

143 GAA

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IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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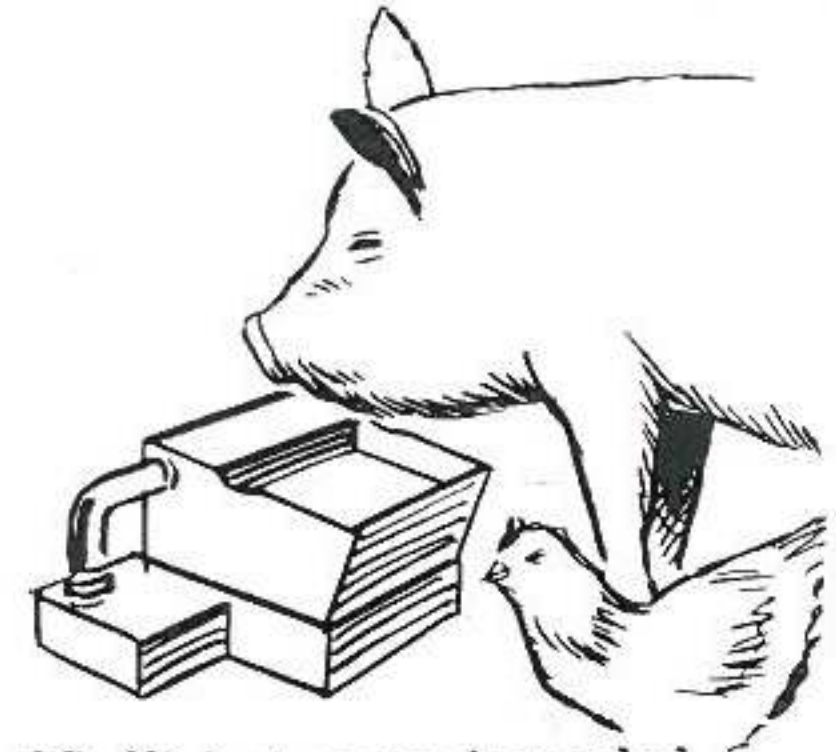




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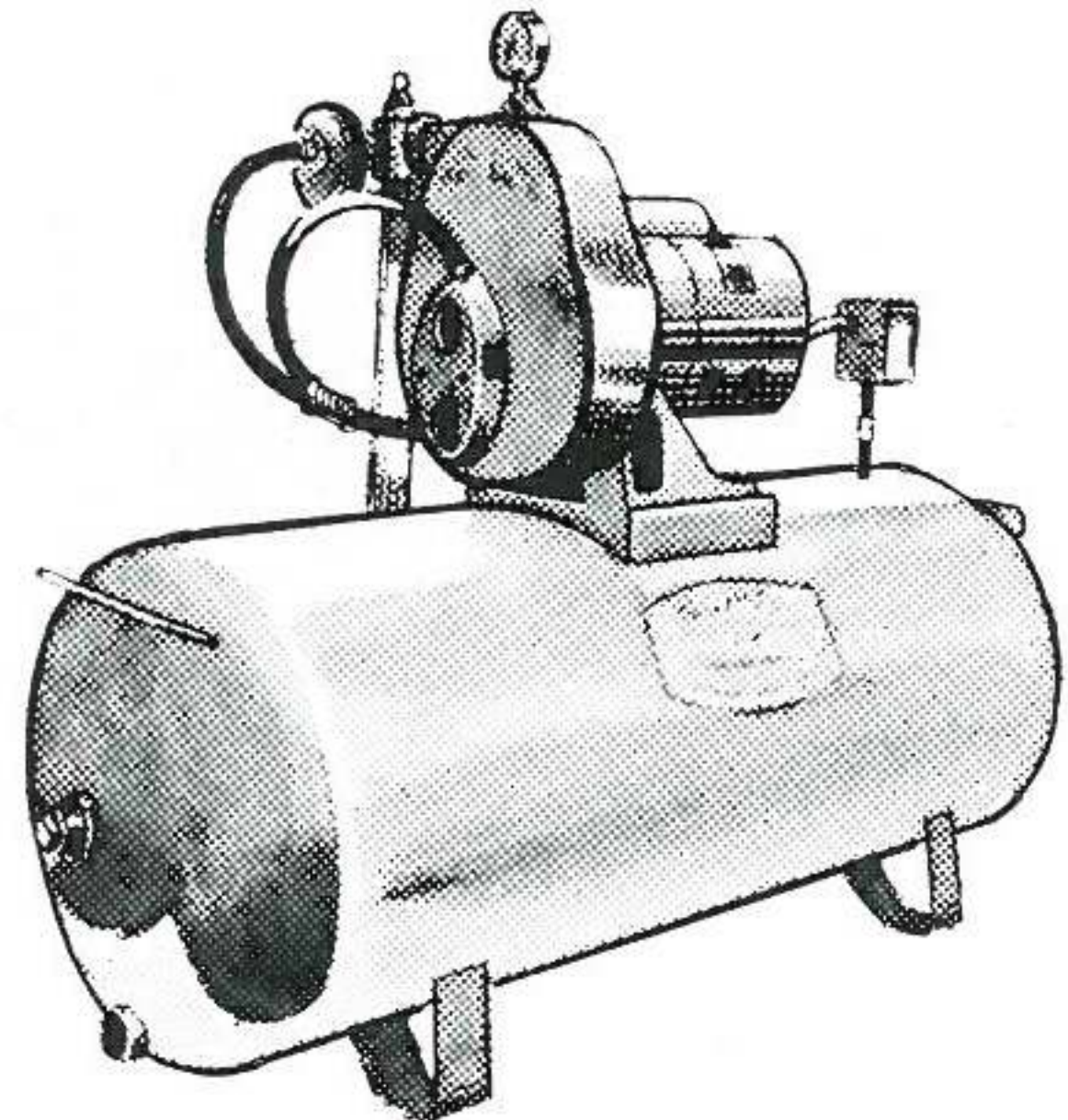
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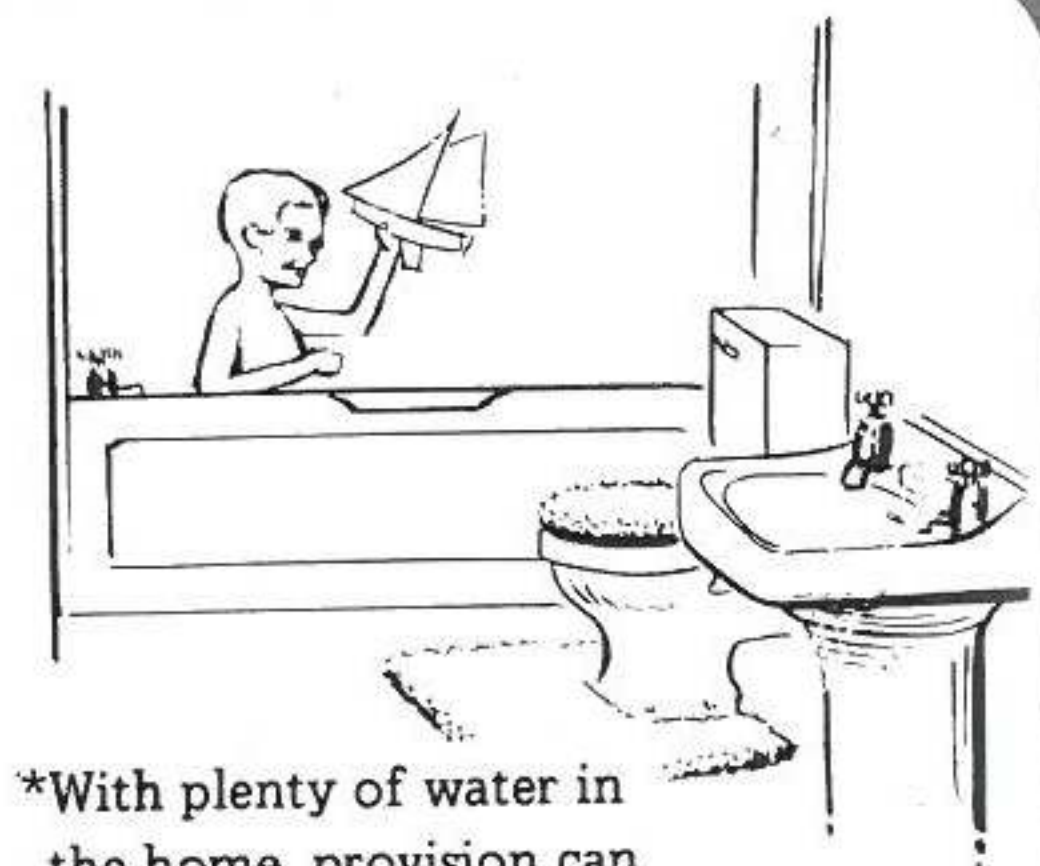
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ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINALS

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MINOR — 1.30 p.m.

CORCAIGH v CILL CHAINNIGH

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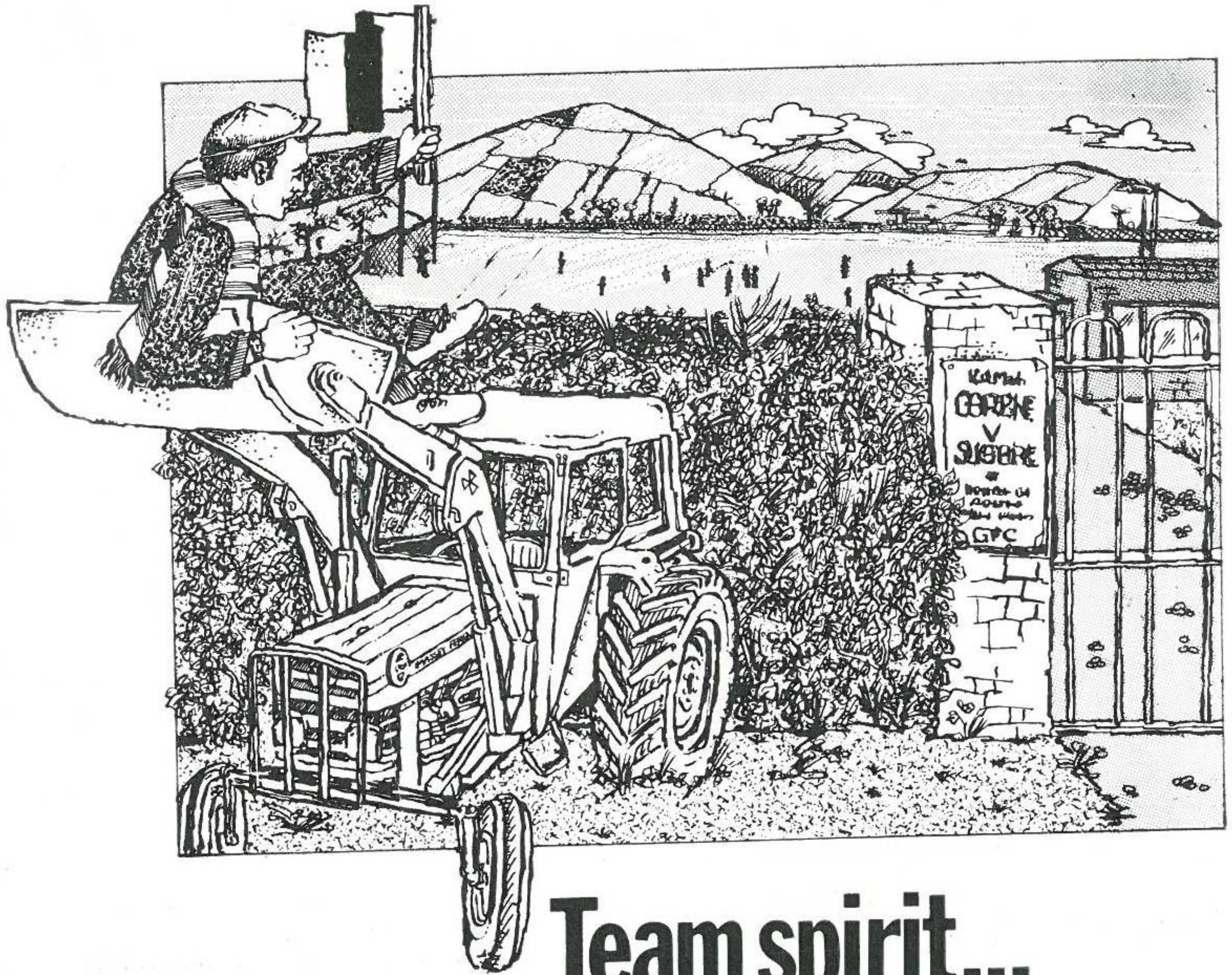
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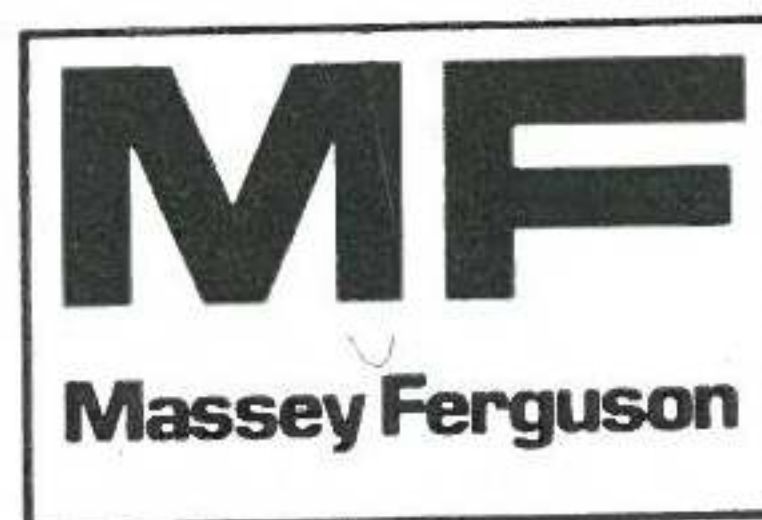
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE toast must be the hurlers of Galway! Their win over Cork in the All-Ireland senior championship semi-final last month was more than a famous and deserved victory for the county—it was a major break-through for the ancient game.

For too long, now, the top match of the year in hurling has been dominated by the same small circle of counties. It is true that Limerick brought a refreshing new look in 1973 when they not only returned to the All-Ireland final scene after a long absence but regained the national crown.

Few, however, will seriously dispute the fact that hurling needs more break-through successes in the classic mould of that rare Limerick triumph of two years ago, and Galway's equally rare glory day of mid-August. Nation-wide the game becomes more alive as a result, and interest in hurling quickens outside the main strongholds. That is all to the general good.

This is not to take in any way from the wonderful contribution that the game's leading counties have made to the big day down through the years. They have set the standard, created the legends that are part and parcel of the exciting and colourful history of hurling, and maintained the unbroken link that provides the inspiration for young men not only in their own areas, but further afield.

Yet, even supporters in the success-laden counties will readily concede that achievements such as Galway's in the National League and championship this year bring new hope to the many who have been striving so valiantly for so long with very little tangible reward for their efforts.

The new hurling heroes from Galway are worthy finalists. Although they proved their mettle in the best way possible by franking their National League title win in May with victories over Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary in the concluding rounds, many still felt that they would be found wanting in the Championship semi-final.

But the skilled and determined men from the West rose to that challenge in a way that left no room for argument. There can be no doubt now that Galway are indeed back once again as a hurling power.

And Kilkenny? They, too, go into this All-Ireland final with much to recommend them. The All-Ireland champions have qualified yet again in impressive style, and furthermore, their hurlers have given ample proof that they are maintaining in regal fashion the county's proud tradition as probably the outstanding exponents of classical hurling.

COVER PHOTO

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**O**UR front cover this month features the All-Ireland finalists, Galway and Kilkenny.

**GALWAY**—from left (back row): Joe Clarke, Sean Silke, Sean Murphy, P. J. Qualter, Michael Conneally, Frank Burke, Pat Lally, Iggy Clarke. Front row: P. J. Molloy, Gerry Coone, John Connolly, Marty Barrett, Pdraic Fahy, Niall McInerney and Joe McDonagh.

**KILKENNY**—from left (back row): Pat Henderson, Brian Cody, Tom McCormack, Mick Crotty, Eddie Keher, Mick Brennan, Pat Delany, Fan Larkin. Front row: Pat Lalor, Noel Skehan, Willie Fitzpatrick, Liam O'Brien, Kieran Purcell, Nicky Orr and Frank Cummins.





Joe Clarke  
(Galway)



P. J. Molloy  
(Galway)



Michael Conneally  
(Galway)

By Mick Dunne

of RTE Sport

## **'Inky' Flaherty's role in the dramatic rise of the Galway hurling team**

**T**WENTY-FOUR hours after the All-Ireland hurling semi-final Frank Fahy, the Galway hurling secretary, summed-up for me the influence trainer Inky Flaherty has had on the players who are now preparing for the final: "He has them convinced they're the greatest team in the country."

This is, probably, one of the more significant factors of Galway's very welcome re-emergence as a real hurling force in keeping with the county's noble tradition, for — remember — it was Galway, along with Tipperary, who sent a team into the very first All-Ireland final. It's a very notable achievement of Flaherty's to have developed such a positive frame of mind among the representatives of a county that, sadly, in recent times has so often taken the role of gallant loser and appeared almost inevitably, to be easy prey for every other hurling county.

It's so easy to get into the habit of losing as many of our

less fortunate counties know only too well. There comes a time when defeat is accepted as the inevitable even before teams step onto the field, no matter how much ability or talent they know they possess. Much more difficult is it to alter the trend and get players believing strongly in themselves again.

Inky Flaherty was an outstanding hurler during his playing career and it was appropriate that last May when Galway regained the National League their trainer should have been a player who contributed so much to their last triumph in that competition. But even if he had not been the celebrated hurler

he was, Inky would command a place in the county's history for his role in the successes of the current team this summer. To instil in the players the faith in themselves that is so necessary for victory must have taken a lot of persuasive talking, badgering and advice.

We can readily accept that Inky has the Galway players believing that "they're the greatest team in the country" because self-assurance has been a prime feature of all their major triumphs this year. They showed it by taking on, and beating, teams representing the three major powers in the game—Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary. The manner in which they scorned the reputation of the opposition, especially when they met All-Ireland champions Kilkenny, had a touch of arrogance about it. And no team takes on the champions with such an attitude unless they are, in fact, convinced of their own greatness.

It's something of a truism that no team comes to the top overnight, but when you examine Galway's background you remember the good minors and under-21s they have had in recent times. So the material was there when Flaherty took over as trainer. Not being a man who ever surrendered to the belief that Galway was destined to play the role of good losers indefinitely, Inky was just the person needed to mould these players into the All-Ireland finalists they are today.

**And yet — like Dublin 18 months ago—Galway, less than a year back, were languishing in the lower regions of the National League. To John Con-**



# BEST HALF BACKS IN HURLING ?

● *Galway's great half-backs (from left): Iggy Clarke, Seán Silke and Joe McDonagh.*



nolly, their captain, goes the credit for starting the movement that was responsible for the comeback.

The story goes that John, who had played so much elegant hurling without ever achieving the championship success that is the ambition of every good player, felt that time was running out on him. So early last January at the first of the year's training sessions, which at the time were designed to take the county out of Division 1B of the League, John pleaded with his team-mates to make a last all-out effort in 1975.

He pointed out the sacrifices that would be needed; he emphasised how essential it would be for players to turn up every night for training so that they could make a more determined effort than ever before. He was,

I'm told, thinking only in terms of the championship and the league was not, at the time, a primary objective. John's plea was that they start preparing for the championship in January and not a few weeks before the quarter-final.

As the players got down to the hard grind of training, first indoors in the dark evenings and then outside as the weather improved, things started to move well. A lot of them had been together as under-21s and minors and the older ones like Connolly and P. J. Qualter had plenty of experience. With the players showing growing enthusiasm, Inky Flaherty's task, in a sense, became easier and slowly the improvement was noted.

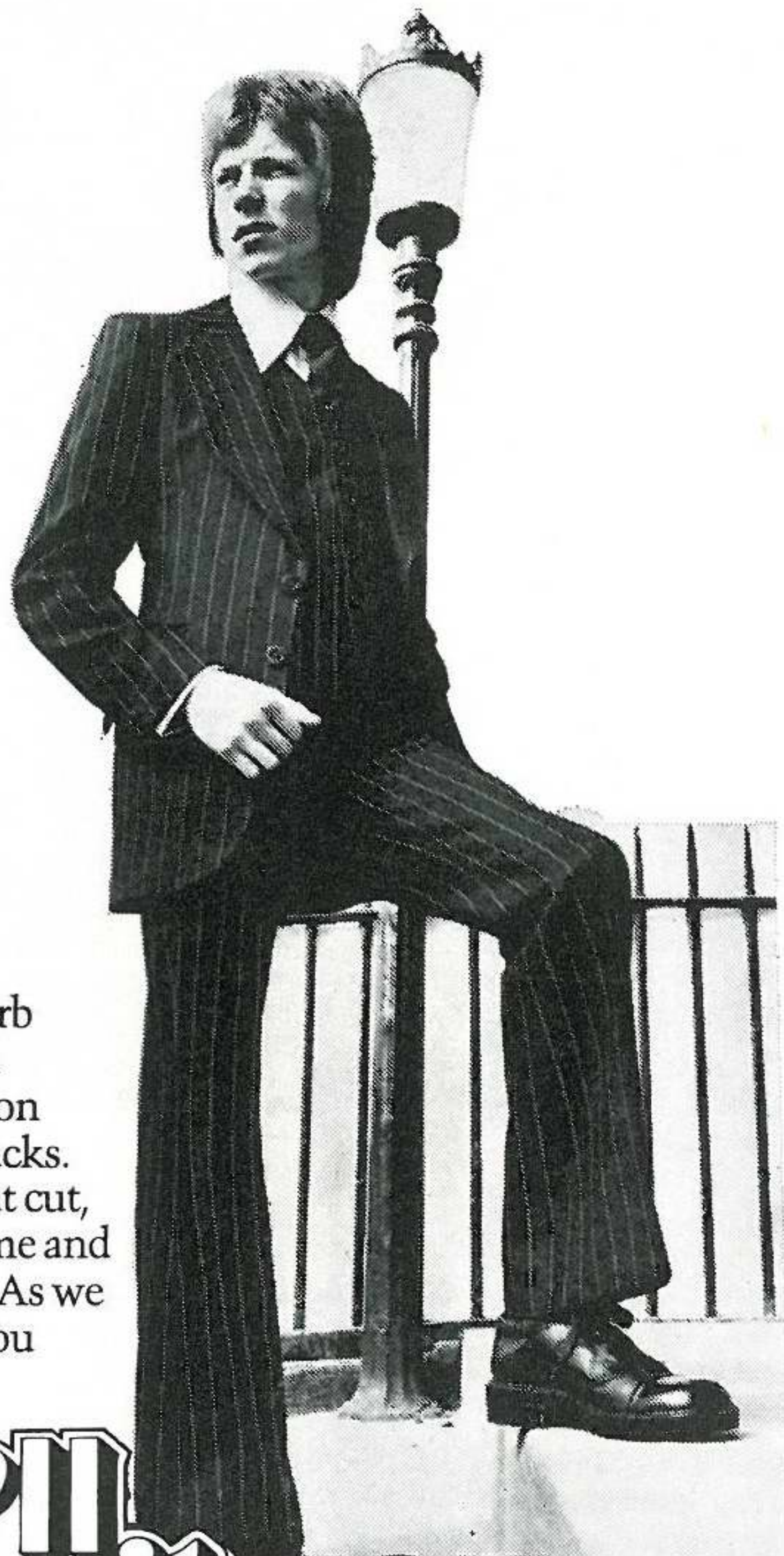
Selectors Frank Fahy, Pat Robinson, Kevin Shaughnessy, Tommy Fahy and Flaherty used the league to test the players and

by the time they had won out in Section B the side had settled down nicely. The big turning point was in March when, to everyone's surprise, they knocked-out the league title-holders Cork. Next came Kilkenny and even though the All-Ireland champions were not long home from America, not many of us expected them to fall to Galway. Of course, far from being awed by the champions, Galway tore into them with astonishing zest and confidence from the throw-in.

The rest is history. Tipperary then fell and it was the League after 24 years. Now Cork have been overcome again and it's the All-Ireland final after a lapse of 17 years.

And can there be a hurling devotee anywhere who wouldn't agree that it's so good to see them back again in the final.





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# FACTS AND FIGURES OF THE FINAL

**T**HIS is the first All-Ireland senior hurling final between Galway and Kilkenny. The Westerners were last in the show-piece game in 1958, when they lost to Tipperary. However, Galway had a bye to the decider that year, and before their win over Cork last month we had to go back to 1953 for the county's last All-Ireland semi-final victory. That game was played at Croke Park, and Galway's opponents were Kilkenny. The Connacht county had a single point to spare — 3-5 to 1-10 — and then lost the final to Cork.

Galway won their only All-Ireland senior hurling title on September 14, 1924. Then, in the delayed final of 1923 they beat Limerick by 7-3 to 4-5.

Meelick, of Galway, lost the first All-Ireland senior hurling final played, that of 1887, to Thurles, of Tipperary, at Birr, and in all, Galway has been represented in nine finals so far.

● When Galway won the National League title last May it was the first triumph since 1951, and their third title in all.

Kilkenny gave an outstanding dimension to a noteworthy feat when they took the Leinster senior hurling title in August for the fifth year in succession. In 1974 they became the first county to win four Eastern senior championships in a row.

The Noresiders won their 19th All-Ireland senior title last September, and have not made a successful defence of the crown since 1933. Their first All-Ireland

By  
**OWEN  
McCANN**

●  
*Pat Delaney  
(Kilkenny)  
plays in his  
sixth  
All-Ireland  
final this year.*

championship was won in 1904, and they fill third place in the rankings list. Tipperary lead with 22 titles, and then come Cork with 21.

★ ★ ★

Now for a brief run-down on some of the men who are likely to capture the spotlight in this unique game.

● John Connolly, who captains Galway, is 27, and has been in the senior inter-county grade since 1968 when he made his debut against Clare. One of the outstanding personalities in the game in latter times, he is Galway's only Carrolls All-Star so far in hurling (he was honoured in 1971). This elegant midfielder is a versatile sportsman, and has represented Galway in all grades of

football as well as hurling, won a provincial amateur boxing title, and plays squash and golf.

● Noel Skehan filled a substitute's role to the legendary Ollie Walsh in the 1967, 1969 and 1971 All-Ireland senior finals. After a long spell as under-study to Walsh he took over in goal in 1972, and led Kilkenny to their final win over Cork that year. An All-Ireland minor medalist in 1962, he had his first senior outing with the county in 1963, won a second national senior medal last September, and holds three Carrolls All-Stars awards and three Railway Cup medals.

● Iggy Clarke was a member of the Galway team that lost

● OVERLEAF





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# Always call your Hennessy a Hennessy



## ● FROM PAGE 7

the 1970 All-Ireland minor hurling final to Cork. However, he had much better fortune in 1972 when he led the county to their All-Ireland Under-21 final win over Dublin. This 22-year-old Mullagh club man has also two Fitzgibbon Cup (Universities' Championship) medals won with Maynooth, has played for Connacht in the Railway Cup, and was on this year's U.S. tour with the Carrolls All-Stars party. He is brother of full back Joe. A National League medalist.

● Pat Henderson was a brilliant star of last year's final win over Limerick, a success that added to his senior medal wins of 1967, 1969 and 1972. Now 32, he won an All-Ireland minor medal in 1961, and has been in the premier inter-county grade since 1964. The mighty centre half won his second Carrolls All-Star award last year, helped Kilkenny to their 1966 National League title win, and boosted his Railway Cup medals haul to five in March.

● Padraig Fahy is one of the many brilliant graduates from the Colleges' minor and under-21 inter-county ranks now making an impact in the senior grade. With St. Mary's in Galway he won many Connacht colleges medals, and he had three successive seasons with the Galway under-18 squad. His first senior inter-county game was in 1967, and he has represented Connacht in the Railway Cup. A member of the Carnmore club, he was on tour with the Carrolls All-Stars party in 1972, helped in the recent League final win, and is 26.

● Nickey Orr became the first from the Fenians, Johnstown, to lead Kilkenny to an All-Ireland senior title when he captained last year's team.

## ● TO PAGE 54



**ANDY CROAK**

The writer with the rasping comment

**I want  
Galway to  
win — and  
I believe  
they will**

**IT'S NOT THAT** I dislike Cork and Cork people any more than several of my "media" colleagues, but I danced a jig on the top of Hill 16 when Galway won the All-Ireland hurling semi-final. What a fine team they've got together—and not overnight either.

This breakthrough had been on the cards for the past couple of seasons but "summer" trips to America by a number of good players held it back until this year. The present side has stuck together and now we've seen what dedication and application of effort, both in training and on the field of play, can do.

What surprised me most of all about the semi-final was the newspapers' pre-match rating of the teams. Galway had beaten Cork, Kilkenny and Tipperary to win the National League, but you'd imagine that that was some third rate tournament involving junior teams so little weight was it given in the summing up of the game which appeared in some of the papers.

★ ★ ★

**ALTHOUGH GALWAY** had beaten two of the leading Munster teams and the All-Ireland champions for good measure, they were regarded as rank outsiders when facing the Munster title holders. I heard of odds of 2-1 and even 3-1 being given against them in Dublin bars on the night before the game!

Of course the position of underdogs suited Galway nicely. And then they came out at Croke Park and in those first ten minutes struck Cork like a

thunderbolt. In fairness to Cork, I must say that they showed their traditional guts and fire in the way they recovered from the crushing blow of Galway's early goals.

In fact, Cork could have won the game if they had taken all their chances of points in the second half, instead of chasing after goals against a very strong Galway defence. But if the Munster side had won, it would have been a grave injustice to John Connolly's men—the better team on the day.

★ ★ ★

**GALWAY PLAYED** excellent hurling all through the game. I was particularly impressed by the delightful skills of Padraig Fahy, Iggy Clarke, Sean Silke, and, of course, Niall McInerney — the man Clare let go because he wasn't up to their standards!

It was a great game, a victory for hurling even more than for Galway. As one writer said in an evening paper the following day, the only losers were those who stayed away.

Much of the credit for Galway's spectacular achievements this year belongs to that great hurler of the past, "Inky" Flaherty. He has imbued them with an extraordinary degree of spirit and has polished up their skills to a point which is quite capable of taking the All-Ireland title.

What a marvellous achievement it will be if a team which played in the lower section of the National League last winter now brings off the League-Championship double.

**I AM NOT** old enough to remember Galway's only All-Ireland hurling victory — that of 1923 when such great hurlers as Mick King, Ignatius Harney and Mick Gill were members of the winning team. But like tens of thousands of hurling followers (and not all of them from the West), I am hoping to see the men in maroon take the title on September 7th.

My apologies to Kilkenny for taking such a partisan stand. But for the sake of the game of hurling in general and its well-being in Galway in particular, I make no secret of where my sympathies rest.

They are solidly with the Men of the West. Galway deserve this All-Ireland. Their League success was a great reward for devotion to the game, but when all is said and done, the All-Ireland is the prize that really matters.

I'm sure that if they could do so, Kilkenny would wish their rivals well, too. But, naturally, they're not going to stand idly by and let the Connacht men win! I imagine, however, that if they lose the match, they will not shed any tears because they know, as well as all of us, what this title would mean to Galway.

In other words, Kilkenny can afford to lose.

★ ★ ★

**FOR A COUNTY** with a fine hurling tradition, Galway's big victories have been too few and far between. Apart from the All-

● TO PAGE 11



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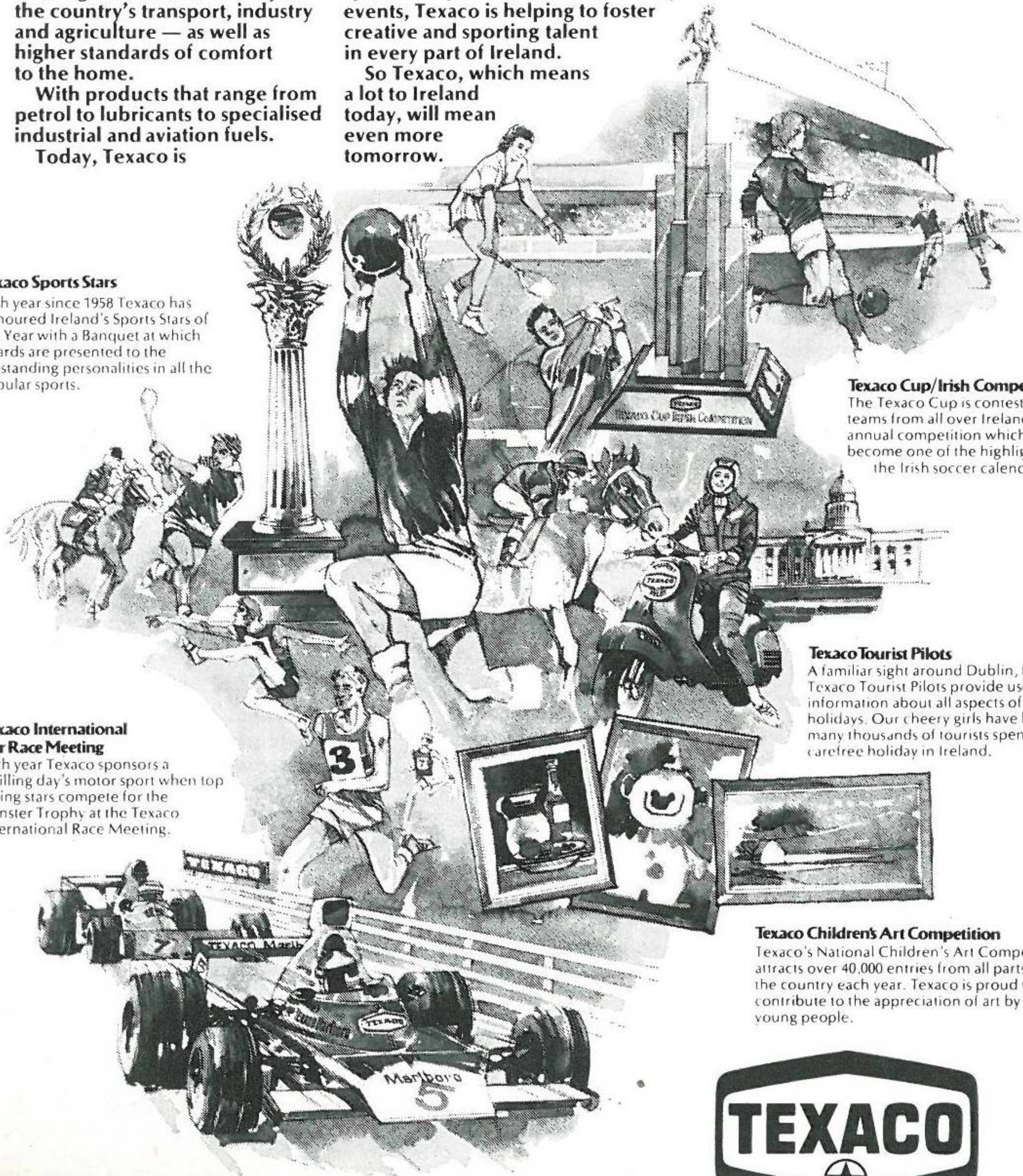
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● Marty Barrett  
(Galway)



● Iggy Clarke  
(Galway)



● Gerry Coone  
(Galway)

● FROM PAGE 9

Ireland of 1923, they won the Railway Cup for Connacht when beating Munster in 1947 and four years later they won the League with a team which included "Inky" Flaherty.

Bar three unsuccessful appearances in the All-Ireland final — 1953, against Cork; 1955, against Wexford; and 1958, against Tipperary — they had nothing further to show for their efforts in the meantime until that memorable day last May when they beat Tipperary in the National League final in Limerick.

And now the six-mark question: Will they beat Kilkenny? My opinion, for what it's worth, is that the speed, determination and skill which toppled Cork will also defeat the champions.

I am well aware that Kilkenny are still a good side. They proved that in the Leinster final. But their backs are not as fast as they used to be and the pace of the Galway forwards will, I believe, show up that weakness as it exposed a similar flaw in the Cork rearguard.

In the League semi-final, Niall

McInerney tied up Eddie Keher. He will find the job harder this time, but he is capable of doing it again. Sean Silke and Joe Clarke are also good enough to mind the other Kilkenny danger men, Pat Delaney and Kieran Purcell.

★ ★ ★

**BUT I'M NOT** sure that the Galway midfield, Sean Murphy and John Connolly, will get the upper hand of Liam O'Brien and Frank Cummins. Yet an even break here would be enough to give Pdraig Fahy and his forward colleagues the chances they need.

With Kilkenny alerted, there is no possibility that Galway will repeat the early goal-rush which rocked Cork in the semi-final. They will have a much harder battle for their scores against Pat Henderson, Fan Larkin, Brian Cody and company. But if they hold their heads, go flat out for the 70 minutes and employ the teamwork which played such a big part in their triumph on August 17th, they will, I am convinced, take the trophy across the Shannon for the first time in 52 years.

And I promise to be down

there (incognito, of course) to watch their faithful followers welcome the heroes home.

★ ★ ★

**I WAS SORRY** that Sligo didn't also get through to represent Connacht in the football final. But they have no excuses. They failed to raise their game against a moderate Kerry team—on that day's display—and paid a heavy penalty. But at least they broke the hoodoo, or whatever it was, which deprived them of the Connacht title since 1928.

They should now forget their dismal performance in the All-Ireland semi-final and make up their minds to make a bigger advance in 1976.

★ ★ ★

**FINALLY**, a request to the G.A.A. authorities at Croke Park. Please print sufficient programmes for the hurling final.

I heard that they got out only a few thousand for the Galway-Cork game and those were sold out even before the minor match started. As a result, the unofficial sheets were snapped up like hot cakes.

That mustn't happen on September 7th.



● Pat Lally  
(Galway)



Joe McDonagh  
(Galway)



● Sean Silke  
(Galway)



**You  
won't  
do better  
than...**



**Quinnsworth**



# Top Ten

## John Connolly streaks ahead

INEVITABLY, it is Galway hurlers who this month dominate the Top Ten spotlight, which covers the period from July 20 to August 17 inclusive. How could it be otherwise after that never-to-be-forgotten and thoroughly deserved All-Ire'and semi-final win over Cork?

Every Galway man was a star in that memorable win, but purposeful hurling all through, effective leadership as the team captain, in short a thoroughly first-rate all round performance, sends John Connolly to the top of our list with a nine points rating.

What a wonderful year this is proving for the elegant midfielder from Castlegar! This latest high rating, his best so far this year, brings him into the hurling line-up for the fifth time, and boosts his rating over-all to a whopping 38 points.

Padraig Fahy, Frank Burke and Niall McInerney, each of

whom has been honoured once before in this year's charts, come back into the limelight again. They share an eight points rating with Kieran Purcell.

A non-Galway hurler who joins Connolly on the lead spot is Brian Cody, whose great work in his new left full back role was one of the best features of Kilkenny's win over Wexford for a fifth Leinster senior hurling crown in a row.

The period under review links Sligo's glory day at Castlebar, where they won their first Connacht senior football title in 47 years and their All-Ireland semi-final defeat by Kerry. John Stenson's solid play at Castlebar ensures the midfielder of a place on seven points, but other Sligo men have lost out in the strong opposition from Kerry men as a result of the Southerner's clear-cut win at Croke Park.

Three Dublin footballers are in the line-up after their Lein-

ster final sparkle against Kildare. And that brings us to a letter from a reader in Ballybough, Dublin, "The Dubs Forever", who seems to feel we have a bias against Dublin men in the "Top Ten" line-up.

Hardly creditable, considering that nine different Dublin footballers appeared in last year's chart. This month's review means that eight different Metropolitans have won points, with Alan Larkin setting a hot pace on an over-all ranking of 25.

### HURLING

|   |                       |    |
|---|-----------------------|----|
| 9 | J. Connolly (Galway)  | 38 |
| 9 | B. Cody (Kilkenny)    | 9  |
| 8 | F. Burke (Galway)     | 16 |
| 8 | N. McInerney (Galway) | 16 |
| 8 | P. Fahy (Galway)      | 14 |
| 8 | K. Purcell (Kilkenny) | 8  |
| 7 | E. Keher (Kilkenny)   | 26 |
| 6 | M. Quigley (Wexford)  | 12 |
| 5 | A. Doran (Wexford)    | 5  |
| 5 | E. Grimes (Limerick)  | 5  |

### FOOTBALL

|   |                       |    |
|---|-----------------------|----|
| 8 | P. McCarthy (Kerry)   | 8  |
| 7 | A. Larkin (Dublin)    | 25 |
| 7 | M. O'Sullivan (Kerry) | 23 |
| 7 | J. Egan (Kerry)       | 7  |
| 7 | J. Stenson (Sligo)    | 7  |
| 7 | D. Hickey (Dublin)    | 7  |
| 7 | M. Lynch (Derry)      | 7  |
| 7 | T. McGuinness (Derry) | 7  |
| 6 | S. O'Connell (Derry)  | 12 |
| 6 | B. Brogan (Dublin)    | 6  |



John Connolly (Galway)



Kieran Purcell (Kilkenny)

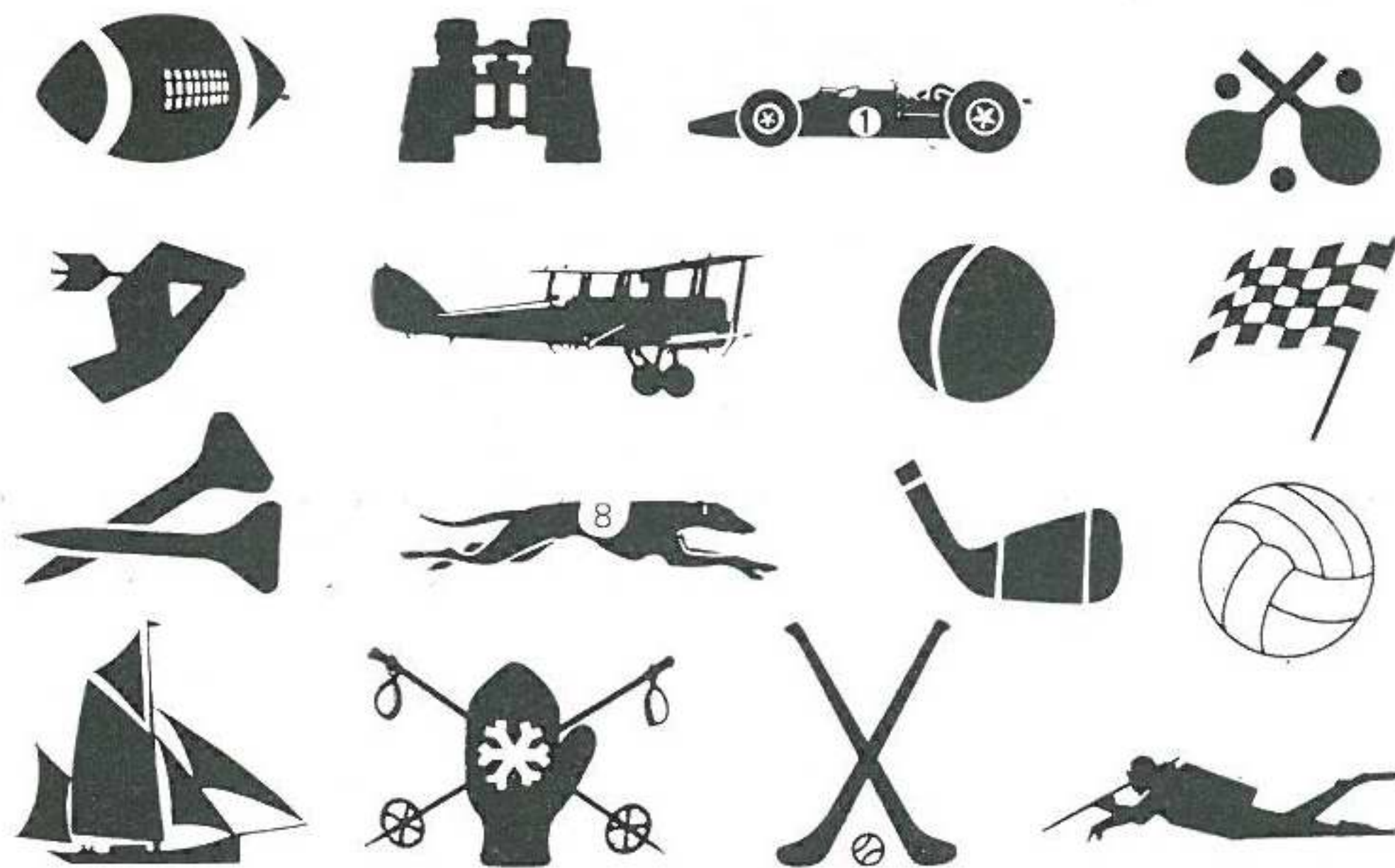


David Hickey (Dublin)



Niall McInerney (Galway)





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● John Horgan  
(Cork)

## JOHN HORGAN HURLER OF PLIANT STEEL

"I'M not fond of training at all. I know it's the wrong thing to say. I'd play seven games a week in preference to training." The blonde hair swept smoothly over the high forehead and softened the firm, serious face of John Horgan of Cork and Rockies.

"I know to be any good a man must train hard and I do, but often when I'm out there on the field practising, waiting for the sliotar to come turns me off a little, and I start thinking about other things . . . like my home. In a match it's so different. There's a crisis every minute and if the crowd is lively — I love crowds — the whole thing brings out the best in a man. I love the excitement of matches and the bigger the occasion the better. In fact I've often played badly because the match wasn't important. I don't like the Mardyke at all. I find no atmosphere there. The Athletic Grounds is grand . . . great atmosphere."

Broadshouldered, lean, tanned brown arms to show his love of the open air, the 25-year-old father of a small daughter, and his wife of one year, live a few doors from his parents under the wooded hills of Rochestown along the harbour. John was well aware of my praise for training spells, and the good which comes from them by way of relaxation and increased skill. His point is that the whole thing takes three hours at least and the reward in excitement isn't big enough for that period in the life of a busy young man. If the field were outside of his house and he had two good friends to puck around with he'd be at it every day, but he did take Justin MacCarthy's advice and got into the handball alley with coming hurler Weesh Murphy (who will always remind us of his famous namesake, God rest him) to play handball with hurleys.

John Horgan loves hurling and his record as a Rockies captain

and leader is first class, since first he pulled on the famous jersey at 17. "Do you know," he says with a smile, "you could win money on me? Jimmy Doyle, a fine player, is said to be the only man in the country who played in four minor hurling finals. More luck to him. But Cork played Wexford in three finals in '66, '67 and '68 when they beat us in two. But in '66 there was a replay so I did play in four minor finals."

John's remarkable under-age record continued with no less than three under-21 championships in '69-'71 and before he had even moved out of that age-group came his big day in 1970 when at left full back against Wexford he won his senior All-Ireland medal.

"The trip to New York a week after was out of this world," the quiet-speaking Rockies player continued. "We had two tremendous games with the chaps over there. We won the first well and lost the second by a small score so we won overall. But the excitement, the toughness and the crowds made this the highlight of my hurling. I had the honour of captaining my own club side in '70 and '73, and it was a joy to win the two county championships and the All-Ireland club also. Yes, I'm a very lucky player."

The shinty weekend in Inverness was great sport, John says. The Scotsmen were skillful players and the length of the puck-out with the crooked stick surprised him, and the ability of the goalie to stop with the heel of the stick increased his sur-

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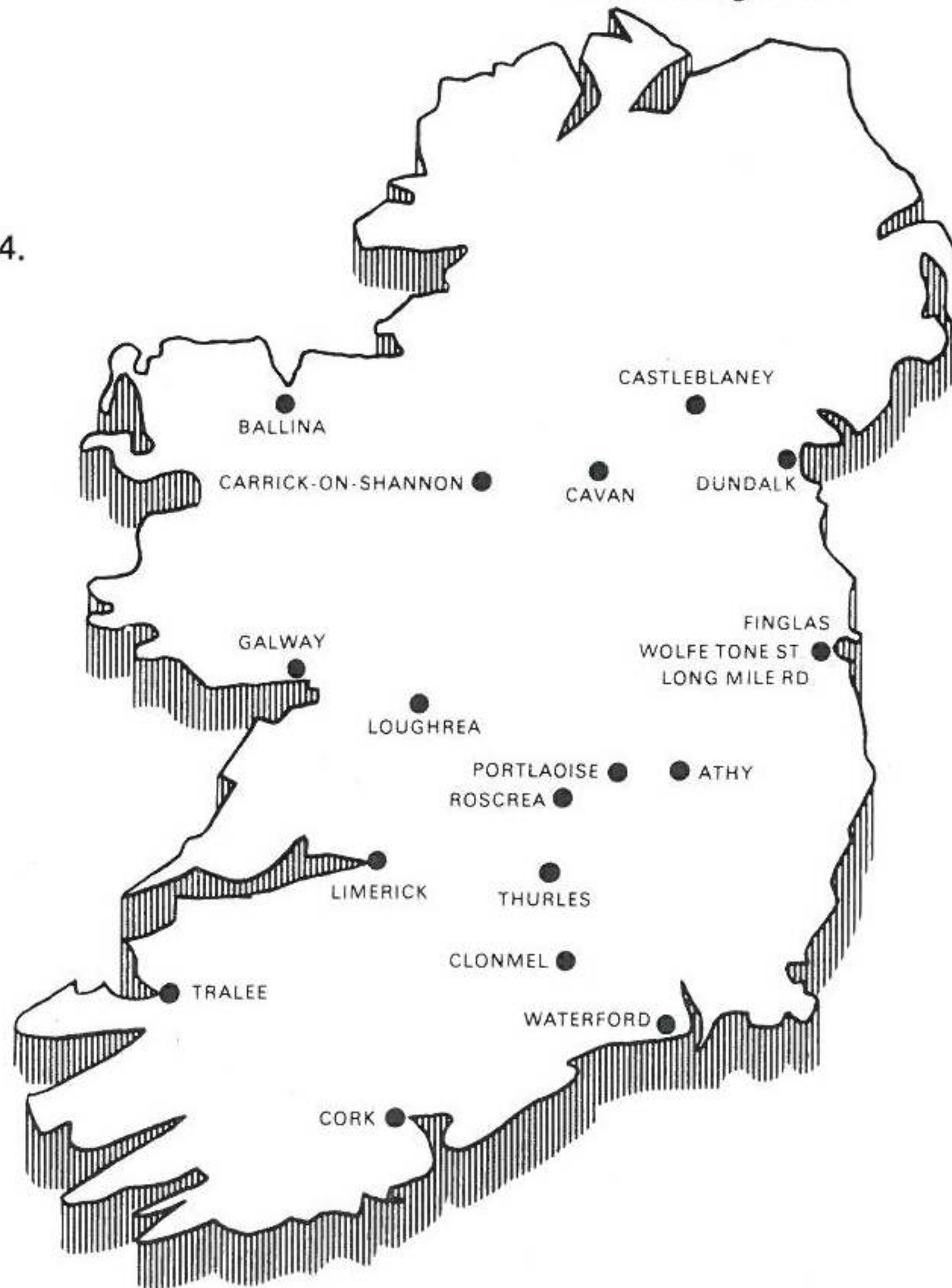
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# ***Kilkenny's strength lies with their back-room mentors***

**I**T'S often said about All-Ireland finalists that the "team behind the team" — meaning selectors, coach, trainer and other officials — are just as important as the players who line-out in Croke Park. The truth of the statement has been evidenced in many cases, but rarely as strikingly as in the Kilkenny triumphs of modern times.

As Kilkenny moved closer and closer to Tipperary and Cork, the top two, on the All-Ireland roll of honour during the last decade there has, repeatedly, been ample proof of the invaluable contribution made to the county's successes by the "backroom boys." In recent times the county got together one of the shrewdest set of advisers in the game of hurling. When Kilkenny surged to five Leinster championships on the trot in the last half decade it was, of course, the men who actually wore the black and amber who etched out the victories on Croke Park and they, very deservedly, earned the greater share of the glory. But every player who took part in that run of success (1971-'75 inclusive) would readily acknowledge the immeasurable contribution made by their officials.

It's hardly surprising that these advisers should have played such a major part in the victories — by their organisation, by their preparation of the players and by their astute assessment of opponents and penetrating "read-

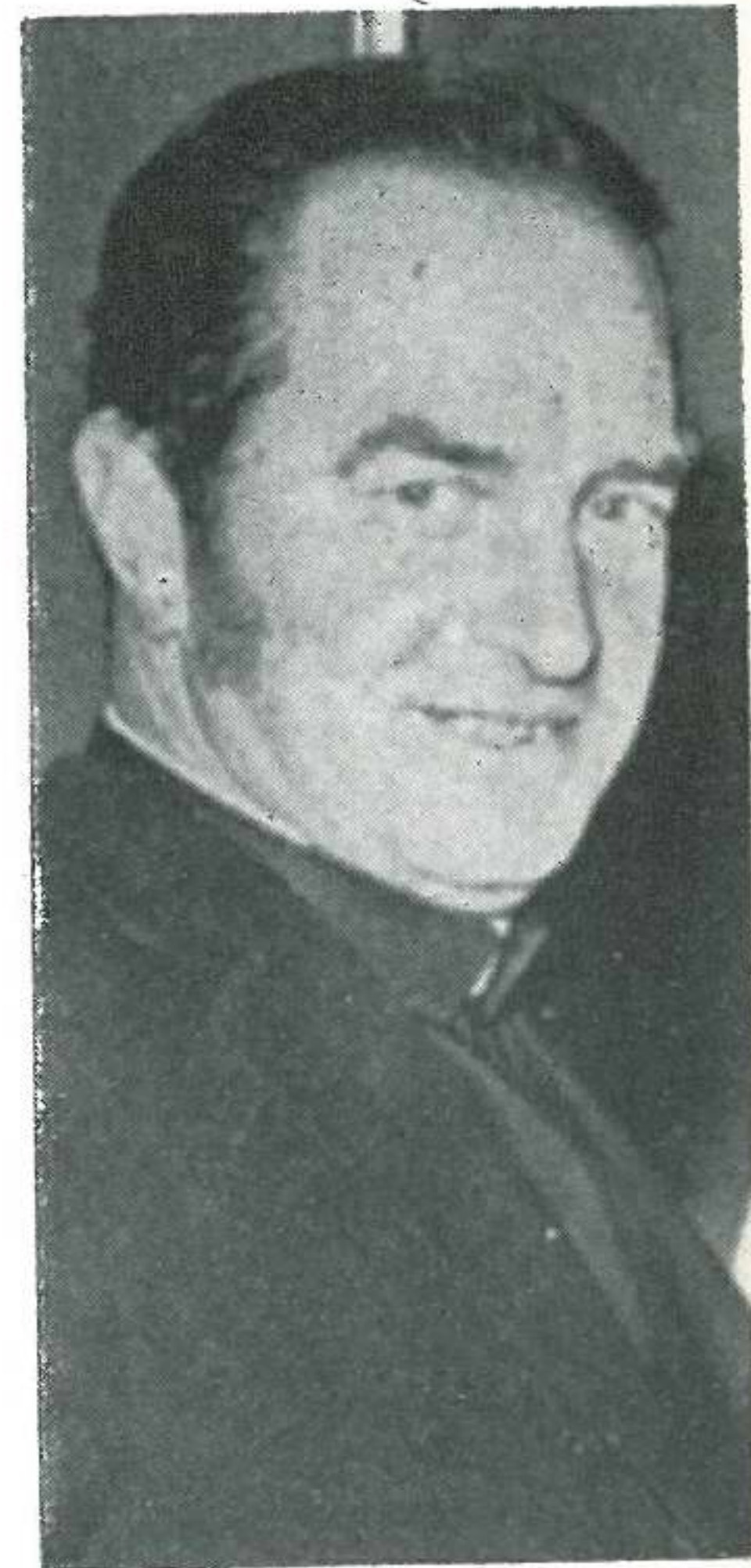
ing" of each match — since their credentials and qualifications in hurling are so impressive.

From time to time individual selectors will change, particularly with changing fortunes of county champions, but basically Kilkenny have had a strong selections committee for several years, headed first by Nick Purcell (the county chairman) and now by Michael O'Neill, both discerning men of hurling.

The team is picked by chairman O'Neill, Paul Skehan, representing county champions The Fenians, Johnny McGovern (Bennettsbridge), Dick Dunphy (Mooncoin) and Georgie Leahy (James Stephens), so the most successful clubs of the latter times contribute to the committee. There were few more celebrated half-backs in hurling than Johnny McGovern and both Dunphy and Leahy have experience of the game at the highest inter-county level.

The man who has made most impact on Kilkenny hurling in

● **TO PAGE 18**



● **Fr. TOMMY MAHER**

**By MICK DUNNE** RTE Sport

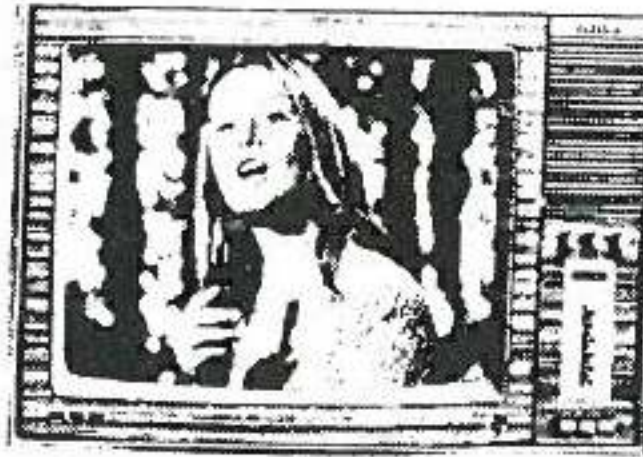


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## KILKENNY'S BACK-ROOM MEN

● FROM PAGE 17

the last 15 years is Father Tommy Maher, who coached all senior Kilkenny sides since the early 1960s. An All-Ireland finalist himself as left half-forward on the 1945 team, Father Maher's impact as a coach has not, of course, been confined solely to Kilkenny teams. He has had phenomenal success with the sides in St. Kieran's College and he was one of the founder coaches — with Des Ferguson



● PADDY GRACE

and Donie Nealon — who drafted the instructional series on which the annual coaching courses at Franciscan College (Gormanston) have been based since 1964.

Indeed, the influence of this profoundly knowledgeable hurling adviser has stretched far beyond Kilkenny.

On the day following Kilkenny's 1969 All-Ireland success, Father Maher announced that he was to resign from his position as his county's coach, but when when reporting this news I added that Kilkenny officials and players intended to try and



# MADE, IT SEEMS, FOR PAPER SUBS!

**T**HE Management at Croke Park will have to give serious consideration to increasing the size of the "dug-outs" at Headquarters. The accommodation in the present ones seat **ONLY** about ten average size players. And this is of little use to such counties as Kildare, Derry, and even the "Dubs."

Recently Derry brought 12 reserves with them for an Ulster championship game: Dublin had 11 on call for one match, while Kildare sported

By

**JOHN O'SHEA**

of the Evening Press

12 for the Leinster final.

Towards the end of that game, I felt for Pat Mangan, who, having been taken off, found there was no room for him in the dug out. Instead he sat on the grass verge and watched the annihilation from there.

Seriously though the situation of substitutes at inter-

county level—particularly in football — is getting out of hand. Most prominent teams now carry reserve strength of at least ten, and it's an extremely rare occurrence that more than two of them are used during the game.

Then there's the problem that only six of them will receive medals should their side be lucky enough to win an All-Ireland.

And when you think of it, surely six substitutes provide ample cover for any team.

change his mind. The fact that they persuaded him to continue right through to the present is an indication of the great regard they have for his worth as a coach.

In recent years the burden of looking after the physical fitness of the team was lifted from Father Maher's shoulders by the introduction of Mick Lanigan to the "camp" as trainer. An athlete of distinction when he was a champion hurdler, Mick has a good background in physical fitness. Both at St. Peter's College (Wexford) and De La Salle College (Waterford) he was a more than useful hurler so he knows the needs of hurlers in the matter of physical preparation. He also has a close bond with the players who wear the black and amber so he can decide just how much work each needs in the run-up to the final.

The fact that so many Kilkenny players, no longer in the youth of their hurling careers, can step onto Croke Park in the perfect condition we have seen in the

last two years is a tribute to Lanigan's handling of his charges.

Two others have contributed more than a sizeable share to Kilkenny success. No one needs to tell Paddy Grace, their county secretary, what is required of

players going into an All-Ireland final, for he was one of the most renowned defenders in his own playing days and he adorned Croke Park and many another grounds with his hurling prowess. Advice from someone with this background isn't lightly turned aside by players in these days of preparation for the final.

Very much behind the scenes, but nonetheless playing a valuable role, is Doctor Kieran Cudihy who has overseen the well-being of Kilkenny players for several years now.

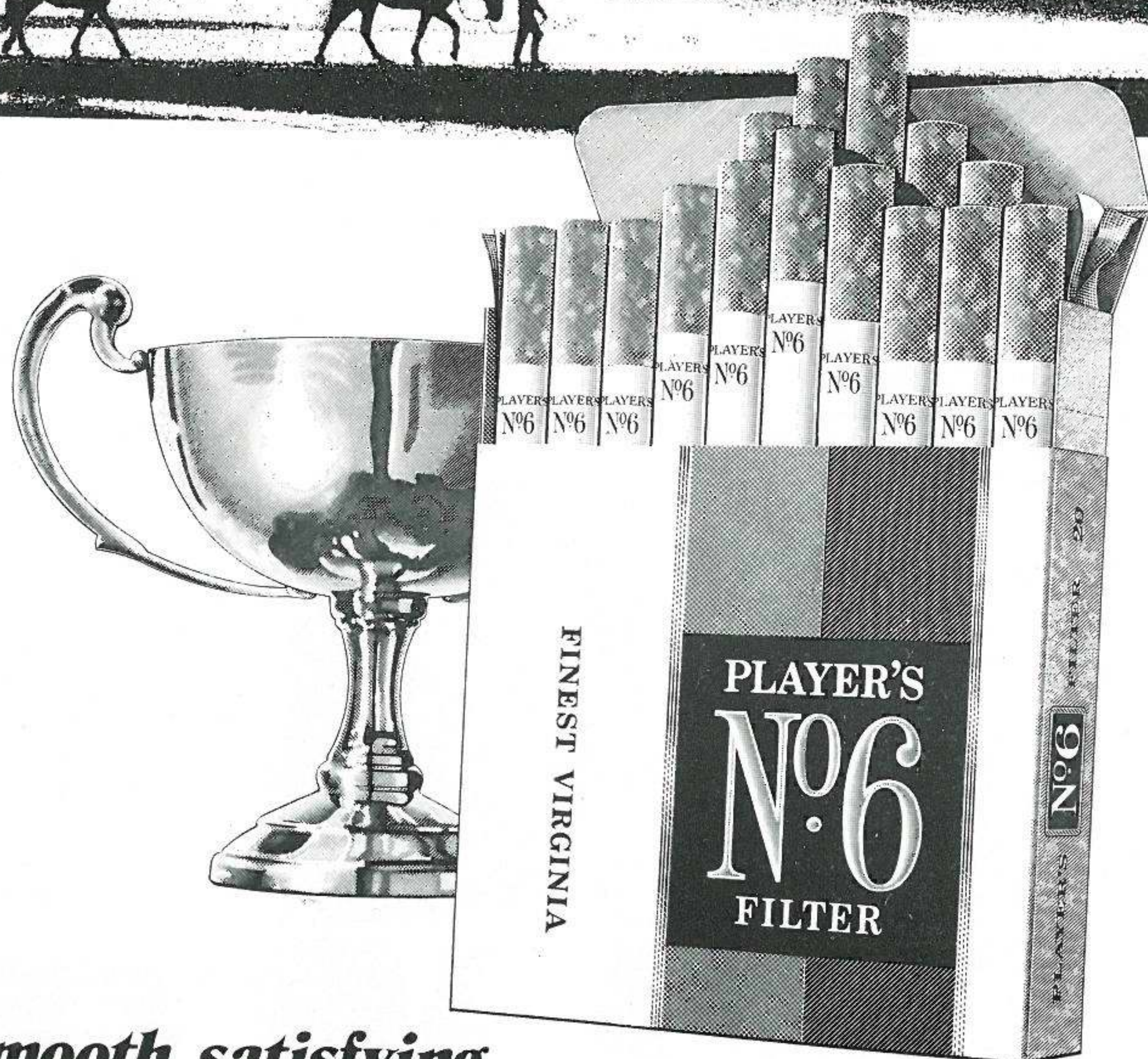
It's no wonder, then, that it was the Kilkenny backroom team who thought up the Croke Park innovation in the late 'Sixties by introducing the use of walkie-talkie sets on the day of the All-Ireland final so that some of the selectors could sit in the Cusack Stand to get a better view of the trend of the match, but still be in instant contact with other selectors below in the team's dug-out. It proved such a successful method of operation that they've used it over and over again.



● MICK LANIGAN



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# National League win heralds new glory for Galway hurling

THAT National League win, late though it was in arriving—has done a power of good not alone in Galway, but in many other counties where the greatest field game in the world is being coaxed back to life.

Coming so soon after, and perhaps even as a result of, Limerick's All-Ireland success, Galway's victory flowered from the buds of their All-Ireland under-21 success in 1972.

Now the youngsters are hurling again in places where all along they had been struggling in the wake of the success and the glory of the county's footballers. They are learning to grip, to lift and strike . . . the very rudiments of the artistry which the county players revealed on their way to National League glory and more recently in their memorable semi-final championship victory over Cork.

Of course all this is more evident in the strong hurling pockets of the county, particularly in east and south Galway where men like P. J. Qualter and Marty Barrett have been shining examples in courage and determination.

Nearly a decade separates the two in age and of the two, and

perhaps because of his much wider experience, Qualter has so far made the greater impression.

He, of course, has been through it all . . . through the lean times as well as the good. He has known the despair of constant defeat, the toil and the sweat and the tears and the longing.

And when Galway finally conquered Tipperary in that long sought National League victory it was as much a tribute to the courage of P. J. Qualter and John Connolly as it was to the skills of the younger members such as Marty Barrett.

At 32, Qualter is the oldest member of the team. A vocational school teacher in Mountbellew, he was a member of the great Turloughmore team which made history by winning six Galway senior hurling titles in a row from 1961 to 1966.

The skill and experience he acquired in those years at the top have stood him well at inter-county level, where at full forward he has shown a combination of coolness and explosive power against the best of full backs.

Marty Barrett has not had to endure the same agony in reaching National League success. He

was a member of the Galway under-21 team that blazed a trail of glory in 1972. His promise was never in doubt since he was first noticed in action for his senior club, Pearses . . . a combination of Ballymacward and Gurteen clubs.

Since then his range of abilities has broadened, and what he lacks in all-round experience, he more than compensates for in a dynamic approach.

After a somewhat unsettled spell at right half forward, he was moved recently to right corner and it is in that position that he has begun to display his best hurling. The confidence which he had shown in his younger days returned and, benefitting from the experience of Qualter beside him, Marty has begun to prod and probe in a decisive way.

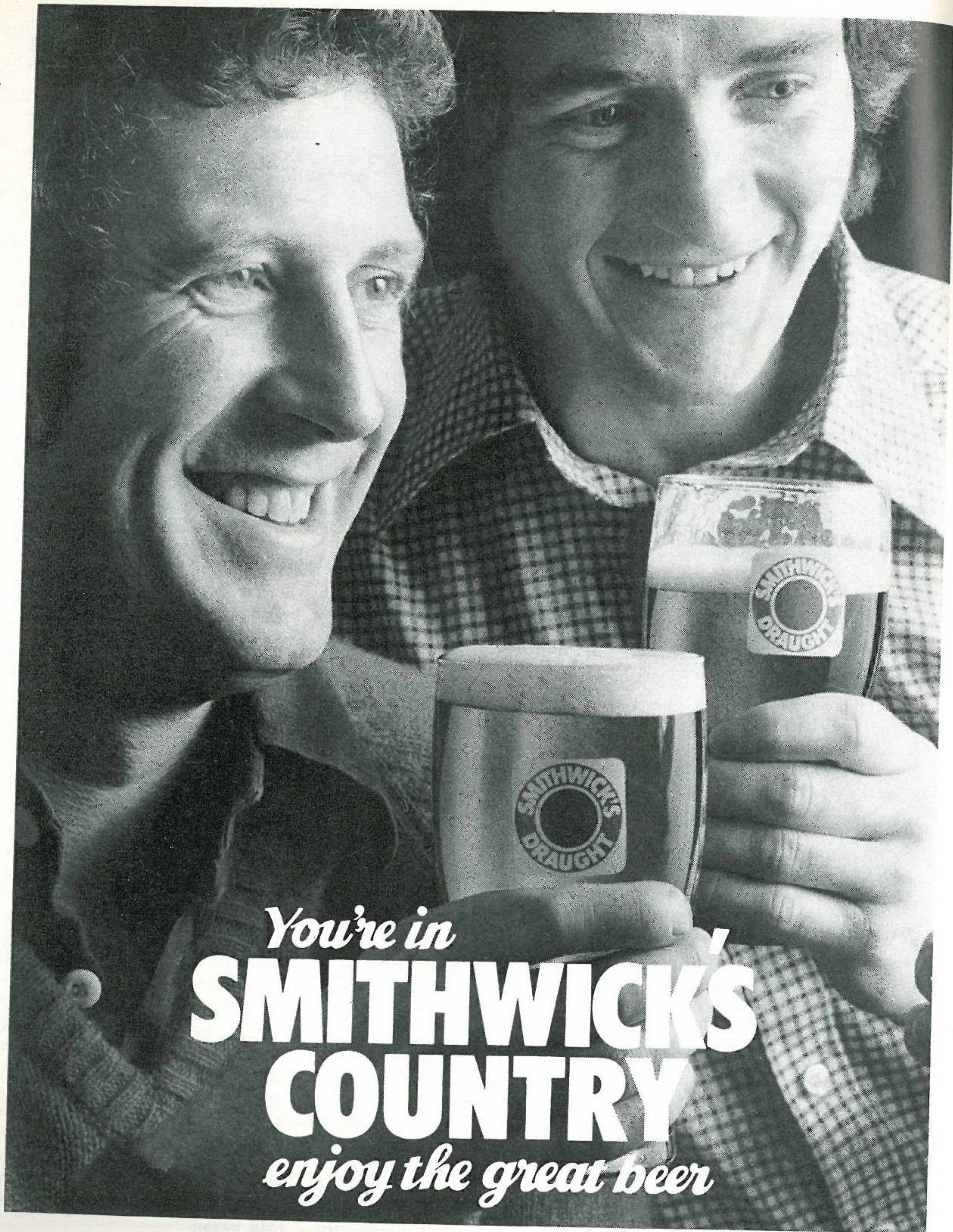
There are others on the team who have contributed as much as Barrett and Qualter to Galway's league rise. And, indeed, the foundation of most of their victories lay in the half back line of Joe McDonagh, Sean Silke and Iggy Clarke.

They, along with John Connolly at midfield, nearly always stood firm in the face of the toughest opposition. And it is because of them, and the supply which they maintained, that the forwards, particularly Qualter and Barrett, have been so prominent.

They, too—as indeed have all the members of the team—been part of Galway's resurgence. They are the ones who set hurling lovers' hearts on fire in the county.

What is needed now is an All-Ireland title to sustain the momentum which the league title began.





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# Eddie Keher, hurling genius of our time

By MICK DUNNE, RTE Sport

**E**ACH summer Eddie Keher becomes more and more akin to the poet's babbling brook — by, seemingly, going on for ever. Again in this year's Leinster final his style and elegance delighted spectators, but increasingly as time goes by we are lost in admiration for his undiminished zest and enthusiasm for hurling.

Eddie has meant so much to Kilkenny since he first appeared in a senior All-Ireland final in October, 16 years ago, that teams wearing the black and amber will be mighty strange things — dismembered, in fact — whenever he does eventually pass from the inter-county scene. Not that there are any indications now, judging from his continued excellence against Wexford, that his departure will be in the near future.

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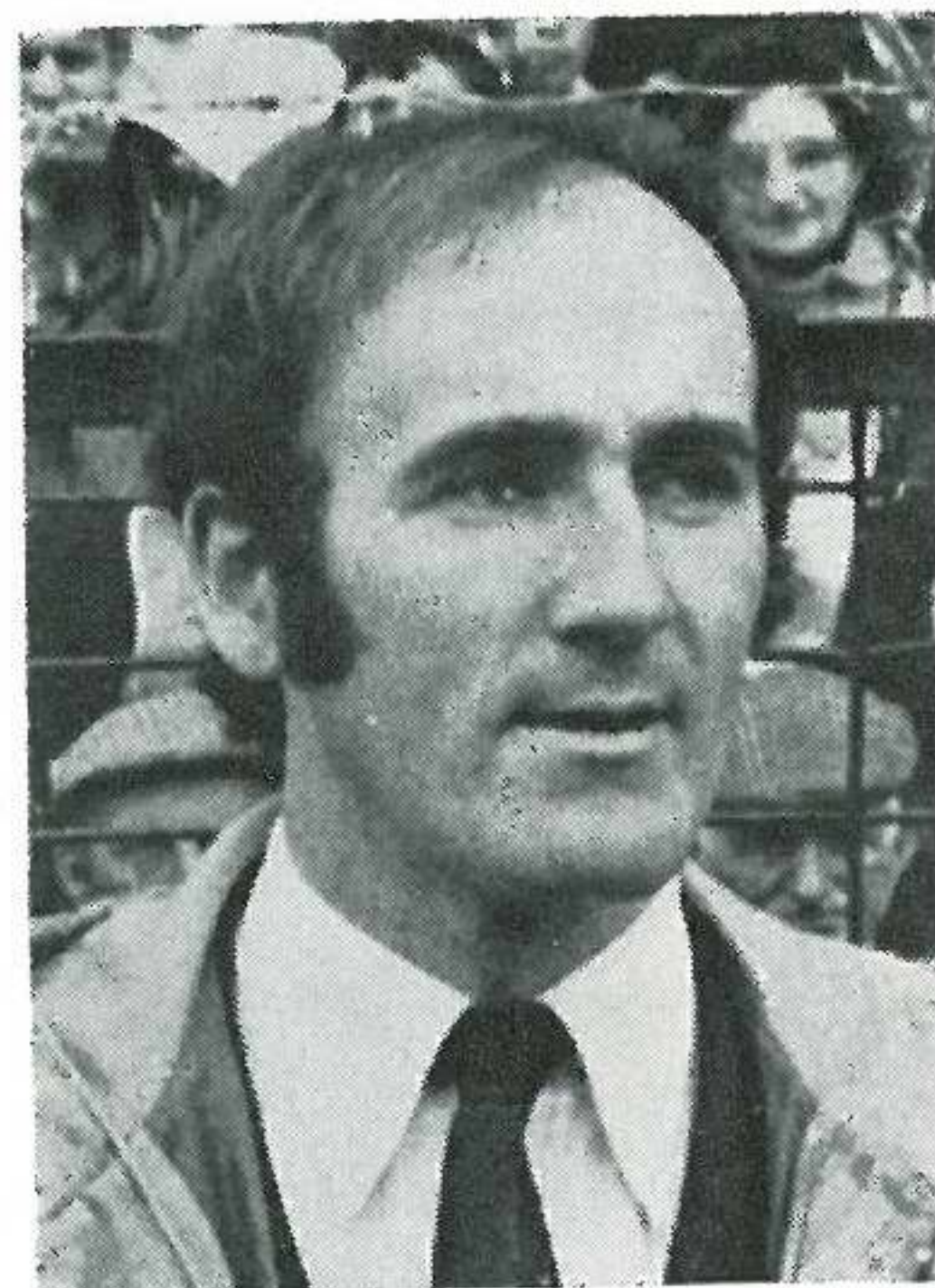
He has set so many records and performed so magnificently on so many occasions that he does, however, pose a great problem for those of us who write about Gaelic games. What other superlatives can be found that haven't already been used over and over to describe his accomplishments.

In All-Ireland finals alone his achievements have been massive. Not only is he the leading marksman for hurling finals, but he also holds the second and third places on the leading scores' list. Yet, the irony is that his record 17 points — two goals and 11 points — were scored in a final that Kilkenny lost: in 1971 to Tipperary.

The next highest individual total for the final is 15 points and that belongs to Keher, too, made up of his 2-9 when Kilkenny beat Cork three years ago.

In third place it's 14 points and Eddie has twice contributed this total 0-14 in the 1963 final against Waterford and 1-11 last year against Limerick.

By my reckoning he has scored 5 goals and 67 points in All-Ireland senior finals for a points total of 82, beginning with the two points which he scored after being sent in as a substitute in the second half of the 1959 replay against Waterford just a



● Eddie Keher (Kilkenny)  
—hurler extraordinary.

few weeks following his appearance in the minor final.

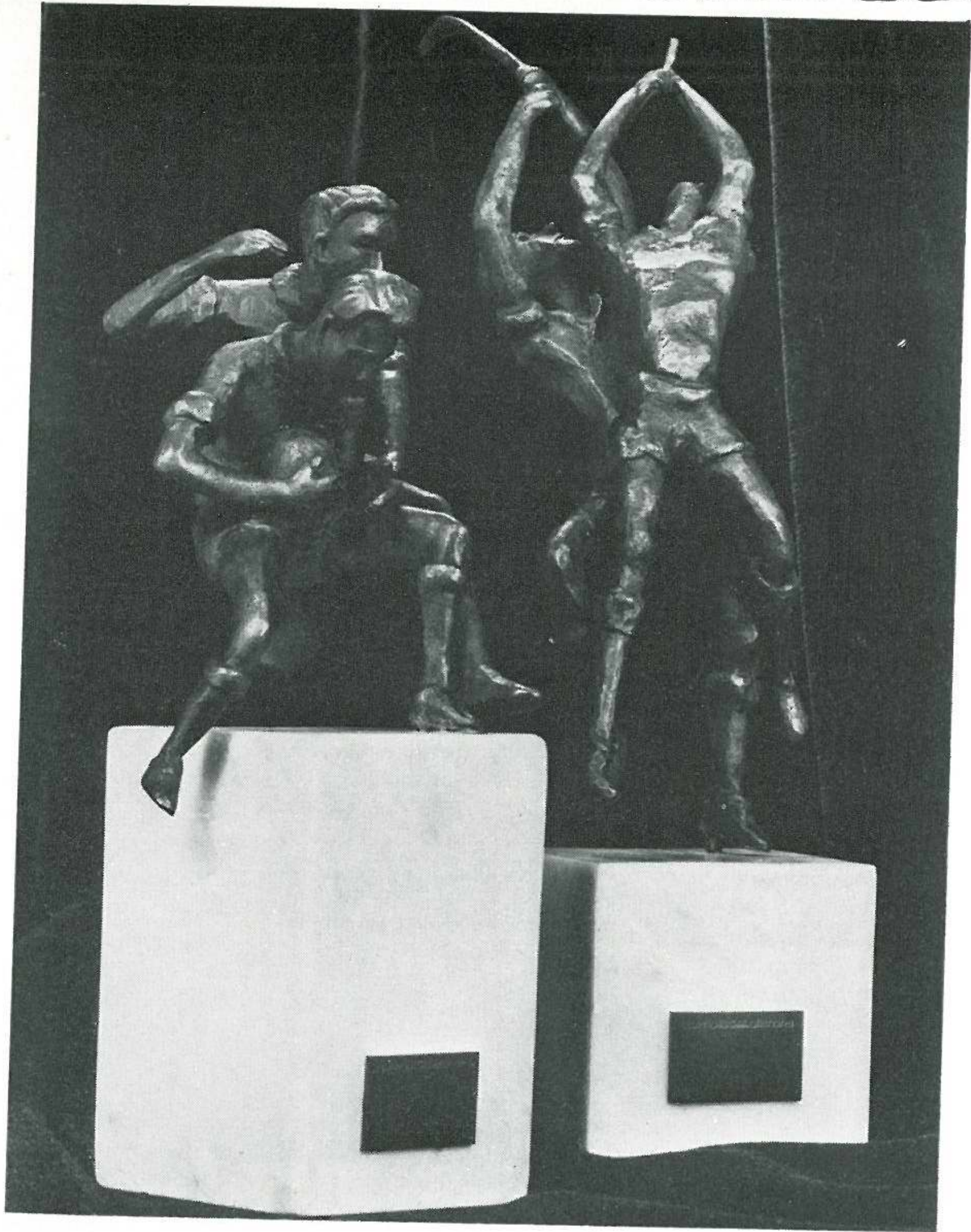
Since then his lowest total for a full match was two points in the '64 decider when Kilkenny went down to Tipperary. His accuracy from frees is reflected in the fact that four of his goals and 45 points in finals were scored from placed balls.

He has played in all three positions on the half-forward line in finals and, indeed, it was when switched from left half to the '40' ten minutes into the second half of the '69 final to take over from the injured Pat Delaney that he made one of his most notable contributions to a Kilkenny triumph. Eddie was the captain that day and his inspiring leadership at centre half-forward was a significant feature of his team's marvellous and memorable second half rally to victory.

In latter years he has moved to left corner forward and it's there he got two of his record-making four Carroll's All-Star awards. He must surely be leading all other corner forwards for that same position when this year's awards are decided in the next few months.



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Edited by *KITTY MURPHY*

**H**ELLO EVERYBODY. Here I am bright and breezy, having thoroughly enjoyed my well-earned holiday. As promised last month I am now going to tell you all about them.

One more day in this place and I'd go out of my tiny cotton-picking mind — you know the feeling — it happens all the time but somehow or other those days before the holidays are just about as exasperating as they can possibly be. All the bits and pieces that time and time again had been shelved "for the moment" have now reared their ugly heads and have suddenly assumed the red hot tag. My well wishing colleagues gladly wish me a fantastic holiday assuring me just the same that they have plenty on their own desks thanks very much, without taking on my troubles. At this point of course I assure all concerned that despite the size of the pile there's really nothing to it but once bitten twice shy and I am magnanimously told that really if there is nothing to it then I must be quite pleased to have found that special job which I always knew awaited me somewhere. However, since diplomacy is the art of letting someone have **your** way I do eventually succeed in doling out some of the unwelcome spoils. Of course, somebody has to do it — but once a person realises that imagination is more important than knowledge then everything will "fall" into place.

So once again time and the hour has run through the roughest day and I am away for three glorious weeks.

My travelling companions are "all packed and ready to go" so why waste a minute, not that we know where we're going — we don't, but we all agree that once we are on the road we'll be fine. Needless to say we are not going to make the life of the public transporters any easier. Our money is hard to come by and really since none of us are the self-indulgent type we are just not interested in creature comforts — and anyway what is wrong with hitching? Not much judging by the numbers of fellows and girls that stretch for miles at the various "pressure points" that are so well known to the hardy road user. Standing on the corner watching all the cars go by, we look back towards Dublin and yes it has a very serious pollution problem and it must be healthier to be standing here — even on one leg. Looking at the expressions on my companions' faces I suddenly get the sobering feeling that it might just be one of those evenings, but no, a genial lorry driver has noticed our gallant efforts to keep smiling and stoutheartedly he offers us the inside of his cab. I am adamant that I don't mind sitting between the seats and no — I don't need a cushion. So on we go been treated to fifty-odd miles of good humoured chit-

chat with intermittent renderings of "Me and Bobby McGee." Our friend assures us that he does know all the words, it's just that some lines appeal to him more than others. We can't help noticing his courtesy as he constantly gives way to those who are in such a hurry to get nowhere fast. However, I wonder did he notice the length of time it took me to feebly extricate myself from the floor of his cab. Yes, indeed, it was like learning to walk all over again but there was still a long way to go and the limbering time was limited.

With thumbs all pointing South we resumed our wayside positions. And this time, wow! nothing less than a Mercedes screeched to a halt, driven by one of those cigar-smoking executive types. I choose the front seat because after all I had earned this little comfort. We all took part in helping to shorten the journey but my wary eye continued to focus alarmingly on the speedometer, and very soon I realised that horse-power was a lot safer when the horses had it. It mightn't have been so distressing had I not noticed the sticker on the dashboard that spelt out — "It's the overtakers that keep the undertakers busy." I kept smiling but I wonder did our Good Samaritan ever ask himself why my face kept changing colour.

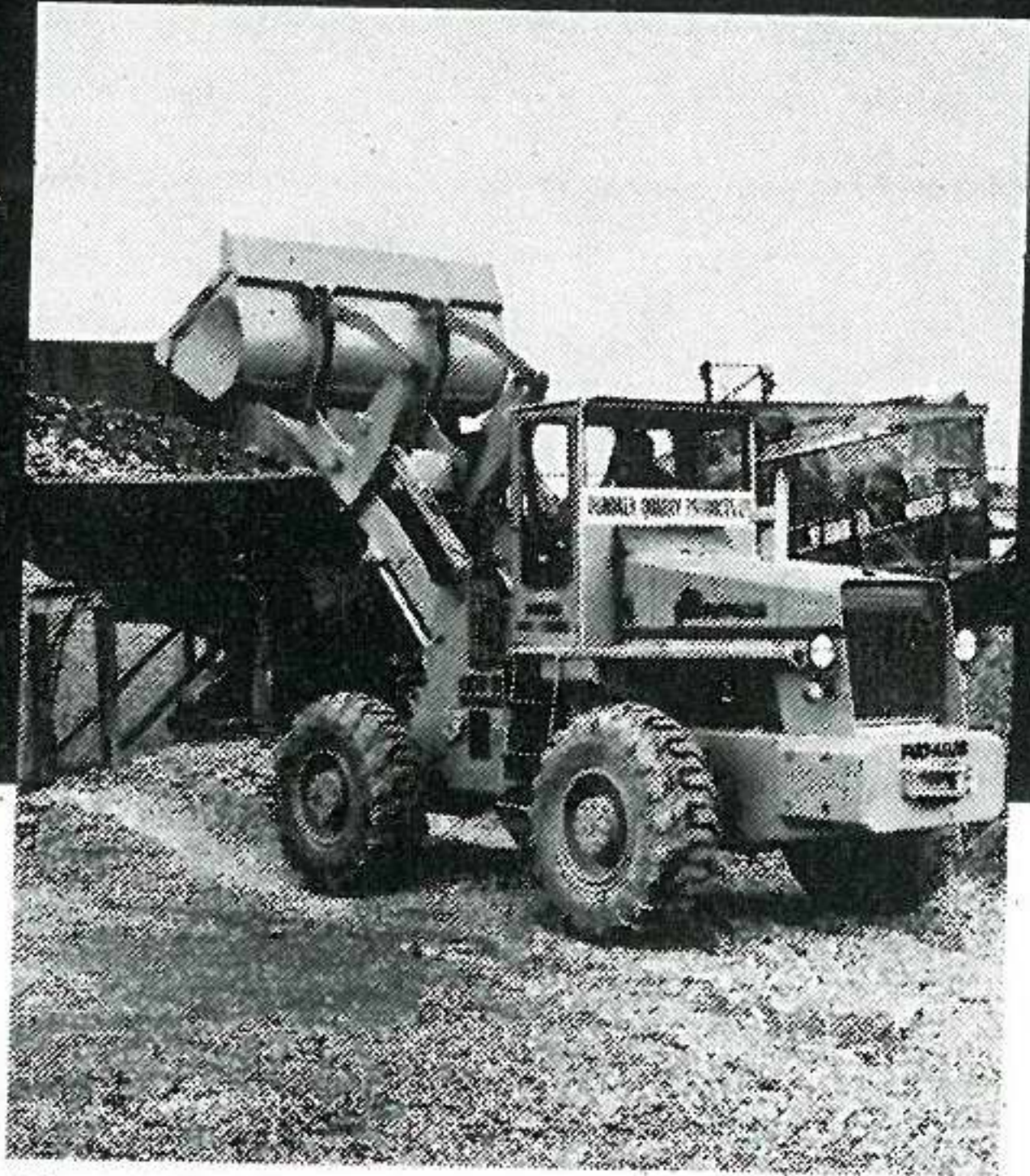
Anyway thanks to the many de-

● TO PAGE 27



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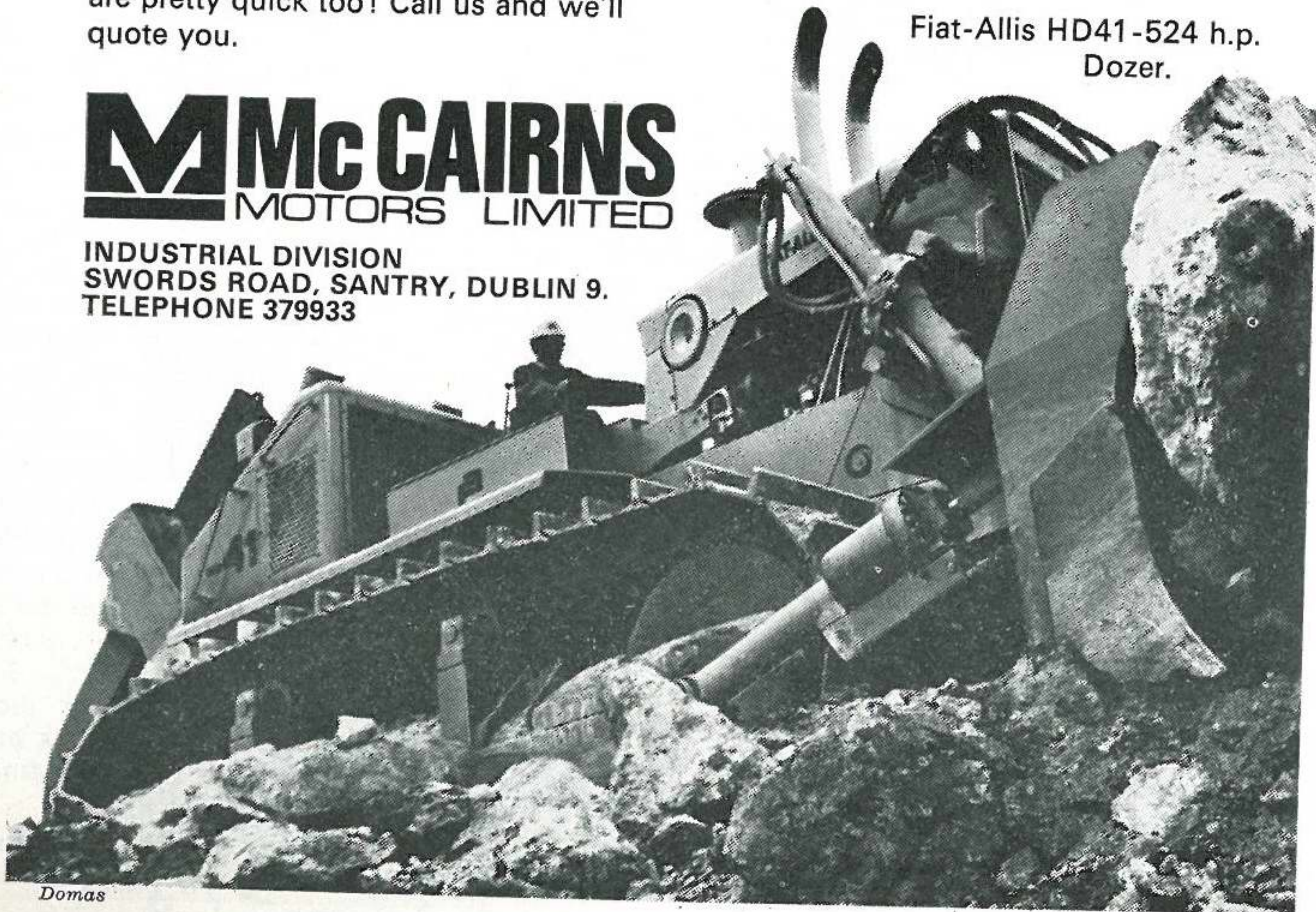


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# LADIES PLEASE

● FROM PAGE 25

cent motorists all round the country we were never stranded. Where did we go — well really if I were to do justice to our holiday Bord Fáilte would be embarrassed into offering me their top promotional post. I have always said there's no place like our own country if one could only keep Old Sol in good humour. The beautiful sylvan countryside along the Vee in South Tipperary would rival the wooded Austrian Slopes anytime not to mention the profusion of rhododendrons that lend vivid colours to the lush pasturelands. And what about nearby Garryduff Wood for the picnic and nature trail in the cool of the evening. One can only feel elevated with the peace and quite, occasionally punctuated with such homely sounds as a barking dog or a lowing cow. We were loathe to leave but since contentment is the smother of invention we carried on . . .

Of course Cork is always reluctant to play second fiddle to Tipperary. Their city has so much to offer and everything is made all the more pleasant by the natural friendliness and helpfulness of the people. I clanged out "Little Brown Jug" on the famed Shandon Bells while my more adventurous companions tried "Wrap The Green Flag Round Me, Boys." From there we ventured west to the historic town of Kinsale with its narrow winding streets, houses with their distinctive facades and a delightful harbour catering for everything from the simple tub to the "tycoon" cruiser. The clothes-conscious among you will be glad to know that the elegant Kinsale Cloak is still proudly worn by

many of the local ladies.

The Old Head lies some six miles further West. Here one can really get away from it all —

*"And only the white sheep are sometimes seen*

*Cross and recross the strips of moon blanch'd green."*

Here we spent the evening sunbathing not too wisely but too well. Of course I wouldn't listen to advice. The Queen Mother would be proud of my skin and I was quite adamant that it doesn't burn. No—it didn't burn, just scorched. I was feeling fine till sundown when a peculiar sizzling burning sensation set in. I won't go further into details but there's nothing funny about spending two whole nights walking the floor-boards. I couldn't even read. My eyes resembled two burnt holes in a blanket and even the heat from the bulb served to rub more salt into the wounds. When will we ever learn . . .

West Cork of course is alive with 'beauty spots' — Bantry, Glengariff, Glandore, Gougane Barra, and that's only a few of them. Talking about Gougane Barra have you ever noticed how those Saints really knew where to find their Heaven on Earth — witness St. Finbarr in Gougane Barra and St. Kevin in Glendalough to mention just a couple of them. Surely if one lived in either place one would cultivate the head for the halo in no time. Of course, I suppose on the other side of the coin one could turn into a proper reprobate. Anyway it would be fine if the choice weren't left to oneself!!

We rambled on our merry way towards Kerry and on out to the Dingle peninsula. Of course no sojourn there would be complete without a trip to the Blaskets. We took the 11 o'clock boat across from Dun Chaoin Pier. A narrow pathway enables one to walk all round this beautiful island where the peace is only interrupted by the swooping of

the seagulls and the scuttling of rabbits. Every now and then one comes ominously close to becoming a cliff-hanger as the pathway wends its way over the edge of sheer rock perched several hundred feet above sea level. They say one has to go sometime but personally I'd wager good odds on turning this place into a second Tír na nÓg.

On the near side of the island the ruins of the homes of such as Tomás Ó Criomthain and Peig Sayers bear evidence of a truly great tradition. "Ní bheidh ár leithéidí arís ann" — so said Tomás and the more's the pity. I suppose that's the price of progress. However, one should be thankful for small mercies, it's great to be allowed to go over there and savour the cure for this strange disease of modern life. Yes, indeed, when that mystic cloud settles before your very eyes on selected peaks here and there throughout the island one cannot but be convinced that with all its ups and downs it is still a beautiful world.

Readers, guess what has happened — I have run out of space! How mundane can one become after floating on Cloud Nine for so long. And do you also realise I have covered only half the holiday. However, when you get to the end of your rope tie a knot and hang on — I'll be back next month. But, before I sign off, here's an idea — You've heard all about my holiday, what about you writing in and letting me hear all about your holiday. Our Editor will award a prize of £3.00 to the sender of the most interesting letter received. Incidentally keep your letters to about 80-100 words and send them to me c/o

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# A DREAM COME TRUE FOR TOM



BY  
JIM BENNETT

LAST year was one of those dreams come true for Tom McCormack. Two Sundays in a row he collected All-Ireland medals with different Kilkenny teams—first the senior, then the Under-21. Yet, this was not the most singular thing about it, for there were others, too, who were on the senior and Under-21 panels, and Billy Fitzpatrick actually played in both games along with McCormack.

Much more like the brushing

of the fairy wand was the fact that the day he made his senior championship debut with his county team was the All-Ireland final day, so that he gained his medal in a matter of 80 minutes—something that thousands of hurlers have sweated blood to achieve over a lifetime in the game.

He was spoiled by Fortune's kiss, surely. But, then, how could it have happened anywhere else except in Kilkenny? Perhaps in one of the other great strongholds of the game, though one doubts it more in their case. Probably only Kilkenny could have looked dispassionately at the hurling ability of the young man, refused to allow themselves to be guided by other considerations of experience or toughness or excitement or nervousness. They simply could say to themselves: "He's a good enough hurler—what more do you want?"

And that's the way it was, too. For not only did young McCormack play at left-half back and win his medal, but he also played an outstanding game and was willingly acknowledged as one of the best on the team.

One of the strange oddities that surrounded the unique occurrence was that he returned to the Under-21 county side, where he had caught the selectorial eye, for the All-Ireland final of that grade against Waterford the following Sunday, but not in the left-half position where he starred against Limerick. He was at right full-back in that side with, in front of him, the man who seemed to be taking over the place of No. 7 in the senior side until after the Leinster final—Ger Henderson.

I am fairly sure that most hurlers throughout the country envied McCormack. But, more to

the point, most of them probably cursed a fickle Fortune which could give so generously to him in one splurge of prodigality what they might never receive from her niggardly purse.

From McCormack's point of view, I suppose few have tried to see how it looks. Yet, it is not all roses, really, when you think that the lad has achieved the height of ambition yet still had to turn to and fight to hold his place on the county side. In a word, there was only one way to go from the position in which he found himself in an instant. Downwards!

Well, he has justified his inclusion in the seniors since then by League and other performances, but already the ups and downs are beginning to tell. In the Leinster final he was rather outplayed by the very talented and strong Martin Quigley, and was called off, to be replaced by the same Ger Henderson who stepped aside for him last year.

It is not yet clear what Kilkenny's selection will be for the final, but it will be of interest, at least, to watch whether fortune has decided to give another turn of the screw and tilt the seesaw away from McCormack this time.

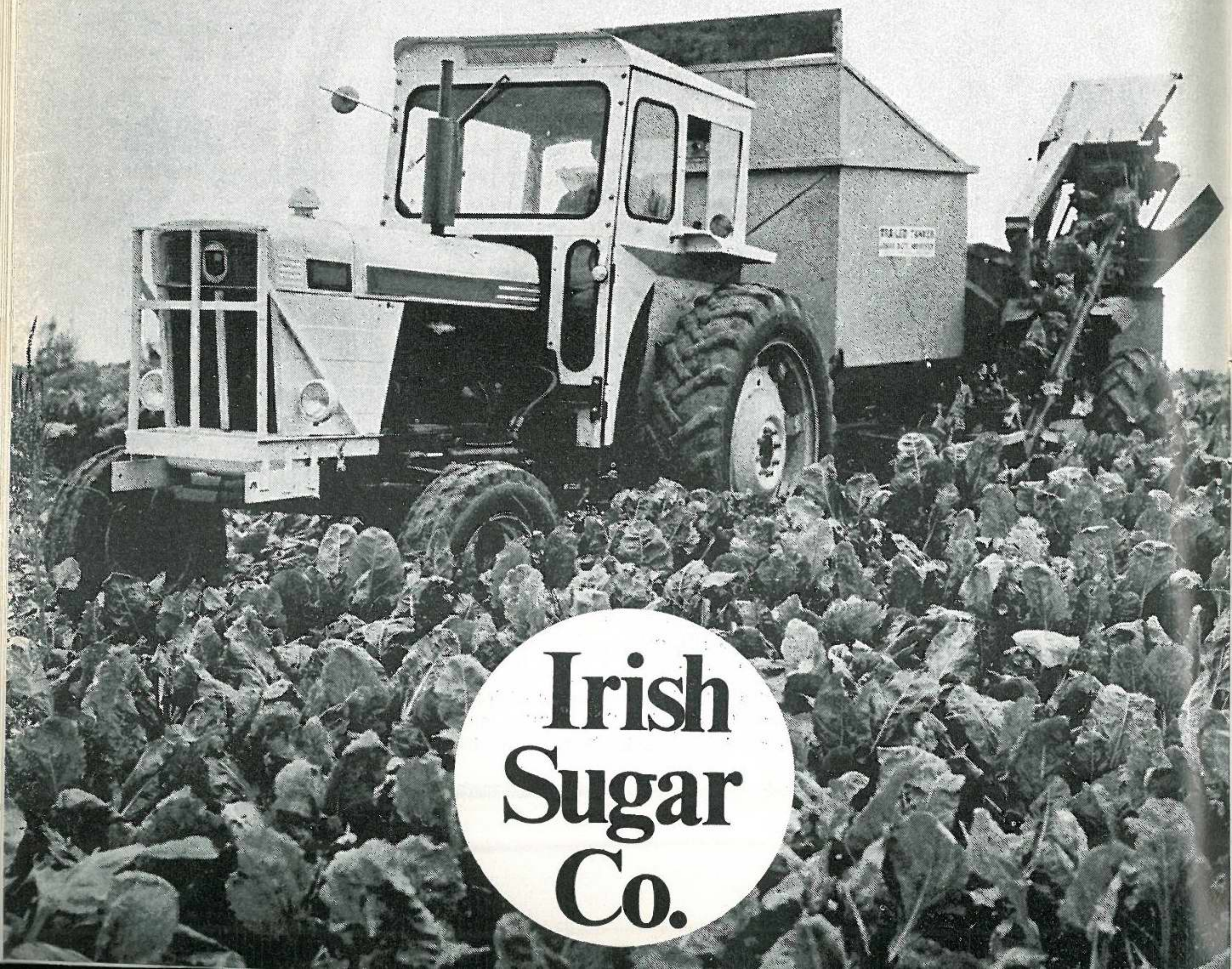
Now 21 and a powerfully made young man of close to six feet and around 12½ stone, the talent which he showed as a minor, then as Under-21 and, finally, as senior, is not in doubt. As we have said, probably his worst enemy is the very kiss of fortune that brought him everything in one short week. Most have to work to win the status of All-Ireland champion: McCormack is in the tricky position of having to work to show that he *did* deserve that status. It can take a toll of a man's hurling.



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**BAD GUYS**

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

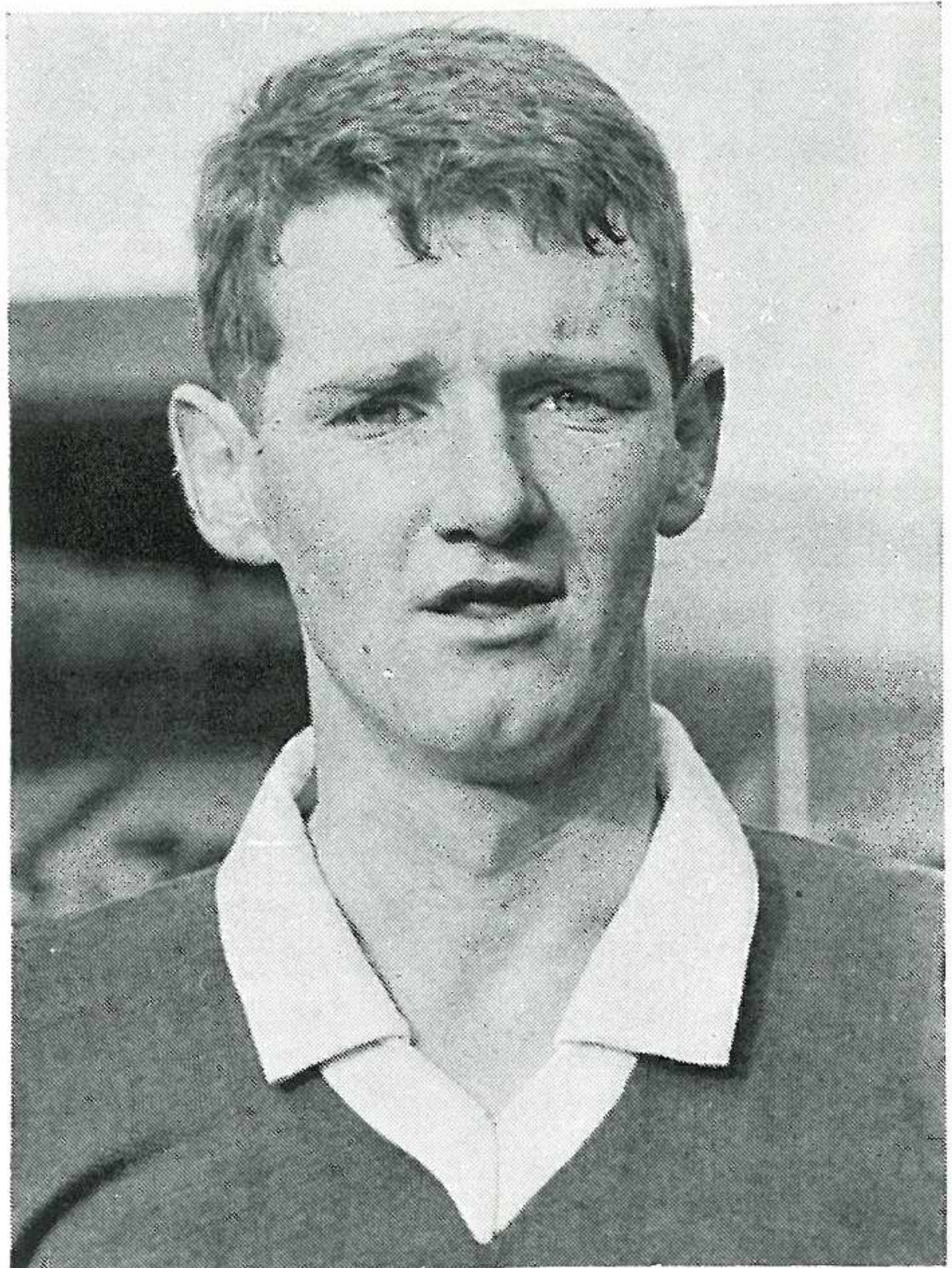
**W**ILL the Gaelic Athletic Association take any action against players, whose misdemeanours are highlighted only by the T.V. camera? That's a question very much on the minds of Gaelic games enthusiasts, some of whom have expressed 'utter disgust' to me, at recent incidents which have gone unpunished.

The incidents which have caused a sour taste in the mouth of every genuine G.A.A. follower occurred in the Munster final in Killarney and in the replay of the Connacht decider.

In the opening minutes of the second half of the Munster final, Kerry's Mickey Sullivan and Cork's John Coleman behaved as if they were Roman gladiators. Had they weapons in their hands, one can only speculate as to what might have happened.

Then at Castlebar, Willie McGee, Mayo's corner forward was felled from behind with a vicious kick as he was making his way out after punching a spectacular point.

Both deeds of gross misconduct went unnoticed by the referee, **BUT THEY SHOULD NOT GO**



● **WILLIE MCGEE — felled by a vicious kick.**

**UNNOTICED BY THE ASSOCIATION.**

These games were watched by a huge audience on T.V. and the incidents in question were there for all to see. The G.A.A. must be concerned about the effect such behaviour can have on the youth of the country.

It behoves them to investigate the matter and take some form of action against those offenders. A top inter-county player who claims to be a friend of all three players mentioned, said to-day: "It would do irreparable harm to the Association if the offenders involved were allowed get away with it. I was sickened by what I saw on the TV." Many others

voiced similar sentiments.

It's safe to presume that had the referee spotted the incidents the three offenders would have been ordered off. Because of his lapse, should these players avoid the lash?

There's an obvious problem here. The offending players would be quick to claim that since only portion of the game is covered by T.V. they are being victimised. And they would have a point: a more serious offence could well have occurred outside the range of the camera.

Be that as it may, there's a place in the G.A.A. for what the vernacular refers to as "T.V. evidence."



# KILKENNY: As good as

**T**HERE is no doubting that Kilkenny have preserved themselves well over the years. In their victory over Wexford in this year's Leinster final, the same names were attracting attention; the same men, not recognisably changed by the years, and showing remarkable evidence of being as fit as ever, and apparently as keen as ever.

Immediately one compares this year's side with that of 1974, because it is an easy and, possibly, a clever way of weighing them up as potential champions. It is all the more easy because they have hardly changed their side at all—only the chunky, grey-haired Jim Treacy is missing from the ranks and against Wexford he was replaced by one who had played in the All-Ireland final of 1973—Brian Cody.

The cards then seem to be on the table—a comparison should be easy. Certainly Noel Skehan is still an ace in the pack, does not appear to have lost any of his great qualities of speedy thought and reaction coupled with dauntless courage. It must remain uncertain whether he has that extraordinary ability to bring off those "miraculous" saves of pure instinct that lifted him out of the good into the truly great category in the last couple of years. But safe, sound and inspiring he will be, in any case.

Fan Larkin seems tireless, tight as ever, decisive as ever, and apparently as speedy in his bursts out against the play. Nicky Orr is, I think, a more

composed and certain full-back than he was, because he must now realise that he has the necessary qualities. Last year, at times, he began to scratch about like an excited hen, burdened as he was with the full-back position and the captaincy while some were still debating his worth.

Against Wexford young Cody, who was only out of the minors when thrown into the 1973 side,

person has not got firm claim on that wing position before now, because he has shown himself to an adequate performer, though less likely to provide the spectacular wing-half play than the sound, absorbent type. Maybe he has been judged by criteria derived from his brother's performances—a most unfair test.

Pat, the monarch of the central defence, looks all right this year, and with that said at this

**By JAY DRENNAN**

and had a particularly tough experience at left-back on that occasion, showed that now he is a far more competent and confident young man. In 1973 he was notably restricted in hitting from his left-hand side; clearly he has worked on that, and while the test of the Wexford game does not obviate the slight suspicion, corner-back (especially on the left) is a position where any weakness there need not be shown up so obviously as further outfield.

The half-back line for the Leinster final was the same as that which played Limerick last year; but McCormack, who was a neophyte then, and earned his spurs well in that game and later, took something of a roasting. He was replaced by Ger Henderson to make up the line which played Wexford in the 1974 Leinster final. Surprisingly young Hen-

stage of the campaign, it is usually possible to forecast that he will be running into top-gear for the final. Nevertheless, there must always be a doubt about the long-serving player in a position like centre-back, so exposed to the elements, you might say. Any creak in the joints, any wheeze in the bellows can wreak the devil's own destruction. It would be usual for centre-backs to be moving back to the corner at Henderson's stage of hurling life, so that, at least, the draught from behind is cut off. With Cody at hand, indeed, any emergencies are already well catered for—no embarrassment, just an inconspicuous little switch.

Pat Lalor on the right is obviously full of hurling and as mobile as ever; this chap should be reaching his peak by now. Similarly, Liam O'Brien with the go-go-go style should have now



s ever?



● **NICKEY ORR**, last year's captain, shows his customary urgency and determination as he prepares to clear the ball.

added so much experience to his skill and energy and his great willingness and enthusiasm that he should be about his best. Cummins, on the other hand, may be slowing a bit, cutting down his range somewhat, but cuter and steadier than ever, and this is perfectly geared for O'Brien's more adventurous exploits.

This centre-back will be hard (maybe impossible) to restrain this year, and it is, perhaps, Kilkenny's greatest guarantee of being in at the kill, whether winning or losing, in the final. For, if there is doubt it must be about the defence, if stretched out and put under more even pressure than Wexford could apply. And if there is certain hope of success it lies with the polish that has been applied in the past two years to the less prominent members of the attack, so that there are now six men with the composure and certain reliance on their skills to whip scores when opportunity offers.

Therefore, a balance from midfield will assure that the sharpest weapon they have will be used, winning the game by greater numbers of scores rather than by winning it by concession of fewer. Keher loses nothing with the years; he maintains that fierce concentration on taking the ball cleanly and without fumble and then the couple of raking strides that get him room to strike. When you can strike as Keher can, it is a simple but magical formula.

Delaney seems to be less beaverish, ebullient or gay this year, perhaps getting a little less anxious to absorb all the punishment for which he exposed himself since he became the axis of attack. But, if he seems less hungry for the action, Kieran Purcell seems positively carnivorous, with maybe a stone of extra muscle spread in perfect proportion over his massive frame. He plays like a giant, and seems more self-confident than ever. Crotty, often a disappointment, is also much surer of himself; and the underrated Mick Brennan plays every ball on its merits.

The least experienced, yet captain Billy Fitzpatrick, will not be a weak link, though, in an All-Ireland final, he might not display his full range of sweet talents.

Overall as good as last year?

Yes, I would say so. As over-powering in defence as last year against Limerick? I doubt it very much. Under even pressure — not just a few forwards playing well—it looks to me as though there should be a good crop of scores available, though chances should not be wasted by trying for goals.

As good in attack as before? Yes, and, maybe better because the spread of scoring ability is wider and does not weigh so much on Keher, or even on Delaney and Purcell.

As good at midfield? Yes, and maybe better.

As likely to win? It depends on the opposition, of course, for that of Limerick last year was not a real test, and it might demand a side some degrees better than 1974 to take the title once more to the Nore.



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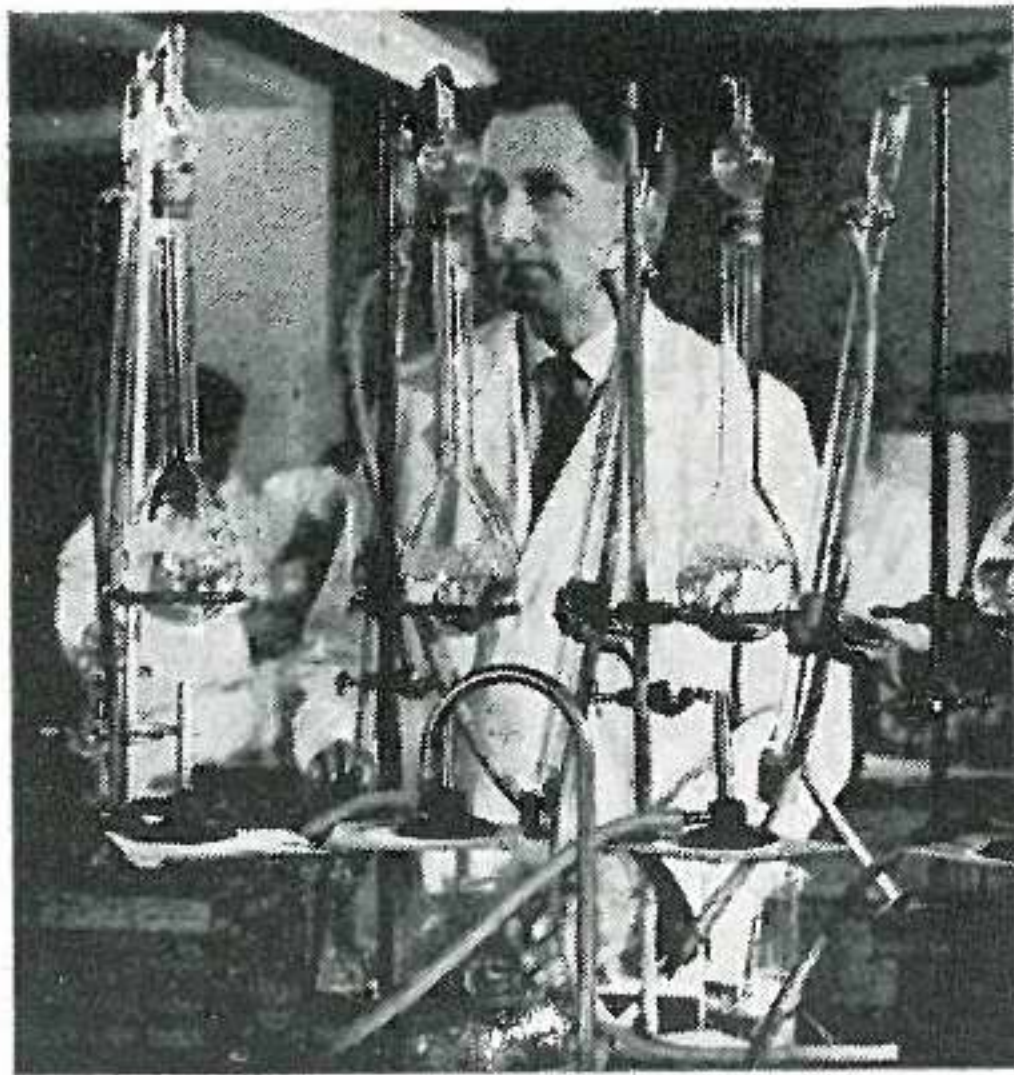
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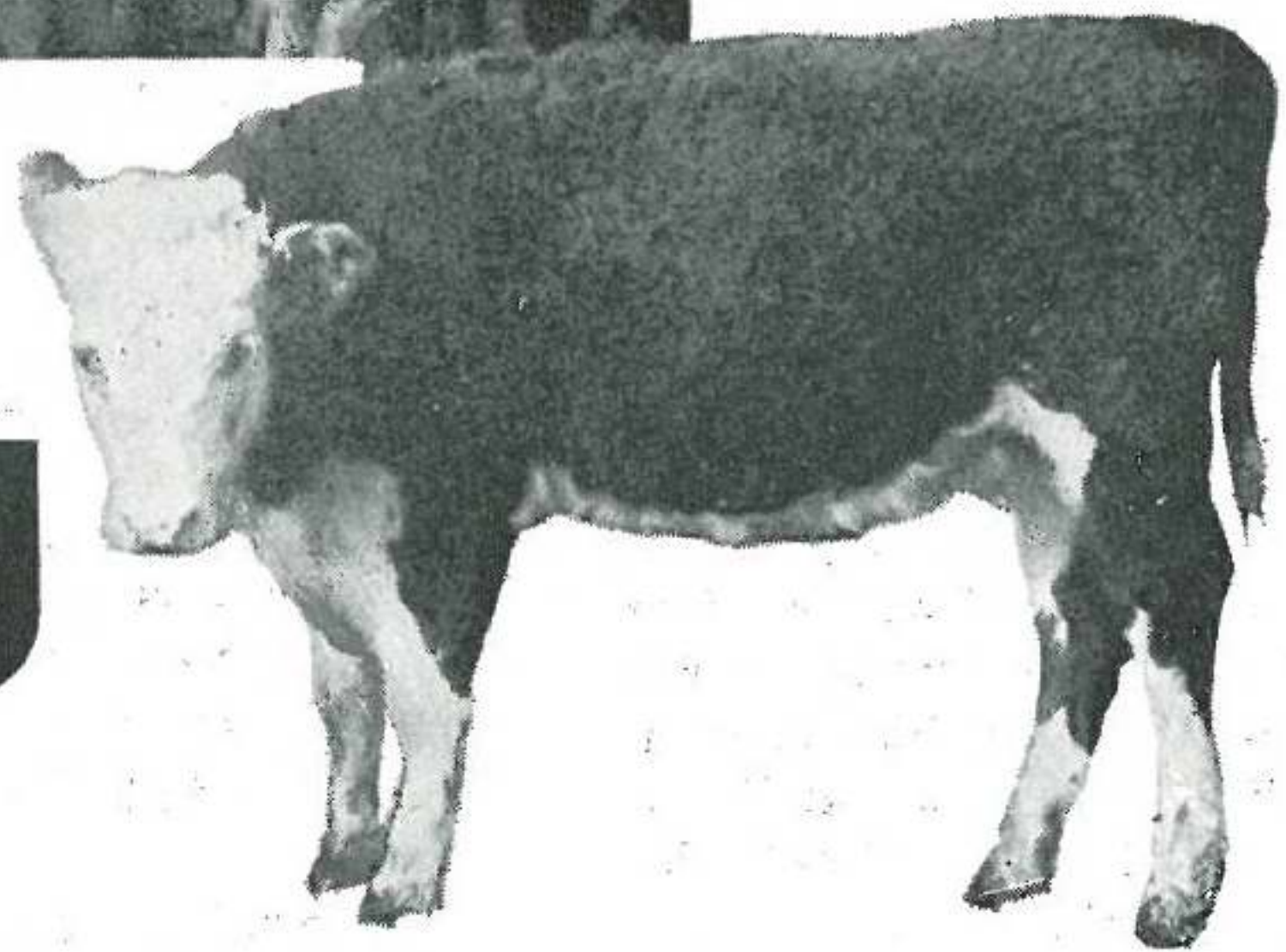
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● MARGARET LACEY . . .  
 whose comeback inspired  
 Wexford's great revival.

## GREAT COMEBACK BY WEXFORD

**T**HE return of Wexford to the All-Ireland senior scene is the chief Camogie talking point this month, and it happened in somewhat unusual circumstances. Since the inauguration of the Open Draw in the senior All-Ireland championship the Leinster Council has continued its own senior provincial championship but as a separate competition.

The effect of this decision has been that although only three counties in Leinster are ranked senior nowadays all three have the advantage of having had at least one senior competitive outing within their own province before embarking on their All-Ireland campaign.

Now in this year's Leinster championship Wexford came up against the All-Ireland champions Kilkenny in the semi-final and after doing well for most of the

game, fell away in the closing stages and were defeated, deservedly on the run of the play. Kilkenny thus went on to the Leinster final against Dublin but before that had accounted comfortably for Galway in the opening round of the All-Ireland series.

But then the surprises started. Kilkenny at home to Dublin in the Leinster final at Gowran started firm favourites to account for an untested Dublin side and had to accept unexpected defeat thus failing in their big ambition to add the Leinster honours to the All-Ireland title they already held.

True, Kilkenny in that game were without Ann Carroll and Angela Downey, both of whom had been in action against Galway, but even so Dublin's victory was so meritorious that they were generally expected to reach the

final for the first time since 1967.

In the meantime Wexford after that Leinster semi-final defeat, had to travel to Ennis to take on last year's junior champions Clare in the All-Ireland competition. Wexford led well at half-time but a great second half rally by Clare brought them level and they were perhaps a trifle unlucky not to have won.

On home ground in the replay at Enniscorthy, Wexford were confidently expected to come through, and so they did, but only with two points to spare. However, those two hard games against Clare gave Wexford a sharpness they had been lacking earlier.

That was very obvious when they met fancied Dublin in the semi-final for the girls from the Slaney had improved almost one hundred per cent both in defence and attack. Though scores were level at half time, Wexford's greater control and cohesion were already evident. Not only did they advance to convincing victory in the second half but on this display must be in with a great chance of recapturing the All-Ireland title they won for the first time in 1968 and retained in the following year.

The great star of those thrilling victories was Margaret O'Leary from Buffer's Alley who varied between centre-half or mid-field. Since then Margaret, a native of Garrydaniel has married, she is now Margaret Lacey and her recent return to the Wexford side has done much to spark off the county's recent revival.

But only when she moved to full-back for the Dublin game did the whole Wexford side seem to click into top gear. Margaret Lacey was magnificent in that

● OVERLEAF





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**SANDEMAN**  
**Cream Sherry**

● FROM PAGE 35

position against Dublin ably aided by another member of the 1968-69 team, Bridget Doyle.

Bridget is one of the famed Kehoe family from Adamstown and with her now in the back line she has her younger sister Gretta at right back, while another sister, Kit, who won an All-Ireland medal with Dublin in 1966, is at right forward. The former Kit Kehoe is Mrs. Kit Codd now, and her return to the game has been a great boost to the Wexford attack.

Another great asset to Wexford in the semi-final was the U.C.D. player Dorothy Walsh, who played so well on the losing side against Dublin in the junior final on the previous Sunday. Called up to the senior side she completed a magnificent defence.

Dorothy's elder sister, Elsie, with another former Colleges star, Eileen O'Gorman (nee Hawkins) gave power around the mid-field while Kit Codd, Bridie Doran (nee Jacob) and Mary Furlong provided plenty of power up front.

So Wexford are back in the Camogie spotlight and that is a great thing for the game. It also shows the advantage of the Open Draw. Under the old system, Wexford, beaten in that opening game in Leinster would neither have been seen or heard of for the rest of the year.

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## NEW, DYNAMIC LEADER

THE destiny of handball is obviously going to be determined by development and consequently, people assigned to this task now bear a big responsibility towards future generations of handballers.

It is of vital importance that handball commands a "spot" on the G.A.A. Development Committee and obviously the appointee to that position is a major cog in handball promotions.

At last year's Congress of the Handball Council the delegates choose former hurler and Clareman Caimín Jones to represent them in the G.A.A. Council Rooms, hence the relevance of this particular officer's views on the future of the game.

With due reference to the promotional work effected by Joe Lynch over a number of years, the success of the World Championships in 1970 and the impact of the Top Ace Television competition, Jones is of the opinion that a full integration between handball, hurling and football should be a priority.

However, he would view this as a long term goal that will automatically evolve as existing hurling and football clubs develop their playing fields and provide more community facilities.

It could also be expedited by a change of emphasis on the part of County Boards and Provincial Councils from the solitary sphere of playing activities to the additional tasks of development.

Jones gauges, that, for too long, these bodies have been negligent in their efforts to develop the

game and that, in the future, they must liaise fully and work in unison with their G.A.A. counterparts.

Personnel, will, of course, be a stumbling block in the scheme of the Development Officer, and Jones decries the fact that handball has not been able to attract a steady inflow of administrators from Higher Level Institutions and the Teaching profession.

He would like to see a realistic effort made to attract this type of talent, perhaps, as he suggests, in obtaining permission from the Association of Secondary, Vocational and National Teachers to address their Annual Conferences on the benefits of handball. It could also be brought a stage further by inviting the representatives of these bodies, and from the Universities, Third Level Boards and Institutions to a one-day seminar.

"Alternative sources of income will have to be found as our Parent Body, despite the growth in receipts, is now being swamped by demands for grants from its Hurling and Football Clubs."

In making this statement, Jones attempts to supply the solution by calling on Building Societies and Finance Companies to determine the grounds on which long term loans could be made available.

He considers it absurd that some of the Building Societies have provided cash loans for the building of office blocks in Paris and Brussels, while Irish Community Development is completely ignored by them. On the regular

question of the standardisation of courts, Handball's representative on the G.A.A. Development Committee is concise in his views.

He gauges that the 40' x 20' game is not the same spectacle as the 60' x 30' game, basically, because of the tendency of players to play defensively and the desire to win matches rather more by an opponent's mistakes than by a perfection of shots.

There is also the factor that the 40' x 20' game has never been successfully televised while the upsurge of handball in this country can be largely attributed to its adaptability for television.

Jones is of the view that the old code of handball should be dispensed with and both the 60' x 30' and 40' x 20' games retained.

During his term of office, Jones will concern himself to a large degree with both the code and cost of construction.

He will make representations for the retention of a competent firm of structural engineers and that structurally sound designs be produced for both the 40' x 20' and 60' x 30' courts.

These are some of the views of one of Handball's most enthusiastic administrators. Caimín Jones had worked tremendously hard to develop and promote the game in Clare over a number of years.

Now, he has emerged as a leader at national level and particularly in the complex area of development.

There is every reason to believe that he will make many major contributions to handball.



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|---------------------------------|------|
| Escort 1100 L                   | 37.7 |
| Fiat 128                        | 31.1 |
| Renault 12 L                    | 31.0 |
| Vauxhall Viva                   | 35.8 |
| Morris Marina 1.3               | 37.2 |
| Avenger 1600                    | 27.5 |

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

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

†Autocar economy test of 1300cc cars.

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# SCORESHEET

By OWEN McCANN



● Eddie Keher  
(Kilkenny)

IT'S that man Eddie Keher yet again! Having won a record tenth Leinster senior hurling medal with Kilkenny — this is the best haul by an Eastern hurler with the same county — he is now all set to colour this latest All-Ireland senior final outing by adding to what must undoubtedly rank as the most remarkable scoring record of all time in the showpiece game of the year.

There have been many highlights in the great Keher innings. Back in 1963 his skill and dexterity yielded a magnificent total of 0-14, ten points from frees, against Waterford in a win that gave the Rower-Inistioge club man his first All-Ireland senior medal.

That was the best individual score recorded until then in an All-Ireland senior final since these particular records were introduced in 1955. It was not subsequently passed out in a 60 minutes decider, and the points tally still stands as the peak in this regard for a final (60 or 80 minutes) over the past 20 seasons.

Rather surprisingly, however, Keher, who is now 33, did not make a further impact on the chart during the 'Sixties. But he has more than made up for that during the present decade.

In 1971, Tipperary beat Kilkenny, but that was still a memorable decider for the razor-sharp Keher. He treated scoring opportunities with the mood of

a miser, in fact, as is indicated by the fact that he wound up with a thumping 2-11 to his credit. This is now the highest recorded individual tally in a decider.

A year later, the Kilkenny scoring expert achieved his second highest peak when he shot 2-9 in the win over Cork, and, after missing the 1973 clash with Limerick through injury, he was back in real style last September with 1-11 in the revenge win over the Shannonsiders.

In view of these latter-day figures it is not surprising that Keher also has the record bag for a full senior championship programme. He passed out that milestone in 1972 with an average of 12.60 points in each of his five appearances on the way to his fourth All-Ireland senior medal and a blistering bag of 63 points (6-45).

However, whatever about a new individual match record for the great Noreside forward that season's best is destined now to stand for another year at least.

Keher is still finding the target impressively this season, with a match average of 11 points for Championship hurling. He has had only two outings, however, so that his bag of 2-16 (22 points) leaves too much ground now to make up.

Similarly, none of the other forwards who can add to their scoring records in the decider are within "hailing distance"

either of that mighty record-marker.

The best individual score by a Munster hurler stands to the credit of Charlie McCarthy at 1-9, when Cork last won the title in 1970 at the expense of Wexford.

As for Galway—during the period 1955-1974 inclusive, the Western county appeared only twice in the concluding round—1955, when they lost to Wexford, and 1958, when Tipperary foiled their title hopes. Paddy Egan registered the best Galway tally in those matches when he shot 2-1 in the 1955 decider.

Goal-grabbing feats in the final? There have been some noteworthy ones in latter times. Eddie O'Brien sets the standard for the current decade with three (he also notched a point) for Cork in the 1970 match.

In 1963, while Keher was adding up those points in spectacular fashion, Seamus Power was helping himself to much of the scoring limelight as well with three valuable goals for Waterford in their unsuccessful outing.

Four years earlier, Terry O'Connell was another on the three goals target. He was in action with Kilkenny and that 1959 clash with Waterford was drawn.

Finally, two hurlers on the 0-10 mark are Jimmy Doyle, against Kilkenny in 1964, and Richie Bennis, in that memorable Limerick win over the Noresiders two years ago.

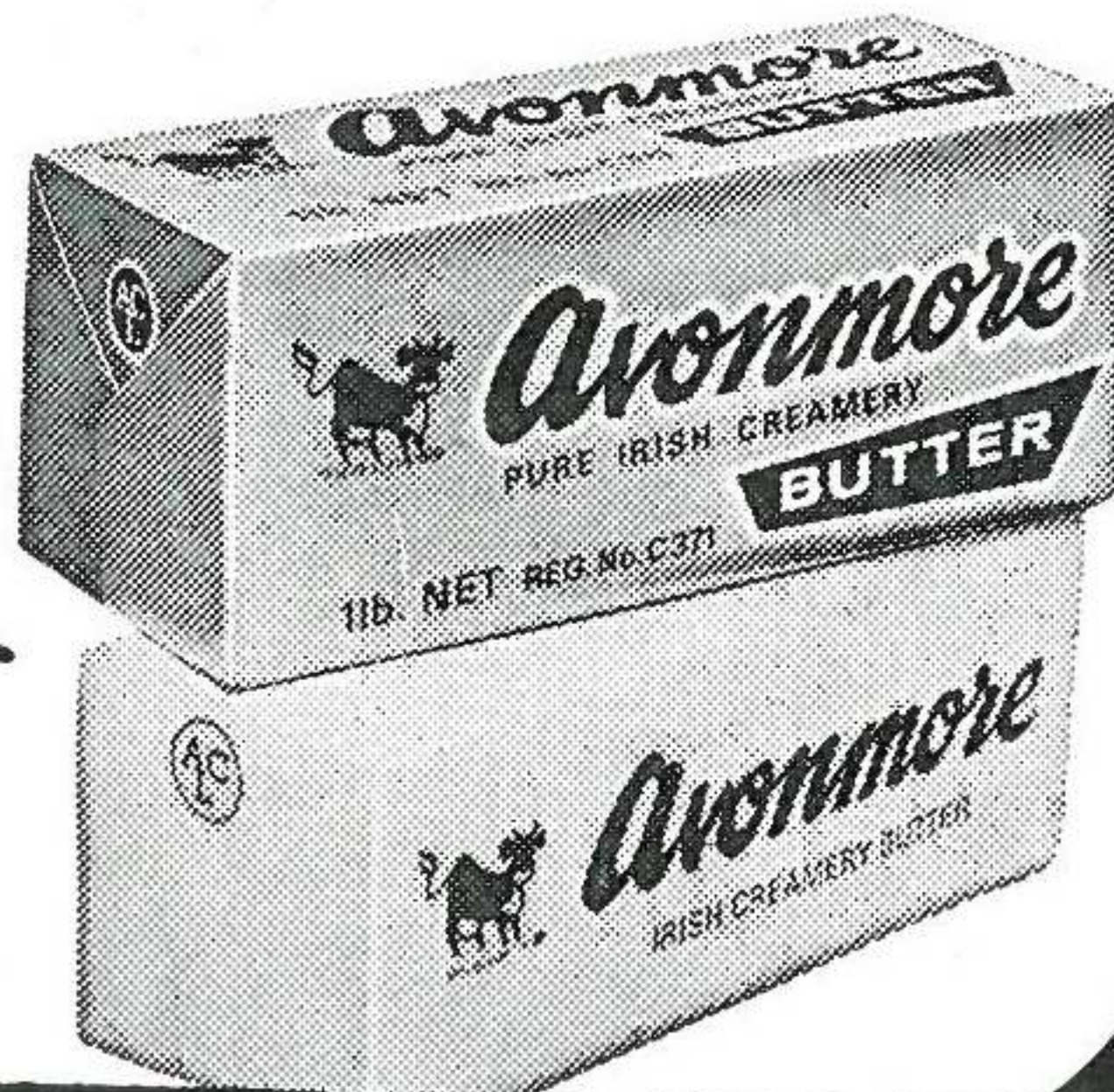
**GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ**



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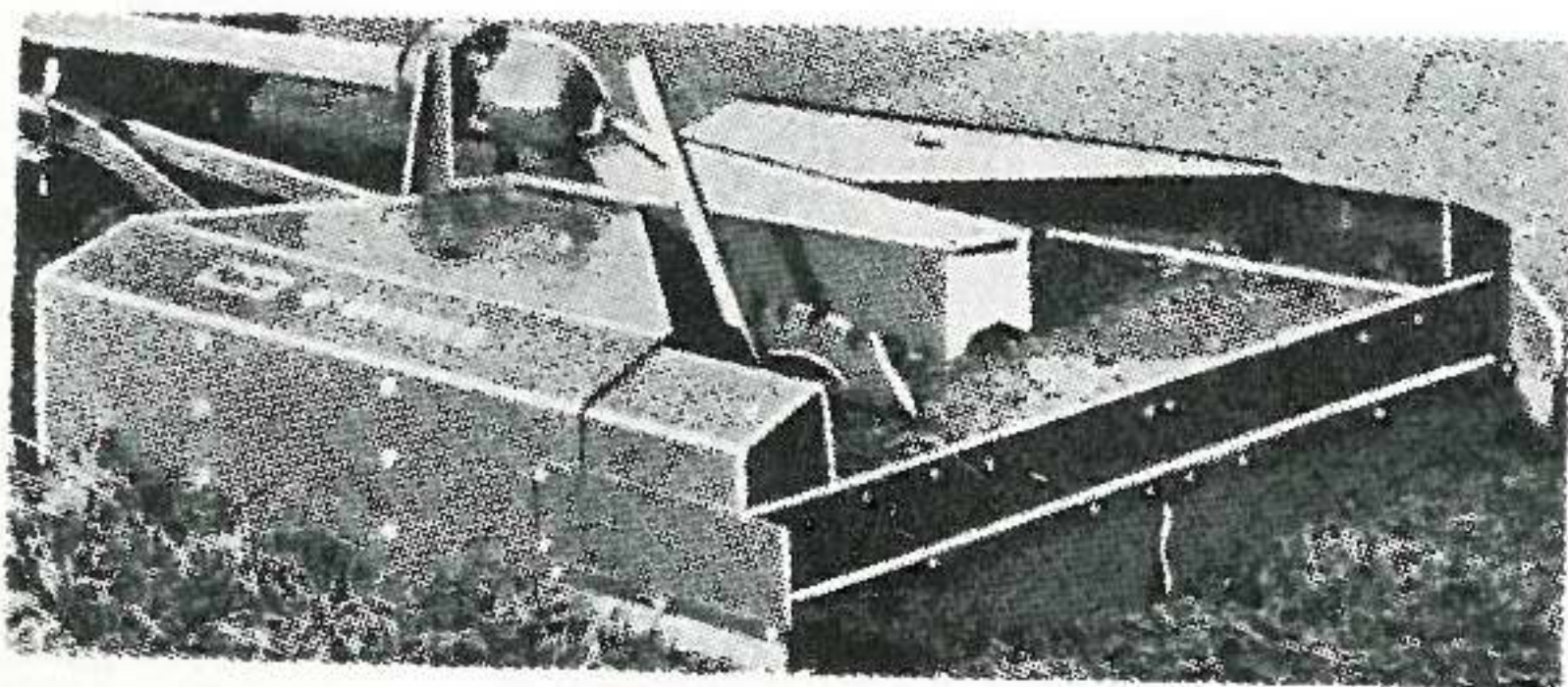


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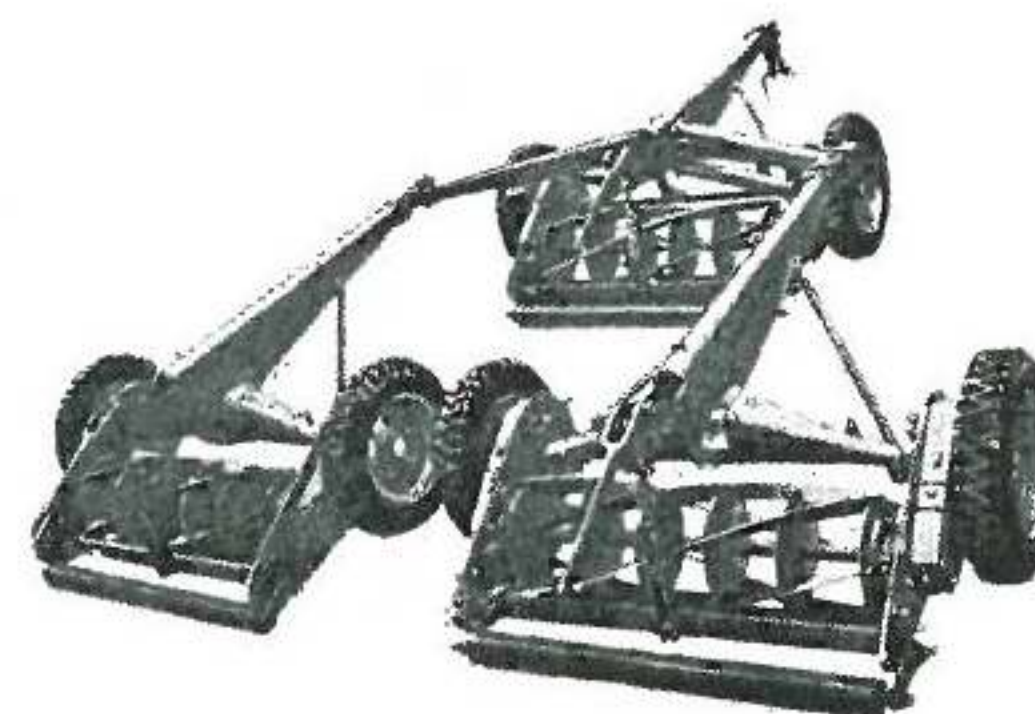


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● Mick Crotty  
(Kilkenny)

## Moondharrig's Diary



● Liam O'Brien  
(Kilkenny)

# A TRULY GREAT TEAM

**P**ESSIMISTS may claim, and they have a point, that it is not a good thing for the game to have Kilkenny appearing in the All-Ireland senior hurling final for the fifth successive year on Sunday the 7th. Certainly the Noremen's five-year reign in the East must, from whatever aspect you care to look at, be pretty frustrating for the rest of the Leinster counties and more especially for their nearest neighbours, keenest rivals and perennial finalists, Wexford.

Yet, if you care to look at the more optimistic side of things, Kilkenny's five-year-long supremacy in their own province, and their regular Croke Park appearances on Final Day, must surely be attributed not to any real falling away in the opposition provided but to the far more acceptable fact that the present squad of hurlers in black and amber is one of the greatest hurling combinations, whether in victory or defeat, that we have been privileged to see in our generation. One has only to study their record through the past five seasons to recognise their worth.

They have won the Leinster title in each of those five years including a 1973 victory over a

Wexford side that had already won the National League title. They were gallant losers to Tipperary in the All-Ireland final of 1971; staged a magnificent last quarter rally to shatter Cork in the final of 1972; battled courageously against cruel adversity when going down to Limerick in the final of 1973, and then vindicated themselves by coming back to exact full vengeance on the Limerickmen in the final of 1974.

Add on the fact that Kilkenny supplied the backbone of the Leinster line-outs that have captured five successive Railway Cups—an achievement that would have been regarded as impossible a decade ago—and a string of victories in San Francisco, New York and Wembley, plus an unequalled number of Carrolls All-Star Awards, and one begins to appreciate properly the real worth and achievements of this Kilkenny team.

Indeed they must be ranked with Christy Ring's Corkmen of the early '50s, the Rackard-inspired Wexford later in that decade, and the power-packed Tipperary line-out of 1961-65.

Personally I must concede that this is the most entertaining and most consistent set of hurlers I have seen in the black and amber for 40 years, the most skilful and

effective since the almost legendary days of Lory Meagher.

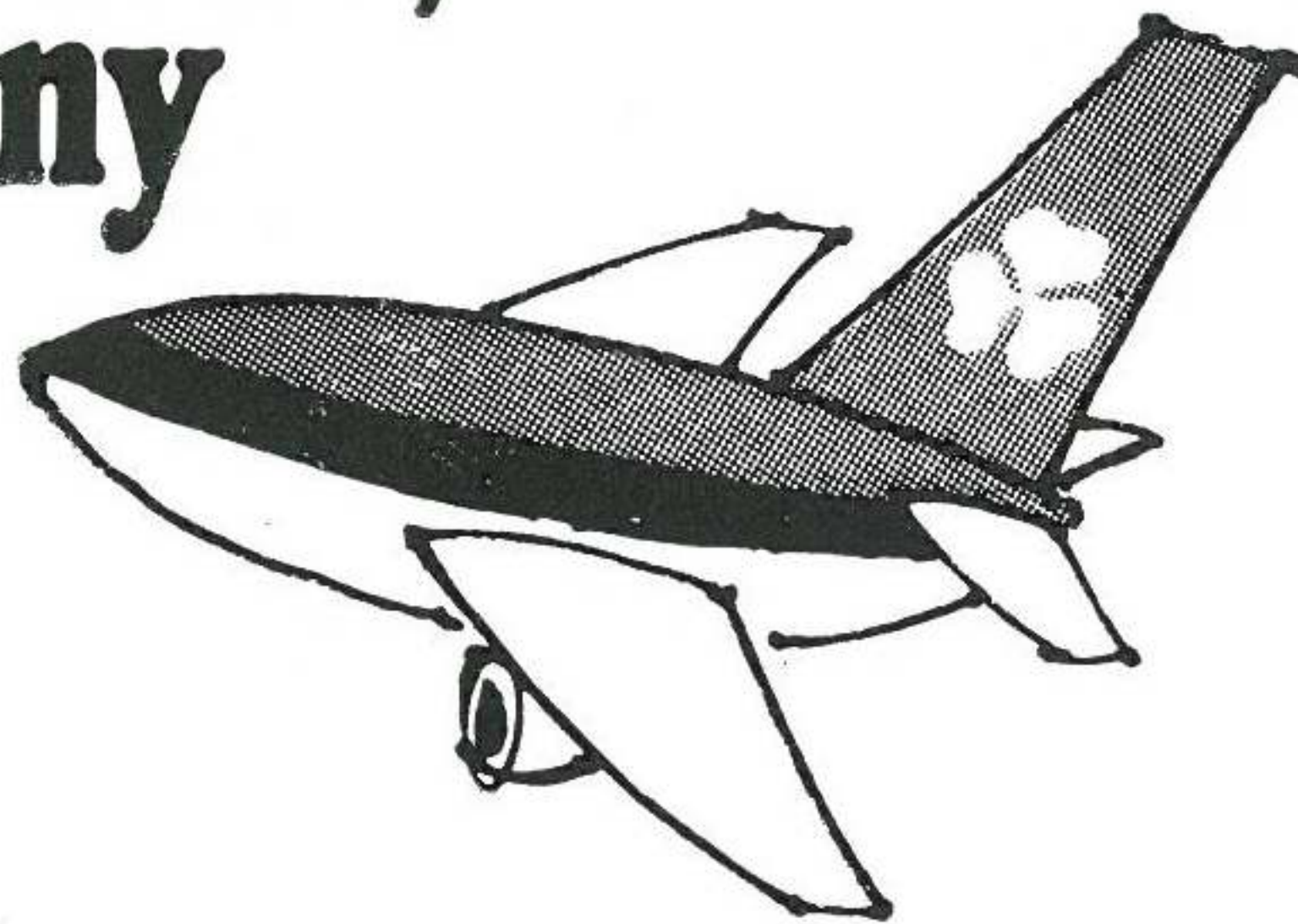
But whether Willie Fitzpatrick from Johnstown and his men are better now, or even as good, as they were a year ago, is a question that is very much open to debate. In the 1974 Leinster final a strangely lethargic Kilkenny were extremely lucky to pip a depleted Wexford. In the recent 1975 final, on the other hand, the Kilkennymen were never headed except for a brief period at the very start of the game. There were lengthy periods when the fit and eager Slaneysiders seemed to be gaining the whip-hand everywhere except on the scoreboard. There were times, too, when Fan Larkin and Pat Lalor on the right wing of the holders' defence seemed to be struggling and looked to be caught for pace. Even the great Pat Henderson had his troubles in the centre, while Tom McCormack, on the left of the half-back line, was well below his best.

But one must also record that, long before the end, Henderson was back to his impregnable best, and that not a single score was conceded by the Larkin-Lalor wing in the later stages. As added consolation for the Kilkenny supporters, there was that super-

● TO PAGE 43



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● FROM PAGE 41

lative display by young Brian Cody at left-full-back, a display that sent no less whole-hearted a performer than John Quigley from the field without a score to his name.

Although Frank Cummins gave the impression of being in quiet mood, Liam "Chunky" O'Brien was both busy and accurate and between them they still looked a very impressive mid-field pairing, except shortly before half-time and good period after the restart when Martin Quigley was operating in that area.

In attack I did not think these Kilkenny forwards, although the same six men were on duty were as effective or as well-together as they were in 1974.

Once again the ageless Eddie Keher all through and the immensely strong Kieran Purcell in the second half, bore the brunt of the struggle and produced the bulk of the scores.

But then Pat Delaney, even though little went right for him, was always dangerous, while Mick Brennan and Mick Crotty both had their moments, though such were considerably fewer than in previous games. I was impressed by a couple of well-taken scores at vital stages by young captain, Billy Fitzpatrick.

Overall it did seem to me that Kilkenny, in their latest Leinster victory over Wexford, were neither as tight at the back nor quite as efficient in attack as they will need to be to achieve their next ambition of retaining their All-Ireland title. In addition, their great veterans, all of them it must be remembered in key positions, are yet another year older now than they were in 1974, and many felt that was their Last Hurrah.

But Mick Lanigan and Fr. Tommy Meagher have had five weeks in which to tune up and tutor their charges, and everyone



● Noel Skehan  
(Kilkenny)



● Nicky Orr  
(Kilkenny)



● Kieran Purcell  
(Kilkenny)

knows what wonders this pair worked on their men between the Leinster and All-Ireland finals last year.

Besides, it is well worth noting that, on the hottest afternoon in 30 years, none of Kilkenny's "old men" showed the slightest sign of wilting in the closing stages of those 70 hectic minutes against Wexford. In fact Henderson, Larkin and Purcell were all hurling better at the end than they had been in the early stages.

But, entirely irrespective of whether they win or lose on the first Sunday in September, this present Kilkenny team is entitled to a proud and permanent place on hurling's Roll of Honour.

Besides, whatever ill-effects their long reign of victory may

or may not have had on the game in Leinster as a whole, there can be no doubts at all about what the exploits of Keher, Henderson and the rest have done for hurling in Kilkenny.

The county holds the senior, under-21 and minor interprovincial titles, St. Kieran's are Colleges All-Ireland champions, Kilkenny holds the Vocational Schools All-Ireland and so high is the standard amongst the 'teenies that Christy Ring himself recently adjudged a Kilkenny youngster as the most skilled juvenile hurler in Ireland.

So, by their fruits shall ye know the men who, through the past five years, have so proudly, and so successfully, worn the black and amber.

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# ON THE SPOT . . .

*by Tony Keegan*

THE spotlight is naturally firmly focussed these days on the All-Ireland senior hurling finalists. However, as the contenders for the code's most coveted award are so much in the news just now, we have decided that our quiz this month should concentrate not primarily on the teams and the personalities of the moment, but rather on the final and other general facets of

the long and colourful history of hurling's match of the year.

In this way we hope that ON THE SPOT . . . will provide a more stimulating challenge; a sterner test of YOUR knowledge of hurling affairs in general.

We have four sections, including an extra long personality parade. The points to be won are given at the end of each section.

Let's start, then, with:

**THE BIG GAME**

1. Where was the first All-Ireland senior hurling final of 1887 played — at Inchicore, in Dublin, Birr or Thurles?

2. Ballyduff beat Crossbeg (Wexford) in extra time in 1871 to gain Kerry's only senior title in the code. How many finals since then have gone to extra time — four, three or not a single decider?

3. The first 15-a-side final was the 1913 decider, won by Kilkenny. Who were runners-up in that game;

4. Another match with an extra special place is the 1943 summit. It was, in fact, a unique game. Can you say why?

5. Christy Ring was the first man to win eight All-Ireland senior medals. In what year did he achieve that memorable breakthrough?

Four marks for each question answered correctly. Total marks possible: 20. Your tally: .....

**RECENT FINALS**

Now, let's come right up to date with the emphasis on recent games.

1. This is the first 70 minutes

decider. Name the counties that contested the initial 80 minutes game of 1970? .....

2. Pictured below are two defenders who were in action in 1972. Who are they, and list their clubs as well, please?



3. How many goals were scored in the Kilkenny-Limerick tie a year ago? .....

4. Eddie Keher has been prominent in many latter day deciders, and won many honours. But why will his captaincy of 1969 hold a special place.

5. How many points had Tipperary to spare over Kilkenny in 1971? .....

A bonus of two points for all correct answer for No. 2, making that question worth six marks. The remaining questions are four-markers. Total points possible: 22. Your tally: .....

**PERSONALITY PARADE**

1. This player was the first

● TO PAGE 47

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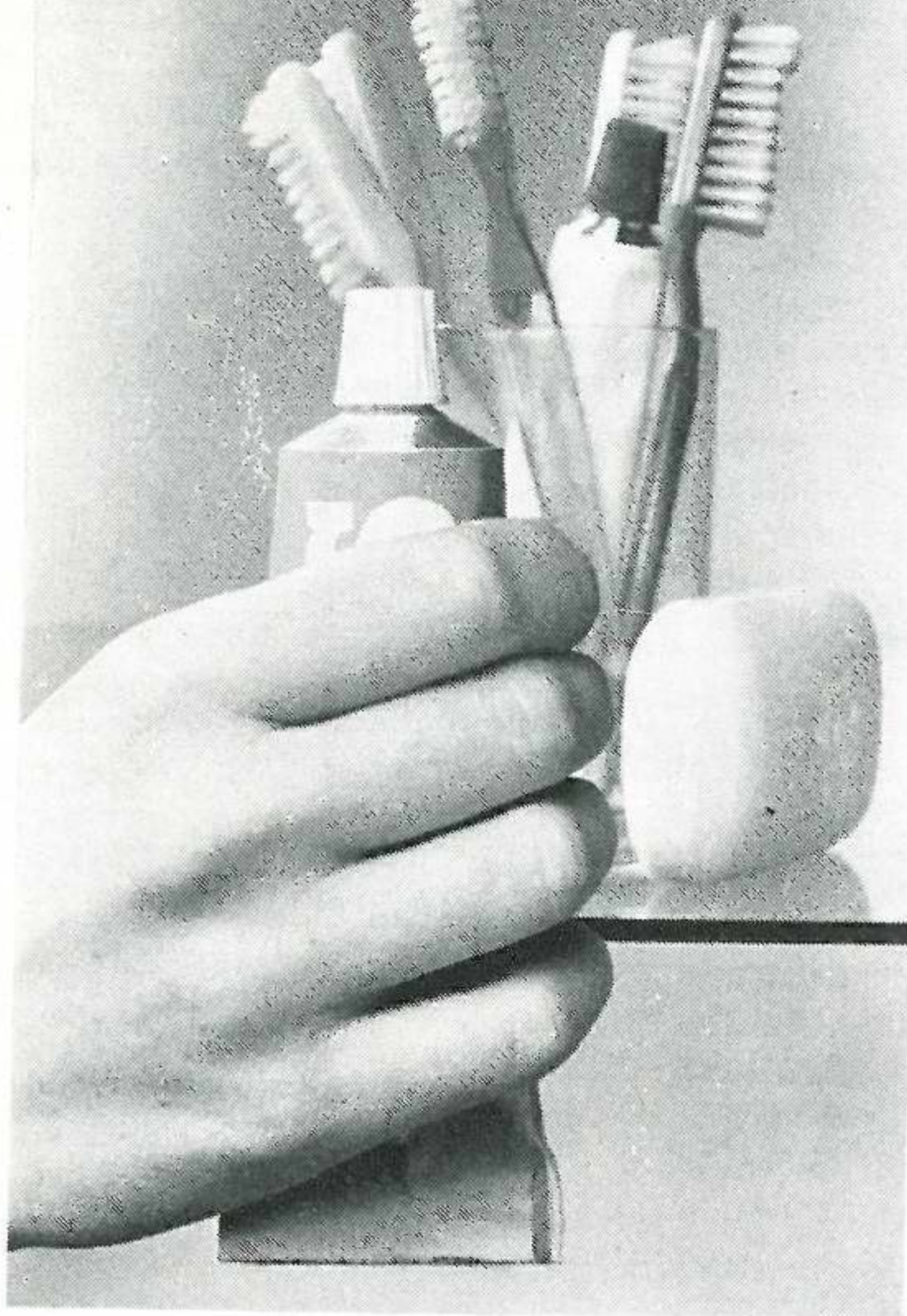
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# Memories are made of this



● John Doyle  
(Tipperary)

By EAMONN YOUNG

"SWEET, sweet the memories you gave me," the harmony line to the pleasant modern song "Memories are made of this," are in my mind while the pictures are of trains pulling in, young fellas with gay paper hats, heavy men with bags full of flasks and sandwiches, and girls, long hair streaming, laughing and half wondering whether it's hurling or football. Then there's the phone-call to the Dublin friend, the dash to the rendezvous, the quick pint earned in the sweat of fighting the way up to the counter. Better the leisurely walk to the pitch until hurrying footsteps all around inject a tremulous panic and the last half mile is a race against the clock thumping out mad seconds in your chest.

But you're in at last and that old barrier is handy to lean on though you were a bit of an eejit to give away the ticket to Jim for his newly won fiancée. She doesn't know who's playing but Jim will tell her . . . That makes you really contented. Anyway here we are and it's another All-Ireland.

Memories . . . Paddy Leahy of Tipperary trying to get across the field to the refuge of the dressing-room after they had been beaten, avoiding Tipp men who, as always, were taking defeat by Kilkenny in a typically light-hearted way . . . God in

heaven comfort us in our agony . . . The day the Hogan Stand was opened and Larry Flaherty of Cork took me out to the line at the new stand side to show me where sixty years before he knocked a Kilkennyman and swung over a point at the Railway end. The sideline man tried to move us on, but the old-timer didn't even see him . . . eyes blinded by driving rain and salt tears of frustration as Jimmy

Kelly of Kilkenny swings over the winning point against Cork and Hitler destroying Europe . . .

Mick Mackey pounding through from centre-forward lashing home a goal and bounding around the field like a well-fed black colt . . . Christy Ring all grinding teeth, shiny head, and muscles, flying through for a bulletshot at the Canal end . . . Art Foley blocks and clears, Rin-

● TO PAGE 51

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# Pat Henderson

—Kilkenny's mighty centre half-back whose duel with Galway's **FRANK BURKE** promises to be one of the highlights of the Final.



## Eamonn Young

● FROM PAGE 49

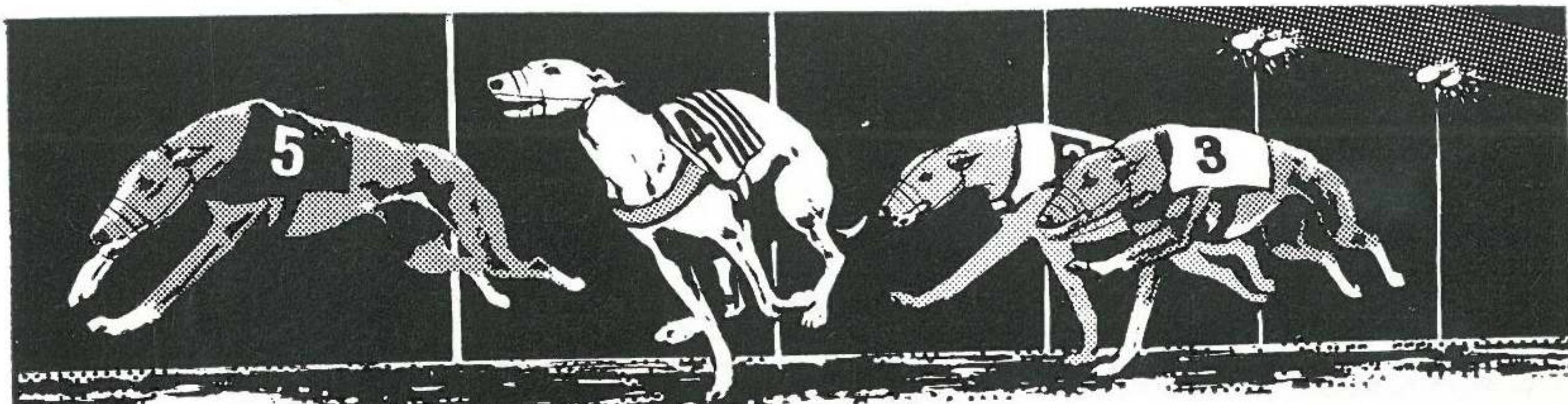
gey comes flying in . . . and shakes the hand of the man who beat Cork . . . what heart. Minutes later, mighty shoulders and sandy head, the man of steel, Nick Rackard, bores through for a goal on the far side and the '56 final is over . . . Bob Rackard and Nick O'Donnell (his five medals are in the museum at Enniscorthy) chair Christy Ring off from what was to be his last final. The lean man, John Doyle from Holycross gritting his teeth in another effort for Tipp and a ninth All-Ireland with electric tension among my soldiers in Cyprus . . . why not? Ringey's record was in danger. The first time Corkmen cheer for Kilkenny. A goalie with a lightning change of feet, flashing eye, a hand like a hawk's claw, and Ollie Walsh drives one eighty yards down the field . . . speed swerve, and the fluid grace of a silver stream off Galty into Aherlow and crew-cutted Jimmy

Doyle caresses over another point . . . Tony Reddan coming away to the right out of a tangled knot of flying Kilkennymen, covered off the Rattler Byrne . . . Final day is the sportsman's window into the world immortal.

Cork's recent defeat by Galway brought well-earned congratulations from every Cork sportsman and great as my admiration is for Eddie Keher, Pat Henderson and their comrades, I hope very much the men of the West will have every bit of luck that's going on the day. I think they'll need it and if they win as Paddy Leahy used say, "It will be a great day for the Association". As for us Corkmen, we can only look on and wonder why we're not in there.

But hush, the sliotar is thrown in before the men and women of modern Ireland, a people whose love for the great game of hurling is as warm as that of the men who organised it into the greatest stick game in the world.

Croke, Cusack, Davin . . . their spirits hover on final day.



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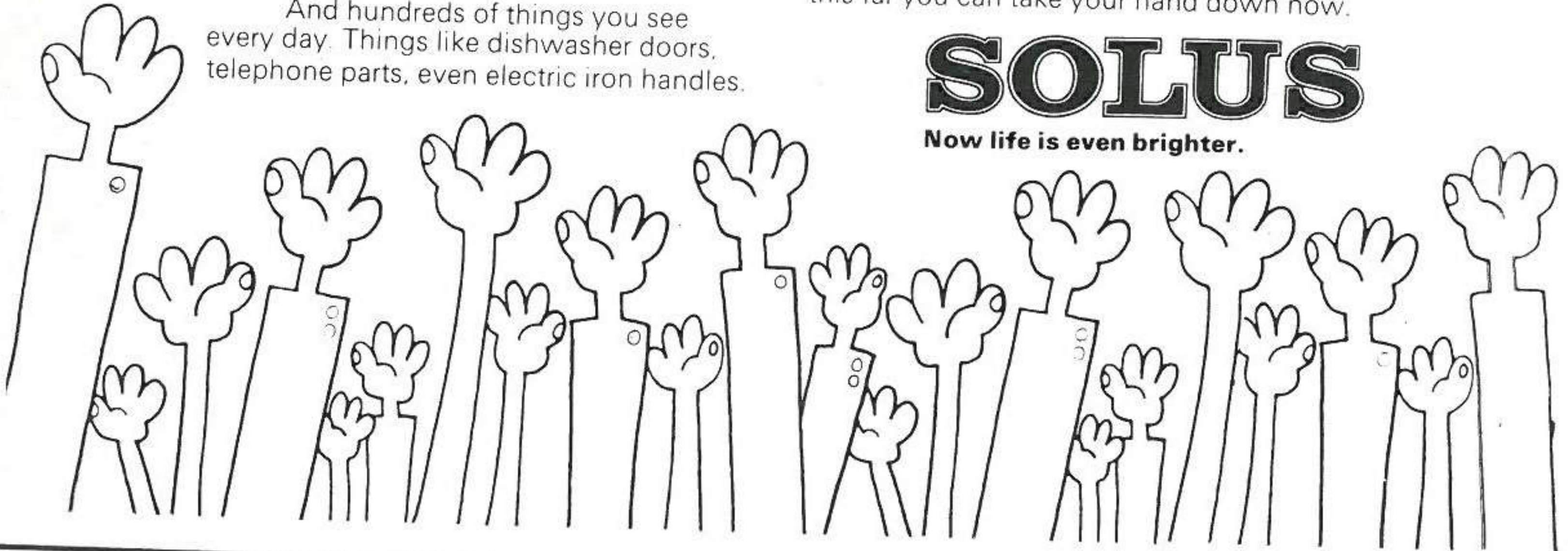
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# JOHN HORGAN

FROM PAGE 15

prise further. The Irishmen were allowed to rise the ball but were not allowed to catch it, and here let me say that in the recent Feile na nGael held in Cork I got the fun of my life watching sixty young lads chasing the ball around the field in shinty fashion. The sliotar was about twice the size of the normal one and the play didn't stop until the goal was scored. Nobody rose it but belted it away with the crooked stick. When the ball went wide the lads simply followed it like a pack of hounds and careered around at the back of the goal like fellas trying to kill a rat, until they got it back on the field again.

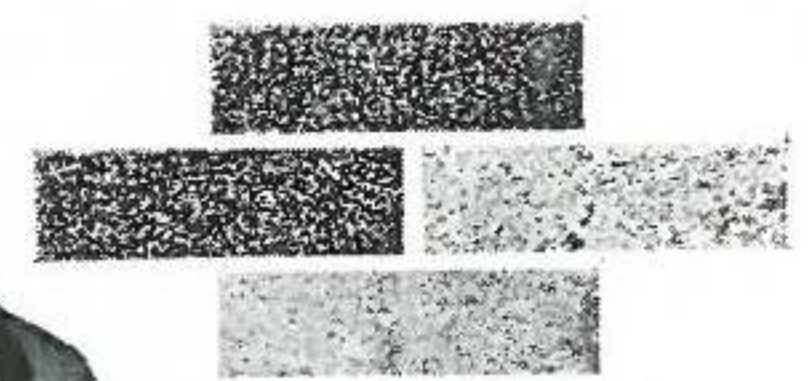
"You commented on my clearances with the right hand," said John Horgan, "and wondered why I don't take it off more to the left, where it would be away from the goal and safer. The point is fair enough, but to be honest, I'm not great on the left and I manage to get my puck in with the right." This I had to admit, and after a discussion found that the player very sensibly hits the ball off rather high as he's leaning back, away from the opponent who tries to block down. More luck to you, John, if you can get away with it.

Then came the important question. How did he like to be a sub and what were his chances? The humble realism of the player was refreshing to an old-timer who detests arrogance. "Tony Maher and Brian Murphy are two good men and if I were picking a Cork side tomorrow I'd have them at corner back. If one of them fails I'll be glad to go on and hurl my best for Cork. And honestly, I might be all right at centre back also, for it's a place I like. This year when I went on as sub against Clare and Limerick I got

stuck into the game straight away and I think it's because I got roused up watching the game from the sideline and I say to myself that I'm going to hit a lot of that ball if I get in there."

Here I couldn't help interrupting to tell him that never have I seen a sub hit so much of the ball in the fifteen minutes after he had gone in against Clare. It was a one-man show in the Cork defence.

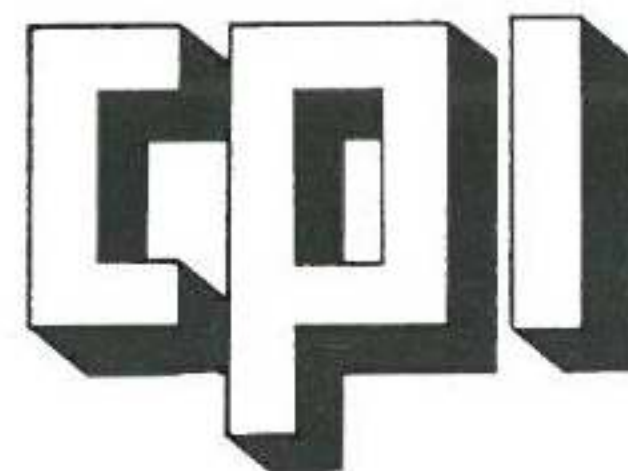
As we parted under the lamp-light in Oliver Plunkett Street, the straight-shouldered figure came erect and the blonde head nodded kindly as he wished me safe home, and as the form in slacks and sports shirt melted into the dark I couldn't help wishing for this quiet young man of pliant steel, son of an old Rockies player, that a future will unroll fitting as sequel to a decade of distinction.



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Noel Skehan  
(Kilkenny)



Padraig Fahy  
(Galway)



● P. J. Qualter  
(Galway)

● FROM PAGE 8

That ranks as a milestone in the career of this 28-year-old who first found favour with Kilkenny as an under-21 hurler in 1968. An ideal successor to the great Pa Dillon, he has been in the senior ranks with Kilkenny since 1971, and in addition to the All-Ireland medals, holds three Leinster souvenirs.

● Sean Silke won county medals with Meelick in 1972 (junior) and 1973 (intermediate), and is another dual Fitzgibbon Cup medalist with Maynooth (1973 and 1974). As a Colleges player he got among the Connacht medals with Garbally in 1967, and of course has shared in Galway's major triumphs this year. He is 24.

● Brian Cody had a regal game at left full back in the Leinster senior final . . . his debut in an Eastern senior decider. But this talented winner of an All-Ireland colleges' medal in 1971 with St. Kieran's, and who captained Kilkenny to their 1972 All-Ireland minor final win, was one of those drafted into the senior side in the 1973 national final, a game in which the Noresiders were badly hit with injuries. He was 21 last July, and added an All-Ireland under-21 medal to his collection last year.

● Michael Connolly, who scored three superb long range points after going in as a second-half substitute against Cork last month, is brother of John. Aged 21, he has won under-21 and senior medals with his club, Castlegar.

● P. J. Qualter is 32, a former Connacht Colleges senior hurling medal winner and had his most important senior medal win on the inter-county scene last May in the National League. He has also collected county senior hurling awards with Turloughmore.

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Sean Murphy  
(Galway)



Frank Burke  
(Galway)

## Trump cards in the Galway pack

IT is an important factor in favour of Galway for their bid to make their first All-Ireland senior hurling final in seventeen years a winning one that they challenge Kilkenny with quality-plus hurlers in every department. They have many trump cards, ranging from a powerful half-back line that is probably the best in the business, to lively forwards who showed in the Cork game that they have a particular

talent for shooting points. Indeed, it is a long time since any county, and especially newcomers to the All-Ireland final scene as the Galway men are to all intents and purposes, went into a Liam McCarthy Cup game with such a roll call of exciting talent; such a solid framework of hurlers well equipped to provide that little extra which can prove the inspiration for a victory effort. We all have our views as to the

men who could stamp their personalities on the decider for Galway. For my own part, however, two hurlers I shall watch with more than usual interest are Sean Murphy and Frank Burke.

When we think of the Connacht midfield it's understandable that John Connolly is the name that automatically springs to mind. After all, he was a bright light during the dark days when Galway were struggling to regain a place in the hurling sun, and his natural ability and wonderful gifts have made him a key figure in the glory campaign of 1975. I have little doubt, either, that the Castlegar maestro will be in there pulling his weight in his usual expert fashion in the decider.

At the same time, it must be very encouraging for supporters of the National League champions that Sean Murphy is proving such an accomplished centre-field man in his own right. There is a fluency and method about his hurling, and he has a good work rate. In short, the Carnmore club man, who stands 5 ft. 10 ins., is a powerful link in the Galway make-up.

Murphy, who is 27, has served a tough apprenticeship. He played in the juvenile and minor grades, and first found favour with the county selectors as an under-21 hurler in 1968. After that he had not long to wait for the call up to the senior county side. It came in 1969 for a clash with Clare.

Poised now for the game's most coveted honour of them all, Sean Murphy, like all the Galway hurlers after the recent morale-boosting achievements, enters the decider with the

● TO PAGE 57

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Pat Henderson  
(Kilkenny)



Frank Cummins  
(Kilkenny)



Fan Larkin  
(Kilkenny)



Pat Delaney  
(Kilkenny)

● FROM PAGE 55

confidence to express himself fully. So, it is likely to take vigilance and plenty of effort on the part of the opposition to clip his wings. Certainly, in Murphy and the great Connolly, the Westerners look really well armed in midfield.

Frank Burke is a brilliant graduate from a top-class under-21 team that won Galway's last All-Ireland title in hurling by beating Dublin at Limerick in 1972. Then he was at midfield, a position in which he has also put his hurling skills on parade to good effect for the county senior crew.

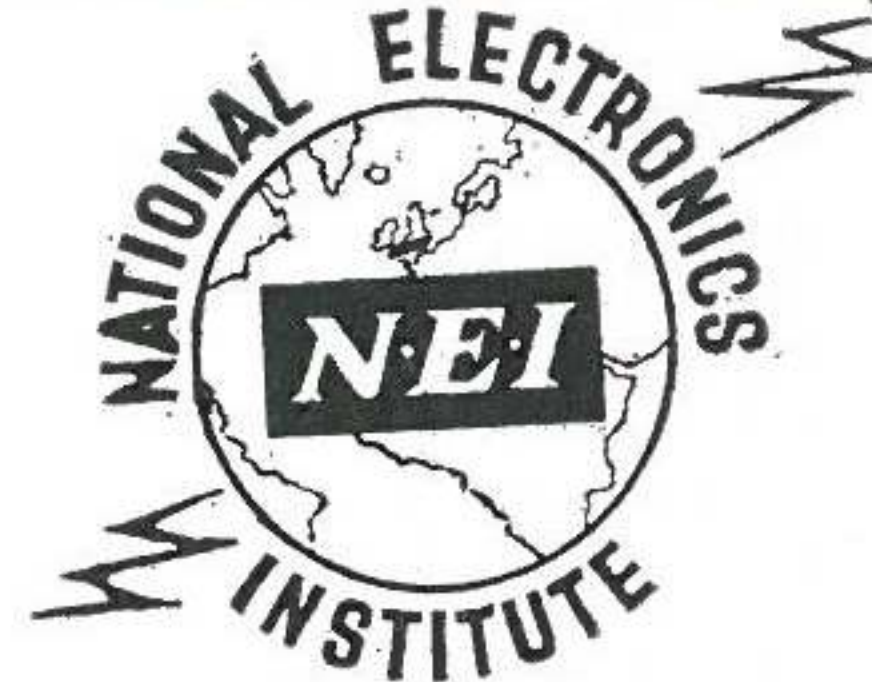
At centre half forward, the pace, power and class of his hurling has been of tremendous benefit to Galway, and his likely duel with that mighty centre half Pat Henderson, who seems to revel in turning on the style in the showpiece game (remember his wonderful displays against Cork in 1969 and 1972, and against Limerick last September?), promises to be an outstanding feature of the match.

Burke is from Turloughmore and is 23. This six-footer has been regularly among the scores, and grabbed a vital goal in the win over Cork. He had more than the usual cause for celebration when Galway beat Tipperary in the National League final last May, as his

power-packed hurling at No. 11 and also at midfield did much to create the mood for the victory effort.  
Sean Murphy and Frank Burke,

then, are a talented twosome in this very capable Galway outfit. A couple of trump cards who may well lead to a victory duet for the men of the West.

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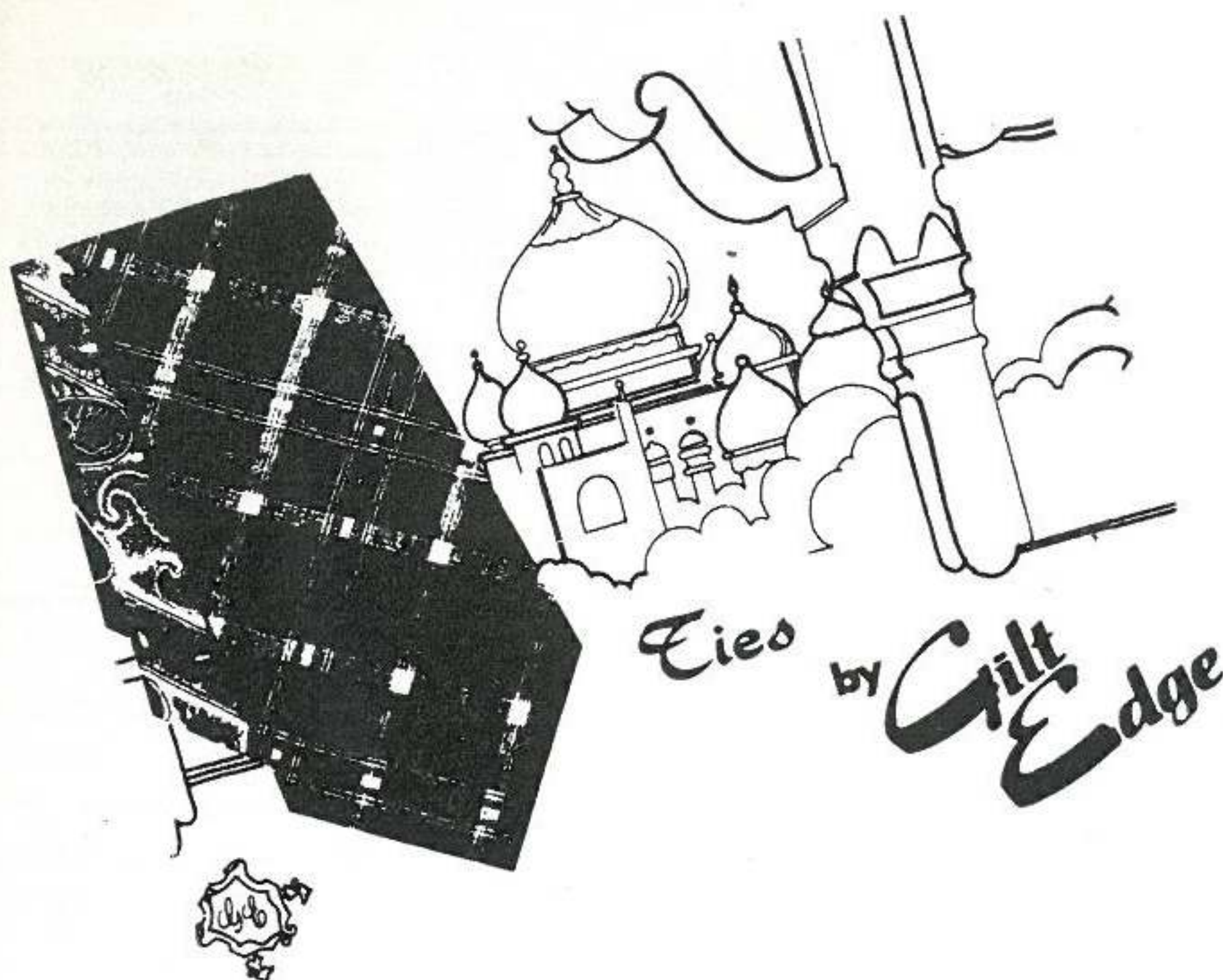
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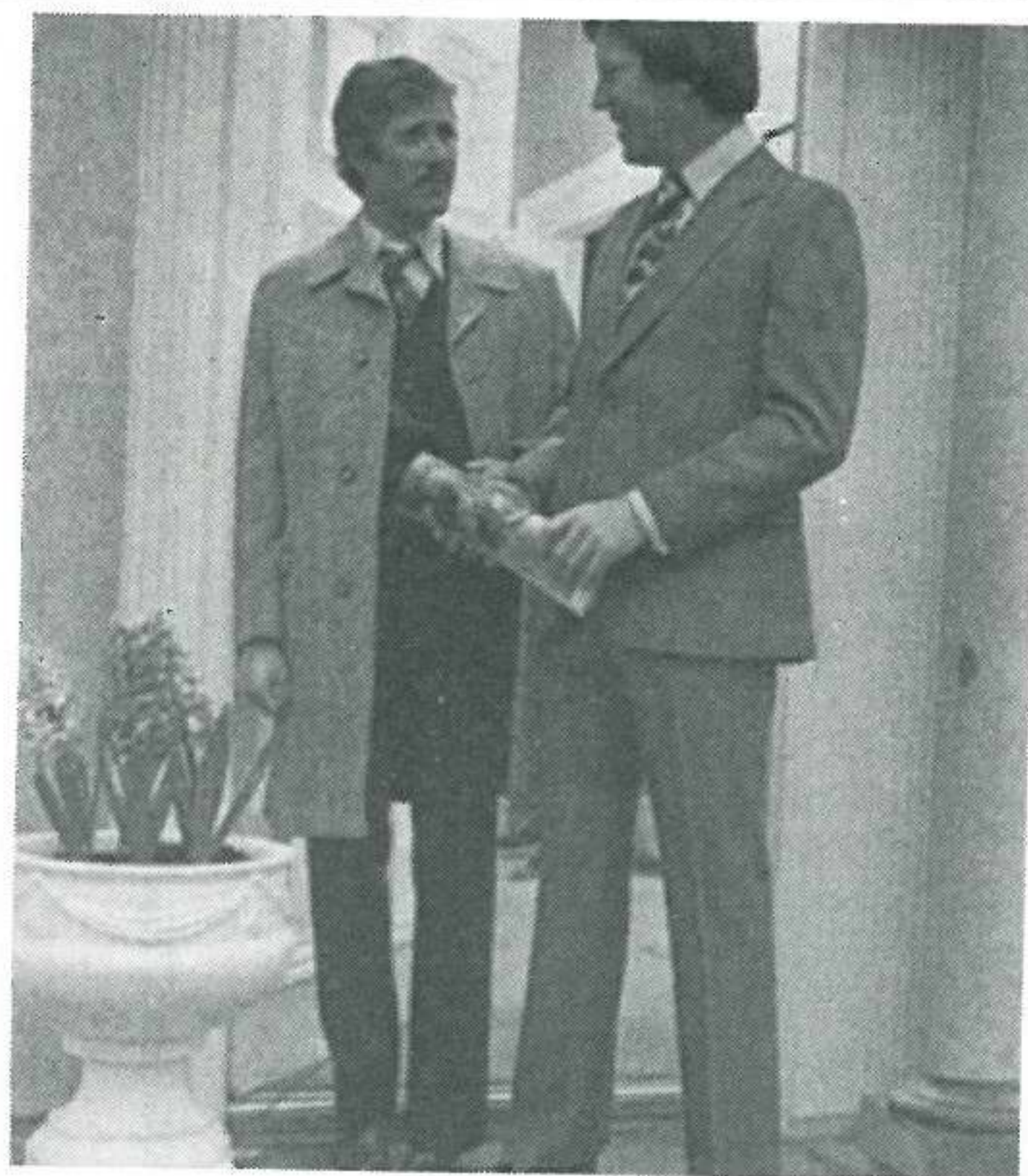
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# NIALL McINERNEY

## Clare's gift to Galway



● Niall McInerney  
(Galway)

By MICK DUNNE *of RTE Sport*

ONE of the advantages of working in RTE's Sports Department is the opportunity one gets to view matches of the past, or portions of them, again and again. This happens, particularly, when we are editing film or videotape for preview material on the eve of big games. Because of this I have had the chance to enjoy, over and over, the splendid hurling Galway produced this summer.

Each time I watched film or tape of their games in recent weeks I never failed to be impressed with the supreme confidence they demonstrated in all but the early minutes of the League final against Tipperary. Elsewhere I have written about the renewed faith these players have in themselves and it has been clearly evident in each match.

This great self-reliance is typified by the defiant hurling of so many of them, but particularly by their right full-back, Niall McInerney. The majesty of his defensive play was one of the many notable features of their victory over Kilkenny in the League semi-final when he policed Eddie Keher so excellently. In no game since has he been any less effective.

This was brought home to me again a few weeks ago as I ran through the film of that Thurles match in an editing room. McInerney was totally dependable, fully alive to every danger, quick

into the tackle and very crisp in his striking of the ball — getting it away from the defence as quickly as possible with long deliveries. Not only did he do an amount of great work in his own corner, but his vigilance and awareness of the mounting threat had him smartly moving into other positions to cut off Kilkenny.

He was just as efficient a defender against Tipperary and Cork, inflexibly stubborn in his resistance to the opposition.

His displays have been so magnificent that they must bring Clare supporters close to tears when they realise he could still be in their defence. For Niall is, in fact, a native of Sixmilebridge and as recently as June 1973 was wearing the gold and blue in the Munster championship against Limerick. But his appearance as right half-back on that occasion was his last in the Clare team, for he had been discarded by the following October when Clare opened their League campaign in

Ennis against the then newly-crowned All-Ireland champions, Limerick.

His connection with Galway goes back to his student days at U.C.G. and with the western university he won a Fitzgibbon Cup medal in 1970. After graduation he joined the Liam Mellows club in Galway city and, although now a vocational teacher in Thurles, he is married and residing in Galway city.

Because he had played with his native Clare in the '73 championship he was eligible only for them in the league at the end of that year, but since his own county didn't have need of his services — and they must be regretting it now — he could not turn out with Galway. So it wasn't until July last year that he first took his place on the Galway side when he played as centre half-back against Kildare in the championship quarter-final.

For the semi-final against Kilkenny in Birr he had moved to right full-back and there he remains, playing such brilliant hurling at 25 years of age that he must surely be the best gift Clare have ever made to Galway.



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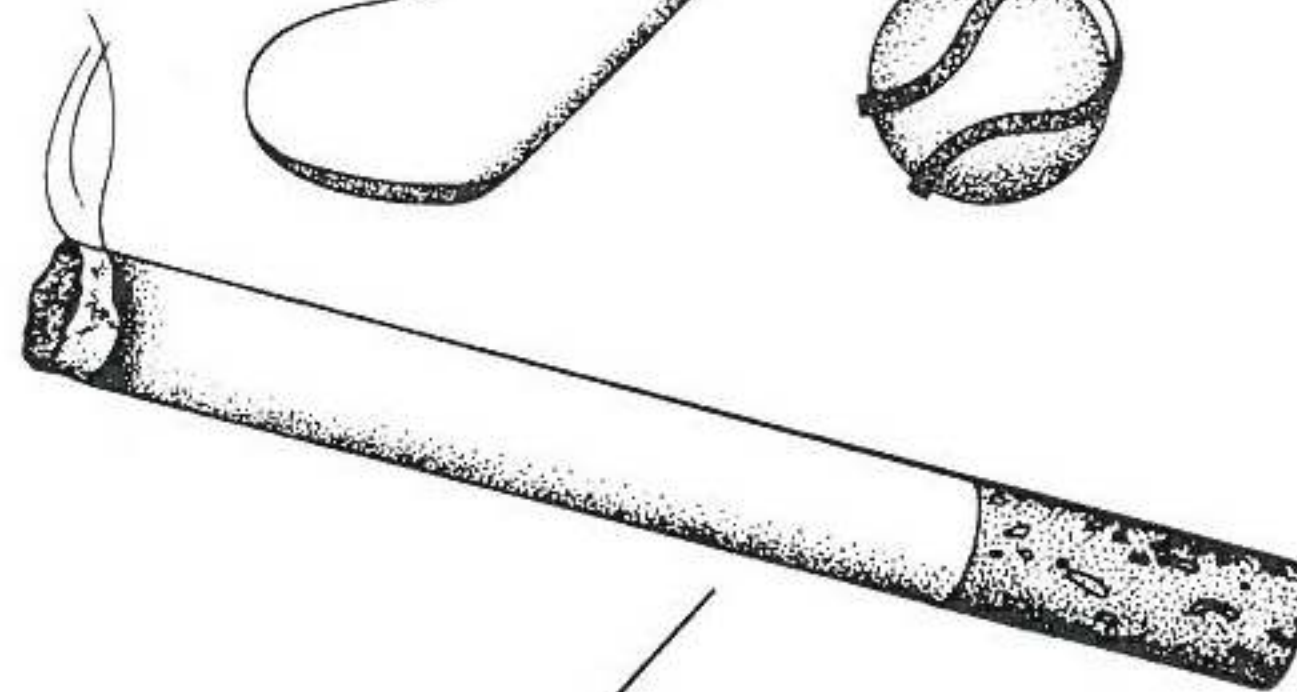
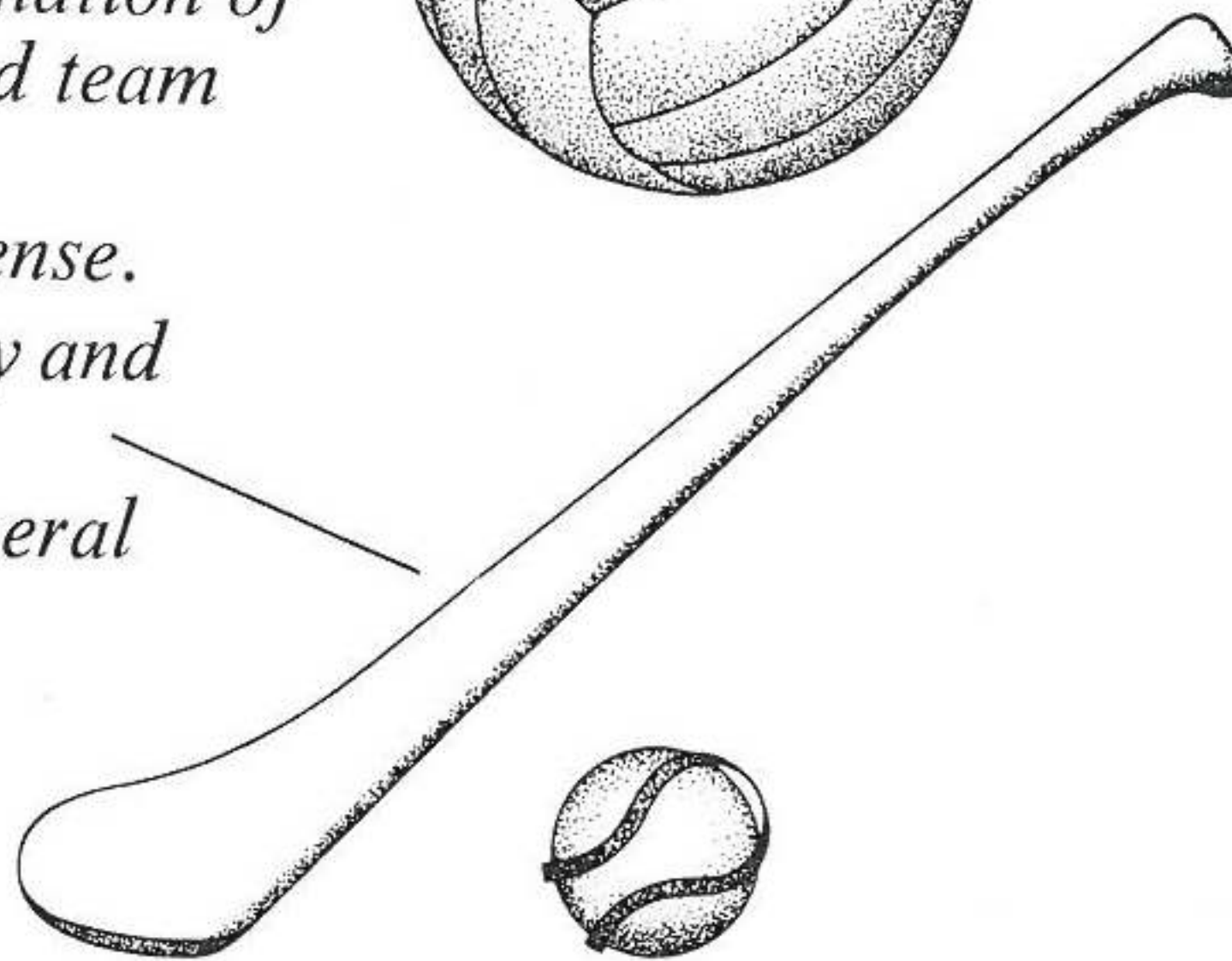


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# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

IT'S hurling final issue again and we have reached September. Wasn't it a great Summer? Great to see the huge crowds back at G.A.A. games in all their glory. I was at the Munster hurling final and it was a wonderful occasion. Limerick really tried very hard but Cork were the masters. Great, too, that Sligo won another Connacht S.F. title at last. Their great dedication has been rewarded.

## CUT-OUT

Our cut-out this month is Kilkenny's Mick Crotty, an All-Star last year. A brother of Kieran Crotty, T.D., Michael got married last month. We in Junior Desk wish Michael and Mrs. Crotty well. Michael can score from either wing and is a very valuable member of Kilkenny's attack. A member of the James Stephens club, he has many hurling years ahead of him.

## PROGRAMMES

I promised to review the provincial final programmes this month. This year they have been better than ever. Munster's use of colour was very effective. But it was so hard to find one at the Munster hurling final. I found it impossible but I wouldn't buy one of the "dud" or "bogus" programmes on sale. I'll come back to that topic later because for the first time we had a bogus programme on sale at the replayed Connacht final. At least 3,000 people were conned. At the Munster hurling final everyone around me had bought the "dud" product. That's a pity.

Anyhow the Leinster programmes were excellent and

credit is due en toto almost to the hard-working Paddy Flanagan of Westmeath. When Paddy takes a task on hand he does it well. But as one involved in the production of programmes, I would ask Co. Boards to select their teams on time. Believe it or believe it not, but my own county, Galway, didn't select their minor team until the Wednesday night before the final. Now, Junior Desk readers, would you believe that?

As always, Gerry Arthurs brought out a fine Ulster final programme (36 pages in all) in his usually efficient style.

Programme collectors can have copies of the following:

1. Leinster S.F. and S.H. final programmes by sending a P.O. for 25p to **Paddy Flanagan, Ard Mhuilinn, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.**

2. Connacht S.F. (draw and replay) by sending on a P.O. for 25p to: **J. Mahon, 29, Oaklands, Salthill, Galway.**

3. Munster S.H. and S.F. programmes by sending a P.O. for 35p to **Rev. S. Gardiner, St. Flannan's College, Ennis, Co. Clare.**

So much about programmes. Have you got **Michael O'Hehir's World of Gaelic Games 1975?** It costs 90p and is full of interesting articles and coloured photos of teams and stars. Pride of place goes to the selection of his top teams in hurling and football for the past 25 years by Michael himself. Available from **Gaelic Press Ltd., 21, Gt. Denmark Street, Dublin 1.**

Before long we will have the

Carrolls All-Stars of 1975. The introduction of the Press and Photography Awards was good, wasn't it? I'm looking forward to seeing the winning entries.

If you are at the finals and meet me, don't forget to introduce yourself. From time to time I have met Junior Desk fans in my travels. One night returning from a Munster Football Final in Killarney I met all the young members of the Doyle family in Kenmare. It is good to meet any of you anytime. Hope we all enjoy the finals.

## JULY COMPETITION

The winners of the July competition for a G.A.A. Bob Cap are:—

- (1) **Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.**
- (2) **Billy Moran, Ballyspillane, Midleton, Co. Cork.**
- (3) **James Hubbert, North Square, Rosscarbery, Co. Cork.**
- (4) **Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Auhtrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.**
- (5) **Jack Naughton, Brackagh, Horseleap, Moate, Co. Westmeath.**

Remember the competition. Entrants were asked to name the clubs of four well-known G.A.A. stars. The correct answers were: Sean O'Neill (Newry Mitchels) John Connolly (Castlegar) Jack Quinn (Kilbride) Charlie McCarthy (St. Finbarr's)

Congratulations to the winners. There was a fine entry and many correct entries. So keep trying.

## G.A.A. SHOP COMPETITION

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difference. There will be a prize for everyone!

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Here is the list of prizes:

- ★ 5 First Prizes of a big G.A.A. Shoulder Bag.
- ★ 5 Runner-up Prizes of a lovely Artfelt Pennant in county colours showing one of the All-Ireland Cups and including a set of coloured pencils.
- ★ There will be a special **additional** prize for any winning entry in Irish.
- ★ In addition, every entrant will get a free county sticker 3½" in diameter in the county colours. But you must send a 5p stamp with your entry to cover postage.

To enter for the competition all you have to do is to give three reasons why you think—

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and write a G.A.A. slogan of not more than eight words in English or Irish.

Write your entry and slogan on one side of the page and put your name, address and age on the **back** of the entry.

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Address your entry to Junior Desk, Gaelic Sport, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9, to reach us not later than September 20th.

**Don't forget to enclose a 5p stamp if you want a free county car sticker.**

The winners will be announced in the November issue of GAELIC SPORT.

Our sincere thanks to Muiris de Prionnbhíol for sponsoring this competition. He devised it too. Make sure to visit the G.A.A. Shop when you visit Croke Park.

## MAILBAG

**Tommy Maher, Main St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny**, would love to get tips from county players and wants a cut-out of Nicky Orr or Mick Roche.

● *The idea of tips from the stars is good. (J.M.)*

**Douglas Queally, Cooleans, Charleville, Co. Cork**, was very disappointed the League finals were not on T.V. and thinks there should be more hurling and handball on T.V.

● *R.T.E.'s contribution has improved a lot, hasn't it? They do a good job with the Top Ace Handball competition too. (J.M.)*

**John Fallon (aged 10), Clybawn, Knocknacarra, Galway**, wants a colour Cut-out of Galway hurler Frank Burke. John prefers hurling to football.

● *The young boys in Galway are hurling again. The new hurling column in the "Connacht Tribune" entitled Camán Corner which I wrote about before is becoming very popular. (J.M.)*

**Tobias O'Meara, Corlea, Caher P.O., Co. Clare**, loves Gaelic games and nominates his favourites as: Football—Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Ray Cummins and Paudie Mahoney. Hurling—Seamus Durack, Ger Loughnane, Richie Bennis.

**Stephen Kelly, Gneeves, Kilmichael, Macroom, Co. Cork**, thinks Junior Desk is the best part of GAELIC SPORT and wants a Cut-out of Billy Morgan or Jimmy Barry-Murphy.

● *Welcome to Junior Desk, Stephen. (J.M.)*

**Patrick Leogue (16), Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly**, writes—

"Having seen the G.A.A. Shop in Croke Park, I think there should be similar shops at major venues in the provinces. A colour Cut-out of a Galway hurler please—John Connolly in particular. The July competition was a novel idea as I'm sure this month's will be, devised by

Muiris de Prionnbhíol. The prize of the G.A.A. T-shirt was beautiful—thanks very much. Long may Junior Desk reign!

"P.S.—There should be a place in all our major towns and cities for a G.A.A. Shop stocking all G.A.A. publications, sportswear, ties, bob hats, stickers, as available in Croke Park."

● *A very good idea Patrick. It's a pity there isn't a G.A.A. shop on the very big occasions under the Cusack Stand as well. (J.M.)*

**Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly**, whose teacher is Séamus Ó Riain, former President of the G.A.A., lives on a farm, has seven brothers and plays on the Moneygall Under-12 team. His favourites are Séamus Shinnors and Michael Keating.

● *You must love Summertine on the farm. Making hay while the sun shines. Do ye have the corn-crake on your farm? We tend to hear the corn-crake less and less don't we? (J.M.)*

**John Dalton, Ballyphilip, Coalbrook, Thurles, Co. Tipperary**, thought the Dublin followers were the worst he has ever seen on the occasion of the League final against Meath.

● *The last time I condemned the Dublin supporters I received an angry letter from a Dublin fan. Yes they did not behave properly at the League final. I refer to the minority who invaded the field near the end of that game. (J.M.)*

**Jerry Smyth, Whiterock, Middleton, Co. Cork**, enjoyed the Munster final in Killarney despite Cork's defeat and wants a Cut-out of Mickey Sullivan who must be "the fastest forward in football".

● *Mickey was wonderful that day. So indeed were all the Kerry-men. (J.M.)*

**Michael McGrath, Oxpark, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary**, wants a Pen Pal through Junior Desk and would like to see a Wedding Corner in GAELIC SPORT.

● *Over to you budding Pen Pals everywhere. (J.M.)*



# JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

**Jack Naughton, Brackagh, Horseleap, Moate, Co. Westmeath**, is thrilled with the great appeal of Junior Desk but would like more letters from fans in the cities. He would like to see more G.A.A. magazines with plenty of pictures, scrapbooks and picture cards for the scrapbooks, more G.A.A. coverage in the national dailies and on T.V.

● *The dailies have improved somewhat especially the "Irish Independent" but even this paper should give more and brighter G.A.A. coverage. (J.M.)*

**Eoghan Corry, Luslia, Straffan, Co. Kildare**, is a programme collector with a collection of 80 G.A.A. and numerous other sporting programmes. He would like to swap programmes for pre-1965 All-Ireland final and pre-1966 Railway Cup games.

● *The details of the very fine provincial final programmes listed earlier should interest you Eoghan. (J.M.)*

**Tom Tuohy, Feakle, Co. Clare**, wants to know is my All-Ireland medal big and says he loves Junior Desk.

● *Not too big Tom. But it is a gold Celtic Cross design medal and I wouldn't swap it for any money. If you train hard Tom you might win one yet. (J.M.)*

**Jim Byrne, 34 The Square, Moy, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone**, though not a junior likes Junior Desk, keeps a scrapbook like myself and is a great fan of Frank McGuigan.

● *I get a great kick out of my own scrapbooks and wouldn't even lend them to anybody, Jim. (J.M.)*

**Vincent Collins, Amore, Rhode, Co. Offaly**, wants Cut-outs of Jack Quinn and Eamonn Lowry.

**Liam Ó Sabhaois (18), 6 Mal-low Road, Garvey's Bridge, Cork**, has many good suggestions for GAELIC SPORT as usual including a named colour photo of a county or provincial team instead of the back cover colour photo or a 2-page black-and-white centrepiece. "In the case of a county with a poor county team,

have an article on some individual stars on the best club team there (e.g. Clan na nGael, Lurgan—Paddy Moriarty—instead of the county team."

● *I'd be in favour of more photos myself. Over to you Tommy McQuaid. (J.M.)*

**Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick**, thinks Junior Desk is great and wants a Cut-out of any Limerick hurler.

● *Who makes Junior Desk great only all you loyal contributors to the Mailbag. Keep writing. (J.M.)*

**Martin Fox, Printinstown, Delvin, Co. Westmeath**, is disappointed that no Westmeath personality has ever featured as a Cut-out. He suggests Mickey Fagan, Michael Cosgrave or Colm Connaughton, all great Westmeath hurlers.

● *Junior Desk fans will be glad to know that Martin, one of our most loyal writers, is coming back to himself after being hospitalised and we all send him best wishes, don't we? (J.M.)*

**Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow** wants a Cut-out of Terry Lennon (Louth), 'Babs' Keating, Barnes Murphy or Jimmy Keaveney.

● *Now there is a good cross-section. (J.M.)*

"**Sports Lover**", **Ballyfoyle, Co. Kilkenny** (name enclosed) in a great letter to the column writes as follows:

"I have often meant to write to you before now as I feel I agree with practically all your views on the G.A.A. You wrote a very good article on the Cuchulainn Annual of 1974 on "The Battle for Youth". I often think of this and it is hard to imagine that the G.A.A. is so strong as it is at present with so little publicity. There is no use having a G.A.A. shop under the Hogan Stand in Croke Park where only the ticket holders of this stand on All-Ireland day have access to it. The articles of this shop should be made available in at least one shop in every town in Ireland. The G.A.A. should iden-

tify itself with at least one news-agency in every town.

The G.A.A., in my opinion, is strong enough to finance a good publicity machine. Why not advertise on TV like the greyhound people?"

● *I know you appreciate Muiris de Prionnbhiol's G.A.A. shop. What we need is an extension of this throughout the country. The writer also told me of a very successful G.A.A. Quiz organised by the Kilkenny junior club O'Loughlins last March. Now this is an idea for other clubs. (J.M.)*

**Belfast G.A.A. Fan** (name and address enclosed) thinks Junior Desk gets better all the time and feels the G.A.A. should help and make Gaelic Sport bigger. "It is the only G.A.A. sports book one can buy all during the year." He was thrilled with Galway's hurling success, taped it on his recorder and has enjoyed hearing it many times since.

● *Isn't it great that there are boys in Belfast who can get enjoyment from Gaelic games in their own simple way still, despite the "troubles". On behalf of you Junior Desk fans we ask our Belfast friend (whose name and address I did not use for obvious reasons) to keep in touch with us and the games. The day of peace is not too far away we hope. (J.M.)*

So ends the Mailbag for another month. It gets bigger all the time but that's what we want. Keep writing about what you did during the Summer holidays, the footballers or hurlers you met, Féile na nGael in Cork, the games you saw, pen-pals you want, what you would like to see on the G.A.A. programmes on "telly", suggestions for Junior Desk etc., etc. But write . . . to:

**Junior Desk,  
GAELIC SPORT,  
80, Upper Drumcondra Rd.,  
Dublin, 9.**

Don't forget the G.A.A. Shop competition and every entrant gets a prize. All entries on or before September 20.



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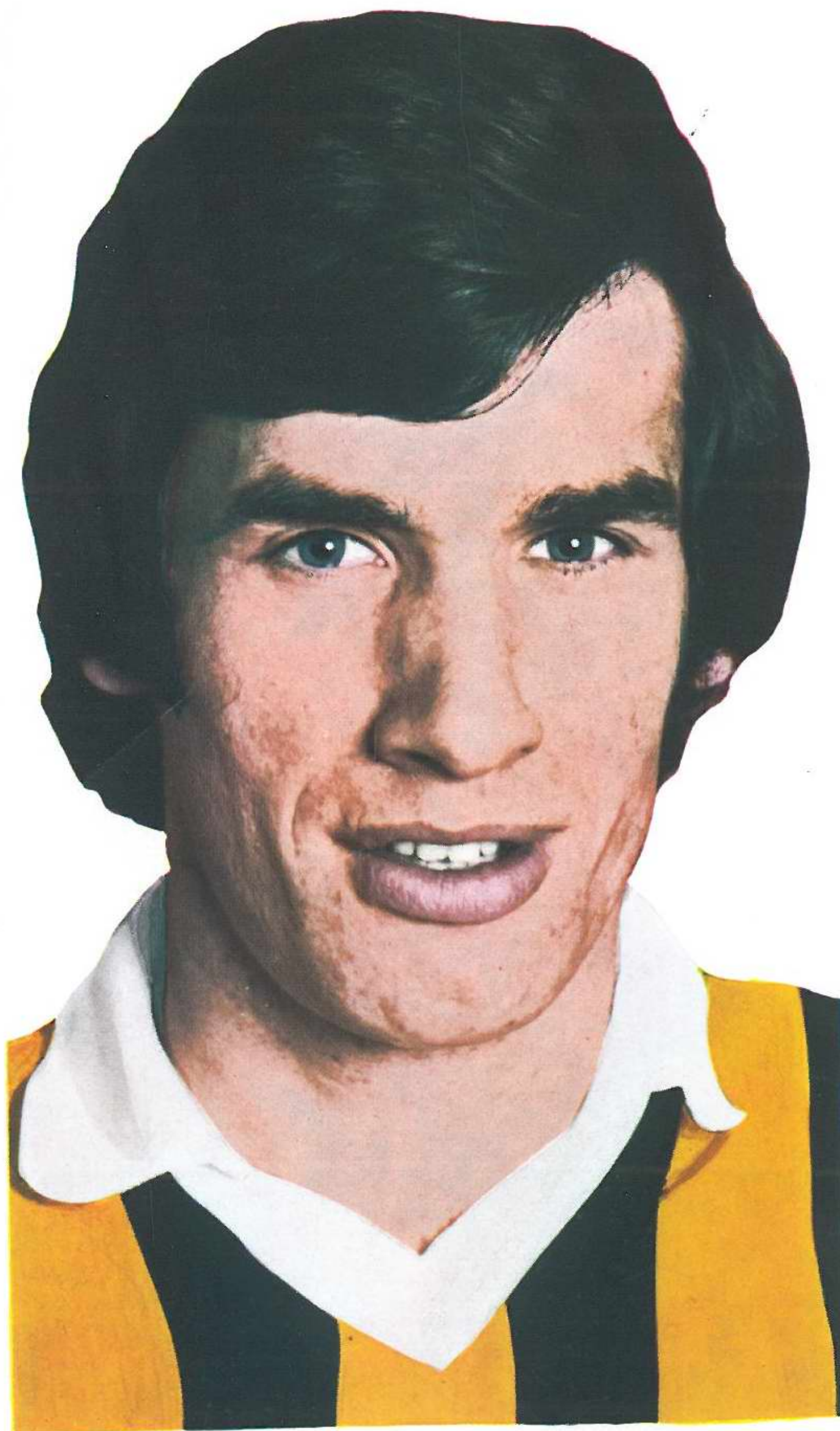
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**Mick  
Crotty  
Kilkenny**

Age: 28  
Height: 6 ft.  
Weight:  
12 st. 7 lb.  
Club: James  
Stephens.  
Position: Right  
Half Forward  
Senior Inter-  
County Debut:  
1969.

**CAREER  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Although Mick, who appeared with Kilkenny in the minor ranks, made his senior debut against Wexford in the National League in 1969, he did not command a regular place in the premier county side until 1972.

A county senior medalist with James Stephens in 1969, and with U.C.C. in 1970, he won All-Ireland senior medals in 1972 and 1974, and has appeared with the county side in a number of positions in attack.

Mick, a Carrolls All Star in '74, played with the Combined Universities in the Railway Cup.



# *Bass* SPORTS

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# *Bass*

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