

GAEELIC NEWS

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Beannachtaí Na Nollag

**you
say**

ULSTER COUNCIL UNDER FIRE

SPORTS LINE

A Chara — On Friday night November 14, I listened to "Sports Line" on R.T.E. The programme began with an interview with a Leeds United soccer player. Then followed an emotional piece from Phil Green on Leeds supporters

and Johnny Giles. Next we had judo. Apart from an interview with Peter McDermott on refereeing, there was no mention of the string of G.A.A. games that were on the following Sunday. There were 13 National Football League games for decision and

four Hurling League games. Could it be that Sports Line did not know they were on?

HARRY GORMLEY,
Derryadd,
Lurgan,
Co. Armagh.

Sir — The recent report

of the Ulster Council approving of G.A.A. members joining the new police force in the Six Counties must come as a shock to people like myself who have always regarded the G.A.A. as a bastion of the national heritage.

How can a G.A.A. member join what will obviously be a Unionist controlled force, whose job will be the maintaining of the Six County state?

In my view the Ulster Council has disqualified itself as a unit of the G.A.A.

A special Ulster Convention should be called immediately to elect a new Council.

S O GALLCHOBHAIR
68 Rathgar Ave.,
Dublin, 6.

LAUGHING STOCK

A Chara — As a long-serving member of the Association, I wish to protest at the gesture of sell-out recently made by the Ulster Council. Like a collection of political dupes, the members of this body

rushed in and endorsed the new force, even before they knew its make-up.

The Ulster Council is now a laughing-stock. No sooner had they made their famous pronouncement than even Nationalist Stormont politicians were decrying the new force.

The present members of the Ulster Council should resign forthwith. They have disgraced the G.A.A.

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News in Brief

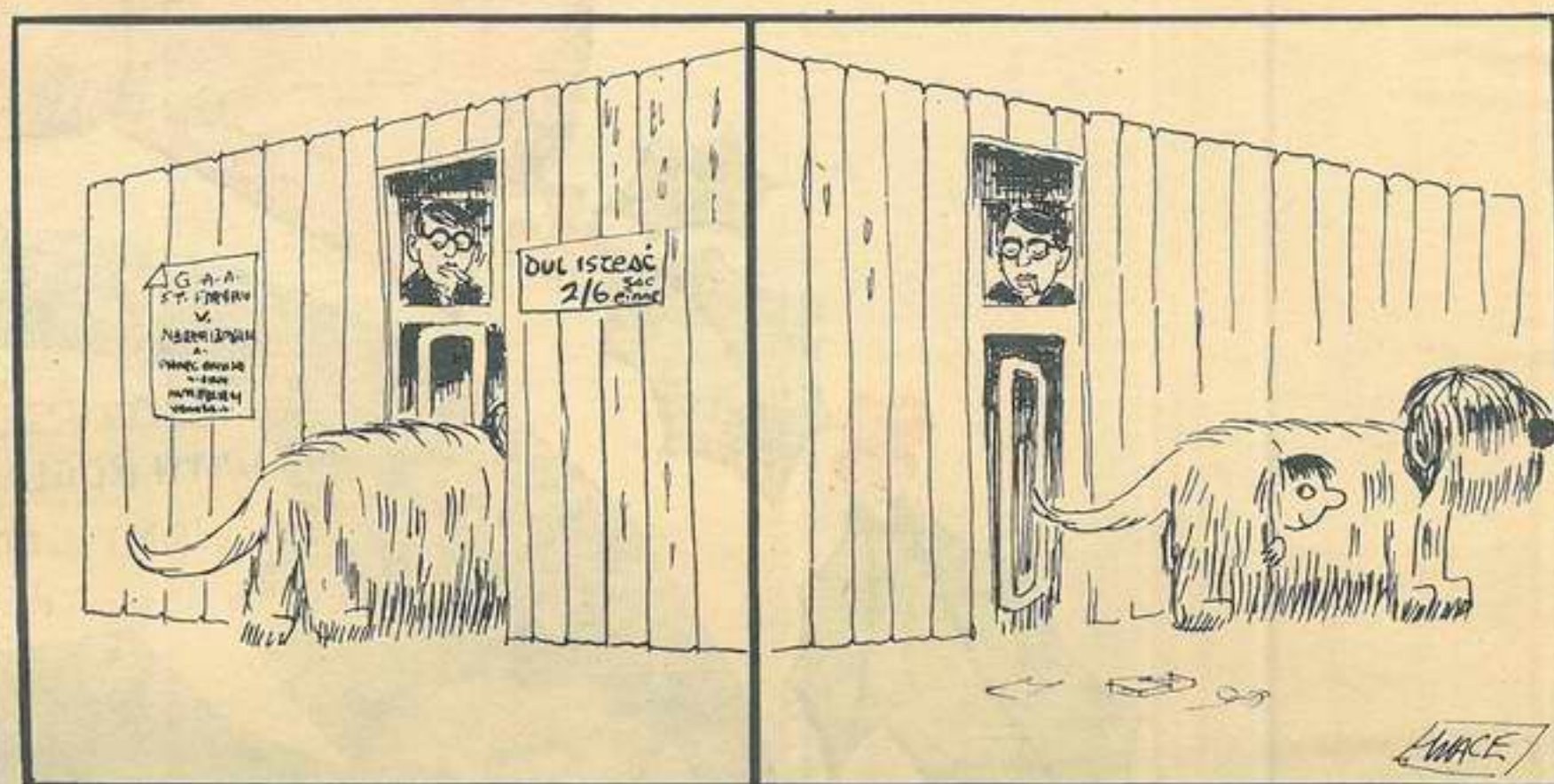
THE indications are that the proposed Credit Scheme will get off the ground. The number of clubs who have indicated participation has been very satisfactory and the next meeting of the Central Council is likely to approve of the Scheme and set it in motion.

Office Block

All is not lost with the proposed office block at Croke Park. It seems that there is still every chance that it will be gone ahead with.

Resignations

The announcement that Fr. Phil McGee is to resign from the Central Council came as a major shock. However, it could be that there will be more such resignations. Morale within the Council is at probably its lowest ever level.



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Exiles Made Their Presence Felt

PERHAPS it is because we are an island country, but it is an unfortunate fact of G.A.A. life that too few people in the Association in Ireland ever acquaint themselves with the wonderful work being done throughout Britain by the various units of the G.A.A. there.

During the past year I had occasion on behalf of GAELIC NEWS to visit some of these centres and like any other visitor I was very much impressed by the administrative efficiency and the general desire to expand the activities of the Association which they so admirably represent. Indeed, the outstanding memory must be of the organisational efficiency of the various boards, which is vastly superior to the general standard at the same level here at home.

Setting the pace in Britain

The conduct of the affairs at County Board meetings is carried out in a manner of friendship but positiveness. There is very little acrimony despite lively arguments and decisions are reached without evasion or fear.

On the playing fields too, despite the often distorted reports which filter back to this country, there is a spirit of sportsmanship that is genuine and obvious, while the standard of play is in keeping with what we would expect from men with enough pride in our

games to make the sacrifices necessary to play the games in Britain.

A most progressive aspect of G.A.A. development in Britain is the attention being devoted to the under age competitions. In this regard many of the Boards are anxious to have an exchange scheme set up for games between Ireland and Britain.

On the whole, there is much to be admired and indeed envied in the affairs of our Association in Britain. Sad it is that more

members do not take a trip over there to meet a friendly G.A.A. community with a pride in their work and confidence in their own future.

It would seem that much fine administrative talent has left our shores but it is consoling to know that it is still being utilised for the good of the Association.

On the playing fields, 1969 has been a good year for Britain, with London winning the junior football title and Warwickshire the junior hurling All-Ireland. The return of London's hurlers to the All-Ireland series was another historic event and their future progress will be watched with interest.

—J.L.R.

NEW YORK

NO hurling achievement at home could compare with the victory of New York over All-Ireland champions Kilkenny in the two-game World Cup series in Gaelic Park in September of this year.

It had been more or less accepted that the New York hurlers had expired as a serious hurling power. Lack of new talent because of Immigration Restrictions seemed to have led to stagnation and when New York visited Ireland in 1968 their performances did little to dispel the idea that they were a spent force.

But a new approach to training preparations under Mick Morrissey this year revived the morale of the exiles and when Kilkenny lined out against them in Gaelic Park the All-Ireland champions never knew what hit them.

Below, the New York hurlers are pictured parading before the first of these games, led by captain Mickey Reynolds from Athleague, Co. Roscommon, who is a member of the Clare hurling club in New York.



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OFFALY—COUNTY

Fr. Scully worked wonders

WHEN Offaly started off their 1969 football campaign with Paddy McCormack playing in the full-forward line there were many who saw this as proof that the county was scraping the bottom of the barrel. However, on March 30, when a strongly fancied Kildare team could only draw with their neighbours in the final of Division 4 of the League, we got the first hint that Offaly might be about to make an impact again on the intercounty scene, after

having steadily slipped out of the big time since 1962.

As the year progressed, Offaly's dominance became more and more pronounced. Soon McCormack was moved back to the full-back line, where he joined up once again with Greg Hughes and Johnny Egan to restore the great last line of defence which had held every forward line at bay during the early 'sixties.

Again, there were many who doubted the ability of this trio to do as efficiently

in 1969 what they had been doing away back in 1961. But as the weeks went by, the sceptics were silenced as Offaly crashed their way through to the League final.

But while Offaly have always been renowned for their cast iron defensive set-ups, they have often been let down by inept displays from their attack. In 1969, however, it looked as if things were looking up for the forwards. Against Donegal in the League semi-final, they

scored 2-13; against Westmeath in the championship it was 3-14; against Wexford 3-9 and in the final against Kildare 3-7.

Nine goals and thirty points in three championship games was a remarkable achievement by any standards and was a direct result of the good performance of Fr. Tom Scully, since his appointment as coach to the side earlier in the year. Fr. Scully had 'learned his trade' with Belcamp College, Raheny, where he has looked after the college's teams for several years, bringing the senior team to two All-Ireland finals in the process. The Offaly forward line moved with a precision and unity previously unknown to the county, where for so long the majority of the scores had come from the boots of Tony McTague.

On two occasions in 1969, of course, the Offaly attack failed the team. Both times it was against Kerry, in the League and All-Ireland finals. That both failures should prove so costly only emphasised to Offaly that football is a remorseless, unemotional thing. If you don't win the titles, you haven't proven yourself and that is why now, at the end of 1969, Offaly are still regarded as unproven, even though they won ninety per cent of their games during the season.

Failure at the highest level can either lead to frustration and despair, or else it can steel one to new feats of endeavour in an effort to reach the top. Offaly's feat in drawing with Kerry in the Grounds' Tournament final leaves no doubt as to which path they have followed, and in 1970 it will be interesting to follow Offaly's features, as they progress on their path to the top.



Offaly may not have won the All-Ireland football title but, at least, Eugene Mulligan (left), Mick O'Rourke and Willie Bryan did manage to get their hands on the Sam Maguire Cup.

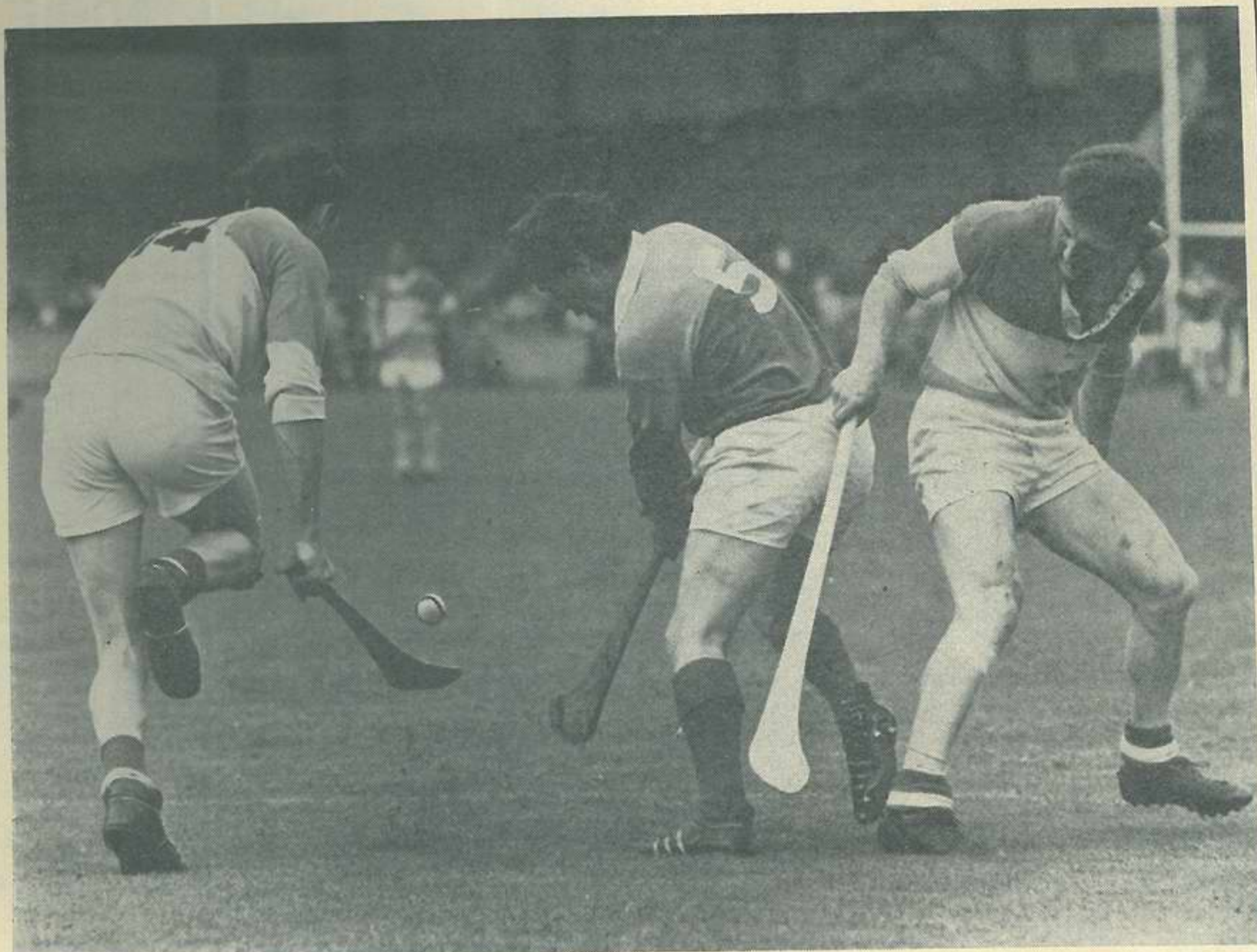
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OF THE YEAR



En route to victory over All-Ireland champions Wexford—Willie Gorman gets by Vin Staples, while Paud Mulhaire lends a hand.

Hurlers could have won out

SIX months ago it would have sounded ridiculous but we all know now that Offaly could have won the 1969 All-Ireland senior hurling title. They certainly could and probably should have beaten Kilkenny in the Leinster final — where they were superior in virtually every department but the scoreboard. And even on the scoreboard they registered sixteen scores to twelve for Kilkenny — except, of course, that the Noreiders notched three goals and all of Offaly's flags were white.

Three opportunist goals by Paddy Delaney beat a very fine Offaly team — but, despite these goals, the Midlanders, had they that little extra by way of experience, would have qualified for the

All-Ireland final. (It goes without saying that they would have beaten London in the All-Ireland semi-final).

It is, of course, quite debatable as to whether Offaly would have beaten Cork in the final. This writer is tempted towards the view that they would — and on the following grounds.

Firstly, Kilkenny beat Offaly by only two points. They beat Cork by six points. Agreed, Kilkenny were an improved team in the All-Ireland final . . . but so too would Offaly have been.

Had Offaly beaten Kilkenny in the Leinster final, it would have worked wonders by way of giving confidence and assurance. They would then have beaten London and gained

even greater assurance. In short, Offaly's margin of progress between the Leinster final and the All-Ireland final would have been no less than Kilkenny's.

Secondly, the Kilkenny team which edged Offaly was a stronger one than that which outscored Cork. Paddy Moran was fully fit and on for the hour in the Leinster final. Likewise Paddy Delaney. Due to injury, he missed the last twenty minutes of the All-Ireland final. Indeed, it was during that period of the Leinster final that Delaney scored the goal which made all the difference.

It can, of course, be no more than an opinion but, for what it is worth, this writer's view is that Offaly would

have beaten Cork had they reached the final.

But even in defeat in the provincial decider, the Offaly hurlers contributed so much to hurling in 1969. They gave new life and an added dimension to the entire championship — beginning with that scoring spree against All-Ireland champions Wexford. From that hour on the senior hurling championship was no longer a "closed shop" to be monopolised by the big four of Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Cork. Offaly had smashed the syndicate and shown others how they could do it, too.

Thanks to the Midlanders, hurling will not be quite the same again . . . at least not for some time.

Coiste Condae Ua bhFaile

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

The Chairman, officers and members of our Coiste congratulate all our teams on their magnificent displays and also their selectors and trainers.

Over the years The Faithful County has upheld the highest ideals of, and has made a valuable contribution to, the Gaelic Athletic Association, but this year will surely be remembered with pride for the performances by our players in all grades from our Under-16 All-Ireland Hurling Champions to our Seniors.

Our gratitude to our loyal supporters everywhere and the many who contributed so generously to finance our efforts.

Sincerest wishes for a Happy Christmas to all and may success and prosperity be ours in the years ahead.

Is mise,
Sean O Dubhlainn

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**WILLIE NOLAN (pictured leading out
the men of '61) talks to
Sean Ryan**

Men of Offaly must stick together

WHEN Offaly played Cavan in this year's All-Ireland and senior football semi-final, the man who captained the Faithful county in their 1961 All-Ireland final meeting with Down nostalgically re-lived the glorious days of eight years ago as he sat in the Hogan Stand cheering his county men. WILLIE NOLAN would have given anything to have been able to assist Offaly out on the Croke Park pitch instead of from the Hogan Stand and he could well have been had he not decided to emigrate to New York in the early 'sixties.

Since he left Ireland, Willie has been playing regularly with the New York football team and in the recent World Cup game against Kerry at Croke Park, he was one of the few New Yorkers to distinguish themselves. I met Willie after the match against Kerry and although naturally disappointed with New York's humiliating display he kindly answered some questions which I put to him.

Q.: Were you very disappointed with New York's display against Kerry?

A.: To say I was disappointed is to put it mildly, as I was really disgusted. Kerry scored two soft goals in the early stages and we never recovered from this early set-back. Although Kerry have improved a great deal since we met them in the League final in New York last June, we are a much better team than we appeared at Croke Park. It was just one of those days when nothing went right.

Q.: New York footballers received a poor reception when they were last in this country. Were you pleased with the welcome accorded to New York on this occasion.

A.: Yes, we were received very well everywhere we went. Our only regret is that we put on such a poor display at Croke Park and let the spectators down.

Q.: You played against Offaly on this tour. How,

in your opinion, does the present Offaly team compare with the 1960-'61 side.

A.: It's very difficult to say. After seeing the two All-Ireland semi-final games against Cavan. I thought that the present team was the better side but I changed my mind after seeing the All-Ireland final. However, if the present team sticks together I believe they can improve a great deal and be a much better side.

Q.: Did you have any regrets that you were not a member of the Offaly team which played in this year's All-Ireland final?

A.: I would have given my left arm to have been out there in the final but the present goalkeeper Martin Furlong is the best netminder ever to play for Offaly and also one of the best 'keepers I have ever seen.

Q.: Do you think that Offaly can win an All-Ireland and senior title in the near future?

A.: I would love to see Offaly win an All-Ireland title, but at the same time it is hard to see Kerry being beaten in the championship in the near future.

Q.: Do you consider that the new immigration laws will have a detrimental effect on Gaelic games in the United States?

A.: Yes, I think they will. There are some Americans playing the games but most of them are not as proficient as Irish players. In addition, quite a number of the Irish players are in the veteran stage.

Q.: How does the standard of football in Ireland compare with the standard in the early 'sixties before you emigrated?

A.: The game appears to be faster now, but on the other hand there are not so many outstanding individual players. There also seems to be a levelling up in standard between the different counties.

Q.: Which has been the best Irish team that you have encountered since you began to play for New York.

A.: The present Kerry team is the best team I have met since emigrating. However, the best side that I opposed during my career was the Down team of 1960-'61.

Q.: During your goalkeeping career you have opposed some great forwards. Which attackers did you particularly fear when they gained possession?

A.: The best forwards I met were Jim McCartan, Paddy Doherty, Mick O'Dwyer, Sean Evans and Sean Kilroy.

Q.: What do you think of the future of Gaelic football as an international sport?

A.: I would like to see international tours being continued as it gives the players both in Ireland and the U.S.A. an extra incentive to play. I would also like the Central Council to maintain relations with the Australian football body and do all in their power to organise internationals between Ireland, the United States and Australia.

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CUCHULAINN ANNUAL

A Bad Year For Champions

THE first appearance of the All-Ireland football champions of 1968 was when Down were extremely fortunate to avoid a league defeat when they played Meath at Navan. The display of the champions did nothing to quell the doubts raised by their end of the season performances in 1968, against Longford and Louth.

It was on March 2 that we got the first major upset of the season, when Connacht hurlers proved too good for Leinster in the Railway Cup semi-final at Ballinasloe. Two weeks later came the moment of truth for Down

Following Down's departure from the league race, there were several hopeful aspirants for the seat on the vacant throne, especially as the N.F.L. winners were due to go to New York for the final proper. The semi-finalists in playing order were Donegal, Offaly, Kerry and Westmeath.

In the first game, we had an example of forthcoming events casting their shadows before them, when Offaly crushed Donegal 2-13 to 1-3 and a couple of weeks later Kerry overcame Westmeath in the other semi-final.

In the hurling League,

able reaction emphasised the insincerity of many delegates, who had previously displayed near contempt for the G.A.A. in New York.

Down's football stock sank lower with their defeat by Cavan in the McKenna Cup final.

An exciting Hurling League final was won by Cork, while Kerry had an easy task in disposing of Offaly in the football final, after two players were sent off in the sixth minute.

By the end of May the championship campaigns were in full swing and, as usual, there were several upsets. Just one week after the League success, Cork were fortunate to escape from Thurles, with a draw against Clare in a tempestuous game. On June 8 at Croke Park, Longford became the first of the provincial champions to bite the dust, when in the biggest football upset of 1969, Wexford triumphed easily by 3-5 to 1-8.

But on June 29, it was Wexford's turn to fall to the underdogs, when their hurling side and All-Ireland champions never knew what hit them, when Offaly ran riot in the first half, before eventually succeeding by 5-10 to 3-11 in the Leinster semi-final.

Three more provincial champions lost their crowns in finals . . . Down and Galway footballers and Tipperary hurlers. Kerry had to withstand a strong late rally by Mayo to qualify for an All-Ireland final meeting with Offaly, who disposed of Cavan only in a replay on September 14.

For the hurling final, Cork, having beaten Tipperary in the Munster final, were hot favourites, as Kilkenny had been rather lucky to beat Offaly in the Leinster final.

However, as often in the past, the final was won by superior tactics and organisation. Kilkenny, having kept in touch for the first half really opened up in the second period and many Cork reputations were smashed, as the Noreiders gave them a lesson on how to win a game.

As usual, there was a tremendous nation-wide build up for the Kerry-Offaly football final and there was extra fuel added to the fire, when on the Thursday before the game, it was disclosed publicly, what everybody had known for weeks . . . that Mick O'Connell had not attend-

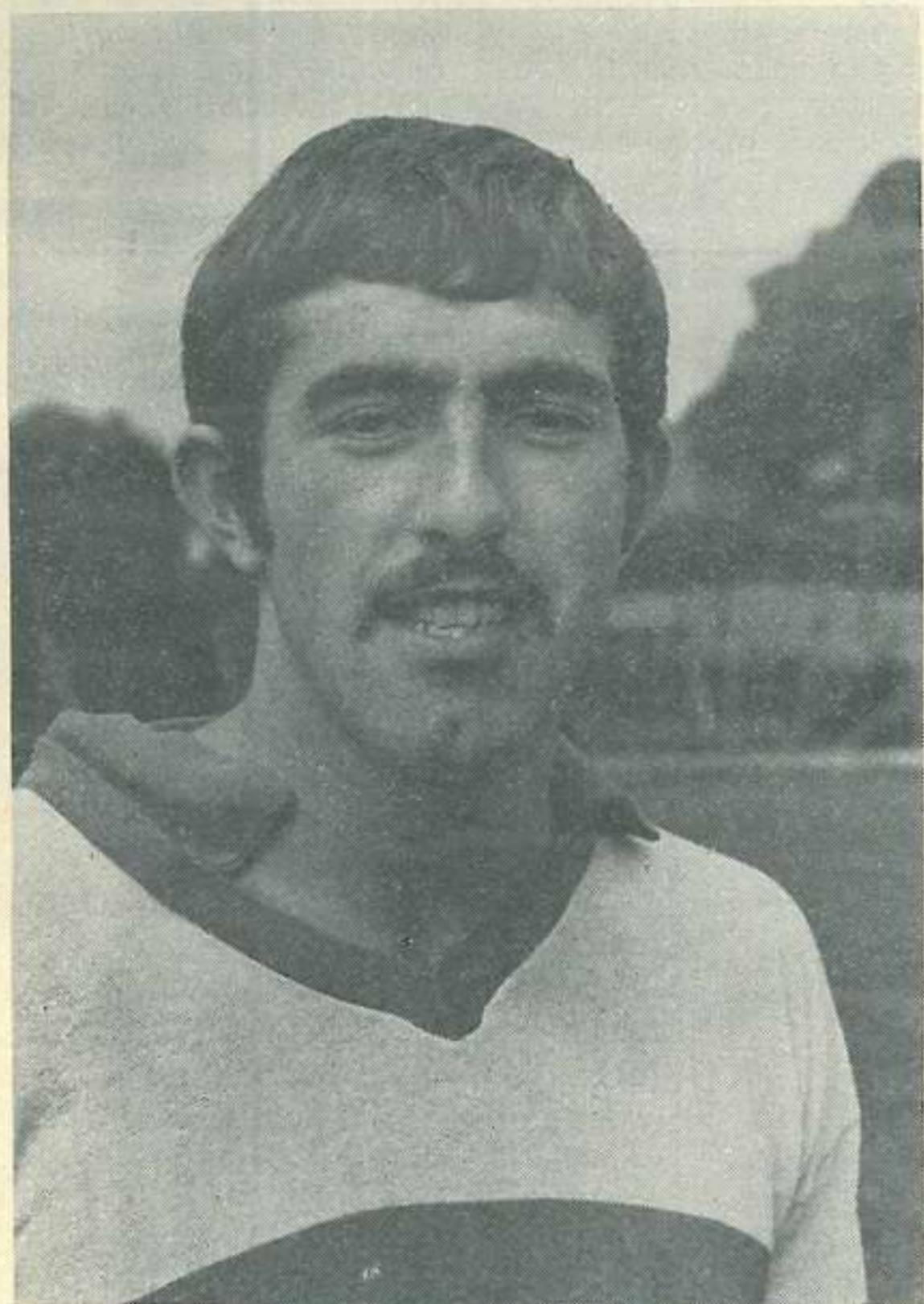
ed any training sessions, because of leg muscle injuries and was a doubtful starter for the final.

The rumours persisted and only the appearance on

the field of O'Connell ten minutes before the game eventually scotched them, but the Valentian's inept performance in the game proved that the

smoke had not been there without a fire.

In the event, Kerry had few worries, as, in one of the worst finals for years, they played whatever



The most travelled intercounty player of 1969 was undoubtedly Derryman Mickey Niblock who commuted back and forth frequently in order to play for New York and Derry in turn.

footballers, when, on a biting cold day at Carrickmacross, the League title-holders were beaten by Westmeath, on a score of 0-13 to 1-8.

With a trip to America for the Cardinal Cushing games as a bonus prize, there was an extra incentive to win the Railway Cup football final, but there was only a very small crowd present to see Connacht win the Cup and the air tickets, at the expense of Munster. Connacht hurlers almost caused another shock when drawing with Munster.

Cork broke the Tipperary hoodoo to qualify for a final meeting with Wexford, while in the replayed Railway Cup final on Easter Sunday, Connacht, failed gallantly to Munster, by 4-4 to 3-13.

The Annual Congress was, even by its own standards, extremely mundane and was remarkable only for the emergence, of what could be described as, a progressive left wing, which became more pronounced as the year wore on. A personal appearance by John 'Kerry' O'Donnell and the subsequent favour-



Two big men who overcame all obstacles to achieve success in New York in 1969 were John Lindsay who was re-elected mayor of the city and John Moloney who, despite opposition, refereed the World Cup Hurling Final successfully.

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A Bad Year For Champions

good football was to be seen and ran out easy winners in the end.

In the non-senior grades, there were several noteworthy performances, highlighted by Antrim's success in the Under-21 football final. In minor, it was Cork all the way as the Rebel County won both All-Irelands.

Possibly the outstanding hurling achievement of the year was Kildare's victory in the Intermediate hurling final, which gave Pat Dunne his fourth All-Ireland medal.

Also encouraging was the superb hurling we witnessed in the Special Under 16 final between Offaly and Antrim, while a major breakthrough on another level was the participation for the first time in official competition of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

In the senior football league organised by Comhairle na nOllscoil, Maynooth beat the best that the universities could offer to take their first title.

English based teams had mixed fortunes in 1969, with London hurlers getting a right hiding on their

re-appearance in the All-Ireland series, but there was compensation in the successes of London's junior footballers and Warwickshire's junior hurlers.

New York hurling was revitalised by the double success over All-Ireland champions Kilkenny in Gaelic Park, but the footballers from the States were disappointing when being trounced by Kerry in the World Cup in October, after having put up two fine performances against the Kingdom in Gaelic Park in June.

On the administrative side, Central Council had its usual quiet year, with only a few items of a controversial nature. As usual, relations with New York provided plenty of action, the highlight of which was the address to the Council by New York President Sean O'Hanlon, in connection with the signing of the New York-Central Council agreement. All through the year, there was continual crossfire between Gaelic Park and Croke Park, but, while the theatrical effects on one side were very professional, the acting on the other



A dramatic moment in the hurling final as Paddy Delaney is carried off.

side was strictly amateurish and at the end of the year, there was absolutely no change in the status quo.

In this case, he who pays the piper still calls the tune.

Several new sub-committees were instituted by

Central Council, but the proposal to bring in professional regional officers lapsed into apparent oblivion. In Leinster, Martin O'Neill retired as secretary and after an exciting 'campaign', his son was elected to the position.

An interesting aside was

provided in August by a Seminar in U.C.G., which marked a further step in the emergence of the anti-conservative element and received wide publicity.

All in all, it wasn't by any means the G.A.A.'s greatest year. The Association barely held its

own overall, but there were a few indications at top official level that the warning indicators, which have been flashing for years now, are at last about to be heeded and remedial action taken.

We await 1970 with interest.



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CHAMPIONS OF THE COUNTIES

Cork

FOR young star Kerry forward Brendan Lynch, 1969 has been a particularly auspicious year. He played a major part in helping his county to bring off the coveted All-Ireland, League and World Cup treble, made a trip to the United States and then on the last Sunday in October he pointed a 40 yards free in the closing minutes of an exciting Cork senior football final to give his club U.C.C. a one-point win over St. Nicholas.

The students who had led by 0-6 to 0-3 at half-time were in control of the game for most of the hour but were still only leading by four points when St. Nicholas staged a spirited rally in the last quarter. Two points from frees by Ted O'Brien and another two from the boot of Patsy Harte levelled the scores with just six minutes to go but then Lynch was fouled going through and, as stated, he pointed the resultant free himself. By their victory, U.C.C. avenged the defeat of the College's hurling side by St. Nicholas's sister club Glen Rovers in the county hurling final.

U.C.C. had the assistance of county players Seamus Looney, Ray Cummins, Eric Philpott and John O'Halloran (Cork), Mick Morris, Brendan Lynch and Charlie O'Sullivan (Kerry) while Denis Coughlan and Gerry O'Sullivan of Cork lined out with St. Nicholas.

Down

WHEN county champions fall in the penultimate rounds there is usually renewed interest in the rest of the championship and such was the case in Down. In their semi-final game, Bryansford avenged their 1968 county final defeat by Newry Mitchels, on a score of 4-10 to 1-4, and were immediately installed favourites to take over the crown as kingpins of Down football.

In the other half of the draw, Burren had nothing as difficult as Mitchels to overcome and, in the semi-final, they beat Tullylish, who included in their side the McCartans and John Purdy.

The meeting of Bryansford and Burren took place at the splendid new grounds, at Clonduff, and was note-

worthy for the fact that none of Down's nationally known intercounty stars figured in either line out. Noel Millar who played in the Burren attack has, however, been on the Down panel for some time as have Bryansford's Cecil Ward and Paul Neeson.

In the final, the first to be played at the spacious new Clonduff grounds, Bryansford fulfilled their promise of 1968 with a fluent victory, to give their captain Oliver Burns the honour of leading the Newcastle club into the Ulster club championship for the first time.

Dublin

VERY often in Dublin G.A.A. circles, we hear of the dual club and the dual player and many there are who claim that they are the greatest curse ever to strike the games. Be that as it may, the dual club is now an established fact of G.A.A. life and nothing bears out this point so well in Dublin's case, as the victory in this year's hurling championship of O'Tooles.

Down the years the O'Tooles club built up a solid tradition as one of Ireland's outstanding football clubs, giving such personalities to the game as the McDonalds, Paddy and Johnny, and the Synnott brothers.

But tradition counted for little a few years ago, when O'Tooles fielded a junior hurling team for the first time. Their success story was remarkable by any standards and their qualification for senior ranks did little to impair their march to progress.

In this year's championship, they could scarcely have had a tougher campaign, meeting and beating St. Vincents in the semi-final and the tradition-laden Faughs in the county final.

Their final triumph over Faughs was a case of youth conquering experience and with such enthusiasm in the club, the hurlers of O'Tooles look certain to eclipse their football counterparts for some time to come.

Tipperary

WHEN Roscrea won their initial Tipperary senior hurling championship last year by defeating the highly vaunted Thurles Sarsfields in the final many knowledgeable hurling fans in the Premier county contended that the north county side had not proven themselves because they had not met Carrick Davins — the 1966 and '67 champions — on their way to the final. Davins, in fact, defeated Roscrea in the 1967 final.

However, any doubts about the right of Roscrea to sit atop the hurling pedestal in Tipperary were completely dispelled in this year's championship decider when Kieran Carey's men annihilated Davins in one of the most one-sided Tipperary finals in history. The final attracted tremendous pre-match interest and over 12,000 turned up at Thurles Sportsfield on the last Sunday in October but only Roscrea supporters could have derived any enjoyment from a game which their favourites won by 4-13 to 0-5.

Roscrea led by 1-3 to 0-2 at the end of the first quarter been much more in front at that stage but for some bad forward play. However, the attack more than made amends in the second half by scoring 3-8 to Davins 0-3. The Carrick-on-Suir side's main trouble stemmed from inadequacies in defence and but for the fine performance of county player Mick Roche in this sector the final score would have been even more humiliating for the south county side.

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David Collins continues his review of the 1969 county championships.

Antrim

I'M sure there are many who would be quick to dismiss the Antrim senior hurling championship as a thing of little consequence, either to Antrim or to the G.A.A. To do so would be a mistake.

Hurling in Antrim may be far from top flight in standard, but it is still very vibrant, even though it exists in regionalised form. It is based in Loughiel on the northern extremity of the county nearer to Scotland than to Dublin, and it was here that the 1969 county final was played.

The contestants were the Belfast club, St. Johns and Ballycastle, the former having beaten the holders, Loughiel on their way to the final. St. Johns are the best known of Antrim's dual clubs and their county players include the Gallaghers, Sean Burns, Gerry McCann, Andy McCallin and Gerry Mallon.

With such a line-up, St. Johns were clear favourites to defeat the North Antrim team who relied mainly on the Elliot brothers, the McShanes, the Donnellys and Harry McKernan.

The conditions on final day could scarcely have been worse with a driving wind and some rain. When Ballycastle could manage to score only three points with the elements in the first half their goose was cooked and when the Johnnies took over after the break, they ran out easy winners by 3-8 to 0-4.

Roscommon

THE defeat of the holders, Castlereagh, early in the series gave renewed interest to the Roscommon championship scene, but it was no surprise when St. Bridgets, Kiltoom and Roscommon Gaels worked their way through to the final.

For both sides, this achievement was the result of team building over the past few years in an effort to regain the standard that brought county titles to Roscommon Gaels in 1962 and St. Bridgets.

A record attendance was expected for the final but heavy rain and a strong wind deterred many would-be spectators from attending the game. The heavy pitch also militated against the standard of football, but this did not bother the St. Bridgets supporters who saw their favourites win by 2-2 to 0-4.

The only sad aspect of the game from a St. Bridgets viewpoint was that the great Gerry O'Malley was not in their side. Gerry retired from club football last year after serving St. Bridgets faithfully for over 20 years.

Of the St. Bridgets side, Gerry Mannion, Mick Fallon and Eamonn Beades are senior county players while Beades, Willie Gallagher and Seamus McHugh played on the Roscommon under-21 side which reached this year's All-Ireland final. Senior county player John O'Connor and under-21 county player Tom Hunt figured on the Roscommon Gaels side.

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FOOTBALL IS GOING TO HELL



BY JACK MAHON

THE heading may shock.

We have become so used to the gradual degrading habits that have besmirched the game that even those of us who remember good football as it used to be played, have become more or less acclimatized. We never even noticed the trend.

No it wasn't the All-Ireland finals (minor and senior) that impelled me to write this, though both games were abysmally low in standard. We all admired the manner in which Offaly and Cavan overcame the conditions in the drawn All-Ireland semi-

final last summer. Indeed, this was a game in the old style, though, even in this game, too, there was far too much pulling down and late tackling.

The latter foul is a mean one that has crept into Gaelic games more and more in the past few years. You know the one — a back clears the ball and is unceremoniously dumped by an onrushing forward after the back has delivered the ball, or vice versa. How often have I seen a helpless goalie felled, as a ball goes over the bar. John Moloney, of Tipperary, fairly highlighted

this foul in his three major All-Ireland games and interpreted the rule correctly, by giving a free from where the ball landed.

But there is a distinct difference between a late tackle and the shouldering of a player as he kicks the ball. The same John Moloney erred I thought on one occasion in the Final when penalising D. J. Crowley, for what he deemed a late tackle.

Sometimes this is a borderline case, but there was little doubt in my mind that D. J. used the very useful gambit of shouldering his opponent, just as the op-

ponent was about to kick the ball. How often did I use this myself in my own playing days. The good forward even expects this type of harassing and must learn to "ride" such a shoulder charge, as he kicks, and yet score.

But speaking of shouldering, where has it gone to? In my youth it was essential that a footballer should learn to shoulder. Perhaps younger readers do not understand what I mean. It is perfectly legitimate to shoulder an opponent. In fact, the three great hallmarks of the footballer used to be, fetch, kick and shoulder. It was the only lawful tackle. Pulling and dragging and thumping were all out of order. You learned to shoulder properly, avoided charging with the ball and learned to block the ball at an early age.

Charging when in possession of the ball is another very badly interpreted offence. What it means simply is that the man in possession should not seek a path through his opponent when there is another easier route or should not leave the normal route to jump at an opponent.

Blocking the ball is another lost art almost. It demands courage and to do it properly, you must go in over your opponents' boot. But you must go in. Tony McTague blocked in this fashion very early in the All-Ireland final. Mick O'Dwyer always tries to block his opponents' kick and often succeeds.

"The Kerryman" of the week after the All-Ireland of 1959, in a great piece of photography, captured for posterity a blocking action of Sean Murphy. Down over the ball his eyes were glued to "Hauleen" McDonagh's boot. What has replaced the blocking technique? Pulling, dragging and thumping. Is there anything as nauseating as to see a forward in full flight for goal being hauled down or tripped from behind?

The shove in the back is another most annoying foul, but it is very hard to eradicate. This was always a feature of football, but then we always had the good actors who were expert at feigning a push in the back. Human nature being what it is, I'm sure we will never get rid of this.

In many ways, Fr. Liam Ryan was right when saying at the U.C.G. Seminar last June that the public will not support only excellence in sport. They have been conditioned by TV to expect this and are now quite selective about their sports. They are not interested in pulling and dragging, in blocking with the boot, elbow charging, tripping and other such disgusting habits.

Neither are they interested in watching duels between rival place-kickers. I know G.A.A. games have the great advantage of providing scores, but the quicker we realise that a score from play is so much more appealing than one from a free, the better.

But Fr. Ryan contradicted himself. In one breath, he urged that our games must be cleaned up, and, in the next, he decried the free-ridden affairs we have now become accustomed to expect 54 frees etc. per game or one a minute usually. Now he cannot have it both ways immediately, as Sean Purcell pointed out to him then.

There must be a period when the game will be cleaned up. During this time, we will have to put up with more and more frees. Just as John Moloney is trying to eradicate the late tackle, a serious effort on all sides must be made to get rid of pulling and dragging.

The general public must come to relish the honest-to-goodness shoulder charge again and referees must not blow up for this, as they are now doing. Referees must show a uniform interpretation of the rules. Youngsters must be coached to play Gaelic football, devoid of all the destructive tactics with which it has become plagued. Kerry are on to a winner in their plan to coach their own youngsters.

God be with the days, when it was a joy to see two men meet in an honest shoulder-to-shoulder combat, like the clash between Neilly Duggan and Tom Dillon in 1956, or Sean Purcell and Niall Sheehy in 1959.

Those were the days when it was possible to see a stretch of play that lasted for 20 minutes, without a foul being commit-

ted. I played in such a game in 1957 — a League final against Kerry — and one bout of superb play in the second half of that game, was uninterrupted by the referees whistle for a full 19 minutes. You won't believe it, I know.

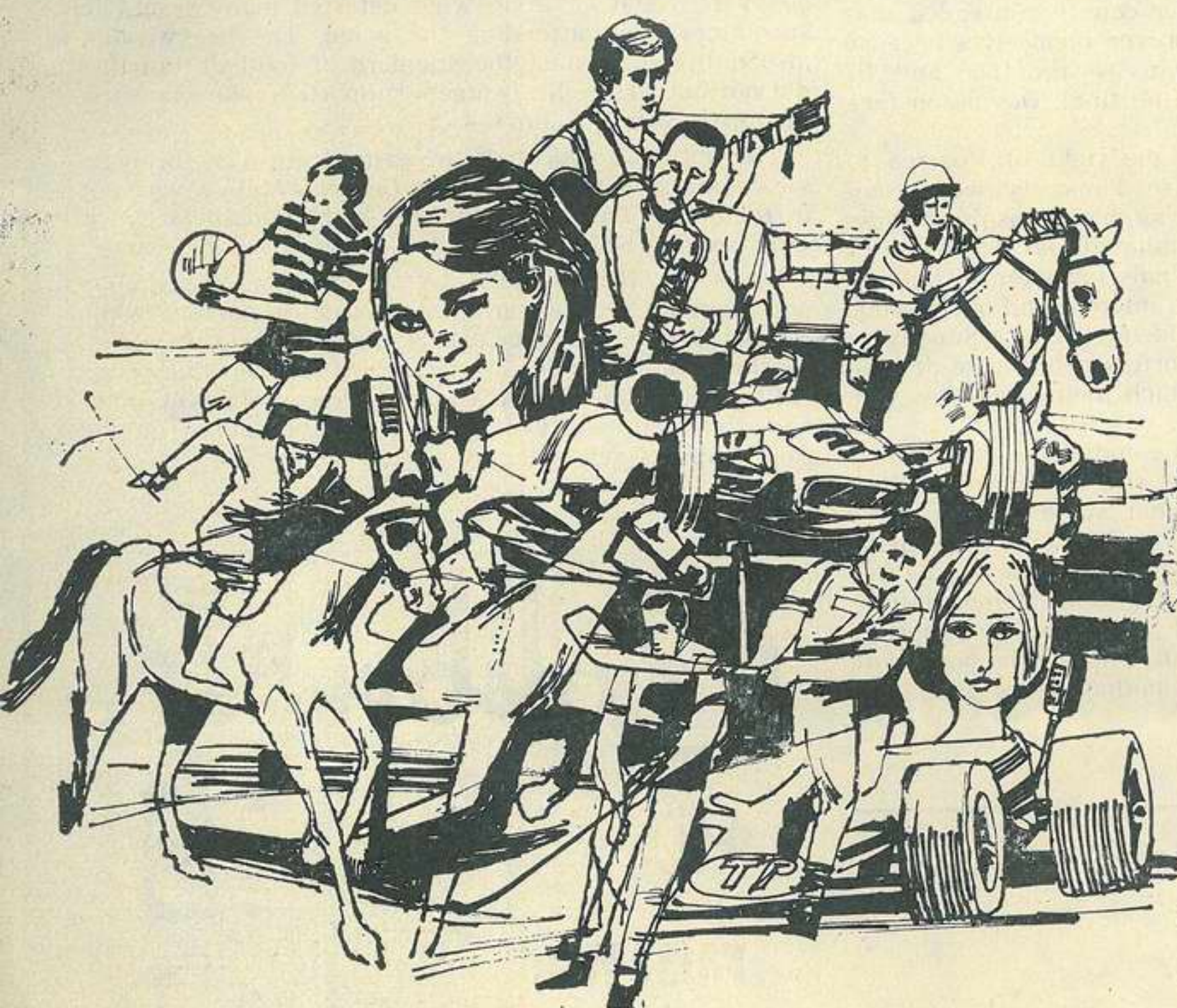
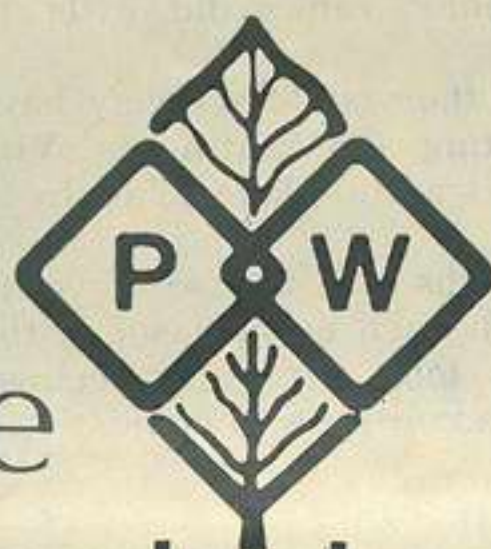
Those were the days when one travelled miles to see a college game. The college games saw football at its purest, but sadly I must record that college games are not what they were. The minor competitions of recent years have been dreadful by comparison with those of a few short years ago.

This year's Derry-Cork minor decider hardly excited me at all. I found myself perusing the Croke Park programme during the game. In front of me, Paddy Prendergast, the former Mayo star full-back, was equally appalled by the pull and drag mania. After every such misdemeanour, he turned round and either said "Gaelic football is gone to hell" or expressed a similar sentiment.

Sometimes I sit back and wonder why it is that I tend to get less and less interested in seeing Gaelic football. Is it because I'm "pushing on", or because I've retired from active competition myself? Have I matured and become domesticated, or has the game itself gone to the dogs?

By all means, it has become faster and teams like St. Vincents, Down and Galway played the game with precision and thought. Forwards play to a better plan, perhaps, but have we not reached the day when even the art of scoring a goal in a vital game seems to have been lost. I never cheer for a pointed free. Ah, football has gone to hell in many ways.

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JOHN O'GRADY DEALS WITH

TELEVISION has become an immutable fact of life. Is it really almost a full decade since we stood outside dealers' windows and were gratified to see something actually moving, and talking, on the little screen? It has proved itself a powerful, almost overwhelming, medium. It not only reports events; it influences events by its unique concentration of attention on them. It has reduced veteran talkers to muttering, unheeded obscurity in the chimney-corner, and led irate teachers to wonder if any study gets done at home any more.

Our native games haven't escaped its pervasive influence. They could hardly have been expected to, for television is awfully hard to ignore, whether in the home or on the national scene. Radio pleads for your attention; television stands right up and demands it.

The sound commentaries of Michael O'Hehir from the late 'thirties onwards, were indisputably the single biggest glamourising factor our games ever experienced. The unique ring of that clear young voice and its rousing enthusiasm, heard at its most moving in the great Polo Grounds broadcast of 1947, stuck thousands to their chairs. Imagination tried to picture the scenes and the moves he described.

Now, we have television and you hear people say Michael talks too darn much! I won't enter into that, but there's a kind of moral in it, all the same. For television hands you the thing on a plate and leaves no work at all for imagination to do. In the most literal sense of the phrase, it "gives the game away."

not by any means a conscious, deliberate or malicious

policy; it's just the nature of the medium. The damage is not done so much by the domestic programmes as by the international, sometimes almost universal, hook-ups.

Nobody, you may note, is beaming the World Series baseball games to Europe via satellite. The game may be a semi-religion in America, but cuts no ice with the uninitiated. Internally, in the U.S., it is televised all the time. An argument in favour of fuller coverage of Gaelic games here? Not quite. We haven't got the huge commercial concerns, like Gillette or the brewing firms, whose cash for advertising more than makes up for smaller attendances in the ball-parks.

The most obvious beneficiaries of televised sport are such games as soccer and golf. The spread of knowledge of soccer outside our cities was glacially-slow till T.V. sent people rushing home to see Celtic or Manchester United in the European Cup, or to view the last World Cup games from Britain.

As a result, people, who wouldn't know offside from backside, suddenly got quite knowledgeable, and various Rovers, Rangers and Uniteds have begun to sprout fast in what was recently virgin territory. And folk who thought bogey was a word to frighten bold children with, learned that it has a meaning almost as formidable for golfers.

So the G.A.A. has begun to lose what was close to a monopoly position in the countryside, and to weaken on the urban front. Television is far from being the only can't cut adrift from television and leave its rivals a clear field. Neither can it go too far the other way, for

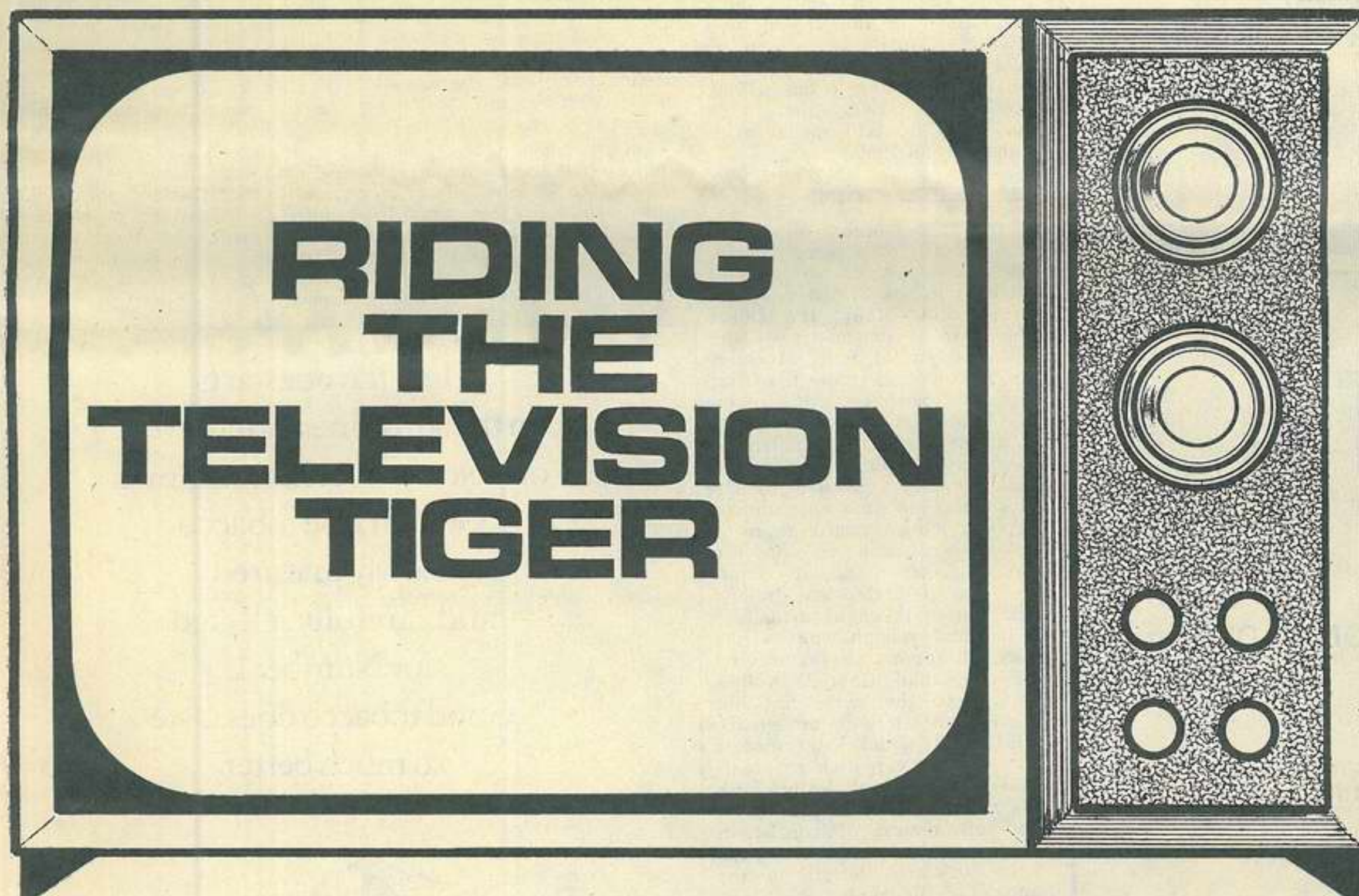
fear of hurting its own country-wide programme. The current arrangement seems a rational compromise, though the effects of televising the football semi-finals are very questionable. And the status of the Railway Cup hasn't really been raised by live screening. Lower standards of play, of course, have probably done greater damage in that case.

The quality of the weekly G.A.A. feature has been only moderate. It resorts far too readily to re-runs of excerpts from past games and does too little independent and realistic talking. Here one agrees they aren't helped by the inarticulateness of the average player when a camera is pointed at him. The predictable result is generally the usual harmless routine line.

How different our Irish-American friends can be. I recall Sean O Ceallachain talking to the New York-born goalie who saved a penalty at Croke Park. Boy, could he talk! And he did, very freely and entertainingly. The big occasions, however, are done quite superbly from a technical aspect, and are a potent advertisement for the G.A.A.

The fact remains, however, that live TV has robbed the actual attender of his previously unique position, as the only fellow who could talk about a game with any authority. It is daunting to be out-argued by someone who never stirred out of the kitchen.

At this stage it's not much use for a G.A.A. man regretting that John Logie Baird ever hit upon his invention. The thing is here. We must be content with a smaller share of the market, as it were, while working for greater efficiency within it. Antique notions of wiping out support for any particular games or of competing with them on any basis except that of better management and attractiveness have had to be hastily abandoned. In that respect, at least, television has helped to show us the realities of sporting life.



For the G.A.A. it has been a very mixed blessing indeed. For one thing, the sort of publicity it gives is radically different from that of either the press or radio. No reader of a newspaper is compelled to wade through every line of it before he gets to what he wants. If he has no particular interest in horses, dogs, golf, soccer, rugby or boxing, he simply by-passes them on his way to the hurling or Gaelic football section. Facing that hypnotic screen he's more or less got to go right down the whole sports litany before his particular favourite has the tube to itself.

All this has led to a great broadening of awareness of sport as a whole rather than as single entities. And that, to put it bluntly, does not suit Gaelic games very well. I write, it may be as well to say; as a veteran non-believer in the Ban on the level of both principle and practice, but equally as one who regards our games as a valuable and uniquely Irish flavouring to our lives, and who would regret any significant weakening in their appeal.

Some games are international in present character, whatever about their origin; others are basically regional. It is the most obvious of truths that television promotes the former at the expense of the latter. This is

influence at work here. So have been the greater affluence and, above all, the motorised mobility of the young.

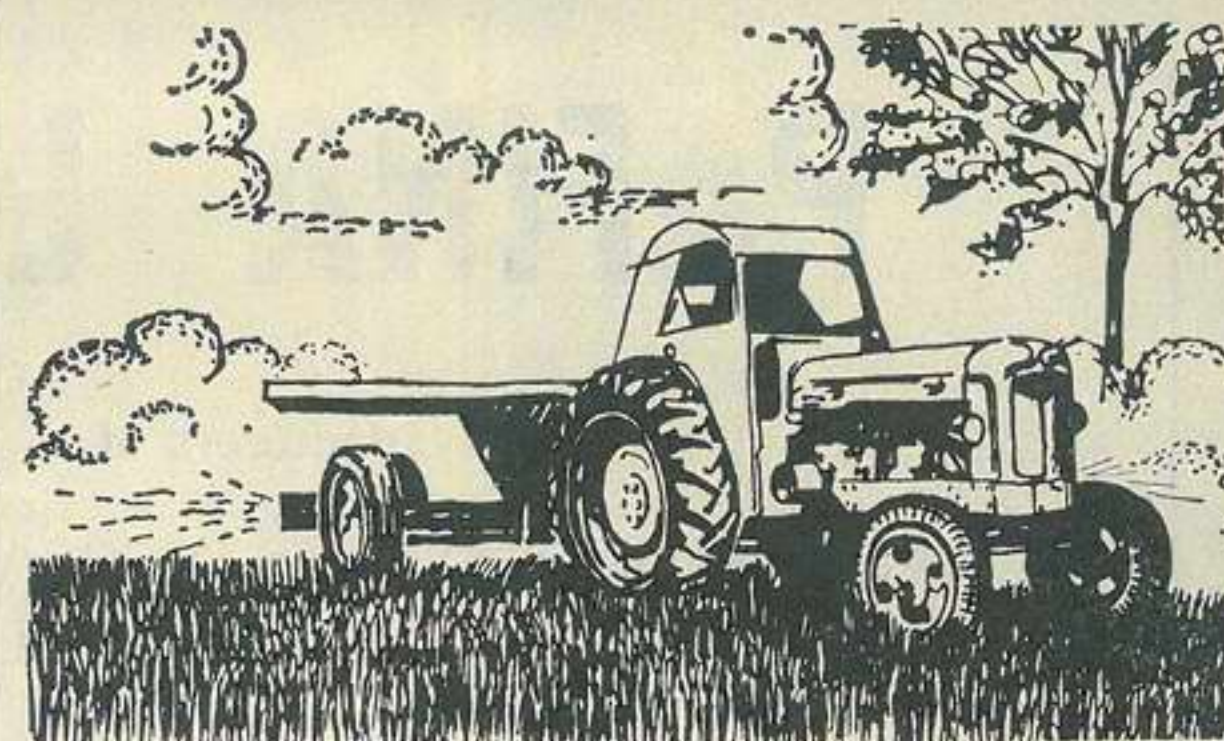
There is a standard defence to this line of argument. It is to be heard from those who are involved in television and who naturally regard it as a good thing in every respect. "Ah," they'll say, "but aren't we drawing new supporters to you; making people aware of your game who knew little or nothing about it before?"

It sounds reasonable at first hearing. But when you reflect on the presence of G.A.A. clubs in practically every parish in our small country, you realise that those who weren't already aware of our games simply don't want to be aware of them. It would be a very isolated hermit in his cave who somehow missed the existence of hurling or Gaelic football till Montrose started up.

Someone has quite aptly likened sports involvement with television to riding a tiger: dangerous to stay on, dangerous also to get off. Wise in their generation, the soccer clubs in England turned down some years ago a large cash offer for live showing of a Saturday game; and turned it down after the League administration had gone well on the way to accepting it.

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Fate Is Still A Factor

FATE can be tantalisingly fickle — even to her favourite sons. And if you want proof, then contrast the careers of some of the most consistent stars of football in the 'sixties. There's Gabriel Kelly, who must be a strong challenger for ranking as the greatest right full back of all time. Football has lavished the choicest of gifts on the Cavan defender in the Railway Cup competition — and definitely withheld them in all other national competitions.

BY OWEN McCANN

In over a decade in the Breffni Blue, the nearest he came to an All-Ireland inter-county medal was in 1960, when Cavan, in their last national final, league or championship, lost to Down in the only all-Ulster National League decider.

Kelly's record in the Railway Cup has few equals. He was chosen for Ulster in every single game in the past decade, and each time at right full-back! Last February, he made his 17th appearance with the North — a run in the same position that must be unequalled in the history of the competition. The only match he missed in the decade was the 1966 final, for which he had to stand down. He played on five winning teams (1960, 1963, 1964, 1965, and 1968), and won a sixth medal as a substitute in 1966.

The only other player to match Kelly was Sean O'Neill, who was also chosen for all Ulster's games in the past decade. Like Kelly, the Down ace missed one match — the 1965 semi-final with Munster. In 1968, he became the first from his province to figure on six final winning teams.

Unlike the Cavan defender, however, O'Neill was chosen in three separate positions by Ulster. He had nine appearances at right wing forward, seven at full-forward, and one in the No. 12 jersey. And, of course, he also collected All-Ireland and National League medals.

It must remain one of the most disappointing features of football that Gabriel Kelly's service to the game has not been rewarded with an elusive All-Ireland medal. But medals won are no yardstick to greatness, and Gabriel Kelly, with his cool imaginative back play, and his record of consistent, sterling service, has written his name in large letters in the annals of the game.

O'Connell is no stranger to the St. Patrick's Day scene but he has yet to win a Railway Cup medal. He was there early enough in his career as a midfielder in the 1958 Munster team that lost to Connacht. He was also in the team beaten by Ulster for the 1960 title, and he was back again last March, when Connacht foiled the South's bid for a first win since way back in 1949.

Munster's famine has also hit other long-serving Kerry stars. There's Johnny Culloty who, as a teenager, made his debut for Munster in the 1956 final against Ulster. That day he played as a forward. He was back as goalkeeper in the finals of 1961 and 1966.

Mick O'Dwyer and Seamus Murphy are other long-serving Kerry men who have also put their talents on parade in inter-provincial deciders. When one considers, in fact, the many outstanding footballers that Munster has produced over the past 20 years, it is hard to credit this lack of Railway Cup successes.

Will 1970 bring a change of

fortune for the South, and perhaps, a medal for Culloty, or O'Connell, O'Dwyer or Murphy? Or will all four, whose achievements in the 1969 All-Ireland final, must put them among the all-time greats of Kerry football, finish their careers with this one award outstanding?

Fickle fate could well decree that a young man who has come a long way in a hurry, could be the one above all others, to open up the way to Munster's return this spring to the winners' list. After a mere 21 months in the big-time, and at an age when many a player is really only finding his feet, Brendan Lynch already boasts two of the three "leafs" of the senior football medals shamrock, and the added distinction at 20 of being the youngest player ever to captain Kerry in a National League final. He won that honour in the games with New York last June.

Lynch had a celebrated debut in the Munster Blue against Leinster at Killarney last February. He scored 1-5 — the best score by any Munster player in any single game in this competition since 1961.

The Beaufort footballer has matured a lot since then, and must rank as a certainty for a third Munster jersey in the coming semi-final. He was also in the team beaten by Connacht in the 1969 final.

Fate undoubtedly smiled kindly on Eddie Keher in 1969. The length of the quest gave added spice to his first Kilkenny senior hurling medal, won with The Rower-Inistioge last April in the belated 1968 final. Only one real honour

then remained to be won, and the final golden flourish came with the captaincy of Kilkenny in their win over Cork.

Then there is Dermot Earley. He could hardly have had a better start to big-time football in 1967 when, still in his 'teens, he won a Railway Cup medal. He gained a second souvenir with Connacht last St. Patrick's Day.

On that dull September afternoon in the under-21 final with Antrim at Croke Park, fate almost mockingly dangled, time and again before Earley in the closing minutes, the accolade of being the first Connacht man to win a Railway Cup medal and an All-Ireland under-21 football medal in the same year... but in the end, it was an historic day for Antrim, and not for the Roscommon man.

Would the football scene be much different now if Cavan had not replaced their scorer-in-chief Charlie Gallagher for a spell late in the drawn semi-final with Offaly? Would Connacht have won the Railway Cup, in hurling, if Paddy Fahy (Galway), who hit the equalising point on time in the drawn game, had been included for the full hour? He was dropped after the semi-final win over Leinster, and went into the drawn game only midway through the second half.

One could go on and on, but it comes back to one thing... while training, dedication, and wholehearted endeavour are essential to have any hope of major successes in sport, fickle fate, in the shape of the hop of the ball, the width of the crossbar, or a contrary wind, can step in and play a major part.

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A good year for J.K.O'D.

ALL years tend to be good years for John "Kerry" O'Donnell because he sort of makes them. But 1969 will certainly go into the book.

It began lively — a particularly fiery exchange with the Central Council, peppered by remarks about certain members who were only "keeping a seat warm." Some said that it was the end of international competition. The Central Council would surely nail him this time. The hold up in the payment of the 16,000 dollars, due to the International Fund from the Down tour of the previous October, was sufficient to nail an army . . . but it didn't nail O'Donnell.

Indeed, when that one was argued out at Croke Park by his emissary Sean O'Hanlon, it was officialdom on this side that was embarrassed.

Still, the Central Council, on the recommendation of the Executive, turned down flat his proposition to bring the winners of the Railway Cup football final to New York for the Cardinal Cushing Games. Not a single voice was for it.

However, the Railway Cup football winners, Connacht, did travel for the Cushing Games — and with the blessing of both the Executive and the Central Council.

It was a turnabout that was unprecedented in the history of G.A.A. administration.

Then Kerry won the League and went out. While there, they invited him to give a hand with the training for the championship. This was interesting because, in 1958, he

had offered his services and the Kerry County Board had turned him down. He's a very good trainer.

He was over before each of their big games — the Munster final, the All-Ireland semi-final and the final. And they won.

Nobody said that the credit was his — but he was there. To celebrate, he brought two well-bred young greyhounds and named them "Green and Gold" and "One and Twenty." They'll win, too. Anything O'Donnell touches wins.

Then to crown the year, some people started talking about him for the Presidency of Association.

It probably began at Congress — the fieriest Congress in living memory with both the President's address and the General Secretary's report being criticised. O'Donnell was there simply as an onlooker.

Seamus O Riain made the mistake (at least, some now say it was a mistake) of inviting O'Donnell to speak. He spoke very well — both in Irish and in English — a polished off-the-cuff performance which was tremendously well received.

For years they had known his form at Central Council — both in war and peace conditions — but the ordinary Congress delegate had never heard him before. He impressed.

Aye, a damn good year for John O'Donnell . . . and he nearly bought a hotel in Killarney.

— Frank Dolan.



John "Kerry" O'Donnell — he had plenty of reasons for smiling during 1969.

BRENDAN DOYLE RECALLS:

How O'Hare Floored Henry Cooper!

IT was Saturday — Whit Saturday — in a sultry London. Down had beaten Kerry and Tipperary had annihilated Wexford in the annual Wembley Tournament games. The Atlantic Hotel, Bayswater Road where the four teams were accommodated was agog with excitement and no company more so than that which I found myself in.

O'Hare, Kelly, Murphy and Farley were relieved and happy . . . happy that at last they had silenced the critics and ended the run of defeats. Although future events were to prove otherwise, September '69 Croke Park and Sam Maguire were discussed freely.

Choosing the location for celebration always proves difficult in London — to-

night was no different. It finally took the persuasive powers of O'Hare to convince us that Henry Cooper's favourite haunt — the Thomas A'Beckett pub cum gym was the place.

It is not widely known that O'Hare had a distinguished juvenile career with the now defunct Ballydoo boxing club. Eleven fights, eleven wins and, but for a recurring nose injury, it was apparent that many more would have followed.

Off we set and, with the helpful instructions of a bearded Corkman, we arrived at the Old Kent Road in quick time. Much to our surprise, we were greeted warmly by the proprietor, Tommy Gibbons. "Hello Johnny!" directed towards

John Murphy further increased our curiosity.

As it later transpired, Gibbons had mistaken us for Johnny Famechon the Australian world champion and his entourage. The souvenir of the Australian-Down game, in the form of a kangaroo worn by John, led Gibbons to believe John was an Australian.

Even so, having learned of our true identity, he was no less friendly . . . his father hailed from Dunleer, Co. Louth. We returned to the Hotel, having thoroughly enjoyed our visit and readily accepted Tommy's invitation to return next morning and watch Cooper train.

Watching was okay for others, but O'Hare had made up his mind. His one wish was a spar with Cooper — and with that thought I went off to sleep.

For a Sunday morning, the Thomas A'Beckett was a busy place. The odour of sweat, swinging punch bags and dancing boxers greeted us on our arrival. Not wishing to offend, Tommy Gibbons diplomatically passed O'Hare's request to Henry and, to the surprise of all, he accepted.

Headgear and 16 oz. gloves were supplied. Kelly and Farley took up positions in Tom's corner while the usual partnership of Danny Holland and Jim Wicks looked after Henry's interests. Three minutes of utter boredom followed — hugging, slapping, tapping and hardly a worthwhile punch being thrown. Cooper used little of his undoubted skill against the robust Mayobridge man. At the bell, Kelly proceeded to demonstrate what he would do, while Farley soothed tired limbs. Cooper nonchalantly smiled in

amusement.

The second round was a repetition of the first but not for the full three minutes. The last minute was sensational. Kelly's comical remarks and gestures were receiving much more attention than the participants. Cooper couldn't resist replying, even though it necessitated him turning sideways — and wham! A peach of a right hand landed flush on his chin. Off balance as he was, the force of the blow deposited him on "all fours."



Danny Kelly, who saved the day, and John Murphy, who was mistaken for world featherweight champion, Johnny Famechon.

Swinging punch bags and dancing boxers stopped. The smile vanished from Cooper's face, his right glove groped for the

ropes, and his famous left was cocked for revenge as he rose.

Kelly saw the danger. Often he had found himself in a precarious situation on the playing fields of Ireland, often O'Hare had come to his rescue. Now was the time to come to O'Hare's rescue — not to be undone, the bell rang.

"It's time for Mass, Brendan." The steady hand of Paddy O'Donoghue awakened me from my slumbers. I dressed hurri-

edly and rushed downstairs and almost collided with "the gang" just returned from — the Thomas A' Beckett.

The strip of plaster on O'Hare's left eye prompted me to ask the name of his assailant. Everyone laughed at his reply — "Henry Cooper!"

NOTE: Since writing this article Tommy Gibbons died at the youthful age of 37. Irish boxers in London lost a great friend and boxing at large, one of its finest gentlemen.

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Clean sweep By Cork Minors

THE Cork minor teams completed a rare "double" in 1969 by winning both the All-Ireland football and hurling championships. For the footballers, victory over Derry in the final meant the completion of an elusive three-in-a-row, and for the hurlers the defeat of Kilkenny marked Cork's second All-Ireland triumph in three years.

BY TIM HORGAN

Cork's record of success in the minor grade during the 'sixties is most impres-

sive. The county footballers reached their very first All-Ireland final in 1960, and, although they lost to Galway, they were back the following year to bring the minor championship to the Rebel County. They lost the 1964 final to Offaly, but proved victorious against Laois in the 1967 decider, against Sligo in 1968 and against Derry in 1969.

So with six appearances in the All-Ireland final, and four of them on the winning side, the past decade has been a purple one for the Cork minor footballers. It seems only rea-

sonable to expect that a strong senior team will emerge from the county in the near future.

And yet the Cork senior teams continually fail to live up to the expectations promised by their minor counterparts. True, Cork reached their first All-Ireland senior final in ten years in 1967 and were somewhat unlucky to lose to Meath. But events have shown since then that Cork created a big impression that year mainly because Kerry, without O'Connell, provided such poor opposition in Munster. When Kerry regained their touch and their top player, in 1968 they made "short work" of Cork in the provincial final and repeated the dose in 1969.

Some of the leading ex-minors have gained permanent places on the Cork senior panel — Frank Cogan, Billy Morgan, Tim F. Hayes, Raymond Cummins, Denis Long, Donal Hunt, Ted Murphy, Ned Kirby, Teddy O'Brien, Jimmy Barrett and Tony Murphy are good examples — but the county continues to dwell in the football doldrums. The record books suggest that a senior All-Ireland title should follow Cork's long list of minor successes. And yet even the most optimistic Leesider can hardly envisage the Sam Maguire Cup returning to Cork in the near future.

The Cork minor hurlers have also shown great promise during the past decade and there is some hope that this promise will be fulfilled by the senior team. Cork qualified for their first minor final in 13 years in 1964 and, with Charlie McCarthy and Donal Clifford to guide them, they defeated Laois in the All-Ireland. They were beaten by Wexford after a replay of the 1966 decider but turned the tables on the Slaneysiders the following year and, after losing to Wexford again in 1968, Cork regained the championship by defeating Kilkenny in 1969.

Charlie McCarthy went



Cork minor full-back John Rothwell (left) comes through to clear against Tipperary in this year's Munster final.



Cork minor goalkeeper Jim Cremin clears.

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on to win an All-Ireland senior medal in 1966, but Cork's success that year was probably a bit premature. It wasn't until 1969 that the successful record of the county minors began to shine through the senior ranks.

With ex-minors Willie Walsh, Donal Clifford, Gerald McCarthy, Raymond Cummins, Charlie McCarthy and Tony Maher in their ranks Cork stormed through the 1969 league campaign, beating Wexford in the final, and entered the championship as hot favourites. By the time they met Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final their confidence was even greater, although the loss of star centre-back Justin McCarthy before the game served as a severe blow. Still, they mastered Kilkenny throughout the first half and would probably have won the game, if it hadn't been for a goalmouth incident which spurred the Noreiders on to great heights in the second half. And so Kilkenny won the All-Ireland, quite deservedly, and Cork were left to

start all over again for 1970.

But, unlike the Cork footballers, the county hurlers can face the 'seventies on a bright note. For the past two years Cork have won the All-Ireland Under-21 hurling championship, a title they first captured in 1966, and these successes indicate that many of the minor stars

are mastering the transition to the higher grades.

It may be a long time before the Cork footballers will reflect some of their minor successes on the senior record books, but it shouldn't be too long before the Cork senior hurlers will be bringing the McCarthy Cup back to the banks of the Lee.



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How Kilkenny Scoffed At The Gods

BY JOHN O'GRADY

ANY All-Ireland is a precious thing to win. But some have a flavour and a character that raise them to a specially high status in the eyes of the victors. Such was Kilkenny's annexation of their 17th. The Noreside bonfires — if that's not a dirty word there — never blazed more gleefully, or with better reason.

To win when everyone says you will can seem only like the inevitable duly arriving. To do it when the weight of public and press opinion is against you adds a fine dash of defiance to the feat. Not that there is anything necessarily hostile or prejudiced in such pre-match opinions. Even if there were, it wouldn't matter anyhow. The weather forecaster doesn't actually cause rain by prophesying sun! Actually, many Kilkenny players and officials were frank enough to say in advance that they were very happy not to be counted favourites.

That burden hadn't exactly been a blessing in 1966. Most players like to have the extra spur of non-favouritism. It seems to lighten the load in the strain and stress of the dressing-room. There really seemed an anticipating glint in the eyes of the Kilkennymen as they came out, though they were to endure much discomfort for a time.

Everyone has praised the spirit of the recovery which began with Brennan's goal and carried on relentlessly when they came out again. But there was an equally remarkable long-term recovery to be seen in full flower at Croke Park. It extended quietly over some six months. Circumstances helped to hide and disguise it, to keep its progress almost out of sight, and to make many of us under-value the team that achieved it.

Depression is the only word for the state of Kilkenny hurling as it appeared during the spring. No Ollie Walsh; no zest; no eagerness to hurl. Waterford beat them in the first League game, and that didn't make Waterford better than a pale reflex of fine Decies teams of a few years ago. Tipperary went to Nowlan Park, where better Tipp teams had either won the hard way or hadn't won at all. They won this time, and with some ease. Tipp's many weak points were then exposed by Cork in both

League and championship. On paper, therefore, Kilkenny were a long way down on anybody's short list for the All-Ireland.

It's now very plain that Kilkenny at that stage were simply not doing themselves justice. The great turning point was Ollie's change of heart. It wasn't so much actual saves or even long puck-outs that defined his worth to the team; just the mere fact of being there at all. His personality was the key, the sign that normality was restored.

For a player of his class to hang up his stick in the prime of his ability would be as sad as a Kreisler throwing his violin on the fire. The impulse was understandable at the time, but time is a great restorer of balance and perspective, and everyone will be glad of the happier ending.

The up-turn in their fortunes began. It got little notice because the eyes of the hurling world were on Offaly. These surprising people, miles from Birr, where they had some fine triumphs in the League a few years ago, beat Wexford. The champions were more than usually hit by injuries and hadn't helped themselves, in all probability, by attending Dan Quigley's wedding in large numbers on the Saturday! Their fate, as it happened, was very like that of Kilkenny the previous year.

Now, if Kilkenny had beaten Wexford on the way to the All-Ireland, we would have been thinking highly of them. But a win over Offaly, with due respect to them, couldn't carry the same prestige. Nor did it. "Lucky to escape Wexford"; such was a common reaction. Beating London, who had a fine goalkeeper in Barnaville, and little else, was not regarded as proving a lot. In that sort of game, the more you win by, the less credit you get.

By contrast with this unexciting route the Corkmen's path to Dublin glittered with eye-catching achievement. They won the League, defeating Tipp at Thurles and "taking" Wexford with a flourish that indicated solid merit. After a temporary check by Clare, they swept Tipp out in twenty minutes of the Munster final. True, a scoring drought in the second half raised eyebrows here and there. All the same, Cork projected an image of youth and eagerness. They seemed to respond like a puppet to a cheering-section which urged and applauded like a



Sharing the bottle in the hurling final

well-schooled chorus. A Cork All-Ireland seemed to be already written into the script.

The script unfolded on schedule at Croke Park, for a good twenty-nine minutes. Only a mediocre midfield was out of cue, and this was overflown regularly by the repeated clearances of Gerald McCarthy, in particular. The Kilkenny rear suffered almost as badly as Tipp's had done at Limerick. Even the goals were out of the same mould, one a morale-builder right at the start, the other backing it up nicely.

Had Tomas Ryan been able to contribute as much this time — or had Coogan let him — the Cork lead would have been quite formidable, and not so vulnerable to the damage done by Brennan's lethal blow. One's feeling as McCarthy and Cummins got so much early room was

that they'd surely give Kilkenny a proper roasting later on, when youth should be reaping full advantage.

How wrong you can be! And the start of the reversal needs no detective to isolate it. Of all the goals scored in All-Irelands, can any be regarded as better-timed than Brennan's? The psychology of it was perfect. The green flag waved and then they all walked off. Had there been even a minute's play left the effect of the goal would have been blurred a little. But, as it was, Cork walked off with the daunting realisation that only a single score remained of their seven point lead: Kilkenny were correspondingly heartened at being so close in pursuit after all their discomfort.

Through hard experience, Kilkenny learned a few seasons ago how to employ a proper proportion of

physical power along with ball-play. This was particularly so in their attack. This realisation was partly the fruit of getting into the same League group as Tipp, and more frequent games against them.

The grim and concentrated way in which Kilkenny first tied down, then disheartened and finally overtook Cork in the second half was the same practical policy in action again. Ironically, the crude k.o. of Pat Delaney only assisted the "backlash." It brought on a surprisingly useful Moran, and it raised the rest to a pitch of cold resolve.

It was then that Kilkenny's "underground" recovery came to the surface just when the call was most urgent. We saw the veterans in the last line regain a certainty that had seemed very unlikely in the opening stages. Carroll was superb, his stickwork making up for a physique less hardy than that of Dillon and Treacy.

Henderson in the final twenty minutes opened his

shoulders for long drives that checked attack and built it. Coogan's frees and general play were a constant influence, and young Murphy took away several dangerous balls in Cork's late raids. The solidity of the Lalor-Cummins midfield had robbed Cork of full dividends when Cork were playing well; they still held steady when the trend had turned the other way.

Keher's immense coolness had also been a saving factor in times of trouble, when his well-hit frees kept his team within reach. Now at centre-forward, he recovered from a few off-target shots to hit straight and true when the crisis arrived.

How the Noreside following relished the closing minutes. They had suffered long enough. This team, slow-handclapped out for the second period by opposing fans as if being invited out to face defeat, were striding home for the sort of victory that carries extra satisfaction. The immediate ambition, if an outsider dare suggest it, would be to do what hasn't been done since the 1932-'33 era and put a pair of All-Irelands back to back.

The coming of new men like Murphy, Kavanagh and Millea, who ought to be better players with a title behind them, promises well. As for Cork, their depth and quality of good minors and under-21 players is sure to make them a considerable force over the coming decade. Justin McCarthy, who had to play the role of unwilling TV commentator, was a real loss, perhaps more at midfield than at centre-back.

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NOLLAIG FAOI SHEAN IS FAOI MHAISE

Departures

THERE was a time not so long ago when old players didn't formally retire—they just faded away or were forgotten about by their county selectors. Today, however, all that has changed. Now, every player worth his salt 'retires' at least two or three times during his career and the really great ones announce beforehand the day and date when they will formally take the step out of the big time.

For this reason, it is a hazardous occupation to start writing farewell messages to any G.A.A. players, but at the end of 1969 there are, at least, half a dozen players of whom we can say with a reasonable degree of certainty that their intercounty careers are ended.

For me, the saddest farewell of 1969 is to Paddy Doherty probably, the greatest score getter that the game has ever known. Only out of respect for my elders do I include the word 'probably,' for I doubt if the Ballykinlar man has ever been surpassed in the art of creating or taking scores.

Doherty, who won three All-Ireland medals, with Down, will be best remembered for his left-footed scores. Usually these were points scored after he had apparently contorted his body to evade a lunging would-be-fouler, but there was also the occasional goal. In fact, in his last competitive intercounty game, the Ulster final,

Doherty sent his admirers home with the memory of one of his greatest goals.

As a person Paddy Doherty was everybody's favourite. While other Down players got involved in controversies of one kind or another, Paddy 'Moe' as he was called, remained the Down player who was liked by everyone. In this age of false modesty and plastic sports idols, Paddy Doherty was a man apart from the mob.

Even in retirement, he will always remain so.

The full-back position has thrown up some heroic figures in the G.A.A. down through the years. It gave us such colourful characters as Paddy Bawn Brosnan, Phil 'Gunner' Brady, Jack Bratten, 'Diamond' Hayden and Nick O'Donnell.

The year 1969 saw the departure from football of another such figure in the person of Lar Foley, who, as full-back for Dublin, was a man in the traditions of the Fianna of long ago. For several years, 'the Lar' was the inspiration of Dublin teams, especially when they played down the country, in grounds where the crowds were very often bordering on the hostile.

Lar was fearless but fair. In his time he was involved in more than his share of tempestuous goal-mouth scimmages and many a forward has rued the day that he tried to 'mix it' with the Dublin man. While many were inclined to classify Lar Foley

as a 'city slicker', nothing could be further from the truth, as 'the Lar' is, in fact, a farmer in Kinsealy, which is in north county Dublin.

Dublin will find it difficult, if not impossible, to find a man of similar stature to Foley and all Gaelic fans too will miss the flamboyant St. Vincents man.

Whether you loved him or hated him, you had to admit that Lar Foley was an outstanding individual figure among G.A.A. players.

Another man who stepped from the limelight in 1969 was Charlie Gallagher the Cootehill-born dentist, whose name was synonymous with Cavan for the past decade or more. Like Foley, Charlie was also a personality, who evoked very strong love or hate sentiments among the fans.

Even among his own county supporters, opinion was often divided about Charlie, but to outsiders in the main he was the figurehead which kept his county's prestige at a reasonable level for many years. Along with Gabriel Kelly, Charlie Gallagher had the difficult task of trying to carry on the traditions of the great Cavan team of the 1945-'54 era, since those two came onto the Breffni team just as Mick Higgins, Gunner Brady, Victor Sherlock and other great players were fading from the scene in the middle 'fifties.

Many a lesser player

THE DAY OF TH

ON the sound enough basis that no one can say too much about a good thing I venture to add a few words more to the thousands written about the day all Kerry men were privileged to feel 21 years old.

BY SEAMUS de FAOITE

Youngsters shot up in spirit to the 21 mark in the life game and oldsters shot back to meet them for a day on level terms: the murmur in the blood became a shout.

Heads of all shapes and types from egg to square put all thought aside except pride in the Kingdom here, as distinct from Kingdoms gone or the one that is to come.

Indignant dignitaries

were riled by the referee now and again and again with short, sharp words of reprimand: but they said a prayer for him when he blew the final whistle on time.

The people who said it wasn't a great game never played football in a gale.

Din Joe Crowley's majestic performance at mid-field gave it the stamp of greatness, gale or no; so much so that when kids down that way nowadays are asked what will they be when they grow up they say — 'Din Joe Crowley, sir.'

O'Connell's appearance on the familiar ground after all the uncertainty, sparked off a storm of cheering that cut the gale down to size momentarily and sent high wheeling gulls to the Liffey in one

sweep.

High Kerry hopes soared higher and stayed right up there, until full-time made even the highest hope a mere redundancy.

Then the gale was blowing unheeded over a surge of Kerry men that swept their heroes shoulder high to the stand like corks on a tide in Glenbeigh.

And the Sam Maguire never looked bigger or brighter or more ready to shine for the bonfires at home.

From anthem to aftermath the fifteen players looked what they proved to be on the day of days.

I tipped a grey lock in silent salute to three men who came back from retirement to add veteran experience and example to the youthful expertise that bounded all about them:

And New Arrivals

would have been drowned in the mediocrity which followed Cavan's All-Ireland semi-final defeat of 1955, but although the county failed to win an Ulster title for the following seven years, Charlie Gallagher still became a nationally known figure. Consistently high annual scoring tallies showed him to be a man of exceptional class, but fortune never saw fit to bestow even an All-Ireland final appearance on Charlie Gallagher.

Nevertheless, Charlie's place in G.A.A. history is secure, especially, if as

seems likely, he is the last of the great individual scoregetters from Breffni.

Another man who for many years played the role of heroic figure to a poor team also bowed out of intercounty football in 1969.

For a dozen years, Sean Murray was an automatic choice on the Longford team, first at corner back and for the past five years as corner forward. Like Charlie Gallagher, he ended his career without that elusive All-Ireland medal, and indeed it was ironic that on the one and only

occasion that Longford got within shouting distance of the Sam Maguire Cup — the All-Ireland semi-final of 1968 — Sean Murray was unable to play because of injury.

This injury indeed, marked the beginning of the end of Murray's intercounty career. But Sean Murray's role in the rise of Longford football is such that he needs no medals to highlight it. A forceful, dominant character on and off the field, he bulldozed his way through the mediocrity that for decades kept Longford stagnant at intercounty level. Through his efforts, a more enlightened approach to training was introduced which resulted in a National League title win in 1966.

Recently Sean Murray took over as trainer of the Longford team where, no doubt his influence will be felt for some time to come.

But while we will miss watching Paddy Doherty, Lar Foley, Charlie Gallag-

her and Sean Murray, there are compensations in the fact that 1969 also saw the coming to the forefront of several new personalities. It is too soon yet, of course, to do more than speculate as to the future of the past year's debutants, but I'll be more than surprised if these players don't make their mark in 1970.

● Gene Cusack from Crosserlough, the man who already seems all set to take over the mantle of Charlie Gallagher in the Cavan attack. A nephew of former Cavan star Johnny Cusack, young Gene has class to burn and more important to the present Breffni side, he has the guts and determination to implement his talents.

● Seamus Killough, the young Antrim full-back who dominated the 1969 Under-21 final. A really polished performer, who would probably be equally at home at centre half-back he has already made his

mark in senior intercounty fare and also with Queen's University.

● David Hickey, a lightly-built youngster from Raheny who made his debut on the Dublin senior team late in the year. If he can withstand the rigours of present day football sufficiently well in the early stages of his intercounty career, he could well be the answer to Dublin supporters' prayers for a high class forward in the Kevin Heffernan mould.

● Jim McElwee, another recent debutant on the Donegal senior team. The Dungloe man is a corner back with exceptional ability to mark star forwards completely out of a game. He has already proven his ability on the tough grind of the intervarsity circuit with U.C.D. and could well replace Gabriel Kelly as Ulster's most effective right corner back before the coming season is out.



Charlie Gallagher ... gone



Lar Foley ... gone

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BIG WIN

Culloty, Murphy and O'Dwyer.

And it was fitting that one of them, Culloty, should captain the side: fitting too that the Killarney man had the game of his life between the posts. The man could stop bullets without a wound even to his pride.

The youngsters responded like the star pupils they are. Paud O'Donoghue looked taller and met the dropping ball higher than he ever did before and Fitzgerald took several strides nearer to greatness.

In the half-back line, Mick Morris put no foot wrong; Mike O'Shea has yet to meet the man who can beat him while small Tom Prendergast goes on making tall men feel smaller.

The half-forward line of

Griffin, Lynch and Eamonn O'Donoghue is one of the best that ever wore jerseys for the Kingdom.

O'Dwyer was O'Dwyer, can a man ask more? Gleeson is there to stay for a long time. And Higgins will walk as tall as any man he'll ever meet in or near the square, or further out if he's in the mood to ramble.

But it was Crowley's day at midfield in the master's presence. And when he outstripped the footsteps of the master, Mick-o was at hand with the touches of incomparable class that have made him the reluctant legend of our time or any other.

Never did a man say "Up Kerry" with so many words. But never did a man have more reason to. Up Kerry!

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Old Timer asks for

ROUND about now, at least so Central Council hopes, football officials all over the country should be availing of the 'close' season (if they have one) to gather themselves into earnest groups figuring out ways in which the football rules can be amended so as to improve, at one and the same time, the over-all image and impact of the game, and provide increased entertainment for players and spectators alike.

A Rules Revision Committee, mainly composed of distinguished players past and present, including a couple who subsequently proved themselves top-class referees, has already put forward a number of very valuable suggestions for comment and consideration.

Players and referees are, of course, the ideal people to suggest rule changes, but the people who may, in the long run, be affected most of all by any revision of the football rules are the very people who are likely to have the least opportunity of saying what changes they might like to see — the ordinary, honest-to-goodness spectators.

And yet the spectators' views could well be the most important of all, because, in these materialistic days, the cash customer is only too well aware that he is the man who pays the piper. No matter how idealistic we all may be, the sad fact remains that if, by some sad stroke of fate, the turnstiles suddenly ceased to click, the G.A.A., as we now know it, just would not exist in twelve months time.

So, on behalf of all uncommitted spectators, I take it upon myself, after standing, or sitting, on the football touchlines for the past 40 years, to proffer a few ideas on the changes I would like to see made in the football rules. And these are, mark you, entirely from the viewpoint of the non-participant, because in my playing days I always felt naked if I found myself on a G.A.A. pitch without a hurley.

Now, in the first place, the fundamental change that

Rule changes paying

I would like to see in football is the complete abolition of the toe-lift as we have known it for so many years. I believe that the toe-lift, as at present practised, is the cause of at least three-fifths of the far too many fouls, which, at present, break the continuity of every competitive game. Nor would I substitute the 'pick-up' since, in any case, the difference between the toe-lift and the 'clean' pick-up is all too often minimal.

I would allow players catch the ball in the air, on the hop, or catch it from a pass, but if he wants to 'lift' it off the ground, he must chip it at least knee-high. If you have no more of this bending over, and almost stopping, to toe-lift, you automatically cut out at least half of the fouling from behind.

In addition, today, when many players toe-lift the ball, the delay caused by the lift means that the player in possession finds himself already covered off by one opponent, if not by two, and likely as not the result is a

Two New

LAST September the special committee set up by the Central Council to advise on and submit recommendations on amendments to the present playing rules in football circulated some suggestions to county boards.

The two of those which had most appeal then were the proposal to award two points for every free within 50 yards of the goals which was scored direct, and the enlarging of the square to the 14 or 21 yard line. This latter move would obviously increase the number of penalties.

While we can always speculate as to what might happen if the rules were changed, I went one better and on the day of the Grounds' Tournament semi-finals I changed the rules privately. In other words, I kept the fact and figures of the games on the assumption that a) every free inside 50 yards earned two points if scored direct and every free conceded inside the fourteen-yard line earned a penalty.

To refresh your memory, the scores in those two semi-finals were: Offaly 2-7, Mayo 0-13; and Kerry 3-15, Cavan 0-8. As luck would have it, there were less frees than usual in both matches, but, nevertheless, some interesting facts did emerge from my little experiment.

In the drawn game, when I totted up my figures, I got a final score of Mayo 0-15, Offaly 2-8 — the difference being accounted for by the fact that Mayo scored two points from placed

balls of 50 yards range or less, while Offaly scored only one such kick.

But had the place kicking been more accurate the result would have been different again, as Mayo had six 'inside 50' frees but converted only two, while Offaly had five and converted one. Had all those frees been scored, the final score would have read — Mayo 0-23, Offaly 2-16.

Then we come to the second part of my experiment, the one which enlarged the square to the 14 yard line. Well, this would have made little difference, since only one foul took place inside fourteen and this resulted in a 14 yard free to Offaly which they scored. We can only conjecture what would have happened if Offaly had been awarded a penalty, but if they had scored it, the final score would have been Offaly 3-6, Mayo 0-13.

And finally, had the two rule changes been operative the final score would have read Offaly 3-14, Mayo 0-23, or believe it or not a draw!

The Kerry-Cavan game was a runaway, but if I had my way with the rules, Cavan would not have had quite such a dismal day.

In the actual game, Kerry scored 1-4 from frees inside 50 yards, while Cavan notched 0-3 in this way. But Cavan had three fouls 'inside fourteen' to Kerry's one and had they scored the resultant penalties, the final score would have been Kerry 4-14, Cavan 3-5. However, the

to suit the customers

free either against the player for overholding, or against his opponent for pushing or obstruction.

Whereas, if the player on the ball knew he could not toe-lift, he would have played the ball first time, thus preserving both the speed and the continuity of the game. Abolishing the toe-lift would also test the prowess of wing half-backs in particular.

It is pathetic to see a half-back race out to a rolling ball and, instead of planting the leather back deep in enemy territory with a well-placed 'grounders' bend down, toe-lift, dodge and turn round a couple of opponents, and finally, if he is not fouled, send a looping kick down to an opposing half back line, which he has allowed plenty of time to cover off the gaps.

So out with the toe-lift for a start. It was illegal in the early days of the Association, and the old-timers were wiser in that regard than we are.

The next step after that must be the rationalisation of

this hand-to-toe business, which, at the moment, gives the footballer a completely unfair advantage over his hurling brother. It doesn't matter how good a hurler you are . . . no referee is going to let you run the length of the field hopping the ball from stick to hand and back again.

Catch that ball more than twice, hurling friend, and the whistle goes 'tweet-tweet'. But, if you are a footballer, you can run round Croke Park three times, hopping that ball from toe-to-hand and no referee will do anything, except make sure that no opponent fouls you.

That is manifestly unfair. Allow the toe-to-hander catch the ball twice, and no more. That will end, for once and for all, the vast majority of the solo-running antics, and will force some of these players to remember that there are 14 other characters on their team.

As for the 'pulling-down' tactics of defenders, the answer to that is simple enough. Double the size of the

present square, giving a 'penalty-area' of 30 yards by 10 yards in front of each goal — or perhaps some might advise bringing out that penalty area to the 14-yard line.

Every deliberate foul or pull-down inside that area by a defender should be punished by a free kick to the attacking side from the present penalty spot.

Of course there is one present football rule that I want to see strictly enforced. It is the rule which says: "Carrying shall be taking more than four steps while holding the ball." For heaven's sake, when the rule says four steps, four steps let it be, not five steps, nor seven steps, nor even nine steps, as I saw one star get away with in an intercounty match at Croke Park this summer.

Finally, let me say that I am very sceptical about the advantages that so many people tell me will be conferred on us by adopting a 13-aside game. In the first place, such a move would mean a very serious reduction in the number of people actually participating in our games on any particular day — and it is the number of people actually playing the games that must be the real yardstick of success or failure.

In the second place, has anyone considered how much fitter 24 men will have to be to cover in an hour the same amount of ground that is at the moment being covered by 28? By my reckoning, each man will have to be 16% fitter in future than he is at present if we are to see the same speed and stamina in 13-aside as we have grown accustomed to in 15-aside. And, believe me, 16% extra fitness is an extremely high target to have to aim at.

As for this idea that, in 13-aside you can get rid of the full-forward and full-back, and have lots of lovely open spaces in front of goal, that just will not work in practice.

Every team, human nature being what it is, will play to its strength, and if it suits them to play a man in the present full-forward or full-back position . . . they will play him there, irrespective of what number he wears on the back. And no rule, old or new, can stop them.

Wouldn't it be a ticklish situation if we do go down to 13-aside, and find Croke Park, some match-day, being picketed by all those debarred full-forwards and full-backs. As one who, a long time ago, had some slight experience of the full-forward position myself, I probably would not only refuse to pass that picket, I might even join it.

Rules in Action

number of frees inside 50 yards was also heavily in Kerrys favour, and if both sides had scored all their frees, at two points a time, the final score would have read Kerry 3-27, Cavan 0-19. No matter how you look at it, it would not have been a very cheerful afternoon for the Breffni men.

But what if anything, do all the statistics prove? Firstly, they are not one hundred per cent realistic, since we can safely assume that if the players were playing under the revised rules, they might not be so quick to give away frees inside 50 yards.

Possibly the most significant point emerging from this mini-survey is that the basic results of games

would not be changed by allowing two points for converted frees. This was a genuine fear held by many people who claimed that teams would play for frees as a matter of tactics, thereby doing away with constructive open play.

But if, as these figures would indicate, the end result of games would remain largely unchanged, with two points going for frees, then it improves the chances of such a rule change being made at next year's Congress.

I certainly hope the change is made if only to teach our defenders to take a positive approach towards preventing forwards from scoring.



A typical goalmouth scene



Mick O'Connell . . . strongly disapproves of pulling down tactics.

THE PENALTY AREA ENLARGED TWO POINTS FOR CONVERTED FREES

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JIM BENNETT SAYS:

It Was A Mixed Year For Hurling

If you tried to suggest, last October or November, that Kilkenny would have had a big hand in the destination of the All-Ireland championship in September 1969, people would have thought you should have your head examined. Nick Purcell, then Chairman of the Kilkenny County Board, was reported as saying, after the heavy defeat of his team in the opening League game against Waterford, that he could not imagine where the men were to come from, to strengthen a team which was playing poorly, to say the least.

Who would have thought, at that time, that the season ahead was to end with one of the most satisfying All-Ireland victories which the county has had in many a long day, and one to be placed on a level with the 1967 game in which the Tipperary hoodoo was banished?

It could hardly be called a vintage year for hurling,

because the finalists of the previous year's championship fell considerably from grace. With the limited areas in which the game of hurling may be said to prosper, it is a bad thing if both Wexford and Tipperary simultaneously fall from their best. This they did. It might not have been too surprising that Tipperary should lose contin-

uity with the streak of greatness which seems to have been unending for some fifteen years; but, it was startling that Wexford fell away below the standards they had set themselves, and the potential which they seemed to possess.

Tipperary, in the event, did not show the decline until the championship began again, and even then it was the Munster final before the public at large were able to see it clearly. It was quite a surprise at that stage, whereas it would have been accepted without much comment had it begun in the League. Instead,

the League was opened promisingly by Tipperary. Still in the shadow of their dispute with the Dublin journalists, they put in several very promising displays without much publicity. The promise of several good players, however, was easily to be seen at this stage.

Noel O'Dwyer looked a wonderful prospect, first at centre-forward, then at centre-half back; he played splendidly right through the spring and early summer, only to be temporarily destroyed by being asked to hold the vital centre-back position in the Munster final. O'Connor, Hogan, Kelly, King, Lough-

perary think about the future and warn them that they must not expect to find that new teams grow automatically from old, even in a county like their's, which has never tasted failure for nearly two decades.

Wexford's case was less easily explained. Here was a team with youth and a healthy degree of experience, which had swept with irresistible power to the All-Ireland title in 1968, and which went progressively downhill ever since. There was as much contrast between Wexford's win in the 1968 All-Ireland final and their performance against Cork in losing heavily in the Grounds' Tournament semi-final in October 1969, as there was between Kilkenny's early League form and their subsequent winning All-Ireland performance.

A whole squad of Wexford players lost their touch completely, to the extent that they were scarcely recognisable as the men who thrilled thousands a short time previously. On top of that, they had a number of injuries, the most notable of which must have been that to Dan Quigley in the League final against Cork. Up to the time of the League final, they had been less than exciting, but, at least, they had made progress satisfactorily enough even when not hurling to form.

sion of John Quigley, and the dual interest of some of the players, through their part in the football championship, may have accounted for more of the decay.

Even then, Wexford were obviously taken aback by the strength of the challenge of Offaly, whose further progress this year was one of the noteworthy things in the hurling scene. That defeat seems to have thrown Wexford into great confusion, and the performance against Cork in the Grounds' Tournament lately was quite pathetic. With Wexford, however, you can never tell, and they may be back as threatening as ever next summer.

Cork made some noteworthy progress, as did Offaly: Kilkenny were transformed during the summer; Galway showed an improvement, though not a sufficient one, in the Railway Cup and in the championship and in recent challenges: Clare did not seem to lose much, though they still stand only on the fringe of achievement — the pattern of 1966 was sadly duplicated for them in the championship; Limerick qualified for the League semi-final by attrition rather than inspiration, and lost to Wexford at that stage in an unattractive match; Waterford, still holding some of the great veterans who did them so proud, show that their up-and-coming players are inadequate to the demands of the top-class; Dublin played one promising League match in Cork and were otherwise hopeless; Laois struggle on, not without some hope; Kildare had a noteworthy intermediate championship victory; Kerry are still the best juniors on the home front.

In lesser counties, there were interesting, if somewhat agricultural, performances. Some skill, no little enthusiasm, and definite progress is being marked in some of the fringe counties, and even those once considered beyond the fringe — Sligo, Leitrim, Louth, for instance. Equally, there are some counties who make no advancement whatever, and the results of the Hurling Plan must be declared only partially fruit-bearing.

If it's Esso it must be good!



John O'Donoghue — superb.

nane, Coen, and Seymour all showed good form, but, by the time the hard championship grind had arrived, the framework of experienced players who would have been necessary to hold the side together had become skimpy. Worse still, every one of them had lost form: Doyle, Keating, Roche, P. J. Ryan, McLoughlin, Flanagan were all less effective than they had been previously. John O'Donoghue was superb, of course, but the burden placed on him was too great.

There were internal troubles in Tipperary, too, and throughout the season the selection committee was a source of discontent, because of a lack of agreement as to how it should have been constituted. The final result was a miserable performance in the Munster final, which did not do justice to the county, and, indeed, only gave Cork the false impression that they were unbeatable.

Theo English, no less, has been loud in his finding fault with the preparation of the championship team, and with the remarkable lack of the normal Tipperary spirit in the fifteen. But, at least, it will all help to make Tip-



Jim Treacy — always sound.

The League final against Cork may have been a vital psychological test: Quigley was soon lost, and Buggy's substitution, though a memorable performance, did not entirely fill the void either then or subsequently. The suspen-

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New-Look Antrim Football League

It was a new-look Antrim football league that got under way last month. For the first time ever, there are seven divisions and 87 teams taking part. Forty-seven clubs are involved. To complete this mammoth league, it will take 524 games and at least 1,305 footballers will take part. This latter figure is, of course, the bare minimum, as it can be taken for granted that between one and two hundred more will play at some time in the competition.

BY TONY McGEE

The Antrim leagues are organised by the South Antrim Board and for the 1969-'70 season, this body felt that something new was needed. In an effort to improve senior football in the county, the nine best teams (in the executives' opinion) were selected and put into a new section called Div. 1A. This, unlike the other sections, will be played on a double round, home and away basis. The idea here is to give these teams more games against opposition of their own standard.

The remaining teams from the old Div. 1 and some from Div. 2 are now in the new Div. 1B.

In the other divisions we find that most teams have stepped up a division from last season, with most of the newcomers now in Division VI. St. Teresa's, winners of Div. IV last year with 23 points from 12 games, and St. Patrick's (Lisburn), runners-up to St. Teresa's with 22 points and also junior championship finalists, have both jumped from Div. IV to Div. II. Div. V winners and runners-up St. Columba's (Newtownabbey) and Russell's (Holywood) respectively, have been promoted to Div. III.

Patrick Sarsfield's, whose

senior team has won Div. I honours for the past four seasons have made their own piece of history this year. They have become the first club to enter four teams in the South

Antrim leagues.

It is notable that entries have also been received from the Armoy and Glenariff clubs. Hitherto, only hurling was played in these areas, but now

the boys from the Glens are anxious to have a go at the big ball game as well. Their appearance in the league should help to inject new interest into the competition.



Even injured players can be of use to their team as Mick Morris shows in the All-Ireland semi-final against Mayo.

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Q: Some time ago I fell off my motor cycle and hit my left knee off the roadway. It was very stiff for a while but after some massaging it was okay but still a bit weak.

Sometime afterwards I fell upon the knee during a hurling game and it gave way completely. An x-ray showed that there was blood in the joint and I was told to rest for a week, which I did. The accident occurred about 12 weeks ago.

A: The condition you complain of is called haemarthrosis of the knee and occurs when some of the blood vessels of the synovial knee membranes are torn as a result of severe impact on the knee and causes bleeding into the joint.

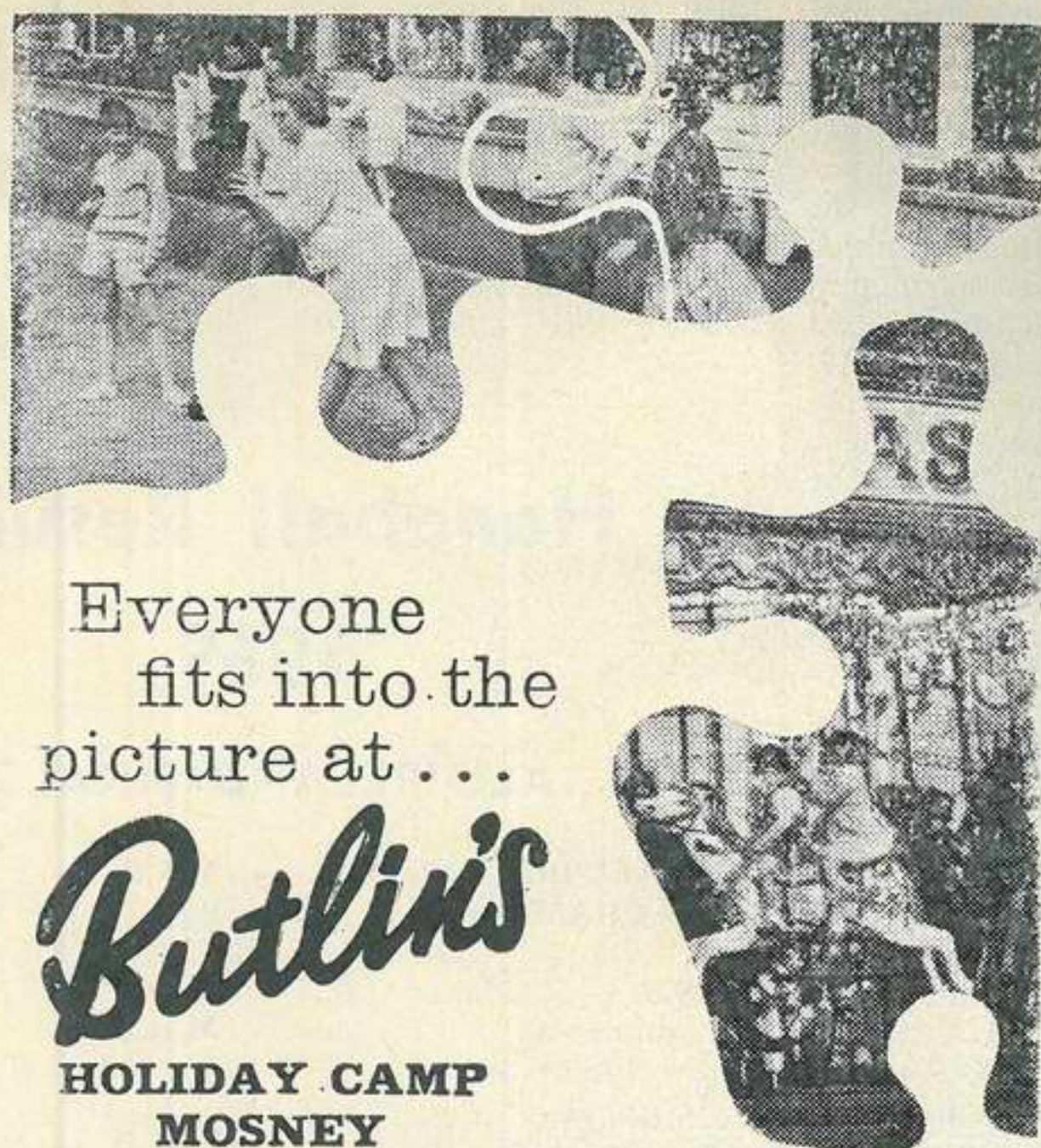
In a way it is a serious form of the common complaint known as 'water on the knee' and since you have rested the knee for so long now you should be now doing exercises to strengthen the joint again.

These should consist mainly of straight leg lifting with weights attached to the foot. There is no reason why your knee should not be perfect before very long.

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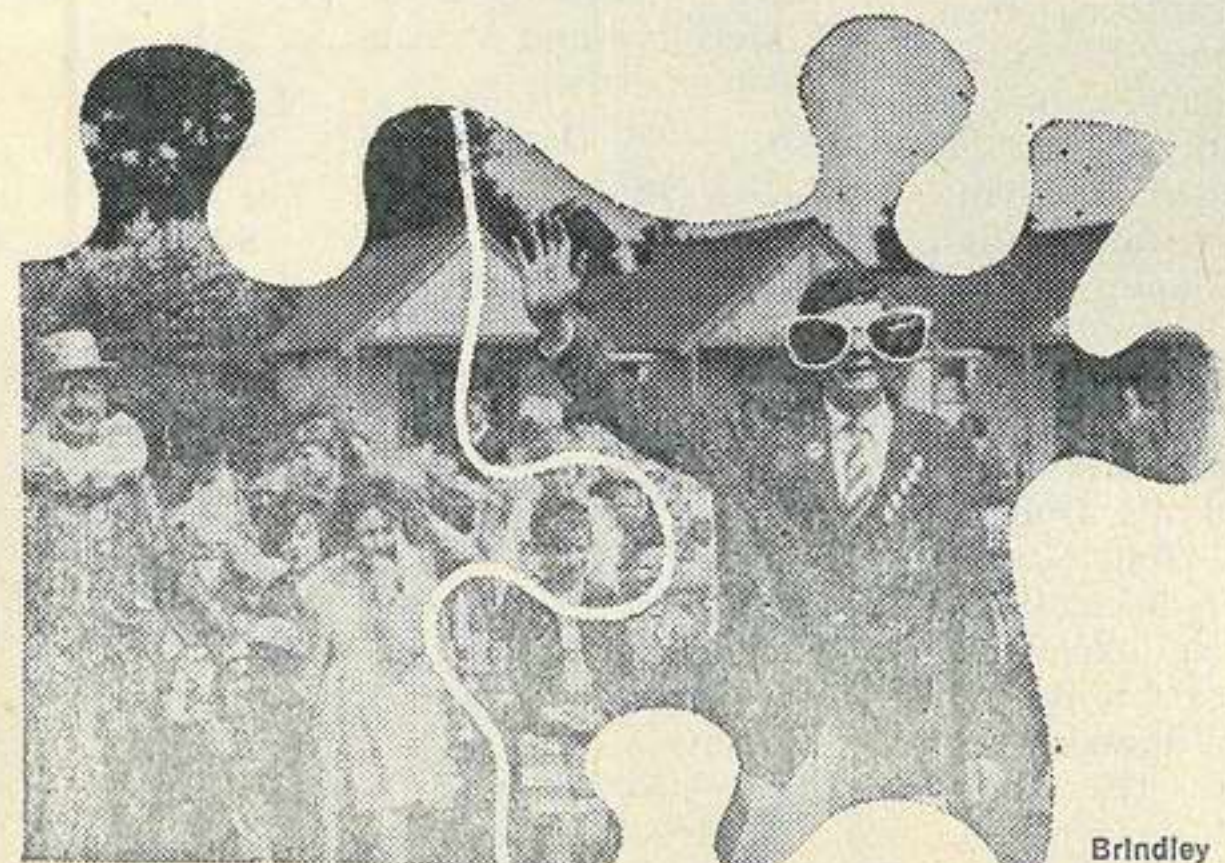
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Clarach Mac Eoin Looks Forward To—

Handball's Greatest Year

THE greatest event in the history of Irish handball will be held next May, when the World Handball Championships will be staged in the new modern ballcourt at Croke Park. The championship will extend over a week. It is a signal honour for our country, but it is only appropriate as handball originated in Ireland and thereafter was introduced to other continents by Irish emigrants.

The reason that Ireland was chosen for the event can also be attributed to the diplomatic negotiating ability of Handball Secretary Joe Lynch, who is also our representative on the International Committee. Joe, incidentally, was a prime-mover in the initiation of the World Championships in their present form, back in 1964, and, since then, he has been dedicated to promoting the game at international level.

Rev. Bro. B. C. Murphy, the President of the Irish Handball Council, has also been working extremely hard to ensure the success

of the World Championships.

An executive committee, consisting of Rev. Fr. Neville, C.C., a former President of the Irish Handball Council, Noel Hannon, the Dublin Secretary, Joe Jennings, a well-known Dublin businessman, and Sean Clerkin, Dublin Chairman, has also been punching in the hours in finalising arrangements.

Of all our national games handball has the most international appeal. Competition is very much confined in both hurling and football and even when we do compete against opposition from the U.S.A. or England, it is mainly comprised of Irish-born players.

Handball is different. For instance, when teams come from the U.S.A., Mexico, Canada, Australia and Ghana, it is unlikely that there will be an Irishman amongst them.

The game of handball itself should benefit immeasurably from the World Championships. Many young men and boys who have not been aware what

a skilful and enjoyable game handball is are very likely to be attracted to it, if they see any of the World Championship games on television.

Of course, the Handball Council would be unable to hold the World Championships were it not for the assistance of the G.A.A. As soon as the Irish Handball Council was given the go-ahead to stage the championships, the Central Council of the G.A.A. gave permission for the erection of a new handball court at Croke Park. In addition, besides making a sizable financial contribution to the cost of holding the championships, the G.A.A. has also agreed to act as guarantor for the balance.

Unfortunately the G.A.A. clubs did not display the same enthusiasm. The World Championship Committee had hoped to acquire a contribution of £3 from each club from a country-wide raffle which they organised, but the raffle which should have realised a profit of £9,000 yielded only £900. To say that the Handball Council



World champion Joe Maher with, from left, J. L. Reilly former Chairman of the Louth County Board and Executive Manager of GAELIC NEWS, Alf O Muiri and Louth County Secretary, Peadar Kearney.

has been disillusioned is an understatement. However, they are still hoping that a change of heart may prevail among the majority of clubs in the Association.

It will be interesting to see who will represent Ireland in the games. Joe Maher looks the most likely singles representative, provided he negotiates the forthcoming trials. The doubles position is much more fluid, as each province will nominate two partnerships for what could be termed a miniature All-Ireland. These doubles trials should be most interesting, as it is likely that such talented partnerships as the McEllistrim brothers from Kerry, Molloy and McGovern from Meath and the recently crowned All-Ireland softball champions Joe Clery and Paddy Lee of Wicklow will be in action.

With the World Championships so close at hand, one tends to overlook domestic matters to a degree but a review of the All-Ireland campaign just completed is appropriate at this stage. The highlight of course was Joe Maher's double in the senior grade. Willie Doran's perseverance was rewarded when he and G. Lawler, the former star minor, captured the hardball doubles for Kildare. And Kildare emphasised the healthy state of the older form of handball in the county by taking the corresponding junior doubles title.

Also prominent in this grade were Pat Davin (Tipperary), Mick McAuliffe (Limerick) and the Dublin partnership of Niall Cahill and Pat Masterson. In fact, Dublin had an excellent season as Macartan Brady and Matthew Williams won two minor titles. The other two minor titles went to John Quigley of Wexford

who was also assisted by his brother Noel, in the softball doubles title.

An encouraging sign during the past year and one which should help to popularise the game in the future is the number of floodlit and covered courts which were opened during the year — the latest being at Cappagh, Co. Limerick. Proof of the value of covered courts was shown when the Loughmacrory players, lining out in the

Tyrone colours, did so well in the recent championships.

And so the curtain comes down on another season. It will be a short respite, however, as, in another month, preliminary games will be in full swing for the World Championships. Let us hope that this time next year, we will be singing the praises of the three players who scored an historic double for Ireland.

COMHAIRLE LIATHROID LAIMHE NA h-EIREANN WORLD HANDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Next May Gaelic Games will get their first big break-through in the field of international sport when the Irish Handball Council acts as host to the first ever official world championship to be staged in our country. Players from as far away as Australia, Canada, Ghana, Mexico, America, etc, will be travelling to Ireland to take part in the third official world handball championship.

This great honour which has been conferred on our country brings with it many responsibilities if we are to ensure that the championships are an outstanding success, and at the same time project a good image of our country. In addition to meeting the expenses of promoting these championships, it is necessary to build a new modern handball alley, with up-to-date facilities capable of accommodating the many patrons who will be anxious to attend these games. This new alley will not alone serve these championships but will be available for future use by the youth of our country.

The Irish Handball Council with its very limited resources, could not possibly undertake such a venture unless it was assured of the full support of all G.A.A. patrons throughout the country. It is in this context that we appeal for the generous support of all readers of THE CUCHULAINN ANNUAL, and their friends. Subscriptions can be forwarded to any of the undersigned.

Please make cheques and money orders payable to the Irish Handball Council. All subscriptions will be acknowledged in the official souvenir programme.

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Handball Results 1969

ALL-IRELAND FINALS

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

S.S.S. — J. Maher (Louth); runner-up — P. McGarry (Limerick).

S.S.D. — J. Clery and P. Lee (Wicklow); R-up — M. Henry and D. Walsh (Sligo).

S.H.S. — J. Maher (Louth); R-up — P. McGee (Mayo).

S.H.D. — W. Doran and G. Lawler (Kildare); R-up — P. McGarry and M. McAuliffe (Limerick).

J.S.S. — P. Davin (Tipperary); R-up — M. Conway (Tyrone).

J.S.D. — N. Cahill and P. Masterson (Dublin); R-up — V. Moane and P. Bennis (Limerick).

J.H.S. — M. McAuliffe (Limerick); R-up — J. King (Wexford).

J.H.D. — E. Deegan and J. Browne (Kildare); R-up — M. Fitzgibbon and W. Myles (Kerry).

M.S.S. — M. Brady (Dublin); R-up — M. Walshe (Roscommon).

M.S.D. — J. and N. Quigley (Wexford); R-up — B. and M. O'Connor (Kerry).

M.H.S. — J. Quigley (Wexford); R-up — M. Walshe (Roscommon).

M.H.D. — M. Brady and M. Williams (Dublin); R-up — M. Walshe and M. Costello (Roscommon).

LEINSTER CHAMPIONS

S.S.S. — J. Maher (Louth).

S.S.D. — J. Clery and P. Lee (Wicklow).

S.H.S. — J. Maher (Louth).

S.H.D. — W. Doran and G. Lawler (Kildare).

J.S.S. — P. Masterson (Dublin).

J.S.D. — P. Masterson and N. Cahill (Dublin).

J.H.S. — J. King (Wexford).

J.H.D. — E. Deegan and J. Brown (Kildare).

M.S.S. — M. Brady (Dublin).

CAMOGIE COACHING HAS WORKED WONDERS

AT a first glance, the most noteworthy fact about the 1969 camogie season was that Wexford retained the O'Duffy Cup and the All-Ireland title for the second successive season. But if you care to look a little deeper, even more remarkable was the fact that, in winning their second successive senior crown, the Wexford girls had less than a goal to spare over Antrim in the final, and only came from behind to snatch victory from Tipperary in the closing minutes of the semi-final.

And remember in the other semi-final, Antrim were almost pipped in the closing seconds of the game by the girls from Galway.

Those results prove that there has been a general levelling up of standards all over the country, and when you consider the fact that in Leinster, Wexford have little to spare over either Dublin or Kilkenny, that Tipperary are only narrowly ahead of Cork, and that Antrim got a rare fright in the North from Derry, it is no wonder that the Central Council of the Camogie Association is looking forward to the 'seventies with complete confidence.

I feel that the coaching courses initiated in Belfast a couple of years ago, have had a great deal to do with the new approach to the game in so many counties. Those courses gave many players and officials an entirely new concept of what training and coaching teams meant. The spread of these courses south to Leinster and Munster during the past season, has proved very beneficial at all levels and Dublin Board Chairman, Miss Nell McCarthy, and Antrim stars, Maeve Gilroy and Moya Forde deserve tremendous credit for the work they have put into those courses.

Dublin made history last Easter by holding the first residential course at Gormanston College and had to confine it to Dublin club members, because of the numbers who wished to attend from the rest of Leinster. Cork, Roscommon and Limerick had camogie seminars, while Kilkenny had two coaching courses, and Munster had a gathering for referees.

During the coming season, such gatherings are also planned. Dublin hope to repeat last Easter's successful residential course, and the U.C.D. club have fairly elab-

orate plans for a one-day seminar, on the Belfield campus, which will be open to all students interested in the game.

And most important of all, the Leinster Colleges Council has tentative plans for a comprehensive get-together of all schoolgirls and schools coaches, who may be interested.

Indeed, it is on the colleges' front that camogie holds the most promise in the coming year. The inauguration of the All-Ireland colleges' championship has induced tremendous interest and the big influx of schools is going to pose some problems of administration and organisation. In this respect, the setting up of an All-Ireland Colleges' Council is a very timely move.

And it is to be hoped that two decisions taken at the last Congress will be implemented during the coming months... a competition for the vocational schools and one for the various institutes of higher education.

There is already a thriving competition in the Six Counties for the intermediate schools, which correspond to our vocational schools, but although there are such competitions in hurling and football, we have no similar competition for camogie. It is long overdue, and it is high time some practical steps were taken.

Just as pressing, if not more so, is the problem of camogie in the post-secondary sphere. Almost since the organised start of the game, the clubs in U.C.D., U.C.C., U.C.G. and Queen's Belfast have played a great part in promoting the game. After all, the Ashbourne Cup is the oldest existing camogie competition, but it is no longer sufficient.

Dublin University, and the new University of Ulster must be brought in. So must the teacher training colleges at Carysfort, Dublin, Limerick and Belfast, and the physical education schools, in which, for too long, hockey has had the competitive field entirely to itself.

These are problems that must be tackled and must be tackled now, if camogie is to make progress in the 'seventies.

The All-Ireland club camogie championship once again proved a most successful venture and attracted a far more representative entry than in some recent years. In

the final St. Paul's from Kilkenny retained the title for the second successive year by defeating the Munster and Limerick champions Ahane.

Nine of the Kilkenny team had played in the 1968 final, while Ann Carroll set up the amazing personal record of winning her fourth club championship medal in five seasons, as she had been on the winning St. Patrick's teams from Tipperary in 1965 and '66.

Since she also played on the U.C.D. team that won the Ashbourne Cup and the Leinster team that won the Gael-Linn Cup, it was a great year for her, but her record was almost equalled by her great friend, Jo Golden who kept goal for U.C.D. and St. Paul's and was a reserve on the Leinster side.

The camogie year ended on a most progressive note with the formation of an All-Ireland Colleges Council, which will be the supreme controlling body of Colleges Camogie.

The officers of this new Council are: Chairman, Miss L. Spence (Antrim); Vice-Chairman, Mrs. Purcell; Secretary, Miss M. Moran (Munster); Treasurer, Miss Clissman (Connacht); Delegate to Central Camogie Council, Mrs. Purcell.

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HANDBALL RESULTS

M.S.D. — J. and N. Quigley (Wexford).

M.H.S. — J. Quigley (Wexford).

M.H.D. — M. Brady and M. Williams (Dublin).

MUNSTER CHAMPIONS

S.S.S. — P. McGarry (Limerick).

S.S.D. — P. McGarry and M. O'Brien (Limerick).

S.H.S. — P. McGarry (Limerick).

S.H.D. — P. McGarry and M. O'Brien (Limerick).

J.S.S. — P. Davin (Tipperary).

J.S.D. — V. Moane and P. Bennis (Limerick).

J.H.S. — M. McAuliffe (Limerick).

J.H.D. — W. Myles and M. Fitzgibbon (Kerry).

M.S.S. — M. Aherne (Kerry).

M.S.D. — M. and B. O'Connor (Kerry).

M.H.S. — M. O'Connor (Kerry).

M.H.D. — M. and B. O'Connor (Kerry).

CONNACHT CHAMPIONS

S.S.S. — M. Walshe (Mayo).

S.S.D. — M. Henry and D. Walshe (Sligo).

S.H.S. — P. McGee (Mayo).

S.H.D. — P. McGee and M. Walshe (Mayo).

J.S.S. — B. Colleran (Mayo).

J.S.D. — B. Colleran and M. Kelly (Mayo).

J.H.S. — J. O'Brien (Roscommon).

J.H.D. — M. Kelly and T. Derrig (Mayo).

M.S.S. — M. Walsh (Roscommon).

M.S.D. — M. Walsh and M. Costello (Roscommon).

M.H.S. — M. Walsh (Roscommon).

M.H.D. — M. Walsh and M. Costello (Roscommon).

ULSTER CHAMPIONS

S.S.S. — S. McCabe (Monaghan).

S.S.D. — S. McCabe and L. Gilmore (Monaghan).

S.H.S. — S. McCabe (Monaghan).

S.H.D. — S. McCabe and L. Gilmore (Monaghan).

J.S.S. — M. Conway (Tyrone).

J.S.D. — M. Conway and H. Duff (Tyrone).

J.H.S. — M. Conway (Tyrone).

J.H.D. — B. Moore and K. Finnegan (Cavan).

M.S.S. — A. Donnelly (Monaghan).

M.S.D. — D. Sheridan and M. Brady (Cavan).

M.H.S. — J. McGovern (Monaghan).

M.H.D. — A. Donnelly

and J. McGovern (Monaghan).

GAEL-LINN CUP

Winner: J. Maher (Louth).

Finalists: R. Lyng (Wexford); D. Walshe (Sligo); P. Sheeran (Offaly); M. Walshe (Roscommon), M. Conway (Tyrone), P. McGarry (Limerick), P. Davin (Tipperary).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

1968

Winners: Wexford (J. King, J. Howlin, R. Lyng, S. Buggy).

Runners-up: Roscommon (P. Clarke, R. Doherty, P. Hoare, G. Mahon).

TAILTEANN GAMES

Senior: L. Molloy and D. McGovern.

Under-21 singles: P. Murphy (Wexford).

Under-21 doubles: P. McGarry and P. Bennis (Limerick).

Over-40 — J. Doyle and J. Quigley (Wexford).

Under-14 singles: V. Harold (Kilkenny).

Under-14 doubles: J. Barron and W. McCarthy (Kilkenny).

Under-16 singles: D. Kelly (Dublin).

Under-16 doubles: S. O'Connor and D. O'Sullivan (Cork).

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES

Winner: M. B. O'Connor (Tralee C.B.S.).

Runners-up: M. Brady and A. Donnelly, St. Macartans (Monaghan).

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We take this opportunity of extending our sincerest thanks to our Members, Players and Supporters for their great support over past years.

Relying on such loyalty we are confident that we can continue to make a useful contribution to the Association.

Sincerest wishes for a Happy Christmas and every Prosperity in the New Year.

Nollaig Shona d'Ar gCairde Uile
T. O. MEALLAIN, Cathaoirleach.

Cumann Luthchleas Gael

COISTE CONTAE AN AONTRAIM

The above Board through this medium, extend to all players, members and supporters sincerest thanks for loyal support and help in the past.

With such dedication and loyalty the Association will retain the place of honour which it has always enjoyed.

With sincerest wishes to all our friends for a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

NOLLAIG FAOI SHEAN D'AR gCAIRDE UILE

Cumann Luthchleas Gael

COISTE CONTAE NA MI

We wish to thank our players and supporters for their loyal assistance during 1969 and we look to their continued support during the season ahead.

We extend to all our friends the joys of a Happy Christmas.

NOLLAIG FAOI SHEAN IS FAOI MHAISE

COISTE CO. LAOISE

THE LAOIS COUNTY BOARD

take this opportunity to thank all their players, officials and supporters for their great work during the past year.

We also return thanks to the "Gaelic News" for their coverage of our games and wish them continued success in the future.

L. O Braonáin (Rúnaí On.)

50 YEARS HENCE ?

Collecting for one year now from the tiny congregation of Kidwelly, less than two per cent of the population of the Borough, we have £200 towards our new church to replace the asbestos building in use for 35 years and rapidly deteriorating. Thus we should have to wait 50 years to reach our target of £12,000 for a modest permanent church. Please try to shorten the impossible wait. Help us to dedicate a dignified church to Jesus and Mary ?

CAN YOU COME TO OUR AID ?

Please send a donation to Fr. James Howard, Catholic Church, Bury Port, Carmarthen, England. The smallest help will be joyfully acknowledged.

No Mass stipends please.

We Have Our Problems!

THOSE of us who will be reviewing the past twelve months and previewing the years to come in the light of the G.A.A. in full, what kind of a stock-taking will it be for us?

BY BRIAN GERAGHTY

A definite rise in the overall standard of county hurling with new faces from Offaly and Galway relieving the monotony, and the standard bearers of the Stars and Stripes striking a blow for those who strive to keep the game alive at Gaelic Park on 240th Street. That plus Kerry the

first side to come of age among the giants of Gaelic football.

There were other stories of success, like three new provincial champions in football but in perspective the successes are outnumbered.

The standard of county football in my humble opinion reached an all-time low. Since 1960 there has been a general decline, but there has been at least one really good team during all of that time. This year — well, I have seen much better Kerry teams fail to get out of Munster.

One does not have to go far to arrive at the cause of this. Just take the down-

ward step to club fare, so poor that soccer has made unbelievable strides in rural areas.

Various reasons are given for this most serious of all declines. Poor administration at all levels of G.A.A. is one, with no respect for the club. Not enough of games is another, and the fact that parochial loyalty which is dying a fast death, is no longer a saviour. Of course, television has played its part, with the majority of those who make the television and radio sports panels prone towards soccer.

But whatever the reason I say here and now that if

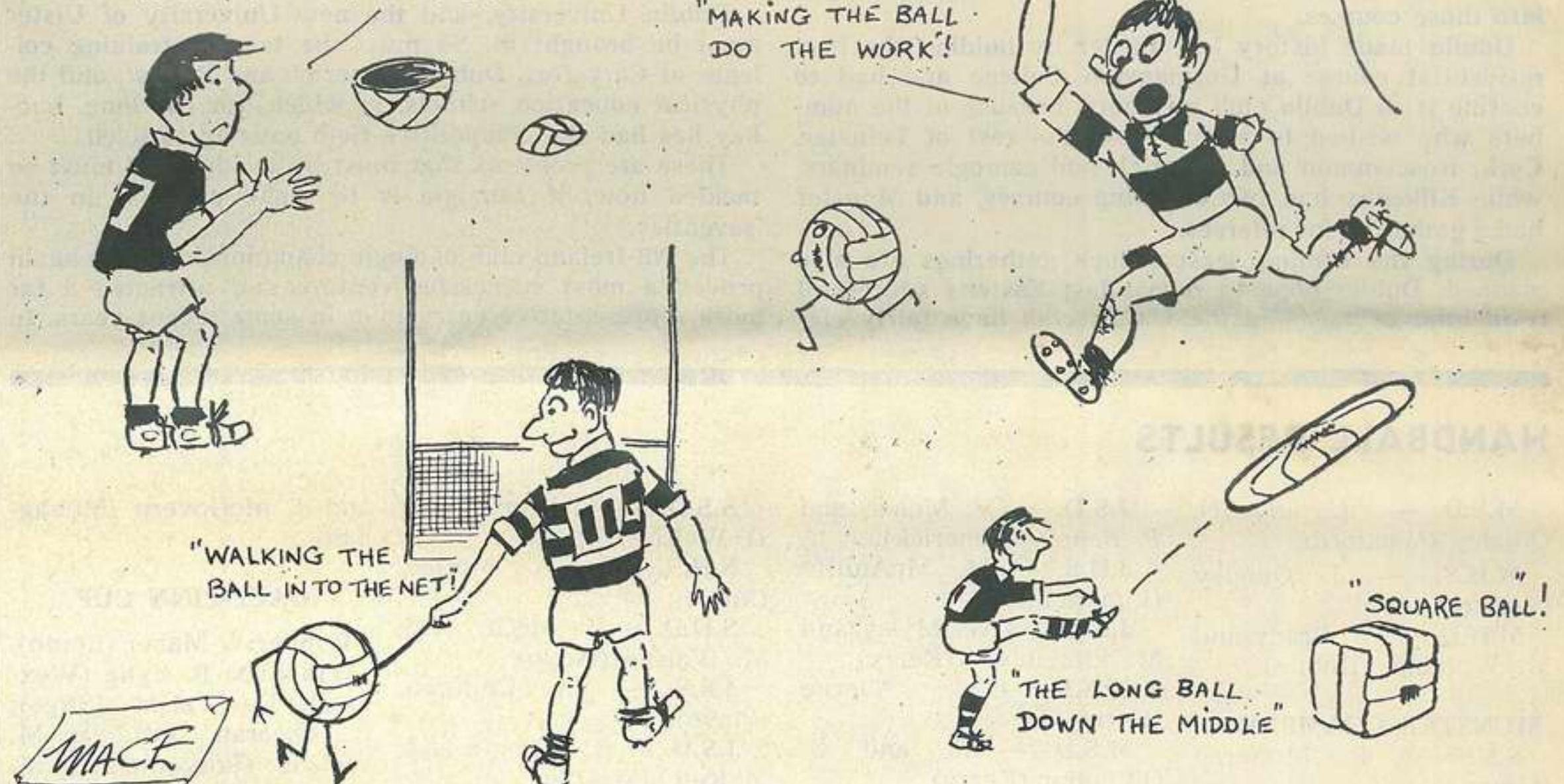
those who run the G.A.A. at every level do not really get down to combating the effects of soccer there will not be any G.A.A. to run shortly.

And note that I have never been pro-ban — I have absolutely nothing against any game. But I have always had too much love for the games of the Gael to think that just because they have not that international flavour, that they are not worthy. Hurling is still the greatest field game of all and the Gaelic brand of football has as many points in its favour as any, and more than most. Are we going to let them die ?

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THE G.A.A. AND STUDENT ACTION

BY DAVID COLLINS

AFTER a lifetime of slumber, the G.A.A. in the universities and allied institutions finally, in 1969, ventured forth into the big, bad world of open competition on a regular basis.

And in typical G.A.A. fashion, no sooner did the playing activities hot up a bit than the off the field activities also started to come to the boil. Last season several non-university centres were included in competitions at all levels and, in fact, the finals of two of the new competitions, the senior league and the Eoin McKenna Cup, were between non-university sides.

Then at last May's Annual General Meeting of the Universities Council, the original body formed in 1967 to expand inter-varsity games, a motion was passed in favour of confining the future activities of that body to catering for the five Irish lay universities and St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, which, of course, is also a full university.

This decision immediately evoked strong reactions from the Non-university teams and it was only after long negotiations that a workable agreement was evolved for 1969-'70 playing season. Briefly, it entailed creating a new body to organise games for the non-university teams with the understanding that there would be co-operation between the two groups, where feasible from the playing point of view.

This meant that the universities which are, with the exception of Maynooth, non-residential institutions and the clerical and training colleges, which are mainly residential, both had separate organisations, which could take into account their peculiar needs.

Under this system, complicated though it may seem, the overall objective of achieving G.A.A. prominence in all of these institutions seems likely to succeed. The Universities Council now caters for six institutions and the non-university body for roughly the same number.

While the Universities and other higher education institutions will naturally make their greatest impact on the playing fields, there are signs that before very long they will also become the hot-bed of new thinking in the G.A.A. Already there have been some indications that these centres are preparing to adopt the traditional role of universities in modern society — that of severe

criticism of bureaucracy and ultra-conservative policies and the taking of positive action to bring about changes.

The seminar held last summer in U.C.G.; the U.C.C. motion to Congress last year and the same club's introduction of hurling protective headgear and the publication of a thought provoking regular magazine by U.C.D. are proof that our institutes of higher education are prepared to set the pace in the G.A.A. How far they would be prepared to go in pursuit of their objectives or how far they could go is another question.

In our universities, the vast majority of G.A.A. members are highly critical and utterly dissatisfied with the behaviour of the G.A.A. as a whole. For years the bulk

of these members have been content to seek G.A.A. satisfaction within their college clubs, but in the future they will not be content to do this.

The attitude of mind is growing among students that if they are going to be involved with the G.A.A. at all — and many of them decide not to — then they might as well do something constructive to bring about the type of G.A.A. which they consider is best. If enough students are prepared to adopt this approach the G.A.A. as a body would very soon feel the impact.

And that is why Comhairle na nOllscoil as the body representing university students will play a major role in the future of the G.A.A.



Two well-known university footballers who obtained their B.C.L. degrees at U.C.D. recently were G. O'Reilly (Cavan) right, and Benny Gaughran (Louth).

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He isn't unusual; we are. We expect to live to 70. The majority of human beings will die before they reach 40. One third of them from starvation, the rest from hunger, malnutrition and the diseases brought on by their weakness. 40,000 starve to death every day.

1,500 million men, women and children are desperately hungry all their lives at present—and in 35 years that number will be doubled.

Famine relief cannot begin to solve the problem; worthy though it is, putting a few meals in a few stomachs is no answer to a catastrophe of this size.

There is only one solution: we must look beyond the crises of the day to the harvests of tomorrow, and help the hungry to feed themselves.

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GORTA is the official national branch of the Campaign; it represents all classes, creeds and opinions in Ireland, and it urgently needs funds to continue helping to solve what has been called the greatest challenge mankind has ever faced.

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Won't you help, by sending whatever you can spare—today?

gorta

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Cuchulainn Annual

PROVINCIAL RESULTS

LEINSTER

(Senior Football)

April 27: Carlow 1-13; Wicklow 2-7.
May 4: Dublin 3-7; Laois 1-5.
May 11: Carlow 1-10; Wexford 2-7.
June 1: Wexford 2-9; Carlow 2-7.
June 8: Wexford 3-5; Longford 1-8.
June 15 (semi-final): Kildare 0-18; Dublin 0-7.

June 29 Offaly 3-14; Westmeath 1-8.
July 13 (semi-final): Offaly 3-9; Wexford 1-10.
July 27 (final): Offaly 3-7; Kildare 1-8

(Senior Hurling)

May 25: Laois 5-12; Westmeath 0-1.
June 15: Offaly 8-10; Laois 2-5.
June 22 (semi-final): Kilkenny 2-20; Dublin 2-6.
June 29 (semi-final): Offaly 5-10; Wexford 3-11.
July 20 (final): Kilkenny 3-9; Offaly 0-16.

CONNACHT

(Senior Football)

June 15: Roscommon 2-12; Sligo 1-6.
June 22 (semi-final): Mayo 6-13; Leitrim 1-8.
July 6 (semi-final): Galway 0-8; Roscommon 0-1.
July 20 (final): Galway 1-8; Mayo 0-11.
August 3 (final replay): Mayo 1-11; Galway 1-8.

ULSTER

(Senior Football)

June 8: Antrim 2-10; Donegal 0-14.
June 15: Monaghan 1-9; Armagh 0-8.
Cavan 1-9; Fermanagh 2-4.
June 22: Down 0-8; Antrim 0-4.
June 29 (semi-final): Cavan 2-3; Derry 0-9.
July 6 (semi-final): Down 2-15; Monaghan 1-7.
July 13 (semi-final replay): Cavan 1-8; Derry 0-6.
July 27 (final): Cavan 2-13; Down 2-6.

MUNSTER

(Senior Football)

May 18: Tipperary 0-10; Waterford 1-7.
May 25 (semi-final): Cork 2-4; Clare 0-5.
June 8 (replay): Waterford 0-15; Tipperary 0-14.
June 15 (semi-final): Kerry 1-18; Waterford 2-7.
July 20: Kerry 0-16; Cork 1-4.

(Senior Hurling)

May 11: Cork 2-11; Clare 4-5.
June 1: Tipperary 3-18; Waterford 1-12.
June 15 (replay): Cork 3-8; Clare 1-4.
June 22 (semi-final): Tipperary 0-14; Limerick 2-5.
June 29 (semi-final): Cork 3-15; Galway 1-10.
July 27 (final): Cork 4-6; Tipperary 0-9.

All The Facts and Figures CHAMPIONS OF 1969

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

S.F.: Winners — Kerry; Runners-up — Offaly.

U-21 F.: Winners — Antrim; Runners-up — Roscommon.

J.F.: Winners — London; Runners-up — Wicklow.

J.F. (home): Winners — Wicklow; Runners-up — Kerry.

M.F.: Winners — Cork; Runners-up — Derry.

S.H.: Winners — Kilkenny; Runners-up — Cork.

I.H.: Winners — Kildare; Runners-up — Cork.

Under-21 H.: Winners — Cork; Runners-up — Wexford.

U-21 H (special): Winners — Kildare; Runners-up — Roscommon.

J.H.: Winners — Warwickshire; Runners-up — Kerry.

J.H. (home): Winners — Kerry; Runners-up — Antrim.

M.H.: Winners — Cork; Runners-up — Kilkenny.

M.H. (special): Winners — Roscommon; Runners-up — Kildare.

U-16 H. (average): Winners — Offaly; Runners-up — Antrim.

U-16 H. (special): Winners — Roscommon; Runners-up — Kildare.

CONNACHT CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.F.: Winners — Mayo; Runners-up — Galway.

U-21 F.: Winners — Roscommon; Runners-up — Galway.

J.F.: Winners — Galway; Runners-up — Sligo.

M.F.: Winners — Galway; Runners-up — Mayo.

I.H.: Winners — Mayo.

J.H.: Winners — Leitrim; Runners-up — Roscommon.

U-21 H (special): Winners — Roscommon.

M.H. (special): Winners — Roscommon.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.F. Winners — Offaly; Runners-up — Kildare.

U-21 F.: Winners — Laois; Runners-up — Wicklow.

J.F.: Winners — Wicklow; Runners-up — Meath.

M.F.: Winners — Wexford; Runners-up — Dublin.

S.H.: Winners — Kilkenny; Runners-up — Offaly.

I.H.: Winners — Kildare; Runners-up — Wicklow.

U-21 H.: Winners — Wexford; Runners-up — Kilkenny.

U-21 H (special): Winners — Kildare; Runners-up — Wicklow.

J.H.: Winners — Louth; Runners-up — Kildare.

M.H.: Winners — Kilkenny; Runners-up — Dublin.

M.H. (special): Winners — Kildare.

MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.F.: Winners — Kerry; Runners-up — Cork.

U-21 F.: Winners — Cork; Runners-up — Kerry.

J.F.: Winners — Kerry; Runners-up — Tipperary.

M.F.: Winners — Cork; Runners-up — Kerry.

S.H.: Winners — Cork; Runners-up — Tipperary.

I.H.: Winners — Cork; Runners-up — Galway.

J.H.: Winners — Kerry.

U-21 H.: Winners: Cork; Runners-up — Tipperary.

M.H.: Winners — Cork; Runners-up — Tipperary.

ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

S.F.: Winners — Cavan; Runners-up — Down.

U-21 F.: Winners — Antrim; Runners-up — Down.

J.F.: Winners — Derry; Runners-up — Down.

M.F.: Winners — Derry; Runners-up; Tyrone.

I.H.: Winners — Antrim; Runners-up — Down.

J.H.: Winners — Antrim; Runners-up — Donegal.

U-21 H.: Winners — Down; Runners-up — Antrim.

M.H.: Winners — Antrim.

M.H. (special): Winners — Donegal; Runners-up — Armagh.

RAILWAY CUPS

F.: Winners — Connacht; Runners-up — Munster.

H.: Winners — Munster; Runners-up — Connacht.

LEAGUE TOURNAMENTS, ETC.

N.F.L.: Winners — Kerry; Runners-up — New York.

N.F.L. (home): Winners — Kerry; Runners-up — Offaly.

N.H.L.: Winners — Cork; Runners-up — Wexford.

N.H.L. (Div. 2): Winners — Kildare; Runners-up — Westmeath.

N.H.L. (Div. 3): Winners — Louth; Runners-up — Sligo.

World Cup (F): Winners — Kerry; Runners-up — New York.

World Cup (H): Winners — New York; Runners-up — Kilkenny.

Dr. McKenna Cup 1968 (F): Winners — Cavan; Runners-up — Down.

Dr. McKenna Cup 1969: Winners — Derry; Runners-up — Tyrone.

Oireachtas Cup (S.H.): Winners — Kilkenny; Runners-up — Cork.

Wembley Tournament (F): Winners — Down; Runners-up — Kerry.

Wembley Tournament (H): Winners — Tipperary; Runners-up — Wexford.

Corn na Casca (F): Winners — Meath; Runners-up — Dublin.

O'Byrne Cup 1967 (F): Winners — Meath; Runners-up — Dublin.

Sigerson Cup (F): Winners — U.C.C.; Runners-up — U.C.G.

Fitzgibbon Cup (H): Winners — U.C.D.; Runners-up — U.C.C.

Universities S.F.L.: Winners — St. Patrick's, Maynooth; Runners-up — St. Joseph's T.C.

COLLEGES

All-Ireland S.F.: Winners — St. Brendan's, Killarney; Runners-up — St. Mary's, Galway.

All-Ireland S.H.: Winners — St. Finbarr's, Farranferris; Runners-up — St. Kieran's, Kilkenny.

Vocational Schools (F): Winners — Tyrone; Runners-up — Dublin City.

Vocational Schools (H): Winners — North Tipperary; Runners-up — Offaly.

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland (S): Winners — Wexford; Runners-up — Antrim.

All-Ireland (J): Winners — Derry; Runners-up — Cork.



Eddie Keher holds aloft the McCarthy Cup.

All-Ireland Finals Scores

September 7: S.H. — Kilkenny 2-15; Cork 2-9. M.H. — Cork 2-15; Kilkenny 3-6.

September 14: J.F. (home) — Wicklow 0-12; Kerry 1-8. U-21 F — Antrim 1-8; Roscommon 0-10. U-21 H — Cork 5-13; Wexford 4-7.

September 28: S.F. — Kerry 0-10; Offaly 0-7. M.F. — Cork 2-7; Derry 0-11. M.H. (special) — Roscommon 2-6; Kildare 3-2.

October 6: J.H. (home) — Kerry 6-11; Antrim 2-10. J.F. — London 3-9; Wicklow 1-12.

October 13: J.H. — Warwickshire 3-6; Kerry 0-11. I.H. — Kildare 2-8; Cork 3-4. U-16 (average) — Antrim 4-9; Offaly 6-3.

October 27: U-21 H (special) — Kildare 8-5; Roscommon 4-5. U-16 H (average) replay — Offaly 4-5; Antrim 3-7

S.F. SEMI-FINALS

August 10: Kerry 0-14; Mayo 1-10.
August 24: Offaly 0-12; Cavan 1-9.
September 14 (replay): Offaly 3-8; Cavan 1-10.

S.H. SEMI-FINAL

August 17; Kilkenny 3-22; London 1-10.

N.F.L. SEMI-FINALS

April 20: Offaly 2-13; Donegal 1-3.
May 11: Kerry 2-12; Westmeath 2-8.
N.F.L. (home) FINAL
May 18: Kerry 3-11; Offaly 0-8.

N.F.L. FINAL

June 22: Kerry 0-12; New York 0-12.
June 29: Kerry 2-21; New York 2-12.
Aggregate: Kerry 2-33; New York 2-24.

N.H.L. FINAL

May 4: Cork 3-12; Wexford 1-14.

Rules That Hinder The Game

Liam Campbell Reports



CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEIL

COISTE CONDAE LONGFOIRT

The Chairman and officers of above Coiste extend best wishes to all our members, players and supporters for a very Happy Christmas, with success and prosperity in New Year.

Is mise,
SEAN O'DONNGHAILE,
Runai.

To be really informed on all G.A.A. affairs you must read:—

Gaelic News

each month

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEIL

COISTE CONDAE ROS COMAIN

To G.A.A. members everywhere, and all our members, players and supporters in particular, we send heartiest Christmas Greetings and best wishes in all their efforts throughout the New Year.

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEIL

COISTE CONDAE CILL MAINTAIN

Thanks to all our members, players and supporters and in particular to our All-Ireland Junior Football Champions (Home) for our success.

We face the future with confidence in our great Association and the contribution we shall make.

Wishing all a very Happy Christmas and every success in the years to come.

S. MacNIOCAILL, Runai.

THE year 1969 is as good as gone, and it will probably be remembered chiefly as a year of few memories. Standards weren't particularly high, and most of the decisive big matches (except the hurling final) were anti-climactical. It is worth considering that 1969 may turn out to be the last year for many features of the games which we have come to accept.

The Rules Committee is at work right now, and we may look with hope to their findings... let us hope, too, that these findings will be listened to and acted-upon — fast. Because, as far as I can judge, some of the playing rules are making more than their fair share of contribution to the alarming drop in interest in the games.

I'm thinking now of football particularly. This is not the first time lately that I've said that I am sick, sore, tired and sorry with teams that do nothing about defending their goals except that most negative and soul-destroying foul known as the "pull-down." Our thinking has gone so crooked in this regard that you actually hear supporters screaming at their backs to "pull him down!", as a forward heads towards goal... and the idea is that the further out the foul is committed the better, since points are that much harder to kick. And anyway a point against you is better than the goal that might have been.

But it's here that the thinking is wrong, because a point against you is not better, but less bad — and there's the negative side of it. In the fabulous 'fifties it didn't seem to matter; the customers came anyway, and backs seem to have been better at defending than at just dragging their man down. But the slowing 'sixties showed us that there are people of discernment about who will not pay money to see this mauling masquerading as football, and the swinging 'seventies will need to offer more than mere swinging out of a forward.

A Point is a Point

What's the solution? Not awarding two points for a fourteen-yards free... a point should be still a point. Not a

send-off penalty for persistent offenders, since that would be impossible to administer fairly and would tempt forwards to "buy" frees instead of playing the ball. No, the only answer to this one must come from players themselves, and frankly I'm not optimistic... you've only got to listen to supporters (yes, and officials) to realise that a back not getting in on the pull-down act, when in trouble, would soon be in worse trouble.

Maybe the enlarging of the square would help. Certainly the awarding of more penalties would enliven the game, but I think backs would get cute fast enough and we'd see less of the thumping and blocking around goalmouths that at the moment leads frequently to fists and boots flying at more than the ball. The present small square makes for tight close play that is not entertaining... and the cash customers want entertainment, remember?

Another thing the Rules Committee is said to be considering is a switch to thirteen-a-side. It might be a good idea all right, but I can't see any benefit in it, unless the square is enlarged and the "square-ball" rule is applied properly. As for the pick-up, I'd do away with it altogether... those who can't do it properly only slow-up the game and cause scrambles of the most unseemly nature.

How many times have you seen a forward bend to pick up a ball inside a square, when all he had to do was look at the thing and it would have gone into the net? But there comes the old whine: "But the pick-up is a basic skill of the game..." All right, fair enough, you're quite correct, you never said a truer word. But another basic skill was the hand-pass, and where, my friends, is that these days?

More open Play

Talk of the hand-pass reminds me of the very large number of older players and ex-players who have told me that they'd like to see it back; with the extra fitness of today, they claim, it would make the game far more open, and therefore far more entertaining to play and watch, and, of course, far cleaner.

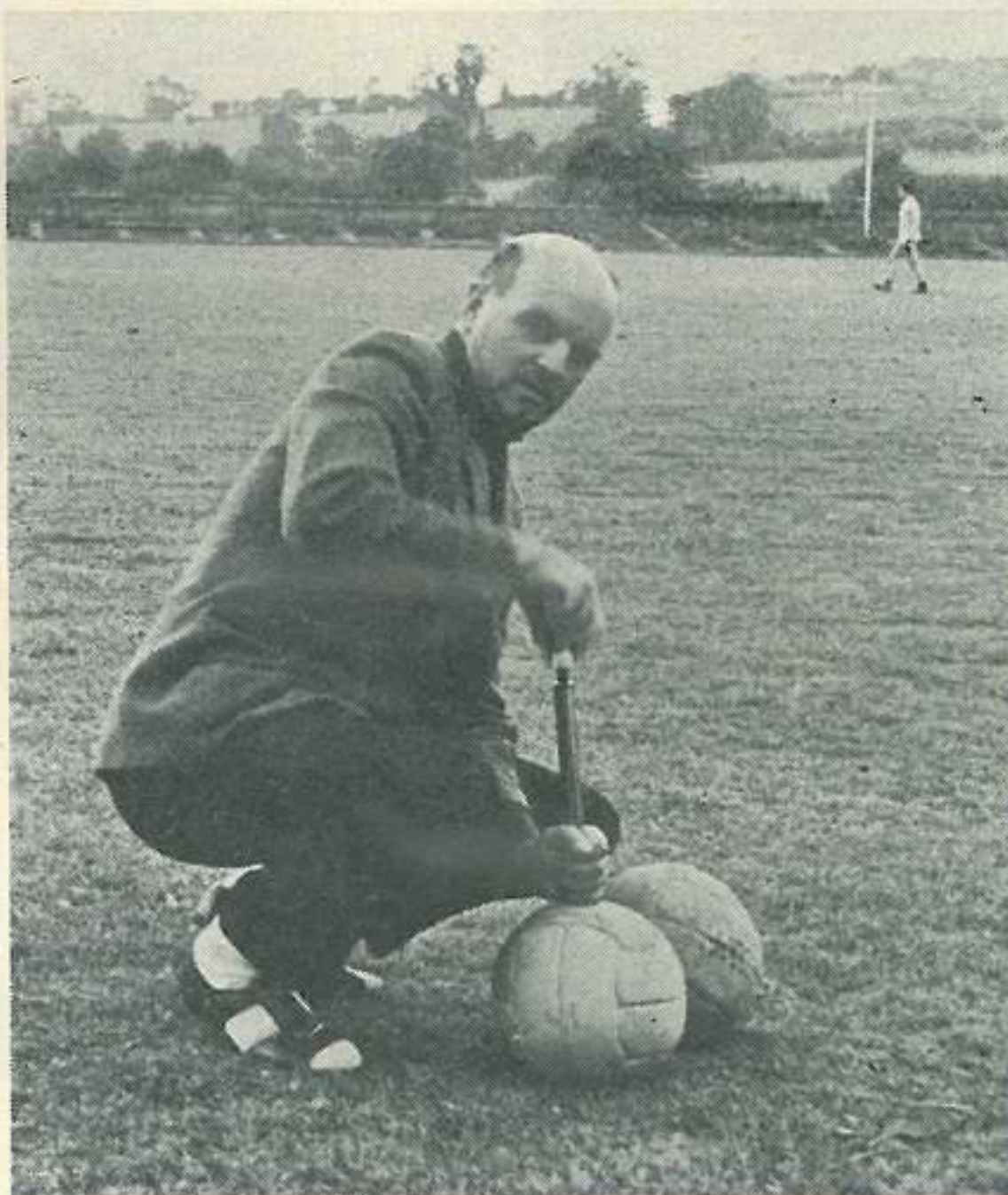
And let us all make one good resolution at least for 1970: to make the lives of referees a little easier. They are unpaid (and un-thanked) voluntary officials who are, I'll swear, doing their level best to be fair to all. I have never yet seen a referee in a game of any importance give a deliberate wrong decision. I have, of course, seen them make mistakes, but then I make mistakes, too, and I've a feeling you're not always perfect yourself.

In return, would referees do this much for us — apply the rules regarding tackling far more strictly? I've said this before, too, that a man with the ball is liable to be hit with nearly anything and that this doesn't encourage anyone to try and play good football. Why should they, when the other stuff pays better?

The answer to my grumble may be that if the ref. blew for everything, there would be no play at all. This is nonsense, players are not stupid, and two or three whistles for abrasive tackling would teach them how things stood.

Looking back over all this, I'm afraid that it contains a lot of grumbles, but I sincerely feel that now is the time to act, and act decisively, while we still have a game to grumble about.

No grumbles about this final wish, I hope... a very happy Christmas and an even happier New Year, particularly to those who have read as far as this. You deserve something for your patience.



Every county team has its unofficial handymen who stick with the county through thick and thin. Such a man is Sonny Galligan, pictured here at one of Cavan's training sessions in Breffni Park before the All-Ireland semi-final.

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CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEIL

COISTE CONDAE ATH CLIATH

We take this opportunity of thanking all our members, players and supporters for loyalty over the years.

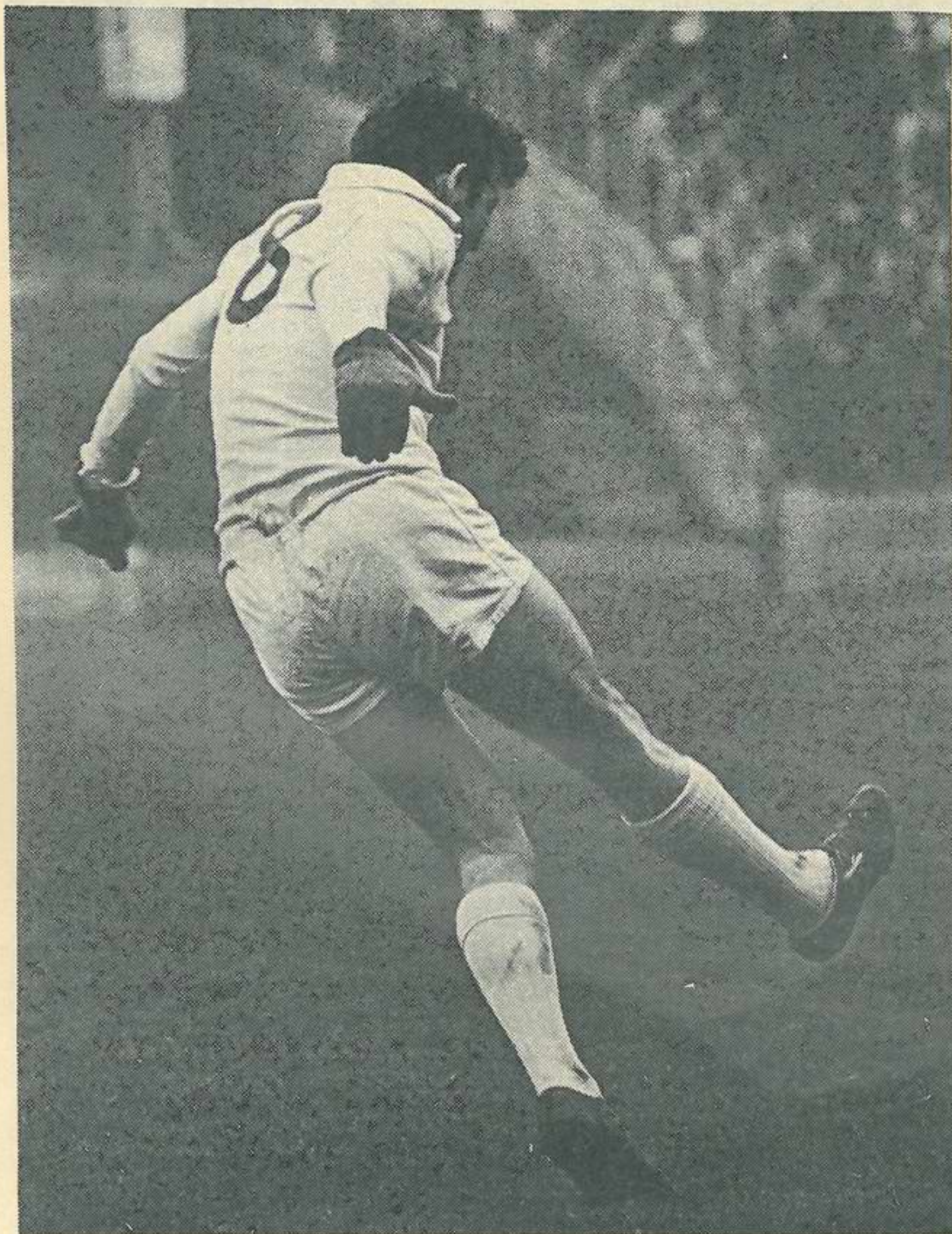
To one and all we send best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and success in the New Year.

Cumann Luthchleas Gael

COISTE CONTAE LIATROMA

This opportunity is availed of to extend sincere wishes to our players, members and supporters for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

We also wish to thank all concerned for their loyal support in the past and hope to have it in the years ahead, so that our efforts may be successful.



Jack Donnelly sends over the bar.

A Fine Year

TWO names dominate the intercounty scoring achievements of 1969 — Jimmy Doyle and Paddy Doherty . . . the Tipperary hurler for one of the most noteworthy records of all time, and the Down footballer, not for any outstanding high-scoring feat, for a change in a wonderful career, but for his farewell from the match-winning art of making and taking of scores.

Doyle put the outstanding achievement into the record book in the National League semi-final with Cork, at Thurles, in April. He scored 1-2 in that game to bring his record as a senior to exactly 1,000 points — the first hurler or footballer to reach this impressive high-point. His actual score then stood at 105 goals and 685 points.

The Thurles sharpshooter took almost twelve years to reach that figure, although it must be remembered that an injury sustained in mid-1966 kept him on the sideline for 13 months, and that he was again out of hurling for some months after going off with an injury during the 1968 All-Ireland final.

But for those spells of inactivity, Doyle would undoubtedly have reached the 1,000 points peak earlier, for his match average is a truly wonderful one of

6.25 points. And he scored in all but four of the 160 games he took to compile this outstanding total.

The Tipperary man's best score for a full year's campaign is 10-87 (117 points) in 17 games in 1964, which also ranks as the Munster record. That points total of 87, as distinct from goals and points combined, ranks also as the record in this regard for one year's campaign.

Doherty, of course, has been a consistent rival of Doyle's in the intercounty scorers' chart. His total of 13.97 (136 points) in 24 games in 1960 ranks as the Ulster record, and it is also the second best in football. Leading the way is Mickey Kearins (Sligo) with 2-135 (141 points), in 24 engagements, in 1968.

The Down sharpshooter made his last intercounty appearance in a challenge game with Galway at Croke Park in August, in aid of the Northern Relief Fund. It was a brilliant farewell by the Ballykinlar

ace . . . a top-class display, in which he turned on yet again the matchless qualities that kept him one of the game's greatest match-winners for so long. He shot one goal and three points.

Those scores brought Doherty's figures to 73 goals and 703 points — (922 points) from 195 games. This works out at 4.72 points a match. He failed to score in only four outings. But for the fact that he was out of football in 1967 — Down had 19 games that year, Doherty might well have gone close to that magical 1,000 points total.

The only other player in this elite company is Eddie Keher. The Kilkenny hurler had a doubly memorable day in the All-Ireland semi-final win over London, in which he scored 0-12. That brought his record as a senior to 109 goals and 628 points (955 points) in 162 hours, and he went on to add to that score in the following months.

In the first half of the year, there was a great struggle between Cyril Dunne and Mickey Kearins for ranking as the first Connacht man to break 600 points. The Galway footballer eventually made

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Ball den Chomhar-Ghasra de Bhainc Eireannacha

A GOOD

THE past year has been a wonderful one for the N.A.C.A. What gave most satisfaction during 1969 was the amount of competition provided for the athletes right through the year.

The All-Ireland junior cross-country championships were held in Newry and here it is appropriate to commend Stanley Smith for his efficient organising of the championships. The N.A.C.A. are also grateful to St. Colmans College, Newry, for kindly allowing the championships to be staged on their grounds.

The All-Ireland senior and youths' cross-country championship, which attracted a large entry, were held at Ballytarsna, Cashel, Co. Tipperary. Clare scored a double in these championships.

The track and field season got off to a fine start on the first Sunday in May when a keenly contested sports was held at Riverstick, Co. Cork. Other outstanding meetings were held at Killarney, Clonmel, Listowel, Ballydaly, Kinsale, Shillelagh, Shaneglish, Iveagh Grounds, Dublin, Ballinspittle, Millstreet, Summerhill, Scurlogstown, Olympiad, Ballaghaderreen, St. Marys Clare, Ballyboughhill and, of course, not forgetting the sports which were held in Battersea Park, London, on August 24. Athletes from Birmingham, Liverpool, London, Galway, Cork, Tipperary, Meath and Dublin took part in this meeting.

Proof of the popularity of the N.A.C.A. was evidenced in one week-end in August when ten sports meetings were held throughout the country.

Following are the results of the All-Ireland championships. All-Ireland senior cross-country:

Team — 1, Clare; 2, Cork; 3,

London.

Individual — 1, A. Bradley (London); 2, J. O'Brien (Cork); 3, V. Webb (Cork).

All-Ireland junior cross-country:

Team — 1, London; 2, Cork; 3, Tipperary.

Individual — 1, T. Hardiman (London); 2, M. McDonagh (London); 3, T. Ryan (London).

All-Ireland youths cross-country:

Team — 1, Clare; 2, Cork; 3, Tipperary.

Individual — 1, C. Maher (Tipperary); 2, J. Egan (Kerry); 3, M. O'Sullivan (Kerry).

All-Ireland ladies cross-country:

Team — 1, Tipperary; 2, Cork and Clare tied.

Individual — 1, B. Leaney (Tipperary).

All-Ireland senior track and field championships 1969:

100 metres — 1, S. Horan (Mullingar A.C.), 11.1 secs.; 2, G. Keneally (Millstreet); 3, B. Delaney (Ballymore).

200 metres — 1, B. Mooney (Ballinabrackey A.C.), 23.3 secs.; 2, G. Keneally (Millstreet); 3, S. Horan (Mullingar).

400 metres — 1, S. Fitzgerald (London), 51.2 secs.; 2, G. Greaney (Killarney); 3, B. Mooney (Ballinabrackey).

800 metres — 1, S. Fitzgerald 1 min. 58.5 secs.; 2, W. Neenan (Millstreet); 3, N. O'Sullivan (Killarney).

1,500 metres — 1, W. Keane (St. Johns A.C.), 3 mins. 53.7 secs.; 2, W. Neenan (Millstreet); 3, N. O'Sullivan.

2 miles — 1, W. Keane; 2, M. O'Connor (London); 3, J. O'Brien (Ballymore).

3 miles — 1, W. Keane; 2, J. O'Brien.

5,000 metres — 1, W. Keane; 2, J. O'Brien; 3, W. Neenan (Rising Sun).

15 mile road championship — 1, W. Keane; 2, J. O'Brien; 3,

For The Marksmen

it with just three weeks to spare.

At Killarney on June 1, Dunne helped himself to 1-3 in a Collins Cup game with Kerry to bring his score to 36-495 (603 points), in 155 matches. On June 15, a score of 0-3 against Roscommon, in the Connacht championship, at Sligo, left Kearins with 16-553 (601 points) from 113 tests. So, although edged out of the distinction of being Connacht's pace-setter, the Sligo man still had, by far, the better match average (5.31 points), as against Dunne's 3.89 minors.

In 1966, Jack Donnelly had the tantalizing experience of failing by a mere two points to establish a new Kildare county football record, when he scored 0-74 in 20 games, a personal best to then. The top score then stood to the credit of Kieran O'Malley, at 5-60 (75 points), in 14 games, in 1959.

The hastily - arranged Kerry-Kildare challenge, as a curtain-raiser to the drawn Offaly-Cavan semi-final, saw Donnelly finally make it. In the rain that August day at Headquarters, he pointed five times to leave the pitch with 2-

71 (77 points) to his name after 15 games. His average was close to O'Malley's in that 1959 campaign — 5.13 points to O'Malley's 5.35 points in that run some ten years ago.

Another early county record-maker was Sean Woods. In 1968, he pushed the Monaghan football peak of 3-30 (39 points), in nine games by Gerry Fitzpatrick in 1965, up to 2-37 (43 points) in 12 outings. In the first half of 1969, Woods was in even more dynamic sharp-shooting form. In the Ulster semi-final with Down, at Armagh, in early July, he scored a goal from a penalty, and raised five white flags. That was only his eighth game of the year, and earned him a score of 4-33 (45 points) — a new record, then, at the fine match total of 5.62 points. Both Donnelly and Woods have improved on those figures in the meantime.

Among the younger brigade, Charlie McCarthy was a bright light. He set up some spectacular scoring barrages, and in the All-Ireland final, his score of 1-6 set him striding out firmly on the road to his 300th point. That was the 54th senior outing for the Cork hurler, and earned

him 37-93 (204 points), at the rate of 3.77 points an hour.

It was a great year for Wexford football — and Jack Berry. The county's ace score-getter in recent years, and holder of the Wexford record at 7-28 (49 points) in eight games, in 1968, he earned the proud rating of being the first Slaneysider in modern times to top the Leinster championship chart. In four games, he scored 2-20 (26 points), at the wonderful match average of 6.50 points.

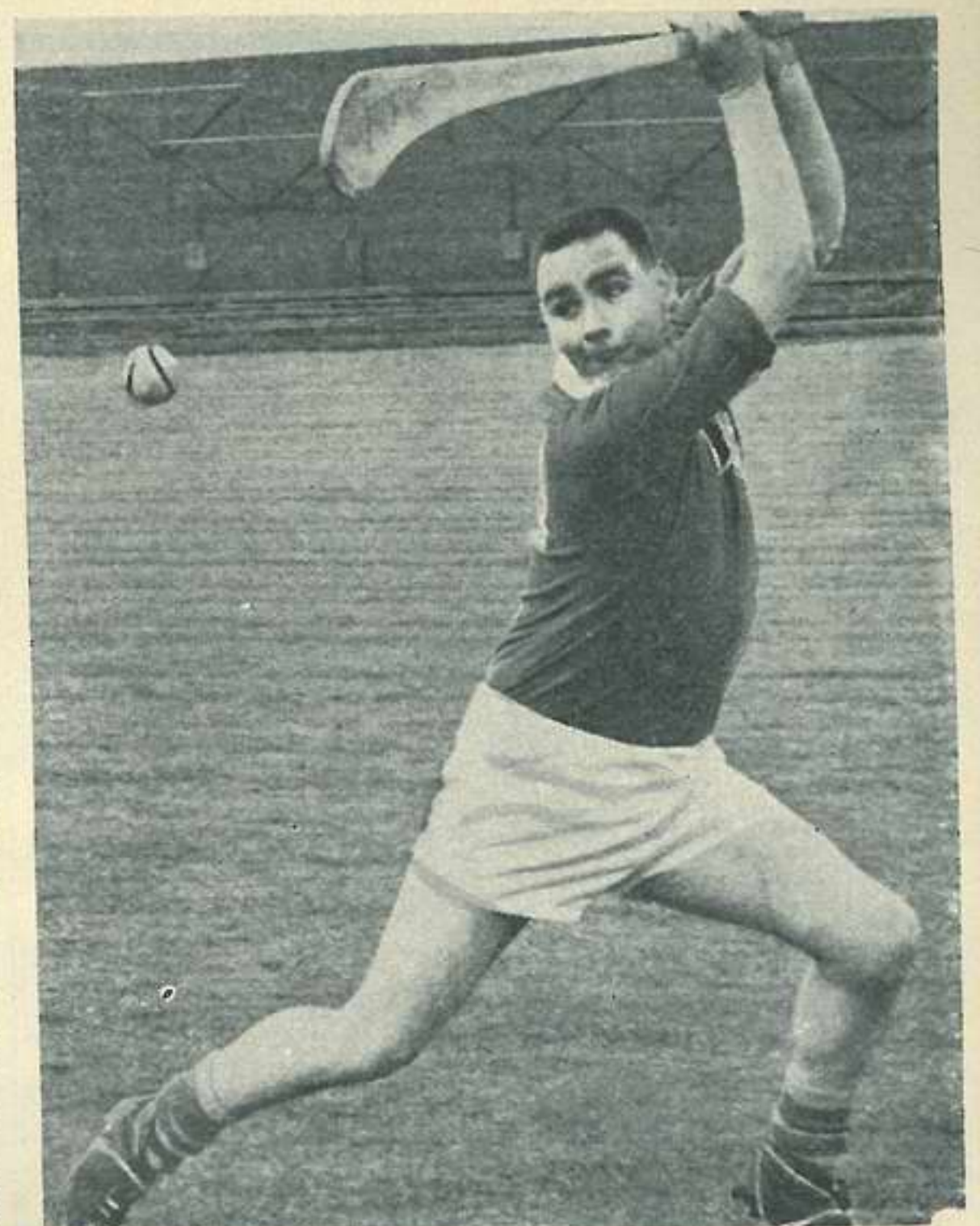
One of the most decisive wins of the year was scored by Offaly footballers on March 9. They beat Kilkenny in a senior challenge game at Kilkenny by 27 points — 5-16 to 1-1. That afternoon, too, Kildare had 26 points to spare over Waterford (6-11 to 0-3), at Droichead Nua, in a National Football League tie. Kildare also figured in one of the most clear-cut football wins since 1955, back in 1963, when they trounced Carlow by 9-7 to 1-1 in the League at Athy — a winning margin of 30 points.

In the premier grade of hurling, Laois beat Westmeath by 26 points (5-12 to 0-1) in the Leinster

championship at Tullamore. But this is still a far cry from Tipperary's winning margin of 50 points against Kerry in a National League tie in March 1958. The score: Tipperary, 15-14; Kerry, 2-3.

In that Kildare win over Waterford, Tommy Carew had a golden hour for Kildare. He smashed home 4-1 . . . one of the outstanding individual scoring feats of the year in football.

In hurling, Paddy Molloy was in great form in Offaly's Leinster championship win over Laois at Portlaoise. He shot 5-4 — another of the outstanding scoring achievements of 1969.



Jimmy Doyle

YEAR FOR N.A.C.A.

W. Neenan (Rising Sun).

Decathlon — 1, P. J. Fitzpatrick (Guinness), 4,878 points; 2, D. McCarthy (Dundrum), 4,752 pts.; 3, J. Kelly (Dundrum), 4,360 pts.

Marathon — 1, J. Hughes (Bros. Pearse); 2, M. Ryan (London); 3, J. Fox (Bros. Pearse).

FIELD EVENTS:

Long Jump — 1, L. Buckley (Ballydaly), 20 ft. 6½ ins.; 2, J. Cullinane (Killarney), 20 ft.; 3, S. Burke (Old Abbey, Cork), 19 ft. 6 ins.

High Jump — 1, M. Spillane (Killarney), 5 ft. 9 ins.; 2, D. McCarthy (Dundrum), 5 ft. 8 ins.; 3, W. Brady (Tracton) and T. McNamara (Millstreet) tied.

Triple Jump — 1, L. Buckley (Ballydaly), 44 ft.; 2, P. Nugent (Liberties), 42 ft. 6 ins.; 3, D. McCarthy, 41 ft. 10 ins.

16 lbs. Hammer — 1, P. Crehan (Guinness), 152 ft. 3 ins.; 2, L. Poynton (Mullingar), 135 ft. 11 ins.; 3, J. Conroy (Boardsmill), 126 ft. 6 ins.

16 lb. Shot — 1, B. Walsh (Birmingham), 40 ft. 2 ins.; 2, D. Slattery (Killarney), 39 ft. 8½ ins.; 3, L. Poynton, 33 ft. 2 ins.

Discus — 1, D. Slattery, 130 ft. 6 ins.; 2, L. Poynton, 123 ft. 4½ ins.; 3, B. Walsh 117 ft. 10 ins.

Throwing 35 lbs. weight — 1, P. Crehan, 53 ft. 3 ins.; 2, L.

Poynton, 47 ft. 8 ins.; 3, G. Conroy, 46 ft. 7 ins.

56 lb. for distance — 1, G. Connell (Marian, Clare), 26 ft. 3 ins.; 2, K. Molloy (Schull), 25 ft. 6 ins.; 3, D. Prenderville (Killorglin), 25 ft. 3 ins.

56 lb. over bar — 1, D. Prenderville, 12 ft. 11 ins.; 2, T. Brady (Tracton), 12 ft. 5 ins.; 3, G. O'Connell.

LADIES EVENTS:

100 metres — 1, E. Hallinan (Newcastle), 13.2 secs.; 2, J. Rice (Tracton), 3, V. O'Keeffe (Newcastle).

1500 metres — 1, S. O'Keeffe (Newcastle), 4 mins 50.2 secs.; 2, J. Rice; 3, U. O'Dwyer (Tipperary).



Members of the N.A.C.A. Executive — from left, Paddy Crehan P.R.O.; J. J. McCormack, Treasurer; E. P. Stanley, President, and Brendan Lynch, Secretary.



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Dhá chomórtas a bhíonn thart lua sa bhliain is ea Coirn an Bhóthair iarainn sa pheil agus san iomáint. Sa dá chás bhí feabhas éigin ar chúrsaí. San iomáint thug an comórtas seo deis do Chonnacht, agus do Gaillimh go stádas nua, cé sealadach é, a bhaint amach dóibh féin, misneach a mhúscilt ionnta féin agus ina lucht leanúna, agus comharthaí sóirt a thabhairt go mbéidir go dtiocfadh a lá arís. Ach is fada uainn siar 1923. An mbéidh ar Gaillimh fanacht an fhad eile le toraidh ar saothar? Siad Gaillimh an contae a bhfuil an céadchodan is lú fáltais ar a niarracht acu in aicme na hiománaíochta. Agus cé aige a bhfuil an céadchodan is mó fáltais? Contae nach bhféachtar air mar chontae iománaíochta chor ar bith, Ciarraí. Bhíodar in aon Chraobh-chluiche ceannais amháin ariamh ina saol agus bhuadar é, in 1891. Féach cé chomh breághach is is féidir le staitisticí a bheith!

Maidir leis an bpeil bhí beagán spreac sa chluiche ceannais i ngeall ar rafla go mbéidir go rachadh na buaitheoirí go Meiriceá, agus ba ráfla é a tháinig fíor. Ba iad Connacht a raibh an tadh ortha a bheith ar an gcead fhoireann cuige le na leitheid le rud a dheanamh, agus tá sé ráite go raibh an spioraid i measc an fhoirinn. Ach sé an chúis is a gcuimnim-se ar fhoireann Chonnachta 1969 na gur thug se chun deire re Nollaig O Tighearnaigh mar imreoir contae.

Ní gádh a chuid éachtan a aithris, tá eolas maith ortha. Ní gádh a rá ach go mba sárcheann é agus go mba feiliúnach iar a tharla gurabh é captaen fhoireann Chonnachta é ina

SIN A BHEIDH



Nollaig O'Tighernaigh

chluiche déanach i gcomórtas sinnsear peile, agus ar a dturas sna Stait. Ach na caoineadh éinne Gaillimh á oireasa, an-

tSraith Náisiunta. An iomáint ar dtús. Bhí sé le feiceáil luath go leor go mbeadh a bheagán nó a mhórán le rá ag Corcaigh faoi cá rachadh sé, iad fein agus Loch Garman ar ndóigh, agus béidir Tiobrad Arann. Is cuimneach liom cluiche sa tSraith idir Tiobrad Arann agus Uibh Fhaili i mBiorra. Bhí mé ag caint le iriseoir áitiúil roimh an gcluiche faoi ce'n seans a bhí ag Uibh Fhaili, ní hé amháin sa chluiche ach sa chuid eile de'n tSraith.

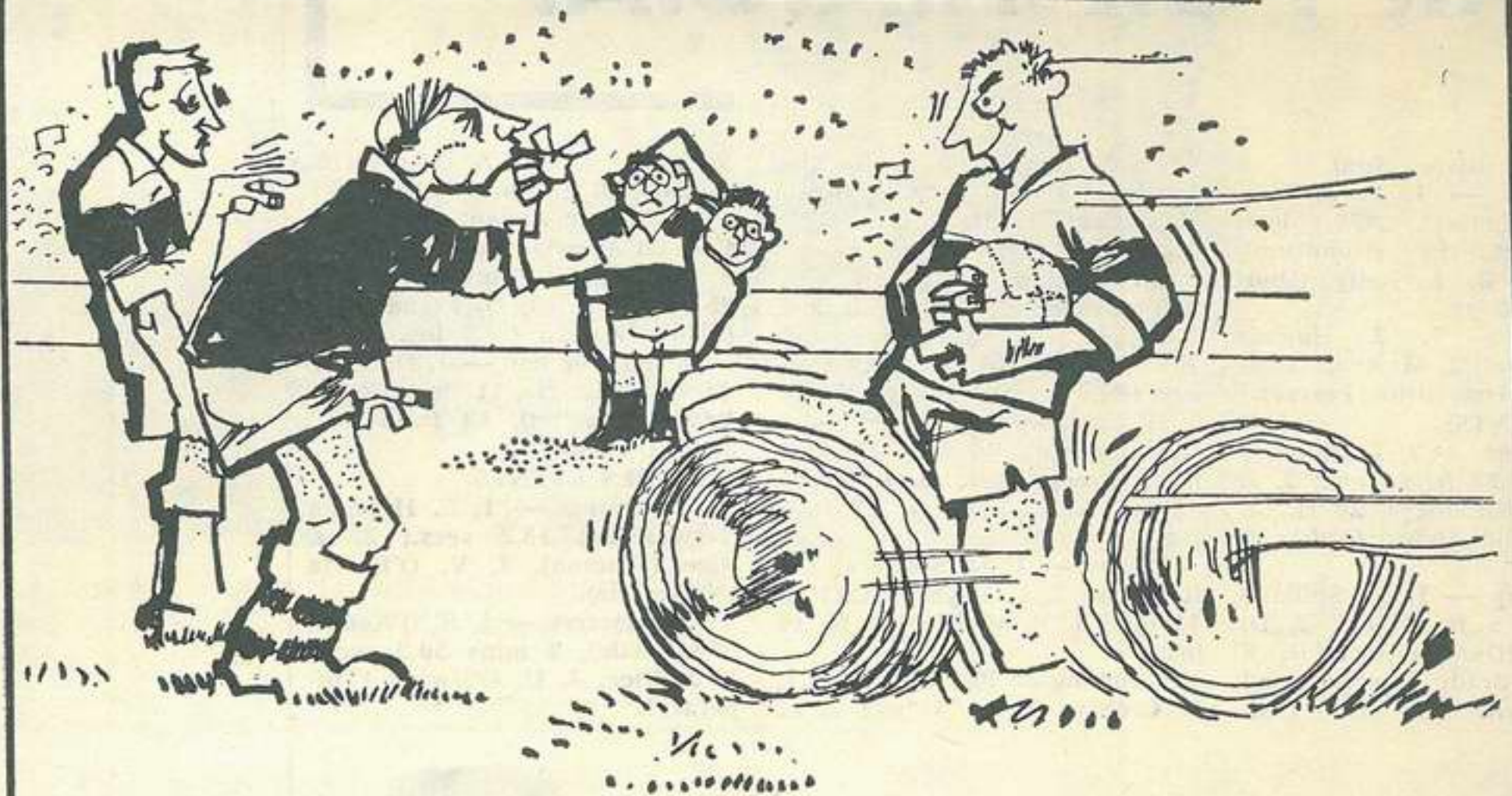
Bhí sé rud éigin mar seo; á mbuadhadh Uibh Fhaili ar Thiobrad Arann, agus á mbuadhadh Port Láirge ar Loch Garman an lá céanna sin, agus annsin arís á mbuadhadh Uibh Fhaili ar Loch Garman ina dhiaidh sin, bhéadh ar Uibh Fhaili, Tiobrad Arann agus Loch Garman imirt amach idir iad le féachaint cé a bhuadh-fadh an roinn! Ní dócha go bhféadfadh a leitheid tairlú ach faoi an scéim Sraitheanna atá againn. Shíl mé go mbéidir go mbéadh athrú ar an scéal nuair a socraíodh na Sraitheanna go déanach, ach tá an scéim cheánna againn go fóill.

Feictear dhom go bhfuil an pheil réidh ullamh do ceithre ranna, ocht bhfoirne aon ceann le cur ar aghaidh agus ar gcúl mar thoradh ortha. D'fhéadfadh an rud céanna a bheith san iomáint, agus ar ndóigh buaitheoirí na ranna a bheith ins na cluichi leath cheannais chun an curadh a fháil. Ní dóigh liom féin gur mórán maitheasa é abair, Cill Chainnigh agus Cill

údar é Seán O Coscra an fearDara a bheith ag imirt a chéile, atá ina chomharba air i ngean-ní dhéanann a leitheid ach lag-mhisneach a chur ar Chill

Ar aghaidh linn go dtí anChainnigh (sa pheil ar ndóigh).

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CUIMHNE AIR

Nil aon rud a chabhraíonn le foirne mar buachaint, agus is fearr an seans ata aca in aghaidh a leitheidi fein sin a dhéanamh. Agus is móide seans Chill Chainnigh buachaint ar Chill Dara má thagann siad amach ar barr buinne de fhoirne eile mar iad fein i sraith peile.

A bhfeadfaí a chur leis sin mar bhónas go mbéadh an chéad chluiche sa Chraobh ag ionad baile na gcéad ceithre foirne in gach roinn bheadh an-chomórtas do na hionaid sin, mar aon le is an spairn a bheadh ann ag iarraidh fanacht aníos as an gcéad roinn eile sios. Bhéadh rud eigin le caill-eadh agus le buachaint in gach cluiche sraithe.

Ach ar ndóigh tháinig an lá sa Bhaeltaine seo caite i bPáirc an Chrocaigh nuair a bhuaigh Corcaigh a gcead Shraith le sé bliana deag tra ar bhuairead ar Loch Garman. Sin é an lá ar cuireadh i leith Jack Berry gur thug se turas neamhdhleathach ar na Stait Aontuithe chun imirt annsin. (Ta daoine a dearfadh nach bhfuil a leitheid neamhdhleathach chor ar bith). Ní hé Jack bocht an taon duine amháin ata ar an gceird. Fuair me fein tuairisc ar chluiche idir dha fhoireann i Nua Eabhrac agus bhí seisear as seo gaibhte anonn le imirt le foireann acu agus naonur le imirt leis an bhfeoir-eann eile. Cuimhnigh air sin, leath na nimreoirí a bhí ar an bpaire bhi siad ar cíos as Eirinn do'n ocaid. Obair dheas do'n te a d'fheadfadh i a fhail!

Agus an tSraith peile, Ceann de na chead iontais is cuimneach liom na Corcaigh ag buachaint go reidh ar Ghaillimh i Luimneach. Ach roimbe sin arís bhí an droch aimsir ag cur isteach ar chluichí, agus bhí Gaillimh ar cheann do no foirne is mó a bhí i gceist, mar bhí socruithe acu fein agus ag na foirne eile ina roinn, Maigh Eo, An Clar agus Ros Comain a gcuide cluichí a imirt faoi dho, agus bhí an aimsir ag cur isteach ortha. An dtarlóidh an rud ceanna arís?

Ach nuair a chas Corcaigh le Ciarraí bhí an chuid ab fhearr de'n imirt ag Corcaigh, ach mo lean, sean smál Chorcaigh arís, agus chaill siad. Ba e sin an cluiche a ba gaire ina ndeachaidh Ciarraí do chailliúint ann, is cuma ceard a dearfas tu faoi

iarracht na hIar Mhi sa dara leath de chluiche leath-cheannais an chomortais. Ba e buachaint ar Chorcaigh a chuir ar bhothar Chraobh na hEireann iad, mar ins na blianta deir-eannacha seo an foireann a bhuaigh an tSraith ta gach seans acu teacht tríd an gCraobh freisin. Rinne Ciarraí i mbliana e, an Dun anuraidh, Gaillimh cupla bliain o shin. An cuimneach leat nach fado o shin o ba e a mhalairt a bhí ann. An fear is mó a dhein deifriocht do Chiarráí sa tSraith na Micheal O Conaill i Nua Eabhrac. Muna mbeadh e bheadh Nua Eabhrac anois ina gcuraithe Sraithe.

Ceann de na rudai is iontaí faoi an gCraobh is ea a laighead toradh ata sa chomortas sinnsear ag na contaetha ar eirigh leo an chraobh faoi 21 a bhuaichaint, ar nos Chill Dara, Doire agus Ros Comain. Bhíodh daoine ag deanamh iontais roimhe seo ca dteadh na mionuir mhaith a bhíodh ag contaetha airithe, ach se an chuit iontais anois na ce'n fath nach dtagann blath ar na sar-imreoirí faoi 21. Fiu amháin i mbliana fein chonaic me Laois ag buachaint ar Uibh Fhaili sa pheil faoi 21, ach chuaigh sinn-sir Uibh Fhaili ar aghaidh go dtí cluiche ceannais Eireann, agus mas buan mo chuimne bhí Laois i gcluiche ceannais an chéad chomortais faoi 21. Se an cheist e, an slat tomhais ar dheas-shlainte na gcluichí sinnsear iad na buadhanna seo ins na comortais faoi aois.

Cuid de na himreoirí is fearr sa tír inniu níor imríodair i gcomortais faoi aois ariamh. Aontrum a bhuaigh comortas na peile faoi 21 no bliana seo. Traoslaim doibh, agus ní dabht ar bith ach gur fearr leath builin na a bheith gan aran, acn coinnimis suil ortha sna sinn-sir go bhfeicimid ce mar a eir-eoidh leo. Ar ndóigh, ach an oiread le hudu an tSraithe tar-lóidh se bliain eigin go dtioc-faighd foireann a bhuaighfaidh an comortas faoi 21 agus a scuab-fas rompa sa chomortas sinnsear bliain no dho ina dhiaidh sin.

Coinnimis suil freisin ar Chorcaigh a bhfuil Craobh as mionur buaite acu trí bliana i ndiaidh a cheile sa pheil, feachaimis ce'n toradh a bheas air sin san faoi 21 agus ins na sinn-sir. Feachaimis freisin ce mar a eireoidh leo san iomaint

mhionur i 1970, mar deirtear liom go bhfuil an seisear tos-aithe, an bheirt lar pairce agus an leath-chulai lair O Dochart-aigh (a bhí ar na mionuir peile anuraidh agus i mbliana agus a rugadh i nGaillim) og go leor do mhionuir na bliana seo romh-ainn amach arís.

Agus feach, bhuaigh Corcaigh ar Chill Chainnigh sna mionuir san iomaint agus a mhalairt de thoradh a bhí ins na sinn-sir. Cor e seo ata tagtha sa saol on am a mbuadhachd contaetha an mionur agus an sinnsear san aon bhliain, rinne Corcaigh e cead bhliain an chomortais mionur san iomaint, 1928. Tharla se nios minici san iomaint na sa pheil, Loch Garman a rinne go deireannach e, i 1968 san iomaint.

A niarrfa orm an meid com-ortais inar feidir boinn Uile-Eireann san iomaint a bhuaic-aint ionnta, ta's ag an la go mbeadh orm mo chaipin smaointe a chur orm lena n-ainmniu. Ach siad na sinn-sir sa da chluiche a bhfuil an phriomh ait acu nuair a thag-ann an "Chraobh" i gceist i gcomhra.

San iomaint ba i seo an bhliain ar thainig Londain ar ais sa chomortas, ar cheart go mbuadhfaidh Loch Garman de reir mar a bhí siad anuraidh roimhe sin, ar cheap gach einne nach raibh moran seans ag Cill Chainnigh ach feach gur bhuairead e, ach seachas aon ni eile ba i bliain Uibh Fhaili i.

Tri chluiche a fhanann in mo chuimne. Sa chead ait agus go priomhdha, an cluiche inar bhuaigh Uibh Fhaili ar Loch Garman. Cuimneoidh me air nuair a dhearmadfas me an cluiche ceannais abair. Ceim mhor chun cinn do'n chluiche. Sa dara hait, an cluiche ceannais de bharr teacht ar ais Chill Chainnigh sa dara leath agus teaspantas sar-ioman o Thadhg O Cearbhail agus Padraig Mac Andreis doibh. Sa triú hait, an cluiche idir Londain agus Cill Chainnigh agus ni le na fheabhas e. Silim fein gur i Londain a ba cheart an cluiche ceanna a imirt. Leirigh se rud amháin, an difríocht mhor ata idir dha ghrad iomana.

Se an chead rud a dearfas me faoi'n bpeil na nach gcuimneofar ins na finn-scelta a innseofar do ghasuir amach annseo ar an gcluiche ceannais nuair a



Le Padraig O Mealoid

bheas daoine ag tracht ar "shean-ionduiri" "mo linne-se." Tri cluichí arís ata fanta in mo cuimne, an cluiche comhscor-ach idir Cabhan agus Uimh Fhaili i leath cheannas Eireann, cluiche a ba cheart a bheith comhscorach ach nar cheart go mbeadh an deis ann sin a bheith amhlaidh, sin e an cluiche leath cheannais eile idir Ciarraí agus Maigh Eo, agus ar deire an cluiche idir An Mhi agus Cill Dara ar chuis go raibh na heilimintí ann a dheanann cluiche speisiuil craobhe, cic pionois, Cill Dara nios fearr ach an Mhi ag sciobadh na tos-aiochta uatha, agus Cill Dara ag teacht ar ais.

Ba bliain na sean-lads i, Micheal O Conaill, Micheal O Duibhir, Seamas O Murchadha, Sean O Golata Chiarraí, agus Padraig Mac Cormaic, Greagor Mac Aoidh agus Sean Mac Aogain Uibh Fhaili. Ach i bhfad os a gcionn sin ba bliain D. J. O Cruadhlaoidh, Chiarraí i. Ba e an fear ab fhearr ar an bpaire e in aghaidh Mhaigh Eo agus in aghaidh Uibh Fhaili.

A niarrfa orm ce'n babhta salachair ab "fhearr" a chonaic me dearfainn gurab e an cluiche idir Loch Garman agus Doire i gcluiche leath cheannais Eir-eann sa pheil mhionurach e. Bhí se thar a bheith go dona. Is cuis iontais agus dioma e an claonadh nua seo i measc na mionur. Ní raibh an caighdean sa pheil mhionurach thar mhol-adh beirte ach oiread.

Smaoneamh beag: ta 16 Craobh na hEireann ag Baile Ath Claith sa pheil, se bliana o shin a bhuairead ar ceann dean-ach, ta 6 cinn acu san iomaint ach 31 bliain o shi a bhuairead an ceann deanach acu. A mbeadh ag Cu Chulainn e bhaileodh se leis as Ard Oifig an Phoist go ceaird eigin eile, beidir anonn go dtí John Kerry. Slainte an bhradain, agus go mbeiridh tu beo ar cheann!

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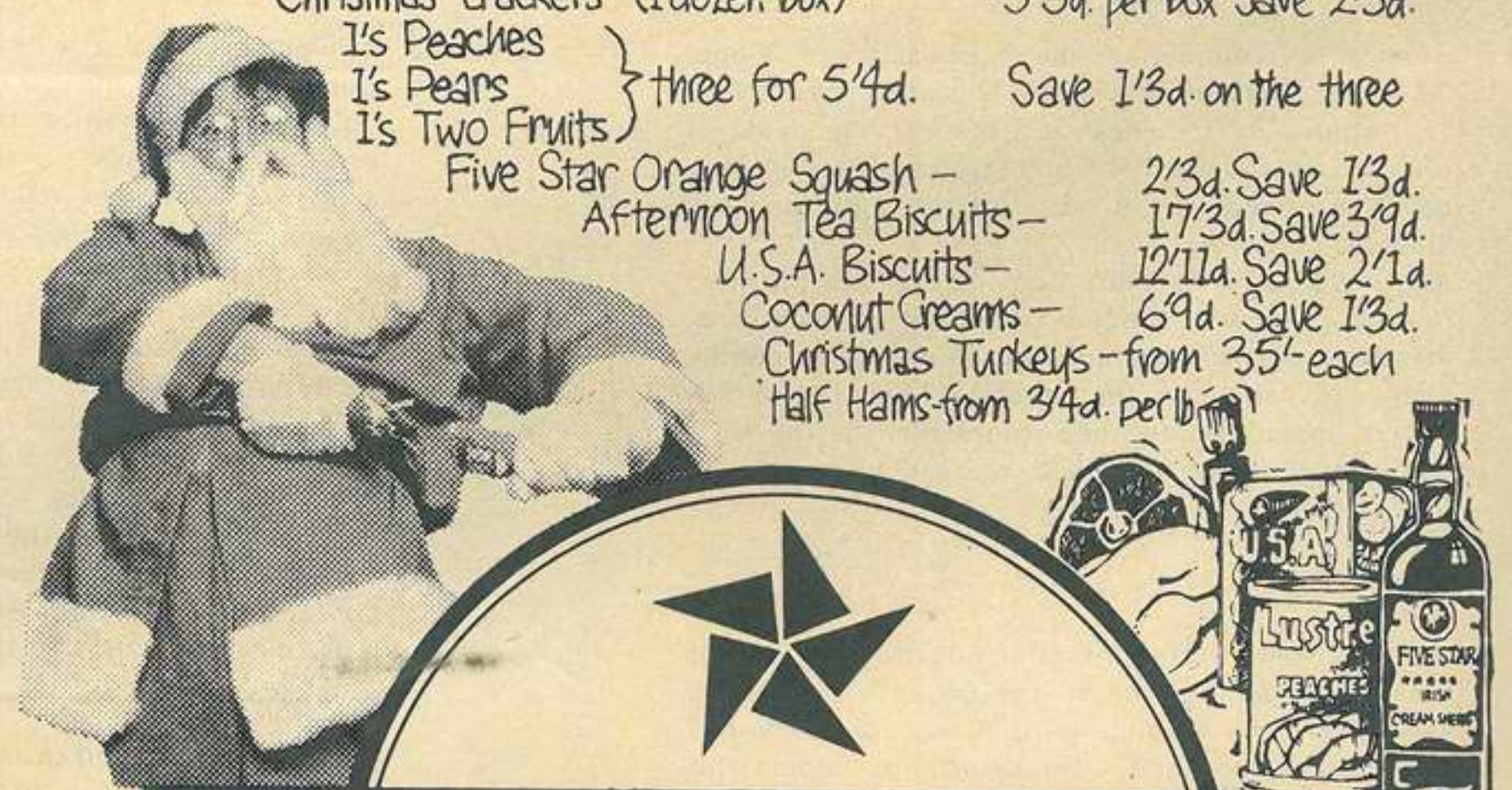
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THE BATTLE

Here is a wounded soldier, convalescent, alone, dreaming away his days. He is lost in the bravery of battles, in the flash of blades, the rally of drums, the thunder of combat, the smash of the ball that ended his life as a warrior. His name is Ignatius of Loyola.

And here is a second Man, a Captain of men, raising an army to conquer the world. He is strong, masterful, of giant courage, on the one hand; gentle, kindly, loveable, on the other; a Man whose followers, in thousands, died rather than betray Him; an invincible Man, the Son of God, Jesus Christ Our Lord.

ABOUT TURN

When the figure of Christ slipped into the militant dreams of Ignatius, the soldier began the climb to sainthood. His fighting spirit remained intact, but its direction changed. He could not understand how he had failed to see the attractiveness of Christ or the greatness of His mission. Seeing now, he leaped to the side of Christ, his three famous questions challenging his generosity, like a banner ablaze in the sky; "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?"

TO THE ATTACK

St. Ignatius was a level-headed idealist. Love of Our Lord swept him from a worldly way of life. Spiritually, he aimed at the stars. Yet he retained, and made full use of, the foresight and planning ability of a brilliant military commander. He had no time for empty flag-waving or for mere words, however brave they might sound. To help spread the Kingdom of Christ on earth he founded the Society of Jesus. In each of his Jesuit sons he required, not great brains or a great fortune, but two much more valuable qualities: persistence in the difficult work of conquering himself for Christ; readiness to work for souls in any post entrusted to him, anywhere in the world. His personal life and his work should rest steadily on love of Our Lord. "What ought I to do for Christ?" should draw him onwards, like the beat of a distant drum.

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YOUR PLACE IN THE RANK

A young man who suspects that God is calling him into the Society of Jesus must pray and think honestly about the matter; he will be looking for a convincing degree of certainty; he should ask advice from someone who can help him. He can easily get accurate information about the life that may be his as a Jesuit. He will be expected to aim high, but he can be sure of the support of God's grace if he is willing to try.

As a Jesuit priest or brother he may expect a hard but happy life. He will step forward to follow Christ in the spirit of St. Ignatius, St. Francis Xavier, Brother St. Alphonsus Rodriguez, Fr. Willie Doyle, Fr. John Sullivan, Fr. James Cullen (Founder of the Pioneers) and the thousands of Jesuits who link them with the present day. And just now, perhaps, for him an exhilarating battle is beginning with the questions that jolted Ignatius of Loyola: "What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?"