

145 GAA

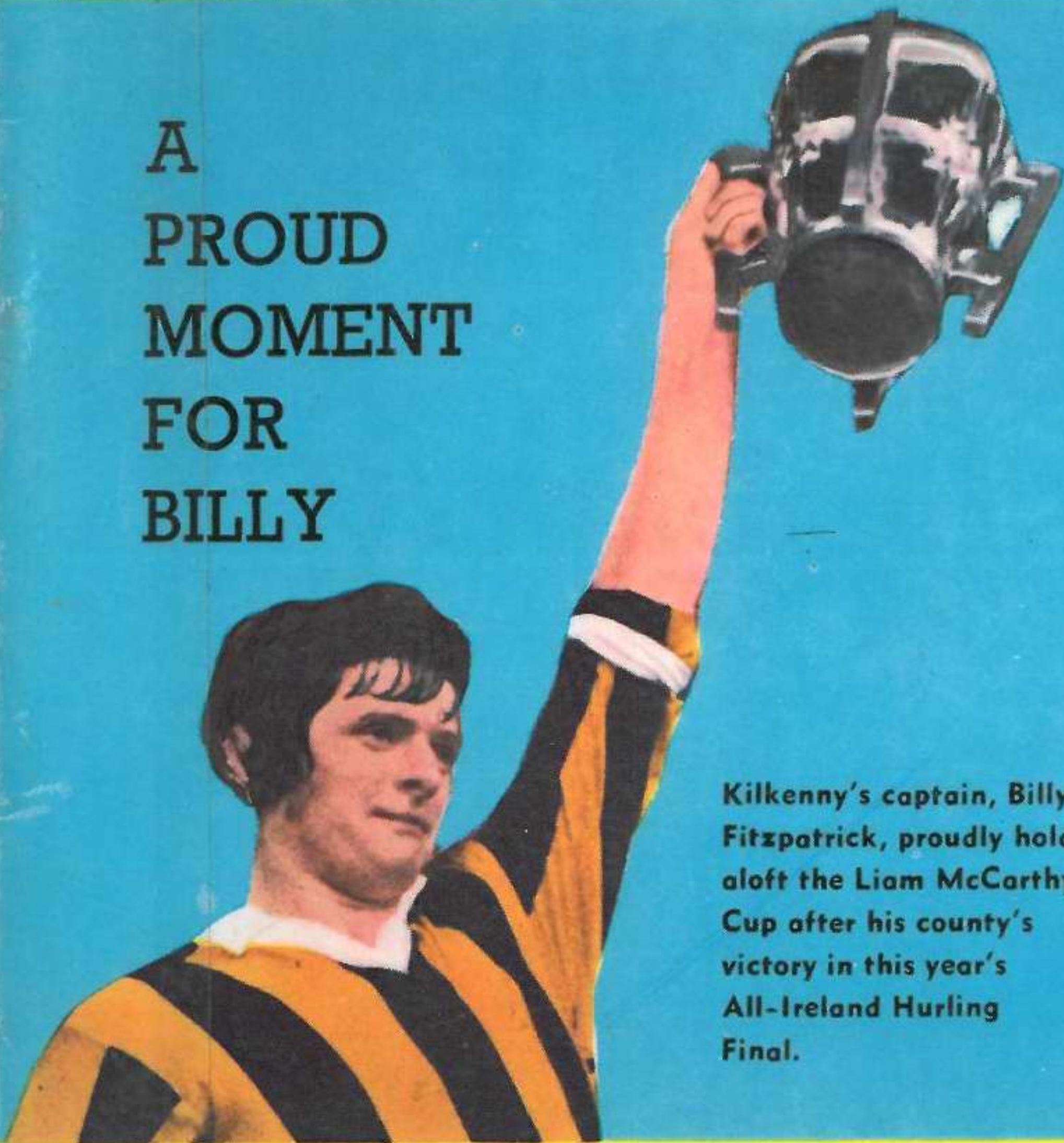
# GAELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

NOVEMBER, 1975

TWENTY PENCE (TAX INCLUDED)

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MOMENT  
FOR  
BILLY



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be satisfied  
with fifteen  
in-a-row?*

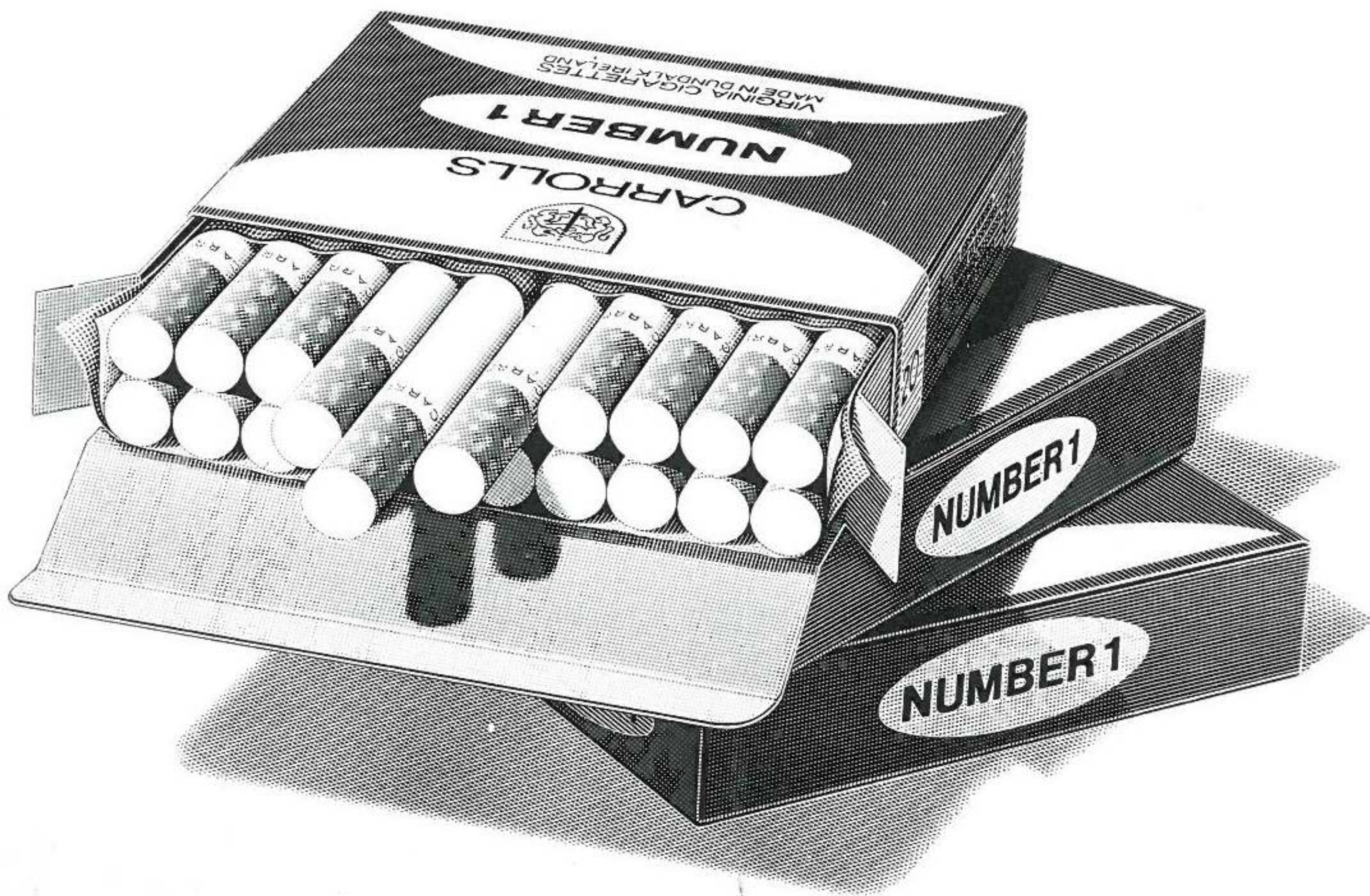




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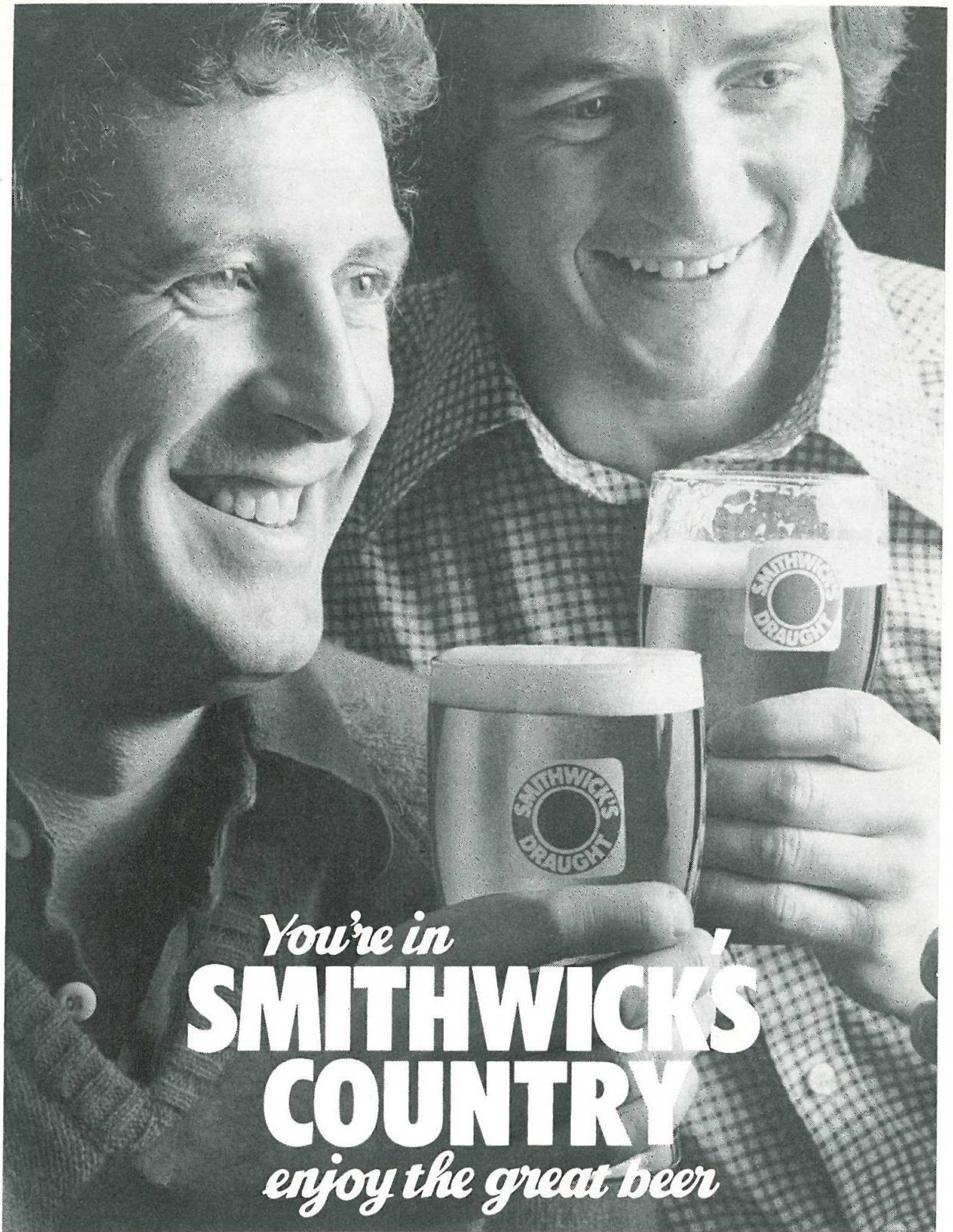


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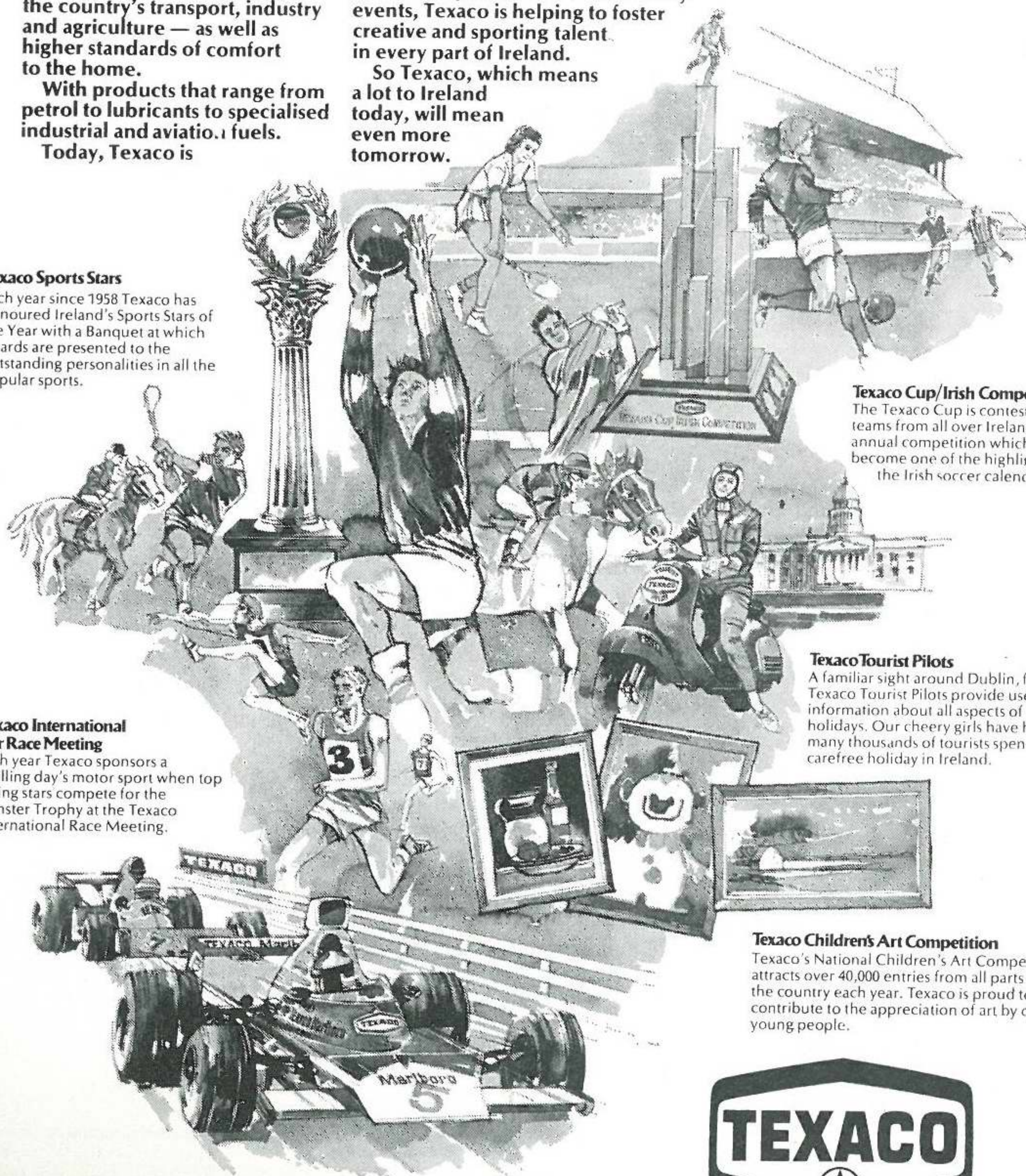
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# Gaelic Sport

Vol. 18. No. 11. November, 1975

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## CONTENTS

	Page
Top Ten ... ..	5
Andy Croak ... ..	6
Denis "Ogie" Moran fulfils all his early promise — by Eamonn Young ... ..	7
The late John Keane—an app- reciation by Seamus O Braon- ain ... ..	9
Kilkenny unfair to journalists! —by Mick Dunne	11
Scoresheet—by Owen McCann	13
Ladies Please —by Kitty Murphy	14
Press Cuttings —by Neil McCavana	17
We'll keep our eyes on Derry —by Mick Dunne	19
What's wrong with Munster hurling? — by Jay Drennan	21
Ulster Viewpoint —by Dan McAreavy	23
Moondharrig's Diary ... ..	26
Urgent search for talent in the West—by Sean Rice ... ..	29
Kirby reigns supreme —by Sean Clerkin	31
This has been a good year for Cork—by Eamonn Young ...	33
Camogie Comments —by Agnes Hourigan	35
Flanagan still an ace in Tip- perary pack—by Jim Ben- nett ... ..	41
Junior Desk —edited by Jack Mahon	45
Colour Cut-out ... ..	49

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

SPORTING followers can be very fickle. It is only a few short months ago that many were loudly hailing the Dublin senior football team as the greatest side of all time. Indeed, after the resounding Leinster final win over Kildare in July there were those who argued that Dublin were an unbeatable combination.

But since the below-par performance when losing to Kerry many of those who were so lavish in their praise of the Dubs during the summer months are now the ones most vocal in their criticism of the team. One defeat has transformed the Metropolitan side's rating from dizzy heights to that of a very moderate side in the opinions of these tickle men.

Could the real reason for this volte-face be that those who had lavished praise so indiscriminately on the team earlier in the year were made to look silly by the Dubs' display in the All-Ireland final?

Be that as it may, much nonsense has been bandied around about Dublin since the Sam Maguire Cup game — just as was the case before that tie.

Let's get our priorities right. One defeat, no matter how heavy, should not generate panic.

Dublin may not have been the perfect "machine" that so many had stoutly maintained before the showdown with Kerry, but their record in emerging from Division II of the National League in the 1973-74 season to the All-Ireland title of 1974 and a place in this year's showpiece match speaks more eloquently than words about the high qualities the team possesses.

More than that, there was the classy and skilled football that Dublin produced in match after match; the type of play that delighted the crowds, and kept them flocking to games in large numbers. The Dubs, in fact, did a wonderful public relations job in this regard for Gaelic football in general.

They awakened too a new interest in, and a keener awareness of, the game among the youth of the capital, who have been nurtured on a diet of "Match of the Day" on television. That was probably the best feature of Dublin's return to the big-time because a strong Gaelic Games base in the capital is in the best interests of the G.A.A. That base is now firmer than it has been for years, thanks to Sean Doherty and his colleagues.

We salute Kerry. They fully deserved their great win, and are worthy champions and outstanding sportsmen.

But Dublin have accomplished too much to be glibly written-off as a likely football force in the future. Inevitably, the defeat in the final is a blow to morale, and points also to the need for some changes in the side.

Equally, however, the Dublin footballers themselves and the men behind the team have what it takes to effectively silence their doubters by blue-printing their way back to the top.

So, go to it Dublin! The game needs you. But more important, the youth of Dublin need you.

## COVER PHOTO

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ON our front cover this month we pay tribute to the Kilkenny Senior, Under-21, Minor, Colleges', Vocational Schools' All-Ireland Hurling Champions. "Kilkenny for ever" we say. Well, with the amount of talent available to the Kilkenny selectors just now we pose the question—"Who is going to stop them?"






Shakespeare's three witches sat on the blasted heath dealing out predictions ten to the dozen. No doubt they saw in the distant future in Erin's fair isle, the setting up of a semi-state body called An Bord Baine, commanded to take Ireland's green and turn it into gold.

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# Top Ten

## A KERRY MONOPOLY

WITH the National Leagues swinging into gear for the new season and providing a wide range of challengers for places in the Top Ten charts, it is inevitable that a number of players from counties that have not been prominent among the major titles find favour this month. Nevertheless, as the review covers the period from September 21 to October 14 inclusive, the dominant county must be Kerry after their All-Ireland senior football final win.

So many Kerry men caught the eye in what was very much a team victory over Dublin that it was no easy task to decide on the final line-up from the champion team. In the circumstances, it is no great surprise that there is a triple tie on top of the chart.

**Ger Power**, a tower of strength at left half back, **John O'Keeffe**, eminently sound at full back, and **Pat McCarthy**, a tireless worker in midfield, share the lead with nine points apiece.

However, O'Keeffe and McCar-

thy are in an extra special position in that they are the only footballers this month to increase their over-all points totals. O'Keeffe now has 30, and McCarthy is up to 17.

Three Kerry men are also bracketed on an eight points rating—**Denis Moran**, **Paud O'Shea** and **Pat Spillane**.

Dublin's two representatives in the chart are **Robbie Kelleher** and **Tony Hanahoe**.

The other non-Kerry footballers to find favour are **Jimmy Hanniffy**, who did much to get Longford off to a good start in their League win at home against Westmeath, and **Brian McEniff**, a star for Donegal in their victory over Louth also in the opening round of the League.

Five hurlers improve their over-all points positions as a result of their performances in the opening rounds of the League. Setting the pace in this regard are **Martin Quigley** (Wexford) and **Pat McDonnell**

(Cork), who top the month's chart with eight points each, and now have 20 points and 16 respectively.

### FOOTBALL

|   |                                     |    |
|---|-------------------------------------|----|
| 9 | <b>J. O'Keeffe</b> (Kerry) .....    | 30 |
| 9 | <b>P. McCarthy</b> (Kerry) .....    | 17 |
| 9 | <b>G. Power</b> (Kerry) .....       | 9  |
| 8 | <b>D. Moran</b> (Kerry) .....       | 8  |
| 8 | <b>P. O'Shea</b> (Kerry) .....      | 8  |
| 8 | <b>P. Spillane</b> (Kerry) .....    | 8  |
| 7 | <b>R. Kelleher</b> (Dublin) .....   | 7  |
| 6 | <b>A. Hanahoe</b> (Dublin) .....    | 6  |
| 6 | <b>J. Hanniffy</b> (Longford) ..... | 6  |
| 5 | <b>B. McEniff</b> (Donegal) .....   | 5  |

### HURLING

|   |                                       |    |
|---|---------------------------------------|----|
| 8 | <b>M. Quigley</b> (Wexford) .....     | 20 |
| 8 | <b>P. McDonnell</b> (Cork) .....      | 16 |
| 7 | <b>A. Doran</b> (Wexford) .....       | 12 |
| 7 | <b>M. Coleman</b> (Cork) .....        | 7  |
| 7 | <b>J. Galvin</b> (Waterford) .....    | 7  |
| 6 | <b>T. Quinn</b> (Dublin) .....        | 13 |
| 6 | <b>M. Conneely</b> (Galway) .....     | 11 |
| 6 | <b>J. McMahon</b> (Clare) .....       | 6  |
| 6 | <b>O. Gallagher</b> (Westmeath) ..... | 6  |
| 5 | <b>J. O'Neill</b> (Antrim) .....      | 5  |

### Quintet of Kerry Top Ten Stars



John O'Keeffe



Pat Spillane



Ger Power



Paud O'Shea



Pat McCarthy



# Were Kerry greatest ever to win football All-Ireland?

**ANDY CROAK**  
The writer with the  
rasping comment

**I**T HAS NEVER been my habit to say "I told you so". But there comes a time when even the most modest man is forced to step smartly to the centre of the stage, discard the cloak of humility in full view of the audience, and take a bow.

Because of the necessity to make a sad journey abroad I was not able to write a column for the last issue of GAELIC SPORT (thank you all for your nice letters saying how much you missed it) but our dear and esteemed Editor very kindly granted my request to put in a few lines announcing my unwavering faith in Kerry's ability to beat Dublin in the Football Final.

**BEING A MODEST** man himself, he doesn't like making sensational statements, so he "buried" the item at the foot of a column under the headline "Croak Fancies the Kingdom".

Now, if our Editor were a loud and brash fellow he'd have plastered my humble opinion in a prominent position, especially as all the other experts in the newspapers (well, nearly all) were hollering that Dublin had it sewn up because the Kerry chaps were too young.

Luckily, I was back in Ireland in time for the game and watched it from my usual perch on Hill 16. Enough has been said about Kerry's magnificent display. Taking fitness and speed with football ability I don't think I've seen a better team in an All-Ireland final.

**THE POSTSCRIPT** I'd like to add is this. After all the talk about violence it was good to see the occasion pass in the best sporting traditions of Croke Park finals. The behaviour of Dublin's young supporters behind the Railway goal was not offensive.

Whether this was due to their own good sense or to the security measures taken by the G.A.A. doesn't matter now. The important thing was that the day passed without any unruly or violent incidents.

Speaking of those security measures, I heard several people say before and after the match that the G.A.A. had "over-reacted". In reply to that I say, rubbish.

If precautions hadn't been taken and violence had broken out again, those people would be the very first to say that the Association had stupidly refused to heed grave warnings. In fact, I would not have pulled my own punches, and I could imagine other writers being very critical also.

It just goes to show that you can't please all the people all the time.

★ ★ ★

**THERE IS NO DOUBT**, of course, that the G.A.A. could do much more in other directions to please the greatest possible number of its followers. Or maybe I should put it this way — they should try harder to displease fewer.

As an example, I'll give you

the All-Ireland programme for each final this year. It cost a whopping 20p (or four bright shillings, if you remember those happy days before decimalisation). Now, I'm not saying that, on a commercial basis, 20p was too dear for the size and quality of programme we got. It was certainly an attractive production.

All right. But please tell me, who wants a programme as elaborate as that? The essential part of a programme, at any game, are the teams. That's all the spectator really needs. He, or she, doesn't ask for a lavish magazine. If that's what the G.A.A. want to get out, O.K.; but then let them subsidise it and sell it to the public at a reasonable price.

**THE PRICE** charged this year was not just unreasonable, it was outlandish. An increase of 700% on what an All-Ireland programme used to cost up until five or six years ago.

**I'M NOT** the slightest bit interested in the argument that the productions nowadays are bigger and more lavishly printed. All we need are the line-outs (correctly given), pictures of the players, if possible, and an article or two to read during the half-time interval.

For that I wouldn't mind too much paying 10p. But that should be the very limit. Many children of different ages attend the finals, and aren't they entitled to have their programmes, too? I'd say damn few of them

● TO PAGE 43



# Denis (Ogie) Moran

## fulfils all

## his early promise

By EAMONN YOUNG



**“WE** have a right chance now,” said the Kerry teacher to me. “Moran and Sheehy haven’t played in those places often but they’re clever footballers.”

That was a few days before the All-Ireland and I agreed with him, and on the day before the final had no hesitation in writing in a news column that if Tim Kennelly was a success Kerry would win. The tall centre-back from Listowel stayed with his mature and tricky opponent Tony Hanahoe, and we all know the rest.

For a few years I have been an admirer of young Moran, having seen in his half-back play a clarity of thought and an immaculate delivery that promised a lot. Last winter in Cork’s Mardyke, where he stood (or perhaps “travelled” would be a better word) on the half-way line, his readiness to work compensated, in my eyes, for his size and weight. For while the good big man is a great performer, I have always been more impressed by the size of the fight in the dog rather than the dog in the fight. This simple emphatic word “fight”, of course, doesn’t refer specifically to belting a fellow on the jaw. Whether or not one admires Ali or Frazier, it was obvious that in their recent friendly joust there were displayed many more human characteristics than mere fight.

In the same way on that day in the Mardyke in which Ogie Moran left no indelible imprint, I liked his sixty-minute concentration on the job in hands. So I wasn’t unhappy to see him in at centre-field in that first round game against Tipp in Clonmel,

---

‘I love football and hope to play more for Kerry if I’m good enough. I’ll have to settle down in one place I suppose and at the moment centre-field seems to be the best though I’d like to make a go of the forty. I’ll do my best anywhere.’

OGIE MORAN

---

and while praising the young player’s skill and cleverness to ex-Kerry footballer Bobby Buckley you can imagine my dismay when Moran belted two balls up in the air, like a man kicking “risers” in a small field. Kerry were in trouble that day for a long time and when it was over there was in Mick O’Dwyer’s solemn “It will be a tough Munster final” more determination than optimism.

It was in that game when Paud Lynch went off that Denis Moran came on, but with only fifteen

minutes to go it was all over anyway. Likewise, Moran’s entry in the semi-final passed almost unnoticed when he replaced Ger Driscoll who had gone on for Mick Sheehy. Sligo by that time were being sewn up and so it was left to the big day to show us our first real look at Ogie Moran.

From the start of the game, as we all remember, Kerry set a fast pace and in the forwards the running, slick passing and regular but orderly inter-changing of the Kerry men showed that this vital trait called cleverness was adding a golden crown to speed and quick reaction. I liked almost everything that Moran did, this young man who has never played on the forty in an important game. His straight running indicative of clear thought, skilful use of the ball and smart acceleration all combined to tear to shreds any advantage given by the size and ability of Alan Larkin. Moran had one good point on a run in and another after a smart pass from Brendan Lynch but the most vital contribution came about six minutes from the end when, with Kerry five points ahead, he swung a fast low one in to John Egan who threw it quickly across the goal to a leaping Ger Driscoll and there it was in the net with Paddy Cullen

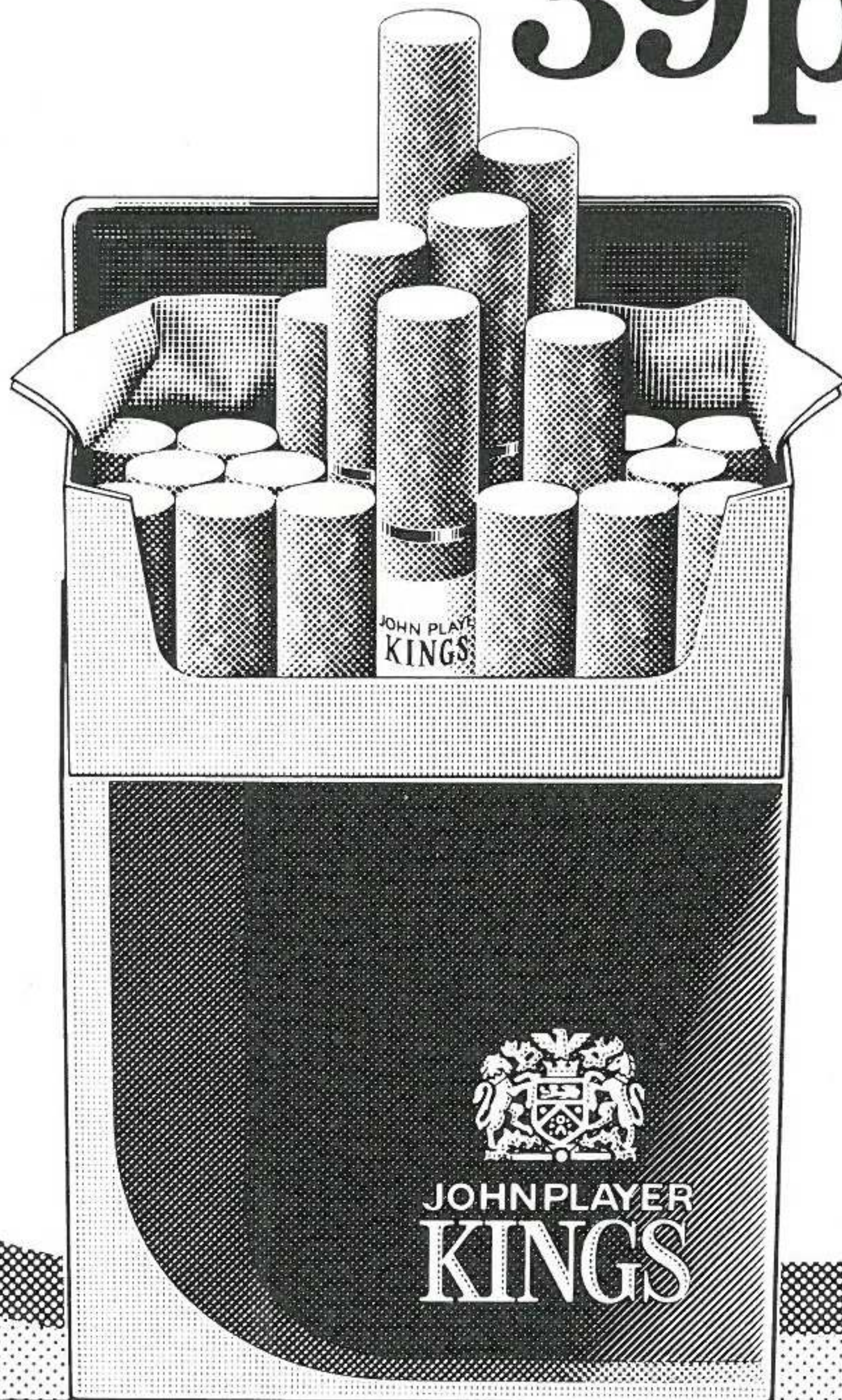
● TO PAGE 43



# JOHN PLAYER KINGS

Kingsize enjoyment at 39p.

39p.



JKE 5

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# JOHN KEANE

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An Appreciation :: By Seamus O Braonáin



SINCE the strength of the hurling game anywhere lies at least partly in the collective wisdom, experience and enthusiasm of the past generations of the great exponents of the game, there is no doubt at all that Munster, in general, and Waterford, in particular, are weaker and poorer for the death of John Keane.

We heard the news, rough and ready, when we went to buy the morning paper on an early October Thursday. The newsagent gave it out straight from the shoulder: "Did you hear that John Keane is dead?" He had taken ill the previous evening while on one of his business journeys at Tarbert, Co. Kerry; had struggled to the Garda station, was assisted by the kindly sergeant and then rushed to Limerick hospital, but he died on the way.

John's sentiment which we had several times heard him express: "If I couldn't live in Waterford, then Limerick is where I would choose," had proven true in death rather than in life. We, too, died a little that grey October morning.

For John Keane was not only a valued and a dear friend for a number of years; not only one of the most marvellously exciting men to spend hours in conversation with, listening to

his analysis, thesis and synthesis on hurling and hurlers; not only one of the greatest (many say the greatest!) hurlers of all time who could play anywhere with equal magnificence; not only a great trainer, teacher, motivator of younger hurlers; not only a kindly and sensitive gentleman. He was all those things. But, he was also our original boyhood hero; the sandy-blond, clean-cut, classicist for whom we would have fought with tooth and nail anyone who dared cast the slightest aspersion on his perfection.

And heroes ought not grow old. And heroes simply **should not** die. So we died a little as the lost youth still hidden out of sight within us died at last. We were not alone, it was easy to see at the massive homecoming funeral in the rain and at the burial overlooking the broad sands of Tramore.

There is an inherent danger in making the acquaintance of one's boyhood heroes: they tend on closer contact to have feet of clay. Idolatry does not suit human beings for they are by nature unable to sustain the ideals which little boys build about them. It was, therefore, many a long day before we met and spoke to John Keane on any basis of friendship. It has been a cause of deep re-

gret ever since that we did not seek out his company earlier, for no man lived up to what one's boyhood ideal made him as did John.

He had an insatiable thirst for hurling, so he never, never tired of talking with total absorption to even the most repetitious bores. He could leave one after an hour of enthusiastic discussion, and meet another as he walked away and would still greet him as a long lost friend and begin to talk all over again. And it wasn't diplomacy, tact, or advantage. It was simply that John Keane loved hurling so much; and knew and understood deep in his heart the way the people felt about hurling and how they wanted to touch the edge of the garment of the man who made them feel so proud.

There are many stories that illustrate this. One of the best is probably that of the man who had cycled the 30 or so miles to one of those epics in the late thirties at Clonmel, which Waterford lost. Steering along the street after the game, he suddenly spotted Keane in his ordinary clothes walking to the team's hotel. In his excitement at recognising him and never having seen him except in hurling togs, he lost all his bearings and shouting out:

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● FROM PAGE 9

"Poor John Keane, it wasn't your fault, anyway," he cycled straight up on the pavement and crashed into a shop-front, his eyes still on his hero.

Keane went to his rescue with the others nearby. He was patched up and brought home. But John went to the trouble of finding out who the man was, where he lived, and from that day until he died, used to drop in to the home of that man to say a few words whenever he was in the area.

You see, it doesn't matter all that much whether they put Keane up at No. 1 or 2 or 3 on the All-Time Greats, or whether he is put undeservedly lower down. Hurling alone did not make the man. As the modern phrase goes: he was a great human being, apart from the hurling.

Yet, the hurling is important for those who did not know him personally or for the record of history. And in this regard we remember once questioning him about Mick Mackey, and how it was that he managed to subdue him — the only man to do so, it is said.

"Well," he said, "I was a terribly long time thinking about it. God forgive me, even at Mass it used come into my head. But, in the end I decided that there was only one possible way to beat Mackey — get out in front of him for every ball, and never let it reach him at all.

"But, John," we said, "weren't you taking a terrible risk. Supposing you missed the ball, Mackey would be through on his own."

"Ah, but that's the thing, you see," said John as though speaking to a rather dense child, "I wouldn't miss."





● From left Eddie Keher and Pat Henderson the only members of the present Kilkenny team to win National League medals.

## Kilkenny unfair to journalists

**T**HE time may not be far off when some of us may lead a protest campaign with banners proclaiming: "Kilkenny unfair to sports journalists!" What more can we write about them if they keep on going as they have been; there are just so many superlatives even in the thickest dictionary.

After yet another splendid performance in this year's championship it certainly appears as if Kilkenny will be a "problem" sports writers must live with for some time to come. Their superiority in hurling is clear-cut and their prospects of continuing their domination of the game look very bright indeed.

Right now Kilkenny seem to occupy as happy a position in hurling as a successful prospector sitting atop a rich vein of gold. They have the team of all talents, and the All-Ireland final underlined it emphatically, but—more important—they have an abundant reserve of talent which they can mine whenever necessary.

Of course, I joke when I suggest that watching the superb hurling skill they served up could

ever be a "problem" for any spectator, be he committed supporter or neutral reporter. And it looks as if the enchantment with Kilkenny's skills will go on and on.

The team that won the county's 20th All-Ireland title in September now have new targets ahead of them, so a lot of the speculation heard about retirements before the All-Ireland has vanished. The team that brought the county its first two-in-a-row in 42 years must now be toying with the idea of a third consecutive championship—something Kilkenny haven't done since 1913.

I certainly wouldn't like to bet heavily against them doing it. This team set their hearts on something and they strive all the more earnestly to achieve the ambition. It's worth noting, too, that they have taken their county

very close to the heels of Cork and Tipperary at the top of the championship roll of honour. Triumph next September would bring them level with Cork and another 12 months would see them catching Tipperary. And if all that was accomplished they would probably go harrying off after Kerry, who now lead all counties with 23 titles.

I'm not predicting anything, but as I say I wouldn't bet against Kilkenny. Not when you examine the depth of talent they have available. Minor victory this year, under-21 last year and, yet again this year. And don't forget the schools. In April St. Kieran's College won the colleges' championship again and a month later the county carried off the All-Ireland vocational schools' title. Moreover, talk to any of their officials and you'll be impressed with details of the juvenile activity and skill and enthusiasm. I repeat: the county is sitting on a goldmine.

But they are realists enough in Kilkenny to know that many things could go wrong. Look at Cork with all the minor and under-21 success they had over the last decade for proof that promising strength in the under-age division is not a guarantee of future success at senior level. However, I'm certain Kilkenny will carefully nurse the young talent along and they don't have Cork's problems with dual players.

The immediate objective for Kilkenny is the current National League. They haven't won the title since 1966, so only Pat Henderson and Eddie Keher of the team that won this year's All-Ireland final have league medals. And it's worth remembering that next year their trip to America won't come until after the league has ended.



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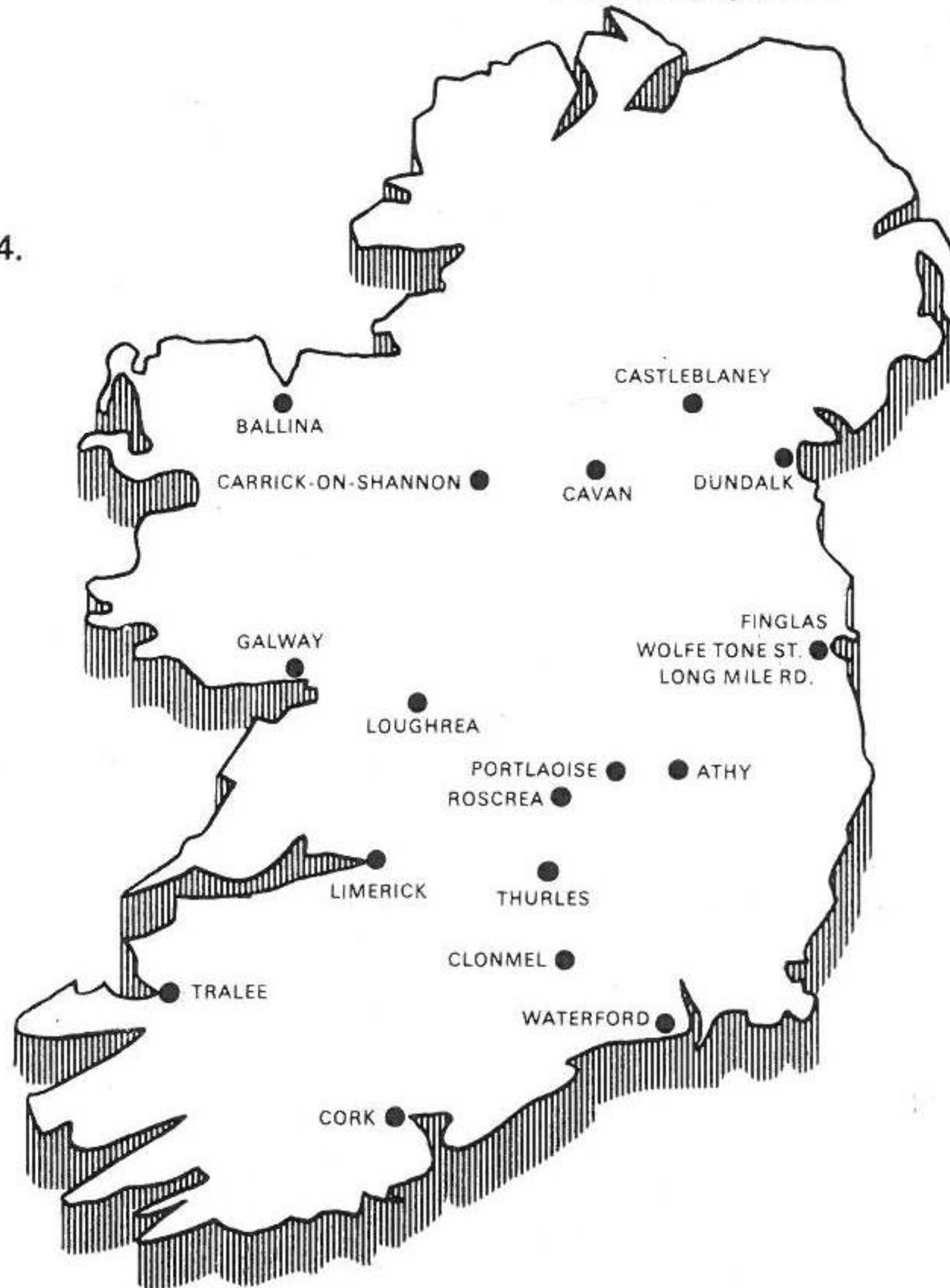
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# SCORESHEET

## Moylan joins Keher at head of list

IN a year in which the high standard of Kilkenny hurling in general has been strikingly underlined by the splendid performances of the county's teams in the various grades of the just concluded championships, score-getter extraordinary Eddie Keher yet again inevitably commands a leading role in SCORESHEET. But, for once in a rare while, the long-serving left full forward has still to share the limelight with a hurler from one of the less fashionable counties, Barney Moylan, of Offaly.

Keher added to his proud record of noteworthy barrages in All-Ireland senior finals when he helped himself to 2-7 in the win over Galway. Impressive though that haul was, however, it had a touch of irony about it, in that the Kilkenny ace failed by just a single point to earn outright ranking as the top marksman for championship hurling for the fifth season in his great career.

Starting the showpiece match Moylan was holding on resolutely to his position as hurling's pace-setter. A splendid bag of 4-5 in a drawn game with Kildare at Portlaoise in June helped the Offaly full forward on the road to a 4-23 (35 points) scoreline from three championship appearances. That's a whopping match score of 11.66 points.

Almost unbelievably, that thirteen points haul in the All-Ire-

By  
**OWEN  
McCANN**

land decider brought Keher's score for the series to exactly 4-23 as well — and from three games, what's more!

Moylan's 4-5 in the draw with Kildare ranks as the best individual tally in hurling. Keher had his top match score in the clash with Galway.

Others on the thirteen points mark were Mick Birmingham, with 3-4 for Dublin in a win over Laois at Athy in June, and Pat White, 1-10 for Kildare in that

drawn encounter with Offaly at Portlaoise.

Moylan is the first from Offaly to finish in such a prominent position in the national chart since Paddy Molloy shot 8-15 (39 points) in three games in 1969 at a thundering thirteen points an outing. That year he shared the No. 1 ranking nationally with Charlie McCarthy (Cork), who, however, had five outings on the way to 7-18.

● TO PAGE 34



● Jimmy Keaveney, top scorer for the second year in a row.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
 ★  
 ★ **LADIES** ★  
 ★ **PLEASE** ★  
 ★  
 ★ **EDITED BY** ★  
 ★ **KITTY** ★  
 ★ **MURPHY** ★  
 ★  
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**HELLO READERS AND WELCOME AGAIN!**

No crime's so great as daring to excel. The cheek of those Kerry fellows anyway, coming up all that distance and hammering the poor old Dubs at their own front door. Now that's no way to treat your host. Really they showed no respect whatsoever. After all what did poor old Dublin do except borrow the Sam Maguire for a year and I'm sure if Kerry asked nicely they'd have got a loan of it anyway.

I wouldn't mind had they not kept so quiet beforehand. Here we were all pity for these young fellows. After all the oldest of them is only twenty-five and how could they get over the weekend with no one looking after them. Somehow they managed. Not for the first time 'twas a case of misguided sympathy. First of all their minors trotted out and look at them, their faces rich in memories glorified.

I am beginning to wonder if there is any such person as a young Kerry footballer. Sure their minors looked as if they all had been around before. And what were they doing only paving the way for their bigger boys. What's more they didn't care whether we cheered them or not. 'Twas all so simple and any prob-

lems that did arise were dealt with in a most efficient way.

The Senior boys arrived in due course. Their give-nothing-away supporters just about made their presence felt. They were not over enthusiastic, after all why should they be, aren't they well used to this kind of scene. Dublin of course were the Champs and we all hoped these Kerry lads would put up some kind of a fight. Having seen their charge-hand play a few times we all knew ne'd have told them that 'tis a little better to get the ball between the posts than out by the side of them. Mind you a few of them listened too and as we now know it did make that little bit of difference.

**The poor Old Dubs—What went wrong. They were brushed aside by these Kerry boys who suddenly—**

*"Seemed to have grown clean and sweet*

*Like any rock bred, sea borne bird".*

They know the best way out of a difficulty is through it and of course clever people don't break rules, they just bend them a little. Did someone ask—Where's the "Hill"? It's still over there all right. A friend of mine described his impression of the Dublin banners on that much maligned Hill as if he were looking at a bed of flowers on a frosty night in the knowledge that they would all be dead next morning. How apt indeed. Oh yes, that great uncertainty — Sport — has done it again. The more honourable among us pay up our lost bets while the despicable receivers justify their actions by their insistence that it's the upholding of the principle rather than the taking of the money that "interests" them.

And now whither Ireland. There's something terribly nostalgic about the last Sunday in September. That lone seagull has been hovering around all afternoon swooping so low that at

times he could have been in the square. But look at him now—he knows the time has come for him to go too and he fades away into the distant Autumn sky from which he stole his colour. And so we wend our way back to base. Already the dead leaves are rolling in a hurry and the branches lash the air like whips. We are happy and if dreams yet flatter once again attend . . . . .

**It was a very good year and—**

*"How sweet we roamed from field to field*

*And tasted all the Summer's pride."*

★ ★ ★  
**NOW TO PICK UP THE PIECES.**

This is the time of year when the urge to learn something different hits one. Funny when I contemplate attending those highly recommended evening classes I never think of the ordinary. I always see myself as Ireland's leading Dress Designer, having acquired interpreter status in at least French and German with a working knowledge of Russian and Inner Mongolian. Of course nowadays ladies attend everything and anyway who said women couldn't manage woodwork? My friend has made enough shadow cabinets to do justice to any Georgian village. After all it's not her fault if the unimaginative instructor insists on showing her how to make a cross—hasn't she been carrying them for years. He could have attempted an inlaid mahogany bookcase for starters — really those fellows try to make you feel so small. So much for the myth—now the reality.

Cynical friends insist on recalling my previous ventures into the extra mural world. Yes, each year I can supply the house and neighbourhood with detailed information on every course being run in every technical school in the city. Of course I want to do



at least three courses at the same time and no matter what you attempt thousands of others seem to get the very same idea—just to make enrolment that little bit more difficult. I am not going to let the mile long queue daunt me. After all I know I'm far more intent than all the rest put together and what do you bet—half of these won't even come back after Christmas. Three hours, four hours and yet the front door is nowhere in sight. Ah well, I'll stay here all night if needs be because I know the greatest undeveloped territory in the world lies under my hat.

At last mission accomplished—I'm in. Yes I know it means going out four nights a week but I have thought about all that and yes Madam, I most definitely want to pay for the full year. What is the point in just paying for one term, haven't I always despised these ones who start something and never finish it.

My enthusiasm knows no bounds. I make sure I have not only the necessary but the optional equipment as well. My application to the job on hand is one hundred per cent. It's just a little unfortunate that I stitch my finger to the left front of my jacket. I don't think it's funny—the cheek of her to laugh. Anyway what am I paying her good money for—can't she see I'm not used to this kind of thing. The least she might do is show a little tact. Ah well the first lesson is always the hardest and no matter what you do in this world someone always knew you would. Maybe this is not my scene—I am really looking forward to the French.

Ah, this is more like it. The Audio-visual technique appeals to me. It's so much simpler. It's like being at the pictures. These French know how to live. They enjoy themselves. They wine, dine and make merry when the humour strikes them. And you must admit they do have a word

for everything. After one lesson I can practically carry on a conversation. I figure by the end of this year I'll be setting the course for the next year. I can't wait to tell my friends about it and maybe they'll come along after Christmas when so many of these uninterested beings drop out. This is really something.

The German is a slightly different proposition. Somehow they seem to enjoy telling you factual happenings like getting up at ungodly hours in the morning, working hard and going to bed at reasonable hours at night. Now I ask you, with that kind of a sense of humour can you blame me for not going back. Sure nobody could enjoy that kind of thing — you'd feel overworked just listening to them.

In an effort to justify myself I did have one last fling, I became an after-Christmas Judo member. Now don't ask me what colour belt I wear. I'm very lucky to have any bit of body left at all. You know they teach you how to throw and how to fall but I must have missed out somewhere along the line. I could never manage the throw. Everyone else could and they got full value out of giving me my last fling. The thump when body met floor was bad enough but the ghastly shout which accompanied the vicious act was equally frightening. Ah well, some of us never learn.

\* \* \*

### **YOU MUST ADMIT IT'S IMPORTANT TO GET ONE'S PRIORITIES RIGHT.**

After all the nights are bitterly cold and isn't it far more pleasant to sit and chat with one's friends in front of a nice cosy fire than to try and brave the elements.

**Finally I wish to thank you Mr. Tom Berry for your very complimentary letter. I'm glad you enjoy Ladies Please —(don't we always!) Au Revoir! Auf Wiedersehen!**

Miss Kitty Murphy,  
c/o Ladies Please,  
Gaelic Sport.  
A Chara,

Camogie Magazine. Please let me know how many issues of the Quarterly were printed and if and where back issues may be bought. I have issues Nos. 1-5 inclusive. Also the Camogie Annual, is there just one issue so far and where may I send for it?

Is the history of camogie ready yet and are there any coaching films or tapes of matches on the All-Ireland available?

Camogie is flourishing better now than at any time since before the upheaval in the '40s here in County Down and especially in Kilkeel. It is only proper as Mrs. Rosina McManus was born here tho' Antrim and Belfast claim her now. Next time we meet Dublin in an All-Ireland camogie final we will be more accurate round goal.

Thank you for reading this letter and do hope you can help me.

Is mise,

**FRANK McKNIGHT.**

**20 Manse Road,  
Kilkeel, Newry, Co. Down.**

● Six issues of the Camogie Magazine were published and with the exception of the first issue, all others are available. To date only one Camogie Annual has appeared and copies of same are also available from:

MISS JO GOLDEN,  
GENERAL SECRETARY,  
CAMOGIE ASSOCIATION,  
c/o CROKE PARK,  
DUBLIN 3.

The History of Camogie is being prepared for publication and it is hoped to have it completed and on sale by mid-'76. You can hire coaching films from:

The National Film Institute of  
Ireland,  
65 Harcourt Street, Dublin 2.

(K.M.)



# *Clean Power...*

Under the 680 foot chimney-stack at Ringsend, children and people can live and play in safety because of the care taken in the design. Long before the station was built, extensive studies were carried out to examine the wind patterns in the area and the height which would be necessary to ensure that the exhaust gases from the chimney would cause no ill-effects at ground level in the whole Dublin area.

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# FULL MARKS FOR NOEL AND EDDIE

By NEIL McCAVANA

**D**ON'T count me among those who say that the leading hurlers and footballers are generally not putting enough back into the games. I know of many who are doing excellent work for hurling and football where it is needed most—among the school-boys, the seniors of the future.

These thoughts were prompted by an interesting piece I came across in this month's review of the provincial papers. The stars in the spotlight here are Eddie Keher and Noel Skehan, and it says much for their enthusiasm and dedication that the occasion reported in the "Drogheda Independent" took place shortly after the All-Ireland final win when, no doubt, demands on all of the Kilkennymen for victory celebrations and the like were extra heavy.

I quote:

"Saturday last was a milestone in the history of Wolfe Tone Hurling Club when the Drogheda Gaelic Grounds echoed to the clash of the ash by some 200 boys, whose ages ranged from 3 to 15.

"This was due in no small measure to the presence of two of Kilkenny's All-Ireland team — the one and only Eddie Keher and wonder goalie Noel Skehan. They enthralled the host of boys with what must

have been to them a display of hurling that some day they themselves could hope to attain. The manner in which both men handled the many questions asked of them, and the willingness of the replies was to be admired. For 2½ hours they spoke and demonstrated on the game in which they have won so many honours, with a simplicity that all present understood.

"There is one young lad who must be ten foot tall now, because he put a sliothar past Noel Skehan. When asked his name he said: 'Oliver Kelly' And so it was with other lads, they, too, dream of putting the sliothar into the net for Louth. Let it not be, for their sakes, in the too distant future.

"To witness the ease and grace of their exhibition will linger no doubt in the lads' memories, and it is hoped that by their endeavour that the game of hurling will, once more, come into its rightful place in the town."

That's a sentiment all true lovers of the game will loudly endorse.

Still on the hurling theme, and the All-Ireland final day in particular. I was especially taken by the following comments which I reproduce here from Gaelic Com-



● Eddie Keher (Kilkenny)



● Noel Skehan (Kilkenny)

mentary by Cois Laoi in "The Southern Star", of Cork:

"By the way, can anybody explain the 35-minute interval between the end of the minor match and the beginning of the senior game. 'When will they get on with the game?' was the question asked more than once on Hill 16 last Sunday as hundreds of bored spectators waited and waited.

"I appreciate that it seems to be the same old story with me this time every year—complaints about the carry-on by officialdom at Croke Park. Two points really irritated me on Sunday, and indeed for many All-Ireland Sundays before that. Why, oh why, is a stool placed outside the dressing-room exit and a shower of cameramen and officials waiting to grab the players as they run on to the field. Surely the 'run on' is one of the key moments for players and spectators alike? In the old days players were allowed to run on to the field and pose afterwards without a stool. Was there something wrong with that simple procedure

"The other point is the old question of official 'Invaders' during minor and senior games. Nothing looks more amateur, untidy and downright annoying

● OVERLEAF



Sherry...  
liquid gold  
from a sunnier land.



**SANDEMAN**

● FROM PAGE 17

than the unnecessary incursion of coaches, trainers, priests, hangers-on etc., etc., during the course of a game. You see this in every match at Croke Park. Men run on with the 'magic bottle' with a word of advice and with medical treatment—never with permission from the referee. Isn't there a rule which forbids such people from entering the field of play without the express permission of the referee? Or could it be that in G.A.A. books rules are made to be ignored?"

Moneygall won the North Tipperary senior hurling title for the first time towards the end of September. In "The Guardian", of Nenagh, the following, headed "A Family Affair," and distinct from the match report, caught my eye:

"To have four sons on a championship winning team is certainly a proud occasion for any parents. In taking their first ever senior title on Sunday, the Ryan brothers, Philip, Jack, Seamus and Eugene from Moneygall carried on a great family tradition, a tradition that might not have met with all that success on the playing fields in the past, but which nonetheless has played a very significant role in the affairs of the G.A.A. right up to top level.

"The Ryans are of course sons of Seamus Ryan, former president of the G.A.A. and present chairman of the Moneygall club, and Sunday's victory was the second major hurling success to come to the family this year. Earlier this year Seamus led U.C.D. to success in the Fitzgibbon Cup final and Jack and Eugene were team-mates, while Philip, as chairman of the Universities Council, had the pleasant task of presenting the cup to Seamus."



# We'll keep our eyes on Derry

By  
Mick Dunne  
(of RTE Sport)

**D**ERRY'S reconstructed team created such a favourable impression in the All-Ireland semi-final that their performances in the new National Football League, which commenced last month, will be watched with close attention.

Over the last six seasons only Kerry qualified for the League semi-finals as often as Derry, the big difference between them being, of course, Kerry's ability to reach the final also (and indeed win it) whereas Derry couldn't get past the semi-finals in 1970, '71, '72 and '73.

This failure to go further than the semi-finals lent weight to the theory that Derry were a "winter team" solely; that because of their big physique they were ideally suited to the heavy grounds in November and December and again after Christmas to February, but when pitches — especially Croke Park—became firmer in April the northerners were not the same force.

If that was indeed the reason it may not be so from now on. As we saw this summer in the championship Derry have a better blend of the big six-footers and nippy, more mobile players of less than six feet. There can be no doubt that the side in the All-Ireland semi-final was a team of better quality, indeed of stiffer resolve, than any Derry team that got to Croke Park in the 1970-'73 period. Because of this I will be particularly interested in their progress in the league.

The Ulster champions are in the section of Division I with the champions Meath—in fact they are at home to the league winners—Connacht champions Sligo, Tyrone, Galway and Mayo. And if summer form is any guide—although it can be very unreliable when assessing the outcome of games that may be played in rain and on muddy pitches—Derry should be the favourites to win out that section.

Derry's last appearance in the League semi-final was in the drawn tie of '73 against Kerry. That's a game best forgotten not only because of the incidents during and after it, but also because Derry by their performance, and their supporters by their behaviour, last August more than made up for that unhappy day.

Because of their disappointment in the cham-

pionship they will be all the more determined in the league. None will be more earnest than two of their defenders, Peter Stevenson and Tom Quinn.

Stevenson, 29 in June and the captain of the side that won the Ulster championship, has had a varied career on and off the side. He was out of the team more than once during recent times because a pop group of which he was a member spent time on the continent during the summers. Therefore it was only last July that he played in his first Ulster final.

A member of the St. Columb's College (Derry) football side that won the All-Ireland colleges' title in 1965 he has two Ulster junior hurling championship medals and he played at left half-back on the Ulster hurling team last February. In fact, Peter is doing tremendous work for the game of hurling in Derry. He is secretary of the hurling board and to help him promote the game all the better he has attended the instructional courses at Franciscan College (Gormanston).

Peter is a footballer of exceptional ability; strong and vigilant and with a safe pair of hands as well as an overall spirit of adventure in his half-back play.

Dependability is the keynote of Tom Quinn's play at full-back. The Bellaghy teacher, who will be 28 in January, is a sturdy 6 ft. 1½ in. and is now firmly established as his county's fullback after several excursions up and down the team to various positions.

His ability as an excellent fullback was demonstrated repeatedly in 1965 with the minor team that won the All-Ireland title and again three years later with the under-21 side that took the highest honours.

But in an effort to strengthen their attack which for so long caused the selectors more than a little concern, Tom was moved upfield. When the League re-opened in February 1973 he was left half-forward and during the summer last year he was playing at full-forward. In his earliest years on the senior side he had spells at right and left corner back.

But when Derry won the McKenna Cup in September last year by beating Monaghan in the final Tom had reverted to full-back and his many fine performances this year suggest that he isn't likely to be moved out of the position again.





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# GAA Reporting by Paddy Downey in THE IRISH TIMES



**Paddy Downey**, Gaelic Games correspondent, writes with knowledge, insight, sound judgement and a flair for capturing the colour and thrills of the big occasion and big occasions are many in Gaelic Games. His reports and comments are balanced and fair but then, you'd expect all that from a writer who has won the **Gallagher Award** for the best National Sports Story of the Year — not once but twice in succession — and that's the highest prize there is in Irish Sports journalism. Read **The Irish Times** and judge for yourself. Of course it's not just a one-man team. You'll like the rest of them too.

## THE IRISH TIMES



## ● A good question

# WHAT'S WRONG WITH MUNSTER HURLING?

● By Jay Drennan

**T**HE ache in the heart of Munster hurling is worse. It was uncomfortable a year ago, but it has built up into a gnawing pain now. Angina is suspected — or some other kind of crucial hardening of the arteries.

It is nothing to feel unconcerned about. Although Munster hurling is no longer a youngster, it should only be reaching a full and flowering maturity in the mid-'70s, rather than ailing with symptoms that suggest a serious condition. Doctors must be consulted; diagnosis is urgent; remedies must be applied.

The situation in 1974 when Limerick won the Munster championship but failed to Kilkenny comprehensively was the first time hurling people, in general, began to suspect the ailment. In GAELIC SPORT this time a year ago there was a pretty searching study of the Munster situation.

The year that has elapsed has made no marked change in the balance of hurling power, nor presented any improvement in the Munster situation. It might be argued that things were even worse because, this year, there wasn't even a representative of the province in the All-Ireland final. It is a long time since a Munster county has been excluded from the kill and the struggle to see who shall receive the champion's portion.

What is wrong? Again, before jumping to big or startling conclusions, we should perhaps look in some detail at the Munster situation — see, if possible, whether there is a discernible pattern of deterioration in the recent past. We should, of course, at this point observe that the advance of Galway to remarkable (almost unparalleled) improvement in 1975 was an obstacle in the way. It was they who baulked Tipperary of the League title which would have gone so far to restoring some of that county's bent pride. And it was they who caught Cork bending when they looked a side close

to All-Ireland quality for the duration of the championship.

Therefore, it depends a lot on how good Galway were and how worthy the defeats of Tipperary and Cork were. The manner of Kilkenny's handling of the new stars in the All-Ireland final must suggest a considerable gap still between what Kilkenny and Galway are just at the moment.

That was an absolute standard of comparison in the final because Kilkenny were then primed to the limit for that performance. Earlier, when Galway beat Kilkenny in the League semi-final, such absolute comparison did not apply: Galway were pretty high-g geared even then at a relatively early stage of the season, but Kilkenny were a bit weary and a little off-key. It wasn't just a question of being caught by surprise, though, because they had seen Cork take a tumble at Galway's expense—even if they did not quite believe the full extent of the warning.

Now we have to pay attention to Kilkenny, because as champions and the dominant hurling county we must take them as the yardstick. It is all very well harking back in the memory or in folk tradition to heroes of the recent or distant past. But, it is useless to try to apply memory's flights of what Munster hurling used to be to what it is now. Of course, we can have our opinions and convictions, but they are just our personal beliefs.

The difficulty with Munster hurling in 1975 was that it seemed, in fact, to be measuring up to higher standards. We think only of the top of the iceberg (senior inter-county level) when we make our snap judgements about hurling being on the upgrade or the downgrade. And while that is perfectly all right as a measure of that level at that particular moment, it does not at all look to the future. And it is essentially the future about which we are con-

● OVERLEAF



● FROM PAGE 21

cerned when we examine and agonise over present standards.

If there existed any concrete evidence of decline in 1975 it must have been the fact that it was two southern counties which "took the dive" from Div. 1A to Div. 1B of the National League. At the same time Dublin were surviving where they could not.

Subsequently, in their draw and replay against Tipperary and their respectable performance against Cork in the Munster final, Limerick might be said to have redeemed their pride somewhat. Hardly to the level of their performances of 1973 and late 1974.

Waterford, however, have no such opportunity for argument. They went down and down throughout 1975, while one wondered where the flair and ability had gone which they showed so excitingly in 1973 and 1974.

On the other hand, it could not be denied that Tipperary showed up better in the League, and their championship efforts, too, were not of the same entirely inadequate kind of 1974.

Clare did not have the pleasure of a championship victory as they did the year before, but their failure to Cork was not more crushing than that against Limerick in the 1974 Munster final.

Cork, however, had a good and promising championship run this year and may, perhaps, have had a shade of ill-luck in being shocked by Galway. But they were inconsistent in the League even before Galway eliminated them—none of the sheer brilliance of the 1974 League final. Skill, talent... Yes! But some missing element of devil or dedication applied with consistency, and regretted because once the hallmark of Cork hurling teams.

To sum up: it would take a great depth of analysis to find any real overall decline over the last year in Munster hurling. Meantime, however, Kilkenny have been striding away. Short-handed in 1973 they were convincing winners in 1974, and complete in their tactical, skilful and experienced combination of 1975. Comfortably ahead of Leinster opposition, even that of Wexford. On the face of things, and taking only senior level, it would appear that Kilkenny are enjoying one of those golden eras that several Munster counties have enjoyed, and enjoyed as often, and may be expected in the normal course of events to enjoy again.

This is the point at which the digging below ground has to be done to study the roots. Healthy roots are the guarantee of future growth. And, in this area, the most startling thing was the way Kilkenny minors overwhelmed Cork in the All-Ireland final showing, in the process, not only a clear gap in striking ability and general skills, but a superior tactical concept and a far better approach. That was a part of the same superiority

which all Kilkenny youth had displayed during the hurling year in which they captured the All-Ireland Under-21, after a great game with Cork, the All-Ireland Colleges title and the All-Ireland Vocational Schools championship.

Yet, Cork, the Munster champions, were never troubled in the southern province. In fact, they had the easiest of passages and the Tipperary side beaten by them in the final was openly spoken of as one of the poorest ever to represent the county. With those kind of gaps opened between Kilkenny and Cork; and between Cork and their fellow-Munstermen, it may only be concluded that the standard of hurling among the minors of the rest of Munster is abysmal.

Having watched several games in the special M. H. League which the Munster Council began some years ago in an enterprising attempt to bring the weaker ones a bit more into the picture, it could be nothing but the truth to say that the play was poor and the command of skills very disappointing.

**Even with good minors there is no guarantee that the future at senior level will be bright, for there is always a significant drain of young players who never make it to the top level of competition. But without good minors what possible chance is there that a county will have a good senior team in years to come.**

**You would not worry if this was a passing phase, and that next year or the year after the next clutch of fine young players will appear from Tipperary or Limerick or Waterford. But, it is not a passing phase, because it is now too long by far since Tipperary produced a good minor side (even including the one that won a Munster championship a couple of years ago.**

And Waterford, Limerick and Clare have had too long a break, too. Limerick know the importance of the minors because of the benefits they reaped from the squads of the early and middle '60s. And they appreciate the importance of the school backing because most of those teams had been grounded and proven in the excitement of the Harty Cup.

At present, even Cork are suffering because there is no longer a decent test of them, and they are inclined to stroll through the Munster campaign with little improvement as a result. The need is obvious: to secure the future and rescue the slide, Munster must find a way to develop its youthful hurlers and get more of them to play hurling.

They must, if at all possible, convince them that they should devote themselves entirely to it. For hurling is too skilled and demanding a game to be mixed up with football, basketball, volleyball, cross-country running, soccer, rugby, etc. Too many young fellows to-day want to play a bit at everything. Jacks of all trades and masters of none. **But, how this is to be done is another matter.**



# Salute to the mighty men of the Kingdom



By DAN McAREAVY

## ULSTER VIEWPOINT

**A**ND to think that Ulster will be paired with the Munster champions in next year's All-Ireland semi-finals." That was the wry comment of a well-known Down legislator as he inched his way from the Hogan stand after seeing Heffo's Army reduced to near impotence by the most exciting, disciplined and talented commando force ever to come out of the famed Kingdom.

I make no apology for devoting this month's space to my humble tribute to a Kerry side which made this year's All-Ireland decider the most enjoyable that I have ever seen in a 30-year pilgrimage to Croke Park.

There is no proof that the Down man spoke for all, but I could detect no disagreement with his view that we had just witnessed a special preview of the first page in what may well be the most glorious chapter yet in the Kerry story.

Those lucky enough to have been at Headquarters or to have seen the television presentation of the game will, I am confident, remember this Munster side—the youngest ever to take the supreme prize—as among the really great champions and potentially the greatest of all.

A year is a very long time in sport and injuries or an inexplicable loss of form can wreck the

best laid plans — even of a master trainer like Mick O'Dwyer—but given normal luck, the new champions appear to have all the qualifications which will keep them on top for several seasons ahead.

With team-building only started just a year ago, they were expected to put up "a reasonably good show" against hot favourites Dublin, but from the moment of Dublin's defensive lapse which led to Johnny Egan's opening goal after three minutes' play, the writing was on the wall.

That early body blow was but the overture to Dublin's troubles. Blitzed by blinding speed and brilliant skill, the 1974 title-holders were given no respite and it was a pity that one or two of them should have blemished an otherwise impeccably contested battle.

It was a measure of Kerry's meticulous tutoring that even the loss of captain Mickey O'Sullivan did not upset their rhythm. From goalkeeper Paud O'Mahoney, who has not conceded a goal in the championship, to Pat Spillane, they were a team without, as far as I could see, a single weak link.

Nor was there any comfort in the minor final about the threat of a Kerry take-over in the seasons immediately ahead. To

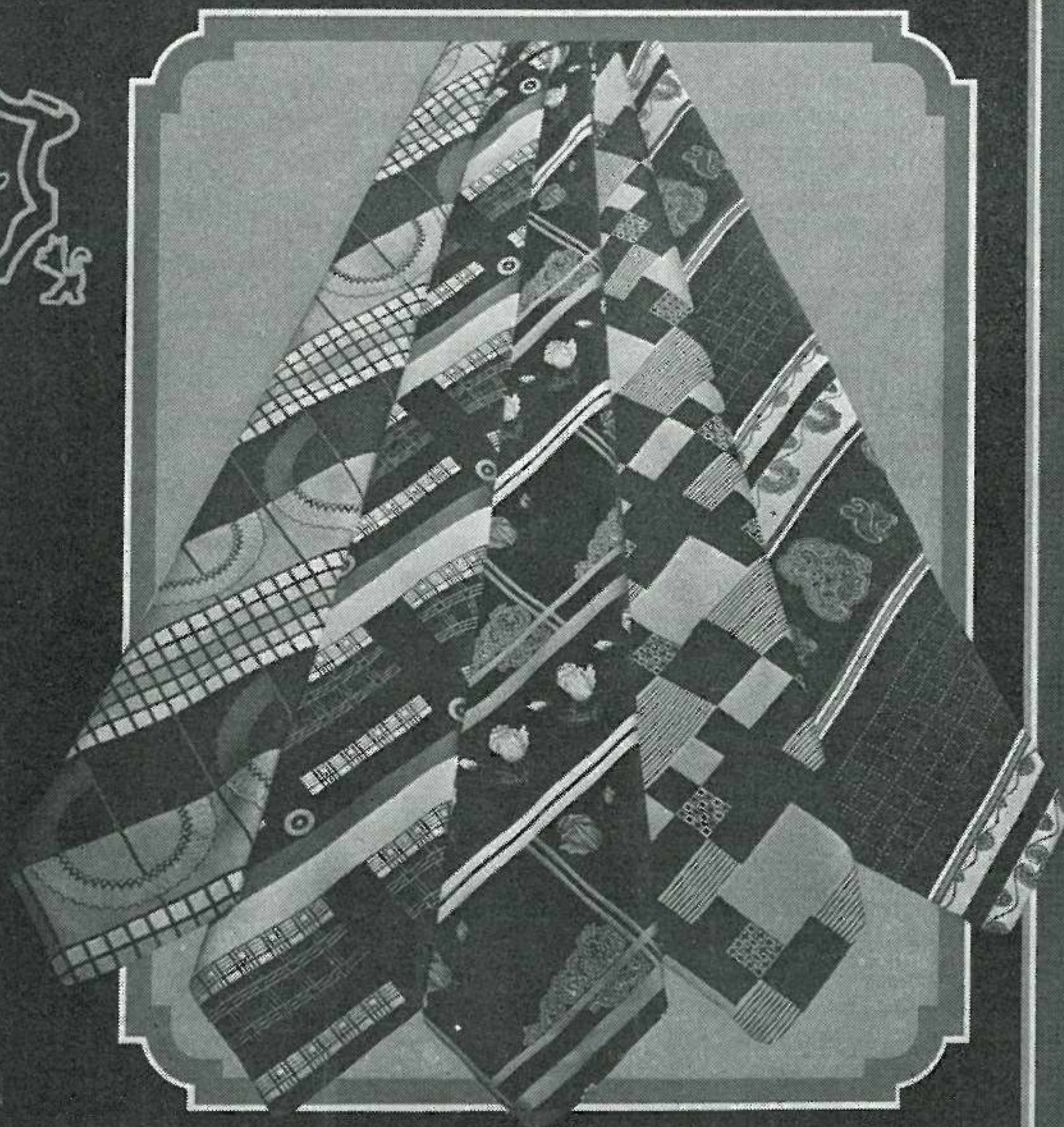
say that Tyrone were disappointing would be the understatement of the year, and I would prefer to draw a veil over a performance which, I am sure, all Northern followers will wish to forget. However, it should not be forgotten that our lads faced a Kerry team of immense talent. Indeed one of the best-known Tyrone men in the whole country considered young Vince O'Connor at right-back for the winners the best player in either game.

Personally, I would be inclined to award that particular oscar to Ger Power, left half back on the senior squad. From start to finish he never put a hand or foot wrong and was always in the game. But then the same could be said of so many of his colleagues. Teamwork, teamwork, teamwork was written all over the green and gold performance.

One thing is certain. Kerry will be back to win more titles and more and more friends. That cannot be bad for the game even though it may mean an extended stay for "Sam Maguire" among the Reeks. It has always been a signal honour to beat the Kingdom. Ulster, and I am sure Leinster and Connacht, not to mention Cork, will keep striving to do just that. It won't be easy, but the incentive is greater now than ever before.



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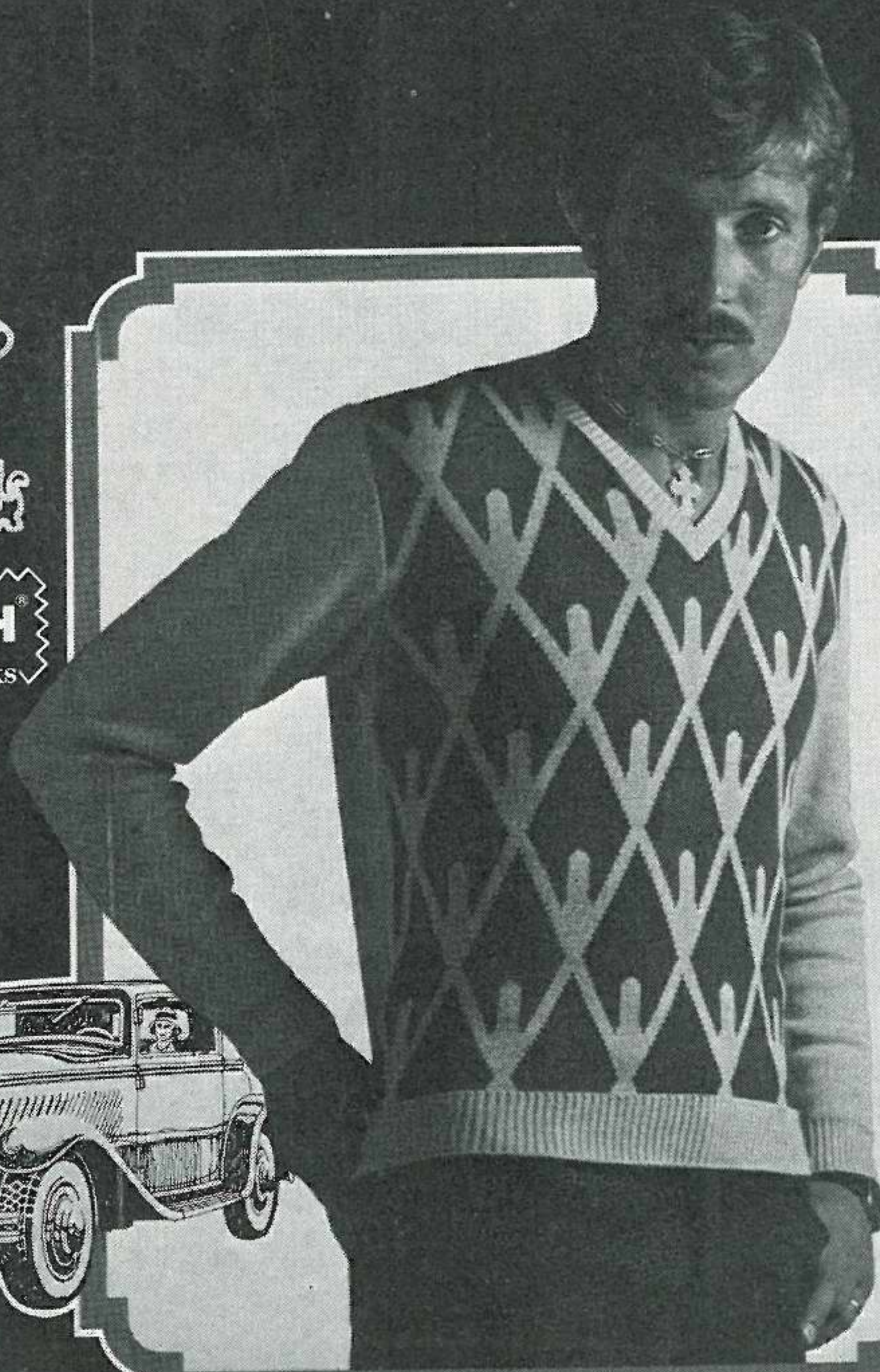
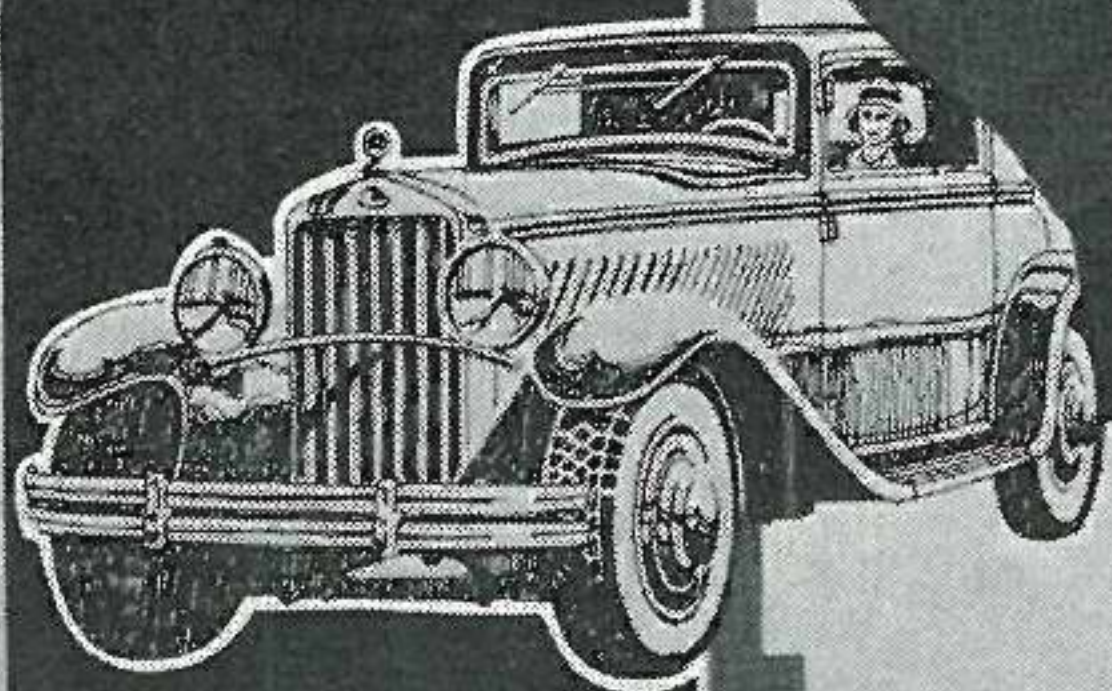


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# MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

**I**N 1975, just as in 1955, outsiders Kerry beat fancied Dublin pretty conclusively in the All-Ireland senior football final, but beyond the actual result, there was little resemblance whatever between those two

memorable confrontations.

In 1955 we had what all the rest of Ireland looked upon as a head-on clash between two football cultures, the old-style catch and kick man-to-man individual prowess approach of Kerry and

the slick combination, short-passing and split-second team-work of Dublin.

It was not quite as clear-cut as that, of course. Kerry, then as always, were as well able to pass the ball as anybody else, and there was never any shortage of combination in the teams that Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan, God rest him, turned out. On the other hand, no man in Croke Park in that 1955 final kicked that ball as far as Dublin's tall defender, Mick Moylan.

Besides Dublin also had more than a few characters who could field a high ball with the best of them.

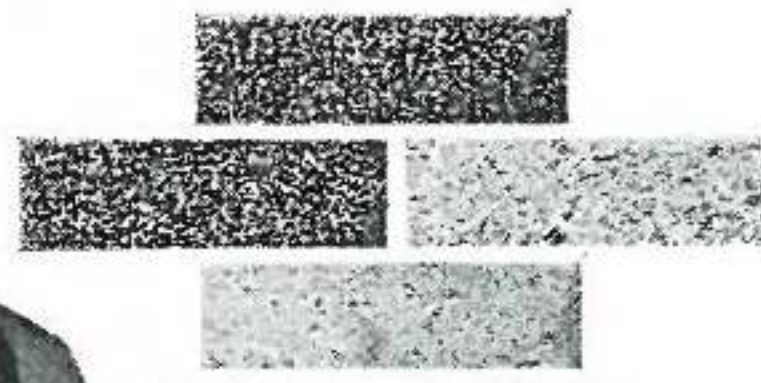
But most people still chose, in 1955, to see the game in black and white terms of 'old style' versus 'new style' ignoring the basic fact that there were so many similarities between the football played by both teams. Anyway it was universally hailed as a victory for the old style when Kerry won, and won very deservedly.

In addition, that 1955 final was also looked upon through almost all of Ireland as the supreme battle for sporting supremacy between City and Country, both mark you with capital C's.

That of course was a simplification too, but just the same rural Ireland, no matter how many or how close were its personal ties with Dublin, felt that Kerry's victory was in essence a victory for the men from the fields and the men from the furrows over the City slickers.

But how much Ireland, and Gaelic football, has changed in 20 years was very clearly proved when these counties met again this September.

In the first place, the team game was the basic skill of both



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sides. Speed inter-changing positions, use of the open spaces, and above all running, running on the ball and running off the ball, has replaced the rugged individualism of old.

The old man-to-man marking has been replaced by the admonition to 'stay with your man wherever he goes' and practically any player except the goalkeeper is likely to pop up anywhere.

The high catch and the long kick are, of course, still tremendous assets to any player and to any team, but the dominant feature in this year's final was speed, speed of foot, speed of passing, speed in moving into position to give or take a pass or a score.

**Kerry won this year's title because they outscored Dublin, and they outscored Dublin because they outpassed Dublin, and they outpassed Dublin because they outran Dublin.**

So fundamentally, Kerry outplayed Dublin at what was once Dublin's own type of football. And no one had a word to say this time about a confrontation between the old style and the new style, because both teams were playing exactly the same style of football.

Nor did we hear, except from a few old-timers, any great talk of a confrontation between City and Country. Barring the relatively few people still alive, what used to be called, very far back from the road (and some would say these are unfortunate and some would say they don't know their luck), many of the one-time differences between town and country have vanished into thin air.

There is little point of talking about the men from the fields and the furrows, when Kerry and Dublin mustered exactly the same number of men who work on the land in their All-Ireland final line-

outs. As for the 'City slicker' tag, Tralee and Killarney are as citified now as any of Dublin's sub-towns, and probably much more so than Ballyboden or Balbriggan moreover, two-thirds of the present Kerry team are city-based. Almost as many are, or were, city based students.

The line between city and country is an amazingly thin one nowadays, and that particular rivalry is not now so pronoun-

ced. But, thank God, the old traditional loyalties are still strong, even if the old traditional antipathies are dying and it is great to see a generation of young Kerrymen who have been reared in a world of central heating and colour television and cars on the doorstep, true as ever to the mystique of the green and the gold.

At the same time it is just as

● TO PAGE 42

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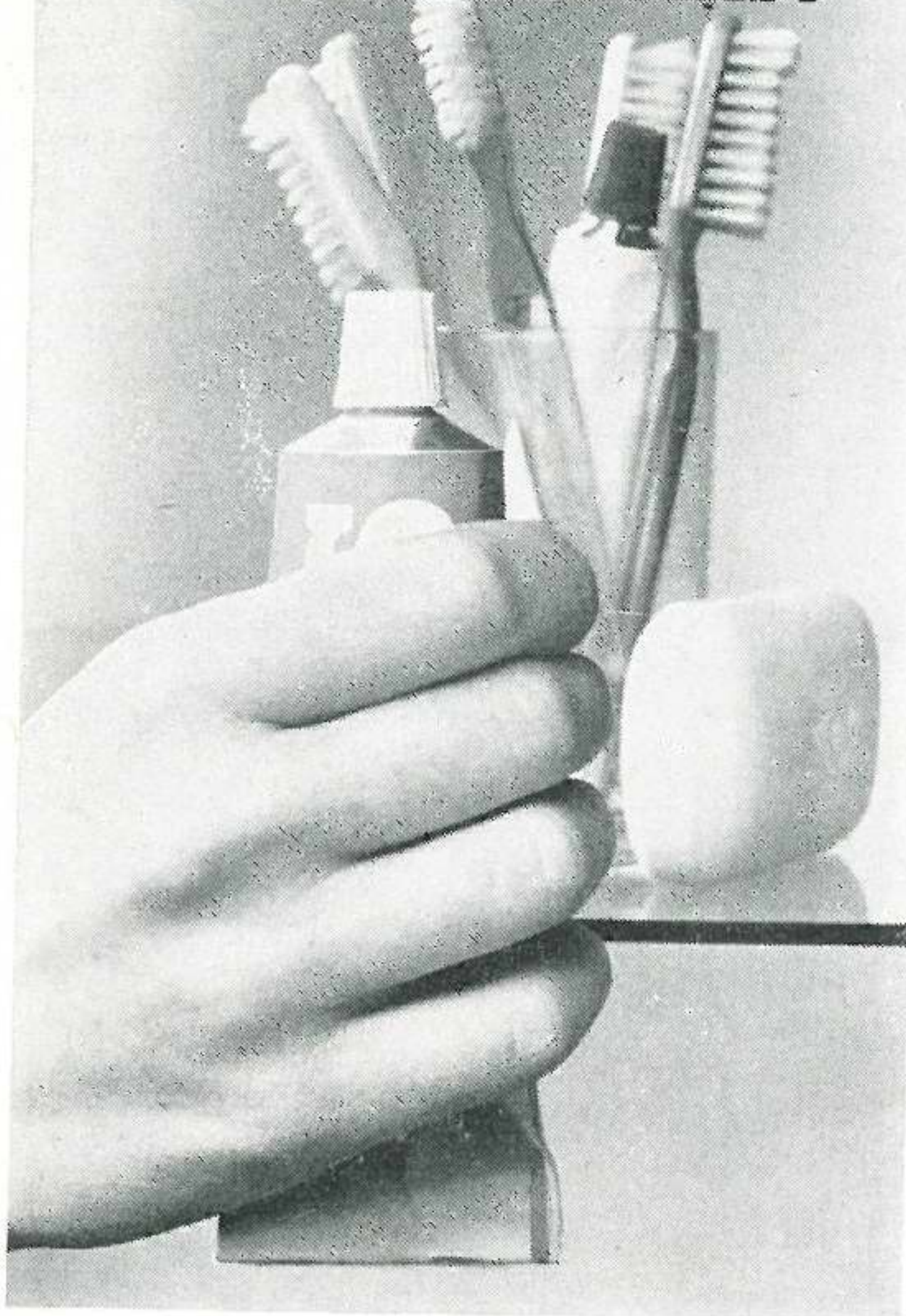
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# Urgent search for talent in the West

By SEAN RICE

**N**OW that the Cup has returned to the Kingdom, officials in other counties have begun work on the team of their desires, with hope and courage renewed by Kerry's triumph.

They know that Dublin's sudden rise from obscurity can be emulated, as Kerry proved, and furthermore, that it is within the capabilities of at least half a dozen counties to break through their own mediocrity in similar fashion.

So the search is on, in the league that has just started, for the right players with the right approach and sufficient potential on which to structure a successful side.

Nowhere is urgency in this vein more pronounced than in Connacht. The past seven or eight years has been unkind to the province in championship football. Galway's four final defeats, Mayo's failure to even reach that far despite their promise, and Sligo's collapse to Kerry in this year's semi-final have all given rise to concern for the state of the game.

Mayo is the only county in the province to have carried the banner in recent years . . . in the form of minor and under-21 success. For all that, what should be a natural transition from under-21 to senior success has not been achieved and in a recent Gael-Linn semi-final match with Galway there was no positive indication that success is imminent.

In fact Galway, who has had a much leaner under-age spell than

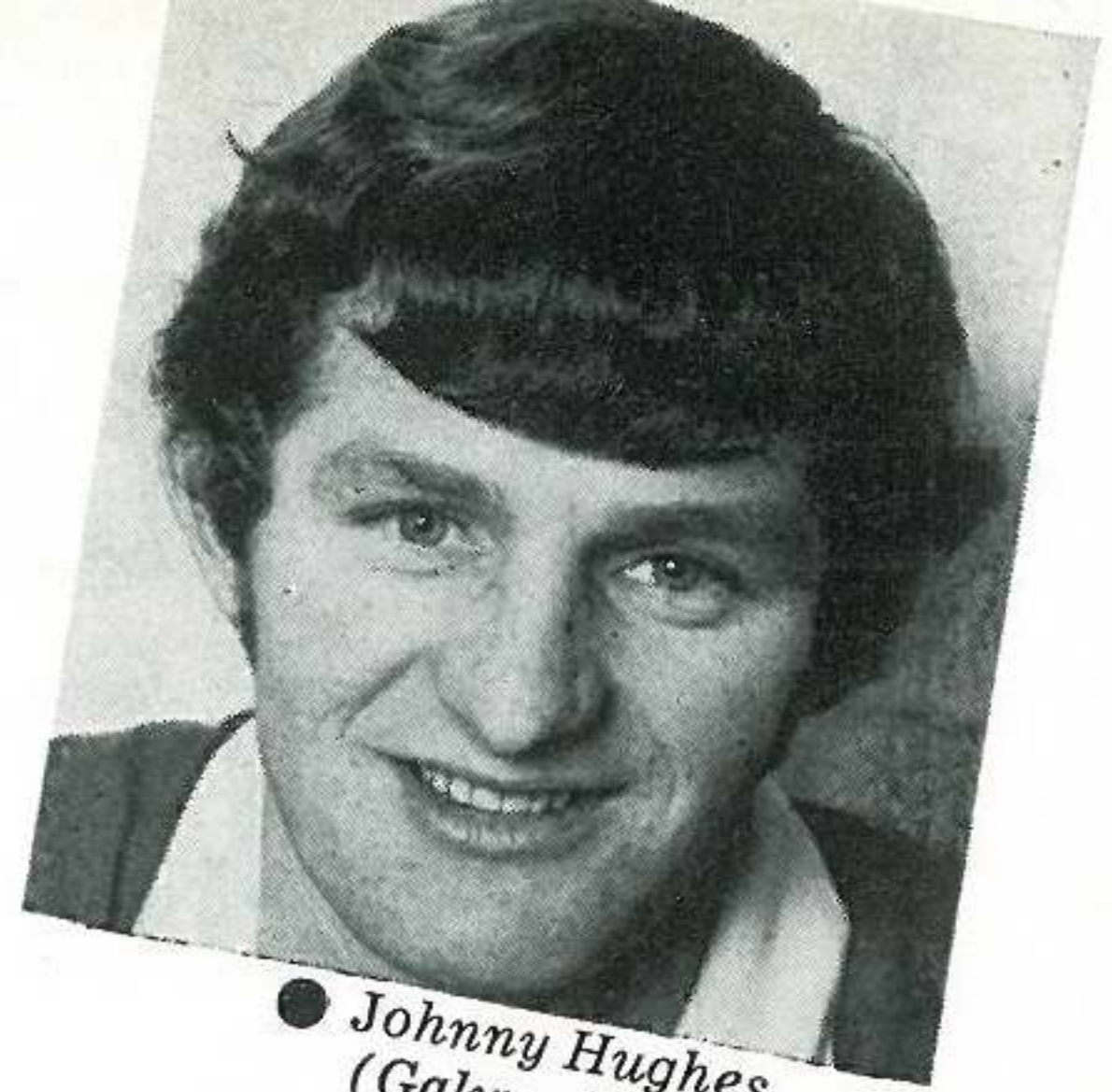
Mayo, won that game handsomely. And while they, too, have many problems to solve there was some ray of hope in the displays given by new players such as Tim Flanagan and Joe Burke.

Other unfamiliar names like Kinneavy, Judge, Kelly, Reddington and Talty were among that Galway line-out and it is on such players together with a blend of some old favourites like Liam O'Neill, Johnny Hughes and even Liam Sammon that Galway will be placing hope for a restoration of the football quality that so long ago won praise from every corner of the country.

Roscommon's eclipse in the Connacht championship during the year was softened somewhat by the success of their minors. But outside the province the minors, like Sligo, were no match for the tough Kerry youngsters.

**Despite that defeat, Roscommon possessed some rich talent notably in the forward line where Michael Finneran in all their games seemed every inch a footballer. Adrian de Paoli, Richard Beirne, Jimmy Costello and Tony McManus also played exciting football and with a little care and encouragement may soon be among the county's top senior players.**

Many of the Sligo players who saw their dream of the county's first All-Ireland title swamped by Kerry's aggressive style are still young and will hold their places for some time.



● Johnny Hughes  
(Galway)

But their leader, Michael Kearins, on whom they have depended so much, will not be very long more with them and it remains to be seen if last year's promise can be sustained to even a similar degree during the coming months.

Mayo will again be depending for that long-sought All-Ireland title on most of the players who failed to gain it last season. They have plenty of young talent to choose from should any of the regulars lose form. There is Eamonn Brett, Kieran Kenny, son of the late Henry Kenny, one of Mayo's great players of the Thirties, Stephen Sweeney, Billy Diskin and Jimmy Burke all of whom have had success in the underage grades.

But Mayo will have to find the total commitment, the fire and the confidence that seems to forsake these young players when they enter senior football. On this will depend the team's future achievements.

In Leitrim, Dermot Gannon and company, have been concentrating on underage football and in the championship the county's minors surprised many last season.

But their's is an uphill battle against a background of despair at senior level. Yet the courage of the officials within the county has stood out like a beacon and if they continue to groom their young players with the same enthusiasm success may come to the county in some grade in the not too distant future.



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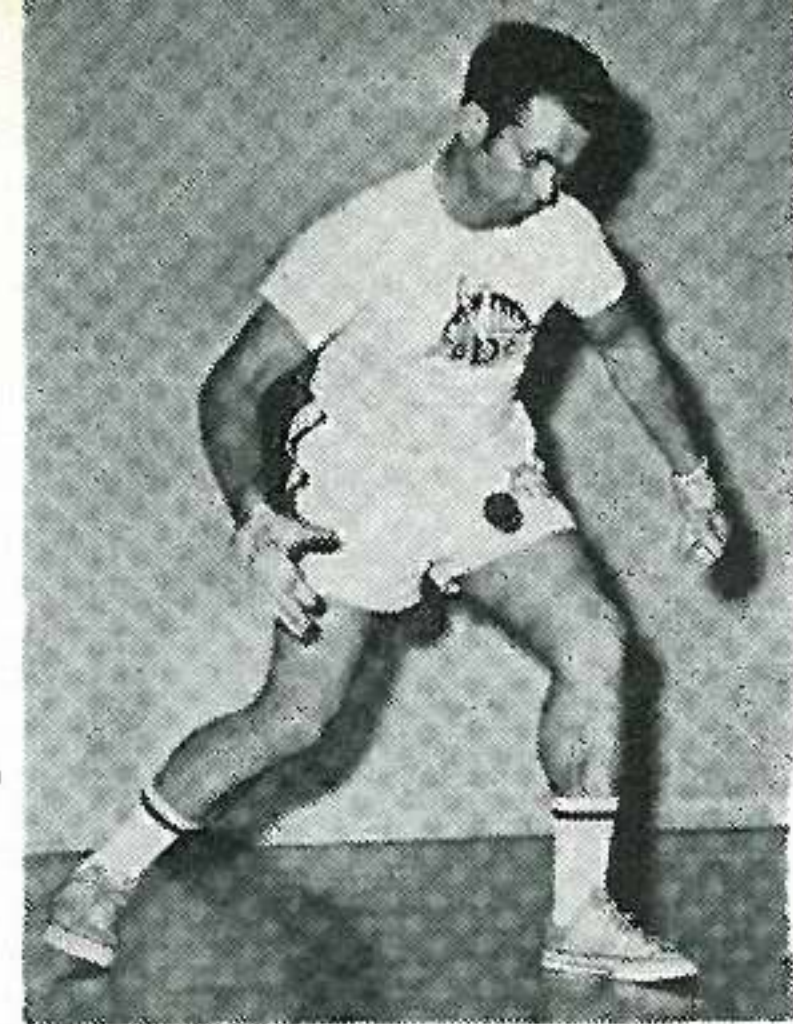
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# KIRBY REIGNS SUPREME



HANDBALL

By SEAN CLERKIN

**PAT KIRBY** reigns supreme as the Champion of Irish Handball. Pat McGarry retains the tag of the most accomplished player not to have won a senior title. Mayo and Tipperary players still continue to dominate in the hardball code. Kilkenny make a clear sweep in junior and a big breakthrough for Meath in minor ranks.

These, in familiar phrasing were the highlights of the All-Ireland Championship campaign in the 60' x 30' code which concluded a short time ago. On a general basis it was probably the most successful one on record, due, in the main to the new dimension brought about by the generous sponsorship of Coca-Cola in the Open Championships.

Kirby shone as a beacon and again endeared himself to all and sundry as the distinctive sportsman and super handballer.

He wound his way through the Open Singles Championship with a commanding brand of handball, stamped with a class of perfection and giving the apparent lie to the fact that he is now in the upper age bracket.

I saw Kirby at his best in the All-Ireland Final before a capacity attendance on the eve of the Kilkenny and Galway hurling game.

On that occasion, pitted against Joe Howlin, who previously had dismissed his Wexford colleague Pat Murphy, the Tuamgraney ace, chose to unleash the full volume of his vast handball repertoire. It was one-sided admittedly, but Kirby that night joined the ranks of the Great.

Aside from his handballing exploits Kirby took up his camán this season, distinguished himself as a custodian and calmly lifted a Clare Senior Championship medal.

And while Kirby stole the limelight it was inevitable that the star of once-famed Joey Maher faded. It would appear that the Drogheda player has had his swan song as far as All-Ireland Titles are concerned, but then again cognisance must be taken of the sheer determination and undoubted skill of this now equally famous leader of his family band. I have written Maher off before only to see him bounce back and choke those of us who had pre-determined his grand finale.

Whither Pat McGarry of Limerick! One of the neatest ambidextrous players and supreme sportsman it has been my pleasure to meet he has finished the season without that elusive title.

More is the pity for he has deserved it long ago if only for the sheer joy he has brought to Handball fans up and down the country for many years. No disrespect to Wexford but his moment of triumph appeared to have arrived in the Doubles Final on the eve of the big Kerry and Dublin showdown. Lining out with Michael Hogan on the right McGarry was fighting a blazing handball battle with Richie Lyng and Pat Murphy.

Limerick had lost the first set and were behind 18-9 in the second when McGarry was the motivator in the best comeback in handball history. Against the odds the Limerick players surged

forward, tackled on the aces, allowed Wexford go to the tossing line for nought and in the electrifying atmosphere that gripped the night air, won by a solitary ace.

McGarry's luck had changed, we thought, but it was not to be.

The effort of that rally was too much and Wexford came back to win decisively. McGarry's All-Ireland medal was but a distant dream.

Hard luck, Pat.

The bearded, bespectacled Peadar McGee from Newport in County Mayo once again proved his dominance at the hardball code and won the title at the expense of Dublin's Cecil Winders.. This was the fourth successive occasion for McGee to take this title having already won it in 1965 and 1967.

And Tipperary bounced back into the headlines by winning the Senior Hardball Doubles Trophy. Paddy Hickey and John Cleary represented the county and for the latter it was his first senior title, having won a junior in 1961.

Kilkenny, too had a triumphant season, winning out in all the junior grades, a feat only achieved on a couple of occasions.

Meath's A. McConnell and J. Reddy made a notable contribution to Meath Handball affairs by winning the minor hardball doubles for the first time ever.

It was, indeed, a most enjoyable championship campaign with the new handball image of modern facilities and streamlined organisation projecting itself most forcibly.



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# This has been a good year for Cork

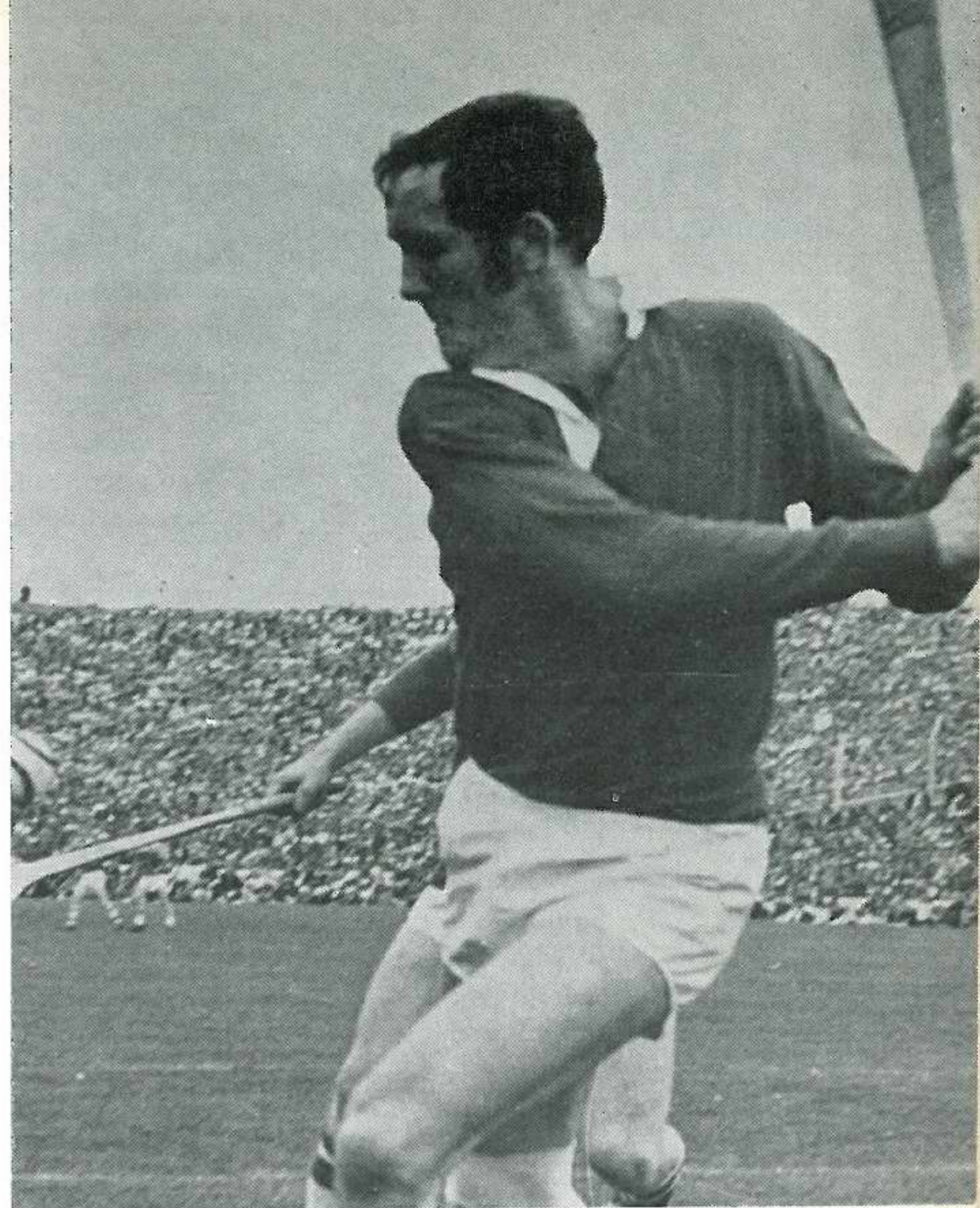
By  
**Eamonn  
Young**

**T**HIS has been a good year for Cork. The statement should arouse a combination of disbelief and amusement among my friends. And yet, I do believe it. We won nothing in the inter-county game and while that's not everything, an All-Ireland or two is a great help by way of inspiration for the youth and consolation for the old. Right, so where's the good?

The first step in the right direction was when the Rockies after destroying the Glen in a poor county final asked the Board for the right to nominate the inter-county hurling selection committee and the request, supported enthusiastically by the Glen, was granted. The county champions then nominated Jimmy Brohan and Frank Murphy, the county secretary of their own club, followed with Denis Murphy, the All-Ireland player from the Barrs, Denis Hurley of Sarsfields and then called on the man himself, Christy Ring.

The committee, with the relieved blessings of all who favour Cork hurling, got down to talking, and they have arranged a tournament on November 8 and 9 in which all the county will be divided up in four districts each producing a team. Needless to say any player who comes within reaching distance of a county jersey will be out in those games and if, as the selection committee says the three matches will be taken seriously then we can assume that the Cork panel will be chosen well before Christmas.

Righto! This has all been done before. But this time there's a big difference and that's why I say that '75 has been a good year. Kerry, whose younger teams we have been beating have raced through all opposition with a fire kindled from the ashes of county pride. Kilkenny well led, well trained and confident that just now there's nobody in their class, settled down with clinical skill, and county pride to chalk up another one. Cork in the meantime look back on twenty-one senior championships with a miserable pair of wins in hurling, a record which entitles anyone to suggest that we're not in the top grade any more. It is these facts which have spurred hurlers to shake off the lethargy, to look now to the future with a bright determination, to get out of the rut.



● Con Roche (Cork) a sub on the team that beat Tipperary so convincingly in the opening game of the National Hurling League campaign.

So we have experienced selectors whom the public trust, a Board which supports the selectors, a public which asks hopefully for success and is prepared to follow loyally as always and cheer to the echo. The panel is the next important item and here the first thing is to run over the side that went down to Galway in the semi-final.

These notes were written on my return from the Mardyke, where I had seen Cork hammer Tipp. by sixteen points. The men missing from the Galway game were Tony Maher, Pat Hegarty, Willie Walsh, who were not selected on the panel and Teddy O'Brien and Con Roche who were subs, Charlie McCarthy who is ill and Ray Cummins who couldn't get off the engineering job to turn out. John Horgan, Denis Burns,

● OVERLEAF



● FROM PAGE 33

Eamonn O'Donoghue, who did play were on the Galway twenty-one. Jimmy Barry Murphy had earlier played in an under-21 game for the Barrs and there were new men John Fenton, John Crowley, Weesh Murphy, Pat Moylan, and Brendan Cummins. Denis Coughlan had come back from retirement to play where he stood with the Glen at centre-back and there was Denis Allen, Donal Collins, John Buckley, Joe Herlihy, John Rothwell and sub goalkeeper Frankie Sullivan. Altogether that makes 29 players with the possibility of picking up another one or two in the trial games so at least there's no shortage of names. Quality is another matter, however, and that's something on which one must await the opinion of time, revealed in heat of sharp encounter.

It's a strange thing to say, but just now we've no trainer. It's bad enough to have to wait from the championship knock-out, which this year came in August (but last year in May), for a selection committee but what a lack in our thinking to be without a trainer in October!

There's no need to say that the personality, drive, and confidence of a trainer has a wonderful effect on the thinking, aspirations and efforts of players. I would prefer a trainer and coach to be selected on a three year basis and in fact the same could apply to the selectors only then you would have to be very sure beforehand that they were good.

Anyhow that's the situation in Cork just now. We have the selectors, the players and the enthusiasm. All that is needed now is that everyone concerned will put a strong shoulder to a sticky wheel and get us out of the mud in heaven's name before we lose that last vestige of our

superiority complex.

"Congrats," I said to Rinney after the Tipp. game. "Keep it up. The whole county is behind ye."

"Good," he said, and the bright blue eyes bored into mine. "We have a long way to go and there's a lot of thinking to be done. That

was an easy win but — 'tis better to win easy than lose hard."

As I watched that neat, hard figure stride over to where the other selectors stood chatting, every line in the back, the tilt of the head and the jut of the firm chin meant for me only one thing . . . real hope of success.

## SCORESHEET

● FROM PAGE 13

That 1969 campaign is the only one, other than the just concluded series, in which there was a tie at the top since these particular records were introduced in 1955.

Keher headed the national table outright in 1963, 1971, 1972 and 1974. He had his greatest harvest of scores in 1972, when he averaged 12.60 points in each of his five games on the way to the national record for both codes of 63 points (6-45).

The "Big Two" of 1975 finished comfortably ahead of their rivals. In second place, eleven points behind the leaders, is Richie Bennis with 1-21 from three outings with Limerick, and an average of eight points.

Then comes Charlie McCarthy (Cork) with 4-9 in four ties, or 5-25 points a match.

Galway's table is headed by Pdraig Fahy with 4-3 from three games.

Over now to football, and Jimmy Keaveney takes the chief honours for the second year in succession. He put up 1-38 (41 points) in five games at an average of 8-20 points an appearance. His total is two points up on the 1-36 (39 points) from six matches that gave him a then new All-Ireland peak for football last year.

As well as setting this impressive new football record, the Dubliner, whose best match score of the series was 1-11 against Louth at Navan, spreadeagled the field. He has eighteen points to spare over the runner-up, Michael

Kearins (Sligo), who shot 1-20 (23 points) in four outings at the rate of 5.75 points a game.

Next comes Kerry's goal-expert, John Egan. In four engagements on the way to his first All-Ireland senior medal, the Sneem man scored five goals and seven points, which gives him a 22 points total and a match haul of 5.50 points.

It was not a vintage year for individual scorelines in major finals. Keher's 2-7 was the best in the All-Ireland hurling summit, but is still well short of his own personal record of 2-11 in the 1971 decider, in which Kilkenny failed to Tipperary.

Jimmy Keaveney led the way in the football final with 0-6, but that was down on his score of 1974, 0-9, and well behind the Frank Stockwell record of 2-5 in Galway's win over Cork in 1956.

On the provincial scene, the outstanding match was the Leinster hurling final. Eddie Keher scored 1-8, the highest total in a final in either code in the provinces, and for good measure, Ned Buggy earned second place with his 1-7 for Wexford.

Leading the way in football is Willie Walsh with 2-3 for Down in their unsuccessful Ulster showdown with Derry at Clones

Finally, that 1-11 by Keaveney against Louth is one of the two top individual scores of the football championship. At Emly in June, Jim Kehoe set a high standard with 4-2 for Tipperary in their win over Limerick in the Munster championship



## Camogie

# Records set-up at Croke Park

By AGNES HOURIGAN



● Marie Costine (Cork), on the losing side for the second successive year.

WELL we know the answers to the All-Ireland question now. Wexford are the senior Camogie champions of 1975, unexpectedly perhaps, but most deservedly. The junior title went to an exceptionally well-drilled Dublin side while the Cork minors were very convincing winners of the youngest grade.

The surprise victory by Wexford was all the more remarkable because of the almost complete collapse of the Cork girls in the closing stages. It must be emphasised however, that Wexford's superiority had been very clear long before that stage and the outcome was never in doubt after the Leinster side began to stretch their lead in the second half.

So quite a number of records were set on All-Ireland day at Croke Park. Bridget Doyle, Kit Codd and Gretta Quigley became the first three sisters ever to play together on an All-Ireland-winning senior team.

For good measure, Wexford also had another pair of sisters on their victorious side, Dorothy and Elsie Walsh. Cork, of course

also had a pair of sisters on the senior side, Bernie and Marie Costine from Cloyne.

For the second successive year these elder Costine sisters had the ill-fortune to find themselves playing together on a beaten All-Ireland team but earlier in the championship a younger sister, Kathleen had ensured the family of a place in the Camogie record books. Kathleen Costine starred on the Cork team that won the minor All-Ireland title, and so the Costines of Cloyne become the first Camogie family ever to have won All-Ireland medals in all three games. Marie, senior 1970, '71, '72, '73; Bernie, Junior 1973, and now Kathleen, minor in 1975.

The Dublin juniors were probably one of the best trained teams I have ever seen in a final. In exceptional skills they seemed to be far behind several of their Down opponents, but they played to their own strength, first time striking, and excellent team-work and on the day, Dublin's combination proved far more efficient than the relatively un-

ported efforts of Down's stars.

This success was a tremendous tribute to the work of the Dublin mentors Mrs. Timmons, vice-chairman of the Dublin Board, who also happens to be chairman of the Leinster Council and Miss Eileen Bourke, who herself won several All-Ireland medals with Dublin.

Cork's victory in the minor game proved surely that, if some of their great stalwarts of the last six years are not as effective as they used to be there are plenty of talented young players coming on to fill their places.

And one last word about the players on the winning All-Ireland sides. Wexford have now won three senior titles, but only two players have participated in all three victories. They are full-back Margaret Leacy who, then Margaret O'Leary from Garrydan-iel was at centre-field in the 1968 and 1969 victories, and Bridget Doyle who starred at centre back in all three finals.

● TO PAGE 39

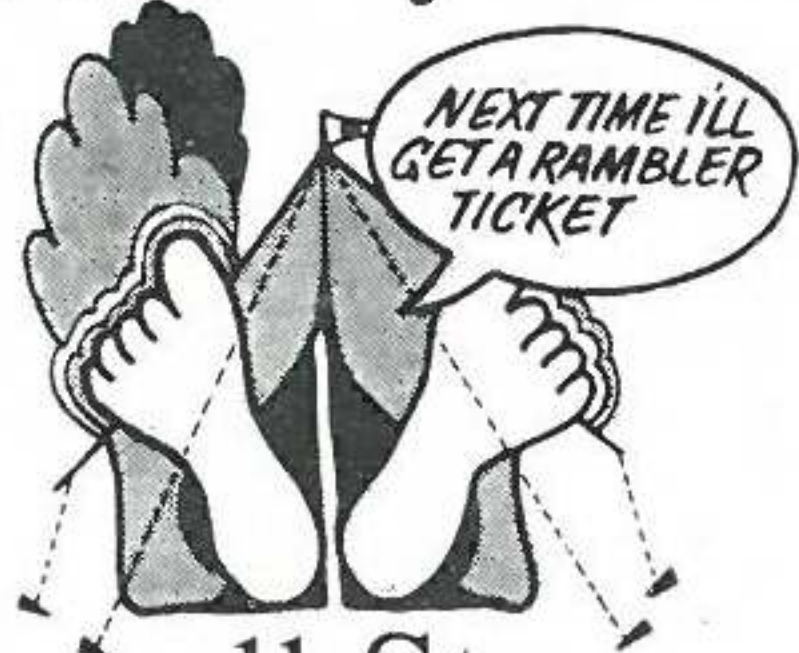
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# GILT-EDGED FUTURE FOR IRISH COMPANY

By TONY KEEGAN

**I**N these days of doom and gloom on the Irish economic front it is refreshing to hear of an Irish company that is not only holding its own but is, in fact, planning expansion. Grogan Brothers, founded in 1967 by John, Eamon and Brendan Grogan, is such a company.

Sales Director John Grogan told me that the past year has been their most successful one to date and that prospects look very good indeed.

Exports of Gilt Edge ties to Great Britain in 1974 totalled half a million pounds and they also hold the greater share of the Irish market. This is not surprising when you come to

consider the outstanding quality of their products. Indeed one of the prime objectives of the Grogan Brothers in setting up their business was to introduce to the Irish market top class international colours and designs and this they have done most successfully.

At one time ties tended to be bought for Christmas or a birthday and to be worn until they faded away. In consultation with the silk mills the Grogan Brothers set about producing ties to compliment and enhance shirts and suits. That this approach paid off handsomely is to be seen from the tremendous increase in sales of ties over the past six years. With a selection of 3,000

different ties to choose from in the Gilt Edge range, there is something to suit everyone.

Leisure shirts, cardigans and pullovers are also sold under the Gilt Edge label. Designed by the Grogans also for men and boys, these have proved themselves over the years to be a very good buy indeed.

Latest to arrive on the scene and a feature of their very successful stand at this year's IMEX exhibition in the Burlington Hotel were FARAH slacks. The Irish public have really taken to these top class, well styled slacks which originate in the United States and sales have reached a phenomenal level.

## LATEST ALBUMS FROM EMI

**L**AATEST news from EMI is that they are doing a very good export trade to Germany where interest in traditional and folk music is very high. The Sands Family, The Blacksmiths and The Dubliners are among the successful albums that EMI are selling on this market.

In the United States the Tulla Céilí Band with their album *The Claddagh Ring* are also doing very well.

Here at home among their latest releases is the 25th Anniversary Album by the Gallowglass Céilí Band. As the name suggests this album commemorates the famous band, founded twenty five years ago by Pat

McGarr. Many old favourites are featured on this top class album, among them *The Wandering Minstrel* and *The High Road to Dublin*.

Also on the Talisman label from EMI is a re-issue of Brendan O'Dowda's *The Immortal Percy French*. Featuring Philip Green and his orchestra this album, which was first issued in 1958, as a full priced album, has been electronically treated to give a stereo affect and was only deleted last year from EMI's list. Because of great demand they have now re-issued it in budget form and it continues to be as popular as ever. Such old favourites as *The Mountains Of Mourne*, *Phil The Fluter's Ball*

and *Are You Right There, Michael?* are among the featured songs.

A new name with EMI is Gemma Hasson who comes from Park in Co. Derry. A folk and traditional singer, she has just recorded her second album in this blend and there are great hopes for its success. Produced by Leo O'Kelly, it has all the hall-marks of a winner. Gemma has appeared on T.V. and in Concert with Planxty and The Chieftains.

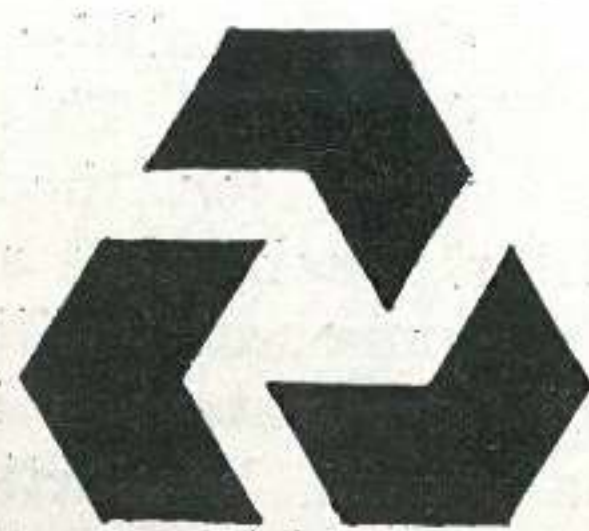
Another album from EMI is by Aileach who are four traditional musicians from Donegal. Their first single, *Lullaby*, was issued in July 1975. This was specially written for them by Phil Coulter. Their new album contains a number of traditional airs which have not been heard before on record. Production is by Donal Lunny which practically guarantees its success.



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Bridget is of course, one of the Kehoe family which has given so many stars to the game. But another Wexford player also holds three medals, and she is also a member of the Kehoe family. She is Kit Codd, right forward on the 1975 Wexford line-out, but while still Kit Kehoe she filled the same position on the field for the Dublin teams that won the All-Ireland senior finals of 1965 and 1966.

All-Ireland day was a wonderful success in all respects save one, the attendance was again sadly below what the games deserved.

It was also a bit disappointing that the Camogie finals did not, until almost too late, get the same splash treatment from the newspapers that they did through the last couple of years. That may have been due to the fact that the newspapers and especially the evening papers in Dublin began their build-up to the All-Ireland football final much earlier than usual and thus cut in on the time and space available for the Camogie pre-match write-ups.

On the other hand at least one Dublin daily did give the finals as much wordage as ever, though far fewer pictures. We had pictorial coverage galore of course in the Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings but that was almost entirely inspired by the wedding of the Wexford captain.

Nobody could complain about the coverage by the newspapers of the Croke Park finals themselves, but except for a couple of pre-match spots on radio and the commentary on the game itself, Montrose's efforts were deplorable. They could show us nothing at all on Sunday night and all they showed us thus far was on a Tuesday evening at a time when few people could settle down to watch.

## New ground broken

NEW ground was broken at the Kilmacud Crokes Club's popular annual All-Ireland seven-a-side football tournament at Glenalbyn Grounds, Stillorgan, Dublin, on the eve of the Kerry-Dublin football summit. The competition was the first major G.A.A. event to be sponsored by BASS SPORTS. The sponsorship of the Bass League of Ireland is their major sporting involvement.

The BASS sponsorship of the Kilmacud Crokes event was a splendid gesture, and one that contributed in practical terms to the great success of a promotion that is now firmly established as a major highlight of the All-Ireland week-end.

Moreover it is pleasing to be able to report that the sponsors intend the Kilmacud Crokes development to be but the first step towards greater involvement with the G.A.A.

John Tuite, Marketing Manager of Beamish and Crawford Limited, brewers of BASS Ale, told GAELIC SPORT on behalf of the sponsors:

*"You may wonder why with the many sponsorships with which we are involved, we had*

*not until now sponsored Gaelic football or hurling. The main reason is that it is only in recent times that the G.A.A. have encouraged sponsors to participate in their games.*

*"The other reason was that we wanted to kick off with a good tournament, and we had a great one with the All-Ireland seven-a-side football run by Kilmacud Crokes.*

*"We intend that this will only be a first step towards a greater involvement with the G.A.A., which I don't need to tell you, controls sport with the greatest participation and support in the country, namely Gaelic football."*

The 1975 Kilmacud Crokes tournament was the largest undertaken in the three years history of the competition. Thirty-two teams competed, and many prominent inter-county footballers were in action.

The final provided, in a way, a forerunner of what was to come in the Sam Maguire Cup battle when a London team of Kerry exiles, known as The Kingdom, beat the promoting club by 5-15 to 1-2 in the final.

R.T.E. should be taken severely to task for this negligence, but to come back to the attendance problem. I repeat now what I have said so often before here and elsewhere. We will never get the 10,000 crowd our Camogie finals at Croke Park deserve until we go about organising with that attendance figure in view. Excursions from schools, by clubs, by counties must be set up.

Special terms must be negotiated with bus and train concerns.

Above all Camogie players and followers all over the country must be persuaded that All-Ireland day is **their** day in Croke Park, the one day in the year that they should come, no matter what teams are playing, to meet other players and followers and supporters of the game from every county of the 32.



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scription fee covers postage.





● John Flanagan (Tipperary) in close pursuit of Jim Treacy (Kilkenny) as he races to clear in the 1971 All-Ireland Hurling Final. He "might have been a household word . . . had he been around a few years earlier", says Jim Bennett of John in the article below.

# FLANAGAN STILL AN ACE IN TIPPERARY PACK

By JIM BENNETT

ONE of those men who might have a far higher reputation, given a slightly different date on his birth certificate, is John Flanagan of Moycarkey, an established Tipperary hurler for the best part of a decade. He might have been a household word in hurling circles had he been around a few years earlier when Tipperary hurling needed a little bit of "spit and polish" here and

there, rather than a major overhaul job.

There were many fine Tipperary teams in the late '50s and throughout the '60s which must have been able to use the sharp, crisp and skilful attacking play which John has so often shown. It might have been just the extra little touch that could have added further to fine teams. Unhappily for those of us who have

been interested in Flanagan's progress, he has contributed his best to teams which did not have the overall stability and skill to benefit.

Sometimes, in fact, a great deal more has been expected of John Flanagan than might be reasonably sought. He simply is not the sort of man who can carry a team (as if anybody could, really!) for he was coming into the Tipperary hurling scene at a time when no one carried teams. There were too many good hurlers around in the mid-'60s; they were spread too thickly, and every youngster, however good, learned to hurl positions and occasions on their merits.

John hurled as a minor for Tipperary in 1965 and 1966—the middle of the unsuccessful period

● TO PAGE 43



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● FROM PAGE 27

heartening to those of us who can roll back the decades to the happily far-gone days when Gaelic football in the Capital was looked upon as a 'Culchie' game, to now see hordes of young Dubliners hosting on Croke Park under their blue and white banners. Their counterparts of 40 years ago could hardly have known where you wanted to go if you asked them the way to Croke Park.

And of course now that the 1975 championship is over far-sighted mentors will be already conning over the lessons it taught preparing for '76.

Speed was the name of victory in 1975, and Mick O'Dwyer surely demonstrated that, for really blinding speed, youth is a prerequisite.

So I will not be at all surprised to see most counties trying out young players in plenty throughout the forthcoming League campaign. "School them in the League and then sharpen them in the championship" will be the motto of all forward-looking team-managers.

And, young though the current crop of Kerry players are, don't be surprised to see the Kingdom mentors continue to experiment at least a little through the months immediately ahead.

The Sam Maguire Cup is safely back home amid the Reeks, and the Kerry men are determined on keeping it there. But, if the League medals should fall into their laps for good measure, that will be an added bonus, but the championship, as in Kilkenny, remains the prime objective.

Meanwhile down in Meath the local footballers must be walking about with heads high these times. After all few counties can boast of having beaten the 1975 All-Ireland champions and the 1974 All-Ireland champions on their way to winning a National League title.

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## FLANAGAN STILL AN ACE IN TIPPERARY PACK ● FROM PAGE 41

through which the county is still going in the minor ranks in which it once dominated. He was a most promising young player, stubby but strong, and full of crisp, clean strokes, courageous and dashing.

He went on from the minors to the under-21 team, and here he struck a luckier combination. The 1967 Tipperary side went on to win the county's second All-Ireland in this grade with such players as P. J. Ryan (the captain), John Kelly, Ml. Esmonde, Tadhg O'Connor, Seamus Hogan and Jack Ryan.

All this good form brought him early promotion to the senior side, where, unhappily, the onset of the years was beginning to take a toll. He was at centre-forward in the 1967 side that turned out to be the first to lose a final to Kilkenny for donkeys' years. When missing the following year in which Tipperary lost a big half-time lead to eventually lose the match to Wexford, it was, indeed, the end of the chapter of Tipperary's dominance.

Cork took over Munster, and the best of players finds it hard to make an impression when his county is striking lean days. It must have seemed as though he had missed the bus entirely. But, there was one more kick in Tipperary when many thought they were going into a period of obscurity and, in 1971, Flanagan was at corner-forward when a few of the old stars and many new men forged a team of determination more than brilliance to chalk up one more to the county's credit.

Since then it has been a barren sort of existence, with not only the championship but also

the League slipping out of Tipperary's reach. Flanagan and Loughnane have been expected to do too much in attack; defences have an easier time when they can concentrate on a couple of players from whom the threat is expected.

In some of the early years Flanagan looked as exciting a forward as any Tipperary have fielded, just as, in some of the later years he has disappointed the over-expectations of followers. And while he is always considered as a forward, I personally cherish recollections of a few commanding displays of his as a midfielder in Tipperary under-21 teams.

It is pleasing to note now that 1975 was one of John's better years in spite of Tipperary's limited success. He seemed to have a real appetite for the game, and carried the main threat to opposing defences when playing at centre-forward. He may have just one All-Ireland senior medal in a county festooned with such trophies, but he has given as much service and carried the can as often for Tipperary as many a man with four or five. Some are born lucky, I suppose.

Still, there is time; he is a youngster still compared to some of the present greats of the game, like Keher, Henderson, and a few other Kilkennymen. There is no apparent dulling of his knees; the sharp dash of speed is still intact; and he strikes that crisp and whippy ball as well as ever. What a gift he would be if Tipperary could string together an even and balanced side, giving the polish and the cutting edge, and relieved of the burden of too many men's work.

## Eamonn Young

● FROM PAGE 7

looking sadly at it, knowing no doubt that this was all over.

Where Ogie Moran's football will finish, it's a bit early to say, isn't it? Enough for now to say that, as a boy, Beale, near Ballybunion, claimed the energies of the lad and he progressed in the under-age teams there until the days at Gormanston College under the keen supervision of the dedicated and thorough Joe Lennon, who has carved for himself his own neat niche in the story of Gaelic football.

Ogie is maturing with Shannon Rangers and the short spell in the Physical Education College at Limerick didn't do him any harm before moving on to U.C.D. and designs on a commerce degree. His father, Denis, from Caherciveen has passed away, but his mother, Bridie, and her seven other children, of whom Denis is the "baby", are now running a business in Limerick. During the summer the Denis Moran Cup was presented for football competition and it is now a perpetual memory of the young player's father.

## Andy Croak

● FROM PAGE 6

had 20p to fork out at either final this year.

★ ★ ★

**RESPECTFULLY**, I bring this matter to the attention of the G.A.A.'s Communications Committee, whose responsibility it is, I presume, to produce All-Ireland programmes.

Well, think the matter over, gentlemen. You made a mistake this year. You would be unwise to repeat it, unless you are determined to **DISPLEASE** all the people all the time.

**IN SPITE OF** a season of big crowds at many venues, I don't think the G.A.A. can afford to adopt that attitude.



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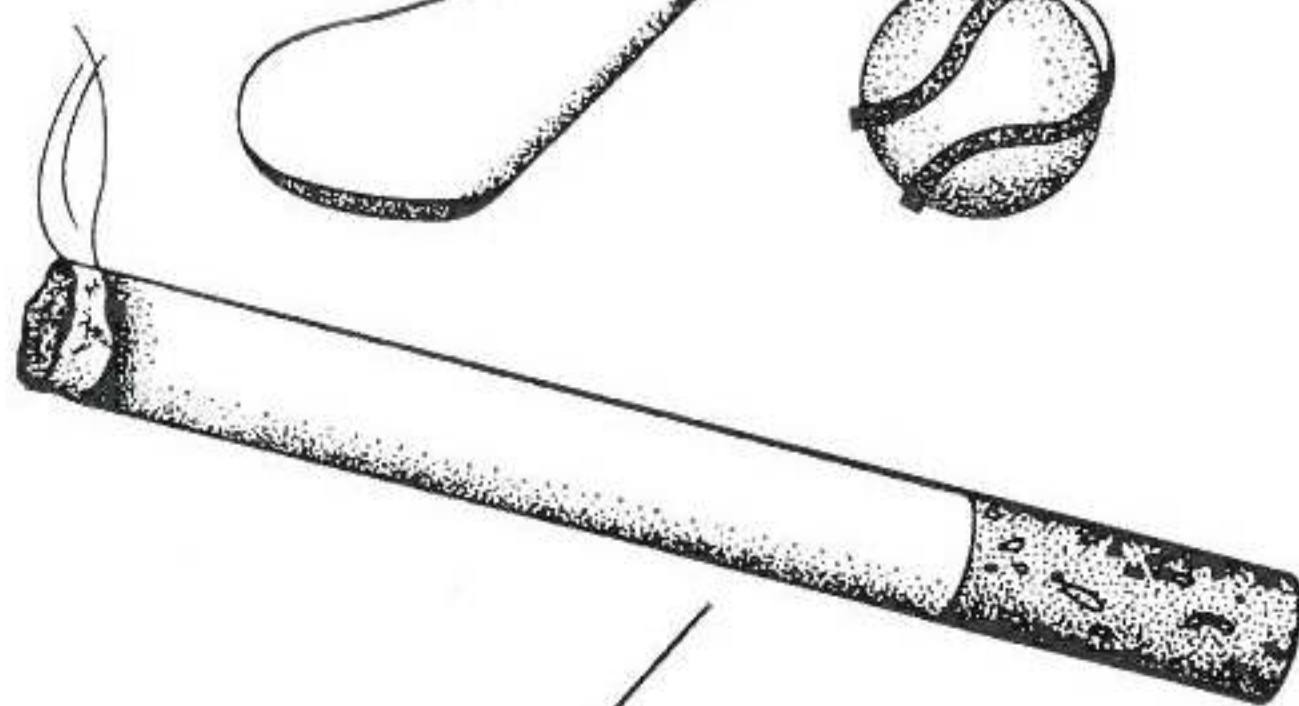
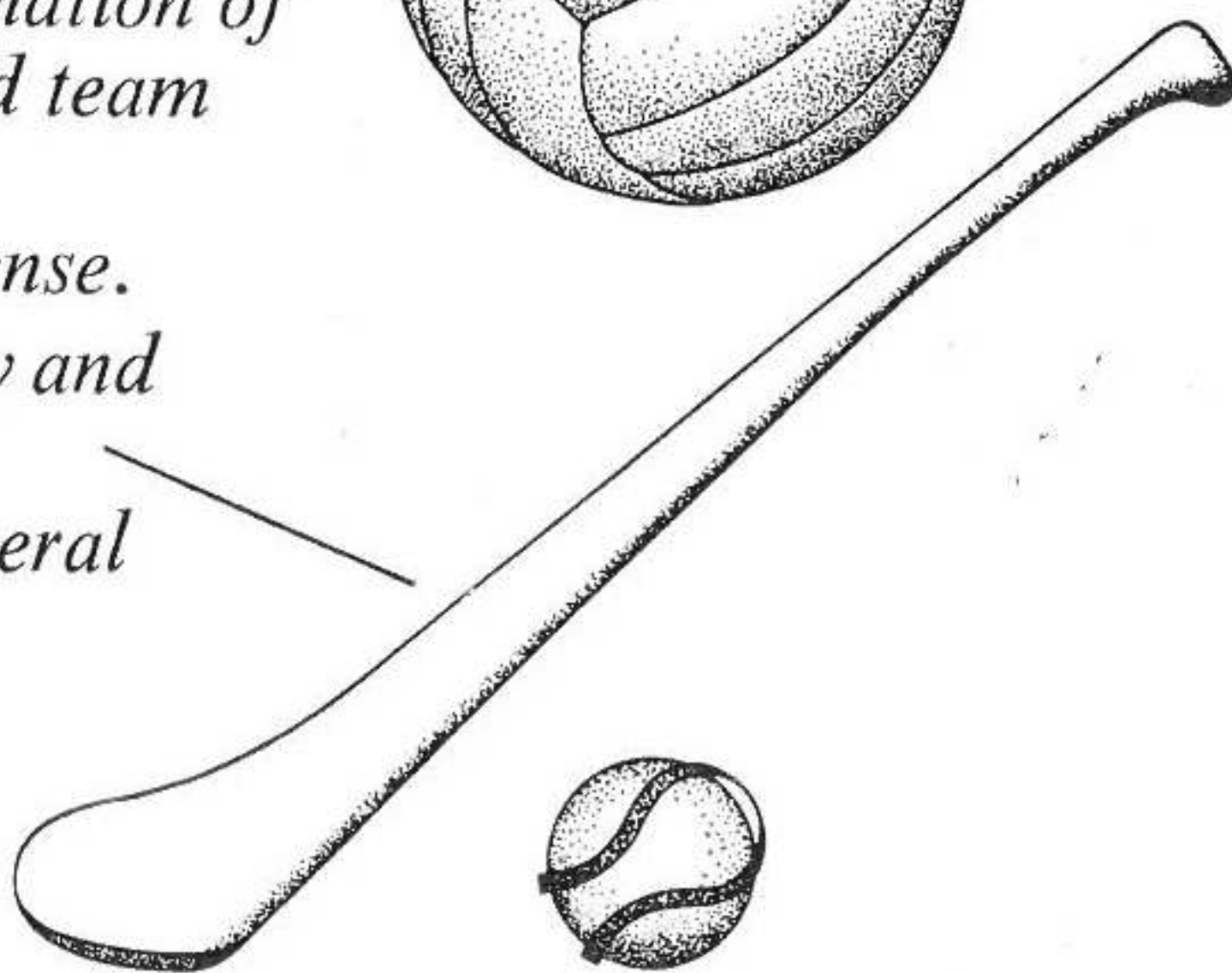


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health.*



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spirit.*

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Increases mobility and  
flexibility.  
Excellent for general  
health.*



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cough, bad breath and body odour.  
Harmful to health.*



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# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

**WEREN'T** the All-Ireland displays of Kerry and Kilkenny magnificent? And the displays of their minors too were great. And leave it there to John Moloney, the referee of the football final. His contribution was immense. He is the best referee I have seen to date. Now that's a big statement but I'll stand over it. Congrats too, to Dublin, Galway and the minors Cork and Tyrone. There is nothing in Irish sport to compare with an All-Ireland occasion. They have a tremendous festival atmosphere now. This is Ireland for real. Long may they live.

## CUT-OUT

Our Cut-out this time is Dublin sharpshooter Jimmy Keaveney. He may have been shut out of it by John O'Keefe in the final, but so were Mickey Kearins and Ray Cummins before him. Jimmy's contribution to the return to the top of the Dublin team is immense. He is the leader, the BRAINS, the man around whom the whole attack revolves. Some of his touches and flicks remind me of Sean Purcell and that is PRAISE. I hope Jimmy continues to grace our G.A.A. fields. Behind the scenes Jimmy is a great club worker with St. Vincent's and a very popular G.A.A. man generally.

## COMPETITION

My heartiest thanks to Muiris de Prionnbhiol and his G.A.A. Shop for sponsoring our September competition so generously. Remember the competition where entrants had to give 3 reasons why they thought —

**IRISH YOUTH SHOULD PLAY GAELIC GAMES** and were asked to write a slogan with an additional prize for any winning entry tré Gaeilge.

## THE WINNERS

1. A Shoulder Bag and Youth Badge to **Seosamh Mac Thomáis, Tromaire, Móin Ratha, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.**

2. Lady's Shoulder Bag to **Deirdre Nic Gearailt (age 15), 20 Rock Barton Park, Bóthar na Trá, Gaillimh.**

3. Shoulder Bag to **Paddy White, Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.**

4. Lady's Shoulder Bag to **Cáit Treacy, Kilcross, Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny (age 15).**

5. Shoulder Bag and Youth Badge to **Eamonn Mac Niocaill, Troasca Thiar, Bearna, Co. na Gaillimhe (aois 13).**

6. Dublin Pennant (football) to **Séamus Woulfe (13), 11 Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5.**

7. Kilkenny Hurling Pennant to **Lily Treacy, Tynford, Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny.**

8. Limerick Hurling Pennant to **Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick (age 11).**

9. Clare Hurling Pennant to **Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare (aged 16).**

10. Waterford Hurling Pennant to **Gerard Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford.**

Well, these are the results and congrats are extended to all. Thanks again, Muiris, for your continued interest in Junior Desk.

## CO. FINAL PROGRAMMES

I am looking forward to the G.A.A.'s Communications Committee's Press Awards. There is to be an award for the best County final programme produced. The best I have seen to date have been the Westmeath S.F. and Clare S.H. County final programmes. They are a credit to their respective counties and I hope they share the award. The Mailbag is so big I must finish now. So I'll hold over a review until next month.

## MAILBAG

"Gaelic Fan", Coventry (name and address enclosed). "I was genuinely sorry to see Galway lose to Kilkenny, but they will be back."

● *We are all hoping they stay at the top now. Last year was a dream year. Next year may be even better. (J.M.)*

**Dan Wall, Coolbay, Cloyne, Co. Cork.** "This is my first time writing to you Jack. I support my local team Russell Rovers. I have a brother and two cousins playing on the team. The best players on the team are Dicky Fitzgerald and D. J. Scanlan. Dicky is another Pat Delaney. I train with them and pick up a lot of tips.

● *A fine letter Dan and fáilte to our club. Keep writing and training with Russell Rovers. (J.M.)*

**Tom Moore, Walshtownmore,**

● **OVERLEAF**



# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

## ● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

**Midleton, Co. Cork**—"I was thrilled when Kerry won. My favourites are John O'Keeffe, Michael Sheehy and John Egan. I would like more Quizzes and Cut-out of Gerald McCarthy.

● *On my way from Castlebar to Galway during the Summer I gave a lift to two girl hitchhikers from Midleton. They knew you well. Tom is one of our most staunch readers. (J.M.)*

**Séamus Woulfe, 11 Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5**—"Even though Galway lost I thought the hurling final a marvellous occasion. In fact it was a marvellous G.A.A. Summer. I remember the wonderful hurling of the two Limerick v Tipperary games with one movement involving Eamonn Cregan being quite excellent. I hope Eamonn gets another All Star. I believe too that the semi-penalty is ruining the game of hurling, especially when fellow forwards race in alongside the taker as he takes the free. Keep up the competitions but please Tommy McQuaid give us one more page. Finally I'm in favour of the Open Draw and I want a G.A.A. Shop in all the major towns. Also why did not R.T.E. repeat their pre-final G.A.A. shows?

● *As usual Seamus poses problems but he writes a great letter doesn't he. Yes it was a great Summer every way and we do need four pages with more photos. (J.M.)*

**Patrick Byrne, Spynans, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow**—"I cannot understand Kevin Heffernan and a few journalists saying Dublin were off-form. The truth is Kerry didn't allow them to be on-form."

● *It depends on the way you look at it Patrick! (J.M.)*

**John Fallon, Clybawn, Knocknacarra, Galway**, wants a Cut-out of Galway's Frank Burke.

**Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dundunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly**—"Moneygall won the North Tipperary Championship for the first

time this year. Pat Sheedy is the captain and is my next door neighbour. He brought the Cup to Dunkerrin School on Monday morning and we all got a drink of orange and a bag of crisps. We had the Cup in our house on Monday night. We had bonfires and there was great joy in the area. Daddy took us all to the match. Séamus Ó Riain had four sons and two nephews on the team. I hope we win the county final now."

● *That's a great letter Paul. I'm sure you'll never forget the day ye won the Cup. (J.M.)*

**John Sweeney, Clooncolliga, Moylough, Co. Galway**, thinks GAELIC SPORT is a great book but would like to have some of the top stars give tips on how they got to the top.

● *A good suggestion John. (J.M.)*

**Mary Keoghan, Dowrath, Ballycallan, Kilkenny** (aged 11), was late with her entry for the competition but I will give her slogan—"The G.A.A. is always the best for Sport".

**Brendan Ryan, 1773 Páire Muire, Newbridge, Co. Kildare**, writes his first letter to Junior Desk. He is a programme collector and his oldest goes back to the 1955 football final between Kerry and Dublin which Kerry won by 0-12 to 1-6.

● *Programme collecting is a great hobby. I collect programmes myself. In fact between scrap-books, G.A.A. books and programmes I'm inclined to clutter up the house! (J.M.)*

**John Healy, Newtown, Killaloe, Co. Clare**, has never written to Junior Desk before until he entered for the September competition. He likes GAELIC SPORT.

**G.A.A. Fan, Co. Tyrone** (name and address enclosed), wants details of the G.A.A. magazine "Fios" and wants past issues of it.

● *Write to Sean Uasal Ó Laoire, C.L.C.G., Páirc an Chrócaigh, Ath Cliath 3, for information.*

**Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick** (aged 11)

thinks the G.A.A. shop in Croke Park is great.

● *Congrats to Muiris de Prionnabhíol and his G.A.A. Shop staff for opening another shop under the Cusack Stand for the finals. (J.M.)*

"Gaelic Sport Fan", **Hopetown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath**, enjoys Junior Desk despite the fact that he is long past his young days.

● *Aren't we all young at heart? (J.M.)*

**W. F. Carberry, 54 Poleberry, Waterford**, who has returned with his family from London to live in Waterford is still a great Junior Desk Fan and is very happy to be back home. He is delighted to be able to go to so many G.A.A. games.

● *Fáilte romhat abhaile. (J.M.)*

**Michael McGrath, Ox-park, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary**, "My club Kilruane reached the Tipperary S.H. and S.F. finals. I hope Galway hurlers will be back and I think there should be a G.A.A. shop in every large town".

**John Keane, St. Colman's College, Fermoy, Co. Cork**, thought Kilkenny seniors and minors were great in the finals. He has great regard for Galway hurlers Niall McInerney, Iggy Clarke, John Connolly and P. J. Qualter and thinks one of them deserves a Cut-out.

● *I think so too. How about Iggy Clarke? (J.M.)*

**Terry Doyle, Ballymorris, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow**, wants a Cut-out of Liam O'Brien or Sean Silke.

**Gerry Pender** (same address) pays tribute to Dublin's Alan Larkin for his great league displays last year.

● *Alan isn't finished yet! (J.M.)*

**Alice O'Brien, Laganore, Powerstown, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary**, loves Junior Desk and says her Daddy has every issue of GAELIC SPORT since it was first published.

● *That's a fair bundle, Alice. (J.M.)*

**Liam Bourke, Kilderry, Mea-**



# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

nus, Fedamore, Co. Limerick, thinks Pat Hartigan will get another All-Star and thinks Frank Burke's goal against Cork the best he has ever seen. He loves Junior Desk.

● *Pat Hartigan is a great and sporting hurler and deserves every honour he gets. Yes, Frank Burke's goal was a sizzler. (J.M.)*

**Christopher Hannon, 1879 Kill, West Naas, Co. Kildare**, was disgusted to find he bought a dud or bogus programme at the Leinster final. He has a great regard for Anton O'Toole, John Connolly and Eddie Keher.

● *Always check your programme to see if it is official. (J.M.)*

**John Colclough, Ballygibbon, Rathnure, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford**, thought Galway's hurling win over Cork a real tonic for the game of hurling.

**Paul Kavanagh, (aged 10), Main St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny**, wants a Cut-out of Kieran Purcell or Fan Larkin and wants more G.A.A. on R.T.E.

**Tommy Maher** (same address), thought Tom Morrison's book "Cork's Glorious Years" was just great and hope he writes more.

● *Tom deserves every credit. (J.M.)*

**Gerald Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford**, is delighted to see so many new readers of Junior Desk. He wants a Question Box and thinks it is a great pity to see Tommy Joe Gilmore emigrate to the U.S.A.

● *I agree. Tommy Joe is a great loss to the G.A.A. scene here at home. It reminds me of the time Dr. Padhraic Carney left for America in the height of his career. (J.M.)*

**Sean Rourke, Drumany, Foxfield P.O., Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim**, thinks Galway hurlers will be back again next year D.V.

**Ger Fitzpatrick, 4 Greensbridge, Kilkenny**, thinks Kilkenny will make it 3-in-a-row.

Here I include a section of a letter from **South Kerry Gael** (name and address enclosed).

This man has been a regular reader of mine since the days of the "Gaelic Weekly". In his letter he pays tribute to Kerry as follows:

"Wasn't the football All-Ireland marvellous. The best and most co-ordinated display of Gaelic football I have seen since Down of '60 and '61. I was present in the dressing-room and from the moment the Kerry minors sang in full-throated unison "The Rose of Tralee" before going on the field until Mick Dwyer, hammering a mineral bottle off the table as he roused the seniors, one felt that the spirit engendered would have swept any opposition to oblivion—even those "Super Dubs". Never have I felt prouder of the old Kingdom. As you know well, Jack, in this county of ours football is a way of life—it courses madly through our veins and while it is undoubtedly a form of lunacy, I daresay, in some strange way too, it helps to preserve our sanity."

● *What a wonderful tribute from a Kerryman to his own county. Truly the inside story. Reminds me of what Mickey Sullivan said in a press interview with Paddy Purcell before the final. How it was a dream come true to play in the green and gold of Kerry. No wonder Kerry win so many All-Irelands. They are prepared to work hard to get there. (J.M.)*

**Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare** is 18 years old and has won 20 prizes in Junior Desk since we began 5 years ago. Joseph looks forward to the provincial final programmes, and hopes U.C.D. will be allowed to play the Dublin S.F.C. final.

● *I hope you all write for the programmes mentioned earlier and like Joseph I hope, too, that U.C.D. get a chance to defend all their titles. As one who stood behind them in Congress in another issue, I'd back them again here. (J.M.)*

**Séamus Woulfe, 11, Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5** thinks

Gaelic Sport improves all the time. He makes this sensible suggestion:

"I read your comment about what a pity some Junior Desk reader(s) would not be at Congress to further our cause with interest. Then I got an idea (which may not be feasible).

Wouldn't it be great if Junior Desk, as the voice of the G.A.A.'s youth, had 3 or even 4 representatives at the G.A.A.'s National Youth Congress every year? Perhaps the Youth Conference is supposed to be limited to the clubs, but the G.A.A. could acknowledge the work of Junior Desk by agreeing to let a few members represent it at the conference. Junior Desk could have a poll to elect 3 or 4 members to represent it. It would be marvellous to be represented. Perhaps you could use your influence, Jack!"

● *It's an idea, Séamus. Still, I think that it would be undemocratic. Better to go through in the normal way at club level. So all Junior Desk fans should get involved with their own clubs and seek this kind of representation. (J.M.)*

**Séamus's two younger brothers, Brendan (10) and Dermot (9) also wrote.** Dermot saw the epic game in Thurles between Limerick and Tipperary. Brendan thought Dublin would retain the All-Ireland.

And that's it this month. Write about anything you like to me at:

**Junior Desk,**

**Gaelic Sport,**

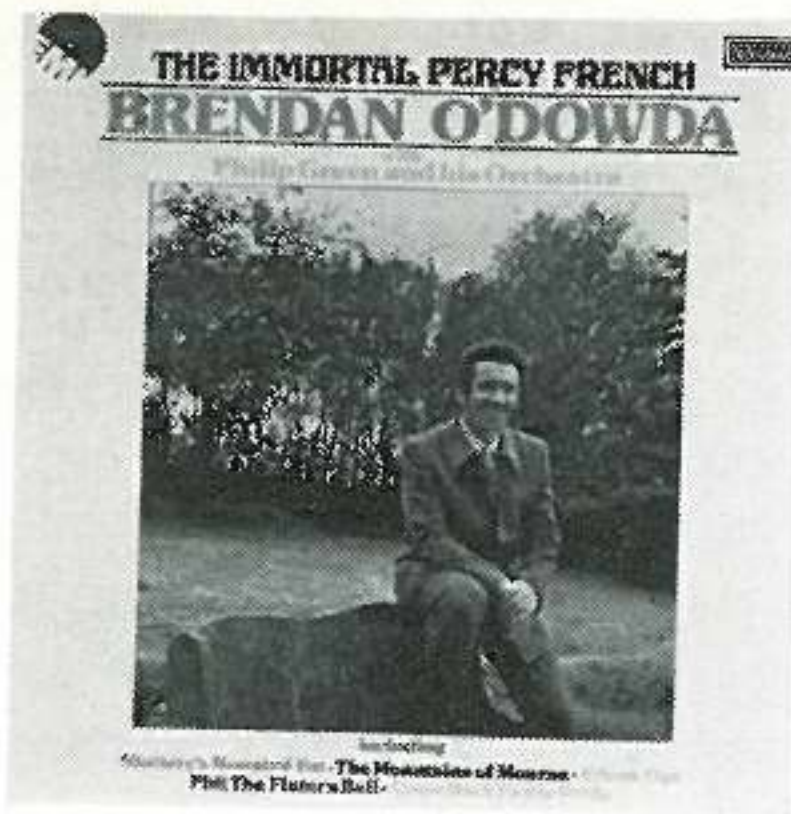
**80 Upper Drumcondra Rd.,  
Dublin 9.**

Don't forget to write. It was a great year. 'Bye.

*Jack Mahon*



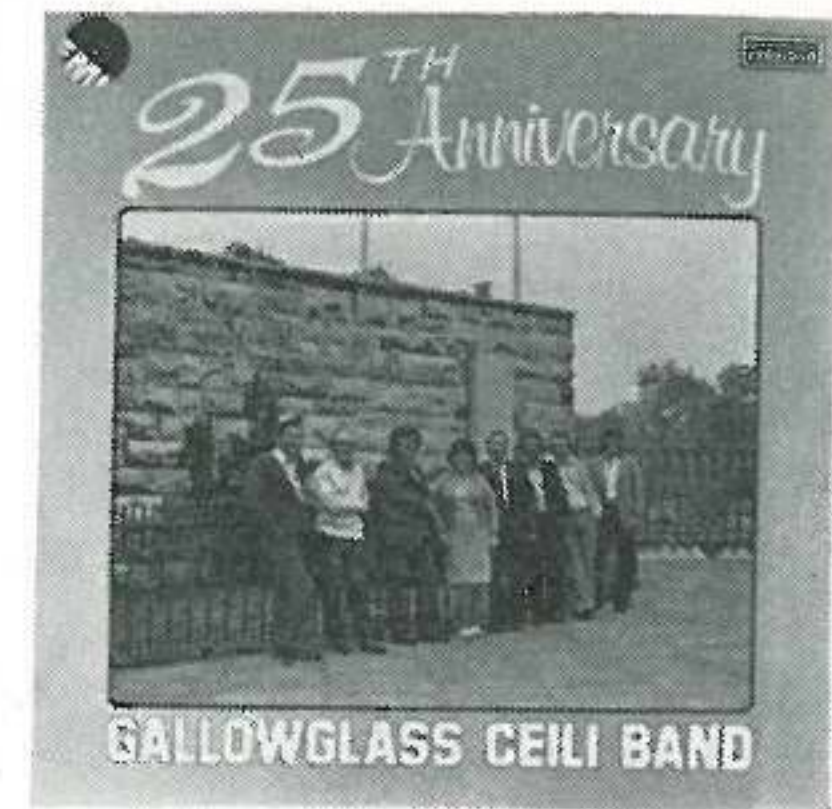
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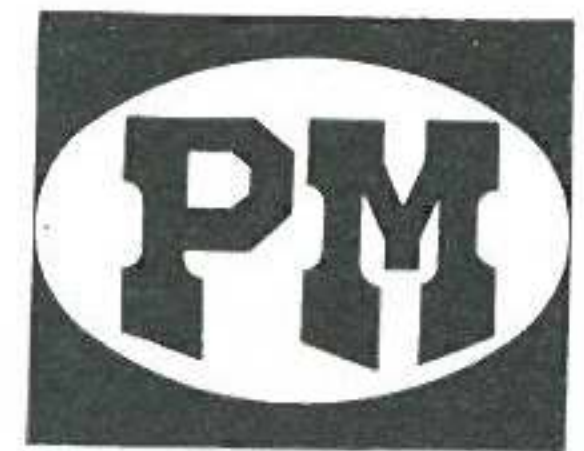
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**Jimmy  
Keaveney  
Dublin**

**Age:** 30  
**Height:** 6 ft.  
**Weight:**  
13 st. 8 lb.  
**Club:**  
St. Vincent's  
**Position:**  
Full Forward  
**Senior Inter-County Debut:**  
1964

**CAREER  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Jimmy stepped up to the senior inter-county grade in 1964, and the following year he won a Leinster senior medal. After two years out of the top grade, he returned against Louth in last year's championship, and since then has added two further Leinster medals, a coveted All-Ireland senior souvenir, and a Carrolls All-Stars award to his collection.

One of the game's greatest ever free-takers, he has played senior hurling as well with Dublin, and won county senior medals in both codes.



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