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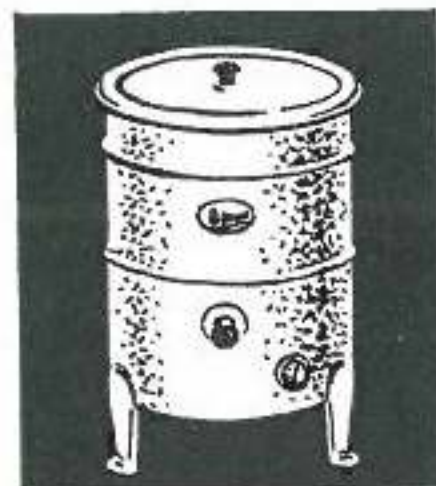
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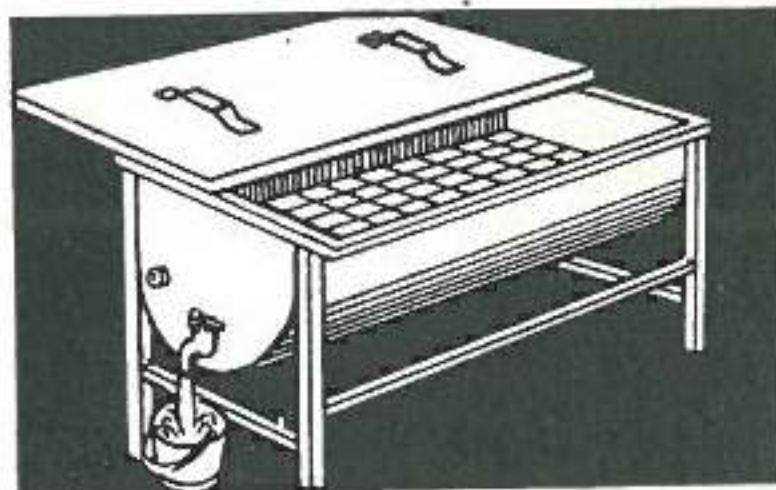
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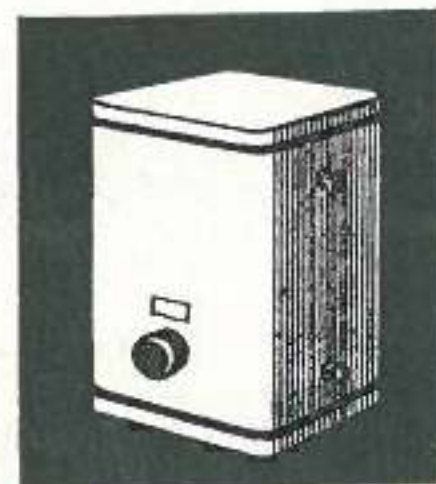
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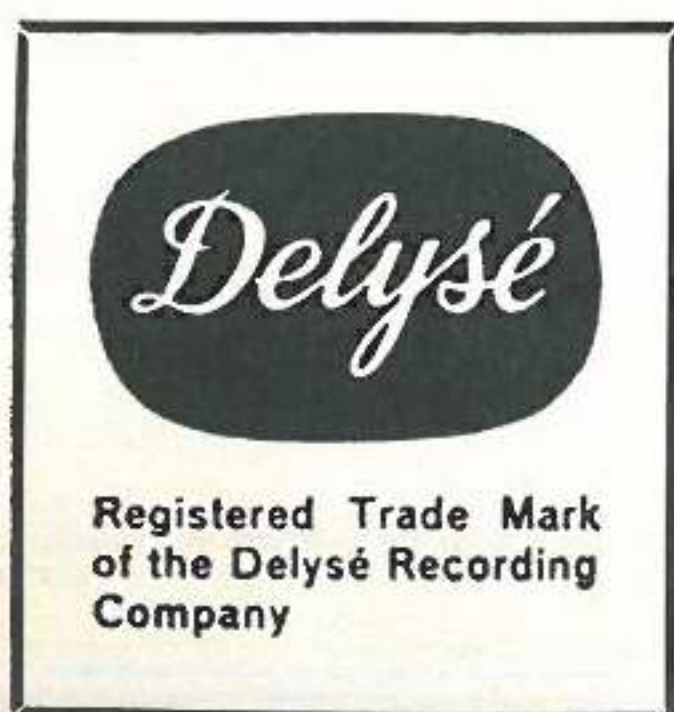
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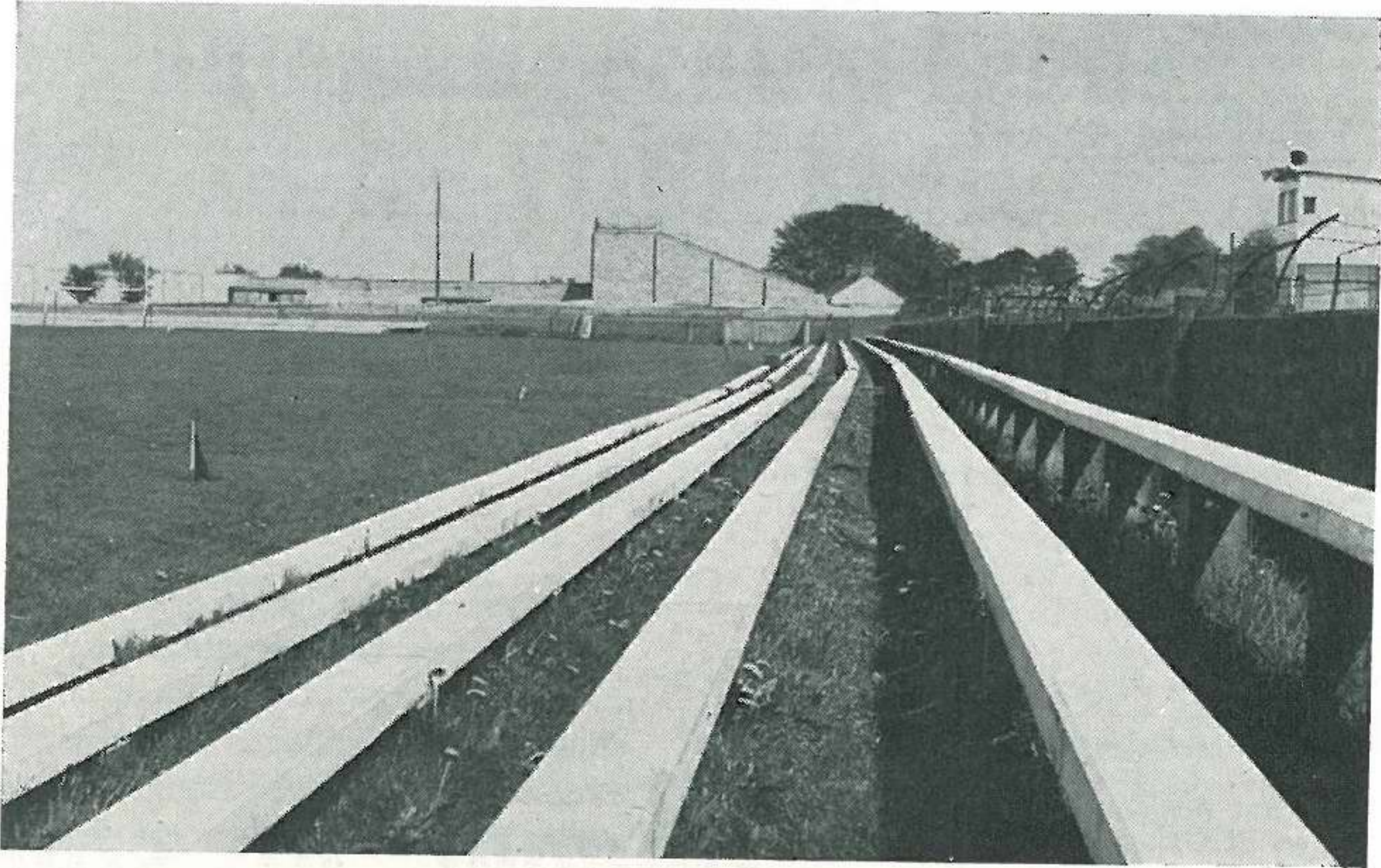
THIS year's All-Ireland senior hurling final may not have been of the classic mould but it was nonetheless a game of which we can all be proud. It was played sportingly and with honest determination. We can demand no more.

It was in this particular regard that last year's football final left so much to be desired. The fact that the game was seen on television by millions of viewers in Britain and America added to the gravity of the situation. Such again must never happen.

Whatever the outcome of this year's final the good name of Gaelic games and of Ireland must be upheld. One hour of clean and earnest football is what is required and in this regard it must be emphasised that clean football invariably means good football.

The stage is set. The rich green sod of Croke Park awaits the men of Galway and Meath. Followers of Gaelic games both at home and abroad await this game with eager anticipation. It promises much—should, in fact, be one of the great finals of our time. Let no player behave other than to make it so.

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GALWAY

EXPERIENCE

|
versus
|

MEATH

ENTHUSIASM



By Dominic Davin

WHO will be All-Ireland football champions for 1966? Will the Sam Maguire Cup go to the Royal County where it has not been seen since Peter McDermott brought the big trophy home in 1954? Or will the honours return again to Galway where they have so rightly rested through the past two seasons?

The question can admit of no easy answer, for, on previous form, there can be very little between these two teams. In 1964, when they met in the All-Ireland semi-final, no great heed was taken beforehand of Meath's chances, yet they all but shocked the confident Connachtmen, and, indeed, had the referee's whistle not gone for a free to Meath just before a great goal by Jack Quinn for the Leinstermen, who knows what way the verdict would have been.

We expected to see another great game between them when both counties qualified for the Grounds Tournament final, but Meath did not take part in that decider and so their next meeting was not until the Spring of 1965, when they clashed in the National League semi-final.

Again it was a level and keenly-contested game, again there was little in it any stage, and again Galway won. And there, as far as direct form is concerned, the matter rests. From there we can only check the form of the teams in the current championship. Now let me say in the first place that I have fancied Meath since first I saw them sweep past Wexford in the very opening game of their championship run.

I had been hearing that the Meath forwards were not up to the

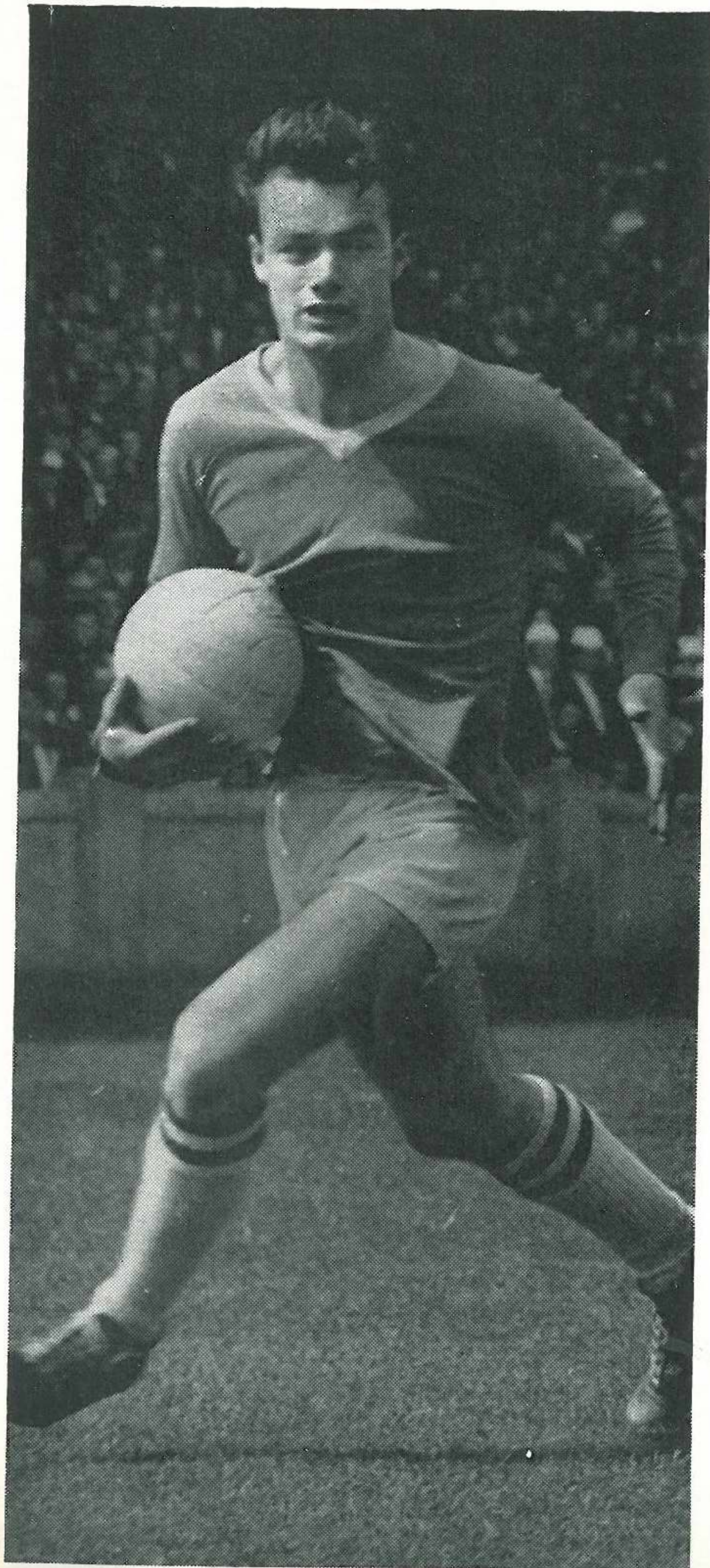
standard of the rest of the side yet they scored ten times in the first fifteen minutes that day, and that standard of shooting can hardly be surpassed against any opposition.

Similarly they built up a good score against Westmeath in the opening half of the semi-final, and survived a strong Midland rally after the interval.

Then came their only somewhat lucky hour, against Kildare in the Leinster final. Once again Meath, with wind advantage, had a good lead at the interval, but they got the breaks during that period, for there might well have been a penalty to Kildare and Meath's goal was a trifle fortunate.

Yet Meath showed great fighting spirit by battling back when Kildare rallied in the second-half and

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF



A recent action picture of the Meath forward, Noel Curran, who was one of the men mainly responsible for Down's rout in the All-Ireland semi-final. Noel started—rather inconspicuously—in the left corner then moved to full forward in the second half and, with excellent support, wreaked devastation on the Down defence.

just deserved their one point margin at the close.

In those three Leinster games, the Meathmen had decisively proved their ability to take an early lead and hold on to it despite the best subsequent efforts of the opposition. The semi-final against Down provided the decisive answer to the only remaining question about their abilities. Had they the power and persistence to come from behind?

The Ulster champions led them by double scores, six points to three, at half-time, and that margin must have been considerably greater but for an inspired display by Jack Quinn at full-back.

But, from the start of the second half, Meath looked a different side, and the extent to which they took over full control is mirrored by their fifteen scores after the interval, a tally that I have never seen equalled by any other team in a senior semi-final.

The Galwaymen on the other hand have all said and done, been competent rather than brilliant on their way to this, their fourth consecutive All-Ireland final. Their first outing in the West was no more than a preliminary canter, but they too had their share of luck in the Connacht final, when only two belated scores snatched victory from eager Mayo.

Against a strong and purposeful Cork side the champions were often very much at full stretch indeed and, but for the ceaseless vigilance of Johnny Geraghty

● CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

between the posts, must have had an even closer call than they did.

Yet their craft and experience were always evident and with a history-making third-in-a-row victory to be achieved. I feel these Galwaymen will recapture much of the fire that they have notably lacked through the past twelve months.

Their defence, so often labouring against Cork, will one imagines be a different proposition now that Martin Newell and Bosco McDermott have had time to train back to top form, while their mid-field pairing should be better than against Cork, and it will need to be.

The Galway mentors have the doubtful advantage of having a wealth of forward talent at their disposal, including all the men who figured on their two previous winning sides, but picking the six that will blend together to best advantage against this solid Meath defence is a major problem in itself, particularly as the Meath half-back line, in full cry, is the best in the country.

Meath too will have a problem, whether or not to use the great Martin Quinn whose services will be available on Final Day.

This final as I see it, will be a test of enthusiasm against experience. To both sides Croke Park will be a home from home—there is little advantage to either side there. Galway will be imbued with the confidence of past victories, Meath buoyed up by the ambition to take a fall out of the champions and recapture the All-Ireland crown.

If Galway can take and hold the lead going into the last quarter, I would expect their craft and combination to pull them through but if Meath take the lead at that stage, can even Galway contain a last-quarter drive such as the Leinstermen produced against Down? I doubt it, even though they finished so well against Mayo and Cork.

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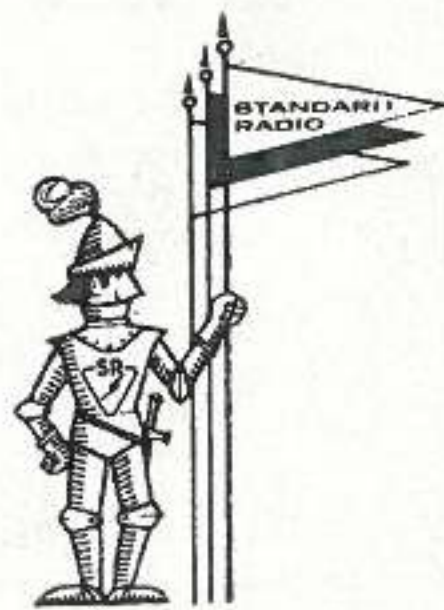
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by **MATTIE McDONAGH**

I'll be
happy
to get
there
by a
point!

BEING at Croke Park on the fourth Sunday of September is becoming somewhat of a habit. Still there is not a Galwayman who does not recognise that this time we have a real test to face.

If one were to judge solely on the semi-final performances then Meath must start favourites. They looked magnificent in that second-half against Down. Their forwards picked off points from all angles. Their midfield was on top and their half-back line very hard to penetrate. At full back, Jack Quinn gave a wonderful performance of high fielding and intelligent clearing.

An unusual feature of the game was the amount of bunching around midfield—often a dozen players concentrated on gaining possession. It was from this sort of bunching that Meath got those two breaks which led to Gerry Quinn's goals.

In their semi-final game Galway were far removed from the form suggested by Meath. The backs were unsteady. Were it not for the anticipation of Johnny Geraghty we would not be in the final. But then as they say—"If the dog hadn't stopped he'd have caught the hare."

At mid-field and in attack too Galway were not particularly impressive but in this regard it must not be forgotten that in Cork they met a particularly good team—much stronger opposition than Meath encountered in their semi-final. At least so I believe.

I cannot but wonder how Gerry Quinn, Noel Curran and Co. would have done against the close-marking, high-fielding Cork backs?

In saying this I am trying to

take nothing away from the Meath attack. I rate them highly. In fact, in all departments this Meath team can be said to possess the vital qualities of speed, physique and experience.

Many people are inclined to forget Meath's experience. This Royal County side has, in fact, been to the forefront almost as long as Galway. We went through to the finals whereas Meath did not—other than that there is little difference by way of experience.

Oddly enough it is for this very same reason that I believe that Galway will win. We have met Meath on quite a few occasions during the past three or four years. Man for man the teams have changed little. There was never much in it but when it mattered Galway won. I believe we can do the same again.

People talk of incentive—suggesting that Meath have the edge here—the great desire to win a first All-Ireland medal. Well, I can assure readers that there is no shortage of incentive in Galway either. We are really keen on that three-in-a-row. Few teams have succeeded in achieving this feat. We would particularly like to be the first in a long, long time.

I look to a hard, sporting game with never more than a few points between the teams. The contrast in styles should lead to a high standard of football and I expect the pace to be maintained for, by September 25, there will be no shortage of fitness on Galway's part.

I will be happy if Galway win by a point—but it will not surprise me if we have two or three to spare.



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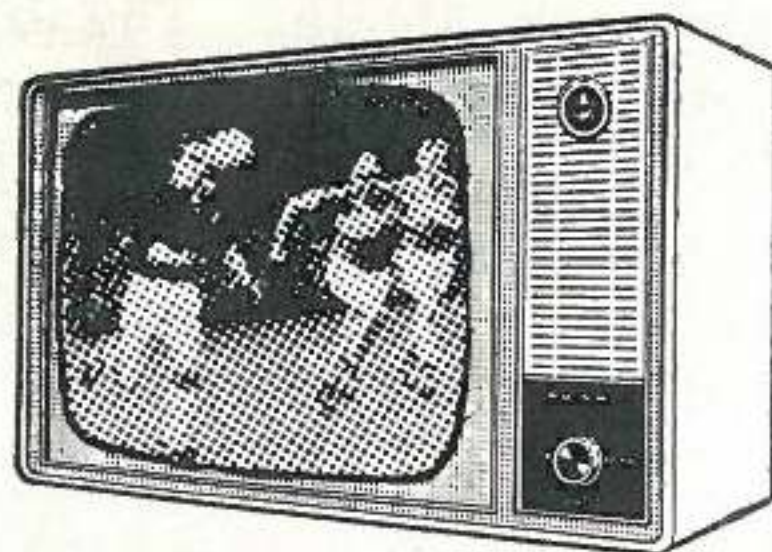
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Top marks to Doolan and Moore

THIS month's Top Ten lists are based on intercounty performances for the period Sunday, August 7, to Sunday, September 4, inclusive.

The hurling list is made up entirely of Cork and Kilkenny players with Peter Doolan taking top honours and closely followed by his fellow-countyman, Paddy Barry.

Peter Moore of Meath tops the football list as a result of his outstanding performance against Down. Galway's Cyril Dunne is in second place. Meath dominate the football list taking five of the ten places as against three for Galway and two for Cork.

HURLING

1. Peter Doolan (Cork).
2. Paddy Barry (Cork).
3. Martin Coogan (Kilkenny).
4. Denis Murphy (Cork).
5. Colm Sheehan (Cork).
6. Seamus Cleere (Kilkenny).
7. Jerry O'Sullivan (Cork).
8. Seanie Barry (Cork).
9. Eddie Keher (Kilkenny).
10. Tony Connolly (Cork).

FOOTBALL

1. Peter Moore (Meath).
2. Cyril Dunne (Galway).
3. Jack Quinn (Meath).
4. Noel Curran (Meath).
5. Mattie McDonagh (Galway).
6. Con O'Sullivan (Cork).
7. Pat Reynolds (Meath).
8. Mick Burke (Cork).
9. Pat Collier (Meath).
10. Johnny Geraghty (Galway).



JACK QUINN

INTERVIEWED BY SEAN O'DONNELL

FEW men have played so vital a role in Meath's 1966 resurgence as Jack Quinn. Formerly at mid-field, the 23-year-old Kilbride man has in recent outings proven himself to be a true heir to Paddy O'Brien. His display against Down in the semi-final was surely one of the finest full back performances of recent years and it was mainly responsible for curbing the Mourne forwards—especially in the first-half when things could have gone very much against Meath.

I recently had the following conversation with the tall and powerfully built Meathman:—

O'Donnell—Were you surprised by Meath's easy victory over Down?

Quinn—Yes, I was surprised. However there was nothing easy about the first half.

O'D.—Why do you think Down were so poor?

Q.—Well to begin with some of their best players are now in the veteran stage, but leaving that aside one got the impression from the Ulster final that there was a tendency to spoil and foul rather than play direct football. This negative sort of approach never wins a championship.

O'D.—The Meath forwards looked magnificent against Down. Was this a flash in the pan?

Q.—I would not think so. Peter McDermott has worked very hard at improving our forwards and he has done a wonderful job. I believe that we will see much the same form against Galway.

O'D.—Are you happy about playing at full back?

Q.—As long as we keep winning I am happy but, to be honest, I prefer playing at mid-field.

O'D.—Do you expect to beat Galway?

Q.—I believe that a team should be confident before a game such as this—not over-confident—but simply confident in its ability to win. I believe Meath can win this game—by as much as four points. I say this fully realising that in Galway we are meeting a team which has won all before it during the past three years.

O'D.—Up to now this Meath team has always failed at the vital hurdle. Could it happen again?

Q.—Anything can happen—but I don't think it will. In the past we were usually beaten by hard luck—remember the 1964 semi-final. This year luck seems to be on our side and, of course, we have greatly improved.

O'D.—Going back to that 1964 semi-final against Galway, that

defeat must have been a great disappointment?

Q.—Yes it was—more especially as I had a goal disallowed and then my brother Gerry had the goal at his mercy only to send it yards wide. In fairness to him though, it should be put on record that he got a wee push at the vital moment.

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

Q.—I would say the 1964 Leinster final victory over Dublin. That victory brought Meath back into the big-time, it also meant revenge over Dublin who had beaten us the previous year — and, of course, Dublin were the reigning champions. All of these things combined to make it a memorable victory.

O'D.—How is training going?

Q.—Great. Peter McDermott is doing a wonderful job and everything is fine. There is a great spirit and everybody is doing his share. After every training session we are brought to a hotel for a meal and it has all helped to build up a feeling of confidence and of togetherness.

O'D.—Finally, Jack, who was your schoolboy idol?

Q.—There were two. First Paddy O'Brien and later Mick O'Connell.

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**THE FIRST FINAL
AT JONES'S ROAD**

MEATH'S NOBLE GESTURE

By Séamus Ó Ceallaigh

JUST over seventy years ago, Meath figured in a memorable All-Ireland football final. Beating Cavan, Kilkenny and Dublin in successive outings, the Navan O'Mahonys qualified for the 1895 Blue Riband decider and had as their opponents the Arravale Rovers—a great and colourful team from Tipperary town, who had in Willie Ryan a player renowned in football story.

The game was played in the then City and Suburban Sports Ground, Jones' Road—now Croke Park—and was the first All-Ireland final on that historic pitch. It took place on March 15, 1896—a typical March day, but notwithstanding the unfavourable weather conditions it turned out a game fit to rank with the great ones of the Gaelic arena—a contest that gave the big crowd of spectators something to remember.

There was intense excitement as the teams fought a neck and neck struggle, the exchanges were thrill-packed, yet the match right through was contested in a thoroughly sporting manner.

Scores did not come easily against sterling defenders and the total tally was a mere seven points—four for Tipperary, three for Meath.

There was much rejoicing in the Tipperary camp when the medals were presented immediately after the game, and the first to con-

gratulate them were their gallant opponents from the Royal County.

The Meath players on that occasion were: H. Murray (Captain); H. Pentelon, P. Clarke, J. Hegarty, J. Russell, G. W. Toome, J. A. Shaw, B. McCabe, P. Fox, J. Elliott, M. Rogers, C. Curtis, J. Quinn, V. McDermott, J. Fitzpatrick, J. Sharkey, P. Daly.

There was a bombshell the following day when a telegram reached Navan from the then Secretary of the Central Council, Dick Blake, stating that the match had been declared a draw.

Next morning, St. Patrick's Day, 1896, a letter from the referee, J. J. Kenny of Dublin, appeared in the daily newspapers. Mr. Kenny said: "In refereeing the match on Sunday last between the Arravale Rovers and Pierce Mahonys, I awarded a point to Tipperary, which was scored from inside the 21 yards mark. This point should not have been allowed."

Mr. Kenny was known as a man of high integrity as well as a most impartial and capable referee and his letter created a deep impression in Gaelic circles. But with the medals already distributed an awkward situation was created for the Central Council.

The difficulty was speedily and satisfactorily overcome by the magnificent sporting gesture of the Meath players, who at a special meeting unanimously agreed to

allow the Arravale Rovers to retain the medals. They asked, however, that another match between the teams be arranged. Conveying this decision to the Central Council, the Mahony's President, John P. Timmons wrote: "Proud as I should be to see the All-Ireland medals decorating the breasts of the boys in whom I take such deep interest, yet prouder am I to be president of a club which for the sake of the G.A.A. can show such a grand spirit of self-abnegation."

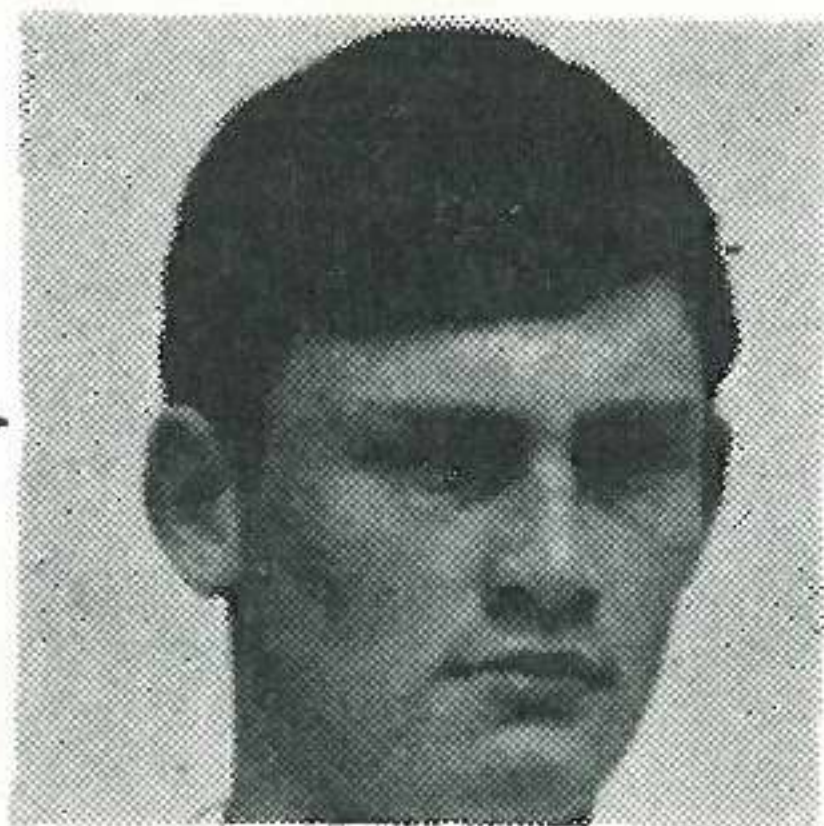
The Central Council awarded a special set of medals to the Meath players, and also acceded to the request for another meeting.

That took place early in May, in ideal weather conditions, and the game was even better than the All-Ireland final, and more exciting. More remarkable still, the result was a draw—four points all.

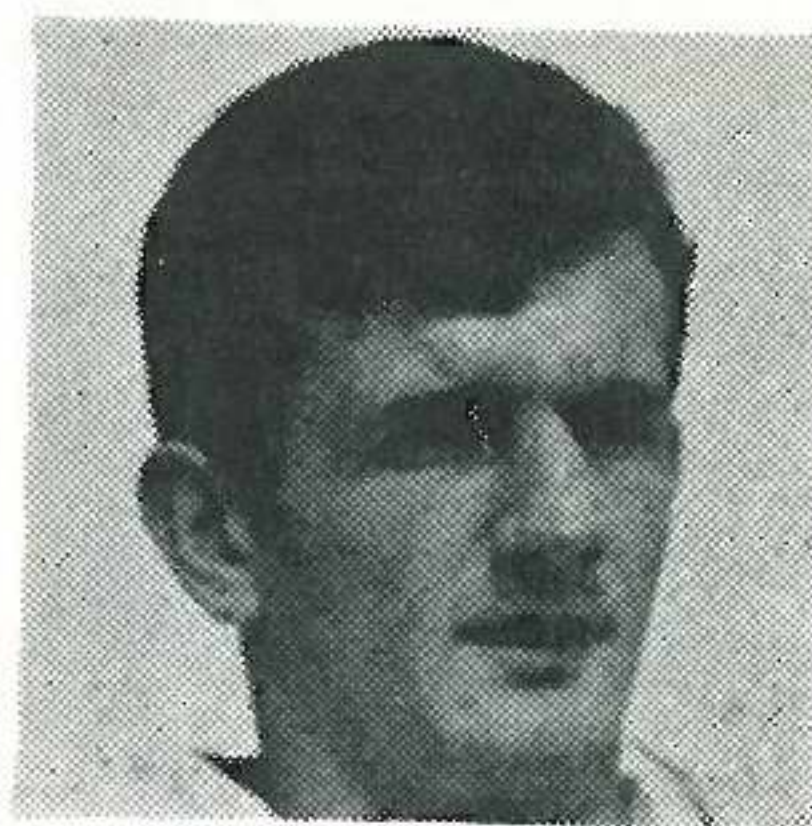
So this great pair had to meet a third time, and again it was a case of honours even.

At the fourth effort Tipperary gained the verdict, but Gaelic football was the real winner as it gained many adherents because of the deeds of two great counties at a period when most needed.

Many areas were in a bad state following the disastrous consequences of the Parnell "Split" and to Tipperary and Meath much of the credit must go for getting the G.A.A. back again on a solid foundation.



Jimmy Duggan



Liam Sammon

GALWAY'S NEW MEN

I HAVE been asked to fill in readers on Galway's newcomers introduced this year. I refer to Tom Brennan, Liam Sammon, Cólín McDonagh and Jimmy Duggan. Though I'm not sure at the time of writing how many of these will be selected for final day, I will endeavour to fill in the background on all four.

Readers of this column should need no introduction to young Duggan. I have written that he is the best prospect to hit the colleges scene with St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, since Sean Purcell. Son of former Annaghdown and Galway star Joe and nephew of Galway F. Board President Paddy "Staff" Stephens, himself a former Galway star too, Jimmy created a tremendous impression when transferred to midfield late in the Connacht final and continued to inspire in the semi-final win over Cork.

At this stage Duggan is the best young midfield prospect on the football scene since the days of Tommy Murphy of Laois. Domiciled in Claremorris with whom he plays club football, Jimmy has encountered his club team-mates more

than once so far in the inter-county arena. The star of this year's St. Jarlath's College Hogan Cup win, Duggan has no greater supporters and critics than his parents, two of Galway's keenest followers over the years. We wish him a great All-Ireland debut.

Liam Sammon is a Galway City native and one of the more prominent members of the Fr. Griffin club. A great pal of Galway team captain Enda Colleran over the years, Liam was establishing a name for himself in last year's Galway junior team when injury cut short his progress. This year he has made a great return to his form of a year ago. Stronger now, Liam has great ball control, is deceptively fast, combines well and showed in the Connacht final that he can take his chance even if it is the only one presented to him in the hour. A former St. Mary's College, Galway, star, he is the son of one of Galway's most popular publicans.

Tom Brennan is a first cousin of Noel Tierney and like Noel is a native of Milltown. One of three brothers, all of whom are pillars

of their club team, Tom was centre-half back on Galway's successful junior team of last year. Brother Seán came on as a substitute for Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final victory over Kerry in 1963 and made an auspicious debut. He subsequently suffered a very serious injury which finished his inter-county career but to his eternal credit he still assists his club team and though severely handicapped is a match for anybody.

The third Brennan, Gabriel, is another fine defender and was one of Galway's junior stars against Down in Newry this year. But Tom is the greatest prospect and may yet develop into Galway's number one centre half back.

Finally Cólín McDonagh. Born in Carraroe, his late father was a staunch member of the Cois Fhairrge team Micheal Breathnachs. His uncle Pat McDonagh, popularly known as "Big Pat" and like Cólín's father a schoolteacher, was a Galway player in the early 'forties. Cólín is no big man. In fact he is small for a back, another Mick O'Brien. He first came to prominence with St. Jarlath's Col-



Cólín McDonagh

By
CHRIS MURRAY

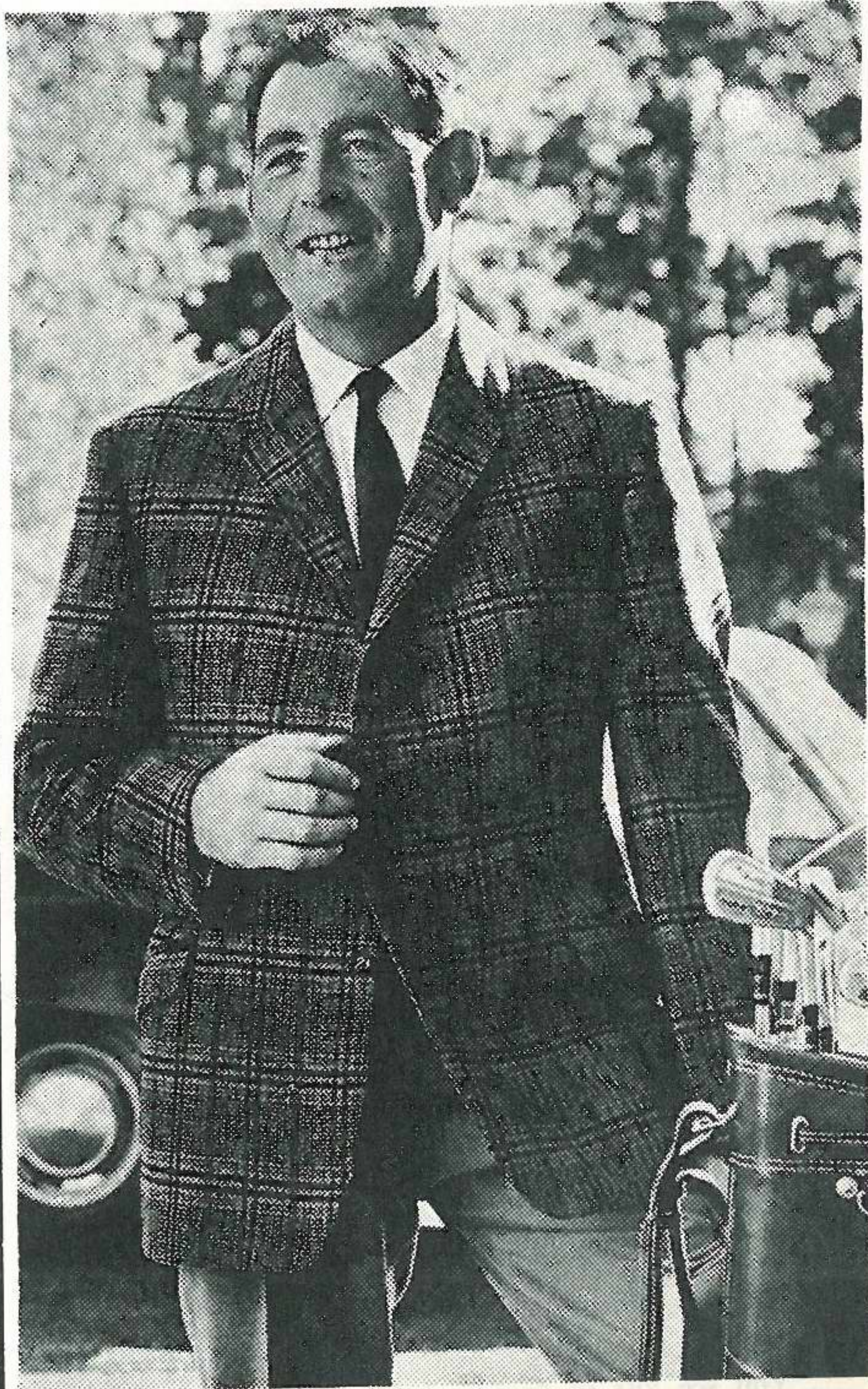
lege, Tuam, and was one of the pillars of their Hogan Cup winning team of 1964 at midfield. Possessing great ball control and a fine sidestep, young and boyish-looking Cólín is as clean as a dye and a very popular young lad in his native Salthill, where his family now resides.

A student at U.C.G. like Liam Sammon, Cólín's Connemara connections keep up a great traditional football link-up. Football has always been popular in Connemara, despite the lack of pitches. The numerous strands are utilised to the full and the Joyces, Careys, McDonaghs, Keoghs, Thorntons, O'Sullivans, and Co. of this and other years have given great and loyal service to Galway. Now a full-blooded Connemara man is with Galway again. The tradition is maintained.

These then are Galway's newcomers introduced so far this season. We wish all four a céad míle fáilte and in doing so pay tribute to the men they have replaced, men who gave tremendous service to the maroon and white.



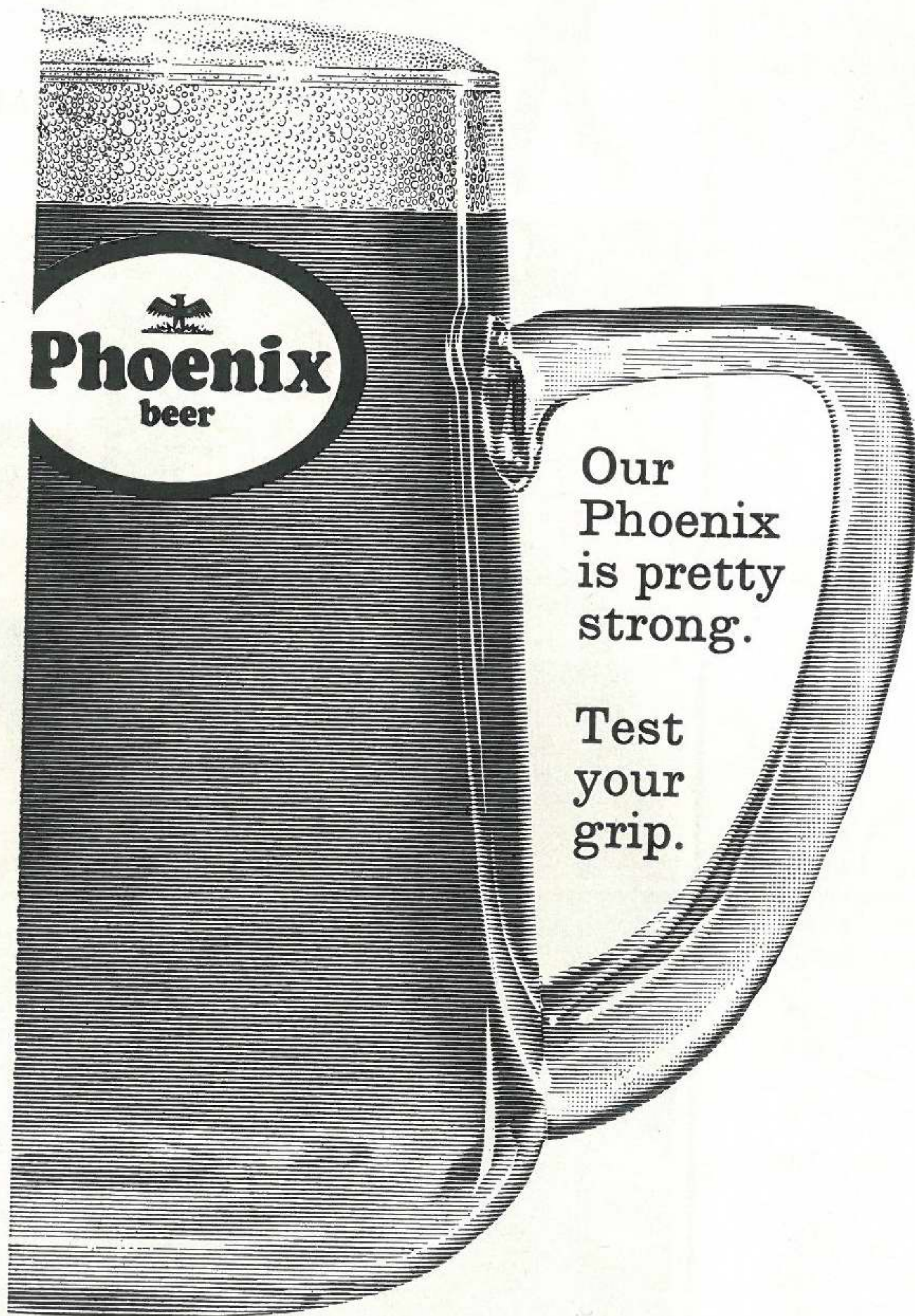
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Cyril Dunne



John Keenan



Mattie McDonagh

THE MARKSMEN of Galway

IN the all important and match-winning arts of poaching goals, capitalising fully on every points scoring opportunity, whether from play or frees, and in engineering defence-splitting moves that lead to the type of brilliantly executed score that has a demoralising effect on any opposition, Galway's forwards are second to none.

Since the present team "arrived" as a football force in 1963, one can remember off-hand games in which the Galway forwards have demonstrated these attributes in graphic style. Yet, the most eloquent testimony to their brilliant technique is an impressive total of 65 goals and 656 points, an 851 points tally in all. This is the combined scoring record since the start of 1963 up to and including this year's All-Ireland semi-final, of the six forwards and two midfielders on duty in that win over Cork.

In building up this tally, the goals-poacher supreme has been John Keenan. In 62 engagements he raised 19 green flags, six more

The Top Performers

Points	Score	Games	Average
422 C. Dunne	27-341	105	4.01
268 M. McDonagh	20-208	166	1.61
237 J. Keenan	29-150	88	2.69
154 S. Leydon	19-97	91	1.69
122 P. Donnellan	14-80	86	1.41

By OWEN McCANN

than any other forward. Weigh in 105 points for a grand total of 162 points, plus the fact that he is also a superb footballer to have available to move to midfield when things are not going too well thereabouts, and it is obvious what a tremendous asset the hard working 24-year-old Dunmore McHales club-man, whose match average for the period is at 2.61 points the second highest in the panel, is to Galway.

Then, there is the footballer who

for a time looked like becoming the "forgotten man" of Galway football, Sean Cleary. Back in the big-time against Cork after a spell in-and-out of the side, this 1964 and 1965 All-Ireland medallist, may not have a very impressive match-average at 1.34 points, the lowest of the longer-serving forwards, but the fact that he is second in goals scoring at 13 majors stamps him as a forward with a shot to trouble the best of goalkeepers. He has also 46 points to his credit, or 85 points from 63 games.

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Despite his long spell in the side, Mattie McDonagh's record, score-wise, is not as impressive as those of John Keenan or Cyril Dunne. But, his dash, determination and verve, and above all his shrewd football brain mark him out as one of the most important cogs in the Western scoring "machine." Remember, for instance, how, among other occasions in a splendid career, the 29-year-old six-footer from Ballygar helped regally in "setting-up" such vital goals as those by Seamus Leydon that brought a dramatic late 1964-65 National League 'Home' final win over Kerry, and by Dunne against Cork in this year's semi-final. That he can also take a score efficiently himself is shown by his record of 9-113 (140 pts.) in 79 outings at the third highest match average of 1.77 minors.

Quick-silver Leydon, of course, is another ace in the Galway scoring pack. Admittedly, he is well down on Cyril Dunne, Keenan and McDonagh in the scoring chart, but his speed, elusiveness and skilled purposeful football makes him a forward who must be consistently watched closely. He has averaged 1.57 points in each of his 69 matches for 11-76 (109 pts).

And, what of Cyril Dunne? I have left him to the last of the regular established forwards simply because I have sung his praises so often that there is little left to be said. Suffice to put on record his figures for the period under review: 8-268 (292 pts.) in 71 outings. This gives him two distinctions—the No. 1 spot in the chart, and the best match average at 4.11 minors.

Forward - cum - midfielder Pat Donnellan has made a worth-while contribution to Galway's total with 5-48 (63 pts.) in 46 ties, or 1.36 points an hour. Liam Sammon 1-2 in six engagements, and Jimmy Duggan 0-2 in three outings, complete the list.

THE MARKSMEN

of Meath

By OWEN McCANN

ALMOST without the vast majority of fans really appreciating what was actually happening and despite a high-scoring march to the All-Ireland semi-final, Meath have now got together a cluster of great scoring forwards that may well prove the foundation for a third national crown for the Royal County. Forwards, some of whom have figured in attacks that have been saddled with the blame for defeats in major games in recent years through poor finishing, have in the current race for the Sam Maguire Cup emerged as a striking force of real quality and power.

In that superb second-half exhibition against Down, especially, we were left in little doubt that when it comes to translating possession, and opportunities into scores—and, after all, this is the first and all-important essential of successful forward play—the Meath forwards undoubtedly now have that all important know-how.

Yet, even before that purple patch against the Ulster champions, there was still plenty of evidence that the Royal County forwards were at last beginning to fully realise their scoring potential. Totals of 4-15 against Wexford, and

2-14 against Westmeath in the earlier rounds of the championship, showed just how capable these forwards really were at finding the target, and, while their scoring spree was checked by Kildare in the Leinster final, a 1-9 total was still a sizeable enough one in a match of that importance.

Now, Meath challenge the champions with a majestic 9-54 (81 pts.) to their credit. This works out at a wonderful match average of 20.25 points, as compared with Galway's 13.33 points in each of their three outings in defence of their crown for 2-34 (40 pts.). So, it appears reasonable to assume that, as this highly impressive tally will have given the forwards even greater confidence in their own ability, they will display in the final that self-assurance that will ensure that their scoring potential will not be reduced by hurried kicking.

It is also to Meath's advantage that opposing teams cannot really plan to try and draw some of the attack's sting by keeping one or two of the forwards reasonably well subdued, for the simple reason that their scoring thrust is distributed throughout the division. Indeed, Meath beat Down without their top scorer of the champion-



Gerry Quinn



Dave Carty



Tom Browne

ship—Tony Brennan! He headed the chart with 4-4 at an impressive match average of 5.33 points, and despite that scoring spree against the Ulster champions, he still is out in front by two points.

Second in line is Murty Sullivan, with 0-14 in four games, or 3.50 points. This gives him a slightly better match average than Tom Browne, who landed 3.25 points for 2-7. Gerry Quinn has

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THE CRUCIAL BATTLE



*Bertie Cunningham...
calculating centre half.*

By **JIM BENNETT**

SOMETIMES there are fascinating individual tussles in big matches, on which the outcome must seriously swing. They are exciting, but not so exciting, I think, as the delightful prospect which this final holds of seeing two whole lines in opposition whose combined displays, one against the other, will have a serious effect on the result.

If Dunne-McDonagh-Leydon are great Galway match-winners, for years the back-bone of their team's attack, equally the Collier-Cunninghom-Reynolds line has been the bulwark of constant solidity on which Meath's whole team has grown.

Unless you have one section of your team which meets with complete approval and plays with dashing confidence it will never be possible to fashion the team as a whole. And while Meath were reaching for the aspirin and horoscope for every other line of the team, it was this great line of half-backs which kept the boat steady until all hands could row-in with their contributions.

It will be a fascinating trial of strength, skill and cunning, not to mention brave hearts between the Galway three and the Meath three. And, of course, if individual combat pleases you best, within the struggle of three against three there will be three individual struggles of surpassing delight. I know in my bones that this will be one set of struggles which will not fizzle out.

The urbane Dunne, the bear-like McDonagh, and spitfire Leydon, will certainly face their most severe challenge this time against the leonine Collier, the calculating Cunningham and the robot Reynolds. Like the Galway trio, the Meathmen are an oddly assorted three, and if not so ideally complementary of one another as the Galway men, they are, perhaps, more even in all-round skill.

Collier has been for some little time an "enfant terrible" in the eyes of those who knew him only from one or two appearances. His personal looks on the field did not help. An interesting, well-spoken, well-groomed and altogether

charming man, he strips to look like a man-eating lion. He is quite unbelievably powerful in the chest and trunk, and his stocky frame makes him look even more so when in togs. A face well-moulded and not insensitive, with exertion and the heat of battle seems red with rage, and his surmounting wing of red hair, the remnants of premature thinning on top, blowing out in the breeze, completes the wild and woolly image with which he has often been inconsiderately branded.

Indeed, he is a hard footballer, as nature more than his own desire made him. He is a tremendously brave player, superbly fit at all times that I have ever seen him, and his uncompromising dash added to his excellent basic skills make him the most powerfully driving wing-half in the game.

It must be wonderful to have him playing behind you, eating up ground uncomplainingly to cover off for your lapses, driving the ball forward and forcing the play forward with his all-out committal to

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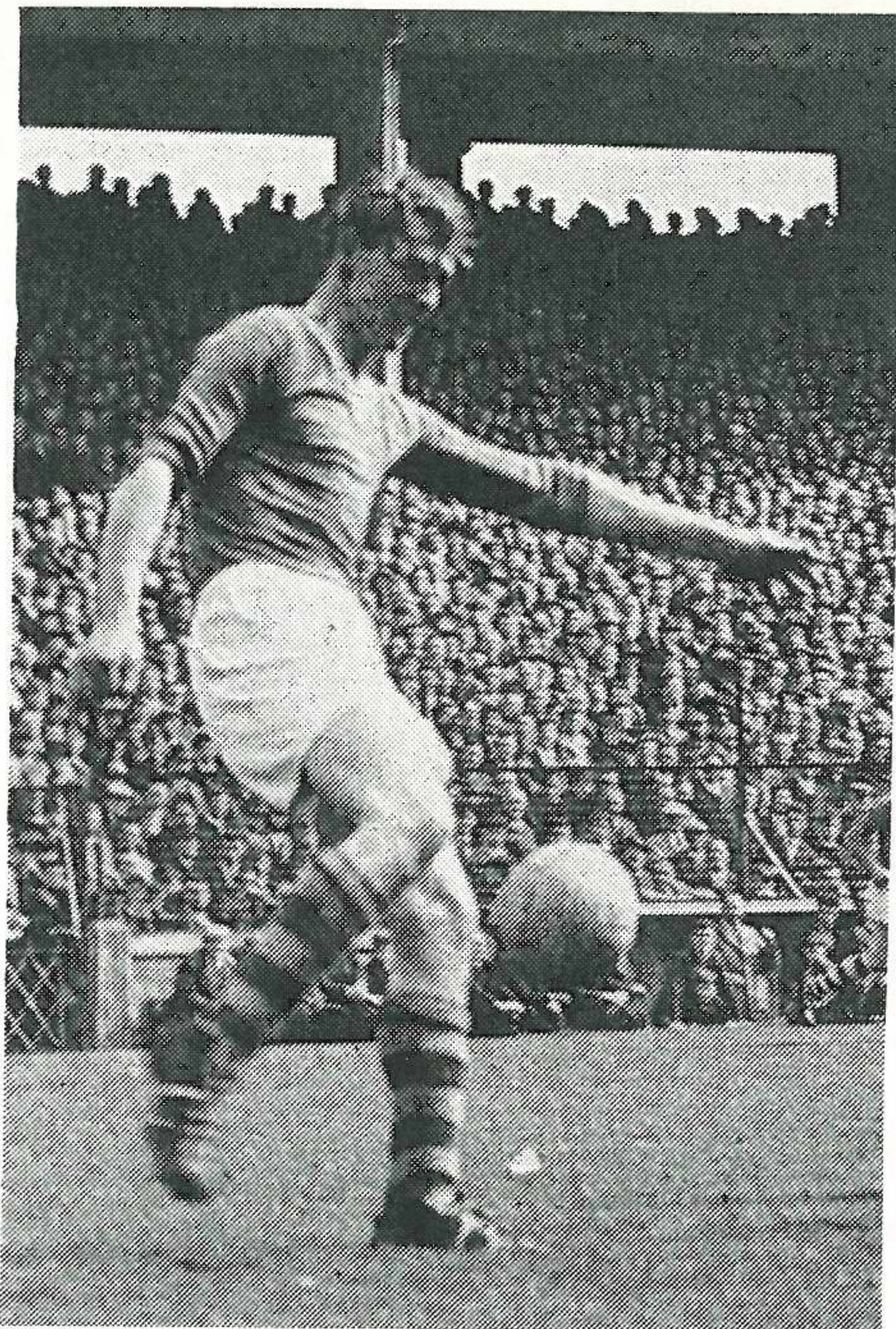
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One of the three famous brothers from Kilbride — Martin Quinn, whose suspension is due to expire on the eve of the All-Ireland final.

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every ball. He is willing to drive right through to the forward-line, but he will never be found wanting when he has to chase back to cover — that failing in so many other good wing-halves less spirited than he. He is truly a great man to have in your team, and though he could surely be a fine midfielder or centre-half, he is, undoubtedly, best placed at wing-half.

So different in appearance, yet with so many of the same qualities as 'Red' Collier, the dapper, neatly-togged, Pat Reynolds mans the

other side of the field. Reynolds is a farmer, with all the hard and lasting qualities of the farmer, and so, in spite of his almost frail appearance at first sight, and his fresh-faced youthfulness, you will gradually note as the game goes on his great strength of hip and thigh, and his breadth of back, and the stomach muscles which could sustain a twelve-pounder shell.

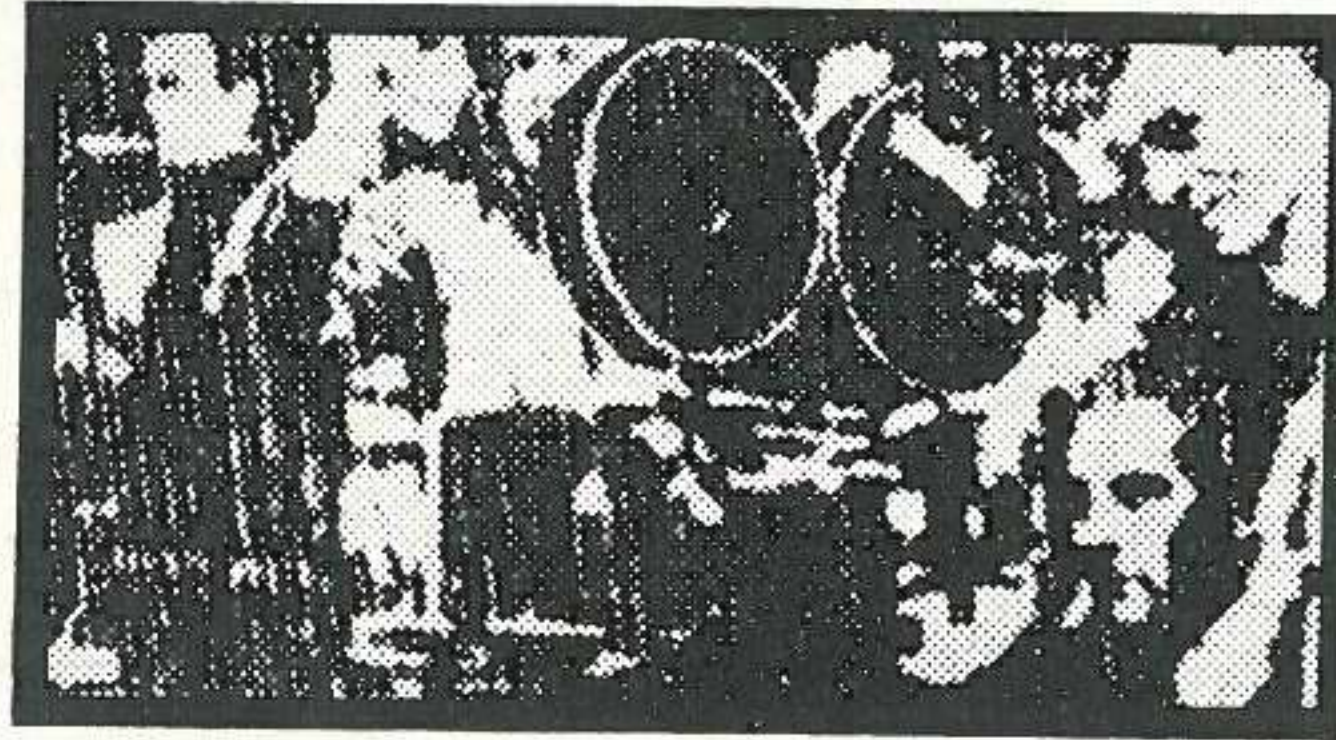
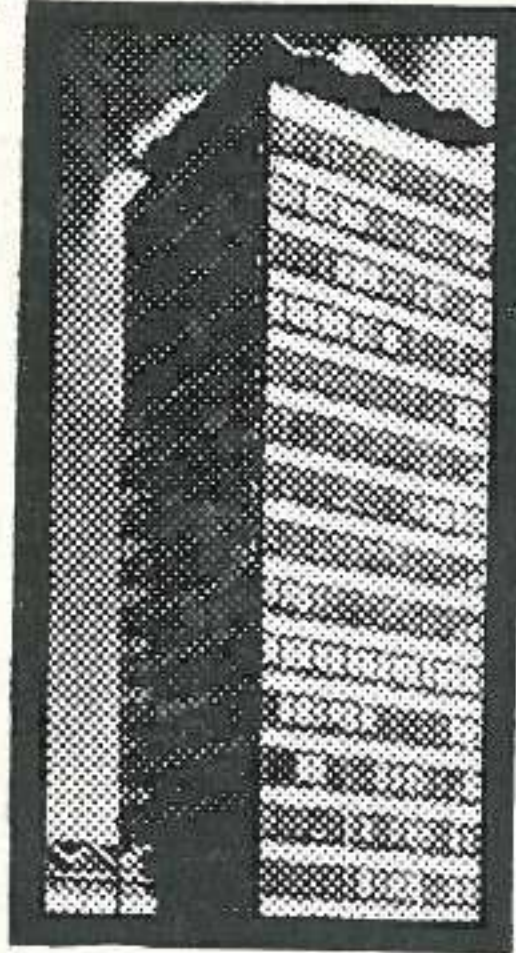
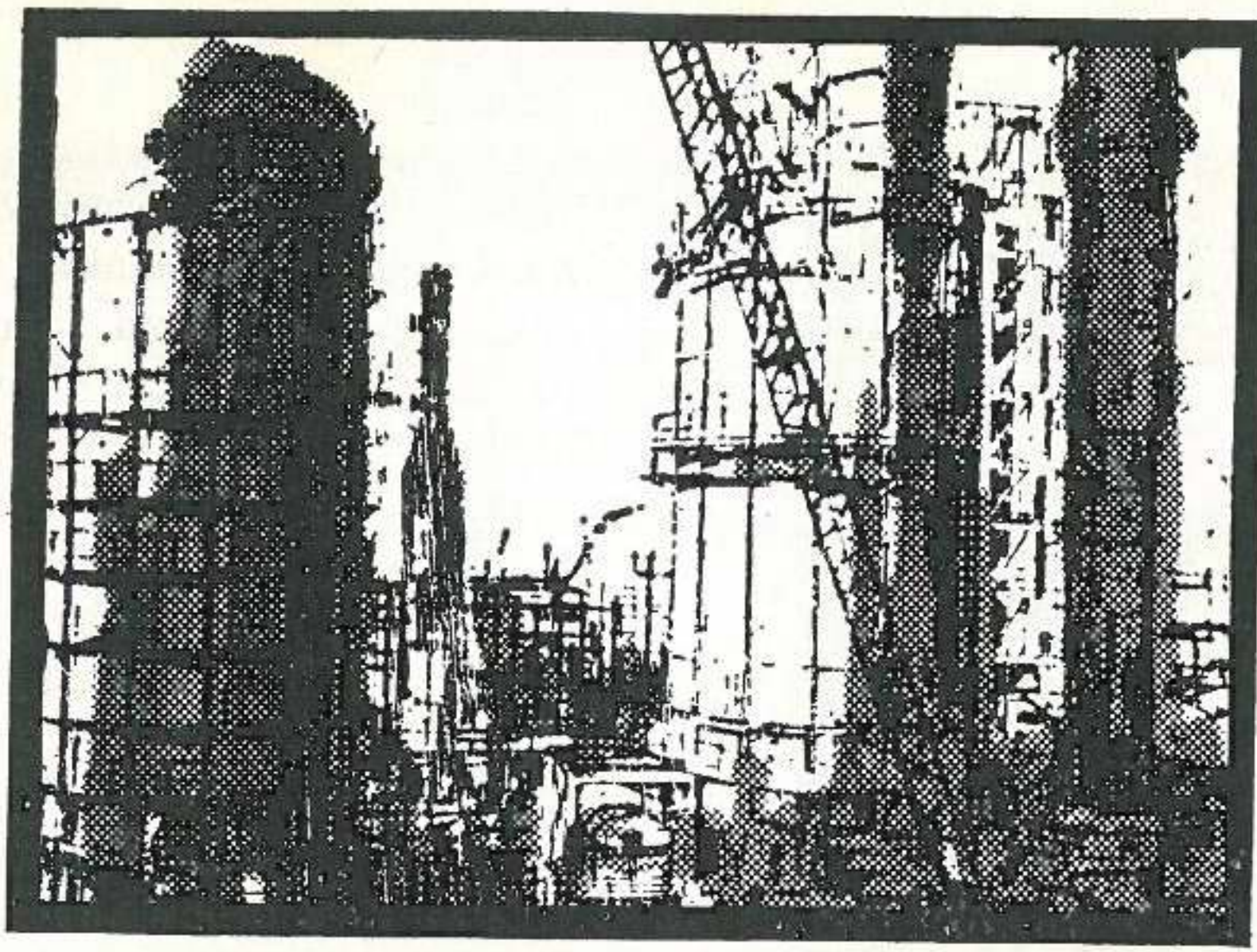
This young fellow has amazing strength and reserves of stamina. I have always liked his play since first I saw him, but I did not realise that there was one of the

toughest men to get the better of until I saw a passage of play in the League game against Galway.

Under the Hogan Stand he had to take on three Galway men, hurled himself from one to the other after the ball, scrambled it away from them twice only to be beaten again and charged to the ground, and yet, finally, emerged still game from the most exhausting piece of play I have even seen. Since that day I have had a different opinion altogether of young Reynolds—his jerky, robot-like actions, his long, deceptively-slow stride conceal one of the best men playing the game, who will improve further, and will adorn the game.

No county for long has been so well-served at wing-half as Meath: two ebullient, driving men who are always willing to do more than strict necessity requires. So, times have changed quite a bit for Bertie Cunningham, and he has become more and more the meditative, withdrawn, student of the game, holding himself in waiting to seal off any gaps that arise, waiting to pounce in for any stray break from midfield, taking up thoughtful position to aid the full-backs, occasionally snapping up a ball and driving through for a long delivery, but most of all keeping a close eye on the centre-forward's movement.

He has become a quieter player, less seen, not because of the fact that he is not so good, but because the men on either side leave him with less to do. He can sustain this inaction, and he is still the very strong, very finely built good catcher that he always was. I expect that he will be subjected to some pressure as Galway will try to find Mattie McDonagh and hope for his ability to beat a way through; it will be a very nicely-balanced thing between the centre-forward and the centre-half, as it will be between the forcing and covering of the Meath wings, and the astute economy of Dunne and the buzzing discomfiting Leydon.



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2-6, or three points an hour. Dave Carty, who was Leinster's top scorer last year, and sixth highest in Ireland with 9.46 (73 pts.) in 16 games, has not been quite so prominent in the scoring returns, but a tally of 0-9 is still a worthwhile one, and allied to this is the knowledge that the Meath captain is a marksman of proven ability.

Oliver Shanley with 1-5 in four



Oliver Shanley

games, Noel Curran, 0-6 in two ties, and a further game in which he went in as a substitute, Peter Moore and Pat Collier, each with a point, complete the championship tally.

Meath, of course, cannot put on parade a panel of forwards with individual scoring records as seniors such as Galway. Yet, for all that, Davy Carty, with 19-171 (228 pts.), the fourth highest of the forwards from both sides engaged in the final, has at 2.92 points for each of his 78 games, a better match average than any Galway score-getter other than Cyril Dunne.

Tom Browne, the only other Meath man with a big individual total, is the fifth most prolific marksman of the finalists. Further, his 2.02 points match average is higher than three of Galway's top five scorers. Browne's 20-100 (160 pts.) in 79 games includes his totals with both Laois and Meath. The remaining Meath forwards are all well "down the field" as far as the individual scoring chart is concerned.

THE GLAMOUR MEN OF GALWAY

By *JAY DRENNAN*



SEAMUS LEYDEN

HALF-FORWARDS are the ones to catch the eye, the glamour men of the game, the ones who most often reap the victory or lay it on. But, they are the soonest of all to feel the hammer. They are so vulnerable because they must deliver the goods or go. They must not only play well, but be seen to play well, through tangible results.

A half-forward line which survives throughout a season is something of a curiosity, but a half-forward line with four years of constant and consistent play of the highest quality, in the highest company, and under the highest pres-

ures, is something to be written in gold in the record books.

It was Galway's good fortune that the county produced, at the same time, three such ideally suited players as Cyril Dunne, Mattie McDonagh and Seamus Leydon—no possible system of eugenics could have ensured three men so well suited to their positions, and so well-suited to combine with one another. First it was McDonagh who was the star performer and the winner of games; next it was Leydon who was picking off the winning scores; all the time Dunne has been wonderfully accurate from frees, but this year he has emerged

as the match-winner par excellence of the hour.

But even when one was the man to bring the scores for victory, it was never done without the active and highly valuable collaboration of the other two. Just remember the Cork game when Mattie McDonagh did his bear-like best to break some sort of hole through the tough resistance of the Cork defence, and forcing play up the right wing, at last discovered a chink through which he shouldered; a quick cross pass into the path of the on-rushing Dunne, who gathered quickly and swept a

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rising left-footer into the top-corner of the net.

Who will not remember a similar piece of football drudgery by McDonagh, to feed Leydon the goal-pass that sent Galway to America nearly two years ago. But, then there was that left-wing move set up by Leydon for McDonagh, who rumbled his way through to crack the Meath net in 1964. Just outstanding examples of the way the three co-operate.

Co-operation is terribly necessary to them, for their skills and abilities are largely complementary. Though Cyril Dunne is still improving in all-round ability and

is getting nearer to the complete footballer now, it is coincidental, and he was by no means a complete player through most of the campaigns these musketeers have waged.

Mattie McDonagh would never lay claim to great skill or polish at football; indeed, he has pretty well realised after many years of trying that he cannot really shoot for toffee, in spite of all his hard practice, and he has thus cut his game to the close pot-shots and the fisted points. He has been quite happy to restrict his role to that which he plays best: that of the worrier, the big-hearted worker for possession, the basher who will go through fire and water as well as

defence to prise an opening through increasingly more frustrated and more harrassed backs. At this phase of the game he is wonderfully good, standing in the same category as Jim McCartan of Down, or Tom Cheasty in hurling.

Such a centre-forward is the modern trend, it seems, and leading counties in both codes have set themselves to find the player who can absorb heavy tackling, is physically impervious to hard work and hard knocks, and who can get and hold possession and drag the defensive plans askew with power-packed rushes, before laying-off the chance to his assistants. But, such a centre-forward can never fly with-

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out wings, strong and fast wings, to sweep up his service and flash over the scores. Leydon and Dunne are the wings which have kept him flying, converting his donkey-work into glamorous scores.

Much more than Leydon, Dunne is a dedicated seeker after scores; he thinks of little else, unless when gaining possession away back in his own territory and on the sideline. His whole concentration is to arrive at the spot where the ball will be at the exact moment which gives him time to gather at speed and shoot. These advances from the wing are excellently timed, so that he never arrives before the ball, but dashes into it at speed. You will not find him carrying the ball in or waiting inside for the hoped-for pass. Rightly he considers these less likely to bring him any opportunities.

Leydon, on the other side, is a born fetcher and carrier as well as his other talents; he finds noth-

ing unusual in dropping into his own half-back line to collect a clearance or call for a pass. Then off he goes on those fiery solos of his buzzing like an angry bee down the left, and having a wasp-like effect on the defence, who believe that he is going to go through all the way. But, in fact, it is seldom that he goes right through, and his solos out of defence or into the enemy territories are primarily intended to cause the backs to scuttle in uneasy expectation. His burst of speed and swerve help him to brush past his man and carry him away from him, thus presenting the other defenders with the nastiest dilemma in the game—to stay or to come against him—and in either case they will probably be wrong.

It is not often that Leydon finishes from such solo-runs, though he is no slouch at snapping a score. When he very often does is to switch the ball with his left fist across the ragged oncoming defence to Dunne, gener-

ally, or to McDonagh, allowing them to find the gaps he has teased open.

Dunne is not by nature a fetcher. He prefers to have the opposing goal-posts within his sights at all times. But he, too, falls back for the ball when he has to, and then his method is altogether different from Leydon's. He seldom does a solo-run up the touchline or towards the posts; he prefers to swing the ball first-time across the field and behind the half-backs for the oncoming Leydon or McDonagh, or the out-coming Keenan. Equally effective, since by making the ball do the work he is cutting the time of the defence for remarrying and putting them on their heels.

The strength and stamina and courage of McDonagh plus stamina and speed of the wingers have enabled them to fall back and fetch, carry up and score; have enabled them to be one of the very best half-forward lines any county has ever had.

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THE MINOR FINAL

By JAY DRENNAN

THE All-Ireland minor final will hold a unique place in the annals of the competition for a number of reasons. This is Down's first final appearance, and, irrespective of the outcome, the result will make history. If Down triumph, of course, a new name will go on the Roll of Honour; if Mayo win it will be their first success in two games against Ulster opposition, and if the match is drawn, it will be the first-ever to end all-square.

Mayo's only other final with Ulster was in 1947, when Tyrone had a winning debut. As well as that final, Mayo lost to Dublin (1930), Kerry (1933), Louth (1940), Dublin (1958), Cork (1961) and Kerry (1962), as against wins over Tipperary (1935) and Clare (1953).

Mayo have also figured in a number of finals in which new scoring records were set-up, but in each they were unsuccessful. Their 4-3 to 4-4 in that tilt with Tyrone stands both as the best combined total, and the highest goals tally alone by a losing team. In the 1962 meeting with the Kingdom they conceded at six majors the highest number of goals by any team, and the 1-3 recorded against them by Dublin in 1930 is the lowest by a winning side.

The greatest score was established by Dublin in 1956 at 5-14

(29 pts.) to Leitrim's 2-2. That tie also provided both the top winning margin, at 21 minors, and the greatest aggregate score at 37 points.

Offaly's 15 points in their 1964 win over Cork is the highest points total, while the Rebel County's 11 minors in that tie is the only two figures points tally by a defeated team.

This will be the third joint minor and senior doubles bid by Mayo and Galway. They lost to Kerry minors and Cavan in 1933, and the Louth minors and Kerry were their conquerors in 1940. Roscommon minors and Mayo brought both titles West for the only time so far in 1951.

Tyrone minors and Cavan in 1947 and 1948 recorded Ulster's two doubles, and also provided the only instances of the same two counties winning the titles in successive years. But, Kerry took both crowns South in 1931 and 1932, won both titles in 1946 and 1962, and with Clare also scored a Munster double in 1929, the first year of the 33 minor finals. Meath senior and Dublin (1954), Louth seniors and Meath (1957) and Dublin in both grades (1958) notched Leinster's three doubles.

Kerry lead in final appearances with 12 between 1931, when they won at the initial attempt, and last

year. They have seven titles Dublin also have seven titles from 1930 to 1959, with two defeats, 1946 and 1948. Six counties are unbeaten in finals—Roscommon (1939-41-51); Tyrone (1947-48); Galway (1952-60); Meath (1957); Offaly (1964) and Derry (1965). Cavan and Louth with two crowns each, Armagh, Clare, Cork and Tipperary, one apiece, complete the list.

Wexford, Leitrim, both beaten in two finals, Longford, Laois, Monaghan and Westmeath, who each lost one apiece, are the only other counties to contest finals.

Down and Mayo have met once in the minor series. That was in the 1962 semi-final, in which the Westerners had a 2-12 to 1-9 win.

Winning first final appearances have been frequent enough. As well as the six counties unbeaten in finals, Clare (1929), Dublin, Kerry, Cavan (1937) and Armagh (1949) all were successful at the initial attempt.

Roscommon, in 1941, were the first winners of the Tom Markham Cup, the trophy for the minor championship, which commemorates the memory of a Dublin Gael, Mr. Tom Markham, and was presented by the Central Council. The first minor final was in 1929—Clare against Longford.

FIGURES FROM THE FILES

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

FOURTEEN counties share the seventy-eight All-Ireland senior football titles distributed to-date.

Limerick were first winners of the crown, in 1897; and Kerry have proved the most successful county, with twenty wins to their credit. Kerry also share with Wexford the distinction of winning in four successive years.

To Down and Offaly belongs the honour of drawing the greatest crowd, the attendance at the 1961 final reaching the record total of 90,550.

Dublin notched the biggest number of successes over a particular county, by gaining the verdict from Cork in six finals.

The 1947 decider between Cavan and Kerry was played in the Polo Grounds, New York.

Limerick are the only county to have won the All-Ireland on each occasion they were provincial champions.

Down have never been on the losing side in an All-Ireland senior final.

Nine counties have appeared in All-Ireland senior finals without winning the title. London have proved the most unlucky in this

respect, as they were finalists on five occasions—four of them in successive years, 1900 to 1903, and again in 1908. Laois (1889, 1936) and Antrim (1911, 1912) were in two finals each, and the other defeated ones were Waterford, 1898; Clare 1917; Monaghan 1930; Armagh 1953; Derry 1958; and Offaly 1961.

When Dublin beat Cork 2-1 to 1-9 in the 1891 decider, a goal was superior to any number of points. When the same counties met three years later, a goal being then equal to five points, the score stood Dublin 0-5, Cork 1-2 when the game finished abruptly. Dublin were awarded the title.

Kerry refused to travel to play the 1910 final against Louth, because of a dispute with the Railway authorities over special train facilities. Louth were awarded a walk-over.

The 1925 final was a substitute competition because three of the semi-finalists were disqualified following objections. The remaining county, Mayo, who had been nominated by their Provincial Council, were subsequently defeated by Galway in the Con-nacht final.

Now a look at the winning counties and the teams they beat to capture their titles:—

KERRY—Won 20, beat:—

Dublin—1904, 0-5 to 0-2; 1924, 0-4 to 0-3; 1955, 0-12 to 1-6.

Kildare—1926, 1-4 to 0-4; 1929, 1-8 to 1-5; 1931, 1-11 to 0-8.

Galway—1940, 0-7 to 1-3; 1941, 1-8 to 0-7; 1959, 3-7 to 1-4.

Wexford—1913, 2-2 to 0-3; 1914, 2-3 to 0-6.

Roscommon—1946, 2-8 to 0-10; 1962, 1-12 to 1-4.

London—1903, 0-11 to 0-3.

Louth—1909, 1-9 to 0-6.

Monaghan—1930, 3-11 to 0-2.

Mayo—1932, 2-7 to 2-4.

Cavan—1937, 4-4 to 1-7.

Meath—1939, 2-5 to 2-3.

Armagh—1953, 0-13 to 1-6.

DUBLIN—Won 17, beat:—

Cork—1891, 2-1 to 1-9; 1894, 1-2 to 0-5; 1897, 2-6 to 0-2; 1899, 1-10 to 0-6; 1906, 0-5 to 0-4; 1907, 0-6 to 0-2.

London—1901, 0-14 to 0-2; 1902, 2-8 to 0-4; 1908, 1-10 to 0-4.

Galway—1922, 0-6 to 0-4; 1942, 1-10 to 1-8; 1963, 1-9 to 0-10.

Kerry—1892, 1-4 to 0-3; 1923, 1-5 to 1-3.

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Waterford—1898, 2-8 to 0-4.
Mayo—1921, 1-9 to 0-2.
Derry—1958, 2-11 to 1-10.

GALWAY—Won 6, beat :—

Kerry—1938, 2-4 to 0-7; 1964, 0-15 to 0-10; 1965, 0-12 to 0-9.
Cavan—1925, 3-2 to 1-2.
Dublin—1934, 3-5 to 1-9.
Cork—1956, 2-13 to 3-7.

WEXFORD—Won 5, beat :—

Cork—1893, 1-1 to 0-1.
Kerry—1915, 2-4 to 2-1.
Mayo—1916, 2-4 to 1-2.
Clare—1917, 0-9 to 0-5.
Tipperary—1918, 0-5 to 0-4.

CAVAN—Won 5, beat :—

Galway—1933, 2-5 to 1-4.
Kildare—1935, 3-6 to 2-5.
Kerry—1947, 2-11 to 2-7.
Mayo—1948, 4-5 to 4-4.
Meath—1952, 0-9 to 0-5.

TIPPERARY—Won 4, beat :—

Laoighis—1889, 3-6 to 0-0.
Meath—1895, 0-4 to 0-3.
London—1900, 3-7 to 0-2.
Dublin—1920, 1-6 to 1-2.

KILDARE—Won 4, beat :—

Kerry—1905, 1-7 to 0-5; 1927, 0-5 to 0-3.
Galway—1919, 2-5 to 0-1.
Cavan—1928, 2-6 to 2-5.

CORK—Won 3, beat :—

Wexford—1890, 2-4 to 0-1.
Antrim—1911, 6-6 to 1-2.
Cavan—1945, 2-5 to 0-7.

MAYO—Won 3, beat :—

Laoighis—1936, 4-11 to 0-5.
Louth—1950, 2-5 to 1-6.
Meath—1951, 2-8 to 0-9.

LOUTH—Won 3, beat :—

Kerry—1910, walk-over.
Antrim—1912, 1-7 to 1-2.
Cork—1957, 1-9 to 1-7.

LIMERICK—Won 2, beat :—

Louth—1887, 1-4 to 0-3.
Dublin—1896, 1-5 to 0-7.

ROSCOMMON—Won 2, beat :—

Cavan—1943, 2-7 to 2-2.
Kerry—1944, 1-9 to 2-4.

MEATH—Won 2, beat :—

Cavan—1949, 1-10 to 1-6.
Kerry—1954, 1-13 to 1-7.

DOWN—Won 2, beat :—

Kerry—1960, 2-10 to 0-8.
Offaly—1961, 3-6 to 2-8.




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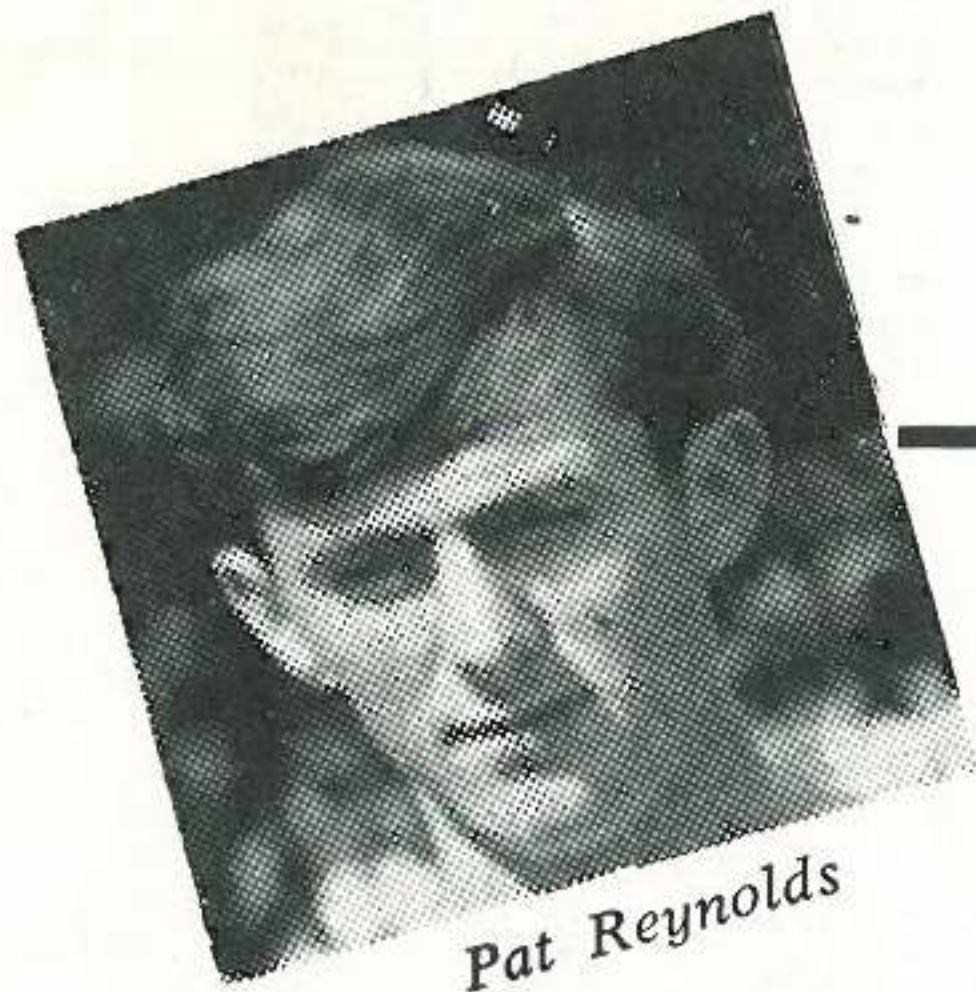
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Pat Reynolds

How good

WE know how good Galway are but how good are Meath? Let's go back to the semi-final and wonder for a minute just how good were Down. That great combination we all admired has slipped back a long way from the peak of five years ago. This is only natural and let's hope they come again. They still had the ideas but against a robust defence could not execute them as they might have a few years ago.

Meath had two fine goals by Gerry Quinn and while no one should take from the effort that ends in the net it's only fair to say that the Northern defence made two grave mistakes in letting him inside the last line of defence. Normally this doesn't happen.

Was the Down side that could score only four points off play with the wind in the first half a great good one? Only Jim McCartan's fine fisted shot looked worth a goal. No, this northern side had a fair share of the ball, kicked six wides and had only six points altogether.

In the second half, against the breeze, the Down side forced no fifty, drove no wide and had only four scores, two off frees. The men from the north lost a valuable defender in Tom O'Hare. This

seems to indicate that the team which Meath beat was not a good one. Now how good are Meath?

In the semi-final there were two Meaths. The team of the first half was too poor to be true. The side in the second half looked better than it is, I feel. The side that scores two goals and ten points off play as well as three points from frees in half an hour is either a great side or a lucky one on the day. I have no doubt that some of those Meath shots were lucky. All this would give the impression that I am running Meath down. Not at all. Let's look at their true worth.

The Royal County men play a fast strong brand of football in which an unyielding defence will make it very tough for any set of

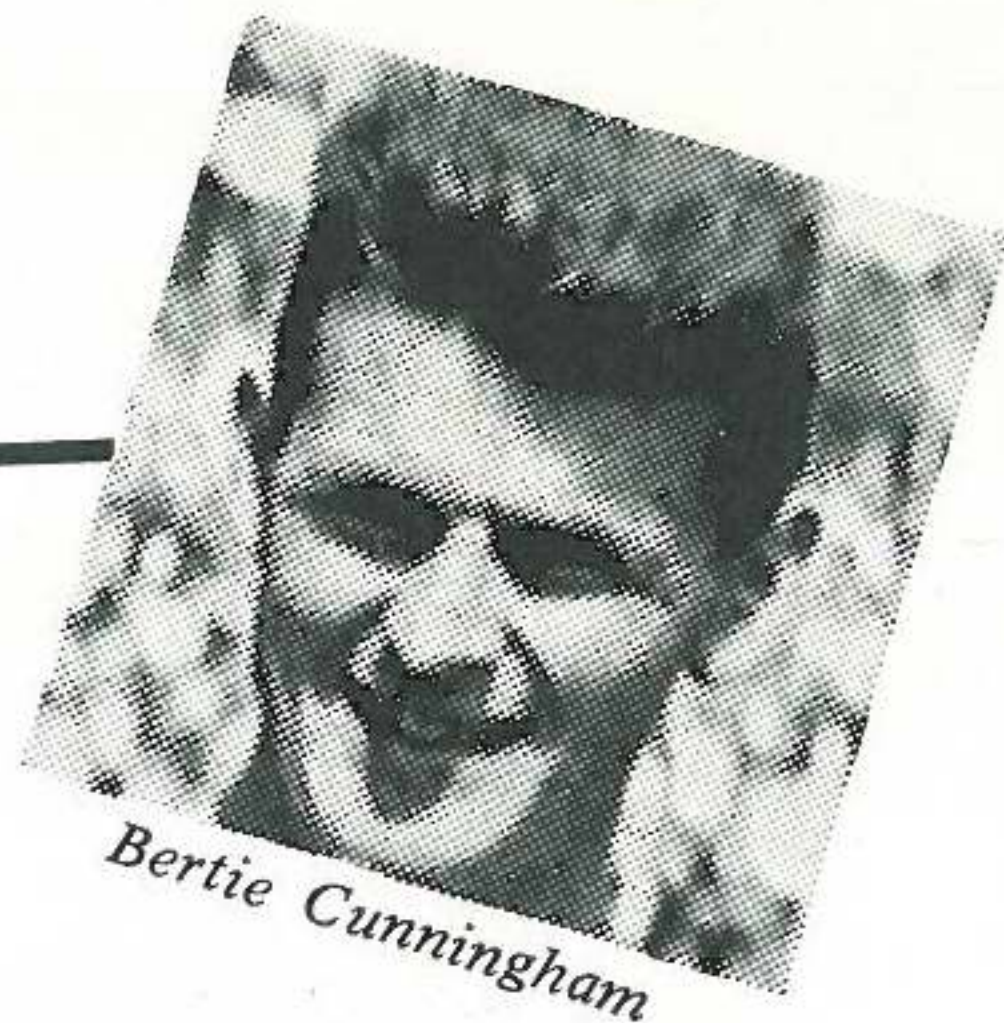
By Eamo

forwards. On the halfway line they are pretty well served. Only the forwards are doubtful. This side which has been playing together for a few years, and is consequently imbued with that valuable mixture of confidence, earnestness and impatience, lost matches because they didn't put numbers on the board. If that fine scorer Peter McDermott and his friends have improved their boys' shooting to the standard we saw in the Down game no team in the country will hold Meath. If, as I believe, the Royal County forwards are not quite as accurate as that and they still will get, say anything from twelve to fifteen points against

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are Meath?



Bertie Cunningham

onn Young

normal defences then that will certainly keep them in the hunt.

Whether Down were fit or not, one can only guess. It was obvious however that the flying Meathmen ran them into the ground in the last quarter. Now turn to Galway. In the game against Cork, Martin Newell and Bosco McDermott were below form while young Jimmy Duggan was, I think, a great kid to play so well with an injured shoulder. Galway will be far better against Meath and no doubt they will need to be.

The Galway backs were not great against Cork and there were some grave mistakes made. Had they been opposed to the long-

range scoring that beat Down there would have been a strange pairing in the final. But the Galway defenders will be neater and closer this time. Their success will probably depend on their ability to outfetch the Meath forwards who have been training, I think, to kick points rather than waste time and energy on combined movements.

That brings us back again to the catch and kick versus that which is known as the precision style.

The catch and kick is the better game but one important word is omitted. Insert the little word "straight" after kick and you have the secret. The team that can work the ball up to forty yards by the most economical method and then

put it over from there is very hard to beat. The team that relies on passing until within twenty yards risks losing possession, as well as injury to its fliers by resolute backs.

The side that can combine both is of course the master. Down for a while excelled here. Kerry have been doing this for fifty years and that's why they were so often on top.

Remember the Tadg Lyne of 1955 or the Paddy Doherty of recent years? Noel Curran and Oliver Shanley have their own distinctive styles but they emulated the two great players in that they put numbers on the board without having to run a long solo-run first.

If the six Meathmen can repeat that accuracy, or go near it, Galway will have to score a lot at the other end to stay with them. I think that the unyielding Meath defence will keep that score pretty low.

So its up to the Galway forwards and the supply they get from their sound, attacking half-back line and pretty reliable centre-field.

The teams aren't picked as I write but we can assume a "Red" Collier - Bertie Cunningham - Pat Reynolds half-back line will have

● CONTINUED PAGE 65

Bowling strength

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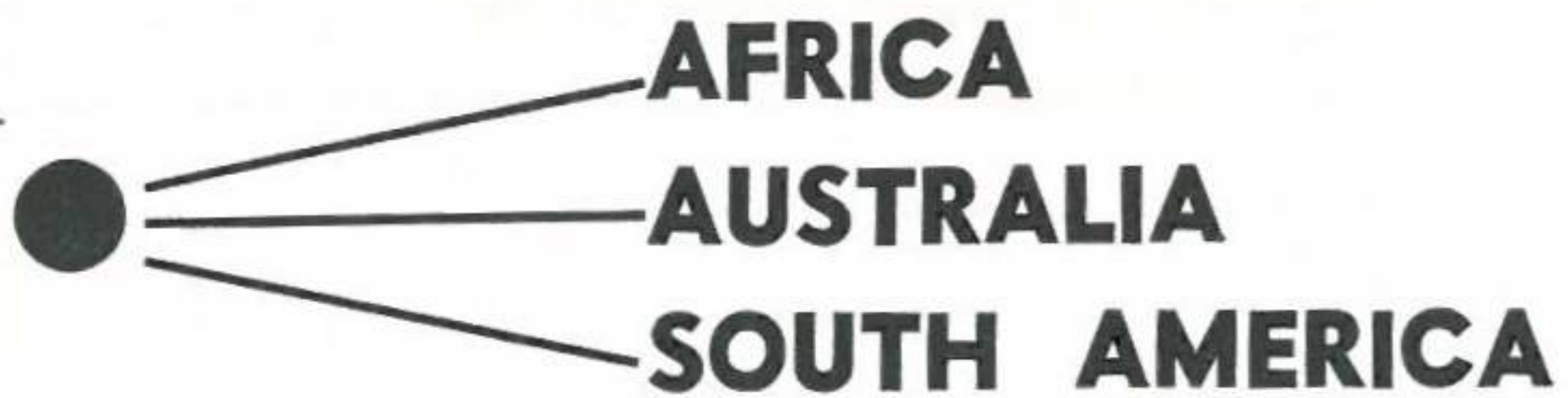
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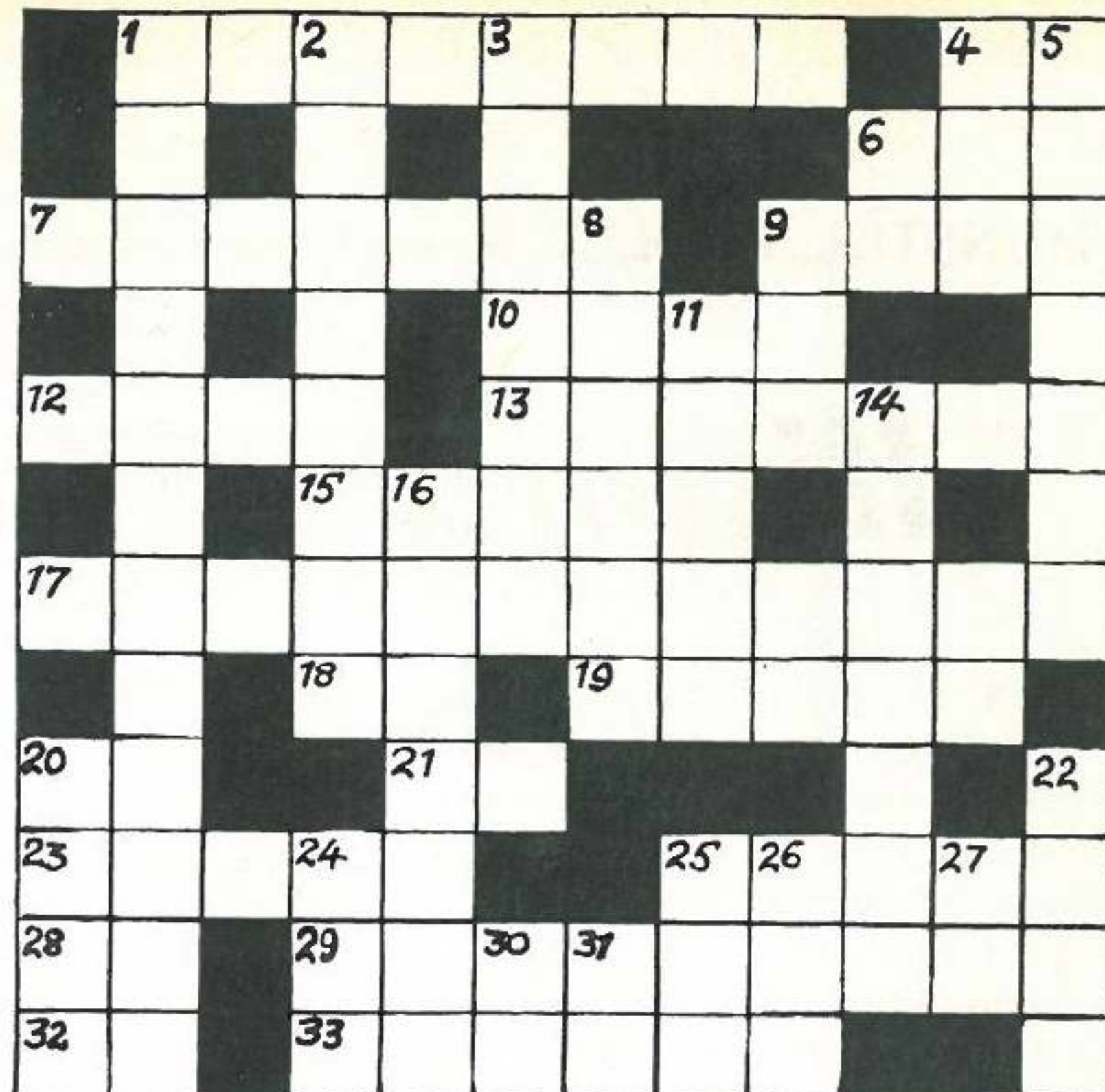
No. 14

CLUES ACROSS :

1. National League 'Home' title winners 1965-66. (8)
4. Initials of one of pair of brothers on team in 1 across. (1, 1)
6. A ram broken loose during a match could ruin the occasion. (3)
7. O/C's lust brings about a plague of insects who would bare every playing field. (7)
9. River which has cradled many of our greatest hurlers. (4)
10. Nobody emerges from the omen, like the Rangers in Cork. (4)
12. The one who plays an important role in victory is like the main sympathetic character in a book or film. (4)
13. One of a pair of brothers who starred for Tyrone; this one figured furthest out-field. (1, 6)
15. Disturbed toads reach almost as far as sorrow. (5)
17. Position to which a very rattled defence would fall back in terror. (5, 7)
18. A short company. (2)
19. Raise to state of joy, just as a victory would. (5)
20. Everything correct and well—slang. (1, 1)
21. Initials of one of the outside affiliates of the G.A.A. (1, 1)
23. Not a usual name—yet, at the same time, approximately, there was one at centre-back for Mayo, and another for Meath.
25. Sounds like, but is a smaller version of famous athlete now Sports Editor of a newspaper. (5)
28. Utility Tipperary man for forward or centre-field positions. Initials. (1, 1)
29. Won their first senior All-Ireland in 1943. (9)
32. Kerry referee, involuntarily caught up in controversy in recent years. Initials. (1, 1)
33. Brilliant new forward star of Limerick's hurling team. (6)

CLUES DOWN :

1. Poor defensive covering, which can give forwards open chances. (5, 7)
2. Many players are nervous, but none surely so extremely affected as to become this.



3. Skill can only be fully utilised on a base of good condition — achieved by careful training. (7)
4. Over or under its a score. (3)
5. Kildare and New York footballer; or, a Tipperary footballer; an old-time Dublin footballer; a recently fatally injured Tipperary hurler. (7)
8. Ed. takes a seat at a game where the pace is anything but fast. (6)
9. A poor month for Gaelic competition. (3)
11. The reward for victory in most championships. (5)
14. Connacht senior football champions in 1927. (7)
16. An outstanding centre-back and a great centre-field, too, winning an All-Ireland there in 1948. (7)
20. What the betting men worry about; but they are never too great for an upset. (4)
22. A big name in football in Killarney: Jackie, Dinny, Tadhgie, for instance. (4)
24. A large part of a rock, smashed. (3)
25. Former Portuguese colony scene of fighting in recent years. (3)
26. Half a column—the bottom half, apparently. (3)
27. Negative. (2)
30. Call him Sean instead of John and you have the initials of Offaly corner-back. (1, 1)
31. Initials of best known Cavan forward of to-day. (1, 1)

● SOLUTION, PAGE 68

Historic ground re-opens

THEY are playing again on one of the most historic Gaelic pitches in the land. The re-opening of Walsh Park, Waterford — the official ceremony will not take place for a little while longer—is an event of much importance and gives to Urbo Intacta a pitch that can stand up to the best.

Away back in the early years of the century the then Waterford Sports Field was the scene of a stirring fight on behalf of Gaelic games, one that was brought to a successful conclusion after a lengthy struggle on the part of a few dedicated men, who by their tenacity of purpose succeeded in first establishing the slogan: Gaelic fields for Gaelic games.”

It was a long and bitter battle in Waterford and powerful interests were harnessed behind the drive to make the field an “open to all games” venue. It looked for a time as if they must succeed so strong was their influence and so slender the purse of the men fighting the Gaelic cause.

Eventually the stage was reached where it was a question of having to buy or get out. There was hardly a field in Ireland at the time owned by the G.A.A., but these brave Waterford men faced up to the challenge and raised the money, with the help of some good friends, to secure the property.

It had got into a deplorable state of disrepair by the time of purchase, some of the boundary walls were falling down, there were no embankments of any description, and the pitch itself was badly cut up and had to be completely re-sodded.

It mattered not to these pioneers

in the sphere of Gaelic field development the work that had to go into making the grounds a fit place for the playing of our national pastimes.

Walsh Park has served the Gaels well for very many years now, and it is a pleasure indeed to note the big improvements of the latest scheme, and to realise how handsomely the sacrifices of the great men of another generation have paid off in giving Waterford a G.A.A. headquarters of which any county could be justly proud.

NENAGH JUVENILES

Nenagh's Eire Og Club organised a most successful juvenile hurling

league in their parish, and the twenty members of the winning team, Sairsealaigh, in addition to receiving a medal and a pocket wallet, were awarded a month's holiday in the Gaeltacht. The runners up, Na Piarsaigh, got a special consolation prize of pocket wallets.

The presentations were made at a most enjoyable function held in the New Hall, Nenagh, and which included a special tea.

Sean Lawlor, Chairman of the Eire Og club presided, and Right Rev. Monsignor Hamilton, P.P., V.F., distributing the trophies, urged the boys to take a pride in

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their native games and language and continue to practice both.

JAMES COLEMAN, R.I.P.

James Coleman, who has died in Phoenix, Arizona, was in his youthful days a renowned hurler with his native Bruree, and figured in Limerick County colours. He was also a noted fighter in the war of Independence.

DR. TOM CROTTY

A former prominent hurling corner forward with Cork and with U.C.C., has returned to his native county after many years in America where he hurled with New York for a period. He is Dr. Tom Crotty, who has taken up an appointment in Cork City.

A HURLING LINEAGE

Kiladangan won their first County Tipperary hurling crown, when their juveniles collected the County Rural title recently. Hero of the success was the youth Jack D'Arcy, who, despite a serious mouth injury involving the loss of five teeth in the first quarter, had a brilliant game. Nephew of that grand pair of Tipperary hurling greats—Mick and Jack D'Arcy, and on his mother's side of the renowned Limerick midfielder, Timmy Ryan, young Jack is surely a coming star in his own right.

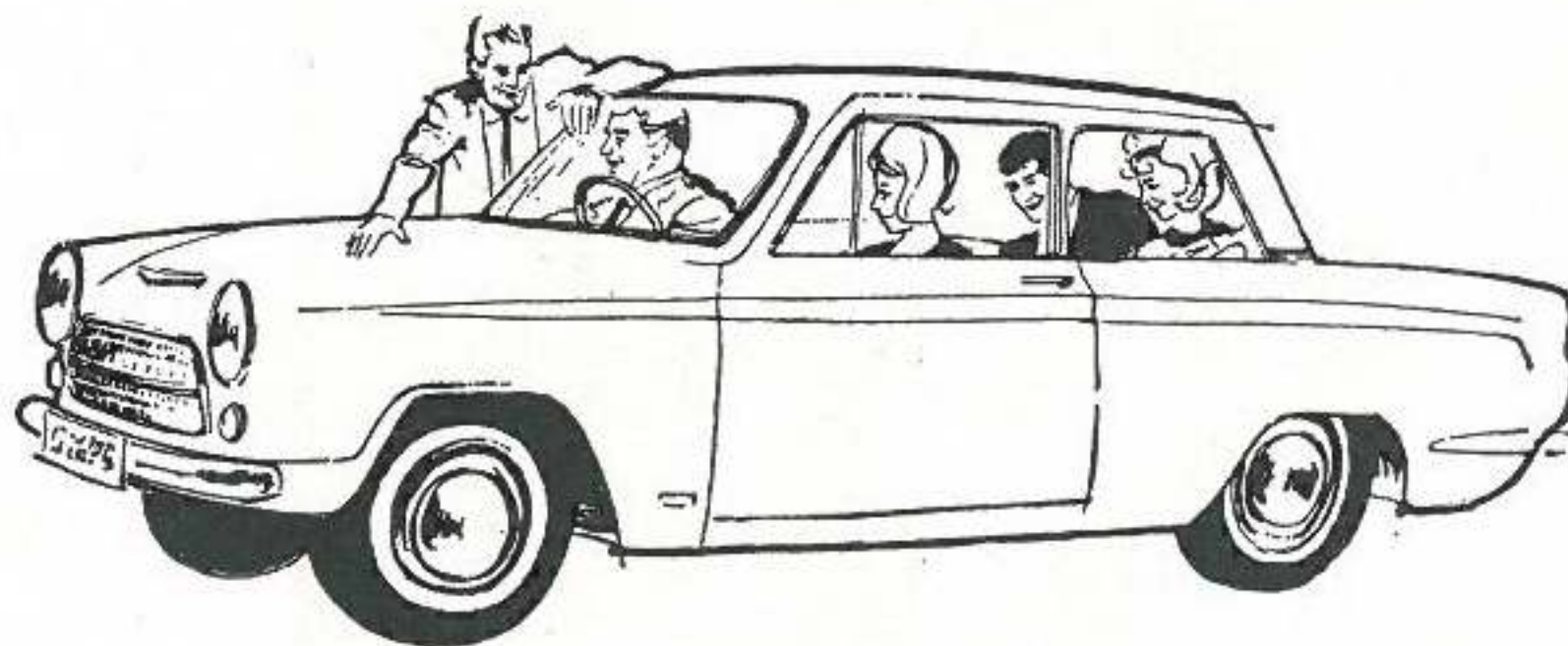
THE RETURN

Michael Arthurs of Newmarket on Fergus has been re-admitted to the G.A.A. by the Munster Council. As a member of Shannon Club he played inter-provincial rugby, and he also figured with Limerick soccer team.

LIMERICK'S LOSS

Tipperary born Brother Burke, who was in charge of the Limerick C.B.S. side that regained the Dr. Harty Cup in 1964 following thirty-two years of unsuccessful effort, and held it in 1965 and 1966, also winning All-Ireland honours in 1964 and 1966, has left Limerick to become Superior in Dublin. He was also a county senior hurling selector for Limerick.

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BACKING FOR BOTH TEAMS

ULSTER'S direct interest in the destination of the Sam Maguire Cup this year, ended on August 21 at 4.45 p.m. approximately. That moment signalled the exit from the championship of Ulster representatives, Down. For the men from Meath it marked their return to the "big time." So for yet another year Ulster folk are neutral on the last Sunday in September.

However, speculation in the province is rife as to the possible outcome of this intriguing final. The promise of an exciting tussle will probably entice many Northerners to Croke Park. Those who remain at home will be watching the game on T.V.

After a brief survey I found Ulster opinion divided as to which team will take the title. One of the first persons I spoke to was Down star Kevin O'Neill. He said: "Meath are a well balanced side. They are physically strong and possess plenty of height and weight in the forward line. Even their small players are strong and tough. I believe they will just about pull it off."

But Kevin has some reservations about the men from the Royal County. "They looked very ordinary against us in the first half of the semi-final and we were no world-beaters," he confessed. "A lot will depend upon how much

that game will have improved their confidence in themselves."

He does not dismiss Galway's chances lightly, however. "Many people are writing off Galway because their defence is not playing as well as it used do. But players like Martin Newell, Bosco McDermott and Noel Tierney can improve on their form against Cork. I still think Meath may just do it, but we will have to wait until the final to find out how good they are."

Another footballer who feels Meath will emerge winners is Armagh's full-forward Brendan McGeary. "I take Meath to win with something to spare," he declared. "Their direct, purposeful football coupled with their new-found confidence should see them through. Man for man they would appear to be the better side, although collectively Galway are the more dangerous combination."

He expects the Meath half-backs and midfielders to lay the foundations for victory. "These sectors should ensure that the forwards get a liberal supply of the ball," he said, "and they seem capable of getting the vital scores. But if Galway get off to a good start, Meath could be in trouble."

Armagh County Secretary, Sean Hart, has different views, "I'm taking Galway to gain a narrow victory mainly because of their greater

experience," he told me. "I saw both semi-finals and their win over Cork impressed me more so than Meath's runaway victory over Down. I feel the result of this game flattered the Leinster team somewhat, because after those two Meath goals the Down defence went to pieces."

What sort of final does he anticipate? "I believe it will be a good clean sporting contest," said Sean. "The clash of styles—Meath's direct football against Galway's combined movements—should produce an exciting match. Provided the Galway defence can improve on their semi-final form, can make it three in a row."

Another prominent Ulster official who favours the champions is Al. McMurray, Antrim County Secretary. "I may be going against popular opinion," he said, "but I'm taking Galway's greater experience to carry the day. I feel that Meath may have reached their peak in the semi-final. Furthermore their style is tailor-made to suit Galway."

He is confident that Galway will improve on their semi-final form. "They had a tough battle with Cork and just managed to win," he declared. "But this is an up and coming Cork side, and I think the champions did well to beat them. Meath, on the other hand, beat a Down team which collapsed completely in the second half. So I stick by Galway."

Gerry Arthurs, Secretary of the Ulster Council, and one of the game's best known administrators, would not commit himself to a forecast. He said: "This is a game which could go either way. If Meath are to win they will have to reproduce their second half semi-final form for the full hour. Galway seem very determined to get that third title. They will be

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THE MAYO MINORS

By FERGUS LYNCH

IT is good to see the great strongholds of the game recover after a period of performing illness: Cork, Limerick, Meath, but, none more so than Mayo, in football. They have always had a fascination, a style and a way all their own, and a place in the hearts of all supporters which no other may own. I was most interested in Chris Murray's analysis of their senior team, and of his hopes for their future, in last month's issue; I was not lucky enough to see any of their championship matches this year.

But, I did see their minors in the

semi-final of the All-Ireland, and, if all we hear about their seniors is true and can last, then there will be no trouble for Mayo for a time to come. They have a beautifully balanced minor team and, unless the standard of the semi-finals was a bad indication of the form for the final, Mayo must be the team which will hold the crown this year.

They do miss chances with a lot of faulty shooting; they do, sometimes, overdo the passing in trying to lay on movements; they show a little slowness in defence occasionally; but what a catalogue of

virtues they have to balance against these faults. A splendid centre-field may be the best asset of all—O'Dowd and Joy—who not alone have the football ability all-round, but have the brains to go with such gifts.

I thought the most intelligently worked thing I have seen for a long time was the opening move for Mayo. And I would emphasise that they were the under-dogs—no one gave them a chance against a very good Cork team, whom I saw crush Kerry, and Kerry were not that bad this year—so it was important for them to get a good start in order to bolster their confidence. Seamus O'Dowd gambled everything on attack in that first breakaway, going right up into the attack, and making the extra man before the defence had settled their minds as to who they should be marking, he worked through the defence and pointed.

Even at the time I realised that this might be a terribly shrewd psychological blow: my notes made at the time read:

Great early attacking play by O'Dowd; very fine positioning; slipped defence; hard luck for goal with firm shot just above bar. Could be a vitally important score; may give them lift.

That was, indeed, what it did give them, and they continued to attack, though without tangible result for some time. The important thing was, however, that they had now gained the confidence with the knowledge that Cork were only human, too, and

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once they started to play their own football there was nothing to stop them.

O'Dowd continued his great constructive work throughout; his partner is a fine hard worker and a wonderful juggler of the ball when caught in tight positions near the touch-line. Skill with the ball will make these players hard to resist.

Fitzgerald, the centre-forward, is constructive and direct, as the occasion demands, like all good centres; young Griffith is a marvel of precocious skill and sharp, immediate shots. But, one of the most impressive things about the forwards was their wonderful organisation of "breaks"—quite deliberately done, backwards to a following through half-forward; in spite of the best the Corkmen could do they came off all the time, and yielded plenty of scores. This again shows the intelligent approach of this team.

COVER PHOTO

OUR cover photo this month features All-Ireland senior football finalists, Meath and Galway. The Meath team, back row (from left): Pat Reynolds, Murty Sullivan, Peter Moore, Jack Fagan, Jack Quinn, Pat Collier, Gerry Quinn, Peter Darby. Front row (from left): Tom Browne, Oliver Shanley, Tony Brennan, Davy Carty, Bertie Cunningham, Mick White, John McCormack.

The Galway team, back row (from left): Seamus Leyden, Noel Tierney, Mattie McDonagh, Jimmy Duggan, Liam Sammon, John Keenan, Coilin McDonagh, Pat Donnellan. Front row (from left): Sean Cleary, Martin Newell, Bosco McDermott, Cyril Dunne, Enda Colleran, Johnny Geraghty, John Donnellan.



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Martin Newell

This final can be Galway's crowning glory

By
JAY DRENNAN

"**M**ARK my words," he said, "Galway will not be far away when the time of the All-Ireland comes round in September." It was a friend of valued opinion speaking, but the circumstances made his view seem a little coloured by bias—we were leaving the ground after the League (Home) final, surrounded by bubbling Longford supporters and a few others who were gloomily enough raking over the embers and wondering just how far over the hill the Galway men were.

Already, however, my friend's view has been dramatically and amply justified: indeed, Galway will not be far away when the Sam Maguire Cup is presented, but whether a handshake away, or just the width of the Park, is still another matter.

It is becoming something of a ritual with the Westerners to be one of the finalists; this will be their fourth final match in a row, and a worthy indication of the worth of this squad, and their impact on the football scene in a period when there has been no shortage of high-quality competition ready to mow them down.

Galway are not now so popular with the crowds—the neutrals, I mean, of course — as they were when they first arrived on the All-Ireland scene with their surprise win over Kerry in the semi-final of 1963, and later prodigal loss of the final against Dublin. They are not so popular as they were in their first triumph in 1964, or even in their second victory series in 1965.

They are now beginning to pay the price of success. Like Tipperary earlier this year, when they lose all but their own supporters will be pleased, under the specious argument that it is all for the good of the game.

It is my opinion that the thing which is most of all for the good of the game is that the better team should win. ("The better team always wins," as my friend of the League (Home) final likes to say). As a result, Galway have been through a fairly stiff time this year from their critics, who avidly search for signs of failure in champions rather than for signs of future championship quality in up-and-coming teams.

Snatched victories by odd points have been berated as the performances of a team which has lost

much of its gloss; I prefer to think of it as performances of a team supremely hardened in the fire of contest, able to raise their game just that extra notch, even when on the whole they are not playing at their very best.

This Galway team is the hardest to beat in the country, even now: they have nothing to play for but victory, for defeat is death to a team which has worked so hard and so long, and remained geared to top match-play fitness for nearly four years without a significant break. Defeat this year could have meant the break of continuity which would have finished some of the elders—not that any of them are really old, but four years at the top, the cock-shot of the world of football, make even young men older than the age on their birth certificates. This final can be the crowning glory, and they will not let it slip without a supreme effort.

Individually as well as in team-effort this final is an especially important match. Good and young as they all still are, they must know that time is already taking its toll; more so, however, they note the phalanx of hungry young gazelles jostling along the touch-lines for a place in the sun. Some young and coming stars have already shown their wares in the senior team, and men still in possession know that only their experience keeps them in the line-out.

The return of Geraghty has been a great assistance to the defence,

● CONTINUED PAGE 47



Noel Tierney



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● FROM PAGE 41

hard to beat. Of the two teams I would prefer to see Meath win, because it would be good for football. It's nice to see the honours going around."

There it is then—a sample of how Ulster views this absorbing clash. Strong arguments can be advanced for both teams. Coming away from Croke Park after the Meath-Down game I was convinced that this would be Meath's year. Since then I've begun to have my doubts.

Are Meath really as good as their form in that semi-final would suggest? If they are then I don't believe that even Galway will prevent them from becoming champions. Or could it be that Down's second half collapse accentuated the Meathmen's capabilities? Meath are good alright but not as good as that semi-final would have us believe.

And what of Galway? Its a long time now since we first heard that they were "over the hill." Yet here they are once again in the final. Some people allege they have been lucky. No doubt they have had their fair share of good fortune, but most top class teams make their own luck. I am convinced that Galway are in the decider on merit alone.

I am plumping for them to retain their title, for the following reasons. Their defence can improve on previous displays this season. Remember that Martin Newell, one of the key men in Galway's defensive set-up, had his first championship outing against Cork. Secondly, their attack as a unit is still the most dangerous in the land. Finally, they have vast experience to back up their undoubted ability.

These are the qualities I believe will see them through to a narrow victory. Meath are dour battlers, well equipped physically and full of spirit and determination. They could well prove me wrong. But I'm standing by the champions.

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for there is nothing so soothing to the play of full-backs and even half-backs than the sure knowledge of safety behind. I think they need it more now than in the last three years, for this is a defence which has lost some of its composure, is not so commanding in the air as it once was, and clearly not as quick to the ball in the open. Mayo and Cork both enjoyed too much possession; the same was the complaint against Down and Longford when they lost.

Noel Tierney has lost much of his command around the square; he seems unable to get up to the high ones with that wonderful sense of abandon which he enjoyed two years ago. Knee trouble has caused him much worry, and it may be the root of his loss of agility as well as his more obvious loss of confidence. He is not now invincible.

The centre-half problem is unsolved, though one feels that it could be solved by Enda Colleran, one of the best defenders in the game, but would this leave a dangerous gap at right-back? Colleran and McDermott were the ideal combination: Colleran for the open covering and cutting off, the more often noticed work; McDermott for the engine-room toil around the square, the close, thankless and seldom spectacular sealing of gaps and blocking of players near goal.

Coilín McDonagh would seem to stand a good chance of filling the corner position.

John Donnellan is certainly not the power he was, but he uses his head well still. I have noticed, however, that his great driving forward from defence to attack is a thing of now and again rather than the electrifying sixty minute thing it used to be. Comment on the half-back play against Cork, must be tempered with the thought that Martin Newell was just back from strenuous academic pursuits and a longer break than usual from

football; he will, of course, be a much improved player in the final.

It is, perhaps, as much a tribute to the strength and ability of Galway to compensate for one another's short-comings, to realise that in all their four years of the big-time, they have limped more or less severely at centre-field. It shows also the range of their half-backs and half-forwards that they have never been played out of the game, but have enjoyed even amounts of attacking at the time of poorest influence in the centre. It is in this context of more than life-size play by the halves (back and forward), that any falling off in their standards must be judged, for it is in the centre that the draught would be felt.

Against Cork there were signs of it when the Cork half-forwards

were able to gain too much possession, and the weakness at centre-field was always apparent. In this case the half-forwards did a tremendous day's work in compensation for the two lines behind them; they might even do so again against Meath, for they have been a wonderfully effective line through the years, and beautifully dove-tailed in style, physique and general objectives.

Some doubts must also be expressed about the full-forward line, who may not be as sharp as they were or might be. It adds up to an intriguing whole: a team with great talent, a hard-wrought spirit and determination, all the experience in the world, resilience to spare, but with the barest evidence of fraying at the edges of speed and form.

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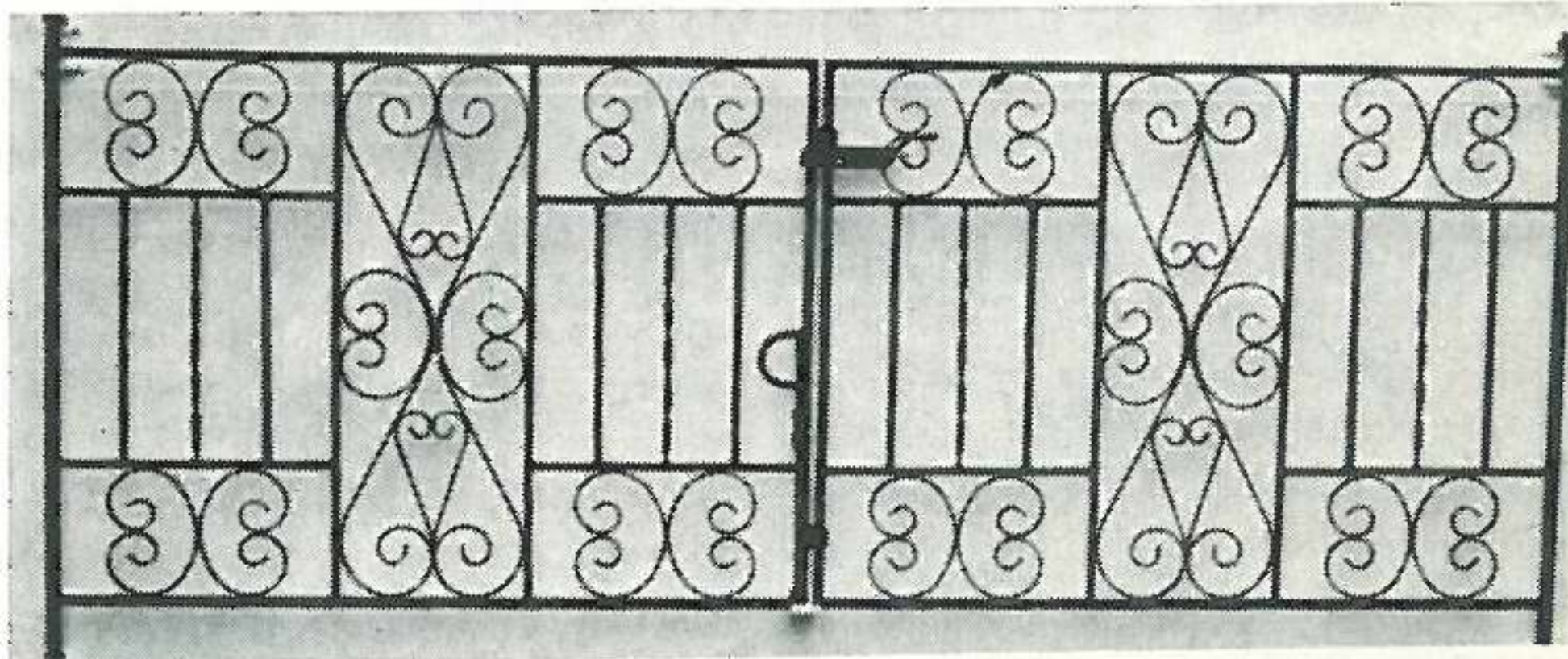
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buoyant confidence that they can be as good as Galway if they really try, could be the one necessary foundation from which to build a victory.

The trouble with Meath—for themselves and for their supporters—is that they sprang too soon to the promise of big success, becoming almost arrogant in their insistence that it was their due. Nothing is anyone's due in football or hurling until they have earned it. Now, I trust (and I am confident) that Meath will approach this final with a composed frame of mind, of mature confidence that they can do it, but without overweening insistence that they will.

I was very taken with the Meath team that was coming along three years ago, and was very pleased to see my view of their value demonstrated in the Leinster final against Dublin the next year. The next game was the Galway semi-final, and that not only provided defeat but it left its long controversial shadows behind to an extent that hindered the team's development. In fact, as I see Meath more, I realise more that they have all the talents for great football, and that their real drawback hitherto has been the psychological rather than the physical.

They had a marvellous, overpowering, second half against Down (the pattern of the Dublin defeat in 1964 all over again precisely), but only after a moderate first-half, when greater sharpness

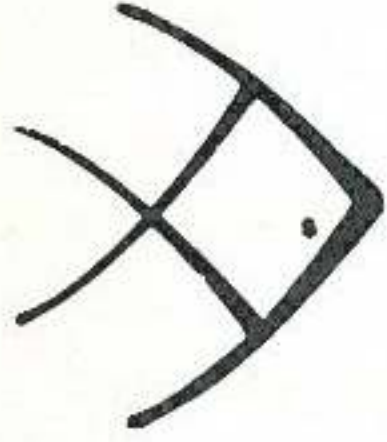
● CONTINUED PAGE 51

WHEN they trot out to engage Galway on final day Meath will have two years hardening frustration under their belts. They will be better for it; and Galway are two years older—more experienced or less mobile remains to be seen—so the prospect is a fascinating one, and will surely be the best chapter in the recent Galway-Meath rivalry.

For, there is, indeed, a rivalry, in spite of the fact that they have played only two games of importance against one another—the semi-final of 1964 and the League clash in the following spring. The first of these games was riddled with unfortunate controversy, but Galway survived against a prodigal Meath attack; the second, which had a beautifully appetising quality, was ruined because of Meath's over-anxiety to prove how wrong the All-Ireland semi-final result had been.

Not very many thought that Meath would win against the Western men the first of those days; very many were sure that they would do it the second day. But, though the first day had lessons to be studied diligently for homework, they had not been, and the second day turned out to be a punishment for homework neglected and an added portion of new exercises to be studied with the old.

Principally, Meath had to learn to keep cool, to avoid the frame of mind—"Come on, lads, out we go and knock these fellows into a cocked-hat". It couldn't be done, nor will it be done in the coming All-Ireland final. But, the learning of that lesson wasted valuable scoring time; and, when eventually it had been learned, the fact brought about a second defeat. A clear, fresh mind, with all the old memories rubbed clean, and a



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by Down might have left them in a far less favourable position from which to launch their drive to the heights. And think of the way they frittered their chances against Galway in 1964 after an identical previous display against Dublin.

Let them overcome the complexes and the inhibitions, let them play "Kerry" football in the centre-field and forwards, and I see them winning the final. For you will note the methods of the first-half against Down, pitt-patting and scarcely daring a shot, and the contrast of their play after the break, letting go at the slightest opportunity and from distances and directions which seemed ludicrous sometimes until the ball had dropped behind the bar. I have not seen that sort of thing—the simple Gaelic game of football played by those who have the skills to play it—since Kerry lost their form, and lost their tie with tradition by trying to walk the ball through.

Clever men who know how will always make the ball do the work and save their own legs for later when they might be needed more sorely. Tadhg Lyne, I remember always, was the ideal example; you could see nothing to recommend him as a footballer—build, legs, feet, co-ordination, all seemed wrong—but when the ball was about he could get it with magnetism, and then his loping swing, casual glance and rifle-shot point from any distance or direction. Not since his day did I see better rattling over of long-range points as by Meath against Down.

The All-Ireland final, I think, hinges simply on this skill which Meath have shown us. Can they use it right from the start with confidence and persuasion to persevere even in spite of any early misses, or will they in the pressure of the occasion return to the tentative approach, the approach symptomatic of fear and uncertainty, of trying to make doubly sure.

In their great days, Kerry never



Mattie McDonnell who was a member of the Meath team which won the Sam Maguire Cup in 1954

bothered about making even singly sure; they just blazed away and native skill did the rest. Meath have that skill; let their watchword only be: "Let us play it the cavalier way; let us play it the Kerry way", and the crown will rest in the county of kings.

Why all this emphasis on the long-range point? Because it is the most important score in football; it gives an amazing lift to a side, and gives a bad drop to the opposition. When you score from away out, you get the feeling that there was a score which was pure bonus: something for nothing. You feel: "How wonderful! We can pick off the far-out ones even if we cannot get in for the close ones. And if we can do this from here what are we not likely to do when we do work in close."

For the defence, however, the long-range point means a feeling of frustration and impotence—you could see it in the Down men who could not even get to challenging distance of their tormentors. And a frustrated defence is an unsafe one for the time when the close pressure is put on; you would expect just the kind of wild all-out advances on the ball, which gave Gerry Quinn two wrapped and inscribed gifts.

By the way, he was sure, cool and very punishing in finishing

those goals, while, at the other end, O'Hagan was so slow, so right-foot conscious, when his gift-wrapped chance arrived—so much the worse for the spectacle and for the trial of Meath.

Long-range points release the tensions of the centre-fields, showing that they only need to break or worry the ball forward a short way before it becomes a scoring chance; relieves them of the heavy obligation of cleanly winning possession against other good men, and then dishing it up on a tray, carved and cooked for forwards ineffective unless close-in.

Then the half-backs—and Meath will be strong there and the game may lie between them and the McDonagh-Dunne-Leydon axis—become immediately involved in the scoring, when they realise that just one good delivery from them can be dispatched with one more kick for a golden point. And with the same amount of buoyancy which it brings to centre-field and half-back, it brings an equal or even greater amount of pressure on the opposition to these lines. And opposition centre-fields and half-forwards who are on a nerve-edge of pressure to prevent their men laying on scores for long-tom artillery men, will not be so effective themselves in serving or scoring for their own team—they couldn't be.

I am sure that such can be the pattern of victory for Meath. And with that in mind, I would not have Davy Carty in the half-line, at least to begin with, but I would use there Noel Curran or Oliver Shanley, until the pattern of things has been set. For Carty has a horrible habit of automatically doing a couple of taps of a solo-run thus reducing his space and chance; and I would talk seriously with Tom Browne, asking him to forget his over-rational attitude to the business of bringing other forwards into action, and urging him to employ to the full his individual high scoring skill.



Frankie Byrne, brilliant right half forward on the Meath team which won the Royal County's first All-Ireland in 1949.

First tilt for the title

AS the years go on and new counties keep arriving at the top of the football world, one would imagine it would become more and more difficult to have an entirely new pairing in an All-Ireland final.

Well we have an entirely new pairing this time, Galway and Meath. Galway are seeking their third title in succession; Meath, by contrast, are seeking only their third ever senior title in football since the Gaelic Athletic Association began more than 80 years ago.

Personally I am glad to see a Meath-Galway final for I have rather fancied both counties to reach this stage since the early days of the competition. Both have had, perhaps, a share of luck on

the way, but after all, no team ever yet won an All-Ireland without some stroke of luck at some juncture or other.

One reason that I have a particular interest in both Meath and Galway is this that I have seen both counties win all of the All-Ireland titles that have gone their way. The first-time Galway gained a title was in 1925, and they had not to play in the All-Ireland final at all. Due to a delay in the provincial championships Mayo, the 1924 title-holders, were nominated to represent Connacht in the All-Ireland semi-finals, in which they beat Wexford. The other two semi-finalists, Kerry and Cavan were both disqualified finalists, and so Mayo, having themselves

survived a Wexford objection, were at first glance, the only team left in the championship.

Indeed Mayo were actually acknowledged as the 1925 All-Ireland champions and no one throughout the rest of the country paid any great attention to the fact that the Connacht final had yet to be played.

But played that Connacht final was at Tuam, and Galway won. That had the whole country seeing an answer to the question which one newspaper posed on the following morning. "Galway are champions of Connacht, but who now are champions of Ireland?"

They had not long to wait for the answer. At the next meeting of Central Council, the President, the late Paddy Breen of Wexford ruled that Galway were the All-Ireland champions of 1925. It was a courageous decision, but, needless to say, one that was received with hostility in various quarters.

But Galway justified the award. The Central Council subsequently held a special tournament for the provincial champions in lieu of the All-Ireland championship. Kerry did not take part, but Galway beat Wexford and Cavan in turn to deservedly earn those 1925 medals.

The first time I saw Galway play in an All-Ireland final proper was in 1933 when they were well beaten by Cavan but only after a most entertaining game. However they provided ample compensation for their supporters just twelve months later when they sprang as big a surprise as I have ever seen in a football final.

That was 1934 and Dublin, after travelling down to Tralee where they gave Kerry the worst championship beating the Kingdom has

ever sustained on home soil, were rated hottest favourites to take the title, even though Galway had avenged that 1933 defeat by finishing a goal ahead of Cavan in the other semi-final at Tuam.

A newspaper strike did not help the attendance, but Galway shocked the Dublin followers by racing into a big early lead and then staving off a grim rally by the opposition to take their second title with two points to spare.

We did not see Galway in Croke Park again until 1938 when Kerry and themselves, in a drawn game, provided me with the most thrilling football final I have yet seen. Galway astoundingly came out to win the replay with something to spare in a game that is now best remembered by the fact that, owing to a mistake over the full-time whistle, we eventually saw almost two Kerry teams in action instead of one.

But surprisingly some very lean years followed for Galway. They

lost to Kerry in the finals of 1940 and 1941 and to Dublin in the final of 1942, and never reached an All-Ireland senior final again until 1956 when they caused another surprise by having three points to spare over a fancied Cork team in a high-scoring game.

Luck was dead against these Galwegians, however, in 1957 and 1958, in the semi-final on each occasion they were beaten by a point from a last-minute free.

Came 1959 and they did win through to the final only to wilt inexplicably before Kerry in the second half. But they came back with almost entirely a new side in 1963, lost narrowly to Dublin in that year's final, and have ruled the senior championship fields ever since. That they are now appearing in their fourth consecutive senior final is proof positive of the work of the present generation of Galway footballers.

And now for the Meath record. I first saw the Royal county play

in an All-Ireland final in 1939 when Matty Gilsenan's men lost narrowly to Kerry. In fact there is still a body of opinion in Meath which maintains that the great Danno Keefe was behind his goal-line when he parried Kevin Devin's last-minute shot, and that Meath should have won by a point. However, I was there, and while the margin must have been close, I thought the goalkeeper just deserved the benefit of the doubt.

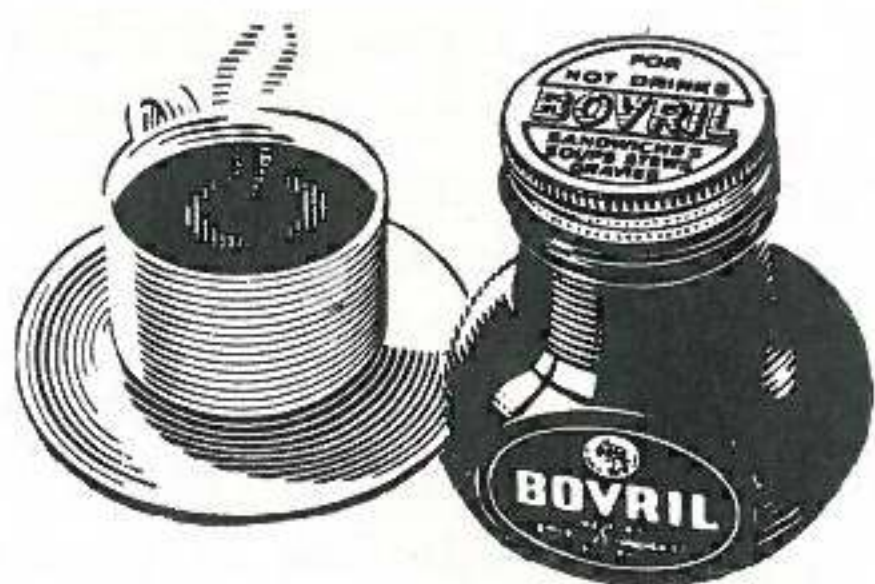
In the following year Meath failed to Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final and did not come out of Leinster again until 1947 when they fell to Kerry at the same stage. But in 1949 they came storming back to victory by most deservedly bringing the Sam Maguire Cup to the county for the first time.

In 1951 they were back in quest of their second title, but troubled by vaccinations for an American trip failed to Mayo in the final. A

● CONTINUED PAGE 68

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Ionainn san is ag rá go bhfuil an C.L.G. ag cur bac ar dhronganna eile a gcion a dhéanamh ar son na

teanga. Mar a dúirt mé cheana, san iris seo, táim le fada ag fanacht le cúpla focal Gaeilge — sea cúpla focal, peaca i scríbhinn nó urlabhra, ó fheidhmeannach éigin ó chumainn na gcluichí iasachta. Éad agus gráin don Chumann Lúchleas Gael is cionntsiocair leis an mbaoth-chaint agus níl buairt ar bith orthu faoi stáid na Gaeilge.

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Páirc an Crócaigh clúdaithe le gloine, suiocháin agus buird le nithe ins chuille áird ar imeall na páirce, ins na seastáin, ar Chnoc '16 agus ar Bhruach na Canálach. An réiteoir ag tabhairt aire do pé cúrsaí a bheadh ar siúl ar an bpáirc imeartha (mar a tugtar anois air) ó helicopter agus ceol bog suaimhneasach á chraoladh ag banna nua-aimseara ó Venus agus ag teacht as cosa na mbórd. Ait le rá ní deirtear aon rud faoi deis a bheith ag duine leaba a chur in áirithe taobh thiar de Sheastán Uí hÓgáin agus más mian leis na húdarásaí sa Chumann bob a bhualadh ar na fáidheanna, níl rud is fearr a dhéanfaidís ná cúpla ceann a cheannach láithreach agus fhógairt go bhfuilid réidh do chuariteoirí chuig na cluichí ó Mars agus áiteacha mar é.

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MAYO minors are on the move again. No Connacht county has been so consistent in producing good minor teams. No county has been more unlucky in recent All-Ireland appearances. This year the wearers of the green and red are very well endowed and having seen them in action against Roscommon and Cork, I confidently predict an All-Ireland win at last.

By **CHRIS MURRAY**

Their performance in defeating Cork by 5-6 to 2-6 was masterful as some Cork judges held this year's team was their best ever. Heroes of that win were substitute Des Griffiths of Claremorris, who scored three great goals; fellow-townsmen John Smyth, a very burly full-forward, brilliant midfielder Seamus O'Dowd and backs, Sean Hughes and Benny McHale.

Four of the team won Hogan Cup medals with St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, this year, namely goalkeeper Eugene Rooney, the two corner backs Sean Hughes and Bernard Meenehan, and left corner forward Aidan Kelly of Ballyhaunis. This is a good omen as a number of last year's successful Derry team had already won Hogan Cup medals with St. Columb's College, Derry.

Star of the team in my opinion is midfielder O'Dowd, who carries the ball in expert fashion and all in all is a fine prospect. His partner Tony Joyce is another fine footballer, though inclined to play with the ball. Centre half back, Tom Cafferky of Achill Island is the biggest minor I've seen for some time. He is not mobile enough to be another Padraic Carney but he may loosen out and develop into a great senior.

● CONTINUED PAGE 68

look forward



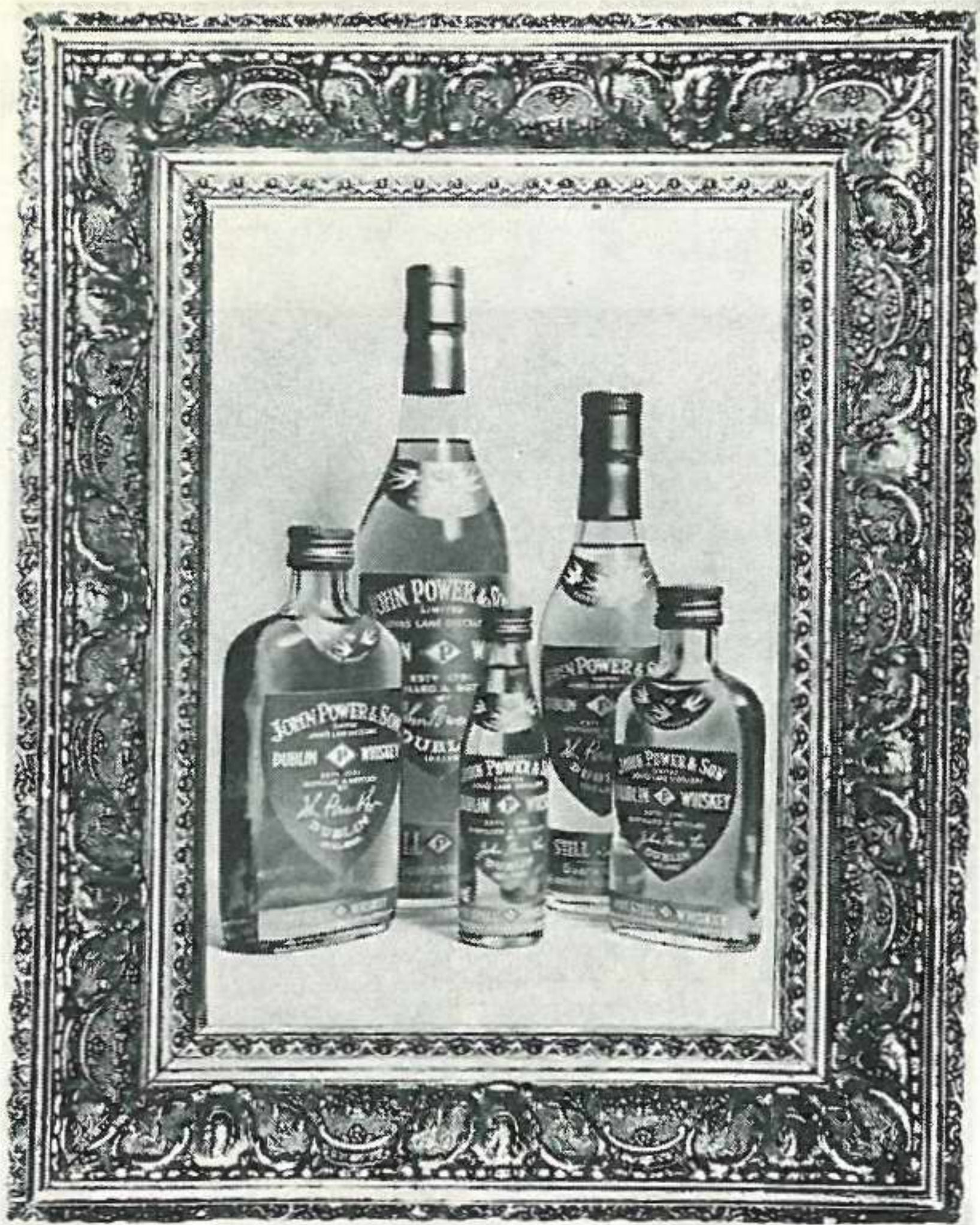
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49'11

PAT DONNELLAN



TALKING TO SEAN O'DONNELL

THE Donnellans are to Galway what the Quinns are to Meath and this was why I decided on a few words with a representative from each of these great football families.

I found Pat Donnellan as keen as ever. The years at the top have in no way dulled his enthusiasm for victory. He will be, as always, the human dynamo — generating determination and the will to win on September 25.

Our conversation went as follows:—

O'Donnell — How do you rate Galway's chances?

Donnellan — Meath are very good. There can be no doubt about that. Still, I believe that we will do it.

O'D.—Galway have survived two very close games — against Mayo and Cork — which was the more difficult?

D.—It is hard to say. Both Mayo and Cork could have beaten us—but yet they didn't. Perhaps the reason was because Galway are a particularly hard team to beat. As long as we win by a point we have won the game. Looking back, the Mayo game was, I suppose, the harder as they led us for most of the hour.

O'D. — Were you surprised by Mayo's form?

D.—No. They have a fine bunch of players. It was only a matter of time until they developed into a great combination. If they keep them together they will succeed us in Connacht?

O'D.—When will they succeed ye in Connacht?

D.—In 1977.

O'D.—Why 1977?

D.—Because you expected me to say 1967.

O'D.—Seriously though, do you think Galway will have improved on their Connacht final performance?

D. — Very much so. A team which has been on top for some period of time is bound to get sluggish. It takes a series of games and a build-up of enthusiasm before top gear is reached. I think that we have been lucky in having to contend with two fine teams such as Mayo and Cork. These games cannot but have done us a lot of good. The Galway team which will take the field against Meath will be the keenest since that which beat Kerry in last year's final.

O'D. — To move on to more general topics—when I interviewed

Martin Newell last year he was in favour of 13-a-side teams. How do you view this?

D.—I would be all for it. It would mean faster and more spectacular football.

O'D.—Do you feel that there is too much fouling at present?

D.—Certainly there is and 13-a-side would greatly help in this regard for most fouls are committed in or about the square. I feel too that the standard of refereeing is low. Most referees seem to lack the courage to apply the rules. Players are getting away with too much rough play. Seamus Garvey is one referee who impressed me very much. Where is he now?

O'D.—Have you any comment to make on the general G.A.A. scene?

D.—I would like to say that I strongly support Dr. Jim Brosnan's idea of club-rooms which would have modern amenities such as a bar, etc. The G.A.A. must provide a social life in keeping with the times we live in. It is as simple as that.

O'D. — Who was your schoolboy idol?

D. — Sean Purcell—surely the greatest of them all. If I live to be a hundred, which is unlikely, I don't expect to see his equal.

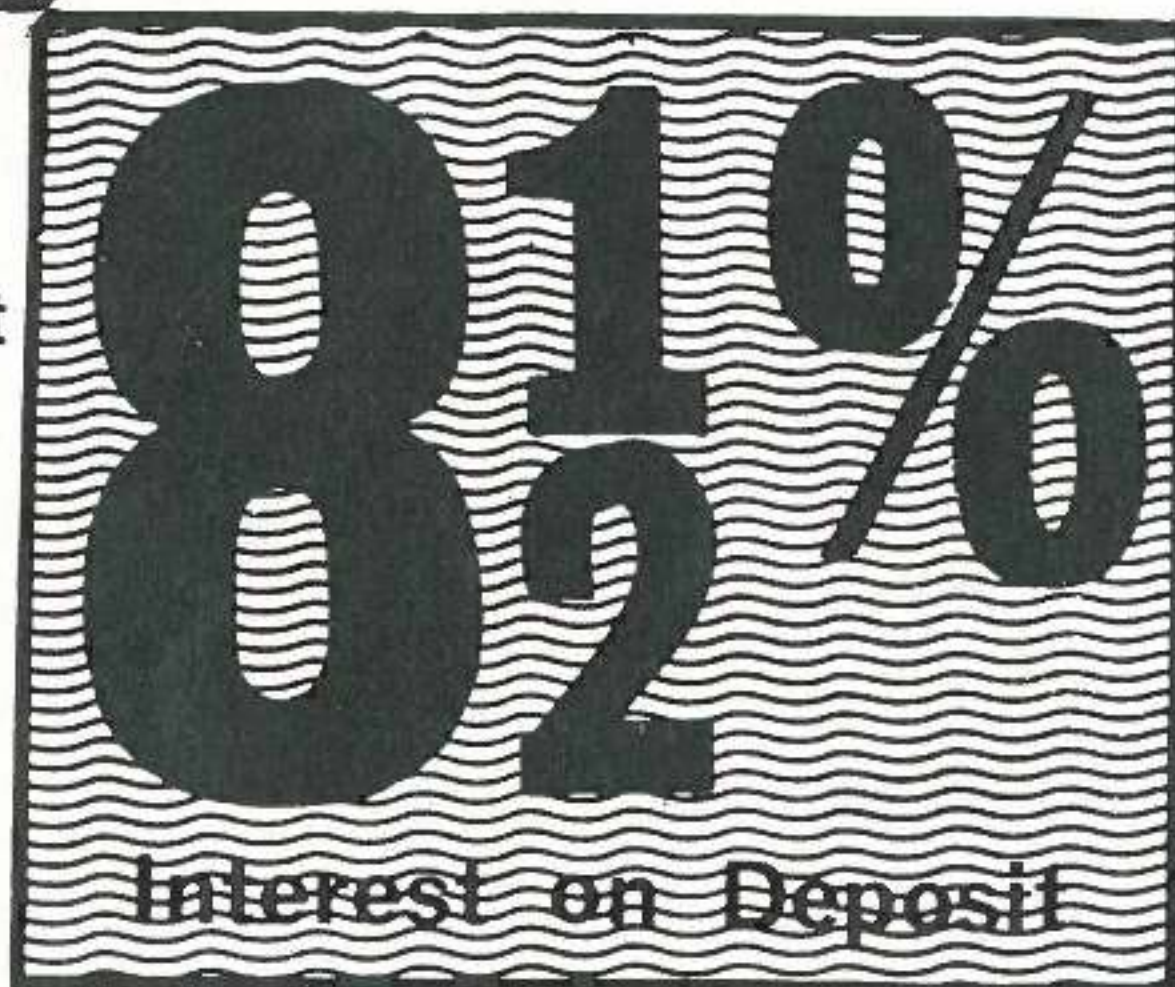
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S.P.6

WHILE handball—by our terms of reference the four-walled brand—was brought into America by Irish immigrants, we can claim little credit for one-walled handball which commands tremendous popularity in the New York City area, Philadelphia and Miami Beach.

This branch of handball requires

By ALLEYMAN

only the minimum of facilities—a front wall, twenty feet wide and sixteen high, with a court extending back thirty-four feet. The playing zone is marked out to show the side and back boundary lines, the short line, which is sixteen feet from the wall and the service area.

It is rather difficult to draw a comparison between this and four-walled handball. In some respects they are completely different, yet, such basic fundamentals as stance, strokes and getting the feel of the ball apply to both. Each game also has its own scientific attributes.

In box-court handball, for instance, we are familiar with the arts of scotch-tossing, corner shots, back-wall play, lobs, etc. The absence of side-walls in the game under discussion, rules out these sciences but in their stead we can point to such factors as control, tossing, angle hitting and, of course, the necessity of being absolutely fit.

The side-walls and back wall

relieve the player of excessive running for, provided he has good positional sense, the ball is always coming to him.

One-walled handball is different. Once the ball passes you it is gone, hence the necessity of fitness cannot be over-stressed. Control is also vitally important, whether it be in assessing the angle, tossing or returning a shot, so that it plays within the boundary lines.

This type of game also demands that the player who hopes to go into the top bracket should be ambidextrous. In contrast, in the four-walled game most players can work themselves into position to take a shot with their "strong" hand, without losing their court position to any marked degree.

This would be different with the one-walled game, where a similar instance would demand a player to run a few yards outside the playing boundary, to return a shot with his "good" hand.

As I said at the outset, this branch of the sport is played extensively in New York, and, is probably the most popular of all athletic and recreational games available in the parks and playgrounds of that city.

There are about 1,900 one-walled courts in public parks and playgrounds, with hundreds more available at beach resorts, swimming pools and schools. The courts are used throughout the twelve months, and it is not uncommon to have deep snow cleared from the floors to permit play.

The popularity of the game can best be gauged by the entry for an annual novice tournament sponsored by a well-known city newspaper. This usually averages about 6,000 divided between 1,800 boys, 800 girls and 3,400 men with the competitions extending over a couple of months.

Indeed, one-walled handball is an interesting study and prompts the question: Would it achieve anything in this country?

As an ally for the four-walled game, it would be completely ineffective, for it has been proved beyond doubt that it is well-nigh impossible to become expert at both. But, in Irish parks, there is an appalling lack of ballcourts.

If corporations and councils, were to consider the widespread construction of this economical type of court, they would be rectifying the position to some

degree, and, at the same time, providing those who desire exercise, with a cheap and healthy way of acquiring it.

In time, competitions would follow and, perhaps develop even on an All-Ireland basis. Would some county take the plunge and build a one-walled court?

I think it would prove more than a useful experiment.



BILLY MORGAN

HE BECAME A 'KEEPER BY CHANCE

By TIM HORGAN

THREE years ago Cork and Kerry contested one of the most exciting Munster minor football finals in memory when they drew at Killarney. The following week the teams were in action again at the Athletic Grounds where the Kingdom well and truly trounced the homesters in a dull

anticlimax. Playing at left-half-forward on the Cork team in those two games was Billy Morgan, who some months later was to assume an entirely different role and whose next appearance in his county's jersey was as custodian of the goal.

How the energetic minor for-

ward became Cork's senior goalkeeper is one of the many surprising items in the rise of the Rebel County's football fortunes in the past few months.

Billy Morgan began his career with the juvenile team of Nemo Rangers, a club which thrived so handsomely in under-age football competitions that it was able to develop a powerful senior outfit. When the Presentation Brothers opened a secondary school, Coláiste Chríost Rí, at Turner's Cross in 1959 the Capwell club was given a steady supply of good young footballers, and these helped Nemo to win the county minor title. For the past six years the club and college have formed the nucleus of the Cork minor teams, which have won four provincial and one All-Ireland title in that period.

Billy Morgan was a prominent outfield performer with Nemo and Coláiste Chríost Rí, and it was no surprise when he was picked for the Cork minor team in 1963. When he entered U.C.C. as an Arts student the following year, however, he discovered that the College, county champions of two successive seasons, had no vacancy for a new forward, but badly needed a goalkeeper. Billy had never played between the posts before, but gladly accepted the position until he would be called to the forward ranks.

The enthusiastic young student displayed an aptitude for the number one position that soon convinced the county selectors of his potential. He developed a keen eye for the approaching ball and proved extremely reliable under

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pressure, using his outfield experience to side-step incoming forwards. Within a few months, he was selected as goalkeeper for the Cork Under-21 team and played a considerable part in helping them to win the Munster title last year.

When Kevin Beahan, the Louth midfielder, sent a sideline ball to the net in the second-last minute of the All-Ireland final of 1957, he robbed Cork of what appeared an imminent title, and sparked off the decline of the Leesiders' fortunes in senior football. Having lost two consecutive finals, many of the Rebels decided to end their careers. A few of the stars lingered on, but persistent defeats by Kerry dampened all Cork's hopes of regaining the provincial crown. By 1965 the Leesiders' stock sank to its lowest ebb as Limerick defeated them in the Munster semi-final. Interest in the Cork footballers had waned over the years, but now the team became an object of scorn.

Then, late last year Eamonn Young returned as trainer and selector of the Cork team after nine years and his dedicated and difficult work bore signs of fruit when the Rebels beat Dublin in a league game at Croke Park. They met Kildare in an important qualifying round of the league at Cork early this year, but were beaten by three points. However, the fact that the homesters had pulled down a three-goal lead and almost won showed that the Cork footballers were on the way back. A new goalie was required, as Kildare had scored three very soft goals during the game, and so it was that, when Cork made their first championship appearance in June, Billy Morgan made his senior debut.

After three championship games Billy had conceded only two goals, and Cork faced Galway, the mighty champions of two years standing in the All-Ireland semi-final in

August. Those who had expected Kerry to win the Munster title were even more outspoken in their confidence in Galway. Even in Cork, the natives did not expect a Leaside victory, but hoped that the footballers would give the champions a good run. But Billy Morgan, the son of Galway parents, and his team-mates were determined to do more than put up a good performance.

The rest is history.

But though Galway qualified for the final, it was Cork who really triumphed on this occasion. For the young team, which few critics had taken seriously, came to Croke

Park and gave the match-hardened Galwaymen the fright of their lives. They also proved that football in Cork was not moribund, and earned the respect of every follower who watched their display both on the pitch itself and on television.

The team of ex-minors and two veterans were treated as heroes by the national press, and high in the praise of all was the brilliant young goalkeeper, Billy Morgan, whose outstanding display between the posts foiled the champions of many scores and placed his name among the top custodians in the game.

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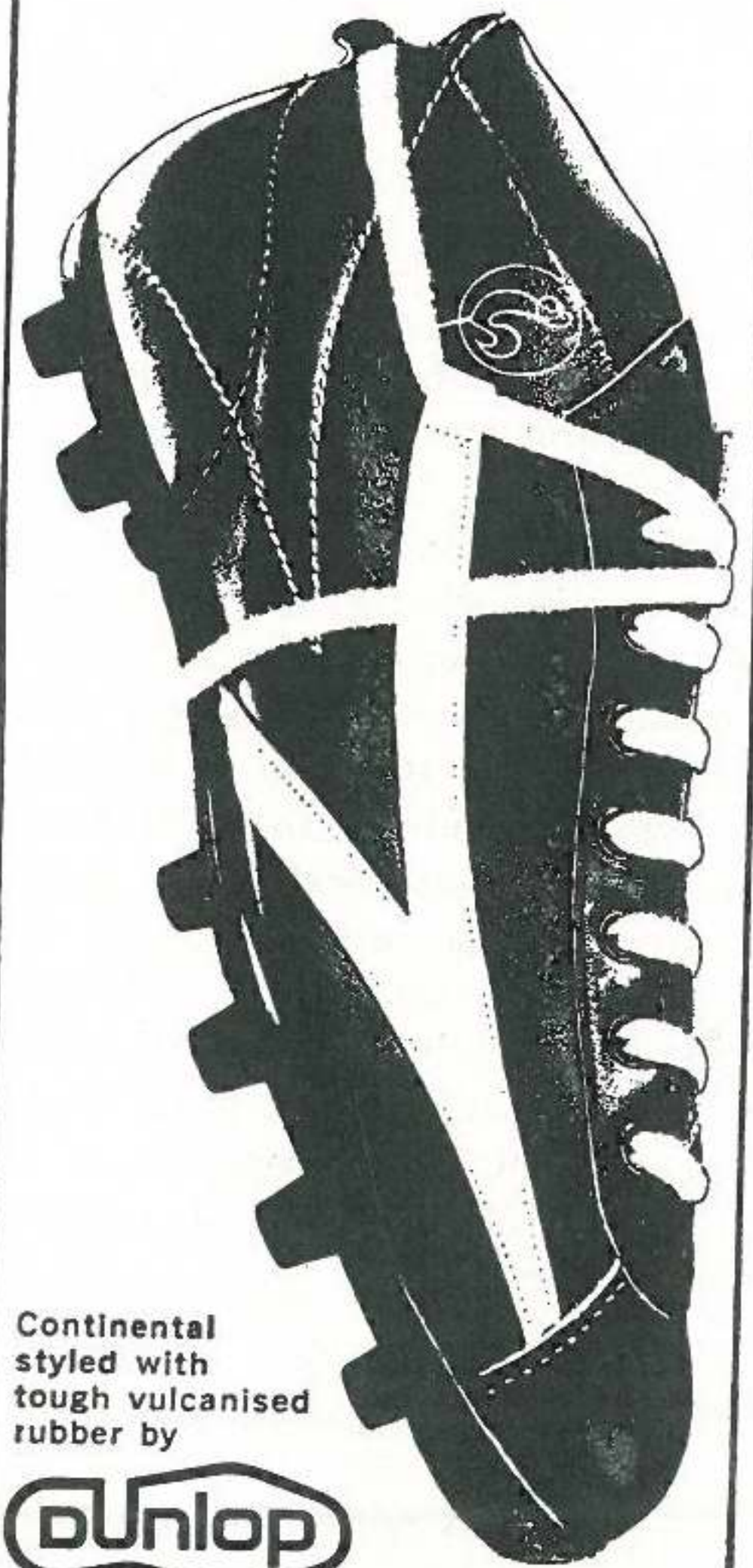


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By *TERENCE ROYNANE*

DAN McCARTHY

IF Jim Nowlan epitomised all that was best in the past of the Gaelic Athletic Association, Dan McCarthy, who succeeded the great Kilkennyman, typified a new generation of Gaels.

During the twenty years he had held the presidency of the Association, Jim Nowlan had seen the G.A.A. climb from a struggling position to become one of the greatest national forces in the country. Indeed the G.A.A. had played no small part in making the Ireland of 1921 a very different place from what it had been in 1901 when the genial Alderman from Kilkenny had first assumed office as chieftain of the Gaels. And one of the men who had played a major role in transforming not alone the G.A.A. but Ireland was Dan McCarthy.

A brainy, hard-working and progressive man, and a great organiser, Dan McCarthy was recognised as a "coming man" in the Association, from the first time he became a member of Dublin County Board. He soon became Chairman of that body and from there he next became Chairman of Leinster Council.

Not alone was Dan McCarthy a great organiser, he was also a strict disciplinarian. It was typical of his iron resolve that when Kilkenny, then the All-Ireland champions, announced that they would

withdraw from the Leinster final unless they were given the Railway Shield, which they had recently won for the province, McCarthy promptly suspended them. He proved unyielding, and though the controversy was straightened out after a couple of months, the champions were out of the championship.

Similarly his adherence to principle was very strikingly shown in the case of the controversy over the Louth-Kerry football final fiasco in 1910. When the controversy was all over, it was proposed that the final be refixed. Dan McCarthy told Central Council that since Kerry had officially given a walk-over, the game could not be refixed, and carried his point despite much opposition.

A man with many original ideas Dan McCarthy collaborated with the then General Secretary, Luke O'Toole, in producing the first G.A.A. Annuals.

A member of the I.R.B. and an advocate of physical force, Dan McCarthy was one of the first members of the Irish Volunteers. On the occasion of the Volunteer "Split," he followed Pearse and MacNeill and strove to carry as many G.A.A. men as he could with him. No braver man fought in the 1916 Insurrection, from which he was carried so badly wounded that his life was despaired of.

Yet, he came back, undaunted,

to become one of the most successful of all Sinn Fein organisers during the later Fight for Freedom. When he succeeded to the G.A.A. Presidency he was fated to face a tremendous crisis in holding the Association together through all the bitterness of Civil War. Not alone did Dan McCarthy keep the games going and keep the Association undivided, but he played a leading part in ensuring that men who had fought on opposite sides could still come together as comrades, shoulder to shoulder on the Gaelic fields.

The work that Dan McCarthy, and the G.A.A. as a whole, then did for Ireland can never be properly assessed.

When the Gaels, no matter what their political opinions might be, stood together again as a united body and when the continuity of the championships had been assured and arrangements were completed for the first Aonach Tailteann, Dan McCarthy stepped down from the Presidency. He felt his work was done, and indeed he had done that work well.

Though Dan McCarthy lived for many a year thereafter, he took no further part in the administration of the G.A.A. and he retired also from the political scene. But he had left on the Association his indelible imprint of faithfulness to principle and devotion to the national ideals.

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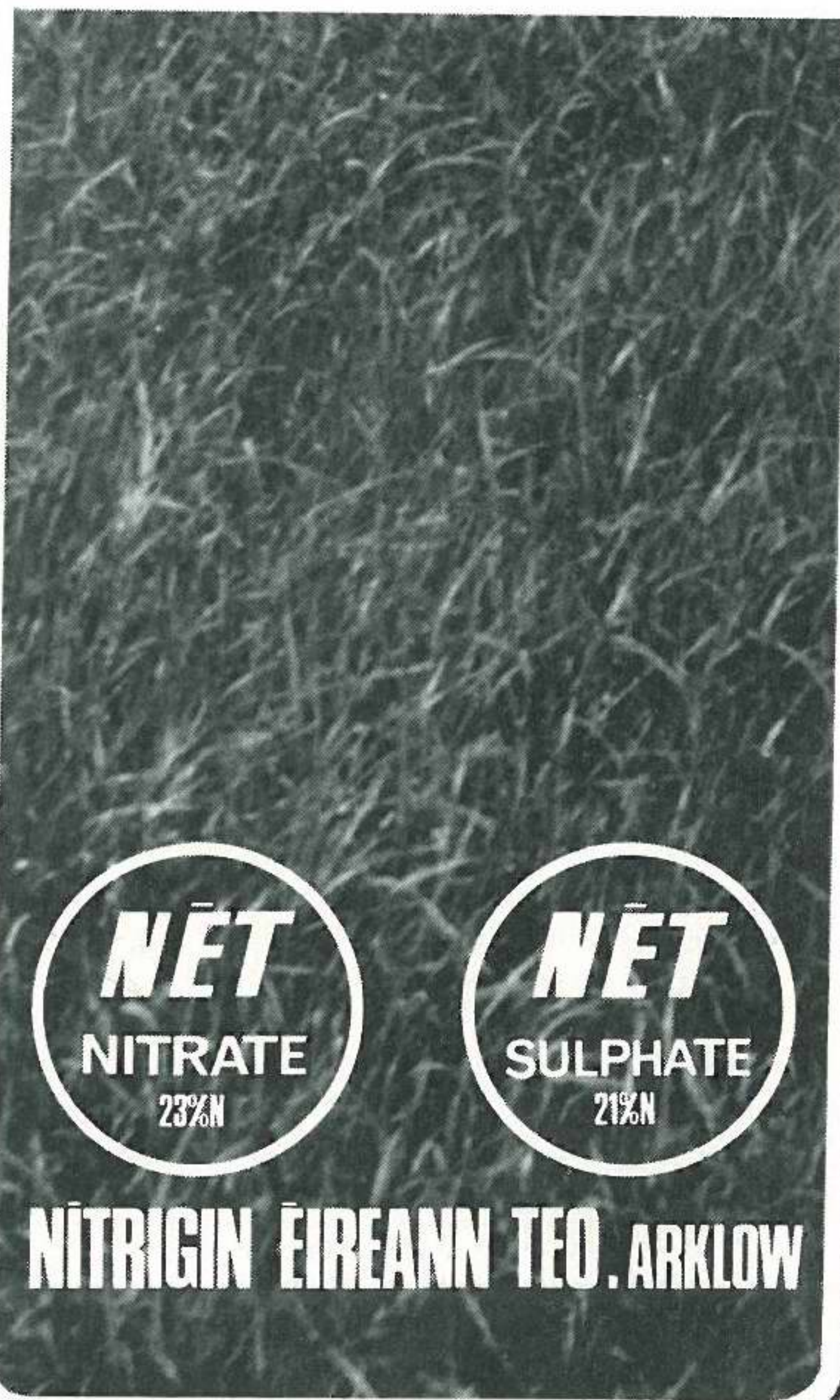
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How good are Meath?

● FROM PAGE 35

Cyril Dunne, Mattie McDonagh and Seamus Leyden to mark.

The battle could be very even unless Seamus Leyden and "Red" Collier both play good games. This has happened in the wing positions over the years and it's the defence that loses out.

If the Galway half-forward line is held the Cup should go to Meath for a very popular win.

If one Galway forward gets away the chance probably won't be wasted. Remember that fine goal against Cork when Cyril Dunne ran on to a McDonagh pass and the ball leaped like a fish in the net.

Though I'm convinced that the annihilation of Down flattered strong, tenacious, determined Meath, I can't help being influenced by their shooting.

It will probably bring them home ahead of a sporting Western side where the chinks have begun to show in the armour.

Galway point to a couple of important Croke Park wins over Meath in recent years as indications of continued superiority. I take that argument in Meath's favour. The fellow who keeps coming must win—if he has the guts to keep coming.

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Need for neutral umpires

BY the time this issue of GAE LIC SPORT appears in print the All-Ireland camogie final will be over, and we will know whether Dublin have retained the title for the tenth consecutive year or whether Antrim as they did ten years ago, have managed to succeed in breaking a long winning run by the Metropolitans.

Certainly Dublin have had the luck with them this year, for the controversial semi-final between themselves and Tipperary at Cahir saw their long run of victory almost ended. In fact many Tipperary supporters will always insist that the result should have been a draw, but the referee's decision in such matters must be final, otherwise, there would not be much point in having a referee at all.

But, to avoid confusion and controversy in similar circumstances in future, it surely is time that Central Council decided that neutral umpires be on duty in All-Ireland semi-finals as well as in finals. It would not add all that much to the over-all expenses if the referee brought four umpires with her.

The Tipperary girls were understandably disappointed that their great effort went for nought, but they are likely to have some compensation by retaining the inter-club championship, as ten of the county senior side now play for

the inter-club holders, Glengoole-Ballingarry.

They won so readily from Glen Rovers of Cork and Croagh of Limerick in winning the Munster section that it is hard to see them seriously challenged in the remaining stages even by that great Antrim club, Deirdre.

It is, of course, a pity, that the Dublin champions again opted not to play in this competition, for it loses a great deal in consequence. However, even in the absence of Dublin I was very favourably impressed by the standard shown in the Leinster section. St. Paul's of Kilkenny won through, but only after two magnificent games against Caragh of Kildare and St. Ibar's of Wexford.

St. Paul's are an accomplished side, though many of their players are still lacking of sufficient experience of top-class camogie. But the example and encouragement of such as Claire O'Hanrahan and Mary Connery make for improvement on every outing.

It was encouraging to see so many colleges players of recent years on this Kilkenny side, which confirms me in my belief that the way to spread the game is through the schools.

Now that the schools are open again, I hope a determined effort will be made both to extend the schools competitions already in

existence and to form new ones especially in the vocational and technical schools.

In respect of colleges competitions Ulster and Leinster are still way ahead of Connacht and Munster and this despite the fact that there are excellent schools' competitions long in existence in the counties Cork and Galway, and that Munster Secretary, Miss Ethna Neville, has been working so hard in the Limerick area.

Now that trained coaches are becoming available to the schools through the Physical Training teachers, there is no reason why every secondary school throughout the country should not be able to field a camogie team.

EDITOR'S REQUEST

We have had a communication from The Harps Hurling and Football Club in Adelaide, South Australia, and they are anxious to know where they could get in touch with the ex-Wexford hurling star Ned Wheeler who is now domiciled in Australia. If any of our readers have this information and would like to pass it on to the Editor of "Gaelic Sport" he in turn will pass it on to the South Australian Club.

BECKERS

Best TEA Drink

Connacht Comment.

● FROM PAGE 55

Mayo's great success in the minor competitions is in large measure due to their own special Minor Board, which is in complete charge of the team. A sub-committee of the Co. Board, it is a first-class idea and should be a headline for other counties. Chairman of the Minor Board is Ballyhaunis man Paddy Waldron, a very dedicated man. To his Board and the team itself we wish every success.

THE LATE TOM BURKE

Speaking of Mayo reminds me of Tom Burke, the former Mayo star goalkeeper of the thirties who died recently. To his relatives I extend my sincere sympathy. I knew Tom and I have seldom met a more modest man. He always shunned the limelight. So proud of Mayo—I met him on Connacht final day and he was so disappointed with

the result, yet thrilled that Mayo were on the way back.

Tom was the greatest goalkeeper of his time in Ireland. A star in a team of stars. I always like to hear their names again: Paddy Moclair, Harry Kenny, Patsy Flannelly (R.I.P.), Tot McGowan, Purty Kelly, Georgie Ormsby (R.I.P.), Paddy Quinn, Jackie Carney, Josie Munnely. They were a mighty side. Now Tom Burke has gone to his reward. Ar dheis Dé go raibh sé.

FR. MORAHAN

Finally a word of tribute once again to County Board Chairman, Rev. Fr. Leo Morahan of Loughborough. His infectious spirit has lifted Mayo's football stock considerably. Now Mayo have qualified for a Croke Park final by virtue of their Tournament semi-final win over Kerry at Castlebar. Mayo are certainly on the move.

MOONDHARRIG . . .

● FROM PAGE 53

year later they had even harder luck. On a gale-swept Croke Park they led Cavan by a point with time ebbing. A freak gust of wind carried a ball which seemed to have gone wide, back to a Cavan forward, who equalised, and Cavan won the replay.

But in 1954 Meath did win that second title and caused a tremendous upset when they fairly overran champions Kerry in an amazing final.

Since then, oddly enough, Meath have never succeeded in reaching an All-Ireland final until this current season. Their nearest approach was in 1964 when they were narrowly beaten by present rivals Galway, Jack Quinn's disallowed goal that day being still a bone of contention in certain quarters.

Galway again had a narrow margin to spare at their last meeting the League semi-final of 1965. Most people maintain that Meath have improved since then and Galway have gone a little bit 'over the hill.' Well, we shall see the answer to all that for ourselves on the last Sunday in September.

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Crossword Solution

● FROM PAGE 37

	1	L	O	2	N	G	3	F	O	R	D		4	B	5	B
		O		E		I							6	M	A	R
7	L	O	C	U	S	T	8	S				9	N	O	R	E
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