

81 GAA

# *Gaelic Sport*

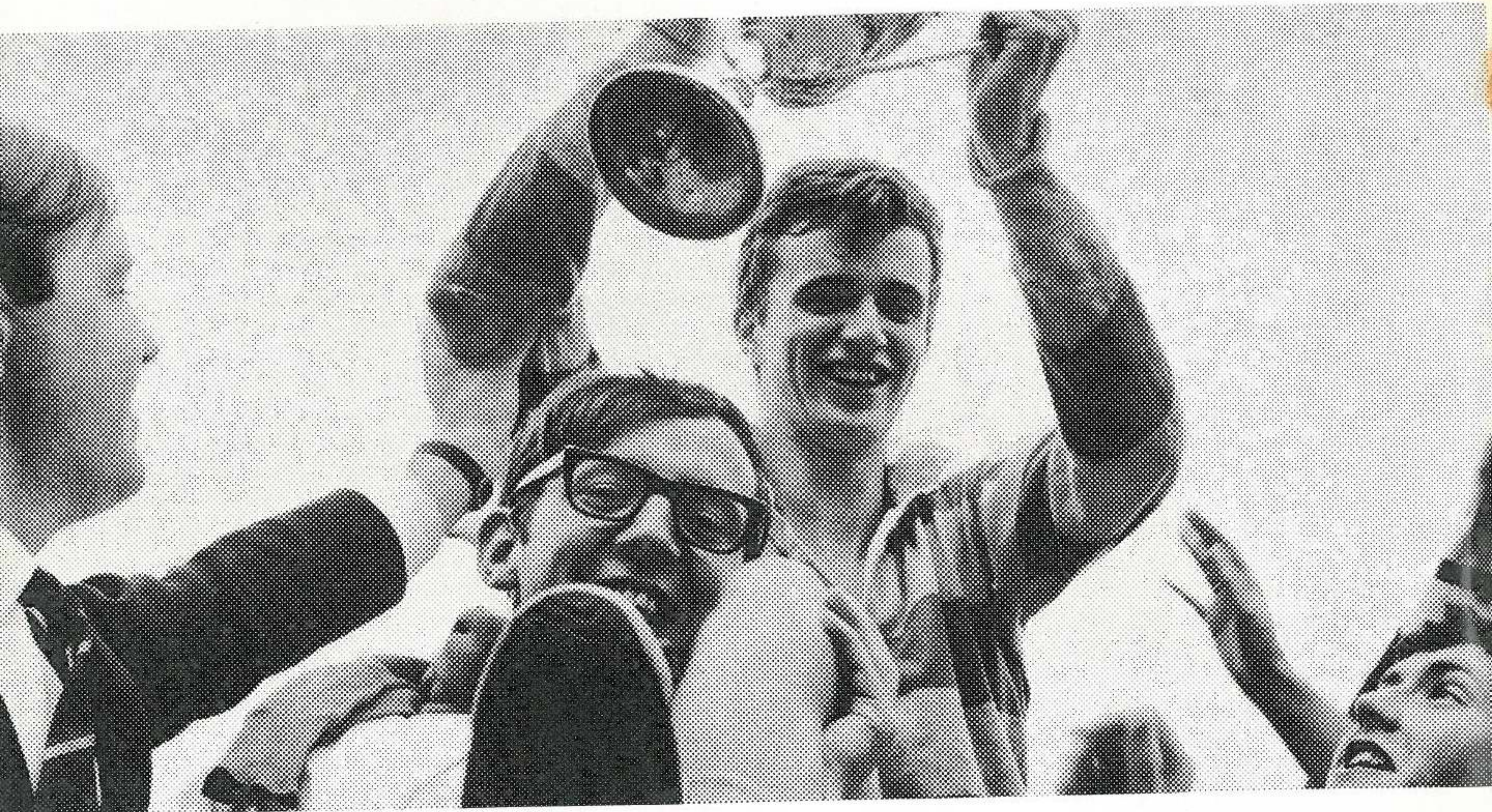
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# Gaelic Sport

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## COVER PICTURE :

KERRY (standing from left) : S. Burrows, M. O'Connell, D. J. Crowley, J. Culloty, M. O'Shea, M. O'Dwyer, M. Fleming, P. O'Donoghue. Front row (from left) : S. Murphy, E. O'Donoghue, D. O'Donnell, P. Griffin (Capt), Denis O'Sullivan, B. Lynch, Donie O'Sullivan.

DOWN (standing from left) : T. O'Hare, J. Milligan, L. Powell, D. Kelly, C. McAlarney, S. O'Neill, R. McConville, D. McCartan. Front row (from left) : J. Purdy, M. Cole, P. Rooney, J. Lennon (capt.), J. Murphy, P. Doherty, B. Sloan.

# BE TOFFS, TIPP.!

SO much is being said about the Kerry-Down Final in the following pages that, having congratulated both teams on qualifying for the great occasion, we may be pardoned for devoting this editorial to a different subject.

With tempers now cooling down on both sides, a few comments on the recent altercation between the Tipperary County Board and six Dublin sports writers will not be deemed out of place.

First, the Tipperary Board imposed a ban on the writers because they disagreed with reports of the home final of the National League last May. The Dublin Branch of the National Union of Journalists took action on behalf of their members by imposing a counter ban on games played in Tipperary and news and comment on G.A.A. affairs from the county.

The parable of the mote in the eye is relevant. Everyone involved in an argument thinks that his side of the case is right, and if Tipperary felt that they were harshly treated, their resentment was understandable.

Nevertheless, their decision to refuse information and comment on their team's training for the final was at best unwise and at worst smacked of dictatorship. There was an implicit accusation that the writers concerned were

dishonest and incompetent. That is a serious matter.

The whole question of the freedom of the press is involved. Tipperary have set a dangerous precedent. Who is to decide what is valid criticism, or criticism within reason? Is every unit of the Association now entitled to take punitive action against a writer if there is disagreement (the subjective view, remember) with something that appears in print?

The issue here, we believe, involves the authority of the Central Council. And the Council might do well to discuss it as soon as possible. The press means too much to the Association to allow the Gaelic sports writers to be branded as enemies and outlaws. The development of such a trend would surely mean that the Association would ultimately be catastrophic losers.

The six writers concerned in this case are known to be men of the highest integrity, reputable journalists on reputable papers. It seems imperative now that the Tipperary Board make some gesture of reconciliation (overtly or covertly), other than the lifting of the ban, to show that they made an unwise decision. Though they may still resent the critical reports, such an action would exemplify the generosity and manliness for which the people of Tipperary have always been renowned.

# Well done, Wexford

DUE to the fact that all the material in this issue had to be prepared before the All-Ireland hurling finals, we are unable to pay adequate tribute to Wexford for their wonderful feat in winning the historic double on September 1. May we just say now : Bravo, Wexford! While your men and boys play the game, hurling will hold its proud position as the greatest sporting spectacle on earth.

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# FINAL ANALYSIS

*Victory may well be decided  
at midfield and there  
Kerry's main hopes will rest  
on the greatness of  
Mick O'Connell, but . . .*

## IT'S DOWN

SAYS TERENCE ROYNANE

**D**OWN or Kerry for All-Ireland honours? That is a question which brings us right back to the year of 1960 and the Mourne side's first ever bid for senior All-Ireland honours. Kerry were then All-Ireland champions, while Down, though they had won the league in the spring of that year had yet to prove themselves at top championship level.

But the Downmen came storming through to well-deserved victory before a packed Croke Park, and underlined their own worth by coming back to retain the title in the following year. Since then, of course, their record has been far from distinguished in championship play, even though they have reached every Ulster final for years. They lost to Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1963 and to Galway in the semi-final of 1965, and are now through to the final for the first time since 1961. By contrast, Kerry came back to win the final of 1962, lost most unexpectedly to Galway in the 1963 semi-final and then went down to the Galwegians in two successive finals, 1964 and 1965.

In the last two seasons they failed even to come out of Munster, losing to Cork on each occasion, but this year they decisively halted Cork's march at

Killarney and then went on to a hard-earned but very meritorious victory over Leinster champions Longford to qualify for this final.

Down, also in the doldrums a year ago (they then went down very heavily to Cavan in the Ulster final) began their revival in the National League when they held All-Ireland champions Meath to a draw before Christmas at Newry. They followed up that with two good victories in the same competition over the Meathmen, one at Pairc Tailteann, the champions' home ground in An Uaimh, and the other at Croke Park. They also beat Dublin and Galway in turn at Croke Park in the league, and then overcame resurgent Kildare in a very entertaining final.

Their championship march has been no less convincing. Successive victories over three very fancied sides, Derry, Donegal and

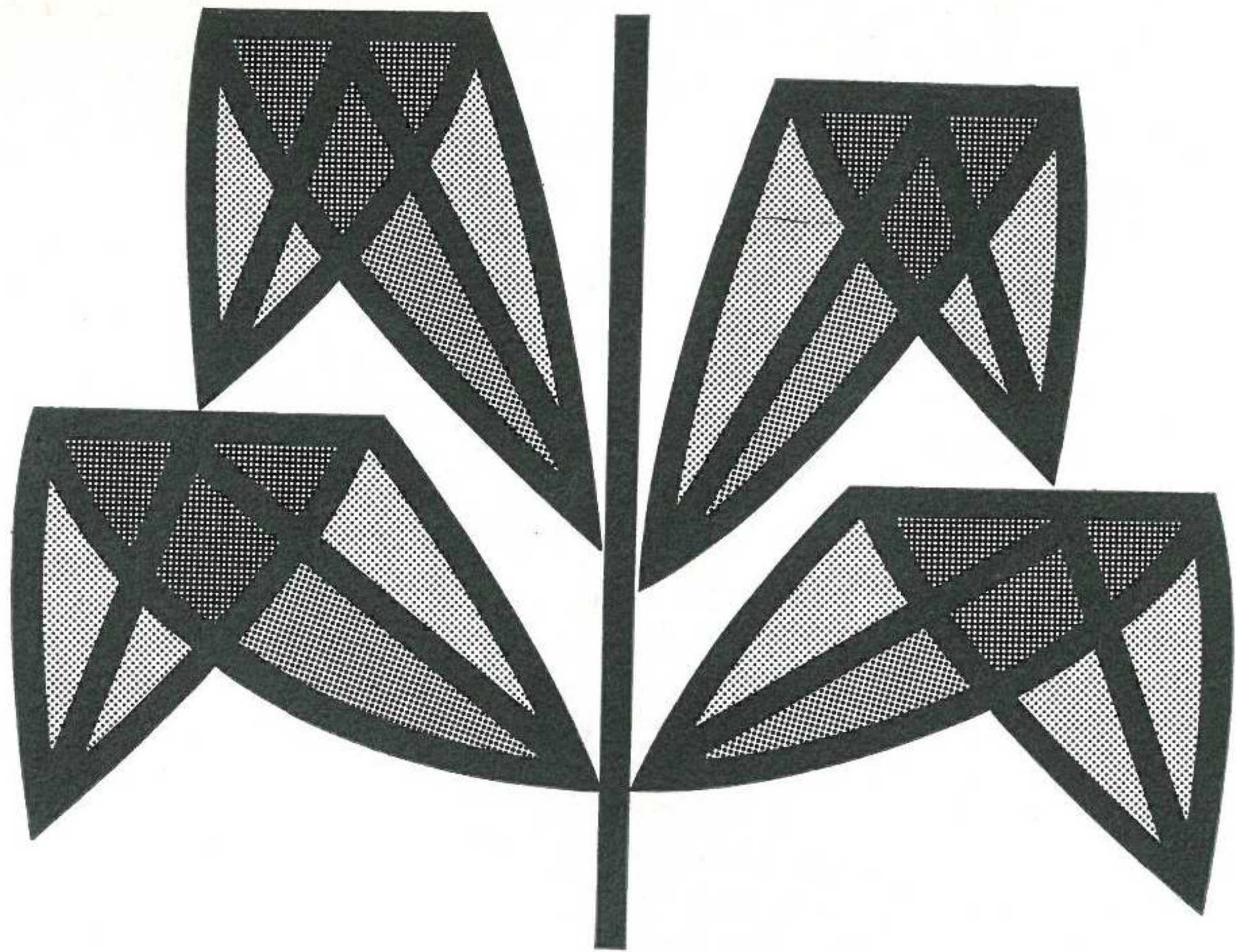
holders Cavan gave them back the Ulster title, and then they overcame Galway in the semi-final, and many felt that the revived Men from the West had the potential to win back the All-Ireland title.

From watching Down thus far, I have formed the over-all belief that their present line-out is possibly a better all-round side than the teams that brought the Sam Maguire Cup home in triumph to the Mournes in 1960 and 1961.

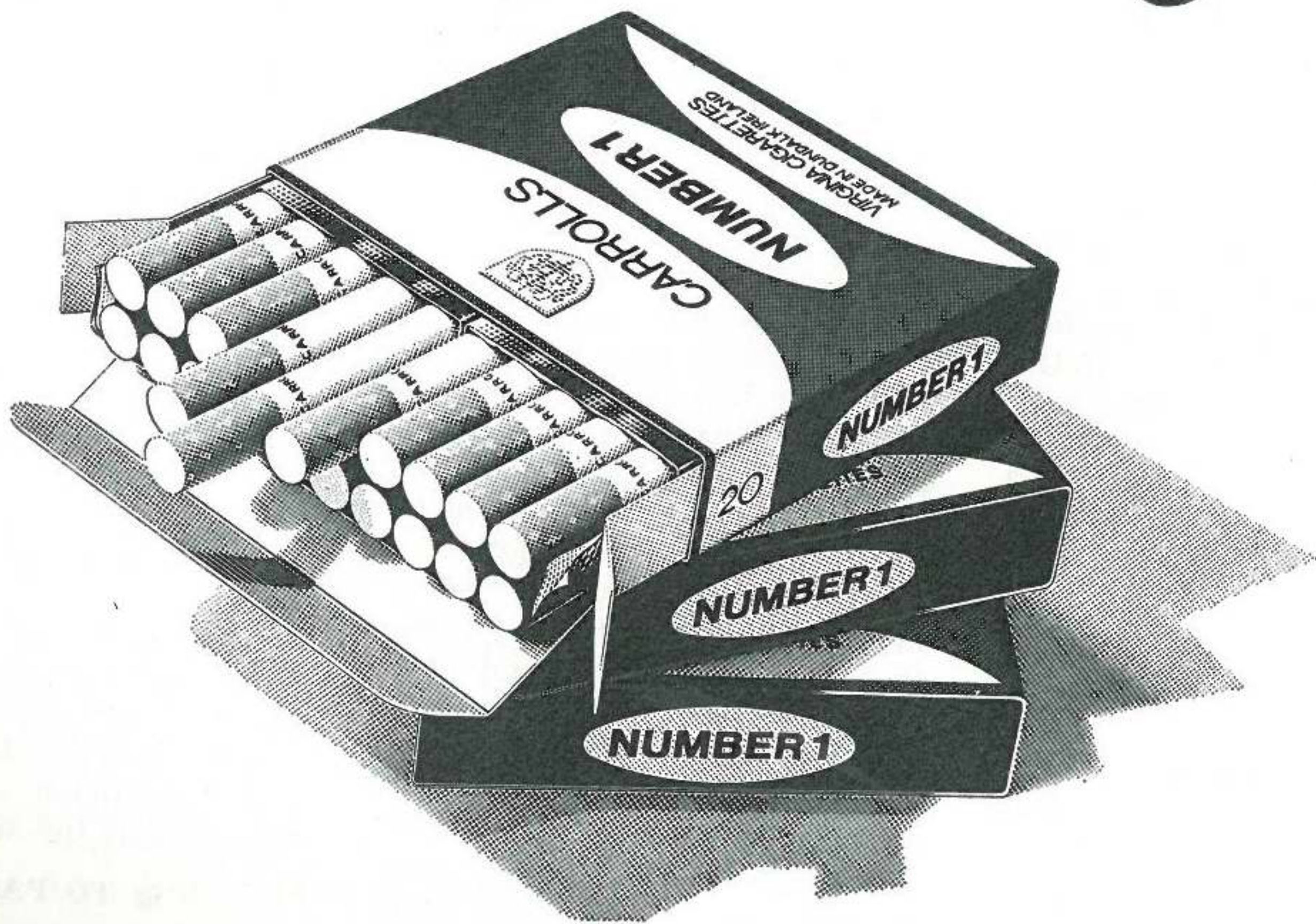
The goal-keeping of Danny Kelly has always been sound, and if Dan McCartan has never looked the ideal full-back, how many scores have full-forwards got off him in this current championship? He has a great flanker in Tom O'Hare, while Brendan Sloan on the other flank gives little away.

The Downmen have an abundance of half-backs, Ray McConville missed the semi-final, Larry Powell and Georgie Glynn were not available for the earlier games, but Willie Doyle and that master tactician, Joe Lennon, who captains the side, have been

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Carrolls Number 1  
set the standard high





● FROM PAGE 5

soundness personified when the need was greatest.

At mid-field, Jimmy Milligan and Colm McAlarney have thus far more than held their own against all and any opposition. And in attack, such youngsters as John Purdy, Johnny Murphy, Peter Rooney and Mickey Cole have been ever more steadily measuring up to the greatness of Paddy Doherty and the ebullient Seán O'Neill.

So Down will come to Croke Park with plenty of confidence, but they will need to guard against any over-optimism, because this present side from Kerry has risen fast from nowhere and no one really knows how good they are capable of becoming. Johnny Culloty is back in goal, and his experience and his steadiness are bound to be tremendous assets to a defence that has had some very untidy moments indeed on its path to this final.

The recall of Mick Morris to aid the O'Sullivan pair and Paud O'Donoghue should bring strength where strength is most needed, and strength will be needed against this quicksilver Down attack.

Kerry's main hopes will, I feel, be based on mid-field where the great Mick O'Connell is once again paired with Mick Fleming. We saw a new-style O'Connell in the semi-final against Longford when he paced his run magnificently to make sure he was still going full blast when he was most badly needed, in the last ten minutes.

In attack, the return of Mick O'Dwyer has worked wonders and in Pat Griffin, an inspiring captain, the younger O'Donoghue, D. J. Crowley and especially Brendan Lynch who did so well against Longford have all improved with another spell of training. The Down defence, which has its weaknesses, could



● Sean O'Neill, whose overhead flicks are a source of consternation to most defences. Kerry's ability to curb O'Neill could have an important bearing on where the Sam Maguire Cup resides for the next 12 months.

have those weaknesses cruelly exposed now.

So it may well be that we will have a pretty high-scoring game. The Kerry rearguard has been far from reliable, the Downmen seem to be developing a kind of mental complex that finds them at their worst in the third quarter. It was during this period that they seemed to lose their grip against Kildare, against Cavan and more recently against Galway.

So this means that victory may well be decided at mid-field, and there main Kerry hopes will rest on the greatness of Mick O'Connell. The great star from Valentia is not as young as he used to be, but he is a master-footballer still

and might spark Kerry to victory by an inspiring display.

But he gave us no real proof against Longford that he is capable of keeping going at full stretch for the entire hour, and Kerry will need to control mid-field through the whole sixty minutes if they are going to keep those lively Down forwards within reasonable bounds.

Kerry will need at least a sixty-five per cent. share of the mid-field exchanges to make sure of winning. Down can win with even a shade less than half of the ball at mid-field, and, because I think they will get that much, I feel they will bring the Sam Maguire Cup back with them across the Border for the third time.

WHAT is it about Kerry that lends a certain tone to a match, that raises it above the ordinary, gives it a seal of special distinction? There is a magic in the very name—Kerry—when the talk is of football. You may fancy your team's chances against them, but you tremble to say it openly, as though flying in the face of fortune must bring retribution.

## KERRY!

There is  
magic  
in the  
very name

*Pictures (top to bottom): S. Burrows, D. J. Crowley, E. O'Donoghue, B. Lynch.*

Of course, there is a simple enough explanation which goes some of the way towards explaining the fascination. They have been supreme in every generation which played since the foundation of the G.A.A., or, at least, since they captured their first title. There are no breaks in the chain, just occasional pauses to resharpen the appetite. So, for all followers of the game, or whatever age, there is always a youthful memory of a larger than life team of champions in green-

and-gold—and youthful memories are the sweetest. Other counties have come and gone, but Kerry goes on forever.

Just a matter of months ago we were hearing and reading of theories to explain why Kerry was finished as a football power: their style was outmoded, catch and kick were no good any more; emigration had taken too heavy a toll of the population; the urban areas were over "civilised" to the attractions of modern soft living; the Celtic Cross was no



more the status symbol, the first "silver spoon" to be pressed into infant hands; soccer was rife among the youth and they no longer wanted to take to the hearty knocks of our native football game.

These things may all be true, but, in truth, they do not affect the issue. For there is something more to the Kerry legend than just their constant success. To analyse it fully is impossible; only God knows how He created the Kingdom and how He populated it with a special kind of people, in whose nature it is to push their way to the top; and how He planted in their hearts a special empathy with the soil of their county which holds them native to its rugged terrain wherever they are, at home or abroad. In the arts of literature or drama, in business, politics or the professions, your Kerry men are plentiful near the top—and they are still essentially Kerry men, still with a racy native outlook and a loyalty to things rooted in their homeland, valuable and not meretricious.

And there is a style about your Kerryman wherever he goes because of his native values which makes him distinctive and no mere copier of his fellows. There is a style, too, about Kerry football; something added on over and above the game itself. You can see it in the way Johnny Culloty watches the play from his goal: critically, unemotionally; in the way Donie O'Sullivan sweeps up to take a free-kick; in the way Mick O'Connell swings into a drive from left or right or the way he disdains to place the ball for frees when everyone else appears to be autographing it. You can see it in the way Brendan Lynch, in his first big Croke Park game could wallop over

long range points and never try to compromise by lobbing the ball in. Or, you could have seen it in the way Paddy Kennedy used to swoop upwards and let the ball come to rest in his outstretched hands like a baby in its mother's arms.

You can see it in all those things, but you can never define it. Let us simply call it the touch of the fairy wand that makes Kerry always so attractive. They have had great teams and fair teams, and, who can say what this one will turn out to be, but its very presence in the final makes this truly a final—no county feels like calling itself Ireland's best until it has beaten Kerry on the way.

It is said, and with justification, it appears to me, that the defence is not quite what it might be. There is no Bill Dillon to staunch the wound through the centre; Paudie O'Donoghue, they say, is suspect and not as mobile as might be desired; Seamus Murphy is slower than he used to be; Denis and Donie O'Sullivan tired under heavy pressure against Longford. But, they have to be placed under pressure again by Down so that these weaknesses—if they exist—may be shown up, and with O'Connell and Fleming and busy half-forwards backing them, it may be quite another day's work to put the defence under that sort of pressure.

Kerry have the talent all right, and they have the style to make it a memorable match. But, it is doubtful if Down will play an open match with them as did Longford. Rather would it be likely that they will lay their plans well to cancel out Kerry's good points and hope to gain from the opposition's frustration. This would be regrettable, and it is to be hoped it will not happen. If both teams resolve to play attacking football the negative nudging, pulling and over-keen marking will not be necessary.

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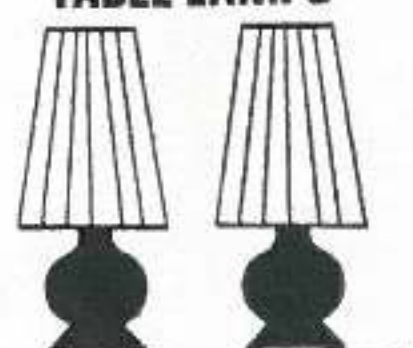
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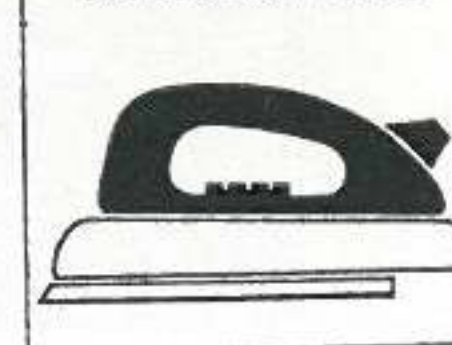
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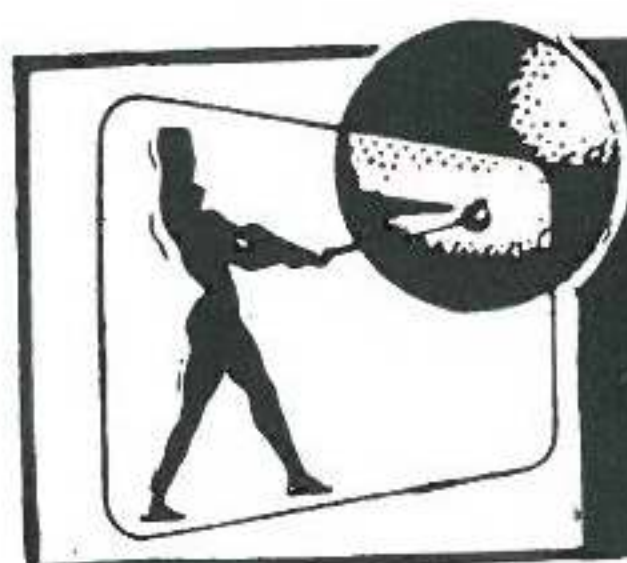
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# THE DOWN RECIPE

## Cream of experience with coffee of youth

SINCE they first called our attention to their doings in 1958 and 1959, Down have never looked back. Their double All-Ireland victory in 1960 and 1961 took a lot of people by surprise by coming so early — northern teams of other counties have been notorious for the length of time it has taken them to achieve anything worth while in competition. But, we realised after 1960 that this Down team was something quite different even from the very fine teams from Armagh, Tyrone and Derry which had had a good try during the fifties.

Down, in fact, brought a professional efficiency to their play, and their teamwork and fitness have been bye-words since then. Their tactical maturity, even in their first All-Ireland final was astonishing, and we began to realise the different approach and the intensive dedication which had gone into their football grounding and their training.

Perhaps, if there was a surprise about Down, it was the fact that they failed to consummate



D. Kelly



D. McCartan



B. Sloan



J. Milligan

their rating by winning more than the two All-Irelands which they carried off then, quite early in their career. For this reason, maybe, you will find many who contest the fact that they were the equal of the Galway three-in-a-row team which followed them a few years later. Many team-handlers have said, too, that the intensiveness and professional approach which Down use, together with the continuous strain of their hard training had burnt out the team sooner than might have been.

Yet, they did, in fact, shave close enough to an All-Ireland final place on two occasions since then, suffered one total defeat in

a semi-final, and failed to make the Ulster grade on the remaining occasions. Never, however, were they out of the picture, nor were they ever anything but a big danger to the hopes of all others.

In the meantime, many of the old-stagers, who wrought the county's name in gold, have retired from the inter-county scene, and only Dan McCartan, Sean O'Neill, Joe Lennon and Paddy Doherty remain to connect this team with the first champions. Most of the others, however, are still engaged in the club championships and this is not alone good to see but positively beneficial to the breeding of a generation who would follow them up in the red-and-black.

The prominence, in recent years, of the Down minors has been an indication of the impact which the team of '60 and '61 made among the youth of that time. It is largely the youth of that time which now has taken



C. McAlarney



M. Cole

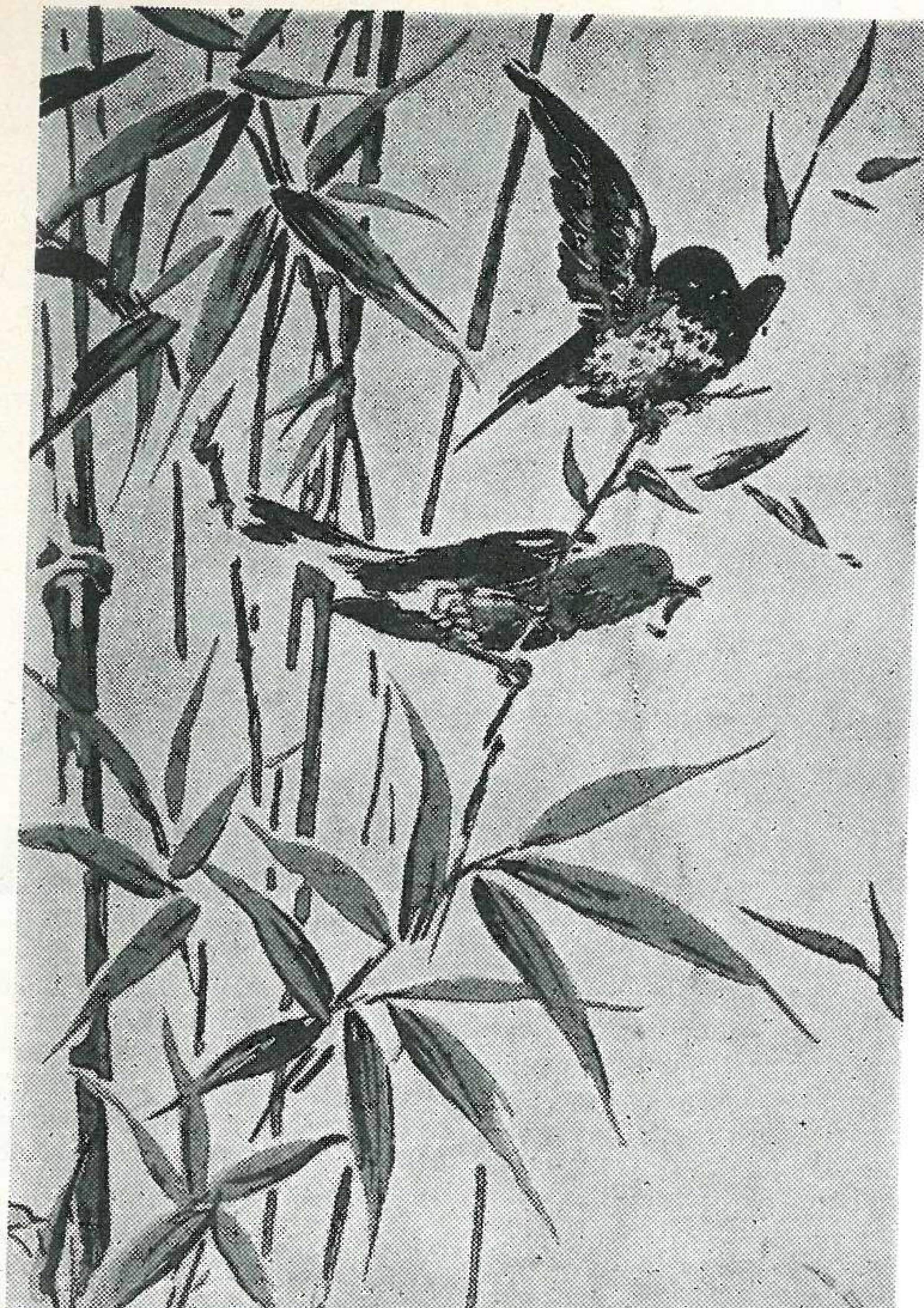


J. Murphy



J. Purdy

● TO PAGE 12



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● FROM PAGE 11

over the positions of their heroes in the senior line-out. The matches throughout this year's League and Championship have already shown, beyond a shadow of doubt, how mature and self-confident this new generation of Down football feels.

This, then, is a vital game for Down: they feel that they are overdue another championship victory, and that the break of seven years does not reflect truly their importance in the football picture of those years. Perhaps, even more important in their minds, is the fact that this year is vital because it could be the close of one era and the beginning of another. The first great era could now be crowned by a third All-Ireland, while the ambitions of the youthful members and their hopes for the future could, with victory over Kerry, herald the first phase in another great era for Down football.

Certain qualities which Down have make them a very handsome prospect for victory. They are, in the main, young and tremendously fit and fast, able to play a game at full pace right through without flagging, while those who are in the veteran stage are all players of such experience, skill and outstanding ability that they add the cream to the coffee of youth. It is almost an ideal combination. There may be, perhaps, one snag in the youthfulness of the team, and it may have been uncovered for a few moments by Galway in the semi-final, and by Cavan, for a little while, after half-time in the Ulster, and again by Galway in the League semi-final. But if it was, the exposure was only for moments and the reply, in every case, was conclusive. I refer, of course, to the slight "rattling" of the team when pressure is imposed in the third quarter, as happened on all those

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# PAT GRIFFIN

talking to Sean O'Donnell



**PAT GRIFFIN**, who leads Kerry in the All-Ireland final against Down, has made a wonderful return to form this year and in his appearances so far in the championships we have seen the full flowering of a remarkable talent.

It was Pat's goal early in the second half of the Munster final at Killarney that sent Cork on their nose-dive to defeat and it was a similar feat in the first half of the All-Ireland semi-final against Longford, at Croke Park, that paved the way for Kerry's ultimate victory.

The Clonakilty-based Garda talked about football with me recently. The conversation went on these lines:

**O'Donnell—How do you rate Kerry's chances in the final?**

**Griffin—**I rate our chances at 50/50 but I think that if we get on top at midfield we will win.

**O'D.—In your opinion, how does the present Kerry team measure up to the teams of '55 and '59?**

**G.—**The present team is as good, if not better, than the '59 side. I did not see the '55 team play but I think the present selection has as much ability as any of the county's team in the past.

**O'D.—What were your feelings before the Longford game?**

**G.—**I expected Kerry to beat Longford. We had played exceptionally well against Cork and with the extra training I knew we would improve still further.

**O'D.—Unanimous opinion among spectators and television**

**viewers was that the Kerry-Longford semi-final was a really great display of Gaelic football, and more than a few were sorry to see Longford lose. As a participant, how do you remember the game?**

**G.—**I thought it was a great game. Longford lost, in my opinion, because they overdid the short passing when in scoring positions.

**O'D.—To what do you attribute Kerry's resurgence?**

**G.—**Our return to the All-Ireland and our improved standard is due to the fact that we have got a great trainer in Jackie Lyne and because, at the start of the year, the team decided to put everything they had into it.

**O'D.—Many people think that the standard of Munster football has dropped in recent years. Do you agree with this and if so, why?**

**G.—**The standard of football did deteriorate in Munster in the last few years. This was due to the fact that there were not enough good senior teams in the province. In other words, no competition. It's always just Kerry and Cork.

**O'D.—Would you favour any changes in the game?**

**G.—**Yes, definitely. I would like to see inter-county teams reduced to 13-a-side. This would make for more open play and would be to the advantage of a good footballer. At the moment, I think backs get away with an awful lot of pushing and holding.

**O'D.—In recent years there has been a tendency towards more**

**and more fouling. Do you share this opinion, and if so, what would be your solution?**

**G.—**Yes. (1) Fouling is, in my opinion, destroying the game. I think they should introduce some rule as in basketball, where if a player commits five fouls he has to leave the court. A similar rule should be introduced in football; (2) Players involved in dirty incidents on a field should be punished more heavily.

**O'D.—Is football losing its appeal for the younger generation?**

**G.—**No! I don't agree. But it could be made more appealing by improving the social side of things, as in other games.

**O'D.—How did you first become interested in football?**

**G.—**To be quite honest, I don't know. I suppose I just started playing it when I started going to school. It became my first interest, and still is.

**O'D.—Have you any sporting interests outside football?**

**G.—**I play basketball and I like all forms of indoor games. I don't play any other outdoor game.

**O'D.—What game has given you greatest satisfaction?**

**G.—**The Munster football final against Cork this year. It was just great the way Kerry came back after being so much down.

**O'D.—What player has posed the greatest problem for you on the field of play?**

**G.—**The toughest player I marked was Mick Kissane of Dublin. He was extremely fast and very hard to pass.



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Tom O'Hare

By \_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN O. GRANT

# The great Tom O'Hare

I WENT in search of Tom O'Hare exactly one week after his outstanding performance in the All-Ireland semi-final against Galway. But the man who answered the phone in the Newry hotel where I'd been told I might contact the Down star, was none other than Galway sharp-shooter John Keenan! Yes, the same John Keenan whose accurate free kicking had helped to keep Galway in with a chance of victory in the memorable semi-final a week earlier.

But my previous information as to Tom O'Hare's likely whereabouts that evening, lessened my surprise at hearing the Galway man's voice on the other end of the line. Newly-wed John and his wife were on honeymoon in Newry that week-end, and since off the field O'Hare and Keenan are great friends, a get-together had been arranged.

When Tom O'Hare lines out for Down the only man behind him in the Mourne defence is goalkeeper Danny Kelly. When Tom arrived on schedule at the hotel that Sunday evening his teammate was also in close attendance. There was just time for a brief word with Danny about "that goal", and then it was down to serious talk with the brilliant left full-back.

Since he became a regular with Down in 1964 Tom O'Hare has turned in some classic performances. But none could outshine his super display in that semi-final clash with Galway. His immaculate fielding, brilliant positional sense and constructive use of the ball at all times stamped him as the outstanding corner-back in the game to-day. Not surprisingly my first question was how he himself rated this performance? "The more I think about it, the more pleased I am with my game against Galway," said Tom. "I have come off the field before, pleased with my efforts, but to know that I played well in this vital championship match is very satisfying indeed."

In that game we saw Tom perform what could be termed a "mopping up" operation behind the Down defensive lines. Tom explained the reason for these tactics. "Nowadays most full-forwards are inclined to roam outfield. When they do the full back has little option but to follow his opposite number. This means that the ball is often driven over both their heads and someone has got to be there to clear the danger.

"I don't think it's a tactic I've consciously worked on in train-

ing." continued Tom. "I try to read the game and anticipate what's going to happen. In this way I can position myself to good advantage."

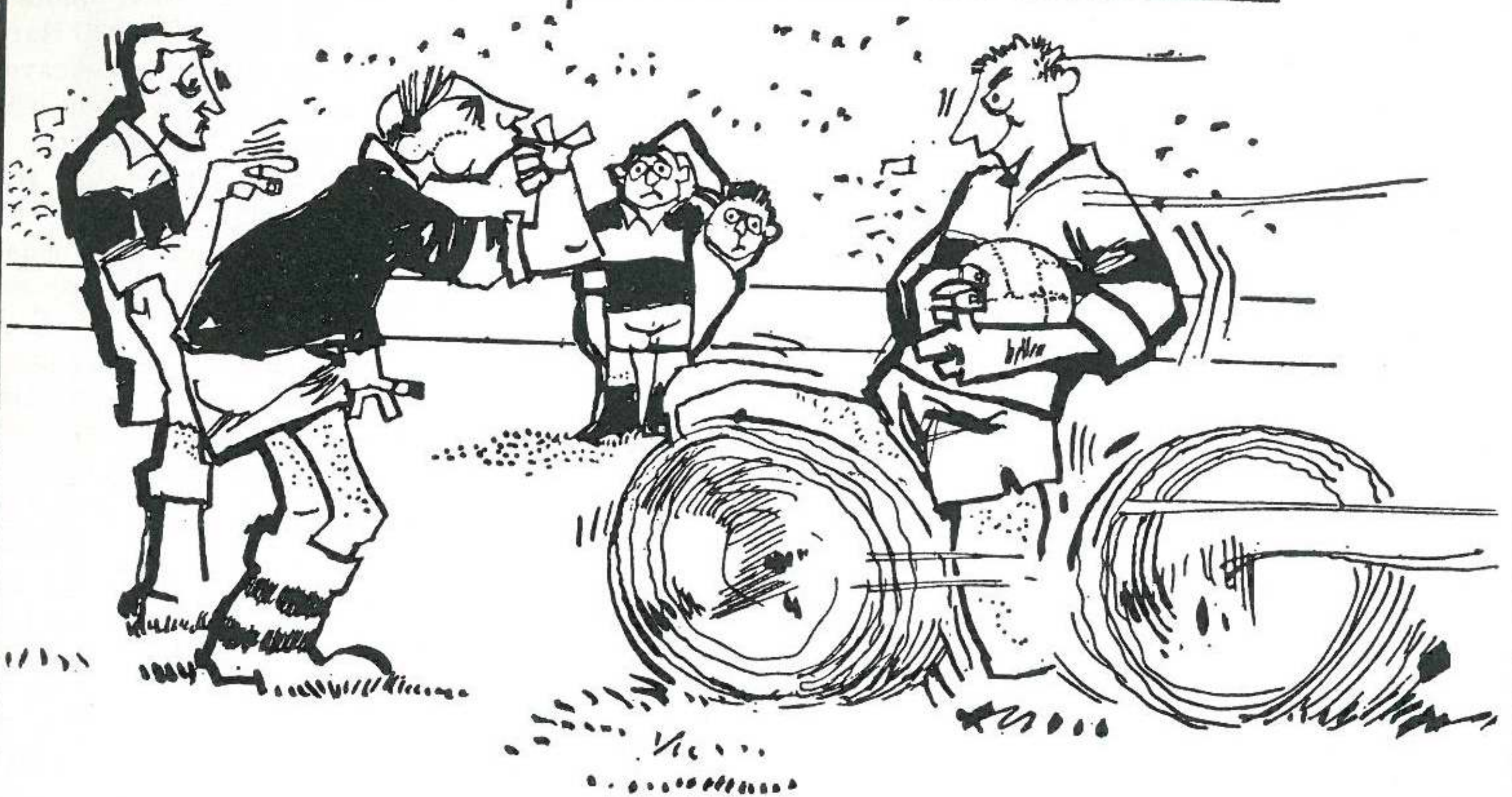
One of the most notable characteristics of Tom O'Hare's play is his constant endeavour to play constructively, even when under pressure. Seldom do we see any kick-and-hope stuff from the Mayobridge stalwart. This constructive role we usually associate with half-backs or mid-fielders, but rarely with a full back. How then did Tom come to acquire this facet to his game? "I feel the fact that I played a lot of thirteen-a-side football in my younger days influenced my game in this regard. In thirteen-a-side I had more room and usually more time to play the ball, so I concentrated on trying to give a good pass to an unmarked colleague. From my personal experience I feel that the introduction of thirteen-a-side football would be a big boost to the game. I think it would place more emphasis on skill in both attack and defence. It would improve the game as a spectacle and call for a higher degree of fitness from all players."

Inevitably, of course, our conversation turned to deal with the forthcoming All-Ireland Final against Kerry. This will be Tom's first final, but strangely enough he had not given the matter a great deal of thought until then. "I haven't really begun to think about it yet, but I'm quite certain that as the big day approaches I'll have little else on my mind."

Tom's apparent mental lethargy might seem at first glance to be indicative of indifference towards the event. Nothing could be further from the truth. He has a burning ambition to win an All-Ireland medal, and also to collect

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# SHELL



***Jim could run like a bat out of h . . .  
And kick most amazingly well,  
But the ref took his name  
Ere the end of the game  
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**GOOD MILEAGE —**



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the extra bonus this year—a trip to the U.S. The fact that Kerry are Down's opponents on September 22 lends an added incentive to winning the title. But Kerry or not, Tom foresees only one result—victory for Down. "I believe we have what it takes to defeat them and collect the title," he said confidently. "I know that Kerry have a great Championship tradition but in 1960 and '61 Down proved they could master Kerry in the Championship. More recently Galway have also proven that Kerry are not invincible in All-Ireland Finals. That is not to say we don't respect them. Of course we do—to do otherwise would be foolhardy. But I believe that Kerry have as much respect for us as we have for them."

"I saw Kerry's victory over Longford on T.V. and I was very impressed by their performance. In fact I would say that this is one of the best Kerry sides for a number of years. Their half-forwards in particular struck me as being very dangerous, and the forwards generally were extremely good at picking off their points even from long range. But I think our defence can hold them. As regards the tactics we shall use, I expect that basically it will be a system of close man to man marking."

Most people are convinced that the duel for midfield supremacy will have a vital bearing on the eventual outcome. In this sector Down will have to cope with the talents of that footballing genius from Valentia, Mick O'Connell. What is Tom O'Hare's opinion on this vital clash? "There's no doubt about it Mick O'Connell is still a great footballer. At fielding the ball he is still in a class of his own. But I feel that over the hour he may tire a little, especially if the pace is a fast one. Anyway our midfielders, Colm McAlarney and Jim Milli-



*Tom O'Hare in action against Dublin at Croke Park.*

gan, can hold their own in any company. Colm has the ability and stamina to make things difficult for O'Connell. Another point in our favour here is the speed of our half-forwards, who can drop back to lend a hand in this area when needed."

It has been suggested that Kerry may endeavour to upset the rhythm of Down's play by close hard tackling in the early stages of the game. This point was made with special reference to the younger players on the Down side. Tom O'Hare does not concede that such tactics, if adopted by Kerry, would unsettle the Down team. "We've met other teams this year who have played it fairly hard and we still came through. In any case our boys can use the open spaces of Croke Park to their advantage to overcome such tactics, if the need arises."

Down's success in the League and their presence in the All-Ireland Final are the results of an amazing come-back this year. At Clones, a year ago last July, I watched Cavan crush Down in

the Ulster final. It seemed then that it would take a couple of years for this new-look Down team to challenge for the top honours in the game. Yet here they are right back at the top.

My final question to Tom O'Hare, therefore, concerned the reasons behind this transformation. He summed them up as follows. "Over the past year we have developed a wonderful team spirit. This is one of the reasons for our success to date. Another major cause behind our comeback has been the tremendous work done by our trainer, Des Farley, and our team manager, Gerry Brown. Last winter under their supervision we began a regular twice-weekly training programme. This has ensured peak fitness and has built up our confidence in our ability. These factors along with the players' undoubted skill and determination to succeed have already brought us the League title. I think they will see us through to an All-Ireland title as well."

I found it difficult to disagree with his reasoning.

*This fine footballer from*

*Waterville represents*

*the spirit of the Kingdom*



*Mick O'Dwyer*

## MICK O'DWYER

By GERRY  
BREEN

IT is such a time since Mick O'Dwyer began to play for Kerry, that many will have almost forgotten the fact that he was then a defender, at left half-back. Since the black wavy-haired youth established himself in the half-back line, and proved himself over a number of years one of the best men playing football in that position, he has carved out two other careers for himself in football, and bids fair to carve a notable third. In the same length of years he has established himself in business in his native Waterville, and now a man of property finds himself more concerned than ever with success. He realises, of course, that this is one of Kerry's most important finals ever and knows that the future may well rest more heavily than usual on the outcome of this one game.

After years at left-half back, Mick O'Dwyer became a sort of rescue man for a few years for Kerry, switched to centre-forward when things were moving a little slowly in the attack. Many a game had its course changed by that switch. Then came a period of permanence at centre-forward as Kerry began to think that it would be easier, and possibly more advantageous, for them to look for a man for wing-half rather than centre-forward. Tom

Long had put on weight and slowed down, and with the retirement of John Dowling was pushed up to full-forward, when O'Dwyer came permanently to the attack. And, of course, he moved away into the corner for a while towards the end of his playing days. At least we thought it was the end, and O'Dwyer said it was the end.

But, even though he had all the honours that he might well desire, Kerry football was something more than just personal feelings to him. Horrified at the poverty of Kerry play and Kerry spirit in the last couple of years, he could no longer content himself with a passive role, or just club football, while his county's needs were so serious. By this time, of course, he was prominent in the legislative end of the game, and it was made clearer than ever to him that a special effort was needed to bring about a restoration. So, he took the matter on as a personal crusade.

Intensive efforts by himself began to get the younger prominent footballers knit into a team of spirit and desire for victory. With O'Dwyer in charge, back to the colours came Mick O'Connell, temporarily out of competition, and later Seamus Murphy, and, finally, a stage had been reached, by the fire of O'Dwyer, which

interested Jackie Lyne enough to throw in his lot with the renaissance. As Lyne is the embodiment of all the qualities that were great in Kerry men when they were unbeatable in the land—a legendary time—so Mick O'Dwyer represents, on the field, the spirit of the Kingdom. And with O'Connell and Seamus Murphy he gives a tangible connection with days of Kerry glory, in very much the same way that McCartan, Lennon, O'Neill and Doherty give a link to young Down with Down of mighty memory.

Mick O'Dwyer has slowed, naturally, and stiffened up a lot by comparison with the supple, lithe youth of half-back memory. But, you can see that he has kept himself wonderfully fit all the time for he retains more than might be expected of the speed, and he is remarkably quick to dodge and manoeuvre. Physically, he is now more substantially made than in his young days, and strong and powerfully muscled. Hard, I suppose, is the best word for it. And because he remains hard and very cute, and big, too, he is terribly difficult to beat for a ball when he comes out to meet one from the corner, and a nightmare to have to stop from getting away a pass or curl in a shot.

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With the passage of the years there are hardly many cutenesses in the game which Mick has not accumulated and he has added by diligence a remarkable accuracy in shooting. Perhaps, nowadays, he does not manage to work out so many positions from which he can get his shot in, but he is quick to see that, and quick to slip away the pass when he sees that he will scarcely make a score himself. This absence of bull-headedness, so often the main fault with an older player unable to realise his own limitations, makes O'Dwyer a refreshing veteran to watch. In the semi-final, it will be remembered that he laid on the lovely ball into the open space behind the defence that gave Dom. O'Donnell his goal, and that he fed a backward pass from close play near goal to give Pat Griffin a point. These are the virtues of a cute old hand.

A further virtue which he has acquired with long hours of practice is his splendid free-kicking. He did not get even a single opportunity of displaying that art against Longford (much to Longford's undying credit) but we saw him pin every Cork misdemeanour to the scoreboard in points, curling some lovely ones over from highly speculative angles on the left-wing.

It is to be expected that if Kerry are winners in the 1968 final Mick O'Dwyer will finally retire from the inter-county scene. He will have the satisfaction, which means most to him now, of putting Kerry football back on the map and helping underwrite an insurance for the future in the Kingdom. It will take a particularly poor breed of Kerryman who would not react to the lead of this great veteran; of course, when they were inspired the youngsters proved good enough, and it will be so from now on.

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# SEAN O'NEILL

An assessment, by **RAYMOND SMITH**

**N**O DEBATE on this year's All-Ireland Senior Football Final is complete without mention of Down full-forward—Sean O'Neill.

He has caught the public imagination in a way that no other player has done since Kevin Heffernan gave his shattering performance in the League Final of 1955 and repeated it in the Leinster Final of the same year.

Back in the early forties Ring was making a name for himself in the Cork attack, but he was one of a galaxy of stars. It was not until the late forties (1946 in a way marked the turning point) and the fifties that he became the Christy Ring who made Tipperary supporters hold their breath when the ball came towards him in the closing minutes of a Munster championship match — a man who stood apart amongst hurling forwards.

Much the same has happened for Sean O'Neill.

In 1960 the Ulster champions had such a magnificent sextet that O'Neill alone could not command the spotlight . . . Sean O'Neill, Jim McCartan, Paddy Doherty, Tony Hadden, Patsy O'Hagan, Brian Morgan.

The best was yet to come.

The magnificent six broke up

with the passage of time; Jim McCartan, the inspiration, the crowd-puller, the man with the tank-like drive through the centre when in full flight, retired. Doherty and O'Neill remained.

Doherty does it with a quiet mastery that makes it all look so easy, but O'Neill has skill and finish—and that quality that is known as flair. It was when he moved in full-forward that this quality really blossomed into full flower.

I think I have seen few finer full-forward displays than that given by Sean O'Neill against Noel Tierney in the League semi-final. Of course, the old maxim they used to have down the country, "don't move from the edge of the square at any cost", had long since gone by the board. Before the ball was thrown in, you noticed him standing out in the corner forward position, "a queer place for a full-forward to be", an old-timer might be heard saying. But if a ball floated into the goal-mouth—and Lennon and Doherty can float them in very well to the far post—O'Neill could be seen rising up and flicking it or punching it with lightning speed, back-handed to the net or over the bar, or down to an in-coming forward.

Tremendously effective in its execution . . . and the timing is everything.

Against Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final he played much closer to the square . . . or was it Noel Tierney was staying much closer to him? Anyway, Noel did well, very well indeed this time and, of course, O'Neill's fame had gone before him and for fifty minutes you might say he was having a good game but hadn't delivered a knock out punch. You might even have been tempted to say that O'Neill wasn't going to leave any lasting imprint on this match.

And then suddenly it happened. And it is imprinted on my mind for all time.

Rooney going through and O'Neill moving smoothly to the right . . . waiting for the pass. Moving in as Rooney went in and then taking the pass perfectly and letting fly low with flowing speed for the corner and beating the goalie and that goal turned it right around again in Down's favour—was the match-winner really. Like a panther, ready to spring, balanced on his toes, capable of causing havoc in a defence even when not in possession of the ball at all. There is thought behind every move.

I have talked to him after some of these games. We have talked tactics, the deep tactics of the modern game. The way you let the ball go through to the open space where the wing forward coming in will get it, the way you can put a defence going the wrong way with an overhead flick, the way you can make an opening if instead of trying to stop the ball and round the full-back you keep the attack moving—in a word aim at fluidness and movement, rather than depen-

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dence on old static formations. But there is one important point to remember. You make the ball do the work as much as you can—and you don't try to walk it into the net.

That is where I believe Down progressed from the Dublin approach in 1955 and why they succeeded where Antrim failed in 1946.

I have considered it possible that O'Neill would be "nailed" some day—I even voiced this fear to him. I forget now what he said but someone else answered it for me by pointing out that O'Neill is so fit that he is always on top of the situation. It has a lot to do with it. I have been told that the dedication of Sean O'Neill, Dan McCartan, Paddy Doherty and Joe Lennon has had a wonderful inspirational effect on the younger members of the Down team this season.

You would be inclined to think that Sean O'Neill wouldn't have to do all that training—but what he would expect others to do, he is prepared to do himself.

Last year's All-Ireland lacked appeal because Meath and Cork in attack had no crowd-pullers—it's the great forwards like Kevin Heffernan, Sean Purcell, Mick Higgins, Tony Tighe and Jimmy Murray who have stirred the crowds in golden hours.

Defenders too—but they must not alone have ability but flair too like Paddy Bawn Brosnan, "Red" Collier, Joe Keohane, Bobby Beggs . . .

There are those who claim that O'Neill must now be reckoned the greatest full-forward of all time. He is, to my mind, up there amongst the top five, maybe even the top three now—but I think that Tom Langan must retain the No. 1 spot in my book and you can choose yourself whether you would give the No. 2 spot to Sean O'Neill or Kevin Heffernan.



# There is magic in this Final

Says

**RAYMOND SMITH**  
who fancies Down

NOT since Kerry met Down in the All-Ireland Final of 1960 can I recall a Football Final that has had such magical appeal for football followers.

Then, of course, Down were striving to become the first county to bring the Sam Maguire Cup across the Border and there was a lot of neutral opinion behind them. They achieved their ambition and left no doubt about their place in football history by retaining the title the following season.

Now as they go into the 1968 Final Down, let it be said, no longer need to be carried to success on a popular wave of public feeling—in fact they never depended on sentiment alone for victory. Their's was always the

planned approach, they believed in winning the League as a stepping stone to All-Ireland success.

In 1960 the victory they had over Kerry in the League gave them the confidence they required and they were at no psychological advantage when they took the field on All-Ireland day. This year the youngsters like Cole, Purdy and Murphy had their baptism of fire in the League semi-final against Galway and they came through in a manner that convinced me that they would not alone win the League but I decided there and then that they would be my choice for the All-Ireland—no matter who emerged as champions in any other Province.

It is history now how Down



JOE LENNON, the Down Captain.

beat Galway in the League semi-final, withstood the Kildare challenge in the final, came out of Ulster and scored a really superb victory over Galway in the All-Ireland semi-final.

The great moments in football history seem to have been provided by Kerry. They made the first noteworthy occasion in 1903 with their All-Ireland three-timer against Kildare (decided in 1905); their tussle with Kildare in 1926 still lives vividly in the minds of all who were privileged to be there; they made the most classic Final of all when they faced Galway in 1938; they provided a memorable replay with Roscommon in 1946 (some say it was the most stirring final of

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*The Down team who beat Cavan, 0-16 to 1-8 in the Ulster final on July 28.*

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all) and then there was the Polo Grounds in 1947; the thrilling clash with Armagh in 1953 and that tense, dramatic struggle with Dublin in 1955 which saw the birth of the modern attacking game, carried on to new heights of perfection by Down and Galway.

The build-up to this Final is like the build-up to the 1955 decider. Then Kerry had toiled in Munster and had not impressed against Cavan. Dublin on the other hand had shattered Meath in the League and again in the Leinster Final and though their victory over Mayo in the All-Ireland semi-final (after a replay) was a narrow one, it was a thrilling struggle as the Down-Galway game this season was in the second half.

There are those now who cannot see the Down attacking machine held, just as most neutrals would not hear of the Dublin machine being halted by Kerry in 1955. The Heffernan-Freaney axis was unstoppable they said, just as they believe the

O'Neill-Doherty axis is unstoppable now.

Place the Down forward machine man for man against the Kerry defence and you will be left with so many qualms and doubts about the Kingdom set-up that you will probably find yourself giving your vote also to Down.

The people who are saying now that O'Neill just cannot be kept in subjection for an hour were saying in 1955 that Ned Roche had no hope at all of countering the Heffernan threat. But Kerry, rising to unsurpassed heights, beat Dublin by pure, catch-and-kick stuff in 1955 and were undoubtedly the masters through the field when Ollie Freaney goaled from a 14 yards free and Dublin nearly pulled it out of the fire in those last hectic four minutes.

The challenge is all so similar for Kerry this time.

Written down by many and at the same time with a few old scores to settle—you recall the ill-luck of that 'soft' goal Johnny Culloty conceded in the 1960 decider and how different it

might have been in the semi-final the following season if the supremacy exerted at midfield in the third quarter by O'Connell and Seamus Murphy (after Kerry turned over level) had been put to full account. But Down won impressively in the end and Kevin Heffernan said of them that of recent All-Ireland winners they were the most 'complete' team.

Mick O'Connell is still there of the Kerry side and Seamus Murphy also and John Culloty.

And Down have Seán O'Neill, Joe Lennon, Paddy Doherty and Dan McCartan.

And for O'Connell, I'm inclined to think that it could be his last grand effort. The sun is sinking too for Paddy Doherty, for Joe Lennon also. These men want this All-Ireland very much. O'Connell wants it because to bring Kerry back into "the champions enclosure" would put the seal on his greatness as a midfielder and a footballer of all the talents. For Lennon it would be confirmation for his methods, for his belief that thoughtful, planned

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● *Three of Kerry's best: (l. to r.) Mick O'Dwyer, Mick O'Connell and Donie O'Sullivan.*

### ● FROM PAGE 25

football must 'out' in the final analysis. For Doherty it would be the final accolade for a player who has had his ups-and-downs but who has adorned the football fields with the superb accuracy of his left boot and won from defenders of no less a calibre than Enda Colleran the tribute that he must be reckoned one of the most difficult attackers of all to hold.

There's a lot to win then and a lot to lose in this final—for both sides.

For Kerry the burning urge to prove that they are still the kingpins, that the traditional catch-and-kick game with modifications of the subtle punch in attack can still win titles.

For Down the burning desire of the youngsters to win their first All-Ireland and emulate the feat of the 1960 side by bringing the Sam Maguire Cup across the Border, an achievement that has a deeper meaning for Down folk than many people in the South imagine.

I could go into position by position, man for man.

But it boils down in the final analysis to a few vital questions. Can O'Connell and his partner

win complete control for most of the hour at midfield? Can the Kerry attack repeat its performances of the earlier rounds? Can the Kingdom defence play it tight enough to withstand the quick-fire movements of the Down attackers? Can O'Neill, Doherty and company be held for a full hour?

If you can answer 'yes' positively to all these questions, then if you are a Kerryman, you can be confident enough of a Kingdom victory.

But can you answer 'yes' to these questions—or even two of them?

Everyone thought Duggan and Keenan would have the advantage at midfield for Galway—but it was Colm McAlarney who lorded it for most of the first half. Jimmy Duggan is good, and can be great at times, but he is not Mick O'Connell. There is only one Mick O'Connell—as there was only one Christy Ring. And I believe that if O'Connell can rise above himself in this game and if his partner hits top form too through the hour, giving Kerry a definite midfield advantage, anything may happen. For the Down defence depends to a great extent, I have noticed, on the

masterly defensive play of Tom O'Hare at left full and the genius of Joe Lennon in the half-line. The others can panic quickly enough at times under pressure.

Supposing the pressure is constant, supposing O'Connell is letting them hover in the goalmouth as against Dublin in the '62 semi-final or pinpointing them to the wings and corners to stretch the defence — supposing he brings the ball through from midfield by passing Lennon and drawing O'Hare . . . supposing . . .

A lot could happen then . . .

But O'Connell has never really touched the heights against Down . . . and Down need only sixty per cent, maybe even only fifty per cent of the ball from midfield to get the scores they need. They develop their attacks mainly out of defence.

My reading of it then is that Down could not get it as tough again as they did in that second half against Galway—beaten back on the ropes, defeat staring them in the face and they come out of the crisis.

I look to O'Neill, Doherty and the youthful skill and polish of Murphy, Cole and Purdy to bring them victory — and I believe that Down will do it.

# THE FOUR WHO CAME BACK



MICK O'DWYER

"THEY never come back" . . . it's a cliché as old as sport. And down the years many a great sportsman has tarnished a brilliant reputation by attempting unsuccessfully to regain former glory on a comeback bid. But there have been successful comeback efforts, too. Right now, if you want proof, just ask any Kerryman!

Mick O'Dwyer, Mick O'Connell, Seamus Murphy, Johnny Culloty . . . Kerry fans will roll off the names proudly. Rightly so, too, for it is doubtful if the Kingdom would now be in this 79th All-Ireland senior football final without the talents of these comeback stars.

O'Dwyer we remember as one of the best half-backs ever to grace the football arena. His high quality play at left half contributed nobly to Kerry's last two All-Ireland final wins—over Galway in 1959, and Roscommon in 1962. However, he also proved his versatility by figuring on occasions as a forward in the early 1960's, and in one game, a National League tie with Carlow at Carlow in October, 1962, he hit a splendid 0-11, his best in one game so far.

## By OWEN McCANN

O'Dwyer retired with an ankle injury during a Kerry-Cavan League tie at Croke Park in February, 1966. His next appearance with the side was in a challenge



*Mick O'Connell, still the master footballer in the centre of the field.*

with Kildare at Dingle in July, 1966. After that he dropped out of inter-county senior football. Last February he made a comeback to the green and gold in a League game with Limerick at Tralee—as an attacker. He is again brilliantly employing his expert prowess as a star defender to outsmart other backs.

Indeed, incredible as it may appear, no Munster forward has made such a success of harvesting scores over a full year in any campaign since 1965 as O'Dwyer has since his comeback. He must now, in fact, have his sights on the moderate Munster record of

9-52 (79 pts.) in 17 games by Bernie O'Callaghan in 1963—also a Kingdom forward, of course.

O'Dwyer is racing towards the half-century. Totals like 1-6 in that come back game with Limerick, and 2-4 in a challenge win over Sligo at Tralee in June have boosted his score to 4-32 (44 pts.) in seven games, which works out at a splendid match tally of 6.28 points.

It is not surprising, however, that O'Dwyer is finding the target so effectively, again, for before his come back he had, in this role of an attacker, displayed a fine repertoire of the skills of clever play and score-making and score-taking. In 1964, for instance, when he hit his own personal best for a full year of 3-40 (49 pts.) in ten games, he chalked up the sixth highest score by a Munster man in the period 1955-1967.

In all, he has made 47 appearances in attack, and scored 16-162 (210 pts.), which is the quite impressive match average of 4.46 points. He also scored 0-22 as a rearguard player, to bring his combined score to 16-184 (323 pts.).

Obviously, then, the 31-year-old Waterville man knows where the posts are, and how to take his chances expertly. So, he must now rank as one of Kerry's trump cards for this title bid.

A footballer in the classical mould is Mick O'Connell. Winner of All-Ireland senior medals in 1959 and 1962, he has illuminated the pages of football history with his skills and clever play.

Sport needs personalities to garnish the scene, whet the appetite of supporters further, and give a razor-sharp edge to discussions and arguments. So, the game lost a lot when O'Connell moved from the scene after Kerry's 1966 Munster final failure

● TO PAGE 31



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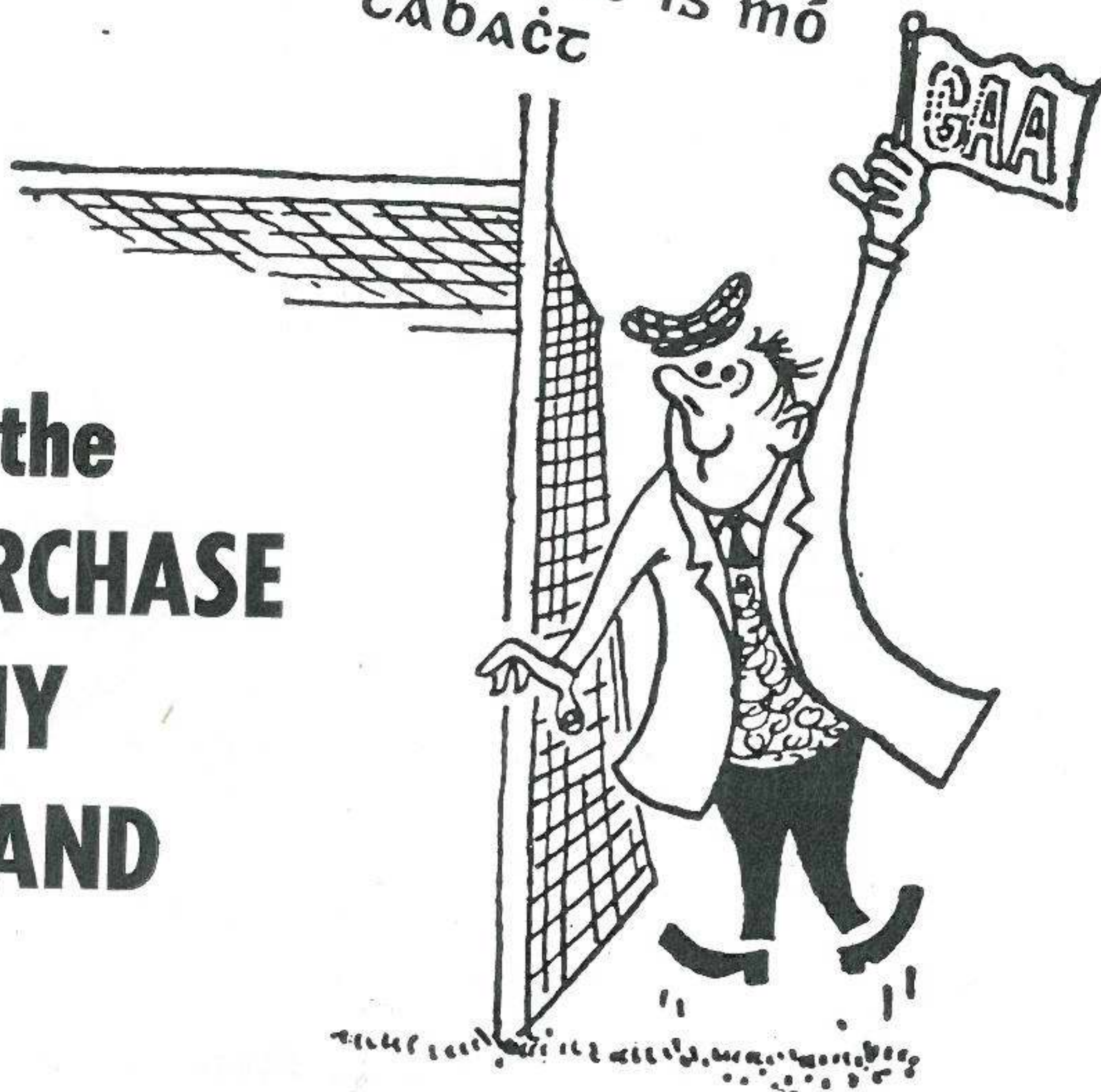
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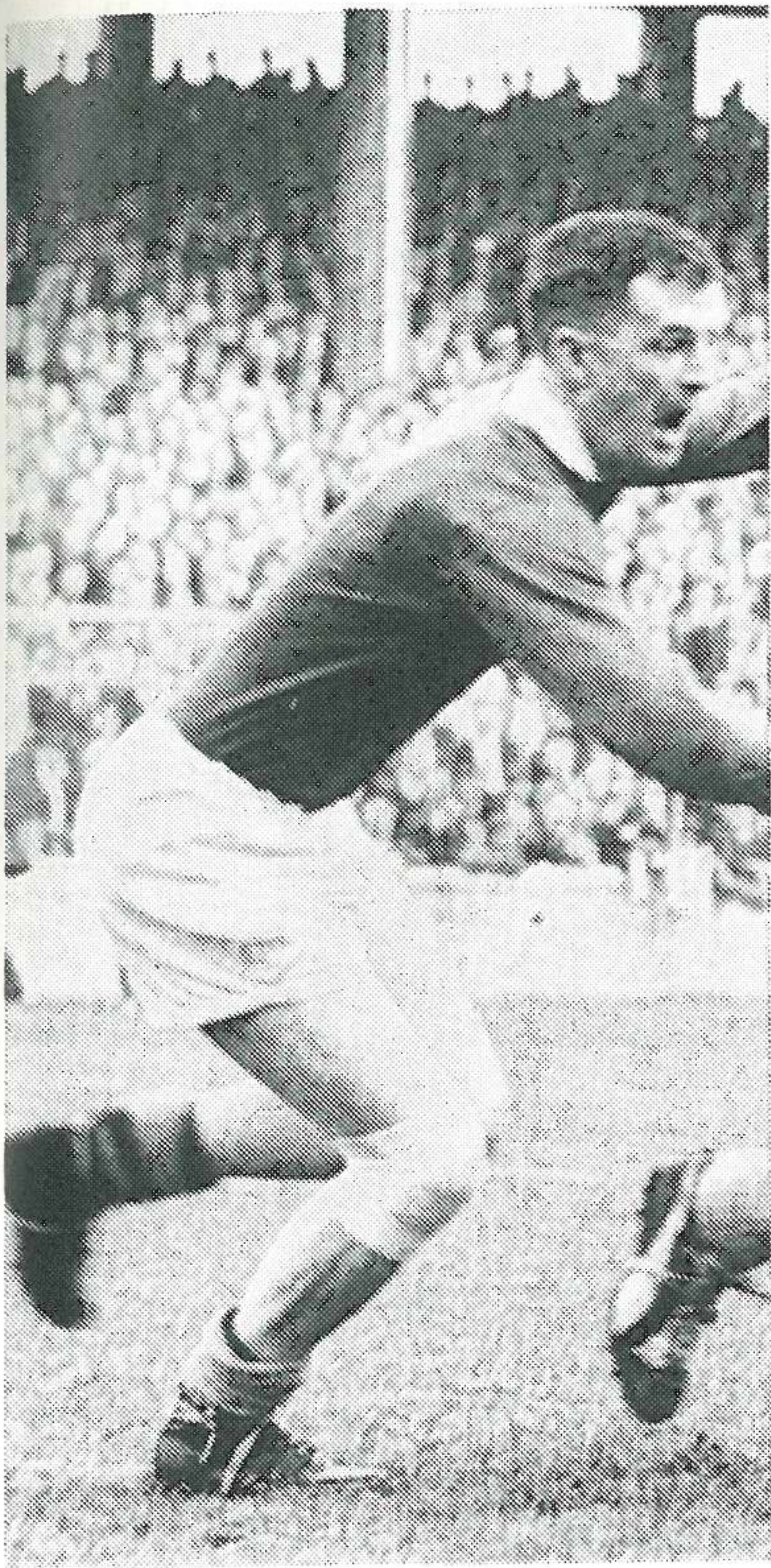
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## MAN WITH A FLAIR FOR IT . . .

*Johnny Culloty, who played a major part in Kerry's semi-final victory over Longford. In other words a triumphant comeback.*

### ● FROM PAGE 29

to Cork. Equally, the game has gained much on his return to the big-time.

For, O'Connell, since his return to the Kerry team in that League clash with Limerick in February, has steadily re-established himself as one of the outstanding per-

sonalities in football, and one of the biggest match-winners.

The Valentia man's anticipation, immaculate fielding, deft, clever touches, efficient distribution, and his ability to pick off the points himself, all stamp him as one of Kerry's most dynamic players yet again. He also goes into this game as their top scorer

with 8-241 (265 pts.) in 110 games, at 2.40 points an hour.

When O'Connell led Kerry to victory over Galway in the 1959 All-Ireland senior final, he had Seamus Murphy as his midfield partner. In 1962, Seamus captured another All-Ireland medal, but in the No. 2 jersey. He figured at left full forward against Louth in a League game at Dundalk in November, 1965—and then came a spell out of the limelight. His next game was against Limerick in February, when he played at full-back.

Murphy's come-back has also been a highly successful one. With his cool, purposeful, defensive play, and his inflexible spirit, the 30-year-old Camp man of the wide know-how and class now ranks as one of Kerry's best assets for this latest title bid.

Johnny Culloty has a flair for making successful come backs. He won an All-Ireland senior medal as a forward in 1955 before a knee injury forced him out of the game in 1956.

He made a come back to Kerry's senior team in 1959 as goalkeeper, and won All-Ireland medals in 1959 and 1962. An injury again kept him on the sideline from mid-1963 until April, 1964, when he made another successful return to the big-time. He continued to guard the net regularly for Kerry up to, and including, the 1966 Munster final.

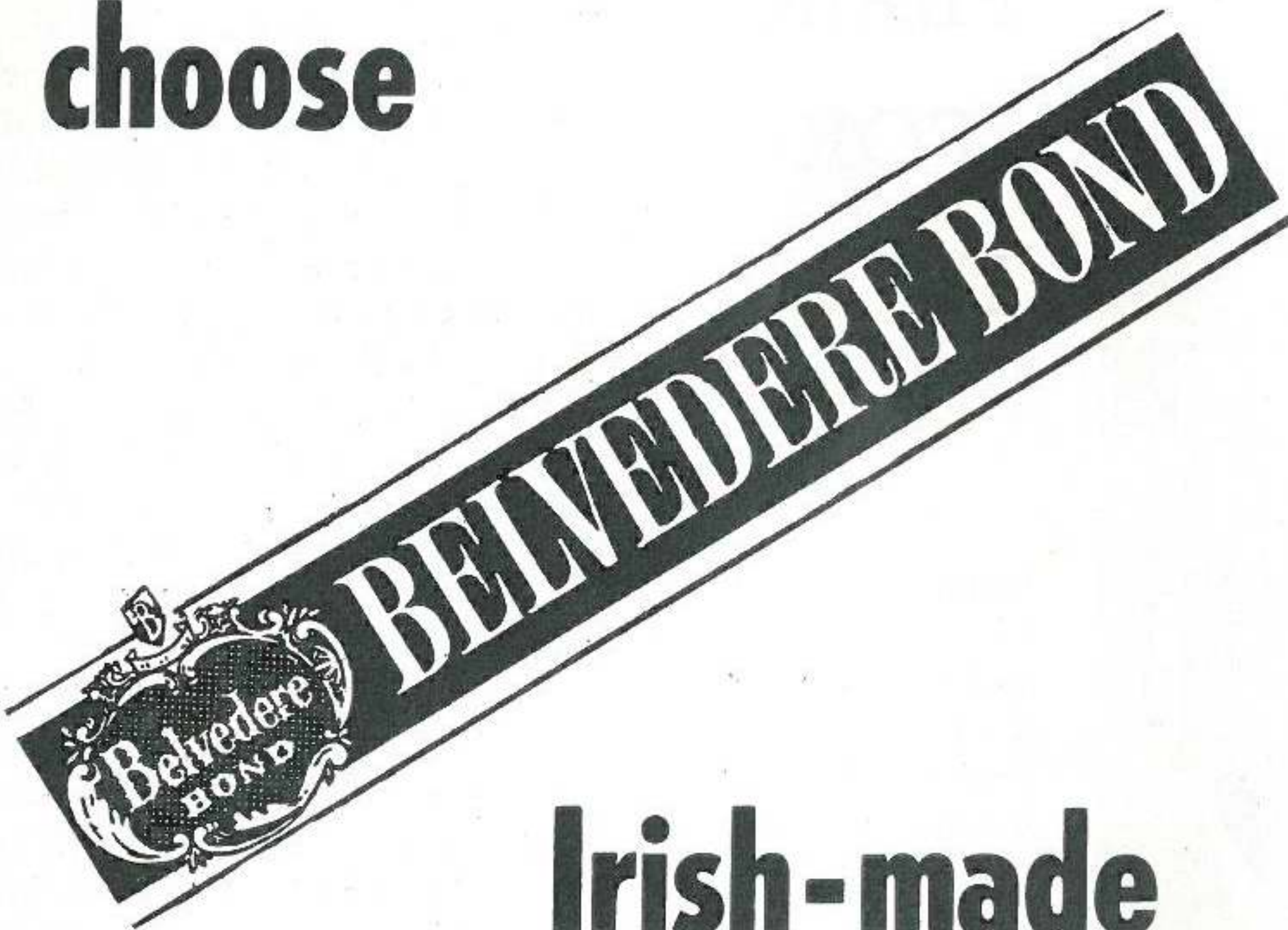
Culloty again returned to the Kerry team for last month's semi-final with Longford. That he is as vigilant and as hard to beat as ever, and also as skilled in deftly finding a team-mate with his clearances was strikingly evident in that polished performance, highlighted by a great save from Jackie Devine in the 40th minute, with which the 31-year-old Killarney man celebrated this latest return to the top-flight.

Yes, indeed, O'Dwyer, O'Con-

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ADMAR

## ● FROM PAGE 31

nell, Murphy and Culloty, giants from yesterday, have again become brilliant stars of today; footballers whose great experience, whole-hearted endeavour, skills and inspiring play could well blue-print a "coming of age" All-Ireland final win for the storied Kingdom of Kerry.

~~~~~



*Mick Garrett (above) and Mick Reynolds, Galway's midfielders when the Tribesmen overcame the Kingdom in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1963. This year's final could again be decided at mid-field. The big question is, can Mick O'Connell and his partner overcome Colm McAlarney and Jim Milligan for the full sixty minutes?*



JOHN O. GRANT

# Sizing up Down

"**A**YE, they're a good side alright, but they're not as good as the '60-'61 side!" With those words the local garage proprietor, an ardent Down fan, terminated our brief discussion on the merits of the present Down team and went to deal with his next customer.

The significant factor about that conversation was that it took place in April last on the evening prior to Down's League semi-final clash with Galway. Even then, before Down had captured any title of significance they were already being judged by a dual standard, their own achievements and their comparison with their all conquering forbears of 1960-'61.

Were it a mere question of achievements, this present Down team could hold its head high irrespective of how they fare in the forthcoming All-Ireland Final against Kerry. In the space of twelve months since that crushing defeat by Cavan in the Ulster Final at Clones last year they have stormed back to record victory after victory. The N.F.L. title is now their property. The Ulster title lost last year has been regained after a tough Ulster championship. Galway have been ousted in a thrill-packed semi-final, and now only Kerry bar the way to Down's third All-Ireland title.

Many counties would glory in such a run of success. But for any Down team, success is measured against the deeds of the '60-'61 team. Hence the question — how does the present Mourne squad compare with that superlative combination of the early '60s.

The most obvious point of comparison between the teams of '68 and that of '60-'61 is in the personnel who have spanned the period from Down's emergence as a football power, to their present day resurgence. I refer of course, to Down's formidable quartet who still remain from the glorious days of '60-'61 — Joe Lennon, Dan McCartan, Paddy Doherty and Sean O'Neill. The role of each may have altered slightly with the passing years, but their contribution to success is still what it was then—*inestimable*.

One must admit that time reaps its inevitable harvest. Neither Joe Lennon nor Paddy Doherty are as fleet of foot as in former days. But show me a player who passes the ball with more accuracy or intelligence than either of them, and you have a classy player on your hands. Few players to-day read the game better than Lennon, or are more adept at combining the functions of sealing off defensive gaps or setting up attacking



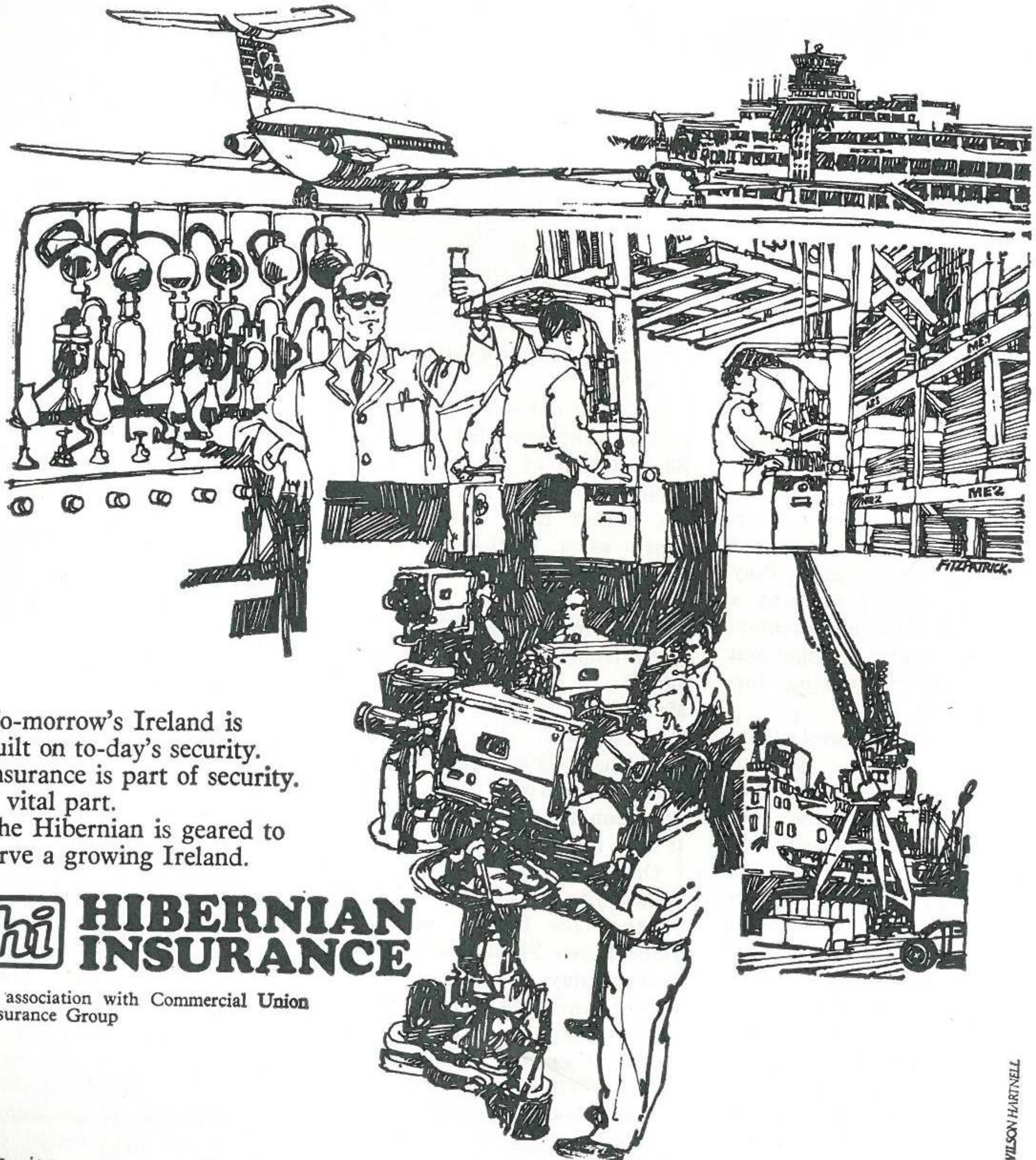
PADDY DOHERTY

moves. Most footballers would readily avail of Doherty's ability to snatch vital scores himself and to lay on scores for his younger colleagues.

Dan McCartan may not be a "born" full-back, but dangerous full-forwards like Pa Connolly, Charlie Gallagher and Sean Cleary have found him a difficult customer to elude. At the opposite end of the field, Sean O'Neill is now the outstanding full-forward in the game. Some years ago he merited the same rating as a flying half-forward.

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SEÁN O'NEILL

● FROM PAGE 33

Neither has the passing of the years lessened the understanding that exists between O'Neill and Doherty—they still operate on the same wavelength.

In terms of leadership and inspiration it would be difficult to begin to assess what this quartet has meant to an essentially young Down team. One must remember here that five members of the present team are twenty years or under. What can be assumed with reasonable certainty is that the contribution of

these four players to the success of the teams of both eras has remained constant, broadly speaking. This, despite the fact that the roles they now play may differ to a degree from those of '60-'61. If we accept this premise then it is in the remaining composition or characteristics of the teams that we will find any differences that may exist.

However it is the similarities not the differences that readily become apparent once one begins a close examination of the two teams. One of the hallmarks of

the great Down side of '60-'61 was its will to win. Other great teams have possessed an equal measure of fighting spirit; none could have claimed more. It is no exaggeration to say that they never knew when they were beaten. Those three, tense, exciting tussles with Offaly in the Championships of 1960 and '61 typified the northerner's never-say-die spirit at its most unflinching.

A similar brand of fierce resolve permeates the play of this new Down combination. Defeat is never accepted until the final whistle has gone. The All-Ireland semi-final against Galway, and the League final against Kildare are just two examples of the same kind of fighting spirit that carried Down to success eight or nine years ago.

Confidence in their own ability was another characteristic that marked the Down team of '60-'61 as a team apart. Neither the proud tradition of Kerry, nor the uncompromising style of Offaly could dislodge their firm belief in themselves. The same air of confidence exudes from the present-day Down team. Even under severe pressure they always attempt to play coolly, always try to scheme their way out of difficulty rather than resort to kick and rush tactics, a fault that might be excused in players so young. The manner in which Peter Rooney, the youngest member of the team, set up that semi-final goal for Sean O'Neill is just one example of the coolness that results from confidence. Mickey Cole's superbly taken first-half goal in the same game could be mentioned in the same context.

Another outstanding feature of the Down team of the early sixties was its brilliant, free scoring attack. It was claimed,

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## EAMONN YOUNG SAYS

*My wish is that Kerry will always play as only Kerry men can. For me there is no higher standard.*

# The mighty Kingdom

CORKMEN aren't noted for their admiration of the Kingdom and my indoctrination was certainly not very favourable, for my late father remembered rather well, I expect, some of the rough handling he got from Kerry men in the earlier decades of the century though I remain convinced that it wasn't all one-sided.

Since the Railway Cup days when at nineteen, I had the pleasure to tog out with Paddy Kennedy, Sean Brosnan, Eddie Walsh, Charlie Sullivan and their comrades. I had always admired the Kingdom; my feeling no doubt coloured by the tremendous ability of what was perhaps the greatest side of all time.

One day in Kenmare in a National League game I learned a lesson from Kerry which I have often passed on to young players. At centre-field I was marking Gega Connor of Dingle, a man who trained very hard and

showed it in sixty-minute dynamism. Early on a high ball came and we went for it with Gega in front. I had no hope, but just as he was about to connect a gentle hand laid in the small of his back edged him off and she fell into mammy's arms. I did something with it and ran back to my place very smug and satisfied. The voice grated in my ear. "Listen Young, if the ref. won't give me fair play, I'll soon get it for myself."

After that it was strictly football, though as you can guess, the fact that Gega was Munster champion middleweight at the time had nothing to do with it.

Jim Brosnan, whom I saw display that tremendous driving power of his, right from minor days often broke our hearts when wearing the senior jersey. I really got to know him when he was made captain of the Sigerson Cup side, which they asked me to train. He drove that team and indeed the trainer by the infectious enthusiasm which found personal expression in hard but talented football. At half time in that Sigerson Cup final Cork led well but that wasn't enough for Jim Brosnan. "Come on boys," he rapped, as his team took the field again. "Now we'll beat 'em by more in this half." He meant it; they did.

In '56, Cork led well in the Munster final, and it seemed all

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The Kerry team who beat Galway 0-7 to 1-3, in the All-Ireland football final of 1940.

over with only a few minutes to go, when Brozzy got the ball about seventy yards out and went away on what I will describe as a mad solo-run with the head down and although I admired his courage, I knew he hadn't a hope. By a combination of speed, ball-control and headlong running he managed to get within forty yards of our goal and then with a flashing swerve, and a drive of the shoulders he shivered his way through another ten

yards, still with the head down he jack-knifed the body and that ball went like a rocket. It passed the Cork goalie and hit the tubular steel at the back of the goal so hard that it rebounded back into play twenty yards out and some of our chaps pretended it hadn't been a goal. The game ended in a draw and we met them again in Killarney a fortnight later when, with the sides level and a minute to go Paddy Driscoll drove a long careful free

to Niall Fitzgerald and the Macroom man ran about fifty yards before slipping over a wonderful point and Cork were through.

Coming off the field with Jim Brosnan we met the Bishops of Cork and Kerry who had seen the game together. "Hard luck, Jim," said Dr. Moynihan, a little ruefully, while Dr. Lucey's face wrinkled with delight. "What happened?" asked the Kerry Bishop. Jim had to blame someone and the sweat dropping into his eye didn't quite obscure the twinkle as he said: "I don't know my lord, maybe their Bishop had more power than ours."

One of the greatest full-backs who ever kicked out a ball in my memory was Joe Keohane of Tralee. Equipped both in mind and body for great performance, Big Joe was certainly a little out of the ordinary. Standing a few inches over six feet, long legs

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● FROM PAGE 37

and square hard body, Keohane was playing competitive football since he was a child, and from the Kerry minor team of '36 he went right on to the senior team of the League and was, in the following summer, not only the automatic choice at full-back on the senior team, but one of the stars as well on a side which played in the finals of '37, '38, '39, '40 and '41, winning them all except the day in '38 when the Galwaymen, led by Tull Dunne, John Burke and Charlie Connolly slipped them by one point.

This was the year, incidentally, when Joe Keohane was dropped. There was a difference of opinion between Joe, who was a Dublin civil servant just then, and the Kerry Board which led to the big chap's replacement by the junior full-back of the time, who in turn became not only a fine full-back, but one of those all-time personalities of Cumann Luth Chleas Gael. He was a Brosnan from Dingle and they called him Paddy Bawn. His brother, incidentally, was Timoleen Deas. With names like that, chaps have to be a bit out of the ordinary.

Joe Keohane joined the army in 1940 (I'd hate to have to dig a foxhole for him) and the yarn I tell concerned the Munster final of '47 when, after ten years in the Kerry jersey, the big fella had matured in roguery. Kerry were beating us rather well, but in the last quarter Cork led by Tadgho Crowley, Jimmy Cronin, Jack Lynch and Weesh Murphy went suddenly on fire. The All-Ireland champs were for America that year and we felt that the team which had won the championship two years before was good enough to do it again.

Five minutes to go and two points down, Cork, with the crowd behind them, were really going well. In a desperate knot

of struggling bodies on the Kerry square, Billy Casey, the centre-back was laid out. The ref's whistle went for a free and my heart soared when he signalled a penalty to Cork, for we had a man who, though little known because he was working for the priesthood, was the best kicker of a hard ground ball in the game. Years after he was finished I saw Fr. Jim Ahern score against a lined goal from twenty-one yards. Anyway the ball was placed and Danno



*Joe Keohane, in his heyday with Kerry.*

Keeffe got ready in the goal. Meanwhile, Billy Casey was being taken off and the two-minute injury stoppage ticked away. Jim Ahern stood near the ball and big Joe Keohane strolled over, casually leaned a long arm on his smaller opponent's shoulder and with equal nonchalance laid a big foot on the placed ball. The pitch was unusually soft that day. The pitch was cleared and a tense silence fell as the whistle went and Ahern's burly body bent for a shot that no goalie could save. Arms apart, steady on his feet, Danno waited. Jim hit the ball, but to our dismay it went only at half speed. Danno gathered and kicked it about sixty yards down the field

with delight. It's not easy to hit a ground ball that's sunk two vital inches into clinging soil.

"It wasn't great sportsmanship," Keohane admitted a few years later, when crocodile tears watered his whiskey in an army camp. "but I could see the skyline of Manhattan. You'll forgive me, won't you?"

There are lots of yarns about Kerry as about all teams. Some of them are funny and some of them are grim, like the day when one man wouldn't walk in the parade around the field because he objected to the choice of captaincy, or the day when a back walked the three miles to the hotel in his togs because he wouldn't go back in the team cars. "What had I outside me only a herd of cattle," he said. Or the frustration which after the game found expression in the hotel when a player said: "I'd bate the best man in this county," and seeing my face at the door, "or by Jingo, the county next to it." And he didn't mean Limerick.

But fun and sadness, delight and sorrow all are part of the game, especially the big competitive game.

In these mighty tussles virile men express themselves without restraint, within the rules of the Association and of manly conduct. The kingdom of Kerry I feel must breed men of very strong feelings. Those great blue mountains rearing up in the sky over starlit rivers or golden, rolling beaches, and those wide lonely valleys with lakes like plates of steel on their twilight floors, nurse a breed of men and women of powerful force so much of which finds expression in their second religion, Gaelic football.

Long may it be so and win, lose or draw, my wish is that they will always play as only Kerry-men can.

For me there is no higher standard.

BY THE time this appears in print the All-Ireland camogie final of 1968 will be over and I am betting that it will be a record one. Certainly it was in many respects a record championship and deserved a record climax.

What was so wonderfully heartening about the whole campaign, however, was the uprise of new sides, and the defeat of the long reigning champions. Indeed it was a bad year for champions.

Kilkenny began the train of

sensations when they defeated Dublin in the Leinster semi-final. This defeat was all the more amazing when one remembers that Dublin had already had an outing in this championship, and had scored a very clear-cut win over Offaly. Yet the champions of Leinster, who had not been beaten inside their own province for more than thirty years, were deservedly conquered by Kilkenny who, in turn, were simply over-run by Wexford in the Leinster final.

This Wexford victory was all the more meritorious because they had not had the benefit of a previous competitive game. However, those who had been wondering if the result of the Leinster final was a fluke had any doubts set at rest when Wexford made the long trip North and contrary to popular opinion defeated the All-Ireland champions Antrim.

The impression I got from both those matches was this, that Wexford, who have played a great deal of good camogie in recent years, had, in a way, become hypnotised inside Leinster by the dominance of Dublin, but, once Dublin were cleared out of their road, all their inhibitions were gone, and they were a far more potent side.

In the South there was a great levelling up of standards, for, while Cork retained the Provincial title, they were hard pushed to beat a relatively inexperienced Tipperary side, and had to go into extra time before accounting for Waterford in the final.

In the West, Galway regained the Connacht senior crown,

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while, in the North, there was no real opposition to Antrim in the senior grade, which was a pity in one way as it gave the champions little opportunity to test fully their replacements for Maeve Gilroy, Marian McFetridge, Mairead Carabine and Ethna Dougan.

The new All-Ireland junior championship did a great deal for the game by widening enthusiasm in all provinces, but one thing I am sure the organisers had not bargained for was this, that in three of the four provinces the same counties won both the senior and the junior championships. The only exception was in Ulster where Down collected the junior title.

However, it must be taken from what we have seen that the junior championship has been a big success within the provinces. It has certainly had a great effect in counties whose senior sides were normally beaten early in the senior championship. Counties such as Kilkenny, Wexford and Galway have now far more clubs and much more scope for local competition than was the case a year ago and one of the reasons for this, I was told, is that they are now able to field their second-strongest sides in this junior championship.

And the success of the junior championships, now that it has been granted All-Ireland status leads me to believe that the Colleges competitions, which also have All-Ireland status this year, will profit from the change to an even greater extent. Already the Munster Colleges championship, which for years, seemingly could not be organised, has sprung into being, and I am told that, although the school-year had not started as I write there have been many enquiries from schools and Colleges that want to come in.

As I have emphasised so often before it is to the schools and the Colleges that we must look if we are to build camogie on a country-wide basis. The Commission set up by Congress to look

into the whole question of popularising camogie is still hard at work, and I am told its findings will lead to an even greater advance during 1969.



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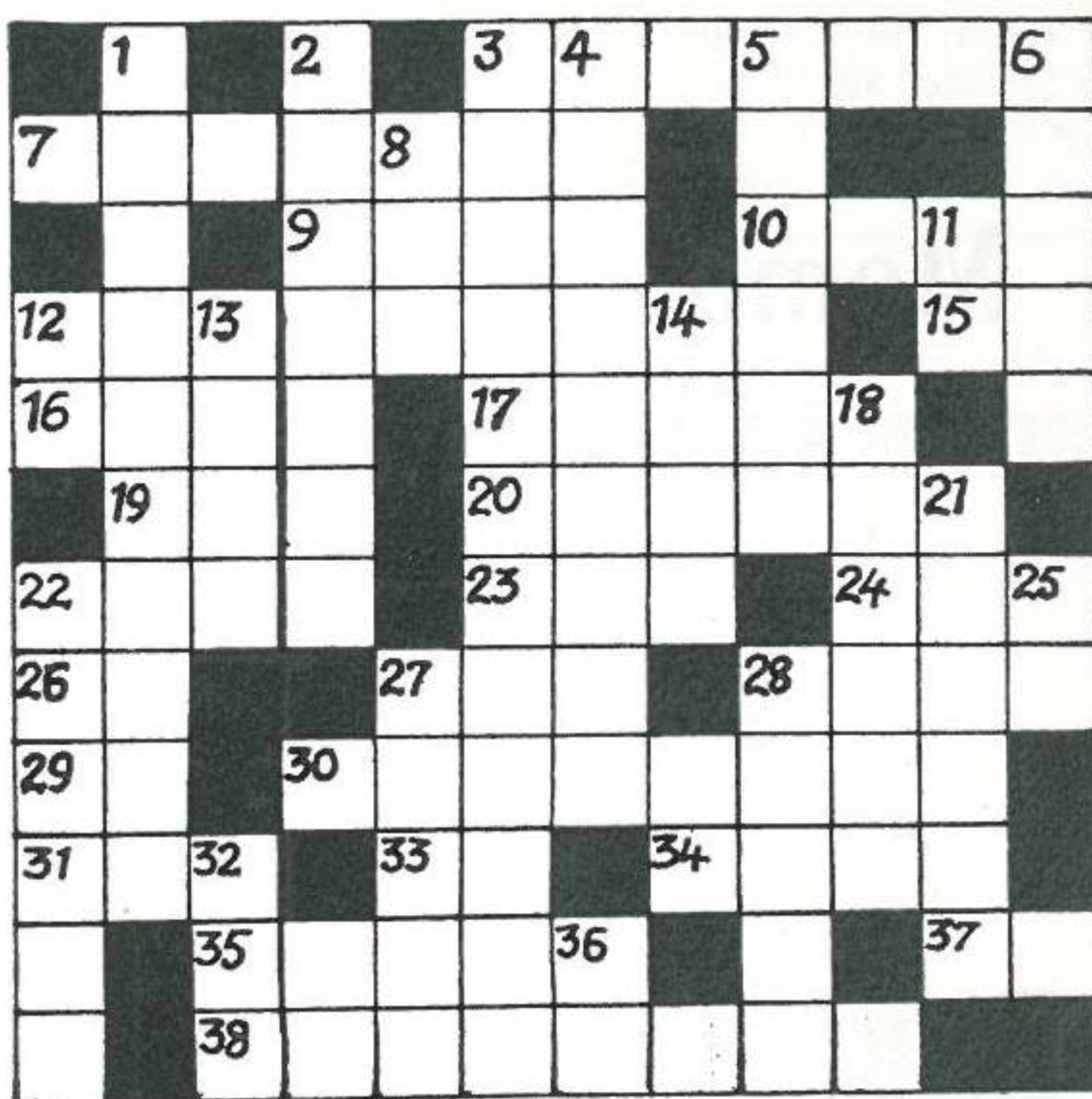
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## CLUES ACROSS :

3. Pine Gun makes an Antarctic bird. (7)
7. Longford forward whose goal-getting has been a big help. (1, 6)
9. Inactivity—a form of life which does not suit a games player. (4)
10. Perhaps the hardest thing is to do this gracefully. (4)
12. Paddy was a star corner back and occasional centre-back having begun at wing-half back—for Cork. (9)
15. Junior parochial clergyman at centre-half back for Sligo ? Initially. (1, 1)
16. A score which is worth three others. (4)
17. 'E paid to make a piper like the one of Hamelin. (1, 4)
19. Nothing registered by this team. (3)
20. G.A.A. writer, coach, and prominent northern-county player. (6)
22. This amount and no more, says Lony. (4)
23. How many senior hurling titles do Galway hold. (3)
24. Sub. (3)
26. I look like 'em in reverse. (2)
27. Knight of the British Empire, perhaps ? (3)
28. Gore the fearsome giant. (4)
29. The Spanish could initially make a hurler or footballer. (2)
30. Meath centre-forward, who often helps out at midfield. (8)
31. Cuchulainn award winner—past President. (3)
33. 6. (2)
34. Christy has made a name as a consistent Dublin defender. (4)
35. One who gives all he has got, and though, perhaps, short of ability gives of his maximum effort. (5)
37. Half a child's toy which coils and uncoils. (2)

## CLUES DOWN :

1. A star and goal-getter with All-Ireland winning Meath teams of the fifties, generally left-half forward. (1, 9)
2. Full-forward on many Meath teams with 1 Down. (1, 6)



3. Clare goalkeeper. (6, 6)
4. Display which brings a surprise awakening—or even an alarm clock, maybe. (3, 6)
5. Longford and Leinster defender. (6)
6. Relation often found between camogie players of this generation and hurlers of another. (5)
8. An Irish race. (3)
11. Captained Cork in 1944 and 1947 All-Irelands, Initials. (1, 1)
12. Begins O'Grady and might score an "own goal". (2)
13. Way connected with the St. Patrick's Day competitions. (4)
14. Demarcation of the playing area, on the Nile. (14)
18. Prominent Gaelic Games commentator of Cork Examiner who was himself a promising minor player. (6)
21. Roscommon corner-forward of 40's concealed by Renny. (6)
22. "Skinny" the famous Tipperary (Toomevara) goalie. (6)
27. Heffernan. (5)
28. Matt who hurled in spectacles—at right-half back. (5)
32. FTH (sic). (3)
36. Half a ring. (2)

SOLUTION : PAGE 72

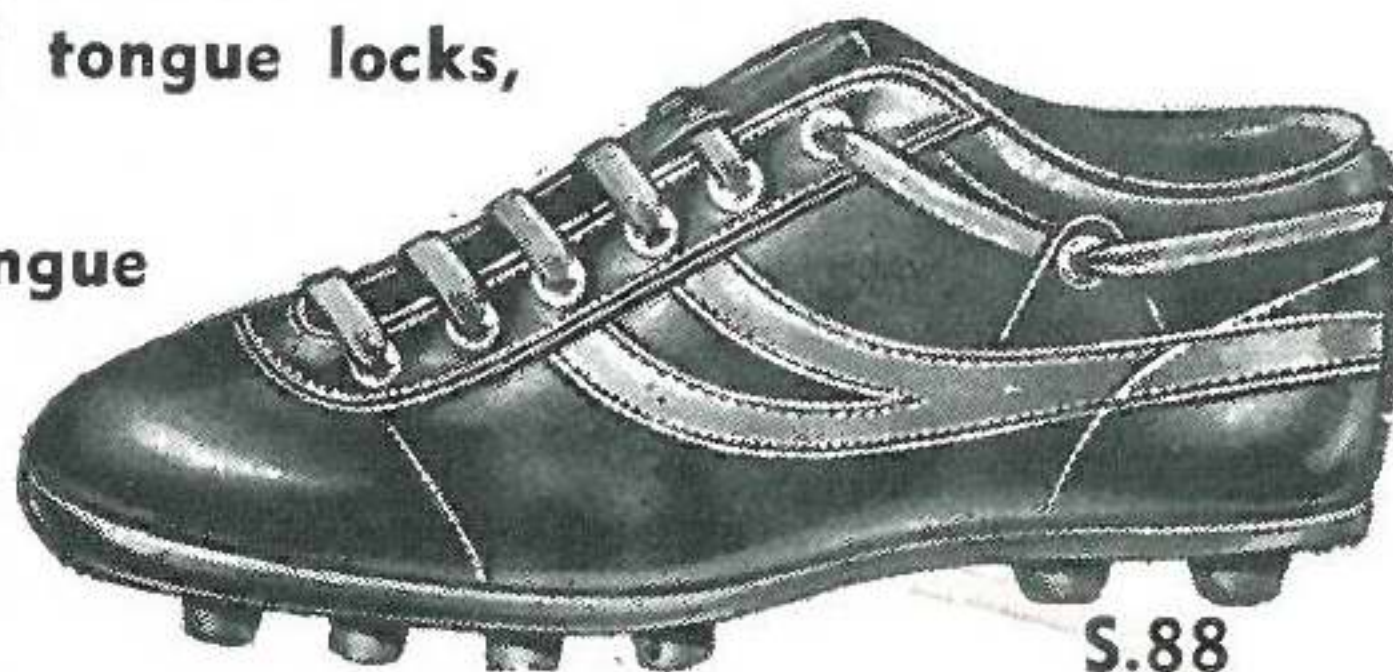
## Memo to all G.A.A. clubs: an alley will always be a faithful ally

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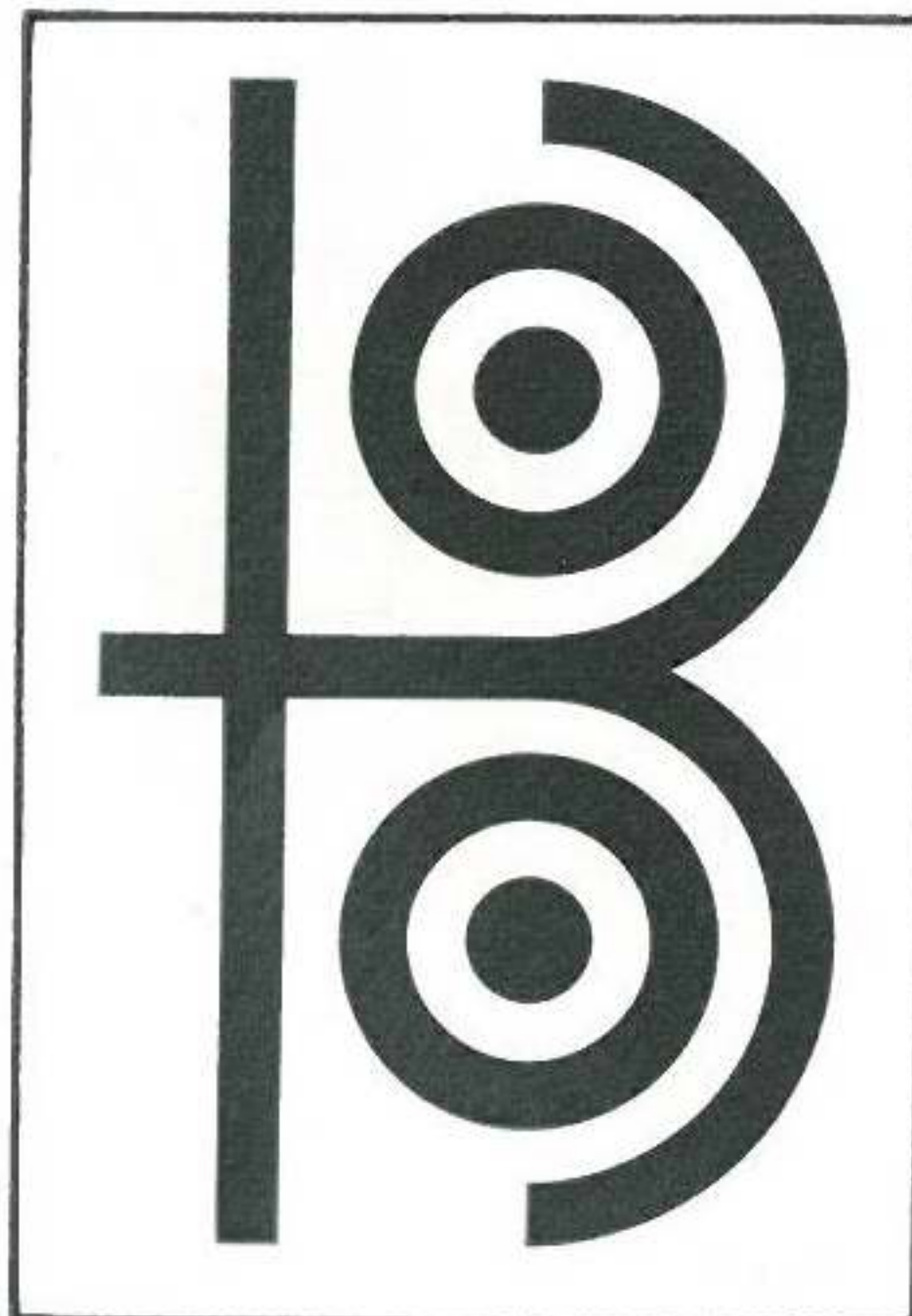
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THE image of the G.A.A. is quickly changing. Gone are the days when the only incentive a particular unit of it had was to have a playing pitch. Instead we find the emphasis on proper amenities for players and spectators—dressing rooms, showers, clubrooms and recreational facilities.

Progress might appear to be rather slow at present, but then we must realise that a head-start had already been given to other organisations. There can be no doubt that, within the next few years many clubs will have reached a position of real stability. When it is reached on a general basis I am hoping that handball will be part of it.

It is wonderful to envisage a handball court for every club with its own grounds. What a change that would be from the position that obtains at present, where only relatively few G.A.A. clubs cater for handball!

This is a pity, for handball could do a great deal to complement football and hurling.

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I am reluctant to dabble in financial facts, but on a wary note I can say that if the structure were put up by voluntary labour, £1,000 would go a long way towards the cost of materials.

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*The Cork minor team who beat Kerry in the Munster final at Killarney last July 14th.*

## The Curtain-raiser

# CORK DEFEND MINOR CROWN

By Tim Horgan

**N**OW that the Down footballers have qualified for their third All-Ireland senior final, it is interesting to note that the Cork minors will be there to accompany them when they return to Croke Park on the fourth Sunday in September. When the Mourne men paid their historic visit to headquarters in 1960 the young lads from Cork were there to precede them in the minor final and when Down returned to defend their All-Ireland title the following year, the Leesiders were in action again.

The Cork minors didn't do well in the 1960 decider. Like Down, they were strangers appearing

in their first final at Croke Park, but unlike the Ulster champions, who trounced Kerry that day, they were unable to create an impression against a strong Galway team. Enda Colleran, Seamus Leydon Sean Cleary and Christy Tyrrell were some of the stars of the Galway side, and with players of their calibre in action against them, it was little wonder that Cork incurred a heavy defeat.

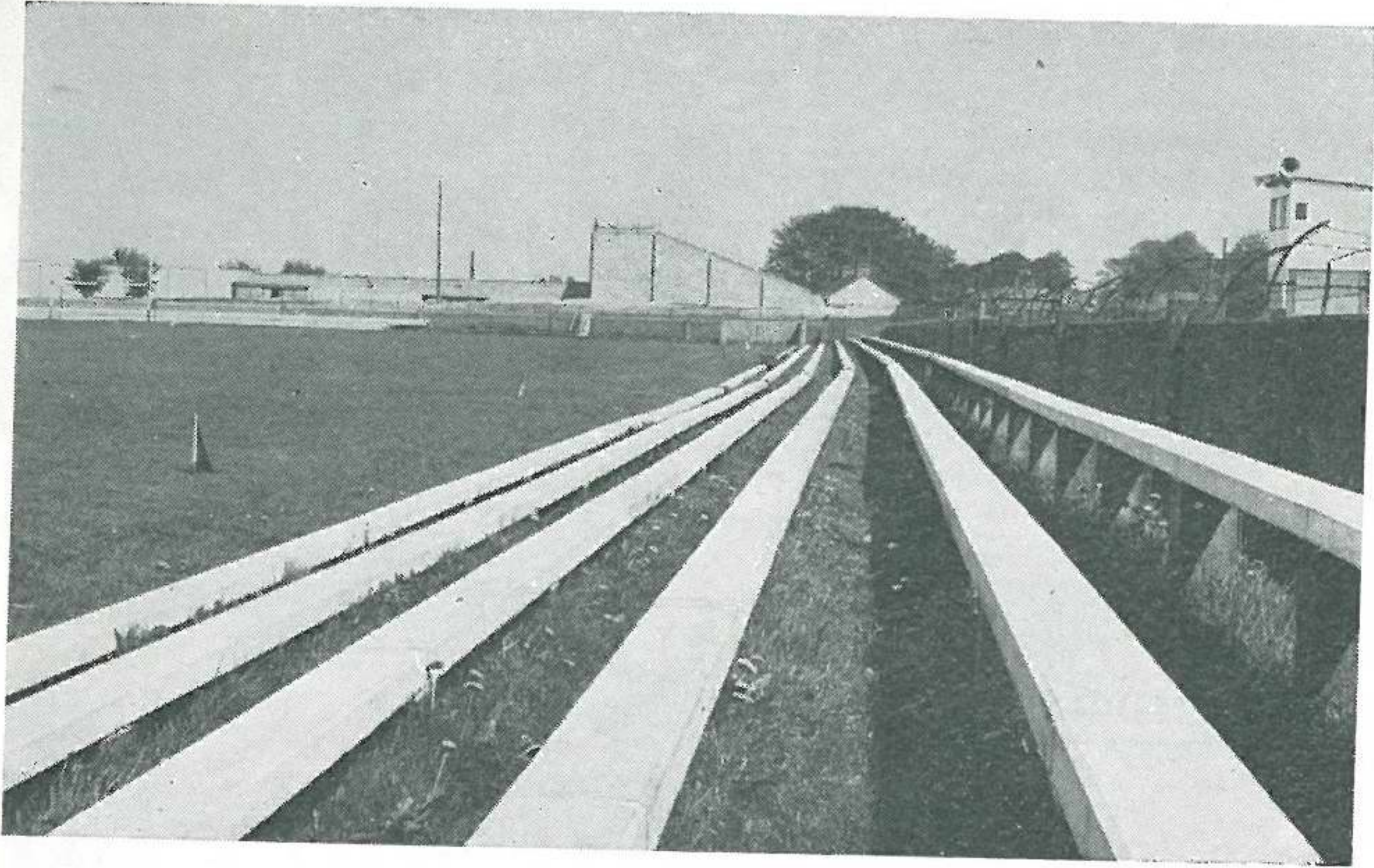
The following year brought a change of fortune for the Leesiders and, while 90,556 spectators assembled in Croke Park for the Down-Offaly senior final, the Cork boys won their first All-

Ireland minor title at the expense of Mayo. A flying seventeen-year-old footballer, Frank Cogan of Coláiste Chríost Rí, lined out at midfield for Cork that day and in the half forward line was Flor Hayes, a brilliant minor from Clonakilty.

Down did not reach the senior final in 1962 and '63 and the following year marked the advent of the great Galway team which dominated the championship for three years. As a result of this, and the fact that Cavan emerged as Ulster champions in 1967, the famous Red and Black

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● FROM PAGE 47

colours have not been seen in a Croke Park decider for six years. Meanwhile, the Cork minors have appeared in two finals, losing narrowly to Offaly in 1964 and inflicting a heavy defeat on Laois in 1967.

The 1964 game was a very exciting affair with Offaly bidding for their first title and Cork attempting to bring off the minor double. Tony McTeague was the outstanding player on the Offaly side that day and gave a scintillating display in the half-forward line. Cork had Eric Philpot, Tim F. Hayes and hurlers Charlie McCarthy and Con Roche in action but, after a pulsating finish, the Leinster champions went on to win by a point.

Cork eventually managed to record a minor double last year when the county hurlers enjoyed a narrow win over Wexford and the footballers defeated Laois after one of the most magnificent exhibitions of football ever seen in Croke Park. Donal Hunt, the sturdy youth from Bantry, gained promotion to the county senior panel shortly after that victory.

The present Cork team had an impressive run in the provincial championship, beating Waterford and Kerry, and subsequently inflicting a seven-point defeat on a fancied Dublin fifteen in the All-Ireland semi-final. Some

observers have compared the team unfavourably with last year's star-studded outfit, but it is well to remember that the 1967 side was criticised severely after the semi-final against Tyrone. It remains to be seen if the current team can sway the critics with an equally impressive performance in the final.

For the past nine years the Cork footballers have dominated the minor championship in Munster, winning seven provincial titles and two All-Irelands in that period. Several sporting families have become synonymous with this run of success, including the Cogan and the Cummins brothers, who will be represented on the team again this year.

Frank Cogan, the eldest member of the famous Nemo Rangers family, played minor hurling and football with Cork for two years, winning an All-Ireland medal in 1961. His brother, John, was a member of the team beaten by Offaly in the 1964 final and his brother Dermot played on last year's successful side. Der and his twin, Billy keep the Cogan clan well represented on this year's selection.

Brendan Cummins, the tall Blackrock forward, follows in the footsteps of his brother, Raymond, who led the Cork minor footballers to the All-Ireland semi-final two years ago. The eldest member of the family,

Kevin Cummins, captained the Cork minor hurling team which won the 1964 title. The Cogan and the Cummins's are all products of Coláiste Chríost Rí, the great nursery of Cork footballers for the past decade or so. The Turner's Cross school which won the All-Ireland Colleges title earlier this year, is also represented on the Cork team by Declan O'Mahony, Seamus Looney, Fergus Cronin and Mick Bohane.

Only three players from last year's team—Der Cogan, Seamus Looney and the captain, Donal Aherne—will be in action for Cork again this year, but the county possesses an abundance of promising young footballers. Connie Hartnett, Barry Murphy, Jerry Coleman and Tony Murphy are the best of the newcomers and these should trouble the Sligo team. The Connacht boys will be appearing in their first final but the more experienced Leesiders should keep the Tom Markham Trophy in the Rebel County for another twelve months.

Down were victorious in 1960 and 1961 when they followed the red-jerseyed brigade on to the Croke Park sward. Could the presence of the Cork minors at headquarters again this year serve as another good omen for the Mournemen? Time and a great battle with Kerry will tell.



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# SLIGO ARE CONFIDENT

By Owen McCann

**T**HIRTY-THREE years ago Sligo beat Tipperary 4-2 to 2-5 in the All-Ireland junior football "home" final. In the decider proper, they had a resounding 5-8 to 0-3 win over London for the county's only All-Ireland title in any grade.

Since that 1935 All-Ireland title win, the harvest has not been very rich for Sligo. A Connacht junior title in 1956, and provincial minor crowns in 1949 and

1968 rank as their only major football championship triumphs. This year, too, the county's colours are being sported in an All-Ireland final in any grade for the first time since that 1935 success, and for only the second time in all.


An encouraging thought for Sligo is that the record for wins in a first final outing is quite good. Clare, Dublin, Kerry, Cavan, Roscommon, Tyrone,

Armagh, Galway, Meath, Offaly and Derry all succeeded on their first appearance in a decider. The last year a new name was inscribed on the minor championship winner's list was in 1965, when another Munster county, Kerry, lost 2-4 to 2-8 to Derry. The last Connacht first was in 1952, when Galway took their initial crown with a 2-9 to 1-6 win over Cavan.

There have been six Connacht-Munster finals in the 39 years history of the minor series, and the score is evenly balanced. Kerry beat Mayo in the first in 1933, Cork mastered Mayo in 1961, and Mayo were again on the losing end in the 1962 final, to Kerry. Connacht's wins were recorded by Mayo over Tipperary in 1935, by Mayo again in 1953 at Clare's expense, and Galway had the last western win in 1960 when Cork were Munster's representatives.


Still on the provincial theme. Whatever the outcome of this final, Connacht is now in a unique position in minor football. As Leitrim unsuccessfully contested two finals (1945 and 1956), and Mayo, Galway and Roscommon have all won titles, Sligo's outing will mean that each of the Western counties has appeared in the decider. Carlow, Kildare, Kilkenny and Wicklow, in Leinster, Donegal, Antrim and Fermanagh in the North, and Limerick and Waterford, from Munster, are the counties yet to contest a minor final.

Sligo have never met Cork in any grade of championship football. It is interesting to note, though, that on Sligo's first All-Ireland minor semi-final appearance in 1949, they lost at Lurgan



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*The Sligo team who brought the Connacht minor title back to the county for the first time since 1949 when they beat Mayo in the provincial final at Castlebar on July 21st.*

to Armagh, who went on to win their only title at the expense of Munster opposition, Kerry.

Will history now repeat itself with the winners of a Sligo-Armagh semi-final again going on for a first decider victory at the expense of the South? Only time will tell, but west of the Shannon there is an air of quiet confidence that, despite Cork's proud ranking in present-day minor football, a successful new chapter in the history of Connacht football is coming up.

Admittedly, Sligo did not look a great side in that win over Armagh, but then, Cork did not scale the heights either in their semi-final with Dublin. So, on the score of performances in the semi-finals there is not a great deal to choose between the teams.

Remember, however, that Sligo did show some grand flashes of football against Armagh, bursts that underline that this side has plenty of ability. Then, before getting to Croke Park, Sligo displayed good form in wins over grand Mayo (3-5 to 1-7) and Galway (1-8 to 0-7) sides.

Let's not forget, either, that having experienced the "white-heat" atmosphere that is headquarters on All-Ireland semi-final days, and, with morale boosted further by what ranks as the greatest breakthrough by Sligo in championship football in over three decades, the players are sure to move with more poise and authority than in the game with Armagh.

Sligo are powered by some extremely talented performers. Their towering captain, Aidan Richardson, at midfield, could well prove a real match-winner. Here is a wholehearted and tireless footballer, who ceaselessly employs his skills at midfield and also in helping out in defence and linking up in attack.

Hugh Quinn (1-5) and Richard Boland (2-2), two of their three top marksmen, are nippy and clever forwards, who use the ball well. Pat Kearins, who is also on the eight points mark with 2-2 in the series so far, is swift, clever and accurate, in the mould of his famous brother, that score-getter supreme, Mickey.

Sean Brennan at full-back has good positional sense and safe hands. In a tenacious defence that will ensure that Cork's attack will have to work hard to chalk up the goals and points, he is especially well supported by Noel Kellagher and Sean Gilmartin.

All in all, then, this is certainly an extremely capable company of talented starlets from Sligo. Indeed, the more I run the rule over the team, consider the prowess of the players, and recall the earlier championship performances, the more I'm convinced that the formula for success—team spirit, determination, method, skill and punch—is there.

Given the "breaks" and the luck that invariably are needed in the winning of any All-Ireland championship, September 22, 1968, could well go into the record books as a double-joy day for County Sligo. The last year the Tom Markham Cup was brought in triumph over the Shannon was in 1966, when Mayo beat Down.

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## FROM PAGE 35

with some degree of justification, that those Down forwards could win a game with a forty per cent share of the play. This gives an indication of the potency of that great attack. As a unit they combined to devastating effect; as individuals each one was a veritable match-winner in his own right.

Any one of them could swing a match Down's way with a few flashes of his particular brand of genius. Hadden's fisted scores from long distances broke many a defence's heart. James McCartan's bustling energy and uncanny opportunism often turned seeming defeat into glorious victory. Morgan's tigerish determination gained him scores from situations that other lesser forwards would have abandoned as lost causes.

How does the present attack compare with that smooth running machine? In terms of teamwork I believe they are practically as good. They run off the ball with intelligence and design. They can make and take scores given the slightest opportunity. More and more the young players in attack, Murphy, Cole, Rooney and Purdy are becoming score-getters, thus easing the burden on O'Neill and Doherty to provide all the scoring power. All are extremely talented ball players.

Nevertheless, I would hesitate to claim that they are as deadly a force as the '60-'61 combination, at this stage. They lack McCartan's boundless energy and appetite for work in the middle, and no half-forward line in my estimation, has yet measured up to Down's trio of '60-'61, since that period. But in making this comparison it must be borne in mind that Down '68 are a team still in the process of maturing; the Down team of '60-'61 was at its peak in those years.

Examination of the respective defences and midfield pairings reveals some striking similarities too. In '60-'61 Down were seldom rated strong at midfield. This I have always considered something of an injustice to Joe Lennon and Jarlath Carey. Strangely enough Colm McAlarney and Jim Milligan are not considered a very powerful pairing to-day. Milligan does show a tendency to fade at times but over the hour these two are seldom outplayed. The Down defence of '60-'61 often came in for sharp criticism for its tendency to concede soft scores at

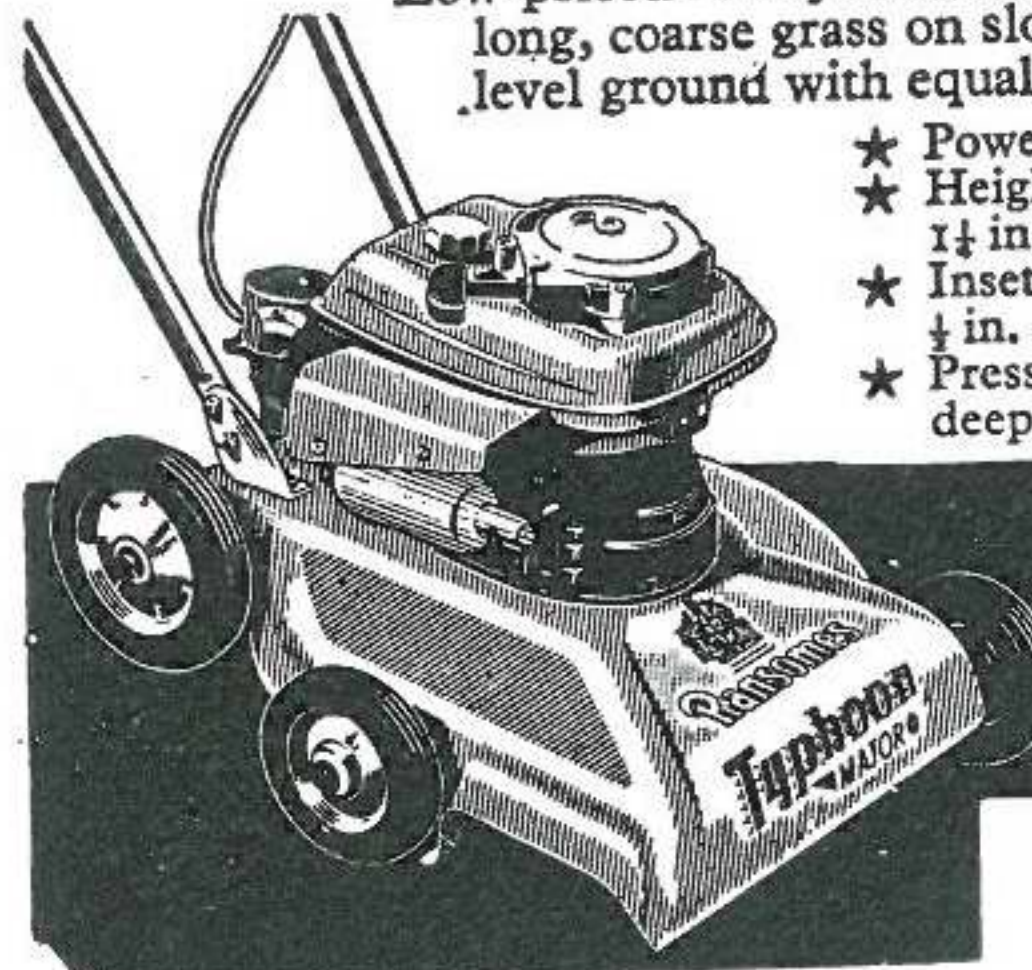
times. The present Down defence has drawn some criticism along the same lines. As the championship progressed however, I felt there was a tightening up in this regard, but the crucial test will come of course against the much vaunted Kerry attack in the Final.

Were I asked to choose between the two Down teams, I would rate the '60-'61 side the more powerful combination. But I would qualify my choice by misquoting my friend at the garage: "... the present team are not as good as the '60-'61 team—YET."

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# What a change in six months!

By TIM HORGAN

AS the Kerry footballers await the clash with mighty Down in the All-Ireland final and sporting enthusiasts all over the country look forward to a magnificent game, it seems ages since I was asked to do a survey on the decline of football in the Kingdom. And yet, it is less than six months since I spoke to dejected Kerry players under the cold, concrete stand at Thurles after their hopes of an early league revival had been blighted by Mayo.

There were some signs of subdued optimism in the talk of the players and mentors on that dismal April evening, but nobody could overlook the beating Kerry had just received from Mayo.

Mick O'Dwyer had done his bit to keep the Kingdom in the picture for most of the game and Mick O'Connell had shown flashes of his best form in the first half. But these players could do little to conceal the gaping weaknesses in the Kerry team, particularly in the defence, which had "given away" two very soft goals to their opponents.

Sean Murphy, an outstanding defender in the 'fifties, felt that Kerry lacked the material to form a team with good championship prospects, but Dr. Jim Brosnan, ever an optimist, promised that the Kingdom would

go far in the premier competition.

Derry O'Shea, who had taken part in the game against Mayo, said that the decline was due to lack of collective training on the part of the Kerry players, some of whom trained at home and some in Dublin.

"If we could all get together before the championship and listen to some good pep talks, it would be a great help," he added.

Three months passed before I had the opportunity of seeing the Kerry footballers in action again, and on the surface very little had happened to make their championship hopes any brighter. Several challenge matches had been played with other football counties and Kerry had done well in these. Tipperary had been beaten in the championship semi-final but on the face of things there was little to enthuse about in the so-called Kerry revival.

However, there was one change which augured well for the Kingdom, though only Kerry men could appreciate its significance at the time. Jackie Lyne, one of the greatest players the county has ever produced, was called back into action as coach to the Kerry team, and from the outset a break in the clouds appeared for the Kingdom. If the players



*Niall Sheehy, who filled the full back berth for Kerry in five All-Ireland finals—winning two, in 1959 and 1962.*

needed pep talks, as Derry O'Shea suggested they did, then Jackie Lyne was the right man to provide them, and plenty of them.

And so an all-out campaign was launched to bring Kerry back on the road to Croke Park, and the results of Jackie Lyne's efforts were to be severely tested in the Munster final against old rivals, Cork. Kerry hadn't won the provincial crown since 1965 and Cork were bidding for their third-in-a-row.

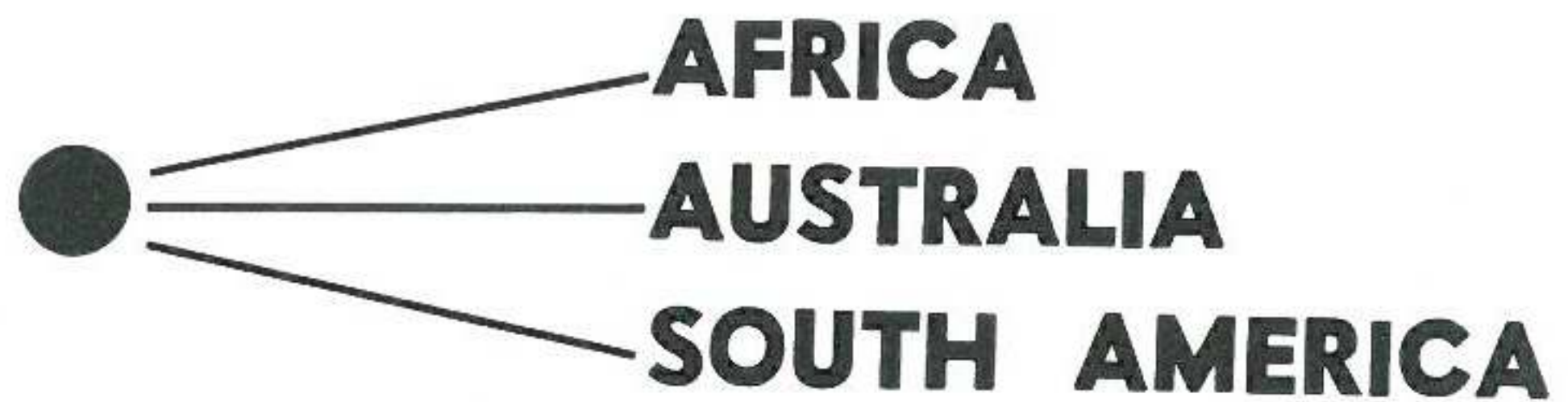
The Leesiders had defeated Kerry in a league match at Tralee earlier in the season and most people expected them to repeat that performance when the counties met again at Killarney. But what a surprise was in store for the large crowd at the Fitzgerald Stadium that sun-drenched July afternoon!

Kerry started off badly enough and the old chinks in their de-

● TO PAGE 57

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● FROM PAGE 55

fensive armour were exposed as Cork broke through for two early goals. But then the great comeback began, and the homesters gradually eroded the seven-point deficit with long range scores until only a solitary point separated the teams at the interval.

And then to the delight of the local supporters the men in green and gold went on a rampage in the second half, dominating the game in all sectors and accumulating a gigantic total of one goal and twenty-one points. Cork had 3-8 to their credit at the end of the game but nobody could deny that this was Kerry's day.

Still, the sceptics refused to believe that Kerry were on the way back. One swallow doesn't make a summer, they said, and one outstanding display in the championship doesn't mean an All-Ireland title. But then came the clash with Longford in the semi-final and once again the old magic of O'Connell revealed

itself as the Valentia man led Kerry in another scintillating exhibition of top class football.

The Leinster champions put up a good fight in the second half but there was no questioning the merit of the Kerry team.

Their speed and flair for work in the first-half, their superlative fielding in the old traditional manner and their accuracy from long range kicking marked them out as a team worthy to be ranked among the Kingdom's best in several decades. There was a lapse in the second period, which allowed Longford to pull down the lead and forge ahead by a point, but, when the pressure was on, Kerry stormed back to put a curb on the Leinster men and secure their place in the final.

And so, after an absence of three years, Kerry are back in the All-Ireland final and bidding for their 21st title. They were seeking their 20th crown when they lost to Down in the 1960 decider but this time Kerry will be in

there with much more to gain than their fellow-countymen of almost a decade ago. Only Johnny Culloty, Seamus Murphy, Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer are holders of All-Ireland medals on the present team and no Kerry senior player likes to be without a gold medal for long.

Pat Griffin, Brendan Lynch, Dan Joe Crowley and Eamonn O'Donoghue are the danger men on the team to meet Down and these are just as likely to trouble the Ulster defence as Doherty, O'Neill and John Purdy are to upset the Munster rearguard.

If the Kerry backs can hold out reasonably well and concede as few frees as possible, the Sam Maguire Cup could be on its way back to the southern province. It's six years since the trophy went south but, if any county is to bring it back there, that county must surely be Kerry.

Funny isn't it, but nobody would have believed that last sentence six months ago. Not even a Kerryman!

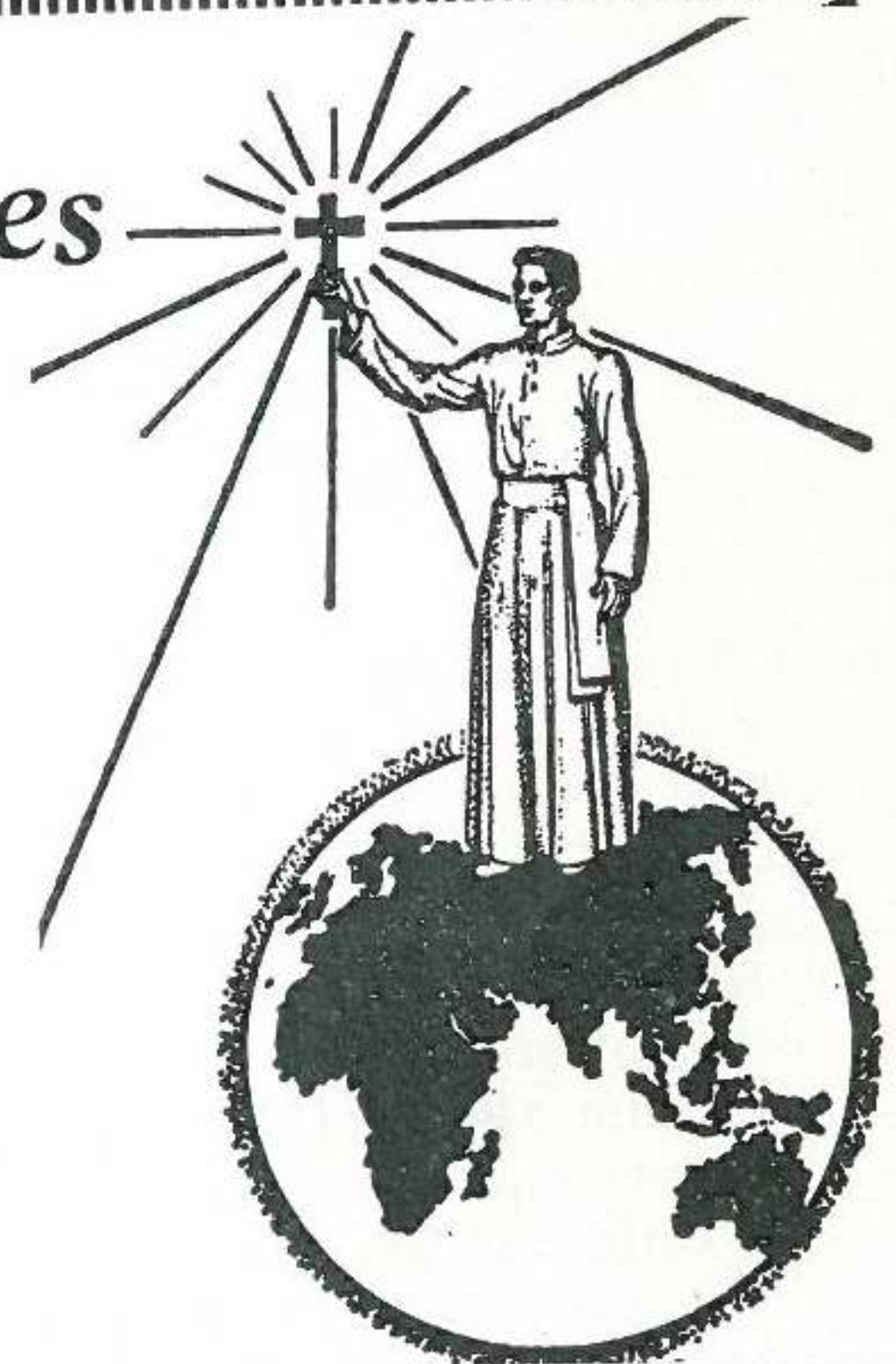
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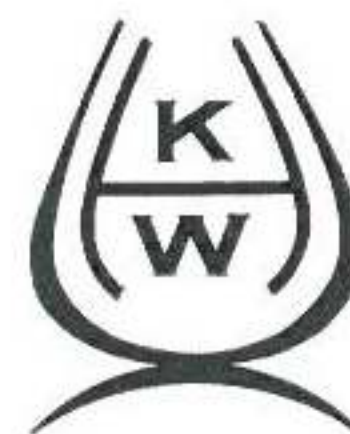
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# KERRY THROUGH THE YEARS

THE All-Ireland senior football final has long ago become one of the major events of the Irish sporting year. Time was, of course, when the hurling final ran it close for priority but, as the number of top-class hurling counties have steadily declined through the past twenty years the hurling final has just as steadily been relegated to a still proud but definitely secondary place in the Gaelic calendar.

For myself, I had seen hurling finals before ever I watched a football decider, and indeed I had little interest at all in football until I was well into my teens. And yet, peculiarly, Kerry were the first team I ever saw win the Sam Maguire Cup, although I had no affiliations whatsoever with the Kingdom in those days.

The reason I was then pro-Kerry was, of course, because from the newspapers, the names of John Joe Sheehy, Con Brosnan, Bob Stack and the rest had penetrated even into such a hurling stronghold as I then lived in.

So the first final I saw, the 1930 decider against Monaghan, found me cheering for Kerry, in so far as there was any cheering to be done, because the boys from the Kingdom were in almost complete command after the first few minutes.

I had travelled to Dublin on a school treat, an excursion for the scholars who had done well in the Intermediate Certificate, and as the college was in a hurling county, the majority of those in our party did not bother going

on to Croke Park at all when we got to Dublin. But I went, and I have been going to All-Ireland football finals ever since.

Indeed, through the years since 1930, I have missed only three All-Ireland football finals. Those were 1931, 1934 and 1947.

In 1931 I had a choice between going to the football final between Kerry and Kildare or seeing the first replay of the hurling final between Cork and Kilkenny. Needless to say, I then opted for the hurling match.

In 1934 the reason I did not see the Galway v. Dublin final was elementary. I was then a student, the game came at the very end of the long vacation and even if I could have got a lift to Dublin, which was more than doubtful, I could not have

gone to the game because I just had not the money to pay my way in and provide myself with a couple of meals. Times were hard in the early 30's, in case you didn't know.

As for 1947, well I could have been in the Polo Grounds on that September Sunday, but we had a new arrival in the family and, between one thing and another, I had to pass up the trip. I should mention, of course, that Kerry were also in the second football final I saw, and though that was in the decider of 1932, some 36 years ago now, I still have some very vivid recollections of the hour, not the least of which concern a couple of torrential showers that fell, and I had no overcoat!

Yet I have two main impressions still, that those showers upset the relatively inexperienced Mayo side, and that even so the Connacht champions very nearly snatched victory in the closing minutes. Mayo, of course, eventually had ample compensation for that 1932 defeat when they ran rings around an amazingly muscle-bound Laois side in the final of 1936.

Then we had the really astounding coincidence of Kerry featuring in drawn finals in two successive years, in 1937 and 1938. I thought Cavan should have gone home victorious in 1937. I was at the Canal End, and relatively close to the scene, when Cavan's last minute point was disallowed and certainly, at the time, I did not think the ball was thrown as the referee ruled.

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*Ned Roche, Kerry's full back in their final victories of 1953 and 1955.*



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PETER OWENS

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A year later the boot was on the other foot. Kerry scored with what looked the last kick of the game, but the referee ruled that time was up when he had awarded a free to Kerry, and that the kicker, Sean Brosnon would have to score direct to win the game.

Actually, the ball fell short, just in the square, was punched out by a defender and promptly punched back over the bar by a Kerry forward, but the referee had sounded the last whistle in the meantime.

Incidentally, this drawn game between Kerry and Galway in 1938 was the most spectacular and satisfying final I ever watched. The replay was not of the same quality, as Kerry never played with the same confidence and conviction, but, of course, we had the amazing climax with the crowd sweeping on the field a couple of minutes from the end under the mistaken impression that the game was over.

When the pitch was cleared and the game was resumed, Kerry had so many different players that we spent the remaining minutes trying to check who had come on and who was missing.

Many of the original Kerry side, thinking the game had ended, were already back in their hotel by the time play restarted. But Galway won just the same.

The most sensational final of the 40's was that of 1946. Roscommon were coasting to victory over Kerry, six points ahead with a couple of minutes to go. The Kerry men scored two goals in as many minutes to earn a completely unexpected draw, and won the replay with a last-minute point.

Then in 1948 Cavan, with half a gale behind them swept Mayo out of their way in the first 30

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minutes and were so far ahead going into the last quarter that they seemed certainties to win easily. But Mayo staged an amazing comeback to level scores a few minutes from time.

Cavan battled back into the wind to take the lead again with a point, but Mayo swept down the field from the kick-out and earned a free right in front of the Cavan posts. The great Padraic Carney took the kick, but Mick Higgins, who had fallen back in defence, blocked the ball down, and Cavan just survived to win their fourth title.

But the last final in which the Cavanmen were concerned, that of 1952, provided the most ironic twist of all. Again it was a wet and stormy September Sunday, so bad, in fact, was the day that the minor final was not played.

Anyway when Cavan and Meath lined out in the senior game the Breffnimen again won the toss, and again played with the wind. But this time they did not do so well and, though they were ahead at half-time, the margin did not look nearly enough.

Meath soon wiped out the arrears on the restart and eventually went a point ahead. The Royal County side then missed several chances of making victory secure, but, even so, that single point looked sufficient as the game went into lost time.

Cavan came upfield in a last bid to save the day, but a high shot went sailing well wide of the posts.

As the ball, high in the air, crossed the end line, the Meath defenders turned away to get ready for the kick-out.

Then a fierce gust of wind

swept the ball back onto the playing field and right back into the arms of Cavan forward Edwin Carolan who was possibly the most astounded man on the field.

But he did not look at the gift a second time. He raced in and kicked that ball over the cross-bar for the equalising point, and Cavan emerged good winners of the subsequent replay.

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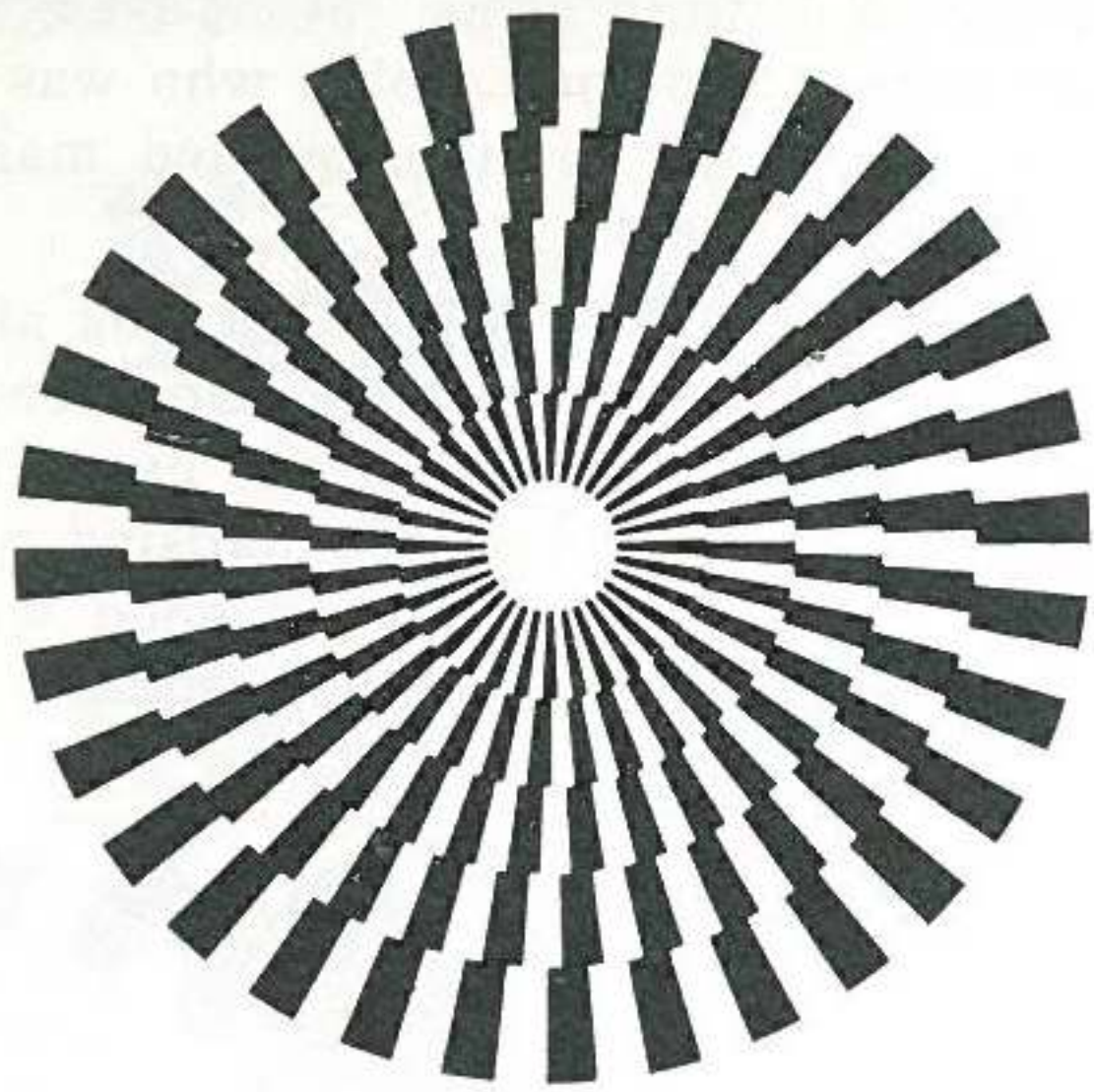
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# Styles and tactics

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

STYLES and tactics, past and present, always form an interesting theme for discussion.

Before the recent hurling final many old caman enthusiasts debated the prospects of a game in keeping with the best traditions of the olden arena. Now, on the eve of the All-Ireland football final, the same discussions are taking place and there is every confidence that Kerry and Down will confirm that the traditional football features of their respective counties are still maintained.

In the olden days one saw football featured by great dash and dare-devil rushes. Backs drew on rolling balls—they did not waste time picking up. Players kicked with equal facility off the sod as from their hands. The leather was fielded at great heights; it was kicked a great distance.

A team attacked with long punting. Combination; short passes were at a discount. The proficient player excelled in a clever side step of an opponent, or a deft swerve though travelling at full speed.

In the march of time changes came to the Gaelic arena—new stars rose in the Gaelic firmament. The era of handpassing brought revolutionary changes in football tactics. Most of the finals featured the modern methods, one side or the other—sometimes both—exploited hand passing.

Teams attacked in massed formation, short snappy passes between the forwards moving goalwards became the order; the pick up was commonplace and often went so close to the grass as to be questionable—an increasing tendency to break the ball to a watching colleague

rather than field it became the vogue.

The old football order, however, did not change in Kerry. The present generation of players follow fairly closely the tactics favoured by the men of the "Kingdom" all down the years since the days of the famed Laune Rangers combination of football giants.

In this final as in all their Blue Riband appearances they will exploit the catch and kick style—outstretched hands will clutch the flying ball; stalwart limbs will kick it far. As a spectacular event it should be ahead of any of the more recent deciders, particularly for the older generation for whom Kerry invariably re-awakens memories of boyhood's years.

There are very few left now to recall the spring of 1893 when Killorglin Laune Rangers blazed Kerry's football trail to the Metropolis. The Rangers went down on that occasion before Dublin Young Irelands in a welter of robust football, frequent stoppages and encroachment of spectators.

More than a decade passed before Kerry again appeared in a final. This occasion they wore for the first time the now so popular green and gold colours. Tralee John Mitchel's represented the "Kingdom" and three unforgettable games were necessary with Kildare before the issue was decided in Kerry's favour. They aroused nation-wide interest and, above all else, demonstrated that the Gaelic code, when played by adept exponents, called for science and skill.

Kerry won the 1904 final from Dublin but the Lily Whites from

Kildare again appeared on the scene in 1905, and this time it was but fitting that they should turn the tables on their old rivals. The "Kingdom" were back in 1908 only to go down before a great Dublin selection which included Paddy Casey, a Kerryman domiciled in the Metropolis.

A Kerry football defeat invariably acts as a tonic, so we find the county triumphant over Louth in 1909. The same counties qualified for the 1910 final. Kerry demanded essential travelling concessions from the railway company and when they refused they conceded a walk-over.

The renowned Seán Kennedy led a young Wexford team in 1913 and a further series of great games was ushered in. Kerry won, and the following year the sides again met. In a pulse-stirring struggle Wexford were leading until close on time, when Kerry were awarded a free which that remarkable footballer—the late Dick Fitzgerald sent between the uprights to level. Many good judges maintain this was the greatest football final ever played. Kerry won the replay, but the "Boys of Wexford", had their revenge the following year, and set up a record by winning four consecutive titles; a record Kerry succeeded in equalling in the years from 1929 to 1932.

The struggle for national independence saw Kerry deeply involved and it was 1923 before the familiar green and gold colours again graced Croke Park. I remember that stirring struggle well and the grand Dublin team that beat them, 1-5 to 1-2. The meeting between the same pair the following year aroused tre-

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mendous interest and another great game it turned out, with very few scores. The teams were already three points each with time running out when a Con Brosnan ball went above the bar giving Kerry the lead and the championship.

When Kerry met Kildare for the 1926 football crown happy memories of other games were revived. The counties lived true

to tradition. Larry Stanley and Paul Doyle were the high lights for Kildare, Johnny Murphy the brightest of the Kerry stars. The short grass men were three points in front with as many minutes to go. Then came Kerry's typical closing rally and when O'Gorman's shot shook the net for the equaliser the southern supporters went wild. Croke Park had never previously witnessed such enthusiasm—and I only

once saw it repeated, the day Down beat Kerry to capture their first All-Ireland crown, in 1960. Though Kerry had a much weaker team they won the 1926 replay, but Kildare had their revenge the following year.

Kerry had an unbeatable combination in the 1929-32 period, during which they won four consecutive championships, as well as four National Leagues. These

● TO PAGE 65



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● FROM PAGE 64

four finals were won in convincing style. The 1932 semi-final with Dublin was the tit-bit of the bunch. The Metropolitans were in the lead with time nearly spent. Then came Kerry's do or die rush. A long ball from Paul Russell landed on the edge of the square and ricocheted on the rain soaked pitch past Johnny McDonnell to the net. Once again Kerry had pulled the game out of the fire.

Kerry did not reach another final until 1937 when Cavan held them to a draw, but the "Kingdom" boys, in traditional fashion, won the replay. They were back to beat Meath in 1939, had a close call from Galway, 0-7 to 1-3 the following year, but beat the men from the Corrib, 1-8 to 0-7 in the 1941 final.

Another five years lapse and then a spectacular draw with Roscommon in 1946, and a nice win in the replay, 2-8 to 0-10. It was Kerry and Cavan in the 1947 final, played at the Polo Grounds, New York but the Ulstermen recorded their only Blue Riband win over their old rivals on that memorable occasion.

Kerry had three All-Ireland successes in the 'fifties. They beat a colourful Armagh side, 0-13 to 1-6, in 1953; had a twelve points to 1-6 victory over Dublin two years later and ousted Galway, 3-7 to 1-4 in 1959.

The "Kingdom" had only one All-Ireland triumph this decade—in 1962, when they beat Roscommon rather readily. I saw John Joe Sheehy carry away the Cup as captain of the Kerry side that beat Kildare in 1926. His son, Seán Og, captained the 1962 victorious side, and he had two brothers, Niall and Paudie, also on the team. And before the end, another of the greats of 1926, Joe Barrett, prince of full backs had a son, too, in the fray. That is the tradition of Kerry football—a tradition that means so much to

the game.

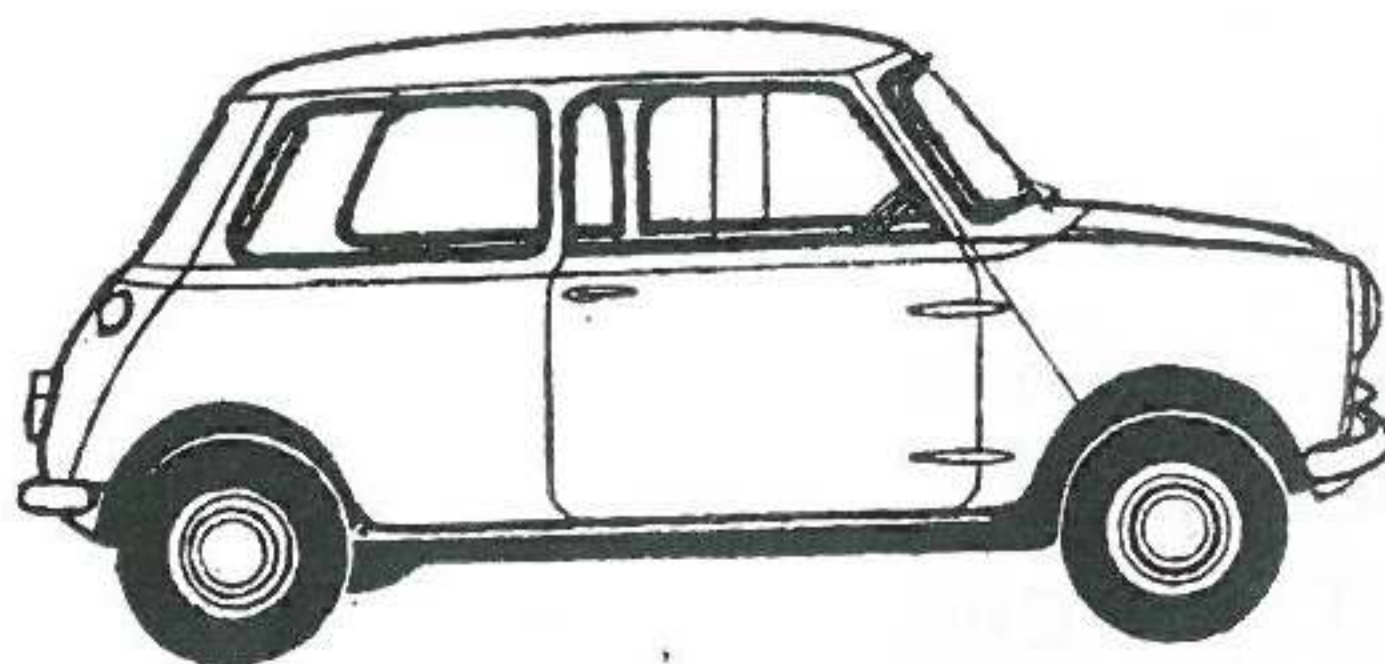
The only player to win seven All-Ireland senior football medals was a Kerryman—Dan O'Keeffe of Tralee, only six players in Ireland won six All-Ireland senior

football medals, and all are Kerry men—Bob Stack, Ballybunion; Con Brosnan, Moyvane; Jack Walsh, Asdee; Paul Russell, Killarney, and a Tralee pair—Joe Barrett and Jack Ryan.

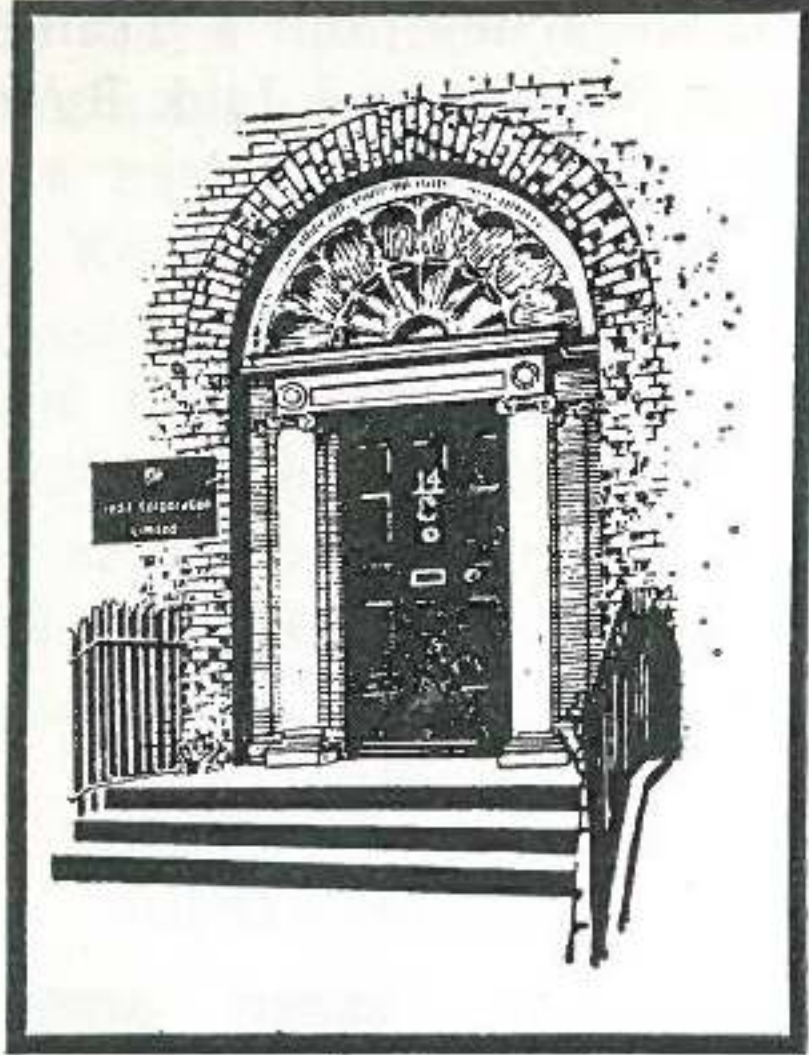
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# A CRYING NEED

Says SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH

THE crying need within the G.A.A. at the moment is discipline — ordered discipline that will defeat the dangers besetting the organisation and permit it continue along the progressive lines it has been travelling.

The Association has much work yet to do, if the aims of its founders are to be realised, particularly in the development of hurling and its extension to all of the thirty-two counties.

It is over eighty years now since the All-Ireland championships in hurling and football were established and it is sad to think that in over half the counties hurling, supposed to be the national pastime, is still very much the Cinderella of the games played in them.

In recent years the hurling revival movement got seriously under way and very commendable efforts were made in at least some areas. Interest and enthusiasm for the game was aroused and the special competitions organised to help the weaker counties have commenced to bear fruit.

Opposing every genuine effort at progress one usually finds a devil's advocate, and unfortunately hurling is no exception.

For some time unsporting tactics have been creeping into the game and what were isolated incidents at first have been increasing at an alarming rate with the result, that the efforts at revival are being seriously

threatened, whilst even in districts where the game is traditionally strong the situation has got so bad that parents no longer take pleasure and pride in seeing their children wield the caman. The underlying fear of physical injury is growing—and we know how such things can snowball.

Lest I be misunderstood, I must stress that in proportion to the number of games played, unsporting tactics are encountered in only a very small percentage. But with well over a thousand matches played every week during the summer months even a tiny proportion not contested in the proper spirit can present a problem—and particularly so when these are often the only ones to gain publicity.

The image of hurling has already been seriously tarnished by these isolated incidents and all genuine lovers of this the greatest of all field games must applaud the efforts of governing bodies who have indicated their readiness to grapple with the situation created by the wrongdoers, and rid the Association of this serious menace to its very existence.

We must face up to the fact that incidents have occurred on playing fields which could lead to criminal charges were they committed elsewhere. Such tactics must be outlawed as must every action that offends against the canons of true sportsmanship, and a public opinion has to be established that will support to

the hilt the governing bodies in their efforts to save the Association from the unruly elements who are only out for its destruction.

The Association must be ruthless in saving itself and must not be turned from its purpose by any protests or criticisms—even the well intentioned ones. It is disturbing, to say the least, to find some individuals and even units of the organisation react strongly against the efforts to enforce discipline.

Looking back over very many years' association with the G.A.A. I must honestly say that I cannot recollect an occasion when a suspension was unjustly imposed. I have had experience at all levels of administration and the biggest fault I found with delegates was the inclination to be over lenient at times and to minimise happenings that called for serious action.

We must be honest, and we must face facts, and protest actions by aggrieved parties must not be condoned under any circumstances. If they want to boycott competitions or withdraw from the activities of the Association, that is their business, and they only hurt themselves.

It happened before, and after a spell in the wilderness they just came back — sadder but wiser. The same must be the fate of those who refuse to accept the discipline that just has to be imposed so that the G.A.A. may live. It is as simple as that!

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Dan McAreevy

## ARMAGH SHOW THE WAY

WHEN Armagh win the All-Ireland under-16 hurling title in two or three years time the local Cuchullain club will be entitled to a lion's share of the credit for having really "brought the hurling back" to the county.

That in essence must be the reaction to the new-style propaganda campaign which—set afoot in the county less than a year ago—reached a decisive stage during the recent FOOTBALL course—yes, the football coaching course—at the Franciscan College, Gormanston.

And despite my connection with Armagh I feel I can write impartially about what I believe to be one of the most heartening and encouraging of the many revival methods tried during the current five-year hurling plan.

The Cuchullain effort has been a club affair in the best sense of the word.

Thirty boys—ranging in age from 11 to 16 years—have been given a week's "hurling holiday" at Gormanston where flames of enthusiasm have been lighted which clearly will not be extinguished until that All-Ireland title is finally captured!

It all began three or four years ago when Cuchullain stalwarts Jim Kirk and Jimmy Carlisle attended their first hurling course at Gormanston. Regular attenders since—along

with other members of their club—these dedicated hurling men came up with the idea last year that if the boys whom they were going back to coach were actually brought to the College for a week's intensive stint "on the spot" such a crash programme—backed by a continuation of training at home—would firmly establish a dynamic stronghold for hurling in the county.

The young boys in Armagh City enthusiastically welcomed the plan and the long wait for the trip to become a reality has been well worth while. "Realisation has been better than expectation" as so many of them put it.

While the City boys formed the bulk of the party the neighbouring Middletown area was brought into the scheme which was administered by the Cuchullain club committee with Messrs. T. McKinney, J. Carlisle, J. Kirk and E. Kirk the guardians and coaches on the course.

But of course finance raised its ugly head to the tune of approximately £300 or about £10 per boy including his keep at the College, transport and prizes for the course.

Heartened by a promise of a generous subsidy the 30 volunteers agreed to save £5 each—not so much maybe for the few boys who were starting to work—but

for those still at school a tough target.

The Cuchullain club committee then organised a series of concerts which succeeded in raising sufficient funds to make "the week" a practical possibility.

The local football clubs—Harps and Pearse Og—offered transport and prizes, the Co. Committee stepped in with a score of hurling balls, Ciste na Banban presented two dozen sticks and it was "Gormanston here we come".

Backed by the superb facilities which the famous College has to offer coupled with the closest co-operation from the Authorities there not a single detail went astray.

Several outside visits were also arranged with the highlight undoubtedly the trip to Croke Park where the youthful party—through the good offices of general secretary Seán Ó Síocháin—was accorded V.I.P. treatment including a puck around on the sacred sod itself.

The fact that they had "actually walked in Christy Ring's path" is still retold with bated breath. Nor are the presents of sticks all round when leaving the National Stadium likely to be forgotten.

Not that "the week" will be allowed to die anyway as a filmed record of it has already created a great deal of interest.

When they talked to me about the venture Messrs. McKinney, Carlisle and the brothers Kirk said it was impossible to over-emphasise "the obvious boost it will give to hurling in Armagh."

"It all sprang from the Five Year Hurling Plan," they said, "and the unbelievable enthusiasm of the boys augurs well for the future while no praise is too high for the splendid co-operation accorded us by Gormanston."

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Although a few other clubs have given their juvenile hurlers certain privileges by way of camping holidays and visits to Croke Park on big match days the Cuchullain idea would appear to be the first of its kind in the country and certainly at Gormanston.

What has been the overall effect on the club of an effort in which co-operation has been a major factor?

Let chairman Tom McKinney take up the story. "We were a struggling club last year finding difficulty in even fielding a side but now with the interest stirred up by the concerts and other

fund-raising efforts our membership has got a tremendous boost particularly in enthusiasm.

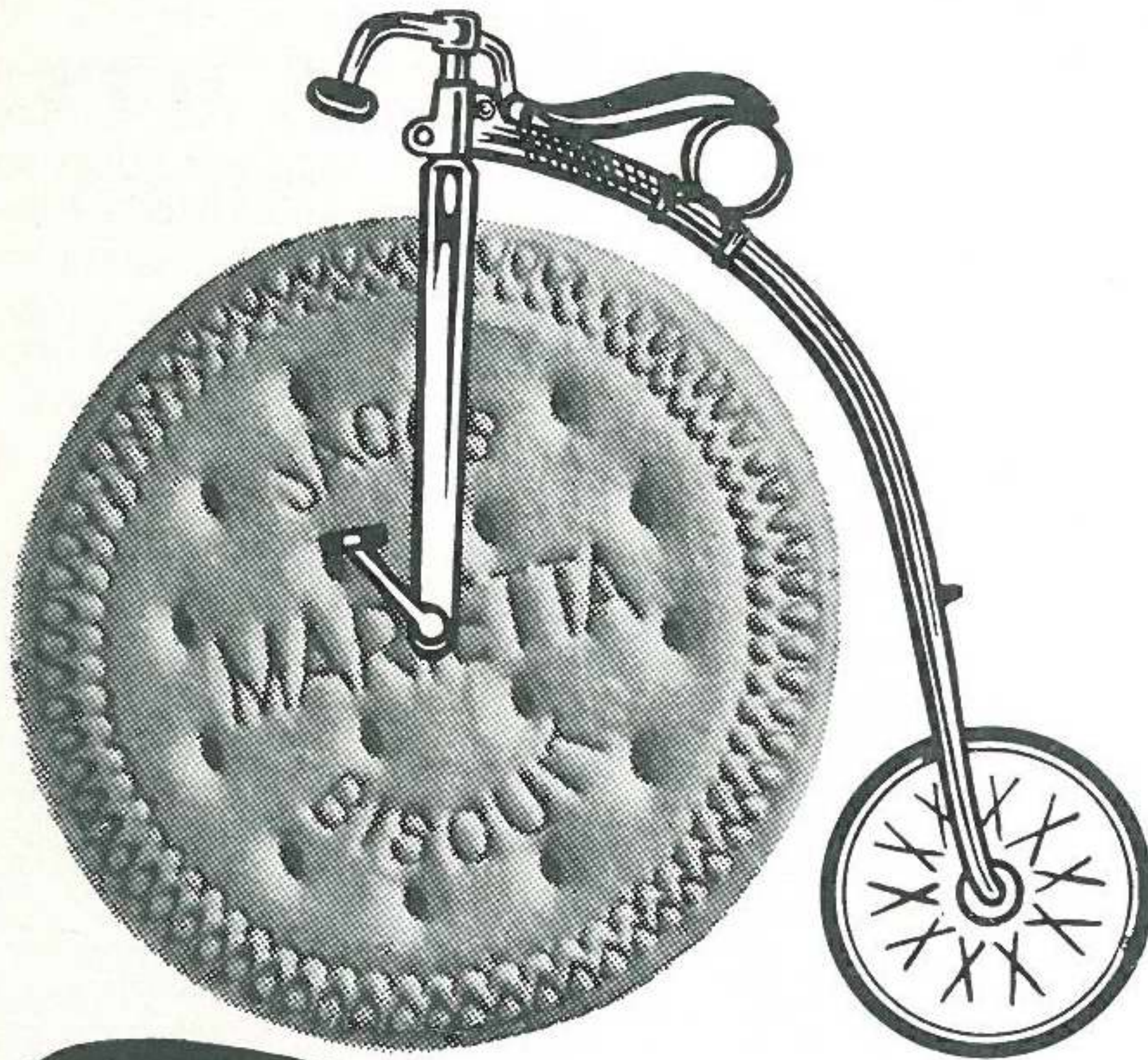
"Now we are widening our range of activities — becoming more like what a G.A.A. club should be—dancing, singing and drama, etc., all finding new adherents.

"If our clubs are to retain their place in the community such a widening of activities is becoming more and more necessary."

Mr. McKinney added: "If our work on behalf of the young hurlers means a revival in our club's fortunes the effort will have been doubly useful."

But perhaps the last word should be left with the boys and when spokesmen M. Smith, M. Toner, G. Devlin, L. McDonnell, K. Girvan, S. Cleary and J. Carlisle declared, "We are determined to put Armagh on the hurling map", they were obviously speaking for the entire party.

*NOTE: There was only one disappointment during the stay at Gormanston. When Des Ferguson called to see how the Armagh party was getting on all hands were absent on that visit to Croke Park. But I have been asked to thank Des publicly for that fine set of medals he left for the winners of the "provincial" competition organised between the boys.*



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# TOP TEN

THE top ten players in each game on this occasion are selected from two matches—the All-Ireland hurling final and the Down-Galway All-Ireland football semi-final.

Mick Roche of Tipperary heads the hurling list as a result of his majestic display in the hurling final. Tony Doran of Wexford follows him closely. Tom O'Hare of Down is unchallenged as number one footballer.

## HURLING

- 1—M. Roche ..... (Tipperary)
- 2—A. Doran ..... (Wexford)
- 3—D. Quigley ..... (Wexford)
- 4—P. Wilson ..... (Wexford)
- 5—P. Nolan ..... (Wexford)
- 6—J. O'Donoghue (Tipperary)
- 7—J. Berry ..... (Wexford)
- 8—W. Murphy ..... (Wexford)
- 9—J. Quigley ..... (Wexford)
- 10—P. Lynch ..... (Wexford)

## FOOTBALL

- 1—T. O'Hare ..... (Down)
- 2—J. Duggan ..... (Galway)
- 3—J. Purdy ..... (Down)
- 4—S. O'Neill ..... (Down)
- 5—M. Cole ..... (Down)
- 6—L. Sammon ..... (Galway)
- 7—D. Kelly ..... (Down)
- 8—N. Colleran ..... (Galway)
- 9—J. Lennon ..... (Down)
- 10—J. Murphy ..... (Down)

## THE LATE SEAMUS McFERRAN

THE death of Seamus McFerran on the eve of the All-Ireland hurling final brought sadness to all who knew him at any time during his long years of service to the G.A.A.

He was President of the Association from 1955 to 1958 and without descent to platitude it may be said of him that no more courteous man ever held that office.

A fluent Irish speaker, Seamus was active in the Gaelic League long before he came to administrative prom-

inence in the G.A.A. He was elected chairman of the Antrim County Board in 1944 and five years later he became chairman of the Ulster Council.

He was one of the leaders of the enthusiastic group of men who built and developed Casement Park in Belfast and that fine ground will stand as a monument to his memory.

His death came tragically early. He was only 52. To his family we offer our deep sympathy. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

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# The Down Recipe

● FROM PAGE 12

occasions. The question is whether Kerry can apply enough pressure at other times as well, in order to see whether they would be able to push back into the game after several periods of pressure rather than just one. Their resilience is, indeed, impressive, so far; Kerry will be hoping to exceed its limits.

The Down defence gives no inches for movement; they stick close when the ball comes up, and their intensive close-tackling is destructive of intricate forward combination. It will be more vital for Kerry than ever before to practise their native art of long-distance and immediate point-shooting. But they will not fear, I am sure, for, all this year, they have excelled in this old Kerry art. It would appear to me to be their only sure way of escaping the spoiling Down defence. If their half-forwards

play to their best form they will enjoy an advantage over the Down half-backs, even granted Joe Lennon's covering.

Centre-field is where Down will, no doubt, concentrate their tactical wisdom, for they know that they must curb Mick O'Connell and Mick Fleming. Rest assured that, as in 1960, they will have plans laid to combat O'Connell, for he is the one they fear could wreck them. But, Milligan and McAlarney are highly mobile, fast midfielders who get through a lot of travelling during a game, and this fact must cost O'Connell and Fleming some thought.

On the whole a large burden must once again lie on O'Connell's shoulders, for as well as the tenacity of the backs, Down have a wonderfully fluent attack with Sean O'Neill and Paddy Doherty to capitalise on the hard work of the other trio. In Cole, Down

have a fine young player, even though small and light to be in the hurly-burly of the big game, he is amazingly strong, tidy and well-balanced, and able to use these qualities to catch opponents on the wrong foot. Nonetheless, it would surprise me if Kerry will not handle the Down attack better than Galway did, and if they will not cause more anxiety to their defence than the indecisive Western attack. Whether they will have the fortune to fall in for a couple of goals such as Galway got, is hardly to be expected, yet, they do not seem to need them to keep close with Down. Whether they can head them and clamp down on their efforts for a fight-back is the whole question. Will Kerry, who know more about the surging finish than anyone, be able to mount one again now, for, if they do, Down cannot be doing the same simultaneously.

Our appetites have been whetted by those two great semi-final games, given a dry, windless day this final could prove an even more thrilling encounter — and may the better team win.

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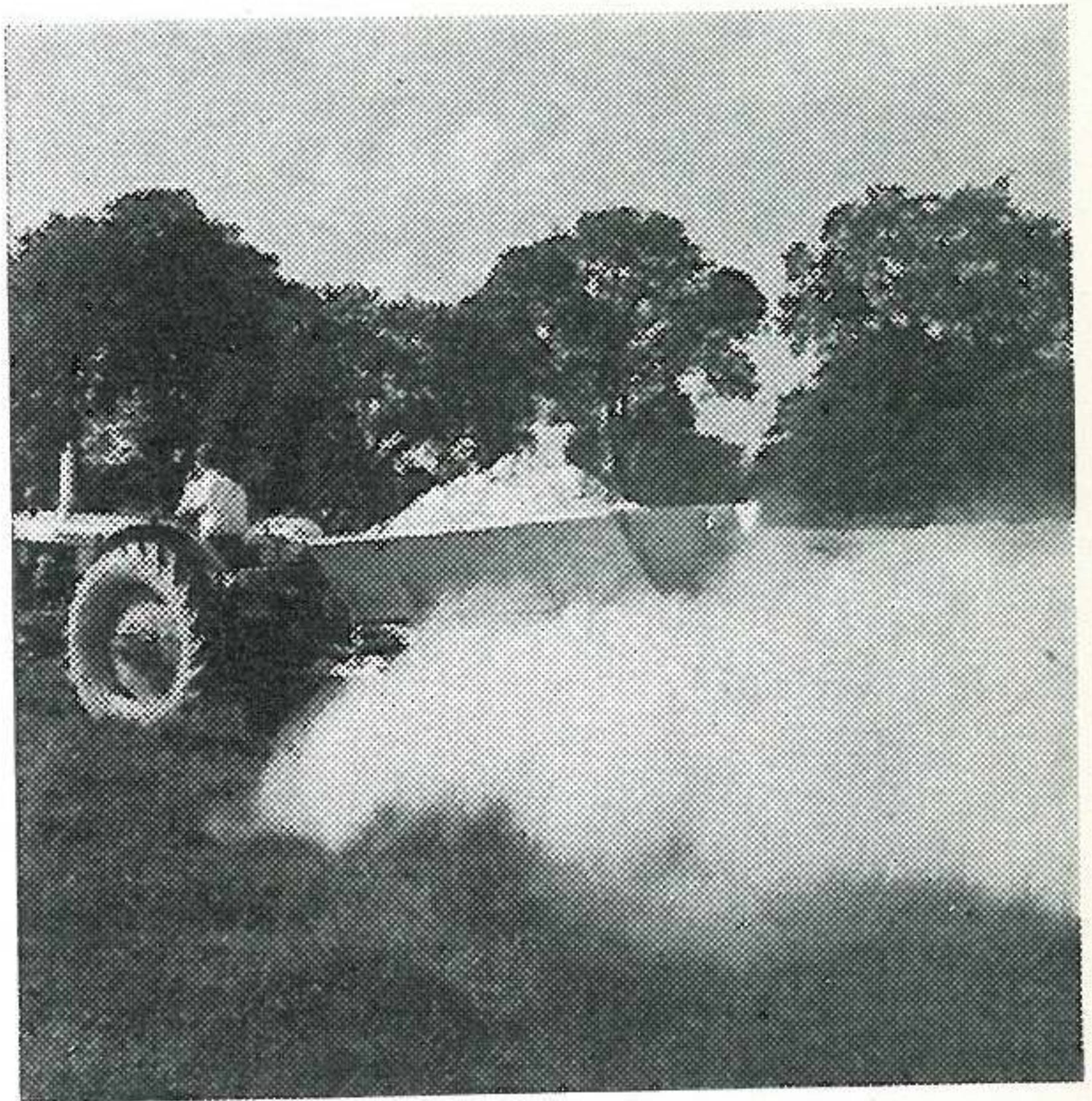
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## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

● FROM PAGE 43

|     |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|
| 1M  | 2J  | 3P  | 4E | 5N  | 6G  | 7U | 8I  | 9N  |
| 7S  | M   | U   | R  | A   | Y   | I  |     | I   |
|     | C   |     | E  | A   | S   | E  | 19L | 15O |
| 12O | D   | 13R | I  | S   | C   | O  | 14L | 15C |
| 16G | O   | A   | L  |     | 17A | P  | I   | 18E |
|     | 19N | I   | L  |     | 20E | N  | N   | 21O |
| 22O | N   | L   | Y  |     | 23N | E  |     | 24R |
| 25S |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     |
| 26M | E   |     |    | 27K | B   | E  |     | 28G |
| 29E | L   |     |    | 30K | E   | R  | R   | I   |
|     |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     |
| 31A | L   | 32F |    | 33V | I   |    | 34K | A   |
|     |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     |
| R   |     | 35R |    | 36R |     |    | R   | 37O |
|     |     |     |    |     |     |    |     |     |
| A   |     | 38H | A  | N   | N   | I  | G   | A   |

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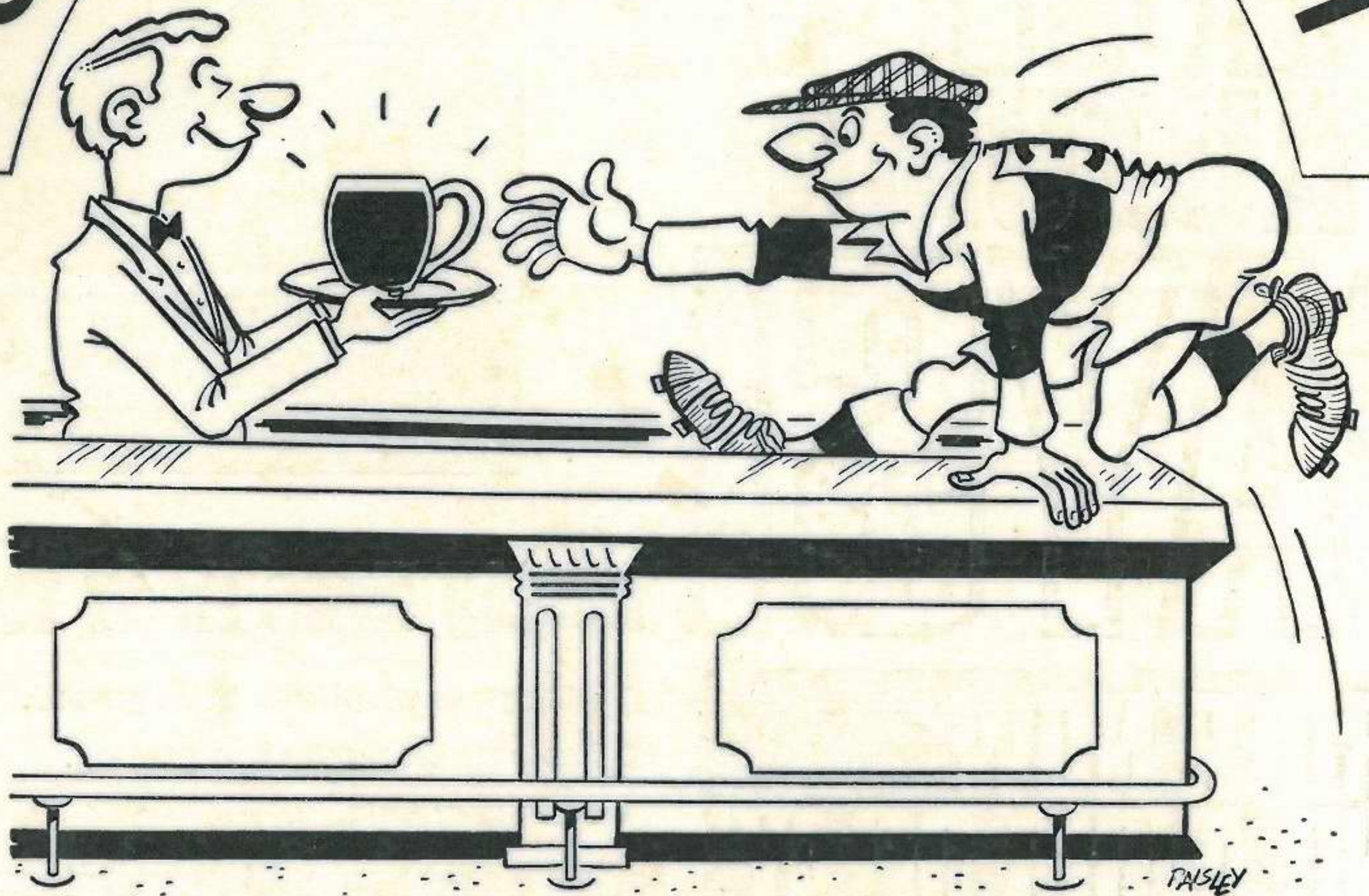
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