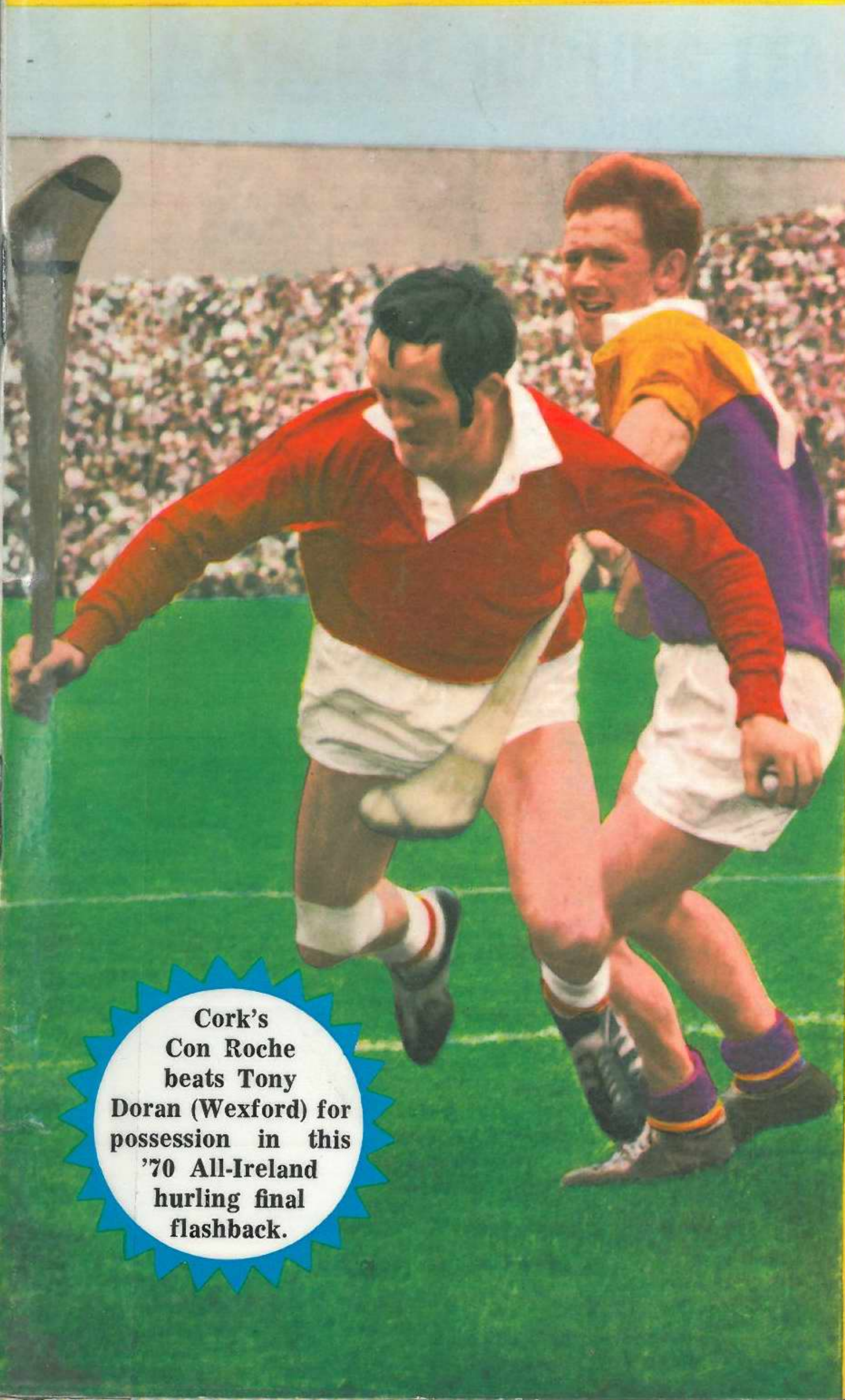


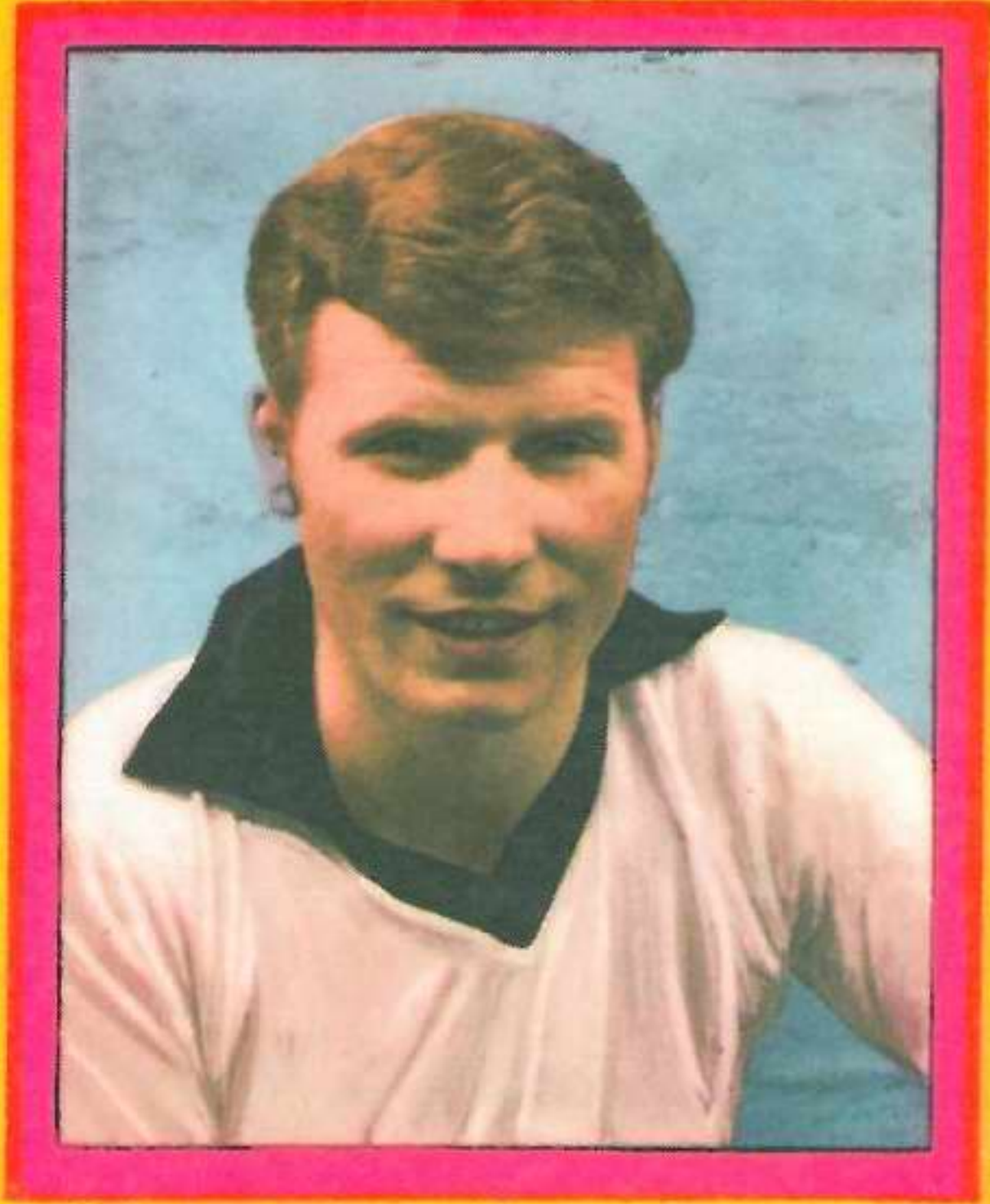
136 GAA

# GAELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY



## SLIGO STARS



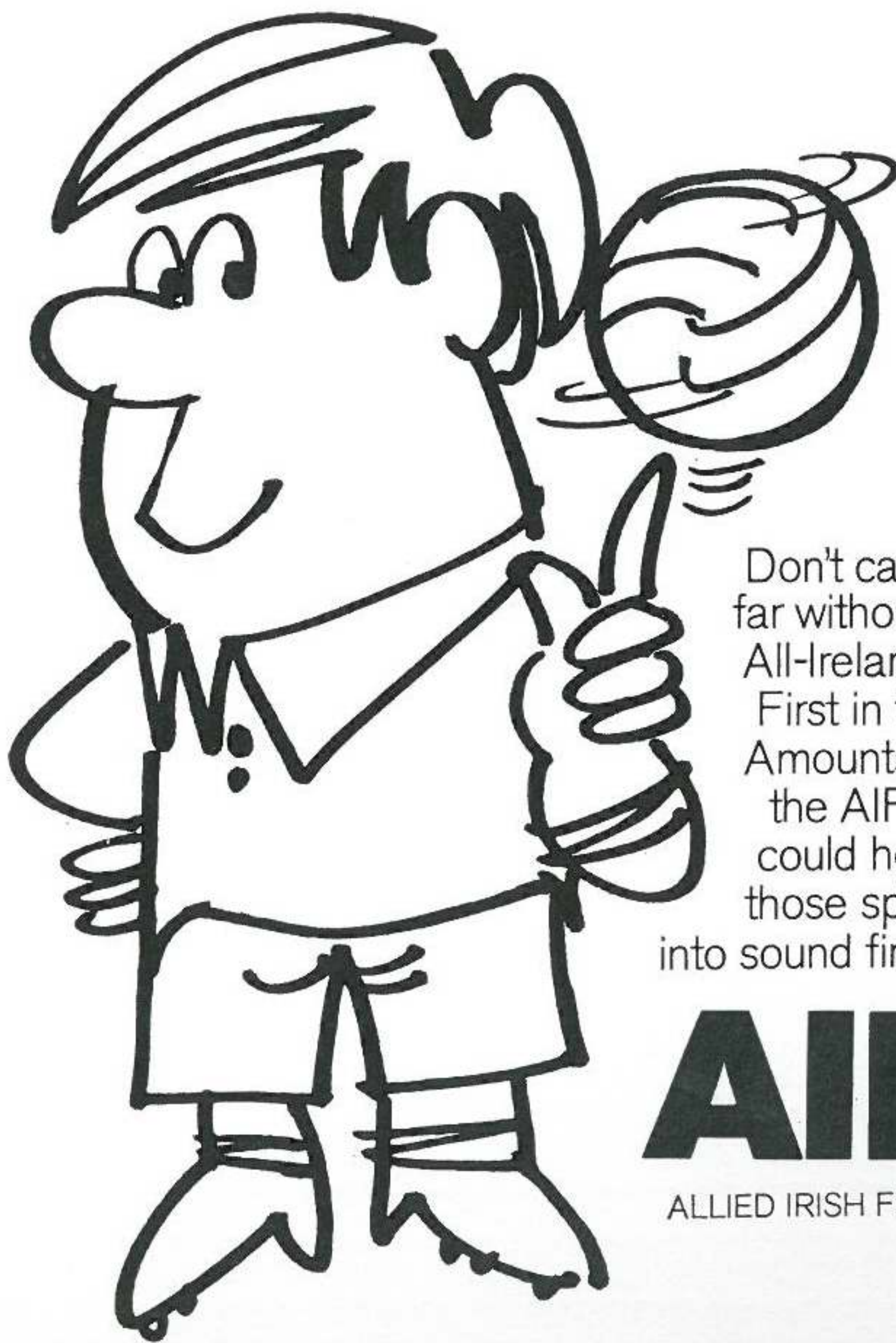
**BARNES MURPHY**



**P. J. BRENNAN**

Cork's Con Roche beats Tony Doran (Wexford) for possession in this '70 All-Ireland hurling final flashback.

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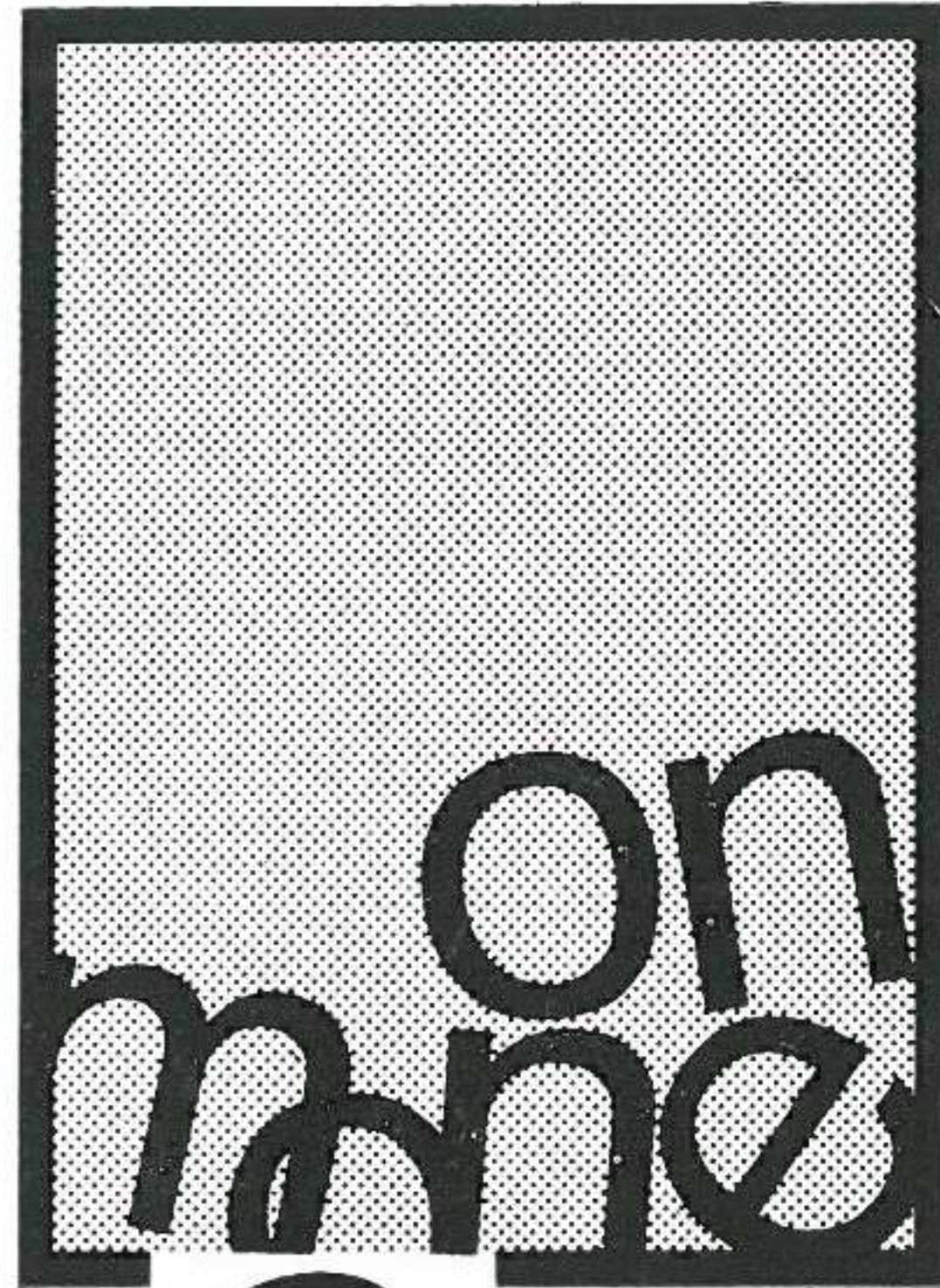
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# A WELCOME BREAKTHROUGH

WHILE it is to be regretted that Congress did not support all of the recommendations of the Rules Revision Committee, the fact that the delegates at Sligo did clear the way for a number of experiments in competitive match play over the next twelve months is a welcome and progressive break-through. This move displays something of the imaginative effort that is now needed more than ever if the games are to develop further.

Arguments for and against the proposals are irrelevant at this juncture. What is important now is that players, officials and supporters submerge their own feelings and views as to the merits or otherwise of the rule changes in favour of a genuine willingness to ensure that the experiments receive a fair and searching trial.

In particular, there is a need to guard against the danger of adopting entrenched attitudes on the evidence of only a few games in the early days of the experimental rules.

Players must have time to adjust to the changes. That's why a cool, unbiased look over a full season's programme is just what is needed so that everyone is in a truly genuine position to judge the real value of the proposals.

The wisdom of field experiments in competitive match-play cannot be doubted. Apart from the fact that they put specific

proposals to the only worthwhile and reliable test, experiments help to create the climate for new thinking and new ideas on the development of the games and of their techniques.

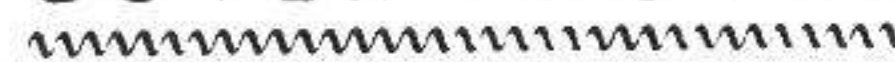
That's why it is a pity that Congress '74 did not come out solidly in favour of all the recommendations. Such a move would have helped greatly to clear the air once and for all with regard to some burning and important issues. This would have been especially beneficial because the time for action is now running out fast.

But at least the delegates have ensured that over the coming twelve months the skills of football and hurling will be discussed as never before. This is all to the good, as the national games—just like other sports—need to evolve and change.

The Sligo meeting has opened a door. For once in a rare while the conservative approach to change in the playing rules, which has for so long been a feature of the Association's policy, has given way to a more liberal line.

So, with the lessons that will be learned in the months ahead, the right atmosphere may now be created to ensure that by the time next Easter comes around, Congress will take the steps necessary to ensure that hurling and football stride out firmly during the second half of the present decade.

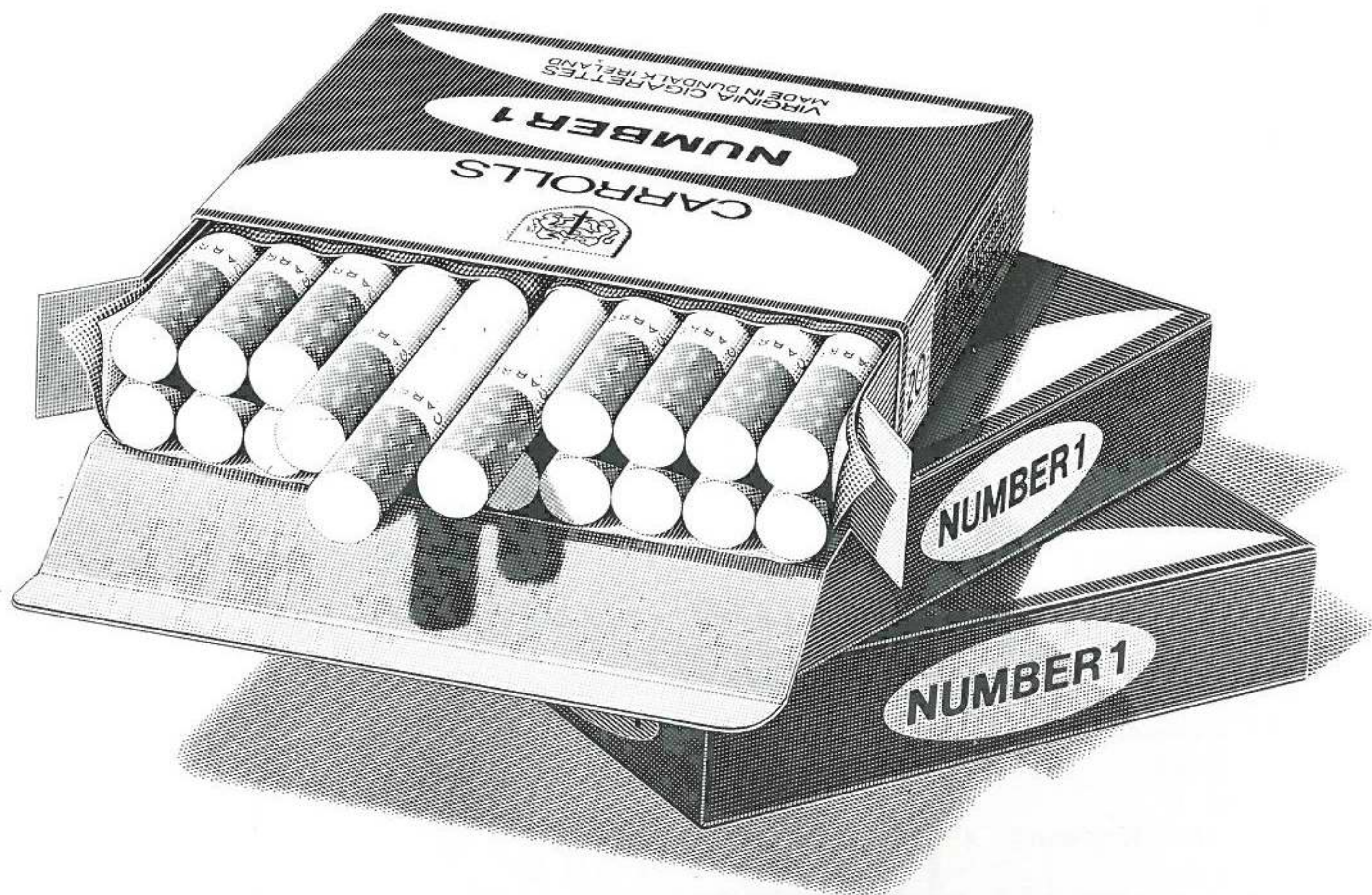
## COVER PHOTO:



ON our front cover this month we feature two of the Sligo football team, Barnes Murphy and P. J. Brennan, who have been going great guns in the current national football league campaign. Both our cover men and their Sligo colleagues, by their persistent displays, deserve to bring home to their native county a major title in the not too distant future. We wish them well.



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# TOP TEN

## JOHN HORGAN TOPS IN HURLING

ALTHOUGH this is only our second Top Ten feature of the year, the indications already are that competition is going to prove extra keen for the outstanding awards of 1974. Only two of the twenty players rated last month have collected points in the meantime—Sean Moyles (Dublin) and Frank McGuigan (Tyrone)—and they have not advanced too far ahead of the field.

Moyles was one of three Dublin hurlers in the leading position last month on eight points. His good work in defence for Dublin in their gallant bid against Cork in the National League semi-final last month puts him in front over-all with a total of fourteen points.

McGuigan may not have left an outstanding imprint on the League semi-final with Kerry, but his sparkling football in San Francisco in the final weeks of March earned for him the Player-of-the-Series award, and brings five points to compliment his April haul of seven.

Sharing top billing for May are John Horgan and Michael Sheehy.

The Cork captain turned on a great show against Dublin in the Hurling League semi-final, and it was his dependable and progressive left full back play more than anything else that piloted the Leesiders through.

Sheehy matched the high quality of Horgan's play on his

appearance against Tyrone. Clever both on and off the ball, sharp in his shooting—he hit 2-6—the young Tralee footballer further underlined with that top-class display that he is a very exciting prospect.

A close runner-up to this pair is Derry Crowley, who produced a splendid hour's defensive play in Kerry's win over Tyrone.

John Cooney (Offaly) and Martin Quigley (Wexford) were two of the key figures in Leinster's double in the Railway Cup last month, while Monaghan, for once in a rare while, earn a place through the good work of Eam-



● Con Roche (Cork)



● Francis Loughnane (Tipperary)

onn Tavey at centre half back in the Dr. McKenna Cup.

### HURLING

9	J. Horgan (Cork)	9
8	C. Roche (Cork)	8
8	F. Cummins (Kilkenny)	8
7	P. Cunningham (Dublin)	7
7	P. Quigley (Dublin)	7
7	M. Quigley (Wexford)	7
7	C. McCarthy (Cork)	7
6	S. Moyles (Dublin)	14
6	E. Keher (Kilkenny)	6
6	F. Loughnane (Tipperary)	6

### FOOTBALL

9	M. Sheehy (Kerry)	9
8	D. Crowley (Kerry)	8
7	J. Cooney (Offaly)	7
6	B. Millar (Laois)	6
6	W. Bryan (Offaly)	6
6	E. Tavey (Monaghan)	6
5	F. McGuigan (Tyrone)	12
5	P. Mulgrew (Tyrone)	5
5	F. Dolan (Cavan)	5
5	P. Hetherington (Tyrone)	5

# THE LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

A LONG time follower of Gaelic games said to me recently "in close on 50 years of watching and playing football, I cannot recall a Leinster championship with a more open look about it."

One feels there are many in the province who would share the "oldtimer's" views in this respect. Leinster boasts no outstanding team this year, and if Offaly may enter the competition as slight favourites, it's on the cards that a bundle of surprises will be produced before the All-Ireland semi-finals finalists are known.

We asked some of the Leinster football personalities for their opinions on who will rule the province this summer :

**HUGH CAMPION** (Kildare) :

Unquestionably it's a very open affair with any one of half a dozen teams in with a real chance.

Still in the final analysis I expect counties such as Offaly, Meath and Kildare to be the ones that really matter. Offaly have had their fill of success and might be just a bit complacent. Meath crave to regain the smell of victory last sampled some years back, while Kildare are still burning with a huge hunger to reach the top.

It should make for some interesting football.

**ALO KELLY** (Offaly) :

Laois is the team I fear most. I was very impressed with their performance in last year's championship and feel they have a useful side.

Kildare, Meath and Dublin are others with the right credentials, and of course I'm not forgetting Offaly.

**TONY GILLIGAN** (Westmeath) :

Offaly must still rank as hot favourites. Granted they faded badly in the League, but the

## SURPRISES IN STORE?

By **JOHN O'SHEA** of the *Evening Press*

Offaly players on the Railway Cup side appeared to have regained the interest.

Even though they may not be quite as formidable as in previous years, I reckon it will take a strong side to down Offaly.

If they are beaten, then Dublin, Kildare or Westmeath could be the ones to do it. One can never discount Dublin, particularly now since they did so well in the League. It would be foolish for any team to take the Metropolitans lightly because of their status as a Division 2 outfit. With Kevin Heffernan behind them, they could prove a match for anyone.

Kildare are capable of winning out, and if we can take care of Meath, Westmeath might cause a ripple or two of surprise.

**GEORGE NICHOLLS** (Wicklow) :

There's nothing very exciting in Leinster this season. Offaly have undoubtedly gone back, but I can't see any obvious successors. Quite frankly, I believe it's as open as it possibly could be.

**MARTIN QUIGLEY** (Wexford) :

An Offaly team which doesn't look as strong as the sides which took the All-Irelands in recent years, will, I feel, again prove top dogs in Leinster.



● *Pat Mangan* (Kildare)

It's a matter simply that the opposition is not there for them. If there was any really promising side in the province, I think Offaly could be taken, but this is not the case. Dublin or Louth could make me eat my words, but it's a "weak" Offaly for me.

**DONAL HICKEY** (Dublin) :

I must side with Offaly. Now that they have failed to make a mark in the League they have had time to prepare for the championships. And they are still a more than useful side.

Naturally I would hope that Dublin will make a show and one is reasonably confident in this direction. Kildare and Meath are the other two with definite prospects. However I don't anticipate any huge surprises and I would expect the Leinster kingpins will emerge from that quartet.

**PAT MANGAN** (Kildare) :

It's between four teams — Offaly, Dublin, Laois and Kildare. Offaly will be the team to beat, but any of the others could put one over on them.

It's the type of championship which should generate a good deal of interest, because of its open nature.

● **TO PAGE 10**



# Essential reading for every lover of hurling

BOOK REVIEW  
By  
Seamus O Braonain

SOMETIMES we like to waffle gaily about the ancient game of hurling—its length of history and some of the romantic tales which have encrusted its oral tradition. Loosely, however, and with little attention to the strict canons of history. Therefore, it should do us nothing but good to discipline ourselves for a change to the rules of research and interpretation of historical sources.

An excellent and opportune work on the history of hurling—or more correctly, the stick-and-ball games, in general—arrived recently in our hands. It is entitled: “Caman—2,000 years of Hurling in Ireland” by Art O Maolfabhail, and sets about the subject in the most exhaustive manner we have yet seen.

Indeed, publication of the fruits of research into the historical background of the game of hurling has been very skimpy. Bits and pieces in a hundred places, references in a thousand, but few efforts at a collection and interpretation as a subject in its own right. We recall reading Carbery's introductory portion to his *History of Hurling* published in the 1940s; an excellent brief run over the course of oral tradition and historical fact. A monument in its time, when G.A.A. literature was almost beyond the boldest expectation.

Now, however, with the bursting forth of many kinds of regular and occasional publications on G.A.A. matters—to an extent, indeed, that would not have been dreamt of some years ago—it is appropriate that a serious and

considerable work on the history of hurling and some of its social and political role should appear.

Art O Maolfabhail has produced a very presentable book, excellently printed by Dundalgan Press, in which he ranges through the sources in the last 2,000 years giving a comprehensive picture of the references to hurling, filling in the picture with a critical and readable commentary, and including an appendix of selected sources in some detail. There are some excellent illustrations ranging from a panel of the fifth century B.C. from the Athenian gymnasium depicting players about to begin a game which must have resembled hurling to a greater or lesser degree, to old camain in the National Museum.

A review of evidence of stick-and-ball games in a general world context fills the backcloth to enable the author to zero in on the Irish version of the phenomenon—the particular manner of playing with stick and ball which marked the Irish nature and genius as opposed to all others. Dealing in deduction and filling gaps by the probable, the origins of hurling in general have been pushed back into prehistoric Europe—attributing Irish hurling back to peoples who inhabited western Europe before the arrival of the Celts. This, of course, is further than the most extravagant claims have hitherto ventured.

Archaeological and literary sources are documented age by age—from a 3rd century clay mould from Kettering in North-

amptonshire, through *Leabhar na hUidhre*, written in the 11th century, legal and governmental pronouncements, Irish writers and poets, English language writings of travellers and social historians, to more modern times of newspapers, diaries, statistical surveys, and the collected work of the Folklore Commission.

The approach of the author is helpful to non-historians like myself, and those of a less academic leaning. He helpfully fills in detail of what the source is, what its significance is, when written or found, where and by whom, and so on. So we are not merely treated to a “take it or leave it” hodge-podge of references and learned *inneundo*. Further, there is comment and explanation of where the author sees each item as fitting into the story of hurling's development, while all the time the framework of history's passing parade is kept nicely playing in the background.

No doubt at all about the fact that this book contributes vastly to any consideration of the game by its very wealth of research and documentation alone. If for nothing else it is a text-book which ought to be on the shelves of serious students of the game; certainly every club library should have a copy.

Particularly handy and factual are the sections dealt with under Characteristics of the Game: the Caman itself; the ball; types and principles of play; teams; references; distinguishing marks of

● TO PAGE 41



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# SEAMUS 'FITZ'



A Profile by EAMONN YOUNG

"FITZGERALD is a darling footballer", I said as from the Croke Park seat I watched the dark-haired Kerry corner back swerve past his man, leather held firmly at his stomach, hop the ball on the firm sod, accelerate with a twinkling of feet and drive a fast one over fifty yards down the wing.

"He isn't bad", said the man beside me with the Kerry accent. "But I don't know if he has the power". The speaker obviously wasn't short there, for the rounded shoulder and deep chest gave ample evidence. It was later I was told that he was the Brusier Fitzgerald, father to the man we discussed. I like fathers who don't rave about their sons.

Minor in '63 the lad from Gaeltacht Chiarrai took over from the injured John Culloty in the goal for the Kingdom in '64. That makes him 29 this year and just now he's playing better than ever.

I remember the day this very clean player had a spot of real bad luck. It was in Killarney in '66 when Kerry had only a very fair team and Cork were supposed to be worse. As things happened Seamus Fitz, got caught up with another very sporting player, this time in a red jersey, a chap named Eamonn Ryan and Fitzgerald was sent to the line. Needless to say I was delighted. That comes under the heading of sportsmanship. Anyway Cork won but were beaten in the semi-final.

After his years in Dingle Seamus Fitz, went to St. Mary's Galway whence he entered the Forestry service and worked in Wicklow. Then he transferred to Roinn na Gaeltachta for which he worked in Galway and in Gweedore, Donegal. In '72 he travelled regularly the length of

the country to play with the Kingdom but between that travelling and a back injury he wasn't in the very best of form. Now settled down and married in Tráili, still with Roinn na Gaeltachta, he has started another phase of a versatile career this time at full forward where he has played several games in the Green and Gold.

But he was always versatile, and fair-haired Paddy O'Sullivan of Lispole who stands at centre-back for his team tells me that over the years you would never know just in what position the trim five foot-niner from Baile an Fheiriteirig would stand. Pdraig tells me that one thing you can be sure of: Fitzgerald will move away from you just at the right or the wrong moment according to your point of view, for his anticipation is just a shade faster than the average.

Leadership is a priceless gift given to some players. Sometimes the great players do not have it and are content to do their work without ever igniting that spark that sets a team on fire. Others have that burning enthusiasm and confidence in themselves which enables them to stand out as leaders just when they are needed. A keen follower on the Gaeltacht football team told me how he thrilled to the spirited speech given before the games two years ago when Gaeltacht Chiarrai went out flying to

win Craobh Cheannais na Gaeltachta. The words that set the electric charge running through the nerve systems of the Kerry-men was given by Seamus Fitzgerald. I wonder was the Bruiser wrong about that lack of power.

Now he stands at full forward for the Kingdom, following to some extent in the footsteps of his illustrious predecessor John Culloty who won an All-Ireland at corner forward in '55 before dropping back to win more of them between the sticks. Seamus Fitz's progress has been the reverse.

How good is he at full forward? Not as big as most of them he moves well, has a smart head and brings others into the play. Kerry's new men Mick Sheehy, Pat Spillane of the Physical Education College in Limerick, who is a nephew of Jackie Lyne, Jack Walsh, Sean Egan, Mick O'Sullivan and the rest will probably respond to the intelligent activities of Seamus Fitzgerald and I am looking forward to the League Final, when I expect this "new look" Kerry outfit to really make an impact.

Of one thing we can be sure the Gaeltacht man will be very lively and fit, ready to set the ball rolling for another Kingdom onslaught on all comers. They may take the League title; they may not. In fact if they are beaten by the men from Connacht — and who will wish the Westerners any bad luck? — Kerry may come out even more formidable in the Munster championship and if they get over Limerick or Waterford, will be down in Kil-

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### ● FROM PAGE 9

larney one day in July playing hospitable hosts to a bunch of Corkmen (maybe) who will be quite happy to set the seal on their '73 All-Ireland by another eighty-minute football lesson for the mighty Kingdom.

I can see men like Doney O'Sullivan, John O'Keeffe and the nimble-footed man from the West Kerry suggesting in very virile and sporting fashion before the day is over, that they haven't anything to learn from the Corkmen. It will be a day to remember. Meanwhile let's see how they all get along.

## SURPRISES IN STORE

### ● FROM PAGE 6

**JIM O'BRIEN** (Carlow) :

The gap separating Offaly and the pack is still there. If they have slipped, I still feel, they will carry too many big guns for all opposition in Leinster.

If an outsider is to surprise the field, I look to Louth. They seem to be building up a nice team and it may be their turn this year to upset the odds. Meath too cannot be dismissed.

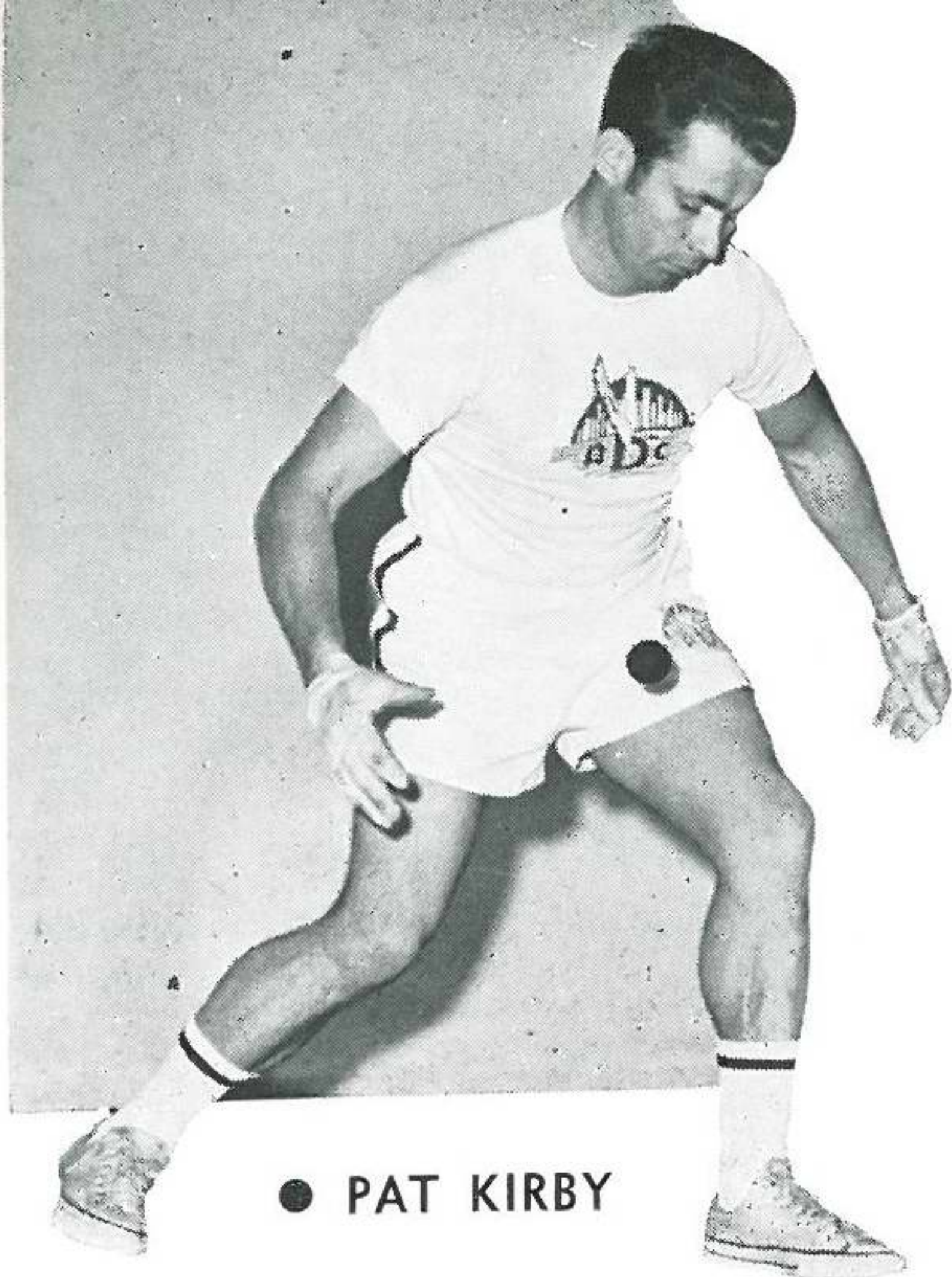
**JOHN DOWLING** (Offaly) :

I'm glad to say I can't see any further than Offaly. I'm convinced we retain the ability to add to our honours this season.

Admittedly there are some useful sides around such as Kildare, Meath and Dublin, but I'm satisfied that we have what it takes to at least get out of Leinster.

The enthusiasm is returning, of that I have no doubt. The lads have had their rest, and are now eagerly looking forward to fresh triumphs. Make no mistake we are far from being a spent force.

It's also encouraging to know that we have a number of fine young players coming along.



● PAT KIRBY

# A memorable week with Irish aces in Knoxville

By MICK DUNNE of RTE Sport

**M**Y time in sports journalism has left me with a host of magic moments to remember. Among them I count the thrill of seeing the first football championships of Down and Offaly and the 21st for Kerry, the excitement of observing so many hurling achievements of Tipperary, Cork, Kilkenny, Wexford and—latterly—Limerick and I was fortunate enough to report the unforgettable four-minute mile at Santry Stadium on the historic night in 1958.

Yet despite all that has gone before—and no matter what is still to come—one week of March 1974 must forever stand out as one of the most stirring periods in 24 years of professionally watching sport. That's the memorable week I spent in Knoxville, Tennessee, covering the participation of Joey Maher and Pat Kirby in the United States National Handball championships.

The shock of arriving at McGhee Tyson Airport in 38 degrees of biting cold, the dis-

cordantly unfamiliar "y'all" drawl of the Deep Southern accents and the sight of snow on the morning of St. Patrick's Day weren't comforting auguries. But before jetting away from McGhee Tyson in 70 degrees of sunshine for Atlanta and Dallas on the way to San Francisco seven days later, that week in Knoxville had provided me with some of the most moving moments of my career.

It was a singular experience that I won't forget in a long, long time. It surpassed every expectation we entertained in RTE Sport when Fred Cogley decided that we should have on-the-spot coverage of Kirby's and Maher's progress in the USHA championships since their entries marked the first time for players to come from outside the North American continent to participate.

The American Nationals are run on a system so different from the All-Ireland handball championships that there's no comparison. Everything is packed into the handball complex—this year the 11-alley physical educa-

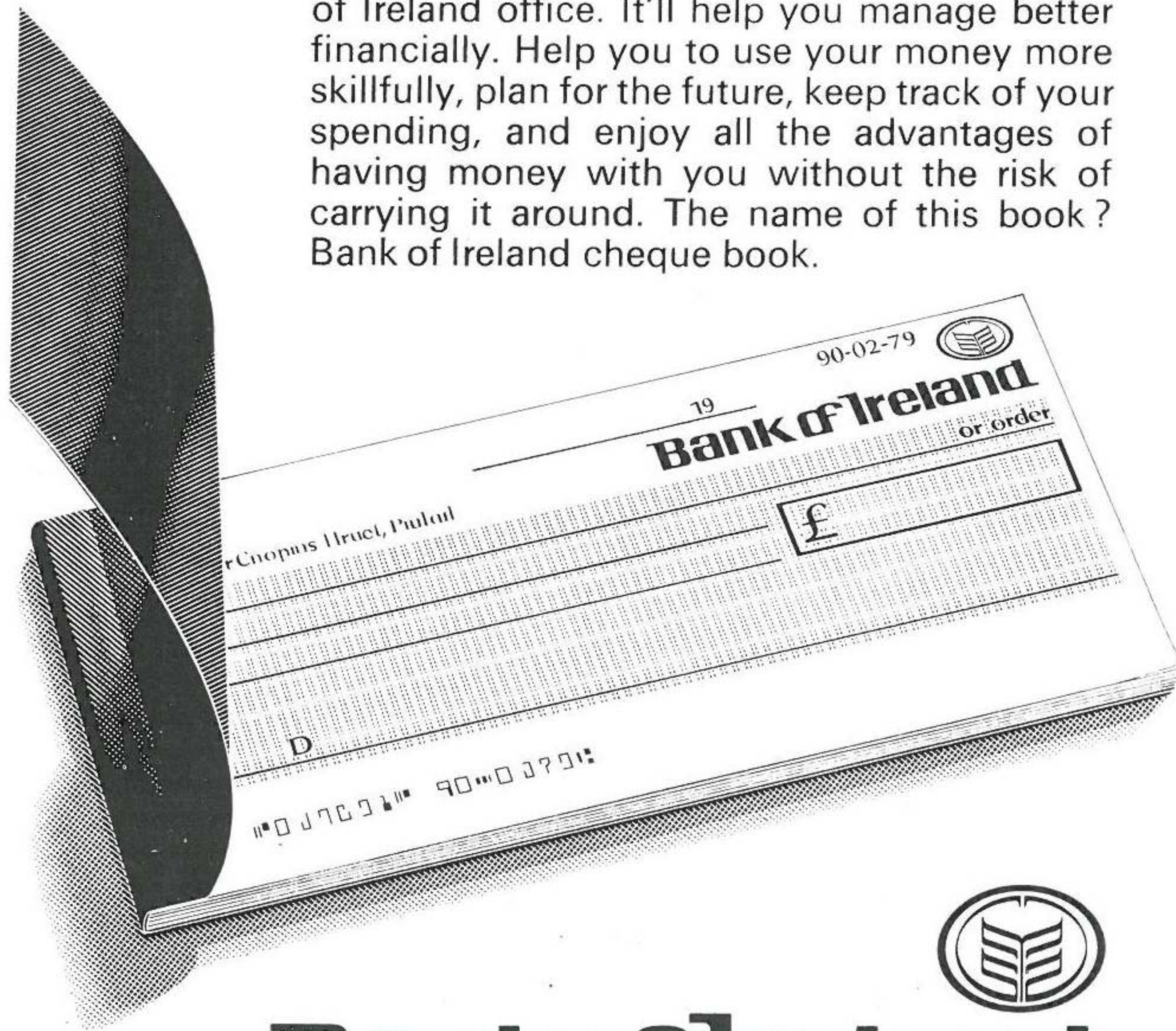
tion building at the University of Tennessee—and all matches in six different competitions are played-off between Saturday and Saturday. It is a week of almost continuous handball activity, a punishing test of the players' endurance with the strain on stamina becoming all the more severe the further a player progresses. Unlike our championships where there's at least a three-week period between the various rounds, here all sprains and stiffness had to be got rid of overnight.

In that cocoon of handball, players drove themselves to exhaustion and often were so soaked in perspiration in the centrally-heated courts that it wasn't unusual to see them changing tee-shirts, or the compulsory gloves, three times during a match. And we had all extremes among the 450 competitors—temperamental outbursts, even a fist-fight (on a handball court, would you believe!), insolence to referees and

● TO PAGE 13

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## ● FROM PAGE 11

insults flung at fellow competitors as well as the majestic bravery, the remarkable artistry and the fantastic skill.

Unashamedly I took great pride in being in the company of Kirby and Maher during that week. Not only because of what they achieved on the courts—and that was enormous—but because of their dignified bearing in or out of the alleys. So it was not surprising to find that they very quickly became the two most popular performers of the championships. They attracted large galleries to all their matches because of the power and elegance of their under-hand "Irish Whip" style of play, but also because they were widely hailed as two of the best-liked competitors of the week.

Apart from our coverage on RTE Sport the achievements of these great sportsmen haven't got the recognition they deserve. What they did must not be undervalued. They took on the very best of American handballers—and around eight million play the game in the US—in the Americans' own conditions and on the home players' own terms, yet they proved themselves the equal of any and the masters of most. Basically it's the same handball, but there are some very significant differences between the American game and ours. Theirs is played on the small court (20 ft. shorter and 10 ft narrower); the heating of these alleys, and energy-sapping perspiration it causes, is something we don't have to contend with; then, there's the very important ceiling-shot, which the Americans use to slow a game to their pace or employ it with feather-like strokes so that the ball will die limp as it slides down the back wall.

Joey and Pat are, of course, our most experienced players on these small courts, but they have

been away from them for a considerable period — Kirby for nearly three years, Maher for twice that time. Yet, they deliberately opted for unfavourable conditions when they entered the Knoxville Nationals, but they mastered them and their opponents magnificently.

That week proved to me beyond all doubt that Kirby is one of the greatest players in American handball . . . contradictory though that statement may seem since he's now living again in his native Clare. I'm certain that had he not come home three years ago—alternatively, if he'd had a completely American-standard 40



● JOEY MAHER

x 20 alley in Shannon or Tuamgraney in which to practise since his return—he would now be the 1974 Open singles champion of the US. As it is, he is among the last eight out of 161, which was a tremendous feat.

The privilege of watching Maher win the Masters' singles title on the morning of March 23 will remain one of my most cherished memories . . . although I'm not at all sure when I'll forgive him for the strain he put on my blood pressure when he lost his service at game-ball three times in the semi-final against Tom Schoendorf of Milwaukee and again thrice in the final against Dick Miller of North Carolina.

But the sight of Joey "bombing" the ball with right and left

to roll it out off the butt of the front wall is something that will probably haunt Miller in nightmares for months to come, for Dick, who like Joey turned 40 in March, had done the same to dethrone Galway-born Jim Fitzpatrick, the '73 masters champ, the previous day. But, as one South Carolinian, who became a devoted fan of Maher during the week, summed it up: "Y'all know, I ain't neveah seen no two-dollah pistol shootin' straighter than ole Smokin' Joe heah!"

You can understand what a happy group it was when Joe Lynch and I flew out with Joey and Pat to San Francisco where we had more handball and watched the All-Stars play Cork and Limerick in the most successful Irish Festival promotion yet staged by the United Irish Societies.

Pat and Joey joined up with Dick Lyng, Peadar McGee and Murty McEllistrim for the two-day tournament against the famed Olympic Club. This first visit of an Irish handball team to California was an eminently worthwhile venture, for although they narrowly lost the series (six matches to four) the matches against the Olympic Club stars produced such outstanding handball that it may well open the way to annual home and away contests.

Two people in San Francisco did remarkable work in arranging this successful series—Mike de la Pena, the genial handball coach of the Olympic Club, and Monaghan-born John Duffy, who not only gave unstintingly of his time in organising the series, but—after our arrival—combined the roles of host, adviser-in-chief, chauffeur, tourist guide and very good friend to each member of the party. To these and others too numerous to list the handballers, Joe Lynch of the IHC and myself owe a deep debt.

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# L★A★D★I★E★S

# P★L★E★A★S★E

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Edited by ANN CARROLL

WELL, fellow lady readers, I must offer a sincere thanks to all of you for your wonderful reaction to our new "Ladies Please" column. That there was a need for a column of this kind in G.A.A. circles, I never had any doubt and again I say Bravo! to GAELIC SPORT for once again setting the example for all other G.A.A. publications to follow.

There are vast, untapped resources of goodwill available to Gaelic Games which have never yet been tapped and what I mean by this is that approximately half of the population — the female half—hasn't yet become involved to the extent which might be possible, in making our games more popular and maintaining interest in them. By half the population, of course, I'm referring not to Irish females en masse but that proportion of them which is conscious that such a thing as Gaelic games exist. The easiest thing to do, of course, is to blame the G.A.A. for our bad "record" so far, but maybe that's simplifying the problem a bit too much.

Really it's a question of certain attitudes which have been maintained in this country for many years: after all, is there one single sector of public life where women play a more prominent role than men? In politics they may be making a bit of a

breakthrough in all parties but mostly the girls are still very much the backroom boys, if you understand my meaning. The tradition has been that ladies merge into the background, only coming forward when it's a question of giving practical help—such as raising funds for a cause or organising refreshments or social functions.

The younger generation of

women and girls, however, don't see themselves in this type of role. They want to play a more active part altogether and it is only a matter of time till this comes about. It's not a question either, of jumping on a bandwagon to justify one's theories about women's emancipation or anything like that—more a fact of life that to-day's girls have the confidence and the ability to play a full part.

## JO GOLDEN

Take somebody like Jo Golden, for instance, the young maths teacher who has captained the Leinster Camogie Team and played for U.C.D. With Blathnaid Ni Annrachain she was jointly responsible for founding the magazine "Camogie" some years ago, because she felt this was one way to give the game its due. Though they've had to contend with problems like rising printing and distribution costs, they have published half a dozen issues so far and are still going strong. Jo has no qualms about putting forward her point of view—and to many people her ideas make a great deal of sense, particularly to the ladies.

"I am not very happy with the way things are today," she says. "The time is gone when you could get young people to come along and play Gaelic games as a duty, or because their parents wanted them to. They have to be con-



● Jo Golden



Cork dual  
star  
Denis Coughlan  
and  
his charming  
wife Margaret,  
pictured  
at a recent  
reception to honour  
the Cork team  
on their great  
victory  
in the '73  
football final.



vinced it's worthwhile—but once they have got their own inner conviction then they'll be loyal. There used to be quite a lot of hypocrisy about this and personally I'm glad to see it go. Nobody these days joins the G.A.A. because it is the G.A.A. — the games attract on their own merits."

"As far as the ladies are concerned," says Jo Golden, "they've been the ones who spend money at matches, supported the teams, did a good deal of the background work in fact, but never seemed to get the chance of playing a more active part. I find it a little bit odd that I'm the only woman on the Communications Committee today. Surely there ought to be more of us functioning at this level—particularly now that more clubs have more women secretaries, and you find more women on the County Board Associations?"

Jo feels the social side of things is going to be all-important in the future. Working towards improvement of facilities is one way of getting players involved at club level. As co-

education becomes the norm at post-primary level, the sort of sex differentiation that there has been in the past will fade out completely — and Gaelic games will belong to everyone, not just to one sex!

When I asked Jo Golden the question I put to others in our last issue — would you like to marry a G.A.A. star? — she replied that she wouldn't mind at all, other things being equal! On the question of his having to be away for training sessions and trips, this wouldn't worry her at all. "I'd probably be away training myself, so there wouldn't be any problem," she commented.

Well girls that's all for this month, don't forget more and more letters please, about your likes, dislikes, in fact anything that you feel like saying write to me—

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Dublin 9.

*Ann Cawell*

## BEAUTY HINTS

Exercise is good for everybody and generally you can recognise girls who play games by their good complexions. However, it has been said that active participation can bring problems, so maybe these few hints may help.

- If your skin is very fair and inclined to get chapped in wind, some light moisturiser, gently massaged in, will take care of the problem. When cleaning afterwards, use some cold cream and then tissue it off before having a wash.
- An elasticated headband is invaluable for keeping hair out of your eyes, particularly if you wear it long.
- You can buy a barrier cream which is very helpful in preventing blisters from developing on your hands, otherwise rub in some hand lotion.

*St. Bernard*

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## K — for Keher K — for Kearins K — for Kings



● EDDIE KEHER

CALLING Noel Dwyer, Mt. St. Joseph's, Passage West, Co. Cork! This young man, in a letter published in Jack Mahon's Junior Desk last month, wrote: "I never read the Top Scorer List for 1973 in football and hurling. Would GAELIC SPORT please print them?"

Glad to oblige, Noel. And, from other letters received at this office I know that you are not the only one anxious for a run-down on the ace marksmen.

While I am at it, I will add in some interesting background facts to the achievements, bearing in mind that these particular records were first introduced in 1955, and that an annual programme of matches embraces games in the National League, Championship and Railway Cup, and in tournament and challenge matches.

Top scorer in the past season was the ever-present Eddie Keher with 7-109 (130 points) in 16 games at the highly impressive match average of 8.12 points. But the Kilkenny hurler did more than head the list—he led the way in both codes for the third season in a row, and was hurling's ace marksman for the fourth successive year. A tremendous achievement by any measurement.

The campaign did not prove a record one, though, for Keher. His most successful year was in

1972 when he hit the staggering total of 194 points (20-134) in 21 games at the rate of 9.23 points a match. That near 200 points tally stands as the record for both codes for a full season's programme.

No. 2 in hurling last year was Tom Byrne (Wexford), who achieved a personal best with his haul of 124 points (16-76) in 20 engagements.

Another distinction for Byrne, who averaged 6.20 points an appearance. He put up the best score by a Wexford hurler since Nick Rackard established the county record at 35-50 (155 points) in 19 games in 1956.

In third place nationally in the past season was Richie Bennis, and appropriately enough in Limerick's greatest season in a long, long spell, he emerged with a new distinction.

In the 1971 campaign the Patrickswell man hit 6-95 (113

points) in 16 games to establish a new record for Limerick. Last season he had one match more than in 1971, and bettered the record-setting score by a single point with his bag of 9-87 at an average of 6.70 points.

Francis Loughnane (Tipperary) was the only other hurler to reach three figures in the past campaign. In 14 engagements he put up 11-73 (106 points), or 7.57 points an hour.

Tony Doran, that dynamic Wexford hurler with the goals flair, was the goals king of 1973. In 19 matches he found his way through to the net 17 times.

Over now to football. And, here, too, it is a familiar figure blazing the trail impressively. Michael Kearins headed the list nationally for the fourth season with his haul of 2-118 (124 points) in 17 games, and in the process he earned ranking as the only footballer to take the premier rating over more than three separate seasons.

The Sligo sharpshooter, who averaged 7.29 points, had his most successful year in 1972 when he hit 142 points (4-130) in 19 appearances to establish a new Connacht record.

Tony McTague took the runners-up spot for the third year in a row, and the fourth time in his career with a haul of 5-107 (122 points) in 19 matches. That was



● MICHAEL KEARINS

● OVERLEAF



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## ● FROM PAGE 17

well short of his own Leinster record of 2-129 (135 points) in 18 matches in 1972.

No review of the past season would be complete without making reference to the fact that up again among the leading lights was Mick O'Dwyer. His score of 2-77 (83 points) in 16 games, at an average of 5.18 points, put him in fourth place nationally.

The Kerryman has an extra special niche in these charts by virtue of the fact that in 26 games in 1970 he put up the mammoth bag of 161 points (13-122)—the outstanding peak for the code. The Waterville footballer helped himself on the way to that record by shooting 57 points (9-30) in seven matches during a world tour by Kerry.

A couple of other interesting points. Although Billy Field did not make a single appearance during 1973 after he retired injured following only a couple of minutes of play in the All-Ireland semi-final with Tyrone in August, he still finished Cork's top scorer of the year—and seventh nationally—with 6-37 (55 points) in only seven games.

In addition, Field achieved the best match average in the top ten panel at 7.85 points. He just pipped Kearins for that rating.

It is nice, as well, to be able to report that Wicklow returned to the charts after a long absence through the feats of Peter Clarke. In eleven appearances he cracked home 5-34 (49 points)—4.45 points a tie—to finish the country's tenth leading scorer of 1973.

Finally, it was not a good year for noteworthy achievements in the goals stakes. The premier spot was shared on a modest enough record of eight by Sean Kearney (Tipperary), who played twelve matches, and Brian Doherty (Kildare), who had 15 outings. The record stands at 17 from 27 games in 1969 to the credit of Willie McGee (Mayo).

## BOOK REVIEW

By TONY KEEGAN

# AN DEISEACH '74 SPLENDID VALUE

**S**OCCER tactics in hurling! That's a new one on me, but they have been successfully applied by at least one club in Waterford. This is just one of the many interesting facts to be learned from "An Deiseach '74", the Waterford GAA Year Book.

The current annual is the third in the series, and is an outstanding production in every way. Edited by Seamus O Braonain, who is so well known to GAELIC SPORT readers, the content, layout and an extra large page size, mark out the publication as one of the best of its kind. A first class team of writers cover the scene fully, and in an interesting and informative manner, while there are many excellent photographs, some in full colour.

A novel feature is provided by "Notes From A 1973 Diary", which spotlights happenings in and outside the county week by week from January through to December.

But back to soccer tactics in hurling. In an article, "We MADE Hundreds of Hurlers in Ballygunner", Seamus MacFinn puts the spotlight on the achievements of the Ballygunner hurling club down the years. In the course of his review he writes:

"Hurling is a wonderful game—the greatest field game at any level there is, and field tactics and moves can very easily be applied to it. We always applied Soccer tactics to it and they

worked like magic. For instance, we usually played four centre field men with a sweeper behind and it used to make us smile to see the perplexed look on the faces of opponents who didn't know what was going on".

Jack Walsh, television correspondent of the NEWS and STAR, makes some thoughtful observations in an article with the unusual title: "What Would You Say To An Outer Mongolian?". Like, for instance:

"Here's a thing about the televising of Gaelic games that occurs to me. The major games have been shown live, and in full, each year for the past ten



● Former G.A.A. President Pádraig Ó Fáinín contributes a most interesting portrait of the great John Keane in the 1974 Waterford Yearbook, "An Deiseach".

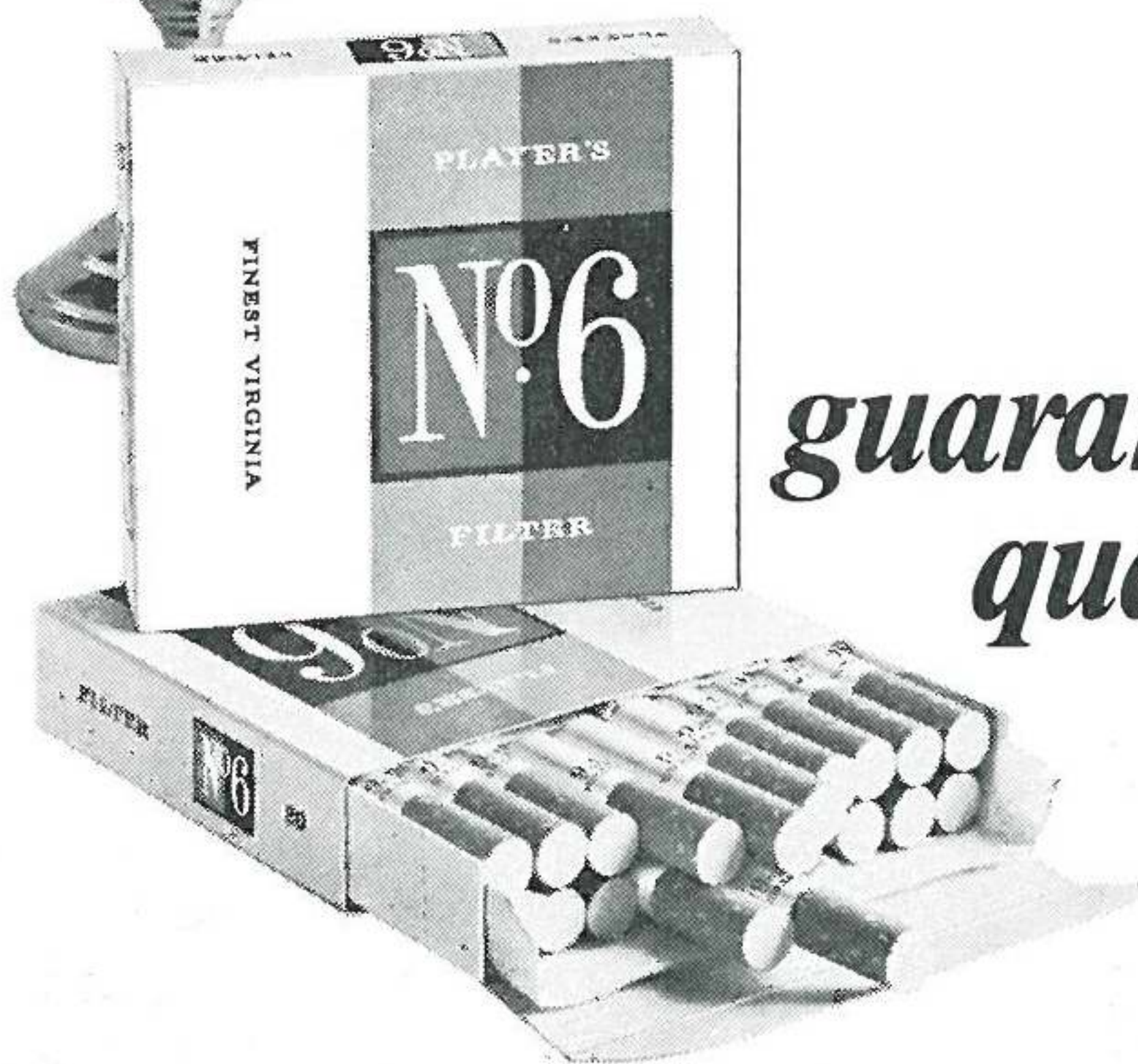
years. Have you ever wondered how many fellows playing inter-county football today developed their early skills by copying what they watched top-grade players do on television?"

I liked, too, "The John Keane Story", by Pádraig Ó Fáinín, an interesting portrait of one of the genuine greats of hurling, while Fr. M. J. Ryan records that John Kiely, another of Waterford's most famed hurling sons, was the complete hurler. Added point is given to this article by virtue of the fact that Fr. Ryan partnered Kiely more often than any other player, for club and county.

The annual has its humorous side, too! Rev. Fr. John F. Morrissey, C.C., provides some chuckles with his "Cracks from the Sideline" piece. Like the story about a character at a local evening Derby who, as darkness was drawing in, shouted: "Hurry on, lads, the daylight is burning".

Handball and camogie news, many interesting odds and ends — John Galvin played three grades for Waterford in 1973, senior hurling, under-21 hurling and under-21 football — and a splendid front cover are among the other bright features of an annual that adds up to great value for money.

"An Deiseach '74", Waterford GAA Year Book. Editor Seamus O'Braonain. Price 40p. Available from The Editor at Abbeyside, Dungarvan.



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# BORN WITH A HURLEY IN HIS FIST

By SEAMUS O CEALLAIGH



● LIAM  
O'DONOGHUE

THE Limerick All-Ireland Senior Hurling team has a baby—a bouncing boy weighing a little over 150 pounds. He is small, hardly 5 ft. 9 ins., but don't be deceived by that, for he has long since proved that he can hold his own with the toughest of hurling giants.

I'm sure most hurling enthusiasts will have recognised him already. He is Liam O'Donoghue—the Mungret born lad, who must have come into this world with a hurley clutched in his fist.

Both sides of his family tree are steeped in hurling lore. On the paternal side, the O'Donoghue clan have been mixed up in Mungret and Limerick hurling, dating right back to the early GAA days.

Bill O'Donoghue was nearing the end of a fine hurling career when he replaced an injured Limerick player in the great 1933 All-Ireland Final against Kilkenny.

Bill had a grand wing cut of a ball, and the number of points he scored from far out in the course of a brilliant spell is not easily reckoned.

In the seething excitement of the closing stages of that unforgettable final a few such chances came his way, but instead of taking his usual shot from a distance he insisted, like many of the other Limerick attackers, in carrying the ball deep into Noreside territory, seeking, as he

told me afterwards “the honour and glory of the goal,” which, however, was not to come Limerick's way that day—Kilkenny winning by the only green flag of the game—that scored by a man later to be termed “lovely Johnny Dunne” because of his feat.

I often thought afterwards that had the Limerick forwards played their natural game and picked off the points, instead of concentrating on the goal, they could have won that game.

Bill was later to gain the All-Ireland headlines as a top class referee, and he is one of a select Limerick band to have had charge of an All-Ireland Senior Hurling final.

His greatest refereeing feat, however, was, I feel, the diplomatic manner in which he steered to a successful conclusion the volatile 1950 Munster Senior Hurling final between Cork and Tipperary.

This game was played at Kilkenny, and from early in the second half excited spectators started breaking through the barriers and trooped on to the side lines until several thousand spectators ringed the pitch, encroaching more and more with every pressing minute.

By the time the final stages were reached, spectators were in beyond the fourteen yards line at either goal end, with just a narrow passage open to the goals.

The width of the pitch too was considerably reduced.

The most unperturbed man on the field was the referee, Bill O'Donoghue, who brought the issue to a successful conclusion, despite the forebodings of many, who said the game would never be finished.

Other members of the O'Donoghue clan—Johnsie, Arthur, Kevin and Mike, wore the Mungret and Limerick colours with distinction, winning All-Ireland medals mainly in Junior ranks, whilst an uncle on his mother's side—Christy Tuohy, also won an All-Ireland hurling medal in the Shannonside colours.

When playing in the storied Dr. Harty Cup competition with Limerick CBS, Liam was following in the footsteps of his brothers, Joe and Gerard, and of his cousin, Paddy, all of whom gave sterling service to the celebrated Sexton Street educational establishment.

I said at the outset that Liam was born with a hurley in his hands—certainly he was only four when he was hurling with the boys, and he admits that the Mungret hurling team made a great impact on him, and fired him with the ambition of becoming a top class player.

He actually got his place with the parish side at a very early age, and in 1968 he was a member of the Mungret team that won

● TO PAGE 23

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● FROM PAGE 21

the City Juvenile Hurling Championship, Liam scored 6 goals and 5 points in the County semi-final, to set a record for a Limerick under age competition. Mungret went on to beat Hospital, 3-3 to 2-2, in the County Final. They were unlucky, however, in that engagement, for they lost the title on an objection.

The following year Liam was on the Mungret team that won City and County Junior hurling honours, trophies which he added to a City Minor Hurling medal and many tournament trophies secured in the red and white of his club.

With his school, Limerick CBS he won hurling and football medals at various levels, and he played in the 1969 Dr. Harty Cup Final against North Monastery.

Liam, who played on the County Minor hurling side, and for the Under 21 lads three years in a row, came on the Limerick Senior Hurling team half way through the 1973 National Hurling League campaign and gave some very satisfying displays—including the scoring of a most opportune two goals and a point in the drawn semi-final against Tipperary.

He was a "natural" for the Munster Championship panel, and in his first season in the premier Limerick colours he was thrilled to gain a coveted Munster hurling medal—the first such Limerick success in very many years.

Liam admits that the training he underwent for the All-Ireland final was the toughest he ever experienced. He went through some hard bouts of training for school games but nothing like the All-Ireland preparation. The trainer, Micky Cregan, the selectors and County Board officials certainly spared no efforts, he affirms, in getting them fit for both the Munster and All-Ireland finals.

He pays a neat tribute to the

other players for their kindness and understanding that helped him as a young player to fit in on the side.

Asked how he, as a player of light build and small of stature, measured up to the meeting with a big strong defender, he answered that he concentrated on the ball at all times and ignored the man.

This theory—a very good one—is that the back must watch the forward—so he tries to shake

off his opponent and get away with the ball.

Liam has plenty of ambition still as a hurler—and that includes more All-Ireland renown with Limerick, and the gaining of a Carrolls All-Star award.

Liam is not selfish with his hurling talents, for he devotes a lot of his spare time coaching the Mungret under age teams—who are indeed lucky to have a lad of his calibre and hurling background taking such an interest.



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● RAY PRENDERGAST

# 'RAY' OF HOPE FOR MAYO FOOTBALL!

By SEAN RICE

**T**HE appointment of Ray Prendergast as manager of the Mayo team has bolstered the battered hopes of the county's football followers.

But whether Ray has the ability to overcome the multiplicity of problems with which he is faced remains to be seen.

Last year the Mayo Board appointed the team's first ever manager . . . Aidan Swords. But when he failed to bring any measure of success to the team in the championship he faded from the scene and later retired.

Swords' appointment was made too late in the year for it to be effective in the championship. He had not sufficient time to mould a winning team and this aspect of his appointment was overlooked in the criticism that followed Mayo's defeat by Galway in the Connacht final.

And so, too, with Ray Prendergast. Mayo meet Galway in the first round of the championship next month. That is hardly sufficient time for the new manager to imprint his ideas and methods on members of the team. Nor could the team be capable of bringing into effect those ideas. The appointment should have been made in October so that the new manager would have time to assess the talent at his disposal through league performances.

So if Mayo lose, and at this moment they have done little to suggest that their form will be any better this year than it has for the past few seasons, Prendergast will be subjected to some unfair criticism.

Of course Ray will have a lot more going for him than had Aidan Swords. He himself has been part of the Mayo football story over the past decade which

reached its high point a few years ago when they won their tenth national league title.

But Ray would have forfeited that league medal gladly for the one that has eluded the county since 1951 . . . the All-Ireland championship.

There were many who thought the new manager would have emulated the feats of his brother Paddy who played such a big part in bringing the All-Ireland championship to Mayo at the beginning of the fifties. And had Mayo won an All-Ireland, with Ray as full back, he would have been compared favourably with his brother.

But because Ray's Mayo was mostly on the losing side he, in the minds of those who remembered Paddy playing, never did live up to that high standard. This type of comparison did not help Ray in his football, even though there were days when he could not have been bettered at full back.

Two years ago he retired from inter-county football, having suffered a series of recurring injuries, but he still lines out with Castlebar Mitchels and is still their leading player.

Now, at 34 years of age, he takes up a new venture which is likely to keep him centre-stage in Mayo football for another while.

There can be no doubt about his awareness of the problems that lie ahead for, as he says

himself: "I am, in a sense, a product of those problems myself. I have been a member of good and bad Mayo teams and I think there were one or two occasions during this period when we had the material to win an All-Ireland title, but somehow things never worked out as we had planned."

Unlike last year, when Aidan Swords had sole say in the selection of the team, Ray will select the team with four other selectors, one from each divisional board, and he will have the same voting rights as each of the selectors.

But he is aware that he may not be the most popular man in Mayo if the team is defeated in the forthcoming championship. "However, that will not worry me too much. I have a job to do now and I will do it to the best of my ability.

"It may take time to nurture a new spirit in Mayo and to blend the new, young material into a positive and confident side. That is my aim and if this does not show itself in the championship this year I intend to press ahead to try to bring it about next year," he said.

There are few people in Co. Mayo who would accept the post which Ray Prendergast has undertaken. Yet, the very fact that he accepted it would seem to indicate a belief that he has the ability to solve Mayo's problems.

But he will need time and patience . . . much more than Mayo supporters have allowed other men in charge of the county's team in the past.

# **Stone-Wall Jim**

## **a rare bird**

### **in the Decies**

By JAY DRENNAN

**B**EING a player from an unfashionable county, yet being in the position of experiencing surprise and disappointment at being dropped from his provincial team, makes Jim Wall something of a rare bird. In fact, there was very little obvious reason why Jim did not hold his place at full-back for Munster footballers in this year's Railway Cup competition.

His two year tenure of the position was impressive, as befits the impressive stature of the massive man from the Nire in the northern end of Waterford county, a strong traditional football area. Indeed, he was a pillar in the defence which helped Munster to the winning of their first Railway Cup medals for well over 20 years.

With the back-up of the two Kerry corner-backs, Wall looked absolutely impregnable, physically so powerful and so commanding in height that nothing could pass.

In winning that Railway Cup medal, as a Waterford man, he became even a rarer bird, and the argument still rages down there as to whether, in fact, he was the first ever footballer from the county to win such an award. The records would appear to be in error here, for there is no doubt among Waterford's football authorities that Jack O'Donnell—one of a family of outstanding footballers in the twenties and thirties—did, in fact, win a medal in one of the earliest years of the Railway Cup competitions.

There is no doubt that the medal exists in the family's possession; no doubt that it was won by Jack O'Donnell; but some doubt about how his place in the records has not been perpetuated. The explanation may lie in the fact that he may have



● JIM WALL

replaced one of the Kerrymen in the line-out, and that the recorded team is that which was originally selected. Or, indeed, it may be that he was originally selected and may have had to withdraw with some injury to the substitutes at some stage of the competition—perhaps between the semi-final and final.

This is all interesting conjecture and room for research by Waterford people, but, as far as the records in print show, Jim Wall was the first playing member of a Munster winning team from the county. It is rather extraordinary that this should be so, for many players from the county have been honoured by their province, but by some strange fact always ended up on the losing side either at the semi-final or the final.

Jim Wall must be one of the biggest inter-county footballers playing to-day—an era of small men in spite of our relative affluence. If he has a weakness it is that he is slow on the turn, but he is absolutely irresistible when he bursts through with the ball or dashes out to intercept and seems to cover ten yards in every stride upfield.

No mean wielder of the hurley, either, Wall appears at the other end of the field usually, and he even reached the senior inter-county side for a brief period. One can imagine that he could create a major problem round the square with his size and reach. Yet, it is no more than a sideline and his real interest lies in the football code. Here, too, he is well-known in his own county as a vigorous promoter of juvenile football and a coach of his club's promising youngsters. They took the county title for the first time ever last year under Wall's guidance. So, it is good to see this star football figure putting something back into the game.



# PRESS CUTTINGS



Compiled by Neil McCavana

**E**VERYTHING in the football garden in Wexford is not rosy. According to an article in the "New Ross Standard", those involved in the training of county football teams have been having a frustrating time, and on occasions training sessions had

to be held on soccer and rugby pitches, and even down back lanes!

We quote :

"The County Football Committee, denied training facilities at Wexford Park for the county football teams for months of

April, May, and June 1973, were hopeful that this year the Park Committee would be more helpful and understandable, writes Peileadoir.

"However, their hopes were dashed last week when Secretary, John Denton, received a letter from Wexford Park Secretary, Miss Eileen O'Brien, informing him that the Park Committee could not allow them training facilities for one night per week at the Park. Miss O'Brien in her letter stated that the Park was booked out for all seven nights".

The feature gave details of the bookings, and continued :

"For several years now those involved in the training and preparing of county football teams have had a most frustrating time endeavouring to get grounds to hold trials and training. Often they have been hunted around like itinerants and have on occasions had to train on soccer and rugby pitches and down back lanes.

"This year the County Football Committee endeavoured to seek training facilities at Wexford Park for one night per week and at St. Patrick's Park, Enniscorthy, also for one night in order that they could take definite steps to arrange training and trial games for the various teams. They had got tired of being treated like itinerants and beggermen.

"The Co. Board are duty bound to provide facilities for the training of the county teams and they cannot back down on that. They are well aware of the difficulties of the County Football Committee who are taking a lot of work from their shoulders.

"All down through the years facilities for training were always available to county football teams

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at Wexford Park and elsewhere in the county and the question is why are they now being denied them in recent years. Who is responsible for the recent decision to 'kick the footballers out'. They are the only ones who are pushed out.

"Are the Wexford town clubs, almost all of whom play football, responsible for this decision. At least they are all represented on the Park Committee and should have a voice in the affairs of the Park.

"Fancy the Kerry footballers being thrown out of Tralee, the Kilkenny hurlers out of Nowlan Park, or the Offaly footballers out of Edenderry, the Carlow footballers out of Dr. Cullen Park, or the Wexford hurlers out of St. Patrick's Park. In each case the venues are chosen because of their suitable location. There would be an uproar if such a move were even contemplated. In Wexford, however, our footballers do not seem to have any rights.

### T.V. Coverage

Live television coverage of our games is a topical subject just now throughout the country, and I take the following short comment from the Sports World feature of "The Connacht Tribune":

"Although unlikely to disturb the Tam rating of 'Upstairs Downstairs', the two National League finals and the National League football semi-final are to be shown on RTE. For the privilege of bringing those outdoor spectacles indoor, RTE will pay a fee of £4,000 to the GAA.

"If the Railway Cup attendances were any true indication of current interest in such games, then the Croke Park Councillors did a shrewd piece of 'horse trading'."

### CLAMPDOWN

Finally, from Gaelic News From The Western Decies in the



● John Quigley, the dual Wexford player, whose football team are having some difficulties finding suitable venues for training.

"News and Star" (Waterford) I learn that a major clampdown is planned this year where misconduct on the field of play is concerned.

Just a few short extracts from the feature :

"The referees themselves have already taken the unanimous decision to adopt a stricter code

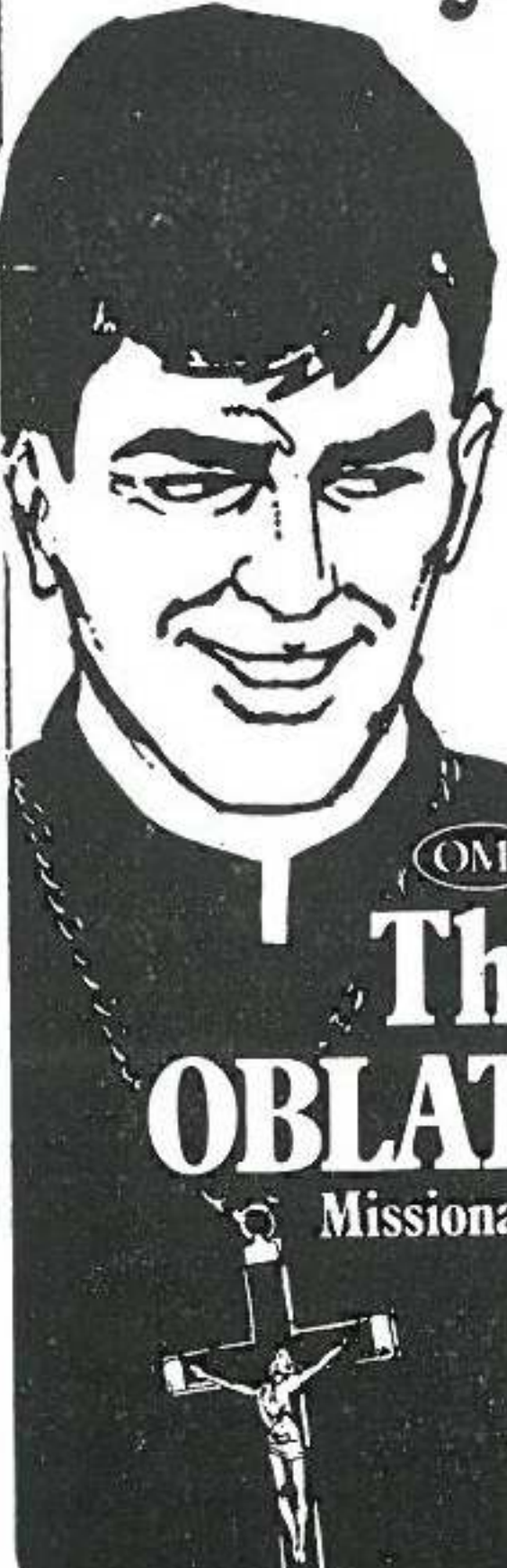
of refereeing in 1974 with particular emphasis on taking action against players who misbehave themselves. And, equally important, they have also pledged themselves to report fully to the Board all incidents of misconduct on the sidelines involving selectors and club officials. Shouting abusive remarks at the referee, encouraging players to use dirty tactics, will no longer escape censure. And surely this is to be welcomed.

"In addition, at all future championship games, selectors, officials and supporters will NOT be allowed to stand at or near the goalposts. As well as reporting such instances, referees will also have the authority to recommend or suggest appropriate action to deal with clubs guilty of these particular breaches".

Seems to me that the Western Decies are setting the right type of headline here.

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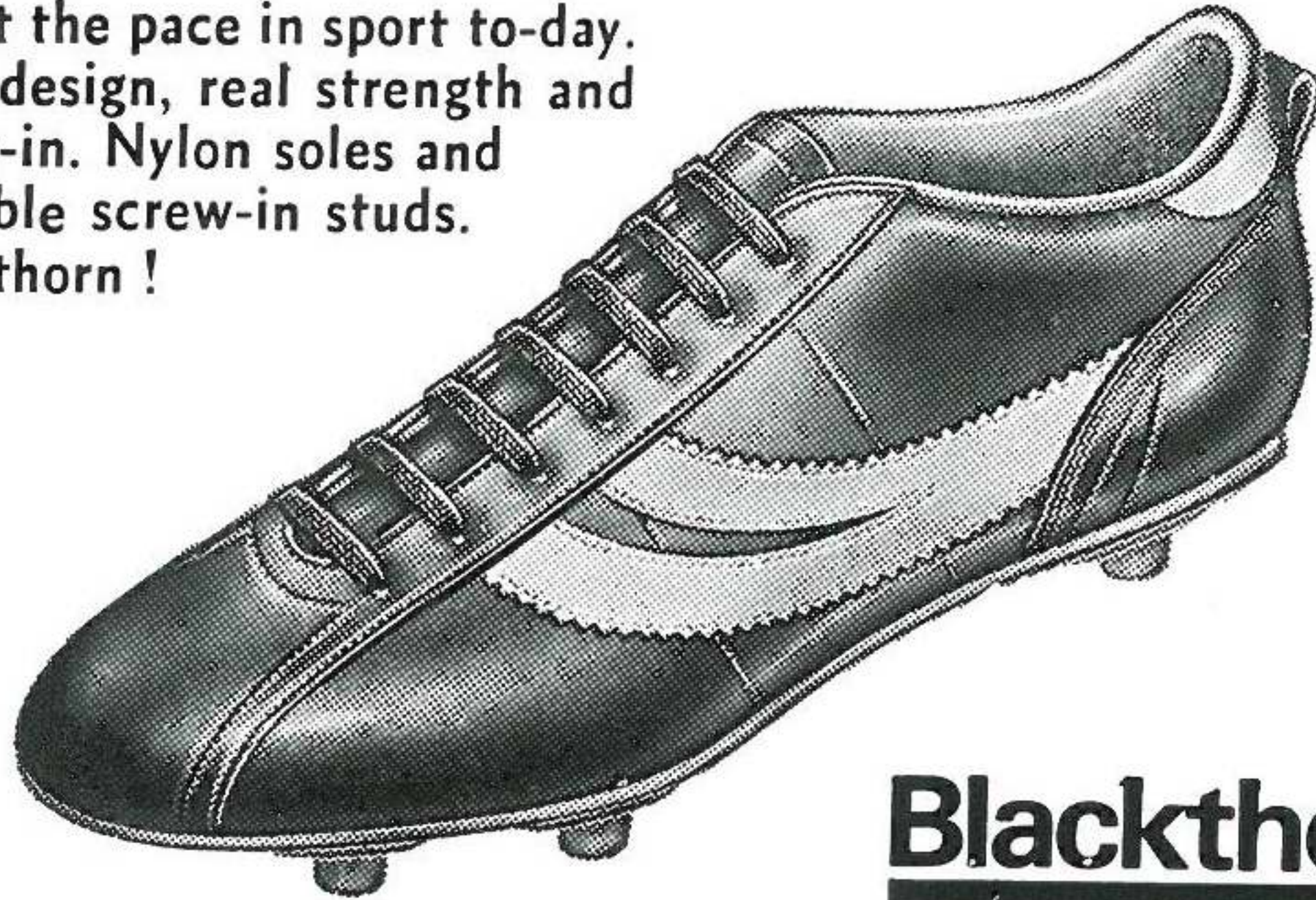
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# Annual Congress lacked impact

THIS year, due to a variety of reasons, most of which were unavoidable the annual Camogie Congress tended to be long drawn-out and therefore never had the impact that it should have had. Moreover, the really vital motions did not come up for attention during the opening two days at Croke Park, so that, as I write this I do not know what was the fate of the proposals to set up Finance, Fixtures and Communications Committees, the demand for a Primary Schools Council, or the suggestion that, the Secretary and National Organiser excepted, the Officers of Central Council should be limited to three consecutive years in any one office.

Those motions showed that there is a great deal of progressive thinking within the Association, and proved that some of the members of the Association at least are not satisfied with the current rate of progress, progressive though this may be in so many respects.

No sphere of Camogie has shown greater progress and greater promise in recent years than the Colleges competitions.

Yet, if those girls are not going to take a keen interest in the game when their school-days are over, and show that interest not alone in playing but in encouraging and teaching others to play, and in organisation and adminis-

tration at every level, we are not going to make any lasting impression.

The schools are the foundation stone, and that is why I am all in favour of a Primary Schools Council to encourage the game at the very outset among school-girls, and thus have readymade material coming to the coaches and game-mistresses in the post primary schools. And that such coaches, fully qualified to teach camogie will be available is obvious from the fact that the National College of Physical Education in Limerick has, belatedly but nonetheless welcomedly advertised for a staff-lecturer.

With the official coaching film shortly available, and with RTE also contemplating launching an instructional Camogie series of their own in the none too distant future, the interest in the game itself, and in how to play the game properly, will be intensified throughout the country.

Which is why I hope that Central Council will in its wisdom continue to spend the major proportion of the COSAC grant (which one is glad to see continues to increase) on more comprehensive Coaching Courses, Referees Courses, and Administration Courses. We need Coaches in the clubs as well as in the schools. We need referees at all levels, and we need

administrators who have a knowledge of the fundamentals of the work they have to do right from juvenile club level up to Central Council.

The entire Camogie Association is under-staffed in so many respects, and for years too few people have been asked to do too much work. The time has come when everyone who has the best interests of the game and the Association at heart, must be ready to serve in whatever capacity to which they feel best suited.

At Congress, both in the Secretary's Report and the President's address there were bright hopes expressed about the closer co-operation being established with the GAA. And surely the first fruits of this were seen in the provision of the Croke Park Council Room for all the Congress sessions.

One can only hope that this co-operation will be speeded up and officially extended to all branches of both Associations to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

Finally, one can only record with sadness the fact that after almost half a century of selfless service to the cause and the game of Camogie, General Secretary Sheila McNulty has entered on her last year in office. An officer at one level or another since her childhood days in Warrenpoint, nobody can ever assess exactly how much Camoguidheacht owes to Sheila McNulty, who was President of the Association before coming Secretary, at a time when few could be found willing to undertake that onerous task, and made such a success of it that she has been returned to office for 21 years and will resign at the end of this season of her own desire.

The Association will search far to find a worthy successor.



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# LOUTH'S DARKEST HOUR MAY HERALD AN EARLY DAWN

THESE are lean times for Louth football with the Wee County's stock at its lowest ebb for quite a while. Such a situation is really a pity for when I was growing up about a decade and a half ago the wearers of the red and white jerseys had very few peers in inter-county football. It was quite often in those days that yours truly marvelled at the skills and talents of some of those who represented the North Leinster county.

Men like Tom Conlon, Patsy Coleman, Paddy Beahan, Jim McDonnell and Dermot O'Brien were all heroes in my eyes. I recall vividly those great clashes with Dublin in the Leinster championship and, of course, 1957 when Louth beat Cork in the All-Ireland final to bridge a gap of some forty five years.

That was a really good side and was led by Dermot O'Brien, who was later to go on to make a very big name for himself in the world of showbusiness. My own particular favourite was Kevin Beahan of the tremendously powerful shot. I remember him rocketing a fierce shot off the cross-bar once and then wondering why the bar didn't crack! Yes, he did hit them that hard.

Louth also had some fine sides in the late 'forties and early 'fifties with men of the calibre of Sean Thornton, Sean and Eddie Boyle, Jack Bell and Hubert Reynolds very much to the fore. Jack Bell now lives in Canada and recently was home in his native Ardee on a short vacation. One night I had the pleasure of meeting this sterling corner back of yesteryear. With him was his



● Benny Gaughran, one of the Louth players who could provide manager Jimmy Mulroy with the nucleus of a good team.

great rival and friend Peter McDermott of Meath. Our meeting was a brief one and it is only afterwards that I was sorry that I did not get the opportunity to talk football with Jack.

I wonder how does he feel about his native county's recent slump. He would hardly be pleased to hear that Louth only won two games in the recent National League and that those two wins were at the expense of lowly sides like Leitrim and Monaghan. Neither would the fact that Meath beat them by ten points or that Antrim trounced them to the tune of a dozen points console him either.

That League campaign does not give much cause for hope, but still all is far from lost in Louth. Remember last year's

championship and that magnificent showing against Offaly when they only failed by three points. That was the best showing by a Louth side for quite a while and victory could well have been their's. I am convinced, even in spite of that backward League showing, that there is lots of potential in the present Louth team.

Manager Jimmy Mulroy's task is not an easy one, but still this dedicated bossman from Drogheda should not be disheartened. He has in his panel talented footballers like Benny Gaughran, Danny Nugent, Paidin O'Hare, Danny Culligan and Joe McLoughlin. These can form the nucleus of a good side. Benny Gaughran has been starring for his county for a good few seasons now while veteran Leslie Toal is still going strong.

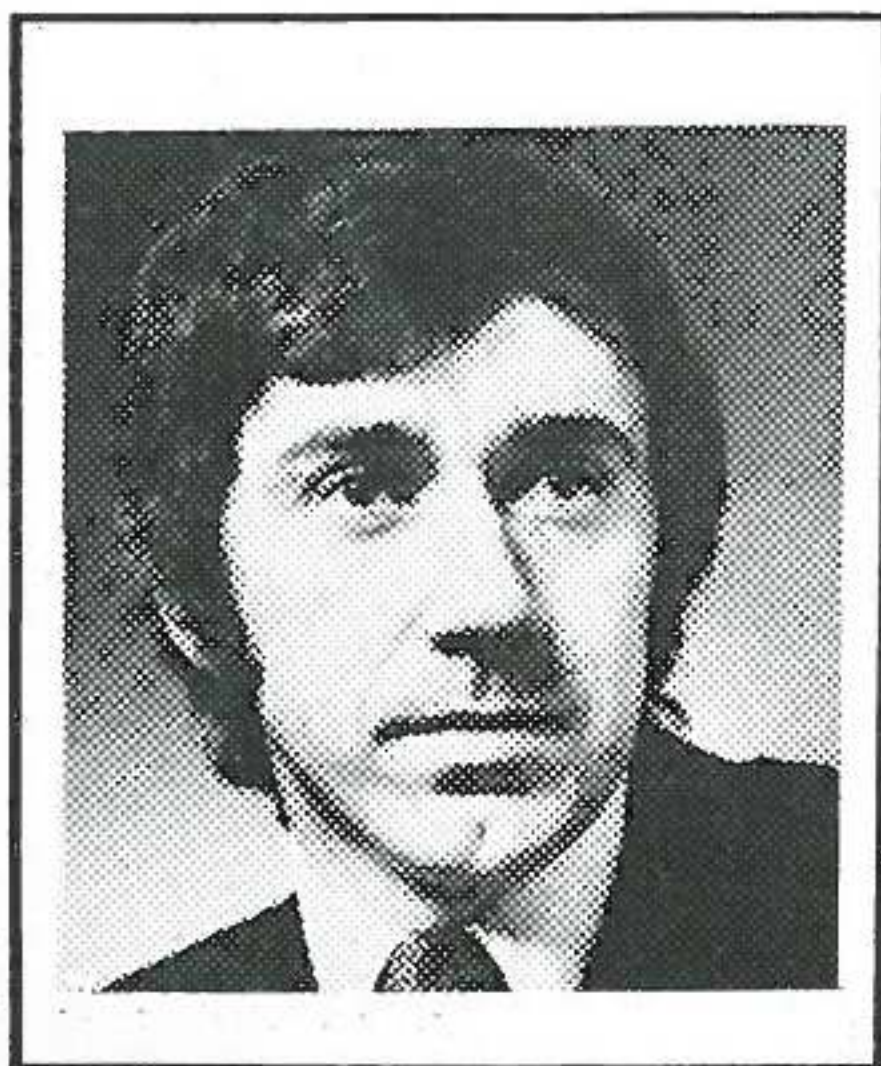
And what of Danny Nugent, who has been delivering the goods in fine style at right half back? To date it has been a memorable year for Newtown Blues clubman Danny with him travelling to San Francisco with the All-Stars and also winning a Railway Cup medal. Nugent now has the footballing world at his feet, so to speak. The odds, however, against him winning a Leinster or an All-Ireland medal this year must be very long. But still where there is light there is hope and Louth are always a much different kettle of fish when the championship comes around. I, for one, would not bet too heavily against them, keeping very much in mind that display against Offaly last June. Louth may be down at the moment, but they're by no means out.

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# ON THE SPOT . . .

by Tony Keegan

OUR Quiz Time feature in the March issue was so warmly welcomed by readers that we have decided that "ON THE SPOT . . ." will henceforth alternate monthly with our "IT'S A FACT" column introduced in April.

In the meantime, we will welcome further suggestions from readers. So, if YOU have not already written to us on this subject, now is the time to put pen to paper.

This month we are maintaining the format that proved so popular in March. Remember, five points for each question answered correctly, and the maximum points total is 100.

A score of 80 points or more is excellent, 60 points to 80 points is very good, and 50 to 60 points is not bad.

With May traditionally the month of the National League finals, let's start with these games.

## FOOTBALL

1. The last year that a new name was inscribed on the Roll of Honour was 1966. Name the county that made the breakthrough?.....

2. Paudie O'Donoghue was full back for Kerry in each of their last three winning finals. True or false?.....

3. The first final in 1927 was won by Kerry, Dublin, Laois, Clare or Cork?.....

4. Brendan Lynch earned two noteworthy distinctions in last year's final. What were they?.....

5. Name the year of the last drawn final—1966, 1963, 1958 or 1948?.....

## HURLING

1. Limerick won their first title in 1934, and went on to set a record that still stands. What is that record?.....

2. The last title success by a Munster team was forged by Cork in 1972. Who captained the Leesiders in the final?.....

3. The last Championship and League double was accomplished by Tipperary. Can you remember the year they achieved that feat?.....

4. Eamonn Cregan is one of the most versatile hurlers around. But did he play at left half forward, centre half forward or right half forward in last year's League final?.....

5. Tipperary top the honours list with 13 titles. When was their last title won?.....

## CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Championships also swing into gear this month with games in Leinster, so let's continue with five questions spotlighting recent events in these premier competitions.

1. Dublin and Westmeath, who have a hurling date at Mullingar on May 12, also met in last year's Championship. Who won that game?.....

2. Offaly retained the Leinster senior football title last July. But was that their second, third or fourth provincial title on the trot?

3. Cork and Waterford will raise the curtain on the Munster hurling campaign on May 19. The last championship clash of the

counties was at Cork in 1972, when the home side were successful. How many points had Cork to spare, two, seven or ten?.....

4. What team knocked Derry out of the 1973 Football Championship?.....

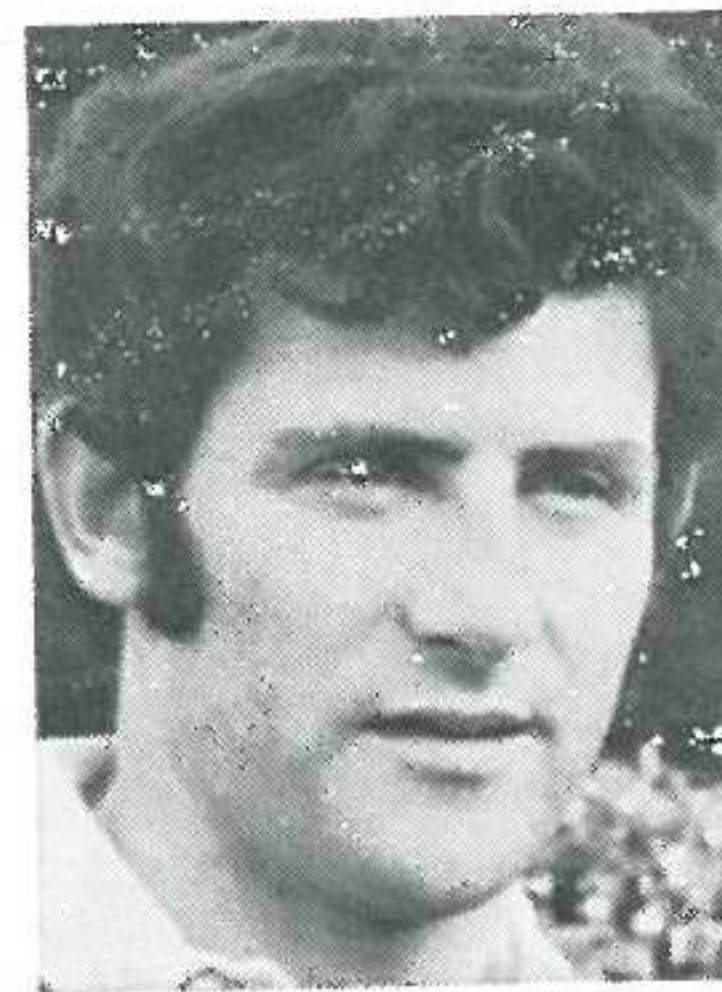
5. Sligo went out to Galway in a Connacht Championship first round game last year. Where was that match played?.....

## GENERAL

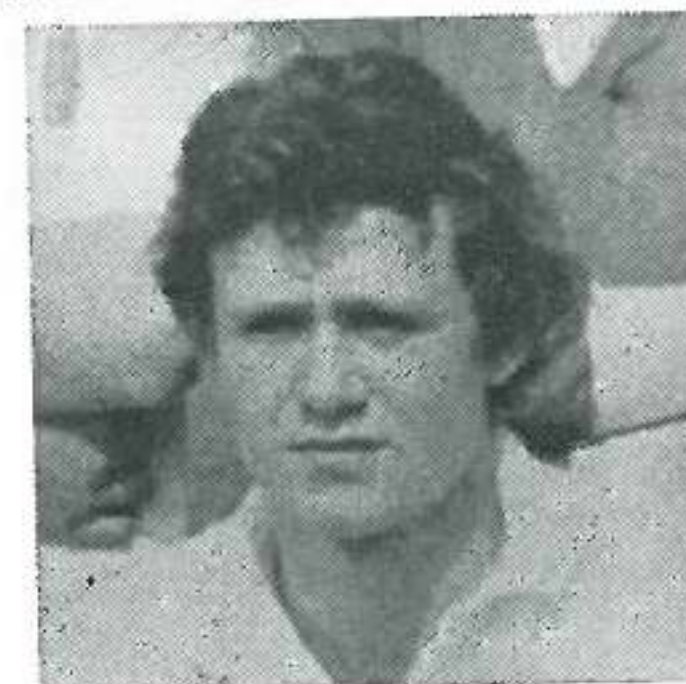
Now to complete our quiz, here are five questions on general topics.

1. The Dr. McKenna Cup is an all-Ulster senior football knock-out competition. What county won the trophy last year?.....

2. Recognise these players. One is a well-known hurler, the other



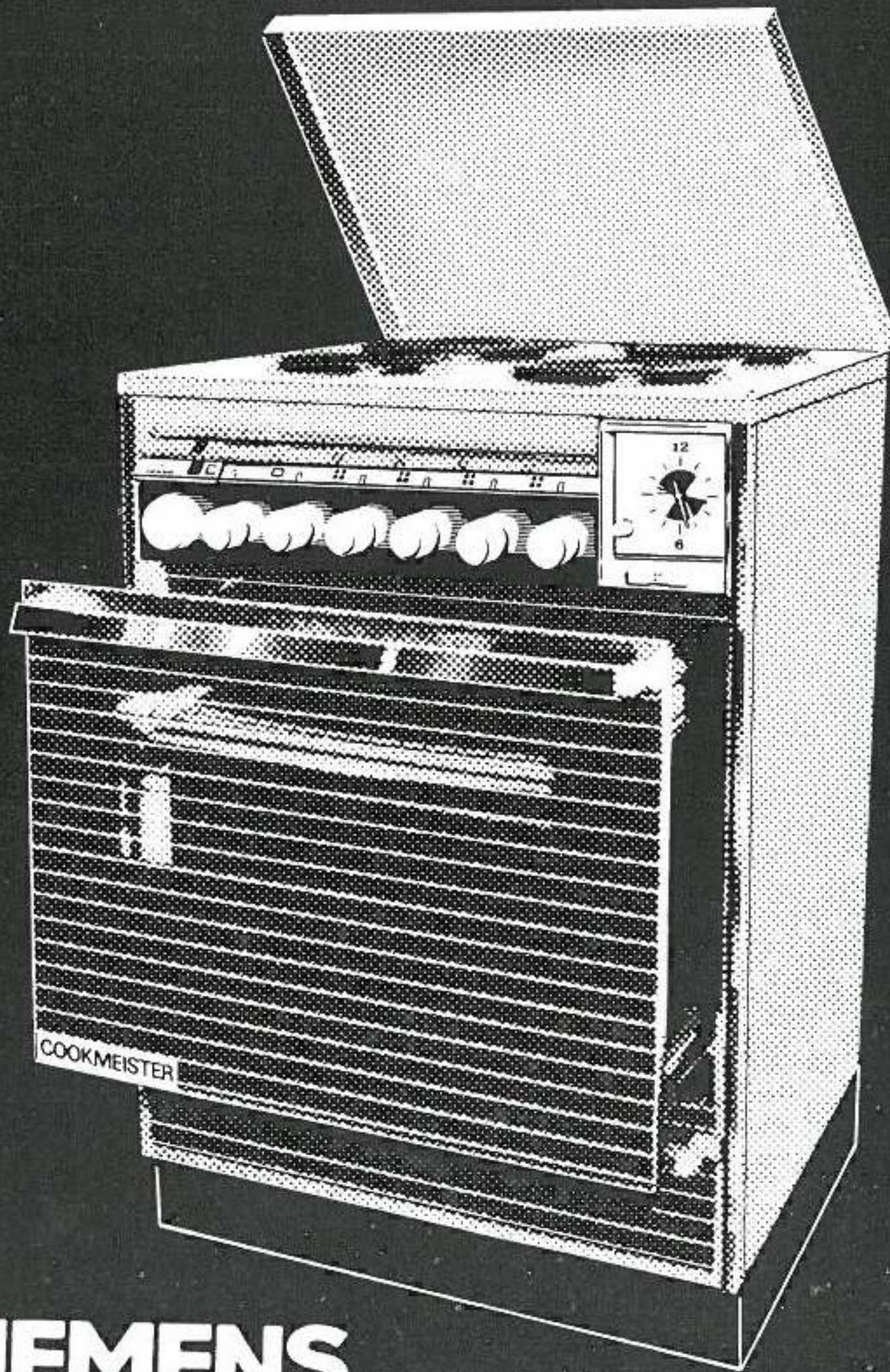
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### ● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

an up-and-coming teenage footballer. And, to complete the exercise, list their clubs.....

3. Three goalkeepers have won Carrolls All Stars awards in football so far. Who are they?.....

4. This footballer scored Leinster's first goal in the Railway Cup final on St. Patrick's Day?

5. Who was honoured in goal in the first Carrolls All Stars hurling selection of 1971?.....

## ANSWERS

*(Printed wrong side up to avoid distraction)*

5, Damien Martin (Offaly); (Cork); 4, Pat Fenning (Offaly); (Offaly) and Billy Morgan Smyth (Galway), Martin Furlong McKenna, of Augher; 3, P. J. of Roscrea, and Tyrone's minor captain of last year, Dessie

### GENERAL

1, Tyrone; 2, Tadgh O'Connor, who won a semi-final at Lurgan by 1-12 to 0-9; 5, Tuam.

### CHAMPIONSHIPS

1, Dublin by 0-17 to 1-6; 2, Third; 3, Seven points; 4, Down, 1965; 4, Centre half forward; 5, 1968.

### HURLING

1, Limerick won five titles in counties involved. when Cavan and Cork were the also captained Kerry; 5, 1948, that final—he hit two—and he player to get among the goals in 4, Brendan Lynch was the only 1, Longford; 2, True; 3, Laois;

### FOOTBALL

# THE HANDBALL SCENE

By ALLEYMAN

JOEY MAHER, Ireland's Handball Supremo must be the toast of Irish sportsmen this month in view of his magnificent performance in winning the USHA Master's Title.

When Maher set off with Pat Kirby in mid March for Knoxville in Tennessee, it would be true to say that even his most fervent supporter did not give him much chance of victory.

We thought it a good thing from the point of public relations that our boys should compete, but the assumption of outright victory was just not entertained. The odds were stacked against them.

They were not fully acclimatised to competing in the small court—after all we only have a few in this country altogether, and both were just completing a season, where they had been called upon to compete at home nearly every Sunday for the past year.

On the other hand, the Americans had been gradually gearing themselves for this event, which is undoubtedly, the highlight of their year. It's all over now and Maher has brought home the spoils in the Masters Section, while Kirby performed magnificently to reach the quarter-finals of the Open Competition.

At this stage, he was beaten by Paul Haber, who is reckoned to be the best player to appear on the American circuit in the last decade.

Maher's win was achieved at the expense of Dick Miller, who in turn had beaten Jim Fitzpatrick, the reigning champion, and a native of Galway in the semi-final. It was a tremendous final, with the course of the game ebbing and flowing in respective directions throughout.

Maher won in one of those heart-tearing finishes, where there is little room for the meek or uninspired.

The USHA master's title was thus bound for historic Millmount in Drogheda where Maher was born some forty years ago. What an ambassador this man from Boyneside has been for Irish sport.

A superb player, a man of gentlemanly decorum in and outside the court, he has consistently brought home the spoils, in contrast to our much publicised representatives in other sports who fail when the chips are really down. A man of ambition, Maher has done us really proud and walks as a legend in his own time.

Sometime, his autobiography will be written of a career that has flourished consistently and shows no signs of fading.

It will be tinted with the determination of a man who saw his goal and worked hard to get it.

Like my own memory of a dismal day in January 1965, when we stood at Dublin Airport and bid adieu to Joe, his wife Doris and three children as he left for Toronto. As we parted company that day, Joe was emphatic that, when he was successful in winning the World crown he would be home again.

Precisely three years later Joe's ambition was realised and, he was back in Dublin. But, in that period the great Drogheda player had expended much energy, travelled many thousand of miles and, generally dedicated himself to the task on hands.

In November 1967, the World Crown came his way when he beat the top American player, Carl Obert, in the final. This was

the big moment of his career.

In his discription of that game, Joe said that "it was all like a dream"—one of those games that comes once in a lifetime.

"I couldn't put a foot or rather a hand wrong and would describe it as just about the perfect match any player in any sport could hope for.

"I managed to get 21 'kill shots' out of 25 attempts which is something in the 'hole in one' category in golf and rarely achieved. I won decisively on the score 21-6; 21-18."

It is also interesting to note that prior to returning home Joe became the first man to receive Canada's Mackenzie medal of excellence for outstanding sporting service.

Back at home, Joe of course, took up the trail of winning titles where he had left off. In 1970, he represented Ireland in the World Championships at Croke Park, but was beaten by Pat Kirby, who, at that stage was lining out in the American singlet.

Thereafter, we wrote him off. A recurring back injury was persistently annoying him, and generally his play was suffering.

Then last year he made a full recovery, and dynamic Maher was back. This latest win certainly has crowned his comeback bid. One would not now dare to suggest when or where he will reach the end of the handball road.

Obviously, he is going to win many more titles, and, certainly match if not better the singles record of John Joe Gilmartin. The handball world glitters for champion Maher, who also leads an equally successful Family Band. He deserves it all and we congratulate him sincerely.

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# PULSES QUICKEN IN THE SOUTH

By  
RAYMOND SMITH

DOWN South they are saying that this could be one of the greatest Munster senior hurling championship campaigns of all time.

Much of the talk along these lines has been bound up with the expectation from the pairings themselves, especially the prospect of a repeat of the memorable Limerick-Cork 1971 semi-final at Thurles, if Cork should get over Waterford in the first round.

And it wouldn't end there. For Tipperary have to face Clare in the Munster semi-final and if the Premier County win that one, the Munster Final offers us either a traditional Tipperary-Cork tussle or a repeat of last year's confrontation between Tipperary and Limerick—only that this time the All-Ireland champions are going to have ground advantage.

It would be too easy to dismiss lightly the Waterford challenge against Cork and Clare's prospects against Tipperary. You can never afford to do that in Munster. All right, I know it will be argued that Waterford after flattering at the start of the League faded rather badly subsequently and their failure to reach the semi-final stage was a big disappointment to their supporters. But still didn't they surprise us all by heading their section for a while. And I, for one, had never imagined this Waterford side as a "winter team". I felt that they would be seem to best advantage on a fast summer sod and, remember, that the great Decies team of the 1959-'63 era could beat the best of them when the ball was flying

(who can forget the way they trounced Tipperary in Cork in 1959, scoring no less than nine goals, eight of them in the first half).

What will beat the present Waterford team, I fear, is lack of sufficient experience of the big-time. It took Limerick almost seven years of endeavour to attain finally the two most coveted prizes of all—a Munster crown and an All-Ireland title.

You can be so much better than the opposition and yet old heads and seasoned campaigners can "steal" it from you in a tight finish as Tipperary did against Limerick in Killarney in 1971.

The way I read it then is that if Waterford's speedy attacks, especially in the first half, do not bring their due reward in the shape of goals, they may become somewhat disheartened and Cork could cut the pace subsequently to their own liking and win through to the semi-final.

Clare caused one of the biggest sensations for years when they ousted Limerick at Cusack Park, Ennis in 1972 and the Shannonsiders were put to the skin of their teeth to avenge that defeat last year. It was Jim O'Donnell coming on as a sub and an outstanding performance by Richie Bennis at midfield that saved Limerick.

I hear that the Claremen are very confident of causing an upset against Tipperary and they are very anxious now to emulate what their neighbours, Limerick did last year. "Anything you can do, we can do better" might well be the motto to describe the approach of the Banner County—

but is enthusiasm enough? I cannot get out of my mind the manner in which Clare's high hopes died in a torrent of Cork scores in the Munster Final at Thurles two years ago—a day when so much was expected but, apart from glaring weakness through the field, the occasion proved too much for some of the players, who never gave their true form.

"Babs" Keating believes that the draw gives Tipperary a wonderful opportunity of winning All-Ireland honours this year. And he realises that this could be the last opportunity for the players who form the backbone of the team. Tipperary have been showing a very dedicated approach to training since before the League match with Waterford at Thurles, on which so much hinged and the enthusiasm was even greater for the home game against Limerick subsequently that saw "Babs" Keating get the winner on the call of time with a palmed effort over the bar. It was sheer determination that pulled Tipperary through in the end against a far better Limerick hurling team all round. In a word the Premier County had more to play for, as Limerick had already qualified for the semi-finals.

You know I would have to go back a few years to recall Tipperary going into it with the same do-or-die spirit in the championship. If they reproduce that Thurles spirit this summer, I cannot see Clare halt them and, believe me, they could well emerge as the team to beat in the championship.

I would make Limerick favourites on the strength of their

● OVERLEAF

● **FROM OVERLEAF**  
magnificent showing in the All-Ireland Final of 1973—but that doesn't mean for one moment that they will justify it. I would like in many ways to see them

pull it off again, for it would mean that they would be putting the seal on last year's success, as Offaly left no doubts when they won their second successive football title in 1972, beating Kerry

in the process. Limerick had a lot of sympathy behind them last year and every neutral spectator in Croke Park on All-Ireland day was cheering for them. They are champions in their own right now and everyone wants to bring them down from that pinnacle.

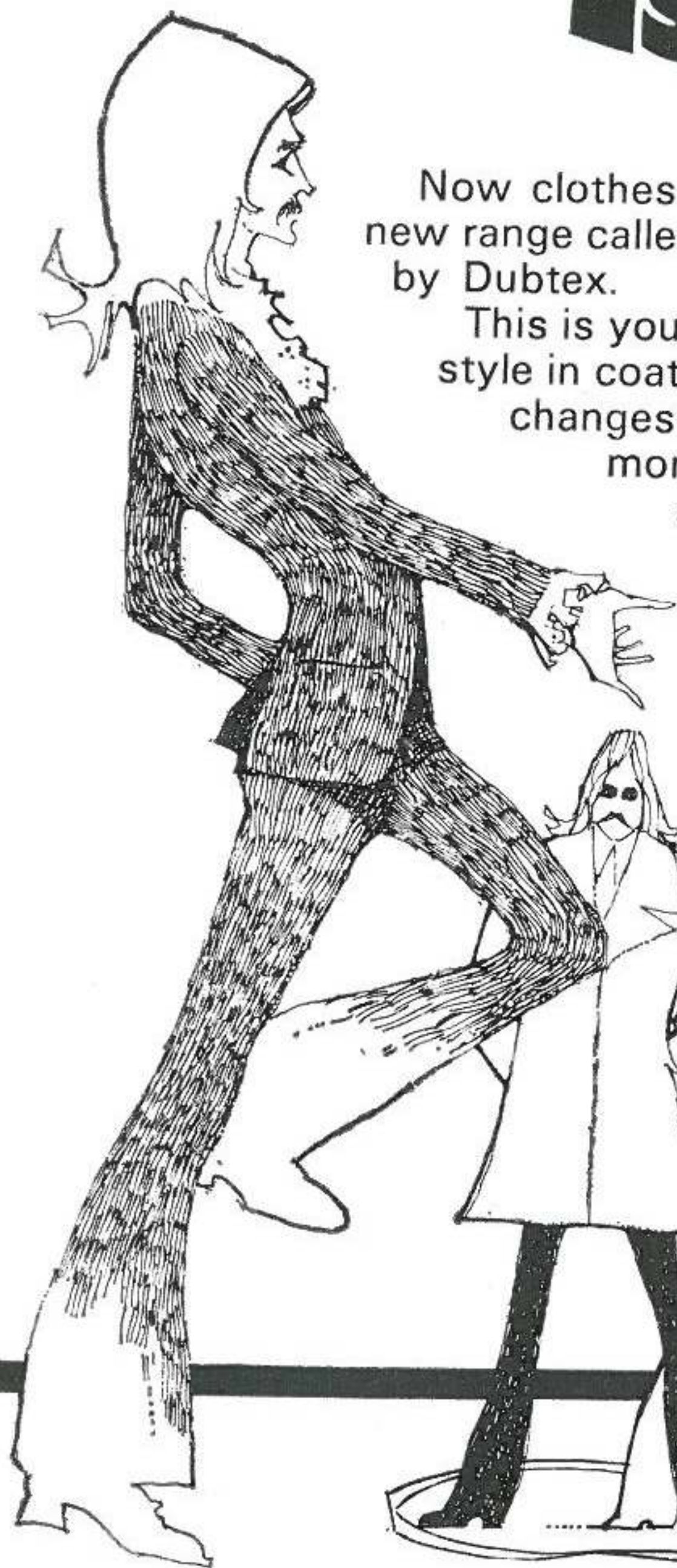
If they were meeting Cork in an 80-minute test—that is assuming Cork beat Waterford—I wouldn't have a lot of qualms in fearlessly tipping them to win, especially with some of the dual Cork players having to think of that Killarney test against Kerry and deep down saving something for it. But over sixty minutes anything can happen.

Supposing they get over Cork—what then? I would prefer their chances on the Thurles sod any day against Tipperary (assuming they beat Clare) than at Limerick. I hardly regard Limerick as an "away" venue to Tipperary in the strict sense of the term. They are so accustomed to playing there that it is like a home-from-home venue and the pace will suit them better than at Semple Stadium, where a side like Limerick can play the wings and stretch any defence.

At the same time I would have to fancy Limerick over 80 minutes on the strength of what I saw over 60 minutes in the League at Thurles—that is assuming that Limerick would strip as fit for the decider as they did last year.

If Limerick come out of Munster this year, they will have forged a special niche for themselves in hurling history, no matter what happens subsequently in the All-Ireland. But could you really see them beaten if they did get out of Munster? They would be red-hot favourites to take their second successive crown. If they fail, they will be recalled as the Green and White combination that made the big break-through—but hardly as a top-class side. It takes two-in-a-row at least to add that special something.

# YOUNG GENERATION IS HERE!

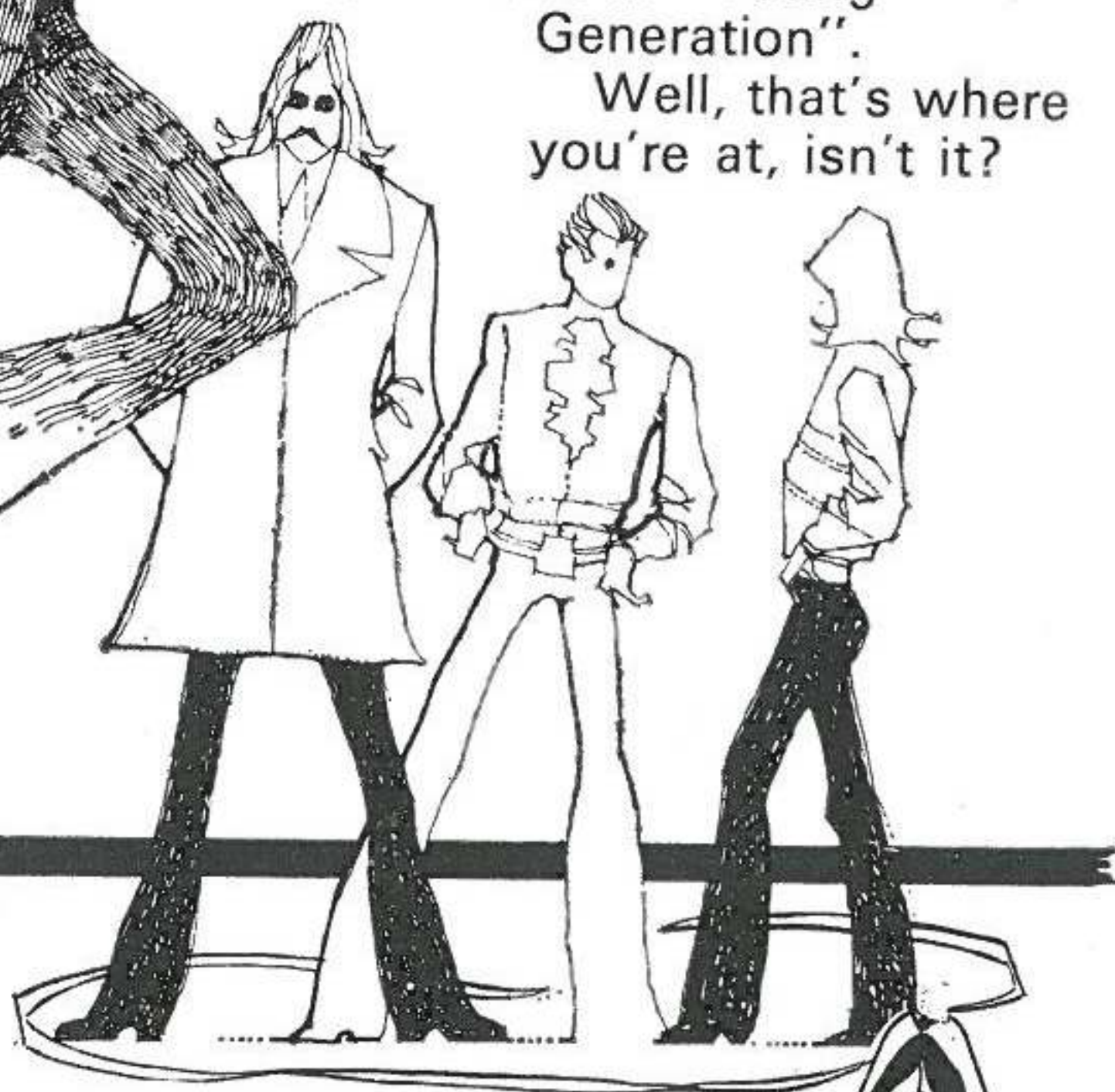


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## A QUESTION OF VENUES

IN some quarters there was quite an amount of Bru-ha-ha when the recent National Hurling League semi-final between Limerick and Tipperary was on a toss, fixed for Limerick. There were those who felt it should have been played at a neutral venue, there were those who felt the game should have been brought to Croke Park, and there were those who felt that the venue was a matter which should have been left entirely to the Activities Committee and that the counties concerned should not have been granted the privilege of tossing between Thurles and Limerick at all.

Well it must be admitted of course, that this game was the most talked of confrontation in the entire League campaign, because of Limerick's one-point win over Tipperary at Thurles in the Munster championship final last July, and Tipperary's no less thrilling victory over the All-Ireland champions at the same venue in the closing round of the League campaign proper.

Now as this Tipperary v Limerick clash was obviously going to be one of the greatest games, if not **The** most-talked-of game of the season, the venue was obviously a matter of major concern. There were points in favour of bringing the game to Croke Park, but quite candidly, would even this hurling "plum" draw as big a crowd to Croke Park, as it would to Semple Stadium or to the Ennis Road? And it must also be remembered that the supporters of the winning side would be asked to come back to Croke Park for the final? I do not think it can be argued that more Tipperary and Limerick supporters would travel to Dublin than would travel to Thurles or Limerick City.

Nor do I believe that the number of neutral hurling followers that would muster in Croke Park would be greater than the number of hurling fans who would gather at a Munster venue.

It can also be argued of course that so attractive a hurling game in Croke Park would stimulate still further the reviving interest in Hurling in Dublin.

But from the point of view of hard facts, Kilkenny and Wexford have played a whole series of thrilling Leinster hurling finals in Croke Park in recent years, wonderful exhibitions of the code, and will any one tell me what did these great games do to stimulate hurling interest among the average Dublin follower?

So having taken the realistic view, that for the sake of hurling followers in general, and Southern hurling followers in particular, this game was better suited to a Southern venue, the next problem facing the Activities Committee obviously was where to play it?

There were six or seven possible neutral venues, Ennis, Waterford, Killarney, Cork, Dungarvan, Kilkenny and Birr. The Activities people sent those two counties first to Kilkenny and then to Birr for last season's drawn semi-final and replay, and if memory serves me rightly neither the teams nor their supporters were all that happy to be sent outside the province.

Waterford and Dungarvan, are for some followers of the counties directly concerned, almost as far away as Croke Park, if not farther.

Ennis, peculiarly enough, does not seem to be seriously considered for Tipperary v Limerick matches, and that leaves Killarney and Cork. Killarney is anathema to the Limerickmen, following a whole series of unlucky defeats there, and North Tipperary supporters always maintain that Killarney is almost the far end of the world as far as they are concerned.

This is a great pity, because, for my money, Killarney is one of the great hurling pitches not alone in Munster, but anywhere in Ireland. So that of the neutral venues left only Cork, where we saw that great League final between Tipperary and Limerick in 1971 won once again with a late point from a Richie Bennis free.

Now there were obvious difficulties about Cork.

● OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 39

That day the ground could hardly hold the crowd, and the road back certainly could not hold the traffic. Since then the traffic situation in the Southern Capital has not improved, and as well as that the builders should be moving in any day, if they have not already done so to transform the Athletic Grounds into a Gaelic Stadium worthy of Cork and its wonderful tradition in both codes.

So that of course, left only Thurles and Limerick, and as I see it the counties were fully entitled to toss. Moreover it was poetic justice that Limerick won, as they had gone to Thurles for the Munster final.

Moreover, to the vast majority of Limerick and Tipperary followers, there is no great difference in travelling distance between the two venues, while as far as the teams themselves are concerned Limerick was as much of a home from home for the Tipperary players as Thurles always is for the Limerickmen.

So no matter what anyone else may think I believe the Activities Committee were right in allowing the two counties toss for choice of venue for this vital game.

Meanwhile I wish I could find my way to agree thoroughly with this new senior B Hurling Championship. This competition, as I see it is a revival

of the Mean Corn Iomana which was launched with high hopes around about 20 years ago, and lasted no more than a couple of seasons. It is of course a good idea that in that it provides competition for counties that might otherwise vanish from the other championships early on.

But to a close follower of Leinster hurling, one may well ask how realistic is the new set up. The anomaly is of course, principally provided by Kildare, who in the recent League series beat Offaly and Laois, and ran Tipperary to six points at Thurles. Yet Kildare are now in the B championship while Laois and Offaly are in the senior championship proper. What have Kildare to learn in the B championship? Precious little to my way of thinking. What they need is games with teams better than themselves, and they could only have got that by staying on in the Leinster senior championship proper. I wish the senior B championship the best of luck, but I cannot see what useful function it fulfills that the old Intermediate championship minus the first-class counties, would not have served as well.

To my mind the ambitions of the "middling" counties would be far better served by the adoption of a two up, two down promotion and relegation system between Division 1A and 1B of the National Hurling League.

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## Irish Sugar Company

# BOOK REVIEW

## ● FROM PAGE 7

teams; venues of play; seasons of play.

But, through the whole work (which was originally submitted to *An tOireachtas* for the literary competitions and published now in rewritten form in English because the author understands a comprehensive work on the subject is about to be published in Irish) there is a thesis which lends a certain element of interest and, of course, room for debate and discussion.

This thesis is that there were really two forms of hurling: **Camánacht** with a narrow-bladed stick and a small, hard wooden ball, played mainly with driving ground strokes and connected with the winter festivals of Samhain, Christmas and the New Year; and Leinster Summer Hurling, as he calls it, with a broader-blade, larger softer ball, with much more juggling and playing with the ball, played in the summer months on dry grounds.

O Maolfabhail tackles head-on the accepted belief (accepted, perhaps, because unquestioned) that the arrival of hurling to its modern G.A.A. form was the outcome of a series of natural development stages from the original form of Camánacht. He questions how and when such developing stages occurred. Educes much evidence to support his view that there were, in fact, two quite distinct—even divergent—forms of the game, and if he will not satisfy everyone that his case is proven, he certainly has opened an avenue of thought and, perhaps, of challenge to future contributors to this section of Hurling literature.

The conclusion of acceptance of the two strains of the game, means, of course, that, in modern

times, the G.A.A. has become the guardian and promoter of Leinster Summer Hurling; and Camánacht is preserved and nurtured to-day by the various Scottish authorities in charge of shinty (or Camanachd, as they call it).

The connection with Scotland, is, of course, wholly acceptable and there is little doubt of the interplay which brought the game to Gaelic Scotland and allows it to remain there even to-day. Emigration from north-eastern Ireland caused the language to be transmitted about the 5th century; there certainly was close contact until the 17th century. In Ireland itself the theory is tenable, if not conclusively probable, that the game spread southwards with the rise of northern influence between the 4th and 7th centuries.

In precisely tying down some facts which could have water-proofed his theory of the two games, the author is constantly frustrated by the fact that references in literature are many and consistent, but their detail is vague. On too many occasions the time of year has to be relied upon to establish whether it was winter or summer hurling. And this, in the absence of detail of play or the style, or even the equipment, tends to suggest the matter to be proved is already established.

The theory, however, is rendered more and more likely by the mass of evidence, even if one cannot be entirely happy that other explanations might not fit the bill with equal satisfaction. We shall expect disbelievers to take up the cudgels without delay.

At any rate, the expansion of it suggests that Camanacht was practised as a distinguishing

mark of Gaelic culture and that it diminished with the diminution of the Gaelic society in the 19th century. It lingered where the Irish language and culture resisted the spread of English.

To some extent, at least, it appears plausible that Leinster Summer Hurling was associated with the spread of the English language from the south-east of the country. Camanacht, being the feature it was of the life of the oppressed native Irish, it was destined to be rejected with the language and other aspects of that culture by the people of Ireland.

The position was stronger in Scotland where the badge of the down-trodden was never particularly tied to the Gaelic Scots who kept their traditions while bowing to the authority of London.

Anglo-Irish patronage was a considerable element in the building of the game. But, while Camanacht seems to have had no political overtones, hurling gradually became anti-English in character, and was obvious as a vehicle for expression of national sentiment. In the 19th century republicanism became more associated with the preservation of Irish culture — so hurling enhanced its position.

When the G.A.A. was established it was, therefore, the summer game which they favoured—the other was more or less dead. Development to this day has been the G.A.A.'s doing. Aspects of the Camanacht tradition absorbed into the development laid emphasis on the "ground pulling", for example.

Accept or reject, it is an interesting claim. As the author says, it is up to the reader; he himself merely wishes to provide the evidence. This, at least, he has done impressively.

**Caman—2,000 Years of Hurling in Ireland by Art O Maolfabhail, 10 Beech Park, Castleknock, Co. Dublin. Price £3 including postage.**

# ULSTER VIEWPOINT

By DAN McAREAVY

"I NEVER felt more like singing the blues" may well have been the most appropriate jingle for Armagh fans as they trudged from most of their matches in recent years, with an almost unbroken run of defeats the frustrating reward for the most loyal following in the land.

However, it is a long lane which has no turning and thanks to the exploits of county champions Clan na Gael the old ditty has taken on an altogether different meaning with the famous Lurgan Blues now being hailed as the new trail blazers in what is hoped will be the great revival.

Indeed, whether the Orchard county's representatives win or lose that All-Ireland club final replay against UCD on April 28 they have already etched out for themselves a notable chapter not only for the game itself, more importantly, for the whole concept of the club as the basic unit in the Association.

Their achievements must surely act as a spur for those charged with carrying on in the face of the many challenges now confronting the organisation particularly at the vital grass root level. The Clans have proved

that, even in this day and age a fierce local loyalty is the key ingredient in any recipe for success.

As one commentator has so aptly put it: "The story behind the story of the Blues is one of sheer parochialism and utter loyalty."

The club whose catchment area extends only a stone's throw from Davitt Park is undoubtedly clanish in the very best sense of the word.

But let Harry McGarry, chairman for the past 20 years, and a committee member since he first joined the club away back in 1931 take up the story.

"I would say that the birth of the present team was due largely to the building of the Shankill Estate over 20 years ago," said Harry. "Young couples moved into the new houses then and their sons who went to

school together and played together joined the Clans."

A closely knit community has proved a tremendous recruiting ground for players and supporters as far as the Lurgan camp is concerned. Generally it is only in country areas that compact clubs of this nature are to be found but the Clans have achieved this loyalty by concentrating on a smallish sector in a large town of some 25,000 people.

And the Clans have gone out of their way to facilitate the people of their area in Lurgan in every aspect of GAA activity.

As youngsters the members of the present team played together in the streets of their estate and later "graduated" to Davitt Park. It was and remains the natural process. They have always been associated with each other and practically all the present team were on the county juvenile side some years ago. A real family atmosphere has been created with the social life of their district strongly linked with the club. It is a true saying that once a clansman you are always a clansman.

Space does not permit a litany of the contributions made by the club to the Association on and off the field. Suffice to say perhaps that those who first charted the Association would be pleased to accept Clan na Gael as a genuine club. I would be less than honest if I did not suggest that their cosmopolitan semi-final opponents, UCC and UCD, with their conglomeration of inter-county stars, seem strangely at odds with the true spirit of the club championship.

That is a problem which is not for me to unravel. However it is something that the powers that be should look at as a matter of urgency.

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# A MUNSTER MYSTERY

By TOM MORRISON

JUST like Cork-Tipperary Munster hurling finals, Cork-Kerry provincial football deciders have a special attraction and magic all their own. They have completely dominated the Munster championships since 1887, winning seventy-four titles between them, but for years past one of the great mysteries of football has been the failure of Clare, Waterford, Limerick and Tipperary to make a serious impact on the inter-county scene despite the fact that their teams include many players of proven high-class ability.

Clare people often claim that some of their County men were among the greatest exponents of Gaelic football. Men like P. J. O'Dea and P. J. Kennedy are but two whose talents are forever praised in the Clare county. However only one Munster senior football title was won by the Banner county in the whole history of the Association, that was in 1917 when they beat Cork by 5-4 to 0-1.

Tipperary on the other hand had better success, they won nine titles between 1888 and 1935 but since then have faded completely, and worse still they have only appeared in three Munster finals since then. When in 1957, Waterford beat Kerry it was difficult to find a Deciesman who did not believe that some sort of mistake had been made.

Limerick was the last of these counties to make the headlines. They shocked Cork in 1965, and gave a splendid performance before losing to Kerry in the Munster final. During the first half they banged in two spectacular goals as well as outplaying the mighty Kingdom, but again as in the past experience and lack of team work was their downfall.

For donkeys years now those

counties have paid little attention to trying to raise their football standards. This, even, might be forgivable—certainly it would have been understandable — in those counties where hurling held sway, and the first place in the public esteem. But even at Munster Council or Central Council level was there any concern about raising the standards in these counties?

Take the Railway Cup for instance, since 1927 only seven players from Clare, Waterford and Tipperary have won medals with their Province compared to sixty-two from Cork and Kerry, a very poor record indeed.

What must those four counties do to make the big breakthrough? Part of the reason, I think, for the sorry state of their failure is that there is not enough work being done in staging schools—shield and juvenile competitions in every school in the parishes. They must start at an early age to develop into good minors, and from there on to senior grade. Also if an inter-county player took over each parish or school, which from my own experience would get all the young lads out for the simple reason he might be their favourite player and they would be very proud and glad to train under him.

During the forty-five years of the minor football championships only two of the counties have been successful in winning the All-Ireland title — Clare in 1929 and Tipperary in 1934, and the same counties have only won three Munster victories each, with Limerick one, and Waterford none.

Nearly twelve months ago Eamonn Young trained Clare for their first round game against Waterford, the result, the Ban-

ner County won by ten points, and as well as that gave a great display of football by scoring 0-18. A fortnight later against Cork, Eamonn wasn't in charge and Clare were completely overwhelmed by 2-14 to 0-3.

It's men like Eamonn Young we want drafted into those counties to improve the standard of football and Clare, Waterford, Limerick and Tipperary must build up brand new teams of players, and place their trust in the youthful players scattered throughout their counties.

## AN GÚM

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# Remember, with cigarettes you just can't win!



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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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WE are four years old as of May 1974. I'm talking of Junior Desk. As we grow older we get bigger. Now that Ann Carroll has started her Ladies Please for the fair sex it can easily be seen that GAELIC SPORT (the magazine that is) is coming or has come to mean more in Irish life. Past time too. With all the imported stuff on display in the shops, even in the heart of the country, one would be forgiven for thinking this was England and our young boys were English kids. But let us stop patting ourselves on the back. Junior Desk has proved that Irish youth want to identify still. Last month I asked you to introduce one friend to Junior Desk. The same request is made again on our fourth birthday.

The bigger the club the better variety offered. New names, faces, ideas. Which reminds me I seldom receive photos for reproduction now. If you send a photo make sure it is good and clear and be careful posting it.

### CUT-OUT

Our Cut-out this month is that fine mid-fielder Bobby Millar of Laois. This particular Cut-out has been requested by many Junior Desk fans in the past. Bobby's display on March 17 was one of the few bright football spots in an otherwise dull football day at Croke Park. I say football because the club hurling final between Rathnure

and Blackrock was always interesting. I think it is time the Railway Cups were scrapped. Altogether. Perhaps March 17 is a wrong date with parades on everywhere but let us not wait forever trying to find out why the public have lost interest.

Give them something they are interested in and I wonder if the club finals, for all their zeal, standard of play etc. are the answer. Anyhow I've rambled from my cut-out Bobby Millar — a worthy successor of the great Tommy Murphy. JUNIOR DESK reader's may wonder who Tommy Murphy was. Ask your Dads and they will tell you or read "The Football Immortals" by Raymond Smith.

### G.A.A. BOOKS

More G.A.A. books have come on to my shelf.

(1) The third issue of An Déiseach, edited once again by Seamus Ó Braonáin, that indefatigable Abbeyside man, is excellent. Its full colour cover is great. But easily the outstanding section this year is a 1973 diary of events on the local and national G.A.A. scene relating to Waterford. **It is the best Yearbook I have yet seen. An Déiseach — Waterford G.A.A. Yearbook 1974 — Price 40p (not incl. postage) from S. Ó Braonáin, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.**

(2) The first ever issue of the Meath G.A.A. Yearbook edited

by GAELIC SPORT contributor Noel Coogan is another very good buy. This is a 40 page glossy annual and the high points are Fr. Paddy Tully's "Behind the Scenes in '49" with some interesting old photos. A profile of the irrepressible Pat Reynolds, an interesting Meath Quiz with quite a number of games, a Meath best of the period 1949-'73 etc. **Meath G.A.A. Yearbook 1974. Price 35p incl. postage from Gaelic Press Ltd., 21 Great Denmark St., Dublin 1.**

(3) The same publishers as No. 2 have produced an annual to commemorate Limerick's great G.A.A. year in 1973. This 60 page yearbook is edited by that wonderful Limerick historian Seamus Ó Ceallaigh. I liked the full colour centrepiece of the Limerick hurling team which I understand is in calendar form as well, a **You May Not Know That** titbit variety section compiled by the editor, an interview with Michael Ó Hehir by Bro. P. P. Guthrie of Féile na nGael fame . . . Another very good buy.

**Limerick Heroes. Price 45p, does not include postage from same publishers as No. 2.**

(4) **The Spirit of the Glen— a Glen Rovers (Co. Cork) history** priced 80p (not incl. postage) is a 156 page documentary of the Glen Rovers and Christy Ring history. This is a tremendous presentation—a wonderful accomplishment for this proud

● OVERLEAF

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## ● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

club. Every G.A.A. club should have a copy of it. The team photos, everyone named, are a treat. Ringey gets his due coverage but so does Jack Lynch, Jim Young, Donie O'Donovan, Eamonn Goulding, John Lyons, Dave Creedon, Joe Twomey, Josie Hartnett, Denis Coughlan . . . the list is too numerous to continue. All enquiries should be sent to **Glen Rovers Hurling Club, Thomas Davis St., Blackpool, Cork.** Furthermore there are no ads (just sponsors) and you **MUST** get a copy.

## COMPETITION

The Spirit of the Glen is such a fine book that I am offering 10 prizes of this book to the readers who will send on before May 20 the 10 best replies to the question "Are Corkmen Ireland's best Hurlers?" No age limit this time but state your age if under 21 and don't write more than 50 words please. You don't have to agree remember!

Finally before we introduce the Mailbag section I'd like to welcome the first issue of "Fios" a newsletter from the recently formed G.A.A. Communications Committee, to say well done to the Offaly G.A.A. Supporters Club for the very fine free programme they prepared for the Leinster v Combined Universities football game on February 10 at Tullamore and to say a sincere thanks to **John B. Murphy** of Ballymac, Kilmallock for sending on two annuals.

## THE SUNDAY R.T.E. SPORTS SHOW

"I think it is Rubbish. Rarely is there a Gaelic Games feature.

Coverage on newspapers is terrible too"—

**Gerald Traynor, 893 Francis St., Edenderry, Co. Offaly.**

"As far as television goes, if we want comedy we have Harry Worth, so let us leave the comedy to Harry and give us better coverage of Gaelic Games in future"—

**Michael Burke, Killeslin Rd., Ballickmoyler, Carlow.**

"The Sunday Night's R.T.E. Sports Show should be abolished. Why not a G.A.A. Match of the Day every Sunday?"—

**Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.**

"The T.V. Sports Show on Sunday nights is far too late for us youngsters but I like the 7 o'clock radio programme"—

**Patrick Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath.**

"Too much soccer on the Sunday nights R.T.E. Sports Show. Still they had a very good interview with John Power, the veteran Kilkenny star. Much too much soccer though"—

**Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare.**

"R.T.E. are not doing anything for Gaelic games. Rugby followers must feel happy though. The Sunday night Laugh In is a flop"—

**Patrick Leogue, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly.**

That's enough about T.V. It is obvious that JUNIOR DESK isn't too happy with the treatment meted out to Gaelic Games by R.T.E. or the newspapers.

## MORE FROM THE MAILBAG

"Ray Cummins was married on March 19"—

**Tom Moore, Walshtown More, Middleton, Co. Cork.**

● *Congratulations from Junior Desk Ray and Mrs. Cummins. (J.M.)*

"Could Gaelic Sport be published weekly at 10p per issue?"—

**John Keane, Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork.**

● *It has been a monthly since 1963. Perhaps it could be published twice a month during June, July and August—the hot months for the G.A.A. (J.M.)*

"Give us a Cut-Out of Michael Kearins or Mattie Brennan or Jack Cosgrove or Brendan Lynch"—

**Sean Henry, Knockmagee, Ballyntogher, Co. Sligo.**

"I still think Galway will win the '74 All-Ireland (football). Could we have a background to the Cut-Out? Gaelic Sport is great"—

**Mattie McDermott, Ahane, Kilkerrin, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.**

● *Hope you are right in your prediction. (J.M.)*

"How about a Cut-Out of Martin Hickey"—

**Michael Hannon, Gortnameeka, Ballyduff Upper, Co. Waterford.**

"Dan Quigley is only 29. He must come back for Wexford"—

**James Jackman, Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.**

● *How about it Dan. (J.M.)*

"I want some information on hurling and football books"—

**Douglas Quealey, Clare Abbey, Clarecastle, Co. Clare.**

● *Keep reading JUNIOR DESK for news of latest books issued. We need charts of course. But these will come. (J.M.)*

"I got the Connacht Annual. Very good. The photo of the Connacht team is of 1958 not 1959. Connacht beat Leinster in



Ballinasloe that day by 1-11 to 0-7"—

**Aiden Donnelly, 2 Leinster St., Phibsboro, Dublin.**

● *You are right Aiden. (J.M.)*

"We have a local poet here named Michael Barry who wrote **The Corkmen of '73'**"—

**Paul Murphy, Mayfield, Co. Cork.**

● *That team deserved such a tribute. (J.M.)*

"I would like to be a good sportsman"—

**Seán Ó Coileán, Cearn Mór, Órán Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe.**

● *Good boy Sean. (J.M.)*

"Could we have a book full of Cut-Outs?"—

**Michael Nolan, Imanebeg, Barnaderg, Tuam, Co. Galway.**

● *Over to you Tommy McQuaid. (J.M.)*

"Could we have a Top Scorers list every month"—

**John English, Killeen, Ballylanders, Co. Limerick.**

"I want a Cut-Out of Seán O'Leary"—

**Tom Keniry, Walshtownmore, Dungourney, Co. Cork.**

So ends another Mailbag. Don't forget the competition "Are Corkmen Ireland's Best Hurlers" and don't forget to introduce JUNIOR DESK to your friends—just one friend in each case. If you want a pen friend or if you want to say anything boys and girls write to me at

**Junior Desk,**

**80 Upper Drumcondra Road,  
Dublin 1.**

Till next month slán agaibh.

*Jack Mahon*

## "Book of Hurling"

WHEN "The Clash of the Ash" by Raymond Smith was published in the summer of 1972, it was sold out in a matter of six weeks or so and in the intervening period there has been a continuous demand for another hurling book like it.

Limerick's sweep to Munster and All-Ireland honours last year inspired the author to produce a new full-length work that would capture all the highlights of the memorable 1973 season and at the same time give due coverage to the more recent achievements of all the other leading counties, while seeing these against the background of the traditions created by great teams and great players in earlier decades, like the 'thirties and 'forties.

Now Raymond Smith has completed his task and his 350-page **Book of Hurling** will appear in mid-June in time for the eagerly-awaited Munster semi-final clash between Limerick and Cork or Waterford.

The book will include a detailed account of Limerick's seventh title win. Smith travelled to Limerick to talk to the players and get all the inside stories behind that triumph. The views of the Tipperary men who opposed them at Thurles and star players from Kilkenny, Limerick's opponents in the All-Ireland, will also be incorporated in the chapters that will record for all time the excitement generated by the success of the Shannonsiders.

There will be a magnificent centre spread of eight pages of full colour, including the Limerick team in full colour and prints that capture the glory of Munster Final Day. Cork, Tipperary and Kilkenny teams also appear in full colour.

There will be no less than 150 black-and-white photos, including the finest action shots taken during last year's campaign and some uniquely-historic photographs that have never been published before.

Hurling enthusiasts everywhere when they see this production will be especially grateful to Player-Wills (Ireland) Ltd. without whose backing the book could never have been produced in these days of ever-rising costs for newsprint. Other national concerns have supported the venture through advertising while the GAA has co-operated fully with the research. It was Player-Wills who made possible Raymond Smith's first full-length history of hurling, "Decades of Glory" in 1966 and also his history of football, "The Football Immortals", which is now out of print. They were also responsible for the highly-acclaimed films "Peil" and "Christy Ring".

The "Book of Hurling" will retail at 90p in bookshops and will be available direct from the publishers Creative Press, Creation House, Botanic Road, Dublin 9 at £1 (including postage).

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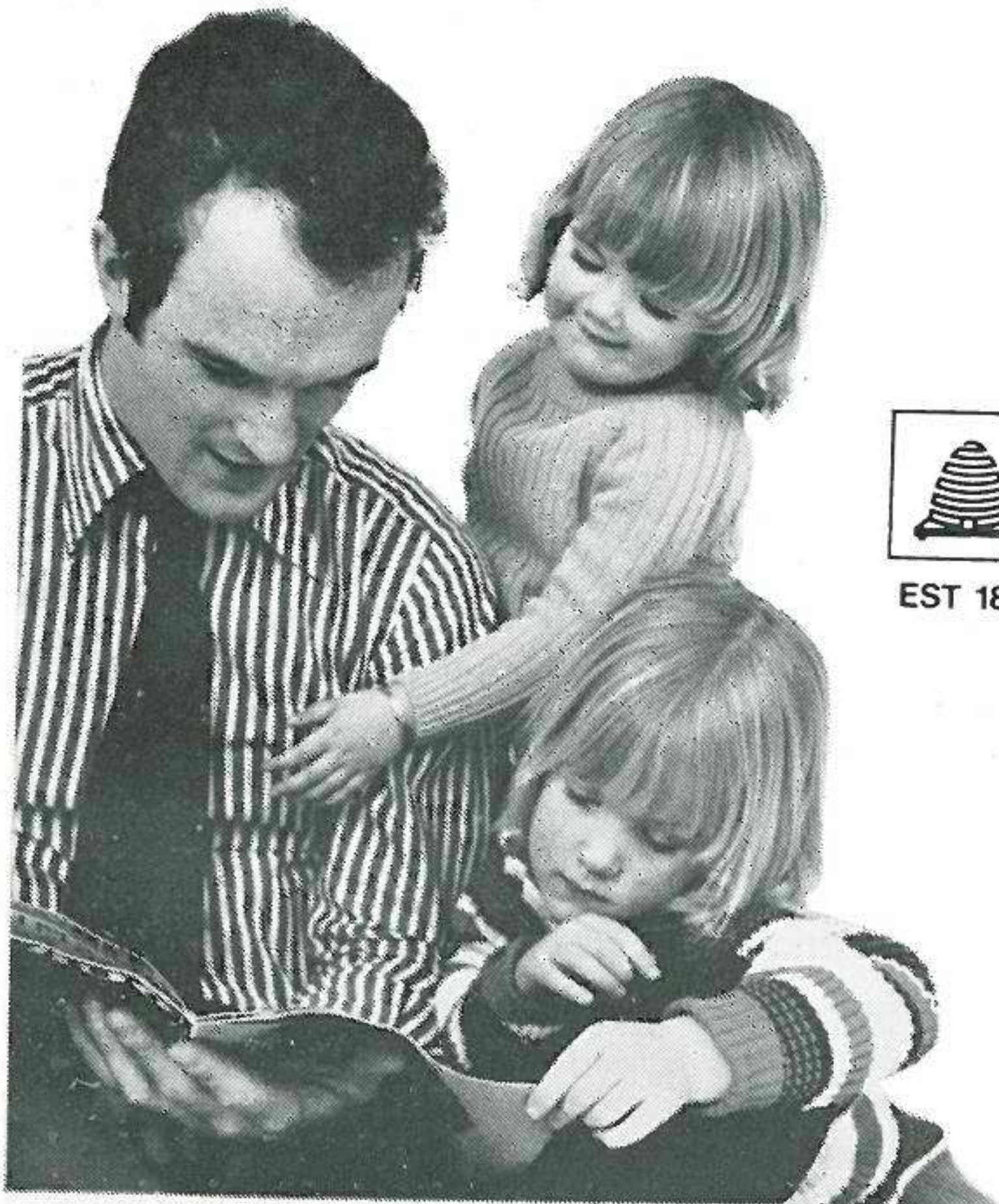
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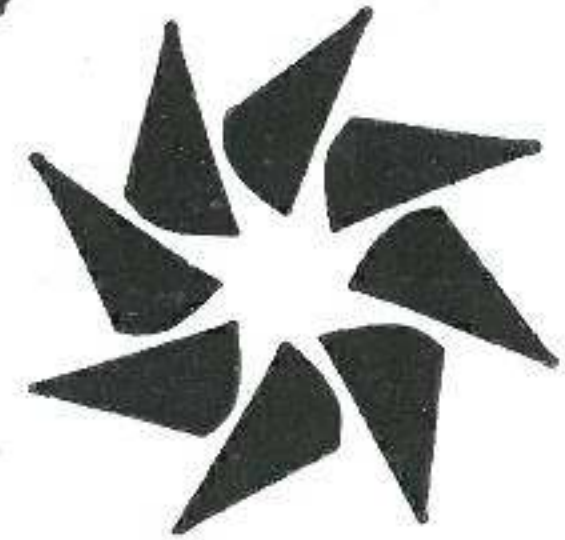


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**Bobby  
Millar  
Laois**

**Age : 23**  
**Height : 6-1**  
**Weight : 13 st.**  
**Club : Timahoe**  
**Position :**  
                    **Midfield**  
**Senior Inter-  
County Debut :**  
                            **1968**

**CAREER  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Bobby is a student at Athlone Regional College. He was only 15 when he made his senior debut with his club, and the following year he played with Laois in the minor and under-21 grades. Called up to the Laois senior football side when he was 17, he helped his club to their last County Senior Championship win in 1969, and last St. Patrick's Day he climaxed five appearances with Leinster by winning a Railway Cup football medal. His uncle, Dick Millar, captained Laois to their only National Football League title in 1927.

# Worms in Pigs:

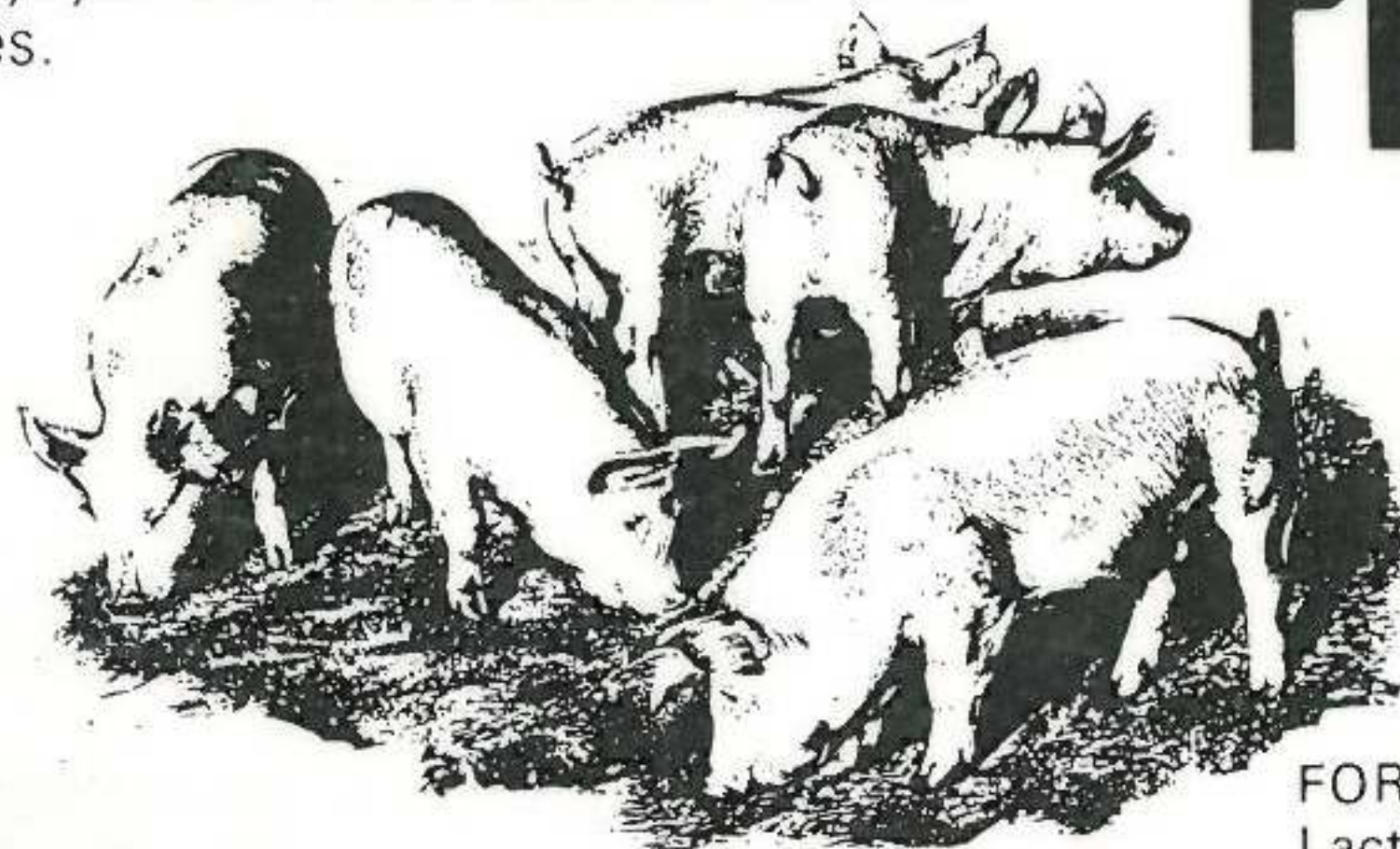
## Do you know these basic facts?

**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.



## PIG WORMER



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FORMULA: Tetramisole, Hydrochloride 10% w/w,  
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