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# Gaelic Sport

1½



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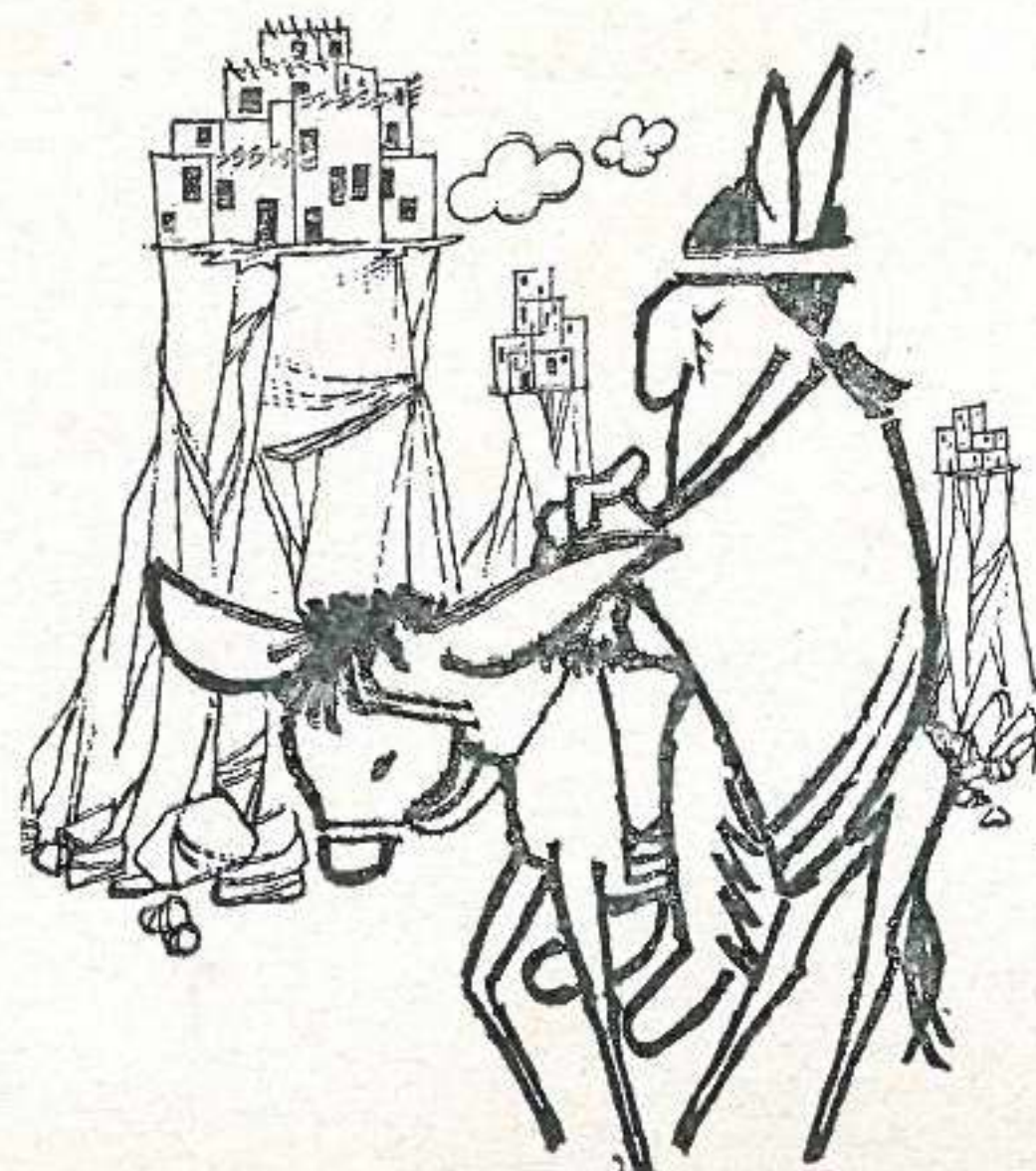
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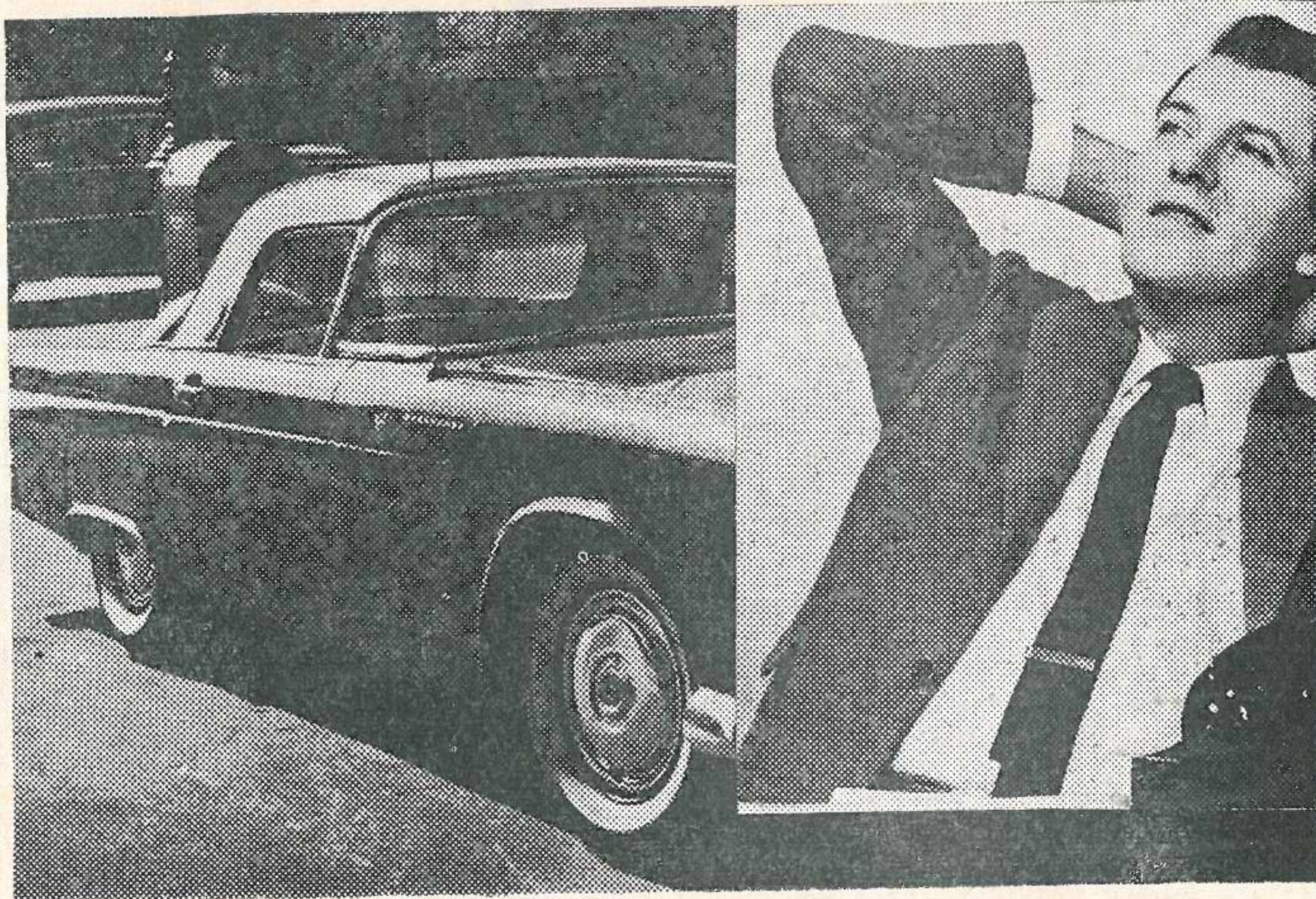
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Railway Cup Special: By PAUL DUDLEY

# How Good Are Ulster?

John Dowling (Kerry) fills the full-forward position for Munster on St. Patrick's Day.

**I**RRESPECTIVE of who wins the interprovincial senior football title on St. Patrick's Day, the Railway Cup is bound for fresh surroundings. It is now eleven years since Munster won the title, while the men of the North last brought home the Cup in 1956.

This is just one of the many intriguing aspects of a game which can go a long way towards restoring some of the glamour which has been missing from recent Railway Cup finals.

Can Munster finally lay that hoodoo which has dogged them right along the line since 1949? Or will this Ulster side, blending youth with craft and experience, bring in another giant-killing act?

Around those "six-markers" hinge a lot of vital issues which all add up to an absorbing contest and one which will, I feel sure, provide a feast of rip-roaring football for St. Patrick's Day patrons.

Ulster have proved the shock team of the series. Rank outsiders against Leinster, they toppled the champions with a blistering display of bright, attacking football.

To appreciate the full merit of that win, one must take a look at the behind-the-scenes activities in the Ulster dressing-rooms before they ran on to the Croke Park pitch.

"Lambasted" from one end of the province to

the other for their original selection, the Northern selectors were further stricken when Down corner-back, Pat Rice, and ace mid-fielder Jim McKeever cried off at the eleventh hour.

But in the gloom which must have hung heavily over the Ulster camp, the much-abused selectors made a master move. In a switch born of desperation they pulled back Tyrone's "golden boy," Jody O'Neill, to mid-field where the Coal-island man turned in one of the greatest displays of his chequered career.

Can O'Neill turn up trumps again on March 17? If he can, Ulster are "home and dried"; for, with the irrespressible Jim McKeever back in action, there wouldn't be a mid-field pair in Ireland to touch them.

And I say that with all due respect to the Munster pair, Mick O'Connell and Seamus Murphy, who played such a vital role in Kerry's all-conquering march last year.

Remember all the "rave" notices O'Connell got after the game against Dublin in the all-Ireland semi-final when the Valentia man dominated the scene to such effect that many rated him the greatest mid-fielder of all time on the strength of that display alone.

Since then, his form has been a little in-and-out, but if he hits his best I can visualise some tremendous exchanges in the mid-field area.



In the game against Leinster I was much impressed by the display of this compact, quick-tackling Ulster defence. Pitted against an attack which included the peerless Kevin Heffernan, they tackled with rare zest while the fielding of all six was top-class.

That hero of a hundred Cavan battles, Noel O'Reilly, was never seen to better effect, and with Tom Maguire and Jim McDonnell playing inspired football in the half-back line, goalkeeper Thady Turbett had the kind of covering which bodes no good for Munster's chances.

While not as crafty as the Leinster six perhaps, this Munster attack is, to my mind, a much more dangerous outfit. Fine fielders, they are capable of piercing the soundest defence with that deft up-the-middle punt to burly John Dowling, while their ability to take their scores from far out is an invaluable asset.

In this respect Kerry's Tom Long is a key figure on the "mark"; for, unless he is held, county colleagues Dan McAuliffe and Paud Sheehy will have a day out.

Further in, Corkmen Joe O'Sullivan and Eugene McCarthy seem to fit in well with the four Kerry men, while John Dowling, of course, represents a big danger at full-forward.

Against a handicapped Connacht fifteen Munster were never really at full stretch in the semi-final—yet there was a lot to admire about their big, tough-as-teak defence.

That Jerome O'Shea-Con O'Sullivan-Niall Sheehy full-back line fairly oozes strength, and

### IT'S MUNSTER'S TURN!

**MUNSTER and Ulster have met in Railway Cup football finals on four previous occasions:**

**1941—Munster 2-6, Ulster 1-6 (replay).**

**1942—Ulster 1-10, Munster 1-5.**

**1948—Munster 4-5, Ulster 2-6.**

**1956—Ulster 0-12, Munster 0-4.**

**As you can see from that table each has triumphed on two occasions. Ulster won last time—does that mean that the law of averages makes it Munster's turn now?**



**Dan McAuliffe (Kerry), a keyman for Munster at right half-forward. The final issue could largely hinge on the manner in which Ulster's Jim McDonnell copes with this flying winger.**

with tall, angular Kevin Coffey hitting the high spots at centre half-back, there won't be many loose balls around this area.

Most of Ulster's hopes up front will be pinned on the flying feet of the Cavan pair, Charlie Gallagher and Jim Brady. There is no better opportunist in the game than Brady and, with the Cootehill man in top form just now, this pair will require the closest of attention.

Throw in the deadly marksmanship of Down's Paddy Doherty and the opportunism of Jimmy Whan (Armagh) and you'll see the man-sized task that awaits the Munster defence.

Looking over the teams, there appears to be precious little between them. Well armed both for and aft, Ulster need that vital mid-field break to spark their scoring machine into action.

But will they get it? If Jody O'Neill hits his semi-final form they could do it. But, candidly, I think he'll find the O'Connell-Murphy partnership a much more formidable obstacle than the Leinster pair.

So, in the belief that Munster will hold the balance of power in the vital mid-field exchanges, I take them to score narrowly.





# ODDS ON MUNSTER HURLERS

By Terence Roynane

**T**HOSE keenest and oldest of Railway Cup hurling rivals, Munster and Leinster, meet at Croke Park once again in the decider on St. Patrick's Day, when the odds will, as is usual, be on the Munstermen, who have dominated this competition since its earliest years.

Leinster won this trophy in the year of its inception, 1927, but ever since then the Munstermen have held the whip hand, and the victories of the eastern province have been remarkably few and far between.

Some few years past a powerful Kilkenny-Wexford combination seemed at last to provide an answer to Munster's long supremacy, and did chalk up a couple of very meritorious victories (1954, 1956).

But even then, Munster were strong enough to filch the honours from some of these great Leinster sides, and, with the slight falling off of Wexford's excellence, Munster have re-established their supremacy in the past three years.

A year ago the Munstermen, with Christy Ring rampant, made light of the Connacht challenge when retaining their crown at the re-

opening of Croke Park, and they showed no diminution of strength when accounting again for the Connachtmen in this year's semi-final at Limerick.

The Munster mentors have passed a unanimous vote of confidence in the fifteen that won at Limerick, and so well they might, for it is hard to pinpoint a weak link on the side.

Mick Cashman is tried and trusted in goal and fronted by a solid full-back line in Jimmy Brohan, Austin Flynn and John Barron. Nor can any fault be found with the half-back line of Tom McGarry, Martin Og Morrissey and the tireless John Doyle.

The Waterford midfield pair, Phil Grimes and Seamus Power, did not hit their best form at Limerick, but usually find Croke Park best suited to their free-striding style.

In attack, the Munster side seems to be particularly well served, with the unorthodox but so very effective Tom Cheasty on the mark, flanked by the sharp-shooting Jimmy Doyle and the equally accurate Frankie Walsh.

And where could you equal the craft and



**BUT . . .**

## **LEINSTER WILL MAKE THEM FIGHT**

experience of the full-forward line of Paddy Barry, Christy Ring and Jimmy Smith?

Leinster did not impress too much when mastering Ulster in the Croke Park semi-final, but Munster followers would be extremely unwise to place too much heed in that display by their rivals.

Those neat and natty hurlers from the eastern counties rarely take kindly to the rather rugged and often unorthodox caman-work of the northern men, yet they were cruising to easy victory in Croke Park when Ulster struck back to narrow the game with a series of quick scores in the dying minutes.

It may well be argued that, where the Ulster forwards got five goals against this Leinster defence, the crack Munster "scriobs" should readily score fifteen. But that argument will hardly stand, for it very unlikely that master goal-minder Ollie Walsh, shrewd full-back Nick O'Donnell, or whole-hearted half-back Johnny McGovern will be in as indulgent a mood when they face the Munstermen.

The Leinster midfield pair, Sean Clohesey and Larry Shannon, did not cover themselves with glory on that occasion either, but now that Ned Wheeler is switched to partner Shannon and



**Tommy O'Connell (Kilkenny), right, plays left corner forward for Leinster in the Railway Cup final.**

Clohosey moved in to the "forty," we may see a vast improvement in these sectors.

Against Ulster you had three typical Kilkenny stylists, Billy Dwyer, Tommy O'Connell, and Denis Heaslip and three burlier comrades, Ned Wheeler and Padge Kehoe of Wexford and Christy O'Brien of Laois.

If the Leinster attack gets moving they will stretch to the limit even the cast-iron Munster defence. And so, though all the odds seem to favour the Munstermen, it could well be that we may see one of the greatest games of the whole Railway Cup series in the hurling final at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day.



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**M**UNSTER'S prospect in the Railway Football Cup is defeat. The words are not prompted by passing thought; the years bears them out

Of the 33 finals played since 1927, Munster has contested 22, and lost 16. Leinster, with 15 wins are followed by Connacht (7), Munster (6) and Ulster (5).

Our record does not, in fact, compare truly with Ulster's; for, before winning their first final in 1942, the men of the North were not regular visitors to Croke Park. Their total of 5 since then is respectable.

The story becomes worse when we remember that, since the Railway Cup started, Connacht has won eight football All-Irelands, Leinster seven, Ulster five and **MUNSTER THIRTEEN**. What's wrong?

In the light of the above the first suggestion (especially if you're a Kerryman) is that the Kingdom gets no help from the other Munster counties; for 12 of those 13 All-Irelands were won by Kerry.

And, in fact, the first Railway Cup in 1927 was won by a team of Kerry men, most of whom had carried off an All-Ireland in the previous September.

From then on, Kerry supplied the team, one might say (the great Clareman, Georgie Comerford, helped them to win in '31), until '46 when Cork's 1945 All-Ireland side gave eight to the Munster team which Tadgo Crowley led to victory. The cup came South again in '48 and '49, and that's the last we saw of it.

As one of the '49 side said to me with a smile: "They didn't win it since I left them."

So we see that up to 1946 Kerry got little help and won three Railway Cup titles. Since 1946, Cork, and to lesser extent Tipperary, Waterford and Clare, have helped and won only another three.

Help or no help, it's all the same. Yet since '46, three All-Irelands and three National Leagues have come South. There's a nigger, a mighty black chap, in the woodpile.

I am convinced that the real reason for Munster's dismal record is lack of preparation. If sons of the South can hold their own with the best in July, why not in March? I remember a Munster man who was very good in July, a star in

By  
**EAMONN  
YOUNG**



# Does Munster need a trial?

September, and a "lame duck" in the following March—all in first-class games.

No joking, the answer, in my opinion is **TRAINING**. It's only natural that the man who sees little chance of winning an All-Ireland is

(Continued on page 41.)



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Tá obair mhaith á dhéanamh ag Cumann Lúith-chleas Gael, níl amhras ar bith faoi sin. Tá na cluichí dá stiúradh go h-eifeachtach agus an eagraíocht ag fás ó bhlian go blian. Tá Cumann Lúith-chleas Gael anois ar an ngluaiseacht is mó sa tír, níos mó fiú ná aon pháirtí polaitíochta, ach mar aon leis na páirtí polaitíochta tá Cumann Lúith-chleas Gael cungradharcach sa mhéid nach bhfeiceann siad rud ar bith ach na cluichí agus iad san féin leibhéal na páirce.

Is gluaiseacht náisiúnta é Cumann Lúith-chleas Gael. Ní ar son cluichí ionta féin a bunuigheadh an eagraíocht. Bhí cuspóir i bfad ní ba mhó ag na bunaitheoirí agus aca siud a chothuigh an gluaiseacht on tús. Is ar mhaithe leis an náisiún a bunuigheadh an eagraíocht agus is ar mhaithe leis an náisiún a d'fás sé. Ní h-amháin sin, ach bé an cuspóir náisiúnta a spreag an eagraíocht i gcomhnaí, ach d'réir dealramh tá an cuspóir sin imtighthe in éag le blianta anuas.

Tá neart agus éifeacht aga Cumann Lúith-chleas Gael agus tioncar aige i ngach paróiste sa tír. Is mór a b'fuirist dó a dhéanamh. Ó thaobh na Gaeilge dhe, d'feadfaí an eagraíocht ar fad a stiúradh tré n'ár dteanga féin amháin agus ní chuireadh sé isteach ná amach ar éifeacht ná ar chruineas. Le blianta anuas bíonn a gcuid cruinnithe ar fad tré Ghaeilge aga Cómhairle Chuige Uladh, agus más féidir leo siud é dhéanamh conus nach féidir le gach cómhairle cuige agus coiste conndae é dhéanamh?

Dá mhéid a bhreathnuigheann tú isteach sa sgéal seadh is mó an cuis mi-shástacht a feictear. Tá rial go gcaithfear ainm gach imreóir a bheith a nGaeilge ar an liosta fóirne a tugtar don moltóir i ngach cluiche. Is mó foireann a bhuaidh cluiche ar an bpáirc agus a chaill ina dhiaidh sin aga cruinniú coisde conndae toisc faillí sa liosta céadhna. Is mó agoid a cailleadh aga cruinniú toisc nach raibh ainm imreóra nó ainm an rúnaí i nGaeilge.

Mar sin féin an imreóir gur cailleadh an cluiche toisc a ainm a beith ar an liosta i mBéarla agus atá ar fhoireann an chonndae, is i mBéarla a bheidh a ainm

ar an liosta a thabharfaidh an rúnaí conndae dos na nuachtáin. Agus níl ansiud ach sampla de a lán cásanna dá shaghas. Deintear rial daingean agus ceap mhaghaidh den Gaeilge i dteannta a chéile.

Íoctar furmhór de rúnaithe conndae na tíre agus i ngach cás deir na rialacha fostaíochta gur gá Gaeilge mhaith a bheith acu. Níl club sa tír gan Gaeilge ag cuid des na h-oifigídh. Mar sin nár bhfuirist gach litir is treóir a chur ó rúnaí go rúnaí i nGaeilge. Nár bhfuirist có-maith gach cruinniú conndae a reachtáil i nGaeilge. Bheadh teachtaí le Gaeilge aga gach club. Níl ionta seo ach moltaí beaga a bhfuirist a chur i gcrí, d'feadfaí i bhfad Éireann níos mó a dhéanamh ach cur chuige le díogras.

Tá rudaí có-maith le ceist na Gaeilge go mba chóir don Cumann Lúith-chleas cuidiú leo—difhostaíocht, déantúsaíocht tuaithe agus rudaí nach iad. Thar aon rud eile ba chóir dhoibh filleadh ar an náisiúnachas agus ar sprid bunaithe na h-eagraíochta.

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# RULE

# CHANGES

THE next few weeks will be the last opportunity we'll have of seeing some of our present football rules in operation. Come Congress at Easter and some of the old ones will certainly have disappeared, and we'll be trying out a few new ones for the first time.

Of all the suggestions sent forward to Congress, which are the most likely to pass into the Rule Book, or which would be of greatest benefit to the game?

Well, there is one almost certain to be passed because the suggestion comes from so many counties. This asks that the goalkeeper be allowed to pick the ball off the ground within the parallelogram and, to distinguish him while doing this, that he should wear a distinctive jersey.

There is one suggestion which, in my opinion, should certainly be implemented. The old system whereby the goalkeeper had first to stop a ground ball and then either punch it clear or get up, lift it and kick it clear, looked ridiculously awkward. As well as that, by its slowness, it often brought injury to the already hard-pressed goalkeeper. The introduction of the pick-up is thus long overdue.

In permitting the pick-up,

though, Congress will have to proceed with caution, because a few motions also seek to extend the penalty area and, consequently, extend the area in which the goalkeeper is allowed to pick up. In my opinion, this would give the goalkeeper too much liberty.

The proposal to extend the penalty area is not really advanced for the benefit of the goalkeeper but, rather, for the forwards. The whole idea, I believe, is to prevent all this pulling, dragging and tripping which occur around the goal area—by making it too costly to employ these tactics. In my opinion it should be limited to just that.

In other words, I would extend the penalty area to the 14 yards line so that a penalty would be awarded whenever a forward was fouled inside that area, but I would retain the old parallelogram as the goalkeeper's limit for picking the ball off the ground, and also as the area into which forwards should not enter before the ball.

For this latter purpose also, the extended penalty area would be too great. Keeping forwards out of such a wide area around the goal would end a great deal of the excitement caused by a "round-the-house" ball dropping near the goal.

I know the purists will shudder at the lack of science which is shown on such an occasion, but, t'anam a' diabhal, how the fans love it!

(next page)

## Railway Cup Winners

FOLLOWING is a list of Railway Cup winners in football and hurling since the interprovincial competitions were inaugurated in 1927:

**FOOTBALL—Connacht (7):** 1934, 1936, 1937, 1938, 1951, 1957, 1958. **Leinster (15):** 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1933, 1935, 1939, 1940, 1944, 1945, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1959. **Munster (6):** 1927, 1931, 1941, 1946, 1948, 1949. **Ulster (5):** 1942, 1943, 1947, 1950, 1956.

**HURLING—Connacht (1):** 1947. **Leinster (7):** 1927, 1932, 1933, 1936, 1941, 1954, 1956. **Munster (25):** 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1934, 1935, 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1945, 1946, 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1957, 1958, 1959.



## CHANGES

Two rival motions deal with a player's right to place the ball for frees and sideline kicks. One seeks to abolish it altogether, while the other seeks to give him the right to place it on all occasions.

I find the main reasons offered for abolishing this right rather fatuous, even puerile. I have never noticed any great delay on a player's part in placing the ball for a free (anyway, the referee can hurry him up), while the few feet a player might gain in placing the ball that much forward would avail him very little. From what I've seen, it doesn't happen that often and, anyway, it can work both ways.

Not only am I in full agreement that a player should have the right to place the ball for all frees; I'm also convinced he should have the right to take all frees *immediately*—without waiting for a referee's whistle.

(Continued on Page 17)

## TEST YOUR SKILL

**D**O you fancy yourself as an authority on the rules of hurling and football? Well, try the following questions as a test of your knowledge. Then turn to page 48 for the answers—and your points rating. A correct answer to each question merits 10 points.

1. **WHAT** is the maximum number of officials allowed to enter the field of play to attend an injured member of their team?
2. **IS** the player who takes the kick-out in football allowed to play the ball more than once before any other player touches it?
3. **HOW** many steps may a hurler take while holding the ball in his hand?

4. **IF** teams have to play extra time to decide a match, are substitutes then allowed for players ordered off during the original hour?
5. **IS** a referee obliged to give the ball to the captain of the winning team at the conclusion of any game?
6. **IF** a defending player charges out from the square when a 14 yards free is being taken, does he commit a foul, and what is the penalty, if any?
7. **FOOTBALL:** When a player is taking a sideline kick, how far away must the rest of the players be from the ball?
8. **HURLING:** How far away must they stand from the ball for a sideline puck?

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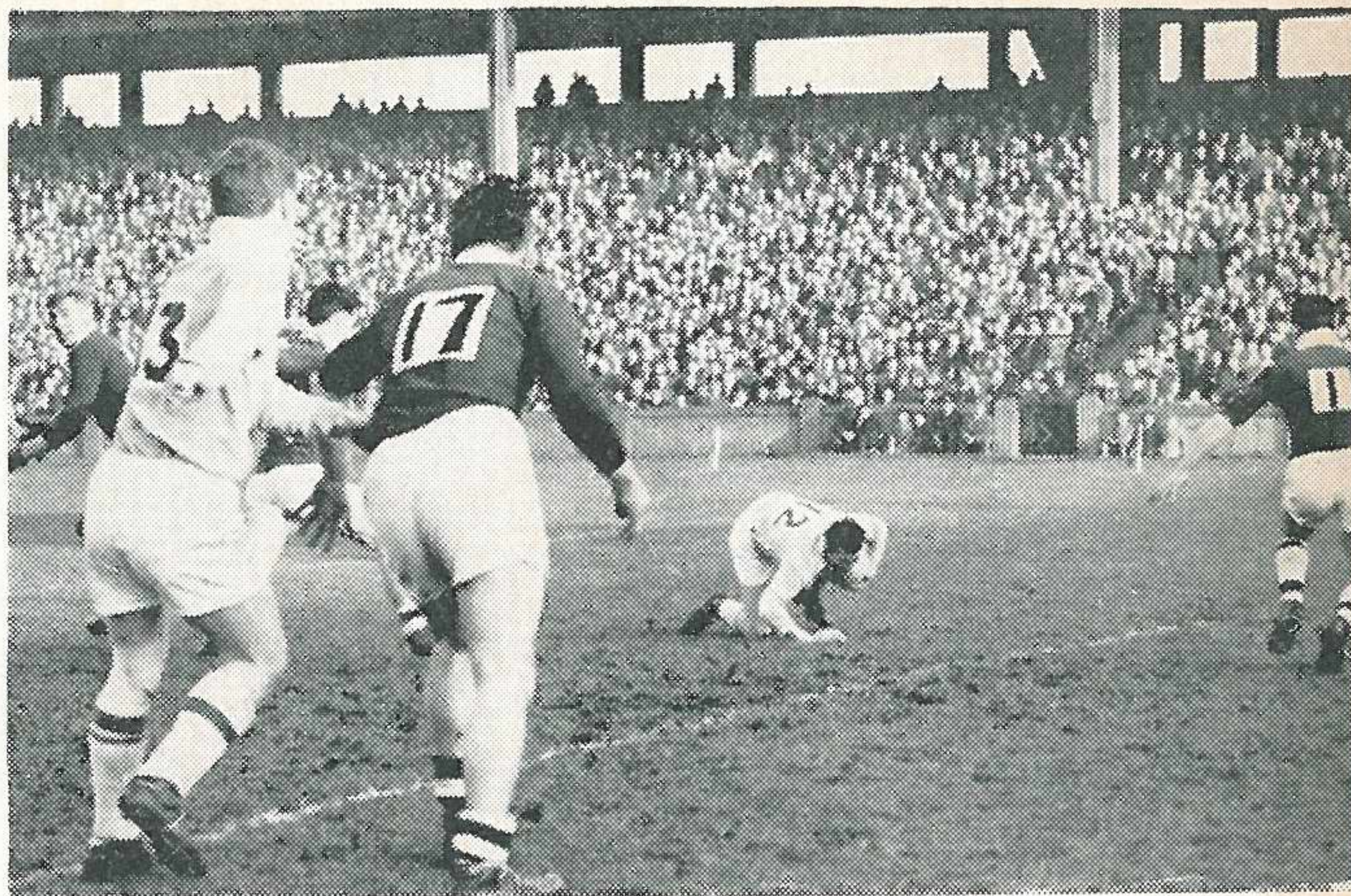
**Something  
is brewing**

**AT SMITHWICKS  
OF KILKENNY**

**Brewing since 1710**



A tense moment in the Dublin-Galway League tie at Croke Park on February 7. Mick Whelan (Dublin) stumbles with the ball as Jimmy Farrell (No. 1), the Galway goalie, hesitates on the edge of the square. On left are Paddy Farnan (Dublin), No. 13, and John Keeley (Galway), No. 17.



## Too Many 'Lame Ducks'

(From page 15)

Too much time is wasted over frees, not only by the taker but *by the referee*, so that any advantage gained by the side in possession is completely lost when opposing players are given time to take up defensive positions. Allowing players to take frees immediately would help the offended team as well as speeding up the game.

The proposal to restore hand-passing to the game is not worthy of consideration. The punched pass has not slowed up the game, despite what some critics say. But it has rendered the referee's task less difficult.

A punched pass can be clearly distinguished. A hand pass cannot. In my time I had too many legitimate hand passes called fouls (and, indeed, a few illegal passes permitted), not to know the difficulty this must have caused to the referee.

A few proposals seek to extend the normal hour's playing time to 80 minutes. I agree, at least for big games.

A single game lasting for only one hour doesn't always satisfy the customers these days—especially with the de luxe admission prices we have started charging. There usually has to be a curtain-raiser before the fans feel they are getting value for their money.

Furthermore, half an hour each way for two fully-fit teams is nothing like long enough in an All-Ireland final. The extra 20 minutes, even 10 minutes, would make all the difference.

And while we're talking about time, for the sake of the teams, the fans and the referees, let's have that Bogue Clock. I have never heard a single logical argument against its introduction. Its need becomes more obvious every year—as some of the Dublin hurlers could tell you after Kilkenny's

last-second goal in last year's Leinster final.

Finally, as regards subs, it looks certain that a penalty will be introduced where the stipulated number is exceeded, but it's a Kerry motion on this "subs" business which appeals most to me. This asks that substitutions be permitted *whether players are injured or not*.

There have been far too many "lame ducks" and "dying swans," feigning injury as they make for the sideline, to be tolerated by any decent sportsmen. Away with it all, I say. Far better that we allow players to be replaced irrespective of injury. At least we would preserve our dignity that way.

You know, thinking over them, some of these proposed rule amendments could clear away a lot of the deadwood in our games and make them even more attractive.



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# Why Not?

Asks SEAN O'NEILL

**WHY** not an All-Ireland "free" championship in both hurling and football? It could be decided at the most suitable time of the year and would need but three evenings to complete the whole competition.

It would surely provide an interesting evening's entertainment to see Sean Purcell, Dan McAulliffe, Ollie Freaney, Paddy Doherty, Jack Kenna, Kevin Beahan and Cathal Flynn matching one another in the art of kicking placed balls.

The competition could be run quickly and economically with a county championship first, the winner and runner-up qualifying for the provincial championship. The first, second and third in the provincial championships would qualify for the All-Ireland final.

The competition could be decided on any particular number of "frees." In football, it could be decided, for example, as follows:

Six 14 yards, each point scoring one mark.

Three 21 yards, each point scoring two marks.

Three 35 yards, each point scoring three marks.

Two 50 yards, each point five marks.

A number of angled balls from both sides of the goal, each carrying appropriate marks.

Where entries in county championships might be very large the number of "frees" could be regulated so as to bring about quick elimination. Some counties might even find it convenient to hold the hurling and football competition on the same afternoon, and at the same venue.

There are many reasons why this competition should be set in motion:

1. It would help to improve a very important aspect of the game. Not alone that, but it would improve the general accuracy of all players taking part. Good free-takers are almost always accurate from play as well, the reason being that place kicking (in football) develops that necessary balance.

2. The competition would not be for the Sean Purcells and the Christy Rings alone. There are many great free specialists in clubs throughout the country who are not up to inter-county standard in general ability. This competition would give these players the opportunity of displaying their art. Furthermore, men like Ollie Freaney, Frankie Byrne and Peter Donohue, who are retired from active participation in the game, would probably turn out for such a competition.

3. The competition would be sure of success. It would take but three afternoons to decide. Its running costs would be very small and would be well covered by the 'gates'. It would also prove popular with fans and would add to the colour and spectacle of our native games.

**Paddy Holden (Dublin) gets in a clearance though closely pressed by Galway's "Hauleen" McDonagh. (Dublin v. Galway at Croke Park, February 7).**





**T**HE Dublin G.A.A. Board recently made a decision to confine the selection of the Dublin hurling team to natives of the county. They did, however, also make it quite clear that non-natives like myself on the present senior team would be exempt from this ruling.

A rather startling decision I suppose . . . and I have been asked on several occasions in recent months for my opinion of it.

And quite honestly I may as well confess, here and now, that I cannot give a satisfactory opinion to anyone.

From one angle, I think it is a wonderful idea. I can appreciate the fact that people up here want to see an all-Dublin side on the field, and possibly winning an All-Ireland final. And I can tell you this—nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see an all-Dublin side winning a hurling final.

But from another angle—a more personal one, I'll admit—I am not too happy about the decision.

Take my own case. I came to Dublin from Cork several years ago, and, at the time, my only claim to any hurling recognition was the somewhat dubious distinction of having been selected as a half-forward substitute for a Cork minor side. I say dubious, because I was never given the opportunity of wearing a Cork jersey, even as a substitute.

In Dublin I began with club hurling and I can say quite truthfully that it was in these club competitions I began to improve my hurling.

In time I was selected for the Dublin junior side and subsequently, of course, I was promoted to the senior side. And there I hope to remain as long as the Dublin selectors want me.

For me, there is a matter of principle involved. I got my chance of senior hurling from the Dublin selectors and I'm grateful to them for it. And I intend to stand by them, until they decide that I have outlived my usefulness to the Dublin team.

Since I came into senior championship hurling, it has been suggested to me that I should declare for my native county . . . but, to be frank, why should I? After all, the Dublin selectors were the first to recognise the fact that I was capable of playing senior inter-county hurling.

Of course, I must admit that there is a certain

## A SEARCHING ANALYSIS OF DUBLIN'S NEW HURLING POLICY

# *Native . . . Or Non-Native?*

By

BRIAN YOUNG

*Dublin Full-back*

(In an interview with Philip Roderick)

selfish motive behind my desire to stay in Dublin.

If, for instance, I decided to declare for my native county, what guarantee have I that I would get a fair crack of the whip from the Cork selectors?

I'm not suggesting for one moment that they might deliberately treat me unfairly, but who would blame them for being a little biased in favour of a local hurler playing week in week out in local competition.

Being in a position to watch him regularly, it is more than likely that they would feel far more confident about him, rather than about the man, like myself here in Dublin, whom they would rarely see in action, outside of inter-county games.

And, finally, there is the all-important matter of the definition of a true-blue Dublin man. I didn't leave Cork by choice; I left it by necessity.



Dublin full-back Brian Young is seen here in a tussle with Kilkenny full-forward Billy Dwyer (No. 14). Denis Heaslip (who plays for Leinster on St. Patrick's Day) pulls on the ball as Achill Boothman (Dublin) moves in to tackle. (Dublin v. Kilkenny at Croke Park, February 28).



The necessity to make a career for myself in Dublin, which, after all, is the capital city of our country.

I have married and settled down here, my business career is here, I have made friends here, and in all probability I'll spend the rest of my life here.

So I am a Dublin man in everything, except the place of my birth.

Naturally I'm very proud of being a Corkman—all Corkmen are! But the fact remains that I am now a citizen of Dublin . . . and so too are numerous other non-native hurlers who would like to play for Dublin. And surely this is something I—or for that matter any other non-native hurler in Dublin—should not be made suffer for?

After all, one cannot help wondering how many of the officials who agreed to this decision are died-in-the-wool Dublin men? I don't think that I would be too far wrong if I said that quite a few of them are just first-generation Dubliners. In most cases I think you would find a non-native father or mother.

However, I could go on and on about the subject and still arrive at no satisfactory decision.

I have a divided mind about the Dublin G.A.A. Board's ruling . . . but there is one thing I am certain about.

And that is that I am very proud of my place on the Dublin side . . . and, ruling or no ruling, I shall stay with Dublin as long as the selectors want me.



# NAME THE CHAMPS OF 1960

By \_\_\_\_\_  
PETER BYRNE

ANYBODY care to name the All-Ireland senior champions of 1960? That is the challenge I throw out to all you G.A.A. fans as we prepare to swing into the glamour period of our sporting calendar—championship time.

From now until September, the same old question will echo round the four provinces as followers everywhere weigh up the prospects for the Sam Maguire and Liam McCarthy trophies.

There is nothing quite to match the magic of the "sudden death" competitions, and for the next six months, thousands will thrill to the hurly-burly, the do-or-die efforts of these, the greatest events of the Irish sporting year.

And make no mistake about it, this year's competitions promise to be as tough and unrelenting as any of those storied "epics" which usually get an airing at this time of year.

In football, for instance, reigning champions, Kerry, face a real barrage when they step out in defence of the Sam Maguire Cup.

Ever since that National League draw with Cork before Christmas, rumours about chinks in the champions' armour have been going the roads. And, in support of their claims, the critics point to the hoodoo which seems to surround every team that returns from America.

Granted, there is something in that American hoodoo—yet I rate Kerry's chances of retaining their laurels as extremely bright. At an average age of 24, I feel this team has yet to reach full football maturity—an opinion which is, I might add, shared by many shrewd judges.

Men like Tom Long, Kevin Coffey and Dan McAuliffe played a vital role in the Kingdom's triumphant march last year—yet all three were, by accepted standards, still in the "infant" stages of their inter-county football careers. With last season's successful campaign behind them, they will now be an even more potent force.

As against that, however, one must take into account the loss of Jim Brosnan, still nursing that shoulder injury, while it is a moot point whether veteran John Dowling, who played no small role in last year's triumphs, can manage to maintain that devastating form.

As usual, Cork will provide the main opposition to the Kingdom in the south and—judging by recent displays—the Rebel County men could upset popular predictions. But it is rather ironic that, now that the Leesiders have found a scoring line—for long the scourge of their selectors—the once impregnable defence is beginning to fly the "distress signals."

If they can manage to tighten up this department, they will prove a match for the best; yet I take Kerry to hold on to their Munster crown.

Over in the West, the provincial championship may resolve itself into a two-horse race, between Galway and Roscommon. The Leitrim resurgence seems to have subsided, for the time being at any rate, while once-mighty Mayo are hitting one of those lean

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# Change in the West

patches which all teams encounter at some time or other.

What of Galway? Humbled by Dublin in the National League a few weeks ago, they never once touched anything like their form of recent years and, unless they show a vast improvement, their chances of All-Ireland honours are pretty slim.

In Mattie McDonagh they still have one of the best mid-fielders in the country; but, let's face it, the recent form of established favourites like Sean Purcell, Mick Greally and Jack Mahon leaves a lot to be desired.

In the circumstances, then, I think 1960 may well see a change of champions in the West; for I was greatly impressed by the displays of the young Roscommon team in the League. Men like George Geraghty, Eamonn Curley and the Feeleys seem to be running bang into form; and with seasoned campaigners Gerry O'Malley and Aiden Brady to provide the steady influence, I forecast a great year for the men in blue and gold.

In Leinster, Dublin are again going great guns, and this in spite of the loss of men like Ollie Freaney, Jim Crowley and Paddy O'Flaherty. Most of their recent successes have stemmed from the astute football brain of Kevin Heffernan; but one wonders how the Metropolitans would fare in the absence of the great St. Vincent's man.

Once-mighty Meath are still groping in the wilderness, and much the same goes for Louth, who have gone from bad to worse since that epic 1959 championship battle with Dublin.

Accordingly, I think most of Dublin's worries will come from Kildare who, with a team built around sterling players in Mick Carolan, Kieran O'Malley and Tom Connolly, could well regain some of their former glory this year.

Keep an eye open, too, for Laois, who may well go one better than last year when they reached the provincial final, while the recent brilliant football of Tom Monaghan, Mick Conlon and Brian Carley has given Westmeath football a new rating.

What of Ulster? Without any disrespect to the other counties, I

think the issue can safely be narrowed down to three counties: Cavan, Down and Derry.

Since winning the provincial crown last year, Down's form has been a trifle erratic, but, taking a line through their League form, they—like Kerry—must enter strongly into the reckoning for this season's title.

My fancy, however, is Cavan, the majority of whose displays in

(Continued on page 24)

**there  
is  
no finer  
whisky**



**PADDY**  
**10 years old**



# Champs?

(from page 23)

the current League bore the hallmark of real class. Out of the Ulster honours list since 1955, the Breffni men have come back with a vengeance, and if Charlie Gallagher, Jim Brady, Gabriel Kelly and Co. can manage to maintain that devastating form, this could be their year.

So there it is—my four for this year's provincial titles are Kerry, Dublin, Roscommon and Cavan. And although I fancy Dublin to reach the final, my money will be on Kerry to retain their laurels.

Let's now shift the spotlight over to the hurling front where All-Ireland king-pins, Waterford, out of the running in the current League series, can feel none too secure about their prospects of holding on to the McCarthy Cup.

It must be remembered, of course, that the Decies men were rank outsiders before they came with that all-conquering run last season, and a repeat performance is quite on the cards now. I am not over-enthusiastic about their defence—the full-back line, in particular, is rather suspect—but that forward division is brimful of scoring power.

Add to that the industrious mid-field pairing of Seamus Power and Phil Grimes and you have a set-up that will take a deal of stopping.

As always, Tipperary must be reckoned with, but I do not subscribe to the views of one well-known newspaper critic that the Premier County will regain the All-Ireland crown this year.

What of Cork? Spearheaded by two of the greatest forwards in Ireland in Christy Ring and Paddy Barry, their attack is formidable enough, but I don't rate the defence and mid-field good enough to give the peerless Cloyne man his ninth All-Ireland medal.

Of the remainder, Limerick might well prove the "surprise

## SAM MAGUIRE

"IT was evident that Sam Maguire was the ruling spirit. Quiet to the verge of silence, he breathed earnestness and fixity of purpose. Far from being puritanical, he had a real sense of humour and could enter into a prank with all the abandon of a schoolboy.

If any of the boys had an inclination to cut loose, Sam's was the real steadying influence that compelled the delinquent to think twice. All this was done firmly and quietly, helped with a smile that would "coax the birds from the bushes." This characteristic of Maguire

must in itself have been a tower of strength to the movement in London . . .

To praise him to those who knew him would be quiet unnecessary, and those who did not know him personally must abide by the word of those who did. He was great in a generation that produced many such, thank God. His name on the All-Ireland Gaelic Football Cup should make it the most cherished trophy on the playing fields of the Gael."

—From "The Soldiers' Song", a biography of Peadar Kearney by Seamus de Búrca.

packet" of the series, for they seem to have acquired new-found scoring power. But it will be nothing short of a sensation if Galway, bidding for the Munster title for the second time, upset the odds.

Dublin may turn out to be the best of the Leinster contingent for they have come on the proverbial ton in the past twelve months or so. A young team, they have in Larry Shannon and Fran Whelan one of the best mid-field pairs in the country, and if they can find a bit of extra punch up front, they could bring the McCarthy Cup to the capital for the first time since 1938.

Of course, one must respect the claims of doughty championship battlers, Kilkenny, who, as always, can be relied upon to put up a stout battle.

Unlike the metropolitans, the black-and-amber brigade are steeped in the white-hot atmosphere of championship fare and if they can manage to tighten up at mid-field, they could turn up trumps.

My three to beat the field thus reads, Waterford, Dublin and Kilkenny, and I give the vote to Dublin.

Just think of it. you lucky people, Kerry at three to one and Dublin at "tens"—why, I'm a proper Santa Claus.

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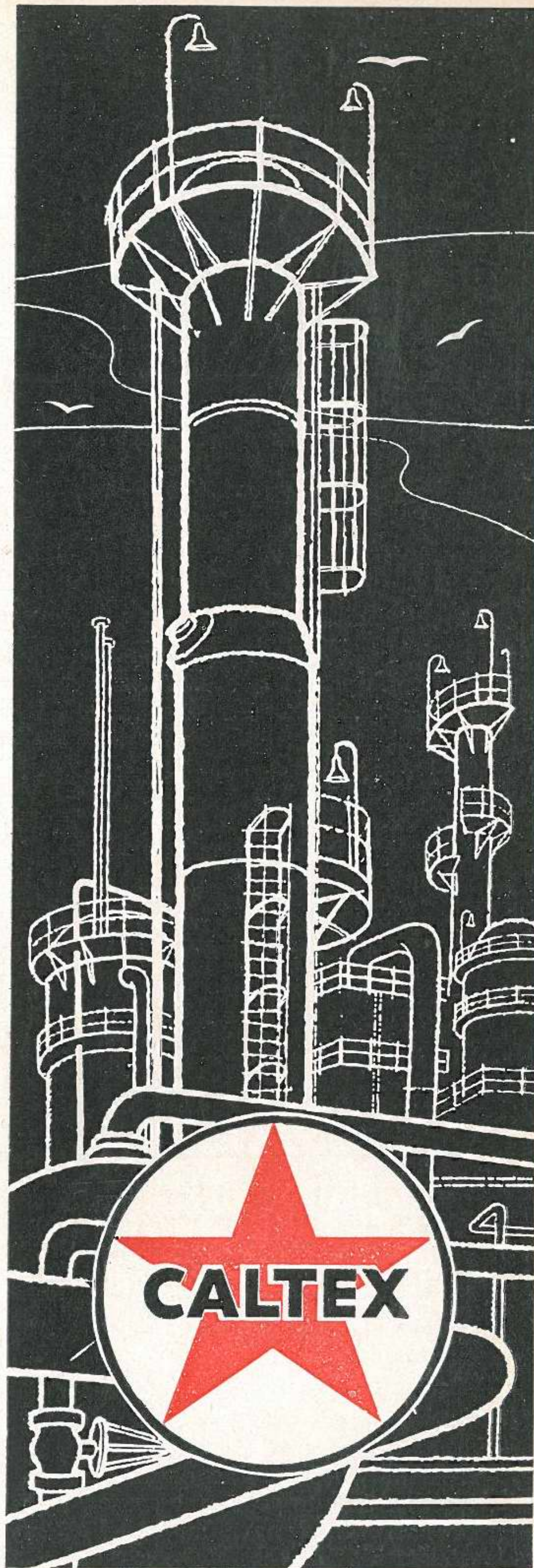
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# ARE WE READY

IT is high time that we all faced up to the fact that, at long last, Irish Television is just around the corner, and that it is up to all Gaels to be ready for the changes that it is bound to bring.

One presumes that the new Service will be only too anxious to televise big G.A.A. matches on Sunday afternoons—indeed it is hard to imagine any programme that would have a greater viewing public — but would the G.A.A. be right in allowing such matches to be televised?

That, from no matter what angle you look at it, is a 64-dollar question, the rights and wrongs and pros and cons of which surely merit a full-dress debate at Congress. Though I am not aware than any such motion has been put forward by any county.

The “pros” are evident enough, for it would mean that every follower of the games in Ireland, whether sick or well, whether able to get to the game or not, would have an equal opportunity of seeing the stars of the day in action.

Besides, thousands upon thousands of those who do not at present attend G.A.A. games, would see big matches on their

no means negligible source of revenue.

But the “cons” are equally straightforward. If, say, three

## *The G.A.A. Match For New Services*

Says MOONDA

television screens and would, one feels, be promptly converted.

Such telecasts would give the Gaelic Athletic Association new prestige and would prove to every visitor to Ireland that the games of the Gael, the games of the people, are in truth, the National Pastimes, holding pride of place over all others.

In addition, in the competitive market for programmes which seems bound to operate in the television field, one feels that the fees for the televising of such games must provide a by

big championship games are being played on the same day and the day turns out wet, the folk will be inclined to stay at home from all three and look at the one which is being televised.

In the second place, what of the club matches, senior, minor and junior, taking place in other counties? Surely the attendance at those would be very seriously affected if a provincial hurling final or football final were televised at the same time.

To me, these arguments are unanswerable, and I feel that I





# READY FOR T.V.?

would confine direct televising of matches to two categories: (1) All-Ireland finals, where the televising of the game would not

ance difficulties, while yet insuring that those who would not, for one reason or another, have been able to attend a game,

and on that programme give the results of all the major games played that afternoon, together with a few brief paragraphs of comment, such as are now given to soccer games by B.B.C. Television each Saturday evening.

But something more than that will be wanted on Sunday nights, and I visualise a programme similar to the B.B.C.'s Saturday night "Sportsview," giving us, on film or tape, sizeable glimpses of the various matches of the day, interviews with players, trainers, referees and so on.

Whether such a programme should be sponsored by the G.A.A. itself, left to the station, or handed over to a commercial sponsor I don't know. This is the kind of problem that Congress should be discussing at Easter.

Moreover, we should have at least two other good "Sportsview" type programmes through the week—one summarising the events of the week past and another later in the week weighing up the prospects for the coming Sunday.

(Continued next page)

## Must Prepare Service NOW

HARRIG

make a great deal of difference anyway. (2) Two games which, while showing hurling or football at their best, would not keep the crowds glued at their television sets.

Club matches from various counties would come under this category, and National League games during the winter. In each case, however, I would follow the usual B.B.C. practice on Saturday afternoons and would not announce beforehand which game was being televised.

This would get over attend-

would still have a G.A.A. match on their screens on a Sunday afternoon.

But while it is pretty obvious that indiscriminate televising of games cannot be permitted, it is just as obvious that Gaelic games must get the place they deserve, not alone on Sunday evenings, but all through the week.

I shall, however, be greatly surprised if some enterprising sponsor does not book a half-hour's television time on Sunday evenings, say from 5.30 to 6.0,





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## Television and the G.A.A.

(from Page 27)

But those few thoughts only start the possibilities of the G.A.A. as far as Television is concerned—imagine the interest through the country if a half-hour from the debates at the annual Congress were televised?

The important thing is that it is high time that the Officers, Councils and Boards of the Association should get down to this problem of Television immediately and have their decisions cut and dried long before the projected service becomes a reality.

In no other way can we ensure that the G.A.A. gets its proper place in Television's scheme of things in Ireland.

But there are two other bodies closely connected with the G.A.A. which are in a very different position. These are the Handball and Camogie Associations. Neither are what we may call 'mass-spectator' sports, and my advice to both bodies would be to offer full facilities to the Television people from the start. Handball, in the confined space of an alley, is ready-made for television, and can be shown without any trouble at all. The fees would be far more than a full alley could contribute.

Likewise camogie, a game very much in need of two things—funds and publicity. They can surely get both from the television screens. Indeed, I am surprised that the go-ahead young ladies of Ulster have not by this got around Ernie Strathdee, UTV's Sports Officer, to televise, say, a Belfast camogie league game on a Sunday morning, or early afternoon.



# Annette

## CAMOGIE PROFILE

By

AGNES HOURIGAN

**M**OST camogie players start the game young; many of them are in inter-county ranks in senior grade at a time when their brothers are still considered too young for places on the local parish minor team.

But Dublin's star mid-fielder, Annette Corrigan, is the exception to the rule; for the sturdy Annette never played the game until her secondary school-days were over and she entered U.C.D. as an under-graduate.

It was in the annual inter-varsity series for the Ashbourne Cup that she first made her name, and as a great U.C.D. side, then built around her, became more and more efficient, Annette Corrigan began to make her mark in Dublin camogie.

Thanks to some wonderful displays in the County championship series of 1952 she won her place at mid-field on the Dublin county side for the first time, a place which she has never since lost, while her record since then is surely unsurpassed in any sport.

She has won seven All-Ireland medals in those eight years, has played on the winning Leinster side in the Jubilee game of 1955 and captained her province to victory every one of the four years that the Gael-Linn Cup, the inter-provincial camogie competition, has been played to date.

In addition, she has won four Dublin senior championships with her club, U.C.D. in the past five years, and has a couple of Dublin senior league medals for good measure.

As well as that U.C.D. made a clean sweep of the Ashbourne Cup competition during Annette Corrigan's student days.

Annette Corrigan possesses the remarkable distinction of being possibly the most sporting player I have ever seen on any field or in any game. Not only has she never been known to take an unfair advantage of an opponent, but she has time and again shown in the heat of even

the most important match that she considers the winning of the game as less than the welfare of the players.

On one occasion, with a score at her mercy in an All-Ireland final, she let the ball go, and turned back to assist an injured opponent. Had she done otherwise, somehow, she would not be Annette Corrigan.

But she got a goal afterwards, as though to show that she was still mindful of her side.

Looking back across all the great games she has played in the past seven or eight years, one finds it hard to pin-point Annette Corrigan's greatest game. And yet, one feels that, if so self-

(Continued in page 31.)

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# MEMORIAL TO P. W. NALLY

WE were pleased to learn the Central Council's decision to name the corner stand in Croke Park after that indomitable Mayo patriot, P. W. Nally.

In the St. Patrick's Day issue of *Gaelic Sport* last year, EAMONN MONGEY, in an outspoken article, focussed attention on the G.A.A.'s seeming indifference to the memory of a man who, it is now firmly established, played a leading part, with Michael Cusack, in the preliminary work and discussions which led up to the foundation of the organisation in 1884.

In his article, Mongey referred to "the man who is now forgotten," and went on to suggest that "even yet it might not be too late to make some gesture to the memory of this great Gael."

It is gratifying to know that that gesture has now been made. And in *Gaelic Sport*, we are pleased that, even in our own small way, we played a part in attracting the attention of Gaels to the necessity for a fitting memorial to P. W. Nally.

Incidentally, sometime after the publication of that article 12 months ago, Mr. Jim Hurley, the former Cork hurling star, and prominent G.A.A. personality, wrote the following letter to Eamonn Mongey.

"I read your article on P. W. Nally. I wish to compliment you on it, and on the spirit in which it was written. One small point: There was a P. W. Nally Shield put up for competition here in Cork in 1893. It found its way eventually to a jeweller's shop in Cork city.

"I recall writing to Con Murphy, suggesting that the Co. Board should acquire and treasure it.

"I have an idea that the then authorities brought Nally to Cork to have him convicted by a 'safe' jury. Perhaps the Cork Gaels, to honour him, then put up the Shield.

"What you say about his agreement with Cusack to start a Gaelic Association is correct. You will find a reference to it on page 53 of the 1957 Wolfe Tone Annual.

"See also Mark Ryan's 'Fenian Memories' (p. 196 as well as Appendix III, p. 216) which confirm other views expressed in your article."

We wonder has the Cork Co. Board resurrected that Shield? Perhaps Mr. Hurley would let us know? If it is still in existence, would it not be an eminently suitable trophy for an All-Ireland club championship?

## ANNETTE

(Continued from page 29.)

effacing a young lady had the choice herself, she might select the Dublin senior final of 1957.

That evening, in Parnell Park, it was "nip and tuck" all the way between two wonderful and well-matched sides, Celtic and U.C.D. Time and again the lead changed hands, with never more than a couple of points between them. But Celtic seemed certain of victory when a great goal by Una O'Connor gave them a vital one-point lead a couple of minutes from time.

Back came U.C.D. to force a "thirty" with the referee already looking at her watch. Annette

Corrigan came up to take the free, dead in front of the posts, with the big College following shouting for the equalising point. Annette lifted and struck, and crashed the ball past the whole defence to the net for the winning goal.

Long after the game was over someone said to Annette: "Weren't you taking a chance in going for a goal, when we were only a point behind?" Annette replied in horror: "A point behind? But I thought we were two points behind. That's why I shot for a goal!"

Now a school-teacher in Athboy, Annette Corrigan is a native of Dublin's Harold's Cross and still comes home every week-end; and she plays with U.C.D. in the Dublin competitions.



# A Simple Formula

By EAMONN YOUNG

THOUGH middle-aged, I keep fairly fit and that was the reason for the question. We were marvelling at the stamina of the 56-year-old Barbara Moore, who had walked Britain's thousand miles, and then my wife saw that Billy Butlin was giving a pound per mile to the winner of a mass walk over the same distance.

"You're fine and strong, thank God," she said. "Couldn't you enter for that?"

When my breath was back I quietly pointed out that on the first day I MIGHT walk 30 miles; on the second, perhaps 15, but there wouldn't be a third. Disappointment dulled the inquiring eyes.

Men will always talk about fitness. Time was when our strength, cunning and speed won us enough to eat. Now that those days are gone, thank the Lord, we men find in pastimes of many kinds a chance to express the primeval urge of physical prowess. To beat the other fellow we get fit, and we love to talk on how to do it.

Armies all over the world stress the importance of fitness. Well they might; for the standard set is that a body of men (not a few picked men) will march 20 miles in six hours and then be fit to fight.

Some years ago, a small team of soldiers at Fermoy won a competition by walking 43 miles in 13 hours. Hardened and superbly fit I'm sure, they could, after a

night's sleep, have carried on indefinitely.

Men (and women) swim the English Channel; fliers keep mind and body alert over hazardous miles of land and ocean. What is the acme of human endeavour?

Whatever the answer, there's no doubt that the basis of achievement is physical health, allied to that mental quality best described by the earthy word "guts".

If God has given us health, let us mind it at all ages. Larry Flaherty, who won a hurling All-Ireland with Cork 57 years ago, admitted to me recently that he was "losing a touch of his speed".

I suppose he'll be dropped (!), but the younger man who takes his place must keep in good health.

Nutrition is the first consideration in training. It's a lot more important than massage, cold baths, work-outs, or anything else.

But before we nourish the athlete's body we must know a little about the subject. Which does the average man prefer, the white inner cabbage, or the green outer leaves? The inner part tastes better, but the outer is richer in vitamins.

Good food is often spoiled in the cooking, and indeed it would be impossible to do justice to the matter of food in a short article (even if I were qualified to do so).

My advice to athletes is to study the five basic food

elements: proteins, carbohydrates, mineral salts, fats, and vitamins. There's a lot written about them nowadays, and I find that a doctor, especially if he himself played games, becomes enthusiastic on the subject if his advice is asked.

Even after we have paid homage at the altar of nutrition, there's another important aspect before we start running madly about the fields to get our legs and wind right. What about rest? An essential part of a man's training starts at ten o'clock each night—in bed.

A pint measures liquid; a calorie measures heat. An adult needs about 1,700 calories daily to keep his body ticking over. A sedentary worker needs 800 more, but a hard manual worker demands 4,000 to 5,000 calories per day.

Athletes burn up calories at a great rate if the exercise is strenuous, even for a short time. In the English University boat race, in which the oarsman gives all he's got, 500 calories may be used over the 20-minute duration of the contest, and from that we can estimate how tired a hard hour at centre-field can make us.

The way to restore that bodily heat is by food and rest. The man who works all day, trains hard at night and then decides that the social life of the country will benefit by his dancing per-

(Continued on Page 34)



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# NO SHORT-CUT TO FITNESS

sonality in the small hours, needs the care that only a mother can give.

Running through the fields, along the roads, skipping, hard belting of the punchbag or the opponent, chasing all-out after a

ball; these are the time-honoured ways of getting fit (after one has attended to food and rest).

For the lungs must be able to fill the chest with mighty gulps of clean air to purify the tired blood. The body's power-house

will pump that blood to keep the legs flying in the last ten minutes. There's no short cut to fitness.

Now let's turn to a few minutes of training talk. Up to some years ago we didn't THINK very much about training, and the proof that our teams didn't realise the importance of a good trainer is evident in the fact that if one omitted Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan and Jim Barry there were very few well-known trainers in the country.

In the last few years we have, however, paid more attention to the matter and, with the start of athletic courses of all kinds and the improved performances all over the world, men have become convinced that training is a science which, when learned, will bring results.

The top-class performer in any game has been training carefully since boyhood and the adaptation of proved training methods to his personal needs has resulted in a formula which is suitable to himself.

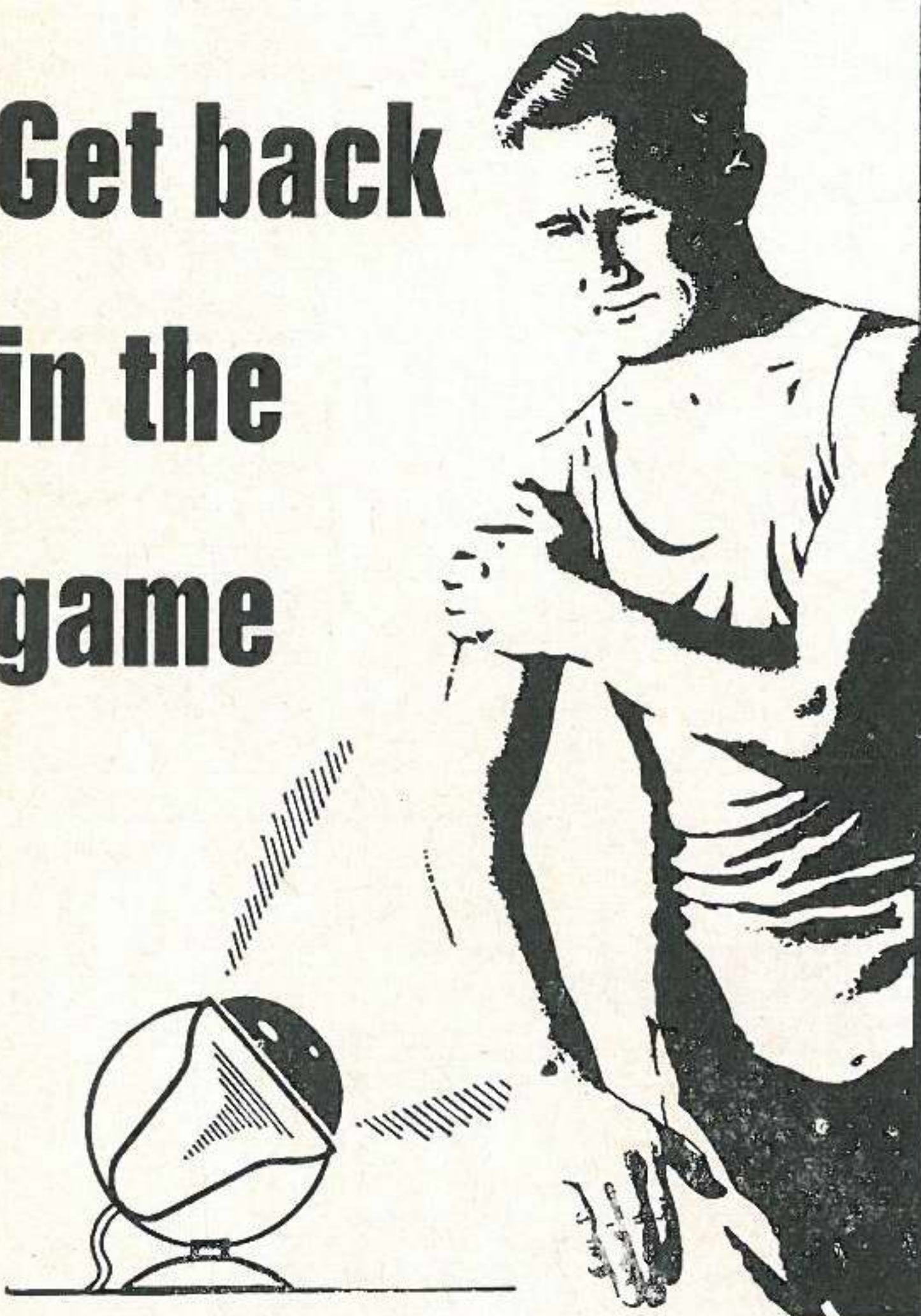
To the less proficient but more enthusiastic players all over the country this article is beamed.

Try to keep fairly fit all the year round. This idea that we must hibernate from October to March is not a good one, and there is no reason why a man must laze because there are no games to be played.

What healthier way to spend the time than in following the hunting dog, or tramping the moors to make the green hills and dusky hollows ring with the music of the gun. For the long-legged and tireless there's cross-country running and for the ball-player there's handball, tennis, squash and many more. The bowls-player is in a class of his own.

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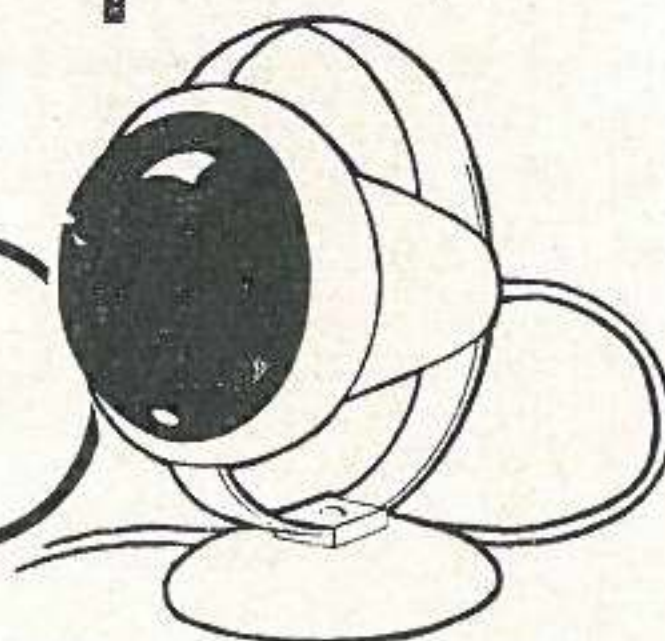


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winter will have a man in reasonable trim in February. Then the games will be starting and the evenings will show enough light to get in a few minutes after a ball.

Ball-playing is the best training of all, for, in addition to building one's strength, it improves ball-control, without which no one can be a player. Remember, it's easy to handle the ball in practice, but a lot harder when the speed is trebled.

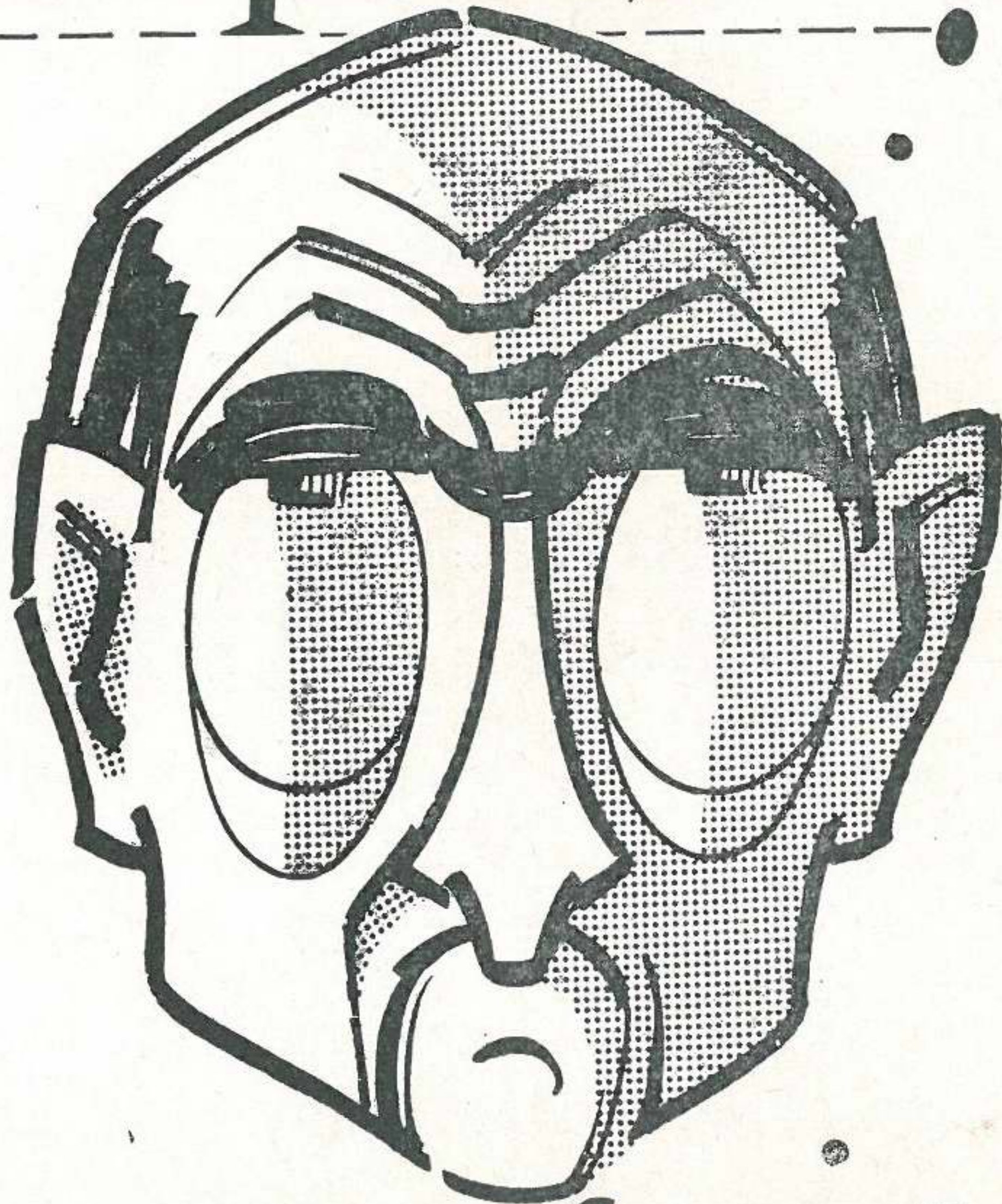
An hour and a half is enough for the average man during a training spin, and indeed if the pace is hot throughout, he will have enough of it after an hour. Young players are inclined to stay too long training and succeed thereby in dissipating, not building up their strength.

Older club members should help them avoid this. I've seen many a good man whose enthusiasm drove him till he left his strength on the training ground and little remained for the game except a fighting heart — which is useful but not omnipotent.

Dry pavilions, washing facilities, showers; these are all parts of the modern training effort and nothing sickens me more than to listen to some self-styled hard man raving about the times he togged out beside the fence. As no one else did. As if we won't do it again if necessary. Toggling off in a ditch isn't bad; sleeping in one isn't so comfortable.

There is a lot more one could write about training, but for the moment this will do. To sum up, note these points again: eat the right food, get enough rest, and train wisely. Always ask the advice of chaps who went through the mill and after every game spend a few minutes examining the reason for your form, good or bad. You'll find that in most cases the preparation was the cause and from this the intelligent man will learn a lesson.

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# Why Did They Quit The GAA?

ASKS EAMONN MONGEY

ASK any G.A.A. follower to name the first school or college to play Gaelic games after the foundation of the Association in 1884 and you will probably be told that it was the Christian Brothers, the De La Salle Brothers or, perhaps, some diocesan college—and they would all be wrong.

For, believe it or not, the first two colleges to adhere to the G.A.A. were Blackrock and Terenure—both now strongholds of rugby.

Blackrock College, in fact, supplied a number of players to the famous Feach McHugh O'Byrne Gaelic football team which, representing Dublin, lost the provincial semi-final of 1888 to Wexford.

In those days, of course, Blackrock had a University College in addition to the secondary school; and it appears that a shoemaker who did work for the College was a leading member of the Feach McHugh team, and persuaded a number of students to join it.

They beat Kickhams in the County Dublin semi-final of 1888 and went on to beat Geraldines in the final. But, even then, there was ban trouble.

In the semi-final, Kickhams objected to Feach McHugh's being awarded the match on the grounds that one of the Blackrock players, a medical student, had been playing Hospitals' Cup rugby.

The matter was debated in full before the Dublin Co. Board, but they took the view that the alleged offence had been committed through inadvertance to the rules of the G.A.A. They ordered the match to be replayed without the offending player—and Feach McHugh's won the replay more decisively than they had won the first match.

So much for Blackrock. But Terenure College was actually the first boys secondary school in Ireland to form a branch of the G.A.A.

"United Ireland" of October 31, 1885. contains the following entry:

"TERENURE. The professors and students of the Carmelite College held a meeting on the 24th inst., the Very Rev. T. Bartly, O.C., President, in the chair, for the purpose of forming a branch of the G.A.A. The following resolution, having been moved by the Rev. J. P. Cowley, O.C., and seconded by the Rev. J. P. O'Reilly, O.C., was passed unanimously:—

"That we hail with delight the efforts of the G.A.A. under the patronage of the Most Rev. Dr. Croke, Charles Stewart Parnell, M.P. and Michael Davitt, to revive the ancient past-times of our country.'

"Proposed by Mr. M. P. Byrne, seconded by Mr. John Byrne, and passed unanimously:—



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Ollie Walsh, Kilkenny's 'keeper, repulses a Dublin attack in the boisterous National Hurling League game at Croke Park on February 28. Also in picture: John Maher (Kilkenny) No. 4; Jim Walsh (Kilkenny), Jack Finan (Dublin) No. 13, and Tony Young (Dublin) No. 14.

## WHY DID THEY QUIT?

“That, believing it to be one of the functions of educational establishments to provide for the physical no less than for the moral and intellectual training of the rising generation of Irishmen in accordance with the instincts and traditions of their ancient race, we hereby form ourselves into a branch of the G.A.A., to be called the Terenure College Branch of the G.A.A.’.”

Brave words, indeed—and they are as true today as when they were uttered 75 years ago. Yet, the College which sponsored them has turned its back on the “instincts and traditions of their ancient race” and forsaken the G.A.A. And there

are many other colleges, too, who, in forsaking Gaelic games, are forsaking their true heritage.

Such was my opinion, at least, until one of their followers argued with me recently that it wasn't the colleges at all which had forsaken the G.A.A., but the G.A.A. which had forsaken the Colleges.

“Look what happened,” he said, “when Blackrock tried to come back to the G.A.A. in the early and middle 1930s. They were squeezed out again—just because the College also played rugby. Let them play rugby, and Gaelic football as well, and I guarantee there will hardly be a college in Ireland without a Gaelic team in a few years.”

You know, I think it would be well worth a trial.

*I am indebted to the Old Dublin Society and to Earnán de Blaghd, B.L., for material used in this article.*



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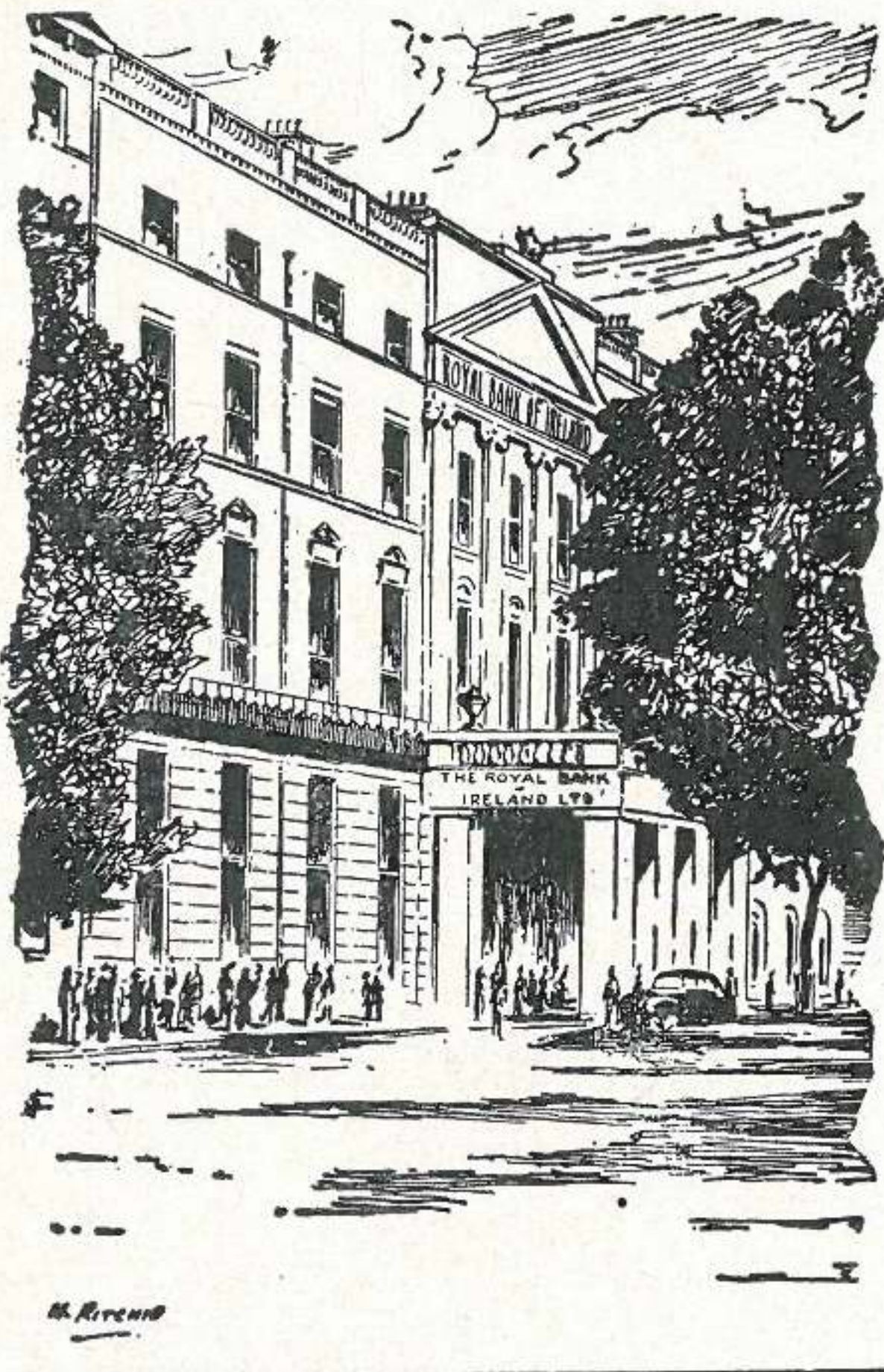
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# WHEN THE CHIPS ARE DOWN

(from page 11)

going to make the Railway Cup his big effort. Gerry O'Reilly of Wicklow was an example.

The man who has his sights on the All-Ireland, often pays scant respect to the Railway Cup—and doesn't get fit. 'Tis a pity, for on St. Patrick's Day, as the other fellow is away with the ball, he won't come back to hear you tell about that great game you had in the All-Ireland.

When are we going to wake up to the fact that in Munster we must have a trial? The clash of the champions versus "The Rest" a fortnight before the semi-final of the Cup would help our players and selectors alike.

Then we'd at least have our men half fit and we wouldn't have to dole out subs. places as consolation prizes to the "weak" counties. In fact, some of these counties might show us that Munster does not have to rely on Cork and Kerry for its football team.

The trial would also give us a balanced team, with subs. picked to fill special places; and we shouldn't have to put, say, a centre-back playing corner forward.

Some have a phobia about trials. I played in as many as the next man and can say that when two honest men are fighting for one place and the chips are down, there's no fooling.

Come on, Munster Council. Give us champions

versus the Rest every February and publish the team the following morning. A Railway Cup jersey is a player's badge of honour, and I met an awful lot of good players who never saw the inside of Croke Park except from the sideline.

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# I OBJECT TO OBJECTIONS

Says  
Des Powell

I REMEMBER attending a meeting of the Dublin Co. Board some years ago, at which a most unusual objection was aired.

At that particular time it made a sizeable impact on me—so much so that I can still vividly remember every trivial aspect of the case.

But were I to “cover” a meeting to-night and hear a similar objection lodged, it just wouldn’t register at all. Why? For the very good reason that since the era of that original objection, I have heard the self-same incident—and thousands of other trivialities like it — bandied about at G.A.A. meetings all over Ireland.

For it is a true, and, alas, sad fact, that the era of objections and counter-objections seems to have hit our National games—so much so that a good board delegate has become a vital necessity in the make-up of every title-aspiring team.

The incident mentioned above concerned a club who had inadvertantly given the wrong Christian name of one of their players in the list handed to the referee before the game. Let us call him John.

Unaware of the mistake, the game went on: thrills waxed fast and furious and at the end of a hard, gruelling hour, John’s team triumphed by a narrow margin.

And then the anti-climax! The do-or-die efforts of fifteen full-blooded young men were blasted in one shrill moment at the Board meeting when a wiry little figure rose to his feet and in a flurry of verbal exchanges wrested those two hard-won points from John and his comrades.

Going strictly by the rule book, of course, the objection was quite in order. And as such, it was only logical that it be upheld.

But surely, it didn’t matter a jiffy whether this man’s name was Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. The best of us can make a mistake, and in the

hustle and bustle which usually precedes a game errors are bound to occur.

True, the regulations stipulate that a correct list of the players be given to the referee before the game.

But in this case, I felt that the law could have been “side-stepped” a little instead of clamping the maximum penalty on the offending team.

This is typical of the modern “eye for an eye, tooth for a tooth” attitude which is besetting our National games. In recent years many clubs—aye, including some of the most prominent ones—seem to have got an objection complex which is bound to have adverse results all round.

Why? Because trivial objections invariably leave a bad taste—often with disastrous results.

In addition to everything else, they reflect rank bad sportsmanship; for a team that has to fall back on such undignified means of winning a game rarely merits a “great” tag.

Eloquent speech-making in the Council chambers is quite laudable in its own right. But when it comes to the point where it has to act as substitute for lack of ability on the playing fields, I think it is time to draw the line.

And that, precisely, is what’s happening all over the country just now. No sooner has a beaten team trooped off the field than they start to exploit the possibilities of lodging an objection against the winners.

And—this is the rub—they quite often get away with it on points so obscure that even the Board officials themselves have to delve at length into the Official Guide to give a ruling.

This low cult of “sportsmanship” must be stopped. And who better to give the lead than the various Co. Board officials who can go a long way towards wrecking this undesirable “craze” by throwing out all trivial objections.



# The Gribbens of Derry

WHEN John Murphy, the Ulster inter-provincial, Derry and Newbridge player was asked a few years ago, before he emigrated to Canada, who, in his opinion, was the best player he had ever seen, his answer was Roddy Gribben.

Although being a club-mate of Roddy for many years could have influenced him to make that decision, it was by no means an exaggerated opinion of this sharp-shooting left-footed forward from the small, densely-populated

nationalist area of Anahoorish (Eanach Fhuar-Uisce).

The Lough Neagh shore road with all its bends, leading from Coalisland to Toome, brings one through the spacious Gaelic area of Ardboe (Ard Bhoth) in County Tyrone, Ballyronan, Ballinderry, Ballymaguigan — where Jim McKeever first learned his football — and on to Newbridge where one comes to the Sean O'Leary G.F.C. Hall, which was erected in the

late 'thirties in honour of that great Irish patriot of '48.

The club is the foundation upon which the G.A.A. depends, and the Sean O'Leary G.F.C., Newbridge, built around the six Gribben brothers is an outstanding example.

Hugh Gribben, father of the present footballers, was a man of great national ideals and was interned in various English prisons during the fight for freedom. His brother, Henry, took a keen interest in the famous Newbridge club, which was then called St. Treas, but was later changed to Sean O'Leary's.

The six Gribbens, Willie, Roddy, Owen, Mickey, Hugh Francis and Henry, were fortunate in having Gaelic football played at their doorstep in Newbridge and it was not long before one after the other came into prominence as leading Newbridge players.

The six of them have played regularly for the Sean O'Leary's over the past four years—Willie at full-back, Roddy centre half-forward, Owen full - forward (although he played at centre-half before he received a wrist injury that kept him out of the game for two years), Mickey right half-back, Hugh Francis centre half-back, and Henry left full-back. Two cousins, Henry and Liam, also play for the team.

In 1955, a glorious year in the history of the G.A.A. in Derry, four of the Gribben brothers, Roddy, Mickey, Hugh Francis and Owen, played for Derry against Cavan in the Ulster final at Clones,

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and although he was opposed by the impregnable "Gunner" Brady, Roddy, playing at full-forward, fielded ball after ball and gave an outstanding display.

Hugh Francis, the youngest of the four, played full-back on the Derry junior team that beat Down in the Ulster final in '55, but was promoted to senior ranks for the McKenna Cup at Newcastle, and

## RESURGENCE

later for the Ulster final against Cavan, when he played at right full-back and gave a creditable display.

That same year, the six Gribbens were on the Sean O'Leary team that won the Derry county championship for the seventh time by defeating Sean Dolans (Derry) in the final, thus giving Newbridge the lead in county championship trophies—a lead which they have so far retained.

All through the county of the O'Caahans, a resurgence in the Gaelic code was eminent, and Willie Gribben, the oldest of this great Gaelic family and now chairman of the club, played full-back for the Derry junior team that lost to Cork in the all-Ireland final in Navan, and played also on the senior team on various occasions.

This undoubtedly was a great year for Derry football, and a great year for this clan, who have contributed so much to the county's success. Indeed, a Derry selection without a Gribben would be rather exceptional.

It could be said that Derry's rise to fame in the junior championship of 1955 was a stepping-stone towards their 1958 senior championship side, which defeated Kerry at Croke Park.

Roddy Gribben, who came on to the senior team in 1944, was at centre-field when they beat Clare

in the National League final in 1947. Micky McNaught of Derry city partnered him in the centre that day, while on that team, too, were such great players as Fr. Larry Higgins, Pat Kennan and Frankie Niblock.

Owen Gribben started his career with Derry in 1946 and played a leading part in the county's Lagan Cup triumph in 1952. He played

first in defence and when moved to full forward in '58 many people disagreed with the decision.

However, in the National League semi-final against Leitrim in 1959, Owen proved that the critics were wrong when he roamed out-field and played a devastating game.

Owen and Roddy were also prominent in the drawn game with Tyrone in '56, while four Gribben

brothers were on against Tyrone in the re-play at Casement Park.

Mickey Gribben, a teacher in Anahoorish Primary School, played in the McRory Cup with St. Malachy's College, Belfast, along with Jim McKeever. He played minor football for Derry and was on the junior team beaten by Mayo in 1950.

Mickey was a diminutive wing half-back until he sustained a back injury in '56 which kept him out of the game until he played for the juniors last year.

Hugh Francis Gribben is a sturdy defender who has adapted himself to the full-back position and has proved with his displays last year that he was equal to the best that Derry produced in this sector, while Henry, who is only 20 and is studying as a veterinary surgeon at Edinburgh University, played minor for Derry and was on the senior team in the full-back line in '59.

When it comes to choosing the  
(Continued on page 49.)

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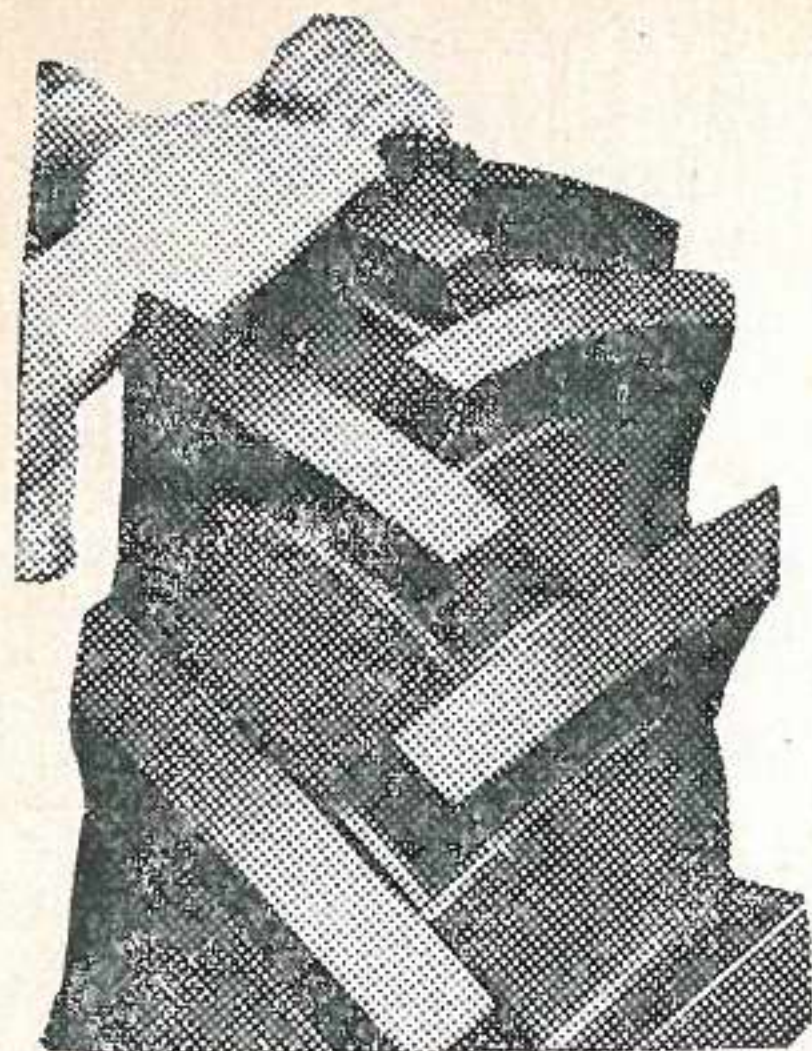
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game over there, the result of unity was bound to be an all-round improvement, with clarity, completeness and understanding as the keynote for the future.

Now this is where I get to my point. Why cannot the Irish Handball Council get together with their American counterparts and iron out the main differences between the playing rules of the American and Irish game?

somewhat differently, there would have been no complaint.

With the visit of handballers from across the Atlantic for the past two years and the trip to the States of our own John Ryan three years back, it would appear that from now on there will be a yearly international challenge between Ireland and the U.S.A.

It isn't as if there was any great disparity between the Irish and American rules—in fact, a huge majority of both sets of official rules are identical.

In my opinion, the main, and very possibly insurmountable, difference is the dimensions of the ballcourts. The Irish alley measures 60 feet (minimum) and 63 feet (maximum) long, and 28 feet (minimum) and 30 feet (maximum) wide, while the American standard alley measures 40 feet by 20 feet.

However, I am sure that players from both countries could easily adapt themselves to each other's ballcourts with a few practice matches, and no marked advantage would be gained by anyone.

Then, I think the difference in size and weight of balls would have to be gone into. The Irish ball is slightly larger, softer and consequently has more bounce, as well as being of a different colour.

This, too, should not be too hard to get around. The actual disparity in size is not too great, ours being two and a half inches in diameter as compared to the Americans' one and seven-eighth inches.

The only other serious drawback, in my opinion, would be the period of play. Our championship matches are rubbers of five games, whereas, in the States, they

(Continued on Page 48)

# LET'S PLAY (HAND)BALL WITH YANKS

By RAY ANDREWS

The four organisations, after years of haggling over petty differences in rule, had at long last, in 1958, got down to business and ironed out the main points in question, with the result that all handballers in the States can now play their loved game, bound by rules which are a composite of the best of all four organisations.

Naturally enough, with the brains from all four associations—who control handball in every state in the union—chopping and changing the rules governing the

It will be remembered that there was quite a bit of confusion between referees, players and officials two years ago when the U.S. players, Harry and Bob Hyde and Tom Ginty played here.

The differences were over petty things. For instance: how many times was it permissible to bounce the ball before serving; the legality of kicking the ball, and some forms of hinders.

But for the fact that the official rule-books of Irish and American players interpreted these points

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**N**OW read the answers below and then tot up your points. Each question answered correctly is worth 10 points. Compare your total score with these ratings: 80, *excellent*; 60/70, *very good*; 50/60, *good*; 30/50, *fair*; under 30 — *are you the chap who shouts non-stop instructions to the referee?* ....

1. Only two officials are allowed on the field of play when a player is injured.

2. Yes, the player who takes the kick-out is permitted to play the ball more than once before any other player touches it.

3. A hurler is allowed only three steps while carrying the ball in his hand.

4. Yes, during extra time a substitute is allowed to take the place of a player previously ordered off.

5. The referee is obliged by rule to present the ball to the captain of the winning team at the conclusion of Provincial and All-Ireland finals.

6. A foul has been committed within the square and the penalty is a PENALTY.

7. 14 yards from the ball.

8. 10 yards from the ball.

(From Page 47)

Have a standard rubber of three games for all competitions.

Outside these three main basic differences in the rules of both games, I should imagine that the balance which don't compare could easily be straightened out to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

Of course, the question of the various grades would have to be sorted out. In America, the winner of a senior national singles title is allowed to play junior doubles afterwards, and vice versa.

This rule does not comply with our system at all, and would have to be carefully gone into if there was ever to be a challenge between our top juniors and seniors and U.S. players.

Would it not be worth the time and expense if representatives from both associations — the Americans now having a unified handball rules committee — got together and came up with a set of rules which would satisfy all players and lovers of the game, and open the way for real international competition.

A sobering thought is the news that the U.S. organisers are advocating strongly to have handball included in future Olympic Games. And, believe me, with so many countries having their own brand of handball, I really think that it will not be long before the game is accepted.

In spite of the fact that Ireland has long been described as the "home of handball", I am afraid that, if it comes to pass that the International Olympic Council does accept handball, it will be played under the rules of the association boasting the largest membership.

Let it suffice to state that in New York city alone there are more than 4,000 ballcourts in use all the time. So what must their playing membership be compared to the Irish total?

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The Munster men (dark jerseys) seem to have been caught on the wrong foot here as two Connacht players swoop on the ball in the Railway Cup semi-final at Tralee on February 28.

(From Page 45)

best of the Gribben brothers, Roddy usually comes out on top as the most polished of them all.

He showed his brilliance when Ulster won the Railway Cup in '56, and was on again in '57. But it is an amazing fact that such outstanding players as Roddy Gribben and Jim McKeever have yet to win an all-Ireland medal.

However, although the Gribbens of Anahorish have collected numerous medals and trophies, their main objective is in playing the game in a true sportsmanlike manner, and upholding the true ideals of the Gaelic Athletic Association—which they learned from their father and the Gaelic-minded people of Newbridge.

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# SOUND ADVICE

**F**OLLOWING is an extract from "The Art and Science of Gaelic Football" by Dr. Eamon O'Sullivan, the famous Kerry trainer. Referring to coaching schemes for the national games, Dr. O'Sullivan writes:

"... The position of hurling is a matter that has been calling for alarm for some time. That its sphere of full influence should be circumscribed within an area of approximately one-third of the entire country is a matter that must receive active cognisance. Probably the successful solution of this problem may develop only from an actively pursued national scheme for coaching, where the fundamentals of the games will be taught in every one of the thirty-two counties, concentrating primarily on the weaker sectors.

Apart from the necessity for the extension and general promotion of hurling, a national coaching scheme is also desirable for the expansion and improvement in the standard of both football and handball and even the re-establishment of the ancient Irish game of Rounders. Initial concentration should be centred on the schools and colleges and, perhaps, the permanence of any coaching scheme would have

its basic operations in these sections. It may, in the primary stages, require to be operated on a regional basis, with subsequent extension to all parts of the country.

The foundations for the development of high games standard must be laid originally in the National Schools and followed up in the various secondary schools and colleges.

Lectures and practical coaching demonstrations will constitute the main activities of any scheme . . . sound-film action shots will make a most important contribution . . ."



Sean Clohesy (Kilkenny), who switched to centre-forward for the St. Patrick's Day final against Munster.

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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## RUGBY COLLEGES

A Chara,—I am open to contradiction on this matter, but I believe that, about 30 years ago, Blackrock College was barred from playing in the Leinster Colleges' Gaelic football and hurling championships because the College also played rugby.

But how come, then, that Rockwell (which is run by the same religious Order, incidentally) can compete in the Munster Colleges' hurling championship? Rockwell is also a rugby college—by that I mean they play rugby among other games.

What's sauce for the (cooked) goose is certainly not sauce for the gander in this case. I have a suspicion that there are "niggers" lurking in the woodpile somewhere. Perhaps some of your readers can answer my question.

Sean McC.

Blackpool, Cork.

## RULE CHANGE

Sir,—I am glad to note that several County Conventions have put forward motions to Congress which propose that the goalkeeper in Gaelic football be allowed to pick the ball off the ground within the square.

I sincerely hope that this rule will be passed — that is, if the square is not enlarged as per other motions—for, as it stands, the poor 'keeper hasn't much hope when a forward comes charging in on him.

And that reminds me. How many charges which we see directed at goalkeepers every Sunday are within the rules? I thought that a shoulder charge could be delivered only on the side — not head-on. Keep your eyes open at your next football game, and you'll see what I mean.

"Fair Play"

Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath.

## BET FODDER

A Chara,—Can you settle a couple of bets for me? Did an All-Kerry team ever win a Railway Cup football title for Munster? Did a Clareman ever play with 14 Kerry men on another victorious Munster football team? And what, by the way, was the Clareman's name? G. O'H.

Claremorris, Co. Mayo.

*Your bets are safe. Yes, an All-Kerry fifteen won the title for Munster in 1927. And George Comerford of Clare was the only non-Kerry player on the side which recaptured the Railway Cup in 1931.—Ed.*

## BEST GOALIES

A Chara, — I've been watching big-time hurling for more than a quarter of a century. And, in that time, I've seen many wonderful goalkeepers in action. After much consideration, here is how I would place the five greatest hurling goalies I've seen, in order of merit: (1) Tony Reddan (Tipperary); (2) Sean Duggan (Galway); (3) Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny); 4, Paddy Scanlon (Limerick); 5, Mick Cashman (Cork).

Now, I didn't see Dr. Tommy Daly of Clare play. Many say that he was the best of all time. I would like to have our readers' views on the above list; and they can extend the period if they like, to include Tommy Daly. How would he compare with the five I've mentioned.

J. J. Creane

Mt. Merrion, Dublin.

## WISE POLICY?

A Chara, — I was astonished sometime ago to learn that the Dublin Co. Board are now going to "ban" non-native players from places on the Dublin hurling team. Is this fair or democratic?

I don't think it is. And I'm saying this in spite of the fact that their "natives only" policy on the football front has paid off — at least in the shape of competitive success.

But, after all, success on the field isn't everything in sport. Goodwill and friendly fellowship are infinitely more important, in my opinion. And I doubt if Dublin's policy has done anything to promote either of those fundamental facets of human relations.

Are they now forgetting the faithful service given to Dublin hurling teams by "country" players in the past? And I need recall the names of only two great players—Tony Herbert and Jim Prior.

"Play The Game."

Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

## GOOD WORK

Sir,—May I pass on a word of congratulation to the London Co. Board of the G.A.A.? I think they have done a wonderful job in promoting the Whit Saturday Wembley tournament. Not only have these games for the past two years brought the best of football and hurling to our exiles in Britain, but they have also shown the British, and I'm sure many more besides, that Gaelic games are at least on a par with the best field sports in the world.

But just one grouse. Why is the football competition confined to Connacht and Ulster counties? Yes, I know that Kerry were invited this year, and declined owing to another commitment.

But what about Leinster? Wouldn't Dublin—or Louth—be a big attraction at Wembley once in a while? And what about giving Galway a turn in the hurling tournament?

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