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GAA

Gaelic Sport

SEPTEMBER, 1965. Vol. 8, No. 9. TWO SHILLINGS (includes Turnover Tax)



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COMMENT

GALLANT WEXFORD!

HERE'S to gallant Wexford, who once again, when hurling most needed a new face, stepped into the breach. By doing so they have assured that Sunday, September 5, offers the prospect of yet another hurling classic.

Mind you, we are not suggesting that Kilkenny might not have provided an equal fare against formidable Tipperary, but what we are saying is that Wexford make it a much more attractive pairing.

Rightly or wrongly too many people had concluded that Kilkenny simply did not possess what is required to match the men from the Premier County. As a result hurling final day threatened to lack much of its usual public appeal.

But how things have changed now that Wexford are back. The memories of those great clashes with Tipperary during the mid-fifties and again in the early 'sixties have been revived and there is eager anticipation of yet another. This is how it should be on the eve of an All-Ireland final.

Yes, hurling in 1965 owes a considerable debt to gallant Wexford. They have already redeemed the championship and we confidently look to them, win or lose, to make the final a memorable one.

And they will too, for hurling deciders have long been their speciality.

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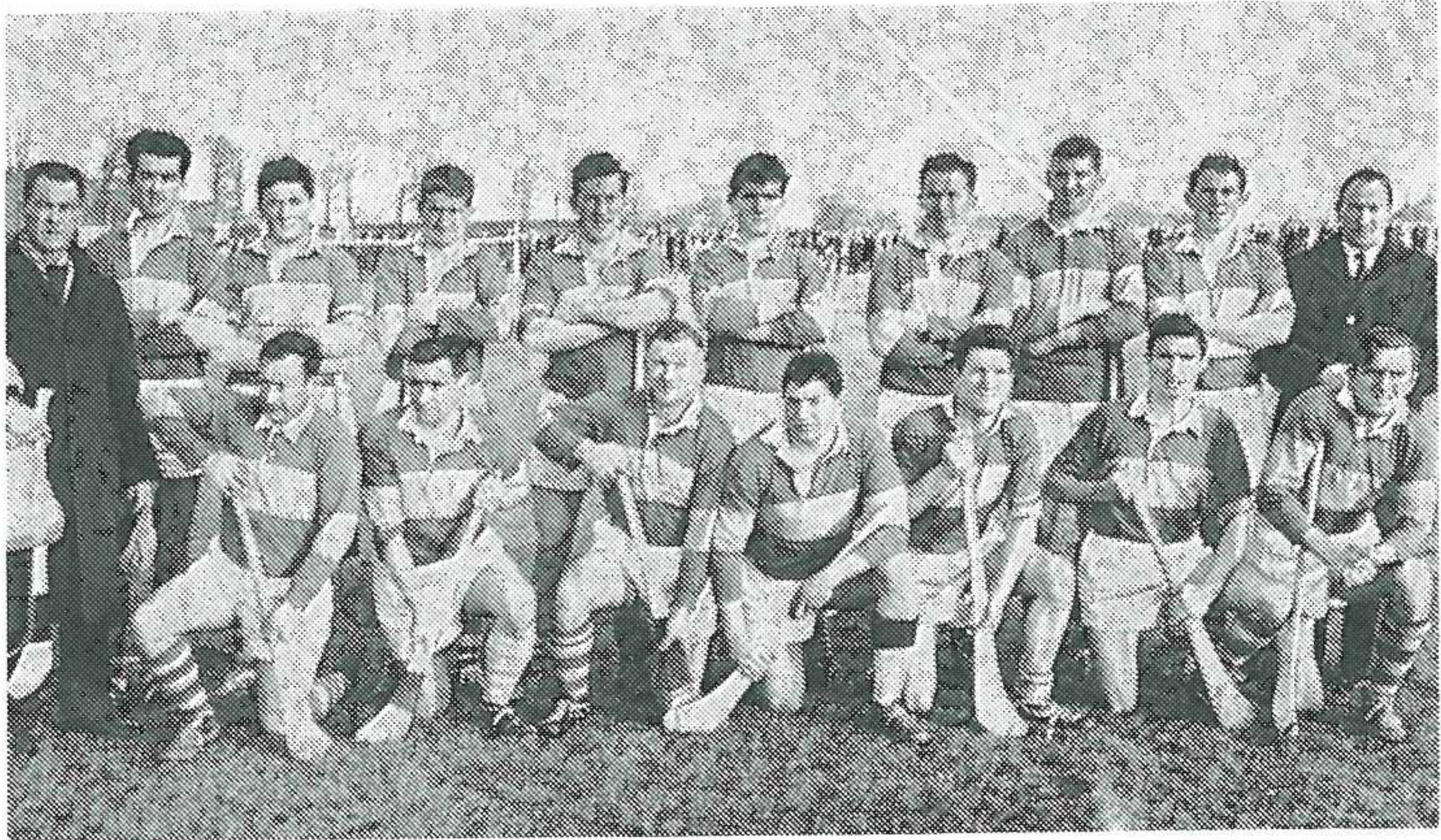
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CLOVER

Tipp are favourites...but remember what happened in 1960!



★ TIPPERARY . . . Wexford may have a surprise in store for the favourites.

EXCEPT for one clash in the late 'nineties, which has been forgotten about by everybody except the historians, Wexford and Tipperary had never met in a championship hurling game until the All-Ireland final of 1951. And, looking back on that game now, I do not think that any of us expected very much from it at the time.

Sure, we all said, Wexford will put up a good show, but Tipperary will be so far ahead of them at the end of the hour that these Slaneyside hurlers will never be heard of again.

Well, Tipperary won all right, and with a bit to spare, but so far from ending the hurling ambitions of the Wexfordmen, that defeat only spurred the boys from the

Slaney on to the great achievements of later days.

Through the next five or six years we had a number of matches in Croke Park between Wexford and Tipperary, but these games were all in the League, and, close though they all were, Tipperary always managed to win.

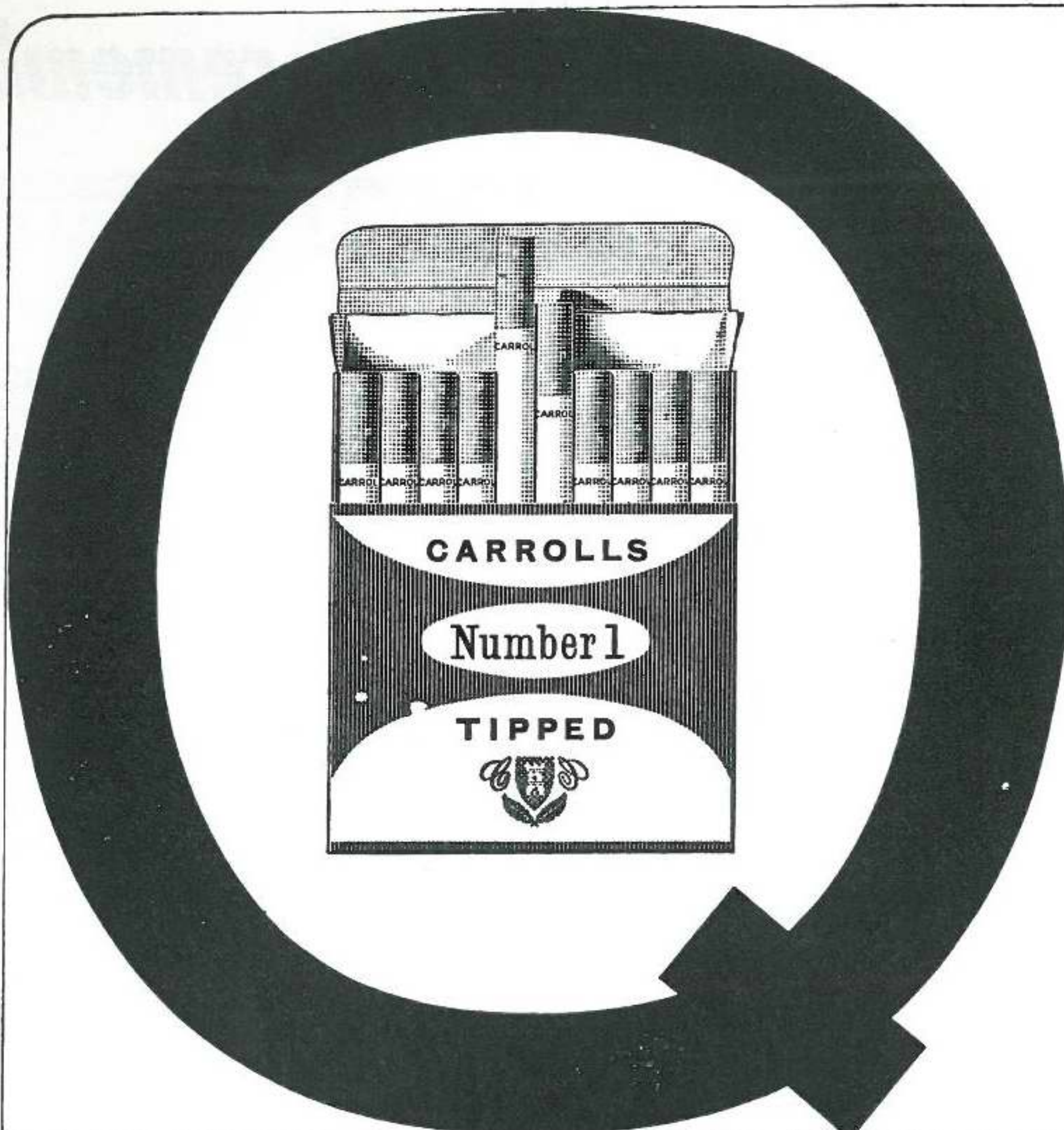
There was that thrilling encounter in which it was nip and tuck all the way, with Tipperary leading by three points, and the game gone into the last minute of playing time. Then with Wexford pressing, the men from the Slaney earned a 21-yard free. Out stepped big Nicky Rackard, and at

least half the Tipperary team lined the goal, determined to stop, by a wall of bone and muscle, if hurleys were not enough, the best effort of the powerful man from Killanne.

Of all the close frees that Nicky Rackard ever struck in his time the Big Fellow surely never hit a harder ball than he struck that day. Not alone did the leather fly to the net through that Tipperary wall of flesh and bone, but I often think they should still be thanking God that the sliothar did not hit any of them in its flight, for it went so hard it could have

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By MOONDHARRIG



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A red carpet for John Doyle

by JAY DRENNAN



SO the inevitable has happened. Tipperary are the Munster champions again, and for the 28th time. They encountered, in all seriousness, no real trial in their provincial campaign. The sad situation is, in the South at the moment, that there is only one team of class and quality to compare with the standards of a few years ago—that is Tipperary. Cork, Waterford, Clare, Limerick, Galway are nothing more than second class—indeed, I think any one of them do not rate higher than third class.

It was all so easy for the competent Tipperary in Limerick in the Munster final, just when Corkmen were hoping (for hope knows no logic) that this year, at last, they had a team to buckle into the best. Alas, for their hopes and for the reasonable desire of the rest of us to see Tipperary at least extended, so to give us some idea of how good they still are.

We do not know now any more than we knew before the throw-in in that final: Tipperary are good and very, *very* competent, but are they the hurling machine that they were last September. In other words, there was only vain hope that they might be overcome in

Munster, but now how will they fare against the Wexford champions?

I believe that Tipperary were not at all geared up to the maximum point of physical well-being for the Munster final; it no longer suits the men who play for Tipperary to try to reach the peak for every match. That was all right five or so years ago when they were in their early twenties, or even in their late twenties, but now many of them are growing old in



★ THEO ENGLISH . . . star in
a star-studded team

the hurling sense, and wisdom from long experience can make up in the earlier rounds for the regimen of training necessary for the top-pitch. They tone up for the earlier games, and they put it all in for the All-Ireland final. It brings these men with aging muscles to one super peak in the year—the ideal way, for they might not survive the effort, at this stage of their careers, of reaching peak for every game.

Yet, the remarkable thing is that people have been forecasting a falling off in the powers of the longest serving players for the last few years. Two years ago we thought we detected the beginning of the end. But last year they were better than ever, and this year, I feel sure, having watched them in the Munster final, they will not be far off last September's form when they reach Croke Park. And it would be folly, in the present state of things and in view of the power which Tipperary still show when they really set their sights on a game, to say other than that they will be the champions of All-Ireland again this time.

In the few places where men have fallen out by accident or re-

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The day King Billy saw

Wexford in action . . . ORANGE SASHES AND ALL!

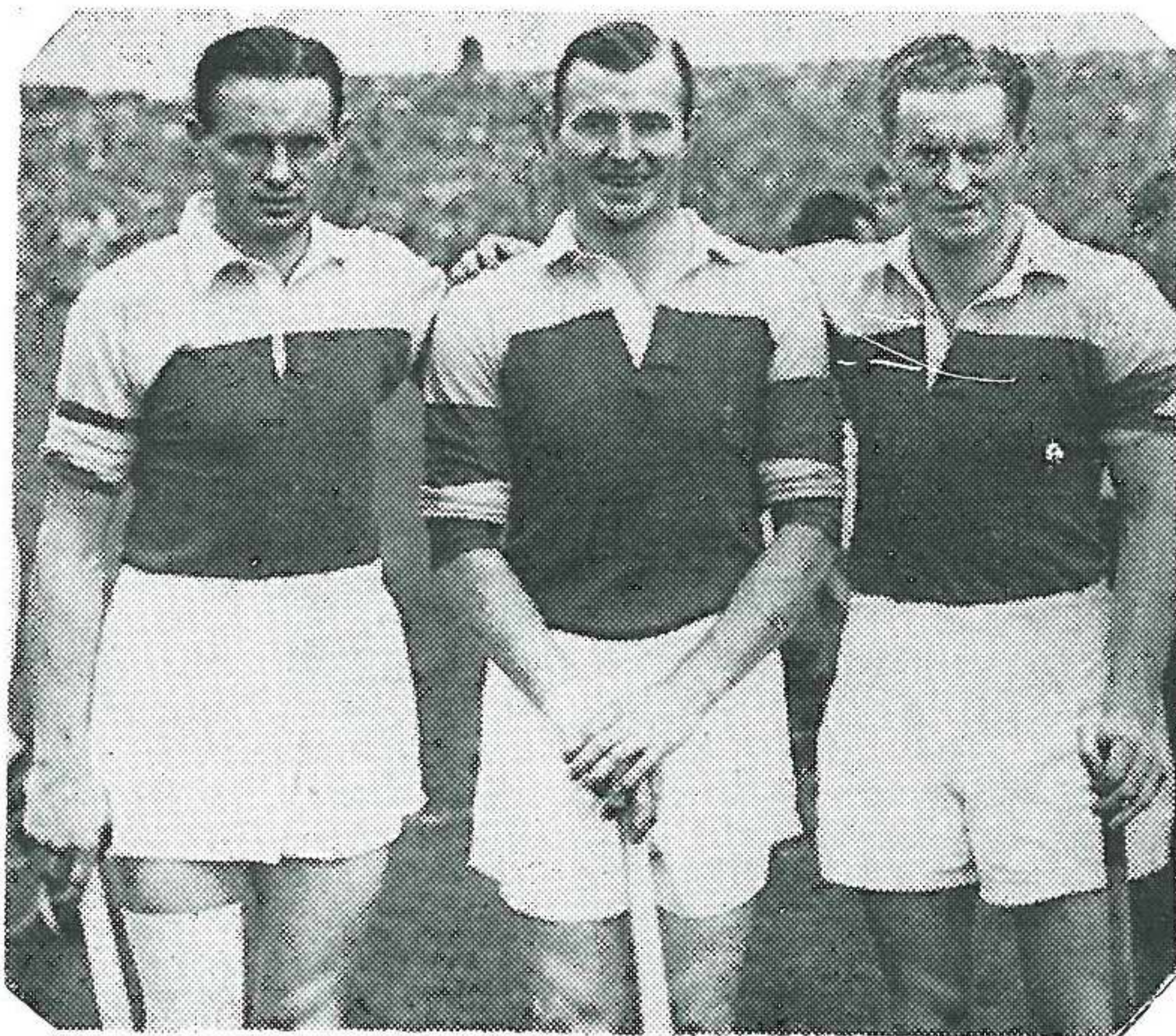
by *TERENCE ROYNANE*

THERE was a man one time in the Barony of Forth, and he was asked about the history of hurling in Wexford. He scratched his head and gave the matter some thought, and then came up with the profound answer, 'sure there was always hurling in the County Wexford.'

And certainly there was hurling throughout the County of Wexford as far as present-day records go. There was neither sight nor sound of the G.A.A. at the end of the seventeenth century, but they were hurling in Wexford then and Squire Colclough brought over a hurling team around that time to play the men of Cornwall.

Among the crowd who came to see them play was the man who had ousted Rí Seamus from the throne of England, and killed off a lot of good Irishmen in the process, Dutch William himself. They used to say that the Wexford men wore orange sashes that day in honour of King Billy, and were known as the "Yellow Bellies" for ever after, but there is no great truth in that legend, for Squire Colclough had adopted the orange colours as his own—I don't doubt but that he had his reasons—and that was why they wore those yellow sashes.

And don't think that those present Wexford colours are any heirloom from those days either. Sure it was Paddy Breen from Castlebridge, God be merciful to as good a President as the G.A.A. ever had, who brought the present colours to Slaneyside within living memory, and anyone who knows Dublin Gaeldom can tell you that



★ *FAMOUS WEXFORD TRIO . . . the Rackard brothers*

the present purple and gold ensemble of the Wexford men, which has won so much glory in recent years, is actually the copy-right of the Dublin Crokes. The Crokes wear the same jersey still, and have done so for the past sixty years.

And if anyone thought Wexford's hurling men owed any loyalty to the Orange, they proved to the contrary in Ninety-Eight from Arklow Town to Ros Mhic Treoin.

In the late eighteenth century hurling was to be found all over County Wexford, from the sources of the Slaney to the Saltees but

the hurling died in too many places with the pikemen, and by the time the Black Famine years were over hurling in Wexford was largely confined to the Over the Water Country, largely the South East corner, but there it was part of the daily round of life and the fame of Castlebridge has lived on from the days before the G.A.A.

One would have expected that Wexford, which gladly and eagerly marched into the ranks of the G.A.A. when Cusack and Davin first sent forth their clarion call, would have been in the hurling forefront from the earliest days of the Association, but such was

not the case, not for the want of talented hurling men, but rather for lack of organisation in the early days.

Sure through some misunderstanding it was twenty-one footballers who carried the camans for Wexford into the very first All-Ireland hurling championships, and no wonder they were beaten, though as you might expect they put up a very gallant fight.

A couple of years later Wexford did reach a hurling final, and to the astonishment of all concerned were leading the fancied Corkmen in the closing stages, when the Cork captain called his team from the field. The claim was that the game was too rough, and the Central Council, on which Wexford was not represented at the time, awarded the match to Cork by a single vote, the only occasion in the history of the G.A.A. when the team that were losing on the field were declared All-Ireland champions.

That event, needless to say cast a bit of a dampener on hurling in Wexford for a few years, but they came up again for a Croke Cup final, which in those days ranked second only to the championship.

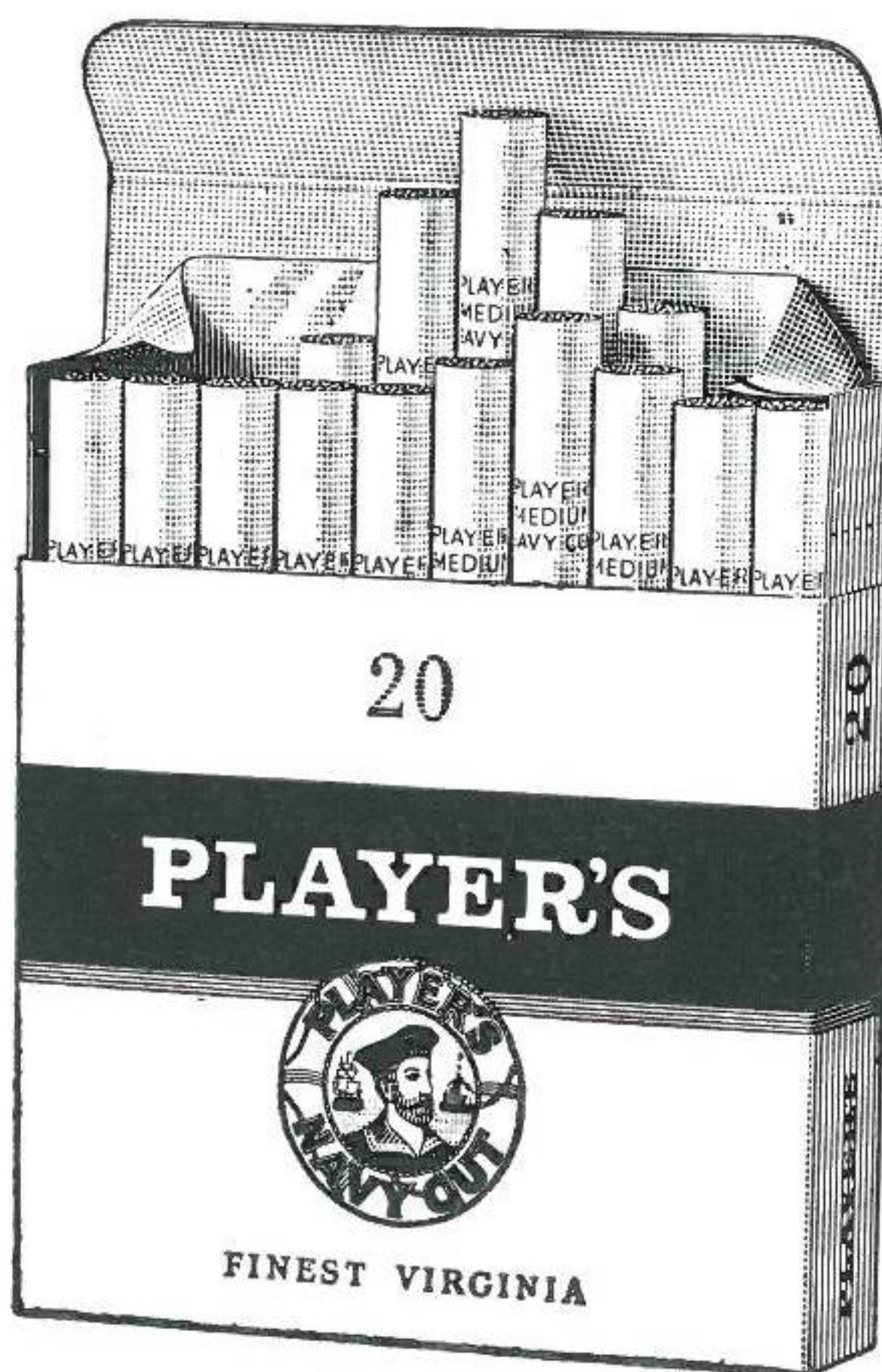
But they suffered a very bad defeat at the hands of Clare and also went down soon afterwards to Tipperary at Jones's Road. That day Wexford had to concede victory in the closing minutes to Mikey Maher's tearaway Tubberdora men for the very good reason that so many of the Wexfordmen had to retire injured that they had no further reserves to bring on.

But they came again at the start of the present century and reached the All-Ireland final once more only to go down to Cork in the home decider at Maurice Davin's field at Carrick-on-Suir.

Then came the rise of Kilkenny in Leinster and Wexford were more or less out of the limelight for the best part of a decade. True they did beat Kilkenny in one

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Only PLAYER'S please so much

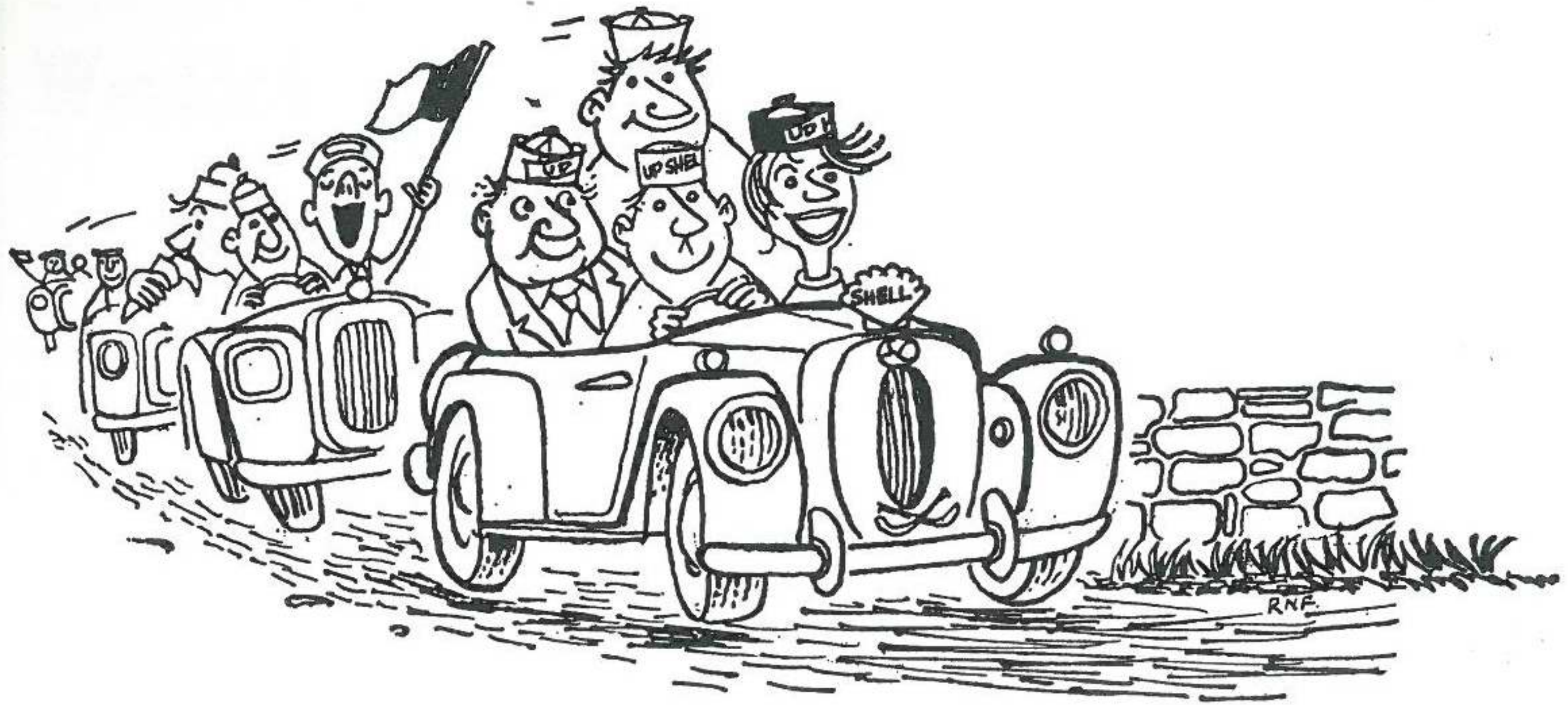


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JIMMY DOYLE

THE GOALKEEPER!

by OWEN McCANN

THE first All-Ireland minor hurling final was played in 1928, and featured Cork and Dublin. The match ended in a draw, 1-8 for the Leesiders to the Metropolitans 3-2—the only drawn decider so far. Cork won the replay 7-6 to 4-0.

So far 34 minor hurling finals have been played, the series being suspended from 1942 to 1944. Tipperary head the winners list with 12 titles won between 1930 and 1959. Cork and Kilkenny come next with seven crowns apiece. Cork's were won between 1928 and last year, and Kilkenny's between 1931 and 1962. Dublin won three titles from 1945 to 1954. Limerick, successes in 1940 and 1958, Waterford in 1929 and 1948 and Wexford in 1963 complete the Roll of Honour.

Other than the above seven counties only Meath (1929), Galway (1931-33-41-47-51-55-58), Laois (1934-64) and Antrim (1940) have appeared in minor finals.

Cork's 10-7 against Laois a year ago is the highest total by a winning team. Lowest is 1-6 for Dublin when beating Tipperary (0-7) in 1946. Highest score by a losing side was notched by Limerick in 1963 when they notched



JIMMY DOYLE

In goal . . . at first!

5-9 to Wexford's 6-12. Lowest by a losing team is 1-1 by Meath against Waterford (5-0) in 1929, and again 1-1 by Galway to Cork's 3-11 in 1941.

That 1929 Waterford win leaves them as the only county to win a final without scoring a single point. The only other year in which a team failed to score a single point was in the 1928 replay, when Dublin scored those four goals in losing to Cork.

The trophy for the All-Ireland minor hurling championship is the

"Irish Press" Cup. This was first put up for the series in 1949, and Tipperary were the first winners.

Tipperary also have the distinction of boasting the hurler with the most All-Ireland minor final appearances — dynamic Jimmy Doyle. This now elusive and top-scoring forward made his first appearance in a final—as goalkeeper! That was in 1954, when Tipperary lost to Dublin.

A year later he was back again to star at right half forward in a win over Galway, and in 1956 he was again right half forward on the side that beat Kilkenny. Medal number three came in 1957, when he figured at left half forward on the team that again thwarted Kilkenny. Also on the 1957 side, and one of his team-mates was brother Paddy, who filled the right full-forward berth. That was the last championship winning side the Doyle brothers figured in together until last month's Munster final win over Cork.

That game was Paddy's only appearance in an All-Ireland minor title winning side, and he has still to gain a senior medal. Jimmy, of course, holds four senior medals, and also captained Tipperary's 1962 title winning side.

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TIPPERARY have figured long and strong in the success story of the G.A.A. and it is a tribute to the Premier County that after more than eighty years they are greater than ever and now lead all others in the annals of All-Ireland hurling.

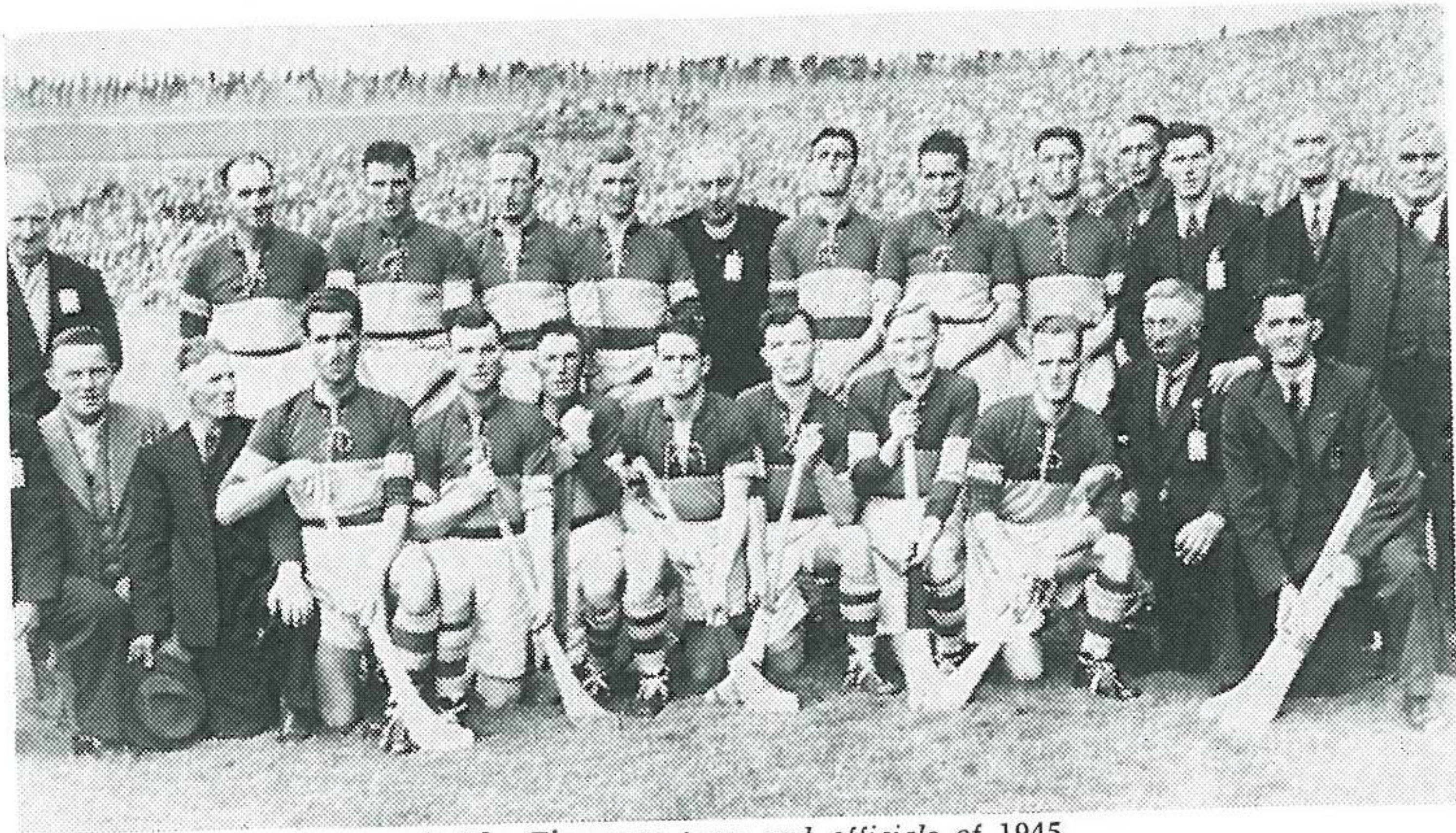
A Clareman, Michael Cusack, conceived the G.A.A. but it was born in Tipperary, and a Carrick-on-Suir man, Maurice Davin, was its first President. Maurice was one of the greatest athletes of his day and he quickly gathered to the Gaelic standard all the big figures of the arena, to inaugurate the most glorious spell athletics in Ireland has known — a period when the country forced world recognition by sheer dint of powerful performance and the smashing of many long-standing records.

The Archbishop of Cashel, Most Rev. Dr. Croke, in accepting the patronage of the G.A.A. wrote a letter that immediately became the charter of the Association, and it can truly be said that as long as he lived Dr. Croke had the interests of the G.A.A. very much at heart and helped in a pronounced way in getting it firmly established. His successors in the See of Cashel have all without exception followed the headline he so nobly set, and so we have an unbroken line linking Thurles and Tipperary with the Association.

Hurling in Tipperary was popular even before the establishment of the G.A.A. and we have much evidence to support this. In fact the lore of Mid-Tipperary includes a vivid description of a great game in Kilcooley almost two hundred years ago, the first recorded in history between Kilkenny and Tipperary, which the latter won amidst great rejoicing.

Scarcely had the news of the G.A.A.'s foundation spread than Moycarkey were travelling to Kilkenny to play Tullaroan in challenge games that were amongst the first inter-County contests

The Premier County led the way in Irish athletics



★ *The Tipperary team and officials of 1945*

by **SEAMUS O'CEALLAIGH**

under the banner of the new Association.

Tipperary men on field and track were pioneers of the new resurgence which gave Ireland fresh life and hope. The honour of having cradled the Association was consolidated in telling fashion when the first All-Ireland championships were announced and the men of Thurles, led by Jim Stapleton, fought their way to the initial Blue Riband decider, and on a memorable day at Birr beat the men from Galway to win the first-ever All-Ireland hurling title.

A Moycarkey man, Tom O'Grady, captained the team of hurlers and athletes that travelled

to America the following year on that courageous venture of the infant G.A.A. — the "Invasion," which included other Tipperary men in Pat Davin, Jim Stapleton, P. O'Donnell, J. O'Brien, T. Ryan and W. Prendergast.

That football also held strong sway in the Premier County in those early days was demonstrated in 1889 when Bohercrowe beat the champions of Laois to capture All-Ireland honours in that code. The name of Ryan has always been to the fore in Tipperary, and five of them figured that notable day with Bohercrowe.

Hurling and football developed hand in hand during the next

decade and twice (1895 and 1900) the county won both All-Ireland titles the same year—a feat no other county has ever equalled.

It was an unrivalled time for the hurlers and from practically the same area great teams like Tubberadora, Horse and Jockey, Boherlahan and Two-Mile Borris hit the headlines and Tipperary had the dazzling record of five hurling All-Irelands in six years, which rivals the seven won by the Kilkenny men in their golden years from 1904 to 1913.

With the Premier County Mike Maher won six All-Ireland medals and the Walsh brothers collected between them the grand total of sixteen.

Denis Walsh made his own record for length of service. He

● TO PAGE 43



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SPOTLIGHT

on 'Hopper' McGrath

by

SEAN O'DONNELL



THERE was tremendous excitement and joy in the Wexford dressing-room immediately after the Leinster final when I valiantly pursued my mission of gaining an interview with Oliver "Hopper" McGrath.

The Slaneysiders were back and most of Ireland shared in their joy. The interview went like this:

O'Donnell—How does it feel to be back in the All-Ireland final?

McGrath—It feels great. This victory will make the team. All we needed was confidence. Now we have it.

O'D.—To what do you attribute this victory over Kilkenny?

McG. — Well for a start we trained hard. Deep down most of us felt that with a little luck we would beat them. We had the luck. We also had the speed which mattered.

O'D.—How do you rate Wexford's chances against Tipperary?

McG. — Our chances are quite good following to-day's victory. We will be much faster than them and getting first to the ball is half the battle. I prefer not to make any

definite prediction but let's just say that we will shake them.

O'D. — Does Tipperary's great tradition bother you?

McG.—Not in the least. Remember we have a great tradition too. It was built-up in the last fifteen years but it is still a proud tradition.

O'D.—How do you train?

McG.—I play hurling all the year and this keeps me quite fit but before every major game I get in as much practice as possible — including working out on my own. Every sort of practice helps, including simply tapping the ball around and getting the "feel" of the stick.

O'D.—What game gave you your biggest thrill.

McG. — The 1960 All-Ireland final is one which comes quickly to mind but I think I got even more personal satisfaction from an Oireachtas game in which we drew with Tipperary. They beat us in the replay but the drawn game holds great memories for me. However, perhaps the 1965 final will top them all.

O'D.—Who were the most difficult opponents you have played on?

McG.—Tom Walsh of Kilkenny (that is Jim "Link" Walsh's brother) and Paddy Croke of Dublin—two difficult men to pass.

O'D.—Is corner-forward your favourite position?

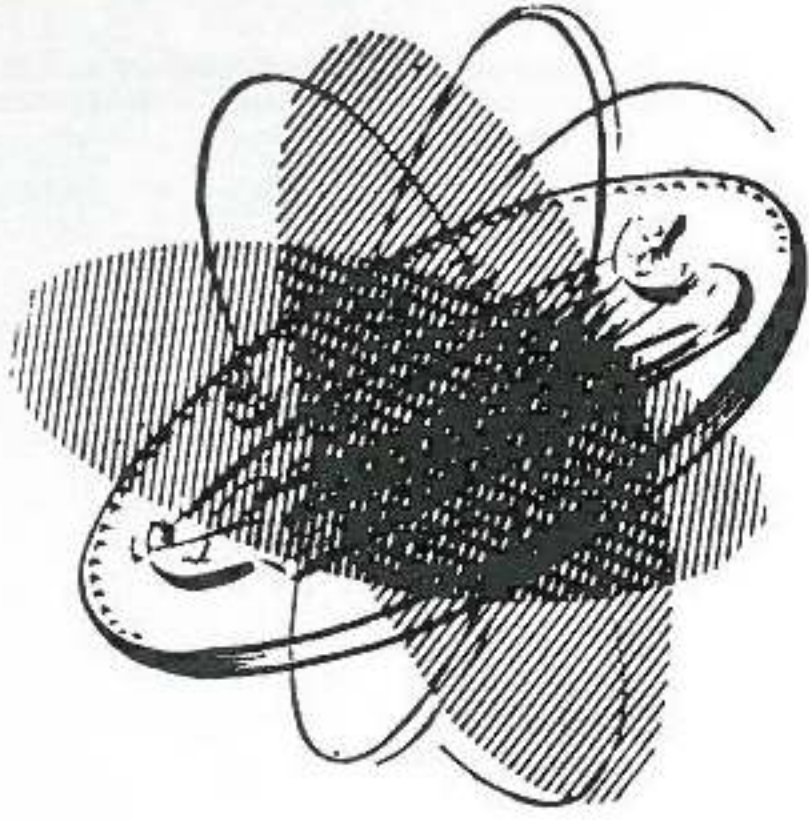
McG.—Actually it is not. I much prefer right half-forward. In the corner I have to shorten my stroke and this does not help my play.

O'D. — Are there any changes that you would like to see in the Rules?

McG.—Yes, I would like to see some system introduced which would eliminate petty fouling. There is far too much of this and it is not helping the game. I would be in favour of giving jurisdiction to umpires and linesmen—or even having a referee for each end of the field. I would also like to see the game extended to 90 minutes.

O'D.—One final question. Have you any other sporting interests?

McG. — Yes, I have racing pigeons and am very keen on this sport. I also keep greyhounds.



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PADDY FLANAGAN

FACE TO FACE

WITH

SEAN O'DONNELL

PADDY FLANAGAN of Westmeath has held an almost unique role in that he has been at the same time both County Secretary and a regular intercounty player. In more recent times his great ability has been devoted mainly to the former but on quite a number of occasions, when the county was short a defender, he has stepped in at short notice and given displays which always emphasise the fact that his retirement was very much premature.

However, it was not to Paddy Flanagan the player but to Flanagan the County Secretary that I recently spoke and here is how it went:—

O'Donnell—Are you satisfied with the displays given by the Westmeath footballers in this year's championship?

Flanagan—My feelings are mixed. I was satisfied with the fact that the team showed a good return to form and a definite promise for the future, but on the otherhand I was disappointed that we should once again have to be "the gallant losers". We have been filling this role too often and for too long.

O'D.—How about the general state of the games in Westmeath?

F.—All things considered, the position is satisfactory. We are a trifle over-loaded with competitions at present and this does not always help to raise standards, but I expect steps will be taken in the near future to remedy this.

O'D.—What do you consider to be the ideal approach to a championship game?

F.—Briefly, I feel that the panel of players for the game must be enthusiastic, dedicated and physically fit. The opposition should never be underestimated but neither should the importance of that particular game be over-emphasised. This leads to nervousness among players. Finally, I believe players should be encouraged to enjoy training for the game and then the game itself.

O'D.—You are opposed to what we might call specialised coaching. Why?

F.—I do not consider such an approach advisable unless every player has the same opportunity of availing of it. Furthermore, I feel that specialised coaching would be inclined to blot out individual and natural styles—which are very much part of Gaelic football.

O'D.—Are you in favour of collective training?

F.—I have very little experience of full-time collective training but I certainly favour the regular evening sessions when all the players are brought together. This is essential, not alone from a fitness point of view but also from the point of view of team spirit and comradeship.

O'D.—What do you consider to be the basis for a break-through into the big-time by a county?

F.—Talent—and this can only come from under-age competitions.

A county which nurtures its under-age and school competitions must eventually get somewhere.

O'D.—To what do you attribute Westmeath's improved form this year?

F.—To the infusion of new and young talent, coupled with the fact that now we have a number of consistent men like Mick Carley, J. J. Finneran, Fintan Costello, etc., who are most enthusiastic. The improved form of our minor teams over the past few years is, of course also reflected in the present senior team.

O'D.—Are you satisfied with the present progress of the Association?

F.—Generally speaking I am. But at the same time I am conscious of the fact that a great amount of work lies ahead if we are to hold the younger generation. We must aim at the best in modern facilities; more social activities are also required. All of these things need to be done while at the same time retaining that national spirit which has enthused generations down the years. This blending of the modern with the greatness of the past is a task worthy of the Association.

O'D.—How about the improvement of grounds in Co. Westmeath—is there much being done?

F.—Everything possible is being done. In Mullingar for example we recently erected first-class dressing-rooms, etc., and we are at the moment providing covered terracing for about 2,000 spectators.

Cork could have done with veteran Christy

LOOKING AROUND
WITH
BRIAN DOHERTY



THE Meath Hurling Board were recently confronted by the problem of what to do with £4-10-0 which had been collected in gate-money at Athboy. Two games had been fixed but neither of them were played. The gate-men were more than willing to give everybody back their shilling but the problem was that there were only 90 shillings while some 200 people wanted "their" shilling back. So the gate-men rightly held on to the money.

The Board accepted the suggestion of Secretary, Brian Smith, who recommended that the money be given to a player injured in a recent tournament game. There it ended.

However, while this little event is of no importance it does underline two often overlooked points—firstly the duty which boards have to their public and secondly the thankless work which is being done by the most forgotten G.A.A. men of all—gate-checkers.

I have not got the full facts in

relation to the two unplayed Meath games so I am not referring specifically to that county when I say that to invite the public to a venue and then leave them standing foolishly there with nothing happening is about the most irresponsible thing which can be done in the context of the G.A.A.

The Association has a tremendous responsibility to its loyal public. However, loyalty, like affection, can grow cold and die if abused.

The Association has always been well conscious of this. That is why there are rules in the book which deal harshly with teams who fail to turn-up.

These rules must always be applied without hesitation or any form of compassion.

And now to the gate-men. Just think of the unenviable position those men at Athboy were placed in when those games were not played. They could not give the money back because too many people were claiming it. Instead

they had to take all the abuse which no doubt was hurled at them.

Gate-men throughout the country play a vital part in the workings of the G.A.A. Still I have yet to see in print a word of praise of them.

So let us now and then share a thought for these men and remember that they are the un-sung workers of the Association.

THE RIGHT CHOICE ?

Were Tipperary and Cork right in picking Limerick for the Munster hurling final? Killarney too was keen on staging the game and at the meeting of the Munster Council which decided the venue, Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan made a strong case for Killarney and pointed out how playing the final there would greatly help the hurling revival in Kerry.

However, when it came to a vote, Killarney had but three supporters as against twelve for Limerick.

Personally, I would have voted for Killarney.

And talking of the Munster final, could Cork not have done with Christy Ring? Veteran though he may be, he would certainly have been a great improvement on any of the Cork forwards seen in action.

It strikes me that Ring was quietly forced out long before his time. His form in New York earlier this year showed that he still has plenty of hurling left in him—more than any of the Cork forwards seen in the Munster final will ever have.

Not mind you that I would have enjoyed watching Christy sharing in so pitiful a defeat. But certainly on merit he is still entitled to a place on the current Cork side—that is if he wants it.

NO HURLERS

John Mitchels have won much fame in recent years as Kerry's premier club but there was little glory in the recent news that they could not field a minor hurling team. They notified the County Board well in advance but no thanks to them.

There is no excuse at all for so prominent a club not being able to organise a minor hurling team—especially in this year of hurling revival. A black mark here surely.

ADULTS ?

And another black mark against those responsible for what happened at the Carrickmacross-Ballybay under-16 game some while back at Ballybay.

A flare-up between the youngsters resulted in adults on the sideline rushing in to join sides. Did you ever hear of anything so silly? And they talk of good example.

I have yet to hear of any suspensions as a result of this behaviour.

IN BRIEF . . .

Bernie O'Callaghan scored all of Moyvane's 1-8 in their recent North Kerry League Cup final against Listowel. Final score was 1-8 to 0-7.

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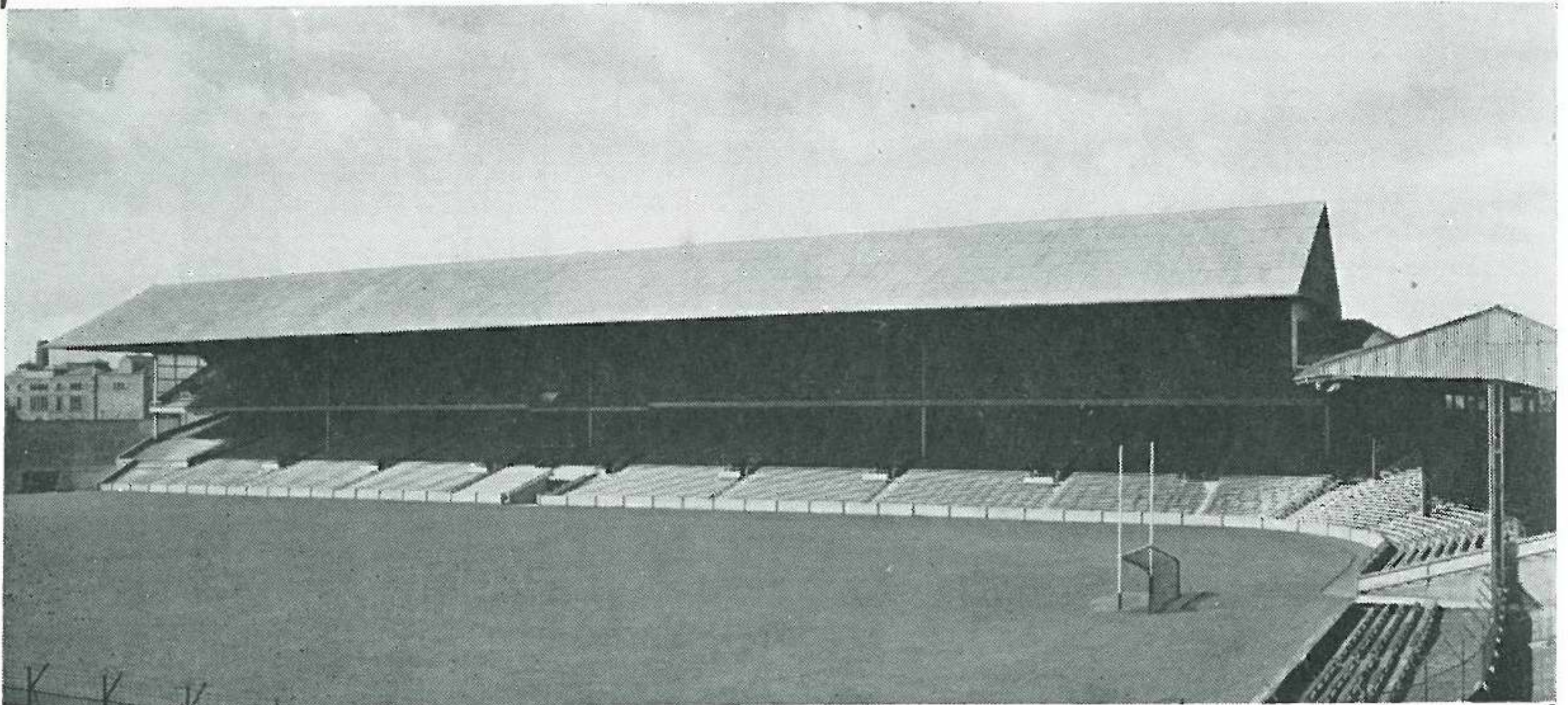
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The day we hung out the crepe . . .

by
EAMONN YOUNG

IF a defeat is tragedy then that day in Limerick was a downright disaster.

We don't mind being beaten by two goals or even three, but a six-goal hiding is hard to bear especially when it's only one more defeat in eleven successive championships.

Before that perfectly awful Munster senior hurling final against Tipperary, Corkmen were getting happier each day about the hurling revival by the Lee. Hard to blame us, for with an unknown team we had held a sound Waterford side and beaten them in the replay. What of it, if the margin was small, we had hopes of improvement when togged out against the old opponents. The side trained well under Jim Barry who is with the Cork hurlers since all except probably two were born. The selectors, Dan Coughlan, John Quirke, Alan Lotty, Billy Campbell and Billy Murphy had fifteen senior All-Irelands between them and were keener on the job than most committees in my memory.

We had high hopes. How low they were at five o'clock that evening. In fact at half-time when I spoke to Jim Brosnan, Barry Barrett and Charlie Conway the writing was on the wall for a blind man to see.

● TO PAGE 37



★ TONY WALL . . . one of the Tipperary stars.

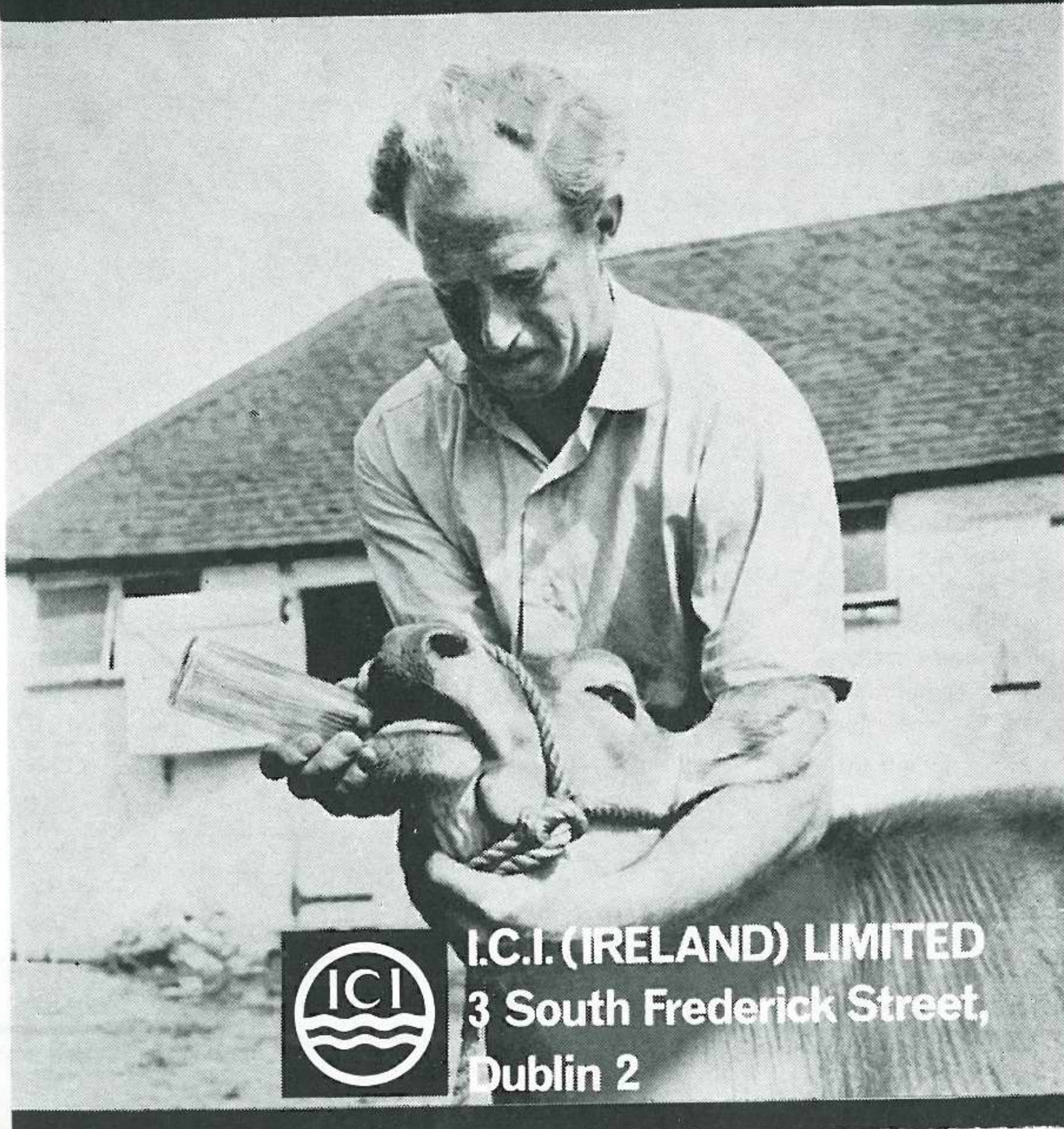
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Mar sinn féin tá an-aithne agam ar mhuintir Árainn go háirithe na hógfhir a chaith tréimhse san Airm le linn Ré na Práinne. Sa Chathlán Ghaolach i nGaillimh bhí fir ó ghach Gaeltacht sa sír agus deirim go raibh an Ghaeilge ab' fhearr ag muintir Árainn; Gaeilge binn blasta so-thuische, an-deifir ar fad idir í agus Gaeilge na mór-thíre a bhí ag muintir Chonmara, rud is deacair a thuigbheáil.

Fir scafanta a bhí, iontu agus leasainm ar gach duine acu beagnach—“Máirtín Mór”, “Leaidín Rua”, agus a leithéad. Is cuimhin liom gur thug roinnt acu iarracht ar pheil a chleachtadh ach nár éirigh go

rómhaith leo. Ní fhaca mé duine acu ariamh ag glacadh camán chuige.

Mar adúirt mé, bhí ionadh orm a chloisteáil go raibh cluiche peile ar oileán Inis Mór. Do réir an scéil is idir fóirne Inis Meán agus Inis Mór a bhí an cluiche. Bhí an páirc mór go leor ach bhí claonadh ón dá chúl isteach go lár na páirce ionas go raibh an bheirt cúlbaire ag stánadh ar a chéile thar cloigeanna-acha na himreoirí eile a bhí thíos sa log. Mar sin féin adeirtear, bhí an caighdeán an-árd, ní raibh gairbhe ar bith agus ag an críoch bhailigh muintir an dá oileáin le chéile, mór-thimpeall an bharráile, agus ba chuma sa tsíoc gur bhuaigh foireann Inis Mór.

Tá's ag gach duine gur cuid de Chontae na Gaillimhe na hoileáin seo agus má tharlaíonn go mbeidh peileadóir nó beirt thar an gcoiteann ann is le contae na Gaillimhe d'imreofar. Ba mhaith liom sin d'fheiceál-duine ó Oileán Árainn ionchurtha leis an tOileán-ach cliúteach eile úd Micheál Ó Conaill.

Ar an lámh eile dhe is maith le duine a shamhlú gur aonad ar leith iad na hoileáin seo agus go mbéad cead speisialta acu dul isteach sa chomórtas soisear i dtosach. Nó, go dtógfar páirc imeartha cuibhseach maith ar cheann de na hOileáin agus go mbeadh turasanna ar leith ann do chlubanna ó ghach áird den tír chun dul i ngleic leis na h-iascairí múinte. B'fhéidir go bhfoghlaimeoidís níos mó ná cúpla abairt Gaeilge.

Ní chleachtaítear iománaíocht ar na hoileáin, ní nach ionadh, mar níl crann ar bith ann; sceacha, ceart go leor ach crainn ní raibh. Ní fheadar an bhfásadh an crann fuinseoige ann? Caithfidh mé an leabhrán, curtha amach ag an gCumann Lúchleas Gael, a léamh arís féachaint an oireann an ithir gainimheach (agus síor-shéideadh na gaoithe!) don bhfuinseoig. Má oireann, féadfaí dhá fhadhb a réiteach, eadhon, fothain is dídean a sholáthar ar na hoileáin scéirdiúil seo agus deis a thabhairt dá muintir iomáint agus camógaíocht a chleachtadh.

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by

Seamus

O Ceallaigh

THE big Munster days are over for 1965 and on the whole it proved a disappointing year. The worst game in the senior hurling championships was the final—Cork flopped badly and Tipperary had not to show their full power.

The question now is how long are these same Tipperary men to continue ruling the Munster roost. Truth to tell there is nothing in sight at the moment to oust them, and John Doyle may not only equal Christy's grand record this year but surpass it in 1966. At least that's the way things look just now.

Cork badly disappointed their supporters, and what great crowds marched behind their banner, all yearning for the thrills that never came. They got bad value for all their trouble and never the opportunity of really stretching their lungs.

Limerick look like the county that will eventually replace the Blue and Gold as Munster champions. Quietly, but very steadily Father Gerard McNamee (nephew of former G.A.A. President, Padraic McNamee) and his co-selectors, have been replacing the Premier County as dangerous challengers for the minor crown, and their victory again this year suggests a growing strength that could manifest itself in higher ranks in the not too distant future.

LIMERICK FOOTBALLERS

Limerick senior footballers emerged out of the blue this year to give Kerry their greatest fright in a Munster final for many seasons. Playing in the senior

HOW LONG CAN TIPPERARY RULE THE ROOST?

MUNSTER MEDLEY

championships for the first time in over quarter of a century, the Shannonsiders had on their selection ten of the players whom Kerry had beaten 2-6 to 0-2 in the opening round of the 1964 Munster junior championship.

That did not look promising material for a serious bid at the senior crown. Spirit and determination worked wonders, however, and Waterford and Cork fell before the earnest endeavour of the Limerickmen, who then faced Kerry in the provincial decider.

The "Kerryman" commenting on that match said: "Taken all round it was a game that gave great value for money, for we saw both teams hit purple patches at different times. Regarded by most as mere intruders in the provincial final, Limerick hammered home two shock goals early in the first half and for the rest of the period gave Kerry a football lesson. Kerry were a very worried team at the interval. Prompt changes were needed and needed badly. These changes were duly made and we saw vintage football from the champions in the second half."

Another writer in the same paper said: "When the referee blew the half-time whistle the Kerryman next to me heaved a great sigh of relief and exclaimed 'My God, I hope I never have to go through a half hour like that again.'"

Other teams and counties could take example from these Limerick footballers who came almost out of nowhere to make such an



JOHN DOYLE
Overtaking Christy?

impact in this final. Only twice in the seventy-eight Munster finals did a losing side make a bigger score. The same is true of the All-Ireland scene, for Cork (3-7) in 1956 and Offaly (2-8) in 1961 are the only losing sides to exceed their 2-7 tally in the long story of the championships. Limerick scored 2-4 against the same Kerry men in the League group decider, so the Shannonsiders are a football side to watch.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The Munster senior football club championship was an outstanding success and produced some tip-top games and not a few surprises.

Shannon Rangers captured the first crown for Kerry, but Cooraclare made a great final of it and were convinced after the game that only for bad weather conditions the result would have been different.

An interested spectator at the recent Munster hurling final was ninety-three-year-old E. Ryan of Cashel, the only surviving member of the Tubberadora team of 1888.

THE LATE DENIS MORAN

The untimely death of Kerry-born Denis Moran, at Ballybunion recently robbed Gaeldom of one of its greatest workers—a man who never spared himself in any worthwhile cause.

As chairman of the inter-firm league and vice-president of the Young Irelands hurling and Limerick Commercial football clubs he rendered trojan service but it was as an organiser of big charity games he really made his mark, and a few Galway-Kerry promotions helped to re-awaken football interest in Limerick besides providing valuable financial assistance for the Limerick Diocesan College Fund and the Redemptorist Retreat House.

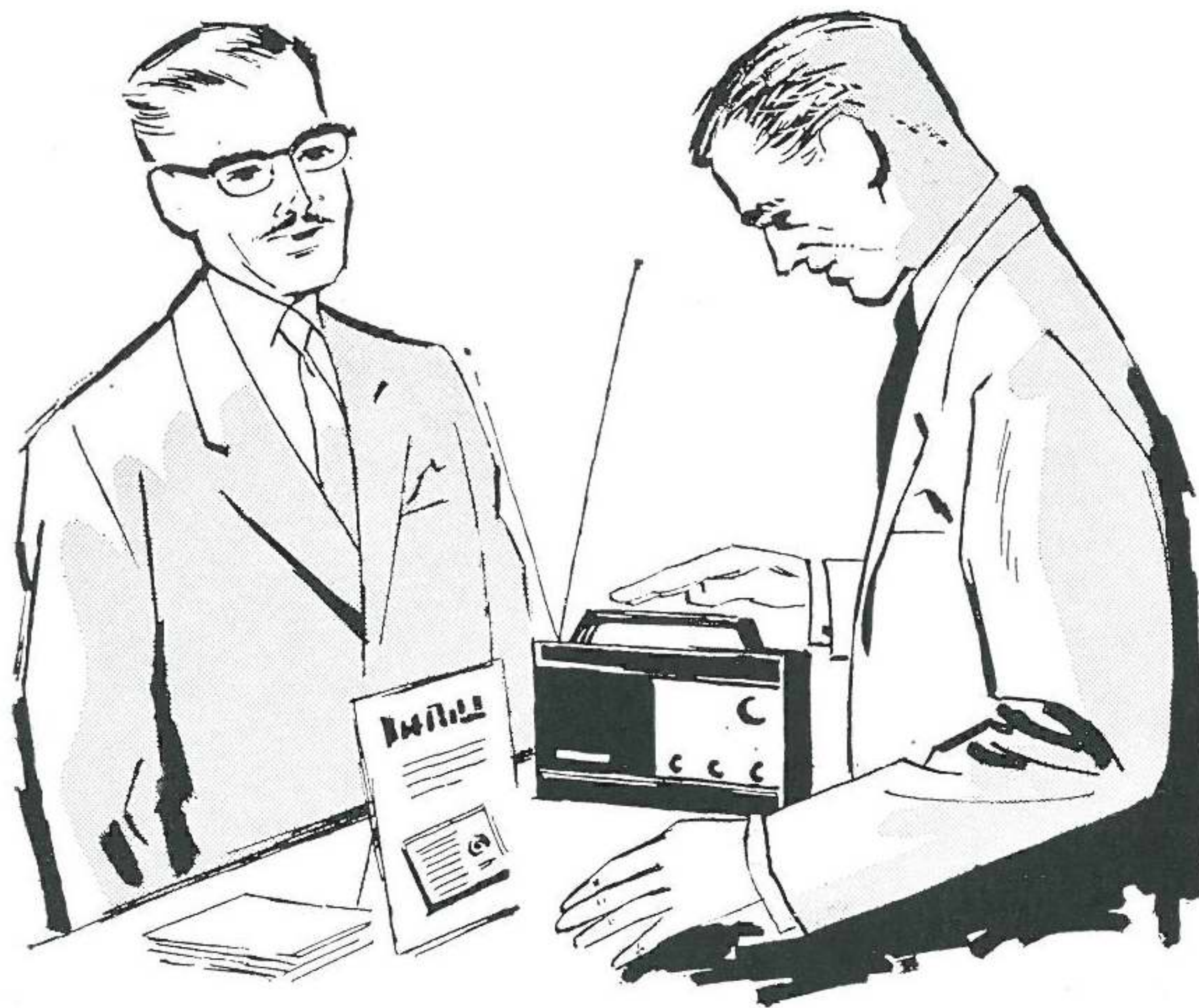
A very successful business man with valuable interests in Limerick and Tralee, he gave unselfishly to every good cause, and his passing creates a void that will not easily be filled.

* * *

Congratulations to Waterford

● TO PAGE 30

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TOP TEN

THIS month's Top Ten lists are based on intercounty performances from Sunday, July 11 to Sunday, August 1, inclusive.

John Donnellan tops the football list by virtue of his great display in the Connacht final, while in second place is Limerick's versatile, Bernie Hartigan. Another Limerick footballer cum hurler, Mick Tynan, also figures on the football list.

In hurling, Wexford midfielder, Phil Wilson, heads the list and is followed by fellow-countyman Vin Staples.

FOOTBALL

1. John Donnellan (Galway).
2. Bernie Hartigan (Limerick).
3. Matty McDonagh (Galway).
4. Danny McHugh (Sligo).
5. Joe Lennon (Down).
6. Jackie Devine (Longford).
7. Mick Durkan (Sligo).
8. Mick Tynan (Limerick).
9. Denis O'Sullivan (Kerry).
10. Paddy Doherty (Down).

HURLING

1. Phil Wilson (Wexford).
2. Vin Staples (Wexford).
3. Tony Wall (Tipperary).
4. Len Gaynor (Tipperary).
5. Dan Quigley (Wexford).
6. Denis O'Riordan (Cork).
7. Tom Neville (Wexford).
8. Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny).
9. Martin Coogan (Kilkenny).
10. Dick Shannon (Wexford).



★ JOHN DONNELLAN



★ TOM NEVILLE



★ PADDY DOHERTY

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IT'S OLLIE AGAIN!



★ OLLIE WALSH . . . the scoring wizard. See "Ollie Again".



by FRANK HUGHES

WEXFORD carry the Leinster banner into the All-Ireland final and they are worthy of the honour. However, let us spare a thought for a moment for Kilkenny who prior to the Leinster final were generally regarded as firm favourites to qualify for yet another shot at Tipperary.

The men in Black and Amber certainly had their share of ill luck. Like many others I too would have sworn that the point which never was in the last minute should have

been, and thus feel that a draw would have been the correct result.

Then too Kilkenny were under-strength — furthermore having played against a reasonably strong breeze in the first half, they had to play the second half with no such advantage for not a flag moved after the interval.

However, despite all of this most of the blame must be laid at Kilkenny's own door. There is no

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MUNSTER MEDLEY

● FROM PAGE 25

county and Mount Sion hurler, Mick Flannelly on his recent marriage to Miss Patricia Brennan. Mick is son of the late Matt Flannelly, a former Mayo All-Ireland footballer who also won many trophies at handball, in the early days of G.A.A. control.

* * *

Munster hurling enthusiasts missed the familiar figure of Paddy Leahy from the recent provincial final. He was in hospital at the time but hopes are high that he will be back as Tipperary sideline adviser-in-chief for the All-Ireland final.

The official programmes for both Munster senior finals were splendid productions and contained many items of very great interest. At least two unofficial programmes were on sale on both occasions and patrons should be on their guard against such.

The very go-ahead Ballylongford Field Committee, who already boast a first-class playing pitch, plan to become the first club-field in Kerry with proper dressing-rooms and hot and cold showers. The exiles contributed 600 dollars towards the project, which was recently handed over by Donal

Finucane of Kilcolgan, Chairman of the New York fund-raising committee.

* * *

We all knew the late Frank Ryan of Tallow as the golden-voiced tenor, but Gaels also remember him as a great Waterford supporter, a former hurler and club official with Tallow, Chairman of the West Waterford Board and a selector of county teams of thirty years ago.

* * *

The Cork County Board has elected a new senior football selection committee, who will hold office for two years. The members are: P. A. Murphy, County Board Chairman; Eamonn Young, Miah Murphy (Dromtarriffe), Thady O'Regan (Clonakilty) and a fifth member to be appointed by the county senior football champions.

* * *

Former G.A.A. President, M. V. O'Donoghue, has retired after over forty years teaching service on the staff of the Christian Brothers Schools at Lismore.

* * *

Rev. Daniel O'Connell, recently ordained to the priesthood in Westminster Cathedral, London, was a former prominent member of the Skelligs Rangers football club, Portmagee.

* * *

Rev. Donal Stritch, Chairman of the Leeds G.A.A. and President of the Yorkshire County Board, received many congratulatory messages and gifts on the occasion of his silver jubilee. He is a native of Ballyheigue.

* * *

Six O'Brien brothers — John, Paddy, Eamonn, Matt, Mossie and Michael of Ballinacourty, are currently playing on the Glenroe junior hurling team in the South Limerick Championships.

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LEINSTER ROUND-UP

● FROM PAGE 29

doubt at all but that they took the field under the impression that Wexford were a "push-over".

They simply jogged along for most of the game feeling that they had it all wrapped-up. Then suddenly it was too late.

The Kilkenny forwards once again were most at fault. They played into Wexford's hands by not moving out and opening-up play. Instead they stood shoulder to shoulder with bigger and stronger men—and paid the price.

One cannot help feeling that had Kilkenny won they would have opted for the very same tactics against Tipperary and as a result would once again have been well beaten.

Yes, Kilkenny had more than their share of hard luck in the Leinster final but thanks to it we are going to have a much better final than we might have had.

OLLIE AGAIN

Remember how in last month's issue I reported on Ollie Walsh's performance as a forward with Thomastown in the Kilkenny senior championship. He had just scored a personal tally of 6-2 against Slieverue. Well since then he has done it again—2-1 out of a Thomastown total of 3-5 in their championship win over Glenmore.

In these two games Ollie has scored a total of 8-3 as against 2-10 for team-mate Tom Walsh.

Perhaps the Kilkenny selectors should have switched them in the Leinster final. With Ollie down front the forwards certainly could not have been any worse than they were.

PAT COLLIER

An familiar figure in an unusual setting was "Red" Collier at the Louth-Meath O'Byrne Cup game at

Drogheda a few weeks back. Pat was in fact an umpire and what was more he came on as a substitute when the referee found that one of the appointed umpires was missing. Collier, who was having a day off from the Meath team, stepped in to take over the flag.



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Get sense, Sligo —the rules can't be bent

THE Sligo County Board did not do themselves any great credit in "signing on" David Pugh, a professional soccer player, shortly before the Connacht final. At one point it appeared certain that they were going to play him at full forward. However, they did not. In fact he was not included among the official list of substitutes.

Whose idea it was to produce Pugh and have his G.A.A. membership rushed through in a most unusual fashion, is not clear at this point—although I have a good idea. Had he been played and Sligo won, I doubt very much if on principle Galway could have refrained from objecting.

Sligo have a promising young team capable of coming out of Connacht next year. Meanwhile let us hope that those members, who think that G.A.A. rules are meant to be pushed aside or bent, get some sense.

As well as bringing their county into disrepute they showed a poor knowledge of football in thinking

that a soccer player had something worthwhile to contribute to Gaelic football—and against Noel Tierney at that.

CARRICK-ON-SHANNON

The go-ahead committee which two years ago took on the task of developing Pairc Mac Diarmada at Carrick-on-Shannon is now busily engaged in further improvements. Modern dressing-rooms with every facility are being erected as is also a special press-box with an upstairs equipped for television and radio coverage.

Great work this by a committee which is due every praise. The new park is a credit to them and to Leitrim. Rightly too the Connacht Council has given the new venue a good share of top games. With these extra facilities there will probably be even more fixed for there.

PAT CLARKE

Heartiest congratulations to star Roscommon minor Pat Clarke who at the time of writing is about to

contest his second All-Ireland semi-final in the space of a few days. Full back on the county minor football team, and indeed its strongest defensive link, Pat also qualified for the All-Ireland handball minor semi-final.

PENPOINT

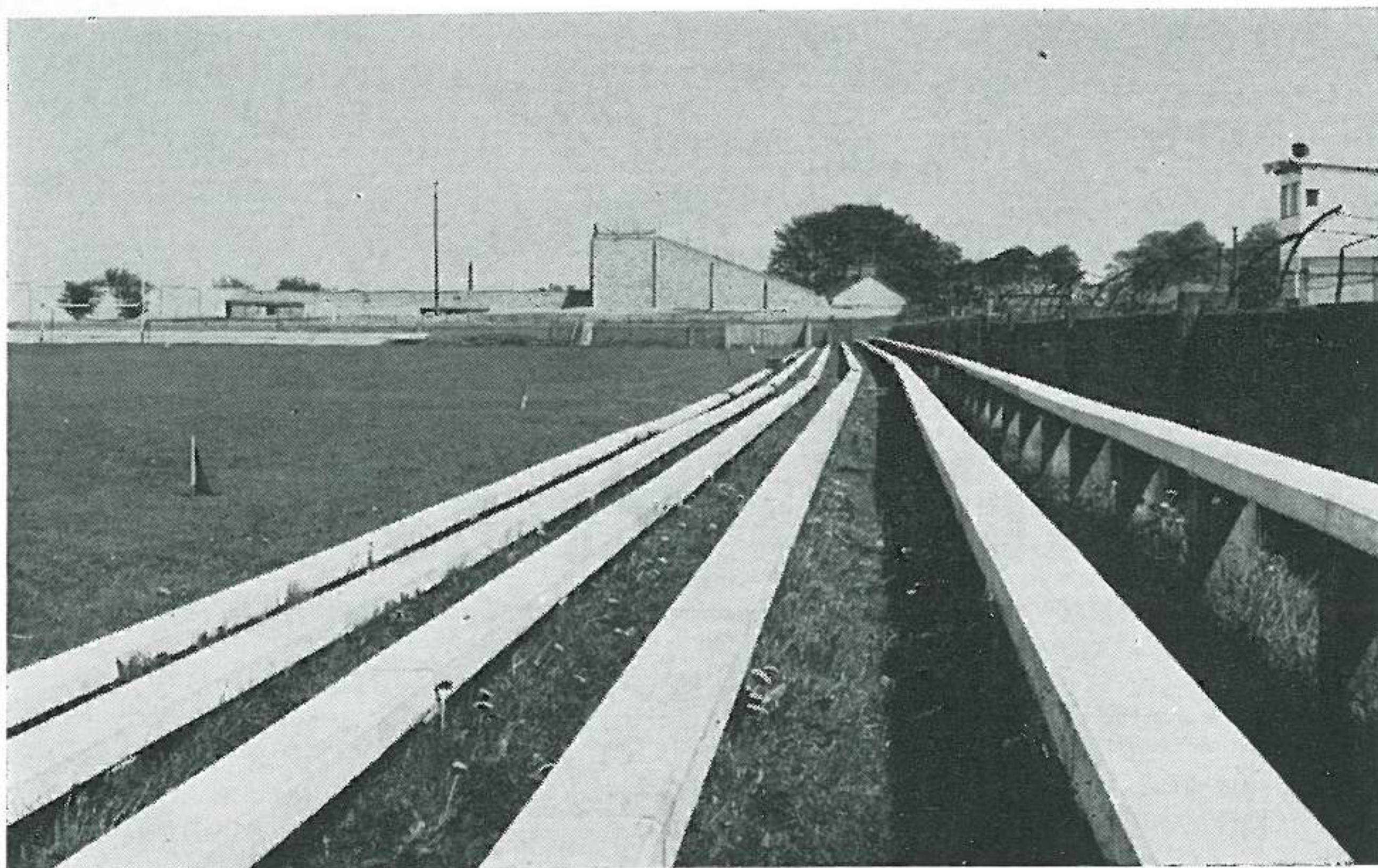
A Chara—I always knew that Corkmen were good at making excuses but Eamonn Young tops them all. I have been reading his series of articles on the Cork football team of 1956-57 and the only thing which he overlooked was the fact that they were a very mediocre team with an awkward, ungainly style who never had the ability to win an All-Ireland title.

Incidentally elsewhere the same writer stated that Cavan beat Cork by only a lucky point in the 1949 semi-final. The final score that day was Cavan 1-9; Cork 2-3. There was nothing lucky about that verdict.

MEMORY-MAN

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ARMAGH'S GLORIOUS YEARS

by JOHN O. GRANT

FOOTBALL is at present in the doldrums in the county. One doesn't have to search for long to find proof for this statement. In the past couple of years Armagh has suffered defeat after defeat with monotonous regularity in all grades of intercounty competition. On the odd occasion that hopes are raised by victory, they are inevitably crushed the next time the team lines out. The situation has proved critical enough to prompt County Chairman, Dan McAreavey, to call a series of "special" meetings to endeavour to find a solution to the problem.

What a sharp contrast between Armagh's plight at present and those glorious days of victory in the early 1950's. Remember 1953 when Armagh went so near to capturing its first ever All-Ireland senior title, giving the mighty Kerry men the shock of their lives in the process. That final of 1953 has been rated as one of the finest ever. It is with justifiable pride that Armagh folk recall to mind the goalkeeping of Eamon McMahon, the play of Captain, Sean Quinn; and the deeds of men like Pat

Campbell, Art O'Hagan; Mick O'Hanlon and all the others who made up that great side.

But one player in particular won the admiration of friend and foe alike by his display that day. He was Armagh's magnificent midfielder—Mal McEvoy.

I have a friend who never tires of talking about the following incident connected with that famous final. At the game he happened to find himself surrounded by a group of Kerry men. One of them was so impressed by McEvoy's display that he exclaimed: "By heavens if money could buy that fella, I'd have him playing for the Kingdom". It is easy to appreciate the Kerry man's feelings.

The '53 final was for Mal McEvoy the pinnacle of a distinguished career in the saffron jersey of Armagh. Although he played many wonderful games before and after that final, his performance that day will always be regarded as the greatest of his career.

That career commenced at the Abbey C.B.S. Newry. Whilst a

pupil there Mal was selected for the Ulster Colleges inter-provincial sides of 1947 and '48.

The inter-provincial games in those days took the place of the present Hogan Cup competition. However, even before this he had come to the notice of the Armagh selectors, and was first chosen for his county as a minor in 1945. In '48 he played on the Armagh junior side which lost in the All-Ireland final to Dublin. Come 1950 he was a member of the Armagh senior team which won the Ulster senior title but crashed to Mayo in the All-Ireland semi-final. He collected another Ulster medal in 1953 and, of course, almost collected an All-Ireland one. He represented Ulster in 1954 and '55 and in the latter year also played for Ireland against the Combined Universities.

Mal surprised me, when I chatted with him recently by stating that he regarded his game for Ireland in 1955 as his greatest display. When I referred to the '53 final he smiled and said "In an All-Ireland final you are so excited and bewildered you cannot tell

● TO PAGE 36



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ARMAGH'S GLORIOUS YEARS

● From Page 35

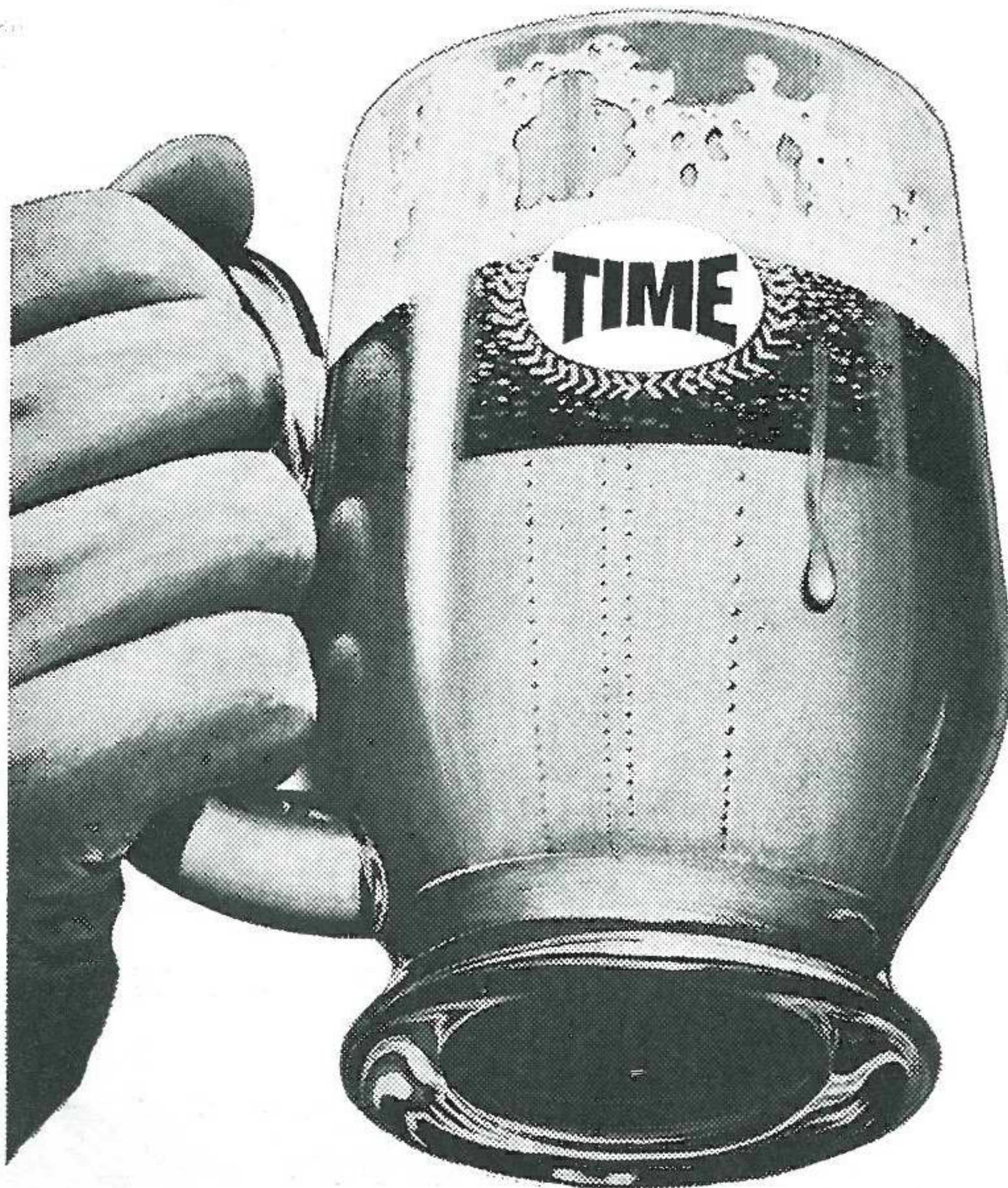
how you played". Speaking of the players he opposed Mal felt that Eamon Boland (Roscommon), Jim

McKeever (Derry) and Jarleth Carey (Down) were the most outstanding.

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One question I had to ask him was what in his opinion was the reason for the slump in Armagh football fortunes at present.

"It's very hard to say", he replied, "perhaps the county is going through a bad cycle. This happens to the best of counties and there's not much you can do about it. Too much emphasis on club allegiance could be another contributory factor", he added.

Asked to give his opinion on the standard of football nowadays compared to the early fifties, Mal had this to say: "Every generation likes to think that it is the greatest—and I suppose my lot would like to feel so too. But in all honesty I believe the game has improved. It is faster and technique is better".

On the subject of introducing coaching to G.A.A. games he was all in favour of the idea, but made this observation: "Coaching if it is to be a success must be in the hands of trained and dedicated men". He is opposed to the reintroduction of the hand pass, but would like to see thirteen-a-side football given a trial. He believes that this move would do away with the goalmouth melees we get in present-day football.

Although Mal's footballing days are now past he is still very sports-minded. He is at present a keen golfer and says that he would recommend all footballers to take it up for says the former football star "Even when a player quits football he still feels the need for competition. In golf you are competing for the most part against yourself".

As I said farewell to him, Mal was preparing to defend a golf trophy he won last year—his first success in his new game. However, if he succeeds in golf as he did in football we should certainly hear more of him.

What happened? Firstly Tipperary are good, but more of that later. Secondly, any luck that was, they had it, though only a fool would say they needed much of it. Thirdly, our men were over-excited. It was the first big one for most of them. I heard of a man who was sick in the stomach shortly before the game. The butterflies don't suit everybody.

Before that game there was a spot of foreign games rule bother in Cork and that didn't help. It's not my function to blame anyone though we must remember that while the rule (the usefulness of which escapes me) exists, it should be obeyed.

Then two players were dropped for not training. That's the selectors' affair but one of them, Patsy Harte was brought on again and while he had a reasonably good game I feel certain he would have been a lot better had he been training hard from the beginning of the campaign.

A good young player, Con Roche, was out because of the foreign games rule. He might have made a difference. But that's all over so long ago now we prefer to forget about it.

We've blocked up the window of the immediate past and the eyes are on the future.

At the time of writing we are hoping that the County Board will appoint a selection committee in a hurry. The old one would suit me fine, but failing that, give me five solid men who are prepared to work with an immediate objective of winning, *winning the first match in the National League.*

We can go on from there. Meanwhile let the country not forget—in particular let the Leaside exiles not forget—that we have men down here as well able to hurl as any.

Soon we'll be back to prove it.

A MUST FOR HURLING LOVERS

By Eamonn Young

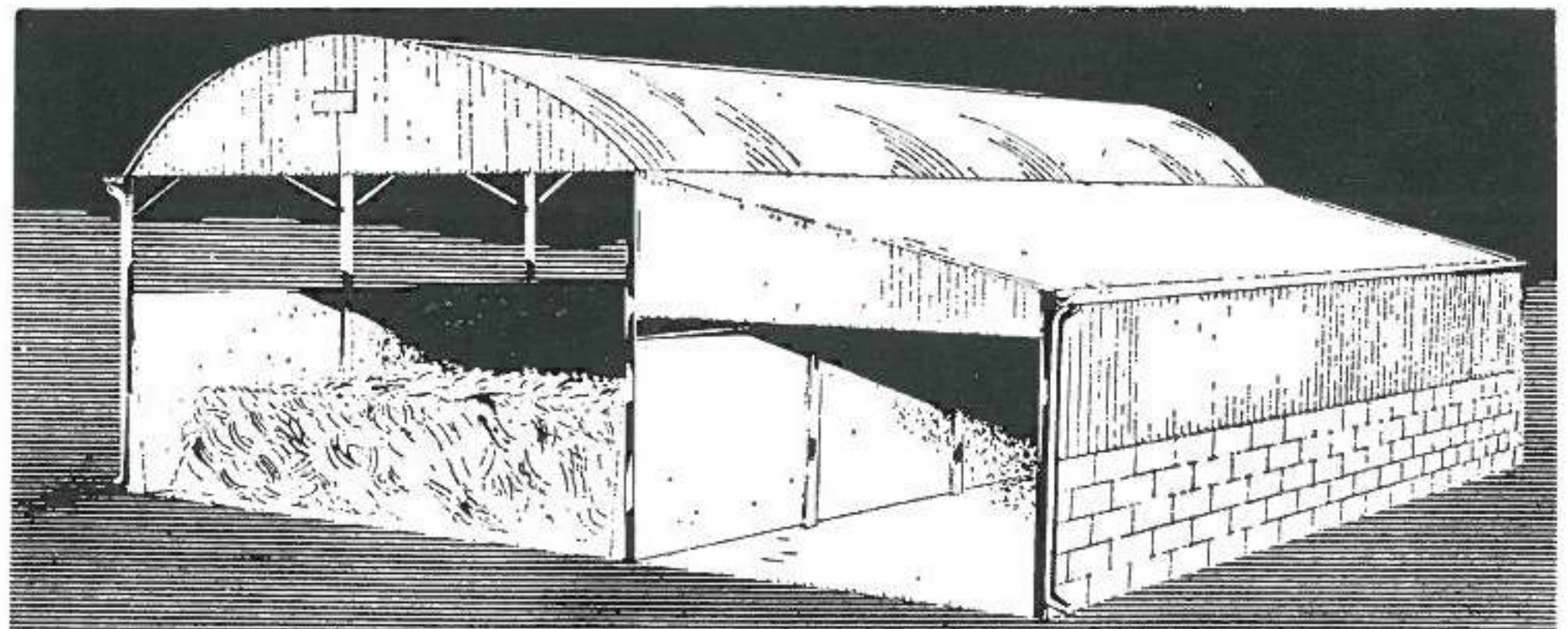
HE was working on the crazy pavement outside his house, head bent, intent on the job. Hammer, level, brown boots, red earth and concentration . . . That was Tony Wall when I called that sunny summer evening to talk hurling . . . and to get a book on the subject from author, Tony Wall.

Well, I've read it and how dearly I would like to have written it for not only is there thought, based on long personal, and successful, experience, but there's detailed and scientific instruction on every aspect of the training and organisation connected with our great game.

It is to fill the void in literature about hurling that the centre-back from Thurles has written. His contribution is significant, not only in that it's the pathfinder, but the book that improves on it will have to be very, very good.

Anyone who loves hurling and won't buy this well-illustrated booklet must be awfully fond of six bob.

"Hurling" by Tony Wall is now available from news-agents. County Boards, clubs, etc., who wish to order in bulk may receive copies at a reduced price direct from the author—Capt. T. Wall, 53 Westgate Estate, Bishopstown, Cork.



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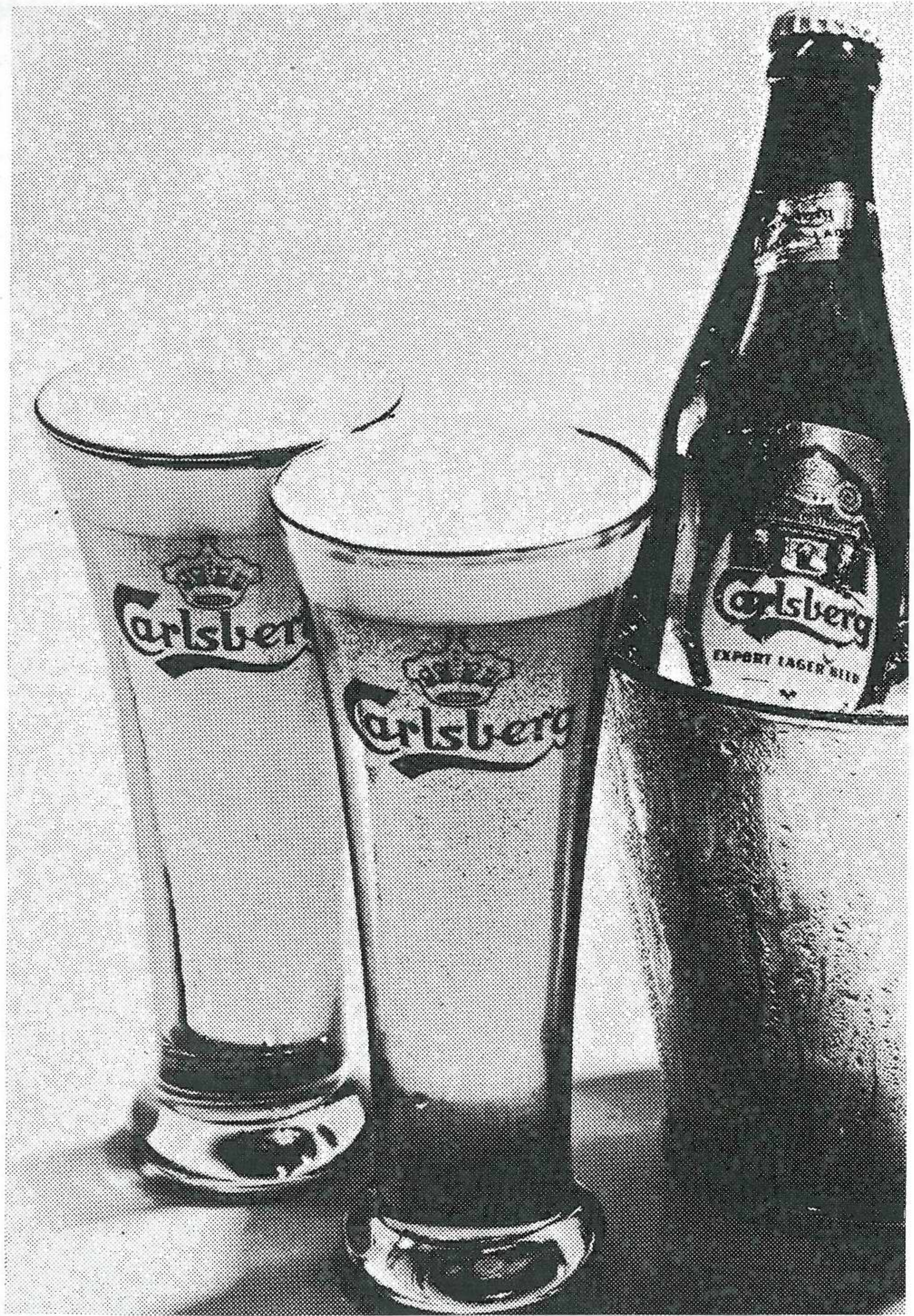
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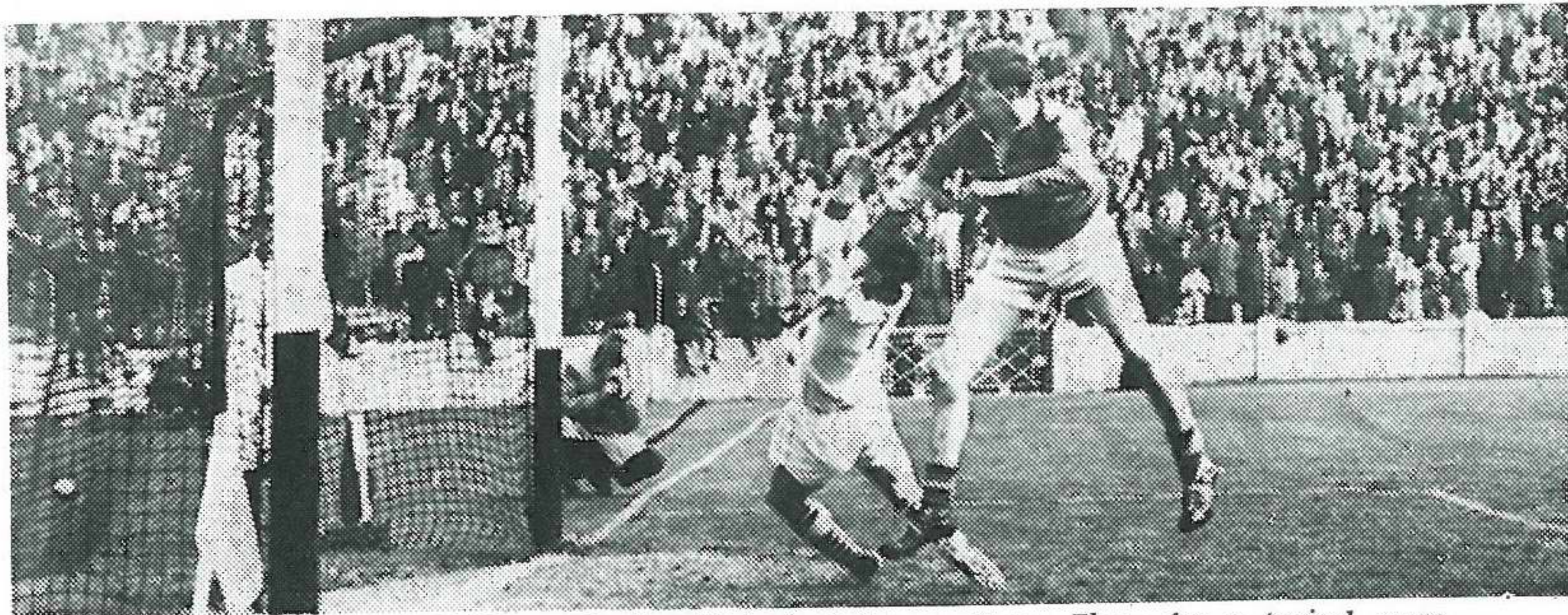
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PROFILE

SEAN McLOUGHLIN
ANSWERS QUESTIONS
BY SEAN O'DONNELL



★ SEAN McLOUGHLIN . . . beating Waterford keeper Percy Flynn for a typical score.

PROBABLY the surest thing about the hurling final is that Sean McLoughlin will score at least one goal. As always someone will make just that one slip and the big Tipperaryman will be there to flick or palm the ball to the net.

In recent years McLoughlin has become the most watched forward on the Tipperary team. But to no avail for Sean still finds the loop-holes. Not since Nicky Rackard has there been such a consistent goal-getter.

I recently had the pleasure of this interview with the scheming Thurlesman.

O'Donnell—How do you feel about Tipperary's easy win over Cork in the Munster final?

McLoughlin—Cork were a much better team than the final scoreboard suggested. Those two early goals by Theo English really upset them and changed what might otherwise have been a hard-fought game.

O'D.—Do you think some teams are now becoming overawed by Tipperary's fame and invincibility?

McL.—I doubt very much if Cork were—or that Wexford will be either. What can happen with

a young team like Cork is that a few quick goals can undermine their confidence and they then lack the will to fight back.

O'D.—How do you feel a county should go about making it to the top?

McL.—By concentrating on the schools. We have Bórd na nOg in Tipperary and all national schools are catered for with a variety of competitions. This is the source of Tipperary's hurling strength.

O'D.—What do you think of the new Munster club championship?

McL.—As it is in existence but for one season it is difficult to say to what degree it will benefit hurling. But it should certainly prove a major attraction for the championship clubs from the weaker hurling counties.

O'D.—Apart from tradition, what do you consider to be Tipperary's greatest asset?

McL.—Team spirit, comradeship and Paddy Leahy. These three things combine to make Tipperary hurling what it is. There is no club rivalry of any kind once a player puts on the county jersey. We have an excellent selection committee under the chairmanship of Paddy

Leahy, who in my opinion has no peer as a judge of hurling or hurlers. Paddy also has a great gift for managing the team.

O'D.—What particular game has given you most satisfaction?

McL.—This year's National League "home" final.

O'D.—And how about disappointments?

McL.—The 1963 Munster final against Waterford was certainly a disappointment.

O'D.—Is there any particular county that you like playing against?

McL.—Kilkenny.

O'D.—Who would you say was the most difficult opponent you have played on?

McL.—Tom Neville.

O'D.—Who was your boyhood hurling idol?

McL.—Martin Kennedy.

O'D.—Is corner forward your favourite position?

McL.—I would actually like to play centre-field. In my minor days I played as a half-forward. I consider backs to have a somewhat easier job than forwards.

O'D.—Any other sporting interests Sean?

McL.—Gaelic football and dogs.

Nick's 51 points set a hurling record

THE highest score recorded by a hurler in an entire championship campaign over the past eleven years is 12-15 (51 pts.) by Nick Rackard in four outings in Wexford's march to the 1956 crown. This is 15 points more than the next best total of 36 minors, recorded twice by Jimmy Doyle—in 1960 when his actual total was 6-18 in four games, and 1962 when he landed 4-24, also in four engagements.

Rackard's average in 1956 of 12.75 points a match, naturally, is the best achieved, but, impressive though this total is, it still is only a little more than two points ahead of the next best average of 10.50 points achieved by Padge Kehoe in 1958. A close third is Eddie Keher's 10.33 points in 1963.

The all-time great Wexford full forward also recorded the highest total in one championship game in the period under review at 5-4 in the 1956 All-Ireland semi-final with Galway. The best in an All-Ireland final in these years is 0-14 by Eddie Keher against Waterford in 1963.

Most consistent scorer has been Jimmy Doyle, who headed the chart in five campaigns since 1958. In the other two (1959 and 1963) he did not, however, get into the top five.

The following tables show the top five scorers in each championship campaign since 1955.

OWEN McCANN PROVIDES THE S

| 1955 | | | | 1959 | | | |
|----------------|-------|---------|-------|------------------|---------|---------|-------|
| | Games | Average | | Games | Average | | Games |
| 1. N. Rackard | 7-10 | (5) | 6.20 | 1. F. Walsh | 2-28 | (5) | 6.80 |
| 2. T. Flood | 5- 8 | (5) | 4.60 | 2. T. O'Connell | 7-5 | (4) | 6.50 |
| 3. S. Clohosey | 4- 8 | (3) | 6.66 | 3. T. Maher | 5-8 | (3) | 7.66 |
| 4. D. Kelly | 1-14 | (3) | 5.66 | 4. C. Ring | 2-13 | (2) | 9.50 |
| 5. V. Cobbe | 4- 3 | (3) | 5.00 | 5. S. Power | 5- 3 | (5) | 3.60 |
| 1956 | | | | 1960 | | | |
| | Games | Average | | Games | Average | | Games |
| 1. N. Rackard | 12-15 | (4) | 12.75 | 1. J. Doyle | 6-18 | (4) | 9.00 |
| 2. C. Ring | 6-13 | (4) | 7.75 | 2. Padge Kehoe | 2-16 | (4) | 5.50 |
| 3. B. Dwyer | 2- 5 | (2) | 5.10 | 3. D. Nealon | 4- 5 | (4) | 4.25 |
| 4. P. Barry | 3- 2 | (4) | 2.75 | 4. O. McGrath | 4- 4 | (4) | 4.00 |
| 5. T. Kelly | 2- 4 | (4) | 2.50 | 5. T. Moloughney | 4- 3 | (4) | 3.75 |
| 1957 | | | | 1961 | | | |
| | Games | Average | | Games | Average | | Games |
| 1. M. Kenny | 3-19 | (4) | 7.00 | 1. J. Doyle | 2-17 | (3) | 7.66 |
| 2. P. Grimes | 1-23 | (4) | 6.50 | 2. D. Nealon | 5-6 | (3) | 7.00 |
| 3. T. Erritty | 4- 7 | (3) | 6.33 | 3. C. Ring | 3- 8 | (2) | 8.50 |
| 4. S. Clohosey | 4- 4 | (4) | 4.00 | 4. M. Bolger | 3- 6 | (4) | 3.75 |
| 5. B. Dwyer | 4- 3 | (4) | 3.75 | 5. A. Doyle | 4- 2 | (2) | 7.00 |
| 1958 | | | | O. McGrath | 3- 5 | (2) | 7.00 |
| | Games | Average | | L. Shannon | 2- 8 | (3) | 4.66 |
| 1. J. Doyle | 2-23 | (5) | 5.80 | 1962 | | | |
| 2. M. Kelly | 5- 8 | (4) | 5.75 | | Games | Average | |
| 3. Padge Kehoe | 6- 3 | (2) | 10.50 | 1. J. Doyle | 4-24 | (4) | 9.00 |
| 4. T. Erritty | 3- 6 | (3) | 5.00 | 2. P. Grimes | 2-13 | (3) | 6.33 |
| 5. T. Flood | 4- 2 | (2) | 7.00 | 3. Padge Kehoe | 2-12 | (3) | 6.00 |
| A. Wall | 4- 2 | (5) | 2.80 | | | | |

SCORING FACTS AND FIGURES



★ NICK RACKARD

Games Average

- | | | |
|------------------|----------|------|
| 4. T. Moloughney | 4- 2 (4) | 3.50 |
| 5. E. Wheeler | 3- 4 (3) | 4.33 |

1963

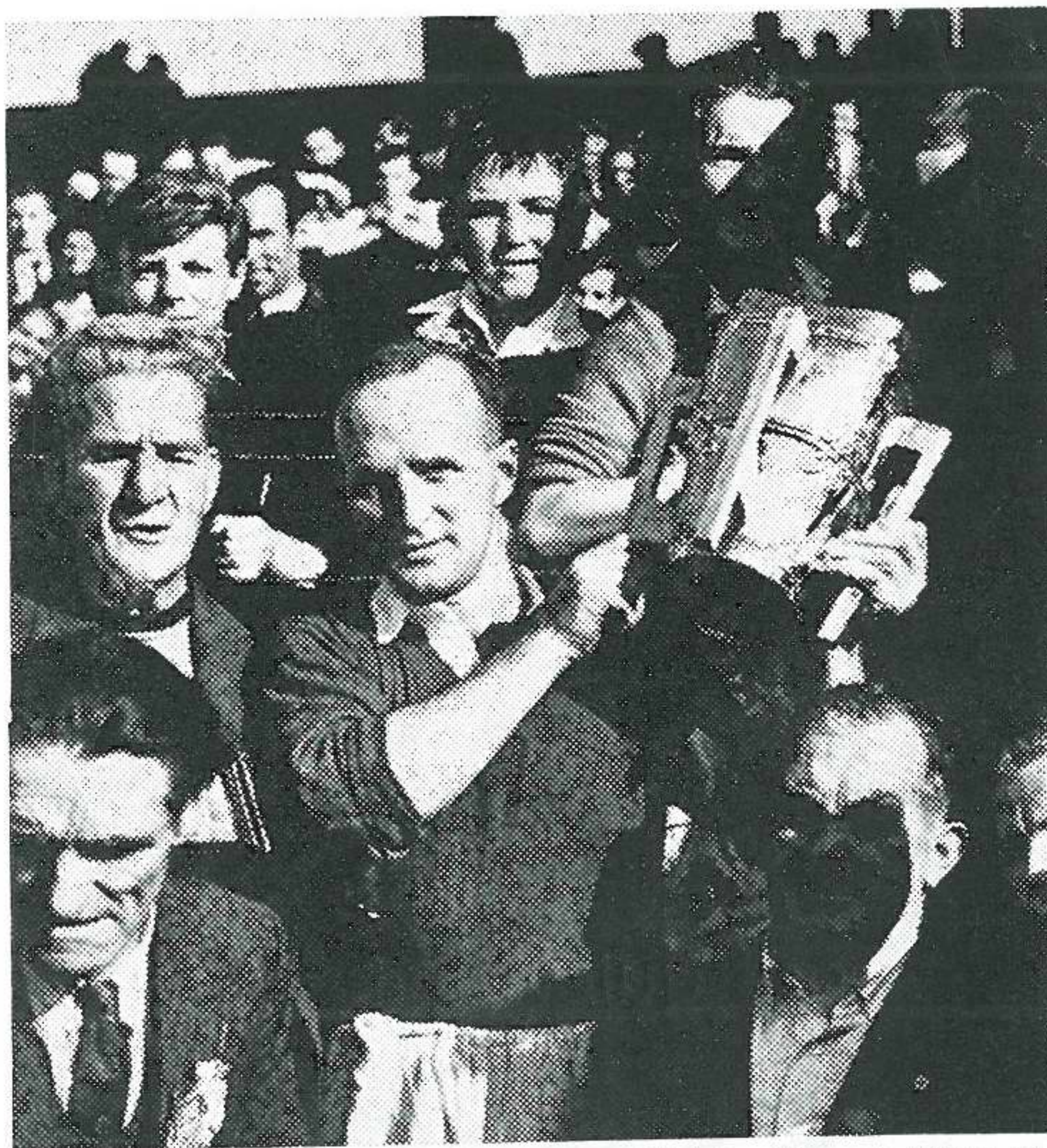
Games Average

- | | | |
|--------------|----------|-------|
| 1. E. Keher | 2-25 (3) | 10.33 |
| 2. P. Grimes | 2-15 (3) | 7.00 |
| 3. W. Hogan | 4- 3 (3) | 5.00 |
| 4. S. Power | 3- 4 (3) | 4.33 |
| 5. R. Browne | 3- 2 (2) | 5.50 |
| L. Walsh | 1- 8 (3) | 3.66 |

1964

Games Average

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|-------|
| 1. J. Doyle | 1-27 (3) | 10.00 |
| 2. P. Cronin | 3- 6 (2) | 7.50 |
| 3. T. Forrestal | 4- 3 (3) | 5.00 |
| D. Nealon | 5- 0 (3) | 5.00 |
| L. Walsh | 2- 9 (3) | 5.00 |



★ SCORING ACE . . . Christy Ring, holding the All-Ireland Cup aloft after captaining Cork to victory at Croke Park. The man from Cloyne features prominently in the lists.

T. Kelly—Cork; T. Erritty—Offaly; T. Maher—Laois; M. Bolger—Westmeath; A. Doyle—Wexford; W. Hogan and L. Walsh—Carlow.

We will have to wait until after Sunday, September 5, to see how the 1965 hurling championship list is formed.



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SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

● FROM PAGE 13

won the 1896 All-Ireland title with Tubberadora and twenty years later was on the Boherlahan side led by Johnny Leahy which beat Kilkenny in another great decider.

Thurles, the heroes of the first All-Ireland final were back in all their glory with colourful hurlers like Tom Semple, Hugh Shelley, Paddy Brolan, "Hawk" O'Brien and Jack Mooney, to capture a pair of crowns in 1906 and 1908, interrupting the unprecedented Kilkenny sequence.

The famed Toomevara Greyhounds, with noted stars in Wedger Meagher, Frank McGrath, Stephen Hackett and "Skinny" O'Meara in goal, made a great impact on Tipperary hurling, and it speaks volumes for the Kilkenny men of that period that the 1913 Tipperary team was widely rated by keen hurling judges as the best team that failed to win All-Ireland honours.

In 1916 Johnny Leahy's great combination had their own back on Kilkenny but for the next thirty years the Premier County had their leanest spell, and only won four senior hurling titles during that period.

Kilkenny scored an unexpected late win in a thrilling 1922 final but three years later Tipperary collected the title they missed that day, when they beat Galway, 5-6 to 1-5.

That win had a handsome bonus, for the Tipperary men were invited on a tour of the United States and were the first county team to travel. It was the greatest of the trips—a coast to coast coverage packed with interest and many exciting moments.

The next success came in 1930, breaking a big Cork sequence, and that was a notable year in Tip-

perary, as they also won the All-Irelands in minor and junior—the only county ever to take the triple hurling crown.

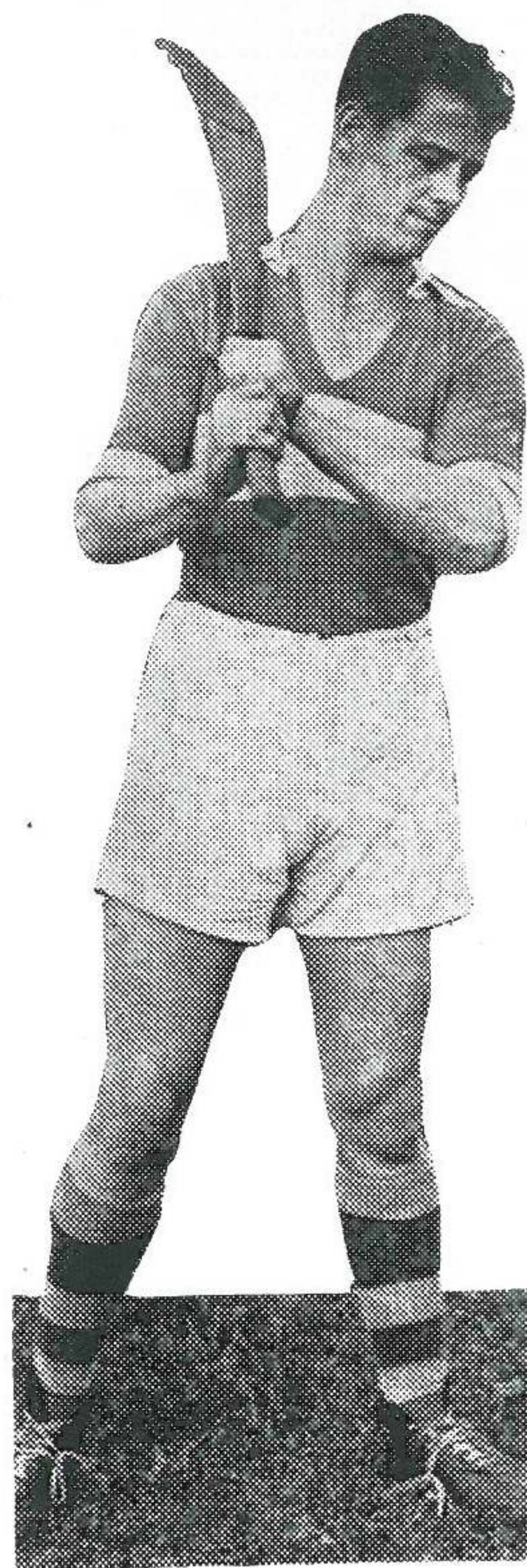
Tipperary smashed the great Limerick run in 1937 and beat Kilkenny in the only hurling final played outside Croke Park in the past half century. The venue for that game was Fitzgerald Park, Killarney, as they were building the Cusack Stand in Dublin that year.

The Blue and Gold crashed in on an unforgettable Cork period to win the 1945 crown, and four years later they were back for the best spell of the century, winning three titles in succession — 1949, 1950 and 1951. Most of my readers will remember the outstanding figures of that time—Tony Reddan in goal, Tony Brennan, Mickey Byrne, John and Tommy Doyle, Pat Stakelum, Michael Maher, Jimmy Finn, Sean and Paddy Kenny.

The present side made their mark in 1958, when they beat the All-Ireland runners-up of the previous year—Waterford, 4-12 to 1-5 in the Munster final, then the champions, Kilkenny, 1-13 to 1-8, in the All-Ireland semi-final, and Connacht Champions, Galway, 4-9 to 2-5, in the final.

John Doyle, Mickey Byrne, Michael Maher and Jimmy Finn formed a happy link with the previous great victory spell and new stars made their mark in Jimmy Doyle, Tony Wall, Doney Nealon, Theo English, Kieran Carey and Liam Devaney.

Three further victories graced the Tipperary standard — 1961, 1962 and 1964—the latter putting the Premier County boys at the head of the All-Ireland honours list with twenty titles to their name, against the nineteen the



★ TOMMY DOYLE . . . winner of five All-Ireland medals.

Corkmen have gathered and the fifteen credited to Kilkenny.

The Tipperary record is one to be proud of—a record that stands out on its own. Hurling is bred in these Tipperarymen who will have the deeds of many great teams as an incentive when they line out on the familiar Croke Park pitch in this latest Blue Riband decider.

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HANDBALL

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by
ALLEYMAN

BALLYANNE, in Wexford, can justifiably claim to be one of Ireland's leading handball clubs and can trace its history back to 1904, when the young men of the district obviously saw in the wall of the old kilns, the main essential for the game they had chosen.

Led by James Corrigan and Thomas Williams, the wall was built up and a clay floor laid. Later subscriptions were collected for a re-construction. Ever since, except for two brief interruptions, handball has remained synonymous with Ballyanne.

The first of these interruptions was during the War of Independence, and the second, during the second world war, when a shortage of handballs caused a temporary halt. Meantime, the club produced outstanding players in Sonny Fortune and Willie Delaney, who went to the semi-finals of the All-Ireland softball doubles championship.

Delaney, then made history by winning the singles title—the first All-Ireland to come to the club. This grand player was killed at Mount Casino in Italy, some years

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GAELIC GAMES CROSSWORD

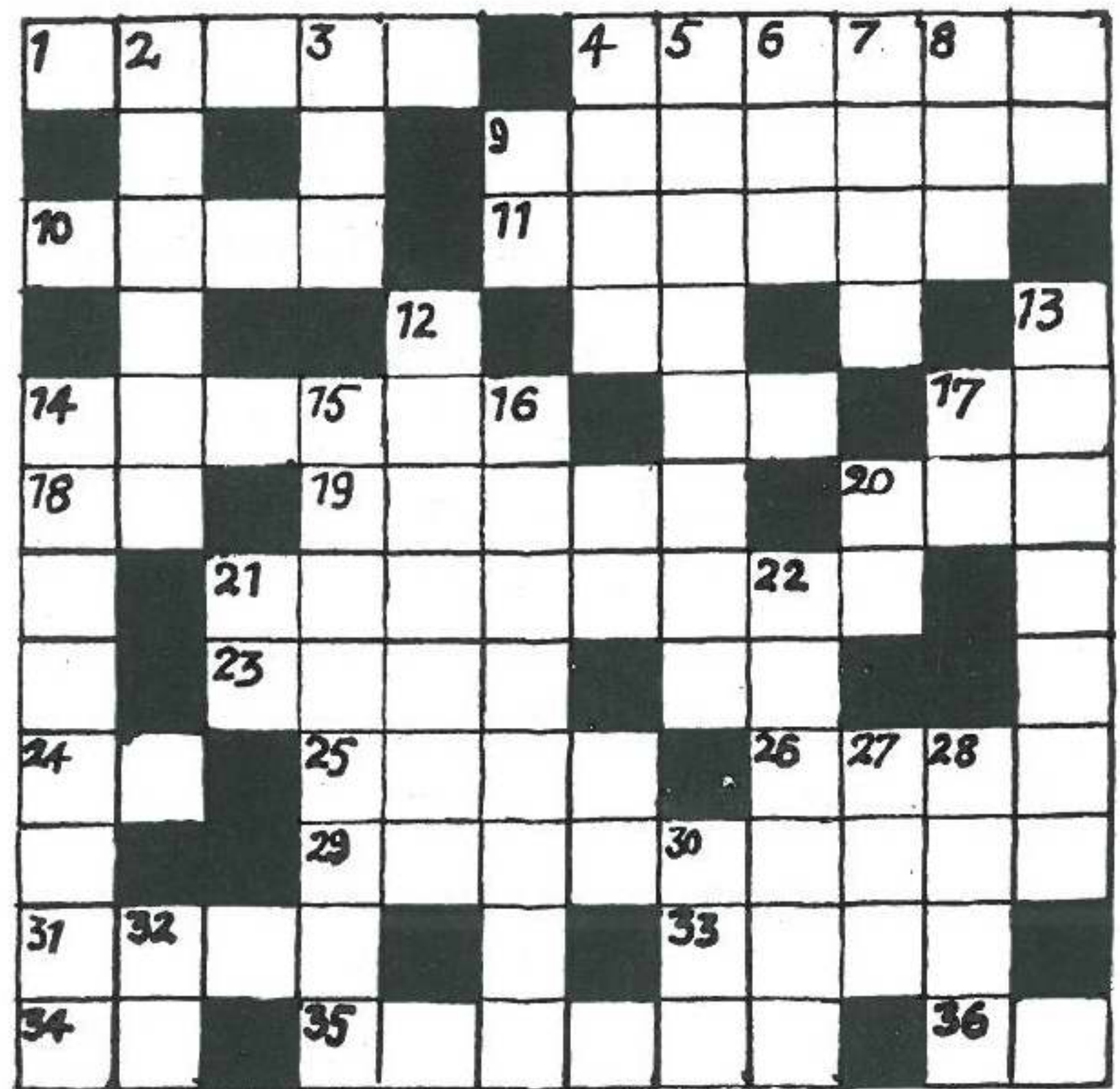
by PERMUTER

ACROSS

1. Well known Dunmanway sporting family, who are still by no means old (5).
4. As you wish—executive/hurler or northern football star (1. 5).
9. Down utility player often in the half-back line. (1. 6).
10. Won All-Ireland titles in successive years with different counties; captained Irish selection in Tailteann Games. (4).
11. Facilities to ——— before and after games is a sore point sometimes. (6).
14. Mathematician, recent All-Ireland winner, who has added this third language to his repertoire. (6).
17. Christy Ring in reverse (initials). (2).
18. Stands for inside right? Impossible, must be something else. (2).
19. Confrontation that sometimes leads to incident. (5).
20. Wooden leg which incapacitates for hurling and football. Shades of Long John Silver. (3).
21. Necessary quality of close free-taker. (8).
23. Patience needed to do this. Often one sees as a result. (4).
24. Surely not out. Where then? (2).
25. Fire can cause this. (4).
26. An expense for a club which does not own its own ground. (4).
29. Left-flank defensive stalwart for Kildare. (1. 8).
31. Jack scrambled. (4).
33. Most important quality of referee: the human touch. (4).
34. Senior Football. (2).
35. (and 4 down) Mayo player who has served more than one county in more than one position. (4. 6).
36. Thus. (2).

DOWN

2. Christian name of young Meath corner-forward. (6).
3. Was this always the score of old time Cork club. (3).
4. See 35 across.
5. Tipperary centre-field of the fifties. (8).



6. Player. But not camogie or of juvenile competitions. (3).
7. Tiny Tyrone player who might well have been big with the addition of another letter. (4).
8. A Cuppa served here in Gaelic. (3).
9. "Pa" Connolly? (2).
12. Diet constituent much needed by all gamesmen. Must have good bones. (7).
13. A glittering star in an obscure setting. Never called Paddy. (7).
14. A Showband from Tolka Row? Or just the box of tricks possessed by forwards who like to do the unorthodox. (8).
15. Recently retired from inter-county football; rugged enterprising centre-forward. (8).
16. Sailor? Or is it only his gait that makes him appear so? (8).
17. About a broadcast, probably. (2).
22. Meath's new full-forward. Or is it a Mayo forward of a few years back. (6).
27. And others too numerous to mention. (3).
28. National Hurling Training Scheme, maybe? (4).
30. Tea mixed. (3).
32. Junior Football. (2).

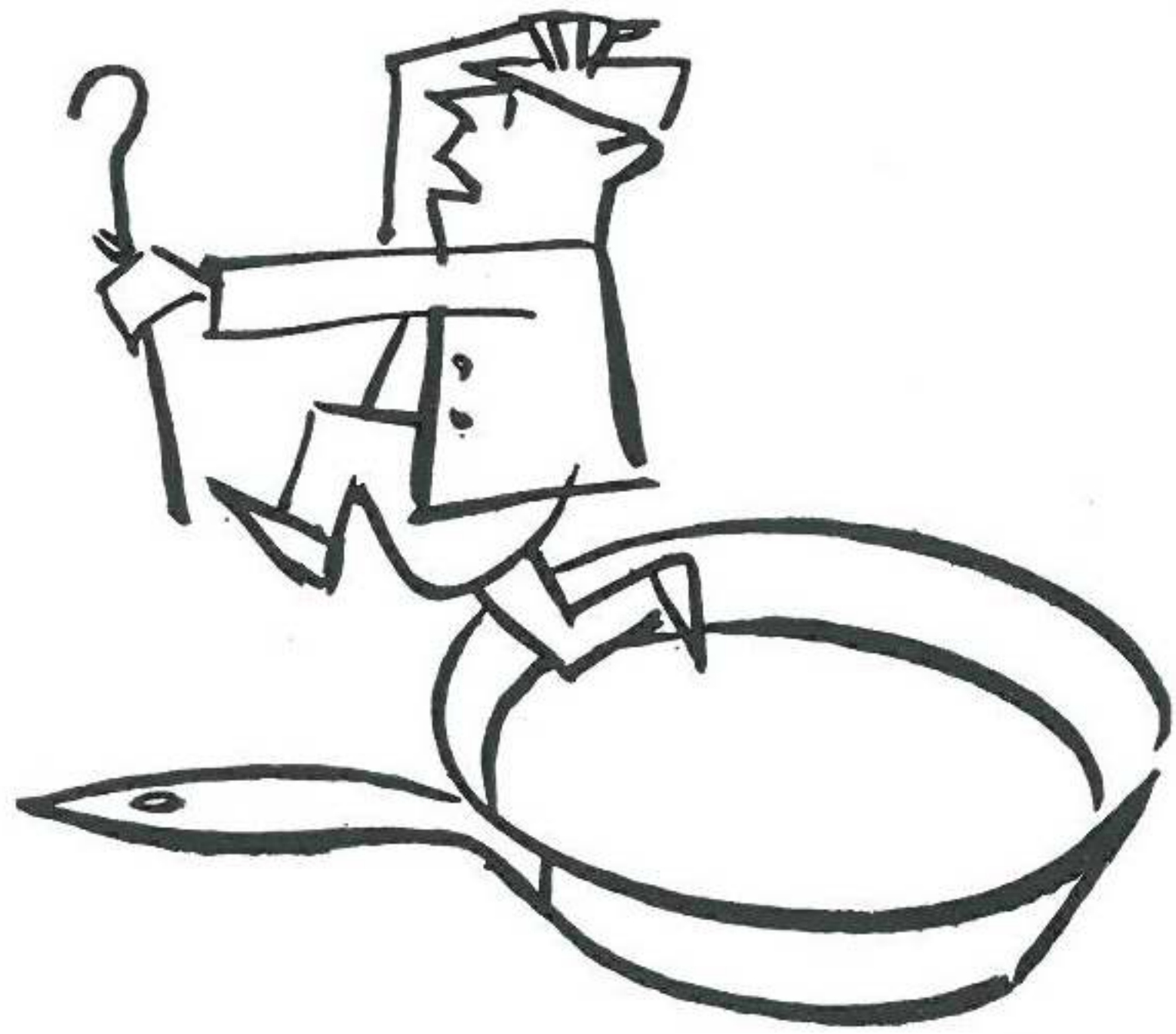
★ Solution : Page 80

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THE DISTILLERY - BOTTLED WHISKEY

DUNMORE — the club

with a proud record

By CHRIS MURRAY

DUNMORE is a traditional Galway football stronghold, supplying as it did six members of the All-Ireland team of last year and over the years every victorious Galway team contained at least one Dunmoreman.

Founded in 1886, the club is named after the great Archbishop John MacHale of Tuam. To this day, the club banner (of the exact same type as the Bray Emmett's banner featured in the "Evening Press" some time ago) carrying on one side a painting of Robert Emmett and on the other Archbishop McHale, is proudly retained though I must admit it is in a very battered condition now.

In the early years of Galway football, Dunmore were the dominant team until Tuam Stars became a force and started the keen rivalry, which is a feature of Galway football to this very day. Those were the days of Michael Finnegan, Peter Delaney, Con Kennedy, Denis Finnegan, Dan Cummins, Michael Walsh and George Tully to name but a few of the pioneers of Dunmore's great football tradition. They are long since dead but their memory will always remain.

There came then the J. J. Nestor era, followed by the days of Ned Kilkenny when Ned, Gerald Feeney, Ned Patton, Paddy Glennon and Mick Halliday were all regulars on the Galway team. The latter, a life-long Gael, died recently and was president of his old club at the time of his death. Paddy Glennon is still hale and hearty, D.G.

After Mick Halliday, the legendary Mick Donnellan, father of Pat and John, came into prominence in the early 'twenties and became the first Dunmoreman to win an All-Ireland medal in 1925. Later he captained Connacht's first Railway Cup winning fifteen in 1934. By then two other Dunmoremen were starring on Galway and Connacht teams, namely Brendan Nestor, son of J. J., and Frank Fox, R.I.P. They had both won All-Ireland junior medals with Galway in 1931 and followed this up with senior awards in 1934. Illness cut short Frank Fox's football career but Brendan went on to win another All-Ireland medal in 1938 as well as winning four Railway Cup medals. In the process he became one of the best known figures in the G.A.A.

Galway football continued in a good vein in the early 'forties when Mick Fallon, who had already played with Cavan, was Dunmore's representative. Mick, a gloriously clean player, saw his near neighbour Tom Brehony join him on the 1945 team. After that Mick Greaney came on to the team but in 1956, when Galway won its fourth senior All-Ireland, Dunmore's man on the team was Jack Mahon at centre half back.

Jack, who was vice-captain on that occasion, captained Galway to their league success in 1957 and besides winning six Connacht medals won two Railway Cup medals as well. Earlier in 1952 Galway won their first minor All-Ireland, when captained by Jack's brother, Brian. Other Dunmore boys on that side were Jimmy Staunton and Albert Kelly.

In 1958, when Galway won the junior title, Dunmoremen John Donnellan, John Glavey, Eddie Sharkey and Brendan Glynn played their part. Then in 1960, when the minors won Galway's second title, we saw Seamus Leydon, Eamonn Slattery and Larry O'Brien keep up the Dunmore tradition.

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Handball

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later and a perpetual cup was presented in his memory. This, in turn, became the permanent possession of his former partner, Sonny Fortune.

A feature of the Ballyanne Club has been the part played by families. In the earlier years there were the Williams, Roches, Brambleys, and Clooneys. Then came the Murphys, Culletons, yet another family of Roches, who are still connected with the Club, and finally on to the bulwark of the present time—the Lyngs.

Where Wexford handball is represented these days there is sure to be a Lyng, whether in the playing arena or the council chamber. And where Ballyanne is represented there are sure to be many Lyngs — for all six brothers have from time to time, excelled in many fields of athletics, besides being expert handballers.

John, well known as a hurler-cum-handballer, is Secretary of the Club and, as Chairman of the Wexford Board has done much to streamline the administrative side

of the game. He is lavish in his praise of Pat Murphy, the present Club Chairman and a founder member.

Jim is generally recognised as the most stylish of all the Lyngs. Jim set the bonfires alight in Ballyanne in the summer of 1953, when he brought home the All-Ireland minor soft singles title. He also partnered Jack Redmond in the doubles, but they were beaten after a great game by Moss O'Connor and Eamonn Horan from Kerry.

In 1954, Jim represented Wexford in junior soft singles but had the misfortune to sustain a shoulder injury against J. Roberts (Carlow) that kept him out of the game for the remainder of that season.

He compensated to the full in 1955, however, when he won an All-Ireland junior soft singles, beating in the process, well-known exponents—Fintan Confrey (Louth) and Roberto McGrath (Cork). Wanderlust then tempted him and in 1956, the village and the county lost a star when Jim went to the U.S.A.

It was 1960 before another Lyng hit the headlines, when Richie, playing minor for Wexford, began to show that he had the ability to emulate his elder brother. He showed fine form in the Leinster championships and was only narrowly beaten by Matt Purcell from Kildare.

A Lyng, apparently, never makes the same mistake twice for the following year Richie went on to win that All-Ireland, and for good measure also won the doubles in partnership with Paddy Lennon from Coolgreaney.

While Willie may not be as classical as either Richie or Jim he is, nevertheless one of the most determined and capable exponents in the country.

Val, and Pat, who are competent, rather than brilliant players, complete the sextet of this famed family group.

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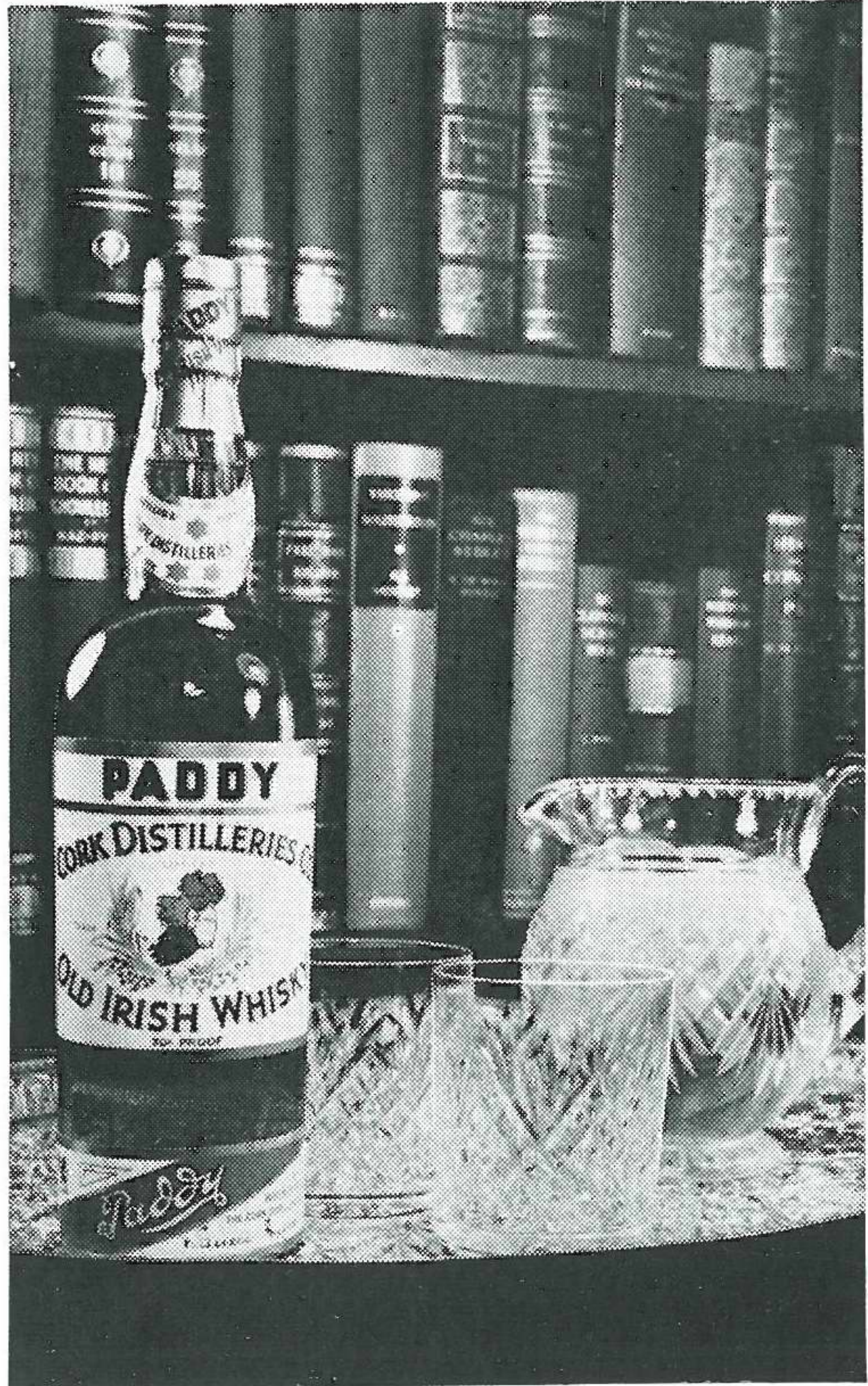
★ JOHN KEENAN

Dunmore's stars

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Finally came the greatest page in Dunmore's glorious history—All-Ireland Day 1964 when Galway, captained by a Dunmoreman John Donnellan, together with five other lads from the North Galway football stronghold, namely Bosco McDermott, John and Tommy Keenan, Pat Donnellan and Seamus Leydon, won the county's fifth senior title. On that day Mick Donnellan, Dunmore's greatest son, went to his Eternal Reward.

Now football is stronger than ever before in Dunmore. The senior team is one of the best club teams in Ireland and compares favourably with any of the leading sides in the land such as U.C.D., St. John's (Antrim), Newtown Blues (Louth) and John Mitchell's, Tralee. In all the club has won 18 titles, eleven senior, two junior and five minor. A proud record surely.



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Out of the wilderness come Glasgow

AFTER many years in the G.A.A. wilderness, Glasgow is fighting back. From the Glasgow Board right down the line to the weakest club a great spirit of resurgence have been born and much of the credit for this happy position goes to the keen rivalry which has developed between the Board's three most foremost clubs—St. Eunan's, Padraig Pearse's and Clan na hEireann. Great clashes between these clubs has spread a new G.A.A. spirit throughout Scotland.

The big draw-back here is still the old problem of many players having to work three out of every four Sundays. This places a great strain on clubs but, despite this, only one game had to be postponed so far this season. In this entire matter clubs have co-operated sportingly and are due the highest praise.

We exiles look to the day when higher and more widespread tech-

nical and secondary education brings about the position where our emigrants are better qualified and can hold positions which will not require working seven days a week so as to earn a living wage.

Our big disappointment last year was, of course, the bad beating received against London in the junior All-Ireland semi-final. This was a major set-back but the fault was certainly not ours.

The facts are these. In November 1963 we requested permission to compete in the junior championship. Correspondence went back and forth between the Central Council and the English Provincial Council and the months went by. Still no definite word as to whether we were in or out.

Then came the news—we were in and due to play London in London ten days later.

By this time, of course, we had long concluded that we were not

ST. EUNAN'S senior football team, Glasgow, who to-date this year are undefeated, invite an Irish club to play them in a challenge game on either Saturday, September 25, or Monday, September 27.

The club will be travelling to Dublin for the All-Ireland football final and wish to avail of the trip to gain some valuable experience against home opposition.

So how about it some Dublin or Leinster club not too far removed from Dublin? Do these gallant exiles a favour. We owe them at least that.

Any club which wishes to take up the offer should write to Owen McElwee, 447 Rutherglen Road, Glasgow E 5. Scotland.

going to be called upon. Many of our players had scattered — to England and some to home clubs. In the end we could call on but five of what would have been our original team and with only ten days' notice on top of that it was no wonder that we lost decisively.

However, things are now very much on the up-grade again and the Gaels of Scotland are looking to the future with confidence.

At last—a place in the sun

THE Vocational Schools have for long been the weakest section in the chain of Gaelic games

organisation. There was a long time when football and hurling, or indeed any other game was un-

heard of in most such schools, and the playing of games in some is in fact still a haphazard and occasional thing.

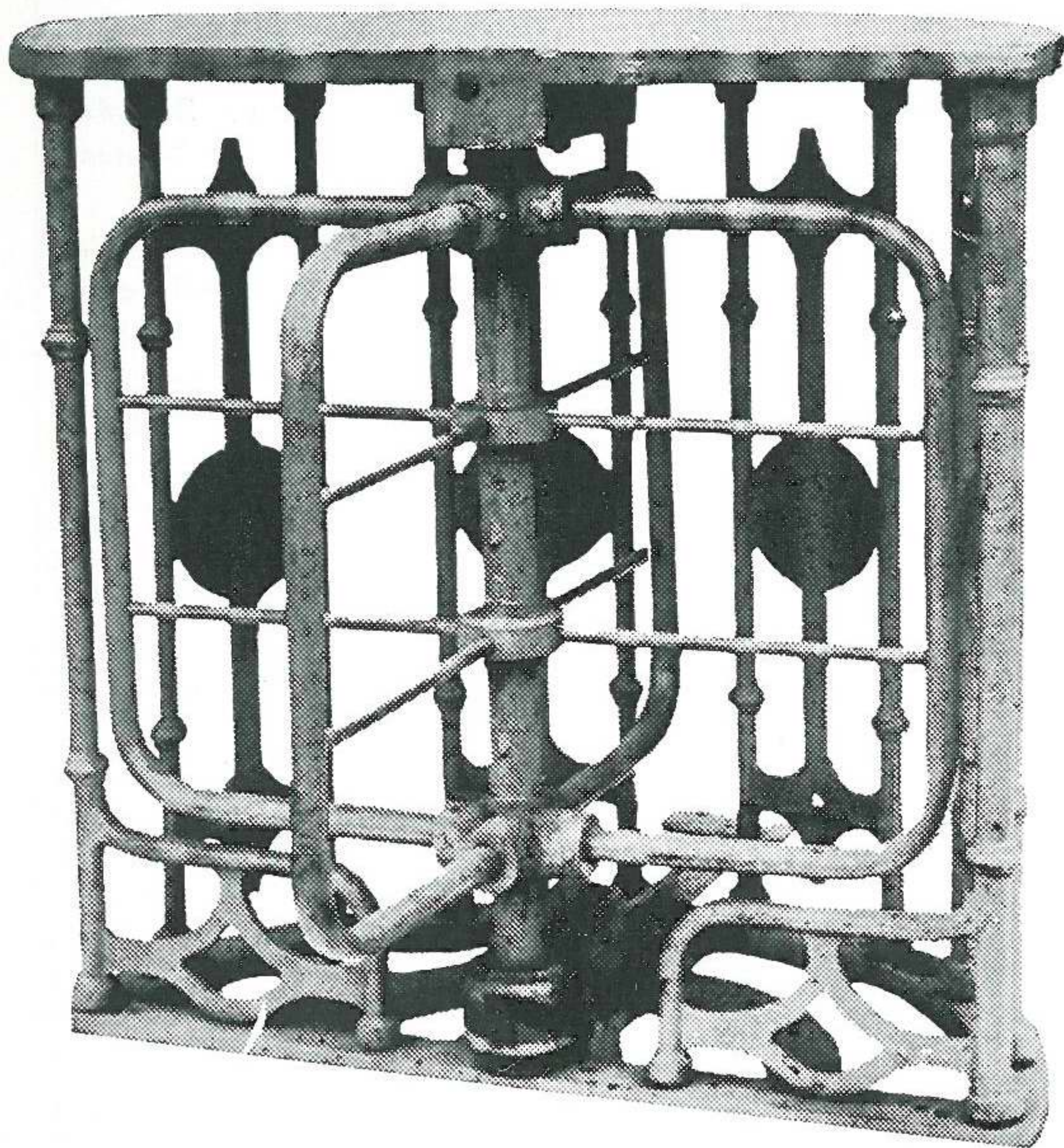
It is a good many years since the competitions at secondary school level became one of the features of the year's play. We have all learned to look for the fixtures which have decided the All-Ireland series in both football and hurling; but, the more discerning realise that for stylish play any colleges game is a worthwhile bet.

Even Primary School competition had caught the attention of the public before the Vocational schools were mobilised and their great potential tapped. But, I am glad to see that the Vocational Schools are at last beginning to find a place in the sun.

This year's Vocational Schools football final was the first such game to be brought to Croke Park for decision. This, in itself must be the coming of age of the competitions, since the height of acknowledgment is the rating of a fixture at Croke Park. But, in a much more significant way the Vocational Schools made their coming of age an impressive one, with an impact which will not be forgotten easily by the many thousands who saw the game and, perhaps, had no idea before that day that the standard in this match could be anything like what they were.

Naturally, perhaps, since most of the crowd was seeing its first game in this series, the play was a revelation to them. But, then, the teams were selections from the

● TO PAGE 57



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Armagh bid for title honours

A FEW days after this issue of **GAEELIC SPORT** goes on sale, Armagh will be lining out against Wicklow in the All-Ireland junior hurling semi-final. This game is due at Armagh for August 19. Win or lose this is a great achievement on Armagh's part and it cannot but greatly help the earnest juvenile hurling drive which is going on throughout the county.

In players like Carlisle, Kirk, Phelan, Toner and McKinley, Armagh have caman men who will certainly test the Leinster champions—and perhaps beat them too.

It is to be noted as well that the Armagh minors also reached the Ulster final this year. So here at least is one Ulster county which is coming on quickly in the hurling world.

THE NEW STARS

Looking back over the Ulster senior football championship, I feel that despite the confusion and protests, etc., that it was quite a successful contest. No great football but plenty of earnest competition and quite a few exciting hours. Certainly the fans had plenty to talk about.

The men who impressed me most were Tom McCreesh of Armagh; Donegal's Michael

McLoone and Pauric O'Shea; Cavan's controversial Donal O'Grady, Mickey McRory of Antrim and Sean Woods of Monaghan. The most improved player

was Cavan full-back, Tony Keyes.

All of these men are comparative newcomers and it will be interesting to see how many of

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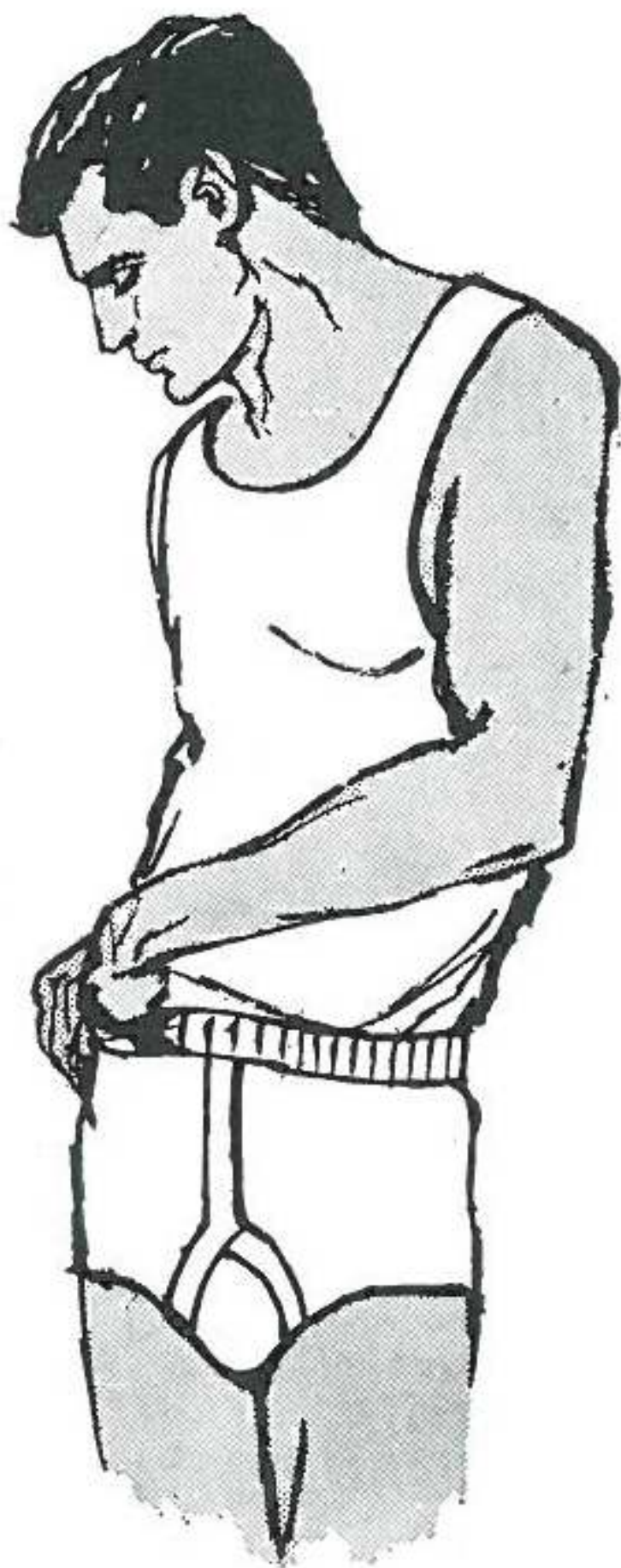
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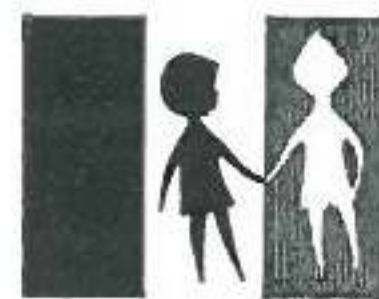


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The men from Munster will put up a good show



★ *TEAM-MATES . . . Jimmy Doyle and Michael Maher, here in opposition in a club game.*

by
EAMONN
YOUNG

NOT since the great Cork four-in-a-row team has such an honour-laden side taken the field.

Every Tipperary man who played in the Munster final has already won at least one All-Ireland medal—except Paddy Doyle and Len Gaynor.

I'm a bit shaky here and there on the records but the following isn't far off the mark — John O'Donoghue, Mick Roche, Michael Keating and Larry Kiely each have one All-Ireland medal; Mackey McKenna has two (or is it three) and Mick Burns has three. Each of these eight hardy fellows—Mick

Maher, Kieran Carey, Tony Wall, Theo English, Jimmy Doyle, Liam Devaney, Doney Nealon, and Sean McLoughlin have four each while John Doyle—the lean angular chap from Holycross with the long legs and the hunched shoulders has, as the country knows, a very respectable seven medals as well as a slight desire for the eighth. That makes fifty medals in all, four less than the Cork finalists of 1947.

There's a touch of class about a side that has won those great honours and remember out of the

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last seven finals they have played in five, the years they were missing being the finals of 1959 and '63 when Waterford lost one to Kilkenny and gained another from the Noresiders.

Tipperary train pretty hard. The physical part of the training is done by Osmund Bennett of Killeady in Cork. Osmund whose father Bill and brother Georgie were great athletes, was himself a boxer and weight-thrower. He's full of enthusiasm and virility; and he's Cork's contribution—all too efficient I might add — to the successful aspirations of Tipperary.

Gerry Doyle is a long time associated with Tipperary teams and one of my early memories was to see his brother, Tommy Doyle, playing star games for Tipperary on the wing in the thirties when

solid Butler Coffey, Jim Cooney, Jim Lanigan, John Maher and Willie O'Donnell were on top. Jerry whose two sons, Jimmy and Paddy are hurling stylists to the core, takes care of the hurling section of the team's training, while behind the scenes we have a small group of shrewd hard-headed men led by the doyen of them all, Paddy Leahy of Boherlahan, to guide the team to victory.

Paddy Leahy, who won an All-Ireland in 1925, was a fast flying forward who might have won a lot more championships, but for the fact that we by the Lee just then were sending out pretty able chaps like Sean Og Murphy, Jim Hurley, Maree Connell, Dinny Barry Murphy, Jim Regan and the two Ahernes, Balty and Gah, who simply couldn't be stopped when

the ball ran aright.

Paddy's brother, Johnny was a truly great hurler, humourist and personality. Tommy and Mick were others of the family who learned their hurling as boys between spells of farm work. Mick won his All-Ireland with Cork in 1928 when Galway went down.

There's a yarn about those days when Cork were playing Tipperary in Thurles. The team travelled the night before stayed together under the careful supervision of a grand old member of the Fitzgerald clan known to every one as "Fr. Fitz." In the morning the priest, now a canon and going strong, said Mass for the team, blessed their endeavours that day and at the breakfast said the grace most formally.

As the boys all chatted while they ate, Gah Aherne, God rest him was silent.

"What's wrong, Gah?" said one of the players.

"Ah, I don't know about all the prayers," says Gah, "I'd rather beat 'em fair."

To-day fair or foul we can be sure that the champions of Munster will put up a good show. If they win we'll see fast, hard pulling and some saucy passing in the forwards with the last man in possession swinging a neat shot for a score.

If Tipperary go under then Wexford will have produced a great show of speed and hurling but win or lose I can see the hurlers from the valleys of the Suir and the foothills of the Silvermines hurling an hour of dashing manliness that will remain a credit to the game we all love so well.

And when it's over if John Doyle hasn't won his eighth gold medal we in Cork will still have Christy out in front. But if the man from Holycross, who compares the Tipperary square to Hell's Kitchen, draws level, we will be the first to salute the durability and determination that goes to make a champion.

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schools throughout the two counties concerned, and, thus, it was that the game produced a mature and accomplished group of players who were far above the majority of individual secondary schools.

It was, maybe, significant, too, that in the final we had Kerry and Galway, the same teams who fought their way to supremacy in the National League. It is true, in fact, that the strength of the Vocational Schools will always show the strength of the game in the individual counties far better than the secondary schools do.

The boys who attend our technical and vocational schools are home-based for the great majority, while many of the great footballing secondary schools (not so true of hurling) are positioned in unlikely counties, but draw much of their strength from boarders from the strong counties.

For long stretches the Kerry boys matched their opponents in every sphere, but, in the last quarter, the finesse and superior training of the Galway men made all the difference. It was interesting to see the obviously considerable influence which the successful methods of their seniors have been having on the youth of Galway: their craft and combination showed lessons well learned.

I thought there were two splendid centre-half backs on view: Pat Somers of Kerry and Vincent Staunton of Galway. And the Galway captain and wing-forward, Mick Byrne, is another who should surely be seen in much higher company in years to come, as Ger O'Sullivan from the Kingdom might also be. In all, this is a game which has convinced me that this, so far, Cinderella competition is one which must be noted for viewing in the years to come.

ULSTER SPOTLIGHT

● FROM PAGE 53

them will be honoured by the provincial selectors next Spring.

GEORGE GLYNN

The great McCartan-O'Neill-McKnight and McElroy dynasty is still growing. Latest to join is George Glynn who recently became engaged to Gay McCartan, sister of James and Dan. We wish them every joy.

LISBURN GAELS

A hearty welcome to Lisburn's new Gaelic club and let us hope that it meets with more success than did the one of a few years back which was forced to abandon as a result of pressure and interference by the town's loyalists. The new club is training in Glen-

avy—an area which will welcome them with open arms.

TWO TO WATCH

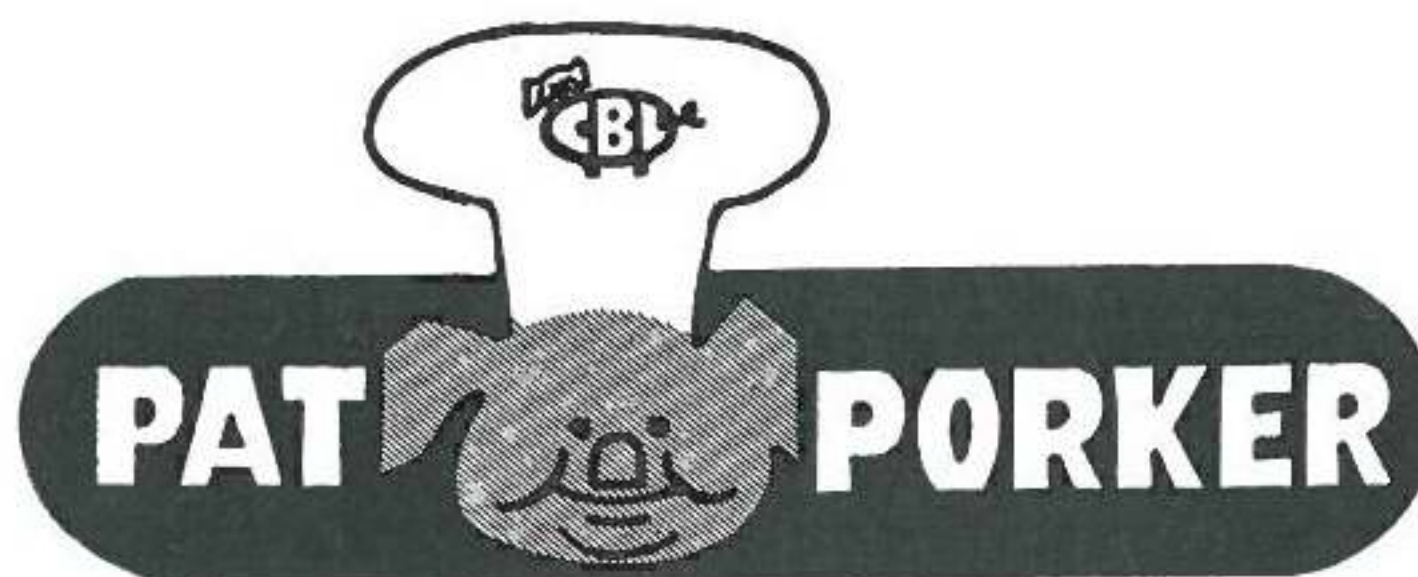
Keep an eye out for Pat McCotter and Tommy Diamond, two of St. Columb's College All-Ireland winning stars who have already starred with the Derry under-21 side. Both lads are senior intercounty material.

NEW FORCE

Hitting the headlines in Down football circles at present is a fine young team from the Burren district. In Seamus Doyle, Colm Curtis, Patsy Murdock, Noel and Frank Gallagher and Sean White this club has stars in the making all of whom could contribute to Co. Down's football future.

*Congratulations to the Wexford
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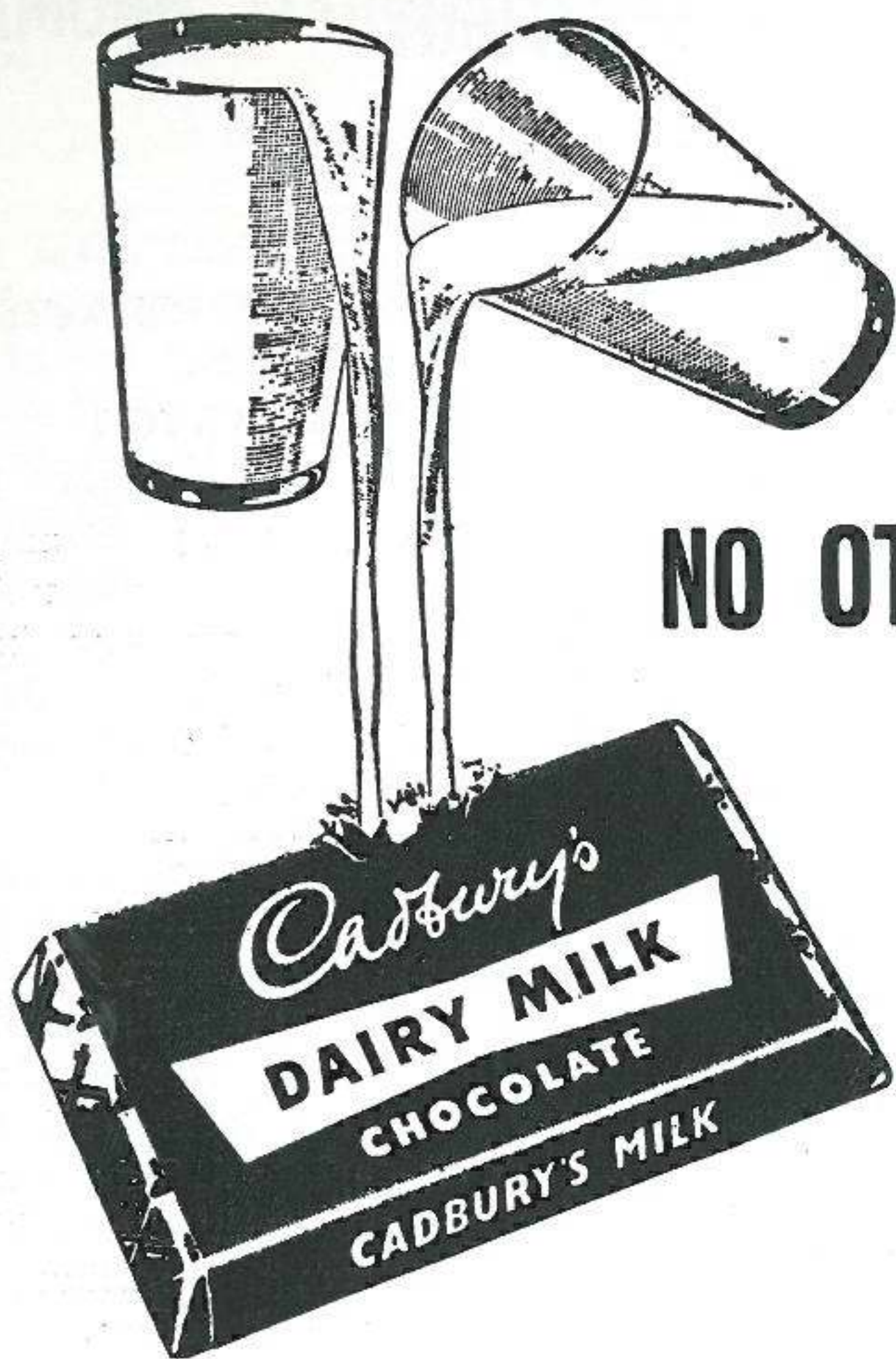
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The most embarrassing moment of my career

by JACK MAHON

OVER the past few months I have been recounting experiences during my football career. Some of them were funny, others not quite so funny. Which brings me to one of the most embarrassing experiences of my career. Many of you will remember Galway's great games with Tyrone in the 1956-'57 period. We won those games literally by the skin of our teeth. Then in 1958, Tyrone reached the League semi-final and, in a very rough game featuring many incidents, were well and truly beaten by Kildare. As a curtain-raiser to that best forgotten game, St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, defeated the Franciscan College, Gormanston by a single point in a grand All-Ireland colleges' final.

Leaving the Cusack Stand, I met a Tyrone supporter who, on recognising me, asked what I thought of the game. I left him in no doubt as to what I thought about it blaming both teams for an unsavoury display of football. I cannot remember anything else I said but not long afterwards I had good reason to try to remember.

That same year at Whit we played Derry in the Wembley Tournament. I remember Jim McKeever referring to some article of mine in a Northern paper but I

passed it off thinking he had made a mistake as I had not written for any such paper. Then in September of 1958, Fr. Joe Corbett, then C.C. at Celbridge, invited Galway to play Kildare in a challenge game at Droichead Nua. The game was a close one and we won it by a point but I cannot remember any game in which I was at the receiving end of more shoulders and "rattles" of all sorts. None of them was a foul assault but I wondered why these Kildaremen were "taking it out" on me all the time and not on someone else for a change.

I was a sore man afterwards when dining in the Curragh Camp. I was sitting beside Paddy Gibbons and was flabbergasted when he made a reference to an article I had written for a Northern paper after the Kildare-Tyrone game in Croke Park early in the year. I told him I had not written any article and asked him for more details.

Evidently a Northern newspaper carried a photograph of me on the week after the game between Tyrone and Kildare plus a number of quotations which were to say the least of it none too complimentary to Kildare. Then it all came back to me. My "friend" who had questioned me leaving the Cusack

Stand the day of the game had without permission misquoted me. I know the latter sounds pompous but the fact is he never said he was a newspaperman; he never asked if he could quote me and finally he quoted me wrongly.

I immediately explained the whole affair to Paddy Gibbons, who was, at the time, captain of the Kildare team and asked him to explain it to his team, which he promised to do. I understood then why I had received such buffeting in the game, but I wondered how the Kildare lads had come across the paper in which I was misquoted. Paddy explained that too. It seems Kildare travelled to Ballinascreen to play Derry shortly after their game with Tyrone and one of the team quite accidentally happened upon the newspaper and promptly showed it to all his teammates.

Coming home from Kildare that night I felt quite hurt, and decided to be much more careful in the future when talking with strangers. So if by chance you meet me coming down off the Hogan or Cusack Stands and ask my opinion of the game and you receive a short reply and no elaboration you will understand why.

(More Next Month)

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Sharp-shooting Anne foils the Cork Girls

by AGNES HOURIGAN

NOW that the various provincial campaigns have ended it is possible to properly assess the position of the game at competitive level in all four provinces and I must say that, generally speaking the picture is very encouraging as far as much of the country is concerned.

I was fortunate enough to see some of the Munster games and was very much impressed by the all-round standard of play especially in the final between Cork and Tipperary. Cork on home ground were more than hopeful of recovering the title from the Tipperary girls and that they failed to do so was in large measure due to the sharp-shooting of the Tipperary winger Anne Carroll.

Indeed I feel that Anne is profiting from the fact that she has to an extent the advantage of playing in both worlds. By that I mean that through the winter for some years she has been playing with Callan in the Leinster Colleges championship.

Now in no other competition is the rule forbidding bodily contact so strictly applied as in the Leinster Colleges competitions and the result is that ball-play, speed, positional play and stick-work are the only factors that count.

The result of this Leinster Colleges training shows in Anne Car-

roll's play and is, I think, one of the reasons why she is able to use her great camogie talents to such good effect in any company.

Tipperary are a much improved side in stick-work and craft and I feel they will make a very brave bid for All-Ireland honours this year. Certainly they should come past the Connacht champions in the semi-final and I feel they will be a greater force in the final than in any previous appearance—should they get that far.

I did not see any of the Ulster or Connacht matches, but Antrim's supremacy in the North seems to be as complete as ever if one is to judge by the results.

But I am never content to judge camogie progress on inter-county level alone and I must say that on a recent trip to North County Down I was tremendously impressed by the progress that has been made and the enthusiasm that is so evident in that part of the country.

Around Downpatrick there seemed to be camogie matches going on almost every evening, and the standard of play was quite high. One of the driving forces of the revival in that part of the world is the former Antrim All-Ireland star Peg Dooey, now Mrs. Brian Denvir. I need not point out, I am sure, that Brian, a



former inter-county hurler and footballer himself is the present manager of the Down football team.

Mrs. Peg Denvir is keenly interested in the Down football team too, but she has not lost her old love for camogie and with the aid of sister Kathleen, another former Antrim star now employed in a Downpatrick hospital, Peg has played a major part in reviving camogie in the whole Downpatrick area.

It is great to see camogie thriving again in North Down. Of course Peg Dooey after starring with Antrim subsequently played in an All-Ireland final with Down when teaching in Newcastle in the years before her marriage.

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Jem Roche was a G.A.A. all-rounder

by VINCENT CAPRANI

IN the entire history of the G.A.A. only one of its members had the unique distinction of having fought for the world heavyweight boxing championship. He was Wexford's Jem Roche, who stepped into the unfriendly territory of the roped square at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, on St. Patrick's night, 1908 with the commendable intention of trading thumps with Tommy Burns, the title-holder. To-day, most Irish sportsmen only remember Roche as the fellow who had the knock-out label affixed to his jaw by Burns' right mitt in one minute, 28 seconds of the first round.

This rather harsh assessment of Jem Roche's fighting prowess (gleaned, no doubt from a superficial scanning of the pages of sport history) fails to do justice to the memory of a fine Irish sportsman. For Jem was all that. He was an all-round athlete, a Gaelic footballer and hurler of no mean ability, and a fighter who, if his achievements were not such as to place him on any point of comparison with Tom Sharkey, was

considered good enough by the pugilistic pundits of his day to contend for world title honours.

Jem's sport career began way back in 1895, when at fifteen years of age he played on the St. Patrick's team which won the Wexford football championship. He played his first intercounty match the following year and for the next decade was a prominent member of Wexford teams in Croke Park, Leinster and All-Ireland competitions. A contemporary newspaper report describes Roche as "— always a dashing footballer, and has a peculiar style of his own for catching a ball, and once having got possession he is not easily knocked out without having his try. As a hurler, he has a great stroke in the open, but cannot play at close quarters, but at taking a free he has no equal in the country, for his shot is as straight as it is strong and he seldom misses when within scoring distance".

However, as a hurler and footballer Jem was not one of those players whom Dame Fortune favours with a benign smile. It was

his lot to play for his county at a time when Wexford's football stock had slumped considerably. In All-Ireland finals nothing had been heard of Wexford since the early '90's; in 1890 the Blues and Whites were runners-up to Midleton, Cork, and three years later Wexford's Young Irelands captured the championship. In 1904 they were beaten in the Leinster championship by Dublin.

About this time Jem had his baptism of fistic fire, having been introduced to the belt-and-biff business by his friend and mentor, Nick Tennant. He built up a creditable collection of victories over native and a few imported opponents. By 1906 he had earned undisputed recognition as Irish heavyweight champion mainly as a result of wins over a capable and experienced Irish-American ringster called Young John L. Sullivan. Roche engaged him in gloved combat on three occasions. In their first meeting Sullivan won by flooring the Wexfordman in the last minute of the final round. The second contest saw a greatly im-

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KERRY are back . . . BUT

by Brian Doherty

KERRY are back — but the question still remains as to whether they are good enough to capture that 21st All-Ireland senior football title.

Against Limerick in the first half of the Munster final they were run off their feet by the fast and clever play of the Shannonsiders. Then came the changes and a great second half rally which left them clear winners. The question—was it the changes that did it or was it a case of a young and inexperienced Limerick team falling apart in the second half?

Against Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final the pattern was repeated. Kerry looked more than poor in the first half—particularly up front where only Derry O'Shea looked remotely like a forward.

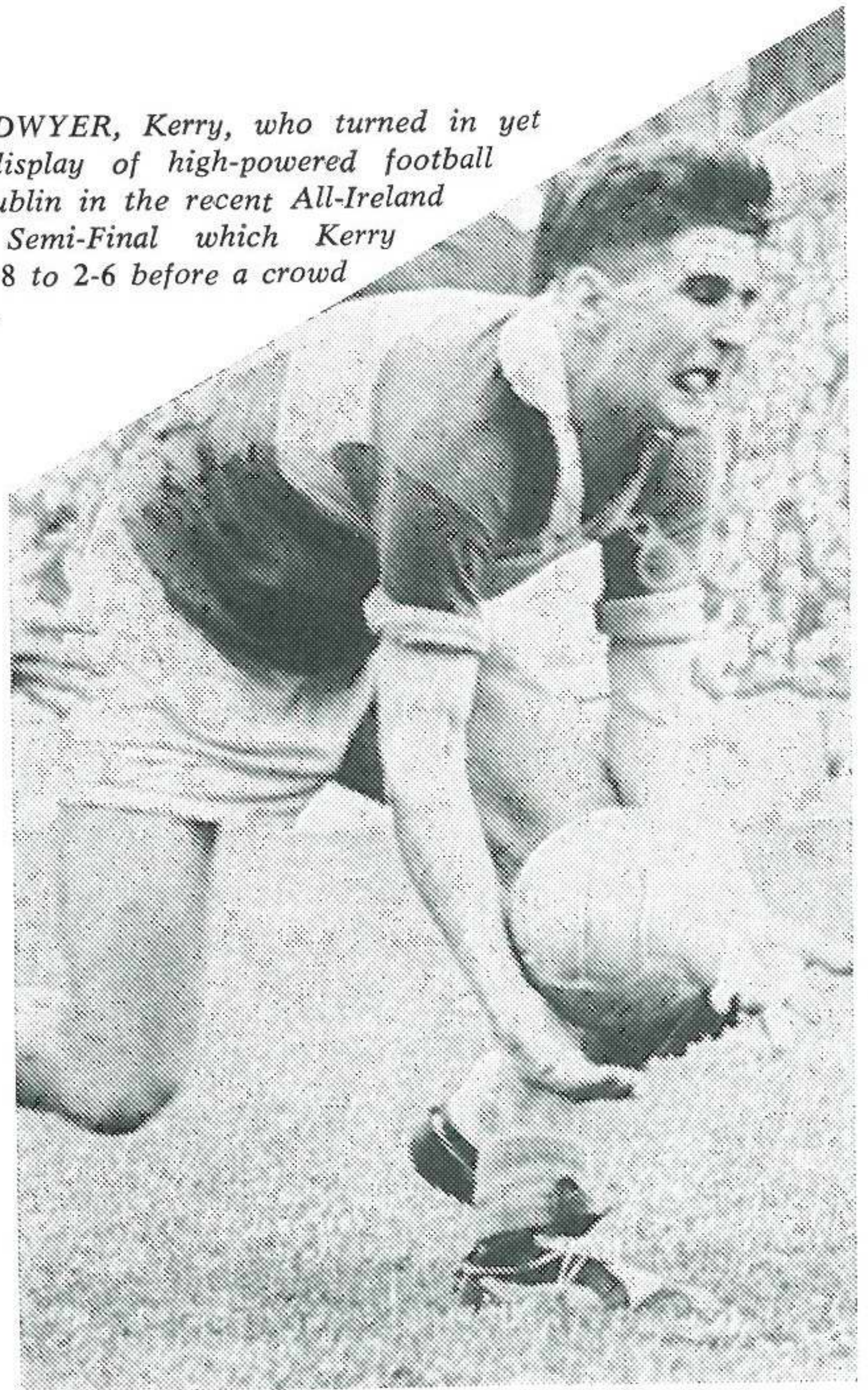
Then came half-time; some changes and victory was quickly clinched and a shower of scores hammered home with ease.

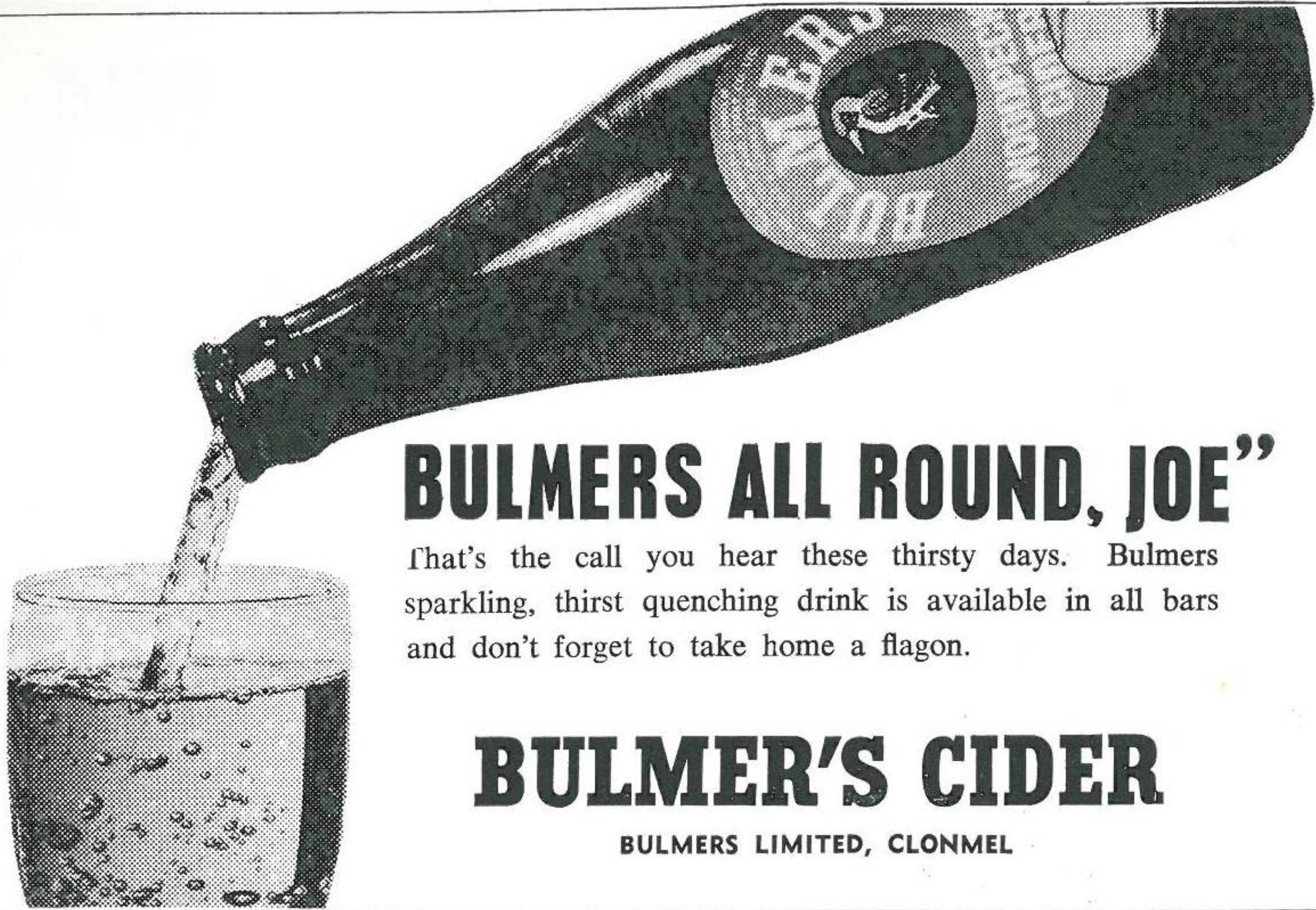
The changes at half-time in the Munster final are generally credited with having put Kerry into gear. These changes were naturally retained for the Dublin game. But instead of keeping Kerry in gear they failed to function at all and had to be scrapped.

The question then arises as to what shape the Kerry team for the

● TO PAGE 67

- *MICK O'DWYER, Kerry, who turned in yet another display of high-powered football against Dublin in the recent All-Ireland Football Semi-Final which Kerry won by 4-8 to 2-6 before a crowd of 49,000.*





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★ *The Kerry team which beat Galway in the 1941 Football Final, 1-8 to 0-7.*

● FROM PAGE 65

final should take. Mick O'Dwyer does appear certain of a place. His arrival against Dublin contributed to the recovery and while he is not the player he was, and lacks speed, he still has the craft.

Industrious Denis O'Sullivan should stay at mid-field but who will partner him — O'Connell, Fleming—or perhaps even Lucey?

Fleming was 'axed' during the Dublin game—and so might Lucey have been, for, as I saw it, he was most ineffective during the first half and was responsible for quite a few missed opportunities.

But at the same time both Lucey and Fleming are fine footballers—more at home at mid-field.

Neither Pat Griffin nor Bernie O'Callaghan impressed me as corner forwards against Dublin. Granted they were to the fore, when the Dublin defence fell apart, but so would my grandmother

have been at that stage.

Both of these men are half-forwards — although O'Callaghan appears to have lost much of his speed. Still he is young enough to recover it between now and September 26.

In short, it strikes me that Kerry have four players whose best position is mid-field — O'Connell, O'Sullivan, Lucey and Fleming, while Griffin, O'Callaghan and Derry O'Shea are at their best on the half-forward line.

Putting these seven men into the places from where they will yield the best possible return in the final is a task worthy of the Kerry selectors.

Of the Kingdom full back line against Dublin only Mick Morris looked as if he could handle a flying forward of the Keenan, Leyden or Doherty mould. Niall Sheehy was faulty and sluggish, while O'Donoghue is still being

beaten by the low ball.

I thought the half-back line quite sound. Seamus Murphy is as great a player as ever, while Donie O'Sullivan and Jer. D. O'Connor give nothing away.

All in all I was not particularly impressed with the Kingdom. They will certainly have to work very hard in training if they are going to be there or thereabouts on final day.

Against Dublin the team was not as fit as it might have been. This can, and no doubt will, be righted—but what about the other deficiencies? Can they be put right or will they be as real and as telling as they were in last year's decider.

It is premature at this stage to make a forecast but I do feel that the Kingdom requires a 50 per cent. improvement if they are to succeed in their bid for that 21st crown.

JEM ROCHE

● FROM PAGE 63

proved Roche reverse the procedure by dumping Sullivan in an untidy heap midway through the 18th round, and their final meeting was another hectic slugfeast with Roche triumphant.

Jem's big chance came when he met Charlie Wilson, the former British champion, at the Olympia Theatre, Dublin, in October, 1907. He scored an impressive win by administering a powerful sleeping dose to the Englishman in the 8th round.

Around the same time Tommy Burns, the world champion, was in London for the purpose of a titular bout with Gunner Moir. When Burns disposed of Moir in the 10th round and was seeking another worthy challenger a group of Irish sports enthusiasts, headed by "Boss" Croker (the noted ex-Tammany Hall politician and race-horse owner) formed a syndicate

for the purpose of bringing Burns to Dublin to put his title at stake against Roche. As the price was right Burns accepted the invitation with alacrity, and a contract was signed between both fighters, which, it is interesting to note, necessitated Jem crying off the Wexford football team in January of 1908 for fear of possible injury.

Viewing the event in retrospect, it is perhaps an easy thing to say that Jem had no business being in the same ring as a fighter of Burns' calibre, but prior to March 17, 1908, Irishmen's confidence in Roche's chances would appear to have been justified. His record alone was impressive—only four defeats in over thirty contests and half his wins were effected by the short route. Burns' record sheet was not unsullied by reverses, and the form book seemed to indicate that Roche could hold his own, for

he had stopped Wilson in eight rounds, Wilson had stopped Gunner Moir in two, and the Gunner had lasted ten tough rounds with Burns.

But the fight turned out to be a crushing blow to Irish hopes. Midway through the initial round when they were both engaged in cautious sparring, Jem retreated quickly from a feinting movement of Burns. In doing so he threw himself slightly off balance. The opportunity was only there for a fleeting second, but it was all the time Burns required. He moved in rapidly, flashed a left jab to the body and hooked a snappy right to the jaw. Roche went down. Instinct alone tried to aid him in his effort to beat the count but unfortunate for Jem he was separated from his senses for the ten most vital seconds of his ring career.

If the lightning knock-out had been a great disappointment to Irishmen it had been a personal failure and a humiliating defeat for Jem, yet, like the great sportsman he was Roche accepted full responsibility for it himself. He offered no excuse, no attempt to shift the blame to any other quarter.

After that Jem Roche returned to his first love—the Gaelic sports field, sometimes playing, sometimes officiating as a referee and occasionally as trainer. For the most part the fickle fight-fans forgot about Jem, or only paused to recall that he had been knocked-out in one round of a titular clash, but the Old Gaels still remember Jem Roche as a "dashing footballer", a hurler who had a "great stroke in the open", and as a sportsman sufficiently endowed with athletic prowess to invade the ranks of heavyweight fighters and hammer his way to within punching distance of a world title.

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CAMOGIE

● FROM PAGE 61

In Leinster while some counties have shown very little progress I was greatly pleased at the enthusiasm shown in the junior competition in which those very go-ahead counties, Meath, Westmeath and Kildare were all concerned. Meath were deserving victors in the final, and indeed these three counties, all in the junior grade are far better organised than many of those which retain higher rank.

Kilkenny is reorganising steadily and there is at least one new club in Laois, but until Offaly makes some effort to institute local competitions, I fear the Faithful County will not be in a position to make much progress.

Brightest feature in Leinster, however, was the standard of play in the senior final between Dublin and Wexford. Dublin won convincingly on the scoreboard, but the score gave no real indication of the trend of the game.

Wexford matched Dublin in everything except combination and team-work. The brilliance of the play, the length and sureness of the striking on both sides had to be seen to be believed, but, while there was method and purpose behind every move of the Dublin forwards, Wexford had no plan of attack at all. This was perfectly obvious in the second half when the challengers attacked for most of the time, but never had the craft to get the scores they so well deserved.

What was very obvious from this game is that, at such level, players, however talented, need a certain amount of coaching to develop their potentialities to the full.

Unfortunately there is not as yet any coaching course, or even any booklet on camogie coaching and training. The provision of such a booklet would be a great step forward.



★ *NATURAL STYLE . . . but players need coaching, says Agnes Hourigan.*

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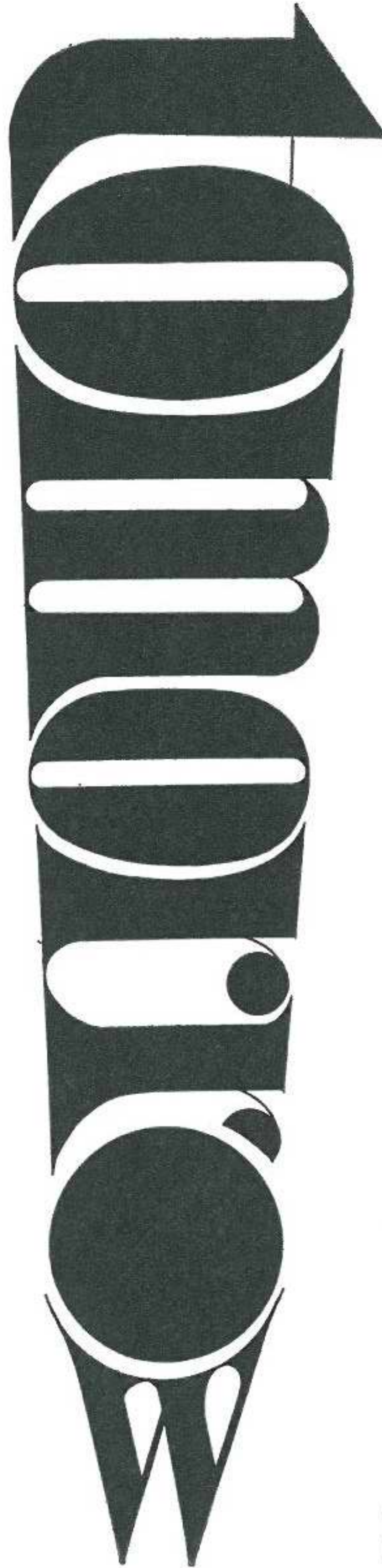
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Why not a "football Oireachtas"

by OWEN McCANN

A COMPETITION I would like very much to see added to the intercounty calendar this autumn is a four-team invitation knock-out senior football tournament on similar lines to the Oireachtas Cup—but with one very important difference.

Instead of all the top counties being eligible to receive invitations to compete, as in hurling, the football competition should be confined exclusively to the weaker counties. Admittedly, this would not make for as attractive a competition as one with the football "giants" competing, but it would, I am convinced, be much more beneficial for the game in the long run.

Remember, Clare, Tipperary, Monaghan, Leitrim and the like cannot at present entertain any real hope of enjoying a good run in the league or championship, let alone of winning one of these tests. Consequently, a national test of their own, no matter how limited, would help greatly to give these

counties the added encouragement and impetus needed to keep striving for football glory in the face of discouraging poor performances in the league and championship year in, year out.

After all, nothing succeeds like success, and it is easy to see what a wonderful thing it would be for football in, say, Clare, if they won such a tournament as I advocate, or even reached the final to earn the right to appear at Croke Park for the first time in years.

There would unquestionably be an immediate upsurge of interest in football among players, supporters and the youth of the county such as rarely, if ever, before experienced; an upsurge that would help greatly in setting the county concerned securely on the way up the ladder of football strength.

Another big and telling argument in favour of such a series is that it would at long last provide footballers in the weaker counties—and they are in the majority — with the chance, at

present denied them to all intents and purposes, of winning a national medal. They, surely, merit an opportunity such as this of gaining some reward in the form of a national souvenir for their efforts in the face of so many disheartening defeats.

The competition could be decided in conjunction with the Oireachtas Cup in hurling, the semi-finals of each test being played on the same day, though not necessarily at the same venues, and the football decider as the curtain-raiser to the Oireachtas decider.

How would the lucky teams be chosen? For the inaugural year, I would select the four weaker counties that fared best in that summer's provincial championship—one from each province. After that, the winners should be allowed to defend the title the following year, irrespective of how they fared in the championship.

As well as giving football in the

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● FROM PAGE 71

weaker counties that much needed fillip, I am convinced that a tournament on these lines would also help in the hurling drive. There are many strictly football fans, who, invariably, at present "pass over" the Oireachtas hurling final each year.

The staging of a competitive football game as a curtain-raiser—and a novel tie at that featuring teams that most fans rarely see in action—would help to attract many such "football only" conscious followers to headquarters on Oireachtas Sunday. Then, again, this final would invariably put hurling on parade from time to time before supporters of Fermanagh, Tyrone, Leitrim and the like; fans who rarely see an important hurling final.

As a result, many purely football followers would undoubtedly be won over to hurling, for, as Oireachtas Cup final regulars know only too well, that game is invariably a superb and thrilling exhibition—one of the best advertisements we have, in fact, for the premier national game.

An Oireachtas Cup-like test for the Cinderellas of football would not be too costly to run off; nor would there be any real difficulty as regards securing suitable dates for the semi-finals. And, of course, there is at present no recognised regular curtain-raiser to the Oireachtas hurling decider.

Here, then, is I feel, a very efficient way in which, for only a modest enough outlay, and without being in any way really over-ambitious, the Central Council can effectively accelerate the development of both football and hurling in those counties where both are weak.



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● FROM PAGE 7

tirement, they have had wonderful success in grafting young shoots to the trunk of tried and true material. Last year they made the wonderful discovery of young Michael Roche, who has taken over in a vital position for any aging team—centre field. He is now an established hurler of the highest class, and he is supremely strong and fit and able to do the donkey-work that so tires and reduces the effectiveness of older centre-field men.

In fact, he has given a new lease of life to Theo English as well as filling his own position so well. Theo now knows that he has a partner who will put in a dynamic effort for the whole sixty minutes, and he knows that he can content himself with that steady utilitarian competence which has always been his stock in trade—laying on the right sort of ball for the forwards, hovering constantly in the right position round the centre-line for the trifles which are scarcely considered by more flamboyant and spectacular centre-men.

One of the noticeable things about English always has been the fact that he accepted that centre-field was a position in which to play rather than a sort of auxiliary station. Some centre-field players rush about in furious efforts to lend unnecessary, and at times confusing, assistance to backs and forwards, and apparently under the impression that the often simple-looking tasks of being in the place for clearances from either end, is below their dignity.

Theo, showing greater sense, realised that he could not better serve his team than by producing the ammunition for the firing-line, a self-effacing if vital task. Yet, in the occasion of need, when the service of the ball has been going



SEAN McLOUGHLIN

Ace goal-getter

through to the forwards, but those forwards are held or are right off their game, Theo has had the killer shot in his locker. Surprise is the main weapon when Theo cuts through on his own—a goal is very often the result.

It seems that he is more confident than ever now with Roche to help him. For against Cork, the dash and the early exuberance of the Leesiders had the Tipperary forwards worried and the game was still without advantage to either side after a ten minute period. Theo, reading the game like a soothsayer, went up with the forwards making the extra man—the only thing the dashing marking of the Cork defence could not handle—picked up a pass and hung it up in the netting.

As I saw it this was a killer score. Not that Tipperary would not have won anyway, but it was not at all clear at this stage. Afterwards you could see the tension creep into the Cork men and conversely leave the Tipperary men as they smoothly swept to further and further advantage.

I think that centre-field will be

of great importance in the All-Ireland this year, for given the even break here Tipperary have often enough shown that they have the forwards and backs to beat any team.

I trust that this All-Ireland will not be overshadowed and will not lose some of its overall interest as a game, from the great weight of publicity which will inevitably be focussed on John Doyle, who strides out to even Christy Ring's record of eight All-Ireland medals, and which would make him the most decorated of all players of the game of hurling. There is no questioning the magnificence of this performance, of course. I would not want to minimise it in any way. But, let us try to estimate this as a hurling game in which any one man can play but one part.

Doyle, remember, has won seven and stands to win an eight by an accident of birth as much as by his own ability. For in the last twenty years, if John Doyle had been playing with Galway, or Clare, or even neighbouring Limerick, how many medals would he have? Maybe one or two, for knowing the man and his great-hearted ability, he might have inspired those counties to a great deed or two, but he could not have won seven. Yet, he would have been as great a hurler and no whit less great a man.

I ask for fair play for Doyle in this game, perhaps the most uncomfortable he will ever play, for the glare of publicity and the focus of the thoughts of all will be on him. Let us estimate the game, and enjoy the play as a match between two teams, and when the Tipperary men have won, as I feel they will, let us then lay out the red carpet for John Doyle.

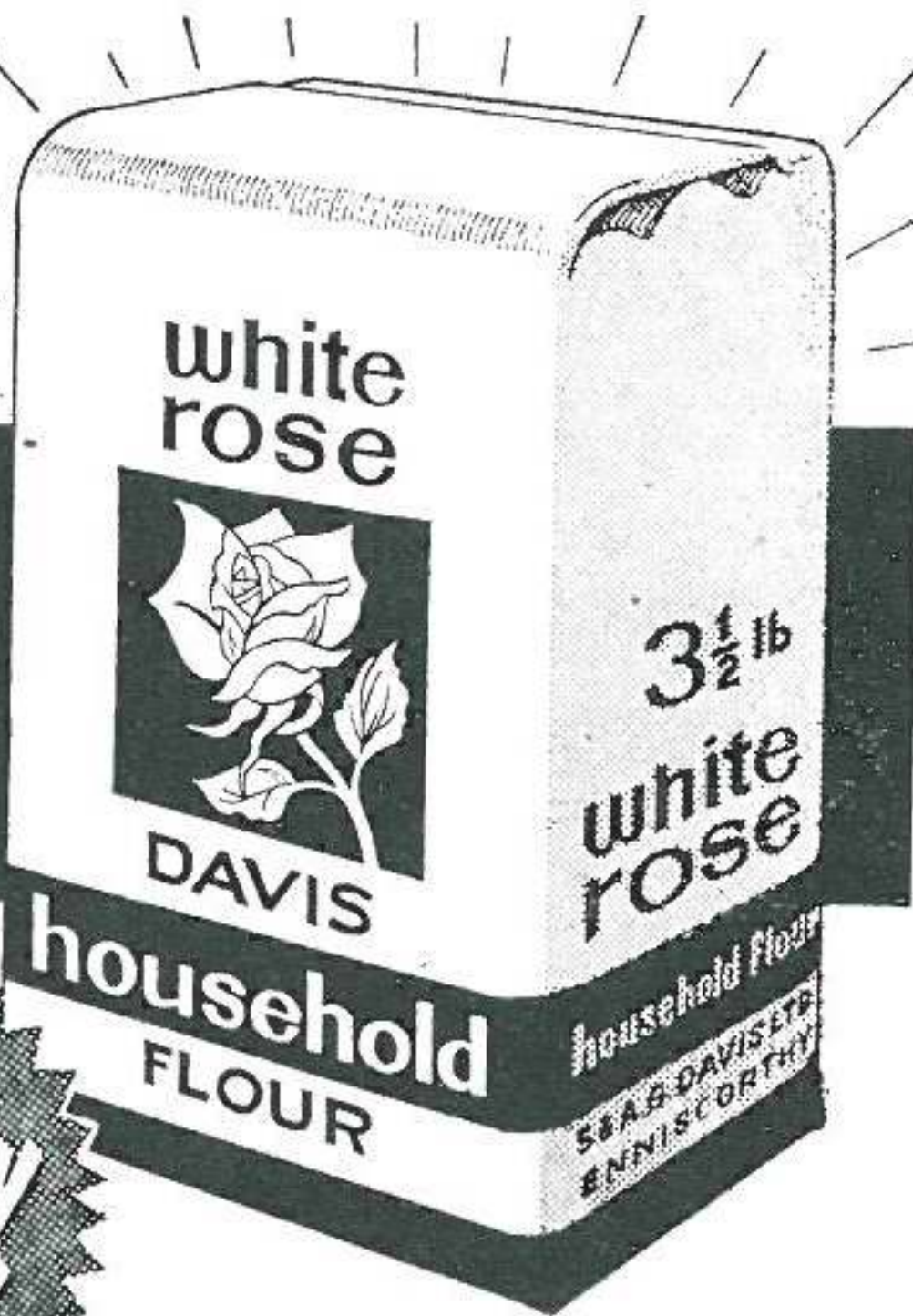
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famous Leinster final at Jones's Road, when the Kilkenny "invincibles" of the time were at the height of their power, but the day went against them on an objection, and Kilkenny went on to win the All-Ireland.

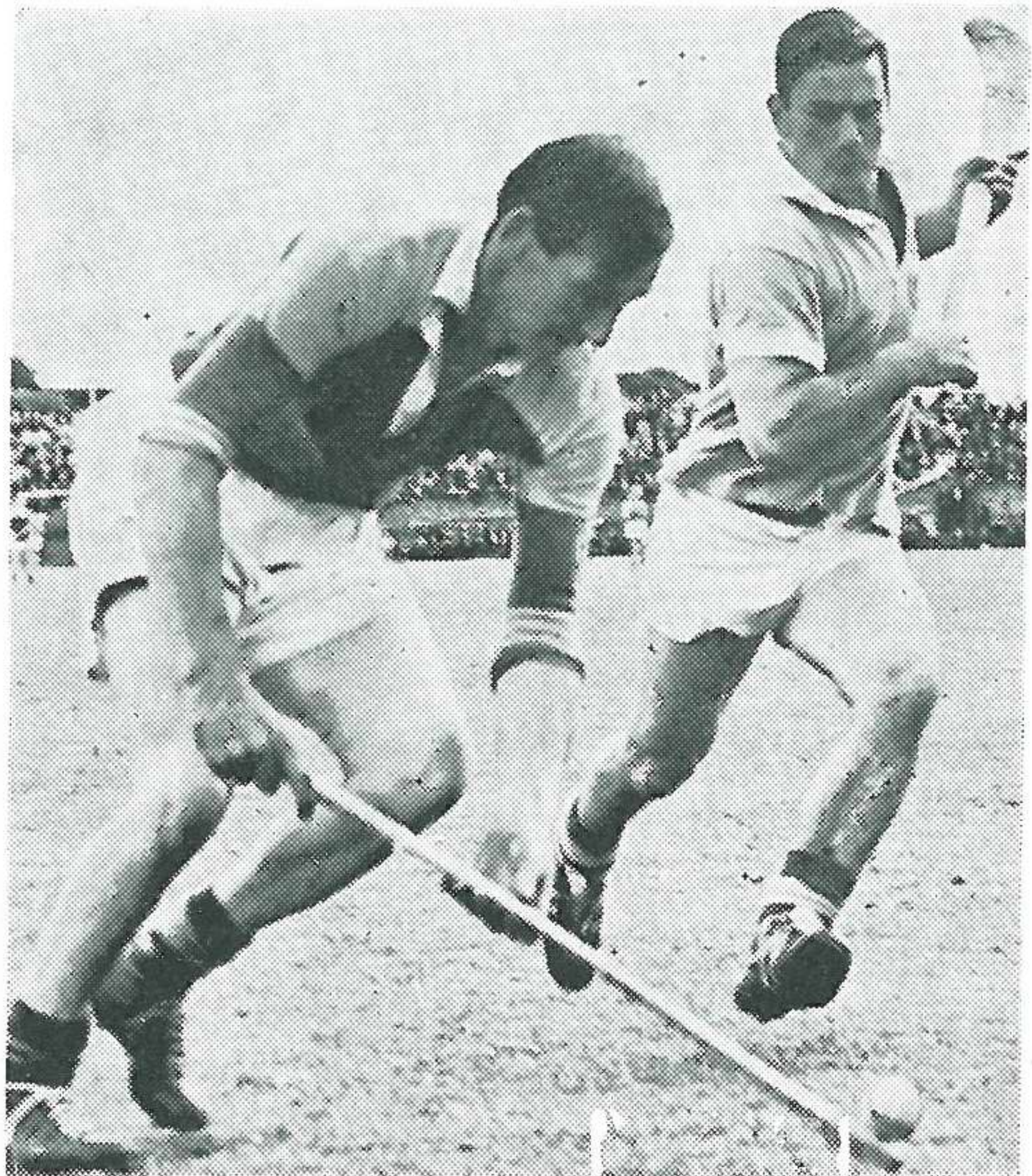
There were great hurlers in Wexford in those days, Sim Donohoe, Paddy Mackey, Sean Mor Kennedy and the peerless Mike Cummins from Ballymurrin to name but a few, and their turn came at last in 1910, when after sweeping through Leinster they upset all the odds by defeating Tyler Mackey and his dauntless Limerick hurlers in a sensational final at Jones's Road.

Wexford went into a commanding first-half lead and though a resurgent Limerick cut the lead to a single point ten minutes from full time they could never get through for the really vital score and so the hurling title was brought to the Slaney and Blackwater for the first time.

But there was little luck for those Wexford hurlers in the years that followed and then came the great football side which won six Leinster titles and four All-Irelands in a row, and turned the minds of the whole county to the big-ball game for a generation.

Still and all, the hurlers did battle through to another All-Ireland, in 1918, when they met Limerick again, but, believe me the Limerick hurlers took ample revenge that day for the upset back in 1910.

For more than twenty years thereafter, though Wexford always fielded in every hurling grade they never made any great progress. But to their credit they never gave up, and when hurling began to blossom again through the county, but more especially around Ennis-



★ WEXFORD 'GREAT' . . . Nick O'Donnell in action.

corthy they began the long struggle back to greatness.

In the middle-forties, the hurlers in purple and gold reached a Leinster senior final for the first time in a quarter of a century, and though they went down to Dublin, the spark had been lit, and the county had if you like another Mike Cummins to rally round, in a stalwart lad called Nicky Rackard, who for the next decade became a focal point for all the hurling ambitions of the Model County.

Nicky had two brothers with him and sometimes three as Wexford marched along the long, and often frustrating road to greatness and they really arrived in 1950, when Kilkenny only just pipped them at Nowlan Park in one of the greatest Leinster finals ever played.

Ever since that day Wexford has stood four square with all the greatest of the hurling counties. In 1951, after a thirty-three year interval, they regained the Leinster senior crown. Then they started marching to an Oireachtas victory. In 1954 they were Leinster champions again, and lost no prestige in failing narrowly to Cork in the All-Ireland final. In 1955 they came through to All-Ireland victory at last, a feat which they repeated in 1956 and they came back to win the title again in 1960.

They took several Oireachtas titles in the '50's, won the National League in 1956 and again in 1958, while in the present decade they have won two Intermediate and one minor All-Ireland title to show that the future of the hurling game is still safe beside the Slaney.

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maimed a man for life had it taken him in a vulnerable spot.

So hard did Rackard throw his considerable weight behind that drive that he twisted a knee in the process, and had to be carried from the field, to the sympathetic cheers of the crowd, but the scores were now level.

There was less than a minute of "lost time" left to play by then, but Pat Stakelum ruined all our hopes of having the privilege of seeing those two great teams meet again when he landed a point from a far-out free on the very call of time. Not too long afterwards the same counties met again in another League final—it may have been in the following year—but this time Wexford were under a cruel handicap.

Old Bob Rackard from Killanne, father of the three Rackard brothers died, just a week before the game was due to take place and in tribute to their father's memory, Bobbie, Billie and Nicky cried off the Wexford side. Peculiarly enough no one seems to have thought of suggesting that the game be postponed for a week or two.

Anyway Wexford, without the Rackards, still put up a tremendous battle, and though beaten, were a trifle unlucky to lose as the day's play went.

By this time there was a general belief throughout the rest of Gael-dom, outside Wexford of course, that the boys from the Slaney could never succeed in beating the men of Tipperary in a major Croke Park game when, as they say in the States, "the chips were really down."

Even when Wexford won the All-Ireland title by defeating Galway in the 1955 final, there was no general acceptance in Munster of their fitness to hold the crown. "Yes, they are champions, but

who did they beat?" was the general opinion, and so it was a real test of strength when they met Tipperary again in the National League final of 1956.

That was a day which was a true test of hurling greatness, for a goal to goal wind of near gale force drove rain and drizzle head-long before it into the Railway goal.

Jim English was captain of Wexford that day, and I can well remember how he set his face firmly to the breeze and the rain as Wexford set themselves to battle both Tipperary and the elements in the first half.

Unfortunately for Jim, he did not last long. An accidental blow forced him to retire with a very severe head injury and he could only sit miserably on the side-line as Tipperary, playing inspired hurling, proceeded to sweep Wexford from the field.

Indeed, at half time, the game looked as good as over, for Tipperary led by fifteen points at the interval, and no team on earth, we believed, could haul down that lead, wind or no wind. Nor did Wexford make all that impression on the opposition in the first ten minutes or so of the second half.

But then suddenly Ned Wheeler and Jim Morrissey started driving over points from fantastic distances out; Nicky Rackard and Tim Flood began to weave their way through the Tipperary defence, and that long lead dwindled and dwindled to manageable proportions, even though Paddy Kenny kept sniping over the occasional but invaluable point for Tipperary.

We were into the last ten minutes when the challenge really reached its height, and then I saw what I had never thought to see, Tipperary reeling under an onslaught which even they could not hold. In went score after

score, until, almost unbelievably, Wexford were a point ahead, and the crowd were in a frenzy of excitement.

Tipperary broke back up field in a gallant attempt to save the day, but the Wexford defence was rampant now and turned back those frenzied efforts with relative ease. And then back came the Slanemen in a last assault on the Tipperary sticks. I was sitting high on the Cusack Stand and I can still vividly remember a cluster of purple and gold jerseys, with Nick Rackard in the van, sweeping down like an avalanche on the Railway goal.

Against them came the whole flower of Tipperary in a deathless effort to stem the tide, but they were brushed aside in amazing fashion, and though men from both teams went down like nine-pins in that last charge it was big Nicky who went thundering on to crash the ball to the Tipperary net and leave Wexford clear-cut winners when the last whistle blew.

I have in my time heard many teams receive an ovation after winning a game at Croke Park, but I have never, before nor since, seen or heard anything to resemble the scenes that greeted Wexford on that May Sunday nine years ago. Stands and terraces alike gave them what can only be described as a royal ovation as friend and foe alike rose to one of the greatest rallies that Croke Park is ever likely to see.

But of course, Tipperary had yet to be beaten by Wexford in the championship, and they did not meet again in that competition until 1960. A number of the great Wexford stars had hung up their hurleys by then, and I can never remember any team to be as firm favourites coming into an All-

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Ireland final as were Tipperary that year.

But, to the astonishment of all Ireland, not alone did Wexford win, but they won convincingly, in a game that provided the greatest hour of Nick O'Donnell's great career.

Two years later the same counties met again, and this time Tipperary whipped in two goals in the first minute. Yet, magically, Wexford fought back, and were somewhat unlucky to lose narrowly in another thrilling finish.

And since then the balance of power has remained with Tipperary. After a drawn game, they defeated the Slaneymen in the replay of an Oireachtas final, while last May twelve months they beat Wexford readily in the final of the League.

So Tipperary must again be favourites as they go in to the

All-Ireland final this time, particularly when one thinks of the ease with which they defeated Cork in the Munster final.

On the other hand Wexford just scraped by Kilkenny in the Leinster decider, and think of the way in which Tipperary swept past Kilkenny in last year's final, and also in the League final at the start of this year.

But it is impossible to gauge the worth of any Wexford team by the form-book. Their list of successes in recent years in minor and Intermediate grade means that many of their men have far more experience than is immediately obvious at senior level and one thing is certain, that if they can improve as much between the Leinster final and the All-Ireland as they did between the provincial semi-final and final, then they are going to take a great deal of stopping.

On paper all the odds must favour Tipperary. They have the strength, the power, the craft and the experience. They have not suffered a championship defeat for more than two years; they have the added incentive of John Doyle's bid for his eighth medal, and, above all they are the men in possession.

By any reckoning, Tipperary must be three to one on to win. Against any other team but Wexford I would not even consider any other forecast except a Tipperary victory, but one never knows with these Wexford men.

The head says Tipperary must win, with something to spare, but the heart is always hoping that these dauntless hurlers in purple and gold will once again rise to the seemingly impossible task. Win who will, it will be a game worth going a long way to see.

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