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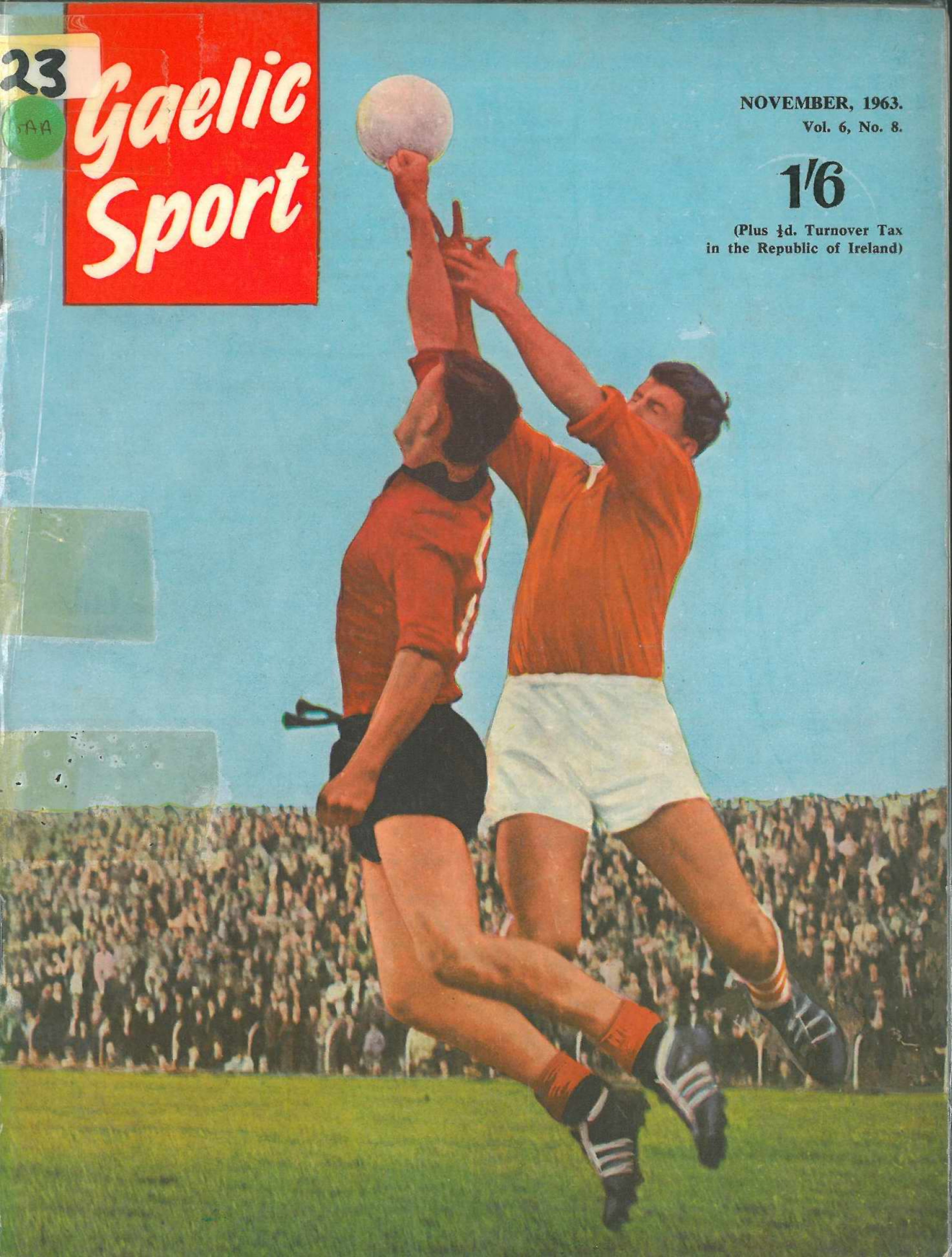
Gaelic Sport

NOVEMBER, 1963.

Vol. 6, No. 8.

1/6

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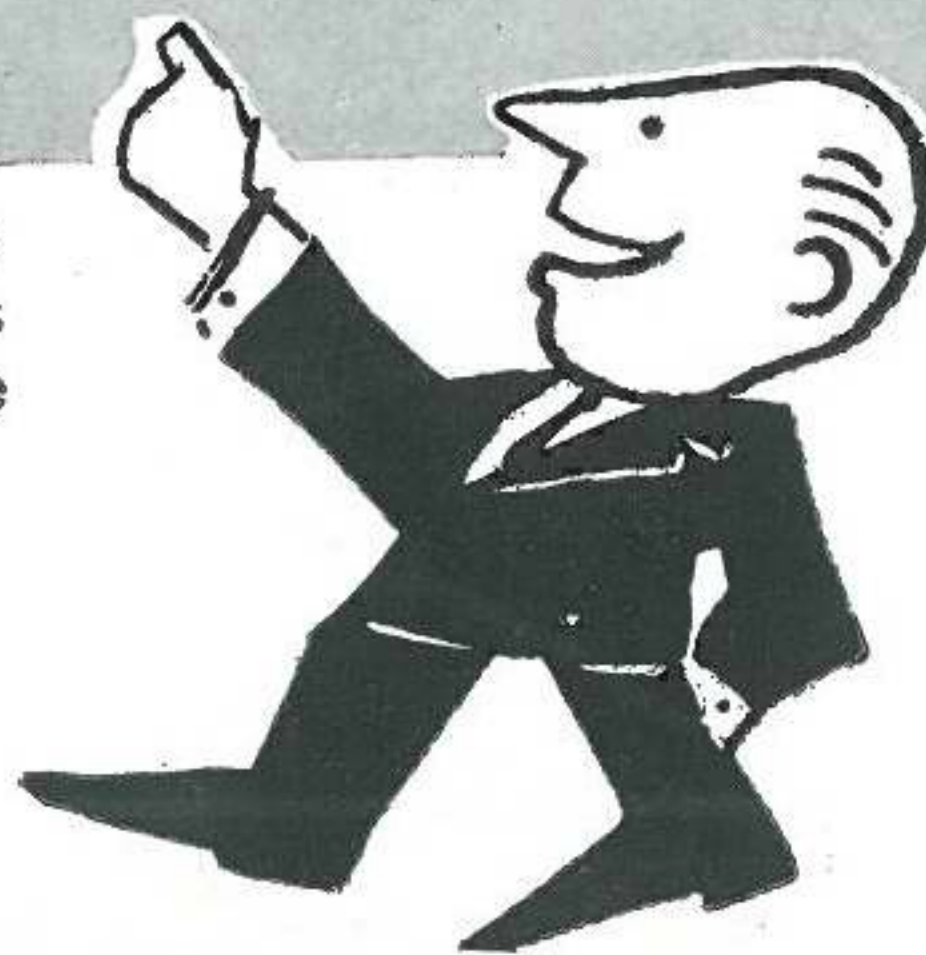
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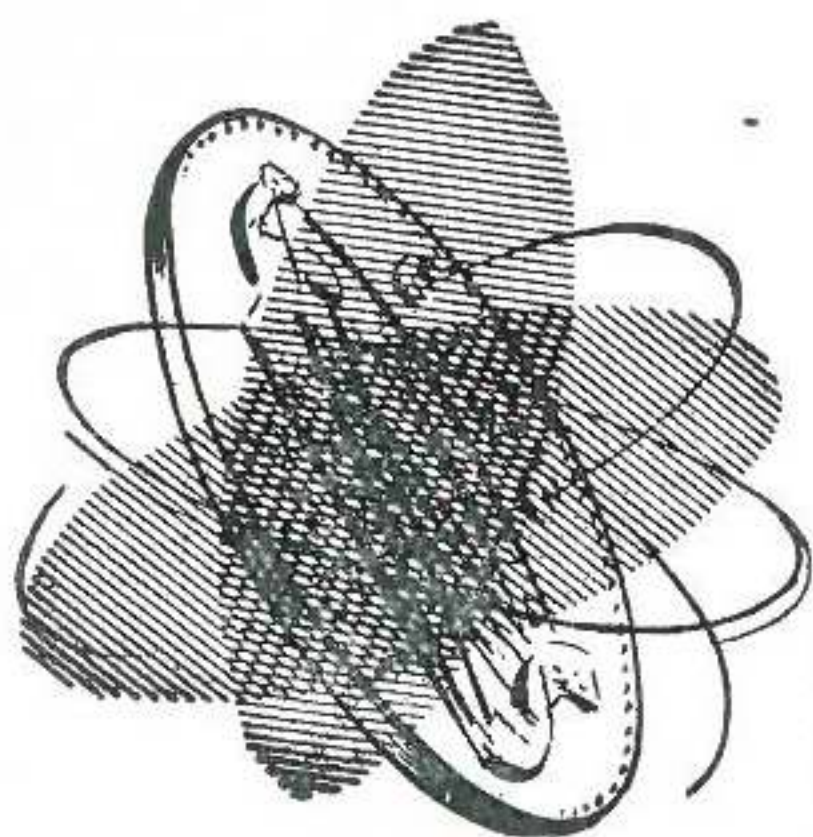


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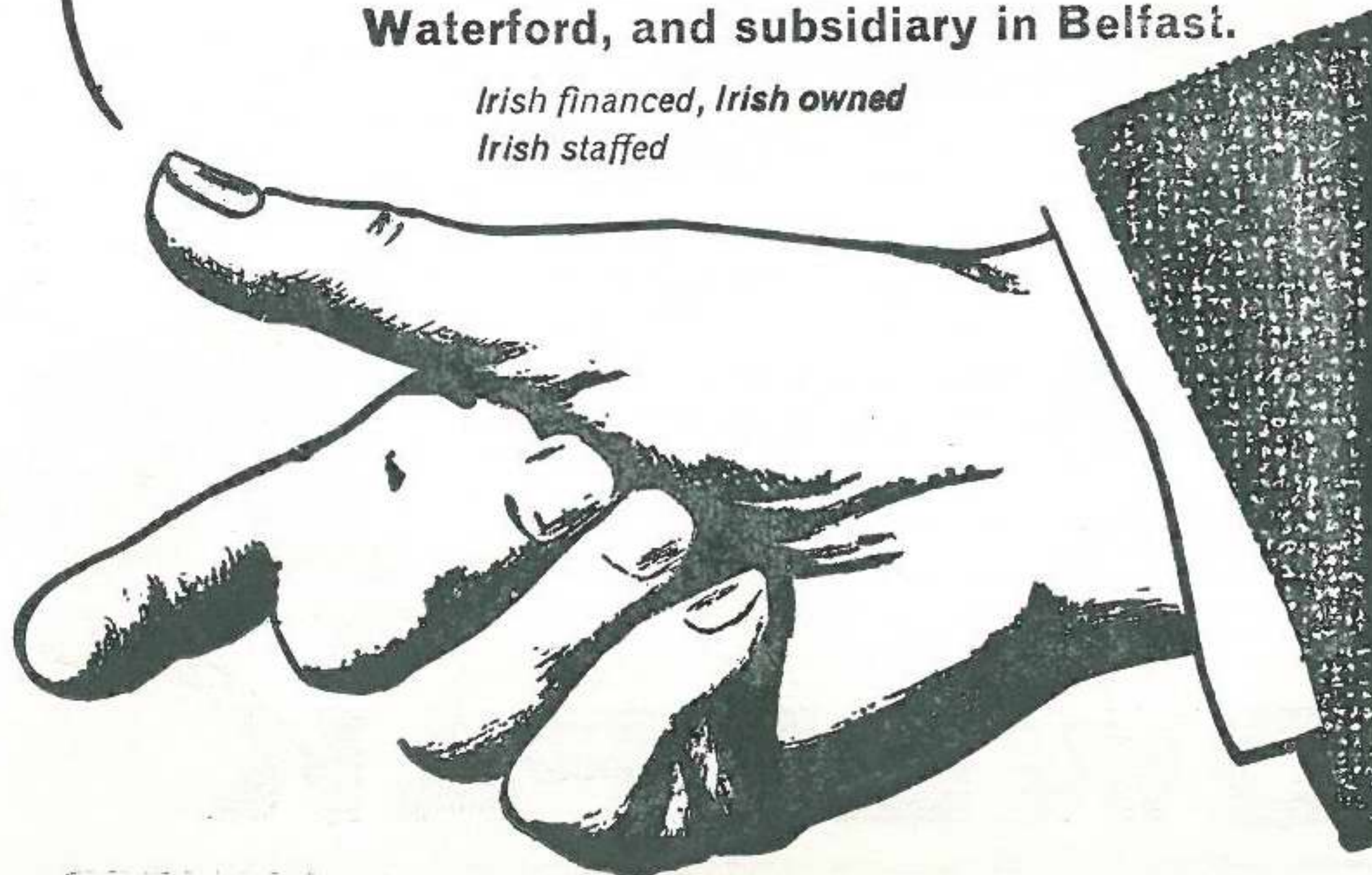
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 6 No. 8. November, 1963

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Comment

Ode to Immortality

G AEL-LINN'S instructional hurling film, which features Christy Ring, is likely to have its premiere in the very near future. We have every reason to believe that it will be hailed as a masterpiece and recognised as probably the finest sports documentary film ever made.

This hurling film began with one tremendous advantage over its football counterpart, *Peil*. While football maestros come and go, there is but one hurling master, and he is unquestionably Christy Ring.

His style and his method are the ultimate in hurling. An improvement on them is neither envisaged nor sought. Therefore in presenting them *Iomáint* presents instruction in perfection.

Add to this the colour and the legend of the man and the final production cannot but be an outstanding success.

"Immortal" is a word much used—and indeed abused—in sports journalese, but this film removes the untruth from the cliché. *Iomáint* embodies for generations yet unborn the wonder and the beauty that is the art of Christy Ring.

There is much more to the making of a film of this kind than what is seen in one half-hour of cinema viewing. Firstly,

it is an extremely expensive undertaking — more especially when colour is used. Secondly, a high degree of technical skill is necessary to ensure that the finished item is of the desired standard. Thirdly, and perhaps less likely to be thought of, is that the making of such a film requires much time, research and planning.

The unique combination of Gael-linn, Messrs. Wills and the young Cork director, Louis Marcus, provided all of these necessary ingredients and Gaelic Games owe them a sizable debt of gratitude. But then let us not overlook the major contribution.

It is no secret that Ring contributed much more to this film than the mute performing of a prearranged instructional sequence. It was he who devised every item, who thought, planned and finally decided upon every utilised method of film tuition. To *Iomáint* he has given what he alone could give—a master lesson on hurling perfection.

From beginning to end this is Ring's film. It is his bequest to the game he loves; his testimony to his own genius. . . . It is, in fact, his ode to immortality.



By MATTIE McDONAGH

WE'LL BE BACK

YES, we were disappointed after our failure on Sunday September 22 to take the Sam Maguire Cup back to the West—there is no point in saying otherwise. We had trained diligently all summer in order to be in there on the green carpet of Croke Park contesting and eventually winning that final but our best efforts were in vain because Lady Luck deserted us at the last fence.

However, since that game I am all the more convinced that this Galway team is the best in the country and the defeat in the final plus the experience gained in the Grounds Tournament will stand to us next year. Somebody once described experience as the "fruits of error," well then Galway now has a wealthy store of this commodity.

Our team has many other qualities which makes me feel that 1964 will be Galway's year. Not the least important of these is youth. The average age is but twenty-three and with our oldest member, Bosco McDermott, only twenty-seven, the present fifteen should last a few years together.

A wonderful friendship also exists between the players and this is essential if a team is to perform well as a unit. This particularly applies to the forward line.

Of course, there are the odd occasions when players are over-anxious and become oblivious to others who are better positioned—but time and experience will set this fault right.

Our half-back line and mid-field have given great performances right through the year. There is just one aspect though in which they sometimes err and that is in not giving the forwards the right kind of delivery. Our forwards need a fast low ball in order to make use of their speed. Indeed, no matter what size forwards are a back has more than a fifty-fifty chance of getting a run up to that high ball that lingers in the air too long.

This year certainly brought us the find of the decade in the person of Noel Tierney. He is certainly the best and most consistent full back that I have seen. It gives great confidence to the other defenders—and indeed to the whole team, to see Noel taking

those high balls and clearing them so intelligently down the field.

I particularly recall his low long clearance to Mick Reynolds out on the left wing in the first half of the final. At the time Galway were under great pressure and had Noel kicked the ball elsewhere it would have been grabbed by a Dublin forward. However, like the great player he is, he saw the only safe spot on the field and he put the ball there.

What I like most of all though about this team of ours is that each player relies on football skill rather than brawn. They are also very versatile and can be switched from one position to another with good effect.

The National League is now our first concern and with a trip to New York as the prize for the winners it is surely worth fighting for. We won this title in 1957 and the present side is well capable of repeating that victory. However, the League will always be subordinate to the championship and more than anything else we look forward to being back in Croke Park in September 1964 . . . and to bringing that Cup back home at last.

NEXT MONTH . . .

BETTER THAN EVER

THE playing season is now drawing to a close—but not so for “Gaelic Sport.” As a matter of fact, we have the best of our 1963 programme still to come, and it will be featured in next month’s issue. For example:—

● “The Jim Dermody Story”
—one of the greats of hurling

GOOD WISHES



Padraig O Caoimh Uas (above) General Secretary of the Gaelic Athletic Association, who has been ill since before the All-Ireland final, is, we are glad to learn, making satisfactory progress. Together with Gaels everywhere, we wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

looks back. This is a delightful series of reminiscences. (See page 31 for further details).

● “Stories Yet Untold”—Sean Donegan’s widely acclaimed series. Only recently a reader wrote suggesting that it be published in book form. We have held over the last, and perhaps the best, article of this series for next month’s issue.

● “The Ban—Both Sides”—This discussion was requested by quite a number of readers last Spring when Sean Feeley and Padraig de Burca debated the Dublin anti-Ban motion to Congress. These men have the facts—all of them, and the entire question will be discussed frankly and forcefully in next month’s issue.

● “Where Are They Now?”—Since Paul Russell wrote on the 1931 Kerry team in our September issue, he has been inundated with requests to do a series based on the great teams of the past and to tell of the men who made history and where they are now. In next month’s issue Paul begins by recalling the team which created the up-set of all-time. Who were they?

The answer, plus photographs, can be had in our December issue.

● “Football’s Uncrowned King”—by Sean O’Neill. This is an intimate portrait of Roscommon’s great-hearted Gerry O’Malley, who is now the longest



Gerry O’Malley . . . to be featured in our December issue.

serving intercounty footballer in the game.

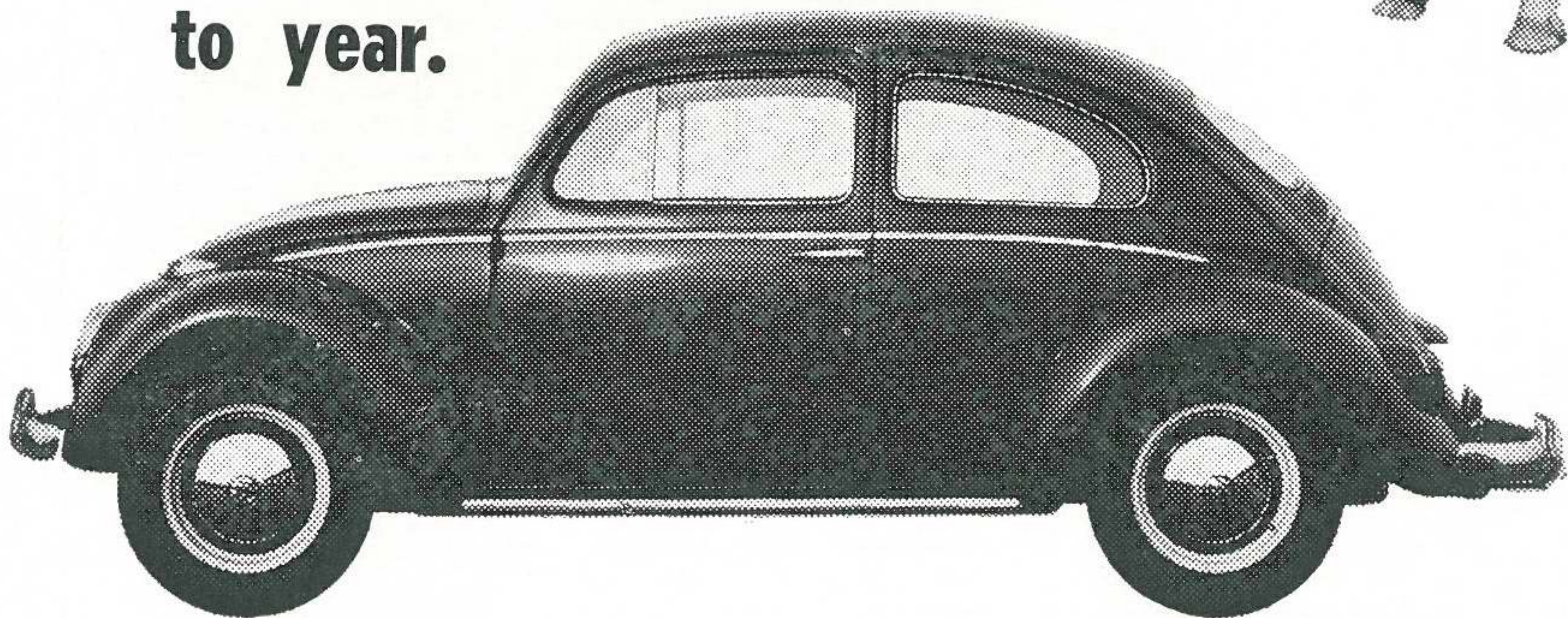
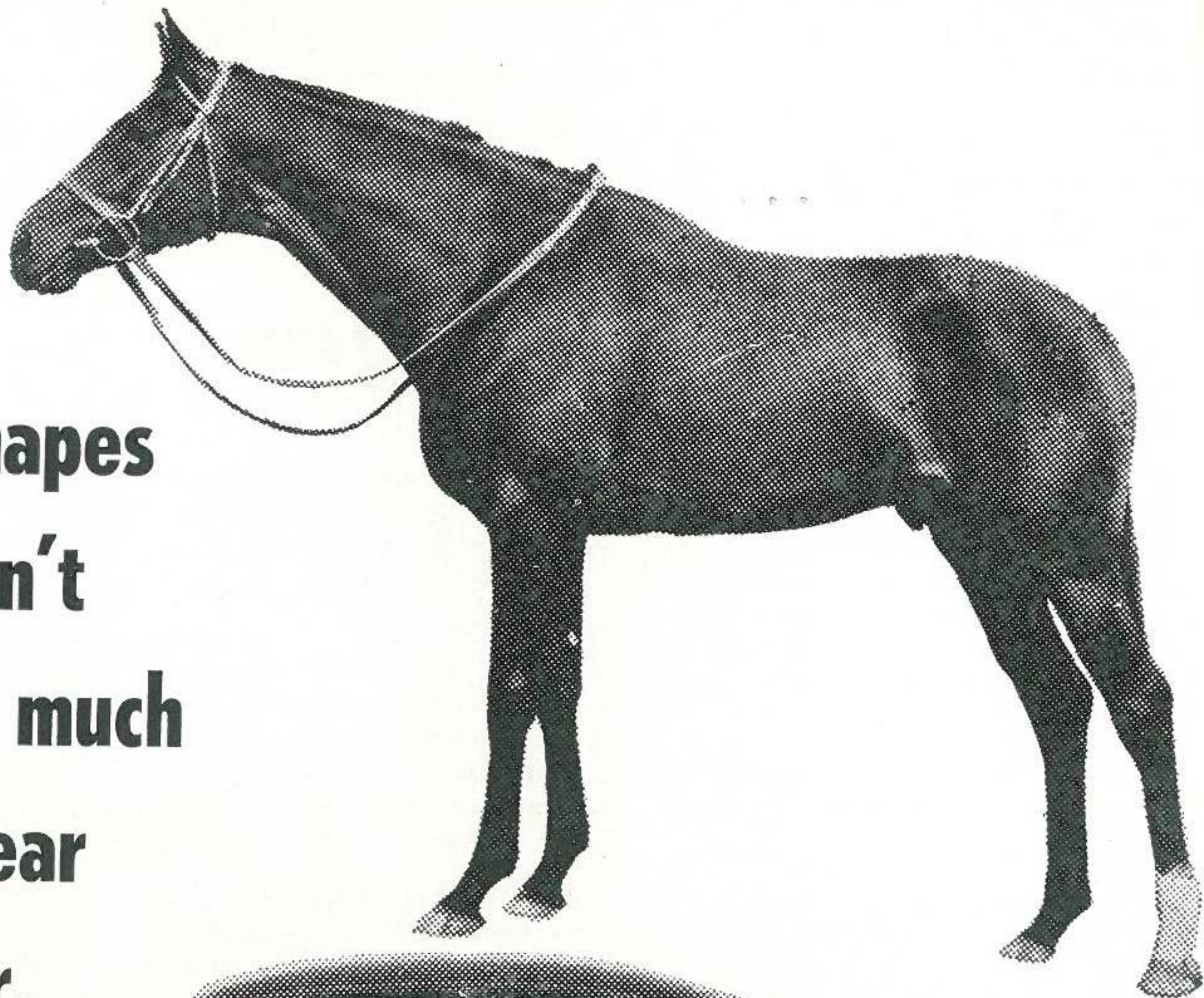
And these are but five of approximately thirty top-class articles and features which will appear in our extra large December issue. Remember it will be on sale at all leading newsagents throughout the country on the first of the month . . . but to make sure of your copy please place an order now.

There will be no better Christmas reading—and the price is only one shilling and sixpence.

And by the way, here is an idea for a worthwhile Christmas gift for relatives and friends—especially those who are away or in hospital. Why not order for them a year’s readership of “Gaelic Sport.” It only costs £1 and we will post a copy direct on the first of each month. Write to this office—79 Upper Dorset Street, Dublin 2.

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TOP TEN

FOLLOW THE FEATS OF THE STARS

ONCE again "Gaelic Sport" lists the top ten footballers and hurlers of the preceding month, based on individual performances. The players are listed in order of merit.

These lists are compiled by our editorial staff and are based entirely on games played during the period in question. These current lists are decided on games played from and including Sunday, September 8 to Sunday, October 13.

We have been maintaining this record of individual performances since Easter Sunday, April 14, and it is our intention at the end of the season to tabulate from these lists the TOP TEN footballers and hurlers of 1963. Our method will be to award ten points to a player for every time he has headed the list; nine points for every second placing and so on down to one point for every tenth placing.

In next month's issue we will glance back to the three early

months of the current season and will publish lists based on performances during that period. This will then bring us up to date and allow for a clear and precise assessment to be made of performances during the entire year.

There surely is no better way to decide the stars of the year. On a month by month basis every single intercounty performance of every single player is taken into account. The final result will be in our January issue.

This month Galway's star full back, Noel Tierney, heads the football list. Three tremendous performances during the period in question has him just ahead of Dublin's Mickey Whelan, with Mattie McDonagh in third place.

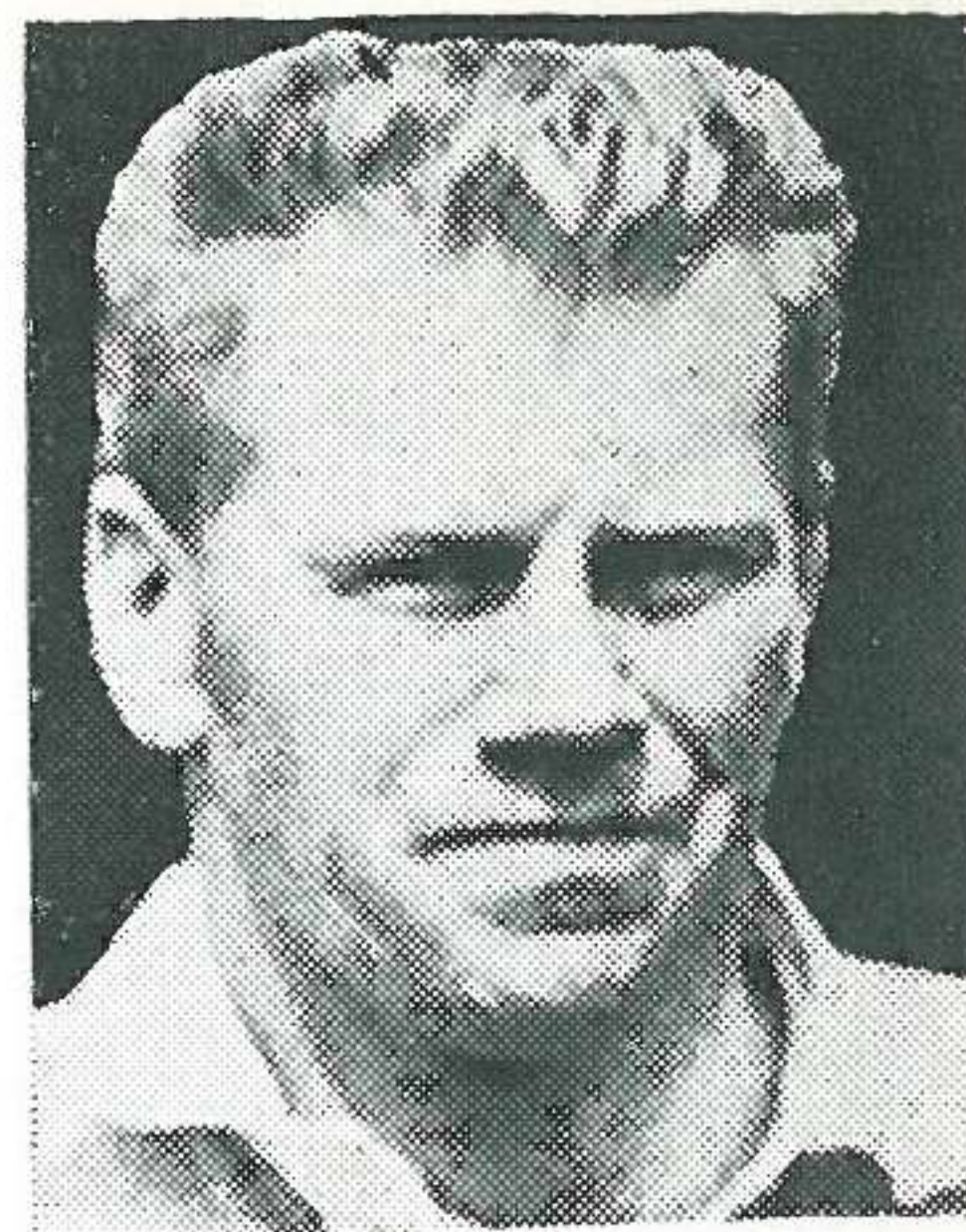
Wexford veteran, Ned Wheeler, heads the hurling list with Eddie Keher falling from first to fifth position. Only Keher, Seamus Cleere, Mickey Whelan and Lar Foley are retained from last month's lists.

HURLING

1. N. WHEELER (Wexford).
2. P. J. KEANE (Limerick).
3. T. ENGLISH (Tipperary).
4. S. CLEERE (Kilkenny).
5. E. KEHER (Kilkenny).
6. P. CRONIN (Clare).
7. S. McLOUGHLIN (Tipperary).
8. W. RACKARD (Wexford).
9. T. WALL (Tipperary).
10. J. DOYLE (Tipperary).

FOOTBALL

1. N. TIERNEY (Galway).
2. M. WHELAN (Dublin).
3. M. McDONAGH (Galway).
4. M. GARRETT (Galway).
5. L. HICKEY (Dublin).
6. L. FOLEY (Dublin).
7. D. FOLEY (Dublin).
8. J. DONNELLAN (Galway).
9. L. MURPHY (Down).
10. S. O'CONNELL (Derry).



E. Wheeler (Wexford).



Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary).



W. Rackard (Wexford).



Bill Casey of Dublin (second from right) clears the ball despite close attention from Galway's John Keenan (No. 13) in the All-Ireland football final.

CHANGE BROUGHT SUCCESS

By Seamus Ó Ceallaigh

SITTING in Croke Park the other Sunday who would have thought that the Oireachtas competition was once on the verge of disaster due to lack of public interest. But that was how it was. For almost a decade this competition was but a mighty poor relation.

When the Oireachtas was revived in 1939, the G.A.A. gave permission for a game of either hurling or football to be played at Croke Park between selected teams on Oireachtas Sunday. There was no set method by which the teams were chosen, and up to 1946 only one game was played each year.

Early in November of 1939 a mere handful of people saw the

first Oireachtas hurling final, in which Limerick beat the All-Ireland champions, Kilkenny, by 4-4 to 2-5.

It was hurling again the following year, and a rather drab final, in which Kilkenny beat Cork, 7-11 to 1-6.

The promoters switched over to football for the three following years. In 1941, Dublin drew with Kildare, 3-3 to 2-6, after a most exciting game, which, however, was never replayed. Dublin won the following year, defeating Cavan, 1-6 to 1-3; whilst Roscommon beat Louth, 1-6 to 0-6, in the 1943 final.

These were the war years, and may account in some measure for the failure of the competition to

click. Anyway, the sponsors returned to hurling in 1944, when Dublin beat Galway, 6-6 to 3-6. Galway were runners-up again the next year, when Tipperary beat them, 4-6 to 4-3, after a hard fought and exciting struggle.

About this period the Gaelic League organised a tournament which attracted much attention, and it was eventually agreed to merge this with the Oireachtas game, providing one annual competition from which the Oireachtas and the Gaelic League would benefit.

It was decided to provide a perpetual cup for the winner, and so the beautiful and unusually designed cup, with the bowl resting on standards shaped as hurleys,

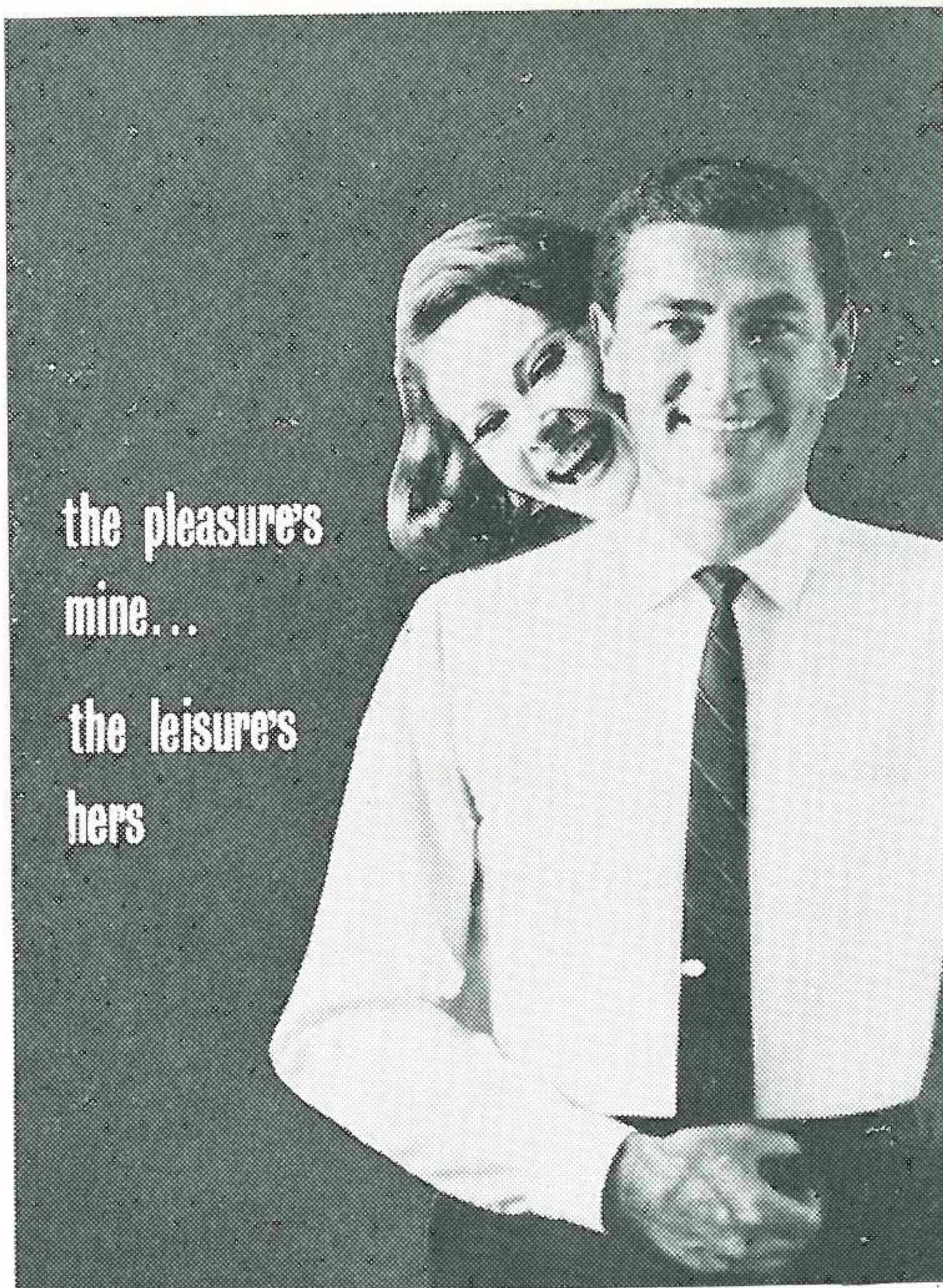
came into existence. It was officially named "Corn Thomais Aghas" but few know it by any other name than "Oireachtas Cup."

In 1946, the first year the Cup was up for competition, football teams were the choice, and Antrim beat Laoighis in the final. The series did not arouse the interest expected, and the Cup went north for the only time, without the scenes of wild enthusiasm its presentation entails nowadays.

The final change to hurling was made the following year and worked wonders. The fans responded with real relish and the competition went from strength to strength, until it established itself as one of the most attractive in the G.A.A. calendar, probably reaching its peak in 1956 when over 37,000 spectators saw an all Leinster final, in which Wexford beat Kilkenny. The next best crowd (33,733) assembled for the great Munster pairing of Tipperary and Cork in the 1960 decider.

The scores in the games since 1947 will be studied with interest:

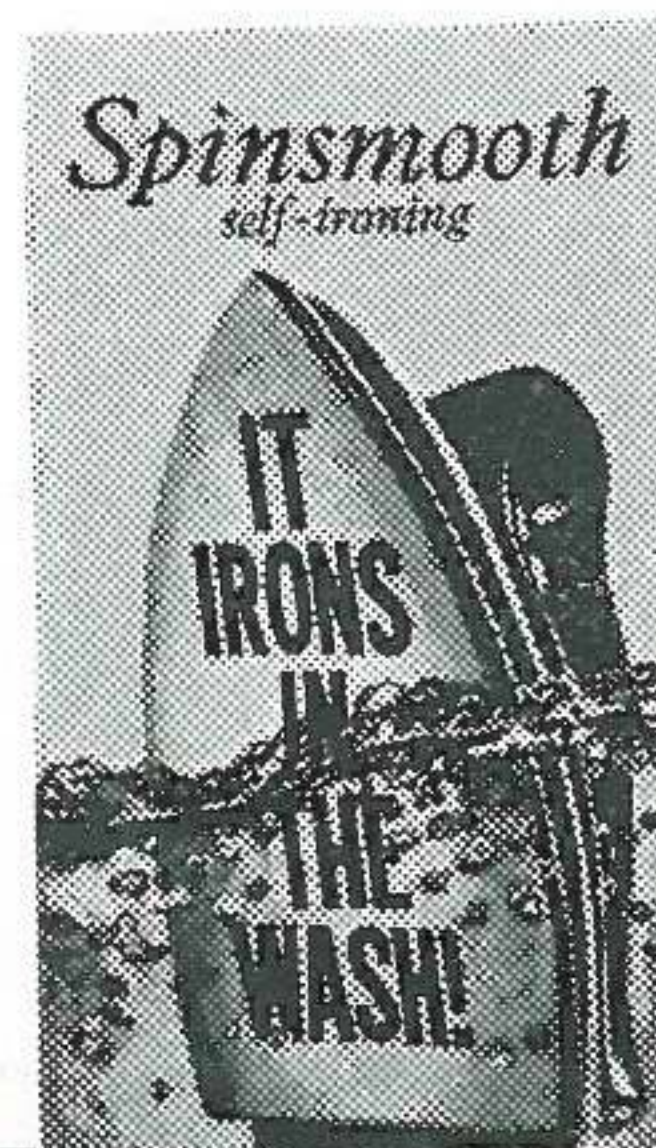
- 1947—Kilkenny 2-12; Galway 2-6.
- 1948—Dublin 3-6; Waterford 2-6.
- 1949—Tipperary 2-8; Laoighis 1-6.
- 1950—Galway 2-9; Wexford 2-6.
- 1951—Wexford 4-7; Kilkenny 3-7.
- 1952—Galway 3-7; Wexford 1-10.
- 1953—Wexford 5-11; Clare 4-5.
- 1954—Clare 2-8; Wexford 2-8.
Replay: Clare 3-6; Wexford 0-12.
- 1955—Wexford 3-11; Kilkenny 3-4.
- 1956—Wexford 0-16; Kilkenny 1-9.
- 1957—Kilkenny 4-10; Waterford 3-5.
- 1958—Galway 5-16; Wexford 2-4.
- 1959—Kilkenny 6-6; Galway 5-8.
- 1960—Tipperary 4-11; Cork 2-10.
- 1961—Tipperary 3-6; Wexford 2-9.
Replay: Tipperary 2-13; Wexford 3-4.
- 1962—Waterford 4-12; Tipperary 3-9.
- 1963—Tipperary 4-15; Wexford 3-12.



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LESSONS TO BE
LEARNED
FROM DEFEAT

By Eamonn Mongey

DON'T LET THE 'HANGOVER' GET YOU DOWN!

THE tumult and the shouting dies. The champions have been named. The honours have been won. It's all over for another year. For Dublin and Kilkenny this has been their year of glory but what a difference one hour in Croke Park made to the hopes of Galway and Waterford.

Unless you have been on the losing side in an All-Ireland final you have no idea what it is like. It doesn't hit you immediately after the game. As a matter of fact I found very little difference between victory and defeat in an All-Ireland final as the final whistle blew. It's afterwards you feel it.

It begins just before you go to bed on the night of the final. By then, you have usually read the early morning newspapers and "suffered" the first post-mortems. By Monday, the real "morning after" feeling is with you springing from the fact that nothing can now alter things—what has been has been! By Tuesday, remorse and despair really set in. But after all that has gone before, this is not unnatural.

The build-up has been terrific. There is the knock-out system for a start, gradually and dramatically reducing the teams to two. There is the publicity. There is all the preparation, all the training and all the sacrifice of the players—and after all this, nothing! nothing for the losers.

But, of course, this is not true

and the defeated players gradually come to appreciate this. I think it was Kipling who said that defeat was only an impostor. How right he was! for every defeat can, in fact, be considered as a step to ultimate victory. And indeed, any team which plans for such a victory must have a place for defeat in these plans; so that in reality, when the time comes, players should be conditioned not to despair of defeat but to build on it.

What should be learned from defeat? In the first place, it should be emphasised that all the effort which went into the pre-match preparation is not wasted. Win or lose, a team is a far better one after an All-Ireland. Physically the individual players cannot but improve after sustained bouts of training. In teamwork, too, with the same players playing together through a whole campaign there must be some improvement. Each player must get to know the other players style better and, more important, they must come to know the advantages of combining with them. In spirit, too, there must be an advance. No fifteen players can go through a full championship campaign, with all its successes and heart-stopping doubts, without realising how important is every ball in every game, how each ball must be fought for and fought for to the end.

But, perhaps, the greatest advan-

tage which comes from playing in an All-Ireland final is the experience gained. There is nobody who doesn't undergo some attack of nerves when they take part in their first final. There are so many pressures on you and so many worries about making one mistake which could cost your team an All-Ireland title. In those circumstances it's not easy to keep a cool head but having been through the mill once, it's much easier the second time. You keep a cooler head, you avoid mistakes, you're always on the alert and these "benefits" all flow from the little-understood word "experience."

But, perhaps, one of the best things to learn from an All-Ireland final is that there is no such thing as luck. That may surprise a lot of readers and especially the Galway followers who will be ready to point out that the Dublin goal was lucky this year and that Galway were unlucky in not having been awarded a penalty.

Well, as regards the Dublin goal, surely Gerry Davey should not have been left unmarked in the Galway square. While as regards the kick-in which led to the goal and which was taken from the 14-yard line instead of from the corner flag, surely some cool-headed Galway back should have objected to the placing of the ball in the first instance.

(Continued on page 13)



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Gerry Davey (nearest camera) scoring Dublin's goal in the All-Ireland football final. Was it a lucky score? Read Eamonn Mongey's comments in the accompanying article.

(Continued from page 11)

Then there was the penalty that wasn't! If Mick Garrett believed he had been fouled in the square why didn't he wait where he fell? This would have removed any doubts about where the particular incident occurred.

So, on the question of luck, the

moral is quite simple. If there is such a thing as luck, a good team can make its own. The ability to be in the right place at the right time to do the right thing at the right time is one of the most important ingredients of so-called luck.

Well, there are the lessons which can be learned from losing an All-Ireland final, and if they are learned and applied, then, far from there being "nothing for the losers," I can guarantee to the losing team the thing which counts most—a future.



CATHAL FLYNN

Cathal Flynn.

LEITRIM were well beaten by Galway in this year's Connacht final—yet Cathal Flynn was the second highest footballer championship scorer. With 1-18 to his credit from three championship outings, he eventually finished but two points behind Dublin's Mickey Whelan. However, on an average Cathal's seven points per game topped them all.

Such feats are, of course, not new to this 28-year-old star forward from Fenagh. For almost a decade he has been one of the game's leading marksmen and so he is likely to remain for quite some time.

He won his first medal with his home club in 1950 when they captured the Leitrim minor crown. Further football while at college at Multy-

farnham helped to develop his now renowned skill and he collected a Leinster colleges medal in 1952. Later that year he was on the Leitrim minor team with Tony Hayden and Packy McGarty and so began an association and a football friendship which has seen Leitrim fight many a great battle in recent years.

The Flynn-McGarty forward play compares with anything which any county has produced and while major honours have never come their way this pair have still scaled the heights and done so on merit alone.

More than any others, it was they who led Leitrim on to its great resurgence of the mid and late 'fifties, when only the brilliance of a great

first in the field . . .

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Galway team prevented them from reaching Croke Park.

When I talked to Cathal recently, he recalled the 1959 League semi-final meeting with Derry. Leitrim were, of course, beaten and it was by no means Cathal's greatest game, but he still maintains that it gave him his greatest thrill.

He had the honour of being with his county in their first senior appearance at Croke Park and for him that was glory indeed—for there is no more loyal countryman than the accurate corner forward from Fenagh.

Hopes were high in the 'fifties—then came a slump and this year there was joy once more as the unerring foot of Cathal Flynn kicked Sligo and Roscommon out of the Connacht championship.

Outsiders in both games Leitrim was once more set on the march . . . but it was the old story and heavy defeat eventually came against Galway.

But they can take it—those gallant men from Leitrim. They have in fact been taking it right through the years but they are always back ready to fight another day.

There is surely glory and as much reason for pride in this unquenchable determination as there is in a handful of All-Ireland titles won by larger and more endowed counties. For over the long years Leitrim have overcome vast emigration, heart-breaking defeats and, without any indication of eventual success, they are always there trying—and hoping.

I asked Cathal to name the three greatest defenders he has played on and without hesitation he named Micheál O'Brien, Willie Casey and Gabriel Kelly. Of Leitrim's future he is optimistic. He believes that eventually their day must come and his only wish is to be still there to share in it.

And will it? Who knows. What we do know though is there are truly great players who never win All-Ireland medals and furthermore we know that the player who can reach the forefront and remain there without the aid and the glamour of an All-Ireland final or the backing of a powerful county is all the greater for it. Such a man is Cathal Flynn.

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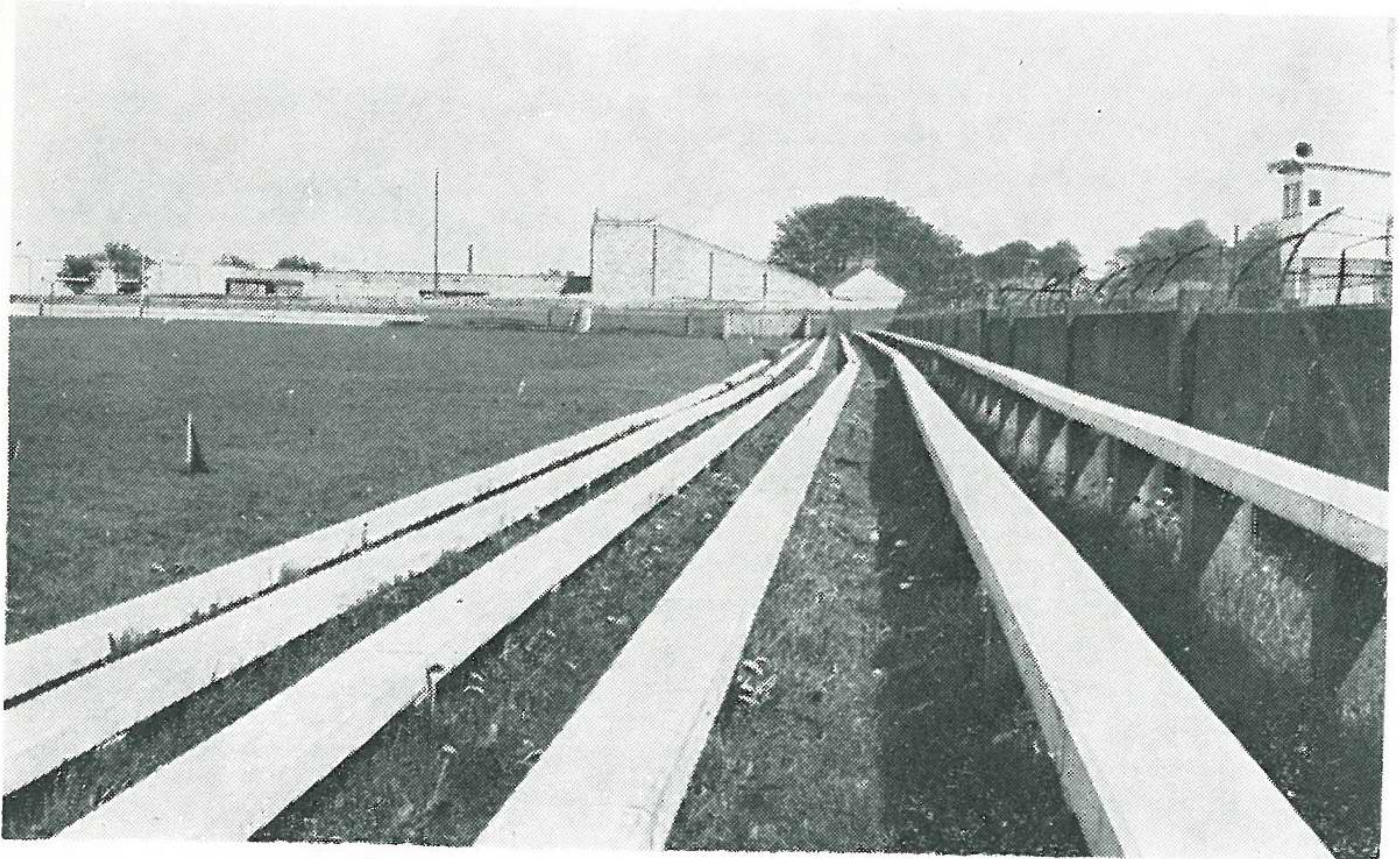
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Eddie Keher . . . great feat in final

HOARE—GOALKEEPER OF THE YEAR

DUBLIN and Tipperary now share the honour of having won most senior All-Ireland titles. They have twenty-three each. Next come Cork with twenty-two and Kerry with twenty-one. If we include all grades, Tipperary have a clear lead, having collected forty-four titles to Dublin's forty-one.

This year was the first since 1948 that Tipperary were not engaged in either the senior or minor hurling final. It was also the first year since 1948 (other than 1960) that the favourites were beaten in the hurling decider. Ironically enough it was Waterford who caused the upset in 1948 . . . this year it was the other way around.

And speaking of favourites and the men who make them so—I dropped into the press-box at Croke Park minutes after the football final had ended. It was the happiest spot in Ireland—beaming faces. Not that anybody had anything against Galway but . . .

Who actually got that vital goal for Dublin. Everybody says Gerry Davey but personally I thought that it was Noel Fox. The ball came across the goal, Fox swiped at it with his left hand and Davey punched with both hands. As I saw it Fox connected and as a result the ball was on its way to

the net—but then perhaps Davey hit it too.

There was no goal scored against any of this year's finalists—football and hurling, in the game immediately prior to the final. Waterford came through goalless against Tipperary in the Munster final, as did Kilkenny against Dublin in the Leinster final. Galway and Dublin performed like feats in their semi-final games.

Pascal Flynn, of course, came through the semi-final and final without conceding a goal. However, he is still not my choice of goalkeeper of the year. In my book it's Donegal's Seamus Hoare, with the challenge game at the opening of the new St. Molaise Park, Irvinestown, as his greatest hour. He saved one penalty and went within an ace of saving the second. He actually did save it but the ball was sent home on the rebound. I saw Meath's Kevin Smith save two penalties against Carlow in the mid-forties.

Who would be your choice for footballer of the year? Mine might surprise you. He is Kildare's "Pa" Connolly. Think it over and don't confine your thinking to the big occasions and you may agree. It wasn't Pa's fault that Kildare were not there for the big occasion.

What did you think of the Junior Tailteann Games at Croke Park?

More important, I wonder have the N.A.C.A. thought about it. If anybody is going to benefit it won't be them.

It's been a great year for scoring with Eddie Keher, Michael "Babs" Keating and Kerry's star junior footballer, Dom O'Donnell standing out. Keher's fourteen points in the hurling final was of course a tremendous feat. Still Keating was not far behind. He notched eleven points against Wexford in the All-Ireland Intermediate "home" final at Waterford and later that evening he scored 1-6 for Ardfinnan in a Tipperary football championship game. One goal and seventeen points in the same evening is quite a total. Offaly's goalkeeper cum forward, Tom Furlong scored 3-7 in the county championship that same day.

Dublin must have set-up a record by winning the football crown without having to move outside Croke Park. Waterford too are becoming quite at home at headquarters. They have played there more often this year than ever before—and there is still a game against Dublin to come.

I heard that Wexford are having quite a job deciding what to do with the huge cup presented by President Kennedy on behalf of the Wexfordmen in New York. The donors specified football competition—but Wexford have the Tobin Cup for the senior championship and it just would not do to present the U.S. cup for minor or junior grade. However, by the time you read this the problem may have been solved.

A word of praise for the Fermanagh Gael who found himself with a ticket to spare for the foot-

(Continued overleaf)

(Continued from page 17)

ball final and rather than sell it at a high price to the touts, he stood for twenty minutes outside the grounds until he met someone he knew. He then gave the ticket free. Incidentally I priced the tickets which were on sale on my way into Croke Park that day. Two ten shilling tickets could be had at £5.

Happy indeed must have been the Donegal selectors following their victory over Down at Irvinstown. A few weeks prior to that game it will be remembered that Armagh surprised them in a draw at Letterkenny in the opening round of the Lagan Cup. For the Irvinstown game the selectors favoured an unchanged team—and what a laceration did they get in the local press. Whoever had red faces when the game was over it certainly wasn't the selectors.

Despite the fact that it was played while the football final was being televised there was a record gate of £404 taken at the Rathnure-Oylegate Wexford senior hurling semi-final.

Football has certainly found its answer to the Oireachtas competition in the Grounds Tournament. Let us hope that the result will be proper dressing-room facilities — and indeed press facilities at all important venues within the next few years.

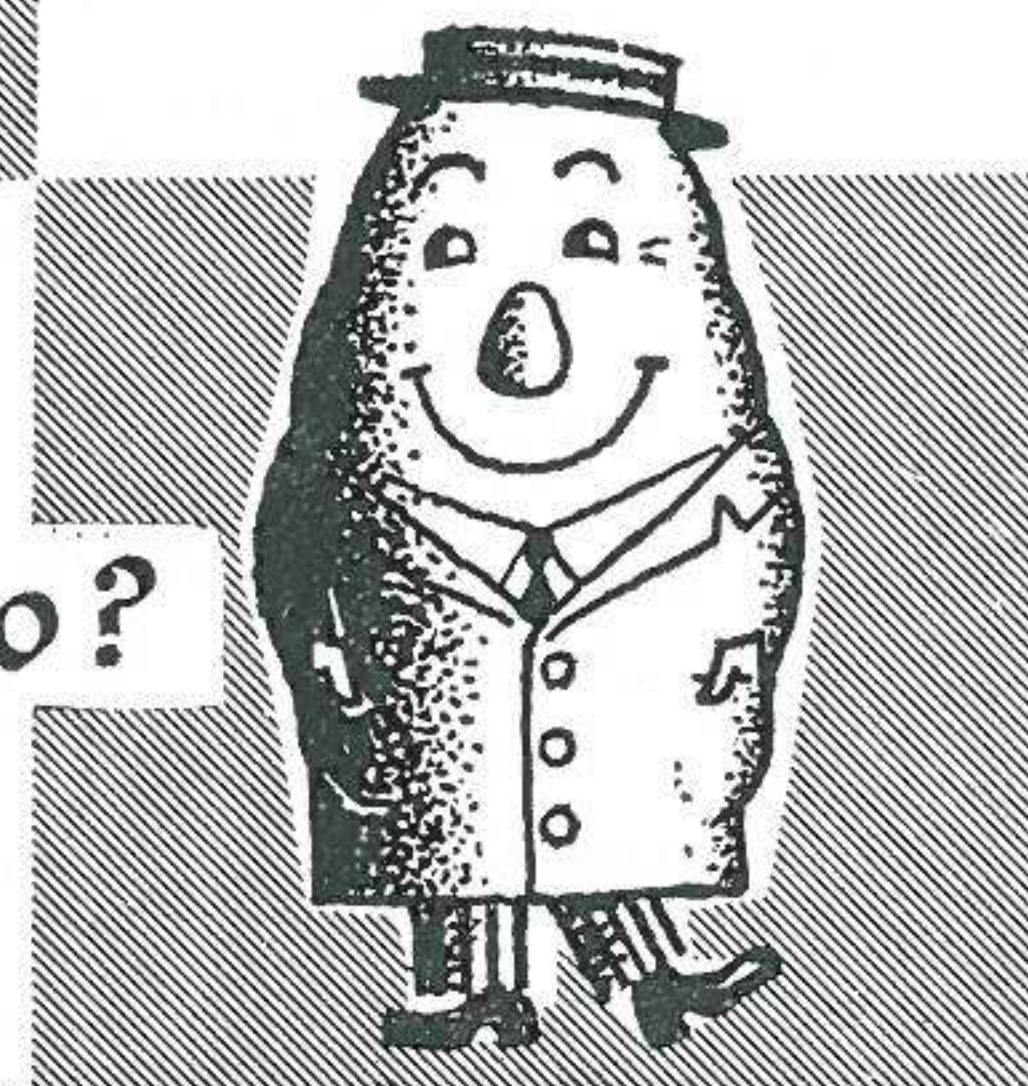
I will finish with a word of praise for John Player and Sons. They did a fine job in entertaining Kilkenny and Galway after the finals and must be given every recognition and credit for it.

It is only a thought, but what a splendid occasion it would be if both finalists were invited. It would certainly serve a great purpose. Many of these players who battle shoulder to shoulder in All-Ireland finals never meet socially. I hope Messrs. Players think about it—however, as I say, it is only a suggestion. They are due sincere thanks for what they are doing and they have set a lead of which they may be proud.

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CHEERS FOR THE OLD BRIGADE

THE men of 1956 were back again and the crowd were rooting for them to a man. The day September 29 and Galway's All-Ireland team of '56 came back and beat the present side by 2-10 to 3-6. It was grand to hear the cheers that greeted Sean Purcell's first score, Gerry Daly's or Jack Mahon's first clearance and Frank Stockwell's first solo-run. The old firm may not be as speedy now but they still have the football—tenacious Jack Kissane — fit and fast Mick Greally—Gerry Kirwan courageous in goal—Jackie Coyle—Joe Young—“Hauleen” McDonagh—Gerry and Seamus Colleran. The crowd would have liked to have seen the bould Jack Mangan, durable Tom Dillon, the big midfielders Frank Evers and Mattie McDonagh, Sean Keely and Tom McHugh again. It was a grand occasion and no one begrudged the '56 men a return to former glory. Sean Purcell it was, who organised it all and Joe Young it was, who suggested the occasion first. After the game somebody said that it was the best two bobs entertainment he had in years. I could not agree more.

BLESSING RETURNS

Back in harness again after a lengthy layoff from the game is the former Connacht and Leitrim midfielder Noel Blessing. Noel, a very fine fielder, won a Railway Cup medal as Connacht's football midfielder in 1957 and played for his native county in the Connacht final of that year. Now he returns to the county-colours and we wish him well.

FR. FRENCH LEAVES

Two months back I bid farewell in this column to three Columban Missionary Fathers, who had left for the Far East, namely Frs. Nicholas Murray, Joe Cahill and Ger French. The latter in fact did not leave our shores until after the All-Ireland football final. Frs. Murray and Cahill spent some time in the United States before going to the Far East and Fr. Murray was of very valuable assistance to the Galway hurlers in New York in a vital game against Kilkenny, a game in which he renewed a playing acquaintance with the former Loughrea and Galway player Mike Sweeney. All three will be missed in Western G.A.A. circles. We wish them all the luck in the world in their missionary work.

FORMER STARS

Mention of priests recalls to the memory some great football and hurling stars who adorned our Western G.A.A. fields while clerics. How can one forget Fr. Connie Boyle R.I.P., Fr. Paddy Gantley, Fr. Brendan Hanniffy, Fr. Seamus Scanlon, Fr. Des Dockery, Fr. Peter Quinn, Fr. Mick Caulfield, Fr. Sean Freyne, Fr. Paddy Costelloe, Fr. Peter Tierney, Fr. Tom Colreavy, Fr. Bernie Doyle, Fr. John Kennedy, Fr. Eddie O'Connor, Fr. Frank Mannion, Fr. Charlie O'Malley, Fr. Mick Howley and many more if we went back even five years further. They did the G.A.A. proud. What a team of footballers the above panel would constitute!

ON WESTERN CLUB-FIELDS

Kiltoom are Roscommon S.F. champions again, giving Gerry

O'Malley and the Feely brothers another Roscommon award. The bould Gerry has a big number by now. Other members of the Kiltoom side are Frank Kenny and Jimmy Martin, the popular referee. Defeated finalists Padraic Pearse's had to field without their star Eamonn Curley and lost Bernie Kyne also through injury. Their day will come.

Dunmore McHales won their eleventh Galway S.F. title easily defeating a game Mountbellew side in a sportingly-contested final. John Donnellan, the Dunmore captain, stepped down on final day and allowed Jack Mahon to captain a title-winning Dunmore side before he retired. In this game Dunmore had many stars but the greatest of all was their full-back giant Andy O'Connor with best help from John Donnellan, Eamonn Slattery and diminutive Tommy Keenan, the former St. Jarleth's College star.

In Galway hurling Turloughmore won their third title in a row in very convincing style and, as always, the two Cullinanes Mickey and Michael were their stars. The final was marred by a very unsporting act that occurred after the final whistle had sounded. This is the second year in succession that the Galway hurling final has produced its unsavoury incidents. Last year we had the famous Egan case, which resulted in Castlegar's withdrawal from club hurling. Let us hope there will be no repetition.

Until next month Beannacht Dé libh.

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ONE BIG FAMILY

Moondharrig's diary

WHEN I look around at the relationships between the players who hold the top places in hurling and football, I am often reminded that Ireland is a relatively small place after all. Take the present Down team for instance. Everyone knows that Dan McCartan and James McCartan are brothers, but how many folk are quite clear about the fact that the other pair of Down brothers, Kevin and Sean O'Neill are first-cousins of the McCartans?

And to complicate matters further Delia McCartan, a sister of Dan and James, is married to the Armagh full-back Felix McKnight, while a sister of Felix McKnight's is married to another well-known Down player P. J. McElroy. On the front cover of this issue is a fine action shot of opposing brothers-in-law McCartan and McKnight.

Of course, you do not have to go North to get tricky relationships to work out, here in Dublin the first and second generations of the great St. Vincent's club have produced many similar close ties of relationship and inter-marriage between Gaelic families.

How many knew for instance that Jim Crowley and Cathal O'Leary of the 1958 Dublin team were brothers-in-law, or that Des. Ferguson and Christy Hayes, who plays beside him in the Dublin hurling half-back line, are married to sisters, both McDonald's whose brothers are very useful hurlers.

In the South I know of many similar relationships too. In this year's All-Ireland hurling finals, for instance, Tom Cheasty, who played for Waterford, and Martin Murphy the former Kilkenny

minor, who played at mid-field for London in the junior final, are closely connected by marriage ties, while I'm told that star Kilkenny senior forward Eddie Keher has first-cousins noted footballers in Roscommon.

But then you never know where you are with relationships nowadays, and that is all to the good, for while county loyalties are the life-blood of competition on the G.A.A. fields, it is always well to remember that Gaeldom is fundamentally one big family to which competition should mean friendly rivalry, devoid of rancour.

I have a very interesting query

this month from Kilkenny, a Nore-side reader writes in to ask if Ted Carroll of Kilkenny is the first 'twin' to win an All-Ireland medal. That I am afraid, is the kind of question I cannot answer off-hand, so perhaps some reader would come to my assistance.

This reader points out that Ted Carroll and his twin brother Mick played together on the St. Kieran's team that won the All-Ireland colleges' championship in 1957 and also played together on the University College Dublin side that won the Dublin senior hurling championship a couple of seasons

(Continued overleaf)



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(Continued from page 21)

ago; and also won a Kilkenny junior title with Lisdowney. Besides this they also played together in a Leinster hurling championship game for Kilkenny in senior grade, but while Ted kept to the fore, Mick, since he qualified at U.C.D., seems to have dropped out of the hurling lime-light.

Incidentally this Kilkenny correspondent raises an interesting point about the same Ted Carroll. He says that, as far as he can ascertain, Ted has played in the same position in all grades of hurling, colleges, minor, junior, intermediate and senior. And that position has always been centre-half-back. I wonder is this a record for out-field play? Goal-keepers, of course, have nearly always been specialists.

Like many another who has been in any way closely connected with the G.A.A. in Dublin in the last



● Down's Sean O'Neill.

fifteen or twenty years I mourn the death of Tom Russell, the genial teacher from Blanchards-

town who did so much for the games in the capital.

It was my privilege to know Tom well, particularly in his early days as chairman of the county board, and I can safely say there was no man I admired more. Out in Blanchardstown he built up a great club and it must have been a source of pride to him in his last days that the stalwart man from Blanchardstown, Paddy Downey, played such a big part in bringing the Sam Maguire Cup back to Dublin.

Another old friend who has passed away was Sean Barrett of Mountrath, that teacher turned journalist who was always so glad to see me arrive at O'Moore Park in Portlaoise.

Sean lived out his last years in the Laois county town, but to me he has always remained Sean Barrett of Mountrath and I can only wish now that I could remember half the entertaining stories he had about old days in the Gaelic games to which, in one capacity or another, he gave more than fifty years of faithful and effective service.

By the way, earlier in this article I was talking about relationships in the Gaelic world. Well there can be no harm in pointing out that one alleged relationship of which we heard quite an amount after the All-Ireland football final, does not exist at all. There is, as far as I know, and I know a fair share, not a word of truth in the rumour that John Timmons is related by marriage or otherwise to referee, Eamonn Moules. Whoever spread that tale was being greatly unfair both to the player and the official, although, knowing referee Moules, it is certain that he would administer the rules with the same impartiality if he found himself refereeing a match between fifteen cousins of his and fifteen complete strangers.



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Camogie

IS DUBLIN'S MONOPOLY DANGEROUS?

By Agnes Hourigan

WELL, since I wrote last, we have all but concluded the competitive camogie season of 1963, and I must say that I look back on it with somewhat mixed feelings. We had some great games in the All-Ireland campaign and a magnificent final, which Dublin won more easily on the score-board than they did on the field. But then we had a disappointing crowd at that game, and, in view of all the pre-match publicity, one begins to wonder if it is possible to get the general public interested in camogie finals any more, as long as Dublin's present dominance lasts.

From the long term view-point it was good to see all the Munster counties competing in the championship and to see Westmeath and Longford back in action in Leinster, where, I thought the brightest display was in the superlative performance of Offaly in defending their junior title so successfully.

On the other hand it is not good to see Carlow still 'through-other,' as they say in the North, and Wicklow not fielding in the championships.

However, it is a good thing to see the game continuing to make progress in the schools and colleges. It did not prove practicable to run a second competition in Leinster this season, but I am told that plans are already afoot to run a major competition next season in the Eastern province to cater for the schools that are either weak at the game or that

(Continued on page 26)

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John Donnellan (Galway).

CLASH OF THE CLANS

By LIAM FOX

FROM midway in this year's football championship it was inevitable that two sets of brothers would oppose one another in the All-Ireland final. Ulster had its claimants in the McFeeleys of Donegal and the O'Neills of Down. Kerry had its famed Sheehys; Galway had reasons to place its hopes on the Donnellans, while Dublin took pride in the versatile Foleys.

As events turned out it was the brothers from the East and the West who were in opposition on September 22 and to the Foleys went the medals.

JOHN DONNELLAN was 26 in March this year. A member of the Galway minor football team in 1955, he collected his first provincial championship medal in 1958 when he played on the junior team and he was right half-back on the side that went on to add the All-Ireland junior title by beating Lancashire in the final at Ballinasloe.

His performances with the junior team brought him into consideration for the senior side and after going in as a substitute against Roscommon in the opening National League game in October, 1958, he was picked at right half-forward for the game against Wicklow a few weeks later.

Thereupon John embarked on a play-anywhere spell on the Galway

team, for he was right corner back in League ties against Louth, Laois and Dublin, but was at left half-forward against Offaly in March, 1959.

Then when Galway qualified for a trip to Wembley Stadium, London, by beating Leitrim in a preliminary game in April, 1959, John Donnellan was their right half-back and he occupied this position against Down on Whit Saturday.

He was left out of the side during the provincial and All-Ireland championships that year, but returned to play at right corner back in November, 1959, in a National League tie against Laois at Portlaoise. However, he was only a substitute for the game against Dublin in Croke Park the following February, but chosen at right half-back against Mayo in the championship in June, 1961, he has been on the team ever since.

PAT DONNELLAN is now 22 and will be remembered for many a long year as the star of this year's semi-final, for when he moved out to midfield against Kerry his dynamic football contributed largely to the shock victory over the champions.

Although now one of the top forwards in the game and an occasional midfielder, Pat was a centre half-back when he played minor with Galway in 1958 and

collected a Connacht championship medal with them that year, but Cavan in the semi-final put an end to the team's All-Ireland championship dreams.

As a student at famed St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, Pat won Connacht junior and senior colleges' medals and as a brilliant midfielder for the colleges in 1960 he helped them win the All-Ireland colleges' title.

Within a few weeks of leaving St. Jarlath's, he was chosen on the Galway senior team as a substitute for the Connacht championship game against Sligo and then played at left half-forward in that year's provincial final against Leitrim and the All-Ireland semi-final against Kerry.

He was a reserve for Connacht and the Combined Universities last year but this year was right half-forward for Connacht and on the other wing for the Universities.

LAR FOLEY, like his brother Des, is a versatile player and is, of course, one of the regulars on the Dublin hurling team as well as the football side.

In 1956 he was doubly honoured by the Leinster colleges' selectors and was chosen as midfield on the inter-provincial football team and as centre half-forward on the hurling team. He is the possessor of two All-Ireland minor medals as a midfielder for Dublin when

A PAIR OF
BROTHERS
HAD TO WIN
FOOTBALL
MEDALS
THIS YEAR

they beat Tipperary (1955) and Leitrim the following year, and he was Dublin's right full-back when they won the Sam Maguire Cup in 1958.

In 1960 Lar was at full-forward for the Dublin hurling team in the National League and won a Walsh Cup medal as a forward in October that year, but for the following year's Leinster semi-final against Westmeath he was moved to left full-back and has remained there since on the hurling team. He has been picked for Leinster at hurling and football.

DES FOLEY celebrated his 23rd birthday on September 12, and has the distinction of being chosen on the Leinster football team before he had played a senior championship game with his county. But he performed so well in a Railway Cup trial early in 1959 that he was chosen at midfield for the semi-final, but having played at Tullamore an injury prevented him playing with Leinster when they won the Cup on St. Patrick's Day.

Educated at St. Joseph's C.B.S., Fairview, he was at full-forward when the school won the Leinster senior football title in 1956 and he captained the side that won the Leinster and All-Ireland titles three years later. For three years 1956, '57 and '58 he was on the Dublin minor hurling and football teams

A READER SEES 'RED'!

A CHARA,—I hope that you will afford me the opportunity of replying to the vitriolic attack made on me in last month's issue by Down footballer, Joe Lennon, and also to pass some comment on your leading article of the previous month.

This shower of abuse has descended on me because I questioned the wisdom of "expert football coaching" as advocated by men like Eamonn Mongey and Joe Lennon.

I now ask either of these men three questions:—

1. Where they got their ideas on "expert coaching."
2. Why we never hear them mention "expert coaching" for hurling.
3. Whether the ordinary partisan footballer would prefer to see his own team win a game of average standard or lose a game in which the standard was very high.

Answered truthfully I would expect the replies to read as follows:—

1. From soccer.
2. Because with hurling there is no other game to copy of borrow from.
3. A partisan follower of any sport would prefer to see his team win irrespective of standard.

My point is this. I am not opposed to improving Gaelic football—as a matter of fact I am all for it but I want that

improvement to be brought about from within rather than from without. I want a natural evolution and not a super-imposed one.

The Dick Fitzgeralds and the Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan's are o.k. with me. They belong to the former category and there is no tint of cup final day at Wembley to be found in what they advocate. They are the gossellers of the natural evolution.

The other aspect of my argument is that Gaelic Games (whether we like it or not) are not dependant on standard. The thousands who packed Croke Park last September were there to see their favourites win and not to assess the standard of play. This equally applies to the Mayo or Down or Tyrone junior football finals.

The impetus in Gaelic Games is, as I have said before, "the honour of the little village" (or county) and not the standard.

Down were the nearest approach we have had to being the product of "expert coaching" and what did they do that Roscommon, Cavan, Kildare, Mayo, Dublin, Wexford and Kerry had not done before them.

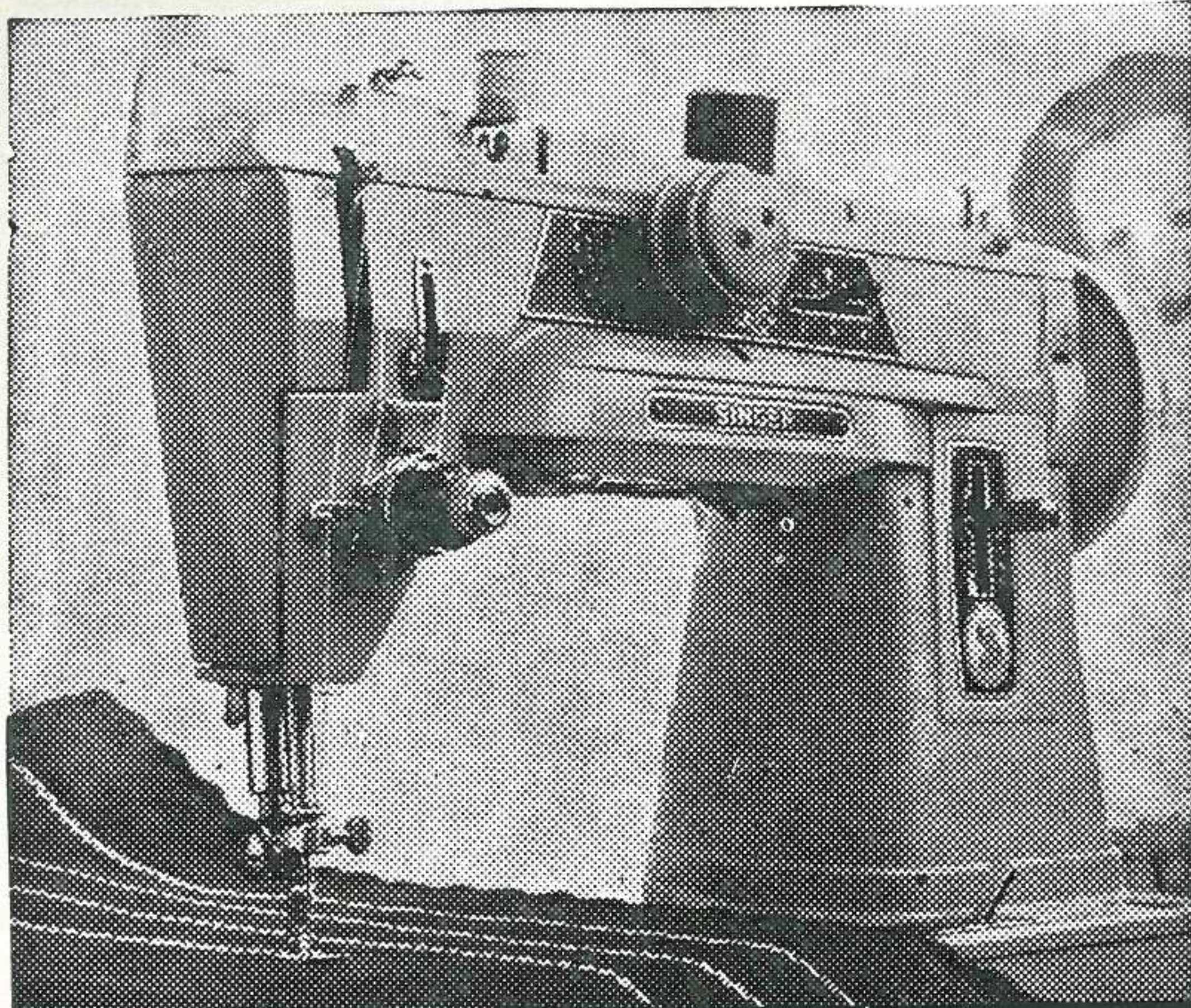
Yes you can have all your "expert coaches" and ten years for them to produce a team—provided you give me Kerry and two weeks honest to goodness training at Killarney.

"KEEP IT GAELIC."
Dungannon.

and won All-Ireland football medals in '56 and '58.

On St. Patrick's Day, 1962, he became the first player to win Railway Cup hurling and football

medals on the same day and this year he again played with the two Leinster teams. Last year also he was chosen for both Rest of Ireland teams.



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(Continued from page 23)

are not sufficiently strong in numbers to match the eight or ten top schools in the province. This would be a very good idea, for I know myself of several Leinster schools which are very keen on camogie but which do not compete in the Stuart Cup because they fear that a heavy defeat for their girls would cause them to give up their efforts altogether.

I think it would be a good idea too if another effort were made to bring back into competition schools and convents which were, not too long ago, pillars of the game, but which do not compete at all nowadays. It is a great pity that the Dominican and Loreto Convents in particular continue to stand aloof, particularly as the Dominican Convents are such great supporters of the game in Ulster.

One hopes that we will hear a great deal more this year about the game in schools in the South and West, or are we to take it that, in some minds hockey, is still a game of greater snob-value than camogie, for all the contention that democracy has banished snobbish appeal out of Ireland.

Well, snobbishness doesn't seem to prevail to the same extent in Dublin where I hear that a course in camogie is now being given in at least one of the schools which turn out physical training instructors, or should I have said instructresses?

And that is as it should be. Why should camogie be neglected in such training courses, as it has been up till now?

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STARS OF THE PAST UNITE

CUMANN na Sean Gael came quietly into being a few months back and I had the pleasure of attending its recent first annual dinner at a Dublin hotel. For the benefit of those who are not aware of the purpose of this association let me explain.

Na Sean Gael are, of course old Gaels and what a collection of them there are — all of them mighty men of bye-gone years. Paddy McDonnell, the great Dublin football captain of the twenties, is chairman, while Tommy Moore of Dublin and Kilkenny hurling fame is vice-chairman. Johnny McDonnell, one of the truly great goalkeepers, is treasurer. The hon. secretary is Limerick and Dublin hurling star of the 'forties, Tony Herbert.

Among the members of the association are Mattie Power, Mick Darcy, Paul Russell, Mick Falvey, Mick Gill, Frank Burke, Stephen and John Sinnott and a host of other former greats.

The object of the Association is to keep alive among former members of the G.A.A. a spirit of friendship and mutual interest and to provide a social atmosphere and contact for that purpose.

There will be meetings, get-togethers and the odd dinner at which old acquaintances will be renewed, old friendships reviewed and old stories retold. Memories of the dim and distant past will come to life again and many an old player will feel young once more.

A noble purpose you say—but there is more to it than that.

Hidden behind the social facade is an even more worthy object and it is to give a helping hand where it may be needed. From time to time there are the odd cases of old Gaels in difficulties. Through no fault of their own hard times have and will come upon the few. These will in future have friends to lend a helping hand in Cumann na Sean Gael.

The association has its headquarters at 100 Seville Place, Dublin — a historic premises and long the property of the famed O'Tooles Club. Here Cumann na Sean Gael will be meeting

regularly to quietly pursue its objectives. You may not be hearing too much of them but they will be there—these men of the far and not too far gone past. There is no desire to re-enter the limelight. To a man they had their share. May we wish them rath Dé ar an obair.

By the way the association would be delighted to hear from old Gaels throughout the country who might like to renew past acquaintances — or indeed make new ones. Just drop a line to the hon. secretary—Tony Herbert, 55 Raphoe Road, Crumlin, Dublin.

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THERE was no greater game ever played than the second meeting between Kilkenny and Cork in the 1931 All-Ireland final and in that game one man stood apart. He was the man between the Kilkenny posts—Jim Dermody.

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meetings with Cork, Clare, Limerick and many more. The story too has many heroes—Lowry Meagher, Mick Mackey, Tull Considine, Mattie Power, Paddy Phelan, John Joe Doyle, Tommy Leahy, Ned Byrne, Garrett Howard, Timmy Ryan—Yes, the giants of hurling’s golden era.

“The Jim Dermody Story” begins next month.

DAVIN'S DAY

at Lansdowne road

By Patrick Carver

IT was an Autumn evening in 1876 and the athletics match between Ireland and England at the Irish Champions' Club at Lansdowne Road, Dublin, was just coming to an end. Out in the middle of the field some of the biggest Englishmen were whiling away time by throwing a 56 lbs. weight. They had already been beaten in the match event by the Irish competitors and now they were testing their strength against the same Irishmen by tossing the weight into the air.

The talk got around to feats of strength and Winthrop, the biggest of the Englishmen offered to challenge any man in straightening the 56 lbs weight over his head. The challenge was accepted and he proceeded straight away to push the weight 20 times over his head in succession. An Irish-

man duplicated the feat, so did another of the Englishmen.

One feat borrowed another and for the next thirty minutes a large and appreciative crowd was treated to several outstanding demonstrations of strength.

Honours were considered to be even . . . until the big, quiet man from Carrick-on-Suir joined in. Without any fuss, without any suggestion of boasting, he offered to lift the three biggest men on the English team.

This really was a challenge—particularly as Winthrop weighed over 17 stone. Another Englishman weighed 16 stone, and another tipped the scales at well over the 15 stone mark. In all, three of them weighed over 48 stone.

The Irishman hoisted Winthrop on his back, then the other Englishmen were lifted on to his

shoulders. With 48 stone up, he stood there and it appeared to be no effort to him.

Then to show that it was no effort he started off to walk the length of Lansdowne Road. This he did and turning at the end of the pitch he walked right back to where the group was waiting.

His wonderful performance drew round after round of applause from the crowd. The Englishmen bowed in admiration to him; there were no further challenges of strength. The day belonged to Ireland.

And the man who walked the length of Lansdowne Road and back was . . . Maurice Davin, who was to become first President of the Gaelic Athletic Association and who was to have the honour of being three times elected to the highest position in the G.A.A.

A WORTHY AMBASSADOR

IN September, 1964, exactly twelve months hence, two Irish players, bearing the good wish of every handball fan in the country, will fly out from Dublin, to participate in an International Series which is being held in conjunction with the World Fair in New York.

This month we therefore turn the spotlight on the first of our players to qualify for the trip. He is, of course, the versatile maestro from County Louth—Joe Maher.

Joe may not rank as one of the classical players of our time, yet he possesses all the attributes that make a player great—strength, accuracy, alley-craft, good use of either hand, and the determination never to admit defeat even in the face of adversity.

This latter qualification immediately brings to mind the All-Ireland hard singles final of 1961. Played at the Commons, on Sunday, October 1, the Wee County man was slogging it out with that doughty Kingdom Warrior of many a hard fought handball battle, Paddy Downey. For once the Fitzgerald Jones Club player from Tralee was on the receiving end of things, and Maher having won the first three sets was coasting to an easy victory.

But then disaster struck for the Louthman, and as he went charging after a Downey return, he rocketed against a sidewall and dislocated his shoulder. For a few minutes it seemed problematic that Louth must throw in the towel, but the

great-hearted player from Boyneside was not going to let those earlier three hard-fought victories go for nought. He bravely carried on, and though visually in agony with each attempted shot, won a close and exciting fourth game to clinch a great victory over his redoubtable opponent.

However, my most cherished memory of Maher the handballer goes back to an historic Sunday in Kilkenny's famed Talbot's Inch alley on April 15, 1962.

The occasion was the final of the Gael-Linn Tournament and from a mammoth entry of 976 contestants, the coveted trophy now rested between the 1961 holder, Mick Kirby from Clare and Maher. The stage was set for a thriller, and as events materialised, that is exactly what it was. Both players tackled their task with rare abandon, no quarter given or asked and never more than a couple of aces separating them at any stage. With only two minutes remaining for play Kirby, took up the running, and seemed just to have enough in hand to emerge victorious. But Maher was still left with that dying kick, he grasped an easy toss from the Tuamgraney player with open arms, and amidst a welter of excitement scored those vital couple of aces to clinch the issue. He thus returned to his Boyneside home with the trophy, which had last rested there in 1960.

And while Maher has the distinction, together with John Ryan from Wexford, Des Dillon

from Dublin, and Limerick's Tom McGarry, of having won the Gael-Linn Cup on two occasions there was a time when even Joe must have wondered if there was some type of jinx dogging him in this competition. He reached the final of it in 1958 and was beaten by Tom McGarry, but nothing daunted Joe battled his way through to the final the following year.

Again he met McGarry, and again McGarry beat him. In 1959 he was not in the reckoning, but 1960 saw him back in the final, and for the third time his opponent was none other than Tom McGarry. But this time there was no mistake, it was third time lucky for the Drogheda Maestro, and with a decisive 32 aces to 15 victory inscribed his name on the cup for the first time.

While Maher has reserved some of his best performances for the 30 minutes tournament, he has also been to the fore in championship fare since the middle fifties. The year 1956 was one of his greatest when he won the junior handball singles, softball singles and handball doubles in partnership with Jim McArdle.

Numerous county and Leinster championship medals have also come his way, while his duel with fellow-countyman Fintan Confrey for the right of inter-county representation has been a feature of Louth handball in recent years. Indeed this pair could easily have

(Continued on page 36)

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An Cluiche nó an Teanga?

CEIST AG SEAN O DUNAGAIN

CUIREADH ceist orm tráth mar leanas—"Cioca ab'fhearr leat a fheiceál, cuigear déag ag imirt 'Gaelic' is iad ag labhairt an Bhéarla nó cuigear déag ag imirt rugby agus gan ach Gaeilge á labhairt aca?" Is deacair an cheist í agus ag an am sé an freagra a thugas ná gur bhfearr liom iad a fheiscint ag imirt peil Gaolach—fiu leis an bhfriotail Béarla.

Innseód an fáth leis sin amach anseo ach i dtosach báire cuireadh gach duine a léigheas seo an cheist air féin. Ba mhian liom go háirithe go gcuirfeadh oidí scoile is choláiste an cheist orthu féin.

Seachas na cluichí, idir peil, iomáint, camogaíocht is liathroid-láimhe d-imirt, sé an aidhm a ba chóir a bheith ag gach ball den Cumann Lúchleas Gael ná an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ar gach bealach 'na chumas. Dá bhithín sin ní mór dóibh an Ghaeilge a labhairt ar a laghad i rith na gcluichí. Cuige seo níl ach cúpla abairt ag teastáil—mar shampla—"Buail í," "Chugam-sa," "Ar an dtalamh" agus mar sin de.

Sé trua ceist na Gaeilge sa Chumann Lúchleas ná go dtéann furmhór de bhuachaillí na meangóil ó bhaile agus dá bharr cailtear a gcuid Gaeilge suid ar an gCumann mar de gnáth ní bhíonn a thuilleadh baint aca le cluichí.

Nílím anois ag rá nach bhfuil Gaeilge ag roinnt mhaith rúnaithe club — tá, ach bheadh an scéal i bfad ní bhfearr dá mbeadh lucht na meangóil inann fanacht aga baile.

Ón méid Gaeilge scríofa atá le feiceál — eadhon a in meach a imreoirí ar chláracha agus Rl., tá an caighdeán an-íseal. Aontaim go bhfuil nósanna éagsúla litrithe ainmneacha ann, ach ní leathscéal san don camlitriú. Maidir le rúnaí

contate ba cóir dhó siúd an litriú caighdeánach a ghlacadh chuige féin i ngnach cás agus seo í an litriú is cóir a bheith ar gach clár agus gach sóirt ráiteas

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Ag dul siar don bhfreagra a thugas ar an gceist úd—sé an argóint a bhí agus a tá agam fós ná go bhfuil féith an fhíor-Ghaeil sa duine a imríonn na cluichí náisiúnta. Níl le foghlaim aige siud ach roinnt Gaeilge agus is cuma cé hé tá roinnt aige cheana féin.

Ar an dtaobh eile den sgéal tá an

foireann rugby—tá roinnt Gaeilge aca ach níl an sprid ceart náisiúnta aca agus mura mbíonn sé seo ag duine ó dhúchas is deacair é mhuineadh dó.

Is fosa Gaeilge a mhuineadh don té go bhfuil náisiúnachas ann ná náisiúnachas a mhuineadh don duine nach bhfuil suim aige ann.

Gan amhras is gá do mhuintir Chumainn Lúchleas gach iarracht a dhéanamh leis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn. Muna bhfuil san dá dheanamh tá faillí comh-maith ar an náisiúnachas.

Ímpím ar imreoirí is oifigí riaracháin, is cuma ar bheag nó mór na ceapacháin atá aca, an Ghaeilge a labhairt ar gach ócáid gur féidir leo.

THE GAMES IN BRITAIN

By 'Jeda'

THE London G.A.A. Board may well look back with satisfaction on the achievements of the county teams during the season which is now drawing to a close. Although the Intermediate side went down to Tipperary in the final, the fact that only three points separated the teams at the final whistle, suggests that eventual honours cannot long be delayed. Stars of the London team were Paddy Ryan (Tipperary), Willie Dargan (Laois), Mick Collins (Cork), Paddy Hourigan (Limerick) and Jim Kearns (Wexford).

The London junior hurlers added another glorious chapter to the history of the County Board by winning the All-Ireland crown at the expense of Antrim. Certainly the selectors deserve great credit for having assembled such a well balanced fifteen, while trainer—Johnny Moriarty (Kerry)

—who is also Board Treasurer must also share the plaudits for ensuring the physical fitness of the players. London's success was due primarily to the superiority of midfielders—Martin Murphy (the former Kilkenny minor) and captain, Tim Sheehan (Cork). The forwards took advantage of their openings to ram home vital scores and Johnny Hickey (Tipperary) wearing the number fourteen jersey had a field day by scoring three brilliantly taken goals. Others to impress were Joe O'Reilly (Wexford) and Martin Diggins (Kerry). By winning this title, London have inscribed their name on the junior All-Ireland crown for the third time in five years, and already plans are being made to prepare the footballers for the 1964 provincial championships in an effort to win the

(Continued on next page)

junior All-Ireland football title after a lapse of twenty-six years.

With sixty-five active clubs now affiliated to the London Board, the affairs of the Association have certainly progressed by leaps and bounds over the past few years, and Chairman—Jim Mullarkey (Sligo)—may claim most of the credit for the strides made. Already enquiries have been received for the formation of even more clubs in the season ahead, and two leading business houses—Messrs. Arthur Guinness and the catering firm of J. Lyons & Co., Ltd.—have signified their intention of running hurling teams in the coming year. Both firms will grant the County Board the use of their grounds for the playing of local competitions—a concession which will be welcomed by the fixtures' committee as the existing pitches at New Eltham, Slough, Dagenham, Hayes, Blackheath and Edmonton are already taxed to capacity.

The next Convention of the Provincial Council of Britain will see the election of a new president as the present officer—Jim Mullarkey (Sligo) has completed his three-year term. The most likely successor is the present vice president — Tommy Walsh (Liverpool-born)—who is rated one of the leading young officials in Britain. Tommy is also chairman of the Lancashire Board and has done much to revive G.A.A. interest in the Liverpool and Manchester districts.

The Committee in charge of the arrangements for the 1964 Wembley games will shortly decide on the choice of teams to participate in these tournaments and everything suggests that Kilkenny and Waterford will be invited without the necessity of a play-off. However, it is not altogether certain that the football finalists—Dublin and Galway—will automatically qualify for the trip to Wembley, as Down and Kerry have also been mentioned.

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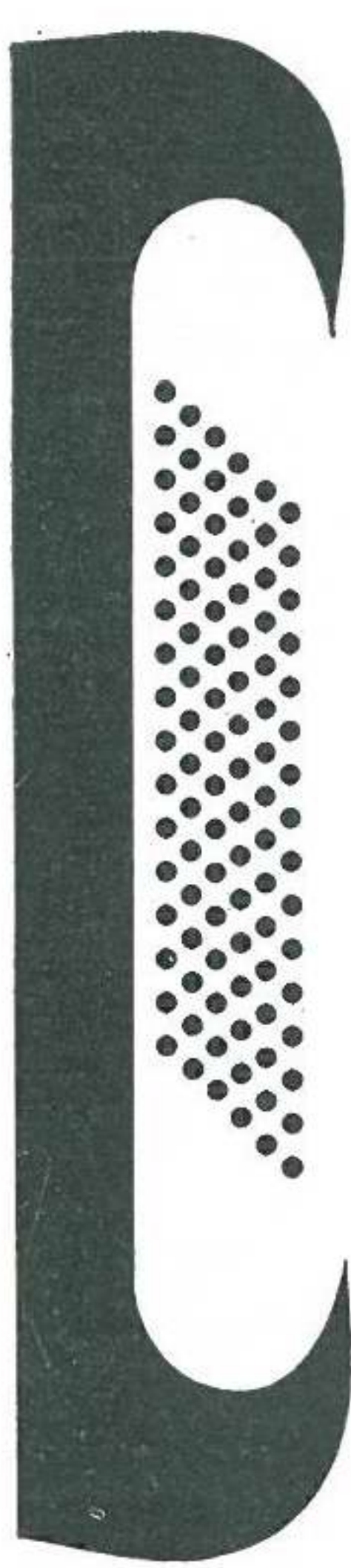
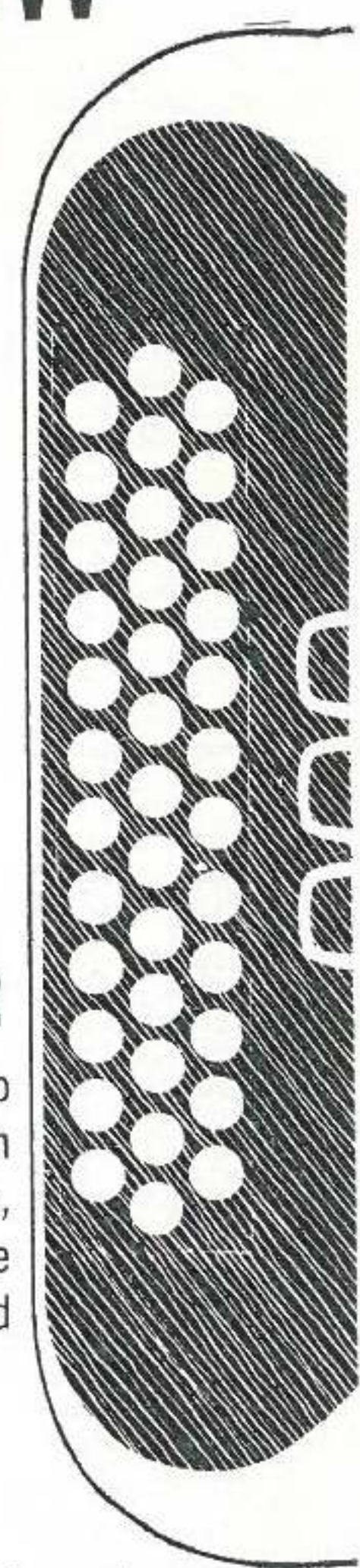
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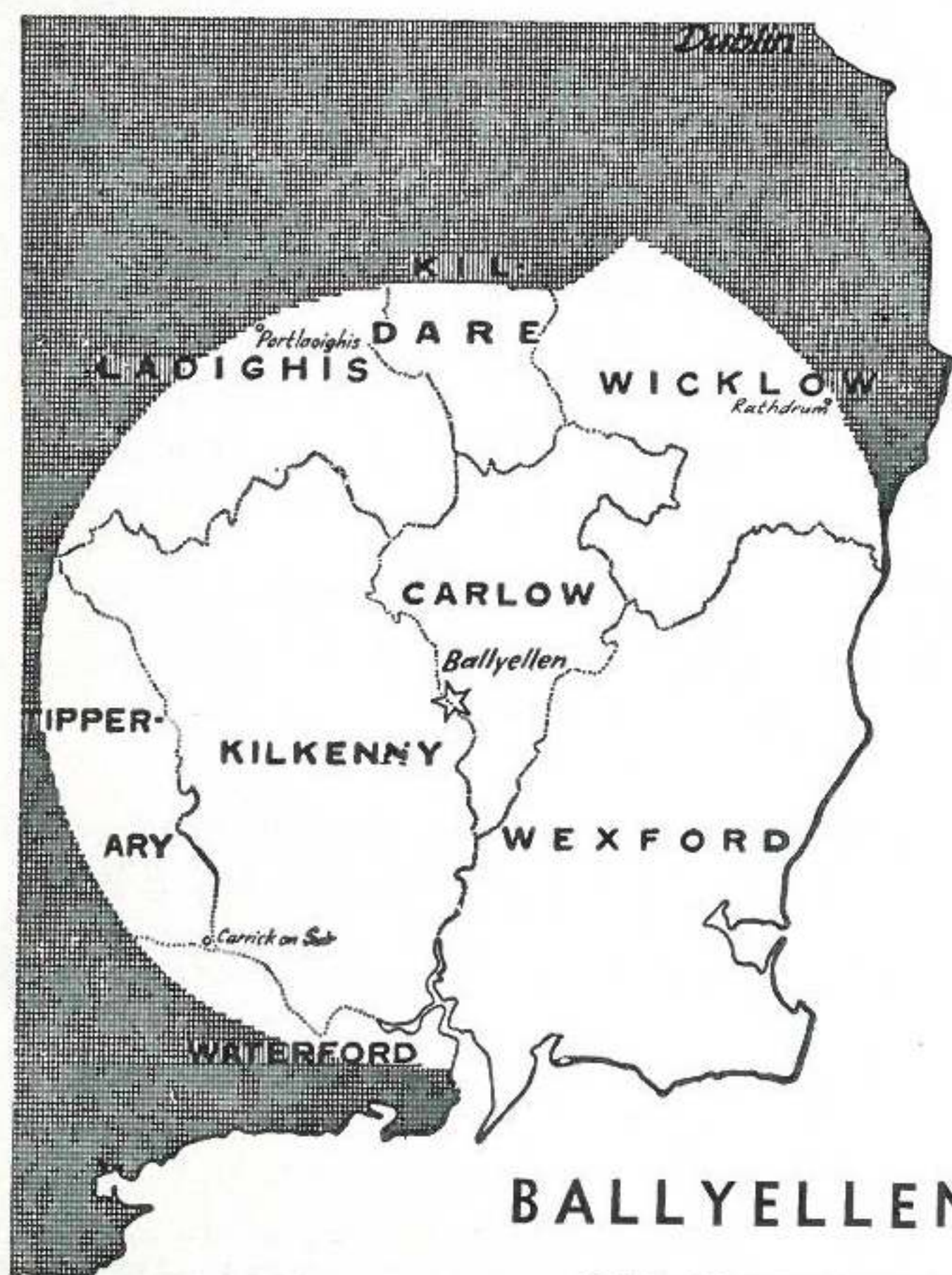
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## All-Ireland Ploughing Championships

The 34th All-Ireland Ploughing Championships will take place on the grounds of Athenry Agricultural College, Athenry, Co. Galway, on 6th and 7th November.

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## HANDBALL

(From page 32)

formed a partnership of the Downey-O'Brien calibre but for some inexplicable reason they failed to "click."

At 29, Joe Maher may have slightly passed his peak. Still, comparing him with some of the present-day veterans he should only be at the cross-roads of his handball career and, who knows—the future may yet hold some glorious triumphs.

And there can be no doubt but Irish handball is sending a worthy envoy to New York, and followers at home will certainly send with him their best wishes for success in the ballcourts of America.

# RULES

(4) COMMENT BY  
CHRIS MURRAY

**COMMENT:** The following rule is subdivided in 8 sections. We will deal with each section separately.

(a) "Pushing, tripping, kicking, catching, holding or jumping at a player; obstructing a player by hand or arm, even though he be not actually held; reaching from behind a player who has caught the ball; shall be deemed fouls."

**RECOMMENDATION**—Pushing an opponent by hand or elbow is always a foul and should always be penalised.

**COMMENT:** — *Tripping is an unsporting foul and a very dangerous one. I am not advocating pulling down, but if there is a choice adopt it rather than the foul trip.*

*Pushing in the back is another unsporting tactic, very often not detected by the referee. It is a very annoying foul and very often gives rise to retaliation of some kind or another. Besides, it is a defeatist approach.*

(b) "No player shall be charged from behind and no player shall be charged or in any way interfered with unless he is moving to play the ball or in the ACT of playing it.

(Should a player charge another who turns deliberately so as to make the charge that would otherwise be fair, come from behind, that charge shall not be deemed foul)."

**RECOMMENDATION**—Referees should note that a player genuinely moving to or in the act of playing, or in possession of the ball, may be charged in front or at either side provided the charge is otherwise legitimate. The charge would not be legitimate if the player charging took both feet off the ground together, or used his elbow or knee. In the case of moving to play a ball, the ball should be, in the opinion of the

referee, reasonably convenient to justify a charge.

(c) "In the case of rough play, the referee shall caution the player or players and should the offence be repeated, he shall order the offended or the offenders off the field, and report accordingly to the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture."

**COMMENT:**—*How often do we see the same player warned more than once in the same game for rough play, when it is clearly stated that there should be NO SECOND WARNING.*

(d) "In the case of dangerous play, violent conduct, irritating or improper language, or a player raising his hand to threaten or strike another player or to retaliate the referee shall, WITHOUT ANY CAUTION, order the offender or offenders off the field of play and report accordingly to the Committee or Council in charge of the fixture."

**COMMENT:**—*A rule honoured in the breach only! The referee, who enforces this rule is unpopular with the majority. We want it every way. We want to clean our games and yet we do not want to enforce our rules strictly. The referee's reports are very often questioned by men who claim to be non-partisan, broadminded gentlemen. We find it so hard to get good referee's and then we insult their integrity.*

*How seldom do we see men sent to the line for improper language? How often we see a man cautioned for an obvious foul punch, when he should be dismissed with no questions asked. This whole rule, to my mind deserves re-consideration. The referee's hand is tied — the penalty is too great and should be lessened. Until then, I wish referee's would not regard it as a necessity, when sending off a culprit from one side, to send off a companion from the opponent's lineout.*

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## FOOTBALL DYNASTIES

I DIDN'T have to go to much bother to figure out the subject matter for this month's column. It was sent to me by a young exile, P. B. Ryan, who is in London. He should certainly know his football facts for his uncle, the late Jackie Ryan of Kerry, was one of the really great masters of forward play.

However, it was not about Kerry but about Galway that our young London friend wrote and he traced for me in a clear and precise manner the truly remarkable record held by the Egan family of Derrymullen, Ballinasloe. Correctly, he points out that this family has been represented in at least one All-Ireland final in each of the past five decades.

It began with the late Denis Egan, who with his brothers Tom, Jonathan and Martin, starred on the Galway fifteen beaten by Kildare in the 1919 final. It was Tom actually who captained the side.

Denis and Jonathan were on the 1922 Galway side which lost narrowly to Dublin and three years later when the county collected its first football crown these two were again to the fore.

Then came the 1930's and Galway enjoyed victory in 1934 and '38. A glance through the lineouts shows no Egan but the family was still represented in

mighty Mick Connaire whose sister is the wife of the late Denis Egan.

Galway were there again in the 1940's and the Egan family had its representative in the 1942 final against Dublin. He was Johnny Casey—a first cousin of the Egan family and through him the great family tradition lived on.

However, I wonder how many of you readers can name the Egan standard-bearer in a final in the 1950's. It is not an easy one—especially as he was not in the Galway colours. He was in fact Dublin's gentle giant, Jim Lavin, another first cousin of the Egan family. Jim was, of course, full back on the Dublin side beaten by Kerry in the 1955 decider.

So there you have it—thanks to our friend P. B. Ryan, whose father incidentally is also an old friend. He is Garda P. Ryan of Ballinasloe.

Certainly the Egan family must rank with the great football families of Gaeldom.

The Sheehys and the Delaneys are, of course, still at it and adding to their proud records. Paudie, Niall, Brian and Sean Og Sheehy have now made it twenty one county senior medals in the space of five seasons. Two years ago, Sean Og won two when he also helped U.C.C. to victory in the Cork championship.

Add to these medals a handful

of All-Ireland medals plus, of course, the great collection of the old master himself, John Joe Sheehy, and you have a mighty bag of gold and silver.

The Delaney's of Laois are not quite so laden with trophies but their record is no less great for it. When Stradbally won its first county senior football title in 1908 the team was captained by Jack Delaney who had brothers, Joe, Bill and Martin assisting him. Jack went on to play for the county and this he did for many a long day while Joe also gave loyal service in the blue and white.

When their turn was up a younger brother, Matt came on and he is the father of present Laois stars, Danny and Teddy. Matt was at full back when Laois won the National League title in 1927 and it was around this time that "Young" Jack Delaney appeared. Tom, another brother of Matt's and "Old" Jack's, also starred around that time.

"Young" Jack was a legend—and indeed still is. He won seven Railway Cup medals with Leinster and was on the Ireland team in the 1932 Tailteann Games. Jack was then joined on the county team by his younger brothers, Chris, Bill and Mick.

And so it was on the Laois sides of the 'thirties, there was Jack

(Continued on page 41)

# ONE UP!

By PHILIP RODERICK

THE is a story that could only have happened to a Corkman . . . and the only reason I am telling it this month is that the particular Corkman it did happen to will be back from the Congo within the next week or so and I will probably never again get the chance to tell it.

You see this same Corkman and myself have been waging a friendly but extremely bitter battle for more years than I care to remember. We like to drink together and, indeed, we spend a great deal of time together . . . but, Lord love us, I almost always wind up with

an inferiority complex after spending any length of time with him.

My wife loves him, my children think he is the greatest thing since Henry Ford brought out the Model T and, invariably, within the last few years anyway, when I ask anyone out for a drink they nearly always ask whether the "quare fellow" is coming along.

This may all appear to be beside the point but stay with me a little longer and you will see that it has a bearing on my story.

The whole trouble is that everytime I tell a good story, he always comes up with a better

one . . . and that has been going on for years.

I had almost resigned myself to a life of telling "second best" stories when the Army, bless them, came to my aid and sent our friend off to the Congo for six months.

I have had a wonderful time since. I have been the life and soul of the party and even in GAELIC SPORT I have managed to tell a few of the good stories that I have been dying to tell for years back. Why, I even managed to tell one good story against "our friend."

But now the honeymoon is almost over. Next month he will be back again with us . . . and nothing is surer than that his name will be splashed all over GAELIC SPORT . . . and I am certain that our Editor will put my name back into small type.

This, therefore, is probably my last big chance and I just have to use it . . . so here we go.

This goes back to the 1951-1952 National Football League and if you remember this was the season that Cork really showed what good football was. They forced a play-off with Kerry in their division and with just minutes to go at the U.C.C. Grounds in Cork, big Jim Galvin of Macroom shot a goal that put Cork in against Dublin.

That game against Dublin was a clinker. With time almost up, Tom Moriarty put over a point from a free to put Cork into the lead. And some of you must have memories of the "50" Dublin got in the very last seconds. The referee told Kevin Heffernan this was the last kick of the match and Kevin really tried hard. His kick rebounded off

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the upright into the arms of a Dublin forward . . . but the referee, a kind and upright man, signalled that the game was over once Heffernan had failed to score direct.

Then there was the final game against New York at Croke Park and Cork steamed away to a wonderful victory. Our hero played a magnificent game — I have to admit that—and, of course, he was the one they picked afterwards to broadcast a few words to New York. Trust him to get all the plums.

It was a great night for Corkmen in Dublin and, well to put it mildly, every Corkman in the city—and God knows there are enough of us — celebrated the victory as Corkmen have done for centuries. The following day the Cork team set out for Cork and steamed off to Glanmire Station and to a welcome fit for heroes.

Cork turned out in force and the Station was full. And, of course, there was the usual roar—"Give us a look at de Cup." Everybody wanted to see the Cup.

But, where was the Cup?

The embarrassment was fierce . . . for our hero had left it after him in Dublin!

There had never before been anything like it in Cork.

That story is absolutely true. The next day the Cup arrived in Cork . . . and it had a nice label tied to it. What was on that label is something you'll have to figure out for yourselves. All I can tell you is that it was filled that night in Cork and our hero came in for quite a deal of charming remarks.

As I said this is the sort of story that could only happen to a Corkman . . . and now that that same Corkman is back again with us from the Congo, I hope he will forgive me for telling it.

You are welcome home . . .  
EAMONN YOUNG.

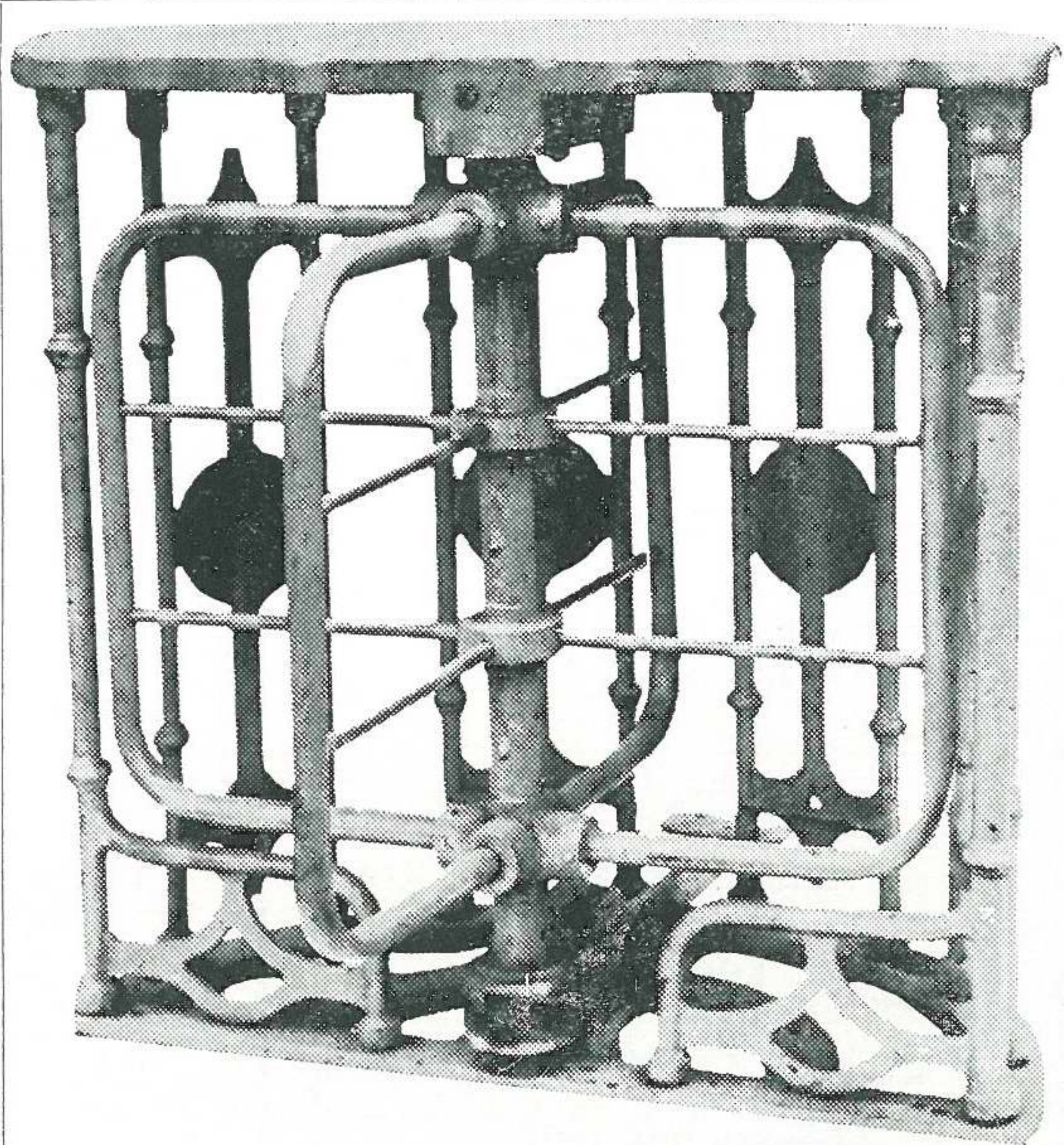
## THE RUSSELL COLUMN

and his three brothers plus their uncle Tom—and every one of them a star.

By the 'forties "Old" Jack's son, Morgan, was on the team and the unbroken link continues. To-day we have Noel, a son of "Young" Jack and Danny and Teddy sons of "Old" Matt Delaney.

(Continued from page 39)

And, of course, there is another handful of them on the way up and it looks as if Laois will never be without at least a few members of this extraordinary family. No Delaney ever won an All-Ireland medal but if I had my way I'd have one huge such medal made and I'd present it with full honours to the sons of the sons of the great fathers from Stradbally.



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By CONALLACH

# **CAMOGIE REVIVAL IN MONAGHAN**

**W**HILE the standard of football over the past few years has gone down in Monaghan and the good fortunes of the senior team are few it is heartening to find a camogie revival after a lapse of nearly twenty years. For a period in the late forties the energetic Patricia McGeough from Rockcorry, County Monaghan, was secretary of the Ulster Camogie Council but that apart we heard very little of the development of camogie in the county.

However, early in 1962 a club was inaugurated in Magheraclone on the Cavan border — although camogie seems to have dwindled in Cavan too. Then Frances Murphy of Donaghmoyne approached Mrs. Lynch of Carrickmacross who is herself the holder of an All-Ireland medal with Dublin to come to the country areas of Donaghmoyne and tutor some young girls who were interested in the game. In Inniskeen Rose O'Rourke — sister of former Monaghan footballers Olly and Paddy O'Rourke, was taking an interest in the game and very soon three clubs were in operation. So in July, 1962 a county board was formed with Mrs. Lynch, as chairman; Peggy Duffy, Carrickmacross as vice-chairman; Angela Corrigan, Clones—secretary; Mary Hunt, Carrickmacross—assistant secretary; Kathleen Traynor, Carrickmacross—

treasurer; and Kitty McArdle, Toome—registrar.

New clubs were formed in Toome and Carrickmacross and a league and championship was completed in 1962. Donaghmoyne won the league and Inniskeen won the championship.

The newly formed county board is to be congratulated on the bold venture of entering a county team in the Maguire Cup Competitions. At Grattan Park, Inniskeen in their first inter-county game they were unlucky to be beaten by Tyrone by a single point although subsequently they went under to the more experienced Armagh and Antrim teams. In their first ever junior championship game they were beaten by a strong Derry side which included a number of senior players but the Monaghan team put up a creditable show.

It was evident when I talked to hard working Chairman Mrs. Lynch, who played for Monaghan in this year's championship, that there was great enthusiasm for camogie in the Farney county. Mrs. Lynch (formerly Margaret Kelly) is a past pupil of St. Louis Convent, Carrickmacross and when in Dublin she played with the Celtic Club. She won several Leinster championship medals in the mid-forties and won an All-Ireland medal with Dublin in 1949.

She is very keen on getting

juvenile competitions going and introducing camogie to all the schools.

On account of the camogie revival in Carrickmacross interest has spread to hurling and an effort is being made to get the school-boys going. The Central camogie Council have taken an interest in their work and this year's Gael-Linn provincial camogie semi-final was played at Emmet Park, Carrickmacross. At Whit week-end the Co. Executive invited the Dublin Celtic Club, and they played several games with the local teams. The Monaghan Board G.A.A. have now presented a trophy for the championship.

Monaghan have already been faced with the difficulty of girls getting married, emigrating, etc., but with players such as Kitty McArdle; Bernadette King; Rose O'Rourke; Vera Ruddy; Gene Carragher and Kathleen Kindlon and the experienced Mrs. Lynch, the purple colours of this newly formed team will bring honour to the county in the years to come. This revival in Monaghan will I hope kindle a flame of action in counties like Donegal and Cavan who were one time strong and probably in Fermanagh. Let us hope to see the day that the nine Ulster counties will compete in the Ulster senior camogie championship.

# JUST FANCY

By SEAN FEELEY



JOHN DOYLE

- Tipperary have never been beaten in an Oireachtas final in which John Doyle played. Last year's final against Waterford was the only one he missed since 1949—and that was, of course, the only one they lost.
- Few counties are so rich in talent as to place a current Railway Cup player among the substitutes. Still the Clare football selectors did this with

Munster forward, Martin Queally, when they picked the side to meet Waterford last month in the National League. As it happened Queally was brought on prior to the game when a replacement had to be found, but Waterford still won 4-7 to 0-2 despite the fact that Clare were on homeground. Could it be that the selectors were right the first time?

- Dan Dunne, one of the stars of

Kilkenny's victory over Clare in the 1932 All-Ireland senior hurling final, found himself in a rather unusual position recently when he set out on a U.S. holiday. He was on an all-Clare charter flight.

- Dom O'Donnell, Kerry's under-21 and junior star, has averaged almost eight points per game this year.
- Tony Doran, the Wexford All-Ireland winning minor forward, notched a total of 11-1 in the county's four championship games this year. He is under age again next year.
- Tipperary and Wexford are now level on the Oireachtas honours list. They have both won Corn Thomais Aghais on four occasions. Next come Kilkenny and Galway with three victories each, and Clare, Waterford and Dublin with one each. Wexford have now appeared in ten Oireachtas finals in the space of fourteen seasons.
- Offaly's young Roddy Kilduff must have set up a record by being flown home from London for this year's county minor final and replay. It has been done for intercounty and senior interclub games but this surely is the first such flight for a minor club game.

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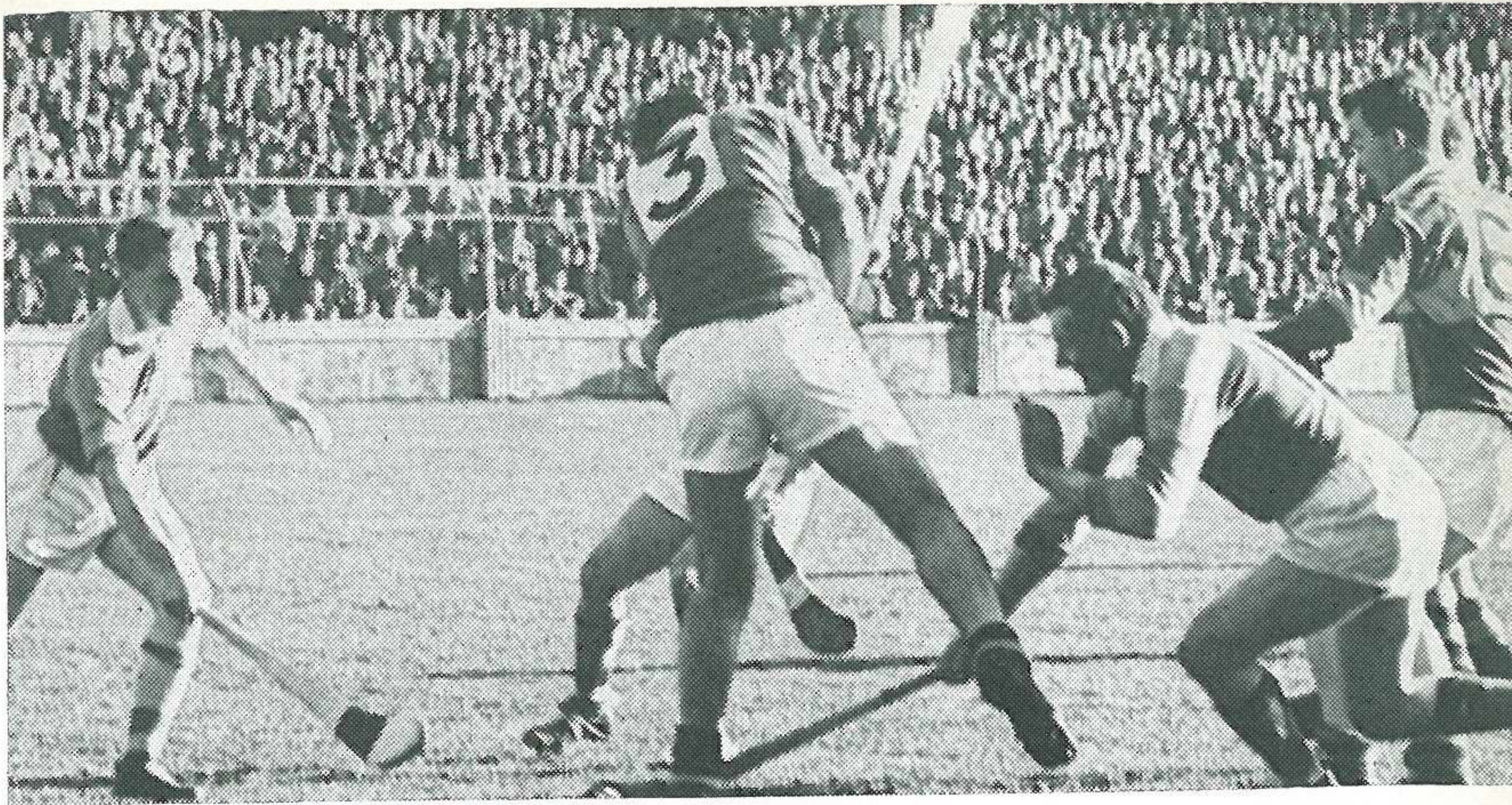
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*Tipperary's Michael Maher (No. 3) attempts to clear a ball in the Oireachtas final although closely challenged by Nick O'Donnell of Wexford (crouched on right).*

## A TRIBUTE TO MICK HAYES

IT would not be proper that Clare's long-serving hurling goalkeeper, Mick Hayes, should pass from the intercounty scene without a brief tribute from GAELIC SPORT.

For almost thirteen years Mick stood between those Clare posts and there can be no doubt but that he was the best to fill that berth since Tommy Daly returned to his native heath in 1928. However, for some extraordinary reason Mick was not even once honoured by the Munster selectors.

He will, of course, continue to play a leading role in Gaelic Games. Now a top class inter-county referee, he is also Clare's representative to the Munster Council.

Au revoir Mick, you never wore the Munster blue but you were still one of the best.

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# OLD DAYS RECALLED

A Chara—I thank you for your letter in respect of Eamonn Young. It was very good of you to forward my letter to him. I was rather surprised to hear that he was in Katanga. I hope he will be back in Ireland soon to delight the crowds with his superb football, if he is still playing. I had the pleasure of playing with him in the Army from 1942 to 1945 and I was lucky enough to be chosen to play in the All-Army Football Final of 1944 (or 1945, I forget which) and played alongside him.

It was through reading your magazine that I took the liberty of writing to Eamonn, as reading about the Army games in Sean Donegan's article brought all the old memories back. I was just a youngster when I played for the 13th Inf. Battalion and was the youngest player on the field in that All-Army final. It was through coaching by great footballers like Eamonn Young, "Bunny" Lamb, Sean Croghan, Sean Boyle and many others that made many a youngster become county senior footballers.

Through playing with men like these I made the grade to play Senior Football at 18½ with Clonmel Commercial (Tipperary) and played with Sean Cleary, Jim Sullivan, Sean Boyle. I remember my first senior game at Clonmel when from the 40 yard line I put 8 points over the bar and big "Bunny" Lamb said after the game that I'd become the best right-half forward in Ireland if I kept playing like that.

I went on to play for the 1st Brigade and Southern Command

and played against, and with, some of the all-time greats and then came a day when I played in the All Army Football Semi-Final at Limerick and found I was being marked by one of the greatest players of all-times, Simon Deignan of Ulster.

I can tell you his great reputation frightened me to death, but during the game I beat him to the ball with speed, and outjumped him several times, and when I scored a point from an acute angle during the second half, he patted me on the back and said, "Well done son, you're playing a great game." Coming from a great man like that it made me feel on top of the world.

We won the semi-final and I then achieved what all footballers hoped to, I walked on to the famous Croke Park pitch to play with and against some of the greatest footballers in Ireland.

Now that I am a family man and an emigrant I often look back on my football days in the Army, with pleasure. I also have two sons who are both potential professional soccer players. The oldest boy (Michael) has been picked for Liverpool School boys and the other (Sean) plays for the Liverpool Catholic Schools representative team.

When we listen to Radio Eireann I have to explain the Gaelic game to them and what Croke Park looks like. When your magazine was brought to the house they both became absorbed in it and asked me to get it every month. So I would be obliged if you would let me know what the

subscriptions are to have it sent to my house each month. Maybe it will teach these two "Sasanachs" of mine something about a real football game.

We have a very good Catholic Club here in Speke (St. Christopher's) and I need not tell you that many Gaels get there. On Sunday after Mass it's just like home. There's men from every county in Ireland in the Club.

Once again thanking you for your interest in my letter to Eamonn Young. I will close hoping you have every success with your magazine.

TOMÁS Ó FAOLÁIN  
22 Wellbrook Close,  
Speke,  
Liverpool 24.

Sir—Please let me know the Meath team which won the All-Ireland title in 1954.

SYLVESTER CALIFF  
Rathbran,  
Collon,  
Co. Louth.

*The team was—P. McGearry, M. O'Brien, P. O'Brien, K. McConnell, K. Lenehan, J. O'Reilly, E. Durnin, P. Connell, T. O'Brien, M. Grace, B. Smith, M. McDonnell, P. Meegan, T. Moriarty, P. McDermott (capt.)—EDITOR.*

(More letters next page)

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**A**CTION pictures appearing in this issue of GAEIC SPORT are by courtesy of the Irish Press Ltd.

# WE SAVED A READER'S LIFE!

A Chara—Here is the story of my life or I should say what was nearly my death. You can see from the address that I am a Galway and a Connacht man.

A few nights ago we were having a friendly discussion on some of the greatest footballers and hurlers. My friends ('till that night) said that the following were amongst the greatest footballers and hurlers ever:—

Sean Purcell, Tom Dillon, Jack Mangan, Frank Evers, Frank

Stockwell, Mick Connaire, Jack Mahon, Tom Langan, Paddy Prendergast, Padraic Carney, Brendan Nestor, Sean Flanagan, Nipper Shanley, P. McGarty, Sean Duggan, Jimmy Duggan, Joe Salmon, Hubert Gordon, Mick King, Mick Gill, Josie Gallagher, Mick Burke, Jim Killeen, Fr. Gantley, Colm Corless. They mentioned others too but I forget.

By this time I was beginning to wonder if they knew anything about the National Games. I

politely told them that it was impossible that all the players mentioned were among the greatest. I pointed out that they were all Connacht men and that the great players only came from Munster and an odd one from Leinster.

As the discussion became more heated my friends became more hostile. They demanded that either I give a satisfactory explanation or else be dumped in the nearby lake. At this time I was being dragged to the water so I shouted in despair, "I read GAELIC SPORT." They then relaxed their grip, gave me a look of pity and said:—"We understand."

S. BRENNAN

Loughrea,  
Co. Galway.

*Like abstract art, this letter can be interpreted in many ways. However, we take it as a compliment—taking note at the same time that it was not posted in Loughrea but in Dundalk—EDITOR.*

A Chara—I am writing to congratulate Sean O'Neill on his series THEIR GREATEST HOUR. I think his story on Clare in 1932 was the most enjoyable ever to appear in GAELIC SPORT. It is a grand magazine and by far the best sports publication in Ireland. Congratulations also to Eamonn Young on his series THE LEE-SIDE'S GOLDEN YEARS.

JOHN DOYLE

Cloughdur.

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