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GAA

Gaelic Sport

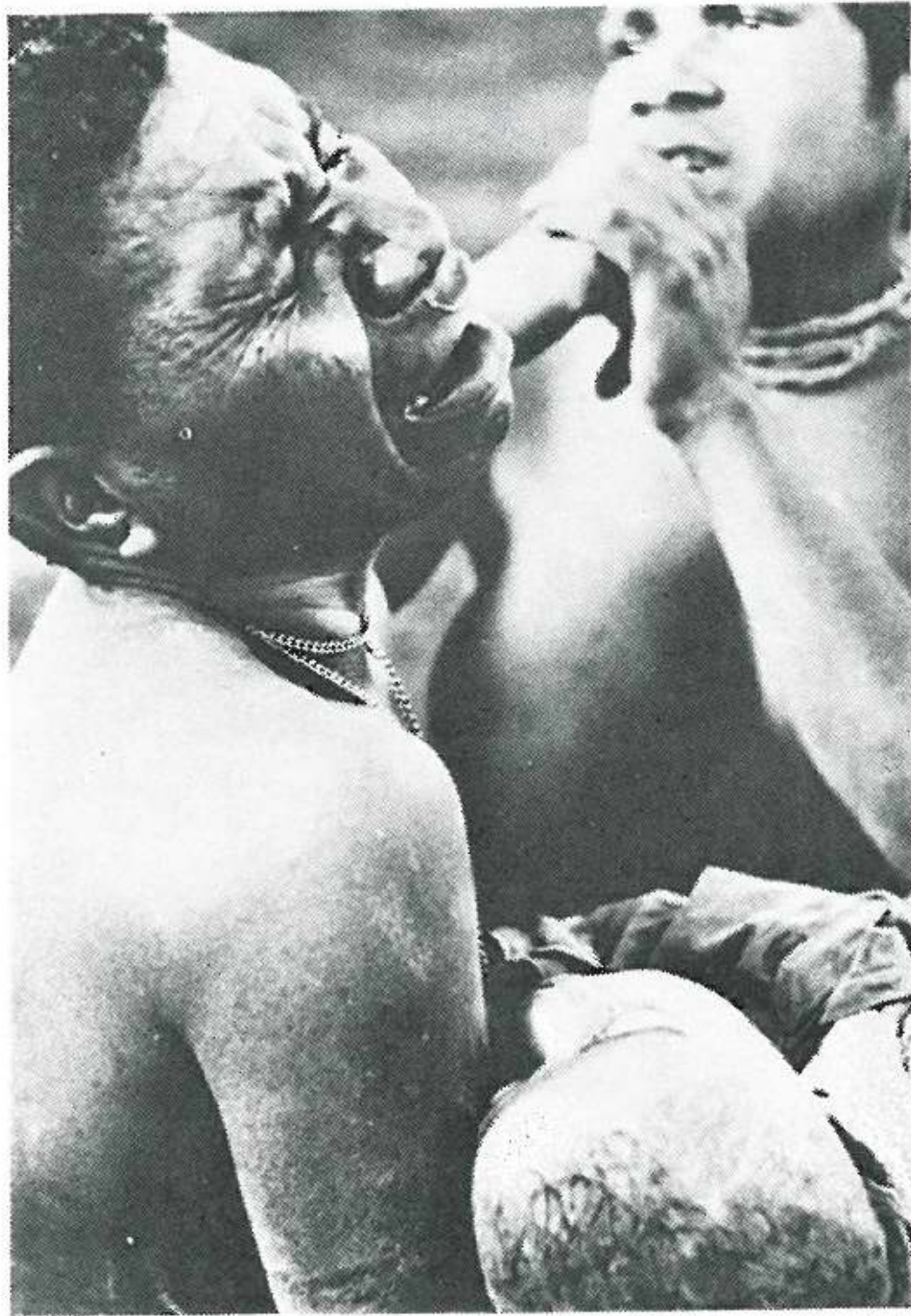
OCTOBER 1970

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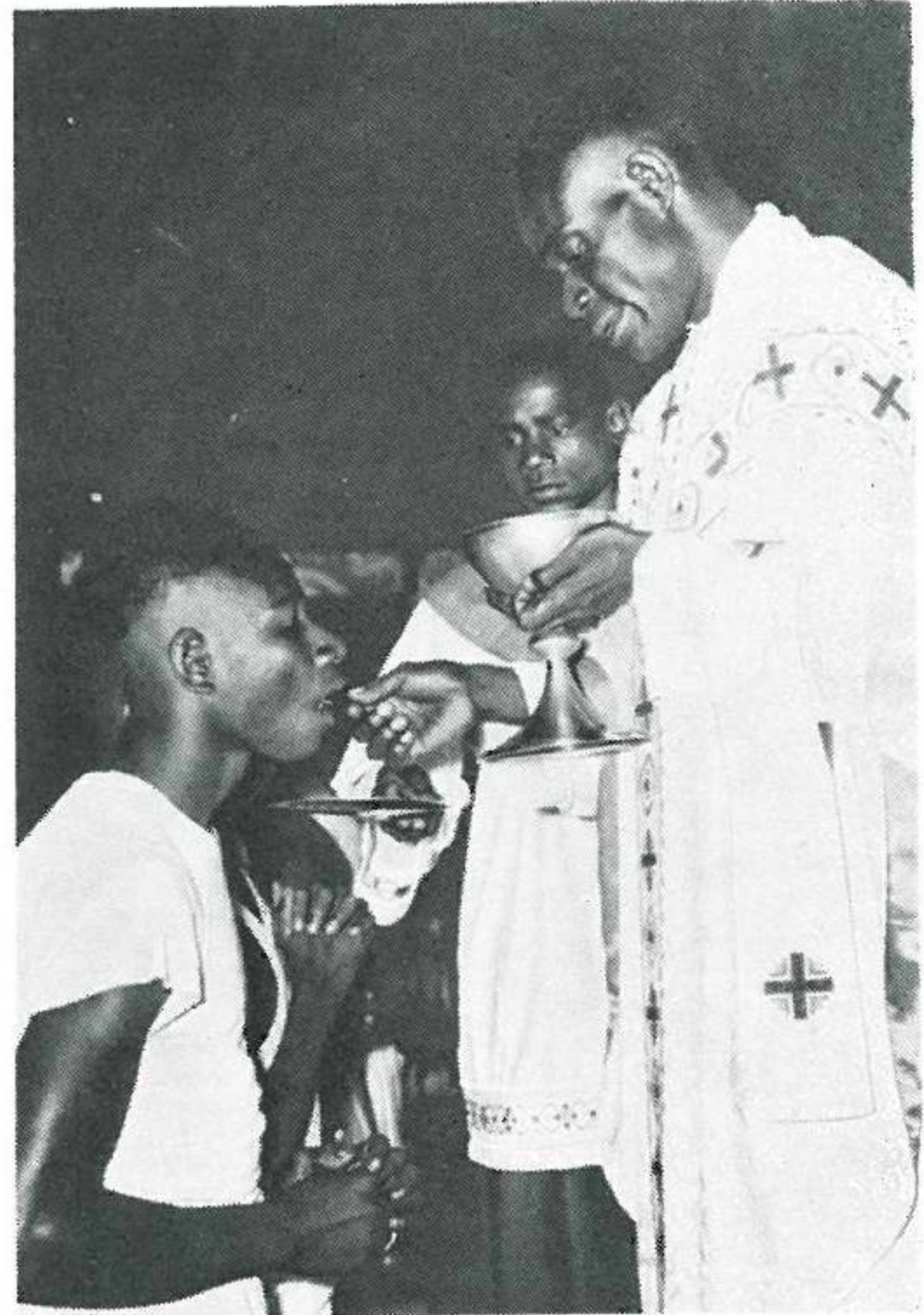
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G.A.A.

ALL-IRELAND FOOTBALL FINALS

i bPáirc an Chrócaigh

27th September, 1970

SENIOR — 3.15 p.m.

CIARRAÍ v AN MHÍ

MINOR — 1.30 p.m.

CIARRAÍ v GAILLIMH

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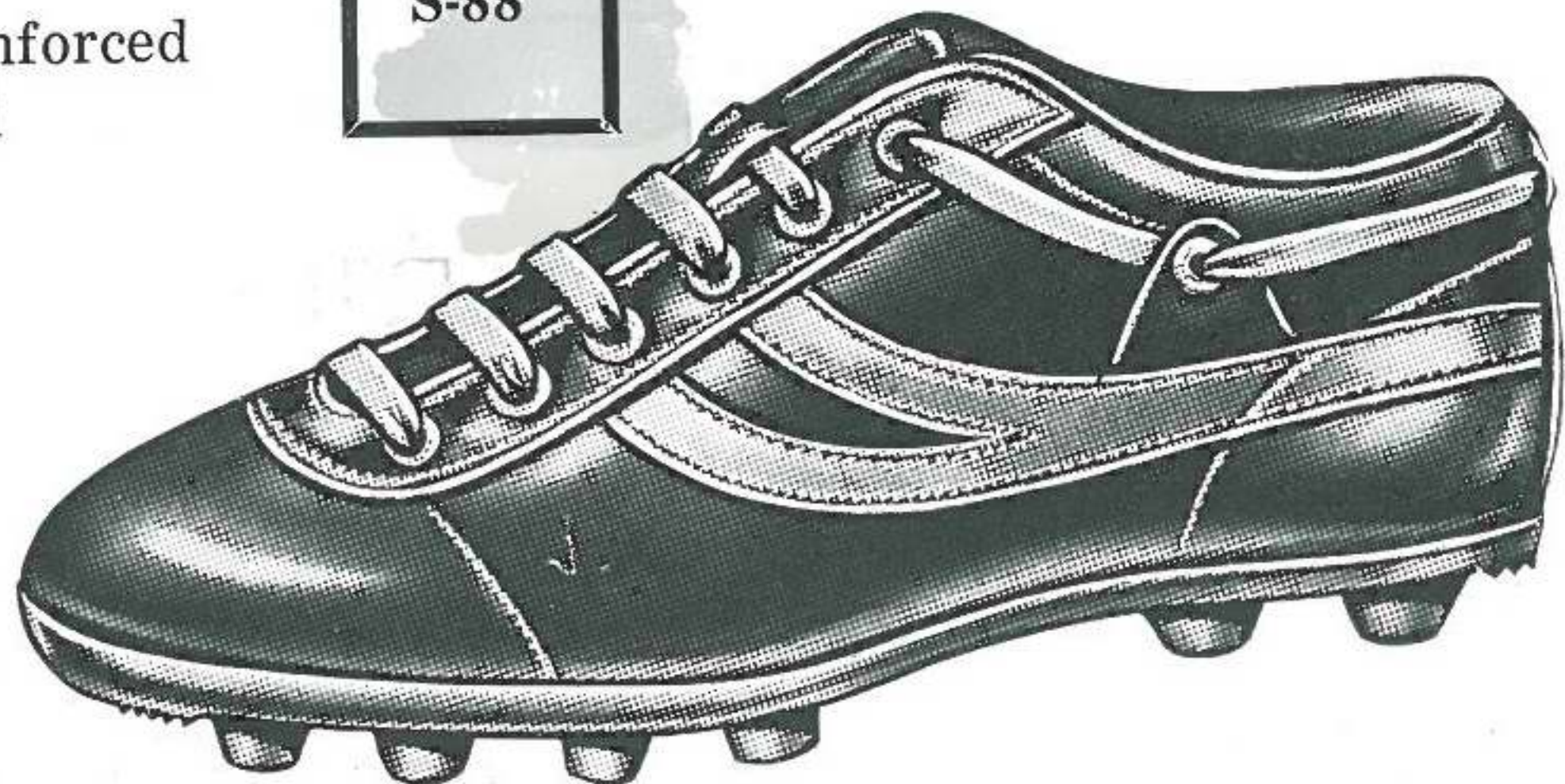
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 13. No. 10 October, 1970.

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INDEX

Quinn-Higgins duel could decide Final	
—by Jay Drennan	7
The Men from Meath	
—by Séamus Ó Ceallaigh	11
Recalling the Polo Grounds Final—by Terence Roynane	15
Jack Quinn: A pen-picture by Owen McCann	17
O'Connell: The essence of his greatness—by Philip Roderick	18
I take Kerry	
—says Eamonn Young	21
The incredibly serviceable Seamus Murphy	25
The players who keep the flag aloft	
—by Owen McCann	27
Pat Reynolds: A profile by Jim Bennett	30
The goal that changed the face of football	
—by Owen McCann	33
The Kerry-Derry match — as seen from a hospital bed	
—by Noel Coogan	35
The Minor Final	
—by Neil McCavana	37
Cluichí Cheannais Peile	
—le Seán Ó Dúnagáin	38
Junior Desk	41
Trial . . . and Error	
—by Dan McAreavy	49
Reflections on the Hurling Final—by Columba Mansfield, O.S.A.	51
Handball—by Alleyman... ..	57
An argument remains unresolved—by Sean Rice...	61
Top Ten	63
Camogie — by Agnes Hourigan	64

COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover this month features the All-Ireland Football finalists, Kerry and Meath.

KERRY : Standing (from left)—Mick Gleeson, John O'Keeffe, Mick O'Connell, D. J. Crowley, Mick O'Shea, Paud O'Donoghue, Liam Higgins, Mick O'Dwyer. Front (from left)—Pat Griffin, Tom Prendergast, Johnny Culloty, Donie O'Sullivan (capt.), Seamus Murphy, Eamonn O'Donoghue, Brendan Lynch.

MEATH : Standing (from left)—Ollie Shanley, Tony Brennan, Peter Black, Vinny Foley, Matt Kerrigan, Vincent Lynch, Joe Murphy. Front (from left)—Ken Rennicks, Bertie Cunningham, Terry Kearns, Sean McCormack, Jack Quinn, Mick White, Pat Reynolds, Mick Mellett.

GROUSE SEASON

CORK'S overwhelming defeat of Wexford in the All-Ireland Hurling Final has thrown undue emphasis on aspects of the occasion which would have gone unnoticed, or which would have at least passed without critical comment, in different circumstances.

If we had had a match like the Waterford-Kilkenny drawn final of 1959, the Tipperary-Wexford final of 1962, or either of the Cork-Wexford encounters of 1954 and 1956, such irritants as the nineteen-minute interval, Wexford's sloppy dress, the interminable loudspeaker calls on John Doe to meet his friend behind the stand after the game, the American band leader's speech—even the incidents on the field—would have been overlooked. A good game covers a multitude of peripheral distractions.

The Hurling Final of 1970 was not a good match: hence the criticism of the "trimmings". A sense of balance must be preserved in these matters. The spectator who turns sour because he feels he hasn't got value for his money is, to say the least of it, an unreliable critic.

Nevertheless, we must concur with the view that the irritants which intruded on the hurling final scene should not be tolerated by the Association. Anything which tends to lower the dignity of such an occasion should not be allowed to happen. If, inadvertently or by some miscalculation, an undignified situation does arise, then the utmost care should be taken to ensure that there will be no repetition.

What could be regarded as undignified on All-Ireland day? It goes without saying that anything that mars the play heads the list. Then there is the appearance of

the teams. Wexford's stockings have been the subject of such comment. And quite rightly. They looked like the contents of a rag-bag.

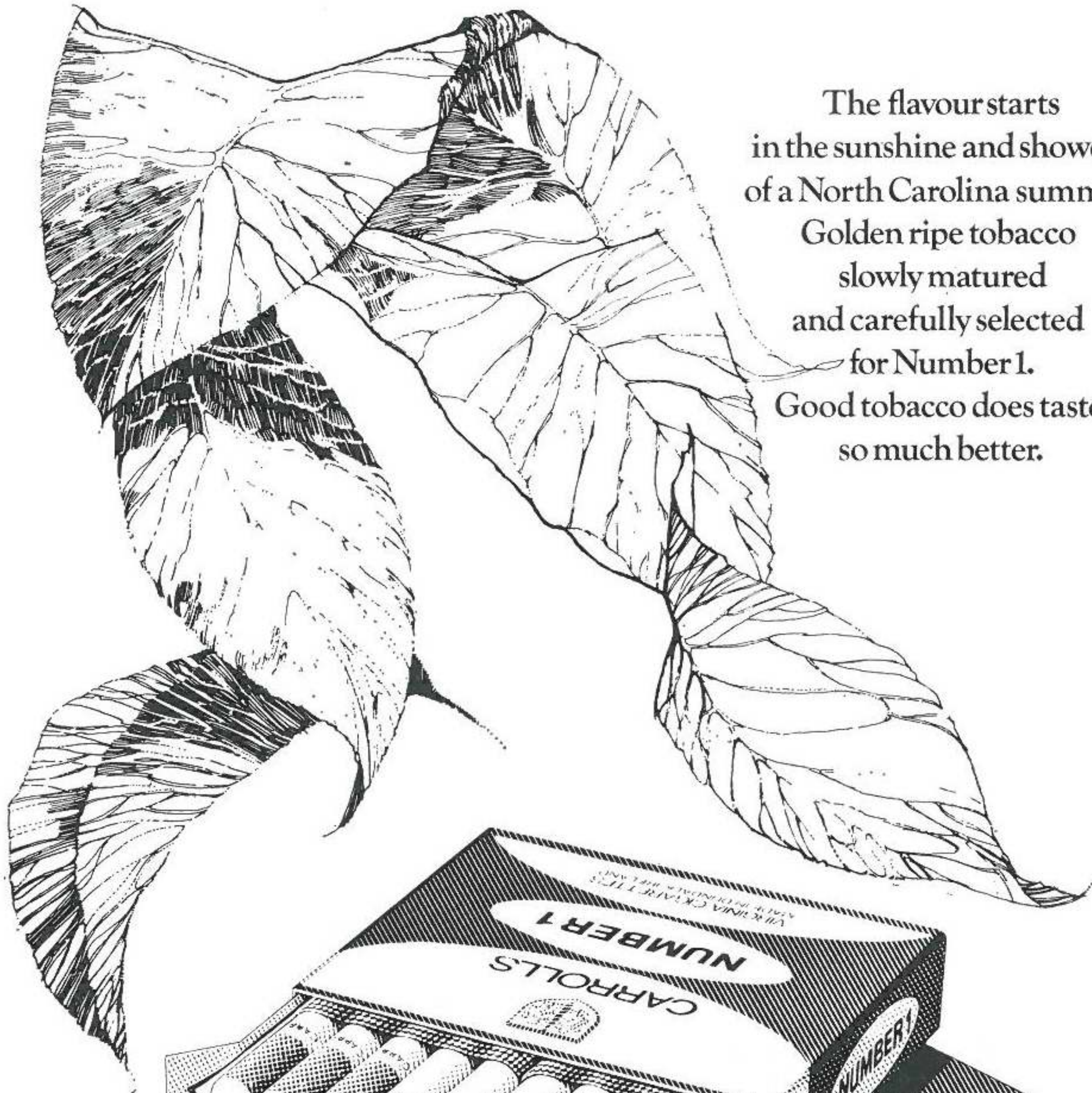
Untidy or dirty outfits, ill-assorted colours—and stockings flopping down around the players' ankles, especially in the pre-match march—create a bad impression which invariably reflects on the Association itself.

All-Ireland day is the Association's showpiece and the Central Council should insist that the teams taking part bear the responsibility of maintaining a favourable image—in the eyes of our own people, as well as in those of foreign visitors, or foreign viewers of television.

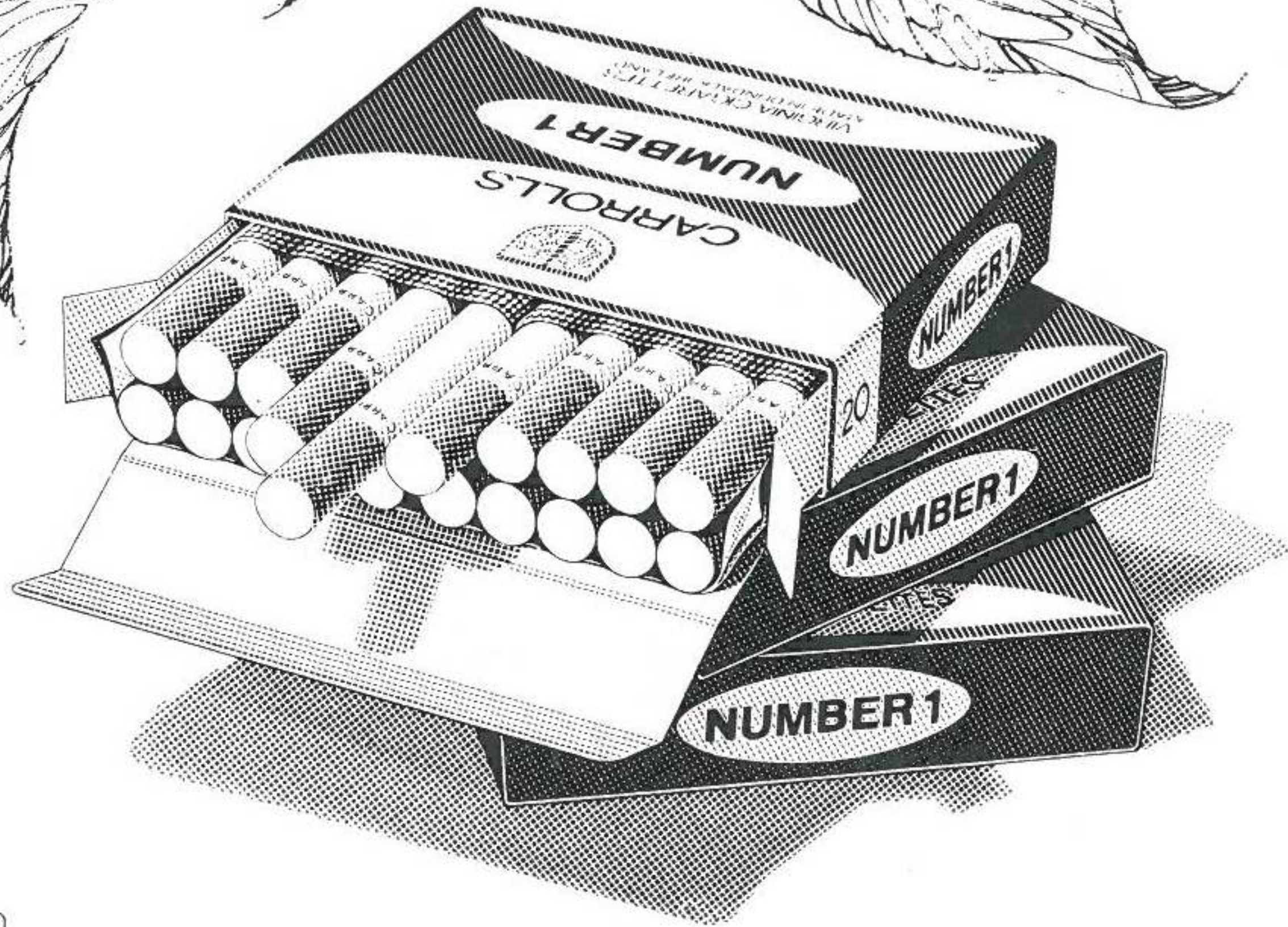
A nineteen-minute interval is intolerable, no matter what the excuses offered subsequently. If a player is injured during the course of a game, the rules state that he must be removed to the sideline for treatment so as to allow play to continue. What is so different about a player requiring attention at the interval?

Having made those remarks, it would be churlish not to say that we recognise and appreciate the enormous amount of work which the Croke Park staff puts into the organisation of an All-Ireland final. Hitches sometimes occur over which they have no direct control. In many instances, however, it must be possible to ensure that these do not recur.

We look forward to an All-Ireland Football Final in which the interval is limited to ten minutes (in compliance with the rules), the appearance of neatly-attired teams, loudspeaker announcements of an essential nature only and a good, clean game.



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in the sunshine and showers
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QUINN-HIGGINS DUEL

COULD DECIDE FINAL

By JAY DRENNAN

MEATH have never been a side driven on by the inspiration which strikes it; rather they have been honest journeymen who never fail for want of effort, but sometimes fail for lack of the stroke of genius. There is always something a little colourless about their performances which causes some slight dissatisfaction even with their best performances.

It is, I think, significant that their biggest stars have been defence men—Jack Quinn, Bertie Cunningham and Pat Reynolds in the present side; Paddy O'Brien, Mick O'Brien and Kevin McConnell, a great full-back line 16 to 20 years ago. The big games have found their biggest stars among the backs, and, the bigger the occasion, the harder the scores have been to come by.

This year, like other years, the aura which has surrounded Meath throughout the championship has been one of power, rather than brilliance. Even against Offaly in that remarkable match of astronomical scores, it was the sheer overwhelming of the Offaly men that impressed

rather than any particular or series of brilliant shafts.

It is in favour of Meath that they come to this year's efforts refreshed and with some benefit gained from the rest enforced on them after the exhaustions of their Australian adventures and, more important probably, the hard slog they had to get that one All-Ireland in 1967. Some parts of the machine had worn out by then, or run down below best performance. The replacements have fitted in nicely this year in a rather effortless way and without any great pressure, and because of that more rewardingly.

The defence is an established unit, with McCormack fronted by Jack Quinn, spectacular and sound and White the master of consistency with Bertie Cunningham more satisfactorily accommodated at corner back now he has entered the veteran class. Pat Reynolds the indestructible non-stop action-man who can "stick going" all day is as vital a rallying force as Christo Hand used to be.

While Oliver Shanley's tenure

of the right-half position is short at inter-county level, his solidity has been impressive and his newness in the position will lead him to be conservative and stay-at-home and watchful — a good complement to Reynolds, and a nice combination of cover for the ebullient Terry Kearns who has carved out a new identity at centre-half.

It is, indeed, remarkable how well Kearns has served Meath, and how lucky a mascot he seems to have been. Centre-field, centre-forward, centre-half-



D. O'Sullivan



J. Culloty



J. O'Keeffe



B. Lynch



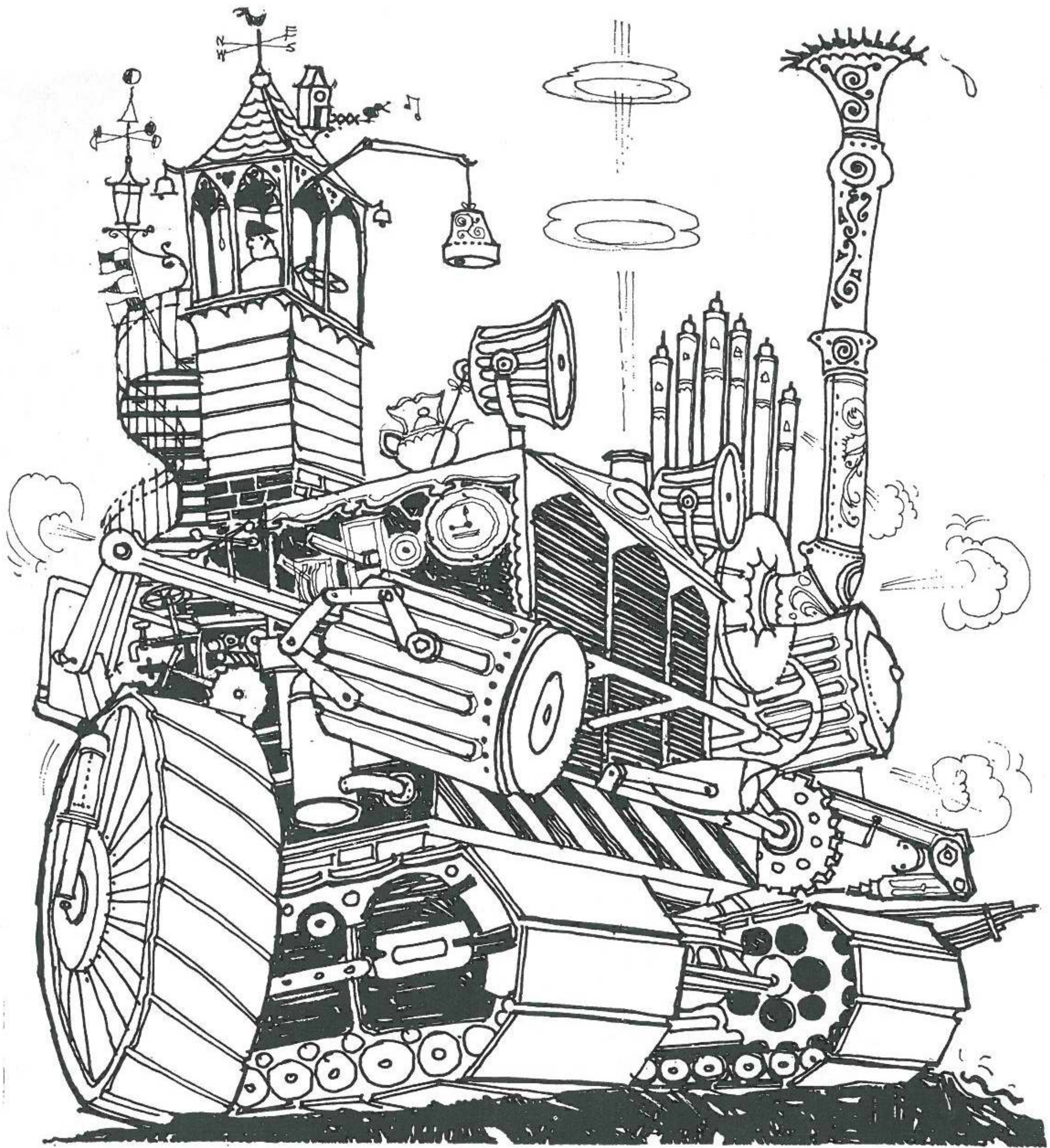
O. Shanley



T. Kearns



K. Rennicks



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V. Lynch



V. Foley



M. Mellett

● FROM PAGE 7

back . . . and Cork will remember his winning goal in 1967. But, he seems now to be reaching a peak of confidence facing the ball where his broad built physique makes him a commanding figure, and his cover and intelligent reading of the trend of play has added a dimension of brilliance to his solidity.

This defence will have to counter the thrust of the Kerry attack. Griffin will be a danger to Kearns such as he has not yet encountered because of the variety of his game, and because of his great ability in the air. Brendan Lynch has appeared to be coming to terms with the fame which pursued him since his early days, concentrating on slipping round to pick up a chance here and there and slash the ball over the bar.

This makes him a better though less spectacular player than last year. No doubt he can still whip through for the goal chance if he gets it, but it would be asking a lot to expect Pat Reynolds to contribute chances which lesser half-backs have not proffered lately.

Mick O'Dwyer has many of the qualities of John Keenan, and Keenan was adequately successful against Meath: therefore, there would appear to be a threat in this sector, especially as the thrusting and thinking O'Dwyer has his scoring nose attuned to the slightest traces of opportunity right now.

Eamonn O'Donoghue is an enigma: he has a very poor scoring record by comparison with the other Kerry forwards; but he is more occupied in the production line than any of the others, lying well back. His provision of through balls from a retreat position makes him a link in things whose importance is difficult to judge since it is not measured in the tangible value of scores.

I doubt, however, his physical equipment for the task involved, for he has neither the strength which Griffin uses to bore into attacking positions after gaining possession in retreat areas, nor the speed which Lynch uses to follow-through into the scoring region.

Kerry have shown their concern here once or twice by bringing the underused Gleeson—a much underestimated player who may be dribbling his potential away in the isolation of corner-forward—to the wing in his place to set up a better assembly-line.

The wing position, in any case, becomes vital as a feeding-line only when the midfield breaks down, and that is not a usual Kerry failing. It is more a question, I think, of how much

traffic goes down to the Kerry full-line.

As I said, Gleeson is under-used—partly, at least, because Lynch's natural tendency is never to play the ball inside him; he works inside from touch regularly and tends to lay the ball away to Griffin or O'Connell, or shoot or centre. I feel this starvation is tending to close an avenue of attack which would be vital against Meath, for Gleeson has the beating of Cunningham, I should say.

Similarly, Higgins, while not underused is underestimated generally. Very strong, hardy and rugged, in the great Kerry tradition of full-forwards to be able to contest possession even with the best full-backs, but surprisingly agile and quick to rocket in a shot.

Against Derry, in possession near the 21, wrong-footed, almost completely covered-off, apparently going the wrong way, he still managed to squeeze a shoulder-high cannonball past the defence. It scraped the post going by and would have swept the netting up the Canal-end terracing if it went inside.

Jack Quinn went a long way to beating Galway when he subdued Cyril Dunne and reduced him to switching positions and flicking an odd pass to a colleague: can he manage the different set of problems posed by Higgins?

I believe the game will be decided in this sector, and given enough of the ball—which means

● TO PAGE 60



M. Gleeson



T. Prendergast



E. O'Donoghue

**Allied
Irish
Banks
salute
the
hurlers
and
footballers
of
Ireland**



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OLD SONGS, STORIES RELATE THE PROWESS OF THE MEN FROM MEATH

ONLY those very closely associated with Gaelic affairs elsewhere than in the Royal County know that Meath has a football history which is very inadequately expressed in the honours roll of the All-Ireland championship.

Old songs and stories are still related recounting the prowess of the men of Meath on both hurling and football fields long before the G.A.A. was founded, and so it is no surprise that the county was one of the first to rally to Cusack's call.

The footballers participated in the first All-Ireland championship. They were represented by the champion club, Dowdstown, and opposed the Limerick Commercials at Elm Park, Merrion, on Sunday, July 24, 1887. It was an unforgettable contest between giants of twenty-one aside, expert exponents of football, hard battlers every one. And Lord de Fresci, who lent his manor field for the game, was so impressed by the performance of a few of the leading players that he invited them to dinner that night—and that must have been the first after-match social occasion in G.A.A. history!

Limerick Commercials won and went on to collect first All-Ireland laurels, whilst Meath had to wait eight years until another great club combination, Navan O'Mahony's hit the headlines with victories over Kilkenny, Dublin and Cavan, to qualify to meet Arravale Rovers, Tipperary, in the 1895 All-Ireland Final.

The first All-Ireland final to be played at Jones' Road, now Croke Park, took place on March 15, 1896. It was a typical March day, but notwithstanding

the unfavourable weather a magnificent crowd witnessed a brilliant display of football of very high standard, and in a thrill-packed finish the Tipperarymen won the day by the odd point of seven, 0.4 to 0.3.

A newspaper report said that Tipperary won "first and overall because there is only one Willie Ryan in Ireland, second by the length of their kicks, and last, but not least, because they were in luck."

There was a bombshell when two days later a letter in reference to the match appeared in the daily newspapers from the referee, J. J. Kenny of Dublin, which stated: "In refereeing the match on Sunday last between the Arravale Rovers and Pierce Mahonys, I awarded a point to Tipperary which was scored from inside the 21 yards mark. This point should not have been allowed." Mr. Kenny was a most impartial and capable referee and a man of high integrity, and his letter acknowledging the mistake created a profound impression.

As the All-Ireland medals were distributed to the members of the winning side after the match an awkward situation was created for the Central Council in regard to the trophies. The difficulty was speedily and satisfactorily overcome by one of the finest sporting gestures in the annals of the G.A.A. The Meath players at a special meeting in Navan unanimously agreed to allow the Arravale Rovers retain the medals and the championship. In communicating this decision to the Central Council the O'Mahonys president, John P. Timmon said: "Proud as I

● TO PAGE 13



Bertie Cunningham . . .
veteran of the Meath
team.

Our pitch

It might not seem as exciting as watching an All-Ireland, but to Erin Foods Ltd. and thousands of farmers in all parts of Ireland, this is where the real scores are made.

Scores that are the result of technical training, teamwork and modern research.

So the next time you see an Erin Foods harvesting operation ; give a cheer — we're the home side.



**Erin
Foods**

● FROM PAGE 11

should be to see the All-Ireland medals decorating the breasts of the boys in whom I take such deep interest, yet prouder am I to be president of a club which for the sake of the G.A.A. can show such a grand spirit of self-abnegation."

The Central Council awarded a set of special medals to the Meath men and arranged another meeting between the sides. This was played on the first Sunday of May 1896. The weather was ideal and the game even better than the All-Ireland final. A draw resulted, 0.4 each. Tipperary won narrowly at the third meeting.

These matches aroused tremendous interest and newspaper reports were generous in their coverage and praise—unusual for days when Gaelic games got scant attention from the press.

Castletown re-lighted the Gaelic fire in Meath in the early years of the century and led by Joe Curran their name and fame spread like wildfire with the result that thousands travelled on foot long distances to see them in action. They won County Renown four times between 1904 and 1908 and laid the foundations of the resurgent Gaelic spirit in Meath.

They engaged in stirring contests with the leading club combinations of Dublin, Louth, Westmeath and Cavan, and their selection put up a remarkable fight against Kildare in the 1905 Leinster championship — the short grass county lads subsequently defeating Kerry to take All-Ireland honours.

Some of the star wearers of the popular green and gold in those games included Joe Curran, John Cudden, Joe and John Farrelly, Tom Finnegan, Jack Shaw and Matt Ward.



Frankie Byrne, star forward on Meath's All-Ireland teams of 1949 and 1954.

The first "All-Ireland" win notched by gallant Meath was in the Croke Cup Final of 1912, when they beat Waterford decisively, 1-5 to 0-1. The Royal County team on that memorable occasion was captained by Jack Newman of Bohermeen, and other members of the side included Mick Newman, Jim and Tom Mellon, Sam Rennicks, Mick Hynes and Sean McNamee. The majority of the players belonged to the famed Bohermeen Geraldine Club, who held the Meath championship during six successive seasons—1909 to 1914.

Meath's next great success was in the National Football League final of 1933 when they beat their neighbours and subsequent All-Ireland championship holders, Cavan, in a thrill-packed decider, 0-10 to 1-6.

In between the 1912 win and the 1933 triumph, men like Charlie Cudden, Matt Nulty, Matty Rogers, Matty Russell, Jack Mulligan, Joe Ledwidge, Bill Dillon, Joe Curtis and the Coffeys kept the Meath flag flying until lads like M. Geoghen, M. Rogers, the Nultys, T. Meade, W. Shaw, T. McGuinness, J. Loughran and A. Donnelly be-

gan starring with distinction on Leinster Railway Cup football teams.

Then in 1939, the great breakthrough came and Meath were Leinster football champions for the first time since 1895. And in the All-Ireland final they faced magnificent Kerry and the unforgettable side that won four titles in the five years from 1937 to 1941.

Meath were beaten in that final, 2.5 to 2.3, but the stirring nature of the exchanges and that red baptism of fire proved the spark that set Royal County football really afire, as evidenced in the fact that their winning Leinster tally now runs into double figures—and they have three All-Ireland wins to their credit—1949, 1954 and 1967.

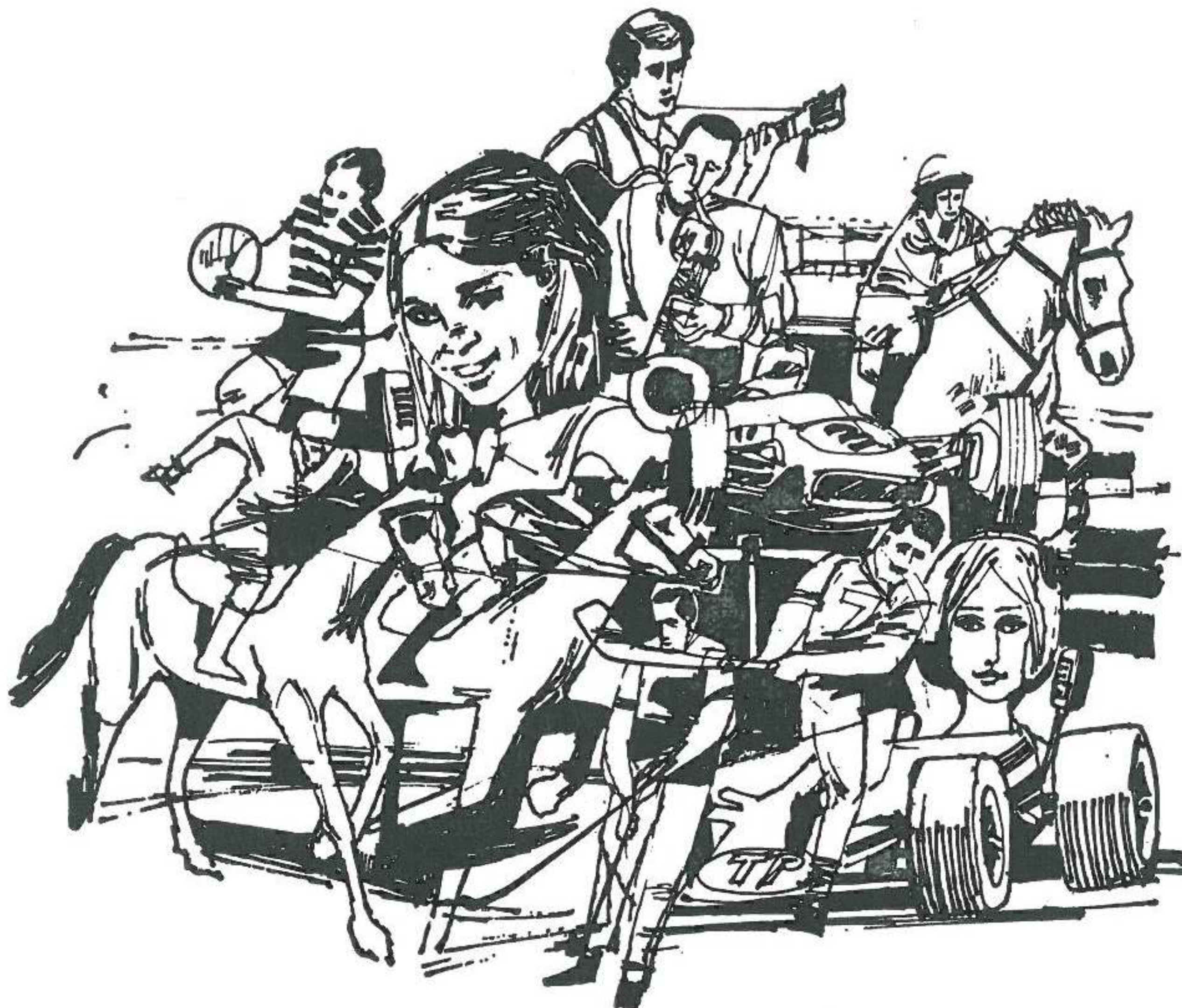
The men that blazed such a glorious trail in 1939 included such renowned footballers as "Boiler" McGuinness, Tony Donnelly, Joe Loughran, Ted Meade, Matty Gilsean, Christy O'Reilly and schoolboy Kevin Devin.

Meath were beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final of 1940 and 1947, but two years later we saw them dispose of Mayo to gain a passport to their third All-Ireland final—and the lucky one, for they beat Cavan, 1-10 to 1-6 amidst incredible scenes of jubilation.

The rest is modern history, except to toast some of the men who were to the fore in the 'forties and led up to the great breakthrough — J. Kearney, J. Clarke, P. McDermott, F. Byrne, P. Meegan, K. Smith, P. O'Brien and W. Halpenny.

Meath celebrate their coming of age as All-Ireland champions this season, and nobody could think of a better way of marking the occasion than by a victory over Kerry in an All-Ireland final.

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important part in the support of so many of the sporting and
other community activities which are bringing pleasure and benefit
to people in every part of Ireland.

Player-Wills



Michael O'Hehir

Recalling the Polo Grounds Final

I HAVE seen my own share of All-Ireland football finals, good, bad and indifferent, but the funny thing about it is that the one I recall most vividly was the one I never saw at all. And that, of course, was the 1947 final between Cavan and Kerry beyond at the New York Polo Grounds.

Even to-day, when teams and players go shuttling over and hether across the Atlantic like bees between the hive and a hedge of honey-suckle, I'd hate to try and persuade Central Council to transfer the football final to New York. So you can imagine how, when the idea was first put forward after Roscommon and Kerry had played a draw in the 1946 decider, the idea of staging the replay in New York was considered beyond the realms of possibility.

But when the matter was raised again in December and January of 1946 and 1947, people began to talk about it—even though most of the talk maintained the whole thing was a pipe-dream.

The driving force behind the whole scheme of playing the final in America was the late Mon-

signor Michael Hamilton who believed it would forge a great link between the Irish at home, and the Irish Exiles, and the children of the Exiles and the grand-children of the Exiles.

After all, as Monsignor Hamilton pointed out, 1947 was the centenary of the black Famine Year of 1847, and a most fitting time to pay tribute to the memory of all those who had to fly from the Great Blight and the Great Hunger.

But it wasn't all plain sailing, because there were a lot of people who maintained the whole idea was impracticable, and there were also people who maintained that only for the folks who stayed at home there would be no All-Ireland at all, and therefore we should keep it at home.

Anyway, in the heel of the reel, a motion came forward to Congress and the general opinion was that the motion would not be passed.

I was at the morning session of that Congress myself, and I was so convinced that the motion would be defeated that I left the debate in the Council Room, under the old Hogan Stand and

went up 'on deck' to watch the Connacht hurlers win their only Railway Cup title by defeating Munster,—Christy Ring, Jack Lynch and all.

And then someone came up to say the motion had been passed after all, and the football final was fixed for America!

But that was only the start of the saga. First General Secretary Paddy O'Keefe and Connacht Secretary Tom Kilcoyne, God rest the two of them, sailed off to America on a fact-finding mission and reported back that, although it fell short of the regulation measurements, the only feasible place in New York to play the final was at the Polo Grounds, then the home of the New York Giants baseball team.

Since then the builders have moved into portions of the Polo Grounds and the Giants have moved to San Francisco, leaving the New York baseball scene to the Yankees and the Mets.

Anyway, Central Council, after a rather lengthy meeting, decided to settle for the Polo Grounds, although the opposition to the whole project was still strong in certain quarters.

Once that definite decision was made, it put real 'jizz' into the championship that year,—I can tell you. There was even a rumour early on that the teams that reached the final could bring their own band with them, so we had bands a plenty at some of the earlier games.

But we also had the crowds, and we had tremendous spirit and dedication among all the teams that made every match worth seeing.

We had also, of course, a fair share of surprises along the way, but most of all in Leinster where

● TO PAGE 53

Gouldings keeping Ireland fertile





JACK QUINN

The Meath captain

JACK QUINN, with his spectacular and pulse-raising football, is giving the truth to an old adage that "history has a habit of repeating itself". Whether or not he realises the ultimate ambition in every footballer's career, that of climbing the Hogan Stand steps for the Sam Maguire Cup, his place among the game's elite is now undisputed.

The high, sure-fielding in a classical mould, lengthy kicking, and all out effort inevitably at a time like this also invite comparison with one of the greats of Meath, Paddy O'Brien, who was at full-back in the team that beat Cavan for the county's first All-Ireland senior final win in 1949, and was still there five years later when Meath beat Kerry on only the second occasion these counties battled for the Sam Maguire Cup. It was as a midfielder, however, that O'Brien first came to prominence.

That is how history has now repeated itself so startlingly in the case of Jack Quinn. It was as a defender, admittedly, that the current Meath captain captured the inter-county headlines when, as a mere 18-year-old, he distinguished himself at full-back and left-full in the Meath outfit that won the county's last All-Ireland junior title in 1962.

Early in 1963, the Kilbride man was promoted to the senior county side, but as a midfielder.

He amply repaid the selectors for their confidence. Within a short time his work had the stamp of authority and in 1964 he played a leading part in bringing the Leinster crown back to Meath after an absence of ten years. He was also prominent in the All-Ireland semi-final failure to Galway.

Those were stirring days for Meath football and also for Jack Quinn, days during which his flair, ability and determination quickly shot him to a position of eminence in one of the most demanding roles of all. It is all the more a measure of his great natural talent and dedication that when a new challenge was presented in 1956 he soon mastered it in the same assured way in which he tackled the midfield job of work.

There have been many examples of a footballer or hurler struggling to find his feet in one position, finding almost stardom overnight as a result of a switch

of positions. But it takes something extra special in the make-up of any player to enable him to match a high-ranking reputation in one position with as good a ranking in another role.

There is always the danger here of a player falling between two stools. A couple of disappointing showings in a new berth after regular class performances in another could send the player concerned back to his original placing with morale and enthusiasm deflated, and that could be the start of a decline in standard in a part of the field where he once reigned as a master.

Since Jack Quinn took over at full-back from his brother, Martin, in the Meath squad late in 1965, however, his football has remained at a consistently high standard . . . a standard that has kept him one of the most reliable links in the side. Time and again he has also put that extra special touch to his work, like in a masterly display against Down in the 1966 All-Ireland semi-final, a workmanlike-performance in the 1967 final win, a game in which he held Con O'Sullivan scoreless from play, and that full-back display par excellence against Galway last month.

Jack Quinn is the youngest of three brothers who have served Meath so well. Standing 6 ft. 2 ins. tall, he was a star at midfield in Kilbride's win over Skryne last December for a third county senior title. He has also won minor, junior and intermediate county medals with his club and has been honoured by Leinster. And, of course, as well as that All-Ireland senior medal gained in 1967, he put his great talents on parade to good effect for Meath during their never-to-be-forgotten Australian tour.

O'CONNELL

**The
essence of
his
greatness
is
simplicity**

By PHILIP RODERICK



Mick O'Connell

THE essence of Mick O'Connell's greatness is simplicity. There is no involvement at all in the man. Life for him, one suspects a little enviously, is a matter of blacks and whites, with the other colours only incidental.

By our present, jet-age standards O'Connell is almost a recluse. He lives a quiet, aloof, perhaps even monastic life on his remote, lonely but beautiful kingdom of Valentia, where he asks nothing more than his right to enjoy a simple, immensely satisfying life with the people he loves most and the surroundings that mean so much to him.

His opportunities to leave the island have been many. But O'Connell stays on. Valentia is where he wants to be and there he will remain.

He brings the same philosophy of simplicity into football. For him it is always the game—nothing else. He plays it with an enduring, consuming delight, always seeking out his own perfection, concerned more with the satisfaction of a job well done, rather than the possibility of any material rewards.

One senses so often that for O'Connell, a club game in Cahirciveen or Killarney could be

equally as important as an all-Ireland final at Croke Park or a National League final in New York. The game is the thing, each hour to be relished as it comes.

Nowadays his main opponent on the field in any game is his own legend; nowadays each performance he gives is judged on what he has done before. But O'Connell almost certainly, could not care less. He plays because he loves football, a game is a game and when one finishes, there is always another to come.

I doubt that anyone will ever really know Mick O'Connell. A

magnificent law into himself, he is O'Connell—the one, the only, the incomparable O'Connell.

And how extraordinary it is that this simple, uncomplicated man from the island of Valentia should exert such an unusual influence over all of us—those of us who are interested in sport and those of us who write about it?

For some reason, I see O'Connell as a modern-day "Matt the Thresher", Charles Kickham's great hero, whose pride in the little village of Knocknagow aroused an unknown strength to beat the English captain in the hammer throw.

For O'Connell, the conflict, one suspects, is the same. He plays his heart out for Kerry and through Kerry, for the little island of Valentia, his home, his people and his life.

O'Connell has played many wonderful games for Kerry. Yet the two moments I recall most vividly about him had nothing at all to do with the actual playing of the game.

Just think back to last year's all-Ireland final. For days the papers had been full of O'Connell. Would he play? Would his muscular injury keep him out of the final against Offaly?

The uncertainty lasted up to those few remaining minutes before the final began. Thousands of Kerry eyes were fixed firmly on the wire gate at the end of Croke Park. There was the rising volume of a cheer when the first green and gold jersey was seen. A little more cheering as the Kerry men appeared—one by one. Then, suddenly, there was a pause. Then just as suddenly a roar of exultation that echoed and re-echoed all over Croke Park. O'Connell was there.

There was hope, relief too, in that expression of joy by every

● TO PAGE 20

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Kerry supporter. In that moment, too, I often think that Offaly knew they were not going to win an all-Ireland that year.

Even more recently was the All-Ireland semi-final against Derry. I can still sense the surprise, the shock, the numbing despair that swept through the Kerry supporters when O'Connell limped off the field in the fourth minute.

The despair seemed to run through the Kerry team. They fell away and for ten minutes, they were demoralised, worried, even frightened. The guiding hand was gone, who now was there to lead them?

Is there a Kerry supporter who saw what happened during the next ten minutes or so—out on the field? Eyes were too firmly fixed on the Kerry dug-out where O'Connell was having treatment.

Came the murmur of excitement. Someone pointed to the goal line. There was O'Connell, ready again to come into the game. The day could be saved. Even the Derrymen, rampant at this stage, must also have sensed this.

And, of course, in the second half, we saw a new Kerry team, brimful of confidence and streaking away to a towering win.

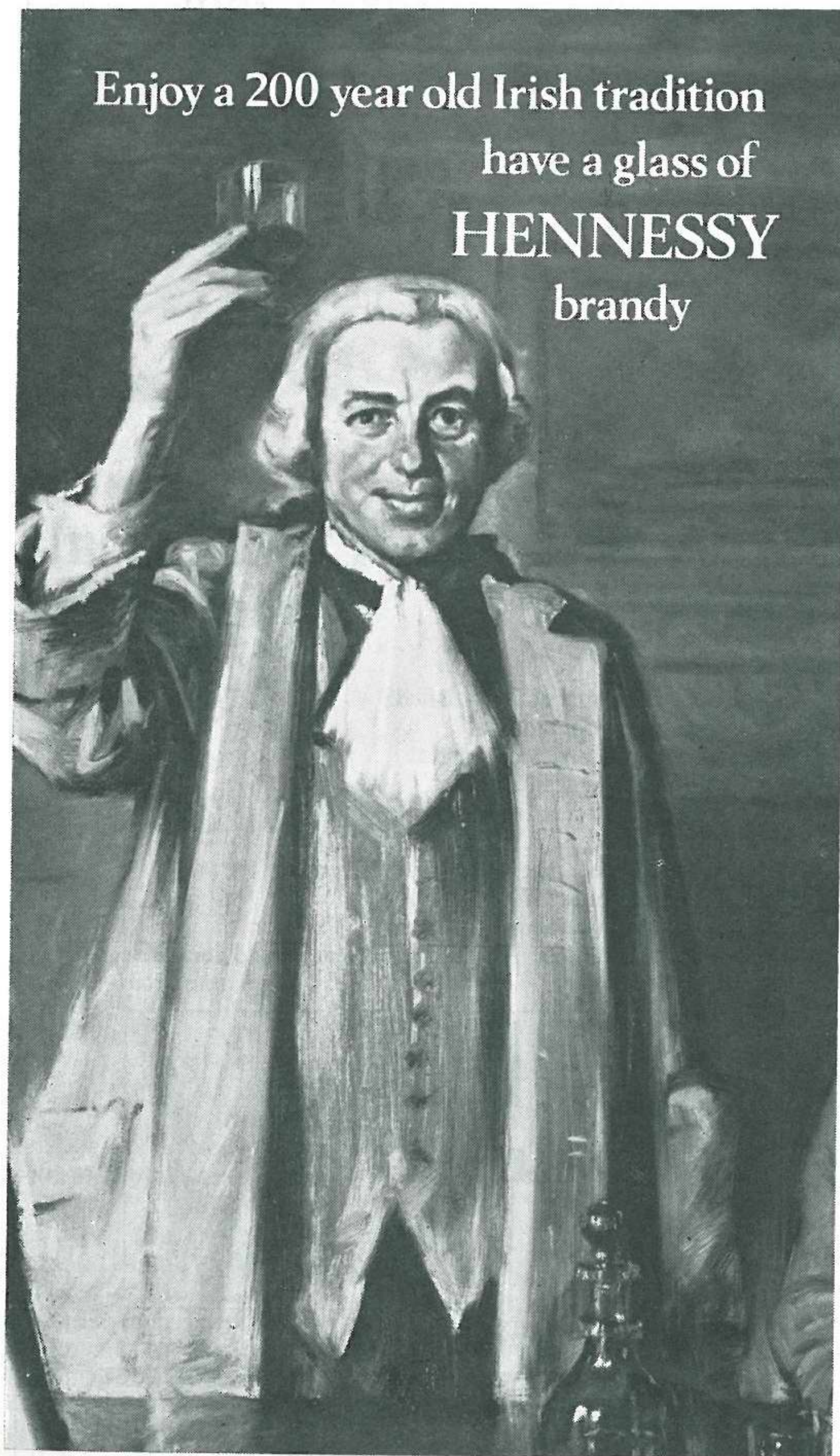
Other Kerrymen may have played better that afternoon at Croke Park—but it was O'Connell's day. Nothing is surer in my mind.

And now Kerry are through to the All-Ireland final against Meath.

Who will win it?

With O'Connell in his present form and with Kerry playing so well up to the standards he wants always, I can see only the one result.

Kerry and O'Connell—all the way.



I TAKE KERRY

SAYS EAMONN YOUNG

"KERRY would beat the pick of 'em."

That's what several people said outside Croke Park after the Meath-Galway game.

"Meath will never hold Kerry."

And that's what they said when Kerry wrapped up that big young team from Derry.

I've been so often wrong and the job of analysis depends on so many unreliable factors that I can seldom go really firm in a choice.

Yes, I think Kerry will win it and they are entitled to public favour as a result of their recent record. But aren't we underestimating Meath?

Frankie Byrne, Meath's classy forward of their champion '49 team talked to me of the Meath make-up as we sat on the grass in the Gormanston sun.

"There is probably a greater percentage of the population

working on, or connected with the land," said Frankie. "This breeds a quieter, tougher and slower-thinking man. I don't mean a dull man, but a more meditative type. Business, teaching, personal relationships mould a more volatile and sophisticated person. But football — especially over eighty minutes — demands rugged strength of mind as well as body and that's why any team from Meath, even if it doesn't look well, is very hard to beat."

Eloquent Frankie flowed along full of digressions, maxims and deductions, but it was the opening statement that set me thinking. He's probably right!

Look at what Paddy Downey from Schull—a man who has always looked under the surface to discern character—wrote in "The Irish Times" after the semi-final.

"Meath football teams have never been particularly noted for style or polish; they have achieved distinction at the highest level on many occasions nonetheless. A combination of strong, durable physique, unconquerable spirit and a generous proportion of workmanlike skill has frequently been the basis of championship successes. Those qualities, supplemented by superior fitness, were again demonstrated at Croke Park recently when they scored a well-deserved win over Galway in the first of the All-Ireland semi-finals."

Were Meath bad against Galway? I think so. First, Galway were pretty weak and, in spite of this, could have won it. Remember Sean McCormack's great save as he charged down Tommy Keenan's kick? And remember that Galway struck timber three times. Yet, Galway were only a shadow of the teams we knew. Does that, then, make Meath poor?

Meath let in five goals against Offaly but none against an off-day Galway sextet. The Meath backs generally were strong and sound though it would be mad-



P. O'Donoghue
(Kerry)



D. J. Crowley
(Kerry)



S. McCormack
(Meath)

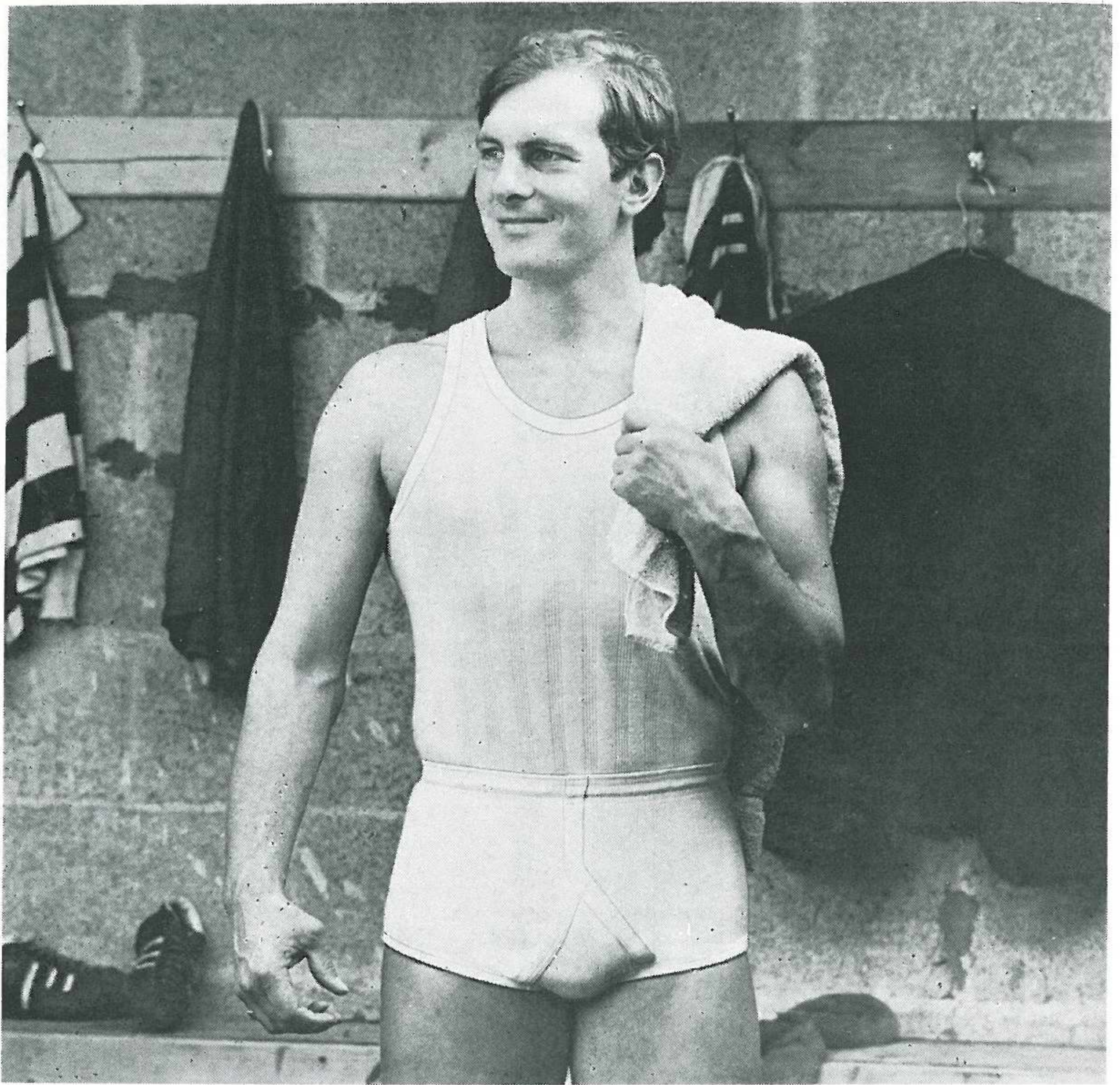


M. Kerrigan
(Meath)



T. Kearns
(Meath)

● TO PAGE 23



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● FROM PAGE 21

ness to forget the run-around Bertie Cunningham got in the first half from Tommy Keenan. Meath forwards had two wides and four points against the strong wind in the first half and were led by four points at half-time.

In the second half they kicked a total of fifteen wides, a number worthy of comment for they shot eleven points also. The Galwaymen kicked out the ball twenty-six times in the second half to Meath's nine. That about shows the Leinster supremacy. One can be sure that such lack of economy will certainly lose the All-Ireland for Meath. But who says the extravagance is going to be repeated?

That nine points defeat by Offaly in the Player Cup final is no cause for extra Meath confidence. Yet, these Meathmen are in their third final in five years; they're nobody's fools; they field well and have the power to retain possession; they don't combine as well as Kerry, but nobody does, and all they need to make it rough on any one is to get on target.

Kerry have not been tested in this championship and neither Limerick, Cork nor Derry are in their class just now. Maybe they are not as good as many say but they look good. Bad opposition, in my view, has made them look better. They won't look quite so well on final day, I think, but the team that will beat them must be travelling.

Kerry are champions and, which is more important, they



P. Griffin
(Kerry)



L. Higgins
(Kerry)



M. Mellet
(Meath)



M. White
(Meath)



M. Fay
(Meath)

feel it. As a Munsterman I want them to win but I'm not at all as confident as most people.

Brendan Lynch, because of exams, Eamonn O'Donoghue, recovering from injury, and Din Joe Crowley, who hasn't reached his fitness peak have not been good this year but then Seamus Murphy, Paud O'Donoghue and Donie O'Sullivan all suspect until then, changed a shaky last line to a reasonably solid fundamental in the Derry match.

Kerry, a team of pace, talent and style, reveal as the eighty minutes unfold a masterly poise born of champion experience. Meath's solid hitting and sure fetching will ruffle them—but for how long? No one knows. My guess is that Kerry will draw away towards the end.

To look quickly at the sides one cannot say that Sean McCormack is a better goalie than John Culloty, who won his first All-Ireland fifteen years ago, as a corner forward. So if Johnny plays in this final he will almost equal Danno Keeffe's spell in the goal, which started in 1931 and finished in 1947, after seven All-Irelands. Not bad for a Corkman!

Sean McCormack's save against Tommy Keenan must be balanced against his first-timer that cannoned off the Galway forwards and nearly finished in the goal.

Meath's fullback line of Mick White, Jack Quinn and Bertie Cunningham (who was first class in the second half of the Galway game) will certainly give the Mick O'Dwyer-Liam Higgins-Mick

Gleeson trio a hard hour. Six good players here and if Jack Quinn's outstanding fetch doesn't interfere, Kerry have a right chance.

Olly Shanley, Terry Kearns and Pat Reynolds combine strength, courage and ball-playing ability. Reynolds had two exhilarating block-downs in the Galway game.

Eamonn O'Donoghue, Pat Griffin, who was good in the second half of the Derry game, and Brendan Lynch will, on present form, be in trouble here, and it will depend on the Mick O'Connell-Din Joe Crowley ability to turn the key in the lock. If they can wear down the two Vincents, Lynch and Foley, by their perpetual motion and class football then the Kerry forwards, tightly held perhaps, will move away in the last twenty minutes, and off play or dead balls should chalk up, perhaps not as many points as they have been getting, but enough to come home in front.

Tom Prendergast, a great worker, John O'Keeffe, improving by the hour, and Mick O'Shea, a powerful half back, will be well tested, I think, by Mick Mellett, Matt Kerrigan and Tony Brennan, all strong and fast, and if they combine with Ken Rennicks, Joe Murphy and Mick Fay as well as do their opponents the job of Seamus Murphy, Paud O'Donoghue and captain Donie O'Sullivan would be harder.

So it's Meath's strength, fetching ability, spirit and durability against Kerry's class.

I take Kerry.

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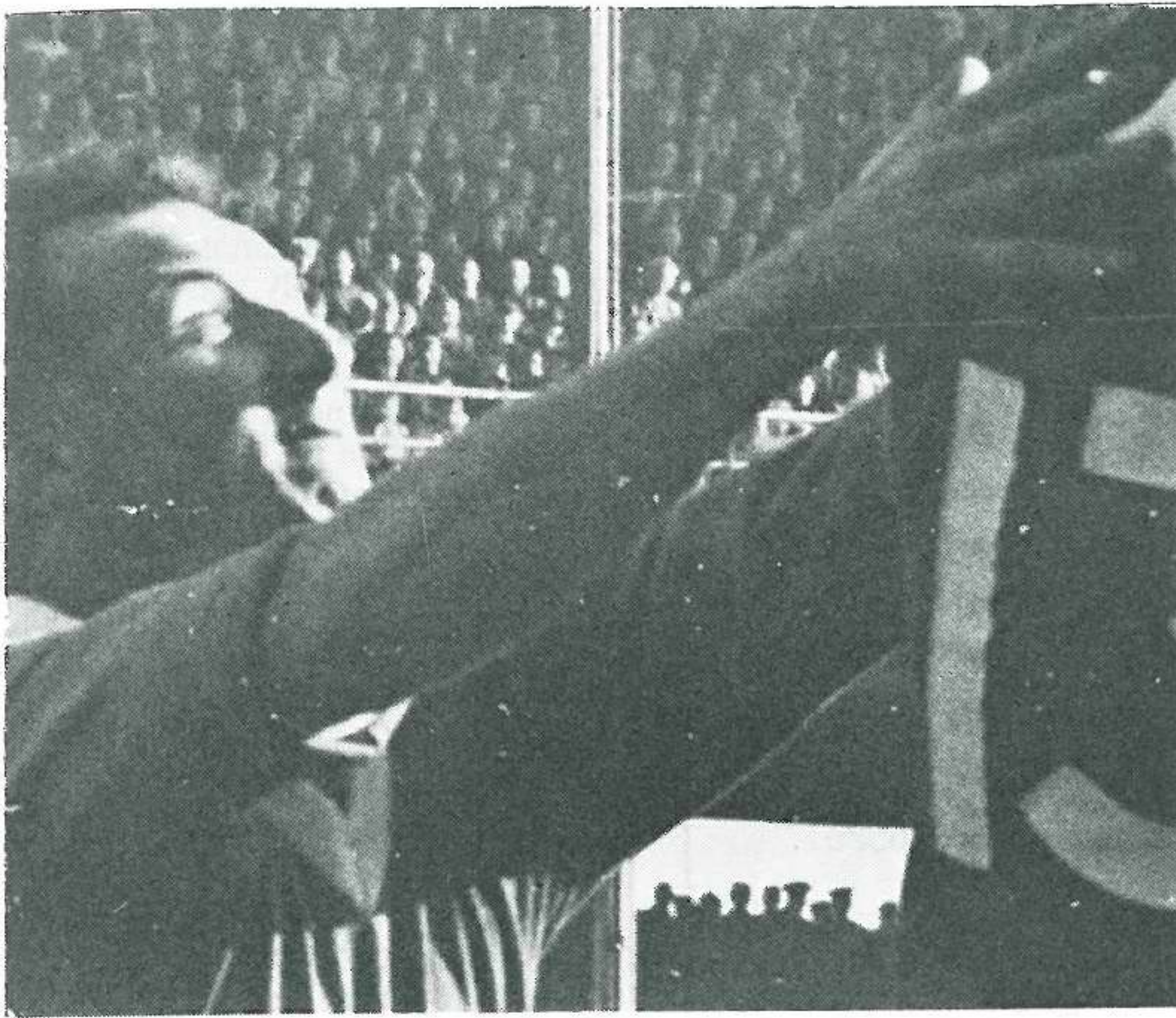
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● SEAMUS MURPHY . . .
 Kerry's man of many
 positions, forward,
 midfield or corner-back.
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By JAY DRENNAN

ations of Kerry footballers since his 1955 corner-forward days to his present completely trusted goalkeeping, it is less than fair not to mention Murphy.

In many ways the most complete of all the Kerry footballers, he emphasises par excellence a point which Kerry often make—that a good footballer is a good footballer, and that is that. There are occasionally such men as naturally command a particular position and fit into it. But, if a man is good enough as a footballer, Kerry often make the point that it does not matter very much where he plays. Murphy has been forward—at wing or corner forward—at midfield, at centre-back and corner back. The complete footballer.

In the evening of his career, though it may well be a long-drawn out one, his form at corner back probably reflects the lessons learned further afield. It is obvious that there are very few new tricks he can be shown, and the knowledgeable way he reads and interprets the game and its shifts give him a great head-start in outsmarting the corner forwards he opposes.

Seamus Murphy, naturally, suffered by comparison with Sean—the stylist of all stylists in the right half-back position, who is always remembered for the completeness of the display which he gave in the final of 1959. But, in the end of the day when it comes to computing the marks, the football of Seamus may have

● TO PAGE 26

The incredibly serviceable Seamus Murphy

EVERYBODY marvels at the continued brilliance of Mick O'Connell; they exclaim at the veteran ingenuity of Mick O'Dwyer; comment favourably on the reflexes and concentration which Johnny Culloty maintains at 34. But, how seldom they comment on the incredibly serviceable Seamus Murphy!

While one has to admit the essential quality of O'Connell's genius to Kerry teams for nearly 14 years, and that O'Dwyer was a wonderful half-back, centre-

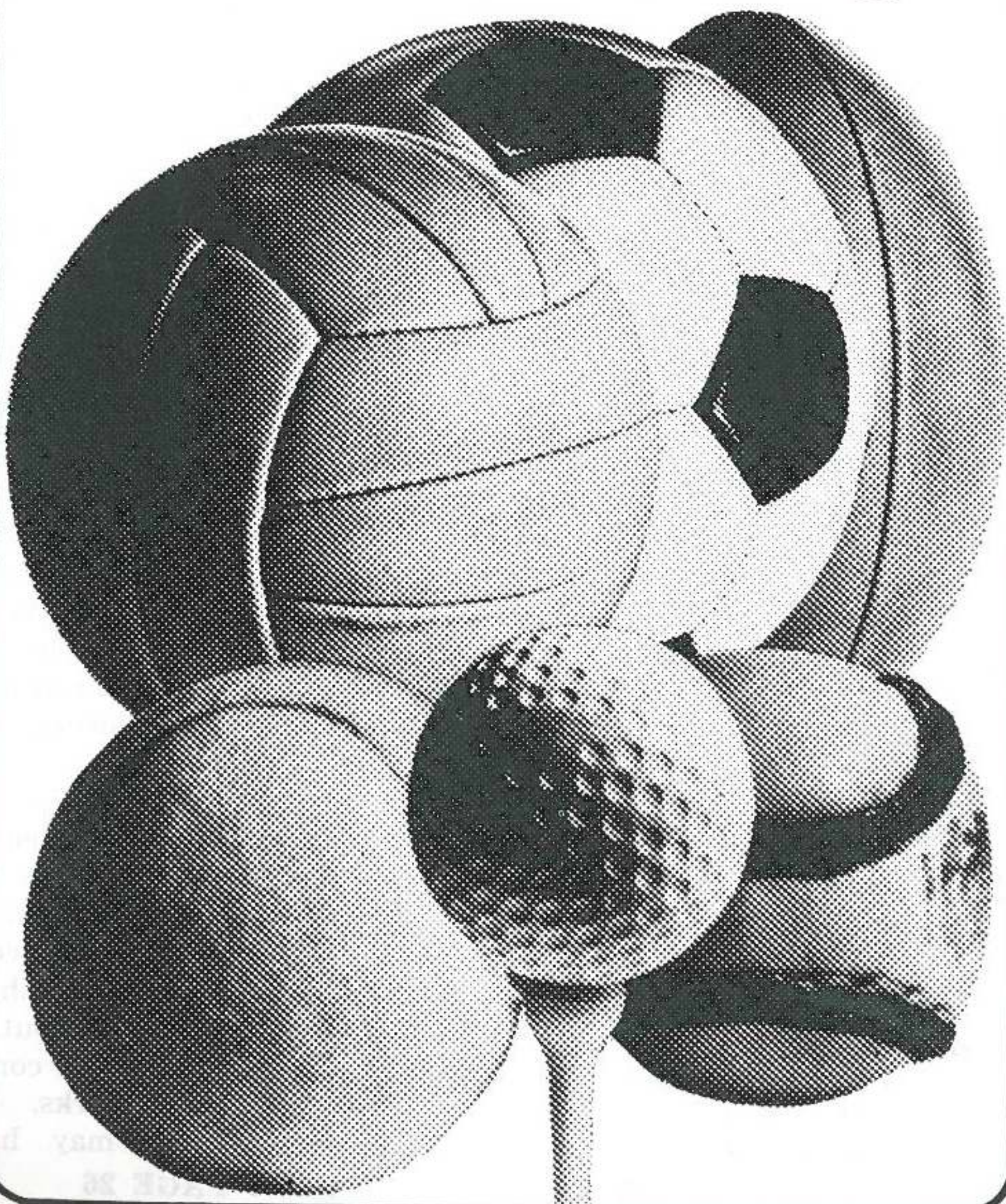
forward and corner forward in a career which was more than one man might feel obliged to contribute to his county, and that Culloty links over several gener-

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● FROM PAGE 25

been less spectacular but hardly less valuable to Kerry.

Murphy's thatch is thinning a little, he is a bit thicker in the beam, but his fitness is remarkable and his stamina unquestioned. Noticeably, he is always the one going strongest even in the end of unfortunate games like that against Down in 1968.

Short in the leg and sturdy, his low centre of gravity has made him twice as fast in the corner back position, for he can twist and turn and change direction with remarkable speed for one who goes by the classification "veteran."

With his experience outfield the corner-forward who tries to rove away from his clutches causes him no embarrassment: he is completely confident in moving outfield to cut off an attack. More than once, in the Derry semi-final, it was noted that when Mick O'Connell was in tight corners at midfield, it was Murphy who was steaming up behind to take a back-pass and drive the Kingdom to attack.

The cover across goal by him in that Derry game was also noteworthy and the areas which Hugh Niblock traversed to escape his clutches proved fruitless as Murphy hustled everywhere. The most remarkable clearance of his in all that match was probably the smothering of Sean O'Connell's attempted goal-shot in the middle of the second half, which he took out cleanly and set up an attack for his own side.

Keeping fit and working at his training all year round, of course, is what makes it possible for Murphy to mix it with the best of them, even those a dozen years younger. Even when it looked last year as though he would not find a place in the team, he seized the opportunity the moment it was presented and proceeded to show how indispensable he was in the corner back position.

THE PLAYERS

WHO

KEEP

THE

FLAGS ALOFT

By OWEN McCANN

TONY BRENNAN and Mick O'Dwyer may colour the All-Ireland final with some new scoring achievements. The Meathman, in fact, has already smashed one record and could end up with two more top-class distinctions to his credit.

In four outings so far Brennan has scored 0-28. This is no fewer than nine points up on the previous best by a Meath forward in the championship standing to the credit of Jimmy Walsh at 0-19, also in four games, in 1964.

No Meath man has yet headed the national championship scorers' chart, but Brennan seems destined to set that right in the final. He is in second place, three points behind Tony McTague (Offaly), who has 1-28 from four games, and his match average is seven points.

The Meath sharpshooter, who last month won a Monaghan senior medal with Castleblayney Faughs, will have to treat every scoring opportunity with the mood of miser, however, if he is to break Charlie Gallagher's record of 3-29 (38 points), which the Cavan man set up in five games in 1965. The Leinster peak

Mick O'Dwyer, top scorer for Kerry.



was put up by Tony McTague last year, when he shot 1-34 (37 points) in six games.

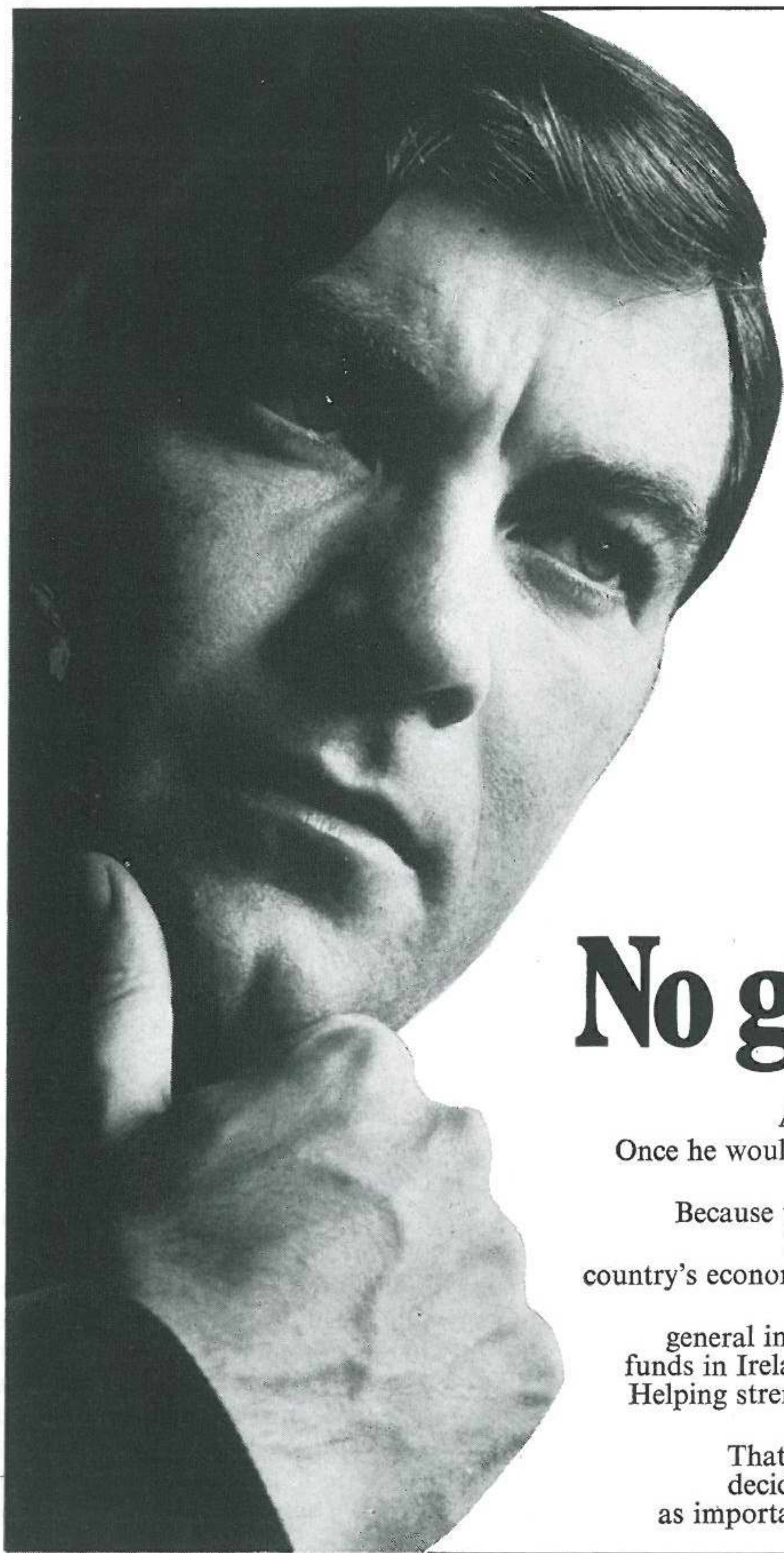
O'Dwyer is joint fifth in the chart with 0-21 from three games. This is still only good enough to put him second in Munster, two points behind Denis Coughlan (Cork), whose grand score of 3-14 (23 points) in two games earns for him at 11.50 points per game a new high in the match-total stakes. The record was shared at 10.50 points by Brendan Hayden (Carlow) in 1962, and Mick Tynan (Limerick) in 1967.

Kerry's scoring ace needs eight points to improve on the county record held jointly by Tadhg Lyne and Dan McAuliffe. Lyne cracked home 1-25 in five games in 1955 and McAuliffe

4-16 in four matches in 1959. Each took second place in the nationwide chart in the year concerned; a position no Kingdom footballer has since improved on.

O'Dwyer is in much more prolific scoring form than in the 1969 championship. In the four games on the way to that title he shot only 0-12 to finish in joint 13th position. His present score is a personal best for the series (next comes his 0-19 in four ties in 1968), and even a mere two points in the final would give him the outstanding score by any Kerryman since 1959. The county's championship peak for the 'Sixties was 3-13 (22 points) in four games by Bernie O'Callaghan in 1965.

● TO PAGE 29



No go for Vince

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● FROM PAGE 27

Only three players have headed football's table more than once, with Ollie Freaney (Dublin) having a record all his own in that he led the way over three separate seasons—1955, 1958 and 1959. Paddy Doherty (Down) was out in front in 1960 and 1968 and Charlie Gallagher in 1965 and 1967.

Leinster finishers have the best record. This will be the eighth separate year for a footballer from the province to take the premier spot. Ulster come next with five representatives, while yet another year must now go by before Munster finds a place in the leading positions.

One of the most surprising features of the tables is the lowest score. Dublin is a county that for long excelled in classy forward play and one would have expected some high-scoring feats in the year of their last All-Ireland title win in 1963.

Yet, although the Metropolitans played five games in that run, Mickey Whelan's modest enough total of 1-20 was still good enough to earn for him a two points over-all lead. That year's chart makes strange reading these days—a Leitrim man, Cathal Flynn, at No. 2 with 1-18, and a Donegal footballer, Harry Laffrey, in third place at 2-10.

The best score recorded by one player in any championship

game in the period under review is 6-3 by Johnny Joyce (Dublin) in a match with Longford at Mullingar in 1960 in the first round of the Leinster series.

That game put the recent Leinster final (Meath 2-22; Offaly 5-12 for a total of 55 points) in the shade, scorewise. Over 60 minutes compared with the 80 minutes playing period

in the Eastern final, the game produced 60 points, that Joyce record, and one of the biggest winning margins on record at 26 points. The score was Dublin 10-13; Longford 3-8.

The best individual score in an All-Ireland final since 1955 is 2-5, achieved by Frankie Stockwell in Galway's 1956 triumph over Cork.

THE SCORING CHART



Tony Brennan

IN the following table we show the top scorer for each campaign since 1955, starting with the best championship score for the entire period, and ranging on through the list to the lowest total.

Pts.	Score	Games	Average	Year
38	C. Gallagher (Cavan)	5	7.60	1965
37	A. McTague (Offaly)	6	6.16	1969
35	P. Doherty (Down)	6	5.83	1960
33	O. Freaney (Dublin)	5	6.60	1959
33	H. Donnelly (Offaly)	5	6.60	1961
30	O. Freaney (Dublin)	6	5.00	1955
29	P. Doherty (Down)	5	5.80	1968
28	J. Timmons (Wicklow)	3	9.33	1957
28	C. Dunne (Galway)	4	7.00	1964
28	O. Freaney (Dublin)	5	5.60	1958
27	C. Gallagher (Cavan)	4	6.75	1967
27	S. Purcell (Galway)	5	5.40	1956
25	P. T. Treacy (Fermanagh)	3	8.33	1966
25	Don Feeley (Roscommon)	4	6.25	1962
23	M. Whelan (Dublin)	5	4.60	1963



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PAT REYNOLDS

A PROFILE : By JIM BENNETT

THERE is, of course, something thrilling and uplifting about the footballer of genius: his failings are forgiveable, his lesser phases understandable; for his flashes of genius excuse all. But there is something of the whole imperfection of the world and human nature in the footballer of genius: we recognise, and I suppose that is why we glory in it, the high points in all our lives, and the mediocre or downright mean parts, too.

But give me the footballer of character if you want my unstinted admiration: in him I see what I will never be—always trying, always giving a gutsy show, never failing the side, never fallible—and while I cannot guarantee to love him as I do the player of high and low patches, I will admire him with awe.

The quality of Meath has been towards character rather than genius, it seems to me. While one notes the play of Jack Quinn and places some of it near the high-point of inspiration, one also looks rather hopelessly for the human frailty. Quinn is too much a player of character to be a player of genius.

But of all the Meath men there is no one who evokes and exudes the aura of heart and courage and "guts" down to his toenails as does Pat Reynolds. I really do not think you would take him for a footballer at all at first sight in the left-half back

position. The short body and long legs which strut stork-like below.

There seems to be some strange rearrangement of things so that his hips appear from behind to be at equal level with his waist in the front. It is a physical make-up which emphasises every stride he takes as a definite and single act of will; he does not flow along as some footballers and athletes do, but seems to crank himself forward like those old train wheels.

I think the first time I saw him play was in 1954, and though I said that you would not take him much for a footballer, I was rivetted upon him the moment I saw him. For another reason altogether. He reminded me most forcibly of the great Waterford hurler, Tom Cheasty. They are the only two players I have seen with that distinctive high-set backside and stork legs; what's more, Reynolds had a hint of the barrel chest and power in the shoulders, though not so broad-chested a man.

There the similarity ended, of course, for while Reynolds throws those legs forward and oars himself after them with power, Cheasty travelled with a swagger and much shorter stride. But the way Reynolds reminded me of him was striking, and I could not but wonder whether there was here another player with a courage and determination and a heart to match the then declining hurling star.

It proved so. What I could not have expected also proved so—Reynolds showed the same incredible stamina, power and dogged refusal to acknowledge the meaning of the word "tired", and a total ignorance of the existence of the word "enough."

Hard as nails, never giving up, powerful in possession, unshiftable on the move: Reynolds has given wonderful service to Meath since that day, and I have never seen him play a bad match or even a moderate one.

It is not all a question of strength, stamina and character, of course. There is a splendid football talent there; a remarkable judgement of position—for you seldom see him chasing back from a misjudged position, and while he sometimes brings off those astonishing fetches full-stretch with hardly anything touching the ground until he makes a three-point landing, the more notable thing is that he was in a position to reach the ball at all.

Interceptions and cover towards the centre have been developed more strongly; and over the years he has given more attention to those solo-runs up field, regardless of knocks and charges, to rally the team or pull the pattern of the play into place again by giving the forwards time and opportunity to move forward into attacking roles.

It was no mean feat to earn

such a glowing reputation in the Meath defence so soon as Reynolds did, in the company of established men like Bertie Cunningham, Dinnie Donnolly, Martin Quinn, Peter Darby and in direct comparison to the stirring and compelling Pat Collier on the other wing.

The danger nowadays is that his consistency and reliability will cause him to be overlooked. One tends to pass over the left-half position altogether in considering Meath's strengths and weaknesses — it is taken for granted that Reynolds will seal off his area whatever, and will drive up to rally the side back into attack every time it becomes necessary.

Hard work and constancy, bravery which does not know that it is bravery so naturally does it come to him, and non-stop action— these make me admire Pat Reynolds more than I can say. He qualifies for my private description "a hard man"— not the popular idea of "a hard man" who throws a punch, or plays the dirt, or even courts the ludicrous, but one who is really hard, can take a knock and play the toughest game and go on and on and on . . .

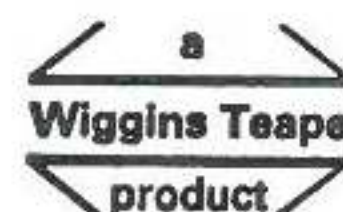
Finally, it must be said that I believe Reynolds has not even thought in terms of rough or unfair play: I do not think it has even entered his head. He has certainly never, in my experience, made the slightest gesture that would suggest he ever had his mind on anything but the ball, how to get at it and how best to clear it. It makes him a fair, but fearsome opponent, a terrier who will not let anything go.

Forwards who play against him respect him as a players' player from whom they have nothing to fear or worry about; but they respect him, too, as an opponent from whom the slightest advantage is seldom obtained.

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THE GOAL THAT CHANGED THE FACE OF FOOTBALL

By OWEN McCANN

WHAT goal of recent vintage can be said to have effectively changed the face of football? A number immediately spring to mind. Sean Kilroy popped home two strong challengers for the ranking in a 1968-69 National League semi-final against Donegal to put Offaly securely on the road to their headline-making performances of last year. Then, in the 1969 League "Home" final, Dom O'Donnell punched the ball to the net for a goal that gave Kerry a 2-7 to 0-4 lead just before half-time and virtually assured them at that stage of a first-ever "Home" final win.

But as Kerry now bask in the strong light of lavish praise, with all behind them the frustrations of three final defeats in the quest for that elusive and much coveted 21st title, and a new flood of enthusiasm and confidence after their current fine championship run, I can't help wondering what the scene would be like today if Liam Higgins had fluffed a last-gasp chance at the Cork Athletic Grounds on an April afternoon last year.

Any goal that wins an important match is a vital one, but it is only now looking back over what has happened in football over the 17 months that have passed that the full significance of the score is realised. Remember the background to Kerry's outing that April day against Cork in the divisional final of the League?

Cork were Munster champions

in 1967, and also All-Ireland finalists that year. They lost the Southern crown in 1968, but looked to be right on the road back following an impressive win over Galway in a League divisional semi-final at Limerick in March, 1969.

So, it was buoyant Cork against a Kerry side still struggling to shake off the effects of defeats the previous autumn by Down in the All-Ireland final and by Galway in the Grounds Tournament semi-final.

But as is so many games in the past, Cork squandered many good scoring chances and a minute from the end the sides were level. Then two late substitutes stepped in to clinch a dramatic Kerry win, Higgins and selector-player Mick O'Dwyer. The Lis-pole man took a pass from O'Dwyer and fired in a fine shot for the match-winning goal.

Kerry have never really looked back since—League and All-Ireland titles, that wonderful world tour, and now on to another Sam Maguire Cup bid.

What would have happened if Higgins had missed that score, after which Cork had time to surge back for a point? Would that 21st title still be a dream, rather than a reality? Would Cork now be nearer to the big prize that has eluded them for so long? And what of Offaly, who strove so valiantly and courageously last year and still emerged only as the Champion runners-up?

We can never know, of course, but it's interesting to speculate. Remember, if Cork had won it would have been Kerry's third successive defeat in the games that mattered most. It seems reasonable to assume that such long-serving campaigners as Johnny Culloty, Mick O'Connell and Mick O'Dwyer, all of whom figured in that match, and Seamus Murphy, not in the side that day, would have been tempted to hang up their boots and make way for new blood. Such important retirements, coupled with the disappointments of three vital defeats would not have been conducive towards building up morale, teamwork and enthusiasm for the 1969 All-Ireland bid.

Higgins's goal changed all that. The score provided the incentive to battle on doggedly, and with each success has come an ever-growing authority and character, culminating now in Kerry playing with pace to a most effective pattern that is making the best use of each footballer's particular assets.

How does the current team compare with the great sides of the past? Again this must remain a matter for conjecture, but I would be prepared to argue that few, if any, Kerry teams boasted so many good points as this combination — and marshalled them all to such devastating effect.

There is the mystique and the

● TO PAGE 34

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● FROM PAGE 33

inspiration of Mick O'Connell. We know that Mick O'Dwyer is the greatest sharpshooter the county has produced; Johnny Culloty's goalkeeping is in the Dan O'Keeffe mould (and there could be no better tribute than that); Pat Griffin is a class player in a vital position; Brendan Lynch and Eamonn O'Donoghue are young footballers walking nobly in a proud heritage.

The newest member of the combination, John O'Keeffe, who was in the Colleges' ranks only a little over a year, loses little in comparison to the longer-serving campaigners.

Admittedly, it is a bit early to start lauding his talents, but the manner in which he has belied his years with his intelligent football leaves little doubt that he is destined for greatness.

Over and above all, however, the Kerry men, who, like all sons of the Kingdom, do the basics not just well, but quickly and determinedly with a no-nonsense approach that is a classic example to all, are rounding off their brilliant talents with smooth co-ordinated play.

It would be an over-simplification to place much of the share of the credit for Kerry's now proud ranking on that Liam Higgins goal of 17 months ago. That green flag would have meant little more than a match-winning one for Kerry had it not been backed up by dedicated effort by trainer, players, officials, and above all by the ability of the Kingdom footballers to take their goals and points with precision in subsequent games.

Nonetheless, that Higgins score must remain one that has had an amazing influence on the history of football. When will we see another one that will prove to have equally as far-reaching influences?

THE KERRY-DERRY MATCH AS SEEN FROM A HOSPITAL BED

I WAS unfortunate enough to be in hospital at the time of the second All-Ireland football semi-final between Kerry and Derry. Still, I was well enough to be able to watch and perhaps enjoy the game from my bed.

For a few days beforehand I was looking forward to the clash. The newspaper critics were unanimous in their opinion that Kerry would march forward to the final. While fancying Kerry myself I gave Derry a fair chance of upsetting the odds.

Along came the day of the big match and with an interesting enough minor game completed, all was set for what we hoped would be a thriller. My eyes were glued to the television set as I waited with eager anticipation. I took a quick look around to observe the activities of my fellow patients. Certainly the absence of the usual big match atmosphere was felt. Nobody was wearing coloured hats or rosettes, most of those watching appeared to be doing so because there was nothing else to do, while one young uninterested man chose to read a book through it all.

Anyway, back to the game itself and once it got under way we realised that Derry were determined to do well. They also showed us that they are no mean exponents of Gaelic football. During that opening half it looked as if Kerry were really going to have their hands full. The Ulster champions' defence wasn't giving much away, their midfield pairing was particularly effective, but it was their forwards as we know now, who were really letting them down.

The Derry men could have, and should have, been at least nine points clear at the interval. Add on three points for that second missed penalty early after the break and we would have had Derry twelve points in front.

Certainly, if the Northerners had taken all their chances up to that stage, Kerry would have had one hell of a task trying to pull back their lead. Still, ifs and buts never win games and after that second missed spot-kick Derry appeared to throw in the towel.

Indeed the Kingdom forwards were picking off their points with such a regular monotony in the closing stages that I felt like walking away long before the final whistle. But you just don't do those sort of things with a fractured leg!

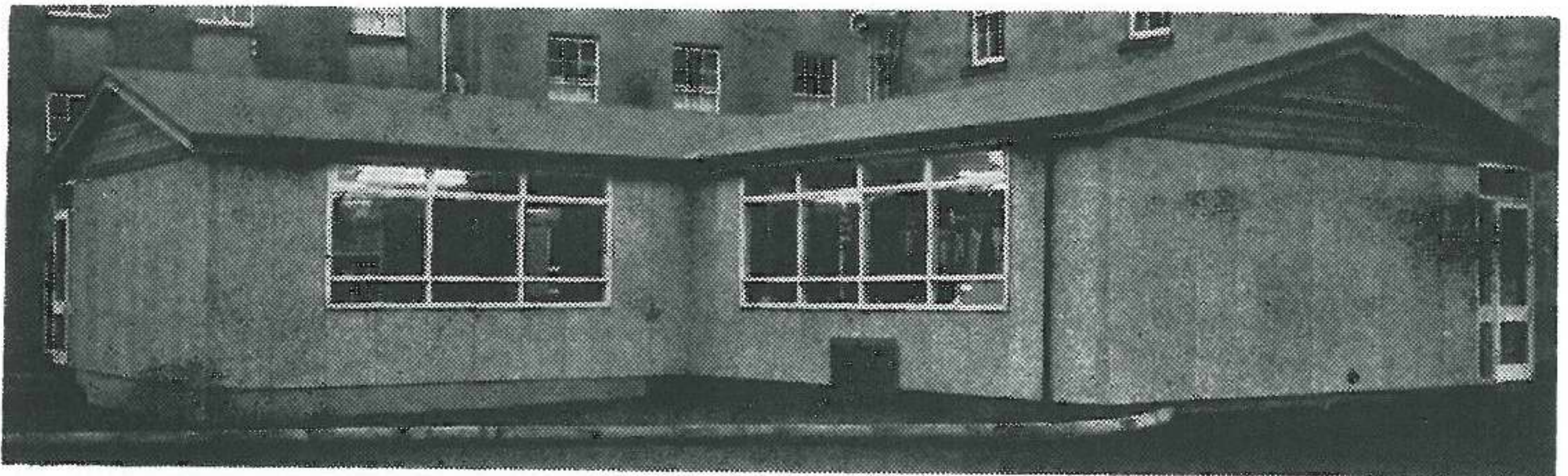
Now for my overall impressions of the game. Kerry proved in the first half especially that they are by no means invincible. Their defence looked particularly suspect and had there been a more competent front line opposing them then the champions could have been in dire straits.

The Derry forwards did not appear to possess the know-how to split a defence open and neither were they capable of taking long range points.

They also tended to overcarry to an annoying degree and this is one fault that will have to be rectified if Derry are to succeed next year where they failed this year. But similarly Kerry will have to step up on their semi-final showing if that 22nd title is to be theirs.

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The Minor Final

A STIRRING APERITIF

By NEIL MAC CAVANA

WHAT price Kerry and Galway marking their first-ever meeting in an All-Ireland minor football championship final with as stirring an aperitif as we have had in years on football's premier day? The odds look good for there was much to admire about the quality of the football, and the talents of the boys of both counties in their All-Ireland semi-final wins over Derry and Dublin respectively.

Kerry's reputation as one of the specialists of the minor grade has been somewhat tarnished in recent years. The county has not appeared in the concluding round since 1965, when Derry won their only championship in the grade, and it is seven years since the kingdom beat Westmeath for their last title to join Dublin on top of the Roll of Honour with seven successes.

Since then the county's only teenage national final win was forged by St. Brendan's, Killarney, in 1969, when a team captained by current senior centre-half John O'Keeffe took the Hogan Cup for the Colleges' championship to the county for the only time.

Kerry supporters, however, are now quietly confident that the present company of dashing starlets will end the long wait in the shadows. And not, it must be said, without justification, for the combination has handled all the challenges presented in a workmanlike and impressive manner.

In these days when so many

teams are lacking in forwards accurate in finishing, Kerry have in all six positions youths who can take their scores in expert style. They have had a high scoring march to the final, with Jimmy Murphy being a particularly efficient unit in the scoring machine with a splendid total for the series so far of 2-6.

Murphy and strong-running Gerry Power, the team captain, and son of former Limerick and Munster hurling star, Jackie Power, form a potent left flank of attack that could prove the real key in opening the door to the title.

Paddy Brosnan, son of legendary Paddy Bawn Brosnan, who strikingly underlined his class and great finishing shot with a brilliant goal against Derry, and the other attackers will pose also plenty of problems for the Galway backs.

Paudie Lynch provides a strong midfield link between attack and defence and he can also pick off his scores; he has landed 1-7.

The rearguard is well-organised and topped off by the individual brilliance of Paudie O'Mahony, cool and competent in goal, Michael O'Sullivan, a hard-working centre half with a good sense of position, and Jimmy Deenihan.

I rate the Galway team the best I have seen from the West for some years. They may not have reached great heights in the win over Dublin, but I was still greatly impressed by the methodical and intelligent way they went about their work and

also by the power of their attack.

Here they have in John Tobin the type of clever and accurate finisher, who could take a grip on this final and prompt his team to the county's first title since 1960, when a side that included such as Enda Colleran, Seamus Leydon and Noel Tierney won only the Westerners second championship.

This young Tuam footballer moves well both on and off the ball, can engage in situations away from as well as close to goal, and is sharp in his shooting. He had 2-1 from play against Dublin, and also did not miss a free in pointing seven times from placed balls.

Michael Rooney and Joe Lardner are other potential match-winners in this alert, swift-moving division that chalked up 9.35 (62 points) on the way to the decider.

In defence, John Kemple, Alfie Marren and P. J. Burke display drive and flair and will prove big stumbling blocks to the Western goal. With the other posts also all capably manned, scores are also likely to be hard earned at this end.

A notable feature of the win over Dublin was the solid, "professional" work at midfield of Peter Silke and Tom Connor, which must be of great comfort to Galway fans as they await the final.

So, for this bid to maintain a good finals record, Galway could hardly be better armed and

● TO PAGE 40

CLUICHÍ CHEANNAIS PEILE

Le SEÁN Ó DÚNAGÁIN

I MBLIANA siad fóirne na “Ríoghachta” agus “An Chontae Rioghda” atá sa chomhlint don chluiche ceannais peile. Chomh maith leis na leas-ainmneacha úda ar na dá chontae is

ionann dathanna na ngeansaí acu, beagnach.

Is cuimneach liom an chéad chluiche ceannais peile dá bhfaca mé, i 1939, ba idir An Mhí agus Ciarraí é freisin. B’shin

é an chéad uair ariamh do mhuintir na Mí bheith sa chluiche ceannais. Tháinig foireann Chiarraí amach gléasta in bán-agus-dearg (beagnach cosúil leis an ngeansaí atá ag foireann Dhoire) an lá sin—dathanna na gcuráí chontae is cosúil. Is cuimhin liom gur tháinig Jim Kearney ar ais ar fhoireann na Mí tar éis do bheith eirithe as an imirt ar feadh scathaimh fhada. D’imir sé sár-chluiche i lár na páirce ach ag deire bhí an lá leis na Ciarraighigh.

Tá riail nua ann anois faoi fhóirne ag a bhfuil na dathanna céanna agus imreoidh Ciarraí i ndathanna na Mumhan (gorm) agus An Mhí i ndathanna Laighean (glas). Seo é an tarna bhliain as a chéile a imreoidh Foireann Chiarraí sa gheansaí ghorm mar i 1969 bhíodar in aghaidh Uí Failí a chaitheann geansaí le cuid mhaith glas ann chomh maith.

Chonaic mé foireann na Mí deich mbliana ina dhiadh sin ag sarú na Cabhánaigh (1949) nuair a bhí foireann An Chabháin ag lorg na dtrí gcrabhb leantach óir ba churaithe iad i 1947 agus 1948. Lean cuid mhaith den fhoireann sin na Mí ag imirt gur ghnóthaigh siad an tarna chraobh i 1954. Ar ndóigh b’fhoireann ur-nua ar fad a gnóthaigh an triú craobh i 1967 agus tá cuid mhaith den fhoireann sin ag imirt sa chraobh-chluiche i mbliana.

Ar fhoireann 1949 bhí duine de na lán-tácaithe ab’ fhearr ariamh ag An Mhí eadhon, Paddy O’Brien ach is beag duine gur chuimhin leis gur imir Paddy i lár na páirce do Chuige Laighean (taobh le do scríbh-

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neoir) i 1948 agus gur ann a d'imríodh sé d'fhoireann na Mí ar feadh tamaill mhaith.

Tá Johnny Culloty mar chúl-báire ar fhoireann Chiarraí i mbliana; is ann a bhí sé i 1960 nuair do bhuaigh foireann An Dúin an chéad chraobh do chontae ar an dtaobh ó thuaidh den teorainn.

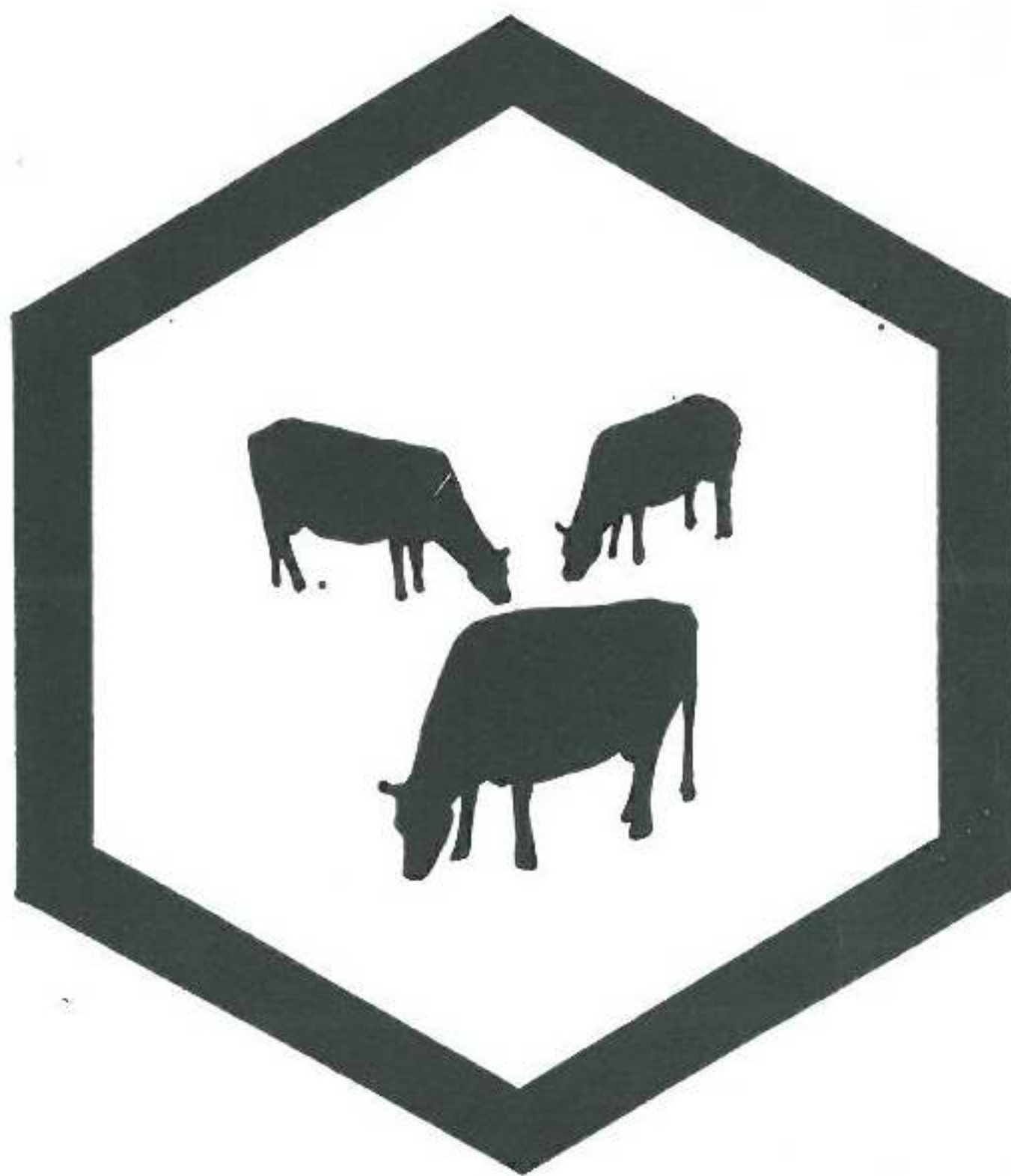
Rug Johnny bonn na hUile Éireann leis, an bhliain roimis sin, mar THOSACH agus sárthosach a bhí ann, chomh maith. Ach is dócha nach ndeanfaidh sé dearmad go deo ar an chéad chúl a gnóthaigh foireann An Dúin an lá úd i 1960. Cic ard, fada, triaileach ag Jim McCartan ón taobh-líne, lámh le Ardán Uí Chiosóig, a bhí ann; bhí sé ar a laghad seasca slat ón chúl. Ní raibh éinne ag súil leis; bhí tosaithe An Dúin agus a gcéilí comhraic achar maith amach ó chúl Chiarraí ag ceann bhóthar iarainn na páirce. Ní raibh duine ná deoraí i ngiorracht Johnny agus an pheil ag teacht anuas chuige; chuir sé an dá lámh anáirde chun an pheil a cheapadh ach chlis air greim a choinneál uirthí agus thuir sí taobh thiar de go mall isteach sa lín. B'shin deire an chluiche maidir le Chiarraí dhe.

Tá go leor léanta ag Johnny ó shin mar chuiteamh d'fhoireann Chiarraí agus é déarfaidh nach eiseann is ciontsiocair as iad a bheith sa chraobh-chluiche i mbliana de dheasca cic pionóis ag Doire a stopadh, go luath sa chluiche leath-cheannais.

Is cuimhin liom an cluiche ceannais i 1963 idir Baile Átha Cliath agus Gaillimh. Bhuaigh foireann Átha Cliath an lá sin le dhá chúilín le sparáil. Ní raibh ach an taon chúl sa chluiche agus is mar seo a thárla. Chuir duine d'fhoireann na Gaillimhe an pheil thar an taobh-líne lámh leis an mbratach ag cúinne na páirce in aice le Hill 16. Cic sleasa do Bhaile Átha

Cliath. Ní MÓR CIC SLEASA A GHLACADH ÓN ÁIT AR IMIGH AN PHEIL AMACH ach thóg an maor-líne an pheil ar ais ocht nó naoi slat go dtí an líne 14-slat. Is ón bpointe sin a tógadh an cic agus cuireadh an pheil caol díreach treasna chúl na Gaillimhe áit ar ropadh isteach sa lín é de bhuile dhoirn ó Gerry Davey. B'shin é an taon chúl sa chluiche agus is é an cúl sin a bhuaigh an craobh do Bhaile Átha Cliath.

Na cuimhní is mó atá agam le deich mbliain anuas ná: an chéad chraobh buaithe ag An Dúin i 1960 agus cailín ón Tuaisceart taobh liom agus í ag lorg eolais faoi'n chluiche fhaid a bhí na mionúir ag imirt; na trí craobh as a chéile ag foireann na Gaillimhe; an breis is 90,000 duine ag an craobh-chluiche i 1961 idir An Dúin agus Uí Failí; an taonú chraobh fichead buaite ag Chiarraí i 1969 ar lá chomh gaothmhar is a bhfaca mé ariamh.



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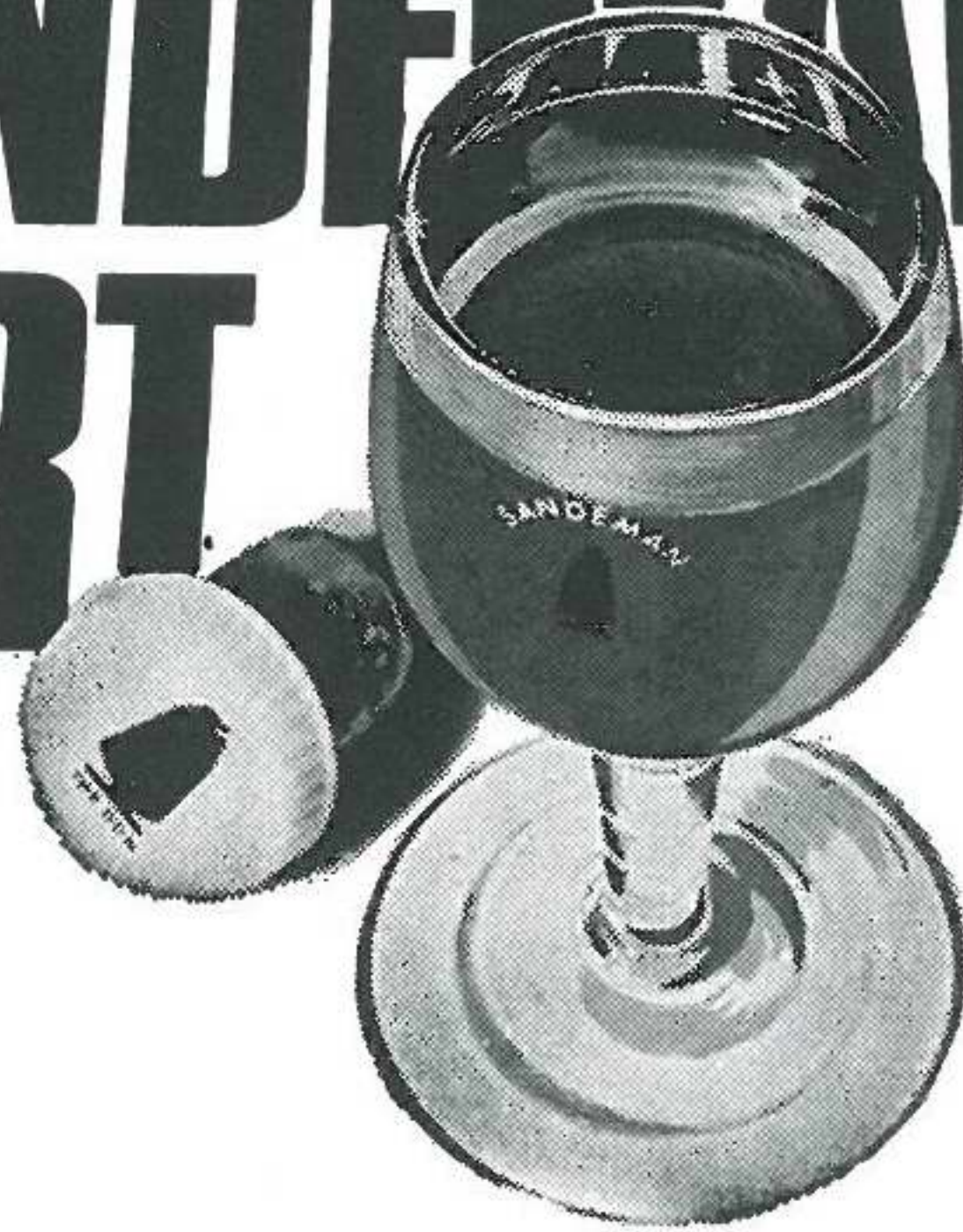
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● FROM PAGE 37

their chances must be rated highly. Galway are one of six counties (Roscommon, Tyrone, Meath, Offaly and Derry are the others) with the perfect record in finals. Their first appearance was in 1952, when they beat Cavan.

Kerry lead in final appearances with 12 between 1931, when they won at the initial attempt, and 1965. They have met Connacht teams only twice — 1933 and 1962, and beat Mayo each year.

A Kingdom hat-trick now? I have great regard for this Galway side and I confidently expect they will be right in touch all the way; but I've still a hunch that Kerry's defence will do just the better job in silencing the opposing big guns and so it's the Kingdom to bring up the first leg in their bid for a minor-senior double, last achieved in 1962.

Kerry also won both titles in 1931, 1932 and 1946. No county has completed the double since 1962, and Munster made it a provincial two-timer in this regard last year through Cork minors and Kerry.

The Tom Markham Cup for the minor grade last crossed the Shannon in 1966, following a Mayo victory over Down. The trophy, which commemorates the memory of a Dublin Gael, Mr. Tom Markham, and was presented by the Central Council, was first won by Roscommon in 1941.

The first All-Ireland final was in 1929, when Clare beat Longford. Kerry and Dublin, with their seven titles each, are followed in the winners' list by Cork with four. Roscommon, Mayo, three each; Galway, Louth and Tyrone two apiece; and Clare, Derry, Armagh, Meath, Offaly and Tipperary with one crown each, complete the tally.

JUNIOR DESK

CUT-OUTS



MICK O'SHEA
(Kerry)



PAT REYNOLDS
(Meath)

A new column
for the
younger set

DEvised AND WRITTEn

By **JACK MAHON**

WOULD you believe we are six months on the road with **Junior Desk**. Time flies. I'm sure you have noticed that it fills three pages now and we have more than enough now for four pages this month. So please, Editor, give us four this month—at least!

The "Mailbag" gets bigger. Many more photographs are coming in. There will be a prize for the best letter next month. Details in the Mailbag section.

Once again I'll ask you to keep the letters short. Write on one side of the page only and, if you are sending on a photograph, make sure it is a good clear one.

This is the All-Ireland football final issue and the Editor has

asked me to select two footballers as CUT-OUTS. We had promised a camogie CUT-OUT. So next month we'll have two girls.

Perhaps you, girls, would write and suggest your favourite camogie stars. I have my own favourites. But you may be able to twist my arm.

This month's cut-outs are, in my opinion, the two best left half backs playing football to-day. Pat Reynolds of Meath knows only one word when playing football—ATTACK. Every time he gets the ball he is off and the opposing defence had better watch. But he isn't the first great man Meath had in that position. Back in the 'forties and 'fifties they had another great character

playing there named Christo Hand.

Kerry's Mike O'Shea, with that shock of wavy hair, is one great defender. Long kicker, high catcher, great positional player (know what that means?—if you don't write and ask me). Mike is terribly strong and like his Meath counterpart, Pat Reynolds, is as sporting as they come. All great players are clean and sporting, with one or two exceptions.

Just watch these two players on All-Ireland day. Both are as tough as nails, yet I've never seen either man involved in unsporting or dirty play.

At the Kerry v. Derry semi-

● TO PAGE 43

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● FROM PAGE 41

finals this column of ours came in for much discussion with some of the people I met. A former President of our Association, Alf Ó Muirí, of Lurgan, Co. Armagh, is most interested in us.

So is Fr. Linnane, trainer of the St. Brendan's (Killarney) football team. What did I tell you at the start? We couldn't stop the OLDIES reading us!

Joking aside, we are glad they are taking notice of us and of what we say.

Elsewhere in this section you'll read a letter from Pádraig Ó Fainín, Uachtarán C.L.G.

In a future issue I intend to present a list of books on G.A.A. games which can be bought by clubs for G.A.A. libraries. I want to tell you, too, of an annual outing for a group of Armagh youngsters organised by a most enthusiastic bunch of lads from Armagh.

They go to Gormanston College for a week. For one thing, the young lads themselves help to earn the money to pay for the hurling course. What a week they have, too. I'll be off now—see ye all at the All-Ireland. Don't forget to see the Minor game.

From the Mailbag

THE "Mailbag" gets bigger and bigger. We have now reached the stage where we can print small extracts from letters. But keep on writing. Make the letters short and we will give a prize each month for the best letter. The most interesting letter next month gets a prize of one guinea.

Here are extracts from the letters received since last month. Thanks for the nice photographs, too. Keep sending them.

Joseph Hayes, Clashreigh, Kilbrittain, Bandon, Co. Cork. —

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"GAELIC SPORT" as a magazine for the G.A.A. generally, fills a great need in the Association in the field of publications. In its editorial policy — always constructively critical — format, colour and content, it is a magazine of which we can be proud. I am happy to place that on record.

But these few words are not addressed to the adult readership of "GAELIC SPORT". Here I wish to talk with the growing number of very young people, boys and girls, who are reading—and writing—"Junior Desk", with Jack Mahon in the background as deviser, commentator, editor, the lot.

"Junior Desk" is an innovation in G.A.A. journalism. It deserves to succeed, and it will succeed, if you young people continue to make it your very



Padraig O Fainin

own, your open forum, in which you can express your views and your needs, and—this is important—give us older people young ideas.

I congratulate Jack Mahon and all of you on the success of your venture. Keep up the good work. Our great national Association and our wonderful Gaelic Games will be the richer for your combined efforts.

Guím Rath Dé ar "Junior Desk" agus oraibh go léir.

PÁDRAIG Ó FAINÍN
Uachtarán, C.L.G.

● Go raibh míle maith agat, a Phádhraic. We never expected such tributes from our President and we are glad that in Pádraig Ó Fainín, as President, the G.A.A. has a man who realises the value of catering for the Irish youth. Many thanks again. (J.M.).

"I enjoy Junior Desk. Have 30 issues of Gaelic Sport. I play under-14 hurling and football for Kilbrittain. Our club colours are black and amber. My favourites are Con Roche and Pateen Donnellan. Have a Quiz in your column".

● We will introduce a Quiz in a future issue. But that means more space from the Editor—and that's more trouble (J.M.).

Martin McDonnell, Rea, Berings, Co. Cork.—"The 'Name the Players' competition is very interesting. The prizes are good, too.

I play for Inniscarra H. and F. club under 16 and under 18 hurling and football. My brother, Pat, is the current Cork hurling full-back. Tomás Ryan is also from our club. I play handball as well and have played for Cork in the Tailteann games. My favourite player is Ray Cummins—a great dual performer".

● You are shaping like another Ray Cummins yourself, Martin (J.M.).

Tadhg Sheehan, Rock Mills, Kildorrery, Co. Cork.—"I am very fond of hurling. My uncle Tim trains the London hurling team.

● TO PAGE 45



Fit **KILKENNY** Remoulds

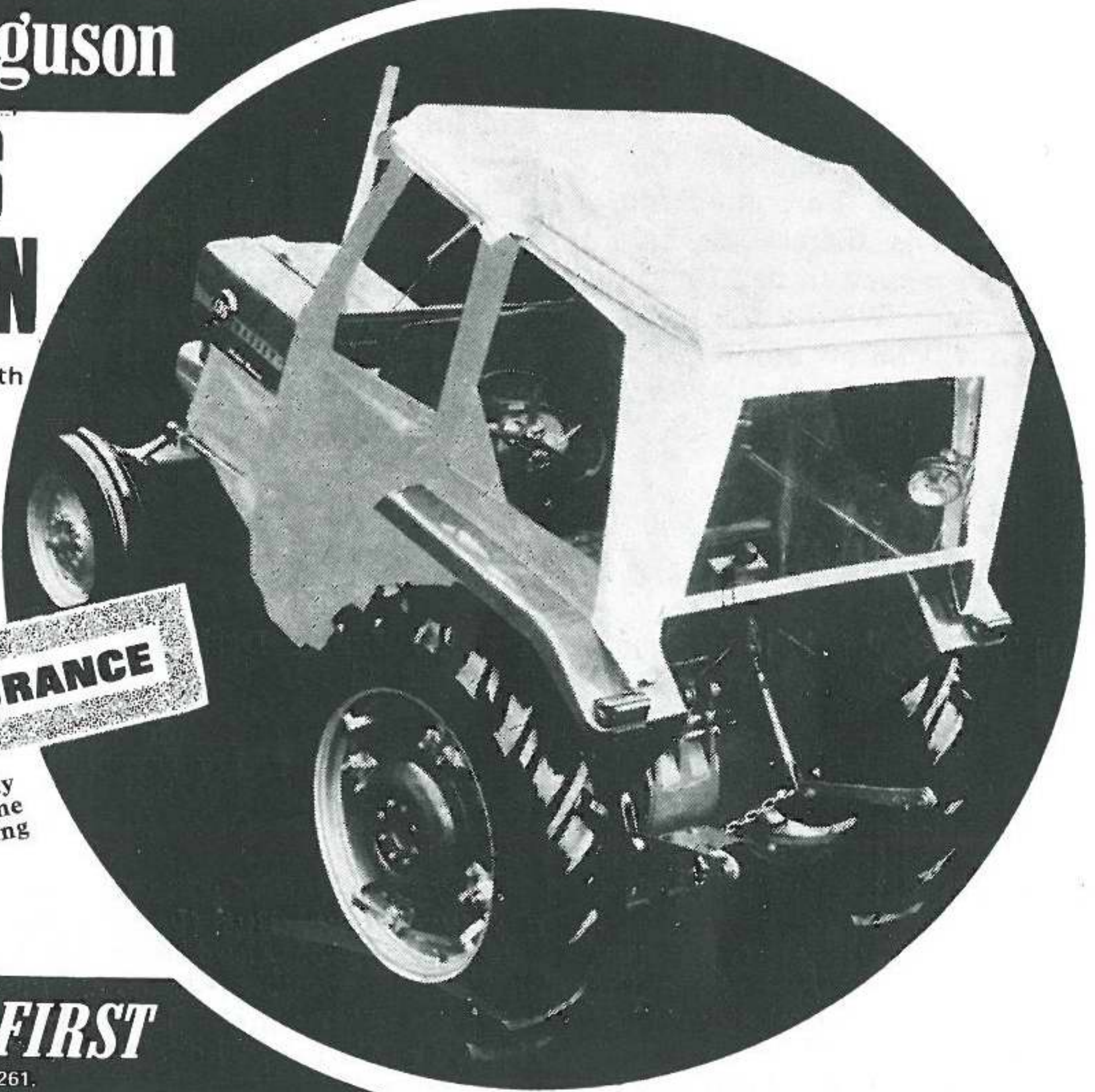


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● FROM PAGE 43

I have two more brothers and two sisters”.

● *You'll be as good as your Uncle Tim yet, Tadgh. (J.M.)*

John A. Hodnett, Skibbereen Road, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork.—“I enclose my photograph with the competition”.

● *A nice one, too, John (J.M.).*

P. J. O'Brien, St. Gerard's, Ballyfoyle, Galway (Age 11½).—“I am an Irish step-dancer and a musician. I got second place in the Connacht Fleadh Ceol with the harmonica. I have four more brothers and I go to school in St. Patrick's”.

● *Keep up the Irish dancing and the harmonica, P. J. I wish I could do both as well as you (J.M.)*

Leo McGough, Browne's Hill Road, Carlow (Age 10).—“I am in



GERRY O'SHEA

... won Cusack Stand Ticket!

no club, but I would like to be. We have a league in our school. Our team lost in the semi-final this year and last year too”.

● *You'll win it out next year D.V., Leo. (J.M.).*

Michael Nolan, Carrigslaney, Kilbride, Co. Carlow.—“Could any reader give me a photograph of the Meath teams of 1948 and 1954, names underneath if possible. Also a photo of Galway 1964, '65 and '66. John Donnellan and Mattie McDonagh are my favourites”.

● *Perhaps some readers may be able to help Michael (J.M.).*

Muriel Boyd, 14, Cove Street,

Cork.—“I enclose my photograph. Thanks for publishing my letter in the July issue of **Gaelic Sport**”.

Eileen Boyd, St. Nicholas', 14, Cove St., Cork (age 16)—“I like **Junior Desk**. I have a scrapbook in which I keep the cut-out pictures. I think it would be a great idea if you started a **Gaelic Sport** club and issued members with a badge and certificate for a small fee. My favourite hurlers are Mick Keating, John Flanagan, Noel O'Dwyer, Eddie Keher and Gerald McCarthy”.

● *Your idea of a GAELIC SPORT Club is good, Eileen, and we will certainly consider it. One thing at a time, though (J.M.).*

P. Ronayne, 6, Bishops court Road, Wilton, Cork (10 years)—“Dear Jack, I hope you are well. I play hurling and football for Bishopstown.”

Peter O'Hare, Ryan, Mayo-bridge, Newry, Co. Down.—“Enclosed my photo. Sorry it is so small”.

Noel Byrne, 19 Lennox Park, Portobello, Dublin, 8.—“**Gaelic Sport** is great. **Junior Desk** is a grand idea. I am 12 years old. Keep up the good work”.

Sean and Maura Furlong, Kilmacleague, Dunmore East, Co. Wexford.—“I am five years old and my mother is writing this letter for me. My sister, Maura, who is 10 years old, and I go to school in Dunmore East, four miles away. I go to a lot of hurling matches with Daddy. So does Maura”.

Ultan Bennett, c/o Treasure Chest, Eglinton Street, Galway.—“I said hello to Mick O'Connell when he was playing against Mayo here in Galway. My favourites are Liam Sammon and Jimmy Duggan and Mick O'Connell. Does Mick live on an island?”

● *Yes, he does, Ultan, Valentia Island, to be exact. That is a nice photo of yourself and your sister (J.M.).*

Peter Madigan, Kilballyowen, Cross, Ennis, Co. Clare (age 13).—“**Junior Desk** is great. I would like to see photos of Jimmy Smith, Jack Quinn, Pat Cronin,



Leo Murphy, the former Down full-back, whose picture is published at the request of Peter Madigan, of Kilballyowen, Co. Clare. Peter's letter appears in the Mailbag.

Paddy Doherty and Leo Murphy. I play hurling and football with my club, **Shannon Rangers** and would like to play for Clare when I'm big. Give us more than two cut-outs each month and bigger photos, too”.

● *We will have more than two photos this month. (J.M.).*

● **TO PAGE 47**

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TADGH SHEEHAN
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Frank Murphy, 22, Dromhall Park, Killarney, Co. Kerry (Age 11).—"I play with the Killarney Crokes under-14 team. In goal I play. I've played for two years now. I never let in more than six goals in a football game".

● Another Johnny Culloty. (J.M.).

Pat Curran, Mannionstown, Strandhill, Co. Sligo.—"I play for Coolera club in the County Sligo under-14 championship. We lost the divisional final last year due to an objection but we hope to win it this year".

● Objections are horrible. Still we must stick by the rules. Especially these days when only those who break the rules seem to receive publicity in the news media. However! (J.M.).

John Jones, Derryoran, Mountshannon, Co. Clare.—"I like Junior Desk and think the G.A.A. should provide a book for Junior Desk readers for about 2/-. Ask

you will be glad to know. Your point about the farmer stars is very good. You forgot to mention John Keenan. The Galway newcomer, Willie Joyce, is a farmer also. Stay on the farm, John. It's the best life of all. (J.M.).

Andy O'Connor, The Island, Newmarket, Co. Cork (Age 15).—"I was glad to see Jimmy Doyle's photo in the last issue of Gaelic Sport. He was a gentleman of hurling. Give us more COLOURED photos. My two favourites are Mick O'Connell and Gerald McCarthy. I think Junior Desk should provide a



A special cut-out of Galway's Pat Donnellan for one of his fans — John Jones of Derryoran, Co. Clare.

booklet with some of the great hurling and football teams of the 'fifties and 'sixties.

"Please put in cut-outs of John O'Mahony, Seanie Barry, Pat Griffin, Pat Nolan. John Keenan.

10001 place not to mind second. The club I follow is Beara (football). There is not much hurling here but that doesn't stop me from following it. I left Glengarriff National School this year and now go to secondary school. Junior Desk is the best in the world, second to nothing especially the scrapbook idea".

● Congrats, Gerry. Hope you enjoyed the hurling final (J.M.).

John Corcoran, 207 Pearse Rd., Ballyphehane, Cork.—"I am 18 years of age and a member of St. Finbarr's Hurling and Football Club, Cork. I read Gaelic Sport every month and was delighted to see Junior Desk starting. This year our club is starting a G.A.A. library. I would be very grateful if any of the readers of your column who have old G.A.A. books would send them to me".

● Delighted to see yet another club starting a G.A.A. library. Every G.A.A. club should have one. But hold it, John, don't expect too many readers to send on old books to you. If you wanted to exchange some books, that would be different. There is a new book due any day now by the former Meath star, Peter McDermott entitled "Gaels in the Sun." Make sure to have this in your library and of course GAELIC SPORT and Junior Desk (J.M.).

The winners of this month's "Name the Player" competition were Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare (13 years), who receives the first prize of a Hogan Stand ticket for the All-

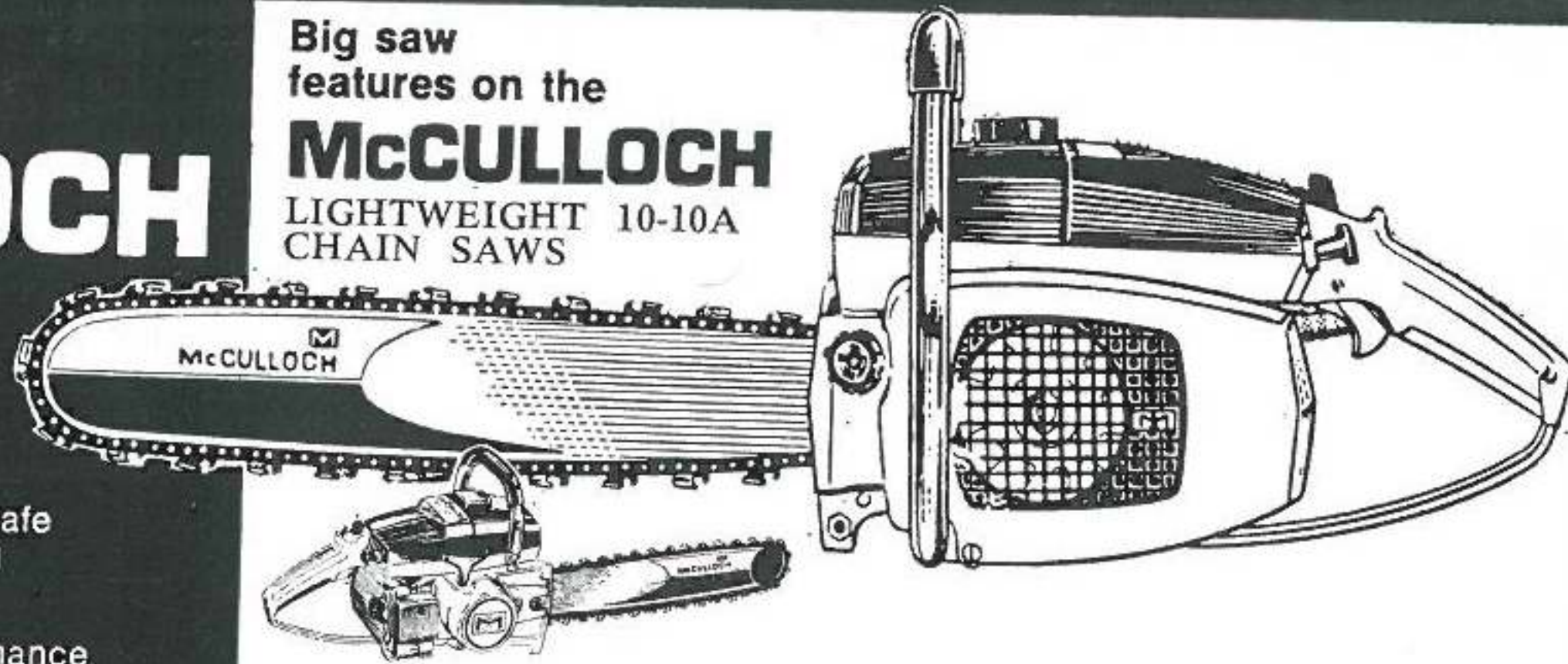
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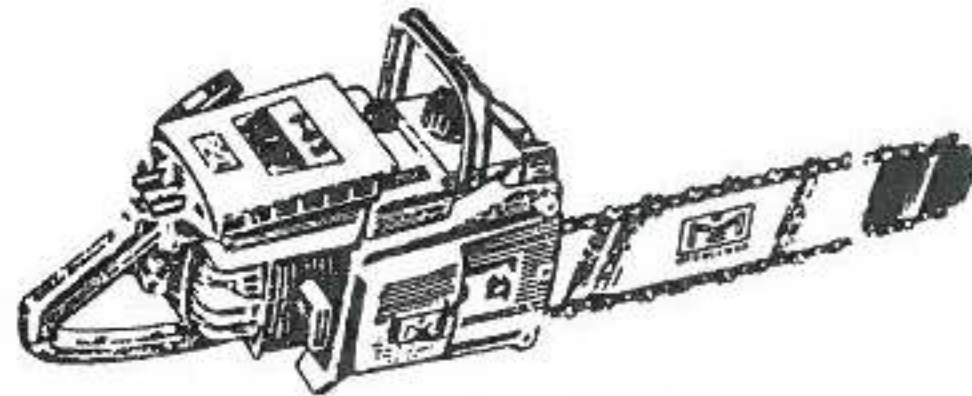
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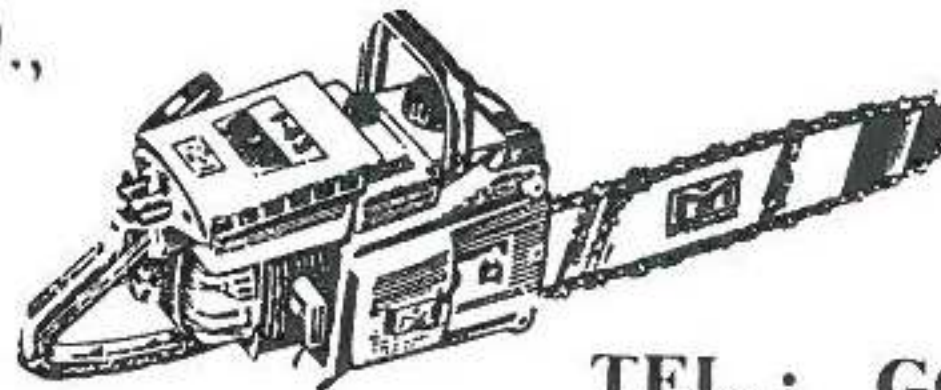
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TRIAL... AND ERROR

By DAN McAREAVY

WHEN Kerry and Meath meet in this year's All-Ireland final there will be more at stake than deciding "Sam Maguire's" residence for the next 12 months; the whole concept of the 80-minute game will—or at least ought to be—subjected to its most searching examination.

But first let me declare my interest. From the first hint that the playing time in our plum games should be extended I have opposed the move. Nor is there any consolation in suggesting that on the evidence so far my worst fears have been justified.

On the football front is it not fair to state that, of the four provincial finals and two All-Ireland semi-finals played under the new dispensation, only the Meath-Offaly epic really justified the extension as far as spectator interest was concerned?

When the Rules Revision Committee "stop-watched" last year's drawn semi-final between Cavan and Offaly to reveal that the actual playing time amounted to 28 minutes I claimed that, unless the rules were overhauled, any increase in time would simply protract the spectators' boredom.

"Does the new law mean that now there will be 40 minutes 'lost' time?" I asked, before sug-

gesting, "Far better, surely, to eliminate the causes of the present wastage in our games rather than take the easy way out by extending the playing time. The remedy prescribed seems strangely at odds with the patient's complaint."

I have not the figures for the provincial finals before me but the "vital statistics" for the All-Ireland semi-finals give little boost to the "selling" possibilities for Gaelic football.

In the Meath-Galway clash there was the staggering total of 135 stoppages—60 frees, 33 wides, 25 scores, 12 side-line kicks and four hopped balls.

If between 17 and 18 seconds are allowed for each stoppage—and according to my watch many of the kick-outs from goal following scores and wides took a great deal more—we find ourselves with over 40 minutes "lost".

A fortnight later the Kerry-Derry semi-final ran along almost parallel lines—33 scores, 58 frees, 27 wides, eight side-line kicks and four 50's making a grand total of 130 interruptions.

Nor should referees John Moloney and Paul Kelly be accused of being whistle happy. As far as I could see, neither man went outside the Official Guide

looking for frees. Indeed, if Rule 136 had been fully implemented, they would have been justified in whistling more often. It seems the understatement of the year to say that something is wrong somewhere.

Incidentally, speaking of Rule 136 it is interesting to note that the following "shall be deemed fouls":—pushing, tripping, catching, holding or jumping at a player; obstructing a player by hand or arm even though he be not actually held; reaching from

● TO PAGE 50

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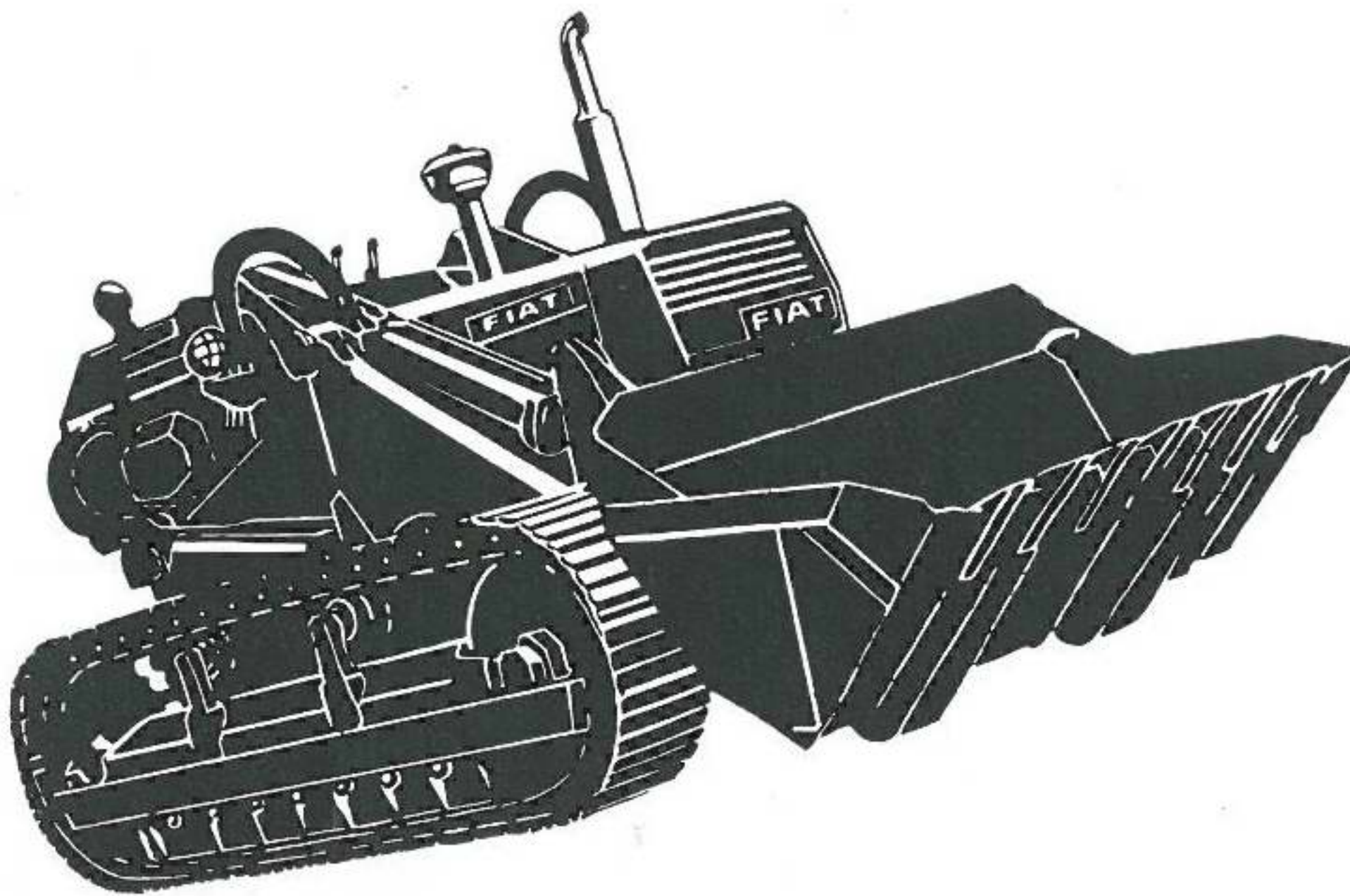
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● FROM PAGE 49

behind a player who has caught the ball; charging a player from behind; charging or in any way interfering with a player unless he is moving to play the ball or in the act of playing it.

At meetings all over Ulster I have not yet met anyone who has ever seen this rule fully applied!

The reason is not far to seek: if our referees did, in fact, go strictly according to the book our games would grind to a halt. Why persevere, therefore, with a rule which cannot be implemented? And 136 is but one of many which I believe require an honest reappraisal.

But to return to the Meath-Kerry final. Striking an average according to semi-final form spectators will be faced with about 133 stoppages made up of 30 scores, 59 frees, 30 wides, 10 side-line kicks, two 50's and two hopped balls.

There will be no complaints about those 30 scores if they materialise while the 10 side-line kicks, two 50's and two hopped balls would be an acceptable average. But what about those wides and how much longer can spectators be expected to tolerate a free every 80 seconds?

What is the answer? The thousands who stayed away, for example, from the Galway-Meath game compared with the previous meeting of the sides six years earlier have already given theirs.

Candidly I believe Congress will simply have to throw off the shackles of conservatism which have bedevilled its deliberations for far too long.

The dedicated pursuit of cherished ambitions and ideals is all very well but the playing fields remain the Association's most vital shop window. Are sufficient customers being encouraged with what they see there? It is just a thought!

REFLECTIONS ON THE HURLING FINAL

WE all have a Walter Mitty side to our character. Speaking as Prime Minister of England, Mr. Wilson admitted that he had always longed to play cricket with Yorkshire as a fast bowler. The late President Kennedy is said to have fancied himself as a top line baseball player. A golfer who takes six putts on the first green may in his own mind be Christy O'Connor on the way to a twenty five thousand pound prize. In my own teenage dream world I led Waterford to five All-Ireland hurling titles in a row. I also played out half for Ireland. There was no ban in my dreams. I wore my first long pants in nineteen forty-eight when I travelled to Dublin by train to see the Decies men win their first All-Ireland. But alas for my dreams! I'm now older than any of the Cork or Wexford teams and the idea of Waterford winning even two All-Irelands in a row, is a figment that belongs to a technicolor pipe dream.

I have also been an ace reporter in my dream time. Now in the world of reality I am writing a piece on this year's meeting of Cork and Wexford. Pace. Walter Mitty. I was not pleased with the press reports on the All-Ireland. John D. Hickey, Mick Dunne, Paddy Downey, and the nameless but excellent Cork Examiner writer had a job to do and no doubt they gave us a well-written, objective account of the match. But an All-Ireland transcends the objective world. An

All-Ireland touches the world of magic. Games are things of differences that separate us in the world of jobs, careers, and finance dissolve, and we are all big children at a ball game. This reality which underlies an All-Ireland cannot be conveyed in a press report of the game. I enjoyed the All-Ireland.

In its post-match editorial the "Irish Press" called for Dr. Simms' presence on All-Ireland day. It's some time now since we expressed the same sentiment, but an Archbishop throwing in the ball is no proof of Christianity. How about a seat for Mrs. Furey beside Jack Lynch? How about Mrs. Furey throwing in the ball or walking on to the field with the Archbishop.

Don't get me wrong. It is right and proper that the patron of the G.A.A. should meet the teams before the game but has the G.A.A. pulled its weight in the Galway affair? We are all children at the All-Ireland. All children are equal. Of course, Dr. Simms could stand with the lads on Hill Sixteen. Why not? I have stood on the terraces in Lansdowne Road. In his "Evening Echo" column, written under the pen-name, "Deiseach", Pat Fanning suggested that anyone who stayed at home because he had no ticket was a softie. Fair enough! But let's face it there is also a snob element within the G.A.A. where tickets are concerned. If the G.A.A. is a pure democracy tickets should be dis-

tributed in a draw open to all members. The amount of black market tickets on sale outside Croke Park suggests that some people accept tickets that don't really interest them.

Galway made a welcome return in the minor match. After a bright start the curtain-raiser simmered down into a rather tame contest in which Galway plugged away at a superior Cork team which unleashed its power in scoregetting raids. The crowd were sleepy and only awoke to applaud the saves of the red-haired goalies. The blue and white worn by the minors gave an unreal quality to the teams but in the words of Archbishop Morris, 'bhi cuid mhaith den dearg fen gorm'. Galway did well considering Cork's experience.

A little red and white mascot passed almost unnoticed as he played about in front of the Hogan. The songs were well sung by Breandán Ó Dúill, but those stirring martial airs are rather unreal when you reflect on Derry. If we are not prepared to fight for freedom we might as well stop singing about it. Anyway, enough men have died and the flag over the Cusack is green, white and orange. Orangemen play rugby and soccer. Of course, the Irish counties on which the G.A.A. is based were carved out by King John of England. The native Irish did not have counties, tea, or potatoes.

Wexford played it too cool. They have the wrong image of themselves. The great Slaney teams were farmer like and looked rather slow moving in the match parades, but Tim Flood, Jim English, Bobby Rackard, and the Kehoes were always on their toes and moved to every ball with speed and purpose. Wexford were bad at the close in frees. When Nicky Rackard moved to take a free he was willing the ball into the rigging. A devil may care approach is fine but a careless approach is self destructive.

Cork have arrived. A uniform team with no weak link they may be set for a string of titles. The full back line of Maher, McDonnell, and Horgan cleared well. Wexford men did stand in the square but this is contrary to law. A hurling All-Ireland needs of-

● TO PAGE 52



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● FROM PAGE 51

officials from a leading hurling county who have an instinctive grasp of the game. Hegarty surprised at centre half. Coming up in the car I forecast that he would have to be moved from the centre, but Hego proved us wrong. Clifford, Murphy, and Roche blocked the wings without heroics. Looney excelled at centre field where Gerald McCarthy was a steady if subdued influence.

Each of the Cork forwards was like a section of a well tuned engine with Eddie O'Brien as piston. Ryan and Cullinane were both mobile and accurate while Willie Walsh sprayed passes all over the place. Ray Cummins could have shot more often himself but he is an integrated part of the machine. I've noticed that Charlie McCarthy is not so popular with tall supporters. His style of play is an insult to height and weight. Charlie injects an element of humour into the game. His skipping and flywheeling break concentration and relaxation. As a result scores come. His confrontations with Dan Quigley were like a duel between an Austin Mini and a speedy tractor. Eddie O'Brien was a Maserati. By the way Charlie Mac faked one free in a manner that would have done credit to Jimmy Johnstone of Glasgow Celtic, or Tostao of Brazil.

Speaking of frees! Why the all black soccer style garb for G.A.A. refs? Why not a four provinces quartered jersey of blue, white, saffron and green? Wexford were late coming out after half time. A penalty of a point, added to the rival team's score for each minute that a team delays, would soon give prompt restarts.

Cork's arrival as a strong team is good for hurling. Tipp. will come at them. Wexford will regroup and Kilkenny will try to topple the red shirts. But we need a few more top teams. Can Waterford revive?

We get the hurling finals we deserve. Too much work in the sphere of Gaelic games is left to brothers and priests. We were called by Christ to preserve hurling. Hurling is a great game but if the boys in a school want to play soccer why should priests and brothers have to stop them. There is no ban in Heaven. Those clerics who deal with minor and underage teams feel like men pouring water into a sieve. Look

● TO PAGE 63

Caps

● FROM PAGE 15

a youngish Meath team surprised everyone by coming through successfully. In Munster, Kerry were less troubled by the Cork challenge than expected, while in the West, Roscommon confirmed their superiority by winning the title for the fourth time in five seasons.

The unlucky team, I thought, were Antrim, who needed a dry sod for their tip-an-run tactics,

but met Cavan at Clones on the wettest day of the year, and lost their Ulster title.

Came the semi-finals, and Kerry's veterans proved far too strong and crafty for Meath, while Cavan, improving with every appearance, provided the big surprise by deservedly ousting Roscommon and thus earning their New York tickets.

It was then the excitement really started. Some of the players took the safe way, and went by boat. The rest proved themselves heroes by flying out, via the Azores, and accompanied by Michael O'Hehir.

Flying the Atlantic, I may add, was still looked upon as a rather perilous adventure back in 1947.

There were, of course, a few snags. The baseball pitchers' mound presented an unexpected problem. parked as it was, on a vital part of the pitch. Then there were all kinds of troubles about ensuring that the broadcast commentary would be as scheduled and uninterrupted, and if that game had not been broadcast there would have been red revolution in Ireland.

Eventually these troubles were all resolved and when the game did begin, Kerry went off like a house on fire, and with a couple of early goals looked like sweeping Cavan all the way back to Breffni.

But the years, the heat, and the Cavanmen quickly caught up on Kerry and, with Peter Donohoe belting the ball over the bar relentlessly, Cavan had edged ahead by half time. At this stage, the phone at my home rang. It was a Kerry doctor, a fierce supporter of the Kingdom who already feared his favourites were beaten. And he was right. For Cavan went from strength to strength and finished good winners, although the tension was

maintained to the end, helped by impassioned appeals from Michael O'Hehir, to all concerned, to keep the lines to Dublin open.

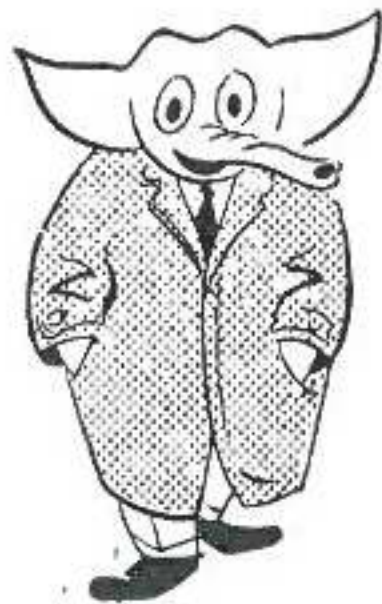
Later, of course, the teams came home, on the same boat, to a roaring reception on the Dublin streets with Cavan captain John Joe Reilly and the Sam Maguire Cup carried shoulder-high to the Mansion House. No wonder I don't forget that final of '47.

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Record Time

LAST May E. M. I. launched what has proved to be one of Ireland's most successful budget labels, The Talisman Shamrock Series, retailing at 19/11d. This label surpassed all sales expectations within a month of release and quickly established itself as Ireland's premium budget label.

The material is of contrasting style and age. Evidence of this can be seen in the first six releases. The Irish Rhythms Orchestra STAL 6001 play a selection of Irish Rhythms, Reels, Jigs and Hornpipes in a style reminiscent of David Curry's Orchestra. This album was recorded in Ireland late last year and is one the newer issues on the label.

On Brendan's Favourites STAL 6002 we are given a selection of Brendan O'Dowda's more popular numbers, including "Mick McGilligan" and "Father O'Flynn" and many more. This is the first of a number of albums planned for release by this artist on the Talisman label.

Previously issued on a ten inch L.P. "The Wearin' of the Green" STAL 6003 by the Galloglass Ceili Band had some single tracks added and was immediately transformed into our

biggest ceili record over the past couple of years.

If it's ballad singing you like, you need go no further than the Sean McCarthy STAL 6004 "The Wandering Man" album. This disc has a varied selection of Sean's own previously-unrecorded songs.

Undoubtedly the biggest seller yet released on this label is "The Two Sides of Larry Cunningham" STAL 6005. There is certainly nothing to be added to what has already been said about Larry except to say that on this album is contained some of the biggest hits including "Lovely Leitrim" and "Gentle Mother."

"Souvenir of Ireland" STAL 6006 can best be termed as a sampler of the whole series. A musical tour of Ireland in song with contribution by such top line artists as Brendan O'Dowda, Arthur Murphy, Bridie Gallagher and the Ardellis Ceili Band.

Further releases on the label include "Gay and Gaelic" STAL 6007 with that well-known Irish accordionist Noel Smith joining forces with the equally well-known Shannonside Ceili Band to produce an L.P. of popular Irish Music.

Kerry Ceili STAL 6008 is a

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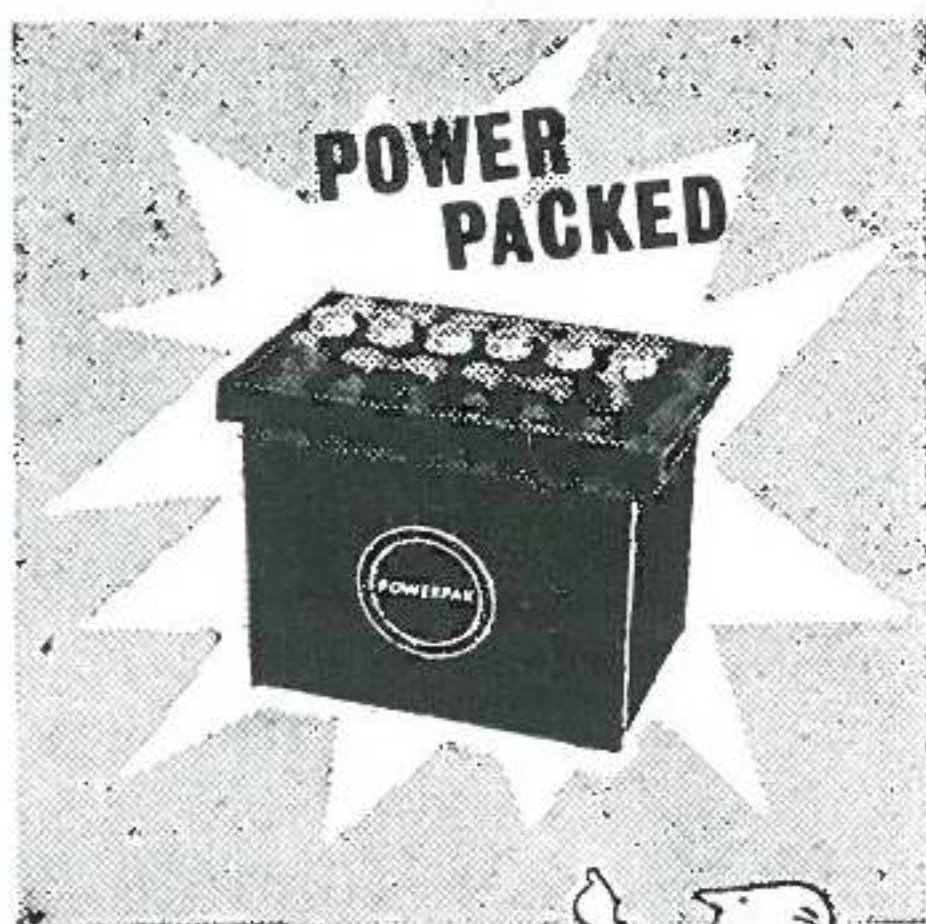
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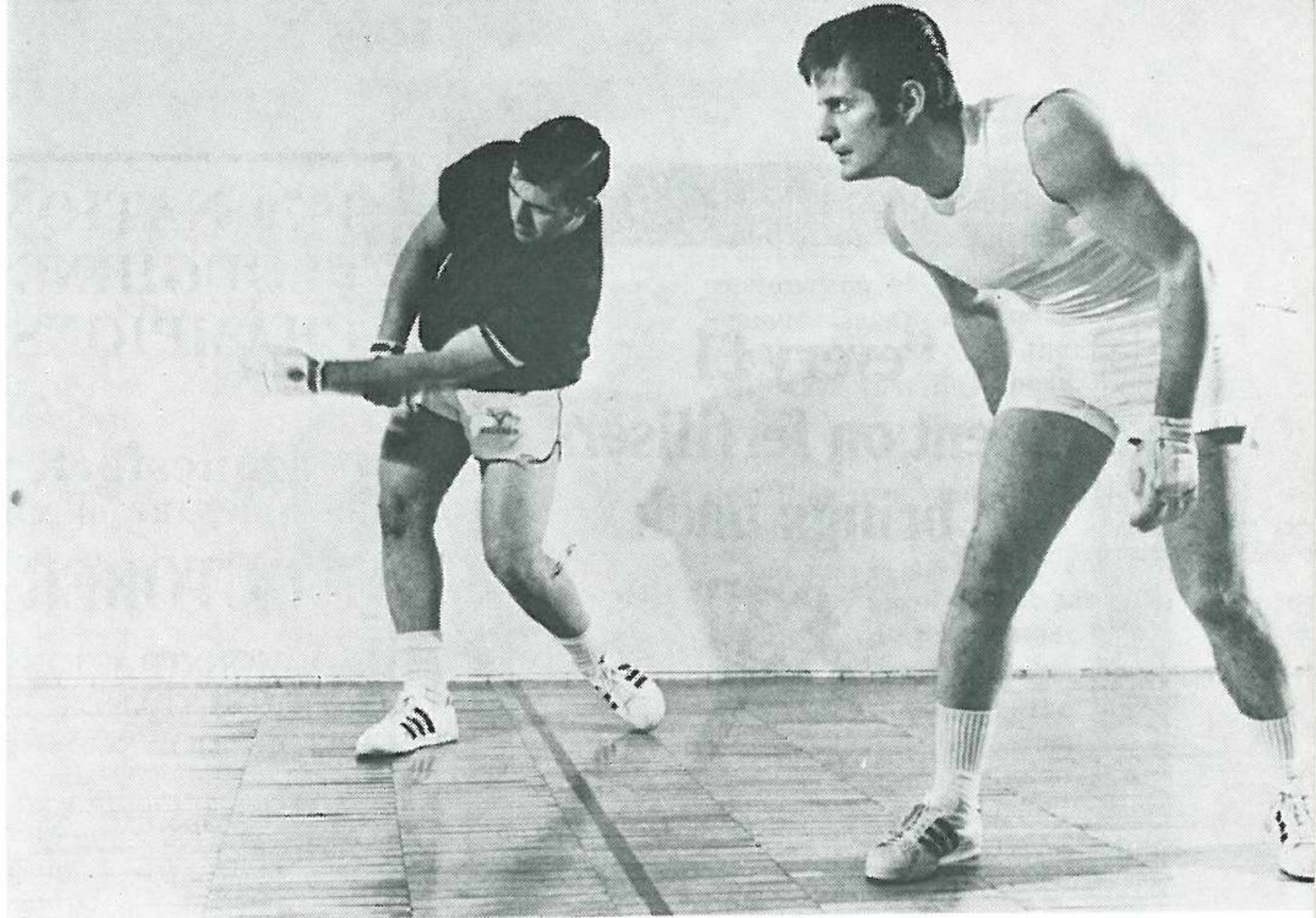
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Ray Neveau (left),
from Oshkosh,
Wisconsin, and
Simie Fein, from
Milwaukee,
Wisconsin.*



HANDBALL

GREAT OCCASION AT HAND

By ALLEYMAN

A MOMENTOUS occasion not alone for the G.A.A. but for Irish sport has arrived.

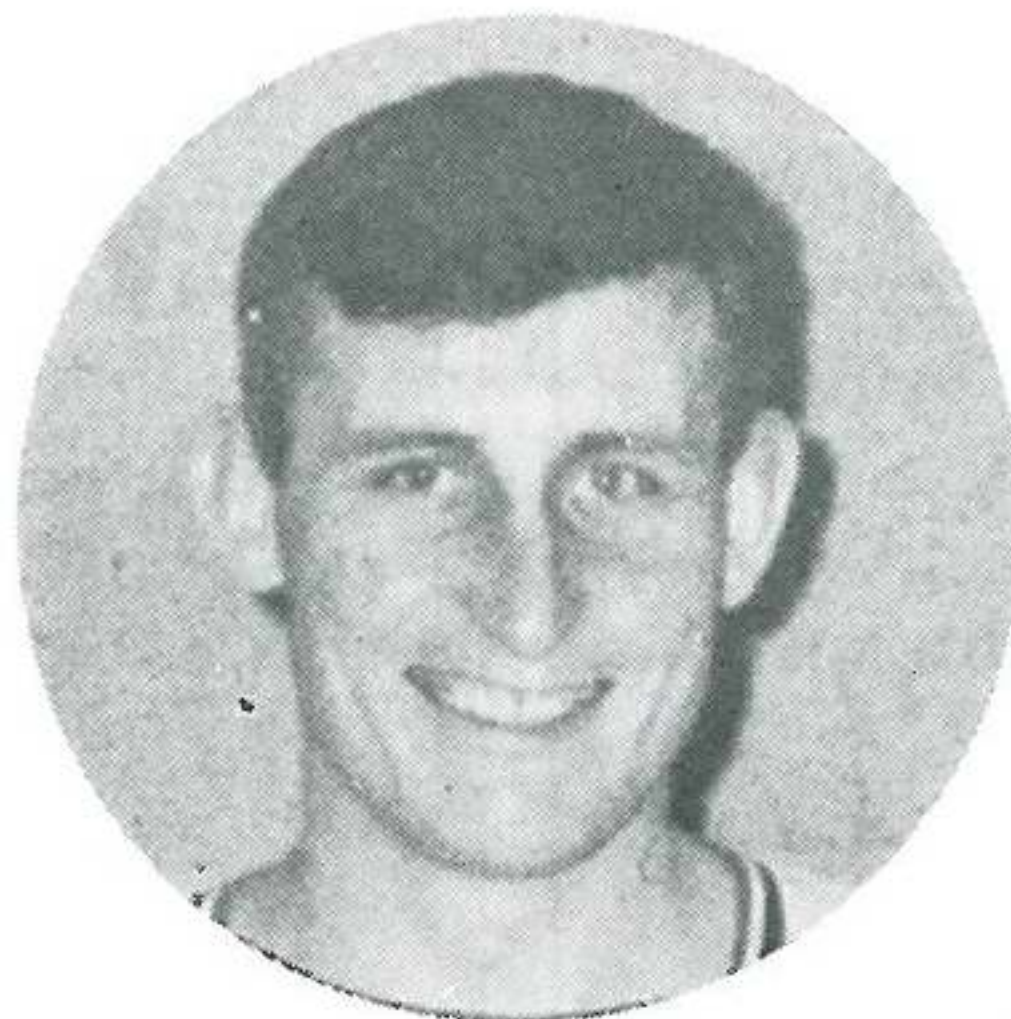
On Monday, October 5th the World Handball Championships will commence at the new court in Croke Park and for a whole week we will have the opportunity of seeing the best exponents in the world in action.

We bid them all welcome and hope that they will carry away many happy memories of their handballing exploits in this country.

Over the last few months there has been quite a build-up for the championship and this will be given a further boost on the Sunday preceding the games, by a fund raising walk which will start and finish at Croke Park. Handball officials are confident that besides highlighting the significance of the event this walk will

be of major benefit to the coffers of the Irish Handball Council.

With press conferences and pre-match receptions duly disposed of on the Sunday evening



The reigning Singles champion, Joey Maher, who represents Ireland on this occasion. He won the title when playing for Canada three years ago.

we can all await with nervous expectancy the arrival of Monday and the start of the World Championships.

The next week should provide a feast of handball for those many dedicated fans around the country, it should reflect a new image for the game through the various publicity media or, in short, it should provide an entirely new dimension for handball.

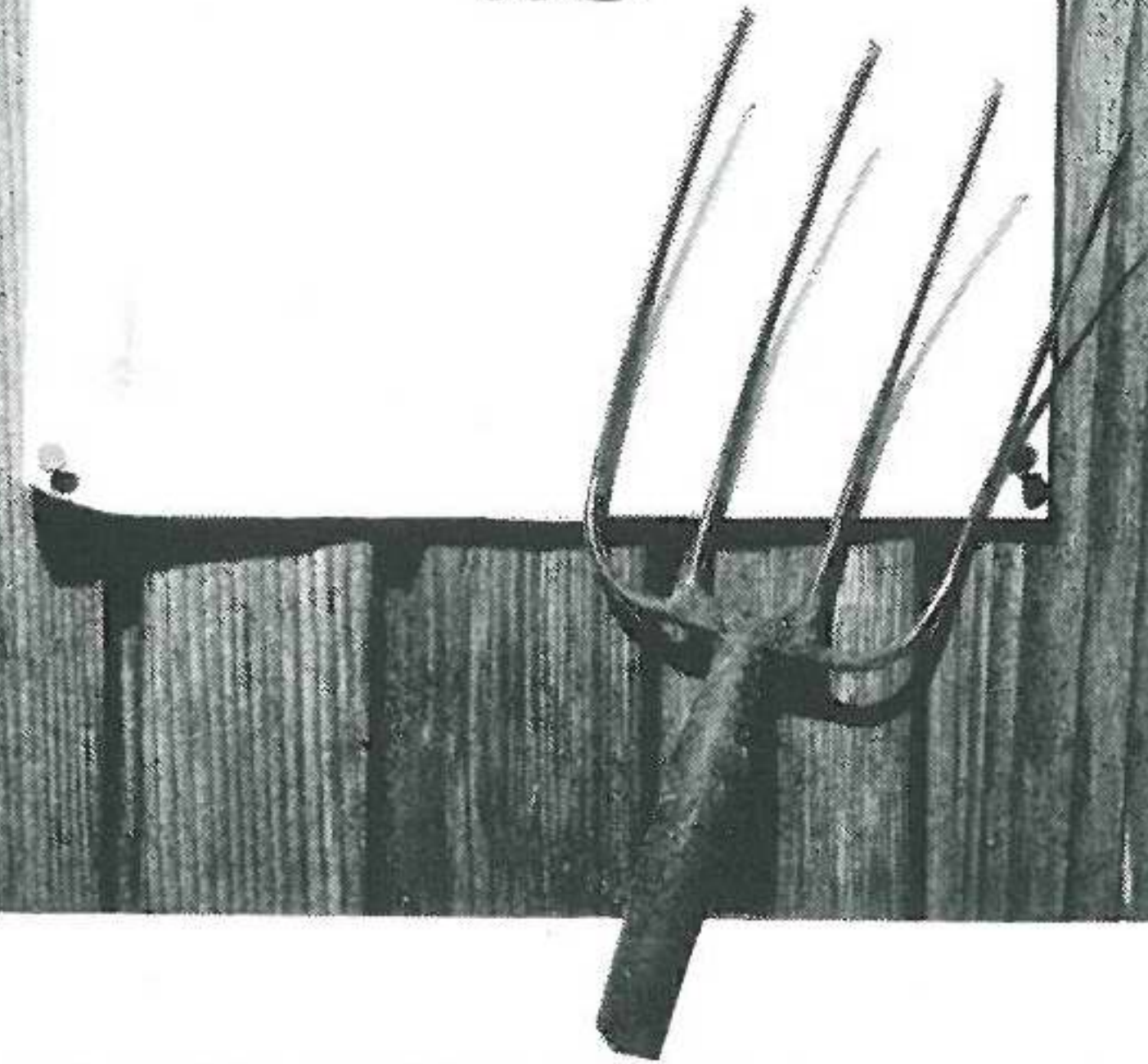
It has been good to see some of the visiting players taking their training so seriously. Like Victor Di Luzio who arrived in this country over a month ago and has been training in our courts twice a day.

Di Luzio has an unusual ambition in that he hopes to be placed third in the Singles competition.

When I spoke to Di Luzio a

● TO PAGE 59

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Congratulations to the Meath football team on their great victories in the past and wishing them many more successes in the future.

● FROM PAGE 57

short time ago he explained why he hoped to be third in the tests.

"In my club in Melbourne there is no back-wall but otherwise our court is similar to the type in Ireland. I reckon that with sufficient practice I will be well able to cope with the back-wall but, at the same time, it is very doubtful if I could beat either Joey Maher or Pat Kirby."

The Melbourne player must certainly be admired for his dedication.

Terry Camplice will be representing Australia in the Doubles. He comes from Sydney and has been the guiding light of Australian handball for many years.

He is the country's handball secretary and presently the Doubles Champion.

There can be no doubt at all of course that the most interesting entry comes from Ghana where handball has caught on strongly in the past two years. It was introduced there by an American, Joe Vasquez, who will in fact be playing singles. The Doubles berth will be filled by two native Ghanaians, Jackie Deh and David Bolisor.

As we go to press there has been no indication from either the Canadian or Mexican Boards as to their representatives but, thanks to the super efficiency of their President Charlie O'Connell, the American players are fully geared for the fray.

In Doubles we can expect some tremendous handball from Ray Neveau of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and Simie Feir of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Pat Kirby comes from the New York Athletic Club to present the greatest challenge to our own representative—Joey Maher.

Kirby of course is Irish-born, and is a member of that famed handballing family from Tuamgraney in County Clare.



Terence Camplice, the Australian secretary and Doubles champion.

He and Maher clashed on three previous occasions in American competition.

Kirby succeeded on two occasions which is an indication of

the task that lies ahead of the world champion.

Meantime, our own doubles combination of Richie Lyng and Seamus Buggy are not in the least over-awed by the mammoth task that lies ahead.

They are as fit as is humanly possible and are quite confident that they can land the title for Ireland.

And just to give the event that little extra bit of bite it has been decided to play a number of exhibition games for ladies.

In latter months the game amongst ladies has become quite popular in the Dublin area and some promising players of the calibre of Mavis O'Toole, Jacqueline Duffy and Helen Flynn have emerged.

As this big event draws near, it is only appropriate that due recognition should be given to all who have contributed to make it a success. Certainly, not least the Central Council of the G.A.A. who sanctioned the building of the new court, the various handball administrators for their unceasing work in the great build-up and equally so, the firms and individuals who helped out financially. They have been the great partners in a huge uplift for a truly Irish game. Their effort has been an investment in Ireland's future that will be truly reflected in the years ahead.

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● FROM PAGE 9

50% or even a bit less (too much only causes clutter)—Kerry will, I think, show sufficient inventiveness to collect a winning score. Their method in attack is better than any in the game: they build and probe for goal always, asking themselves: "Is there a goal chance here?" Round the 20, 30 or 40 according to the massing of the defence, they make their minds up whether to go on for the goal, or cut their losses and take a point. It is a very impressive attitude of mind which makes them even more formidable opponents than their individual or combined skills.

At midfield, the powerful and tall Lynch and Foley will, inevitably gain an amount of possession, but they have not the flexibility to keep Crowley completely quiet, nor the experience to cut the oxygen which O'Connell patiently pipes to his attack.

The inexperience, but great verve of the full-forward line will be an unknown quantity in this computation. Kerry have a more effective full-back line than Galway had, and they will not be under the same dire pressure since it is unlikely their half-backs will collapse as Galway's did. Therefore, it is hard to see chances as numerous coming to Rennicks, Murphy and Fay.

O'Shea, O'Keeffe and Prendergast are a very good half-line; so are Brennan, Kerrigan and Mellett. But, I should be surprised if Meath get their usual advantage on the wings this time, though Kerrigan will still be the main threat to Kerry.

It is, however, unlikely he will get the opportunities to drive through on his own. The pressure will be kept on the Meath forwards, I feel, and when it is, their passing and backing-up is inclined to count for less as they tend to fight it alone.

AN**ARGUMENT****REMAINS****UNRESOLVED**

IT is a handsome setting: the green and gold of Kerry against the blazing backdrop of Autumn. In one there is vibrant life; in the other the redolence of a stricken season.

Nature's mood will limn no picture of regret for Kerry folk. Football is their fever, and the season has been good to them.

And yet I'm sure there is no little regret down Kerry way that their opponents in the All-Ireland final are not Mayo. For an argument between the two counties remains unsettled, and Kerry will have it settled only on the field.

It was Mayo who stood, unbending, between them and the league and championship double again this year. They had just returned from their world trip when they were forced to meet Mayo in the league divisional final at Galway. They were a spent force after that exhausting trip and lost the match by two points.

No one who has watched them in this year's championship will disagree with Kerry's claim. Mayo have long ago been dismissed from the championship. Kerry are back in the final, and when they unleash their power against Meath they will be no less determined to win their 22nd title.

They will not be drawn into a false security. Their driving force is their determination to win and unless Meath can find a concept that will bare Kerry's inner security the final will go the way Kerry want it to go.

Meath, of course, cannot be ruled out. What has made their chances look slim is the fact that until they met Offaly in the Leinster final they seemed ready to be consigned to the scrap-heap of all defeated teams.

Even at half-time in that Leinster final they looked finished. And yet a typical sprinkle of star dust sprayed all of their players in that second half. It

is not unknown for Meath to hit patches like that and if they do so against Kerry it will be a more stirring contest than many now foresee.

But, unlike Kerry, Meath are an unknown quantity. No one had given them a chance in any of their games, because they were not impressive. They beat Galway on their path to the final—a spent Galway side. Those of us who saw it came away not so much with a mental picture of Meath's promise as with a pang of sadness at Galway's inability to measure up to our expectations.

The old dash that was so much part of John Keenan and Cyril Dunne and Enda Colleran had vanished. They were the ones who had rammed so much life into Gaelic football in the Sixties that we all went to see the old sparkle re-assert itself. It didn't. And the biased memory pencilled over Meath's victory.

I will, however, remember their strength — and their accuracy. And if they can bind their semi-final composure with a little more thought in supporting the man with the ball they might disturb Kerry.

Players like Jack Quinn, Bertie Cunningham, Terry Kearns and Tony Brennan are no strangers to success, but whether the new players can surmount the inevitable tension of the big time remains to be seen.

But how can one vote against Kerry when everything they have done in the recent past is near perfect? How can you go against O'Connell and Prenderfast and Crowley and O'Dwyer and Lynch?

Not even a Connaught man can. And if they do win that argument between Kerry and Mayo still remains.

FIVE STAR NEWS

FIVE Star, "the Fresh Food People", announce the forthcoming opening of two new supermarkets.

Alo. Geoghegan is the Manager in the one in the new Northside Shopping Centre at Coolock which opens on October 1st.

Meath people will begin to reap the benefits of Five Star Freshness on November 1st when their Navan supermarket is opened.

These two openings will bring to nineteen the number of Five Star Supermarkets through the country. Number twenty will be opened in Cork before Christmas, and 1971 should see the coming of age of this progressive Irish firm who specialise in bringing their customers fresh food at all times.

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TOP TEN

ONLY two games come into the reckoning for the current rating of individual players in hurling and football. These were the All-Ireland football semi-final between Kerry and Derry on August 23 and the Cork-Wexford All-Ireland hurling final on September 6. The winners, in each case, provided most of the stars.

HURLING

- (10) E. O'Brien (Cork)
- (9) W. Walsh (Cork)
- (9) T. Ryan (Cork)
- (9) J. Horgan (Cork)
- (9) D. Bernie (Wexford)
- (9) A. Maher (Cork)
- (8) M. Jacob (Wexford)
- (8) S. Looney (Cork)
- (7) T. Neville (Wexford)
- (7) C. Roche (Cork)

FOOTBALL

- (9) D. O'Sullivan (Kerry)
- (9) T. Prendergast ... (Kerry)
- (9) M. O'Connell (Kerry)
- (9) P. Griffin (Kerry)
- (9) M. O'Dwyer (Kerry)
- (8) S. Murphy (Kerry)
- (8) M. Niblock (Derry)
- (8) G. O'Loughlin ... (Derry)
- (8) J. Culloty (Kerry)
- (7) M. McAfee (Derry)

● FROM PAGE 52

at all the Christian brothers products that have been lost in Dublin. Qualified lay teachers are as a rule not inclined to spend winter evenings messing about on muddy hurling pitches. Hurling is only a game. Of their own free will the boys of Mount Sion C.B.S. entered a soccer competition. A large proportion of schoolboys want to have a crack at soccer and rugby. This is a fact. Perhaps the G.A.A. needs fully paid team trainers and organisers. Teachers have their hands full preparing boys for exams and have little heart left for hurling when the evening comes.

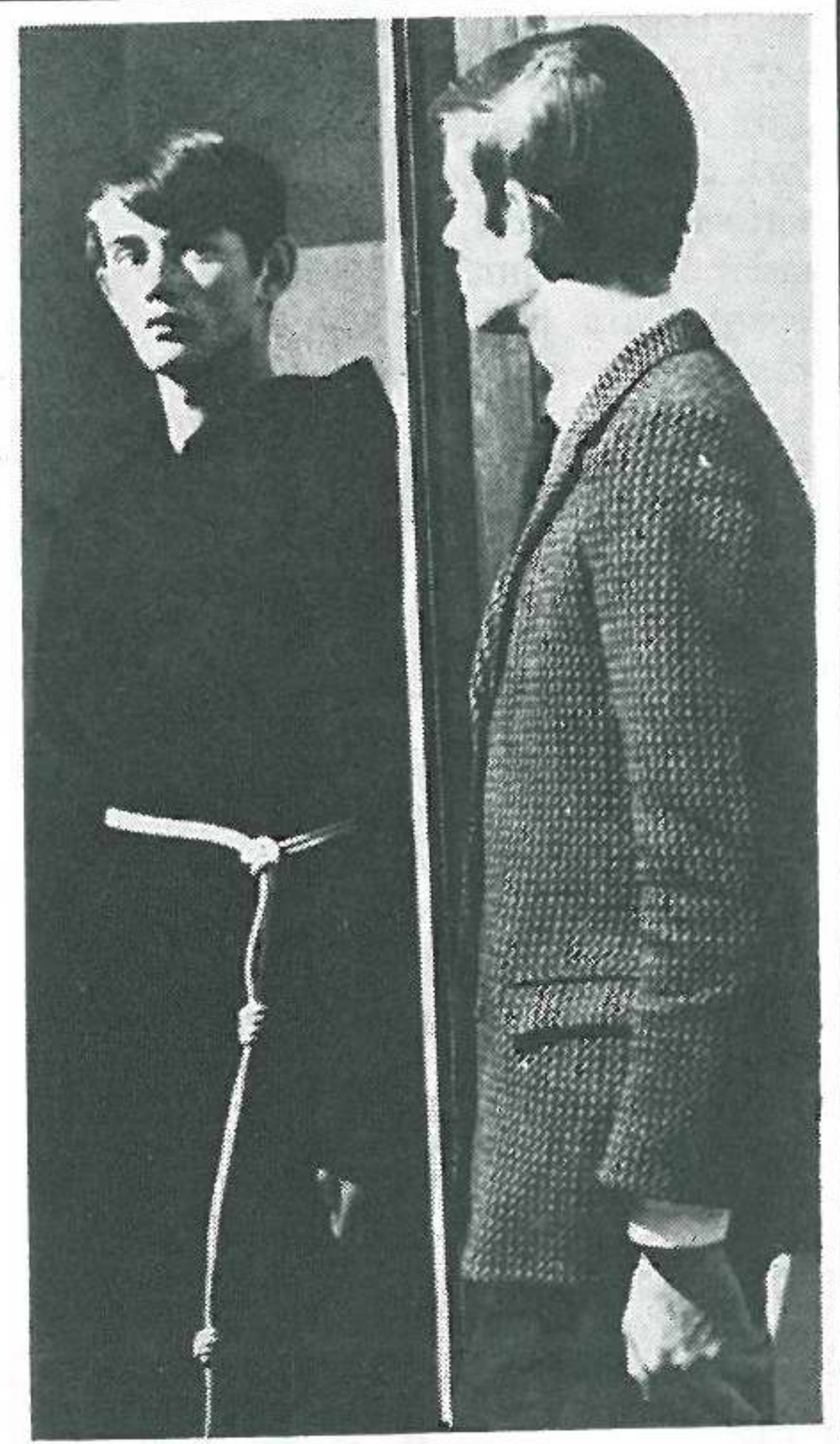
However, hurling will survive for a time at least. The three Quigley's will be dangerous forwards in a future All-Ireland. Doran, Jacob and Co. will be

around again and Tipp. will go for Cork in next year's Munster Final.

As a footnote I must point out that my Forecast which was published in the All-Ireland edition of "Gaelic Sport" was written before the Wexford injuries were made public. As a matter of fact the points total of the forecast tallied with the points total of the All-Ireland. I noticed the Wexford forwards had pre-planned moves but never got enough confidence to finish them off.

I'll say goodbye now. I've written enough on Gaelic Games for the time being. I'd like to see contributions from men such as J. B. Keane. I saw J.B's. son playing football down in Kerry. He was good. I'll report on next year's All-Ireland, if God spares me, and the Editor is stuck.

A SERIOUS REFLECTION



FOR INFORMATION ABOUT CAPUCHIN PRIESTS AND BROTHERS WRITE TO:

**Father Dan Joe O'Mahony,
Capuchin Friary,
Holy Trinity, Cork.**

THE levelling up of standards on the camogie fields has been a matter that gives anyone connected with the game very great consolation these past few years, but the most encouraging fact of all was that in the line-up for the September 20 finals at Croke Park none of the four teams concerned had reached the finals a year ago.

In fact the junior finalists, Dublin and Armagh, were both appearing in this grade for the first time ever in a final, and neither had previously won even a provincial championship in this grade.

Moreover, Kilkenny having won the Leinster senior title for the first time, were also appearing in their first All-Ireland final, while Cork of course, though they have contested several finals, both in senior and junior grades in recent years, had not won an All-Ireland title since 1941.

But there was a strange anomaly as far as Kilkenny were concerned. Although only one of their team, Anne Carroll, had ever previously played in an All-Ireland senior final—Anne had captained Tipperary against Dublin in the All-Ireland final of 1965,—everyone on the team had already won All-Ireland medals in one grade or another.

In fact three of the team held four All-Ireland medals each, Anne Carroll herself, who won four club All-Ireland's, two with St. Patrick's of Tipperary and two with St. Pauls of Kilkenny,

while Anne Phelan and Liz Neary had each won two club medals with St. Paul's and two Colleges All-Irelands with Presentation Convent Kilkenny. The other comforting fact from this year's All-Ireland championship was to see enthusiasm and organisation rewarded. This was especially the case with Armagh, a county where a tremendous amount of effort has been put into the game for several years past, without any tangible result for the hard work done.

Now, quite suddenly, they have to use a contemporary sporting phrase, 'Come good', and nobody deserves more credit than the indefatigable Paddy Toner.

Similarly Roscommon, which has been battling along quietly for several years without reward, suddenly and deservedly came into the limelight with well-earned victory in the Connacht junior series. And secretary Mary Travers must have, even in defeat, been very pleased with her county's good showing against Dublin in the All-Ireland semi-final. It is magnificent to see what were so recently the 'Weaker' counties coming so determinedly to the fore and this should surely inspire not alone other 'weak' counties, but several of the 'stronger' counties, too, to shake themselves up.

In this respect I was especially glad to see such counties as Leitrim, Mayo, Sligo and Clare so enthusiastically represented at the Gormanston coaching Course,

but where were Galway and Louth and Down, the latter so recently All-Ireland winners?

Immediately after the All-Ireland series we will have the inter-provincial games, in which this year Connacht are at home to Ulster and Leinster entertain Munster at the semi-final stage.

With no senior side having represented Connacht in the All-Ireland series the Western province would seem to be at a distinct disadvantage but, at least, it will give a chance to the enthusiasts from Roscommon, Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim.

The Leinster v. Munster game could prove a thriller, though the advantage of home venue should see Leinster, the holders, through to another final, though only by a narrow margin. If Ulster defeat Connacht, as seems likely, the Northern province will be hosts to the Leinster v. Munster winners in the final.

PLOUGHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 1970 National Ploughing Championships will be held on the farm of Mr. Edward Walsh, Danesfort, Kilkenny, on 28th and 29th October. The Event was last held in Kilkenny in 1964 on the same farm and the Committee expect the 1970 Event to be away ahead of that successful year. The Committee hope to plan a Festival week in Kilkenny, highlighted by the Crowning of the Queen of the Plough on Thursday night by a noted personality.

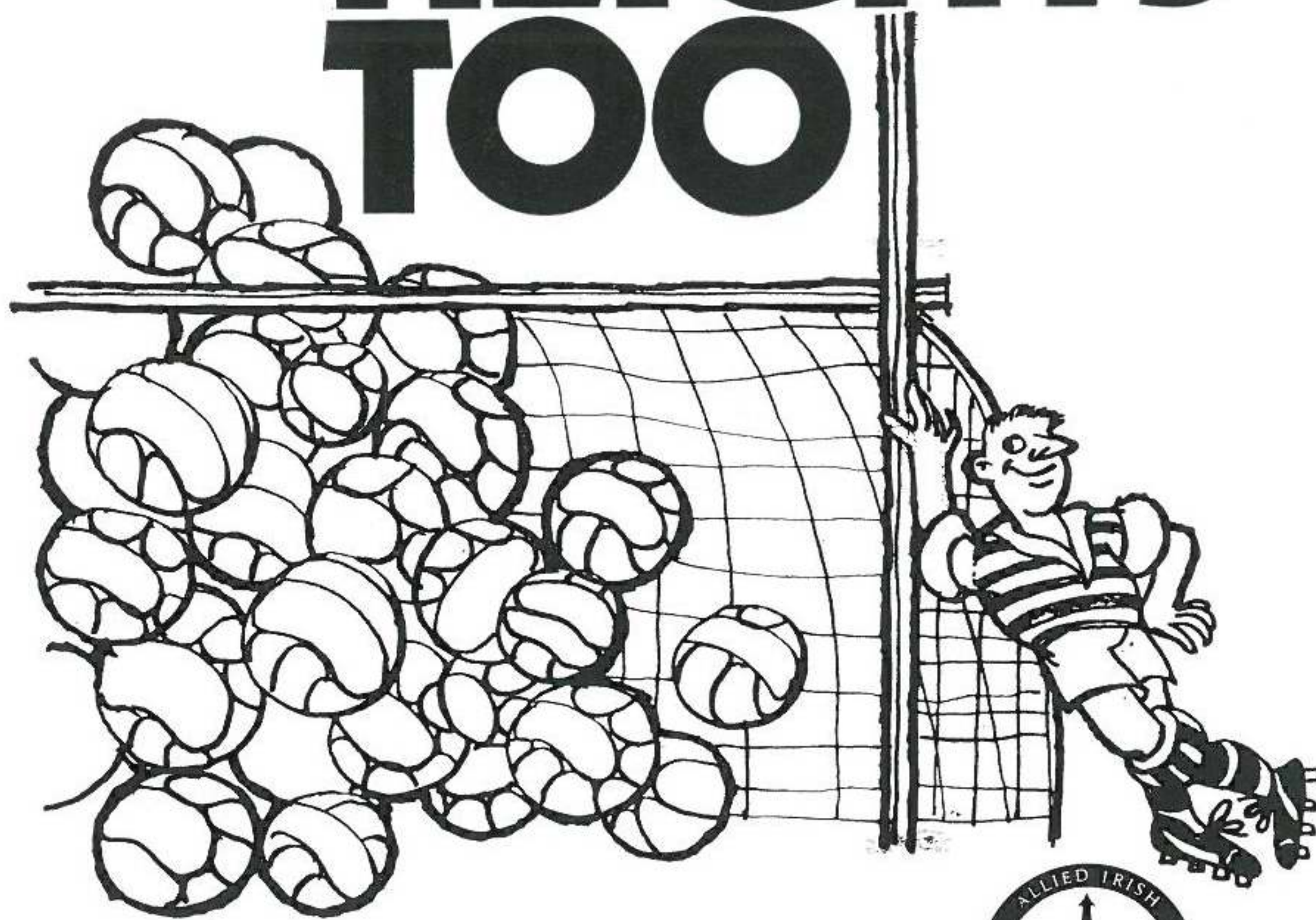
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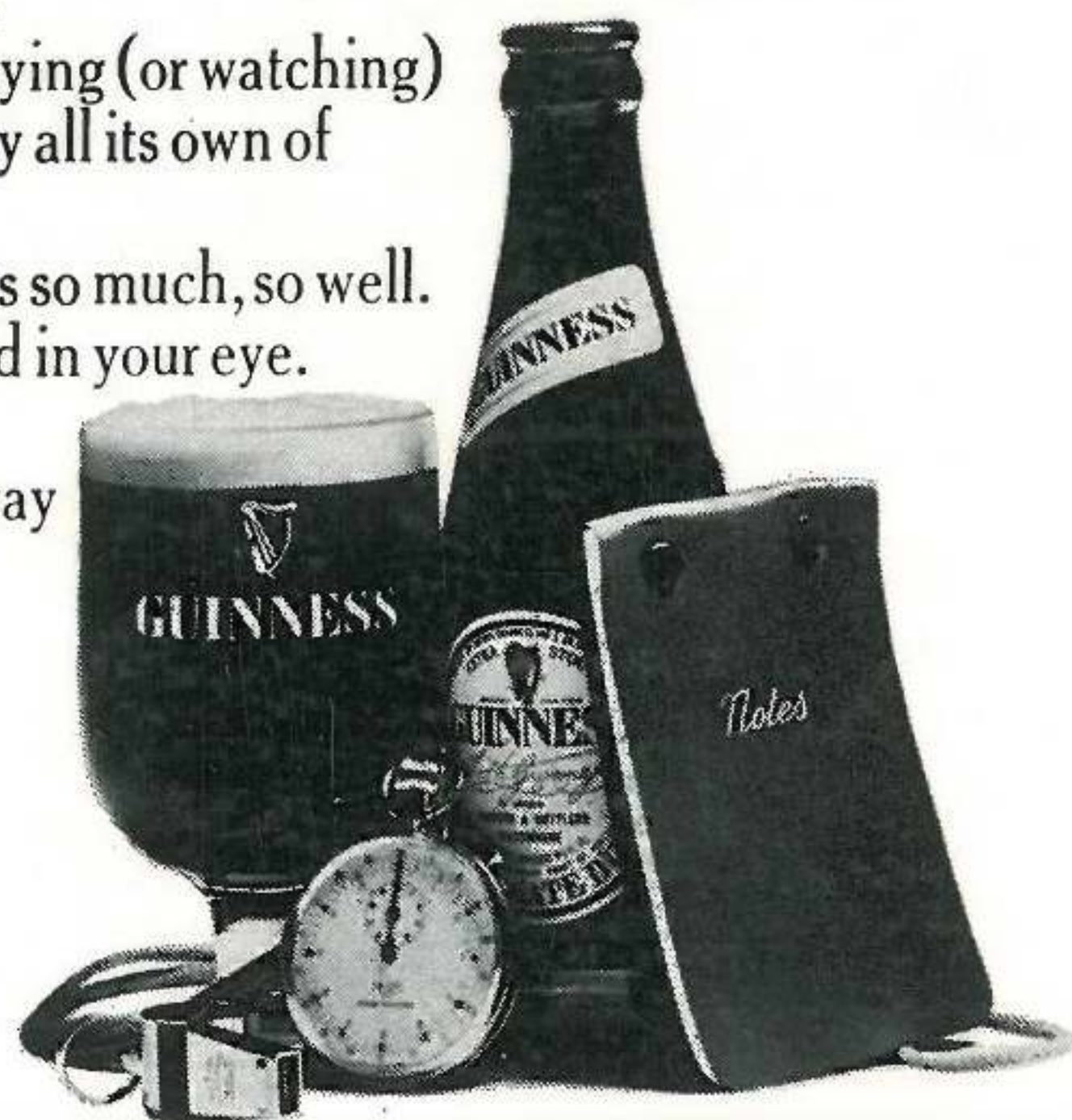


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