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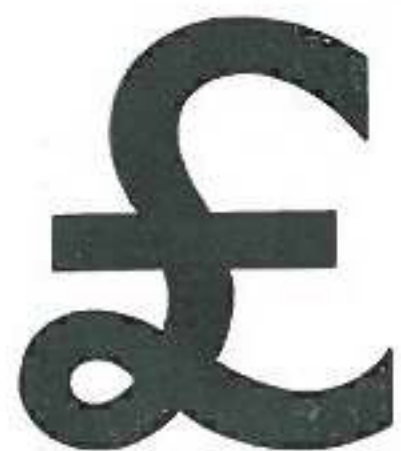
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iomáint sinsir 7 mionúir

- (1) Uabhairlí v. Ceatárloc—Portlaoise—25/4/65.
- (2) Laois v. Iar-Mí—Tulaic Mór—2/5/65.
- (3) (1) v. (2)—M. Cearr—Cill Coimniú no Tulaic Mór—16 no 23/5/65.
- (4) Loc Sarmán v. Dé Cliaic no (3) } ar 6/6/65 agus
- (5) Cill Coimniú v. Dé Cliaic no (3) } 13/6/65 no
- 27/6/65.

An Craob: (4) v. (5)—11/7/65.

iomáint pé 21 blo.

- (1) Iar-Mí v. An Mí—M. Cearr—25/4/65
- (2) Dé Cliaic v. Cill Dara—Dé Cliaic—25/4/65.
- (3) Ceatárloc v. Cill Coimniú—Cill Coimniú—25/4/65.
- (4) Uabhairlí v. Laois—Portlaoise—4/4/65.
- (5) Loc Sarmán v. (3)—Ros Míic Treóin—2 no 9/5/65.

Leat-craobáca: (6) (1) v. (2). (7) (3) v. (5).
An Craob: (6) v. (7).

peil pé 21 blo.

- (1) An Mí v. Cill Dara—Maí Nuadac—18/4/65.
- (2) Dé Cliaic v. (1)—Dé Cliaic—2/5/65.

- (3) Laois v. Uabhairlí—Diorra—11/4/65.
 - (4) Iar-Mí v. Longport—Longport—18/4/65.
 - (5) Ceatárloc v. Cill Mantáin—M. An Dealaic—18/4/65.
 - (6) Loc Sarmán v. (5)—'23/5/65.
- Leat-craobáca:
(7) (3) v. (4)—16 no 23/5/65.
(8) (2) v. (6).
An Craob: (7) v. (8).

peil sinsir 7 mionúir

- (1) Iar-Mí v. Luícaí—An Uaim—9/5/65.
 - (2) An-Mí v. (1)—P. An Érócaic—6/6/65.
 - (3) Uabhairlí v. Longport—M. Cearr—2/5/65.
 - (4) Laois v. (3)—Tulaic Mór—23/5/65.
 - (5) Cill Dara v. Cill Mantáin—Ceatárloc—2/5/65.
 - (6) Ceatárloc v. (5)—Dé 1 no Portlaoise—30/5/65.
 - (7) Loc Sarmán v. Cill Coimniú—Ros Míic Treóin—25/4/65.
 - (8) Dé Cliaic v. (7)—Dé Cliaic no Loc Sarmán—23/5/65.
- Leat-craobáca: 101R (2), (4), (6), (8)—ar 13/6/65 agus 20/6/65 no 4/7/65.
An Craob: Páirc An Érócaic ar 18/7/65.

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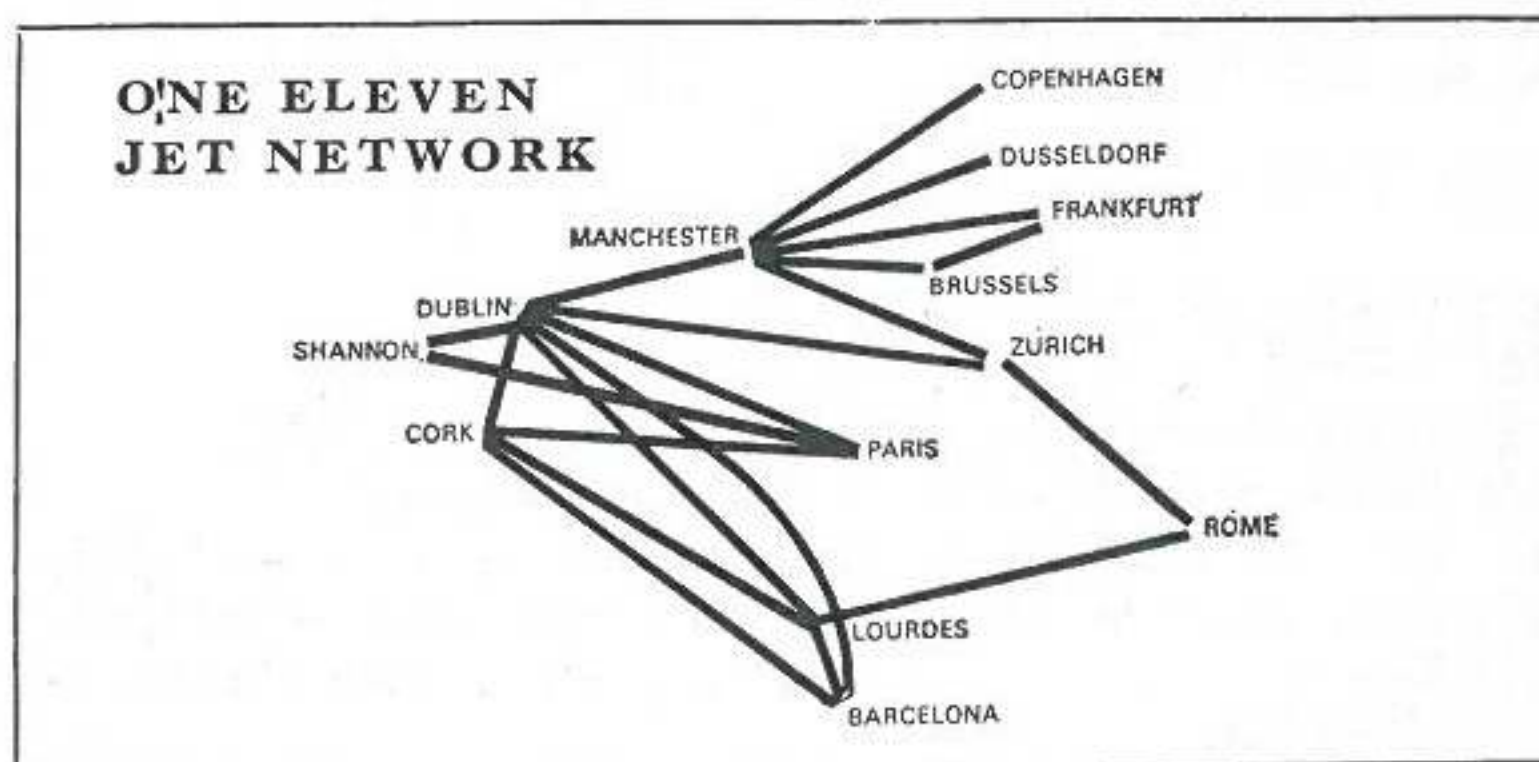
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**CONGRESS MUST
LAY BARE THE FACTS!**

INDEX

A FACT much overlooked by historians is that the Annual Congress of Cumann Lúchleas Gael was Ireland's first democratic national institution. For thirty-five years before the election of the first Republican Dáil the G.A.A. Congress was the country's only nationally representative and democratically elected assembly.

This is a proud honour—but Congress can claim an even greater one. For eighty years it has remained uncompromisingly loyal to the cause of Ireland. Political figures have come and gone; political parties have been born and died; have stood firm only later to concede in the name of expediency. Confusion has often reigned and transient materialism has often dulled a nation's conscience—yet Congress has always managed to rise above it all and stand firm on every national issue which was within its realm.

That it will do so once again this year we have no doubt whatsoever—but on this occasion there is even more required.

Congress must express its scorn and contempt for the incessant and scurrilous campaign which has been waged in recent months by those who wish to deprive the Gaelic Athletic Association of the source of its true strength.

Rule 27 and those akin to it are not so much rules as acts of national faith. They are the expressive links by which the G.A.A. anchors itself to the yet unrealised Irish dream. As such they provide the Association with the idealism which inspires its finest workers and attracts to its ranks some of the most able men of our time.

The campaign which is being waged against these Rules, and all that they represent, has mainly emanated from one source. Proof of this is not difficult to find. However, the campaign has been so incessant and so carefully varied that many people—even some members of the Association—have been fooled into believing that the clamour was widespread. Such gullibility can be attributed to human naivety.

It is therefore important that Congress on Easter Sunday lay bare the facts, and having done so, speak out in no uncertain voice in condemnation of this campaign of subterfuge and cheap disparagement.

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The

glamour clubs of former days...

THE new Munster club championships have got away to a successful start and have already helped in spotlighting attention back on the clubs, from whom a lot of the glamour had been snatched, particularly over the past thirty years, through the establishment of Railway Cup, National League and other inter-county events.

The club teams enjoyed their greatest popularity in the early days of the G.A.A. and the first All-Ireland championships were decided on a club basis. The club continued as a powerful force for many years, and any story of the games must make honourable mention of the great ones of the arena.

The grand stronghold, particularly of hurling, in the South during the formative years of the G.A.A. was undoubtedly the ancient territory of Thomond, embracing the counties of Clare, Cork, Limerick and Tipperary. In the next few issues of GAELIC SPORT we will have a brief glance at the great teams and men who made the welkin ring in these counties in those now far off days of glory.

We will start off with the Banner County and pay a visit first to the capital to meet the old Dalcassians, who played both codes remarkably well and whose splendid organisation was a tribute to the work of a dedicated pair—Jim Coughlan and Jim Hayes. The Dalcassians had the distinction of supplying eleven players to the Clare teams that won both senior and junior All-Ireland hurling crowns in 1914—the first county to achieve this double.

★ A new series in which G.A.A. historian, SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH, recalls the great Munster club teams of former days . . . beginning in this issue with the mighty sides which were once the pride of Clare.

Time and space only permits a brief reference to the great Ennis players — Tom Clohosey, Miko Duggan, Joe Nono, Mike Connellan, Jack Darcy and Joe Millar in football; and with the caman, Jack “Bacchus” McCarthy, Dave O’Donnell, Frank Moloney, “Sham” Spellissy, John Griffey, Martin Moloney, Ned Lucid and the Considine brothers — Brendan, Willie (“Dodger”) and Tull.

Tull’s glamour days opened in 1917, when he played for Clare against Wexford in the All-Ireland senior football final. From then on honours came to him in plenty. He was an automatic choice for one of the midfield berths on the Ireland team that beat America at the 1928 Tailteann Games. He played for Munster in both hurling and football, but his unforgettable performance was the day in 1928 when Clare drew with one of the greatest of Cork teams. I think he put up a scoring record in the sensational game with Galway at Limerick in the 1932 All-Ireland semi-final, his tally that day, eight goals.

We must move on quickly to Newmarket-on-Fergus where we find that football was the first love and held sway for nearly twenty years before the hurlers took over

and then gave to the games such giants as “Jumbo” Higgins, surely the greatest tackler of all time; John Joe Doyle, the “man with the goggles”; Bob Doherty, “Bocky” Connery, Lewry Halpin, George O’Dea, Tony Neylon, Jim Clancy, Jim Guerin, John Fox, Mick and Tom O’Rourke. Their outstanding day in my opinion was one on which they lost—it was the final of the Limerick Development Association Tournament in 1932.

There were three hurling clubs in Kilmaley parish in 1887 — Davitt’s, Wolfe Tone’s and Smith O’Brien’s. Slaveen Hill was the venue for many really exciting games. They were great occasions surely when the brass band assembled at the Cross and marched to the hill above accompanied by the teams and a big muster of supporters. Their best remembered players are Pat Halpin, Jim Duffy, Jack Hehir, Ned Quinn and Paddy O’Dea.

Kearney’s Field at Carrahren was the scene of some hard fought and toughly contested hurling tussles in which Dalcassian fans thrilled to the deeds of famed figures like the Kearneys—Corney, Dan, Din, Pat and Brian; Fred, Joe, Amby and Harry Power; Tom, Dan and Stephen Clune and the Culligans —Jack and Pat.

● TOM
BURNELL



● JIM
HOLLIHAN



● PAT
"FOWLER"
McINERNEY



THREE HEROES OF THE GREAT CLARE TEAM OF 1932

An old timer who knew them all claimed that the Ogonnelloe twenty-one of pioneer days were the "best men that ever donned jerseys". In the first four years of organised competition they played 83 matches and only lost one of them, and that to a North Tipperary selection by a solitary goal. One of their players — Jack Fitzgibbon, a noted mile runner as well as an outstanding hurler—was on the American "Invasion" team of 1888. Another native of the parish Dr. Charlie Stuart, captained the great Dublin Collegians team of the 1917 to 1919 period.

Tulla Club, formed in 1887 with Bill Moloney as President and John Considine non-playing captain, were runners-up in the All-Ireland hurling final of two years later, winning the same season one of the most storied trophies in the history of the games—the Carrahen Flag. In 1887 they won the Croke Cup from Wexford, following a great game with Tubberadore in the Munster final at Mallow. The big men of those games were Mick and Ned Corry, Denis and John McKenna, Dan and Jack McNamara and Matt O'Dea. Pat Culloo was President of the club for over three decades, until he handed over the reins to another notable figure—Dr. Tommy Daly, one of the most colourful goalkeepers the game has known. Tommy, first introduced to the All-Ireland arena as goalkeeper for Clare juniors in the 1914 final, later starred with Clare and Dublin, Munster and Leinster, and was

Ireland goalkeeper in the 1928 Tailteann games team against America.

Eleven O'Callaghan's Mill men helped Clare win the Croke Cup for the second time in 1911. One of these was Pat "Fowler" McInerney whose years of service to hurling was extraordinary. Goalkeeper on the Clare All-Ireland senior winning side of 1914, he was full back on the great Dublin Garda selection that won the 1927 Blue Riband and in the 1932 final filled a similar berth on the Clare side narrowly beaten by Kilkenny.

O'Callaghan's Mill gave other great figures to the G.A.A.—Tom McGrath, secretary of the Army Athletic Association in its great days; and a former Chairman of Dublin County Board G.A.A., D. P. O'Callaghan, Ned Grace and Jack Shalloo. Actually Tom McGrath had another extraordinary service record — for 24 years he wore the Clare senior hurling jersey.

Another great team of the first G.A.A. days was the "Smith O'Briens" a product of the Garrahan hillsides, and proud winners of the controversial Castleconnell Cup, trophy for one of the biggest tournaments ever organised in Thomond territory. This enthusiastic bunch of hurlers regularly walked fifteen to twenty miles to play a game led by their first president and captain, Jerry Hayes. Others of that grand company included Mickey Crowe, Jim Niall, Mick Ryan, Paddy Smith and the

Secretary, Jack Scanlon, whose nephew, Paddy Scanlon, was Limerick goalkeeper in the golden era of Shannonside hurling.

With the Whitegate "Plan of Campaign." boys we meet stalwarts like Mick Holland, Bill Sullivan, Jim Sheehy, Paddy McDermott and Dan Coen.

Sixmilebridge were a product of later days but the service rendered by pioneers like Albert Wallace, Ned McInerney, Martin Casey, Pat Hamilton, Mick Mullane and Peter Lynch must be acknowledged.

Coolmeen, who contested the county hurling semi-final of 1889, had a dozen players drawn from five houses. They had a very strange name—the "J. R. Cosies"—the origin of which I cannot trace, and more remarkable still wore a green cap with this name inscribed.

The "Brother Sheares" were the first hurling side to represent Kilkishen, and they had many popular figures, notably Mick and John Cunneen, Harry and Mike Bingham; Paddy Droney, Jack and Jim Neville, Tom Crowe of Belvoir, Harry Hargrove, Thady Canny, Paddy and Jack Gleeson, Wedger McMahan, Tim and Pat Donlon of Clashduff and Billy Cotter of Clonbrick.

Scarriff came into the picture when some of the earlier ones had faded but the contribution of men like Johnny Moloney, Tom McInerney, Bill and Tom Jones, "Dunny"

● TO PAGE 28.



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TOP TEN

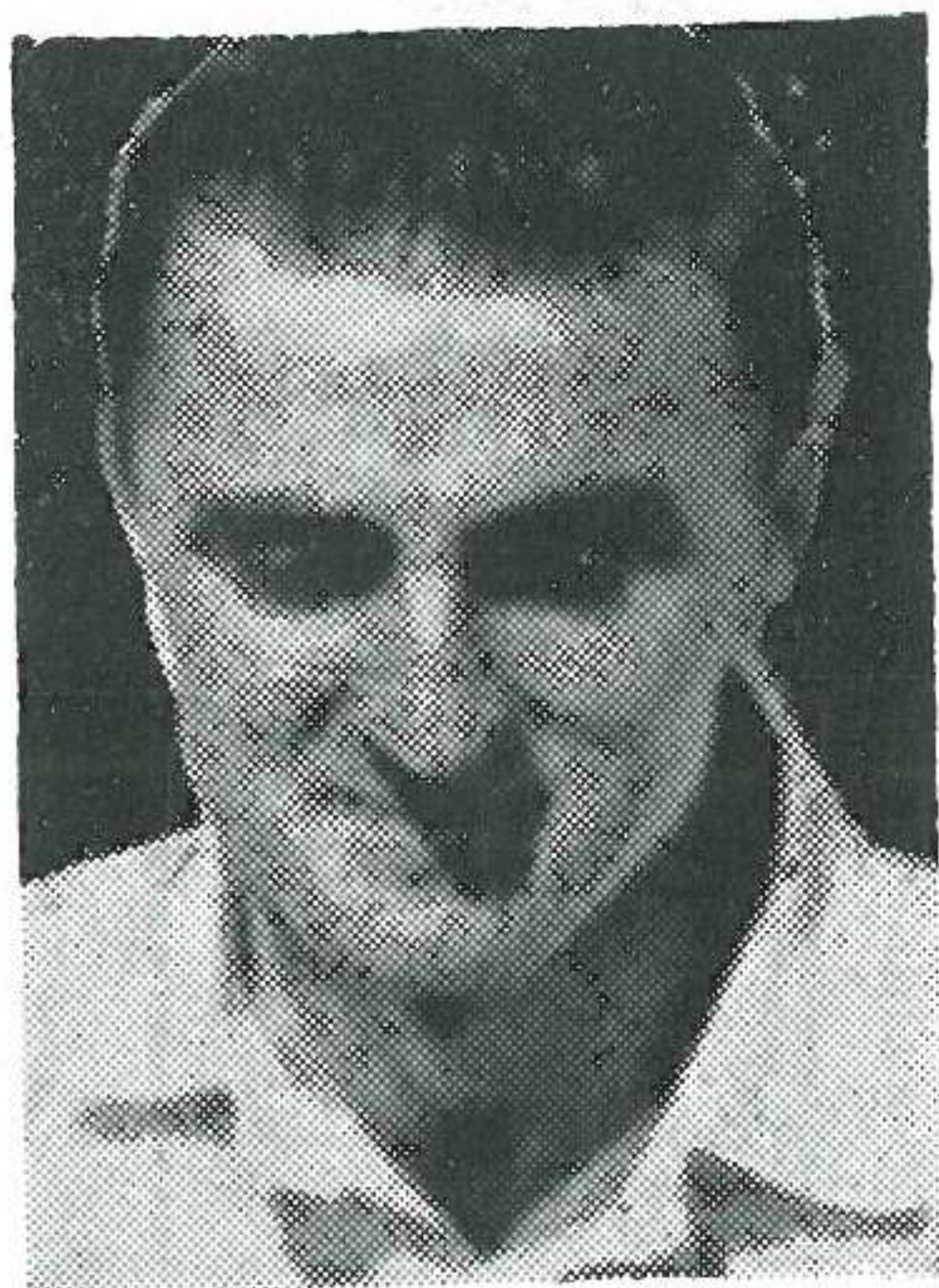
TOP ten—our monthly rating of intercounty performances gets underway once more in this issue with the current lists based on performances from the beginning of the season to Sunday, March 7.

An unusual feature is the fact that Galwaymen top both lists. In football pride of place is taken by Johnny Geraghty whose recent outstanding displays have established him as the country's number one goalkeeper.

In hurling the honour goes to the ever-consistent Jimmy Duggan who had fine performances against Tipperary in the National League and against Leinster in the Railway Cup semi-final.

FOOTBALL

1. Johnny Geraghty (Galway).
2. Michael Kearns (Sligo).
3. Oliver Shanley (Meath).
4. Tom Maguire (Cavan).
5. Joe Langan (Mayo).
6. Charlie Gallagher (Cavan).
7. Paddy McMahon (Clare).
8. Eamonn Curley (Roscommon).
9. Packy McGarty (Leitrim).
10. Tom Browne (Meath).



● JIMMY DUGGAN

HURLING

1. Jimmy Duggan (Galway).
2. Ted Carroll (Kilkenny).



● Galway and Connacht goalkeeper Johnny Geraghty twists through the air to cover a dangerous shot during the Railway Cup football final with Ulster at Croke Park.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3. Paddy Molloy (Offaly). | 7. Mick Roche (Tipperary). |
| 4. Tom Neville (Wexford). | 8. Ned Derrivan (Galway). |
| 5. Jerry O'Sullivan (Cork). | 9. Tom Walsh (Kilkenny). |
| 6. Paddy Moran (Kilkenny). | 10. Naoise Jordan (Clare). |

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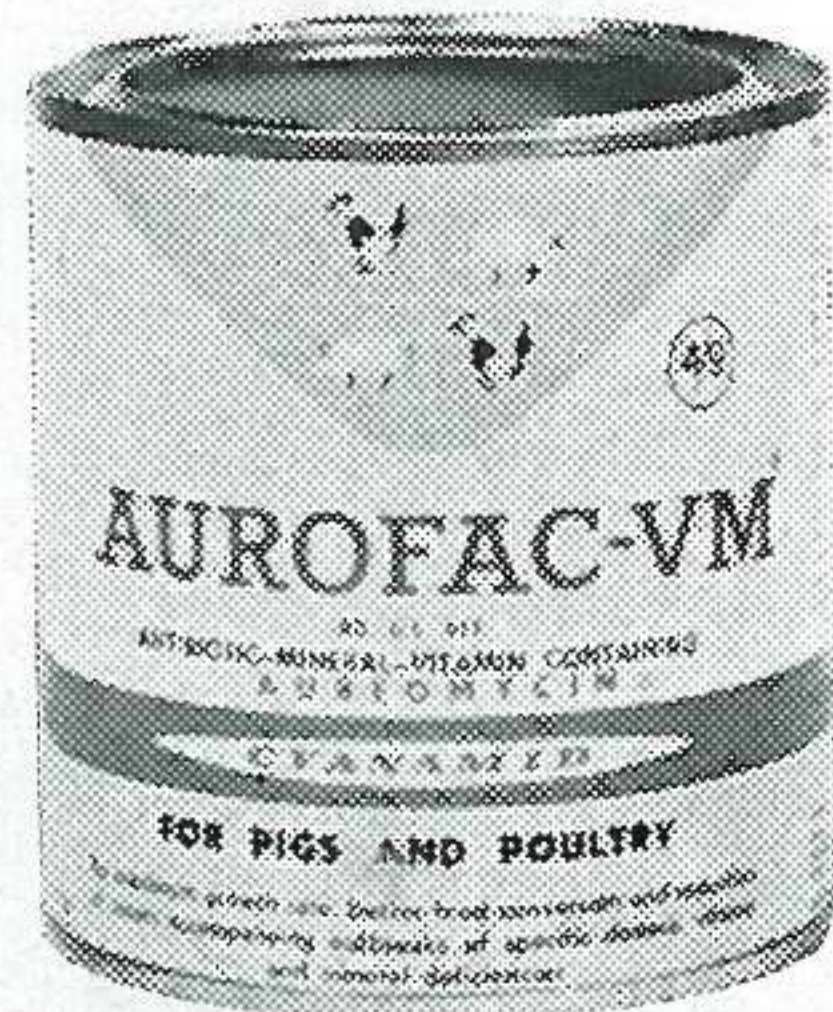
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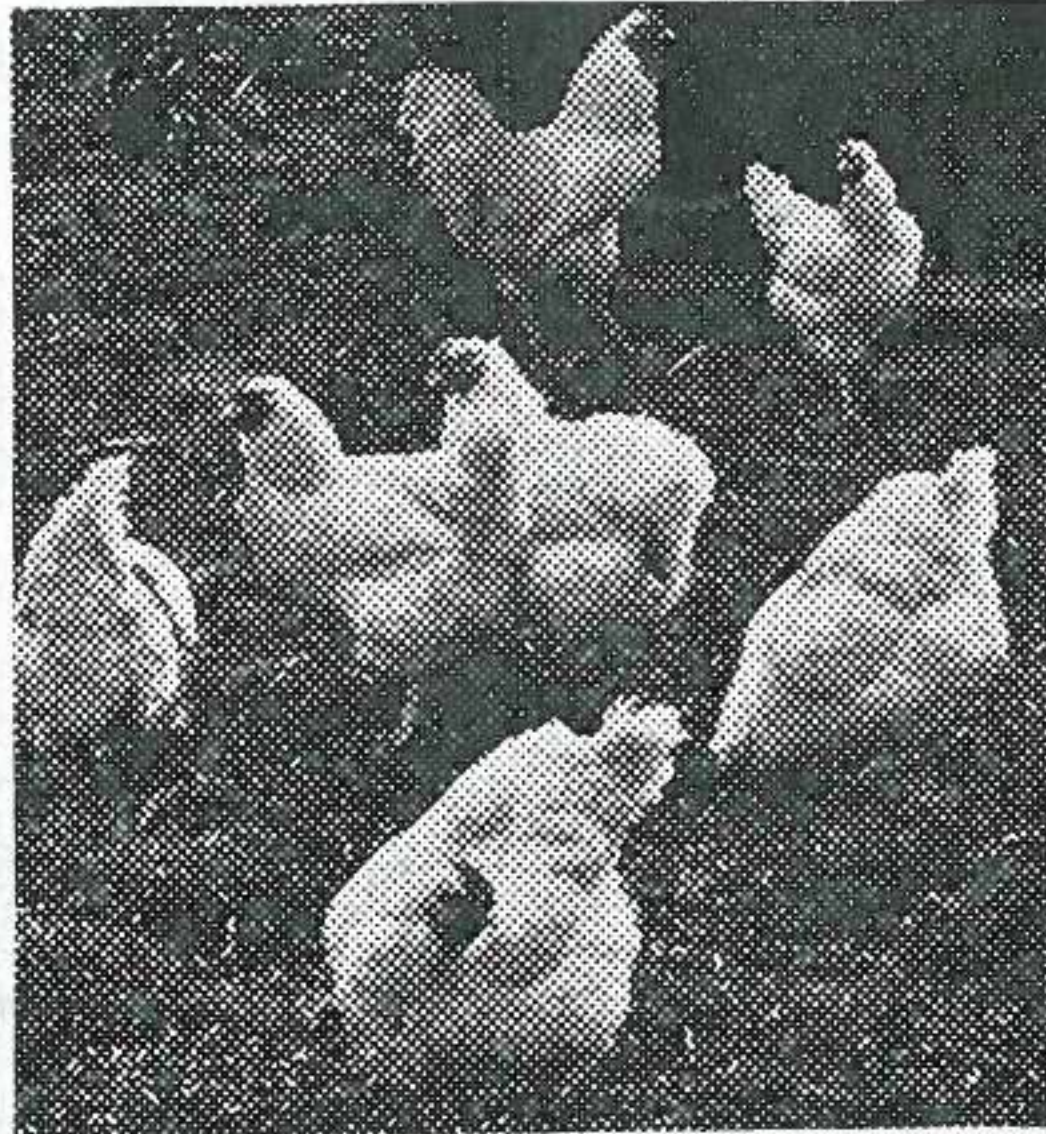
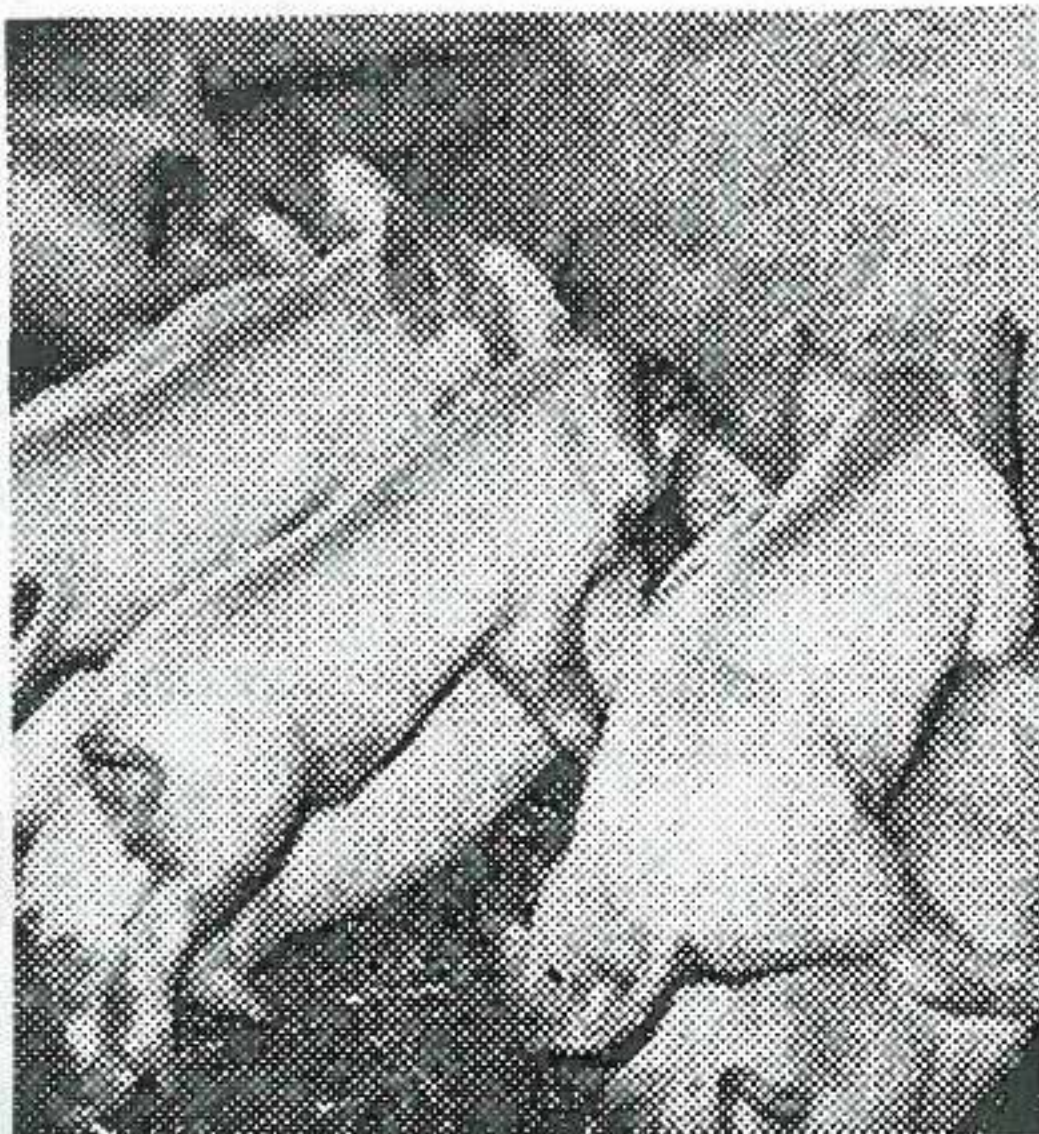
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DOWN THE YEARS WITH THE TOP SCORERS

THE following is the most comprehensive list of top scorers ever published. Compiled by our statistician, **Owen McCann**, it gives at a glance all the relevant facts for the past decade.

Each line shows first the total score in points, the scorer, the actual total score and finally the number of intercounty games engaged in during that particular year by the player in question.

All senior intercounty games (including challenge games and tournaments) have been taken into account.

HURLING

points	1955	games
1. 91	— N. Rackard	20-31 (18)
2. 71	— C. Ring	10-41 (12)
	— T. Flood	14-29 (18)
4. 58	— S. Clohosey	9-31 (15)
5. 52	— P. Egan	11-19 (11)
6. 52	— D. Carroll	4-40 (17)

Highest average score per game
C. Ring, 5.91 points.

1956

1. 155	— N. Rackard	35-50 (19)
2. 107	— S. Clohosey	19-50 (20)
3. 79	— C. Ring	15-34 (11)
4. 62	— J. Smyth	13-23 (11)
	— W. Dwyer	15-17 (14)
6. 60	— P. Kenny	9-23 (11)

Highest average :
Rackard, 8.15 points.

1957

1. 83	— M. Kenny	12-47 (15)
2. 80	— C. Ring	19-23 (14)
3. 75	— S. Clohosey	14-33 (18)
4. 71	— W. Dwyer	18-17 (18)
5. 68	— N. Rackard	16-20 (12)
6. 52	— P. Kenny	11-19 (13)

Highest average :
C. Ring 5.71 points.

1958

1. 86	— P. Kehoe	20-26 (15)
2. 67	— D. Heaslip	13-28 (20)
3. 66	— C. Ring	13-27 (12)
4. 59	— J. Doyle	4-47 (12)
5. 56	— L. Maloney	13-17 (12)

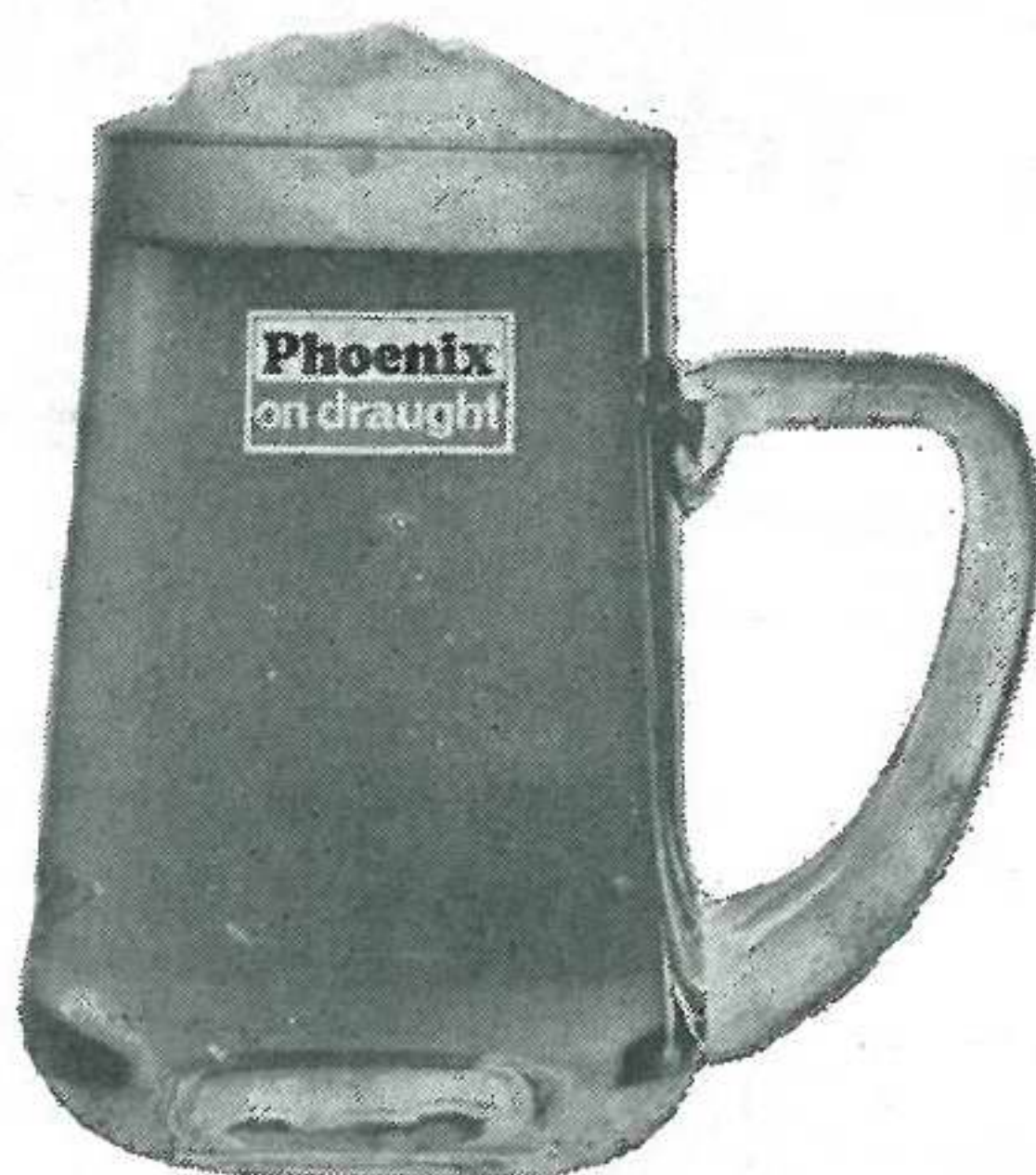
Highest average :
P. Kehoe 5.73 points.

● TO PAGE 34



● **CHRISTY RING . . . the master scorer.**

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BRINGING BACK HURLING

G. A.A. Headquarters has issued its first bulletin on progress to date in the movement to revive and popularise hurling. The booklet is appropriately named "CAMÁN" and is an excellent production.

Not alone will the compilation of this report keep the officers of Cumann Luchleas Gael abreast of happenings throughout the counties, it shall also serve the purpose of keeping the general public informed of progress, thus engendering interest. As well, it is a useful guide to the various sub-committees set up to spread the game, giving, as it does, complete data on how each county has set

A "window display" for the hurling revival...

says **SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN**

about the problem. Each Coiste Iomána will learn something of the methods employed in other areas and as result will possibly select a modus operandi suitable to its area in the knowledge that a similar

experiment is being tried in another county and they can later compare progress.

It is evident that the "call to action" by An tUachtarán, Alf.

● TO PAGE 15



★ *OVER THE BAR . . . Connacht's left full-back Josie Murray and goalkeeper Johnny Geraghty go high in the air but the ball sails over for an Ulster point in the Railway Cup football final at Croke Park on St. Patrick's Day.*

They're at it again . . .

By JOE
LENNON

ONCE more into the breach, Dear Friends, they're at it again. This time Patrick Carver has taken up the running where Paddy Flanagan faltered and fell out. It is now quite fashionable for some very ill-informed (if well intentioned) writers to ostracize both coaches and coaching.

It is extremely unfortunate that people like Patrick Carver are not talking from experience; are not motivated by convictions formed against a knowledgeable background of the subject; are allowed currency for ideas which are anathema to sport and which bring the Association into disrepute. The crass ignorance which Carver admitted in his article, the "I may be wrong but . . ." basis for dog-

matic statements and contentions, the deliberate selection of typical and anamalous examples to prove even more anamalous theories, do not merit the publicity they have acquired.

It is for this reason rather than to defend the unassailable that I take the trouble to refute his stupid and irrelevant arguments.

For the love of God, gentlemen, if you don't want coaching or don't like the idea of coaching, keep your criticisms to the point. Keep your insults for coaching. If you feel you must attack then attack the heresy not the heretic. Discredit his theories and leave him alone. If you can produce sound arguments for the abolition of coaching, people will listen to you. If you can prove coaching is wrong, is unsuitable for Gaelic Games then let's hear those arguments. Don't make a fool of yourself and the section you represent by admitting "I may be a little ignorant about coaching but, to my uneducated brain which, thank the Lord has not been whitewashed yet, it seems to me . . . bla, bla, bla . . ."

For example it is very easy for me to make the reply—Mr. Carver, from what you wrote last month, it is quite clear that you are entirely ignorant of coaching; I agree wholeheartedly that your brain is uneducated and the sooner somebody whitewashes you the better. You are a "hot-gospeller" of the consumptive heresy of negativism.

This would not prove that coaching is good and right. It would merely indicate that you annoyed me a little more than I annoyed you. Do I make myself clear?

Undoubtedly our All-Ireland footballers and hurlers are fit and skilful but only fitter and more skilful than those opponents they have beaten in the competition. This does not mean they are as fit or as skilful as they could be. I would tell anybody but you, Mr. Carver, that a year or two of

● TO PAGE 36

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THE SAD TRUTH BEHIND MUNSTER'S RAILWAY CUP FOOTBALL DEFEATS...

THIS year again Munster made a tame exit from the Railway Cup inter-provincial football championship. Here is the province which so often has won and more often has failed gloriously in the competition slumping into the role of unconsidered outsiders. This year most sports writers had written off the southerners before they had even kicked a ball at Croke Park against Ulster. The critics were justified in the event, for though Munster kept the game fairly even for a good part of the way, in all honesty there was little doubt as to which

was the superior team. Ability, fitness and teamwork were the obvious differences as I saw the game. Individuals were good, one or two outstanding, and among these it would be unfair to omit mention of the Clareman whose selection was widely considered to be rash and unwarranted: "Mahoney's" choice was thoroughly sensible and he proved it with a fine display of good-hearted play and enthusiasm.

The fact is, however, that Munster has not won a Railway Cup football competition since 1949:

● TO PAGE 37



● THE LEINSTER HURLING TEAM . . . who retained the Railway Cup by defeating Munster.

HURLING REVIVAL

● FROM PAGE 11

O'Muire, has been answered in the right way. The people most in touch with the youth of the country, viz., teachers and clergy, have generously offered to add their services to those of the county committees. The five-year plan must bear fruit as a result. The various competitions devised for all age-groups from 12 to 18 demonstrate the clear thinking and purposeful method of the sub-committees.

"Bionn gach tosnú lag" they say but, judging by the reports in "An Camán", this beginning of the hurling revival is anything but weak. Of course, one can expect that in a county like Tipperary, where boys are born with hurleys in their hands, they have always had school leagues of a high standard; nevertheless, they too have extended their activities and have separate competitions for rural and urban areas. This, if one may pretend to be facetious, proves that Tipperary is jealous of its standing in the hurling world and is very much afraid of the up-and-coming

hurling "babes" like Leitrim or Donegal. In any case they are taking no chances and they and other noted hurling counties are to be commended for taking action when they might have adopted the attitude "we're alright".

Instructional courses are scheduled and are to be highly recommended. Nonetheless it is not suggested, that those who cannot avail of those courses should deem themselves to be inferior in coaching capability. There is no teacher, religious or lay, or no priest (who is also versed in teaching techniques) who is incapable of imparting instructions and know-how. There are others on the sub-committees who are not qualified in the academic sense but who have the gift of passing on knowledge and technique to others. They are natural instructors and they should not feel that they must qualify on a coaching course before using these gifts. Granted, such courses would add to their efficiency and should, if possible, be undertaken.

Any "teacher" who knows how

to hurl will, without adverting to the fact, use the three basic principles of "Instruction, Demonstration and Imitation" or to bring it to the boys' level "Tell, Show, Practise". The pitfall is of course that the inexperienced tutor may rush the boys too much and allow himself to be swayed by the fervour of his students who will want to play their local "All-Ireland" within the week.

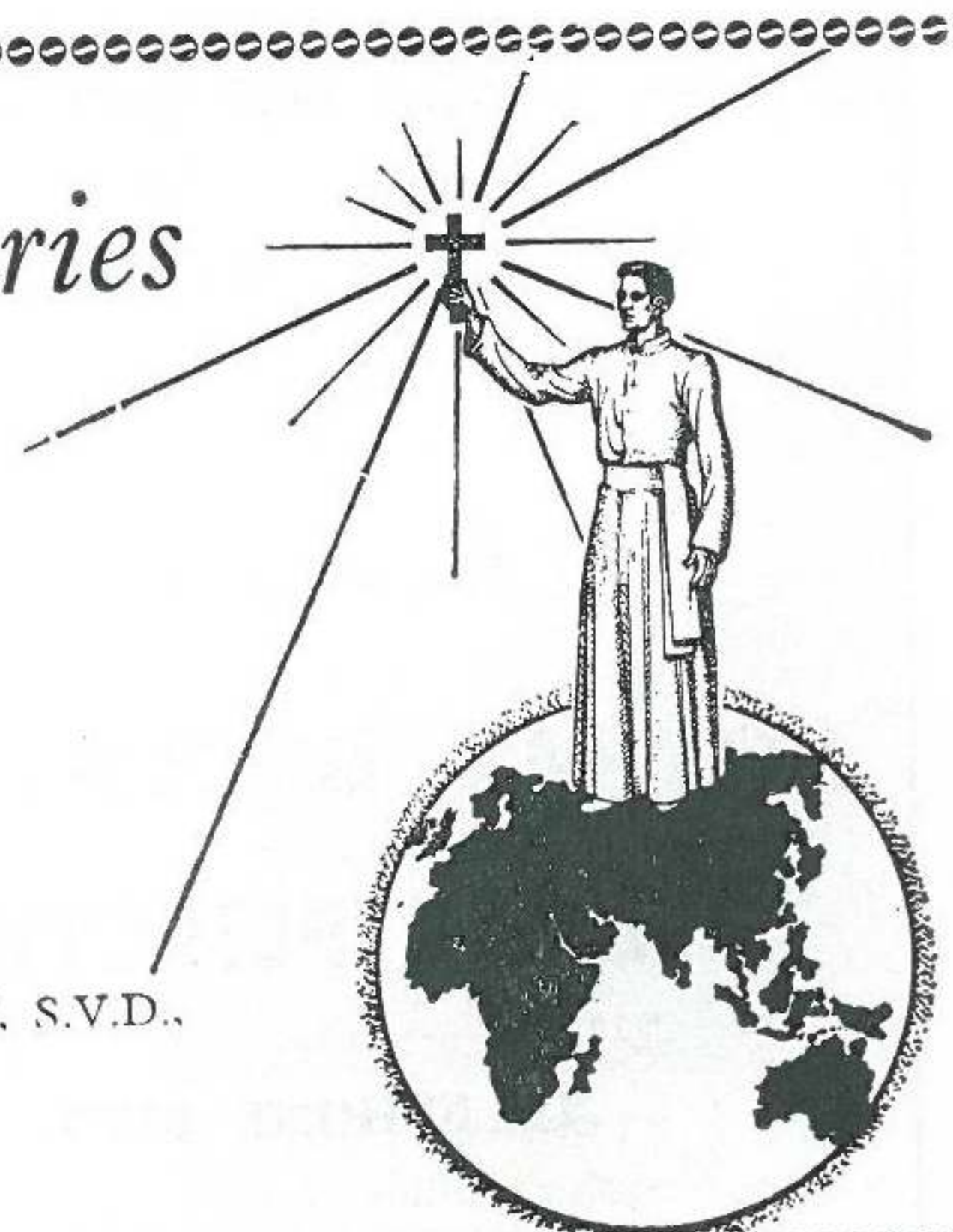
I regret to have to advert to the fact that six counties do not figure in the first official report. Maybe it was through pressure of other business that these counties did not submit data in time and if so their exclusion from the report is excusable. Others which had nothing specific to report other than that a sub-committee had been or was about to be set up will, we hope, figure prominently in the next report. All in all "AN CAMAN" shall be the "window display" in the hurling revival movement. The public will watch it with interest and the natural reaction of comparing the counties' progress will engender a greater sense of county pride and a will to do better than the other fellow.

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THE ANTI-BAN FEW MUST BE HEAVILY DEFEATED

ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

By
CONALLACH

CONGRESS is near at hand and once again the Ban issue has been raised by the boisterous few who wish to turn a great and proud national organisation into just another sporting body. Their efforts must be heavily defeated—just as they were in 1962 when the very same voices were raised.

Ulster will vote almost unanimously to retain Rule 27 and all that it stands for. But then this is not surprising. We here in that section of Ireland which is sun-drenched full well realise what is involved. To remove Rule 27, or even to compromise in any way in these issues, would be nothing short of a selling out on those of us who have to live where our National Flag is banned.

Let those who might consider compromising remember this latter ban and ask themselves which must go first.

NEW STARS

Stars in the making . . . I feel that 1965 is going to bring a new crop of outstanding young footballers to the forefront in Ulster. Watch out for Cavan's Brian

Kennedy; Pat Quinn, Phil McCotter and Frankie O Loane of Derry; Jim Meegan, Monaghan; Mena Devlin and Jim Hughes, Tyrone, and Frankie Campbell and Mick McLoone of Donegal.

Down too have some useful youngsters—Jim Prior of Dunsford, Malachy Smith, and Swail and Magorrian are men to watch.

DERRY COLLEGE

Congratulations to St. Columb's College, Derry, and St. Patrick's, Cavan, on winning through in the McRory and McLarnon Cup competitions respectively. It is good to see the Derry college, which has about 700 students, getting an opportunity to show their worth in major competition like the McRory Cup.

In players like Stevenson, McGill, Brendan Mullan and Pat McCotter (brother of county player, Phil) they have the basis of a first-class side and it augurs well for the Derry minors this year.

A RAW DEAL

Talking of the McRory Cup

● To Page 21.



● PADDY DOHERTY . . . who —on St. Patrick's Day—played a major role in helping Ulster make it three-in-a-row.

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Telefis Éireann should stop those "with it" jibes

SAYS JACK MAHON

I WAS delighted to see Jay Drennan support the idea of an inter-club All-Ireland in last month's issue of GAEILIC SPORT. He would substitute them for an interest-dwindling Railway Cup series and stage the Club All-Ireland finals on St. Patrick's Day.

If these championships are to be inaugurated, some competition must certainly go for our G.A.A. calendar is already overloaded. I am all for the staging of club All-Irelands and must applaud the Munster Council for inaugurating an official competition in their own province. A few years ago Con-

nacht did likewise and allowed it to drop after a year. Let's hope the same thing will not happen in Munster.

MISSING MEDALS

Now that I mention the official inter-club championship inaugurated by Connacht reminds me that I was a member of the club to win out the title — viz. Dunmore McHales. I must record extreme dissatisfaction at the fact that I have yet to receive the medal won on that occasion.

So indeed have all my teammates, too, but by now most of

them have become used to this deplorable habit of presenting medals some years after they have been won on the field of play. Perhaps this is an isolated case or should I say an extreme case but the practice does obtain and should be rectified.

THE SOCIAL SIDE

On the social side we in the G.A.A. are making rapid improvement. Many city clubs, in particular, now hold an annual dinner, among other functions but there is still tremendous room for improve-

● TO PAGE 20.



● FOUR PROMINENT GALWAY GAELS . . . from left: J. K. Hehir (Ardrahan), Frank Fahy (Turloghmore), Miko Kelly (Tuam Stars) and Paddy Taylor (Secretary, West Board). All are prominent officials at club and county level.

● **FROM PAGE 19.**
 ment in this direction. All clubs should provide social occasions for their members, playing and non-playing, male and female. In fact the quicker most clubs realise that they have obligations to members other than playing members the better for the G.A.A. generally.

TELEFIS EIREANN
 Most times I am a very broad-

minded man and while being fairly critical of Telefis Eireann, I nevertheless give credit where credit is due, etc. The Sports Desk team under Michael O'Hehir do a fine job indeed. But there are others—the men who want to be “with it” all the way, jibing at any movement that requires idealism, sincerity and nationalism.

They must crack at the G.A.A. in cynical tones and pose ignorance

when faced with a G.A.A. question. Sometimes I think that people like John O'Donovan (cynic supreme), Gay Byrne (tip top pop authority), and Dermot Mullane (probably hates to be considered Irish when in England) are best ignored.

Still this is a National Television station and it therefore has obligations. One of them should be to show respect for anything of a national character.

JOHN O'DONNELL

When in An Uaimh for the Con-nacht-Leinster Railway Cup game I was sorry to miss meeting John “Kerry” O'Donnell, who I heard afterwards was present. When in New York last summer I spent one Sunday in Gaelic Park where John



● **JACK MAHON . . .** “TE should show respect for anything of a national character.”

“Kerry” made me feel very much at home. I saw at least five games, enjoyed a typically Irish dinner in the Park restaurant and altogether had a grand Irish day. John “Kerry’s” Gaelic Park is a great rendezvous for the Irish and he provides a home away from home for our emigrants. This is something which some of us sometimes forget.

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ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

● Continued from Page 17.

reminds me that St. Eunan's, Letterkenny were rather unfairly ejected from the competition by the Ulster Colleges' Council. They were debarred from the semi-final stages by an 0.002 goal average. A ridiculous system this and one which should be got rid of.

IN BRIEF

Congratulations to Donegal teacher, Anthony O'Byrne, a former Glencolumbcille footballer, who has become secretary of the Laois football Board.

* * *

Despite their narrow defeat in the Lagan Cup semi-final Monaghan are a coming side. A few changes up front and they will be there or thereabouts in the Ulster championship. Incidentally Peter O'Reilly can claim a share of credit for having brought on this Monaghan resurgence.

* * *

Cavan S.F. selectors for 1965—Mick Higgins, Phil Brady, Victor Sherlock, Peadar Doyle and Tom Dowd.

* * *

The province now has 566 clubs—Antrim 115; Donegal 75; Down 66; Derry 66; Cavan 56; Armagh 52; Tyrone 52; Fermanagh 43; Monaghan 41. Let's hope 1965 brings a major increase in hurling clubs.

* * *

FIRST DOWNMAN

Who was the first Downman to win a Railway Cup medal? It was Tom McCann, the popular Castlewellan chemist who had a spell with both Antrim and Down. He played in three Ulster finals and was a great one for pointing 50s.

Other great Downmen of that era were—Johnnie Carr, "Toots" O'Hare, John McClory, Micky King, Dan Morgan, Terry McCormack and Joe O'Kane.



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LE SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN

THAGAIR an scríbhneoir seo go minic don easba caidrimh agus eachtraí soisialta idir fóirne sa Chumann Lúchleas Gael, pioca fóirne eadar-chontae nó fóirne áitiúla iad. Ie déanaí tharraing an tUachtarán agus an tÁrd Rúnaí áird ar an gné seo d'imeachtaí an Chumainn, freisin.

Tá's agam go bhfuil clubanna agus coistí i mbun gnótha i dtaca le seo agus go háirithe tá Áras na Sean-Gael bunaithe anseo in Átha Cliath, áit gur féidir le muintir an Chumainn ó chuile céard den tír teacht le chéile le haghaidh caidrimh is comhrá. Mar sin féin ní leor an méid atá déanta nó atá beartaithe chomh fada agus is eol domsa agus cuireann sé áthas mór orm trácht a dhéanamh anseo ar dhá ócáid go bhfuil eolas agam fútha.

Ag Comhdháil na bliana seo do mhuintir an Chumainn in Uí Fáilí glacadh le rún "go gcuirfeadh An Coiste Chontae dinnéar ar fáil don dá fhoirinn lá na Cluiche Craoibhe". Molaim an bheart seo. Tíocfaidh an dá fhoirinn le chéile in aon teachósta amháin; beidh oifí an Choiste Chontae agus oifigí an dá chlub, maille leis na fóirne, i láthair agus beidh oíche charadais ann do chách. Cé go mbeidh gach duine, ar pháirc an imeartha, ar bhrí chun an cluiche a bhuachaint, mar is gnáth, beidh an smaoinemh i gcúl a cloiginn go mbeidh sé ag suí chun búird lena chéile comhraic níos déanaí sa ló agus nach cóir ná ceart dó bheith "garbh."

An sampla eile atá agam tharla sé cupla seachtain ó shin agus arís is in Uí Fáilí ("an Contae Dílis") a tharla sé. Bhronn Muintir Uí Fáilí in Áth Cliath corn don chomórtas peile sóisearach ar Choiste Uí Fáilí um Nollaig seo caite; mar a

tharla bhí an craobh-chluiche Sóisearach thart ag an am agus ní raibh deis ag éinne an corn a bhronnadh go fuairmeálta ar chlub a bhua-chana, an Féar Bán.

Chinn oifigí Mhuintir Uí Fáilí in Áth Cliath ar chluiche d'imirt in aghaidh na curaí sa bhFéar Bán agus d'aontaigh an Coiste Chontae, agus oifigí an Chlub, go gasta leis an smaoinemh. Chuir muintir na cathrach bus in áirithe agus thug seasca na muintire idir peileadóirí agus lucht leanúna aghaidh ar Iarthair an Chontae.

Bhí sar-chluiche ann agus scata mór ag breathnú air. Tar éis an chluiche bhí béile thar bárr sa halla áitiúil don dá fhoirinn agus lucht a stiúrtha. Máithreacha, dríofúracha agus colceathracha (baineann) na bpeileadóirí áitiúla a bhí i mbun cúrsaí sa halla—is pointe tábhachtach é seo mar nach mbíonn costaisí ró-árd ar an mbealach seo. Bhí leas-chathaoirleach an Choiste Chontae i láthair; bronnadh an Corn ar chaptaon na fóirne Féar Bán agus 'na dhiaidh sin is uile bhí céilí níos deireannaí san oíche.

Níorbh é sin deire an scéil, áfach, mar tugadh cuireadh don fhoireann áitiúil teacht go hÁth Cliath agus a chomhionann cluiche d'imirt arís. Bhéidh oíche Ghaelach eile curtha ar fáil ag lucht an Chontae sa chathair agus is mar sin a gnítear caradas.

Níl an costas ró árd dá leithéad seo agus is fiú go mór é. Is ceann des na hargóintí atá ag lucht ár gcáineadh nach bhfuil go leor cúrsaí sóisialta ag dul leis na cluichí. Cinnte ní le haghaidh cluichí ná damhsaí amháin a bunaíodh an Cumann ach mar sin féin is maith an rud gan an náisiúnachas a bheith ró stuama, nó righin.

CONTINUES HIS RECOLLECTIONS OF THE GREAT CORK FOOTBALL TEAM
—THE TEAM WHICH DID EVERYTHING BUT WIN THE GAMES WHICH

Three points away from

PAUL DOYLE, Larry Stanley and Jack Higgins—these names were on the lips of Corkmen in August of '56 after Niall Fitzgerald, as I wrote last month, had put Kerry out of the All-Ireland race with a glorious last-minute point over in Killarney.

Now it was Kildare in the Croke Park semi-final. The Leinster county was aflame with enthusiasm after beating four good teams in the east and Sergeant Major Danny Douglas, the Laois star of '37 who had himself played in Cork, was training a team that was "dog-fit" to use the modern phrase. Incidentally Kildaremen remembered, that when they last won the All-Ireland in '28 they destroyed Cork in the semi-final.

Cork were full of confidence—too much for my liking and all I could do as trainer was keep warning the lads against over-confidence and train them steadily, but not very hard, for they had had a lively preceding six months.

I knew we were in for a tough fight and told the pressmen we would be very happy to win by a point. Well we won by four, but what an hour. Seamus Harrison scored all Kildare's five points from ground balls and we had nine of which Eric Ryan had four, Niall Fitzgerald three and one each for

"Toots" Kelliher and Paddy Murphy.

It was a rough dirty game and Willie Goodison the ex-Wexford star spent most of the hour blowing the whistle for forty-two frees, twenty-six kick-outs and fifty side-line kicks. There were far more ground-kicks than minutes in that game.

We won but the bad news wasn't known till after the game was over—until "Toots" Kelliher and Denis Bernard had their x-rays. Then Dr. John Kiely of Cork told us that the cheek-bones were fractured, and added that these injuries were more common in car-crashes than football games.

When I visited our two very good players in the North Infirmary I told them that the ill wind didn't blow all evil for both needed a rest after six months hard football.

There were nine weeks to the final against Galway—a fine team which had beaten Tyrone in the semi-final, by two points. I told the two invalids to begin light exercise the moment they left hospital and to be fit when the team was gathered for training three weeks before the final.

Galway were in top form that year. Jack Mangan, the captain, was having great hours in the goal and

Tom Dillon at corner back was on his own in that sweet courageous style of his. Mahon, sound as a bell and played shrewdly, was at centre-back partnering big Frank Evers on the half-way line was 18-year-old Mattie McDonagh.

Billy O'Neill of Cork, Joe Young of Dublin, Jim Coyle and Gerry Kirwan were all getting scores but the forwards the crowd talked of were Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell. Purcell big, powerful and fast, Stockwell, small, quick and audacious, would have played many a man out of the game on their own. Together they driven backs to frenzy. Still they had plenty big fast men, plenty speed, spirit and confidence.

On the Saturday I felt happy enough and though I didn't say so to many, felt that we would win by a tidy score. It was a light-hearted gathering at the railway station in Cork though Denis Bernard didn't look well. His injury was healed but he had a head cold and I remember ringing my brother Dr. Jim Young for advice.

We got Denis to bed early that night. He would be marking Sean Purcell—a fair enough job for a man in the whole of his health.

On the following day before

TEAM OF THE MID-FIFTIES
WHICH REALLY MATTERED . . .

Tom glory!

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mighty crowd the game wasn't long on when we saw that Denis wasn't at all well and Sean Purcell was flying. That gave Stockwell great help to elude towering Donal O'Sullivan and to make matters worse Paddy Tyers, the Cork goalie, didn't seem quite at ease after his recent appendix operation.

Anyway there was a road down the middle for a short while and we paid dearly for it. Purcell, wide early on, but a minute later, sent to Gerry Kirwan who wrecked Paddy Driscoll's no-score record of many months with a fine point. Coyle next placed Stockwell who was lying deep and off he went in his hoppity-hop solo style and without an instant's hesitation sent it over the bar.

Eric Ryan drove a fine fifty but "Pook" Dillon came through like a knife and belted it way downfield where Billy O'Neill, in very good form, let it go to Stockwell and the man from Tuam ran in for another nice point.

We didn't feel very happy over on the line but knew the boys would come and they did. Fitzgerald sent to Creedon the long high one that Sean Moore dropped in and Creedon to Tom Furlong who screwed over our opening point in the tenth minute. Eric



CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

EAMONN YOUNG

● FROM CENTRE PAGES

Ryan pointed a good free and we felt better. One point down.

Then came the first blow. Sean Purcell, in obvious good form, drove a fine side-line ball across the goal. In dashed Stockwell, rose well, and for a second he and Paddy Tyers were up there trying to beat one another. Stockwell won the fight and an inch of fist was enough to send the ball to the net.

Eric Ryan pointed another free that he himself made and Niall Fitzgerald beat Gerry Daly, the Galway full-back for a good point. Purcell pointed a free after Stockwell had hit the grass pretty heavily and they were a goal clear.

Niall Fitzgerald kicked a perfect point over his head and a minute later gave to "Toots" Kelliher for

another white flag and we smiled till Purcell punched the ball to flying Stockwell and the full-forward swerved in for a good shot that gave our Tyers no chance. Gerry Kirwan added a point and Purcell closed the scoring.

Mad with frustration I went to the dressing-room at half-time. It wasn't the six-point lead that worried me — that could be pulled down—but my friend Denis Bernard who had saved us on many a day was obviously not well and probably should not have been playing at all.

There was a tenseness in the dressing-room. We all knew that Galway weren't any better than we were. On the day we knew they were playing more confidently but

that might not last. There wasn't much said except a few spirited words telling the men to "get out there and show what Corkmen could do when the chips were down."

Stockwell might have heard us for he tacked on two nice points. Then the lads cut loose and from a scramble in the goalmouth big Neally Duggan fisted it out to John Creedon of Macroom who came flying in swerved and shot with the speed and fire of anger. Jack Mangan never saw it; the net barely held it. Coyle and Evers took the bad look off it for Galway but back came the men in red jerseys, when Pat Harrington placed Niall Fitzgerald who parted to "Toots" Kelliher and the Millstreet man, flying with irresistible dash, crashed in a shot that hit the underside of the crossbar and rocketed in.

Paddy Driscoll was holding Purcell well now and it was Jim Coyle

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who sliced over the next point for Galway.

We moved "Toots" Kelleher to the left corner and sent Tom Furlong to left wing and John Creedon to top of the right.

Neally Duggan gathered it ten yards right of the Galway goal. He couldn't get his kick in and an instant's hesitation surely meant disaster in the shape of a few hundredweight of solid Galway flesh heaving him halfway to the railway. Like a shot he parted and it went out a few yards but in a more dangerous position in front of the Galway goal. Gerry Daly booted it madly away to the right full-back position but in came "Toots" flying, scooped the ball off the ground and slammed a shot that Mangan touched but didn't save. Up went the green flag and we went wild.

Two points behind we were, playing to the Railway goal and the tails were up.

Eric Ryan charging in was brought down. Galway were panicking. Ryan didn't soothe them with that good point. Only a point between them now. I couldn't cheer. There was no need to.

Purcell was grassed. His free hit the crossbar, Stockwell got the clearance and was grounded. This time Sean Purcell made no mistake.

One minute to go and two points down. Play in midfield for a half a minute and boy the tackling was grim. Up to the canal goal it went again and when Stockwell got it I knew the game was over, wide or score.

Fair play for him he lofted it over the bar and Peter McDermott blew the whistle.

The final score was 2-13 to 3-7 in their favour by three points and we had the distinction of getting that great score and still going down.

More important perhaps the thirty gave the public a great hour of hard clean football. The play was inspiring, the tenseness was electric from start to finish and there were individual displays of

guts, craft, and ball control that were as good as ever I've seen. Best of all those boys were sportsmen.

Long may the memory live of the great hour they gave us.

In the dressing room the lads were downhearted.

"We'll be back," I told them.

We were. And I'll tell the rest of it next month.

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GLAMOUR CLUBS

● FROM PAGE 5.

White, Jimmy and Mickey Wiley, Ian, Willie and Thompsie Flannery, "Padna" Keane, Danny and Pat Hannon and Mickey Melody was immense.

The nearest team to Michael Cusack's birthplace was the Finn McCool's of Kilfenora — the lads from "The City of the Crosses." It was a hurling one in the very early days but football later became the popular game there. One of their most notable players, "Micko" Conole, was goalie of the Clare All-Ireland final senior football team of 1917, and during the entire campaign never conceded a major

score. Other well known parish players included "Jacko" Considine; Pat Culliney, Tom Slattery, Pat Lenihan and Paddy McMahan.

From Kilmurry-Ibricken we meet fine footballers of the calibre of Jim Daly, Tim Scanlon, Peter and Birdie Donnellan, Dan Fitzpatrick and Joe Murphy.

The games in Cooraclare had a stormy beginning for the R.I.C. pulled down the posters announcing the first meeting, just two years after the G.A.A. was founded. That only made the boys all the more determined and the names of Pat Considine, the Mescalls, Joe and Jack Greene, Tom McGarry, Peadar Queally and "Papa" Kelly will remain associated with Clare football for all-time.

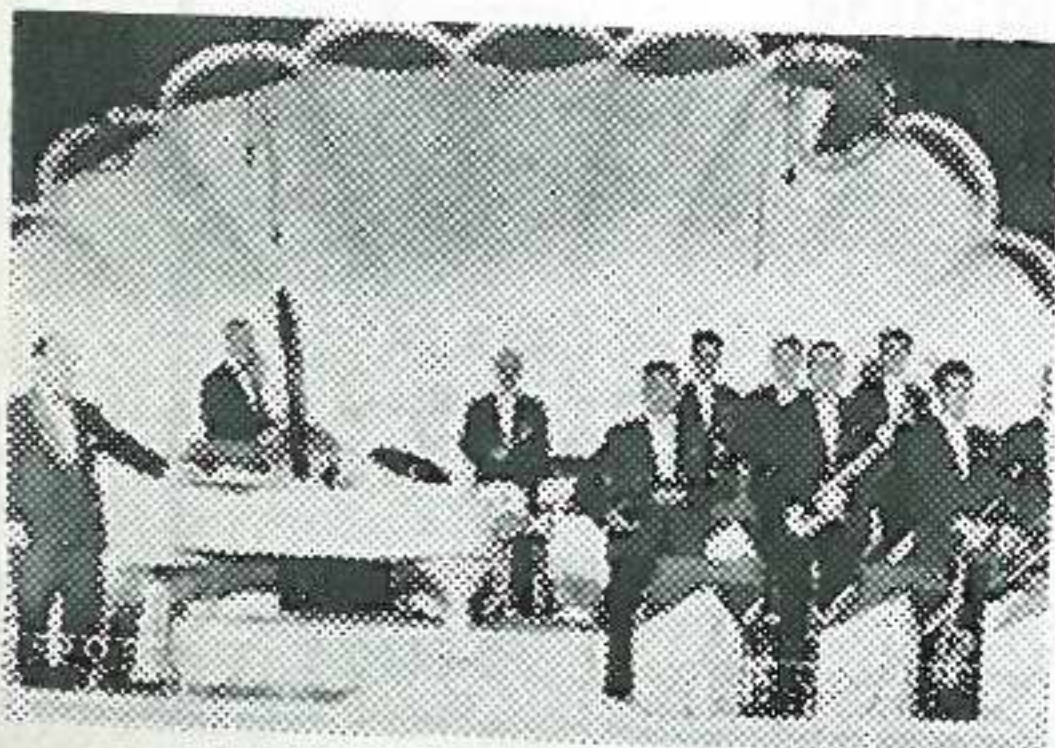
The "Shannon Sweepers" were known football exponents even before the G.A.A. was formed but the first team Kilrush affiliated to the new Association was named the "Shamrocks". Led by Tom Galvin, it included notables like Miko Morrissey, "Castor" Carmody, Marty Mack, Jack Talty and Frank Meeney.

Many other famous clubs contributed handsomely to the greatness of the games in Clare but a halt has to be called. Let us salute them all and pay well deserved tribute to the part they have played through eighty years of Gaelic endeavour.

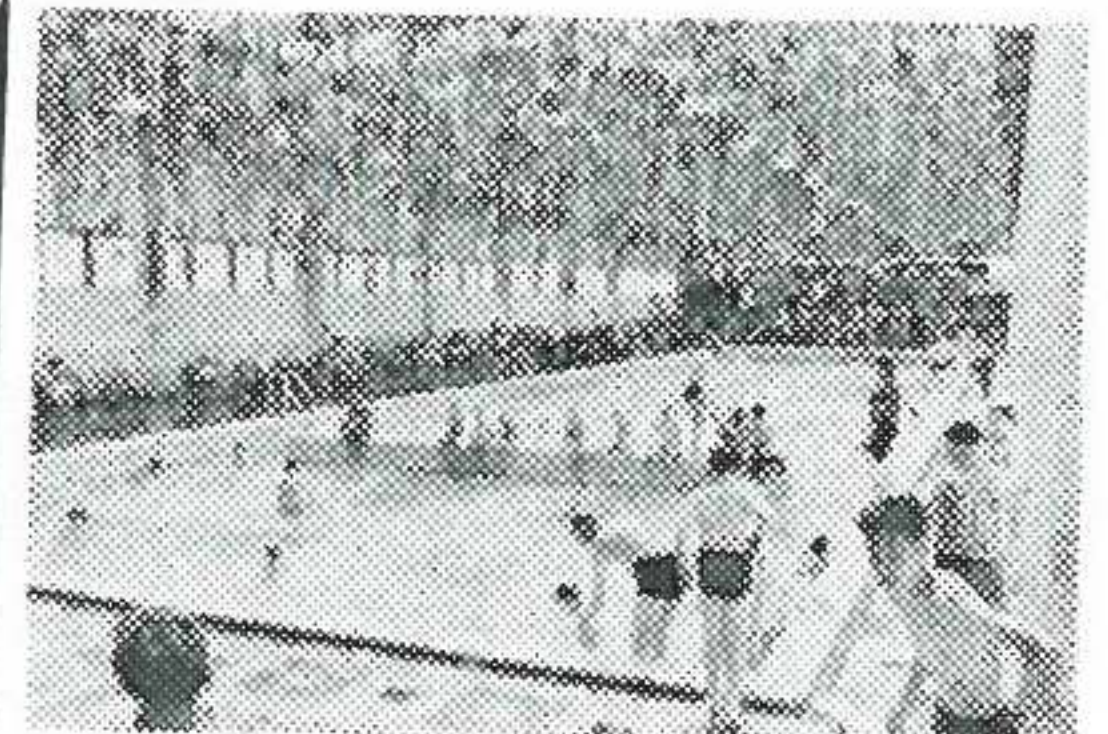
NEXT MONTH we will have a look at a few more famous Munster clubs of the past.



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FOUR CLUBS -IN THE SAME PARISH!



● **CLONOE O'RAHILLY'S**, Tyrone senior champions: Back row (left to right)—John M. O'Neill, Francis O'Neill, Mick O'Neill, J. J. Hagen, Felix McCabe, James O'Neill, Joe McCabe, Pat Joe O'Neill, John Corr, Gerry McCabe, Joe O'Neill, Ignatius O'Neill, Sean O'Neill. Front row (L. to R.): Francis McCabe, John McCabe, Seamie O'Neill, Harry Donnelly (capt.), Brendan McCabe, James O'Neill, Seamus McCann, Peter Canavan, John Joe Kilpatrick, Barney Taggart.

THE parish of Clonoe stretches from the outskirts of Coal-island to the shores of Lough Neagh—a distance of only three miles, yet this great parish has the proud record of having four clubs. County champions O'Rahilly's hold pride of place but not far behind are Derrylaughlin whom they beat in last year's county final. The

other two clubs in the parish—Derrytresk and Mountjoy are in the intermediate grade.

Clonoe O'Rahilly's were founded in 1917 and have always been a senior team. Success did not come

early. In the 1930's the club had such outstanding players as Mick O'Neill, who played with Ulster and whose son P. J. was to help the club win its first senior title in

● **TO PAGE 42**

By MATT FITZPATRICK

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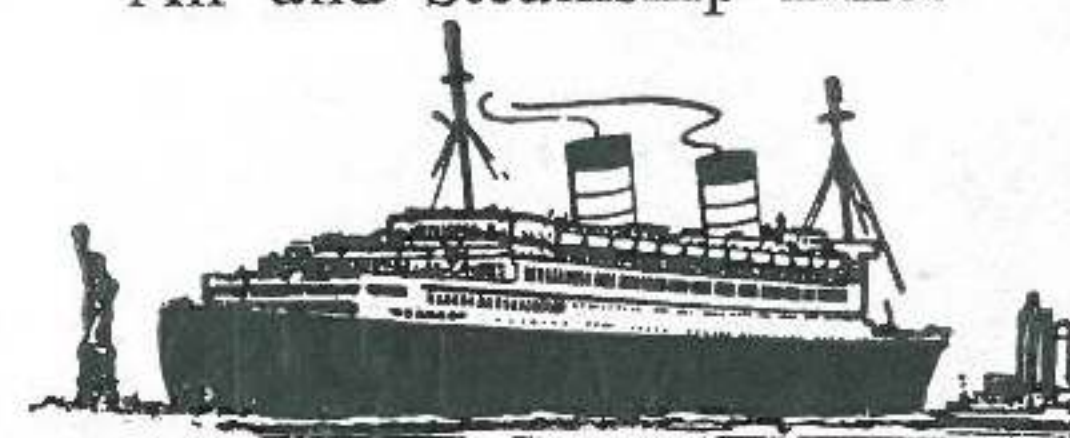
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Newmarket	Newmarket	37	Ardnaree, Ballina	Ballina	285
Kantohar	Ballagh	4	Church St., Claremorris	Claremorris	115
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	Ennis	220	Kilmastranny	Ballyfarnon	9
Ennis	Ennis	286	Churchtown	Carndonagh	51
Market St., Clifden	Clifden	14	Rathscanlon	Tubbercurry	48
Ennistymon	Ennistymon	6	Altamount St.	Westport	141
Mayoralty House	Galway	4196	Dungloe	Dungloe	5
Crowe St., Gort	Gort	47	Elphin	Elphin	14
Kilrush	Kilrush	7	Ballintra	Ballintra	12
Scarriff	Scarriff	8	Ballinamore	Ballinamore	41
Circular Road, Tuam	Tuam	24403	Corner House, Roscommon	Roscommon	6224
Castleisland	Castleisland	240	Main St., Belmullet	Belmullet	33
Listowel	Listowel	23	South Eastern Cattle Breeding Society Ltd.		
Ardfert	Ardfert	2	Dovea, Thurles	Thurles	110
Dingle	Dingle	3	Killenaule	Killenaule	15
Castlemaine Milltown (Co. Kerry)		18	Kilkenny	Kilkenny	88
Cahirciveen	Cahirciveen	7	Piltown	Piltown	13
Castletownbere	Castletownbere	3	Waterford	Waterford	47721
Kenmare	Kenmare	5	Nenagh	Nenagh	204
Rathmore	Rathmore	23	Donaghmore	Donaghmore	3
Galtee Cattle Breeding Station			Kilkenny	Kilkenny	450
	Mitchelstown	271	South Western Cattle Breeding Society Ltd.		
Drombanna	Limerick	46326	Shinagh, Bandon	Bandon	171
Dungarvan	Dungarvan	114	Macroom	Macroom	66
Tipperary	Tipperary	155	Clonakilty	Clonakilty	119
Mogeely	Midleton	67101	Timoleague	Timoleague	22
Castlelyons	Castlelyons	10	Tarelton	Tarelton	11
Leinster Cattle Breeding Service			Skibbereen	Skibbereen	106
Main Station, Balgaddy, Clondalkin	Dublin	592476	Bantry	Bantry	97
North Quay, Drogheda	Drogheda	8434	Drinagh	Drinagh	11
Athboy	Athboy	35	Ballinhassig	Ballinhassig	5
Enniscorthy	Enniscorthy	186	Carrigaline	Carrigaline	8
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ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION A.I.

MEN OF THE LAND . . .

By JACK MULHOLLAND

WHEN I was young half a century ago virtually all of the great players—both footballers and hurlers, were men of the land. Of course, there were good “townies” too but they were in the minority. However, things have changed. The men of the land now form the minority and so will it remain.

When did the big change commence? I would say it began around the time of the '14-'18 War and that by the end of the last war the “townies” were in the majority in intercounty competition. They have been gaining ground ever since.

In truth, of course, the land does still produce a very sizeable portion of top G.A.A. players, but education sees to it that most of these young men move to the towns and cities to become part of the urban populous.

The trend is from the land and this is in fact approved Government policy and we can take it that the farmer on intercounty teams of the future will be considerably rarer still.

At the moment though, while a minority, the farmers are certainly holding their own at the top of the G.A.A. ladder. Take Caltex Award winners John Doyle and Noel Tierney—the land can claim them both, although somebody recently told me that Noel was no longer farming but had taken up a position as an agricultural machinery salesman.

Then take the 1963 Caltex men. Here we had a most unusual situation with Lar Foley—a city farmer but a true man of the land nonetheless.

We also have, of course, another brand of G.A.A. men. They are not

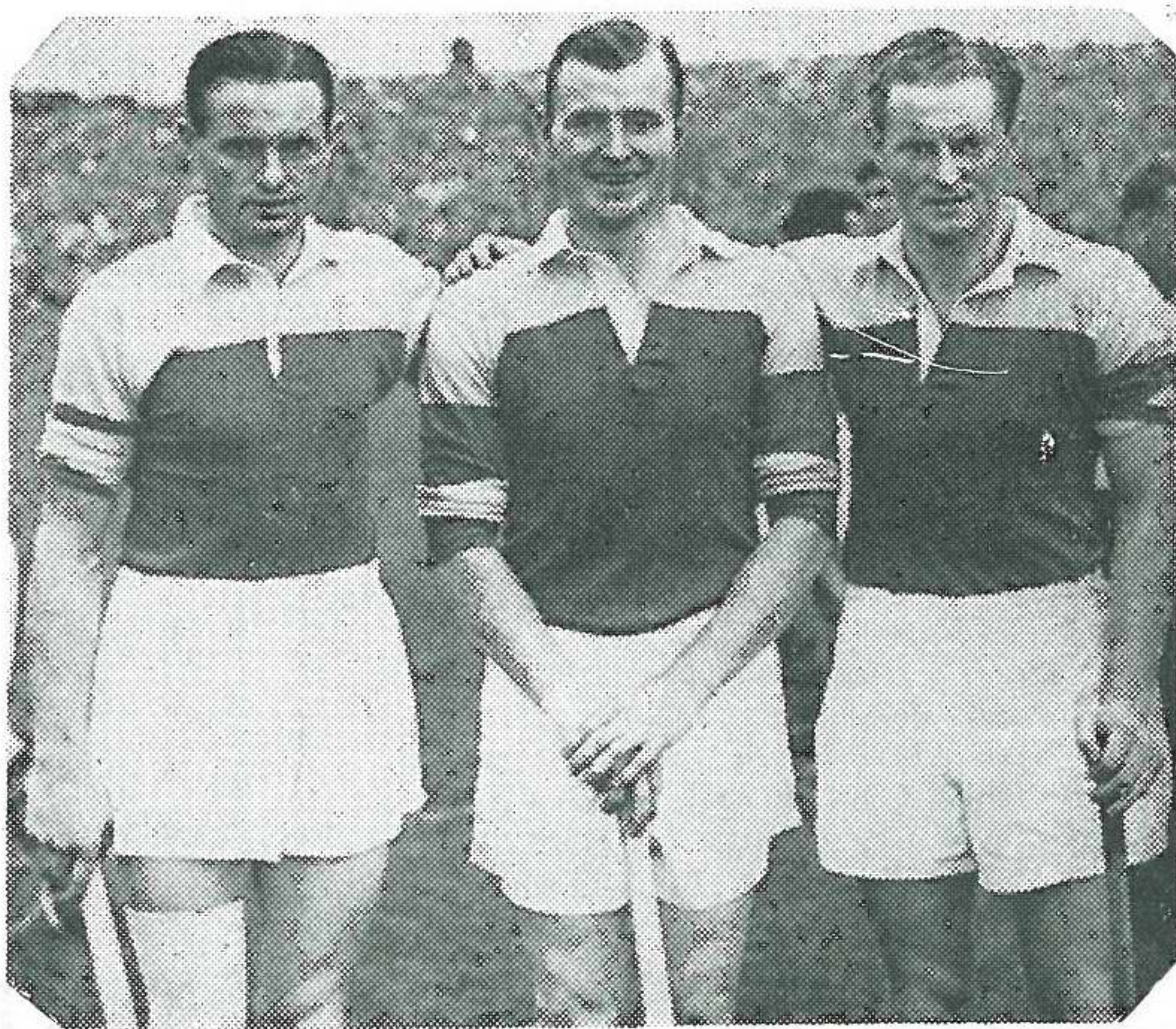
farmers but they are still very much associated with the land. I have in mind men like former Cork and Munster football star, P. A. “Weeshie” Murphy, who is manager of the South Western Cattle Breeding Society in Bandon and Jim Nagle, Director of the Ballyclough Cattle Breeding Station who was instrumental in organising a hurling team in Blackrock College way back in 1932.

Others who fit into the category are veterinary surgeon, Nick Rackard and Gerry O'Malley, B.Ag.Sc. There are, of course, scores of others but mention of these men reminds me that three of them are also pillars of the G.A.A. in their respective counties—P. A. Murphy is Chairman of the

Cork County Board, while both Nick Rackard and Gerry O'Malley represent their respective counties on the Central Council.

In my opinion intercounty hurling in particular will be the poorer with the decrease in farmers. There is something about the hurling farmer. The game was made for him. He plays it hard and manly. His body adjusts easily to the requirements. John Doyle is an excellent example. He is of the mould of the great men who made hurling the wonderful game it is.

Social progress cannot, I suppose, be retarded but I for one regret the fact that the farmer is in future destined to a permanent minority role in the intercounty arena.



★ NICK RACKARD . . . with his equally-famous brothers, Bobby and Billy.

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LOUTH ACE JOE MESMERISES THE CANADIANS

By ALLEYMAN

IT is nice to hear that Joe Maher, Louth's ace handballer who emigrated to Canada some months ago, is gradually acclimatising himself to his new surroundings in Toronto, and is mesmerising handball enthusiasts, with the thrust and power of his play, dexterity and footwork.

In fact, one of the things he is finding most difficult is to remember, that the "kick" ball is a foul according to Canadian rules. In our game it is allowed, and often many magnificent retrieves are made with the feet.

Maher has also a problem with the ceiling shot, a facet of the game which is not applicable in this country.

It will take about two or three months for him to complete his re-adjustment programme, by which time he should be the top man in Canadian handball.

His first major assignment is in Vancouver on April 7 when he takes his place in the national championships. Even at this stage he ranks as an even-money favourite to win out.

Meanwhile, Ed Chalmers, the Canadian police sergeant, whose persuasiveness lured the Louthman abroad, is now using him as a lever to whip up enthusiasm for hand-

ball in Canada. A vigorous campaign has been initiated in the schools and colleges, to have at least one court available in each.

The eventual ambition is an emulation of handball progress in North America, and particularly in New York, where there are four or five courts available in every park.

Irish interest in Canadian handball is not confined solely to Joe Maher for among others who play regularly are Bill Mullins, a former star with Westmeath, Bill Grant from Mullinavat in Co. Kilkenny, and John Treacy, well-known in Carlow circles.

OPEN FIELD

A switch to the scene at home, finds Clubs in the throes of tournaments, county boards winding up their local championships, and individual players in serious preparation for the intercounty games ahead.

In fact Maher's departure has whetted up considerable speculation in the All-Ireland championships. As it was a certain stagnation had beset our senior players for they appeared to be labouring in the shadow of Maher who was playing so well, that he appeared unbeatable. The scene is now

wide open, and any one of six players or more could gain victory on the highest plane.

Of the younger group such as Joe Clery, Richie Lyng, Paddy Hickey, Bill Kerins, Paddy Bollingbrook and John Gilmore readily come to mind. Neither am I forgetting the older men, such as Joe Delaney, Paddy Downey, Micky Walsh and John Ryan. They will be in there, trying hard to regain lost prestige and senior titles, which all of them, with the exception of Walsh have won in the past. Indeed, the latter poses an interesting study.

He is well into the veteran stage, but still plays the game with youthful enthusiasm, is always superbly fit, and never bows out, without trying his utmost.

His wonderful effort against Joe Maher in last year's semi-final will be talked of for many a day, as it was only late in the final fifth game, that the Louthman pulled out.

Should Walsh win an All-Ireland senior title now in the twilight of his career, it would be more than well deserved. But age is the major factor which militates against him.

COVERED COURTS

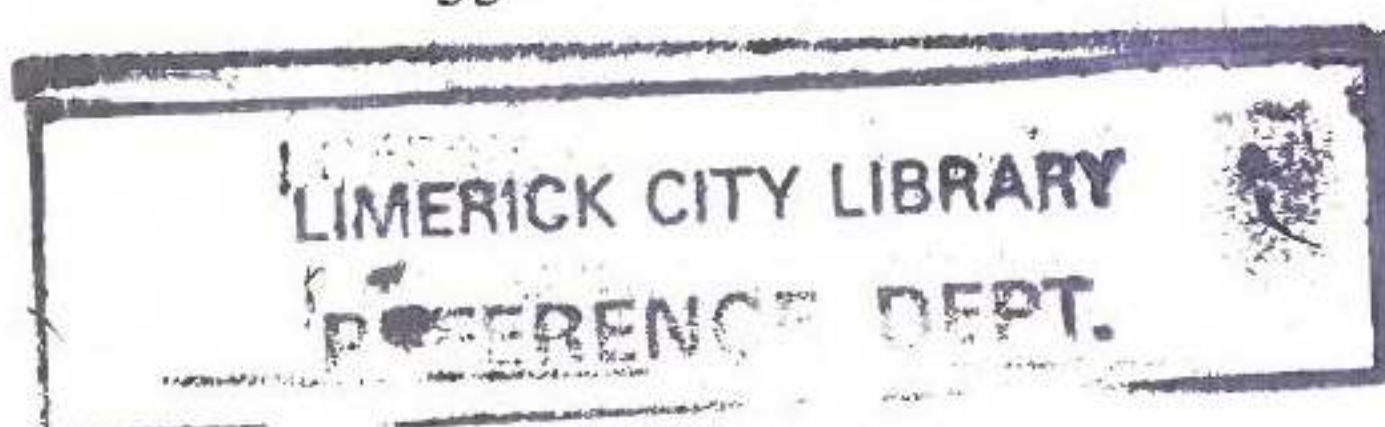
The success of handball in future years could very well hinge on the number of covered courts, constructed in the interim. That is the general line of thought, permeating through the handball legislature at present.

Clubs, about to build alleys, or re-construct old ones are being advised to include a roof as well.

This is positive thinking for there is no doubt but the extra expense involved will be allayed in a matter of years.

Indeed, the handball alley of the future could be a most important centre, not alone, where handball would be played but where players could also meet socially, in the context of either club or parish.

The covered court has no disadvantages.



THE TOP SCORERS

● FROM PAGE 9

1959

1.	101 — C. Ring	22-35 (10)
2.	85 — J. Doyle	11-52 (16)
3.	78 — F. Walsh	4-66 (17)
4.	77 — T. O'Connell	21-14 (17)

Highest average :
C. Ring, 10-1 points.

1960

1.	108 — J. Doyle	12-72 (13)
2.	79 — E. Keher	10-49 (14)
3.	73 — P. Kehoe	8-49 (16)
4.	64 — D. Heaslip	17-13 (13)

Highest average :
J. Doyle, 8.30 points.

1961

1.	104 — C. Ring	22-38 (13)
2.	84 — O. McGrath	20-24 (17)
3.	74 — J. Doyle	10-44 (12)
4.	71 — D. Nealon	16-23 (13)
5.	70 — W. Moloughney	20-10 (17)

Highest average :
C. Ring, 8 points.

1962

1.	99 — C. Ring	20-39 (15)
	J. Doyle	13-60 (15)
3.	97 — E. Keher	11-64 (17)
4.	84 — D. Heaslip	25-9 (16)
5.	81 — O. McGrath	20-21 (21)
6.	64 — E. Wheeler	16-16 (14)

Highest average :
6.60 points shared by both
Ring and Doyle.

1963

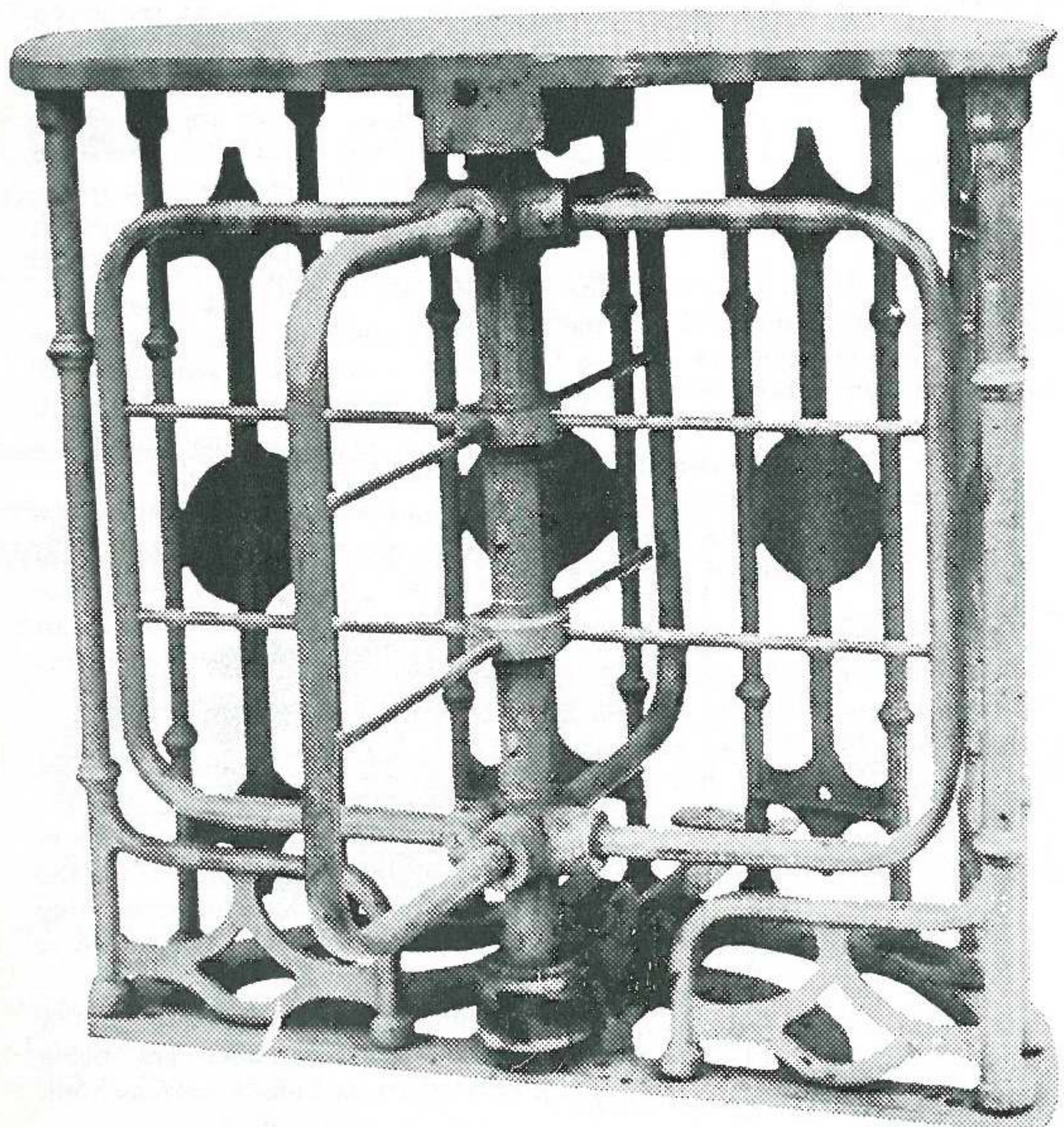
1.	103 — J. Doyle	14-61 (16)
	103 — E. Keher	9-76 (17)
3.	87 — P. Grimes	10-57 (14)
4.	69 — J. Smyth	17-18 (8)
5.	55 — T. Walsh	15-10 (14)
6.	54 — S. McLoughlin	17-3 (12)

Highest average :
J. Smyth 8.62 points.

1964

1.	117 — J. Doyle	10-87 (17)
2.	106 — T. Walsh	21-43 (21)
3.	97 — E. Keher	12-61 (20)
4.	68 — M. Keating	12-32 (14)
5.	65 — M. Bermingham	12-29 (14)
6.	57 — P. Harte	7-36 (9)

Highest average :
J. Doyle, 6.88 points.



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FOOTBALL

	points	1955	games
1.	90 — O. Freaney	6-72	(21)
2.	68 — J. Curran	5-33	(11)
3.	67 — K. Heffernan	10-37	(18)
4.	57 — T. Lyne	5-42	(14)
5.	54 — P. Donoghue	2-48	(10)
6.	53 — T. Monaghan	5-38	(18)

Highest average :
J. Curran, 6.18 points.

● TO OPPOSITE PAGE

● FROM OPPOSITE PAGE

1956

1. 106 — F. Donnelly 10-76 (16)
2. 70 — S. Purcell 5-55 (16)
3. 68 — V. Sherlock 10-38 (17)
4. 67 — S. Harrison 2-61 (17)
5. 56 — O. Freaney 2-50 (19)

Highest average :
F. Donnelly 6.62 points.

1957

1. 117 — F. Donnelly 5-102 (22)
2. 98 — S. Purcell 7-77 (21)
3. 75 — O. Freaney 7-54 (18)
4. 63 — J. Timmons 8-39 (12)
5. 60 — K. Beahan 0-60 (13)
6. 56 — C. Flynn 5-41 (11)

Highest average :
F. Donnelly, 5.31.

1958

1. 107 — S. Purcell 11-74 (22)
2. 79 — P. Doherty 11-46 (11)
- 79 — D. O'Brien 5-64 (18)
4. 76 — O. Freaney 0-76 (16)
5. 74 — K. O'Malley 7-54 (14)
6. 72 — C. Flynn 8-48 (15)

Highest average :
P. Doherty 7.18 points.

1959

1. 101 — O. Freaney 5-86 (17)
2. 86 — S. Purcell 8-62 (20)
3. 81 — C. Flynn 2-75 (17)
4. 75 — K. O'Malley 5-60 (14)
5. 74 — D. McAuliffe 7-53 (17)
6. 72 — J. Kenna 4-60 (16)

Highest average :
O. Freaney 5.94 points.

1960

1. 136 — P. Doherty 13-97 (24)
2. 81 — S. Purcell 10-51 (14)
3. 79 — C. Smith 6-61 (23)
4. 65 — C. Flynn 4-53 (16)
5. 62 — J. Joyce 12-26 (14)
6. 60 — J. Timmons 0-60 (18)

Highest average :
S. Purcell, 5.78.

1961

1. 120 — H. Donnelly 7-99 (24)
2. 107 — P. Doherty 6-89 (22)
3. 92 — Don Feeley 3-83 (22)
4. 73 — H. Ratty 11-40 (16)
5. 67 — K. Beahan 11-34 (16)
6. 56 — C. Flynn 7-35 (14)
- 56 — D. McAuliffe 3-47 (17)
- 56 — J. Timmons 2-50 (19)

Highest average :
H. Donnelly, 5 points.

1962

1. 105 — P. Doherty 5-90 (24)
2. 78 — C. Dunne 11-45 (19)
3. 75 — J. Timmons 2-69 (25)
4. 67 — Don Feeley 5-52 (15)
5. 58 — B. Hayden 5-43 (14)

Highest average :
D. Feeley, 4.46 points.

1963

1. 79 — B. O'Callaghan 9-52 (17)
2. 73 — P. Doherty 8-49 (18)
3. 72 — C. Gallagher 6-54 (15)
4. 67 — M. Whelan 8-43 (17)
5. 57 — M. McDonagh 3-48 (19)
6. 54 — J. Mulroy 4-42 (15)
7. 51 — Don Feeley 5-36? (12)
- 51 — J. Timmons 2-45 (17)
9. 50 — F. Donnelly 3-41 (9)

Highest average :
F. Donnelly, 5.55 points.

1964

1. 125 — C. Gallagher 6-107 (20)
2. 105 — C. Dunne 3-96 (21)
3. 94 — P. Doherty 10-64 (20)
4. 69 — B. O'Callaghan 3-60 (16)
5. 64 — L. Leech 2-58 (17)
6. 57 — M. Kearns 0-57 (10)

Highest average :
C. Gallagher, 6.25 points.

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● FROM PAGE 13

intense coaching would greatly enhance their performance.

Your selection of Mick O'Connell and Christy Ring was most unfortunate. No one will deny they are superb performers — individualists. However, football and hurling are team games. If you could give me eight or ten footballers and hurlers who are as proficient as Mick and Christy in every county team then I would accept that as evidence that coaching was not so vitally essential. The fact that we have only one Mick O'Connell, one Christy Ring and one Paddy Doherty can be blamed largely on the absence of coaching.

You must have a winner in any knockout competition or race.

Some horse will win every two-year-old Selling Plate just as some horse will win the Grand National. This does not mean these winners are equal any more than Delaney's Donkey is a match for Arkle or Mill House. As in racing, so in football you have your "selling platers" and your champion hurdlers. If you can't tell the difference then I will put it down to your old-fashioned middle-age.

The argument that an amateur organisation has no need of coaching whereas a professional organisation has—is absurd. Most people prefer to see games played well. Most players enjoy playing games well. The better the football the more it is enjoyed by all. This is the first lesson in coaching, Mr. Carver. Had we had coaching since



★ MICK O'CONNELL
". . . with coaching there would be more like him," says Joe Lennon.

the beginning in Gaelic games we would not now need a Hurling Revival Scheme. Coaching is to be used to resurrect the hurling which you say has got along famously. Who are you trying to convince, Patrick?

Why don't you come along to my coaching course? I won't guarantee to make a coach out of you, but I'll give you a few good reasons for not starting coaching.

I was so sure that coaching was needed and was wanted in Gaelic Games that I gambled my entire financial resources and more on my conviction. Events proved that I was not so very far wrong.

Last year, I worked for seven or eight months preparing a full-scale course for seventy odd men from all over Ireland and seeing it through to completion. I gambled heavily on success. It was a great success as far as coaching went but I lost financially on it because I took all the risks.

I do not regret this for a minute. In fact, I was more than repaid in the experience I gained from the whole venture. The fact is, Mr. Carver, whereas it costs you nothing to prove your policy of doing nothing, it costs me more than I care to count up to prove my point. That's the difference between us. It is not just enough to say "your sins are forgiven." You must also be able to get your man to "take up his bed and walk."

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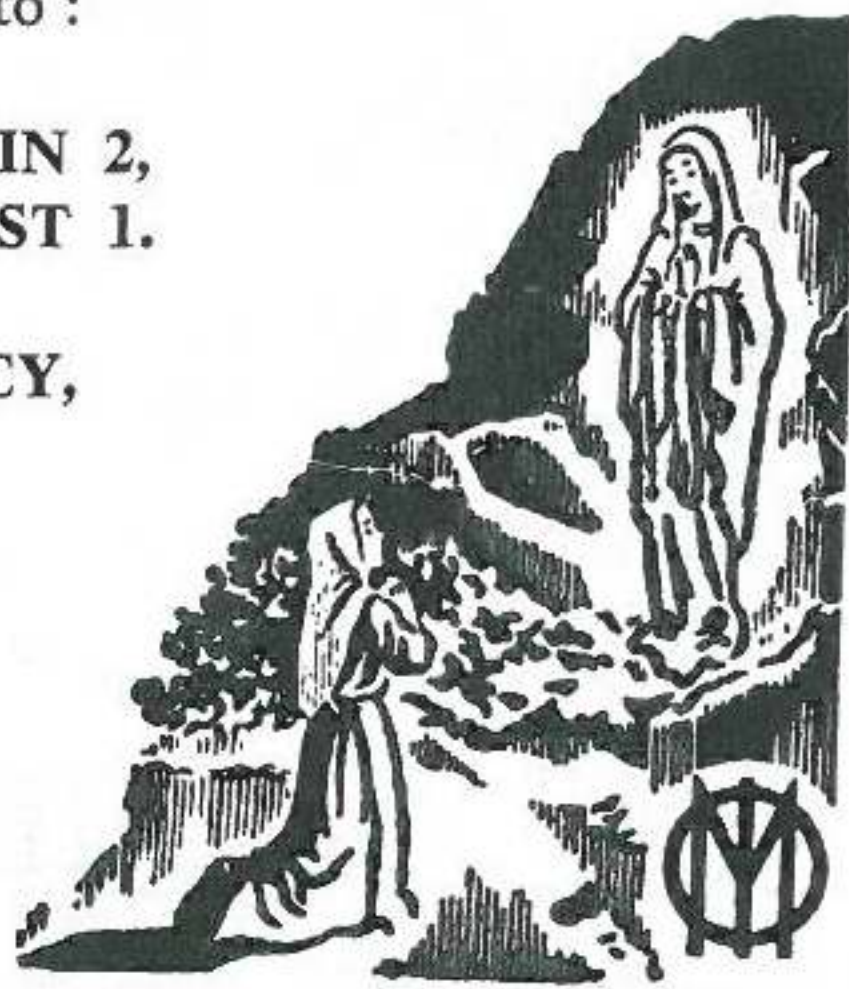
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JAY DRENNAN

● FROM PAGE 14

and though they have been as often in the final as the others, even their final appearances have been diminishing lately. They have quite suddenly become the poor relations of the football game. Kerry, of course, have always been a name to conjure with; but, there has never been anything else in Munster, for though Cork and Tipperary especially have had strong innings at times, it has been a temporary emergence from the second rate. Even in the present era when Cork are the only serious rivals to Kerry—have been for twenty-five years—they still cannot summon up that little extra to

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put them on a par with the Kingdom, and gain for them an even break in honours.

In fact, Kerry have had to carry Munster in the Railway Cup inter-provincials. This in turn can be explained by the fact that the pattern of games in the province has remained set ever since Kerry's emergence as a great football power: Kerry first and before all for football; the other five first and foremost for hurling.

Even Cork, the nearest to being a twofold power in the land, have never quite been able to climb to the heights in both codes at the same time: for instance, the Clonakilty-powered drive in 1945 came in a lapse between the four in a row hurling titles of the early forties and the 1946 triumph of the hurlers.

The Munster counties, in a nutshell have been one game counties, predominantly, and the football got the rough end of things in that only one county was found giving it allegiance. There was, perhaps, a time when even that did not matter to the almost invincible Kerry-men. But, Kerry-men are no longer invincible in themselves, nor do they have to face anything less than vastly improved teams—in skill and teamwork — from the other parts of the country. Football has been thriving, levelling out in standards between all the counties in the other three provinces; in Munster, the balance has remained the same.

Then, there once was a time when Kerry-men had the edge on everyone else in the way that they prepared for their big games. Now they have no such edge; the boot may even be on the other foot. And Kerry have suffered from the lack of class opposition within their own province, just as other counties have gained from it as their opponents have all taken on a level standard of considerable confidence and ability.

For donkeys years, then, the counties of Munster have paid little attention to trying to raise their football standards. This, even, might be forgivable — certainly it would have been understandable—in those counties where hurling held sway, and the first place in the public esteem. But, even at Munster Council or Central Council level was there any concern about raising the standards in these counties. There could have been direction at any rate.

I feel, and I said so last month in this page in another context, that there is nothing which so raises the standard as playing often with your betters; and nothing quite so demoralising as being constantly opposing teams no better, maybe even a little worse than oneself. Improvement comes most usually, not by avoiding playing one's betters but rather by imitating and emulating them. Lack of contact with the highest standards is the most certain way of keeping to the same low-class rut.

If Doolittle be the best name for most of the mediocre teams of Munster, since they are not improving under their own steam, would it not be possible for some Professor Higgins to push them into a Pygmalion-like transformation, by taking them from the football slums and giving them the opportunity of associating with the upper-class stratum of football society. The present Division IV B of the National Football League in which Waterford, Clare, Tipperary and Limerick oppose one another year after year, confirming themselves in mediocrity, and with only the ambition of winning through to annihilation by Kerry is never, I think, going to help these counties to a passable standard. The championship in Ulster, and especially the Lagan Cup, have brought together the weak and the best, and contributed in no little measure to the raising of standards of counties who were until recently background names.

Donie O'Sullivan

face to face with Sean O'Donnell

HAS Kerry's era as the great football power come to an end? I will not try and answer so sizeable a question, but instead will introduce you to one of the young men whose task it is to see that the answer is "Definitely not." He is Donie O'Sullivan. Recently I put these questions to him.

O'Donnell—Any excuse for last year's All-Ireland final defeat?

O'Sullivan—No. We met a better team, it was as simple as that.

O'D.—Will Kerry come back?

O'S.—Kerry always come back. You cannot win every game and every team is not good enough to win an All-Ireland title but we will certainly be back.

O'D.—Who was the most difficult player you have had to mark?

O'S.—You meet so many good

men in top-class football that it is very difficult to single out a particular player, but Jimmy Whan of Armagh certainly comes to mind as a most difficult forward to mark.

O'D.—Is there any particular type of player that you dislike having to mark?

O'S.—The speedy forward is always dangerous but the man I fear most is the opportunist—the player who lies low, so to speak, for fifty-five minutes of the game and then slips in to score the winning goal.

O'D.—What game has given you your greatest thrill?

O'S.—The 1962 All-Ireland semi-final against Dublin. It was my first big game so I suppose I should remember it.

O'D.—What county do you most like playing against?

O'S.—Galway, I would think, and also Cavan.

O'D.—Are there any changes of Rules that you would favour?

O'S.—Yes, I would like to see 13 a-side in club championships and an end to the automatic suspension.

O'D.—Who were your idols while a young boy?

O'S.—Paddy Kennedy in particular—also Eamonn Young and Sean Murphy.

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WHILE the Louth footballers were being trounced 5-11 to 0-3 by Dublin in the National League at Dundalk a few Sunday's back, Louth hurlers were putting up on excellent performance at Ardee. They beat Armagh 5-6 to 1-3 in junior hurling and drew with Antrim, 5-7 each, in minor hurling. All of which suggests that the Wee County is well capable of keeping pace in the new hurling drive.

STONEWALL OLLIE!



• A GOAL FOR MUNSTER? . . . it looks like it from the camera's viewpoint. But the practised eye of Ollie Walsh, the stonewall defender with the unerring judgment, watches calmly as the ball edges wide of the Leinster goal in the Railway Cup final at Croke Park.

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MY TIP: SLIGO TO WIN THE GAEL-LINN TOURNAMENT

HAIL resurgent Sligo who recently defeated Galway in the Gael-Linn Tournament. My tip is that Sligo will now win this competition. I also forecast that you will hear much more of Mickey Kearns, Cathal Cawley, Padraic Keane, Joe Hannon and Co. before the year is out. In fact at this early stage, I predict a Galway-Sligo Connacht final and what a meeting that should be. The defeat by Meath in the League did the county no harm at all.

NIALL FARRY

Just in case you Sligo followers are wondering if I have forgotten one of the heroes of your victory over Galway, I have not. Any man who can score three goals against Galway's ace goalkeeper, Johnny Geraghty, deserves mention. I refer of course to right half-forward Niall Farry, who seems a great discovery.

CASTLEBAR MITCHELS

Castlebar Mitchels should have a very strong club team in the season ahead. With Dermot Gannon and Frank Reynolds (Leitrim) and Brian McDonald (Dublin) to bolster their ranks they should go a long way towards regaining lost prestige. In fact their club team,

which also includes Ray Clarke, Mickie Clarke, Dan O'Neill, Tom Quigley and Mick Ruane among others should be one of the best in the land. Watch out Claremorris.

BELMULLET ABU

It is grand to see football thriving in the Belmullet area and for that much credit is due to U.C.G. star Eddie Maguire whose courageous play has been largely



● **JOHN DONNELLAN** . . . who failed to equal his late father's feat of leading Connaught to a Railway Cup title.

responsible for Belmullet's astounding success in the Mayo league. Good man Eddie. It is so nice to see the football glory being shared.

CLAREMORRIS DOUBLE

Good though Belmullet were they failed to halt Claremorris bringing off the double of Mayo league and championship—a great feat for this virile club, who have great performers in Patsy Griffin, Mick Connaughton, Pat Creighton, Molloy, French and Co.

JOHNNY GERAGHTY

Johnny Geraghty's fantastic display of goalkeeping for Connacht at An Uaimh was the best I have ever seen on a football field. He dealt with all shots capably and effortlessly and when clearing the ball, always directed it to a teammate. There is no better goalkeeper in the country.

CORRECTION

Finally a correction to GAELIC SPORT and elsewhere for stating that Mattie McDonagh, the footballer, is Chairman of the Galway Coiste Iomána. The Chairman is Mr. Matt McDonagh, N.T., of Ballylinderreen, Galway Co. Board Registrar and no relation of Mattie the footballer.

MATT FITZPATRICK

● FROM PAGE 29

later years; John Joe Dorman, Dan and John Lynch and Joe Kilpatrick.

When the Tyrone minors hit the top in 1947 and '48 O'Rahilly's contributed their share. John Joe Hagan was on both victorious minor sides—others were Sean McGrath, Barney Corr and Frank McIlvenna. These young minor stars were later to become the backbone of the club.

In the 'fifties the club surged forward to contest the county finals of 1951, '53 and '56. Success was near at hand and it came in 1958—O'Rahilly's were county champions at last. A 41-year wait had come to an end.

Having fought so long and so hard to gain the title Clonoe were

most intent on keeping it and so they successfully defended the crown in 1959 and '60 to make it three in a row.

Stars of those years were Sean McGrath and Barney Corr, both of whom are now priests in the mission fields of Japan; John Joe Hagan, Colm McGrath, Harry Donnelly, Tom Fox, Seamus O'Neill, Mick O'Neill who is currently playing for the county, Brian Branigan, Francie McIlvenna, P. J. and Sean O'Neill.

Following that great period of success, Clonoe slumped somewhat and remained out of the limelight for a spell but then back they came last year, powered by the ever-great John Joe Hagan, and the title was theirs again.

Clonoe O'Rahilly's are a well

organised club, Minor juvenile and school teams are catered for. The club has its own ground—O'Rahilly Park and a first-class and fully equipped pitch it is.

In all the club has about one hundred members — mainly made up of families such as the O'Neills and the McCabes who have been associated with the national games over the years. Each year the club has its annual dinner and the event is a major social occasion.

A strong and very much alive club surely—one which serves Tyrone and the Gaelic Athletic Association well.

A word of thanks to Harry Donnelly and Seamus O'Neill for having helped me collect the facts for these notes.

Next month we will have a look at Monaghan titleholders, Castleblayney Faughs.

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Let's put the spotlight on finance . . .

SAYS

AGNES HOURIGAN

THE annual Congress of the Camogie Association, like that of the Gaelic Athletic Association is in many respects the focal point of the year and provides the members of the whole body with a chance of airing their views in a truly democratic manner.

This year's camogie Congress will see a new President installed as the present holder of the office, Miss Chris O'Connell (Limerick) has completed her three-year term of office. No changes are expected in the other positions.

Judging from the provincial Conventions, Congress will have a satisfactory Jubilee Year to review. Particularly effective was the inter-club championship for the Jubilee Cup and I shall not be at all surprised if the delegates decide to continue this competition, even in a modified form—the big problem is, of course, finance. The clubs that reached the closing stages of this competition last season had to dig very deeply indeed into their own resources, and that aspect of affairs would need to be very carefully considered.

Indeed the whole problem of finance is one to which the Congress delegates might profitably devote a fair share of their time. The Association has battled along very creditably on a very meagre budget for some good few years past, but the problem of increased expenses must be fairly and squarely faced.

I know that the Camogie Association has always stood on its own feet and is justifiably proud of the fact but it does seem to me that, with the G.A.A. sparing no expense in its efforts to revive hurling, a very good case can be made for the granting by the G.A.A. of an annual sum of say £500 to the camogie Association out of the hurling budget. After all camogie has kept the interest in the caman game alive in areas where otherwise hurling would be entirely dead and money invested in the promotion of camogie would be money invested in the future of hurling too, since the promotion of hurling must surely be far easier in families where camogie players are already to be found, and after

all the camogie players of to-day are the mothers of the hurlers of to-morrow.

Think it over, Congress delegates.

ASHBOURNE CUP

Having seen some mediocre Ashbourne Cup competitions in recent years I was delighted with the standard of play in the recent inter-varsity series at Belfast. The winners, University College Cork, fielded one of the best teams I have seen win this competition for many years, and yet they only beat Galway by a point and were very hard-pressed indeed by Dublin for long periods in the final.

The only disturbing factor that struck me about the series was the fact that the home side, Queen's University, had neither the skill nor the enthusiasm that marked some of their efforts to win this trophy in recent years. They had some difficulty in fielding a side on the opening day, and one felt that but for the advice and encouragement and enthusiasm of Maeve Gilroy they would have scarcely made the grade at all.

WESTMEATH

One is always glad to welcome energy and enthusiasm to the Association and in this respect I must give full marks to the officers of the Westmeath Board. They faced in their first year of office difficulties that were entirely beyond the normal. They were through no fault of their own involved even if indirectly in publicity that was most unwelcome and they took it all in their stride and went on with their work.

The Secretary's annual report was a very model of what such reports should be and the motions passed at the County Convention which strive to ensure that camogie affairs should remain under the control of those directly concerned were admirable. Molaim sibh go léir.

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THE ANNUAL PARLIAMENT OF THE GAELS...

By MOONDHARRIG

CONGRESS, the great annual gathering of the G.A.A. has many a memory for those of us who have seen many Congresses in our time, and if Congresses nowadays are less lively than they used to be, they are none the less of tremendous interest not only through the length and breadth of Ireland but far beyond the seas.

There were many lively Conventions (as they were then known) right from the start of the Association. Due to the fact that the first meeting of all was held at Thurles a tradition quickly grew up that the Annual gathering be held there. The first annual meeting, in 1885, drew a good crowd, but the second in 1886 brought in such a gathering that Hayes's Hotel could no longer hold the crowds, who had to be accommodated elsewhere.

Then came 1887 and the famous struggle for control of the Association between what was known as the 'Fenian Wing' and the more moderate section. Stormy scenes were witnessed at the Thurles Courthouse where the Convention was held, and finally there was a break which led to a number of "moderate" delegates leaving and holding a rival meeting of their own.

Within a month or two, however, the Gaels were united again and a new Convention held, but the troubles of the Association were not over. The 1888 Congress, which was not held until early in 1889 almost saw the Association dissolved altogether but a few



● SEÁN Ó SIOCHÁIN . . . who, on Easter Saturday, presents his first report to Congress.

determined men decided to carry on despite all adversity. And certainly adversity came their way in abundance, for not too long afterwards the Parnell 'split' sundered the Association sadly and the number of delegates at some Conventions in the early 'Nineties was less than a score.

But the faithful few kept on working and within a matter of years great gatherings were again patronising the annual Congress housed often at that stage in the Confraternity Hall.

By the early Nineteen Hundreds the Convention was fully recognised as the most important event of the Gaelic year but there were those who maintained that Thurles, despite all its association's with the foundation of the G.A.A. was not

the most suitable spot for the annual 'stock-taking.' Delegates from the North and parts of the West maintained that the "Cradle Town" could not be worse situated from their point of view as far as travelling was concerned. Luke O'Toole, then and for many a year afterwards, General Secretary of the Association, held a like view.

Year after year Luke proposed that Congress be held elsewhere, an attitude that did not endear him to some Tipperary folk, and eventually he got his wish when it was decided that Congress be held in each province in turn, starting in Dublin. But what happened was that most delegates found that the ease in getting to Dublin and the facilities available there were so much of an improvement that at the end of the first Dublin Congress they passed a motion that Congress be held in Dublin in future and that rule has been adhered to ever since, with the exception of the Jubilee Year of 1934 when very fittingly the annual Parliament of the Gaels was moved back to its starting place in Thurles.

In Dublin the Congress has had various meeting places, the Round Room in the Mansion House, the Council Chamber in the City Hall, the old Council Room in Croke Park and, in later years of course, the Gresham Hotel.

Maybe I was more impressionable at that time, but I thought some of the best Congresses I ever attended were in the City Hall.

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● FROM PAGE 45

There the delegates were in closer proximity to one another than we find them at present, and somehow there was a more intimate atmosphere about the whole gathering.

I well remember the jokes that were cracked and drew laughter from the whole attendance. Nowadays with all the delegates seated on the one level it is very hard to hear at times what a speaker has to say and there is not the same cohesion to debates as there used to be.

And what great characters we used to have at Congress long ago. Johnny Leahy from Tipperary, Sean Oge Murphy from Cork, Sean McKeown from Antrim, Paddy McDonnell from Dublin, Tom Walshe from Kilkenny, and many another quick of tongue and wit, but always watchful of the best interests of the Association.

This Easter for the first time in forty years Congress will miss Pdraig O'Caomh. Before ever he became General Secretary "Paddy" had long been a driving force at Congress, and through all the years of his stewardship his guiding hand saw Congress through many a debate, especially those that tended to get out of hand. And what a happy memory it is now to recall the many friendly duels that "Paddy" had with some old friends among the delegates, indeed I can recall more than one lively passage of arms between himself and his successor as Cork County Secretary, the redoubtable Sean Oge.

Congress has always been a great gathering place for old friends. Indeed I still go down to the Gresham on an Easter Sunday morning to greet those among the delegates whom I have not seen since the previous year and who are, I hope, as glad to see me as I am to see them.

The Annual Congress! Long may it remain the focal point of the whole Gaelic year.

There's a clash of interests in the allocation of field grants

A CLASH of interests in the allocation of field grants is evident in many Southern counties and some genuine Gaels are worried that too much money is being spent on a few grounds, with very little help being given to the many club fields badly in need of essential amenities.

Those who favour the maximum development of the major venues use the argument that the provision of first class facilities will mean increased revenue which can in time be devoted to improve the lot of the smaller grounds, if only the latter will display a little patience.

The reply to this is that there appears no ceiling to the demands of the top centres, and that charges on these, including rates and bank

interest, will make such inroads on revenue that very little will be left for distribution to the club fields.

To put the matter in perspective it might be useful to have a look at the figures to the end of 1963, which are the last complete ones available at time of writing. We will examine each of the Munster counties in turn:

Clare—The total outside investment in fields in the Banner

County is £9,955. Of this sum £2,985 is in respect of Cusack Park, Ennis; £1,030 belongs to Father Murphy Memorial Park, Newmarket-on-Fergus. The balance of £5,940 is divided between fourteen remaining fields, an average of £250 each.

Cork—The Leaside county has collected a total of £21,108 from the Munster and Central Councils.

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● FROM PAGE 47

Of this £11,300 went to Cork Athletic Grounds, and the City Board got £1,500 for their venue. The balance of £8,308 apportioned between thirty-four centres gives an average of £245.

Kerry—Two Kingdom fields have received £11,240 of the £17,210 allocated to the county—Dick Fitzgerald Memorial Park, Kilarney, £8,300 and Austin Stack Park, Tralee, £2,940. This leaves £5,970 split-up over the remaining twenty-one club fields, giving an average investment of £285.

Limerick — The Shannonside county did best of all the Southern ones with a total of £38,246, of which £34,956 has been spent on development works at Limerick Gaelic Grounds. This left £3,290 stretched over nineteen club fields, or an average of £173 each, which is Munster's lowest.

Tipperary—The grounds in the Premier County gathered a total of £21,870, with five fields exceeding four figures: Thurles £12,400; Clonmel £1,400; McDonagh Memorial Park, Nenagh £1,300; Davin Park, Carrick-on-Suir £1,200 and Sean Treacy Memorial Park, Tipperary £1,000. Nineteen fields shared the balance of £4,570 and the average here is £241 each.

Waterford—The Decies picked up £10,850, of which Walsh Park, Waterford secured £7,495. That left £3,355 for the remaining eleven fields, or an average of £305 per field—the highest of the small fields of the province.

It was stated at one county Board meeting recently, where the matter was being discussed, that the Central Council gave grants of up to £200 towards purchase of grounds; £100 towards the cost of enclosing the grounds, and £100

towards the erection of dressing rooms.

With the Provincial Council also helping, one delegate made a good point when he suggested the clubs should be circularised, telling them what was to be had in the line of grants.

Not a bad idea at all, for it is fairly certain from the evidence and the discussions in different counties that the big bulk of the clubs are not aware of the assistance they can receive in the purchase and development of club grounds.

Every club should have a field of its own, and it might encourage many more to embark on such a project were a booklet provided giving information as to how the matter should be approached; suggestions for financing the scheme; plans for laying of grounds, levelling, enclosing, etc., with any other particulars that might be of assistance.

Many existing fields lack proper dressing accommodation, and committees in control should avail of the grants available to provide this very necessary amenity, which might be said, to be an absolute essential now, everywhere.

In this respect too, it would help materially were some standard plans drawn up to which clubs could have recourse, and select to suit their requirements. This would give us a certain uniformity, and ensure that the essentials would not be neglected. It would also mean that the best value would be got for the resources available. A club meeting room and showers should be included, but if this could not be immediately financed the plans should permit easy addition when circumstances allow.

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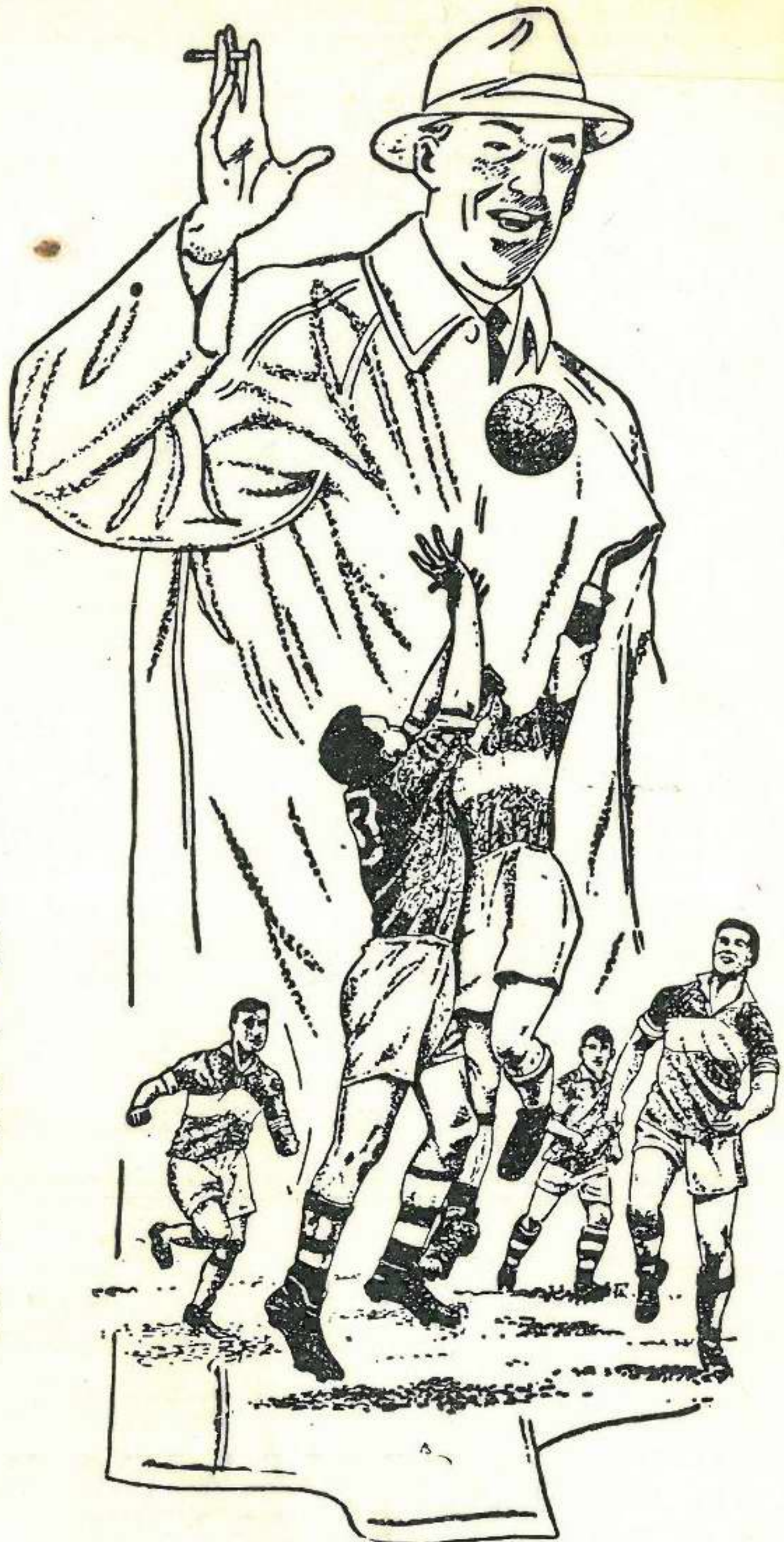
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SEMI-FINAL — JUNE 27th

FINAL—JULY 11th



Dunloe

WEATHERCOATS

at all events!

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