

128 **GAA**

GAEELIC SPORT

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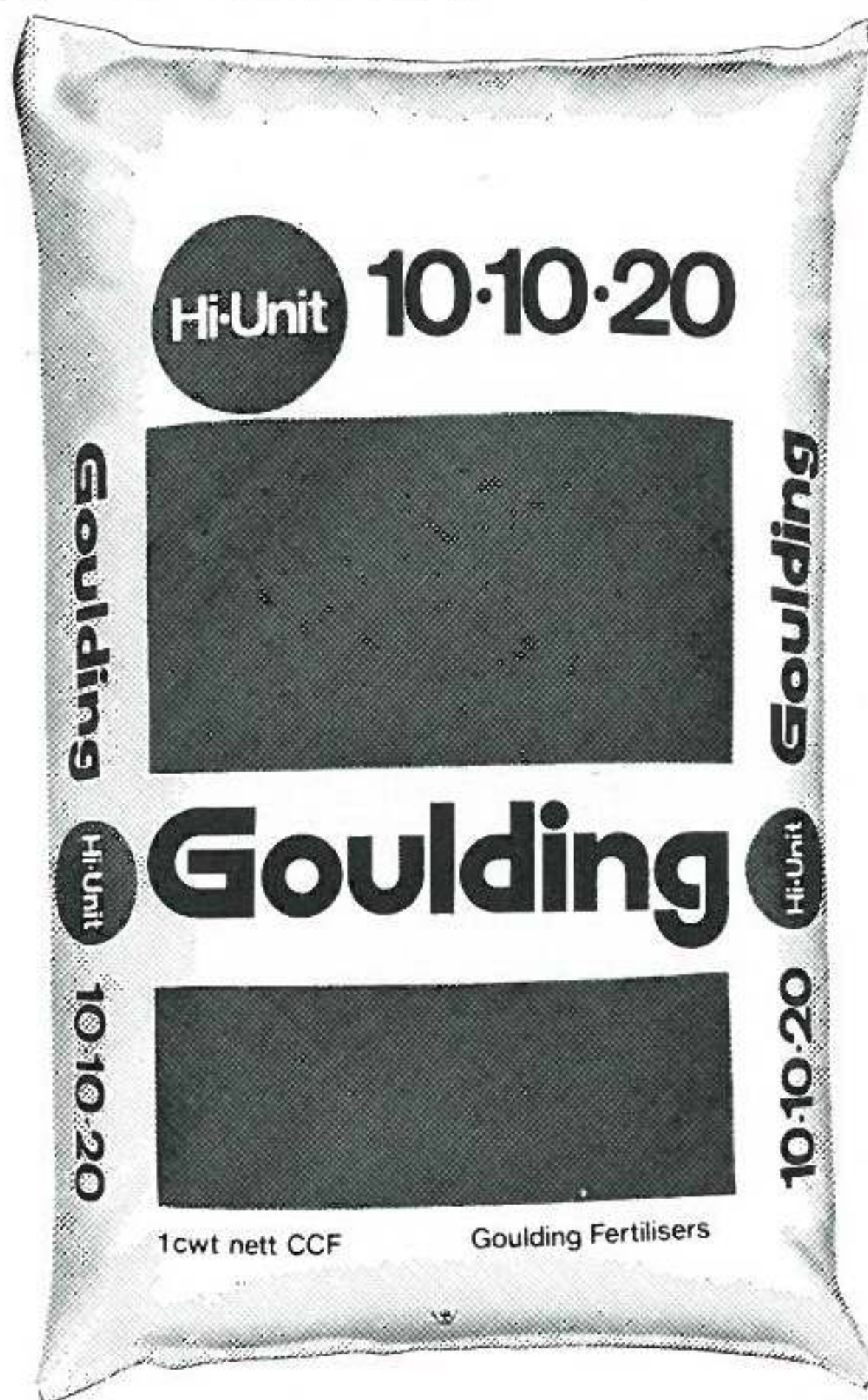
AUGUST, 1973



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ALL IRELAND SEMI-FINALS

i bPáirc an Chrocaigh

12 AUGUST, 1973 — CONNACHTA v. LAIGHIN

in senior and minor football

19 AUGUST, 1973 — ULAIDH v. MUMHA

in senior and minor football

5 AUGUST, 1973 — ALL-IRELAND HURLING SEMI-FINAL

MUMHA

LONDON ^{v.} n^o GAILLIMH

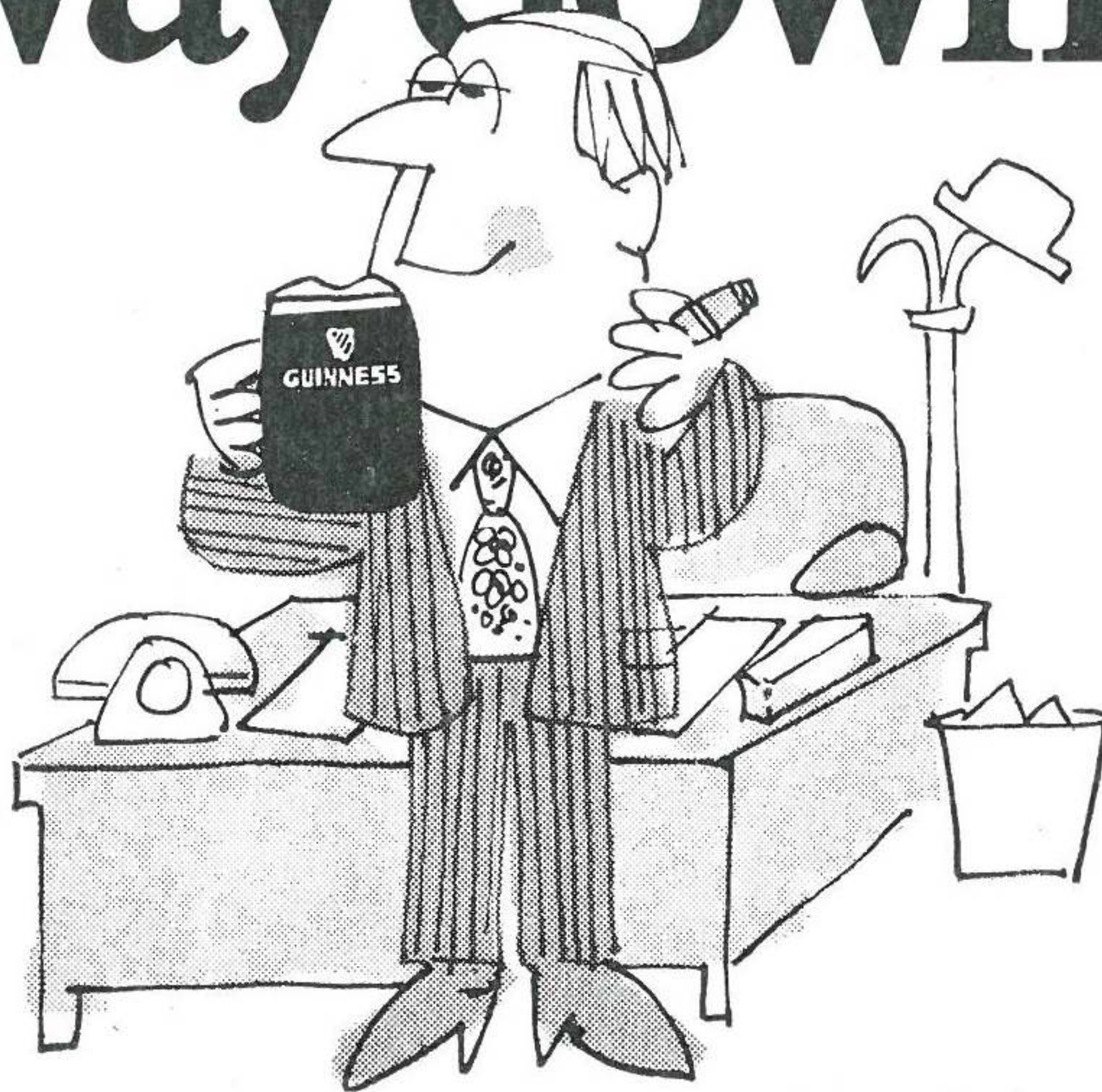
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

FIXTURES DILEMMA

WE have campaigned from time to time for a more imaginative approach in the making of inter-county fixtures. Every other sporting organisation appears to be able to draw up an annual schedule—and to stick rigidly to it. The time has long since passed for the G.A.A. to get firmly in line in this regard.

Having said that, we now welcome the news that the Activities Committee has drawn up a set of proposals with regard to the annual fixtures list. These will be considered at a Central Council meeting early this month.

One of the suggestions, however, appears to be well off target. It is that the hurling and football games in the National League be played on the same Sunday, instead of on alternate Sundays as at present.

This is one way of cutting down on the dual-player problem that has helped to upset the fixtures schedule in the past. It would also doubtless mean extra Sundays for club games.

But it is hardly a move designed to ensure that the pulling power of inter-county football and hurling is exploited to the fullest. And this should be a primary concern in these days when there is such strong opposition from other sports.

Take press publicity, for ex-

ample. With 20 odd National League games down for decision every second Sunday, space considerations would mean that many of the matches would inevitably lose out in the match previews. A week later there would be a dearth of inter-county news.

This is not the way to ensure that the games receive the maximum publicity possible. Furthermore attendances at matches all round would be hit. The status quo, then, of football and hurling games in the Leagues on alternate Sundays should be maintained. But with the important provision that failure to fulfill fixtures on schedule, except for the gravest of reasons, would result in the loss of points.


If the counties fully appreciated this, they would soon get properly organised.

The Activities Committee appears to be on firmer ground in advocating the abolition of the Grounds' Tournament. But what of London's participation in the All-Ireland senior hurling championship?

The Exiles deserve every encouragement, but it is hard to see how the game across the Channel benefits from this annual excursion into the All-Ireland series.

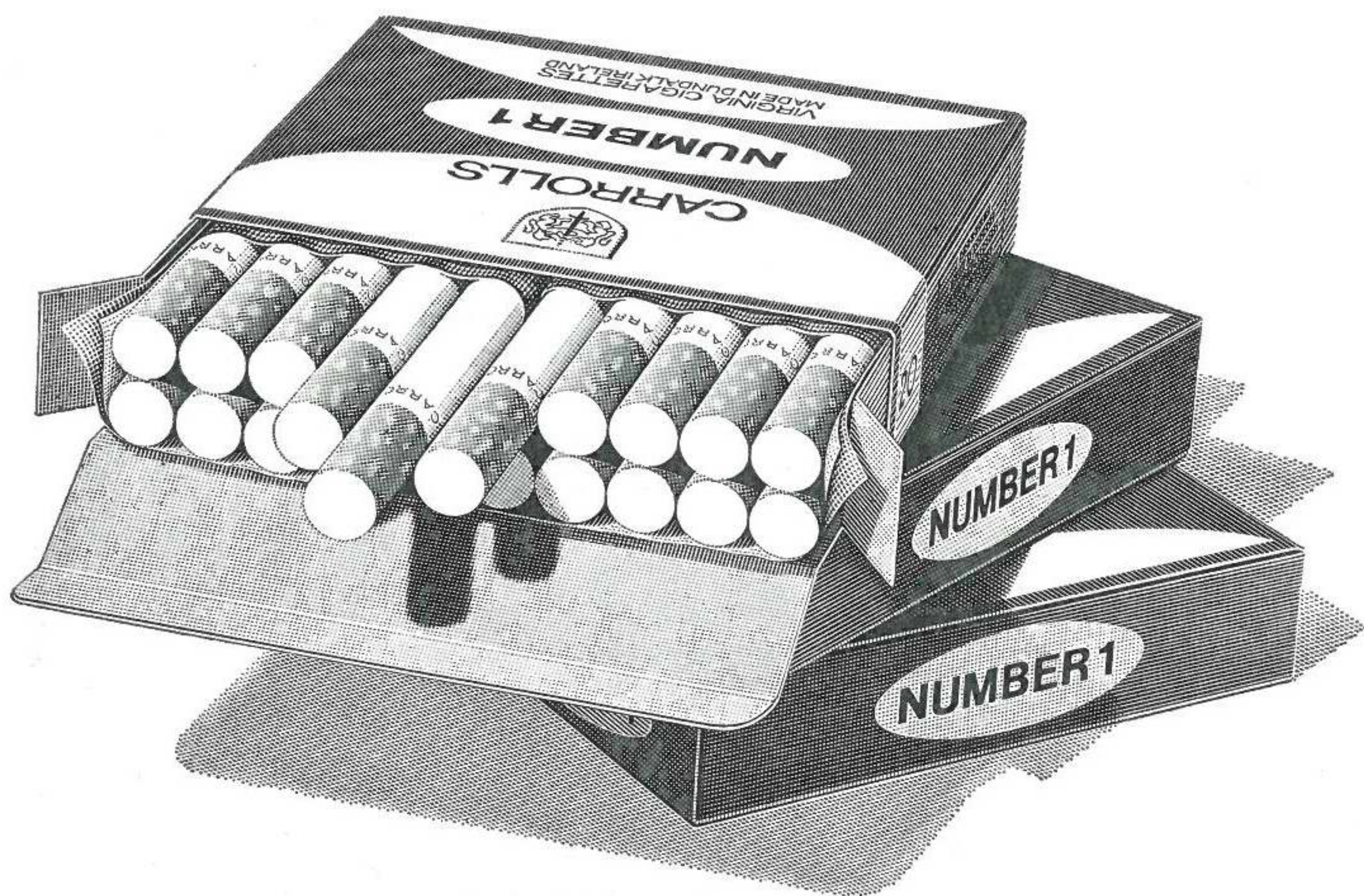
The Activities Committee should look again at this set-up.

COVER PHOTO :

 OUR front cover personality, this month, is Ulster and Donegal star, Brian McEniff, the first defender from Ulster to win a coveted Carroll's All-Star award. On page 21, in this issue, Owen McCann spotlights the career of the 28-year-old Bundoran man.



Carrolls Number 1 the taste of good tobacco



PACKETS CARRY A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

Top Ten

Corkmen dominate football ratings

UNTIL this issue only one Cork footballer, Billy Morgan, figured in the Top Ten for 1973, but after the way that the Leesiders took Kerry apart in the Munster senior final, the county earns the lion's share of the honours in the current football chart with three representatives—Kevin Jer O'Sullivan, Morgan and Billy Field.

In view of the fact that Cork kicked in a whopping 5-12 in that win it may seem strange to find two stalwarts of the rear-guard up there in the premier placings, but a closer look behind the result reveals that O'Sullivan and Morgan well deserve their high ratings.

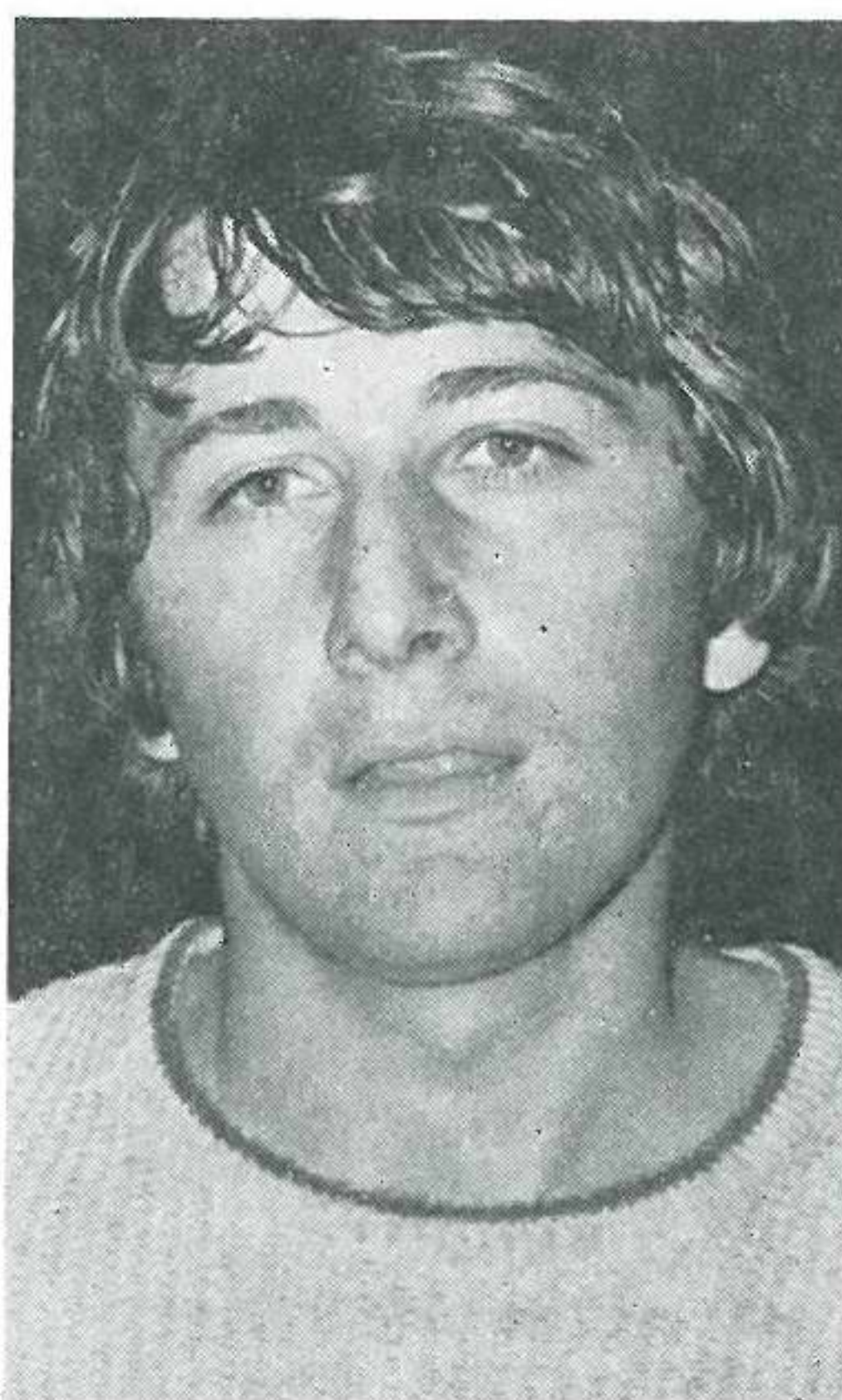
The right half back was one of the brightest stars throughout the entire 80 minutes. Everything he did was brimful of intelligence and purpose, and this was a major factor in Cork's climb to that decisive victory. As a result he goes to the top of the table with nine points.

Morgan's brilliant goalkeeping was crucial to Cork in the vital opening minutes. His alertness foiled Kerry and helped to set up the home squad for their first-half barrage of five goals. Then, in the second half when Kerry got to within five points of Cork, it was Morgan to the rescue again with an all-important—and splendid — save from Jackie Walsh. The Cork captain now moves up to 14 points overall.

Field cracked home a goal from a penalty. Had he failed to

score the miss might well have unsettled Cork at an important stage; so that was a major blow in favour of Cork, and for good measure he finished the top marksman in the final with 1-6.

In hurling (the Munster final



● **TEDDY O'BRIEN**
(Cork)

does not come into the reckoning for this month) the honours go to Nickey Orr, whose command of the full back role was an eye-catching highlight of Kilkenny's win over Wexford in the Leinster final. He was in charge against Tony Doran, and in the final minutes, against Jack Berry, and he comes into the table for the first time with the month's best tally.

FOOTBALL

9	K. J. O'Sullivan (Cork) ...	9
8	B. Morgan (Cork)	14
8	T. J. Gilmore (Galway) ...	8
8	B. Field (Cork)	8
7	A. McTague (Offaly)	14
7	S. Donaghy (Tyrone)	13
7	G. Mitchell (Galway)	7
7	A. McMahon (Tyrone)	7
7	S. O'Neill (Down)	7
6	K. Rennicks (Meath)	6

HURLING

9	N. Orr (Kilkenny)	9
8	R. Bennis (Limerick)	21
8	T. O'Connor (Tipperary) ...	8
8	P. Delaney (Kilkenny)	8
7	E. Keher (Kilkenny)	14
7	J. O'Donnell (Limerick) ...	7
6	P. Henderson (Kilkenny) ...	6
5	T. Byrne (Wexford)	11
5	M. Quigley (Wexford)	5
5	T. O'Brien (Cork)	5

THE DEFEATED TEAMS OF '73
ASSESS THEIR CONQUERORS

Players' views on the Munster final

By
**JOHN
O'SHEA**
(Of the
Evening Press)

Yet I feel that Tipp now not only respect Limerick but are afraid of them. And this is important. Limerick can have no inferiority complex going into the game, and with confidence, I think they will scrape home.

MARTIN DOHERTY
(Cork)

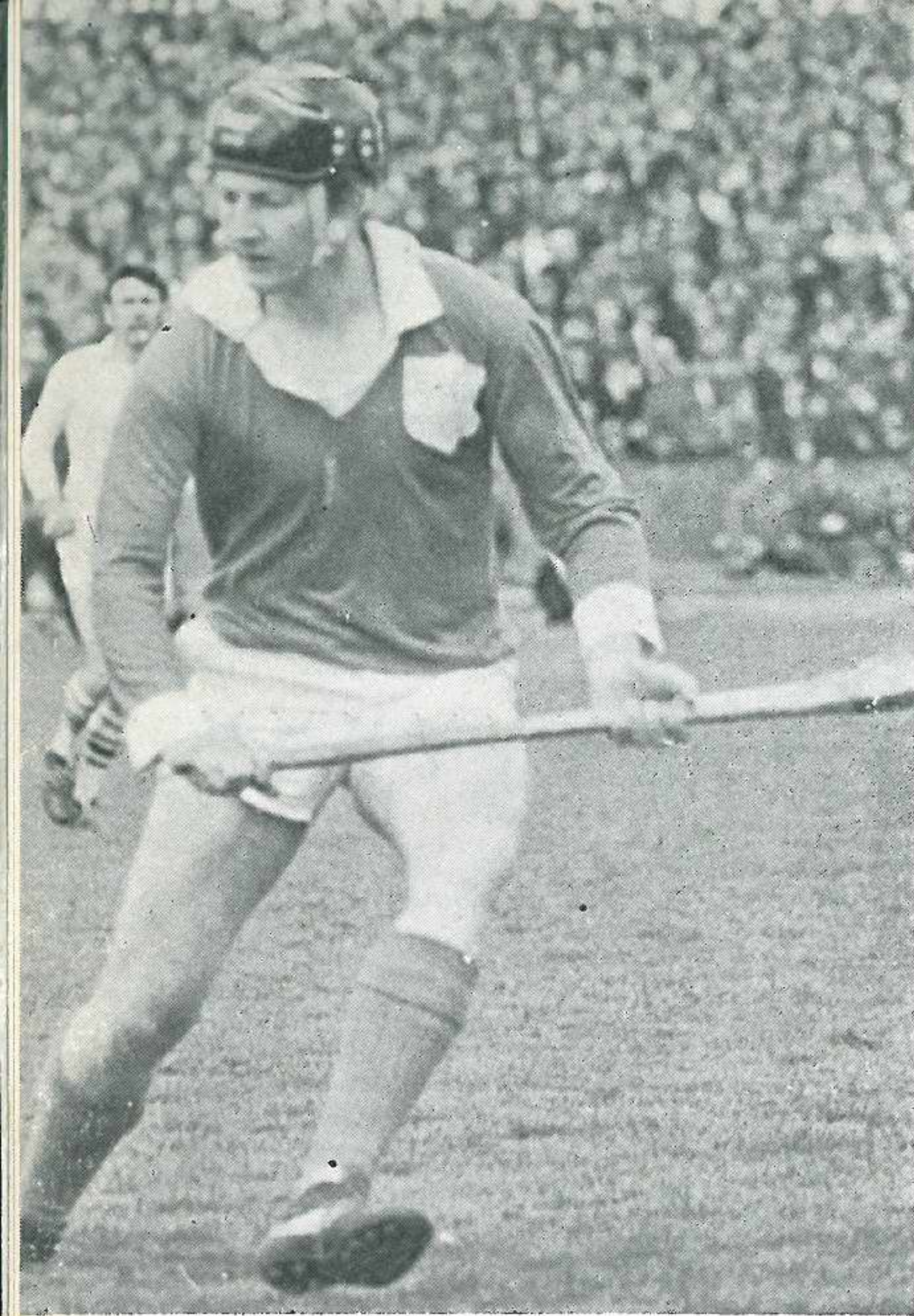
Tipperary will be too hard and too strong. While I would like to see Limerick win through, I believe that Tipperary will use their superior experience to carry the day.

Given a dry day and a fast game, Limerick could well of course prove best, but Tipperary are no fools, and they will know when to slow the game down to suit their purposes.

It's not a great Tipp team, but they are not bad either. It will be up to Limerick to force the pace throughout, and I don't think they will be able to do this.

SEAMUS DURACK (Clare)

Those in the know keep saying that it's going to be "Limerick's year," and I'm inclined to agree. On a dry day Limerick have few



● Eamonn Cregan (Limerick)

MUNSTER senior hurling finals inevitably produce their own inimitable brand of entertainment. In recent years the rivalry between Cork and Tipperary has enlivened many a dreary All-Ireland series.

This season, the programme is changed slightly with Limerick vying for the provincial crown with honours bedecked Tipperary. Observers believe that the game is full of promise, and few are prepared to rush in with predictions regarding the outcome.

However, we felt you might like to hear the views on what has the ingredients of a thriller from the players who failed in the Munster semi-finals.

JACKIE O'GORMAN
(Clare)

Tradition points to Tipperary, though my belief is that Limerick can do it this time. During the past few years Limerick have fared better in clashes involving the two counties, and I see them winning again in the final.

Provided the Limerick forwards, can click, and that Cregan gets his usual quota of scores it will make things easy for Limerick. Against that Tipp are likely to show vast improvement on their semi-final form, and with such as Dinny Ryan and Roger Ryan around, the Limerick defence will not have things their own way.

equals and provided the conditions are right, I can't see Tipp halting them.

Tipp will of course play it tough and give little away, but I'll be looking to Eamonn Grimes and Eamonn Cregan to plot a Limerick win. In addition Pat Hartigan can be relied upon to keep his end up in defence, and all round, I believe Limerick are just that shade better equipped.

If Limerick have a fault, it is in goal, where Seamus Horgan gives me the impression that he is easily rattled.

PADDY BARRY (Cork)

Tipperary were so bad against Cork that one must fancy Limerick. Even if Tipp step up on that display I can't see them getting the better of a Limerick side which appears poised to break into the big time.

Limerick must know that they have to break through this year, or they may be down for some years. They have everything to go for now and I think they can do it. Certainly their forward line strikes me as being a more dangerous unit. The Tipp attack was disgraceful against Cork, getting only five points. This sort of form will not win a Munster final.

Furthermore I don't see the Limerick selectors making the mistakes they made in recent games of moving around their best players. Their selectors have learned their lessons and appear shrewder now.

NOEL CASEY (Clare)

It's a finely balanced game, with Tipperary very slight favourites in my book. Limerick looked a bit suspect in defence against Clare and the same hesitancy will be punished in the final.

The vote, 5-3, goes to Limerick



● *Len Gaynor*
(Tipperary)



● *Francis Loughnane*
(Tipperary)

Experience should play an important part, and here of course Tipp have the advantage. Also their half-forward line is a most lethal unit when in form, and their backs seem to be playing fairly well.

Michael Keating has a habit of producing the "big one" on important occasions and I would expect he will provide the inspiration for another Tipp success.

MICK MALONE (Cork)

Limerick should just about make it. They are a strong side, and although they didn't play well in the League final, I believe they are now ready to achieve something of note.

Tipperary were pretty poor against Cork, and while they will doubtless improve, I can't see their defence holding the Limerick forward line, particularly in the closing stages.

With just a slice of luck I reckon Limerick can take the All-Ireland this season.

VINCENT LOFTUS (Clare)

If Cregan and Hartigan (Pat) strike form, it's Limerick for me. Richie Bennis and Eamonn Grimes are others Limerick will be heavily relying on, as bar these four the Limerick side is mediocre.

But Tipperary are no great shakes either, and in my view are ripe for beating. If Limerick play hurling throughout the game they can win. My advice to them would be to keep the ball moving and refrain from "mixing it."

DENIS COUGHLAN (Cork)

Tipp are my choice, mainly because of their half-back line in which Gaynor and O'Connor are fine attacking players.

Limerick have a problem at mid-field, and while they might last better than Tipp over the 80 minutes, I'm not certain that they possess the class to beat a team which will hardly play as badly as in earlier rounds.

The Tetrarch



He was the Flying Wonder of his day—undoubtedly one of the most remarkable and fascinating horses in racing history.

Born a chestnut with black patches, for no apparent reason, he turned to grey with white patches. These bizarre splashes made him look as if he had been splattered with a whitewash brush and led to his being known as "The Rocking Horse" and later, as his fame spread, to "The Spotted Wonder".

He never ran, except as a two year old, but electrified onlookers by the speed with which he won each of his seven races.

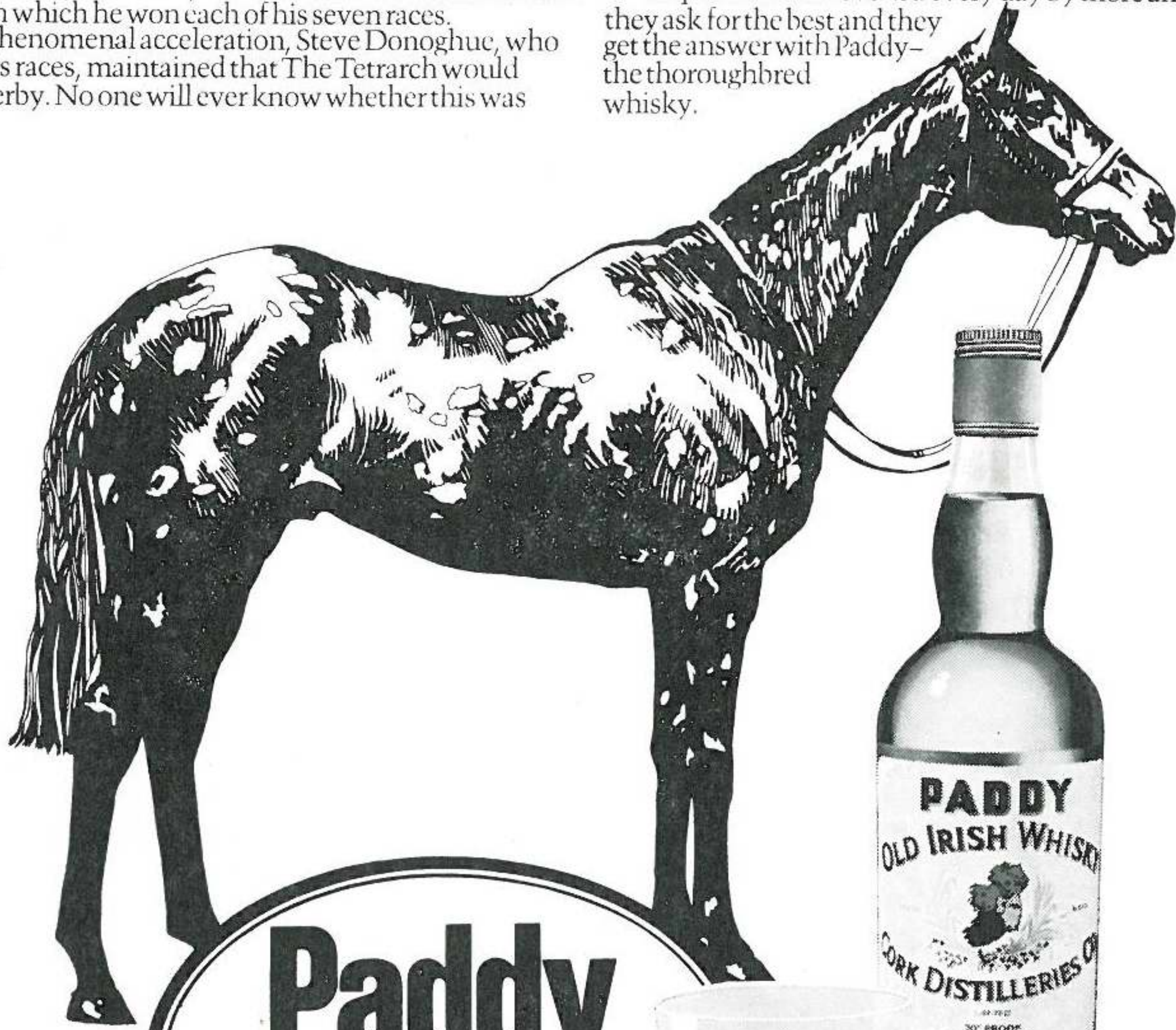
Despite his phenomenal acceleration, Steve Donoghue, who rode him in all his races, maintained that The Tetrarch would never stay the Derby. No one will ever know whether this was a fact.

Entered for the race, he rapped his off foreleg, the injury recurring shortly before Derby Day, and was scratched.

The Tetrarch was retired to the stud of his owner, Major Dermot McCalmont, at Ballylynch, Co. Kilkenny.

He died in 1935 aged 24, is remembered in a race that bears his name. Was his speed matched by his staying power? Just another intriguing—and unanswered—question about that equine marvel called The Tetrarch.

A question that is asked every day by more and more people—they ask for the best and they get the answer with Paddy—the thoroughbred whisky.



Paddy
The
Thoroughbred



Can Tyrone win intriguing Ulster final?

ULSTER football final time again! My goodness, where does time go to? I can recall in my school-going days when a year was a year and no mistake. But isn't it strange that as one gets older a year gets shorter—or certainly seems to.

Anyway, to get back to the point, what will 1973 unfold, in the playing of the Ulster football final? Will the history books recall a sizzling, epic encounter or a dull drab affair.

The contestants, Tyrone and Down, are both workmanlike outfits but one could scarcely label them brilliant. Down's semi-final victory over Derry and indeed Tyrone's win over Fermanagh did not exactly set the Province on fire.

It is certainly the most tantalisingly open contest in the 87-year history of the competition and put it down to faint heart if you will but I am firmly—and honestly — committed to the "don't know" lobby (this time round).

Instead of pondering over the ifs and buts of the contest to come I have spent the last couple of days delving through the records of the past in an attempt to hazard a guess as to the fate of our standard-

bearers when they take on the Munster champions in the All-Ireland semi-final at Croke Park in August.

While I admit that statistics can be made to prove anything I must confess that the information gleaned proved rather disappointing — particularly when one's burning ambition is to see the Sam Maguire Cup on a long tenancy in the North.

Of the 86 Ulster championships already decided, Cavan have won 47, Antrim and Monaghan 11 each, Down eight, Armagh four, Tyrone and Derry two each and Donegal one. Yet our representatives in the All-Ireland series have succeeded in bringing home the supreme prize on only eight occasions. And that honour belongs to just two counties—Cavan with those five wins in 1933, '35, '47, '48 and '52 and Down, whose three triumphs were of course in 1960, '61 and '68. Incidentally Down have the added distinction of never having been beaten in an All-Ireland decider.

But it was our record in the semi-finals over the years which caused dismay. According to my check—and of course I am open to correction in this—the Ulster champions have crossed the semi-hurdle only 18 times while

crashing on the other 68 attempts.

The North's first success at this stage came in 1911 with Antrim Shauns who at this time as club champions went on to represent the county. Antrim were back the following year. It is interesting to note that both finals involving the Antrim men were played in the one year—the first on January 12, 1912, and the second on November 3, 1912.

Ulster did not again break the semi-final barrier until 1928—the year the Sam Maguire Cup was first competed for when Cavan made the last stage. Two years later it was Monaghan's turn to make their one and only appearance in the final so far.

Then came that superb nine-finals-in-19-years effort by Cavan in 1933, '35, '37, '43, '45, '47, '48, '49 and '52 and which included the five titles already referred to.

Let's hope that our 1973 representatives, whether they be Tyrone or Down, will not only get over the semi-final but that they will stand supreme on Sunday, September 23.

Coming to the history of the Ulster championship itself every schoolboy knows of the tremendous role Cavan have played. I was somewhat surprised therefore to note that the famous Breffni stronghold played in the Leinster championship on one occasion. But that was a long time ago, 1895 to be correct, and on the day Louth proved best in the first round.

In recent years the local scene has been dominated by Down who in a 14-year period (1958-1971) appeared in no fewer than

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● FROM PAGE 9

12 Ulster finals winning eight of them.

Of course this year's final could end in a draw. But that is a most unlikely result. After all it is 44 years almost to the day since Cavan and Monaghan finished all square on July 28, 1929—the one and only draw in the provincial decider.

Looking slightly further ahead I sincerely hope that I enjoy this year's All-Ireland from my seat in the Hogan Stand. After all they are the last finals I am ever likely to see from this particular reservation. From 1974 onwards I will have to find myself an alternative vantage point.

Like all other holders of the current five-year tickets (1969-'73), I had a communication from Croke Park explaining the rates for the new 10-year issue, 1974-'83, and pointing out that, if I was deemed acceptable, I had the option of embarking on the latest scheme.

Put it down to meanness, lack of substance, bloody-mindedness, pure cussedness or what you will but I have not the slightest intention of joining the new elite—or should it be aristocracy—who will take over the best seats at Croke Park for the two real glamour Sundays of the season but who, for the rest of the year, will bother the Association not at all.

Candidly when I heard it rumoured that the price of a Hogan stand seat was to go up to £6 I simply did not believe it. Now that the move has been confirmed I genuinely fear for the sanity of those legislators who have approved such a deal.

One county at least has introduced a "never-never" system for clubs interested in purchasing the All-Ireland tickets. This represents a splendid spirit by the county involved. The tragedy is that it should be necessary.

FOCUS ON THE RISING STARS



● Frank McGuigan

HERE we are in August and the playing year two-thirds gone. Before very long sports journalists throughout the country will be submitting nominations for the Carroll's GAA All-Star teams . . . and this will mean glory and honour being poured on outstanding—but mostly well-established—players. So, at this stage of the year, let's beam the spotlight on some of the younger hurlers and footballers who are headed for, but have not yet reached, the galactic firmament of super-stardom.

In any year there is bound to be a crop of promising young players, but 1973 has produced some who seem possessed of very special talents, who are strikingly obvious in their potential.

It would be incorrect to say that young Frank McGuigan is not an established star. Although he does not celebrate his 19th birthday until November 20 next, he is long since a key figure in Tyrone's up-and-coming team. Indeed, his presence in the middle of the field in the past year—remember he played in the minor and senior Ulster finals on the same day in 1972—contributed in very large measure to Tyrone's triumph in Division 2 of the National Football League last winter. During the current championship he has fulfilled much of his earlier promise.

In San Francisco last March, Frank was one of the All-Star replacements, and when sent into the first match against All-Ireland champions Offaly after 11 minutes, as a substitute for the injured Brian McEniff, he was in no way overawed by the class of the elite company in which he found

himself. Indeed, I was particularly taken by the confidence he showed in taking two very good points after quickly settling down. I am quite sure a bright future lies ahead for this Ardboe clubman.

One could not go wrong in predicting a very brilliant future for a young lad called Denis Moran. Although he is still only 16 he will be a Kerry senior before very long and playing for the Kingdom will give him a lot more opportunities to bring to fruition all the rich promise he has shown up to now with Franciscan College, Gormanston.

Denis lives in Limerick, but he has played football only in Kerry—the county so dear to the heart of his late father and the rest of his family—apart from his appearances in colleges' competitions. Already he has won a Kerry senior championship medal—he was the 15-year-old left half-forward on the successful Shannon Rangers team in last year's county final—and he will be a Kerry minor for the third year in 1974. He was one of Gormanston's midfielders, he is centre

By
**MICK
DUNNE**
(of RTE)

half-back on this year's Kerry minor side and, by now, he should be on the under-21 team also. In fact, the only fear I have for him is that he might be rushed into senior inter-county football too soon . . . but, then, they are shrewd ones in Kerry.

Last year's All-Ireland minor hurling final showed clearly what a promising prospect Kilkenny have in Brian Cody, who was their centre half-back. Brian was 19 only on the 12th of last month, but already he has appeared on the senior team. He played in National League matches against Galway and Clare last spring and when Pat Henderson was unable to play in the Leinster semi-final against Dublin in June, Cody was named as his replacement.

In fact, Henderson was quoted by my colleague John D. Hickey in the "Irish Independent" as regarding Cody, the man who may eventually displace him on the county side, as a very fine prospect. And praise from such a celebrated hurler and eminent sportsman as Pat Henderson is the best recommendation the young James Stephen's player could wish for.

Another player who established himself in the early rounds of the championship is Kevin McConnell, 19 last December and the bearer of a very distinguished football name. As I chatted to Father Paddy Tully in the Meath dressing-room before the championship match against Westmeath at Mullingar young Kevin

● TO PAGE 44

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Day of Magic

By SEAMUS
O BRAONÁIN

THE Munster Final!

What an evocative title, sending colour pictures racing through the mind, and flickering magical men across the screen of memory.

The Munster final . . . Christy Ring, Mick Mackey, Paddy Kenny, Pat Stakelum, Jimmy Finn, Jack Lynch, Johnny O'Connor, John Keane, Dermot Kelly, Jimmy Smith . . . or John Quirke, Jim Young, Mick Roche, Michael Keating, Tony Reddan, Paddy Barry, Jimmy Cullinane, Willie John Daly, Willie Walsh, Seanie Barry, Seamus Power, Seamus Ryan, Tom Cheasty . . . mix-and-match them anyway you like, probably according to your age and allegiance, but they are the kind of flickering image that respond to the name Munster final.

Munster Final—oh, by the way, hurling or football? Ridiculous, there is only one. For, while there is a final match in the Munster football championship, it is only another—though more important—step on the way towards the football All-Ireland. But, the Munster Hurling Final is an end in itself. The best proof of that is the fact that no county in Munster started even to think remotely in terms of an All-Ireland yet.

They will not let the matter even enter their wildest ravings; the Munster championship must be won—nothing else matters. Only after the cheering has died, and as they crowd out of the park uproariously happy does someone say for the first time: "Who will they be meeting now in the All-Ireland?"

And even should the All-Ireland not be won, nothing can ever take from a county the fact that they were Munster champions, for that is—say Munstermen—the hardest title of all to win in hurling.

Something else about the Munster final marks it off. It is the supreme celebration of rural Ireland, for despite all that has happened hurling has always remained the rural game, that is to say the country's game as opposed to Dublin's.

In Limerick or in Thurles there is no barrier between the country men and their game; no superimposed atmosphere, such as Croke Park imposes, of centralised and urbanised formality. It is not a question of whether you go to one road or avenue or another to get into one section or other; it is not a Hogan Stand side and a Cusack Stand side, or a Hill 16 or Canal End. The whole field takes on a unified atmosphere, a sort of ecumenical thrill that runs all the way round the ground and embraces everyone equally.

And a Munster final is the great social occasion where the social climber or follower of fashionable occasions cannot make inroads. There is no place for these who want to be there for the sake of being there and being seen there. If you go, you are one of the crowd. Jack Lynch was just a hurling follower when he went as Taoiseach; he may have had a reserved seat, but he would have to defend his judgment of the game as tightly as the man next door if he ventured to express an opinion.

Last year I remember well being pressed along to the stiles by a man who kept looking at his watch and saying how he hoped the minor match wouldn't be started before he got in. It was with some embarrassment that I turned round to find the man was a Bishop and his companion also sported red embellishments.

At the Munster final there is an equality that goes beyond democratic posturing or socialistic principles. Only for someone like Michael O hEithir or Paddy Downey or one of the players in the big game will the crowds pressing for entrance yield way. Not because they are told to, but because they choose to, since these are the important people of the day—the actors in the great drama and the official communicators and interpreters of the action.

The Munster Final is where people from the same parish or street shout greetings to one another across the heads of hundreds of people, though they met that morning before leaving for the game. It is where you get into discussion and argument with twenty people all round you, and despite heated exchanges, leave them reluctantly and with a sense of loss when the game is over.

Most of all the Munster Final is sunshine and rich green grass, stark white lines and goalposts, pipers' uniforms of the band, white-coated umpires, a colourful sea of paper-hatted heads . . . and blue-and-gold, red-and-white, green-and-white, blue-and-white or gold-and-blue. There is nothing quite like it for heating the blood.



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LIMERICK CLOSE TO THE BREAKTHROUGH

By

JAY DRENNAN

DID they but know it, Limerick are probably closer now to that longed for breakthrough than they ever were. And it must be even a surprise to themselves. There was not much hope—more recrimination in the atmosphere of lost opportunity—at the end of the year when that controversy was whipped up about their selection of a trainer.

It was with faltering steps that they picked up the threads after Christmas in a League which seemed to be slipping out of their control. When eventually they qualified it was not a performance full of confidence when they met Tipperary at Kilkenny in the semi-final. A draw was satisfactory in the circumstances and the victory in extra time of the replay was a morale-booster. Yet, the final was lost and again they were brought to earth with something of a bump by a bustling Wexford.

In their semi-final against Clare, there were times when Limerick showed the confidence debt they have accumulated as a result of the years of trying fruitlessly. Not ten minutes from the end, when their best endeavours had failed to break Clare and establish a winning lead, they almost gave up the ghost. For some minutes, they seemed to run out of moral resource; the game was almost there for the taking by Clare at that time. But, Clare were unable to take it, and after five minutes of this flaccid physical and mental impotence, Limerick stirred themselves again and won.

Now, without reaching their best or playing with anything like the authority they sometimes showed in other years, they are in the Munster final. And the opposition is Tipperary which showed itself to be vulnerable (if not lucky) against Cork. Limerick must have noted the obvious lack of command of Tipperary in that game; the shortcomings in several positions, the fact that teamwork and determination are more vital than hurling mastery in bringing Tipperary into this final. They must have noted that, with a little improvement here and there, with a greater effort for full fitness, they will have the same chance of imposing themselves on Tipperary in the championship as they had in the League.

Both teams — Limerick and Tipperary—will, of course, be better for the final. Limerick, perhaps, will have regained the courage and belief in their ability to dominate which they so lacked in the semi-final. Now, having got off the hook, and not altogether by their own doing, they will take mighty great care never to slacken their resolve when they play Tipperary. Throughout the year, and even against Clare near the end, it must have seemed to them that they were still on the old road without a turning. And suddenly, they find themselves in the Munster final—and against opposition that has given no evidence to believe that it is anywhere in the class of that which Tipperary provided in 1971. Is this the sudden bend in the road

that was not visible until the last moment? Round it is there, perhaps, the promised land?

Tipperary, against Waterford and again against Cork, have failed to prove that they have anything greater than their character and their traditional stout-hearted refusal to accept defeat. They had to struggle mightily and draw on their depth of experience to contain the "devil" in Waterford's challenge; and they were truly reduced to a sad state with only 1-4 to their credit, a dozen missed opportunities, gaps in technique, fitness and ability, and only their courage to keep them going eight minutes from the end of the Cork game. It so happened that four goals came in the last minutes, but they did nothing to obscure the happenings earlier in the game.

Tipperary are not certain that they have a goalkeeper that answers the specification for Munster championship stuff. The remarkable thing is that neither Waterford nor Cork were able to fire enough quick shots at Doyle or Murphy to prove which or whether. That says a lot, of course, about the staunch qualities of the full-backs and halves—or else it is a fair estimate of the Cork and Waterford forwards.

Well, I think it is partly one and partly the other; but, the Tipperary full-backs are no push-over, that's clear enough. They still are unable to command the game under the dropping ball, if Limerick would care to note this point and play it accord-

● OVERLEAF

Limerick to break through

● FROM PAGE 15

ingly. And the halves are tenacious and tough and marvellously

courageous, yet they seldom dominate, because O'Connor is not really happy in the middle, Crampton is still feeling his way on the right, and Gaynor is bothered with having the burdens of responsibility heavy on

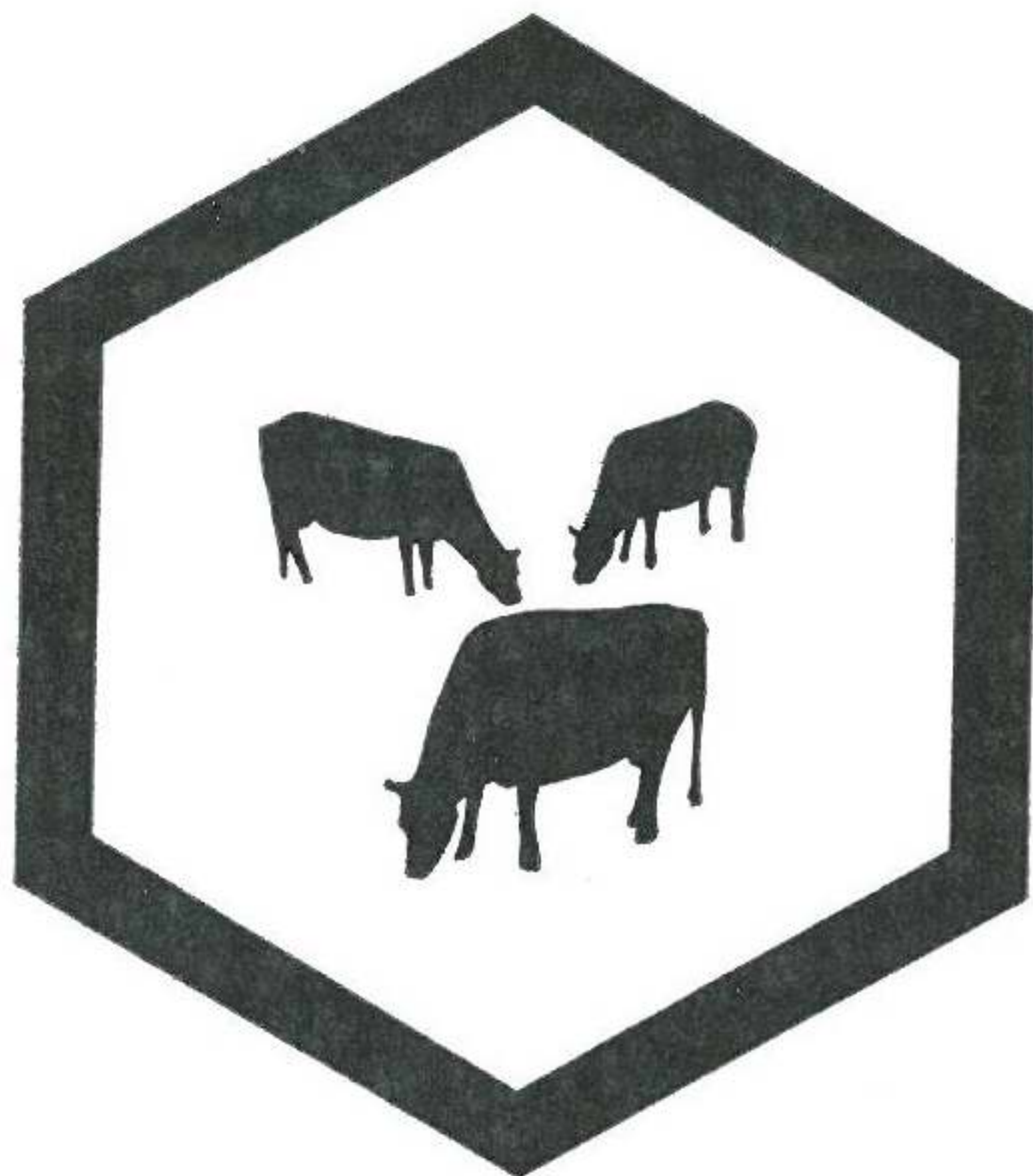
his shoulders in case the others make a mistake.

Players like O'Dwyer and Jack Ryan or Mick Roche and John Flanagan like to move freely in search of space and they capitalise on Loughnane's headline. And I speak altogether irrespectively of what they are actually scoring or achieving: they were (all three) mostly dreadful against Cork for most of the second-half, yet the play was pitched in Cork's half most of the time.

Inside, massive Roger Ryan is always a threat, especially when he encounters a referee who does not recognise that a full-back has any rights; but the corners are neither settled nor especially thrustful.

If Tipperary are to be beaten it will be by a half-back line that will dominate them; not so much that it will contain them, for that is what Cork did in a negative and unproductive sort of way, but that it will drive its clearances with punishing depth. They must be backed by a mid-field of consistent and combative endeavour; by full-backs who stick to their task; by a goalie of courage; and by forwards who keep flying and piling on pressure in waves, and never allowing open clearances by backs.

How do Limerick meet the requirements? Doubtfully, it must be admitted. But, they have the talent, if they employ it and give it the right orders. I wonder about the half-back line; I wish they could run Sean Foley through a copying machine and get one of him for left-half; another of him for right-half and another for centre-field. O'Donnell can do it at centre. Bernie Hartigan can disrupt the Tipperary half-backs; Cregan should have the skill; Grimes, flashing in and out of a corner could, if he would, get scores galore. It is a fascinating prospect.



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THESE GAMES SERVE NO USEFUL PURPOSE

IT'S fairly safe to assume that, over the next few weeks, the thoughts uppermost in the minds of the Munster hurling champions will have been those concerning September 2 and the All-Ireland final. If they did any thinking at all about the engagement of August 5, it was merely fleeting recognition of the formality they must go through against the winners of this year's preliminary round.

Could you, in your heart of hearts, blame them? I call that August 5 match an "engagement" because to call the meeting between Munster hurling champions and the winners of the London-Galway series an All-Ireland semi-final is to dignify it with a status it does not deserve. Just look at the results over the past two years: 1971—Kilkenny beat London by 15 points; 1972—Kilkenny hammer Galway by 27. Therefore no realist could properly expect the Munster champions to get seriously worked-up about this August game.

To my mind that match on August 5 serves only one purpose other than being a misguided genuflection to London or Galway who have no more right to get into an All-Ireland semi-final by the back-door than, say, Wicklow, Laois, Waterford and Clare, who were knocked-out in the first round of the championship. Very slowly we came to the conclusion that London were no more entitled to have a bye into an All-Ireland senior semi-final than New York have into the final of the National Leagues.

But the G.A.A. are not yet

realistic enough to accept the principle that if a team isn't up to the standard of the senior championship it shouldn't be in it.

The public have long ago made up their minds on this question—and crowds ranging between 2,000 and 4,000 at these one-sided semi-finals over the past four years emphasise this.

So the only purpose I can see this semi-final serving this year is to break-up the long wait that the Munster champions would otherwise be faced with between their provincial final and the All-Ireland final.

Over the years I have failed to find a convincing explanation as to why the Leinster hurling final has to be played so early in July. For that matter I have often wondered why the Connacht football final is traditionally staged so early in July, especially when the championship consists of only four matches.

In the years before the revival of the All-Ireland hurling "semi-finals" it astounded me that the Leinster hurling champions had to "hang around kicking their heels", as it were, for seven or eight weeks.

Surely a more realistic appro-

By

MICK DUNNE

(of R.T.E.)

ach would have the final later in the summer and cut down that long wait between serious matches.

There is, of course, a rule which states that the provincial championship must be completed by the end of July, but that is something that could be changed at Congress.

With the whole question of fixtures being examined by the Activities Committee, might there not be a case for playing the Munster and Leinster hurling finals in August in alternate years? If not—in fact—bringing the two provincial hurling finals into August.

Obviously the Leinster football final must come late in July—since the football championship takes longer to complete—but why not have the Leinster hurling final on the last Sunday of July and, to avoid a clash, play the Munster hurling decider on the first Sunday of August. Then if it's still thought necessary to have an All-Ireland and "semi-final" I am quite sure neither the Munster nor Leinster champions would consider it too much of an imposition to have to play London, Galway or Antrim one week after the provincial final.

Finally, let's delve into the realm of fantasy for just a moment and consider the consequences, if through some miracle—and boy, oh boy it would want to be a whopper—London (or Galway) beat the Munster Champions on August 5th. I can visualise the headlines in the papers the morning after the All-Ireland Final—"Kilkenny 26-95; London (or Galway) 0-2, attendance 398 (including the Artane Band).



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By

SEAN

RICE

Room at the top for the name of Sean Kilbride

IT is quite a few years since Sean Kilbride first caught my eye. His lucid style was his attraction although he had not yet earned a place on the Mayo team. He was only eighteen.

We would argue about his potential and had him ticketed for midfield. He was not even then playing at midfield. But he was one who liked to run, to link, to open up avenues for his colleagues in attack to tread towards goal.

His qualities were somewhat disjointed, particularly his solo-running. And this is what used to bug Mayo county secretary, Johnny Mulvey. There was potential in him, the Mayo boss used to say, but not in his solo-run. Kilbride, it seemed, had not enough confidence in this particular skill and when meeting an opponent had a tendency to let the ball slip.

To-day there is no argument. For the Ballaghaderreen man has come a long way and is growing into a footballer of outstanding ability.

He is a product of St. Nathy's College and played for a while—as a substitute—in the All-Ireland minor final against Down in 1966 which Mayo won. He was sixteen. Two years later he had won Mayo minor and junior championship medals with his native Ballaghaderreen.

In 1969 he had his first outing with the Mayo senior team against Clare in the National League which Mayo lost. Kilbride was at corner forward—and inconspicuous. For the next couple of years he was on and off until 1971 when he claimed a permanent position on the team—in the half forward line. Only in the past year has he emerged as a midfielder of some considerable merit — although he himself would rather be in the half forward line.

His big advantage would now seem to be his ability to read a game and he has the stamina to contrive movements from any part of the field and to follow them through.

Gone is the tendency to remain too long in possession. And if he has not fully come to grips with the solo, he has managed to lessen his dependence on it and seems more content to place the ball into the opening hoping that his forwards will read the move as he does.

The long range sometimes inaccurate kicking has been harnessed. He never was the most accurate of kickers, but now he does not show it, for most of his work is funnelled towards his forwards as if their role was to complete what he initiates.

Efficiency, it seems to me, is his hallmark. He is not yet in the mould of a Mick O'Connell or a Willie Bryan, but he does seem to have an infectious desire to involve himself in every movement, thus creating the extra link so vital to a player in possession. In this role he has begun to distinguish himself in recent times.

An Army Lieutenant based in the Curragh, Kilbride is a model of a physically fit player and for that reason is able to give himself wholly to a game.

He trains with the rest of the Dublin based Mayo players and never fails to turn up for even the most insignificant game for his native club.

As his colleague and Mayo star John Morley put it: "He is one of the best club men I have known and is an inspiration to the other members on the Ballaghaderreen team."

Sean Kilbride has obviously worked hard on his football over the past few years. Dedication and a flair for creative football have carried him a long way, but his capabilities will be judged by most people outside his county only if he helps Mayo to All-Ireland success. That seems to be the criterion for most of our top players.

Yet, on his present form even now I believe there is room at the top for the name of Sean Kilbride. So move over, Willie Bryan.

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BRIAN McENIFF



● Brian McEniff

A pen picture by OWEN McCANN

DONEGAL may not have made a noteworthy imprint in the senior football championship Roll of Honour, but the county can still point to a lengthy list of star players down through the years . . . men who proved their ability to hold their own with the very best in the land. High among this talented company of top performers must inevitably be Brian McEniff, a man whose name will be linked in a special way with Donegal's most memorable era ever in the 1972 championship.

It is probably the best possible tribute to pay to the many great gifts of this Bundoran man to say that he was a shining example to his team at a time when the county reached the greatest peak of its power. When a team is moving well in the big-time, and many of the squad consistently turn on the style a player has to produce something extra to stand out.

That was exactly what Brian McEniff achieved in the march that brought Donegal a first Ulster senior football crown last July, and a memorable, if unsuccessful, debut in the All-Ireland championship arena against Offaly. Many bright memories still live on from that splendid campaign, but time and again one thinks of the imaginative back play and cool leadership of McEniff that made such an important contribution in moulding Donegal into the buoyant and exciting power they proved in the 1972 hunt for the Sam Maguire Cup.

No one who saw Donegal in that run could have been in the least bit surprised when later in the year the county's dashing No. 5 became the first defender from Ulster to win a Carrolls' All-Star

award as right half back in the 1972 selection.

Although this 28-year-old footballer has only really captured the national spotlight in a big way in latter years, he has served Donegal really well over a long period. He is another brilliant graduate from that excellent stomping ground for future stars that is the minor inter-county grade. McEniff wore the county jersey in under-18 football over three successive seasons from 1960.

Nor had Brian long to wait for his call-up to the premier county side. That came in his final season as a minor. In those early days with the Donegal senior squad he figured as an attacker, but moved back to the rearguard in the mid-'Sixties.

In 1969 this cool and crisp tackling defender wore the No. 5 jersey when Donegal crashed to Offaly in the National League semi-final. Less than a year later he was back again at headquarters to impress at right half in Ulster's win over Munster in the Railway Cup semi-final, and was a star of the win over Connacht on St. Patrick's Day.

He won a second Railway Cup medal in 1971, and in 1972 gain-

ed another Ulster jersey when he was called up from the substitutes' bench during the unsuccessful semi-final with Leinster.

That spring he was in San Francisco for the first time as a replacement on the Carrolls All Stars team. He played in the two games with Offaly. His full Carrolls jersey at the end of last year resulted, of course, in a return to the city of the Golden Gate Bridge last spring.

All in all, then, the sprightly and progressive Brian McEniff, who captained Ulster in their 1973 Railway Cup semi-final with the Combined Universities, has well and truly proven his class in the best of company, made a noteworthy contribution to the game, and collected a good quota of awards in the process.

The fact that Donegal failed to gain promotion from Division II of the National League last season after such a morale boosting championship, allied to their defeat by Tyrone in their first defence of the Ulster title last June, suggests that the odds are now very much against the top national awards coming the way of Brian McEniff.

Be that as it may, however, this cultured and dedicated near six-footer from Bundoran — he stands 5ft. 11ins.—whose well-controlled runs down the right wing are such a bright feature of his football make-up, has left a stamp on the game that will ensure he will long be remembered—no matter what happens in the future. And, he must still have plenty of top-class football ahead of him yet.

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Choice of Soccer stars is not wise policy

SOCCER stars have not hit the Gaelic football headlines in any other province to the same extent as in Connacht. Last year Sligo availed of Sligo Rovers stars David Pugh and Gerry Mitchell for the championship.

This year Pugh also took part in the Connacht championship with Sligo, and Leitrim introduced Finn Harps captain, Jim Sheridan, in their Connacht semi-final match against Mayo.

One wonders about the wisdom of such a policy in counties like Sligo and Leitrim who have been desperately struggling for a breakthrough over the years.

One can sympathise with Sligo who have been on the verge of success in the last couple of years and who might have seen in Pugh and Mitchell the very players to help them jar open the door to victory.

With players like Kearins, the Brennans and the Collearys reaching the autumn of their careers there was every justification for employing every available force to help them in their final fling for ultimate honours. And there is hardly a man in Ireland who would begrudge

All-Ireland success to Mickey Kearins and his willing squad.

But now that this year's efforts have again failed and with the possibility of a string of retirements looming in Sligo, I doubt if they would be wise to persist with soccer stars to the exclusion of younger players who could well do with the experience of championship football early in their careers.

The big trouble is that soccer stars are not available during the National League season. And the league is for nearly all counties a time for experimentation, a time when young players are blooded in the toughness of senior fare.

To persist with such players in the League and replace them by soccer stars in the championship can do nothing but harm their confidence and blunt their possibilities. This may not have affected Sligo to any great degree yet, but it is something they must consider carefully when they begin to build a new team.

Leitrim's selection of Jim Sheridan was to my mind a backward step. The most they could have expected from their game with Mayo was a sign of im-

minent resurgence. Victory was hardly on the cards.

As it turned out no such sign was visible. And Jim Sheridan, playing at midfield, never rose above the standard of the other players on the team. He even missed what should have been his forte as a soccer player — a penalty.

I think Leitrim would have been wiser to play younger players, however inexperienced. Only in the young can there be any hope for a county as depressed in football as Leitrim appeared at Carrick-on-Shannon where they met Mayo.

This was clearly spelled out when they brought on sixteen years-old Mickey Martin at half time. He was one of their best forwards on view and a few more of his type might have brought them nearer to Mayo on the scoreboard.

No other county in Connacht will be attracted to soccer players for their senior teams. For Sligo is the only senior soccer team in the province. But in other provinces there is every possibility of such an attraction, particularly in Dublin where the well of Gaelic footballers appears to be drying.

There is no doubt that soccer players have something to offer Gaelic football. This has become quite apparent at club level. But when it becomes a matter, at county senior level, of dropping those who have taken part in national league games all winter for those who have been playing soccer I question its wisdom.

County boards in their ambitious pursuit of victory may turn to soccer stars for help. There is the danger, though, that this would become a self-wounding policy, feeding the self-doubts of those whom the soccer stars replace.

IT'S NOT GOODBYE WATERFORD AND

READERS will know my form by now, so it will come as no surprise to them that I have been following the Munster hurling circuit. So, indeed are the crowds. Your average G.A.A. fan knows deep down in the fibres of his soul where the action is and where the worthwhile sport is found and one is struck more than ever by the extraordinary upsurge in numbers crushing into turnstiles once the championship sweat caught their sniffing noses.

All the knowing ones said beforehand that after the first two games it would have narrowed itself down in Munster to Tipperary, Cork and Limerick—the old faithfuls and the constant hopefuls. Well, of course, they were right, and though one would not admit it to oneself, it was probably the judgement of one's own mind if not exactly the feeling of one's heart.

Yet, although Waterford and Clare took the toss at the first hurdle they met, they have only said "Au Revoir" to the Munster championships. Certainly, in both cases, it should not be "Good-bye". Both struck me as having the makings of a very nice team, each with much of the special quality and style that marks those counties.

Waterford went first and their chances were considered even less rosy than those of Clare because they were opposed to Tipperary . . . and Tipperary, at Thurles, are formidable opponents at any time.

Yet, in spite of that, Waterford put up a most thrilling effort, daring and dashing, often exciting in the manner that only Waterford at their best of the

forties and fifties and sixties were exciting. But, the championship exposed a certain lack of experience, of over-anxious striving that was originally apparent in

By JIM BENNETT

their League quarter-final against Wexford. Against Tipperary, a team with many of the same qualities as Wexford, the inexperience was again visible. Sapping too much of their energies in frenetic bursts, inevitably leading to a slack which gave the chance of dangerous counterblows from the opposition, before gathering resolution again for another daring thrust.

Even so, however, it was quite something: names like Galvin, Duggan, Pat McGrath, Heffernan, Hickey, Canning and Greene were unknown a few months ago. Today, they are marked carefully in the notebook of every discerning hurling follower as men in the top 50 or so hurlers.

In Clare's case, they will have, perhaps, a bigger disappointment

to put up with, partly because they genuinely feel that they have the beating of the present Limerick side, and partly because of the fact that, on the day, they could very easily have won their match. With ten minutes to go they had absorbed all that Limerick could find to throw at them and come back again and again to get equal. Just then it was Limerick who were disheartened; there was a short time when no more than five or six men seemed to be really trying. Loose Claremen were collecting balls around

midfield and in the half-forward line—they might have had an extra man or two for a few minutes.

But, probably because of this, and the feeling that this new found freedom gave them the extra time to assure themselves of the winning scores by taking more time or passing to another better placed colleague they became over-deliberate. **And that was their downfall;** so far they had played the game under pressure; the pressure begot a speed and they had to hurl and hit and take their shots at reaction speed. Now, as they got time to deliberate, they made mistakes; passes were fluffed, strokes half-hit; the change of pace threw them out of their previous stride, threw them back on their command of basic skill which now was found

E FOR CLARE

faulty under the pressure of time to think.

Those minutes of near despair on Limerick's part ebbed as they managed to survive; luck had some part in it, too, especially when Gus Lohan saw his drive at the empty net curve wide and could hardly believe it as he appealed for a "70". Frantic efforts by Jim O'Donnell were the main cause of Limerick's survival; and, suddenly, someone struck a long cross-field ball out of defence. Clare had been pulled upfield, and so had Limerick. It was just the situation for Eamonn Grimes, playing at corner-forward, and he won the race to the ball as the back tried frantically to get back. Grimes turned back to his right hand as the back overran him, and rapped the ball firmly between the posts. It was the decisive score. Clare missed the boat; Limerick roused themselves just in time to catch it.

But, Clare have the makings: with some of the great older names that carried the side through the 60s now off the list, there are obvious stars of the future pushing ahead: Durack, the best of all the young goalies; McKeogh, a first-class centre-back; Jackie O'Gorman, still a grand wing-half; John Callanan, unspectacular but constant in midfield; Pascal Russell, who will be better often than against Limerick; Tim Ryan, a most industrious and already accomplished forward, deadly from frees; Noel Ryan who can strike

● JIM
O'BRIEN
(Limerick)



and is big and strong, and if he learnt some overhead skill and was willing to look for work rather than wait for it, could be another big asset.

But, the great transformation in Clare's attack that has given it a threatening rather than hopeful aspect is the switch of Gus Lohan to full-forward. Not to

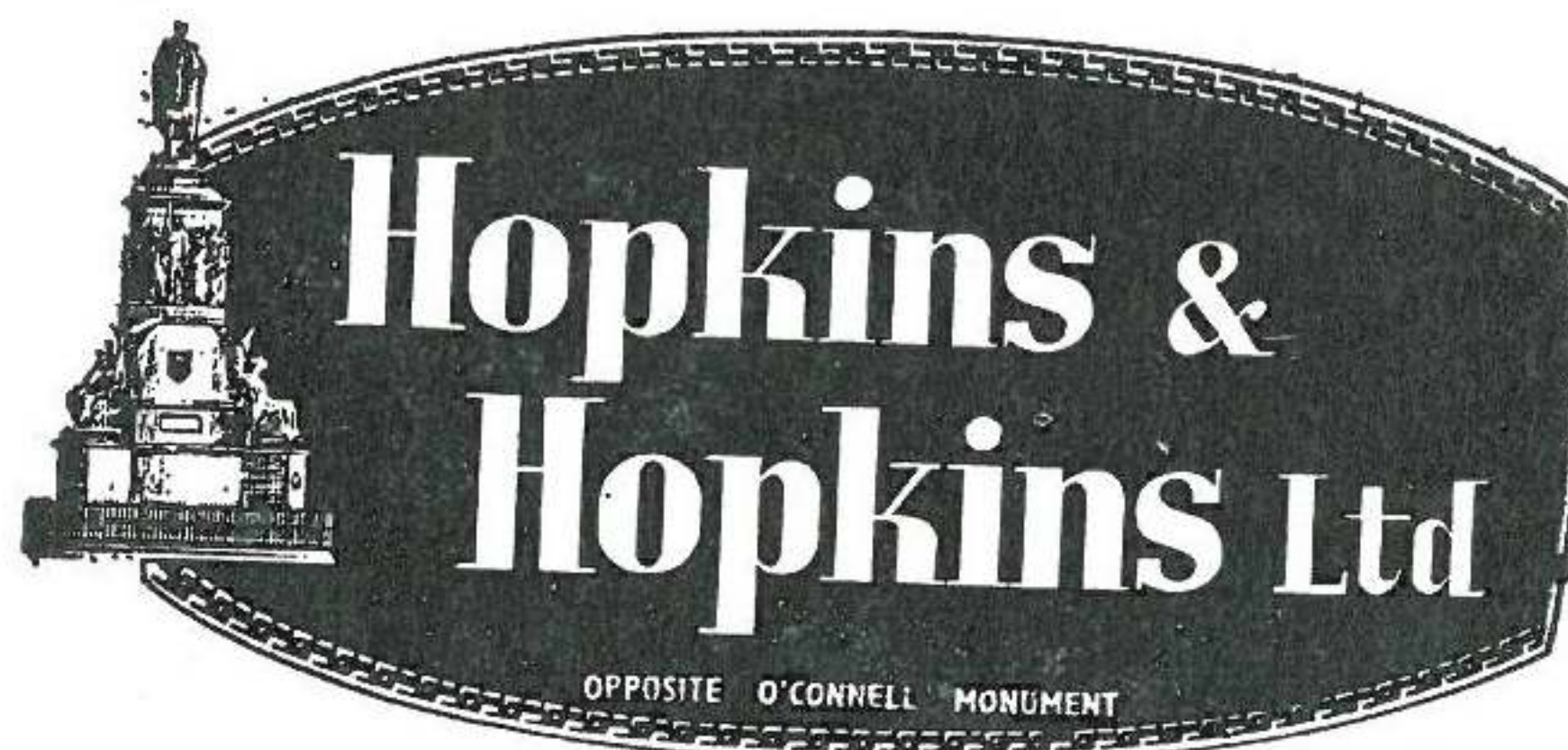
put a tooth in it, he hurled Pat Hartigan out of it against Limerick, and as he warmed to his work, prowled like a great caged lion around the goalmouth with such effect that backs converged when the ball approached and openings appeared all round apart from what Gus himself was able to achieve.



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AGENTS FOR CERTINA WATCHES



● John O'Donoghue

A Championship for the weak counties?

By JOHN O'SHEA (Of the Evening Press)

DO you count yourself among those who have become a trifle tired of the pathetic efforts of such as Leitrim, Armagh and Wicklow to make an impact on their respective senior championships.

A perennial problem afflicting the G.A.A. scene in general is the plight of the "weaker county". I refer to teams which can hold out precious little hope of advancing beyond the opening rounds of the championship.

Can anything be done to improve the standard and the status of these counties? Perhaps the introduction of a second All-Ireland Senior Hurling and Senior Football Championship, specifically for those counties, who had been eliminated in the first round of the competitions proper, would prove useful?

On putting this idea to a number of prominent G.A.A. personalities, I discovered some varied and interesting opinions.

JOHN O'DONOGHUE (Tipperary)

Yes, a wonderful idea. There is no way Tipp can get to the Munster Senior Football final with Kerry and Cork around. Consequently from early May until sometime in October we have to sit about and watch other teams battle their way in competitive fare.

Also it would create tremend-

ous interest in the weaker counties, who never expect to progress beyond the first or second round.

As for hurling, I believe it would do wonders for it also. It might encourage more teams to seek senior status, and give an incentive to those senior sides who never appear to be able to make an impact.

GEORGE NICHOLLS (Wicklow)

No, it's not a feasible idea. I don't think there would be any real attraction in such a competition. All the glamour goes with THE championships, and once a team is eliminated, the followers of that team, lose interest.

There would be no incentive for counties, who would be knocked out in the first round to play in another competition. If they were not good enough to win their first round, why should they do well in another event.

As regards the position in Wicklow we simply could not afford the time to engage in any further competitions. We consider club fare very important

here and naturally don't want it to lag behind. Even as things stand, there are frequently five games listed for the same venue on the same evening.

One wonders where the G.A.A. would find room to accommodate such competitions. One must remember that there are a number of "dead" dates such as the days on which the All-Ireland semi-finals and finals are staged.

Certainly I would be against any move to congest further the fixtures programme.

PACKY MCGARTY (Leitrim)

One could put up several arguments for and against the introduction of this type of competition. I suppose counties such as Leitrim would greatly benefit from them, as we rarely feature in championship fare during the summer months. It's strange really that our "closed season" is usually the months of June, July and August.

Personally I would like to see something of this nature come about, but the old problem of clashing with club games is certain to arise. My suggestion would be that a championship for the weaker counties be introduced, but that the games be played in mid-week.

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● FROM PAGE 27

There isn't the room to give them at the weekend, but I see no reason why the games could not take place on say a Wednesday. All the weak teams won't be in favour, but why not hold a competition for those that are keen to improve their standard.

BRIAN SMITH (Meath)

If such a championship did not interfere with club competitions, I would be all in favour. However we in Meath run all our competitions on a league system, which of course necessitates a great many games.

Another championship type

event would I believe act as a tremendous spur to the younger lads on a county side. Naturally they like to play as often as possible for the county, and such an event would give them added opportunities.

In the final analysis I would be in agreement with a championship for the weaker counties, provided there was room on the calendar.

**MICK TYNAN
(Limerick)**

There are sufficient competitions at present. I can see no reason why their number should be increased. If these weak counties feel left out of it in the summer months, why not campaign for an earlier start to the League.

Perhaps it would be a sound idea to get the 2nd Division of the League under way a month or so earlier. This would keep the interest alive in the weak counties after they had been eliminated.

When one considers the numbers of counties who have yet to complete last year's club events, one can more readily understand the fixture problem within the G.A.A. An additional competition would be chaotic.

**JIMMY KEAVENEY
(Dublin)**

You must be joking. It might work in other counties, but not in Dublin where there is absolutely no room for any additions on the fixture list.

The suggestion is not a bad one, but it's a question of where to fit such a competition. At present Dublin find it most difficult to complete their club programme even though we seldom last long in the championships. We could not entertain thoughts of entering any further competitions.

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CHANGES IN THE RULES

THE Rules Revision Committee has been hard at work of late, and I do hope that they will come up with their findings shortly, and that the Association as a whole will pay some attention this time.

Last time round the Rules Committee did a deal of hard work, came up with a set of proposals, and Congress at Galway promptly rejected the lot out of hand.

However, undaunted, a new Rules Revision Committee got down to work again and this time, surely, we will have wit enough to try out their suggestion possibly at schools and Colleges level over a 12-month period and then let first the counties and then Congress decide which innovations would be worth while and which would not.

There are certain ideas of my own that I would like to see tried out experimentally, and one of them is in direct opposition to some current thinking on the subject. That is in the matter of picking the ball in football

Now a number of people maintain that one way to speed up football is to allow players to pick the ball straight off the ground.

That was tried in the matches against the Australians, and the straight pick-up is also allowed in the special competitions for rugby schools, and in each instance it has worked reasonably well.

But, just for the sake of experiment, I would like to go to the other end of the scale and not allow the ball to be lifted off the ground at all. The ball could be caught from the air, on the bounce, or from a pass, but not toe-lifted off the ground. I believe such a rule would speed up the game immensely, and would also teach our players to do something at which too many of them, even at senior intercounty level, are sadly deficient and what surely must be the basic skill of the game, kicking the ball on the ground and controlling its flight. After all, football is the name of the game, not pick-up-ball.

At present it is frustrating to see a half-back come dashing out to a ground ball. He toes it up, twists and turns, likely as not runs back a few steps towards his own goal, and nine times out of ten finishes up either being fouled or fouling.

Whereas, if he had taken that ball in his stride and lashed a well-directed kick down to one of his forwards, he would have turned defence into attack straight away and speeded up the game considerably in the process. The same applies, of course, to hurling but to a slightly lesser extent.

There are far too many players, even at top level, who seem to have some rooted psychological block in their minds when it comes to hitting the ball on the ground. To them the proper order seems to be to pick and poke and prod until they get the sliothar into the hand, by which time, like as not, they are surrounded by three or four opponents.

The next thing that needs to be looked after in both codes is the question of obstructing a player who is not in possession of the ball. It is a rather extraordinary situation that, if I have the ball in either hurling or football, and I am held, tripped, brought down or punched, I am immediately awarded a free. But, if I am running parallel to the man with the ball, I can be hugged, punched, pulled, tripped, sat upon, sandwiched and dragged away with impunity, even though I am technically moving to play the ball.

It is this consistent holding and fouling of players off the ball that causes a great deal of the frustration and bad-temper that too often boils up into regrettable scenes.


Such deliberate obstruction must be outlawed, and the only way that can be done is by giving far more extensive powers to umpires and linesmen who are often better placed to see such unfair tactics than is the referee who is following the ball and the play.

Such added powers for linesmen and umpires are also needed because of the increasing number of recent occasions in which players have chosen to assault other players behind the referee's back. Give the linesmen power to acquaint the referee of such transgressions, and we will have a quick end to the activities of the "sly diggers".

There is, of course, one other point that must be made about discipline. If the referees applied the

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FARM NEWS

THE G.A.A. has its roots deep in rural Ireland. The farming community are amongst its most stalwart supporters. It is very likely, then, that the welcome increase in farm incomes will push up the standard of living in the countryside. This will surely help the impetus towards better facilities both for players and spectators at grounds around the country.

The encouraging thing to-day is that the competent farmer has not alone more money in his pocket but he has every reason to have confidence of an even better living from his farm. That is why he has no hesitation about investing money in his business — borrowing money to buy more livestock, getting loans for fertiliser, for better out-houses, for drainage. The Irish farmer knows that he will eventually get a good return on his money.

To-day the Irish farmer is borrowing money to invest in his business at an unprecedented rate. He knows that — if carefully used, credit can help increase his productivity, his efficiency and his profit. The figures for the Agricultural Credit Corporation—the country's primary source of agricultural credit — bear this out. Last year the A.C.C. gave out £17.4 million for agricultural loans — this was twice the amount for the previous year.

The farmer, with some money to save, is also aware that he can safely invest it with the A.C.C. for a good rate of return. This, in turn, is used by the A.C.C. to finance loans to farmers. So the man who saves with the A.C.C. can help farming in general. Farmers are doing so in increasing numbers. Last year the amount of money invested with the A.C.C. rose to £23.4 million.

All the signs that the Irish farmer is moving into a better era and all will agree that he deserves it.



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strict letter of the laws as they now stand, and if Councils and Committees backed them up to the hilt, there would be few disciplinary problems. Unfortunately the referee is chary of sending off anyone for a first offence. And, even if he does, how many Boards or Councils will back him up?

The man who raises fist or boot or hurley to an opponent should go to the line immediately without booking or warning. If every player knew that every referee was administering the rules on that basis, we would see very little of the current niggling. Nobody wants to see hurling and football turned into parlour games, but the rule must be, play it hard, but play it fair.

And above all, accept lawful authority. The referees should be formed as soon as possible into a fully authorised body of their own. And once that body has been set up, any county should not be permitted to refuse to play under a properly qualified, properly authorised neutral referee. But referees should be properly graded, trained and qualified in accordance with the Recommendations of the Commission, and that is another matter on which the Rules Revision Committee should insist.

And there are a few matters on which the Rules Committee, as far as both games, and especially as

far as hurling is concerned, could look for guidance to the Camogie Association.

In Camogie, if an attacking player enters the "Square" before the ball, the umpires immediately draw the referee's attention and a free out results from where the ball was at the time the offence occurs. It is a rule hurling could well adopt.

Also Camogie legislators have long ago solved an anomaly that still exists between hurling and football. In football, after a score, the defence has always been given the advantage of kicking the ball out from the 21 yard line. Is any such concession allowed in hurling? Not on your life, and nobody can give me any logical explanation why the rules should differ between hurling and football on such a fundamental matter.

Yet, in Camogie, the ball is pucked out from the 21 yard mark after a score and nobody sees such a rule as anything else except right and proper. Finally, there is the matter of the pull down to prevent a certain score. The simple answer to this in football is either to award a penalty or a free worth two points, if the offence occurs inside the 21 yard line. The sooner either of these alternatives is adopted the better, with a 21 yard free in hurling for every deliberate pull-down in the same area. Then we might be getting somewhere.

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FOOD

FOR

THOUGHT

By LINDA COLLINS

SUDDENLY, food is fashionable. We all talk about calories and vitamins and everybody has their own pet preferences when it comes to eating for health. Any schoolchild can tell you what a calorie is and what it does, and when it comes to the weight question every sportsman can tell you what he tips the scales at on any given day—not just to the nearest pound but to the nearest ounce. While there may be some old-timers around who sneer when the youngsters wave away the second helping of apple pie and cream, on the grounds that it won't do their figures any good, and long for the days when men were men and "et what was put in front of them", still I'm inclined to think that to-day's approach is the more sensible. Maybe our increased consciousness of food and what it can do for us is due to the fact that the stuff costs quite a bit more these days! To eat with discrimination, and choose the items which will bring one the most advantages, healthwise, can't be a bad thing.

Ireland is eating more fruit these days than ever before. Some of the importers put this

down to the fact that we're in the Common Market now and thinking of ourselves as Europeans but would you agree? I think it probably has more to do with fruit being fairly easily available in most places nowadays. It is dearer than it was a couple of years ago, like everything else, but still good value by to-day's standards and when we queried Mr. M. S. Byrne the chairman of Sheil & Byrne, he said the outlook was rosy for the future.

You hardly need convincing that fresh fruit is good for you. How much pleasanter it is to get your daily requirement of vitamin C from eating a fresh orange than from swallowing a pill! Bananas are nearly a whole food in themselves: sufferers from coeliac disease rely on them as a major part of the diet. Bananas, be it said, cost the same today as they did two years ago, so that's big news. Grapefruit is a popular item with sportsmen because it's a satisfying thing to eat but doesn't put up any weight (unless you drown it with sugar). Mr. Byrne of Sheil & Byrne pointed out to us that in money value terms, grapefruit is much cheaper than they were a decade ago, because we're eating so many more of them that they're a staple item. If you lived in Japan, you'd pay 50p for the privilege of eating your breakfast grapefruit, so be thankful. Oranges we will have always with us, thank goodness. The citrus-producing countries are efficient and have abounding crops on their hands, and we've been promised there won't be any shortages. Now in season are delicious green grapes which again aren't a dear item on the menu. You don't have to be laid up with a broken leg, you know, to enjoy a bunch of grapes.

Much the same could be said of my favourite breakfast cereal, porridge. My granny used to get up at half past six so as to have

a plate of it on the table for me at eight o'clock but today's varieties only take a few minutes to cook, since part of the cooking process has taken place in the factory. White Tompkins & Courage claim you can cook their Speedicook oats in five minutes and while I haven't stood over the saucepan with a stopwatch I think they're probably right. White's began in Waterford 200 years ago, graduated to the North and then formed its association with Tompkins & Courage. Their product is made from natural Irish oats which they say have a better flavour than other oats and I believe them. The porridge is good and nutty, very flavoursome. Mr. Campbell, manager of White Tompkins & Courage here, is a committed porridge eater himself and is thinking up new ways at the moment of increasing our commitment to his favourite cereal. With sportsmen, he shouldn't have to try hard.

And then there's milk and everything that stems from it. When Bord Baine went into business the value of our exports as regards milk and milk products was £7.5 millions. Last year it was £67.5 million and by 1980 it will be up to £250 million. They didn't arrive at that figure by gazing into a crystal ball — it's a fact that the demand is going up steadily and that all over the world they are eating and drinking the stuff that originates with Irish cows. The nutritional value of milk, butter, cheese and cream is fully appreciated by Irish people, says Joe McGough of Bord Baine. He is happy that we are loyal to our own products, though he thinks we ought all to be eating more cheese. At a time when food prices are soaring and we are all much more conscious of the value of protein, we are all looking for the best value for money, product-wise. Since we

● OVERLEAF

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

● FROM PAGE 33

continue to be the third-largest per capita consumers in the world, that shows we know a good thing for what it is. Eating about 33 lb. of butter every year, every man, woman and child of us, it's strange that when it comes to cheese the record says we put away only four or five pounds of the stuff per annum.

A company which has done a lot for the prosperity of Irish vegetable growers is Erin Foods and they have helped and are helping to change the eating habits of the country. Their main contribution is the instant soup—it puts me in the older generation to admit that I can remember a time when there was no such thing as packeted soup, and you either kept a stockpot on the range night and day, or

you did without soup. Today, what a difference. Nobody need be without a bowlful of something hot and tasty and its absolutely foolproof to make. Even a fellow who never saw the inside of a saucepan can produce a packeted soup without difficulty. Erin are also kept busy satisfying the requirements of caterers, in schools, institutions, hotels and elsewhere, with a range of time-saving products such as desserts and sauces which at the very least are the equal of anything produced elsewhere.

Supermarkets are still a bone of contention but they are generally credited with one thing: they have helped to do away with the situation where vegetables, fruit or anything else costs more in Donegal than it does in Dublin.

Supermarket firms with branches throughout the country stabilise the price on most of their lines, and other shopkeepers follow suit. They have also implemented progressive ideas in packaging and Five Star were the first, to my knowledge, to introduce the proper grading of fresh products which we are all supposed to adhere to under E.E.C. rules. For the food-conscious, health-conscious shopper, the sort who might be considered just a little fussy, Five Star is the chain with the right approach. Freshness is a cult with them and it is a pleasure to buy from their meat counter or at the fruit and vegetable department. Hygiene standards are high and the variety of lines on offer means you'll never go in looking for something and come out without it—an occurrence which is unfortunately not rare in other spots which call themselves supermarkets but don't really merit the term.

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G.A.A. STARS IN MINIATURE

—By courtesy of Player-Wills

THAT old sporting maxim that “they never come back” has taken a hammering from time to time down the years in hurling and football. But watch out now for an entirely new and novel slant in the successful comeback theme—this time thanks to the craftsmanship of John Egan, of Cloncunny, Co. Kilkenny, and the enterprise of Player-Wills.

They are combining to bring back miniature footballers and hurlers after a lengthy absence. And any day now the great comeback will be on, spearheaded appropriately enough by a collection of footballers togged out in the colours of Offaly, the Sam Maguire Cup winners of the past two seasons. They will “take the field” on bar shelves throughout the champion counties in a Player’s No. 6 promotion.

For almost twelve years John Egan had turned out similar figures for the advertising department of Player-Wills, but the inroads of television on the advertising budget in 1964 forced the mini-athletes into retirement.

Likes many a good come-back story this one has a touch of chance or fate about it. Dermot Byrne is Brand Manager for Players No. 6, and while on business in London he spotted one of the old Player’s hurlers in a Chelsea pub. On admiring the workmanship, he noted the name “J. Egan” on the base and decided to track down the craftsman on his return to Ireland to see if he was still in business.

Not only was he in business; he was expecting Dermot! “I’ve been waiting for you to call ever since the television ads were stopped,” was his greeting.

John Egan is a builder by trade

and a part-time farmer; by inclination he is an artist and hates delegating or sub-contracting even when it is possible. He has got to do everything himself.

The figures he makes completely from scratch, first modelling them in plasticine, then casting them in type-metal which serves as the master for the flexible rubber-composition moulds for the plaster reproductions. Painting is the slowest and most difficult part of the job as it is completely hand-done—and free-hand at that.

To paint 100 figurines takes the best part of a month; the Kilkenny hurlers’ narrow black and amber stripes—his next job—will take even longer and then there’s the tiny hurley to make, too, perfectly carved from ash.

So watch out for this latest company of come-back stars . . . mini players who will all be bright champions in their own sphere. And, congratulations to John Egan and Player-Wills for this further welcome boost on the public relations front for Gaelic Games.

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The fact that the All Ireland Hurling and Football final lunches will be held there speaks volumes for the accommodation at Leopardstown and when one recalls the number of dances, dinners, receptions, exhibitions, etc., etc., that have become part of the set-up you can gather that Leopardstown nowadays is a place of many faces.

During the coming autumn, winter and spring many functions will be held there, and each day secretaries of office groups, county societies in Dublin, people with functions to hold are contacting Manager Michael O’Hehir with a view to using the rooms and facilities.

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Saving makes sense

By TONY KEEGAN

EVEN those of us who don't boast what is called a financial brain have been noticing the effect of the currency crisis the world is passing through just now, with pounds and dollars falling and floating and performing all sorts of acrobatic acts. Inflation is a word we all understand pretty well, too, and the natural reaction to it all is to ask oneself "how does this affect me?" Get it straight, the advice that tells you to spend every penny now, because money is dropping in value and your savings aren't worth hanging onto, is bad advice. We all like to spend money but as somebody pointed out to us, you've got to have it to spend it and unless you're lucky enough to inherit it, the only way to have it is to work for it and save it.

When inflation happens, everything inflates. Money costs more to borrow but as a compensation, you get higher interest rates on savings. About the best rate available today is through the building societies, who pay you 7 per cent nett on your investment and also pay the tax on it. For younger people, the big attraction about the building society is the chance to qualify for a house mortgage once you've proved yourself as a sound saver.

At the Irish Civil Service Building Society they pioneered a scheme for young couples who saved regularly with them and qualified thereafter for a loan. This was a runaway success, so much so that most of those who entered the scheme now have their own homes. The Civil Ser-

vice has been quietly expanding in recent years, establishing new branches and drawing in new business, most of it from ordinary savers, referred to as small savers. The Society has healthy reserves and total assets of £8 million.

"The most successful type of co-operative we have ever had in Ireland" is how the building society movement was described to us by a board member of the Educational Building Society. He made the further point that while the societies are portrayed as huge profitable concerns, their margins are actually small—no-

body ever makes a personal fortune out of a building society. Their aim is to provide a service and judging on results so far they provide it competently. The E.B.S. spokesman also made the point that today's rate of interest is very attractive to savers and that people have not been slow to find this out. The borrowers, the ones paying back their mortgages, can also congratulate themselves on their luck, because with property appreciating at its current rate, it could be said that they are buying out their houses virtually interest free.

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Coaching is badly needed by many County teams

Says EAMONN YOUNG

JOE LENNON was the man who really started coaching in this country and that must be said to the credit of this fine player. It was unfortunate that early on discord arose over coaching and the confrontation between Joe and Alf Murray in which the great Armagh player was supported by many top officials was a heavy blow to coaching. County pride entered into it too. Some excellent men thought that the teaching of the games was a short-cut to ruining the individual style of the counties and making all young players conform to a stereotyped pattern of play which would eventually harm the game.

I remember Kerry men in general and Jacky Lyne, himself a first-class performer and trainer being very annoyed also when Joe Lennon criticised Kerry football which at the time was being played in Croke Park by Kingdom sides which were not first-class.

In fact the suspicion spread to hurling and it was a cause of concern to me personally when Cork didn't send men to a hurling course in Gormanston although the men in charge were experts. So coaching got off to a bad start.

And yet any sensible man must agree that teaching in anything is bound to lead to improvement unless the student or teacher or both are fools. In handball I remember a good player named Delaney from New Ross long ago who gave us lads a few tips. I think we benefitted. In golf the precision induced by the professionals lowers the amateur's handicap. Tony Wall the fine Tipp centre-back became a good golfer because of training and dedication. In athletics the improvement can be measured in inches and seconds when a real coach gets going. Why should it be otherwise in Gaelic sports?

In Munster where the football standard is uneven, coaching is

badly needed not because the men of Tipp, Waterford, Clare and Limerick are not as good as in Kerry and in Cork but because they do not spend as long at the practice of the skills and the higher thinking of the game as they do in the two stronger counties.

Have no doubt that it's the same in Connacht, Ulster and Leinster where lack of success is sometimes also attributed to important matters like low density of population. Yet in each of the strong counties there are excellent men who would be of great help if they spread their wings or were invited to do so. The great advantage the coach from the stronger county has is in self-confidence which allied to adequate knowledge and the fact that he's a stranger gives him a ready audience. And remember what a delightful advantage the sports coach has over the school-teacher whose captive audience

is chained to the desks by parental control and the necessity to pass exams.

In Gormanston I have met excellent hurling coaches like Doney Nealon of Tipp, Sean Hanley of Clare, Tommy Riordan of Longford and of course the man himself Fr. Tommy Meagher of Kilkenny. In football who wouldn't be glad to have Jim McKeever, Frankie Byrne of Meath, Jim O'Donnell of Cavan, Joe Lennon and of course myself? Many, very many more I know around the country who can do a fine job in coaching even if we go outside the present trainer-coaches like Mickey Kearins, John Culloty and Doney O'Donovan of Cork.

The association would be mad not to use to the full these sound men, for to improve a county is to improve the game. Recently I helped Clare a little and would be quite happy to continue if asked. If they asked someone else I also would be happy to see the game move upward as it must. When Clare incidentally, played Cork recently they were soundly beaten but they did put up a better show than even they themselves thought possible—something which I took trouble to point out afterwards to a disappointed audience. I can't help telling the one about the minutes after that game ended when the old enemy of mine, the rogue Weesh Murphy, came up to me and said "Youngy, at last we have the secret to beating Kerry". And when I looked inquiringly he shot in with a grin: "Would you ever train 'em?"

Helping to train and coach the weaker counties will do more than break the monotony which must creep into the provincial championships in all provinces. It will raise the standard of the game, bring success to men who have won so little and earned so much and above all will make

our games greater spectacles for our young people in an atmosphere which rises from the very soil of Ireland.

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THE CAMOGIE SCENE

By AGNES HOURIGAN

THOSE who felt that the playing of the All-Ireland camogie championship on the Open Draw system would in any way limit the interest were soon proved wrong, when the very first game, between Antrim and Kilkenny resulted in a thrilling draw.

As I write, the replay is still pending, and interest in the result will be heightened by the fact that Kilkenny will meanwhile have played Dublin in the Leinster senior semi-final. The remainder of the first-round matches in the All-Ireland senior series are at present being played out so we will have to defer consideration of the position in the top grade until next month.

In the meantime, it is possible to have a clearer view of the junior scene since the championships in this grade are being played on the old system, and the provincial winners will meet in the All-Ireland semi-finals. As of now, only one provincial championship has been decided, in Leinster where Wexford retained their crown by defeating Dublin in the final for the second consecutive year.

Indeed rarely have I seen two games that followed so closely on the same pattern with only a point between them at the end of 50 thrilling minutes. As was the case last year, Dublin again had the better of the play through the field, but either missed feasible chances or were foiled by the alert Wexford defence.

At the other end of the field, Breda McCleane and Mary Murphy turned their much fewer opportunities to far better ac-

count, however, and so Wexford must be adjudged to have deserved victory, it must also be recorded that the luck of the day was cruelly against the Dublin girls, who were foiled of scores three times by the cross-bar, the most frustrating of these incidents coming in the last minute when the home side, a point behind forced a "30" from which a well-placed shot beat the Wexford defence but came back off the bar instead of going through for what would have been either the winning goal or the equalising point.

So Wexford, somewhat unexpectedly beaten in last year's All-Ireland final by Galway have again come out of Leinster and must now be in with a very good chance of taking the honours that so narrowly eluded them last season.

They have many fine players, with an outstanding goalkeeper in Margaret Kelly, fine defenders in Breda Finn, Mary Boggan and Gretta Kehoe, aided by Geraldine Duggan. Further afield they were well served by Mairead Darcy, Eileen Hawkins, Bridie Tobin, Breda McCleane and Mary Murphy. Unless, and it could happen, some of these stars are robbed to buttress the senior side, Wexford should at least reach the September final again.

But as of now Armagh must remain the long-odds favourites to capture this junior title which has so narrowly eluded them in each of the past three seasons. With such stars as Marion Delaney, Anne McCone, Angela Toal and former Down stalwart Patricia Crangle, Armagh must be a great force in the junior championship again this year.

An interesting experiment in recent weeks was the special Coaching Course for teachers run in Gormanston College by the All-Ireland Colleges Council. Confined to teachers, Secondary, Vocational, Primary and teachers of Physical Education, this was the first course of its kind ever run by the Camogie Association.

Indeed, while I am open to correction, I am of the opinion that no similar coaching course for teachers has even been run by the G.A.A. But there was another innovation. Except for a very interesting lecture by former Down football star Joe Lennon, Director of Physical Education in Gormanston College itself, and one of the greatest authorities on coaching in the country, the rest of the lectures were delivered by members of the Camogie Association itself, by Anne Carroll of Kilkenny, who leaves shortly to do a post-graduate course in Loughborough, and Mary Moran, who as well as being secretary of the All-Ireland Colleges Council is also trainer-manager of the Cork county team, All-Ireland senior champions.

Another interesting lecturer was Mrs. Kathleen O'Duffy, and in addition to films, there was an interesting display of slides, with commentary, showing the more common fouls, and suggesting how players can be taught to avoid these. Mrs. O'Kelly of Killocock lectured and demonstrated on suitable P.E. very effectively.

The National Coaching Course later in the month is already booked out far in advance, and seems certain to be, once again, a resounding success.

SCORESHEET

Compiled by
OWEN McCANN

THE fact that this is shaping up into a record-making year for penalty kicks jostles for the SCORESHEET spotlight this month with a number of players, other than the recognised scoring elite, who are displaying an exciting finishing technique in front of goal.

First of all, penalty kicks. Already the present campaign has moved into an extra special class in that more goals have been scored from the spot over the past eleven months or so than in any programme for a full year's session since 1968! That year's record was 15 goals, and the current bag is right up on that at 14.

The finishers have been proving very much on the target this season as well. Of the remaining five penalties signalled only one was driven wide. The others were saved by the goalkeepers.

With 19 penalties now on the chart, the present year may well pass out the peak one of 1958, when no fewer than 37 kicks

were awarded. Of those, 23 were sent to the net, and one of the remaining 14 produced a point.

One wonders if the present impressive manner in which forwards are finding the way through to goal will see the coming All-Ireland semi-finals produce a penalty goal for the first time since 1968. That was the year that Longford made their debut in the national senior championship series, and eight minutes from the end of their meeting with Kerry, the eventual winners, Jackie Devine goaled for the Leinster champions.

Four kicks have been awarded since that game, and only one produced a goal. But that score came after the penalty by John Keenan (Galway) had been parried by Danny Kelly in the Down goal in the second 1968 semi-final, and Cyril Dunne was in like a flash to finish the ball to the net.

The last game featured by a penalty was another Down-Gal-

way clash, that one for a place in the 1971 final. The ball was sent wide from that 34th minute shot by a Down man.

Peter McGinnity, the young Fermanagh man who won his first Ulster jersey against the Combined Universities footballers last January, is one of the exciting new faces displaying an impressive style in front of goal this season. In fact, the indications are that he will eventually wind up the 1973 programme with a new county record to his credit.

In 1966 P. T. Treacy, who three years earlier became the first Fermanagh footballer to win a Railway Cup medal, established the county high point at 7-37 (58 points) in 14 games.

McGinnity has not been especially active this year, but at the time we went to press he was still well in sight of the county record with a score of 1-32 (35 points) from only eight games. That works out at the worth-

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● FROM OVERLEAF

while total of 4.37 points a game, and suggests that given any luck at all in the remaining months of the season the 20-year-old Roslea man can break new

ground for his county.

Then, there is Tom Byrne, who has been hitting the scores so fluently for Wexford. He was their top marksman in the 1972-73 National Hurling League

title-winning campaign with a grand haul of 10-41 (71 points) from 11 engagements, or a splendid 6.45 points a game.

Byrne is proving so adept at knocking home the scores that he looks just the man to put the best total up for a full year by a Wexford hurler since Paudge Kehoe bagged 20-26 (86 points) in 15 games as far back as 1958. Byrne was well on the road with 70 points-plus at the time of writing.

Indeed, it is by no means beyond the bounds of possibility that he will become Wexford's first "ton up" hurler since Nick Rackard broke the century of points barrier in 1956 with a wonderful 35-50 (155 points) in 19 games, a haul that ranked as the best in hurling until Eddie Keher (Kilkenny) first passed out that superb total in 1971.

Another whose spot-on finishing was a feature of last season's National League is Patsy Hetherington. He proved the top marksman for the entire 1972-73 nation-wide Football Division II series with a score of 4-28 (40 points) in 9 games in Tyrone's march to the title and promotion.

This Donaghmore club man is making a brave bid to become the first from his county in years to top the annual Ulster chart for all competitions. However, a new Tyrone county peak is an entirely different story.

This shares with the Wicklow No. 1 the rating as the oldest in the football table, standing as it is since 1957, when Frankie Donnelly shot 5-102 (117 points) in 22 games.

Nonetheless, Hetherington has been scoring well this year, and has been setting the pace in good style in the North. He was in the 40 points bracket at press time, and striding out into fields that no Tyrone footballer has achieved in many seasons.

YOUNG GENERATION IS HERE!

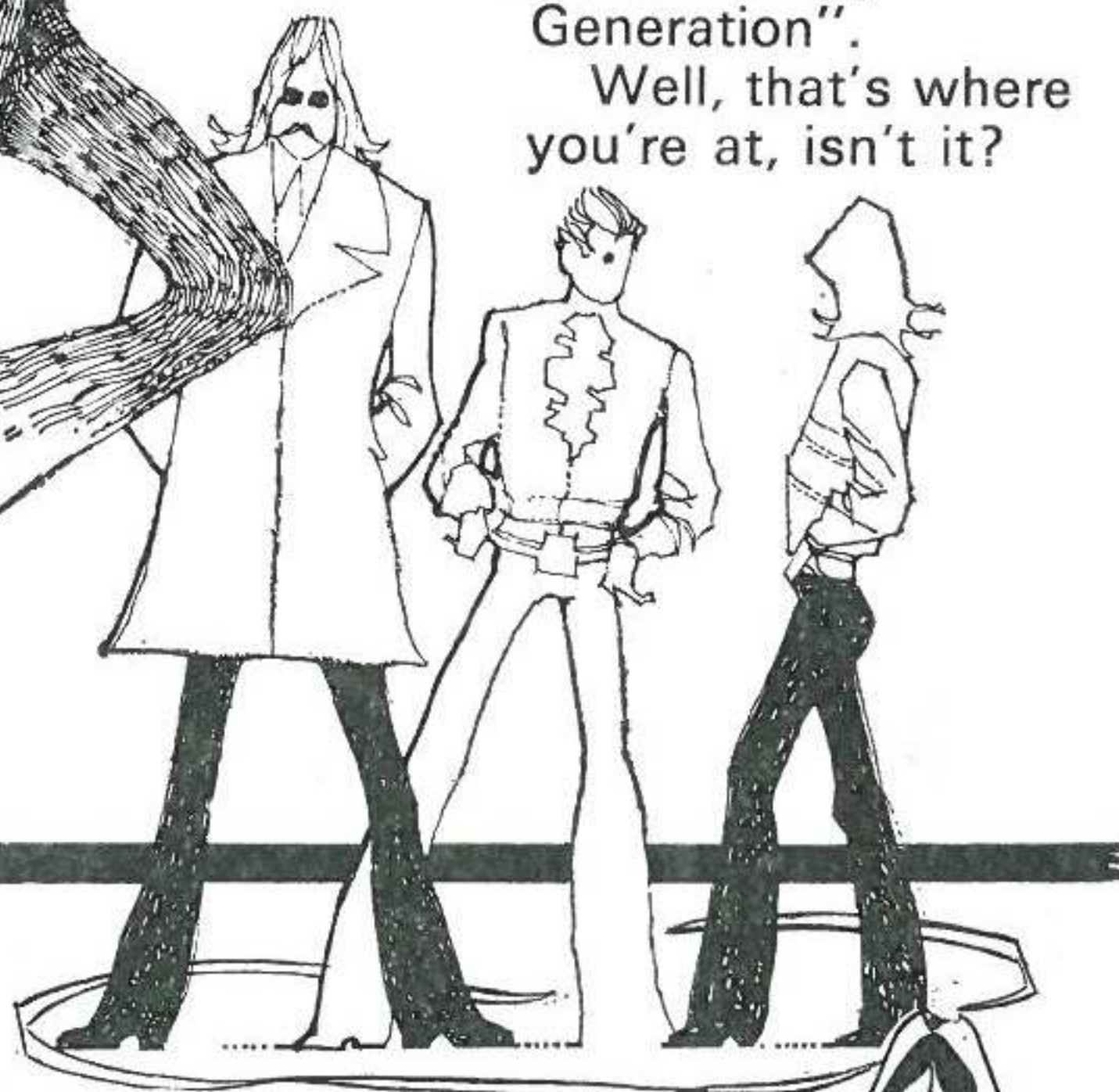


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Billy Field: a profile

By
EAMONN
YOUNG

THE sun of June shone through the trees as the four of us stood on the firing point with sub-machine guns in our hands. Three of us felt great and meant to prove it. The other was Big Jim. He wasn't feeling great. Hard for him after being out all night. We should have left him in bed of course but when you're suffering under the lash of a tongue for four weeks you just want to get some of your own back. He was the best shot of the four and boy how he rubbed it in. So we got him out while he groaned with self-inflicted pain and he hoped he wouldn't even see the target. Better still we joked and jostled ourselves into a bet for a quid and what fun it would be to spend his money. The weapons cracked and the scores were earned. He started badly but ye gods it was better he got, and once again we gritted our teeth as he finished in front and then rubbed our noses once more in the mud.

"Ye wouldn't hit Shandon steeple with a shotgun," said Big Jim and we really had nothing to say except turn on the chap who thought of the idea.

This thing called accuracy is a wonderful asset in anything. In games it is the golden paint on the picture frame. So far Billy Field, the Cork winger, has shown it. As a young fellow playing on the champion Colaiste Christ Ri football team he scored eight goals and twenty-eight points in seven games when players like Brian Murphy and Martin Doherty helped to get the ball to him.

The real way to win games is to put the ball into the hands of

a striker within thirty yards of the goal. It takes a lot of effort to get a ball that far but it really is worth it, isn't it? That's what they try to do now in Billy Field's case. Against Clare recently he scored seven points from dead balls, one point off play. Against Kerry in the Munster final he had one goal and six points. But that pin-point accuracy which has been the delight of teams from Cavan when they had Mick Magee in the thirties to those of Offaly who look to immaculate Tony MacTague, isn't the only reason why the young Michael's player is selected.

He has a keen, cool brain which allows him to see a comrade and get the ball to him quite smartly. More important still he shows that delightful ability to change his mind and select another effort.

This is very important. When a ball comes there are about four things a man can try. Two are good; one is bad and the other is what the star (that over-worked word) does. In the game against Clare a high ball was driven in by Denis Long. Declan Barron fielded and at the last moment it was knocked out of his hands. Field came along, gathered and moved around the bunch. Just as he was about to kick a Clare back hesitated while moving towards the man with the ball. Like a flash Field changed his mind. Instead of kicking or fisting goalwards he weaved around the defender moving five yards in the process and struck a fast shot to the top of the net. A very good goal.

This ability to score off the ground, to see the opening made by another's mistake is comple-

mented by a willingness to fight hard for the ball and, above all, a readiness to subject himself to the discipline of training. Perhaps he inherited his quick

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BILLY FIELD: A PROFILE

● FROM OVERLEAF

change of feet and delicate balance from his mother, a splendid ballroom dancer, and his love of manly sport from his father, army captain and namesake, whose love for the Rockies made him dress up in the famous jersey and come running into the crowded room, a hurley in his hand to annoy me one night while we were on Border duty, just because I was blowing my coal about Glen Rovers.

Some parents who go into ecstasies over the ability of their children do them more harm than good, however. It was refreshing to hear Bill Field senior say the other day:

"He was bad that night. I cut

strips off him at half-time."

It's a bit early yet to say much about young Bill Field, but this can be said. He's tall, fit, intelligent, accurate and loves the game. He plays in a county where the sides are pretty good and so he stands a fair chance of becoming quite a good player if he continues to improve himself physically and mentally, refuse to allow limited success to go to his head and keeps away from the smokes and the bottle, neither of which so far trouble him much.

Cork teams, seldom renowned for the accuracy of their finishing, can do with him. I wish this genuine player the best of luck.

FOCUS ON THE RISING STARS

● FROM PAGE 11

passed through the door and I was struck by his size and strength. My remark to the former Meath chairman was: "If he's half as good as his father, then he'll be a good one."

Kevin is big and not easily knocked off the ball, he has a very safe pair of hands and is a fielder of the ball. He may still be a little lacking in finesse, but time is on his side and with experience he can become an outstanding footballer.

A hurler worth keeping an eye on is Pat Hanrick, who was the star of the St. Peter's College (Wexford) team this year. A native of Bunclody, he was a minor for his county at football as well as hurling in 1972, but it is as a hurler we will—I think—be hearing most about him in the future.



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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

I'M sure you all liked the colour Cut-Out. Ever since Junior Desk began over three years ago, I have had numerous requests from readers for a Cut-Out of Mick Roche, one of Ireland's greatest hurlers of the last decade. Well, here it is at last. The Tipperary man is the greatest striker in the game. His colossal display though on a losing team in the All-Ireland final against Wexford in 1968 reminded me of a similar display from Bobby Rackard of Wexford against Cork in the final of 1954.

PEN FRIEND SECTION

This month we introduce a special Junior Desk Pen Friend section. So I am asking all Junior Desk fans looking for pen friends to send me on the following information. Name, age, favourite sports, teams, players, hobbies, etc., and any other information you consider necessary, like the following:

John Pearse, 7 Kill St., Galway (Age 15 years)—wishes to correspond with a G.A.A. fan of same age in Offaly or Cork. Favourite game: Gaelic football. Favourite star: Willie Bryan. Hobbies: G.A.A., tennis, Scrapbooks and Programme collecting. (The above is an example of the type of information necessary to create a pen friend section.)

CONNACHT FINAL PROGRAMME

All Junior Desk fans eager to get a copy of the 1973 Connacht S.F. final souvenir programme can have same by sending me on a 4p stamp (to cover postage) to the address at the end of the column. All programme collectors should certainly add this one to their collection.

CAD IS AINM DO?

1. Since he made his senior inter-county debut more than a half dozen years ago he has played in a variety of positions in defence, in attack and at midfield, but he is at his most stylish and accomplished when playing at wing back. He has won All-Ireland honours at minor, under-21 and senior level and has also collected three National League medals. This year he was honoured by the Carrolls All-Star selectors.
2. Although he has only come to the fore in recent years he has been around for quite a long time, and in fact, has won county championship medals in three different provinces. It was only when the selectors switched him from attack to defence that he really "came good" and played a major part in helping his county win two All-Ireland titles in successive years.
3. An outstanding hurler of the past, he played in seven All-Ireland hurling finals in the period between the two World Wars. He was on the winning side on five occasions, winning three titles with his native county and two with another. He also won Railway Cup honours with two provinces.
4. This Carroll's All Star has represented his county and province for quite a number of years now—always in the same position. During that time he has won one minor and two senior All-Ireland titles. His two elder brothers have also starred at intercounty level both at home and abroad.
5. This strapping young midfielder has played with distinction for his club, county and province, and he also played for a time in New York. Although he has only won a few county championships to date, his prowess has not gone unrewarded as he was voted hurler of the year in his own county and has also been honoured by the Carrolls All Stars selectors.
6. Few would hesitate to rate him as the best player in his position the game has known. Now in the autumn of a wonderful career spanning a decade and a half, he has won every honour in the game, including a record number of Railway Cup awards. With his elder brother, he shared the distinction of being a member of the team that wrote a new chapter in the annals of the G.A.A.

● OVERLEAF

7. A Texaco award winner and one of the most versatile and popular players in the game, he has given his county and province wonderful service in a career lasting a decade and a half. In that time he has won every honour in the game, including four senior All-Ireland titles. Last year he added a much sought

after trophy which had always eluded him.

That's enough of posers for this month—more next month. Turn to the end of Junior Desk to find the correct answers to the above and remember no cheating! If you get all correct then you know your G.A.A.

in any position for Mayo. I hope he wins an All-Ireland medal."

● I agree with you all the way. (J.M.)

Mattie McDermott, Ahane, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. — "Some of the Cut-Outs in Solo and Gaelic Sport are the same, i.e. Tommy Joe Gilmore, Ray Cummins and Andy McCallin. No more duplication please."

● A very good point. (J.M.)

Gerald Traynor, 893, Francis St., Edenderry, Co. Offaly. — "Willie Bryan is one of the

From the Mailbag

This month we are offering five prizes for the five best letters on the subject "My favourite player". The prizes are G.A.A. ties in the county colours of the lucky five. There will be a little delay in sending them on as they are being made specially for our competition. So let us roll on with extracts from letters.

Sean Gaughan, Moybridge, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan. — "The cover of your May issue was very good."

Kevin Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Co. Sligo. — "My favourite is Down's Sean O'Neill — one of football's all-time greats. He reacts at a fantastic speed, shoots superbly with either foot, has cold steady nerves and judgement to back his unique skills and is a sportsman."

● Some praise, Kevin, and well deserved. (J.M.)

Jim Quinlan, Courthouse, Borris-in-Ossory, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. — "I enjoy Gaelic Sport very much. My favourite hurlers are Johnny Carroll, Christy Jones, George Lanham of Laois and Ray Cummins of Cork. In football I like Bobby Miller, Willie Bryan, and Sean O'Neill. How about a Laois Cut-Out?"

● It isn't often we have Laois hurlers paraded here and we welcome their names on these pages. Nice to see you honour your own county stars, Jim. (J.M.)

Anthony Clancy, Knockroe,

Ennistymon, Co. Clare. — "I don't want to see the Railway Cup competitions disappearing on St. Patrick's Day."

● Interest in them is not what it used to be. (J.M.)

Seamus Byrne, Three Walls, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow. — "Galway, Cavan, Offaly, Cork are the 4 teams for the semi-finals. Give us a Cut-Out of Bobby Miller of Laois."

● That makes two for Bobby Miller. (J. M.)

William Fenton, Cloughna-dromin, Ballysimon, Limerick. — "My star is Pat Hartigan from South Liberties. He is one of the strongest, tallest and best on the Limerick tem."

● A great man surely, William. (J.M.)

Pat Teehan (12 years), Cool-derry, Brosna, Birr, Co. Offaly. — "My favourite is Noel Skehan of Kilkenny. He was brilliant in Wembley. I think he is better than Ollie Walsh ever was. He is the greatest."

● Some praise, but Ollie Walsh was great too. (J.M.)

Anne Fitzgerald, Dooleague, Islandeady, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. — "My star of stars is John Morley. He is the sort of player everyone would love to have on their team. He never lets a team down, club or county. He plays

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FOILSEACHÁIN

RIALTAIS

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greatest midfielders of all time. I love his cool approach to the game, the way in which he can slow it up to his own liking. His drop kicking is great, also he is accurate from 50's."

● *Willie is real cool. (J.M.)*

John Guiton, Killeens, Ballynonty, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.—"I like hurling and football. So it is difficult for me to choose a favourite player. Francis Loughnane is the man. I have seen him play several times for Roscrea and my native Tipp."

● *Good choice. (J.M.)*

Gerard Bridgett, Kilcoo, Athy, Co. Kildare.—"Irish companies should sponsor such things as stickers of hurlers and footballers. The G.A.A. should also publish a comic."

● *Have you seen the stickers in the county colours sponsored by a petrol company. Fair play to them for setting such a fine example to other Irish companies. They have badges too and it won't do them any harm. It's time we Irish copped ourselves on isn't it. Let's have more promotions of this sort. (J.M.)*

Ciarán Ó Murchú, Glen Lodge, Church Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.—"I was delighted with the Peter Clarke Cut-Out. Greystones are doing very well in the under-11s and the under-12s of the Cuala League. The under-12s beat Bray Emmets, Newtown and Kilcoole. I hung the Peter Clarke pictures up on the wall of my bedroom. Junior Desk is great."

● *Well done Ciarán. Keep pasting up the Cut-outs, especially now that they are in colour. (J.M.)*

Terry Doyle, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.—"Pat Nolan of Wexford is the best goalie hurling ever had."

● *Better than Seanie Duggan, Ollie Walsh, Tony Reddan, Paddy Scanlan . . . ? (J.M.)*

John Deasy, Ahaglaslin, Castlefreke, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. "My favourite star is Ray Cummins. He is a genius."

Mortimer Kelleher, 2 Alverna, Mardyke Walk, Cork. "My star is Ray Cummins, the greatest Cork hurler since Christy Ring. He will win many honours in the future."

● *No doubt. (J.M.)*

John Lyons (aged 14), 4 Hardwick St., Cork.—"My favourite player is Pat Hartigan. Though I am a Cork supporter I'll always admire him. He is so clean."

● *Honest talk. (J.M.)*

Tom Moore, Walshtownmore, Middleton, Co. Cork.—"My star is Sean O'Leary. He is 19 and in ten games he scored 19-6."

● *Some scoring. (J.M.)*

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.—"I was thrilled with the Peter Clarke Cut-out. He scored 11 points against Laois and is the best footballer in Wicklow. Star of that game was Bobby Miller of Laois. My favourite player is Tony Doran. Give us a Cut-out of Leslie Toal of Louth."

● *Weren't Louth great against Offaly. They played tremendous football, full of zip. Offaly were great to survive. (J.M.)*

Jerry Smyth, Whiterock, Middleton, Co. Cork.—"Brendan Lynch is my favourite player. He was goalkeeper on the minor team in 1965 and a forward in '66, '67 and '68."

● *The goalkeeping bit is news to me. (J.M.)*

Patrick Leogoe, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly.—"The player I admire most is Frank McGuigan (Tyrone). His fielding is uncanny. In a class of his own for one so young. Tyrone will win an All-Ireland soon."

● *Great admiration for Tyrone in Offaly. (J.M.)*

Michael Garvey (Aged 11), Corrinure, Mountmorris, Co. Armagh.—"I travelled 108 miles each way to see my star Paddy Moriarty win a Railway Cup medal on Easter Monday. He signed my match programme after the game."

● *I was there too and had the great pleasure of meeting Kevin Kilmurray of Offaly after the game. Yes, Paddy is good and you're right to be proud of him. (J.M.)*

PRIZEWINNERS

The 5 lucky prizewinners for the G.A.A. ties are:

- (1) William Fenton
- (2) Anne Fitzgerald
- (3) Gerald Traynor
- (4) John Lyons
- (5) Michael Garvey

ANSWERS TO

CAD IS AINM DO

- (1) Con Roche (Cork).
- (2) Tom Prendergast (Kerry).
- (3) Garrett Howard (Limerick and Dublin).
- (4) Martin Furlong (Offaly).
- (5) John Connolly (Galway).
- (6) Seán O'Neill (Down).
- (7) Mick O'Dwyer (Kerry).

This month we are giving the competitions a rest now that we have introduced a special Junior Desk Pen Friend section. So all of you who want G.A.A. pen friends send on the information I have already asked for to—

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Jack Mahon

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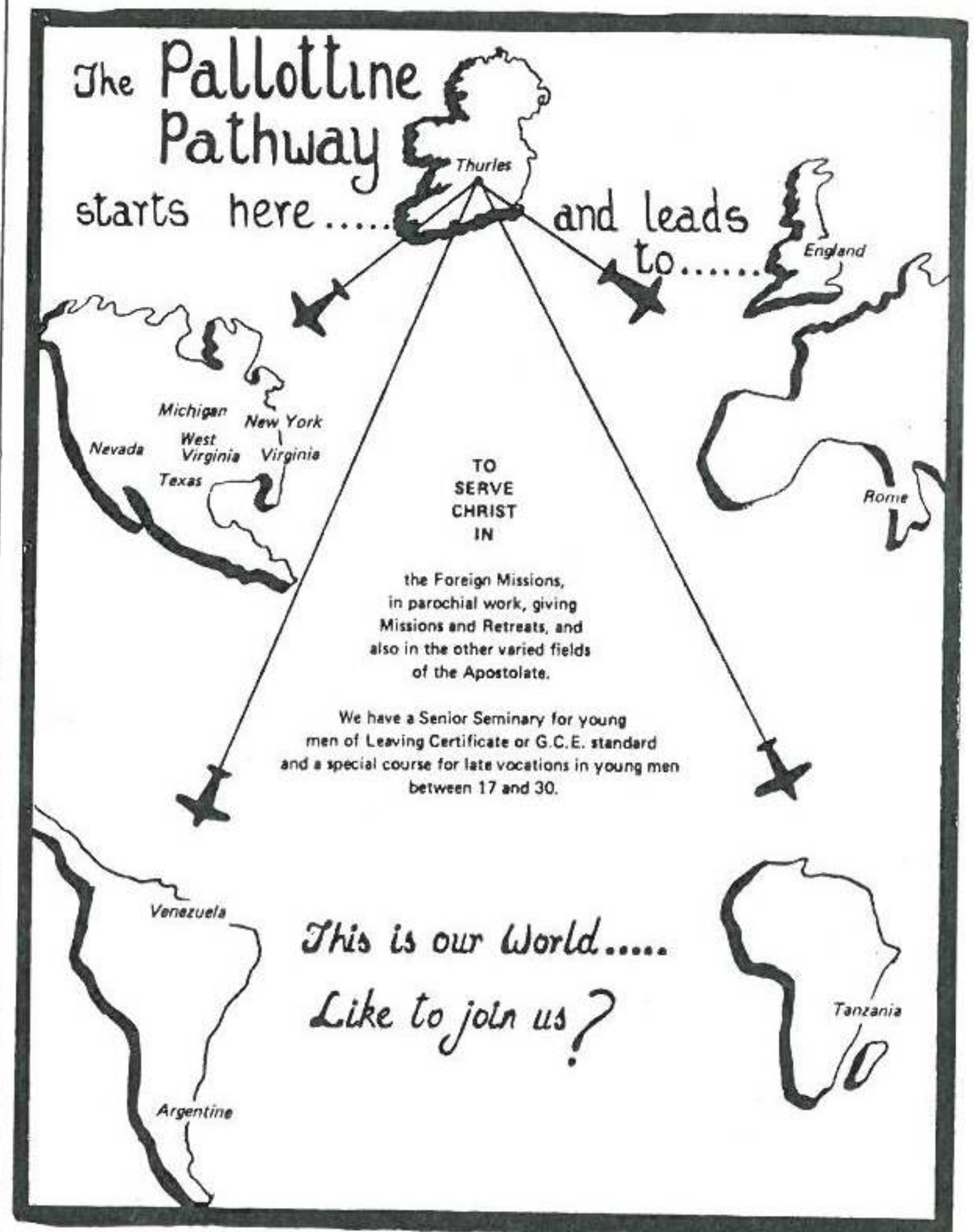
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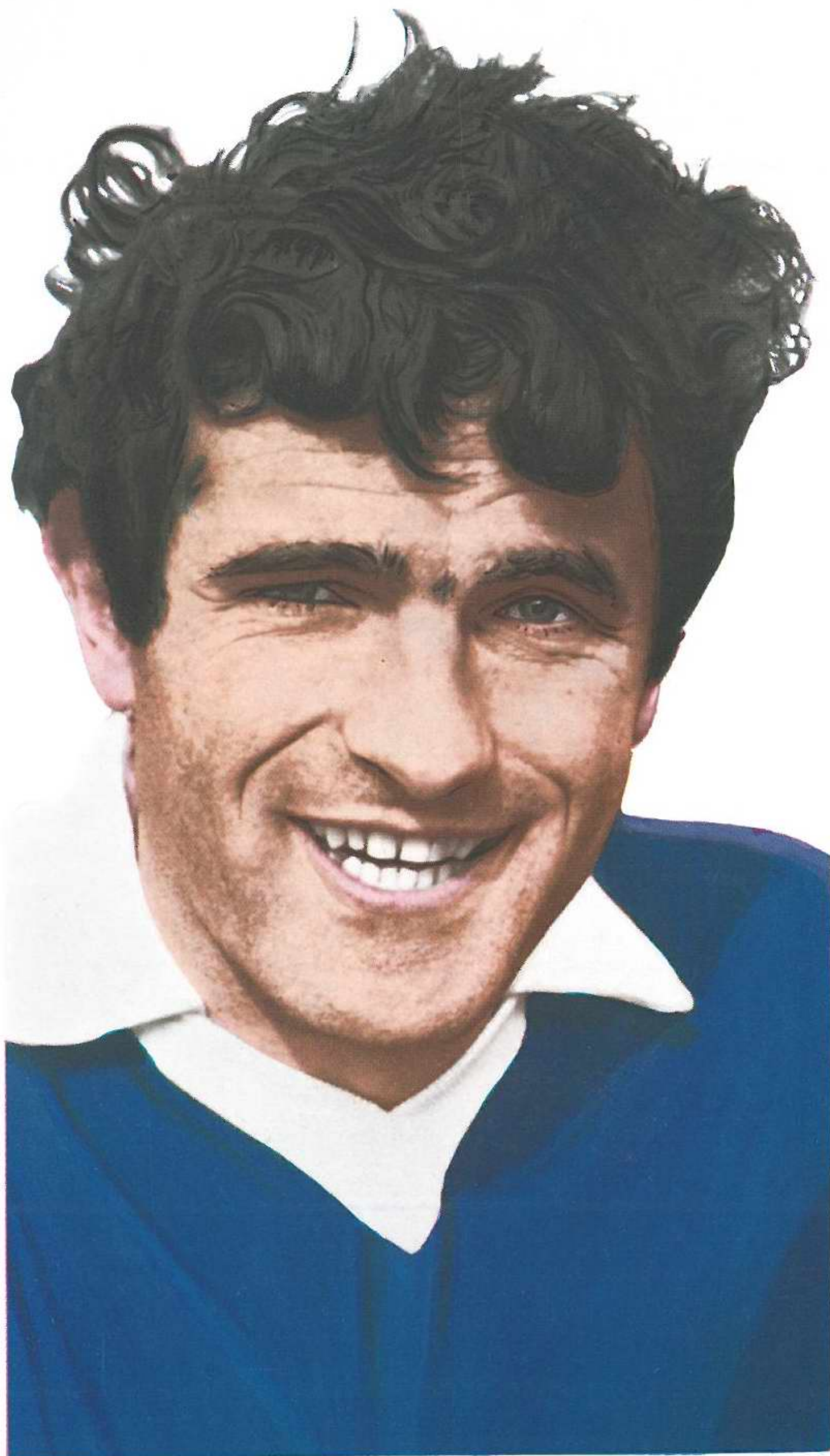


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MICK ROCHE

Tipperary

Age: 29

Height: 5-11

Weight: 13 st.

Club:

Carrick Davins

Position : Has distinguished himself in top class competitions at centre half and midfield.

Senior Inter-County
Debut : 1963
Oireachtas Cup.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Mick's transfer from centre half to midfield early in the second half was a decisive factor in Tipperary's win over Kilkenny in the 1971 All-Ireland senior hurling final. Earlier he won All-Ireland honours at intermediate (1963), under-21 (1964) and senior (1964 and 1965). He holds three Railway Cup and three League medals.

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