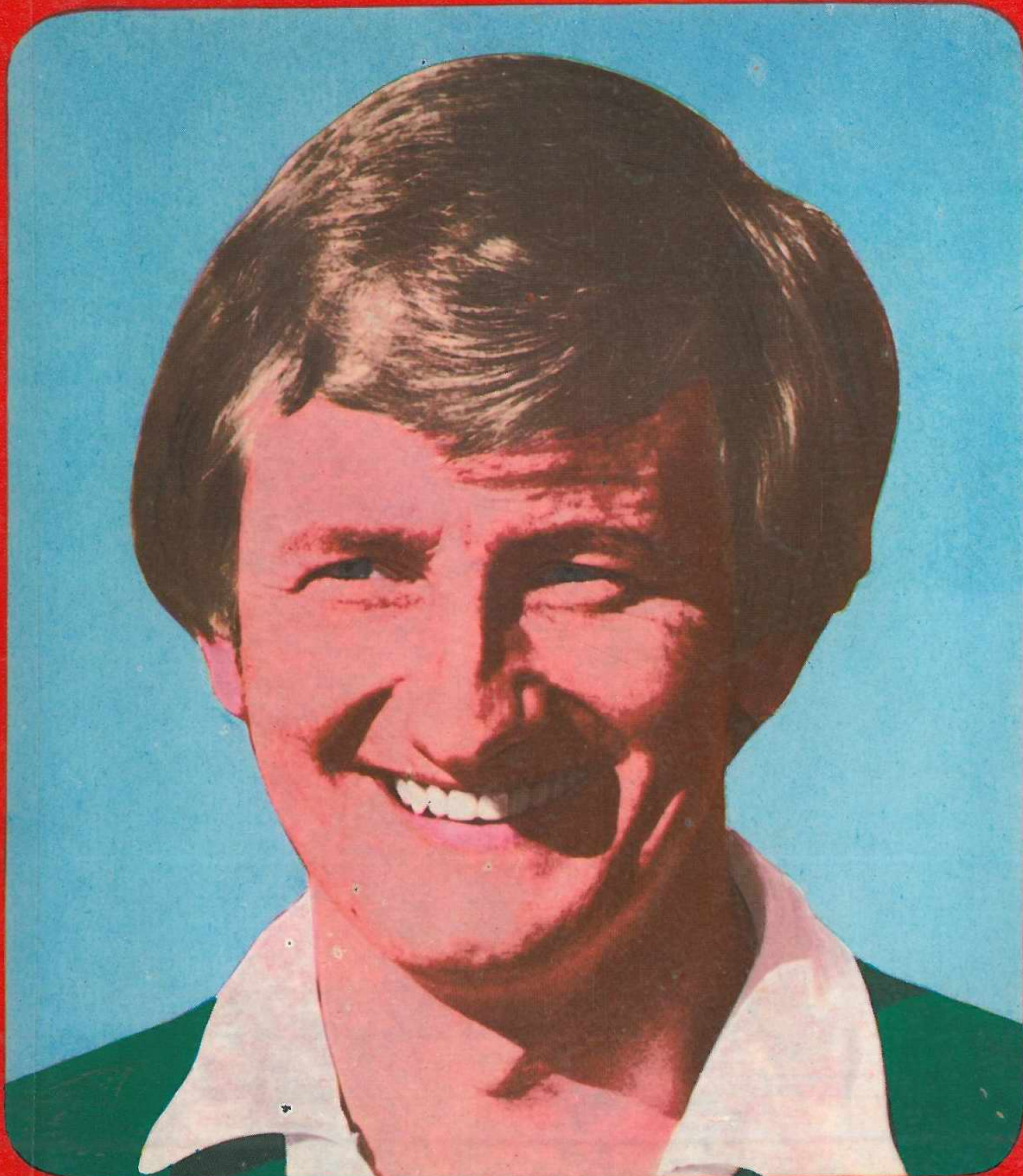


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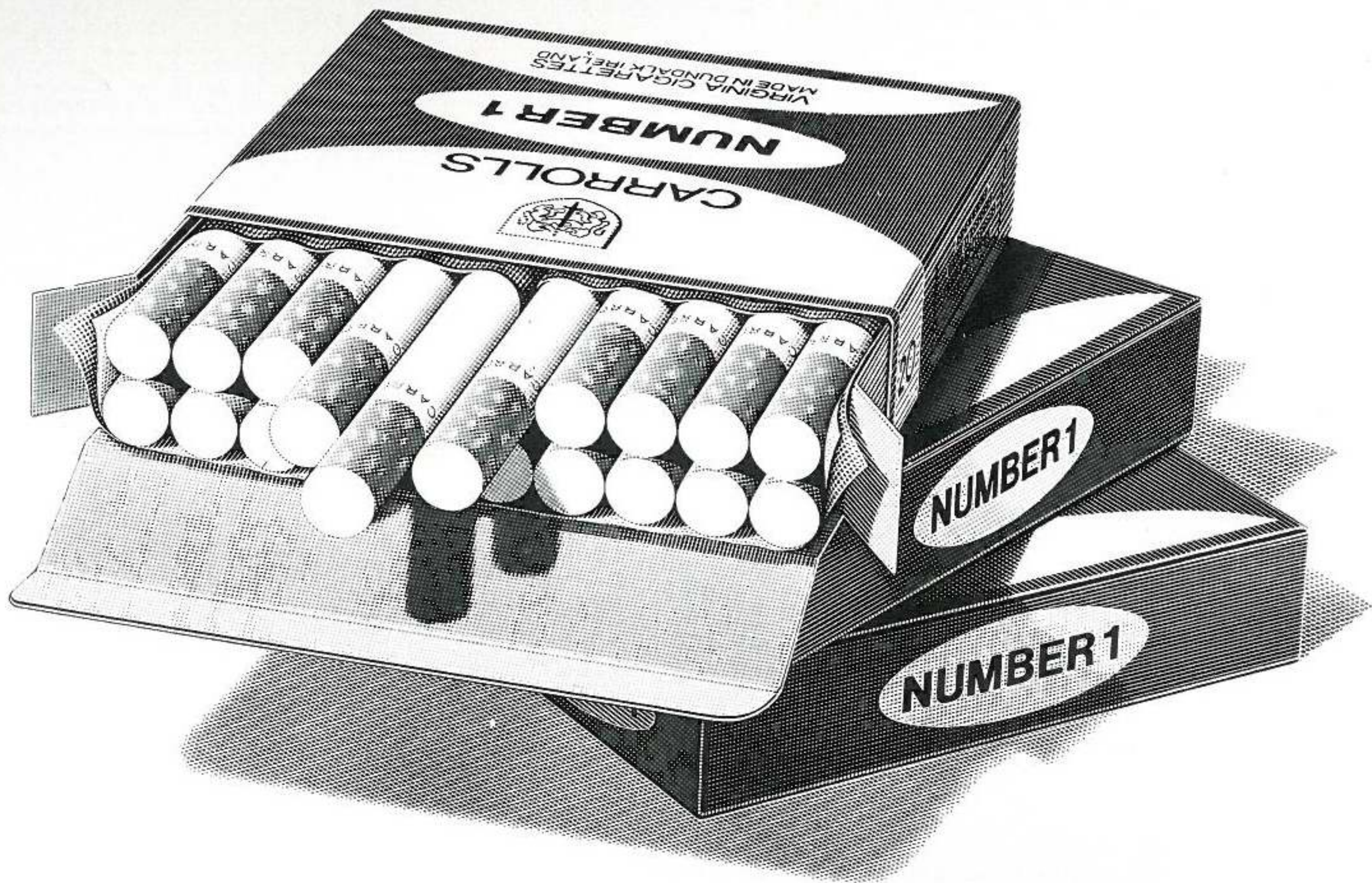
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IN SENIOR AND MINOR FOOTBALL

**24 AUGUST, 1975 : ULAIDH v. LAIGHIN**

IN SENIOR AND MINOR FOOTBALL

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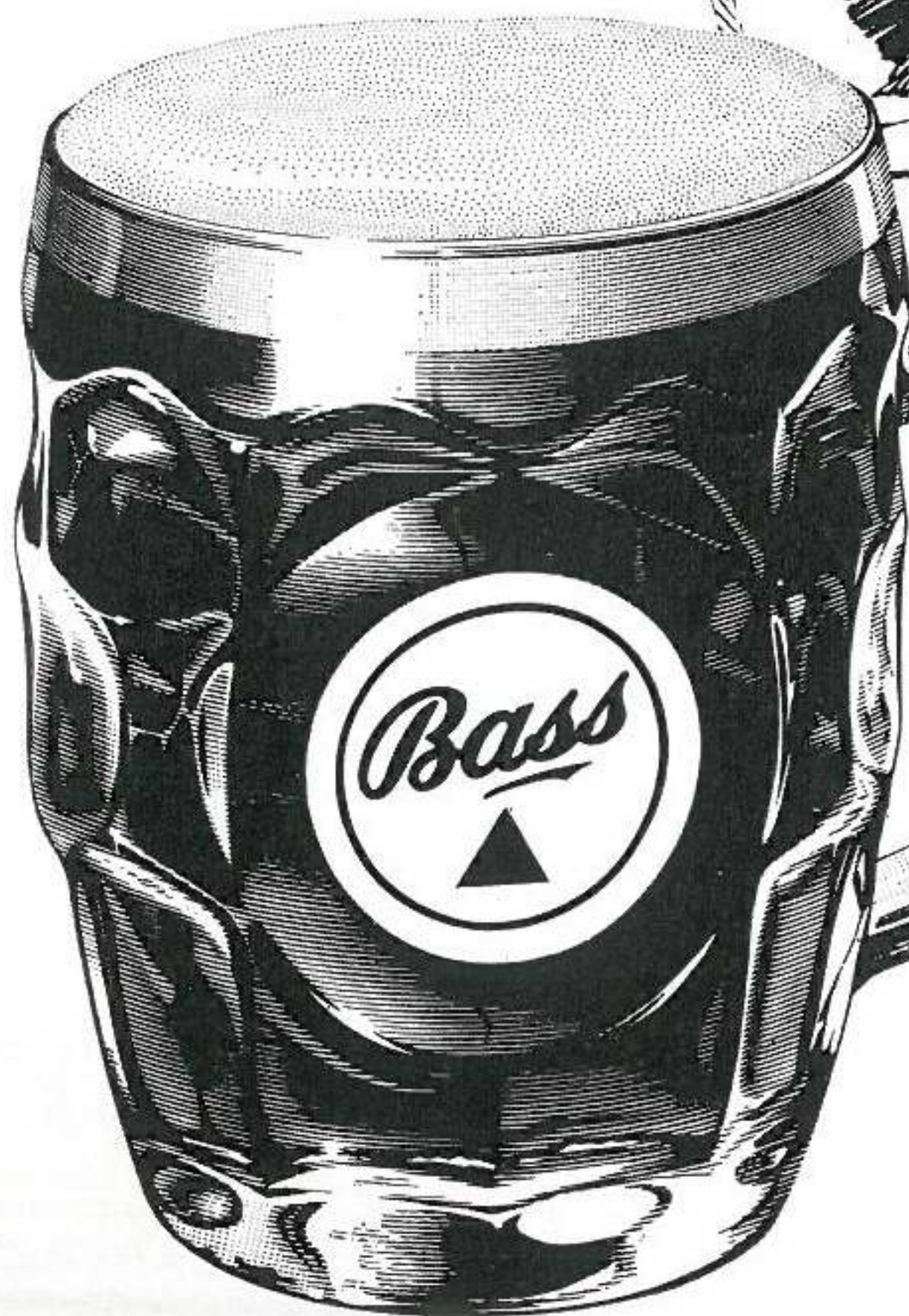
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Vol. 18. No. 8. August, 1975

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE Open-Draw has been advocated time and again as a way to inject new and badly needed variety to the Senior Hurling Championship. But what of football? Is there now a strong case for doing away in this code with the time-worn Provincial Championships in favour of the open-draw principle?

Many will argue that the fact that followers flocked in such large numbers to the provincial ties over the past few months is a strong indication that there is little wrong with the present set-up.

However, while this is a proud tribute to the powerful position Gaelic Games command in the sporting life of the country, behind-the-scenes probing reveals some serious flaws in the present system.

Probably the greatest is that the same counties meet too often in the key games. Apart from the fact that this does not make for the badly needed variety of new pairings, too keen a rivalry can develop when teams are consistently in opposition in the knock-out series.

Regular clashes can build up tensions and "needle", leading to untidy matches, punctuated with niggling fouls that can — and more often do — lead to flare-ups. The result — unpleasing spectacles that do little to further the image of the games or the G.A.A.

Another point is that the reigning National League and All-Ireland champions often compete for the same provincial title — a situation that arose so recently in Leinster. This makes the going that much tougher for the other teams in the province concerned, and has the added drawback that only one of the national title-holders can get through to the All-Ireland series.

Then, there is the case of fair play for all the counties. It is completely illogical that, simply because of geographical position, a Leinster team may have to play six games to reach an All-Ireland football final, whereas a Munster or Connacht side can advance to that stage after only three outings. In fact, the Munster champions need to win only two serious engagements to reach the All-Ireland final.

If only to regularise this anomaly, the open-draw has a lot to recommend it.

If the open-draw was accepted and innovated there could be a limited seeding arrangement to avoid the possibility of the All-Ireland champions and the League champions clashing in the first round.

Such a seeding system is operated very successfully in other sports, notably tennis. The main idea behind this system is to try and ensure that the most worthy contestants meet in the final.

Taking the last ten All-Ireland finals as an example, can one honestly say that each of them have been contested by the two best teams in the country of that particular year?

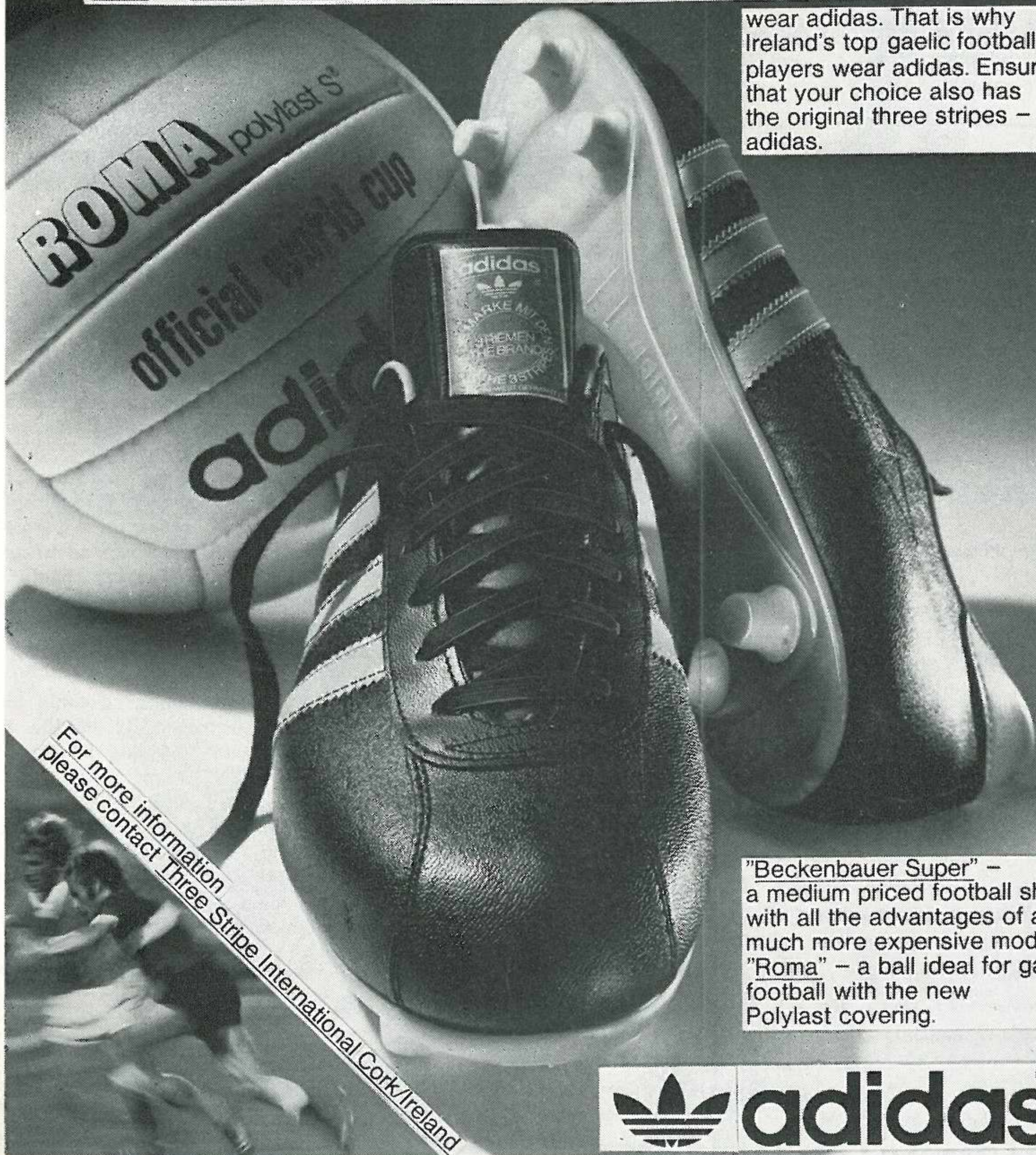
## COVER PHOTO

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OUR front cover star this month is Limerick's Eamonn Cregan. A Carroll's All-Star in '71 and '72, Eamonn's spirited displays have been a key factor in the re-emergence of the Shannonsiders to their rightful place as one of the country's leading exponents of the ancient art. Jay Drennan spotlights Limerick's blonde bombshell on page 28.

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# TOP TEN RATINGS

By OWEN McCANN

**A** POWERFUL exhibition of centre half back football by Kildare's Jack Balfe, the splendid contribution of Mickey O'Sullivan to the Kerry return to the top in Munster, and another exciting chapter in the wonderful hurling career of Pat Hartigan . . . these are among the features that helped to earn vital points in the current Top Ten review, which covers the period from June 22 to July 13 inclusive.

Balfe turned on his eye-catching display in Kildare's win over Offaly at Croke Park for a place in the Leinster final. His high quality work from first to final whistle not only did much to create the mood for the All Whites triumph, but was probably of a standard ahead of anything seen up to then from any centre half during 1975.

Consequently, despite strong opposition from O'Sullivan and Jimmy Keaveney, in particular, Balfe heads the list this month with the highest rating in either code—nine points.

Kerry had many bright stars in that surprisingly convincing Munster final win over Cork. But the tireless work-rate and very progressive general play of the roving O'Sullivan earns the clever half forward the pride of place for the Kerry line-up on the eight points rating.

Here, he is joined by Jimmy Keaveney, whose leadership and spot-on finishing—he shot 1-11—did much to colour the drab Dublin-Louth Leinster semi-final at Navan early in July. O'Sullivan edges ahead of the Dubliner in the over-all points tally for the year.

And, that remarkable full-back

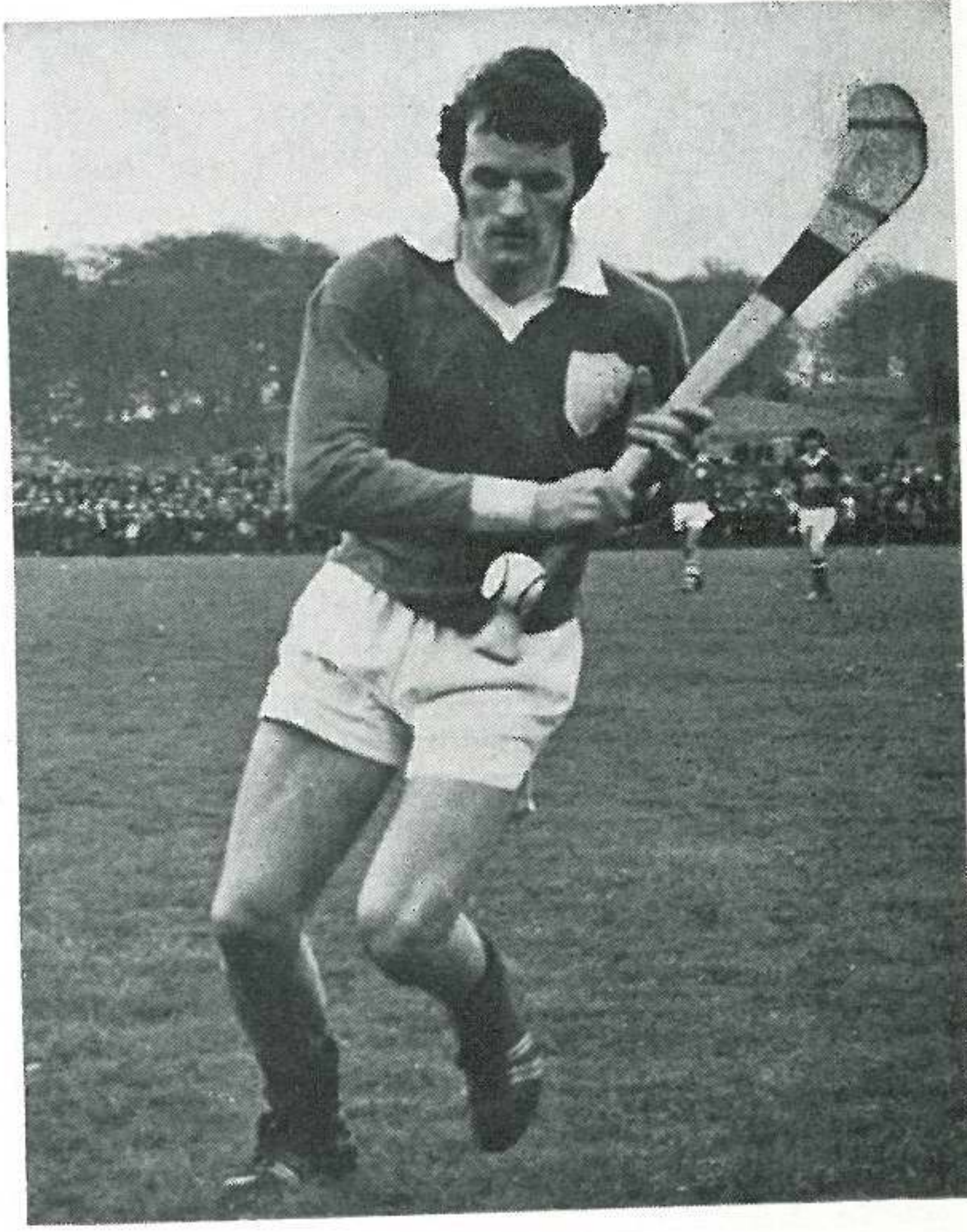
Pat Hartigan? In the drawn Munster hurling semi-final with Tipperary at Thurles, the Limerick stalwart again showed what a magnificent defender he is with a thundering display.

At the same time, the spectacular comeback Michael Keat-

ing made to big-time hurling in that game after an absence of about a year can't be overlooked. He also finished Tipperary's top scorer that day with 2-4.

So, it's Hartigan and Keating who jointly set the standard in hurling on eight points.

**FRANKIE NOLAN LIMERICK**



## FOOTBALL

- 9 J. Balfe (Kildare) ..... 9
- 8 M. O'Sullivan (Kerry) ..... 16
- 8 J. Keaveney (Dublin) ..... 15
- 7 J. O'Keefe (Kerry) ..... 21
- 6 G. McElhinney (Derry) ... 12
- 6 S. O'Neill (Down) ..... 12
- 6 S. O'Connell (Derry) ..... 6
- 6 J. Brennan (Sligo) ..... 6
- 6 S. Reilly (Mayo) ..... 6
- 5 D. Long (Cork) ..... 5

## HURLING

- 8 P. Hartigan (Limerick) ..... 8
- 8 M. Keating (Tipperary) ... 8
- 7 F. Nolan (Limerick) ..... 7
- 7 S. Shinnors (Tipperary) ... 7
- 6 E. Keher (Kilkenny) ..... 19
- 6 G. McCarthy (Cork) ..... 13
- 6 S. Kinsella (Wexford) ..... 6
- 6 P. Fahy (Galway) ..... 6
- 6 M. Quigley (Wexford) ..... 6
- 5 B. Moylan (Offaly) ..... 5

# PAT McDONNELL

## FULL-BACK EXTRAORDINARY

By SEÁMUS O BRÁONAIN

**"FOR** his undiminished skill and dependability in a very demanding position where quite often brawn is substituted for hurling artistry." As a matter of fact, I have culled that from the citation which was appended to Pat Hartigan's selection as All-Star full-back for 1973. But, I'm sure you will agree, it could so easily refer to the Cork goalmouth bulwark, Pat McDonnell.

It was Pat's artistry, his marvellous control over the ball and his own movements, that first caught the eye. "Too flashy", said the know-alls nurtured on a diet of uncompromising and bruising finality and safe only when solid granite walled the edge of the square. If flashy means to you what it meant to them, then, yes, he has continued to be flashy; but **too** flashy, since it must mean an insecurity inevitable because of that stylish turn of play, has never been so because McDonnell has never fulfilled the expectations of the conservatives by courting disaster through over-hurling the ball in front of his own square.

There has been, I think, a clear trend towards more hurling full-backs in the last ten or fifteen years. Many of the people who seek arguments anywhere to justify the new rule-changes, will tell you that the cleaning up of the square area is what has brought it about. Not so, of course, because Pat McDonnell, in 1970, was named Hurler of the Year (which is, in effect, what the Texaco Award means) for his

skilful, commanding, elegant and always constructive and creative hurling in a position which has known much destruction and wholesale negation.

The selection of McDonnell, at the time, was thought by many hurling supporters to be a strange one even an insult to the long-held traditions of the game. They felt it as a kind of "cocking a snook" by the withdrawn intellectuals who make these selections.

To put my own cards on the table, I must admit that I also considered the selection a disaster. But, for a different reason. At the time, McDonnell had only one proper year of hurling exposure in the inter-county scene, was a comparative novice to that grade, had very clearly a lot to learn about the tough championship arena. To burden a young man with such an exalted honour appeared to me to be most unfair to the chap himself, likely to place him under a lot of pressure, dangerous to his style, in particular, since he would surely feel the expectations of thousands forcing him to embellish every

clearance with a crust of jewelled frippery.

That could have been the kind of pressure which caused a young man to overdo the fancy play, get himself into trouble once or twice, cause a couple of vital goals, and have all the doubts of the "too fancy" detractors crystallised after the event.

That was a test of character which might have been too much for many young men like Pat McDonnell. Not for him, however, and the fact that he had to undergo it, in hindsight, was the best thing of all for him. He did not misjudge the occasion when the pressured and hurried half-clearance could be skilfully developed into a telling drive to turn defence into attack. Nor did he go to the other extreme either, by becoming nervously unambitious and negative. He kept his head steady.

Then disaster struck from another, quite unexpected source, when he suffered a most severe knee injury in a ridiculously simple football accident. It was said he was finished with field games; it looked like that, indeed. It would have been doubtful if most players would have played again, certainly they would hardly have worked their way back to the top again. Another test of character.

He was missed something awful by Cork in his absence, for





● Full back Pat McDonnell dashes out to clear for Cork. In the background is his team-mate, Donal Clifford, also with helmet, and the Wexford players are: Tony Doran (left) and Martin Quigley (right). The action is from the 1970 All-Ireland Final.

they hadn't readymade replacements with the championship experience. Good players elsewhere do not necessarily make good full-backs. Clearly, however, the success of a positive full-back in the person of McDonnell must have given some extra confidence to Pat Hartigan on whom the spotlight turned in the absence of the Corkman from the inter-county scene.

This year, on his return to the Cork side, Pat has cemented his position at once; he is broader in the beam than we remember him originally in his student days, wider and more powerful, perhaps a little slower, less adventurous, more philosophical. But, of course, that injury needs testing and working slowly back

to total reliability.

Even if he were to be as quick and brilliant as before, he would not be such a cause for delight or alarm (according to your point of view) because hurling full-backs have become the usual thing. Hartigan pre-eminently, Paddy Coady, Pa Dillon at his best, all have benefitted from the ideal. It seems now a far cry from the late '50s and early '60s, when Austin Flynn pioneered the movement in modern times.

For the best part of a decade Flynn always produced the reaction: "If he could only hurl half as well he would be a magnificent full-back." Character and confidence in one's own judgment are the most basic qualities in full-backs on the field; they must also have the

same ruggedness of character, and total self-confidence in their style also. So it was with Flynn at a time when he alone seemed to believe in the efficacy of the hurling full-back. It was only when he had reached the near-veteran stage that every honour was heaped upon him, every critic and supporter gloried in his ball-play. It took a long time, but it was worth it.

Flynn's triumph eased the way for McDonnell, made it easier for traditionalists in Cork to have confidence in him. We may not see again some of the brilliance with which he destroyed the morale of forwards. He may find it necessary to cut his cloth a bit closer to the measure. But, Cork are mighty lucky to have him back in the ranks again.

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| Fiat 128 .....                  | 31.1 |
| Renault 12 L .....              | 31.0 |
| Vauxhall Viva .....             | 35.8 |
| Morris Marina 1.3 .....         | 37.2 |
| Avenger 1600 .....              | 27.5 |

\*Touring MPG figure — based on a speed mid-way between 30 mph and maximum speed, less 5% for acceleration.

| AUTOCAR MAGAZINE TEST COMPARISONS  | MPG† |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Escort 1300 GL .....               | 41.5 |
| Vauxhall Chevette .....            | 40.5 |
| Triumph Toledo 4-door .....        | 38.5 |
| Morris Marina 1.3 SDL 2-door ..... | 37.8 |
| Hillman Avenger 1300 DL .....      | 33.4 |

†Autocar economy test of 1300cc cars.

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# I ADMIRE THE DUAL PLAYER

By EAMONN YOUNG

I ADMIRE the dual player. He's a man who has been playing football and hurling well since he was a child, in the counties of Dublin, Offaly, Galway, Tipperary, and Cork. There are men who play both games well in Cavan, Down, Leitrim and Kilkenny but nobody worries about them for the obvious reason that their county doesn't normally contest both provincial finals.

Since free education arrived the normal commitment of the active boy from twelve to eighteen has been to books and games. Both are supervised by dedicated, expert men and what more natural than at eighteen the product is a skilful person in both spheres. The student works hard at both and is as keen on playing success as on the academic. The progression on to his county minor teams is, for the more expert, a natural one and then follows the under-21 sides. So almost unknown to himself our friend arrives at nineteen a busy man doing his best for club and county in both codes. He doesn't worry much about it for he's very fit and eager for glory, than which there is no more natural desire in a young person.

Usually, glory comes. The writers praise him, and quote his words of youthful wisdom. His happy face gazes out from the newspaper and his parents are proud of their great young man. By this time he has finished school and has gone to the uni-

versity or got a job. Life is great for the growing man. He practises diligently, keeps himself in good physical and mental shape and puts up a good show in the several games he plays each week.

The games get a little harder no doubt, for the adult opponent isn't so gentle with the butterfly lately emerged from the chrysalis and he gets more injuries than he did at school. Also he doesn't shine like he used for the competition is keener and the marking closer, especially after his name is made. His life pattern has changed also for now he takes a drink and meets the girls. The more time he gives to either the less he has for the training which is his ticket to success and insurance against injury.

This is the critical moment and if between attention to books, girls and drink the young man's form fails he will probably drop out of the inter-county sphere after some bad hours and harsh criticism. This doesn't mean that he won't come again perhaps in one game. It is the man who continues we are discussing, and here it is plain that only renewed dedication and the careful organisation of his life-style will allow him to play with the merit of earlier years. This quite plainly depends on his love of the game or his love of glory. Either will motivate him and drive him on to diligent training even though he gets married and has children.

So it is fairly obvious that the



● Kevin Heffernan  
—Dual star of the 'fifties.

men who remain good dual players over their whole playing careers (like Des Foley, Des Ferguson, Kevin Heffernan, Jim Regan, forty years ago, Jack Lynch, Billy Mackessy, Derry Beckett and "Hitler" Healy) have had great playing ability backed up by a love of hard exercise, of glory, of the game, of manly comrades, of their counties, and of the social life which is a colourful backdrop to games everywhere. These men and several others played well in top class over the years, got their exams, ran their businesses and settled down, often even more successfully than if they had not been players. The demand for endurance, mental and physical, as well as emotional stability were successfully met. Not all can do it.

That's all from the players' point of view. What about the public? Ruthless and not always fair, the public will praise but will turn like a cross dog. The hero of to-day is the villain of tomorrow and just as the player accepts the praise he must be

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## ● FROM PAGE 9

manly enough to take the blame, not always earned. The public won't love him when he plays badly and will certainly not bother to find out why. That's life and useless to complain about it.

What of the selectors? They are asked to select good teams and will pick the best. Every man who plays for his club is taken as an inter-county aspirant unless he declares otherwise. And the history of the games tell many stories of men who had retired and come back for their clubs and counties after selectors had asked. In league games the two sets of selectors in the one county may bargain for the dual player, but not in the championship where the games are not usually on successive Sundays anyhow. So the player must regard himself as ready to be asked unless he doesn't wish this, in which case he must make his mind clear to the selectors long before.

To conclude, it all rests with the player. Just as he worked to earn glory, he must stay with it to continue, and logically must opt out when the motivation no longer exists or when life has found him too fragile for this stern test. Also when he makes up his mind it must be done after steady thinking and solid advice. Then having made the right decision for him, he should stick to it.

I do not wish to be regarded as speaking ex cathedra, but the above is based on forty years of attention to the game, including a decision at twenty, against dual commitment and a refusal (wise I think) to return from inter-county retirement.

The dual player I admire for his games ability and his strong mind. For him the demand is great and the rewards also. It is a high wide fence; let only the brave horse try to jump it.



● Mick Ryan



● Dan McCartan



● Mick Keating



● Sean O'Neill



● Tony McTague

## THE YOUNG "VETERANS"

By MICK DUNNE  
R.T.E. Sport

**I**N most walks of life the times we live in are frequently referred to as the "age of the young man". But this has not been so in championship football this summer as more than a few players have shown us—Sean O'Neill, Dan McCartan and Sean O'Connell and others among them.

Add the names of Michael Kearins and quite a few Offaly "veterans" as well as those of hurlers Eddie Keher and Michael Keating and there is more than ample evidence in Gaelic games that it is most assuredly not the era of the young men.

Not that either McCartan or O'Neill looked anything like being ancients when they contributed so much to Cavan's defeat and helped loft Down into yet another Ulster final. Yet, neither is young any more in the football sense; they have a lifetime of football behind them. Dan was 36 in May and Sean will celebrate his 35th birthday in September, but they were the ones who showed the way to players years their junior in the provincial semi-final . . . McCartan toweringly supreme at full-back and O'Neill feeling sprightly enough to spend most of the game roaming far afield from his full-forward position but still popping up in the goalmouth to net the goal that decided the semi-final.

And these two would probably be regarded as youngsters by Sean O'Connell, who was 38 in May, yet is still able to command the full-forward spot on his county's team. Kearins, 32 in April, is the youngest of those footballers I mentioned, but he

has been almost a oneman team for so many years with Sligo that he has played enough football for two lifetimes.

Each of these players has the quality that is the most valuable when you turn 30 years of age, enthusiasm. On the eve of Down's first appearance in this year's championship I talked to Sean O'Neill on an RTE radio programme and could not fail to notice his keenness and zest for the game coming through our talk. He was looking forward to it so much it might well have been his first championship.

Likewise with McCartan, a half-back, then a forward and now a full-back, solid and uncompromising, for some years. Although a busy dentist in Belfast, where O'Neill practises law, McCartan is full of appetite for football and the training that the championship demands.

More than once, Sean O'Connell has finished with football, but he has never stayed away from it too long because of his devotion and dedication, so this summer saw him lining out for his 18th championship. Only enthusiasm can make a player keep going like this.

Football in recent years has not been easy for Michael Kearins because his job takes him away from Sligo for long

periods, yet he was once again their inspiration when the championship commenced and it was he who demolished Galway—the "old enemy" and helped Sligo into the Connacht final.

By contrast, Offaly's Michael Ryan and Tony McTague are "mere" 29-year-olds, but they—and others on the Midland side—had such a surfeit of football in latter years that it might have been expected they no longer relished the game. But pulling Laois back eight points in Tullamore was not the work of football-weary men, nor was victory in the replay the result of anything other than renewed spirit.

The cynical view would be that the success of all these "veterans" this summer denotes a grave lack of up-and-coming young players in their counties. In no case is this true. McCartan and O'Neill are surrounded by players just lately up from the under-21 grade, Derry and Sligo have their share of 20-year-olds and Offaly have drafted in some, too.

The truth is that the ardour and zealotry of these men could be a lesson for the younger generation. They are amateurs so nobody forces them to play. But sport only becomes a chore when the enjoyment goes out of it and I believe life can't be all that bad when you see the 30-plus men like O'Neill, McCartan, O'Connell and Kearins still enjoying their football so much.

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# FAIR DEAL FOR WEAKER COUNTIES

By JOHN O'SHEA

of the Evening Press

IS the G.A.A. being fair to the weaker football counties by including them, year in year out, in the All-Ireland Championships, where, almost without exception, they falter at the first hurdle?

Does anyone seriously expect Wexford, Leitrim, Waterford, Tipperary and those of a similar standard to qualify for the decider? There's a suggestion that for these counties the G.A.A. should initiate a 'B' All-Ireland championship.

We put this to some prominent players:

**MARTIN QUIGLEY** (Wexford)

I fail to see what could be lost by introducing a new competition for the lesser lights. There's not much point in persevering as things are at the moment. Every team needs a bit of success, and I don't see where some of the counties will ever taste this in the present set-up.

The 'B' championships would surely provide some incentive, and this would lead to an improvement in the standard — however slight. It would also

create a bit of interest. We don't really know how successful it would be. But we do know that counties like Wexford cannot hope to win an All-Ireland football title in the foreseeable future.

**ROBBIE KELLEHER** (Dublin)

It's an interesting suggestion, but one which would require a lot of thought and consideration. One must weigh up two aspects. At present these weak counties have little or no contact with the top teams and when they meet, they invariably get hammered.

Now, is this a better system than one which would decree that the weaker teams be kept apart from the top ones?

My view is that a compromise situation would be the ideal one. Something between the two would probably suit best.

By having a 'B' series one is forgetting the principle that nothing helps a team more than plenty of good competition. I would favour a secondary competition with the winners earning a place in the All-Ireland proper.

**DAN McCARTAN** (Down)

In theory it seems a reasonable idea, but I don't think it would be a viable proposition. If one had two very weak teams meeting in the early rounds, what gates could one expect? Very small, I would imagine.

But the people to consider such an idea would be those representatives of the weaker counties. If they wanted a 'B' All-Ireland series, then they should have it.

However, if I was one of those involved, I would not support the move. I can't see what it would achieve. It could hardly be calculated to improve the standard. Overall, I think it would be an expensive exercise — and not a very worthwhile one.

**PACKY McGARTY** (Leitrim)

Personally I would hate to see

anything disturb the All-Ireland championship as it stands. I realise that teams of the standard of Leitrim have no chance, but we live in hope.

Giantkillers abound in all sports — so why not in Gaelic? Every player dreams of winning a provincial title and then an All-Ireland. It would be wrong, in my view, to interfere with this.

The weaker counties have the League. If they are going to improve, they have ample opportunity here against teams of their own standard.

But when the championship comes round they all look and hope for a supreme effort. It's something akin to the F.A. Cup in England. And you know there can be, and are, lots of upsets by the amateur sides in that event. No, I don't think I would favour a 'B' series. But then I'm an optimist.

**JOHN O'DONOGHUE**

(Tipperary)

From our point of view, I like the idea. And I believe most of the weaker football counties would row in. Let's face it, the chances of Tipperary or teams of such standard winning the Sam Maguire Cup are tenuous to the point of being non-existent. Yet, we all naturally hope that some day we will manage the breakthrough.

I think something could be devised whereby the weaker counties played in their own All-Ireland series, and the finalists or semi-finalists gained entry into THE All-Ireland series. By using this method, the weaker teams would have a real incentive.

In Munster a few years back, they ran a 'B' championship in minor hurling and it appeared to be a success.

I'm all for anything which would give the likes of Tipperary a bigger role in Gaelic football.

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# L★A★D★I★E★S P★L★E★A★S★E

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Edited by *KITTY MURPHY*

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**H**ELLO readers! Ann Carroll introduced me last month and I hope you continue to enjoy Ladies Please. Ann has taken up a teaching appointment in Donegal and I know all you readers will join with me in wishing her the very best of luck. With Ann's organising ability, experience and abundance of natural talent, we will be looking forward to the emergence of Donegal as a major camogie force in the foreseeable future.

Contrary to what you might expect, I'm not going to mention another word about sport in this feature. I don't know if you will enjoy my effort, but will you drop me a line and tell me what you would like to read about in this column. I would love to hear from you.

★ ★ ★

**Are you one of those persons whom Monday mornings affect? They are one of my pet hates.** Consider that there are 52 of them in a year and yet after all those years, I still haven't come to terms with them. There is really no sound reason for this dislike. I never suffer from hangovers. I go to bed at a reasonable hour. But on Monday morning I can think of a hundred and one good reasons for staying in bed. I've suddenly caught a dreadful chill. I must be running a temperature. My sporting muscles are stiff and sore. But no, I really can't justify staying out—my excuses are too flimsy. However, I drag myself out, mechanically go through with teeth brushing, hair combing,

breakfasting and make my moody way out to earn my daily bread.

Of course other people have a lot to do with it. The boss might be grumpy and hungover. His liver is always at its worst on Monday morning. I'm sure you, too, are well acquainted with the bright and breezy type who bounces in wishing everyone a loud good morning and insists on telling you how nice the day is. Not that I care — let Hurricane Hilda come — it couldn't possibly make me feel worse. There's the ambitious type who barely tolerates the weekend in order to get back to his work. Why doesn't he go out — buy The Irish Times or Lady Chatterly's Lover or something and abandon his beloved files for an hour or two. Why doesn't everyone just shut up and let me enjoy my misery and please stop telling me to cheer up. Next weekend seems light years away and anyway I have nothing to be cheerful about. Ah! eleven o'clock and the blessed cup of tea. Just what I needed. Funny how much better things look

now. Yes, it is true—the trouble with morning is that it comes too early.

★ ★ ★

**Are you easily intimidated? I am.** Not by the usual things or situations which terrorise people though. I can look a mad dog in the eye, step calmly out of the path of a charging bull, but shop assistants have been known to reduce me to a jabbering imbecile.

When I don't like the dress I've just tried on, why can't I simply say "no thank you, it's not suitable" and walk out? Is it because she said, "But madam—it is the latest fashion"? I see her little game; she is implying that my fashion sense is firmly rooted in the past. So I grab the dress — just to prove how up-to-date I am. I walk briskly out of the shop, lapse into one of my dark sullen humours and hope that no well-meaning visitors call to see me. Lucky me — no one calls but the spoil-sport postman who has just delivered a third reminder for my television licence.

★ ★ ★

Again, when I pluck up the courage to return something, why can't I demand my money back and have done with it. Oh no, I go on and on about my sister in the country who was up



for the Spring Show and who wanted to give a pleasant surprise to yet another sister. That shop assistant knows the old story only too well, but surely she must be impressed with such a closely knit sisterhood. And have you noticed how those same assistants prolong your agony? They let you waffle on endlessly and then say you must see the Manager who is at lunch, and could you please call back at 3 o'clock. I never return. Hundreds of times I've resolved never, ever, again will I buy something that isn't exactly what I want. Never, ever, again will I wilt under the assistant's superior stare. The customer is always right. He who pays the piper calls the tune. I'll adopt the superior attitude. "No dear, I can't wait until 3 o'clock; I've got to be at a Conference in half an hour". Cool Confident.

I walk out thinking that I have made my point but really I haven't. On reaching the front door reality strikes. I still have my dress. I want so badly to dump it in the nearest bin, but it has stayed with me through thick and thin. I'll bring it home, roll it up and place it lovingly in the wardrobe. Some day someone might just say — isn't that a lovely dress, and shall get a pleasant surprise when I'll say — here take it; honestly, I'll never wear it.

\* \* \*

Have you ever noticed how difficult it is to find that special dress when you want it for that all important occasion? Oh yes, it happens all the time. I always seem to miss it by a day or two— "Madam, we had exactly what you wanted but we sold the last one on Wednesday and I'm afraid we will not be getting them in again". Disconcerted but happy that at least I have the price of it this week, I make haste to the one hundred and one

new boutiques, but alas and alack, there goes my elusive dream. Accepting my fate, I join the bus queue which at this stage has gone around the corner. I succeed in getting on and I can now sit down for a few minutes. I notice the bus conductor is engaged in friendly conversation with a nice lady in front of me — and you have guessed, she is wearing the exact dress that I so badly need.

\* \* \*

The summer sun brings a bizarre variety of fashions. You pays your money and you takes your pick, and what a pick awaits you. You have it all — ranging from the cool floral Forties dress to the perennial faded jeans and T-shirt. Fancy buying a pair of jeans marked "Guaranteed to Fade" or a T-shirt with "Kiss Me Quick" emblazoned across the front? Who said we aren't liberated?

Incidentally, are you one of the lucky ones who hasn't toppled off your platforms? No excuse now for not being the tall, willowy type, and so what if you have to suffer bunions, blisters and twisted ankles for the rest of your life!

\* \* \*

As I said earlier on, I would love to hear from you — really would. I realise it's not the simplest thing in the world, especially in these chaotic times, to find the opportunity to sit down and write a letter. But do try.

Between now and next issue I will have been on my holidays — tell you all about it next month.

Don't forget now, write to me c/o:

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## FEILE NA nGAEL '75

**F**EILE na nGael, the All-Ireland under-14 hurling Festival, was held in Cork from July 18 to 20. Sixty-four teams, involving some 1,300 players, took part.

Sponsored by the Irish Bottlers of Coca-Cola, the centrepiece of the Feile was the under-14 hurling blitz which had a participation of 64 teams — thirty-three from Cork and thirty-one from outside counties. The teams were graded into four sections of 16 with separate competitions in each section.

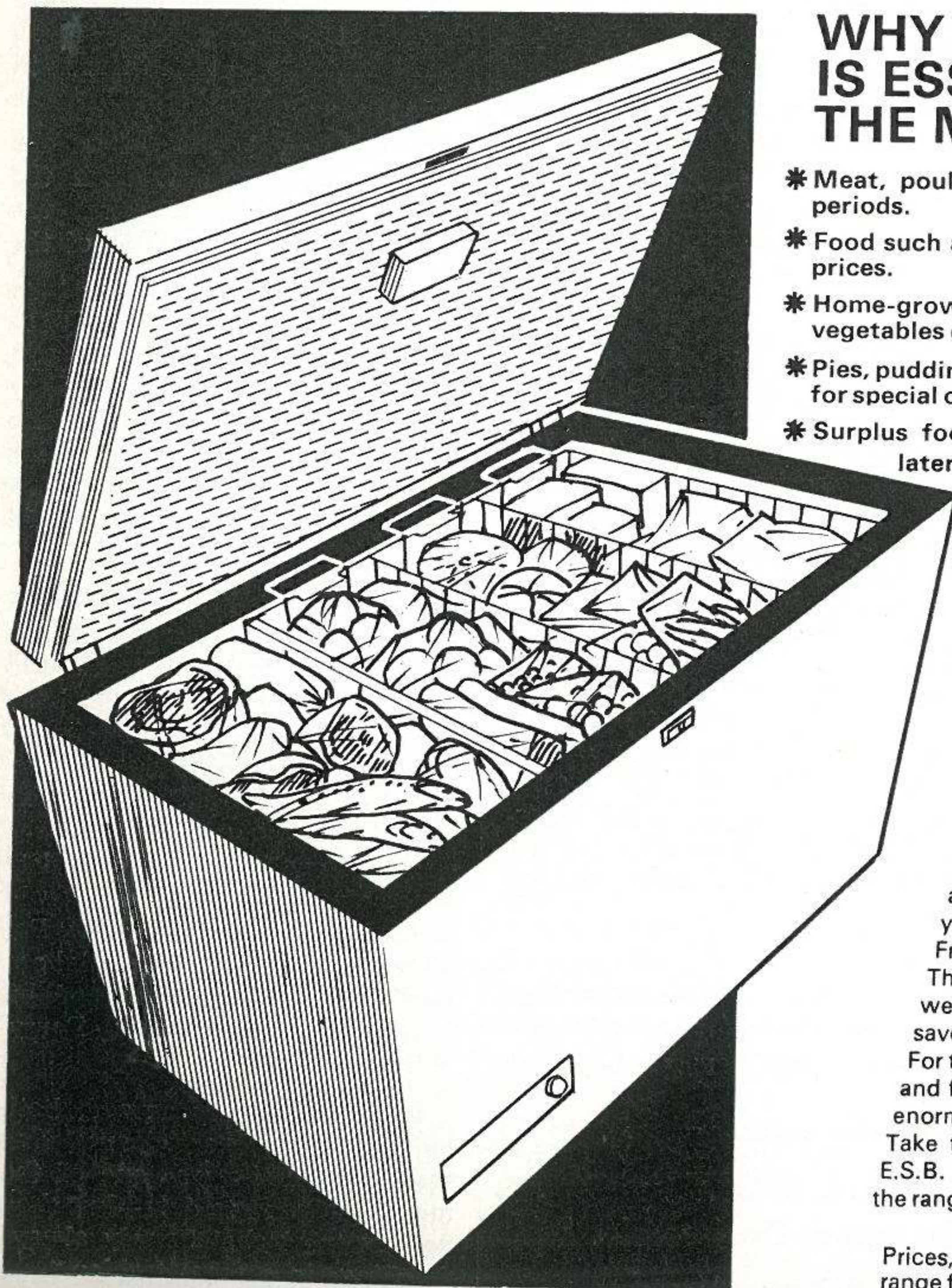
Following a parade of all the participating teams through the decorated streets of Cork, the finals of the four sections of the Feile were held on Sunday, July 20 at Neenan Park, Togher—the home of St. Finbarrs, the All-Ireland club hurling champions.

A highlight of this year's Feile na nGael was the hurling skills competition to determine Ireland's most skilled under-14 hurler.

This competition, reflecting Feile's aim to "provide incentives to perfect the arts and skills of hurling", has been enthusiastically welcomed in all counties and county representatives were sent to Cork for this year's final stages. Judging the skills competition were Christy Ring, Justin McCarthy, Gerald McCarthy, Charlie McCarthy, Pat McDonnell, John Buckley, Eamonn O'Donoghue, John Fenton and Jimmy Barry-Murphy.

It was generally agreed, both by officials and participants, that this year's Feile was one of the most successful to date—but then doesn't the Rebel County always do things in a regal fashion?

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# JOHN CONNOLLY



## AN ALL-IRELAND MEDAL, HIS CHERISHED AMBITION

By MICK DUNNE, R.T.E. Sport

**G**ALWAY appear in the All-Ireland hurling semi-final this month for the fifth time in six years having missed out only in 1973 when they were astonishingly beaten by London in the quarter-final. But unlike any of the other five years since opting out of the Munster championship, this time they are very serious contenders for the title following their splendid triumph in the National League.

The very fact that Galway are no longer regarded as easy prey for almost any county in hurling is one of the most welcome things to happen in our most ancient game for many years. It is attributable to many people—not least, by any means, their former great Inky Flaherty, who has done so much in the past year to give them back faith in themselves.

Their exuberant and talented players earned themselves so much new respect when they, first, dismissed Cork—the League holders—next knocked out Kilkenny—the All-Ireland champions—and then achieved ultimate success in the League by beating Tipperary. And these have been, and are still, traditionally three of the strongest powers in hurling.

Of course, it was a long awaited triumph, but all the sweeter for the players because it was so long coming. For midfielder John Connolly it must have been all the more gratifying because, for far too long, he carried too much responsibility whenever Galway hurling sides took the field. Too often he had to play more than one man's share in too many unequal contests. Now he is surrounded by so many skilled and spirited players that he can concentrate solely on his own game and on his own territory.

For such a long time has John been Galway's key player that it seems he has been around ever so long. Yet, he is only 27—he celebrated his birthday in June—and has loads of great hurling in him still.

In 1965 he first donned the maroon and white as a county minor and was on the under-18 team again the following summer. In his second year on the team he helped get the county to the Munster final—those were the days when Galway were out of place, as it were, geographically and otherwise. He scored 2-1 against Waterford in a drawn first round and contributed 1-2 to Galway's replay win and was one of the stars of the side that failed to Cork in the decider.

Already this young Castlegar clubman was showing signs of the elegance that has since been such a feature of his hurling and for four years (1966-'69) he was one of the midfielders on the under-21 team. The nearest he came to success was when Galway reached the 1967 Munster final only to lose 3-9 to 3-5 to a Tipperary team that included several of the players Connolly faced again in this year's League final—Tadhg O'Connor, Seamus Hogan, Noel O'Dwyer and John Flanagan. Indeed, it was Flanagan, with two goals and five points, who did most to shatter Galway's hopes in that under-21 final.

Already John had made his debut on the Galway senior side—against Clare in 1968—and since then has been the source of inspiration for the team.

He is such an outstanding hurler — and his play earned him a Carroll's All-Star award in 1971 as well as selection as Galway's Hurler of the Year in '69 — that it is often overlooked nowadays that he was also a footballer of no mean ability. In fact, he played football for the county at minor, under-21 and senior level and was Jimmy Duggan's midfield partner on the senior team in the 1968-'69 National League campaign in two matches against Mayo and one against Roscommon.

Even though Galway's reign as All-Ireland football champions had ended by then, many of the "three-in-a-row" side were still playing so well that it wasn't the easiest thing in the world to gain a permanent place on the side and Connolly concentrated on hurling, which was his first love anyway. Although it did strike me more than once, at the time, that the football selectors could have persisted somewhat longer with him to enable him to establish himself.

His versatility doesn't end with football, because he was also a boxer of note and was Connacht junior welter champion in 1965. Nowadays he likes to mix squash and an occasional game of golf with his hurling.

Recently he was quoted as saying that the honour he would treasure most of all—an All-Ireland hurling medal—was coming nearer. If Galway do become champions at any time in the near future, no one will have deserved the medal more than John Connolly.

# Blackthorn Scores Again

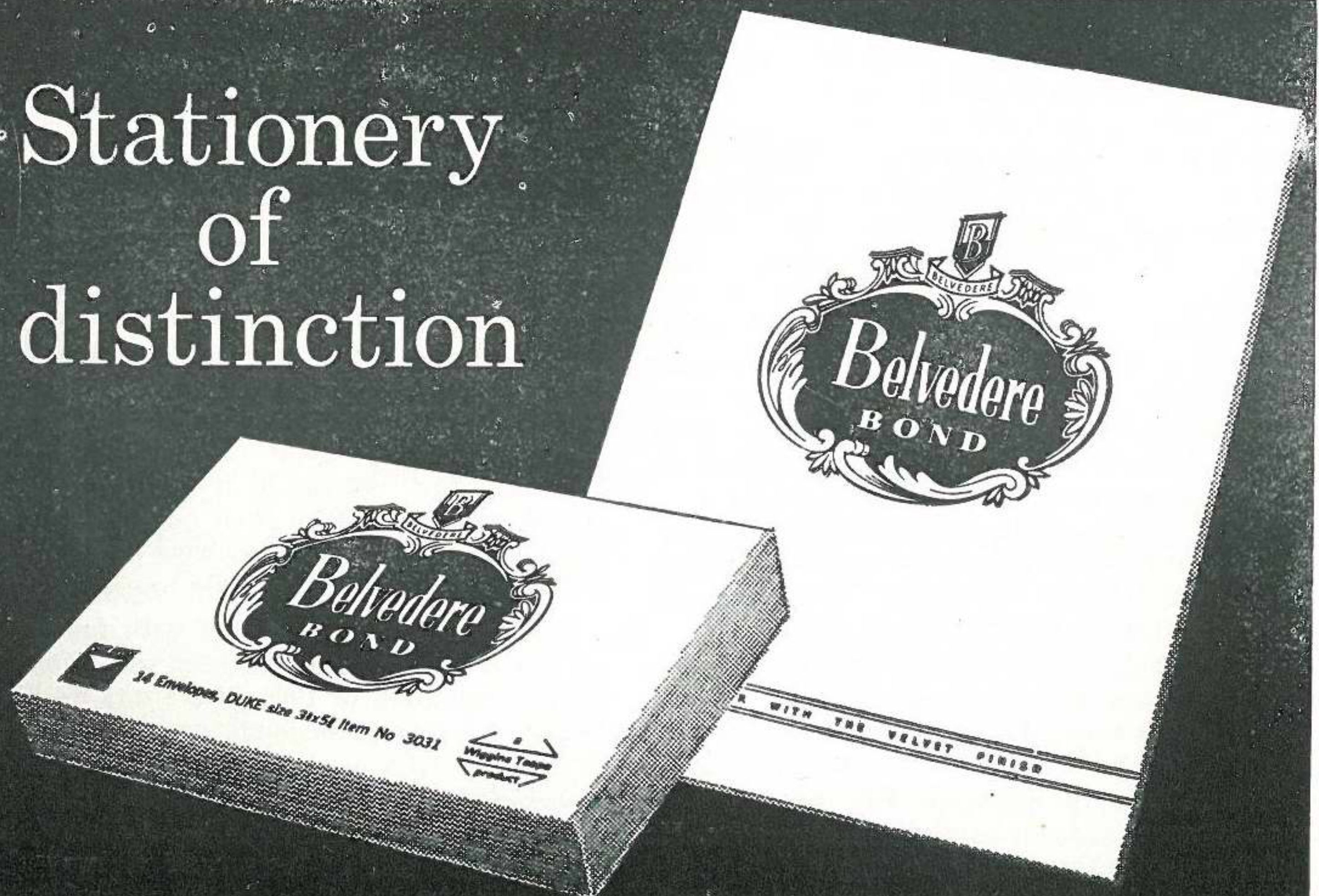
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# HE EVEN TRAINS ON CHRISTMAS EVE

EAMONN  
YOUNG  
TALKS  
ABOUT  
CORK'S  
TONY  
MURPHY

"IT'S been a long wait", said the slim, quiet-spoken footballer, "but every minute of it is worth while. To play in the championship for Cork is the thrill of my life."

Tony Murphy the Cork County Council clerical officer from Rosscarbery of sun and sand, won a minor All-Ireland six years ago and later an Under-21. A few months later he won a spot on the Cork league side and has been often on since. While there is no footballing background, this 24-year-old has shown a real love for the game since a boy and now working in Clonakilty is an admirer of Dave McCarthy with whom he trains often. Tony is loyal to the village junior team like several more players in the area whom Clonakilty, a club with a great pride in its football, would like to gather into the senior club fold.

When first he wore a red jersey in a big game they gave the free to the trim lad from Rosscarbery in Croke Park in the minor final against Dublin. He scored eight points and since then has been acknowledged as a steady kicker of the dead ball from fifty yards in. This natural accuracy is given to some and it is obvious that no team can get anywhere without a telling marksman. In fact I feel that dead-ball kicking and goalkeeping generally are the two aspects of Gaelic football which have improved in the last thirty years. Goalkeepers being now more important than ever, on account of the frequency of the penalty shot, have won a new prestige and are gaining more attention from the clubs with greater concentration on their training as a result. The outlawing of the real, fair, challenge (which I don't like) makes their job much easier of course.

It is the improved ball which has led to the better standard of kicking. There were always dead-accurate place-kickers and I remember seeing Joe Donoghue of Enniscorthy score a goal and two points off three fifties in New Ross forty years ago. But today that well-pumped ball, which resists the wet so much better, travels farther and straighter when properly struck, and men like Cyril Dunne and Tony McTague have driven players and spectators

into hysterics of woe or delight according to their affiliation.

Training carefully to improve his already accurate kicking Tony Murphy is now an important man on any team and Doney Donovan, the Cork trainer, always calm in his estimate says: "Tony is naturally accurate and an opponent simply can't afford to take an eye off him in play. On the dead ball he's very safe and an asset to any side." Tony has never missed a training turn-out with the Cork side and in spite of the disappointments over the last few years this dedication hasn't lessened. No wonder when the Cork selectors were casting around to fill the left wing berth against Clare in June the name Tony Murphy popped up along with namesake Sean, Seamus Coughlan and Billy Field. Tony got the vote and the breezy Atlantic seaboard of Doonbeg Bay in Clare saw his first big test. The hard-working Clare side which tore in hard to everything was bound to give away frees but against the breeze they would have been forgiven for hoping that the punishment wouldn't be converted into white flags. Vain hope, for in the face of a steady first-half wind six times in all Tony Murphy stabbed it between the posts, and in the second half added two more to equal his minor score against Dublin six years ago.

What of the man's future? It's too early to say but one sure thing the player who goes out training on a Christmas Eve is pretty keen on the game. Add that to stylish smart-kicking ability and you have a man who needs watching. It is only natural that the playing setbacks of recent years reduced his confidence but in a 24-year-old, settled down to the game that's easily restored.

On the walls of the Murphy pub in Rosscarbery the faces of Ireland's footballers smile (or scowl) down from the photos. They are a constant reminder to the Rossman of the glory to be gained out there on the big field where the ball, which every real player loves to handle, separates the men from the boys. With a wife of eight weeks to encourage him, young Murphy stands a fair chance of joining them. You couldn't wish a fellow better luck. Could you?

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## ***EIGHT OUT OF EIGHTY-EIGHT***

I HAVE been delving through the records of the past in an attempt to hazard a guess as to the fate of the Ulster title-holders, when they take on the Leinster champions in the battle for a pass to the September 28 glory day and while I admit that statistics can be made to prove anything, I must confess that the information gleaned proved most disappointing, particularly when one's burning ambition is to see the Sam Maguire Cup on a long tenancy—or at least as a frequent visitor—in the North.

Of the 88 Ulster championships already decided, excluding this year's, Cavan have won 47, Antrim and Monaghan 11 each, Down 8, Armagh 4, Tyrone 3 and Donegal and Derry 2 each.

**Yet in the All-Ireland series our representatives have succeeded in bringing home the supreme prize on only 8 occasions!**

Significant too is the fact that that honour belongs to just two counties—Cavan, with those five wins in 1933, '35, '47, '48 and '52 and Down, whose three triumphs were in 1960, '61 and '68. Incidentally Down have the added distinction of never having been beaten in an All-Ireland decider although faltering in their five other appearances at the semi-final stage.

And it was our record in the semi-finals over the years which

caused me most dismay. According to my check—and of course I am open to correction in this—the Ulster champions have crossed this particular hurdle only 18 times while crashing on the other 70 attempts.

Let us have a look at those semi-final victories.

The province's first success at this stage came in 1911 with Antrim Shauns (as county champions). Antrim were back the following year, this time through the efforts of the Mitchel's club.

It is interesting to note that both these finals were played in the one year—the first on January 12, 1912, and the second 10 months later on November 3.

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

Then came that superb nine-finals-in-19-years effort by Cavan in 1933, '35, '37, '45, '47, '48, '49 and '52 and which included the five All-Ireland titles already referred to. (But isn't it amazing that the Breffni men have not made the final again since 1952?).

Armagh in 1953 and Derry in 1958 cleared the treacherous second last hurdle as did Down in '60, '61 and '68, achievements

which for them were capped with success in the finals.

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

In recent years the local scene has been dominated by Down who have now appeared in their sixteenth final in the period 1958-1975.

It is interesting to note too that there have been only two draws in the entire history of the Ulster championship. Last year Down and Donegal finished all-square but we have to go back 45 years for the other. That was on July 28, 1929, when Cavan and Monaghan finished level at the first attempt.

But why do we do so badly in the All-Ireland semi-finals? That is the nagging question to which, quite candidly, I simply have not got the answer.

Of course I'll be in Croke Park on August 24th cheering the '75 Ulster Champions to the echo. However who can blame me for being more hopeful than confident? The record books are against us.

# LET'S SPEED-UP THE CHAMPIONSHIP TIME

THIS year, and fair dues to them, the Activities Committee and the Provincial Councils got together and streamlined the July fixture list so that we would all have the opportunity of seeing as many as possible of the provincial finals on different Sundays. The idea was admirable, although, as originally drawn up, that list provided a couple of major clashes, worst of all being the fact that BOTH the Leinster Football Final and the Munster Hurling Final were scheduled for the last Sunday in the month. But, with six big finals and only four July Sundays, some clashing was unavoidable.

But in spacing out the Provincial finals, one wonders if the Activities Committee did not provide a bit of a problem for some of these provincial champions?

Take the Connacht championship for example. This final was scheduled for July 6th, the winners next championship appearance being the All-Ireland semi-final on August 10th, a lapse of five weeks.

If they are successful in that game they have seven more weeks to wait until the All-Ireland final on September 28. If any trainer, captain, or mentor can keep his team 'on the boil' all that time, both he, and they, richly deserve those All-Ireland medals.

The Munster football champions will be only one week better off. The Ulster football final was scheduled for July 20, and the All-Ireland semi-final in which they are engaged is not until August 24, again a gap of five weeks, although in this case the winners will have only five more weeks to wait for the All-Ireland final.

So, once again the poor

of trying to pace themselves, as some teams were inclined to do, when the championships in previous years reached the 80-minute stage.

It is, however, already obvious that the veterans, and there are a fair quota of them still to the fore in one code or the other, are far better able to cope with two 35-minute halves than they were with two periods of 40

## MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

Activities Committee find themselves in the same position as always, they just cannot please everybody. Of course the overall position was complicated this year by the fact that we have only four Sundays in July as compared with five in August, and that particular calendar set-up may not occur again for quite some time. But there it is, and we have no option now but to put up with one of the most long-drawn-out All-Ireland championship campaigns in recent years in senior ranks.

★ ★ ★

It is far too early as yet to figure out whether or not the 70-minute time spell for senior championship games is the ideal. Certainly it has been very promising thus far, with players not being forced into the tactic

minutes and so have not to face the same problems of nursing their stamina.

To the old-timer, May and June recalled what we used to know as golden summers, with something we had not seen for years at that time of the season, dust rising from the playing pitches in May and June. I cannot personally recall grounds as hard for at least a quarter of a century, and in many instances those same hard pitches really sorted out the men from the boys as far as basic skills are concerned.

The harder the ground and the thinner the grass, the more difficult it is to control the ball and it is here that the men who have really mastered the basic skills have been shining.

A heavy sod and lush grass pitches can slow the ball down



# TABLE

considerably and thus lessen the gap between the gifted ball-player and the player who is not so skilled. On hard, bare grounds skill really becomes the dominant factor.

This was blatantly obvious in some of the earlier games in the hurling championship. Players whose ability to do so had never previously been suspect, were suddenly exposed as being unable to lift the ball with the stick as the sliothar ran away from them on the unyielding ground.

The players, and the teams, who could strike fast and sure on the ground were immediately at a tremendous advantage. The poke and pick merchants were all too often lost under the, to them, most unusual conditions. And, of course, on the football fields, the players who had any proper idea at all of how to chip up the ball were having a gala time.

★ ★ ★

But the most encouraging fact about all the early rounds of the championship is the manner in which the crowds have come streaming back. I know the continued good weather had its part to play in bringing out the shirt-sleeved and summer-frocked spectators, but they would not be there except they felt the fare was well worth seeing.

The upsurge applied to the games I have seen in all four



● PAT HARTIGAN (left) and FRANCIS LOUGHNANE—two of the many stars of the drawn Limerick/Tipperary Munster Hurling semi-final at Thurles on July 6th. This game was just one of three drawn championship clashes on the same date, causing additional problems to an already harassed Activities Committee.

provinces and was most remarkable, perhaps, at the earlier games that normally do not draw the big crowds. Indeed what surprised me most, and I have a shrewd suspicion it may have surprised the Leinster officials too, was the number that turned up at Wexford to see the Leinster hurling semi-final between Dublin and Kilkenny.

On the face of it, and on the form-book, this should have drawn little more than a token gathering, yet the feeling that here might well be an upset must have been widespread, because a remarkable number of fans gathered in Wexford Park. Unfortunately they were disappointed, as Dublin failed to rise to the occasion.

It is sad to record, however, that the Hand of the Great Reaper should have been so busy in those days of glorious sunshine. Dublin Gaeldom has been particularly hard-hit in the death of two men whose devotion to

the Association has been as dedicated as it was life-long, Peadar McGrath and Sean McCabe.

Outside his own circle, few may have heard of Navan-born Peadar McGrath, and that was the way he wanted it, because he was a completely selfless man. But in his long and fruitful years as Secretary of the Dublin Primary Schools Leagues, the magnificent work he did for the games is beyond assessment.

As for Sean McCabe, he served Dublin and the G.A.A. in general, and the Junior Hurling Board in particular, for more than 50 years, quietly, efficiently and effectively. Nor if Leinster or Central Councils needed a steward or a helper was Sean ever missing.

It is on the quiet, ceaseless work of such devoted men the G.A.A. has been built, and their breed grows rarer with each passing day. The Light of Heaven to them.

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# An amazing man

## Spotlight on Michael Kearins



● Michael Kearins

By SEAN RICE

**B**Y any standard, Michael Kearins is an amazing man. For nearly fifteen years he has remained incontestably brilliant for Sligo and is arguably the best forward to have ever graced the game.

To-day, at 33, he has lost none of his flare for grabbing brilliant scores and if one goes by the gasps of spectators, he is still one of the most exciting players to watch.

Manacled, as he has been to a very ordinary team, Kearins has managed time and again to transcend the limits of his own physique and at times to wrench sterling performances from many of his colleagues.

The question must therefore be asked to what heights would he scale if he were playing for Dublin or Down or Kerry or Galway. Would he be just a small cog in a big wheel or would he be the big cog in the small wheel that he is in Sligo to-day?

With any other successful county, Kearins undoubtedly would have tasted the success that he has so long been striving for with Sligo. There would have been less strain on him and more encouragement. He would have been a star among stars.

But it is equally true that because he shines brighter in Sligo that he would in any other county . . . that from that very source stems the filip to

continue his amazing feats on the field of play, and the sympathy that goes with them for his team's failure.

In a certain sense he has been a draw-back to Sligo. Too much dependence has too often been placed on him by his colleagues with the result that their own confidence never grew or receded again as Kearins became the ace-marksman . . . the one to whom the ball must be given if scores were to be obtained.

In the short term that type of reasoning is sound enough. At scoring Kearins is a dab. Give him the ball and from any angle he is pretty certain to score. It seems so easy. "I used to practise this quite a lot. But I found many times to my misfortune that my shooting was completely off during the game for which I had been practising. So I gave up practising altogether. Unless it is in you, I think free-taking is an art that practice will not bring out," he told me.

Michael first donned a Sligo jersey in 1960 as a minor. He won his place following a trial and retained it the following year. That year, too, he graduated to the senior ranks and has held his place ever since.

Perhaps the greatest honour bestowed on him by Sligo County Board officials was his appointment as team trainer and

manager a few years back. It was a responsibility hailed in the county and one from which great things were expected.

For a while it looked like working. Every player rallied to his inspiration and Sligo slowly began to haul themselves back into contention. But somehow they never managed to make the breakthrough and Kearins relinquished his position for the much less onerous one of just playing.

Now he is more relaxed again and playing better than ever. Having been relieved of the responsibility of having to make decisions about other players during the course of a game, he is now able to concentrate on his own game again and his football is the better of it.

There is more enjoyment, too, for those who watch him. They get as much kick from his fluidity and accuracy as he obviously does out of displaying it for them.

In an age when concentration is beamed mostly on team-work and collective play, Kearins sticks out as a glowing individualist . . . a reluctant one-man team who has ruled the roost in Sligo for a decade and a half.

That's a role he would love to shed for the honour that an All-Ireland title would bring to Sligo.

**SERIOUS  
SHORTAGE  
OF  
HURLEYS  
WORRIES  
CLUB  
OFFICERS**

**W**E have heard much over the years about the position of hurling in general, and about the steps and schemes needed to promote the game in the under-developed areas. But, what about the supply of hurleys?

Judging by comments in some of the provincial papers, hurleys are in very short supply. In fact, it is not too strong to say that there is a hurley famine.

Here is what "Deiseach" wrote in his Gaelic Survey feature in the "News and Star", of Waterford, recently.

"Unless you are close to a club you will have no idea at all of the extent of the hurley famine just now. At every level, clubs are at their wits end trying to maintain a hurley supply sufficient to keep teams in the field. Clubs are actually sharing sticks, and I know of one case, where on an evening this week senior sticks had to be cut down for use by juveniles in an important game. Club officials are covering hundreds of miles, and are collecting sticks in twos and threes. In some cases they are returning from their journeys empty-handed. Where orders are placed and promised, delivery dates are not being met.

"And the position is even more acute at juvenile level. Pat O'Sullivan, who works night and day at the task of keeping the lads supplied, cannot expect any real flow of hurleys for about a month. And, mark you, if Pat O'Sullivan cannot keep them coming then the position is really desperate. Right now he needs to work another of his minor miracles.

"It's a problem that must concern all of us. There must be the utmost co-operation of mutual help and sharing. Without hurleys there will be no hurling. It's as simple—and as serious—as that."

And still on the same subject, I take the following from "The Herald," of Tuam:

"You've probably heard of the pub with no beer. Well, here's another one for you — the hurlers with no hurleys.

"Hurleys, you see, are in short supply these days, and club and county officials are having their fair share of worries over how they are going to be able to keep their players fully stocked with sticks for the coming championship campaigns.

"The shortage conjures up all kinds of humorous notions about our county side going for the first round of the All-Ireland armed with legs of chairs or planks. But it's no joke, really. The problem is causing concern to Galway Hurling Board officials and it has even been discussed in the Dail.

"County Hurling Board Secretary Frank Fahy says: 'I can't get enough sticks. I don't think the demand is up. It's just that hurleys are in short supply since last year.'

"He added that normally at this time of year he would have three dozen sticks in stock but this time he has only a half-dozen to share between the senior and minor teams.

"Clubs are being affected by the shortage of hurleys which are supplied to the County

**By Owen McCann**

Board by Counties Wexford and Kilkenny.

"The situation was bad last year but it is going to be even worse this time around," Mr. Fahy added.

"Clare-South Galway T.D. Dr. Bill Loughnane brought the matter to the attention of the Minister for Lands (Mr. T. J. Fitzpatrick, T.D.) in the Dail when he suggested that the Department examine the possibility of growing ash on the

bank slopes in forests so as to ensure a supply of material for the manufacture of hurleys.

"Contradicting the Minister's contention that there is no shortage of ash for hurleys, Dr. Loughnane said: 'The Cork, Kilkenny, Galway and Clare hurlers prefer the ash with the natural curve coming out of the root, not the forced curve which does not give what they call a natural hurley. The Dept. do not use the banks and

slopes of which I speak to grow ash. I have been in the forests in Co. Clare and Co. Galway and I know no ash is grown on the slopes or banks which would be an ideal place to grow it.'

"The Minister promised him that he would bring the matter to the attention of the Forestry Division and that the availability of ash for the G.A.A. is also being reviewed.

"But if there isn't something done about it, there will surely be a clash of the ash between the G.A.A. and the Government."

Finally, in these days when there is so much talk about the Saturday-cum-Sunday footballer, how about these super-fit players from Ballinrobe? The piece was published in "The Connacht Tribune"

"Sunday last was a busy day for three Ballinrobe G.A.A. players.

"Michael Flannery helped Ballinrobe to an easy win over Claremorris in a League tie and then travelled to Galway where he played for U.C.G. in their first round championship victory over St. Michael's.

"A hurried car journey then took him to Breaffy, on the outskirts of Castlebar, where he played an outstanding role in Ballinrobe's success over Breaffy in the O'Boyle Cup final, scoring 1-3.

"John Cosgrove and Billy Diskin also played against Claremorris and then lined out for Ballinrobe hurlers against Castlebar at Castlebar where they had a decisive win before going on to play in the Breaffy tournament final.

"Cosgrove and Diskin were also in action on Saturday evening when Ballinrobe won the Breaffy hurling tournament final."

Just reading about such energetic players makes me feel tired!

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# LIMERICK'S

# BLONDE

# BOMBSHELL

By JAY DRENNAN

ONE of the more noteworthy gambles of recent years in hurling was the switching of Eamonn Cregan from a long-accustomed forward position to centre half-back. It looked all the more daring, of course, because it was performed in the shadow of the All-Ireland final of 1973 between Limerick and Kilkenny.

Only the gamble really was not a gamble at all. For a lot of reasons. Cregan was no stranger to the position, having played there for his club, though not for his county. Yet, he had fallen back to half-back for the county, too, on occasions, and with predictable success. But the overriding reason was that Cregan is such a fine and complete hurler that it was pretty well certain that he would take to the position as he had done to others.

As a centre-fielder (less often), centre-forward, but particularly as left-wing or left-corner forward, Eamonn had been a pillar of the Limerick side through good days and bad, for years. It would be true to say that he was often a quarter of the team, or nearer to a half. Yet, when really fit and sharp, he was the most telling asset to Limerick at corner forward, especially before, after and during the League victory of 1971.

The speed and decision of his interventions from the corner constantly placed backs under the most dire pressure, and his nose for a scoring chance had developed a most acute sense of smell.

It was not that there was anything wrong with his play or his form in attack at the time of his switch to the backs; it was simply that Limerick were having a lot of trouble in filling the centre-back position since Jim O'Donnell proved susceptible to injury and had to struggle to find form; Tony O'Brien had dropped out of the inter-county limelight; Jim O'Brien was never quite happy there. Making and mending proved an unsatisfactory way of doing things because it



● EAMONN CREGAN, Limerick

meant too often that other areas of defence were being threatened without ever getting a good centre-half out of the experiments.

Worst of all, the All-Ireland was fast approaching and the command of the middle of the defence was not so good or so consistent as might be desired to combat the prowess of Pat Delaney or Kieran Purcell. Cregan was brought back and Limerick scarcely ever looked back until the various misfortunes which ruined their form after last September's All-Ireland. But even in that losing final — as bitter as the previous one was sweet — Cregan was the man whose outstanding performance gave most pride to a Limerick following that badly needed a little stimulant to keep their heads high.

Eamonn Cregan ought to have been a hurler, anyway, with his family background of outstanding contribution to Limerick hurling. *As an iomáint a fáisceadh é*, as the Irish says it. And once it was established that nature had not erred in its transfer of genes, the next most important juncture was the way in which he played as a youth — with such style and classic cut to his hurling, but also

to his football.

With a top football county there is no doubt he would be one of the greats of that game, but because hurling was the thing to do in his family, he became a hurler and allowed much of the football memory to remain incomplete and now a bit blurred.

Through Colleges hurling, minor grade and quickly into the senior side, Eamonn was catching the eye with the speed and grace of his movement, the crisp clunk of his ground shots and the judgement of his cutting through for a shot in attack.

Everyone was talking about the beauty and power of his performance when he rattled in 3-5 in a memorable Limerick victory over Tipperary at a stage when Tipp. seemed to be close to invincibility. That was in 1966. The burden of that 3-5 was not an easy one to carry; he was always expected to turn on the power, and only hurlers know how impossible it is to maintain high-scoring consistency.

It was some time later before Eamonn moved into the corner; he seemed at the time to be less fit than he was when younger, but the change inside gave him the incentive and he sharpened

up wonderfully, scoring the most tricky and cunningly conceived scores as well as the more orthodox. He was still a vital factor there for Limerick through the Munster championship of 1973, moving often to centre-forward or left wing to mend an ailing unit, sometimes coming deep into midfield.

I suppose these fall-back duties were among the reasons why he was brought to centre-back, too, for there was certainly less value in his scoring potential in front if he had to be borrowed sometimes to get the ball up to the attack.

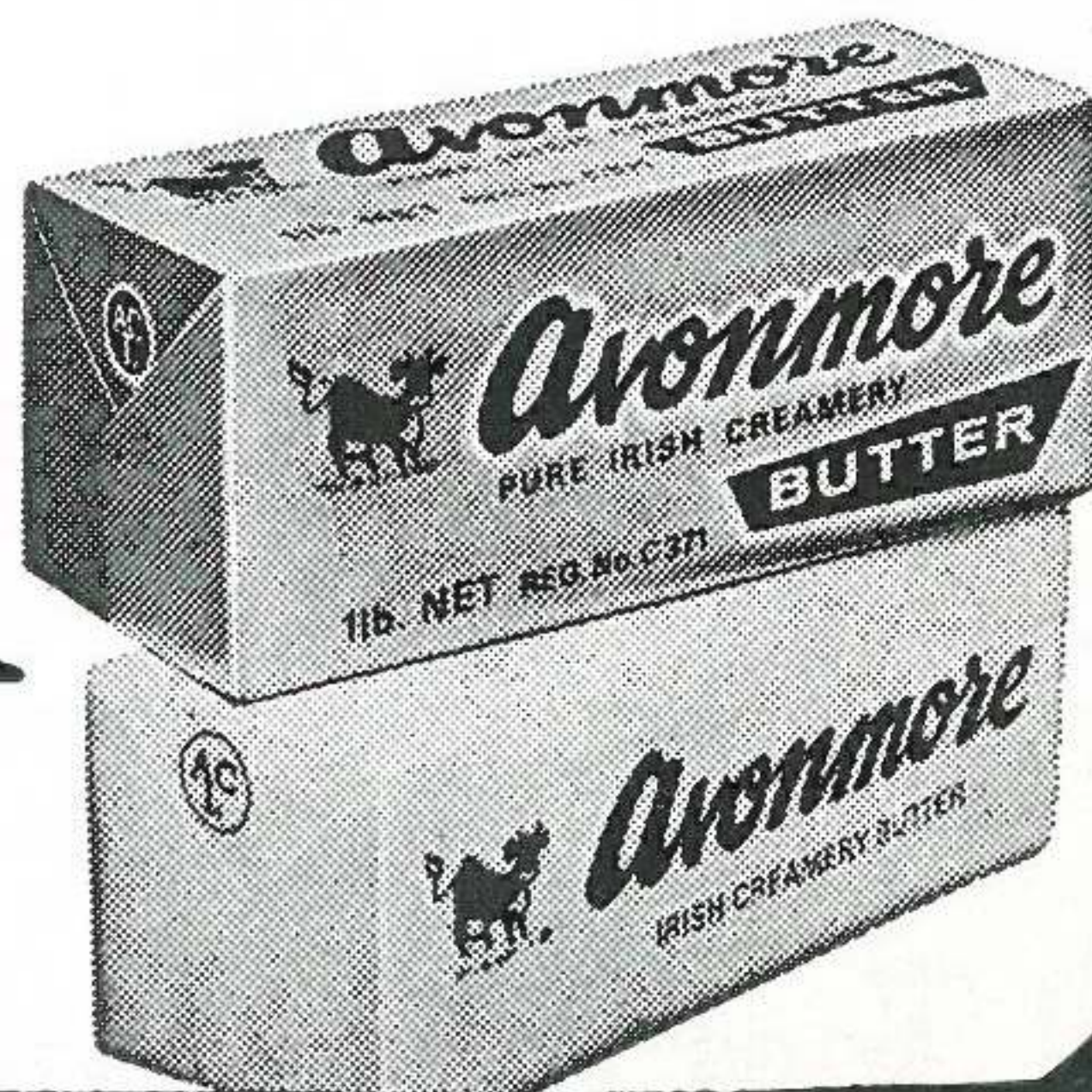
As a corner forward he was named an All-Star in 1971 and 1972; paradoxically, he failed to gain the honour in either 1973 or 1974 when, in fact, he played a consistently greater part in Limerick's prominence from centre-back. Of course, there was Pat Henderson to contend with always, and while there was no way of keeping the position from Henderson last year, it was remarkable that he should not have been honoured in 1973.

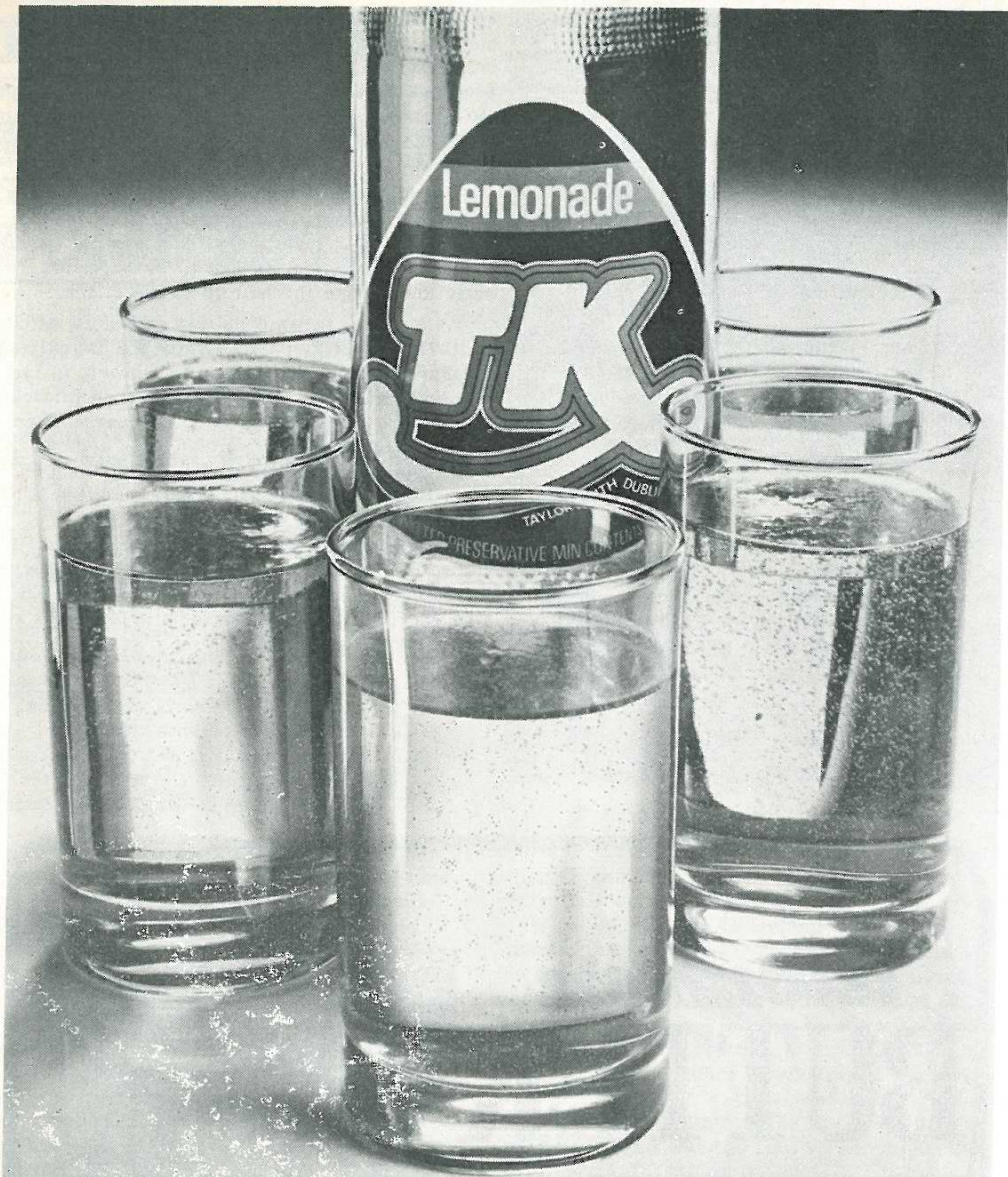
Finally, it should be said that Cregan merits the special accolade that goes to the best players — football or hurling — because they are the ones who excel even when their team is losing, or all about them are struggling.

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# SPONSORSHIP SURVEY

by Sheila Barry

SPONSORSHIP has become very much part of Irish life, whether we like it or not. It is doubtful if many of today's events, both cultural and sporting, could survive without the backing of commercial concerns. But this is no modern phenomenon. Right back to the Middle Ages and beyond, the idea of sponsorship or patronage as it was then known, was very much a part of everyday life.

Today the sponsor is usually a commercial firm and not a private individual, but the underlying idea is the same. That is, the providing of some service for the community which without financial backing would not be economically viable. Many Irish firms are involved in this sphere and the following is just a small example of the constructive work done and enjoyment given by sponsorship.

One of the more successful examples of sponsorship on the G.A.A. scene in 1975 has been the launching of the Spike Blitz Gaelic Football tournament. Sponsored by Cantrell and Cochrane, this one-day competition for rugby playing schools was the brainchild of Mayo's Eamon Mongey.

Its success can be gauged from the fact that seven hundred boys took part. St. Paul's, Raheny, the host club, won both the under-eighteen and under-fifteen sections, and the spectators were pleasantly surprised at the comparatively high standard of skill displayed by the youngsters.

Des Redmond, Assistant Product Manager with C.&C., paid tribute to the Organising Committee under Eamon Mongey, who succeeded in getting all matches run off on a very tight schedule.

Although we are an island nation with a very proud maritime tradition, there are comparatively few companies engaged in the business of shipping in this country. For that reason, commercial sponsorship of maritime projects is confined to a limited number of firms. One such firm is Irish Shipping Ltd., which concentrates its sponsorship mainly on educational schemes. The principal projects sponsored by the Company is its Cadet Scholarship Scheme.

Almost since Irish Shipping Ltd. was established by the Irish Government in 1941, the Company has provided free academic and sea training for young men wishing to embark on sea-going careers. Over the years many

young people have qualified as Masters, Chief Engineers or Catering Officers through the Company's sponsorship of comprehensive training schemes. The passing years have also brought radical changes in ship technology and in working conditions on board ships of Ireland's deep-sea fleet.

Today, Irish Shipping offers a variety of career opportunities to both young men and young women as Navigating, Engineer or Catering Officers on board the vessels of the Company's deep-sea fleet.

In keeping with the highly automated controls and navigating aids which are standard equipment on board Irish ships, the comfort of the ships' personnel is catered for in the provision of first-class accommodation. Swimming pools, bars, film shows, libraries and other forms

● OVERLEAF

## IRISH WIRE INDUSTRY REPORT

FOLLOWING our survey of the Steel Industry in last month's Gaelic Sport more evidence of the diverse industries using steel as a basic raw material is to be found in the existence here of a specialised, technically advanced and, incidentally, flourishing wire manufacturing industry.

Despite the large quantities being produced, wire is something that isn't always evident to a casual onlooker. That is because it turns up under a wide array of different forms — proof on closer examination of the versatility of the product. And in this connection we are referring to 'industrial' wire only — a quite separate matter from the electrical variety.

The odds are these days that much of the barbed wire, field fencing, boundary and chain link

fencing in use around the countryside originated in the Finglas, Co. Dublin plant of Tinsley Wire (Ireland) Ltd., a member of the Unidare Group. Yet this high volume of 'agricultural' wire represents only a part of the wide range of wire and wire-fabricated articles that Tinsley produces.

The range is pretty wide. Long lengths of wire are manufactured to be cut into nails, screws, concrete and road reinforcing rods and so on. Soft wires for tying and binding — combine harvesting, potato sacks, briquettes. There is a wide range of fabricated items including coat-hangers, bedding and seating items, shopping baskets, bread trays, household and office furniture, display racks, refrigerator trays and so forth.

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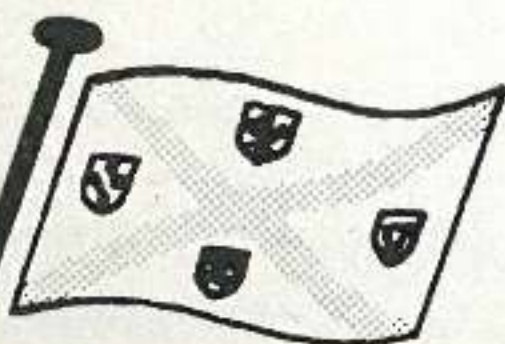
At 22 or 23, you will be Officers of the Watch of a modern cargo ship, trading to all parts of the world.

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of recreational activity on board ensure that the modern Irish seafarer's leisure time is fully occupied in relaxing pursuits and in pleasant surroundings.

Of more recent origin is the Company's "Follow-the-Fleet" scheme which caters mainly for primary schools. "Follow-the-Fleet" is a project, sponsored by Irish Shipping Ltd., which enables schoolchildren to plot the Monday noon positions of all the ships of the Company's fleet each week.

Specially designed world maps, ship markers and weekly information bulletins are issued by Irish Shipping Ltd. to the participating schools. The bulletins give exact positions for each of the Company's vessels and details of ports of call and cargoes as well as additional relevant information.

The main objects of the project are:

(i) To provide teachers with a useful visual aid in the teaching of world geography and related subjects;

(ii) To acquaint participants with the world-wide trading activities of Ireland's deep-sea shipping fleet;

(iii) To promote a greater interest in Irish maritime affairs.

Ulster Bank has always been very active in the sponsorship of G.A.A. events. The Sigerson Cup was supported financially by them in 1974 and 1975 and this year the bank sponsored the Ashbourne Cup. In addition to these well known University events the bank has assisted numerous clubs at local level.

Since Ulster Bank assumed the sponsorship of the Sigerson Cup competition it has blossomed into one of the most efficient and socially enjoyable sporting occasions in the entire G.A.A. calendar.

## HELP TO STOP INFLATION.

## SAVE !!!

THE National Savings Committee was established in 1955 because the Government recognised then, as it does now, the integral role that savings plays in the development of the economy. The National Savings Committee is a voluntary body drawn from employers, trade unions, educational interests and so on. The hard working committee meets monthly to consider activities designed to promote the benefit of savings to individuals and the economy.

The timing of the setting up of the NSC is interesting because shortly beforehand the Government set up the Industrial Development Authority with the aim of promoting investment, much of it foreign, in this country. The success of the IDA is already well documented but despite this success it is evident that relying too heavily on foreign capital and investment can cause its own problems. Other countries are offering increasingly higher inducements to attract foreign companies and Ireland's small economy must compete with these inducements. There is also the danger, unrealised to date, of outside influences and ownership controlling our industrial expansion.

Thus the work of the National Savings Committee is crucial. When money is put into a Savings Bank, Savings Certificates or Post Office, it is put to productive use exclusively in Ireland. From this pool of domestic savings comes the development capital required to increase the productive capacity of the economy.

Two of the most pressing worldwide problems are inflation and

unemployment. Savings help to counteract both. Savings strengthen the value of money whereas excessive spending weakens it. One cause of inflation is too much money chasing too few goods. Increased savings counteract this equation on both sides. Following a rise in savings there is a reduction in the money available to buy goods thereby reducing demand. These increased savings may then be used to produce more goods in future.

Such investment will obviously result in increased employment and a general rise in living standards.

The fostering of the savings habit in youth through the schools is also an important feature of the Committee's work and much promotional work has been done in this field. There are at present over 3,000 National Schools

where savings schemes are in operation based on the purchase of Post Office Savings Stamps. Savings schemes operate as well in Secondary and Vocational Schools and are also based on Savings Stamps.

The NSC produce a large number of helpful and informative booklets which are available free of charge from the National Savings Committee, 72-76 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2. These booklets cover a wide range of topics as may be seen from their titles which include "School Leavers Guide", "Family Budgeting", "The Challenge of Retirement" and "Spending Wisely".

A very important reason why more people are investing in the A.C.C. is that this State sponsored body, which provides credit for agriculture has come to be recognised as the "Farmers' Bank".

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● Mr. H. E. F. Hall, chairman of the National Savings Committee congratulating a section of the pupils from James's St. C.B.S., Dublin, who earlier in the year went on an educational tour of Europe. The boys with full assistance from the N.S.Co. saved over £9,000 for their trip.

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and Wicklow.

# SPONSORSHIP A BOON TO THE GAME

**H**ANDBALL was given a magnificent boost this season when the Irish bottlers of Coca-Cola announced that they would sponsor the Irish Open Championships. This gesture could not have come at a more opportune time as, with the tremendous growth in handball development in recent years, there is naturally a much greater demand on the limited financial resources of the Irish Handball Council.

In a recent statistical review of finances for 1974, President Michael Boyce indicated that in the course of the year, a total of £7,100 was given in grants to 21 clubs either for the construction of new roofed courts or the roofing of existing courts. This shows that the whole emphasis is now on handball as an indoor game. And this is borne out by the fact that, presently, plans are afoot for the erection of approximately 50 handball courts in various parts of the country, and a large number of these should be ready for play before the end of the year.

It is obvious, then, that the Coca-Cola type sponsorship is very welcome and will eventually be reflected in well-appointed courts.

It can be said that handball has benefitted considerably from sponsorship at other levels also.

Local tournaments, which have become so popular over the years, are nearly all sponsored and this is a boon to clubs, in that money, acquired through the traditional methods of fund raising can now be used for capital investment.

The Annual Time Basis Tournament sponsored by Gael-Linn has also been of immense value in the development of the game.

This competition makes no distinction in a player's status so that, very often, the novice player is pitted against the highly vaunted senior star. Since its inception, the Gael-Linn event has become very popular and, in any one season attracts over a thousand players.

Also in the field of National Sponsorship due credit must be given to the Willwood Group of Companies which has made many valuable contributions to Irish sport in recent years, especially in the all-embracing Willwood Tailteann Games.

Handball has also benefitted enormously from this sponsorship and, indeed, Tailteann Handball now commands a very significant place in annual programming.

The Willwood Sponsorship can claim most of the credit for the involvement and enthusiasm of the younger players while women's handball has also benefitted through the Willwood Tailteann.

In fact, it has been very evident during the course of this year's Tailteann that there was a progressive improvement of standards amongst the girls.

In my own view, then, sponsorship has and, will be of benefit to handball, provided it is applied in a balanced fashion with no special demands being made by sponsors.

Handball administrators

should avail of it to ensure that other money will be used for the improvement of playing facilities.

This is the one area where we are still deficient and, unfortunately, handball will not acquire a proper image unless our courts are of modern design, fully furnished and with modern facilities. It is interesting to note that Caimin Jones, the Handball Representative on the G.A.A. Development Committee has specific views on sponsorship.

Caimin, who has been quoted in these columns previously, is of the opinion that approaches should be made to those firms in the country who have provided recreational and sporting facilities for their staffs to include handball courts in their plans. He would also like to see contact made with Bórd Fáilte with a view to having handball facilities available in holiday resorts like Tramore, Salthill and Killarney.

Caimin gauges that this could be achieved if sufficient emphasis was placed on the numbers of Americans who play handball.

And as a parting shot Jones emphasises the upsurge of inter-firm competition in recent years. He would like to see this developed on a larger scale and consequently sponsorship would become more readily available to handball.

Sponsorship, in the context of sport is obviously a complex subject. As far as handball is concerned it has been handled very well and the game has benefitted considerably.

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The Central Executive Committee of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation appeals to the members of the Organisation to give their maximum support to the campaign "BUY IRISH NOW", initiated by the Minister for Industry and Commerce, and urges them by talks to their pupils, to bring the campaign and its importance in the National Economy to the notice of their parents.

# AN INCOMPARABLE TWOsome

**I**T is proving a year of sharply contrasting fortunes on the SCORESHEET scene for a number of players, including that long-serving and incomparable twosome, Sean O'Neill and Eddie Keher, and Ollie O'Brien and Martin Carney.

O'Neill, who will be 35 in September, continues not only to show the youngsters a thing or two in fine style, but in Down's win over Cavan in the Ulster semi-final at Castleblayney late in June he further emphasised his great qualities as a match-winner supreme with an effective roving commission. More than that, the wily full forward was the man who grabbed Down's solitary goal in that game.

And it was an extra special goal, in that the score brought the Down man's bag as a senior to exactly 800 points, goals and points combined, in matches embracing League, Championship and challenges, and Railway Cup and representative ties.

That was also O'Neill's 85th senior goal. His points record then stood at 545. Equally impressive, too, is his game's record at 281 appearances following that Castleblayney outing . . . a run of engagements in the top bracket that has few equals in any branch of sport, Irish or international!

The elegant artist from the Mourne had his greatest scoring year in 1968 when he headed the

Ulster chart for the only time, and also took his place in the "Century Club"—that elite company of footballers and hurlers who have scored 100 points or more in a full season's programme — by shooting 12-65 (101 points) in 23 games at the rate of 4.39 points a match. That was also the last year that a Down footballer set the standard in Ulster.

O'Neill's personal best for an annual campaign, however, is still well below the county record which has been standing the test of time resolutely since 1960 when Paddy Doherty's lethal finishing technique paid off handsomely with 136 points (13-97) in 24 outings. This is also the Ulster record.

On the same afternoon that O'Neill was so prominent against Cavan, Eddie Keher also passed out a noteworthy scoring milestone when he hit one of Kilkenny's goals in their Leinster Championship semi-final win over Dublin at Wexford Park.

That brought the 33-year-old sharpshooter's haul of green flags to a mammoth 180 as a senior — goal-scoring on a truly grand scale! He also shot eight points against the Metropolitans, and here, too, the record is equally imposing at 1,271 not out.

Overall, as a senior, hurling's Bachelor of the Scoring Science is now racing to 2,000 points at 1,811 from 262 outings.



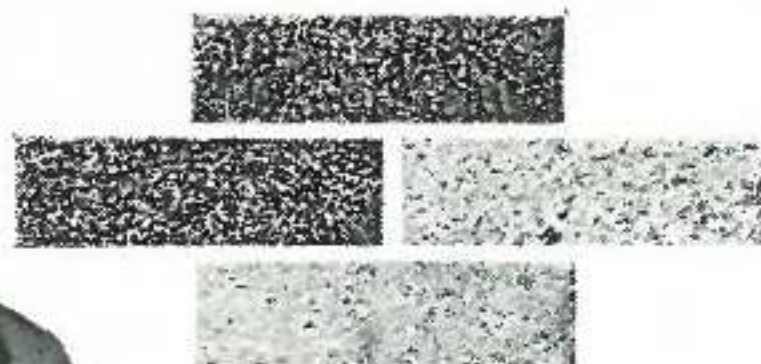
● PADDY DOHERTY

—his 1960 total of 136 points is still the Ulster record.

Keher, of course, holds the national scoring record for a full year in hurling and football at a whopping 194 points (20-134) in 21 games in 1972. He has led the way each year on top of the code's national chart without a break since 1970.

And, Ollie O'Brien? When he cracked over eight vital points in that unexpected but deserved Meath win over Dublin in the National Football League final in May, it looked as if the Walterstown club man might

● TO PAGE 44



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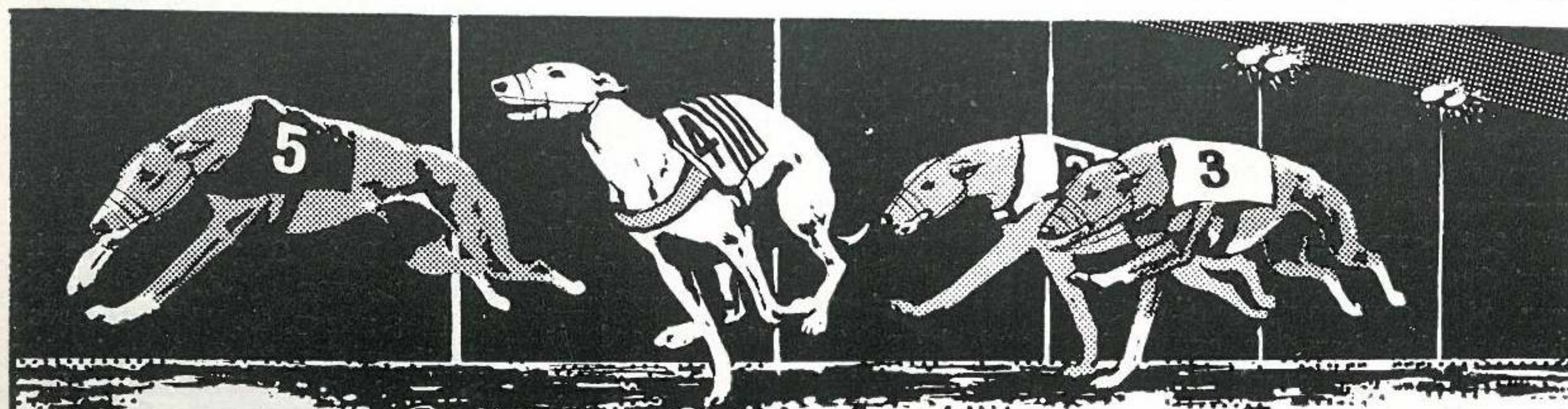


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## *Open Draw is justified*

A SEMI-FINAL clash between last year's finalists Kilkenny and Cork will provide a most entertaining Camogie highlight mid-way through this month of August, and also tends to prove once again how much the senior All-Ireland competition has benefited from the introduction of the Open Draw system.

However, the Open Draw has not been kind to Galway. Since the girls from the West won the junior championship in 1972 they have had the bad luck in each successive year to come up against the reigning champions early in the senior competition. In 1973 and 1974 they found themselves opposed by Cork, and lost narrowly and perhaps unluckily on each occasion. This year they had to travel to play Kilkenny, who had the added advantage of having already had an outing against Wexford in the separate Leinster series.

This time I did not think that Galway were as fit, or played with quite the same enthusiasm as in some other recent years. They certainly fell away badly in the last quarter.

On the other hand, Kilkenny were at full strength and it is indicative of the dedication still animating the girls who wear the black and amber that full-back Ann Carroll had flown in from Italy on the previous night to take her customary place.

Cork, beaten by Kilkenny in the replay of last year's All-Ireland final will now be seeking revenge for that defeat which

foiled them of their fifth O'Duffy Cup in a row. They, too, scored an impressive victory in their first-round game over Antrim, but, for a variety of reasons, the Northern county found it difficult to muster full forces for the long trip South and only the great Mairead McAtamney of their champion 1967 side was on duty. Cork, though short four of last year's stalwarts, gave a very competent display, however, and that game against Kilkenny will be eagerly anticipated by all followers of the game in the East and South.

Meanwhile, the championships in the lesser grades have been proceeding apace in all provinces, and it is encouraging to see what used to be reckoned as weaker counties gathering strength.

In Leinster, for instance, though the minor and junior finals rested between the respective holders, Kilkenny, Dublin and Wexford, there have been very encouraging performances from other counties. Wicklow and Offaly both had very promising minor teams, while in junior ranks Kildare were very unlucky to lose to Dublin at the semi-final stage.

And there is further good news in Leinster. The Westmeath Camogie Board is being reformed after many years of inactivity and anybody interested should get in touch with Mrs. Mary Martin, Markethill, Ballymore.

South Kerry's win over holders

Clare in the opening round of the Munster junior series must have given a much-needed fillip to the game in the Kingdom, and will do no great harm to the ambitions of Clare, while Waterford and Limerick have also been making considerable progress, especially at local level. One would, however, like to see greater dedication and better organisation in Tipperary. Perhaps that junior All-Ireland Colleges victory by Presentation Cashel will provide the necessary spark.

In the North, the fall of reigning champions Antrim (junior) and Down (minor) shows that the other counties are levelling up in standard. Monaghan would now seem to be reaping the benefit of good work at local level, while the win of the Antrim minors over the All-Ireland champions Down would lead one to believe that a revival there cannot be too far away.

The West, however, remains dark. And that is surprising considering the wonderful success of Galway teams on the Colleges fields in recent seasons, and Connacht's success in the last two senior interprovincial competitions.

But the sad fact remains that outside County Galway, Camogie activity in the West seems at a very low ebb, and that is an area to which Central Council could direct its energies, now that the sub-committees have taken over some at least of its routine work.

## FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S NEW STRUCTURE

THE proposed new divisions for the National Football League series 1976-78 read as follows:

### NORTH

**Division I** — Derry, Tyrone, Sligo, Mayo, Meath, Roscommon.

**Division IIA** — Antrim, Down, Armagh, Monaghan, Louth.

**Division IIB**—Donegal, Fermanagh, Leitrim, Cavan, Longford.

### SOUTH

**Division I** — Galway, Dublin, Offaly, Kildare, Kerry, Cork.

**Division IIA** — Westmeath, Clare, Laois, Tipperary, Limerick.

**Division IIB**—Carlow, Kilkenny, Wexford, Wicklow, Waterford.

Geographically the groupings would appear to be an improvement but problems could arise when the promotion and relegation stages are reached.



● Pdraig McGarrigle (right), of David Brown/Case handing over a Case 1150B Dozer to T. E. McGovern, managing director of Ballinamore Plant Hire Ltd. This is the first of the new Case 1150B power angle tilt pitch dozers to be sold in the North-West.

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KENNYS

# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

**W**E have such a huge Mailbag this month that I won't keep you long. As I write the provincial finals are upon us. This month August is All-Ireland semi-final time. The weather is magnificent now. Let's hope it is still fine when you read this.

Many of you saw me, I'm sure, on "Sports Spectrum" (R.T.E.) with Liam Nolan. It is so difficult to feel at ease on "telly". Still it is always a great experience to be on

## PEN PALS

Quite a number of Junior Desk readers have become Pen Pals. If you want a Pen Pal in any other county let me know. This is the time of year, too, that we get a lot of new readers. Mainly because GAELIC SPORT is sold so widely at Summer games. So I'm awarding three prizes this month to the **three** best letters from new readers. Please state your age when writing and just write about anything. Your favourite star, referee, sportswriter, commentator. Great scores you have seen. But start your letter with **"This is my first time writing to Junior Desk."** The address for you to write to is at the end of the column. Write before August 20 please.

Next month I'll have comments to make on the souvenir programmes for the Provincial finals. If you want a souvenir copy of the Connacht final programme send on a P.O. for 15p as I said last month. Next month (Hurling Final issue) the G.A.A. shop in Croke Park is sponsoring our competition. Be sure to order your copy now!

## CUT-OUT

Our Cut-out this month is Kerry's Paudie Lynch. Paudie, I'm sure, hates to be described as a brother of Brendan's. So let us be original and say Brendan is Paudie's brother! Ever since he was a minor I have liked his mid-field play. Very orthodox, he makes the skills of the game look very simple and is a fine sportsman. No higher tribute can we pay him.

## COMPETITION RESULTS

Remember the Liam Sammon Competition for 10 copies (10 x 1) of **Jack Mahon's Gaelic Games Quizbook No. 1** for the first 10 all-correct entries drawn from the hat. I got my eldest daughter Lisa to pull the winners so blame Lisa if you weren't lucky! The correct answers were: Liam won 1 All-Ireland S.F.C., 6 Connacht S.F.C. and 2 All-Star Awards. The winners in the order in which they were drawn are:

- (1) Martin Carley, No. 1 Glenview, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath.
- (2) Aidan Harte, 6 Liam Var Grove, Bishopstown, Cork.
- (3) Walter Heneghan, c/o 98 Ballybane Mór, Galway.
- (4) Michael McGrath, Ox Park, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary.
- (5) Billy McGowan, Bushy Park, Galway.
- (6) Ger Cody, Ballyrue, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
- (7) Sean McEvoy, Riverlyons, Daingean, Co. Offaly.
- (8) John Keane, Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork.
- (9) Michael Nee, Springlawn, Mountbellew, Co. Galway.
- (10) Michael Joseph Parker,

Kilflynn, Tralee, Co. Kerry.  
Hope you all enjoy it now.

## REVIEW

"Cork's Glorious Years" by Tom Morrison is a 100 page record of Cork's G.A.A. triumphs down the years spiced with plenty of photographs of teams and march-rounds, line-outs, game accounts. As a reference book of Cork's great part in 45 years of G.A.A. history this is priceless. Nice, too, to see a young writer have the courage and the ability to produce such a book. We wish the author success, compliment the printers and the book is genuinely recommended as a must for every G.A.A. library.

(Cork's Glorious Years from Tom Morrison, Monagurra, Shanagarry, Co. Cork, forward P.O. for 75p incl. postage).

## MAILBAG

**Michael Burke, Killeslin, Ballyckmoyler, Carlow**, is a keen statistician and wants the Ulster S.F.C. winners from 1889-1922 and the Connacht S.F.C. winners for the same period.

● *Records prior to 1900 are lost in Connacht. I know it's a shame. Perhaps some reader will supply Michael with the information. Start of a Pen-Pal relationship! (J.M.)*

**Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O., Co. Donegal**, wants to know where he can get Mick O'Connell's book "A Kerry Footballer".

● *Write to Mercier Press, Cork. (J.M.)*

**Adrian Doyle, 24 Kinvara Drive, Navan Road, Dublin 7**, is

● **OVERLEAF**

# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

## ● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

a great Meath fan, his particular favourites being Ken Rennicks, Jack Quinn and Ronan Giles. Adrian wants to know if any reader has any copies of GAELIC SPORT that he/she doesn't want.

● *Now there is a chance of an other pen-pal relationship. Perhaps Adrian some kind of swapping arrangement would be best. (J.M.)*

**Padraig O'Leary, Upper Lissavigeen, Killarney, Co. Kerry,** thinks there should be a team photo in Junior Desk every month and that it should go to 10 pages and include an interview with a player. He has all the colour Cut-outs in his scrapbook.

● *Good ... an Padraig. I still keep scrapbooks myself. Would you believe I have almost 100 and I wouldn't give them away now for love or money. (J.M.)*

**Patrick Reid, Esker, Banagher, Co. Offaly,** is thrilled with the return of Galway's hurlers to the limelight. Sean Silke of Galway was a schoolmate of Patrick's. Patrick wonders if Michael O'Hehir's broadcasts are available in cassette form and wants to know where he can get a copy of the 1973 edition of "The Football Immortals".

● *I think Michael's broadcasts should be in cassette form. I have some tapes myself and will make them available to Michael O'Hehir if he requires them. (J.M.)*

**John Keane, Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork,** is hopeful of a Cork double this year and once again has high praise of his schoolteacher Fr. Bertie Troy. John loves Junior Desk and wants one extra page. He wants a Cut-out of Willie Walsh, Seanie O'Leary or Pat Hegarty (all Youghal men).

● *By the time this reaches print John you'll know how Cork are faring after the double and no doubt you'll have enjoyed Féile na nGael in Cork. (J.M.)*

**Christopher Hannon, 1879 Kill, West Naas, Co. Kildare,** likes the Mailbag as he gets to know other people's ideas on the G.A.A. He wants a team Cut-out and loves

the information provided by Junior Desk about G.A.A. books.

● *Don't forget the Tom Morrison "Corks Glorious Years" book reviewed this month (J.M.)*

**B. Kennedy, 8 Pearse Terrace, Arklow, Co. Wicklow,** is doing a project on the G.A.A. and wants information.

● *Write to C.L.C.G., Páirc an Chrocaigh, Ath Cliath 3, for the leaflet "Eolas". (J.M.)*

**Tommy Maher, Main St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny,** would like an R.T.E. film made about Eddie Keher like the Mick O'Connell film.

● *I think this is a great idea and now is the time to do it before the great Eddie retires. (J.M.)*

**Christopher Byrne, 404 Robinson Ave., Staten Island, New York,** writes about the visit of the All-Stars to New York and is disappointed with what appeared in the June issue of GAELIC SPORT. Christopher thinks Alan Larkin is the nicest of all the players he met on that visit.

**Noel Maher (aged 10), Main St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny,** loves Junior Desk and writes that the "Our Games Annual" is not as good as last year's. His brother Brendan wants a Cut-out of Liam O'Brien while another brother, Pat, agrees with John Doyle in thinking that the new rule forbidding players from charging the goalkeeper is terrible.

● *Let us give the rule a chance before we condemn it. What do all readers think of the 70-minute game? (J.M.)*

**Aidan Harte, 6 Liam Var Grove, Bishopstown, Cork,** is 9 years old. He gets a special prize for this wonderful letter which I reproduce in full:—

"Dear Mr. Mahon—My name is Aidan Harte. I am 9 years old. My dad is taking me to matches since I was 4 years old. We used to take my late granduncle, Sean McCarthy, a past-president of the G.A.A. He was a great G.A.A. man and Irishman and I miss him a lot. My daddy buys GAELIC SPORT every month and I read your Junior Desk.

Bishopstown are in the Cork county senior football championship semi-final and it is only their first year in senior. My favourite players are: in Hurling, Eddie Keher, Francis Loughnane, Ray Cummins and John Connolly; and in Football, Billy Morgan, Liam Sammon, Paddy Cullen and Jack Quinn."

● *Welcome to our club Aidan and keep writing. You get our special prize. How about a G.A.A. kit bag? Your grand-uncle is a great loss to the G.A.A. and to Cork. (J.M.)*

**James McCarthy, Carrigfadda, Reenascreena, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork,** thought Cork hurlers were brilliant against Waterford especially Pat McDonnell, Ray Cummins, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Gerald McCarthy and Martin Doherty.

**Tommy McDonagh, Knock, Lettermullen P.O., Co. Galway,** still wants information about Michael O'Hehir tapes, especially some tapes from Galway's 3-in-a-row era.

● *Over to Michael O'Hehir himself. (J.M.)*

**Sean Rourke, Drumany, Foxfield P.O., Co. Leitrim,** is thrilled to see Galway hurlers back and hopes they win the All-Ireland.

**Dermot Roche, Ballyfrory, Duncormick, Co. Wexford—**"Regarding tapes of Michael O'Hehir, I wrote to R.T.E. for the 1960 hurling final. But tapes dating back that far have all been destroyed. By the way it is hard to get your magazine in Wexford."

● *Thanks Dermot. I remember you speaking on this very subject at the Sligo G.A.A. Congress last year. It is a great pity to learn that radio tapes of these games have been destroyed. I'm wondering about R.T.E. films of All-Ireland finals. How many of these have been destroyed too? (J.M.)*

**Liam Hickey, Ballincur, Dolla, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary,** wants a Cut-out of Billy Morgan and Eamonn Grimes.

**Tom Tuohy, Feakle, Co. Clare,** thinks it was very unsporting of the Dublin supporters to invade

# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

the pitch before the end of the N.F.L. final.

**Michael O'Hara, Patrick St., Mountrath, Co. Laois**, has favourites in Pat Delaney and Jimmy Barry-Murphy.

**Ger Cody, Ballyrue, New Ross, Co. Wexford**, liked the Jimmy Barry Murphy interview. He feels R.T.E. should have shown the League finals and that the All-Ireland S.H. semi-final should be televised.

**Seamus Woulfe, 11 Foxfield Avenue, Raheny, Dublin 5**, the boy with the prolific ideas in a wonderful letter thinks that the coming of Galway hurlers has evened up the hurling scene, that education comes before sport in colleges and that we needn't be too worried about rugby-playing colleges. Seamus knows for he



★  
**ALAN LARKIN**  
(Dublin)

★

attends one of these and writes: "Quite definitely 50% of my class rate Gaelic games more highly than rugby." He asks why photos of teams in Croke Park aren't taken with a packed Hogan Stand as background and wonders if R.T.E. ever have a camera in the Cusack Stand where they should have it to capture crowd atmosphere. Seamus asks if any reader would like to swop their copy of any of the following programmes for his copy of the Munster S.H.C. finals of '73 and '74.

(1) Connacht S.F.C. Final '73 or '74. (2) Ulster S.F.C. Final '73 or '74. (3) Munster S.F.C. Final '73 or '74.

He finishes up by saying what a nice guy Alan Larkin is.

● *Alan is really popular this month. (J.M.)*

**Michael McGrath, Ox-Park,**

**Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary**, wants a Cut-out of Liam King and thinks Michael O'Hehir is "the best commentator of all."

**Joseph Thompson, Trumera, Mountrath, Portlaoise**, says Tommy Murphy of Graiguecullen is the greatest footballer never to win an All-Ireland medal.

● *Tommy was one of the great-est. (J.M.)*

## CUT OUTS

**Patrick Leogue** has made a breakdown of Cut-outs and the counties represented. It is as follows:

"(1) Five counties have never been represented in the Cut-outs: Monaghan, Carlow, Louth, Fermanagh and Westmeath. (2) Cork and Kilkenny lead the way with seven Cut-outs each, followed by Offaly, Galway, Kerry and Tipperary with six. (3) Six players have been featured more than once. (4) Four counties have only been represented in small Cut-outs: Kildare (Pat Dunny), Cavan (Gene Cusack), Down (Sean O'Neill), Derry (Mickey Niblock, Malachy McAfee). (5) Thirty-four All-Stars have been featured in the Cut-outs. The full table of counties is:

7: Cork, Kilkenny, Tipperary; 6: Galway, Offaly, Kerry, Wexford; 5: —; 4: —; 3: Mayo, Roscommon, Limerick, Clare, Dublin; 2: Donegal, Derry, Meath, Antrim, Longford; 1: Down, Kildare, Cavan, Sligo, Armagh, Waterford, Tyrone, Leitrim, Laois, Wicklow."

● *Thanks Patrick for keeping tabs on us. We should feature more of the lesser known men.*

**Breda Delaney, Carrigatoher, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary**, thinks Junior Desk is great. Breda wants Mary O'Grady as a Pen-pal, less ads. and more action photos.

● *Fáilte romhat Breda. (J.M.)*

**Justin Morahan, Main St., Louisburgh, Co. Mayo**, thinks

R.T.E. is not giving near enough coverage to Gaelic games. In selecting footballers and hurlers of the year, he suggests the following guidelines: (1) Consistency; (2) Dedication; (3) Sportsmanship; (4) Versatility.

● *All great guidelines. (J.M.)*

**Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow**, forecasts new title holders in Leinster S.F. and wants colour Cut-outs of John Connolly and Ronan Giles.

**John Colclough, Ballygibbon, Rathnure, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford**, wants a Cut-out of Michael O'Hehir.

**Gerald Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford**, wants a Pen-pal, "anyone who reads Junior Desk". His hobbies are hurling, football, basketball, cycling and collecting G.A.A. programmes and magazines. This is his second time looking for a Pen-pal.

● *Start writing boys and girls. (J.M.)*

**Gerald Traynor, 893 Francis St., Edenderry, Co. Offaly**, wants another Offaly Cut-out soon.

**Patrick Leogue, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly**, likes Andy Croak's rasping comments and thinks Gay Byrne's tribute to Michael O'Hehir was great. His brother, John, who is 10 years old and writing for the first time, agrees with Billy Kelleher about the history page.

**Billy Kelleher, Gortbofinna, Ballyclough, Mallow**, thinks that Denis Allen and Jimmy Barry-Murphy are a great combination.

**William Guiton (aged 12), Killeens, Ballynonty, Thurles, Co. Tipperary**, loves Junior Desk since he started reading it in 1971. He loves the competitions.

I'm holding over letters from Jack Naughton and Eoghan Corry till next month. Boy, that was our biggest Mailbag yet. Next month is the hurling final special and we have the great G.A.A. Shop Competition. Keep writing to—

**JUNIOR DESK,**  
c/o GAELIC SPORT,  
80 Upper Drumcondra Road,  
Dublin 9.

## SCORESHEET

● FROM PAGE 37

well prove the one this year to erase a long-standing Royal County scoring record from the chart.

But Meath's shock elimination from the Leinster Championship by Louth cut down on the O'Brien scoring prospects for 1975, and he will now certainly have to hustle in the coming months in the League if he is to eventually make this a record-making campaign.

O'Brien hit 0-7 against Louth to bring his score for 1975, up to then, to 44 points (3-35) in ten games. That's 35 points below the county peak that went into the record book as far back as 1958 when D. O'Brien scored 5-64 (79 points) in 18 games.

Similarly, Martin Carney was finding the target in accurate fashion for Donegal in the spring and early summer. In three Dr. McKenna Cup games during April and May he put up 18 points.

But then Cavan put a brake on the Donegal march with their first-round win over the defending champions in the Ulster Championship, a game in which Carney scored 0-7.

That brought his record for 1975 up to 40 points (2-34) in eight games — virtually half way to the comparatively recent county record established by Joe Winston in a memorable year for Donegal in 1972 when they won their first Ulster senior title. The Letterkenny man finished that season with 81 points to his name (4-69) in 18 games.

Finally, a brief word about the second All-Ireland "B" Hurling Championship win by Westmeath after a final replay with London.

Colm Connaughton was the Leinster county's top marksman. He averaged an outstanding 8.60 points in each of his five games for 4-31 (43 points).

## NEW ALBUMS FROM E.M.I.

**A**MONG recent releases from E.M.I. is **Souvenir of Ireland** which is intended to give in its fourteen tracks a sample of all their current Irish recordings.

This album is an excellent introduction for tourists to contemporary Irish artists and gives a good idea of the actual sound on the original album.

Also released within the past few weeks is E.M.I.'s first album for The Sands Family entitled **You'll Be Well Looked After**. Produced by Donal Lunny, this album features a varied selection of traditional airs and two original songs. The Sands Family have toured extensively abroad, particularly in Germany and North America.

E.M.I.'s plans for the future include a completely new album

of ceili music by the Gallowglass Ceili Band. This is the first such record for many years made by this talented band, led by Pat McGarr.

Another new album coming out shortly is by Aileach, a new group from Donegal. This contains mainly traditional material but includes also a recently released single, **Lullaby**, written and produced specially for them by Phil Coulter. This is a follow-up to his very successful **Town I Know So Well**, which is also featured on this album.

### ANDY CROAK

**A**NDY Croak has been struck down with a minor indisposition. The problem has been diagnosed as a "Frog in the Throat", but there is no evidence that our columnist has at any time taken part in that revolting competition, which is staged in Co. Offaly each year.

He has asked us to leave two pages blank in this issue so that his devoted readers might be all the more reminded of his absence. The Editor feels, however, that a clean sheet might not be the best symbol for that purpose. Mr. Croak has promised us that he will do his very best to return to his labours for our September issue.

### DON AOS ÓG

BRÓGA AN tSÍÓG  
PHOIST

SIBÉAL MAC ANRAOI

Scéal taitneamhach. Pictiúir dubh/bán agus daite. Do pháistí idir 8 agus 10 mbliana. Oiriúnach lena léamh amach do pháistí níos óige.

30p

SEÁN NA nGÉANNA

PEIG MHC MHUILNEORA

Scéal agus teanga curtha in oiriúint do pháistí idir 6 agus 8 mbliana. Pictiúir dhaite tríd síos.

50p

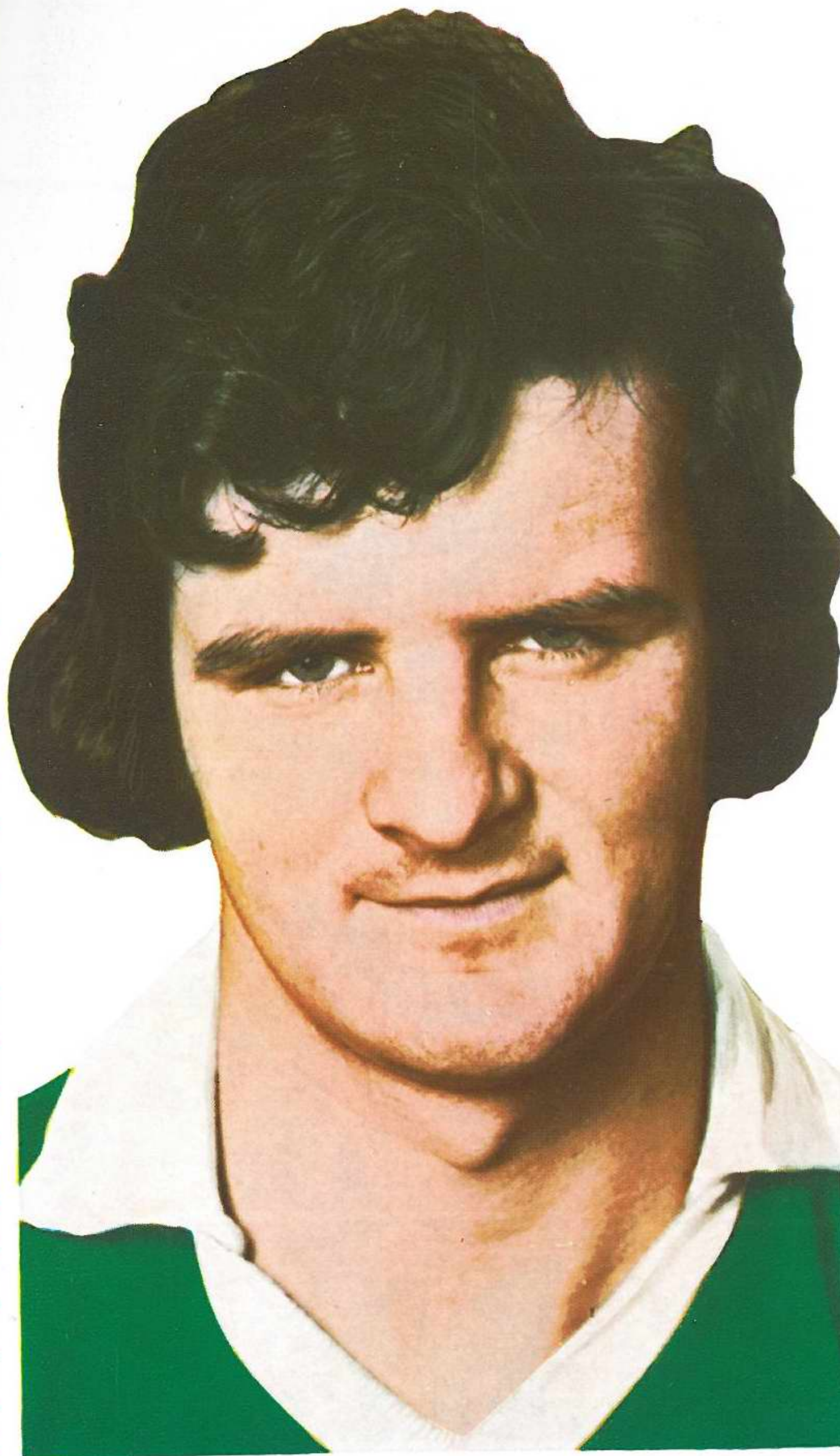
SEAN-EOIN

MÁIRÍN NÍ CHRÍAGÁIN

Eagrán nua den scéal dár thug leanaí agus a dtúismitheoirí gean i gcónaí. Pictiúir dubh/bán agus daite le **JACK B. YEATS**.

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FOILSEACHÁIN  
RIALTAIS  
AN STUARA,  
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 1



**Paudie  
Lynch  
Kerry**

Age: 22.

Height: 6 ft.

Weight:  
12 st. 10 lb.

Clubs: Beaufort  
and U.C.C.

Position:  
Midfield.

Senior Inter-  
County Debut:  
1969.

**CAREER  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Paudie captained the Combined Universities in the 1973 drawn Railway Cup football final, but injury kept him out of the replay, and his brother, Brendan, led the student team to victory.

A Kerry minor in 1968, he has played at half back, midfield and attack with the senior team, and capped four seasons with the Under-21 side by winning an All-Ireland medal in 1973. He also has National League medals for 1971, 1972 and 1974.

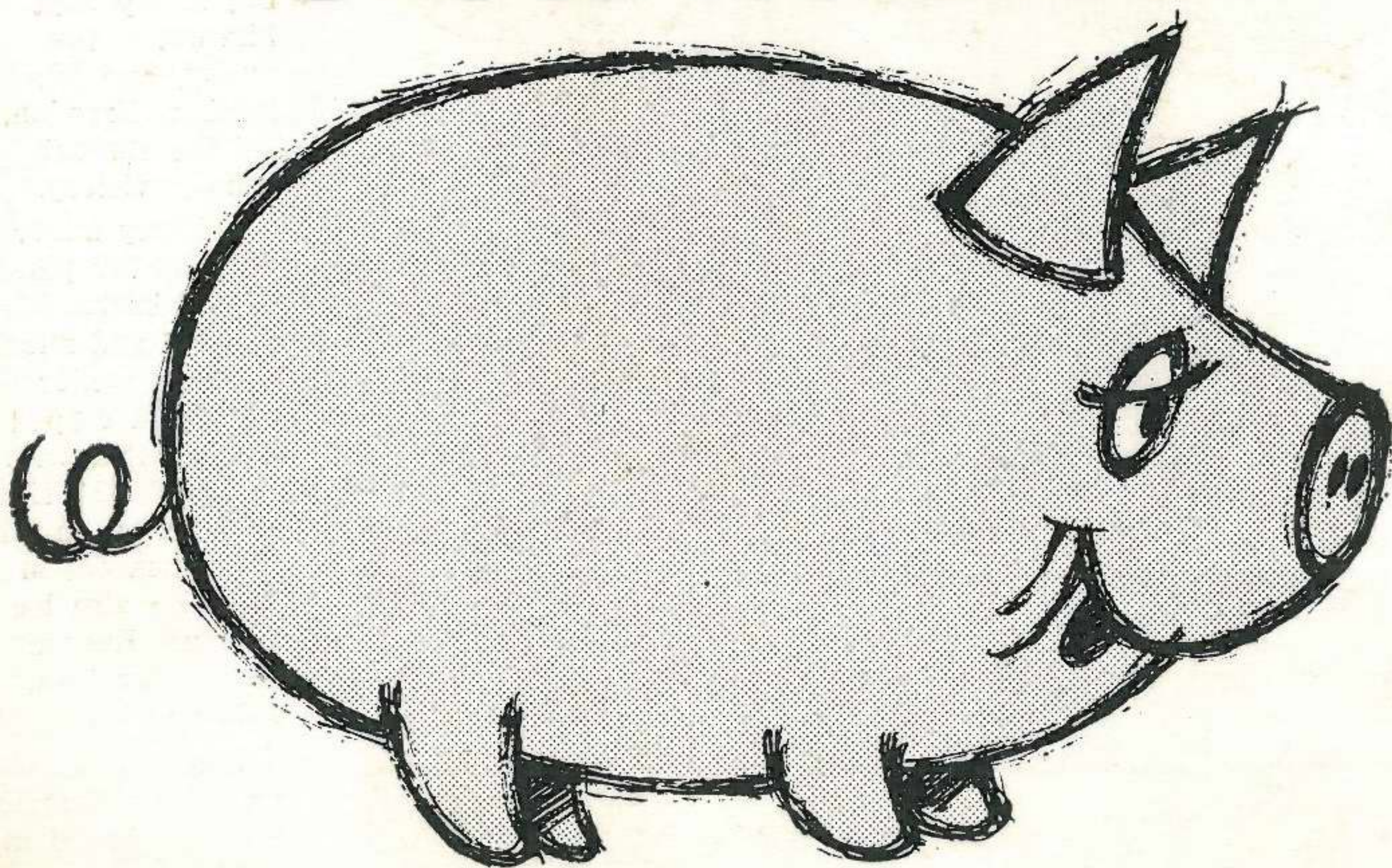
Paudie was awarded a Carrolls All-Star Award in 1974.

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