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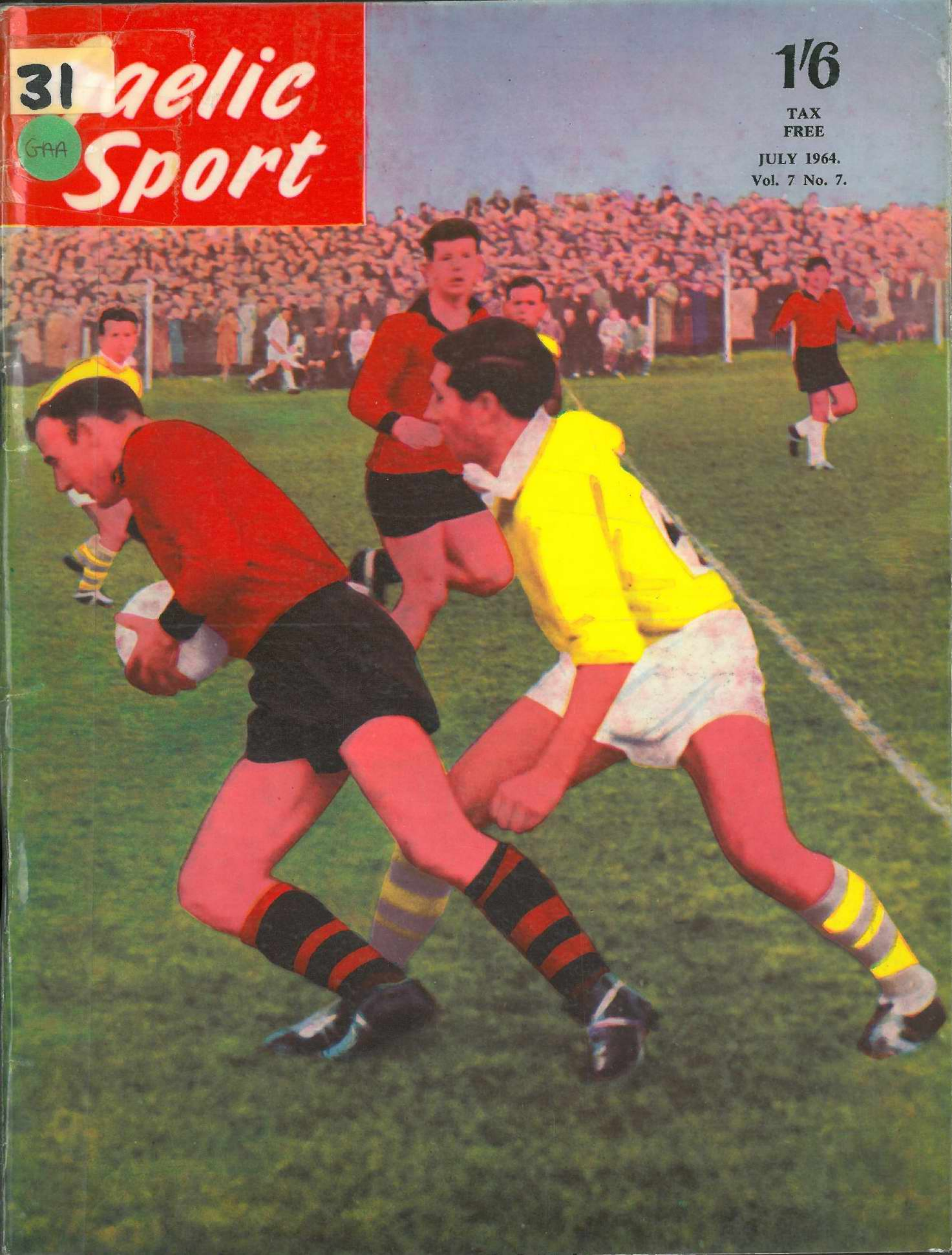
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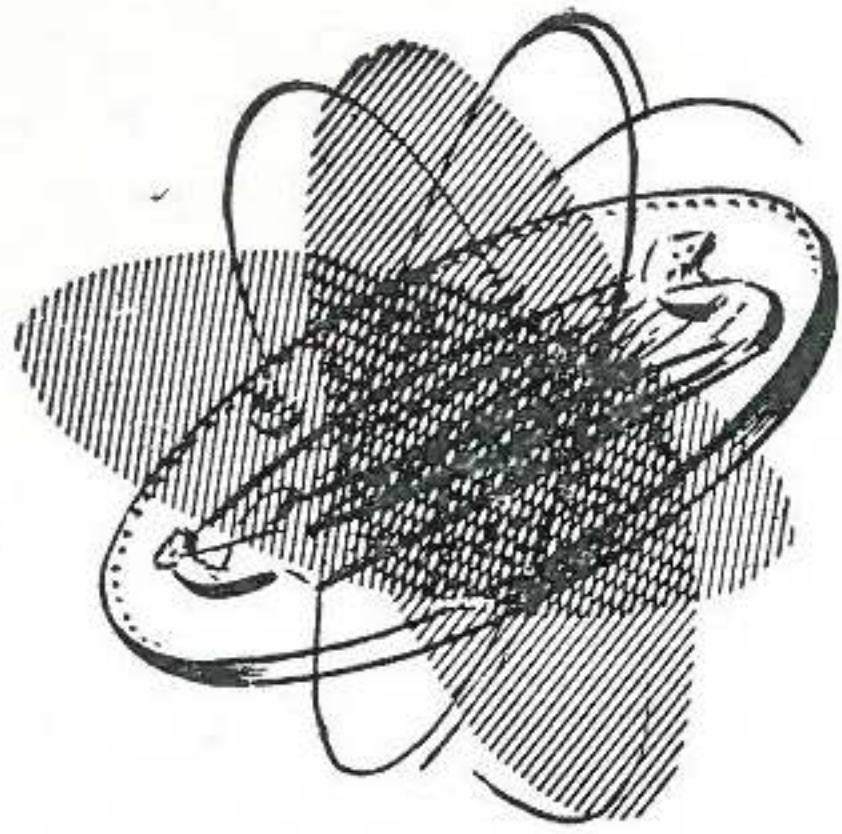
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COMMENT

THINK AGAIN

EVEN at this date it can be confidently stated that the introduction of the under-21 grade has proven a success. An in-between minor and senior competition has long been required and its arrival cannot but result in a greater flow of senior talent.

However, in aiming for this desired situation the largest and most involved intercounty programme in the history of the Association has come into being. Many counties have been engaged in at least one grade on virtually every Sunday since the championship season opened. The result has been a great hold-up in club games.

Quite a number of counties have as yet not begun their senior championship—and this is the last month of Summer. Other counties have managed to get their championships underway but only by playing games mid-week. Neither position is satisfactory.

If such a situation were to continue for any considerable period it would lead to a complete deterioration in the entire playing structure of the Association. The clubs are the foundation on which everything stands.

Intercounty success is entirely dependent on club competition. The county which neglects club competition for even a short period cannot hope to enjoy continued intercounty progress.

There is something basically incorrect in a county holding over its club championship until it has completed or ended its intercounty commitments. It should almost be the very opposite, for it is in club competition that players develop and are discovered for intercounty service.

But how then, can this unsatisfactory situation, with its overloaded intercounty programme, be righted. The obvious answer is to merge the junior and under-21 football grades.

Actually this was the original intention—that junior competition be confined to players under-21. Somewhere between the Kerry County Convention in January 1963 and the Easter Congress three months later the motion changed to one asking for the introduction of under-21 competition as an additional grade. This was granted and the result has been the present situation.

Now it would appear that the time has come to think again. Many county boards have already felt the pressure, and realised the effect, of almost weekly intercounty engagements. At the end of the season for most counties there will be an even more noteworthy consideration — the balance sheet which is likely to show record expenditure and a considerable fall in gate-receipts from club competitions.

Gaelic Sport

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JAY DRENNAN discusses the task now facing the G.A.A.

IN high places in politics, in religion, and in great organisation of humans, on rare occasions a man becomes more important than the position which he holds. It is such a very unusual thing that one finds it hard to think of anyone who was so overshadowed by his own personality, ability and dedication the name of his post and the dignity of its situation to such an extent that he has enhanced and raised the glory of it beyond itself.

John F. Kennedy, perhaps, with the Presidency of America; but then even before him the Presidency of America was no sinecure. Pope John, with the Papacy; but the Papacy is greater than even its greatest incumbent could be. De Gaulle or Adenaur as leaders of France or Germany; but, if those leaderships had become devalued, they were still precious coin needing only the polish of exceptional men.

I must, of course, admit that these are unfair comparisons to the extent that the higher one goes in search for examples the more impossible the test. Yet, it is to some degree, at least, true that this was the same test on a lower plane which made Padraig O Caoimh such an exceptional man in Gaelic games. He took a position of some considerable importance, and by the sheer power of his own personality, by the skill of his organisational and administrative powers, by the diligence of his dedication, turned it into a position of the foremost importance.

So far was his personal capacity important that he was never thought of in terms of the General Secretary, unless by some legal automaton. It is only now that the position lies vacant by his sad passing that its breadth and height and depth become obvious to us. Like

CHOOSING A LEADER

a chair on which a giant sits, its size strikes us only when the giant is no longer there.

For this reason as well as for the ordinary reasons — hundreds of them—which make it important to choose wisely and with foresight, the position of General Secretary will be extremely difficult to fill. And, when filled, it will be an unenviable task for the individual chosen, because of the great one he succeeds. Comparisons will be made, inevitably. And, few can stand comparison with the great.

First point which, I feel, must be conceded, is that the man who takes the position will not be one who tries to make his mark simply by copying the work of his predecessor. It would not be possible to reach the standards set; comparisons would be too easy. He must be a man of sufficient character and independence of judgment to be able to take up this job and make it his own, shaping it to his own personality and his own special abilities as did O Caoimh. But, where are such men.

Certain standards of administrative, organisational and social ability are of basic importance, of course: the same as one seeks in filling any position of comparable importance in industry or government. And, over and above, that extra something. An exceptional man, indeed, is needed.

How he will be selected is not

yet apparent. The exigencies of the position demand that the net be cast as wide as possible, yet the cast must also be limited to certain obvious segments of tried and tested loyalty, and more than academic interest in Gaelic games.

It will rest with the Central Council to decide. The alternatives are to advertise openly in the public press; or, to ask the county boards to nominate persons for the position: or, to advertise, or publicise otherwise the position while demanding that candidates make their approach through the county boards. The latter has some clear advantages, not least the help of preliminary selection: it is difficult to conceive of one who could not get his candidacy past his his own county board, as being suitable to be General Secretary.

In affairs such as this, things cannot be the same as on all normal occasions. And, it may be that the best men will be reluctant to apply because they are not on the look out for professional appointments, and because they are getting set in their ways and in their social circle, and because their wives and families would feel the wrench. It is for this reason that I suggest that the filling of the position of General Secretary of the G.A.A. may very well demand a degree of sacrifice to the individual who takes it—for the greater glory of the Association.

TOP TEN

McRORY AND BROWNE VOTED FULL MARKS

THIS issue's Top Ten ratings are based on senior inter-county performances in games played from Whit Saturday, May 16, to Sunday, June 14, inclusive.

Antrim's outstanding forward, Gerry McRory, heads the football list as a result of two outstanding displays in championship outings. Cork goal-getter, Richie Browne, leads the hurling list.

These lists are compiled by our editorial staff. They form a precise monthly record of inter-county performances, and from them at the end of the season we will tabulate the Top Ten footballers and hurlers of 1964.

Follow the feats of the stars in these ratings.

FOOTBALL

1. **Gerry McRory** (Antrim).
2. **Liam Leech** (Louth).
3. **Martin Quinn** (Meath).
4. **Paul Kelly** (Donegal).
5. **Sean Maguire** (Fermanagh).
6. **Ray Carolan** (Cavan).
7. **Frank Lynch** (Louth).
8. **P. J. Shine** (Roscommon).
9. **Mick Carley** (Westmeath).
10. **Jack Quinn** (Meath).

HURLING

1. **Richie Browne** (Cork).
2. **Ollie Walsh** (Kilkenny).
3. **Michael Keating** (Tipperary).
4. **Eddie Keher** (Kilkenny).
5. **Tom Cheasty** (Waterford).
6. **Pat Cronin** (Clare).
7. **Jimmy Doyle** (Tipperary).
8. **Sean Cleary** (Clare).
9. **Gerry O'Sullivan** (Cork).
10. **Jim Cullinan** (Clare).



Richie Browne of Cork (nearest camera) who leads the hurling rankings this month.

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MIDFIELD NOW HOLDS SWAY

By Pádraig O Néill

PICKING star Gaelic footballers just now seems to bring to mind more than the normal complement of centre-fielders. Des Foley, Mick O'Connell, Mick Garrett, Mick Fleming, Joe Lennon, Ray Carolan, John Timmons, accounts only a few. Admittedly, other star names shoot into focus at the thought of selecting the outstanding men of the moment—at centre-forward — like James McCartan and Mickey Whelan, or, at centre half-back — like Paddy Holden, or Seamus Murphy, or in assorted positions — like Paddy Doherty, or Paul Kelly, or Ronan Creaven, or Paddy McCormack, or Lar Foley, or Johnny Flynn.

Yet, I think that it is indisputable that this is the era of centre-field men: they who catch the imagination, they who present the main relish in the clash of any given two teams. It is strange that things change so in Gaelic football: though the game is the same, played to the same form and very much the same tactics, the emphasis changes from time to time through the field.

You will remember the era of the centre-forward—the time when they made the biggest impact of any players in the game. That was when the fair-haired, tactical and executive genius of Jimmy Murray brought Roscommon to great things; when Mick Higgins showed his incomparable command of ball and situation and his unequalled skills in the game's every phase for Cavan; when 'Gega' O'Connor was shining for Kerry and Eamon Young prompting and scoring for Cork. Here, the vintage was flowing from the No. 11 spot, the spot for the truly complete footballer.

And, perhaps, running parallel to and complementary to this pride of centre-forwards there was an emphasis, too, on centre half-backs: Tadh Crowley, so recently dead, from Cork, sealing off the field majestically, John Joe O'Reilly, sadly also no longer with us, a prince of players and a true stylist for Cavan; Bill Carlos, pugnaciously fine, magnificently proportioned pivot of Roscommon's defence; charming Bill Casey for

Kerry, Bill Goodison a great player in an unsuccessful Wexford team, giant Pat McAndrew for Mayo, angular Henry Dixon, too. A host of others as well.

The duels that thrilled in that era were those between the pivots of attack and defence. It is their names which spring to mind when one might have to consult a record book to find who played centre-field on the same teams. The

(Continued on page 9)



Paddy Prendergast, Mayo's great full-back of the late 'forties and early 'fifties.



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(Continued from page 7)

reverse is true to-day. It is, no doubt, one of the God-given attractions which make the game so eternally fascinating, changing its balance and its pattern when things might be monotonous through sameness.

To show how the emphasis further changes: remember Paddy O'Brien, and Paddy Prendergast, with style added to natural ability; and Paddy Bawn Brosnan like a weathered and greying piece of Kerry-cliff rock; and fiery, red-haired and tigerish Weeshie Murphy from West Cork; the last days of delightful Eddie Boyle of Louth, and the few but eventful ones of unorthodox Jim Sawyer of Laois. Who was centre-field on the teams that these great full-backs graced? That's the test of how things change.

But, though the balance changes, it is never upset. If the centre-fields are good they cancel on meeting; great centre-halves breed greater centre-forwards; and great full-backs never appear without their peers in the van of the attack. The list I have named, were opposed in their era by names as clearly remembered, and, therefore, players as outstanding. Peter Donohue, whose radar-directed accuracy from frees tended to overshadow his all round fine play in the advance position; John Joe Fallon, who led from the rear, where he and we found it more exciting (unlike the Duke of Plaza Toro); and Jack McQuillan whose policy was exactly opposite; big Jim Cronin, a good all-rounder from Cork; and, probably, the prince of them all, had he not been a centre-forward, too — Tom Langan, of Mayo.

To me this repeating pattern of emphasis is part of the fascination and the superiority of football (and hurling, too, for the same shift of weight occurs there) over other, more stereotyped games, where the outstanding players seem always to fill the same positions.



Sean O'Neill of Down . . . one of the stars of the "fringe" positions.

Gaelic players in any position can be outstanding, can overshadow their colleagues: it is the kind of game that gives that opportunity. Kevin Heffernan will be remembered when others of that Dublin era are forgotten. Jimmy Brohan, when his Cork team-mates (excepting Christy Ring, of course) are mere names in the records. Peter McDermott, Philly Grimes, Ollie Walsh, Jimmy Smith, Sean O'Neill — all men outstanding in the fringe positions. And a thousand others.

But it seems that the main emphasis of outstanding players in

certain positions follows a cycle. In football now it is at centre-field that they figure. Before that centre-back and centre-forward was the glamour position; and before that full-back. When this centre-field golden era passes, I have a feeling that the spotlight will transfer again to full-backs and full-forwards. I see few centre-halves of the highest heroic quality — no single one to compare with Tadhgo or John Joe O'Reilly, or Carlos or Goodison; but, I do see Noel Tierney and Martin Quinn and Lar Foley—men cast in the true heroic mould.



Jim Dermody (right) pictured recently with his co-writer, Tomás Ó Faoláin.

The Jim Dermody Story

as told to Tomás O Faoláin

A TWIST TO THE 'TALE'

LAST month I told of how I watched Kilkenny win the 1935 title from the sideline but by virtue of having played in an early round of the championship, I received a medal. My playing days were over.

It wasn't too long afterwards before I was back in Croke Park again in a new role. The Cusack Stand was being built and I applied for and got a job as a labourer. I began on a Friday and it was nice to be back.

Croke Park had so many wonderful memories for me and they kept crowding back—the three great finals of 1931—these in particular were most vivid, but Clare in '32 and Limerick in '33 were almost equally so. In five All-Ireland finals I had stood between those posts.

I worked hard as I always have done and I was a good worker, strong and fit. Was I then surprised

when on the following Wednesday I got my "walking papers."

I never knew why. Somebody said something about a "labour quota", but anyway I was out of work and finally forced to take the boat to England where I have been ever since.

There are two ways of looking at that affair. It could be said—as it was by many both in print and otherwise, that I had some sort of claim to priority in working at Croke Park. One writer who took up the case was the late Bill Dooley. I quote part of an article which he wrote:—

"If Dermody had not played a great game in the first draw (1931 final) there would have been no second match. And if he had not shown a wizardry of a kind that will ring down the ages on the second occasion, there would certainly have been no third meeting. And all through, the converging

thousands poured thousands sterling into the coffers of the Association, making the creation of the Cusack Stand a more concrete reality."

Add to that the fact that a sizeable percentage of the labourers and tradesmen who worked in building the new Stand were either soccer players or soccer followers. Yet, when a man had to be let go it was I. Ironic?

That is one way to look at it. The otherside of the story is that it was not the G.A.A. who had the hiring and firing of the Cusack Stand labourers but the firm of contractors who had the job in hand. Executives of the G.A.A. were not involved and therefore had no responsibility in the matter.

You can look at it as you like—for now almost thirty years later it makes little difference.

The only reason why I bring up this affair at all is because it gives

an odd twist to my yarn and perhaps it is a suitable note on which to end.

Well anyway that is about all there is to tell about me and my hurling career. I am certainly glad to have had this opportunity of telling my story and reviving old memories. If I have done this for a few of my contemporaries I will be more than satisfied.

To the younger generation who might wonder why so much is still written and spoken about the 'thirties, I would answer that it was indeed the "Golden Era" of the caman. I say this not because it was my time but because it was a period of thrilling hurling which no decade since has equalled, let alone



P. PHELAN
(Kilkenny)



J. HOULIHAN
(Clare)

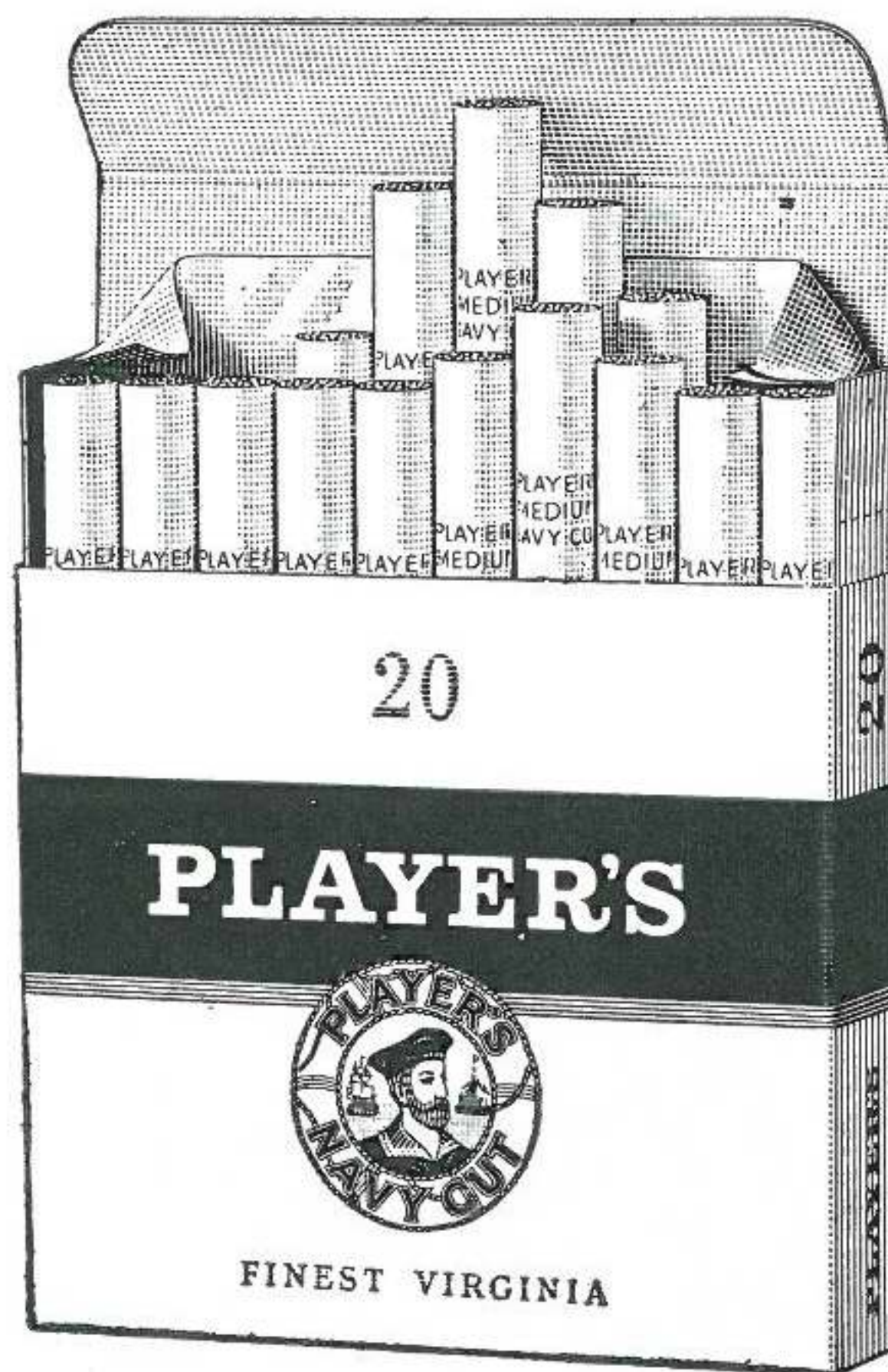
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*Two
of
the
Greats
of
the
Thirties*
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surpassed. This is an unquestionable fact borne out by all who remember.

Hurling was truly established in the 'thirties. It produced during that period not a few but a host of great players. Likewise it produced a vast series of mighty games—each as thrilling as the next.

I am proud to belong to that era and doubly proud to have been 'one of Lory's men.'

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There probably has never been one so equally good at both football and hurling and yet his greatest playing days lie ahead. Fabulous is perhaps the only word to describe this handsome giant who means so much to Dublin—and indeed to Gaelic games.

I had this interview with him prior to the Laois game:

O'Donnell—Which game do you prefer—football or hurling?

Foley—I enjoy them equally. My only regret is that I cannot divide my time equally between them, as football seems to predominate

O'D.—Do you think you would be better had you specialised and confined yourself to either one or the other?

Foley—I suppose I would, but when one loves two such great games as I do there is no desire to specialise.

O'D.—Most players who go to America show a considerable loss of form on their return. How then do you explain your own tremendous performance immediately after your recent visit to New York?

Foley—Personally, I cannot see why a player should lose form as a result of a U.S. visit.

O'D.—Is there any particular type of footballer or hurler that you do not like playing on?

Foley—No, not really. I go out and play as best I can. I don't believe in thinking about your opponent or his particular style before a game.

O'D.—You have received more injuries during the past two years than most players do in an entire career. Does this ever prompt you to be careful in a game?

Foley — No. I forget about injuries and everything else when a

DEPLETED TEAM

DUE to unavoidable circumstances, our popular columnists **PAUL RUSSELL** and **EAMONN YOUNG** do not appear in this issue of "Gaelic Sport." They will be back, however, in our August number.

FACE TO FACE

with

SEAN O'DONNELL

game gets underway. One must do that.

O'D.—Who do you consider to be the greatest footballer you have played on?

Foley — There have been so many. Mick O'Connell, Joe Lennon and Mick Garrett spring most easily to mind.

O'D.—And what about the greatest hurlers?

Foley—Theo English and Ned Wheeler I would think.

O'D.—Do you believe that most country people are "against" Dublin?

Foley—Yes, this is generally accepted. But it is only natural. The rural-urban conflict is an old one and it is in no way confined to Dublin. You will find in most counties that the rural teams and their supporters are "against" the big town team and so on.

O'D.—In your great career to-date what game has given you most satisfaction?

Foley—There were really two and both of them against Kerry—this year's National League semi-final and last year's Grounds Tournament semi-final.

O'D.—Was there any player who inspired you when you were at school?

Foley—Yes, Sean Purcell and Kevin Heffernan. I used to go to Croke Park especially to watch them in action.

(Continued overleaf)



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(Continued from page 13)

O'D.—Why do you think that so many of Dublin's youth choose other codes instead of Gaelic Games?

Foley—I suppose there are a lot of social and environment reasons but it always surprises me to see them go. I mean, there are no games to compare with Gaelic football and hurling. I cannot understand why some should play inferior games—and in saying this I am leaving aside the national reasons why it should be Gaelic Games.

O'D.—Do you think Dublin are capable of retaining the football title?

Foley—I think so but you never really know for I am convinced that the all-round standard is higher this year than it was in 1963.

O'D.—What do you think was Dublin's greatest asset in last year's championship?

Foley—Being underdogs in every game certainly helped. It brought about great determination and spirit and it was these which carried us through.

O'D.—If you had your choice what county would you like to see opposing Dublin in the 1964 final?

Foley—Galway.

O'D.—Why Galway?

Foley—We have had some great clashes during the past year and I believe that a Dublin-Galway pairing would produce an even better final than last year's.

O'D.—How do you rate club competition in Dublin at present?

Foley—In football the standard is very high — thanks to all the country players who are playing with the various Dublin clubs. In hurling the standard is somewhat disappointing.

O'D.—And finally Des, do you engage in any other sporting activities.

Foley—I like golf and play it whenever I get a chance. Also shooting gives me great pleasure.



SMAOINTE FÁNACHA

Le SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN

AG freastal dom ar na cluichí leath-cheannais san Sraith Náisiúnta Iomána (Roinn II) a himríodh i bPáirc an Chrógaigh, bhí an-áthas orm ar dhá chúis.

Ar an gcéad dul síos bhí an caighdeán árd agus sa tárna háit ba mise agus "Gaelic Sport" a chéad mhol an dá roinn san sraith mar atáid anois. B'é an deachracht roimis seo ná nach raibh cluichí leath-cheannais ann, ach anois, leis an dá grúpa ins gach roinn, tá an fadhb sin sáraithe.

Ar ndó bhí an caighdeán sa chluiche cheannais an-árd agus traoslaím d'fhoirinn na hIarmhí as ucht an chraoibh a bhreith leo. Molaim foireann Laoise chomh maith agus gídh gur cuireadh duine acu den bpáirc ní dóigh liom gur le holc a rinne sé an feall ba cionntiochair lena ruaigeadh.

Sa chluiche leath-cheannais idir Ua bhFáilghe agus Iarmhí, cé bhí ós mo chomhair amach ach Theo English ó Thiobrad Árann agus spéis an domhain aige sa chluiche.

Is trua ar fad nach raibh corn nó sciath le bronnadh ar ghaiscí Iarmhí. Measaim gurbé an chéad bhua acu riamh i gcomflrtas sinn-sireach. An bhfuil comhlucht Gaelach ar bith a bhronnfadh corn ar an gCumann Lúchleas don chomórtas seo? Nó an gceadófaí é?

AN COGADH FUAR

Seachas an cogadh fuar a bhfuil eolas againn faoi tá ceann eile ann idir an Coiste Láir agus Muintir Nua Eabhrach agus tá sé in am a bheith réidh leis.

Bhí mé i gcónaí i bhfábhar Gaeil Nua Eabhrach agus is minic a scríobh mé is do labhair mé ar a son. Ach nuair nach bhfuil eolas ar bith agam faoi céard a tharla sa chluiche cheannais an tSraith Náisiúnta Iomána táim ar mire.

Cén fáth nár leigeadh John D. Hickey agus Mick Dunne isteach chuig an chluiche? An amhlaidh nár cuireadh áit in áirithe dóibh? An raibh fáthanna pearsanta i gceist?

Tá sé in am ag dream éigin ráiteas a thabhairt faoi'n cheist seo ar fad. Go dtí go bhfuil ráiteas oifigiúil ann cuirim an milleán ar fad ar mhuintir Nua Eabhrach agus is oth liom é sin a rá.

EACHTRAÍ I gCIARRAÍ

Ag cluiche dom i mBaile an Bhuinneánaigh le déanaí casadh Joe Keohane agus John B. Keane orm. Ag breathnú ó thuaidh ón bpáirc b'éasca Contae an Chláir a fheiceáil agus b'fhurasta ashamlú cá fuair John B. an scéal ar a thug sé "The Man from Clare."

Cuireadh in aithne dom Brian Sheehy, peileadóir Chiarraí, agus dúirt sé liom go bhfuil an bailiúchán le haghaidh an turais go Nua Eabhrach ag foireann John Mitchell's (Tráiláí) ag dul ar aghaidh go maith. Iar-imreoir ar fhoirinn John Mitchell's (nó Bóthar Buí) 'sea Joe Keohane agus leis an triúir thuasluaite agus go leor Ciarraidheach ó Bhaile Dubh agus Lios Tuathail im' thimpeall ní gá a rá cé'n ábhar cainte a bhí againn ar feadh na hoíche.

FAOI-21

Tá sé in am do dhuine éigin ainm eile a bhaisteadh ar an gComórtas seo. Focal amháin atá de dhíth orainn nó rud éigin cosúil le "Comórtas Uí Chaoimh" toisc gurbé an comórtas deiridh a tháinig i réim le linn bheatha Phádraig go ndéanfá Dia trócaire ar a anam uasal.

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NATURAL GENIUS

By JOE LENNON

LAST month when the Down team was over in Carrick-on-Shannon for the game against Galway at the opening of the new Sean Mac Diarmada Park, a group of players and officials went out for a round of golf in the morning. Some of the party were golfers with fairly respectable handicaps while others were not golfers but this, surprisingly enough did not seem to handicap them. They simply played hurling with a golf ball and enjoyed a fair measure of success.

Paddy Doherty was the star performer. He had used a golf stick only once before and yet, using a five iron, he hit a succession of strokes which would have done credit to any professional. Watching him play, I wondered if a few lessons from a professional golf coach would have improved his game. Neither he nor I will ever know for sure, but I strongly suspect that unless he were to spend a very long period under the guidance of a coach, he would be just as successful by relying on his natural genius for ball games.

This reminded me of one of the problems which every coach comes up against when he finds the natural genius. In most sports and athletics, and indeed in almost all spheres of life, genius is acquired rather than innate. Practice makes perfect. There are few short cuts but there are many sure methods which merely require that essential quality of perseverance. There are times when a coach will not inter-

fere with the performance of a skill and other times when he will eradicate and rebuild it completely.

In my book *Coaching Gaelic Football for Champions*. I made a rather daring statement when I said that I believed that success only comes with coaching. This does not require that there be a coach present for men like Paddy Doherty. He coaches himself, and I'm sure if one were to total up the number of hours practice he has put in, it would be quite staggering.

The quality of consistency which top class performers acquire is produced by perfecting rhythm and timing. When power, stamina and strength are wedded to these, the exceptional performer emerges—the international, the world champion. It is relatively easy—if somewhat monotonous to produce power, stamina and strength for a game or an event. The acquisition of good timing and rhythm is much more difficult because the laws governing the education of mental reflexes are much more intricate than the simple dynamics of strength, power and stamina.

This is where the coach comes in. He should be able to watch a performer or a team and detect even the almost imperceptible errors which detract from efficiency. This applies from the schoolboy howlers to slight errors of timing of the top class county players.

One of the methods of demonstrating the mechanics of a skill is by use of a film loop. With the aid of a 16 mm. projector, the skill can



PADDY DOHERTY
Natural ball-player.

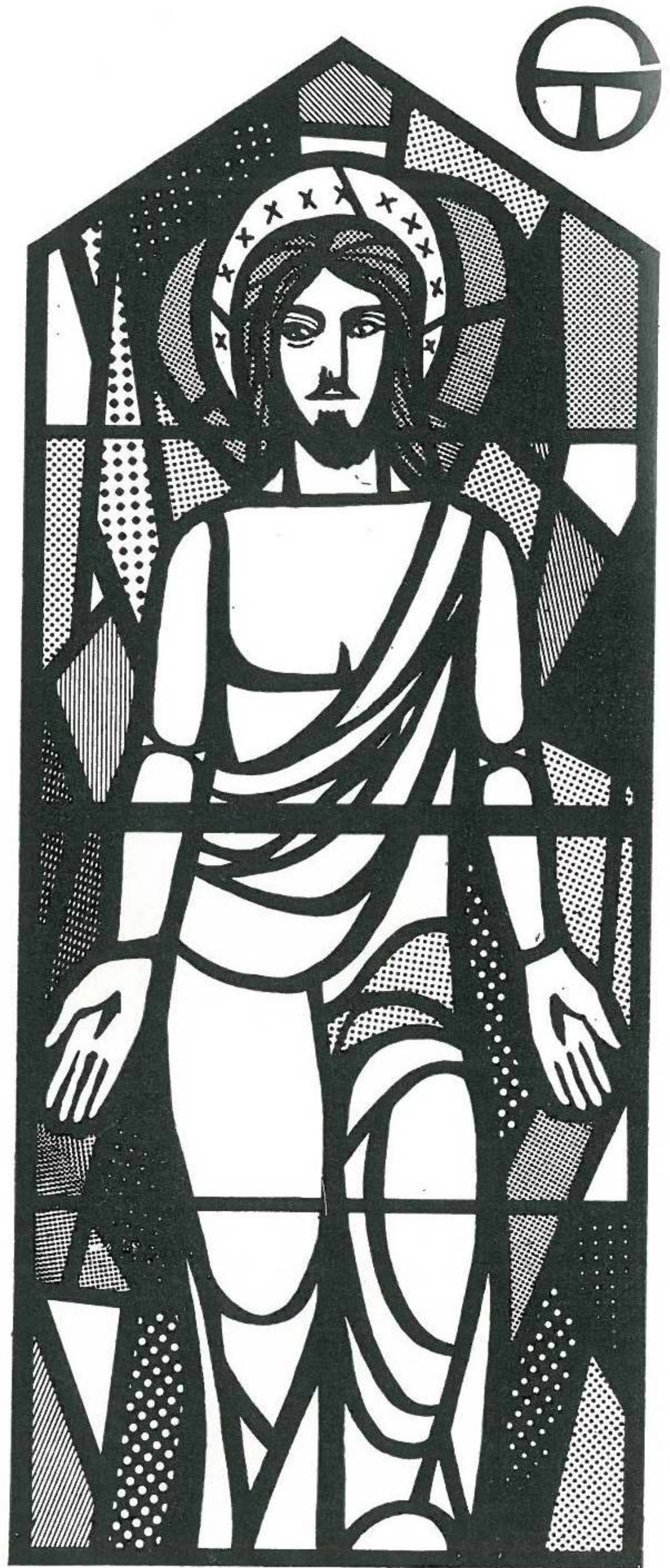
be seen in a series of stills, and the important points can be studied and emphasised. This also helps to build up a mental picture of the correct performance. Mental practice of skills plays an important part in modern education.

Catching a kick-out, for example, is a very difficult skill when you come to think of it. The player has to guess roughly how far the ball is going to be kicked and where it can be caught. He has then to position himself so that he can

(Continued page 19)

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(From page 17)

run and jump from a spot which will enable him to catch the ball at the exact split second it reaches his stretch height. He has then to grasp it carefully, fetch it down to his chest, land and move off. Add the complications of wind and weather as well as opposition and it becomes even more difficult.

Do not underestimate the problem, it is extremely complicated. The fact that most Gaelic footballers can catch a ball so well reflects the high standard of skill in this particular phase of the game.

If we wish to improve the skill of catching a ball we must be aware of all the problems involved and we must aim at reducing to a minimum any factors which may mar performance and which are not essential for success. With a team then, it is important that the skill of kicking ground balls should be so well performed that those who are expecting to catch the ball can rely on a fixed trajectory each time. This will cut down guess work and enable the initial starting position to be judged more accurately; it will improve the run up and the spring and hence increase the height of the jump. If the player cannot reach the take-off point at the right speed his chances of success will be diminished.

The coach can arrange for a steady supply of kick-outs from the regular full-backs and coach the mid-fields, half-backs and half-forwards when to make their run up. Once the backs have achieved consistency in kicking-out, the other players should study the back's run up to kick the ball and

ENROL NOW

WE would remind those who intend to attend next month's football coaching course at the Franciscan College, Gormanston, Co. Meath, and who have not yet made reservation, to do so as soon as possible by writing to Joe Lennon, "Willow Bank", Poyntzpass, Newry. A registration fee of 30/- should be enclosed.

The course, which will deal with all aspects of football coaching, begins on August 9. It will continue for one week. Assisting Joe Lennon will be Jim McKeever and Jim McDonnell.

Certainly one could not wish for better or more competent instructors and neither could there be a more suitable or attractive venue. In the Gormanston College, there is every facility for not alone football tuition but also a pleasant holiday.

This course will surely mark the beginning of a 'new deal' for football. It is open to all members of the Association who are over eighteen years of age.

should count how many steps he takes and then decide on what step they themselves should start to sprint forward for the catch. They may find that if they start their sprint on the second of a five pace run-up by the back that they arrive at take off too early and have to slow up; they should then start

their sprint when the kicker takes his fourth or fifth step and gradually work out the exact time to start each sprint. If the coach can get the back to standardise his run-up, deliver the ball the same height and distance each time and get the catcher to standardise his sprint (to say seven on nine paces), then consistency will begin to emerge and with it the number of successful kicks and catches will steadily increase.

This is only one method which a coach may use to improve catching one particular type of ball. He should be able to help the players in every position to improve their catching at various heights. This type of coaching must be regarded as basic but none-the-less essential. What we have to aim for is the coaching of skilled players in functional practices. We must coach them how to integrate the skills into effective patterns of play in their own position.

We must aim for the perfection of all the set kicks. We should work out a tactic to secure possession at the throw-in and retain possession for much longer periods rather than kick and hope for the best. Once a team gets possession, it should not lose it until it has attempted a score. In a good game, we may see this happen eight or ten times. With more planning, coaching and practice, a good team should produce this twenty-five or thirty times in each game. If then, the scoring ratio is as low even as fifty per cent., they will still be hard to beat.

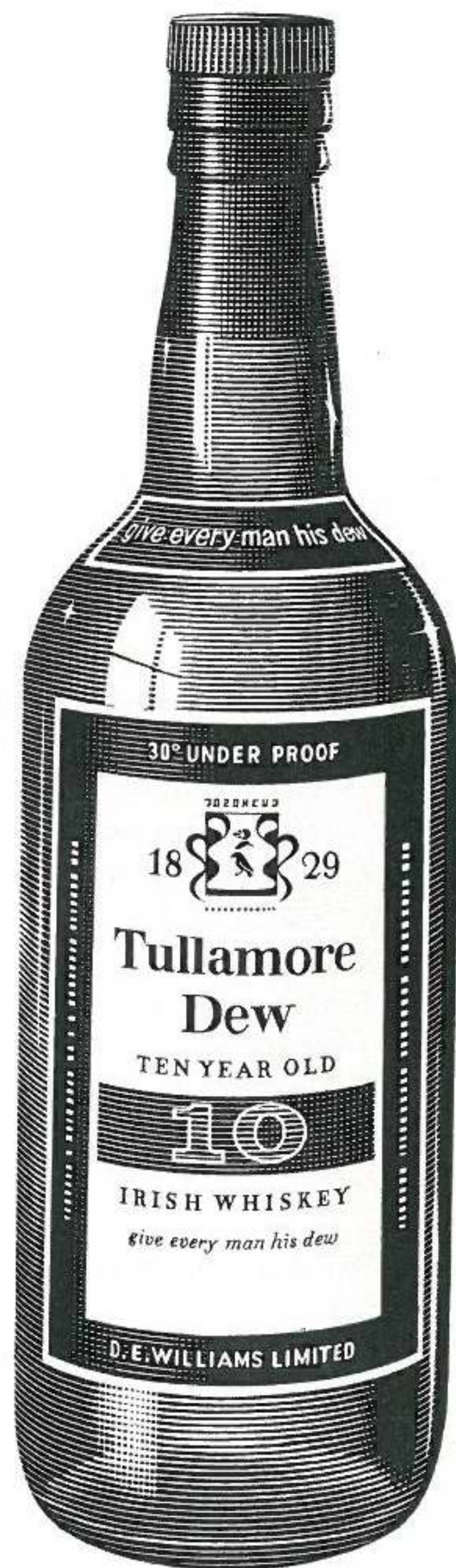
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“A World History of Track and Field Athletics 1864-1964” by R. L. Quercetani (published by Oxford University Press, London, 50s.).

MANY of the twenty chapters in this authoritative story of a century of athletics commence with reference to competitions that were held a long time before 1864; our own Tailteann Games are given their rightful due as the fore-runners of the modern Olympics.

The present unhappy state of Irish athletics is thrown into even starker prominence when one reads Quercetani's glowing tributes to the Irishmen of earlier generations. One doubts that many of to-day's Irish athletes are as conscious of their heritage as is this Italian who is acknowledged as the world's leading statistician in a sport which thrives on statistics.

Each running event from 100 yards to Marathon and each field event from high jump to javelin throw is traced through its development down the path of a hundred years. In his introduction, Dr. Quercetani writes—“In view of all the changes that have occurred, it would be absurd to compare the record-breakers of earlier years with their successors of to-day merely by referring to the figures of their respective records.”

He is loyal to this sentiment all the way through and Peter O'Connor's world record of 24' 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ " at Ballsbridge in 1901 is given more space than the 27-foot efforts of reigning Olympic champion Ralph Boston (U.S.A.) and reigning world record holder Igor Ter-Ovanesyan (Russia).

I very sincerely recommend this book as worthy reading to all who can purchase or borrow a copy.
F.F.C.

THE STARS OF YESTERYEAR

THE man asks—"Where is your article for GAELIC SPORT this month"? You tell him that you have done it, left it at home and that, word of honour, you will bring it in the following day. And then you go home and pray for a little inspiration.

That is just what happened me last month and, for hours after I had arrived home, that blessed inspiration had not come. Time ticked away: I became desperate . . . and, finally, I began to search through the book cases. Maybe somewhere I would find something to write about.

And I did not find anything. To tell the truth I forgot all about it after a few minutes. Down behind a pile of old books and papers, I came across a cutting, dated 1949 . . . fifteen short years ago.

I began to read it . . . and, of course, I forgot all about GAELIC SPORT. For it was a good article, written by a good friend of mine . . . and it took me back over the years.

He was writing about the top G.A.A. men of 1949 and reading through the names he mentioned made me realise that the years become very cruel when a man reaches middle age. They gallop away and, all of a sudden, you find that some of the great names you were talking about yesterday were, in fact, the great names of far too many years ago.

Now, go on . . . jog your memories. Who do you remember as the top G.A.A. stars of fifteen years ago? For that matter, where have all the top G.A.A. stars of fifteen years ago gone?

Those who headed the lists were Jimmy Kennedy in hurling and Padraic Carney in football.

In putting Jimmy Kennedy at the top of the hurling list, the author wrote; "A superb ball-player, fast, stylish and skilful, Jimmy Kennedy of Tipperary is always, on or off the field, one of the gentlemen of the game. He is yet young. His best years should be before him but no matter what wonders he achieves in future seasons, he will have to do extremely well, indeed, if he is to better his superb performances of 1949."

And, in writing about Padraic Carney of Mayo, he wrote: "To my mind, he is the best footballer in Ireland. He too is young. He has immense natural talent, a phenomenal turn of speed and combines grand catching, an innate sense of position and a grand drive off each foot with plenty of football brains."

And here were the Top Ten in both hurling and football:

HURLING:— 1. Jimmy Kennedy (Tipperary); 2. Joe Styles (Laois); 3. Tony Reddan (Tipperary); 4. Tom Fitzpatrick (Laois); 5. Bill Walsh (Kilkenny); 6. Paddy Donovan (Cork); 7. Sean Duggan (Galway); 8. Bernie Murphy (Cork); 9. Sean Kenny (Tipperary); 10. Jimmy Langton (Kilkenny).

FOOTBALL:— 1. Padraic Carney (Mayo); 2. Paddy O'Brien (Meath); 3. Frankie Byrne (Meath); 4. Phil Brady (Cavan); 5. Willie Goodison (Wexford); 6. Tony Tighe (Cavan); 7. Jackie Lyne (Kerry); 8. Con McGrath (Cork); 9. Christo



Tony Reddan . . . Tipperary's peerless goalkeeper of 15 years ago.

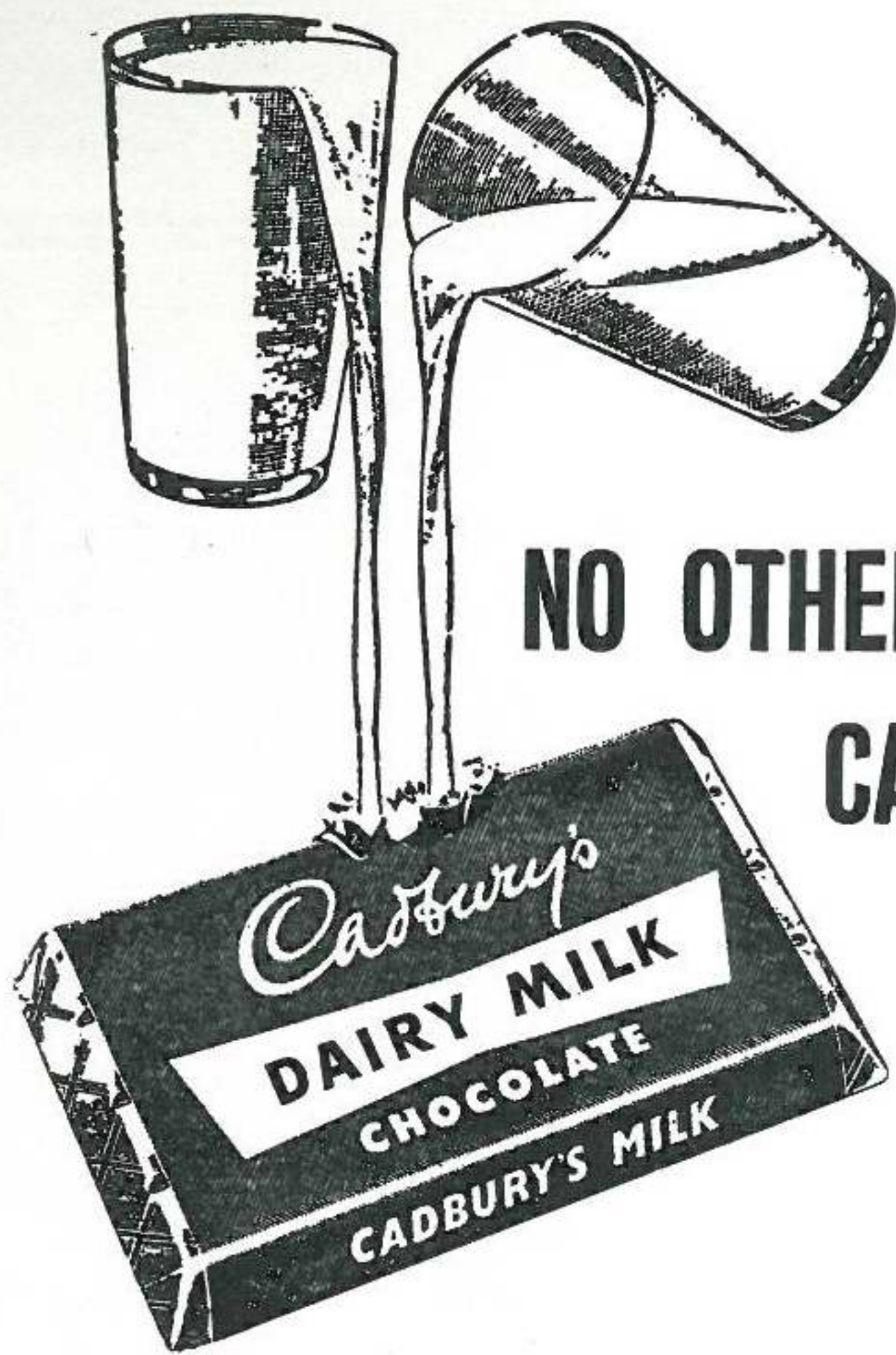
Hand (Meath); 10. John Cooper (Kerry).

There was no trouble in placing nineteen of these names but it took me a good hour of hard thinking to remember who Cooper was. He was a grand forward but if I remember correctly, he disappeared from the football scene shortly afterwards.

There is not one of the twenty in active inter-county competition to-day. Yet, for people like myself, it seems like only yesterday that Padraic Carney and Jackie Lyne and Jimmy Kennedy and Paddy Donovan were gracing Croke Park and many other G.A.A. fields.

I spent so much time reading the article and thinking about it afterwards that I found no inspiration for an article for GAELIC SPORT.

However, there is always next month.



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OMAGH BUILD FOR THE FUTURE

CLANN EIREANN, Lurgan, under the leadership of Alf Murray, is a club that has fulfilled all the ideals of the G.A.A. and the work which they have carried out is known to Gaels all over Ulster. Another Northern club, Omagh St. Enda's, is also embarking on a very progressive programme which could help to make this capital town of Tyrone an ideal centre for big games.

The St. Enda's committee have at last acquired their own grounds and they recently held a very successful two week carnival as part of a fund-raising campaign. And as far away as New York, Charlie Hunter of Omagh is chairman of a committee that has been formed to help raise funds.

St. Enda's, who were formed in 1932, is Tyrone's leading team as they have won the county senior championship six times. Players such as Jack Taggart, Thady Turbett, the Donnellys, Dan McCaffrey, Paddy Corey, the late Joe Skeffington and many others will long be remembered by supporters of the Red Hand County.

I wish the Gaels of Omagh every success as I feel that the town would be an ideal centre for county games.

PROGRESSIVE CLUBS

Other clubs in the province which have opened new grounds are Eglis, Co. Tyrone, and the famous Cornafean, Co. Cavan. The Cavan Gaels club are working hard

to raise funds for the Terry Coyle Memorial Park in Cavan town, while down Cootehill way it is hoped the local club will purchase their own ground soon.

THE GALLAGHERS

Home from London at present is Dr. Brian Gallagher the former Cavan star and he is assisting the local club in the current championship. His brother Charlie, a current Cavan star, is a dentist in Derry City. In fact the majority of Cavan's county players work outside the county—the only home-based men I can think of are Tom Maguire, Jim McDonnell, P. J. O'Gorman and Matty Cahill.

CAVAN REVIVAL

Handball is going great guns in Cavan at the moment, and in a recent conversation with T. J. O'Reilly, chairman of the Cavan Hurling Board, I was glad to find out that hurling also, was gaining ground throughout the county. There are five clubs affiliated — Killeshandra, Stradone, where Tommy Duke a brother of the late P. J. is well to the fore, Ballyhaise, Cavan Town and Cootehill.

Garda Nick McCarthy of Westmeath and Liam Cagney of Limerick are two of Cavan's best hurlers, but many of the local lads are steadily improving.

GOOD NEWS

Doing well with the whistle at present is John Sheridan of Kilkere, the former Dublin Kickhams'

player, while Pauric Boyle of Crosserlough, who has returned from America, is a much improved player.

KIERAN DENVIR

Kieran Denvir, the former Down star who was captain of the Down team prior to their 1960 win, scored 2-9 for the Greencastle-Kilkeel club in a recent encounter. Why was Denvir not included on either Down's senior or junior fifteen? He would always be an asset to Down even if he were only held in the substitutes.

DERRY JUNIORS

Congratulations to the Derry junior team on winning the Ulster crown. This is a young team, although most of them have senior experience. Young players such as "Nipper" Quinn, Frank O'Loane, Phil McCotter, C. Murray and Laurence Diamond, are showing great promise.

This month in Rosquill in the Donegal Gaeltacht the Ulster Council continue with their annual course in Irish for club secretaries and administrators. A varied programme has been arranged and all counties in the North should take full advantage of this great opportunity.

CLONES ?

And finally let us hope to see all at the Ulster final in Clones? This town is due credit for its capable handling of the Fleadh Ceoil this year and I feel that it is the ideal centre for an Ulster Final.

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THE BIG HITTERS

TAKE anyone from Kilkenny and ask him—or her for that matter—to name the man who has pucked a hurling ball farthest and you will get no odds as to who will be named.

And I dare say Kilkenny people have a just claim in Ollie Walsh. He can certainly puck a ball and I have a distinct recollection of seeing him score a fantastic point in Croke Park from way back in his own defence line.

It could be that Ollie has pucked a ball further than any hurler in the history of the game . . . but I can assure you that there are Limerick or Cork people to argue the toss with you.

Not so very long ago, I was having a pint with a man from Castleconnell and he swore to me that in his day Paddy Scanlan could give Ollie Walsh ten yards or more.

Paddy, of course, is credited with having scored a point from a puck-out and as my friend from Castleconnell said, "that takes a little beating."

And then there was Billy Murphy from Ballinacollig. Any Corkman with even the smallest bit of pride will remind you of those halcyon days of the early 1940's when Billy made crowds in Croke Park gasp with astonishment when he whipped the ball from his own goalmouth down on

to the far 21-yard line—and sometimes a little farther.

I remember one night many years ago in Mackesey's in Cork City when I ran into a man from Ballinacollig and we got to talking about Billy Murphy. I remember being told "Yes, indeed, Billy had a fair puck, but you should have seen his brother at home. Now there was a man who could puck a ball. The length of Croke Park would be child's play to him."

Maybe so, but never having seen Billy's brother in action I can make no claim for him.

One could go on and on talking about all those great strokers but we would never be able to establish the greatest until, maybe someday, we introduce a proper Irish championship for pucking a hurling ball.

And if that ever happens, what will we do about all the great strikers who, because of age, will never again be able to lay claim to the record?

Mind you, many of our old-timers were sound men when it came to pucking a ball.

I met one of them — the late Paddy Ryan of Pallasgreen, Olympic hammer champion and world record holder—and he claims that his best performance would be close to an Irish record.

Paddy's best moment was at a sports meeting in Fermoy and on that famous occasion just at the

turn of the century he drove a hurling ball 108 yards from a dead lift.

You might say, not a great distance and one that many a present-day hurler might beat—but remember the hurling ball in those days was a far different proposition from the streamlined sphere used today.

"The ball we used"—Paddy told me when I interviewed him a few years before his death—"was damn nearly like a football when compared to the marble they use today. It was twice as big and twice as heavy—and twice as awkward. If you didn't get it dead centre it might go only forty or fifty yards."

And Paddy's confidence about the value of his performance at Fermoy was reflected in his parting remark—"If I had been using the ball of today, I'd have driven it the length of Croke Park—and back again."

Maybe he would—but now we'll never know.

So who is the greatest? Ollie Walsh . . . Billy Murphy . . . Paddy Ryan . . . or the man you think could beat the most of them.

We could argue forever about it and never agree.

So wouldn't it be a nice idea to put this long puck "business" on a proper footing by establishing a competition on the lines of the All-Ireland championship.

Starting off with two men from each county, and preliminary rounds culminating in a provincial final, the events to be held before the start of all our inter-county championship games.

Then, between the minor and senior finals on All-Ireland day we could have the Irish championship finals between the two best men from each of the four provinces.

I would enjoy such a championship on All-Ireland day.

What do you think?

GRAVE NEED FOR CHANGE

ONE of the most important aspects of any organisation is, or should be, management—that art or act of administering, controlling, directing or handling the affairs of the organisation. This is no less true of the G.A.A. than of any commercial organisation, yet it is one thing which we have neglected almost completely.

I think it is fairly true to say that there has been little change in the management of our affairs (that is, except for a change of personalities) in the last sixty years. I think it is equally true to say that there is grave need for a change.

Take Congress, for example—the supreme governing body in the G.A.A. Seventy years ago a representation of one delegate for every ten clubs was necessary, seeing that at some Congresses only three or four counties were represented. But, now, with every county represented and over 3,000 clubs in the country, the resultant 300 delegates makes Congress far too unwieldy to discharge its functions efficiently.

As this is the policy-making body



The late Pádraig Ó Caoimh.

of the G.A.A. each topic should be discussed and argued clearly, intelligently and at length, but, instead, many decisions are more influenced by emotional appeals or the lateness of the hour.

If Congress is unwieldy, so is

the Central Council. Central Council should really be the Board of Directors of the Association which plans and implements policy. But who ever heard of a company with fifty directors, as the Central Council has? Management becomes not only difficult but stifled in such conditions and with such numbers. A Central Council of one-third the size would get far more work done and more efficiently, too.

Beneath the Central Council, we have Provincial Councils, County Boards, Clubs and the individual members. With these, the major management problem is one of control and communication. How the individual members or clubs are dealt with does, on occasions, give rise to criticism and tends to bring the Association into disrepute (e.g., the Dave Geaney case) but the Central Council never exercises its authority to remedy any abuses which arise, as any good management would.

Then, too, there is the question of communicating decisions of the Central Council to the clubs and members. I have often written on

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this topic and it amazes me that the antiquated method of including such decisions in minutes (which must be ratified at a subsequent meeting, sometimes months later and then sent only to County Boards) is still thought sufficient. It is, in fact, impossible to suggest a more inefficient method.

But, of course, any method introduced sixty years' ago is now insufficient. There have been such huge advances in business methods in recent years that it is difficult to carry on business effectively without a drastic overhaul, while any new problems which arise often, call for modern methods to solve them.

This is probably what our late General Secretary had in mind when he wrote in his last Report to Congress—"We must be willing to prove that we are flexible enough to adopt our organisation to changing circumstances", and, again, "I think that under the existing organisational system administrators and Central Council cannot be expected to keep abreast of these new difficulties."

But it is not alone in the structure of our organisation that new methods and a greater streamlining are necessary. In the everyday running of the organisation there is great scope for improvement. If one takes the most elementary office tasks—the filing of documents for example, one finds that nowadays there is a wide variety of improved methods for doing this, thereby ensuring greater speed, greater efficiency and greater accessibility.

All around us, then, there is evidence of the availability of better methods and, even more important, of the availability of experts to advise on their introduction and use, and also to advise on the proper organisational structure of our Association. Personally, I cannot see why we should not avail of their services.

My idea would be to call in

these experts to assess our organisational structure and methods and to produce a plan for greater streamlining and more efficient methods. I'd even go further and suggest that they should also be called in to conduct courses for G.A.A. officials.

I'm quite satisfied that there are no more enthusiastic workers to be found anywhere. What is required is to give them the "know-how"

and with this knowledge they would give a wonderful boost to the whole organisation.

In my opinion, in these modern times changes in management are necessary. "If," as our late General Secretary said in his Report, "we fail to see these changes in time we may find ourselves attempting to discover remedies for an incurable disease." That, indeed, is a sobering thought.



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SEAMUS FLOOD WAS QUITE RIGHT

By JIM O'BRIEN

WESTMEATH feel that they were "robbed" in their football championship game against Laois—and indeed so do I. As I saw it Georgie Kane's goal was a well taken one and should have been recorded as such. Had it been, Westmeath would have won.

However, I do not agree with those supporters of the Midland county who feel that the Leinster Council did them wrong in not allowing a full discussion of the affair.

As I see it the acting Chairman, Seamus Flood of Louth, was correct when he closed the book and stated that a discussion would serve little purpose.

I can well understand how Westmeath feel about the entire affair—but even had it been discussed and argued until Doomsday the result would have remained the same. So why get all frustrated and heated about it. It was just one of those things which should

not have happened — but which will continue to happen while men are human and therefore liable to error.

The fact of the matter was that the four umpires who officiated at that game were very experienced—so indeed is referee Ned Doogue both as player and a knight of the whistle.

The umpires were Eamonn Long snr., his son Eamonn Long jr., Ned Hogan and Tim Horohan. Eamonn Long senior was for quite a spell secretary of the Carlow County Board. He is the present vice-chairman and was for years a leading inter-county referee.

Eamonn Long junior was, until illness forced him to the sideline, a brilliant player with the county in both football and hurling. At one time it looked as if he was destined for the Leinster football team.

Ned Hogan is one of the most

experienced county footballers in Carlow. He has been on the county side for almost a decade. Lastly, Tim Horohan, although not as well known as the others, is a prominent senior club footballer.

It is therefore evident that referee Doogue picked four suitable men for the job. They had every qualification. Yet, I believe they erred. They weren't the first to do so and they will not be the last. The pity is that it was a struggling county like Westmeath who should be the victims.

Although in one way perhaps it is a good thing that it was them. If it was others I could think of the rumpus would never die down.

LEINSTER HURLING

I am taking a bit of a chance in this for I could be proven wrong by Carlow even before these notes appear in print, but at the time of writing I believe that Dublin have a great chance in qualifying for this year's All-Ireland hurling final.



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I watched them against Clare in a challenge match at Parnell Park some weeks ago and they certainly were impressive for a team which at the time had not begun preparing for the championship. Furthermore on that evening they were without a few of their regulars such as Des Ferguson, Fran Whelan and Mick Birmingham.

CÚRSA GAELIGE

In an effort to get more of the Association's business done through Irish both the Ulster and the Munster Councils have annual Gaeltacht courses for club officials. The Ulster course begins at Ros Goill Irish College, in Donegal, on July 13, while the Munster course will be held in Ballyferriter, Co. Kerry.

However, when will the Leinster and Connacht Councils get around to holding like courses? Brú na Mí would certainly prove an ideal venue for the Leinster Council—but then it need not even be held within the province.

Surely it must be obvious to the Leinster Council (and indeed the Connacht Council too) that this entire effort will be retarded unless they keep pace with the other two provinces. Getting the entire workings of the Association operating through Irish, as it should be operating, is not at all a difficult task if it is taken in hand enthusiastically.

BAN ON G.A.A.

Wexford County Board Chairman, Senator Sean Browne, recently found himself in the unusual position of helping to put a ban on Gaelic Games.

It happened at a meeting of the Enniscorthy Urban Council when the Town Clerk reported that a public park at Duffry Hill was being used by teenagers as a playing pitch for football and hurling. It was pointed out that there was no shortage of proper playing pitches in the town and that the park was never intended for that purpose.

The meeting decided to prohibit the playing of football and hurling there. Senator Browne spoke in favour of the prohibition—and of course, rightly so.

IN BRIEF

It could be that Meath will remind Skryne-born, Michael Staunton, now in the Roscommon colours, where his first allegiance lies. So don't be surprised if he declares for the home-county as did former Laois star, Tom Browne.

"They should have switched over to hurling," said an irate Wexfordman as we left Croke Park following his county's defeat by Louth in the Leinster senior foot-

ball championship. What he had in mind was that virtually every single one of the Wexford footballers were also top-class hurlers with at least half of them having represented the county in some grade or other of hurling.

Only one point was scored from play during the entire hour when Meath Hill and Moynalty recently met in the Meath junior football championship. Meath Hill won 0-5 to 0-2 and got all of their scores from frees.

Heartiest congratulations to Wicklow on winning the Leinster junior hurling title. It was a long wait and there were some hard knocks on the way but victory has finally come.

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CLOSE CALL FOR TIPPERARY

'MANHATTAN' REPORTS ON THE HURLING GAMES IN NEW YORK

DESPITE the close scoring of 4-16 to 6-6, Tipperary were worthy winners over New York in the National League hurling final. However, had the exiles produced first-half form anything like that displayed by them on the resumption the result might have been otherwise.

New York were quickly into gear from the throw-in and took an early lead as a result of points by Steve Ryall, Johnny Murphy and Jerry Keating. Tipperary settled down after ten minutes and Jimmy Doyle opened the scoring for them.

Thanks to a midfield pull, they remained well on top for the first half and with Babs Keating leading the attack, the short whistle saw them ahead 2-8 to New York's 0-5.

In the second half Tipperary continued to press and within ten minutes had extended their tally to 3-11 without reply from New York. However, the exiles, thanks to a number of half-time switches, suddenly found their feet.

A goal by Joe Carey heralded the comeback and for the next fifteen minutes they completely outhurlled the visitors and finally took the lead.

With time running out Tipperary fought back desperately. Jimmy Doyle pointed from play to leave it New York 6-6 (24) to Tipperary's 3-14 (23).

Then came the deciding score. Larry Kiely sent in and Donie Nealon collected and fired low and hard and it found the net. Doyle



Donie Nealon . . . one of Tipperary's chief marksmen in America.

and Nealon added further points and it was over.

Tipperary scorers were: J. Doyle (1-7), B. Keating (2-1), D. Nealon (1-2), L. Kiely (0-3), T. Ryan (0-1), M. Roche (0-1) and T. English (0-1).

KILKENNY WIN

The following Sunday at Gaelic Park, Kilkenny displayed some magnificent hurling to defeat the newly-crowned League champions for the Cardinal Cushing Cup. Kil-

kenny scored 4-16 (exactly the same score as had Tipperary against New York). This time Tipperary notched 3-13.

The outstanding feature of the game was the performance of Ollie Walsh, who together with having a great hour in goal, scored two magnificent points from frees.

The first of these was from 80 yards and the second from his own 21-yard line. As Gaelic Park measures 140 yards the latter free travelled all of 119 yards before dropping over the bar.

Kilkenny led 1-8 to 2-3 at half-time as a result of a great Tom Walsh goal and well-taken points by Eddie Keher and veteran, Oliver Gough.

Tipperary made a major comeback midway through the second half and a Jimmy Doyle point saw them take the lead in the 24th minute. However, this only urged Kilkenny to greater efforts. Keher goaled and Oliver Gough added two points. Then came Ollie Walsh's 119-yard stroke and Kilkenny remained on top until referee Gerry Fitzgerald of Limerick sounded the final whistle.

The scorers were: Kilkenny—E. Keher (2-6), O. Gough (0-5), T. Walsh (1-1), O. Walsh (0-2), S. Cleere (0-1), P. Moran (0-1); Tipperary—B. Keating (1-4), J. Doyle (1-3), L. Kiely (0-3), D. Nealon (0-1), T. English (0-1) and M. Roche (0-1).

"BABS" KEATING

A man who certainly left his mark on both of Tipperary's out-
(Continued overleaf)

(From previous page)

ings was Michael "Babs" Keating. He was easily their best forward and top scorer from play with a personal tally of 3-5 from both games. The displays are certain to win him a permanent place on the Tipperary championship team.

Another "newcomer" to impress was Kilkenny's Sean Buckley, who was the outstanding mid-fielder on view in the Cardinal Cushing Cup game. He completely out-hurled Theo English, who previously had such a "blinder" against New York. Buckley's

performance at mid-field was one of the main reasons for Kilkenny's clear-cut victory over the League champions.

CHICAGO GAME

In their earlier visit to Chicago, Kilkenny beat the Chicago All-Stars 6-10 to 3-4. Kilkenny had a fifteen point lead at half-time.

The game attracted the biggest ever G.A.A. gathering to Rockne Stadium.

It is an odd fact that in each of these three games the winners finished with a total of 28 points.

New York lived up to their

National League final form when they met Kilkenny in the last game of the recent tours. Kilkenny were lucky to win—4-5 to 2-8—and there is no doubt at all but that New York now has a very fine hurling side, equal to the best in any home-county.

It must be remembered that the Exiles have not had the advantage of playing as a team prior to these engagements. It might be a premature forecast but I am confident that next year at Croke Park New York will capture their first National Hurling League crown.



AS TRULY IRISH IN CHARACTER AS CROKE PARK ITSELF . . .



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DUBLIN FOOTBALLERS INITIATED!

THE Jubilee Celebrations of the camogie game got off to a flying start last month when the Dublin football and camogie teams travelled up to Casement Park in Belfast to star at a 'field-day' organised by the Antrim Camogie Board.

I thought the sending of their football team, even though the side that travelled was not as strong as they would have liked it to be, was a very fine gesture on the part of the Dublin G.A.A. Board. After all, there are many, many demands on the All-Ireland champions, and it was a kind thought on their part to put the side at the disposal of the Antrim Camogie Board.

I was in Casement Park and I was astonished to discover that, although the sisters of two very well-known footballers, Mary Casey, sister of Bill Casey, and Fran Whelan, sister of Mickey Whelan, were both on the Dublin camogie team, the members of the Dublin football side to whom I spoke had never previously seen a Dublin camogie team in action.

However, so impressed were they by the wonderful standard of play in the Dublin-Antrim game that I feel there will be a cheer squad from the football team the next time Dublin's camogie girls play in Croke Park.

Indeed anyone who saw that challenge match at Casement could

not fail to be impressed by the wonderful exhibition of the game which Antrim and Dublin served up. Antrim I thought were slightly the more talented side all-round, but Dublin's craft and combination was a treat to watch, even though they had some newcomers on the team.

In the end a draw was a very fair and fitting result, and will whet the appetites of all camogie followers for the forthcoming All-Ireland series.

Finally before leaving Casement Park, I would like to pay tribute to the organising ability and the hospitality provided by the Antrim Camogie Board. It is always a pleasure to go to a camogie match in Belfast, but never was it more so than on Sunday, June 7.

Meanwhile the preliminary stages of the championship have got under way in Leinster and Munster. In Leinster there was only one real surprise, the defeat of a very fit and fancied Kildare side by Louth in the intermediate semi-final. Down in Munster there was a surprise too, when Clare of whom we have not heard much in this Munster championship in recent years scored a hard-earned but well deserved victory over Limerick. I was glad to see this Clare victory, for it will enhance the tremendous enthusiasm behind the game in the Banner County at the moment.

Another county that has made tremendous progress of late is Westmeath where a dozen clubs are now active, and where a very fine amount of progress has been made, almost over-night as it were. Moreover, as Longford failed to field a team against them in the semi-final, Westmeath advance to the Leinster junior final in which the opposition will be provided by either Wicklow or Meath.

Except for the big day in Belfast I have heard, for the moment at least, of no further plans to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the game. It is, I think, well to point out that this is not the jubilee of the Camogie Association, which was not founded until 1911, but the jubilee of the 'invention' of the camogie game itself, which originated in late 1903 and early 1904 among the young ladies of the Ard Craobh and Keating Branches of the Gaelic League in Dublin, who felt that, in the days of feminine emancipation which were then dawning, the Girl Gaels should have a native pastime all their own.

Aided by such as Seamus O'Braonain, still happily with us, J. J. O'Kelly ("Sceilg") and Tadhg O'Donohue ("Torna"), they evolved Camoguidheacht and the first public match was played at a Gaelic League aeridheacht in the Showgrounds at An Uaimh (now Pairc Tailteann) in July 1904.

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RESURGENT CLARE

EXACTLY half a century ago, Clare hurlers made Gaelic history by being the first hurling county to accomplish the championship double. They won the 1914 Munster and All-Ireland titles in both senior and junior Hurling.

This was a splendid achievement, that redounded to the credit of the Banner County, and was hailed as an indication that the men from historic Dalcassian territory were determined on taking a leading place in the All-Ireland honours race.

Fifty years have passed, and despite many brave efforts and some frustrating disappointments, the 1914 double entry stands in splendid isolation, as the only wins the Claremen have registered in All-Ireland championship hurling.

The Golden Jubilee of the 1914 success is being celebrated this year, and it is the ardent desire of those who thrilled to the glories of that unforgettable hurling season that Clare mark the occasion with a return to big time play—a come back that would be welcomed in all hurling company.

The Banner County representatives have always proved popular exponents, whilst few real sportsmen can do other than appreciate their devotion to the game despite the long years of disappointment.

Clare, like other counties on the Western seaboard, have had the galling experience of seeing many sons leave their homeland to help in the building of other lands, all through lack of opportunity in their native county.

The growing importance of Shannon Airport, and other forward moves in the area, has helped at last to stem the tide that at

times reached almost flood proportions. That, in itself, is a healthy sign, but from a Clare G.A.A. viewpoint the most heartening sign of all is the new spirit evident in the Gaelic youth of the county.

At a time when mentors in many other counties are complaining of a definite slackening in interest,



Bob Doherty, who was a member of Clare's victorious All-Ireland hurling championship side in 1914. He won two more All-Ireland medals with Dublin in 1920 and 1924. He has lived in the United States since 1928.

and a positive difficulty in inducing a full muster of players to specially arranged training sessions, the Clare boys have set a headline for the whole country this year by a devotion to training and a dedication to the task of preparation that has to be admired.

For almost a decade a Clare side had not survived the opening round of the Munster senior hurling

championship. This was not good enough for the Jubilee Year, the men in command decided at the commencement of the present season. They did not waste time dwelling on past failures, they decided instead on a positive line of action for the future. The next step was to gain the confidence of the players, and this accomplished, the big job of finding the right blend, and preparing the chosen ones for the strenuous campaign was tackled.

The response was really magnificent, and for five weeks before the first round tie Clare buzzed to suppressed excitement as guarded confidence replaced the inferiority complex feeling that had gained an all too powerful grip in recent years.

The resurgent spirit spread like a prairie fire to all branches of G.A.A. activity and first round victories in senior, and under-21 hurling; junior, under-21 and minor football already recorded, bear witness to the new Clare—no longer the Cinderella of the Munster counties.

Where did all this stem from? Readers not fully conversant with internal events in the Banner County might well put this query.

It is not that long since Clare was a name almost ignored in any reckoning of championship prospects. Internal organisation lacked lustre, discipline was not always effectively maintained, scenes at matches were all too frequent; objections and appeals bedevilled the best efforts of hard working officials.

The change came almost overnight, at the County Convention in
(Continued overleaf)

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(From previous page)

January, 1963, when delegates put a twenty-five years' old Ennis man, with an honours Masters Degree in Engineering, at the helm as County Chairman. Jack Daly had already established a fine record as an administrator, and his dynamic personality and undoubted ability was soon displayed to full advantage.

He tackled the trouble spots with energy and enthusiasm and they began to disappear almost like magic. The previous season was marred by many unpleasant incidents; but while the hard-hitting and determined exchanges continued a prominent feature in 1963, nobody could fail to notice the new spirit displayed at all venues. Punctuality, very evident discipline, and a sporting acceptance of defeat, marked a welcome departure from the old order, and prepared the road for the fresh feeling of hope and confidence now so evident in the Banner County.

The faithful followers who have been disappointed so often—the great bulk of whom never experienced the thrill of All-Ireland success — sport the Saffron and Blue with extra pride this year. Prospects were never brighter, but irrespective of the outcome of the inter-county effort, Clare have made wonderful advances in a very short time and it is as sure now as that night follows day that success must come. Perseverance has to have its reward.

Tipperary would be advised to look to their laurels on July 5.

ARCHDEACON CARROLL

Venerable Archdeacon W. J. Carroll, P.P., V.F., Rathkeale, whose unexpected passing was a severe jolt to his legion of friends, might be written as one of the greatest all-round sportsmen of his time. A renowned athlete and hurler in his student days, he volunteered as an Army Chaplain in the first World War and quickly gained rating at international class in both rugby and soccer.

On his return to Limerick Diocese, he played senior county championship hurling with Fedamore, then in their heyday; and several years later won county handball championship honours with Ballingarry, and represented Limerick in All-Ireland handball competition.

When his active days were over, he became chairman of the County Handball Board, in which position he rendered sterling service to Limerick handball. Later, he rose to even higher honours as Chairman of the Munster Council, and eventually as All-Ireland Handball President. Unsparing in his efforts, he travelled to many parts of Ireland at his own expense, on behalf of the game.

Well up to championship class at golf, he will be remembered best for his devotion to Gaelic ideals. A regular visitor to the Olympic Games, and other big sporting events, and very fond of International rugby and soccer in his army service days, it is a strong indication of his sterling qualities that once he became a member of the G.A.A., he rigidly obeyed the rules, willingly depriving himself of all pleasures that did not conform with the strict letter and law of the Association to which he gave so much and so wholeheartedly.

TOM O'KEEFFE

Tom O'Keeffe of Horse and Jockey was one of the greatest hurling followers it has been my pleasure to meet. Son of a grand old Tipperary Gael, who helped the Premier County win All-Ireland senior hurling laurels in the early days of the century. I first met Tom as a young handballer in the ballcourt close to his Horse and Jockey home, in which I spent many a pleasant evening.

Tom was later to prove an All-Ireland champion at handball, but it was as a fanatic for hurling he was best known in recent years. Domiciled at Killaloe, he rarely

(Continued page 42)



P. Lennon of Laois (left) and S. Price of Westmeath tussle for a high ball in the Leinster senior championship match at Tullamore on May 31. Laois won by 2-8 to 0-13.

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NAMES TO REMEMBER

WE are now in the middle of another championship season and this coming month will see the Connacht senior, junior and minor football finals. Having watched many of the major games in all grades so far this year, I feel you will be hearing more of the following youngsters who have greatly impressed me. Footballers like Tom Sands, Christy Tyrrell, Johnny Geraghty, Brendan Reape, Francis McDonald, Mick Connaughton, Seamie O'Neill, Seamus Keher, Dermot Gannon, Davy Doris, Dermot Earley, and hurlers such as Pat O'Toole, Gus Lohan, Paddy Mitchell and Frank Coffey have all shown great promise. By this time next year, the majority of them will be household names. I promise to repeat this forecast in a year's time when we will see how right we were. Two others which can be added are Jimmy Duggan and Joe Earley.

GALWAY VICTORY

Belatedly we congratulate Galway on winning the All-Ireland Vocational Schools' football championship. In the final they defeated Offaly, at Athlone. On their way to the final they defeated Leitrim, Sligo and Cork City, and had outstanding performers in John O'Sullivan, Mick Comer, Michael Neill, Raymond Finnerty and Ger. Benson.



KAY QUINN . . . behind Oranmore's big camogie drive.

Congratulations too to the men in charge of the team, Martin Mulkerins and Jack Mahon (team manager), Seamus Cullinane, Gabriel Rohan, Joe Burke, Seamus O'Halloran, Bernie McHale and Michael Timothy.

As many of this year's side will be available again in 1965 we expect Galway to make a bold bid to retain the trophy.

CAMOGIE

A great interest in camogie has sprung up once again in Oranmore and for this great credit is due to the Galway county player, Kay Quinn, a wonderful enthusiast for



DONAL KILLEEN . . . Chairman of West Galway G.A.A. Board.

the game. Two other great camogie enthusiasts are the stalwart U.C.G. officials, cum players, Sheila O'Callaghan and Mena O'Donnell. Mick Quaine, the well-known hurling referee is another keen enthusiast and he trains the Galway team.

DONAL KILLEEN

One official I admire very much is Donal Killeen the Galway West Board Chairman. On the occasion of his election he promised to be stern in dealing with unseemly behaviour on the field of play. No lip service here. For Limerick-born Donal, who is also developing

(Continued overleaf)

CONNACHT COMMENT

(From previous page)
into a first-class referee, is keeping true to his word. Well done Donal—keep up the good work.

TOURNAMENTS

Senior football tournaments are becoming popular here in Connacht. First to organise one were Claremorris last year when their great organiser Fr. Ger. French, now in Korea, arranged a great competition, won eventually by Dunmore in a replayed final.

This year again Claremorris are sponsoring a similar tournament for a set of gold medals but Ballinrobe, Garrymore and Milltown have organised tournaments also. We consider the trend a welcome innovation provided the long summer evenings are utilised. Great credit is due to Fr. French for inaugurating the trend and I take this opportunity of wishing him well in his Korean mission-field (You see I know he has

“Gaelic Sport” sent on to him every month to keep him in touch).

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

Bouquets to those responsible for producing the souvenir programme on the occasion of the official opening of Carrick-on-Shannon's Paire Sean Mac Diarmada. This wonderful publication, which incorporates the history of the G.A.A. in Leitrim from the beginning, is profusely illustrated with photographs of teams and carries all the club statistics of the county up to date. Among the guest writers were Alf O Muirí, the late Padraic O Caoimh, Mick Dunne, John D. Hickey, the Editor of “Gaelic Sport” and Fr. Manning.

Leitrim now has got a field to compare with any other in the province and we congratulate Rev. P. Claffey, Sean Mullarkey, Georgie O'Toole and all their earnest Committee members on a job very well done.

MUNSTER MEDLEY

(From page 39)

missed a caman game of any consequence.

My last meeting with him was at Nenagh when Clare surprised us all by the power and punch of their hurling against Limerick. We joked him that evening on what might happen Tipperary, when they meet the flying Claremen, on the rebound of their American trip. The question was deferred for further debate at Shannon Airport the following Thursday evening when Tom intended to be present to bid the Tipperary and Kilkenny lads “God speed.” Little any of us thought then that he would be in his grave before the big take off. A great judge of a man or a team, Gaeldom is the poorer for his passing.

BILLIE LONG

Patrons of Cork Athletic Grounds will be particularly saddened by the untimely death of Billie Long, the popular chief executive there, who helped us all out of many a difficulty and ensured a fair field and no favour for so many players and teams over a long span.

CORK PLANS

Cork Gaels are working hard on their big new grounds project, and profiting by experience elsewhere, they are determined on making it the perfect park in every sense of the term.

It is a happy thought to dedicate the new grounds to the memory of the late General Secretary, Padraig O Caoimh—a man responsible for much of the wonderful field development by the G.A.A. of the last quarter century. It can be safely be left to the Gaels of Cork to ensure that the proposed grounds is a worthy reminder of a man whose memory will be cherished in the hearts of his many friends whilst life remains.

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STRUGGLE AGAINST HUGE ODDS

By 'EXILE'

THE G.A.A. resurgence in Glasgow continues. It requires earnest work, but it goes on. The County Board will soon be holding its Annual Raffle and much depends on its success.

This raffle is one of the few ways which Glasgow Gaels have of raising funds. People at home often forget that we here cannot collect an entrance charge at Sunday games. The result is that the players and officials themselves very often have to dig deep into their own pockets to keep things going.

But that is only part of our trouble. In 1953 the Glasgow Board purchased Eastfield Gaelic Park and this pitch is now well developed with dressing rooms, toilets, committee rooms, etc. having been erected. The result is that the rates are now very high.

Ceilithe have not proved a financial success. Socially they are first-class and a necessary part of Gaelic activity, but money-wise they do not solve our problems. So a lot depends on this Annual Raffle.

Last year £1 worth of raffle tickets were sent to almost every County Board in Ireland. We thought that the Gaels at home would be only too glad to dispose of the books seeing as they knew what we had to contend with here.

Believe it or not but only one—yes one, saw fit to dispose of the tickets. So we received £1 from the home-country. The rest of the County Boards did not bother to even reply or acknowledge our appeal.

So we are more or less on our own, but still by no means down-hearted.

The present ban on Sunday overtime has helped us in a small way

for clubs have found it easier to field at full-strength. However, it has had no beneficial result on attendance figures.

Glasgow football champions, Wolfe Tones, are developing into a fine side and have been very impressive in recent outings. The club has first-class players in Sean

Sexton, Paddy O'Donnell, Sean McCaughey, Gerry Galvin, Sean McGarvey, Pat McGuire, Hugh Feeny, Brian McKenna and Pat Kearney. Any club in the Association would be glad to have these boys and the games in Glasgow are certainly benefiting from their presence.

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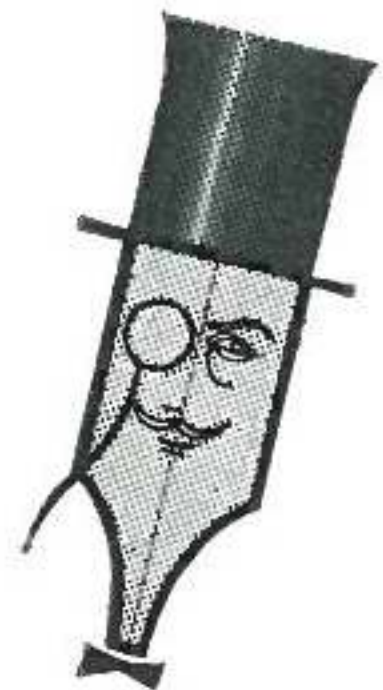
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GALWAY'S DILEMMA

THE continued failure of Galway to make any impression in the Munster senior hurling championship, has, I gather from some Western friends, caused many hurlers over there to wonder if there is any real point in the Tribesmen continuing to play in the Southern province.

There are as many arguments for and against now as there were when the decision was first taken, but one fact is certain, that their sojourn in Munster has not improved the all-over standard of the game in Galway.

Besides it has led to some rather peculiar positions, in other grades. For instance we have a Connacht minor and junior hurling championship confined to four counties, with the result that, if Galway were to win a Munster minor title, they might find themselves playing Roscommon, say, in the All-Ireland minor semi-final.

Whatever about taking the Galway senior and intermediate sides into Munster, the decision to take the Galway minors out of Connacht seems to me to be a big mistake. All counties should be more even in minor grade than in any other, and I am willing to stick my neck out a little bit and suggest that the rest of Connacht have more to learn from the Galway minors than the same Galway minors are likely to learn in Munster.

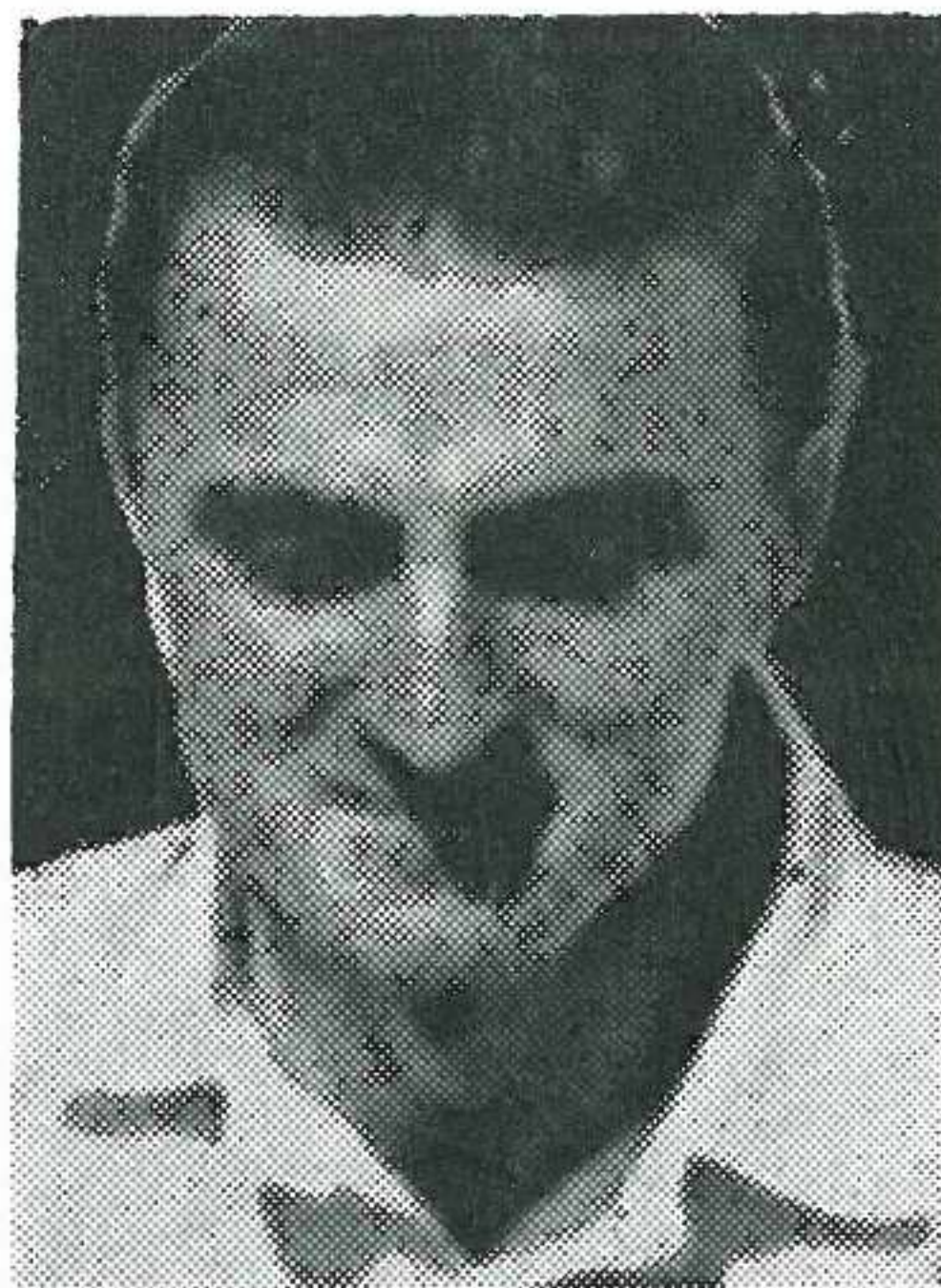
It is notable that, in the same circumstances, Antrim keep their minors at home. Antrim play in the Leinster intermediate hurling championships, but their juniors and minors very sensibly play at home in Ulster, which, to my mind, is far better both for Antrim and for Ulster.

But it is easy to criticise Galway's position, far easier to criticise than to put forward any useful suggestions, for the fact of the matter is that Galway are as well off losing in Munster as they would be going back into the All-Ireland semi-final or final without opposition.

I have only one suggestion to make. I have been making the same suggestion for more than a decade, and it has fallen on deaf ears so often that I am reluctant to make it again. But it is this, that the only hope of maintaining country-wide interest in the senior hurling championship is by making this event an 'Open Draw'.

I know the big objection to the Open Draw is the fact that the 'hurling counties' feel that they would lose heavily in revenue if the provincial championships were discontinued.

Yet, may I point out again, that I see no reason whatever for the provincial championships at senior



Jimmy Duggan, Galway's right half-back.

level to be discontinued because of an open draw for the All-Ireland title. The Munster championship was in actual fact abandoned the first day Galway were admitted to the senior competition, and it has not affected its popularity all that much.

The fact of the matter, and a very sad fact it is, is that the 'specialist' hurling counties are getting fewer and fewer every year, and the only people who seem unable to recognise that fact are the 'specialists' themselves.

It seems to me that the Open Draw is the very injection that hurling needs to maintain nationwide interest, but I fear that no such move will be made until hurling in many counties has declined almost beyond hope of revival.

When we found ourselves without reports of the National hurling League final at Gaelic Park, New York, most of us felt lost. And only then, I think, did we realise how much our games owe to the publicity and prominence given to them in our daily newspapers.

In fact, through most of the eighty years of its existence, the Gaelic Athletic Association has been very fortunate in the men who have written about Gaelic games.

The very first meeting at Thurles was especially blessed in that two of the men at that meeting, John McKay of the "Cork Examiner" and John Wyse Power of the "Freemans Journal" and also of the "Leinster Leader" were both journalists as well as enthusiasts for the native games, with the result that on the Monday morning after the first meeting at Thurles both the "Examiner" and "The Freemans" carried reports of the gathering, the "Examiner" report being, for the times, very exten-

(Continued on page 47)

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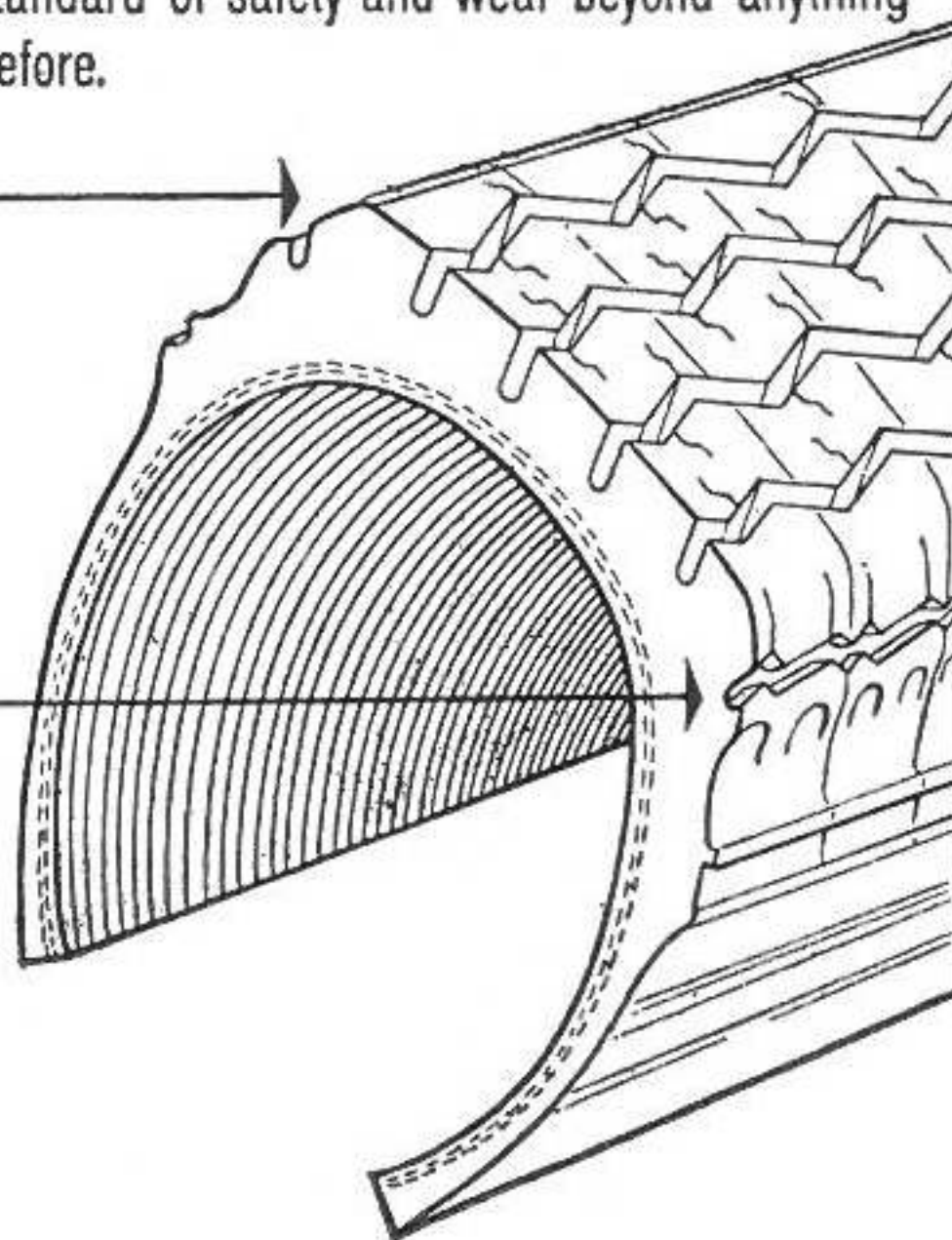
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5/7/64—PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH

Loch Garman v. Cill Choinnig.
I.M., 2 i.n., I.S., 3.30 i.n. S.
Ó h-Attín (Cill Mhantáin).

TULACH MÓR

Áth Cliath nó Ceatharloch v. Laois.
P.M., 2 i.n. S. Ó Dubhlaing (Ua
bhFailí).

Áth Cliath v. Ua bhFailí, Peil fé
21 bld. T. Colmáin (Laois).

12/7/64—PORTLAOISE

Ua bhFailí nó Laois v. Áth Cliath
nó Cill Dara. I.M., 2 i.n.

Ua bhFailí nó Áth. Cliath v. Laois,
Peil fé 21 bld. 3.30 i.n.

19/7/64—PÁIRC AN CHRÓCAIGH

Craobhacha Iomáint Sinsir, 3.30
i.n., Cill Choinnigh nó Loc
Garman v. Áth. Cliath nó
Ceatharloch, Mionúir 2 i.n.

26/7/64—PÁIRC AN CHROCAIGH

Craobhacha Peilie Sinsir, 3.30 i.n.,
Áth. Cliath nó Laois v. An Mhí,
nó Lubháí. Mionúir 2 i.n.

2/8/64—PÁIRC AN CHROCAIGH

Lubháí v. Áth. Cliath, P.S., Corn
Uí Bhroin, 3.45 i.n.

Leath-craobh Corn Breathnach
(I. Sin.), 2.30 i.n.

I gCEATHARLOCH

Ceatharloch v. Longphort nó Cill
Mantáin, 3.30 i.n., Corn Uí Bhroin.

(Continued from page 45)

sive. McKay always gave the Association very good publicity during the few years he remained in Cork.

In the late 'eighties and early 'nineties, Gaelic games got great coverage from a famed sportsman of the time, P. P. Sutton, a native of Wexford, and one of the hurlers who invaded 'America' in 1888. Sutton, who resigned from the civil service to join the staff of "Sport", gave shrewd, enthusiastic and extensive reports of Gaelic games in "Sport" for more than a decade, and, on his early death was succeeded as Gaelic games editor of that weekly paper by no less a person than Frank Dineen, who had in his time been both President and Secretary of the G.A.A. Dineen was the first man to 'lay down the law' about various matters concerning national games in his column.

By the time he died, on Good Friday, 1916, there were several nationally known Gaelic sports writers in Ireland, especially P. D. Mehigan "Carberry" who both in the "Cork Weekly Examiner" and in the "Irish Times", wielded until very recently as facile and entertaining and penetrating a pen as he first did in the "Cork Sportsman" fifty years ago.

Other graphic and learned sports writers of the old days were the late Seamus Upton, "Vigilant" who, both in the "Kilkenny Journal" and the long defunct weekly paper "The Gaelic Athlete". He wrote not alone graphically but fearless, condemning as readily as praising, if he thought condemnation was

needed. Upton was succeeded in the "Kilkenny Journal" by the late Phil O'Neill a native of Kinsale, who also wrote breezily and accurately of all things Gaelic, and who could compose a ballad or a more serious poem at the drop of a hat.

To those writers of the old days a great debt of gratitude is due from all Gaels for the work they did in popularising, in spreading

the prestige and in recording the prowess of the G.A.A. when the Association was by no means the power in the land that it is today. In fact much of the present power, prestige and popularity of the Association can be traced directly to the hard and enthusiastic work done by those colourful and enthusiastic writers of other days, who were almost always ardent Gaels as well as journalists.



Cyril Dunne, who carved a special niche in Gaelic games history this year by playing with the Galway Senior hurling team in the Munster championship and with the Galway Senior football side in the Connacht Championship.

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BOYS ARE VICTIMS OF DISPUTE

By **FEAR FAIRE**

EVER hear of a G.A.A. boycott—or to make it more unusual, a sympathetic boycott? Well there is one in being in the Midlands at the moment. I won't name the county, for it is a rather delicate affair, but I will tell the story as I know it.

This county caters for primary school competitions — as indeed should all counties, but there is one particular school which is not allowed compete. The boys in the school—it is an ordinary National School, want to compete and so does their teacher but the County Board will not accept them.

The reason why the Board boycotts them has nothing at all to do with G.A.A. rules. It is a much more involved and delicate situation. There is a dispute between the teacher and the I.N.T.O. and it would appear that the local I.N.T.O. committee, or its representatives, have made it clear to the Board that they want nothing to do with the teacher in question.

The County Board is, of course, an innocent party but it is very much dependant on the goodwill and assistance of the members of the I.N.T.O. Should it fail to cooperate in this matter it would almost certainly lose their support and that would be the end of primary school competitions in the county.

It could even go further. Many teachers are important club officials and these too might be lost.

So what should the Board do?

I believe it is acting wisely. This is probably a very genuine trade union dispute. Not to stand by the I.N.T.O. would be both unwise and unethical.

Still it is a strange situation and the pity is that the boys of the school should be the real victims.

CONRADH NA GAEILGE

It was the "Sunday Independent" who carried the Dr. Geary "scoop". Since then this same paper had the news that the London branch of the Gaelic League was to sponsor a meeting of all League branches throughout England for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear on the Central Council with regard to having the Ban removed.

Whether the said meeting has taken place or is about to take place as I write these notes, I do not know, but taking it for granted that the facts are true, it is a sad reflection on the members of the London branch of An Conradh.

They certainly haven't much to do and it shows their poor appreciation of the ideals which they themselves allegedly support.

If the London branch of the League wanted to do something constructive they might for example consider the crumbling structure of their own organisation.

Of all major Irish-Ireland groups the Gaelic League is the most prostrate and the position has been so for many many years. I speak from experience in this.

The London branch may consider the Ban "outdated" but is there not a possibility that the entire Gaelic League is outdated?

Now let nobody misunderstand me. I am very much in favour of the revival of the Language but like others I believe that the Gaelic League, as an organisation, ceased to be useful many decades ago. If it is to become useful again it will need a complete change—not alone in its public image but also in its methods.

This is something which the London branch might think about. It is surely not very flattering for them to be members of an organisation "which is now serving no useful purpose".

Having "a go" at the Ban is now recognised as one of the best ways of getting cheap publicity. A few inarticulate utterings against the Rule virtually guarantees newspaper space. Prospective candidates in the next general election should bear this in mind. An anti-Ban platform plank may get them no votes, but at least it will get them publicity.

Show me an anti-Ban gossamer and I will show you a publicity seeker.

VIOLATED RULE

The following G.A.A. clubs recently violated Rule 29 :

Carlow — Milford and Erin's Own.

(Continued overleaf)

(From previous page)

Galway—Ardrahan and Ballygar.

Kilkenny—Slieverue.

Laois—Crettyard.

Longford—Longford Slashers.

Limerick—Murroe.

Mayo—St. Patrick's.

Sligo—Bunninadden (twice).

Wexford—St. Martin's.

Wicklow — Aughrim, Rathnew
and Kilcoole.

Rule 29 prohibits the organising of foreign dances — all the above clubs recently either directly or indirectly violated the Rule. In some cases the dances were organised openly in the name of the club, in others it was done in the guise of a "supporters club". It all amounts to the same thing. Actually the former is the more honest.

"J. FITZMAURICE"

When the Galway footballers played London at New Eltham, London, some weeks back J. Fitzmaurice came on as a substitute

for Noel Tierney. The newcomer played well — but nonetheless he will never play for Galway again in any grade nor will he ever be heard of again in the Western county.

Still this J. Fitzmaurice is a very fine footballer. Last year he played interprovincial—but not with Connaught. He is a young player and known throughout the land . . . but not as J. Fitzmaurice.

Who then was the substitute brought on by Galway in their friendly game with London? Well for once I am not going to tell—but if you really want to know ask someone who was there.

PROGRAMME WANTED

About the only thing Croke Park lacks on All-Ireland final day is a decent programme fit for the occasion. Over the years we have come accustomed to a dull 20-page effort, containing virtually no reading matter and even less photographs.

The only worthwhile programme that I can recall was the one produced for the official opening of the new Hogan Stand in 1959. That was quite a competent publication and I remember looking with interest at the photographs of the various Presidents of the Association from Maurice Davin down to Dr. Stuart.

The type of programme I would visualise as fitting for All-Ireland final day would contain plenty of interesting reading matter both historic and current. There would be facts and figures on the four teams engaged on that day, poems and ballads, articles redefining the ideals and aspirations of Cumann Luthcleas Gael and, of course, plenty of photographs.

It would contain anything from forty to sixty pages and be well produced on good paper. In short it would be a fitting souvenir—the type of thing one would gladly purchase and keep over the years.

To produce such a programme would, of course, require time and effort. I fully realise that Croke Park personnel have enough to do prior to All-Ireland finals — but why not hand such a job over to some outside publishing house on a contract basis.

The cost of the entire effort should be well covered by sales and advertising (the price could even be a shilling if necessary). Certainly sales would be extremely large, as indeed they are for any type of programme, when eighty thousand people are in attendance.

COVER PICTURE

~~~~~

In this action picture from a recent Down and Antrim encounter readers will recognise Down's Joe Lennon in the foreground. Both on and off the field Lennon is doing great work for Gaelic Games. Sláinte agus Saoghal Fáda dho.

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*St. John's . . . Antrim's leading G.A.A. club.*

## THE STORY BEHIND THE PICTURE

By **MATT FITZPATRICK**

**T**HAT St. John's is Antrim's leading club is an indisputable fact. In 1962 they won every senior football and hurling title in the county and in 1963 they retained the football crown. Furthermore they are the holders of the "Top Four" title, which is competed for by the champions of the four far North-Eastern counties.

Founded in 1929 under the presidency of Fr. R. Fullerton, C.C., the club had in those early days hard working members in Davy Brown, Tom and Ned McLarnon, Joe Corscadden, Paddy Hayes and many, many others too numerous to mention. Its headquarters then were at Willowbank (now De La Salle House) and its members came then, as they do mostly now, from the Beechmount area of the Falls Road.

Immediately after its foundation the club had its first success in 1929, winning the Antrim junior football league. This was the start of a vast list of successes in both hurling and football.

Remember that the "Johnnies" are equally adept at hurling as football and it is a great credit to them that their members are expert in both codes. Their first senior success fell to them in hurling as a matter of fact. That was in 1933 when they won the senior hurling championship.

The club has given many great players to the county in both codes and some who spring to mind are Joe Gallagher (R.I.P.) father of a great Gaelic family; Frankie Hamill (R.I.P.), Tom O'Neill, Patsy Quinn, Barney Hart and Paddy "Stickey" Maguire, the third part of that

great Kevin Armstrong, Alf Murray half-forward line which did so much to bring the first Railway Cup title to Ulster way back in 1942.

In more recent times there have been players like Joe and Billy Feeney, Tom Best, Bobby Cunningham, "Wee" Joe McCallin, The Gallaghers (Henry, Seamus, Eugene, Herbie and Mickey) without doubt the greatest footballing and hurling family in the land. Gerry McRory and Eamonn Greeves are the present representatives on the county football side.

The success of the footballers has overshadowed the triumphs of the hurlers, and since 1956 when they broke the monopoly of North Antrim teams, they have always been in the top bracket. Again the

**(Continued page 53)**



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(From Page 51)

club has supplied many of the outstanding hurlers to the county in the Gallaghers, Patsy Morgan Brendan McGurk, Des. Armstrong, Ollie Campbell, Tom McMahan, Seaneen Burns and many more whom I hope will forgive me if they have not been mentioned, but to whom we all owe a great debt of gratitude. They have all helped to project the club by their unselfish energy and encouragement.

Between 1929 and 1936 the club flourished but then came sudden disaster. Domestic and internal strife were the reason and all that was salvaged was a minor team and a few officials. All the top players left the club.

However, concentration on youth paid dividends and in 1938 St. John's were back again in the honours list winning county junior football and hurling crowns. From these teams of 1938 came such great club men as Tom McAllister, Ted Lavery, Andy McCallin (the present club chairman), Jim O'Reilly and Gerry McVeigh and with their help the club climbed back up the ladder to their former greatness to win their first senior football title in 1945.

The extent to which St. John's were back can be realised from the fact that since then they have won the senior football crown nine times and the hurling title on four occasions. Add to that seven senior league titles in both codes and a host of other triumphs in all grades. Since 1957 they have lost the football title but once.

Few clubs in Ireland can boast of such an era of all-round superiority. St. John's are proud of their achievements and well they might be.

Teams compete in all grades in football and hurling in all divisions of Antrim competitions and the club youth membership is so great that chairman Andy McCallin is compelled to run leagues among the young club members on Satur-

day mornings and early week evenings in the summer. He says they (St. John's) could field half-a-dozen more teams if playing areas permitted this.

In the early 'fifties the club undertook the running of Corrigan Park, when Casement Park became the city's chief ground. There was a huge debt on the ground and it was in bad need of repair, but thanks again to the unselfish efforts of the members this is almost cleared and renovations are almost complete. Their determination alone deserves credit for it takes £8 per week (for rates and lighting, etc.) to run Corrigan Park and this is the responsibility of the club alone.

When I visited them at their headquarters I was amazed to see the changes they have made. With all voluntary work the old dressing rooms have been rebuilt and inside in comfort can be found table tennis, darts, a room for gymnastics, committee rooms and in

the future, basket ball facilities will be available. One is reminded of the club's greatness by the many photos old and recent which adorn the walls.

The secret of the club's success is made clear by chairman Andy McCallin and veteran club man, Bob Foley, who explained that St. John's has always been a family unit. The McLarnons, Corcaddens, Quinns, Donnellys, O'Neills, McAllisters, McCallins, Feeneys, Bests, Crawfords, Halls, Morgans, Armstrongs, McRorys, McGranaghans, McCavanaghs and by far the most famous family of all, the Gallaghers, have always been faithful to the club and its responsibilities.

To Andy McCallin, Bob Foley, Tom Hall, Paddy Morgan, and all the rest I express a word of thanks for showing me around and having me as their guest.

Next month I will take a look at Glenn, the Down champions.

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## A UNIQUE JOURNEY

AT the beginning of October next, Des. Dillon and Joe Maher accompanied by the Handball Council Secretary, Joe Lynch, and former President, Jimmy O'Brien, plus a few handball enthusiasts fly out from Dublin. They will be bound for New York, and their journey is unique in so far as it marks the revival of international handball.

Or, perhaps, it would be more appropriate to say that these World Series games in New York, do in fact, constitute the first international, organised on a combined administrative system.

That is not to infer that handball is solely a localised game, for if we hark back even to the last century, we find that a keen rivalry always existed between the Irish and American champions. In those days, of course, the game was in the unhappy position of being caught between the two stools of amateurism and professionalism.

Individualism was the keynote and the inevitable side-stake of major importance.

Everybody has heard of the legendary John Lalor, the Dublin jarvey who played for the championship of the world in the eighties, and lived on to become the first President of the Irish Handball Council when the G.A.A. took control of the sport in 1924.

Lalor it was who designed and laid out the famed Boot ballcourt, at Ballymun, scene of many a titanic struggle.

He won his first Irish title when he dethroned Dave Browning of Limerick. Then setting his sights on further glory, he challenged the champion of America, Phil Casey, an Irishman from Mountrath, who emigrated in his early youth and was resident in Brooklyn.

The big game took place in Cork, the prize at stake was the world title, and for good measure there was a side-stake of £400,

quite a tidy sum in those days Lalor won by seven games to three, but then, in accordance with the terms of the contract, had to cross the Atlantic to play the second leg.

Played in Brooklyn in 1887 Casey reaped havoc with the Irishman in his own magnificent court, which was equipped with a boarded floor and glass back wall. The world title had returned to America and while Lalor made numerous attempts to regain it, he never succeeded.

In turn the feats of such well-known exponents of the code as James Fitzgerald of Tralee, who emigrated to America and succeeded Casey as world champion, Michael Egan from Galway, Tim Twohill of Kanturk, Limerick's J. J. Bowles, Barney McQuaide, Jim Dunne, all make interesting reading.

When the G.A.A. took control in 1924, the new executives concentrated mainly in developing the game at home, and the system of nominating American and Irish champions for world series games was unavoidably discontinued until 1954, when Henry Hyde and Tom Guerin revived links with the past by representing America in a series of games with our own players.

The late Pádraig O Caoimh took particular pride in this new innovation and delivered an address of welcome to the visitors prior to the games at Croke Park.

Thereafter the Handball Council was host to the Americans and brought them on an extensive tour of the country. They played in most of the major alleys, met the cream of our top players, distinguishing themselves in the process as well as cementing firmly

(Continued next page)

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*M. Grogan, Offaly's right full-back (No. 2) fields a high ball in the Leinster senior championship match against Louth at Croke Park on June 14. Others in picture (from left) are P. McCormack (Offaly), J. Mohan (Louth, No. 13) and J. Egan (Offaly, No. 4). Louth won by 1-9 to 1-4.*

(From previous page)

the relations between the two Associations.

Later on, John Ryan, the Wexford star visited the United States, where the quality of his ball-play, superior sportsmanship and great modesty, is still spoken of with pride.

All that leads us on to 1964, the year international handball has really found its correct level. Just now the tempo is increasing, players are preparing themselves for the fray, while the organisers on both sides of the Atlantic are making sure that everything will be in order.

There are still many tit-bits and many aspects of this event still left uncovered and I hope to bring you up-to-date on these next month D.V.

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# PEN-POINTS

Sir,—I have just finished reading the June issue of GAELIC SPORT and have found it up to the usual high standard. What I want to compliment you particularly on is the beautiful cover portrait of Des Foley. Without doubt it is the best front cover yet and I have got (and still retain) every copy of GAELIC SPORT since your first issue six years ago.

I hope you will continue to give us similar front cover photos instead of action pictures. I look forward to one of the great John Doyle of Tipperary in the near future in recognition of his feat in winning his tenth National hurling League medal.

By the way please tell me what footballer has won most League medals. A Mayoman probably.

**TOM O'BRIEN.**

17 Denmark St.,  
Limerick.

*A number of Mayo players share the honour. The county won seven League titles from 1934 to 1941 inclusive but excluding 1940 — a year in which they did not com-*

*pete. No record has been kept of National League teams but we reckon that the following were on all of those Mayo sides — Tom Burke, "Tot" McGowan, Paddy Quinn, "Purty" Kelly, Henry Kenny, George Ormsby, Peter Laffey and Jackie Carney.*

—EDITOR.

## THE COLLEGE APPROACH

A Chara, — Eamonn Mongey missed one major point in his article last month on "where do our colleges' players go to" and that is the colleges themselves. I am convinced that quite a number of our colleges care little about Gaelic Games except when they are being played for "the honour and glory" of the institution itself. They just utilise the games as a means of getting good publicity and of putting one over on their competitors.

Let me briefly tell of my own college hurling career of some fifteen to eighteen years ago. We had compulsory hurling every day of the school year and twice on Sunday. Those of us who made the grade were rewarded. Together with the

"day out" going to matches, members of the team got extra and better food, longer sleeping hours and a few other minor luxuries. They meant a lot to us and these and not the games were the incentive.

We were in fact little professionals—not unlike the state-sponsored athletes nowadays produced in some Communist countries.

I was a good hurler and was twice picked on the county minor side but I never wore the county jersey because the college would not allow me out to play. On both years the county team was beaten in the opening round of the championship and these games were played prior to the end of the school year.

The first year I was picked the game was being played but a mile from the college. I had no examinations ahead of me. In fact there was no reason whatsoever as to why I should not be given permission to play.

My case was not the only one. There were a score a such incidents. We all knew why this was. The college was only concerned with hurling which would benefit itself. It cared nothing for hurling as the national game or in any other context.

In other words the game was debased and I and many others became cynical as far as it was concerned. After leaving college I could never approach it again with any enthusiasm or find pleasure in it. So I gave it up.

Of late I have often regretted it. I am convinced that my case is that of many. I would confidently suggest that there are many more victims of this entirely wrong and selfish approach by certain colleges to our national games.

ALMA MATER (sic).

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