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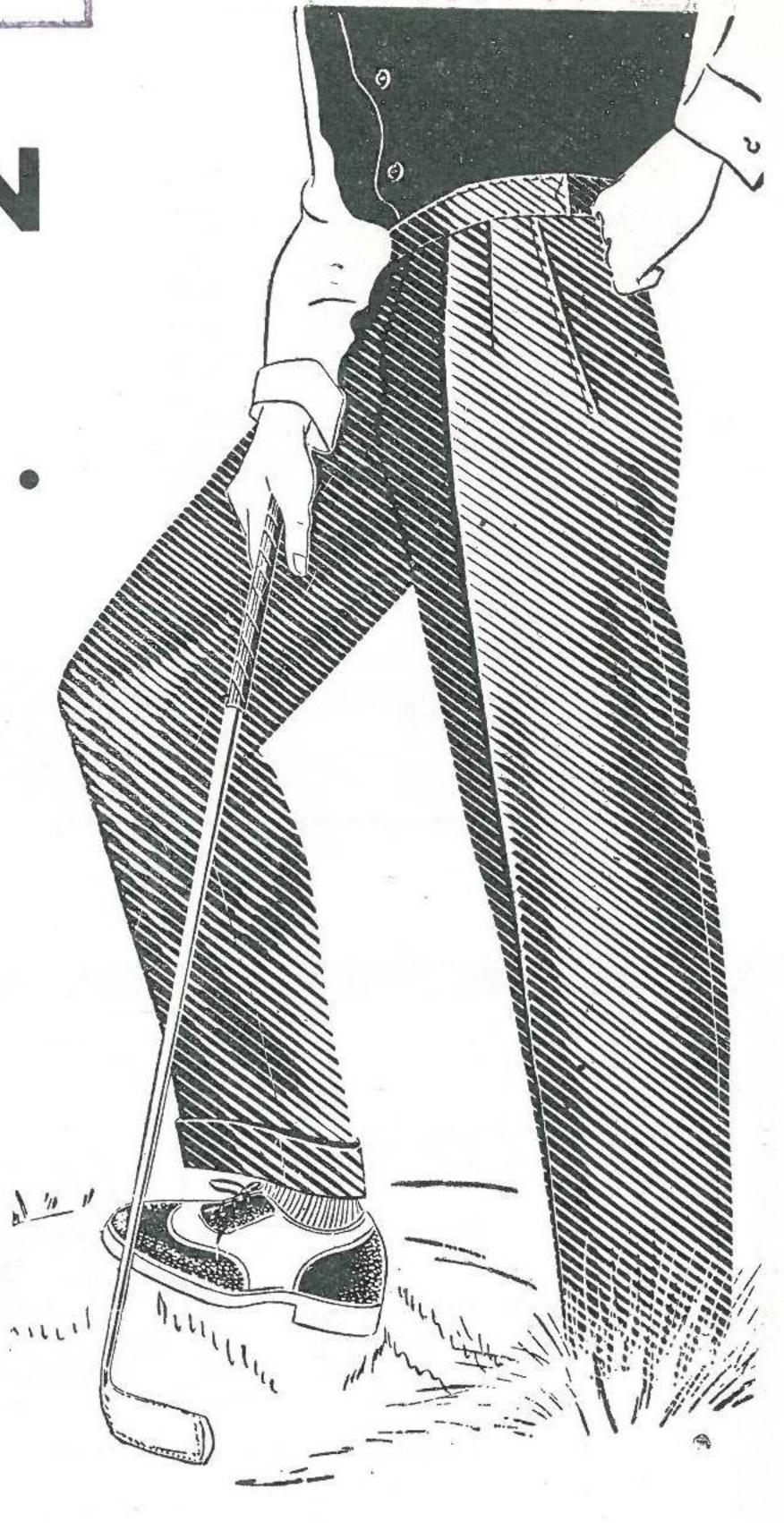
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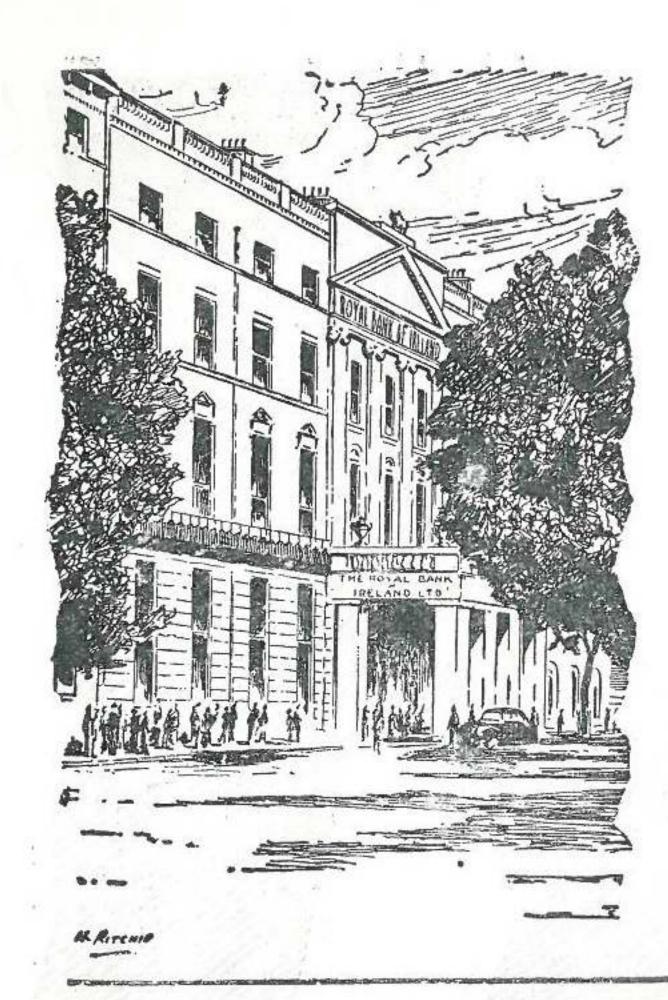
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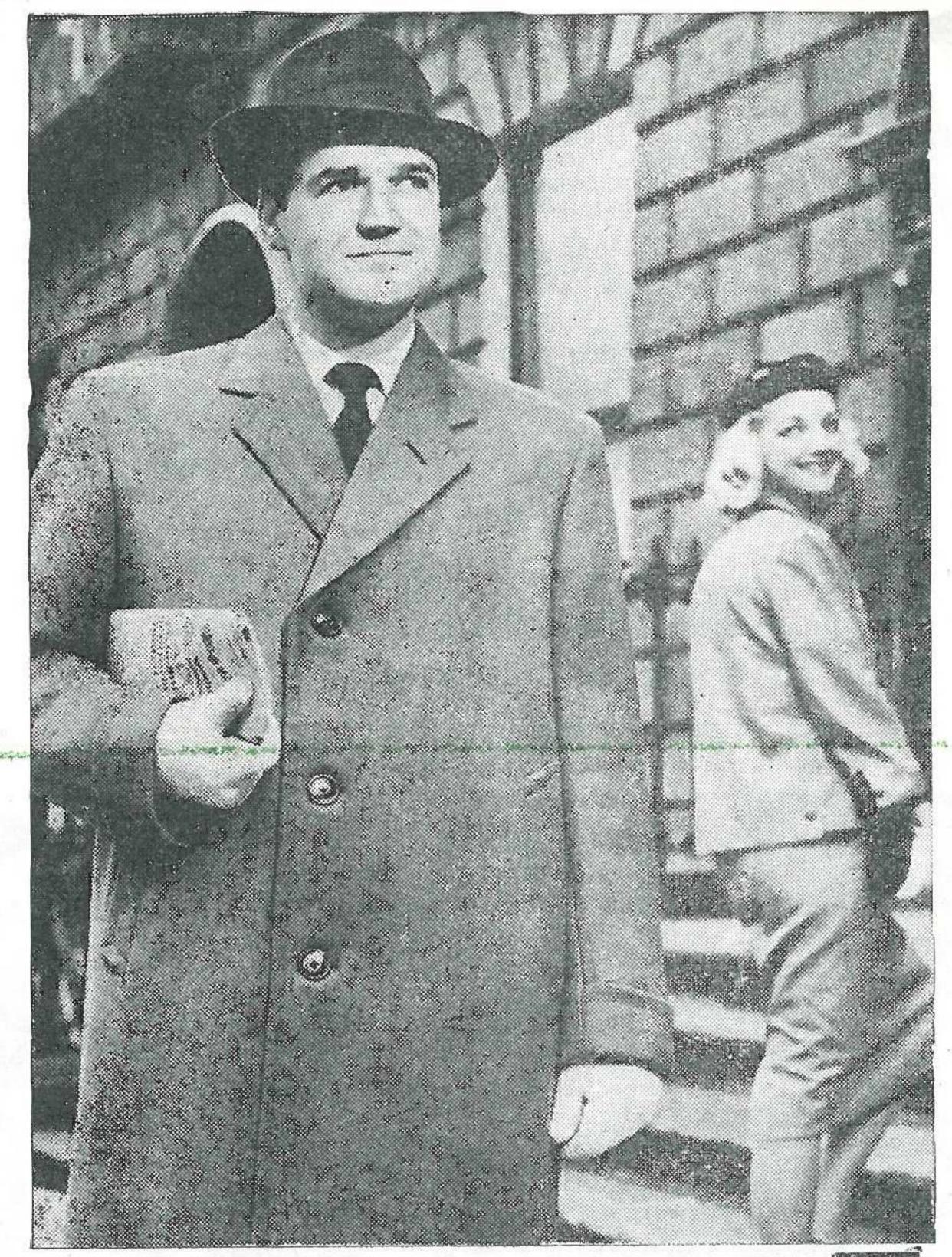
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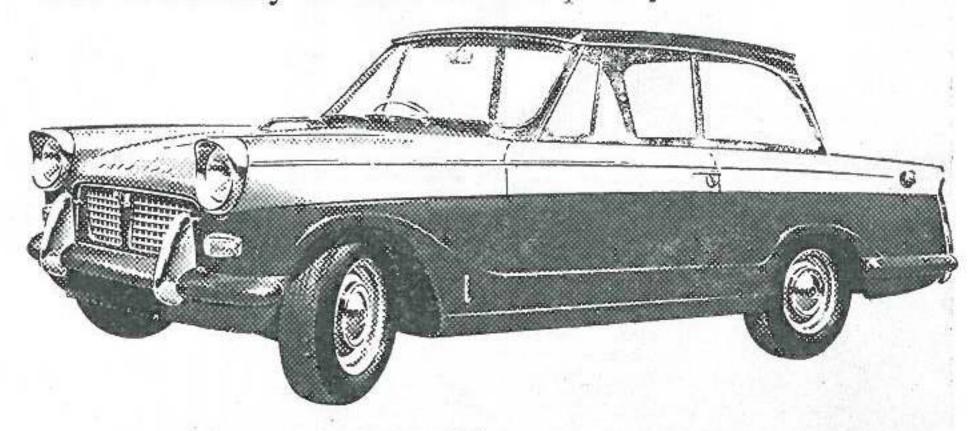
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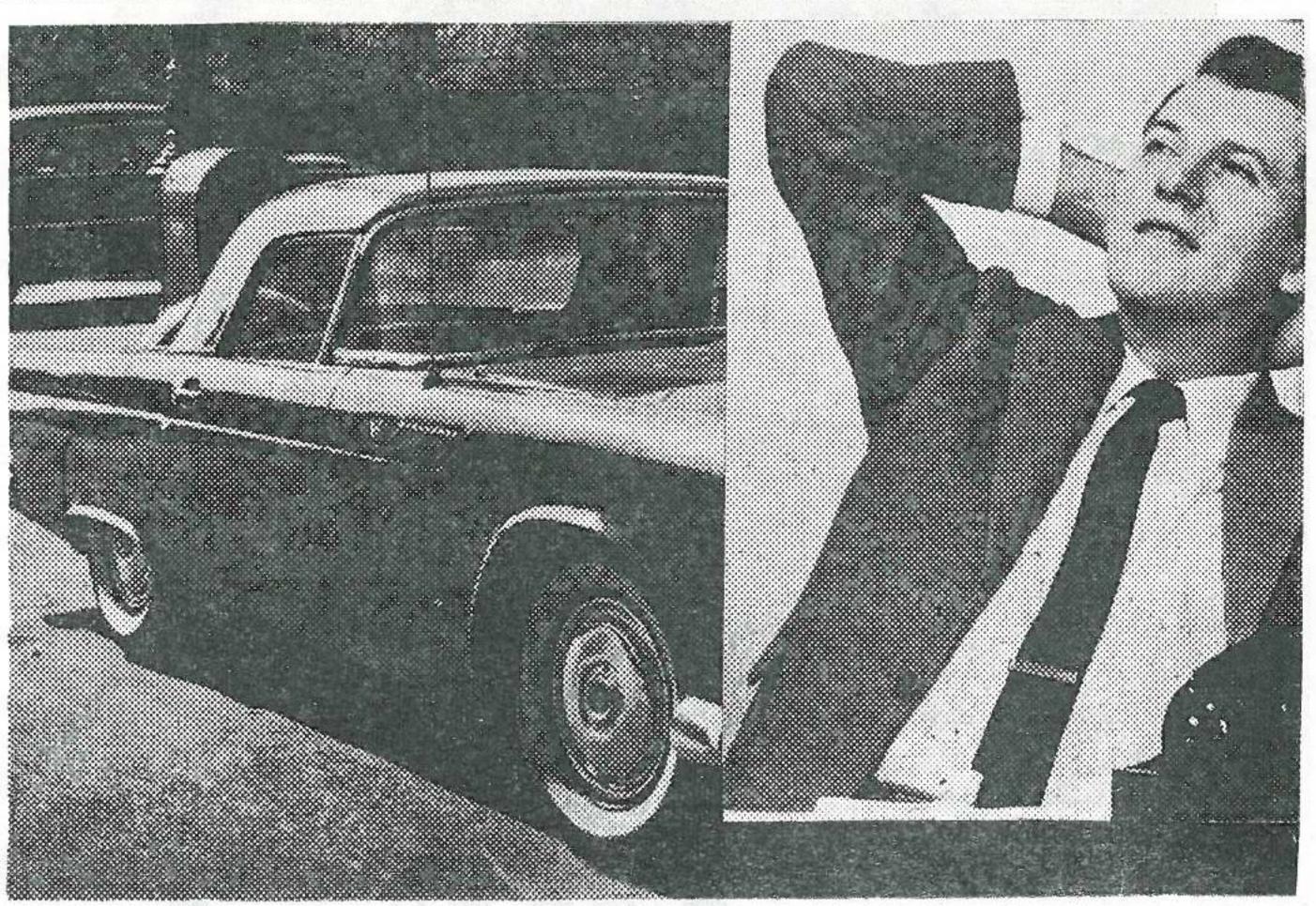
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### ECHOES FROM THE PAST

THE voices of a dead season—rising and falling like the reverberating notes of a bugle call. Can you hear them, echoing through the dark days of December from the sunlit, drama-packed pitches of 1959?

Yes, there they are: "Bravo, Kerry; come on the good old Kingdom"... "Show 'em how it's done, Frankie Walsh; keep it up, Waterford"... "Doubtcha Ringey, boy"... There they are,

all jostling for places in the Christmas cracker of Gaelic sports memories.

Bravo, Kerry! Yes, indeed. For 1959 was a glorious year for the Kingdom. A year in which Michael O'Connell's men equalled the greatest feats of the greatest years in the county's football history. League . . . All-Ireland . . . Brendan Cup . . . Kerry captured them all with consummate ease, and, in the process, entertained us with a brand of football that we've seen all too seldom in recent years.

For Waterford, 1959 marked a climb back to hurling greatness for which the men from the Suir-

side have been striving steadfastly since their first All-Ireland success in 1948.

And to a light wonder-hurler from the Mount Sion club fell the honour of leading the Decies to their second national triumph. Frankie Walsh performed that distinguished task with the coolness and confidence of a veteran, and in doing so won the admiration of hurling men everywhere.

And Christy Ring! What can one say about the genius from Cloyne, who, after 20 years of inter-county hurling, once again gave us a year of unsurpassed performances — most memorable of

which took place in the Railway Cup final on June 7.

These are only a few of the memories that come crowding back from the now-silent playing pitches. So let's sit back and think about the rest . . . and a Happy Christmas.

#### In This Issue= My Top Stars Of The Season A Royal Year For The Kingdom 22-23 By PETER BYRNE ... By PAUL DUDLEY .... 6 Mayo Stars Take Action .... Decies Earned That Title Memories Of The 1950s 8 By TERENCE ROYNANE .... 27 By EAMONN YOUNG My 'Oscar' List Of 1959 Pressing Problems .... 31 .... 11 By FRANK O'FARRELL By SEAN FEELEY .... Girls Flock To Camogie These Were Grave Blunders ... 36 By AGNES HOURIGAN .... 13 Says EAMONN YOUNG Ring's Finest Hour The Man With The Method .... 39 By ALAN FITZPATRICK .... 16 By EAMONN MONGEY Changes In Gaelic Football 41... Bu P. D. MEHIGAN .... Will Down's Plan Pay Off? ... 44 Letters To The Editor .... ... 19 Asks DES POWELL

# WW. JOH playe marchirela

### PAUL DUDLEY says

## WHAT A ROYAL YEAR FOR THE

JOHN DOWLING . . . who played a big part in Kerry's march to League and All-Ireland victories last season.

KINGDOM!

WHAT a royal year it has been in football! No matter how you look at it—from the point of view of league, championship or tournament games—the stamp of the Kingdom is indelibly impressed in the 1959 Gaelic football season.

This may not have been the greatest Kerry team of all time. But for sheer effectiveness and results it has carved a niche all its own in the storied annals of Kerry football,

And remember, the standard of the opposition was by no means as poor as some would have us believe. In support of that, I point to the other three star-studded provincial winners, Dublin Down and Galway—any one of whom would have been worthy All-Ireland champions.

Recall too, that at the start of the season Kerry were very much the outsiders as glamour team Dublin led the provinces a merry dance.

Then came shock No. 1. On a gloomy Sunday in Drogheda, Louth hammered the "invincible Vincents" and the way was cleared for a Derry-Leitrim, Offaly-Kerry set-up in the league semifinals.

For the first time in four years, Kerry pulled out all the stops and their powerful brand of football broke in torrents over the unfortunate Offaly men. The Kingdom had arrived!

Derry were soon to sample the Southerners new-found drive—and how! To their credit the Ulster men put up a tremendous battle and men like Jim McKeever, Phil Stuart and Hugh Francis Gribben turned in a brilliant hour's football.

But against Kerry's power-packed stuff it just wasn't good enough. After a blistering hour, the Munster men came through by 28 points. to 18. America was now to witness this rejuvenated Kerry fifteen.

That game marked Kerry's first league success in years. But, more important still, it also marked the "arrival" of men who were later to back-bone the Kingdom's all-conquering march.

And standing out head and shoulders over every one else was 22-year-old Mick O'Connell, the young black-haired Valentia "giant" who later stormed the G.A.A. scene with a series of majestic displays. Unlike last season, this was a mature Mick O'Connell—and how the crowd loved it!

But if O'Connell dominated mid-field, it was tall, angular Kevin Coffey who really set the seal on Kerry's defensive strength. For it was the Clan na Gael man who came from "nowhere" to close up the only real chink in the Kerryman's armour—the vital centre-half berth.

Came the championships, and Kerry were the target for every county in Munster. But in the style of true champions they swept all-comers, beating Tipperary 1-15 to 1-2, and Cork in the final, to the tune of 2-15 to 2-7.

This was it! The hour of the "show-down" with reigning champions Dublin had arrived!

What a game! What a spine-tingling last quarter, every fleeting, drama-packed second of which will live in the memory long after the actual result has faded into oblivion.

Recall the superlative efforts of the wily Kevin Heffernan as he sought to pull the game out of a roaring-red fire . . . that brilliant body-swerve early on which left even the great Jerome O'Shea groping . . . and that scorching shot which cracked off an upright back into play!

Or Cathal O'Leary's heroic efforts when, in spite of a bad hand injury, he came back to lead the "blues" in that desperate, last-minute on-slaught.

Magnificent efforts certainly—yet they pale in comparison to the streamlined football of the Kingdom's Mick O'Connell and Tom Long.

Long—the man who, they said, was too small to make the grade as a mid-fielder—came back off the boards to silence his critics with a five-star display. Not a "schemer" in the style of Sean Purcell and Ollie Freaney, his direct brand of football sparked the Kerry attack into a dashing, score-packed outfit.

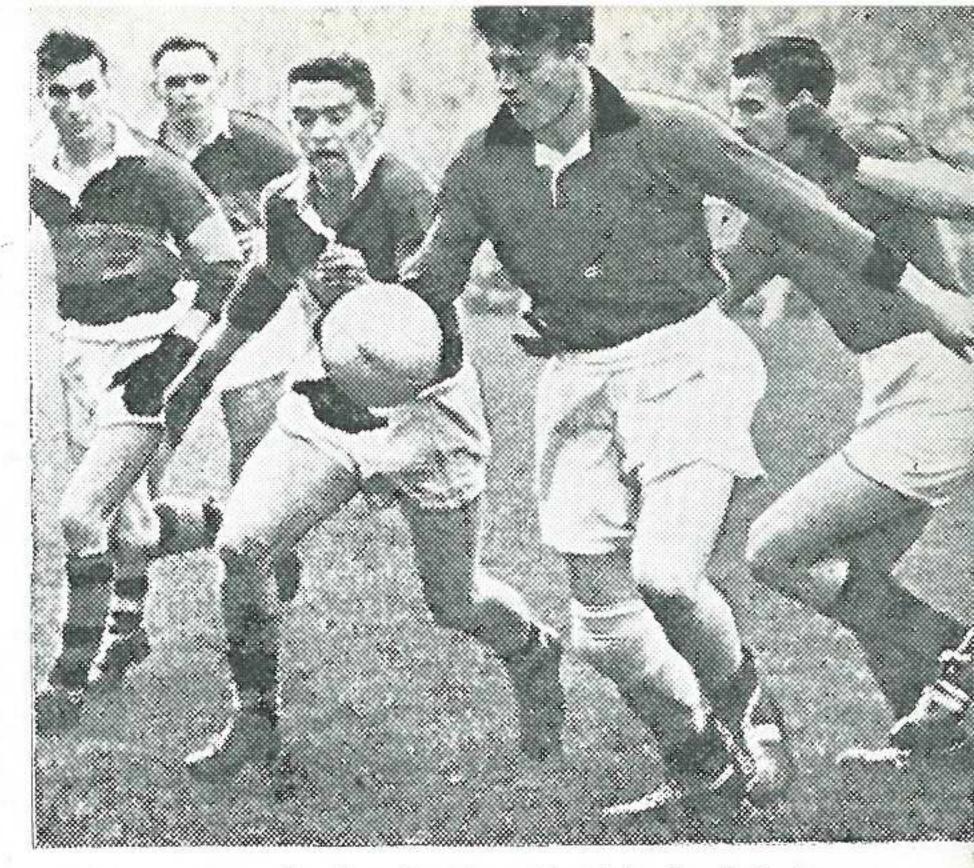
#### HOURS OF HOURS

So to the final and the crowning achievement to date—a handsome 3-7 to 1-4 win over a Galway team powered by that wonderful mid-fielder, Frank Evers.

For one man, veteran half-back Sean Murphy this was the hour of hours. Right through his long and colourful career, Sean has turned in some impeccable displays; yet, never was he seen to such devastating effect as against Galway.

Pushing Murphy all the way in the honours list was team-mate Dan McAuliffe—surely the greatest man to wear the No. 10 green and gold jersey since the immortal Jackie Ryan.

One week late, the Kerrymen were at it again, beating Down in the Cuchulainn Cup; and then, just to show no coolness, they crossed over to New York to crush the homesters in the St. Brendan Cup.



A Down defender breaks through with the ball in the Cuchulainn Cup final against Kerry at Croke Park. Kerry won by 1-11 to 0-9.

Operation "conquest" is now complete. But for this gallant Kerry fifteen the urge to win is still as great as ever, and we can look forward to many more wonderful exhibitions from the Kingdom in 1960.

### QUIZ CORNER

- 1. Can a referee, having given a decision after sounding the whistle for an infringement of a rule, change his mind and alter that decision?
- 2. What is the minimum suspension period imposed on a player ordered off a pitch for misconduct?
- 3. What are the exact duties of the goal umpire??
- 4. Did Cavan ever beat Kerry in a championship game at Croke Park?
- 5. Name the three Corkmen who won All-Ireland senior hurling and senior football medals?
- 6. Who captained the Wexford team which won the 1956 All-Ireland hurling final?
- 7. Who captained the Galway side which won the All-Ireland football title in the same year (1956)
- 8. How many Railway Cup football titles has Leinster won?

(Answers on page 35)

### Well Done!

AS one who has followed the fortunes of Waterford hurling for more than 30 years—though not a Waterford man myself—I must say that I hailed with delight their victory in the 1959 All-Ireland.

Not that I wish in any way to disparage their sporting rivals from the other side the Suir, Kilkenny. But the way I look at it is that the Kilkenny men, down the years, have collected their fair share of honours, while I felt that the hurlers from the Decies have won far less through the past 25 years, in particular, than their high standard of hurling surely deserved.

I remember when I was a young lad the big surprise it was when Waterford won their way into a Munster hurling final. I'd say the year was around 1925. The men from the Decies had a share of "outside" help that day at Dungarvan against Tipperary, but retired well beaten all the same.

The next time I can remember seeing a Waterford team was in the minor All-Ireland final of 1929, played at Croke Park on a brisk February day in 1930. Meath, surprisingly enough, supplied the opposition and while I now disremember the score I know that Waterford had three or four goals to spare.

I remember well seeing the present Waterford County Secretary, Declan Goode, distinguish himself that day, as did a crop-headed lad from the Kilkenny border, "Locky" Byrne, God rest him, who subsequently was to win fame in the black and amber.

Waterford made a bold fight against Cork in the Munster senior final of 1931 and went down only after a thrilling draw and re-play.

Around that time I was often

By TERENCE ROYNANE "out of it" in a Munster championship tie at Clonmel, which the Waterford men were desperately unlucky to lose.

But bad luck seemed to dog the Decies hurlers those times in their quest for honours. I thought that luck was on the turn when they got through to the All-Ireland final against Dublin in 1938.

I have always felt that they trained too hard for that game; for certainly the form they showed against the Dubliners that day fell far short of expectations. Even so, they were only narrowly beaten.

Again, the bad luck followed them. I saw them beaten by lastminute scores in Munster finals by Limerick and Cork not long afterwards.

### DECIES EARNED THAT TITLE

around that Suirside country, and what great matches there were as Mount Sion began to come up to challenge the then perennial champions, Erin's Own.

At first, the Wares, the Wyses and the Fardeys, Jackey Butler, Frank McCormick and Co. continued to reign supreme, but as such wonderful stars as John Keane began to make their presence felt, that supremacy was shaken.

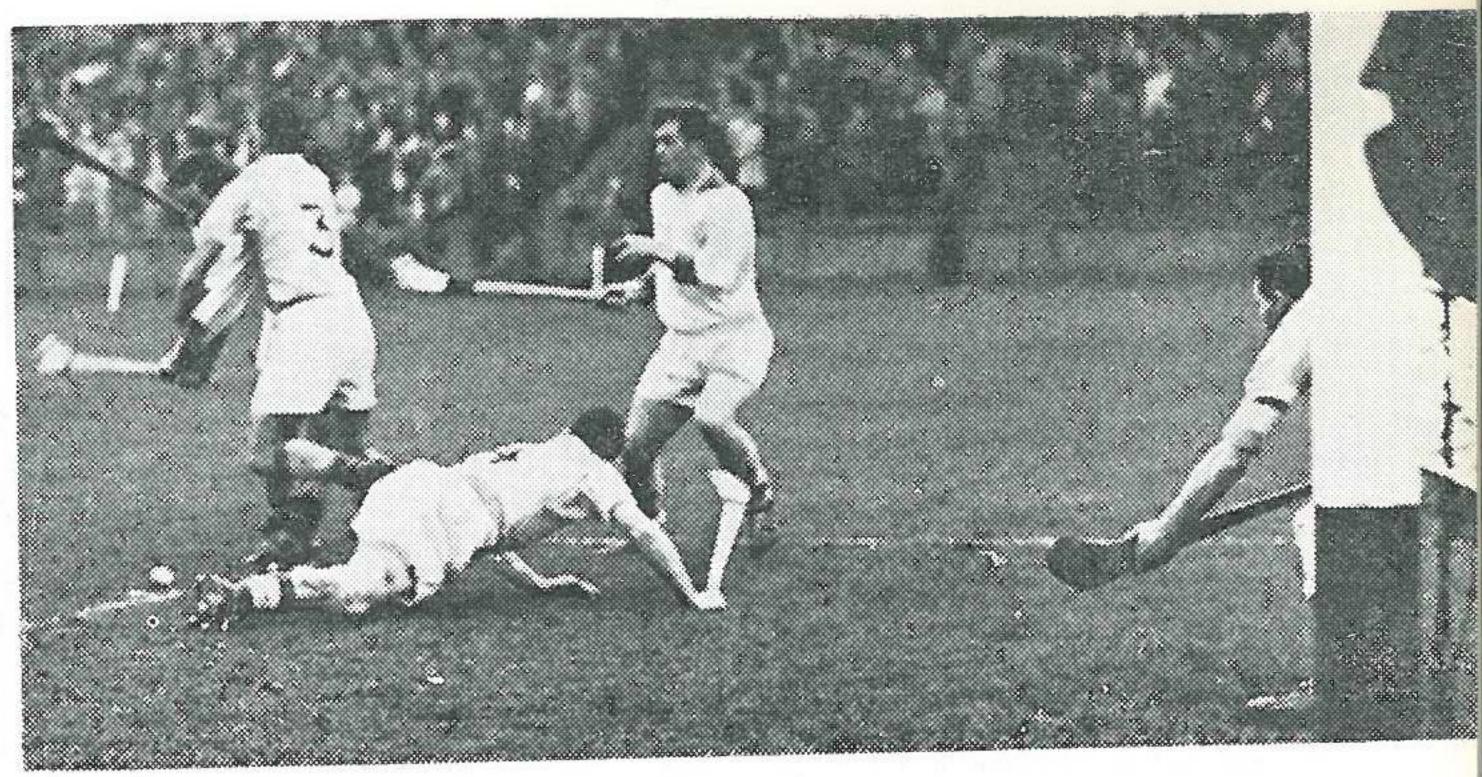
As a young fellow, John Keane playing at centre half-back, gave one of the greatest exhibitions I ever saw when he hurled the great Mick Mackey—then in his prime—

At last, however, the Decies men came to the turn of the road. In 1948, with a great side, they won through in Munster, met Dublin again in the All-Ireland final, and made no mistake this time, taking their first ever senior title with a great side that included the veterans Iim Ware in goal and John Keane (then at centreforward); Christy Moylan, of Dungarvan; Vincent Baston from Passage and a tearaway full-forward in the U.C.D. man from Lismore, Ned Daly.

After that victory they again spent a while in the doldrums, but came back with a bang in

### Larry Sends Home!

LARRY GUINAN . . . although well covered by Dublin full - back, Brian Young (No. 3), shoots Waterford's only goal in their recent Hurling League tie at Croke Park. This was the Decies first and only defeat since they won the All-Ireland title.



### Grand lot of lads

1957, won their way to the All-Ireland final, and were beaten by a last-minute Kilkenny point.

This year, after a season's respite they returned again; were held to a draw by Kilkenny at the first meeting, but proved themselves a great side by coming from behind to record a sweeping victory in the re-play.

And it is grand to see so many of the men who laid the foundations of Waterford hurling still associated with the game by the Suirside and the Decies.

Secretary Declan Goode is still to the fore, as keen now as he was when I saw him on that minor side 30 years ago. Charlie Ware, one of the great full-backs of all time, is not only Waterford's re-Central the presentative on Council, but has a son, another Charlie, on the present All-Ireland side.

John Keane, who played in Waterford's first two All-Ireland senior appearances, has kept closest connection of all; for he has trained the side for all their recent triumphs. And certainly his training must be as genuine as his hurling was, for he has succeeded in almost unbelieveable fashion in keeping his team at fighting pitch the whole year through.

What of the team themselves? Mount Sion were the backbone, but every man was a hero. Frankie Walsh, Seamus Power, Ned Power and Johnny Kiely are the men whose performances linger brightest in my own memory-with one exception. And that is the lionhearted Tom Cheasty, who has been all the way the inspiration of the forward line.

They are a grand lot of lads. They have brought great honour to the blue and white, and their achievements have brought compensation for all the bad luck that the Waterford hurlers who went

(Continued on page 38)

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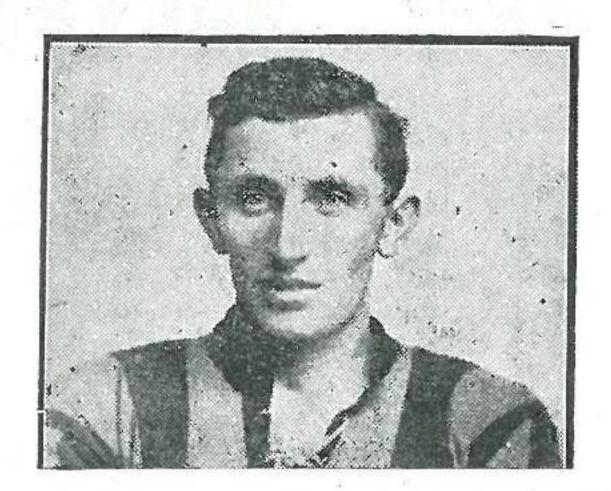
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### Remember the team?

### KILKENNY 1935

Everybody knew that Limerick were going to win the 1935 All-Ireland Hurling Final against Kilkenny ... everybody except a few thousand Kilkenny supporters and fifteen hurlers in Black and Amber led by a tall wiry veteran in a peaked cap. Remember him ... Lory Meagher from Tullaroan?

Spearheaded by the most dynamic hurler of his day, peerless Mick Mackey of Ahane, Limerick, were called "the team of the century". The result of the Final was a foregone conclusion. Nevertheless 46,591 people—a record for the time—attended at Croke Park on the first Sun-



day in September, just to see the formalities carried out.

Kilkenny were early into their stride, but Limerick with Mackey in the van, were in front when the rain came. And what rain! Soon all "plans of campaign" went haywire. Under Meagher's leadership Kilkenny changed tactics, kept the ball on the ground and in the second half ploughed ahead through rain and mud. A great goal by Martin White from a long ball by Lory put them five points clear with time running out.

Then Mackey took over. He drove his men through for a goal, snatched a point himself...



and on the call of time tore into the Kilkenny defence again and shot for the winning goal.

The Kilkenny backs saved without a qualm ... and it is now hurling history that the team who couldn't win, sensationally beat the side who couldn't lose.

J. O'CONNELL

P. LARKIN P. O'REILLY P. BLANCHFIELD

E. BYRNE P. BYRNE P. PHELAN

L. MEAGHER T. LEAHY

J. WALSH J. DUGGAN M. WHITE

J. DUNNE L. BYRNE M. POWER

The Limerick team was: P. Scanlon; E. Gregan;
T. McCarthy; M. Gross; M. Kennedy; P. Glohessey; G. Howard; T. Ryan; M. Ryan; J.
Mackey; M. Mackey; J. Roche; J. O'Connell;
P. McMahon; J. Glose.

### Remember the name!



### This is my 'Oscar' List of 1959

LOOKING back over 1959, I find it a colossal task to name the outstanding players, games, scores and individual feats we witnessed through the spring, summer and autumn. I could list dozens under each heading, and still be well wide of my readers' views; for every follower has his or her pet fancies of the season's highlights.

However, after a great deal of thought and hesitation, the following are my selections:

Although colleague PETER BYRNE has given his list of top hurlers and footballers of the year elsewhere in this issue, I shall start by giving my choice — just two. And they are: SEAN MURPHY (football) and TOM CHEASTY (hurling).

#### BEST GAME OF THE YEAR:

FOOTBALL—All-Ireland semi-final, Kerry v. Dublin. HURLING—All-Ireland final (draw).

#### BEST INDIVIDUAL DISPLAY:

FOOTBALL—Sean Murphy's masterly game in the All-Ireland final. HURLING—Christy Ring's never-to-be-forgotten exhibition in the Railway Cup final.

#### BEST SCORE:

FOOTBALL—Dan McAuliffe's goal against Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final. HURLING—Seamus Power's equalising goal in the All-Ireland final.

#### BIGGEST SURPRISE:

FOOTBALL—Armagh's defeat of Derry in the first round of the Ulster Championship. HURLING—Waterford's annihilation of Tipperary in the Munster Championship.

#### BEST NEWCOMER:

FOOTBALL-Kevin Coffey, who stepped up

from the Kerry subs. to become a great centre half-back. HURLING—Eddie Keher, Kilkenny's new scoregetter.

In winning the 1959 hurling crown, Waterford scored 23 goals, 52 points. This, in my opinion, is an all-time record.

Waterford's championship score list reads: F. Walsh (2-28), S. Power (5-3), L. Guinan (4-4), T. Cheasty (2-9), J. Kiely (3-5), D. Whelan (4-0), C. Ware (2-1), M. Flannelly (1-1), P. Grimes (0-1). Prior to the All-Ireland final replay, Waterford

Prior to the All-Ireland final replay, Waterford had scored 20-40 — exactly 100 points.

Kerry's championship score list: D. McAuliffe (4-16), P. Sheehy (2-4), M. O'Connell (0-6), J. Brosnan (0-5), T. Long (0-4), D. Geaney (1-1), J. Dowling (0-4), S. Murphy (0-3), G. McMahon (0-1), T. Lyne (0-2), M. O'Dwyer (0-1).

#### TOP TOTALS:

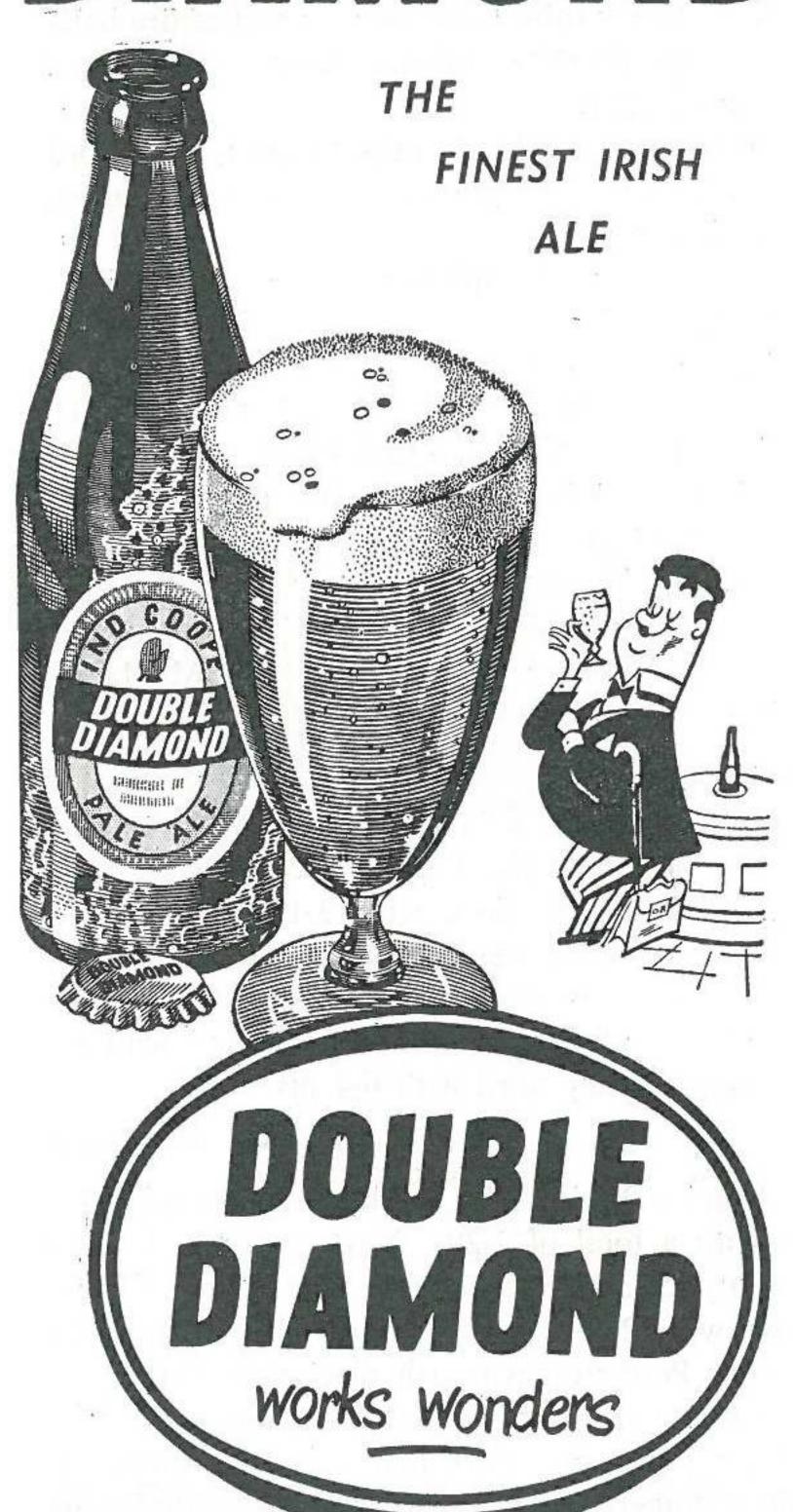
Dan McAuliffe's fine total of 4-16 has to take second place to Ollie Freaney's 2-26, while Sean Purcell fills third place with 3-17.

When these figures are brought to an average per game, the position changes, McAuliffe taking top place with 7 pts. Purcell is second with 6.5 pts. and Freaney third with 6-4 pts.

Frankie Walsh tops the hurling championship list with a total of 2-28. Next comes Kilkenny's Tommy O'Connell with 7-5 and, third, Christy Ring with 2-13. Although playing at midfield, Seamus Power takes fourth place with 5-3.

On games average maestro Ring leads with 8.5 pts. per game (Cork had only two championship outings). Frankie Walsh holds second place with 6.8 pts., and Tommy O'Connell comes third with 6.5 pts.

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### EAMONN YOUNG Hits Out

## THESE WERE GRAVE BLUNDERS

WHEN I was young and innocent I had a wonderful opinion of our annual G.A.A. Congresses. I'm sorry to say that this confidence is partly lost. Not that it matters, for I'm sure that the supreme council of the Association will move on it's way, untroubled by the whining of a lonely scribbler.

No, I'm not a cynic (I hope), but there's no law "agin" being a realist. Congress has the right to make rules—even unfair ones, as it has done—but surely it should see that they are enforced. At the moment, there are "coaches and four" being driven through the regulations with a gusto and elan that would have won the admiration of the Liberator himself.

Take that half-time interval, for instance. It's supposed to last for 10 minutes. Yet, never, to my knowledge, has this been done except on one notable occasion recently when a sensible referee took a look at the storm-clouds and told the players, for pity sake, to change over quickly and get it finished.

Yet, the rule regarding the 10 minutes half-time interval is in the book and should be obeyed. After all, if we can ignore one rule why not apply similar treatment to any other which doesn't suit us—and if necessary to the lot.

There's no penalty for breaking that interval rule. I proposed one some years ago at a Cork

Convention, to follow on the one my club, Collins, had sponsored the year before, and which created the present penalty for late starts. The half-time motion got such poor support that I thought that my type of oratory was not suitable and decided to leave it to someone else.

Obviously there's a lot more with a similar type of inferiority complex. And it's a pity, for someone should tie up the loose ends.

In passing, I might say that while I always enjoy the Croke Park pageants, one of the reasons is because advancing years and shrinking inches have driven me into a stand seat. In the days when I stood under the Cusack, rather tired and not a little buffetted, the grace, colour, music, pageantry . . . all, all of it passed right over my head.

When the half-time break went over 10 minutes, I regret to say my feeling were stronger.

Now, let's take the substitute business. We had fellows playing noughts and crosses with it during the past season, until it got a little embarrassing. Will somebody please fix it up next Easter?

And what about the ban on collective training? Was there ever a more unfair rule passed at Congress? A rule which made it easier for some to win All-Irelands and left counties like Mayo,

(Continued overleaf)

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### GOALIE NOLAN IS IN CONTROL

W. NOLAN . . . . Offaly's goalkeeper, goes up to fist the ball clear in the National Football League game against Dublin at Tullamore in October. The Metropolitans collected their first pair of League points in that tie.



#### GRAVE BLUNDERS

Cavan, Galway, and the great Kingdom of Kerry struggling on an uphill road. A few efforts were made to repeal this penal law, but when they failed was there anything more natural than that those who suffered most should evade the law.

When it was first passed we were all bound in honour to obey it; for no penalty was specified. By right there should have been.

A gallant friend of mine says that there's a lack of honour and integrity in the County Boards who break the rule. Of course there is. But only for a spot of collective training on the quiet there might be a lack of All-Irelands too.

Did the country teacher who rode a bike to school in 1920 lack honour? Of course he did; for the use of bikes was forbidden in certain places. The woman who raised dumb peasant eyes to the Mass rock hidden in the covered glen lacked integrity also. From the ridiculous to the sublime? Of course, for that collective training ban IS ridiculous.

Let's be practical: either impose a penalty or, better still, scrap that rule altogether.

I don't believe in the foreign games rule, though I respect the views of those who do. In

fact, I wonder just how many they are, and it seems evident that the majority of G.A.A. members are against it. As the majority of officials either are, or seem to be, in favour of it, would that suggest that many of the boards and committees do not represent truly the feelings of those who put them ehere. It would friend. It certainly would.

However, the rule exists, and until it has been stowed away with some more of the relics of an unfortunate past we should obey it. God help me, I do. Last Easter, remembering the lad who got six months suspension for playing rugby for his bank, and the other chap who was similarly dosed for helping his Army unit in soccer; and knowing of the fellows who laugh at the ban in other parts of the country, I voted that each county chairman should appoint a vigilance committee.

Has it been done? No one knows except the officers of the various boards. But if it hasn't been done, what are we doing about it? Nothing, for there's no penalty.

But then, a chap spoke to me the other day about that little-mentioned rule — the rule of common sense. Perhaps that's what applied when the penalty was omitted — should I say deliberately?

### EAMONN MONGEY writes about

### Dr. Eamon: the man with the method

THERE was once a wedding down in Kerry at which one of the guests was Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan. During the course of the proceedings he was introduced to another guest—one who, alas, had drunk not wisely but too well.

On hearing the name "Dr. Eamon", the happy one grasped the doctor's hand like steel; held it for fully a minute, looked him straight in the eye and said:

"How do you do it, doctor. Tell me-HOW DO YOU DO IT?

To any Kerryman present he could be referring to only one thing -Dr. Eamon's phenomenal record of 100 per cent successes with the Kerry teams he has trained for the All-Ireland — a record which he proudly maintained this year against strong opposition from Galway.

Well, how does he do it? What is his method? Before the 1959 All-Ireland final I went down to Killarney to find out.

I watched him training the team; I discussed his methods with the players; I discussed it with himself -for hours, and I think I found the secret, or rather the secrets, for there are many.

But, before going on to discuss the method, Dr. Eamon himself was the first to admit that he has been fortunate in the material entrusted to him.

Yes, he has been given good teams, but he has made them infinitely better.

Dr. Eamon's method starts as soon as he takes over the control of the team. His first object is to put them completely at ease.

"You can't get 100 per cent effect out of an ill-at-ease player," he told me.

Can he put them at case? Ask any player who trained under him. Ask anyone who has talked to him for any length of time. That's one of his great secrets. He's a born psychologist.

With all the players completely in his confidence, the doctor begins the training.

Despite what some people think these players are taught a great deal more than catch and kick. The doctor gets his chalk and blackboard and does plenty of theory as well—combined play included.

Here again, the doctor is gifted. Not only is he a knowledgeable man in every aspect of football, he has the added ability of being able to impart that knowledge.

But he doesn't do it in large doses. "One or two points, or at the most three, should be sufficient for any lecture," he said.

Out on the practice-field the doctor puts the players through the basic elements of get-fit training.

But again there's a difference. In all these exercises he tries to simulate actual playing conditions. Trotting round the field, the players never know when the doctor is going to whistle for a sprint. They have to be ready all the time—just as in a match.

Similarly, they are taught to take their passes on the run-again just as if they were playing a game.

And through all these exercises the doctor keeps his eye on every one of his trainees-and I mean every one, individually.

If a player is obviously not fit, he gets more exercise; an injured player is kept "ticking over." Each gets individual attention.

Nowhere is this more apparent than in the many games the boys play in training. Out there in the middle of the field Dr. Eamon sees all, knows all.

## TRY KINGSTONS FIRST For Christmas Gifts



### DR. EAMON

If a player makes a mistake he is told. Sometimes, there's a little whisper between doctor and "patient." Sometimes he tells a player that he wants to see him after the game. Sometimes he jots down a note for future reference.

Each player is thus brought along so that the whole team advances in fitness and football—the doctorand-patient relationship with each producing the best in all.

If you want a comparison, imagine Dr. O'Sullivan as a conductor of an orchestra, taking care with each particular section — the big brass, the delicate woodwind, the solid percussion — instructing each, getting a particular effect from each, encouraging each and then fusing the whole thing together in that glorious symphony of football which a perfectly-trained Kerry team can produce in an All-Ireland final.

Watching them play is then pleasure for all; but getting them that way is the achievement of one man—Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan himself—the man with the method.

### THE CALTEX AWARDS

LATE in 1958 Caltex (Ireland)
Ltd. produced an idea which
has since caught the imagination
of every sports follower in
Ireland.

That was the nomination of the "Sportsmen of the Year" (1958)

—a job which was performed with considerable success and national acclaim by a panel of Sports Editors from ten of Ireland's daily and Sunday newspapers.

Few cavilled with the chosen stars (in various branches of sport) who received the Caltex Trophies early in 1959. But we are concerned here only with those who received the awards in Gaelic games.

And those, Tony Wall (Hurling) and Jim McKeever (Football), were, without doubt, the outstanding personalities in the national games during that year. The success of the first venture

was, in itself, a demand that the Caltex idea of Sports "Oscars" should become an annual event, and, during the past few weeks, the panel of Sports Editors met and picked their "Sportsmen of 1959'.

The names of the winners have not been released at the time of going to press, but rumours have reached us that the Gaelic games recipients of the Trophy this time may come from the following four: Christy Ring, Frankie Walsh (Hurling), Sean Murphy, Mick O'Connell (Football).

On performances during the year, each of that quartet would be a worthy winner of the Caltex Trophy. But, as only one person can be selected in each sport, our guess is that Ring and Murphy will be the chosen stars of 1959.

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### DES POWELL Asks . . .

# WILL DOWN PLAN PAY OFF?

THREE years ago Down were one of the Cinderella counties of the G.A.A. And no one knew it better than the men who guided the county's fortunes—the County Board officials.

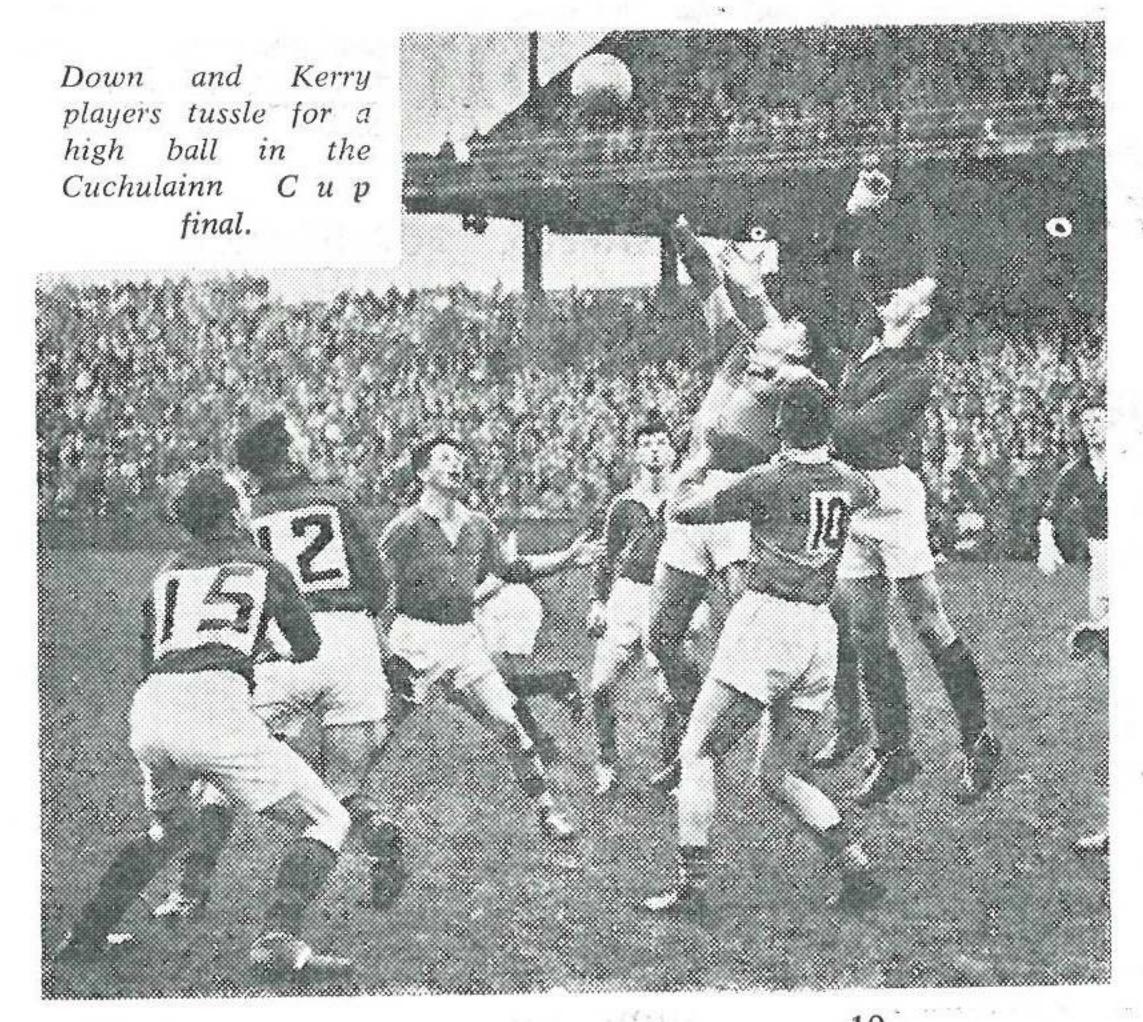
On the inter-county scene their successes were negligible; the standard of fare was poor, and, in general, Down football was badly in need of a real shot-in-the-arm.

Something had to be done. And who better to put Down on the

football map than the vintage 1956 crop of minors, allied to the few "old reliables" who had seen Down through some of her leanest years!

With that in mind, the Down officials launched out on a bold "five-year plan" . . . a do-or-die effort to give the Mourne men their rightful place in the football sun.

Now, with two years of that "five-year plan" still remaining,





TONY HADDON . . . Down's midfielder, goes higher than a Kerry opponent in the Cuchulainn Cup final.

the Northerners' enterprise looks like paying off . . . and it could be in the shape of an All-Ireland crown.

That opinion is based, not on mere wishful thinking, but on hard, cold facts which, to my way of thinking, all add up to a brilliant future for the red-and-black brigade.

Remember that 1958 Ulster final defeat against Derry — a defeat which many people thought would herald the downfall of the Down boys.

But it didn't. For, on the lush greensward of Wembley, they came back to shatter the might of Galway in the first major intercounty tournament of 1959.

This was a new Down side—a seasoned, compact outfit, packing power and skill both fore and aft. And they showed their fighting qualities by coming twice from behind to record a brilliant win.

A brilliant half-back line of Kevin Mussen, Iim McCartan and Kevin O'Neill pointed the way to victory that day. Mussen, who for so long had ploughed a lone furrow on the county team, had at

(Continued overleaf)

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O'Connell Bridge Dublin last found two men to supplement his brilliant individual efforts.

But these weren't the only stars. Further back, Eddie McKay, George Lavery and Leo Murphy foiled the Galway stars time and again while the sheer brilliance of Pat Dougherty and Pat O'Hagan up front was a joy to watch.

Came the championships, and a lack-lustre performance against Tyrone was followed by one of the finest displays of precision football ever witnessed in an Ulster final.

The wizardry and skill of men like Jarlath Carey, Tony Haddon and Kieran Denvir cut the Cavan defence to pieces and the unfortunate Breffni men never had an "earthly."

But there the winning trail ended abruptly. In the All-Ireland semi-final they failed to reproduce their Wembley form against Galway and were well and truly beaten.

Let's be frank about that display. Apart from the opening 10 minutes, Down were never in the hunt against the direct, first-time football of the Galwaymen.

A thousand reasons have been given for Down's eclipse that day. For my own part, I think it was a combination of inexperience and their own negative type of football that beat the Ulster champions.

A Kerry defender told me after the Kingdom had beaten them in the Cuchulainn Cup: "If the Down forwards had cut out the frills they could have built up a winning score in the first quarter alone."

Now that they have learnt their lesson, I think the Down forwards will cut out the fancy stuff next

#### TITLE WINNERS-1959

**ALL-IRELANDS** 

HURLING: Senior — Waterford; Junior — London; Minor—Tipperary.

FOOTBALL: Senior—Kerry; Junior—Fermanagh; Minor Dublin.

NATIONAL LEAGUES HURLING — Tipperary (Div.

season and take the direct route for goal.

If they do, stand by to see the red-and-black flags waving proud'y on the terraces of Croke Park when All-Ireland times comes round again.

I), Carlow (Div. II). FOOTBALL—Kerry.

RAILWAY CUPS

HURLING—Munster. FOOTBALL—Leinster.

**BRENDAN CUPS** 

HURLING—Tipperary.

FOOTBALL—Kerry.

MAJOR TOURNAMENTS

HURLING: Wembley final — Cork; Oireachtas — Kil-kenny.

FOOTBALL: Wembley final— Down; McKenna Cup— Down; Cuchulainn Cup— Kerry.

IN ITS COVERAGE OF ALL SPORTING ACTIVITIES

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ROGERSON'S QUAY, DUBLIN Phone 73761 PULL up that chair, stoke the fire—and relax. For this is the traditional season for amateur selectors, when ordinary guys, like you and I, dabble in picking teams, comparing names and—wait for it—nominating the stars of the previous twelve months.

It is the last-named that I am going to attempt now. Never an easy task, it is twice as hard this time in view of the galaxy of stars who strode the G.A.A. scene in 1959. Anyway, here goes: (Have you seen my top men adorning our front cover?)

Sean Murphy (Kerry). Perhaps the greatest right half-back of modern times, Sean scaled the heights with one of the finest individual exhibitions ever witnessed in an All-Ireland final. This was the climax to a brilliant, honour-laden career in which the Camp man has gained every honour in the game—and the unstinted admiration of friend and rival alike.

But it wasn't only in the All-Ireland final that Murphy won his spurs. Right through the season he was one of the brightest stars in Kerry's fantastic run—a model of consistency in defence, and the inspiration behind many a winning rally.

Throw in his impeccable performances for club and province and they all add up to the same thing—Sean Murphy was the man of the year on the G.A.A. front.

the Cloyne man has given many stupendous displays, yet I doubt if he has ever been seen to such devastating effect as in the 1959 Railway Cup final against Connacht. What an unforgettable display of hurling genius! In the air or off the ground, Christy's hurling bore the indelible stamp of a master and, playing in his 18th Railway Cup final—15 of which he won—he chalked up the wonderful tally of 4 goals and 5 points.

Later in the year Christy went even one better, in a League encounter against Wexford, when he accounted for 6-4 of Cork's 7-9 tally.

### PETER BYRNE dabbles in outcome

# AY TOF

It is interesting to note that, although Cork went out of the All-Ireland race at a comparatively early stage, the peerless Ring still finished well ahead of all others in the scoring honours for 1959. Yet another chapter in the fabulous success story of the man from Cloyne!

Frank Walsh (Waterford). Only the second man ever to bring the McCarthy Cup to the Decies county, Frankie looms high in the ranking for that majestic, once-in-a-lifetime display in

the All-Ireland final replay.

Those brilliant bursts of speed, lightning lifts and split-second strokes which time and again

n a tricky task — and the is here:

# STARS

made the umpire bend—these were the hallmarks of a brilliant display which, more than anything else, gave Waterford the 1959 hurling crown.

Recall, too, his inspired leadership of the Munster champions and I think you'll agree that this 22-year-old youngster eclipsed all his teammates in the hurling ratings of 1959.

Olly Walsh (Kilkenny). All those privileged to see it will ever thrill to the memory of Olly's superlative goal-keeping display in the All-Ireland final. This was artistry itself as the Thomastown man brought off one incredible save after another. Again, in the replay, he showed himself one of

the greatest, if not THE greatest, 'keeper of all time when he stopped Larry Guinan's "sizzler" from a bare ten yards range.

And remember, it was Olly who swung the Oireachtas final Kilkenny's way when he came outfield to demonstrate his versatility with a power-packed display to crush Galway.

Cathal O'Leary (Dublin). One of the fittest men in the business, the army man's move from right half-back into the centre fired Dublin's football team on to yet another Leinster win—and that epic game with Kerry. Recall that tremendous effort in the Leinster final when he soloed the length of the pitch to lob over Dublin's second point. And again against Kerry, when he defied injury to come back and lead the Metropolitans in that unforgettable last quarter rally.

Whichever way you look at it, it has been a wonderful season for Cathal O'Leary.

Frank Evers (Galway). If Kerry's Mick O'Connell doesn't appear in this list blame one man—Frank Evers. For, when the remainder of his colleagues were floundering all round him, Evers—the man they said hadn't a chance against O'Connell—was turning in one of the finest displays of his career.

But, while his efforts went in vain, Frank—all  $15\frac{1}{2}$  stone of him—did more than one man's share to halt the all-conquering Kerrymen.

Jim Macartan (Down). This is the hardest berth of all to fill, but after going through a dozen names, I hand the palm to Jim Macartan, the Down centre-half, who came from "nowhere" to establish himself as one of the best defenders in present-day football.

Unlike so many others in the centre-half berth, Jim left the stopper tag at home to bring a new air of enterprise to the No. 6 berth.

That, then, is my list. Can you better it? You can? Well, go on—it's all yours!

### FORMER MAYO STARS TAKE ACTION

May Put

County

Back On

Winning Trail

IT is now four years since Mayo won a Connacht senior football championship or even appeared in a Connacht final, writes Eamonn Mongey.

For a county which has more Connacht senior titles than any other; which has the all-time record of six National Leagues in a row, and which is one of the few counties to have won successive All-Ireland crowns, four years without a provincial senior championship is far, far too long.

At least, that is the opinion of many of those old Mayo stars who helped in recording those victories in the past. And from that opinion came action.

A group of those veterans—Seamus O'Malley, Jack Carney and "Tot" McGowan—from the 1936 All-Ireland team; Sean Flanagan, John Forde, Mick Flanagan and Father Peter Quinn from the 1950-51 team, and many others came together to find a way to remedy this football depression in Mayo.

Firmly convinced that there was untapped talent all over the county and that the known talent could be further improved, these veterans worked out a

plan to prove their conviction.

It is simple in concept — a series of lectures and demonstrations for all promising players and others interested at centres around the county.

The idea is to bring three or four players from surrounding clubs into any centre which has a hall for the lectures and a pitch for the demonstrations. Starting off with the basic principles, they will work up into the theory of football, get the students thinking football, and get them to put their thoughts into operation.

As well as finding and developing talent, the appearance of all those stars in

various centres should certainly re-awaken football enthusiasm in the county. It should also be a great help to those players who haven't attended secondary schools and colleges where coaching is readily available.

I don't think anybody expects immediate results from this plan. It is really a long-term one, but it is entirely praiseworthy and imaginative.

For that resaon, and for the effort and sacrifices of these dedicated veterans, it deserves success.

Having a deep personal interest in the whole business, I can only wish and hope that it will have that success.

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### EAMONN YOUNG Recalls

### MIRIORIUS OF

### THE 1950s

WHAT a decade of progress we had in the 1950s. Attendances soared, fine new pitches were bought and stadia were erected all over the country. More important, the number playing the games in city and hamlet increased; boys chasing a ball are more important than the clicking of turnstiles. But it would take a book to tell half of what happened on the fields and off them during the 'fifties.

I remember being up in Navan one day with a Cork team, and a famous player said to me:

"You'll have to do something about the full-back position." I suppose he identified me with the Kerrymen who were playing Dublin a few weeks after in the '55 All Ireland football final.

The whole country came down on poor Ned Roche that year and scribes surpassed each other in predicting what the brilliant Kevin Heffernan would do to him.

But what a sell. Roche stood his ground at full-back and never made a mistake, while Kevin tried to swerve past a waiting man a very hard thing to do.

Kerry won, and 15-stone, sixfooter Roche of Knocknagoshel grinned all over his happy face and told us (who had been quaking):

"Sure, I knew we'd win all the time."

There was a Glen Rovers man playing for Cork. In fact, he won three All-Irelands with them, in '52, '53 and '54, and he was there in '56 when Wexford took home the cup.

He stood about five-nine, but oh, so thin. He often wore a grey cap over a shock of curly black hair and he had the greatest sense of position I have ever seen.

Remember Vincy Twomey? He was thin as a lath and, though he seldom was hit, when he was, we groaned; for, though he always got the ball away, it was pitiful to see his knees buckle as he staggered and fell to the ground.

"That's the end of Vincy," you'd say. But if you knew him, you just waited till he got up again a minute later and hurled on. Was he codding us? Maybe he was, but if so, he should have got an Oscar.

Remember his glorious point—from centre-back—that won the '54 All-Ireland against Wexford? Ah, happy days!

Remember the little man who played left half-back for Meath in three All-Irelands? He was on the losing side to Mayo and Cavan in '51 and '52, but he had already taken home his Celtic Cross in '49. He was short of inches and didn't have a lot of surplus hair either. But what a heart! I can still see Christo Hand launching his body up into the air, every line in his superbly fit frame saying: "This one is mine, fellas. It's MINE." And then came a cut through like

(Continued overleaf)



Two "immortals" of the 1950s:
ABOVE—Tony Reddan (Tipperary); BELOW — Kevin
Heffernan (Dublin).



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#### MEMORIES

a hot knife through butter and he kicked that ball as if he hated its guts.

No talk about the fifties can omit Olly Walsh. I've seen Paddy Scanlon, Jimmy O'Connell, the late Charlie Forde of Dublin, Mick Curley, little Jimmy Maher, Tony Reddin, big Jim Ware, Sean Duggan, Tom Mulcahy, Art Foley, Dick Roche, Mick Haynes and our own versatile Mick Cashman; but never anything like this chap Walsh.

He must have the quickest eye that ever saw a hurling ball, and then the speed with which he can lift and whip away a clearance can make a man gasp.

But, no joking, he'd break a supporter's heart. As a neutral, even I could see that: for in between two brilliant saves he could make a mistake—like carrying it too far—and end up by going back for it to the net.

He was worth a lot to Croke Park this year, for without him there would have been no replay in the hurling final.

Remember that crazy run of his in the replay when he ended up at left-half forward striking a ground ball towards the Waterford goal? No wonder so many Kilkenny folk toyed with the idea of playing him outfield even in big games.

I'd like to go on writing about the men of the 'fifties, but the editor calls halt (can you blame him?). So we'll end on a high note . . struck by Christy Ring.

I remember three Rings. One was a hardy lad with a crew-cut who won two minor All-Irelands in the late 'thirties. In the 'forties we saw a brillitant centre-forward take home five senior All-Ireland medals and innumerable other honours. In the 'fifties Ring, as he said himself, was "pushing up awful close to the shilling gate," but he stayed there to become the terror of backs and goalies everywhere.

Three more All-Irelands dropped into his lap, and the last of them was given to a hurling friar to help make a sacred vessel.

Will Ring last till the 'sixties? Only the Great Referee can tell. But, anyhow, here's to Christmas: a happy time to all honest ball-players and a special wish to the ageing but ageless Ring—"the Daddy of them all."

And now for a job you wouldn't give your worst enemy. "Send on your best teams of the 'fifties," said the Editor without batting an eyelid. So here goes with hurling:

T. Reddan; R. Rackard, P. Hayden, J. Doyle; J. Finn, V. Twomey, J. MacGovern; S. Power, N. Wheeler; J. Smith, T. Cheasty, F. Walsh; P. Barry, N. Rackard, C. Ring.

In football, what about:

J. Mangan; P. O'Driscoll, P. O'Brien, S. Flanagan; S. Murphy, G. O'Malley, J. Lyne; P. Carney, J. MacKeever; P. MacGarty, S. Purcell, T. Lyne; K. Heffernan, T. Langan, M. Higgins.

Whether you agree or not, don't these names draw back the curtains that are falling over the glorious 'fifties? Happy Christmas!



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### DIRECTOR OF VOCATIONS,

Alexian Brothers Novitiate, St. Joseph's Court, Cobh, Co. Cork. EVER had a chip on your shoulder? Or, more accurately, ever had a sports grouse—something that makes you see "red" everytime you think of it?

I don't know about you, but here's one man at least who would love to "storm" in to the annual G.A.A. Congress next Easter and "go to town" on a few pet subjects. Boy, would I love it!

And the first rule I'd draft would run on semething like the following lines:

"Every senior inter-county championship game be played for the duration of 80 minutes, i.e., 40 minutes each half."

I know that that self-same motion was moved by a Meath representative at Congress some years back, and, like many another good motion before, it was dumped out by high-handed gentlement who either wouldn't or couldn't see the sense of it.

But I firmly believe these gentlemen will soon HAVE to move—and quickly at that! For public opinion demands an extension of the present ridiculously-short 60 minutes' play.

In these days of fantastic athletic achievements and ultra-modern training facilities it is absurd to think that 30 fully-grown, trained-to-a-turn athletes should be exhausted after a mere hour's play. Why, even our cailini can go fifty minutes!

And, besides, 60 minutes is not merely long enough to decide a stake as high as an All-Ireland title. Remember, 15 minutes is quite a large slice of an hour, and a jittery opening quarter — so often the lot of inexperienced teams—can negate months of intensive training.

But there's another — and very important — aspect of the case. And it's this:

Recently the G.A.A. slapped up their admission charges to 2/6 for the unreserved terraces and to 10/- and 15/- for a Hogan Stand seat for the All-Ireland finals. What did the fans get in return?

Fifteen shillings an hour is pretty rough going even for the biggest show — be it stage, screen or sport — on this side of the Atlantic.

Surely the least the unfortunate cash-paying customer can expect is an extra 20 minutes' play for his hard-earned money. What do you think?

My second direction to Congress would be "Bring back to Bogue Clock". This is a must no (Continued overleaf)

### PRESSING PROBLEMS

# CONGRESS MUST TACKLE THEM VERY SOON

By

Frank O'Farrell

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Action in the Vincent's-U.C.D. Dublin S.F. final, which Vincent's won by 5-3 to 2-10.

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### PRESSING PROBLEMS

time-keeping at our national games is not to degenerate into a farce.

Some of the time-keeping during the recent championships hit an all-time low. Remember the All-Ireland final replay, in which Kilkenny had their chances of making up the leeway severed abruptly when the referee blew up  $1\frac{1}{2}$  minutes BEFORE the actual hour was up

But Kilkenny needn't have any grouses. Were it not for bad time-keeping they would never have reached the All-Ireland, as their winning goal against Dublin in the Leinster final came a minute AFTER time was up.

Don't blame the referee—surely he has enough to do without keeping an eye on the seconds hand of his watch.

But DO blame the people who threw out the Bogue Clock after what seemed—to me at any rate—a successful trial. The sooner they realise their mistake the better.

Finally, I'd demand a clarification of that "three substitutes" rule. They say rules were made to be broken—but this one beats the lot.

Teams—senior, junior and minor—are driving a horse and cart through it—and more power to them. For there is no penalty for doing so.

The days when a man had to fall to the ground, do an "Abbey" act and then hobble off, are happily no longer with us. The present system of just walking off is much more manly—and sure the best of us will have an 'off" day.

But will someone please either abolish that rule or stipulate the penalty?

Then, when I'd have all that off my chest, do you know what I'd do? I'd start running!



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# A Winner All The Way

TWO years ago the makers of Lucozade inaugurated a competition for Irish boys and girls—which, in its short existence, has probably done more to foster the twin national games of hurling and camogie than most official drives in that direction in recent years.

The simple competition—which is based on the collection of Lucozade bottle caps — attracted thousands of entries from all parts of the country; and, in all 10,000 hurleys were distributed as prizes during 1958 and 1959.

Yes, 10,000! And, when boiled down to practicality, that means that that colossal number of boys and girls were playing their favourite games, this year and last with sticks that they otherwise—for various reasons—might not have been able to procure.

But that was not all. As a part of the prize for the 1959 contest, the makers of Lucozade played hosts to 11 of the highest entrants at the Kilkenny-Waterford National Hurling League game at Nowlan Park on October 25 last.

Mr. Nicholas Purcell, chairman of the Kilkenny County Boad presented special hurleys to the lucky boys at the interval in that game, and, in doing so, paid tribute to the Lucozade sponsors for their generous help in promoting the game among the youth, especially in the non-hurling areas.

Afterwards, the boys had their precious sticks autographed by Kilkenny's famous goalkeeper, Ollie Walsh, and by Waterford's champion team.

Let's hope that the makers of Lucozade will continue to run this competition in future years.

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#### THE ANSWERS

- 1. No. Rule 106 (O.G.) states that he CANNOT alter it.
- 2. A player ordered off shall stand suspended for AT LEAST one month.
- 3. Their duties (subject to the referee's decision when they differ) shall be to watch for goals and points and breaches of the parallelogram rule, and to decide when the ball is over the end line.
- 4. No. They beat Kerry in a semi-final at Breffni Park (1933) and in the 1947 final at the Polo Grounds, New York; but never in Croke Park.
- 5. Jack Lynch (present Minister for Industry and Commerce); the late Billie Mackessy and the late Derry Beckett.
- 6. Jim English.
- 7. Jack Mangan.
- 8. Fifteen.

# More and more girls flock to the pitches

FROM a long-term view, the past year could scarcely have been more encouraging for those who have the best interests of the camogie game at heart. It was a year when more girls than ever before were playing the game in all four provinces; when the top competitions were run off more or less to schedule despite many difficulties, and when the standard of play showed considerable improvement all-round.

It may be pointed out that the All-Ireland final was disappointing, as Mayo failed by a wide margin to halt the Dublin champions. But the Mayo girls had showed their worth by getting through to the decider where the vast experience of the Dubliners made all the difference.

Nor must it be forgotten that Dublin had been very lucky to score a narrow victory over Antrim at Casement Park in the semi-final, when they had only two points to spare. And Antrim, let it be remembered, had only staved off Derry's challenge after extra time in the Ulster final.

This shows a great levelling up in standards, a fact which was particularly evident in the subsequent provincial series.

Ulster had a very narrow victory over Connacht at Newport, while Leinster had to come from behind several times before beating Munster by two points at Dungarvan.

The most significant fact of the final between Leinster and Ulster was that such players as Alice Mackle (Armagh), Margaret Dorritty (Derry), Lily Tobin (Kilkenny), Susan Lennon and Rose Woods (Louth), Ciss Whitty (Laois) and Betty Greene (Wexford) were as good as any on the field.

There has been greater interest than ever in

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these provincial games, but it is a pity that they are not played in September and early October.

The position in the provinces is also encouraging. The return of Clare and the championship victory of Waterford, a county where enthusiasm is high, were the big features in Munster.

Though they were not successful in inter-county competitions, more local games than ever were played in Cork and Tipperary. Limerick, however, has been out of the limelight, while Kerry shows no sign of life.

Leinster, where three competitions were got through had a really great season. The interclub championship, a new departure, was won by Ardagh, the County Longford champions, who first travelled to Wicklow and beat Annacurra, and then—at home—beat the well-fancied Laois champions, Ballylinan.

Ten counties took part in the provincial championships, five each in the senior and junior grade.

The junior games were of a surprisingly high

standard and the title was won by a polished Kilkenny side, which should do well in senior ranks.

Wexford won through to the senior final, but for the second successive year gave a disappointing display against Dublin, who then went on to win their eleventh All-Ireland title in ten years.

Kathleen Mills set a new record for all team games by winning her twefth medal, and one feels that this is an achievement which would surely be recognised by the folk who dish out those "Sportsmen of the Year" awards.

But outside the performances on inter-county fields, the game gained in strength and popularity all through the country. New clubs were registered everywhere; there was keen interest in local competitions, and the most encouraging feature of all was the fact that the great influx of strength into the Association was playing strength.

There are at least 7,000 girls playing the game through the length and breadth of Ireland. One wonders, outside the G.A.A., how many other associations can boast of similar strength?

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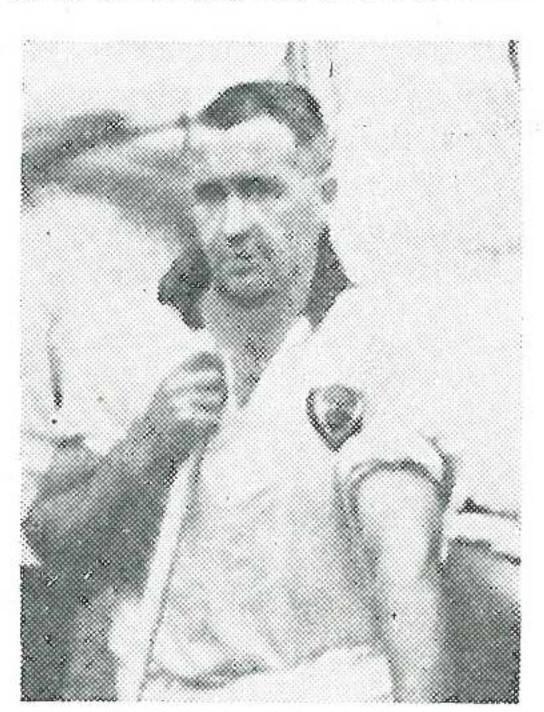
## WELL DONE

(Continued from page 9)

before them met with during the long years of waiting.

Last but not least a word of congratulation to a great-hearted Gael, County Chairman Paddy Fanning, whose work for the games and the interest he takes in spreading them among the younger generation is one of the big reasons for Waterford's hurling supremacy today.

To show how the games run in the Waterford won families: Munster 1959 camogie title, too. On that side was Geraldine Power, sister of hurling mid-fielder Seamus



JOHN KIELY . . . starred in Waterford's 1959 All-Ireland hurling victory.

while Secretary of Waterford Camogie Board is yet another sister, Aine.

And, to give a continuity back to the earliest days of the G.A.A., forward Donal Whelan is a grandson of the famed Dan Fraher of Dungarvan, who won the all-round athletic championship of Ireland five years before the G.A.A. was founded and who subsequently became one of the men who laid the foundations of that great Association, whose 75th anniversary was celebrated this year.

## ALAN FITZPATRICK reminisces about \_\_

# Ring's

## finest hour

Solution of the Cork senior jersey, it is almost impossible now to visualise the hurling game without the Maestro from Cloyne, Christy Ring.

I have no recollection of seeing him play in his minor days, nor, indeed, do I remember seeing him in action until the very early years of the 'forties, and by then he already seemed to me to be a very seasoned campaigner.

Looking back across the decades in quest of the greatest game I have ever seen him play, I find myself up against the difficulty that, in my mind's eye, I am inclined to blend together several matches that he played, thus, perhaps, making his triumphs greater than they were, if such a thing be possible.

It must be remembered, though, that in his earlier years, 'Ringey' was just one great man on a team of great men. Indeed, it was only about 1946 that we began to see Ring the individualist, as distinct from Ring the team-player.

There are those who claim that his display against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final of that year was his greatest game ever, and I can still vividly recall his wonderful 'solo-run' goal shortly before the interval. Since then he has never, I think, had a poor game at Croke Park.

The highlights of his career have been many and he has so often been in the lime-light that one finds it a little amusing to have his recent performances head-lined as the greatest of his career.

No; for me Christy Ring's greatest day was against Tipperary at Limerick early in the 'fifties. So many were the great clashes between Cork and Tipperary around that period, that it is hard to

pin-point the exact year, but, on this particular day that I recall, Christy Ring was playing at mid-field for Cork.

Now, in those Cork-Tipperary matches at that time, Tipperary were having the whip hand and they were, through the field, several goals the better team on this particular day. But there was only a point or two in it at the end, and the reason for that was this: Ring played the game of his life for Cork.

I have seen him before and since inspiring Cork teams to victory, but, for me, his mid-field exhibition that day the Leesiders lost at Limerick was Ring's finest hour.

If ever a man carried a team on his back Christy carried Cork in that game. He has won many honours in his long career, but he has never played more superb hurling than he did in that hour of defeat.

Overhead, on the ground, ranging from one forty-yard mark to the other, he time and time again baffled the might of Tipperary and some of his magical moments will surely be remembered wherever hurling critics gather for many a year to come

So long now has Christy Ring been starring in the Cork jersey that it has got to the stage that, if his name is missing from a Cork line-out, it is a sensation. And it was an even greater sensation a year ago when his name did not appear on the Rest of Ireland hurling side.

For club, county, province, and for every other Ireland and Rest of Ireland selection Christy Ring has been an automatic choice for nearly twenty years, and from his recent displays there is little reason to believe that we have yet seen the end of his amazing career.

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## League Tables

Following are the National Football and Hurling League tables to date:

## NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE Division I Dr. Lagan Cup—Section A

P W D L Pts

Derry	3	3	0	0	6
Fermanagh Donegal	3 3	1 0	0	2 3	4 2 0
4	14505	Section	(40)		:=75
Di. Dagare Cu.	P	W	D		Pts
Down	3 3	3	0	0	6
Monaghan	3	3 2 1	0	1 2	4 2
Antrim	3	ō	ŏ	2	õ
Divisio	n l	I			
72	P	W	D		Pts
Cavan	4	4	0	0	8
Meath Mayo	3	2	ŏ	î	4
Westmeath	3	2 2 2 1	0	1	4
Leitrim	3 3 3 4	1	0	2	4 4 2 2
Longford	4	ō	ŏ	4	õ
Divisio		II		_	
D. VII.	P	W	D	L 0	Pts 6
Dublin Galway	3	3 2 2	0	ő	6
Louth	4	2	0	2	4
Roscommon	4		0	2	4
Offaly Laoighis	3	0	0	3	ò
Wicklow	4	Õ	0	4	0
Division IV-		roup	A	*	ъ.
Cork	P	W 2	D 1	0	Pts
Kildare	2	1	Ô	1	2
Kerry	2	1	1	0	3
Carlow Wexford	3 2 2 3 2	0	0	2	5 2 3 2 0
97000 105081 - 104083	9990V.		В	-	-
Division IV	P P	roup	D	L	Pts
Clare	3	3	0	0	6
Tipperary Limerick	2	1	0	1	2
Waterford	3 2 2 2 3	î	ŏ	î	6 2 2 2 0
Kilkenny	3	0	0	3	0
NATIONAL HUR	LIN	IG L	EAC	GUE	i.
Division I-	-Gi		A	T	Prs
Kilkenny	3	W 2	D	L	5
Cork	3	2 2 1	0	1	4
Dublin	3	2	0	1	4
Waterford Wexford	3	1	Ô	2	2
Antrim	3	0	0	3	0
Division I-		oup	B	τ.	Die
Tipperary	P 3	W 3	D	0	Pts 6
Galway	3	1	1	1	6 3 3 2
Limerick	2	1	1	0	3
Kerry	3 2 1 2	0	0	0	ő
Carlow	3	ŏ	ŏ	3	Ö
Division II		roup	A		
Loolabia	P	W	D 0	0	Pts
Laoighis Meath	i	i	ő	ŏ	2 2
Westmeath	1	0	0	1	0
Offaly	1	0	0	1	0
Division II	—6 Р	roup W	B	L	Pts
Wicklow	1	1	0	0	2
Roscommon	1	1 0	0	0	2
Down Kildare	1	0	0	î	0

Down, who have won out in Section "B" of the Lagan Cup, will meet the runners-up in Section "A," Armagh, in the semi-final, and Monaghan, runners-up in Section "B," will meet Derry, the winners of Section "A."

## P. D. MEHIGAN Traces the

# CHANGES IN GAELIC FOOTBALL

BOTH hurling and Gaelic football have changed very substantially in the last 60 years. But the changes in football have been the more pronounced.

We had an affiliated football team in my native parish in the early 'nineties when I was a deeply interested schoolboy. I often travelled seven or eight miles to see my "Green and Gold" heroes compete in the West Cork Championship of a Sunday and tramped home, either elated or depressed—it depended on the fortunes of the day.

Those were the days of 21 a side, when goalposts were flanked by point posts. Team strength and score values changed as time went on. The ball then used was almost twice its present size and

weight and ground play predominated.

There was very little handling of the ball; it was fly-kicked or punched with the forearm—a 50 yards drive off the forearm was common.

Outstanding features of the game 65 years ago were the concerted rushes, right up the middle of the field. Some flankers lay out on the wings to trap loose balls; they were usually light, fast men. They would hop the ball with one hand — skilfully and speedily, often making good ground towards the goal. But it was the hectic midfield rushes that provided most of the excitement. Their fly-kicking showed much skill.

It was the Young Irelands of Dublin that introduced the "catch and kick" methods. They revolutionised the game in the early 'nineties and fine Dublin teams—Geraldines, Kickhams, Parnells, Isles of the Sea, Bray Emmetts—all adopted the style.

The vogue spread. Inter-county teams from the south and west learned their lesson from competition in championships and tournaments. Clonmel Shamrocks and Bohercrowe of Tipperary, Limerick Commercials, Nils and Lees of Cork, Laune Rangers of Kerry—all learned the new mode. Another factor at the border centuries was the rise of Erin's Hopes of St. Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra. They studied Dublin's style and took it wherever they went.

An age-old tradition of communal football called "Caid" existed in Kerry and they were ready to take part when the G.A.A. championships were founded in 1886-7. Young schoolteachers, Dublin-trained, helped, and Kerry seemed to combine new and old styles with great success.

The Kerry-Kildare finals (three games in all) in the 1903 champion-ships (played in 1905) raised Gaelic football from a somewhat rough and tumble game into a game of skill and science.

The game grew immensely in popularity as a result of the polished displays by Kerry and Kildare. Kerry went up high in fielding and they kicked with style and accuracy. Kildare introduced a new departure—a shrewd handpass to a partner over an opponent's head. This handpass was very confusing to a rival, but it was usually given and taken from a standing position and it was more an incident of play than an overall policy.

The handpass steadily evolved. Mayo, in their period of League monopoly, developed the diagonal handpass with great skill amongst their forwards with Paddy Moclair

(Continued overleaf)

# Dan Ryan

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as pivot. But it was in the extreme north-east of Ulster — in Antrim and Armagh—that the handpass became a design and policy of play.

Alf Murray of Armagh, playing centre-forward, was the mastermind. He and his forwards would lie back-field, often past the half-way line to secure possession. They ignored the long punt. They moved at sprinters' pace, passing and re-passing. Often long-striding Alf Murray would drive straight ahead with a toe-to-hand movement.

The handpass soon dominated Antrim football, with Kevin Armstrong as operator-in-chief. He would pass and re-pass almost from goal to goal before shooting. Spectators of the old school made vigorous protests.

"This is not Gaelic football," they said, "nor any other kind of football; this is handball."

I must say that this Ulster style of diagonal hand (or palm) passing at racing pace was very attractive to watch. But protests were made at Congress, as other counties became adept at the "art".

Cavan, combining sound fielding in defence and palm-passing in attack, threatened to beat the "masters" at their own game. And it was, strange to say, Antrim themselves who got the "palm" pass disqualified.

At Congress, Antrim moved the motion substituting the "punched" pass for the palmed pass and outlawing the latter, their own

# Antrim Got Handpass Abolished

progeny. Their motion was passed.

Many critics wondered how the punched pass would develop. The change certainly slowed down the process of passing, and the game became more of a real football game again. The art of high fielding and skilful punting was once more in the ascendant.

Let's retrace our steps for a moment to the early years again. The reduction in the number of players from 21 to 17 and then to 15, as at present, made the game much faster and more open. Alterations in the scoring area was a distinct improvement and the finest exhibitions of skilful and dashing football followed.

I should say that the football played between Kerry and Kildare in the years 1926 to 1928 represented the game at its best. All the best of the old features were preserved and smooth combination between forwards, allied to long stylish football, deadly accurate, made the game a delight to young and old.

The Wexford team of the 1915 to 1918 period also played fast, attractive football which drew record attendances for that period.

I was very much attracted by the brand of football played by Galway—1938 to 1956 and even later—they had all the art as well as power.

Looking back through a long train of years, I have seen many changes in Gaelic football and must say that these changes have, in the main, been for the better. Dublin players, with the St. Vincents base, played some very brilliant stuff, particularly in attack. Their perfect understanding and positioning were excellent and their diagonal ground passing at speed produced very good results near goal.

Last season they lost to a very sound Kerry side—who are dual champions—title and league. Kerry retain all their old characteristics—high, confident fielding, long, straight kicking, strong accurate midfield work and skill in attack.

They have not allowed punchpassing to dominate their play and rely largely on the foot, overhead or on the ground.

Success against strong New York teams mark Kerry as a very good side. Still, they have not yet achieved the confidence or consistent brilliance of the county's 1926-32 teams.

But not every year is a vintage year in Gaelic football, as in other spheres of human activity.

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## LETTERSTOTHEEDITOR

#### LONDON "SECRETS"

Dear Sir,-May I say how much I enjoy reading Gaelic Sport. What a pity it isn't published monthly!

A little request now. How about some space in Gaelic Sport for London G.A.A. affairs. It may surprise you to learn that Gaelic games here are almost a secretunless you go to New Eltham on a Sunday, it is impossible to find out how the matches are going.

"Emerald Club Fan"

Holland Park, London, W. 14.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thanks for your letter. We hope you will appreciate that, being a quarterly magazine, it is impossible to carry results of London matches. However, if you wish to send us news items of G.A.A. affairs over there from time to time, we shall do our best to publish them.

#### CAMOGIE RULES

Dear Sir,—I would be very grateful if you could let me know where I could obtain a copy of the rules of Camogie. Thank you!

Joan Deehan.

61 Knockbreda Park, Belfast.

We have passed your request on to our Camogie correspondent, Joan. She will be able to help you.

#### BEST OF ITS KIND

Dear Sir, - As a free-lance journalist and broadcaster who has contributed to local and northern papers for many years on Gaelic games, I am ashamed to say that I was completely unaware of the existence of your very well produced and interesting publication.

In my home there isn't want of books or papers, and yet, when I managed to get a copy of Gaelic

Sport by accident I didn't leave it down until I had read the last line. Its contents this month (September) were well worth reading; in fact I think that it is the best value of its kind for the price that I've seen for some time.

Your articles are well written, and full of authority, rather than the arty-crafty, prosy efforts of some writers who have more courage than knowledge.

P. J. L.

Downpatrick.

#### TOP TEAMS

Sir,-May I claim a small space in your fine magazine to submit the following teams to your readers as being tops in hurling and football during 1959:

HURLING - O. Walsh (Kilkenny); J. Brohan (Cork), M. Maher (Tipperary), J. Maher (Kilkenny); J. Fives (Galway), M. Morrissey (Waterford), J. McGovern (Kilkenny); S. Power (Waterford), P. Grimes (Waterford); J. Doyle (Tipperary), T. Cheasty (Waterford), F. Walsh (Waterford); P. Barry (Cork), C. Ring (Cork), T. Flood (Wexford).

FOOTBALL — A. Brady (Roscommon); J. O'Shea (Kerry), G. Kelly (Cavan), J. Kennedy (Galway); S. Murphy (Kerry), K. Coffey (Kerry), J. Mahon (Galway); M. O'Connell (Kerry), C. O'Leary (Dublin); D. McAuliffe (Kerry), S. Purcell (Galway), J. Kenna (Laois); J. Reynolds (Louth), J. O'Sullivan (Cork), K. Heffernan (Dublin).

J. L. S.

Mullingar

#### THE BAN

A Chara,—Can you answer this question for me? How is it that

like Sean O'Connell players (Derry) and several Tyrone men have been banned recently for playing and attending foreign games, while, from all I hear, several prominent Dublin players can get away "scot free" with similar offences? I have heard it on good authority that some Dublin players play soccer regularly, while one well-known man has been playing rugby fairly frequently.

How is it that these men can get away with it while others -those in Tyrone and Derry, for instance—are caught and penalised? Are there two different rules dealing with the ban in the G.A.A.?

T. P. L.,

Drimnagh, Dublin.

No, there is only one rule—but different ways of looking at it.

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D. P. GOULD,

Secretary.

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### CUMANN LUITH-CHLEAS GAEL

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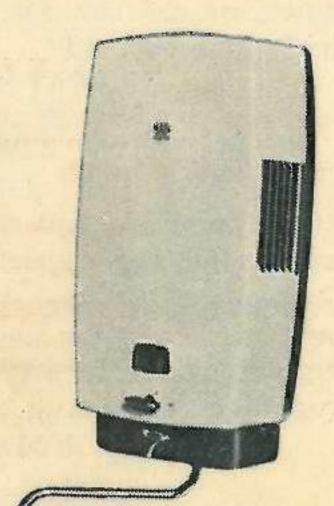
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