

GAELIC NEWS

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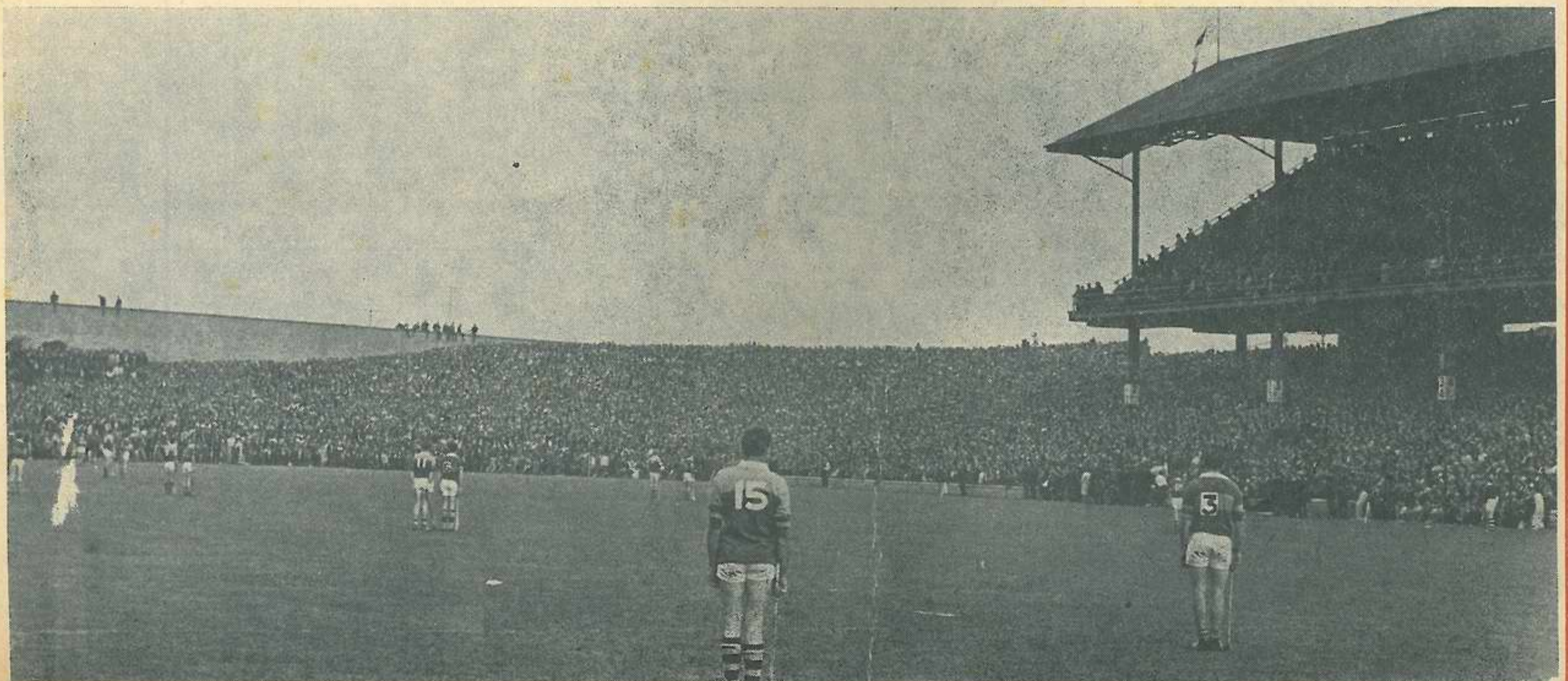
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Tony McGee Introduces a New Series:

Recalling The Great Ones

"Hello everybody and welcome to Croke Park." Those words, which have been the greeting from Michael O'Hehir for so many years have thrilled many a G.A.A. fan as a broadcast of a big game came on the air.

Just short of a couple of decades ago, as a schoolboy in a rural part of West Ulster, those were the words that I and a couple of dozen more in the district waited to hear many and many a Sunday.

Any reader who has lived in a rural part of Ireland in the pre-television days will I'm sure have experienced the same excitement and anticipation that swelled up inside a schoolboy as he awaited the broadcast of a big game from Croke Park — a place far distant that seemed almost in another world.

Before an All-Ireland semi-final or final or a Railway Cup game there was always the last minute checking to be done that the radio was in good working order and that the batteries were strong enough. If something was wrong there was a frantic rush to put things right in case one's hero would make a move on the field that would be missed.

Many's a Sunday a crowd of us would gather round the "wireless set" that was positioned on a shelf over the kitchen table in our house. If for some unknown reason the set happened to fade out during a game everyone was out of the house like a rocket and there was a mad rush down the road to a neighbour's with everyone jockeying for a good position.

All sat around the set with bated breath, afraid of making a noise in case something would be missed. We all had our particular hero of that time and I often now wonder do present day schoolboys and indeed girls, enjoy games like their counterparts of the past. Do the glamour games of today mean as much nowadays as they did to the youngsters of the past? Somehow I don't think so.

Heroes, indeed were many in those days. From a northern point of view there was Peter Donoghue, Tony Tighe, the Carolans and Bill Doonan of Cavan; Antrim stars Paddy O'Hara, Harry O'Neill, Ray Beirne; Jack Bratten, Bill McCorry and earlier still Jim McCullough (Armagh); Hugh McKearney (Monaghan); Derry's Frankie Niblock, etc. The list is endless.

Many of these names have now faded completely from the G.A.A. scene and some are still hard workers for the association but keep very much in the background. In the next months I hope to seek out some of these stars of the past and tell you "where they are now." Their present day life, their memories of yesteryear and their hope for the future should be interesting.

If any reader would like his or her particular favourite spotlighted then drop me a line and let me know. I'll do my best to include them or at least some information about them.

So to start the ball rolling our first subject, in next months issue, will be Antrim's star of the forties and early fifties, Harry O'Neill.

A Players-Only Club In Armagh

GRANGE St. Colmcille's is a club with a difference. It rose right from the ground three years ago and this season for the first time fielded a team in adult competitions. This club was originally started as a juvenile one and the players came up through minor to reach their present status.

But first where is Grange? For a start you won't find it on an ordinary map, because it isn't even a village. It is a rural area seven miles west of Armagh City in the Blackwater town direction. The only things that mark the spot are a chapel, an A.O.H. hall, a small Gaelic field and a primary school.

Then why is there a club here at all? "There was a lot of youth in the district and there was a

feeling that a club was a necessity," U.C.D. economics student, Eamon Cullen told me.

Then who started the club I queried? "It was the young boys around 16 and 17 years of age that got it off the ground but a few of the elder people in the district also helped," 19-year-old Cullen said.

Success came early for St. Colmcille's. In their first year of existence — 1967 — they won the juvenile league but had hard luck in the championship. In 1968 they moved up to minor ranks and stayed there for two seasons. At the beginning of 1970 the same team was entered in Div. IV of the Armagh all-county leagues.

Although they went out of the junior championship at an

early stage, their league record was quite good, and they won more games than they lost. One thing the Grange players are proud of is the fact that they won the Blackwater town tournament last month.

According to Eamon Cullen, who plays at midfield, the club is the youngest in the county — playerwise as well as every other way. "Only three players are over twenty. The emphasis has always been on youth in the club," he said.

The club has no worries about the future either as far as members are concerned. At present, they have only about 35 players plus half a dozen "directors", but there is still plenty of youngsters in the district and with no opposition sport about, these boys automatically join. They can now field a juvenile and minor side as well as the junior one.

The headmaster of the primary school is John Vallely, well-known in the athletics world, and he instills a love for Gaelic games into his pupils.

Last month St. Colmcille's ran their own tournament. Like most rural clubs, they are short of cash and this was one of their efforts to raise some. "Our present pitch is very small and unsuitable and we have vague plans for purchasing one," Cullen said.

Many of the Grange players learned their football at the Christian Brothers' school in Armagh. This year the club had its first county representative — Joe Murphy, who played in the Armagh minor team. Others who could be in the reckoning for an "orange" jersey in the near future are full back, Austin Tohill (also a well-known 'bullets' player in the area), the Mallon brothers, and, of course, Eamon Cullen.

Adrian Mallon is the club's secretary and his brother Sean the treasurer. But who is the chairman? "The players themselves run everything with help from Joe Hughes, Eugene Mone and Tom Donnelly and I just don't know who the chairman is," I was told.

— Tony McGee.

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Cork More Apt To Reach Heights

THIS All-Ireland starts off with the advantage of a good, if limited, pedigree. Cork and Wexford, as anyone could tell you, have met twice in finals, both times in these "furious Fifties" when hurling was still undisputedly king over a wide area of the country and hadn't to contend with the many influences giving it stiff competition today.

One Christy Ring was still menacingly operative. He had still with him the bulk of the Cork squad which took the three titles of 1952-'54 when they met Wexford for the second time in '56. Capable fellows by any standard: Creedon, Lyons, O'Riordan, O'Shaughnessy, Twomey, Barry, Hartnett. Arranged against them most of the men large in build and gallant in outlook who took Wexford from the second division right up to the front of the select few. Foley, O'Donnell, English, the three Rackards, a pair of Morrisseys, Wheeler, Kehoe,

Flood.

That '56 final has always seemed to me about second to the '47 one among the modern classics: for atmosphere in front of a great crowd, for pace and openness mixed with the right degree of closeness without which hurling is a slack and lifeless thing — and for the touches of generous chivalry as Ring shook Foley's hand and was himself carried off by the Wexford men at the close of play.

Heartwarming even now to think back upon, that finishing scene. Two years earlier, before the biggest

attendance ever to see a hurling game, Cork had put the third All-Ireland to their previous pair on a dramatic day famed still for Bobby Rackard's inspired feats as an emergency full back for Nick O'Donnell. The game was eventually won by the goal Johnny Clifford whipped in while in process of switching corners with Paddy Barry.

If these two counties could produce such great finals when the game was at a peak of public favour, we certainly need another from them now to refurbish the game's image in a period short of memorable events on the hurling field. I am confident they can rise to the task and the responsibility.

So much for background: the winners must be iden-

tified in any self-respecting preview; or at least the runners-up. First of all as a Tippman, I ought to declare my interest — none, apart from hoping for a creditable game and a fitting climax to the year. This won't entirely mollify the partisans. If I say something favourable to Cork there will be muttering somewhere about Munster people sticking together. On the other hand leanings towards a Wexford success will have the others hinting at Tipp ill-will towards their conquerors. These slight risks will have to be taken, or else utter silence preserved.

As we came out of Limerick's grounds on July 26 you could certainly hear "Wexford will beat 'em anyway" going on quite freely. Closer investigation would generally reveal a blue-and-gold favour attached to the speaker. Some quota of that rather grudging ill-will was present in many cases, you may be sure, for a fellow just has to fling some sort of retort to noisy Corkmen in the vicinity. A lot of it was serious judgment, however, and not solely designed to be uncomplimentary to the Munster champions.

Probably the main basis of such distrust of Cork's chances lay in the fifteen versus fourteen state of manpower after King was sent off and the rather laborious way Cork went about winning. They ought to have swept home if they were any good — such was the verdict on several lips. Now I wonder if this talk is entirely just. A Tippman might reasonably be asked to remember the League game against Wexford at Thurles early in '69. What happened when a Wexford forward got dismissed early in the second half? Why? What but a Wexford win? Tipp got altogether too hasty about pressing home their apparent advantage. Roche, playing at centre back, began to advance downfield. Result — confused crowding in centrefield with too many players fighting for the ball and baulking each other, and Wexford striking back through the wide-open spaces in the Tipperary rear.

Something not greatly different happened Cork at Limerick. The parallel would have been complete if Flanagan's late snap shot had been six inches to the left of its line of flight. Clifford did a Roche act and Tipp forwards began to look more threatening than before because the space to work in became available. Far wiser to have kept their entire back division where it was and let play take its natural course, instead of forcing the issue. Cork did not make anything like full use of King's departure. In addition, let's remember that Tipp sub goalie O'Sullivan kept out at least two shots that would normally raise green flags.

A third and major point

in reconsidering Cork's merit is the virtual write-off of Gerald McCarthy from a very early stage. They got almost nothing of value from one who is accepted as perhaps their best hurler of the moment. If a fit McCarthy walks onto Croke Park Wexford can certainly not rely on his abilities being absent again. Gerald strained an ankle at Limerick and was left on a long time after he was clearly "gone." He could run fairly well on a



Jonh Horgan

straight course, but quick turning was another matter.

If Cork have discernible problems the most obvious one is at right half-back, where Pat Hegarty got replaced, not too effectively, by veteran Gerry O'Sullivan. The way young Simon Murphy is coming along with the under-21 team he could be a lively challenger for a senior place in that particular department. There were some observers who thought Paddy Barry not quite as sharp as before in goal, but Paddy, with the extra bonus of captaincy, is hardly one to fall below the frightening needs of his position on the biggest day.

The severe pulling of the Tipperary defence gave Cork's attack a trying time and consequently their goals were opportunistic rather than built-up. Slender Seanie Barry was not deemed the physical type for the rigours of the day, but he may be used in September, especially if strong Willie Murphy is absent from Wexford's team.

My general judgment on Cork is that they have at least a level chance. Downgrading of their Munster win may serve as a valuable psychological boost, by contrast with last year's fatal confidence. It's a useful state of mind to take out along the Croke Park tunnel. Their worth should really be assessed on the full record of recent years. They won the League well in May.

If there are grounds for debate over the Munster final, something similar applies to its Leinster counterpart. This is nothing new of late years. It appears that either Wexford or Kilkenny nearly always go in there with large

handicaps in alternate years. One year you had Ollie Walsh under suspension; another year Wexford were short half a back division; this year Kilkenny were without the retired Paddy Moran, had Lawlor and Ollie knocked out in course of play and had Keher only for half the trip.

Wexford, let it be said, lost Willie Murphy for the finishing spell of Kilkenny revival. All the same, the balance of weakness and bad fortune lay with the ex-champions. So if Cork's win deserved more kudos than it got, Wexford's perhaps got a little more than it really was entitled to. Pat Nolan's brilliant late saves, too, have to be reckoned with, though he's just as likely to do the same in the All-Ireland.

The trouble with all these impressions and deductions from past games is that very often they have little to do with what happens on another day. An All-Ireland final has unique strains. Form is harder to find there than on another occasion. Desperation and inspiration play their parts in the frantic rush for fame.

Cork by temperament seem to me the more volatile, the more apt to reach the heights or the depths before their demonstrative following. Wexford appear the likelier to hit average form. Come on now, says the impatient reader, quit the roundabout manoeuvring and let's have a firm opinion. Fair enough: Cork it is.



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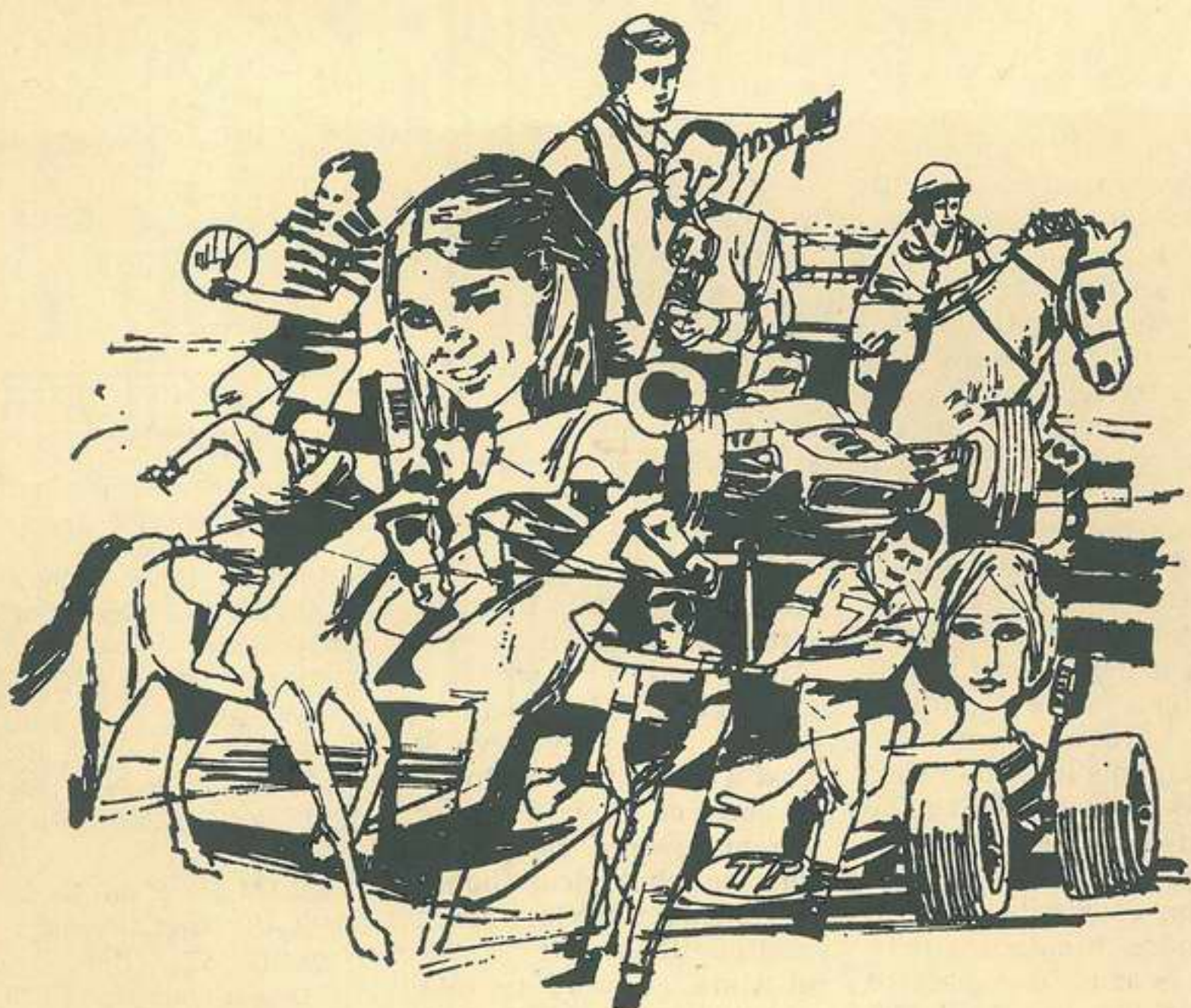
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Wexford

"If Wexford had a bit more iron in their souls, they might have won half a dozen more All-Irelands in the 'fifties and the 'sixties," he said, and you could see he was thinking of the killer-instinct as they call it in boxing. Tipperary, of course, have it in a large measure; Cork have been notable exponents of the quality; and Kilkenny, in spite of all their reputation for precision and stickwork and aesthetic touches, have an underlying steel to their make-up that allows them to tot up an impressive list of victories in all the big games.

But, Wexford, by comparison have been the "gentlemen" of hurling: the kind of men who felt sorry for a team who were doing badly against them, and instead of walloping in ten goals and making the game safe, would just at likely let their soft-heartedness give a score or two to the opposition. And one thing might beg another, until the opposition had such a grip on things that you could no longer check them, and Wexford went home licking their wounds, and wondering what went wrong.

The thing about Wexford is that they could win a famous victory and endure a famous defeat, doing credit to both winners and vanquished, but they could scarcely ever win a game with a mile to spare. It gave them no pleasure, somehow. And, above all else, I sense in the make-up of Wexford hurlers, the overriding need to enjoy the game.

Crushing an inferior opposition is nothing to them: it gives them nothing but pain for the opponents. They really like to meet foemen worthy of their steel, as the phrase goes, and then they will match them heroics for heroics, and devil take the hindmost.

The record of the Wexford hurlers since their emergence as a national force in the end of the 'forties has been strangely similar in this respect: you would have imagined that, perhaps, it was the characteristic of a generation only of hurlers, and that the next generation would grow out of it. Again, it would not have surprised one in such big men—in physique and in temperament and in soul—as the Rackards, Jim Morrissey, Ned Wheeler, Nick O'Donnell, Padge and Paddy Kehoe, and all those giants of the early champion side. It suited them to be magnanimous.

It was no surprise that they produced one of their most famous displays of power-hurling just when they looked as though they were dead ducks, in the second half of that memorable National League final of 1956. Fifteen points

down at half-time, and they hit Tipperary with a hurricane in the second-half.

Mind you, it was an issue of some importance in another respect: it could be said of that Wexford team if they had allowed the situation to take its course that day, that they had never beaten Tipperary for

anything worth while; their first All-Ireland in 1955 was won from Galway after they had endured that memorable failure in 1954 against Cork and in 1951 against Tipperary.

The second success was in 1956, winning from Cork in the final, and, on top of that, there was the 1952 League final when they



Phil Wilson

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charged Tipperary from behind with tremendous verve, but just failed to win. Was it going to be said of that Wexford side that they were good and all that, but, if they had met Tipperary instead of such opposition as Galway and Cork, they would never have won anything?

Now or never, then. And, in that 30 minutes, the big Wexford men strode all over the Tipperary team as though they were pygmies, forced them into terrified mistakes, rained balls on their backs, with such constancy that the full-line — one of the most famous in the game — had its reputation shredded, and Tony Reddan, one of the game's greatest keepers, had his career terminated in a rush of goals.

That kind of heroism has been Wexford's special charism, and its special contribution to the hurling picture in two decades. It is reasonable to ask that were it not for the emergence of Wexford when they did — a not very likely happening in the light of the lack of new great powers in hurling — where would hurling be now? Would the constant diet of Cork and Tipp, and Kilkenny have palled and would we be lamenting a worse condition in the game than even the present one?

The All-Ireland final of 1968 was another occasion paralleled by the 1956 League final — the set up was the same, the contestants were the same, and the atmosphere of fatalism in the crowd was the same. And here came Wexford — devil take appearances — and stretched Tipperary on a wrack of torture so cruel that even Tipperary must have been happy to hear the last whistle — the end of the ordeal must have meant more than victory or defeat at that stage.

In other words, when the notion took the Rackards, the Morrisseys, Wheeler, Phil Wilson, Tony Doran,

Dan Quigley, and all those of the past and the present, they could and can hurl so overwhelmingly that nothing in the game that I have seen can stand against them. They have seemed to wade through hurleys and men as though they were merely purposefully stepping in for a swim at Courtown; they shot up capacious hands in places where another would have feared to put his hurley and emerged, disregarding hits or bruises, with the ball to hammer it miles away.

Tony Doran found the Nick Rackard spirit descending upon him last in September, 1968, as he raced away for goals on solos, regardless of what lay in his path. Had a stone wall been suddenly placed across the 21 yards line since the lase ball came upfield, Doran or Rackard would not have noticed — they would have gone straight through and banged the ball in the net.

And, yet Wexford play poorly at times; sometimes you despair that they will ever give the amount that their talents promise. It is hard to tell how they will fare in most matches. But, when it comes to the big games, whatever the outcome and the style of their previous games, they are the safest bet in the game to give value for the customers money.

Essentially, then, they are men for the big occasion. The big crowd holds no terrors for them; rather, it seems, to warm them like summer sunshine on their backs in the hayfields. The class opposition communicates electrically with them, loosening muscles at the challenge, and stimulating their hearts to beat faster.

Nobody can ignore precedent in this final: Cork and Wexford played a couple of spell-binding matches for the title in 1954 and 1956, when Ring was the magnet of attraction for all eyes. There is reason to suspect that this year's match might com-

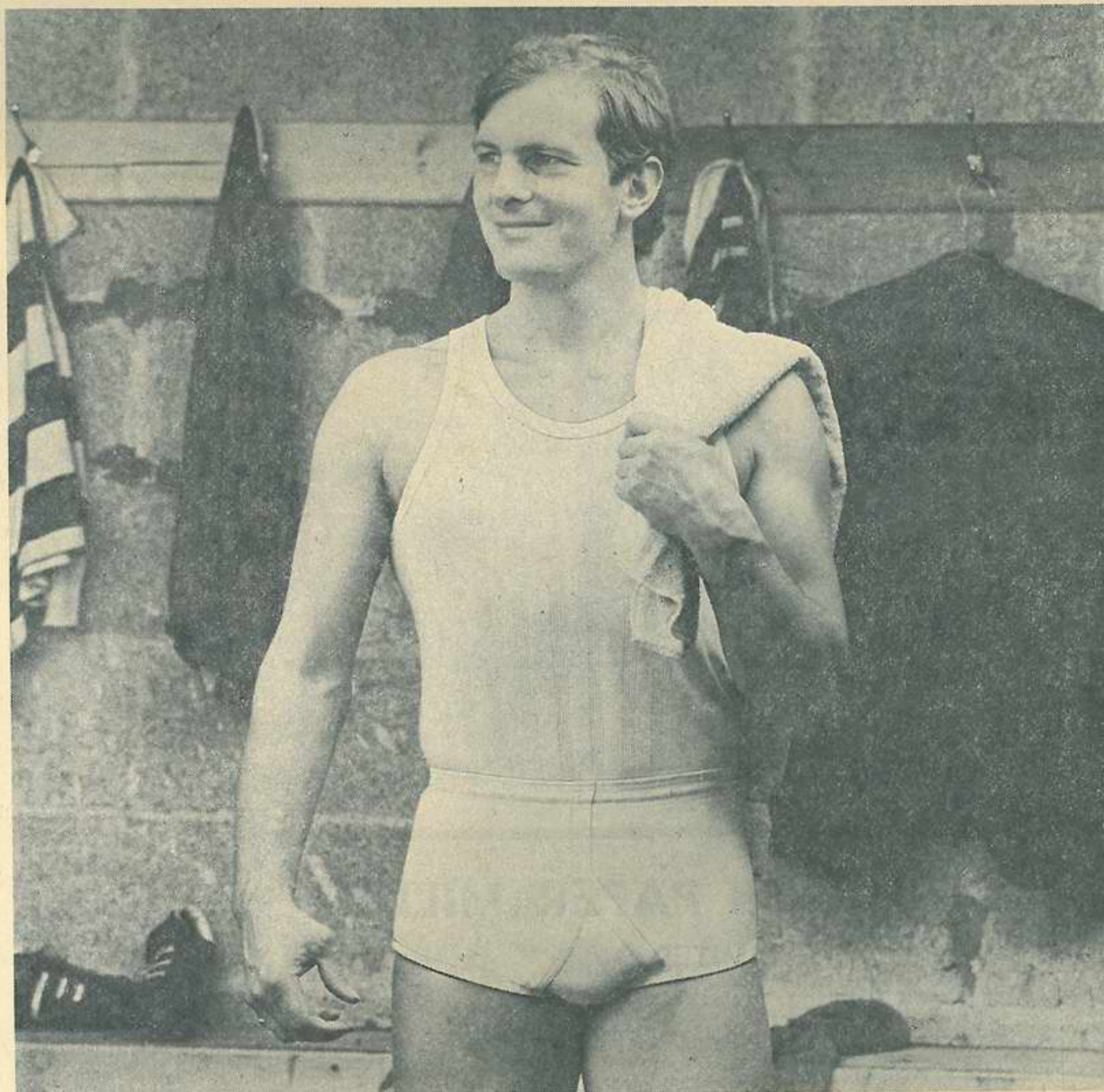
plete a memorable three-some.

The fact that Cork have been the form team; the fact that they have done

everything except win the All-Ireland in the last two years; the fact that they have an impressive League final win over Wexford to

their credit in that time — these are all circumstantial pieces of evidence, and if you choose to conclude from them that it will be a

Cork win, you ignore the unpredictable but inevitable reaction of the Wexford men to the big occasion and the big challenge.



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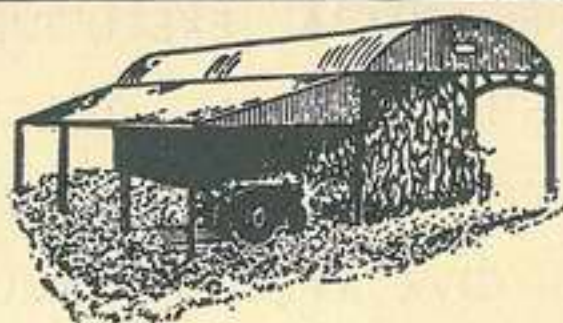
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Dan McAreevy Describes

Ulster's Attitude To A Hurling Final

Incarnating as it does the identity of the Irish nation in a manner unrivalled by any other occasion and involving millions in its pagentry and drama the All-Ireland Hurling Final is the nearest approach we have to a truly national festival. It is an intense and unique expression of our individuality as a people. As time passes All-Irelands may not move us to the very core of our being as they did in our early years but still each final touches a cord in our heartstrings.

That was how Father Columba Mansfield, O.P. 'recollected' in his inimitable style — last year's final between Kilkenny and Cork.

Later the writer wondered if, in some way, this game of countrymen was an irrelevance in its metropolitan setting.

However, the lines of the Monaghan poet, the late Patrick Kavanagh, came to his mind bringing with them consolation:

"I inclined to lose my faith in Ballyrush and Gortin

Till Homer's ghost came whispering to my mind
He said: I made the Illiad from such

A local row. Gods make their own importance."

There is no doubt here about the place which "hurling final" Sunday has etched out in the hearts and minds of the Irish people. Father Columba is clearly speaking for the country as a whole and as such his point ought to be taken.

However for the purpose of this article my belief was a much narrower one and in accepting it the main regret is that I must write — not as I would wish — but according to the facts as I see them. I would prefer it were otherwise but perhaps I am wrong. I hasten to add too that the views expressed are personal ones without any "official" prompting one way or the other.

"How relevant is the hurling final, the hurling revival and such things to the ordinary G.A.A. man in the Six Counties?" was what the Editor wanted to know.

Well, when Cork and

Wexford take the field in this year's decider there is no doubt that the "Wee Six" will be well represented in the 60,000-odd crowd which can be expected.

But will these Northern followers be present out of a sense of duty to the Association, a sense of having to support the "four green fields" unity which the G.A.A. has always espoused? Will they make the journey to Croke Park out of loyalty to the oldest and greatest national game? Or will they be there — divorced of all other considerations — simply to see a good game? These are — and will remain — the great imperishables of the occasion.

Unquestionably there is a minority of G.A.A. people in the North who are sincere dyed-in-the-wool hurling men; men whose allegiance to the caman and everything which the game means and stands for is as deep-rooted as anything to be found in the most storied Southern stronghold. It is sadly a dwindling minority; sadder still to note the increasing age of those entitled — without question — to that All-Ireland hurling ticket.

These are the men who passionately believe in hurling. Their faith will remain unshaken but is their dream of the great revival to be realised?

Then there will be that group — admittedly much larger than the first but still pathetically small with only fourteen years to go to the Association's centenary celebrations — who will travel to savour the spectacle and enjoy the game as a game.

They will return imbued with a new missionary zeal to do what they can to help with the revival but how long will their fervour last?

The stands and terracing too will have a fair sprinkling of the young players now in the vanguard of

keeping the game alive in the North. The boys of Antrim, Down, Fermanagh, Derry and Tyrone will be there with all the idealism of youth. But can they be counted on, in this most challenging age, to build a tradition which except in a few areas has not really taken root?

In all truth hurling remains the poor relation when compared with football not only in the six counties in question but throughout the entire Ulster province.

Our footballers have captured the imagination — how differently I would write of the fourth Sunday of September — and as a consequence those ploughing the lonely furrow of the hurling revival are facing a tough, uphill and in many respects unrewarding struggle.

There are those — and I must count myself among them — who INTENDED to do all they could for hurling. Shamefacedly many of us have now to admit that the odds proved too much. G.A.A. members generally and football clubs in particular realise that they have a duty to the game but those consciences can be salved by the efforts to keep the football going.

Reports of the progress in the North are I candidly believe exaggerated. Croke Park releases in the past have I am afraid been written through rose coloured spectacles. The temptation is great.

Certainly, the under-age players of Down merit the highest praise; the Glensmen continue to carry the flag proudly and Armagh did qualify for an All-Ireland junior final not so long ago. What of the rest of the picture?

Nor is the social revolution in our midst helping. I do not refer to the political upheavals but rather to the urbanisation and motorisation which, as I understand it, even threaten well established areas in the South. Did someone once say that prosperity would kill the G.A.A.? The speaker obviously did not mean his words to be taken literally but they point to a real danger unless new and more with-it policies are adopted. Certainly social changes tend to make the birth — or re-birth — of hurling a laboured task.

Too few clubs are able to field exclusive hurling sides and progress in the schools which have done so much for football has been virtually negligible.

Nor are the expert coaches present without whom it is well nigh impossible to proceed. Incomparably skilful, hurling sets its would-be students an exacting curriculum. That tradition born of hurls in the hands from the cradle stage is

hard to build.

Nothing succeeds like success especially in the eyes of the younger people. Football has succeeded and hurling has not. This goes much of the way to explaining the difference in attitude of the vital youth group to the hurling and football finals.

And the publicity which hurling has won for itself is virtually nil compared with football. Down have brought home the Sam Maguire Cup; National League titles are nothing new; the Railway Cup has recently taken almost a season ticket to Ulster; and our colleges have captured football's highest honours. There have been, too, the successes of our minors, under-21, junior and vocational schools sides.

What has hurling to show? I said I would regret having to write some of these things. Perhaps you now know why.

It is significant too that many football clubs are willing to play matches on the day of the All-Ireland hurling final whereas there is an uproar if a fixture is suggested for the football semi-final dates.

"You must play hurling because it is your national game" is not a sufficient reason for the youth of today. They will seek better credentials than this.

I have attended 44 out of

the last 50 All-Ireland finals in Croke Park. But why is it that I can recall — as if they were happening now — so many of the football clashes whereas my recollections of the best hurling deciders are but poor telerecordings of the events with, as often as not, the "picture" going completely dead.

Why is it that given the choice I would plump for the football every time? Is this the problem confronting the average follower? Is it that word "tradition" on which we have been reared?

But this is no obituary of Ulster hurling. Rather is the piece meant to indicate some of the difficulties facing the revivalists and why the interest — of the ordinary G.A.A. man — in the hurling final is on a lower key than that associated with its football counterpart.

As one official put it: "Rank and file supporters are overwhelmingly but not overwhelmingly interested in the Cork - Wexford clash."

Rest assured however that the North will hold on; that the work of bringing back the caman, one of the main planks in the Association's charter, will continue despite the long haul involved.

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Looking Back On Past Meetings Paddy Hickey Says:

CORK v WEXFORD: A CLASH THAT HAS NEVER FAILED TO THRILL

IN 1954, when Cork and Wexford met in the All-Ireland senior hurling final, the game attracted an all-time attendance record for a hurling decider of 84,856 and two years later when the same two counties met once again in the All-Ireland final a crowd of just over 83,000 witnessed the game. These two finals were the only occasions that 80,000-plus attendance have been recorded at hurling finals and are in themselves an indication of the popularity and attraction that Cork-Wexford hurling finals hold for the hurling public.

This year's final should be no exception and while Croke Park can no longer accommodate such large crowds since the installation of the seating accommodation under the Cusack stand, the decline in hurling final crowds which has been evident in the last few years should certainly be arrested at this year's decider. The fact that Cork had a rather comfortable win over Wexford in last year's National League decider will be completely irrelevant when the sides line out on September 6.

The year 1951 saw Wexford make their first All-Ireland final appearance since 1918 when they were hammered by Limerick by 9-5 to 1-3. Their only previous All-Ireland final victory had been in 1910. In the 1951 final Wexford acquitted themselves well, but eventually had to give best to the greater experience of the Tipperary players, who won their third All-Ireland title on the trot by 7-7 to 3-9.

Wexford had a dream start in that game when Nick Rackard found the back of the Tipperary net after only four minutes, but the Munster champions refused to be ruffled even by such a setback.

However, Wexford's performance in that match indicated

that a much-needed new hurling force was emerging on the scene and gave the players themselves a confidence in their own ability to match the best in the country.

The south Leinster men failed to win out in Leinster the following year, when they were surprisingly beaten by Dublin by 7-2 to 3-5 in the provincial final. Wexford had led by 2-5 to 2-1 at the interval in this game, but over-confidence coupled with the retirement of Art Foley in the second half proved their undoing.

Cork went on to win the All-Ireland that year by hammering Dublin in the final by 2-14 to 0-7.

When Wexford were defeated in the Leinster final again in 1953, it appeared as if they did not possess the necessary class and determination to make the grade in the hurling world. This time it was old rivals Kilkenny who did the damage... winning a thrilling game by two points (1-13 to 3-5).

The absence through illness of Bobby Rackard was a bitter blow in this match but even still they might have won had not Nick Rackard failed from a 21 yards free in the closing minutes and had not a scorching drive by Tim Flood been saved at the expense of a 70' just afterwards.

Meanwhile this year's opponents Cork were once again proving their supremacy in Munster and they duly went on to win their second All-Ireland title in succession, by defeating Galway in the decider by 3-3 to 0-8.

In 1954, Wexford proved that they were not finished when they avenged their defeat by Dublin in the 1952 provincial decider, by hammering the Metropolitanans by 8-5 to 1-4 and they qualified once again for the All-Ireland final by annihilating luckless Antrim by 12-7 to 2-3.

This will be remembered as the game in which Nick Rackard recorded his magnificent tally of 7-7.

In the other semi-final, Cork experienced little difficulty in disposing of Galway by 4-13 to 2-1 and so the stage was set for an All-Ireland final meeting between Cork and Wexford.

In this game Wexford seemed set to record their first senior All-Ireland hurling victory since 1910 when they led the Munster champions by two points with only four minutes left. Then disaster struck. The ball broke loose from a ruck of players and Cork corner forward Johnny Clifford chased after it.

Wexford goalkeeper Art Foley hesitated before deciding to advance while Clifford pulled first-time on the sliotar and the ball ended up in the back of the net. Cork, naturally, were inspired by this goal and they proceeded to add two further points to the total to leave them winners by 1-9 to 1-6.

So Cork had won their third All-Ireland title in succession and once again Wexford had to be content with second place. However, the story might have had a different ending had not Wexford's full back Nick O'Donnell been forced to retire with a broken collar-bone just a few minutes after half-time.

Centre half-back Bobby Rackard was switched to the full-back position and proceeded to give one of the best defensive displays of hurling ever seen in Croke Park, but nevertheless the loss of O'Donnell was a grave one. At the time of his removal to the Mater Hospital, O'Donnell was pretty confident that Wexford would win, so he was bitterly disappointed when he heard the result in his hospital bed.

However, O'Donnell and his gallant team-mates were back the following year to make up

for all the disappointments of the previous few years. Cork's three year reign as Munster champions had ended and so Limerick met the Slaneysiders in the All-Ireland semi-final. They defeated the Munster champions by 2-12 to 2-3 and so qualified to meet Galway in the final.

This game saw Galway lead by two points at the interval but a goal by Tim Flood eighteen minutes after the interval gave Wexford the inspiration they needed and they went on to win by 3-13 to 2-8.

In 1956, Cork and Wexford again proved best in their respective provinces, defeating Limerick and Kilkenny in the provincial deciders. Wexford had just a point to spare over Kilkenny, while Cork defeated Limerick by two goals, after looking a beaten team for most of the game.

The All-Ireland final received a tremendous build-up and the game itself certainly lived up to all its expectations. It is mainly remembered for the fact that Wexford lost a seven points lead and then fought back to eventually win by six points and for Art Foley's memorable save from a bullet-like shot from Christy Ring.

Foley's save from Ring's scorching shot must have left an indelible impression on the majority of the 83,000 attendance present at the game. It came at a time when Wexford had gone into a two points lead with just three minutes to go.

Ring collected a clearance from the Cork back-line and from about 25 yards out let fly a tremendous shot. The ball seemed destined for the back of the net but Foley surprised everybody by making a fantastic save.

Nobody was more surprised



than Ring and as soon as Foley had made a lengthy clearance up the field, the Cloyne wizard went in and shook the Wexford goalkeeper's hand. At the end of the game a few of the Wexford players returned the compliment to Ring by chairing the Cork star off the pitch.

In the 1956 final, Wexford got off to a fine start and were four points up inside three minutes through a goal by Padge Kehoe and Tim Flood. However, Cork kept within striking distance of the Leinster champions and at half-time trailed by only four points (1-6 to 0-5).

In the third quarter Wexford assumed control and victory seemed assured when they went six points up. Then Cork and Christy Ring struck. The Munster champions were awarded a 21-yards free after 13 minutes of the second half and it was entrusted to Ring. Ring belted the ball to the back of the net and the score was now 1-9 to 1-5 in Wexford's favour.

Ring added a point and, after Padge Kehoe had pointed, Paddy Barry countered with a Cork point. Paddy Barry then scored a great equalising goal

and then Ring palmed the ball over the bar for the lead.

However, it was then that the Wexford team showed their true mettle. Within a minute of Ring's point Nicky Rackard had levelled matters and then Rackard added two points from frees to leave the Slaneysiders in front by two points. Then followed Art Foley's dramatic save and, as if inspired by this, Nick Rackard smashed home a great goal and Tom Dixon scored a point to leave Wexford winners by six points (2-14 to 2-8).

So Wexford climaxed a wonderful year by their magnificent victory. Earlier in the year they had given evidence of their fighting spirit when they came from sixteen points down in the League final against Tipperary to win by four points, and few teams would have staged a comeback at so late a point in an All-Ireland final.

The 1954 and 1956 All-Ireland finals will mean little to the Cork and Wexford players this month, but if this year's final possesses nearly as much intensity of excitement and drama as either of those games, then few fans will be disappointed.

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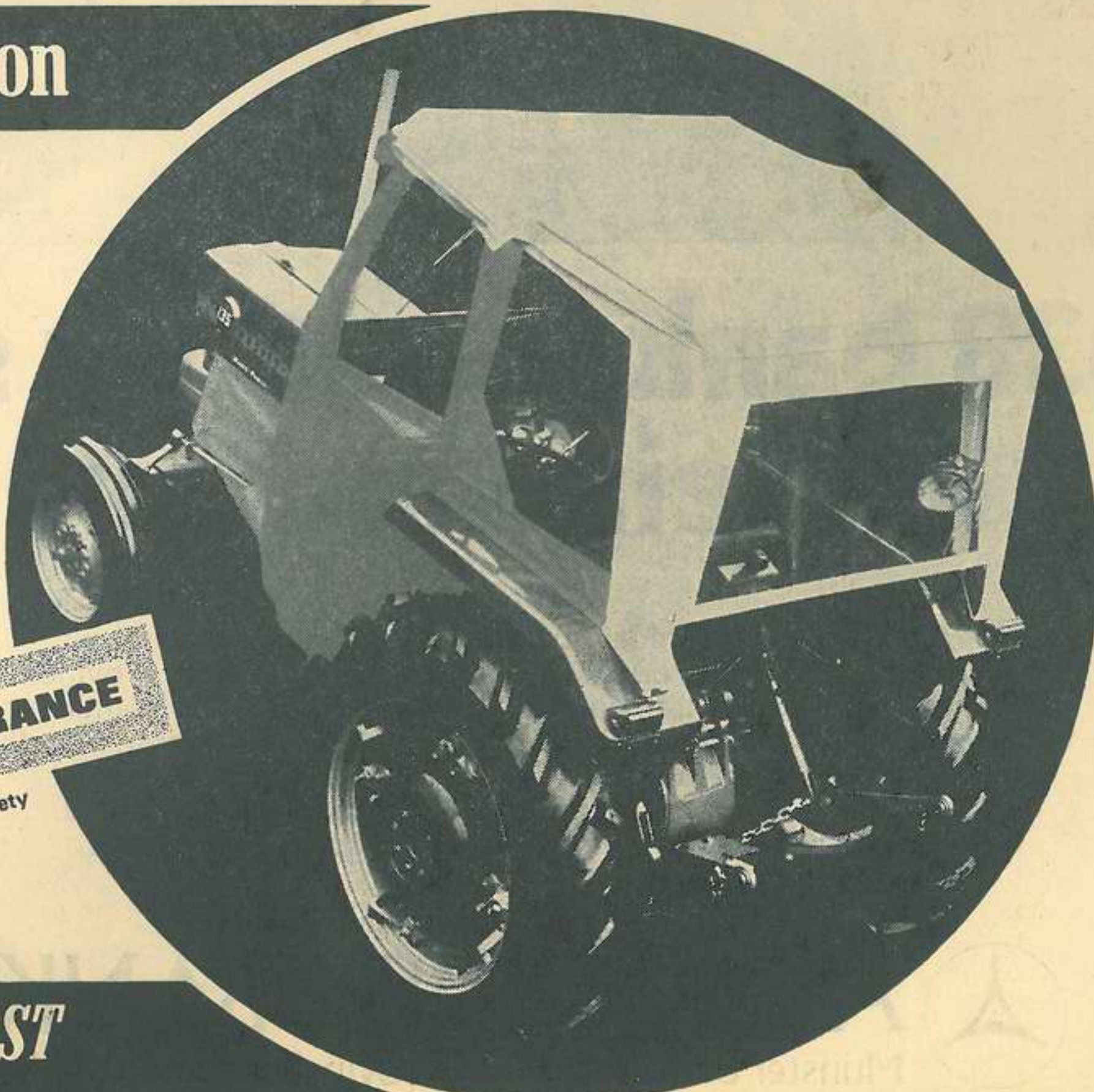
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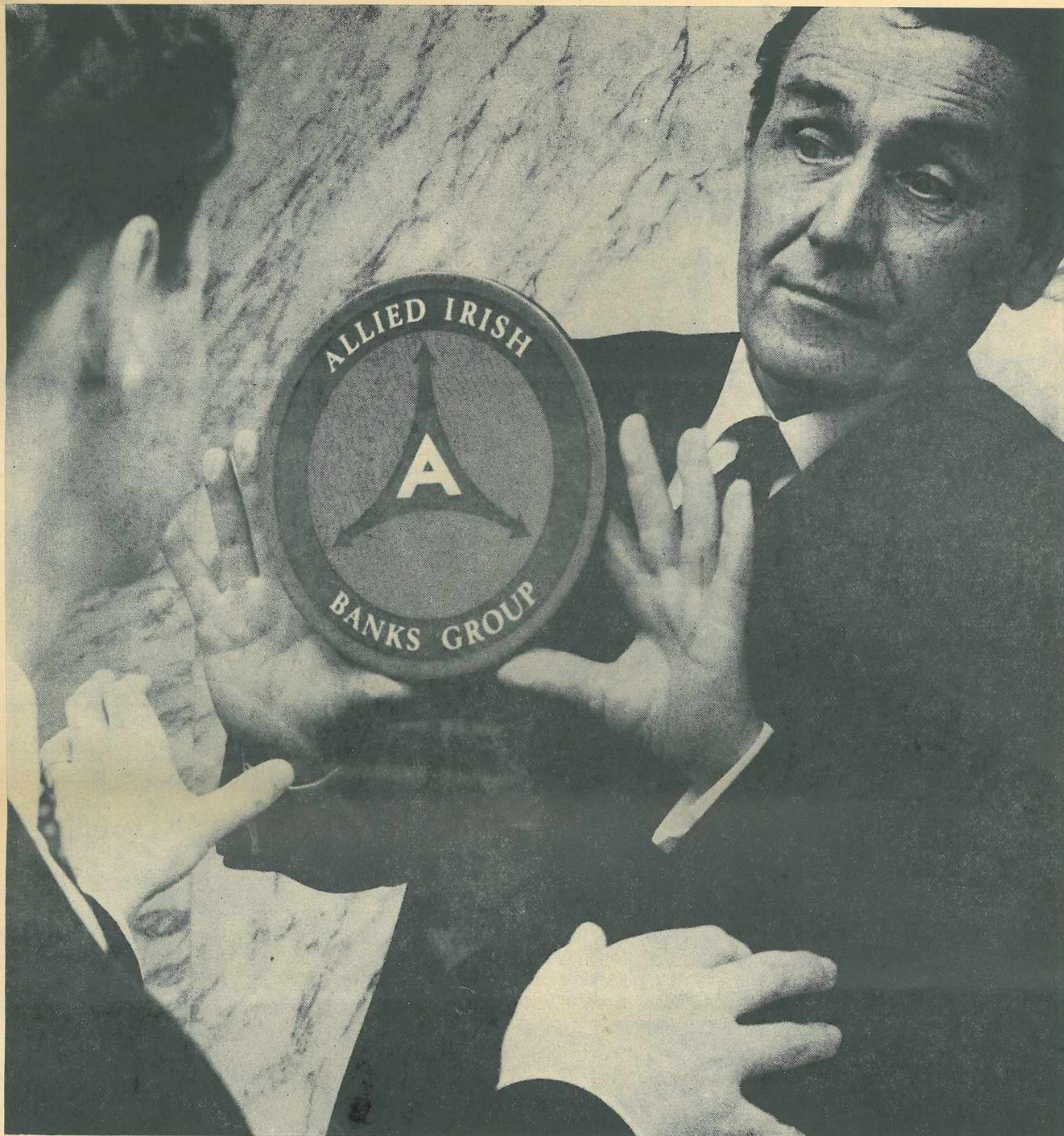
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Liam Campbell Reports



AFTER a few games, it's now possible to make some judgement on the extended playing time; not a definitive verdict as yet, but perhaps a marshalling of some thoughts on the subject.

For a start, it's only fair to say that I'm in favour of the eighty instead of sixty minutes, and what I've seen of it so far confirms my opinion. There have been some fine examples of how the extra time can add to enjoyment; both the Leinster finals were worth watching all through, with the football clash

of Meath and Offaly an outstanding afternoon's entertainment. The totals they put up were near-records, if not definitely records.

Scores are what the customers want, and when there's only a point between the teams at the end the interest never flags. (An interesting thing about that particular game: At half-time I was grabbing a quick cup of tea, and I overheard a man offering twenty to one against Meath, who were ten points down at that stage — as far as I could see, nobody took him up on it).

To look more closely at the Meath-Offaly match, I notice that, at the end of thirty minutes in the first half, Offaly were actually behind by a point! It was Meath 0-8, Offaly 1-4. In the ten minutes that followed, Offaly scored 3-3 against a single point for Meath. In the second half, the opening thirty minutes gave Meath 2-11 and Offaly five points. So, if you imagine the game being a sixty-minute affair, the final score would have been Meath 2-19, Offaly 1-9 . . . and that would surely have been an even greater sensation than we finished with.

If you examine the scoring in the extra ten minutes in each half, it went: Offaly 4-3, Meath 0-3! You could go on half the day working out the might-have-beens and all the other intriguing possibilities, but when all is said and done the Meath-Offaly game will stand as a great piece of evidence when the case of the eighty-minute game is being put forward.

There is, of course, another

side to the story, like every story. My own personal example of the extra time being a poor enough idea is the Ulster final at Clones. Sixty minutes of a bad match is bad, but eighty minutes is just drastic. This Derry-Antrim game was one long yawn, and it seemed to go on for hours; such is the effect of non-entertainment.

It was a pity that it turned out that way, but you can't legislate against negative play. The real power is with the aforementioned customers; they know well that teams like Derry and Antrim can do far better than this, so by staying away from a few encounters they can put their money where their mouths are, and instead of complaining start campaigning.

On balance, though, I like the extra time, and look forward to seeing it being introduced to all county games.

To go back to the Ulster final for a minute, I thought things were done very well at Clones. The idea of bringing the two teams down the steps from the

dressingrooms together and right in behind the band for the parade is one that could well be copied elsewhere. It would do away with the untidy straggle that we see so often, even on the big occasions.

Another thing I liked was the way the spectators arriving at the ground were kept informed about the best spaces and places available, etc. The man in charge of the loudspeaker was positioned so that he could see both inside and outside the ground . . . a simple enough thing, but I haven't seen it done often before. It's this sort of organisation that puts the finishing touch to the presentation of games. But all the time we must insist on the games themselves being up to the mark!

Still on the Ulster final, the programme produced by the Ulster Council for the big event was a mine of information (with the exception of the numbering for the minor teams), but it was almost impossible to get it outside the ground. This left the market wide open for purveyors

of pirate programmes, which weren't a patch on the real thing . . . a pity, since so many people were "had."

And one more thing about Clones: some of the hoteliers there were apparently unaware that a football game was scheduled for the place at all; not alone was the first so-called hotel I visited unable to handle the crowd, but they were verging on the rude to people, and these people were not looking for anything for nothing — they were in possession of good money.

The second hotel to which I called had a crowd problem, too, but were anxious to please, and a cheerful smile, as the bible tells us, can turn away wrath. So despite the hurried nature of the lunch, my thanks to the people in the Creighton Hotel, who are aware that the customer is the most important person in the place.

But I do feel that the Ulster Council could well give some tips on efficiency to some of the other caterers in Clones.

FIRST CAMOGIE TITLE FOR ROSCOMMON

SO many records have been set up already in the current camogie season that it is hard to keep track of them all. Antrim, for instance, have won the Ulster title for the sixteenth consecutive year, while Roscommon and Dublin have won junior provincial titles for the first time. For Roscommon, the occasion was particularly memorable, as this was the first time the county had ever won a cam-

ogie title of any kind.

Indeed the enthusiasm fostered by this victory should provide a really tremendous boost for the game in the county, but I feel that the enthusiasm was there before the victory, for the Roscommon girls who turned up for the National Coaching Course at Gormanston were full of dedication to the game already.

Anyway this Connacht title

was a fitting reward for the hard work of County Secretary Mary Travers through the lean years.

In the All-Ireland semi-final, Roscommon met Dublin who, oddly enough, had never before won a Leinster title in the junior grade. A remarkable thing, too, about this Dublin side was that it included nearly half the U.C.D. side that won the Ashbourne Cup earlier in the season.

They were Ann Marie O'Loughlin, Pat Morrissey, Veronica Fingleton, and Marion Coogan all of whom play with the U.C.D. club, and Vera Sullivan who plays her club camogie with Austin Stacks. Another U.C.D. player, Muireann Hayes, who was not eligible for the Ashbourne, was also on the Dublin line-out that won this first Leinster junior final.

For good measure, two more members of the Ashbourne Cup side, Ann Carroll and Jo Golden, were on the Kilkenny team that won the Leinster senior championship. So it will be seen that the U.C.D. club have plenty of medals on hand this season for they won Dublin senior and junior leagues as well.

• Cork All-Ireland star Liz Garven certainly has had a busy summer, as she won three southern tennis titles, and reached the final of the Irish girls

championship. And the girl who defeated her, Maeve Glenn, is the daughter of a former Dublin All-Ireland hurler, Gerry.

• The National Coaching Course at Gormanston proved a tremendous success, and its long term effect on the spread of camogie is bound to be most beneficial. Particularly gratifying was the big attendance of nuns, representing quite a variety of religious orders.

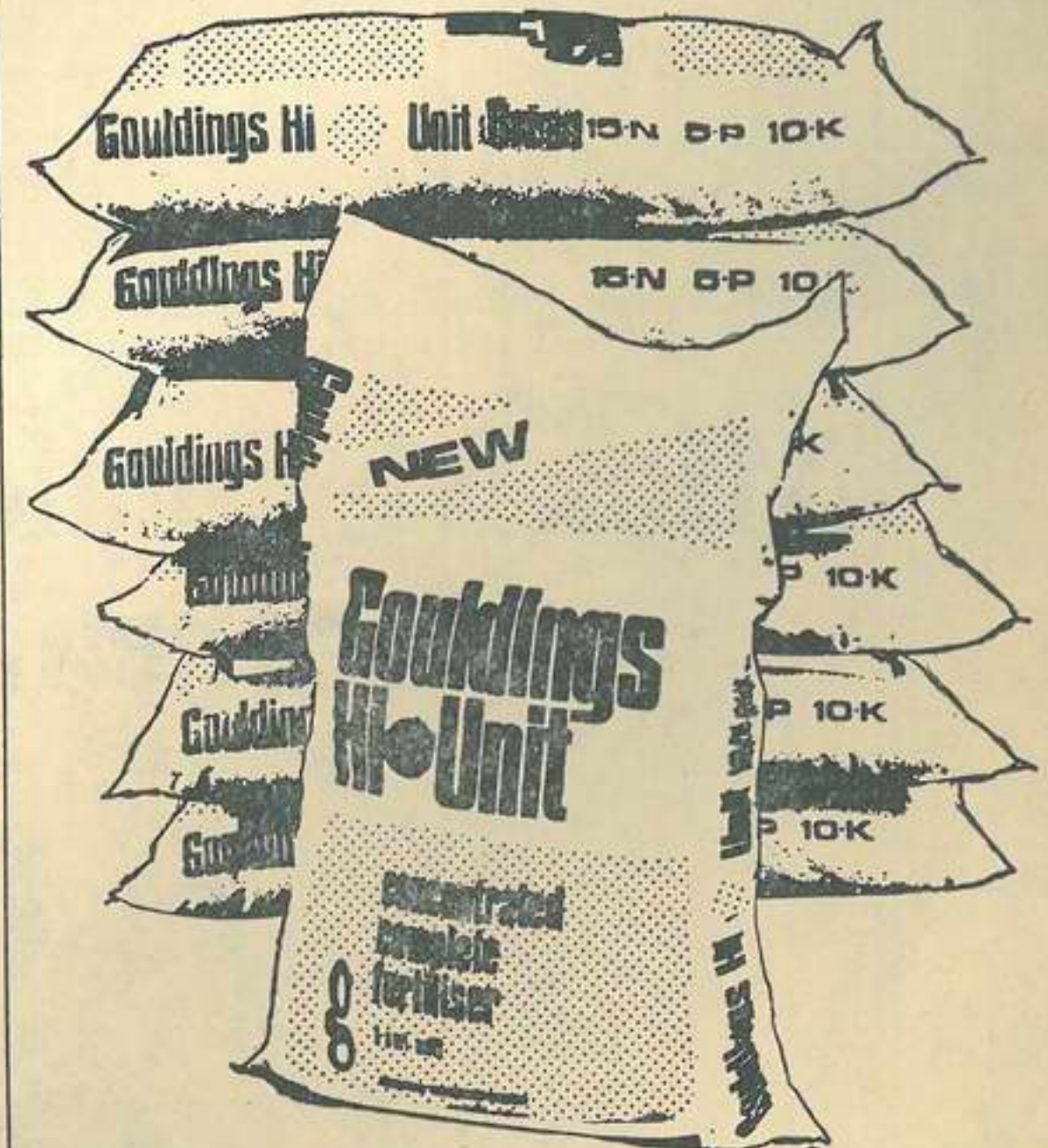
• Clare may not be very much in the camogie forefront at the moment, but there seems to be no lack of talent in the Banner county, when one considers the fact that four Clare girls played in the recent Leinster junior final. They were Pat Morrissey, Ann Marie O'Loughlin and Claire Harrington with Dublin and Anne Harrington with Louth.

And just to keep the customers on their toes, Claire and Anne Harrington, though playing for different counties, are sisters.

Add on the fact that Kitty Murphy, a member of the Dublin senior team, is also from Clare, and one wonders why the Banner county is not much more to the fore on the camogie fields of the South.

• The All-Ireland senior and junior camogie finals will be played at Croke Park on Sunday, September 20.

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It is nothing short of extraordinary that Cork have shown, in the last two years, just about all the characteristics which a champion team could desire, a great number of the skills, and all the qualities of physique, and yet be suspect in their ability to really nail down the title because of some fear. It is also uncharacteristic of Cork. If there is one thing which Cork have been noted for, it is their ability to make the best of themselves, even at times when they were thin enough in talent. They have been the champions of the superiority complex — they felt they were good enough, almost solely because they were Cork.

Of course, they have had plenty of reason for that: Cork have so often been good, so often even magnificent. It has been an inherited feeling that Cork's team will, of necessity be a good one, and the youngster who gains

admittance through the golden door where the red jerseys are stored, will assume, if he did not already know, that he must be good enough to take on any man in Ireland, except a few in his own county, and they will be playing with him.

The sad break-down must have its seeds somewhere in the long term of trial in the fifties and sixties in which team after team from the Rebel county was humiliated at the hands of Tipperary, in particular, but even at the hands of Waterford and Clare and other Munster counties. Their championship record became so fallible that there was doubt, in some minds, that they could come back for a long time. Yet, there was the tremendous enthusiasm year after year when they reached the Munster final or the day when Tipperary were to be challenged again. You would swear that every Corkman there

would stake his life that his team was going to win this time. No more messing, Cork must take its rightful place back on the top of the pile. And, still they failed.

Was all this confidence, then, just bravado? Did Cork people endure such a series of deflations of their egos that they were possessed deep down by a fear that was only covered over with a veneer of aggressive self-confidence. Has that fear of failure, or fear of the remoteness of success, maybe, communicated itself to the rising generation who are the seniors of today. Did the fathers of Cork, when they had retreated into their houses and closed their doors, drawn the blinds and made sure no window was open even a crack, finally lay aside the burden of maintaining the outward cockiness, and confide to their wives and their children that they feared in their hearts that Cork were 'done' as a hurling power.

Did they grow sceptical in the privacy of their own hearths of ever gaining success? Did they, in those moments of private and intimate grief, place a burden on the psyches of their youngsters, so that they now cannot clinch the title of All-Ireland champions even though they are the best hurlers in the game? Do these boys not know that to be allowed to wear the blood and bandage you must be good.

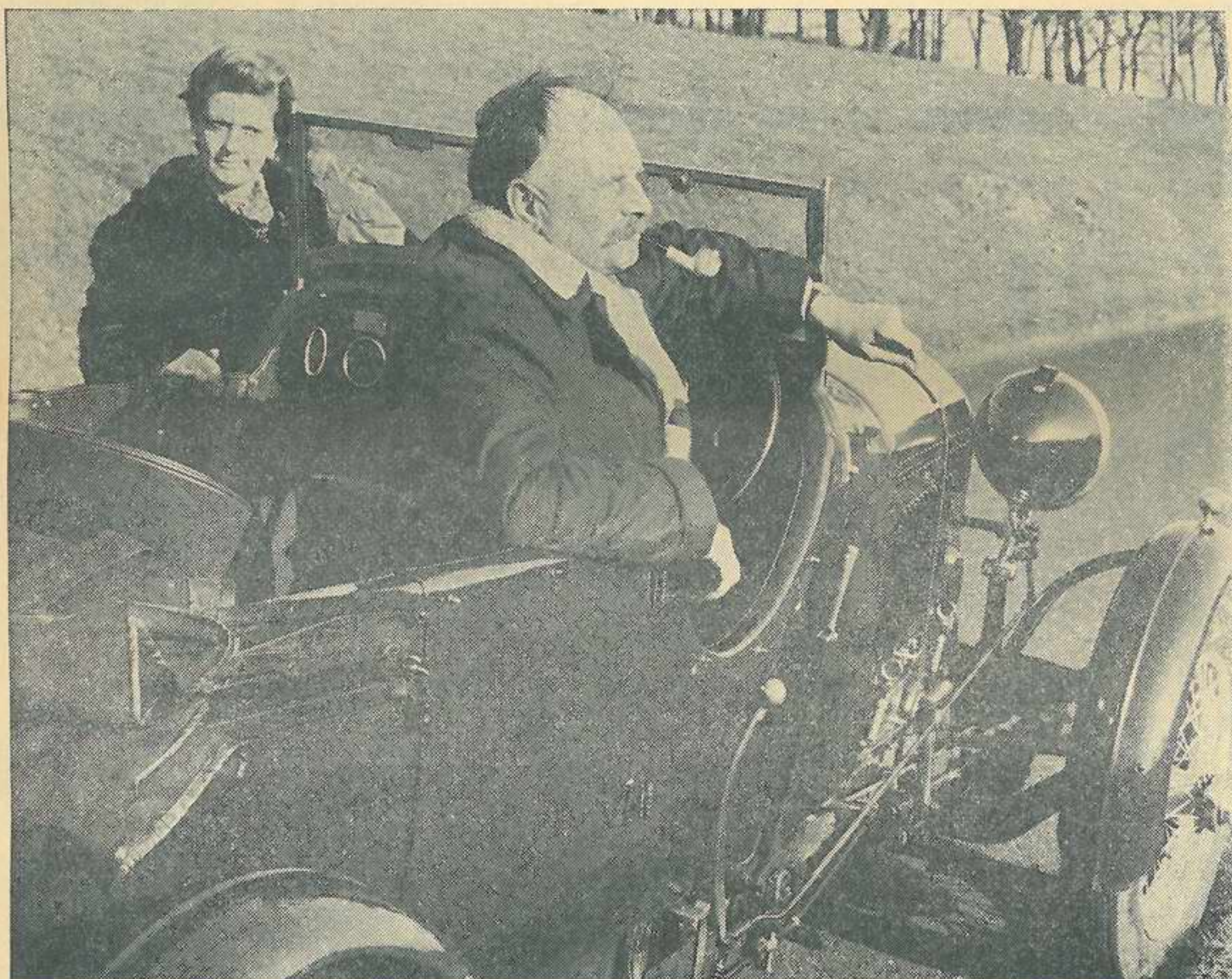
The funny thing about it all is that only four years ago a Cork team which by any standards was moderate, and which had been carried through the championship by the cleverness and accuracy of Seanie Barry, suddenly came into their kingdom when they set foot on Croke Park. They all hurled with such an urgency, an almost suicidal abandon, that the outcome could only have been victory for the reds.

How did they do it? How could not the 1969 hot favourites do it? No one ever heard of favouritism bothering Cork before. Others have cited over-confidence as their killer; Cork never.

Or, whisper . . . ! Could it be that there is no longer a Jim Barry there? No longer the visible, physical symbol of Cork's tradition, Cork's unbeatableness. How could you be training for weeks under the jaw of the master who had trained in this way, and on this same field, all the masters of the past that you can recall from your reading and from listening to the men, and not sense that you were in the same mainstream, and that you were just one of another team destined before you were born to carry on the way all the other teams Jim had sent out went.

And, then, of course, there is the more obvious factor about Barry, Corkmen — those sufficiently sacrilegious to give the thought utterance — would say that Jim had nothing special to offer that any other trainer could not have done, maybe even better. That was in the later years when methods which were new when Jim was young, had now become common property all over the country.

It could be true; it probably is. But, those who have watched the late, great Tough operate know that these things were of little importance in his way of doing things. The fitness end of it was all right, but what is the



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To Play For This Time

point of talking about fitness when you are training an All-Ireland team—they are fit enough, God knows. What you want is to get their minds ticking over in such a way that they can produce the physical results of their fitness. And if they are all wrong psychologically, they will appear over-trained, or under-trained, or something.

With Tough at the helm, there were yarns and anecdotes — constant streams of talk about the men in whose shoes you were following. And the yarns were ones which always showed the little nuances of these men's characters and their little foibles. You knew, after Tough, that the God-names of your youth were just like yourself in many ways, who liked a jar, or had a way with a tall-story, or were short-sighted in the left eye, or could not tell a square-root from a potato root. "But, he was some hurler, all the same . . ."

You recognised in some of the Tough's tales, little hurling skills of the masters that you knew you possessed yourself, little failings they had in their greatness that you recognised and until then feared in your own game. All the stream of tradition being flowed on your head, subtly, as the Tough alone could do it. And, when the tension arose, and the flow of tradition's waters would no longer do anything but make you want to scream, the Tough could tell of a thousand fights, a thousand operas, a thousand songs sung in a thousand out of the way places, in the company of a thousand out of this world characters. You name it, Tough had a story about it.

"Sing us an ould song, Tough." He had you then. And he could make the rafter ring magnificently, so he kept his hold, and you never missed the miles, or knew the worries until you were back home after training, or had arrived in the field for the match.

One final thing, and a corollary of this. How many of the 1966 side won that All-Ireland for Tough? How many of them, tears in their eyes, bestowed the victory upon him as he made as dignified a way as might be through the surging thousands, bow tie, immaculate shirt, elegant suit and all? And that get up of his — you have no idea how that shattered the followers of other less successful counties in Munster championship games. Jim Barry would appear striding along the touch-line, sartorially superb in an age of some austerity. You couldn't but



Jim Barry pictured on one of his last public appearances at a game in Mullingar with (on right) Tommy Moore in June 1968.

acknowledge that here was the Greatest.

Down the line, perhaps, or out on to the field he would go with measured step; a wave of the arm here, a jutt of the imperious jaw there and half a dozen fellows seemed to tumble over one another to bring the hurleys or the oranges . . . or something. You could not but be in awe of the Great Man.

Just before the teams lined up, he would be seen in intense and secretive conversation — no, monologue — with Christy Ring, or some other Cork player . . . "Christ, what's Barry up to now."

It was a great act, really and, all told, the right thing for trainers; but, it can never be copied. And, most of all, how many of the string of All-Irelands Cork have won and the cart-load of medals were won for Tough. He knew, you see that abstract and even inner drives are sometimes fallible. He personalised in himself the object of the victory drive. So, it wasn't for Mary, or Jane, or Dad or Mum only that the individuals were playing, or even for selfish self alone. And it wasn't for Cork be-

cause, what is Cork? It was a safer, more corporate, drive which Tough gave them — he inspired them to play for him!

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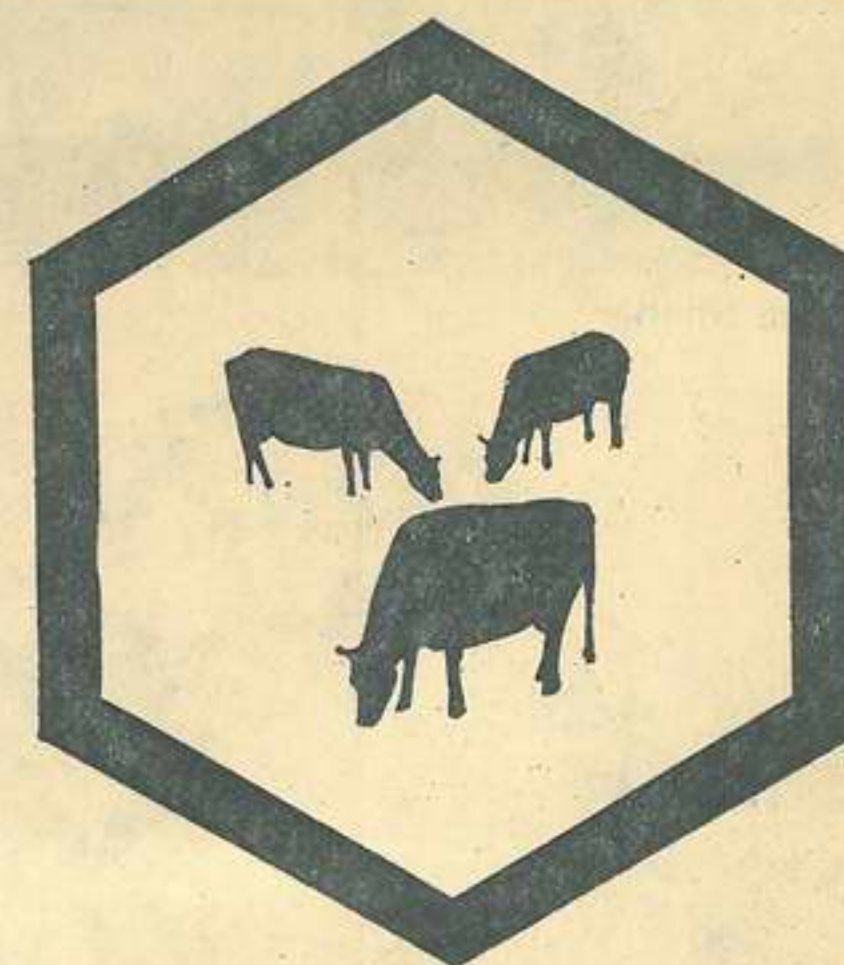
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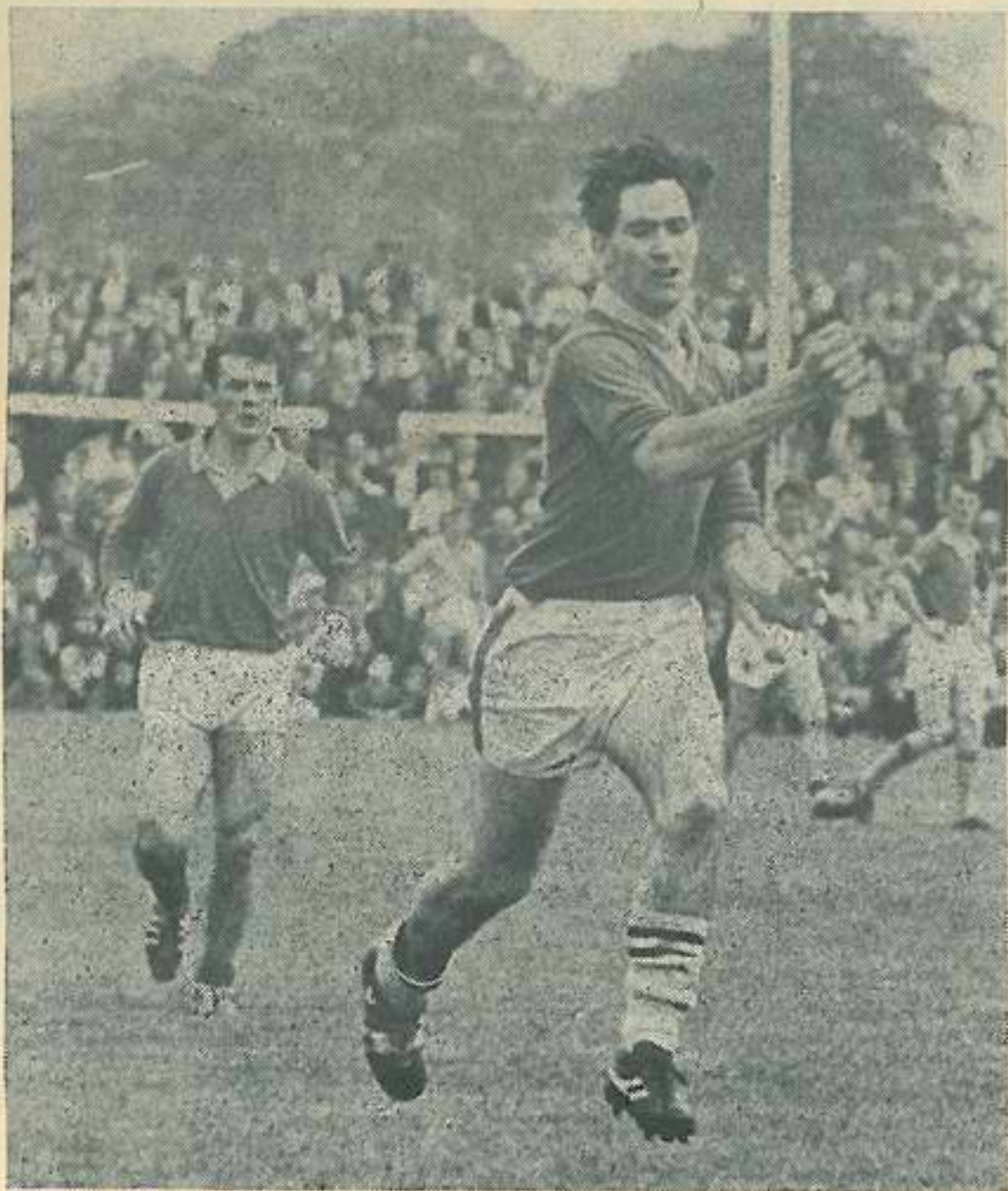
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FERMANAGH Under-21 team which won the county's first in Ulster. BACK (left to right): A. Campbell, M. Fox, P. Sh. S. Sheridan, H. Kelly, M. McGarrity, D. Campbell, P. Reilly, J. (left to right): A. Maguire, D. McKenna, E. Treacy, T. Boyd, M. Cassidy, P. Maguire, L. Carbery, C. Campbell

Meet The Stars—No. 5

● **SEANIE BARRY** plays with the Imokilly club in Cork and is a clerical student at St. Patrick's College, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow.

● **OLLIE SHANLEY** is a Garda and now plays with the Trim club in Meath. Now a half-back, he was in the Meath forward line for years.

● **OLLIE CRINNIGAN**, regular goalkeeper for Kildare for the past four years, is a member of the powerful Carbury club and also plays hurling.

● **JOE EARLEY**, Mayo's right half-back, is a former St. Jarlath's College, Tuam star. He is an agricultural science student at U.C.D.

● **JIMMY STAFFORD**, now back on the Cavan team after an absence of a few years plays for the Kilinkere club and is also an agricultural science student at U.C.D.

● **MICK MORRIS** who made the headlines lately because of a dispute with the Kerry County Board, plays with John Mitchels, Tralee. He recently qualified as an engineer from U.C.C. and was married on August 22.

● **JIMMY SMYTH**, the former Clare and Munster hurler, is now an Executive Officer on the G.A.A. office staff at Croke Park, while **JOHN DOYLE**, the holder of eight All-Ireland medals, is a farmer in Holycross, Co. Tipperary and a Senator in Dail Eireann.

● **ANTON CARRO** native Irish speaker from Abbeyfeale, Co. Lin.

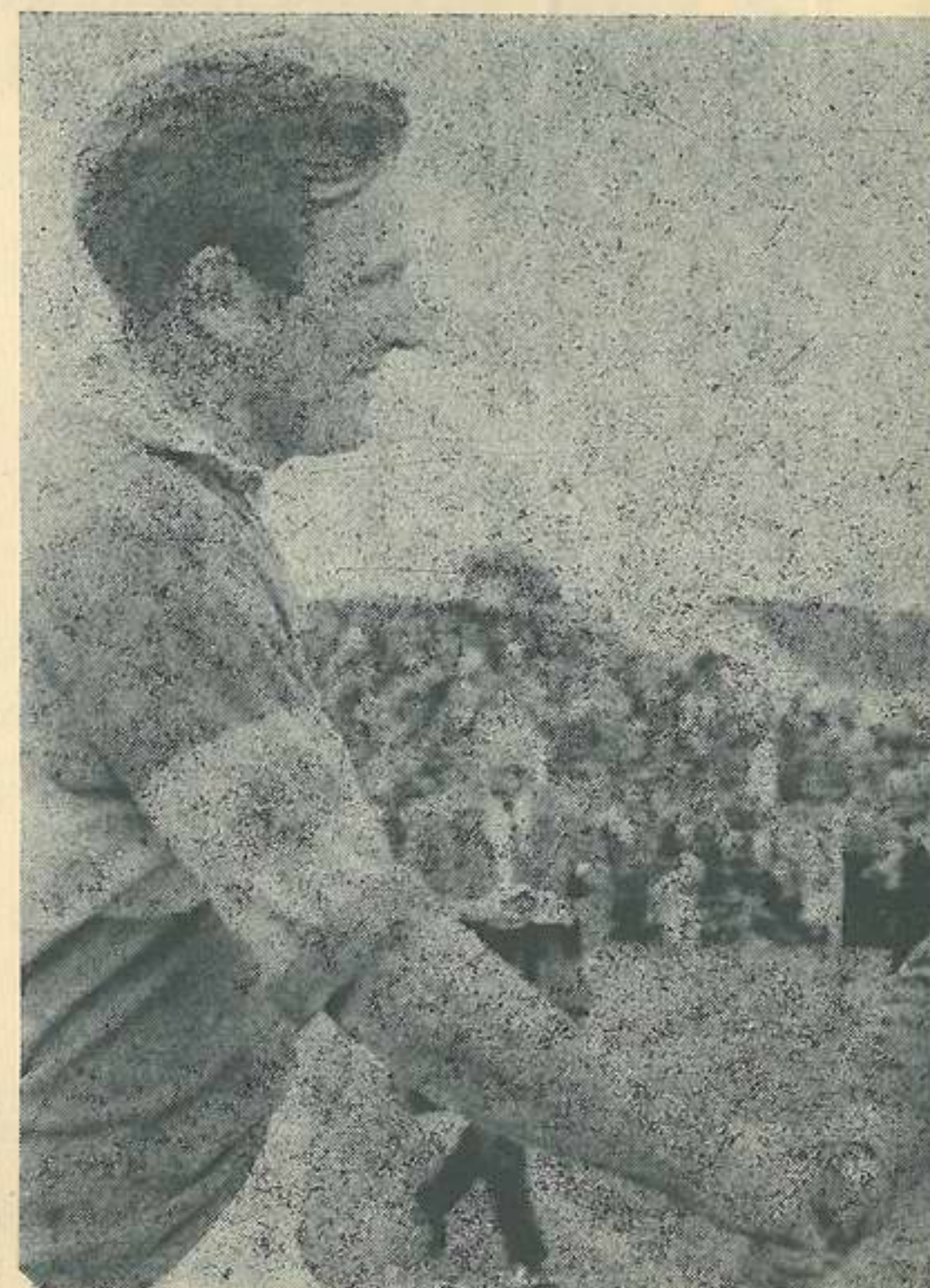
● **NOEL O'DWYER** team towards the end of his versatility in defence. He is a member of the

● **JACKIE DEVIN** Mary's in London, London York Longford team in New York.

● **BERTIE CUNNINGHAM** Meath's dismissal from has discovered a new full-back line. Bertie Ballivor club.

● **MICK MELLET** Dublin and plays his club will be hoping to win the on September 27.

● **JOE CORCORAN** to their first National last May. He is a member also a fine golfer.



John Doyle (left) and Jimmy Smyth



er age championship
Gallagher, S. Reilly,
y, D. Owens. FRONT
artland, S. Flanagan,
Ginnitty.



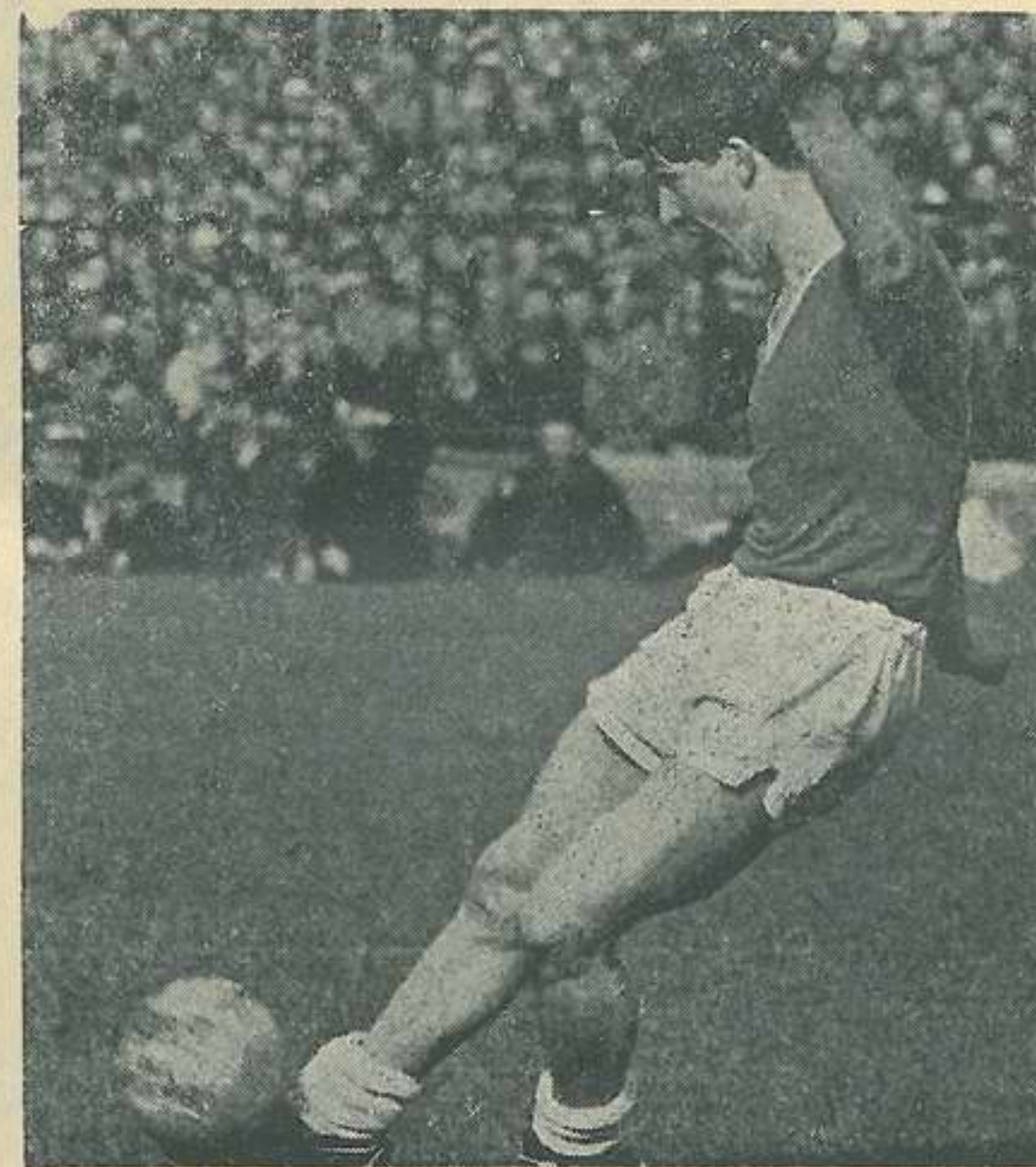
Anton Carroll



Jackie Devine



Joe Corcoran



Mick Mellett



Noel O'Dwyer



Mick Morris

Donegal footballer is a
adore. He is now a teacher

ame on to the Tipperary
and since then has proved
attack on many occasions.
eigh club.

his year played with St.
Croke Park and the New
Park. He is now based in

retired two years ago after
einster championship but
life since moving to the
rmer and plays with the

lerk with Cement Ltd. in
ball with Martinstown. He
d All-Ireland senior medal

a big part in helping Mayo
'Home' victory since 1954
the Ardnaree club and is

Gaelic Park Report

HAVING passed the mid point of the playing season, New York Gaelic sports fans can look back on a half season of rousing competition, sparked by many fine individual and team performances. This realization defies the theorists who submit that our national games are on the wane not alone in the Empire State but also on the home-front. The standard of play in both codes from the opening games in April has often been brilliant and while occasionally the Sunday fare has been tainted with mediocrity the loyal sports follower will retain many a thrill from his outings to date at Gaelic Park in the Bronx. Indeed his hopes must be strong that the remaining months of the season will augment his store of heroic memories, as 1970 has been a pleasantly surprising year of competition in New York, surpassing the expectations of even the most optimistic of our games' proponents.

Even the oppressive heat of July and early August has not deterred these eager fans from paying their weekly trips to the park, as each Sunday is sure to produce another revelation!

These days it is possible to arrive at Gaelic Park for a noon junior football curtain-raiser and be thrilled by the thundering forays of Down's Dan McCartan playing at full back for Carlow or a little later by the rampaging of Mick Lawlor of Kilkenny abetting the cause of Leix in a hurling engagement. For those who wish to capture the excitement of the afternoon and twilight football games, there is always the promise of an array of inter-

county and provincial stars with a blending of student youth, often unknown to most of the viewers by name. Soon the class of these stars will begin to reveal itself and gradually names like, Carolan, McAlarney, Purdy, Milligan, Quinn and Morris will be mentioned frequently and glowingly as the games progress.

The latitude granted in travel by the Central Council and indeed the desire of the players themselves to travel together with the student movement have changed the structural organization of teams on the New York scene, significantly.

Few will argue that these visiting inter-county and student players have contributed enormously to the improvement of the quality of the games and while the average effects of this liberal importing will not be fully appraisable immediately, the spot analysis suggests nothing but satisfaction on the part of the admission payer.

Many promoters feel that while the rigid immigration laws continue, it is absolutely essential to bring players from Ireland to maintain championship teams. Here organization and financial resources are the supreme fac-

more recently, Limerick and Wexford have all "gone to the clouds" for reinforcement. Even junior clubs have taken advantage of the freedom of travel of players from Ireland and as long as these players are willing to make the trip and local funds remain available the trend will no doubt continue. Hopefully, the ill effects will not be grave!

Some of these visiting stars who have performed to date at Gaelic Park with N.Y. teams have fully vindicated the confidence of their promoters. With the possible exception of all-time great Mick O'Connell, no one player has delineated play-making ability to greater advantage than Mickey Niblock the Derry star. Time and again, playing centrehalf forward he has been the catalyst which has accelerated the Monaghan scoring machine.

Though less spectacular, Jack Quinn has played several fine games at midfield for the New York champions, with his effective control and passing often setting up the play for the more glamorous Niblock. Colm McAlarney of Down has also shown real class around the midfield sector in his outings with local Cavan team. Ray Carolan the Ulster star gave a gigantic display of football earlier this year in a losing cause for his native county. Others who have done well on the New York scene are John Purdy, Peter Rooney and John Murphy of Down, Donie O'Sullivan and J. J. Barrett of Kerry.

In hurling many stars have also made the 1970 New York scene. Most have added to their reputations here but few have reached the brilliance of Jim O'Donnell who played at centre half back with Limerick against Clare in a recent league event. After a rather quiet start Jim, brought appreciation from the crowd with as fluent and quality display of first class hurling as has been witnessed here in some time. His travelling companion, P. J. Keane also hit top gear on occasion.

John Connolly now a regular on the Galway team, must be regarded as the finest midfielder in the game today. This tall strapping athlete has all of the confidence, craft and style of a super-star.

Others who have shown to advantage in the hurling code are "Babs" Keating and Sean O'Meara of Tipperary, Jim Cullinane, Jack O'Gorman and Liam Danagher of Clare and Joe Foley and Jack Russell of Wexford.

Jimmy Doyle, always a favourite despite partisan interest, caused many a brow to furrow when he announced his retirement during his trip here for the Cardinal Cushing games. Jimmy who thrilled the New York audience on several occasions will be missed as much in the Empire State as in his native Tipperary. It is always sad to see such a glorious chapter in the history of our National game finally closed!

A truly historic event took place at Gaelic Park in July. The Kerryman's P & B Association on its annual field day honoured the well-known and popular footballing family, the Foleys from Hartford, Connecticut. The brothers, — all eight — from Keel, Castlemaine, Co. Kerry were presented with a plaque suitably inscribed in recognition of their great service and loyalty to our national games and culture. The Foleys have stayed together and played football together for local home clubs, native county and adopted county. The eight brothers, Pat, Jerry, John, Tom, Timmy, Danny, Jim and Mick have won sixty New York championship medals and dozens of individual trophies, National Football League medals and other awards. Since 1960 no New York football team



Mickey Niblock . . . a star with Monaghan in New York.

tors. The big, well-established clubs can raise funds for such undertakings, although all are now finding the cash-hunt an elusive one.

On the other hand there is the argument that weaker clubs will become weaker still and may decide to fold in the wake of this trafficking. What the ultimate outcome of this week-ending will be, is only conjectural at this time.

Teams like, Cavan, Leitrim and Galway in football have followed the lead of Monaghan and Kerry, in importing players from Ireland for key games and it is likely that others will do likewise provided their treasuries permit. In hurling Clare, Tipperary, Galway and



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THE GLAMOUR

NEW YORK REPORT

BY

AMBROSE O'CONNELL

has been without at least one Foley. Jim and Mick are still members of the New York selection and playing as well as ever.

That they were so honoured by their County Association, is a fitting tribute for such a unique contribution to the football scene for so long.

Some of the new rules handed down at the 1970 convention of the G.A.A. of New York have already been put to the test and will be further tested before the season ends. One of these which applies to visiting teams had been abused somewhat in previous years and has been changed as follows:

Such players will not be able to take part in New York League or Knock-Out competition during the tour and until one month after the departure of the visiting team unless a player has a permanent visa for residence in the U.S. Players who travel with visiting teams may play with local N.Y. teams in regular competition provided that such players have already participated previously with and are considered registered members of these clubs.

By 1970 convention ruling another change is that players must have participated in a previous game in a competition in order to play in a semi-final or final of said competition. This changes the previous standing rule which required that a player must have played in a previous game in order to be eligible to play in a final of that competition. The amendment in adding the semi-final was designed to curb the "loading" of teams with imported stars for a final, thereby making it difficult for developing teams to win a championship.

Some abuse of these rules is bound to re-occur, but their design is accepted generally as a practical measure to equate the balance of power where semi-finals and finals are concerned.

Another step designed to help senior hurling clubs bolster their compliment of playing members is the change



Colm McAlarney

in the rule of drafting of players introduced for 1970 games. This amendment increased the number of junior players that could be drafted by senior teams to eight — four from junior teams not having a senior team and four from their own junior teams. Senior teams not having junior teams may draft all eight junior players from clubs not having a senior team.

In hurling New York competition divides into senior and junior grades. The senior division is comprised of 9 teams, Clare, Tipperary, Cork, Limerick, Kerry, Galway, Kilkenny, Offaly and Wexford. The competition is played on a knock-out and league basis with the winners of each series meeting in the overall final.

Presently the top senior teams are Tipperary, Clare and Galway, with the remaining teams fairly evenly matched, somewhat below the par of the top three.

In junior grade there are fourteen teams engaged in a straight knock-out competition. The current junior cham-

pions are Leix who gained the crown via an objection, after being narrowly defeated by Cork in the delayed 1969 final. Leix, helped by county stars Mick Lawlor of Kilkenny and Sam Stanley of Galway have thus won their first New York hurling championship.

The football is segmented three ways: Senior, Intermediate and Junior. The senior division teams involved are: Monaghan, Cavan, Tyrone, Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, Sligo, Kerry, Cork, Offaly, Longford and Louth.

Monaghan defending champions and having recently defeated Kerry in the 1969 League final, are still unbeaten and are thus the ranking team in the top grade. Kerry, Sligo and Galway follow and all are capable of making it to the top, given the right moment.

The newly formed Intermediate Division is comprised of five teams, Donegal, Roscommon, Clare, Westmeath and Connemara Gaels. This competition is being played on a league basis and is a trial programme of two year duration. Donegal and Connemara Gaels are the favourites in this division both having been 1968 junior finalists.

In the Junior Football division there are approximately thirty teams affiliated. The current champions are Donegal. However the 1969 final has been overly delayed. It is scheduled for August 30th with Connemara Gaels and Clare vying for the honours. At this point "The Gaels" appear firm favourites but Clare has played good ball in all recent outings.

Their opponents have been a powerful force in New York football for the past five or six years and though now advanced to Intermediate grade will continue to stay at the top of the Junior Division, by virtue of visitors and recent acquisitions. The Connemara Gaels have been denied admission to the senior grade, (though they have appealed strongly each year) by reason of their not having a county name, a rule which was introduced at a recent annual convention.

Two Galway and New York stars Ken Croke and Paddy Egan have returned to Ireland recently to take up permanent residence. They are wished well by their many friends in New York and hopefully will continue to remain active on the home playing field.

Back in May the New York hurlers, were ready and primed for their confrontation with Cork in the National League Final. Circumstances caused a postponement. Now the dates are set for September 13 and 20. The New York players are back in training again, but whether they can recapture the form of June when they vanquished the visiting Munster Railway Cup selection remains to be seen. However, with stalwarts like Sean Custy, Paddy Dowling, John Connolly, Brendan Kelleher, and Pat Kirby keen on victory the New Yorkers will be a formidable barrier even for Cork to breach!

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HPI



Fifth Successive Final For Cork

THE Cork minor hurlers return to Croke Park this month for their fifth consecutive All-Ireland final, and once again Wexford provide the opposition. It's four years now since the counties met for the first time in an All-Ireland minor decider, and since that original 1966 final Cork and Wexford have clashed in all but last year's game.

When the counties crossed camans in the '66 final Cork lined out with John Horgan and Ray Cummins in the half-back line, Donal Clifford and Willie Walsh at midfield and Simon Murphy at left corner forward. These players have graduated to the senior selection and will be seen in Croke Park again this year.

Wexford had some current seniors in their minor team of 1966 also. John Quigley was right full-back, Ned Buggy lined out in the halfback division and Paddy Bernie was there at left-corner forward.

The original 1966 game ended in a draw, but the replay saw victory going to Wexford by a two-point margin. Both games provided thrills a-plenty, and set a very high standard for minor finals. The fact that players from both sides have since mastered the transition to senior ranks indicates just how good these minors were. But the outstanding youngster in 1966 was, undoubtedly, John Quigley, who showed tremendous promise on the Wexford team.

When the teams met again in the 1967 final, Quigley was still on the Wexford side and John Horgan lined out at centre-back for Cork. Another action-packed thriller was seen at Croke Park, but this time Cork emerged victorious by three points. Senior footballer Jimmy Barrett was one of the Cork heroes on this occasion.

The third consecutive showdown took place in 1968. The distinctive blonde-haired defender, John Horgan was seen again in the Cork colours, with Seamus Looney joining him in defence, while Martin Quigley had emerged as Wexford's top forward. The match was another exciting one, but it was marred by the rough tactics of certain players from both sides. However,

after a pulsating finish, Wexford won by three points.

Cork qualified for their fourth successive All-Ireland final last year, but Wexford were beaten in Leinster, and Kilkenny came forward instead. The match proved to be a dull anti-climax with Cork winning easily in the end. And so, most observers will welcome the return of the Wexford boys to Croke Park for this year's tilt with Cork.

Cork can call on eight members of last year's team for this year's final. These include the strong centre-back Martin Doherty, who already holds two All-Ireland minor football medals and will be seeking his second hurling award this season. If Cork beat Wexford on September 6, the Colaiste Christ Ri lad will set up a new record for a minor player.

Pat Kavanagh, the Cork captain, will be appearing in his third All-Ireland final when he lines out against Wexford. He was introduced as a substitute in the 1968 game and was a key figure on last year's team. The Blackrock midfielder hopes to become the fourth member of that famous club to captain a victorious Cork minor team.

Noel Crowley (Bandon), Seamus O'Farrell (Midle-

ton), Timmy Crowley (Newcestown), Tommy Sheehan (Mallow), Gerry Hanley (Shamrocks) and ace - marksman Sean O'Leary (Youghal) are the other Cork players seeking their second All-Ireland medals this year. Brian Murphy (Nemo Rangers) and John Buckley (Newtownshandrum) were substitutes on the 1969 panel and are prominent members of the present team.

Making their first appearance in Croke Park will be the other Cork players — Dave O'Brien (Blarney), Pat Roche (Blackrock), Vincie Twomey (Na Piar-saig), nephew of the famous senior defender of the 'fifties, Dan Relihan (Castletownroche), and Paddy Buckley (Mallow).

Apart from appearing in the past four All-Ireland finals, and winning two of them, Cork teams have been to the forefront in college competitions also. In 1968, St. Peter's, Wexford beat Colaiste Christ Ri in the hurling final and Wexford went on to win the All-Ireland.

In 1969, St. Finbarr's, Farranferries won the colleges championship and Cork took the All-Ireland. This year the North Monastery kept the colleges' title in Cork. Can the county minors do likewise with the All-Ireland?

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DOHERTY CHASING HIS FOURTH ALL-IRELAND MEDAL

THE Cork minor hurlers will be bidding for their tenth All-Ireland title when they play Wexford in the final at Croke Park. Eight of the players who helped Cork to win their ninth title last year will be in action again, and Martin Doherty will be seeking a record of four All-Ireland medals.

The team has been trained by the selectors, Fr. Bernie Troy, Frank Murphy, Fr. Michael O'Brien and Paddy O'Mahony and the following is a complete list of the Cork players.

Dave O'Brien (Blarney). The energetic goalkeeper from Blarney created a big impression with the North Monastery this year, when he helped his college to win the All-Ireland championship. He will be appearing with the Cork minors at Croke Park for the first

time this year.

Paddy Roche (Blackrock). Right full back on the team, Paddy is one of many Blackrock players who have represented the county in Croke Park during the past few years. He plays hurling with Colaiste Ignaid Ris (Sullivan's Quay) and has established himself as a very reliable defender.

Liam Kelly (Bandon). One of the two representatives of St. Brogan's of Bandon on the team, Liam is a product of St. Finbarr's College, Farranferris. He occupies the full-back position and will be playing in his first All-Ireland final this year.

Brian Murphy (Nemo Rangers). A substitute on last year's panel, Brian is also a prominent footballer with his club. He won an All-Ireland colleges' football medal with Colaiste Christ Ri this year and plays senior football with Billy Morgan, Frank Cogan and Jimmy Barrett on the Nemo Rangers team.

Martin Doherty (Glen Rovers). The big centre-back won All-Ireland minor football medals with Cork in 1968 and 1969 and an All-Ireland hurling medal last year. He has also won national awards with Colaiste Christ Ri. His brother, Pat, originally played with Limerick but captained the Cork senior football team this year. Martin will be bidding for his fourth All-Ireland minor medal this year.

John Buckley (Newtownshandrum). One of the most impressive defenders on the team, John was a reserve on last year's side. A product of Charleville C.B.S., he plays intermediate hurling with his North Cork club.

Vincie Twomey (Na Piar-saig). Nephew of the well-known Cork defender, Vincie Twomey who played in the mid-fifties, Vincie is another promising half-back. He is a past pupil of the North Monastery.

Mick Lynch (Blackrock). Reserve full-back on the selection Mick was also a substitute on the Cork minor football panel, but took part in the Munster final against Kerry. A product of Colaiste Ignaid Ris, Sullivan's Quay.

Noel Crowley (Bandon). The fair-haired midfielder won an All-Ireland colleges medal with Farranferris last year and was also a member of the Cork team which defeated Kilkenny in the 1969 final. A stylish performer, Noel is capable of scoring valuable points from long range.

Pat Kavanagh (Blackrock). The captain of the Cork team took part in the 1968 final against Wexford and played at midfield in last year's game against Kilkenny. He is one of the outstanding players on the Cork side and hopes to become the fourth Blackrock

captain to lead a victorious Cork team in an All-Ireland final.

Seamus O'Farrell (Middleton). The lively half-forward from the club, which has produced Gerald Murphy and Paddy Fitzgerald, made his name with St. Colman's College, Fermoy last year. He won an All-Ireland medal with the Cork minors and occupies the same position on this year's team.

Tim Crowley (Newcestown). The tall centre-forward won an All-Ireland colleges' medal with Farranferris last year and later collected a similar award with the county minors. He is one of the players who came from West Cork, a region better known for its footballers.

Tommy Sheehan (Mallow). Top scorer on last year's victorious team, Tommy scored ten points in the All-Ireland final. His form this season has not been consistent, but the dark-haired Mallow player is still one of the most dangerous forwards on the Cork team.

Gerry Hanley (Sham-

rocks). Hero of the North Monastery's success in this year's All-Ireland colleges championship, Gerry is another survivor of the 1969 county team. He plays with one of the oldest hurling clubs in the country and is a key figure in the Cork full-forward line.

Sean O'Leary (Youghal). Chief architect of Cork's victory over Tipperary in the Munster final, Sean scored 3-2 on that occasion. He was also in the scoring list after last year's All-Ireland final and he should figure among the marksmen again this year. A product of St. Colman's College, Fermoy, Sean plays senior hurling with Youghal.

Dan Relihan (Castletown-roche). The only forward who didn't play with Cork last year, Dan created a big impression as a corner-forward in the Munster championship. He plays intermediate hurling with his club and will be eligible for minor ranks again next year.

Paddy Buckley (Mallow). The 17-year-old forward was introduced as a substi-

tute during the Munster final against Tipperary. A product of Patrician College, Paddy is a dependable reserve on the Cork selection.

Declan Ryan (St. Finbarrs). Reserve goalkeeper on the team, Declan is the only representative of the famous 'Barrs club on this year's selection. Past Cork minor teams have included such well-known 'Barrs players as Gerald McCarthy, Con Roche, Charlie McCarthy and Seamus Loo-ney.

Mick Corbett (Glen Rovers). The strong reserve midfielder captained the North Monastery in this year's All-Ireland championship. Aged 17, he will be eligible for the minor grade again next season.

Tommy Canavan (Cloyne). The only representative of the Cloyne club, which has given Cork such promising minors as Donal Clifford, Paddy Ring and Joe Aherne in recent years and, of course, the great Christy Ring in the 'thirties, Tommy is a reserve on current team. He is equally at home in defence or attack.



Donal Clifford . . . Cork minor in 1966 All-Ireland final.

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Hard Going In The Munster Final

THE Munster final, apart from settling the year's balance of prestige between Cork and Tipperary, left a trail of useful impressions for winners, losers and benevolent neutral. For one thing, it had a welcome aura of old-time conflict about it in the second half. One must admit the drabness of the preceding play. It was as if the players were easing into gear, aware of the extra-long journey in front of them.

Such lethargy might have been satisfying enough for Cork. But Tipperary, let-

all round. And very few are fools. Their own good name must certainly matter to them.

It is an arguable point, though, whether a man should referee a game after objections have been raised from either side, whether reasonably or not. For his own sake, he would do as well to leave it alone. When it came to choosing a referee for the Munster final, Cork did not much favour Mick Slattery (Clare) or Sean O'Connor (Limerick), while Tipperary had similar views about Fitzgerald.

Ultimately all three names were put into someone's hat — a rather foolish move since it was bound to produce a referee of controversial background. Far better to have looked outside Munster altogether, for Jimmy Hatton (Wicklow) perhaps, and spared the Munster candidates a job that could easily turn sour.

The sending-off of Liam King was the major crib. Referees often tend to send players off in pairs, if at all possible, so as to save themselves from the charge of leaving the game lopsided. So we must grant the courage of the man who risked that reaction. Tipp people argued that King's foul on Tomas Ryan was a quickly delivered stroke, lacking cool calculation and it was also contended that King was paying for previous fouls by others on the same player rather than for his own misdeeds. One of the disadvantages of being a referee is that you can't come out and answer such objections by giving your own side of the story. The temptation must often be great.

A further item on the crib list was the ignoring of Willie Walsh's open trip of Tadhg O'Connor, as the Roscrea man pursued Eddie O'Brien up the wing, before "Eddie O" tossed inside to Cullinane for a vital goal. On the other hand, Tipperary reaped rich reward out of the two frees that led to their shock goals on resuming, goals that were not exactly hard-earned in play. Cork might reasonably call the second free a soft one, secured by full-forward Roger Ryan's inward push against McDonnell under a high centre.

The moral: you could be all day arguing over various fouls and frees, and still find nothing like agreement about their validity. A referee's manual could well be entitled, in

Dale Carnegie fashion, "How To Lose Friends and Infuriate People."

Experience is said to be a great teacher, especially bitter experience, such as losing a big game. Tipperary got a number of lessons out of Limerick. Various people will interpret them differently, and have already done so. No sense in bringing back old fellows, says one school of thought, alluding mainly to the recall of McKenna.

"We didn't bring back enough of them" is the counter-blast from the other camp, where it was held that Jimmy Doyle, Devaney and McLoughlin are still so far ahead of the younger players in craft and skill that a deficiency in stamina need not rule them out.

Even the latter school of thought agree that such wholesale use of "remould" players could only be a short-term measure. But they hold, and perhaps rightly, that this year was the time to stop Cork from building up a settled superiority complex over Tipp. "Sufficient unto the day" was the outlook.

A lot of people tended to argue that Doyle alone would have made the difference. There's no proof of it. He didn't retire without knowing his own present form, which had become unreliable on the frees he used to toss over so consistently, and developed into poaching rather than solid work in general play.

There was a case for Devaney, hurling well for Borrisoleigh and also for McLoughlin on account of poverty of his full-forward successors.

But Tipp may forget about these respected names now and scour the county for earnest workers like little Dinny Ryan of Kilcommon. Keating, I fear, is probably out for good. No one ever doubted his class or his superb hands, but his work-rate has dwindled to the point where selectors' patience finally gave out. Maybe the dismissal will impel him to "show 'em."

Who would have forecast before the game that it would end with John O'Donoghue spectating, uninjured and replaced? He had a lot of sympathy on account of his great record of service and would have had more if Peter O'Sullivan hadn't performed so brilliantly. The selectors took an awful chance with their own credit there, and won the gamble.

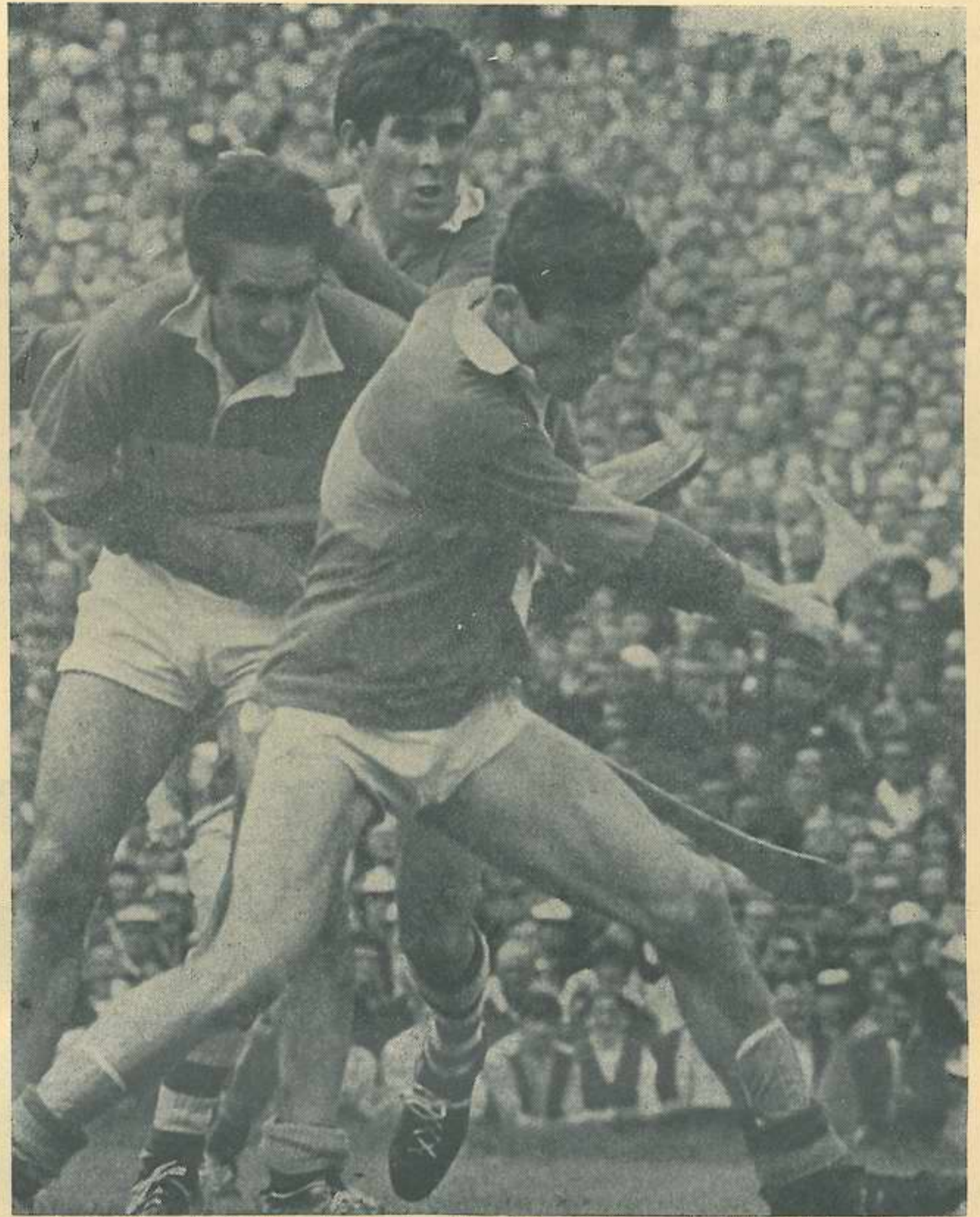
Cork, as victors, had less to learn because success, like charity covers a multitude. To win when below your best may well be the best way, since it leaves pleasing hopes of reaching a peak when needed later on. Their game did not flow with real authority. There were signs of agitation before they put their head in front. The fire of the Tipperary challenge kept them unsettled and error-prone, granting their poor luck with Gerald McCarthy, in a zone where

Mick Roche was the strongest influence.

Winners of an All-Ireland title before they were really ready and losers of another when we thought they had "come", Cork seem to be on the threshold

of a prolonged dynasty. The 'seventies ought to be characterised by a predominance of sanguine red. No county has the sort of rich conveyor-belt of good-class material that is moving up for Cork out of a succes-

sion of fine minor and college teams. Many of their current senior side will be under challenge very soon, and so will Tipperary, Kilkenny, Wexford and anyone else with pretensions to All-Ireland honours.



Hard pulling in the Munster Final as Liam King (Tipperary), Eddie O'Brien (Cork) and John Kelly (Tipperary) tussle for the ball.

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Bantile—The G.A.A. Right Background

THE connection between Banagher Tiles Ltd. and the G.A.A. is not confined to the Association availing of the firm's products. It is much more intimate than that. For example when the St. Rynagh's Club won its first Offaly senior hurling title in 1965, nine members of the team were employees of Banagher tiles. As well as that, one of the heroes of the triumph was Kieran Kenny, son of the Managing Director of the Company. Kieran was also Club Secretary that memorable year.

Yes, Bantile is very much synonymous with Gaelic games. The G.A.A. follower sits on its pre-cast concrete seating at great venues such as Limerick, Mullingar or Nowlan Park, Kilkenny; G.A.A. players are accommodated in countless Bantile dressing rooms, while at the Bantile headquarters, a unique spot at Banagher on the banks of the Shannon, the three provinces of Leinster, Connacht and Munster meet, and the principal after-work interest is Gaelic games.

In 1968, St. Rynagh's collected their third Offaly senior hurling title and so crowned a success story which began in 1960 when the club won the county juvenile title. From there on it was a story of success following success: the minor titles in 1961 and '62; the junior title in

1963; beaten in the senior final in 1964; senior success in 1965, repeated in 1966 and achieved again in 1968.

Running parallel with the achievements of St. Rynagh's have been the achievements of Banagher Tiles. The Company came to the forefront with the Government sponsored land drainage scheme; grew with the E.S.B. development plan which involved the Company in the erection of power stations at Lanesboro, Ferbane and Shannonbridge.

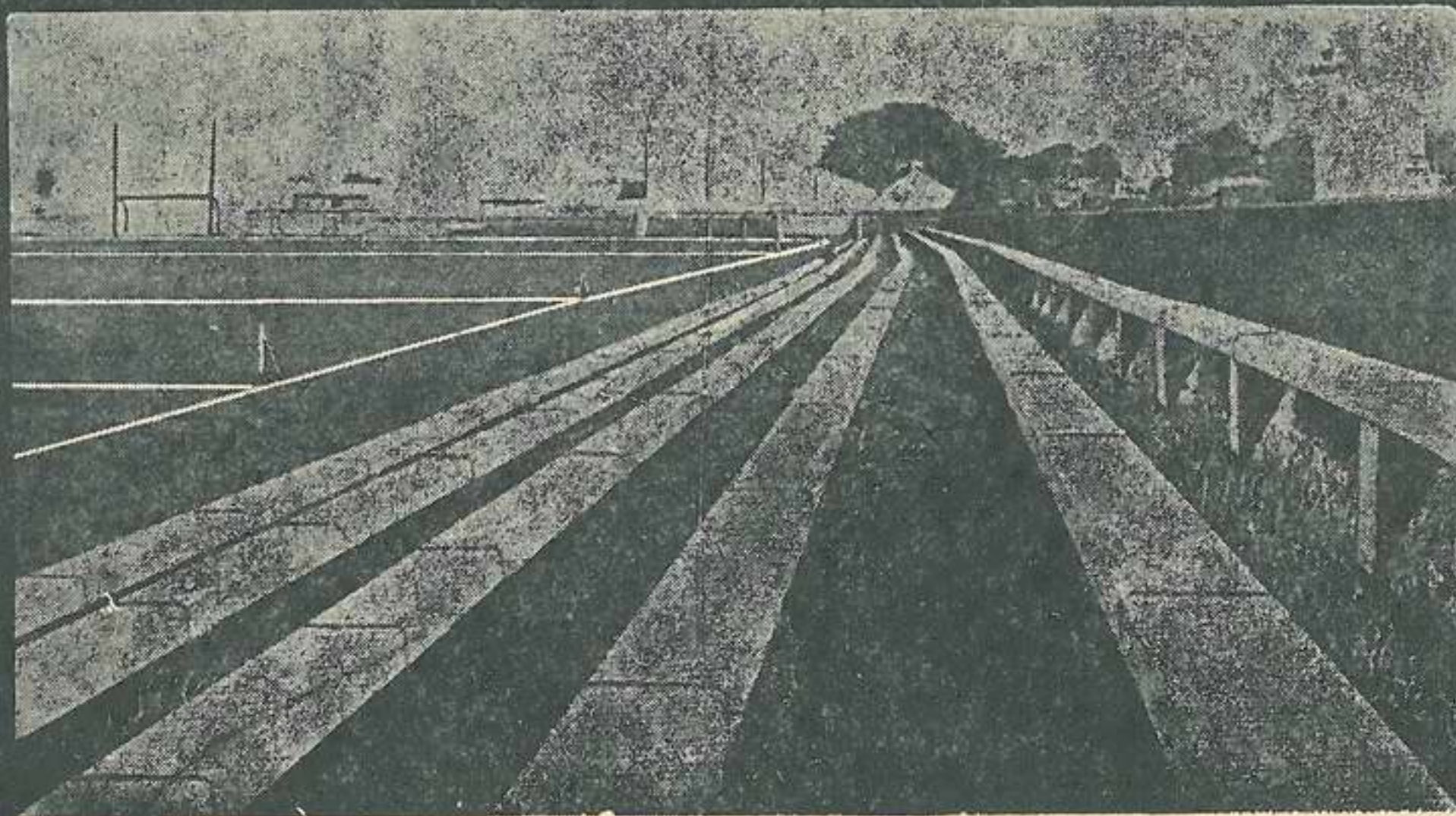
Then in 1968 came a major Bantile development — the manufacture of precast concrete units for system building. Bantile pioneered this in Ireland and, with it, have made a major contribution to Irish building. All over the country one finds schools, churches and hospitals erected by the Bantile system erection method. Last year, the Company signed a contract for the building of the £500,000 plus ultra-modern complex of new school buildings for the King's Hospital, Dublin.

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It is interesting, too, to recall that Kieran Kenny, the son of the Managing Director of Banagher Tiles, captained Offaly in both minor hurling and football in 1962. The

football side reached the All-Ireland final but Kieran missed that game due to a serious shoulder injury. A few years later, he was back at Croke Park to help Offaly win Division II of the National Hurling League.

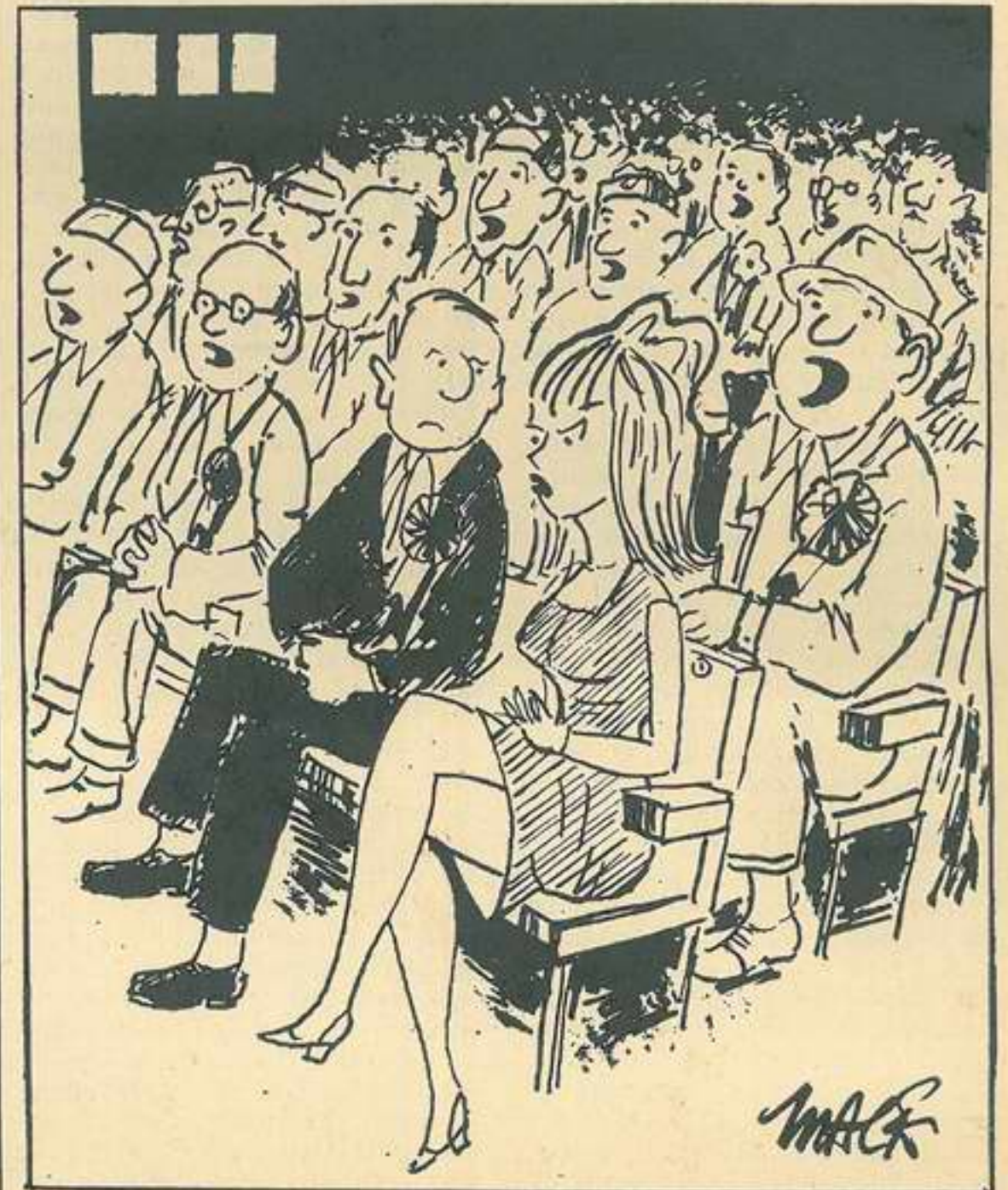
Among the many prominent G.A.A. players currently with Bantile are Offaly's Padge Mulhern and Damien McIntyre.

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Nowlan Park, Kilkenny, with a section of the ornate Bantile seating in the background.



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██████████

Ba é an rud ba shuntasaigh faoi fhoireann peile na Gaillimhe a d'imir in aghaidh na Mí i gcluiche leath-cheannais Chraobh na hÉireann ná go raibh triúr de'n ainm céanna (Ó Collarain) ag imirt sa líne lán-chúil acu. Bhí daoine ag fiafraí ar tharla a leithéid cheana, go raibh beirt dearthár agus col ceathrar leo de'n ainm céanna ag imirt ar fhoireann ag an staid sin de chomórtas náisiúnta. Caithfidh sé gur peil a bhí i gceist mar caithfidh sé gur eol do dhaoine faoi mhuintir Mhic Riocáird as Loch Garman tamall ó shin, agus faoi na Coigligh uilig atá acu sin faoi láthair.

Ach ar ndóigh tharla a leithéid i bpeil, agus ceann níos fearr ná sin. I gcluiche Ceannais na hÉireann sa pheil i 1936 bhí ceathrar dearthár — Jack, Chris, Mick, agus Bill Delaney ag imirt do Laois,

agus bhí a n-uncail Tom mar lán-chúil ar an fhoireann. Bhí Tom Delaney eile ag imirt mar chúil-báire ach ní raibh aon ghaol aige leis an gcuid eile.

Ba mhór an dífríocht idir Gaillimh 1970 agus Gaillimh cúig bhliana ó shin. Agus nach beag an baol go mbéadh ar ghailimh an ama sin a dhul ag síneadh fir go fealltach agus an imirt 70 slat ó bhaile.

Ach más mar sin a bhí na peileadóirí ní hamhlaidh a bhí na hiománaithe. Nach iad a scanradh Loch Garman!

██████████

Béidir gurab é an rud is fearr a rinne siad ariamh teach ar ais amach as Cúige Mumhan. Níl dabht ar bith ach gur mór an leas a dhéanfas an taispeántas a thug siad in aghaidh Loch Garman do'n chluiche i nGaillimh. Agus mar bharr ar sin bhuaigh a gcuid mionúr cluiche leath-cheannais na hÉireann an lá céanna. Agus tá a gcuid mionúr peile ar bharr na toinne freisin. Ba cheart go mbéadh feabhas ar an dá chluiche sa chontae sar i bhfad. Agus ní mór an

meid seo a rá, tá sé ag teastáil san iarthar, mar silim gur féidir a rá gurab é an Cúige is ísle caigh deáin sna cluichí, é Connacht faoi láthair.

██████████

Tugann sin muid go dtí Cluiche ceannais na hÉireann san Iomáint idir Corcaigh agus Loch Garman (mar a dúirt mé a bhéadh níos luaithe sa bhliain más cuimhneach leat). Ní dóigh liom gur féidir braith ar an mbealach ar imir Loch Garman in aghaidh na Gaillimhe mar threoir. Má tá mise beo déarfainn gur beag oiliúint a rinne siad faoi choinne an chluiche sin, agus an ceart ag a gcuid fir thaobh-line. B'fhearr leo lán-iarracht a dhéanamh faoi choinne an chluiche ceannais, agus is dóigh liom gurab é an tslí ar imir siad in aghaidh Chill Chainnigh an treoir-line is fearr. Bhí díocas iomána ortha an lá sin, ach shílfeá mar sin féin nach bhfuil an caighdeán cluiche ionnta a bhfodh. Agus mura mbéadh Pádraig Ó Nualláin sa chul d'fhéadfaidís a bheith buailte sílim féin.

Ar an taobh eile dhe

caithfidh sé go bhfuil Corcaigh olailte go maith anois mar fhoireann agus dhá bhliain caite acu ag an mbarr. Creidim féin go gcaithfidh fhoireann a bheith in ann fanacht dó nó trí bhlianta ar barr sul má thagann lán-thoradh ar a gcuid saothair. Sin mar atá Corcaigh anois, agus cé gur obair mhór a rinne siad de bhuaichaint ar Thiobrad Árann i gcluiche Ceannais na Mumhan béidh siad i bhfad níos fearr fós sa Chluiche Ceannais. Bhíodar ann cheana anuraidh agus is iomdha ceacht a d'foghluim siad an uair sin, agus ó shin.

██████████

Má tá an chuma ar an scéal go measaim go mbuadhfaidh Corcaigh d'fhéadfaidh go bhfuil an ceart agat! Ach arís ní bheidh sé éascaidh an lámh is fearr a fháil ar Loch Garman má bhíonn a gcuid fear uilig slán foláin. Is deacair breith a thabhairt ag an bpointe a bhfuilim ag scríobh faoi céard a tharlós, ach sílim ar chaoi éigin go mbéidir gurab í seo bliain Chorcaigh.



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OLD-TIMER ASKS :

Will One Good Game Be Enough ?

NBODY has any reason to complain nowadays about the All-Ireland hurling finals. Look back across all the finals of the past forty years, and, barring half a dozen, they were all worth going a long way to see, and there were at least a dozen of them that I would travel from here to Philadelphia to see all over again.

But the horrible fact is recently becoming hard to ignore that the All-Ireland final is all too often almost the only game in the senior hurling championship that measures up to what it should be.

Take this year as an almost classic instance. How many matches to date have measured up to old-time senior standards? I doubt if any of them could be classified as really in the top flight.

In Leinster we had, to all intents and purposes, three games. It is scarcely fair to rate the matches between Dublin and Westmeath and Offaly and Laois, for they were only preliminary encounters and they looked every bit of it.

Then we had the semi-finals. The first of these, between Wexford and Dublin at Kilkenny, was scarcely a contest . . . in fact, at times, it looked as boring to the players as it did to many of the small crowd.

The second, between Kilkenny and Offaly, was worth seeing, but it was by no means up to the standard of the epic clash between the same two counties in the Leinster final the year before. That game, Offaly could, and perhaps should, have won. This one was, on the scoreboard, close enough for much of

the way, but, sitting on the stand, you always had the feeling that Kilkenny had the situation well in hand almost from start to stop.

The Leinster final was, I suppose, the best match in the championship to date, but mainly because of Kilkenny's great fight-back against the odds and because of the individual display of Willie Murphy for Wexford. But, good though it was, it did not rank with half a dozen other Leinster deciders between Wexford and Kilkenny through the past twenty years.

The Munster campaign had even less to offer. Limerick and Clare played a draw at Thurles, and that, anyone should imagine should have put great 'gizz' into their replay at Limerick. Yet that second game, which Limerick won, aroused no greater enthusiasm than did the drawn battle.

In the semi-final Limerick looked, for twenty minutes, as though they might at last fulfill the promise they have so often threatened, but the minute Cork over-hauled them they lost heart, and that was the end of that.

In the other semi-final at Cork between Waterford and Tipperary you would have had to remind yourself from time to time that this actually was a semi-final of the Munster senior hurling championship, because the requisite atmosphere was almost entirely lacking. Came the Munster final, the old-firm clash of Cork and Tipperary at Limerick, and we had the atmosphere all right, but that was all we had until Tipperary really put it up to the Corkmen early in the

second half.

From there to the end we had the full-blooded Munster hurling that anyone could wish for. Indeed, some few episodes were a little too full-blooded for my taste, but good stuff for all that. So that is what this senior hurling championship has to show up to the semi-final stage — forty minutes of typical Munster hurling at Limerick, and maybe a little more than forty minutes of really enjoyable fare in the Leinster final at Croke Park.

To compensate for that, we will need to have a really rip-roaring final, but will even that fully compensate? Not for the round-the-year or through-the-summer hurling fan it won't.

So what is the answer. My answer is exactly the same as it has been for more than a decade . . . the open draw for the senior hurling championship. Nothing else is going to give us back a real All-Ireland senior hurling campaign.

Nobody can say that we are getting value for money from the present set-up. We are not even getting any real value in the provincial series, because one match, one real match per championship in each of the two southern provinces, is not a real series.

Put all the counties who want to compete in the senior championship into a hat, and draw them out in the normal fashion and I'll wager we will give new life to the championship. And if Leinster and Munster want to run senior provincial championships of their own, outside the All-Ireland series, then, more luck to them.

HANDBALL

If Ireland, win the doubles section in the World Handball Championship in a few weeks time, a member of the Irish team will have achieved such distinction without ever having won an All-Ireland championship. The player in question is Seamus Buggy from the Clonard club in county Wexford.

Buggy, a brother of well-known hurler Ned, clinched his place in the world tests recently, when, in partnership with Richie Lyng, he triumphed in a round-robin tournament that included the best combinations in Irish handball. And, despite the young Clonard player's failure to win at our own national level, there can be no disputing the contribution he made to the Wexford pair's triumph.

On a couple of occasions when Lyng appeared to have expanded his last ounce of energy, Buggy played magnificent handball and saved the game for the Wexford pair. On their way to the World Championships, the Slaney-siders were involved in some epic duels, but none more demanding than their clashes with Kerry's Tom and Murty McEllistrim.

During the course of the round-robin event the Mc-

Ellistirms actually beat the two Wexford players, but in turn, they were beaten by Dessie McGovern and Paddy Lee, and so a play-off was necessary. This proved to be a spine-tingling game, an epic that swayed in the balance with each successive score and, eventually saw Wexford steal out in front for a dramatic but well-deserved win.

Thus, we have two men going into the doubles series of whom, we can be justifiably proud.

Buggy, who is 25 always plays in the right corner and provides the ideal partner for Lyng, who is a year older, but, still retains the turn of speed that won him minor, junior and senior All-Ireland titles in 1961, 1963 and 1965 respectively.

As for the singles competition, none of us had ever any doubt but that Joe Maher, the reigning world champion, would gain the singles spot for Ireland. He did it in such facile fashion that his true ability was never really tested.

Now, he has the opportunity of defending the crown he won so meritoriously in Toronto three years ago and naturally with the advantage of a

home court he must have a fine chance of outright victory.

However, he is unlikely to have everything his own way against the American champion Pat Kirby, who is a member of the well-known Tuamgraney family in county Clare.

Prior to emigrating he had been to the forefront in Irish competition while, in the interim he has been continually in the limelight in American courts. Kirby is so determined to win the world crown that he has decided to return home at the beginning of this month, to familiarise himself with the bigger court.

Even, at this stage, it is nearly safe to suggest that the laurels will eventually rest between Maher and Kirby.

Fund-raising for the world championship is still in progress and, units of the Association who have not yet contributed should do so now to the Secretary of the Irish Handball Council — Joe Lynch, at 12 Goats-town Rd., Dublin, 14.

A very welcome donation to the fund was that from the President of the World Handball Federation Charlie O'Connell, New York, in the form of 1,200 dollars.

This month, I bow out, by sympathising with the Lyng family from Ballyanne, Co. Wexford, on the death of Willie, a former star handballer. He partnered his brother Richie in many a hectic game. Up to the time of his death, he retained an avid interest in the game to which he gave so much and from which he will be sadly missed.

Ar Dheis Lamh Dé, go raibh a anam.

Dundalk Juveniles Well Organised

WHEN the Dundalk juvenile football competition known as "Cumann Peile na nOg" was launched five years ago the founders could scarcely have envisaged how popular the competition would become with the youth of the town in that short

space of time. This year approximately 400 boys took part in the competition and teams were entered in the under 11, 13 and 15 grades. Nine teams took part in the under 11 and 13 competitions and six in the under 15 competition.

Chairman Hugh O'Hare attributed the work done by public relations officer Frank Boland as one of the prime reasons for the success of Cumann Peile na nOg. As Hugh O'Hare told me: "Frank Boland's job is to fill as much of the local papers as possible each week with accounts and photographs of the various games. I'd say that on many occasions we receive better coverage than the local senior soccer club and we have at least one photograph in the 'Dundalk Democrat' each week.

"Our committee meets each week and Frank Boland is given an account of each game which he supplies to the local newspaper. In this way the local public is kept constantly aware and informed on the progress of the various competitions and, of course, it also helps to attract impressionable youngsters to play Gaelic football."

The structure of "Cumann Peile na nOg" is different from most other competitions in that teams represent areas in the town and not clubs. "No clubs

affiliations are accepted," Chairman O'Hare told me, "and we find this a very satisfactory system as we would have not nearly as many teams if the clubs formed the basic structure. The area boundaries are determined each year by the committee by means of a survey which is done through the schools.

"If a particular area is pretty sparse in good footballers any particular year, then a few extra streets are allocated to it and so each area has a reasonable chance in the competition. Registration is rigid and in many cases birth certificates are demanded to prove a boy's age. Each team can register 30 players.

As a further encouragement to the youngsters of Dundalk, the promoting body presents a trophy each year to each of the nine areas to be awarded to the "sportsman of the year" in each particular area. So each of the areas holds an annual dinner at which an officer of Cumann Peile na nOg presents the trophy to the boy in question.

Cumann Peile na nOg itself also has a trophy which is awarded each year to the person considered to be the most diligent worker on the board each year.

The competition runs from approximately April to September with a three week holiday break when the factories close in Dundalk. The committee of Cumann Peile na nOg would like to stage hurling and camogie competitions on a similar basis to the football one, but unfortunately too much time is involved in the running of the football competition to permit this.

When asked if the competition had helped to counteract the spread of soccer in Dundalk Hugh O'Hare said that as far as he was concerned that soccer didn't pose a particularly big threat to Gaelic football, as the popularity of Gaelic football can be gleaned from the fact that matches are staged on most nights of the week. Prior to the setting up of Cumann Peile na nOg, there was no juvenile board in Dundalk, so there was no provision made for youngsters to play football. The minor board was the only under age board functioning in the town up to 1965 but it only caters for four clubs.

At present leagues and championships are held in the under 13 and 15 grades and a championship in the under 15 grade. To attract attention to the competition the trophies for the various competition are displayed in shop windows in Dundalk.

The officers of this dedicated and methodical board are — Chairman: Hugh O'Hare; Vice-Chairman: Proinsias O Cuan- aigh, B.A.; Secretary: Pádraig Aingléis; Assistant Secretary: Kevin Mullen; Registrar: Br. O Duibhin; Treasurer: Jack McGeough; Public Relations Officer: Frank Boland.

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Wexford—From Rags To Riches

WHEN I was young, and I know that was a long time ago, I never even saw or heard of a Wexford hurling team, and I was born in the next county. And, indeed, I had been knocking around this Vale of Tears for a very considerable number of years before I ever heard of a Wexford hurler.

When I did hear of one it was in very peculiar circumstances. I happened to be in the town of

"We have a big young lad called Nicky Rackard" he said, from Killanne in the County Wexford, and if he ever gets the full use of himself, there will be no stopping of him. And, what is more, if they could gather up a few more like him down there, there won't be any stopping of Wexford either."

Well, needless to say I kept a close eye on the career of young Mr. Rackard after that, and I

Dublin in the final, and then, to tell you the truth I forgot about them

True, they had a few good men with Rackard then, Patsy Boggan I particularly remember, and Willie Stamp, and a fair-haired young chemist from Cork who was as sweet a forward as you could wish to see, Tim Russell.

A I have said, I forgot about Wexford and through the latter half of the 'forties Nicky Rackard himself was better known as a footballer than he was as a hurler. So it was by pure chance that I happened to be at Nowlan Park in Kilkenny the day the 'Wexford miracle' began.

Laos were Leinster champions and they met Wexford at Kilkenny in the semi-final. I went down to Nowlan Park just because it happened to be a glorious day and I had nothing better to do. With me came Ned Daly the Waterford full-forward of 1948, and we settled ourselves down on the sideline to see what we could see. What we did see was Laos submerged under an avalanche of hurling that left us open-mouthed. I do not know remember the exact total that Wexford won by, but one thing is certain, if they had any bit of experience at all they must have won by an all-time record score. As far as I can now recall, the only man who kept Laos in the hunt at all was Paddy Lalor now a Government Minister.

That day for the first time I saw the power of two other Rackard brothers, Bobby and Billy, the jinking runs of Tim Flood, backed up that day by his brother Martin, the skill of the two Kehoes, Podge and Paddy and the tireless hurling of Ned Wheeler and Jim Morrissey, not to say the endless endeavour of the inimitable Wilkie Thorpe.

However, beating Laos was one thing, facing Kilkenny in the final was another thing altogether. And yet, in the Leinster decider played also at Nowlan Park a couple of weeks later, Wexford led Kilkenny right into the closing minutes, and were desperately unlucky to lose. And as Kilkenny only lost by a point to Tipperary in the subsequent All-Ireland final, that ranked Wexford pretty high in the hurling category.

In the following year they were, everybody knew, the team to beat, for they had knocked Tipperary out of the league by defeating the dual champions at Thurles, and had, surprisingly enough, lost the league final to Galway.

However, they came thundering out of Leinster in 1951, swept past Galway in the semi-final, that was sweet revenge, but went down heavily to Tipperary in the All-Ireland final.

In the Autumn of 1951 they lost to Galway again, in the Oireachtas Final, but again they swept through the League only

to fail very unluckily by a single point to Tipperary.

True, they had some consolation hereabouts by beating Kilkenny in an Oireachtas final, but when they failed to Dublin and Kilkenny in turn in the Leinster finals of 1952 and '53, a lot of people were inclined to write off Wexford as a team that would never really get anywhere.

And then the tide turned. It began with victory over Clare in the Oireachtas final of 1953, was carried on through Leinster's title-race in 1954 and was halted by an unlucky defeat by Cork in the hurling final of 1954, the day Bobby Rackard gave an unforgettable display at full-back after Nick O'Donnell was carried off with a broken collar-bone.

Without the Rackard trio, who were mourning their dead father, they again failed narrowly to Tipperary in the League final of 1955, but with Tipperary and Cork out of the championship running they won their All-Ireland at last, in 1955, and won it easily.

But Wexford would not count until they had conquered Cork and Tipperary said every Munster hurling follower, and in 1956 Wexford proceeded to do just that. They met Tipperary in the League final at gale-swept Croke Park, retired to their half-time dressing room fifteen points behind and came back to win with five points to

spare.

Then, in a thrill-packed All-Ireland, they foiled Christy Ring of his ninth, and crowned a wonderful year by defeating Kilkenny in the Oireachtas decider.

Then Nicky and Bobby Rackard departed, and though the remnants of that great team of the '50's came again to win the title in 1960, and were unlucky once more when losing to Tipperary in the final of 1962, it seemed that Wexford's sun had set indefinitely with the final bow of Nick O'Donnell, Billie Rackard, Tim Flood, Ned Wheeler and Podge Kehoe.

But it was then that the greatest Wexford miracle really began, as an entirely new generation of hurlers sprang from the playing fields of the county.

The new era began with the winning of the county's first ever All-Ireland minor title in 1963. They took the Intermediate title of 1964, the Under-21 title in 1965 and the minor title of 1966, and the great resurgence reached its current climax in 1968 when, by defeating Cork in the minor and Tipperary in the senior final, Wexford, for the first time, brought off the double on the first Sunday in September.

So, in twenty years, Wexford had come from being unheard of to one of the greatest hurling counties in the country. It is a miracle on which all the other non-hurling counties may well ponder.

BY TERENCE ROYANNE

Tramore on a warm August evening about a year before the outbreak of World War II, and I strayed into the company of two well-known priests from the Diocese of Ossory. They were Canon James Staunton, later Bishop of Ferns, and Father Pat, later, Canon Dunphy. Canon Staunton was then President of St. Kieran's College Kilkenny, a post in which Father Dunphy was to succeed him some years afterwards.

Anyway, as an old Kieran's man myself, I asked them how the hurling was going in the College, and I can still remember the words of Fr. Dunphy, who himself a member of the famed Mooncoin hurling family.

had opportunity to study him at close quarters when a year or two afterwards he came up to study veterinary medicine in Dublin. He played both hurling and football for U.C.D., although after a couple of years he switched his hurling allegiance to Young Irelands. He usually played at midfield or centre-forward, and was a fine hurler, but a trifle slow on the turn.

Anyway, through knowing Nicky Rackard, I began to follow Wexford's hurling fortunes. They won a Leinster junior title somewhere at the start of his inter-county career but did no good in the All-Ireland final against Cork. A few years afterwards they caused a sensation by defeating Kilkenny in the Leinster senior semi-final, but then they crashed heavily to

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Galway Minors Big Bid

Galway minor hurlers have never won an All-Ireland minor title but if this year's side plays with the same determination and skill against Cork in the final as they displayed against Wexford in the semi-final, then the Leesiders will be hard pressed to retain their title. Indeed, Galway's win over Wexford at Athlone was one of the big surprises on the hurling scene this year even though it was overshadowed by the county seniors fine performance against the same county.

Galway could well record an All-Ireland minor double now as the county footballers are also in the

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The Galway minor team which beat Wexford.

All-Ireland final following their brilliant victory over Dublin in the semi-final.

Few Galway hurling fans gave the minors much hope at half-time in the game against Wexford, as the Westerners led by only 0-4 to 0-3, after having had wind ad-

vantage in the first half. However, even though Wexford went into a one-point lead after 23 minutes of the second half, Galway refused to throw in the towel and played some fine hurling to finish eventual winners by eight points.



Galway forward D. Campbell on his way to scoring a point against Wexford.

In The News with Bacchus

The Pipe Of Peace?

ONE of the umpires at the All-Ireland minor semi-final between Galway and Dublin was none other than Sean O'Hanlon well-known New York G.A.A. official.

Following Mr. O'Hanlon's 'encounters' with Central Council and other officers here during the past two years such a gesture from Croke Park was at least the equivalent of the cease fire in the Middle East around the same time!



Sean O'Hanlon

Minor Tourney

THE St. Patrick's club, Lisburn came up with a novel idea last month. They ran a 9-a-side football tournament for minor teams only. Is this the first time a club has run a tournament solely for minor teams with nothing or no-one else sharing the spotlight?

The event was a great success and teams from Antrim, Armagh and Derry

took part. The winners were Sarsfield's from Derrytrasna, outside Lurgan and they received a set of inscribed plaques.

Runners-up were St. James', Aldergrove, who received a set of inscribed medals.

McKeever Comes Back!

ON August 9 when Ballymaguigan III's lined-out for the South Derry junior championship semi-final against Ballymaguigan the last man they expected to find in the opposite camp was Jim McKeever. But there was county team manager, Jim wearing the No. 11 jersey and accompanied by brother Dinny and Sean Young — three veterans of Derry county teams.

Ballymaguigan won that semi-final by 1-8 to 1-5 and on two occasions Jim sent over the bar. "Despite his long lay-off he still looked good county material," referee John McGlinchey told me.

And Jim's comments after the match were: "I still feel a bit sore but I enjoyed the game. I'd much rather play than watch because I'm a bad spectator. It was only because I was at home for the weekend that I was there at all and it was despite my protests that the selectors placed me at centre half forward."

"I wanted to play at corner forward but they insisted that I play at centre three quarters. Now that I have got back into it I probably will play in the final in South Derry and possibly if we win that one in the county junior final as well."



Dr. Mick Loftus pictured with a group of 'students' during a session at this year's highly successful coaching course in Gormanston. The small boy on the left of the picture is a nephew of Dr. Loftus who came all the way from New York to attend the course.

A Job For Big Tom

DERRY footballer Tom Quinn, after qualifying at St. Joseph's Training College, Belfast, has been appointed as a P.T. Instructor in Kilrea intermediate school. He takes up duty when the school re-opens after the summer holidays on September 1.

As a result, Tom now joins

his county and club colleague, Laurence Diamond because the burly Laurence is already a P.T. Instructor in Kilrea. Also on the staff is Derry player Brian Kearney and with the energetic Fr. Deery the curate in the parish we can expect quite a stream of top class, fit, footballers coming from this area in the future.

An Awfully Longed For Moment

FROM many entires this was the one we chose as best describing this incident from the Leinster championship game between Offaly and Longford.

So the three guineas prize goes to Rev. Gerard Fitzpatrick C.C., St. Senan's, Killishin, Ennis, Co. Clare.



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Thanks Lads...

CORK hurling captain Paddy Barry paid a novel tribute after this year's Munster final when he thanked the Cork followers for the wonderful support they had given the county team in the past and throughout this year's Munster championship campaign.

They certainly deserved it. They are probably the most enthusiastic and loyal band of G.A.A. followers in the country and they must have outnumbered Tipperary fans by at least five to one at this year's Munster decider.

Some of the more exuberant Cork fans invaded the pitch whenever their heroes scored but against that they showed their appreciation at the end of the minor game when they gave a well-deserved ovation to the gallant Tipperary team.

Poor Show In Connacht

THOSE responsible for the production of this year's Connacht senior football final programme could have learned something from their counterparts in Munster. The Connacht final programme was, to put it mildly, a shabbily produced document and the publishers had a nerve to ask for a shilling for it.

Besides the lineouts of the senior and minor teams, it contained only unnamed photographs of the 1962 and 1970 Galway and Roscommon sides and brief articles on Galway-Roscommon games in the past and duels between Sean Purcell and Gerry O'Malley and Jimmy Duggan and Dermot Earley.

In addition, the players names were given only in English, their individual clubs were not listed and the numbers for each position were not given. The last omission may be only a minor point, but it is invaluable for quick and easy reference.

By contrast the Munster hurling final programme, which cost only sixpence, listed the players' names for each position and also gave the number of Munster hurling titles won by each county in the various grades, the scores in the individual finals and a list of National League and Oireachtas title winners.

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