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GAA

Gaelic Sport

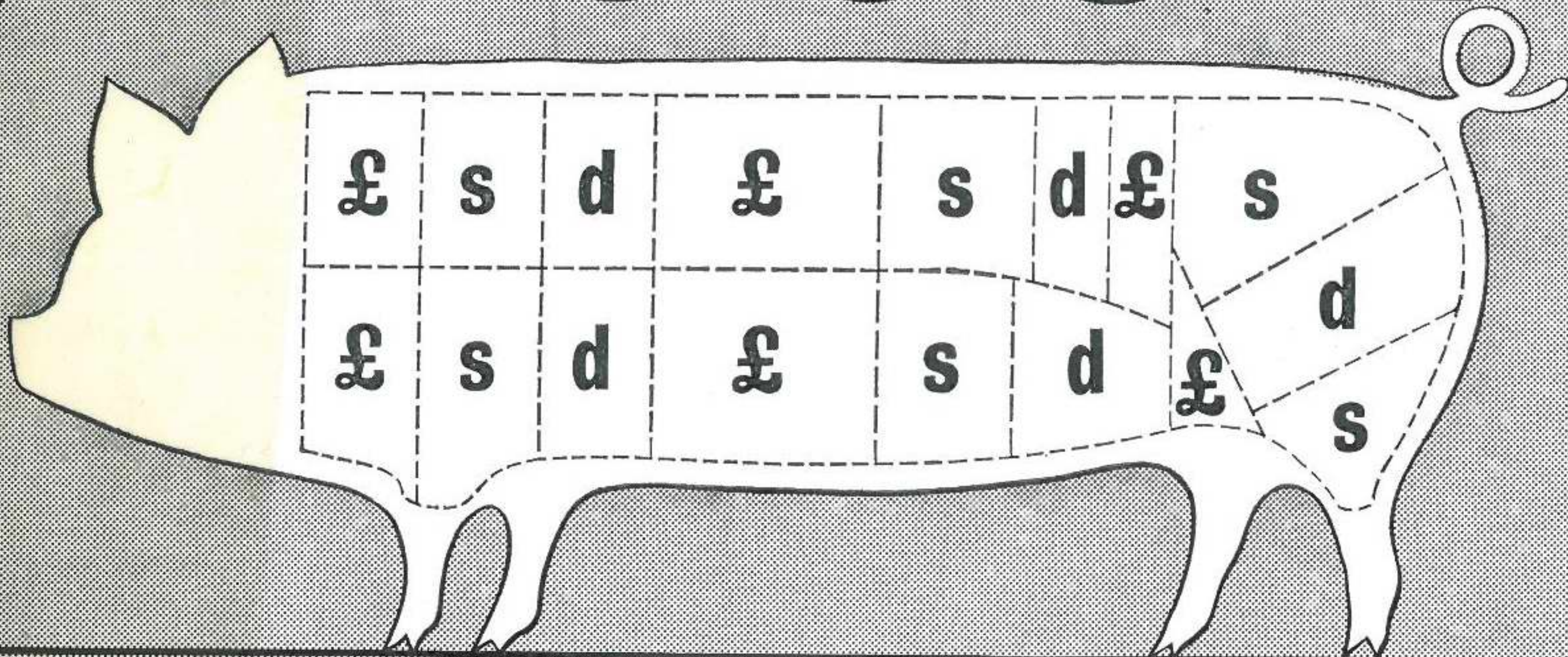
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 9. No. 9. SEPTEMBER, 1966

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COMMENT

Welcome back, Cork!

WE are being neither prejudiced nor partisan when we say with all sincerity—"Welcome back Cork—for too long Croke Park has been without you".

Yes, it will be good to see the flash of those red jerseys contrasting with the green sod of the national stadium. It will open the flood-gates of memory and much that is glorious and great in the annals of hurling will be recalled.

To us the outcome of this year's hurling final is unimportant. All we wish for is a thrilling game and we are more than confident that the men from the Lee and the Nore will see to it that our wish is granted.

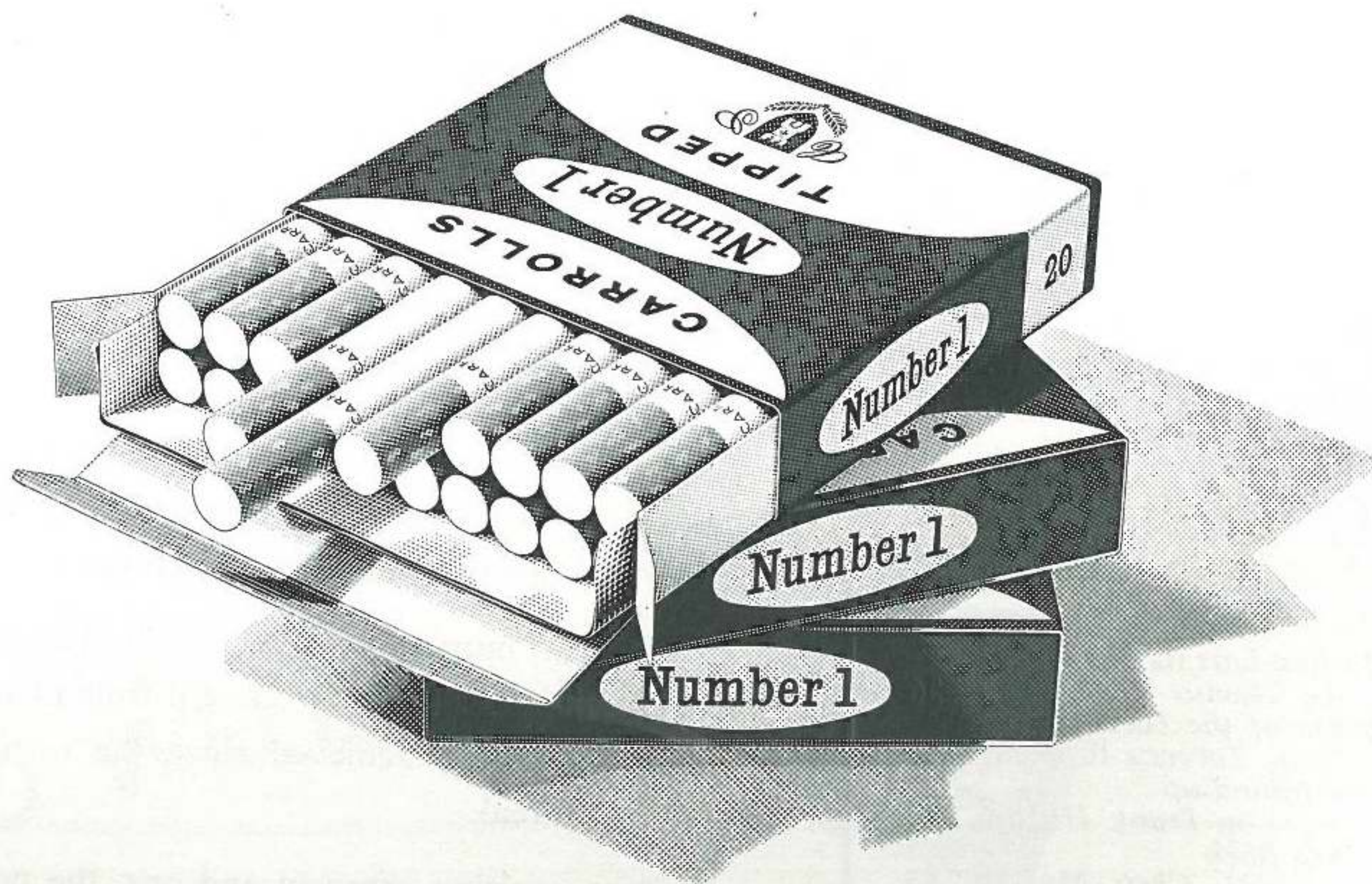
Tribute must also be paid to the Cork footballers who, despite their narrow defeat by Galway, have given due notice that they too are very much back into the centre of things.

In fact, so impressive were they in defeat in that semi-final game that the possibility of an All-Ireland double—something which has not been achieved since the turn of the century—becomes very real.

It is an exciting prospect and one, the possibility of which, must be welcomed not for Cork's sake but for the contribution it can make to our games at large.

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THE ONE-EYED MONSTER

BY THE EDITOR

FOR many moons this magazine has been drawing attention to the effect of live television on Gaelic games—particularly from the point of financial losses—both visible and invisible.

We are therefore particularly satisfied to learn that the Central Council has at last arranged with Telefis Eireann for the payment of realistic fees—as against the nominal fee of ten guineas per annum which was being paid heretofore.

The amount of money involved in the new fees has not been disclosed but we understand that they are well into the four-figure bracket. Does this mean that the case is now closed? Somehow we doubt it.

This year's Ulster senior football final cannot but prompt people to think all over again. Live television halved the Casement Park attendance. Whatever fee paid for the right to show the game live could not have been more than a minor contribution towards a financial loss which was between £3,000/£4,000.

To add to the Ulster final debacle there was the fact that Telefis Eireann slipped in, apparently at the last minute, and arranged for a link-up with the B.B.C. cameras. As a result all of

Ireland was able to see the game.

This proved a hard blow to county boards throughout the country who had club championships already fixed for that date. By the time Telefis Eireann announced that they were joining in it was too late to postpone these games. The result was that every county board—outside of those in Ulster who made no fixture for that day—lost money.

How much hard cash did the showing of that Ulster final cost the G.A.A.? It sheared 20,000 off the Casement Park attendance—equivalent to at least £3,000 and it would take for only 2,000 people per county—who otherwise would have gone along to the local venues—to add another £3,000 of a loss.

In other words these television cameras in Casement Park cost the G.A.A. a total of at least £6,000.

As we see it the hard fact of the matter is that only All-Ireland finals can stand up to television. All other games are vulnerable to an enormous extent—probably 50 per cent. vulnerable.

The Ulster final was certainly 50 per cent. vulnerable. So, it has been proven, are the Railway Cup finals on St. Patrick's Day. Attendances at these have also been halved since the arrival of live television.

The All-Ireland semi-finals too

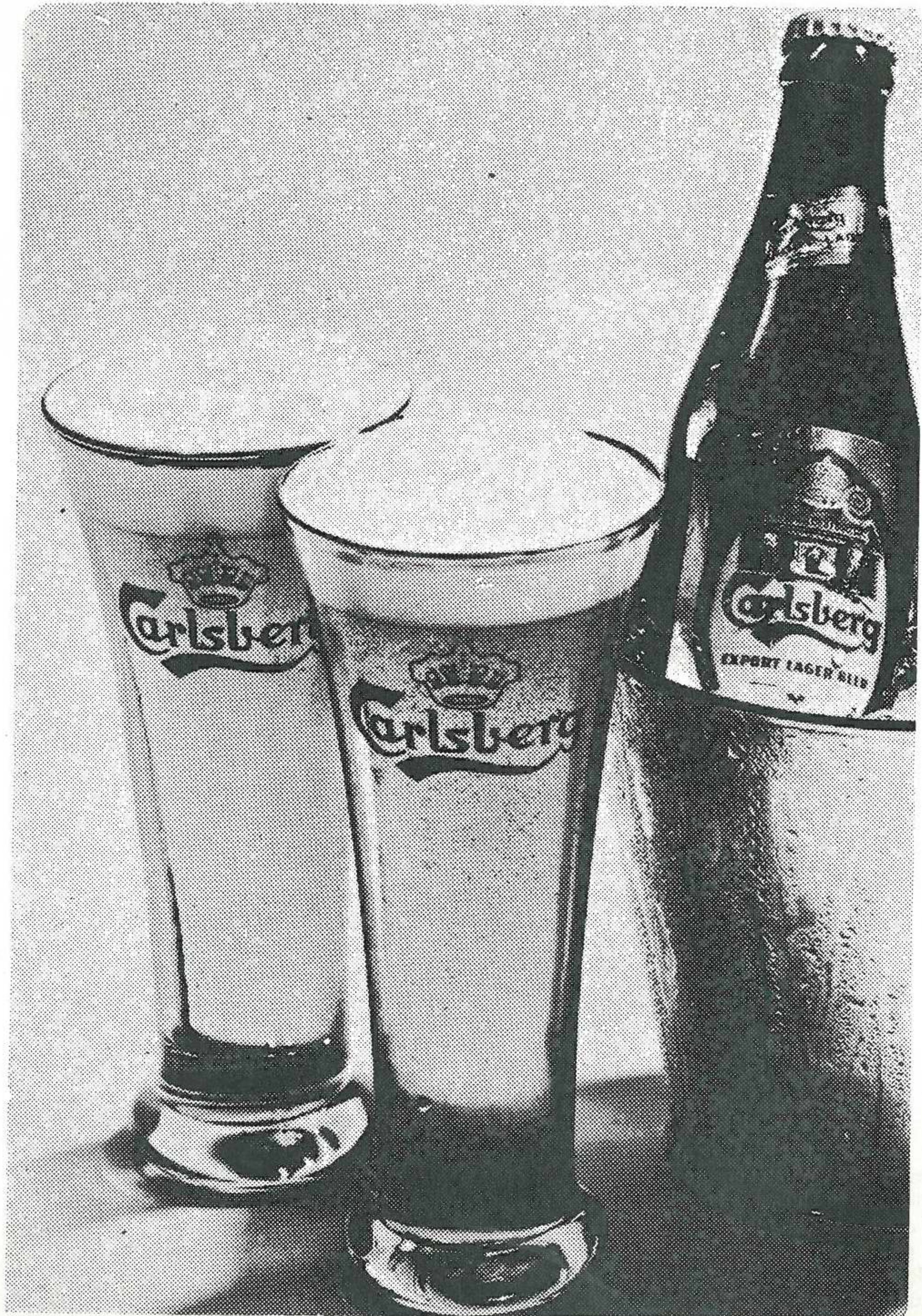
are being hard-hit. Not to a 50 per cent. extent but hard hit nonetheless—to be precise an attendance-fall average of 14,000 per game. This represents every bit as much money as was lost at Casement Park—if not more—when Croke Park prices are taken into account.

In short a fee of something in the region of £4,000 per game would be required if the G.A.A. is not to lose money by the live televising of such games. We doubt very much if Telefis Eireann is paying that sort of money under the new agreement.

A point much overlooked in this entire question is that these games earn a substantial amount of hard cash for Telefis Eireann as a result of advertising. The station would not normally be on the air at that time on a Sunday afternoon. By being on, it can carry a considerable amount of extra advertising. Precisely how much we have not as yet figured out—but it certainly amounts to a reasonable sum.

As we see it there should be nothing soft or gratuitous about the dealings of the G.A.A. with Telefis Eireann. In the beginning there may have been a case for this but the Television Authority is now making big money. It returned a profit of over £500,000

(Continued Page 7).



you've got to say **Carlsberg** to get the best

(From Page 5).

last year. It simply does not require charity—not any more.

Telefis Eireann pays top fees to its artists and performers—has often been known to pride itself for matching the B.B.C. in this regard. The G.A.A. should demand what is due—to the point where it makes a profit on television.

Sport and sports organisations the world over have long adopted this attitude towards television and it is the only logical attitude. Television should provide an auxiliary income—should supplement the takings. The G.A.A. must be unique in that the opposite has applied, and no doubt is still applying, in its case.

Other sports organisations—in America they have twenty five years of experience in dealing with television—have found that you simply cannot work-out a deal with the one-eyed monster on even terms. Even huge fees do not always right matters.

This is why one usually finds that American sports organisations insist on a “black-out” over a radius of maybe 100 to 200 miles from the venue. Within this radius of the venue there is no live television. In this way the attendance is saved.

An alternative to this system is the closed-circuit showings—where there is no televising into the living-rooms and where people must go along to theatres or cinemas and pay in to see the event on a closed-circuit television link-up.

Trial and error over a quarter of a century has led to these innovations. They have been found vital if the sports concerned were to survive against the all-consuming monster which television is.

As we see the position of the G.A.A.—it must dominate television and not be dominated by it. The money which it has lost since the arrival of live television in 1962 may well amount to £80,000.

(Continued Page 76).

JUST FANCY



DES FOLEY.

WHEN Galway and Clare met recently at Gaelic Park, New York, in the city's knock-out hurling championship (not to be confused with the more controversial meeting earlier in the season) the temperature was 106 degrees.

Still the players survived—what is more, three of the Galwaymen starred in a football game which followed immediately afterwards.

THE ART OF POLITICS

Prior to the Leinster senior football final the “Drogheda Independent” asked a number of prominent players for their views on the outcome. Among the players were Lar and Des Foley.

Lar stated as follows:—

“The speedy Kildare attack will be too good for Meath.”

Des stated:—

“Two good teams, and very little could sway the verdict either way.”

Which Foley is the politician?

JIM LANGTON

Jim Langton, who was an All-Ireland senior star and medal-winner when Christy Ring was a minor, recently turned out for Eire Og in the Kilkenny county championship and had a big hand in the clear-cut win over Freshford.

TIME FOR HUMOUR

Prior to the Ulster final, the Donegal County Board issued a general directive to its suppor-

ters who were planning to make the long journey to Casement Park.

As well as traffic tips such as not to “jump the queue” etc., there was the advice to “co-operate good-humouredly with the police authorities in Belfast and other towns.”

Whatever about “co-operating” it is difficult to imagine a Donegalman co-operating **GOOD-HUMOUREDLY** on the weary road home—especially when he could have stayed at home and seen the whole dull and disappointing affair on television.

KEVIN KELLY

Kevin Kelly, who was taken off by the Kildare mentors in the Leinster senior football final, scored no less than three goals and eight points (yes, 3-8) for the Kildare under-21 team against Wexford a week later.

FRANK KEANE

Here is enthusiasm for you—Laoisman Frank Keane played in the county junior hurling championship with O'Moore's in the early afternoon one Sunday recently at Mountrath. When it was over he rushed to the Heath and played with the Heath fifteen in a football tournament. From there he was off again—this time to Portlaoise where he finished off the day with a handy performance with the Laois under-21 hurlers.



Charlie McCarthy.



Paddy Barry.



Peter Doolan.



Denis O'Riordan.



Justin McCarthy.

And now the lean years are

WEXFORD beat Cork in the All-Ireland hurling final of 1956 and then famine struck. Only those who suffered the dejection of the lean years will ever know what the defeat of gallant Waterford meant in that recent Munster hurling final in Limerick where Cork ended a sixty-minute spin of fire, enthusiasm and some craft with a two goal lead.

Since last October I have been writing rather optimistic things about this Cork hurling team saying that only dedication to training, making each player hard and fast and strong, was needed to exploit the natural hurling ability which is part of the Corkman's sporting heritage.

Not everyone agreed with me and it's only a few months since a well-known follower down here, seeing the Minister for Finance at a Cork hurling game, suggested that Jack Lynch wouldn't put some of our players in a bad budget.

Let's face it, 'twas Limerick that brought all of us back, and the whole country can thank the men from the Shannon for toppling the Colossus Tipperary which deservedly bestrode the hurling scene in recent years.

That great Limerick win powered by Eamonn Cregan's three wonderful goals brought the sun of hope through the dark clouds and young men who had become frustrated

and disillusioned began to get out there on the field and train hard once again. It was this training and renewed hope, along with the quiet guidance of selectors and trainer Jim Barry, now in charge of his fourth generation of Cork hurlers that have put the Rebel county back into the bigtime hurling.

Cork now have the advantage of playing four hard Munster championship games which have tested the material and given every man confidence in himself, for apart from a few changes here and there the team is essentially that which started the championship.

In the opening game against Clare our men were only very mediocre and the memory of that dancing Clare half-forward line led by flying Pat Cronin makes me wonder how we ever survived.

In fact when, two minutes from time, the referee gave a Cork free, thirty yards out, I thought it was all over for I couldn't see tall Justin McCarthy crash one home from that distance. In fact but for a defender interfering with the Clare goalie he wouldn't, but the sliothar was in the net, and the score level, and we went home breathing a sigh, hoping for the best in the replay.

An improved display saw Cork through by 5-11 to 1-7 a fortnight later, and the side advanced to play Limerick over in Killarney on

the following Sunday. The good people over there didn't anticipate the mighty crowd which this re-opened Munster championship would attract and Beauty's Home that day became a vast snarl of traffic that kept many a driver back until half past eight in the evening (not that some of them I knew worried a lot while the pint was flowing).

Limerick put up a great show, hurling with speed and elan that is the outstanding attribute of the green-jerseyed teams for as long as I have seen them, and the half-time score of 1-5 to 0-3 in their favour was well deserved. Incidentally, Cork elected to play against the strong wind.

In the second half the drama suddenly unfolded decisively when, with Limerick leading Charlie McCarthy and Sean Barry got two great goals. Then came Limerick's all-out assault and the ball was in the net—only for referee Foran of Tipperary to give a 21 yard free—which was stopped. Still, Limerick scored another point and the whistle was music to Cork ears, leaving them two points to the good.

So we came home through the grey-green mountains very happy and confident that the side could beat Waterford, who had not been at all impressive on the day they disposed of Galway in Limerick as

EAMONN YOUNG

WRITES ABOUT

CORK'S COMEBACK

over!

a prelude to the replayed Cork-Clare game.

This team of ours did not train very hard (contrary to what many believed) and they did not come together again until the Thursday night after the Limerick match although they were playing Waterford on the following Sunday week.

They trained on the Thursday and Friday nights with light exercise on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the following week. The fact that most of the players live in the city or within striking distance of it and are in consequence able to be home in bed early, where training should always start, was an advantage.

There was jubilation before this Waterford match for Christy Ring was back again on the selection—after he had declined because of unfitness to pull on the jersey in the earlier games. The joy was followed by confusion, annoyance and speculation when the great hurler from Cloyne dropped out later in the week.

We hoped too that veteran Jack Bennett would earn his place at left corner. The game wasn't long on when I saw that he simply wasn't strong enough for a fit Tom Cunningham and our man was pushed off the sliothar repeatedly, but good goals by Seanie Barry and
(Continued Page 68).



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"Pa" Dillon



Seamus Cleere

Kilkenny are the 'form team'

SO Kilkenny won Leinster, and gained their tickets for Croke Park on the first Sunday of September. They threw the same tickets with prodigal carelessness across the Barrow into Wexford last year, and rued the day ever since. It did not surprise me, then, to see a grim determination among the Kilkenny men this year and a ruthlessness in pressing an advantage which was the very thing which they overlooked last time. In advance they were favourites, as last year, but not by any means such clear favourites as then.

Hurling people did not see any great advance in Wexford, this year; in fact, it is now quite clear that the worst thing that could have happened for their well-laid plans was the too early success of their team last year. Had they lost then in the Leinster final they would have made better progress this time, and might have beaten Kilkenny, though it is more my opinion that next year or the year after should see their blossoming.

I suppose you could compare Wexford to a boy at school who shows immense promise, is far too

good for his class, and gets suddenly promoted two classes forward; he feels wonderfully proud about it all, but when the next examination comes around he is shattered to find that he had advanced to a class which was beyond him, and back he has to go. He finds the going back to his erstwhile colleagues at once a blow to pride and a difficult adjustment,

porters complete: the League final, in which they cracked the Tipperary crust grown brittle with continued success, advancing years, and, perhaps, a modicum of complacency; and the efficient progress through the Leinster championships — these achievements give them back their status in hurling. They are now the "form team" as the phrase goes: they

By Jay Drennan

so that in the end he ends up in the middle of the results list.

Wexford, in other words were shot forward in hope of quick success, and quickly retarded by the super-efficiency of Tipperary's final victory. Their adjustment will only be complete next year or the year after. But, the plans have been laid in Wexford, and the way is clear: the county will surely rule the roost like game cocks around the end of this decade.

Now Kilkenny have their hard won re-establishment in the eyes of the public and their own sup-

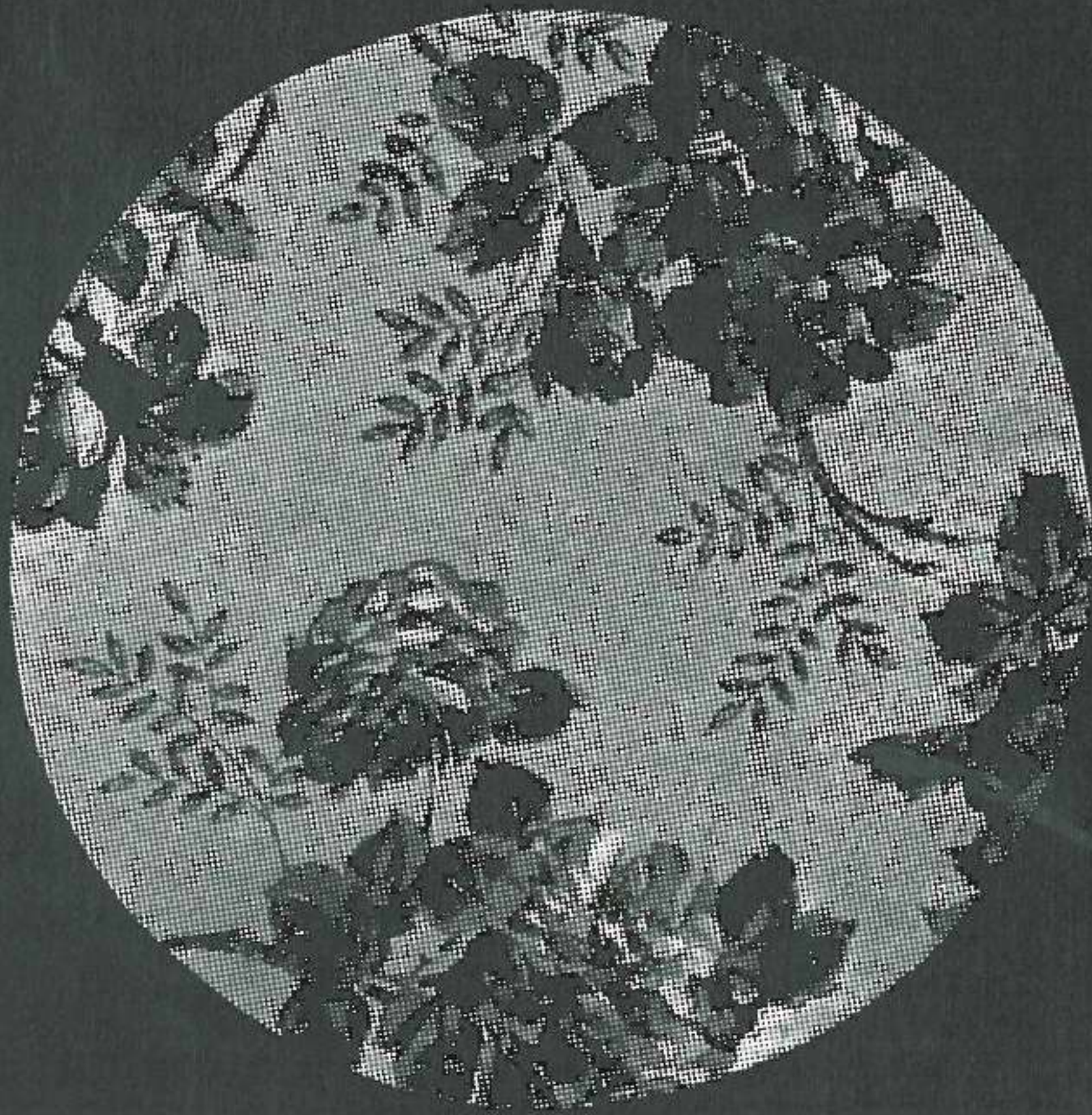
have more to their credit, more positive ability proven than any other team in the country, now that Tipperary are no longer in the scene.

I was pleased, particularly, with their strong and single-minded second-half against Wexford. To be frank, I had thoughts at half-time that they would again fail, due to having given enthusiastic Wexford a lead which they might forge into victory with their big-hearted resistance and fighting ability in the second-half. It was entirely

(Continued overleaf).

spacewoman?

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you move in, sit in, lie in, fry in?
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look surrounded by Kildare wallpapers!



Kildare wallpapers

(From previous page).

otherwise, for Kilkenny made it look their game from quite early in the second-half, when they found the scoring range, and they made themselves look more like a winning and successful team by their solid clamp-down on any kind of Wexford counter-attack. Play was going towards the Canal End all the way, and the Wexford break-through which was necessary for them to raise their sagging spirits, would have been an increasingly big surprise had it come.

Ollie Walsh was, perhaps, not quite at his best, but just a little dithering apart, the defence in the full-line is clearly the Lynch-pin of the team, and this not only has an influence on the character of the centre-field exchanges but also its failure could be the failure of the full-line.

There was a time in the first-half for almost a quarter of an hour when the Kilkenny halves were less than their best—Seamus Cleere particularly looking out of sorts; it was this period in which Wexford snatched their lead and added to it. Again it was the settling of the half line that controlled the Wexford lead within overhaulable limits. The full-backs looked shaky enough then, and centre-field could not exert amending pressure.

Centre-field, in fact, is still not quite Kilkenny's happy-hunting-ground. The form of Paddy Moran, this year, has been patchier than this very consistent player has shown for years. Teehan has proved a success there recently, but Teehan is not remarkable for consistency either, though I may be tarring him with an undeserved coating, in view of the long time it took him to establish a definite claim to a place in the team.

Fundamentally he is a fine hurler, and at his best pretty well impossible to contain fully; and I expect Moran to turn in a solid supporting role against Cork, with the result that Kilkenny ought to

be happier for the final than for some time.

The forwards are still a problem to the selectors as well as the supporters; individually there are nine or ten—more even—players of obvious top calibre, but they often seem to miss meshing together. A change sometimes works wonders; but, players who have seemed world beaters in one position one day have again to be changed from that position the next day to try to get some return from their restricted genius.

Throughout the line there is not a man who has not disappointed frequently, and might do so again, more especially against a hard and close defence. All, that is, except the skilled and very wily Keher upon whom the victory has so often depended. He is now so clever in pacing himself and in awaiting the chances that it is a task of tremendous proportions to keep him out of the firing line; and, if he fires, he so often hits the "bull", that he could swing a game on his own.

Concentrated pressure or individual inspiration might find fissures in the half-backs; that could be tragedy. But in general, I feel that it will not be often so, and pass over the backs and centre-field as adequate to the winning of the crown. But, I have doubts about the forwards. It is these doubts and confident hopes which coalesce into the glorious uncertainty of this, and every other, All-Ireland final.

"The skilled and wily Keher, upon whom victory has so often depended. He is now so clever in pacing himself and in awaiting the chances," says Jay Drennan, "that it is a task of tremendous proportions to keep him out of the firing line."



Keher in action

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BENNETT'S

PURPLE

COMEBACK

CORK'S final winning ticket to their 31st All-Ireland senior final was fashioned in no small way by the man who came back—John Bennett. He was the Leesider's top scorer last year and also the second highest marksman in Munster, with 4-39 (51 pts.) in 12 games at an impressive match average of 4.25 points. But when he took his place in the Munster decider line-up he was making only his first appearance in the side since he cracked home 2-2 in Cork's win over Dublin in their opening 1965-66 National League tie at Cork last November.

And, the 32-year-old shrewd campaigner from Blackrock climaxed a grand return to the big time with a golden four minutes scoring spell in the second half that really set the Rebel County squarely on the road to their 30th Munster title. Firstly, he lifted his team into a five points lead with a superbly taken goal eight minutes after the interval. Then, a grand point came from his hurley, and he completed this scoring spell in the 42nd minute with another thundering goal.

It is not surprising that talented

and accurate Bennett, who during his senior intercounty career has had spells both on and off Cork's side, produced that purple scoring patch. That 2-2 against Dublin in his final outing of 1965, and a splendid 2-7 against Clare in October 1963 in a league encounter at Cork, are earlier examples of his ability to provide his team-mates with an inspiring spur to outright victory by notching himself a sizeable tally in one game.

As for consistency in scoring, which, in the long run, is a forward's greatest asset, Bennett's total of 14 goals and 67 points (109 points) in 30 games, including this year's Munster final, underlines his worth to a side at 3.66 minors an hour.

The Munster representatives, of course, have not at present a marksman to even approach, let alone equal, the individual scoring records in recent years of Eddie Keher or Tom Walsh. But, they still have the men with the class, ability and poise necessary to just as efficiently make the most of every scoring opportunity in the white heat of major games as the Kilkenny "Big Two."

Bennett's Munster final performance proves that he is just such a forward. Then, there is Justin McCarthy, who this year has taken over from the Blackrock stalwart the role of Cork's most prolific scorer. His equalising goal from a 35-yard-free two minutes from time in the first clash with Clare leaves little doubt that he has the temperament for confidently approaching vital frees on a nerve-wracking occasion in that cool, methodical manner that is the real key to turning them into scores. He has this year chalked up 3-25 (34 pts.) in 13 games at 2.69 points an hour.

For Seanie Barry the hunt for the Leesiders first All-Ireland crown since 1954 is proving a successful chase score-wise. After a quiet enough opening against the Banner team in the drawn tie, in which he recorded three minors, he has not only since scored one goal a match, but has also not failed to notch at least seven points an outing. In the four championship ties so far, he landed 3-19 (28 pts.) or seven minors an hour.

This shares top place in the Munster team's list of averages with Bennett's 2-1, but Barry surely merits top billing in that he has maintained his average over more games in the championship series. Similarly, while Keher takes first place for Kilkenny with 7.50 points in each of his championship games, he only played two ties.

Yes, indeed, when it comes to hurlers with the know-how, class and hurling ability to punch holes in a rearguard, no matter how powerful, the Munster title-holders are certainly more than adequately served, and we may be assured that their chief hopes for getting the scores will pose many problems, and also provide many anxious moments for Kilkenny's rearguard.



PARTY?

What's a party? Two people and a television (or seven and a celebration) – and **CLOVER** cooked meats. The perfect recipe



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MARTIN COOGAN: HISTORY-MAKER

I THINK it can be said with conviction that the making of this year's All-Ireland hurling final was Kilkenny's thrilling victory over Tipperary in the National League "home" final. With the final whistle that day the hurling impasse had ended and from that point on simply anything could happen—and did.

The credit was entirely due to Kilkenny. Even if Limerick had not subsequently removed Tipperary from the scene and even had the Premier County come back out of Munster once more, the All-Ireland hurling final had still been saved as a result of that Kilkenny victory in the League.

In short that final whistle on Sunday, May 22, marked the end of an era and the beginning of a new chapter in the annals of our finest national game and I think it is true to say that, more than any other man, Martin Coogan, contributed to the making of that occasion.

That was why, as soon as that game was over, I began to hurry towards the Kilkenny dressing-room. I wanted an interview with this great half-back who in one brief hour had played so vital a role in the shaping of hurling history.

On such occasions it is advisable to know which dressing-room is which—and not to be like the Kilkenny supporter, Black and Amber hat and all, who rushed past me and made straight for the Tip-

perary dressing-room shouting "Up Kilkenny—we have licked them at last—sure they were never any good anyway".

It took a clip in the ear from a big and sorrowful looking Tipperaryman to make clear the error.

But I had a job to do and knew it would take some doing so I left my misguided friend and began fighting my way into the crowded Kilkenny dressing-room.

There I could hear, but as yet could not see, Tipperary County Secretary, Tommy Barrett, congratulate the men from the Nore in a very sporting speech. The Kilkenny Chairman, Mick Purcell, replied with equal eloquence.

By now I had managed to move sufficiently forward to see what was taking place and I saw Ollie Walsh hop up on a table and with great sincerity pay tribute to the Kilkenny mentors who "had kept faith" in them during the years of defeat. It was a grand moment to have witnessed—one of those genuine sporting gestures which mean so much.

But Martin Coogan was my objective and eventually I succeeded in getting him aside for a few minutes.

It went like this :—

O'Donnell—To what do you attribute Kilkenny's great win to-day?

Coogan—Well we trained very hard and we were really determined to do it this time.

O'D.—Did you think Kilkenny would do it?

C.—I felt we would. You see we all had our hearts set on this game. If we were to justify ourselves at all we simply had to beat Tipperary and we all seemed to have made up our minds that to-day would be it.

O'D.—What won the game for ye?

C.—Speed and Determination.

O'D.—This win makes Kilkenny favourites in the championship. Does this worry you?

C.—No. We were under-dogs long enough and it did not do us much good. Being favourites will be a pleasant change and can't do us any harm.

O'D.—Who do you see as Kilkenny's greatest danger in the championship?

C.—Wexford and whoever comes out of Munster.

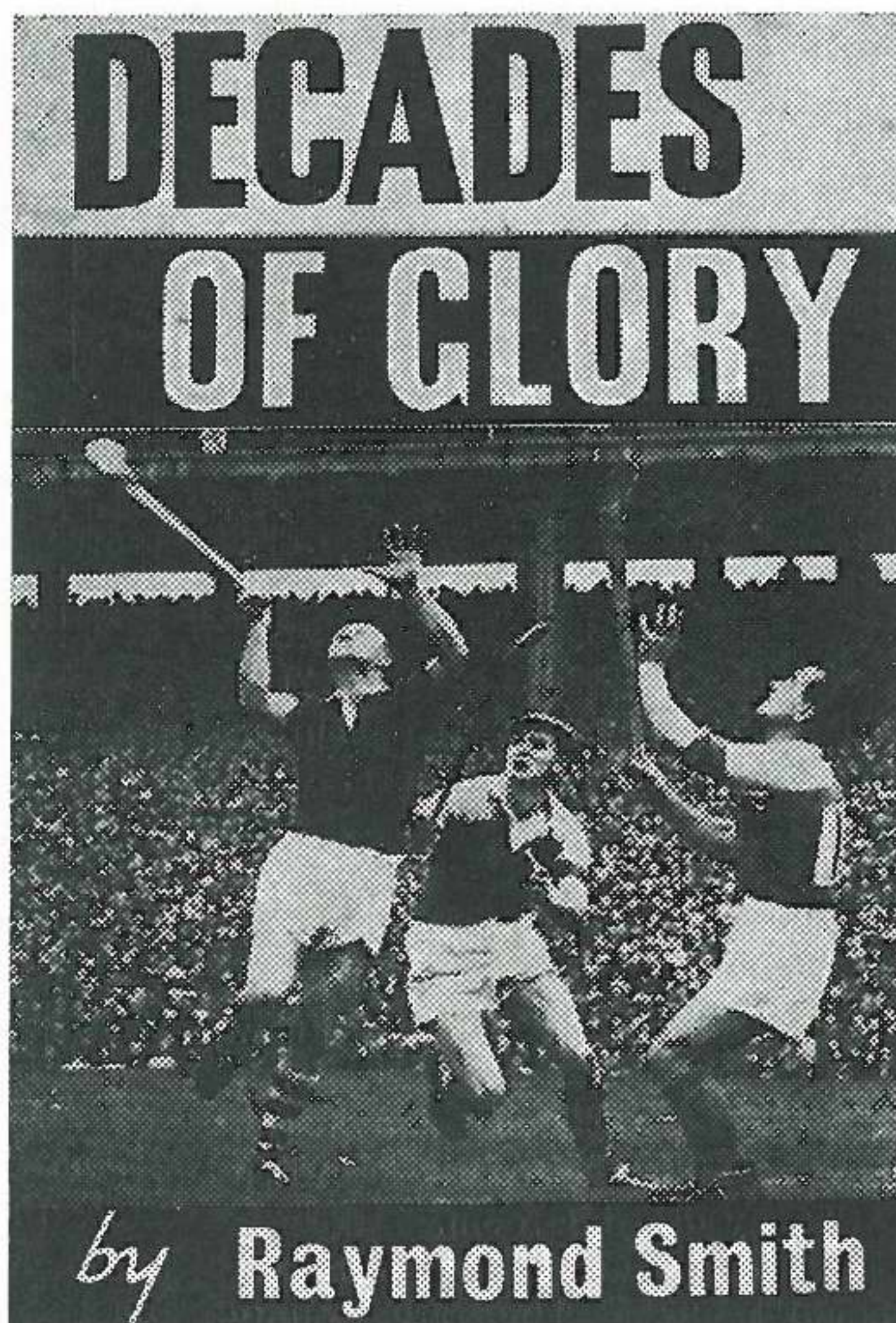
O'D.—Who do you think will come out of Munster?

C.—After to-day it could be any of Tipperary, Clare, Limerick, Cork or Waterford. But whichever of them it is will have to be respected for the tough campaign they will have won.

And so ended my brief interview with Martin Coogan—a great hurler who symbolises the new-look do-or-die Kilkenny.

I folded up my notes and began to battle my way out of a still cram-packed dressing-room.

That was three months ago. At about 4.30 p.m. on Sunday, September 4, I will be in another mad rush to yet another dressing-room. Whose do you think it will be?



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TOP TEN

THIS month's Top Ten lists are based on performances during the four Sundays—July 10 to July 31 inclusive.

The hurling list is topped by Cork's brilliant half back Pat Fitzgerald, who, during the period in question, excelled against Limerick and Waterford. Also on the list are his fellow-countymen Justin McCarthy, Seanie Barry, Denis O'Riordan and Charlie McCarthy.

Despite the fact that four provincial finals were played during the time under review, no brilliant football performances to quite compare with those of the hurling fields were recorded. Down's ever-consistent full back Leo Murphy tops the list on the strength of good showings against Antrim and Donegal.

HURLING

1. Pat Fitzgerald (Cork).
2. Jim Treacy (Kilkenny).
3. Justin McCarthy (Cork).
4. Seanie Barry (Cork).
5. Martin Coogan (Kilkenny).
6. Denis O'Riordan (Cork).
7. Larry Guinan (Waterford).
8. Bernie Hartigan (Limerick).
9. Charlie McCarthy (Cork).
10. Willie Murphy (Wexford).

FOOTBALL

1. Leo Murphy (Down).
2. Peter Moore (Meath).
3. Billy Morgan (Cork).
4. Bernard Brady (Donegal).
5. Ray Prendergast (Mayo).
6. Jack Quinn (Meath).
7. Joe Lennon (Down).
8. Enda Colleran (Galway).
9. George Eagleson (Antrim).
10. Tony Donnelly (Dublin).

SEANIE BARRY



The rise of a star

By **TIM HORGAN**

A STRONG, blustery wind swept through Croke Park on a cold April afternoon in 1963, as the entire population of St. Finbarr's College, Farranferris, huddled together in the upper deck of the Hogan Stand. The occasion was the All-Ireland Colleges' final and the Cork diocesan seminary found itself pitted against Patrician College, Ballyfin. Both colleges were contesting the decider for the first time, and as the excited supporters of the respective teams took their places in the stands, many neutrals hurried in to see "the pocket-sized Christy Ring" in action.

Such was the designation lauded on the nippy Farranferris wing forward, Seanie Barry, who had blazed a trail of glory in helping his college win their first ever Harty Cup title, and in whom the seminary's main hope lay on this occasion.

The Cork boy's fame had preceded him and the Ballyfin defenders were instructed to watch his every move like hawks. Farranferris had the gale-force wind behind them in the first half, but their hopes seemed to dwindle away as the forwards chalked up six wides in the first ten minutes. The policing of Barry was paying dividends and, with only five minutes remaining before the short whistle, Farranferris found themselves 2-2 to 0-3 in arrears.

It was a deplorable state of affairs from the Cork viewpoint and drastic measures had to be taken to remedy the situation. Barry him-

self determined to shake off the shackles that kept him at bay, and with three minutes to go he rammed home Farranferris' first goal. Two points followed in quick succession for the Leesiders and the sides were level 2-2 to 1-5 at the interval.

But Ballyfin faced the second half with the wind in their favour, and availed of it in no uncertain manner immediately after the throw-in. They led by 3-4 to 1-5 after eight minutes, while Farranferris strove helplessly against all the odds. Then at a critical stage the Cork scoring ace came back into the picture. He slipped over a point on the 12th minute, had a sizzling shot miraculously blocked seconds later, and went on to score a goal and two points with amazing rapidity.

Farranferris were in the lead again, and with Seanie Barry now "flying" they went on to notch two further goals to give them a sensational 4-8 to 3-4 victory. And as Con O'Leary, the Captain, ascended the rostrum to receive the Dr. Croke Cup, the large crowd rose up in spontaneous applause behind the lad in the No. 10 jersey who had made it all possible.

To many followers of the game that colleges final three years ago served as an introduction to the awkward but effective style of the

ciotog from Rathcormack, a village some miles outside Cork city. But to the students at Farranferris it was simply the climax to a great season in colleges hurling for Seanie Barry, who had enjoyed a personal total of 3-5 in the Dr. Harty Cup final.

Having gained honours in the Leaving Certificate the following June, Seanie left the diocesan seminary and joined the Kiltegan Missionary Society. He spent one year in the college at Kiltegan before moving to the sister house in Douglas, where he continued his academic studies at University College, Cork. This enabled him to resume his hurling career with the College and he returned to the limelight last year as the most dangerous forward in the county.

Seanie was not able to play with Cork during the league games, but was brought on to the team for the first championship outing against Clare. Though placed on the left wing, a difficult position for a ciotog, the 21-year-old Rathcormack star got off to a great start and had his first score within minutes of the throw-in. He went on to give a brilliant account of himself and though his total of three points was lean by Barry's standards, the Cork supporters went home feeling happy that a potentially great forward had at last arrived on the team.

The replay of the Cork-Clare tie a fortnight later found Seanie Barry
(Continued Page 21).

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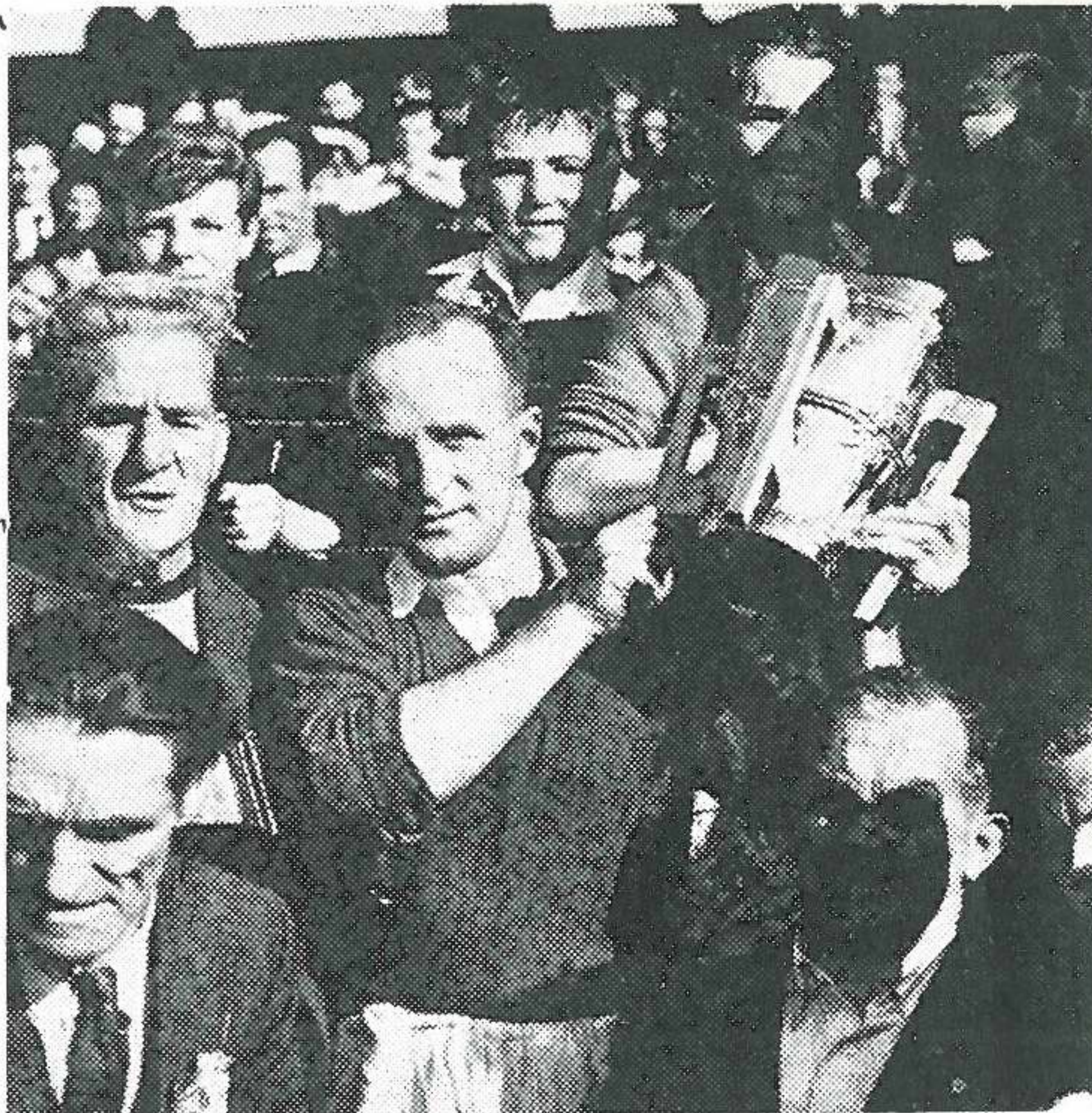
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Twenty years ago

Christy Ring with the McCarthy Cup after he had captained Cork to victory over Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final of 1946. Jim Barry, trainer of the team then, as he is now, is on Ring's left in picture, and the late Andy Scannell, former chairman of the Cork Co. Board, is at bottom right.



(From Page 19).

lining out at right-half forward—his best position. The switch proved effective and it was a completely transformed team that took on the Bannermen for the second time at Limerick. Cork had an early goal but Clare fought back and after twenty minutes of top class hurling the Leesiders led by 1-4 to 1-2, the Rebels' points having come from Barry's stick.

Then within the space of ten minutes, Cork put paid to all the Dalcassians' hopes as they mounted up a 2-8 to 1-3 lead at the interval and went on to add two more goals from Barry just after the resumption. Clare had no answer to this barrage, and by the end of the hour they had reason to remember the lethal half-forward whose total of 2-6 had dashed their championship prospects for another year.

The eagerly awaited semi-final between Cork and Limerick found Seanie Barry getting off to a heart-breaking start in a dull and wet Killarney. He took a 21-yards-free in the opening minutes, but as he attempted to hit the ball it slid along his hurley and resulted in a feeble low effort at goal. Although he scored two points from frees in the first half, it was obvious that the early setback had upset the U.C.C. man. However, after the respite Seanie blazed over a point from forty yards and regained his confidence.

Limerick were holding on to a 1-6 to 0-5 lead as the teams entered

the last quarter. Barry pointed a free on the 17th minute and seconds later sent a rasper goalwards. Jim Hogan dived in vain to save it, but the ball hit the upright and rebounded towards the oncoming Charlie McCarthy who lashed it past the sprawling 'keeper to the net.

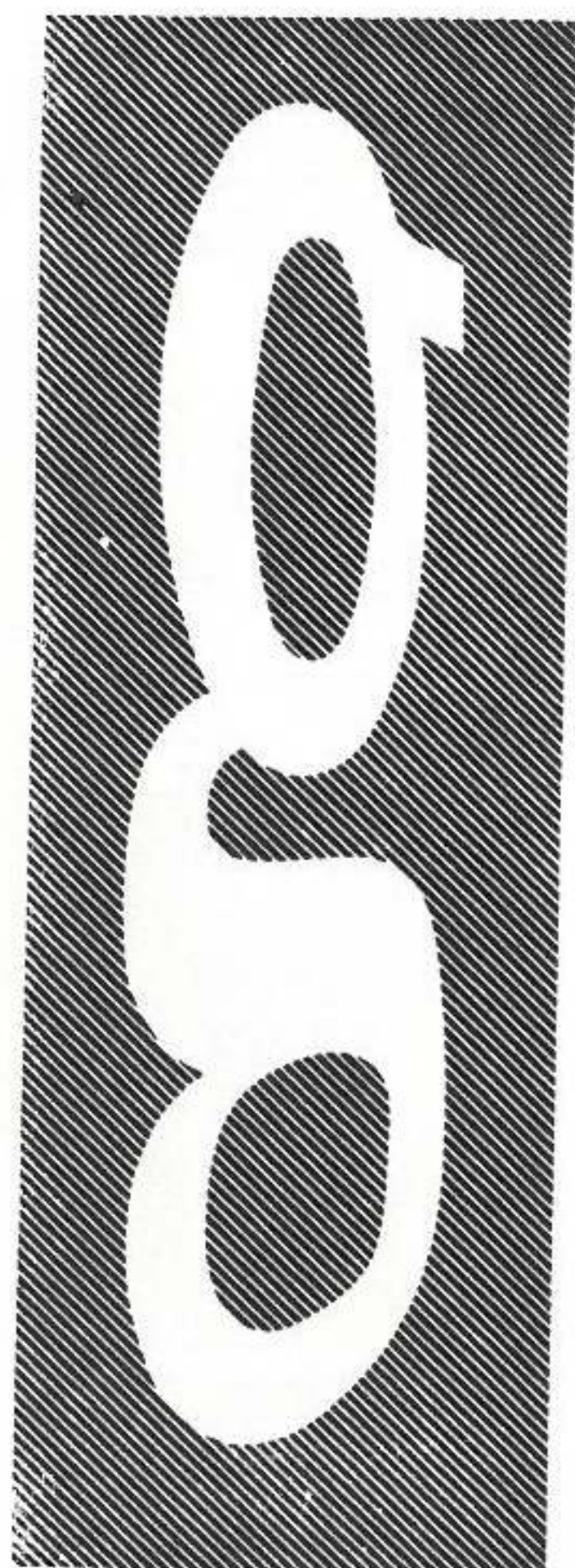
The sides were level 1-6 each as the minutes faded away, and Seanie Barry was back again on the 21st to palm the ball home. Cork took the lead for the first time in the game and despite some nerve-racking onslaughts by the Shannonsiders in the dying moments managed to hold it to the finish.

The Munster final at Limerick had Waterford's Tom Hearne keeping a sharp eye on Barry, but the game was hardly five minutes old when the ex-Farranferris stalwart had a great point. The Decies settled down somewhat after this and with the breeze in their favour, forged ahead by 1-3 to 0-2 after twenty minutes. Then Barry re-entered the fray and blasted home Cork's first goal seven minutes

from the respite. He followed it up with a point and placed Charlie McCarthy for a second goal minutes later.

To top a fine first-half display, Barry shot over his third point before the interval and Cork were leading by 2-4 to 1-4 at the short whistle. The second session found the Leesiders coasting to a great win with two goals by John Bennett and three further points by Barry clinching the issue.

Seanie Barry is not a stylish hurler by any means but ranks as one of the most intelligent forwards in the game at present. His great sense of anticipation places him in the right spot at the right time, and though he may appear to be held by the defender his personal tally of scores is always impressive. In his four outings with Cork this season he has accumulated a total of 4-19, and, no doubt, when he returns to Croke Park on Sunday, September 4, Leaside supporters will be hoping for a repeat of that wonderful performance three years ago.



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SEAN BUCKLEY

IT was when things were going bad for Kilkenny—as they often did in recent years—that one took particular notice of Seán Buckley. He always seemed to stand out on such days—hurling his heart out and trying to stem the flow.

That is why a man like Buckley particularly deserves an All-Ireland medal. He is no 'fine-day' hurler but one who has given all in every game, be it resulting in defeat or victory.

I recently had the following interview with this super-charged and great hearted Kilkennyman :

O'Donnell—Would you prefer to be meeting some other Munster county rather than Cork ?

Buckley — Yes, in fact, I was hoping for another crack at Tipperary. I would say that most of the Kilkenny players shared a similar desire. To have beaten them in the League "home" final was fine but to beat them in an All-Ireland would be simply wonderful. Not, of course, that we dislike, or fear, meeting Cork—it is simply a case of where revenge over Tipperary being sweetest of all to a Kilkenny hurler.

O'D.—Do you think Kilkenny's

chances of winning the title have increased or decreased as a result of meeting Cork ?

B.—It is very difficult to know. Some Kilkenny supporters feel that with Tipperary out we will have an easy win—but I don't agree. Cork have shown outstanding improvement since they met us in the League. Just look at the gradual build-up they have had in Munster—four games. Their confidence and combination has grown with every outing. Still I feel we can just about do it.

O'D.—Were you satisfied with Kilkenny's showing against Wexford ?

B.—Not fully satisfied. Our first-half performance left something to be desired. We did, of course, make up for it in the second half but there is still much to be learned from that game.

O'D.—Do you feel the absence of keen competition in the Leinster championship is a handicap to the winners ?

B.—It must be. This year it was a two-team race and this is not good. I cannot understand how Dublin cannot regularly produce a good team. They have had plenty of good minors down the

years and have an advantage over all other counties in that all of their players live in a closely confined area—so that bringing them together for training should provide no problem. Still their intermediate team this year gives hope for a Dublin resurgence.

Then, too, Offaly are making a great effort and put up a fine performance against us in the championship. Laois too have plenty of young talent and provided it is properly taken care of, they should be heard of in the not too distant future.

At a lower level, I do know that Carlow, Wicklow and Kildare are making great efforts at juvenile and minor levels but it will be some years before they will be ready to make a serious bid in senior ranks.

O'D.—How does Kilkenny manage with its county championship when the county is in the All-Ireland final ?

B.—There is really no problem. We simply play the championships. Only the senior hurling final will remain to be decided after the All-Ireland final.

O'D.—Sean, speed is one of your great assets. How do you go about retaining it ?

B.—Hard training. I am, as you know, based in Dublin and I go up to the Phoenix Park many evenings and join in with the athletes one always finds training there. I run with them—or run after them might be more correct—but anyway I work at it.

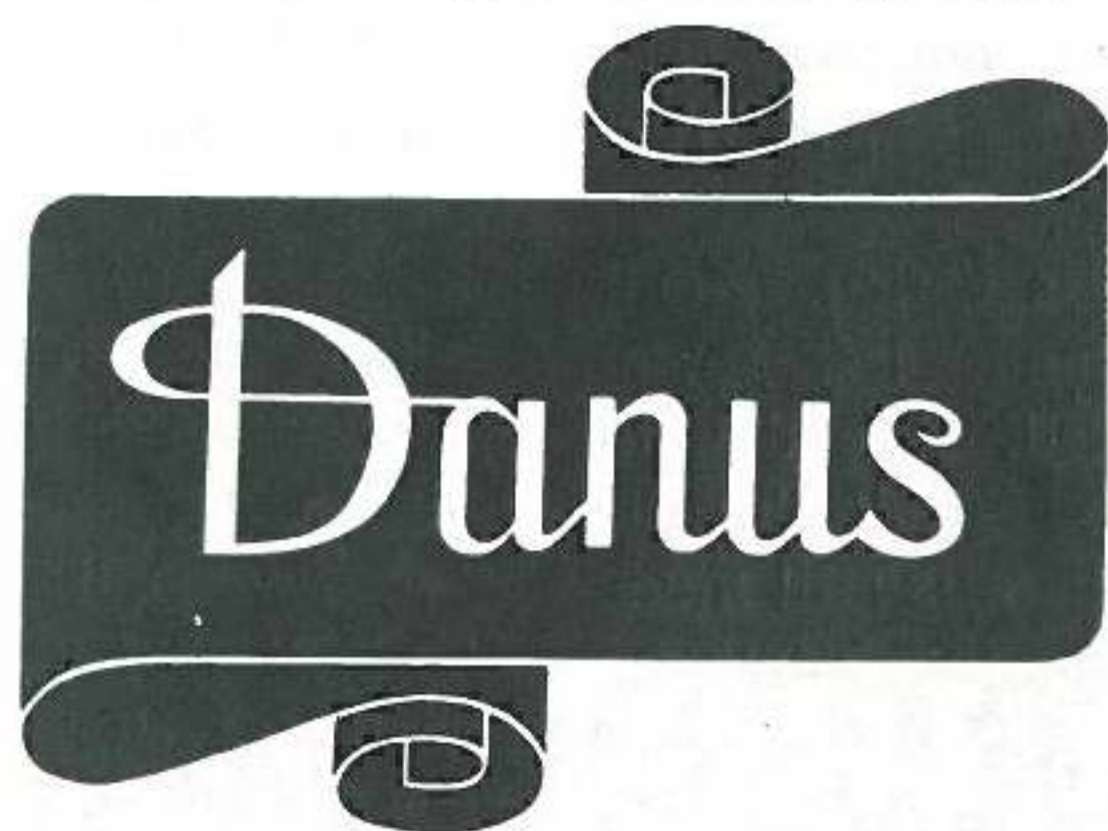
O'D.—What game has given you your biggest thrill ?

B.—This year's League win over Tipperary — it was my greatest ambition. What a pity it was not a championship final.

(Continued overleaf).



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(From previous page).

O'D. — How about disappointments?

B.—Tipperary again — the 1964 final in particular.

O'D. — What players have you found most difficult to play on?

B.—All players in top-class hurling are difficult to play on—but



Phil Wilson of Wexford to whom Sean Buckley pays tribute in the accompanying article.

in particular I would mention Theo English and Phil Wilson whom I consider the greatest mid-fieldmen of my time. However I must mention another player—Tony Wall—a truly great player and let us hope his stay in Cyprus does not mean the end of his career. In my book Wall is one of the jewels of the game.

O'D.—A fine tribute surely to a player who did so much to defeat Kilkenny in so many major games. But how about schooboy idols—you must have had some?

B.—Jack Mulcahy, God be good to him, was my idol and always will be.

Proud Cork climb back to the top

By **JIM BENNETT**

THE climb back from the doldrums has been a long and painful one for Cork; one in which their inordinate pride in their hurlers, which was at its peak when last they were dominant in the early half of the fifties, was humbled and even kicked in the dust. Now, again, that pride is beginning to reassert itself. It has been so for a few years back; you could see the tremendous appetite for the contest which the followers of the Cork team have had these last few years, only to be hammered back into their position of inferiority by ruthlessly efficient Tipperary, a position which chafed them red-raw.

Thirty Munster championships and a score or so of All-Ireland titles has not dulled the Corkonians' appetite for more. Rather do they feel all the greater need for more. As surely as the hurlers themselves have taken a greater grip on themselves and on their moderate abilities, just as a tide of emotion and will-to-win from the supporters on the sidelines and at home.

It has been remarkable to those of us who have seen the games in the Munster championships, to note the fanatical intensity with which Cork has willed its hurlers to victory, in game after game.

Last year the fierceness of this desire, the intensity of the feeling of necessity to win again, had gained great force; I noted it especially in the drawn and replayed games against Waterford, and again — until Theo English



Left to right: Jim Regan (coach to the present team), Dinny Barry Murphy and the late Jim Hurley, all three of whom helped Cork to victory over Kilkenny in the All-Ireland finals of 1926 and 1931.

crucified their ambitions—in the beginning of the final against Tipperary.

This year it was overwhelming and helped the hurlers in an even enough championship struggle to overcome the less fanatically wound-up Clare, Limerick and Waterford; Tipperary, just as well for their peace of mind, having been summarily removed by Limerick.

It is strange to come so far in an estimation of an All-Ireland final side and to mention only their supporters, but, it is my considered conclusion that these supporters and the climate of hungry desire for success within the boundaries of Cork, had as much to do with making Cork Munster champions this year rather than just good losers. For the same reasons, and for the added confidence which emergence at long last from Munster will give them, they must be dangerous contenders for the All-Ireland crown.

And yet, individually and collectively, I cannot see much improvement in this team from

the one which suffered so heavily from Tipperary last year. Can it be that Tipperary, at that stage, were so exceptional in quality that a return to ordinary standards is disappointing. Or could it be that Tipperary's were the standards by which All-Ireland champions of any year ought to be measured.

The painful struggle back has been punctured for Cork with the bursting of buds of hope, killed soon after by frosty defeats. A couple of League divisional successes which brought them to the semi-final and even the final without any satisfaction from their eventual defeats save the knowledge that they had gone a distance in the competitions. The defeat by Kilkenny this year, in the semi-final, a game more relevant to any estimation of the present comparison of the two, was typical of many other games.

Cork were out in front when it came to wholehearted endeavour, but well-behind in the skills of hurling, most notably attacking skills. As in the last few years

(Continued Page 27).



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Radio Telefis Eireann

(From Page 25).

the defence was soundly-grounded on tight man-to-man marking and built round the depth of experience and not inconsiderable skill of Denis O'Riordan and Denis Murphy, with Pat Fitzgerald adding the touch of class. Doolan has shown his staunchness over a couple of years, and full-back O'Donoghue, a not too-highly estimated stop-gap a little over a year ago, has shown constant and solid improvement ever since. He can still be a little reckless under pressure and may foul—the defence as a whole is a little too prone to foul under pressure.

This year, by a combination of chance-events, it has been evolved that Tony Connolly will very adequately fill the bill at right-half, though it was thought to make him a centre-field for a time. He is wholehearted, and tough and never gives up. It seems reasonable to expect that Gerry O'Sullivan will be at midfield again with Justin McCarthy. This sector has never yet quite been defined; Waters was not good enough against Waterford—hard to expect him to be in his first championship match. But Justin McCarthy is the man of the year, so far, in the centre, and will cause a great deal of worry to any opponent.

Forwards have always been the worry since Christy called it a day, and before, indeed. The Munster championship, this year, in my opinion, has been swayed for Cork, by the discovery of the ungainly, slow, but neatly skilful Seanie Barry. He has done for Cork what they could not do before—latch on to the first chances that came their way and turn them into scores. He has a wonderful ability of being sure on the first few chances which fall his way, the kind of chances, or rather half-chances, which others use as a warming up exercise by rattling them aimlessly into the crowd.

In the Clare replay it was Barry who demoralised the opposition by



Ted Sullivan, full forward on the Cork team which lost to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final of 1939. He appeared again on Cork's winning teams of 1941 and '43.

scoring every ball he got in the first twenty minutes; he was the one who poached the openings for the Limerick downfall; and, his goal and point from his first two shots (the point from a scarcely scoreable angle), his two points from frees, and his setting up of Charlie

McCarthy's goal, were the nails in Waterford's coffin in the first half, when all their hopes were on a substantial interval lead.

Seanie Barry is, indeed, an economical hurler, and he has to be for his physique, his mobility or his speed do not permit the dynamic. With the left-handed style he is more reminiscent of Jimmy Doyle, perhaps, than any other, and his cool, slow deliberation also remind one of Doyle. He will take marking, but particularly in the first-half, for though he remains dangerous, he does not seem so strong or effective nearer the end. He is not built as a stayer.

Under the influence of Barry, Charlie McCarthy has been finding form which has eluded him since his earlier minor days; now he is a dangerous goal-poacher, very effective with the ball on the ground. Bennett recalled to duty for the Munster final is an opportunist if given the chances, but when well-marked may not do much. Full-forward Sheehan is a wild and woolly "mullacker" who never gives a full-back a moment's peace; always around and a good man to have near goal, if given a chance he can be effective, but against a class full-back like Austin Flynn, he did not contribute much.

Centre-forward O'Halloran is an imponderable; he is not lacking in imagination about the leading of a line of forwards, but I frankly doubt his ability to overcome to any dangerous extent a first-class centre-back. And Gerald McCarthy has yet to show that he is in All-Ireland quality as a wing-forward.

But they all have spirit and endless "guts", and the desperate necessity to win, and with that to add to their fairly moderate ability as individuals and as a team, they could be world-beaters in Croke Park. It will need a brave man to say they will not have a fair chance of victory; and it will take a very sharp Kilkenny to make sure that they do not win.



Pat Henderson.



Joe Dunphy.

KILKENNY HONOUR IN SAFE

By DOMINIC DAVIN

THE hurling has a long history in Kilkenny. If you care to believe the late Professor Eoin McNeill (whose tremendous work as a historian tends to be overshadowed nowadays by his work in the Irish Volunteers and the Gaelic League) maintained that the Valleys of the Lower Suir were the cradle of the Irish Race.

Therefore it must also be presumed that these same South Kilkenny valleys saw the birth of hurling, for the hurling game has been part of our race since first the Gaels came to Ireland.

In the old Annals, the Kings of Ossory, an area then almost identical with the present County Kilkenny, are noted as having made presents of bronze hurleys and hurling balls to sons and other relatives when making their wills.

It was no accident, one suspects, that the Statutes of Kilkenny, in 1466, brought in a stern ban on hurling as far as the colonists of the Pale were concerned, but that first 'Ban' did not make any difference to the hurling in Kilkenny.

Indeed, the game survived every war and invasion and, by the 1750's, even the usurping Cromwellian landlords, the Beresfords and the Ponsonbys, were betting hundreds of guineas on hurling matches between their estate workers. There was even an occasion that the Earl of Bess-

borough refused to pay a wager to Lord Waterford when a team from Curraghmore in County Waterford had beaten a team from Bessborough in County Kilkenny in rather amusing circumstances.

The teams had played for two days without a score, but, on the third day, the hurlers from Waterford achieved the winning goal. The Earl of Bessborough refused to pay the wager however, claiming that the goal had been scored through the intervention of the women of the Curraghmore hurlers, who gathered at the Holy Well of Mothel and prayed all day for the success of their men-folk.

The joke, of course, is that both the Earl of Bessborough and Lord Waterford were staunch Protestants, who would not, in normal circumstances, pay any heed whatever to "Papist Superstition".

Around the Famine years there was, down in the Mooncoin country, a famed hurler by the name of Jack na Coille, who performed an amazing feat of controlled skill with hurley and ball. Standing on the parapet of the old wooden bridge of Waterford, his feet in a riddle used for sieving flour, Jack na Coille, without moving his feet outside the sieve, hit a hurling ball ten times high into the air and met it coming down each time to send it soaring back into the elements again.

Finally, tiring of the sport, he lashed at the ball as it was coming down for the eleventh time and sent that sliothar flying away to the Fair Green of Ballygriffin high on the hill above him.

Some years before, it was the hurlers of Carrickshock who used their camans to such deadly effect on the peelers and the tithe proctors in the bloodiest conflict of the Tithe War in the 'Battle Bosheen'.

The Famine did not hit Kilkenny as hard as it affected some other areas and there were famed hurling matches played in various parts of the county throughout the 1860's and the '70's.

There was still plenty of hurling in Kilkenny when the G.A.A. was founded and the first contest for what was claimed to be the "hurling championship of Ireland" was played at Clonmel on May 15, 1887 when Moycarkey, representing Tipperary, defeated Mooncoin, representing Kilkenny by three points to nil.

Oddly enough, neither Mooncoin nor Moycarkey figured in the first official series of All-Irelands which began later in the same year. It was Tullaroan who carried the Kilkenny colours and who fell to the Thurles Blues in the semi-final at Urlingford.

Mooncoin were back in 1888, to win the first-ever Leinster title for Kilkenny, but got no chance of



Tom Walsh.

KEEPING

going further as the All-Ireland finals were never played out.

The troubles of the 'Parnell Split', and more than a fair share of inter-parochial rivalry, hamstrung Kilkenny hurling through the next decade, and it was not until the early 1900's that Mooncoin and Tullaroan united under the leadership of Threecastles to bring the first All-Ireland title to Kilkenny.

But once they hit the winning trail there seemed to be no stopping them. Seven All-Ireland titles they won in ten years and made the name and fame of Kilkenny hurling for all time. Their names are legend yet, Sim Walton, Dick and Pierce Grace from Tullaroan, Dick "Droog" Walsh, the three Doyle brothers, Dick Doherty and Jim Kelly, "the scoring machine" from Mooncoin.

And what superb hurlers they had with them! The impeccable full-back, Jack Rochford, and the Lalor brothers from Threecastles, Dan Stapleton, Matt Gargan, Dan Kennedy and Paddy Lanigan, "Icay" they called him, from the City club Erin's Own.

Then there were that great goal-minder, John Power from Pilltown and his club-mate, the steel-wristed Jack Anthony. Their glory guards for ever the early years of the black and amber.

(Continued Page 61).



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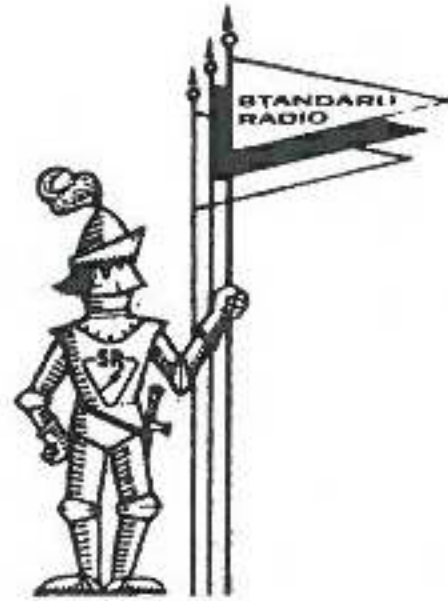
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master craftsman

AN expert craftsman in the making and taking of scores . . . that's Eddie Keher. Time and again he has set Kilkenny squarely on the road to victory by producing a flash of real genius that has resulted in his either masterminding a brilliant and superbly executed movement leading to a colleague cracking home an inspiring score, or to a superbly worked and majestically taken classic goal or point from his own hurley.

In addition, his accuracy from play and frees means that he can virtually win a game single-handed. Totals of between six and ten points an hour are by no means uncommon to the sharp-shooter from Inistioge. Indeed, his superb ability to make the most of every scoring chance played a major part in Kilkenny's All-Ireland senior title win against Waterford in 1963. With a skill and dexterity that would have done justice to Cuchulainn himself, he recorded a magnificent total of 0-14, ten points from frees, for the best individual score in an All-Ireland senior hurling decider in years.

Eddie Keher did not take long to produce as a senior that brilliantly effective brand of accurate marksmanship that has now well and truly earned for him ranking in the "Hall of Fame" as one of the most efficient score-getters in hurling history. In the premier intercounty grade since 1959, he took second place with 10-49 (79 pts.) in 14 games for the hurling chart in his first full campaign in 1960.

Only once since then has he failed to better this total—in 1961, the only year between 1960 and

1965 in which he failed to get among the top three scorers in hurling. Jimmy Doyle, who has been placed in the code's top three annually since 1959, is the only hurler other than Keher to figure so consistently in the annual premier placings.

The sweet and fluent-striking Kilkenny hurler had his most successful campaign last year. Not only did he head hurling's chart outright for the first time (he shared leadership in 1963 with Jimmy Doyle with 103 points apiece), but he also took first place for both codes. Furthermore, his tally of 16-79 (127 pts.) last year now stands as hurling's second best, 28 minors short of the record of 35-59 (155 pts.) from 19 outings by Nick Rackard in 1956.

Keher's 1965 score has only been bettered once in football—by Paddy Doherty in 1960, when he landed 13-97 (136 pts.) in 24 outings, nine minors more than the Kilkenny hurler's personal best.

Not unexpectedly, then, last year's figures earned for Keher his best match average so far at 6.35 points. Impressive though this tally is, however, it is still well behind the top two totals in this respect: 10.1 by Christy Ring in 10 games in 1959, and 8.62 points by Jimmy Smyth in eight engagements in 1963.

Kilkenny's Bachelor of the Scoring Science is not having quite as successful a scoring campaign in the current series. He enters the All-Ireland decider with a fraction more than half of last year's points tally, but, as he chalked up his 6-46 (64 pts.) in 11 games, his match

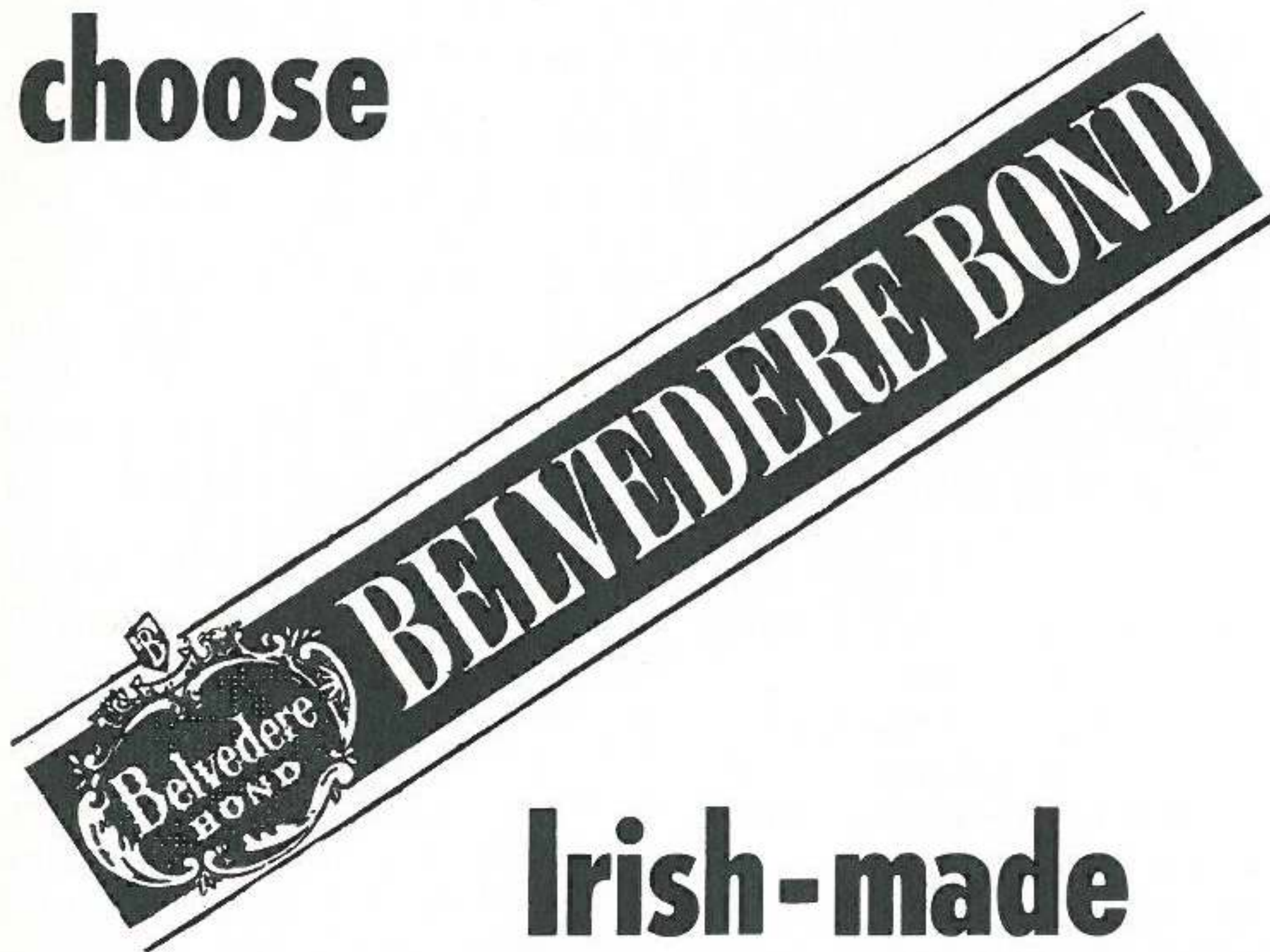
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ADMAR

● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

average is almost a point down on last season's at 5.81. He played 20 games last year.

Even so, the odds now still are that he will this year become the fourth hurler to top the code's chart two years running, for he is setting the pace out front. Nick Rackard (1955 and 1956), Christy Ring (1961 and 1962) and Jimmy Doyle (1963 and 1964) share the two-years-in-a-row on top of the hurling table distinction.

The ever-vigilant Kilkennyman starts the final hurdle in quest of his second All-Ireland senior medal with a grand total as a senior intercounty hurler of 74



JIMMY DOYLE

goals and 407 points, or 629 minors. He notched that tally in 114 games at an average of 5.51 minors an hour. Jimmy Doyle with 841 points, and Paddy Doherty, who has 783, are the only players currently in hurling and football with better scoring records as seniors.

Eddie Keher's brilliant formula for notching match-winning scores, and also for recording big individual totals per game, then, make him the ace in Kilkenny's pack . . . the man who will set the hearts of supporters of the Leinster champions throbbing with expectancy and joy, and those of fans of the Munster champions with worry and uncertainty each time his caman comes in contact with the sliothar.



JERRY O'SULLIVAN

Interviewed by Sean O'Donnell

THE year is still young—but already it has been a memorable one for Jerry O'Sullivan, star Cork hurler and captain of the county's football team. In the space of eight days, he collected two Munster senior championship medals and although injury caused him to miss the Munster hurling final and the All-Ireland football semi-final—perhaps the best wine has still to come.

A Cork minor in 1958, Jerry came on to the senior hurling fifteen in 1960. Since then he has starred for the Leesiders and for Munster. Now 26, the Glen Rovers man is probably at his peak and can certainly be relied upon to have quite a say in the outcome of things on Sunday, September 4.

I recently had the following interview with the versatile Cork stylist.

O'Donnell—Cork were well beaten when they met Kilkenny in the National League semi-final at Croke Park a few months back. In fact, they looked anything but the team which would come out of Munster in the championship—what brought about the transformation?

O'Sullivan—A variety of things have contributed to it. Remember that our one-sided defeat by Kilkenny in the League was due mainly to missed scoring chances—well our forwards have been changed considerably since then.

Furthermore, of course, there has been an all-round steadying up in all sectors and confidence has grown with every championship outing. There is no comparison at all between the Cork team which performed so poorly against Kilkenny in the League and the team which will take the field against them in the All-Ireland final.

O'D.—Do you agree that Cork were lucky to survive against Clare

in the opening round of the Munster championship?

O'S.—Yes, very lucky—but every team must have its share of luck if it is to go to the top. That game can be viewed in another way too—in the light of subsequent events would not Cork have been unlucky had they gone out in that first round game.

O'D.—A good point surely. To

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what do you attribute Cork's clear-cut win over Clare in the replay.

O'S.—We were improving with every outing for one thing. Secondly we "tied-up" their half-forward line. Once this was done Clare had little to counter with and they simply fell apart. The final score-board was not, of course, a just reflection on Clare's

ability. We were a superior team in the replay—but not that superior.

O'D.—How about the Limerick game—some say Cork were lucky in that one too?

O'S.—I don't agree. We had a close deserving victory. It can be argued that the winners are lucky in virtually any game that is reasonably close. But "luck" as it is termed, is, more often than not, the ability to take one's chances and

availed of chances are what win games.

O'D.—What do you think was responsible for Cork being out of the big-time for so long?

O'S.—Too many of our veterans retired at the same time for one thing. Just look at Tipperary. When they lost to Wexford in 1960, or to Waterford in 1963, they did not discard the "old men" but instead kept them on and came back to collect another handful of All-Ireland medals. Every team needs experience. Cork teams of later years did not really have it—with the lone exception of Christy Ring.

O'D.—Mention of Christy, have you favoured the idea of him coming back?

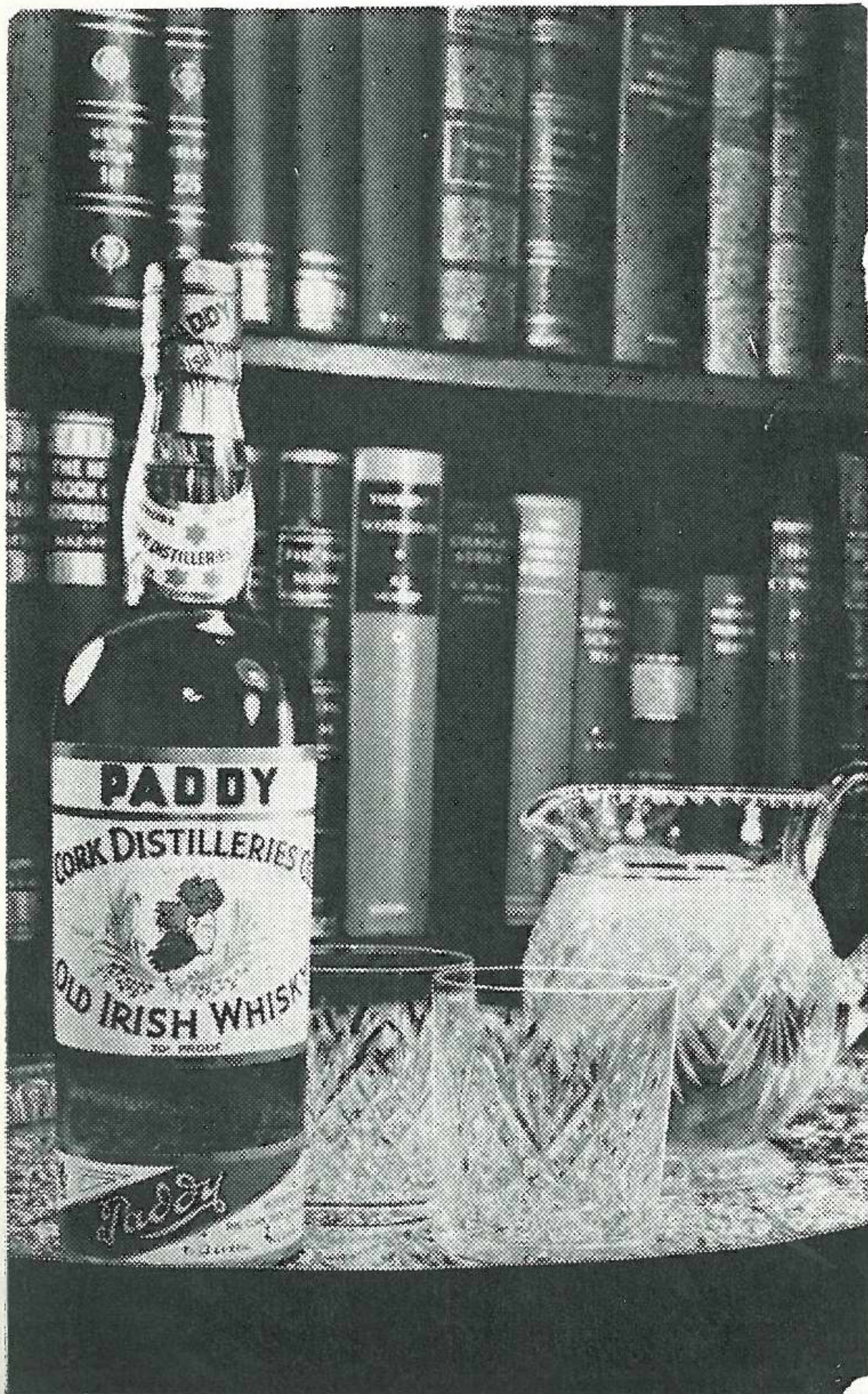
O'S.—Very much so. Christy Ring is a hurling genius—even at 46, he still has no equal as a snatcher of the vital scores.

O'D.—How do you think the final will go?

O'S.—It is a very open game and I prefer not to forecast. We have a fine young team and will be trying all the way.

O'D.—Finally Jerry—do you think Tipperary will be back in the League?

O'S.—That is another six marker. They will certainly be back as a force but the aura of invincibility which has surrounded them in recent years has been broken. It will be the most interesting League campaign in years.



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MUNSTER MEDLEY

By **SÉAMUS**
Ó CEALLAIGH

THE big improvements scheme at Limerick Gaelic Grounds has been completed—for the present at any rate—as no further finance is available. The extensive new seating, covering the entire space from the Hogan Stand to the Ennis Road boundary wall, is very attractive and provides a splendid and unobstructed view of the entire pitch.

I counted fifty-five rows of seats at its deepest point—some indication of the extent of the accommodation in this sector. With two feet between every seat there is plenty of leg room, and the rows are raised six inches above each other thus ensuring comfortable viewing for all.

Under this seating extensive new toilet facilities for both ladies and gents are provided, and in another portion teas and other refreshments were available for the recent big Munster championship games—a service that proved very popular.

A commodious Assembly Hall could be provided at the minimum of cost for all that is now needed are some partition walls and flooring. A good crowd pulling tournament would go a long way towards financing this, which would prove a great boon to the clubs for their socials, etc.

There is still a share of work to do before the Limerick Grounds can be regarded as finally completed, but it is certainly well advanced on that road now.

CORK SUSPENSIONS

Cork County Board are taking a firm stand against incidents at games, and five players put off in a senior hurling tournament tie between Glen Rovers and St. Finbarrs were suspended for three months each. In addition the clubs were fined £20 each.

TIPPERARY WARNING

Rev. W. O'Donoghue, C.C.,
Chairman of the North Tipperary

Board, issued an order to referees at a recent Board meeting, that any player in any grade of their championships who converted his hurley into a weapon and struck deliberately was to be put off the field immediately without any previous warning or notice.

Father O'Donoghue said he

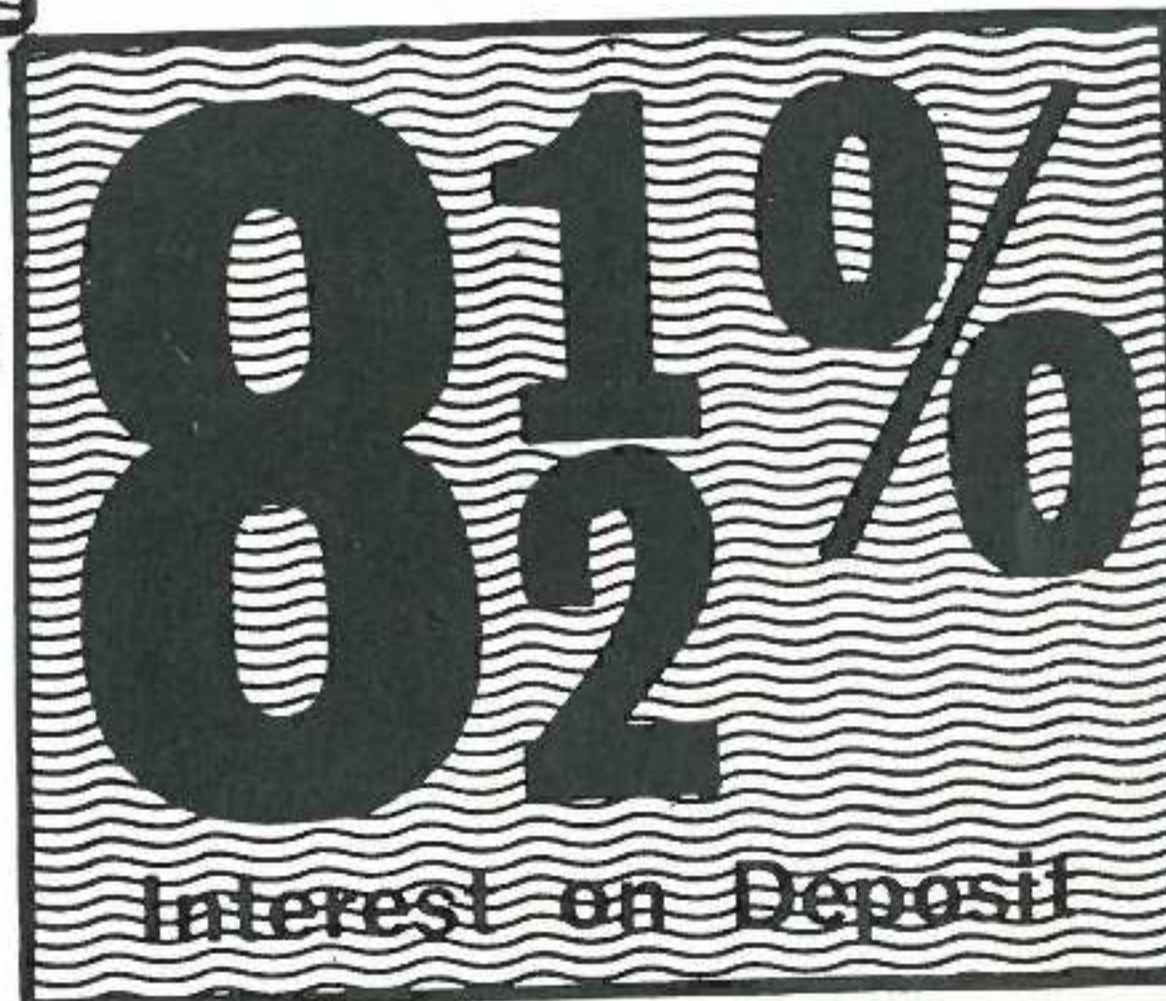
regarded such action as imperative and he would like to impress on referees to fulfil that duty, and he would do this if any player came before him, but he didn't anticipate this to happen as the standard of sportsmanship in their area was very high.

● TO PAGE 43



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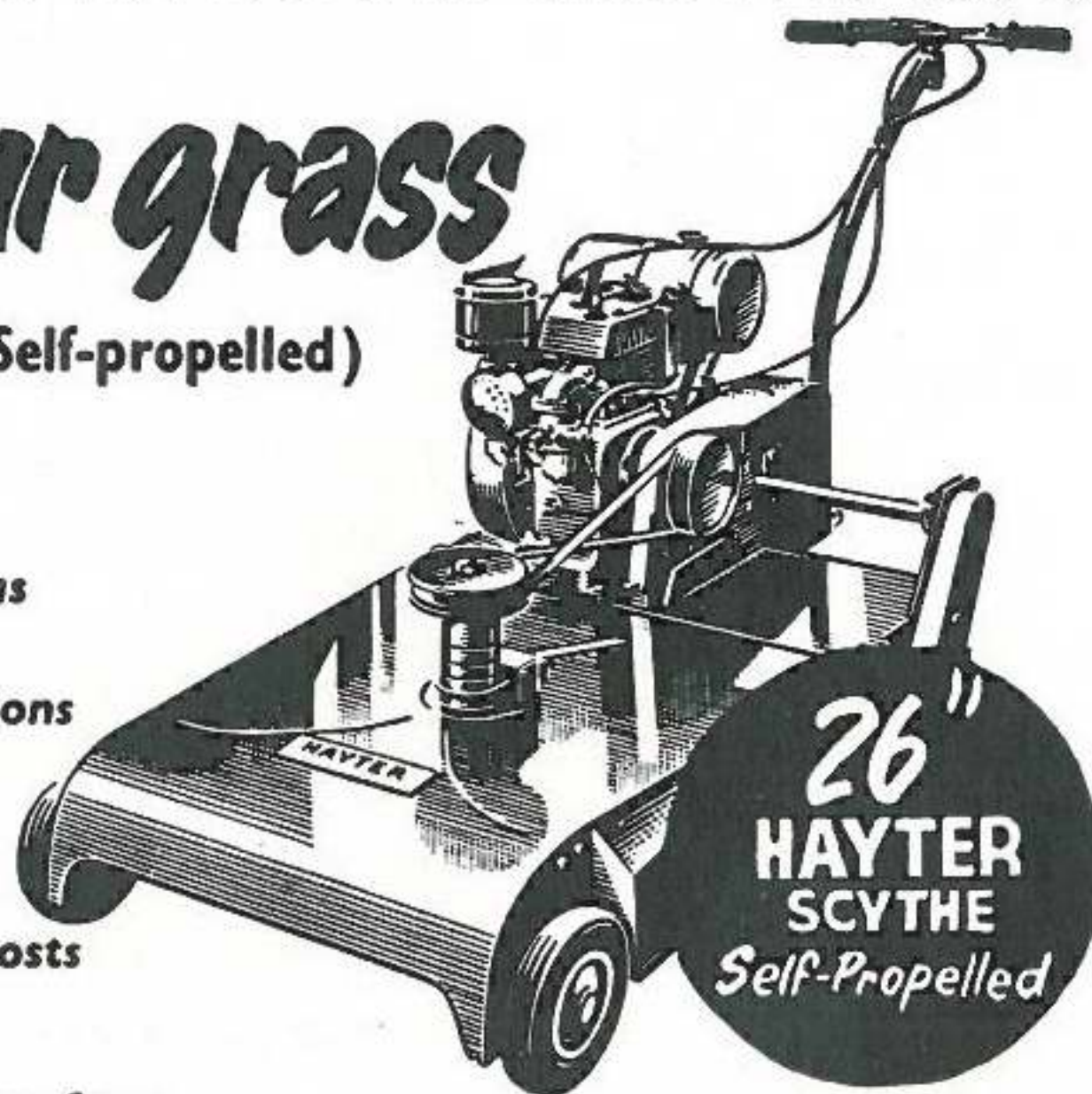
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"WASN'T it great?" says he.
"Wasn't what great?" says I.

"The World Cup", says he. "I was delighted England won because they deserved it".

"I suppose they did", says I. "But tell me were there any Irish lads playing for England?"

"No", says he.

"How's that?", says I. "I thought we had some great soccer players".

"We have too", says he, "but they don't play with England in the World Cup".

"Who do they play with?", says I.

"They play with either ourselves or the North", says he.

"And what happened us in the World Cup?", says I.

"We were eliminated and the North was eliminated too," says he.

"So Ireland had two teams?", says I.

"That's right", says he.

"We must be very good altogether so", says I, "seeing as all the other countries have only one team".

"It's not that", says he, "but that ourselves and the North are two different countries in soccer".

"Oh!", says I.

Aye", says he.

It was my turn, So I called another round.

"Begor", says I, "'tis a pity the World Cup is not for rugby so, because we'd surely win it".

"How's that?", says he, sipping his half-one lovingly.

"Because", says I, "ourselves and England are all the one country in rugby. Instead of having different teams as in soccer we have only the one".

"I didn't know that", says he—and, by way of apology, added—"I don't follow the rugby much".

"That's right", says I. "You see in rugby England has the pick of all Ireland for international games and world tours".

"And what about the Triple Crown?", says he.

"That's only a local competition", says I,—“like a county championship in Gaelic. Then England picks her international touring team from the best players".

"I see", says he, and called his round. We had the same again.

"'Tis queer", says he.

"What's queer?" says I.

"The way they do these things", says he. "I follow the boxing too".

"Do you", says I.

"The amateur stuff", says he—"I go to the Stadium".

"What's wrong there?" says I.

"Nothing much", says he, "except that the fellows from the North who box for Ireland also compete in the British Empire Games".

"Sure there is no British Empire now", says I—"it's gone for years".

"But there is in boxing", says he.

"'Tis like the golf so", says I.

"How's that?", says he.

"All the good Irish golfers are picked on the British teams", says I.

"Is that right?" says he.

"'Tis", says I. "A few years ago one of the Irish women players, Philomena Garvey, refused to play because she had to wear a Union Jack badge on her blazer.

"I think I read about that", says he.

"You probably did", says I and called my round.

"That's like the soccer", says I. "They have two Irelands".

"They're not any good at it though", says he.

"No", says I. "And they have it in cycling too—one crowd has two Irelands and the other crowd has one Ireland. The crowd that has only the one Ireland is banned by England."

"She likes us to have two teams", says he.

"In that way we are never any good", says I.

"Begor, that's true", says he—"I never thought of it like that before".

"Or no team at all", says I—"in that way she can pick the best of our players".

"Like the golf and the rugby", says he.

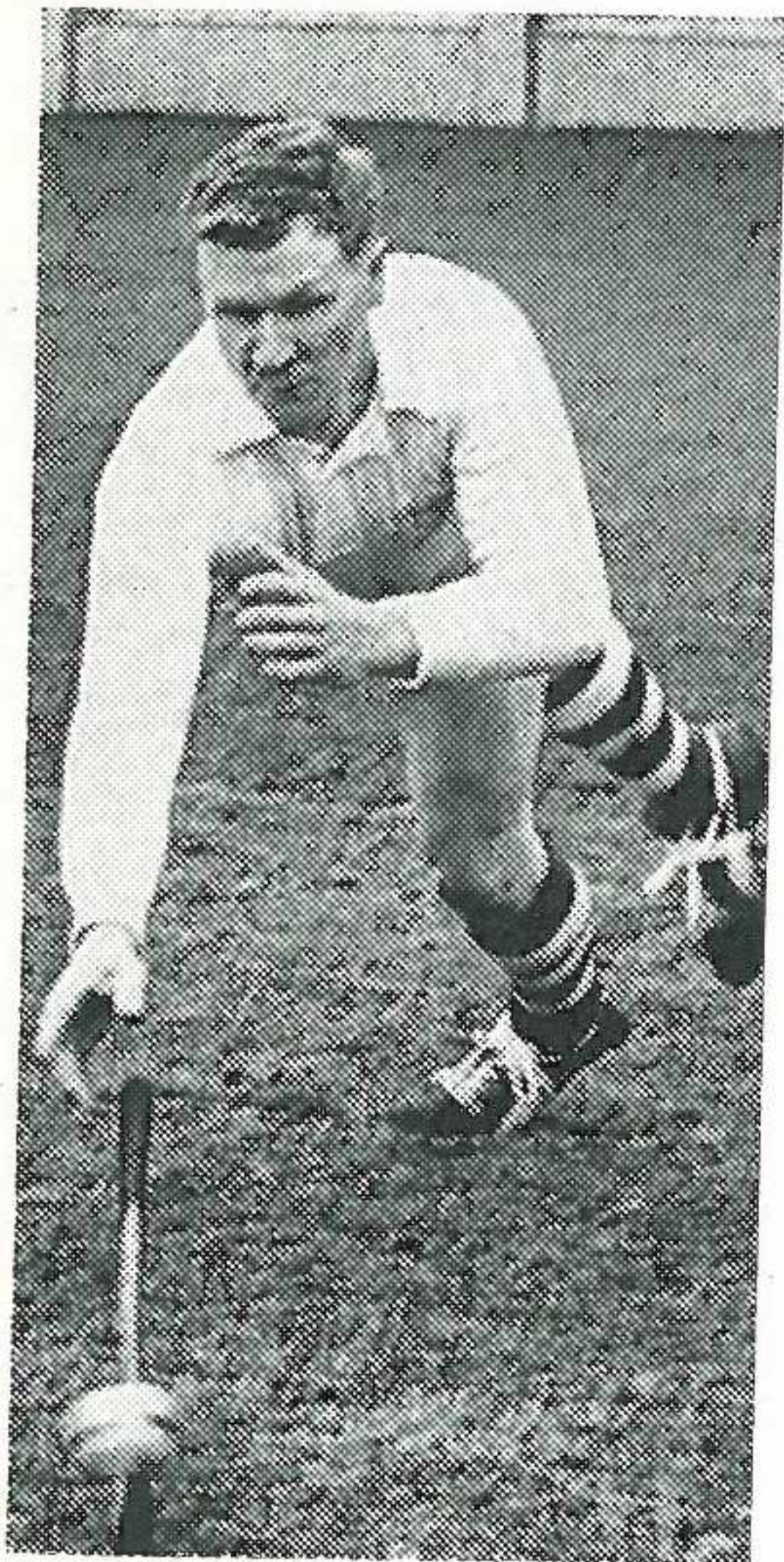
"That's right", says I.

"She's a bit of a bitch," says he.

"Always was", says I.

Immortal memo

By MOONDHARRIG



*The late
Mattie
Power
. . . one
of Kilkenny's
immortals.*



OLLIE WALSH

One of the finest goalkeepers that the game of hurling has known . . . seeking his third senior All-Ireland medal when Kilkenny meet Cork in the final on September 4.

A CORK-KILKENNY final? What memories such a game calls up for every old-time follower of hurling, and what amazing finishes were provided in years gone by between the men who wore the black and amber and the men who sported the red and white!

It was a rivalry that began away back in the very earliest years of the Association when Blackrock beat Confederation, in, of all places, the Pheonix Park, for the

All-Ireland title of 1893, and it was ten years before Cork and Kilkenny were fated to meet again in a final.

That was in the 1903 final, which was not played until July 16, 1905 at Dan Fraher's old Shandon Park in Dungarvan. This, of course, was the "home" final, for in those days London-Irish had an automatic place in the final proper.

Anyway, this game at Fraher's Field was the first All-Ireland final ever played in Dungarvan, and it

was Kilkenny's fifth attempt to win their first hurling crown. Despite four previous defeats in ten years, by Cork, Tipperary (twice) and Limerick, there was great optimism behind the Kilkennymen on this occasion, as they had come triumphantly through Leinster and had run up a record number of scorers against Antrim in the semi-final.

But Cork, wearing that day the green and gold of Blackrock, fairly shattered the ambitions of the Kilkenny side led by Three Castles, winning by the overwhelming total of 8-9 to 0-8. And nobody is quite sure nowadays about the number of goals the great Andy ('Dooric') Buckley scored that day—some say six, some say seven, and some say the bold Andy bagged the whole eight!

In any case the general opinion in hurling circles after that match was this, that Kilkenny would never beat a Munster team in an All-Ireland final. Five times now they had tried, five times they had failed, and their last defeat had been the heaviest of all.

So there was not the crowd there might have been when, just twelve months later, Cork and Kilkenny met again—in the All-Ireland final of 1904.

The venue had been moved this time to Maurice Davin's ground at Deerpark, Carrick-on-Suir, which was considerably more 'adjacent'

ries

for Kilkenny. In the twelve months that had intervened since last they met, the Cork leadership had moved to St. Finbarr's, while Tullaroan had now the Kilkenny pick.

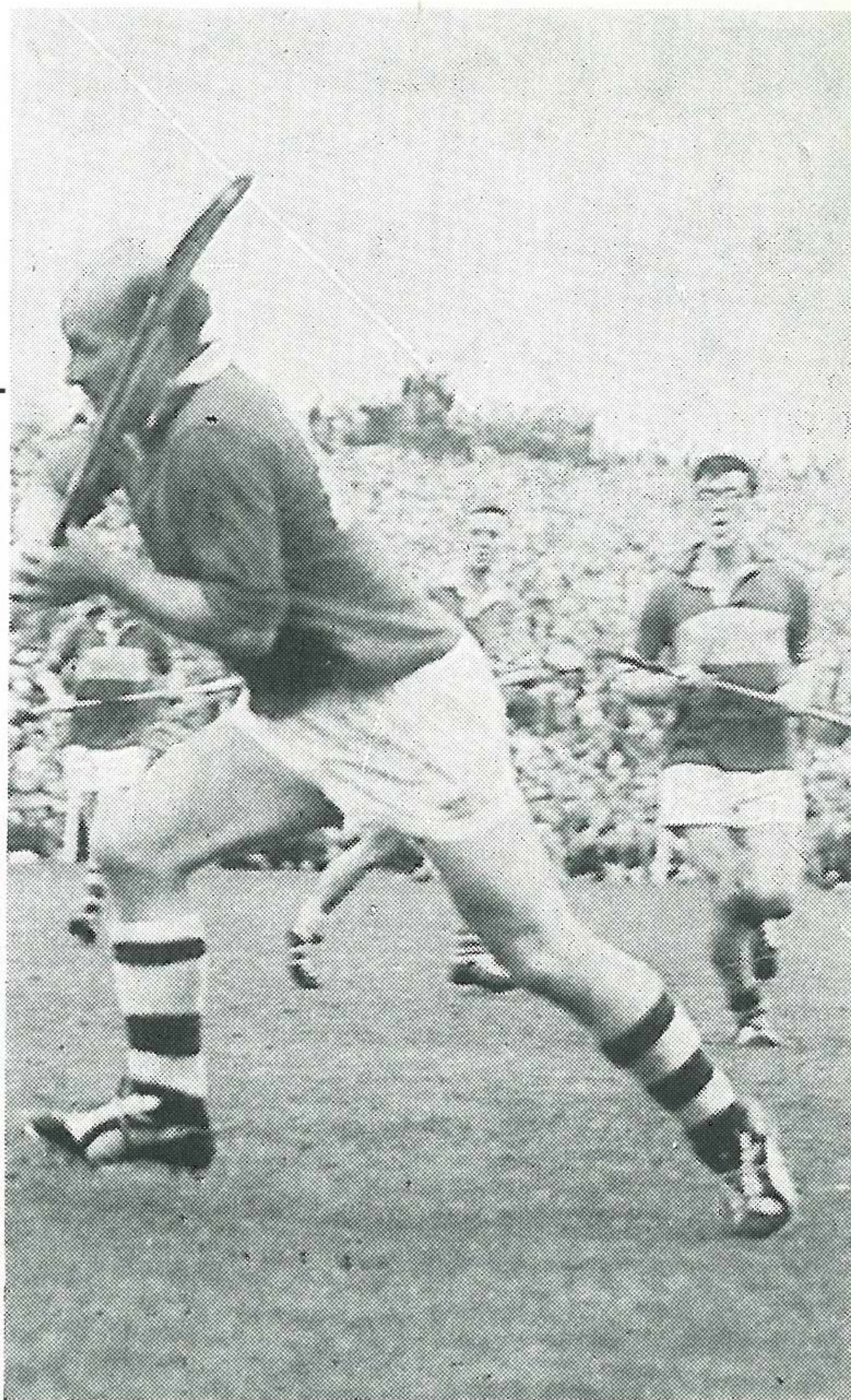
Owing to the change of champions, Cork only fielded ten of the side that had been victorious by a 25-point margin twelve months before. Peculiarly enough, Kilkenny also fielded ten of the team that had been routed at Dungarvan.

The odds seemed to be all in favour of Cork but Kilkenny surprised even their own supporters by making most of the running through the first half and led deservedly by a goal, 1-5 to 0-5, at the interval. But Cork supporters were still confident and that confidence seemed well justified soon after the restart when the Leesiders first drew level and then went ahead.

This was the stage when, in all previous finals, Kilkenny had faded to defeat, but this time, to the cheers of the crowd, they rallied again and again, levelled the scores shortly before the end, and then drove home what proved to be the winning point a minute or so from the last whistle.

So Kilkenny proved that they could, after all, muster sufficient resolution to beat a Munster team in an All-Ireland final, and there

● CONTINUED OVERLEAF



CHRISTY RING:

Captain of the Cork team that beat Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final of 1946 and again a member of the side that lost to the Noresiders in the 1947 decider—the last time the counties met for the McCarthy Cup.



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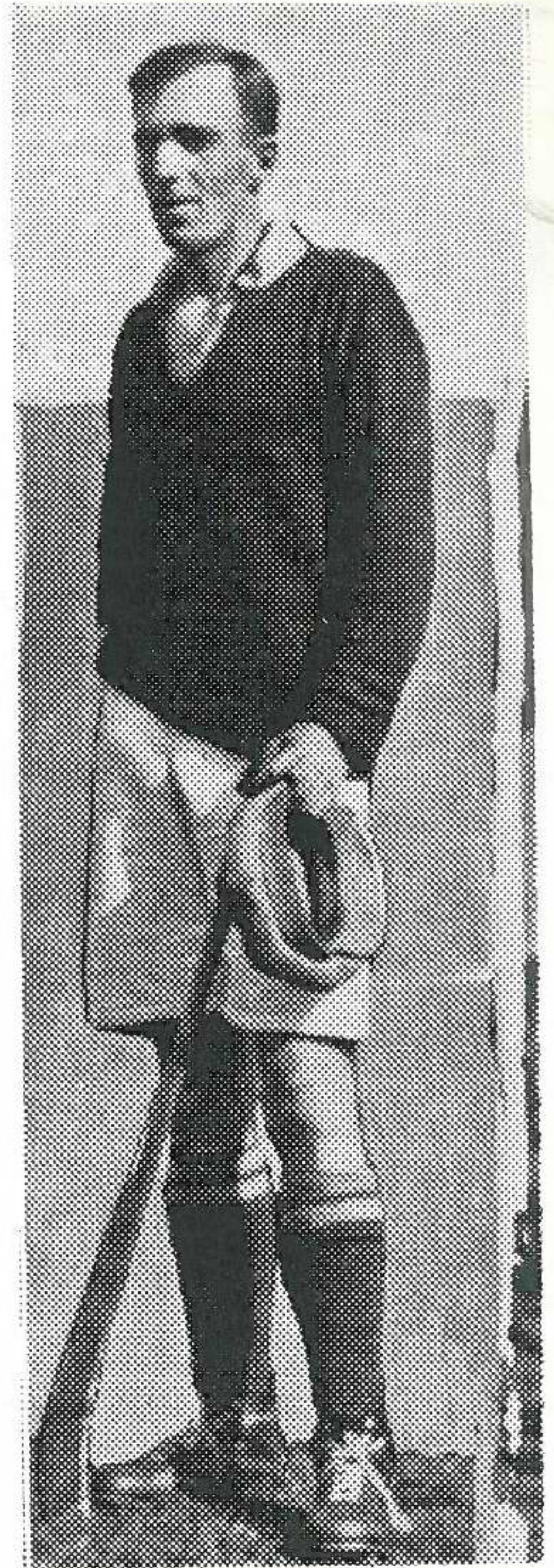
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EUDIE COUGHLAN . . . one of the heroes of Cork's victories over Kilkenny in the All-Ireland finals of 1926 and '31.

● **FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

was a great hosting at Tipperary town, in Pat McGrath's park, for the 1905 final on April 14, 1907, especially as this was the third consecutive year for the counties to meet in a final.

St. Finbarr's again had the selecting of the Cork team, while Kilkenny were led by the City side Erin's Own. This time, after another most exciting game, the pendulum of victory swung back

to Cork, who snatched victory by a goal on scores of 5-10 to 3-13.

But the title was neither won nor lost that day in Tipperary. For the only time in the history of the All-Ireland hurling championship, a protest by the losing team was upheld by Central Council, and a replay was ordered. (The Kilkenny objection alleged that the Cork goalkeeper had served in the British militia.)

The final was replayed on June 30, 1907, at Dungarvan, and provided one of the most sensational games ever served up by those two great rivals. Kilkenny had ten of the men who had won at Carrick. Not alone had Cork ten of the men who had failed by a point in the 1904 final but they recalled two forwards from the victorious 1903 side, Billy Mackessy and the great Dooric Buckley.

There was only a point between the counties at half-time, Cork leading by 2-6 to 2-5. A thrilling second half seemed in prospect, but, once Kilkenny drew level ten



BILL WALSH . . . Kilkenny's left full back in the 1946 final against Cork.

minutes after the interval, the Noremen completely dominated the exchanges and ran out easy winners, 7-7 to 2-9.

A little less than twelve months later Kilkenny and Cork met yet again in an All-Ireland final. Once more the venue was Dungarvan, and the title at stake this time was

that of 1907—and there are those who maintain that this was the greatest Cork-Kilkenny final of them all. The old-timers always swore that this game, played on June 2, 1908 was the greatest hurling final ever staged.

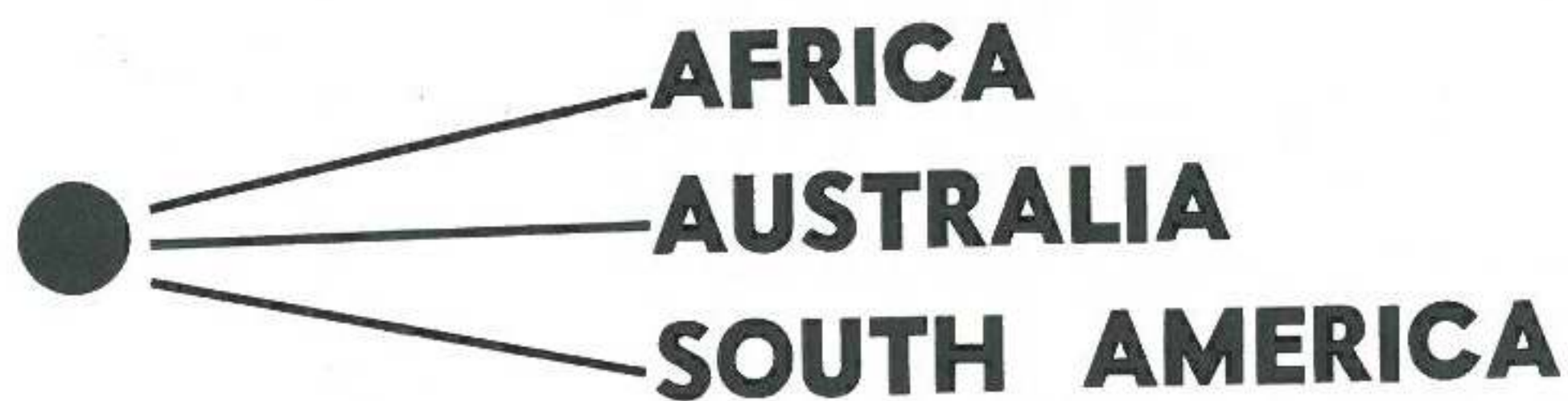
It was score for score all the way and a draw seemed inevitable when the Corkmen equalised almost on the full-time whistle. But from a long-puck out by John Power from Pilltown the ball was doubled on in mid-air by his club-mate, Jack Anthony, and was finished by Jim Kelly of Mooncoin who also doubled the sliothar and sent it over the bar for the point that won the match. The long whistle blew on the puck-out.

Not for another four years did Kilkenny and Cork meet again in a final. That was the decider of 1912, and, peculiarly enough, it was the first time that these by now old rivals had ever met at Jones's Road.

Again they provided a sensational
● CONTINUED OVERLEAF

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

hour. Cork did almost all the attacking, especially in the second half, but were well held by the Kilkenny defence. Then Matt Gargan hit a long ball from mid-field and the hop of the leather completely deceived the great Cork goalkeeper Andy Fitzgerald to give Kilkenny victory, for the third time, over Cork by that single lucky point.

Fourteen years were to pass before Cork and Kilkenny clashed in another final and this time Cork won with almost sensational ease 4-6 to 2-0.

This was in 1926, but the memory of that one-sided final was wiped out five years later in the

most memorable All-Ireland ever played when Cork and Kilkenny had to meet three times before the honours eventually rested by the Lee.

For skill, excitement and sportsmanship these three games of 1931 could not be surpassed, so it is no wonder that, when next the counties met in a final, eight years later in 1939, the Croke Park attendance records were again broken and, despite a thunderstorm, the excitement could not have been more intense or the standard of hurling higher.

Once again Kilkenny won with a last minute point, but seven years later Cork had ample revenge when they scored a clear-cut win over the Noremen in the final of 1946.

Then just 12 months later the same two counties met in the final of 1947.

This was another of the classic deciders with the lead changing hands several times in the last quarter and with Kilkenny coming from behind to snatch victory by that lucky point on the last whistle.

And now after a 19-year interval—the longest ever between Cork and Kilkenny finals—the age-old rivals meet again.

Who will win this time? Well that is anybody's guess, but for me I will rest well content if the old rivals serve us up a game as good as they gave me in 1931, 1939, 1946 or 1947. No hurling follower could possibly ask for better.



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GO CIE

MUNSTER MEDLEY

● FROM PAGE 35

LAHINCH LOOKS AHEAD

Lahinch club are going all out to get football on a sound foundation in the district and with this object in view have established a schoolboys league for which a splendid trophy, the Egan Cup is being offered. Already many promising young players have made their appearance and it is hoped they will make their mark in county championship competition within a short period.

Another district making a big football effort just now is Monaleen, Co. Limerick, where an under-sixteen parish league is in progress, and proving very successful.

CORK RECORD

Cork, by winning the Munster championships in senior and minor grades in both hurling and football for 1966 have accomplished a feat which no other county had previously succeeded in doing. Cork have also now won more Munster senior hurling championship titles than any of the other Southern counties.

VERSATILE PLAYERS

Three Cork players and members of the Blackrock Club—Ray Cummins, Paddy Geary and Simon Murphy, won Munster minor medals in football and hurling on successive Sundays.

BERNIE HARTIGAN

Limerick hurler and footballer, Bernie Hartigan won county athletic titles in the 16 lb. shot (40' 5"), discus (134' 0") and javelin (165' 7") a few hours after helping his club, Old Christians, beat Athea, in the County senior football championship.

ANOTHER ALL-ROUNDER

Gerard ("Maxie") McKeown, who won a Dean Ryan, two Dr. Harty Cup and an All-Ireland Colleges medal with Limerick C.B.S. and a county juvenile championship title

● TO PAGE 52



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WILSON HARTNELL



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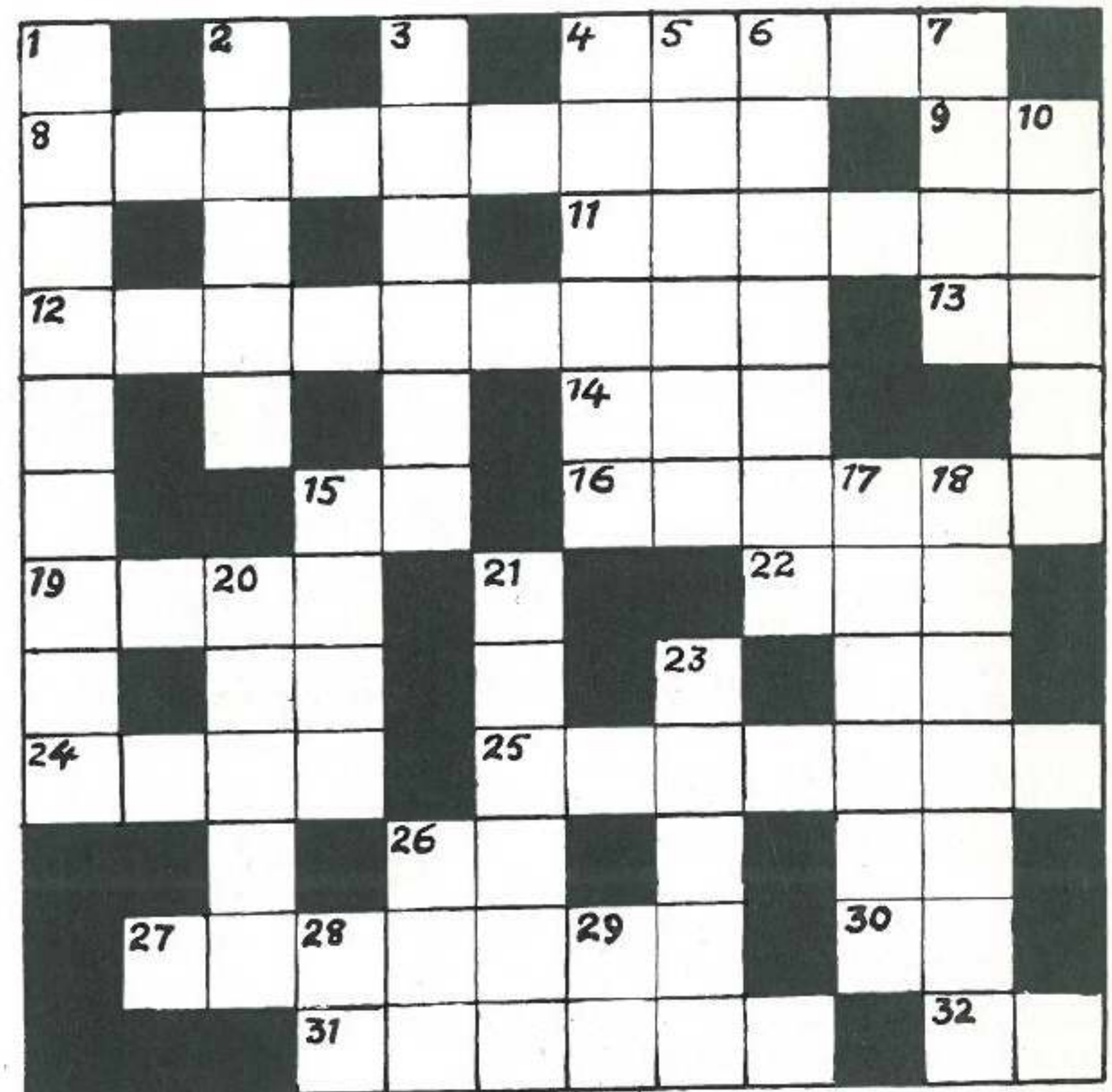
By PERMUTER

CLUES ACROSS :

4. The head of a monastery who played for Dublin. (5)
8. Top-scoring footballer. (9)
9. Initials of Eamon, the Dublin football forward. (1, 1)
11. Waterford footballer recalls film-hurler. (6)
12. A poor frame of mind for a full-back, who must always be sure and definite in his actions. (9)
13. One of a pair of brothers who figured on the last Limerick team to reach the All-Ireland semi-final. Initials. (1, 1)
14. Social Temperance Movement ? (3)
15. Begins snowing. (2)
16. To make possible for one. (6)
19. Tins make a fixture for a date in this month. (4)
22. One confuses the ark-maker. (3)
24. Game at which many hurlers have done well—not surprisingly, since much of the objects are the same. (4)
25. Outcome of games are given over the radio. (7)
27. Longford right winger. (1, 6)
30. Prolific scoring Wexford hurler-footballer. Initials. (1, 1)
31. Not a great fault, and only slightly sinful. (6)
32. Sharpest Kilkenny shooter. Initials. (1, 1)

CLUES DOWN :

1. Cork hurler-footballer (forward or centre field) whose surname begins with the name of another Cork footballer of the same era. (1, 8)
2. Bravery necessary in any player, and even to strip a fowl. (5)
3. For Waterford he won an All-Ireland at one end of the field and a League medal at the other. (6)
4. All games reporters are keen to get the right one to describe each incident. (6)
5. Renoit in the Orient, both in great confusion. (6)



6. The strong man of the team who plays as though cast in metal. (4, 3)
7. To totter thus is fatal for a goalie; best keep it for the dance. (4)
10. Martin of Wexford, or Frankie ex-Meath. (5)
15. Not a complete staff, but nearing full muster. (4)
17. He had a long and successful run with Cavan; thousands thought he had won the 1937 All-Ireland for them with a point on the call of time. (6)
18. Some referees like to speak sternly to the teams before the start; in the manner of an academic, apparently. (7)
20. The sort of unyielding defence every team desires. (5)
21. A great Louth footballer—an All-Ireland winning captain nearly sixty years ago. (6)
23. Kerry corner-back, later a television personality. (5)
26. The day before a big game, perhaps ? (3)
28. Not quite the day before the game; only two thirds of it. (2)
29. Northern Island ? (1, 1)

SOLUTION : PAGE 76

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Jim McKeever

PRINCE OF MIDFIELDERS

By JOHN O. GRANT

HE is without doubt the greatest Derry player ever to have graced the game of football. As a prince among the midfielders of his era his majestic displays helped that county to many victories, and the occasions when he was outplayed were rare indeed. Nowadays, his playing career ended, he concentrates on coaching the game, although he is also well known as a journalist and commentator. The man in question is of course Jim McKeever.

He took his initial steps towards football stardom at St. Malachy's College, Belfast. Whilst a pupil there he was selected for the Ulster Colleges provincial sides of 1948 and 1949. This in itself was a clear indication of the Derry lad's ability, for at that time his school did not even participate in the McRory Cup—the Ulster Colleges' senior championship. Many of his comrades on those Ulster teams later became famous at senior county level for their native counties—players like Joe Cunningham and Mal McEvoy (Armagh), Eddie Devlin (Tyrone) and Mickey Moyna (Monaghan).

Jim's debut in intercounty football was with the Antrim minor side of 1947. The following year, however, he declared for his native Derry. In 1949, he gained a place on the Derry senior team and thus

began a brilliant career which continued up until 1963. Many honours came his way during those fourteen years. In 1958 he captained the Derry team which won the Ulster title and failed narrowly to Dublin in the All-Ireland final. He was a member of the victorious Ulster Railway Cup teams of 1956 and 1960, and was also selected for Ireland on a number of occasions.

During his career Jim opposed many fine footballers. He rates Eddie Devlin (Tyrone), Frank Evers (Galway) and Mick O'Connell (Kerry) as his most outstanding opponents. Devlin he believes was one of the most intelligent players he ever encountered. "He was the sort of player you could never completely out-wit," said Jim. "Evers on the other hand because of his immense size and physical strength was a very difficult opponent to cope with."

I asked Jim what game of his career he considered the most memorable? "I think the Ulster final of '58 against Down was my finest hour," he replied. "I suppose the All-Ireland final of that year was a greater occasion, but from the point of view of personal satisfaction I place the Ulster final game first."

Would he still like to be play-

(Continued overleaf).

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(From Previous Page).

ing? "Well I think I'm reasonably adjusted to retirement now, but I sometimes feel I'd like to be out there in the middle of the field again."

However he is still directly concerned with the game. As one of the country's leading coaches he is now passing on to others the benefits of his knowledge and experience. He is convinced that the introduction of coaching on a large scale is essential. He stressed the importance of such a step and explained in detail the beneficial results which would follow. "Coaching would improve the

standard of play, make the game more attractive and enable the players to obtain greater enjoyment from their football."

"Furthermore," he added, "it would help bring more organisation and discipline to the Association, especially at club level. With the odd exception these factors are sadly lacking in the majority of clubs at present."

The failure of most clubs to provide coaching facilities for their members is in his opinion one of the biggest drawbacks to the progress of the G.A.A. "The position at present," he pointed out, "is that many young players receive

coaching whilst at college. They are also subjected to discipline and provided with modern amenities. When they leave college and join a club the situation changes drastically. Training facilities are often poor or non-existent. Organisation is bad. The nett result is that many players become frustrated and discontented and their ability is retarded rather than advanced."

"The solution to this problem lies in the reorganisation of our clubs," he continued. "We have far too many struggling clubs whose chief objective is survival from year to year. We need bigger and better clubs if we are to deal successfully with the challenge of the counter attractions of modern society. In the formation and development of these clubs coaching has a vital role to play."

Jim finds it difficult to understand the reasoning of those who are opposed to coaching. "Some people mistakenly believe that coaching is designed for the star players," he said. "In fact the opposite would probably be nearer the truth. Great players like Mick O'Connell or Sean O'Neill, for example, would need little coaching, for they possess tremendous natural ability. The ordinary club player can improve his game in one of two ways. He can use a system of trial and error on his own, or he can be coached by an expert. The majority of players, I believe, would prefer the second method."

The one change in the playing rules he would favour is the extension of the parallelogram to three times its present size. This alteration he feels would eliminate many of the unseemly goalmouth scrimmages we see in present day football.

Many former stars come in for criticism for taking no further interest in the Association once their playing careers are over. Such criticism cannot be levelled at the former Derry star.

Ransomes

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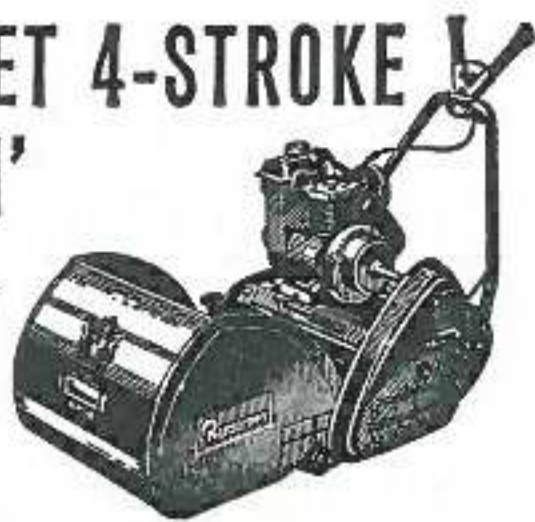
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SHOWPIECE OF THE YEAR

By now we are nearly round again to All-Ireland time in the camogie world and I do hope that the fans of the game from all over the country will follow a suggestion made here a year ago and rally to Croke Park on the third Sunday in September, no matter what teams may be playing in the decider.

I feel, now that we have a fixed date for the event, that the All-Ireland final should be the great day of the year for camogie followers, the day when, over and above the game itself, we gather to meet old friends, to make new acquaintances and to generally make the final the show-place of the camogie year. And such a goal should be relatively easy to attain.

As well as that I feel the Central Council should make a big effort to rally support for the occasion. School teams throughout the country should be given special concessions in the way of cheap stand tickets and should be encouraged to organise little excursions for their players to Dublin that day. After all it would be educational for them and could be organised as one of the educational tours now so popular in the course of the school year.

And the mere fact of seeing the top stars in action would stimulate every school-girl in the country to try and emulate them. For older followers, I feel the Central Council should try and organise an annual ceili on the eve of the All-Ireland final, at which the teams would make a brief appearance and which could be another great rallying point for all interested in the game.

Another move I would make is in connection with the annual dinner which follows the All-Ireland final. I would make this open to the public on payment of a reasonable fee. This move would help Central Council to meet the cost of the dinner, and would enable followers, who wish to honour the players, to do so in fitting fashion.

In addition, now that there is a fixed date for the final, I do feel Central Council should make a supreme effort to get the final televised. The broadcasting of the game has been a great success, but I believe the televising of the camogie final would be a greater success still.

And my reason for saying so is
(Continued Page 60).

Don't Miss it this time!

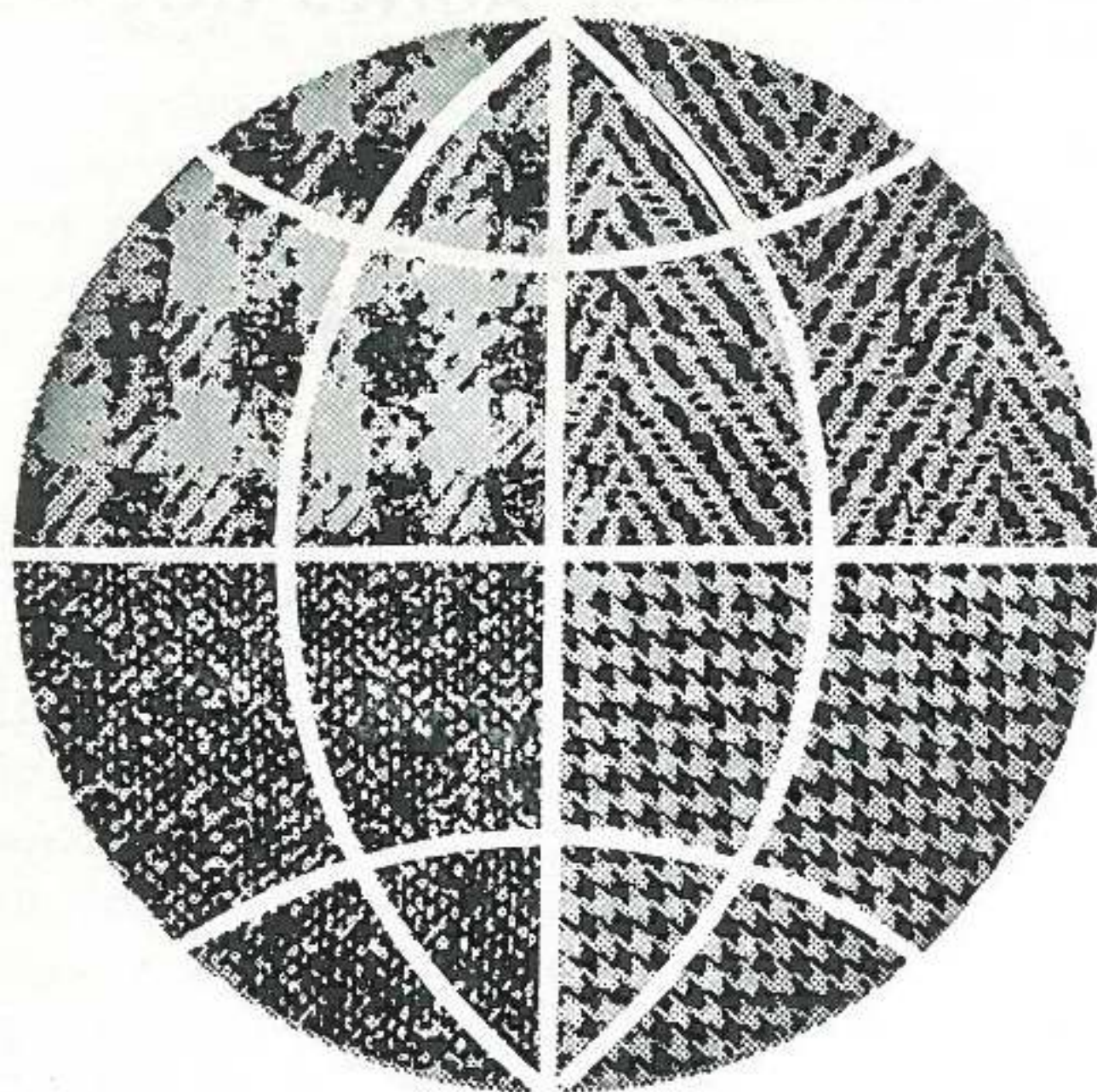


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CRESTED TEN

by JAMESON



DAN McAREAVY

(Armagh Co. Chairman)

HALT

the top-heavy trend

AT a recent meeting of the Armagh County Committee a brief discussion took place on the continuing rise in the number of fixtures in the G.A.A. calendar.

"It is becoming simply a case of club or county" one member remarked.

A quick glance at the present position would suggest that saturation point has been reached; when it is becoming quite impossible to cope with all the games scheduled and when even the most rabid fan is often at a loss to know just what is going on.

There has been a big increase in the number of clubs and teams with an inevitable increase in the number of games to be played. That more people are playing our games is a source of satisfaction but this has, in many instances,

resulted in a reduction of standard and it would appear that in many cases we are now catering for quantity rather than a reasonable quality.

I feel too that the bite has gone from many of our club competitions (especially League competitions) when so many of our clubs are prepared to offer excuses of the most flimsy nature to have games postponed.

In ordinary club matches too "gates" have become almost negligible and in my own county admission fees are often forgotten.

This drives clubs, especially in Ulster, to organise tournaments which I regard as a kind of necessary evil. They are often the financial life blood of a club but here again each club seems to have a gentleman's agreement to compete at all the tournaments of the clubs

who support them. The vicious circle continues.

Anyone attempting to keep tabs on these tournaments is facing a difficult task. Suggestions of irregularities are not always ill-founded.

What then is making the satisfactory running of our internal competitions so difficult?

Without the slightest doubt I put the present position down to the number of intercounty matches which are available to supporters on practically every Sunday of the season. The affluent society in which we are supposed to live has seen to it that no match is out of the reach of any supporter who wishes to attend.

The intercounty game was formerly a novelty but now they are "two a penny". But even the glamour of the intercounty game has faded because of an overloaded programme. New competitions at this level have only added to the difficulties.

The senior and minor championship games retain much of their former appeal but who really cares any more about say the junior grade which surely has overstayed its welcome. Proof that you can have "too much of a good thing" is shown by the fact that in one province 47 intercounty games are said to have drawn less support than 18 intercounty games a few years ago.

Clubs too face the difficulty of supplying players to the county sides and who can really blame them if they are reluctant to fulfil

(Continued Page 53).

MUNSTER MEDLEY

● FROM PAGE 43

with Old Christians, recently represented Ireland in the 800 and 1,500 metres at Soignes, Belgium, in the European Catholic Students' Games.

JOHN HENNESSY, R.I.P.

John Hennessy of Emly, a former Tipperary goalkeeper and a life-long supporter of Gaelic games, has died. For many years he was mainly instrumental in the organising of Munster intercounty tournament hurling games in Emly.

IN BRIEF

Rev. Donal Cunningham, recently ordained for Cashel Diocese, is the holder of Limerick championship medals in juvenile and minor football won with Oola; and senior hurling won with Cappamore.

Dan Drinan of Charleville, who has died, was a leading exponent of hurling in his youth. He later figured for many years as a popular and successful referee.

Tom Frawley, a popular and prominent member of the Knockaderry Club, recently secured his M.A. degree at U.C.C.

Peadar Queally, former Clare footballer, who also won junior and senior championship titles with his native Cooraclare, recently retired as principal of Tullybrack National School.

Recently retired from the position of Staff Officer of the Engineering Department of Limerick County Council is Ned Cregan, who was a member of the Limerick All-Ireland senior hurling team of 1934. His sons, Mickey and Eamonn are now well known hurling exponents.

The death has occurred of Patrick Hyland, an outstanding Gaelic footballer of the early years of the century. In 1902 he figured at midfield for Arravale Rovers who were All-Ireland football champions at the time. Later he figured with Limerick Commercials.

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(From Page 51).

fixtures without their "stars." The rest of the team may be idle for several Sundays in a row.

The playing of Saturday fixtures is no solution as many players are working then and the "county men" would hesitate to risk injury 24 hours before an important match.

I have also heard the revolutionary idea advanced that at the beginning of a season a panel of players should be selected in a county and kept for intercounty matches only—a kind of glorified club side at county level. I feel the idea has nothing to recommend it.

What then is the solution? First of all I would say that the present trend to load the season's programme with "big matches" would be praise-worthy if it was the first duty of the Association to cater for county football and hurling. But it isn't.

The club has been and will, I

hope, always be the basic and key unit of the G.A.A. It must be that way so that the influence of the greatest national organisation in the country can reach every nook and cranny of each of the 32 counties. The club must be the focal point in a district or parish. It must always remain capable of stirring the best in our blood. It must get every encouragement from every committee in the country from the District Board to the Central Council. The Association could continue without a single intercounty game; it couldn't continue without the clubs. It is as simple as that.

It is a tribute to the strength and appeal of our organisation that there should be this kind of "crisis" with fixtures. Available dates are becoming scarcer and we must make the best possible use of what we have.

I believe that a drastic pruning at intercounty level would restore much of the appeal of interclub

fare, and at the same time increase the interest in the big games.

I believe, too, that immediately the provincial programme is made known (and this should be in January each year) it is the duty of every County Committee to publish its own entire fixture list for the season.

But more important than the publishing of these lists is the fact that they should be carried out "come hell or high water." I am glad to be able to say that such an arrangement works.

This move would bring to the running of our games an efficiency which too often is lacking at the moment.

WHAT A LIFE!

PICTURE the scene. Big match day. The morning dawns bright and clear. The sun is smiling in a cloudless sky. The birds are singing. The aroma of the rashers and eggs is climbing the stairs. Life is just great.

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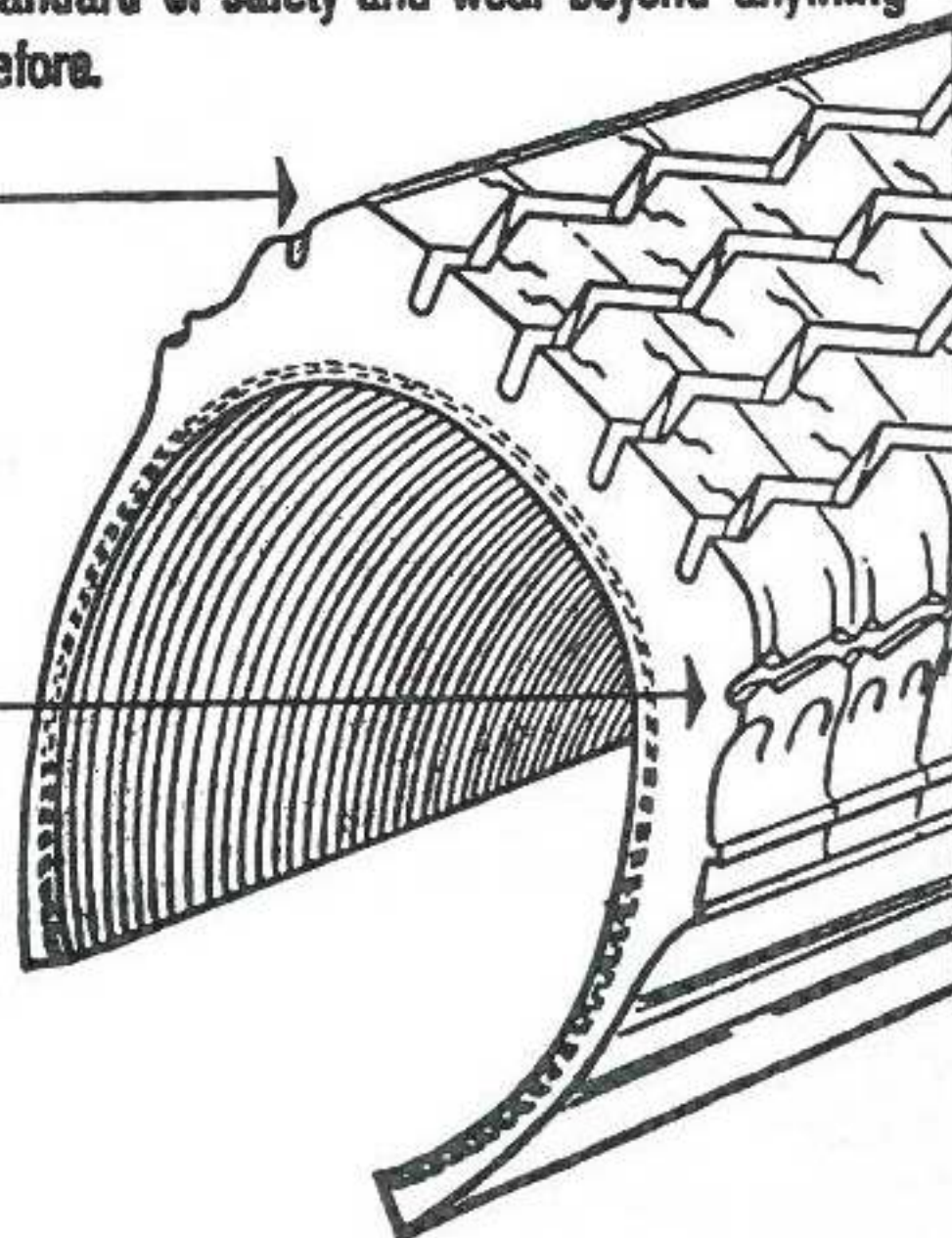
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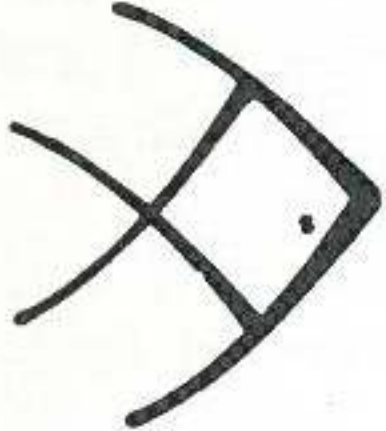
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By **OWEN McCANN**

DRAW UNLIKELY IN MINOR HURLING FINAL

Kilkenny mastered Galway. That is the only one in which Munster was unrepresented.

Cork recorded the highest score by a winning team, when they chalked up 10-7 against Laois in 1964. Donal Clifford, who played at midfield in that game, was again at centre-field for Cork in their Munster final win over Galway in July.

The lowest winning score is Dublin's 1-6 to Tipperary's 0-7 in 1946. Wexford conceded the highest total by a victorious team in their 1963 outing, in which Limerick finished with 5-9 against the Leinster team's 6-12. Indeed, that final produced more scores than any other at 11.21 (54 pts.).

The 1929 final produced both the lowest score by a losing team, 1-1 by Meath in their only final appearance, and at 5-0, the distinction for Waterford of being the only county to win a final without recording a single point. Dublin's 4-0 against Cork in the 1928 replay is the only other pointless tally by any team in a minor hurling final.

As well as that 1964 defeat, Laois lost another final—1934. Of the counties mentioned above only one other has appeared in the concluding round, Antrim, who went under to Limerick in 1940.

The series was suspended from 1942 to 1944. In 1949, the "Irish Press" Cup was awarded for the competition, and was won initially by Tipperary. That, strangely enough, was also the last year that this trophy and the McCarthy Cup were both won by the same county. The last year both trophies went to the one province was in 1964—Cork, winners over Laois, and Tipperary, conquerors of Kilkenny seniors.

A DRAW in the 36th All-Ireland minor hurling final? The odds are all against this, for only one decider so far has had to be replayed. That was the initial one in 1928, in which Cork scored 1-8 to 3-2 by Dublin, and won the second meeting 7-6 to 4-0.

That Leaside triumph initiated a Munster monopoly of the title. The Southern representatives have been victorious in 23 finals as against 12 successes by the Leinster champions. However, there has been a marked change in the fortunes of the provinces since 1960. That year Kilkenny ended a five year unbeaten run by the Munster winners, and the title has since remained in the East, except in 1964 when Cork were successful. The final has yet to be won by a Connacht or Ulster side.

Waterford, who won in 1929 and 1948, and Wexford, successful in 1963, are the only counties with unbeaten records in the final. Next

in line are Cork. They lost the 1936 decider to Kilkenny as against wins in 1928, '37, '38, '39, '41, '51, '64—a total of seven titles. At the other end of the scales are Galway, who after outings in 1931, '33, '41, '47, '51, '55, '58, are still seeking that elusive initial success.

Tipperary have appeared in more finals than any other county. Between 1930, when they beat Kilkenny, and 1962, when they lost to the same county, they contested 20 deciders, winning 12. Cork, with those seven wins, and Kilkenny with seven triumphs between 1931 and 1962, share second place. Dublin (4), Waterford, Limerick (two each) and Wexford are the only other counties on the winners' list.

This year's final is historic in that it is the first meeting of these counties in a decider in this grade. But, the final with the most unusual place in the annals of this competition is the 1931 decider, in which

Séamus Ó Ceallaigh recalls a chat with an old-timer

Has hurling lost its romance?

I HAD a lengthy chat at the Munster final with an old Limerick hurling enthusiast and the discussion was a very interesting one. Naturally, the failure of the Limerick lads to win out, after defeating the great Tipperary side

of all the talents, was mentioned and hopes for the future were analysed.

The veteran was convinced hurling was on the down grade—he saw all the teams in this year's Munster championship and it was

his firm belief that the best of them would not win a first round tie twenty years ago.

He said the romance was gone out of hurling. Everything was too matter of fact now, the players were molly coddled and spoiled and there was no dedication. We had far more sport when players walked to their games and togged out in the ditches. The game meant everything to them then and distractions were rare.

Nowadays, players have too many other interests and only the very occasional one is prepared to concentrate, or even strive to improve his game—particularly if it involves any sacrifice, or even curtailment of his other activities.

Limerick carried too many of the fancy type of player, he maintained, and these cut no ice in championship play unless accompanied by the less spectacular, even rugged hurler, who is usually the man that makes the worthwhile openings. It was ever so with Shannonside teams and those that ever won anything of any consequence had the happy blend of "sledger" and stylist.

Limerick contested the All-Ireland minor hurling finals of 1963 and 1965 but the average follower is not satisfied that the county has since got the best out of these lads. The Under-21 games this year should have yielded more concrete results and an answer must be sought as to where the fault lies.

Some are inclined to blame the

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selectors and the failure to switch or replace an off-form player is mentioned. After the game at Killarney, in which a player figured who was involved in a traffic accident a very short time before lining out, the wisdom of permitting players drive their own cars to the match—some of them travelling a long distance was questioned. In the old days almost all the players would be at the venue the previous night.

Criticism had been voiced over the past few seasons of County Board instructions that county players should not play with their clubs for several days prior to a big game. Despite all this Limerick teams have been missing prominent players because of injury in important championship tussles over the past few seasons. A reason for these recurring injuries has to be found. Are players handling their hurleys wrongly, do they put out their hand to grab a ball when such is highly dangerous, or is the game getting rougher? These are questions we must try to have answered.

The old-timer was of the opinion that players in the cities and big towns had too many other interests now and their hurling was suffering in consequence. In the rural areas the farmers sons were involved in various activities—the few that remained on the land—and emigration was taking a very heavy toll of the others.

The latter is a very serious problem and one that the G.A.A. must tackle sooner or later if it is to survive. There are parishes within a twenty miles radius of Limerick City in which there has not been a christening for half a decade, and in which there are practically no young children.

The matter of the National language has been a lot in the news lately and is in danger of becoming a plaything of party politics. The G.A.A. must steer absolutely clear of all such controversy and refuse

to be involved. There are enough organisations—maybe too many—claiming to be interested in the preservation of the language, but the progress over the past forty years is not very flattering to them.

A new approach is certainly needed, and the government if they were sincere could give many inducements to business firms and individuals who consistently use Irish, which would be the first step in bringing it into everyday use.

If we are sincere about an Irish speaking nation, how much more important is it that the sons and daughters of that nation be able to earn a livelihood at home.

If it is national policy to export them we must be practical about

it and provide them with an education that will enable them command positions of respect and responsibility in the country of their adoption.

The lives of our youth is far more important than the language they speak, from the G.A.A. viewpoint at any rate, and emigration is the great big evil that nobody seems to be doing anything about.

Half the Under-21 team in one prominent County Limerick hurling parish emigrated this summer and we are doing just nothing about it. No county could survive such a drain of its reddest blood, and nobody could speak of the future of the games with any confidence whilst such a position is allowed continue.

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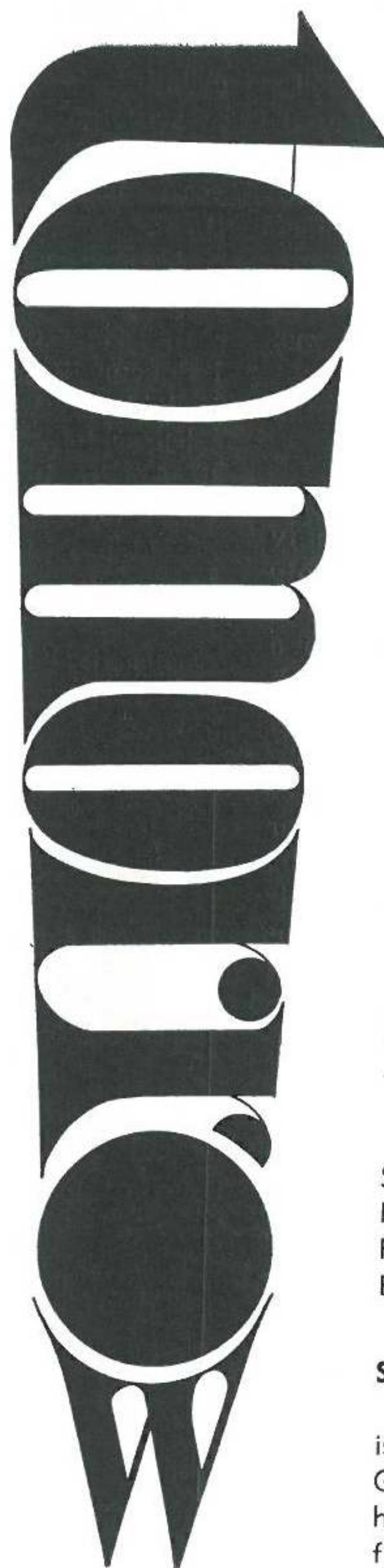
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JAMES NOWLAN

EVEN in G.A.A. circles, fame can sometimes be a fleeting thing, and it is all too seldom nowadays that one hears mention of a man whose name was for twenty years synonymous with the Gaelic Athletic Association itself.

James Nowlan was President of the Association for far longer than any other tenant of that office. He saw the Association almost from its swaddling clothes to full maturity and the work he did in all those years was so unobtrusively effective, that there has been a tendency in later years to underestimate the extent of his contribution to the growth of the Association he loved.

A cooper by trade James Nowlan or Jim Nowlan as he was more popularly known in his native city came of a noted Kilkenny nationalist family and his father had been one of those who helped James Stephens to escape to France after the 1848 Rising by the subterfuge of officially burying him, a ruse that worked so effectively that when Stephens came back to Ireland more than a dozen years later to organise the Fenian rising, the police at first refused to believe the 'Wandering Hawk' was Stephens who according to their records, had been dead since 1848.

Always interested in native

games, James Nowlan was an enthusiastic member of the Gaelic Athletic Association from its earliest days. He came forward to lend his aid in reviving the Association in Kilkenny and in Leinster generally after the disastrous days of the Parnell 'Split' had brought the G.A.A. to its lowest ebb.

From then on he regularly represented Kilkenny at the Annual Congresses, became a prominent

By
TERENCE ROYNANE

member of Central Council in the late 'nineties and was made a Vice-President of the Association in 1899.

When the Leinster Council was formed in 1900, he was unanimously appointed its first Chairman and when the then President of the G.A.A., Michael Deering from Cork, died unexpectedly in office in 1901, Jim Nowlan acted as President until the following Congress. At this Congress, Nowlan was unanimously chosen as President, a post he was to hold without a break for twenty years until he resigned at the Annual Congress of 1921.

There can be no greater tribute

to Nowlan's worth and the esteem in which he was held than that on only a couple of occasions in all those years was he ever opposed for the Presidency. In his last years in the intense days of the National Struggle, many of the younger men felt that he tended to be too conservative, but this was rash judgment of a man who had been reared in the Fenian faith, who had been a member of the Gaelic League from its foundation and who as a member of Kilkenny Corporation had been one of the first to declare for Sinn Fein.

A man of tremendous personal charm and of boundless personal charity, he was in all his latter years affectionately known as "the Alderman." Imprisoned for some months after the 1916 Rising, his first step on his release was to get the G.A.A. games moving again.

After resigning from the Presidency, Alderman Nowlan was made a life-member of Central Council, but he did not long live to enjoy that honour, for he died in 1924, leaving the G.A.A. forever in debt to his years of service and devotion.

He himself would ask no more fitting tribute than the magnificent Nowlan Park which to-day perpetuates his memory in his native Kilkenny.

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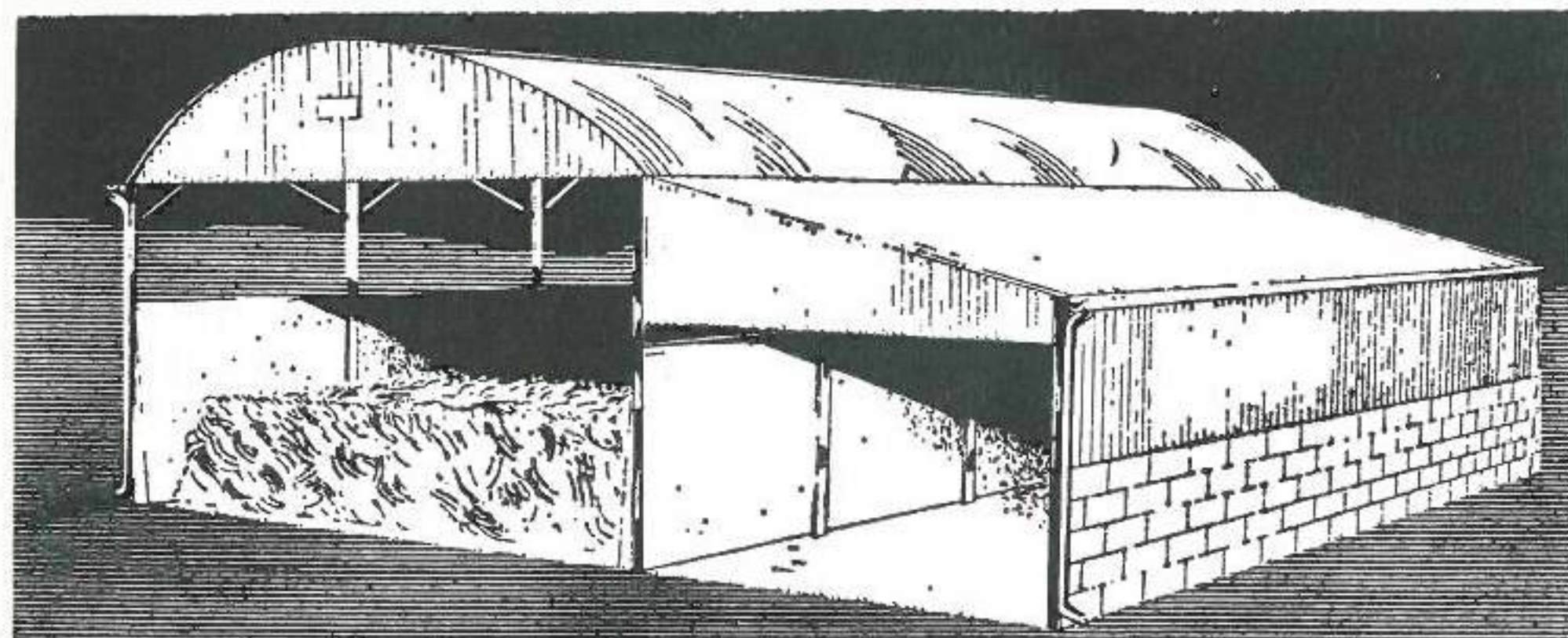


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(From Page 49).

very practical. It so happens that, for a couple of camogie games, I was asked to give a bit of assistance to the Telefis Eireann camera team, and those men, who had no axe to grind one way or the other, were of the unanimous opinion that no game would prove more thrilling on 'live' television than a good camogie match. One man told me that, of our field games, he felt hurling could be a bit too fast for the cameras to follow and foot-call could sometimes be a bit too slow, but that camogie was just right, and he would love to have the chance of doing a full game on television.

And I feel that the televising of a camogie final would prove most beneficial for two reasons. In the first place it would bring the game to the attention of hundreds of thousands who tend to ignore it at the moment as a minor sport. In the second place it would prove conclusively to those who think that camogie is just 'hurling for girls,' that it is a skilled game in its own right, and possibly more skilled in some ways even than hurling is.

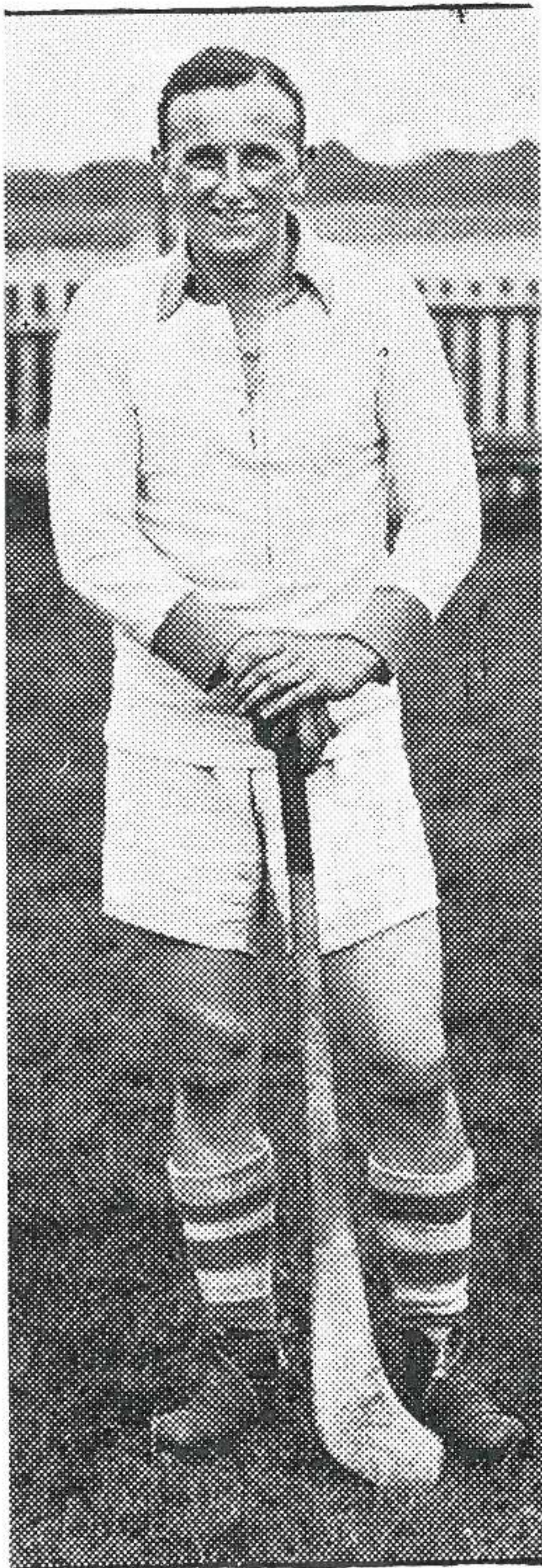
One other thing I would like to see at the camogie final and that is a really attractive curtain-raiser. Could we not have a challenge game between the junior champions of Leinster and Ulster, or a vital tie in the inter-club competition between, say, the two provinces that are not involved in the senior final?

In closing I would like to congratulate Anne Foley on the great job she is doing for camogie in the Dublin suburb of Lucan. Anne first arrived in Lucan in 1963 and since then she has played a major part in helping the local club win two league and two championships. Anne, a Wexford inter-county star, is one of the finest centre-backs playing to-day and to her and her team-mates in the Lucan team I wish continued success in the years ahead.

(From Page 29).

Ten years later Mooncoin, with the Dunphys and Tommy Carroll, headed a new Kilkenny resurgence that led on to the '30's and the great days of Lory Meagher, Mattie Power, the Byrnes and the Duggans, the first of the Leahys, Jimmy O'Connell, Paddy Larkin, Johnny Dunne, 'Locky' Byrne and Martin White, Jimmy Walsh and Jimmy Kelly.

These were succeeded in turn by



"Locky" Byrne, one of Kilkenny's outstanding hurlers of the 'thirties.

the 'artists of the ash', Jimmy Langton, Tom Walton, Terry Leahy and the rest of the 1947 men, not forgetting Jack Mulcahy, Paddy Grace and to "Diamond" Hayden, Peter Prendergast and Dan Kennedy.

Ten years in the wilderness followed and then, with the inimitable Ollie Walsh between the posts, Kilkenny marched again behind captain Mikey Kelly from Bennettsbridge, while another 'Bridge star, Seamus Cleere led the black and amber to unexpected victory in 1963.

This year Mooncoin are back in command and Jim Lynch leads a fine bunch of hurlers whose names are in many cases already known wherever hurling is spoken of—

sharpshooter Eddie Keher, that great attacking half-back Seamus Cleere, captain Jim Lynch, tall Pat Henderson, solid Martin Coogan, the 'blonde bombshell', Tom Walsh.

Then they have tireless John Teehan, hard-working Paddy Moran, play-any-where Pa Dillon, Joe Dunphy, scion of one of hurling's great families, sound Jimmy Treacy, unyielding Ted Carroll and that 'mighty atom' Sean Buckley.

Win lose or draw against Cork, and all Kilkenny hopes to see them win, the honour of Noreside hurling is safe in the hands of the men who will on the first Sunday in September so proudly wear the storied black and amber.

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LEINSTER DOUBLE ON SEPTEMBER 4!



By FRANK HUGHES

MARK it down—a Leinster double on Sunday, September 4. Like all good sons of the province, I am banking on Kilkenny—but what of the Wexford minors? Well, I have seen them both and, while Cork have a handy team, I cannot see them matching Tom Furlong and his merry men from the Slaneyside.

Mind you Laois had no bad team—they beat Kilkenny, but in the Leinster final they were no match at all for Wexford who won 7-6 to 1-7. On that form I can see Wexford taking the All-Ireland title with a goal or two in hand.

WESTMEATH INCIDENT

There was a somewhat unusual affair recently in Westmeath. The Downs were playing Shamrocks in the country senior football championship at Mullingar and, with about thirteen minutes to go, referee John Bradley ordered off a Downs player for striking an opponent. The player went to the line and the game continued. Then there was a huddle on the sideline and The Downs' mentors called off their entire team. This aggravated things and there was a general flare-up with referee Bradley having to be escorted from the field.

What irresponsible action on the part of the men on the sideline. It bears out the point that very often

it is the mentors who are to blame when teams behave badly.

No doubt but that by the time you read these notes the Westmeath County Board will have dealt firmly with those who were to blame.

LONGFORD'S FUTURE

Longford's failure to Galway in their challenge game of July 31 disappointed many of the county's loyal followers—but unnecessarily so as I see it. Longford had nothing to lose in that game while virtually every Galwayman was fighting for a place on the team to play Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Following their none-too-impressive showing against Mayo in the Connacht final many of the Galwaymen were in danger of losing places. There are a power of youngsters in the county ready and willing to step in and the Longford game was therefore vital for many of the Western veterans. So they gave it all they had in a desperate attempt at holding on.

Galway were also, of course, considerably fitter than Longford and I don't think that game should be taken to be in anyway as a reflection on Longford's future.

In my book they are still a good team—and I expect them to prove it once again when they line out against New York in the League

final at Longford on October 2 and at Croke Park a week later.

OFFALY HURLING

The Offaly hurlers have decided to move up to Division I of the National League and this, I think, is a wise move for they certainly are now superior to any of the sides in Division II.

However, Offaly should not expect too much success among the big names. They will take a few decisive beatings, but the important thing is to learn from them and not to become down-hearted.

There is no short-cut to the top in hurling. Offaly have taken a firm first-step on the road. It will require patience, intelligence and a willingness to learn and to train for the Midlanders to reach their objective.

WICKLOW NUMBER TWO

Wicklow failed to Kildare in the Leinster junior hurling final but it was a close thing and I am still convinced that this county will soon take its place among the best of the newcomers to hurling prominence. It must be remembered that, because they won this Leinster title last year, Wicklow had to field their number two string this year.

So now Wicklow wait for the National League. I look to their best-ever campaign in Division II.

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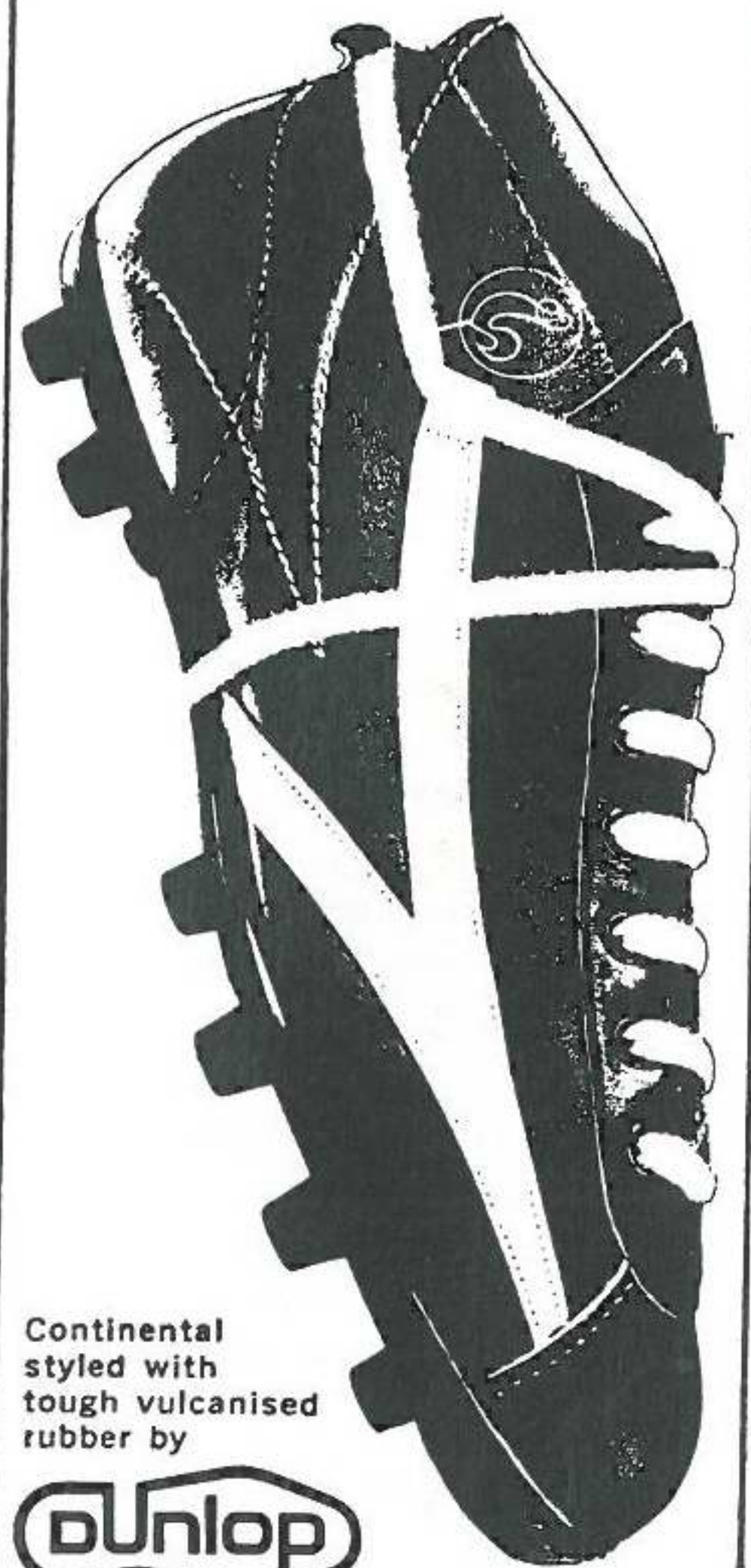


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MAYO ARE BACK

By **CHRIS MURRAY**

THIS month I intend to dwell on the Mayo team which ran Galway ever so closely in the Connacht final. The truth is Mayo should have drawn this game and might have won it. Galway's great experience and will-to-win won the day. But make no mistake about it, Mayo are back.

Early this year Fr. Leo Morahan of Louisburgh, as dedicated and loyal a Mayoman as ever stood, was elected Chairman of the Mayo County Board. His dynamic enthusiasm has been infectious and together with team managers Seamus Daly of Mulranny; Willie Casey of Ballina and Co. Sec. Johnny Mulvey — another Louisburghman—he has injected the present Mayo team with spirit and a pride in wearing the green and red. Fr. Morahan is a shy man and hands all the bouquets to the other men but I hand the major credit to the Galway-based priest.

What of the team? Goalkeeper John McGuinness of Claremorris is tried and true. The fullback line of Carey, Prendergast and Nally was magnificent in the Connacht

final. John Carey, a Tuam-based Garda, is very direct yet fair.

Ray Prendergast, brother of famed Paddy, is of the same mould, fine fetcher and long kicker. Vincent Nally from Garrymore, a traveller by profession, is as solid as a rock. Captain, John Morley, at centre-half back, had his greatest championship year to date. A former St. Jarlath's College star, Kiltimagh-born John is a Garda by profession. W. Loftus and S. O'Connor on his wings are very tenacious and sticky. Loftus is inclined to stay too close to the man to develop any great football ability while O'Connor, a lion-hearted performer, is perhaps too much inclined to wait behind his opponent.

Midfielders Joe Langan and Mick Connaughton form a grand combination. Langan had a great year, while Connaughton's solo running and long range points recalled his excellent minor displays of not so long ago.

Why, oh why, Mick, did you have to indulge in that petty yet annoying piece of gamesmanship in the

● TO PAGE 69



Willie Casey. Mayo's former brilliant back and now one of the county's team managers.

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HANDBALL

By ALLEYMAN

HAVE you ever heard of John Joe Gilmartin? If your answer is in the negative your interest in handball is not even a passing one, for no matter when or where enthusiasts gather to reminisce on handball feats of other years, mention is sure to be made of the great Gilmartin.

Now he goes about his routine duties as an employee of the Caltex Oil Company, modest and apparently oblivious of the handball fame he had gained during his athletic career. For Gilmartin still shines as a beacon amid the old-time stars of handball, the game on which he left an imprint that will not easily be erased.

They called him "the Great Gilmartin". He was an ambidextrous player, especially agile in his footwork and capable of playing handball and softball with the same skill. His golden era was between 1935 and 1950, when he won every honour in the game and accumulated in the process the impressive total of twenty-five All-Ireland titles.

This, however, is not the story of John Joe Gilmartin. Rather, is the foregoing an attempt to project to some degree the image of Talbot's Inch, the famed club, about a

mile out the road from Kilkenny City, which has played such a major part in putting the Black and Amber County away out in front in the roll call of All-Ireland handball honours. Gilmartin was its greatest player.

It was in the mid-twenties that the Club first took root, and the credit for its institution must go to Michael Davin who was at that time steward of the Desart Estate. Keenly interested in the game, and, realising the necessity of having a second alley to boost the efforts of the city club, whose members were confined more or less to the streets surrounding the Ring, under the shadow of the St. Francis Abbey Brewery, Davin persuaded Lady Desart to help any worthwhile promotion which pertained to Kilkenny.

She set the wheels of the new club in motion, became its first President and provided both the site and a loan to build an alley.

With the aid of Michael Davin, who was now chairman, Paddy Leahy of Deerpark, who claimed to have drawn the first load of sand that went into the building, the brothers Mick and Pat Bolger, James Heffernan and many other

tireless workers, the Talbot's Inch Club became a reality.

In 1927 the new club set out on the road to success that it was to tread in the years ahead and landed the team of six county championships. Thomas John Bergin, now an executive on the Kilkenny County G.A.A. Board, was a member of that team as were Paddy Hogan, Kieran White, Jim Davin and Jimmy O'Brien.

Success followed success so that with the passage of time the matter of winning county and All-Ireland titles became commonplace.

Gilmartin, of course, outshone all the others, although such as Alfie Cullen, Tom Cherry, Tom Jordon, Pat Dalton and Jasper Dunne were often in the headlines.

That tradition has been maintained up to the present day, for who could forget the great feats of the Delaney Brothers, who have been thrilling fans up and down the country for the past ten years.

Thus the success story of Talbot's Inch rolls on but as in all success stories, there lies behind it the sincere efforts of many, the dedication of a few, and in this instance, the insatiable handballing appetite of one Jimmy
(Continued Page 68).

BECKERS

Best TEA Drink

(From Page 9).

lively Charlie McCarthy saw Cork ahead by two points at half-time. I thought then the game was over.

In the second half, with a nice wind behind Cork, playing to the city end, the men in red began to get their scores regularly and it was only a matter of the final margin in their favour when Bennett slipped away from Tom Cunningham for a good goal, followed it with another and a nice point. It was Cork all the way at the final whistle though we must not forget that wonderful effort by Larry Guinan which shows how holes can be bored in a solid defence if the artisan is strong, fast and determined.

The stocky Waterford man took the sliothar away at centre-half back, ran with it on the stick, and careered rapidly straight upfield to where I hoped that Denis Riordan who had stopped him five minutes before would be waiting. This time

the red-haired rock from Ballincollog was'n't there however and on went Guinan shoulders hunched in power and speed to swing a hard shot from thirty yards that went all the way to the top of the net. It was a champion's goal, but fortunately too late to stem the tide that was flowing well in Cork's favour when the whistle blew.

Now for Kilkenny. Our great rivals have met us and gone under many a time but what Corkmen seem to remember most is that five times between 1904 and 1947 they slipped us by one point which of course is as good as a hundred goals.

They will be better than in the Leinster final and remember they beat Cork well in that League game in Croke Park earlier this year, but I doubt very much if the Noreside improvement will match that effected on the Cork side by the arrival, or return, put it as you will, of cul baire Pat Barry, corner

forward Jack Bennett, and those flying scorers Sean Barry and Charlie McCarthy.

There are two others who should improve our side too, Jerry O'Sullivan who hurt his ankle badly in the Munster football final is not back to form as I write, but he should be in there with the best of them on All-Ireland day.

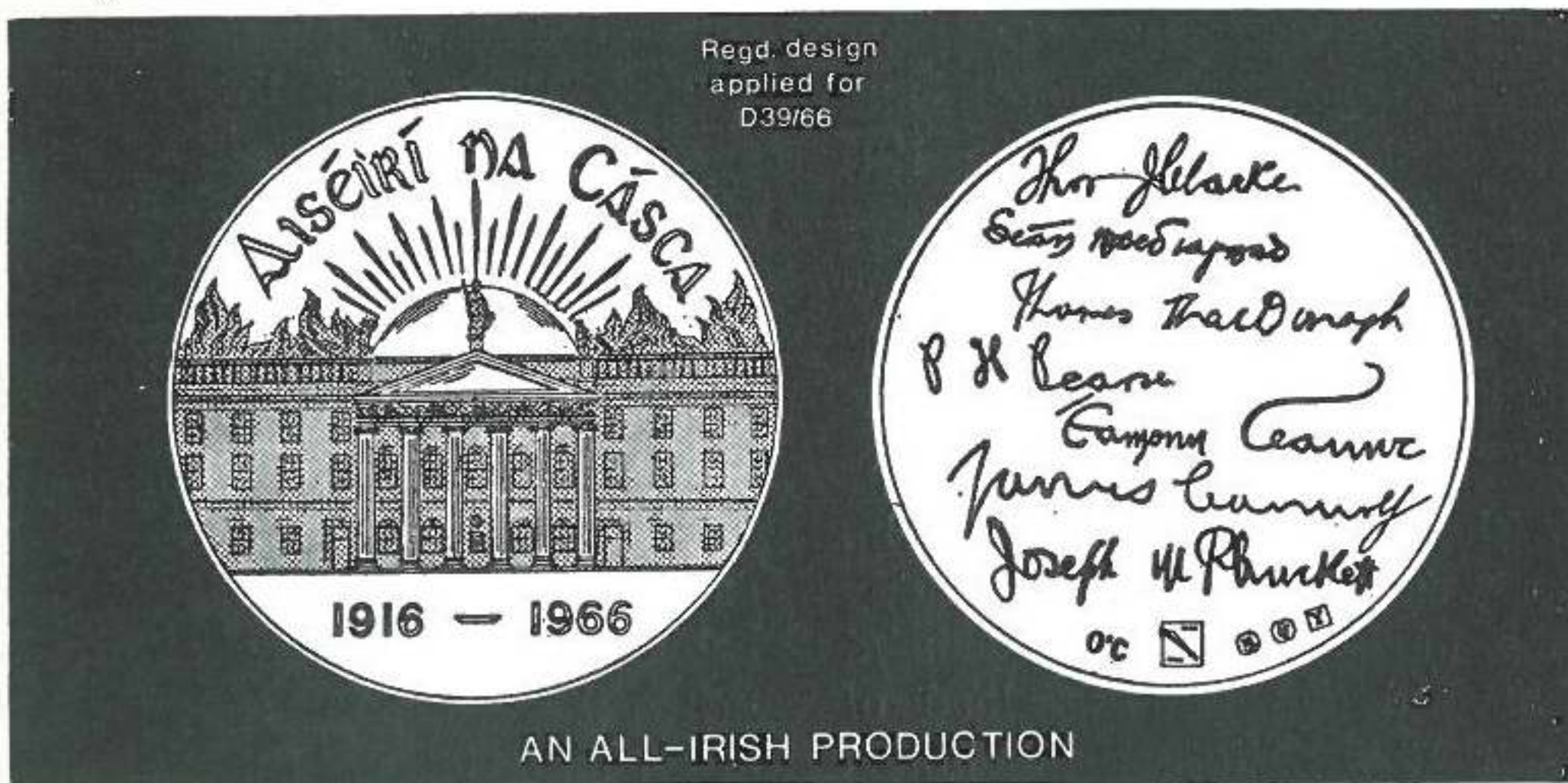
The other is the great "Ringy". Only personal indecision has kept him off I think. To me there is no doubt he would play his part well and after the recent county championship match when his team Glen Rovers were beaten by the 'Barrs the veteran showed he could use that very short supply of the ball to place others for scores as well as get a great score on his own.

However, here's to another great All-Ireland day. No doubt it will be a credit to the Association and to the two counties where hurling is bred in the bone.

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HANDBALL

(From Page 67).

O'Brien to guide the club from one rung to another on the ladder of handball fame.

Jimmy, who is an All-Ireland title holder himself, has been President of the Club for more than a decade, Chairman of the County Board for 21 years, Secretary for eleven, and former President both of the Leinster and All-Ireland Handball Councils.

Such records speak for themselves.

Talbot's Inch still maintains its high traditions. Recently the addition of a new roof has worked wonders to such a degree that one must conclude that while the club is almost fifty years old, there is little fear for its future during the next fifty.

MAYO ARE BACK

(From Page 65).

Connacht final? Last year we had Down's Larry Powell walking across the path of a free-taker. Now Mick Connaughton insists on running alongside him. There is a rule for this now in the new rule set-up. A second such offence merits the line. So referees please note.

Mayo's forward-line reminds me of olden times, when green-and-red flags were the order in Connacht. Unless I'm a bad forecaster, you will hear more of the two Achill men Pat Kilbane and M. J. Ruddy. Ruddy gave Noel Tierney a hard time of it in the championship and youthful Kilbane—a very common Achill name—has the real old Mayo style.

Veteran Mick Ruane — he's no veteran really!—was Mayo's most dangerous forward this year. He is a very dangerous man to swoop on to a dropping ball around the square as he showed against Sligo in the replay.

I'm told that former Mayo star Paddy Moclair has great hopes for youthful centre-half-forward John Gibbons of Louisburgh. A powerfully built young lad, John, like Connaughton, was a great minor star.

Finally a word for star forward Joe Corcoran of Ardnaree, whose ball control and jinking ability is the best since Frank Stockwell and Packy McGarty were in their heyday. Corcoran has the grace of a ballet-dancer but is over-inclined to play the ball.

Of the substitutes you will hear more of Davy Doris, Vincie Jordan, Patsy Griffin and, of course, P. J. Loftus. Mayo are certainly on the way back. Like Cork in hurling they have been in the wilderness for far too long. Now Cork are back again. I feel sure we will not be waiting too long for Mayo to follow them.

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JIMMY GREAVES

... corner forward

I READ the other day where a certain County Board is in serious trouble due to a shortage of referees. Sufficient simply cannot be had. Frankly it does not surprise me. In recent times we have seen three of the country's top referees—John Dowling, Jackie Martin and Brian Smyth subjected to abuse and criticism for their handling of provincial finals. Some of the criticism came at certain county board meetings. And then we wonder why there is a shortage of referees for club games.

If top-class referees like John Dowling and Co. cannot escape criticism and abuse why should less experienced men risk their necks?

A thankless task surely is being the man in the middle. It will remain so until county boards give a lead by, firstly, not haggling about the appointment of referees and, secondly, by acting in a sporting manner, come what may, when the game is over.

OIREACHTAS PAIRINGS

I hear that Waterford were rather sore at not being invited to

take part in the Oireachtas competition. Kilkenny, Cork, Wexford and Tipperary were chosen and Waterford felt that they and not Tipperary should have been included. Their reasoning was based on the fact that Kilkenny and Wexford were the Leinster finalists while they and Cork were the Munster finalists. A good point this but I still feel that Tipperary are the better "draw" and this no doubt was what the Oireachtas Committee had in mind.



THEO ENGLISH
Revenge in the Oireachtas?

We may have been fed up with Tipperary during their all-conquering reign but, now that they have been beaten, we sure would like to see them having a go at Cork and Kilkenny—just to clear-up once and for all if the Limerick defeat was simply an off-day.

OUR MAN IN ARAN

One of the biggest annual events on the Aran Islands is the clash between the footballers of Inishmore and the best that the island's thousands of visitors can produce. This year was perhaps the liveliest encounter to date.

The visitors' team marched the two miles to the field, followed by their supporters, to find almost the entire population of the island waiting on them. Still there was no sign of the home team. Then they arrived—by coach.

The visitors built up an early lead but the islanders hit back. It was neck and neck until the final quarter when the home-side pulled away to win 2-6 to 1-3.

They did this despite a gentleman named Jimmy Greaves being at corner forward for the visitors.

THURLES

Thurles Sportsfield, much missed for this year's Munster hurling championship, is due to open towards the end of September. However, the huge £90,000 development has not yet been completed and for the time being

● TO PAGE 72



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Congratulations to Bill Casey on his recent marriage. Even though his native county is going through a lean time just now, Bill still continues to turn in the usual consistently high-class performance that has made him an automatic choice for his native Dublin for many years now. For the record, Bill has also represented Ireland in International Basketball.

LOOKING AROUND

● FROM PAGE 71

the field will be able to accommodate about 30,000 spectators.

LOCKED OUT

A number of Donegal players were almost locked out at Casement Park, Belfast, on the occasion of the Ulster final. For quite a while they thought that they would not be able to get in. No doubt the fault lay in the team not arriving together.

Still, I doubt if the next Ulster final involving Donegal will be played in Belfast. For the average Donegal fan it means a 300 mile journey—there and back. This is simply too much.

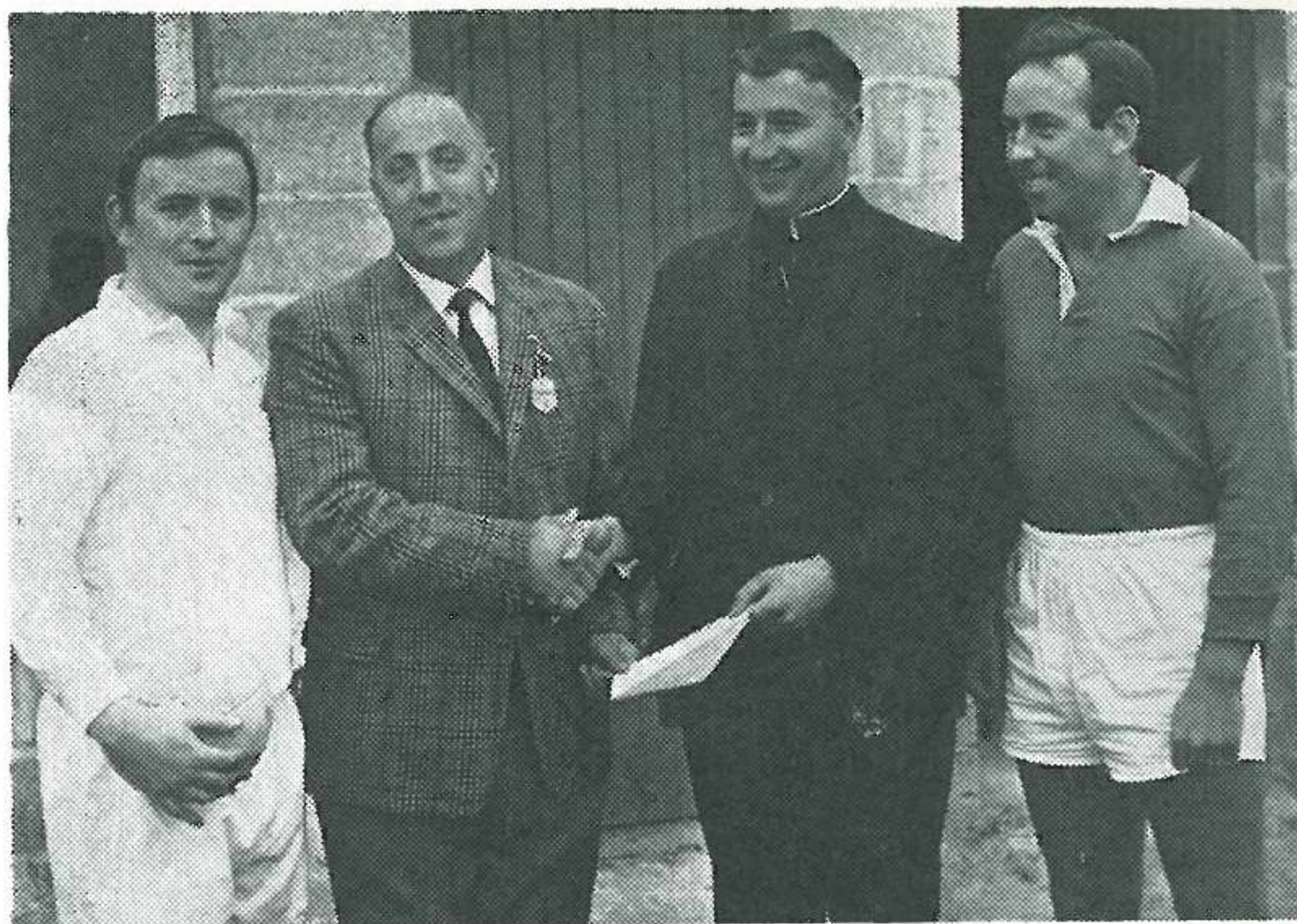
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One of the most popular events at Annagassan Carnival Week was the charity Gaelic football match in which Dickie Rock, Brendan Bowyer, Tom Dunphy and other show business personalities of Jimmy Magee's Radio/T.V. All-Stars took on the 1957 Louth All-Ireland team, captained by Dermot O'Brien of the Clubmen, who led Louth to victory in the 1957 All-Ireland football final. Special trophies for the game were presented by Clover Meats Ltd., and our picture shows (left to right): Jimmy Magee, Cecil O'Reilly, sales representative, Clover Meats Ltd., who presented the sponsorship cheque; Fr. Patrick Kennedy of Castlebellingham, organiser of the game, and Dermot O'Brien.



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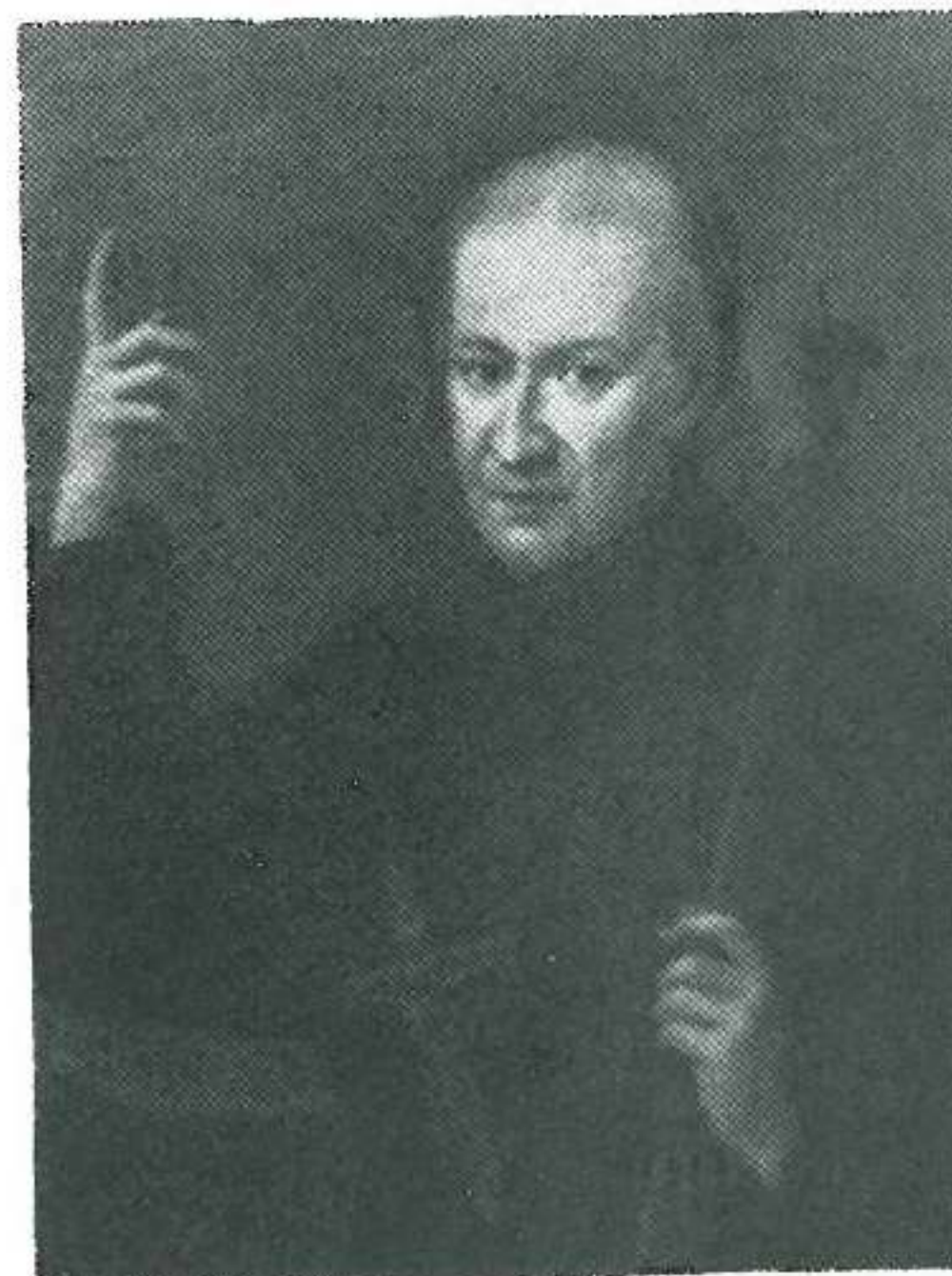
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BAD YEAR FOR ULSTER FOOTBALL

FROM the point of senior competition, it was anything but a good year in Ulster. All of the games which we expected to produce exciting football fell apart—none more so than the Ulster final.

However, in the lower grades there was excellent competition—in minor and under-21 football especially.

Then too there were plenty of fine hurling games with the results of the Hurling Scheme most evident. In this regard highest marks to the Tyrone minor hurlers who defeated Donegal and Armagh before losing to Antrim in a very entertaining provincial final.

Cover Photo

FEATURED on our front cover this month are the Kilkenny and Cork Hurling Teams as follows:

Kilkenny (standing, from left): Tom Walsh, Eddie Keher, Seamus Cleere, John Teehan, Pa Dillon, Ted Carroll, Pat Henderson, Jim Lynch. Front row (L to R.): Jim Treacy, Sean Buckley, Martin Coogan, Paddy Moran, Joe Dunphy, Ollie Walsh and Pat Carroll.

Cork (standing, from left): Denis Murphy, Jerry O'Sullivan, Peter Doolan, Tom O'Donoghue, Paddy Fitzgerald, Tony Connolly, Justin McCarthy, Jim Barry (team trainer). Front row (L to R.): Paddy Barry, Sean Barry, Colm Sheehan, Denis O'Riordan, Gerald McCarthy, Charlie McCarthy, Donald Sheehan and John O'Halloran.

Certainly tremendous strides have been made in getting hurling going among the youth of Tyrone.

Down too turned up fine teams in junior, intermediate and under-21. They had to play second fiddle to Antrim—but only just. Down are very much on the hurling upgrade and this will be more obvious in a year or two.

And then there were the Armagh hurlers who won out their section of Division III of the National League. As I write they have still to play Mayo in the final and I expect them to win and thereby become the first winners of this new grade.

All in all it can be said that hurling edged football as far as keen and entertaining games were concerned during the 1966 Ulster championships.

HERE AND THERE

Down Inishowen way a new field has been acquired and former Donegal County Chairman, Clement Sweeney, is busy getting the native games well on their feet in the peninsula.

Moville—for much too long dominated by soccer—is once again turning to Gaelic games. When I visited there recently there were local leagues in full swing.

I fancy Michael Treacy to shortly prove himself every bit as good as his famous brother, P. T., whose displays with Fermanagh and Ulster have in recent years established him as one of the most polished players in the business.

Clerical student, Mick Martin, who played for Tyrone in the



JOE LENNON of Down . . . one of the few to come out of this year's Ulster Football Final with reputation untarnished.

championship, is turning in great performances with his local club Carrickmore. By the way did you know that Down's Jackie Fitzsimmons is also a clerical student.

Camogie is making great strides in Monaghan—with Monaghan town most to the forefront.

I would remind all units of the Association in Ulster of the statement made by the President, Alf Murray, recently when speaking at Croke Park on the position of the national language. Every club and county board has a solemn duty to make a beginning in this regard. There is no club which cannot conduct some of its affairs through Irish. The same applies to Co. Boards.

THE ONE-EYED MONSTER

(From Page 7).

No organisation with vital demands such as the G.A.A. has, can afford to retain this philanthropic attitude.

We believe that it is not practical to allow the televising of any games other than the All-Ireland finals. Of this we are very much convinced—and time will prove us right.

But how much money will be lost by then—how many new grounds which might have been developed and modernised will still remain undeveloped because of the financial leakage brought about by live television.

FRIEND CICERO

Although by no means a regular contributor since making his debut in our issue of May, 1965, friend CICERO has brought about a very discernable reaction.

We have had letters praising him—at least as many condemning him and a few even asking that we get rid of him altogether.

The latest to arrive on this subject was by far the most hard-hitting. It is from a Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim, reader, who signs himself "GLAS".

The letter is too long to reproduce but its author accuses CICERO of everything from shoneenism to ridiculing the G.A.A. He concludes that he will no longer purchase GAELIC SPORT while Cicero remains a contributor.

It is, of course, obvious that "GLAS" has failed to understand the various articles which CICERO has written. He is not alone in this as other letters have shown. For example an article in our June, 1965 edition entitled WHEN ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINALS WILL BE CURTAIN-RAISERS TO RUGBY INTERNATIONALS AT CROKE PARK . . . was interpreted as a skit on the G.A.A. and its national attitude—when in fact it was the very opposite—a very

subtle and cutting satire of the anti-Ban campaign and those behind it.

In this month's issue CICERO has an article on the World Cup and manages to bring in rugby and a variety of other sports. Is this another act of shoneenism? The satire in this particular article may not be quite as involved as in previous ones. Anyway we leave it to readers themselves to decide.

Despite the fact that he may not be everybody's kettle of fish, we have no intention of dropping CICERO—such able writers are much too hard to get.

However, we would ask those who accuse him of being anti-national, or of casting aspersion on the G.A.A., to read him more carefully. Should they do so they will see that he is, in fact, propagating the reverse of what they accuse him of.

Crossword Solution

● From Page 45.

1	E		2	P		3	B		4	P	5	R	6	O	7	R	
8	G	A	L	L	A	G	H	E	R					9	E	10	B
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				31	V	E	N	I	A	L					32	E	K

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