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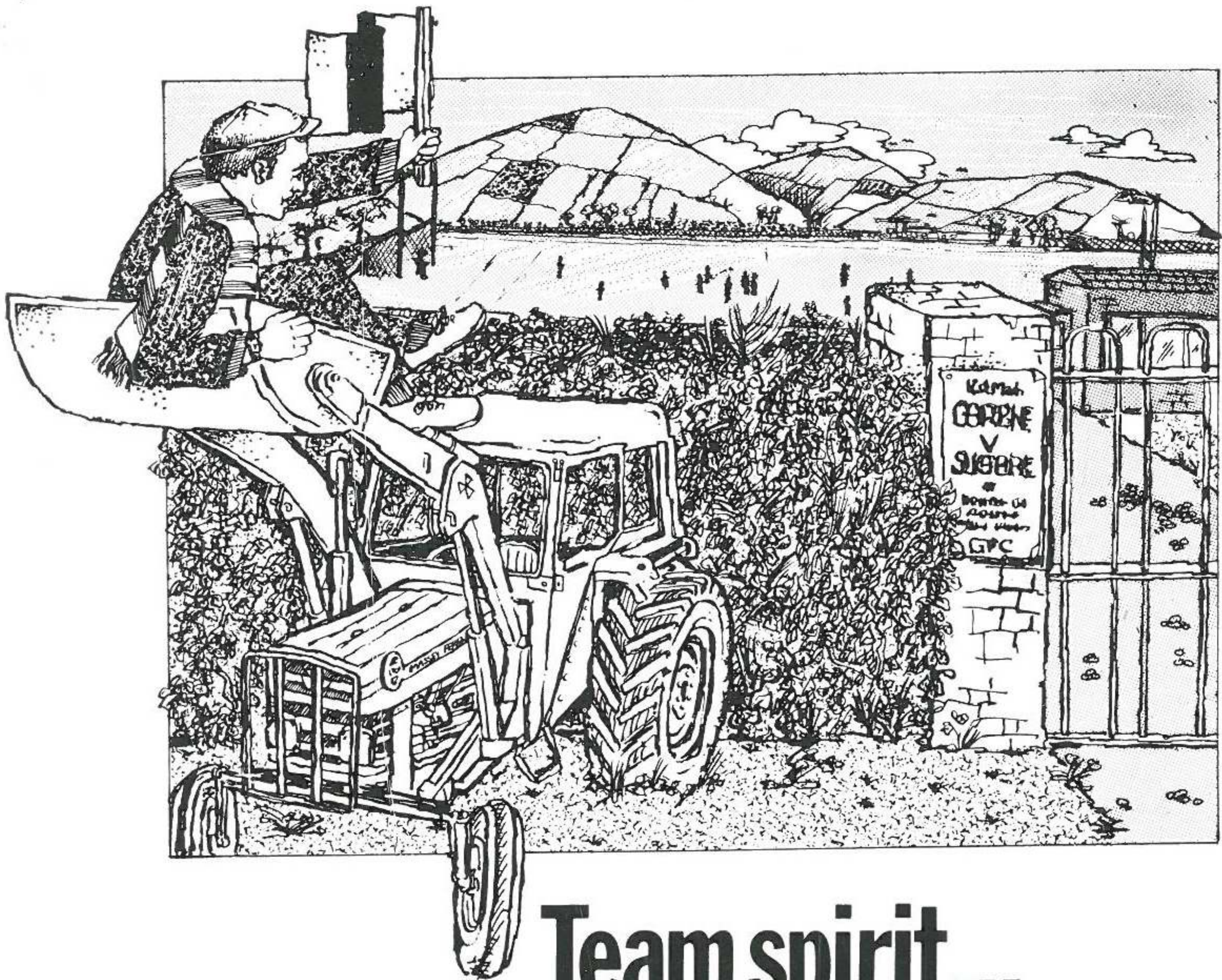
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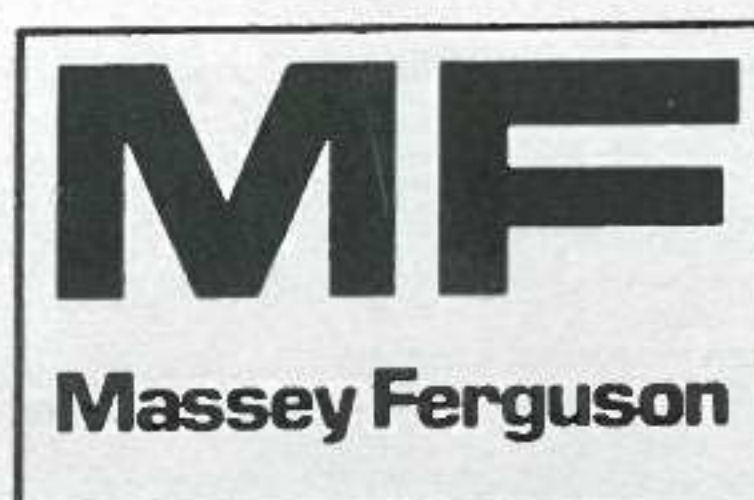




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28th September, 1975

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MINOR — 1.30 p.m.

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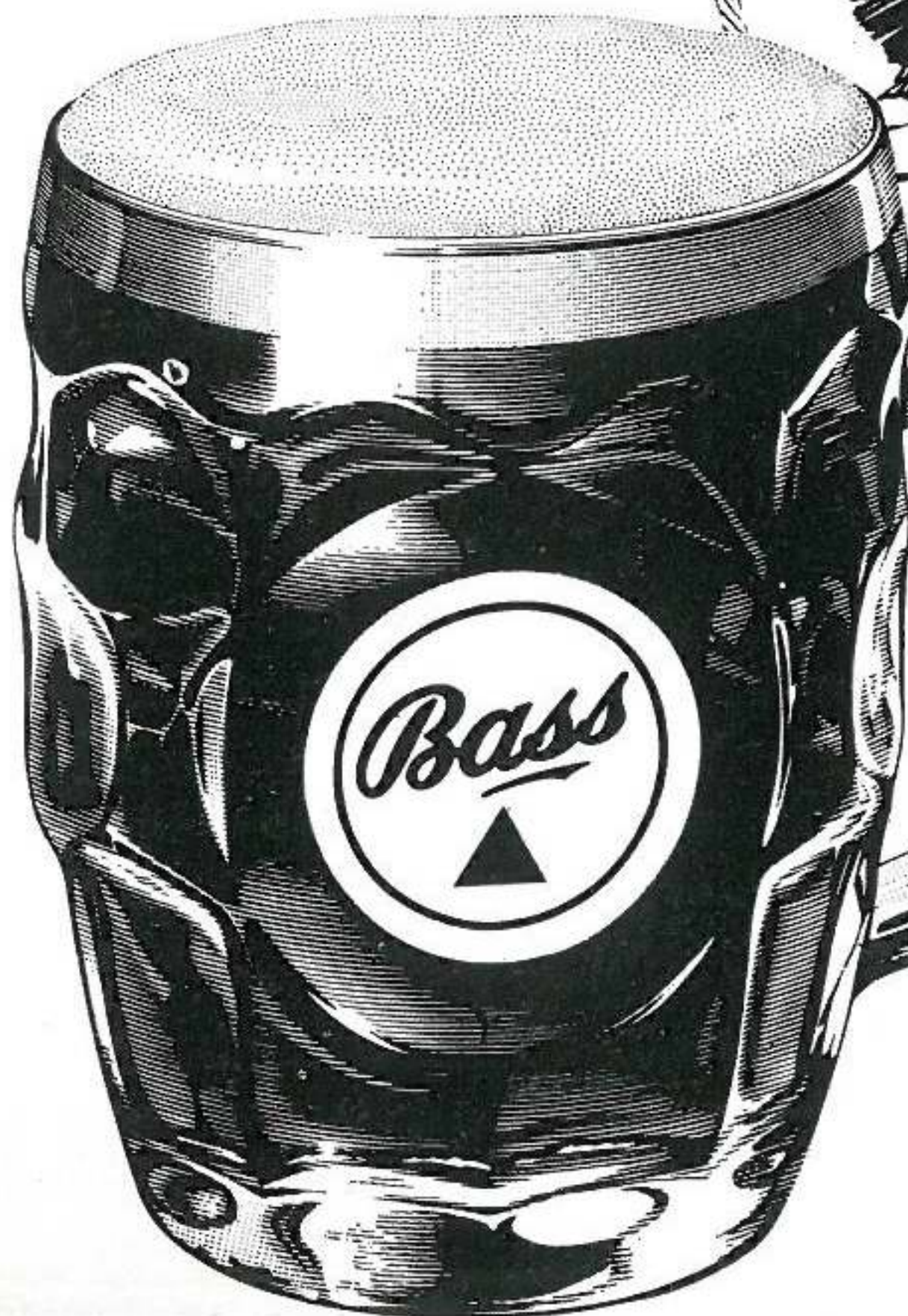
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Vol. 18. No. 10 October, 1975

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CONTENTS

	Page
"Say it's not a bad team at all" —by Eamonn Young	5
Top Ten	7
Absorbing duels in the Football Final — by John O'Shea ...	9
Vote goes to Dublin—by Jim Bennett	11
John from Sneem is Kerry's leading marksman—by Mick Dunne	15
Dublin aim for two in a row —by Mick Dunne	17
Ladies Please —by Kitty Murphy	19
John O'Keefe in true mould of Kerry full backs—by Seamus O'Braonain	23
No conflict in styles—by Mick Dunne	27
Midfield key for kingdom —by Sean Rice	30
Scoresheet—by Owen McCann	33
Unique clash in the Minor Final — by Neil McCavana	37
Moondharrig's Diary	40
On the spot—by Tony Keegan	43
Handball—by Alleyman ...	47
Background of rival teams —by Owen McCann	51
Meet the Captains by Jay Drennan	55
The Kerry midfield —by Eamonn Young	56
Junior Desk —edited by Jack Mahon	57
Colour Cut-out	61

EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE polished and confident Dublin footballers in defence of their All-Ireland senior title against championship specialists Kerry ... there could not be a more appealing attraction in Irish sport. This final presents the classic situation, with the bright present-day masters of the game in opposition against the heirs to a tradition that has helped Kerry to consistently find the right answers on All-Ireland final day.

Victory would set the seal of true greatness on the Dublin team. The side that regained the Sam Maguire Cup last September after an interval of eleven years is entitled to rank among the top sides of any era. That point is hammered home by Dublin's march to this latest decider—the first time that the county has qualified for successive finals since the early 'twenties.

Nevertheless, it is no reflection on the other counties to say that a win over Kerry in an All-Ireland final is the ultimate achievement; the hallmark on which to measure any team's right to rank among the all-time greats.

And, if all this was not enough, there is the added incentive for the champions of recording the county's first win over Kerry in senior championship football for over 40 years.

Kerry, too, face more than an All-Ireland final. Apart from the challenge of maintaining that great championship record against Dublin there is the opportunity for the young men of today—eleven of the side are under 24—to show that they are indeed walking proudly in the footsteps of the great Kingdom stars of the past.

Moreover, as Kerry's team is such a youthful one, victory over the Dubs could well herald another golden era for the Kingdom.

All these factors give an added edge to the Dublin-Kerry rivalry, and enhance the appeal of the final. The teams are well endowed with footballers of genuine skill and class, they possess flair, pace and teamwork, and both sides have displayed outstanding sportsmanship in the qualifying games.

To sum up then, this 1975 Football Final could well prove to be the most dramatic (and traumatic) in G.A.A. history.

The Dubs, on the one hand, with their scintillating forward play facing a Kerry side that will be all-out to prove that the Kingdom is still the home of football.

Dublin would appear to be favourites, with the betting men that is, to come out on top but shrewd Kerry men will tell you that Galway were favourites last year.

Ah, the glorious uncertainty of it all!

But then isn't that what makes All-Ireland Football Final Day the most exciting event in the Irish Sports Calendar.

COVER PHOTO

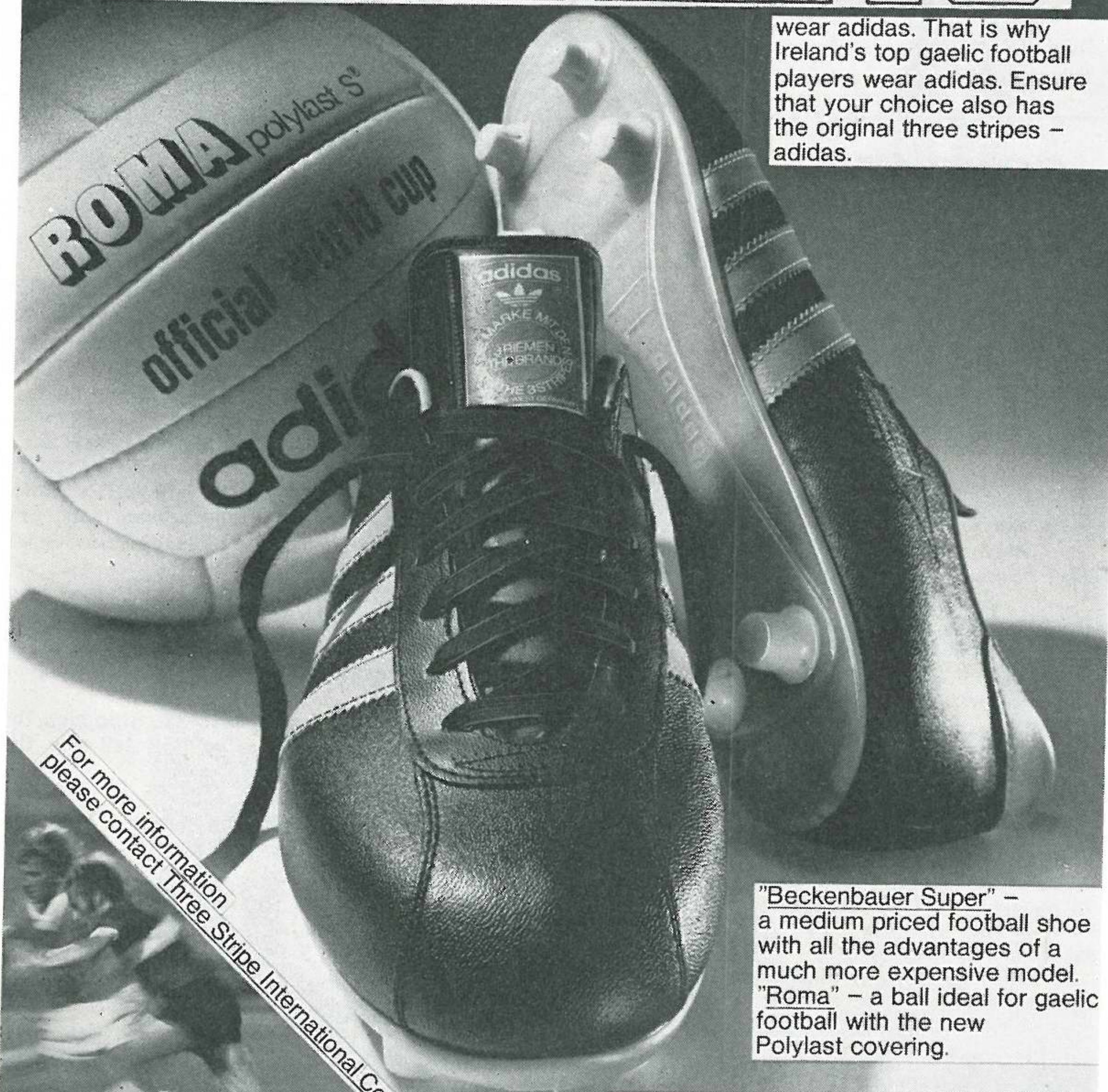
OUR front cover this month features the All-Ireland finalists, Kerry and Dublin.

KERRY—from left (back row): Paudie Lynch, Paud O'Mahony, John O'Keefe, Pat Spillane, Tim Kennelly, Pat McCarthy, Paudie O'Shea, and Brendan Lynch. Front row: Jim Deenihan, Michael Sheehy, Ger. Power, Michael O'Sullivan, Ger. O'Keefe, John Bunyan and John Egan.

DUBLIN—from left (back row): Anton O'Toole, Bernard Brogan, Jimmy Keaveney, Tony Hanahoe, Paddy Cullen, Pat Gogarty, Alan Larkin and Bobby Doyle. Front row: Brian Mullins, Robbie Kelleher, George Wilson, Paddy Reilly, Sean Doherty, David Hickey and Gay O'Driscoll.

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"Say it's not a bad team at all"

By EAMONN YOUNG

THE four Kerry selectors settled back as the train rattled southwards and for a while there was a silence. Not far away I sat, but did not join though I had been speaking to them a few minutes earlier as we drank tea at Heuston. But now those chaps had a spot of hard thinking and soft talking to do. An outsider's help wasn't needed. Ten minutes before we reached Mallow, after shining thought had been refined in the discipline of oral expression, I joined them just to wish good luck and heard the statements which must be trotted out to the public. "Dublin are very fit; they play well together" said one. "And they've the same team as last year. Why wouldn't they be good?" said another. "Of course they had a few goals scored on them . . ." mentioned the third quietly while the fourth man picked up the paper and read out the scores against them in the Leinster championship. The train ground to a halt and again wishing them the best of luck I asked Murt Kelly to say something. As he strode off in the darkness he tossed over his shoulder: "Say that it's not a bad team at all. They play well against Dublin and they'll be good when we want them." Clearly it was a bit soon on August 24 for Murt Kelly to be talking about September 28.

The first comment a man makes on this team is that nearly half of them are under twenty-one and the second is to point to the fact that about half are committed to physical education as instructors. Neither qualification is a handicap, though in a final Dublin's

age average of twenty-five must be a sounder recommendation.

Paud O'Mahony in the goal is the best man between the sticks in Kerry since John Culloty. A sound man with fearless move to the ball and safe hands. Jim Deenihan now teaching PE in Tarbert and engineer Ger O'Keeffe are safe, skilful men covering off big John O'Keeffe who goes to Loughborough after the final. The full-back weighs, reaches and kicks well. Tim Kennelly the farmer from Listowel has height, dash and, so far, good games behind him while Dublin civil servant Ger Power is having a great year, flying at wing half back. Paud O'Shea, a Garda in Templemore, has a tremendous leap and long kick and like Power is an attacking half—a capacity which sometimes leaves the forward unattended at the wrong moment.

If Kerry are good in the centre of the field then this side has a right chance for it's just a little hard to say if Dublin are good there. Paud Lynch as I expected was, due to injury and studies, poor in the Munster final (he didn't play at all in the Tipp game), much better against Sligo



Paud O'Mahony Michael Sheehy



Brendan Lynch

and I won't be surprised if he is in good form on the Big Day. If so then he won't be beaten; held, maybe, but still giving a fair performance. On the other hand he could be the best man on the field for much of the hour. Pat McCarthy the Kildare-based agricultural adviser is a very lively player with a fine fetch. If he starts well in Croke Park I think that Kerry will get a lot of the ball on the half way line and if Croke Park is a pitch of maximum size, which it used to be, then the four centre-fielders operate over no less than three-eighths of it. And a lot of ball falls in that area so the man who can grab it and deliver with some sense, even for half an hour is a very important performer.

Brendan Lynch, the quiet intense doctor in Cork, like brother Paud drives himself with a dynamism that must drain him over an hour, but I have never seen him flag, and another genuine worker is Mickey O'Sullivan at left wing. On the forty, this vital spot on any side, Mick Sheehy brings his own fluid sweeping style and accurate foot while yet another P.E. man, Pat Spillane, shows power and skill at left corner. John Bunyan, a fine hurler, has the strength to worry any fullback and in the right corner is the Kingdom's most dangerous man this year, John Egan, accurate, strong, aggressive and confident.

Also, ready for the fray if called on, we have Liam Higgins, a tall, swerving and experienced full forward; Ger Driscoll another under-21 player, strong, energetic

● OVERLEAF

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● FROM PREVIOUS PAGE
and very fit; Ogie Moran, as tasty a wing halfback as the country shows, can play well also in the centre of the field where his neat lengthy kicking shows power, packed into a tidy frame, and Donal Kavanagh, a doctor in Limerick, has power, size, experience and an All-Ireland footballer for a father. It all adds up!

These then are the men of Kerry and I'm glad they're back in Croke Park. Though I've enjoyed Dublin's skill and fire the Kingdom has over many years given me great value in this field of honour, atmosphere and glory.

On Final Day the streets of Tralee, Killarney, Dingle and Cathair Saidhbin will be silent as the misty crags of Mount Brandon or the calm that hovers like a brooding bird over the purple heather of the Black Valley. For the men, women and children who don't make the pilgrimage to Dublin will be glued to the living screen to drink in once again the green of Croke Park adorned by the gold of Kerry's football art.

Croak fancies the Kingdom

We regret that Andy Croak's column does not appear this month. A kinsman of our star commentator has died in Hong Kong and Mr. Croak has left the country to attend the funeral.

Before leaving, however, he warned the Editor to announce to the Irish public that he was staking, not only his reputation but also a large amount of his assets in cash and real estate, that Kerry will beat Dublin in the All-Ireland Football Final.

He also said that should he lose his bet by any mischance, he will return to face his creditors.

MAXIMUM POINTS FOR FAN LARKIN

A **SPLENDID** performance by **FAN LARKIN**, efficient hurling from **PAT LALOR**, the wonderful play and high work-rate of **LIAM O'BRIEN**, and **EDDIE KEHER'S** expert finishing are among the bright features that will ensure that the 1975 All-Ireland senior hurling final will provide a generous quota of memories to be recalled in the years to come.

Indeed, trying to put one individual display above all others in the successful Kilkenny team against Galway was a difficult task.

Certainly, **LIAM O'BRIEN'S** ceaseless work in midfield plus his excellent points scoring (he shot five) was a key factor in Kilkenny's victory and made the tireless midfielder, understandably enough, the man of the match in the eyes of many.

Yet, **PAT LALOR** got through an amount of highly effective work throughout the game, and one just cannot under-value **EDDIE KEHER'S** contribution of 2-7.

Strong competition, then, for the man who gets top billing here — **FAN LARKIN**. But such was the splendour of his hurling, so supremely confident was he on his game from first to final whistle, and so important an impact had his all-round play in shaping the outcome that the right full back not only heads the Top Ten parade, but in the process becomes the first hurler or footballer of 1975 to gain maximum points.

Galway, too, had their stars. **MICHAEL CONNEELY** franked

a first-rate goalkeeping performance with a memorable save from Mick Brennan in the first quarter, while **P. J. MOLLOY** was to the fore in the attack, and this pair took the honours for the Western county in this month's ratings.

But it was so overwhelmingly Kilkenny's day that the county must inevitably dominate the Top Ten chart, with eight places.

The football table, too, is dominated by one county — Dublin gain five places following their All-Ireland semi-final win over Derry. The only other major competitive game in the code during the period under review, August 24 to September 14, was the Monaghan-London National League Division III play-off.

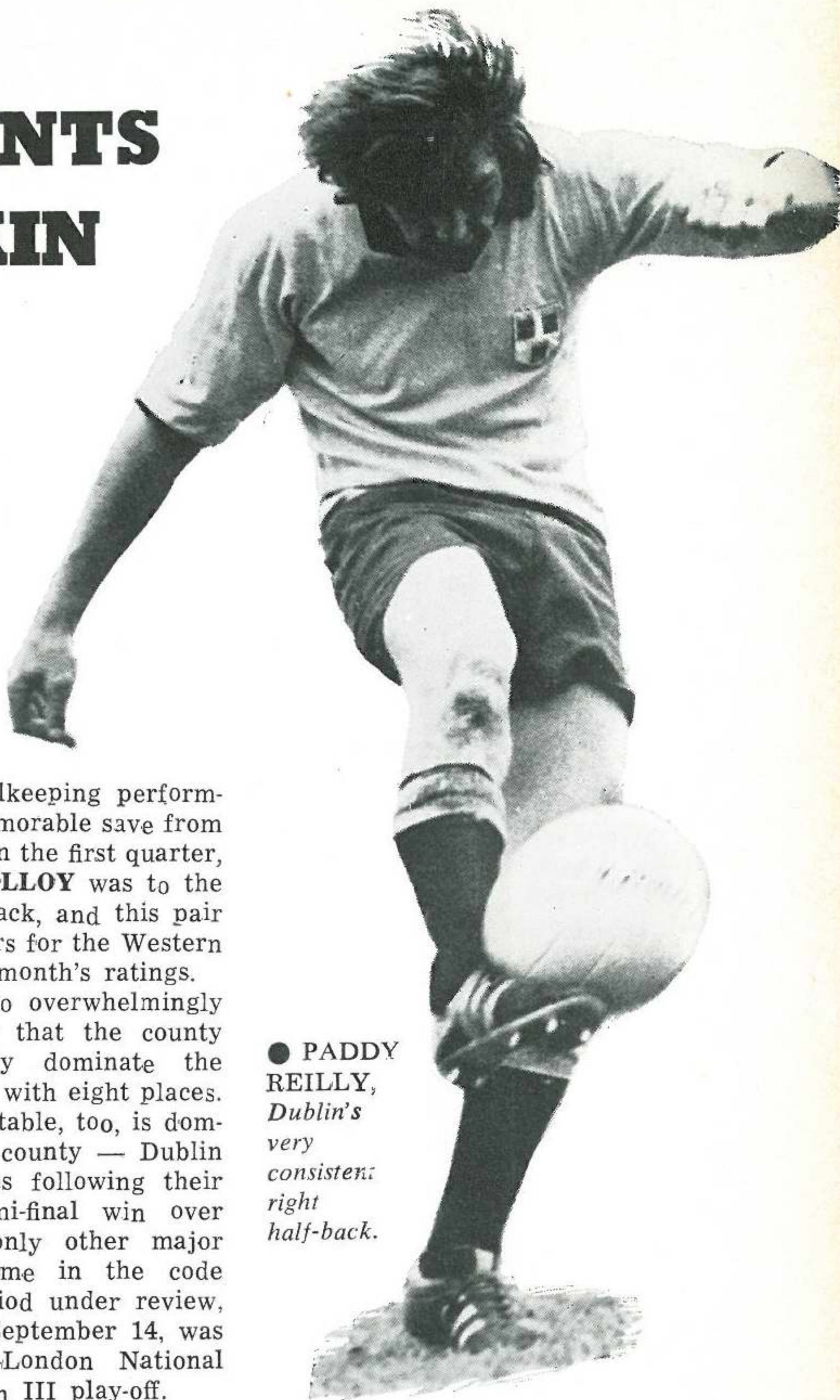
HURLING

10	F. Larkin (Kilkenny)	10
9	L. O'Brien (Kilkenny)	29
8	E. Keher (Kilkenny)	34
8	F. Cummins (Kilkenny)	15
8	P. Lalor (Kilkenny)	8
8	M. Crotty (Kilkenny)	8
7	B. Cody (Kilkenny)	16
6	P. Henderson (Kilkenny)	6
5	M. Conneely (Galway)	5
5	P. J. Molloy (Galway)	5

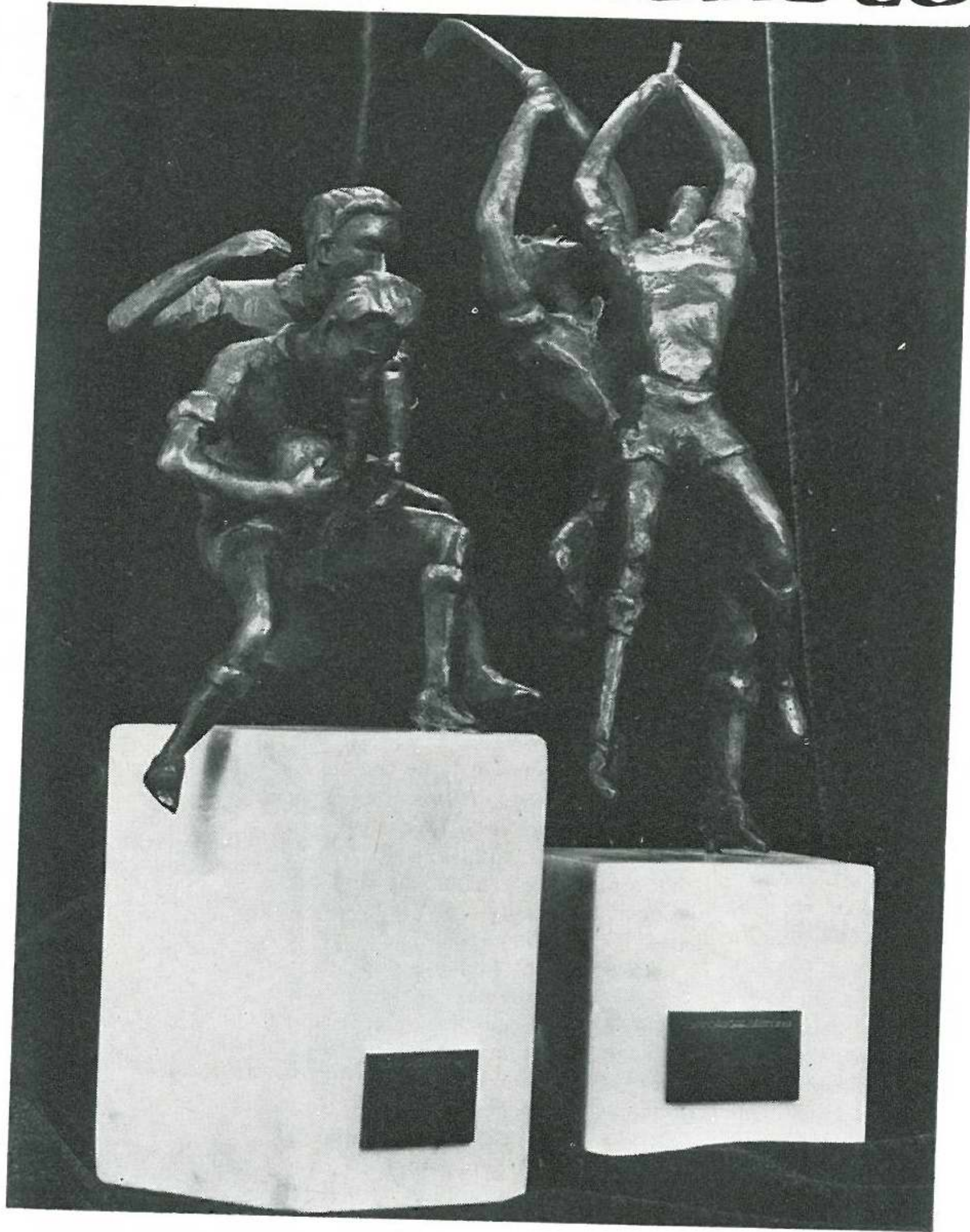
FOOTBALL

8	A. O'Toole (Dublin)	14
8	B. Mullins (Dublin)	8
7	J. Keaveney (Dublin)	22
7	D. Hickey (Dublin)	14
6	P. Reilly (Dublin)	14
6	T. Quinn (Derry)	6
5	M. Moran (Derry)	5
5	P. Stevenson (Derry)	5
5	S. Hughes (Monaghan)	5
5	K. McNeill (Monaghan)	5

● **PADDY REILLY**, Dublin's very consistent right half-back.



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By
JOHN O'SHEA

of the Evening Press



Gay O'Driscoll
(Dublin)



Pat Spillane
(Kerry)



Dave Hickey
(Dublin)



Paud O'Shea
(Kerry)

ABSORBING DUELS IN THE FOOTBALL FINAL

AN intriguing sidelight to the All-Ireland senior football final, is the fact, that the game throws up a number of absorbing man-for-man confrontations.

On any one of the following, I believe, will influence the outcome of what must surely be the cliff hanger to end all cliff hangers.

● **JOHN O'KEEFFE v JIMMY KEAVENEY:** A tussle between two skilful football artists, whose prime interest is clean football. John will have the edge in the air, but Jimmy's subtle touches could prove troublesome for the Kerryman.

● **GER O'KEEFFE v ANTON**

O'TOOLE: A comparative newcomer to this level of football, Ger is a tigerish marker who will shadow his man effectively. But has he the pace to stay with the roving Anton. And what of the Dublin lad's aerial superiority?

● **PAUD O'SHEA v DAVE HICKEY:** What a contrast? Pitted here are two of the toughest and fittest men in Gaelic football. Paud is a bone crushing tackler, sound in the air and fast to the ball. Hickey, with the boundless energy and brilliant fielding is a handful for any defender.

● **PAT McCARTHY and PAUD LYNCH v BRIAN MULLINS and BERNARD BROGAN:** Pat, at

times looks like another Mick O'Connell as he climbs high above opponents, but tends to 'disappear' for long periods. Paud has the style of a great midfielder, though he too can be put off his stride.

Bernard is like Paud, inconsistent, while Brian seems to cover every blade of grass in every game he plays. His fielding ability too will be of crucial importance in this duel.

Neither of the Kerry midfielders rove as much as Mullins. To gain the upper hand in this area, they will need to match Mullins for energy.

● **MICKEY SULLIVAN v GEORGE WILSON:** Mickey is without question Kerry's most aggressive attacker. A man, who believes in taking the shortest path to the posts, he is exceptionally hard to dispossess. If he gains possession, one suspects Georgie may be forced to frustrate him.

But then Georgie is no mean fielder and their tussle for possession will be nothing less than spectacular.

● **OVERLEAF**



Bobby Doyle
(Dublin)



Ger Power
(Kerry)



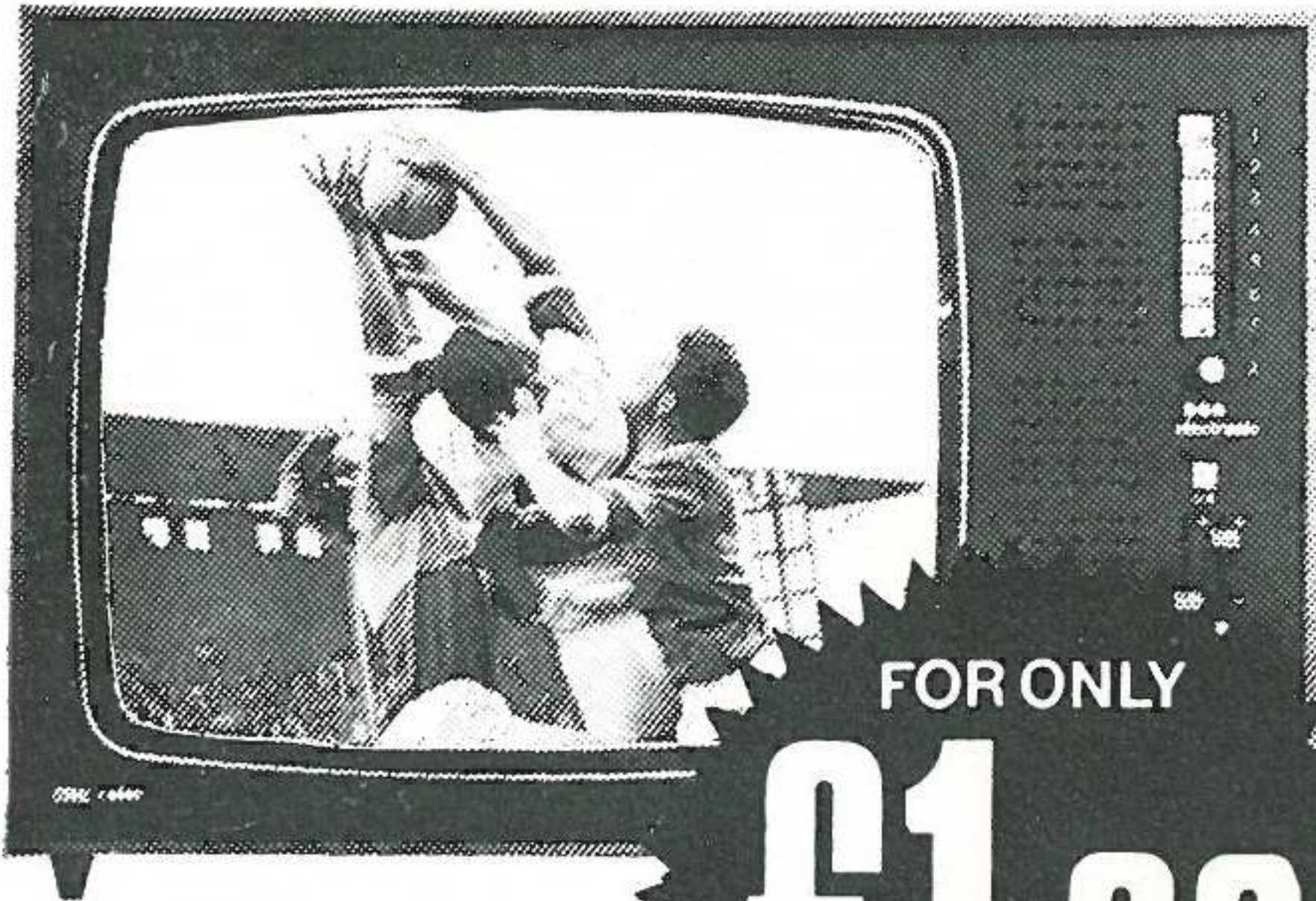
Jimmy Keaveney
(Dublin)



John O'Keeffe
(Kerry)

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● FROM PAGE 9

● **PAT SPILLANE v GAY O'DRISCOLL:** Pat is the type of player a defender can easily underestimate. He is quiet for lengthy spells, but when he springs to life, he can be lethal. Also he is a competent fetcher. Gay is the solid dependable type who is seldom turned inside out by attackers. Not as robust as all, he does his work without much fuss and is faster off the mark than he looks.

● **GER POWER v BOBBY DOYLE:** Ger is an attack-conscious wing half, and it behoves Bobby to mark the Kerryman every bit as closely as Ger will be marking him. Ger has plenty of experience of forward play



Ger O'Keeffe
(Kerry)



Anton O'Toole
(Dublin)

and he enjoys nothing better than the occasional sortie into the attack.

Bobby may be given little opportunity to indulge in solo runs, as Ger is quick and decisive in the tackle.

So there you have it. Maybe I have omitted a duel which you, my reader friend, would have liked included. I'm sure though you will agree that these personal contests will provide ample ammo to whet the football appetite as we look ahead to the decider.

For what it's worth, I think Kerry will edge it, on the grounds that they will have the advantage — however slight — in the aforementioned clashes.



Pat Gogarty
(Dublin)



John Bunyan
(Kerry)



Paddy Cullen
(Dublin)

VOTE GOES TO DUBLIN

By JIM BENNETT

AS always the last challenge to the authenticity of football champions comes to Dublin. "If you haven't beaten Kerry, you haven't really proved yourselves." Of course, it is not necessarily true at any time, and may well be untrue at all times, yet it is something which always sticks in the minds of new champions making them uneasy and not quite satisfied until they have numbered Kerry among their championship victims.

It used to be true to some extent about Tipperary in hurling, because one remembers the often repeated sentiment of Wexford players in the '50s when they felt they really couldn't count themselves as fully established champions after 1955 or even 1956, and explains why 1960 gave them such satisfaction, and why even the League final of 1955-56 was to them a proof of their champion make-up.

Yet, it is never quite the same in hurling because Munster is not a monopoly—anything but. It can be Cork or Tipperary, and if Limerick, Clare or Waterford it is only because they have well earned it. Beat the Munster champions in hurling and you do not have to apologise to anyone. In Leinster, too, it may or may not be Kilkenny, but if not it is only because Wexford (in the last 25 years) or some other is better.

But, there is something about Kerry, mainly because this is the 54th time they have captured the Munster title, and, so, for all practical purposes, most other counties who have won the All-Ireland have had to contend with them at some time or another. It bothered Offaly, you will remember, that they had not overcome Kerry in their first-ever win of 1971 and they were hell-bent on beating them in 1972 (and praying they would meet them).

Similarly, it has been in the back of the Dubliners' minds since they won their 1974 championship and proved themselves the best in the country

—but it would have been sweeter to have beaten Kerry in the process.

So, like Offaly, they have the ideal position to show themselves to be the tops as they face the Kingdom in this year's final. Like Offaly they are not at the disadvantage of having to win their first title having done that last year—and, of course, the challenge of Kerry gives that splendid extra incentive to give their mighty best in this second final. No chance of complacency—if that is possible in an All-Ireland final.

Besides which, there are old scores to settle here. Kevin Heffernan, the managing genius behind the Dublin side, will have a particular personal incentive, for he will recall ruefully that the Dublin team of all talents of '55 was brought to a grey awakening by a Kerry team about which doubts had been sometimes expressed. Besides that particularly bad memory there are other ones which suggest that Kerry seem to bring something special out against Dublin. If there is anything in that it may be significant; certainly it will probably be needed by Kerry to equalise the great momentum, sense of purpose and combined skill which Dublin have shown.

It is strange to remember that it is no more than a few months ago that the poor mouth was most evident in Kerry. They kept on expressing doubts about the whole of present and future generations in the aftermath of two successive Munster final defeats by Cork. The exercise was salutary obviously, for the first stirrings became clear after a good victory over Cork in the League at the Mardyke.

Other signs began to show themselves with the solid success of the U-21 side against Cork in the semi-final of this summer's championship in Cork. The very real effect of Mick O'Dwyer's enthusiasm and know-how was another factor. In spite of a

● TO PAGE 13

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● FROM PAGE 11

continuing policy of poor-mouth (for tactical reasons I'm sure) they left nothing to chance against Cork in the Munster final. Yet, it would be foolish to think that they were unbeatable on that occasion for, despite their clear margin, it could not be ignored that Cork made a pretty poor showing.

The semi-final against Silgo—a new and rather unsettled visitor to Croke Park—was again good in spots, yet not so good as to convince most experts who have commented on it.

As against that, Dublin are the champions and throughout the Leinster series and again, to a great extent, against Derry they showed a great deal of the power and inventiveness which they have developed over the year and three or four months since they began to work together.

Ah, but what did they meet? Wexford—a county which has been far from the best standards for years and must now be ranked in the group of third-class powers. Louth who belied all their League and other form in defeat of Meath, but never had the measure of Dublin until they hit them with a burst near the end—second-class, perhaps. And Kildare, promising the earth as ever, but falling flat as a pancake on the big day of delivery—second-class, also.

Derry, however, were a credible challenge, were they not? In fact, they were, though it must be remembered that football has been below par in Ulster for some years and champions like Donegal and Tyrone have failed to impress. But, Derry have had some experience of the big-time and they applied it in preparation. They annoyed Dublin, but did not really bother them. Yet, they were the luckiest winners over Monaghan earlier, and not entirely safe until near the end against Down. And is the present Down side a first-class football power?

In this manner you can find reasons to cast a little uneasy doubt about both finalists. Equally you could ignore the "maybes" and say that they are both equally fine sides. To think doubtingly of one and not of the other would be unreasonable. Therefore, they should be both evenly matched with a greater or lesser degree of excellence—the ingredients for a good match.

Kerry's problems are to make sure of a pull at midfield—not an easy task against the confident Mullins and the rugged Brogan; to manage to keep guard over the wandering Dublin attackers, to avoid being strung out or pulled out of position by their powerful running and backing-up and imaginative build-up; and to ensure their own forwards hit the target from a distance as well as moving in behind the Dublin defence in swift attacks.

For Dublin, the same problem arises at mid-

field—they need a reasonable break, though probably not as much as Kerry need; they need to hold the centre of their defence, and they need to keep with the snappy Kerry moves in attack, not being outnumbered near goal; and, of course, they need to keep their own attacking machine ticking over as efficiently as before even against stronger pressure which they must expect from Kerry.

It very much depends on what plan Kerry adopt in defence against Dublin, for all other areas would not compensate for a defence that tried to play it by ear in curbing Dublin breakaways. Fouling will be fatal, so they must not be compromised in shooting positions. That seems to be the big problem of the final. Weaknesses in the Dublin defence against Derry were not the kind that might not be staunched, and Kerry may not have the power



George Wilson
(Dublin)



Jim Deenihan
(Kerry)

through the middle to exploit a weakness in the centre-half position.

Lynch at midfield is a player of such talent he will be curbed only partially anyway. The question is whether McCarthy's power and drive can be maximised on this day.

Kerry are young—many under-21s among them—but young Kerry footballers are not quite the same as youths from other places.

They might rise to the challenge. Yet, their problems seem greater, and the challenge being presented them seems something they will not have wrestled with before. Besides, Dublin have the incentive, the experience of the last two seasons, the confidence and the familiar Croke Park atmosphere. It might, in the end, in a game of positive football decided on the highest score rather than the better prevention of scores, boil down to the goalkeeping. Cullen appears to have lost a lot of his sharpness and, perhaps, his confidence; O'Mahoney seems to go from strength to strength. Yet, it looks as though Kerry still have it all to do, while Dublin have merely to keep their form. And the vote would be best given to Dublin, while fully aware of the fact that it is just the kind of situation Kerry love.



A family picnic near the ESB hydro-electric station at Leixlip.

A Question of Caring

Where the ESB has built generating stations on such rivers as the Shannon, Liffey and Lee, new amenities have been created. New lakes have been formed which, as well as being beautiful provide facilities for sailing, rowing and fishing and, of course, are pleasant places for walking and picnicking.

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John from Sneem is Kerry's leading marksman

AS Kerry progressed through the summer on the way to the All-Ireland final John Egan, their leading scorer, might well have been relieved that Galway had suffered an early exit from the championship.

In his still-young career in the green and gold colours this 23-year-old Garda from Sneem has had no luck at all in his encounters with Galway teams. His first experience was in 1970 when he was full-forward on the Kerry minor side that drew with Galway in the final. For the replay he was centre half-forward but the westerners won that match.

Two years later he came up against some of the same Galway players in the under-21 grade. John was left corner forward when Kerry beat Kildare in the semi-final, but he was omitted from the team for the final. However, he was drafted in during

the game against Galway from the subs bench, but once again he was out of luck against the wearers of the maroon and white.

In 1973 he did collect an under-21 medal when, as full-forward, he scored 1-3 of Kerry's total against Mayo in the final. On that side he had eight of the players who are team-mates again this time in the senior final.

But even before Kerry won that under-21 title Egan had been called into the senior side and it's fair to say that he is about the only Kerry player who may not look upon the '73 Munster final in the Athletic Grounds as a totally black day. That was the afternoon that Cork hit Kerry with five first-half goals and led 5-4 to 0-6 at the interval.

Kerry put on a goal and nine points in a second half fight-back that, of course, didn't overhaul Cork, but did put a more respect-

able look on the result. Egan played a notable part in that rally for it was his move from right corner forward out to the '40' which got Kerry moving with more menace in the second half.

Earlier in the year he had helped Kerry, again as right corner forward—his best position—defeat Offaly in the League final, but the League match that he will be most associated with was last year's decider against Roscommon in Croke Park.

Remember that game? Roscommon seemed to be well on the way to victory as they held a three-point lead with only seconds to go. But for one instant, just seconds before the end, they took their eyes off John Egan and as the ball curved into the goalmouth from Mickey Sullivan's centre John punched it down into the net for a draw.

The terrible irony for Roscommon was that the man, who killed their hopes with that goal, didn't get a score in the replay when Kerry won 0-14 to 0-8.

Egan, however, has been scoring liberally since then and the more experience he gains the greater is the threat he presents to opposing defences. He was in devastating form against Tipperary and he played havoc with the Cork defence in the Munster final.

He has a rare sense of judgement and his keen anticipation finds him popping up in just the right spot — as evidenced by that goal against Roscommon. He is chunky and strong and very difficult to dispossess so he can carry the ball effectively when the occasion demands. He has matured so well as an attacker that his duel with that splendid corner back Robbie Kelleher promises to be one of the highlights of the final.

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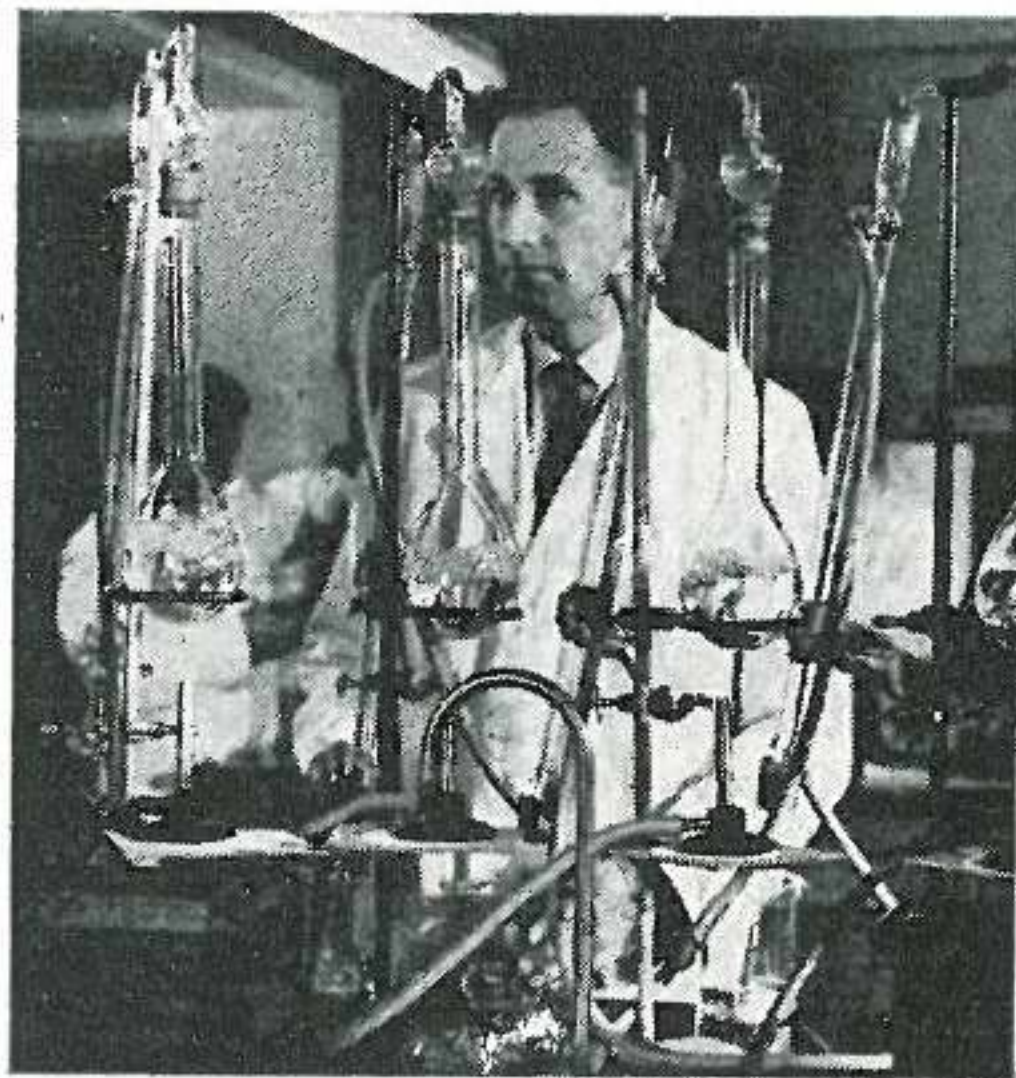
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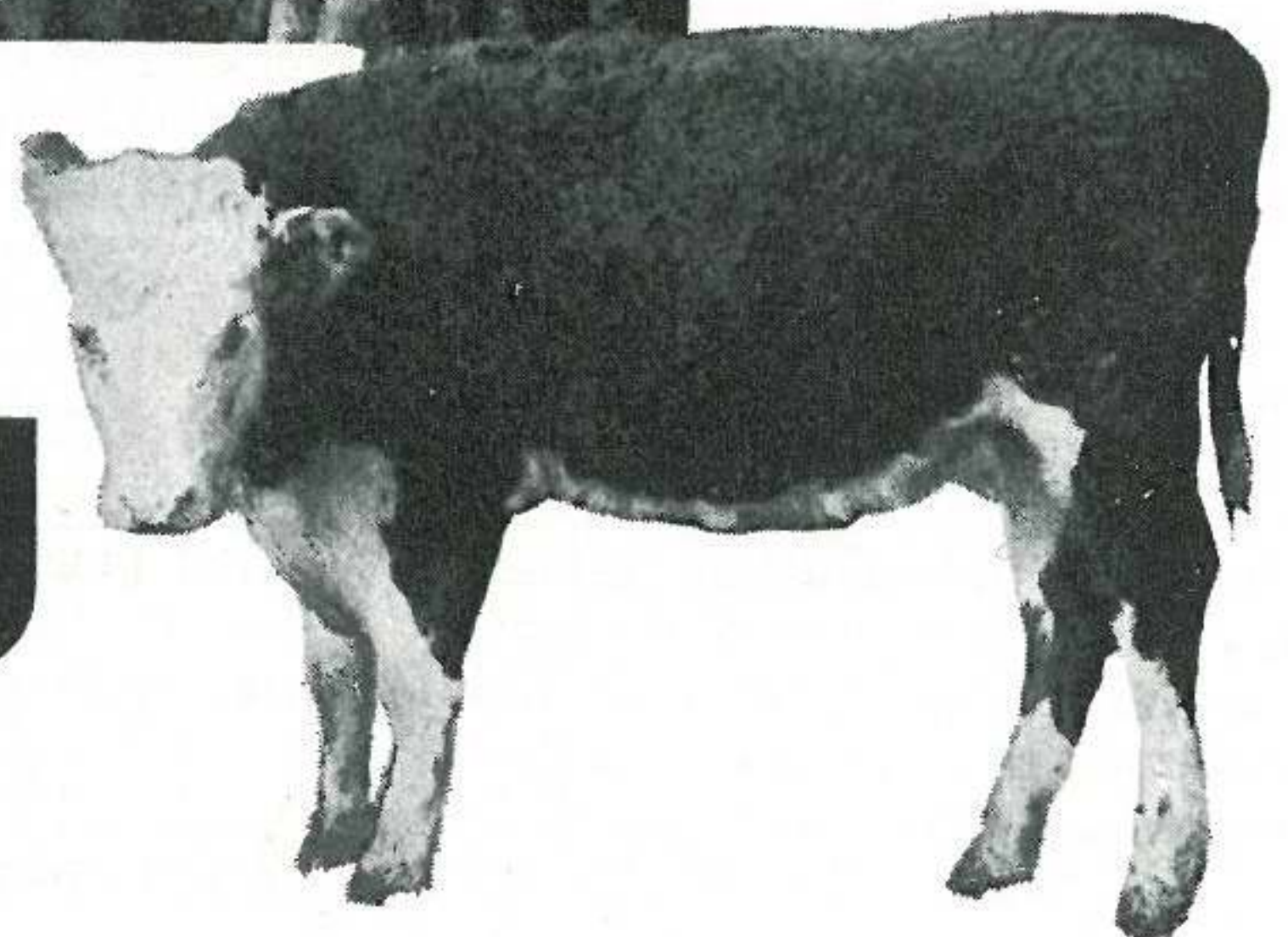
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DUBLIN AIM FOR TWO IN A ROW

By MICK DUNNE (of RTE Sport)

IF Kerry or a draw don't get in the way Dublin are only 70 minutes away from retaining the All-Ireland championship. And that's something only those around 70 years of age can remember because Dublin hasn't won two consecutive football championships in more than half a century.

The last time it happened was in 1923. Victory then for Dublin over Kerry—on September 28 if you don't mind—completed a third three-in-a-row for Dublin. The previous ones were 1897-'99 and 1906-08. Since then the county hasn't won many titles but on three occasions its teams failed to retain the championship—in 1943, 1959 and 1964. And in none of those years did the sides succeed in even getting to the All-Ireland final, so this month they are better placed.

As soon as Dublin carried off the title a year ago supporters, in the extravagance of their jubilation, started talking about the three-in-a-row as if the second one didn't mean much more than a formality. But in more level-headed days they soon realised that only Galway in 1964-'66 has won three successive titles in modern times. In fact, the three-in-a-row has been so elusive over the past 30 years that Roscommon (1945), Cavan ('49), Down ('62), Kerry ('71) and Offaly ('73) failed to add the third championship on the trot.

It should be added, of course, that Kerry in other decades did it more than once and, indeed, share the four-in-a-row record with Wexford.

For the time being, at least, Dublin must concentrate on the two-in-a-row. Only when that is won—if it is won—can they start thinking about the third title. And, of course, the question is: can they retain the championship?

There could hardly be as sharp a contrast as in the situation compared with their position going into last year's final. Then they were only lately out of Division 2 of the National League and, despite their supporters' optimism, they were not firm favourites to win the final. But as they had done all along the line, they swept Galway's opposition aside.

This year they have been firmly established back among the elite and were National League finalists. And in these days prior to the final they are—depending on a person's views or loyalties—roaring certainties, hot favourites or just fancied to keep the title.

The roaring certainties you can discount, because they aren't any going into an All-Ireland final. Hot favourites they won't be—at least with the bookies. They are fancied to win again—of course, not in Kerry—but whether they do or not depends on how good



● Anton O'Toole
(Dublin)



● Alan Larkin
(Dublin)



● Sean Doherty
(Dublin)

they are compared with 12 months ago.

Dublin thundered to victory after victory last year on the crest of a wave of enormous enthusiasm—their own, Kevin Hefernan's and their supporters'. Now that enthusiasm is replaced by determination, which is probably a more valuable asset. In addition, they have deep maturity, which is a priceless quality that can take them out of more awkward situations than they care to get into—as when Derry hit them with two first-half goals in the semi-final. The inexperienced may panic in times like that, Dublin with their experience merely played it cool until the opportunities came for retaliation to hit back with telling scores.

Twelve months ago Dublin were mobile and resourceful. Now I believe there is a greater depth of mobility in the side. Last year it was mostly a case of David Hickey moving back up the left wing and Anton O'Toole coming out from the left corner to lend a hand at midfield. This summer it has been a lot more. There's a much greater measure of adventure in their movements; five of the forwards are running constantly into positions on the field that bear no relation to their programme places and Jimmy Keaveney

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● FROM PAGE 17

is coming out further from the square than he did in '74. Furthermore Paddy Reilly and Georgie Wilson are penetrating deeper up-field this year and there's more overlapping.

With all this emphasis on movement they are hunting hungrily for the ball, no question of standing waiting for it to come to them.

However, some other changes have been noticeable, too. Mostly in the play of the defence. Alan Larkin, who improved so steadily by the end of last year's championship that he became an outstanding centre half-back, hasn't quite had the same sparkle in recent months, Sean Doherty is anything but the cool, commanding full-back he was in last year's semi-final and final and goalkeeper Paddy Cullen has been beaten for ten goals in four championship matches this year against only four in seven games in '74. And they are the middle line of Dublin's defence.

Is the explanation that they are affecting each other with nervousness or is it a question of having to face better forwards than last year?

On the other hand, Dublin's forwards have totted up very handsome tallies, which get them to the final despite the concession of 10-33 by the defence in four games compared with 4-61 in seven matches last year. The team has scored 13-57 for a match average of 3-15 against an average of 1-13 per match last summer. And a lot of those scores have come from good running off the ball, clever carrying of the ball and lots of defence-splitting movements.

On top of their experience they have the utmost self-reliance. Last year they were the enthusiasts seeking the title; this time they are the champions full of confidence and grit.

L★A★D★I★E★S P★L★E★A★S★E



Edited by KITTY MURPHY

ALL-IRELAND DAY! Magical words indeed to all Irishmen and women. It has a distinction and excitement all of its own. The tension has been building up for weeks and now the Big day has finally come round.

Walk down O'Connell St., on the eve of the Big Match. The "Wear Your Hats, Dolls And Colours" merchants have taken over. It's all right if your buying but should you choose to proffer advice on how to get rich fast then you could get what you didn't bargain for. Of course everyone knows you're only a half baked supporter if you don't frantically wave a flag, wear a big coloured hat and dangle a fluffy doll from your lapel. And they sell those same items of "fan fare" in double quick time. Seven or eight fellows get in on the act. Half of them choose to sport the Dublin Blues while the rest back the traditional Green and Gold. Does it really matter that the lot of them come from Sligo.

Have you ever tried meeting someone off the train on the Saturday of the All-Ireland. I have. Yes all the arrangements had been carefully made and there's no need to worry, I will be at the big gate at the left hand side. And yes, I'll be there before the train arrives — just in case . . . I duly arrive, take my stand and refuse to be distracted. My eyes are

glued to the platform as the train pulls in. I can't be missed, large as life, up at the top — on the left, no bother. There are millions on the train but sure I'm only looking for my brother. Funny there's no sign of him, the crowd is beginning to scatter so it's only a matter of a few more minutes anyway. Funny though, still no sign and suddenly everybody "belongs" to somebody and here am I still looking. Ah well he must have missed the train. I know I've done what I had arranged so there's no point in hanging around a deserted station any longer. Home I go, still wondering what went wrong. Two hours later a taxi slowly motors round the block. Someone is stretching his neck trying to make out whether that's a 3 or a 5 over my door and who's sitting pretty, laughing all the way, but my big brother.

The flat becomes a mini hotel for the weekend. A baseless bed occupies every square foot of floor space. Incidentally you haven't lived till you've slept on the base, but sure nobody minds a little discomfort on a week-end like this. The local does a roarin' trade, particularly in the carry out line, all leading the way to the impromptu party that breaks with the day.

Following a couple of hours sleep and a bleak breakfast we join the throngs already on the move. Fortunately everyone is

going in the one direction. As we North-siders take the traditional route by the banks of the Canal we are serenaded by the many incapacitated musicians whose coffers are swelled by the magnanimity of the merry throng.

We join one of the mile-long queues for the Canal End. At last we're in the arena—

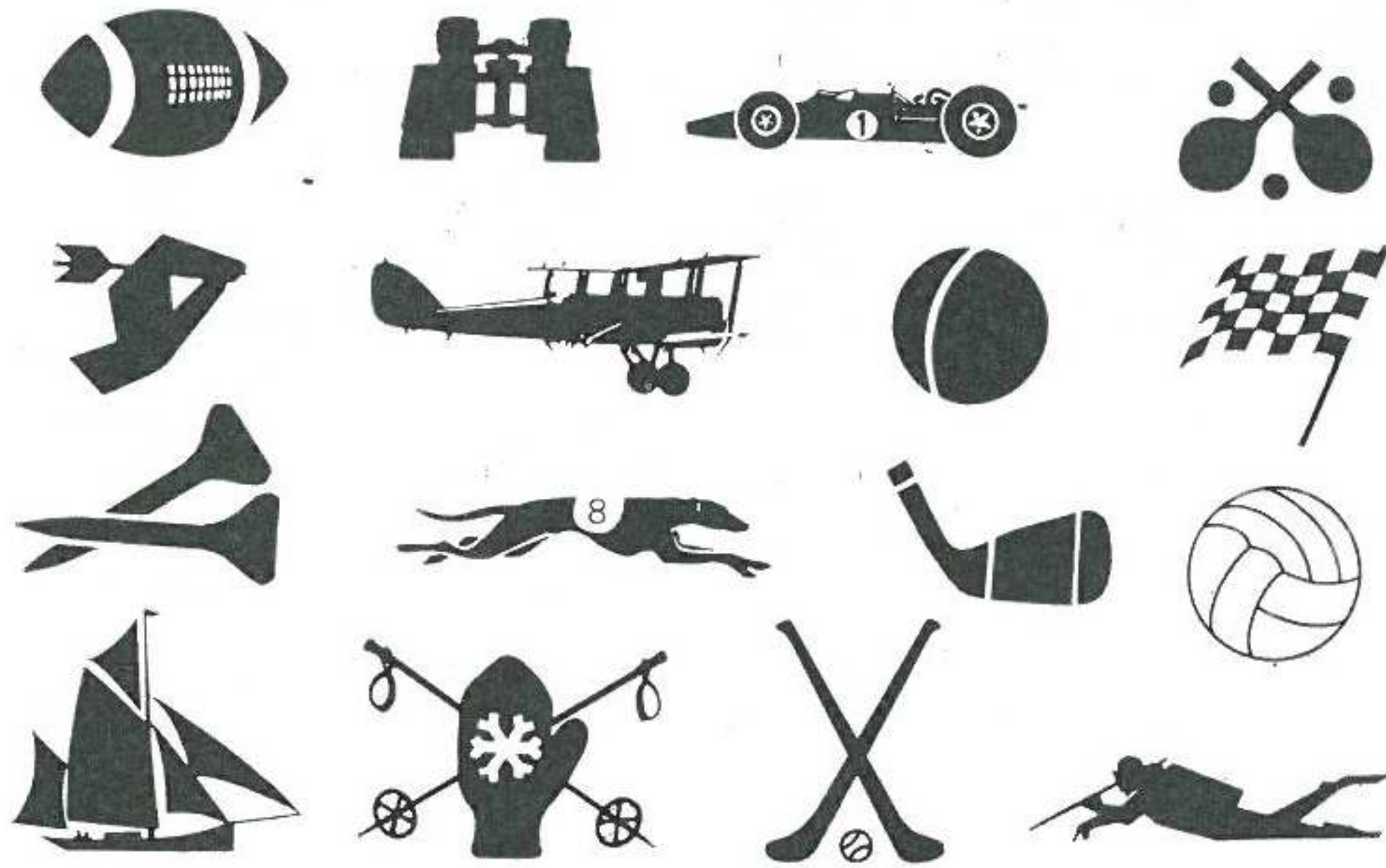
*Where none has reigned that
lacked a name and fame
Or out of folly into folly came.*

We buy our programme, official of course, and a can of coke. We look for a vantage point behind a barrier but sure you'd have to come the night before to be that lucky. We gaze longingly across at the bloated plutocrats who come in dribs and drabs to take their plush seats in the Hogan Stand.

The minors take the field in style. They give of their youthful best and usually throw caution to the wind as they chase everything. They whet the appetite for greater things to come. The sudden sprouting of banners, the Artane Boys Band, the pomp and circumstance of the arrival of the President all serve to build up a supercharged atmosphere which culminates in our facing the Tricolour for an emotional rendering of Amhrán na bhFiann.

As Micheál Ó hEithir would say — the ball is thrown in and the

● TO PAGE 21



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LADIES PLEASE

● FROM PAGE 19

game is on. The thirty modern-day Gladiators must now draw on the cumulative experience of a tough championship campaign, the blood, sweat and tears of the arduous training sessions and the prayers and exhortations of their followers to gain the coveted Sam Maguire Cup.

The game usually starts in a welter of excitement. Very soon the players get the better of their frayed nerves but not so the spectator. Spare a morsel of pity for the poor spectator. Now first of all he has to pay to get in and now he's faced with a hostile 16 — the other team and the referee. That's nothing to the many irritations he has to endure with monumental patience for the 70 minutes duration of the game. How does the ice cream man always manage to squeeze past when Jimmy Keaveney is about to score a vital point? You know your ordinary commoner gardener spectator has'nt the advantage of action replay.

But not to worry it's half time and a chance for a breather—or so we hoped. Here come the Artane Boys again to entertain us in their own inimitable style. Of course you all know the story of the Croke Park regular who announced to his neighbour that in all his twenty years of watching finals the Artane Boys never grew an inch. But seriously are they not superb little musicians? They're all My Johnnys—not one of them is a millimetre out of step.

So much for the breather though — something is happening to our left. It turns out to be a minor fracas as two "ould lads" who should know better decide to

BOUQUET FOR KITTY

Dear Editor,

I write to congratulate Kitty Murphy on her splendidly written and entertaining column entitled "Ladies Please" in the August issue of GAELIC SPORT. I should be grateful if you would pass on my remarks to her.

I feel Kitty deserves to be complimented on (i) the subject matter of her column and (ii) her refreshing style of writing.

When contributing to a publication such as GAELIC SPORT one must be tempted to opt for the "conventional" and so confine oneself to commenting on G.A.A. activities. For me, at any rate, Kitty's unusual deviation

settle the issue by engaging in a verbal battle with a few pugilistic threats thrown in for good measure. However it all ends in a bottle of smoke as they are dissuaded from further combat by their saner-for-the-moment neighbours.

Loud cheering and clapping herald the team's arrival for the second half. Now the fat is really in the fire. Tear yourself away from the action for a moment and observe the manners and expressions around you. You have them all — the nail biting type, the programme folding and the programme shredding type, the fellow who kicks every ball and follows it, though bringing you with him. And he'll wonder why he's exhausted when it's all over.

It's worth it all — there goes the final whistle and our team has just got there by the narrowest of margins. The "Hill" pours on to the pitch to shoulder their heroes to the steps of the Hogan Stand. These same heroes must now endure a buffeting more

was both daring and welcome.

The crisp and precise fashion in which the column was written deserves special mention. Too often do we see paragraphs comprised of one single and unwieldy sentence. The style and presentation of "Ladies Please" set a headline in this respect that many columnists would do well to emulate.

So, keep up the good work, Kitty — you've made a fine debut.

Yours faithfully,

TOM BERRY.

3 Shanrath Road,
Whitehall,
Dublin 9.

menacing than the razor keen shoulders of the opposing centre backs. Now it's all over bar the shouting —

*And the night shall be filled
with music*

*And the cares, that infest the
day,*

*Shall fold their tents like the
Arabs*

And as silently steal away.

And now readers, you know Mr. Editor is waiting to give away his £3—remember his promise last month. I know you all have plenty to tell us about your holidays but you're a little bit lazy to take out your pens. Don't worry—that affliction only strikes the best people and that's why we in here want to hear from you. Please don't disappoint us. Write to me c/o

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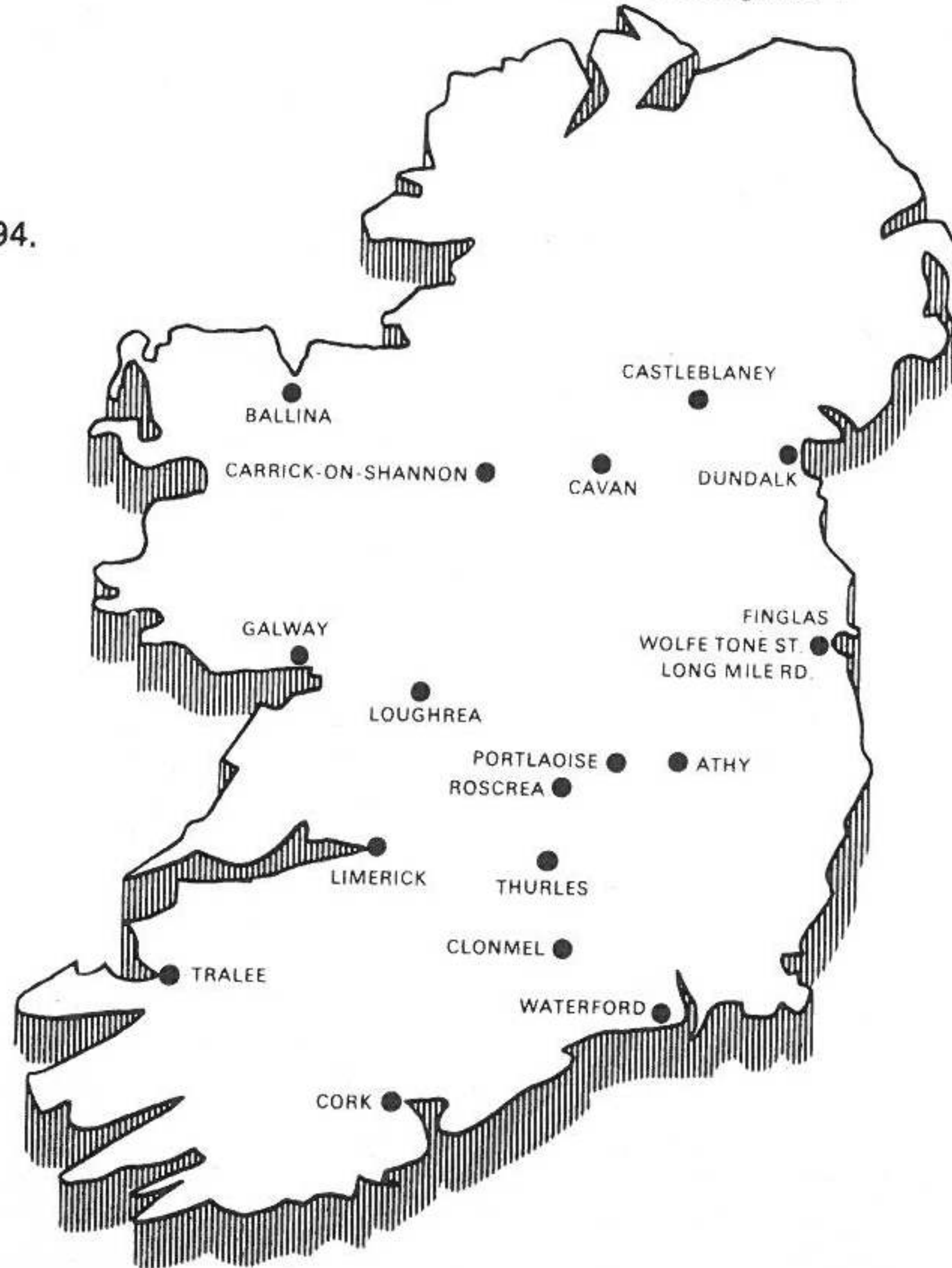
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John O'Keeffe in true mould of Kerry full backs

By SEAMUS Ó BRAONÁIN

IN every county surely it would be looked upon as a case of robbing Peter to pay Paul to move an All-Star midfielder of 23 years of age, and at the top of his form, back to full-back. When Kerry did that in the person of John O'Keeffe it did not look entirely so bad, partly because they were short of specialists in the arts of the full-back game, and partly because a whole bunch of young hopefuls were all wishful to try their hand at the midfield job.

O'Keeffe, naturally, considering his skills, power and physical characteristics made a success of the full-back position—to put it mildly. But most of the young hopefuls, after a bright beginning, showed they were not quite the necessary material of which Kerry centre-fielders must traditionally be made. Therefore, it did look for a while as if one place had been outstandingly filled but only at the expense of another.

The subsequent movement of players in the midfield sector kept Kerry in a rather unsettled frame of mind for almost a year. They did know that Paudie Lynch was ideally suited to their ideas for one of the positions, but then his absence for some lengthy spells with injury deprived them of the opportunity of using Paudie as a fixture and trying the others one by one seeking a suitable partner. Long,

O'Driscoll, Moran and a few less permanent trialists looked as though they might solve the problem.

Suddenly Pat McCarthy was called to have a go at centre-forward, switched to midfield and "things have rested so" ever since. Peter does not seem to have been beggared in the process though, perhaps, slightly less obviously well-off; Paul, however, has been enriched.

There is another oddity about the movement of O'Keeffe to full-back. One cannot remember that Kerry have ever been keen on moving people about or forcing them to make full-backs of themselves. Especially full-backs. Paddy Bawn Brosnan was one who had moved continuously back from forward positions to defensive ones, to corner-back and then full-back, but he had done this anyway in club football before the county followed the pattern.

Otherwise, they have believed in the specialist—the man who has grown with the position, absorbing the whole philosophy of full-back play while gaining in experience. Sometimes this meant employing great footballers by any standards in the position—Joe Barrett, Joe Keohane, for instance; but, on other occasions it has meant playing a less than outstanding footballer but a man whose understanding of the position made up for the



● John O'Keeffe (Kerry)

deficiency — Ned Roche, Niall Sheehy, even Paud O'Donoghue

... Subject to contradiction from expert Kerry men, therefore, it appears to be the first occasion Kerry have deliberately converted an outstanding outfield footballer into a full-back. Not retreating before the advance of the years, but before the prime of his football life.

It is not unknown in recent years—this move from outfield to full-back, and one immediately thinks of Jack Quinn who was at the top of his midfield form with Meath when he stepped back to take up the No. 3 position on the retirement of his brother Martin. It looked rather a waste then, but looking back at the outstanding career of Jack in the years between, who can question the wisdom of it all.

John O'Keeffe is equipped in exactly the same way—better, maybe, because he has his 13 stone compacted more sturdily into his 6 foot frame, and does not gangle as Jack sometimes does. His catching was a phenomenon in midfield, noted less because of his partnership with the Master Footballer whom everybody expected to show the spectacular touches and who always threw in one or two absolutely outrageous efforts in every match that held the attention.

Dominance has been the note

● TO PAGE 25

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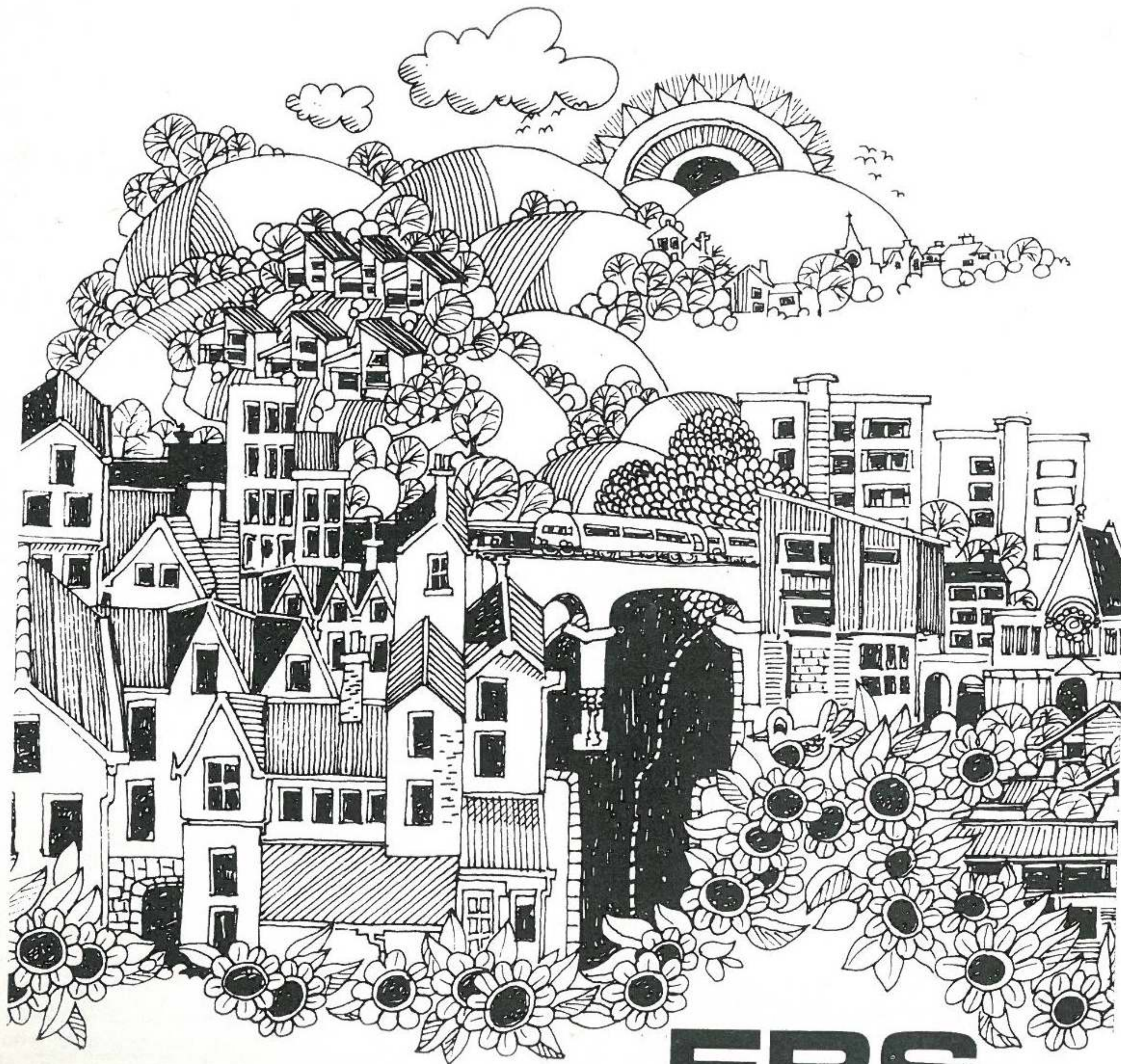
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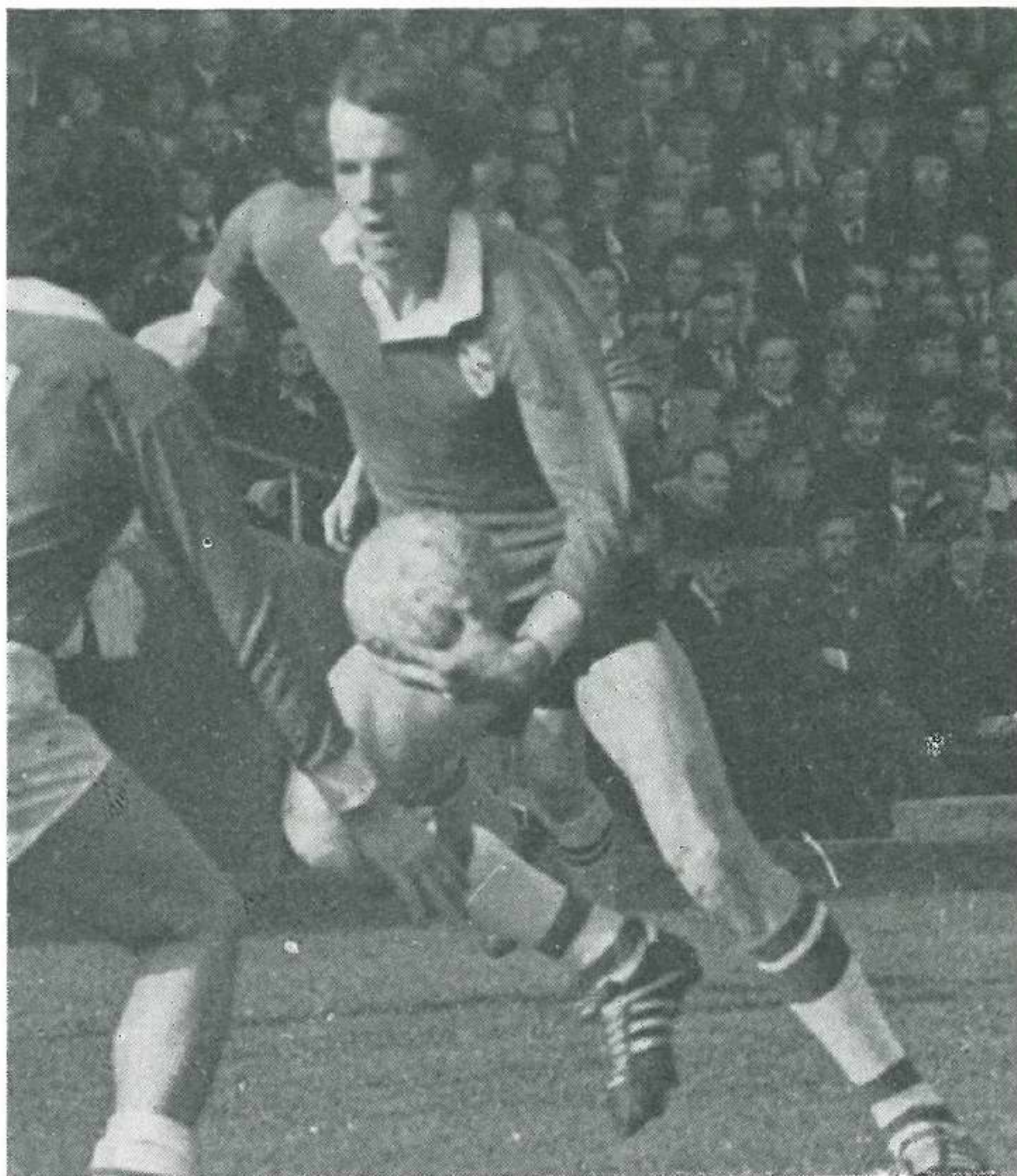
● FROM PAGE 23

of John O'Keeffe's full-back play because of all his power and co-ordination and outfield experience. He knows that it is no use to him to try to play the cute, watchful game of the old codgers who are so effective through negative tactics. He takes the view that he has the youth, the skill, the power and, especially the speed and scope, so the thing for him should be to control by positively outplaying the forwards in his general area.

Nowhere was this better seen than in the Munster final when Ray Cummins could never find a place in which to escape O'Keeffe's powerful jumping and driving out. Kearins who presented another kind of problem in the Sligo match was similarly dominated most of the time. It goes without saying that the clash between O'Keeffe and Jimmy Keaveney will be another highlight in this football season in which so many of the big games have seemed to hinge (beforehand) on the challenges presented to O'Keeffe's full-backmanship.

John, of course, has a couple of All-Ireland medals, though he only played in the winning of the 1970 one against Meath. He was substitute against Offaly the previous year—the coming of age championship. He has the right breeding to recommend him, to put it rather bluntly, because Frank, his father, was one of the famous Polo Grounds team.

It has not, however, been all sunshine, for he collected a runners-up medal in 1972 when Offaly proved themselves to themselves in their replay win. In all he has been playing senior for Kerry since 1969 when he gained a place in the League. And in those years he has been one of the busiest of players—his natural strength helping him to absorb a programme of events that would have drained many and did drain some.



● RAY CUMMINS (above) a great player by any standards, but even he failed to escape from the clutches of Kerry's John O'Keeffe in this year's Munster Football Final.

He was one of the top men with U.C.D. (one of the busiest clubs) and with Austin Stacks (near the top in Kerry). In fact, he pulled off a rather unusual double by collecting county championship medals in Dublin and Kerry in 1973. That year he was an All-Star (at midfield). Between 1971 and 1974 he bagged a collection of League medals that is better than most could imagine winning in a lifetime. With unusual distinction for any modern Munster footballer he took Railway Cup medals in 1972 (with Munster) and also in 1973 (with the Combined Universities). Tours and tournaments . . . he seems to be a winner everywhere he has trodden.

Born at the right time and in

the right place. And it is interesting that, at 25, he should have said recently that he thought he was really too young to appreciate his first medals and honours and that he looks forward to winning in 1975 because he will really see the value of the victory now.

With an attitude like that it is probably an added incentive to John that he has the challenge of a comparatively new position in which he is still building up his reputation. It would be uncharacteristic of him to do less than join the long list of memorable Kerry full-backs. And what a prospect the up-coming duel with Keaveney — reminiscent of the Ned Roche-Kevin Heffernan meeting of 1955.

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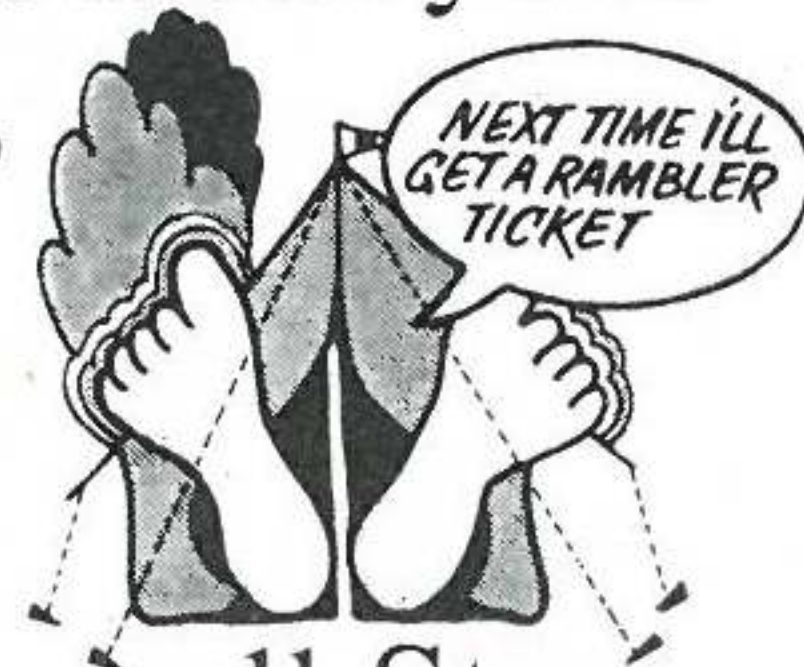
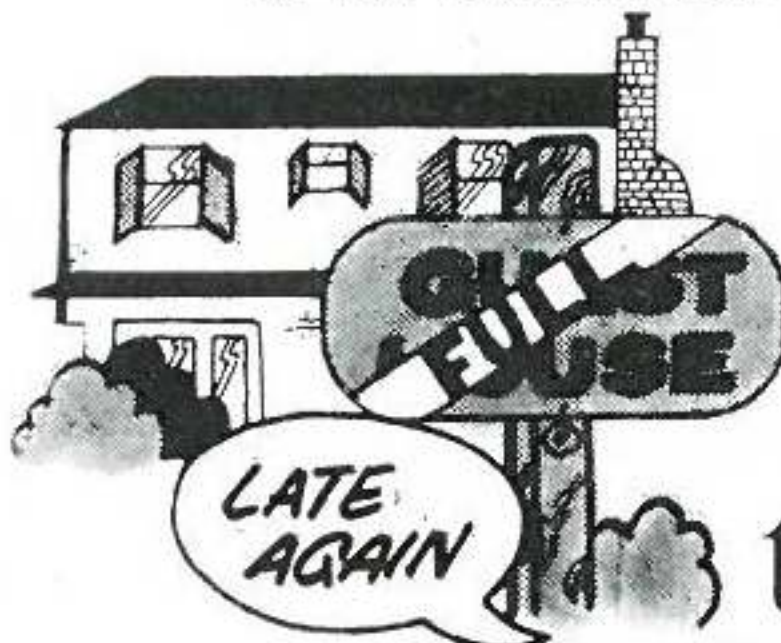
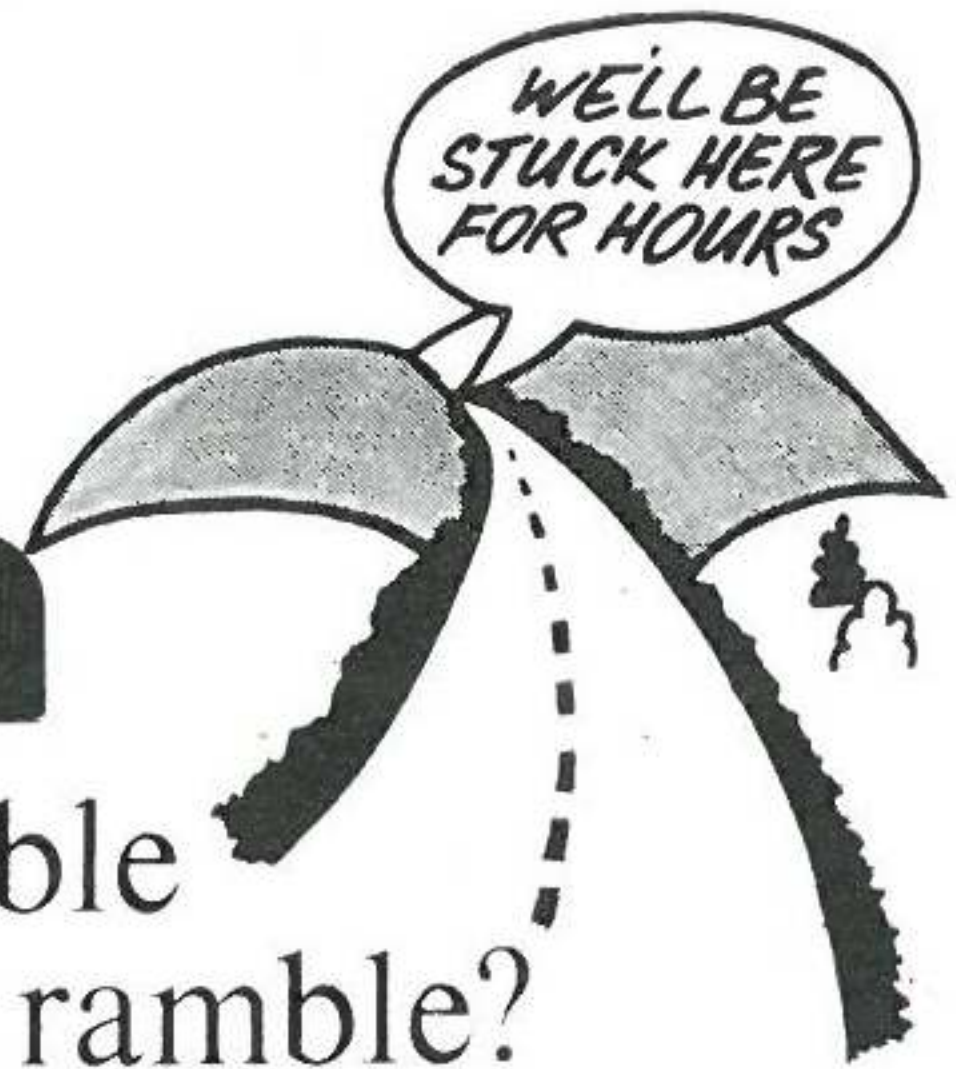
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*Tim Kennelly (left) and
Paddy Reilly have
something in common.*



NO CONFLICT IN STYLES

By MICK DUNNE (of RTE Sport)

TO hear some people talk about the All-Ireland football final it's a confrontation, not only between city and country, but a clash between teams of such contrasting styles that an analogy might be the situation around a card-table where one side played bridge and the opponents 25.

Indeed if we allowed ourselves to be convinced by some views on the big match we might well believe that the only similarity between Dublin and Kerry on final day would be the use of similar style togs and the fact that they play with the same ball. Perhaps such notions are implanted in some minds by the old, but false images of big, brawny, well-fed countrymen taking on puny, undernourished city men.

The reality of this final is as far removed from that situation almost as the north pole is from the south. There's no lack of size at all in Dublin's Paddy Cullen, Sean Doherty, Alan Larkin, Robbie Kelleher or Jimmy Keaveney to name some. On the other hand, talented though Ger Power, Mickey Sullivan and Brendan Lynch are in the Kerry side there's nothing giant-like about their physique.

As for contrasting style of play, don't you believe it. So far this year we've seen Mickey Sullivan roaming and foraging as far back from his left half-forward position as ever David Hickey did. In the final Kerry's wing half-backs, Paudie Shea and Ger Power, will go probing forward as frequently as Dublin's Paddy Reilly or Georgie Wilson do.

In truth, not even the concept of "city versus country" is strictly accurate. Kerry, the white hopes of the country in some people's view, have only one farmer on their side—centre half-back Tim Kennelly. Paddy Reilly, a market gardener from St. Margaret's, beyond Dublin Airport, is as much a countryman as any player from the other 31 counties. Moreover, John O'Keeffe, Paudie Mahony, Ger O'Keeffe, Ger Power and Mike Sheehy are as much "townies" as any Dublin players; the only difference being in the fact that Dublin city is so much a bigger town than Killarney or Tralee. Georgie Wilson hails

from Balbriggan, a town a darned sight smaller than either Killarney or Tralee.

No, there won't be this huge conflict in style, or indeed environmental temperament, between the All-Ireland finalists. But that statement immediately leads to the retort that this is so because Kerry have changed their style of football in recent years.

From me you'll get no agreement on that score. Such a notion carries the implication that Kerry players of recent years radically altered the Kerry style of football, that they abandoned the football that brought the Kingdom so many titles in former decades. It evokes images of huge Kerry men jumping three feet higher than all others in Croke Park and, then, when they got back down to the sod again, belting the ball thoughtlessly forward with a "God direct it" hope that somehow it would land somewhere near another high-leaping Kerryman or sail between the posts.

That is a blasphemy against the memory of some of the most gifted football artists to step onto Croke Park. Could you just imagine a half-back like Eddie Walsh aimlessly driving a ball downfield without any thought to where his forwards might be. Paddy Kennedy didn't rely solely on his high-fielding ability alone to become one of the real greats of mid-field play. Nor did the Murt Kellys, the Charlie Sullivans, the Batt Garveys or Dan Kavanaghs—not to mention men like Tadhg and Jackie Lyne or Tom Long of more recent times—balloon the ball in the general direction of the goalposts hoping it would go over. They were forwards as cute and as wily in their stratagems as any—cleverer than most—and they executed movements as sweetly as attackers of the present era.

Believe me, if the men in the green and gold in past decades were as brainless as "the change of style" theory implies Kerry wouldn't be anywhere near the top of the championship roll of honour.

What has changed, I suggest, is not style but method . . . other counties' as much as Kerry's. In the case of Kerry's opponents in latter times it

● TO PAGE 29

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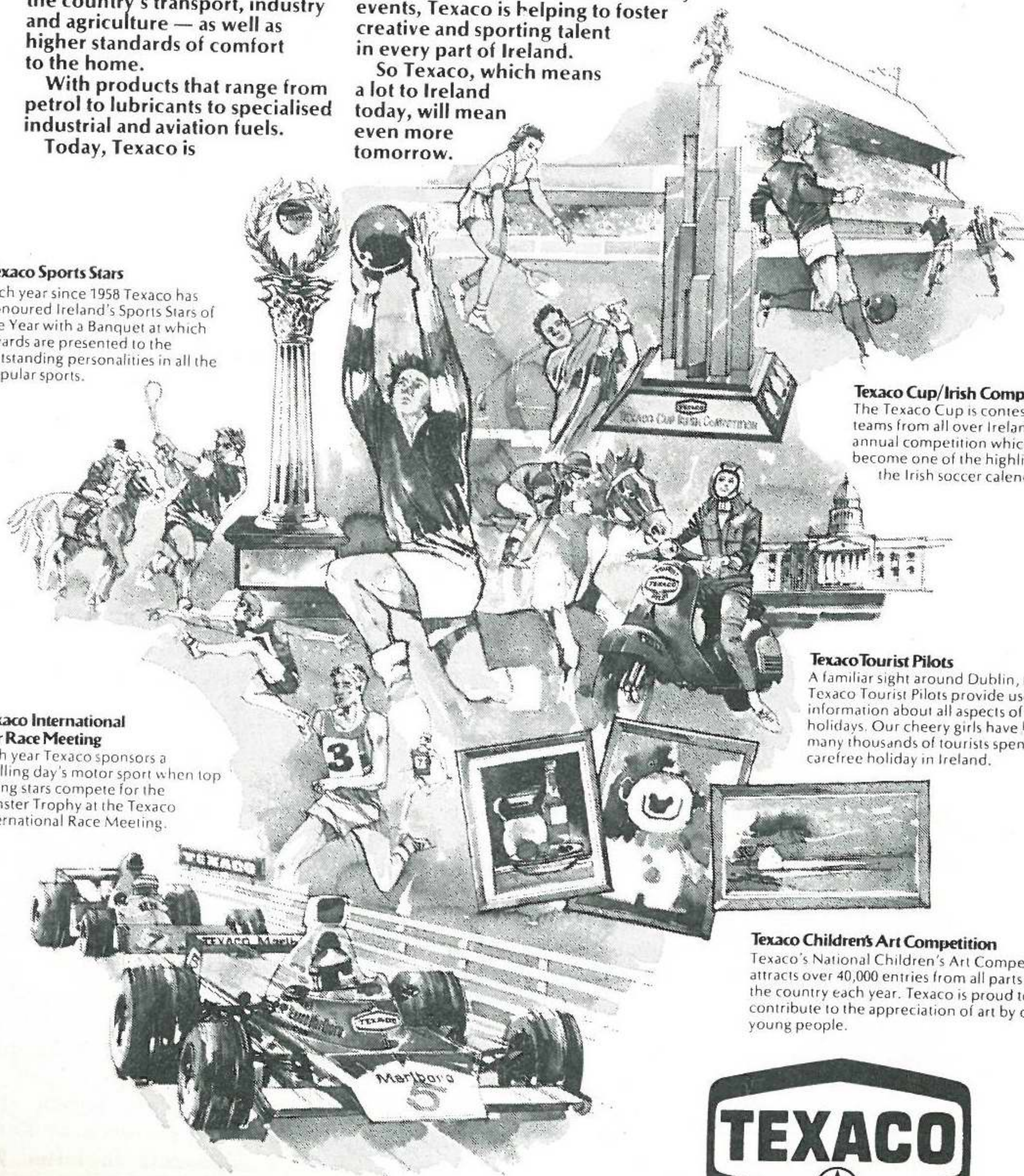
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● FROM PAGE 37

was a case born out of necessity that they became as proficient—if not even better—at fielding than Kerry players. Basically this is how Galway and Down and Offaly gained victories over Kerry. And if Dublin are to remain champions for another year it will, fundamentally, be because they got more possession through being better “in the air” than Kerry. You’ve got to jump with Kerrymen and go higher than them if you want to get the ball often enough to manoeuvre it through score-making moves.

Kerry’s own method changed because the speed of the game — through fewer stoppages and the greater concentration on collective training — increased. It was also attributable in part to the fact that in most recent times Kerry sides haven’t been as big, physically, as the teams of the past. So methods and ploys best suited to the men available had to be worked out.

But generally it has a lot to do with training. I remember talking to Jackie Lyne and Joe Keohane in Austin Stack Park, Tralee, about five years ago as Kerry prepared for an All-Ireland semi-final. Because the Kerry team of that time had expected to go to Australia they began training as early as February.

But the Australian trip apart, the 1969-’70 team continued through a pattern of regular training sessions over an 18-month period. In reply to my question both Keohane and Lyne replied “We’d have been laughed out of the county if we did that sort of training in our time.” And Joe added: “We only started thinking about serious training once the Munster final was over.”

Now even teams with far less chance, and even less hope, than Kerry of winning the All-Ireland championship are going through twice-weekly training sessions from early spring. Kerry could no longer wait until they had beaten Cork to get down to serious business. Therefore with players coming together regularly over a period of months, rather

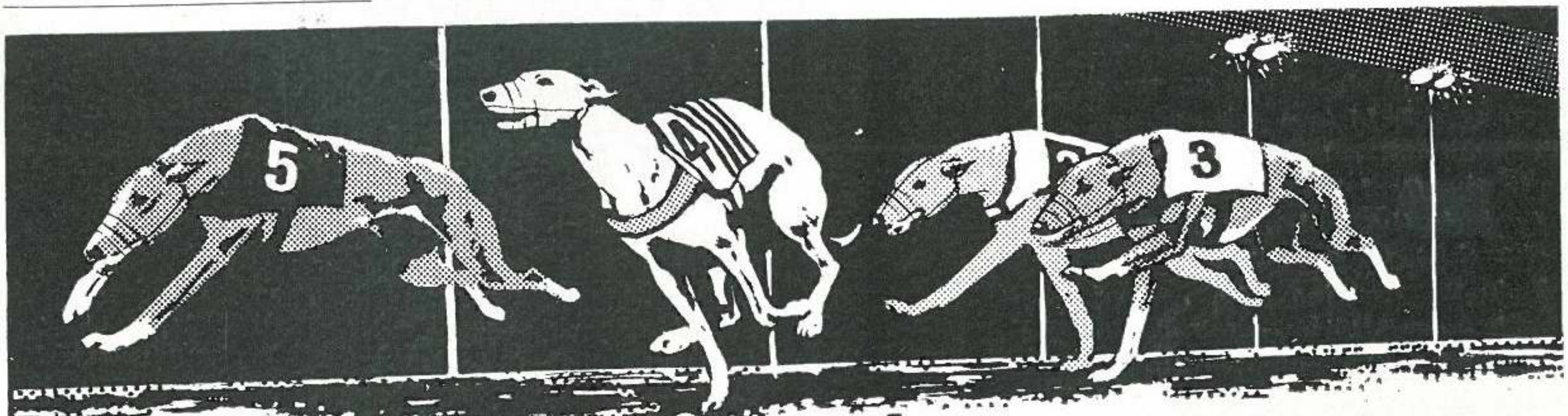
than weeks, under Jackie Lyne, Johnny Culloty and most recently Mick O’Dwyer, it’s only natural that concentrated moves can be worked-out in training. It’s far more specialised training nowadays compared with the past when a two-week spell before the semi-final, and possibly a three-week period before the final, allowed for only practice with some basic theories being taught by the late Dr. Eamonn O’Sullivan.

Nowadays the opportunities are far greater for Kerry players to perfect their moves and plans than it was even for the teams brought into full-time collective training for two or three weeks in Tralee or Killarney. Therefore the methods are better, but the style hasn’t changed. And may it long remain so.

A
FORMER
KERRY
GREAT



● Mick O’Dwyer—one of this year’s backroom boys!



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KERRY'S victories on their way to the final have not been stamped with any degree of praise. In fact the paucity of the opposition has been given more attention than the competence of its victors.

Thus Tipperary could not have expected to match the Kingdom's skills; Cork were taken unawares, basing their hope of success on their victories in Munster over the previous two years; Sligo had played far better in winning their second Connacht title than they had in seeking their first ever All-Ireland title.

To a certain extent all this is true. But to dismiss Kerry's chances on the premise that their opposition so far has been nothing more than feeble is to overlook the merits of the team that has carried them to the final.

It is difficult to believe that Sligo's collapse in the semi-final was due entirely to the enormity of the occasion or that if Michael Kearins had scored that penalty early on it would have been a different story.

In my opinion Kerry won because they were faster, much faster, and most of all because Michael Kearins who has been the inspiration of Sligo down the years was held by Kerry's John O'Keeffe.

Sligo have depended too much on Kearins for their own good. In an early round of last season's National League, Sligo, without Kearins were walloped by Mayo at Tubbercurry. With Kearins present, a couple of months later Mayo were held to a draw by the Sligomen and subsequently beaten in the Gael Linn final.

Again in the replay of the Connacht final at Castlebar it was principally Kearins who caused Mayo's downfall. He scored a goal and created the opportunity for Dessie Kearins to score the vital one near the end, which drowned Mayo's hopes.

So Kearins was really the player on whom Sligo foolishly



● Bernard Brogan
(Dublin)



● Brian Mullins
(Dublin)

based their hopes of reaching the All-Ireland final for the first time. But against a full back of the calibre of John O'Keeffe, Kearins was no match. The years have begun to tell and Sligo have no player with the capabilities to urge the others on.

True, John Brennan and Paddy Henry had magnificent games in

the semi-final, but neither, no matter how good, has the same inspirational qualities as Kearins and, as has been proved, neither could rally his players in moments of crisis.

Apart from Kearins in attack, Sligo's strongest sector against Mayo was their half back line and midfield. Against Mayo,

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Stenson and Tom Colleary dominated the midfield play and were given the necessary support by Mattie Brennan, Barnes Murphy and Paddy Henry in the half back line.

But of the five in the semi-final, only Paddy Henry played the type of football that brought them their Connacht final vic-



● Pat McCarthy
(Kerry)



● Paudie Lynch
(Kerry)

tory.

Stenson and Colleary are big men, yet they were outplayed by Kerry's Paudie Lynch and Pat McCarthy and closer in the Kerry half forward line of Brendan Lynch, Michael Sheehy and Michael O'Sullivan as a unit opened up gaping holes in Sligo's defence.

Principally, these were the men who carved out Kerry's victory and if their shooting was not on par with their excellent approach work, there is every reason to believe that this is something they will have repaired in time for the final.

The difference between Kerry and Dublin may eventually be reduced to this one factor. Kerry, despite their poor shooting qualities in the semi-final, have in most of their games been piling up points, most of them scored from long range.

It is fairly certain to assume that they will not have any great advantage in speed over Dublin. But I do think that John O'Keeffe will be as effective on Keaveney as he has been on Kearins.

Unlike Kearins, superiority in this duel will not on its own crush Dublin. Kerry will also need to have an advantage at midfield over Brian Mullins and Bernard Brogan. Having outplayed Sligo's two big players, it is not unlikely that they will also have the edge on the Dublin pair.

This vital advantage would to my mind be the very basis of a Kerry victory. For if their half forward line is given sufficient supply, and that will depend on midfield, each of the three has the ability to take a score even when in full flight.

Dublin, on the other hand, are not in my opinion so accurate. Against Derry they seemed possessed with a desire for goals and well though their forwards worked as a unit very few seemed willing to try for points from far out.

This, to my mind is the vital difference between the two. And although Dublin have the greater experience and have met the sterner opposition on their way to the final, I believe that Kerry have the equipment to turn the tables and begin another chapter of glory for the Kingdom.

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

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Keaveney tries to improve personal best

JIMMY Keaveney has already put up some impressive individual barrages in the senior football championship this year. He hit 0-10 against Wexford, helped himself to a splendid 1-11 in the win over Louth, and last time out got up once more among the high figures with 0-9 in the clash with Derry.

Totals like those, allied to the tall Dubliner's proven flair for finding the target so consistently under all pressures, inevitably prompts the question: Can Keaveney scale new heights for an All-Ireland senior football final in the defence against the championship specialists from Kerry?

The target that the tall Dubliner, and the other finishers for that matter, have to aim at is not a truly intimidating one, although it still says much for the record that it has resolutely stood the test of time and the 80 minutes finals.

In 1956, the year after these particular records were introduced, Frank Stockwell, one of the all time greats, hit 2-5 in Galway's win over Cork—and no one has even equalled that eleven points bag in the meantime.

The first 80 minutes final in 1970 suggested that perhaps the Stockwell peak would be quickly passed out when Mickey Fay shot 0-10 for Meath in their unsuccessful joust with Kerry. But only twice since then has even

By
**OWEN
McCANN**

● *Jimmy Keaveney keeping cool during last year's All-Ireland with help from trainer Kevin Heffernan*



the ten points total been achieved.

In 1972 in the drawn Offaly-Kerry game, Brendan Lynch notched 1-7. Then, in the replay, Tony McTague did much to fashion Offaly's defence of the crown with 0-10.

The 1973 Cork-Galway final saw Ray Cummins lead the way with 0-8, and last year Keaveney himself set the standard on 0-9.

So, now it's down to 70 minutes for the first time in a football final. Can the Dubliner, then, improve on his own personal best,

or will some other forwards in action colour the game with the best individual haul in nineteen years?

Only time will show, but one feels on very firm ground in saying that the odds are that Jimmy Keaveney will at least scale another impressive peak in the clash with Kerry. In 1967 he finished top scorer in Leinster for all competitions that year, and second in Ireland with a bag of 91 points (8-67) in 21 games.

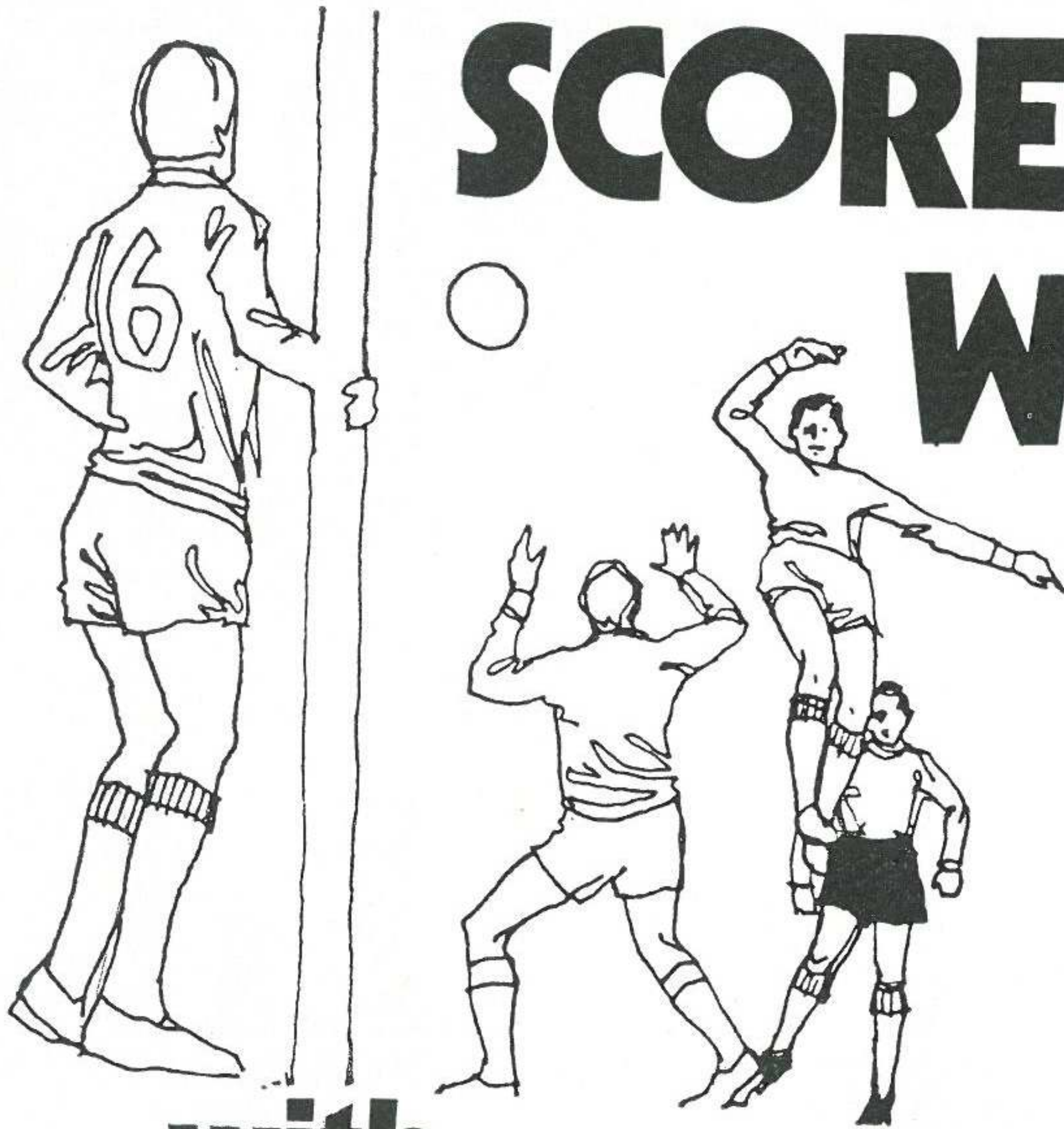
The Dubliner has played seven

● TO PAGE 35

St. Bernard

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BETTER VALUE



● **SEAMUS LEYDON**
—former Galway star.

● **FROM PAGE 33**

games fewer this year than in that 1967 campaign, but he is in such dynamic shooting form that he is only four points short of his own personal best at 4-75. All the indications are, then, that the tall St. Vincent's forward will charter his way into new scoring fields during the showpiece match.

It looks a sound bet as well that Keaveney will go on to pass out this year, the long-standing county record of 101 points. This was achieved in 17 games for a score of 5-86 by Ollie Freaney, and has been standing now since 1959.

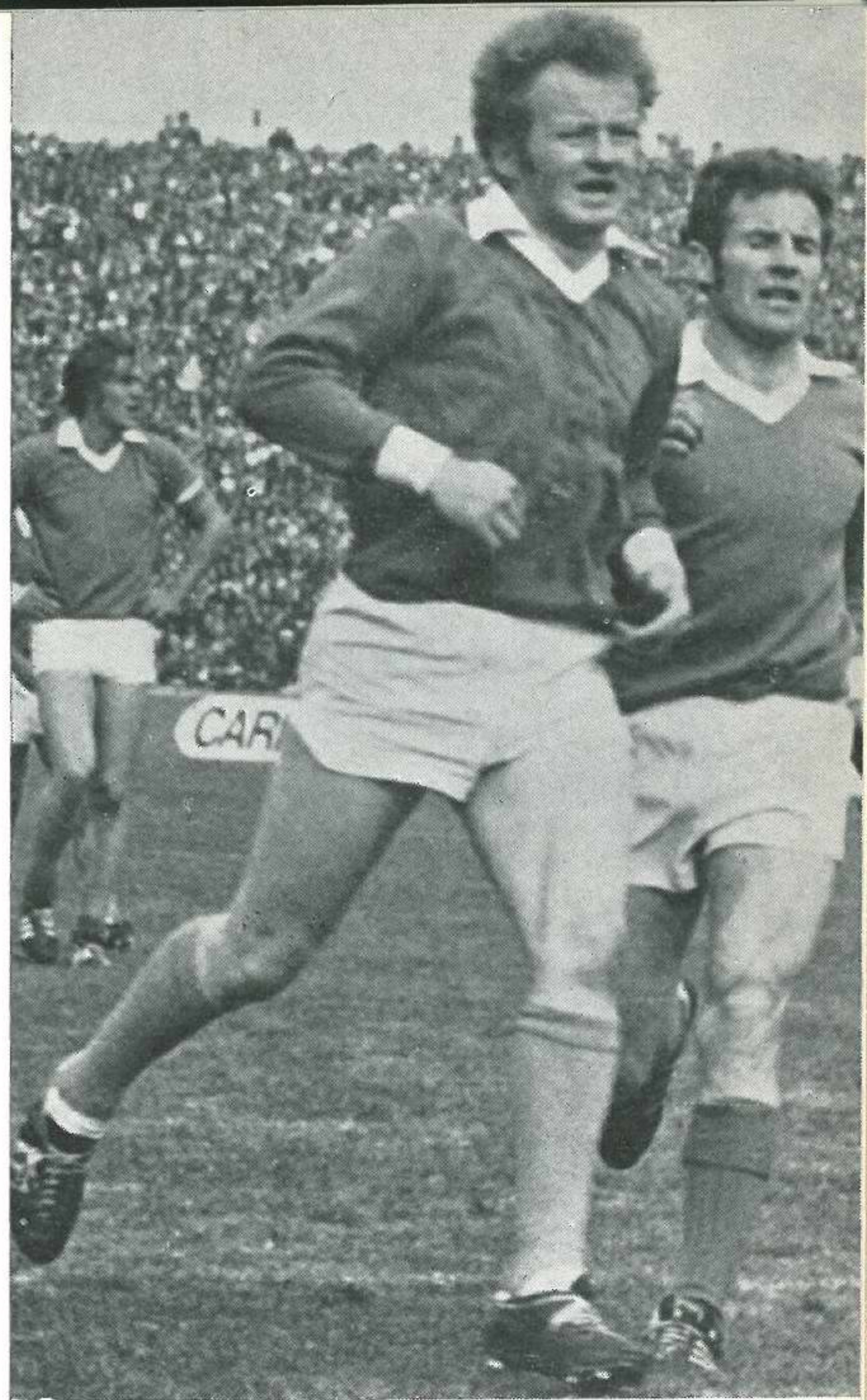
Kerry's pace-setter in the scoring stakes this year is John Egan, a county minor in 1970, who has notched up 7-21 (42 points) in eleven appearances.

However, the Kerry and indeed national record for a full year's programme is destined to stand for a long time yet. In 1970, a year in which Kerry were away on a world tour, the great Mick O'Dwyer, who is now the Munster county trainer, was very target conscious. So much so that he put up a mammoth 161 points (13-122) in 26 matches, including outings during the world tour.

It will take something extra

● *Tony McTague (Offaly) with 0-10 shares second place behind Galway's Frank Stockwell for the title of top scorer in an All-Ireland Final.*

Tony achieved his total in the replayed final against Kerry in 1972.



special in the scoring annals to erase that wonderful peak from the record book.

But back to more recent affairs, and a feature of the Kerry programme in the championship so far has been the goal-grabbing exploits of John Egan. He got two against Tipperary, and a further brace in the win over Sligo.

The last year that a footballer notched two goals in an All-Ireland decider was in 1973 when Jimmy Barry-Murphy helped himself to 2-1 in Cork's victory over Galway.

Seamus Leydon cracked home 3-1 when Galway lost the 1971 game to Offaly, while way back in 1959, Dan McAuliffe recorded 2-2 for Kerry in their victory over Galway.

Two of Dublin's stars each achieved a two-goal barrage this year in the defence of the Leinster and national titles. Brian Mullins was the man who twice beat Ollie Crinnigan in the Kildare goal in the Leinster final, and Anton O'Toole raised two green flags against Derry.

That double goal-getting act has helped O'Toole to go into the showdown with Kerry with the second highest total by a Dubliner this year for all competitions.

The tall Synge Street forward has played 16 games this year and scored 4-18 (30 points).

So, one way or another, it could be an extra special final in the scoring stakes.

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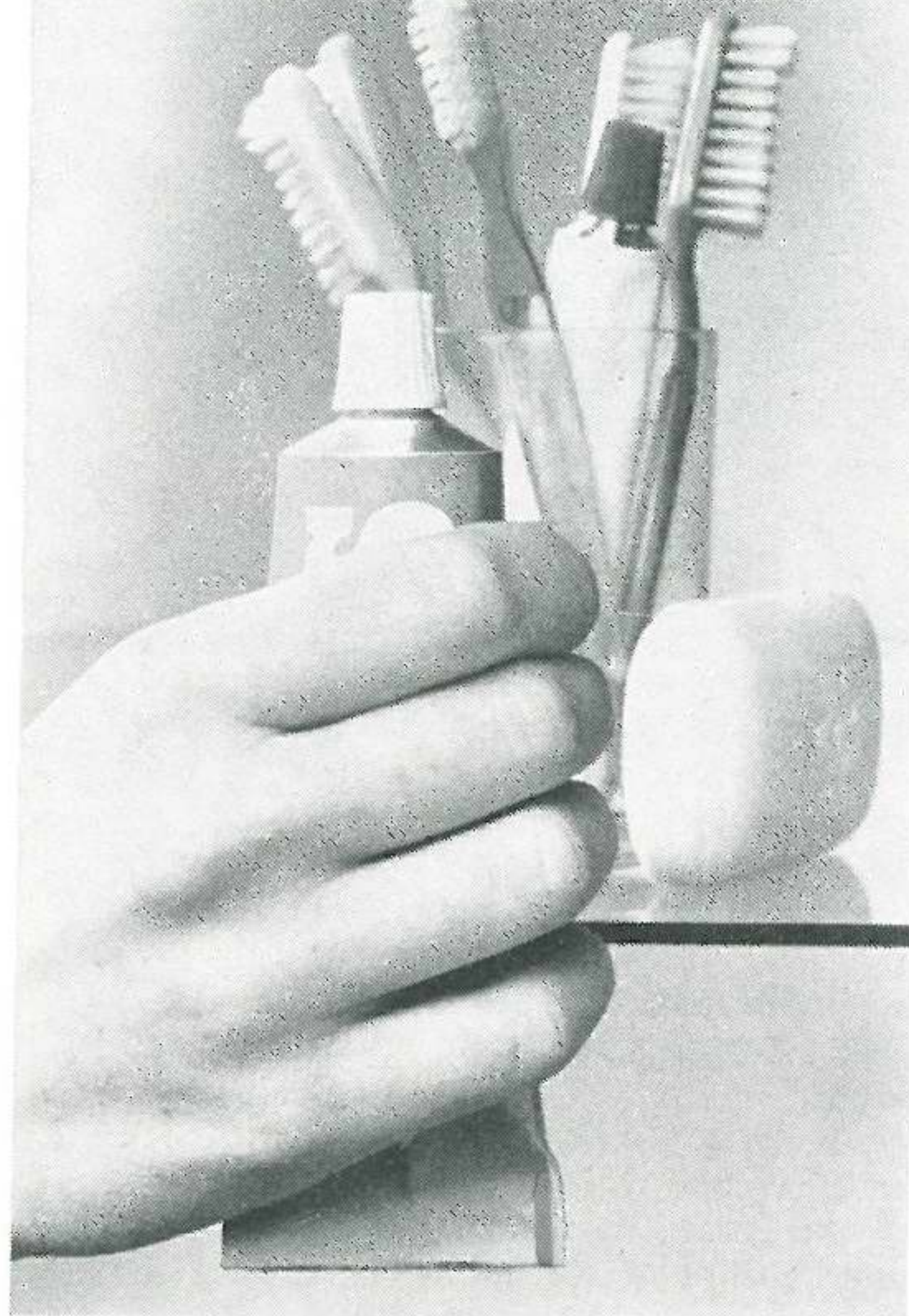
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UNIQUE CLASH IN THE MINOR FINAL

By
Neil
McCavana

I am looking forward with more than the usual interest to the unique Kerry-Tyrone clash in the All-Ireland minor football final—it is the first meeting of these counties in an under-age summit. The Southerners looked a talented outfit in their clear-cut fifteen points win over Roscommon last time out, while I was also much taken by the efficient way Tyrone handled the semi-final challenge of a good Kildare side to eventually finish eight points clear.

On the evidence of those games both teams have good grounds for optimism, and I will be disappointed if they fail to usher in this new final rivalry with as good a game for the Tom Markham Cup as we have had in years.

Kerry have been walking in the shadows of Cork in Munster in the present decade. When they beat the Leesiders by two points in July at Killarney it was their first Munster championship win in the grade since 1970. Even more surprising is the fact that the Kingdom have not won the All-Ireland title since as far back as 1963 when they took their seventh crown.

That's an exceptionally long period for such a traditional stronghold as Kerry to be out of the honours list. However, the young men of 1975, many of whom seem destined soon for senior inter-county honours,

could be the ones to restore the faded Kerry image in the minor grade.

Certainly, there is much to please in this side . . . flair, strength in every sector, and players who put plenty of drive, industry and method into their football.

The forwards are a speedy and lively lot. They will all have to be closely watched, but dashing team captain Robert Bunyan, Fintan Scannell and Jack O'Shea, in particular, are a trio who could do much to pressurise the Northern rearguard.

Bunyan, from Ballydonoghue, is a speedy and clever winger, and has a lethal finishing shot. He highlighted a good semi-final performance by shooting a classic goal in the 13th minute of the second half, Kerry's second, and a score that really set them up for their first final outing since 1970, which they lost to Galway in a replay.

Scannell, on the right wing, is from Tarbert, and another fast and nifty finisher, skilled in all round play. O'Shea, of St. Mary's, moves well at full forward, and knows how to turn scoring chances to full account. This is underlined by his status as the team's leading marksman with a noteworthy 2-19 to his credit.

Kerry are particularly well armed in midfield. Towering and

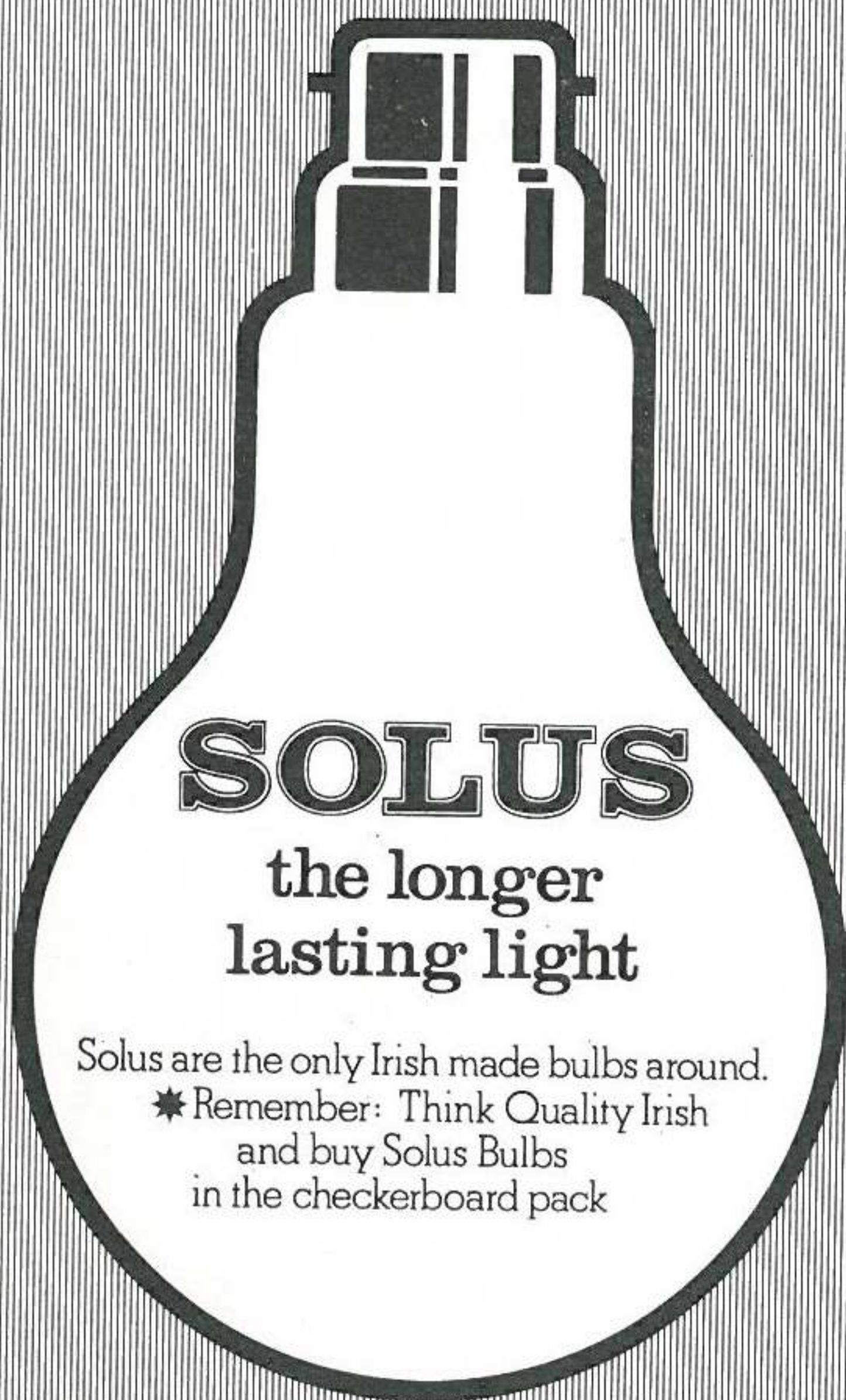
high-fielding Sean Walshe, from Kerins-O'Rahillys club, is a first-rate asset, and potential match-winner. Neilly O'Donovan, from Gneeveguilla, was another to catch the eye in the semi-final with his dependable fielding and solid football, and this pair make up a formidable partnership.

However, I have some reservations about the defence. In the first half of the All-Ireland semi-final when Roscommon were still very much in the hunt, the defenders were caught out at times, and this could be fatal against the smart Tyrone raiders.

At the same time, we saw enough in that match as well to realise that there is considerable talent in the Munster rearguard, and it is unlikely that the backs will give anything away easily, especially at this stage of the competition.

If Kerry have not been enjoying many successes in the provincial arena in latter times, the 'Seventies have been good years for Tyrone. They took their fourth Ulster crown of the decade by beating Cavan by three points, and now head the Northern table with eleven crowns—three more than their nearest rivals. In addition, the O'Neill county lifted the All-Ireland championship for the third time in 1973.

● TO PAGE 39



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THE MINOR FINAL

● FROM PAGE 37

I doubt if they are as powerful a force this year as in that last national glory season. Nevertheless, this is still a smart-moving and well-balanced outfit, with all the credentials necessary to have an outstanding chance of giving Ulster football standards a much needed boost with another title win.

In that merited success against Kildare, I was particularly impressed by the Tyrone backs. They were quick to the tackle, cool under pressure, covered off intelligently, and generally presented the type of solid and positive approach that is so often the springboard for a victory effort.

On that form, the rearguard, with Kieran McGarvey, from Aghyaran, a cool, efficient full back, P. J. Trainor (Augher) and John Joe Campbell (Dromore), solid and progressive in the half line, likely to set a high standard, will not allow the Kerry attack much room to manoeuvre.

Turlough O'Rourke, of Brackaville, and team captain Gerry McCallin, from Fintona, get through plenty of efficient work in the centre of the field, and they could put it up in real style to the high-powered Kerry combination.

Martin McAnneny, from Urney, is an eager-beaver full forward, who, like his opposite number, knows where the goals are. He has helped himself to 3-6 in the campaign so far, and is Tyrone's top marksman.

Another with a good scoring record is Mickey McKay, also of Urney, who has 1-11. These clever and determined club-mates give the Northern champions plenty of scoring power at the heart of the attack.

More than that, there was enough evidence in the earlier

rounds to indicate that all the raiders are capable of profiting from any flaws in the Munster back division.

All in all, then, a strong case can be made out for both teams, and it seems unlikely that there will be much between them at the final whistle.

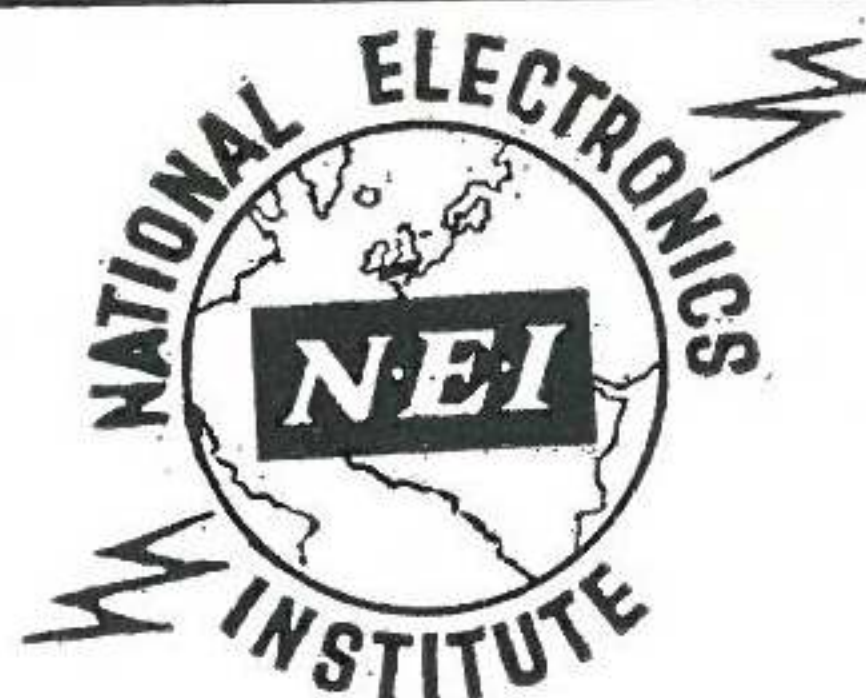
Nevertheless, I must admit that I have a leaning for Kerry. I feel that this is a match that will be decided by the forwards, and while I can't see Walsh and O'Donovan exercising a marked dominance in the middle of the

park, I fancy they will ensure that their forwards will have somewhat more chances to shine than Tyrone's. That should prove decisive.

If Kerry regain the title they will become undisputed leaders in the Roll of Honour. At present their seven titles record them sharing the premier position with Dublin. The Munster county won the championship for the first time in 1931.

Tyrone brought the title over the Border for the first time in 1947. They retained the All-Ireland crown the following year, and then had that long gap until the 1973 win over Kildare for a third crown.

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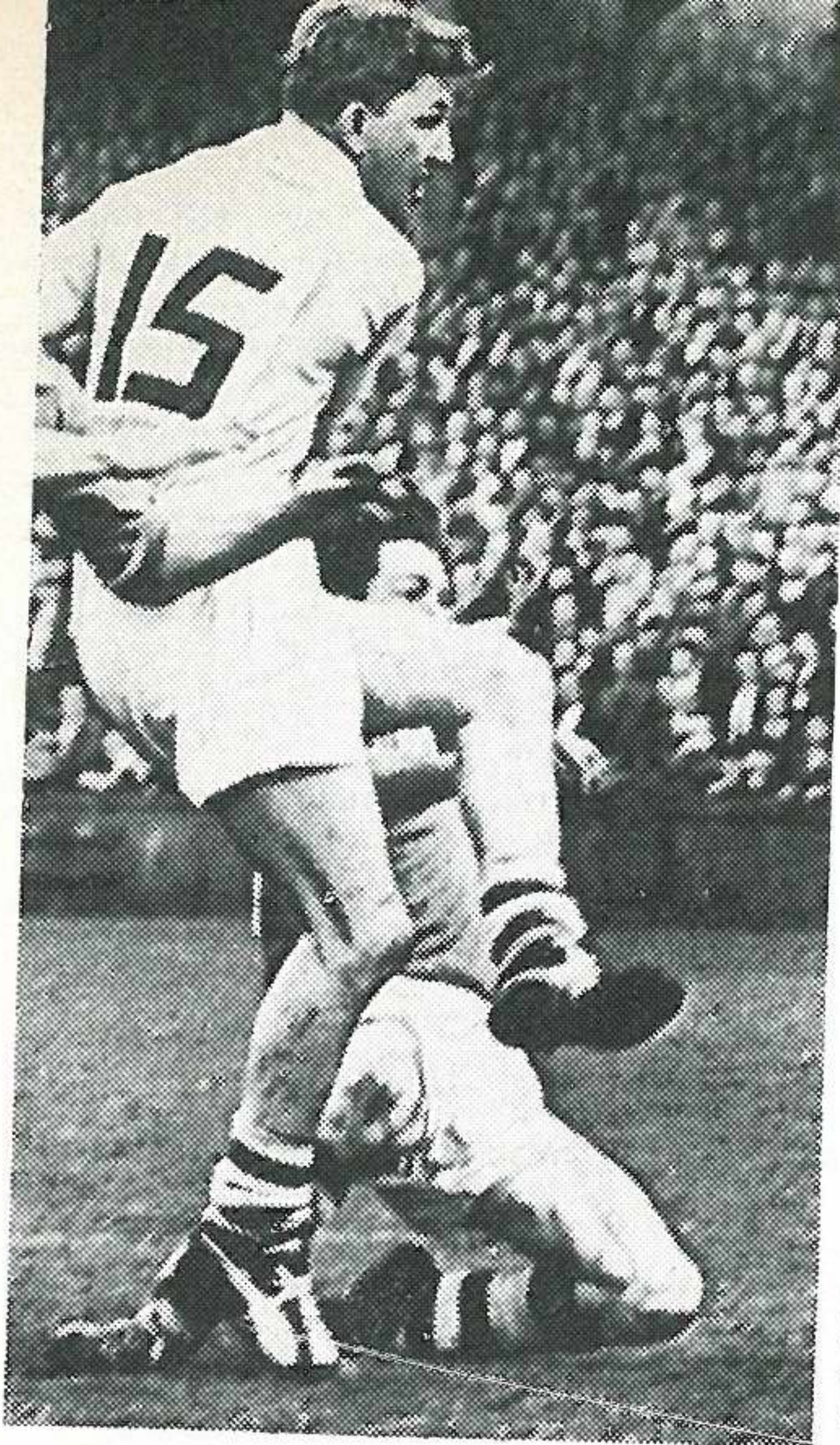
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MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

Few clashes between these rivals

◀ **Kevin Heffernan, the link between this year's All-Ireland Football Final and the last time that Dublin and Kerry met in the final in 1955.**

KERRY and Dublin between them hold 40 All-Ireland senior football titles. Of these, 22 have been won by the Kingdom, while 18 have been captured by the Capital. Yet, almost unbelievably, in 88 years of the championships these two counties, who between them have more than 45% of the titles already won, have, to date, only faced one another in six finals.

The first of these was away back in 1893 when the G.A.A. was still in its infancy, and the championships were all too often run in haphazard style. The game was the 1892 final and it was staged at what was long the regular All-Ireland venue the old Clontarf Park in Drumcondra in late March. Dublin's Young Ireland's were the holders, and the opposition was provided by the first great Kerry team, the Laune Rangers.

Captained by the legendary J. P. O'Sullivan, the all-round Athletic Champion of Ireland, the

Killarney selection had the football prowess but lacked the craft and experience of the seasoned opposition. There was only a few points between them at the end but the Kerry men were critical of the arrangements.

Indeed J.P. subsequently wrote a letter to the newspapers offering to play the winners again anywhere outside Dublin and elsewhere there were wild statements that Kerry would never again come to Dublin to play in a final!

Indeed when Kerry next qualified for a final, the 'home' 1903 decider against Kildare, all three of those memorable games were played at Munster venues the first at Thurles, the remaining two at Cork.

And, in passing, even though it is a bit late in the day, there can be no harm in paying tribute to the Kildare men for travelling South on all three occasions.

However, Kerry did actually travel to Dublin for the final in which they beat London-Irish at

Jones's Road, now Croke Park.

That was a historic day for three reasons. It gave Kerry their first All-Ireland title. It was the first time that the Kingdom players wore the now hallowed green and gold. And the exiles were captained by the one and only Sam Maguire.

But, in the following year's championship, when Kerry and Dublin met in a final for the second time, the confrontation took place not in Dublin but in Cork and Kerry retained their title with three points to spare on a scoreline of 0-5 to 0-2.

The counties were next fated to meet again in the final of 1908, and again the venue was in the provinces and indeed at an unusual setting for a football final, the old Thurles Sportsfield, now Semple Stadium.

Kerry were in a transition period at that particular time and, despite the presence of such all-time greats as Paddy Dillon, Dick Fitzgerald, Jack McCarthy and Denny Breen, sustained their worst ever defeat by Dublin, 0-10 to 0-3.

But even such a defeat was no great disgrace when one remembers it was inflicted by a great Dublin combination that was taking its third title in a row and that could boast of such legendary figures as Dave Kelleher, Jack

Grace, Jimmy Brennan, Paddy Fallon, Maurice Collins and the indestructible 'Cocker' Daly

By an unusual coincidence, when the counties met again in the 1923 final, played in 1924, Dublin were again seeking a third-in-a-row. Again the Dubliners were the seasoned performers while, Kerry after the years of the Troubles, fielded a virtually unknown combination, many of their players had been on opposing sides in the then recently concluded Civil War, but they willingly set past differences aside in their eagerness to recapture the old glories of the green and gold.

It was a close-fought and thrilling encounter but Dublin's greater experience proved the decisive factor in giving the holders victory 1-5 to 1-3.

However, Kerry's revenge was not long delayed. The same two counties were back in Croke Park less than seven months later to meet again in the final of 1924 and this time Kerry just snatched the verdict 0-4 to 0-3 thanks to a late point by Con Brosnan.

On the Kerry team that day was 'Mundy' Prendiville, who was afterwards to become Archbishop of Perth, John Joe Sheehy, Paul Russell, Joe Barrett, Bob Stack and the Bailey brothers.

On the Dublin line-out were such all-time stars as Paddy and Johnny McDonnell, Frank Burke, Martin Shanahan, Paddy Carey, the Synnotts, Joe Norris and Paddy Kirwan, but they were without the famed Larry Stanley who had played in the 1923 final but had meantime turned his energies entirely to athletics where his brilliance as a high-jumper was world-acclaimed.

But who would have thought on that April evening in 1925 when the 1924 final was played that it would be more than 30 years before Dublin and Kerry were destined to meet in a final again?

Through the 30 years between, the fortunes of the two counties

had been strikingly different. Dublin had won a single title, that of 1942, by no means a vintage season, while Kerry had become the supreme football power winning, during the period, no fewer than eleven senior crowns.

When that final of 1955 came round, all the All-Ireland experience was in favour of Kerry who were appearing at Croke Park on the last Sunday in September for the third successive

year. But they were not chasing a triple crown. They had gained a hard-won victory over Armagh in the 1953 Final, but had failed sensationally to Meath just 12 months later.

On the other hand, not a single one of the Dublin side had ever previously played in an All-Ireland final. However, the St. Vincents-powered Dubliners had reason to feel more than hopeful

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● **FROM PAGE 41**
of achieving victory. They had in the early summer, routed the All-Ireland champions Meath in the League final.

They franked that form by again running rings around the

Meathmen in the Leinster final in July, but both Dublin and Kerry had sharp shocks at the semi-final stage. Only with belated scores did the Kerry men salvage a draw against Cavan, while Dublin were also held to level-

pegging by Mayo.

The two replays were staged at Croke Park on the same afternoon, when Kerry accounted for Cavan with comparative ease but Dublin again had to battle hard to shake off the Mayo challenge.

That 1955 final, played on September 25, aroused greater interest than any I can remember. A crowd, officially returned as just over 87,000 packed themselves into the old Croke Park to see the game, and argument waxed hot as to whether the new-style Dublin attacking methods, with Kevin Heffernan as roving full-forward would shatter the high-catching long-clearing Kerry defence as it had twice run rampant through the vaunted Meath rearguard twice in previous months.

Dublin were tremendously confident, but Kerry were as determined as ever I have seen them. Quite unexpectedly Dublin decided that Heffernan, instead of adopting his roving role should play it close against Kerry full-back Ned Roche, and as it proved Roche had the better of the argument.

Kerry, with John Dowling in command at mid-field kept edging ahead through the first half to lead at the interval by two points and forged further away to stand ahead by double scores, 0-12 to 0-6, with only a few minutes remaining.

But Dublin staged a memorable late rally. In some unbelievable fashion Ollie Freaney blasted the ball to the net past a solid wall of Kerry defenders. Through the dying minutes the Dubliners hammered at the Kerry posts, but just could not break through again and the lads from the Kingdom ended deserving winners with three points to spare.

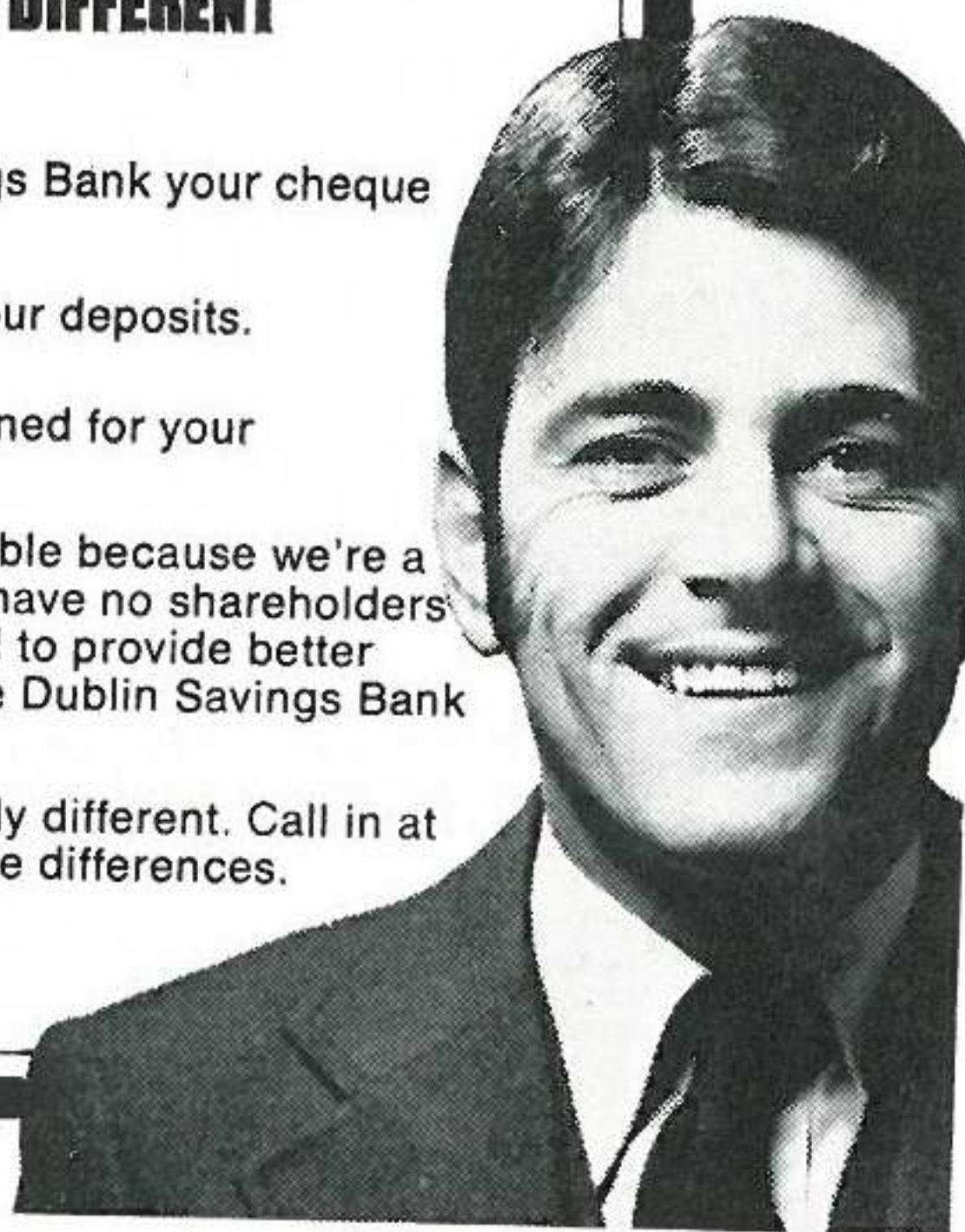
And I'll tell you this much! If this year's decider turns out to be as thrilling as the '55 final, Croke Park will be no place for the weak-hearted on September 28th.

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ON THE SPOT...

by Tony Keegan

HAVING tested your knowledge last month on the hurling scene, **ON THE SPOT** . . . continues this month with another quiz, this one designed to give you some interesting background on football matters in general, while providing at the same time an exercise to test your own expertise on the big ball game in general, as well as on some aspects of the Dublin and Kerry records.

Once more we follow our usual pattern, which appears to be very popular now with readers. There are five separate sections, with some bonus questions that may help to make up lost ground . . . or allow the real experts to streak impressively ahead of their rivals.

Off we go, then, with:

THE BIG GAME

1. The first All Ireland senior football final played at Jones' Road, now Croke Park, was the 1895 decider. Meath and Tipperary were in opposition. Name the winners?

2. Kerry lost a unique final to Cavan in 1947. What was out of the ordinary about that game?

3. Dublin won eight All-Ireland senior football titles before Kerry recorded their first final win. True or false?

4. The last Kerry-Dublin final was in 1955 when the Munster county proved triumphant. Was their winning margin, two, three, six or eight points?

5. The first 80 minutes football final was played in 1970. Name the finalists, and collect a bonus

of three points if you also correctly list the winners?

Question No. 5 is worth eight points. Five points for each of the other four posers, making a grand total of 28 points. Your rating

DUBLIN

1. Pictured here are two former Dublin stars. Who are they, and what distinction have they in common?



2. This nippy forward opened Dublin's scoring returns in last year's final win over Galway?

3. Jimmy Keaveney was Dublin's top marksman in the 1974 summit. Can you remember what he actually scored in that game?

4. Who guarded the net in the 1958 and 1963 final wins over Derry and Galway respectively?

5. How many of Dublin's title winning side of last year won Carrolls All Stars awards?



These questions are five markers, with a bonus of three points for correctly listing all of Dublin's All-Stars of last year. Total Marks possible: 28. Your rating

KERRY

1. Kerry are the specialists of the All-Ireland senior football championship with 22 titles. But how many times have they won the Sam Maguire Cup, which was first presented for the 1928 final?

2. Who was Kerry's captain in 1970, the year of their last final win?

3. Brendan Lynch, who will be shooting for goals and points in this game, made his All-Ireland final debut as a goalkeeper? True or false?

4. Kerry surprised many by beating Dublin's much fancied side in the 1955 final. They were captained by Ned Roche, John Dowling, or Johnny Culloty?

● TO PAGE 45

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● FROM PAGE 43

5. The last Kerry goal in an All-Ireland final was put away by Brendan Lynch, Mick O'Dwyer or Eamonn O'Donoghue in the drawn clash with Offaly in 1972. Who is your selection from this trio?

.....
 Five marks for each question answered correctly. A bonus of three points for going through this section with full points. Total marks possible: 28. Your rating

GENERAL

1. Meath won the National League title earlier this year. What was the last year that the League and Championship were both won by Leinster? A grand total of 11 points if you get all parts of this one right

2. The last such Munster double was much more recent. Kerry had an important part in the feat by winning the League. So, what we want is the year, and the All-Ireland winners of that season?

3. Four former stars are pictured here. Who are they, and who is the odd man out?

4. Only one goal was scored in last year's All-Ireland final. Who was the man on target?

5. Munster beat Leinster in the Railway Cup Semi-Final at Cork last February. Can you remember how many Dubliners were in action? And five bonus points if you also can say how many Kerry men shared in the win



.....
 Eleven points apiece for questions 1 and 5. The others are six points each making a total possible of 40 points. Your rating.

GOALKEEPERS

Finally, a short, snappy four part section spotlighting the men in the gap.

1. John Culloty guarded the net for Kerry in eight finals. The first was in 1959 and the last in 1970. Can you name three of the remaining years?

2. Paddy Cullen plays in local

games with what club?

3. Two goalkeepers who captained senior football winning teams in the past twenty years?

4. Meath's goalkeeper in the 1970 final with Kerry?

.....
 Total marks possible: 16 points (four for each question). Your rating:

OVERALL RATINGS

Total marks possible: 140. 120 or more: Excellent. 100 to 120: Very good. 80 to 100: Good.

QUIZ ANSWERS

(PRINTED IN REVERSE TO AVOID DISTRACTION)

1. Culloty's other appearances in the final were in 1960, 1962, 1964, 1965, 1968 and 1969; 2. O'Connell Boys; 3. Jack Mangnan (Galway), 1956, and Billy Morgan (Cork), 1973; 4. Sean McCormack.

GOALKEEPERS

1. 1958, when Dublin won both titles; 2. 1973, Cork; 3. Joe Lenon (Down), Jack Lynch (Cork), Tom Prendergast (Kerry) and Jimmy Gray (Dublin). Gray is the only non All-Ireland senior medalist; 4. Michael Rooney (Galway) in the 31st minute; 5. Nine Dubliners and six Kerry men including Mickey O'Sullivan who went in as a sub.

GENERAL

1965 team beaten by Derry at minor; 4. John Dowling; 5. Brendan Lynch.

3. True, he was goalkeeper in the

KERRY
 1. Fifteen; 2. Donie O'Sullivan; Hickey, Jimmy Keaveney. Kelleher, Paddy O'Reilly David Cullen, Sean Doherty, Robbie and Pascar Flynn; 5. Six—Paddy point; 3. 0-9; 4. Paddy O'Flaherty Hickey in the 11th minute with a Dublin's 1958 and 1963 winning Foley, who were team-mates in 1. John Timmons and Lar

DUBLIN

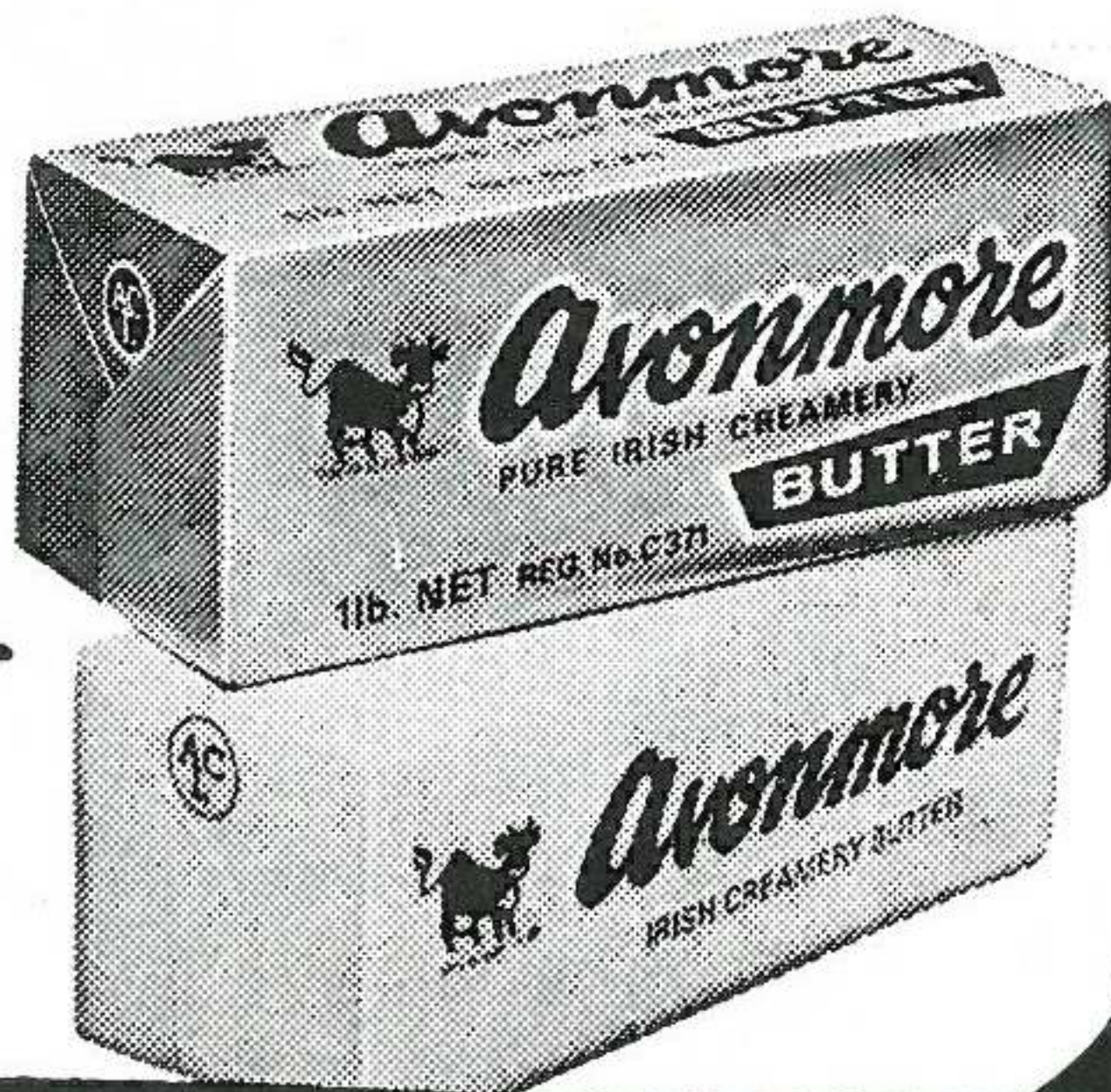
0-12 to 1-6; 5. Kerry beat Meath. was in 1903; 4. Three points— between 1891 and 1902; Kerry's first first eight titles were won between 1891 and 1902; Kerry's first outside Ireland; 3. True: Dublin's that was the only final played the Polo Grounds, New York, and 1. Tipperary; 2. The venue was

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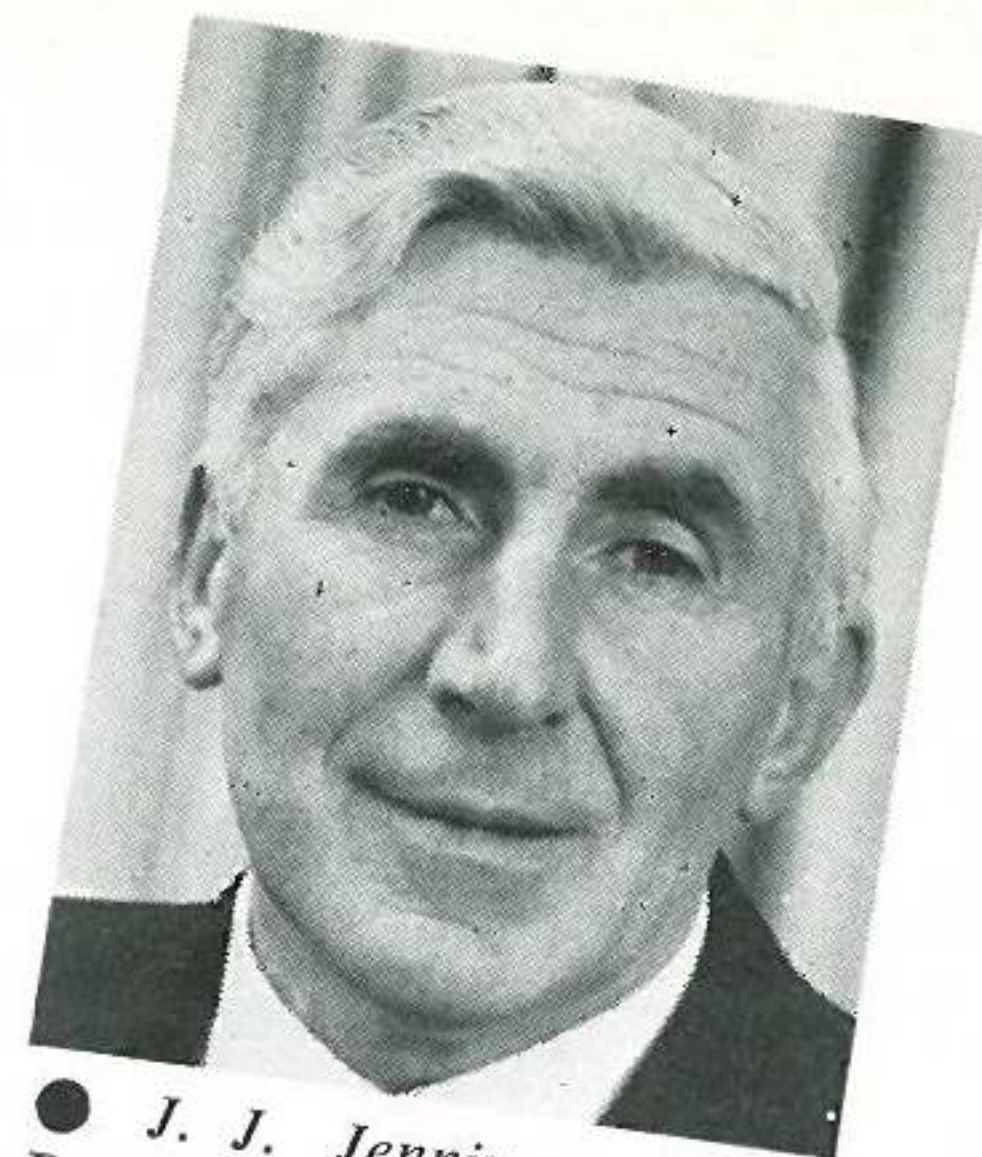
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Role of youth in the vibrant state of handball

By ALLEYMAN



● J. J. Jennings, former President of the Irish Handball Council.

IN recent years a new and urgent awareness has emerged amongst handballers of the need to put their game on the map.

Not that handball could ever have been termed a minority sport in the sense that other sports earn that rating but the big deficiency was the singular absence of a progressive image.

When we spoke of handball we were immediately immersed in conversation that revolved around derelict alleys and inefficient administration. But all that is quickly changing.

Handball is evolving and now accepts a role of sophistication, both in the administration of the game and in the mode of court construction. One can find many reasons for the new phenomenon. Perhaps it was influenced initi-

ally by a small band of dedicated leaders who saw that the very future of the game would depend on a vibrant policy towards youth.

This point was forcibly brought to my attention last month when I attended a presentation in Dublin for Brother B. C. O Murchú who was being transferred from the Metropolis to Mullingar. About fifty handball people had turned out in communal gesture of his contribution to the development of the game amongst youth. He was one of the leaders in this field which in a relatively short space of time has added enormously to the playing strength of handball.

The game by dint of the strenuous endeavours of those who have organised youth handball now provides ample and regular

competitions at all levels.

At this stage, of course, due tribute must be accorded to those firms who have helped the cause by means of sponsorship. In the case of the younger players, the plaudits go to the Willwood Group of companies which has been a singular source of inspiration in the form of the all-embracing Willwood Tailteann Games. The Community games can also claim credit for the popularity of handball at youth level while the Gael-Linn Organisation has made an invaluable contribution over many years.

The flexibility of Handball officials has been evident for a long time in their willingness to make changes for the benefit of the game.

This point was really vindica-

● TO PAGE 49

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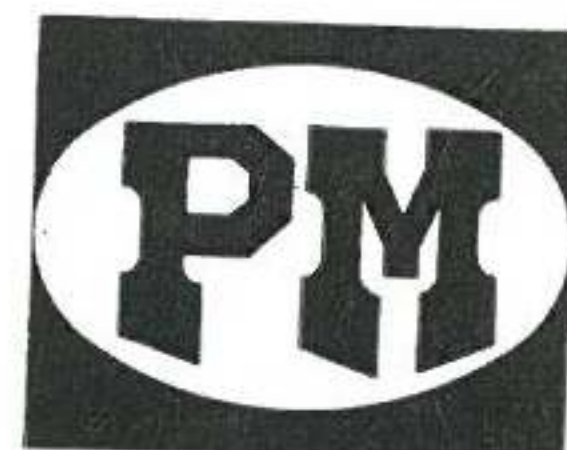
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● FROM PAGE 47

ted a couple of seasons back when it was decided to play the All-Ireland Senior Singles and Doubles Championships on an Open Draw Basis. I am amongst those who contend that this system has many deficiencies, but, my real theme concerns the sincerity of those officials who made such a radical change, solely in the interests of the game and without reference to the effect it might have on their own area of operation.

The Open Championships this year were given an additional boost by the generous sponsorship of the Irish Bottlers of Coca-Cola. In the Singles grade the Wexford representative, Joe Howlin, took the Handball World by surprise when he ousted some of the top personalities for a final tilt with Pat Kirby while Wexford also had a partnership in the doubles final with Pat Murphy and Richie Lyng opposed to Limerick's Pat McGarry and Michael Hogan.

The general healthy position of handball today can also be attributed to other reasons and amongst them are the successful World Championship in 1970, the impact of television and the fact that our players often make regular trips to the U.S.A. for competitive games.

In its resurgent form, handball is now demanding modern type facilities. Neither is it being denied then for never a week passes but General Secretary Joe Lynch advises us of the construction of courts in some part of the country.

There is as yet no definite decision on the standardisation of court construction and while I am at variance with those who suggest there is no need for it time may prove that the 60' x 30' and 40' x 20' games can be complementary to each other.

On the question of court con-

struction an exciting development emerged last month when Joe Jennings, the former President of the Irish Handball Council announced that he had devised a system whereby a 40' x 20' court could be built for the moderate sum of £7,000.

Jennings' new system which is based on the "Breton Slab Scheme" can be completed within the space of one month and includes all ancillary facilities.

He has, in fact, put the scheme to the test by building his own court in Dundrum and he is quite happy with the finished product.

His plan certainly deserves the attention of all committees interested in the promotion and development of the game, and prior to building a court they would be well advised to contact him. Correspondence should be addressed to: J. J. Jennings, Roebuck Hill, Dundrum, Dublin 14.





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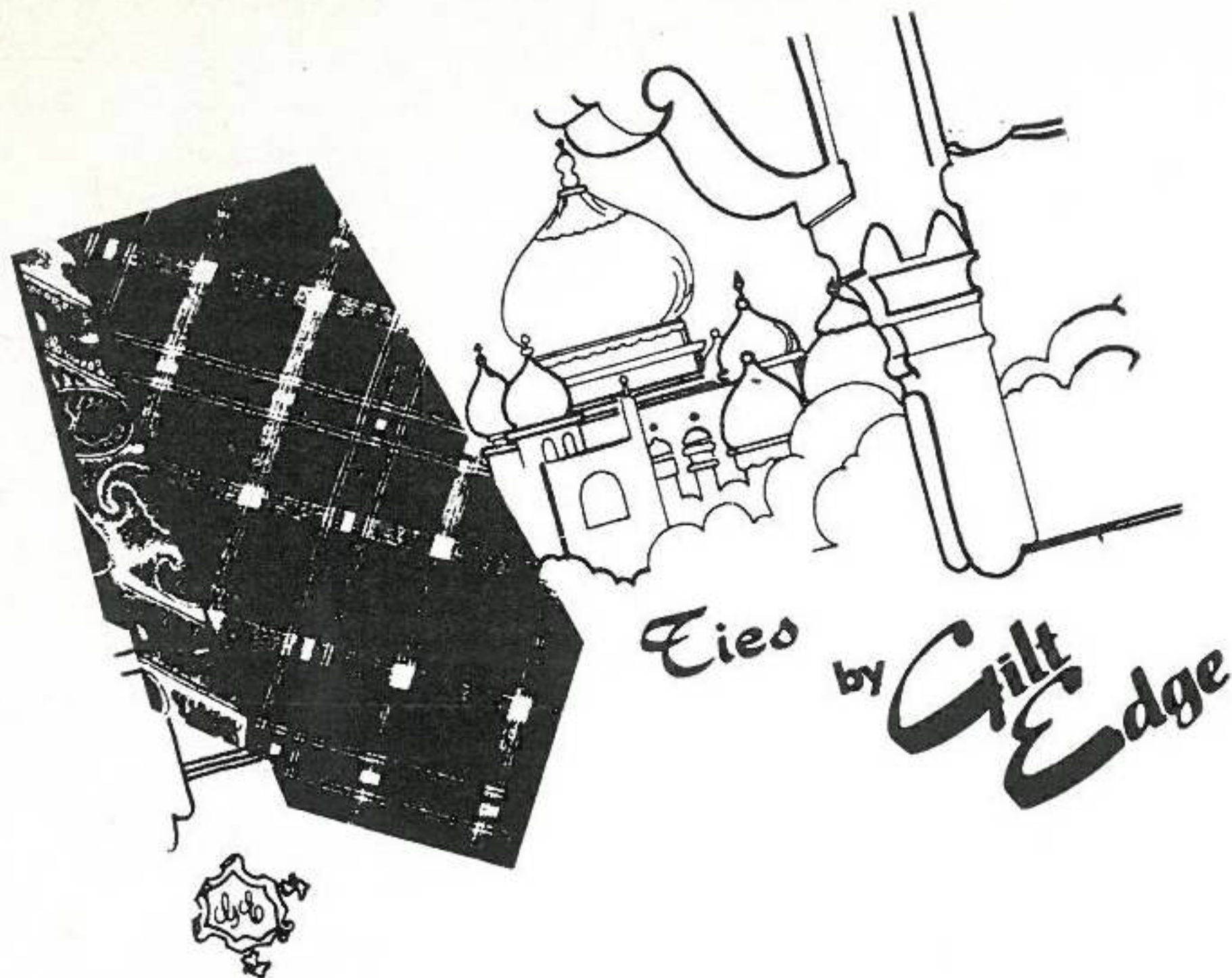
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GAA Reporting by Paddy Downey in THE IRISH TIMES



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THE IRISH TIMES

BACKGROUND OF RIVAL TEAMS

By OWEN McCANN

ALTHOUGH Kerry, with 22 titles, and Dublin, who won the championship for the 18th time last year, set the standard on top of the All-Ireland senior football title winners list, they have not, surprisingly enough, been in opposition all that often for the Blue Riband. This will only be the sixth final proper between the counties. Dublin got off to a good start by winning the first meeting in the 1892 decider. Kerry evened the score in 1904, but Dublin went one ahead again by winning the 1923 final. The counties clashed also in 1924, when Kerry made it two wins each, and the next final was not until 1955. Then, a much vaunted Metropolitan side that had earlier in the year won the National League title, started favourites, but lost by three points. So, the over-all score in finals proper is 3-2 in favour of the Munster county. However, Dublin beat the Kingdom in the 1908 "Home" decider on

the way to a title win at the expense of London in the final proper.

The Counties last met in the Championship in 1965. A Kerry team that included Donie O'Sullivan at right half back, won that game by 4-8 to 2-6.

Dublin's last championship success against Kerry was in a 1934 semi-final, played at Tralee, and in which the Metropolitans had a decisive 11 points victory margin—3-8 to 0-6.

In the current campaign Dublin beat Wexford by 4-17 to 3-10 at Carlow; Louth by 3-14 to 4-7, at Navan; Kildare in the Leinster final at Croke Park by 3-13 to 0-8, and Derry by 3-13 to 3-8.

The Leinster county has not made a successful defence of the All-Ireland title since 1923, when Dublin took the championship for the third successive season.

Kerry beat Tipperary at Clonmel by 3-13 to 0-9; Cork at Killar-



● David Hickey (right) holds off Galway's Jack Cosgrove in this action picture from the '74 final.

ney by 1-14 to 0-7 to regain the Munster title, and Sligo by 3-13 to 0-5 on their way to this year's decider.

● TO PAGE 53

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● FROM PAGE 51

Some of the men who may be to the forefront in this appealing final include :

Jimmy Keaveney, who has made such a major contribution to the Dublin glory campaign since he returned to the team in July 1974 after an absence of two years, is the only Metropolitan link with the side beaten by Kerry in the 1965 semi-final.

He made his senior inter-county debut in 1964, and won his third Leinster senior medal last July. One of the greatest free-takers the game has seen, he was 30 in January, has played with Leinster in the Railway Cup, and won senior county medals in hurling and football with St. Vincent's.

After his All-Ireland senior medal win of a year ago, this six-footer was chosen at full-forward in the Carrolls All Stars team

John O'Keeffe captained St. Brendan's, Killarney, to the 1969 All-Ireland Colleges' senior football title win, and in 1970 helped Kerry to their senior final win over Meath. He is 6 ft. tall, won Railway Cup medals with Munster (1972 and 1975) and the Combined Universities (1973), National League souvenirs with Kerry, and was a Carrolls All Star in 1973.

John, who is 24, played with Kerry at minor and under-21, and made his senior debut against Mayo in a League tie late in 1969.

Anton O'Toole, whose two golden goals did much to sink Derry's ambitions in the recent semi-final, has been in the inter-county senior ranks since 1972. He did not play minor with the county, but won junior and under-21 honours.

Now 24, and another six-footer, the Synge Street club player was of course, in last year's

title winning team, and played this year with Leinster against Munster in the unsuccessful semi-final outing at Cork.

Michael O'Sullivan captains Kerry at 23. Like so many of today's seniors, he has graduated to the senior ranks from the minor and under-21 grades. He helped Kerry to their 1973 All-Ireland under-21 title triumph, was in last year's National League title winning XV, and added a Munster senior medal to his collection last July.

Sean Doherty first played with the Dublin senior team in 1968. A former county junior captain, the man who led the Metropolitans to last year's great triumph was born in Wicklow. He plays both football and hurling with his club, Ballyboden St. Enda's, won a Carrolls All Star award last year, played for Leinster in the 1975 Railway Cup, and is 29. He stands 6 ft. 3 ins.

Brendan Lynch is at 26 one of Kerry's most experienced players. In the senior inter-county grade since early in 1968, he has reaped a rich harvest of medals, including four in the National League, two in the Railway Cup (with the Universities in 1973 and Munster in '75), and All-Ireland senior awards for 1969 and 1970. This Beaufort club man is 5 ft. 10 ins.

David Hickey was chosen at left half forward in last year's Carroll's All Stars team. Now 24, he played with Dublin in the minor and under-21 grades, and won his place in the senior side while still a teenager. He is 5 ft. 11 ins. and was a key figure in last season's campaign. He played for Leinster this year.

Paddy Cullen began his senior inter-county career in 1966 as a forward. Later he was sidelined for about a year with a

leg injury, and when he returned it was as a goalkeeper. A Carrolls All Star last year, he is 30, and 6 ft. 2 inches tall. Leinster's goalkeeper in the 1975 Railway Cup, his memorable penalty save from Liam Sammon in the second half was one of the features of last year's final win over Galway.

Paul O'Mahony is another of Kerry's all conquering under-21 side of 1973 now to the fore as a senior. At 23 he played in a senior Munster final winning team for the first time in July, but over a year earlier collected a National League medal. He plays with Spa in Kerry and is a former county minor.

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MEET THE CAPTAINS

By JAY DRENNAN



SEAN DOHERTY

MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

CLEARLY there is no special mould in which captains should be cast — or if there is then either Kerry or Dublin have made a bad mistake. Because there is hardly any point at which you could find similarity in the make-up of Mickey O'Sullivan (Kerry) and Sean Doherty (Dublin) the captains of their respective sides for the All-Ireland football final.

Of course they are both dedicated, great triers, each with his own required skills, each a man who leads from the front by example, and each of them fine fellows in their own right. But, after those external points there is no other similarity. Doherty is a Dubliner and O'Sullivan comes from the deep south — Kenmare — for a beginning. Doherty is a full-back of fairly classical proportions, tall and strong and happy enough to stay at home and block, cover, burst out to catch and clear, little concerned with the frivolities.

O'Sullivan is a little fellow, chunkily built with lightning reactions and a strong spring in each leg, a bouncing, tough little customer who pays few dividends to those who think they can knock him about. Then he is insatiable as regards possession — he will go anywhere to get the ball, and he will go to great lengths to hold it when he has got it. Nothing pleases him better than a solo-run, or a series of complicated in-and-out manoeuvres his control and his juggling are often his undoing — tempting him to put too much work on the ball.

Doherty is building a fine reputation as a destroyer of scoring moves and a solid rampart in front of goal-bound attackers. O'Sullivan has an equal facility in creating and in finishing the scoring moves that Doherty loves to destroy.

Even in their approach to this game and this year of 1975, they contrast with one another starkly. Doherty came to the notice of the great footballing public only when the present Dublin team did, and his place in their thoughts is as a full-back only. Furthermore he has built his reputation steadily, moving forward all the way as Dublin did.

O'Sullivan was one of those thrilling minor players — at centre-half-back — who caught everyone's eye and made them watch for his further progress when he reached senior status. When at length he did, it was with a great flourish in the centre-forward position and caused Offaly to regret his presence in a League final. From there he prospered a while, but with many Kerry folk regretting his increasing tendency to overhold the ball and bring his whole attack into over-complicated passing moves.

He was sent back to half-back to recuperate as it were; played beautifully there, too. Yet his driving qualities were something most desired in an attack. Not at centre, however, in case he fell into that old temptation. So, Kerry chanced him on the wing for the championship and his display against Cork showed that he

was now pretty nearly ideally placed.

With the amount of ground the Kerryman covers it would be unusual if the captains' paths did not cross several times in the big match. To that extent the issue will turn somewhat on whether the solid defender or the tricky attacker comes out best.

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**THE
KERRY
MIDFIELD**
*... and
the men
they'll be
trying to
emulate*

PAUD Lynch and Pat McCarthy will link up in manly effort on the half way line for Kerry. Dublin's Brian Mullins and Bernard Brogan meet them for the first time and if the Kingdom are to win the game they must, I think, own more than a half share of the ball. No team wins an All-Ireland without a good midfield pair and a man asked me if these lads are as good as the athletes placed there in the past. I like answering impossible questions because nobody can prove you wrong, so here goes.

In '53 the men in the centre of the field for Kerry were Sean Murphy of Camp and seventy-five inch Dermot Hannifan. Dr. Eamonn O'Sullivan once told me that Sean Murphy, a great—was he the best? right half back, was one of the finest players he ever trained. Hannifan, very strong and splendid in the air, made an efficient partnership on the day when they beat Armagh.

In '55 when they beat Dublin it was six-foot John Dowling and Denis O'Shea, a little smaller. Both were skilled players of the ball and Dowling who played in several places for the Kingdom had a heart deep as a well. This was a very solid firm and on the day against Dublin when Tadghy Lyne and Ned Roche made probably the most significant contributions to victory, the Dowling-O'Shea pair had a very sound hour.

In '59 when Kerry beat Galway, the western men were Frank Eivers and Mattie McDonagh, big and fast, able to play it rough or smooth. Seamus Murphy, a brother of Sean's and normally a half-back, though he also played at corner back, partnered Mick O'Connell. That was when O'Connell was hurt early on, and from the forty they brought back Tom

Long. I can still see the immensely strong teacher from the Gaeltacht tearing up for the high ones against bigger men and landing with feet dancing like a rabbit's when the ball was broken. Seamus Murphy had a marvellous sense of position and was as cute as an old harrier. It is enough to say that the Kerrymen broke even with the two westerners and Sean Murphy as right half back swung it and became sports star of the week.

In '62 there was Micko Connell and Jimmy Lucey, a fine hardy player, who has passed away. He was a foil for O'Connell's brilliance and the pair gave Roscommon an unhappy time on the day. Micko was a better player then than he was earlier, for though the same classy football was evident four years before, he was more at ease in the game at this time and happier in the wonderful fellowship of competitive games.

In '64 there was Doney O'Sullivan of Cill Airne, who might have made the present side but for injury, with Mick Fleming to help him. Here were two fast long-kicking men, always dog-fit and mad for action. But that was the beginning of the Galway three-in-a-row and the Donnellans, Cyril Dunne, Seamus Leyden, Mattie MacDonagh and the rest made a classy side. At left wing for Kerry that year, incidentally, was Micko Connell.

What about Micko Connell and Din Joe Crowley in '69 when they beat Offaly. The power and artistry of O'Connell at this time was enough to bother any opponent and Din Joe was a strong travelling player. He kept the ball very much under control in a solo-run, it curled up the minimum



Paud Lynch

Pat McCarthy

● TO PAGE 60

JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

ALL IRELAND football final issue. I always regard football final Sunday as the end of the Summer. Time to have had your last swim. Time to be preparing for the Winter and another year. The pairing Dublin v. Kerry is a repeat of 1955. That time Dublin were highly fancied but Kerry won convincingly. There were no mobs of thugs then but then soccer in England didn't have this affliction then either. Whatever happens in England we must copy. Remember the throwing of toilet paper rolls started there too and it's only recently we stopped that.

Now I know and you know that it is only a very small minority of Dublin's followers who "act the maggot". 99% or more of them are genuine followers, who are really ashamed of the behaviour of the thugs who come in gangs and drag the good name of Dublin into the gutter. The Dublin players are great footballers, great sportsmen and grand lads. They show a fine example on the field of play and so does their coach "HEFFO" who receives favourable comment from one of our readers for a very commendable act in the Leinster final. I hope the G.A.A. takes the necessary precautions to prevent any trouble on All-Ireland Day. Or maybe the day of the all-ticket final is not too far away. Then only genuine followers would get in to the ground. But enough said on that topic. I look forward to a great final which should attract a record crowd and hope everyone has a pleasant day.

Every year for All-Ireland football final issue I include a list of recently published G.A.A. books

for the benefit of readers, especially new readers.

(1) Cork's Glorious Years — a 100 page record of Cork's G.A.A. triumphs down the years spiced with plenty of photos of teams. A great reference book of Cork's part in 45 years of G.A.A. history.

From Tom Morrison, Monagurra, Shanagarry, Co. Cork, forward P.O. for 75p incl. postage).

(2) Jack Mahon's Gaelic Games Quiz Book 1—the first ever G.A.A. Quiz Book and a must for all those followers of Scór '76, who will be busy preparing for the G.A.A. Talent Competitions in the months ahead. This 84 page book is full of interesting items, photo quizzes, games of all sorts and carries the top scorer charts since 1955.

From Jack Mahon, 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway, forward P.O. for 65p incl. postage).

(3) Michael O'Hehir's World of Gaelic Games 1975 — full of colour photos of outstanding quality. Outstanding articles by the great commentator himself where he picks his best football and hurling teams of the past 25 years, Pádhraic Puirseál, Raymond Smith, Tony Magee, Michael O'Carroll, Tom Morrison, Jim Bennett, Dave Guiney, Brian McEniff and Seán Ó Dúnagáin. Another must.

From Gaelic Press Ltd., 21 Great Denmark St., Dublin 1, forward P.O. for £1 incl. postage.

These three books have appeared during the past three months. At another time I will prepare a comprehensive list of all available G.A.A. literature. I hope Raymond Smith brings out yet another edition of "The Football

Immortals" in the not too distant future. Don't you?

MICHAEL O'HEHIR

I get letters every so often from readers asking if it is possible to get the best of Michael O'Hehir on cassette tapes. Not yet. But I have been chatting with Michael on this and it may be possible. People with tapes may have to make these available to Michael. I have tapes of the 1956 final (S.F.), the 1957 N.F.L. final and the 1957 St. Brendan's Cup final in New York. I'm sure other readers from other counties have tapes of other games. If any of you have tapes please let me know (address at end of column). Remember all this started on the Mailbag and we may be on to something.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-out this month is Galway's Liam Sammon. An ornament of the game, Liam is a great worker for the youth. Every Saturday morning he gives his spare time to the youth of Salthill and takes responsibility for at least 100 primary school kids of varying ages as he coaches them in Gaelic football. His work can be seen in the great strides made by the young boys in the area who idolise him. My own little fellow, Pearse (not 10 yet) never misses a Saturday morning hail, rain or snow. For this work alone, apart altogether from his own football ability, Liam deserves our Cut-out feature.

Finally before we get to the Mailbag I'd like to apologise to some readers for not including their letters in last month's Mailbag. We need more space,

● **OVERLEAF**

● FROM OVERLEAF

especially at All-Ireland time. Please write about any topic to me and I will air your views in the Mailbag. If you want a Pen Pal please let me know.

Patrick Leogue (16), Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly, thinks it's a shame if R.T.E. radio tapes of Michael O'Hehir have been destroyed. "These tapes are part of our national heritage." He wants a Sligo Cut-out.

John Leogue (Aged 10), same address as Patrick above wants a Pen Pal in Cork or Galway. His hobbies are football, hurling and reading G.A.A. magazines. Favourite referee: John Moloney.

"G.A.A. Fan", **Carrigfadda, Reenascreena, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork**, thinks Justin McCarthy and Mick O'Dwyer are great coaches.

COMPETITION

This Is My First Time Writing to GAELIC SPORT

We are awarding prizes to the following 3 new writers—

(1) **Tommy Flaherty (Aged 13), Palace View, 40 Lower Salt-hill, Galway**—"who enjoys reading the views and thoughts of other young readers."

(2) **Aideen Hurley, Kilcaskin House, Fedamore, Co. Limerick**—"who would like a Pen Pal anywhere in the world." Her hobbies are reading hurling, swimming and cooking and she is eleven years old.

(3) **Liam Bourke, Kilderry, Meanus, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick** "who thinks Eamonn Cregan and Jimmy Duggan are the most skilful players in Ireland". He considers Din Joe Crowley's goal in the 1970 All-Ireland the best score he has seen. Liam is 14 years old.

A hearty céad milte failte also to new reader-writers in **Greg Finn (11) of Abbey St., Roscommon** who is sad that there are so few letters from his own county, **Michael Murphy, Cullina, Beaufort, Killarney, Co. Kerry** whose best commentator is Michael O'Hehir, **David Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick** who is 9 years old and thinks M. O'Hehir

makes goals and long range points very exciting, **Martin Burke, Killeslin, Ballickmoyler, Carlow**, who enjoyed visiting the G.A.A. shop on Leinster Final Day, **Martin Crowley, 26 Ferndale Rd., Finglas East, Dublin 11** who is 13 years old and plays for Erins Isle and thinks Dublin will beat Kerry and wants the G.A.A. to sponsor coaching films on football and hurling.

Michael McGillicuddy, Behilane, Castlecore, Killarney, Co. Kerry first bought GAELIC SPORT at this year's Munster final in Killarney. Michael is 15. He has a great regard for John Egan who lives in Sneem.

MAILBAG

Pat Harrington, Curraclough, Lissarva, Co. Cork — "I am 10 years old. I want a Cut-out of Gerald McCarthy, my favourite player. Other favourites are Charlie McCarthy, Frankie Nolan and Jimmy Barrett."

● *How about a photo of Gerald specially for Pat (J.M.).*

Joseph McElligott, Glenoe, Listowel, Co. Kerry — wants a Cut-out of Jimmy Deenihan.

Sean Furlong (aged 10), Kilmacleague, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford—hopes there are special T.V. programmes before the finals this year like last year. "Where has Sports Spectrum gone"? he asks.

● *There will be no pre-final special T.V. programmes this year I understand and this is sad. Like yourself I hope Sports Spectrum returns again. (J.M.).*

Eamonn Shanahan (Aged 12), Effin, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick—thinks the drawn Limerick v. Tipperary S.H.C. game was a thriller with Pat Hartigan his man of the match.

Gerard Gray, Templenacarriga, Middleton, Co. Cork — is yet another Junior Desk fan who wants a Cut-out of Gerald McCarthy.

Tommy Maher (aged 14), Main

St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny, —writing to me before the Leinster S.H.C. final forecast a Kilkenny v. Galway All-Ireland final and hoped Kilkenny would "get Galway back for that League defeat."

● *Good tipping, Tommy. Kilkenny sure did "get their own back" but Galway will come again. (J.M.).*

Billy Kelleher, Gortbofinna, Ballyclough, Mallow, Co. Cork—thought the Munster S.H.C. final great. His men of the match were Martin Coleman, Martin Doherty, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Willie Walsh, Charlie McCarthy and Eamonn Grimes.

John O'Donoghue, Gurransreigh, Lissarda, Co. Cork—"I am 12 years old and I play football for Kilmichael. I love Junior Desk. Give me a Cut-out of Declan Barron, Tony Murphy, John Coleman, Con Hartnett and Kevin Kehilly."

Aidan Harte, 6 Liam-Var Grove, Bishopstown, Cork—"My Dad bought GAELIC SPORT at the Munster Final and I saw my letter in it. I was thrilled when Cork won. I was at Scoil na nÓg Irish College, Glanmire, for the month of July and every Saturday my Dad collected me and brought me home and we went to matches on Sundays."

● *I hope you appreciate what your Dad is doing for you Aidan. When I was young my Dad did the same thing for me. And now I bring my own kids every Sunday (J.M.).*

John Lyons, Creggane, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway—in a short letter says he loves playing hurling and football.

● *Keep it up John (J.M.).*

John Keane, Emmet Place, Youghal, Co. Cork, sends congrats to Galway on a fine win over Cork. He feels Galway had all the luck but they are "a fine bunch of lads". He praises my "Gaelic Games Quizbook I" which he describes as "just fantastic" and wants Junior Desk increased to 6 pages.

● *Yes John they are a fine bunch of lads. Glad you enjoyed the Quiz-*

JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

book which you'll be glad to know is selling very well (J.M.).

Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare—usually writes a letter full of ideas. This time she says Galway were "fantastic against Cork" with John Connolly superb. Once again she wants a Wedding Corner in Junior Desk. She was disappointed with Sligo's display but made the point that "they learnt too late that it was no good expecting Kerry to be sorry for them as the general sporting public were. They must create their own tradition like the Offaly footballers did in '71 and '72 and the Limerick hurlers in '73."

● *Well said Mary, Sligo must now learn to rise after a fall (J.M.).*

John Dalton, Ballyphilip, Coalbrook, Thurles, Co. Tipperary—thinks the best goal that was ever seen was in 1972 when Francis Loughnane went on the right wing past two Kilkenny defenders and crashed the ball to the far side of the net.

● *Now there's an idea. What was the best goal you ever saw scored? Remember Din Joe Crowley's goal in an All Ireland final. I remember great goals by Ray Cummins in a Munster S.H.C. game v. Tipperary, one by Mickey Whelan in a Railway Cup game in Ballinasloe, one by Sean Purcell, many by Christy Ring and John Connolly's great goal against Cork What was the greatest goal you ever saw? (J.M.).*

Michael O'Hare, Patrick St., Mountrath, Co. Laois, thinks Nicky Orr is the most improved hurler in Ireland.

Maurice Neligan (Aged 11½), Railway Road, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, thinks Junior Desk should be increased to 10 pages, feels R.T.E. coverage of Gaelic games is disgraceful, wants a Crossword in Junior Desk and feels it is a pity there aren't more G.A.A. books on sale. His favourite players are Eamonn Grimes, "Babs" Keating, Tadhg O'Connor, his cousin Paudie Fitzmaurice and Pat Hartigan.

● *I thought your cousin Paudie*

had a great game in the Munster final (J.M.).

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, has great praise for Galway's hurling half-backs Joe McDonagh, Sean Silke and Iggy Clarke and for Derry half-forwards Brendan Kelly, Mickey Lynch and Gerry McElhinney.

Jack Naughton, Brockagh, Horseleap, Moate, Co. Westmeath, favours a Senior "B" championship in football to give hope to the weaker counties because as he writes "there are very few giant-killing acts these days in football." He would play the winners of the Senior "B" in an All-Ireland quarter-final against one of the provincial champions, this to alternate every year. Regarding my Quizbook he thought the Interesting Items a great idea but felt I should have made out a marks system. He himself got about 64% correct.

● *Not bad Jack (J.M.).*

Ger Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford, wants the Open Draw introduced for one year in hurling and praises Kevin Heffernan for his sporting act in attending to one of the injured Kildare players, John Balfe, in the Leinster final.

● *A very sporting act indeed Ger. I remember Dr. Jim Brosnan rushing over to attend to Mick Donnellan in the Hogan Stand before the end of the 1964 final when he learnt that the father of the captain of the Galway team had collapsed this despite the fact that Kerry were losing and Jim himself was one of the men in charge. It is acts like these of Heffo and Jim Brosnan that bring home to people that sportsmanship has a wider boundary than the playing field (J.M.).*

"G.A.A. Fan" (Name and address enclosed), **Coventry, Warks.** wants to know when Michael O'Hehir made his first broadcast of a G.A.A. game. He laments the passing of Con Brosnan, father of Jim, whom he saw play in the 1923 and '24 finals. He is glad the Camogie results are now carried on Radio which he

receives loud and clear in Coventry every Sunday and was thrilled with Galway's win over Cork.

● *Michael's first broadcast was the 1938 All Ireland S.F. semi-final between Galway and Monaghan at Mullingar (J.M.).*

Finally **Martin Carley, Glenview, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath** goes to all the big games with his Daddy.

Unfortunately we had to cut some letters from the September issue. We reprint some of them here and will try to include the rest of them in our next issue. (J.M.)

John Moloney, Ballyshonakin, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick (aged 10) is a relation of Limerick hurler Pat Heffernan. John is a great admirer of Michael O'Hehir and plays U-14 hurling with Effin. Mick O'Connell is the best footballer he ever saw.

● *Welcome to Junior Desk, John. Which reminds me I met your namesake John Moloney, the referee, after the Munster final. John, the referee, was thrilled with his Junior Desk award of last year. He is a great personality and a wonderful referee. (J.M.).*

Gerard Dowling, 5, Upper Johnstown, Waterford, thinks Carrolls have done more for the G.A.A. than any other sponsoring company. He pays tribute to their P.R. Manager, Pat Heneghan, the brains behind it all. Gerard suggests a Cut-out for a handballer.

● *Carrolls are lucky in their public relations man Pat Heneghan. Yes, we should have a Handballer Cut-out. (J.M.).*

Phew that's the end of the MAILBAG. Keep writing to me about the All-Ireland, your favourite players, what you'd like to have in Junior Desk. Keep your letters brief and send them to:

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● FROM PAGE 56

height from his toe as he ran through, back hunched and going like a tank. They were a very effective pair.

In '70 it was young John O'Keeffe and Micko. The big Tralee man is not any better now than he was five years ago but he simply has settled into a vital spot after some changing. With O'Connell playing well, the fetching and kicking was above average and both players were able to travel. Height, strength, football, and two pair of pounding feet. Add a fair share of common sense and you have enough to satisfy anybody.

So if we run those pictures through the screen of the mind as if they were slides from memory's library, each gets a fair chance of comparing them with the men of today. Memory, like the TV screen, is black and white or coloured, and the day you had a pain in your stomach as you watched, the greatest player in the world looked off colour, while conversely if you had just been promoted in the job, or won the admiration of the young woman you brought to the game, every man leaped six inches higher.

I asked Ned Roche what he thought. Were today's Kerry centre-fielders as good as the pairs I mentioned?

As I expected I failed to get a straight answer. It didn't worry my friend in the slightest as cheerfully he reminded me that one of the best centre-fielders ever to play for Kerry was the very tall stylist Tom Moriarty now in Tralee. "Look," said I, would you mind answering my question . . . ?

"The best centre-field . . .

now . . . of all those you mentioned, my pick would be . . . John Dowling and Micko Connell."

A quick glance over the names will show that I never said John and Micko played together at midfield for Kerry.

You can't win them all.

But I'm elbowing my own way into this article to say that while I never saw Con Brosnan and Bob Stack play championship, John Joe Sheehy told me they were great. Johnny Walsh and Paddy Kennedy battling with Bill and Jack Delaney of Laois is still a vivid picture of skill and power on my TV — and it IS in colour. Sean Brosnan of Dingle beside Kennedy was on the day superb, and there was a small man who from the centre of the field tore holes in half back lines on his own. Name of Jim Brosnan, son of the great Con, whose recent death left a gap in the ranks of Ireland's sporting warriors.

Pat McCarthy who started his championship career with the Kingdom as a centre forward in Clonmel is a strong and very lively player. He fetches well and is very earnest and durable. I expect him to win a fair share of that ball and he may make his name. Paud Lynch who started the season badly should be sound on the day and if he produces the great all-round ability, buttressed by a genuine heart he will be back in the top bracket from which he would not have slipped but for injury and study.

In form the two will play well though I wouldn't expect them to beat Kennedy and Brosnan — or Ned Roche's delightful flight of fancy. But being the men they are, they'll be in there trying — and hard!



**Liam
Sammon
Galway**

Age: 30
Height:
5 ft. 11 ins.
Weight:
12 st. 4 lb.
Club:
Fr. Griffins
Position:
Full Forward
**Senior Inter-
County Debut:**
1965.

**CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS**

Liam had a winning debut in an All-Ireland senior football final in 1966 when Galway last won the title, and he captained the county in the 1971 and 1973 Sam Maguire Cup games.

He won minor, junior and under-21 honours with the county, and was called up to the senior ranks in a tournament game with Mayo early in 1965.

A Carrolls All-Star at midfield in 1971 and at left half forward in 1973, and holder of six Connacht senior medals, Liam has represented Connacht in the Railway Cup, but has not played on an actual final winning team.



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