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Gaelic Sport

SEPTEMBER, 1972

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ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINALS

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3rd September, 1972

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CORCAIGH v CILL CHAINNIGH

MINOR — 1.45 p.m.

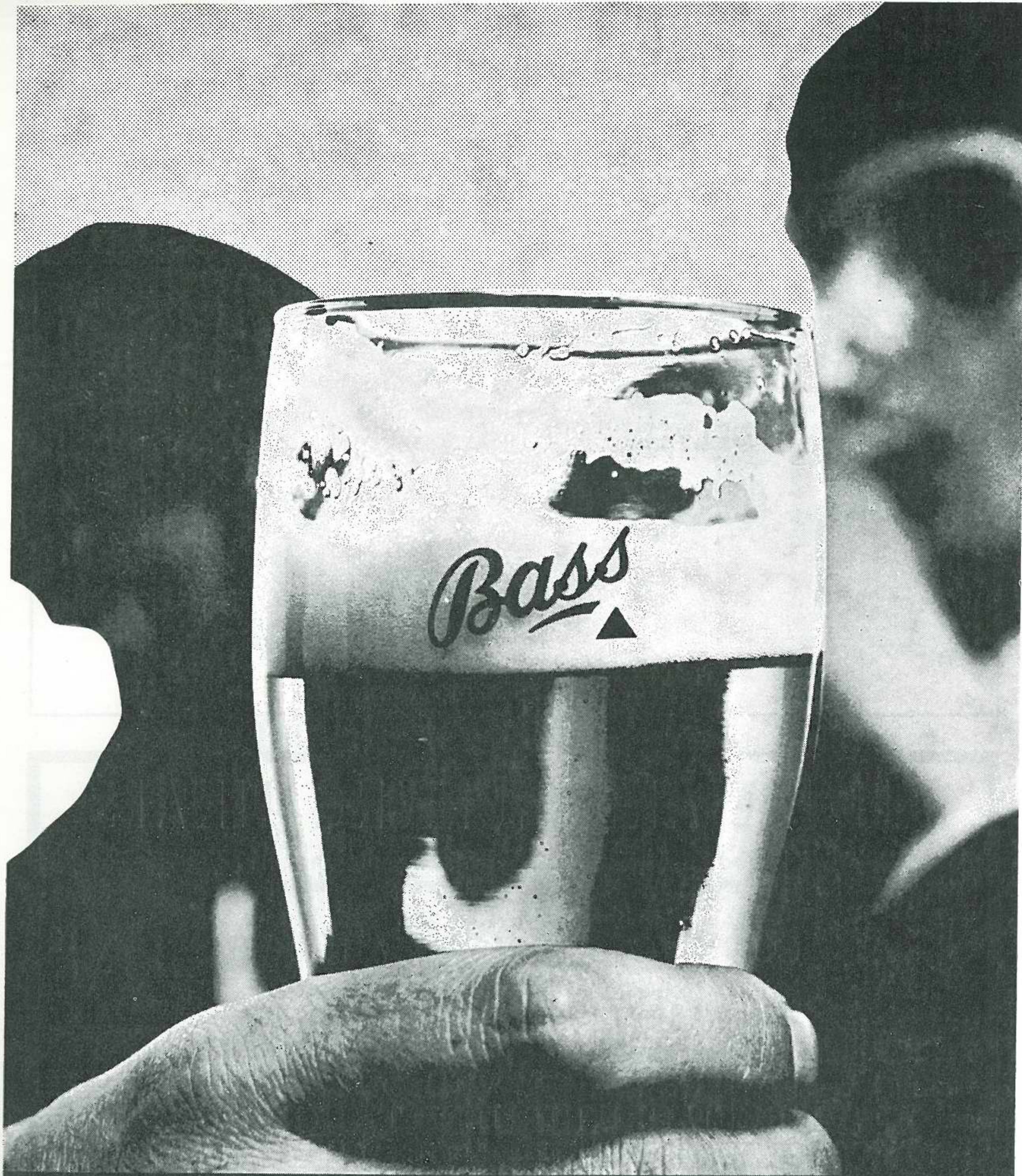
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Ah...that's Bass!

Gaelic Sport

Vol. 15. No. 9. September, 1972.

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COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover this month features the All-Ireland finalists, Cork and Kilkenny.

KILKENNY:— Standing (from left): Kieran Purcell, Fan Larkin, Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson, Mick Crotty, Frank Cummins, Mick Brennan, Pat Delaney. Front (from left): Billy Murphy, Pat Lawlor, Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Jim Treacy, John Kinsella, Martin Coogan.

CORK:— Standing (from left): Brian Murphy, Mick Malone, Pat Hegarty, Seamus Looney, Tony Maher, Con Roche, Denis Coughlan, Justin McCarthy. Front (from left): Gerald McCarthy, Ray Cummins, Pat O'Donnell, Frank Norberg, Paddy Barry, Charlie McCarthy, Sean O'Leary.

OLD RIVALS

MUCH publicity has been given to the fact that outside the top four counties, Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny and Wexford, only one other, Waterford, has won the All-Ireland hurling title during a span of more than 30 years.

Yet, it is strange that two of the top four, Cork and Kilkenny, have met in the final only twice since their classical encounter in 1947—all of a quarter of a century ago. The permutations of four are many when related to a knock-out championship.

The most recent Cork-Kilkenny finals were in 1966 and 1969 and while neither match upheld the tradition of brilliant contests of previous years, great expectations now burgeon once more as those counties prepare for their encounter at Croke Park on September 3rd.

There is a special atmosphere preceding a Cork-Kilkenny All-Ireland final that neither of them against other opposition, or any other pair of rivals, can create.

This aura is part of the lore and the colour of hurling—or, more specifically, of the Final of the hurling championship. They are the keenest of rivals and yet among the closest of friends on the playing fields of the G.A.A.

Let's hope that in their forthcoming clash they will maintain the old tradition of sportsmanship and also provide us with another classic of the premier national game.

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ARKS

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★
 ★ **HURLING**
 ★
 ★ **FINAL**
 ★
 ★ **PREVIEW**
 ★



*Frank Norberg
(Cork)*



*Billy Murphy
(Kilkenny)*



*Sean O'Leary
(Cork)*



*Fan Larkin
(Kilkenny)*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ **Cork to take sweet**
 ★
 ★ **revenge for '69 defeat**
 ★

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Says JAY DRENNAN ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET us try to take as many points of comparison as we can in a short piece in an endeavour to find the All-Ireland winners.

In experience, there is no great amount between the sides: the majority of both sides have been around for a good part of the last decade and two titles apiece. Nor is there particular weight of play falling on any who might be considered a veteran. Pat Henderson, not really a greybeard by years, may be most vulnerable in this regard, because he has never been the niftiest shifter, or the quickest thing on the turn and the recovery. The result, in his case, is that he plays too tentative a game when he is not sure of his form and his eye; instinctively he holds back from complete commitment in driving against the ball in case he should miss or miscue and be left wide

open unable to recover quickly. When he is in form though he comes out like a tank, fully committing himself to the clash for the ball. Then, of course, he is most formidable.

In this particular instance, unless he is able to discipline his instincts should they tell him to hold back, he will be in dire straits against Mick Malone, for he will never be able to match his speed. I think, perhaps, Kilkenny will be harking back to the plan of campaign which they employed in the final of 1963 when Ted Carroll won an All-Ireland for his county by closing out Tom Cheasty — one of the few occasions ever that the great prototype of Malone was subdued. Henderson will be having a word with the Lisdowney veteran I shouldn't doubt. Come to think of it, it is a pity, from the Kilkenny point of view, that Ted is

not three or four years younger.

Though there is little in it in experience, it appears to me that there will be plenty in it in speed. Cork are really flying now; they have cut out a lot of the embellishments which success had introduced into their style, and it has made them more deadly and far more threateningly speedy. In a word, they make the ball do most of the work. It is the essential Cork style; they are essentially Corkmen in temperament; it suits them best, as it suited their elders.

In a way, therefore, individual speed is not quite the measure of it, though Malone, O'Leary and Charlie McCarthy are quick among the forwards and Con Roche, Norberg and Brian Murphy smart movers in the backs. It is more a question of speed of decision and action in pursuit

● TO PAGE 7

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*Charlie McCarthy
(Cork)*



*Con Roche
(Cork)*



*Paddy Barry
(Cork)*



*Seamus Looney
(Cork)*



*Gerald McCarthy
(Cork)*

● FROM PAGE 5

of that decision. Eddie Keher apart — and he is the prince of decision — and sometimes Kieran Purcell, Kilkenny's forwards appear a little slow here, however fleetfooted they may be otherwise. Their training for the final may, however, bring a crucial change.

I have liked the occasional decisiveness of Cummins and O'Brien, but it will need to be reproduced with greater continuity to measure up to Justin McCarthy, now smoothly back to form, and Coughlan.

Larkin and Jim Treacy are two of my favourite speedy men — yet, I suppose they would not be far from last in a 100 yards sprint. But they make up their minds so definitely and go through with their decisions so unhesitatingly that they appear to be jet-propelled at times. In this particular match, it is going to be the most intriguing struggle here, because they are faced with equally speedy men in Charlie McCarthy and Seanie O'Leary.

Dillon, too, has always been a man of decision: this time he must be facing a very big challenge in Ray Cummins. It was against Dillon in 1969 that Cum-

mins played his first big championship match, and not without some success, but he is a far more threatening player now. If he were subdued, however, it would effectively close a large number of Cork avenues towards goal, and as well as containing Cummins, would be a serious curtailment on other forwards.

In skill, at this level, there is so little between teams usually, that it is not a fruitful exercise exploring it. But, the skill of McDonnell and Treacy at extricating themselves from tight defensive situations is noteworthy. It is necessary in the play of a corner-back, but can be turned into a liability if overused by a full-back — Kilkenny should watch that.

Roche is a beautiful ball player when all is going well; Norberg full of neat skills; Looney has an immense instinct for ball-play as well as a timing and a coolness that makes him hard to beat when the ball is free. Justin McCarthy has an economical elegance; Coughlan a more industrious approach.

Gerald McCarthy is, perhaps, the most skilful of all the Corkmen, from impossible positions he creates possibilities with ease,

and from possible ones he is utterly dependable — that is the fruit of hard practice, no matter what a hurler is born with. O'Leary is the opportunist, the most imaginative hurler playing when it comes to the tight ten yards around the posts, and he owns a special radar-controlled rifle to his left hand.

Malone carries well, distributes well, endures philosophically, and has a quite fantastic ability to strike enormous, towering strokes off either hand high, between the posts from impossible distances. But, amazingly, he only uses this gift when all else fails — when there is no way through to bring the ball closer. Cummins, of course, is an amalgam of curiosities as well as more orthodox pile-drivers and wingers from the wings. Of course, if he ever did the same thing twice it would be easier to deal with him.

Keher, naturally, is the supreme skill in this match despite all Cork's best. Allied to his decision his plain, refined accuracy of stroke makes him what a forward should be — solely concerned with score-getting. Cummins has much of the best left

● TO PAGE 9



*Jim Treacy
(Kilkenny)*



*Frank Cummins
(Kilkenny)*



*Pat Delaney
(Kilkenny)*

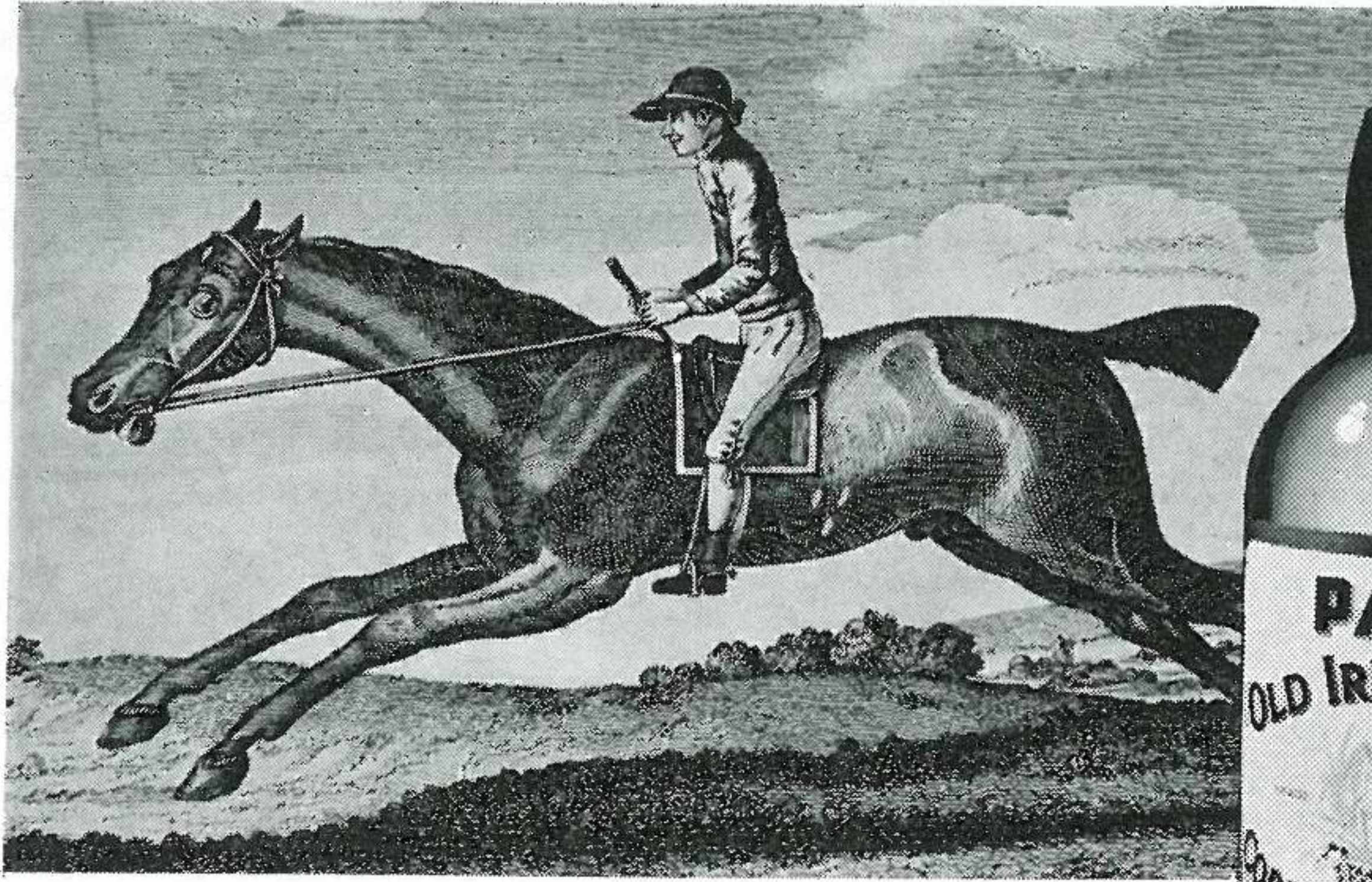


*Pat Henderson
(Kilkenny)*



*Pa Dillon
(Kilkenny)*

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Paddy

The Thoroughbred

● FROM PAGE 7

handers' qualities; yet, it is a strange and uncomfortable feeling to have to conclude that this is one game when pure skill will not be a factor in Kilkenny's favour: the contrary, I think, is likely to be true.

Finally, where can the match be won and lost? That is always a chancey thing to hazard, and often proves completely upside-down in the event. But, I would think that Cork's half-forward line could win it for their side; as against which, if they are held, the Kilkenny half-backs will not necessarily have won the match for their side—only given the rest of the side a better chance to do so. The same might be said of Cummins, and to a lesser extent about the corner forwards, but, it would only apply with the same urgency if the halves were not held.

Cork could win it at midfield, but I think that Kilkenny will be able to hold enough authority there to make it inconclusive. And, of course, Cork's half-backs could shackle their men and win the game in that region; again, however, I doubt this area will be absolutely conclusive.

So, there appear to be plenty of areas where Cork could win, and where, if Kilkenny contain them, it will only mean they are holding their own and not positively winning the game themselves. Is there any area where Kilkenny themselves can win the match. Allowing for Keher's ability and for the fact that he must be watched like a chicken by a hawk, I think there is possibly only one area where Kilkenny can win. That is through the centre-half position.

Looney is a lovely player of the ball; but he has a weakness against a player who takes the ball to him, as Delaney will surely do. This will demand that Delaney collect in front of Looney, and he is strong enough



● Pat Labor, Kilkenny.

to hold the centre-half behind him and away from the ball that approaches.

This would have to be availed of, if it worked: when the centre of that Cork defence is vulnerable, the rest of it gets the jitters and even becomes porous.

It happened against Limerick in the second half of the League final; against Tipperary in the first half of the drawn championship game; against Waterford towards the very end of the match.

If Delaney can find the way down the middle, he must use his chances — in other words, he must be decisive as he usually is not. Kilkenny must make their hay while the sun shines, because they will only have limited time. Cork selectors know what to do: bring back the man for all seasons — Pat Hegarty — to block the gap.

Otherwise, it will, I think, be a Cork victory, and a sweet revenge for 1969.

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TOP TEN

THE following lists were compiled from games played between July 10 and August 13. Because of the printing deadlines, the Offaly-Downgal football semi-final could not be included. It will be assessed for our next issue.

HURLING

- (9) R. Cummins (Cork)
- (9) E. Keher (Kilkenny)
- (9) N. Skehan (Kilkenny)
- (9) C. McCarthy (Cork)
- (9) J. Cullinane (Clare)
- (8) P. Hegarty (Cork)
- (8) J. Treacy (Kilkenny)
- (7) T. Murphy (Galway)
- (7) C. Doran (Wexford)
- (7) J. Walsh (Galway)

FOOTBALL

- (9) M. O'Connell (Kerry)
- (9) P. Mangan (Kildare)
- (9) T. Prendergast (Kerry)
- (9) P. McShea (Donegal)
- (8) J. Coleman (Cork)
- (8) A. Smullen (Kildare)
- (8) J. Cooney (Offaly)
- (8) A. McTague (Offaly)
- (7) M. Freyne (Roscommon)
- (7) J. Winston (Donegal)



Noel Skehan

The substance of Ollie's shadow

"OLLIE Walsh set for Come-back to the Kilkenny Team," screamed the headline. The piece below went on to point out that the Kilkenny selectors were to sit down that night to make the selection of the team that would contest the replay of the Leinster final against Wexford.

All the players were fit and well, it went on, so there were no injury worries and none at all except to find a replacement for a player ordered off the field in the drawn game who would not now be available.

It was generally expected by one and all, it said, that the selectors will select Ollie Walsh for the troublesome position in goal, in view of the number of rather easy goals which were conceded in the drawn game, and in view of the excellent form being shown by Ollie in training and, particularly in the challenge game against Clare a few evenings previously.

That was that. And how that headline and those unconsidered views must have screamed at poor Noel Skehan, if he read them. To be told that he was, after all this time of waiting and of probation, found unworthy to the extent that the superannuated Ollie had to be called back to take over when the chips were really down.

Of course, the Kilkenny selectors — sound men that they are — were not moved in the slightest by the thoughts, however current they may have been in Kilkenny. In view of the small number of Kilkenny people who attended the drawn game it might well be thought, in any case, that those who were expressing the expectation of Ollie's return were speaking from hearsay knowledge only.

Skehan was selected . . . and the story had the truly happy ending that simple justice demanded, for he had a very fine game in thwarting Wexford when things were sticky for Kilkenny and before they pulled themselves together to gain a worthy enough win in the second half.

It has hardly been a fairy tale, though. More a story of courage and loyalty and long-suffering in the shadow of one of the great personalities of the game. How long can a man remain second-best and with little or no hope of ever being able to supplant the top man until age overcame him? But, in the waiting and hoping, the ordinary fellow either loses heart and gives up, or else he tries so hard to justify himself that he contributes to his own loss of form, so that he drops down from No. 2 to No. 3 to No. 4 . . . Skehan suc-

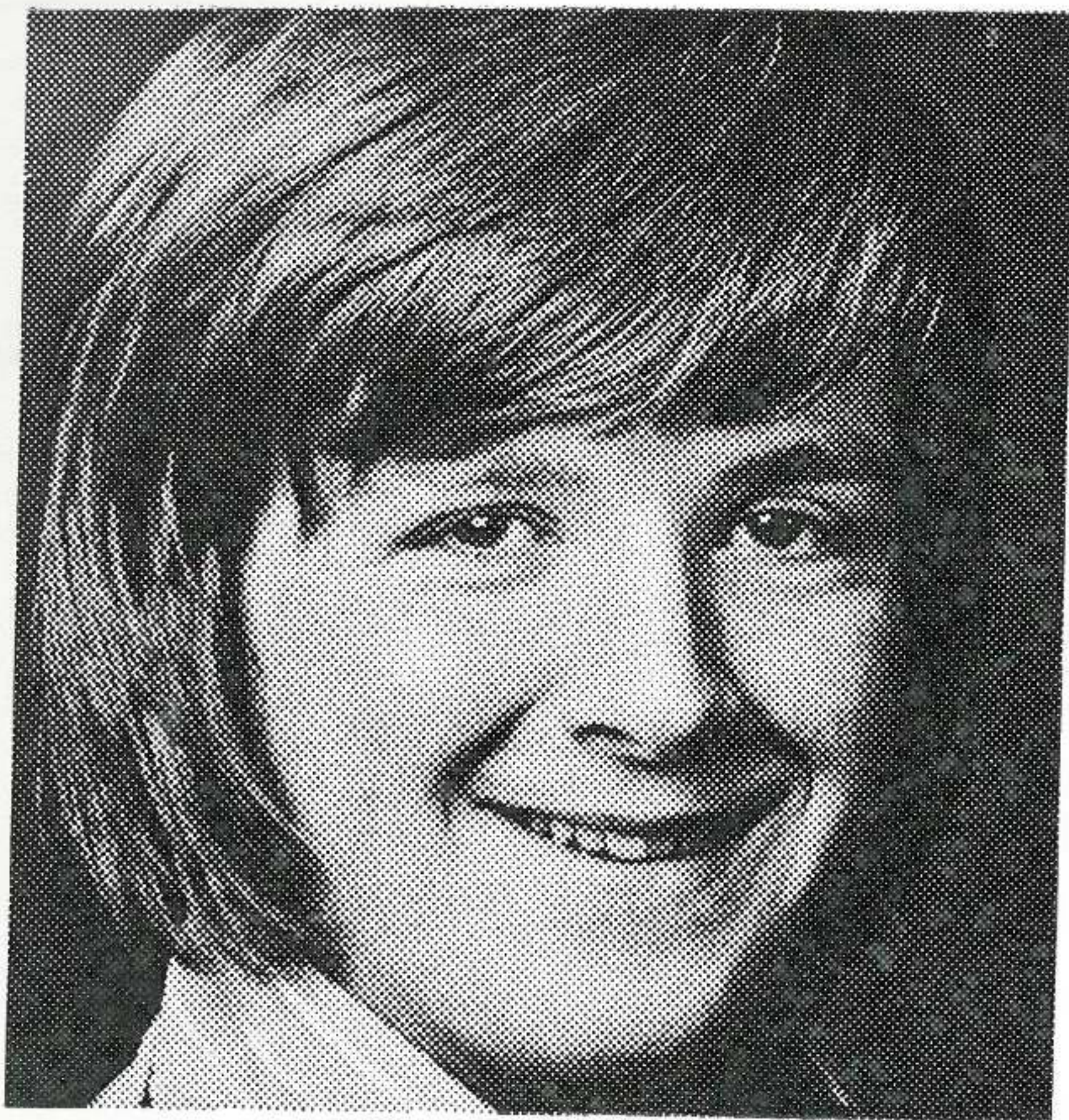
cumbed to neither: he showed his courage and his realistic view of things by slotting in behind Ollie and being content to hold that position; and he kept his form because of that realism.

In other words, Skehan has long since shown the character that goes to make a successful player — and a successful goalie, most of all. By watching the manner in which he always came up with a sound, sometimes an excellent performance, whenever the occasion arose, you could be assured of this. Usually he got the winter games when Ollie was toying with retirement, cold comfort in every sense of the word when every summer, as the tensions of the championship heightened, Ollie was persuaded once more from hibernation to sparkle in his own very special way.

Skehan is not a striking, ebullient sort of figure as Walsh was. Rather a neat, tidy, studious style of 'keeper who watches play keenly, remains close to his lines, clears with a whippy shot as soon as he can. Not given to ostentation, his heroics are of the more ordinary kind.

Ollie could — and did — win All-Irelands with the fantastic extrovert personality of his which communicated to the crowd, and they communicated to the rest of the Kilkenny team — and the sky was the limit! But, it is also possible to argue that Ollie lost matches, too, if not All-Irelands, which the sounder, less demonstrative skills of Skehan might have won.

It has been a long time coming, this emancipation. Skehan needs no proof of himself. He has already proven that he is a worthy minder of the Kilkenny posts by his constancy over the years that must have seemed sometimes to have no ending.



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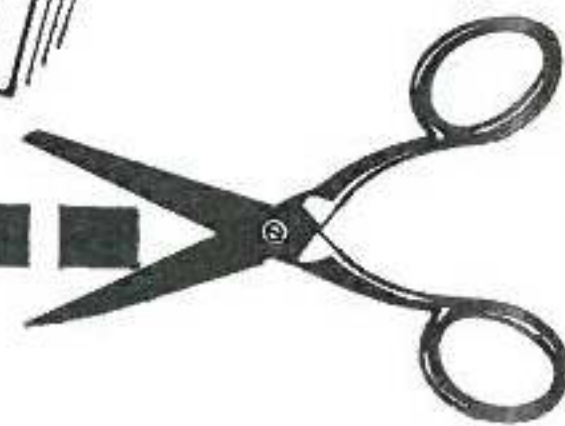
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Pat Hegarty

By SEAMUS O BRAONAIN

IF I were given the task of selecting an Irish hurling team to withstand the most severe threat of some invading hurling power, I should pose one condition: that the captain, with full on-the-field authority would have to be Pat Hegarty. In fact, the only time I ever saw Hegarty captain a team at inter county was in under-21 hurling, but, what does a name matter? In spite of the fact that someone else tosses for choice of ends, it is Hegarty who is burning up the raging fires within himself to spark alight the fires of all the others.

My favourite description of Hegarty is that of a friend of mine who calls him "The Fire Brigade." It didn't strike me at first, but then he explained: "Well, in all cases of emergency, you send for Hegarty." Fair enough, I got the point; and since then I have been expanding it until its suitability seems absolutely perfect, even to the paradoxical connection with fire, and, by remote extension, with the Tiger of Blake's poem.

Indeed, the way things are nowadays, it looks as though the only solution Cork could think of if a sliothar were stuck in the branches of a tree, or some self-opinionated forward got his head

wedged between the goalposts, or someone who had forgotten to take his matches out of the pocket of his track suit, burst into flames, would be to send for Hegarty. He has been asked to do just about everything else, and what he hasn't been asked he has taken on voluntarily.

Recalling the All-Ireland under-21 final in which he captained Cork to success, he began at left half-forward and saw the team off to a good start with a couple of not so typical scores excellently taken, and plenty of typical serving of the ball, urging, prompting and enthusiastic joy in full sympathy with the scorers. Then he fell back around midfield where things were not working to complete satisfaction. Finally, when the main Kilkenny threat emerged as their right wing forward, Harte, Hegarty dropped back to the left half-back position and played out the game there, keeping safe tabs on the danger man. Never ask anyone to do what you are not willing to do yourself—that's his motto.

Of course, he has never had much rest, in keeping with his restlessness. No sooner established at wing-forward in the senior team, than switched back to wing-half (right, this time)

to bolster a trouble area. Later, again, he was the emergency solution for centre-half when Justin McCarthy was injured. Further periods at wing-half and wing-forward before he appeared to have settled back this year into the attack.

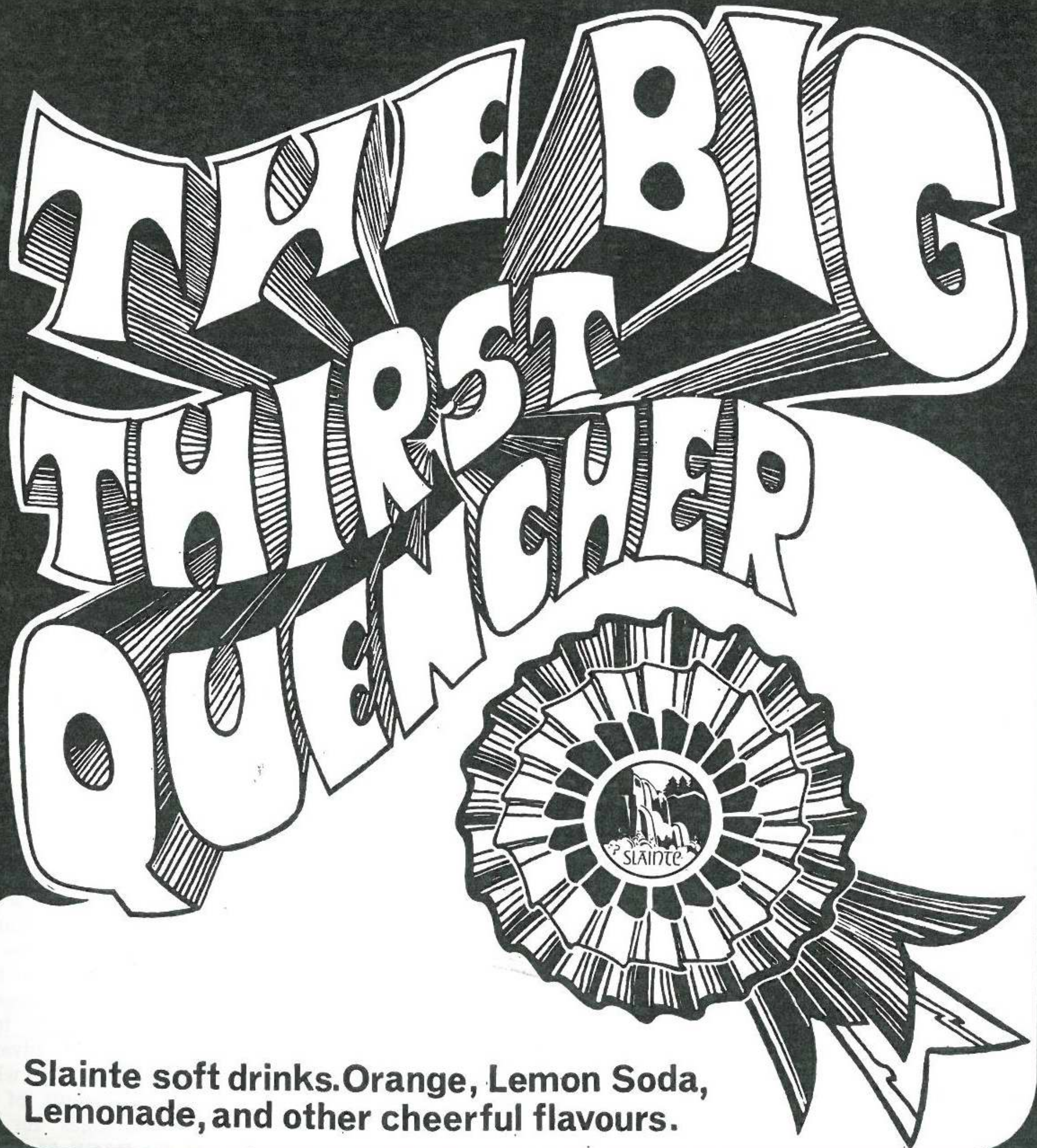
But, then came the Tipperary first game when fire brigade action was, indeed, needed and Hegarty again was the only one to the rescue at centre-back. The replay was even more adventurous: having begun with some of his usual softening-up operations on the opposing defence, he was called to relieve a centre-field crisis in place of Justin McCarthy; this lasted only until half-time when Looney retired and he was moved back to bale out the defensive boat.

He gets around—one way or another, he gets around. Because, even when left at his forward station, he never believes in staying still; back deep to collect pressured clearances—usually using that old-fashioned dummy-pull of his to throw off the half-back; or across the field like a buzz-saw; or in towards goal as he smells some loose break three moves in advance.

The number of scores which have come as a result of his tremendous challenges for the

● TO PAGE 53

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Words of wisdom



Tony Maher

OAKLAND is just across the bay from San Francisco and I'm told that it is a nice sort of a place. It could be . . . but on the one and only occasion in my middle-aged life that I was there, I regret to place it on record here that I saw little of it.

I used to take a drink in those far-off days of last March and to put it mildly, gently and in clear perspective, I was in a mellow, relaxed, perhaps an even who-gives-a-care-what-may-happen-tomorrow, frame of mind. Certainly I wasn't in any mood to waste time in appreciating the scenery or the environs of Oakland.

Donald Cummings drove me from San Francisco to Oakland and he did it with expertise and authority. At another time and in another place he could have been a Juan Fangio searching for another world record. But it was pleasant, although a little too fast for my liking.

I returned from Oakland in the best of company. Donie O'Sullivan was in the back seat and the driver was Sean O'Neill—and let me say here and now that I will travel with Sean O'Neill in a car anytime.

If and when he decides to give up football for Down—and let's hope that will not be for a long time yet—he could have a new and exciting sporting career ahead of him on the tracks of Brand's Hatch and Monza. For my money he's a better driver than he is a full-forward, and tell me, do you know a better full-forward in Ireland?

However, I'm digressing just a little from what I set out to tell you.

Picture me about 8 o'clock that evening in Oakland. The drink was flowing at a good reception, I was getting more than my share—and the company was great. There were All-Ireland

By
PHILIP RODERICK

finals and Munster finals being played over and over and over. God knows, but for the occasional American accent, you could have been in Timmy Creedon's pub in Aghada.

Then, through that glorious, technicolour mist I saw a dear and familiar face. Among all the Tipperary, Kilkenny and Offaly men, one of our own . . . Tony Maher.

I lifted myself away from the company to talk about serious things—the matter of Cork in this year's hurling. And remember, at that time, there was still the National League to be won.

I may have forgotten everything else that was said in Oakland . . . but I can still hear Tony Maher that evening, with an accent that rolled out like an orchestra on the west coast of America.

"Cork will win the National League"—he told me—"and they'll win the All-Ireland hurling final this year. Nothing will stop them."

And they will, of course. Cork may have been a tuppenny ha'penny team at the beginning of 1972 but there's no doubt in my mind now but that they are the best in the country. There isn't a weak link on it from Paddy Barry, celebrating six proud years in goal, to Ray Cummins, whose stature at full-forward grows more powerfully elegant with every game.

Tony Maher himself has made a remarkable recovery from injury and he and Pat McDonnell and Brian Murphy form the best full-back line in the business.

Frank Norberg has come along at a magnificent rate, Seamus Looney is a commanding general at centre-half and as for Con Roche . . . well, for his size, he's a man and a half and needs no further praise from me.

Justin McCarthy is the superb stylist and he now has the strength he needs at midfield from the close presence of Denis Coughlan, who has finally made his big breakthrough into top class hurling.

The Cork forwards, for my money, are the best six in the business and I just can't see any defence holding them for a full 80 minutes.

There's a delightful cut about Pat Hegarty always, Mick Malone has the little bit of fire and devil that every good half forward needs and Gerald McCarthy is tipping back around his best again.

Ray Cummins is the full-forward of hurling. There isn't a man to touch him these days and,

● TO PAGE 51

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GREAT GAME IN STORE

By

Eamonn Young

EIGHT vital knock-out games Cork have played in the last 21 weeks. In that time they have beaten all the good teams in the country except Dublin, Wexford and Kilkenny.

In April they took Galway by 16 points and followed up with a seven-point beating of Tipp. minus Mick Keating. Limerick were outclassed in the first half of the League final soon afterwards, but came strongly at the end to be headed only by a few points.

Waterford, a new side in which nobody had any confidence, played a fine game against the League champions in the opening round of the championship in Cork, and in losing by seven points scored four goals or one more than the Leaside challengers for today's title. Cork were pretty bad in this game and it was obvious to us who had been studying their form that the team as selected would never win an All-Ireland. Some of the men on whom one normally relied were in poor form also, and it was with pessimism that I personally waited for the Tipp. game in the Munster semi-final.

Training though guided by the tremendously fit Fr. Donal Coakley and the firm Jim Regan was poorly attended and the form shown in the training ground before the Tipp. game was quite discouraging. So it was no surprise to me when Tipp.

raced away to a smart lead in the Munster game at Limerick and led by 3-7 to 2-1 at half-time. Charlie McCarthy had notched the point from a free and netted a goal from a dead ball, while Ray Cummins had the other score following another McCarthy free.

In the second half that day the selectors made some vital changes, the most important being the placing of Pat Hegarty at centre-back, and aided by the strong breeze, an improved performance by the men who stayed on and a display of fire and craft by the subs., Cork drew the game.

Relieved, we went home and I felt there could be only one answer on the replay. Cork did win it by six points, but what a fight Tipp. put up. Though facing a better team, the men in blue and gold fought it out to the last ditch and their refusal to yield was in the best traditions of championship hurling and of Tipperary.

Generally Limerick were expected to beat Clare, but we reckoned without the organising ability of Sean Hanly, the Clare chairman, and the Ennis venue. A combination of many things was too much for Limerick and into the Munster final came a Clare side buoyant and vivacious.

It was indeed a bit of an anticlimax, for in the first few minutes Cork showed that the extra week's training had im-

proved the side quite a lot. The men who were already pretty fit continued to hurl well, while some of the men who had been badly below form were now showing most of the skill and speed which had won them honours last year. Cork seemed pretty good in the Munster final and simply had too much hurling for the Banner County.

The London game, as expected, was a spirited one at times when the exiles stretched their fancied rivals, but the 26 point beating told a tale, and Cork have had four weeks to get ready for a final which they will be very keen to win for many reasons, not least of which is the desire to prove that last year when they were beaten by Limerick in the Munster series, they would have once again proved champions had they available the best fifteen. That water is long past the bridge now.

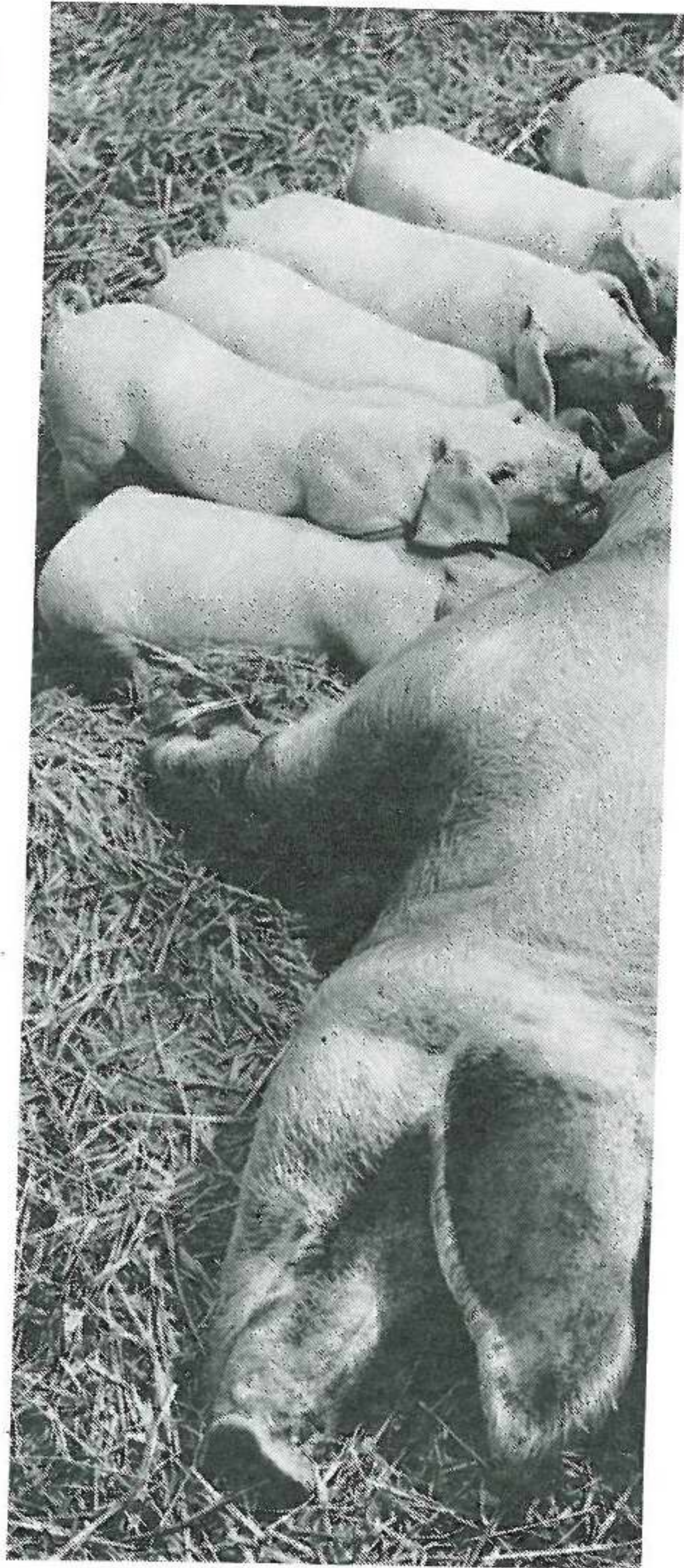
This Cork side has been improving steadily since the last games of the League. At times they were so bad only luck and good judgement saved them and I refer especially to the drawn game against Tipp., but since then there has been far more solid hurling than luck. They have had time to get rather fit also and under enthusiastic guidance should be in good trim for today's final.

Kilkenny, of course, are always

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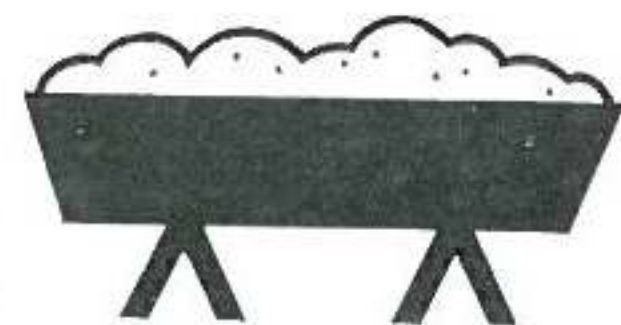
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What a battle

this will be!

By OWEN McCANN

ONE reason why I am looking forward with particularly keen interest to this All-Ireland senior hurling final is the pulse-raising prospect of an intriguing battle of wits between Pa Dillon and Ray Cummins. Here are hurlers of outstanding ability, exciting personality-plus men who have important roles to play, and who can also be depended on for high level performances.

Cummins, one of the most gifted players in the game, is a vital link in the Cork set-up. Such are his great qualities that he can't be overlooked for a second. His deft touches and progressive hurling stamp him as a man who can be both an inspiration to his colleagues, and a thorn in the side of the opposing defences.

That's why Kilkenny are fortunate that Pa Dillon came out of a brief inter-county retirement during the recent Leinster campaign. The redoubtable St. Lachtan's man has been through it all before, and he has also consistently in a great career matched skills and wits successfully with the best of them.

Indeed, I would say that Kilkenny already owe much to Dillon in this campaign alone. It

looked a forlorn move when the Noreside selectors sent the long-serving 6ft. 1in. full back into the drawn Leinster final late in the first half, and at a time when Wexford led by five points after having grabbed three quick goals and four points.

But, as things turned out, that step did much to save the day for the defending champions. Dillon not only made a grand come-back, but his return allowed Fan Larkin, who was out of place at full back, to revert to right full, and he went on there to make an important contribution to the great Kilkenny fight-back.

Dillon again played his part well in the replay win over Wexford, and as Cummins has been one of Cork's brightest stars all season, both hurlers will bring into this game encouraging form to bolster their individual skills and confidence.

They were in opposition in the 1969 All-Ireland senior final. That afternoon the big and tenacious Kilkenny man made his fourth appearance at that level, and collected his second medal—he won the first in 1967, Cummins was experiencing the "game of the year" atmosphere

for the first time.

Versatility has been a key note of the senior careers of both Cummins and Dillon. The Cork man first made his name on the inter-county senior scene as a footballer—he won his place in the county premier squad late in 1967 in the National League.

And, although we shall always chiefly remember Dillon as a full back, he played at full forward in one of Kilkenny's most memorable triumphs ever. That was in the 1965-66 National League "Home" final, when Kilkenny beat Tipperary in competitive fare for the first time in 44 years. He also wore the No. 14 jersey in the unsuccessful All-Ireland senior final of 1966 with Cork.

Cummins, who is 23, played with Cork in minor hurling and football, and he was at full forward in the side that beat Wexford in the 1969 All-Ireland under-21 hurling final. At 19, he went into the Cork senior hurling team as a substitute in the Munster final of 1969, and he retained his place for the final.

Since then this 6 ft. 3 ins. tall dual player has shared prominently in all of Cork's hurling



Ray Cummins



Pa Dillon

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HURLING and football, like farming, are part of the Irish tradition, and have long been a constant topic of conversation among the agricultural community. In fact, the farmer has always been amongst the most staunch supporters of our national games. Anybody with an interest in the preservation and strengthening of Gaelic games must also have an interest in the welfare of the farmer.

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Cork's dual star Ray Cummins speaks his mind

IN AN INTERVIEW

WITH

JACK MAHON

RAY CUMMINS, the Cork dual star, has become one of the G.A.A.'s greatest characters. The lanky Civil Engineer, who plays club hurling for Blackrock (The Rockies) and football for St. Michaels is a former U.C.C. star in both codes. Recently Ger O'Leary and himself opened "The Sports Centre" at 36 Princes St., Cork, and launched the G.A.A. kit-bag in the various county colours. Born on 9/11/48, Ray is 6' 2" in height and weighs 13 stone. We have great pleasure in featuring him here. Last year he was selected on both Carrolls All Star teams in a unique honour that may never again be equalled.

Q.—Who are your favourite players?

A.—Mick O'Connell, Sean O'Neill, Mick Keating, Eddie Keher, Frank Cummins, Mick Roche.

Q.—Have you a favourite team apart from your own?

A.—Kerry and Tipperary are my favourites.

Q.—Who have been your most difficult individual opponents?

A.—John Kelly, Pat Hartigan and Jack Cosgrave.

Q.—What is your most memorable game?

A.—The Munster Football Final of 1971.

Q.—What has been your biggest thrill?

A.—I have had two. Firstly meeting the Carrolls G.A.A. All-Stars and secondly being chosen by the readers of Junior Desk as their favourite hurler.

Q.—What was your biggest disappointment?

A.—The replay of the All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final in 1966 when we were beaten by Wexford.

Q.—What do you like particularly?

A.—Steak and french mustard. Going to bed early and being

able to relax. Watching under-age games especially the small lads.

Q.—Have you any miscellaneous dislikes as regards the G.A.A. generally?

A.—I dislike the keeping of hurling balls by the crowd at matches. And I also dislike dirty players and referees who allow them to get away with it.

Q.—What are your favourite T.V. shows?

A.—Seven Days, Enterprise and Gaelic Report.

Q.—Who are your favourite singers?

A.—Nana Muskouri, Gilbert O'Sullivan, Dickie Roc, and Tom Paxton.

Q.—Who are your favourite actors and/or actresses?

A.—Sidney Poitier and Ryan O'Neal.

Q.—Who are your best friends?

A.—They are mainly those I have made through playing Gaelic Games, both team-mates and opponents.

Q.—Who have been the biggest influence on your sporting career?

A.—My family and the men who look after my clubs under-age teams to one of whom in particular I am very grateful, namely the late Derry Cremen.

Q.—What is your personal ambition?

A.—To get as much enjoyment from games in the future as I have in the past and some day to be happily married.

Q.—Who is the person in the world you would most like to meet?

A.—Pope Paul VI.

Q.—Who are the Irishmen you revere the most in history?

A.—Padraig Pearse and Gen. Tom Barry.

Q.—Who are the Irishmen of to-day whom you most admire?

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● FROM PAGE 21

A.—Jack Lynch, John Hume, Ivan Cooper and Paddy Devlin.

Q.—Who are your favourite sportsmen outside the G.A.A.?

A.—Mike Gibson, Johnny Giles, George Best, Barry McGann and Donal Walshe.

Q.—Can you speak Irish?

A.—I can, but not as well as I would like to.

Q.—Do you intend to become a referee?

A.—Yes, if I ever get time.

Q.—Do you think that the G.A.A. will go professional?

A.—I hope not, I would like to think that the games will always be played for enjoyment. However, I do think players could be treated a lot better within the G.A.A.

Q.—What do you think of sportswriters generally and who is your favourite?

A.—Collectively they gave our games the biggest boost in a long time when together with P. J. Carroll and Co. they placed such emphasis on sportsmanship when choosing the Carrolls All-Stars. This I feel will encourage others to be fair and sporting and will also give their choice a sense of responsibility in this matter. Individually all of the sportswriters have been in their time, constructively critical of conditions and decisions within the G.A.A. They are thus, to my

mind, playing a very important part in the promotion of our national games so when considering my choice of 'favourite sportswriter' it is the accuracy of his reports that I have placed greatest emphasis on. My choice is Paddy Downey of "The Irish Times".

Q.—What do you think of Junior Desk? Have you any suggestions for its improvement?

A.—I can honestly say that Junior Desk is the first section in "Gaelic Sport" that I read and the only section I always read fully. I know for a fact that many other inter-county players do likewise. No higher praise than that could I give you. If you are looking for suggestions might I suggest that you have a player each month answering questions submitted specifically for him by the readers. I think that the youngsters would get a big kick seeing their own questions being answered "from the horse's mouth" as it were.

Q.—Who are your favourite authors?

A.—Maurice Walsh, A. J. Cronin and Raymond Smith.

Q.—Have you any advice for young players?

A.—Practice makes (almost) perfect. Never resort to foul tactics to beat another player—a dirty player has few friends and lots of enemies.

Q.—Do you favour long hair?

A.—I am not against long hair but I think that very long hair is unhygienic.

Q.—Are Irish people becoming less Irish?

A.—While we are becoming more conscious of being Europeans, I don't think this is to say we are becoming less Irish.

Q.—What identifies you most as an Irishman?

A.—The playing of our national games, the pride in and the love for this country.

Q.—Have you any time on your hands at all.

A.—I have very little time for any other activities except the Sports Centre! (that takes it in nicely doesn't it!!). Within a very short time of starting the business the huge variety of materials in the form of crests, badges and bags available to the followers of other codes startled us especially when compared with what was available to G.A.A. followers. From this came the idea for a G.A.A. kit-bag. I hope we have played a part (however small) in glamourising the games. I wish other firms especially those who down through the years have gained immense benefits from the games would follow the example.

And so say all of us. Thanks Ray for your nice comments about Junior Desk. (J.M.)

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Ancient rivalry of Nore and Lee

THERE is nothing like a hurling final between Cork and Kilkenny to set the old-timers talking, for those were the two counties that provided the great classics of the hurling game in the early days of the Association, and their continuing rivalry down the years has always brought the fans hosting to Croke Park in their thousands.

But it took Kilkenny and Cork a long time to find their way to Jones's Road on All Ireland day, since their earlier battles for hurling supremacy were staged at Southern venues.

Yet the first All-Ireland final ever between Cork and Kilkenny was staged, of all places, in the Phoenix Park. It was not meant to be played there. The original venue was the Ashtown Trotting Grounds. But this was in the years after the Parnell Split, and although the G.A.A. was reviving, organisation and administration were still, to say the least of it, haphazard.

The General Secretary was living in Cork, but the final between Cork and Kilkenny was fixed for Dublin, although there was no member of the Executive living in Dublin at the time.

The Secretary in Cork wrote

to a former Secretary in Dublin to fix up a venue. But the former Secretary was away on holidays, and the letter never reached him. A couple of days before the game, the Secretary in Cork got worried and telegraphed someone else in Dublin who had to find some place at which the game could be played. At short notice he hired the Ashtown Trotting Grounds, sight unseen, as the saying is.

On Sunday morning the competing teams turned up at Ashtown and found that, where they expected a playing pitch, there flourished a thriving meadow. There was no prospect of hurling there, so high was the grass. But the hurlers of those days were not easily put off when they came up to Dublin to play a final.

The stalwart men of Blackrock and Confederation dug up the goalposts, carried them down the road into the Phoenix Park, and there, inside the Ashtown gate, played their All-Ireland final, a game which Cork won with almost ridiculous ease.

But there was an amusing sidelight. Quite a number of spectators had paid their sixpences to enter Ashtown Park before it was found that the ground was

unplayable. The conscientious officials announced that everyone who had paid would get his money back, and then found twice as many looking for a refund as had paid on the gate in the first place!

That was way back in 1893, and not for a decade did Kilkenny and Cork face one another in a final again. This was their first big meeting at what was to become, through the next decade again, their favourite stamping ground, Dan Fraher's Field, the old Shandon Park in Dungarvan. Ten years before Blackrock had beaten Confederation by 6-8 to 0-2, this time the margin was even more convincing, 8-9 to 0-8, and Cork were again represented by a Blackrock selection.

The general belief in hurling circles after that game was that Kilkenny would never beat a Munster team in an All-Ireland final, as the Noremens' classical stick-work just would never make an impression on the more dashing Munster style.

And that was possibly why the crowd was not as big as it might have been when the two counties met again the following year in the 1904 final at Maurice Davin's ground at Deerpark just outside Carrick-on-Suir.

That game was not played until June 24, 1906, and by all accounts it was the hottest day that came all that summer. I know that my father and uncle set out from Mooncoin, a few miles away, to cycle to Carrick and had to give up because their tyres kept puncturing through the heat.

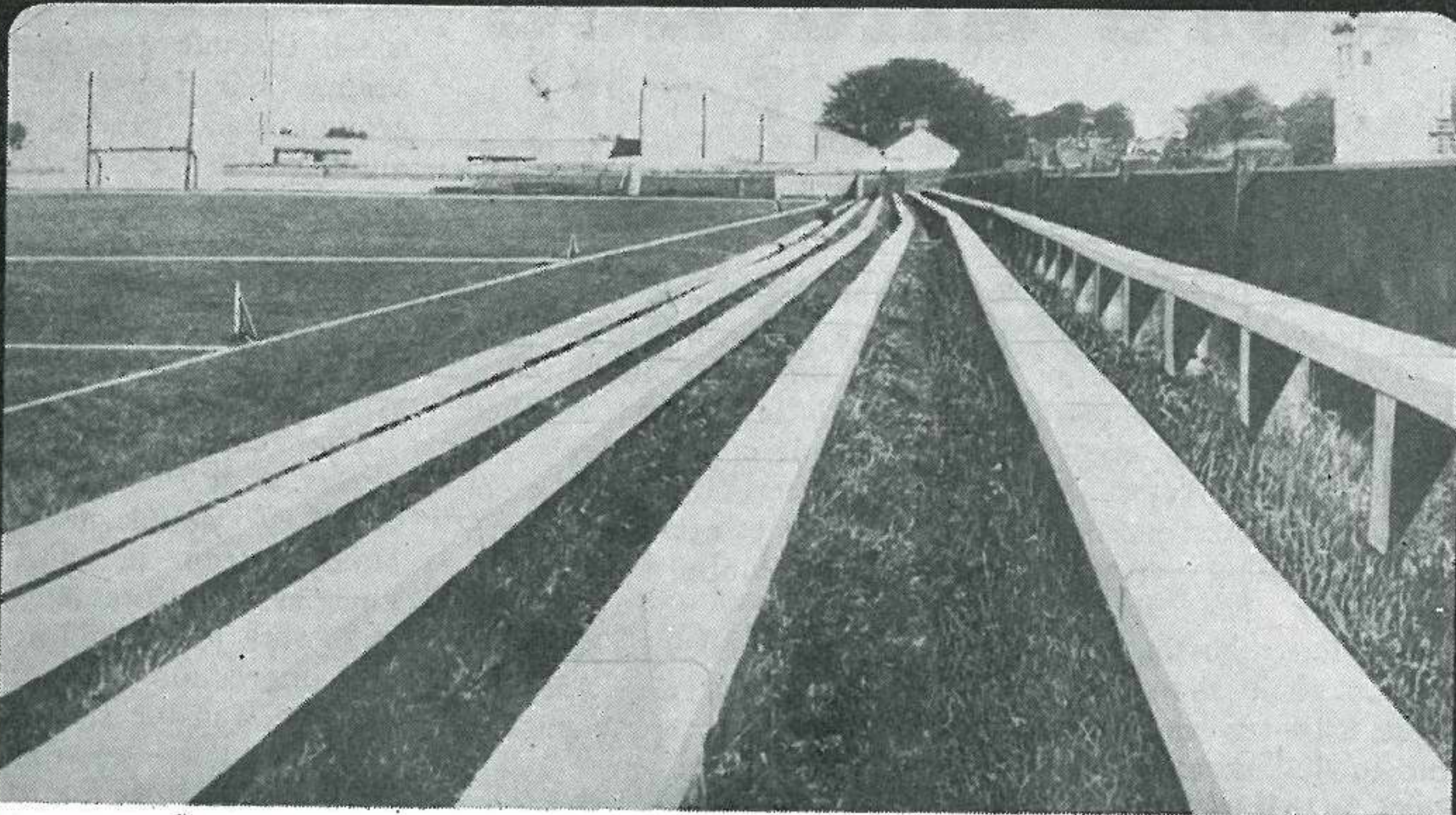
Because St. Finbarr's had succeeded Blackrock as county champions, Cork had a number of changes from the seventeen that had routed the Noremens a year before. Kilkenny had as

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BEFORE next year's championships get under way the "American" question will have to be settled one way or the other.

Obviously I cannot speak for the other provinces but certainly in Ulster the trans-Atlantic commuting has been the major talking point this season with leading and most respected county secretaries up in arms about the present situation.

Hardly a single county has escaped an epidemic which has raged to such effect that it is not uncommon for as many as six players to be missing from one side in a key fixture.

Tyrone has been especially hard hit and long serving Paddy O'Neill did not pull his punches when he discussed the problem with me immediately before his side lined out with six or seven first team choices absent in America.

"I have asked two or three times at Croke Park about the position of U.S. trips," Paddy declared. "I have been told that players should have clearance papers but I've still to see them. A team in New York is supposed to make a request for the player who must come along and have the certificate signed by his county board. I haven't yet seen a certificate. I don't know what

it's all about. It must be a figment of someone's imagination."

Claiming that the direction should come from the top the Tyrone boss added: "All the Central Council is doing is fiddling about the matter. The only solution I can see is that all counties agree on a firm line and then stick to it. The Central Council last year kicked up a big fuss about the unofficial Ulster team that went to New York but since then they have done nothing — they failed to follow up their threat."

Antrim secretary Al McMurray was echoing opinions of many when he described the whole set up as "nothing short of a circus which not only threatens the championship but the very life of many of our clubs."

Fermanagh secretary Malachy Mahon — the Erne County have also a number of travellers — takes a rather philosophical view of the whole matter. "This position is here to stay I'm afraid and we can't stop it. All we can do is to adapt ourselves to it," he said.

But Malachy has a radical answer: "It looks as if we will be forced to go at least semi-professional," was his astounding suggestion. "It's the only law these boys understand. The

students in particular won't stay at home and play for nothing when they can get big money in America. And who can blame them?

"I think that Joe Lennon had the right idea when, a few years ago, he suggested that a panel of players be selected for the county each year and that these men should not be involved in club football for that season. Something on these lines, I have no doubt will have to come."

When a county official of the calibre of Malachy Mahon arrives at a decision like this it certainly is time to sit up and take notice.

Personally I would be greatly alarmed to see any suggestion of professionalism coming into our games but I must admit that today the signs are ominous.

In lighter vein, that headed "goal" by Barney Patterson for Antrim minors against Derry in the Ulster championship remains a popular topic here.

When Barney dived full length to turn the ball into the net the score was promptly disallowed by prominent inter-county referee Jim McGuigan — and to add insult to injury, as far as Antrim were concerned, Derry carried the day by a margin of three points.

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● FROM PAGE 27

"The score should have been allowed to stand," claimed Antrim manager John Gough immediately. "There is no rule in the Official Guide which says that a ball cannot be headed into the net."

"There is no rule which says that you can head a ball," countered those who sided with the referee's decision.

Well the Ulster Council was called in and the verdict — the referee should have allowed the score and the match must be replayed.

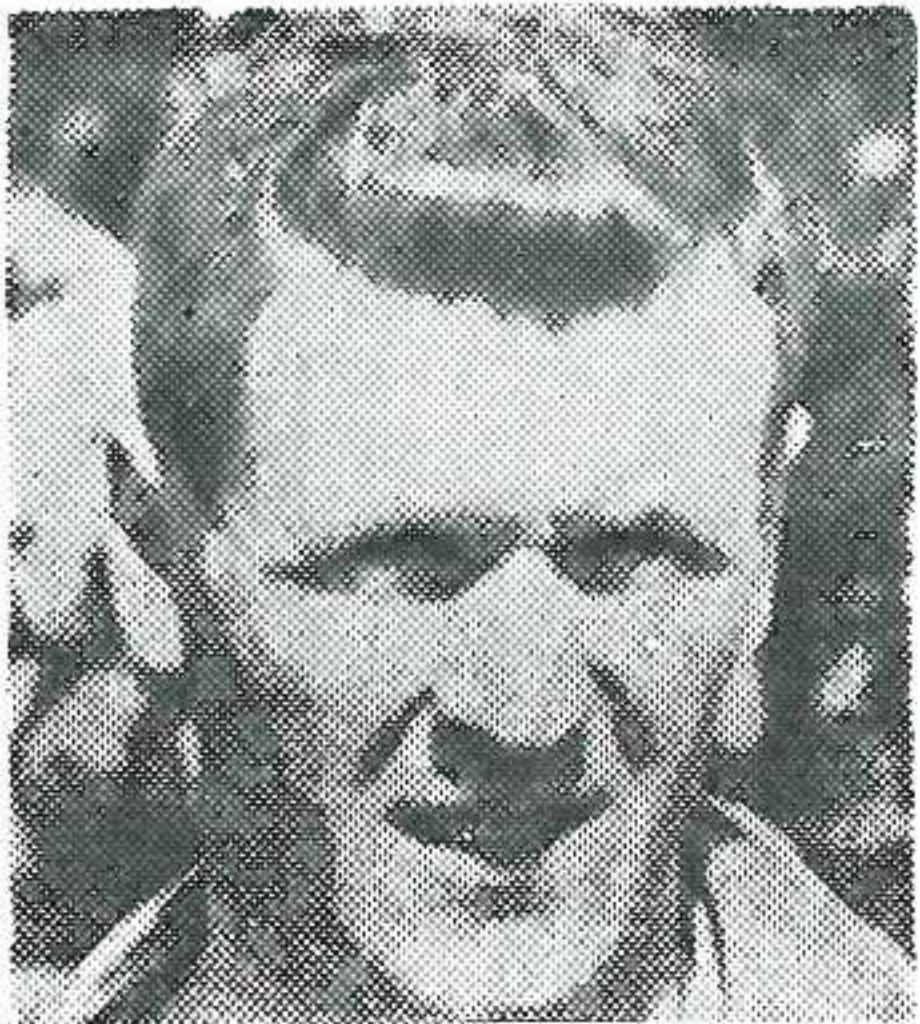
But what would you have done if you had been in the referee's position? My own view, for what it's worth is that the referee was wrong and that in the circumstances the Ulster Council acted perfectly correctly.

To those who argue that there is no rule permitting the ball to be headed I would suggest that neither is there a rule which allows a score if the ball were to ricochet off a player's chest, arm, shin or any other part of his anatomy into the net — or over the bar for that matter.

I have pursued this matter with some diligence and candidly I have been greatly surprised by the wide diversity of opinion on the question of legality of heading. Indeed, I have discovered one county where this particular art is regarded as dangerous play.

But as it is only fitting in a case of this kind the last word should be left with the President of the Association. On an appeal by the referee against the decision of the Ulster Council, Mr. Fanning has ruled that a player can head the ball for either a goal or a point (it is covered under rule 133)

The President also ruled that the Ulster Council had no right to alter the referee's decision whether he was right or wrong and so the result stands.



● *Ollie Walsh.*

What men to have in the subs!

SAYS
NOEL COOGAN

IT has often been said that a team's strength can be measured by the worth of its substitutes. If that saying is a valid one then Kilkenny are well equipped to take on Cork in the All-Ireland senior hurling final. While the Noresiders final fifteen has not yet been named at the time of writing it looks very much as if the Kilkenny substitute bench will be occupied by talent never before equalled on the first Sunday of September.

Take, for a start, the redoubtable Ollie Walsh, surely one of the most glamorous performers on the hurling scene in recent times. Ace netminder, Ollie, has been out of favour in recent months, but it is the brilliance of Noel Skehan, for so long his understudy, that is keeping Walsh on the sideline. While Skehan may not have had the happiest of hours in the drawn provincial final against Wexford, he more than made up for it in the replay, turning in a super show, conceding only a goal in the 80 minutes. As somebody aptly put it after that match "the best tribute that can be paid to Noel Skehan is that Ollie Walsh himself couldn't have done any better."

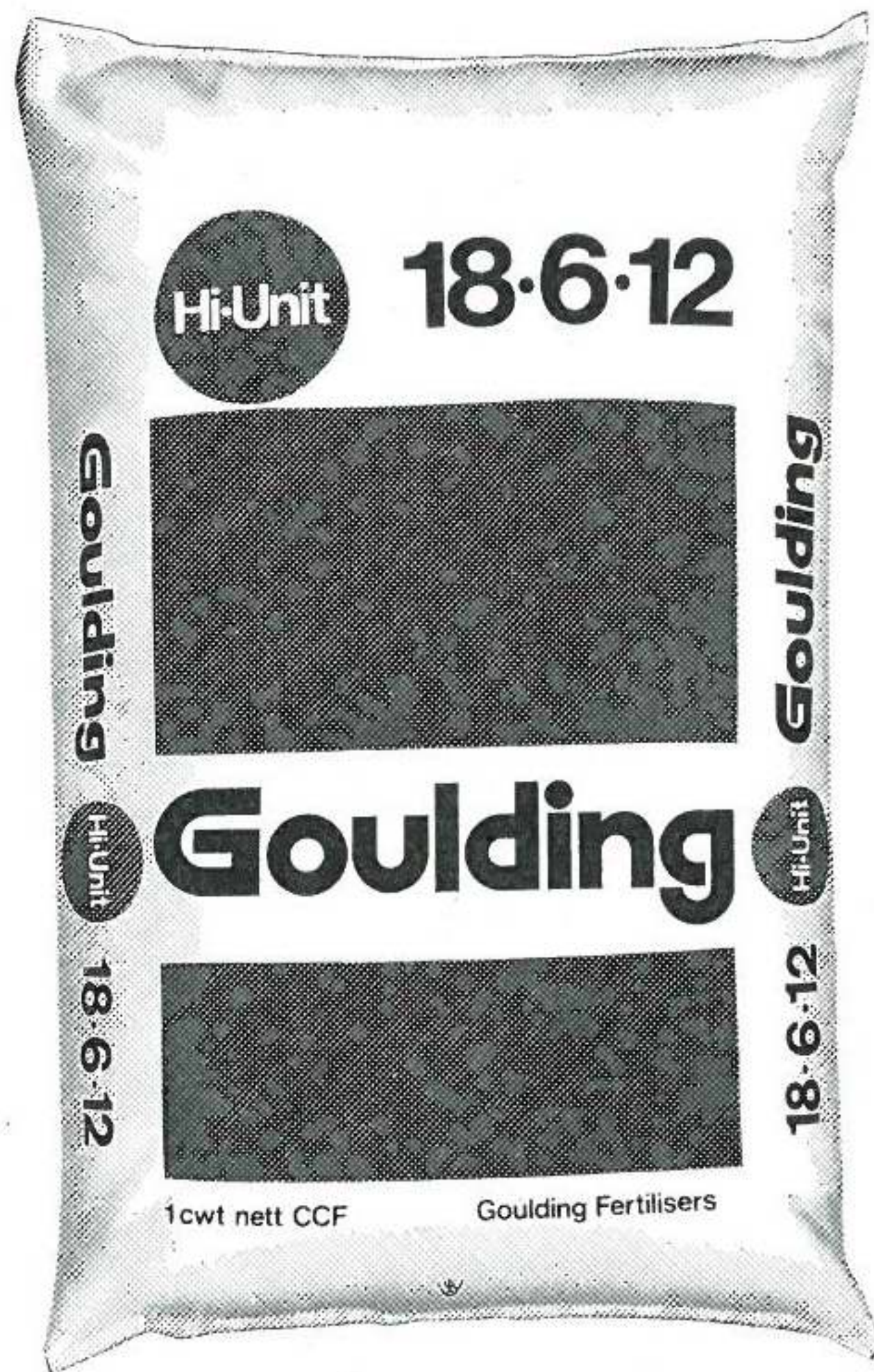
The fact that Noel is captain of the black and amber will probably inspire him. So will the fact that another great netminder is standing by ready to take over in case of any lapses. While it is unlikely that Walsh will be needed, what a man to have as a reserve.

The same can be said of the popular Paddy Moran, who has given great service to his county over the years. While now in the autumn of an illustrious career, Moran is still a useful man to have on the panel. In recent games he has had to yield to up and coming midfielder Liam O'Brien. If needed, Paddy certainly will not let his county down and indeed could, like on so many occasions in the past, inspire his comrades.

It is also a tribute to the encouraging depth of rising young talent in Kilkenny that long serving Martin Coogan has also been dislodged. Eamonn Morrissey has been playing brilliant club hurling for James Stephens and took over at left half back from Coogan. Another well known defender whom the Leinster side could call upon if things are not going well is Willie Murphy. Murphy, like Walsh, Moran and Coogan has given sterling service to his native county.

While the substitutes' bench is likely to include quite an amount of experience, the chosen fifteen will have a fair amount of it, too, with Pa Dillon, Pat Henderson, Jim Treacy and Eddie Keher, all long serving stars in fine fettle. Add in established caman weavers like Pat Delaney, Frank Cummins and Kieran Purcell plus newcomers such as Skehan, Morrissey and O'Brien and you get a nice blend. A blend that can worry Cork all the way. Indeed a glance at that Black and Amber substitutes bench could well make them see red.

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WHAT IS THE ANSWER?

WHAT are we going to do about the senior hurling championship? What can we do about the senior hurling championship? Because one thing is certain, as things are going, unless we do something about it quickly we will have very little senior hurling championship left to do anything about.

Let us take a look back over this year's series to date. There was an entry as far as I can judge of fifteen counties, seven in Leinster, five in Munster, Galway, Antrim and London.

Before the competitions ever began, any bookmaker would have given any odds you asked for against ten of those counties winning the 1972 All Ireland. In fact that same bookmaker would have happily asked you to name your own figure against any two of those ten outsiders even reaching the final, and he would not have been in danger of losing a single penny.

Let's face it, the chances against any other county outside Tipperary, Cork, Kilkenny or Wexford winning the senior hurling title nowadays are at least 10 to one against.

With the exception of Waterford, no county outside the big Four has won the Liam McCarthy Cup in the last 30 years. What is more, no county outside the Big Four has even contested an All-Ireland senior final since 1963. And that was nine years ago.

True, a cautious bookmaker might well, at the start of this championship, have quoted Limerick at fairly short odds. And what happened to Limerick? They crashed to Clare at Ennis, and Clare had all they could do to keep the ball pucked out for Cork in the Munster final at Thurles.

Allowing for the fact that we had a sensational result in that Clare v Limerick game, we only had three other clashes in the preliminary stages of the championship that were worth crossing the road to see.

These were the Munster semi-final between Cork and Tipperary, the Leinster semi-final between Kilkenny and Laois and the Leinster final between Wexford and Kilkenny.

As a kind of bonus, we had replays in the games that really mattered, Cork against Tipperary at Limerick and Kilkenny v Wexford at Croke Park.

But to really drive hurling lovers up the walls, these games, few though they were, kept on clashing. The day Tipperary and Cork met for the second time at Limerick, Wexford and Kilkenny were facing one another for the first time at Croke Park. The day of the Leinster final replay at Croke Park, Clare and Cork were facing one another in the Munster final at Thurles.

As for the All-Ireland senior hurling semi-finals, these were an unmitigated disaster for this year, a veritable massacre of the innocents. Not only were Galway routed by Kilkenny in one semi-final and London over-run by Cork in the other, but the even worse fact is that the winners had never to move into top gear, except for relatively brief periods, and yet won pulling up.

So it is obvious that something will have to be done, and done quickly, to make the senior hurling championship, right through, as entertaining and even a competition as the senior football championship is.

The opportunity to do something constructive will be provided when the Recommendations

of the Special Commission come before the Special Congress which will be held in Dublin in the late Autumn.

But what is the answer? I wish I knew. The Commission recommends a rather complicated version of the Open Draw. Now I feel that if we are to have an Open Draw it should be just that, possibly with the Big Four of Tipperary, Cork, Kilkenny and Wexford 'seeded' so as to give them the chance of meeting in the semi-finals.

To have such an Open Draw make sense, however, we will need sixteen counties, and have we sixteen counties of senior standard, even including Antrim, London and possibly New York?

And if we are going to have an Open Draw, what of the Munster and Leinster senior championships? I would continue these as at present, and have the provincial finals scheduled for their present position in the latter half of July, and I would make sure to have them finished before the All-Ireland semi-finals.

Assuming that we have 16 counties in the Open Draw championship, I would play the first round, all eight matches on one day in Mid-May.

The second round could then be played on the last Sunday in June, again all four matches if necessary on one day, though switches of a week one way or the other could be made to avoid attractive fixtures clashing. Then we could have the two semi-finals on the first Sunday in August and the final as now on the first Sunday in September.

Would it work out? Well, we could only try. And one thing is certain. It could not be much worse that the way things turned out this season under the present system.

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SCORESHEET

THE fact that Cork and Kilkenny each figured in a drawn game on the way to this summit is likely to prove an important factor in marking out this campaign as a record-making one on the individual scoring front. Cork will be having their fifth match of the series, and the last year they played five games — in 1969 — Charlie McCarthy emerged as a record-maker.

The elusive St. Finbarr's hurler shot 1-6 in the final that season against Kilkenny to bring his figures up to 7-18 (39 points) from five games — the best score by a Cork hurler for a full national Championship programme since I introduced these charts back in 1955.

McCarthy finished joint top scorer with Paddy Molloy (Offaly) for both hurling and football in 1969. The Offaly hurler had by far the better match average, however. He took only three games to put up 8-15, which works out at thirteen points a match, while McCarthy shot 7.80 points an outing — his best average so far.

Despite his record-making feat of three years ago, the Cork sharpshooter must take second place to Seanie Barry, a star of the county's 1966 All-Ireland title-winning outfit, in one important regard. Barry was top scorer in both hurling and football in 1966 with 3.22 (32 points) from five games — the only Cork man so far to fill this proud role outright.

Two seasons ago when Cork last won the Liam McCarthy Cup,

Charlie McCarthy was not in quite the same dynamic sharpshooting form of 1969. Ironically, however, he still not only wound up out on his own on top of the hurling chart with 1-23 (26 points) from four games but had a comfortable four points lead.

That 1970 score by McCarthy takes fourth place over-all in the Cork chart. In decisively at No. 3, a point behind Barry's total of 1966, is the incomparable Christy Ring, who bagged 6-13 (31 points) in four games back in 1956 at 7.75 points a game. Three years later Ring achieved the best Cork average in the chart, when he shot 9.50 points in each of his two games for 2-13.

Eddie Keher is, understandably, the dominant name in Kilkenny's table. Last year he broke impressive new ground in more ways than one. His razor-sharp edge earned for him at 2-11 against Tipperary the best recorded total in an All-Ireland senior hurling final. That mighty score boosted his figures for the entire championship to 4-43 (55 points) — a brilliant new record for both codes.

Until then, one-time big-hitting Wexford full forward Nick Rackard had held sway with a barrage of 12-15 (11 points) in four appearances in 1956. Rackard averaged 12.71 points in that season, while Keher reached just a point a game more when climbing to his new peak — 13.75 points.

Naturally enough, the Kilkenny ace left his own county record in tatters last year. It

was originally put up in 1969 at 1-35 (38 points) in four games, or 9.50 points a match.

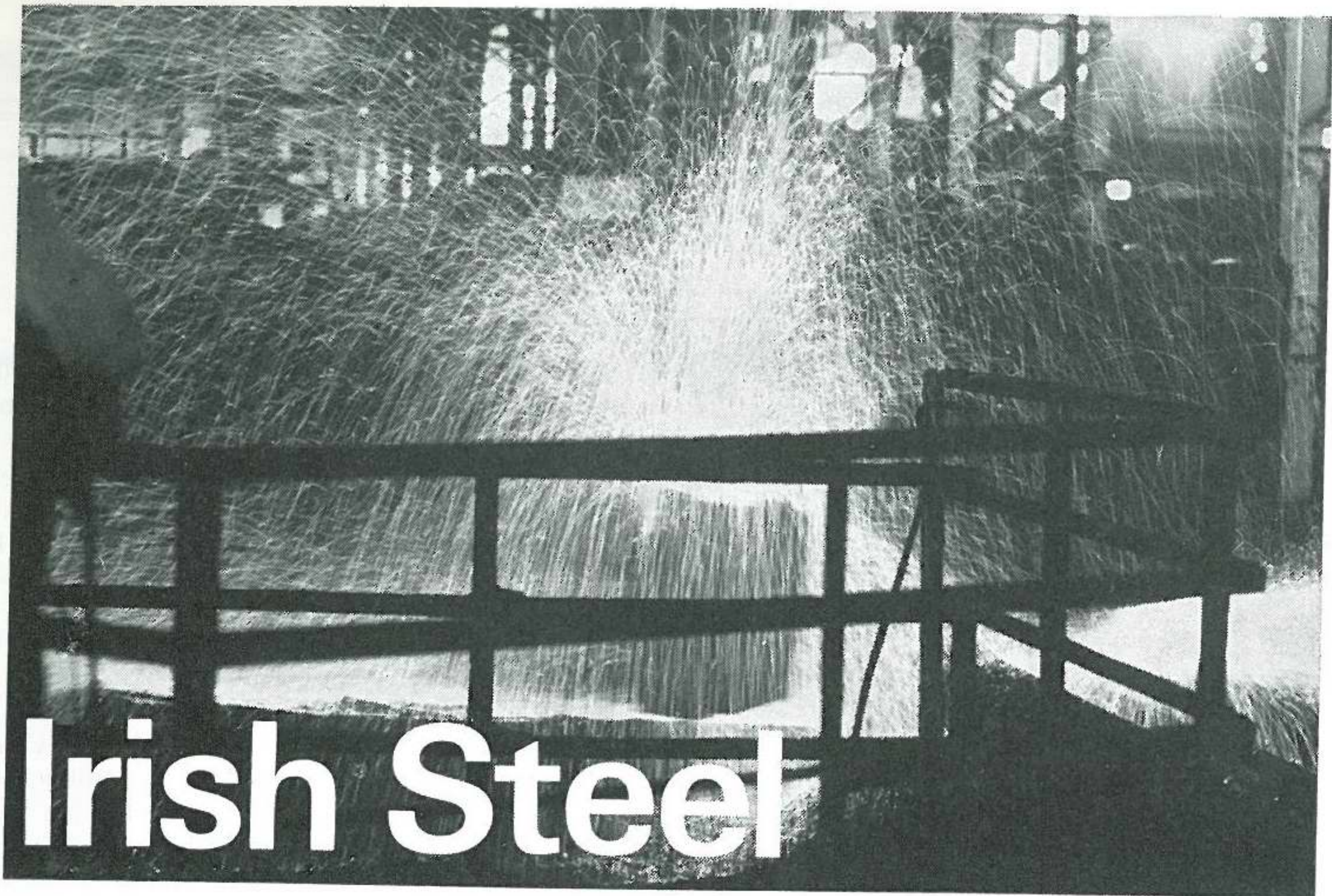
Keher is unique in that he fills the first three places in his county's chart. As well as those top seasons of 1971 and 1969, he led the way as far back as 1963 with 2-25 (31 points) from three games at an hourly rate of 10.33 points.

He is the only Kilkenny hurler, in fact, to better thirty points. The nearest any other player came to that total in the period was in 1957, when Mick Kenny shot 3-19 (28 points) in four games.

The one feature about Keher's great record that is surprising is that he has only twice in his career finished on top of the chart — in 1963 and last year. Should he again finish as the premier scorer nationally after this latest clash with Cork, he will rank as the first hurler to top the table outright over two successive seasons since Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary) led the way for the third year in a row in 1962.

Other than Doyle and Keher, Nick Rackard, ace marksman in 1955 and 1956, is the only hurler to take the top spot outright more than once.

So, as was the case after the 1969 meeting of Cork and Kilkenny, some bright new chapters in the scoring achievements of both Charlie McCarthy and Eddie Keher seem destined to be written into SCORESHEET following the 1972 meeting of the hurlers of the Lee and the Nore.



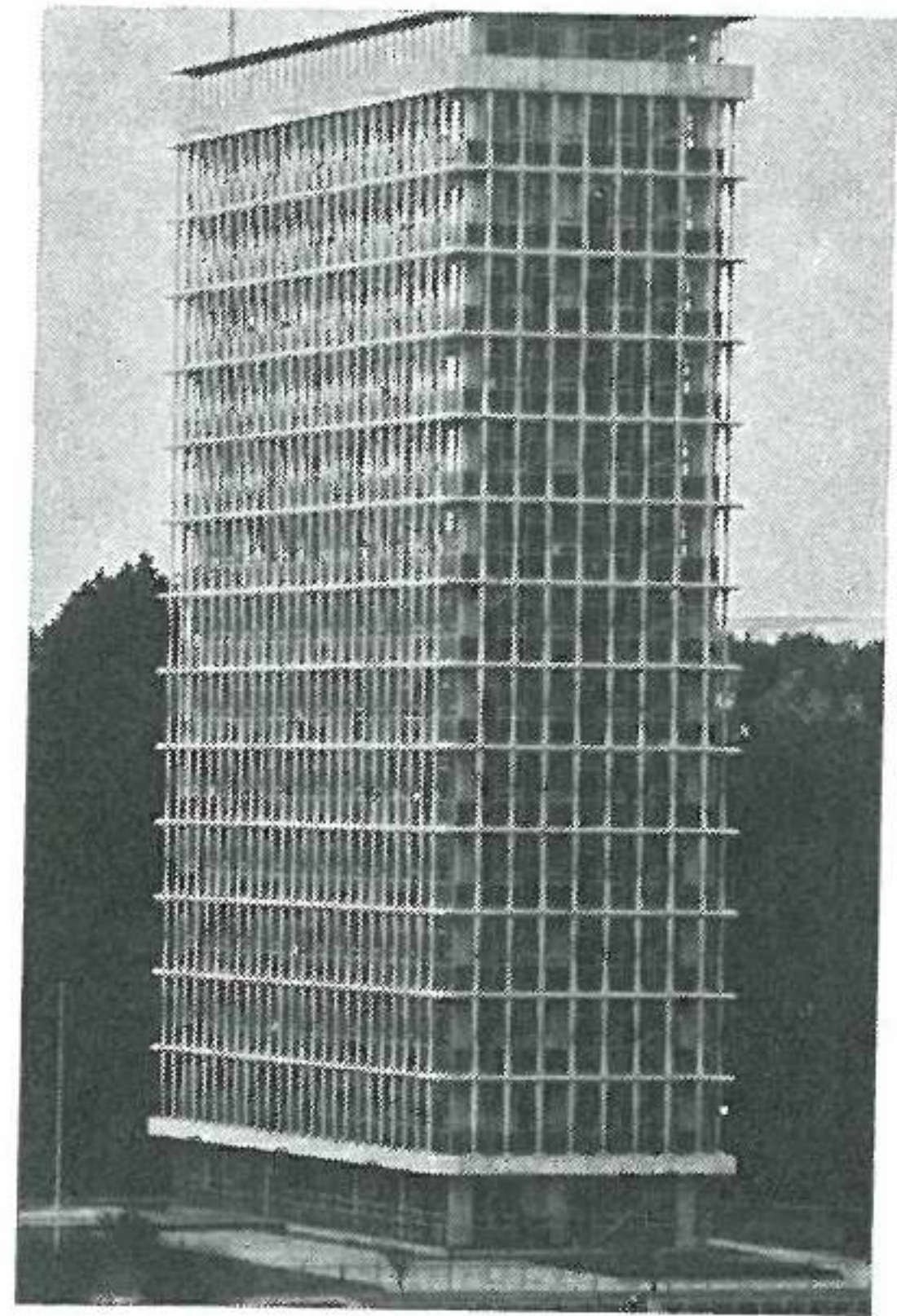
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Welcome back, Galway!

THE current championship season has seen a lot of new ground broken in the camogie game with Galway qualifying for their first junior All-Ireland final, Limerick winning their first junior championship in Munster and Kilkenny regaining the Leinster senior title and qualifying for the All-Ireland final by defeating Wexford for the first time in the senior grade.

Galway were graded for the first time this season, but while they have the advantage that half the present side have had senior experience not alone at inter-county but at interprovincial level, this is only one of the reasons for the great revival of the Western county.

I believe personally that the biggest reason for the revival of the game in Galway is the hard work and vigorous personality of the County Chairman Jane Murphy from Mountbellew. The amount of work Jane Murphy has been doing for camogie in the West since she graduated from University College Galway has been phenomenal

She is chairman not alone of Galway County Board but also of the Connacht Council. She is an officer of the Connacht Colleges Council, Secretary of the Higher Education Council and a member of Central Council, the controlling body of the entire Association.

But Jane does not confine her activities to the Council chambers. She also plays at centre-forward on this Galway side that has reached the junior All-Ire-

land final, and has scored in every one of their games to date.

It will be pleasant to see Galway back in Croke Park on All-Ireland day and, on the strength of their victory over Armagh at Lurgan, the Galway girls must be there with a very good chance, for Armagh have been very near to All-Ireland honours in this grade in recent seasons. Galway has never won an All-Ireland inter-county title though the county has contested several All-Ireland finals, but most of those finals were in the early days of the Association and when that wonderful player Peg Morris from Headford was in her heyday.

Also noteworthy was the victory of Limerick in the Munster junior championship for the Shannonside county has waited a long time for this breakthrough.

After being provided with inspiration by Ahane's victories in the Munster club championship for a couple of seasons, the county side really got down to some earnest preparation this year under the guidance of another hard-working official Munster Council Secretary Eithne Neville, of the famed Kilfinny hurling family.

Eithne, who herself won an All-Ireland medal with Dublin during her student days at U.C.D., played for Limerick regularly until a season ago. Since then she has taken over the coaching of the side with marked effect.

This year Limerick travelled to Waterford in the first round of the junior series, and there

scored a good victory over the home side. Then, on home ground, they fairly routed Tipperary in the semi-final before travelling on to Cork and there winning their first title. This win was all the more meritorious because they had come from behind to achieve victory. Moreover, Cork had never before been beaten inside Munster in this junior championship, and had many of the side that was only very narrowly defeated by Dublin in last year's classic All-Ireland final of this grade.

Kilkenny, defeated by Cork in the All-Ireland final of 1970, will be very hopeful of better luck this time, and certainly they seem to have a better balanced side. Their advisers must have got plenty of food for thought, however, at the way in which the team conceded three goals in the dying minutes of the game against Wexford, lapses which briefly placed in jeopardy a match that they seemed to have won with plenty to spare. Kilkenny is another county in which the game is beginning to spread out and the result is a rather better balanced team than represented the county two years ago.

A rising star of the black and amber is their diminutive full-forward Angela Downey, daughter of former Kilkenny All-Ireland hurler Shem Downey. Angela led Presentation Convent, Castlecomer, to victory in the Leinster Colleges junior championship earlier this season, aided by her twin sister Anne, who played in goal.

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GIVE TRIAL TO THE OPEN DRAW

ONE man on whom Kilkenny will be depending upon a lot for vital scores in the All-Ireland senior hurling final against Cork is ace sharpshooter Eddie Keher. But, the brilliant Rower-Inistioge forward has seldom, if ever, let down his native county since his debut back in 1959. Without doubt, one of the greatest attackers ever to grace a Gaelic field, Keher has annexed every honour the game has to offer. He will be bidding for his fourth celtic cross on September 3rd. Eddie Keher, who works as a bank official in Dublin, was courteous enough to grant me an interview. Our conversation went on these lines:

Noel Coogan: How do you rate the present standard of hurling with the standard when you started playing inter-county hurling?

Eddie Keher: The style has changed. The game has got faster with better training methods. The standard is high, if anything higher, than when I started playing with Kilkenny in 1959.

N.C.: Over the past ten years only four counties have contested the All-Ireland Senior

Hurling Final. Is this good for the game?

E.K.: It's not good. But then, on the other hand, a few counties like Offaly, Limerick, Clare and Galway have been knocking at the door on a few occasions only to be pipped by one of the big four.

N.C.: Would you favour the implementation of the open draw?

E.K.: I was against the idea at one stage, but now I feel that it should be tried for a period of say three or five years.

N.C.: How good is the present Kilkenny team?

E.K.: I have great confidence in it. I'm particularly impressed by the performances of the newcomers. The present side compares favourably with other Kilkenny teams that I've played on.

N.C.: What do you think of the 80 minute games?

E.K.: I don't favour them at all. I haven't met anyone, players or spectators, who does. Now players have to pace their games in order to stay 80 minutes and I feel that fast 60 minute games would be better than medium paced 80 minute games.

N.C.: What was your most memorable hurling game?

E.K.: The 1969 All-Ireland Final when Kilkenny beat Cork. We were outsiders that day and I was captain.

N.C.: Have you any ideas about making hurling more attractive to the youth of the country?

E.K.: A lot has been done in the last twelve months or so. The game is more popular among the youth than it ever was in Kilkenny. Feile na nGael is doing great work for it brings together boys from the traditional hurling areas and boys from weak counties. I would also like to see clubs from weaker counties inviting clubs from stronger counties for challenge games. These could be preceded by under 14 games. The Leinster under 14 championship is another good idea.

N.C.: Do you foresee hurling ever becoming a professional game?

E.K.: Not in the immediate future, although it may happen at some stage.

N.C.: Have you played any other games besides hurling?

E.K.: Not seriously, but I played a little football and a bit of golf.

N.C.: Have you any hobbies outside hurling?

E.K.: I like music and enjoy listening to records, pop, jazz, ballads, etc. I also play the guitar a little.

N.C.: As a schoolboy who were your favourite hurlers?

E.K.: Jim Langton and Sean Clohossey.

N.C.: Who have been your most difficult opponents?

E.K.: In recent seasons Willie Murphy and Colm Doran (Wex-

● TO PAGE 51

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GALWAY'S TOM RYAN

By SEAN RICE

BEFORE he ever arrived in Galway Tom Ryan had won every honour the game of hurling can bestow. For Tom is a Tipperary man . . . washed in Tipperary success.

The honours came early, as honours generally do to bright, young Tipperary stars; his first . . . in 1959 . . . when Tipp won their last All-Ireland minor title. They had three points to spare over Kilkenny.

Three years later he had won two All-Ireland senior championship medals, three National Leagues and a Railway Cup medal. And before him lay a future burgeoning with John Doyle-like promise.

Whether it was that he had won too much too soon or that he was thrust into top competition too early, Tom Ryan is not sure. But he lost form . . . and favour with the selectors. And although he did not know it then, he was never again to play with his native county.

His work took him to Clare where he lived for a few years and with whom he hurled. And in 1969 the insurance official arrived in Galway.

All his former skill and hurling power have returned since then. But not the glory. He brought with him perseverance and confidence . . . and all the little knick-knacks that make Tipperary hurlers men apart. And to be sure much of Galway's rise in stature in recent years may be attributed to his contribution. But the gap between Tipp and Galway hurling is still immense.

"Their styles are as different

as chalk and cheese," he told me. "There are plenty of hurlers in Galway who possess the ability to make Galway hurling great. But essentially they are ball players only. The Tipp hurler plays the man as well as the ball; the Galway hurler plays only the ball. You can see, then, that the outcome is understandable when the two meet."

It is a problem Tom Ryan has had to face again and again since he came to Galway. He loves their style, but he knows that style alone will never bring success.

For Galway hurlers have a too refined way of doing things. They gleam with intelligence, but their game rarely burns with passion. They do not need tougher men . . . who will belt every thing in sight. But they do require a stronger commitment.

"The players have been told they need to be harder if they are ever to be successful. But whether they believe that is another matter," said Tom.

"I thought two years ago we had hit on a winning formula when we took on Wexford in the All-Ireland semi-final at Athlone. We have been outplaying and outmanoeuvring them during the game to such an extent that we were leading by five points with only six or seven minutes left in the game.

"Yet we lost. For some reason we allowed Wexford back into a game they seemed to have lost. And once they found our weakness they probed irresistibly, bearing down on us with all

their experience until we finally collapsed.

"Our hurling took a nose-dive following that defeat. We had trained hard and our confidence has not yet risen to the same level," he said.

Tom Ryan has also had some

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● FROM PAGE 49

success at tennis and golf and recently he won the Connacht badminton close championship. But hurling has always been his first love, and he is saddened that despite efforts to revive the game in weaker counties he feels it is dying.

"I have always been dedicated to hurling. I suppose that is because I was born into the game in Tipperary. But I have always received tremendous satisfaction from playing and I feel much more could be done to restore its health.

"For instance we played Kilkenny in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park a few weeks ago. I believe that's a game that could have been played at Athlone. Hurling gains nothing from two such teams meeting at Croke Park.

"A huge crowd turned out for our All-Ireland semi-final clash with Wexford two years ago at Athlone. Many who had never seen a hurling game came to that match and afterwards expressed their delight at the performance. In my opinion it was a great help to hurling and the experiment should have been continued.

"But in many pitches there remains a lot to be done if the crowd is to be attracted. Dressing rooms and proper toilet facilities are still needed and I feel the introduction of these together with top-class hurling games in areas where hurling is weak would do a lot to revive an active interest in the game."

He also feels that teams like Galway, Offaly and Limerick should be invited to play at Wembley as an incentive to the younger players and he thinks there are not enough officials with the enthusiasm of Galway Board chairman Gerry Cloherty.

"He has done tremendous work for Galway hurling and I wish we could repay him with success," he added.

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ford) and Phil Bennis (Limerick) have been most difficult.

N.C.: Which Irishman do you admire most at the present time?

E.K.: John Hume.

N.C.: Which sportsmen outside the G.A.A. do you admire most?

E.K.: Muhammad Ali and George Best.

N.C.: Who are your favourite sportswriters?

E.K.: Paddy Downey ("The Irish Times") and Donal Carroll ("Evening Herald").

N.C.: Are you satisfied with the progress being made by the G.A.A.?

E.K.: In my opinion, the G.A.A. has made outstanding progress in the last couple of years and I have great confidence for the future.

N.C.: You have won virtually everything the G.A.A. has to offer. Any ambitions for the future?

E.K.: Well I would like to win another All-Ireland medal. I would also like another trip to America. I've been to New York three times and to San Francisco once.

N.C.: What do you think of All-Ireland final day as an occasion?

E.K.: To take part in an All-Ireland Final is the greatest day in any player's career, but it can also be pretty nervewrecking. It is much different for spectators. I think it would be a good idea if players were given the opportunity of meeting their supporters after the final.

N.C.: Finally, Eddie, what kind of game do you expect the final to be?

E.K.: Kilkenny and Cork's style always provide great entertainment. I expect a closely matched, fast, open game and despite the odds, I feel confident that Kilkenny will win by a few points.

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as he showed so beautifully in the Munster final, he has the superb ability to pull out all the tremendous talent that his corner-men, Charlie McCarthy and Seanie O'Leary have in so much abundance.

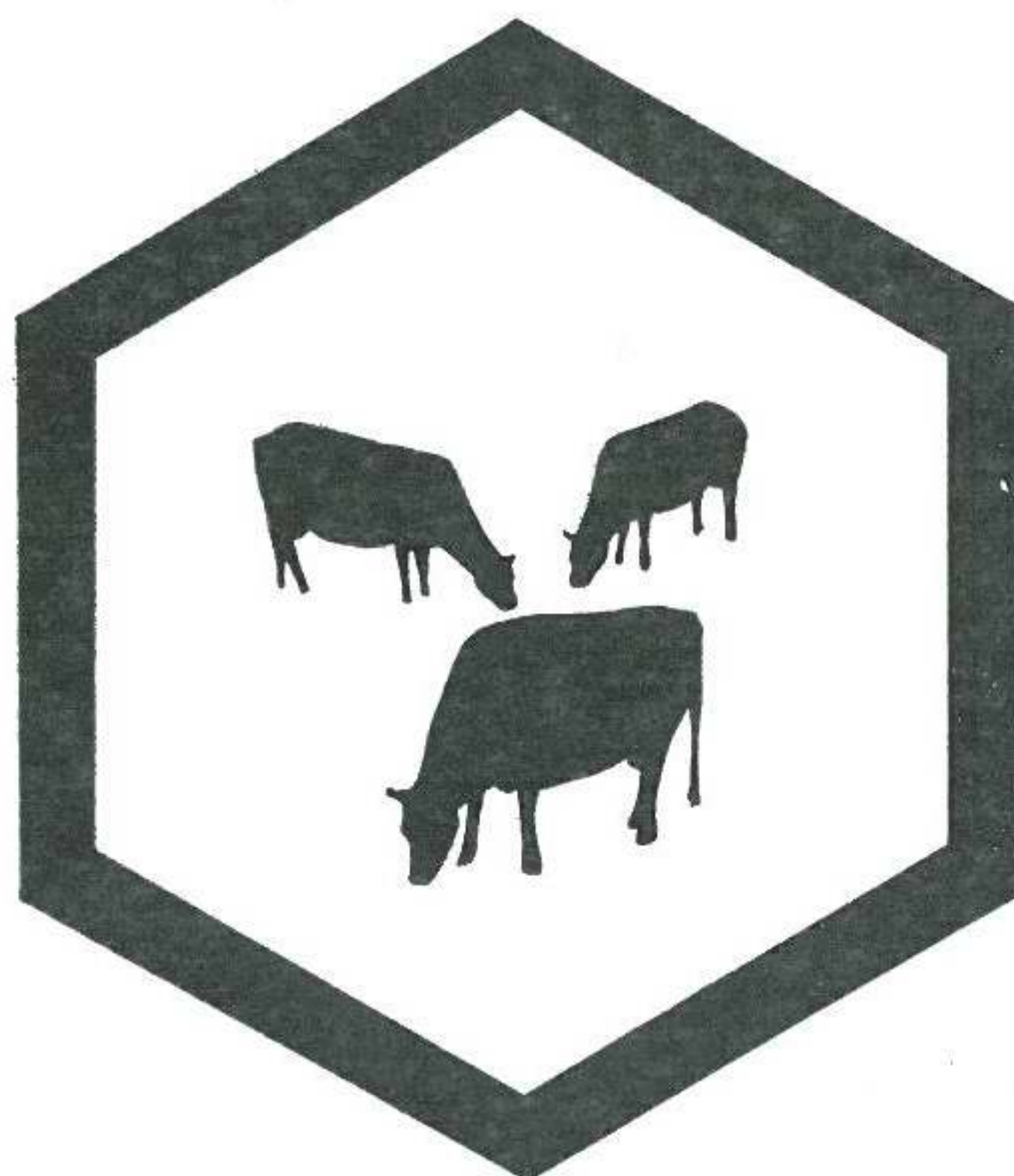
This is a great Cork team, perhaps even greater than the ones that won the four-in-a-row in the 1940s and the three-in-a-row in the 1950s—and I just can't

see them being beaten in this year's All-Ireland final.

And what of Kilkenny? Well now, I think someone else should write about their chances and perhaps he might be able to get a hundred words out of it.

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As he put it, this is Cork's year.



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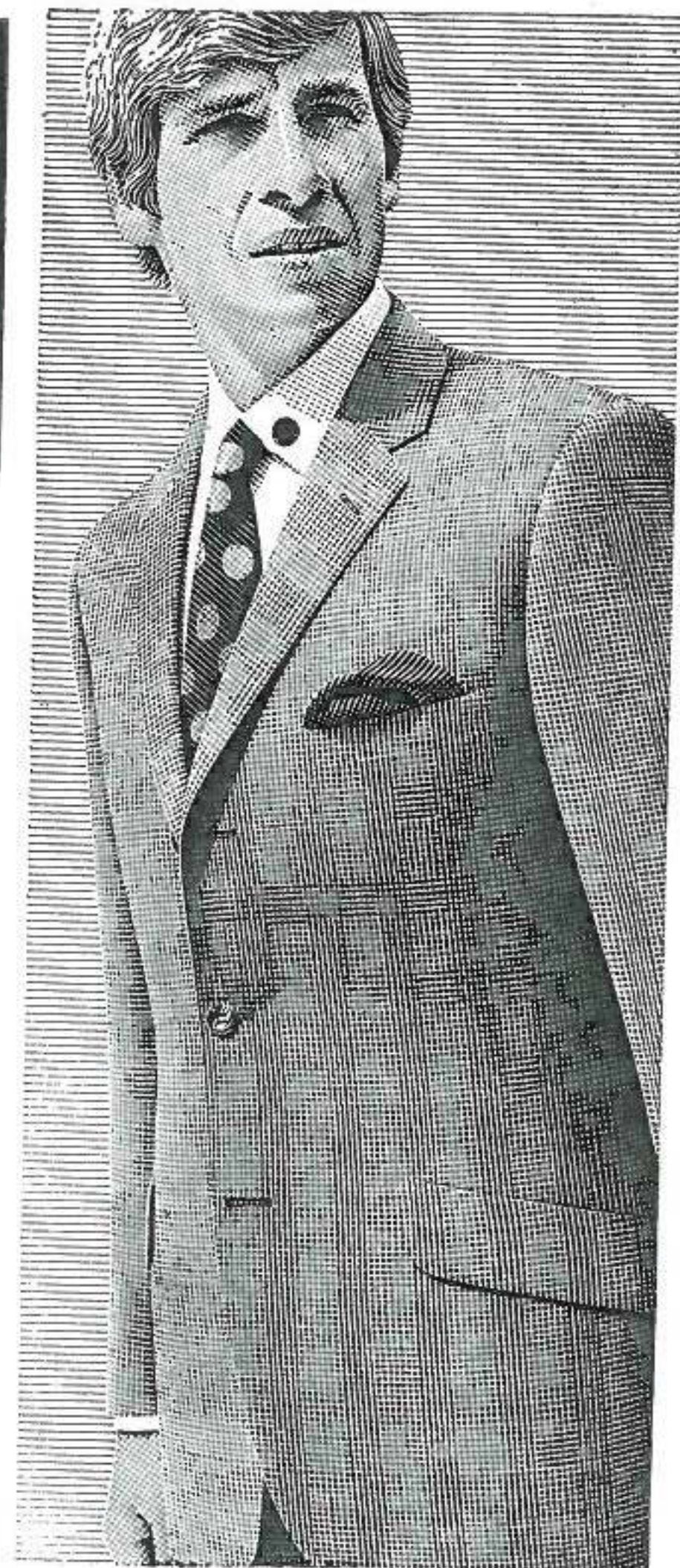
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● FROM PAGE 13

ball—the 50-50 and 25-75 or even less inviting ones that so many forwards dislike like hell—is a revelation. Hegarty goes in with the maximum physical power, not just into the tackle, but *through* the tackle. As a result, he gets, or breaks, or checks a fascinating amount of unfavourable ball; and even when he doesn't get it, he wears down the opposition. I have it from opponents that he is the most tiring man to mark because of this constant threat and continual heavy challenges.

Now, fire brigades are known for the clanging of bells and other alarm sounds and the urgency of their movement. Pat is the epitome of urgency; even before a game begins he is leaping around, and entering bursts of animated one-sided conversations with others of the team; or waving with unique assurance to friends in the crowd (or those he has never seen before).

And when the ball is in, he is already hunting in towards mid-field for it, and from then on the wing-half lives on an edge. When the ball is not about, Hegarty is clenching his fist and drumming the message of hope and dominance and courage into everyone within earshot. And it need hardly be emphasised that if one of them is in trouble Hegarty is first to lend a hand, while if any one of them is being "pushed around" Hegarty is the insurance policy that will cover their discomfiture.

So much having been said, it would be only correct also to state that Pat is not really much of a hurler in the classic or dainty sense; he hasn't speed to burn until he is in full flight; he doesn't score very much by comparison with other Cork forwards; and some people even

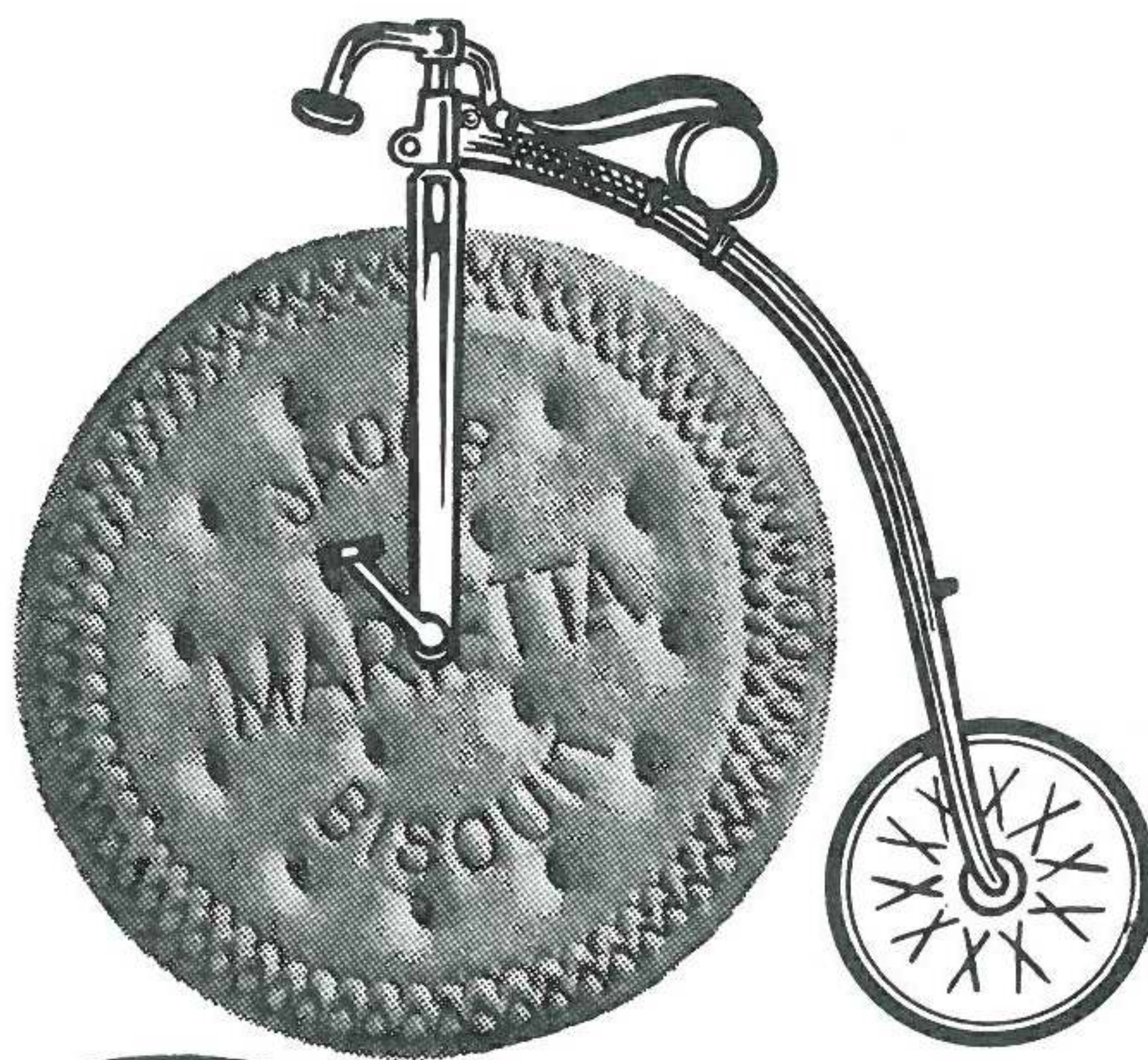
think that because he doesn't get the spectacular scores that he is having a poor game.

Well, take him out of the Cork team and see what happens. Earlier this year, when Limerick were still ahead by nearly four goals in the League, who was still fire-eating? Who was still hopeful, and urging others to hope? Who was it raced from the half-way line when everyone else stood around idling while Malone struggled alone to do something with an awkward ball in the right corner? And, though there was really nothing to hope for in the run, when Malone finally hooked the ball in, Hogan could only bat it out . . . and who was it arrived just then to return it first-time to the rigging? Hegarty, of course. And, it would be well

to remember that it was that goal that gave Cork the flickering view of possible success after all instead of relegation.

The fact is that if Hegarty had the hurling skills of high degree he would be another Christy Ring, for he had the same intense temperament and approach to the game. And that would hardly be fair—for many reasons.

He is the archetypal Corkman, in fact. He believes utterly that being a Corkman and a hurler, that he is one of God's chosen. He knows he is best (even when he isn't) and sets out to dominate the play and his opponents, and to drive his fellow Corkmen to realise their special heritage. Most of all, he is terribly exciting because he himself is so terribly excited by the game of hurling . . . but also by the game exercise, in general.

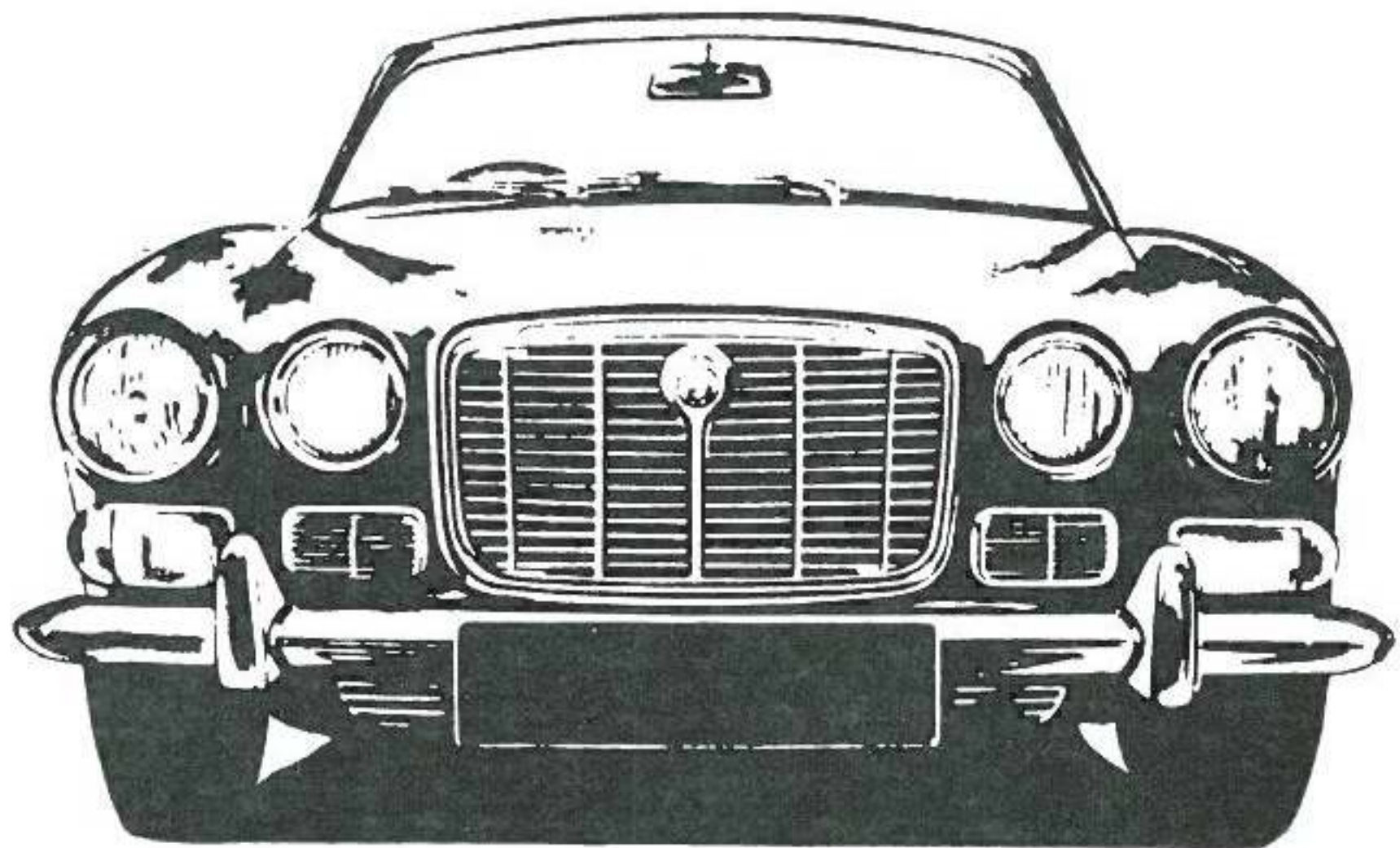
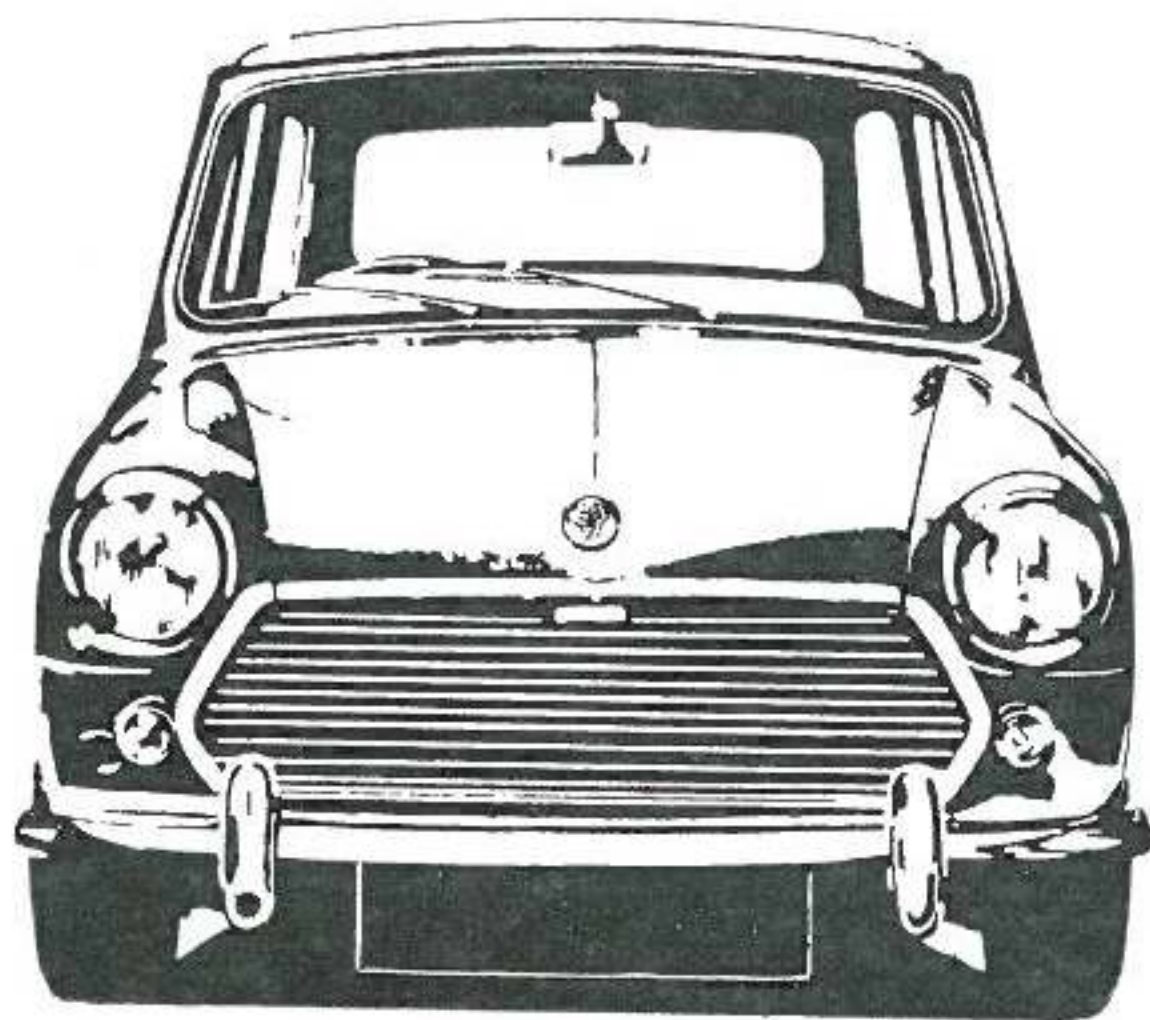


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The Minor final

By OWEN McCANN

ARE Cork invincible these days in minor hurling? Down Kilkenny way as they prepare for the All-Ireland final with the Leesiders one would doubtless receive a resounding "No" in answer to the question. Yet, the fact remains that it is so long since Cork lost a game in the Championship that the provincial and national titles are now beginning to appear to belong to the county almost by right!

When Cork outclassed Limerick by 20 points in the Munster final they took the title for the seventh successive year — a record-making run. And, another slice of history could be made in this Croke Park game, as the All-Ireland title has been won by the Leesiders each year since, 1969, and no county has yet managed to put up four wins on the trot.

The last game in which the wearers of the red jerseys finished on the wrong end of the scoresheet was the 1968 All-Ireland final, won by Wexford. The recent impressive achievements now leave Cork poised to join Tipperary on top of the Roll of Honour with twelve titles since 1928. In stark contrast to the Cork victory march of late is the fact that Tipperary, for so long the specialists of the minor hurling series, have not won the national championship since 1959.

Another sign of the well-being of teenage hurling by the Lee these days is the fact that one All-Ireland Championship has already been brought home in triumph. Last April, St. Fin-

barr's, Farranferris, beat St. Kieran's, Kilkenny by 3-7 to 2-5 in the Colleges' final.

So, tradition is now right on the side of Cork. But what of the present team? How does it measure up to the standard of the recent all conquering combinations?

So far, this outfit has tackled every challenge in a cool and confident manner. Waterford were decisively beaten in the first game, then came that clear-cut success against Limerick, and finally there was the big semi-final win over Antrim.

The attack is razor-sharp. Eamonn O'Sullivan, who has helped himself in expert style to 4-6 so far, is a clever and elusive spot-on finisher, who is likely to present plenty of problems for the Leinster defence. Tadgh O'Sullivan, another effi-

cient goal-grabber, and Jimmy Barry Murphy, who has also been regularly among the goals and points, are other nifty and sharp-shooting finishers, skilled in their all-round play, who will have to be closely watched.

The champions are unlikely to bend easily at the back. The division had a solid, efficient look in the earlier games, and Jimmy Barrett in the full line, and half backs Kieran Murphy and Brendan Manley, are hurlers who could do much to blunt the darting Kilkenny attack's scoring edge.

Seamus Farrell is accomplished at midfield, so all round Cork look well up to the status of those expert combinations we have seen turning on the style at headquarters in recent national finals.

● TO PAGE 57

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● FROM PAGE 55

However, Kilkenny can also parade many impressive credentials. They displayed all-round solidarity, and class and skill well above the ordinary when retaining the Leinster title with almost machine-like efficiency. They trounced Laois by 13-6 to 1-3, and then had no fewer than 27 points to spare over Wexford in the final. One had also to admire the way in which they handled the challenge of gallant Galway last time out.

Kilkenny have also a dynamic potential title winner in Mick McCarthy, a superb full-forward, clever in his all-round approach, and a great finisher — he has scored 7-2 already.

But this is far from being a one-man Kilkenny attack. Robert Sweeney, Sean O'Brien and Willie Fitzpatrick, one of three St. Kieran's College boys in the

side, are able lieutenants, and it is unlikely that the Noreside scoring division will allow many chances to go a begging.

Ger Woodcock impressed me at centre-field against Galway, while that talented and experienced centre half Brian Cody, Kevin Robinson on the left wing, and vigilant and dependable goalkeeper Kevin Fennelly are brilliant and effective units in a defence that will not give much away cheaply.

I've a hunch that this could prove one of the best finals in years, and while I have a great regard for this Kilkenny team, I feel the prudent policy is to stick with Cork—at least until such times as some team proves the county is not invincible at this stage. Looking over the Cork squad's performances so far, I think the skill, confidence and assurance are all there in the

make-up of the side to add up to another title winning performance.

The "Irish Press" Cup was first awarded for the minor series in 1949, and was won initially by Tipperary. Cork completed the last senior and minor double in 1970.

Kilkenny last won the trophy in 1962, and the county completed the senior and minor double for the only time in 1935.

GREAT GAME IN STORE

● FROM PAGE 17

reliable and even with a sub-standard team can beat the best as a result of hard training, good sideline thinking and hurling craft. The draw with Wexford was a help to them, and though their preparation over the last four months has not been as trying as Cork's, the chances are that they did not need this, for Cork had fallen far lower than had their old opponents.

Also, we must remember that Kilkenny gave Clare a whacking in Nowlan Park a short time before the Munster final, and while one is reluctant to place a lot of confidence in these games where men are often tired as a result of hard training, the fact cannot be forgotten all the same.

Cork have a pretty young team and still not so young as to be over-impressed by the big

day. They have played well in Croke Park, in London and New York, while ten of them already have All-Ireland medals and the other five are competent players who should make a very significant contribution to the effort. They're prospecting for gold in Croke Park this time.

The game with Kilkenny will, as always, evoke wonderful memories among young and old. Larry Flaherty of Cork stood on the touch-line the day the new Hogan Stand was opened and showed me where he slipped past one of the Graces and struck a long ball in a final seventy years ago. I don't forget Jimmy Kelly's last-minute point in '39, and anyone who saw it won't forget Ringey's goal in '46. A sportsman's memories are made of this—this final will etch another tale on the parchment of the mind, a happy one, we all hope, for hurling and for sport.

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'THE CLASH OF THE ASH'

RAYMOND Smith has made another outstanding contribution to the literature on Gaelic games with his latest book on hurling, "The Clash of the Ash." This is a superb production, one of the best yet from the so vivid pen of this brilliant writer—and that says something when we remember the high qualities of his earlier works, which include "Decades of Glory" and "The Football Immortals."

Smith knows his hurling, and has a deep and genuine feeling for the game. Into this mammoth presentation ranging over almost 460 pages of text and pictures, he has poured in all that the game means to him personally.

Right away it can be said that the greatness of hurling, the epic moments, the skills of the men who have fashioned the game down the years, all, and more come across in striking and enjoyable fashion. Laced throughout the narrative, too, are many interesting facts and viewpoints.

Facts like the record Munster final attendance of 1961 at Limerick . . . "The swan song for the ageing, yet seemingly ageless Ring. An attendance of 60,177 at Limerick . . . amazing really that Ring can in the twilight of his great career cause all Munster final attendance records to go by the board."

Viewpoints such as this comment from stylish Tipperary hurler Mick Roche: "If there was a better team in any era than the 1964-65 Tipperary team show it to me."

A national scoring record in 1971 by Eddie Keher is not forgotten (something that pleases

me especially, as the journalist who introduced these scoring statistics back in 1955), and with Kilkenny and Cork sharpening up just now for their coming meeting, the chapters on the 1969, 1970 and 1971 All-Ireland finals, games in which many of the current teams figured in, takes on an added appeal.

But it is far from being only the present-day hurlers who grab the spotlight. This classic review also gives "Yesterday's Men" their prominent and rightful place. There are many great hurlers from the past recalled, including the irresistible Mick Mackey (Limerick) and the inspiring Corkman Christy Ring. And, can you say what was the finest hour of former Wexford star Bobby Rackard? You'll find the answer here in "The Clash of the Ash."

Then, there is an excellent selection of photographs. An exciting new dimension is provided by a section of prints in full colour from the last three All-Ireland finals.

The book, which has the generous financial backing of Allied Irish Banks, is superbly produced, and at only 60 pence is excellent value.

The Clash of the Ash. A Popular History of the National Game (1884 - 1972) by Raymond Smith, with a foreword by Mr. Pat Fanning, President of the G.A.A. Published and Printed in Ireland by Creative Press Ltd., Creation House, Botanic Road, Dublin 9. Price 60p.



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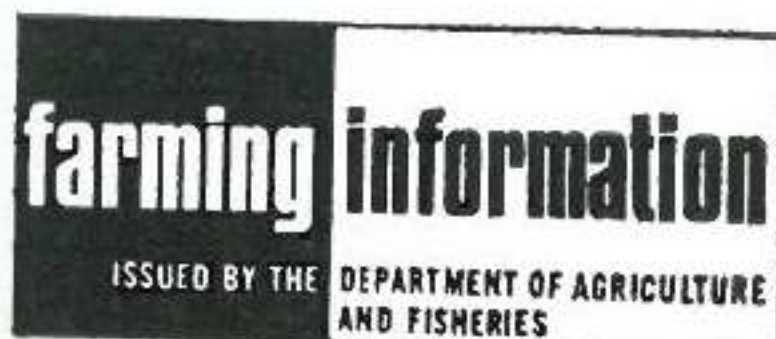
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From 16th November 1972 persons having cattle without current certificates of treatment for warbles will be liable to prosecution.

Copies of the Warble Fly Eradication Scheme 1972 may be had from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, 121, Lower Baggot St., Dublin 2 or from District Veterinary Offices, Marts, Creameries or A.I. Centres.



● FROM PAGE 25

many new faces as Cork, including a teenage schoolboy from Rockwell, Dan Stapleton.

Anyway, to the amazement of all Ireland, Kilkenny led most of the way, and then shook off a late Cork rally to win by a single point. That gave people plenty to talk about when the next All-Ireland final came round, and the counties met again in the 1905 decider at another Southern venue, Pat McGrath's field in Tipperary Town.

This game was played in April 1907, and Cork won on the field, 5-10 to 3-13, and then came the snag. Kilkenny had protested beforehand on the grounds that the Cork goal-minder Sonny Jim McCarthy was a "militiaman".

Central Council ordered a replay, the only time such a step has been taken in a final. Back the counties went, to Dungarvan this time, and Kilkenny scored

their biggest ever final victory winning by 7-7 to 2-9 in a game that gained for Jimmy Kelly from Mooncoin the tag of the "scoring machine", a name he carried with him to his grave in America many a year later.

Another two years passed, and again it was Kilkenny and Cork back at Dan Fraher's Feld in the All-Ireland final of 1907. This was the game that the old-time hurling followers claimed was the greatest hurling match of the early decades of this century. My old friend, the late P. D. Mehigan "Carbery", who had himself played in the 1905 final for Cork, and for the London-Irish against Cork in 1902, always maintained that "hurling reached its zenith that day in Dungarvan.

This was an hour of high excitement with alternate scoring from start to finish. As Nore-side legend has it, time was up when Cork scored an equalising point. On the puck-out, the ref-

eree was preparing to signal the end of the game, but he dropped his whistle.

Before he could pick it up again the ball had been whipped overhead from the puck-out by Jack Anthony from Piltown, doubled on the half-volley by Jimmy Kelly from Mooncoin, and before the whistle had time to blow, Kilkenny had won by a point.

And that was the last great championship meeting of Cork and Kilkenny outside Croke Park. When next they met it was in the 1912 final, their first confrontation at Jones's Road, an amazing game in which Cork had 75 per cent of the play, but just could not score, despite all their outfield advantage, and Matt Gargan won the game for the Noremen with a goal from 80 yards, all against the run of second-half play.

But they had one last big day at Fraher Field, the famed final of the Cork Feis tournament, which took years to complete and a final in which there were only three scores, a goal and a point to Kilkenny and a point to Cork in the first half, and no score at all after the interval. How good was the legendary game? "A wonderful exhibition," say all the old-timers looking back. Yet a contemporary newspaper account says the game, as far as high-class hurling and constructive play was concerned, was ruined by a high wind.

The greatest game between Cork and Kilkenny in modern times was the 1947 final, so dramatically won by Terry Leahy's late point from a long clearance by Paddy Grace. That is a classic now in the memories of all of us who saw it. And a classic it must have been, because we all agreed it was great, when we walked down Jones's Road after the game was over just twenty-five years ago this month.

WHAT A BATTLE!

● FROM PAGE 19

triumphs—the National League titles of 1970 and 1972 and the All-Ireland senior crown of 1970.

Nor was it a real surprise last year when his versatility paid off further in a rare honour—that of ranking as the only player to win places in the Carrolls All Stars hurling and football teams. A splendid tribute that to Cummins, who last April joined a select band of Railway Cup medalists when he added a football award to the hurling souvenir he won in 1970.

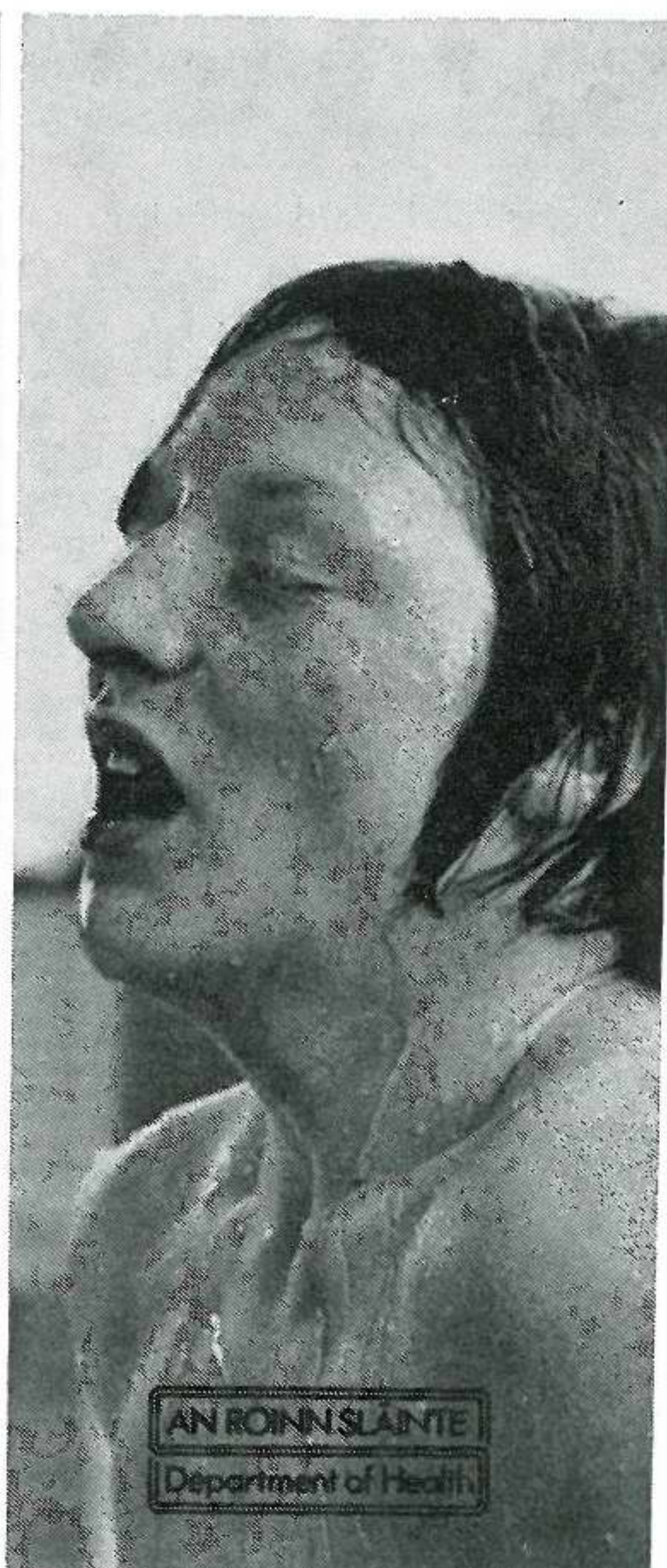
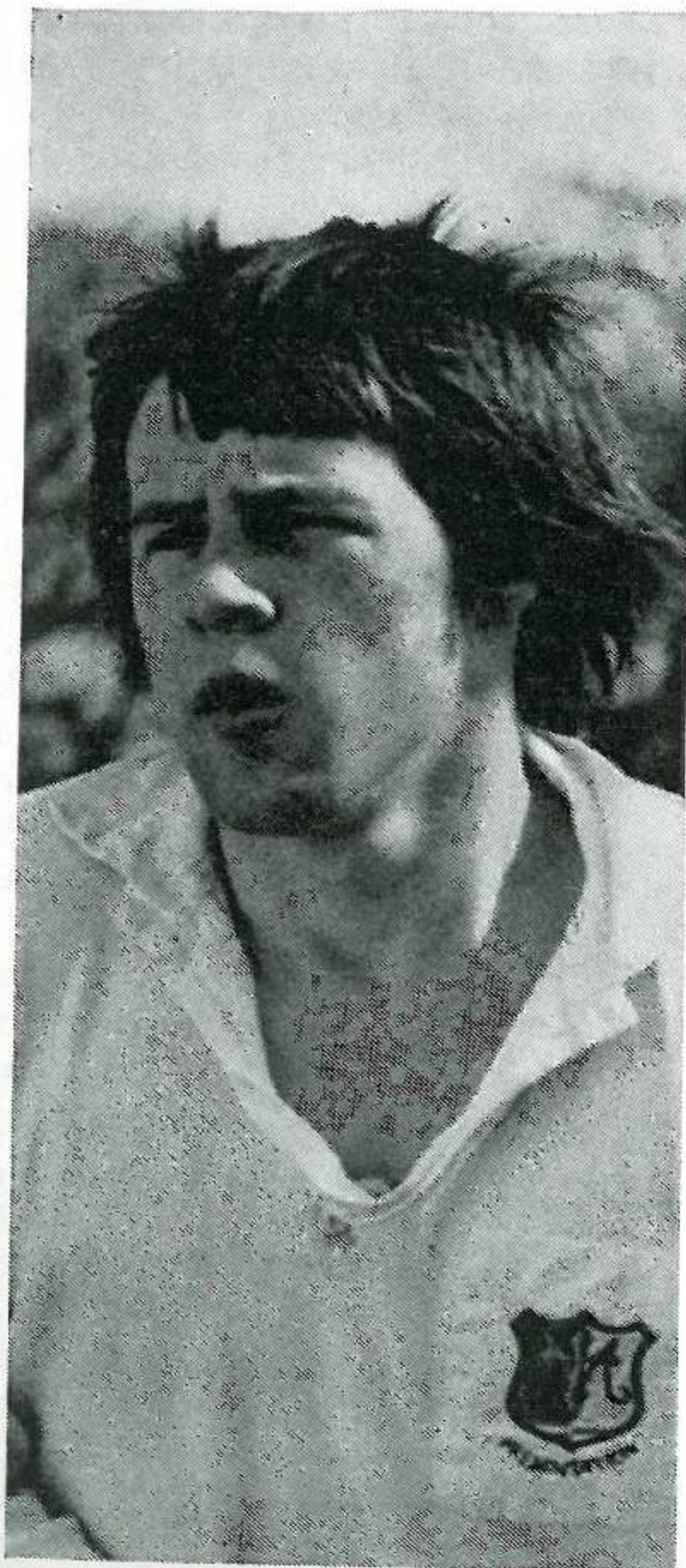
Dillon, of course, has been around a great deal longer than the Cork star. Now 33, he began his inter-county career in the minor ranks in the 1950s, and made his debut in the Kilkenny No. 3 senior jersey in the 1963 All-Ireland senior title winning side.

In addition to his displays in the No. 14 jersey for Kilkenny in 1966, Dillon won Railway Cup honours at full forward in 1966. But since the 1967 championship this colourful and long-distinguished hurler has been putting up a solid barrier at the back for the Noresiders.

His absence from inter-county fare this year was a short one, as he was Leinster's full back in their Railway Cup final win over Munster last St. Patrick's Day. That earned him his second medal, having played at full back in the 1965 title winning outfit.

So, in skill and know-how, Pa Dillon and Ray Cummins have a lot going for them. Their intriguing duel could prove a highlight of the final — and may also have a decisive influence on the outcome.

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JUNIOR DESK

A section for
the
young reader



PRESENTED BY **JACK MAHON**

PASSING through Schull in West Cork I was, on one of those glorious July days. A poster on J. J. Newman's public house caught my eye. I reproduce the wording in full here.

"Our Local Lad Tadhg shown below scoring a Goal for Cork Minors last Sunday."

Attached was a "Cork Examiner" photograph showing Cork minor Tadhg O'Sullivan scoring a goal against Tipperary minors.

It was a home-made poster. But it thrilled me far more than many of the sophisticated "with it" type of poster we see so much of to-day. For here was the local hero getting just acclaim from his own. The honour of the little village, Knocknagow. Thank God for West Cork. Ireland is still alive and well.

My stay in West Cork was most enjoyable. Our hosts — the Carey family of Drimoleague — were great G.A.A. people. So it was home from home. Sorry I was to miss the final of the West Cork juvenile football final between Drimoleague and Rosscarbery. While in Cork I went along to see the Munster football finals in Killarney. There was a huge crowd present. High

up on the embankment where I was, it was like an inferno. The 'ice cream and mineral' men had a field day. Bottles everywhere. Shirtsleeves. Sunhats. The perfect setting. Cork deservedly won the minor game in the end after Kerry seemed to have got a grip on the game. There were two future stars here in 'Ogie' Moran of Kerry and Jim Barry-Murphy, the Cork full-forward. I'll not describe the senior game but the men who really impressed me were wing half backs Paudie Lynch, Pat Griffin, Kevin Jer O'Sullivan and John Coleman. The official programme on sale was a big improvement on previous ones with pen pictures of the senior players and other significant details.

THE CUT-OUT

Our CUT-OUT this month is Kilkenny's Paddy Delaney, whose switch to full-forward in the second half of the replayed Leinster S.H. final versus Wexford changed the course of the game. Ever since he starred against Offaly in the Leinster S.H. final of 1969, Pat Delaney has been one of Kilkenny's greatest hurlers. Strong and forceful, I felt he was very un-

lucky with some long range shots in last year's All-Ireland final. In featuring Paddy we pay tribute to the wonderful Kilkenny hurling tradition. A great county.

This month we salute Donegal on winning their first Ulster S.F. title. They are very welcome to the All-Ireland scene in Croke Park. So get out your pens—you young Donegal fans—and pay tribute to your heroes. Theirs has been a long fight. The longer it goes, the harder it becomes. But the tradition was always there. I have been visiting Donegal for many years now and have seen some great club football in the county. In fact St. Joseph's (Bundoran-Ballyshannon) were one of the best club teams I have ever seen. A really great side. Success had to come. We say — well done to every one of them. Roscommon, too, deserve the greatest credit for their success. They have always been great championship battlers down the years. Roscommon are certainly back as a football force. For this we give great credit to their top club team of recent years, Castlereagh St. Kevins.

Finally this is the All-Ireland

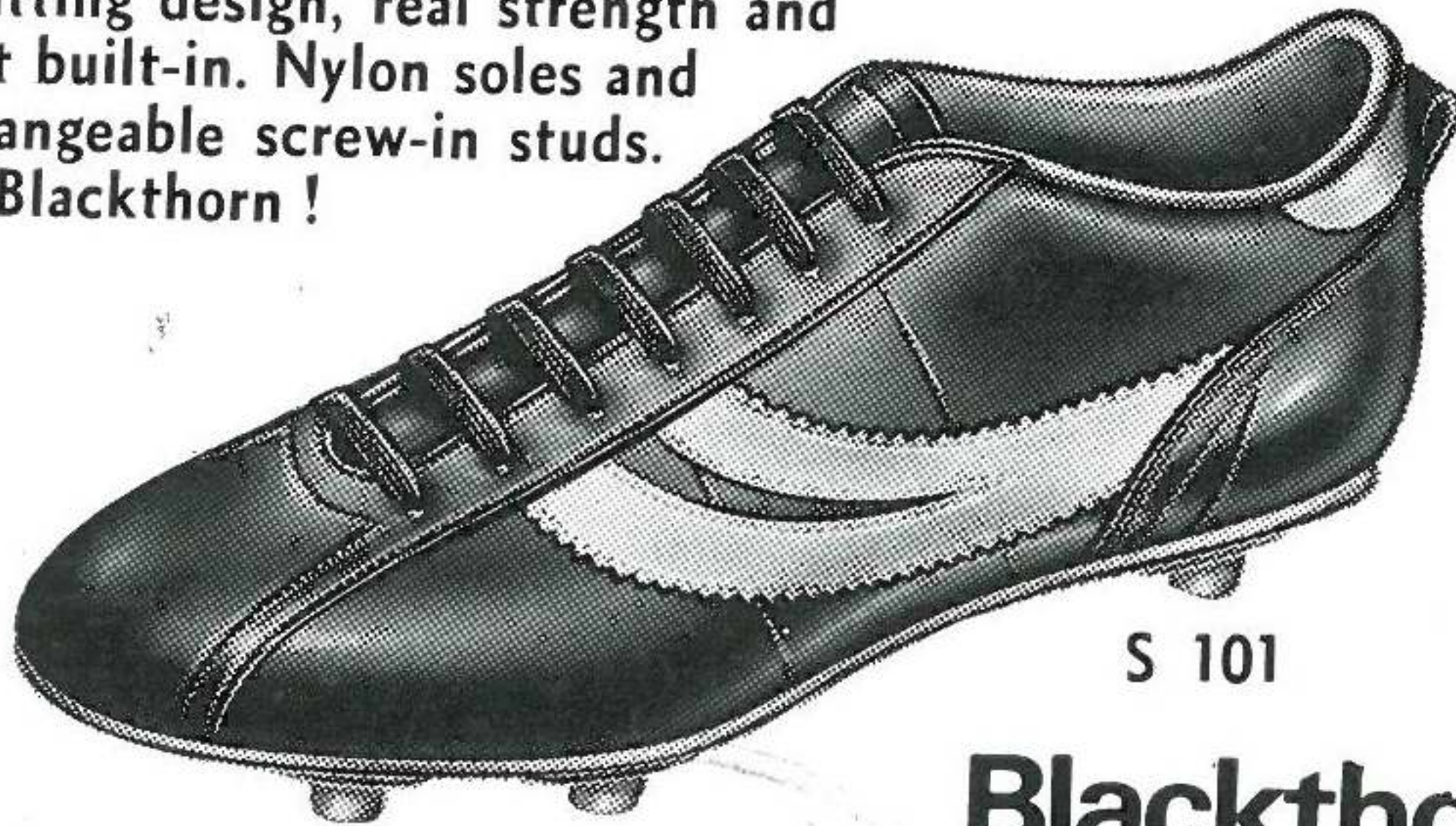
● TO PAGE 65

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● FROM PAGE 63

hurling final issue. The hurling final occasion is a great one. There is no greater. It is the day when that something in you that makes you Irish identifies

From the Mailbag

Finbarr Maguire, 120 Keysworth Farm Cottages, Keysworth, Sandford, Woreham, Dorset, England. — "I love to see solo running in Gaelic football. I wish Roscommon luck now that they have beaten my native Mayo."

● *Some people including Mick O'Connell and myself feel we have too much solo running. It is nice in its place but is much overdone and invites fouls. (J.M.)*

Pat Lane, 6 Spa Walk, Mallow, Co. Cork. — "Gaelic Sport is great but it needs more pictures. Why not include a picture of one team every month, maybe two (one hurling and one football). The teams hitting the headlines at the time of printing should be selected (players named also). You neglect hurling a bit too. Out of 12 Cut-Outs (full page), eight have been footballers."

● *I agree with you regarding the pictures. Sorry about the Cut-Out preference for footballers. It wasn't intentional and we will load it the other way in the future. (J.M.)*

Denis Walsh (11 years), Keimaneigh, Ballingearry, Co. Cork. — "I won an Under-14 medal with my club Ballingearry last year. Give us a Cut-Out of Sean O'Leary. My favourites are Sean O'Leary, Ray Cummins, Sean O'Neill and Denis Coughlan."

● *We have an interview with Ray this month. (J.M.)*

Bernard Kirk, Scoil Barra, Beaumont, Cork. — "We had football and hurling leagues in our school this year. They were great. Ray Cummins, Paddy Barry, Frank Murphy, Brendan Cummins, and Denis Coughlan

itself with the occasion. We are Irish. This is pure Irish. We sing Amhrán na bhFiann loudly and proudly. It is great to be alive and Irish. May the best team win.

refereed the finals. The Lord Mayor and E. Cotter presented cups. I never thought hurling was such a good game until I played in the leagues. Junior Desk is fantastic."

● *Thanks, Bernard, and with more letters like yours it will be more fantastic still. (J.M.)*

Brendan O'Flaherty, Hedge-row House, Lisdoonvarna. — "I received the Pin-Ups of the All Stars from Carrolls. Weren't Clare great to beat Limerick?"

● *Yes, they were. It's a pity they flopped against Cork but they are young yet and will come again. (J.M.)*

Agnes Brogan, Ballyknock, Bofeenaun, Ballina, Co. Mayo. — "I wish more Irish companies would sponsor and promote Gaelic games. Fr. Leo Morahan is a very nice person. Don't forget the interview you promised with Willie McGee."

● *I still have to interview Paddy Downey of the 'Irish Times.' (J.M.)*

P. J. Mullaney, Gosh, Castle-town, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. — "My favourite teams are Tipperary and Laois. Favourite players are 'Babs' Keating, Mickey Kearins, Mick Roche, George Lanhan, Eamonn Cregan and Liam Sammon. Irish companies should produce stickers and posters of G.A.A. stars."

● *If only the public relations men of the top Irish companies would read Junior Desk, they'd get the message. (J.M.)*

Anne Fitzgerald, Dooleague, Islandeady, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. — "Give us a Cut-Out of Tom Fitzgerald."

John McGough, Inagh, Ennis,

Co. Clare — "We have a great team here in Inagh. One of them plays for the Clare seniors and another one plays for the minors."

● *Names please. (J.M.)*

Eugene Keogh, Balheary Lodge, Swords, Co. Dublin. — "Please send me the 1972 official Connacht S.F. final programme."

● *Hope you enjoyed it. (J.M.)*

James Caffrey, 50 Claremont Drive, Glasnevin, Dublin 11. — "Full marks to Noel Coogan for his article 'Fans need a Better Deal'. I hate the barbed wire in Croke Park—like Long Kesh. Why aren't all schoolgoers allowed the cheap entrance fee to Croke Park?"

● *You have a good point, James, but where would you draw the line? Would you include third level schoolgoers from the Universities and Technical Colleges? (J.M.)*

Liam Jones, Derryoran, Mountshannon, Co. Clare, wants "a Cut-Out of John Tobin of Galway". You'll have to wait a while yet Liam until John proves himself. He was a great minor and is developing into a very promising senior player. Give him time. (J.M.)

Kevin Murphy, Ballyblood, Tulla, Co. Clare. — "The Cut-Out of Tadhg O'Connor was great. When are you going to give us one of a Clareman? Seamus Durack, Jim Power, Michael Moroney, Jim Cullinan or Gus Lohan?"

● *Soon, D.V. (J.M.)*

Leo McGough, Browne's Hill Road, Carlow. — "Please give us a Cut-Out of Gus Lohan or Jackie O'Gorman."

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Auhtrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. — "Give us a Cut-Out of Tony Doran. By the way Sean O'Brien and Mick O'Brien are not brothers."

John M. Sullivan, Middle Barrow, Ardfert, Co. Kerry. — "The Munster S.F. final programme

● OVERLEAF

● **FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**
was great with players' height, weight, medals and occupations given. Give us a Kerry Cut-Out."

● *Who would you suggest, John?* (J.M.)

W. F. Carberry, 36 Cecil Road, West Croydon, Surrey, England. — "Keep up your great work in Junior Desk."

Joseph P. Thompson, Fothana, Mountrath, Portlaoise. — "The Tadhg O'Connor Cut-Out was super."

The Clash of the Ash

At this stage many of you will have got Raymond Smith's latest book on hurling "The Clash of the Ash". It is a new edition of "The Hurling Immortals" incorporating much of it and its predecessor "Decades of Glory." It is very much up to date and gives a grand idea of the atmosphere prevailing at last year's Munster hurling final at Killarney. If I have any objection it is to Raymond's inference that Munstermen, more particularly Tipperarymen and if I infer correctly Thurlesmen are the only real judges of hurling. The statistical section is very complete. I found it odd though that the first ever Carrolls All-Star team selected last year were not listed as such. It was a great innovation and should be recorded.

Complete List of G.A.A. Books

Below I present a list of G.A.A. books available for this All-Ireland hurling final issue. The price includes postage and the name and address of the publisher is printed in each case.

Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook, 1971. Price 30p (Gerry Slevin. "The Guardian," Nenagh, Co. Tipperary).

Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook, 1970. Price 35p. (Gerry Slevin. "The Guardian," Nenagh, Co. Tipperary).

Connacht Gaelic Games Annual, 1972. Price 35p. (M.D. Publications, 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway).

Twelve Glorious Years, by Jack Mahon. Price 35p. (Same as above).

Three in a Row, by Jack Mahon. Price 17½p. (Same as above).

The Football Immortals, by Raymond Smith. 60p. (Creative Press Ltd., Botanic Road, Dublin 9).

Gaels in the Sun, by Peter McDermott. Price 85p. (Peter McDermott, G.A.A., Navan, Co. Meath).

Our Games Annual, 1972. Price 45p. (An Runai, C.L.C.G., Pairc an Chrocaigh, Ath Cliath 3).

JUNIOR DESK SPECIAL

ON page 21 we have a special interview with Ray Cummins of Cork. Ray, who was selected on both All-Stars Hurling and Football teams, is one of the many top class players on the Cork team who are widely fancied to bring south the Liam McCarthy Cup this year. "Junior Desk" is Ray's favourite section in Gaelic Sport. I think it is a great interview. Hope you enjoy it. (J.M.)

Offaly — The Heroes. Price 15p. ("Gaelic Sport," 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9).

Roscommon G.A.A. Yearbook, 1970. Price 35p. (M. O'Callaghan, "Roscommon Herald," Boyle, Co. Roscommon).

Mayo G.A.A. Yearbook, 1970. Price 35p. (Brian McDonald, c/o Castlebar Mitchels G.A.A. Club, Castlebar, Co. Mayo).

Coaching Gaelic Football for Champions, by Joe Lennon, Price 60p. (Joe Lennon, c/o Franciscan College, Gormanston, Co. Meath).

Fitness for Gaelic Football, by Joe Lennon. Price 50p. (Same as above).

Peil. Price 25p. (An Runai, G.A.A., Pairc an Chrocaigh, Ath Cliath 3). Report of the Commission on the G.A.A. Price £1.00. (Same as above).

"Gaelic Sport." Price 10p. Yearly subscription £1.50. ("Gaelic Sport," 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9).

Roscommon G.A.A. Yearbook, 1971. Price 40p. ("Roscommon Herald," Boyle, Co. Roscommon). County Wexford G.A.A. Review, 1971. Price 20p. ("Echo," Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford).

Bliain-Iris Mhuigheo — Mayo G.A.A. Yearbook, 1972. Price 25p. (Castlebar Mitchels G.A.A. Club, Castlebar, Co. Mayo).

An Cúl — a quarterly magazine devoted to G.A.A. games. Price 20p. (Gaelic Press, 5 Nth. Great Georges Street, Dublin 1).

Gaelic Stars of the Year. Price 25p. (Oisín Publications, 4 Iona Drive, Dublin 9).

Past issues of 'Our Games' available: 1958, '60, '62, '63, '64, '69, '70 and '71. The 1962 book is the most valuable as it contains statistics galore in all competitions up to that date. These are available from An Runai, G.A.A., Pairc an Chrocaigh, Ath Cliath 3. An Deiseach (Waterford G.A.A. Yearbook, 1971). Price 35p. (Seamus O Braonain, Editor, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford).

The Clash of the Ash, by Raymond Smith. Price 65p. (Creative Press Ltd., Botanic Road, Dublin 9).

That's it for another month. Please keep writing on any topic — the All-Irelands — this year's Carrolls All Stars — your favourite cut-out — your club team — Donegal's great feat in winning out in Ulster — your school — your teachers — your favourite referee. Write to

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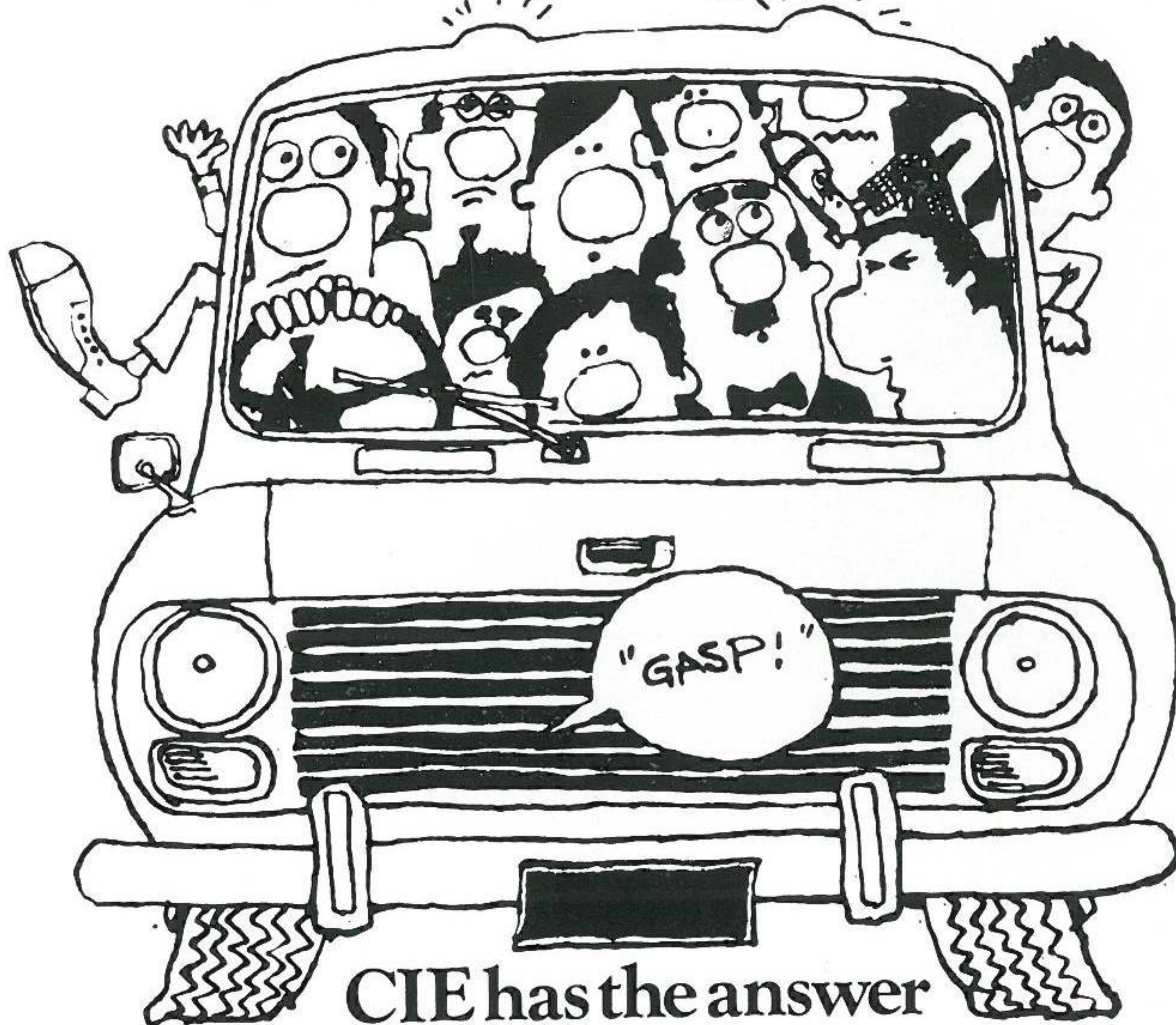
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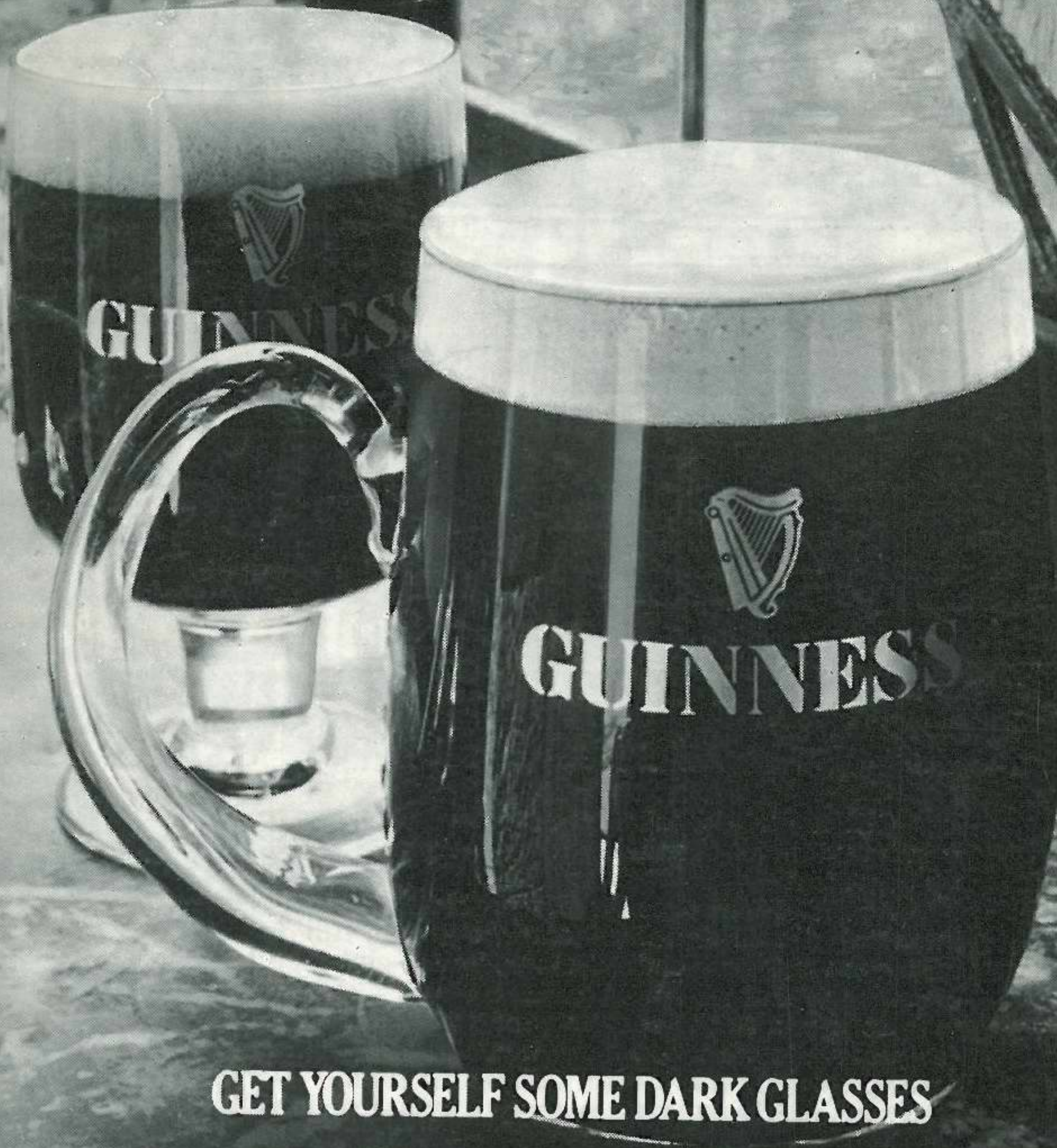
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