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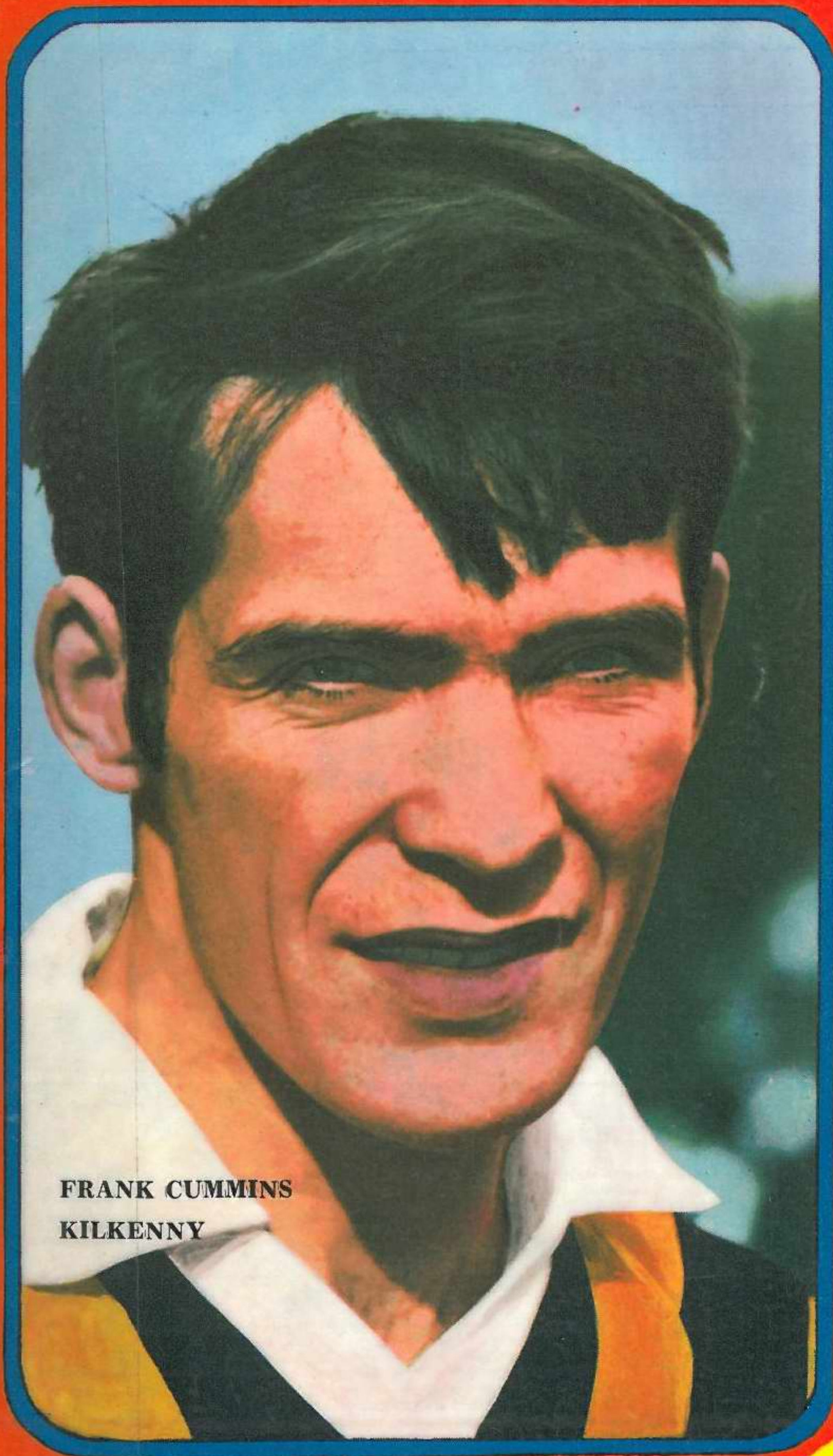
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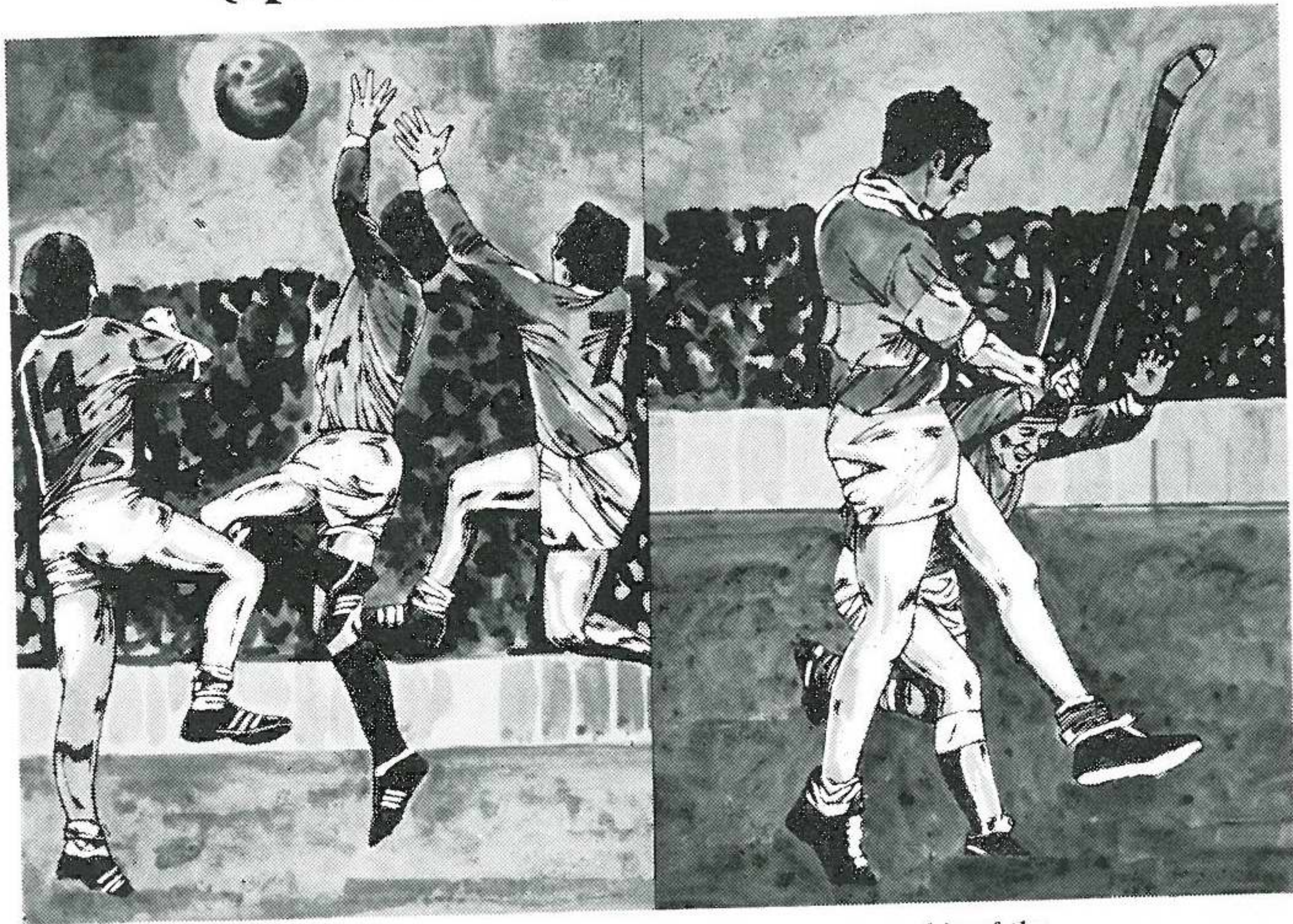
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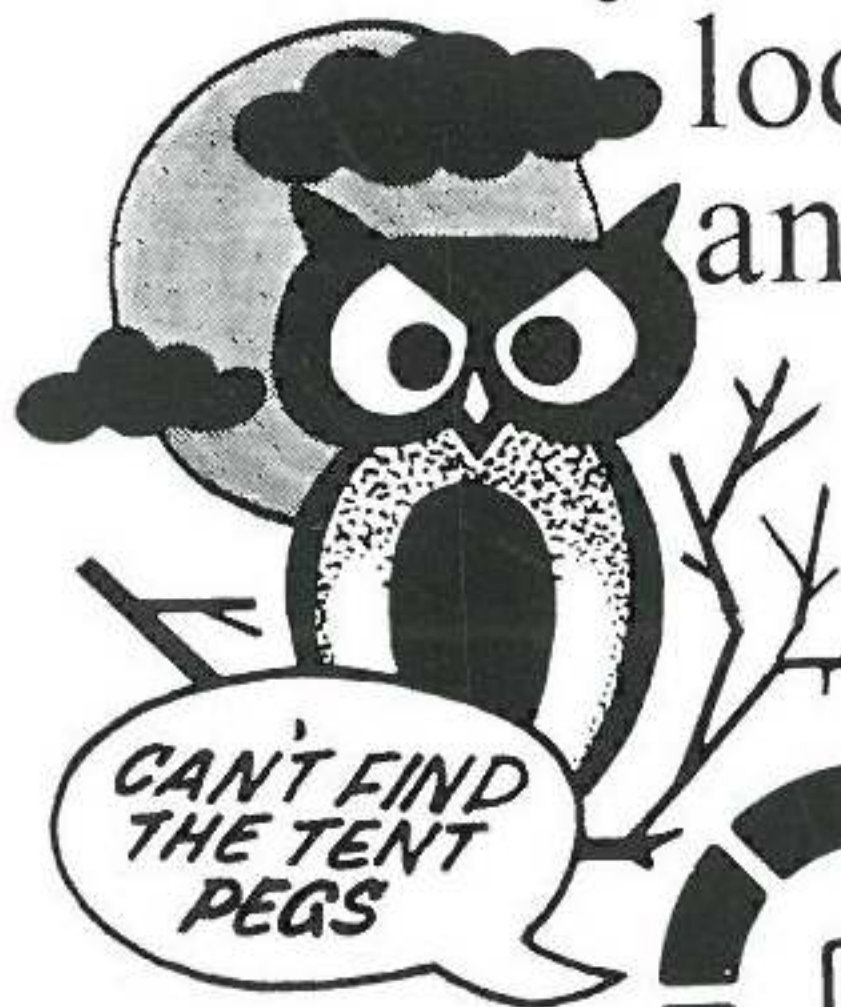
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CONTENTS

	Page
Top Ten	5
Morgan's Wish Could Yet Come True—by Mick Dunne of RTE Sport	6
Ulster Viewpoint —by Dan McAreavy	9
Can Cork Retain the Football Crown?—by Eamonn Young	11
Ladies Please —by Ann Carroll	14
Gannon-Henry Drive Gets Leitrim Going — by Sean Rice	17
Keep An Eye On Tipperary —by Jay Drennan	18
Frank Cummins Got None of the Credit—by Jim Bennett	21
I Fancy Galway, But Want Sligo to Win in the West —by Mick Dunne of RTE Sport	24
Handball—by Alleyman ...	27
Scoresheet—by Owen McCann	29
Thirsty Thoughts —by Linda Collins	33
Press Cuttings —by Neil McCavana	36
Big Day for Monaghan's Paddy Kerr — by Owen McCann	37
Figures from the G.A.A. Treas- ury—by Seamus O Ceallaigh	39
Wembley Games Should Be Best Yet	40
The Ulster Enigma —by John O'Shea	41
Moondharrig's Diary	43
Junior Desk —Edited by Jack Mahon	45
Colour Cut-out	49

DEPLORABLE!

ANOTHER classic example in presenting an unfavourable image not only to the public in general, but to the players and genuine supporters as well. That must be the verdict on the almost unbelievable situation that arose on National Hurling League final day when the trophy was not on hand for presentation to Cork immediately after their great win over Limerick.

Nor did it help the prestige of the Association when there was a mock-presentation to Cork captain John Horgan, of a trophy won earlier in the day by North Tipperary in the All-Ireland Vocational Schools Hurling final.

The entire exercise was a poor public relations job. More than that, it was an insult to the victorious team.

The National Leagues are second only in importance to the Senior Championships. The players, who have to battle so often in uninviting winter conditions for the points that prove the basis for a title win, are at least entitled to expect that at their moment of triumph the appropriate trophy is available for presentation.

It will be argued that the Limerick episode is not typical of major finals. We agree. It will also be said that in an organisation as large and as complex as the G.A.A., certain faults and shortcomings are bound to occur from time to time. Again, we will go along with this.

But the important thing is to profit from any experience. And, in this regard, we can't help recalling that just over two years ago no trophy was available for presentation to Bellaghy, of Derry, after their win over U.C.C. at Croke Park in another major game—an All-Ireland Club Senior Football Championship final.

Is it too much to expect now, in the light of the Limerick experience, that steps will be taken to ensure that in future all trophies are on hand for presentation to the winners following all major finals?

While on this subject — pageantry is an important and colourful part of any big occasion. This can be over-played, of course. Remember the criticism following a recent All-Ireland senior final.

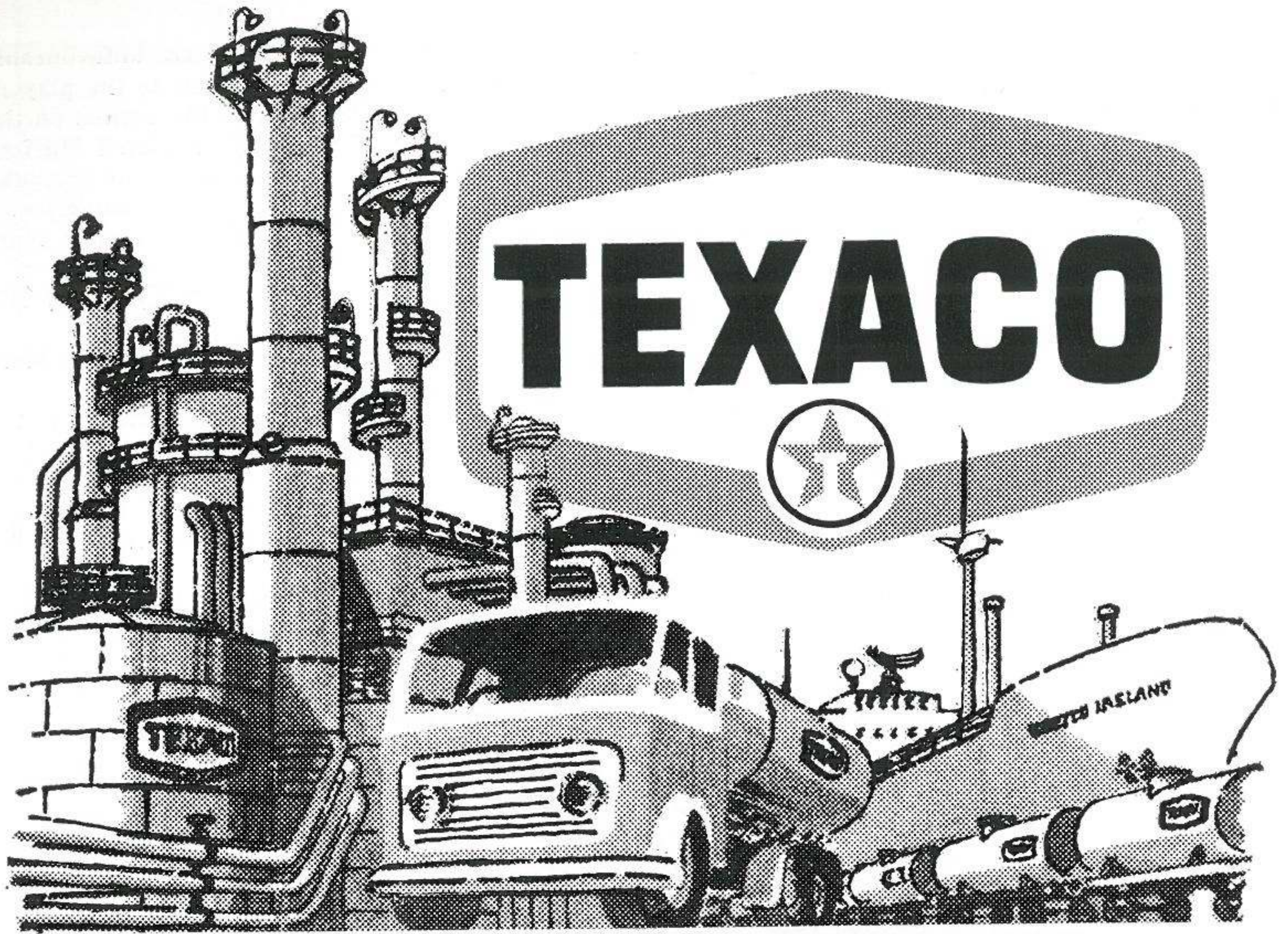
However, the presentation of a trophy to the winning captain is always a magical moment for the players and supporters of the team concerned. Every effort, then, should be made to ensure that at all venues the ceremony is conducted at a vantage point that enables all interested to share fully in the occasion.

There have been instances away from Croke Park when much of the glamour of the occasion has been lost through the ceremony being held on the playing pitch, and with no back up from the public address system.

COVER PHOTO:

~~~~~  
"THERE is a certain shyness, almost defensiveness about his whole approach to a game in which he is not only one of the most skilful players but also one of the most effective," writes Jim Bennett, on page 21, in spotlighting the career of this month's front cover star, Kilkenny's Frank Cummins.





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# TOP Ten

MASTERLY DISPLAY BY  
ROSCOMMON'S PAT LINDSAY  
EARNS TOP FOOTBALL RATING

\*\*\*\*\*

THE finals of the National Leagues (other than the football replay) dominate this month's ratings, but happenings in other games are also prominently reflected.

For instance, Monaghan had a rare win over Cavan in the Dr. McKenna Cup semi-final, and Paddy Donnelly, who did much to fashion that success by shooting 2-3, gives the county the unusual distinction of being represented in the football chart for the second month in succession.

Then, in hurling, the new All-Ireland "B" Championship opened, and two of the stars of the first series of games were Eddie Donnelly (Antrim) and Jack O'Connell (Kildare). In fact, they are the only hurlers outside of Cork and Limerick to earn ranking this month.

Cork's run-away win over Limerick results in the county earning no fewer than six places. Some may feel that this is too high a representation, but such was the majesty of the Cork

men's hurling, when taking the Shannonsiders apart, that the county's near monopoly of the top ten is, indeed, well deserved.

After all, if Pat Hegarty, who heads the chart with nine points, was a glittering star, he was strongly pressed in this regard by Mick Malone, three-goal hero Eamonn O'Donoghue, Martin Doherty, who proved such a capable deputy for Brian Murphy, and John Horgan. Charlie McCarthy who only came into the final as a substitute, still left an important imprint on the game.

Horgan and McCarthy are the only hurlers to improve on their over-all points records.

One of the best features of Roscommon's gallant National Football League final debut was the power-packed full back play of Pat Lindsay. His mastery of the role in the difficult conditions mark him out as our man of the match.

Tommy Carew and Jack Donnelly, prominent in Kildare's League Division II final win over

Dublin, and Hugh Niblock, to the fore with Derry in the McKenna Cup, are others to win recognition.

## HURLING

|   |                            |    |
|---|----------------------------|----|
| 9 | P. Hegarty (Cork) .....    | 9  |
| 8 | M. Malone (Cork) .....     | 8  |
| 8 | E. O'Donoghue (Cork) ...   | 8  |
| 8 | M. Doherty (Cork) .....    | 8  |
| 7 | J. Horgan (Cork) .....     | 16 |
| 6 | C. McCarthy (Cork) .....   | 13 |
| 6 | E. Donnelly (Antrim) ...   | 6  |
| 5 | J. O'Connell (Kildare) ... | 5  |
| 5 | F. Nolan (Limerick) .....  | 5  |
| 5 | T. Ryan (Limerick) .....   | 5  |

## FOOTBALL

|   |                             |    |
|---|-----------------------------|----|
| 9 | P. Lindsay (Roscommon)      | 9  |
| 8 | D. Earley (Roscommon) ...   | 15 |
| 8 | H. Keegan (Roscommon)       | 8  |
| 8 | D. O'Sullivan (Kerry) ..... | 8  |
| 7 | M. O'Sullivan (Kerry) ..... | 7  |
| 7 | J. Finnegan (Roscommon)     | 7  |
| 7 | P. Donnelly (Monaghan)      | 7  |
| 7 | T. Carew (Kildare) .....    | 7  |
| 6 | J. Donnelly (Kildare) ..... | 6  |
| 6 | H. Niblock (Derry) .....    | 6  |



J. Donnelly  
(Kildare)



D. Earley  
(Roscommon)



P. Hegarty  
(Cork)

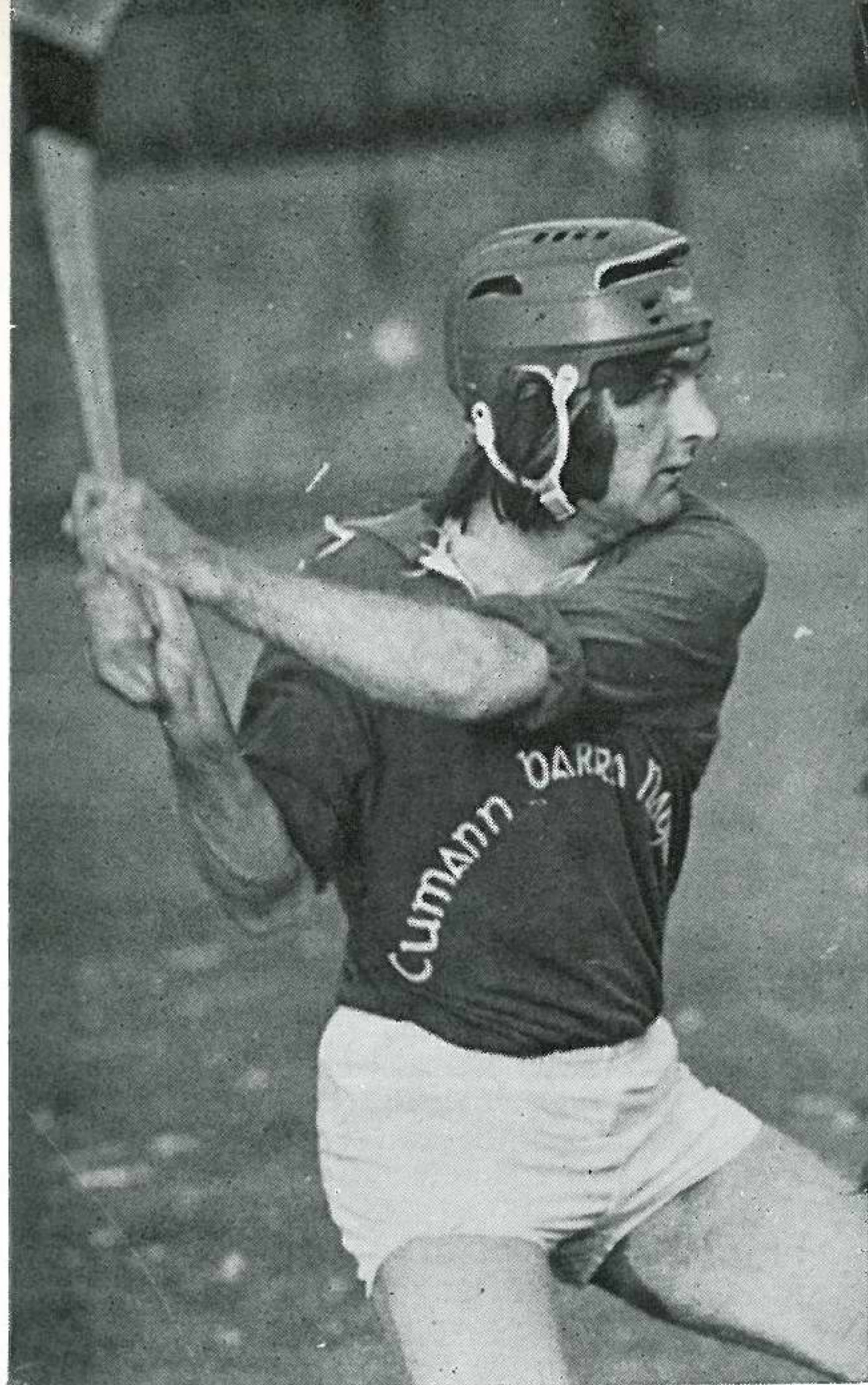


D. O'Sullivan  
(Kerry)



F. Nolan  
(Limerick)





● Gerald McCarthy (Cork) who gave a brilliant display against Limerick in the National Hurling League Final.

# MORGAN'S WISH COULD YET COME TRUE

By  
**MICK  
DUNNE**  
of  
**R.T.E.**  
Sport

Cups, in fact, have never rested in the same county; they didn't exist when Tipp, brought off the double nearly 74 years ago.

In modern times only Cork has come anywhere near repeating it—in 1956 when they had their hurlers and footballers in the two finals. Moreover, only Cork in these intensely competitive days can be reckoned to have any reasonable prospects of doing it again. The other strong hurling counties have no hope of success in the football championship and the likely football winners won't even win a provincial title in hurling.

It's worth noting that in latter times Cork have been concerned in hurling-football doubles in other grades. They won the two titles in junior in 1955, the two minor championships in '67 and '69 and the pair of under-21s in 1970 and '71. So, more than ever before, we'll be keeping very close watch on their senior teams this summer.

The annals of hurling particularly are enriched with many notable Cork victories, but that League final win in Limerick was one of the most remarkable of all. Astounding not because they won, but because they utterly demolished the All-Ireland champions.

Yet, last July when Cork were sent hurtling out of the championship in their very first game on this same Limerick ground,

**A** DECLARATION made by Billy Morgan on the night the victorious Cork footballers returned home last September may yet come back to haunt non-Corkonians who didn't take it seriously. "Cork's next goal should be the senior double," said Billy and when his utterance was reported it was dismissed as an example of excitement running wild on an understandably emotional occasion.

Now it doesn't look such an outlandish target. Certainly not after Cork's astonishingly overwhelming triumph in last month's National Hurling League Final. They are the defending football champions and already the hurlers have been installed as flaming hot favourites to capture the Liam McCarthy Cup.

Of course, it's a very elusive thing this senior championship double. Only two counties have

achieved it — Cork in 1890 and Tipperary in 1895 and 1900. The Sam Maguire and Liam McCarthy



● Charlie McCarthy (Cork)



caught in an avalanche of late Tipperary goals, who could have reasonably predicted such a comprehensive triumph 10 months later?

Enormous credit is due to them for their tremendous recovery in the 1973-'74 League. Since last autumn I've been saying that the hurlers wouldn't allow themselves to linger too long in the footballers' shadows. Hurling means so much to Corkmen that it was, I'm certain, painful to a lot of them to see the county going wild over the football team. That sort of thing rankles with Cork hurlers.

That surely, at least partially, explains the zeal they displayed in the League final. Frequently in the past I have seen Cork hurlers play with fierce ardour, but this surpassed anything in my memory.

Determination is altogether too mild a word to describe what they put into their display on May 5, resoluteness isn't even strong enough to sum it up. There was fiery defiance—almost contempt—thrown in Limerick's teeth. The mood of those Corkmen seemed to suggest they had abandoned personal safety and were willing to storm the most heavily guarded citadel. Even concrete walls wouldn't have stopped them. Yet, I never got the feeling as I watched them that it was grim intensity that possessed them in that game. On the contrary they were exuberantly, joyously super-efficient.

There wasn't a weak link among the 16 — the side that lined-out plus Charlie McCarthy. But special tribute must be paid to three of them. Martin O'Doherty, who has had some disappointments in defence, was belatedly called upon to deputise at full-back and he carried out his task splendidly. At last it seems he has established himself in senior ranks, but now he has raised the problem of where he is to be fitted-in.



● *Martin O'Doherty (Cork) now firmly established in the senior ranks.*

For Pat Hegarty it was the sweetest imaginable return to the team after 17 months. His non-stop activity and spirited eagerness typified Cork's performance. Mick Malone, recalled to the panel only in mid-week, was no less energetic, playing with passionate resolution against no less a full-back than Pat Hartigan.

Nor must we forget the master-

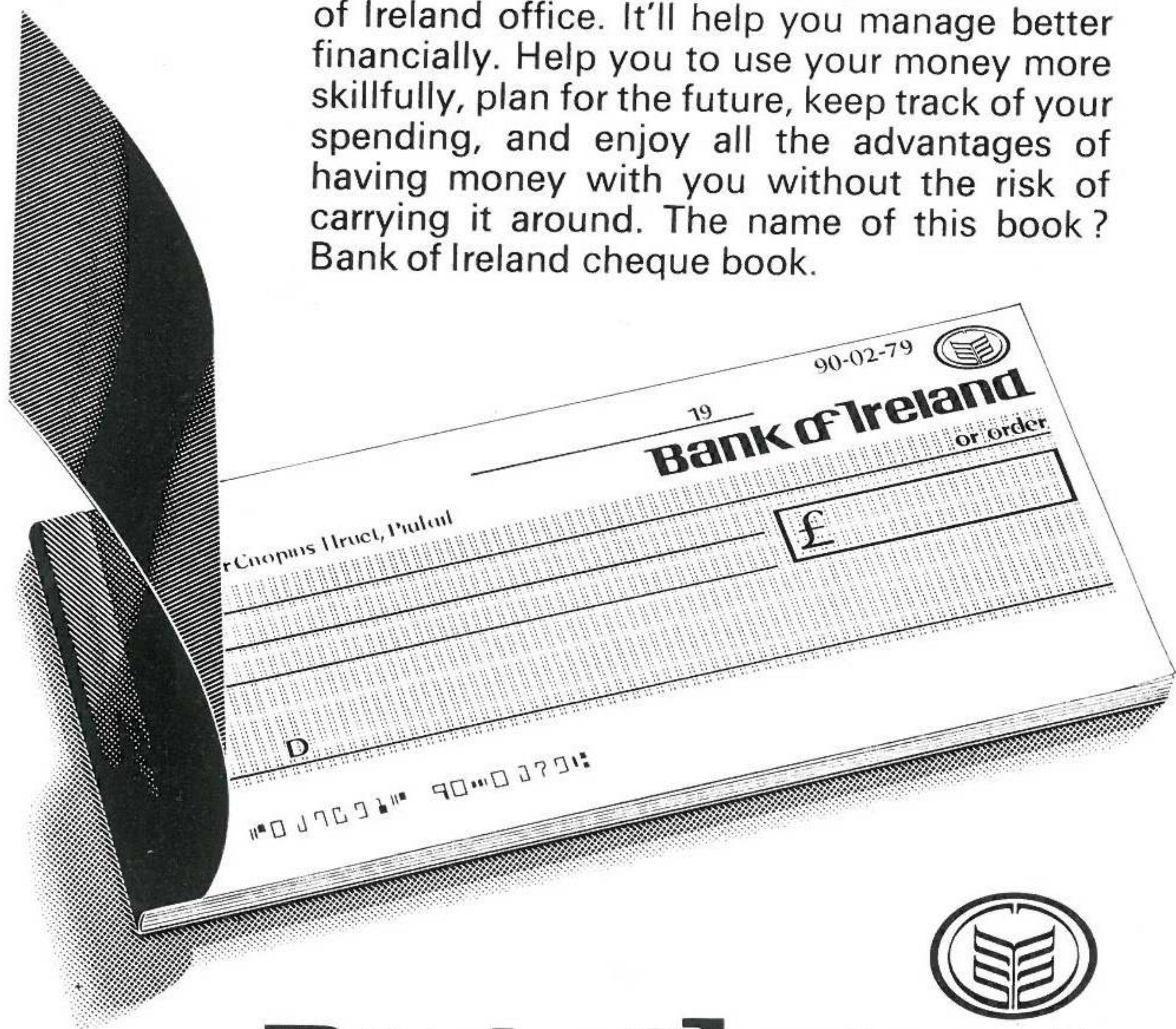
ful display of John Horgan in defence, the elegance and self-assurance of Denis Coughlan — having his best game in hurling or football for some time — the return to top form by Gerald McCarthy nor the devastation created by Eamonn O'Donoghue and Seanie Leary.

As I said we'll be keeping our eyes on them this summer.



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# Role of referee harder than ever



WELL, thanks to the reforming zeal of our Congress delegates the die has been cast and now it is up to team mentors, players and — perhaps most importantly of all — the referees to give us the most exciting and unpredictable championship for years.

That in a nutshell would appear to be the general reaction in the North to the most radical overhaul ever of the playing rules.

By the time this piece appears in print we will have had roughly a fortnight's foretaste of the new dispensation but clearly the real test will come in June when the championship chips are down.

Most of the fears that the old no-change stance would again prevail proved unfounded in Sligo's Summerhill College and giving credit where credit is due it's full marks to the liberal lobby on holding off the traditional not-an-inch wing.

All concerned with the staging of our games face a mammoth task of re-adjustment — just how great I don't think is fully realised yet — in face of the sweeping changes which now have the force of law.

That second parallelogram — 14 yards x 21 yards — can well prove the most expensive sin box in the sporting world unless defenders keep their cool and unless referees are on strict alert for the forward tempted to buy a free within the area. (If the

referee has been a key figure in the past he is even more so now).

Attackers will have to remember too that it will be an offence to be inside the existing smaller parallelogram before the ball enters it during play. This proposal should eliminate much of the "square ball" argument and as such is to be heartily welcomed.

I was intrigued by the divided views on the protection of the goalkeeper with the last line man in football freed from being charged within the old "square" in contrast to his hurling counterpart who apparently wished for no such immunity. (Another problem here for the dual referee)).

Players and spectators alike will surely be glad to see the end of the so called third man tackle. The temporary rule is reasonably explicit on this point: "Charging a player unless he is in possession or is about to play the ball shall be a foul." A note to the rule adds: "A fair charge is defined as side to side with at least one foot on the ground.

Nor has life become any easier for the persistent fouler who may now be dismissed after an initial warning while the temperamental "star" who sees fit to show dissent with a decision will be penalised by having the ball placed nearer his goal. Personally I would like to have seen Congress going further on this latter point.

It will be interesting, too, to see what players make of the return of the old style hand pass which was outlawed away back in 1950. I remember that Congress particularly well and to this day I cannot fathom why Antrim supported the abolition move, with the hand pass one of the most lethal weapons in their armoury. Now a whole new generation of players have the option of using this technique.

On the no-change front at Sligo I was very pleased that the proposal to axe the solo run was turned down. Rightly or wrongly I believe a ban on this gambit would have represented a penalty on skill, affecting not least Ulster players.

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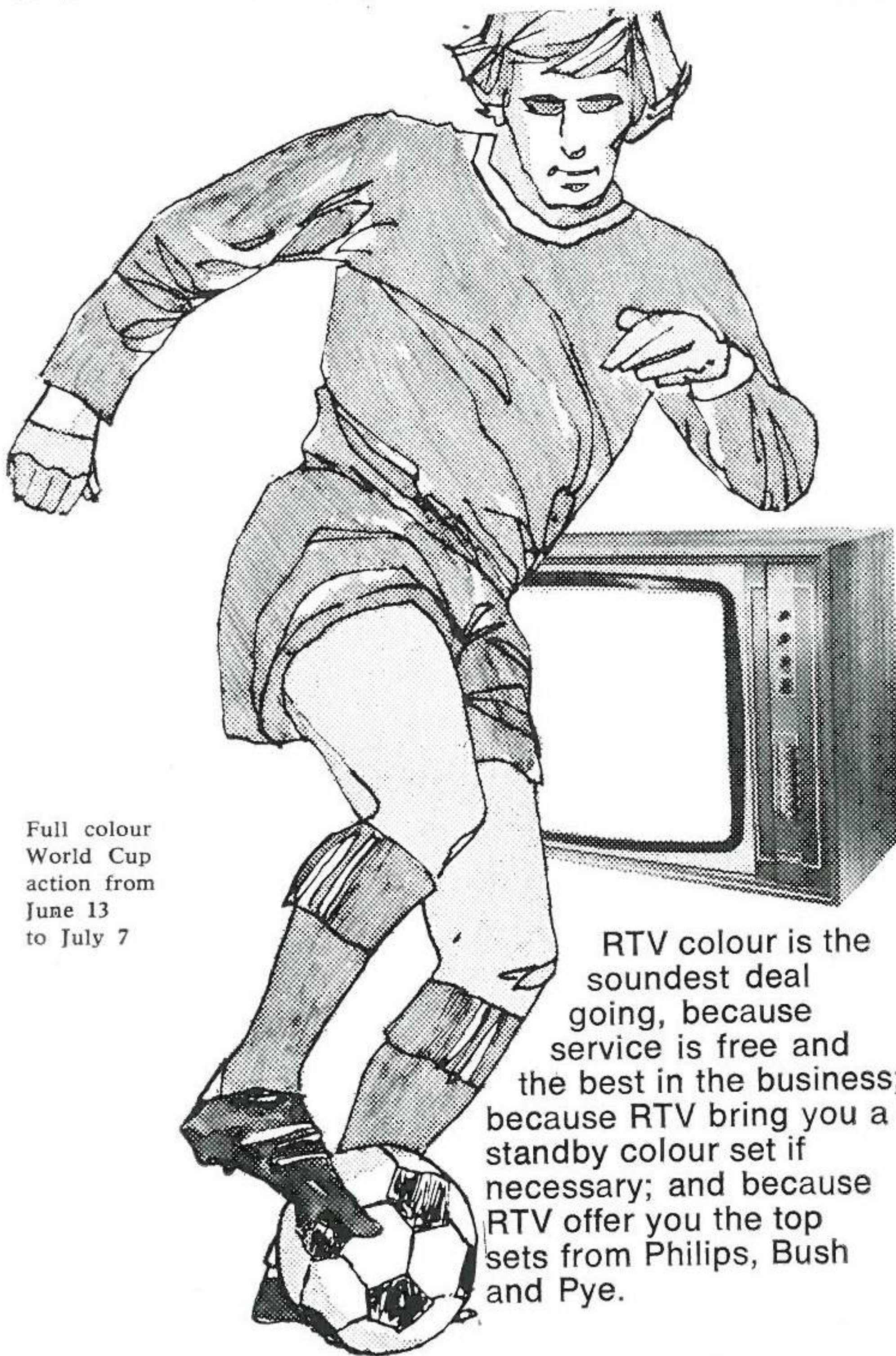
But having said all that how will the Northern championships go this year? When the draw was made several months ago it looked the most open contest in years and results since then, coupled with the various changes in the playing rules have made confusion doubly confused.

For example the Dr. McKenna Cup competition, generally regarded as at least a loose guide to the championship, has thrown up several major upsets in the early stages with Monaghan brushing aside Armagh and then provincial champions Tyrone; Cavan looking quite dangerous indeed against Fermanagh; Derry, after tying

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## ● FROM PAGE 9

with Donegal, racing to an out-size win in the replay and Antrim laying the Down bogey — with 10 points to spare — at Casement Park.

The complete draw for the championship is as follows and gives some idea of the hazardous task of the forecaster:

June 2 — Antrim v. Down (preliminary round game at Lurgan); June 9 — Antrim v. Fermanagh at Belfast and Derry v. Monaghan at Ballinascreen; June 16 — Tyrone v. Donegal at Omagh; June 23 — Cavan v. Armagh or Down at Cavan.

July 7 — semi-final A — Antrim or Fermanagh v. Donegal or Tyrone; July 14 — semi-final B—Derry or Monaghan v. Armagh or Cavan or Down.

Both Armagh and Down have seen better days but this should not detract from the interest in their clash at Lurgan when the Mourne men will be favourites but I have a hunch that the homesters may just end a long, long run of defeats against their near neighbours.

Home advantage may see Antrim through against Fermanagh and Derry will be the popular choice to spike Monaghan's very welcome revival.

Tyrone and Donegal join forces in what is easily the game of the round and despite indifferent form of late I expect Jody O'Neill's charges to hold on to their title at least at this first hurdle.

Cavan seem to be in with a great chance against Armagh or Down but again it could be very close indeed.

It's really in the melting pot and I would suggest that a few new pence on all the home sides might be a sound enough investment. Anyway outside tossing a coin it's as sound a way as any of tipping such even clashes.

Time enough to look at the semi-finals next month.



# CAN CORK RETAIN FOOTBALL CROWN?

By EAMONN YOUNG

"THEY'RE a bit unsettled," he said, "they worked very hard last year and a lot of things went right for them. They showed plenty of ability, Doney Donovan had them well trained, the club championship got them all well tuned-up early and the selectors managed them well on the field. They would have beaten anybody including Offaly . . . but this year I don't like them quite as much. I don't really know what is wrong". And he wandered away from me almost oblivious, pondering, thinking.

Many like him have said that the Cork football team this year won't go far. Some have said they were not as good a team at all as they looked last year and that in Clare, Kerry, Tyrone and Galway they met nothing. Without a doubt the Galway side of '73 wouldn't keep the ball kicked out to the Sean Purcell-Frank Stockwell-Jack Mangan-Mattie McDonagh-Joe Young-Jack Mahon team which Cork beat in the fifties (without winning an All-Ireland) but all I'm concerned with is the fact that in '73 a football team from down here beat all it met and that's what's called a championship. This year is another tournament and let's take a look at it. And as far as I'm concerned this alleged restlessness which worried my friend exists only in the minds of those who daily turn pimples to boils and howling dogs to banshees in the night.

What is the formula for success in games? A panel of merit, motivation, guidance, and average opposition. Twenty-five players who can kick a ball well, the desire to write Cork's name on the Sam Maguire Cup again, the management of shrewd silent men behind the door, and the absence from the competitive scene of the star opposition . . . Let's see if we can estimate the situation.

Cork's panel of '74 shows the fifteen which won the cup last year. The five subs Mick Scannell,



● DONIE O'DONOVAN . . . Can his charges retain the Sam Maguire Cup?

Donal Hunt, Seamus Coughlan, Teddy O'Brien and Robert Wilmot have not packed up the game. Martin Doherty and Billy Field who were injured are back playing for some time and in fact the improved Doherty wasn't badly injured anyhow. Add to these, new men like Jerry Lynch, Sean Murphy of Kilmurry, Tony Murphy, Noel Crowley and you're in there with a panel as complete as the next man's.

Ray Cummins was married, is building his own house, and was tired of playing. He needed a rest and got one. He missed the hurling league final due to a mouth injury picked up against Rathnure, when he was not playing the ball. But he should be playing busily again this season. Billy Field who broke an ankle in the semi-final against Tir Eoghain last August was out of the game for several months but is now back in action. He is not as smart as in '73, naturally enough but these come-backs after injury take time. A return to his old quick-thinking, straight-kicking form would be an asset.

Motivation is the next item. Fame, a good time, an All-Ireland medal, the exhilaration of victory, your name on the lips of the lads walking the road . . . all this is the legitimate aspiration of youth and as far as I can see there is no difference between the young men of Cork and those of any other county. When you have won three in a row, or four in a row like Kerry and Wexford, a slight reduction in enthusiasm is natural and that, reflected in an absence from the training ground, means less power in the legs and then you're gone for the milk. But our lads have not won enough for them to get blasé about it and in fact they have had enough defeats since the All-Ireland final to get that appetite nicely whetted again, keen enough perhaps to take Kerry

● TO PAGE 13





*Planting-out, watched by eager young anglers.*

## **A Question of Caring**

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● FROM PAGE 11

as an aperitif in July. No I don't see any reason to say that the boys aren't keen to win this year.

Guidance from the sideline is vital and every one of us has seen the disaster attendant on its absence. The handlers have the job of selecting a panel, getting it together, instilling it with the right outlook, training it, selecting the square pegs for square holes and round ones for the others, introducing the right subs at the right time and of analysing each match so that lessons are learned.

Doney Donovan as trainer has justly won the respect of the players. A small, quiet man (at times) he knows how to get the best out of everyone and this year he could be even more efficient, though to be honest I can't say what he hasn't done last year. The selectors are essentially the same men and the medical advisor of last year Dr. Paddy Fitzgerald now combines in a serene smiling person the added duties of selection. I think that is all to the good. Last year the selectors and trainer working in close harmony made a few precise moves and read their games well. I don't think they left their brains in San Francisco.

Now what of the opposition? A Dublin sports journalist said to me the other day, he thought the standard was generally low. To be honest I haven't had a chance to see many of the teams in the northern half over the last few months so I just don't know but at least the League final was a fair indication.

If Cork get over Tipp or Clare what about the boys from the blue mountains and purple valleys of the Kingdom? They're fine chaps, young and middle-aged but where a Munster final is concerned I'd prefer to trust my hand in a ferret's mouth. The Kingdom have shown they're good. That match which Cork barely won in Killarney last winter was the best League game I have seen and by now Kerry are better. Then they have the five goal bottom-smacking we gave them in Cork last year to urge them on and in fact there will be at least a few of them, jumping four feet off the ground with fright in case of a repeat. And when the honest-to-God sportsman has that lead-up he's a very hard man to pass. So we can forget about All-Irelands until the Munster championship is won. After that let 'em all come.

To sum up we have the players, the managers, the motivation and good but not star opposition. We have a sportsman's chance. What more do we want? Another year for the Sam Maguire at home in Cork, of course.

*A proud Billy Morgan and colleague Denis Coughlan hold aloft the "Sam Maguire" after Cork's historic '73 football championship triumph.*





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# L★A★D★I★E★S P★L★E★A★S★E

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Edited by ANN CARROLL

**T**HE biggest talking point in Association circles in the past few years has been the Report of the Commission which sat to examine all aspects of the G.A.A. Most of its recommendations were accepted at the Special Congress in December, 1972, but it was only last April that the first of the full-time appointments recommended by the Commission was made.

The first new officer is Muiris De Prionnbhiol, who was appointed to the post of Stiúrthóir Forbartha immediately after Easter on secondment from the Civil Service. Since long term planning and development programmes are among his terms of reference it is of considerable interest to us females what role he sees for us in the future Gaelic Athletic Association. So I called into Croke Park to seek Muiris's views on the topic.

I first asked him what "secondment" from the Civil Service meant. He explained that he was on loan from the Civil Service to the G.A.A. and that he continued to be a Civil Servant and subject to Civil Service rules and regulations. The new job meant no change in salary and he will continue to be paid by the Department of Finance with the G.A.A. recouping his salary to the Department. Despite being very busy preparing his input for the Camogie Administration Course he was most generous with his time and clearly showed enthusiasm for the part ladies can play in G.A.A. life. His initial reaction to my query was that women had always been involved in the G.A.A. but that they could make a "much greater contribution" to

the running of G.A.A. Clubs. He feels their potential has not been fully utilised in many aspects.

Muiris spoke not about general G.A.A. policy in regard to women's involvement but put forward his ideas by taking a specific example, that of his own Club, Blessed Oliver Plunketts G.A.A. Club, Navan Road, and the activities of its lady members. The club has a Women's Section, membership of which consists mainly of committee members' wives and their friends and they meet once a fortnight. Activities vary at these get-togethers and often visiting speakers are invited to contribute. Besides these regular meetings they also provide what he calls "back up services to the G.A.A. Club." Examples of their efforts include the usual job of providing teas and meals at functions. They



Muiris De Prionnbhiol

provide accommodation in their homes for visiting juvenile teams, including accommodation and meals for the bi-annual visit to the parish of the Oban High School Shinty team. They organise from A to Z the Club's Annual Dinner—a very big job indeed. They also cater at the yearly function for their "Player of the Year" Awards. The Development Director feels that such involvement by the ladies saves them from the feeling of being G.A.A. "widows". They feel they are also participating in the Club's affairs and so come to understand more than other wives, the commitments of their husbands to the Club.

However there is an aspect of Club activity where the ladies expertise is even more invaluable and that is the money aspect. The fund raising events would be much less effective but for the enthusiastic organising ability of the female members. Apart from Cake Sales and other small efforts which provide ready cash for all worthwhile causes within the club, the main annual fund raising and social event is the Aeríocht/Fete. Over two hundred helpers, of whom 50% would be ladies, are needed each year to ensure the smooth running of the event. Apart from helping in the administrative side of the Aeríocht the women look after the stalls, raffles, the wheel of fortune, cake and book sales and many other attractions at the Navan Road venue.

Muiris cited the activities of



this small club to prove his point that there is no reason why all G.A.A. clubs should not have a ladies section. A club premises is most important—to ensure the success of this idea—and here he stressed that being a small club does not necessarily mean that a clubhouse is beyond its means. Blessed Oliver Plunkett's Club meet in a small hut converted by the members from what was once a "hen house"! He feels that every club should have some sort of building — somewhere to meet — somewhere to make a cup of tea. But with or without a club house a ladies section is important because it is desirable to create opportunities for social contact between young people. As an important addendum he also suggested that when clubs are planning their social centres it is incumbent upon them to consult the ladies about the layout—a view with which I heartily agree.

On odd occasions in recent years, women have appeared on lists of elected officers in G.A.A. clubs. Would he envisage even more involvement on the part of women in this administrative field. "Yes and particularly as assistants to club secretaries where they would do minute taking, type letters and other specific duties," was his comment. He also feels that such help would add considerably to the efficiency of G.A.A. clubs.

Being more than interested I could not resist talking to Muiris about the Camogie Administration course. The speakers at this course were mainly from the G.A.A., Dr. Dónal Keenan, Seán Ó Síocháin and Muiris de Prionnbhíol, himself, were among the contributors. Muiris feels that co-operation such as this, is to the benefit of both associations. In his preparatory notes he made one very significant proposal which I think would be a very positive step towards such co-operation. He suggests a pilot scheme for the development of camogie in a county backed by,

## ANNE SHEEHY

**R**ECENTLY I spoke with Anne Sheehy, Personal Secretary to G.A.A. Director General, Sean O Siochain. Anne and I have known each other from schooldays when we frequently met on the camogie field. At that time she played for Holy Faith, Clontarf, with whom she won three Leinster Colleges medals.

Anne's interest in G.A.A. affairs goes back to her childhood, from the time her father, an ardent G.A.A. fan, brought her along to Croke Park every Sunday. She absolutely loves working in Croke Park and says you couldn't find a more kind and considerate person than her boss.

Something which has never ceased to amaze her is the vast amount of voluntary effort put into the G.A.A. by officials throughout the country. An example of this is the tremendous work done by County Secretaries in connection with the San Francisco trips.

She considers herself very lucky to be paid for what she enjoys doing so much. The work is not always easy and coming up to All-Ireland time a twelve-hour day is not uncommon.

Anne's biggest headache at this time is tickets, people expect you to have them on demand and can not understand when the answer is No. It is not generally realised outside the membership of the G.A.A. that tickets are distributed through clubs, only a very small number are kept in Croke Park and these are earmarked well in advance of the All-Ireland Finals.

Anne now plays for Austin-Stacks and has won two All-Ireland Club Championship medals, in 1971-72 and 1972-73. When she is not working or playing she enjoys dressmaking and interior decorating. She is also the unpaid official photographer for "Camogie" magazine which at present is in some financial difficulty but Anne and her colleagues are confident they can overcome these problems.



among other things, a public relations campaign, exhibition matches, a team of voluntary development officers and special week-end coaching courses. To me this is a very attractive idea because if such a scheme succeeds, not alone would camogie and the G.A.A. benefit, but it could lead eventually to greater involvement of even non-camogie ladies in the local G.A.A. club's social life and this is something that both associations are striving for.

On that note I finish—please keep those letters coming in and

next month I hope to answer some of your queries.

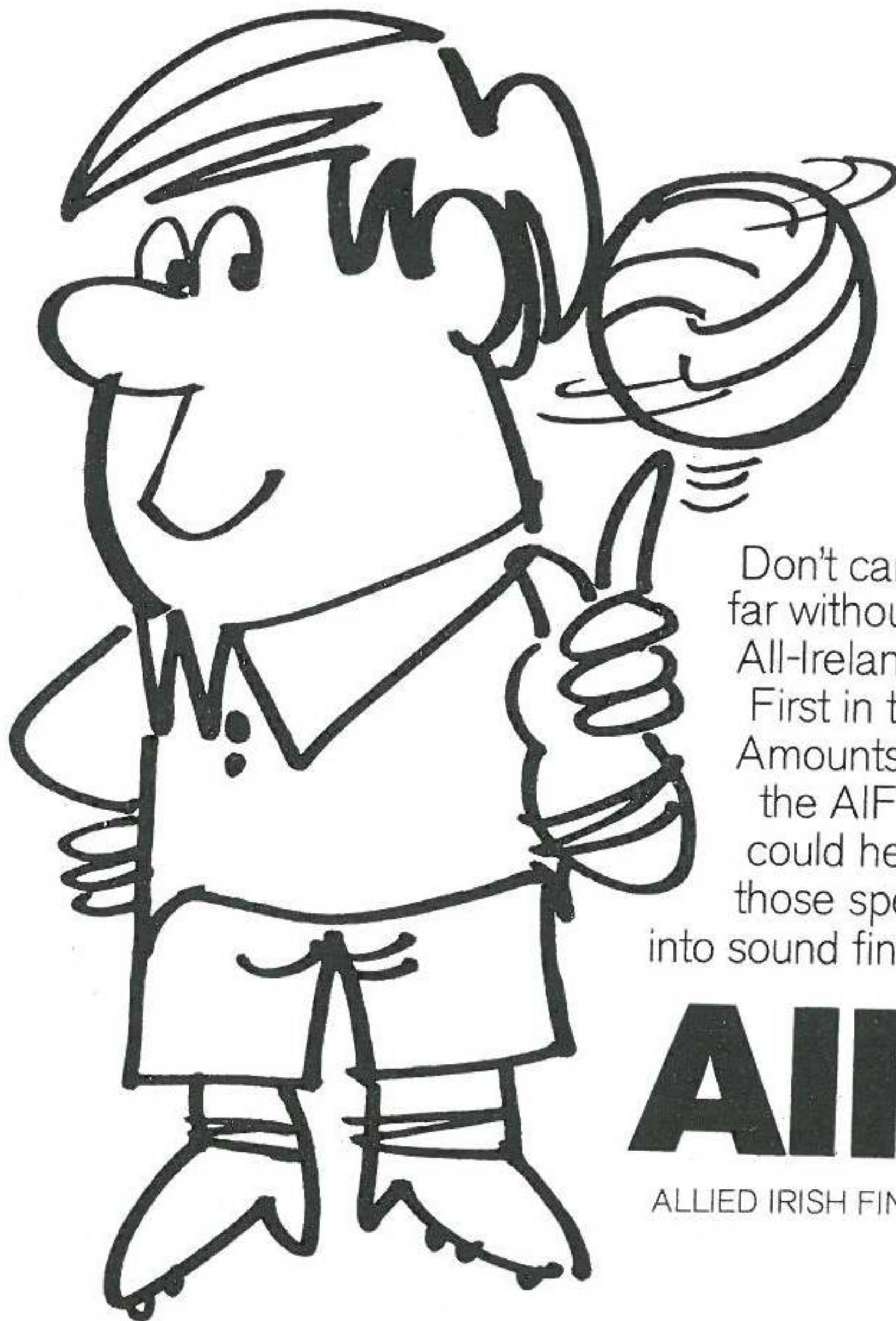
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**P.S.—**My thanks to Jack Mahon for his words of welcome—He is setting a high standard for us to match. I hope the children enjoy his column as much as I do! Thanks Jack—keep up the good work.

*Ann Cawell*



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# GANNON-HENRY DRIVE GETS LEITRIM GOING

ONE would imagine that long before this the Leitrim County Board would have taken steps to try to raise the level of the county's football standard. It seems a bit late to be taking action now . . . like bolting the door when the horse has gone.

But perhaps Leitrim's problem was their inability to find the right man . . . a man with the qualities to break through the morass of despondency which has stifled the potential of even the most enthusiastic.

It is not easy to shed off despondency when despondency is all around you. For when apathy is widespread among a community the people become accustomed to it. And because this apathy does not transgress the values or mores of the community, it becomes acceptable.

Only when leadership emerges, and through it the lifestyle of the community is questioned, does introspection begin.

Perhaps this is what is happening just now among the Leitrim football community. For the appointment of Dermot Gannon as team manager seems a good move . . . so good in fact that one wonders why it took so long.

Dermot himself does not know the reason. And in his own modest way claims that in fact he is not manager as such. "It was obvious that something had to be done about football in the county," he told me.

"So the County Board acquired

the services of Noel Henry, a bank official in Drumshanbo, to train the team for the coming championship. They asked me if I would act as coach and when I agreed, they decided to call me manager."

The choice of Dermot Gannon will be a popular one within the county. He has given over ten years' loyal service to the county's first team and in fact played with the team in the National League campaign that has just ended. He has quit now and hopes he can be of some service to the young players emerging.

He laments the fact that the spirit among players in the county has been allowed to drop so low. No programme of training was ever drawn up and when the championship came along the players were thrown out into the game "red raw".

"This is the first time any real move has been made to try to wring some sort of spirit out of the players, and while I do not expect changes overnight, it is at least a start."

Already there are signs that the appointments of Dermot Gannon and Noel Henry, who is a native of Lanesboro, are beginning to work. Having ended the league with a total of only three points . . . a win over Armagh and a draw with Monaghan . . . the team has been acquitting itself reasonably well in challenge games recently.

They have beaten Westmeath

and Longford, although neither was at full strength, but perhaps their greatest fillip was to hold Fermanagh, one of the top teams in Ulster, to a single point.

All these are encouraging signs for Dermot Gannon, but he emphasises that Leitrim's climb will be slow and painful. "At the moment we do not have the right players to man the vital positions in the team. If we had good players in these positions, we have enough wing men to hold our own with any team. But at the moment we have players at midfield who are natural forwards and this is taking from their overall performances."

But most of the players are young, and much more important, most of them come from within the county. This is one of the first vital steps towards developing team spirit and it is a far cry from the days, now so long ago, when thirteen members of the team lived outside the county.

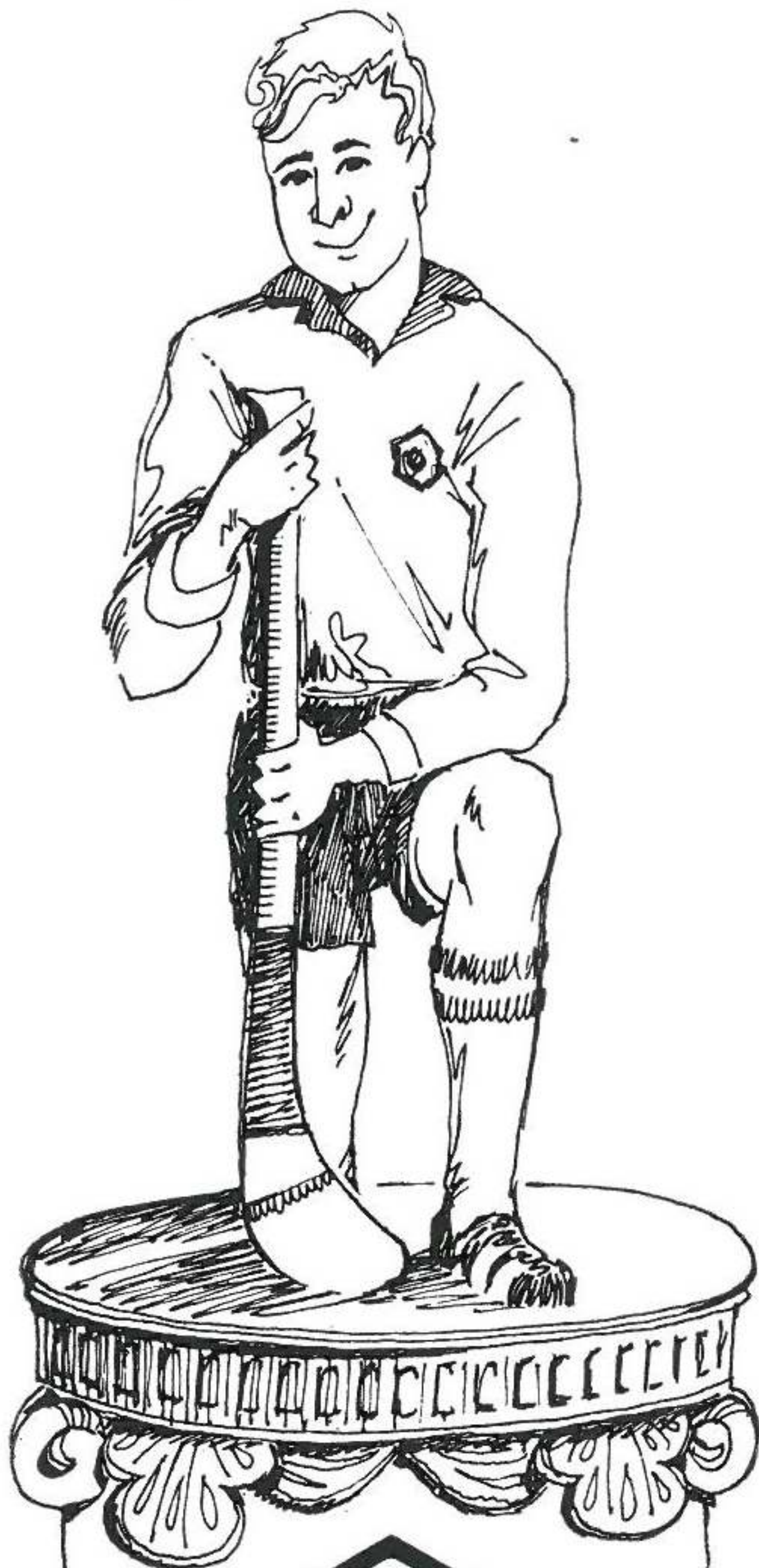
"Up to this most of the players would never see each other from one game to the next," said Dermot. "We have begun to change this which is vitally important if a team spirit is to develop."

He confessed to holding out little hope for a Leitrim victory over Sligo in the first round of the championship at Carrick-on-Shannon this month. But he will be satisfied if there is an improvement on recent years' first-round games.

For essentially his campaign is a long term one aimed at uplifting the whole approach to football by Leitrim's young men. It is a courageous assignment which will need co-operation. For its success could have the effect of elevating, not only the sports conditions, but perhaps the social and economic conditions of the county as a whole.



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## KEEP AN EYE ON TIPPERARY

**M**UNSTERMEN have been exhibiting their well-known superiority complex as regards hurling in the last couple of months with an almost sickening chauvinism. To a man they have been behaving as though God had finally settled in his heaven and set about getting the world to rights, making his first objective the creation of a special Eden where Munster's hurlers could play against one another to their hearts' content without even having to think about any outside influences.

The manner in which the prime Leinster challengers—Kilkenny and Wexford—were scissored from the scene in the League by an artful combination of dodges by the four Munster neighbours—Tipperary, Limerick, Cork and Waterford—pleased them beyond reason. They have got so much fun from the concluding stages of the League, knowing it must be a Munster triumph in any case, that they are already licking their chops with gleeful anticipation of some tremendous hurling and sweaty, heart-testing days among the thousands that will throng the parks for the Munster championship.

You cannot blame them, for it is great to be a hurling fanatic in the month of June with Limerick cock-a-hoop under their champions' crown (Don't read too much into that League final display—they were obviously a very tired outfit). Tipperary getting better with every outing and clearly within a point or two of the holders; Cork in fiery humour creating a wave of comeback that began in the shadow of last year's football victory; Clare silently nursing a hideous desire to creep up and choke the championship life out of every last one of them in repayment for the torment of the past.

Now, Tipperary seem to have failed sadly at the hands of Limerick in the League semi-final. It would be a very grievous error to think that this defeat was an indication of failure. Much more likely the clever men behind the scenes in that home of hurling are looking on the performance against Limerick as a clear indication that they have the makings. The ingredients, as it were, from which they can have real hope of baking a championship cake of prize-winning quality. Tipperary like to start late and avoid running themselves out of form before the end of the summer has arrived.

In the League, they often seemed to be trying to make their men knit into a pattern not much to



**JAY DRENNAN examines  
the strength and  
championship chances  
of the Premier county**

their liking. New men and almost forgotten men were pulled in to fill gaps and, at the same time, prove themselves. It was hardly to be expected that the team would immediately take shape.

In fact, it was not until a few of the resting veterans came back for the late push to qualify for the League play-offs that the side began to show some real promise. The line-out has shaken down, finally, into a combination of the old-established and the new men of promise.

Seamus Shinnors, for instance, has taken over in goal, a position for which he was the Tipperary sub. years beyond number behind John O'Donoghue in particular. Already he has given a number of performances that indicate his intention to stay on once he has got the chance.

In the full-back position, Liam Hackett has been making his name—a fine, sturdy, dark-haired young man from Borris who has, perhaps, a lot more hurling in him than is normally expected from the traditional type of full-back. Martin Esmonde and Jim Fogarty are round the edges of the team, but these two promising young hurlers have not, somehow, been able to maintain a strong challenge consistently enough to make positions their own.

Noel O'Dwyer, looking happier and more confident in his game than he ever did in other positions seems certain to settle into a fine inter-county centre-half back. Besides, he has released Tadhg O'Connor from the obligation of filling that position—one which he hardly ever looked very happy in filling—to return to the wing where he has always enjoyed his best form.

The long absence, over the winter of Len Gaynor made many think that we might have seen the end of his inter-county career in the left-half post. But, the fact that Len has been around the best class of hurling for a good many years does not in the least mean that he is bent with the weight of years and crippled with the rheumatics. He is still young and has an awful lot of "know-how", skill and spirit that makes a vast contribution to the Tipperary defence, his cover and intervention being particularly outstanding in later years.

Possible new pairings or new individuals for midfield seem to have been disregarded for the time

● TO PAGE 23

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The courses are especially valuable for those who intend to return to farming and the one-year course is essential for those seeking entry to the Farm Apprenticeship Scheme. The courses are valuable also to those who intend to pursue higher studies in agriculture, horticulture or dairy science.

ABOUT 400 SCHOLARSHIPS to these courses are provided annually by County Committees of Agriculture.

A diploma course (18 months) in Pig Husbandry and Management is provided at Athenry.

TWO-YEAR COURSES IN AMENITY HORTICULTURE are provided at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, and in COMMERCIAL HORTICULTURE at Kildalton Agricultural and Horticultural College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny, Warrenstown Agricultural College, Co. Meath, and at An Grianán, Termonfackin, Co. Louth.

MAINTENANCE GRANTS are awarded by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to students attending the Amenity Horticultural Courses. A limited number of Scholarships to the Commercial Horticultural Courses are awarded annually by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries and the County Committees of Agriculture.

Write to the Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (Section 24), Upper Merrion Street, Dublin 2, for full information abouts these courses, or directly to the Colleges or Institution concerned.

A one-year non-residential course of instruction is also provided at the Munster Institute, Cork, for the training of young men and women, aged 17 to 25 years, as **TECHNICIANS IN POULTRY HUSBANDRY**.

A non-residential diploma course (18 months) for men in Poultry Husbandry and Management was introduced at the Munster Institute in 1973.

CERTIFICATES are awarded by the Department to students who pass the examinations held at the end of these courses.

Short courses (up to 5 days) in pig husbandry, farm machinery and dairying are provided in some colleges in co-operation with County Committees of Agriculture.

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS in agriculture, horticulture and dairy science are awarded annually by the Department.

One-year courses in **RURAL DOMESTIC ECONOMY** of value to future Farm Home Managers are provided at State-aided Schools at Ardagh, Claremorris, Gurteen, Navan, Portumna, Ramsgrange and Swinford. Training is given in dairying, poultry-keeping, household management, cookery, laundry, home nursing and arts and crafts. Recreational activities are encouraged. Certificates are awarded by the Department to students who pass the examination held at the end of the course. Attention to **POULTRY-KEEPING AND DAIRYING** is given in the courses provided at the State-aided School of Domestic Training at Dunmanway.

About 300 SCHOLARSHIPS to these courses are provided annually by County Committees of Agriculture.

Advanced **THREE-YEAR RESIDENTIAL COURSES** are provided at the Munster Institute for young women aged 18 to 30 years who wish to qualify for teaching and advisory posts in (a) poultry-keeping and (b) farm home management.



# Frank Cummins got none of the credit!

By JIM BENNETT

THE other day I watched Frank Cummins capture an All-Ireland Club championship medal with Blackrock in a game in which Blackrock were largely outplayed by the more powerful and physically dominating Rathnure side from Wexford.

Cummins was centre half-back for Blackrock, a position in which he has always been placed by them since he was posted to the area on Garda duty. It can be judged, therefore, how soundly he marshalled the defence and how effectively he blocked the way in the middle when one realises that with all the play they enjoyed for twenty or more minutes of the second half Rathnure had failed to build their half-time lead into a winning one.

They were no more than four points clear when John Horgan

was pushed up from corner-back to midfield in something of a desperation effort to get some play to the forwards. For some minutes, the fair-haired captain was visible fighting for every ball in the midfield area, getting some, losing others, but not making a marked difference because he was too easily "thrown around" by the strong Wexfordmen — Horgan cannot sustain hard clashes in this area because he is not of the build and does not have the strength concentrated in the legs and hips.

After a few minutes, Cummins moved out and Horgan moved back to centre-back. It was all done quietly, and Frank set about grafting away in the middle to provide some bricks for the forwards to throw. As it happened they got three goals in those closing minutes, and the balance

of the play was thrust back on the Rathnure defence area. Every account of the game that I have read credited Horgan with moving to midfield and swinging the game; Cummins got none of the credit.

How much he deserved I cannot truly say, because, of course, the burst of activity which Horgan injected in his brief tenure was, in itself, extremely important in that it showed the willingness of the side to fight and brought the others to their senses for a last big surge. But, that he did not actually achieve the swing about of play is also true; and so it is the fact that it occurred while Cummins was there in midfield.

But, that is just the mark of Frank Cummins—emphasised by the fact that keen observers do not note his movement from a position to another, and that even one who did notice it cannot tell exactly how much purveying of the ball he was responsible for while outfield. Unobtrusive, is the word, obviously.

There is a certain shyness, almost defensiveness about his whole approach to a game in which he is not only one of the most skilful players but also one of the most effective. There is even an element of contradiction in juxtaposing these two qualities of the man, for, in his effectiveness one often has a feeling of regret that he will not let himself go and really dominate the game.

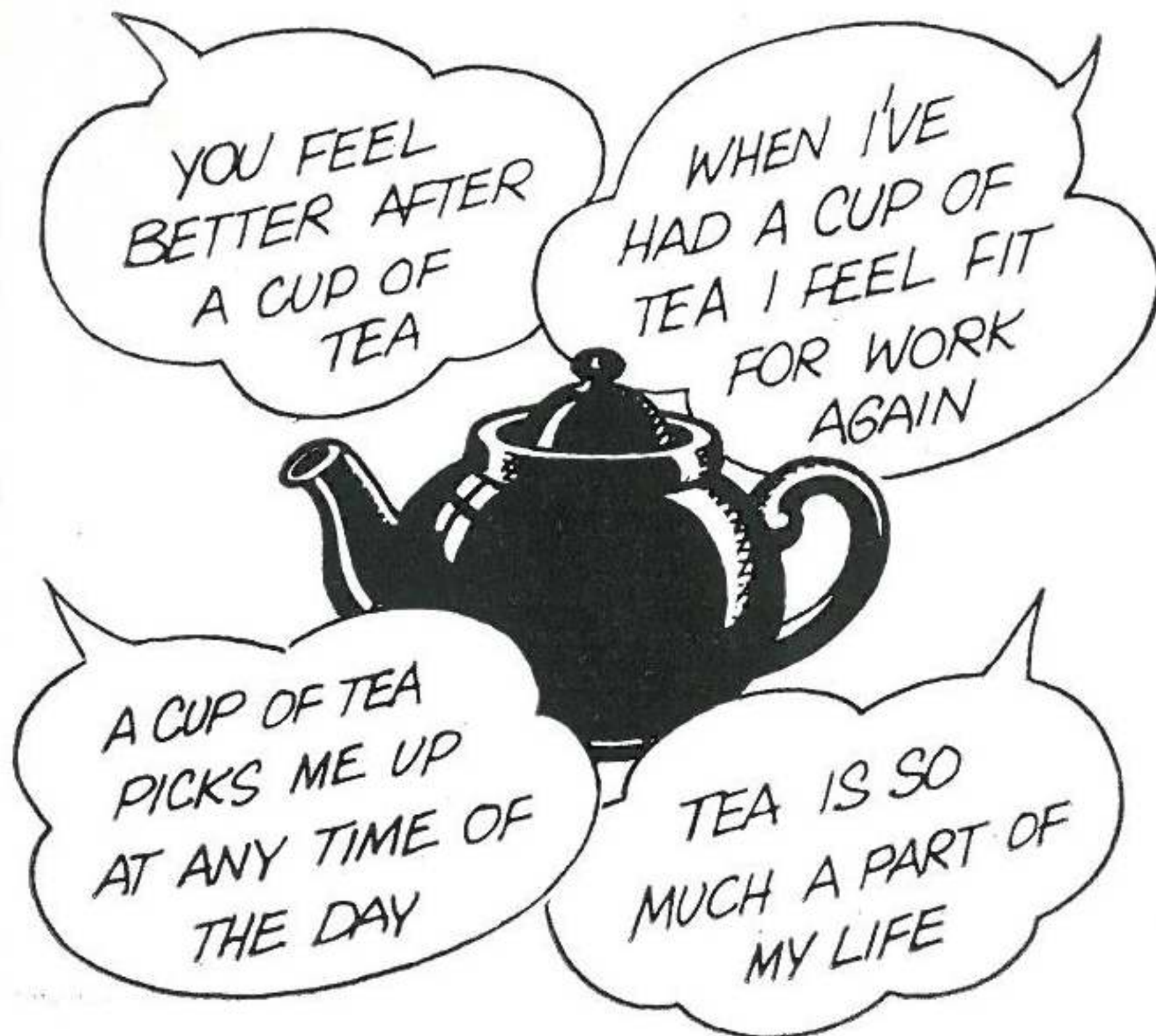
His skill and his midfield (or defensive) expertise is without question; his fitness and physique give him an advantage over most opponents. Yet, he sometimes seems to impose over-strict limitations on the exact role

● TO PAGE 23



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● FROM PAGE 19

being, and Seamus Hogan and P. J. Ryan are settling in to an adequate though not very exciting partnership. It is an area of the field in which Tipperary might have wished for the emergence of some commanding new player, but wishing is not achieving.

One of the more exciting new faces is that of Jim Keogh who was thought of mostly as a footballer because of his endeavours in that game. He played with Munster at football earlier this year, and with some of his recent hurling promise as evidence one might conclude that he could make it a double.

Joe Tynan, small and tidy, and most untypically fragile looking among Tipperary hurlers has a quick-thinking brain and neat skill that makes him a valued collaborator in mounting attacks. Yet, even though Loughnane and Flanagan have both seemed to hold out promise of filling the position, it is centre-forward which causes most worry: someone who could hold the forward line together as well as add thrust through the middle. It is some time since Tipperary have had a really satisfying performer in that vital position and it would mean more to the side than the mere filling of a place to find such a man.

Roger Ryan is still a terrible trial to fullbacks, his enormous strength and size making it very difficult to avoid fouling him, especially when the new rules are applied with stringent interpretation.



● Noel O'Dwyer  
(Tipperary)



● Michael Keating  
(Tipperary)

Keating, however, has slowed even more and is unlikely to be able to contribute those performances in the grand manner by which he entertained all and won games for his county almost single-handed. But his skill has not deserted him and he is always good for a burst of action or a few scores of real artistry.

I expect some slight changes before the semi-final; not very many in personnel because Tipperary were never very keen on the late "bombshell" selection; but in positioning, because there appears to be a certain atmosphere about the side that they are not all giving their best in their best possible positions. If they click for the championship—and that is something they have not really been able to do for nearly two years—it could mean all the difference between pedestrian effectiveness and the well-known Tipperary power.

● FROM PAGE 21

which he is selected to play. He can soundly snuff an opponent out of the game; effectively place balls forward to the attack, yet, stick to his own place though he seems to have a great amount in hand that could be deployed in a more grand manner.

Cummins, however, is essentially a team-man, never willing to indulge his personal ambition at the expense of the team (Indeed, that fact has been proven often in other ways by his herculean efforts to give his services as fully as possible to both his county—Kilkenny—and his club which has been in Cork for some years).

One recalls Frank as a shy, rather hesitant youngster who was over-hastily thrown in at the

deep end of Kilkenny senior hurling. Without the brashness that carries some young players to the top without delay, it was a wonder that he was not destroyed in the outcome.

All that early promise seemed to have gone sour when Frank played an All-Ireland under-21 final against Cork in Waterford and was given a poor reception by Kilkenny's following who expected him to dominate in that grade. Instead, he had lost every kind of pleasure in playing — wished the ball would avoid him. His confidence had been wrecked.

I recall wondering whether we should ever hear much more of this young Kilkenny lad. There was a pause certainly. But, when next we saw him he had obvious-

ly grown in more ways than one—the diffidence was gone, he had filled out into a powerful young man, and instead of the quiet of doubt in his own ability there was the quiet of certainty.

Economy has always been the note of his play: collect, move out and strike. No show for the sake of show. It is not unusual to see him use the solo even, but when he does he has a definite object in view. One recalls the piercing thrust through the middle of the Cork defence in the vital moments near the end of the All-Ireland final in 1972. He must have many years ahead as the sheet-anchor of Kilkenny teams — the man nobody ever thinks about when selections are to be made, his name going down automatically.



# **I fancy Galway, but Sligo to win in the W**

**NONE** of us doubts the validity of the assertion that there's no comparison between the league and the championship. And we thank heaven that there isn't because it would be a very dull and monotonous year indeed in hurling and football if the same teams continued to win all the big competitions.

Yet, the league holds out a very distinct promise of wonderfully exciting championship Sundays to come. Just look at the way the recently-completed National Hurling League has us already tingling with anticipation for this year's Munster hurling championship.

In somewhat similar fashion the happenings of the 1973-'74 Football League appear to be omens of a marvellously entertaining struggle for the Connacht football title. For the first time since the Leagues resumed in the 1940s — maybe for the first time since the competition was inaugurated away back in the 1920s, but that's something I can't check without some deep delving in files — two Connacht teams clashed in the semi-final.

Roscommon and Sligo, in a very exciting second half to their drawn game, proved that they have the talent to cut a more impressive shape in the western championship this year than they have done lately. It adds further to the interest in the Connacht championship that Galway hold the crown and certainly won't let it go very easily. Indeed, but for some costly misses in Tralee last March they might have also been in the semi-finals.

Of course, there's always Mayo. So damnably unpredictable that it must be the most frustrating

thing on earth to be a supporter of theirs, the wearers of the green and red can astound us just as often as they can baffle us. You never know with them... especially when they are playing Galway. So it's obviously worth keeping an eye on them because they are in Ballinasloe on June 16.

Assuming it's going to be a rattling good Connacht champion-

forwards. Of course they have. Liam Sammon is a very skilled footballer, a hungry worker and few players have better ball control even if his shooting can be astray at times. Tom Naughton, Morgan Hughes and Maurice Burke are full of talent and gaining in experience all the time, but physically they can be pushed around because they lack weight and sturdiness.

Despite all that Sammon accomplished for Galway last year — and without him they wouldn't have been in that All-Ireland final — I'm convinced what the team needs most is a Sean Pur-

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**By MICK DUNNE of RTE Sport**

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ship what's going to happen in the west before the champions are known on the evening of July 14?

Let's take Galway. This summer they will be a year older — and that's important as far as this side, which was based mainly on the successful 1973 under-21s, is concerned. It means they are also that much more matured, having gone through last year's All-Ireland final and the long campaign of the League.

Galway's deficiencies are in attack — and that surely, is a turnabout for the county that produced the dazzling forward combinations of the mid-fifties and the early sixties. That's not to say that they haven't excellent

cell or a Mattie McDonagh. Not so much Purcell, the outstandingly gifted ball artist, or McDonagh, the high-fetching, steam-rolling forward, but a centre half-forward who would dictate the rhythm and movement of Galway's forward play as perceptively and as shrewdly as Sean and Mattie did. Then you'd see a greater flowering of Liam Sammon's talents on the wing... and the other, lighter forwards — relieved of a lot of pressure — would also respond more efficiently.

Remember Purcell in '56? Clever and confident, like a conductor orchestrating the whole symphony as he led Stockwell, Young, Kirwan and the others



# want est

through some dazzling movements. Or McDonagh during the three-in-a-row . . . pounding hither and thither attracting so much attention from the opposition that he left oceans of room for Dunne, Leydon, Keenan and Cleary to operate.

But Purcells and McDonaghs don't grow on trees and where are Galway to get such a centre half? Well, one friend of mine, who does — I admit — get some wild ideas at times, is living in hope that the Galway selectors will see the sense of moving Tommy Joe Gilmore down to centre half-forward. Now there's a thought!

In the other half of the draw are Leitrim, Sligo and Roscommon. It is one of the plain facts of life, regrettable though it is, that Leitrim will be dismissed with hardly any consideration in every preview of the championship. They face Sligo at Carrick-on-Shannon on June 9, but maybe Sligo might be unwise to take too much for granted.

Most westerners will expect a Sligo-Roscommon semi-final on June 23 — a repeat of this year's League semi-final. But with this difference: the venue is Markievicz Park. It's psychologically important that Sligo have done so well against their neighbours recently; in the championship — where they won only once against Roscommon in nearly 30 years — they won't have any fears.

But I do wish Sligo could convince themselves that they don't have to be tied to Michael Kearins' apron-strings all the



● *Liam Sammon — without Liam says Mick Dunne, Galway would not have been in last year's All-Ireland final.*

time. They must produce some spark of backbone and urgency without having to wait for Michael to lead the way. Look at the drawn League semi-final. They were a fumbling, uncertain bunch — a lot of castaways adrift in the vast ocean of Croke Park — in the first half. It struck me

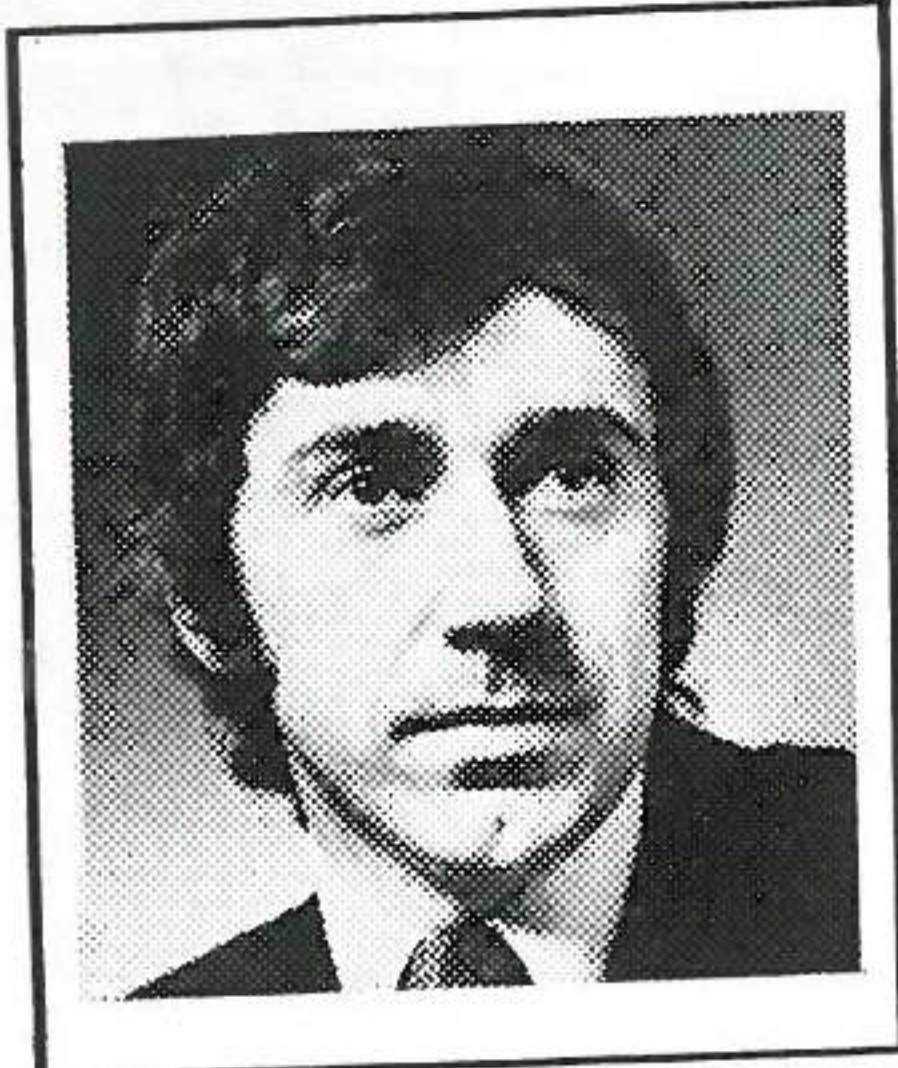
that Kearins decided at the interval: the only way to win this match is to do it myself. And he came so very close to doing so with 20 minutes of the most determined football I've ever seen him play.

Of course, Sligo responded magnificently to his prompting. Barnes Murphy took over complete control on the half-back line, Tom Colleary drove forward

● TO PAGE 28



# A word of advice from Frank Murphy



**Frank Murphy B.Sc.**  
Marketing Manager

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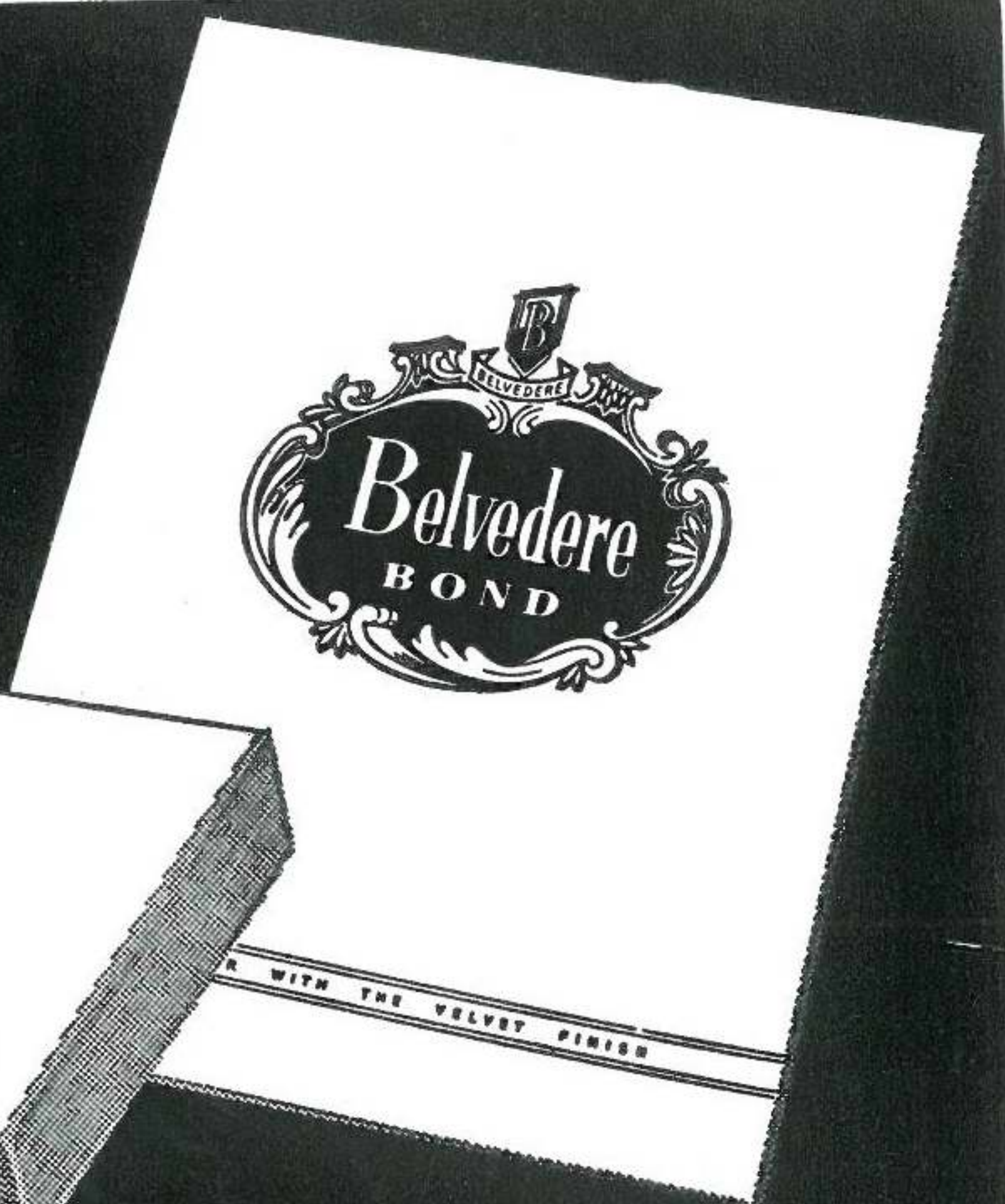
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# Handball --- By Alleyman

THE Irish Handball Council, following on a decision at this year's Annual Congress, will run the current All-Ireland series on an open draw basis.

From the point of good competition, the new system should produce excellent games with a guarantee of tremendous fare in the concluding stages.

This will be a change from the old method of provincialism, whereby the respective winners were paired in the All-Ireland semi-finals.

As a consequence of this method, it invariably happened that due to the strength of handball in Leinster and Munster either the All-Ireland semi-finals or final were often lop-sided.

On the other hand, the new system is a boon to such counties as Clare, Wexford, Dublin, Limerick, Tipperary and Kilkenny, where in previous years the internal competition within these counties for inter-county representation were mini All-Irelands in themselves.

Under the new format, Wexford and Limerick lead the way with six players each, but, they are closely followed by the other counties mentioned.

The only counties in Leinster not represented are Carlow, Laois and Longford, and from Munster there is no Waterford or Cork name on the list.

Roscommon, Galway and Mayo carry the Connacht flag, while, from Ulster, Cavan, Monaghan and Armagh will be participating.

If an argument was to be made against the Open Draw it could be said that, under the new format, the emphasis is on individual as distinct from County.

However, in the final analysis, this argument does not, in effect, carry much weight. The only question marks as a result of the

Open Draw pertain to the future status of Provincial Councils.

With the cream of the players now taken away by the Open Draw, Provincial Councils are left with the organisation of subsidiary competitions, as a result of which the revenue from "gates" for these Councils will suffer considerably. It is a matter that will get close scrutiny from the Handball Council in coming months.

In the actual line-up for the Singles Draw, it is not surprising to see all the accepted stars included but the real basis of this Competition will be founded on the host of aspiring champions, all out in pursuit of the coveted title.

One, for instance must admire the dedication of Armagh's Harry Haddock, the oldest man in the competition. Harry has been one of the bulwarks of Ulster Handball for the last twenty years and won a Junior All-Ireland title with Armagh as far back as 1948.

Other veterans like Connie Cleere (Tipperary), Paddy Hickey (Tipperary) and Tom McEllistrim (Kerry) are included.

The main attention will nonetheless, focus on Joey Maher and Pat Kirby. Both of them could be put in the classification of veterans, but their performances in the recent American Championships indicate that they should be in the final shake-up for honours. Kirby did exceptionally well to reach the quarter-finals of the Open while Maher rose to great heights in winning the Masters.

There's a host of other well-known star players involved such as Richie Lyng and Pat Murphy from Wexford. Murty McEllistrim (Kerry), Pat McGarry (Limerick), Jim Doyle (Dublin) and Andy Byrne (Westmeath).

They will all contrive to make this ambitious adventure a resounding success.

The draw for the Irish Open Softball Singles Championship resulted thus:

- E. Deegan (Kildare) v M. Kirby (Clare).
- E. Sheeran (Offaly)—a bye.
- A. Byrne (Westmeath) v S. Buggy (Wexford).
- D. Kelly (Clare)—a bye.
- M. McEllistrim (Kerry) v S. McCabe (Monaghan).
- D. McGovern (Meath)—a bye.
- R. Lyng (Wexford) v J. Doyle (Dublin).
- M. McAuliffe (Limerick)—a bye.
- J. Harnett (Limerick) v J. Howlin (Wexford).
- W. Mullen (Westmeath)—a bye.
- T. McEllistrim (Kerry) v P. Hickey (Tipperary).
- P. Lee (Wicklow)—a bye.
- M. O'Gara (Roscommon) v P. Sheeran (Offaly).
- M. Kelly (Galway)—a bye.
- P. Kirby (Clare) v M. Cahill (Dublin).
- P. Davitt (Tipperary)—a bye.
- P. McGee (Mayo) v A. Greene (Kilkenny).
- P. Clancy (Limerick)—a bye.
- L. Gilmore (Cavan) v S. Walsh (Limerick).
- C. Young (Kilkenny)—a bye.
- P. Masterson (Dublin) v J. Kirby (Clare).
- P. McGarry (Limerick)—a bye.
- J. Quigley (Wexford) v M. Henry (Limerick).
- J. Clery (Tipperary)—a bye.
- P. Reilly (Kilkenny) v M. Sullivan (Dublin).
- B. Colleran (Mayo)—a bye.
- P. Murphy (Wexford) v P. Clarke (Roscommon).
- H. Haddock (Armagh)—a bye.
- C. Cleere (Tipperary) v P. Delaney (Kilkenny).
- J. Maher (Louth)—a bye.
- M. Purcell (Kildare) v J. Goggin (Wexford).
- M. Hogan (Clare)—a bye.



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● **FROM PAGE 25**

earnestly from midfield, John Brennan, concentrating on the ball rather than on flattening any forward that came within range, was a supreme full-back, and Bennie Wilkinson and Frank Henry created havoc for Roscommon. But why do Sligo have to wait for Kearins to show the way?

It's ironic that the opposite is the case with Roscommon. You'd have a difficult job convincing them, or their supporters, that they are dependent on Dermot Earley to a very great extent. The drawn semi-final was a perfect example, I think, of how much they rely on him . . . even if they don't admit it. It's no coincidence that Dermot faded very considerably in the second half and that's when Roscommon are in most trouble.

It strikes me that I've never seen Dermot, one of the really great players of the present day, produce a 60-minute top-class performance in this country. Obviously I haven't seen all his games, but in New York and Boston for Connacht and in San Francisco with the All-Stars I have watched him play superb football over the hour. And here at home I have seen him at his best, too, but never for 60 minutes. Therein lies one of Roscommon's troubles.

Who will be Connacht champions? I have a sneaking suspicion that Galway will hold on to the title, but I make no secret of who I want to be champions: Sligo. Not because I have any affiliation with them, not even because I know it would do the county all the good in the world, but solely — as I've said before now — I want to have the pleasure of seeing Michael Kearins get a medal before he finishes. Is there anybody in football who would deny that he has contributed more than enough to deserve it?



## NEW NAMES HIT THE HEADLINES

By OWEN McCANN

CHANGED times in football—a mere three points from a Down attack in an hour's play—That was the meagre tally put up by the Mourne forwards when losing a Dr. McKenna Cup game to Antrim at Casement Park, Belfast, late in April, and contrasts sharply with the days when Down forwards in general, and Paddy Doherty and Sean O'Neill, in particular, were very target conscious.

Doherty set the county scoring record back in 1960 when he hit a thundering 136 points (13-97) in 24 games, a score that also stands as the Ulster provincial peak. After the moderate showing from the Down finishers in that tame McKenna Cup exit, it looks as if this already long-standing record is destined to hold sway in the county for still a long time to come.

But, if the Down attackers have not been setting the scene alight, there have been some noteworthy scoring achievements by finishers from other counties. For instance, Pat Dunny, who joined the exclusive ranks of dual Railway Cup medalists last March, was in accurate shooting form for Kildare in a challenge, ironically enough, against Down on Easter Sunday at Rostrevor. He shot 3-1, and another Kildare man impressively to the fore in that outing was Noel Myles, who finished with 2-2.

That Myles score is of more than usual interest, for he has emerged as the new hot shot of Kildare football. Last year he made only seven appearances

with the county yet such was his accuracy in front of goal that he still finished Kildare's ace marksman for all competitions that year with a bag of 3.32 (41 points). This gave him a two points lead over his nearest rival, Jack Donnelly, who played 11 matches and added up 2-33.

Another forward to emerge in recent times with that exciting lethal finishing touch in front of goal is Pat Quigley, whose well-taken goal near the interval did much to set Leinster up for their fourth Railway Cup hurling final win on the trot on March 18.

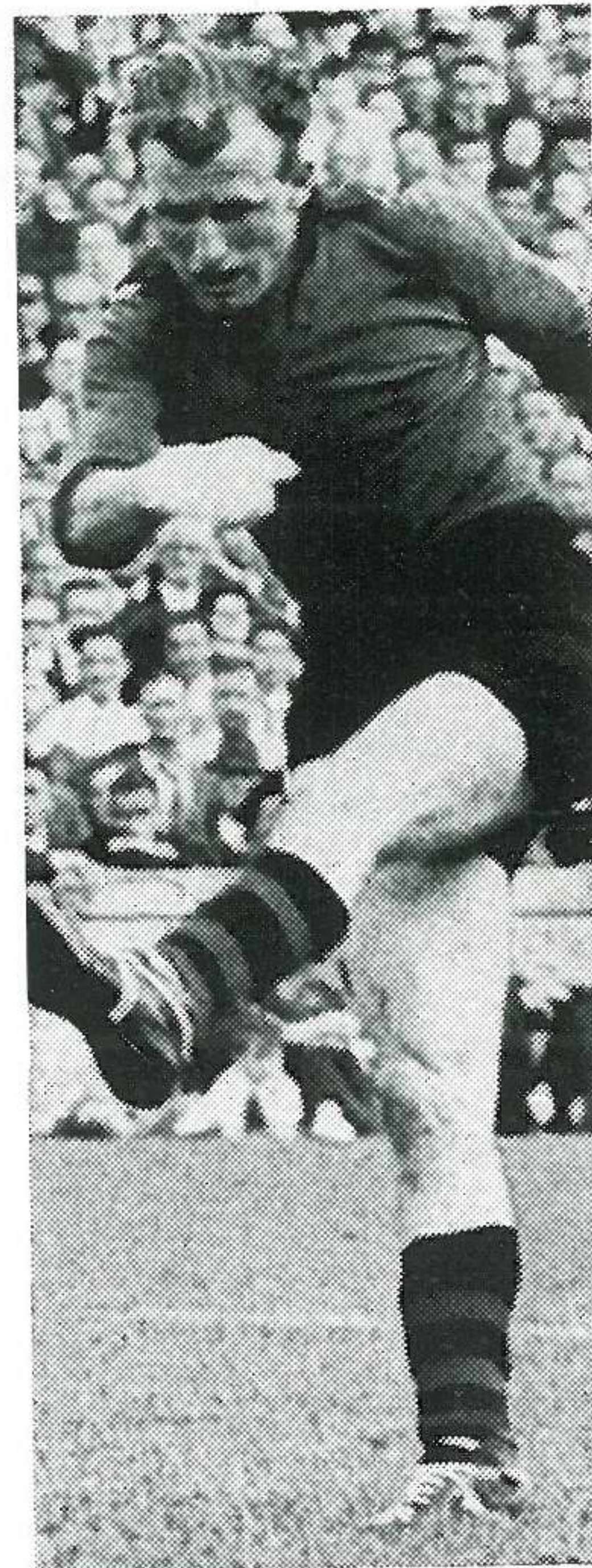
Last year he put up the second highest score by a hurler in the Dublin jersey since these records were established in 1955. In 13 outings he averaged 6.23 points a game on the way to 2-75 (81 points). That's just nine points short of the county record established in 14 games by Mick Birmingham in 1971 at 12-54 (90 points).

Another distinction for Quigley is that during the past League campaign he achieved the highest total by a Dublin hurler in a full programme of games at 56 points (2-50) in eight games.

At the time of going to press



● Pat Dunny (Kildare), dual Railway Cup medalist.



● Paddy Doherty, the Down forward who set an Ulster record of 136 points in 1960 that still stands to-day.

he was again setting the pace in the Metropolitan chart for all competitions this year, averaging over five points a game. His own extra special scoring technique, allied to the fact that Dublin hurling is more buoyant this year than for a long, long time, suggests that Quigley might well mark 1974 eventually with a new county hurling record.

Is it too much, in fact, to expect him to pass out as well the now near fifteen-year-old football peak of 101 points to the credit

● TO PAGE 31



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● **FROM PAGE 29**  
of Ollie Freaney at 5-86 in 17 games Freaney is the only Dublin player, in fact, to better a century of points for a full season's programme.

Special mention, too, must be made of the accurate touches of Terry Byrne, of Carlow. The name will probably not ring a bell with rank and file supporters but he has been finding his way through to goal for Carlow in hurling in a way that commands attention. In fact, his marksmanship proved a major factor in Carlow's march to the National Hurling League Division II title in April.

Byrne had a regal hour against Down in the opening round at Ballycran in early April, when he helped himself to a splendid 2-9. At the end of a three-match series he had 4-11 to his credit, or a top-class match average of 7.66 points. That is smart shooting at any time, but especially pleasing to record here in view of the fact that Carlow figures so infrequently in our reviews—in either hurling or football.

Other noteworthy features in the scoring stakes in recent times? Well, what price two players on the same side hitting 4-1 apiece in one game?

It happened in a senior hurling challenge match at Walsh Park, Waterford, in March when Laois were visitors. Mossy Whelan and Stephen Greene were the men on that thirteen points target for the home county.

Indeed, that was an unusually rich game as regards individual barrages. Billy Landers, of Lismore, a former under-21 hurler, was given his big chance by Waterford in that match, and celebrated in style by shooting 1-7.

At the other end of the country, Vincent Magee put up the best score by an Antrim footballer in some time when he hit 2-4 on his home ground of Randalstown in a National League

match with Louth early in February.

Finally, a word about one of the **Scoresheet** regulars—Eddie Keher. The Kilkenny hurler put up a great score of 2-6 for the All-stars in the opening leg of the two-match series with Limerick in San Francisco in March. But, this is still not a new high for the Carrolls All-Stars series.

Last year, Keher himself put up the best score yet when he

cracked home 1-10 for Kilkenny in their outing with the All-stars. That was the first leg of the series, and it also means that Eddie Keher has two outstanding scoring distinctions for these matches.

Firstly, his 1973 score ranks as the best by a hurler or footballer on duty with his county team in the San Francisco games and secondly, that 2-6 last March is the tops in an All-star jersey.



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# THIRSTY THOUGHTS

## LINDA COLLINS SURVEYS THE IRISH DRINKS SCENE

A CARTOON by James Thurber shows a group of people sitting round a dinner table clutching wineglasses while the host explains "It's a naive Domestic Burgundy without any breeding but I think you'll be amused by its presumption". It's good for a laugh any time and it satirises the sort of people but for whom, probably, many more of us would be drinking wine. This sort of talk is what you lay yourself open to, some people feel, if you dare serve wine in knowledgeable company. "Am I making an eejit of myself?" you inwardly ask as you draw the cork and pour into the glasses the stuff the man at the off-licence recommended and which you've invited your friends in to drink to celebrate the baby's Christening, or your Granny's centenary or whatever it is.

At Gilbey's one of their wine experts told us that so far as his company was concerned, Ireland rated higher than New York when it came to discernment in wine drinking. This spokesman confirmed that future trends seem to indicate that you'll be drinking Chateau wines only if you are the Irish equivalent of a chateau owner—in other words rich. This didn't affect his optimism, however. Carafino, distributed by Gilbey's, is their big seller, reaching us through supermarkets mainly. Our informant said energetically that he didn't agree with snob-talk about wine — 'all those so-called experts sniffing and spitting' — and was

emphatic that the best way to get to know a 'good drop' was by drinking the stuff, not necessarily in great quantities but with enjoyment. And he felt the local off-licence was a good place to go for advice, particularly now that these tend to be run by people with an interest in the subject. Gilbey's have been in Ireland since 1858 and their best-selling appellation controlle wine, known to many people, is Piat, a Beaujolais.

As the famous Dr. Samuel Johnston knew well, 'a cup that cheers but does not inebriate' has an important place in life. He was the first propagandist for a cup of tea, and the Tea Council of Ireland cheerfully admit that they owe him a lot. The Irish are still very near the top of the league when it comes to tea-drinking, and we have a magnificent lead over all other countries except Britain. My personal opinion is that we are also the world's most expert performers when it comes to brewing up a pot of tea — though of course I have never visited India or Ceylon. One very seldom gets an undrinkable tea here, in fact standards have gone up. More of us are now buying teabags and I must include myself in that. Last year I'd have thought it heresy to make tea from bags — but they're so handy! Specially when all you need is one or two cups at a time. Another point is that while foodstuff prices have climbed, tea has stayed reason-

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● FROM OVERLEAF

ably steady and the housewife is thankful for small mercies.

And then there's the bubbly stuff, also non-alcoholic but cheer-inducing. I mean lemonade, of course. If you want an expert opinion on lemonade, consult the nearest eight-year-old. There are also all sorts of other branded bubbly with intriguing names. When it comes to getting value for money, kids are nothing if not realists. I'm open to correction on this, but my impression is that when somebody else is standing the treat, the children will plump for small individual-sized bottles or cans of their favourite potion. On the other hand, when it's a question of spending their own pocket money, they go for economy every time, and buy the 26 oz. big bottle. Now that Taylor Keith have streamlined their lemonade labels and put a brisk 'TK' on them, it would be another major step forward if they could mark on the bottle with blue or red pencil the exact point where the division into 'halvoes' comes — it would save a good deal of brotherly and sisterly bashing in many households. With arguments about going halvoes settled in advance, family peace would be undisturbed and there could be a proper amount of research devoted to this new Flavorometer technique.

Peace, perfect peace, is the image evoked by the thought of a man meditatively sipping his pint of Guinness and in spite of the Irish cost of living having gone through the roof in recent months, sales of Guinness have crept upwards just another little bit. It's not that the pint-drinkers are taking more of the stuff, but that drinkers of other liquids are being converted to the virtues of a nice smooth mouthful of Guinness. Whatever your feelings about women drinking pints — and it's a subject that people can get very heated about — nobody



argues in principle that women should be banned from drinking Guinness altogether. And since women can take almost all of the credit for the healthy changes which have come over most Irish pubs in the past decade, that's only fair. Good heating, good lighting, comfortable seats and cleanliness instead of hard benches, spit and sawdust, means the pub has the potential to be a social centre rather than just a place where hard drinking goes on.

In spite of Erskine Childers and the Asgard and Conor O'Brien and his round-the-world trip in the 'Saoirse' in the early Twenties, sailing isn't something we think of as an Irish sport. And yet we have the best inland waterways in Europe and a coastline that the sailing world envies. In fact over the past few years Irish people have been quietly and modestly taking to the water in unassuming boats, and sailing them well. In two years time the Olympics will be held in Canada and due to the enterprise of the Carlsberg lager people, Irish yachtsmen will have a better than even chance of getting somewhere.

Clayton Love, Jr., a nationally-known sailor, was influential in Beamish and Crawford making a decision to underwrite the training of a potential Irish team, and the project has been handled imaginatively. There could have been big problems for Ireland when the Fireball class of boat was withdrawn to be replaced by the 470 — but not any more, since Carlsberg bought eight of the boats and now our best sailors know how to use them and have competed internationally at various European venues. The Carlsberg Warrior Trials were named thus because Vikings were warriors of the olden days and Carlsberg, of course, has Danish connections — get it? Brian Boru would have approved.

# A STORY OF WINE

By Tony Keegan

**I**t was Louis Pasteur that said "Wine is a healthful beverage" and with the continuing rise in wine consumption we Irish are becoming very healthy indeed. Mind you we have still some leeway to make up to overtake the British not to mention the continentals but we are making a good start.

In the forefront of the effort to bring the delights of the vine to the Irish palate are Edward Dillon and Co. Anthony Cresswell, their Wine Buyer, was kind enough to take time off from his (to my mind) pleasant occupation to show me the wine cellars of their tastefully restored Georgian house in Mountjoy Square and to talk about wines and wine drinking.

As Anthony tells it, it all started back in the times of the Persians about six thousand years ago. We have the Romans to thank for bringing the art to France while the Church actively fostered its development up to modern times. Nowadays it is mostly the continental equivalent of the Irish small farmer who is the backbone of the wine industry. Forming themselves into co-operatives they work under contract and process the grapes at a central point. In some areas like Bordeaux the estates are larger and the involvement of the producer with the final marketing of the product more pronounced.

A good inexpensive wine to begin with is La Chapelle.

This is a red "carafe" wine from France and retails here at 75p a bottle. Particularly good value is the litre bottle (1½ bottles) which costs 95p. An "ordinary" red wine like La Chapelle will keep its flavour from three to four days after opening. A similar white wine should be re-corked and placed in a fridge where it should keep for a similar period.

The very best wines should be drunk about an hour after uncorking to really savour them at their best.

"Appellation Controlee" are two words that we will be seeing a lot of on our French wine labels in future. They signify a government backed guarantee that all wines thus labelled are precisely as described on the label of the bottle. A fact not always appreciated in Ireland is that the geographical designation on the label is now very exact indeed when it carries the Appellation Controlee. The Beaujolais area in France is quite small and formerly many wines described as Beaujolais may have been from the areas adjoining the precise Beaujolais area. This did not mean that they were necessarily inferior but in practice they were of variable quality. Thus wines with names like Bordeaux, Burgundy, and Beaujolais will tend to become dearer while "carafe" wines from surrounding areas will take their place at the lower priced end of the market.



# PRESS CUTTINGS

By Neil McCavana

**N**OTHING very controversial in our comments culled from the papers this month, but some interesting items and viewpoints, nonetheless. For instance, do YOU take population differences into consideration at all when forming an opinion as to the likely outcome of a match?

I must admit that this is a factor that I have rarely given much thought to, but one I'm likely to bear in mind in future as a result of a paragraph in the "Games of the Gael" column in "The Echo," of Wexford, recently. I quote:

"Cork had a great All-Ireland hurling double in Dungarvan last Sunday — Blackrock beat Rathnure (one-third of the latter team being Quigley brothers) in the club championship replay, and St. Finbarr's beat St. Kieran's in the Colleges' final (3-11 to 2-12). One disappointed man must have been Nicky Rackard, V.S., who played with both Rathnure and 'Kieran's' in his playing days. Rathnure is made up of 1,050 people, and the population of Cork is 133,000! The Collins brothers, Sean (0-1 in the Colleges' final), and Donie, scored an important goal in the club final when Rathnure had led for 50 minutes. Even in defeat, Rathnure gave of their best as always."

Further on in the same feature in that issue of "The Echo" there is an interesting piece that is tailor-made for our new IT'S A FACT column:

"The first to win 7 National Football League medals was Jackie Carney, of Mayo, 1931-34, '39 and '41, including a defeat of Wexford (3-9 to 1-3) in the 1939

decider at Ballina. Paddy Macken won 6 of the same as full forward. Michael O'Dwyer, Waterville, Co. Kerry, All-Stars team, 1973, also won 7 (the joint highest with Carney)."

A soccer-Gaelic Games double is certainly one out of the ordinary. This type of double was put into focus in the Roundabout in Sport column in "The Derry Journal". The feature opened with aspects of the F.A.I. Cup win by Finn Harps, and went on to include the following piece:

"In the mass publicity of the Finn Harps game it went relatively unnoticed that as the soccer season grinds to a halt the GAA campaign gets under way.

"Derry and Donegal fans had an early chance to make at least a preliminary assessment of their team's chances when they met in the McKenna Cup last Sunday. On the basis of that game, I understand that opinion was that both counties have considerable potential, a goodly supply of quality in their ranks.

"Let us hope at this stage that 1974 will see the long deferred hopes of the fans of one or other of the North-West counties realised, that the obvious potential in the sides will at last reach the point where the success of the Donegal soccer club can be followed by the capture of a major GAA trophy to make it a really historic sporting year for the North-West."

Still on Donegal—and a not so well known fact is that the county actually contested an All Ireland senior semi-final in HURLING! Again reverting to "The Derry Journal", this paper publishes an interesting 50 Years

Ago feature, and from the issues of 1924, the following was reproduced in a recent issue:

"Limerick outclassed Donegal in the All-Ireland hurling semi-final at Croke Park on Sunday. Their winning margin of 7-4 to 0-1 would have been greater but for a brilliant display by the Donegal goalkeeper, Jerome Mackey."

There have been instances down the years of minor inter-county goalkeepers graduating to fame not in the last line of defence—but as forwards. One recalls Jimmy Doyle, who was in goal for Tipperary in the 1954 All-Ireland minor hurling final, and Brendan Lynch, net-minder for Kerry in their 1965 All-Ireland minor football decider. Is this list to be added to in the immediate future?

I take this paragraph from "Sports World" by J. B. D. in "The Connacht Tribune":

"With Soccer goalies nowadays dashing up to take and score from penalties, perhaps it was not surprising to see the Laois minor hurling goalkeeper, Michael Kelly, do something similar against Galway at Portumna on Saturday afternoon.

"After showing himself to be a top-class 'keeper, he moved outfield for the second half of this 4-Counties Minor League tie and scored the two goals which almost caught Galway 'napping'. Galway leading by 2-7 to 0-1 at the interval appeared to be coasting to an easy win, when Kelly shook them out of their complacency with his brace of goals and leave the final tally, Galway 2-9; Laois 2-4".



IT'S A FACT

# Big day for Monaghan's Paddy Kerr

By OWEN McCANN

PADDY KERR, of Monaghan, who led U.C.D. to their historic All-Ireland Senior Club Football Championship win at the end of April, is not the first native of the county to win a national championship medal. Monaghan have one All-Ireland inter-county crown to their credit—at junior football in 1956.

IT'S A FACT, however, that as well as earning the distinction of leading the first College side to win this particular championship, Kerr earned another unique niche in football history. He became the first footballer to receive the Andy Merrigan Cup. At the end of the U.C.D.-Clan na Gael (Lurgan) final replay at Croke Park the trophy was presented first to the G.A.A. President, Dr. Donal Keenan, by Fr. Michael Kitt, Chairman of the Castletown club in Wexford, in memory of the late Andy.

Kerr's achievement makes for a unique and novel double for Monaghan, and U.C.D. Way back in 1950 a new series of representative football matches featuring Ireland and the Combined Universities was ushered in for the Dr. Ryan Cup. The first score in the initial match at Croke Park was a point recorded early in the hour by Hughie McKearney, of U.C.D. and Monaghan.

The next score in that game

● Pat Delaney (Kilkenny) who with Tony Doran (Wexford) played in all eight games of Leinster's four-in-a-row Railway Cup run.

was a goal scored by T. L'Estrange, of Queen's Belfast. The third score was Ireland's first—a point by Peter Donoghue, of Cavan. The Ireland selection finally won out by 1-12 to 2-3.

★ ★ ★

Another double-first in more recent times stands to the credit of Gerald McCarthy. In September, 1966, he led Cork to their first All-Ireland Senior Hurling Championship final win in 12 years at the expense of Kilkenny.

Then, in November of that year he captained Cork when they beat Wexford in a second replay at Croke Park for the All-Ireland Under-21 Hurling championship replay at Croke Park, to become the first hurler or

footballer to accomplish such a noteworthy double.

★ ★ ★

Although Leinster was not represented in the National Hurling League final, the present year is still already assured of an extra special place in the annals of hurling in the Eastern province. This is because of Leinster's achievement in winning four Railway Cup titles in succession—the most successful run yet by the province in the competition.

And for two hurlers, Kilkenny's Pat Delaney, and Wexford goal ace Tony Doran, the occasion was extra special. They earned ranking as the only hurlers to play in all eight games in that record-making run.

Frank Cummins and Eddie

● OVERLEAF





● FROM PAGE 37

Keher were also chosen for all eight teams, but each missed the 1974 semi-final win over Connacht at Kilkenny.

Keher, however, also gained a

record for himself by winning his seventh medal on St. Patrick's Day—a new high for a Leinster hurler.

★ ★ ★

Over now to the schoolboys,

and in winning the Hogan Cup for the All-Ireland Colleges' Senior Football Championship this year St. Jarlath's, Tuam, became a school apart.

Before that triumph Tuam had comfortably led the way in the football chart with six titles between 1947 and 1966 — three more than their nearest rivals. But the hurling pace-setters, St. Kieran's, Kilkenny, drew level with the Western school in 1971 by winning their sixth national crown.

Now St. Jarlath's, Tuam, are out on their own on top of the rankings table for both codes, as St. Kieran's were beaten by St. Finbarr's, Farranferris in this season's All-Ireland hurling final. However, St. Kieran's are still clear of the field in hurling — their chief rivals are St. Finbarr's and St. Peter's, Wexford, each with four titles.

★ ★ ★

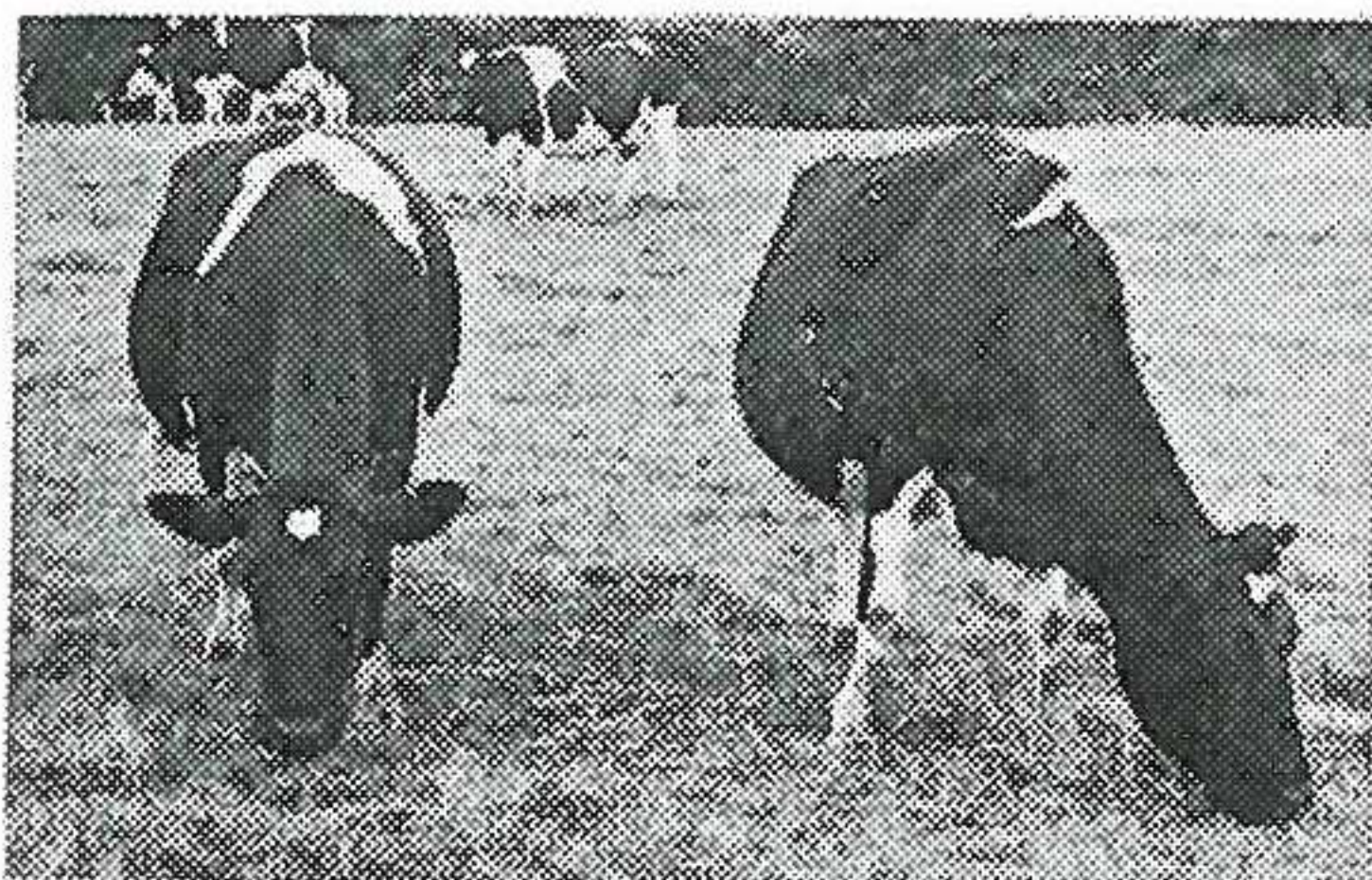
Well worth recording here, too, is the fact that Farranferris equalled an impressive Munster record by taking the Dr. Harty Cup for the fourth year in succession. The only other four-in-a-row Munster senior hurling championship run was completed by St. Flannan's, Ennis, in 1944-47 inclusive.

★ ★ ★

Connacht football has been very much in the spotlight of late as a result of the two clashes of Sligo and Roscommon in the novel all-west National League semi-final. This brings to mind the fact that Mattie McDonagh is a record-maker from the West.

Galway's win over Meath in the 1966 All-Ireland final clinched for him ranking as the first Connacht man to win four national senior football medals. He won his first at 19 against Cork in 1956, and collected the others in 1964 and 1965. His haul of Connacht senior championship medals is also a record at ten.

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# THE ULSTER ENIGMA

By JOHN O'SHEA (Of the Evening Press)

**G**AELIC observers have been trying to put their fingers on it for years — the reason why Ulster teams, as a rule, fail to produce the form of which they are capable, when they appear in Croke Park.

With the notable exception of Down, no Ulster side has left its mark on the honours list during the past fifteen years or so. Donegal, Derry, and Tyrone have all emerged from Ulster with impressive credentials, yet proved a big let down for their fans when the pressure was exerted.

We asked a number of prominent Ulster personalities if they knew why the Northern teams fail when most is expected of them:

**DAN McCARTAN** (Down)

The Croke Park atmosphere affects every team that has little experience of playing there. It's not peculiar to Ulster sides.

Over the years lots of teams found it a graveyard because of the fact that they had played little on the pitch before the "big one."

Still I think it's true to say that some sort of mental barrier crops up when a player finds he is facing his first match in Croke Park. Many of the teams, I suspect, go down hoping to put up a good show, rather than determined to win at all costs.

The attitude of teams playing on the pitch for the first time must change, I feel. It would be better for them to be a bit more cocky.

**JODY O'NEILL** (Tyrone):

I suppose every team plays better in their own backyard. But it's disturbing to reflect on the number of Ulster failures in Croke Park in recent years.

We go to Dublin feeling, if anything, superior to the opposition,

but when we get under way, we fold inexplicably. We just fail to raise our game and seldom produce any real fightback when down.

Maybe the lads have not been able to adjust from playing in small grounds to appearing before huge crowds in a vast stadium? Whatever the cause, we frequently perform like teams from a lower division when the crunch comes.

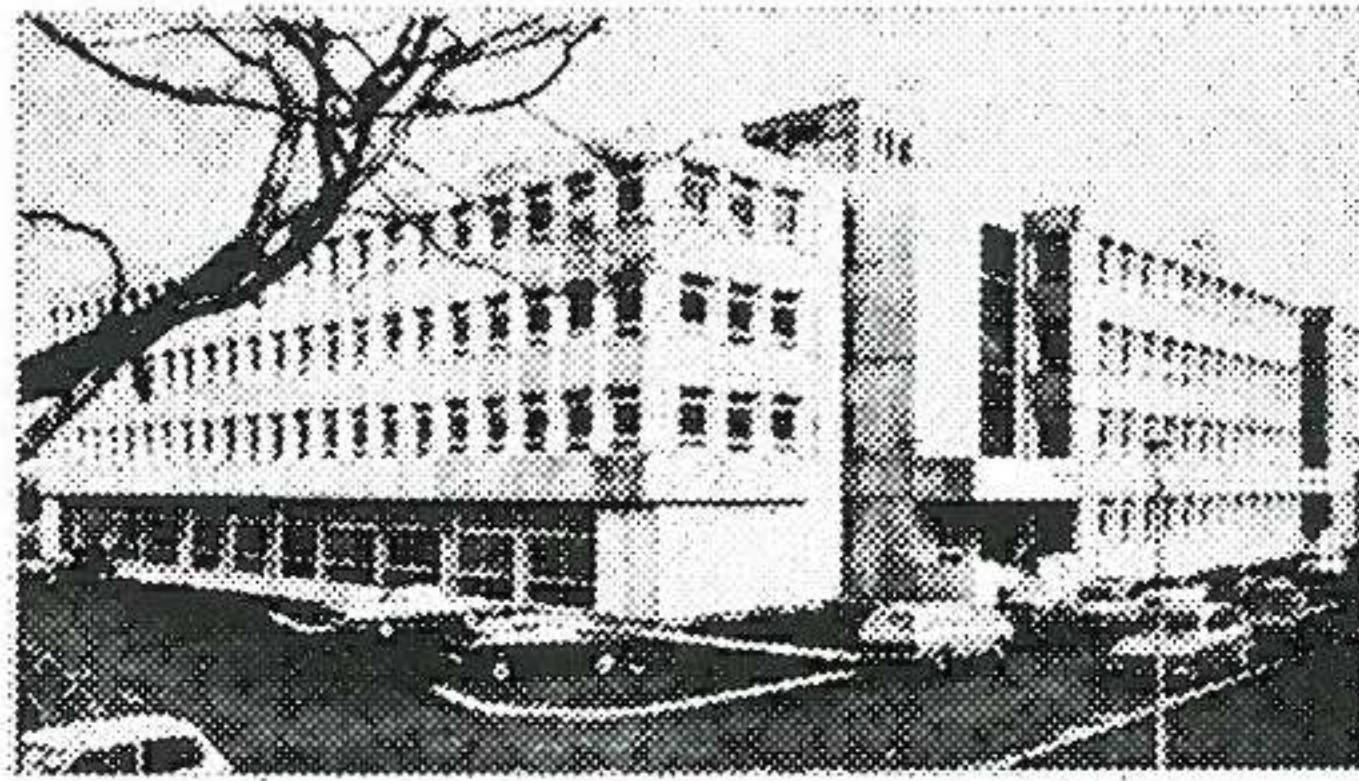
Pressure is another thing the Ulster boys don't appear to be

able to take. If things go badly early on in the game at Croke Park, then it's usually curtains for them. In fact I think you could compare Newcastle United in the F.A. Cup Final to an Ulster side in Croke Park. Need I say more?

On giving the matter some thought, I believe it's possible that some of the Ulster teams play the wrong type of game for Croke Park. The short, snappy hand-pass doesn't seem to pay

● TO PAGE 44

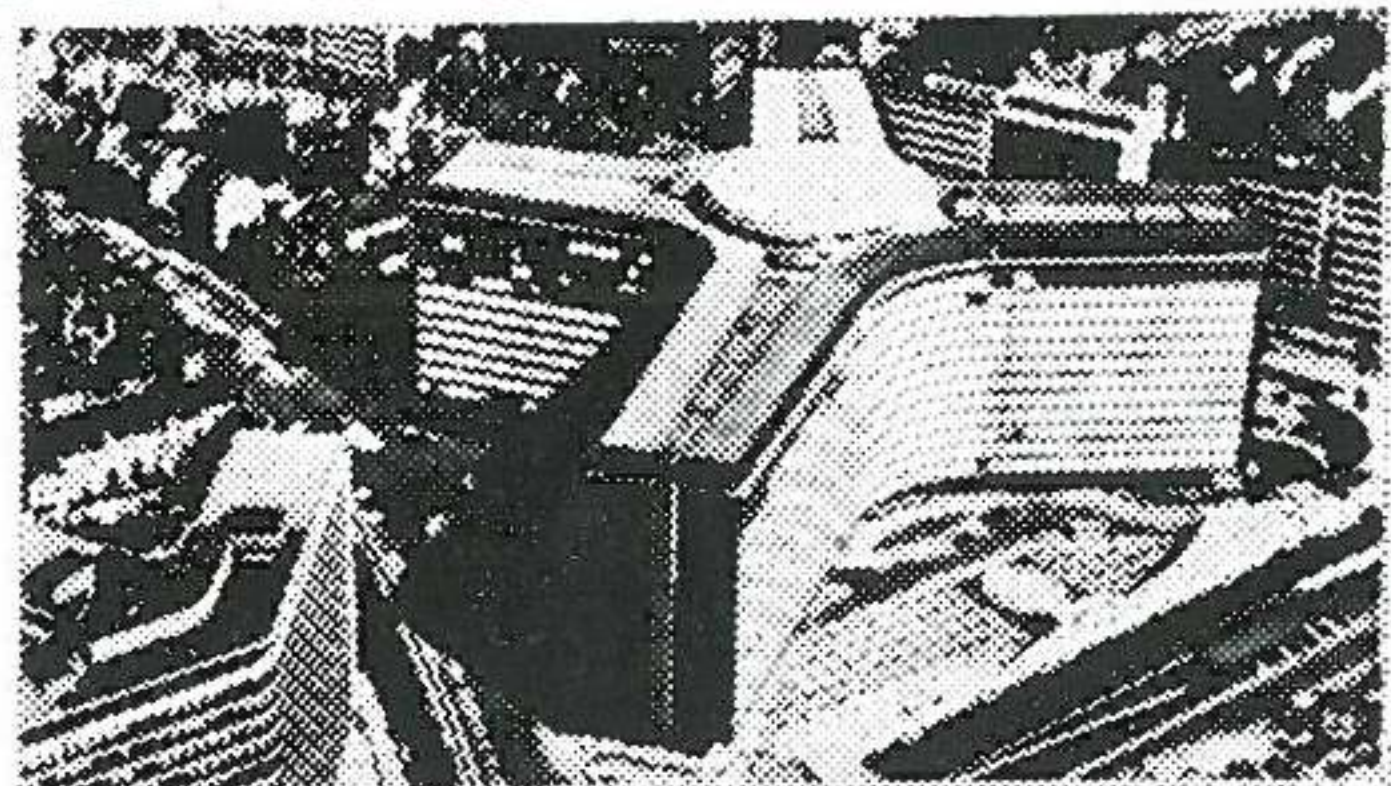
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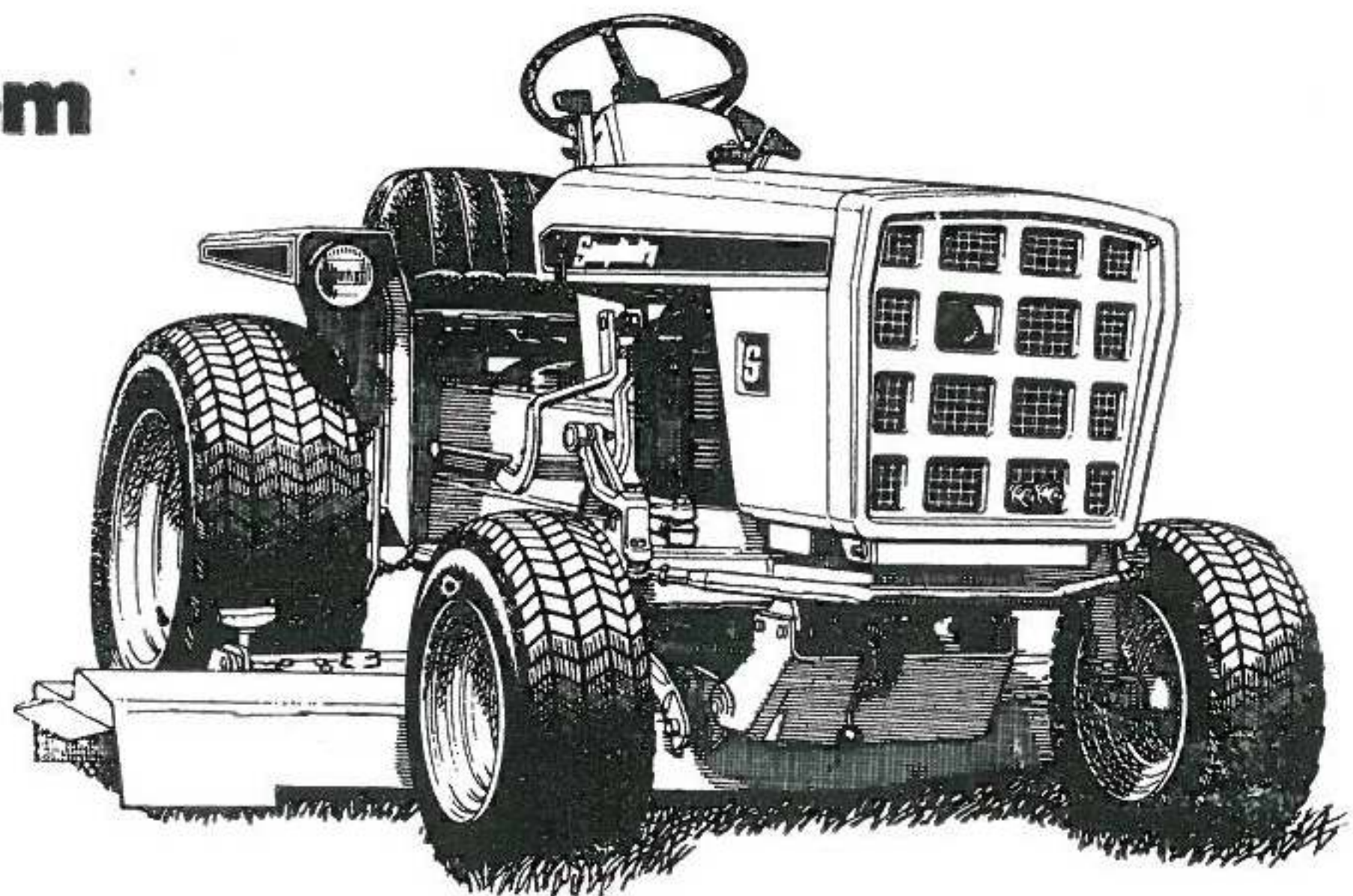
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## CLUB FINALS NEED NEW DATE

A FEW months ago, though I favoured the general idea, I was all against the Club championships as they are being run. They start in late Autumn, they are carried on through the worst of the Spring and then they are finished off, or due to be finished off by St. Patrick's Day.

**But the excellent finals in both codes on St. Patrick's week-end convinced me at last that the competitions must go on, and I am more convinced than ever that they deserve a better deal than they are getting.**

However, I do not think that playing the finals on St. Patrick's week-end solves the question of timing. That proved one thing very convincingly, the All-Ireland club finals by themselves will not draw the crowds to Croke Park, and besides playing them in conjunction with the Railway Cup games immediately raised the problem of the dual player, and there are far more of these to be found than anyone thought possible when the idea was first mooted.

In any case, playing the Club finals on St. Patrick's Day is to my mind a shade too early. Instead I would leave the National Festival to the Railway Cup finals, and switch the All-Ireland Club finals to Whit Sunday. Then if we had drawn games, even two of them as was the case this year, they could be staged at Croke Park on the following day. Besides the extra seven weeks would give the chance of playing the provincial finals, the semi-finals and the finals themselves at a more kindly time of year than is the case at present.

What I would visualise is (a) completing all county championships where possible by the end of September, and running off the provincial championships in the inter-club series in October and early November. The provincial finals and the All-Ireland semi-finals could then be played off as soon as the National League campaign proper has ended and then we could play off the finals between the National League finals and the start of the serious championship games which is the period when the Whit week-end usually falls in any case. Moreover since the Irish and English Whit holiday week-ends now fall on different dates such an arrangement would not interfere with Wembley.

However, there is one thing about the Club championships that has to be faced. As a competition it does not pay its way over-all in either hurling

or football, not at this stage anyway. And that is one of the two reasons why I was particularly interested in the Westmeath motion, defeated at Congress, which advocated an open draw in these hurling and football competitions.

The unusual pairings that could result from an open draw could increase gates, but would of course also increase travelling expenses. Which brings me on to yet another point. The Club championships do not pay their way, generally speaking at the moment. They would probably be even less viable on the open draw. So, the answer, as suggested at Congress is obvious, sponsorship. Moreover, what is needed is not alone sponsorship that would pay for the medals, but that would meet a share of the travelling expenses of all teams concerned. That is a pretty big project to ask anyone to pick up I know, but I believe there are firms who would be prepared to do so on a 32-county scale. Some are providing equivalent financial aid to other G.A.A. ventures already.

Failing all sponsorship, there should be a distinct possibility of getting a local firm to sponsor the champion Club in any given county. Or do I sound too mercenary altogether? But I only bring forward these suggestions because I consider the Club championships well worth while, and because I believe it quite obvious that, except for the finals, these games will not draw the huge crowds that are needed to make them entirely self-supporting.

As for my support for the Open Draw, I have a very good reason for that maybe because the only club games I have seen between teams from neighbouring counties in these competitions have been inclined to boil over not that often, but more frequently than happens in ordinary intercounty games. Why this should be I am not sure, possibly local patriotism, always to be admired to a degree, but not when it means that so many players are sent from the field, or so many "incidents" occur during the course of a game as happened in more than one club championship game in a certain province in the course of the past season's competitions.

Which is why I favour the Open Draw, even if we have to go seeking for sponsorship to meet the expense. Teams that have no previous rivalry inter-club or inter-county are far less likely to get overheatedly involved than sides that may have frequen-

● OVERLEAF



● FROM PAGE 43

tly met in local tournaments down the years.

I had indeed, been worried about the standard of sportsmanship in some of these Club championship games, but after the example set by the defeated All-Ireland Club finalists Clanna Gael from Lurgan, when they formed a guard of honour at Croke Park to cheer their conquerors U.C.D. off the field, I have few further fears. These Lurgan footballers have set all the other counties an example that they must follow, or else be shamed for failing to do so.

While I was sorry to see the Westmeath motion asking for an Open Draw in the Club championship rejected by Congress, I was glad that another motion which would have barred the Universities clubs from competing was not proceeded with. It is all very fine to point to the present power of U.C.C. and U.C.D. for example. Student power is a very transient thing, and the power-packed side of this season is likely to be scattered all over Ireland, and beyond, next year or the year after. The U.C.D. Club

took 30 years to win its first Dublin senior championship in 1943, and has only won three more in the 30 years since then.

U.C.C. has been a great force in Cork championship football these last few years, but they do not stand too high in the list of county titles won either. Indeed, usually student teams labour under championship handicaps that rarely affect the ordinary club side. If the county championships are played in early summer, many of their men are examination tied. If the vital championship games are in mid-summer or early autumn, the backbone of their teams are likely to be away on holiday work in the U.S.A. or in Britain.

The University teams are at their strongest from October to May. Thereafter they have to be very lucky indeed to be able to muster at anywhere near full strength. U.C.D. were lucky over the past 12 months that the bulk of their team was available in the summer. The like might not occur again in 20 years.

● FROM PAGE 41

dividends there, and personally, I feel, Tyrone may change to a catch and kick policy on our next appearance there.

In that way the players have some chance to find their feet,

**PADDY MULLAN** (Derry):

I think the reasons why Ulster teams perform poorly in Croke Park is tied up with the political unrest in the North. The lads seem unsettled and harder to handle when they go down to Dublin.

There's also a feeling that we are not wanted in Croke Park: that southern counties have a monopoly of the ground.

One thing is certain, the Ulster teams don't play nearly as well as they are capable of playing before the Dublin crowd. It's a pity, but a fact nonetheless.

**BRIAN McENIFF** (Donegal):

One of the biggest problems, if you like, has been the fact that during the past number of years, a different team has come out of Ulster each season. This means that the team will have little or no experience of Croke Park.

Indeed when we were there two years ago a lot of the lads had never even seen Croke Park, let alone played on the pitch. It's

understandable too that many of the players would be affected by the build-up for the big game there.

There's no doubt in my mind that it's far easier for a Leinster team to play in Croke Park. For some of them, it's a second home, so it's unlikely their players would suffer as our players do, from nerves.

Things would be much different, I believe, if an Ulster side got out of the province two or three years on the trot. Then they would have no fears of Croke Park on the second time round and perform to their potential. It's sickening to see so many of our teams over the years, play like juniors when they make it to Croke Park.

**AL McMURRAY** (Antrim):

Ulster teams tend to get the jitters when they run out on to Croke Park. I'm convinced that it takes a team at least two or three outings there before one gets accustomed to the atmosphere.

I think Ulster counties should try and arrange some challenge games at H.Q. before a vital match. It's probably the only way of getting the "feel" of the ground.

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# JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON

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## DEVOTED TO THE VIEWS OF OUR YOUNGER READERS

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AT Congress both in Sligo and when it reconvened at Col-aiste Mhuire in Dublin, I received many plaudits on the success of Junior Desk. On all occasions I gave the credit for the intimacy of our Desk to **you** faithful readers and correspondents who have shaped it and made it what it is. Now there is so little room for me to say anything! Derry Gowan, the well-known Cork G.A.A. official (what a wonderful bunch they are), whose brainchild the now famous Scór competitions were, is another keen reader and is proud of Cork's contribution to the column.

### CUT-OUT

Our Cut-out this month is Leitrim and Connacht goalkeeper Noel Crossan (read Joseph Woods' letter). The Ballinamore footballer has won three Leitrim S.F.C. medals with his club and one S.H. award. There is no more loyal G.A.A. county in Ireland. Noel's club is a very progressive one, publishing its own club annual, boasting such great G.A.A. characters as Christy Gallogly, Jackie Gallagher, Tommy Moran, a fair man with the pen, Columba Cryan, Dermot Gannon. . . . It isn't often we have the chance nowadays to honour Leitrim so here's wishing Leitrim every success in the future. The tradition of Nipper Shanley (still hale and hearty), Leo McAlinden, Packy McGarty, Josie Murray,

Ben Wryne . . . and Tommy O'Riordan, of course, lives on Congrats, Noel.

At Congress too I met Br. P. P. Guthrie of Féile na nGael fame in Limerick. Br. Guthrie is a Clareman by birth and spoke well on behalf of the restoration of Michael Cusack's old home at Carron. In next month's issue I hope to have details of this year's Féile.

### COMPETITION

For the ten best questions addressed to Michael O'Hehir received here before June 20 (all ages are included) I will give a copy of the recently published **Michael O'Hehir World of Gaelic Games**. Please state your age when entering and keep your question as brief as possible. The greater the variety the better.

Congratulations once again to the U.C.D. organising committee on the success of the Carrolls All Ireland seven-a-side competition and its side attractions. The souvenir programme was as always a credit. Any reader interested in a copy should write to Eugene McGee, Fostra Press Ltd., 5 Seville Place, Dublin 1. Please enclose a 5p stamp to cover postage.

### Who should select the Carrolls All-Stars ?

There was a good response to

this competition question for which there are three G.A.A. All-Star Kit Bags, kindly presented by the three Galway All-Stars Liam O'Neill, Liam Sammon and Tommy Joe Gilmore. These were the suggestions.

". . . the men who represent the newspapers and R.T.E. (from **Patrick Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath**).

". . . one selector from each county that enters a team in the senior championships" (from **Brian Waldron, Inchbeg, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny**)

"The Director General, the Provincial Chairmen and the Provincial Secretaries" (from **Gerard Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford**).

". . . a selector from each province plus the Chairman of the winning All-Ireland counties" (from **John Fitzpatrick, Lower Tubberboe, Durrow, Portlaoise, Co. Laoise**).

". . . the President of the G.A.A. Dr. Donal Keenan" (from **Terry Doyle, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow**).

". . . the usual Committee should pick the top 50 players (both games), then put their names on a Sunday paper and let the people select the teams" (from **John Cahill, Cooliney, Ballyhooly, Co. Cork**).

"Despite some unaccountable non-selections I believe R.T.E. and the newspaper men are the best qualified selectors. One

● OVERLEAF



# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

## ● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

referee from each province should be included also for sportsmanship reasons. However the selectors would be more appreciated if they had the courage of John D. Hickey. His stand last year was admirable. More like John D. Please" (from **Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare**).

"There should be a poll in the Sunday newspapers for two Sundays" (from **Gerry Pender, same address as Terry Doyle**).

"As with school examinations a completely foolproof method of team-selection has not yet evolved. The All-Stars nominations will therefore remain subject to a margin of human error. But would not a group of selectors—one chosen by each Co. Convention—reduce this margin to a minimum?" (from **Mary G. Diver, 10 Connaught Park, Portadown, Co. Armagh, N. Ireland**).

". . . the selectors of the four All-Ireland semi-final teams and maybe the help of the selectors of the counties beaten in the Provincial finals" (from **Fergal Conlan, Caldrum, Augher, Co. Tyrone**).

"All county trainers should select the Carrolls G.A.A. All-Stars" (from **Michael O'Hara, Patrick St., Mountrath, Co. Laois**).

"The players of the past" (from **Tommy Maher, Main St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny**).

"A selection of past players for whom it would be a great honour after their years of service" (from **Gerald Traynor, 893 Francis St., Edenderry, Co. Offaly**).

"One top referee from each county. They see the players throughout the year" (from **Jerry Smyth, Whiterock, Middleton, Co. Cork**).

"A special committee of ten, one to go to every important game throughout the year" (from **John Keane, Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork**).

"By the inter-county players themselves who know ability and recognise sportsmanship" (from **Aidan Foley, Ardavan, Co. Wexford**).

"The selectors of all county teams should get together and select the 15 best players in the same way as the 'Player of the Year' was elected in England" (from **Donal Murphy, West End, Rathmore, Co. Kerry**).

So much for the competition. Now there is a hatful of ideas for Carrolls Public Relations Manager Pat Heneghan to chew on. The three lucky prizewinners of the beautiful Kit-Bags are:

- (1) John Keane
- (2) Gerard Dowling
- (3) John Cahill

Jimmy Duggan, the fourth Galwayman to make the trip has presented me with his Kit-Bag as a consolation prize and I have pleasure in awarding it to old reliable Joseph Woods. All other competitors will receive a special colour All-Star Calendar.

## From the Mailbag

**Kevin Gallen, Hazelwood, Lough Gill, Co. Sligo**—is a keen thinker like Joseph Woods. Among other things he wants "a definition of the tackle". As he says so well "some players think a punch in the ribs is a tackle."

● *This is perfectly true Kevin. In my own playing days I got many a thump in the tummy and in the ribs in the name of a tackle. There is a return though of the art of blocking down in football D.G.*

**Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare**—another faithful Junior Desk reader, doesn't like the return of the handpass but is thrilled with the new rule which gives the referee the right to move the ball ten yards nearer the goal of the offender if his decision is disputed. As she says "the time had come when the free was always disputed." Finally Mary wants to know if the Frank Williamson of Geashill who won the specially designed **Junior Desk Award** scroll in February '73 is the same Frank who played for Offaly senior footballers early in this year's N.F.L.

● *Would some reader please reply to Mary? Who better than Frank?*

**Joseph Woods of Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare**, who seems destined to have a career in sports journalism among various other things tells us that Noel Crossan (this month's colour Cut-out) is the first Leitrim man to guard the net for Connacht; that three Wexford hurling families have won 17 Railway Cup hurling medals between them—the families of course being the Rackards (6), Quigleys (6) and the Dorans (5). Tony Doran and Willie Rackard have won four each. Pat Dunny (Kildare) became the first man to win Railway Cup medals on consecutive days. Leinster have won four-in-a-row in both codes. Space stops me from including all of Joseph's letter. He liked the Liam Sammon interview and wants more of that type with people like Ray Cummins, Mickey Kearins, Frank McGuigan, Dr. Donal Keenan and Michael O'Hehir.

**Des Kelly, Ballycoogue, Wood- enbridge, Avoca, Co. Wicklow**, has great respect for Kerry's Michael Sheehy. He tells me to watch the goal-scoring power of Stephen Greene of Waterford. He wants Cut-outs of Ollie Leddy





● One of Wexford's remarkable hurling families, the Quigleys. They are, from left: Martin, John, Dan, Jimmy and Pat. As Joseph Woods remarks in his excellent letter the Quigleys hold six Railway Cup hurling medals between them, only equalled by that other great Wexford sporting family the Rackards.

(Cavan) and Vinnie Holden (Dublin).

Terry Doyle (address given earlier) once again paid tribute to 38-year-old Pat Nolan the great Wexford goalkeeper "who has seen four Kilkenny goalkeepers in his time."

Martin Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath, wants a Pen Pal from Cork, Limerick or Kilkenny. His hobbies are programme collecting, handball, hurling and football (Gaelic). He loves reading, especially G.A.A. books. Age 11 years.

Kerry Gael (name and address enclosed) in an outstanding letter commenting on the Annuals thought Con Houlihan's article in the *Connacht Gaelic Games Annual* very funny. *Spectaculum* by An tAthair Leon Ó Mórcháin (Mayo) superb. "The photographs in the Cuchulainn Annual were great—J. O'Keeffe and D. Long swapping jerseys." This keen student of the game had this to say of last year's champion teams:

"Cork were brilliant in the championship. They played with great authority and confidence. The Cork '73 side was streets

ahead of Offaly '71 and '72, yet they have not been acclaimed as much as Offaly were. I would like to single out Barry-Murphy: how great it is to see a youngster putting so much thought into a game. There is no limit to his potential. I was delighted to see Limerick winning the hurling final, even though I did not think they were fully tested by a depleted Kilkenny. It is a pity that the hurling final date had to be so rigidly adhered to. It was ridiculous to see a team having to line-out without four good players. It would be hard to beat the example of sportsmanship given by Kilkenny in defeat in 1973. Sean Foley's display in the hurling final was the best I have seen since Mick Roche's display in '68. They seem very much alike to me, in skill and class."

● Two great tributes to Barry-Murphy and Foley. I think Barry-Murphy has real class. Wonderful timing and an ice-cool ability around goal. Never gets het up. Never shows it anyway. As for Limerick—what a wonderful fillip they have given to the game of hurling.

Now we close the Mailbag for another month. June, July, August, September—the real G.A.A. months—loom ahead. More Barry-Murphys will make the headlines in hurling and football Activity everywhere. Street leagues, club outings.

Keep writing to me and don't forget the competition (suggested by Joseph Woods) of the ten best questions addressed to Michael O'Hehir on any topic. If you want a Pen Pal please let me have the details. Or if you have an interesting photograph of yourself (with a star) or without one. Write about anything you like to me at—

Junior Desk,  
Gaelic Sport,  
80 Upper Drumcondra Rd.,  
Dublin 9.

Don't be afraid to say hello to me if you see me at any of the Provincial finals or the All-Ireland semi-finals.

Jack Mahon



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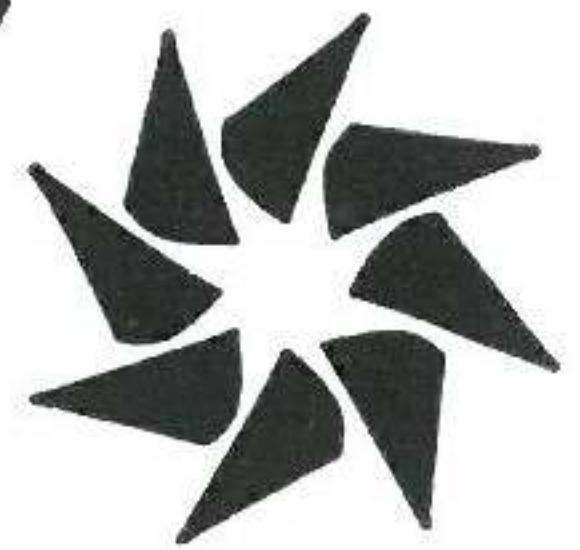
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# Gaelic Sport



## **NOEL CROSSAN** Leitrim

Age : 24  
Height : 5-8  
Weight : 10 st.  
Club : Sean  
O'Heslins,  
Ballinamore  
Position :  
Goalkeeper  
Senior Inter-  
County  
Debut: 1971

### **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

Noel had a testing baptism on his senior inter-county debut in a League tie against Monaghan at Clones. In the first minute he faced up to a penalty kick and saved the shot. He helped his club to win the county senior football titles of 1970, 1972 and 1973, and he holds four county senior league medals as well. In addition, he won a county senior hurling medal in 1970 in goal. Connacht's goalkeeper in the 1974 Railway Cup, he is completely dedicated to fitness and training, wears his own jersey in every game, and is an employee of the Posts and Telegraphs.



# Worms in Pigs:

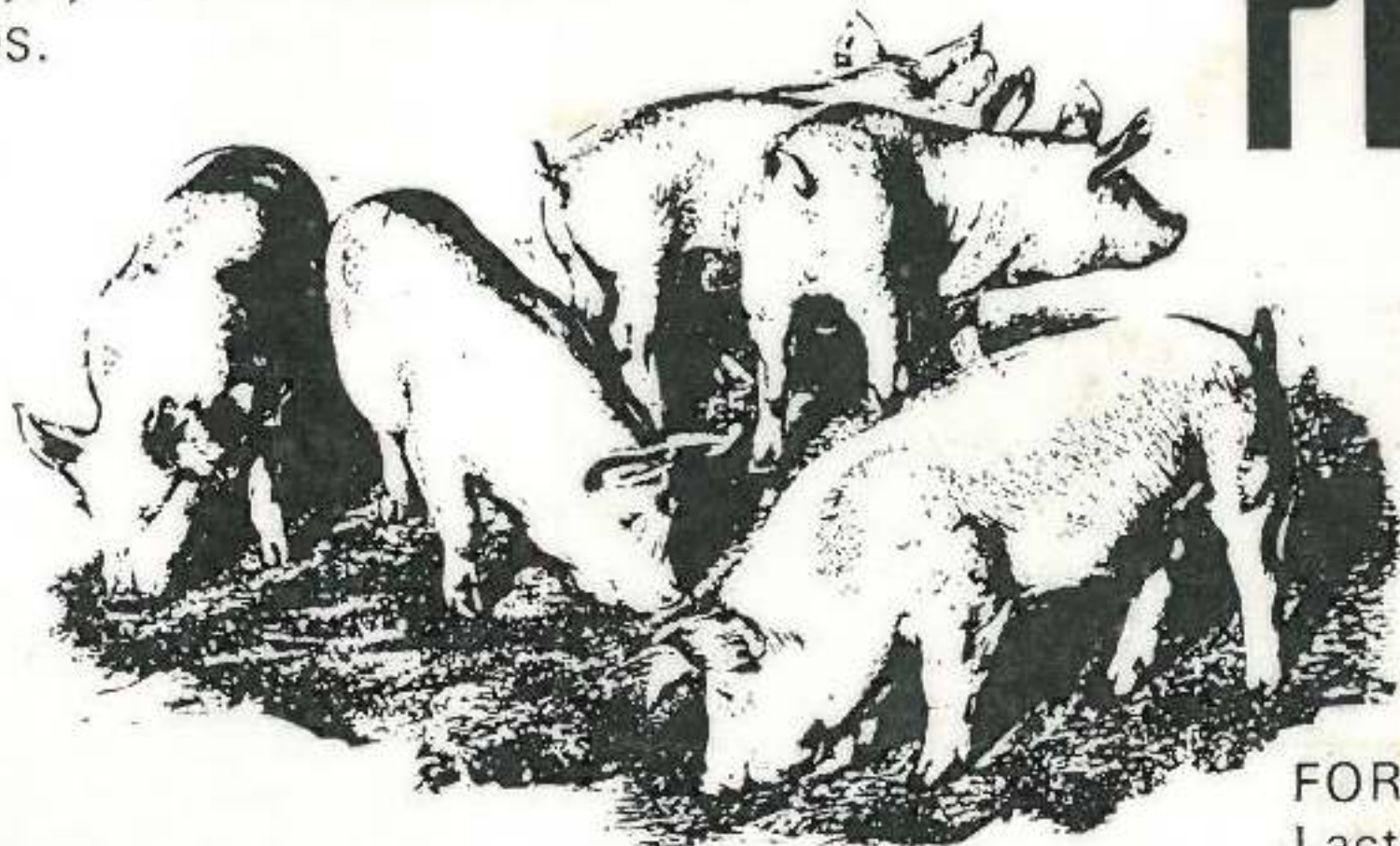
## Do you know these basic facts?

**1** There are four types of worms. Most pig farmers are well aware of the harmful effects of large roundworm (ascaris). But stomach worm (Hyostrongylus), nodular worm (Oesophagostomum) and lungworm (Metastrongylus) dangers, are not so well known. Today, these three worms are probably more important than the large roundworm as a major cause of loss in productivity. In recent years piperazine has been used to control roundworm, and has been combined with other drugs to control stomach and nodular worms. **But none of these preparations control lungworm.**

**2** Long before worms show, they can cripple herd performance. Sows can eat greedily, but fail to make proper use of the food. So infected sows rarely produce enough milk to suckle bonhams properly. Result? Growth rate reduced and needless expense on extra feeding incurred. And if infection becomes heavy, you can suffer ruinous bonham losses.

**3** Most pig farms show infestation by two or three worm types. Use a wormer which copes with *all* types of worm. Irregular dosing with outdated preparations may not only endanger herd health, but can be largely ineffective. If you are going to dose at all, then it makes sense to do the job properly.

**4** ICI's Pig Wormer is the only pig wormer that includes full activity against lungworms. Not only that, but it removes both mature and immature worms of all important types. It can safely be given to young, heavily infected pigs and to in-pig gilts and sows. It is free-flowing, easy to measure, and pigs like the taste of it, in both dry and wet meal. Get the full facts from ICI's booklet, obtainable from your supplier or the address below.



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