gaelic games—fifth rate.

Men from other counties who live in Westmeath have what might be the answer.

Quite Content

These "runners" into the county as they are called point out that the natives are lazy by nature and are not over anxious to exert themselves and are quite content to sit back and criticise the efforts of those who do.

This perhaps may be the reason. Anyway, it is a fact that the most active G.A.A. men in the county and indeed the most active men in other sports too are non-natives.

During my stay in Westmeath, I was not able to contact more than a few of the counties G.A.A. men. However, I made every possible effort to probe the cause of the county's lack of success.

The answers I have given may not be very popular but, at least, they give food for thought.

What do the Westmeath readers think? Can they produce better answers?
I DOUBT IT.

S. E. FOX, M.P.S.I., M.I.A.D.O.

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Patrick Cahill traces the glorious career of Westmeath's world record holder from Tyrellspass

- W. J. M. NEWBURN -

TO THE COUNTY WESTMEATH GOES THE HONOUR OF RAISING THE VERY FIRST ATHLETE IN THE HISTORY OF WORLD ATHLETICS TO COVER A PROPERLY AUTHENTICATED 24 FOOT LONG JUMP IN COMPETITION. THIS WAS THE TOWERING W. J. M. NEWBURN, BORN IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF TYRELLSPASS, WHOSE HEIGHT HAS BEEN VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED BY THOSE WHO KNEW HIM IN HIS HEYDAY, SIXTY GOLDEN YEARS AGO, AS SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 6ft. 3" and 6ft. 6ins.

Newburn first came to the front in National spheres by taking the G.A.A. long jump title at Jones's Road, Dublin, where Croke Park now stands, with a moderate 21ft. 6½ins. This gave little notice of his more sensational performances during the following two seasons.

In July, 1897, when Ireland beat Scotland by seven events to four at Powerhall, Newburn triumphed with 22ft. 3ins., and in May, 1898 he reached the headlines of the Irish sporting press by accomplishing 23 feet 4 inches at the Cork's Queen's College sports, to beat Pat Davin's Irish record by two inches. Admittedly, Davin's mark was registered from grass, while Newburn used a board take-off. Before the end of that month, Newburn had

garnered the IAAA title with a 23 feet 3 inches at Ballsbridge.

On June 18, 1898 "W.J.M." smashed the world record by negotiating 23ft. 9½ins. at the Dublin Postal sports, Ballsbridge. The previous best was 23 ft. 7½ins. by Matthew Roseingrave, a native of Gort, Co. Galway, at Sydney, Australia, in October, 1896.

A fortnight later we find him at Stamford Bridge, London, taking the British crown at 23ft. 7ins., jumping against a breeze.

World Record

Then came mid-July, and the Ireland - Scotland International meeting at Ballsbridge, which was widely held to be the finest athletic programme seen in Ireland to date. Here Newburn made his place in sporting history permanently secure by clearing his world record 24ft. 0½ins.

Two days afterwards he appeared at Mullingar to advance to a great 24ft. 6½ins., which was not accepted owing to following wind. A joint records' committee meeting of GAA and IAAA at the Wicklow Hotel, Dublin, on March 3, 1899, rejected this mark, but accepted the other three quoted.

The GAA farmed out the long jump championship of 1898 to Clonmel, and Newburn collected this honour with a grand 24ft. 6ins. I cannot say why this was not taken on to the books as a new official best, but that very famous athlete of the era, Tom Kiely, told me that the effort, achieved on very indifferent ground at The Island, Clonmel was, allowing for the conditions, the finest natural long jump he ever saw in his long life.

Newburn next travelled to Monasterevan, where Pat Davin crossed his 23 ft. 2ins. in 1883, and the Westmeath man erased this by an inch, also competing off grass, on the same ground.

As each new record breaker appeared in the old days, any characteristic of his was fastened on to by the fans as a presumed reason why he excelled all others in the field. A marked one of Newburn's was exceptionally large feet, and the opinion was stressed far and wide that "understandings" of the more spacious type were imperative for the great jumpers of the future. Apparently the fundamental of this reasoning was that "W.J.M." had a much more pronounced grip on terra firma than ordinary mortals, and this could also propel him into space to much better advantage. But when Peter O'Connor arrived three years afterwards to break his records with small, ladylike feet, their opinions were amply proven to have no genuine foundation.

Newburn was also gifted with uncommon speed for he won the IAAA 100 yards titles of 1897, '98 and '99, and the International "hundred" against Scotland in Edinburgh in 1899.

In later life when he put on some weight he became a fine manipulator of heavy weights and won the IAAA 56lb. (without follow) championship of 1912, with the solid performance of 26ft. 6ins.

About this time he lived in Baggot St., Dublin, and owing to his laundry not being delivered as

A Boy To Watch

ONE of the most stimulating performances of recent weeks was Kevin Prendergast's emergence as Ireland's greatest ever potential shot-putter.

After taking third in the shot event in the schools meet in London despite strained fingers he showed unexpected ability under pressure, taking the discus title at over 149 feet from several 160 feet plus men

Despite the fact that he had been regularly flipping over 51 feet in practice his effort of 52ft. 7ins. in the East Munster schools championships came as a real surprise.

Assuming normal development it certainly looks as if the big, blonde Rockwell boy will be the first Irishman to hit 50ft. with the regulation senior weight.

usual one Saturday, he called to Lad Lane Barracks for the loan of a clean collar from one of the Dublin Metropolitan Police stationed there, to whom he was well known. And, believe it or not, not one of them had one big enough, as he wore size 18.

W. J. M. Newburn, Westmeath's

gigantic son, and most famous athlete, died in London where he held a post as a teacher of the deaf and dumb alphabet, on February 24, 1919.

WESTMEATH CAN BE JUSTLY PROUD OF HIM AS THE WORLD'S FIRST 24FT. LONG JUMPER.

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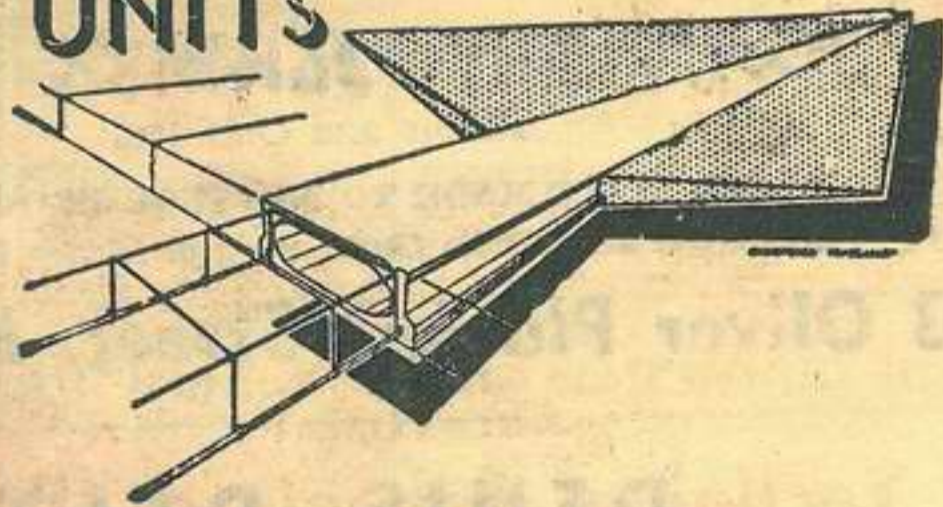
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BEST IN THE WEST

by
**LIAM
O h-OISTIN**

CHAMPIONSHIP TIME IS HERE AGAIN AND NEVER HAS THE ISSUE LOOKED SO OPEN IN CONNACHT AS IT APPEARS TO BE THIS SEASON. ANYONE OF THE FIVE COUNTIES COULD WIN THE SENIOR FOOTBALL TITLE, IF ONE MAY TRUST THEIR TO-DATE PERFORMANCES AS A YARDSTICK OF THEIR CHANCES.

The campaign opens with the meeting of neighbours Mayo and Sligo in the town that belongs to them both, i.e. Charlestown, which, for football purposes, etc. is a town divided, one half being in Sligo and the other half in Mayo.

So that the venue, the Fr. O'Hara Park, in the Mayo end of the town, can scarcely be reckoned a home venue for the wearers of the red and green. Still, here is my one "plumper" in the Connacht championships—I expect Mayo to win well against a county that has been in the doldrums for some seasons, now, and which seems to be fated to remain so for some time. Although boasting such stalwarts as Nace O'Dowd, Ray Tully, ex-Mayo player, Eamon Walshe—now residing in the Sligo end of Charlestown, and brilliant goalkeeper Lee on their line-out, I cannot see Mayo, with its strong defence, its capable centre-field and promising forward line being beaten. I say "promising", because this attack frequently promises much more than it achieves.

Yet, allowing for all that, I confidently name Mayo to advance to

In This Season's Connacht G.A.A., I Predict

Mayo v Galway

TO PROVIDE HIGHLIGHTS

meet titleholders, Galway, in the semi-final. The date of this match—June 15.

A week later, June 22, gives us a very interesting tie in the clash of resurgent Leitrim and Roscommon, believed to be on the way back to their greatness of the forties, at Carrick-on-Shannon. Under the capable guidance of their former stars, Donal Keenan, Hughie Gibbons, Jimmie Murray, "Doc" Callaghan and Owensie Hoare, Roscommon hope to do better than in 1957, when they ousted a fancied Mayo side and gave the All-Ireland and League champions, Galway, the fright of their lives in the Connacht semi-final. Old reliables Gerry O'Malley and Batt Lynch will give the necessary touch of experience, while newcomer Geraghty has already made his mark in the League and is definitely the most promising youngster in the West, if not outside it.

Dockerry, if available, Donohue, Feely, Shivan and Aidan Brady are all first-class footballers, who can be counted on to give any opponents a strenuous hour before admitting defeat. Leitrim, defeated finalists of 1957, have an imposing 1958 record, claiming among their "victims" All-Ireland champions, Louth, Cavan, and others. Their strength lies mainly in their attack where Patsy McGarty, Cahal Flynn, and Cryan are in charge of "operations" as the best defences in Ireland can vouch for.

A newcomer to this sector may be Prior, who has staked a claim to consideration, by sterling displays in recent games. Jimmy O'Donnell, who has already played with the Junior team and is still eligible for the Minor side, will also figure in the attack, and this brawny North Leitrim gorsoon is another Tommy Murphy in the making, if not already "made". With Blessing and Reilly manning the centre-field, the Leitrim vanguard will see lots of the ball.

The defence is good and bad—mixed middling as one supporter describes it—but with Hayden, Heslin and Duffy, Lynch, Reynolds and

Murray, Conefrey and Quinn on the "possibles" list, it is as trustworthy as any in the game. Despite the confidence of my Roscommon friends, I think that Leitrim have taken their preparation more seriously, by pitting their strength against the leading sides in the game.

Remembering the quicksilver thrusts of McGarty and Flynn in the Railway Cup games and their ability to finish off their admirable approach work by well-taken scores, my forecast is Leitrim, but only by a slight margin, for the Connacht final.

Tuam will house the second semi-final between holders, Galway, and the winners of the Mayo-Sligo pairing, which I take to be Mayo. To judge the ability of these sides by their display against Dublin in the recent League games would incline one immediately to take Mayo as likely victors, but one could be very far off the mark. Mayo-Galway games are a law unto themselves where all known form is disregarded and a lucky break may decide the issue. It should prove a thrilling, gripping contest, reminiscent of former great clashes between those two attractive sides, the last of which, in 1954, saw the Tribesmen score a surprise but well-deserved win over favourites, Mayo.

Both favour the same type of game, featuring high fielding and slick forward play. The Mayo rear-guard appears more dependable than its Galway counterpart, while centre-field exchanges should be about even. The holders' attack, however, possesses more purpose, better penetration and superior scoring ability than the oft-changed-about challengers' attack, which, to me, seems to be a two-man show and must show marked improvement if Mayo is to win this game.

The close tackling of the Mayo backs may, to some extent, offset any advantage the Galway forward-line may possess, but although a Mayo man, I fancy the holders to retain their crown, if only by a small margin.

Next month I hope to discuss the prospects of the finalists. Don't ask me what I will do if Sligo should beat Mayo!

Although Leitrim failed, by the minimum margin, in their first round tie against Galway, in the Junior football series, their supporters, admirers and officials can feel well pleased with the display of their team. Considering that at least seven of the Galwegians have seen very active service with the Galway senior team in non-championship games but including League matches, over the past two years, and that at least one is the proud possessor of a Railway Cup team memento, then I was not in the least surprised when told by a man very near to the Leitrim team that he often "felt less pleased when the team won." And I can assure all readers that this man knows what he is talking about!

An invitation has been extended to St. Coman's team, Roscommon, to take part in a four-club tournament to be held in Cashel, Co. Longford, early in July. The other clubs invited are Tullamore and An Dainseán, both of Offaly and Longford Slashers, county champions.

Ballina Stephenites are leaving no stone unturned in giving the Senior football team sufficient match practice, in their all-out effort to regain the county's Senior title. They travel to Longford to engage the local Slashers in a return game on June 5, and should prove a big attraction in the mid-land town. The first game, played in Ballina on Easter Sunday, was close and thrilling, with the home-stayers emerging winners by 4-7 to 3-7.

Galway Plan For Future

Galway continue to comb the county for material for the hurling team, confining their attention for the present to players just out of their teens who have NOT represented their county yet. The final line-out, to be selected after a series of such trials, have a date with the present Senior side. This scheme should ensure that all Galway teams will field fit and tried in the forthcoming All-Ireland tests.

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June 15, 1958: SLIGO v. MAYO at CHARLESTOWN

June 22: ROSCOMMON v. LEITRIM at ROSCOMMON

June 29: GALWAY v. SLIGO or MAYO at TUAM.

Final—July 13

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TWENTY-SEVEN YEARS AGO, A LAD WAS BORN WHO WAS DESTINED
TO BECOME ONE OF THE TRULY GREATS IN HIS PARTICULAR SPHERE
OF SPORT, AND HIS NAME WAS . . .

JOHN RYAN...

By RAY ANDREWS

TWENTY SEVEN YEARS AGO
IN THE SMALL WEXFORD
VILLAGE OF RATHNURE A
LAD WAS BORN WHO WAS
DESTINED TO BECOME ONE
OF THE TRULY GREATS IN
HIS PARTICULAR SPHERE OF
SPORT. THE NAME WAS JOHN
RYAN AND HANDBALL WAS
THE GAELIC GAME HE WAS
TO EXCEL AT.

TO-DAY RYAN IS WITHOUT
QUESTION OUR NUMBER
ONE BALL PLAYER. SINCE HE
CAME TO THE FOREFRONT
TEN YEARS AGO HE HAS
WON THE VERY IMPRESSIVE
TOTAL OF SEVENTEEN ALL-
IRELAND TITLES — FIFTEEN
SENIOR, ONE JUNIOR AND
ONE MINOR, TWENTY LEIN-
STER TITLES, FORTY-FIVE
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS,
TWO GAEL LINN CUPS AND
MANY OTHER MAJOR TOUR-
NAMENTS.

Many handball experts are of the
opinion that the "Wexford wizard"
is greater than any of the greats of
bygone days. A lot of die-hards
may not agree, but what they seem
to forget is handball was never
played by so many before in the
history of the game.

Therefore it must follow that a
champion must play harder and
more often to get to the top than
the oldtimers.

Present Home

Though Ryan was born in the
village that also produced the
Rackard brothers of hurling fame,
he moved to his present home in
Bridgetown when a small boy. Son
of a sailor, John, one of two sons,
was not to follow in his father's
footsteps, but got his feet firmly
anchored on dry land by becoming
a combine harvester mechanic. He
works for a great player of the
early twenties, Bill Drumgoole, who
has guided him through his hand-
ball career.

John's brother Billy promised to
be another great player. He won
many junior county titles in part-
nership with his illustrious brother.
His career was cut short unfortu-
nately by his having to emigrate
to England to seek employment.

John first hit the headlines in
1947 when, in partnership with
Aiden Power of Bargey Bar, Bridge-
town, he won the All-Ireland Minor
Softball Doubles title. Two years
later he annexed the All Ireland
Junior Singles title.

Nearly Won

The following year he did not do
so well in the senior ranks, but in
1951 he very nearly won his first
senior title, being beaten by Joe
Bergin—former President of the
Irish Handball Council—in the All
Ireland Senior Softball Singles final.

The following year Ryan really
hit the headlines in a big way.
Winning three of the four premier
titles he beat Paddy Downey of
Kerry for the Softball Singles
crown, Willie Walsh of Cork for
the Hardball Singles, and in the
Hardball Doubles—partnered by
John Doyle of Trinity—he de-
feated Joe Hassett and Jimmy
O'Brien of Kerry. This doubles
final was one of the greatest
games ever witnessed at Talbotts
Inch, Kilkenny. After seven fierce
games lasting over two and a half



John Ryan (above) is without question
Ireland's No. 1 handball star.

4,000 Miles... Just To Play Handball!

FOR SHEER ENTHUSIASM FOR
THE GAME OF HANDBALL
DR. DES DILLON OF DUBLIN
TAKES THE BISCUIT. HE MUST
HAVE TRAVELLED MORE IN
THE PAST TWO YEARS TO FUL-
FILL HIS FIXTURES THAN ANY
OTHER HANDBALLER IN THE
SAME TIME IN THE HISTORY
OF THE GAME IN THIS COUN-
TRY.

Two years ago Dillon took up a
temporary post in Liverpool right in
the middle of the Championship
season. Not daunted by being so far
away from his native sod he came
home to play all his matches—nearly
always landing on the Saturday and
embarking again on the following
morning.

He has been nick-named the "fly-
ing handballer". This is slightly in-
correct, as he has always travelled
by boat. All the expense, needless to
say, has been borne by himself. He
has crossed over for fixtures some
thirty odd times, which means he
has logged over four thousand miles
to play this great game of ours.

One Ambition

During his "exile" he has captured
the magnificent Gael Linn Cup,
Leinster runner-up honours in Hard-
ball Doubles; and seven Dublin
Championship medals—being un-
defeated in Dublin handball in the
past two years. At present Dr. Dillon
is at home in Ireland, doing a locum
tenens in Belfast, and if plans
materialise to his satisfaction he may
stay there permanently. In fact he
has been already approached to turn
out for the Antrim Hurling team in
this year's championship. But Des
informs me that he has no intention
of returning to the caman wielding
game. He says his one ambition is to
get to another Handball final and
face John Ryan once again. He was
beaten four games to two by Ryan
in the Hardball Singles final some
three years back. Of course he was
playing for Clare then and if he is to
beat Ryan now it will have to be in
a Leinster final.

BY
Ray Andrews

form a new club in the Metropolis.
It is to be named "St. Vincent
Selected." Two important new en-
tries for the county championships
are Joe Maher, the famous Louth
player, and Jim Moloney from Kil-
timagh, who won an All-Ireland
Colleges Doubles title for St. Nathys
two years ago.

* MEATH—Royal County men-
tors place great hope for ultimate
honours in their young softball minor,
Liam Molloy from Ceannus Mor.
He has won all his matches so far
with the utmost of ease and his clash
with Wicklow's Joe Clery is eagerly
awaited.

* CAVAN—A tournament was
held in the new ballcourt at Mulla-
horan last month. The alley was
officially opened by former Ulster
G.A.A. Chairman, Seamus Gilheaney,
N.T. Great things are expected in
the county with the formation of a
new county Handball Board and the
affiliation of six clubs.

* LOUTH—Congratulations are in
order to Joe Maher of Drogheda,
who became the father of a bouncing
baby boy last month.

* LONGFORD—It is good to see
the county back in the Leinster
Championship. It is not important
that they have not had any luck as
regards winning their matches. What
is important is: they can put out
a team. Maybe next season will see
them having better luck.

* GALWAY—The county take on
Mayo in all grades in the first round
of the Connaught Championship.
Both counties are playing in Senior
Hardball Singles and Doubles this
year again.

Deepest sympathies go out to
Irish Handball Council Secretary Joe
Lynch, on his recent family bereave-
ment.

* DUBLIN—Plans are afoot to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

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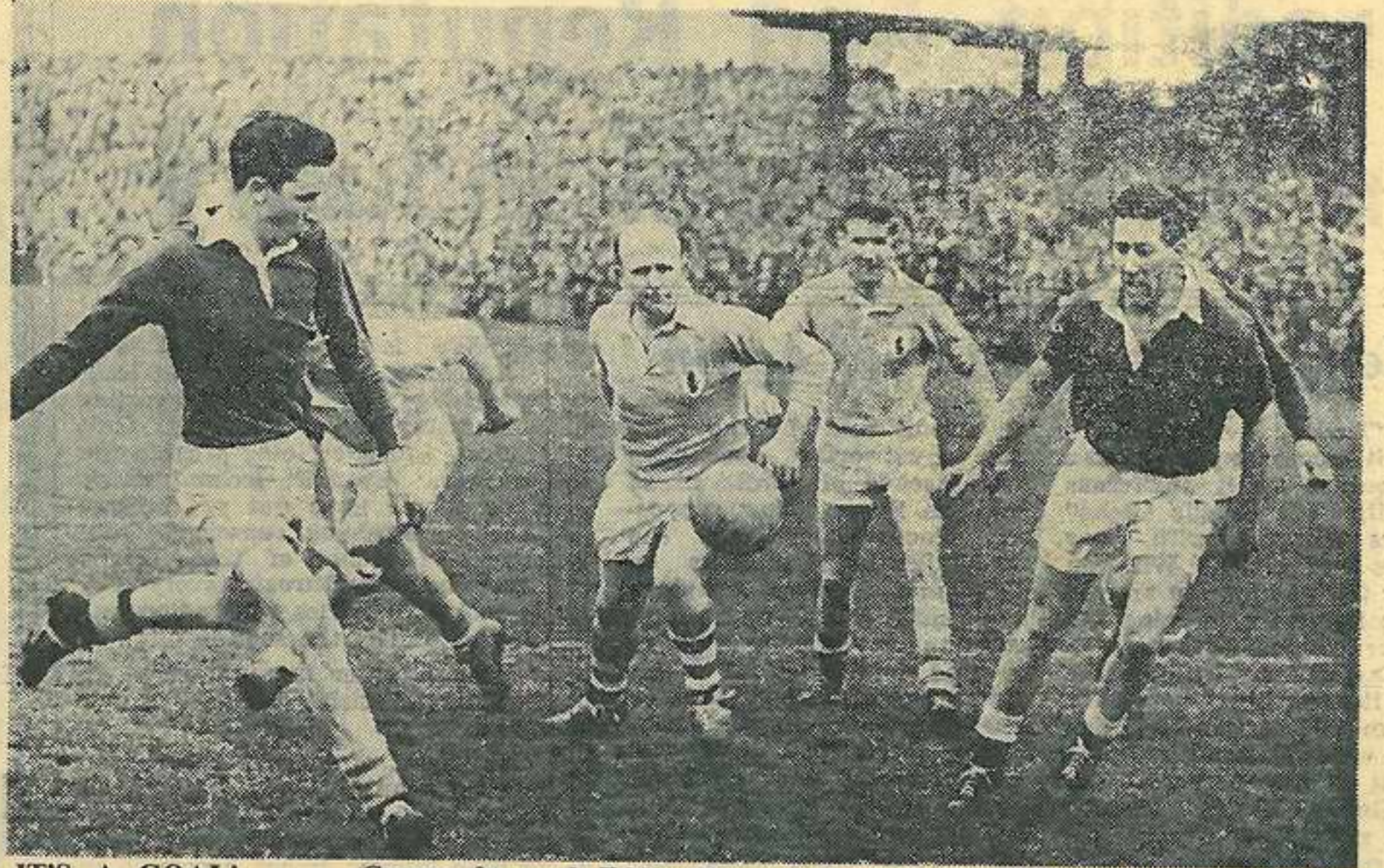
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IT'S A GOAL! . . . Corner forward Eddie Treacy slams home Kildare's second goal, as Tyrone's defenders, Jim Devlin and J. J. O'Hagan, look on. On the right is Kildare's full-forward, "Bam" Dowling.

IRELAND v. COMBINED UNIVERSITIES



Tom Dillon, Tom Conlon and Stephen White had this situation well under control at Croke Park last month.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24.

JOHN RYAN OF WEXFORD

hours, the Wexford pair won by one single ace.

Since then Ryan has gone on to take a few National titles a year, but last year saw him gain his life's ambition. He emulated the record of John Joe Gilmartin of Kilkenny by winning the four senior All Ireland titles.

Last year was Ryan's most important year in other ways too. In June, in appreciation of his great work for the game the Wexford County Handball Board initiated a fund raising scheme to send him to America with the Wexford hurlers. In the States he covered himself in glory. He played three matches, all best of three game with the Irish ball and Irish rules for one game in each. Winning the first match in facile manner he drew the second two games each with former American National champion Tom Ginty. In the third match against the current American Junior doubles and singles champion Harry Hyde, he was beaten in straight games.

given a little time to get used to the strange ball and rules and the different sized alleys Ryan would undoubtedly beat the best in the States. In September of last year the Wexfordman had two return matches with Hyde in Ireland. The first, before his home supporters in Wexford, was to be a bit of an anticlimax. Displaying none of his superb skill and strength Ryan was beaten in three straight games.

Two evenings later Ryan got his revenge at Talbots Inch. In a magnificent game with no quarter given he won the odd game in three. This match Ryan rates as his greatest display, and naturally enough he rates Harry Hyde the greatest handballer he has met so far. . . He says Victor Sherlock of

Cavan is the grandest sportsman he has met and John Doyle the greatest partner anyone could wish for, giving of his best at all times and never seeming to have an off-day.

John is very appreciative of the trip he got to the States and for it is full of thanks to all the Gaels of Wexford and elsewhere who made the trip possible. . . Still in the prime of his playing days the Wexfordman can look forward to many more major triumphs in the ballcourt, and could well, before his playing days are over, set an all-time record for All Ireland Handball titles that will be next to impossible to beat. . .

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Unfortunate

He was most unfortunate not to take one game off the American in this match. Leading 19-12 and playing with the U.S. ball, he let the initiative slip away from him and consequently lost his chance of winning the match.

Notwithstanding this the American newspaper critics had some glowing comments to make about Ryan's play. The Chairman of the A.A.U., Mr. Charlie O'Connell said that

Tradition And Reputation In Irish Mineral Industry

Kelly Under Fire . . . Again

Dear "Kelly",

So it would appear to you that only a small vociferous minority of "Gaelic Echo" readers disagree with your articles and ideals. Will you kindly tell us how you arrived at the figure six as being the number which disagrees with you, and will my little epistle make it seven?

Fionnbar Callanan and Mick Byrne wrote two well-informed articles in the March edition of "Gaelic Echo". Articles which must have seemed unanswerable to you, for in your latest serial story you do not even attempt to refute their arguments, but instead adopt an attitude of villification and petty abuse towards these correspondents. You disprove nothing by this, but prove your ideals are based on nothing but blind fanaticism to the cause.

While it would be impossible to prove to the patriots of NACA that they 'cook' race times and records, I remember a sports meeting at Castlebellingham, Co. Louth in 1956 when Peter MacArdle was credited with 24 minutes dead for a 5-mile race. A time which, I understand, was ratified by the NACA as an Irish native and all-comers record.

A friend and I who have two trustworthy chronometers clocked MacArdle in 25 minutes 2secs. Now supposing MacArdle did run the five miles in 24 minutes on this bumpy, cut-up, 5 laps to the mile track, he would, running at even pace have covered 4 miles in 19 mins., 12 secs. which is 26 secs. or 150 yards faster than his own NACA record put up at the comparatively level stretches of the Iveagh Grounds, and he still had a mile to go. Nobody knew better than MacArdle that he had not recorded this time. It is significant that this was MacArdle's last race in Ireland, for shortly afterwards he departed for greener fields. Away over there he did a thing he was not allowed to do at home; run against and beat Jack Dorgan ex Donore Harriers athlete.

And by the way, Ronnie Delany represented Ireland at the last Olympics. For did he not march in the opening parade with Maeve Kyle from way up North? And finally how good of times has O'Sullivan from Australia recorded anyway?

"The Athlete"

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By Special Correspondent.

THIS is the season of soft drinks. Heat waves and long, parching days, call for cooling draughts: mineral waters, fruit juices, squashes, etc., provide the answer. Even in Ireland where the people have not yet become really soft drink conscious, hundreds of gallons of these drinks cool burning throats, every day in shops, factories and offices, at home and by the seaside.

Mineral water manufacturers are working feverishly to meet the demand.

No aspect of modern life is more marked than the increase that has taken place in the consumption of soft drinks. The practice has ceased to be a luxury: it has become a regular habit in the community.

The fact that the climb in sales is still taking place can be seen when the trade figures for 1955 and 1956 are compared.

The hot summer of 1955 boosted the soft drink industry to a new high level. And yet, though the 1957 season was one of the coolest in years, sales in Britain showed very little decrease.

Comparison

In Ireland, unfortunately, the 1957 trade dropped well below the 1955 mark, but this was mainly attributable to scarcity in money through the increase in unemployment.

A statistical comparison of the soft drinking habits of the people of Ireland, Britain and the United States is of interest. In Ireland the annual consumption is 1.8 gallons per head of the population. Britain consumes six gallons per head and the United States 12 gallons per head.

Our taste for minerals looks small in that light, but an increase is apparent annually.

This increase is greatly to be welcomed. Particularly with those drinks based on fruit juices where the fruit vitamins are present. These products not only provide the natural benefits of the fruit but stimulate the fluid intake in a palatable form, which is necessary to good health.

That the manufacturer appreciates the benefit of his products to the community is borne out by the provision of drinks suitable for diabetics as well as drinks incorporating barley water which makes a very pleasant drink when combined with citrus juices.

The quality of soft drink in Ireland cannot be bettered anywhere in the world. This fact has been constantly borne out by visitors whose comments are always enthusiastic on sampling local products.

One can understand, therefore, why imported products have been unable to displace Irish brands on the home market.

Tradition

There is a tradition and a reputation to uphold, for the original soda water was first produced in Ireland. In 1773, Augustine Thwaites, a chemist in Liffey Street, Dublin, having discovered the medicinal value of mineral spring water, began to import bottled spring water from continental spas.

His son, Augustine, junior, a medical student at the time, started work on an idea. Soon afterwards he produced the formula for double and single soda water. The product was put on the market for the first time in 1779.

Augustine Thwaites, junior, became an associate of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, and took a prominent part in the 1798 Rising. He later fled to France where he died at an early age.

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT MINERALS

HERE are some interesting facts about the growth of the Soft Drink Industry in Ireland.

Two million gallons of Soft Drinks were consumed in Ireland in 1939. By 1950, that figure had doubled, and a new record total of six million gallons flowed down thirsty throats in 1955!

Most popular brands? Orange and Lemonade, particularly with the youngsters; Orange and Tonic water in the bars.

Between 1,700 and 1,800 workers were employed in the

production of Soft Drinks in 1939. To-day, there are over 2,000 engaged in almost 80 mineral water factories throughout the country.

Leinster (which includes Dublin) accounts for more than half of the Soft Drinks consumed in Ireland every year.

Peak of the Soft drinking season begins at Whit and finishes about the end of August. Sales climb again from the last week of November until the first week of January.

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BOB AYLWARD, OF KNOCKMOYLAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE KILKENNY COUNTY BOARD G.A.A., AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL, WAS SELECTED AS ONE OF THE OFFICIALS TO ACCOMPANY THE BLACK AMBER SELECTION OF HURLERS TO THE U.S.A., AND NO MORE FITTING CHOICE COULD BE MADE, FOR THE AYLWARD FAMILY IS ONE STEEPED IN GAELIC LORE AND IRISH-IRELAND ACTIVITIES.

Bob has represented Kilkenny in senior ranks in the full-back position but his brother, Pat "Dexter" Aylward, earned a niche in the hall of fame on hurling fields. Winner of All-Ireland Medals with Kilkenny (1922) and Dublin (1924), "Dexter" was honoured by the Americans at the Tailteann Games of 1924, in being made Captain of their team in the match against Ireland at Croke Park, on the strength of his being born in the

United States, even though he was brought back to Ireland as a baby.

I well remember seeing "Dexter" play in the 1922 final, which was played in September, 1923. It was my first trek to an All-Ireland. "Dexter" was sorely impeded in that final, during the early course of which he suffered a fractured finger. He emigrated to America later and died there a young man, his early passing, no doubt, accelerated through the after effects of a rigorous hunger-strike in the Black and Tan era.

By
William Dooley

The biggest man of the Aylwards, Ned, a detective-sergeant in Donnybrook, Dublin, played the part of pugilistic "Big Tom" in the film, "Captain Lightfoot," in which he knocked Rock Rudson cold.

Another brother, Maurice, residing in New Zealand, was Secretary of the Irish organisation formed in that country during World War II, to fight against conscription for the Irish settlers there. Maurice was one of a delegation which then travelled to Ireland and had an interview with An Taoiseach, Mr. De Valera, in the matter.

Shooting Affray

Their stand was that, while agreeable to defend New Zealand's shores against any possible invader, they refused to fight England's battles abroad. They carried their point in the far-away Dominion and the Irish were left to live in peace.

And last, but not least, is brother Bill Aylward, living in Melbourne since 1921, who was wounded in an affray with the Black and Tans at Ballyhale, in the previous year. I will always remember my stay of five to six weeks in Bill's home in Albert Park, Melbourne, during Olympic time, 1956. Since his emigration to the Southern Continent, he has been signally honoured for outstanding acts of heroism; one of his mementoes in this regard is in the shape of a gold medal from the State of Victoria. He is an official in the Waterworks Department of Melbourne and they think the world of him.

On the night of the Olympic boxing finals, on Bill's invitation, I brought all the Irish boxers, plus hurdler Eamonn Kinsella and wrestler, Gerry Martina, to a real Irish-Ireland night in his home. I remember going to early Mass the next morning in St. Francis Church, the oldest in Melbourne. It is an odd slant that famous bushranger, Ned Kelly, was baptised there.

'Up Knockmoylan'

And, incidentally, it was a grand-uncle of the Aylwards, Fr. Pat Aylward, who gave the rites of the Church to Ned Kelly after the latter had been almost shot to pieces in his memorable stand at the Battle of Glenrowan.

One day about thirty years ago, Bill was hurling in a match in Melbourne when he heard somebody shout from the side-line—"Up Knockmoylan." Bill threw his hurley down and rushed over to find out who it was. It turned out to be a Father Power who was born a few miles from his own native place. I met Fr. Power in Brunswick, Melbourne, where he is now Parish Priest, and he related this story to me. His brother, Fr. Thomas Power, was our local Parish Priest for the Albert Park area.

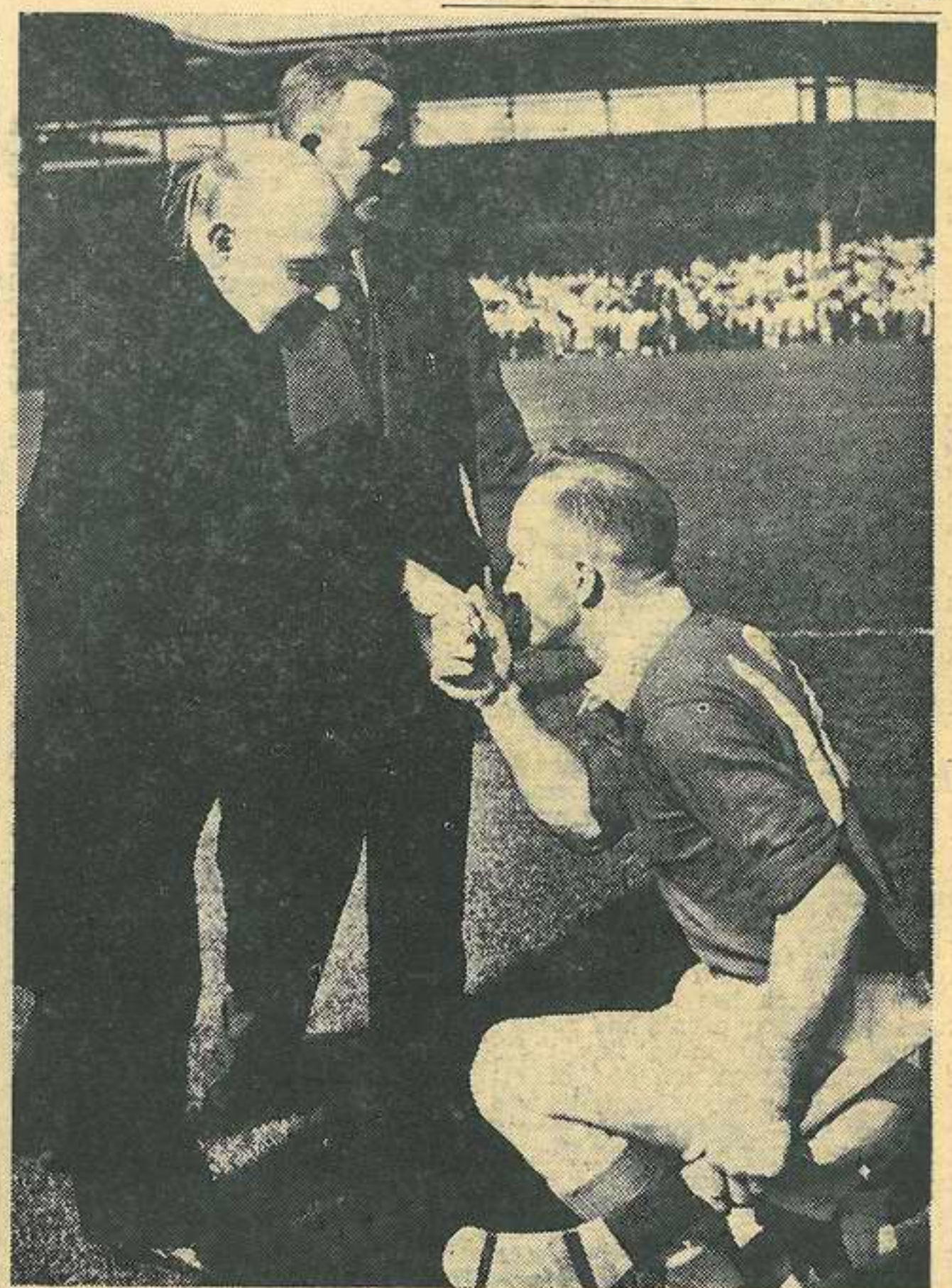
Coming back to Bob Aylward, he certainly has plenty of Gaelic background to fit him as Manager of the Kilkenny team sailing into New York under the shadow of the Statute of Liberty.

His name will have gone before him and he can be assured of a hearty Cead Mile Failte from our exiles in the Land of the Free.



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Once again last month the sports headlines had to pay tribute to the inimitable Christy (shown above). Despite several stitches in his head, the Cloyne 'Maestro' carried Cork to victory in their first round Munster hurling championship game against Clare.

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ATHLETICS ... By Tony Barry

(Continued from page 14)

In 1957 Rafe, who has run a decathlon 400m in 47.9, was not very active, but he did turn in a 10.3 100 metres—equivalent to about 9.4 for 100 yards. So far this year he has amazed even his most ardent admirers with some fabulous weight marks. He has thrown the discus over 170 feet, the javelin over 237 feet and put the shot 54' 11". To date his knee is still bothering him. But it does manage to clear up enough to let him hurdle and broad jump we can almost certainly look forward to the first 8,000 points decathlon.

Whether or not he does, however, does anybody care to argue that the man who is world class in the sprints, hurdles, broad jump shot, discus and javeline is not the greatest all-rounder of this generation? In fact, of any generation?

FOLLOWING up on last months issue readers may be interested to know that Dallas Long has upped his 12lb. shot record to over 67 feet. In addition he has moved the regulation 16lb. ball a tremendous 55' 11". At the time of writing he has had only one competition with the heavier weight. Meanwhile Eddie Southern has been confining himself to replay events and doesn't reckon on any more flat races before early June. On one of his 440 yards relay legs recently he was timed in 44.6—roughly equal to the historic third leg by Herb McKenley in the 1952 Olympics.

Meanwhile the two giants of the platter event Babka and Oerter continue their great throwing with an awesome and unheard of consistency over 180 feet. All the time the tension is building up for their

first meeting of the year in what should be the most eagerly anticipated field events clash since Connolly v Krivosov in Melbourne.

Speaking of these two giants of the ball and chain event it is interesting to see that they are still at the top of their profession. Connolly recently threw over 213' in the Penn relays, while in the still young European season Krivosov prepares for a defence of his European title with an impressive mark of over 218'.

Third at Penn and carrying on our great tradition in this event was young Johnny Lawlor, the former Dublin Garda. Now apparently free of his back ailment Johnny should give us before the end of the season the first official Irish throw of 200 feet plus.

With Morrow on the injured list and the muscular red-head, Dave Sime, not quite coming up to expectations the honours of the season, to date go to the young Ray Norton who has added another 9.3 to a 100 yard record list that is getting as overcrowded as the old 100 meter list used to be at 10.2. Last year Norton was just another good sprinter with marks of 9.6 and 20.6 for 220 yards. He has already run the latter distance in a wind assisted 20.0—that is, equal to Sime's world record. Apart from the marks mentioned Ray has consistently been inside his last years peak.

His coach at San Jose college, Bud Winter, about a year ago published a book entitled—"So you want to be a sprinter." This was hailed as the greatest work on sprinting ever written. Mr. Winter seems to be proving his point.

(Contd. on col. 3)

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Self-Drive In Ireland

THE tourist season has begun and every day new groups of visitors arrive from abroad to spend their holidays in Ireland. After disembarking at airport or quay their immediate destination is usually Dublin but, as a rule, this is only the starting point for a vacation planned to cover as much of the country as possible.

The Irish landscape, of course, famous the world over and there are few visitors who do not try to visit all the celebrated scenic centres when they are here. The majority consider a self-drive car the most economic means of transport for that purpose.

Independent of time-tables and schedules, they are able to tour the country at leisure, for Ireland, being a small country with a good road system, is an ideal choice for a motoring holiday.

SMALL wonder, indeed, that the self-drive business is expanding steadily year by year. Its growth has been a spectacular development in the field of travel for, up to ten years ago this form of transport was almost unknown in Ireland. Once it had been introduced, however, its advantages immediately became apparent to both visitors and Irish holiday-makers who did not possess cars of their own.

Within a few years business had expanded to sizeable proportions and to-day the volume of self-drive car traffic continues to increase as more and more people realise the convenience of an inexpensive mode of transport which allows complete mobility and freedom to travel when and where the driver chooses.

The only concern the hirer of the car need feel is that the vehicle is sound and in good condition and this is where the Car Rental Association of Ireland can help him.

FOUNDED a few years ago with the object of "providing a uniformly high standard of service," the Association does much to protect the interests of the public. During the holiday season the

member firms of the Association are responsible for the operation of approximately 2,000 cars, and a recent development in many firms is the renting of cars on an annual contract basis. Growing demand is rapidly making this innovation extremely popular. For businessmen, particularly, it is a highly practical scheme. Capital expenditure is reduced; maintenance expenses avoided, and the hirer is provided with a new car every year.

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(Contd. from col. 2)

WHAT, I wonder, is the position in athletics of an amateur soccer player who plays on a team consisting mainly of professional or part time professional players. My own view is that whether or not you agree with the rule, such a person is barred from amateur track through the NACA may have other views on the matter. The question is particularly pertinent at the moment in view of the fact that an F.A.I. cup medallist recently figured in a promotion under NACA laws.

WHAT do we have to do to make the powers that be in the NACA realize that the end of May and early June is not soon enough to start off the track season. I have seen lads train terribly hard all through the winter, then have to ho'd their form without practically any racing. And why should the University men have an advantage in the early meets. Admittedly the college season breaks up early, but most of these athletes have several meets behind them before anybody gets going, thus giving them an unquestionable advantage in the early outings.

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