

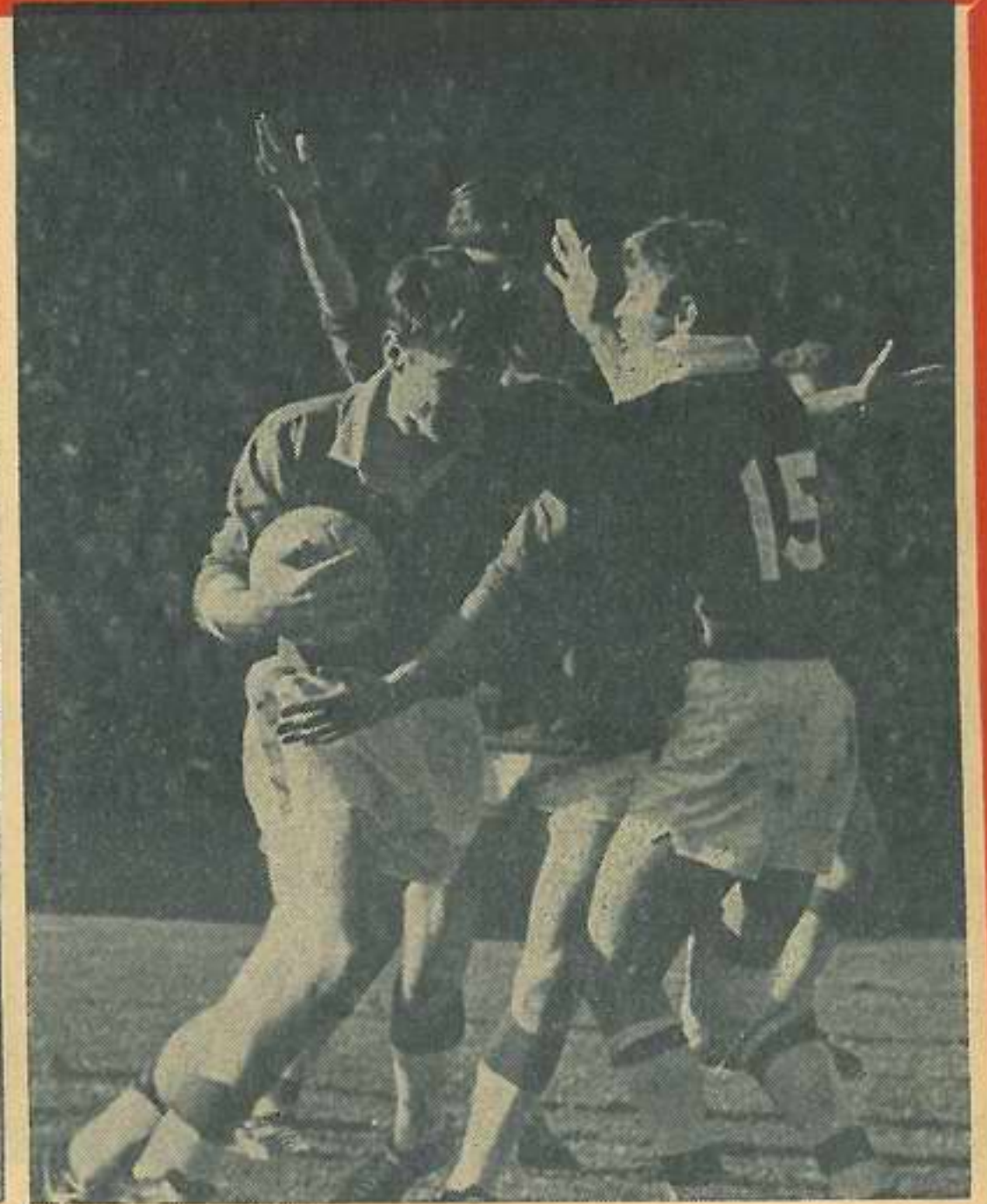
# GAELIC NEWS

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## FINAL SPECIAL



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# Central Council Meets Again

THE August meeting of the Central Council which was timed for 3 p.m. got under way at 3.12, with 32 delegates present.

The first matter to be dealt with at this first Council meeting in over ten weeks was the re-structuring of the National Football League. Proposals had been forwarded to the county boards for the setting up of two divisions of 16 teams each, with the so-called top 16 only playing for the actual national league. This meant that the bottom 16 teams would not in fact be competing in the National League proper and around this point there was quite a deal of debate.

The spokesman for the weaker counties who would find themselves in Division II was Leitrim's Leo McAlinden, whose main point was that the new system created two kinds of G.A.A. citizenship—first and second class, depending on which division a county was placed.

Instead, he proposed that there should be four divisions of eight teams, which would also give each county seven games as proposed in the original suggestion. He was supported in this by George Nicholl of Wicklow and John Dunne of Galway.

At this stage, the President Mr. Pat Fanning, intervened to say that he himself was suggesting to the delegates that the 'two 16' idea should be carried out for at least a trial period. When a vote was taken, there were 27 for the two divisions and 7 for Mr. McAlinden's proposals.

Following the acceptance of the basic idea there was a long and tiresome harangue about the number of teams to be relegated and promoted each year, during which many delegates engaged in flights of fancy, in coming up with all kinds of strange suggestions.

Eventually, about half an hour later it was decided that it should be four teams up and four teams down each year, starting at the end of the coming season.

An equally long-winded debate took place on the most important topic of the money allocation from the new-style league, during which Brendan Vaughan (Clare),

Paddy McFlynn (Down), Gerry Fagan (Armagh), Leo McAlinden and Tommy Mellon (Derry) took part.

At the end of it all, it was decided that 15 per cent of all gates should go into the national pool.

Paddy McFlynn then raised the question of Irish students attending De La Salle Training College, Manchester. He claimed that there were 300-400 Irish students mainly from the Six Counties, at the college and that they were anxious to form a G.A.A. club. But they needed some money and also practical encouragement from the Central Council. Naturally enough, most delegates were largely ignorant about the matter but Tommy Walsh from Liverpool was well aware of his facts and he stated that the college had been refused permission to play by the Lancashire County Board.

The reason appeared to be that many of the students there were playing more or less professionally with clubs all over Britain and without transfers from Ireland. If there was going to be a club in the college then the students would have to be granted the same facilities as university and training college students in Ireland, of playing with their home clubs and their college as well. There the matter rested, with nobody at the meeting showing any great interest in the whole matter.

Arising from a question from Paddy Doherty (Universities Council), the President said that there 'had been certain correspondence with Mr. Harry Beitzel' and he hoped to set up a special committee to examine the whole business of relations with Australia.

Next on the list were the recommendations from the new Policy Committee with regard to brightening up the presentation of our games with which few delegates disagreed. On the question of communications, the President stated that he hoped that the Association would be in a position to launch a comic magazine for the 7-15 age group in the foreseeable future.

On the same subject, there was strong criticism from Paddy O'Driscoll (Cork), Jack Fitzgerald (Meath) and

Paddy McFlynn of the technical standard of the Monday night telecasts of football and hurling from Telefís Éireann.

Next there followed a rather strange discussion on the question of inviting non-Catholic church dignitaries to the All-Ireland finals. The matter was raised by Paddy Doherty who, incidentally, is a representative of Trinity College, Dublin, on the Universities Council. Although some of the speakers asked not to be quoted in the press, some others did not and among these was Sligo's Joe McMorrough who said that he was all for inviting such people to our games.

"In Sligo," he stated, "we have Protestants playing and refereeing our games and the Association should be looking forward not backward in this regard!"

Although only a few other delegates commented on the matter, there was a very noticeable tenseness in the air especially since some of the views expressed were scarcely what could be described as in keeping with modern ecumenical thinking on such matters.

No decision was taken on inviting any particular non-Catholic clergymen to attend the All-Ireland finals of the G.A.A.

The final item was a brief report from the newly-appointed accountant, Mr. Paddy Canton and even though it was a very general statement, it was made clear to all the delegates that there were major changes needed in the accounting side of the G.A.A.'s business in order to introduce a much greater degree of efficiency than heretofore in the matter of spending the G.A.A.'s money.

The first thing to be implemented will be the introduction of an overall spending plan rather than the more haphazard system hitherto obtaining in Croke Park. This spending plan would be in a management sense rather than a restrictive one said Mr. Canton, but whatever budget was agreed to would have to be adhered to. The meeting ended at 6.25.

## Jack Quinn's Opinion On The Final

JACK QUINN has proved himself one of Meath's most consistent players over the last few years. Winner of Leinster championship medals in 1964, '66, '67, and '70 and an All-Ireland medal in 1967, the towering Kilbride man is probably the finest full-back in the game. Ironically he started his intercounty career at midfield.

His magnificent high fielding has always been a feature of his play. I had the following interview with Jack recently.

BY SEAN RYAN

**Q.: Meath have progressed to the All-Ireland final against all the odds. Are you surprised that they have done so well?**

**A.:** When we had Carlow and Kildare beaten, we knew that we could beat anyone. Our biggest problem was getting the team settled down together. First round championship games have always been a problem for Meath.

**Q.: How, in your opinion, does the present Meath team compare with the 1967 All-Ireland title winning side?**

**A.:** We are probably a better team all round this year. The forwards are better and the backs are as good as in 1967. The '67 team was a better team than they were given credit for. We would have also won the 1968 All-Ireland title but for the Australian tour.

**Q.: What are your views on the present Kerry team and how do you think they compare with the champions of the last few years?**

**A.:** They are a very good team and will be very hard to beat in the final. However, not having played against them, I am not in a position to compare them with other champions.

**Q.: The Meath defence conceded 5-12 in the Leinster final against Offaly, yet they looked particularly sound against Galway. To what do you attribute this inconsistency?**

**A.:** It is a very good defence. We just had one of those bad days against Offaly. What happened then never happened before and will never happen again.

**Q.: Are you happy at full-back?**

**A.:** I'm happy enough, although I prefer the midfield position.

**Q.: Is there any particular player on the Kerry team whom you admire or fear?**

**A.:** I have always admired Mick O'Connell. Pat Griffin is another very good footballer and he could be the danger man in the final. However, Kerry are more of an all-round well balanced team.

**Q.: What were your feelings when Galway were finally beaten in a big game?**

**A.:** I felt that justice was done at last. It was time for luck to turn on our side. We should have beaten them before, especially in 1964.

**Q.: Have Meath improved much since the beginning of the championship series?**

**A.:** We are improving with every game. We have more confidence in ourselves now than at any stage of the year.

## Diamonds Galore!

THE Diamonds from Bellaghy must have set up something of a record during eight days in the month of August. Now I'm not talking about Laurence and Tommy the Derry footballers but Laurence and his pretty wife, Mairead.

On August 23 the burly Laurence played midfield for Derry against Kerry in the All-Ireland senior football semi-final at Croke Park. Then just one week later — August 30 — Mairead, who like her hubby is a blonde, played at midfield for Antrim in the All-Ireland senior camogie semi-final against Cork in Cork.

And how does the wife of a Derry footballer come to be playing for Antrim. Quite simple. Before her marriage Mrs. Diamond was known as Mairead Quinn and she lived at Creggan, just over the county border from Bellaghy. She has played for Antrim for many years now and holds six Ulster championship medals as well as her All-Ireland ones.

Laurence and Mairead must also have set up another record by becoming the first husband and wife to win provincial medals in the same year. I'm only guessing here of course but it seems a highly likely supposition.

Whilst Mairead was playing against Cork Laurence was up in Magherafelt helping his club in the Derry senior championship final against Newbridge.

But setting up records is nothing new to the Diamond family. Tommy became the first and only one so far, to captain a county to victory in both the All-Ireland minor and under-21 championships. In 1965 he led Derry against Kerry and three years later he captained the Oak Leaf boys against Offaly.

Tommy has now followed the example of "big brother" Laurence and married an Antrim girl. On September 7, Miss Teresa Reid from Ballymena became Mrs. Tommy Diamond. Congratulations.

— TONY McGEE.

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# Which Appeals Most—Attractive Football Or A Winning Team?

BY JIM BENNETT

**"YOU** know Meath don't play very attractive football," said one of my football friends to me the other day — I had been talking about the rising tide of Meath's fortunes since the championships began, and how they could very well be dark horses for the final even against Kerry.

It set me thinking a bit: first, it is a very common opinion, now I come to think of it that Meath are regarded as rather dull fellows who play an effective and often powerful game and seldom capture the imagination for their brilliance of ideas or inspiration of the moment. Secondly, the broader question pushed into focus: what makes attractive football anyway?

Well and good, Meath are thought to be a pretty straight-forward, unsophisticated lot who play the game as it comes, meet every man on his merits, and keep piling on the pressure. But, if that amounts to unattractiveness there is something wrong in the argument somewhere because Meath have always been one of the biggest crowd pullers, not only in later stages of championships and leagues, but right through the preliminaries.

Surely attractiveness cannot be divorced from crowd-pulling ability. Surely the meaning of attraction is expressed in the number of those attracted. It cannot always be the opposition's powers which bring the crowds to Meath matches.

Nor can it be that Meath followers are the most faithful and ever present—they certainly are faithful and wonderful to follow their team but can that give a total explanation? Nor is it that the popula-

tion of Meath is so overwhelmingly large, for, in that case, Dublin should burst every ground in the country at the seams.

Success, of course, is an element in attractiveness—everybody likes a winner, in any case, and few love a loser. But, Meath have always been more in the category of losers rather than winners. Even in the

Ireland in 1967, which, true to type, was won rather laboriously against the even less imaginative Corkmen.

In any case maybe it is true to say that success is not the whole of it, for after all, it is well known that success breeds complacency. It may be true for the players that success breeds success for a cer-

thoughtful, combined, skilful or inspired football?

Of course these draw the crowds — if they are successful. But, what is the use of playing the brightest, most sparkling football in the world and losing every time. People will not even hear about your talented play — talk about wasting your sweetness on the desert air. All of which

qualities attach to today's men — Kerry, always, Mayo, too, often, and teams like Cavan . . . tradition, they call that.

But, there is also a certain amount of discrimination between teams of different quality, also, though it comes fairly well down the list, and may well be exclusively exercised by the neutral. Though they

traction stakes: but Sean O'Neill has sent them thousands ahead of competitors, as Jim McCartan did in the last generation.

An anonymous team, however well they play, or however inventive their game, have little more than curiosity value: if they have neither novelty, tradition nor success going for them, they are nothing. If, however, they have a star or two, they can still be an attraction: say Sligo, with Mickey Kearins, or Meath with Jack Quinn, or Paddy O'Brien, or Dublin with Des Foley.

So Meath have power and efficiency and energy and tenacity to make their hope of success a constant one; and they have Jack Quinn, and Matt Kerrigan and Pat Reynolds emerging into the star category. That is what makes them attractive — in the objective and measureable sense.

Kerry, on the other hand, have just about everything going for them. Success and the constant hope of more success; Mick O'Connell, Mick O'Dwyer, Johnny Culloty, Brendan Lynch, D. J. Crowley — all men who add hundreds to a gate; they have tradition in the sense which no others know — every reason to hope that any day another Con Brosnan or Paddy Bawn or Aeroplane O'Shea or Paddy Kennedy may appear in the green and gold; and they have the football — for in the end of all, nothing stirs the glands and sets the adrenalin running like a Mick O'Shea launching himself into the air, grabbing the ball with ferocious hatred, and thundering away through rucks of defenders. They may lack novelty, but I suppose 21 or 22 points a match, not mentioning goals is something novel in itself.

The neutral may crib at the unattractiveness of Meath, but he will be in Croke Park all the same for fear they may succeed or in the hope that they will depending on his alignment despite his neutrality. Yes, attractiveness is an elusive thing, and I dare to say that fancy ball play and intricate movements have damn little to do with it. Not on their own anyway.



Two of Kerry's danger men, Brendan Lynch (left) and Mick Gleeson (whose hair will be much shorter when he lines out against Meath!)

last twenty or so years of their greatest prominence, they have lost more golden opportunities of success than they have grasped.

The present situation is a case in point: they so nearly were the team of the decade that has just closed; but for two crucial defeats at the hands of Galway — in the semi-final of 1964 and the final of 1966, they would, probably be classed as the team of the 'sixties.

Not so, their bag from those years near the top amounted to the one All-

tain period of time, at least, though even they incline, sometimes to over casualness.

But, for spectators, there is little doubt that too much success breeds an expectation of more that brooks no hindrance: they either become aggressively demanding or fiercely critical. The standards they demand are the highest they have been given by their team — not the lower ones or even a reasonable average.

Success, in fact, keeps a lot at home. Think of the famous Kerry attitude: they will make a great effort to get to the Munster final, to see the men from the county and assess them in the All-Ireland stakes. Then, they casually go home and begin to make tentative plans for the trip to Dublin for the final. Some have even been known to cancel tentative plans already made for the final after a less than promising Munster final performance. As for the semi-final — there are hundreds in Kerry who wouldn't dream of it.

Perhaps then, there is more in the sustained hope of success, often disappointed, than in the constant sanguine belief in success. And, by the way, it may be strange to some that I have only considered success so far in estimating attractiveness. Why not

goes to show, very simply, that the only attractive football is successful football.

It may be that Leitrim or Waterford or Kilkenny are playing wonderfully creative and constructive football at home, stringing together pieces of artistic play pleasing both to the eye and the mind, but what use is it — we never see it, and if they do not change quickly and play some down to earth unattractive stuff like Meath, we never will hear of them, and they never will have the opportunity of converting us to their own special attractiveness.

But, among the successful or the hopeful of success, there are some more attractive than others — Kerry predominantly, Galway, Down very much so, Longford in the last few years, Mayo, Derry, Dublin occasionally. Why? For several reasons probably. Some because of novelty — Longford, Derry, Down at the beginning.

Some because of the really exciting quality of their football — and the style did not matter so much as the fact that it was executed successfully — Down after the beginning, Dublin for a time, Galway in the 60s, Mayo, Kerry. Some as much for what great deeds their heroes of the past have done as for what inherent

found enormous numbers of followers, who were following success, the Des Foley Dublin side never matched the grip which the Heffernan - Freeney team had on neutral supporters; the present Mayo side, even allowing for lack of comparable success, never held the grip at any stage so far of the Paddy Carney - Sean Flanagan - Eamonn Mongey side, even when they were struggling for success.

So what makes attractiveness? Like genius, a lot of it is effort, because a lot of it is success. For the rest, there is a morsel of really creative football; a slice of novelty; a chunk of really solid tradition. The rest is individual talent.

Tradition may bring thousands to a Kerry match; but Mick O'Connell bring thousands, too. Success and an acceptable quality of football has kept Down at the top of the at-

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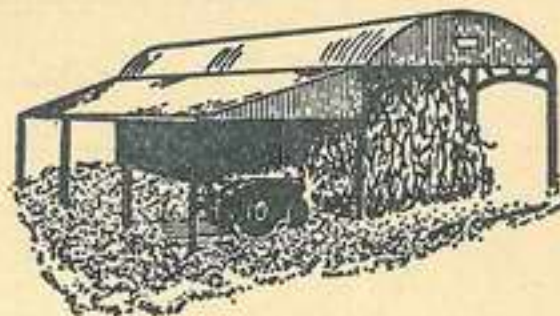
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# 'I Know We Are Amateurs But...'

**O**URS is an amateur organisation and perhaps this is part excuse for the amateurish way we present ourselves at times. To put it bluntly our teams, county and club, are not made "toe the line" in this matter of presentation. In these days of sophisticated tastes, who the blazes wants to see teams marching round behind a band at Croke Park with every second one out of step, often at snails pace, some of the players with their stockings down around their ankles, some with stockings other than the county colours.

At county level especially, teams should be superbly togged in their county colours, stockings all matching. For the games preliminaries, stockings should be pulled up. Some of the Derry team, including their captain, insisted on marching round in the semi-final with the stockings down at the ankles, while one of the Kerry team wore an older pair of stockings than the ones sported by the rest of the team. In Galway we have one player who insists on sitting down in the front row for photographs showing a fine pair of calves to posterity. This is all sloppy presentation and would not be tolerated in other sports. I'm thinking of soccer particularly.

Now, when a game starts a player should be allowed to do what he likes with his socks. Stockings up sometimes inhibit a man's play. Others like to wear their jersey outside their togs. Fair enough, but all these gimmicks should not be tolerated by the team bosses for photographs and the march round. It is past time that the G.A.A. bosses issued directives on this matter.

The whole pre-match parade idea must be shortened and smartened up. First of all the bands must move faster. Teams should also learn to march and the parade should be honoured, in a word taken seriously. Players now talk to each other, wave at the crowd, generally behave in a couldn't-care-less manner. If we cannot put on this march-round presentation better, then we should drop it altogether.

**S**O few players block the ball nowadays. Indeed blocking is becoming a lost art. It requires courage. You must go in with your hands outstretched over the boot of your opponent as he kicks. The danger of being kicked in the face is more apparent than real.

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How nice then to see a half-back of outstanding merit, namely Pat Reynolds, block the ball twice successively from the same Galway player Willie Joyce in the All-Ireland semi-final and then come tearing up field on a solo run. What an inspiration this man is. But he soloed too far on this occasion. Just before he was about to kick, Jimmy Duggan, who had chased him, knocked him with a shoulder and the referee intervened to give a free to Pat



Tom Ryan . . . inspired Galway

(undeserved I thought but then I'm a Galwayman!). But apart from this over-soloing it was an example of the dynamic attacking play of this brilliant Meath man.

**T**WO men I met on the night of the Derry v. Kerry semi-final were Jim Brosnan and Simon Deignan. Both had different theories on the major faults of our game of Gaelic football. The Kerryman blames all the untidiness on the solo-run, which is used far too much by too many players.

I agree entirely with him. But how do we get rid of the untidiness? Not by getting rid of the solo-run, I hope. Because this is one of the peculiar arts of our game. No footballer feels accomplished unless he can do it. We should not get rid of a skill to tidy up our game. We should coach all our footballers, youngsters particularly, in the better use of this skill. How often have you heard the expressions "bringing the ball to bed with him," "taking too much out of it" etc. Over-use or abuse of the solo is selfish play and should be condemned by all team bosses.

Deignan blames the abolition of the handpass for the untidiness. He considers the fisted pass much too cumbersome and too great a burden on a wonderful little halfback like Tom Prendergast when opposed by a man like Tom Quinn to quote one example. What annoys him is that the motion to have the handpass back again is rejected by a very slender margin practically every year it appears. Again I agree. The fisted pass is no help.

We have made the best of it. It has become a semi-skill but is awkward, untidy and inaccurate. We should get rid of it and replace it with the old handpass which Antrim used so expertly.

Now that Meath are in the final isn't it grand to hear that one of their greatest stalwarts, Peter McDermott has written a book about Meath's trip to Australia mainly, entitled "Gaels in the Sun." I haven't seen it yet but it will be on sale when this reaches print and I cannot wait to read it. We have so few books on the G.A.A. that it is refreshing to see another one appearing. So congrats Peter, we will have more to say about it later. You couldn't have launched it at a better time.

**T**om Ryan has done it again. First it was Clare, a county he helped to transform from a spiritless hurling lot to a team of great potential (seldom realised fully). Now it is Galway hurling that has received his shot in the arm. His tour de force against Wexford in the All-Ireland semi-final at Athlone is still talked about here in Galway. It has brought the fans back too. For the two Galway S.H.C. semi-finals between Liam Mellowes (for whom Ryan plays) and Turloughmore and Killimordaly versus Gort at Athenry in August a great attendance paid over £800 at the gate. This was like old times in Galway hurling. The heroes at Athlone were on show again and all who "chickened out" on Athlone came to see them, Ryan in particular.

The games were disappointing but still it was good to see Paddy Mitchell and one of the Galway New York "exiles" Des Coen star for Killimordaly, Sean Devlin's inspiring play for Gort once again, recalling bygone days of Josie Gallagher and Tadgh Kelly, the inspiring display of young Seamus Hogan for Mellowes and the do-or-die resistance of Turloughmore's Seamus Murphy, and of course Ryan.

It was a glorious day for hurling and it is quite pleasant to record that all four teams were togged immaculately. This is good for the image of the game in the county. But best of all, the crowds are coming back to Galway hurling. For this great credit is due to the County Board and in particular to Chairman Gerry Cloherty, who is bubbling over with enthusiasm and ideas. For the county finals, senior and minor, the four contesting teams are being feted by the Co. Board to a banquet after the games.

But hats off to Tom Ryan and we hope he continues to inspire Galway and then a year hence, we may be talking in terms of a senior All-Ireland title. The Galway "exiles" will all be



BY JACK MAHON

back from New York looking for their places on the team again and Galway will be a hurling force once again. Incidentally Liam Mellowes and Killimordaly won their respective games.

**E**arlier I paid tribute to Pat Reynolds. At the time I felt like saying he was the best left half back playing. But is he? If he isn't, then the man for that honour is Kerry's Mike O'Shea. Neither is a particularly stylish player. Reynolds attacks more, overdoes the solo a wee bit. Strength and fairness is written all over O'Shea's granite-like features and he lives up to his looks. I won't decide, all I will say is that they are the two best left halves playing.

**H**e was born in Galway. I wish to hell he stayed there and we'd probably be in the football final! Joking aside Matt Kerrigan is a great "40 yards man," the best Meath footballer of the moment in my book. He fairly blasted Liam O'Neill's growing reputation in the semi-final. A big man, he catches well, has good ball control, is not as compact as Pat Griffin but, like



OLLIE FREANEY



JIM BROSNAN

Ollie Freaney in the old days with Dublin, is much more effective than he appears to be.

Like Reynolds and O'Shea, I think it would be fair to say that in Griffin and Kerrigan we have the two best centre half forwards playing.

**I**sn't it great to see another "Bawn" Kerry minor Paddy, appearing on the scene. Perhaps it is too early to compare yet. But the manner in which he scored that great goal in the semi-final and some fine points as well showed the Kerry stamp of class. He has a loose free and easy gait, so typical of Kerry footballers. They seldom make heavy weather of anything they do on a football field. None of this hugging and kissing lark. No messing when taking frees. No gimmickry at all.

Young Paddy Bawn has a long road to travel yet. Its a pity one has to have a famous father. The sights are set for you before you start. Still with young Brosnan and the other two sons of former stars Power and Dillon, they have all made a great start. This is a fine Kerry minor team.

IN.T.O.

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# The Facts And Figures Favour Kerry

**K**erry-Offaly was a breath of fresh air last year, for the simple reason that they were playing one another in a final for the first time. It is seldom enough we get new pairings in football — thought is not as claustrophobic as hurling, goodness knows. While there certainly is something which stirs the blood in some of the old, hallowed opponents like Kerry-Galway; Kerry-Cavan; Dublin-Meath and so on, they can become tedious too. Novelty is an essential for whetting the appetite anew and refreshing the jaded palette.

It is acknowledged, I think, that there has been a greater degree of levelling off in the standards of football throughout the country as a whole in the last twenty or thirty years than in any previous era. Yet, even in that time an analysis of the successful counties' achievements makes interesting food for thought. Here are the provincial champions since 1935; the eventual All-Ireland champions are in bold capitals and the losing finalists in upper and lower case bold:

1935: Tipperary; **CAVAN**; Kildare; Mayo.  
 1936: Kerry; Cavan; **LAOIS**; MAYO.  
 1937: **KERRY**; Laois; Cavan; Mayo.  
 1938: Kerry; Monaghan; Laois; **GALWAY**.  
 1939: **KERRY**; Cavan; Meath; Mayo.  
 1940: **KERRY**; Cavan; Meath; **Galway**.  
 1941: **KERRY**; Cavan; Dublin; **Galway**.  
 1942: Kerry; Cavan; **DUBLIN**; **Galway**.  
 1943: Cork; Cavan; Louth; **ROSCOMMON**.  
 1944: Kerry; Cavan; Carlow; **ROSCOMMON**.  
 1945: **CORK**; Cavan; Wexford; **Galway**.  
 1946: **KERRY**; Antrim; Laois; **ROSCOMMON**.  
 1947: Kerry; **CAVAN**; Meath; Roscommon.  
 1948: Kerry; **CAVAN**; Louth; Mayo.  
 1949: Cork; Cavan; **MEATH**; Mayo.  
 1950: Kerry; Armagh; Louth; **MAYO**.  
 1951: Kerry; Antrim; Meath; **MAYO**.  
 1952: Cork; **CAVAN**; Meath; Roscommon.  
 1953: **KERRY**; Armagh; Louth; Roscommon.  
 1954: Kerry; Cavan; **MEATH**; **Galway**.  
 1955: **KERRY**; Cavan; Dublin; Mayo.  
 1956: Cork; Tyrone; Kildare; **GALWAY**.  
 1957: Cork; Tyrone; **LOUTH**; **Galway**.  
 1958: Kerry; Derry; **DUBLIN**; **Galway**.  
 1959: **KERRY**; Down; Dublin; **Galway**.  
 1960: Kerry; **DOWN**; Offaly; **Galway**.  
 1961: Kerry; **DOWN**; Offaly; Roscommon.  
 1962: **KERRY**; Cavan; Dublin; Roscommon.  
 1963: Kerry; Down; **DUBLIN**; **Galway**.  
 1964: Kerry; Cavan; Meath; **GALWAY**.  
 1965: Kerry; Down; Dublin; **GALWAY**.  
 1966: Cork; Down; Meath; **GALWAY**.  
 1967: Cork; Cavan; **MEATH**; Mayo.  
 1968: Kerry; **DOWN**; Longford; **Galway**.  
 1969: **KERRY**; Cavan; Offaly; Mayo.  
 1970: Kerry; Derry; Meath; **Galway**.

Levelling out in standards is all very fine, and we certainly have to admit that counties are playing good competitive football now who were unknown twenty or more years ago. But, the reality of the situation is shown rather brutally by the cold, impersonal record sheet. It appears that the levelling only means that more counties are giving a hell of a fright to the big shots and a great game, before going down to the same result as before — defeat. Defeat comes now for many at a later stage and by narrow margins, instead of the early round and the catastrophic margin of other times. But, championship success is the real acid test: and in that regard, there are few who have established themselves.

Down, of course, are a prime example of a county which has broken through to greatness; yet, one must ask the question whether they will every be a Kerry or a Galway as the above list shows them to be — constant recurring threats to all when the All-Ireland championship is in question.

There is one point in which the base of football may be said to have broadened within these years: the number of counties which participated in All-Ireland finals was 15 — a respectable 47 per cent. In fact, it surprised me that the number was so big. But, then a further point began to become obvious: how many of these are regulars, so to speak, who keep coming back from time to time, at least, and how many of them are one team flashes of uncharacteristic brilliance?

Well, Kerry have been in the final in those 36 years the fantastic number of 19 times; then come Galway (10); Meath and Cavan (8); Mayo, Dublin, Roscommon, Cork (4 times); Down (3); Louth and Offaly (2); Kildare, Laois, Derry and Armagh (1 each).

It should be noted that the taking of the arbitrary date 1935 to begin with gave something of a false impression for present day purposes in so far as Kildare and Laois would not have figured at all in the 15 finalists if 1937 had been taken as starting point. This might not be fair either, however, because of Kildare's previous great record and because of Laois' considerable promise for a time.

But, it is obvious that statistically the teams most likely to meet in the All-Ireland final are Kerry and Galway — a fact borne out by their clashing at this stage six times in the period, even remembering the occasions when they clashed in the semi-final and perhaps prevented further final appearances by one another. After that you would place your money on a Kerry-Cavan or Kerry-Meath or Meath-Cavan or Galway-Meath or Galway-Cavan final. It is not really surprising that Kerry and Meath fulfil the statistical prediction by opposing one another this year. This will be their third confrontation at the final stage.

BY JIM BENNETT

Besides the 15 there are another seven who have reached the semi-final stage: a percentage of 69 per cent of the counties who have won their province's championship during the last 36 competitions. Again an indication of the possibilities which exist in most of the counties. But, again a false indication of the possible winners in any given year in each province. Top of the list of losing semi-finalists are Cavan (12), an indication of the dominance they achieved in Ulster which has only been interrupted without being broken ever. The fact, also, that they have lost more semi-finals than anyone else would, perhaps, suggest that on many occasions the opposition they met was of doubtful quality, since they were so often unable to combat the challenge of the best of other provinces.

For example: Kerry next in line with 8, have won 19 — losing only 29 per cent of their semi-finals, therefore, compared to the Cavan losing record of 60 per cent. The theory is further borne out, it would seem, by the fact that the overall average of the Ulster champions in All-Ireland semi-finals over the last 36 years is 64 per cent losses (23 lost; 13 won). Contrast with that Cavan's 50 per cent successes in finals and this means that the teams which won semi-finals for them were good sides, indeed.

It is general, in fact, that the teams in the finals can be well pleased with a 50 per cent break of success — Down's record is unique, and quite untypical here, with 100 per cent final record and four losing semi-final appearances. Even Kerry touch only 56 per cent successes — rising to 58 per cent if they win this year, while Cavan (4/8), Galway (5/10), Roscommon (2/4), Louth (1/2) are dead on the 50 per cent rating.

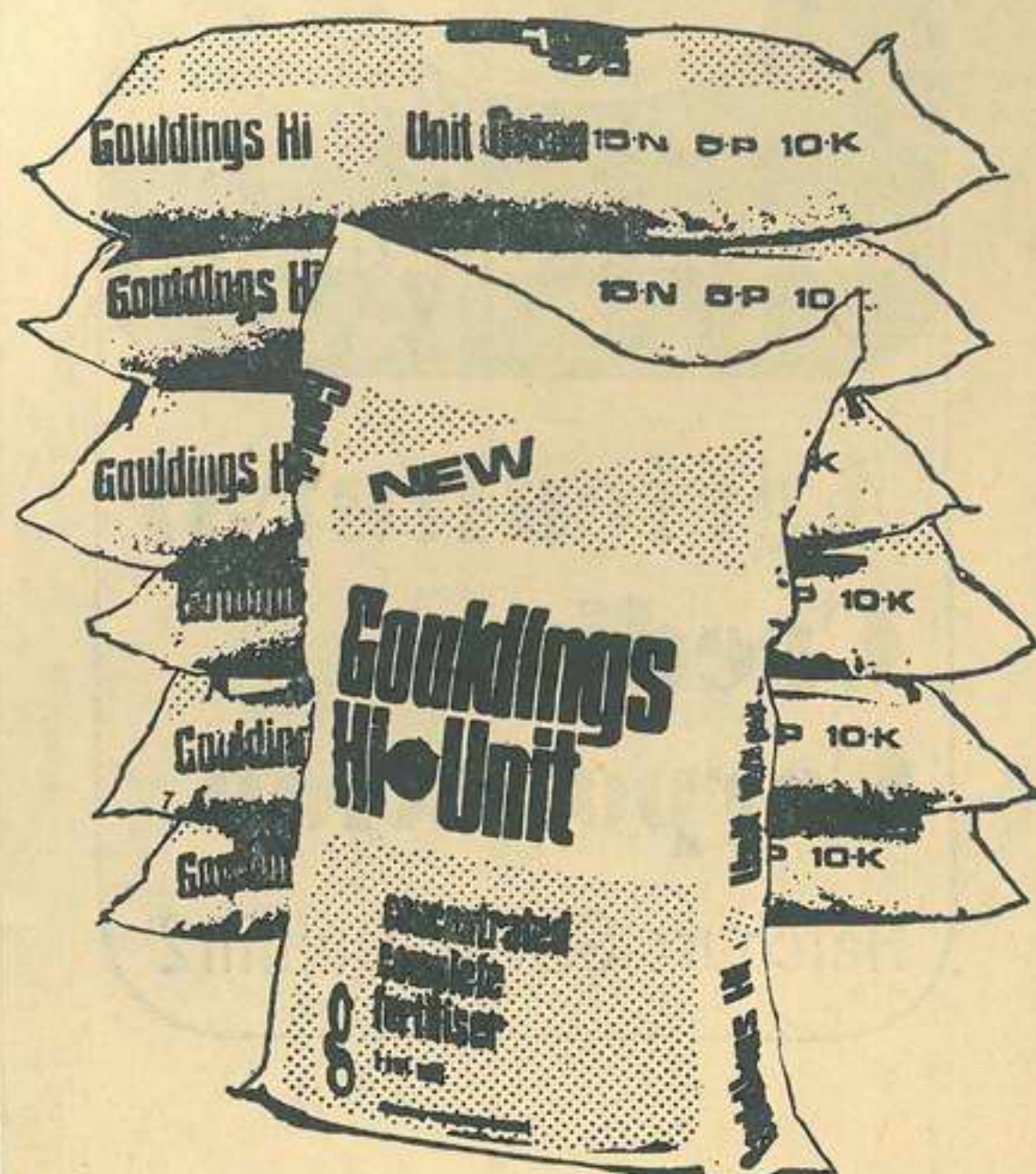
That leaves five of the 10 counties which have won the title in the period on the 50 per cent success mark; the other five are not significant, because they are either symbolic or balanced by other factors. Cork, for instance, have only 25 per cent success, and one All-Ireland out of eight semi-final appearances which is in such contrast to Kerry's record that one can only conclude that Kerry have been having unusually poor periods when Cork have taken the Munster title at all. (Kerry have won almost 39 per cent of all championships

in which they have reached the semi-final stage). Others, like Mayo with 75 per cent final record is balanced by 7 losing semi-finals; Meath with 43 per cent successes is balanced by their very high semi-final success record of 8 out of 11 (73 per cent). Dublin indicate their tradition in a period in which its peak was long past with one of the most dangerous records in both semi-finals and finals — 75 per cent successes in finals, and 37½ per cent of all their semi-finals pursued to final victory.

Of the present finalists, Meath have found semi-final success even easier than Kerry (73% against 71%) but both have been easily the most successful counties in semi-finals — so it was on the cards that they would have reached the final once they won their provincial finals. In finals, however, Kerry have found the victory easier to come by: 43% for Meath; 56% for Kerry.

Finally, in view of the Railway Cup results over a long part of the period, it may seem surprising that Munster has been represented in the final in 23 of the 36 years under review; Leinster and Connacht 18 each; and Ulster 13 times. However Connacht counties have made 56 per cent of their appearances winning ones; Ulster 54 per cent; Munster 50 per cent; while Leinster lag well behind with 41 per cent. Perhaps Leinster's wider variety of representatives explains that — six different finalists only three of whom won. As against that victories and appearances have been more concentrated in Munster (2 counties appeared), Connacht (3 appeared) and Ulster (4 appeared). Yet, when it comes to cases, any figures you produce seem to clarify still further the fact that Kerry are absolutely pre-eminent — even though we omitted from the period under review a great portion of the county's greatest glory.

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# A Solution To The Semi-Final Fiasco

THE All-Ireland hurling semi-final may be the Central Council's child, but they are nobody's darling. And the fundamental trouble with them is, quite simply, that they lack a logical basis. Football has a beautiful geographic integrity about it . . . four provinces to provide four semi-finalists after an all-in home provincial series.

Hurling has the basic flaw of less than nationwide entry, the lopsided preponderance of Munster and Leinster. Perhaps some day in the visionary future there may be a neat thirty-two senior hurling contenders. Until then, the problem remains.

BY JOHN O'GRADY

Semi-finals have a long history in hurling, from the first one of all, Kilkenny v. Galway in 1897, down to the controversial pair played a few weeks ago. A glance at the records of such games year by year reveals some very unexpected names.

One expects, generally, to see two semi-finals per year, but the number actually varies from one to four. One we can understand. It usually occurred when no Ulster county ventured into senior grade, thus leaving Galway alone to meet either the Munster or the Leinster winners. But a few times, as when Galway had their clear visa

right into the final — in 1958 — the single "semi" involved the Munster and Leinster champions, or else Antrim against one or other of them.

But four — how does that come about? Apparently the term semi-final is used rather loosely for anything intervening between a provincial final and an All-Ireland final, for the "Guinness Book of Hurling Records" gives for 1905 games between Kilkenny and Lancashire, Antrim and Glasgow, Cork and Galway, Dublin and Antrim as semi-finals. London-Irish figure in several such games in the first decade of this century.

The year 1958 began a new era. Galway got straight into the final without a game after Tipperary and Kilkenny had played the real final in August. That finished it as the practice of letting anyone into a final drew fire from all angles. Galway began their luckless marriage with Munster, only separated last Easter. This divorce revived the semi-final idea, with London, on promotion, being brought in to provide two such games.

Well we know how they went. Galway nearly ambushed Wexford at Athlone; London went nowhere near frightening Cork at Limerick. Most people were prepared for the Limerick result after seeing how badly beaten London had been a year earlier by Kilkenny in the first semi-final since 1958.

Ironically enough, Galway's near-success drew almost as much criticism to the system as if they had been hammered. A heavy defeat would certainly draw such comment as: "how could they be expected to match a battle-hardened team that had come through Leinster?" This is just what was said on London's behalf, more or less, by their Chairman, Paddy Ryan of Tipperary.

Yet, if Galway had won, the reaction would have been equally critical, tending to run like: "Why should any team be given the privilege of coming into the championship at so late a stage?" Either way you are going to see flaws in the system.

The situation has not lacked proposals of amendment over the years. The favourite one is the open draw. It has foundered on one large obstacle, the loss of the traditional provincial championships which it is generally presumed to entail. "What? No Munster final, no Leinster final?"

The tone is one of horror and disbelief at sacrificing the solid realities of these time-honoured duels for the nebulous virtues of the straight and open national entry.

To allay such fears, let me draw a moral from what has been done in Tipperary in a smaller-scale version of the national situation. For the past two years, we have had an open county championship. But — and here is the essential point — we have also retained, separate and unrelated to it, the four local divisional championships. Every club, therefore, starts the season with two prizes to aim at.

The idea had its doubters. A club knocked out of the main event might take little interest in the more local one, which would be regarded as an insignificant "second best" or a mere consolation stakes, a la coursing. It has not happened. If anything, the divisional events have gone better than the county one.

The reason is not far to seek: the persistence of neighbourly rivalry as a potent factor in parish affairs. There was no lack of keenness about the Mid Tipp final between Thurles Sarsfields and Moyne-Templetohy simply because Sarsfields were still "alive" in the county race and Moyne had left it back in May.

The moral — and the main point of this article — needs little further explanation: an Open All-Ireland and, at the same time, provincial championships unconnected with it. I haven't a doubt but that it would work, and work well. As things stand at present county teams have only one championship to aim at.

If they are beaten early, the year is seen at once as a disaster for them. Isn't there the League, someone may say? There is, but it lacks the sharp necessity of the k.o. route which suits our games better than the assembling of a points table.

The same objection may be raised as was done in Tipperary. Would a county take a proper interest in the second competition after being beaten in the first? Of course it would, and be all the keener for their defeat. I won't lay down which championship should begin first. That would be for the various Councils, in their mature judgment, to decide.

Tipp's experience again may be helpful. In 1969, the first year of the dual system, they began with the first round of the divisional contest and then made the losers of this proceed to play first in the county championship. And so forth, giving the more successful divisional contestants a later — and more favoured — entry to the wider event.

This was logical enough, in a way, but it had one damning defect — you could not make a full county draw from the start because you did not know which clubs would be available until the divisions had got going. So the public never knew in good time who was meeting whom.

This year they have done the opposite, with a gain in clarity and publicity. The county draw was made first, and the teams beaten in the opening rounds were then available for the local games.

On the national level, of course, things need not be done in either one way or the other as practised in Tipperary. Full draws could be made in advance for both All-Ireland and provincial championships. But I would favour starting with the All-Ireland, since the beaten counties would be more likely to get serious about what was left to them. The other way round, they just might regard the provincial games as preliminary to the bigger issue.

Do I hear objections as to the availability of Sundays. Of course I do! Something would have to give, whether League or lower-grade competitions. Of the latter we just have too many, anyhow, as nearly everyone agrees. But I am quite serious in the basic suggestions as the best way to do away with unsatisfactory semi-finals and at the same time to preserve our precious and meaningful provincial championships.

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# Rules—And How To Bend Them

**T**HE ball comes in along the wing to Sean O'Connell, who sidesteps a defender and heads towards goal on a hand-to-toe run. His shot from "the square" rebounds off Johnny Culloty and is collected by a forward colleague of O'Connell's, who, when confronted by a defender, passes the ball back to O'Connell.

Sean is at this time still in the "square". As he goes to score what must be a goal he is fouled. Referee Paul Kelly whistles . . . and awards a penalty.

Beside me up on "Hill 16," there are conflicting reactions. "It should be a free out," says one chap near me, "because O'Connell was in the square before the ball and has interfered with play."

Someone nearby replies that the decision given by the referee is a correct one because a player may be in the square when gaining possession, but may not score." A huge Kerryman towering over everybody solemnly comments that it should not be a free at all . . . "sure, the fella was hardly touched, boy!"

All of which left me wondering what the heck it should have been. Admittedly, I had not seen the rule book for some time, but I had done a bit of refereeing in my day, had played at competitive level between club and county for about twenty years, and the ol' memory isn't all that bad. It grieved me to think that although I played corner-forward, a position which demands knowledge of this rule, I really had not a clue of it.

And I began to think to myself that I was far from being alone in this!

However, I take pleasure in informing one and all that I am no longer living in ignorance of this rule, for on the evening of the Kerry-Derry semi-final, I called on to Paul Kelly, the same said whistle-man, and asked him to classify this "square" circle for me.

"A player may be in the square before the ball and gain possession of it there," stated Paul, "but if he should then score from "the square," the score must be disallowed.

**BY BRIAN GERAGHTY**

score from there, but if a goal resulted directly from the free-kick without the

no reason apart from a few permanent blue marks on the ol' hips to hold that it

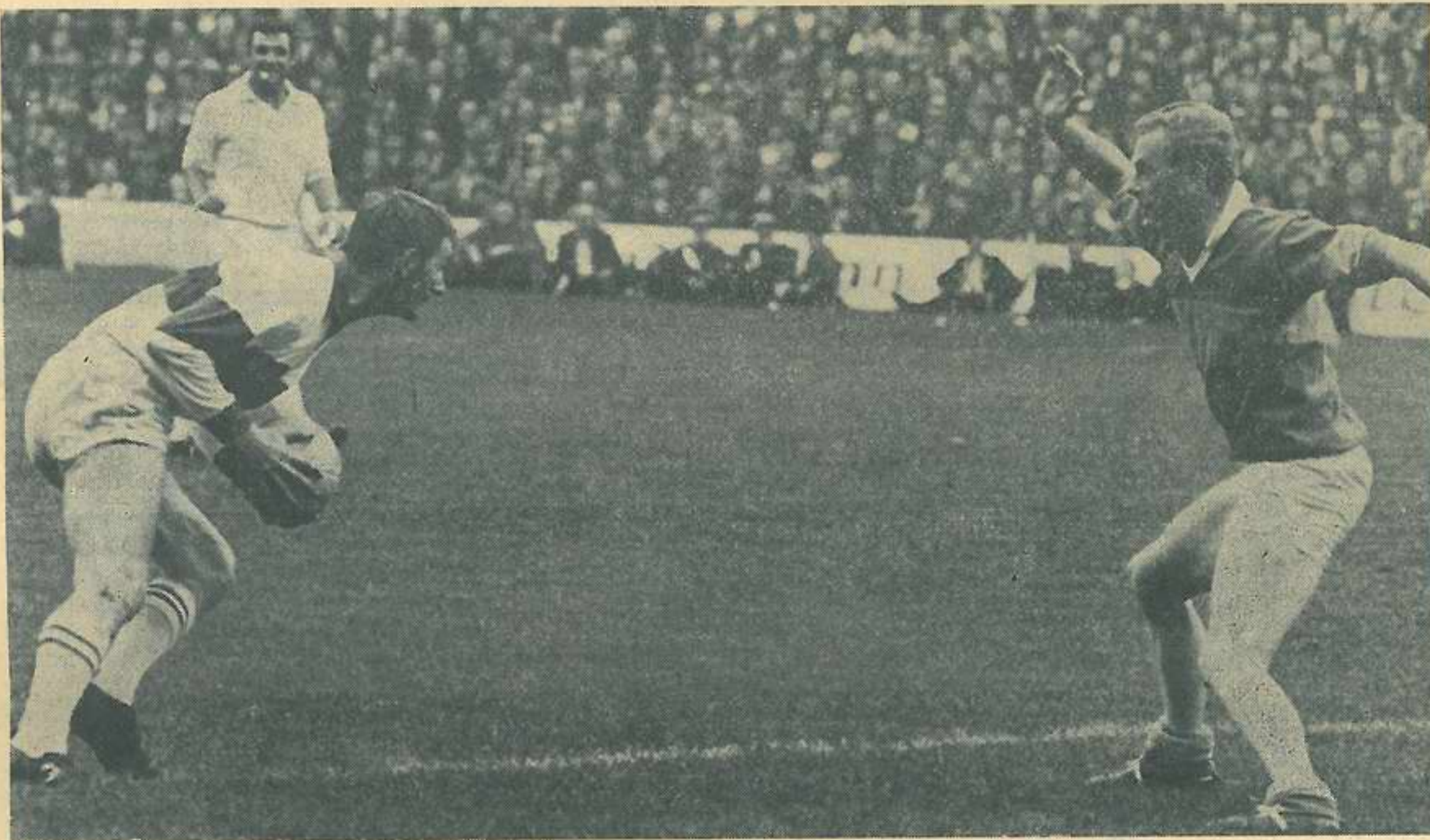
forward during the overtures of a 'fifty' or pointable free is at the junction of the end line and the often than not, he is off the pitch just behind these lines. According to Paul

scores that could be disallowed if one were to go back over even a few games and apply Paul's interpretation.

All of this must spell out the need for a serious look at the existing rules with a view to uniform interpretation. At present one does not really know what to expect from different referees. On that Derry-Kerry Sunday for instance, I saw one of the Derry minors "pulled" by Michael Connaughton for a double turn while holding on to the ball. Fair enough, but Mick Dwyer got away with exactly the same gimmick from Paul Kelly later in the day.

And this rule governing the length a player may hold on to the ball really needs investigation. Four steps it is now I think, another step having been added to the original three. I have seen Seamus Leydon, Jim McCartan, and Pat Griffin, get away with about six. And let these great players not tell me differently, as they have done. I know them and their tricks!

How about taking me seriously, you holy ones of the Central Council and getting down to this problem of rules and rule interpretation over the winter period. And for heaven's sake, appoint a group of selected ex-players to do the investigation!



Referee Paul Kelly keeps a close watch as Brian Devlin tries to elude Paul O'Donoghue in the All-Ireland semi-final.

He could, however, bring the ball outside the square and then score, or pass the ball from his position in the square to an incoming colleague who can score."

**Geraghty:** "Why then is it usual in the event of a 'fifty' or outfield free-kick to see referees or linesmen remove forwards from 'the square'?"

**Kelly:** "I don't know. For my part I do not see anything wrong with a forward being in "the square" as long as he does not score from "the square" having gained possession there. As a matter of fact, even for fourteen or twenty-one yard frees, it is my opinion that a forward can stand on the goalline with the defenders in a packed goalmouth. Again of course he could not

forward on the goalline interfering with play, I fail to see how the score could be disallowed."

This was news for me, and must be to a lot of others as well, because I can remember having myself removed unceremoniously from said "square" on many occasions by disgustingly unfriendly defenders with the consent of many seemingly ignorant umpires and referees.

You know if what Paul told me is true, and I have

isn't, then the stage is set for the ol' goal from the fourteen yards free.

Stick your forward in on the goal line, have your free-taker aim for his head, which of course will be ducked at the last instant, and before one could say Jack Robinson the ball is hanging off the netting. All you really need for this operation is Pele or myself or some other twinkle-toed genius!

Actually the usual place for one to find a corner

Kelly, he may not dash in from this position as he had actually left the playing pitch.

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## STARS OF THE PAST

BY TONY McGEE

## HARRY O'NEILL HITS THE U.S.A. TRAIL

I choose Harry O'Neill as my first subject in this series on Stars of the Past for two reasons. Firstly, although I personally remember few of his playing days, I regard him to be one of the greatest players ever to wear the Antrim jersey or Ulster one for that matter, and secondly, because had I not featured him at the beginning it would not have been possible to feature him at all.

In explanation of my last reason at the outset I will tell you that Harry O'Neill is now in America. He went there on September 7 and I was extremely lucky to have a long talk with him before he left his native Belfast.

O'Neill was one of the most colourful G.A.A. characters ever to come out of Ulster. He had a chequered playing career with Antrim which lasted from 1945 until 1951 during which time he collected two Ulster senior medals. His last game in the saffron jersey was against Meath in the 1951 All-Ireland senior semi-final and a short time after that he also quit club football.

Harry commenced his playing career with Belfast City side Sean McDermott's and it was also with this club that he ended his footballing days. In the interim he had transferred to a club called The Rock (no longer in existence) and later to the once famous O'Connell's.

"But I wanted to go out where I came in so I transferred back to McDermott's and played my last few games with the team," Harry told me.

Strangely enough once his playing days were over O'Neill took little interest

in the G.A.A. for a time. He turned over to the other traditional past time of Irishmen and it was not until 1960 that he again became involved in Gaelic affairs.

"I was approached by the Antrim county committee to manage the county team and I said yes. We won the Ulster junior championship in 1963 and the minor title in '64", Harry said. "However, I didn't have a free hand and that didn't suit me. I never at any time had trouble with Antrim players but I had with officialdom in the county."

"I fell from grace and after a spot of trouble with Armagh the county committee broke off their relationship with me."

Harry received a suspension because of that trouble with Armagh but this did not finish him. His next move was to Moneyglass where he took that club under his wing.

"I went to St. Erngat's as manager on the understanding that I would try and cure the ills that they then had and leave them to carry on. Before I left they had got over their troubles and since then they have had a fair amount of success" O'Neill said.

He continued, "The next club I became involved with was Cargin. That was about three years ago. They had been in the doldrums for a time and they asked me to give them a hand. Again on the understanding that I'd only stay with them until they found their feet I went to them."

"In Cargin I tutored the young boys and the strength of the club began to rise again and mission accomplished, I moved out."

"At that stage I felt that

I had had enough of managing for a time and I wanted to sit back and watch but things didn't work out as I had planned. The Glenavy players and officials approached me and asked me to manage their team and this put me in a spot. My son, Ciaran, plays with Glenavy and my wife comes from there so what could I do but go to the club."

"That was about eighteen months ago and I'm very pleased with what success I had there. Last year for the first time Glenavy won the Antrim junior championship and also the Ulster Club junior championship. This season they reached the semi-final of the senior championship against holders, St. John's, so what more could you ask?"

During his playing days Harry O'Neill made many friends and, of course, also some foes and naturally he has also done that in his off-the-field activities during the last decade.

O'Neill is a person you either have a very high regard for or you just don't like. He believes in saying what he thinks and for this I admire him. At the risk of making myself unpopular in some quarters I must confess that I am one of those people who regard him highly and I am pleased to count him amongst my friends.

For the past number of years Harry has managed a bookmakers shop in Newtownards but now he is in New York—again because of his interest in the G.A.A. He would not divulge much information about his new post but he did tell me, "I am going to America on the invitation of well-known G.A.A.

personalities there. I am going out to take up a job with a construction company but I am likely to have strong connections with the New York - Monaghan club."

"I am initially going for a period of six months but I have been assured that if I decide to stay indefinitely there will be no problem."

I asked Harry how he felt about leaving his native Belfast and he confessed at feeling a little sad. "I'll miss all the great friends I've made. I really appreciate G.A.A. people, especially in the north where it can damage one's image to be connected with the G.A.A. Many players from Antrim and other counties still ask my advice and I appreciate people like yourself, calling with me to talk about G.A.A. matters. This I'll miss very much if I decide

to stay out there. But even if I do decide to stay longer than the six months I don't intend to finish my days in America."

Harry's wish for the future is that a more youthful crowd of legislators would be introduced to administration at top level. He doesn't see Antrim an All-Ireland senior title in the near future either "except they change their method of selection."

One thing that has pleased O'Neill very much is the great play of his son, Ciaran, who is already the holder of an All-Ireland under-21 and an Antrim junior medal. Ciaran is now a veterinary student at U.C.D. and looks like developing into a first class full back before long. "I think Ciaran will go a lot further than I ever did. He is a nicer player than I ever was," Harry said.

As I said Harry made

many friends during his playing days and there is one of those friends he has not seen in 19 years. He is Christo Hand the former Meath left half back. "I'd dearly love to see Christo again. He was a great player but I haven't been able to get in touch with him since we met in the 1951 All-Ireland semi-final."

So now it's over to you Christo, wherever you are.

For the present at least Harry O'Neill has gone to try a new life in the U.S.A. and for my part I feel that the G.A.A. up north and particularly in Antrim, has lost one of its really colourful characters. A new chapter is now about to be written in the career of Harry O'Neill and we hope that in the future we will be able to publish that chapter for you.

## Meath's Five Bright New Stars

WHEN Meath take the field for this year's All-Ireland football final against Kerry, they will have ten of the team which took the title in 1967 plus five bright new stars. It is interesting to note that two of the newcomers figure at midfield, while the remaining trio make up the full-forward line.

The two Vincents — Foley and Lynch — have played a big part in ensuring that the forwards have received a reasonable supply of the ball. It was in the Leinster final against Offaly that Lynch emerged as a magnificent exponent of centrefield play.

Lynch's spectacular high fielding, and clever distribution enabled the Royal County front line to wipe out a seemingly impossible ten points interval deficit and pip the Midlanders. Playing for a county that often had difficulty in finding really outstanding midfielders, the tall Ballinlough man looks the brightest midfield prospect for many a day.

Quite a few Meath supporters would tell you much the same about Vincent Foley. The well built Duleek man — he stands a few inches over six feet — had a really fine game against Galway in the

semi-final.

While Foley may not be the most stylish of players, he nevertheless gets through a great deal of work in a game and can also have an unsettling effect on an opponent.

The corner forward positions are occupied by two twenty year olds, Ken Rennicks and Mick Fay. Most Meath supporters would agree with you if you said that the former is the find of the season. The young Bohermeen man has proved himself as fine a fielder as there is on the team.

When Rennicks gains possession, there aren't any defenders who will take the ball from him. His accurate shooting has been a major contribution to his county's victory march and, when further experience is gained, Ken Rennick's could develop into one of the finest forwards Meath has ever produced.

Mick Fay will long be remembered for his two second half goals against Offaly, after being introduced as a substitute after the break. But for those scores, both taken with the coolness of a veteran, Meath would probably be out of the championship race today.

Another who has made a fine return to the team is the 27-year-old Kellsman Joe Murphy. Murphy never played at full forward until he was given the number fourteen jersey in an early season intercounty challenge game. A few impressive displays in such games made Joe a must for the championship tests and he hasn't let his county down.

Even if Meath fail to capture their fourth senior All-Ireland this year, the five newcomers should ensure that the Royal county stays at the top of the football ladder for a long time to come.

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# Give Us A Good Game Lads—And Everyone Will Win!

**T**HIS has not been a good year for football. High-class games have been a rarity and generally the championship now drawing to a close has only served to highlight the declining standard of the game at a time when technically it should be improving to keep pace with the standards in other field sports.

For this reason there is an obligation on both Kerry and Meath to come up with something extra in this year's All-Ireland final — to give us a game that will restore our faith in clean progressive football. Of late this kind of play has been replaced by a more negative form of play the basic aim of which is to win the particular game at all costs and generally the cost involved is about one free per minute.

BY EUGENE McGEE

In an eighty minute game that's just too much for the neutral spectator to swallow.

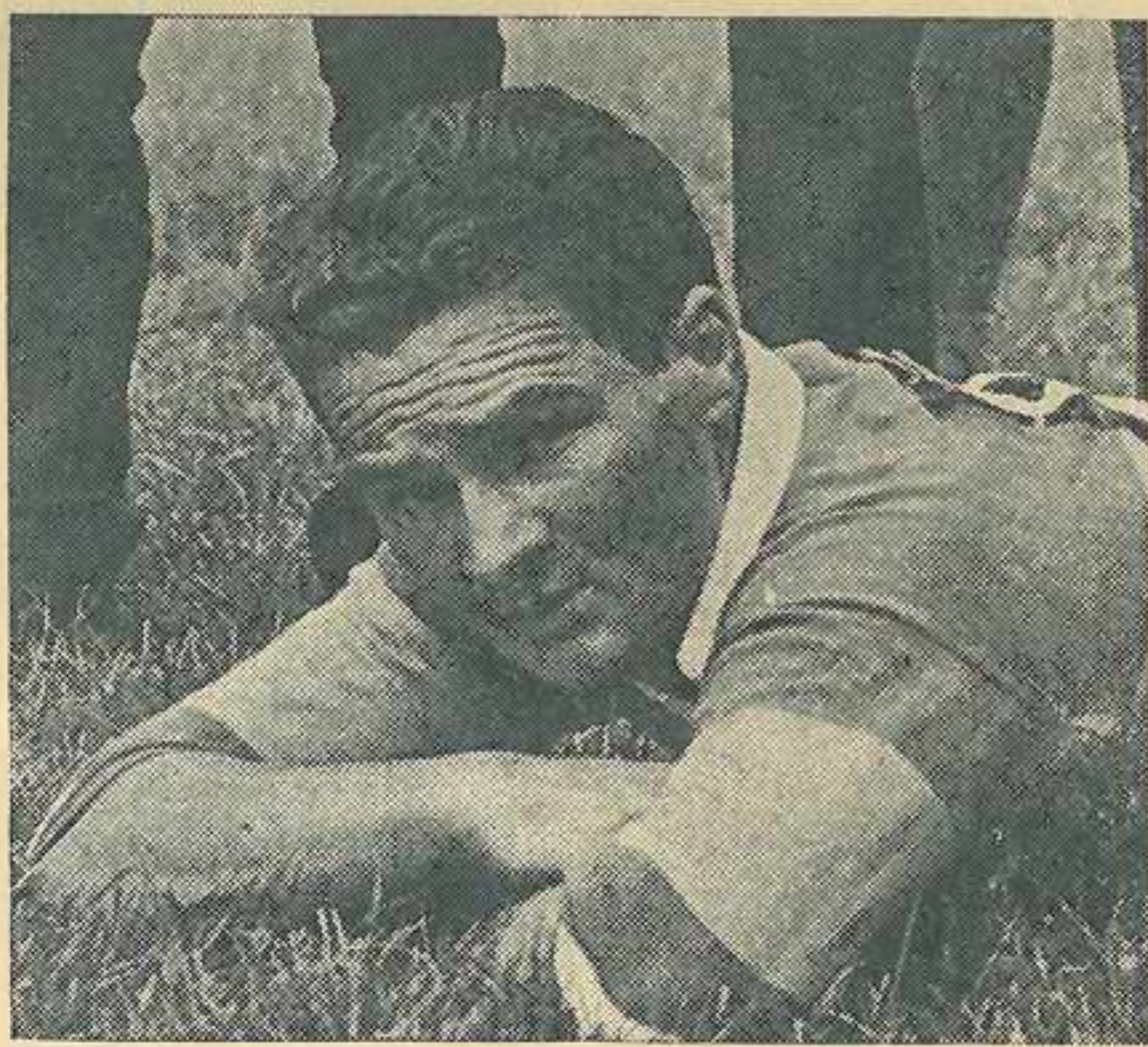
So how about it then Kerry and Meath and in particular team coaches Jackie Lyne and Mick Campbell? In your dictates mainly lies the destinies of this year's All-Ireland final. Sure, your main job is to turn out a winning team but this can be done through the medium of fast, open and spectacular play just as easily as in the defensive-minded type of game that has become so common this year not just from your teams but every other one as well.

And who will win this first Kerry-Meath confrontation since 1954 when the Leinstermen were also the outsiders as they are again this year? There has been and will be thousands of words written about this All-Ireland final but when it is stripped of all the propaganda a couple of basic facts remain which can determine the outcome of this contest.

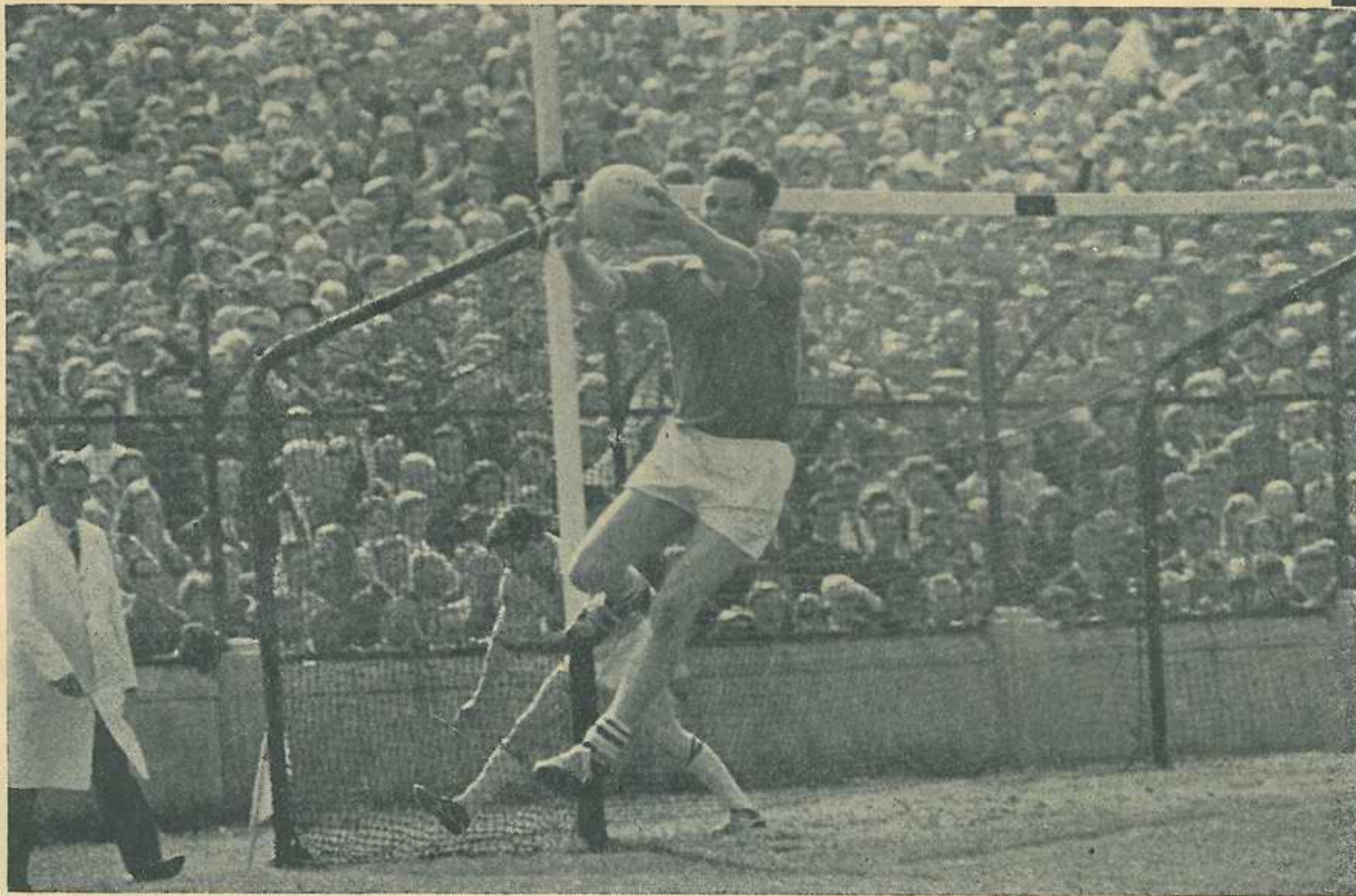
The dominating fact is that Kerry are All-Ireland champions, are playing in their third successive final

have no major team worries and have the greatest tradition in Gaelic football behind them. In present day football they are the most professional team in their approach to the game, and in their approach to winning, that we have in this country.

They no longer have the sentimental burden of having to win their twenty-first title or anything like that. Motivation nowadays is the their greatest one of all—to



Mick O'Connell . . . a god among men.



Bertie Cunningham in action in the All-Ireland final of 1967 against Cork.

and in 1967 but it is a well-known fact especially in the Royal county itself that they never got their due credit for that success for a variety of reasons. And this is something that has nettled Meath players who were on that team quite a bit so much so in fact that those of them who are still on this year's line-out are imbued with an almost fanatical desire to show the critics whether or not they were good enough in 1967.

It is this fact more than anything else which has kept the older Meath players going. Now they have the opportunity to once again stamp their authority on the football scene and the team that is going to stop them will have to be very good indeed.

But who can deny that Kerry are good? They are also keen to win to an extent that the ordinary follower of the game who has not sampled the vibrancy of the Kerry training camp could never appreciate. But take it from me Kerry are in this All-Ireland final for one reason only — to win.

They need to win to boost last years victory and shut up their detractors for once and for all and in that frame of mind it matters little which defence is on top or who gains midfield control on September 27.

These are only the incidentals. Overall there are too many things going for Kerry for them to lose this one.

prove and to keep on proving that they are the best team in the country and further to prove that they are one of the best teams ever to come out of Kerry. This latter is probably the most important driving force behind the present Kerry side, for in a county where they know their football this team has yet to be accepted as being the equal of some of the more glamorous teams of the past.

Against all this there is Meath a team who have come from rags to riches in the space of three months. In almost every game they played in the current championship they have been outsiders. We were told that several of the Meath players were past their best yet it was these same players who saved their side in moments of crisis.

Meath won an All-Irel-



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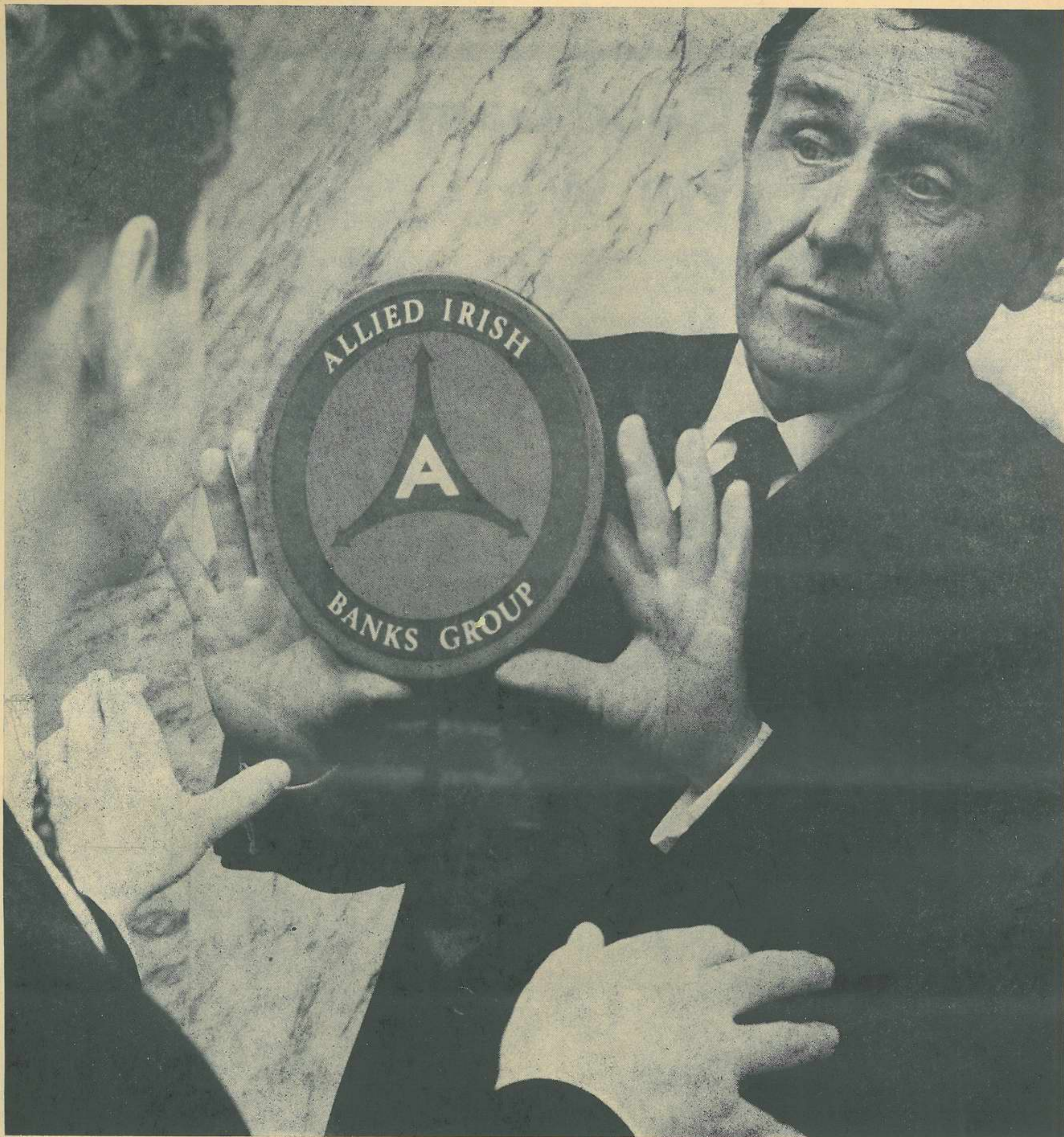
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# Kerry Minors Emerge From The Clouds

Kerry minor footballers, pushed into the background for the greater part of the 'sixties, while near neighbours Cork dominated in Munster and made a big impact at All-Ireland level, have begun the new decade on a bright note. Now, for the first time in five years, the Kingdom are into the All-Ireland final and judging by their impressive form shown so far in the competition, they have a great chance of bringing the title south for the fourth successive year.

BY JIM SULLIVAN

Cork qualified for their first ever All-Ireland final in 1960 — when they lost to Galway — and took their first title the year after. In the years since they have won out of Munster on five occasions, losing in 1962, 1963 and 1965. Kerry went all the way to the final on each occasion, winning the title in '62 and again in '63 but they lost to Derry in the final two years later. And, now in the space of a month, they have broken Cork's dominance in Munster, won their way to a Croke Park final and in the process avenged that 1965 defeat by Derry.

Kerry began this year's campaign with an impressive win over Waterford in the provincial semi-final at Askeaton. Even at half-pace, when winning by 2-12 to 0-5, Kerry played with sufficient skill and determination to inspire confidence in the ability of the team to halt a discouraging run of defeats by Cork. The players trained diligently for the Munster final at Killarney under Ballybunion hotelier Dan Kiely and it was a very determined team which took the field at Fitzgerald Stadium on July 26.

Remember Cork were the All-Ireland champions for the past three years, in addition to the fact that the team included several of the All-Ireland colleges' champion team, Colaiste Christ Ri, who had beaten St. Brendan's, Killarney in the Munster semi-final.

Kerry took control from the throw-in and with the aid of a strong breeze, they exerted strong pressure on a suspect Cork defence. Paud Lynch and John Long were well on top at midfield and, with team captain Ger Power inspiring the forwards, the Cork backs wilted under a series of combined movements.

After only twelve minutes, Kerry had banged in two goals — one of them from left half forward Power — and four points, and Cork had yet to score. Kerry continued to exert a strong grip at midfield and, by the interval, they

had built up a commanding lead of thirteen points, 3-6 to 0-2.

Kerry conceded a goal from Cork's first attack after the resumption and, inspired by this score, the champions laid siege on the Kerry goal. Cork's spirited comeback seemed to be rewarded when, with only thirteen minutes remaining they had reduced Kerry's lead to three points. But then Kerry struck back in a manner which showed the team at its strongest.

Right half forward Cormac O'Connell popped over Kerry's first point of the second half and then as the defence regained its composure, the forwards fought for, and got, much more possession in the remaining ten minutes. Left corner forward James Murphy pointed two frees in quick succession and then Murphy applied the finishing touch to a fine move for a goal which sank Cork hopes and gave Kerry a 4-9 to 1-11 win.

Against Derry in the semi-final, the new Munster champions began impressively — Ger Power had a goal after only three minutes — and while they were perhaps lucky that Derry missed a penalty in the 54th minute, nevertheless they finished strongly for a 2-10 to 0-11 win.

The surprising feature of this game was the way in which midfielders Long and Lynch were outplayed for much of the game. Both are fine fielders and having played together on last year's team as well as being team-mates at St. Brendan's, they have a thorough understanding of each other's play.

Lynch, fancied by many to be a better prospect than his better-known brother Brendan, has played under 21 and senior with Kerry and experience is one thing he does not lack. On the other hand, Derry had two extremely big men at midfield, in addition to the

fact that the Northerners insisted on carrying the ball from defence and very often bypassed midfield.

Apart from this pair, goalkeeper Paud Mahoney and left half back Ger O'Keefe are products of that great nursery, St. Brendan's Seminary — winners of the All-Ireland colleges senior football title last year when they were captained by current Kerry senior centre back John O'Keefe.

Among the other colleges represented on the team are Colaiste Iosagain, Ballyvourney (Co. Cork) — by centre back Michael O'Sullivan from Kenmare — and De La Salle College, Waterford — by centre forward Pat Brosnan, son of the famous Paddy "Bawn" Brosnan. Left half forward Ger Power is a son of the former Limerick hurling star Jackie Power, who was also a stylish footballer.

Brosnan is a strongly built player with a great head for the game and he will be eligible for minor ranks for another year. He laid on the pass for Power's opening goal against Derry and scored Kerry's second goal in the second half. This was the vital score of the game for Kerry and it came after a great pass from full-forward John Egan, after a well-worked Kerry clearance from the full-back line.

This is a well balanced Kerry team and they will play even better against Galway. John Clifford at full-back and Michael O'Sullivan at centre back are both key figures in a defence which tackles efficiently and wastes few clearances. Lynch and Long are great men to distribute the ball to their forwards and both lines of attack move well.

Brosnan is the perfect link man with the full forward line while wing forward Power has the

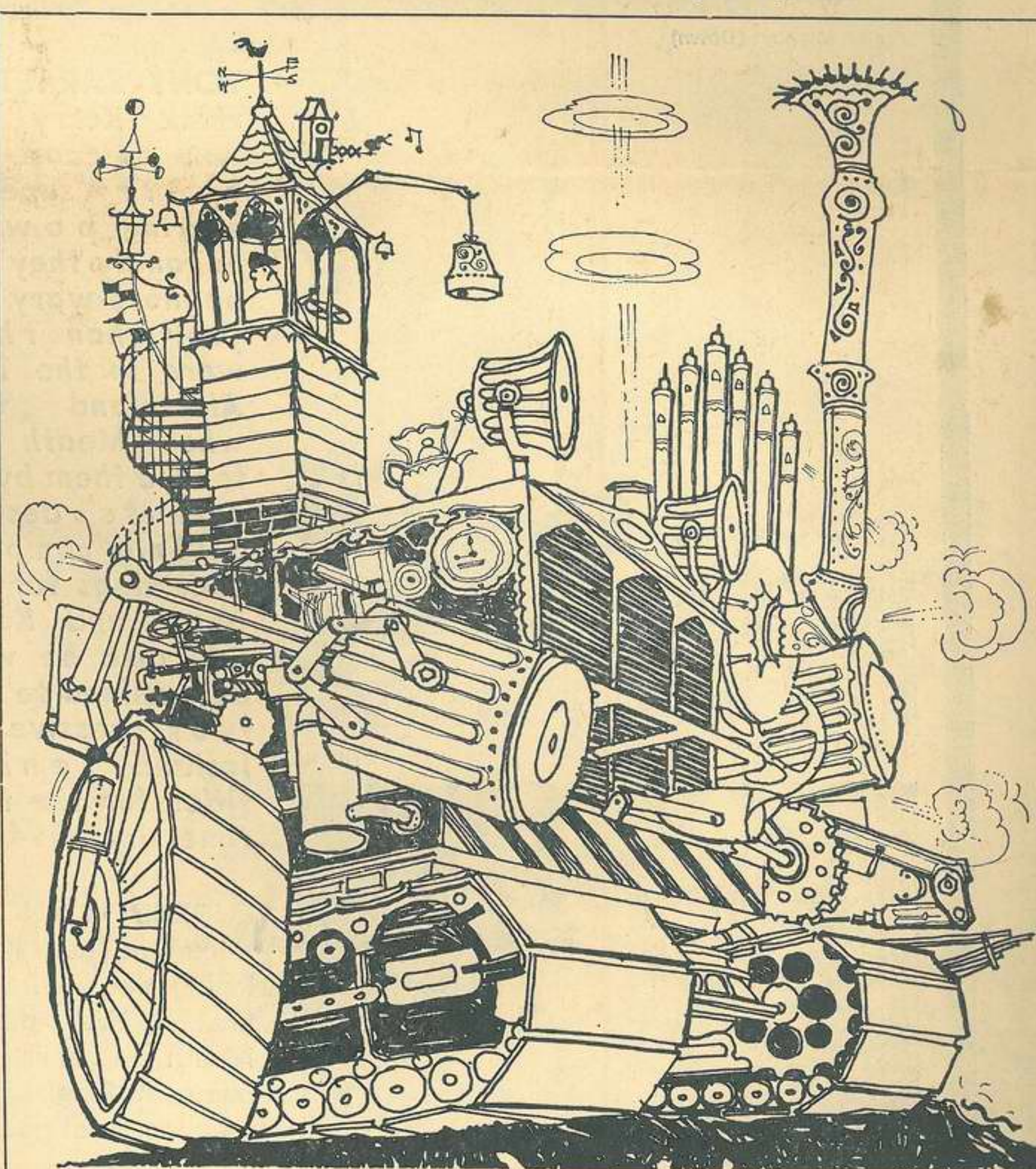
confidence and ability to make and take scores. Corner forward Murphy is the most prolific of the full-forwards who consistently

play well as a trio. Free taker Murphy is the leading scorer to date with 2-8. Paud Lynch, who has scored in each of

the three games, is next, with a total of 1-7, while Power has scored two goals and full forward John Egan six points.



Kerry goalkeeper Paud Mahoney, pictured while saving a penalty kick against Derry in the All-Ireland semi-final. A point of interest is the positioning of the photographers — well inside the playing area.



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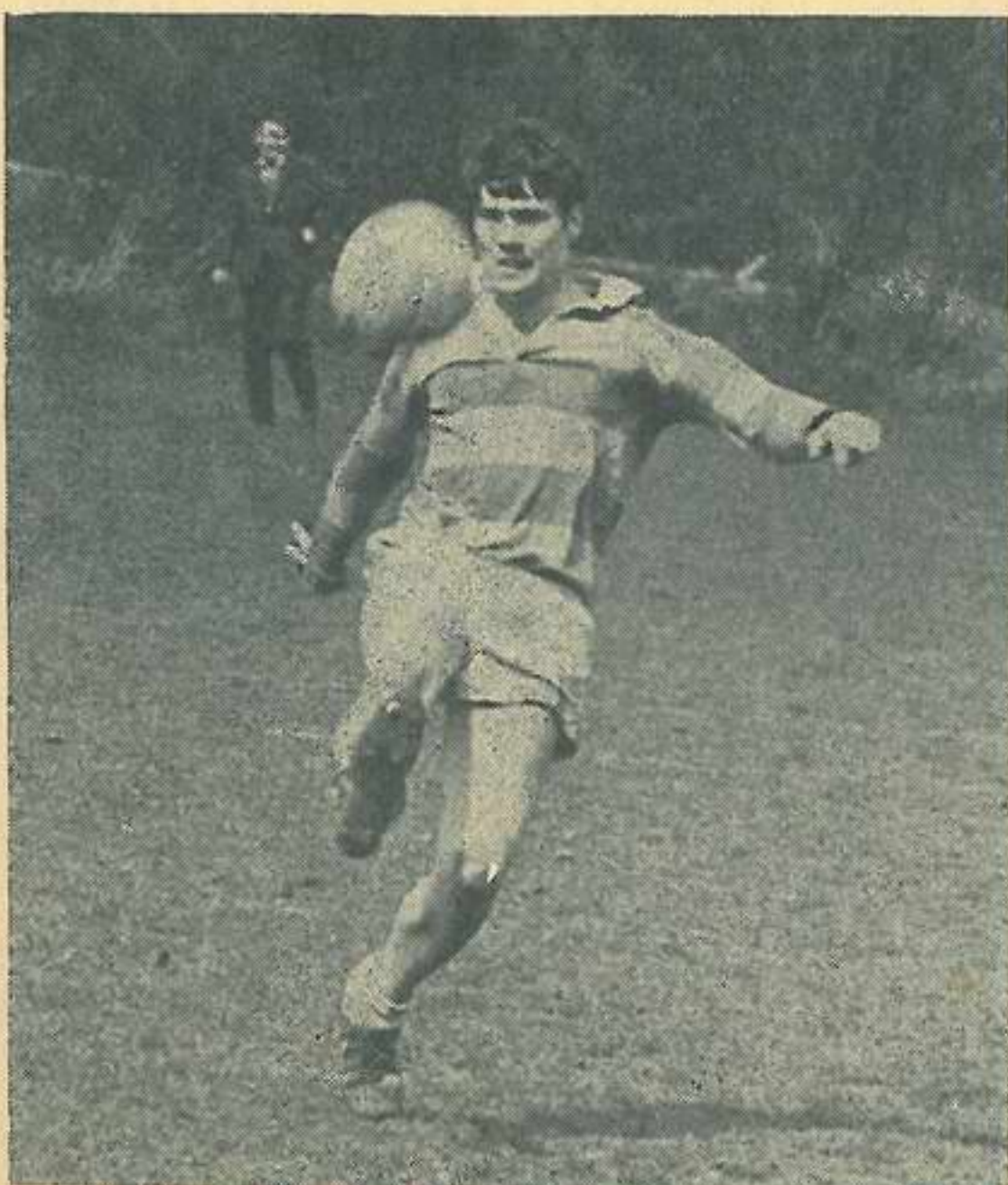




John Murphy (Down)



Tony Barrett (Kerry)



Eugene Mulligan (Offaly)

**TONY BARRETT:** I think Kerry will win because of their superior scoring power. Secondly they will be more wary this year than they were in the 1954 All-Ireland final when Meath defeated them by six points despite being complete underdogs for the game and Kerry will also be very determined to win two successive All-Ireland senior titles for the first time since 1941.

**EUGENE MULLIGAN:** I cannot see Kerry losing this All-Ireland final. We played Meath in their last game at Finglas and they were not good at all.

I doubt if the Meath forwards, with the exception of Kerrigan, will make much headway against the strong Kerry defence so, 'though I'd like to see a Leinster team winning, I doubt if it will happen that way.

**JOHN MURPHY:** I fancy Meath. I was at the Kerry - Derry game and even though Kerry won well in the end I was not at all impressed by them.

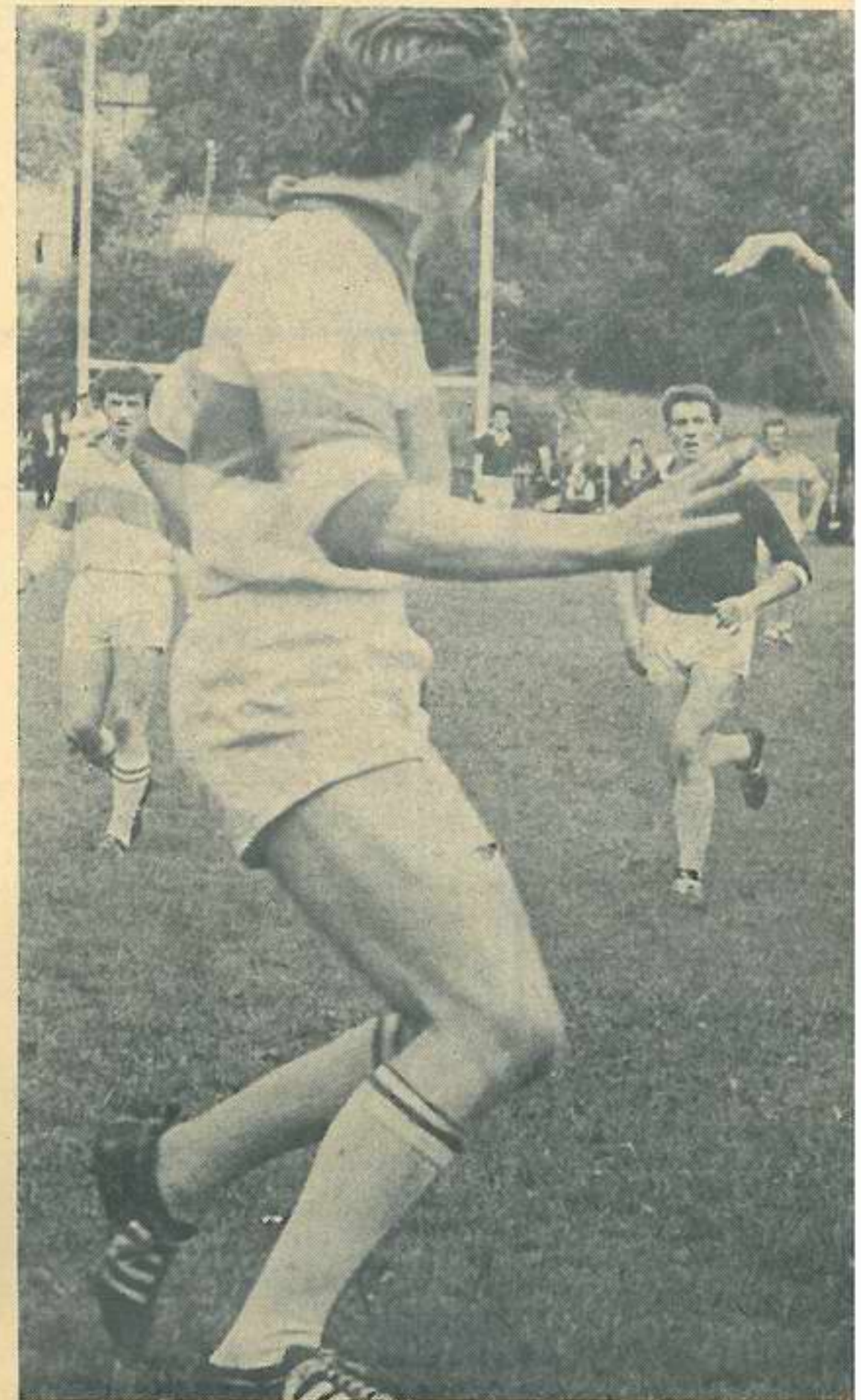
I think Kerry as a team have gone back since we played them in the 1968 final and since they played Offaly last year even though their defence may be a trifle stronger this year. Actually, Galway were my original fancy of the four semi-finalists and because Meath beat them I fancy them to beat Kerry.



Sean Murray (Longford)

**TOM QUINN:** I saw Meath in the All-Ireland television and they impressed me as a team that took their scores well and their backs well.

We missed a stack of chances against them in the end, they did not particularly make our mistakes than by their own brilliant play. They will be too strong for the Meath pair to make enough scores to see them through.



Tom Quinn (Derry) here trying to block down John Joe O'Reilly

**SEAN MURRAY:** I think Kerry will win it. Meath played all the football against Galway and yet could have been beaten with two kicks of the ball. And Galway were very bad that day.

On the other hand Kerry were being trounced in the first half against Derry but they kept dead cool and when they got the break they took it.

With that kind of play they should beat Meath.

## Meet 1

In this month's Meet The Stars feature we decided to ask the views of several players on the likely outcome of this year's All-Ireland final between Kerry, the defending champions, and Meath who last won the title in 1954.



Mick O'Connell, Tadhg Crowley and Jackie Lyne



Ireland semi-final against Galway on a strong, robust team. Their forwards were fairly solid.

Against Kerry and although they beat us they impress me. Kerry beat us more by pace. Still I think that the Kerry midfield and the Kerry forwards should get



(Cavan) kick.

## The Stars—No. 6

1967 when they beat Cork in the final.

Kerry with 21 All-Ireland titles are far ahead of their nearest rivals Dublin, and even farther ahead of Meath who have won three All-Irelands, 1949, '54 and '67.

Meath and Kerry share the distinction of being the only two Irish teams to visit Australia and because of a clash of colours Kerry will wear the blue jerseys of Munster and Meath the green of Leinster in the final.



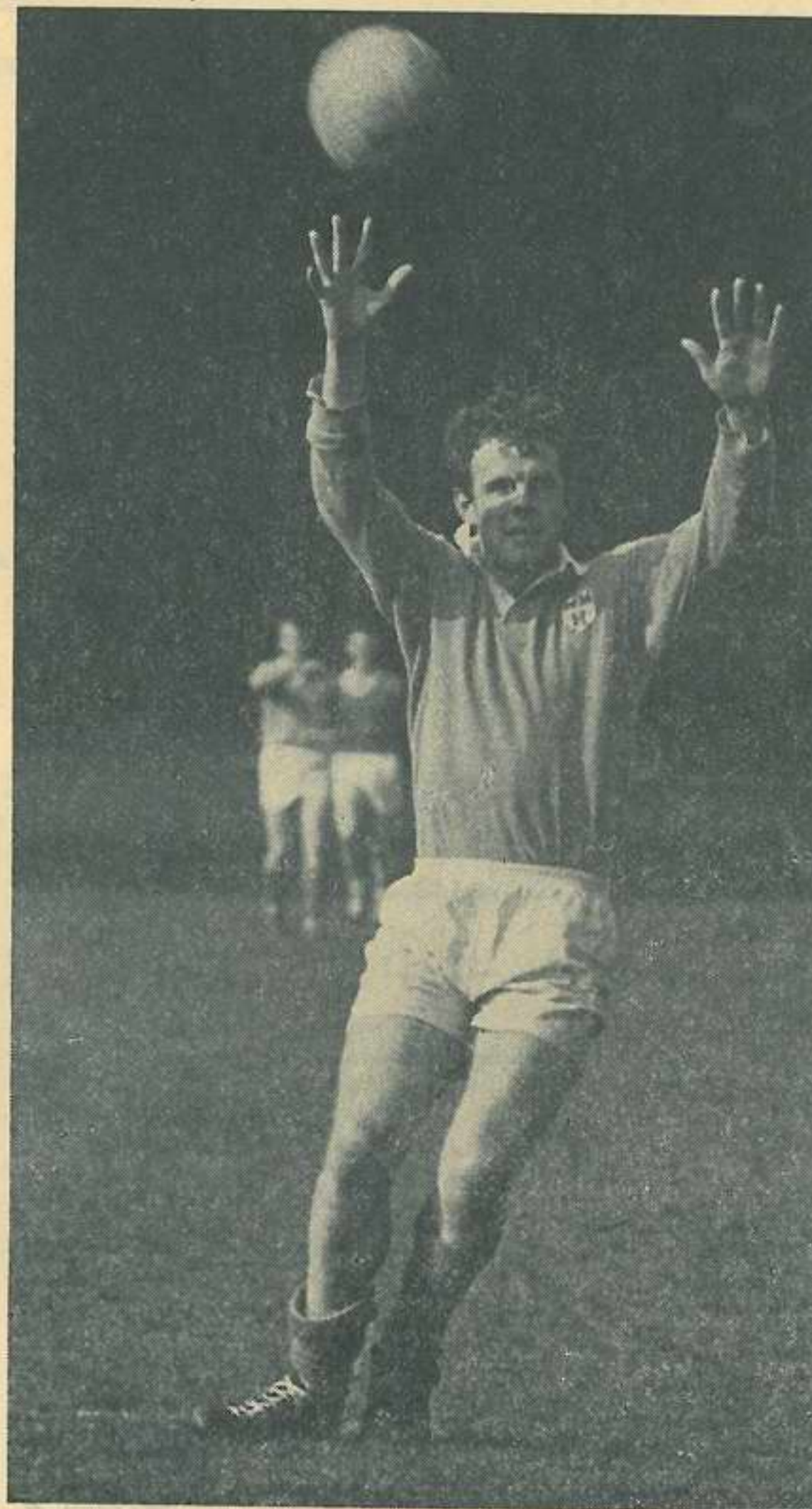
Pictured on the left in happy mood are three of the best-known personalities in Kerry football at the present time. On left is midfielder Mick O'Connell who lives and works on Valentia Island.

In the centre is county board secretary Tadhg Crowley who is a schoolteacher in Tralee and who has his own worries at the moment dispensing his limited supply of All-Ireland tickets.

The man on the right is team trainer Jackie Lyne, himself a former All-Ireland winner as a back and a forward with Kerry and now a representative for Guinness in the Cork and Kerry area. Jackie lives in Killarney where the Kerry team do their training.

**TERRY KEARNS** (right) playing at centre half back for Meath has been having his best ever season for his county and along with Oliver Shanley and Pat Reynolds forms the best half back line in present-day football.

Pictured above right is Peter McDermott who played in the last Kerry-Meath All-Ireland final in 1954 at corner forward for Meath. Peter has just published a book 'Gaels in the Sun' which deals with Meath's Australian trip in 1968.



Mick Kelliher (Dublin)

**MICK KELLEHER**: I saw both semi-finals and while I was not particularly impressed by either side I thought Kerry looked slightly the better side. Their forwards seemed to possess more punch than the Meath attack and I think Terry Kearns will have his hands full trying to cope with Pat Griffin in the final.

In addition, it is unlikely that Pat Reynolds will be able to afford much time to cover up for the rest of his colleagues as Brendan Lynch requires plenty of attention. The Kerry forwards also combine better than Meath and I will be surprised if they don't win their second successive title.



Kevin Beahan (Louth)

**KEVIN BEAHAN**: I think Meath will win. They appear to be a more determined team than Kerry and they really showed their fighting spirit when they came from behind in the Leinster final against Offaly.

In their semi-final game, Kerry only began to impress when Derry lost heart after they missed the second penalty and I doubt very much if Kerry would have won this game had not Mick O'Connell returned to the game. I think that Meath are a better balanced team and this along with their fierce determination should see them through.



Peter McDermott



Terry Kearns



# Galway Minors Seek Third All-Ireland

**WE** have won two minor titles here in Galway — the years 1952 and 1960. They were two very significant achievements. Firstly the 1952 success paved the way for Galway's football resurgence of the 'fifties and, of course, the 'sixties.

However only Gerry Kirwan "made" the senior panel subsequently, with the exception of midfielders, Brian Mahon and Martin Kelly, both of whom retired from the game rather prematurely in their early twenties.

Secondly, the 1960 victory provided Galway with a team, the nucleus of which was to form the backbone of Galway's great three-in-a-row team of 1964-'65 and '66. No minor team ever probably made such an impact on the All-Ireland scene subsequently.

Just remember some of the names — Sean Cleary (captain), Christy Tyrrell, Seamus Leydon, Enda Collieran, Noel Tierney, Tony Ryan, Eamonn Slattery, Gerry Prendergast and of course, Johnny Geraghty. What a panel!

This is the time to recall these victories, before we sing the praises of the current team. The 1952 team was captained by Brian Mahon and its stalwarts included Eugene Dunleavy, current trainer of Galway's hurling team, Brian Waldron and Tommy Brosnan of Tuam, Brian Naughton of Ballinasloe, Liam Manning, Martin Kelly a great athlete, Albert Kelly and Mick Geraghty.

They were all fine footballers and in becoming Galway's first All-Ireland minor winning fifteen, have always held a very special place in Galway.

The 1960 team was preceded by a Connacht title-winning team, which included among all the '60 stars such notables as Pat Donnellan, John Keenan and Cyril Dunne. We just couldn't understand how they lost to Cavan in the semi-final.

Galway's 1952 team was preceded by a Connacht title winning team of 1951, which lost its title on an objection to Roscommon. It was a boardroom decision and Roscommon went on to win that year's All-Ireland. Galway's 1959 team, though abounding in talent, fell to Cavan, but won out in 1960.

I think then that it is very significant that the present Galway team is in Croke Park for the second year running. Last year they fell to Cork in the semi-final and were not very impressive but experience of a valuable nature was gained.

This year's team contains Michael Rooney Stephen Cloonan, Tom Connor, and Maurice Burke (substitute) of last year's panel.

One of the great innovations of recent years has been the introduction of the Connacht minor football league. For years Mayo dominated this championship dress rehearsal, receiving most opposition from Galway.

The competition has provided this age-group with much more playing experience, and given the non-boarding school footballer a better chance to make the grade. Hitherto, the main Connacht colleges senior stars dominated the minor scene. Not so any longer.

The League has produced an almost foolproof vetting system, where everybody worth his salt gets his chance.

The only fault I find with the system is that it is virtually impossible for a player to get into the panel, once he has missed out on it early on.

The present Galway minor team is an excellent one. They have been together, with one or two minor alterations, since the start of the Connacht minor league, which they won this year. In May they showed their

class, when drawing with Mayo in Tuam after being seven points behind well into the second half.

Galway won the replay convincingly in Castlebar later and then beat Mayo in the Connacht championship final by 2-11 to 1-6. Mayo never got the same chance again, although they are the best team Galway have encountered so far this year. Mayo have seldom produced a poor minor team.

Galway defeated Sligo by 4-12 to 1-6 in the first round game at Charlestown and then accounted for Mayo by 2-11 to 1-6 in the Connacht final. In the All-Ireland semi-final, Galway had little trouble in disposing of Dublin by 3-12 to 0-10. So in their three matches, Galway have scored 9-35 and conceded only 2-22.

One of the amazing things about this team is the fact that

most gifted performers, namely John Kemple at left full back, surely another Tom "Pook" Dillon in the making and John Tobin at left corner-forward another Brian Waldron or Frank Stockwell.

But Tobin has his own style. What a swerve he possesses for a minor. He reminds me of

at will and has a tremendous catch.

Captain of the team is the Galway City youth Joe Corcoran (St. Michaels). A pupil of Pat Donnellan, Corcoran is an accomplished hurler as well.

But the big dual performer of the team is Stephen Cloonan, right full back on both Galway

came to fame with Presentation College, Athenry is a tenacious and strong defender.

In the right corner of the attack is star college athlete Imor Barrett of Mountbellew, a product of St. Joseph's College, Garbally. Barrett is one of last year's stars, as is substitute Maurice Burke of Corofin.

Maurice was a substitute on the team last year and is the utility man again this year. When regular "40 yards" man Michael Walsh of Oughterard had to retire in the semi-final, Maurice came on as a substitute and scored 1-1. So the reserve strength is solid.

Walsh was out of sorts that day, after a long lay off due to illness. But he is a brilliant centre half forward and seems set

to follow the line so wonderfully set in the past by the O'Sullivan and the Keoghs and Brian Geraghty from the Connemara town.

For a last word I contacted Tuam Stars secretary Philip Joyce, one of the team selectors. "It is a very well balanced side," he said, "and won't be overawed by the opposition or the occasion. The fact that they came back in the Connacht minor league twice, after being down seven points on each occasion speaks volumes for them."

"They have great teamwork. Win, lose or draw many of them should make the Galway senior team in a few years time. But I hope they are not rushed."

BY JACK MAHON

Kevin Heffernan probably more than any other player. He is a prolific scorer, as well. Witness his 2-8 against Dublin, 0-4 against Mayo and 3-5 against Sligo. So far, he has scored 5-17 in the championship.

Tobin's understanding with right half forward Joe Lardner of Annaghdown, an old juvenile opponent of his, was shown to perfection in Galway's first goal against Dublin.

Another Annaghdown repre-

minor teams in this year's All-Ireland finals. A pretty unique achievement for a Galwayman. The New Inn youngster who



P. J. Burke, Galway's right half back in the All-Ireland semi-final.

quite a number of areas other than the renowned football areas are represented.

The work of Johnny Geraghty can be seen in the team, for no fewer than four of the team are pupils of his at Glenamaddy Secondary school — namely Sean Higgins (Clonberne), the goalkeeper, full-back Alfie Marron, centre half-back Michael Geraghty and full forward John Meehan also from Clonberne.

Geraghty and Marron are from Glenamaddy . . . surely cause for celebration in this border town, which has always been overshadowed as far as football is concerned by neighbouring Dunmore. Dunmore has its representative in Peter Silke.

The Tuam Stars standard is carried by two of the teams

sentative is right half-back P. J. Burke, an attacking half back, whose dynamic display in Galway's drawn minor league game with Mayo is still talked about in Tuam.

Tom Connor from Killanin is a stalwart of a year ago, as is left half-forward Michael Rooney, the powerfully built Brownsgrange youth. Rooney's club Cortoon, which lies between Tuam and Dunmore, has always had a great football tradition, where men like Johnny Dunne, the Connolly brothers, Frank Quinn, Sean Treacy were great natural footballers.

But Rooney seems the greatest prospect of all this minor team — another Pat Donnellan in the making — I hope he is not rushed. You cannot confine him to his position — he roams

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# Mick Campbell—The No-Nonsense Trainer-Coach

SOME few months back few thought of Meath as potential All-Ireland finalists, but yet they have travelled the hard road successfully to meet mighty Kerry on the biggest annual day of Gaelic football. All credit to the fifteen or sixteen men who have brought their county from practical obscurity to possible greatness on the field, but it is generally agreed that a fair share of that rise is due to one man on the side line, coach Mick Campbell.

Le Padraig O Mealoid

According to players, mentors and fans alike, he would appear to be responsible for the "bottomless spirit," as Bertie Cunningham terms it, that this particular Meath team has in abundance. Bertie goes further and says that Mick Campbell "has meant everything to Meath this year. We love training with him because he trains with us. You would do anything for him. It's hard to explain it, but I think it's the way he asks you to do a thing. You know the way it is — one person would ask you

to do a hundred and one things and you would do them willingly, and you mightn't do one thing for somebody else who would try to force it on you."

Benny Caffrey has been in every Meath dressing-room since 1939 and he maintains that Mick Campbell "has rekindled a spirit that was dormant. They lived on the glory of '67, a long one which included a trip to Australia, without putting much back in, and the will to get back in the limelight, plus the enthusiasm that Mick engendered into them has brought them to the All-Ireland final."

Michael O'Callaghan of Navan has been a lifetime supporter of Meath, and he thinks that "this team has more spirit than any team they ever had before." He wasn't sure how much Mick Campbell was responsible for this, but he thought that "he appears to be able to meet them at their own level."

Full forward Joe Murphy bears this out. "Mick Campbell to me is Mick Campbell — he is one of ourselves — he is responsible for instilling a tremendous spirit into the team. He was undaunted at half-time in the Leinster final," Joe told me.

What manner of man is this "players' coach", as one team member put it. Bare facts: he is 37, married, has two children, is a bread salesman (he covers three counties every day, Meath, Westmeath and Cavan) and lives two miles outside Kells. But a lot of activity has been packed into those 37 years. When the Drumbaragh club was formed in 1939 the hat was passed around at local games to raise some money. On the first occasion that this was done, Mick Campbell the boy, happened to be around with a penny in his hand and beat everybody to the draw by being the first to put his 'money' in the hat.

But it was with the then Kells club that he played all his minor football, and he went back to Drumbaragh to play senior. He

was a very good handball player also: "I was handball mad," he says himself, and he won county titles in junior, intermediate, and senior doubles (twice). The healthy state of handball in Meath today is due to a great extent to him.

It may be a coincidence that in Mick Campbell's first year as coach to the

and Kells to play Navan O'Mahonys in aid of a handball alley in Kells in 1963, and both of them won county medals with the new club in 1966 and 1968. In the meantime, Mick had won a Leinster junior football medal in 1958 and had a couple of outings with the county senior team.

Colmcille Gaels was the

Gormanston. Ballinlough took first option on his services the following year (he had played for them in 1964 and '65), and he is still with them.

He is shy but willing and "felt like a sore thumb" on his first day as coach with the county team — a challenge game against Westmeath — but he needn't

regards the subs as every bit as important, as the players on the team.

That he gets on well with the players is beyond doubt. He, as they say themselves, "knows his stuff," and works them hard. He is a no-nonsense trainer-coach. He believes in one man doing the two jobs. "When they begin to tire physically," he says, you can stop and talk and they will listen when in that condition. I believe in breaking it up, because there are very few games in which a player does not get a break in play."

He concentrates a lot on basic skills and fundamentals with a mixture of repartee and straight talking. When two players said their 'gear' was coming in somebody else's car he quips: "two fellows arrived to play marbles and no marbles."

He lays great emphasis on fitness. "I don't believe there is such a thing as over-training, but the coach should know how much the team needs and how to bring every player to the same level of fitness." One thing he can't understand is how some of his players can be referred to as veterans at 25 or 27. "I would like to have it explained to me when does a player become a veteran." He must have been thinking of some members of the Kerry team!

If Meath don't win the All-Ireland title it will not be Mick Campbell's fault. He is, in his own words "fitness-mad and I hate to be second best." Selector Peter Darby says: "It's his spirit," and all agree that he is "one of the best."



Joe Murphy (with ball), longtime friend of Meath coach Mick Campbell, in action against Galway.

county football team that Joe Murphy is having his first year in senior championship, but the two of them, in a way, laid the foundation stone of the Colmcille Gaels football club by picking a team from rivals Drumbaragh

club that sponsored the motion that eventually was passed by the G.A.A. Annual Congress that a rootball coaching course be inaugurated. It was no surprise then to find Mick Campbell attending the first such course in 1968 in

have worried. He "was accepted straight away and I couldn't have asked for a finer bunch of lads to work with." His motto would appear to be "harmony all round." This is apparent in his attitude towards officials, players and subs. He

## Camogie Round-Up

THE meeting of Cork and Kilkenny in the All-Ireland camogie final is the first between those two counties in the entire history of the Association. But it would also have been a unique final if Kilkenny and Antrim had met in the decider, as the Kilkenny girls had never qualified for a final before.

BY AINE MEAGHER

And yet several of the players have already met in an All-Ireland final. Rosie Hennessy and Liz Garvan of Cork and Anne Phelan, Liz Neary and Helena O'Neill of Kilkenny played on opposing sides in the All-Ireland colleges' final of 1969. The Kilkenny trio were on the winning Presentation College, Kilkenny side which defeated St. Aloysius of Cork in that very first colleges' final.

All three Kilkenny girls were on the Presentation team which retained the colleges' All-Ireland title this year.

In the process, they again defeated St. Aloysius, complete with Liz Garvan and Rosie Hennessy, at the Mardyke in the semi-final.

Incidentally, both Rosie Hennessy and Helena O'Neill each has another year to do in school, and thus will be playing in an All-Ireland senior final while still schoolgirls. But this is not a record. Dublin winger Orla ni Shlochain won two All-Ireland medals while still at school. In fact Orla, who is eldest daughter of the General Secretary of the G.A.A., set up a record all her own.

In her last year at school Orla came under a briefly instituted Dublin rule which stipulated that members of colleges teams could not play on club sides. So she played through that campaign and won an All-Ireland medal as a member of the Holy Faith Convent, Clon-

tarf camogie club. And that is a record unlikely ever again to be equalled.

Incidentally both Liz Neary and Liz Garvan start new careers shortly, now that their schooldays are over. Liz Garvan will be starting as a social science student at University College, Cork, while Liz Neary, I understand, is becoming a nursing student in Dublin.

The Armagh team that caused such a big surprise in the junior semi-final at Cork was also a very young side and must be the youngest, except for colleges teams ever to play in an All-Ireland final at Croke Park. Their star player Anne Toal is only fifteen. Their Dublin rivals, on the other hand, are a far more seasoned side.

Neither Dublin nor Armagh had ever won a provincial junior title previously, but both the junior All-Ireland championships decided before this year had gone north, the 1968 crown to Down and the 1969 title to

Derry.

● St. Abban's, powered as usual by the Kehoe sisters, retained the Wexford senior camogie title for the third successive year, when they narrowly defeated Buffer's Alley in an exciting final at Enniscorthy.

Buffer's Alley who this year had the assistance of the great Margaret O'Leary, also had the former Wexford and Leinster interprovincial player Margaret Hearne, but they had to give best by five points to St. Abban's.

Brigdet Doyle, one of the Kehoe sisters, made a very welcome return to the winning side.

● Next big event on camogie fields will be the interprovincial series in which Ulster travel west to play Connacht and Leinster entertain Munster.

● The semi-finals of the interclub championship have been held over until the Spring, but the provincial games in this competition will, it is hoped, be played out before Christmas.

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# Excellent Year For Kilmacud Club

**W**HEN the Trustees of the Kilmacud G.A.A. club in the suburbs of south Dublin decided to include a community centre in their development plans for the future in November, 1963, many G.A.A. people felt that the Association would begin to exert less influence on the youth of the area because of the decision. However, such fears have been proved groundless, if the playing achievements of Kilmacud teams during the past year are used as a criterion of the development of the G.A.A. club.

Altogether, 1970 has been one of the most successful in the short history of this club, which was founded in the late 'fifties.

## BY PADDY HICKEY

The clubs under-13 footballers won the South City League, the minor footballers won Division 2 of the minor football league and the junior footballers won their section of the league. In addition, the minor footballers reached the final of the county championship, in which they were beaten by St. Vincents, and the under 16½ hurlers reached the semi-final of the county championship.

One of Kilmacud's proudest boasts during the year was that they supplied four players to the Dublin minor football team which reached the All-Ireland semi-final. The players were Declan Carbery, who played at full-back, Pat Duggan, at right half-back, Sean McCarthy,

a son of club treasurer John McCarthy, at right corner forward, and Niall Kilroy at full-forward.

Up to the late 'fifties there was no G.A.A. club to cater for the playing needs of the youth of Kilmacud area, so the club has filled a much-needed want. The principal people behind the foundation of the club were Rev. Fr. Walsh, Rev. Fr. Ryan, the late John Brennan, who was the first chairman of the club, Eamonn de Barra, who was the first Secretary, and Micheal de Burca.

The present officers of the club are — President, Rev. Fr. Harley; Chairman, Micheal de Burca; Secretary, Sean Collins; Treasurer, John McCarthy; Registrar, Tony Pearse.

Altogether the club has approximately 200 playing members and about 90 adult non-playing members. The club experiences no difficulty in recruiting players for their juvenile football teams but the supply of hurling talent is

not so plentiful in the district as the game is not played in either of the local Christian Brother or De La Salle Brother secondary schools.

This year Kilmacud fielded under 13, 14, 15, 16½, 18, 21 and a junior team in football and under 13, 16½, junior and senior teams in hurling. Next year, in addition to the above grades, the club hopes to field a minor and an under 21 hurling team, and an additional junior football team.

Of course, the club has been to the forefront in Dublin senior hurling circles since Kilmacud amalgamated with Crokes hurling club a few years ago.

The decision to build a community centre was taken in November, 1963, when the Trustees of the G.A.A. club purchased eight and a half acres of land for £13,500 for use as playing pitches. Originally, it was intended to build solely a pavilion and dressing room, but then it was felt that it would be a pity, in view of the scarcity of amenities and playing spaces in the district, if these developments were carried out in a narrow exclusive manner.

A social group called the Glenalbyn Social and Athletic Federation was formed to seek areas of agreement and co-operation so that all affiliations, creeds, and classes might co-operate for the welfare of the people of the district, (and particularly of the youth) without any sacrifice of individual principles. It was agreed to cultivate the main social, athletic and cultural activities on which there was no disagreement rather than become involved in the relatively few in regard to which there was contention.

From the eight acres then held by the Trustees, a small site of approximately 1½ acres was allocated as a site for the Community Centre. It was planned to convey this site under a sublease document to the Community group. Plans for a community centre were drawn up by an architect, and an interest free loan was sought from the County Council. The Council agreed to grant a loan of £54,000 but the arrival of the credit squeeze made it impossible to proceed with the project.

Shortly after this time, Glenalbyn House, a spacious Georgian residence

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# Seans Mhaith Ag An Mhí



Le Padraig O Mealoid

**R**OINNT miosa ó shin ní dhéarfadh éinne leat go raibh de chosúlacht idir an Mhí agus Ciarraí ach go mbéadh an péire acu ag imirt sa Chraobh níos déanaí, peil ar ndóigh! Ach an difríocht a bhí eatartha! á, ba shin scéal eile. Ba iad Ciarraí curaithe na hÉireann agus ba é dóigh lucht an eolais uilig go mbainfidís an Craobh-chluiche amach arís, agus bédid é a bhuachaint, ach amháin an gealadh a bhí faoi Mhaigh Eo! An Mhí, well ní mórán cúise a rinne siad sa tSraith, agus níor tugadh an caol-sheans féin dóibh dul thar Chill Dara i gcluiche leath-cheannais Laighean.

Ach féach anois iad, mar a chéile i gcluiche Ceanais Éireann, ach amháin gur ag Ciarraí atá an Chraobh fós, agus i gcás de'n tsórt seo gur deacra greim a choinneáil ar rud na breith air. Má bhí tás-táil i gceist is mó an tás-táil a deindeadh ar an Mhí ar an mbóthar go Páirc an Chrócaigh ná ar Chiarraí. Bhuaigh Ciarraí go réidh ar Luimneach, mórán chomh réidh ceanna ar Chorcaigh i gCraobh-chluiche na Mumhan, agus

chabhruigh Doire go mór leo chun iad féin a bhualadh i gcluiche leath-cheannais Éireann i bPáirc an Chrócaigh. Ar ndóigh is féidir a rá freisin go raibh, agus go bhfuil Ciarraí chomh maith sin agus nach raibh aon deacracht acu buachaint ar na fóirne seo, Dála an scéil, cluiche amháin a d'imir Ciarraí i bPáirc an Chrócaigh sa Chraobh seo in aghaidh trí cinn na Mí. Nílím ag rá gur mórán de dhifríocht a dheineann sé sin aca ní bhéadh a fhios agat.

D'imir an Mhí a gcéad chluiche in aghaidh Cheatharlach sa Droichead Nua agus ní bréag ar bith a rá nár chuireadar tine le aon ní cé gur bhuadar le seacht gcúilín déag. Ní mórán seans a tugadh dóibh in aghaidh Chill Dara sa chéad chluiche eile, ach ba soiléir do'n té a d'féachfadh go gcrinn ortha sa chéad chluiche go raibh spás chun feabhais ionta, agus ba dhíthcéillí an rud é iad a chomhaireamh amach, rud a bhí fíor. Sin é an lá ar léirigh siad an nua-spirid seo atá acu i mbliana, tar éis dóibh cúl mí-adhbharach a ligean isteach tháinig siad ar ais

'sna cúig neomataí deire.

Ach ba i gcluiche ceannais Laighean a thaispeáin siad i gceart an spirid seo, a ndeirtear nach raibh a leithéid in aon fhoireann eile ariamh sa chontae. Sin é an lá a bhfuair siad 2-22, rud atá i gcomóin acu le Ciarraí, fuair siadsan an scórcéanna in aghaidh Chorcaigh. Annsin fuair eadar bua ar Gaillimh a raibh siad ag súil leis le fada, ach nach raibh chomh héifeachtach leis an dá cheann roimhe sin.

Sin é an cúla. Maidir leis an Mhí ba iad na tosaigh agus an lár páirce an chuid ab fhearr dhá bhfoireann, ach amháin sa dara leath de'n dá chluiche deireannacha a d'imríodar. Ach sé an chosúlacht atá ar an scéal anois go mbéidh na cúil i bhfad níos dlúithe ná mar a bhí. I gcás Chiarraí is beag nach é an scéal acu é, ach sa chás seo go raibh de mhí-adh ar Ciarraí beirt de chúil na bliana anuraidh, Séamas Mac Gearailt (gortaithe) agus Micheál Ó Muirís a bheith uatha.

Ach arís bédidh cúl Chiarraí níos doichte faoi lá an chluiche mhóir. I dtús báire mar sin braith-

fidh cuid mhór ar cé a gheobhaidh an lámh in uachtar i lár na páirce. Tá dhá Uinsíonn na Mí ag imirt go maith i rith na bliana, sin iad Ó Foghlú agus Ó Loingsigh, agus ar ndóigh tá Micheál Ó Conaill Chiarraí chomh maith is a bhí ariamh. Ní raibh an cluiche ag rith go maith do D. J. Ó Craudhlaoich go dtí in aghaidh Dhoire, ach leis an bhfeabhas a bhí air an lá sin is féidir a bheith ag súil le cluiche maith uaidh. Mar sin déarfainn nach mórán a bheas eatartha sa spota sin.

Braitheann sé mar sin ar cé'n bhuíonn tosaigh a gheobhas an lámh in uachtar ar na cúil a bhéas ina naghaidh, agus ní hé amháin sin ach cé chomh maith is a bhainfeas siad úsáid as a gcuid seansanna.

Níl bualadh tosaigh Chiarraí ann maidir le fostú seansanna, ach in aghaidh sin is féidir a rá go bhfuil an líne tosaigh, mar linne innti féin, is fearr faoi láthair, ag an Mhí, sin iad na leath tosaigh. Ach tá siad-san in aghaidh togha line leath-chúil, cinn Chiarraí, go mór mhór Tomás de Prion-

dargrás agus Micheál Ó Sé.

Sa deire praitheann an toradh ar cé mar a bhéas líne lán tosaigh na Mí in aghaidh lán chúil Chiarraí. Má éiríonn an ceann is fearr le triúr na Mí in éindi le na spirid, d'fhéadfadh an lá a bheith leo, ach ní féidir Ciarraí a fhágáil as comhaireamh ariamh.

## EXCELLENT YEAR

with 6½ acres attached came on the market. With the aid of grants, loans, and guarantees from the Central Council of the G.A.A. this property was bought and was adapted as a Community Centre at considerable expense. Avenues, car parks, and tennis courts were provided; and the house was decorated and furnished to as high a standard as was possible. In the development an effort was made to preserve the Georgian character of the house and the sylvan nature of the surroundings. It must be emphasized that the purchase and adaptation of the property was carried out by local effort, supplemented by loans, grants and guarantees from the G.A.A. No grants or loans were received from State, Corporation, Council or industrial sources.

In the past two and a half years the organisations of the various sub-committees to foster specific cultural and social activities has been vigorously pursued; the establishment of revival of resident organisations has been actively encouraged; and there has been constant effort to expand and improve the amenities. Some idea of the phenomenal growth of the

centre may be gleaned from the following facts stated briefly.

(a) There are now almost thirty sub-committees fostering cultural, social and athletic activities, within the centre.

(b) The number of active resident associations using the centre for meetings or social activities has grown from two at inception to over twenty.

(c) Eleven table tennis teams and two billiard teams have been entered in their respective Leinster Leagues.

(d) There are classes for

Ballet, Irish Dancing, instrumental music, arts and crafts, physical culture, cooking, Bridge, Inter Cert. and Leaving Cert.

With regard to the discharging of the debt on the centre it is hoped, on the basis of the continuance of present income, to have all indebtedness liquidated with fifteen years from income alone.

Incidentally, it is worth pointing out that the playing fields are the sole responsibility of the G.A.A. club and no branches of the centre have access to them.

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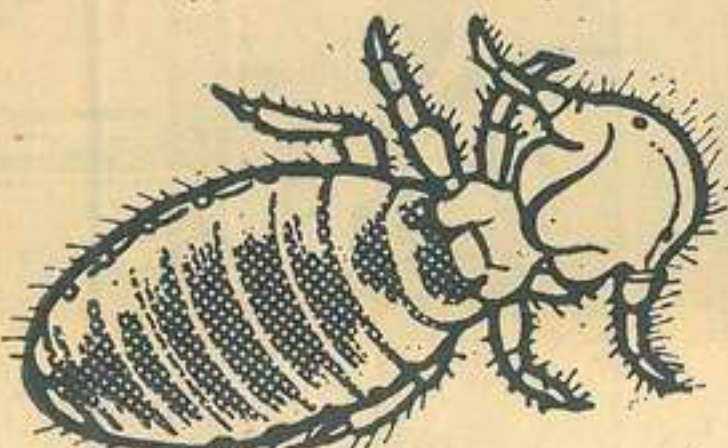


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# Three Memories Of The Hurling Final

THE hurling final has come in for much criticism, a lot of it justified. It certainly was not a great final, or even a good one; the one-sidedness of it all saw to that. But it is important to keep a fair balance, too — remember that this was the first bad final for a long time. We have had our share of thrills from deciders in recent years, so let's not be too hard on the 1970 fizzle.

And, with all the moans about the whole thing being a flop, and other comments to that effect, I can still salvage three memories that will stay long after the score of the game has faded out of my mind... come to think of it, what was the score? Anyway, here are the things I remember.

The first, in chronological order, is Eddie O'Brien's first goal—the one he flicked with his hand over his shoulder and into the

net. This was one of the best goals I've ever seen. It was a masterpiece of quick thinking, and, while Eddie was probably lucky that the goal was just in the right place, his positioning can't have been entirely accidental, either.

It was the sort of dream goal that can set a team going, and that's just what it did for Cork. They would have won the game without it, but without it we'd have had even less to remember.

Memory Number Two was a good while later (it felt like years!) after Paddy Barry had received the Cup. I've listened to captains before thanking the rest of his team, the selectors, the trainer, etc., but never did I hear a more appropriate nor a better-deserved tribute paid to a better group of people paid the followers of the Cork team. He described them as the greatest supporters in Ireland, and he

was dead right.

I've seen them, and heard them too, at parks all over the country, and they must be worth two or three goals to their men. What I like best about them is the fact that they are always there, win, lose or draw, and you'll never hear a sour comment about their own players, even when they're playing badly.

If any group deserves a celebration, it is these followers of Cork. And speaking of celebrations, I know of at least one publican in Thurles, a man not unconnected with hurling himself, who loves to hear that Cork are coming to the Sportsfield.

He tells me that his business booms before and after such games, and he never has any troublesome scenes on his premises; and furthermore, this is how things are whether Cork win, lose or draw. So here's a cheer for the best cheerers in the business

... Cork's other team on the sideline.

In case anybody thinks I am biased, it's worth stating that I am not from Cork, have no relations from Cork, and indeed that I was never in Cork until I started broadcasting. I like, though, to give credit where it's obviously due.

And one more thing about this type of loyal support, especially when your team flops. There is one county, over in the West, whose people seem to drop the team when it does badly. If these alleged followers only realised it, they are thereby making it ten times more difficult for their talented footballers to win that fourth All-Ireland... and if you don't know who I'm talking about, you've never seen a green-and-red jersey!

The reason I mention this matter is that I visited that pleasant county during my holidays, and the football talk was a bit despondent; so cheer up, lads, remember that Cork had a bitter disappointment only a year ago.

Now back to memory Number Three, and this came when I was in the Cork dressingroom after the match. Two lads arrived, of the teenager class, and their Dublin accents made it clear that they had seldom, if ever, viewed the Lee. They had two young boys with them, and the dressingroom attendant, like a sensible man, let them all in when he heard their story.

It seems that the two boys had become separated from whoever was looking after them, and it wasn't very safe to be wandering about Croke Park when the jubilation set in, especially if you were blind, as those two boys were. Our two Dublin friends took them in tow, and brought them to the safety of the dressingroom... although it was hectic enough there too!

And so what could have been a frightening experience turned into a dream for these two lads. One was from Cork, the other from Kilkenny, and you should have seen their faces when Paddy Barry himself, as well as many more of the Cork players, shook hands with them.

It must have been a big thrill, too, when, in a quieter moment, their two teenage shepherds guided them over to the table on which stood the McCarthy Cup, and they actually held the trophy in their hands. These lads will hardly forget the All-Ireland hurling final of 1970, and on account of them neither will I.

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## Reflecting on Derry's semi-final defeat Brian Geraghty asks:

# 'Will you no' come back again Derry?'

PRIOR to the recent Sabbath when they pitted their wits against "the Magillicuddies", I had seen this year's Derry squad play on only one occasion and that was against the championship "could have beens" from Mayo. The League semi-final it was, earlier in the year, and despite their winter and early spring impressiveness, I thought that Derry, if one were to judge them on this form, were dead-on for the title in 1970 — the title of "the great has-beens that never were".

Satisfied that I had attended their funeral I did not find it very difficult to allow Derry slip out of my mind and dig deep into my "mental block."

Then I met my friend Liam Hinchy one evening in Dublin. Anyone who knows anything about Derry knows Hinchy. Well he told me that the form against Mayo should be disregarded forevermore—"with the help of God". Even though I had the manners to refrain from saying it, I was not impressed.

Next stage of this story worthy of note is a date in July. I was journeying

towards Dublin and stopped off at a nice provincial hotel for a break. Inside were a group — the leftovers from a wedding party — expounding on the football game. In-

beat Kerry. After all, what had this side done since I saw it last, but make heavy going of beating a few mediocre sides in Ulster. (I would like to mention, however,

ber for sure whether Blessed Michael the Archangel from Valentia was on or off at this particular time, but anyway all of these players except Lagan take an unmerciful leap into the air when going for a high ball.

Lagan just stands there, stretches a little, and grabs the ball from space just above the fingertips of the others. This type of thing I might add does not occur too often.

I had also seen the Derry defence emulate the blockades of Bogside, with McAfee giving a fine exhibition on the right flank. Kerry were really in trouble, and their only saviour was that Derry's attack could do about everything but score.

It was obvious to me even before the game that Sean O'Connell would be out of it against Mick O'Shea... the type of player against whom most forwards would be labouring, but it was plain to anyone that big Tom Quinn, Brian Devlin, McGuckin at right corner and Micky Niblock all had the beating of their opponents. Of course, it was also plain to everyone that these guys were not content to beat these poor opponents just once.

At half-time, I was think-

ing that a game between Derry and Kildare with Martin O'Neill, the Derry minor centre half-forward as referee, should be arranged by the committee that Sean O'Neill sat on last year — the idea being to show the powers-that-be what the committee was endeavouring to get across about the solo run... that when it is mis-used by

'62 or Galway '64-'65-'66 would have done with so much ball.

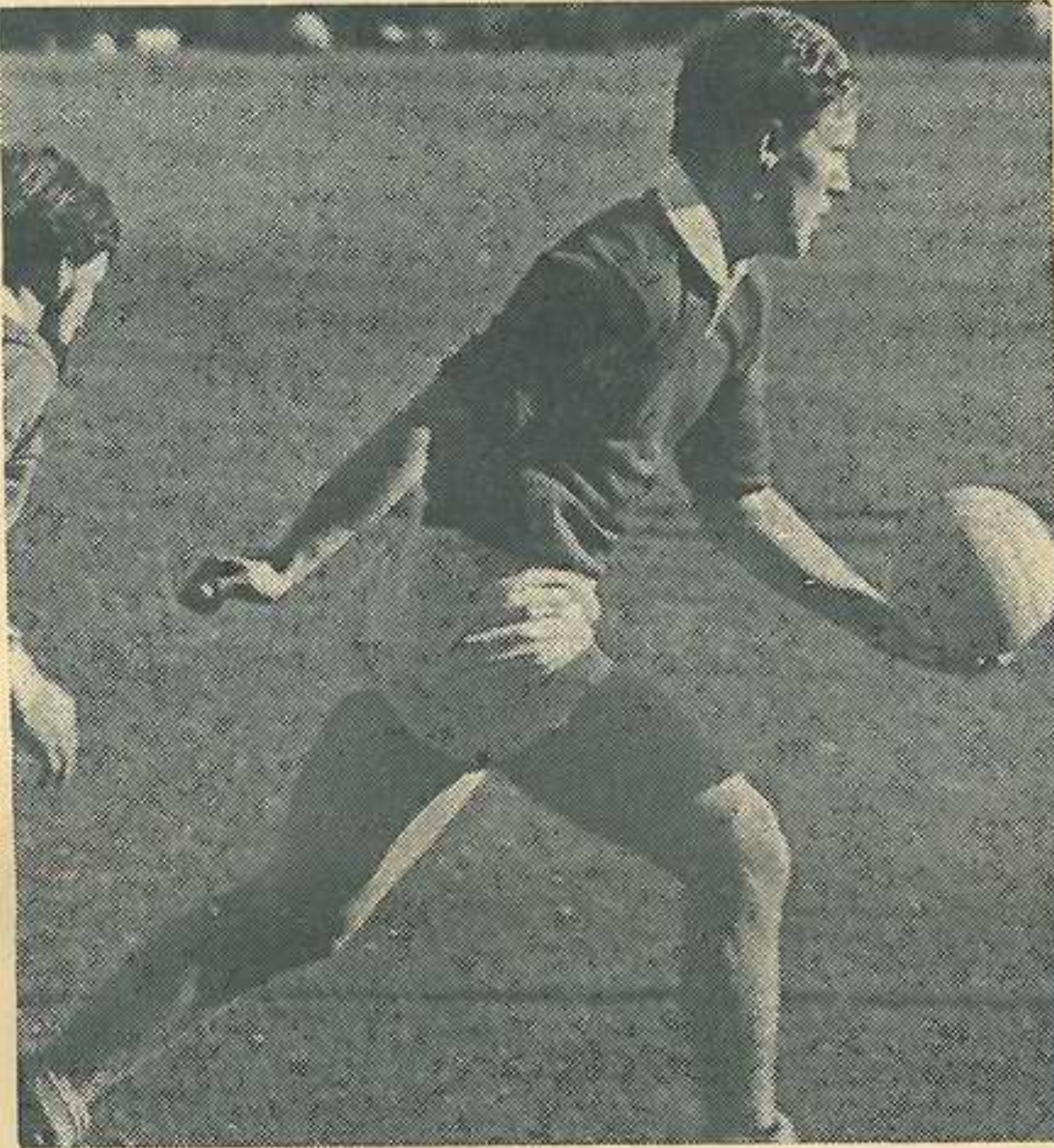
The Kerry scoring machine opened up only when Derry had run themselves into the ground, and the final score was far from being a true reflection of the game up to the second missed penalty. Without attending to detail on the picture, Derry, instead of ending up thirteen points behind Kerry, could have won this game.

Admittedly they flattered in their approach work and had not the versatility to change their finishing touches but then remember Down in 1959. Galway made them look an amateurish lot, which they then were. But the same Kerry which took care of Galway in the '59 final were annihilated by Down the following year. So Derry, if care is taken, next year could be yours.

At present, you have got "all kinds of everything" mixed up in the sort of Irish stew one could expect from a very inexperienced cook. The goalie Seamus Hasson is a first rate keeper. The defence is very good, with McAfee, O'Loughlin and full back Diamond outstanding.

Midfield has tremendous potential and what the attack needs is a bit of coaching from someone like Sean O'Neill and less of the Charlie Cooke of Chelsea stuff.

I for one hope that Derry will be back again next year. For here is a team that can bring the first senior title to a great imagine what Down '61-Gaelic county.



Mick O'Shea . . . mastered Sean O'Connell



Mickey Kelly — missing

teams, it is bad for the G.A.A. from the economic point of view.

It tends to crowd the stands, but then, as the fellow says, it's lucky that the stands are there. Otherwise some o' these guys would be found solo-running their ways to Ireland's Eye.

Seriously however, it would be a shame for this Derry side to be allowed to go on wasting its talents as it did against Kerry. For the team that gained possession with such ease in that semi-final has some talent and potential. Just imagine what Down '61-Gaelic county.

## FOILSEACHAIN NUA

### AGGIORNAMENTO

Dráma trí mhír. le Chriostóir Ó Floinn, a bhaineann le 'saol iar-Vatacánach II' agus leis an gcoimhlínt idir an athnuachan agus an traidisiún. Ioróin, tragóid, greann agus grá fite fuaite ina chéile i ndrámá an-éifeachtach le cur ar stáitse. 6/-

### MAIRTÍREACH MEICSICEACH

Beatha, bás agus cúla an Athar Miguel Agustín Pro, C.I., an sagart uasal umhal a fhulaing bás mairtíreigh ós comhair scuaid lámhaigh i gCathair Mheicsiceo sa bhliain 1927. Cur síos soiléir suimiúil ag Breandán Ó Faircheallaigh. 7/6

### ÉAN CUIDEÁIN

(eagrán Nua)  
Fáil arís ar an saothar seo a scríobh Pádraig Óg Ó Conaire sna triochaidí. Ní hamháin gur úrscéal dea-chúmtha é ach tugann se dúinn chomh maith leárgas glé ar shaol sóisialta Chonamara sul a ndeachaidh an réabhlóid chumarsáide i gcionn air. 10/6

**Foilseachain Rialtais**  
An Stuaia, Baile Átha Cliath 1

cluded was an old pal o' mine who thought Derry were "certs for the All-Ireland".

"So do I," says myself and covered his fiver with fifty that Derry would not

in the small print, that when I gave my friend ten to one I was more or less thinking of shillings etc. The fiver didn't do me a lot of good — health wise).

So I mosey along to this Kerry-Derry game and what do I see. After about twenty five minutes a rather blood-shot-looking computer beside me up on "the Hill" informs me that I have just seen Derry kick wide fifteen times, not to mention a missed penalty.

However, I also saw this fellow Lagan at mid-field stand behind a crowd of players who were preparing themselves for the drop of a ball into the middle. I cannot remem-

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## REPORT FROM GAELIC PARK

# The All-Ireland Final

## At 10.15 a.m.!

AT this time of year, New York is a city gripped in the spell of World Series fever. As the climax of the baseball season is fast approaching, and the chant of "Let's go Mets" is heard louder each day New Yorkers have cast aside other interests, to await the divine intervention which they know must bring another National League pennant to Shea Stadium!

The now famed Mets set the hearts of New York aglow last year when after seven years, rarely out of the cellar in the standings, finally under the sympathetic nimbus of Providence, a miracle was wrought and the neophyte New Yorkers were suddenly and unblievable world baseball champions! All who shared the travail, frustration and inquietude of daily routine in the teeming metropolis, — subway strikes, elevator strikes, power failures, slowdowns etc., readily identified with these pawns of the League and ultimately found vindication in their association with the merry-andrews who made good.

New York sports fans take their sports seriously. The major American sports — baseball, football, basketball and ice hockey — are games of statistics, and it is fashionable to be up on such items as the League standings, batting averages, percentage of completions and scoring assists. It is helpful to be up on your stats if you feel like argument with one of these native sport's enthusiasts.

Many of our own native sons have become keenly involved with these American games over the years, often attracted by association with ardent fans, or by player personalities rather than by the outright natural appeal of the games themselves. Household names like Mickey Mantle, and Willie Mays in baseball, Jimmy Brown and Johnny Unitas in football have lured many less-sophisticated fans to a ball park just for the "magic" of personally seeing a national hero.

However, while the Gael has often embraced at least superficially the national games of his adopted land, his heart is invariably reserved for the thrill of a football clash between Kerry and Down or a hurling final between Tipperary and Kilkenny.

St. Patrick's Day with all the tradition, acclaim and celebration attendant thereto is "the day in the Irish calendar in New York. Alas! Were it otherwise! Even those who fall outside the pale," genuinely attempt to share in the bounty of being Irish on this festive annual occasion.

But, there are other occasions, though not as commercial, which stir the blood and move the spirit of New York Gael. All-Ireland Day in hurling and football are such occasions! Discussion begins early in the season and builds as the championships progress. News is relayed fast these days, so that interest is deeper than ever. More and more followers of the games are making the trip by air, now that flying is relatively inexpensive, by U.S. standards, to see their favourite team in action at Croke Park in the finals.

Those who do not or cannot travel are brought back in spirit when the "Faith of our Fathers" comes in clear and tranquil over Radio Station WNYC. What does this experience mean to an Irishman abroad? Perhaps he recalls his first trip to Croke Park as a young lad, to see his county play some longtime foe in an All-Ireland, from a crowded vantage point on Hill Sixteen. Or, even if he never had that experience, he can at least summon up rewarding remembrances of a more local nature, when his home team became county champions.

He may also feel the pulse of the homeland still beating strongly as the rapture of the occasion temporarily blots out the daily worldly problems, as glories of the past are re-enacted, and nostalgic moments recaptured as Michael O'Hehir's lucid exciting commentary comes over the air waves at 10.15 on a Sunday morning in September. This link with home is a tonic for the exile and sincere thanks is tendered to the sponsors who make it possible.

In these changing and confused times, when many seem to be searching for one thing or another, it is good to know that the tradition which we can look back so proudly upon, continues to give us hope and personal satisfaction.

Of course one way the thrill could be enhanced here, would be by the participation of New York in the All-Ireland championships!

There is almost as much interest centered on the National League as on the All-Irelands here, due to the local participation in the former. Although the timing might not be the most

mediately looked forward to the replay, destined to be a repeat thriller.

The replay would likely have been played on August 30, but an objection was lodged by Clare, alleging the participation

lan, Co. Tipperary. This small but sturdy bundle of dynamite is certainly one of the evergreens of the game, and, though hampered by frequent injury, has always given one hundred percent. Pat has served Water-



BY  
AMBROSE  
O'CONNELL

of an illegal Tipperary player in the drawn game. The case is now in the hands of the Executive Committee and could take some weeks in disposition. The replay, should there be one, could conceivably go into 1971.

Kerry and Monaghan are primed for the knock-out final in football and the Kingdomites will be all out to redress their recent defeat at the hands of the N.Y. Champions in the League decider. Should Monaghan win, their crown is safe for one more year. A Kerry win would force a play-off, as winners of the knock-out meet winners of the league in the overall final.

Kerry played excellent ball, without any outside help in the League encounter and ran the star-studded Northerners very close. Brilliant play by stylist Mick Moynihan, unquestionably one of the great forwards in the game today, Mick Foley and Mickey Whelan, combined with solid performances from all other members of the team, once more demonstrated the might of the green and gold on the big day. However, Monaghan won deservedly by virtue of star reinforcements, including Mick and Hugh Niblock, Peter Rooney, Seamus Donaghy and the accurate boot of McCartan Moore. They continue to be the glamour team of the New York football world.

Many veteran players continue to give sterling service to their clubs after more than a decade of rugged and physically demanding competition.

One hurler who readily comes to mind is the hard-hitting Dave De Loughry from Bennettsbridge, Kilkenny. He has maintained his position at right half-back on the black and amber squad since coming here in the early 'fifties as a young lad. He has also captained the New York team and, with possibly one recent exception, has never missed an outing with his team. His team-mate Mick Donovan is also very much in the thick of things after years of dedicated service to his club.

Another great competitor who has shown possibly the most enthusiasm of all over the years is Paddy Hennessy of Kilshee-

player, has also shown a welcome and effective return to the Tipperary colours.

Brendan Hennessy of Kerry is still one of the finest all-round hurlers in New York and, though possibly a step slower now, has lost little of the craft which has made him a regular on every New York hurling team since the 'fifties. Christy O'Connell, another Kerryman, who has played full-back for New York, is presently playing as well as ever in that position for his club.

All things considered, Paddy Dowling of Cork is often regarded as the greatest hurler New York has seen in the recent past era of the game and he continues to defy the passage of time with his heroics which would do justice to a star 10 years his junior. Joe Firth, Jim Carney and Pat Kirby continue to uphold the Banner cause with pride and skill.

New York born Tom Feighery still one of the best midfielders in football is also an accomplished hurler and is a solid defender on Offaly hurling team. Brendan Kelleher, a hurler in the classic mould, rarely misses an outing with Limerick, as does another stalwart Denis Frawley.

### CAMOGIE — U.S. DOWNS CANADA

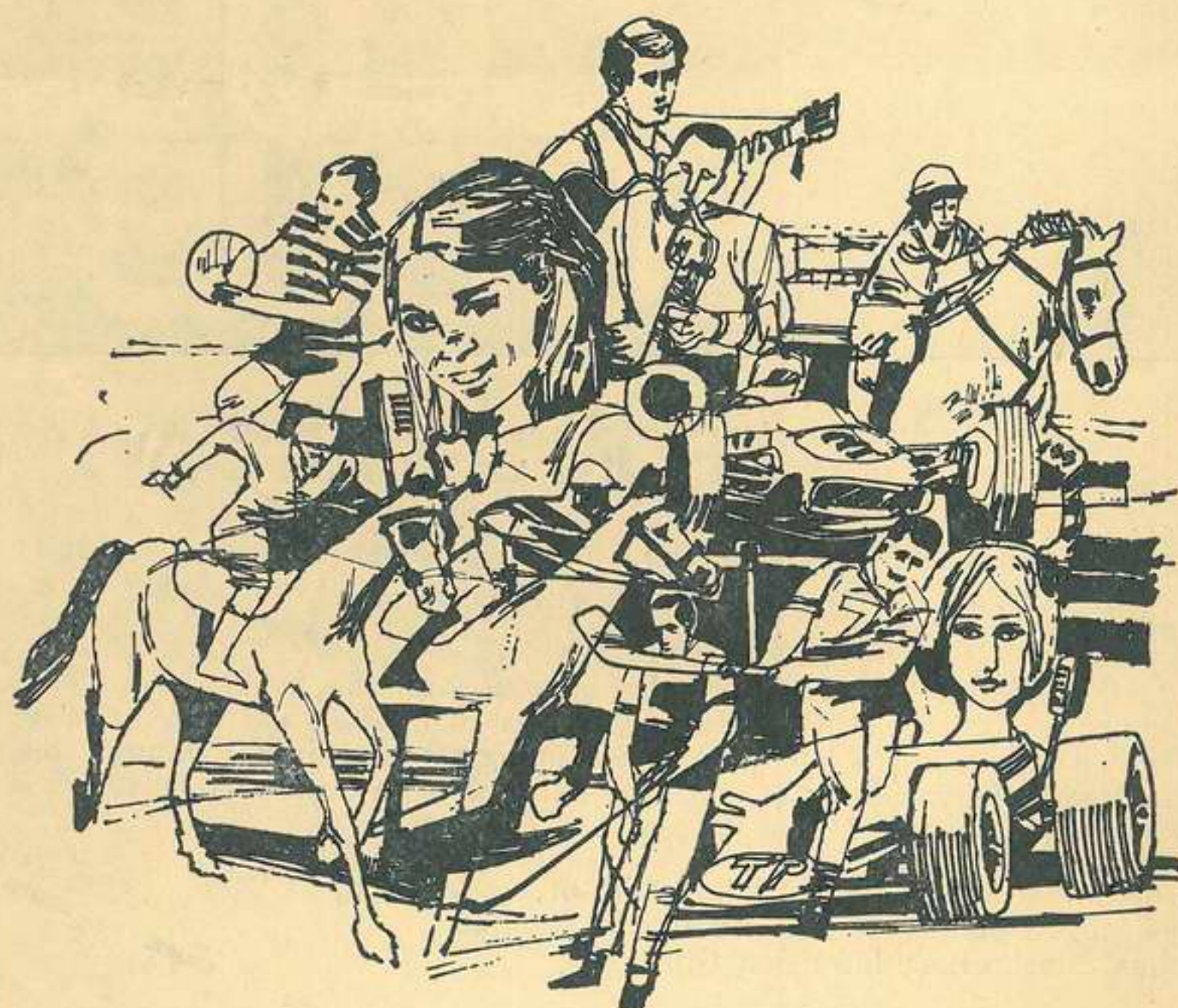
The Young Irelands camogie team of New York, representing the United States defeated three-time international champions Canada, represented by Shamrocks of Toronto on August 15, at Gaelic Park by 6-1 to 3-2. It was the first such victory for the U.S. in the series inaugurated four years ago, and the decisive win, after a thrilling game played in a heat wave, caused great excitement and celebration locally.

Outstanding for the winners were Mary Nolan (Limerick), Ann Roche, a Tipperary student at U.C.C., team captain Bernadette O'Dea (Carlow), Mary O'Reilly (Cork) and Kay McDonagh (Tipperary).

Shamrocks top performers were Phyllis Breslin (Dublin), full back Maureen Walsh (Mooncoin, Co. Kilkenny), Dymphna O'Herlihy (Cork) and team captain Ann Coyle (Tyrone).

The New York team will have possession of the Molson Golden Award, donated by the Molson Brewery of Canada, for a period of twelve months, when it must be put on the line again in Toronto in 1971.

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# The Success Story Of Cork Juvenile Competitions



John Rothwell, of the Blackrock, who won an All-Ireland minor hurling medal last year.

**P**ART of the reason for the healthy state of Cork hurling at the present time can be attributed to the success and popularity of juvenile competitions in the southern capital. In fact, many of the Cork senior and minor hurling teams who triumphed in this year's All-Ireland finals, first got the feel of competitive hurling when they started to play in the city juvenile competitions.

Likewise, the juvenile competitions have proved a good breeding ground for top-class footballers. So it is no wonder then that the Cork city juvenile league and championships have long been recognised as among the best organised in the country.

The beginning of this success story goes back to 1939 when a group of dedicated men saw the need for providing healthy recreational facilities for the youth of the city. Up to

that time individual clubs provided hurling and football facilities for boys under 16, but there were no competitive games between the individual clubs. So a much needed want was filled when the juvenile competitions were initiated.

The following were the officers of the Cork Juvenile Board in 1939 —



Former Cork star John Lyons, who played with Glen Rovers in Cork juvenile competitions.

Chairman, C. O'Callaghan (St. Annes); Vice-Chairman, M. P. Warner (Cork Co. Board); Hon. Secretary, D. Buckley (St. Annes); Hon. Treasurer, D. O'Riordan (St. Nicholas); Registrar, D. O'Leary (St. Annes).

The Leagues have expanded enormously since 1939 and last year a total of 628 games were played. This represents an increase of 174 on the number played in 1968. Altogether, 112 teams took part in the various competitions and 26 competitions were completed during the course of the year.

There are four age groupings with competitions ranging from under-13 to under-16 inclusive and there are two league and championship competitions in both football and hurling in the various age groupings.

The only likely obstacle to the progress of the competitions would seem to be the lack of playing pitches and good changing facilities. If these can be provided, Gaelic games should become more popular among the youth of Cork city than they have been even in the past.

— PADDY HICKEY.

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## Having Watched over 40 All-Irelands Old-Timer Concludes That There Was:

# Never A Final To Match That Of '38

IN my time, and that goes back to the days of John Joe Sheehy and Larry Stanley and Bob Stack and Jack Higgins and Con Brosnan, I have seen more than my fair share of All-Ireland football finals. Most of them were good, a few were wonderful, one or two were hardly worth walking the cross of Jones's Road to see, and there were at least two that provided 'incidents' which brought the G.A.A. into very considerable disrepute.

But it is the great finals that we all like to recall, and the greatest I ever saw was the drawn game between Galway and Kerry in the final of 1938. And the best thing of all about that game was that it came at the precise time when the whole G.A.A. was in need of a shot in the arm, because the couple of years before hand had been a bit disappointing.

You see, the football final of 1936 proved a complete flop with Mayo running rings around a Laois side that seemed to be stuck to the Croke Park sod. Then there was the All-Ireland football series of 1937 which, between the semi-finals, the drawn final and the replay provided the cranky characters who write letters to the newspapers with controversial topics that lasted for weeks — and must have been worth a small fortune to the then greatest 'write-to-the-editor' newspaper of them all, the old Dublin 'Evening Mail.'

Temper became so roused that some of the teams concerned would not even go on an American trip together and, all in all, poor Paddy O'Keeffe who, for so long before and after, was the driving force in Croke Park, had his hands full for quite some time in cooling everybody down. And Paddy, being Paddy, and the greatest diplomat of them all, got everybody back into good humour again by championship time of 1938.

The difficulty was, of course, that everything did not work out according to plan. The hurling series, for instance, refused to conform to expectations and we finished up with a Waterford-Dublin final which proved a very poor attraction for the neutral fans. The big day of the year, before the finals of course, was to be the opening of the Cusack Stand in August by the then President of the G.A.A., Pádraig MacNamee.

And what happened? We had an old grey, wet miserable Sunday that would not arouse anyone's enthusiasm, and, from where I stood, under the shelter of the old Long Stand, it was all too obvious that the crowd was not going to be enough to fill the new stand across the field.

But the Jeremiahs who, after the semi-finals and the hurling final, were already writing to the newspapers about the Cusack Stand being the G.A.A.'s white elephant, and prophesying that it would never be filled, and never be paid for, got their answer on the fourth Sunday in September.

Because this Galway-Kerry final of 1938 was a game that quite suddenly, and for no apparent reason, seemed to catch the imagination of the public despite two rather uninspiring semi-finals.

Kerry had been very lucky to beat Laois by two points on the day the Cusack Stand was opened, and the most notable fact now about the Galway-Monaghan semi-final at Mullingar is that a schoolboy named Michael O'Hehir made his debut as a radio commentator, with sensational success.

There was not a seat left on the Croke Park sidelines by two o'clock on final day and, before half-time in the minor match, in which a fair haired youngster named Simon Deignan was the star of the winning Cavan side, the 'knockers' of the Cusack Stand had been aptly answered, as the new structure was already packed to capacity.

Long before big-match time the gates were closed and thousands of would-be spectators were left milling in frustration up and down Jones's Road and Joseph's Avenue.

Everything was set for a great occasion and a great occasion was exactly what lay in store. Kerry that day fielded one of the Kingdom's teams of all time. They had won the 1937 title: they were yet to win the titles of 1939, 1940 and 1941, so they went the closest yet to an almost unbelievable five in a row.

They were a team of all the talents from Dan O'Keeffe in goal to the colourful Miko Doyle at full-forward. They had Joe L. Eohane and Paddy Kennedy, Bill Casey and Sean Brosnan, Bill Myers, Tadhg Healy, Johnny Walsh from Tarbert and a young lad from

Dingle named Paddy Bawn Brosnan, and, to lend the extra bit of crafty experience to the attack, they had that great veteran from Tralee, John Joe Landers, 'Purty' to every football fan in Ireland.

And, from the throw-in, what a game we saw, with the ball flying to and fro from end to end and the cleverness of Doyle and Landers for Kerry matched by Brendan Nestor and Eddie Mulholland in the Galway attack. For much of the hour, John 'Tull' Dunne from Ballinasloe, had one of his greatest days ever at mid-field for Galway, and he had an equally great assistant in Charlie Connolly.

But I have described the match itself before. What I am trying to convey now is the atmosphere of the closing minutes. Out there in what should have been the neutral part of the crowd (every Dubliner, by the way, was shouting for Bobby Beggs from Skerries, the sheet-anchor of the Galway defence), we all felt in our hearts that these Kerry men were really invincible and that they must snatch victory in a close finish.

And it looked as though it would all pan out that way when Kerry, having fought back to level terms, launched a fierce offensive in the closing minutes.

They gained a '50'. Sean Brosnan, we said, was bound to kick a point. He almost did, but it was turned out for another '50'. This time, we said, he'll land it. He dropped it inches short, for another '50'. Third time lucky, we said, even as the referee signalled that he had to score direct.

Again Sean kicked straight and true, but again the ball fell inches short. The leather was punched out of the crowded goalmouth, straight to 'Purty' Landers who promptly flashed it back over the bar. But the time was up, despite the ear-splitting Kerry roar, and so we had a drawn game, the most satisfying I have ever watched.

And my most abiding memory of that game? Right in the midst of the great, late Kerry onslaught there was a brief stoppage due to an injury. And, during that halt, I vividly recall Galway right half-back Frank Cuniffe, squatted coolly on his hunkers, calmly chewing a blade of grass that he had plucked from the pitch.

# The Best One-Man Show In A Final

BY all accounts the greatest individual display ever given in an All-Ireland senior football final was by Johnny Murphy from Cahirciveen, when almost single-handed he kept out Kildare in the last twenty minutes

of Kildare at the second attempt, but, if my memory of reading the newspapers of the time remains anyway accurate, I don't think he died until a couple of days after that second game.

BY TERENCE ROYNANE

of the drawn decider of 1926.

Legend says that Johnny Murphy was dead before the replay, but legend is inclined to exaggerate a little there.

Certainly Johnny Murphy, God rest him, was on his deathbed when Kerry got the better

And, just in case any of my younger readers are putting two and two together to make five, Murphy's death was due entirely to natural causes and had no connection whatever with his All-Ireland exertions.

Unfortunately, Johnny Mur-

phy was well before my time, and I never did have the privilege of seeing a Kerry-Kildare final but I did see a Kerryman give an exhibition of football in a final, an exhibition that anyone lucky enough to see it will never forget.

And, by an odd coincidence, the name was the same, Sean Murphy, but this one hailed, not from Cahirciveen, but from Camp. Sean played many a great game in the green and the gold, after all he had already won All-Ireland medals in 1953 and 1955 before he lined out at right half-back, his favourite position, against Galway in the 1959 All-Ireland final.

There were 86,000 lucky people in Croke Park that day who saw Kerry win readily in the second half. But they saw something more, they saw Sean

Murphy play football of almost blinding brilliance.

There were great stars aplenty on view, that day — Johnny Cullotly, Jerome O'Shea, 'Tiger' Tim Lyons, Mick O'Dwyer, Mick O'Connell, Paudie Sheehy and Tadhg Lyne with Kerry, Sean Meade, Mick Garrett, Jack Mahon, Mattie McDonagh, Sean Purcell, Frankie Stockwell and John Nallen with Galway.

But there was only one man in that game that looked in anywhere near the same class as Sean Murphy that day, and he was the Galway midfielder Frank Evers who took the shine off Mick O'Connell's already customary steller role under the falling ball.

But even Evers had to play second fiddle, especially through the second half, when the medical student from Camp seemed

to own the ball on almost the whole right hand side of the field. It was the most magnificent individual display I have ever seen in a football final.

I saw Sean Murphy play a fair share of football afterwards, but he never again fully recaptured the magic that marked his display on that last Sunday in September of 1959.

That was eleven years ago, and there is an interesting little footnote that must be added. In that 1959 final Mick O'Connell's partner at midfield was Sean Murphy's younger brother,

Seamus.

And ever since, Seamus Murphy has served Kerry in any position they cared to play him. On Sunday next he should again be in his by-now-long-customary position of right full-back. And while the same Seamus Murphy has never hit the fantastic heights that brother Sean attained in that 1959 final, let us put this on the record once and for all . . . Seamus Murphy from Camp has, for more than a decade now, been the most consistent of all the stalwarts to wear the Kerry jersey.

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# In The News with Bacchus

## A Chip Of The Old Block

**W**E know, of course, that boys are born with football boots on in Kerry: that place-kicking is practised by kicking their rattles out of their cots: and that mothers place their sons' baby bottles just out of reach on a ledge, so that they can practise high fielding. Mothers no less than fathers keep a weather eye peeled to watch for signs in their offspring to indicate that they will one day wear the green and gold, to win a medal at Croke Park to go with the one that mother's grandad won in 1903, or the four in a row that father's uncle won, or the couple Dad himself won.

It is a hard search to find the Kerry family which does not have an All-Ireland in some branch of the family

tree; someone who gives them the right to call themselves Kerry men when it comes to the Munster final in Killarney, or the All-Ireland final in Croke Park.

Yet, it makes the succession of youngsters to the family traditions no less onerous a task. This year's Kerry minor team is a good one which will make a bold bid and possibly win the final against Galway, but there was hardly a mention of the balance of the side and its varied virtues. From the beginning the spotlight has been centred on the son of Jackie Power the famous Limerick hurler, and the son of Paddy Bawn Brosnan, the rock himself.

These boys have had to bear the burdens of their father's fame in a most depressing fashion; whatever they did that

was good and intelligent and even native to their own genius was bound to be credited not to themselves but their fathers: "Ah, 'tis kind father for him; why wouldn't he be good."

But, just let them put a foot wrong or make a mess of a good chance or try and fail at some 50-50 gamble, and you will then hear them given all the credit for themselves alone: "By God, he's not taking after his father anyway; he'll never be half the player."

Now, that's all very fine, for Gerry Power, because, after all, his father was Jackie Power, a famous figure and a well respected one in the Kingdom for his possession of that honoured skill in hurling which Kerry men do not particularly covet though they like to see it in others. Well, after all Jackie Power was only a hurler; he was never that great a footballer, although not bad for a Limerick man. The boy's skill at football after all will be best explained as the pro-

duct of his Kerry environment, and, if he makes a mistake, his father might not have been above making one like it in football.

But, what of poor Brosnan: in heaven's name, how can you follow the man of whom it was said: "He wasn't born, boy, he was quarried." How can any son seem less than a pale imitation of such a colourful, fantastic character as the original Bawn. Especially, how can any lad seem less than cowardly in the eyes of those who are looking at young Paddy but only seeing old Bawn, thundering out of the square, sending forwards scattering left and right — fellows who seemed twice his size — and digging that left foot into the leather with the most ferocious intent to burst it.

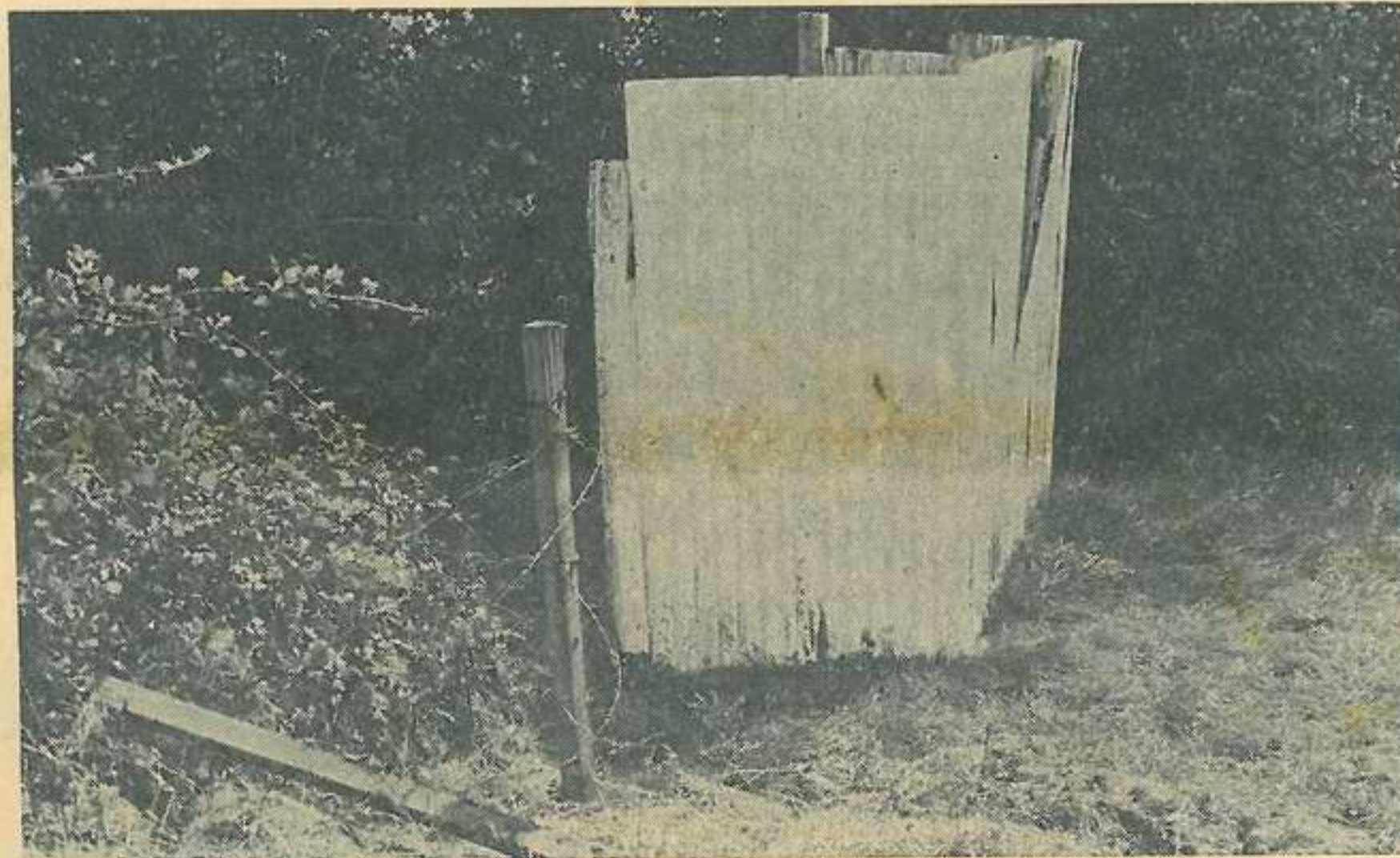
Fair play now, lads, give the boys a break. Do not judge them by standards they never set. Give them a chance to set their own.

## The Good, The Bad And The Ugly

**N**OW that All-Ireland football final day is almost upon us — a day when the G.A.A. will collect a 'gate' at Croke Park in excess of £50,000 — and will play hosts to an audience of millions via the mass media we would like to draw your attention to the picture on the right.

We are not offering any prize for identifying the mystery object in the picture — if you are a regular G.A.A. supporter you will be all too familiar with this and similar pieces of G.A.A. architecture!

But for those who can only manage to fit in the All-Ireland finals each year we will explain: The 'building' in the picture is the toilet, for sex unspecified, at one of our leading G.A.A. provincial grounds. This



picture was taken on the occasion of an All-Ireland semi-final this year.

Was it not in the 1916 Proclamation that they used the phrase "cherishing all the nation's children equally?"

The picture on the right and £50,000 gates are hardly in keeping with that sentiment.

## Derry v. Kilkenny In 1909!

**F**OR those of you who thought that Derry's minor hurlers made history by playing in an All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park on August 23, I have news for you. You were wrong!

These minor hurlers were not the first caman wielders from the Oak Leaf county to appear at headquarters.

Away back in 1909 a side, drawn from five clubs in Derry City, played Kilkenny in the All-Ireland senior semi-final at what was then known as Jones' Road.

And believe it or not there was a direct link be-

tween the 1909 side and the one that played last month. At midfield against Kildare was 18-year-old Stephen Mellon and against Kilkenny at centre half forward was one Thomas Mellon — grandson and grandfather no less. No need to tell you I'm sure that the man in between is also Tommy Mellon, the witty Derry chairman, who was no mean hurler himself having gained county recognition as a midfielder at the age of 18.

All three Mellons are heating and plumbing engineers and work in the family business.

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## G.A.A. Player From Stormont

**B**EARDED Independent member for South Armagh, Paddy O'Hanlon the Stormont M.P. narrowly missed a Gaelic championship medal when his club, Mullaghabawn, failed by only one point to outsiders, Madden in the Armagh intermediate final. Paddy, who is a former U.C.D. and Armagh right back lined-out at centre half back.

In 1966 O'Hanlon, now 25, received a knee injury that put him out of the game for almost four years. "I went to the hospital with it but was told that there was nothing that they could do for me. Then I paid a visit to Bobby McGreggor in Belfast and whatever he did it came all right again," O'Hanlon explained.

How does a busy politician such as Paddy O'Hanlon still find time to play football. He explained, "Last winter after I had put on quite a few stone from my student days I enrolled for a P.T. class and decided to keep one night per week free for it. After losing weight I then got back my taste for football and since I got my place in the Mullaghabawn team again I try and keep Sunday afternoon free."

He also said, "I am enjoying my football much better now than when I was at college too. When playing for U.C.D. or Armagh every game was of paramount importance but now with Mullaghabawn again there is not so much pressure on me. The lads in the club couldn't be better either and there is a very free and liberal attitude shared by all the men. This I like very much."

Paddy also forecasts a bright future for Mullaghabawn. "I'm very happy with the way things are going here. We have a new field and are hoping for a new clubhouse soon and from there one never knows what next," he said.

O'Hanlon also forecasts a big change in the structure of the G.A.A. within the next decade "I feel that within the next ten years

there will be a big streamlining of ideas in the association. In Armagh I'd say we will have only about 20 big clubs with good clubhouses and other facilities that attract the young," was his comment.

Are we likely to see Paddy O'Hanlon back in the Armagh team? "At present I wouldn't think of it because I'm still not fit enough for a start even if I were good enough. But next year it might be a different story. Given the opportunity it would be something that I would seriously consider," he said.

## Keeping It Quiet!

**W**HY were there no programmes on sale at the Fermanagh-Louth All-Ireland under-21 football championship semi-final in Dundalk on August 30? After all this was a national semi-final and while in the eyes of those that have won greater things it may not be in the same class as a senior semi-final it still deserves the honour of a printed programme.

People do like to know who the players are and even though both line outs were announced over the public address system before the game I'm quite sure that few remembered each individual player.

And while on the subject of programmes I have another question. Why did the programme at Croke Park on August 23 not include the Kildare and Derry minor hurling teams? Surely this omission was sticking a "no importance" label on this game.

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