

69

GAA

# Gaelic Sport

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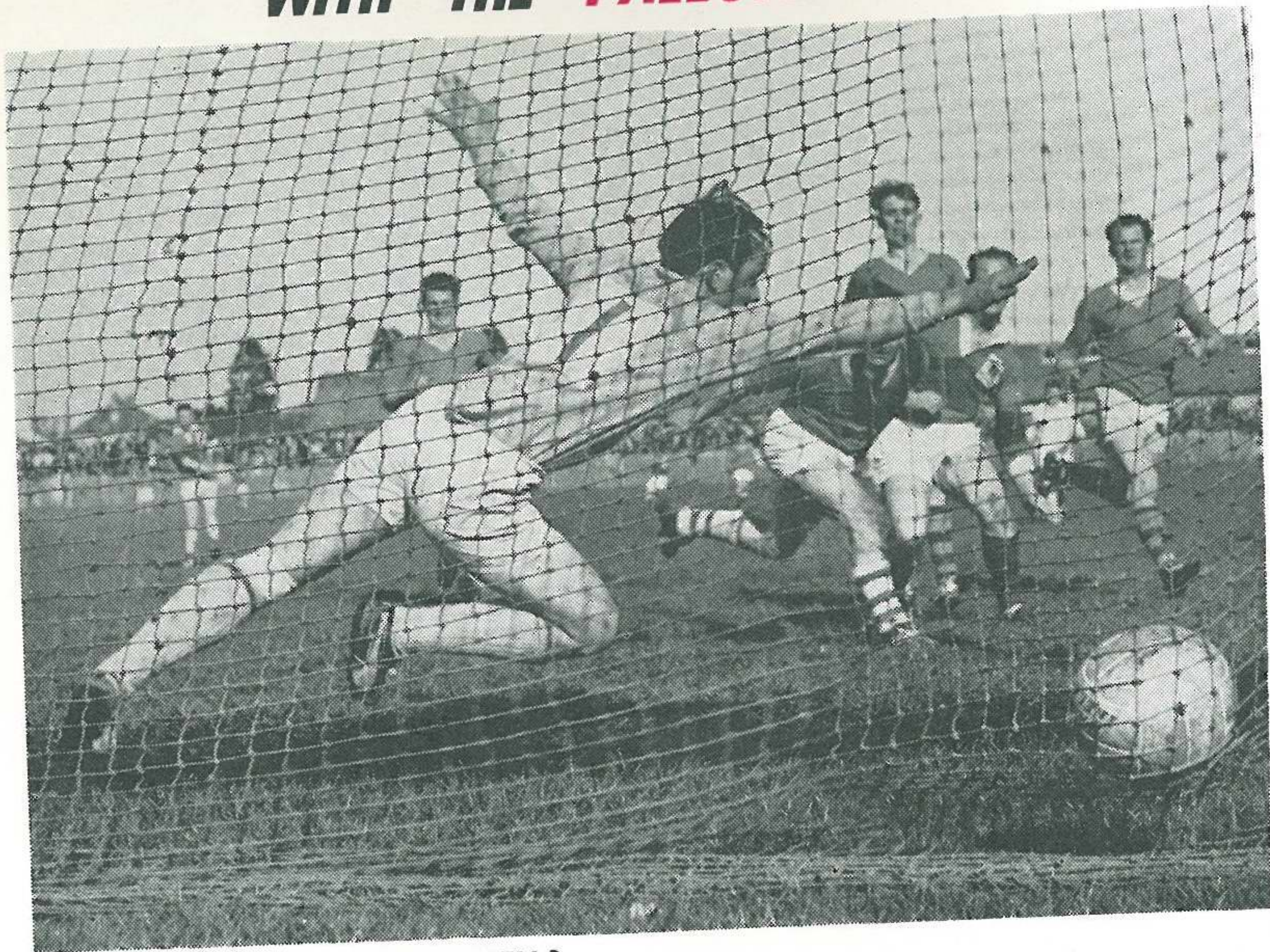
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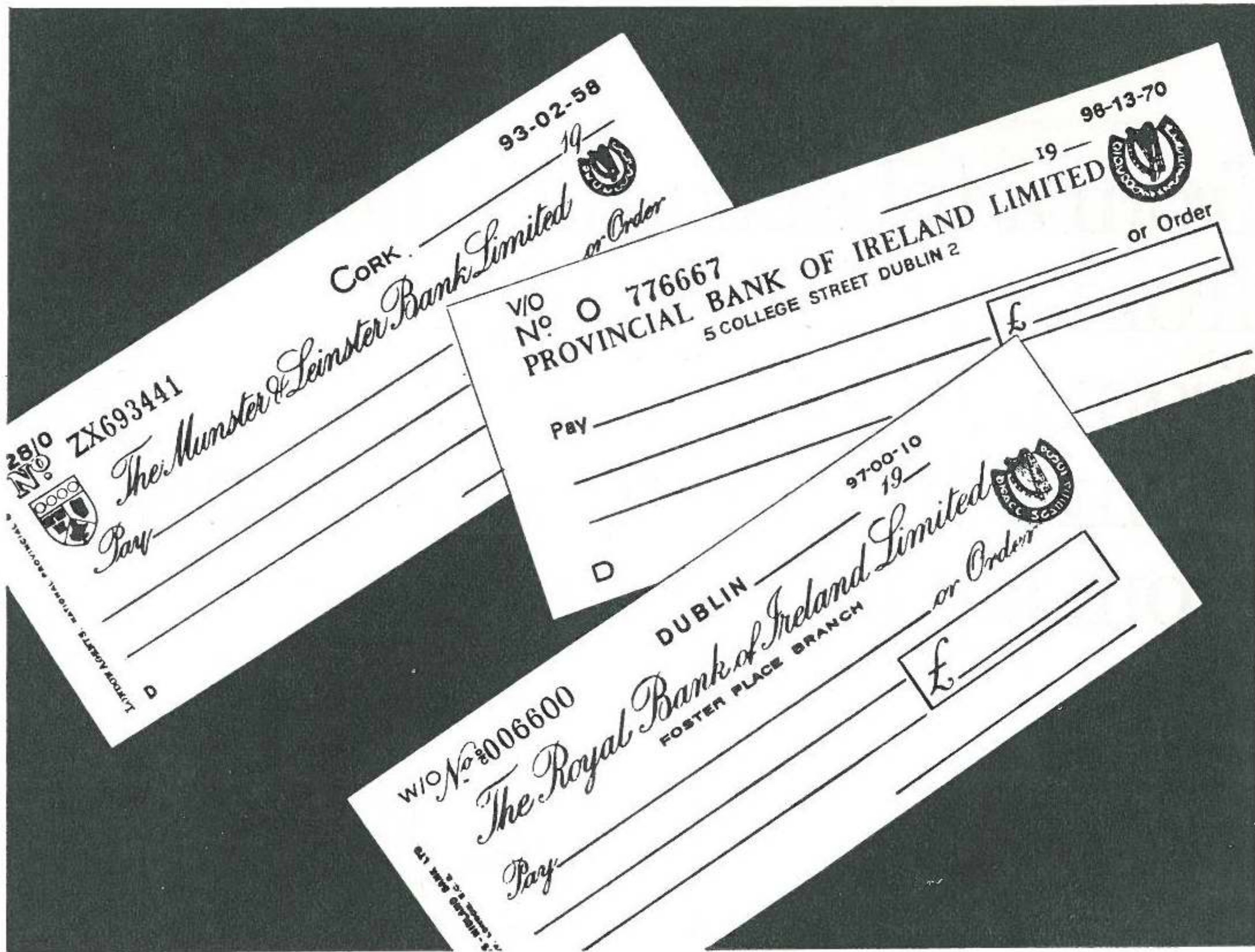
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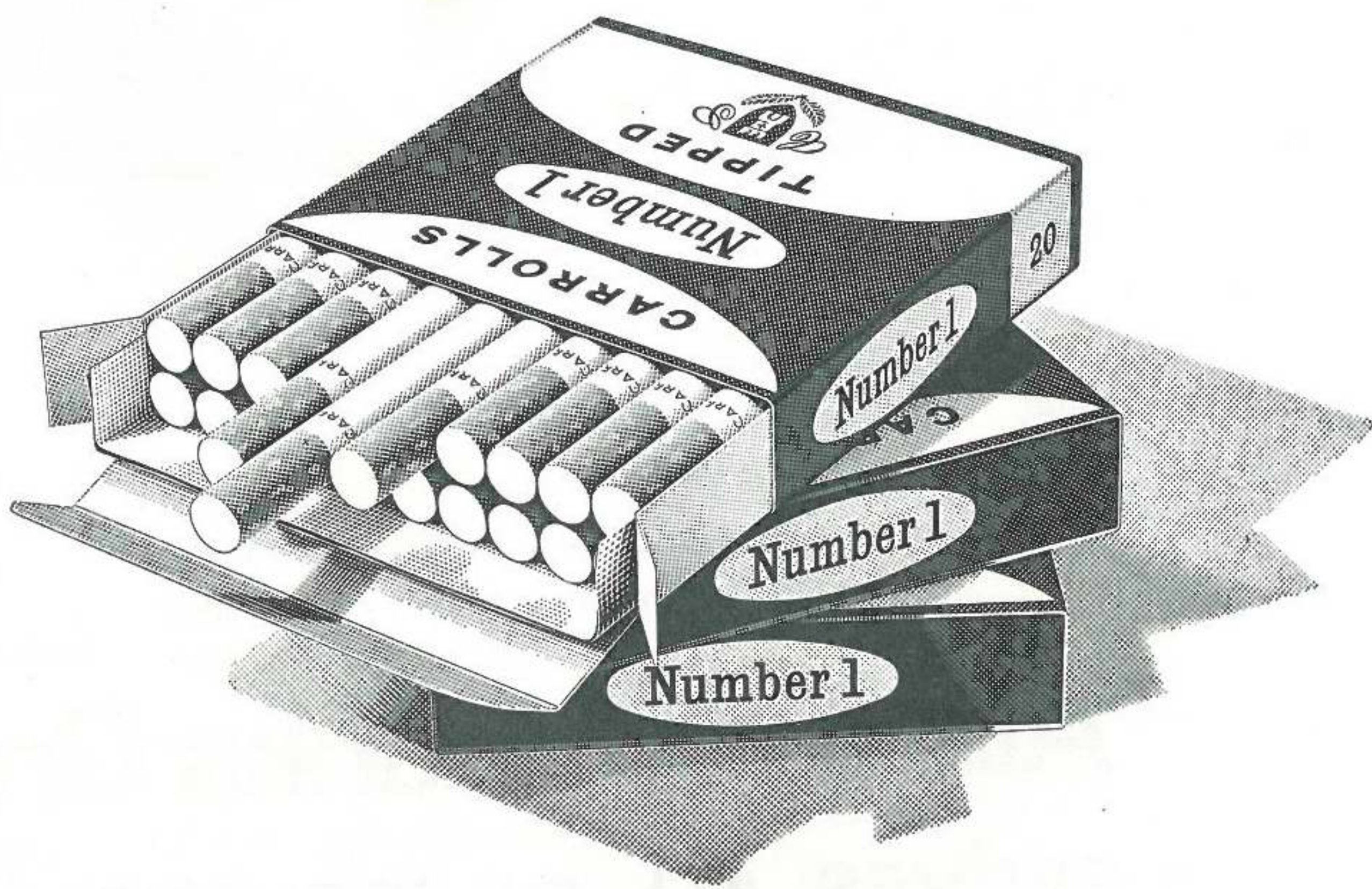
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# Gaelic Sport

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## COVER PHOTO

**F**EATURED on our front cover this month are the Meath and Cork teams as follows :—

**MEATH** (standing from left) : Oliver Shanley, Tony Brennan, Mick White, Noel Curran, Peter Moore, Jack Quinn, Matt Kerrigan. Front row (from left) : Sean McCormack, Bertie Cunningham, Mick Mellett, Peter Darby, Pat Collier, Mick O'Brien, Pat Reynolds, Terry Kearns.

**CORK** (standing from left) : Bernie O'Neill, Johnny O'Mahoney, Con Sullivan, Jerry Lucey, Mick Burke, Flor Hayes, Kevin Dillon, Frank Cogan. Front row (from left) : Eamonn Ryan, Mick O'Loughlin, Brian Murphy, Billie Morgan, Denis Coughlan, Johnny Carroll, Eric Philpott.

## Growing Tradition

**A** TRADITION is growing—in fact it appears established—that no county nowadays wins an All-Ireland senior football title without having first been tempered in the flames of a Croke Park defeat. This holds true for the past decade.

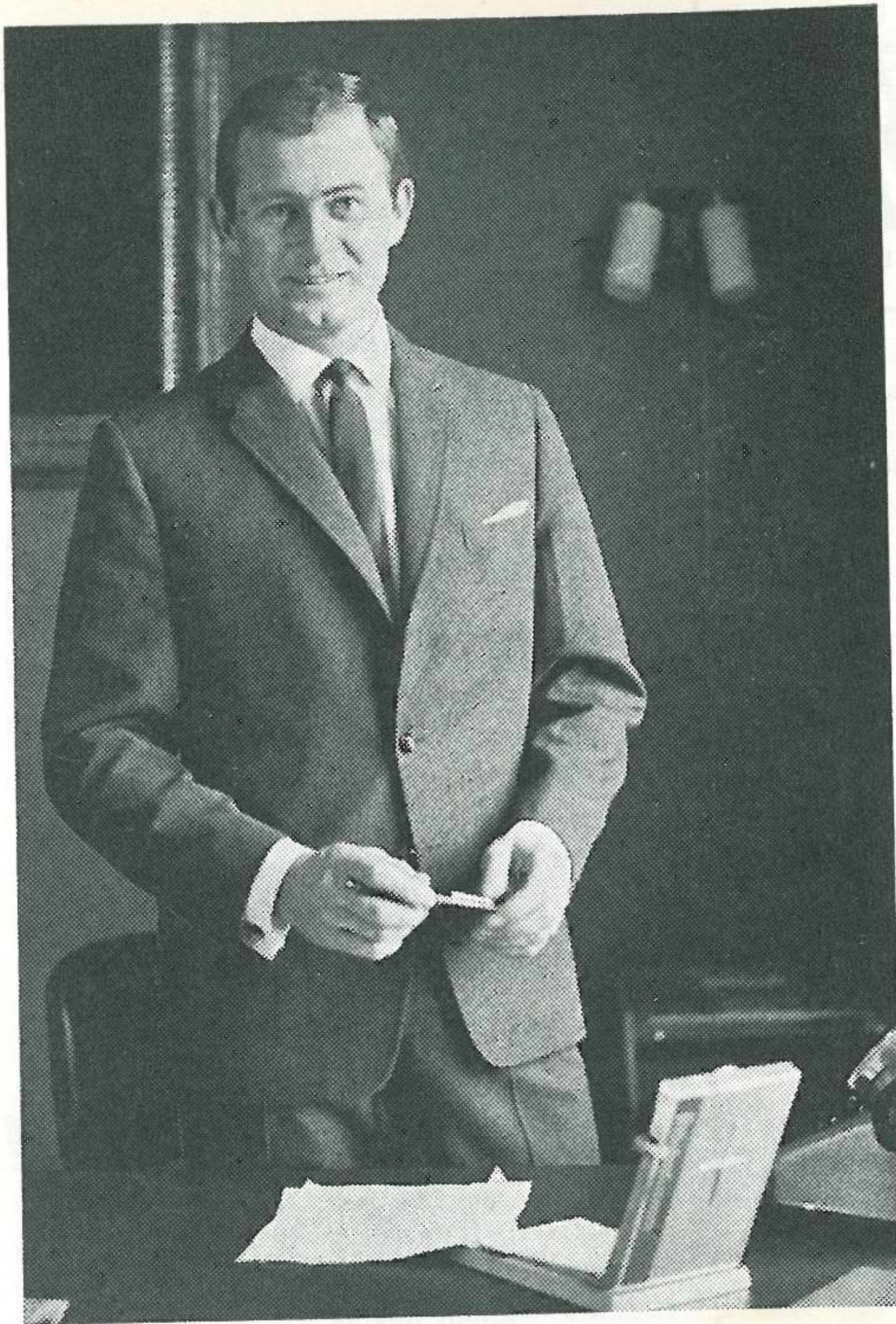
Down came first time and lost to Galway in the 1959 semi-final; Kerry and Dublin suffered their Croke Park defeats prior to winning out in 1962 and '63 respectively, while, of course, Galway suffered and learned in the 1963 final against Dublin before coming back in triumph.

One of the features of the September 24 pairing is that both Meath and Cork have already been tempered in this regard. Both have known the frustration of a Croke Park defeat and have learned from it. . . . It will be interesting to see who has learned most.

Certainly both are worthy finalists. They have earned their right the hard way. No mushroom growth here, but the result of sweat and earnest effort.

Whichever side wins will wear the title well.





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PAT COLLIER  
(Meath)



BILLY MORGAN  
(Cork)



PAT REYNOLDS  
(Meath)

**MEATH**

or

**CORK?**

# : IT'S ANYONE'S GAME

By **TERENCE ROYNANE**

**T**HE clash of Cork and Meath in this All-Ireland final gives us a game that very few football followers can have anticipated when the championship began last May. But that is what gives variety to football, and this first ever clash between the men of Royal Meath and the men of the Rebel County should provide a game that will rank with the memorable finals.

Certainly it is no easy game to forecast, for here are two strong and willing sides, who depend for their success more on direct football than on the frills of the game. Their progress to this final has been solid rather than spectacular but has been none the less impressive for all that.

Cork, who moved so well against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final last season, had been far from impressive through the League campaign, but they have been a very different force in the championship.

True they had a rather scrambling win over Kerry in the Munster final, but a Munster final victory over Kerry at any time is

no mean achievement, and they were a very different side against Ulster champions Cavan in the All-Ireland semi-final.

Cavan supporters, may well object that Cork were greatly aided by a rather lucky first goal and a late penalty, but these Corkmen were surely due a touch of luck at Croke Park for luck was very much against them in that 1966 semi-final against Galway. And so they come to this All-Ireland final, conscious of the fact that for them it may well be third time lucky. On their last two All-Ireland senior football appearances, against Galway in 1956 and against Louth in 1957, the Corkmen have failed, gallantly, but they are in no mood to be ranked as gallant losers this time.

Young, strong and determined, they will be there or thereabouts when the final whistle blows this year, if only to provide compensation for the unexpected defeat of their 1966 champions of the hurling field in the first round of this year's caman series.

They have a fine, safe and fearless goalkeeper in Billy Morgan, who, against Cavan, saved them

more than once. Jerry Lucey is a fine full-back, who, in the semi-final, stuck gamely to his thankless task of chasing the elusive Charlie Gallagher, and he has two sound and unyielding flankers in Murphy and O'Mahony. Indeed, I thought the latter probably the most effective Corkman afield in their last game.

The half-back line of Cogan, Coughlan and Dillon was a tower of strength against Cavan and a similar performance in the final will ensure that the Meath half-forwards will have to fight hard for any share of the ball they get.

But it is to centre-field, and especially to Mick Burke that Cork will look for command in this final. In all their previous games Burke has been immense, and a similar performance now by this free-striding star would ensure the advantage at mid-field that would lay the foundations of victory. And in O'Loughlin, he has a more than useful partner.

If Burke proves the dominant figure at mid-field, the Cork forwards have the potential to bring

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(From page 5)

the Sam Maguire Cup back to the Leaside for the first time since 1945.

On the left wing O'Neill is fast and tricky, Eric Philpott a perpetual trier on the right and in the centre is Eamonn Ryan, who must surely now be ranked as one of the best forwards in Ireland. In the full forward line in the semi-final we had a very busy trio indeed in Flor Hayes, the clever and elusive Johnny Carroll, and the towering and versatile Con O'Sullivan.

So Cork come to Croke Park well equipped in all sectors. They will be fully fit, fiercely determined, and are at the moment lacking in only one asset that rivals Meath possess in abundance—Croke Park experience.

And that Croke Park experience is something rivals Meath possess in abundance. Not alone have they played in three All-Ireland semi-finals there in the last four seasons, but they have also played more championship games in those four seasons than any other team in Ireland.

In addition, of course, Meath reached last year's All-Ireland final and while they failed in that game, rather sadly from their supporters' viewpoint, the fact remains that these Meath men have faced the excitements of an All-Ireland final before, and will not be at all affected by Croke Park nerves.

And, though they may be none too well fancied outside Leinster, nobody can deny them the credit of being possibly the soundest team in the whole country, and the very hardest to beat.

McCormack is a fine goalkeeper in the Morgan mould, while Jack Quinn is at the moment the leading full-back in Ireland. The left wing of the defence, Peter Darby and Pat Reynolds, not at its best in some earlier games, was rock-solid against Mayo. On the right, Mick White has been improving with every outing, while



**The Sam Maguire Cup**

in front of him, the "Red" Collier from Stamullen restored to full fitness, will be a real thorn in the side of the Cork attack. And then, at centre half-back, Meath have the most durable footballer of them all, the ever-reliable Bertie Cunningham.

At mid-field, the Meath pairing of Peter Moore and Terry Kearns are sometimes inclined to play in spasms, but, as was proved in the semi-final, Matt Kerrigan from centre-forward can always switch places to advantage with Moore. The forwards have been the poor relations of the Meath team in the early stages of this championship, but they more than redeemed themselves with their great scoring burst against Mayo in the second half. Indeed any attack which can raise 17 flags in an hour is not to be despised.

So in the solid Meathmen, Cork

meet rivals worthy of their steel. It is a hard game to forecast, but the way I see it is this. If Cork win, they must gain control in the early stages. If Meath are still with them at the end of the third quarter, I fancy the chances of the Leinstermen.

Then, of course, there are a few individual duels that could have a big bearing on the result. The first will be at mid-field, where Meath have to find a man to beat Mick Burke. I wonder if they can?

The second crucial clash is between Jack Quinn and the tall and powerful Con O'Sullivan. If Con can succeed in giving Jack the run around (which no one else has thus far succeeded in doing this year) and both score himself, and lay on some scores for the other forwards, the Cup will be well on its way to Cork.





PETER DARBY  
(Meath)

# MEATH FLAME LEAPS AGAIN

By JAY DRENNAN

THERE was always the chance that Meath might lose hope after last year's failure. This team had been chiselling away trying to sculpt a niche for itself in the Pavilion of the Giants for some four or five years. Three or four times they have geared themselves up to achieving significant victories at all costs—the All-Ireland semi-final of 1964; the League semi-final of the following year; the All-Ireland final of last year — and each time had their ambitions damped down again.

However, they were young and resilient enough, and the damped down flame sprang once again to life this year; now that they have been able to keep its fires kindled hot through the early dangerous rounds and through the semi-final, and now that the final consummation is within sight they will be formidable, indeed. More formidable probably, than a team reaching out for fulfilment on its first rush to glory, for they have known disappointment too often, and have put forth so much of their hearts' blood and bodies' sweat in pursuit of their target that they will not easily accept defeat again in what might be their last chance.

Of course, Meath is a county which has not been without experience of having the cup dashed from their lips; it was a history of near misses which preceded their first All-Ireland triumph, to such an extent that supporters were almost afraid to contemplate the possibility of triumph in 1949,

lest, in some strange telepathic way, they should upset the apple-cart once more. I am sure there is just a little of that same fear of allowing themselves too high an expectation this time again, in case they lay themselves vulnerable once more to the hurt of disappointment. And it is no bad attitude, if it does not breed timidity; it will not, I feel sure, among the players who are the ones who have had to sweat for this latest chance.

There is a little of the same iron in the soul of the Corkmen, for they, too, would be bringing a long era of disappointment to a close with a victory. But, their's is not so personal a matter, for the players who suffered worst in defeats of the red jersey have passed from the scene; these are new men, many only in their second year of real achievement in their county's senior colours, and apart from some feelings of suppression by neighbouring Kerry, their only big disappointment was in last year's semi-final. But, Cork people are notoriously proud; they have in them more native fire and hatred of failure than Meath people; for that reason, perhaps the present team can espouse the near misses of the men of the 'fifties, or even build an edifice of righteousness around last year's defeat big enough to equal the desire of the Meathmen.

I discuss these things at length because they seem to me to have a very important bearing on a

game which, on form, cannot be other than close, tight, and stoutly-contested. It often occurs, in such circumstances, that it is the team which really wants most to win that will win. Wanting is a relative thing; the burning desire to reach the pinnacle of football fame is not always so potent as necessity to win of a team which had worked so hard for a long time for its denied fruit. I think if the needs of the two fifteens to win this match, could be isolated, brought to a common denominator, and weighed in the balance, the winner would weigh the heavier, however about differences in football skill.

Meath will have the psychological boost, of course, that Galway are no longer there to obstruct their way; this may give them a mental release to excel themselves. In football ability, they are among the best in the land, and on their day, which sometimes only comes now and again, they are quite imperial. For this game there are strong points and crisis points in their team: the strong points should be the half-back line once again, especially as it will be performing against a problematical Cork half-forward line; perhaps the centre-forward position where Denis Coughlan is not quite in full command yet; right-wing forward, where Tony Brennan has found a streak of consistent form; left-corner where Shanley may be able to get some change from Brian Murphy; full-





BERTIE CUNNINGHAM  
(Meath)

forward, where Noel Curran will have an interesting struggle with Jerry Lucey; left-full back with the sound Peter Darby; and in goal, where McCormack makes few mistakes.

But, there are crisis points, too. Full-back where Jack Quinn can be majestic, but shows himself more and more an "edge of the square" man; Con O'Sullivan will rove about. But even inside Con is a most formidable man in the air. Centre-field is a major crisis area for Meath—but also for Cork—and the advantage here will be of huge significance. If I were a Meathman I would be happy with an even break. Left-wing forward and right-corner, I think, will be crisis points, too, for Cogan and O'Mahoney are by far the best Cork backs and the most likely to turn defence into attack, and the safest at covering off. Unless they are fully occupied in a negatively defensive role, these positions will also emerge as crisis points for Meath.

It is, indeed, an intriguing game, and a first final as far as these teams in opposition are concerned. Meath's chances hinge somewhat on their form, and on its consistency through the hour; Cork are more evenly tempered, less-likely to slack for periods, and less likely to fall flat entirely. At their best, Meath should win; less than that will mean a Cork victory. Either way, I think a point or two will be the size of the margin.

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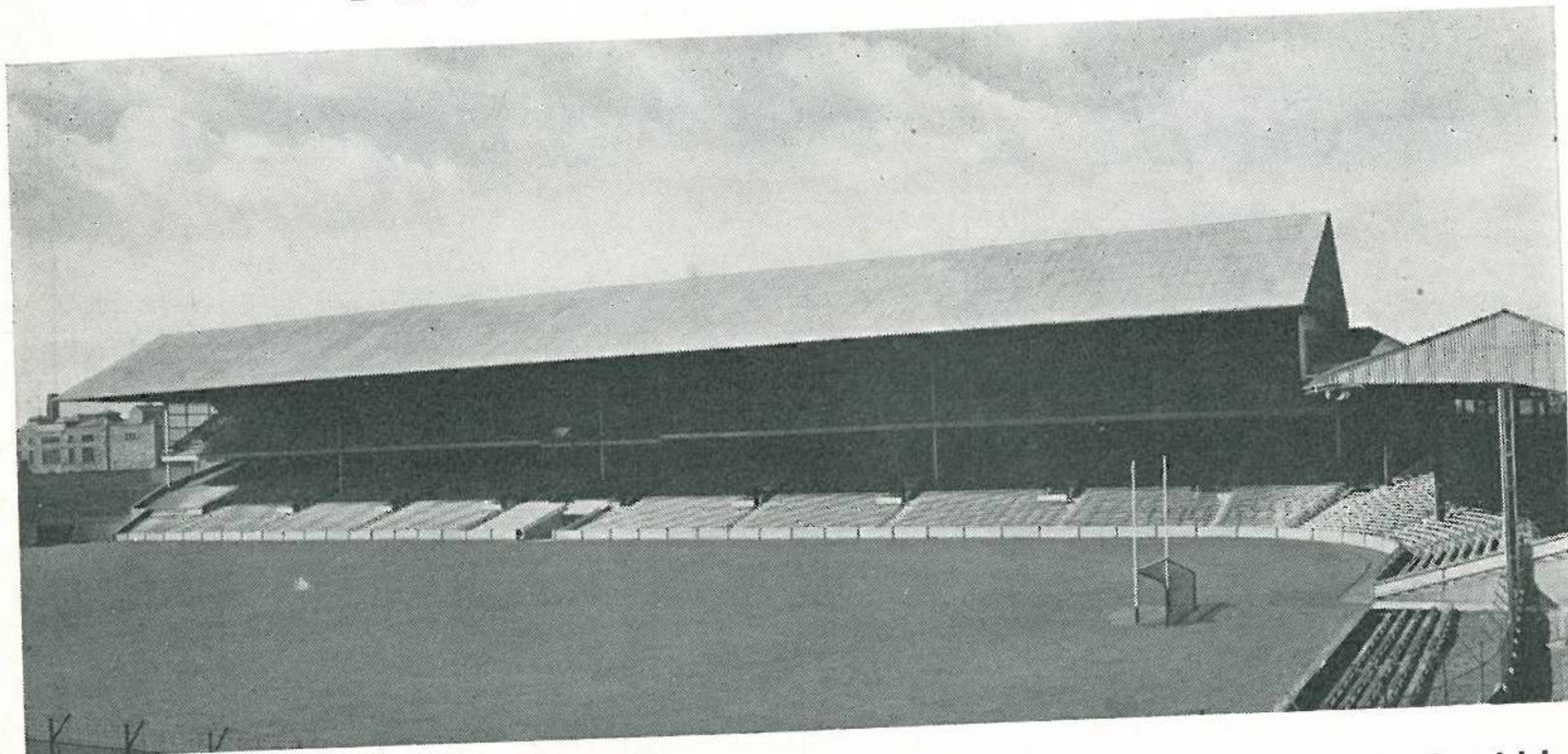


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# Don't underestimate Cork

Says **TOM KEATING**

OF the two semi-finals, most people who watched the games on television were willing to rapturise about the Meath-Mayo game and condemn the Cork-Cavan match for its closeness and the exaggerated care not to lose which was displayed by both sides. The views of those who were at the games, I found, were certainly not similar to those of the viewers at home. Most of those present thought the Cork-Cavan game a tight, exciting game which, though full of niggling little frees, was also full of that kind of tension which communicates itself to the watching crowd.

The second semi-final between Meath and Mayo was full of delicious free football, where men seemed to have the freedom of the park to fashion cunning and fetching delicacies of the game. But despite the plethora of pretties the game was not a match; too few players cared to match themselves directly against their op-

ponent, preferring to rove wide in the open spaces while the opponent went to find some open spaces of his own. While it often happened that players who were marking each other both had spectacularly appealing displays yet neither performed his function for his team.

I make comment on the type of play in the semi-finals, and I have exaggerated my comments somewhat for the sake of making the point that Cork and Meath, the two winners, should they each play the same style as before, would make for an intriguing clash of styles in the final—Cork playing it close to their chests, tight and dour, insisting on making sure not to be beaten before they begin to fashion the edifice of victory; Meath, throwing everything into a whirlwind attack, seeking openings tirelessly, on the principle that the team which scores more than the opposition always

wins, no matter how much the opposition scores.

I do not think, however, that Meath will play in that manner; at least, not in so pronounced a manner. It was surely Mayo who forced such an excess of open play on the game, and by nature, Meath are closer to the traditional type of football which sets much store by man-to-man deciding his own destiny.

It promises to be an intriguing game: a first, in many ways. There is hardly worthwhile form behind the teams: they have met twice in memory: in a League final in the 'fifties when Cork with Sean Moore outstanding scrambled a close victory; and again last October, more significantly, but not to any great extent, Cork again were triumphant.

You can easily underestimate this Cork team; many have done. I like several things about them, and not all these are qualities

*(Continued overleaf)*



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(From page 11)

attached to special skills of the game. For instance, I like the sort of "death-or-glory-for-the-Rebels" attitude which brought them through their last two games—Kerry and Cavan. It took courage and determination to survive in spite of what might be thrown against them to pull through against Kerry, and again in the All-Ireland semi-final. Conditions of the grounds have not worried them, and so far they have had just about every possible kind of weather and pitch. Basically, I admire the spirit of dedication which possesses this team to win through at last a long overdue All-Ireland title for their county.

A tradition of useless shooting has built-up about Cork teams; and to be fair, they were scandalous at times. But this is the kind of thing which leads on by degrees from a little to a lot. A few misses make a forward lose confidence, and with confidence gone form will not be recaptured without a grim struggle. I can remember some Cork forwards so terribly out of touch with scoring form that they seemed petrified with horror when the ball reached them in a position where shooting could not be avoided. There is no such tradition of poor forward play behind this team; they have been often very good, always fairly effective, and even at their worst they have not had to carry the can often for defeat.

The old talk began after the Kerry game, and was renewed after Cavan—that Cork could not shoot for peanuts. It will not worry this hard-headed bunch of players, who have apparently put aside all childish things to concentrate their minds fully on the big task.

What virtues have they as players—individually and in combination? A resilient half-back line that will be hard to over-run; a full-back line which is sound on

(To page 64)



# Moondharrig's Diary

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ONE of the reasons that Gaelic football has steadily, down the years, become an ever more popular spectacle than hurling is surely this, that the football fields are always producing new teams, new stars, and new pairings in All-Ireland semi-finals and finals.

Whereas in the recent hurling final we had Tipperary and Kilkenny in opposition once again—and there can hardly be an avid hurling fan in the whole country who did not know the players, their records and the history of both counties by heart before ever the opposing teams stepped onto the field on the first Sunday of September.

Except to ardent supporters of either county, (whose sole concern, let's face it, is the matter of the victory or defeat of their favourites) the recent Kilkenny-Tipperary final had very little new to offer neutral followers who after all, between League, championships and Oireachtas must have played each other a dozen times at Croke Park in the last half-dozen years.

On the other hand football continues to present its followers with an infinite variety of pairings, and once again we have a completely new set of opponents in this year's final, for Meath and Cork have never met before in a senior football final.

Not that either of them are newcomers to the All-Ireland senior football scene. Indeed, in both counties football 'under native rules' was popular long before the Gaelic Athletic Association was ever thought of.

Then, when the G.A.A. did come into existence, both counties were quickly to the fore. Oddly enough, both took part in the very first

## NEW PAIRING

games ever played in the championships on the same day and at the same time, but nearly one hundred and fifty miles apart.

At Elm Park (now a golf club, under the shadow of the television tower beyond the new Montrose Studios), Dowdstown representing Meath, met the Limerick Commercial. They went down, but only after a gallant fight, for that defeat was no disgrace, as the powerful Limerick men subsequently went on to take the first All-Ireland football title.

Meanwhile, at the very same time, away below at Dungarvan at the field that was subsequently to be famed as Dan Fraher's Shandon Park, Cork champions, The Lees, were meeting Kilmacow from Kilkenny. This encounter drew a huge hosting but like Meath, the Corkmen failed to cross the first hurdle.

But the Cork footballers had not long to wait in the shadows. Came 1890 and the men of Middleton brought the first title to the Leaside by defeating the famed Blues and Whites of Wexford decisively at old Clonturk Park in Drumcondra.

A year later Clondrohid were desperately unlucky to lose to the Dublin Young Irelands at the same venue, while, in 1893, Dromtariffe went down to Wexford in the only All-Ireland football final

ever played in the Phoenix Park.

Then in 1894 came one of the most remarkable finals of all. Cork and Dublin played a draw at Clonturk Park. In the replay at Thurles the Corkmen were leading by two points with a couple of minutes to go when there was a dispute and the game was unfinished. Central Council ordered another replay, with Cork to retain their twopoint lead! Cork did not agree and withdrew from the Association for 12 months—and also presented a set of All-Ireland medals to their footballers—though Dublin are listed as official champions.

Then in 1895 Meath popped up in a final for the first time, having beaten Dublin for the Leinster title after three epic games. The Meathmen lost by a point to Tipperary's Arravale Rovers, but the Dublin referee announced next day that he had made a mistake and the result should have been a draw!

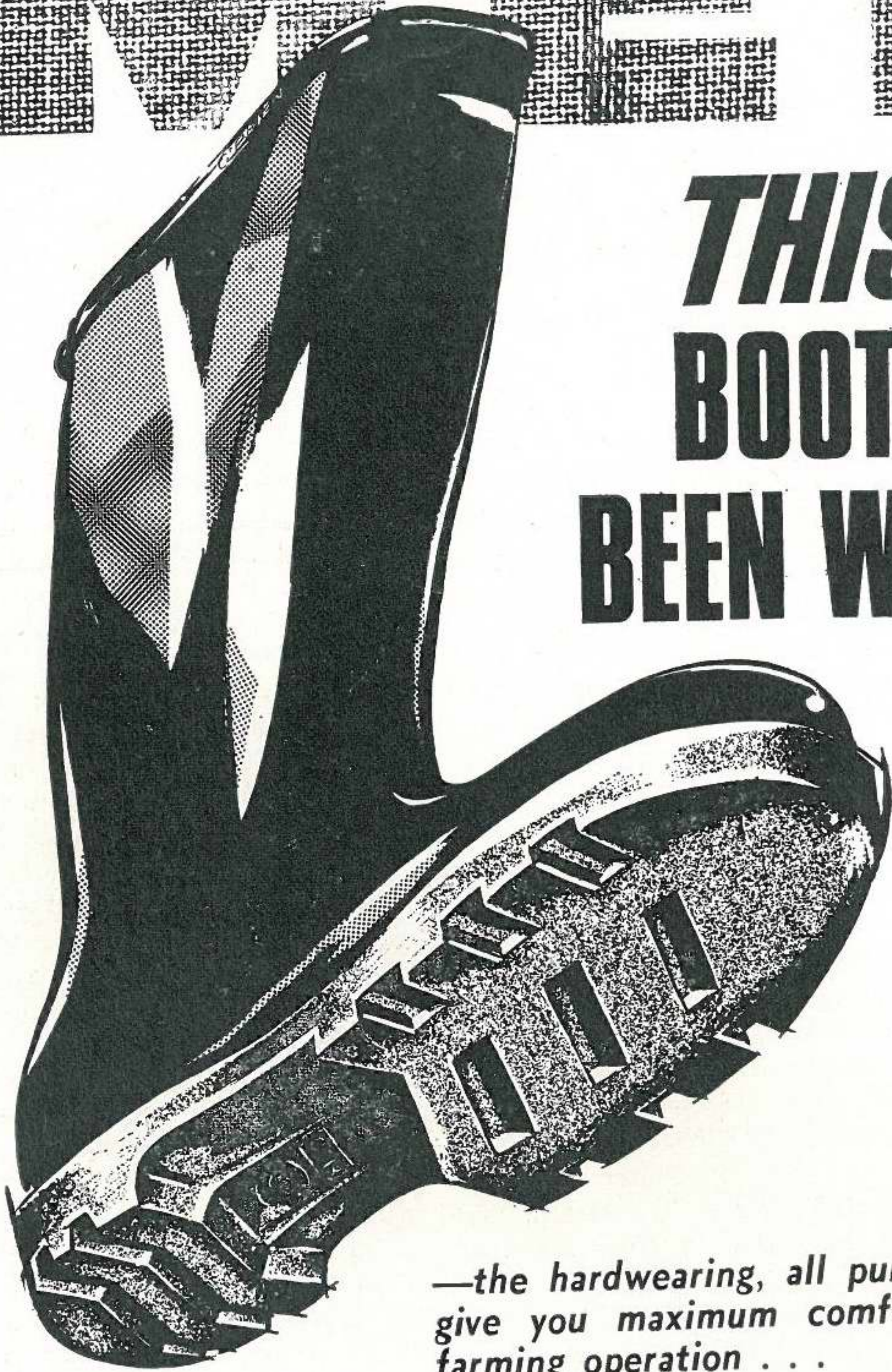
However, Meath refused to object and Central Council awarded them a set of medals the same as the All-Ireland medals for their sportsmanship!

In 1897 and 1899 Cork were back to contest the All-Ireland finals but lost to Dublin on each occasion and suffered the same fate in 1901, 1906 and 1907, which

*(To page 15)*



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Cork



(From page 13)

shows that Dublin in the early years were always the Corkmen's bogey team.

Came 1911 and Cork's greatest football year when a Lee's selection scored a runaway win—6-6 to 1-2 over Antrim in the final. But then Kerry took over almost complete supremacy in Munster so that almost unbelievably Cork did not reach an All-Ireland final again until 1945 when, however, they confounded all the critics by defeating fancied Cavan in the final.

Since then Cork have reached two All-Ireland finals, only to lose to Galway in the first and to Louth in the second.

Meanwhile what of Meath? The Royal County men never came out of Leinster between 1895 and 1939 when they lost narrowly to Kerry in an exciting final. Ten years later, however, they achieved their great ambition when they won their first All-Ireland, ending Cavan's three-in-a-row ambitions in the final.

In the 1951 final, Meath went down to Mayo and, a year later, were unlucky to be held to a draw by Cavan before losing the replay.

However, they came back triumphantly in 1954 to take the All-Ireland title from Kerry. Only once since then have Meath reached a final. That was a year ago when they lost to Galway.

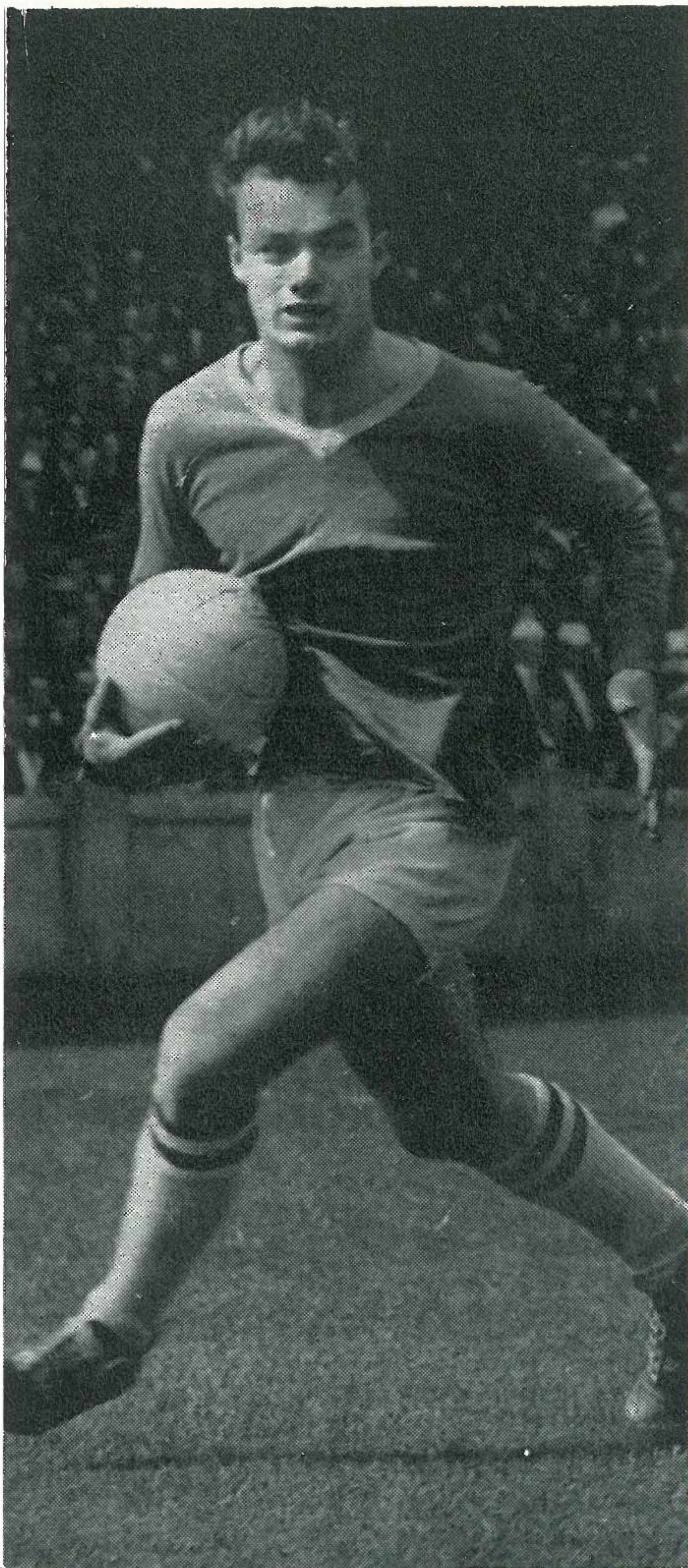
Only twice have these counties met in senior competitive football at Croke Park—in the 1956 League final Cork beat the Meathmen by a single point, while in the Grounds Tournament semi-final at Croke Park last October Cork again won.

So Meath have those two defeats to avenge in this year's final.

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*Noel Curran, the Meath full forward, who will present one of the biggest problems to the Cork defence in the All-Ireland final.*

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## ***Mick Burke: Cork's trump card***

CORK football is a curious growth, springing from traditional areas in the West and mid-West and developing pockets in all sorts of out of the way places, which seem to have a wonderful knack of producing at least one outstanding player. There was a long period of time in which the city was considered a hurling area, where the footballers were looked down on by the traditionalists; not that the traditionalists could beat them always, or often, but because they always excused their defeat by:

"Those hurlers in the city, trained to the teeth for hurling, wouldn't play football with you at all".

It was another way of telling the truth; but the unvarnished truth was that the ponderous type of football traditionally played by many of the West Cork teams, who also were not especially given to speed-training, could be reduced to tatters by quick teamwork by far less talented hurler-footballers who were fitter, faster, cleverer. Jack Lynch, Christy Ring and Paddy O'Donovan were good examples of that kind of footballer, in their day.

But, it served to waken up the football purists; it made them tighten up their training schedules, their teamwork, and their skills

were seen in a better light. In 1945, when last Cork won an All-Ireland football title, the county was dominated by an all-powerful Clonakilty team, while Fermoy were the power in North-Cork. Millstreet—Din Connors, Cormac Dineen, "Toots" Kelleher—grasped a period of power. Macroom came through with a team which was dominant for years in the 'fifties. In an out between the more memorable country teams, which all had one era and then faded, the city teams flickered through to win championships. And the city teams were benefitting all the time from the strong supply of improving talent, which emigration and migration was denying the country cousins, watering their strength as the old teams passed away.

In the 'sixties, for the first time, U.C.C. became a significant factor in championship football (as well as hurling) not always to the unqualified delight of Corkmen since their teams contained too many outsiders. But, their brand of play has had an influence on the newer kind of Cork county team which is playing to-day, in teamwork, in training and in planning. With both St. Nick's and the 'Barrs a power also, the balance of team strength has shifted again to the city.

Still the trend of pockets of

football all over the county, if only of junior rank, which can produce the top-class player exists, and this Cork team has plenty of examples. The emphasis on minor and underage competitions, and the great efforts in the football sphere of Colaiste Criost Ri, Turner's Cross, has no small part in building up the edifice of Cork football, which, in the future has a far better chance of producing consistently good teams than was the case in the past, when the county produced one good team in the 'forties and one more in the 'fifties—with modifications, of course.

Mick Burke is one of the fringe benefits of the outlying areas of Cork football—a North Corkman at a time when there is no real power in senior ranks in that area. He was introduced as a forward at a time when Cork selectors were being accused of picking a team of centre-fieldmen; but, his potential for the midfield play was soon noted. Munster have given him the nod at midfield, too. And even before he made a national impact with Cork he had shown his quality against all the best in the Railway Cup. For two years or more, Mick Burke has not been subdued in any game at centre-field, by any opposition. For this reason, as well as for the obvious fact that he is a great footballer,



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By  
**JAY DRENNAN**

---

he is bursting with confidence; he knows he can beat the best, he is fit and in form, so it is going to take a particularly great performance to subdue him.

A fine cut of a man, if you didn't know he was a top-class centre-fielder, you would want to know why he wasn't, for he looks the part so much. Strong and lean in the body, powerful in the leg, he juts out at the hips, as though he were wearing wing-hipped shorts. This ideal build is much of the secret of his success: strength of leg and breadth of hip carry him up and scatter the opposition as he goes for those high ones. Judgment and capacious hands which do not grab nervously but allow the ball to sink into their clasp complete the accoutrement of Cork's trump card.

Coolness is vital and Burke has it; he is seldom seen flustered into losing hard-won possession, and he does not exhaust himself in doing the work the ball should, but uses his long punt to feed the forwards. He does not stray much from his territory except where the trend of a move forces him; like Theo English in hurling, he believes in patrolling between the fifty yard lines and making that his own. If the others cannot handle their areas, it is hardly likely that he could on a part-time basis.



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# Superb Jack Quinn

I HAVE often heard repeated by a player who spent many early years in the forwards and then carved out for himself a whole new career at full-back that the best full-backs are those who have earlier played out the field, and preferably in the forwards. It is certainly an arguable theory, and there are plenty of examples to back up the statement: Paddy O'Brien, Sean Purcell, Greg Hughes, were not without outfield experience, and, indeed, I suppose there are not many top-class full-forwards of intercounty standard whose clubs can afford the luxury of playing them in the full-back berth.

Jack Quinn of Meath provides another excellent example of a fine outfield player who has become a fine full-back. And it was rather by accident that he became full-back for Meath, the result of a term of suspension on his brother Martin who was the regular at full-back for the county, as Jack was the regular at centre-field or centre-forward. Last year it looked as though the expedient was to be a temporary one, particularly when Martin appeared in the closing stages of the All-Ireland final and Jack went out to centre-field to try to press Meath forward for a final assault on the Galway posts.

For even the few minutes he was at centre-field he showed that he was probably the best man in that position that Meath have had for

many years; even now he is probably the best they have for the midfield area. But, he has made such a success of full-back that he looks as though he will be typed for the remainder of his inter-county career. Already he has excelled the deeds of his brother in the position, for while Martin was an heroic full-back of real value, in that his clearances were in the grand manner, there was always something a little wooden, rigid and lacking in fluidity about his full-back play.

What makes Jack Quinn, or any other player for that matter, an excellent full-back having been experienced in outfield positions? Probably the first and most important point is the fact that positioning is easier at full-back. In the midfield or forward area one has often to move quite a distance to get into position under a dropping ball which makes

it all the more difficult to find the right footing and balance under the drop, and often causes ragged, unco-ordinated jumps and split catches.

Facing the play at full-back, any experienced player will have plenty of time to take up his position, brace himself and leap at the right moment as the high one comes in. For forwards who have spent years in the hardship of backing in under high balls, trying to get a decent position from which to get up for them, facing the ball and dictating the position which the back will hold, makes things a lot more easy.

Of course, it is also true that the best way of countering an attack is by trying to discover what the attacker is thinking and trying to do. An ex-forward knows, and he can lay plans to counter what he expects from the forward. Interceptions and effective covering off of the opposing line of attackers is the result. Of course, a good midfielder is bound to be good in the air; Jack Quinn was, and he is showing just how good by his catches in crowded goalmouths. And as his timing is of the best, he makes it all look so easy as he climbs up to those spectacular catches.

*(To page 20)*

### A SLIGHT ADJUSTMENT

AFTER the publication of our last issue, Mr. Micheál Ó Briain of Telefís Éireann asked us to inform our readers that he was not the Micheál Ó Briain whose name appeared on two articles in that number of "Gaelic Sport."

We take this opportunity to assure readers that our correspondent is not the same person as Micheál Ó Briain of R.T.E.

We think that it should also be known that our Micheál Ó Briain has kindly offered, in the interests of clarity, to forego the use of the Irish form of his name.

We have reluctantly accepted his sacrifice and he will write in future under the more commonplace but less confusing by-line of Mick O'Brien.



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*Peter Owens.*

*(From page 19)*

Jack Quinn is tall and well-proportioned, well cut out to be a full-back, though there have certainly been heavier ones. But, beyond a certain limit, there is no advantage in weight itself to a full-back, for it only makes him unwieldy and sluggish.

Strength is the really vital thing, and Jack Quinn is very strong; strength to hold one's ground, and not to be pushed around or shouldered off the ball, hindered in the jump for possession, or in holding on to the ball; strength also in holding the man off and covering the goalie; and strength in breaking through with the ball when caught, for this often entails some buffeting and hard-tackling.

It is in these two phases of full-back play—the most obvious ones of jumping for possession and breaking through to clear—that Jack has made his name in this defensive position. They are the things which catch the eye. There is a great deal else, however, to playing in front of goal, demanding an intimate knowledge of the position, much of it hard unrewarding work — engine-room work like shouldering off a forward about to try to save a ball going wide, or coming across to block the path of a corner forward trying to cut in by the side-door to tackle the goalie. The one who catches spectacularly and clears is the one which the crowds love, he captures their heroic imagination; but the one who puts in the hard grafting is the one the goalies and the other defenders love.

I am a little surprised that Jack Quinn has proved such a stay at home full-back, doing his best work on the edge of the square, and seeming more than a little reluctant to follow a roaming full-forward. It was to be expected that he would welcome the challenge to a contest in more open territory.





## Denis Coughlan's role

I have long held that Cork football's greatest need for some years past has been, not as so many maintain, forwards with real pay-off punch in front of goal, important though they undoubtedly are, but a dynamic personality. Since their last All-Ireland title win in 1945, the Rebel County has certainly produced some outstanding players, men to hold their own in any company, yet, offhand, one still cannot readily recall a personality in the same mould as a Sean Purcell, Mick O'Connell or James McCartan.

Nor is there really a footballer in the present team who stands out from the rest—a man with that dynamic personality—plus, that, allied to natural talent and skill, ensures that the hearts of the supporters of his team throb with expectancy and joy, and those of the fans of opposing sides worry with uncertainty each time he gains possession. The high quality of Mick Burke's football in the win over Cavan, especially, suggests that he, more than any other player in the present team, might now be poised to take over this demanding role for Cork, but for my own part, I find myself wondering more and more if, in fact, Denis Coughlan may not eventually prove the one to fill this part for the Leesiders.

Fate was a particularly hard taskmaster for Coughlan in the game with Cavan. It was his first senior football semi-final, an unnerving experience in itself. To this was added team captaincy,

which, though it may not be an especially difficult burden to carry, puts the spotlight more strongly on a player, and brings him under the more critical appraisal of spectators generally.

Then, the man in the No. 11 jersey for Cavan, John Joe O'Reilly, was one of the outstanding figures in the Ulster final win. Finally, came the biggest, most testing demand of all—that of facing up to that penalty kick nine minutes from time around which victory and defeat really, in the end, centred.

Coughlan was not found wanting on any score. He was skilled and effective in his all round play, linking up with immaculate Frank Cogan and clever Kevin Dillon in a half-back line that proved a big stumbling block to Cavan. And, his approach to the penalty was surprisingly professional. In fact, in the art of successfully converting a spot kick with the minimum of delay and fuss, it was as good an exhibition as I have seen in a long time—and that includes some well-taken penalties scored of late by men with more years of top-class experience than the Cork skipper.

That splendid all-round performance under the severest of pressures, pressures that would have proved too demanding for many a player of lesser calibre than the young St. Nicholas footballer, is certain to be invaluable in furthering Coughlan's football education. It is from the white

heat of such experiences that players mellow into that cool, unflurried and poised approach to any task on hand that, supported by their own natural skill and drive, is one of the outstanding characteristics in the make-up of the greats of the game.

Skill and ability, Denis Coughlan has in plenty. We did not have to wait until that recent semi-final to learn that. In fact, one of my brightest memories of 1966 is of a fine exhibition of fast, skilful and purposeful centre-half-back play by Coughlan in Cork's failure to Kerry in the Munster Under-21 final that summer.

Of course, I saw Denis earlier both in the minor and Under-21 grades, and I well remember being impressed by his talents and the great promise he showed. But, somehow, it was not until that 1966 Southern decider that he really captured my imagination in a big way, and went down in my book as a player with what it takes to really "go places" as a senior.

Opportunity first knocked in a big way in the top-grade for Coughlan last January, when he was called in to deputise for the then indisposed Kevin Dillon at right half back against Dublin in the League at Cork. He has been a regular since, and has appeared with the side also at midfield, where he starred as well as an Under-21 county man, and, where

(To page 23)





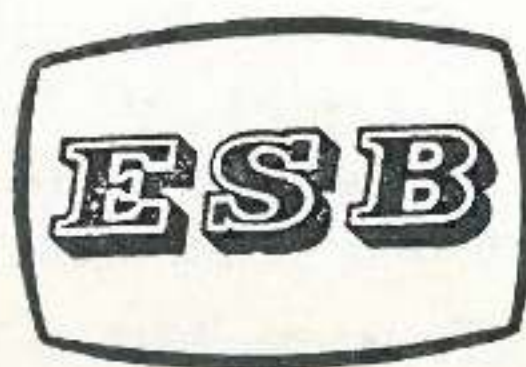
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*The Cork team marching around Croke Park before the All-Ireland football final against Galway in 1956. Galway won 2-13 to 3-7.*

*(From page 21)*

many shrewd judges, I know, feel he is best placed.

For my money, though, he has found his best position in the testing pivotal role. Here, his sure-fielding, safe-covering, lengthy and well-directed clearances, and his general vigilance off the ball are assets that I'm convinced are most gainfully employed for Cork than in any other position. They are assets too that, with experience, should make him an effective "general" with the ability to dictate the course of any game, and inspire his team-mates.

As it is, Denis Coughlan will be a tremendous stumbling block to the Meath attack. Further more for a county whose forwards are

prone to shoot so many wides per game, it must now be a cause of much relief and encouragement to Cork to know that should a penalty again come Cork's way—and as the Cork-Cavan semi-final match pointed out, penalties are in vogue this year—they now have in their captain a player who has demonstrated that he can make the most effective use of such opportunities.

One swallow does not make a summer . . . but it is a welcome sign after the dark days of winter. One top-class display, even in an All-Ireland game is, in itself, not sound enough credentials for any truly discerning observer to single out a particular player for nomination for the testing mantle of

an inspiring leader of the future.

But, just as the swallow is a harbinger of brighter days to come, so too must the indication proved by a top-class display be noted, compared with what is known of the particular player, the prowess he has shown on the way up, and the manner in which he is maturing in the senior grade.

It seems to me that if we follow these guidelines, then, there are good grounds for believing that Denis Coughlan, a defender in the Cork team that won the Under-21 hurling All-Ireland title last year, has the tremendous ability to blossom into a footballer whose talents would stand out in any company—past or present.





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# TOP TEN

**T**HIS month's Top Ten lists are based on intercounty performances during the period from Sunday, August 13, to Sunday, September 3, inclusive.

Ollie Walsh heads the hurling list—an obvious choice, while, in all, seven Kilkennymen are featured.

Meath's high-fielding Jack Quinn tops the football list and is followed by team-mate, Bertie Cunningham.

## HURLING

1. Ollie Walsh (Kilkenny)
2. John Teehan (Kilkenny)
3. Tom Walsh (Kilkenny)
4. Len Gaynor (Tipperary)
5. Ted Carroll (Kilkenny)
6. Kieran Carey (Tipperary)
7. Pat Henderson (Kilkenny)
8. Claus Dunne (Kilkenny)
9. Mick Burns (Tipperary)
10. Martin Coogan (Kilkenny)

## FOOTBALL

1. Jack Quinn (Meath)
2. Bertie Cunningham (Meath)
3. Pat Reynolds (Meath)
4. Joe Langan (Mayo)
5. Terry Kearns (Meath)
6. P. J. Loftus (Mayo)
7. Paddy Mulvaney (Meath)
8. Peter Darby (Meath)
9. Joe Corcoran (Mayo)
10. Johnny Farragher (Mayo)





C. O'Sullivan.



F. Hayes.



J. Lucey.



E. Philpott.

**T**WELVE months ago at Croke Park the title-hungry Cork supporters experienced their moment of supreme bliss as the All-Ireland hurling trophy was presented to Gerald McCarthy. On September 24 the enthusiastic red-jerseyed brigade will be back in Headquarters in quest of another title, and after the memorable triumph of the hurlers last season, hopes are high that the footballers will bring renewed glory to the Rebel County this year.

Not every county manages to reach a major hurling decider one year and a football final the next, but Cork have been threatening to do this for a long time. Eleven years ago both the hurlers and the

# YOU CAN'T KEEP CORKMEN DOWN

*By Tim Horgan*

footballers were in Croke Park together for the All-Ireland finals, and just for good measure the county footballers were back there the following year. But though the subsequent sporting seasons were lean ones for the Cork seniors, the younger players came forward to promise a very bright future.

In 1959 the minor footballers won the Munster title, retained it the following year, and went on to take All-Ireland honours in 1961. Three years later they regained the provincial crown but were beaten narrowly by Offaly in the national decider. Then they came back to win the Munster title again in 1966 and repeated the performance last July. For an allegedly "hurling" county six provincial minor football titles in nine years and four appearances in an All-Ireland final is a very impressive record indeed. And it was inevitable that the cream of these minor stars would eventually take their places in the premier grade.

Mick Burke, the powerfully built midfielder from Mitchelstown was the first to do so. He starred on the minor team in 1959 and was promoted to the senior outfit the following year. His stylish brand of football, impeccable high fielding and lengthy deliveries earned him a place on the Munster team three years ago. But though southern observers have appreciated his real worth as a centre-field star for a long time, it is only through his recent Croke Park appearances that the 26-year-old bank official has left a real

impression on the "outside" world.

The 1961 minor team which brought the football trophy to Cork for the first time, produced the present seniors, Frank Cogan and Flor Hayes. Cogan comes from a well-known footballing family in Cork City and learned the subtleties of the game at Colaiste Christ Ri. The quick-thinking Nemo Rangers stylist had a particularly memorable hour against Cavan last month and will be one of the key men in the Cork defence on All-Ireland final day.

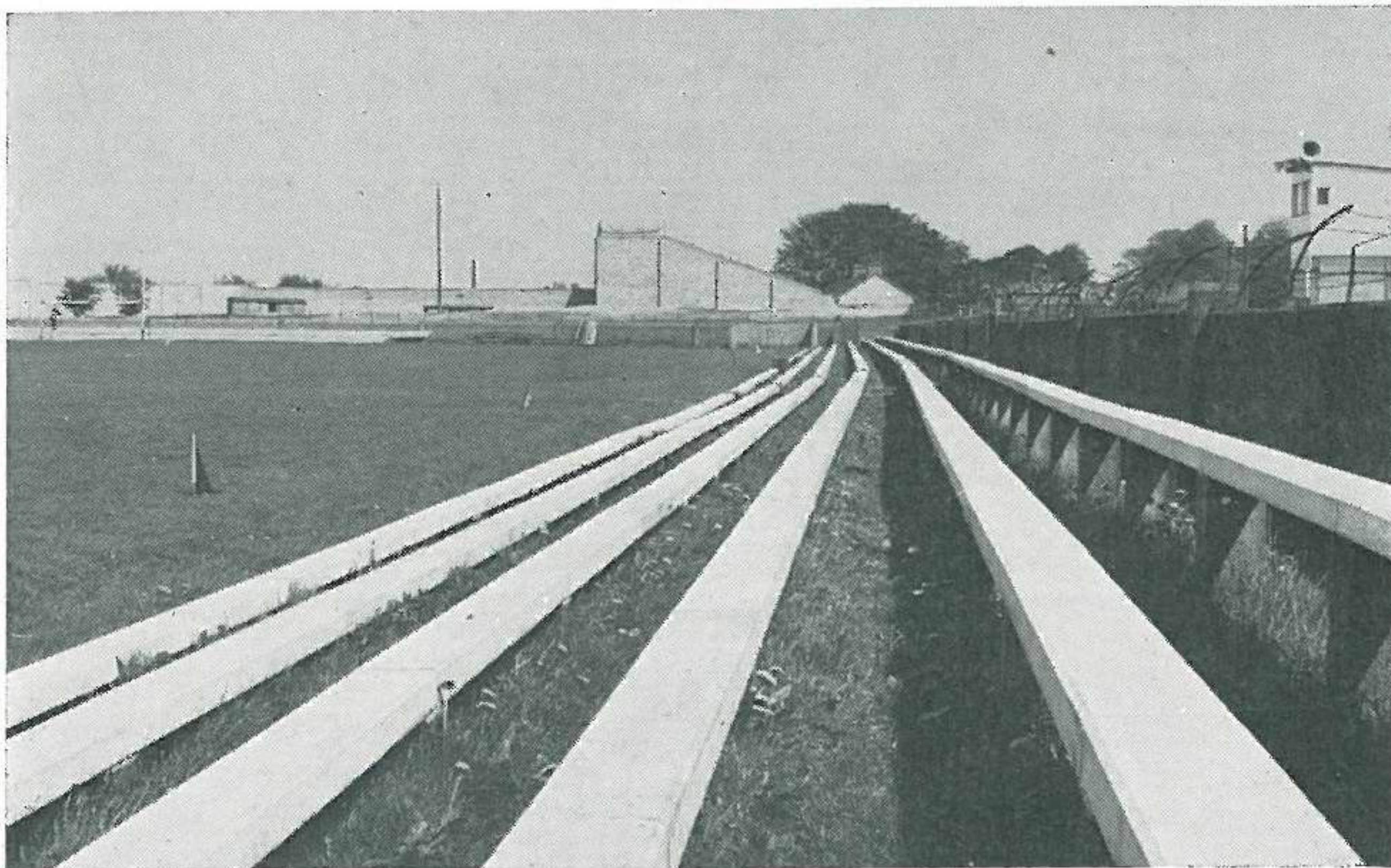
Flor Hayes, who works as a company representative in Waterford, plays with Clonakilty, the West Cork club, whose legendary skipper, the late Tadhgo Crowley, brought home the All-Ireland Cup in 1945. The fair-haired forward was one of Cork's greatest minors and showed his opportunism in notching his county's first goal in this year's semi-final.

Billy Morgan, currently regarded as one of the best goalkeepers in the game, played for the Cork minors in 1963 as a forward. He helped his county to draw with Kerry in the Munster final that year at Killarney, but the Leesiders were beaten subsequently in the replay. The well-built performer entered U.C.C. the following year and agreed to fill the vacant goalkeeper's position. His keen eye, perfect anticipation and ice-cool confidence marked him out as a natural custodian, and once he replaced Brian Murphy on the Cork goal-line early last year, there

*(Continued Page 27.)*



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(From Page 25.)

was no looking back. Billy played a brilliant game in this year's Munster final and graduated from U.C.C. with his B.A. degree three days later.

Eric Philpott, Mick O'Loughlin and Jimmy Downing were members of the 1964 minor team, which lost to Offaly after a controversial decision by the referee in the closing stages. Philpott, who was sent off early in that match, lined out with the under-age team again the following season and, at 21, ranks as the youngest player on the present senior side. He is another Colaiste Christ Ri product and played with the 'Barrs before entering U.C.C. two years ago. His performances in the matches against Kerry and Cavan were not as good as many people expected, but he is capable of rising to much greater heights.

Mick O'Loughlin the sandy-haired garda from Kanturk puts great zest and enthusiasm into his performances and his wholehearted approach should prove invaluable to the Leesiders.

Tall Jimmy Downing of Urhan is second only to Mick Burke as a high-fielding ball player and maintains the traditional catch-and-kick style of football.

Another ex-minor is the captain of the team, Denis Coughlan, but it was as an under-age hurling star that this North Monastery player made his name. The 22-year-old stores manager donned the senior football jersey for the first championship game against Clare, and made a big impression at midfield. He was called upon later to fill the centre-back position, a slot which had given the Cork mentors much trouble until then, and this he did with great effectiveness. But it was the goal he scored from a penalty in the All-Ireland semi-final that showed how vital a cool-headed skipper can be on the big occasion.

Johnny O'Mahony, one of the veterans of the side, is also a

former minor player, though of a much earlier vintage than his colleagues. He played with the Cork minors in 1954 and '55 and made his debut on the senior team four years later. The crew-cut corner-back from Kanturk was honoured by the Munster selectors for a number of years, and, following his great displays so far this year, he is sure to be seen in the blue jersey again. Like full-forward Con O'Sullivan from Urhan, Johnny is aged 30 and blends his craft and experience with the more youthful enthusiasm of his colleagues.

Johnny Carroll began his inter-county career with the Kildare minors, when he was a student at Naas in 1957. He returned to Dunmanway two years later and gained his place on the Cork senior team in 1962. Since then he has established himself as one of the most dangerous corner forwards in the game and was particularly impressive against Cavan this year. His Dohenys clubmate John Crow-

ley is a substitute on the present team, keeping Eamonn Young's famous club well represented on the panel.

Cork players who have not worn the minor jersey include Kevin Dillon (Clonakilty), Eamonn Ryan (Watergrasshill), Bernie O'Neill, (Ardrigole), Brian Murphy (Crosshaven) and Con O'Sullivan (Urhan). But on the whole the Under-18 championship of the past decade or so has done a great deal to help mould the present senior outfit. And if you want to see what Leaside teams will be like in the future, watch the minors who will be in action in the curtain raiser to the big game at Croke Park.

Donal Hunt, Seamus Looney, Ned Kirby, Teddy O'Brien and Simon Murphy are the most promising of the current crop and if they can do as well as their fellow countymen did six years ago, Cork supporters could be cheering a double success.

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## THE FACTS ABOUT MEATH'S

**T**HEY will never score like that again" . . . "A purple patch that scoring forwards hit occasionally" . . . "Remember their sparkle last year against Down, and then some not so dazzling displays later." . . . These are some of the comments I have heard since Meath's forwards went a score-making and a score-taking with a real vengeance against Mayo.

Understandably, too. The attack, more than any other sector, has been under the most concentrated scrutiny of followers generally since the rise of the present team. The forwards have consistently displayed class, talent, speed and purpose. However, by spoiling much of their good out-field work in some major games by poor marksmanship, they have not helped to boost confidence in their ability to complement the good Meath defensive work sufficiently well to enable the Royal County to make the really big break-through.

But, I wonder if, in fact, this emphasis has not been much too strongly on the chances lost by the Meath score-getters, and not sufficiently focused on their actual scoring expertise? Make no mistake about it, those superb exhibitions against Down and Mayo, despite what we may talk of "purple patches" and days when "everything goes right," would still not

have been at all possible, if that all-important know-how and ability was not there up front in the first place.

It was this thought that sent me to my records, and the figures I have come up with will surprise many, and also raise the question: What's all this talk about Meath being short of accurate forwards?

The "work-rate" of the attack in outings in all competitions this year so far is a cool 13.85 points an hour! In the last four All-Ireland finals, only Galway's 0-15 against Kerry in 1964 is higher than this Meath average. And, if we confine the totals to the championship, the Royal County forwards come out in even more favourable light—an average of 14.5 points on each of four steps to this final.

Still more evidence of the sharp-shooting qualities of these so often-criticised Meath score-getters. The odds are that against Cork they will better the 200 points barrier, as distinct from goals and points combined, this year. The attack now has a total of 193 minors. And, the forwards have also been, almost without most of us appreciating it, cleverly combining points scoring with the ability to snatch goal-scoring opportunities. They have got 28 goals, more than one a match in 20 games. No mean shooting, that, and proof positive that the potential is there

to click into gear with such devastating effect in any game as in that meeting with the Connacht champions.

Of course, some will, even in the face of these impressive figures, continue to point the finger of doubt at the Meath attack because the division lacks a real leader, a dashing figure to weld the sector into a unit sparked, prompted and skilfully led from the "40" or full-forward berths, and whose every sortie would be a real danger to any rearguard.

The trouble with such footballers is that they can also prove a liability! How often have we heard: "Keep so-and-so quiet, and there will not be much sting in their attack." And, you don't need me to relate for you instances of how counties have opened up the way to important wins by "blotting out" the opposition's scoring-ace, or most dangerous maker of scores.

Who to concentrate on above all others in the Meath attack? That's the problem now. There may be no Charlie Gallagher here, no Joe Corcoran or Cyril Dunne, but there is still power and thrust evenly distributed from right half to left full.

Take a look at these figures, and see what I mean. Tony Brennan has 3-32 (46 pts.) from 13 games, or 3.53 points a match. Noel Curran has averaged 2.42 points in



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By OWEN McCANN

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## ATTACK

each of his 14 games for 2-28 (24 pts.). Matt Kerrigan has 2-19, Paddy Mulvaney 2-13, Ollie Shanley 4-5, Mick Mellett 1-12. Six forwards, each with a sizeable tally, a total that shows that each must be constantly and closely watched right throughout any game.

Yes, Meath forwards may squander some gilt-edged scoring chances, they may, like in the Down and Mayo semi-finals, take some little time in a match to find their shooting boots, but in the face of figures like I have quoted above, there can be no doubting that they have the power and accuracy to keep the umpires reasonably well occupied.

That spree against Mayo should work wonders for Meath's forwards. It will give their morale, their self-confidence and assurance a tremendous "shot in the arm" just when it was needed most. And, they should be all the more effective for that on final day.

So, I go out where I came in. Let's judge Meath's attack on the best credentials of all, what they have scored, and not on what they have failed to do. If we do that, we will find that Meath now have the strength and depth in defence, ability at midfield, and punch up front necessary for that final break-through. And, the tilt with Cork may also well prove just that!



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**CRESTED TEN**

by JAMESON



# EAMONN RYAN



*By Tim Horgan*

CORK are in the All-Ireland senior football final after an absence of ten years and hopes are high that the Sam Maguire Cup will return to the Rebel County for the first time since 1945. Twenty-two years is a long time for any county to wait for a major trophy, but Cork supporters are optimistic and quietly confident that this is their year and that the heartbreak of two All-Ireland defeats in the mid 'fifties will be erased, when the red-jerseyed brigade takes the field on September 24.

There are fifteen good reasons why the Leaside enthusiasts are setting their sights on an All-Ireland title this year, and one of the greatest is the stocky centre-half forward, Eamonn Ryan from Watergrasshill. Anybody who witnessed the Munster final in July can readily understand why the U.C.C. man is placed so highly in the estimation of Cork followers. For on that occasion Ryan gave a scintillating performance on the "forty", ransacked the Kerry defence at will and notched two delightful points from play. His display in the All-Ireland semi-final promised to be equally devastating, but after a brilliant start, he faded out of the picture and made no great impact on the game as a whole. However, it is in the knowledge of what Ryan can really do on his day that Cork supporters are enthusiastic about their chances in the final.

When Eamonn Ryan gained his place on the county team three years ago, Cork's football fortunes

were at a low ebb. Kerry were complete masters in the southern province and the Leesiders' prospects of altering the situation were very remote indeed. But then in the autumn of 1965, Eamonn Young came to the helm as trainer and set about pulling the Cork team out of the doldrums. A rigid training schedule was undertaken and with the assistance of Donie O'Donovan, the Army veteran had the players practising in all kinds of weather throughout the winter months.

The first flicker of success came on a bleak December day when Cork, inspired by a great performance by Eamonn Ryan, trounced Dublin in a League game at Croke Park. And though their subsequent form in the same competition lacked sparkle, signs of a revival in Cork football became imminent as championship time came around.

In their efforts to mould a good senior team over a long-term period the Cork mentors had concentrated on young players, and a large number of Under-21 stars filled the ranks for the championship outings against Clare and Limerick. Their form in these games showed much promise, but only the most optimistic supporter expected Cork to beat Kerry in the provincial decider at Killarney. However, after a shaky start the Leesiders came into the game in a big way and three points by Eamonn Ryan helped them to regain the Munster title after a wait of nine years.

Then they braced themselves

for the tilt with Galway, and though Ryan was carried off concussed after ten minutes of that match the Cork team put up a tremendous showing before accepting defeat.

By the end of the year it was obvious that Cork footballers were back in a big way, and though they went through another indifferent league campaign during the winter, they continued to show championship promise. They were pitted against Clare in the semi-final and made light work of the task, and then they clashed with the Kingdom again. Ryan had missed the Clare game through injury, but he bounced back for the final and became the toast of every Corkonian who braved the elements to watch a pulsating thriller at the Cork Athletic Grounds.

Mick Morris, the Kerry captain, had the task of holding his U.C.C. clubmate, but from the outset Ryan played a brand of football that would have dumbfounded the greatest centre-back in the game. The former champions had no answer to the dashing young forward spearheading the Cork attack, and though the title was retained by a narrow point margin, the Leesiders prepared for Croke Park with a refreshing victory over a deceptively-underrated Kerry team.

It was tall Mick Burke who stole the thunder in the All-Ireland semi-final against Cavan and, though Cork had many other star performers too, the usually outstanding Ryan faded after a

*(Continued Page 42.)*





Dan McAreevy

# Looking back on thirty finals

THE editor's wishes were plain —the All-Ireland final would command pride of place in the next edition and all copy would therefore have to have a heavy "Final Day" slant!

I realised that the chance of Meath and Cork would be weighed-up by the experts to the last boot lace with a common Northerner having little right to intervene. I was determined, however, that the views of the same Northerner should be aired by way of a general article on Final Day—a peep back over what I honestly felt would only be a few years.

But it was a sobering thought when I discovered that I could recall no less than 30 finals with the highlights flashing back as vividly as when I first sampled the original thrills. It was as an 11-year-old in 1937 that I got my first taste of Gaeldom's greatest day. Our family's recent acquisition

which listeners were shocked to learn would be necessary after we had got the impression that the Breffni men had triumphed on the first day.

I still see the banner headline in one of our national dailies after Kerry's victory. "A CAVAN PASS THAT WENT ASTRAY GAVE THE ROUNDY LANDERS THE CHANCE AND HE TOOK IT".

I was completely captivated with the indefinable magnetism of it all. I do not wish to sound irreverent but it was as if the G.A.A. had there and then beckoned with the words: "Come follow me". And if my apostleship has been an unworthy one I certainly have no regrets about placing my mite of allegiance behind the Association. But if my appetite was whetted for more, 1938 was to set my youthful enthusiasm completely on fire. It was the All-Ireland semi-final between Galway and Monaghan that I remember.

Michael O'Hehir had arrived. And what finals we had in that same year! Galway and Kerry played a drawn game which is still regarded as a text book for future generations, with the Westerners winning at the second attempt and Kerry bowing to their first defeat in a final replay.

The Kingdom fielded a virtually new team in the last two minutes of the replay after the crowd thought that Paddy Watters' whistle for a free was the end of the game.

The following year saw Kerry back to gain the first of a well-earned three-in-a-row defeating Meath with the war clouds already dark over Europe.

In '40 and '41 Galway had to give best to their great rivals from the South, whilst in 1942 Dublin stepped in to again thwart the Westerners who thereafter had the

But back to 1938 for a moment when a brilliant Roscommon minor side had won the supreme prize in their grade. The fruits of this victory were to pay off handsomely in '42 and '43 when Jimmy Murray led his men to two great victories over Cavan (after a replay) and Kerry. This was a star-laden Roscommon side led by a brilliant captain who had a host of stars around him—the great mid-field partnership of Liam Gilmartin and Eamonn Boland, the indestructible Bill Carlos, Donal Keenan and Phelim Murray of whom it was written "he cut through a defence like Paul Russell in his hey-day". Praise indeed but thoroughly merited!

The 1945 final in which Cork beat Cavan was historic in that it saw the Rebel county keep up a remarkable series of All-Ireland victories with their footballers

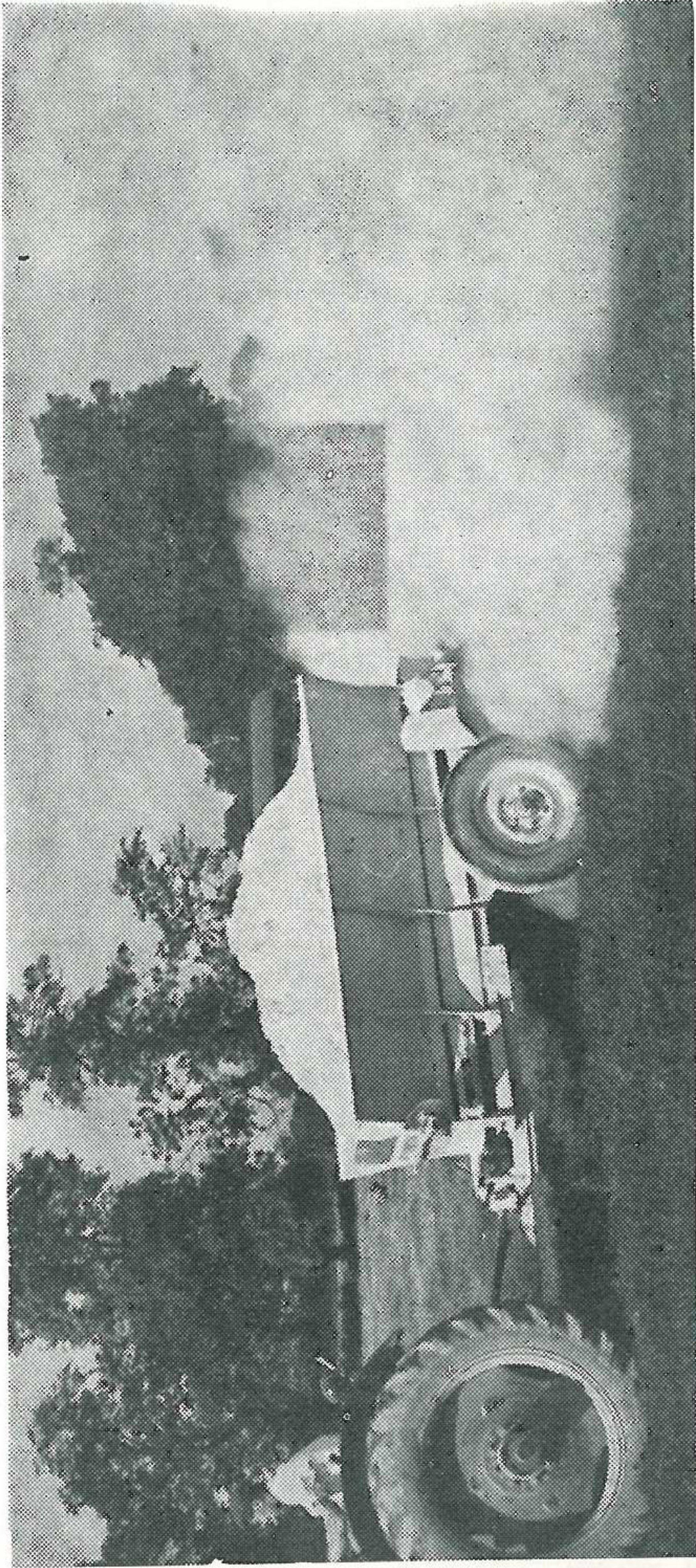


portable wireless set introduced aghan played at Mullingar and the successive years. We little knew the two titanic battles between voice of a boyish commentator that over 20 years later the books Kerry and Cavan with the King- brought a completely new dimen- would be properly balanced by the dom proving best in a replay sion to those fated to stay at home. Tribesmen.

(Continued Page 34.)

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(From Centre Pages.)

'46 with the football title of '45 keeping up the sequence).

Transport difficulties did not prevent huge crowds attending the 1946 final between Roscommon and Kerry and to the present-day I regret my impatience at leaving Croke Park a few minutes early with Kerry two goals down and apparently a well-beaten side.

As I reached Jones' Road I assumed the crowd's cheers signalled the end and this was confirmed at the Bridge when the sky was rent with another roar. But how wrong can you be—Kerry had hammered home two golden equalising goals and—the lesson learnt—I resolved never again to leave a game before the end.

The replay—fitted in to suit the

wretched harvest weather—saw Kerry triumph and the Roscommon challenge for the supreme prize had ended for 16 years when they once again had to give best to the Kingdom in 1962.

The 1947 final was exported to the Polo Grounds, New York, and Cavan scored a memorable victory over Kerry "3,000 miles from home".

I was a last-minute deputy for one of the Armagh delegates at that year's Congress which made the decision and I still have pangs of conscience that I allowed emotionalism to swing my vote in favour of the American venture. I wonder how many delegates of that day have similar feelings.

Cavan confirmed their supremacy the following year, when

defeating Mayo by a single point in an epic tussle, with the Westerners serving ample notice that they could not be denied much longer.

In 1949 Cavan returned for their third successive final but Meath proved best after a hard exciting struggle.

Then, in '50 and '51, Mayo really arrived taking both titles at the expense of a very gallant Louth and an equally brave challenge from Royal Meath.

The 1952 final between Cavan and Meath really became a two-man battle especially in the replay when the cultured boot of Mick Higgins proved superior to the marksmanship of Meath's Paddy Meegan.

● Next Page.



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WHY?



(From Previous Page.)

Perhaps, I should draw a veil over 1953 when a record crowd—at that time—saw Kerry overcome Armagh who appeared to have the rest of the country—and not a few of the Kingdom supporters—behind them.

This was a magnificent final and the thousands who saw the game free were rightly exhorted by a commentator at the time to send conscience money to the G.A.A.

Meath had their hour of glory in 1954, but Kerry were back a year later to defeat Dublin in a game which showed much of the Kerry traditional fare at its most exhilarating best.

Spare a thought for Cork who were to lose the final in 1956 to Galway and in '57 to Louth—the latter a victory which was acclaimed far beyond the confines of the Wee County.

I certainly wasn't neutral in '58 when I was convinced that Derry—after a great semi-final win over Kerry—would make the great break-through for the Six Counties. But it wasn't to be and Dublin captured the Sam Maguire.

The Kerry-Galway battles were continued in '59 with honours going to the south after one of the few disappointing games between the sides.

The historic events of '60 and '61 are recent memory. Down's triumphs over Kerry and Offaly really set the seal on the North's arrival with victories which I am convinced did much good throughout the country.

I looked forward with particular interest to the 1962 final between Kerry and Roscommon as I had the honour of being a goal umpire on that occasion. But my hopes of a classic game were dashed when Kerry became champions but after an hour's play which had very few bright moments.

Those who thought Galway un-

lucky against Dublin in 1963 would appear justified in the light of events in the following three years which saw Kerry (twice) and Meath bow the knee to the Western magic—utter perfection (especially in 1966) if there is such a thing in this world.

That then is a simple list of the winners over the past 30 years with the obvious temptation to name the champions of champions. Well

I have enjoyed all the games but perhaps if I could play tricks with the hands of the clock I would most like to see a final between Cavan of 1948 and the Galway of 1966.

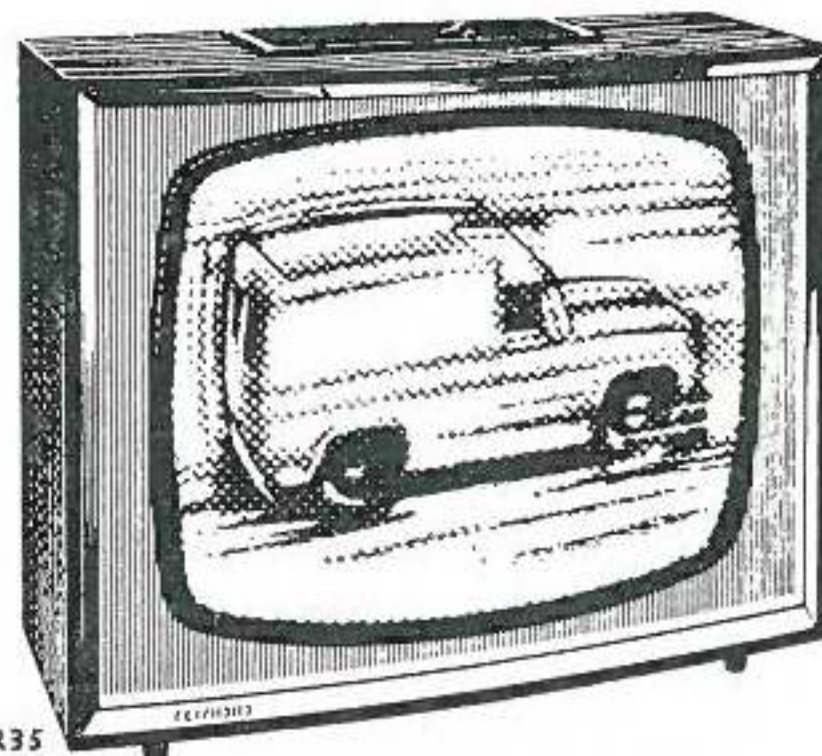
Now it is up to Cork and Meath to carry on the historic struggle for Gaeldom's greatest prize. Somehow, I have a feeling that we won't be disappointed on September 24!

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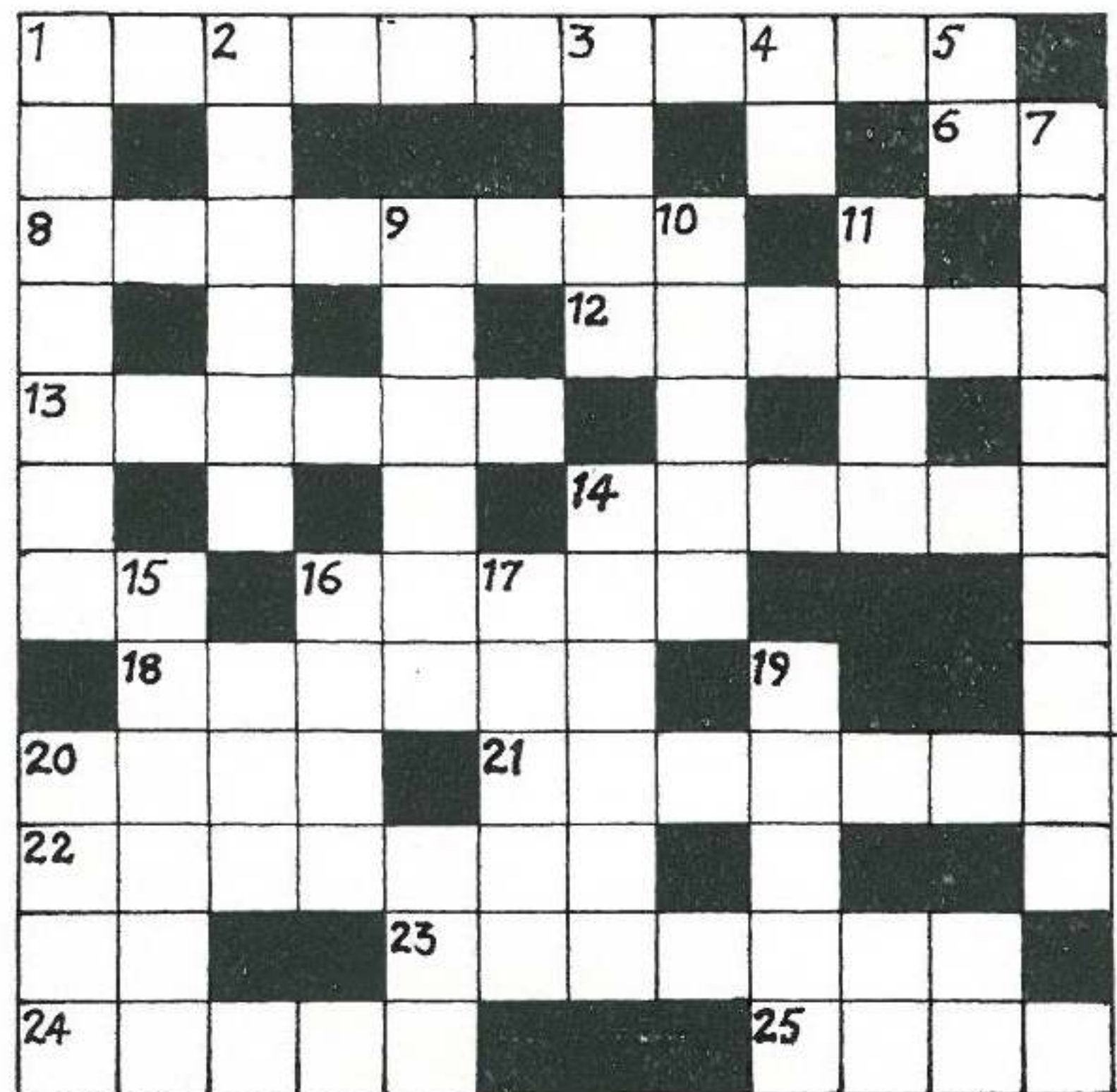


**CLUES ACROSS :**

1. Carlow hurler. (6, 5)
6. Small advertisement. (2)
8. Main scoring threat in the Derry attack. (8)
12. Mayo centre-forward or centre-field. (6)
13. The tallest man on the Kilkenny team. (6)
14. Seamus was a powerful Tipperary half-forward of the 'fifties. (6)
16. Senior and minor football brothers for Cork in 1967. (5)
18. Harry saw service for Wexford in the Rackard era. (6)
20. It should be made do the work, according to the best authorities. (4)
21. Incomplete Cavan corner-forward. (7)
22. Ireland, as the French write it. (7)
23. A name common to Clare football teams both past and present. Also Tipperary star of another era. (7)
24. Wexford centre-forward who found his form in the National League final. (5)
25. Either heat or refreshing drinks, according to your language. (4)

**CLUES DOWN :**

1. Mayo midfielder. (1, 6)
2. Semi-retired Dublin hurler-footballer. (1, 5)
3. An incline for a player's name. (4)
4. Reverse an own goal for a player full of dash and vitality. (2)
5. Dubliner, footballer-hurler, who completed his career with New York. Initials. (1, 1)
7. Mayoman who won his All-Ireland with Louth. (3, 6)
9. Lean on this Tipperary hurler-coach. (6)
10. Seamus of Derry reminds one of outdated



competition for the Ulster section of the League. (5)

11. Offaly corner-back. (4)
14. Brendan ——— as a Longford wing half-back. (6)
15. Corner-back with Mayo. (1, 5)
16. Clan in confusion. (4)
17. Waterford and Munster hurler in late '40s., and obviously not a bad one. (5)
19. Tones indicate the beginning of an attack. (5)
20. Accounts for a Delaney (Laois) Christian name. (4)

**Solution Page 64**

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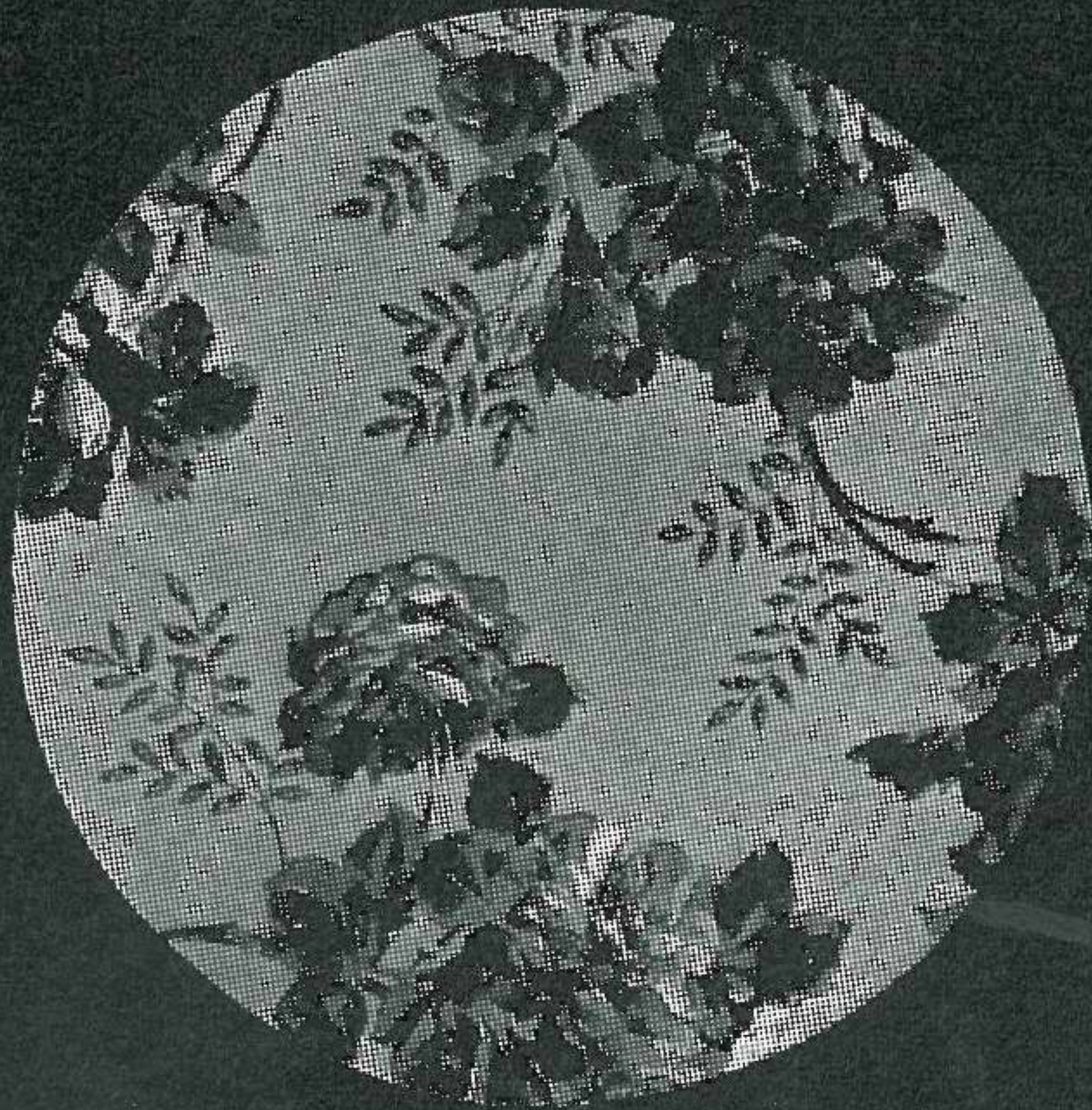
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(From Page 31.)

bright start. Perhaps the hard-tackling, jersey-pulling tactics, characteristic of both teams that day, didn't suit his stylish type of football. Perhaps too the first-time approach of Cavan's big centre-back Ray Carolan proved too effective for the lighter Corkman. Whatever it was that kept him quiet, Eamonn Ryan is determined it won't happen again.

The Cork forwards have undergone much criticism in recent years, partly because of the bad reputation set up by the erratic kickers of the 1956 and '57 teams. However, unlike the present players, most of the forwards of a decade or so ago were midfielders with their clubs and found themselves out of position in attack. This is not the case with the present sextet and men like Flor Hayes, Eric Philpott and Eamonn Ryan are three of the most dangerous marksmen in the county at the moment. Ryan's brand of football resembles that of the great Sean Purcell of Galway, and once in possession it is well nigh impossible to deprive him of the ball without infringing the rules. A fast moving player, he thrives on the toe-to-hand dash towards the goal, and generally ends his run with a neatly taken point.

Ryan was honoured by the Munster selectors last year and played with the province again this season. He began his career with the Glenville football club in East Cork and later entered U.C.C. where he took his B.A. degree and Higher Diploma in Education, and helped the College to win two county titles. Aged 25, Eamonn is married and lives at Watergrasshill where he teaches in the local national school. He also plays hurling with the Watergrasshill junior team. But football remains his first love, and on September 24 the 12-stone stalwart and his colleagues will be all out to bring back former glory to the city by the Lee.



# SMAOINTE FÁNACHA

le Seán O Dúnagáin

**D**HEINEAS tagairt anseo cheana don caighdeán iséal a ghabhann le aistriú agus litriú sloinnte imreoirí ar cháracha an Chumainn Lúchleas Gael. Tá géar-ghá le caighdánú na sloinnte agus is dócha gur ins na scoileanna is fearr tosnú. Séard a thárlaoinn ina lán cásanna ná go gcuireann rúnaí an chlub ceist ar an imreoir faoi litriú a shloinne, agus, do réir deallraimh, athraoinn an litriú ó scoil go céile. Cinnte cuir-eann an litriú nua isteach ar an scéal freisin.

Mar sin féin, níl bunús ar bith leis an litriú "Mc Cormaic" cuirim i gcás; níl ann ach béarlachas agus agus níl leithseéal ar bith ann go bhfágfaí an 'a' ar lár sa bhfocal 'mac.'

Uaireanta loitear sloinnte fíor-Ghaolach tré litriú dí-chéilleach agus, ar an lámh eile, deintear an-iarracht cuma Gaolach a cur ar shloinne Normanach — ceaptar nach gá ach "Ó" nó "Mac" a chur rompu maille le caolú an ghnótha dheiridh!

Ní dhéanfadh sé dochar ar bith

dá gcuirfi gluais beag de sloinnte ar fáil do na rúnaithe chontae; bh, fhéidir go dtabharfaidh eagarthóir "Gaelic Sport" fén ngnó.

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Tá an-chuid cainte ar siúl fé méid na "cearnóige" a leathnú— daoine a rá go dtabharfadh a leithéid deis do na tosaigh tuille cúl a ghnóthú dá bhóirne. Nílím ag rá nach n-aontaim leis an smaoineamh ach chomh fada is a bhaineann sé le maoir-chúil i láthair na huaire ní tugtar áird ar bith ar an riail adeir nach bhfuil sé ceadmhach do na tosaigh bheith laistigh de limistéar na cearnóige

Tá nós ag tosaigh an lae inniú ruathar isteach a thabhairt chun eagla a chur ar an gcúlbaire gan bacaint leis an liathróid. Ar ndóigh bíonn a bhfurmhór istigh sa chearnóg roimh na liathróide ach is annamh a cealaitear scór dá bhárr. Is ar na maoir chúil atá an dualgas sin ach, mar adeirim, nílíd ins gach chás ag comhlíonadh a ndualgaisí.

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## FREAGRAÍ DE DAÍTH

Ba mhaith liom freagraí fháil ó leitheoirí ar chúpla cheist:—

(a) An ndeintear aon chuid de gnó chlub ar bith tré Gaeilge?

(b) An dtugtar aon léacht as Gaeilge i gclub ar bith?

(c) An bhfuil suim chomh mór sa Ghaeilge ag muintir chlub ar bith go rithfidís rún i mbliana don Chomhdháil Chontae go ndéanfaí iarracht deimhniúeach chun an teanga náisiúnta a leithniú?

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## THE MINOR FINAL

# THE BOYS FROM CORK AND LAOIS CARRY BIG RESPONSIBILITIES

**T**HIS is not a vintage year in minor football; I may have been unlucky that few of the games I saw were productive of the highest quality of free, stylish football that this grade promises and often produces. Certainly the semi-finals of the All-Ireland championship were by no means up to the show-piece occasions that they ought to be. First Cork were too good for Tyrone in a game which showed great tactical immaturity among the northerners; physically less well-equipped, they persisted in the solo-run, closing the game into a tight order which suited Cork.

Yet, even Cork were not too impressive, and a good deal of uncertain shooting might have been a more serious burden for them to carry were it not for the two goals which they snatched in the middle of the first half, and which gave them a lead which Tyrone never looked likely to overcome. Yet, there are some very attractive qualities about the Cork team. They have a very strong centre-field combination, and if it can maintain efficiency for the full hour—and it will need to for this is also the strong point of the Laois team—it will influence the outcome to a very large degree.

I have the feeling that Cork, in general, may have the more effective players in defence and attack, in a proportion of four to two in each case, perhaps. But, there are individual Laois men of strength and quality. Strength, indeed, is a matter to be seriously considered

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By  
**JOE KAVANAGH**

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in minor games, and, these two teams certainly are well-matched here. The physical advantages should not be significant.

In style, there is a little to be preferred in the Corkmen, from what I have seen of both, and the inside forwards on the Cork side strike me as more speedy and cunning, and with a better eye for an opening or the prising of an opening than the Laois line. Yet, Laois possesses a player of real worth in the full-forward Lalor, who works as hard as he shoots, and despite his heavy preference for his right foot, forms a distinct threat to Cork.

The forwards of Laois were affected with a squandermania in

their game with Roscommon, of which they made very heavy weather, even though they were opposing a team who were only able to mount a few isolated periods of pressure. In view also of the fact that Roscommon were able to score all but a point of Laois' total, there would appear to be some reason to suspect the true metal of Laois under pressure from forwards who know their business.

One thing, however, must be emphasised: both teams will have to set out for victory with high intentions. They will have to play with high ideals in mind, rather than petty pulling and fouling. It needs a high class minor game to bring the best of this grade before the public, for their memories will be of moderate games throughout a year of no great standards.

Perhaps the best Cork chances will reside in the pull which will be given them from the half-back line backing up the centre-field in times of stress. An unknown element in the whole contest is the truth of the semi-final form. Nonetheless, there is little doubt that much of Laois' hopes will again have to rest on a very powerful midfield of Houlihan and Fleming.



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# THE FIGHTING HEART OF LAOIS

By  
**BERNIE  
POWER**

"IT'S a long road that has no turning." For Laois that "road," in terms of All-Ireland championships, stretches right back to 1915, when the county won the senior hurling title. That, in fact, is their only All-Ireland crown in any grade of hurling or football. They have contested All-Ireland finals since, of course, the most recent being in 1964, when they lost to Kerry in the initial Under-21 football decider, and also that year to Cork in minor hurling.

Now, it is the turn of the county's minor footballers of 1967. It takes a good team to get into any All-Ireland final, but this youthful outfit—eleven are eligible again next year—has shown such class and talent in a brilliant march to the decider that there are sober grounds for optimism in the county that the starlets of today will go one better than the last Laois teenage team to reach a national football decider.

That was back in the infancy of the All-Ireland championship in 1932, when in another Leinster-Munster clash, Kerry, with a 3-8 to 1-3 win, became the first county to win this title two years in a row. Few, then, could have envisaged that the wings of time would have wafted up to 1966 before Laois again put their name on the Leinster minor football Roll of Honour.

It was a spirited return, too, to All-Ireland fare. Teamed with

Down, they battled back from an 11 point interval deficit at Croke Park to snatch a draw, and in the replay at An Uaimh a week later, they were only beaten by a point.

I saw Laois in those two games last year and I have also watched the current team in a number of matches. My view is that the 1967 team is superior.

It has the same unquenchable spirit that the 1966 side displayed in that great fight-back in the drawn game with Down. We had ample evidence of this in the semi-final success over Roscommon, when Laois, after looking to be on the way to a good win with a 1-6 to 0-6 lead early in the second half, conceded 2-1 in three shattering minutes to fall a goal in arrears.

Those hammer blows were sufficient to shatter the morale and determination of any team. It is all the more a measure, then, of the ability of these Laois boys that, at a time when a lesser side would have become discouraged and wilted in the face of the renewed and unexpected challenge, they knuckled down doggedly to the task on hand and battled back for a deserved final place. It is fighting heart like this, when supported by ability and class, that so often proves the real key in opening the door to an All-Ireland title.

It is up front, however, that I am convinced the present team "scores," in more ways than one, over last year's. In these days

when so many teams are lacking in forwards accurate in finishing, Laois have in all six positions, youths who can take their scores in expert style. They have had a high-scoring march to the final, with Steve Allen being a particularly efficient unit in the scoring machine with a wonderful personal total for the campaign so far of 9-8. And, John Lalor, last year's captain, is close behind with 2-23! The scoring total to date by Laois is 24 goals and 62 points, which is impressive marksmanship in any man's language!

Ivor Holohan, a brother of Donegal forward, Des, and Seamus Fleming, form a strong midfield link between defence and attack, and the rearguard is well-marched, and will undoubtedly present a difficult path to goal for the Cork forwards.

Yes, the more I run the rule over this talented company of starlets, the more I am convinced that, in what has the makings of a great final, this combination is the county's best "bet" in years to end that long, barren Laois spell in the All-Ireland championships.

Should the boys from the O'Moore County do just that, a new name will be inscribed on the Tom Markham Cup for the fourth time in this decade. Cork made history in 1961, Offaly won their only final in 1964, and Derry made it a first-timer two years ago. That Offaly win was the last by

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# **CORK A DYNAMIC FORCE IN MINOR GRADE**

By  
**OWEN McCANN**

**W**HAT a dramatic change in the fortunes of Cork football in the minor grade since 1959! At the dawn of that year they had won the Munster title only twice (1939 and 1952) and had never appeared in a teenage national final. Since 1959 they have been the dominant force in the grade in the South, with six provincial titles, including this year's, to their credit as against Kerry's three, three All-Ireland final appearances, and a title in 1961.

Kerry, of course, won All-Ireland titles in 1962 and 1963, but Cork's over-all record leaves little doubt that it has been their era; a bright chapter that now stamps the Rebel County as a dynamic force in the under-18 grade, and also augurs well for the future of Leaside football. But, what of the immediate task—this bid to set the county off on the right foot with a win?

Cork may not have set the football world alight with the quality of their play in a disappointing semi-final with Tyrone, but there was still plenty of evidence in that game, as in the Munster championship, that their team has much to recommend it. Their footballers are safe fielders, accurate kickers, and play with tremendous dash and spirit and considerable skill. There is also power, drive and determination in plenty from goal to left-full-forward.

Cork's first meeting with a Leinster county in a minor football final was in 1964, when the

accurate boot of Tony McTeague, and the good all round play of his Offaly colleagues, resulted in an 0-15 to 1-11 success for the Leinster champions. Cork's only All-Ireland title success was forged in a 3-7 to 0-5 victory over Mayo, three years earlier. Could that win, in fact, prove a lucky omen for Cork? Their first final appearance a year previous was also against the champions of Connacht (Galway, who won 4-9 to 1-5), and they are now, of course, chasing a somewhat similiar revenge-type of victory as in 1961.

Despite that failure to Offaly, tradition points to a Munster success. From the initial final, in which Clare won their only title at the expense of Longford in 1929, and the last East-South meeting in 1964, the champions of these provinces have clashed in 10 finals, and the score stands at 6-4 in favour of the South. Munster's last title was gained at the expense of the East, Kerry foiling Westmeath for a first title in 1963.

Still on the omen theme . . . Kerry recorded both Munster's first minor and senior double in the same year, and the first such double in the history of these championships in 1931 at the expense of Leinster winners in both grades! They beat Louth at minor, and Kildare in senior. Cork are in line for this particular double for the first time in their history. It is, in fact, a feat that only one county, other than Kerry, has

achieved—Dublin. The Kingdom have a proud record of doubles in 1931, 1932, 1946 and 1962, and Dublin were successful in both grades for the only time in 1958. Kerry also completed the last Munster double in 1962, when they mastered Roscommon at senior after their minors had outscored Mayo.

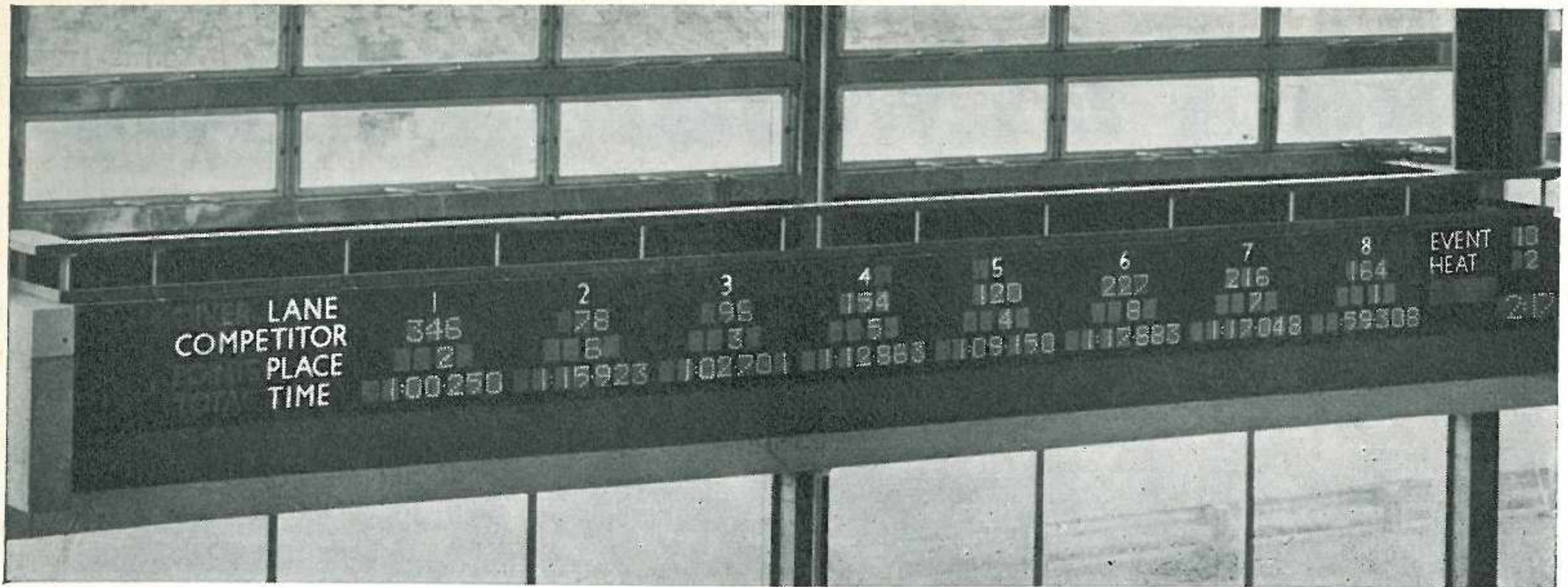
On the debit side for Cork, however, is the fact that since the Tom Markham Cup was first presented as the trophy for minor football in 1941, Leinster teams have won out eight times, as against five Munster successes. Connacht, in fact are in second place with six wins, and Ulster bring up the rear with four titles.

But past records; past achievements; omens . . . enough of them! You can discount them all, when this 35th All-Ireland final brings Cork and Laois into opposition in any grade of championship football for the first time. It is on the talents and skills of the youths on parade that this intriguing and highly-appealing curtain-raiser will ultimately be decided.

Laois are undoubtedly a formidable obstacle for Cork to overcome. But, the Munster champions have strength and depth in defence and attack, and power in midfield. To complement this, there is the experience of defender Simon Murphy and forwards Jimmy Barrett and Ted O'Brien.

Murphy was in the team beaten by Mayo in the 1966 semi-final,  
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# TONY BRENNAN



talks to SEAN O'DONNELL

ONE of the surest things about the All-Ireland final is that when it is over Tony Brennan's name will figure high on the scoring list. This quiet-spoken Enfield forward is one of Meath's trump cards and the Cork defence will learn about him on September 24.

I recently had the following chat with Tony!

*O'D.—To what do you attribute Meath's fine win over Mayo?*

B.—We took our chances. Experience had something to do with it. We also had trained carefully.

*O'D.—Did the margin of Meath's victory surprise you?*

B.—To an extent. I had expected a harder challenge from Mayo. They are still a fine team and should be back.

*O'D.—Do you think Meath have now mastered the art of long-range points or is this something which is to be seen only every now and then?*

B. — I hope you will see it on September 24. We have certainly worked hard at it and Peter McDermott has given a lot of attention to this aspect of play. I would say that we are more proficient at it now than we were last year.

*O'D.—It is often said that Meath training is too inclined towards physical fitness and not enough to the tactics of the game. Do you agree?*

B.—There is certainly no lack of emphasis on tactics this year, both aspects are being combined.

*O'D.—How do you rate Meath's chances against Cork?*

B.—Very high. I think that this is our year. In saying that I am not under-estimating Cork. They are a strong and very capable team but our experience should be worth the few points that matter.

*O'D.—What sort of a game do you expect it to be?*

B.—This is a difficult question. Our styles are not very different. It should be a fast and hard game—plenty of contact and traditional football at its best.

*O'D.—To go back to last year's final, was it a great disappointment?*

B.—Yes, it was. We had over-rated ourselves on the strength of our semi-final performance against Down. But then a lot of non-Meath people over-rated us too.

*O'D.—Were you relieved when Mayo beat Galway in this year's championship?*

B.—Very much so. There was a great danger that we would have had an inferiority complex about Galway had we met them this year.

*O'D.—Who is the most difficult opponent you have played on?*

B. — Bosco McDermott without any doubt—a great footballer.

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PETER OWENS

## HANDBALL

# The Kerry Tradition

By ALLEYMAN

THE most glamorous pairing in present-day Irish handball is the McEllistrim brothers, Tom and Murty from Kerry. They have been to the forefront for the past couple of years and, with age on their side should continue to be in the news for at least another decade.

It is significant that they come from Kerry, for they, in fact, are carrying on a great tradition. Before they emerged on the horizon of handball glory, the Kingdom had shone as a beacon for a very long time, mainly through the efforts of Paddy Downey and Jimmy O'Brien.

It is interesting to take a look back at their career, for this pair have really become somewhat of an institution as they amassed no less than ten All-Ireland doubles titles.

Indeed some of those victories revive memories of the occasions when they made stupendous recoveries, often grasping victory from the jaws of defeat. Foremost to mind comes a Munster final between Kerry and Tipperary at the Horse and Jockey on June 19, 1960. Downey and O'Brien were opposed to Mick Shanahan and Tom Doheny.

The Tipperary men were in wonderful form that day and when they led by three games, it appeared that the title, won by Kerry the previous year, was about to change hands. But then it happened — Downey found his touch and, ably assisted by O'Brien, he went about reducing the deficit.

Playing their best-ever handball,



they gradually overhauled the Tipperarymen and, in winning the next four games, turned what looked like certain defeat into a glorious victory.

They went on to retain their All-Ireland crown by disposing of Kildare's Tony Daly and Pat Winders, although, in this case also they had to make up leeway after losing the first two games.

The year 1960 appears to have unfolded many tales, especially for Downey, who also figured in one of the most unusual hardball singles finals ever played.

The game, between himself and Joe Maher, was fixed for Ceananus Mór on October 2, 1960, but due to inclement weather had to be transferred to the covered court at Ballymore-Eustace. It proved to be one of the greatest marathons of recent times.

They matched each other so well for guile, shot and alleycraft that if there was such a thing as stalemate in handball then this was it.

When darkness came down on Ballymore-Eustace, they packed their bags and set out for Cloughran.

Here, the lights were switched on, and Maher and Downey again took up the running where they had left off. Eventually, late on Sunday night, the greater staying power of the Tralee man proved decisive and he ran out a narrow winner. The scores in Downey's favour in that marathon were: 21-17; 21-18; 9-21; 21-17; 7-21; 10-21; 21-11.

To Maher's credit he was back again the following year and dethroned the Kerryman in four straight games.

Downey's last appearance in singles fare was in the All-Ireland hardball final against the late Des Dillon in the Autumn of 1963, when he won easily. After that he concentrated on doubles play, where his perfect alley sense stood him in good stead.

Of his partner Jimmy O'Brien, it can be said that he was the supreme doubles player, who holds

many records that will not be surpassed for a long time.

He has the distinction of appearing most often on a successful All-Ireland senior soft doubles pairing. Originally he partnered Joe Hassett and then Downey with whom he played since 1955.

The Kerry Twins of handball as they were normally referred to, certainly had a glorious innings. And, if they must now fade from the limelight to make way for the new stars, it should go on record that they have contributed to the sparkle of their successors.

When the McEllistrims went in search of a record breaking run of four junior All-Ireland titles last season, they had the full co-operation of Downey and O'Brien by way of practice runs and advice. I have little doubt that as they continue to hit the headlines and win titles they will receive the same aid from the old maestros whose feats they hope to emulate and even surpass.

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# BITS and PIECES

By VINCENT MURRIHY

**A** RECENT development in a Mayo objection will cause many County Chairmen to re-think of a ruling that, as far as I know, they have been making consistently in the past. One team objected against the opposition being awarded the game after the latter had appeared on the field fifteen minutes late. The Mayo County Board heard the objection and stripped the winners of the game, but did not award it to the losers.

And the reason for this seemingly unjust decision? Rule 74 stipulates that a team which fails to take the field at the appointed time shall be fined £1 for every five minutes for which they are late up to 15 minutes. Any team more than fifteen minutes late **shall forfeit the game**, even though they may be winners on the score-line, etc.

The Rule says they "forfeit the game", but it makes no provision that the game be awarded to the opposition. But how often have we seen this being done. I hope that Co. and divisional Chairmen will take note of this and apply the rule correctly in future.

## EACH-WAY FORECAST

I had the opportunity of reading quite a number of newspapers prior to the Mayo v. Meath semi-final. I noted that Mayo-born journalist David Halloran, who is on the staff of the "Drogheda Independent" plumped for a narrow Meath victory in his own paper.

However, in the "Western People", as a guest writer, he gave

the vote to Mayo to win narrowly.

But then in the "Gaelic Weekly", he was very non-committal. So win, lose or draw David would have been right.

## REPEAT WINNERS

A coincidence of this year's All-Ireland series was that the same counties in each province carried off both the Under-21 and Junior titles. Kildare, Kerry, Mayo and Derry being the counties in each case.

## SUBSTITUTE LINESMAN

John Barrett's footnote in the "Kerryman" after his report on the Kildare v. Kerry All-Ireland junior semi-final at Newbridge: "It was farcical that in an All-Ireland semi-final that a Kerry substitute should have had to act as linesman. This automatically meant that he had no chance of being brought into the game at any stage, which is just about the most demoralising thing that can happen a substitute. In addition it was unfair that anybody from either side should have had to act in such a capacity, particularly in the prevailing atmosphere.

## GORTLETTERAGH

It's very refreshing to read of such wonderful progress in a county like Leitrim which is passing through such a difficult phase. The occasion was the opening of a new G.A.A. field at Gortletteragh and it certainly was a day of fulfilment for the hard working Park Committee, who have put many back-breaking hours of work into the project. May they enjoy the success they deserve.

## ROSCOMMON HURLERS

Roscommon hurlers certainly hit the headlines during the past month.

In the Connacht Under-21 final they trounced Mayo by 11-8 to 1-2 (a winning margin of 36 points) and they followed this up by whipping Leitrim in the minor decider by 12-11 to 1-0 (a winning margin of 44 points).

But the success story ends there. The Sunday after the Under-21 victory their Intermediate hurlers were trounced by 6-13 to 2-7 by Antrim in the All-Ireland semi-final (18 points) while the minors went under to Down by 22 points.

From riches to rags.

## SURPRISE VISIT

It must have been a great thrill for the 200 or so young Munster lads that had the opportunity of spending a month-long holiday in Ballingearry Gaeltacht. While there they studied both the language and the games and their holiday was highlighted by the visit of the President and Secretary of the G.A.A., Séamus Ó Riain and Seán Ó Síocháin respectively.

## POINTS PENALTIES

I was fascinated by a suggestion that was mooted (in Limerick) some time ago to cure teams who are continually arriving late on the field. It stipulates that a team arriving late be penalised by a point being added to the opposition's tally for the first five minutes; two points for the second five and a point per minute after that. It's certainly an effective

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## LEAGUE GROUPINGS CRITICISED

WHILST readily agreeing that it is just not possible to please everybody, the reception given to the groupings for the coming National Leagues suggest that all too many of the counties are dissatisfied with the new arrangements.

Kerry are not happy about having to play in the top hurling

company and I agree they are being realistic in their approach. As Limerick or Tipperary cannot hope to provide exciting football fare when opposed to Cork or Kerry; a similar situation arises in hurling when Kerry are pitted against any of the other sides in their present grouping. They will not gain a lot by being dubbed the

cinderella of their group even before a ball is struck.

It is disappointing that the Central Council were not more appreciative of the standards when approaching this whole question of the Leagues. Played as they are during the worst months of the year it is particularly important that every effort be made to ensure by every means humanly possible that the standard of play will be such as to induce the fans out.

This is particularly important in a season that has witnessed a further drop in public support for the games. Almost from every county the story is being heard and it is evident that a big drive must be made, and without delay, if the position is not to deteriorate still further.

Many causes have been blamed for this loss of interest. The televising of the big All-Ireland ties has proved disastrous—not only from the point of view of the very serious fall in the attendances at Croke Park, but for the effect it has had on local games all over the country.

With an already heavily loaded programme it is just not feasible to leave these Sundays blank.

Heavy losses are being incurred through playing to what, in places, proved only a handful of spectators, and immediate action must be taken before irreparable harm

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With the development of grounds, and other necessary amenities the charges on field committees and other bodies have increased enormously in recent years. Rates on grounds and property are constantly rising, bank interest and building costs are heavy, and on top of all this the expenses associated with the running of games are very much on the up and up.

The Association just cannot afford live television, and this fact must be accepted, and right away, before untold damage is wrought.

Many supported the original granting of television rights in the belief—now found to be mistaken—that a generous attitude to the new medium would induce in return a generous treatment from the RTE authorities in regard to the national games.

For a period the "G.A.A. World of Sport" programme, despite its shortcomings, gave some hope that this would be forthcoming. When this was discontinued the coverage of the national games lost all appeal for the great majority of G.A.A. fans. The time is long overdue for the Association to show it is not prepared to put up with such treatment.

They can do this in a very effective way by withdrawing all rights for the televising of their games unless absolute assurances are given that Gaelic Games be accorded the special place which is their due on a national service.

I cannot help feeling but that we have been very weak in not insisting on this long ago, but there can be no doubt about it that the time for very serious action has now arrived, and units of the Association all over the country cannot go on losing big money on occasions when games are being televised unless something very tangible is forthcoming in return from the RTE authorities.

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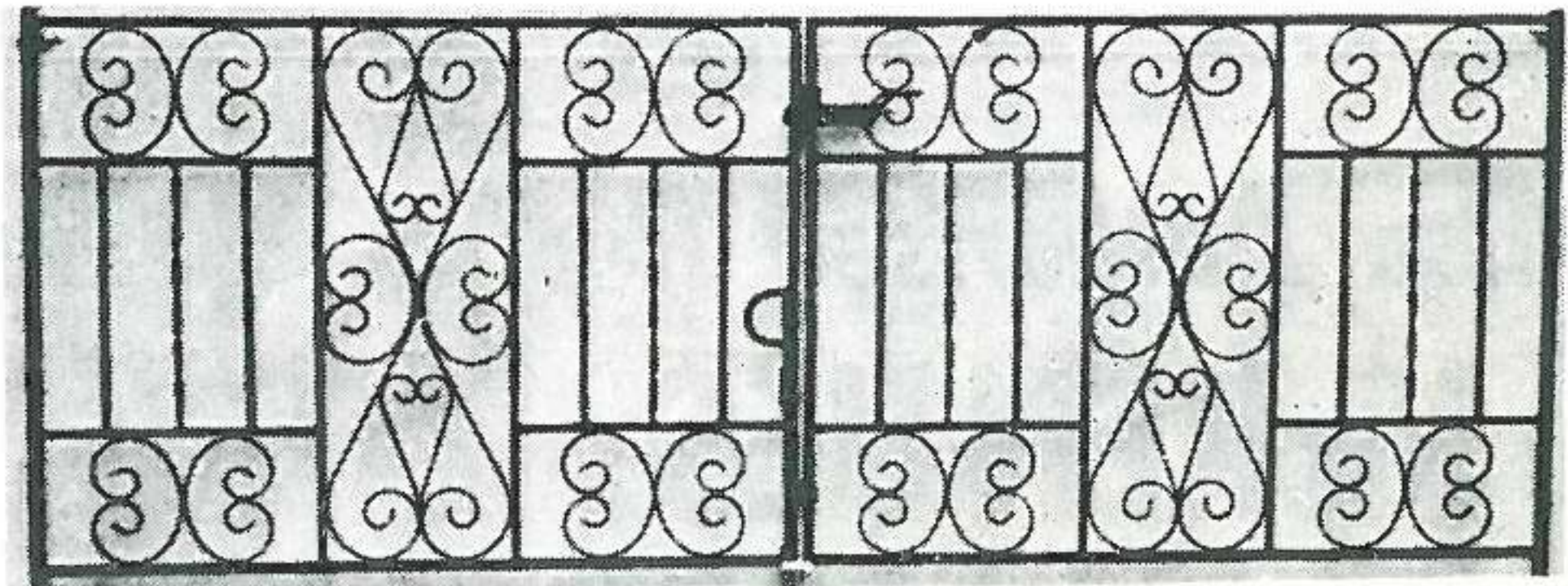
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# CAMOGIE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

BY the time you read these notes, we will have seen the All-Ireland final between Antrim and Dublin and I shall be greatly surprised if it is not one of the most spectacular yet played. Certainly, from the evidence of the semi-finals, both teams were even better than they were when they met in the brilliant final of 1966, and so the final had everything in its favour.

Indeed, from the games I saw all through the championship the standard of the play continues to

improve and if Dublin did continue to lead the way in Leinster, the worth of Wexford, Offaly and Kilkenny showed a consistent advance while, also in Leinster, I was greatly impressed by the quality of the camogie played by Kildare and Meath in the junior final.

Mayo, who had come somewhat unexpectedly out of the West, gave what I considered a very good display against Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final. Indeed, I think Mayo would have done even better

had the weather not turned so sour the day they met Dublin at Parnell Park.

Antrim impressed me most of all when I saw them beat Cork at Cork, but when I went up to Belfast a week afterwards to see the camogie course organised by the Ulster Council, I was not surprised that the standard in the North is so high.

There were up to fifty members at the course, and it was hard to know whether their bubbling good humour, their dedication to the task in hand or their determination to improve left the most lasting impression.

Certainly, camogie in Down, and Derry and Monaghan, no less than in Antrim, must benefit hugely from this educational session, and the first result, I feel, will be that Ulster will be very hard to beat in future in the Gael-Linn Cup inter-provincial series.

So on the playing fields the future of camogie is very bright, but the most disturbing thing about the game this season has been the lack of spectator interest. This was especially disturbing at the two All-Ireland semi-finals.

Neither at Cork or in Dublin was the turn-out any more than a fraction of what it should have been. True, the weather was far from favourable on either occasion, but the fact remains that no more than a couple of hundred people turned up either at the University College, Cork, grounds or at Parnell Park.

Now there might have been some slight excuse for the Dublin followers as nobody expected Mayo to defeat the champions, although even so one felt that, considering the number of camogie players in Dublin, the number would have been at least twice as great had even a third of them turned out to support their own game and their own team.

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But the position in Cork was that the Cork side were in with a great chance of reaching the All-Ireland final for the first time in more than a decade and they were facing the great Antrim side that had run Dublin to two points in last year's All-Ireland final. Yet, the attendance was worse than disappointing, and afterwards I wondered if it was a mistake to bring this game to Cork at all. For camogie it seems is not enough of a novelty to attract the Cork citizens.

Perhaps it would have been better to play the game in some such centre as Youghal where camogie is strong but where an All-Ireland semi-final would have been something of a novelty and would surely have provided a far bigger crowd than turned up in Cork. I remember some years ago, when Kilkenny and Dublin met in a Leinster final, the game was played in the hurling centre of Mooncoin in the extreme south of Kilkenny, and the crowd that turned up was one of the biggest ever seen at a Leinster final. So I think it would be good for the game in every way to play those big games away from the cities.

In the first place, such matches would attract a better crowd there and secondly it would be very good publicity for the game, especially when those who have never seen camogie of this standard before realise the excellence of the game as played by the top teams. Indeed, I still with pleasure remember the big crowd and the pleasant day at the All-Ireland semi-final between Antrim and Dublin at Glenarriffe some couple of years ago.

Another matter that demands attention is the attendance at the All-Ireland finals. Now I know that no matter how well Antrim and Dublin play when they meet, the general public refuse to show any great interest, so it is up to the Association itself, to make some attempt to organise their own

members to turn up in greater numbers. I was very pleased in this respect to see definite steps in this direction being taken by those attending the course in Belfast.

More than one club was organising a bus-load to go to Dublin, and there was a suggestion that at least one school team would come along together to see camogie at its best. This is a start in the right direction, and I feel that if it were impressed upon the clubs and counties that the annual final day should also be a kind of rallying day for all true supporters of the game, we should be able to double the attendance from past and present camogie players alone.

## FIGHTING HEART

(From page 47)

an Eastern team, and that game also marked the last appearance by Leinster champions in the concluding round.

When Laois last reached the All-Ireland minor final, Leinster was unrepresented in the senior decider, so this is a unique Eastern line-up on final day. What price, now, another Leinster first-timer—a Laois-Meath double?

Incidentally, in addition to Lalor, defender James Mangan, Fleming and forward Robert Millar were in last year's team.

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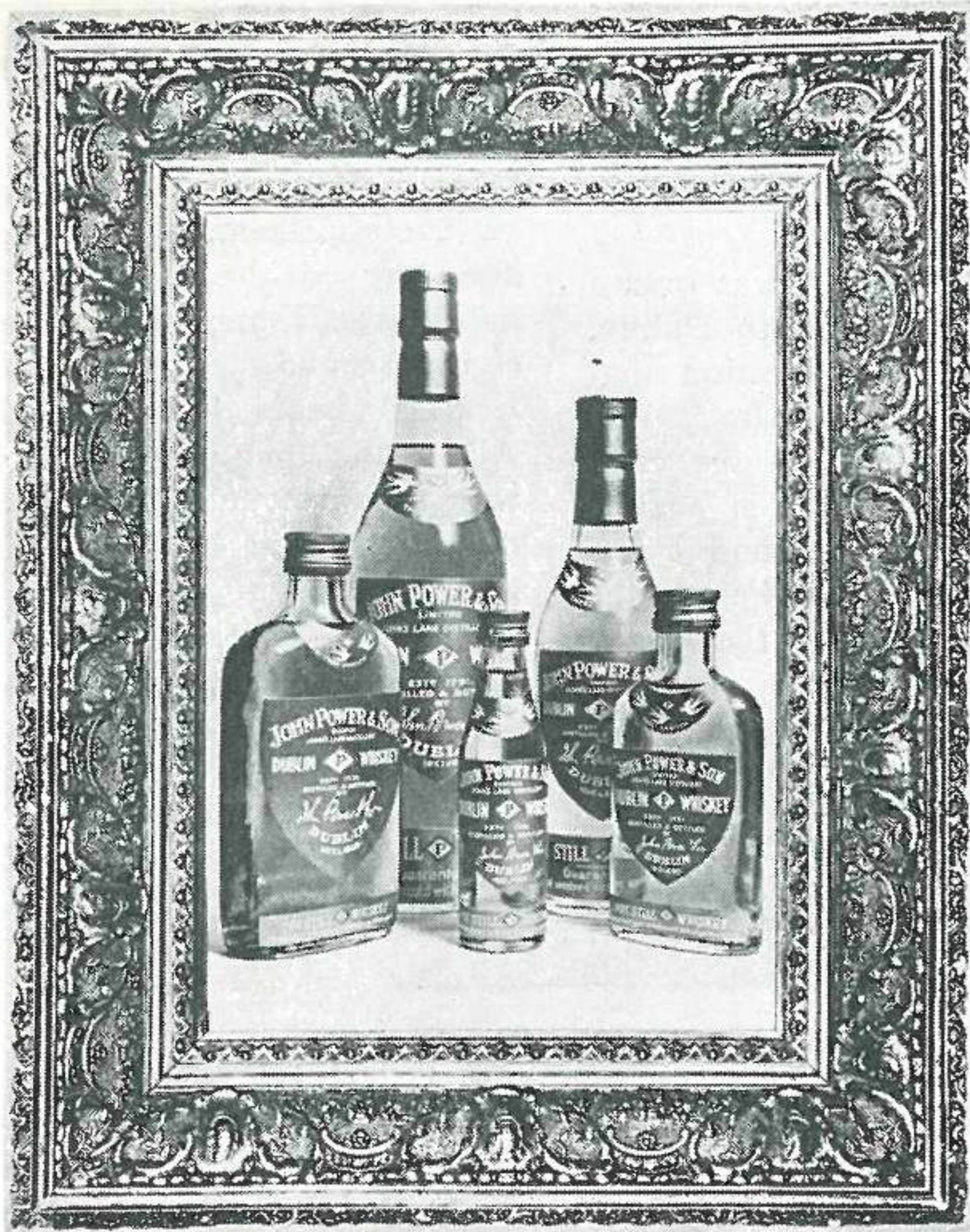
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## VICTORIOUS ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL CAPTAINS

- |                               |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1887—D. Corbett, Limerick.    | 1928—W. Gannon, Kildare.    |
| 1889—G. Kavanagh, Tipperary.  | 1929—J. Barrett, Kerry.     |
| 1890—J. Power, Cork.          | 1930—J. J. Sheehy, Kerry.   |
| 1891—J. Kennedy, Dublin.      | 1931—C. Brosnan, Kerry.     |
| 1892—J. Kennedy, Dublin.      | 1932—J. Barrett, Kerry.     |
| 1893—T. Hayes, Wexford.       | 1933—J. Smith, Cavan.       |
| 1894—J. Kennedy, Dublin.      | 1934—M. Higgins, Galway.    |
| 1895—P. Finn, Tipperary.      | 1935—H. O'Reilly, Cavan.    |
| 1896—C. Fitzgerald, Limerick. | 1936—J. S. O'Malley, Mayo.  |
| 1897—P. J. Walsh, Dublin.     | 1937—M. Doyle, Kerry.       |
| 1898—M. Rea, Dublin.          | 1938—J. Dunne, Galway.      |
| 1899—M. Rea, Dublin.          | 1939—T. O'Connor, Kerry.    |
| 1900—J. Tobin, Tipperary.     | 1940—D. Spring, Kerry.      |
| 1901—J. D'Arcy, Dublin.       | 1941—W. Dillon, Kerry.      |
| 1902—J. Dempsey, Dublin.      | 1942—J. Fitzgerald, Dublin. |
| 1903—T. O'Gorman, Kerry.      | 1943—J. Murray, Roscommon.  |
| 1904—A. Stack, Kerry.         | 1944—J. Murray, Roscommon.  |
| 1905—J. Murray, Kildare.      | 1945—T. Crowley, Cork.      |
| 1906—J. Grace, Dublin.        | 1946—P. Kennedy, Kerry.     |
| 1907—J. Grace, Dublin.        | 1947—J. J. O'Reilly, Cavan. |
| 1908—D. Kelleher, Dublin.     | 1948—J. J. O'Reilly, Cavan. |
| 1909—T. Costello, Kerry.      | 1949—B. Smyth, Meath.       |
| 1910—J. Carvin, Louth.        | 1950—S. Flanagan, Mayo.     |
| 1911—M. Mehigan, Cork.        | 1951—S. Flanagan, Mayo.     |
| 1912—J. Smyth, Louth.         | 1952—M. Higgins, Cavan.     |
| 1913—R. Fitzgerald, Kerry.    | 1953—J. Murphy, Kerry.      |
| 1914—R. Fitzgerald, Kerry.    | 1954—P. McDermott, Meath.   |
| 1915—S. Kennedy, Wexford.     | 1955—J. Dowling, Kerry.     |
| 1916—S. Kennedy, Wexford.     | 1956—J. Mangan, Galway.     |
| 1917—S. Kennedy, Wexford.     | 1957—D. O'Brien, Louth.     |
| 1918—J. Byrne, Wexford.       | 1958—K. Heffernan, Dublin.  |
| 1919—L. Stanley, Kildare.     | 1959—M. O'Connell, Kerry.   |
| 1920—E. O'Shea, Tipperary.    | 1960—K. Mussen, Down.       |
| 1921—E. Carroll, Dublin.      | 1961—P. Doherty, Down.      |
| 1922—P. Carey, Dublin.        | 1962—S. Og Sheehy, Kerry.   |
| 1923—P. McDonnell, Dublin.    | 1963—D. Foley, Dublin.      |
| 1924—P. Sullivan, Kerry.      | 1964—J. Donnellan, Galway.  |
| 1925—M. Walsh, Galway.        | 1965—E. Colleran, Galway.   |
| 1926—J. J. Sheehy, Kerry.     | 1966—E. Colleran, Galway.   |
| 1927—M. Buckley, Kildare.     |                             |

## Bits & Pieces

(From page 55)

tive penalty and one that I hope will receive universal acceptance some day.

### JOHN DONNELLAN

The recent retirement (?) of Galway's ace wing-back, John Donnellan, from football, reminded me of the misfortunes that he encountered while Galway were at the top.

In 1963 after being one of the outstanding Galway men on the field his side lost: in '64 as captain his father died during the course of the game; in '65 he incurred the displeasure of the referee and was sent off; and to crown it all, in 1966 he was dropped for the all-important game.

It's a tribute to him that he soldiered on so bravely when such set-backs would have deterred many a lesser man.

### DYNAMIC FORCE

(From page 49)

and also figured in the 1966 and 1967 hurling finals. Barrett and O'Brien also figured against Wexford hurlers earlier this month. Their experience will be a big asset to Cork, who also have other links with their 1966 semi-final XV in midfield Donal Hunt and forwards Dan Morley and Ned Kirby.

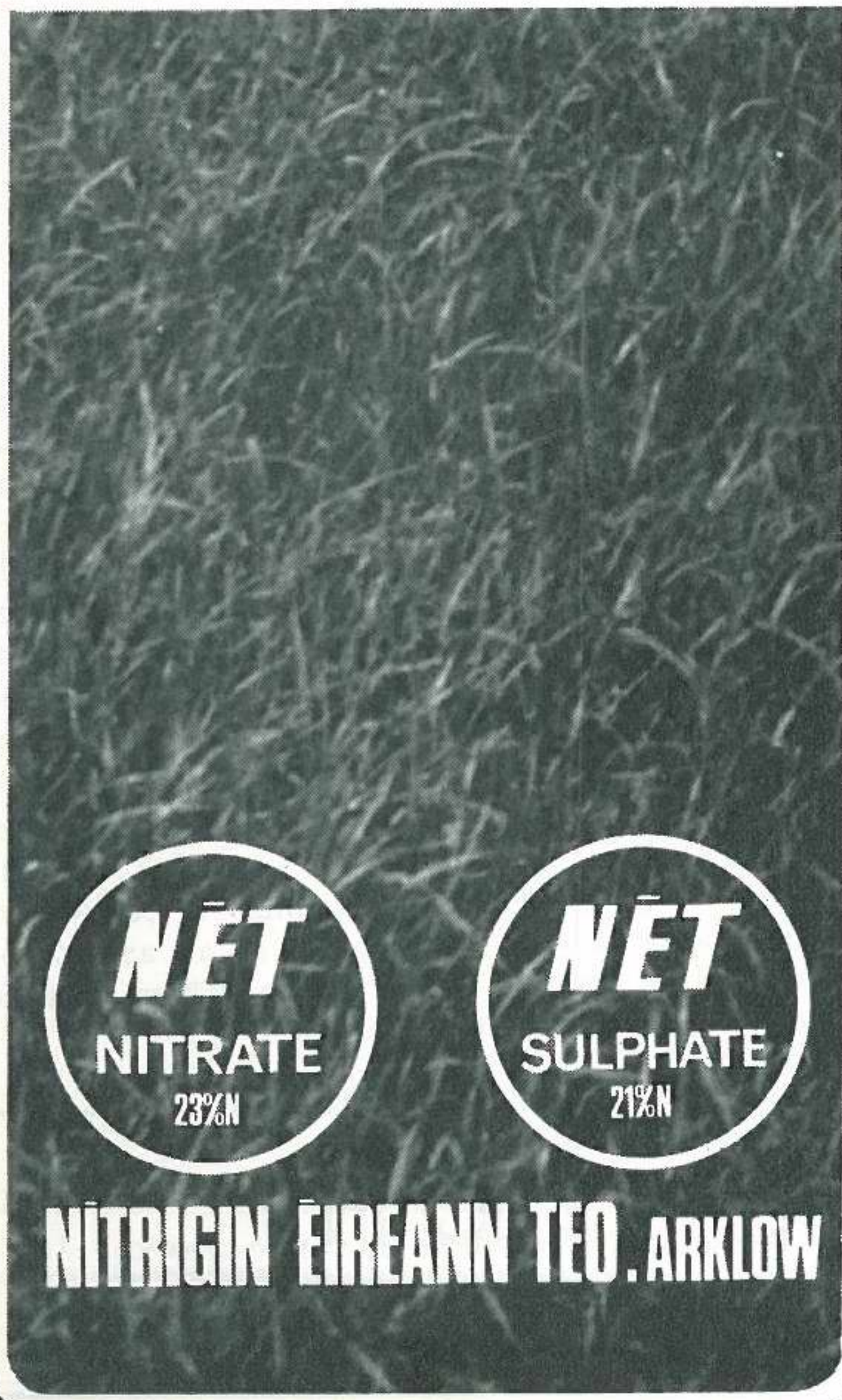
But, whatever the outcome, from what I have seen of both teams in the earlier rounds. I feel we are in for as good as an aperitif on All-Ireland football final day as we have had in years.

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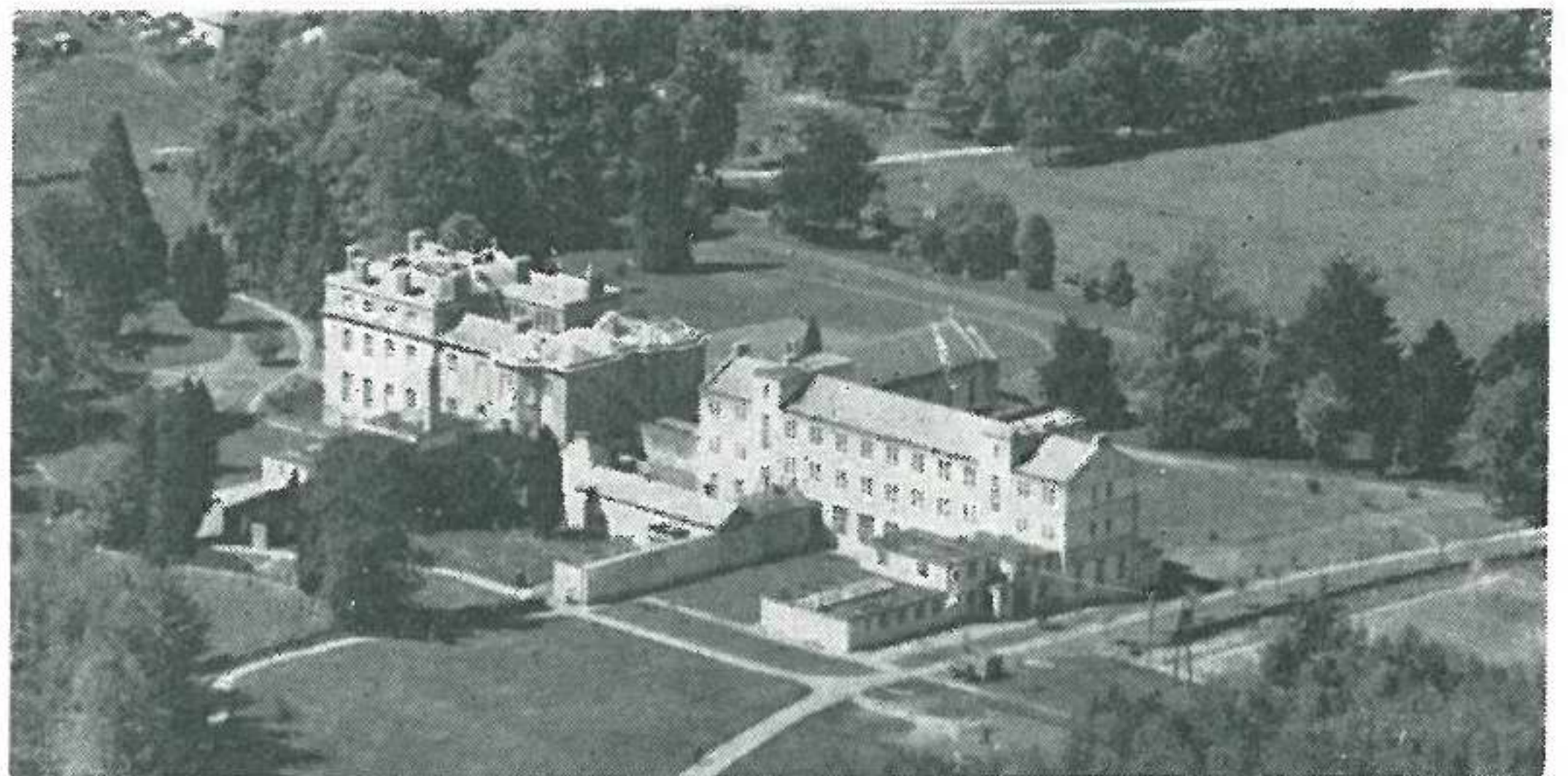


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full position; Frank Cogan, a sweet-moving, instantly reacting wing-half, probably the best playing in that position; Mick Burke with hands like magnets; and Con O'Sullivan who deprives the full-backs of a sight of the ball with his broad back and six feet plus.

Maybe not the star-studded team which Galway was, but nobody falls much short of those I have named. It is an even team, evenly spirited and evenly full of fire for victory. Over their dead bodies, as it were . . .

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(From page 41)

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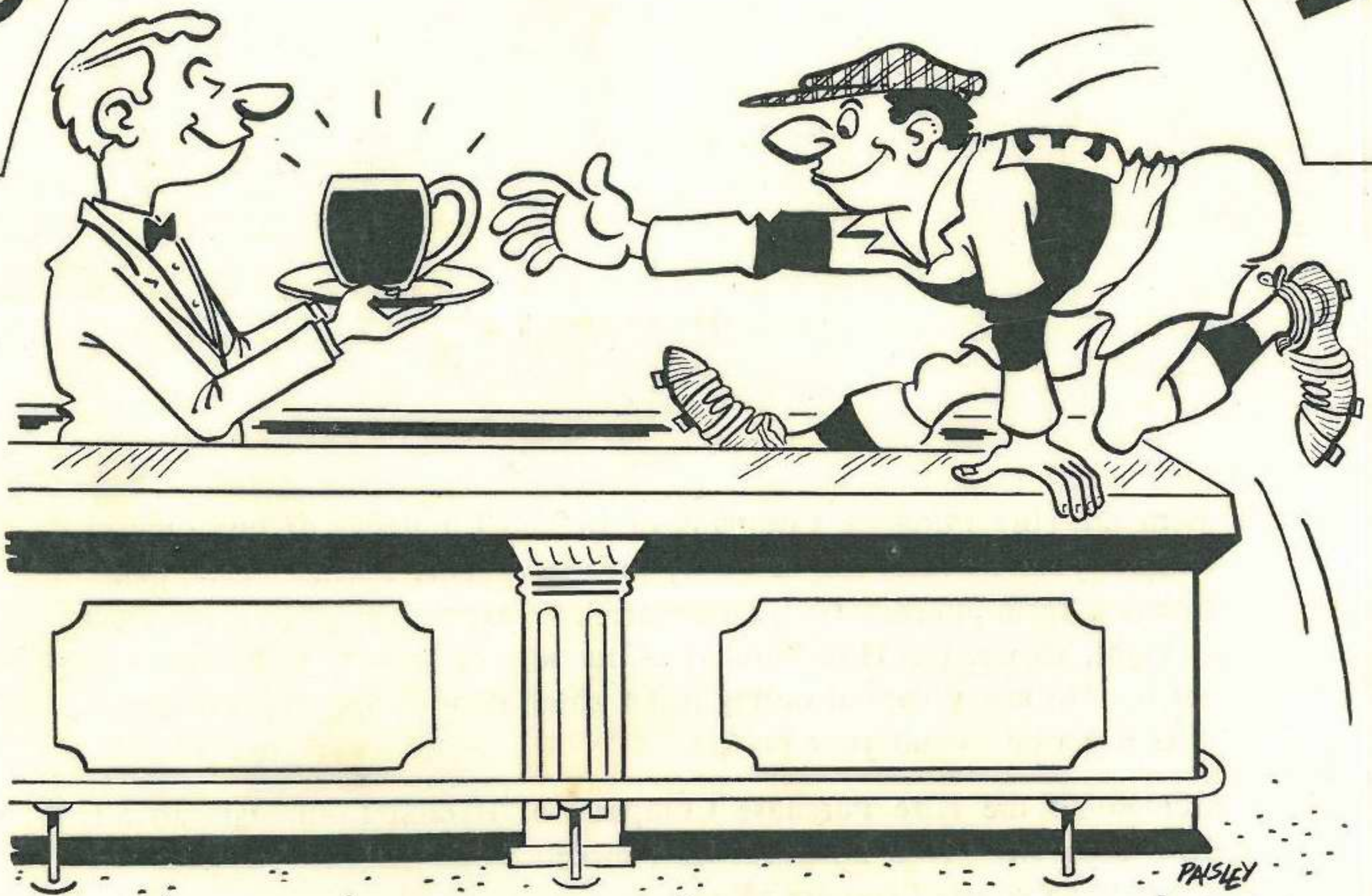
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