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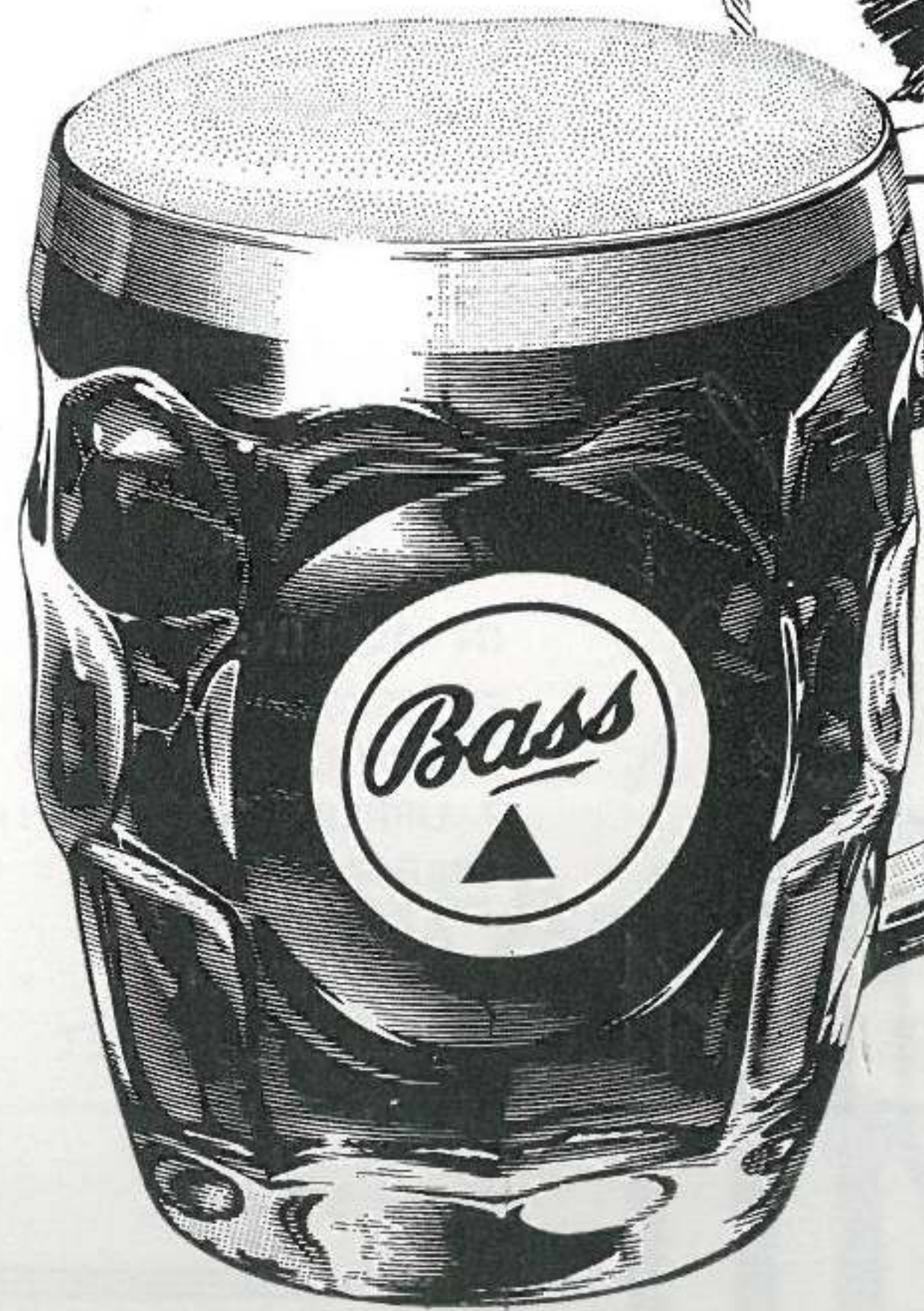


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EDITORIAL COMMENT

IS it too much to expect that the inspiring headline set by Cork and Wexford hurlers in that never-to-be-forgotten classic for the 1976 All-Ireland senior title could now be equalled by Kerry and Dublin when they bid for this year's "Sam Maguire"?

We know from experience, that at their best, Dublin, of the fluid and scintillating football, are one of the most attractive teams ever to grace Croke Park. And Kerry, with their proven flair for rising to the big occasion, are equally adept at producing the fast flowing and skilled play that ever delights the crowd, supporters and neutrals alike.

There can be no doubt that Kerry fully merited their championship win of a year ago. But inevitably, some facets to that game are still being debated up and down the country.

Did the Kingdom, for instance, catch Dublin on an off-day?

A Kerry goal inside three minutes appeared to unsettle the Leinster men, and thereafter they never really got their game together in the way people had anticipated.

But even if Dublin had hit their brilliant best, would they still have been good enough to have triumphed? Yet another of the questions posed by last year's final.

Dublin can take some encouragement from the fact that they beat a Kerry team, that included all but two of the men who lined up in the All-Ireland final, when the counties met in a National League tie brimful of good football at Croke Park last November. The other side to the coin, however, is that Kerry are not only champion competitors when it comes to All-Ireland final play, but have not lost to Dublin in the series in 42 years.

It would be particularly sweet for the Leinster men if they at last ended this long-standing bogey — especially after the disappointment of last September.

But Kerry in an All-Ireland final are something special. Call it tradition, call it pride, but put fifteen Kerry men in the Green and Gold on the fourth Sunday in September and they become as men possessed.

There is, then, a more intriguing backdrop than usual to this final. Well-drilled sides, exciting personality-plus players in all departments, topped off by shrewd sideline management which could all add up to one of the great finals in the history of the code.

Let's hope it works out that way. Football could do with a boost just now.

COVER PHOTO



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

KERRY—from left (back row): Paud Lynch, Pat Spillane, Mike Sheehy, Paud O'Mahony, Pat McCarthy, Tim Kennelly, Ger Power. Front row: Denis Moran, Jim Dennihan, Mick O'Sullivan, Ger O'Keefe, John O'Keefe (capt.), Paud O'Shea, Brendan Lynch and John Egan.

DUBLIN—from left (back row): Anton O'Toole, Jimmy Keaveney, Tommy Drumm, Sean Doherty, Paddy Cullen, Bernard Brogan, Robbie Kelleher, Bobby Doyle. Front row: Kevin Moran, Brian Mullins, Pat O'Neill, Tony Hanahoe (capt.), David Hickey, John McCarthy, Gay O'Driscoll.

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Top Ten

CHOOSING HURLERS A DIFFICULT TASK

SO many hurlers contributed so superbly to that wonderful game that was the All-Ireland senior hurling championship final of 1976 that it proved no easy task in narrowing down the field even to ten for recognition in this month's Top Ten review, which covers the period from August 22 to September 12.

Pat Moylan, Mick Jacob and Ray Cummins are names that perhaps spring most readily to mind, but many others left their imprints on this great match as well, not the least being John Horgan, whose role was limited in that he went in as a substitute, but nonetheless was most effective in the Cork defence.

Jacob was supreme in his performance at centre half-back, and it was certainly not his fault that Wexford failed to make the break through. Yet, while a strong case can be made for the selection of the 30-year-old Oulart-Ballagh club man as the Player of the Match, he is just pipped in our ratings for this distinction by Moylan.

Apart from the fact that the Blackrock hurler got through a tremendous amount of telling work in the middle of the park, there was the added bonus of his superb points scoring. He finished up top scorer of the afternoon with ten points, and

all in all, exercised a decisive influence in the return of the Liam McCarthy Cup to Cork.

Moylan, who is 26, now becomes the first hurler this year to gain maximum points. This is his second time to appear in the line-up this season, and his latest rating brings his points total to 15.

It is probably appropriate in a way that he is joined on this position by Jacob, who adds nine points to his six of last month.

Ray Cummins, who proved such an astute captain for the Munster county, emerges as the most highly ranked forward,

with eight points. He, too, moves up to 15 points overall.

Tough again on luckless Galway! Although their replay with Wexford at Paire Ui Cnaoimh came into consideration for this review, the competition from the All-Ireland final proved so strong that, despite the fine displays of P. J. Molloy and Joe Connolly, in particular, the Connacht county still fails to find a place in the line-up.

HURLING

10	P. Moylan (Cork)	15
9	M. Jacob (Wexford)	15
8	Ray Cummins (Cork)	15
8	G. McCarthy (Cork)	8
7	Tony Doran (Wexford)	16
7	J. Barry-Murphy (Cork)	14
7	W. Murphy (Wexford)	12
6	D. Coughlan (Cork)	23
6	J. Horgan (Cork)	14
6	Colm Doran (Wexford)	8

FOOTBALL

7	R. Kelleher (Dublin)	13
7	B. Brogan (Dublin)	7
7	T. Drumm (Dublin)	7
6	G. O'Driscoll (Dublin)	20
6	S. Doherty (Dublin)	14
6	A. O'Toole (Dublin)	19
6	S. McHugh (Galway)	6
6	K. Moran (Dublin)	6
5	L. O'Neill (Galway)	5
5	J. Dillon (Galway)	5

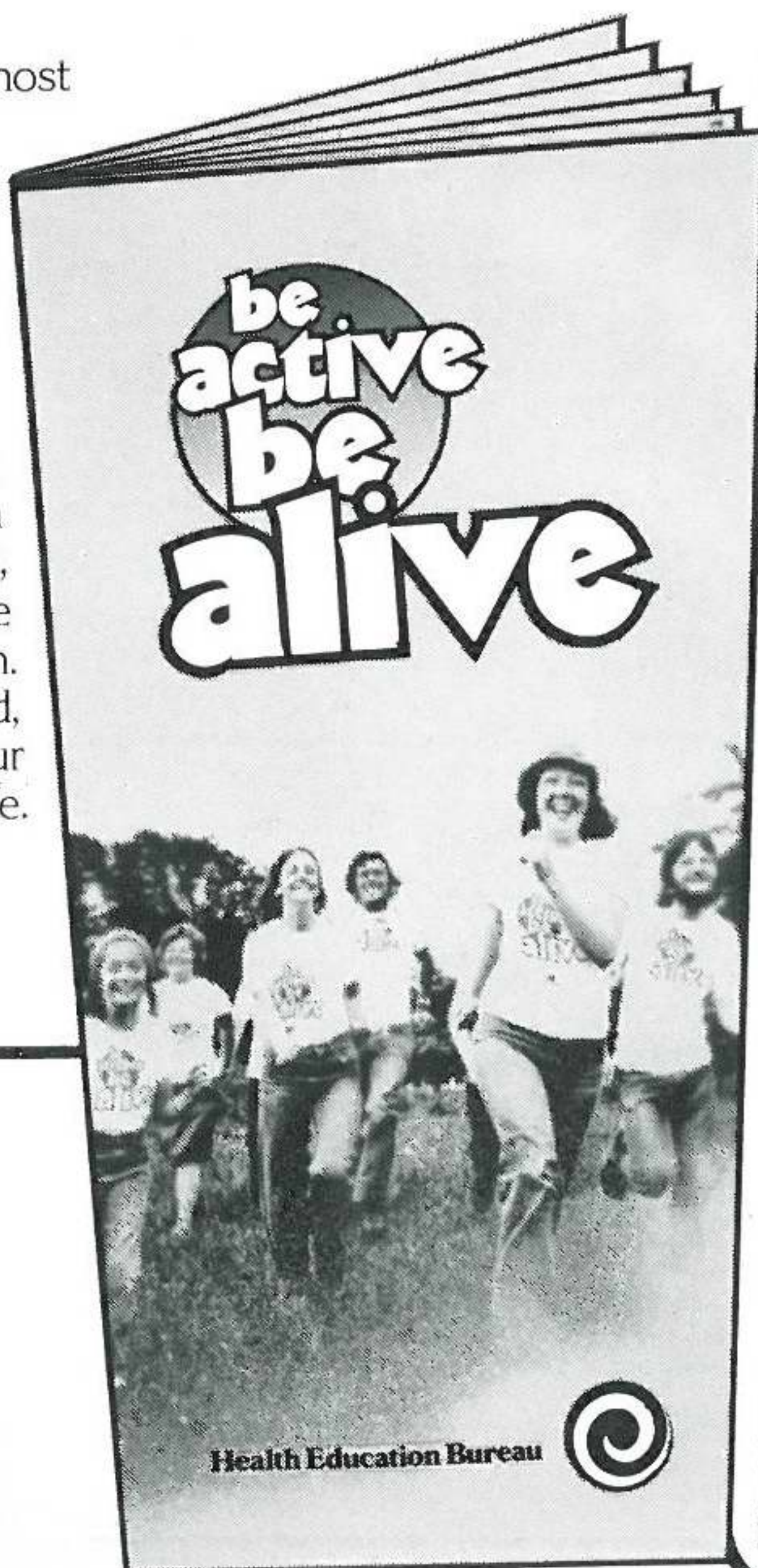


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Bobby Doyle
Dublin



John Egan
Kerry

A RANDOM LOOK AT THE FINALISTS

● **ANTON O'TOOLE** (*Synge St.*) played a prominent role in Dublin's two major title wins of recent times—the 1974 All-Ireland and this year's League. He has been playing senior football since 1972, is 25, and won a Carroll's All-Star award last year.

● **JOHN O'KEEFE** (*Austin Stacks*) has won all of the game's top awards—Railway Cup medals with Munster in 1972 and 1975, and with the Combined Universities in 1973, All-Ireland senior championship souvenirs for 1970 and 1975 plus four National League medals. John was also honoured by the Carroll's All-Stars in 1973 and again last year and was chosen Texaco footballer of 1975. In the inter-county senior ranks since 1969, he is 25.

● **DAVID HICKEY** (*Raheny*) was a prominent link in the All-Ireland senior championship win of 1974. After winning a Carroll's All-Star award that year he added a National League souvenir to his total last May. He is 24.

● **JIM DEENIHAN** (*Finuge*) is a former county minor who provides a further bright link with the 1973 All-Ireland under-21 title winning side. Now 24, he was in the 1974 National League winning side, gained the game's top award last September, and

won his second Railway Cup memento last March.

● **BOBBY DOYLE** (*St. Vincent's*) is 26 and made his entry into the top inter-county grade in 1972 and has had much success in the meantime. Bobby will be bidding to add a second All-Ireland medal to his National League souvenir, and a memento won with St. Vincent's in the championship last March.

● **JOHN EGAN** (*Sneem*) is still another All-Ireland medal winner of 1973 at under-21 who figured in the Sam Maguire Cup win of last year. John scored the dramatic last gasp goal that earned Kerry a draw in the 1974 League final, and won a medal in the replay. He also has won two Railway Cup medals and at 24 has plenty of time to add to his collection.

● **TONY HANAHOE** (*St. Vincent's*) is 31, and an inter-county senior since 1964. A bright link with the 1974 title win, he has collected two further important medals this year—an All-Ireland club award and a National League souvenir. He also captained Dublin to their League final win over Derry.

● **MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN** (*Kenmare*) is 24, and won his second Railway Cup medal in succession last March, when he also captained Munster. Kerry's

captain last year, he was also in the county teams that took the National League titles of 1973 and 1974, and the All-Ireland under-21 championship of 1973. A Carroll's All-Star last year.

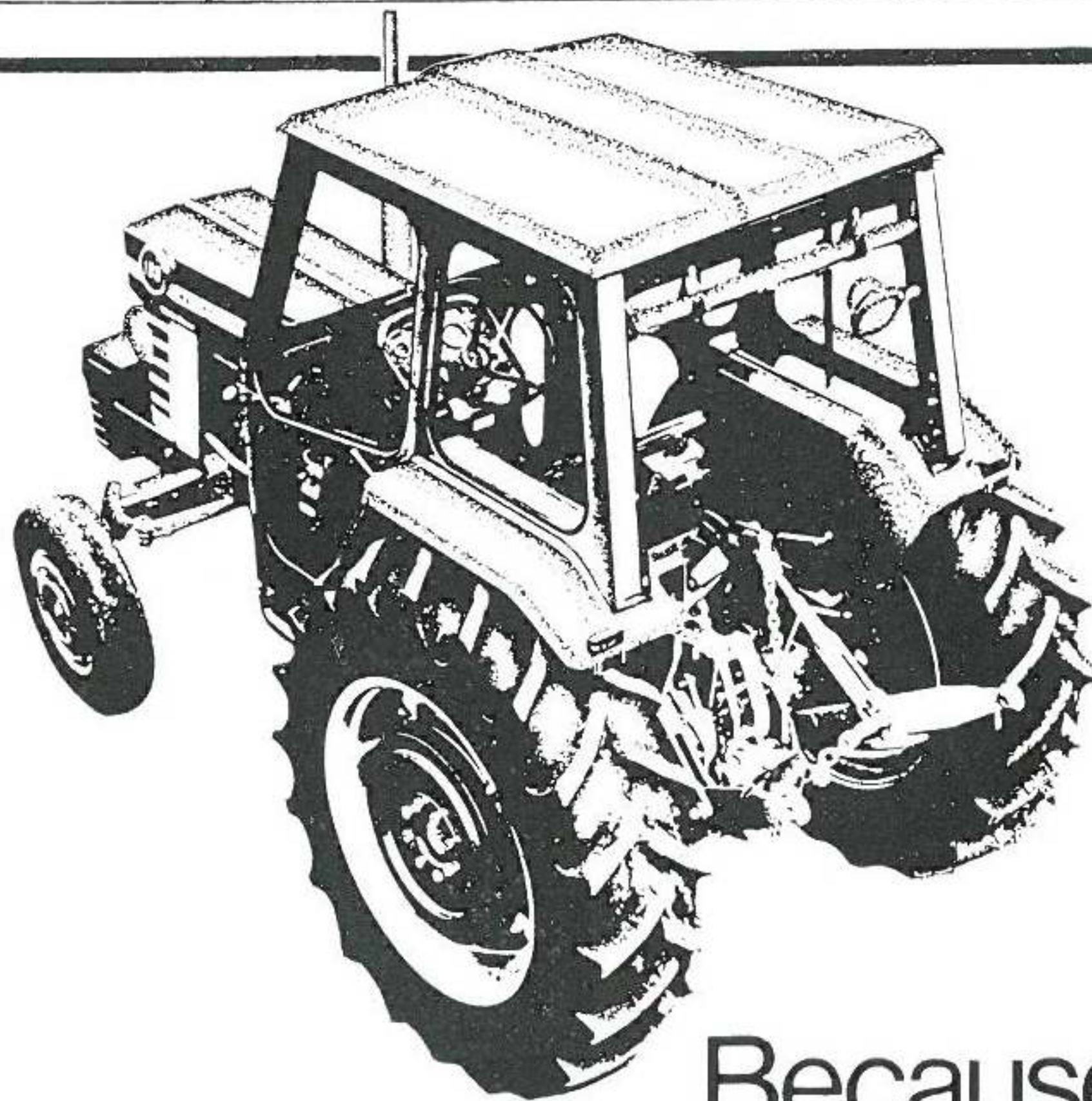
● **PADDY CULLEN** (*O'Connell Boys*) is 30 and made his senior inter-county debut in 1966 as a forward. Dublin's regular goalkeeper since 1967, he was a hero of the 1974 Sam Maguire Cup win, and added a Carroll's All-Star award to his list that year. A National League medal winner last May.

● **PAUD O'MAHONY** (*Spa*) won All-Ireland medals at under-21 in 1973 and senior last September. A former county minor, he helped Kerry to their last National League title win in 1974, and also won a Railway Cup medal last March. A Carroll's All-Star of 1975, Paud is 24.

● **BERNARD BROGAN** (*St. Oliver Plunkett's*) played in last year's final against Kerry, and was on the successful 1974 panel. Bernard, 23 in October, won a National League medal last May.

● **PAT MCCARTHY** (*Sallins, Kildare*) is 26, and moved up to the county senior team in the 1975 Munster semi-final. A native of Churchill, Tralee, he is a former county under-21 footballer and is yet another of the stars from last September's memorable final win.

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KERRY TO RETAIN TITLE

ARE Kerry better than when they beat Dublin 2-12 to 0-11 last year? My first question is: do they have to be? A mediocre team may be called great just because it won, and a very good team may be seen as bad because it lost, even unluckily. If the Kingdom beats Dublin again, it may be we'll begin to compare it with the good Galway, Cavan, Down, Mayo, Dublin, Meath and Kerry sides of the past, but no matter which side wins—and I'm eager for a great game—we must, in our estimate of merit, use the opponents as a vital measuring rod. So how good are Dublin

The Dubs were the best in the country two years ago. Last year their maturity and merit made them favourites against a young Kerry team. They had beaten a strong Derry side by 3-13 to 3-8 in a semi-final, untidy but fast and virile. Outclassed for periods in the final, they fought out a good League and do very badly want a crack at Kerry again.

Under Kevin Heffernan (who also has reason to desire sporting revenge on Kerry) and his helpers the preparation has been careful and scientific, while the strong desire not only to win an All-Ireland but to hammer the opponents will cause the adrenaline to flow, and if this helps a non-athlete to jump over

five feet of barbed wire, when the bull is charging, it will surely inject an extra inch of leap and speed into the Dubs from Paddy Cullen to John McCarthy.

Dublin are old men when we compare them to Kerry. But age is only a mathematical guideline and many men are better at thirty than at twenty-five for a number of domestic, professional and emotional reasons. Can we

By
EAMONN YOUNG

say that Jim Keaveney, Gay O'Driscoll, Sean Doherty, Tony Hanahoe, or Paddy Cullen are not champion footballers? There's not a side in the country wouldn't like to have them.

The desire to win and the attention to training for the last twelve months, connected with their ability, is a better guideline than a mere birth cert. No, I don't think Dublin are too old. In fact they may be just old enough to know what a final means, and shrewd enough to work out ways of keeping the Kerry score low, for the less your man scores the easier the job on the far side, a fact not always as delightfully obvious as it sounds.

Dublin beat Meath, took all that a spirited Galway side threw at them and are still there. They have a new half-back line which seems sound enough and a centre-field pair which on its day will beat anybody. The forwards move well and apart from Keaveney's dead-ball accuracy he's the fastest man I see just now to gather and goal-kick. Look at the number of goals he has scored quite similar to the shot which beat Galway — and that was the only kick between the teams. There's plenty reason for saying that Dublin, knowing the Kerry merit, and mad to show us all they can squash it, are more formidable now than twelve months ago, and I take no notice of the opinion that just because the Galway game didn't please the purists, Kerry would beat the pick of 'em.

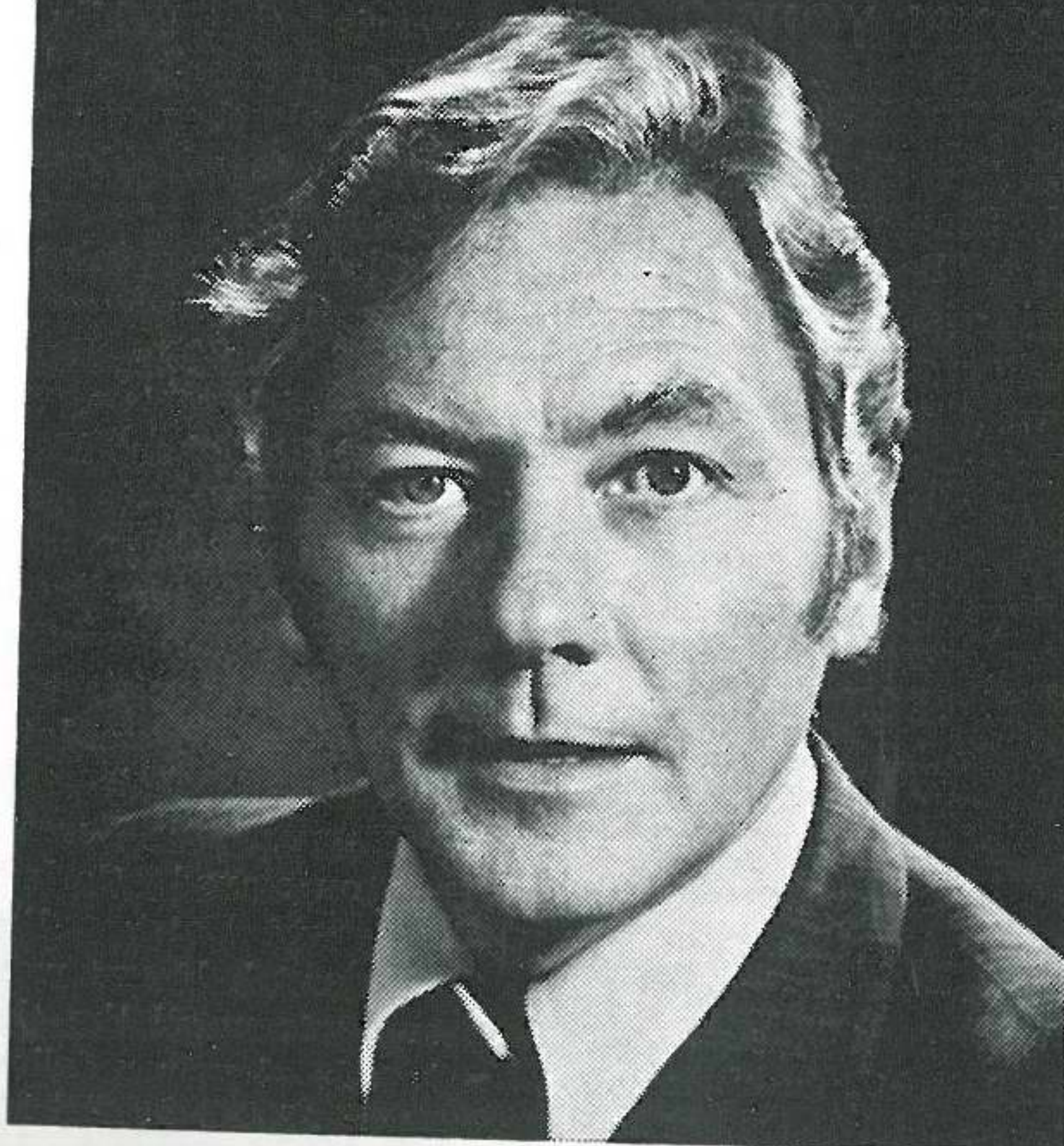
Now what about Kerry? Last year I travelled to Clonmel to see Kerry and Tipp rather than look at Cork playing Clare at Doonbeg, for I knew Tipp had a great chance. In fact, they led at half-time. But a lot of hard men ground their teeth then and Kerry, after fierce preparation, outplayed Cork. In the Sligo game Kerry pulled out in the second half and were an improving team all the time. Then a bunch of young fellows, fight-

● TO PAGE 10



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● FROM PAGE 9

ing for their places, and delighted they had come so far, went on fire in the final.

Now, after a few beatings during the winter, this same bunch is out again. They outplayed a hearty Waterford side, withstood the virility of Cork and the tumultuous intimidation of Páirc Uí Chaoimh to draw. They gritted their teeth for the replay and this was the game which showed their courage, for with twenty minutes to go and seven points down I was sure they were beaten. They came at Cork then and forced us into error which converted fouls to points and drew on the hour. Elated they must have been, and the exuberance spilled over into the first quarter of extra time when they ran up five points to Cork's one and that wrapped it up. To me they looked in that period like the side that won the All-Ireland last year.

In addition, they are all a year older and surely that means a lot to young men like Paud O'Shea, Ogie Moran, Pat Spillane, Mick Sheehy, Ger Driscoll and Sean Walshe whose success in the under-21 All-Ireland advanced them to maturity. I do think Kerry are better, but so are Dublin.

To me they are like two crack athletes meeting once again in the final of the 1500 metres. Each has earned and won his glory; each is tough and clever; both have prepared well and each knows that all his world is waiting to see him prove he's the better man.

Even if I do want the Kingdom to win, I, as well as thousands more, will rise in applause for the victors if the cup is won in fair, manly football, carrying the All-Ireland stamp of John Joe Sheehy, Paddy MacDonald and a score of others who sprinkled magic on the great records of Kerry and Dublin.

Spotlight on Robbie Kelleher



Robbie Kelleher

By JIM BENNETT

WHEN gaining his All-Star award for 1975 Robbie Kelleher was credited with the honour: "For his consistent display of sound judgement, splendid anticipation and complete reliance on skill." And that was a pretty fair assessment of the qualities which have been uppermost in bringing the Dublin corner-back from an unknown to a highly respected status among the finest defenders of recent times.

There are a lot of admirable qualities displayed by Robbie, ranging from a pleasant disposition to a tremendous enthusiasm for football, to his great commitment and work record at club level, with youth and in such fringe activities as the Scor competitions. They merely add to the reasons why this young fellow is one of those which any club or county would be proud of and of which the G.A.A. cannot ever have a surplus.

However, apart from all other considerations, Robbie Kelleher would have attracted and merited attention for his football alone. The corner backs in the new Dublin team that emerged in 1974 and has prospered since were of vital importance because they more than most contributed to the flexibility of the formation which Kevin Heffernan must have been striving for.

Without the all round fitness and mobility which Kelleher and O'Driscoll brought to the corner positions, enabling them to defend and harass with the best of them but also to be ready to set up counter attacks, race to positions where "first-aid" was required, and play as confidently 60 or 70 yards from goal, as at the corner of the square, Dublin's system of football might not have been as successful because it might have left too many gaps in a defence which also needed to be the springboard of attacking movements.

The flexible wing-half role would have been restricted if not proven to be totally disastrous without the mobility, watchfulness and anticipation of Kelleher and Gay O'Driscoll.

It needed thoughtful players to accept the role and carry it effectively. It is too easy for a corner back to be alert and sound and reliable when the pressure is on his lines, only to relax

once the ball has been cleared feeling that his job is done for another while and that he has no part to play until the next attack develops.

Without labouring the point, it might be best illustrated by the manner in which Dublin constructed the goal that killed Galway's challenge in the recent All-Ireland semi-final. Galway had been applying the toughest pressure of the hour having drawn level after the interval; they looked as if they might tie Dublin down completely, perhaps even break through for a telling score that would sway the match their way irrevocably.

Dublin broke out of this tight defensive situation in a move downfield that was not too convincing, but seemed welcome enough as a breather for the hard-worked defence. One would have found it impossible to complain if the corner backs took it easy for a moment recovering their composure and their breath. Instead they were instantly on the move towards positive positions.

When a somewhat careless kick away was made by a Galway man it was O'Driscoll who was racing forward to cut it off, make ground, and when he looked for someone to carry the move on it was Kelleher who had read the situation, raced out and across field, took the pass, thus creating a situation in which Dublin had all their forwards and midfielders in the Galway half ready to carry on the move. The corner backs had used their quickness of thought, anticipation and fitness to create a situation in which Dublin had several extra men over—one of the rare occasions it happened in that tight, tough game—and they outflanked the outnumbered Galway men to send Doyle racing round on the right and passing to Keaveney for the vital score.

The forthcoming final with Kerry is a game which will surely prove a tremendous test for Kelleher and O'Driscoll, since the fluidity of the Kerry attack will demand the maximum amount of varied and clever work from them to combat it. The halves will obviously be strained by the Kerry half-forwards: the depth of further defence which the corner men can give will be the vital factor in discovering whether Dublin can not only contain Kerry but relieve them of the responsibility of the "Sam Maguire" for the coming twelve months.

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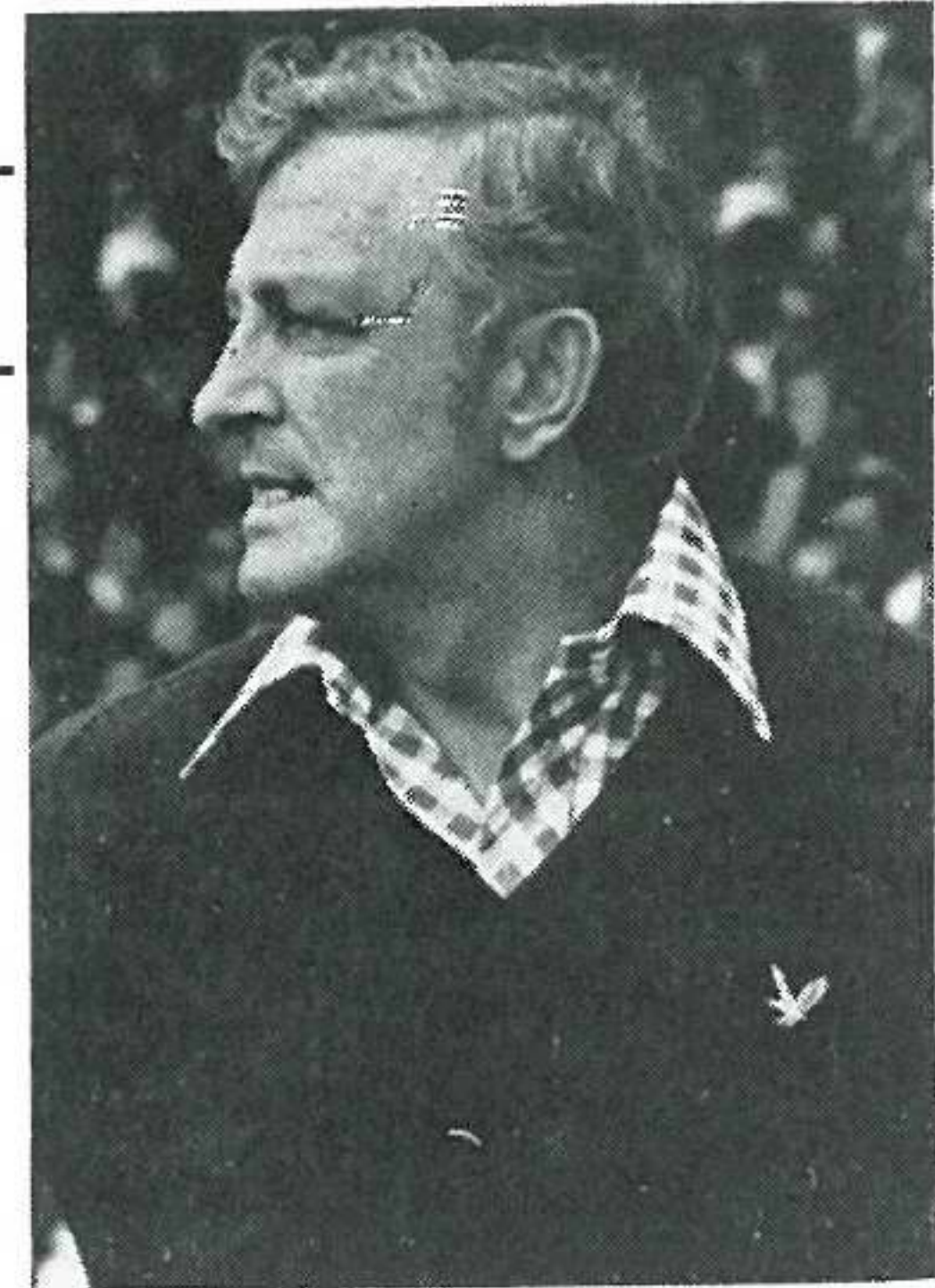


● MICK O'DWYER

A BATTLE OF WITS

MICKO V HEFFO

By MOONDHARRIG



● KEVIN HEFFERNAN

SO it is Dublin and Kerry once again in the All-Ireland final, but in very different circumstances to those that marked their meeting of a year ago. Then Dublin were the proud champions and the young and relatively untested Kerry men were the challengers.

Now it is Kerry who are the holders and Dublin who have little to lose and everything to gain. Moreover, Kerry find themselves in the position that, on semi-final form, they go into this final as the warmest favourites of any team in recent years.

After being held for half the journey, Kerry fairly romped to victory in their game with Derry, whereas Dublin had little enough to spare over Galway in one of the scrappiest and most negative semi-finals we have seen in this decade. Kerry in their semi-final played fast, open and effective football whereas Dublin got bogged down in what was almost a war of attrition, in an encounter that everyone had expected might well provide the season's most entertaining football game.

So now the problems facing the respective team-managers, Mick O'Dwyer and Kevin Heffernan, are very obvious, and very different from a year ago.

Last September, the great-

hearted O'Dwyer, after building up his youngsters to a seeming peak for the Munster final clash with Cork, faced the task of motivating them all over again for the All-Ireland final, and succeeded magnificently.

In a way, of course, his task was made easier by the fact that Dublin were the champions, the team to beat, and there was great glory to be won in knocking them off their throne. So the young Kerry men went out, and not alone ran Dublin ragged through the field, but had enough pace to spare to keep the ball away from the Dublin danger men at the same time.

Now the position is very different. These Kerry youngsters have all won their All-Ireland

medals, and it is often far harder to defend a title than to challenge for one. This was obvious enough in the Munster final and replay when the Kerry lads were battling from behind for so much of the trip in both games.

But that they could come from behind and from the very brink of defeat is a great tribute to them and to the spirit with which O'Dwyer keeps on inspiring them.

Yet, as I see it, the big difficulty for Kerry players and mentors alike is the outcome of the semi-finals. On that form Kerry looked a dozen points better than the Dubliners, something the whole country as well as those actually in Croke Park were able to deduce for themselves from the television screens.

And there is Mick O'Dwyer's big task this time, to convince his team that no matter what the form-book, or the countless legion of Kingdom supporters, or the general sporting public may assume or assure them, Dublin are not going to be easy meat in this final.

● TO PAGE 15

Allied Irish the All-Ireland favourites



Allied Irish Banks
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MICKO v HEFFO

● FROM
PAGE 13

I have heard a man say that the Kerry subs. would be good enough to beat Dublin, and he was a Kerryman. I have heard a Mayoman aver that all Kerry have to do to win this final is to take the field. So, though these Kerry players are a very level headed lot, it will be no easy task to keep that air of over-confidence from rubbing off on them. But the Kingdom have in Mick O'Dwyer the very man to counter-act any sense of complacency among his charges.

No man knows the tensions of All-Ireland Final time better, or the dangers of taking victory for granted.

Kerry were champions, and favourites, and O'Dwyer was left half-back when Down shocked the men in green and gold in the 1960 final. In 1963 Kerry were champions, and seemingly cruising to victory when Galway unexpectedly came back at them in the semi-final.

Kerry were again favourites in 1968 when they lost to Down, so Mick O'Dwyer, an indomitable man himself, will never let the Kerry players cod themselves into thinking that the 1976 medals are already theirs. And he can point out to them how close to defeat they were in both those clashes with Cork.

On the other hand, Kevin Heffernan now finds himself in the happier position, in that his Dubliners are back in the very situation they were in 1974 when again they were the outsiders in

almost every game they played and yet went on to win the All-Ireland.

If Kerry had it hard against Cork, Dublin had to battle all the way to get past Meath and Galway in turn, but Heffernan will like it that way. He does not have to tell his players that they are not world-beaters. They will know that only too well, just as they know how hard they had to battle to overcome in the League final an almost identical Derry team that Kerry routed in the Championship semi-final.

Kevin Heffernan's approach is more cut and dried than that of his Kerry counter-part, but he is no less effective when it comes to steeling his men to a task in hand. The fact that the odds seem all against him, that the opposition is provided by the champions, that Kerry were too good for the Dubs. a year ago, will only make Heffernan drill into his men how much they have to gain from victory now.

A shrewd analyst of all and every opposition, Kevin Heffernan, you can be sure has been busy working out how and why Cork had Kerry on the run for such long periods of both the drawn game and the replay of the Munster final, and what and where the mistakes the Corkmen then made that allowed Kerry to come back at them so dramatically. He will also have his theories as to how it was that Derry fell away so badly in that semi-final after so bright an opening.

Besides, in conjunction with his fellow selectors Kevin will have carefully analysed why the Dublin forward machine clicked against Longford and in the second half against Laois and why so many promising movements were broken down by the defenders of Meath and Galway in their respective clashes.

So both the team-managers have to an extent to reverse their thinking from last year. Perhaps O'Dwyer has the easier task. He knows his men have what it takes. All he really has to do is to convince them that they have to put it all in.

On the other hand, Heffernan has to teach his Dublin side (a) that they can beat Kerry, the hot favourites (b) how to do it.

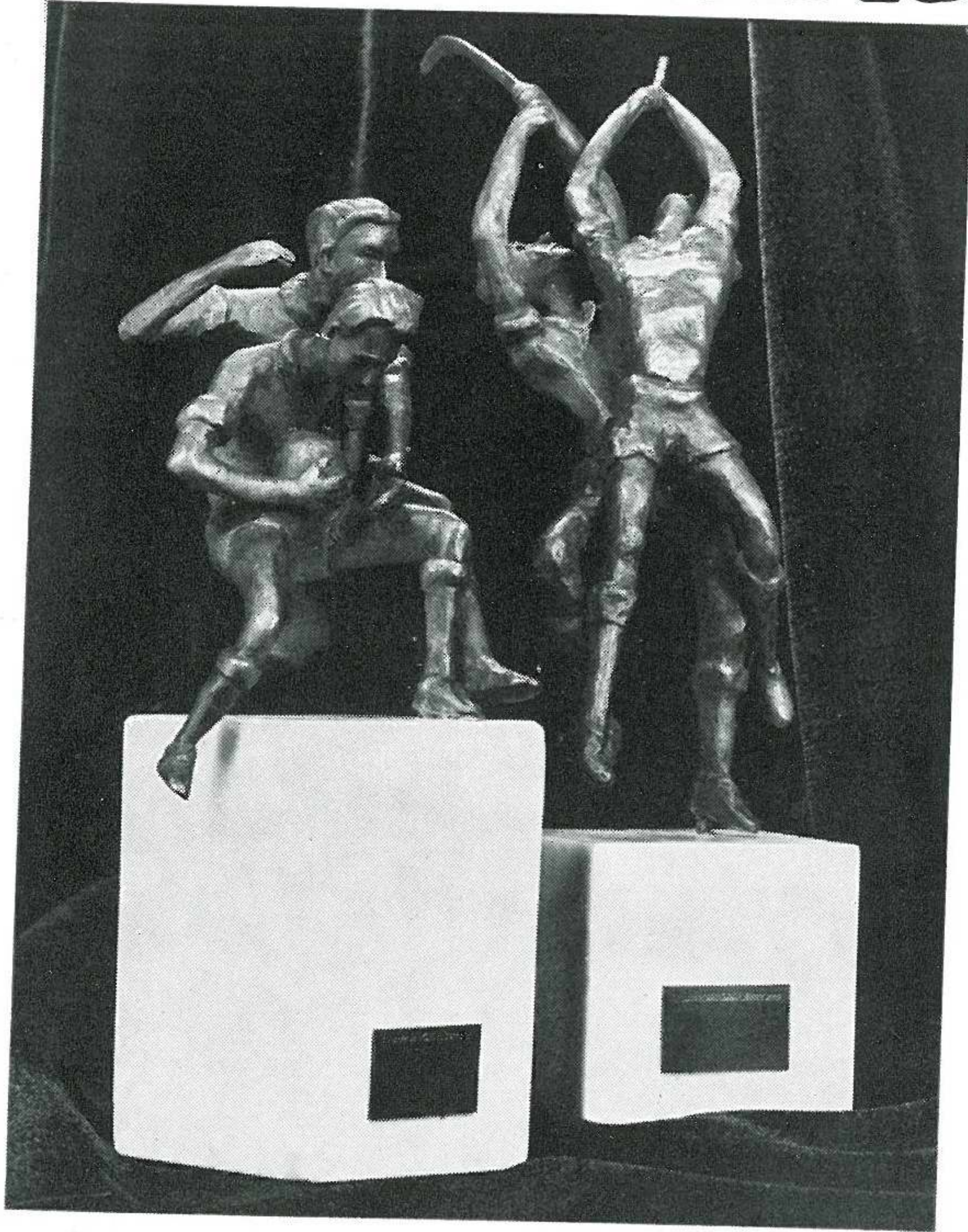
Last year's efforts and tactics were just not good enough. A far greater effort will very obviously be needed this time, and if any man can get that bit extra from his men it must surely be Heffernan.

So the battle of wits off the field may well be no less intriguing than the actual contest on the Croke Park pitch, with the odds still on Kerry to retain their title.

Oddly enough, though they were in opposition in semi-finals, Heffernan and O'Dwyer never played against one another in a final. O'Dwyer holds four All-Ireland medals as compared with only one for Kevin. O'Dwyer also has more National league awards, but Heffernan is way ahead in Railway Cup medals, seven as against one, and both of course have the distinction of being in charge of All-Ireland winning teams.

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A proud Pat Spillane holds aloft the "Sam Maguire" after Kerry's '75 victory. ▶

SENIOR DEBUT AT SEVENTEEN

By SÉAMUS Ó BRAONÁIN

THE Spillane boys brought home every possible All-Ireland medal last year, Mick collecting the minor and U-21 while brother Pat captured U-21 and senior. A nice haul indeed, but nothing more than these boys had been promising over the last couple of years.

Pat, of course, is now a national figure and one of the most attractive and skilful men in the game, one who must be high in the lists for any team in considering how they can handle the exciting Kerry forwards. Yet, he is still (with brother Mick) on the Kerry U-21 side this year.

Indeed, he was only 17 when we first caught a glimpse of him in Croke Park making his debut in senior football. Those who expressed surprise at the youth of the Kerry team last year would seem to have forgotten that there are none so courageous as the Kerry men for throwing youngsters in at the deep end. Back through the years when, perhaps, the kidgloves were less in evidence than to-day, they never hesitated when looking for men to take senior places, or when the senior side began to creak a little: one recalls, off-hand, Tadhg Healy lifted from the minor side into the senior; Joe Keohane was green as grass when first given his chance; Paul Russell was a youngster at school when he was selected for the 1924 All-Ireland final, without even a trial, on the recommendation of Dick Fitzgerald.

Anyway, it is clear that Kerry believe if they are good enough they are old enough. So we had an early look at Pat Spillane in senior football and very good he looked, with a fine fetch, a nice swerve, an accurate shot, an acute nose for an opening and courage to go with these talents.

In fact, Pat looked booked for an extended session in senior ranks straightaway, and he did continue in or on the edge of the side. But, Kerry thought that it might just be asking a lot to rush him because he was after all just a slip of a lad.



In 1973 the Templenoe lad got a view of the fall of the Kerry team which had completed the coming of age of Kerry in terms of All-Irelands. He was on the minor team with 'Ogie' Moran and Paud O'Shea, losing to Cork on the same day the seniors were ripped apart by an avalanche of Cork goals at the Old Athletic Grounds in the Munster final.

In fact, Pat had no joy from his minor experience of the previous year either (shared by Moran, O'Shea and Mikie Sheehy with Tim Kenneally in the subs.) for Cork beat them that year too at Killarney.

Having got his little taste of senior and had his appetite sharpened no doubt, he was back in the subs. for the 1974 campaign, and, therefore, largely avoided responsibility for the disheartening Kerry performance of that year's Munster final which seemed to have been staged as a special benefit for Humphrey Kelleher.

After that, however, he began to establish himself and was an integral part of Kerry's 1975 team as a mobile and score-conscious left corner forward. In the All-Ireland final against Dublin one recalls the injury to Mickie O'Sullivan, but, in fact, that was sauce for the goose, as it were, for it enforced the movement of Spillane to O'Sullivan's left wing position from which he potted a string of vital points.

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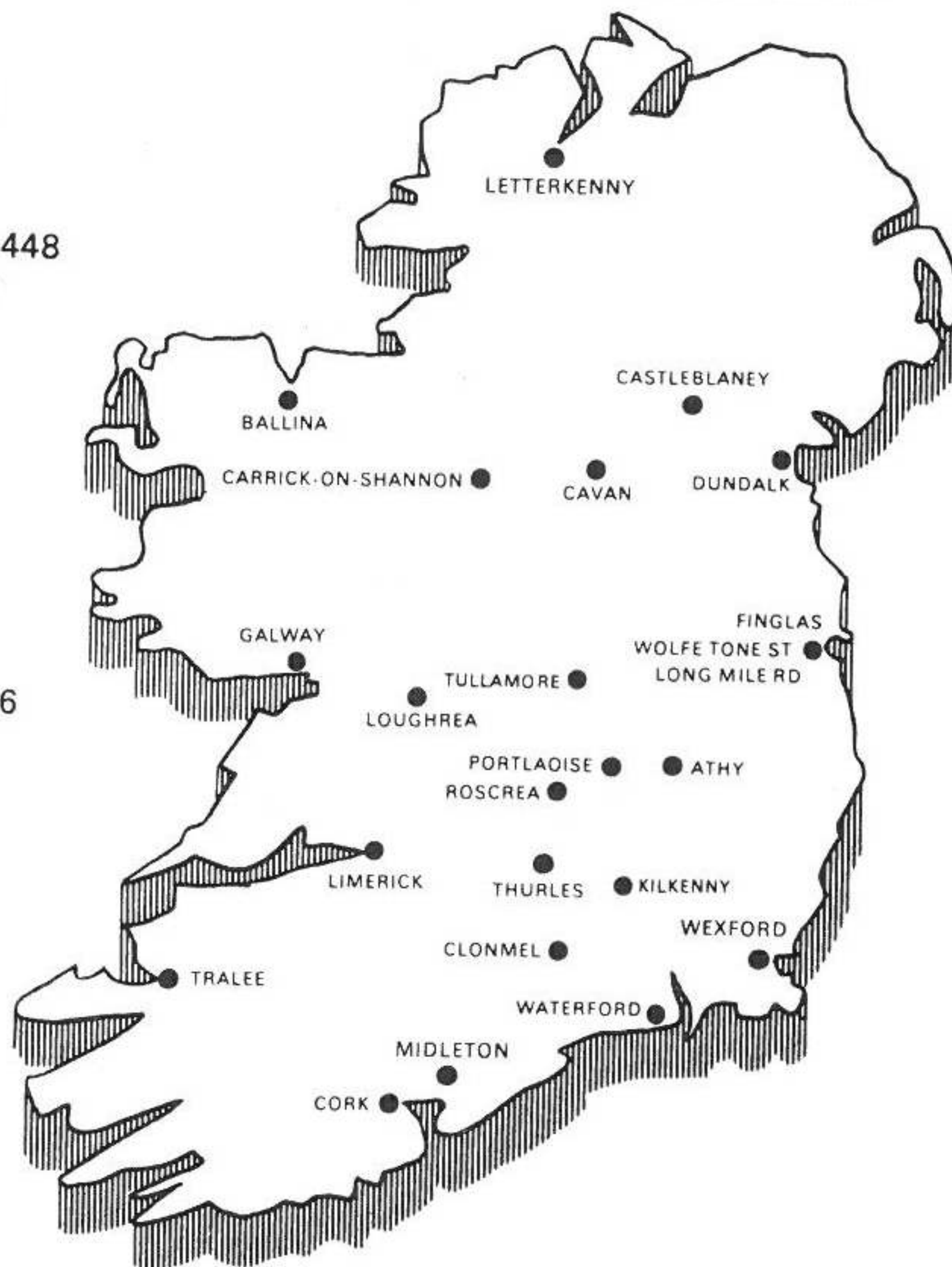
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● CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Back in the corner later and again at the beginning of the current championship, it was rapidly realised that in spite of his brilliance inside, he had too much to contribute in the more involved position on the wing. Kerry rotated their forward line one notch, more or less, for the Munster final replay and Spillane has since played the role of connecting link and interpreter between his rearguard and his attackers.

His initiative in this regard and his tirelessness went a long way towards mending the somewhat ricketty midfield, so that it began to find form towards the end. He continued the role with some amendments in the second half of the All-Ireland semi-final, for it seemed as though he was dictating a policy of hand-passing that was too extreme earlier. Now he began to mix his play more effectively and sprayed fine long passes to split the defence, as well as the close ones plus some tricky manoeuvres.

It was in the Railway Cup early in the year that Spillane's brilliance and inventiveness were seen to the full in exploiting the hand-pass and the superior fitness he possessed, with the collaboration of Jimmy Barry-Murphy, O'Sullivan and the others and at the expense of a riddled Leinster defence.

Spillane looks a deceptively small sort of chap but is in fact very well built and strong and

extremely durable. That is a good thing I suppose because he shows no discrimination at all about what ball to go for or what crunch situation to avoid—he goes for everyone, everywhere . . .

It is, at least partially, his superb fitness that allows him to play so excitingly all the time, flat out from start to finish. As a P.E. student he obviously practices what he preaches. After 70 furious minutes, he was really murdering the tired Corkmen the longer extra time lasted in the Munster final replay.

Pat has been one of those lads that caught the talent spotter's eye early on, ever since his days in St. Brendan's, Killarney: it was impossible to imagine he could fail to become a top class footballer.

The fact that to-day, almost at the top of the tree in inter-county senior football, I still apply the word "exciting" to him as the most apt description, is mainly because he is still developing and changing. Personally, I think he became too obsessed with the running game this year and perhaps ignored his wonderful talent for hitting the long range point.

But that is the charm of the lad: to watch how he puts the pieces together, takes them apart and puts them together again in the next few years. For him anything is possible, because he has such an abundance of talent and the skills to match.

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ON THE SPOT . . .

AS the count-down for the eagerly awaited Kerry-Dublin clash for the Sam Maguire Cup reaches its climax, **ON THE SPOT . . .** this month provides an opportunity to see just how expert you are about some aspects of the All-Ireland senior football final in general, and the men who have made the occasion, over the years, such a outstanding thrill for followers of the code.

The quiz has four separate sections, each of five questions. Bonus marks may be picked up along the way, and the total points to be won are given at the end of each section.

We fire the first shots by putting the spotlight firmly on the

SHOWPIECE MATCH

1. The first goal in last year's Kerry-Dublin summit was scored in three minutes. Can you remember who tucked away that score?

2. What was extra special about Dublin's win over Galway in the 1942 decider?

3. Name the finalists in the very first game, that of 1887, and for a bonus of five points give the winners?

4. A double first went into the record books after the 1960 game. Can you say what it was?

5. This county was the first to win four All-Ireland senior football titles in succession?

Four marks for each correct answer, plus that bonus if you get an all-correct answer to No. 3, making a possible total of 25 points.
YOUR SCORE

The players come into their own in our next section:

PERSONALITY PARADE

1. The following footballers all captained All-Ireland senior title winning teams — Kevin Heffernan (Dublin), Enda Colleran (Galway), Johnny Culloty (Kerry) and Willie Bryan (Offaly). But who is the odd man out here, and why?



2. Pictured above is a footballer who followed up an historic All-Ireland senior medal win by gaining, in successive weeks, a Carrolls All-Star award and a Texaco trophy. Who is he?

3. The first score in last year's final was a point in two minutes. Was the scorer Jimmy Keaveney, Michael Sheehy, Brian Mullins, or Pat Spillane?

4. Now, how expert are you on goalkeepers? Three captained Sam Maguire Cup winning teams in the past 20 years. Can you name them?

5. Who wore the No. 9 jerseys in last September's decider?

All the above questions are five markers. Help yourself to five additional points if you go through the section correctly. Total marks possible: 30. YOUR TALLY:.....

It's time now to bring the finalists into focus, and as the Munster county are defending champions, we start with them:

KERRY

1. In what year did the Kingdom win the Sam Maguire Cup,

the All-Ireland senior football championship trophy, for the first time?

2. Five Kerry footballers were honoured by the Carrolls All-Stars selectors last year. A point for each one you name, and five extra marks if you list them all

3. Who scored Kerry's second goal in their 1975 final win?



4. Who is the former brilliant defender pictured above? It may help you to know that he won All-Ireland senior medals in 1969 and 1970, and a Texaco award in 1970

5. How many times have Kerry won the Blue Riband of football. Credit yourself with a five-points bonus if you also correctly give their lead, titles-wise, over their nearest rivals, Dublin

These are five markers as well, and the ten additional points on offer make this section worth 35 points for the supporter right on his game. YOUR SCORE

Finally, let's see how you measure up on the challengers:

DUBLIN

1. Shortly after last year's game with Kerry, Robbie Kelleher earned a unique niche in the annals of football in 1975. What was it?

2. Dublin won the National League title last May. But when did they last take the League and

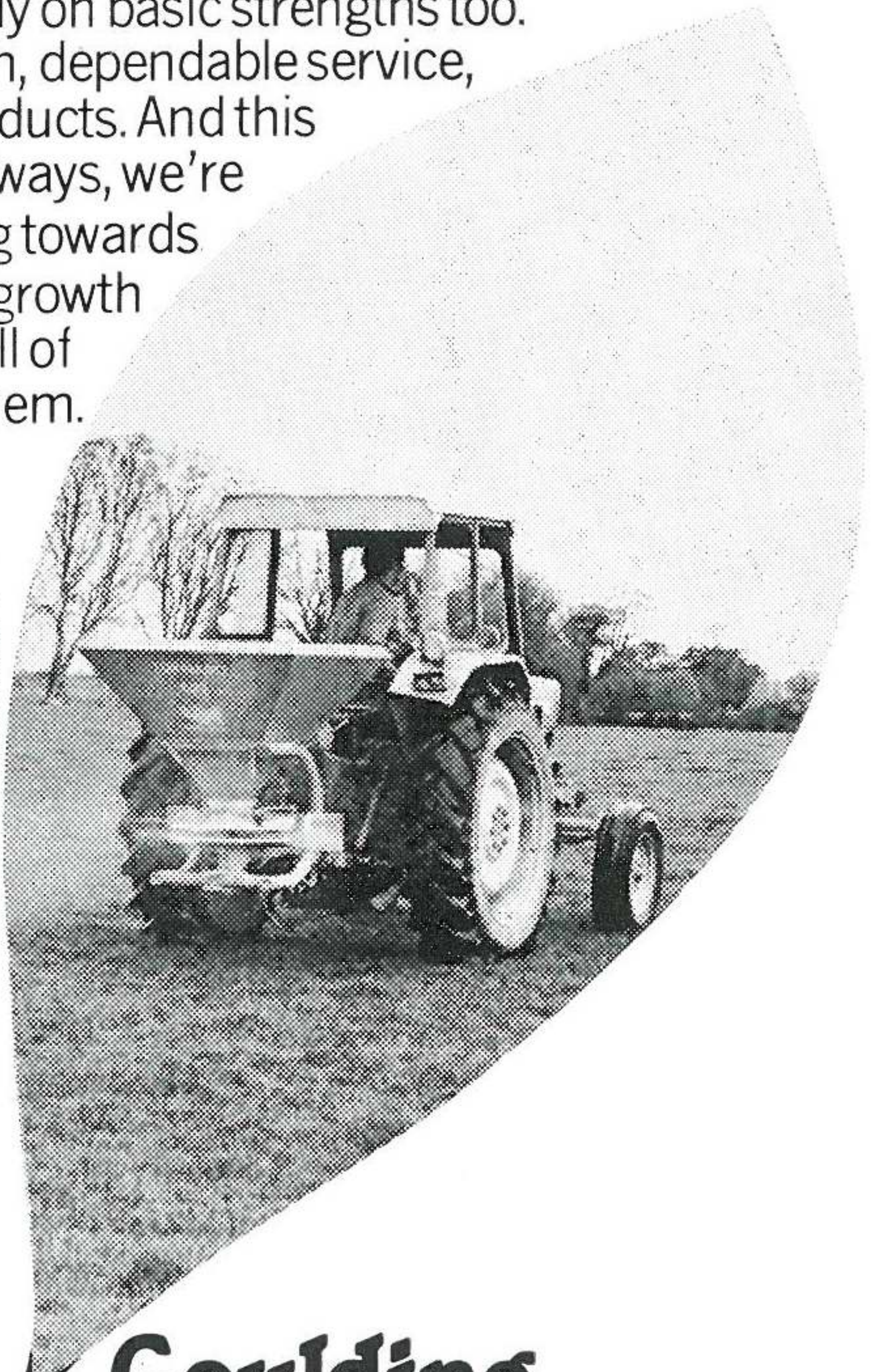
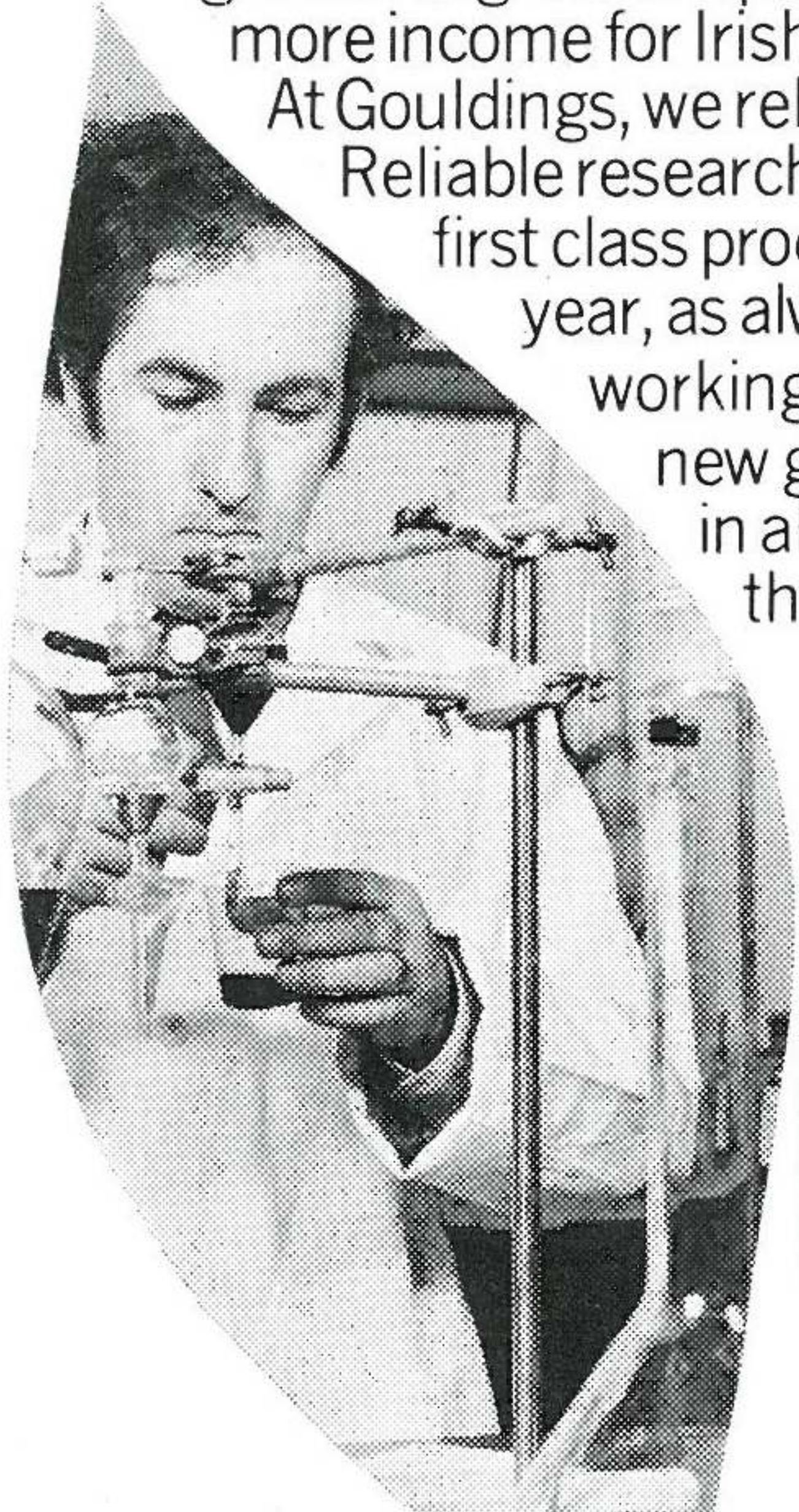
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● FROM PAGE 21

the All-Ireland crown in the SAME year? Was it 1953, 1958 or 1963? And, if you are expert enough to also name the counties beaten in the two finals, chalk up five extra points.....

3. It is hardly necessary to say that Jimmy Keaveney was the county's top scorer in their last final appearance. However, can you remember if he scored 0-4, 0-6 or 0-7?

4. The former star pictured on right won two All-Ireland senior football medals, and also played in a national senior hurling final. This question carries a maximum of ten points for naming the player, and listing the years of his medal wins

5. Dublin have 18 All-Ireland senior football titles. But how many times have they won the Sam Maguire Cup?

As is the case with the section on



Kerry, this concluding one carries a possible score of 35 points (we can't have any favouritism?) YOUR RECORD

OVERALL RATINGS

Total marks possible: 125. Excellent — 105 or over. Very good — 90 to 105. Good — 80 to 90.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

Printed in reverse to avoid distraction

1. He was the only Carrolls All Star in football in 1974 to retain his place in the 1975 team. 2. 1958, when they beat Kildare in the League final, and Derry for the championship. 3. 0-6. 4. Des Fergusson, All-Ireland football medalist in 1958 and 1963, and he played in the 1961 hurling de-elder, won by Tipperary. 5. Four — 1942, 1958, 1963 and 1974.

DUBLIN

1. 1929, when they beat Kildare. 2. Paud O'Mahony, John O'Keefe, Ger Power, Michael O'Sullivan, John Egan. 3. Ger O'Driscoll, who went in as a substitute, and got the goal in the 31st minute of the second half. 4. Tom Prendergast. 5. Last year's win was their 23rd, and they have a lead of five titles over Dublin.

KERRY

(Kerry) and Bernard Brogan (Dublin).

1. Enda Colleran, the only one of the quartet to captain two title winning teams — 1965 and 1966. Eugene Mulligan, right half back when Offaly won their first crown in 1971. He was in the same position in the 1972 title winning XV. 3. Brian Mullins (Dublin). 4. Jack Mangam (Galway), 1956, Johnny Culloty (Kerry), 1969, Billy Morgan (Cork), 1973. 5. Pat McCarthy

PERSONALITY PARADE

1. John Egan (Kerry). 2. That was the year of their first Sam Maguire Cup win, the trophy having been first presented for the 1928 final. 3. Limerick Commercials beat Louth Young Irelands. 4. Down won their first title, and also brought the trophy over the Border for the first time. 5. Wexford in 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918.

SHOWPIECE MATCH

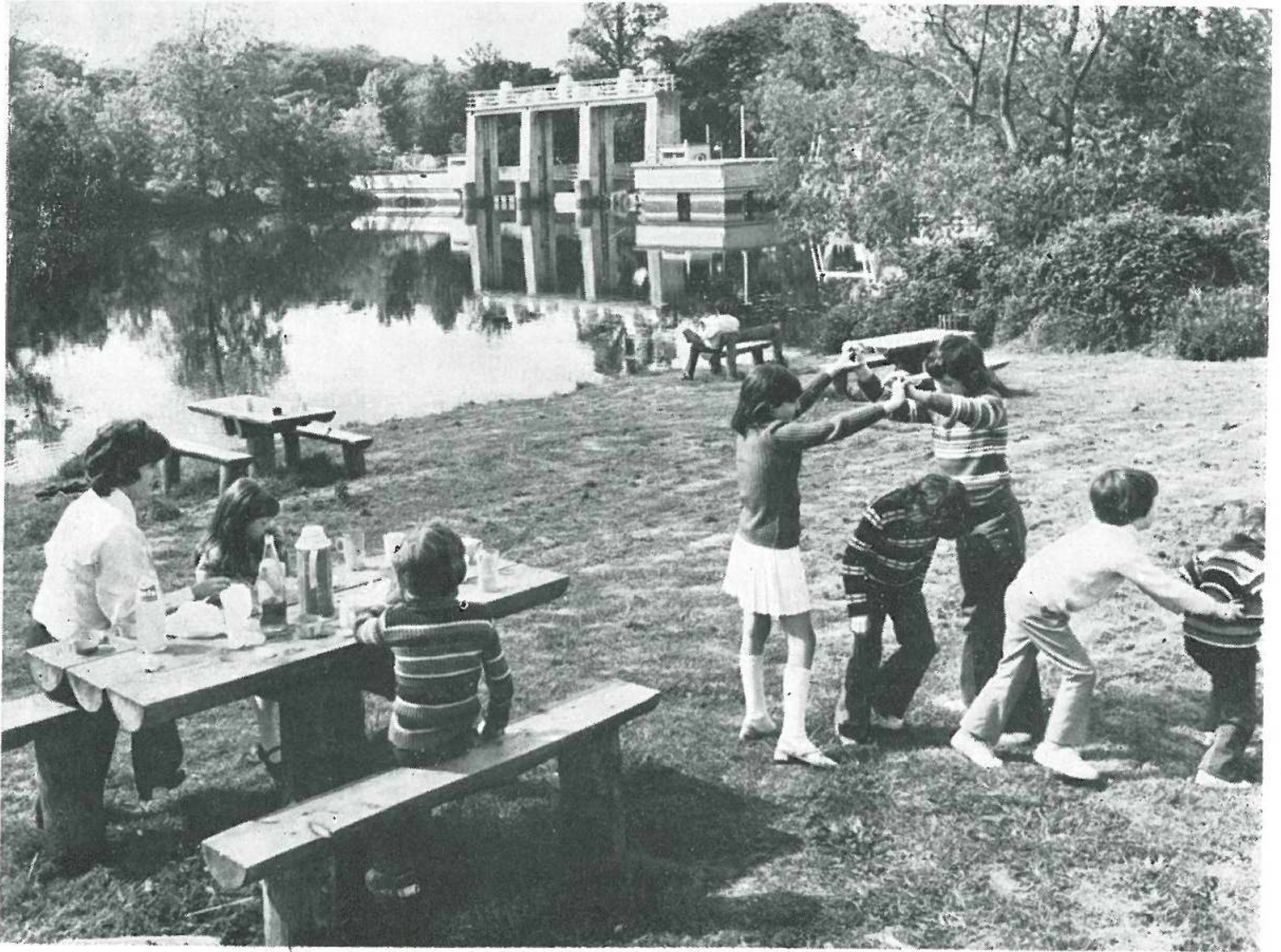
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PADDY DOWNEY

The pride of the Kingdom

AT a time when the grandeur and fluency of Kerry football is a subject of widespread extolment I consider it opportune to divert the attention, even temporarily, in suggesting that the Kingdom has also produced many noble handballers.

I did not, unfortunately, have the acquaintance of the legendary Father Tom Jones whose fantastic achievements can be easily recounted by most Kerry men but, in my own era, I was fortunate in befriending the man who in my book was the greatest handballer Kerry ever produced.

He is Paddy Downey, affable and gentle as an individual, skilful, sporting and ambidextrous as a handballer. He played his handball with the Fitzgerald-Jones Club in Tralee and strode the scene majestically for more than a decade.

The story brings us back to the late 'forties when the young Downey was showing a keen interest in the game. He was fortunate, of course, in having such an expert tutor as the late Joe Hassett to guide him towards stardom.

Joe, a native of Tipperary and winner of numerous All-Ireland titles with the Premier County, was based with his employers—the E.S.B.—in Tralee, and living only a couple of hundred yards from the court, spent all his spare time playing and teaching the game he loved. The young Downey was a good pupil and quickly groomed himself for success. He won the All-Ireland Junior Hardball Singles and Soft Doubles with Tom Commane as partner in 1951.

Now into senior ranks and very soon it became abundantly clear that he had the potential, the ability and craft so necessary

for a consistent champion. So it was that in 1953 Paddy lined out with his friend and tutor, the late Joe Hassett, in senior competition and the two of them marched off with the Senior Hardball Doubles title.

This was the beginning of an era for the Tralee maestro, a glorious decade in which he demonstrated his equal proficiency at softball and handball and won titles with clockwork regularity. His club-mate, Jimmy O'Brien, was also very much part of the scene at that stage. They formed an excellent partnership and won no fewer than ten doubles titles.

Memories crowd me of some of their epic duels. Like the Munster Final at Horse and Jockey in June 1960, when Downey and O'Brien were matched with Mick Shanahan and Tom Doheny of Tipperary.

The Premier Countymen were in great form that day and their every shot bore the stamp of inspiration. Before the Kerry men knew what hit them they were three games down and it seemed that the title which they had won the previous year was about to change hands.

But the seemingly impossible did happen. Downey found his touch and, ably assisted by O'Brien, they went about reducing the deficit. Playing their greatest ever handball, they overhauled the Tipperarymen and achieved a glorious victory.

Thereafter, they went on to

retain their All-Ireland crown by disposing of Kildare's Tony Daly and Pat Winders, although in this case also they had to make up leeway after losing the first two games.

There was another specific instance in Downey's career that deserves mention and strangely enough it also happened in 1960. It was on October 2nd when Downey was fixed to play Joey Maher in the All-Ireland Hardball Singles Final.

The game was originally fixed for Ceanannus Mór but due to inclement weather had to be transferred to the covered court at Ballymore-Eustace.

That afternoon the handball fanatics of the Kildare village witnessed one of the greatest marathons in the history of handball. Our two experts matched each other stroke for stroke and indeed, at one stage it seemed that an end was not possible.

As darkness fell on Ballymore-Eustace the two of them were still slogging it out, but, keen to finish it, they packed their bags again and set out for Clogh.

Here, the lights were switched on and the two maestros continued the marathon. Eventually, late on Sunday night they reached a conclusion when the greater staying power of the Tralee man proved decisive.

Just for statistical purposes the scores in favour of Downey that day were: 21-17, 21-18, 9-21, 21-17, 7-21, 10-21, 21-11.

These are but small sketches from the careers of Downey and his famous partner O'Brien and would certainly not do justice to the actual imprint they left on handball.

They do, however, give some indication of the tradition that also belongs to Kerry in handball and of the great handballers that this tradition has bred.

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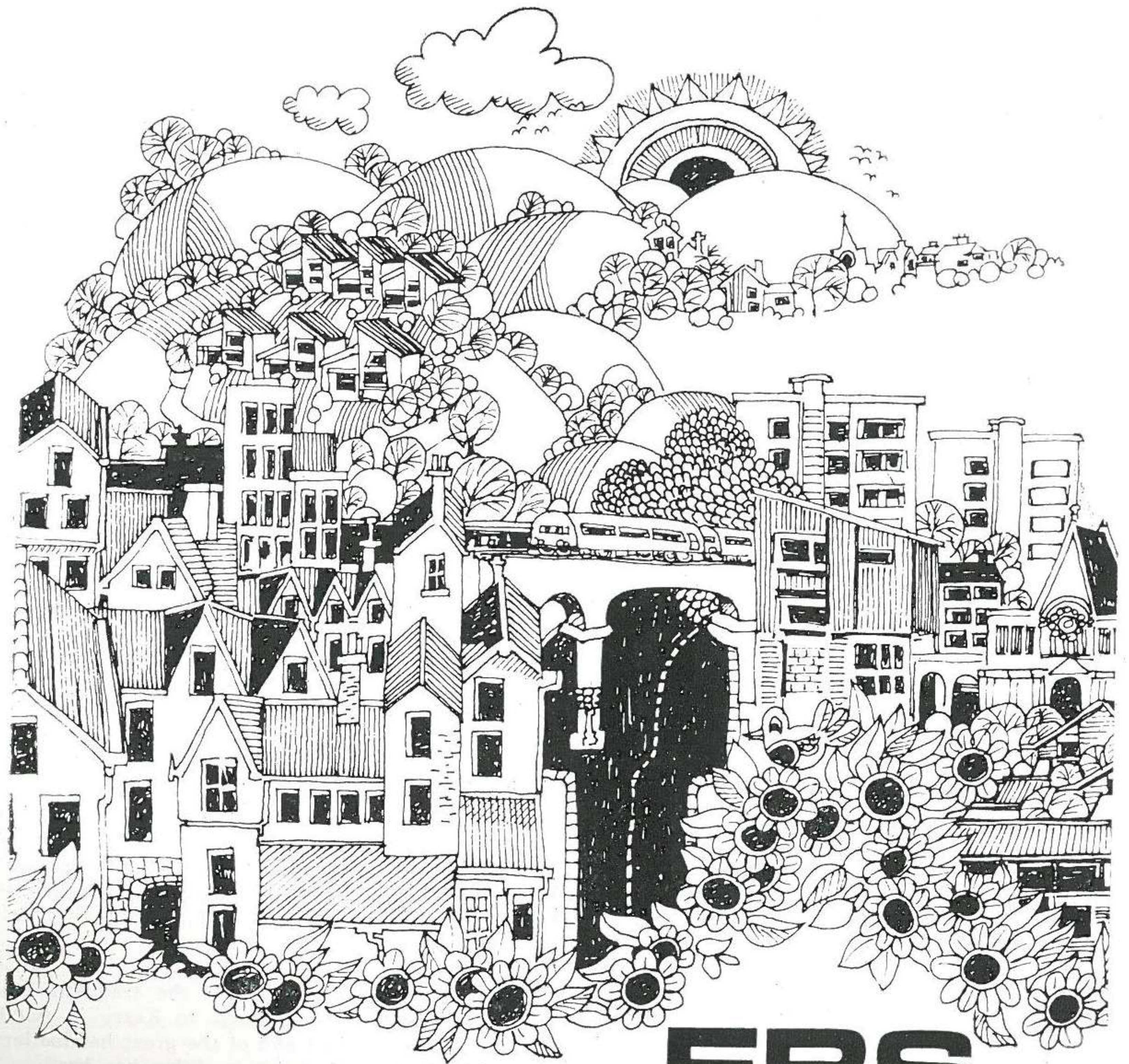
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IT'S THE DUBS FOR ME

BY SEAN RICE

MAYBE it will restore our faith. Maybe all the scrappy, careless, listless play of the past months will be elbowed out of memory as a season's excellence is packed into the final match. So much of what has just gone has almost numbed our senses. Our game needs an antidote. We need a tonic.

In only one of the provinces has the jewel of the game briefly glistened. That, too, had its murky moments, but there was more endeavour and greater flair in the Munster final's two games than in all the games of the other provinces together.

Nor were the semi-finals worthy of the flaunting of rosettes. Derry were clearly out of their depth and if there were prizes for trips and kicks and uppercuts, Galway would probably be clear winners.

The system, we hope, will be drained of all that for the final. Maybe we can now cast away the blinkers and watch shamelessly the crimson sunset of an otherwise leaden football season. Maybe.

Let's see what they have got to offer.

Kerry are now what Dublin were last year when they met in the final . . . the champions. And that changes things round a bit. Dublin were then clear favourites and deservedly so. This year Kerry wear that tag and on the evidence of their respective paths to the final few will deny them the mantle.

So it is an ideal pairing for the final, two teams struggling desperately to settle once and for all the argument, which was not fully decided by last year's match, as to which is the better side. And propped up by two of the finest strategists in the game today, Mick O'Dwyer and Kevin Heffernan, the battle will not be waged solely on the field of play.

Dublin look a physically stronger side. They have not been combining with the same precision that was so much part of their victory two years ago. But I think they are a calmer side, less given to wildness under pressure, their experience honed by years of top-class competition.

And they have been playing well at midfield. It was the powerhouse of their victory against Galway. Bernard Brogan had a splendid game and Brian Mullins looked well on the way to recapturing his former glory.

It was in this sector last year that we tipped the scales in favour of Kerry. But this year Kerry has had problems at midfield. Certainly Pat McCarthy failed to produce against Derry the form of previous games. And had Gerry McElhinney made better use of his possession or received the support from his forwards, Kerry might not now be in the final.

This, once again, is where I expect the game to hinge. And this time I think Dublin's Bernard Brogan and Brian Mullins will overcome the challenge pre-

DAVID HICKEY
... his running on and off the ball could unhinge the Kerry half-back line.



sented by Paud Lynch and Pat McCarthy. If they do, it should follow that David Hickey, Tony Hanahoe and Anton O'Toole in the half forward line will get enough possession to unsettle their opposite numbers, Paud O'Shea, Tim Kennelly and Ger Power who have formed Kerry's strongest line in recent games.

Of course Kerry has the talent to make switches that often change the whole trend of a match. "Ogie" Moran's advent to midfield in the semi-final and the introduction of former minor Sean Walsh were the moves that eventually devastated Derry.

But somehow I think Dublin will this time be equal to the task. No doubt it will be a tight game but my over-riding impression of the Dublin team, in the championship to date, is that they have been playing well within themselves, just doing enough to win. I feel we'll see a vastly different Dublin on September 26.

WHEN it was all over last year and they had a little time to get over their disappointment and shock, the Dublin team must have felt like saying: "All right, let's play it again and we'll see what the outcome will be".

It was a bit difficult for Dublin to grasp the fact that their overpowering system of play which had been too much for all opponents for two years (with the momentary exception of Meath in the League final) was not working against Kerry.

They had perhaps thought that the necessary fitness, speed, sharpness in thought and anticipation, together with outstanding football ability and a clear appreciation of the tactics required was such a demanding amalgam of elements that they were highly unlikely to be found in any team.

They probably thought Kerry too youthful and untried to be in a position to produce them all—many of us made the same mistake. They had bargained without the Kerry experience, tradition or depth of football know-how which enabled a very young team to absorb the necessary lessons on how to handle Dublin and be fit and fast enough to carry them into effect.

Not much has changed, I suppose, in so far as Dublin still play an effective brand of combined and constructive football and play it strongly. They depend for the true effectiveness of this on a steady (even if not lavish) midfield supply and back-up. And, of course, they need a resolute and mobile defence, full of tenacity, in denying advantage, and quick and imaginative, to turn defence into attack the very moment possession is gained.

Simple? It looks that way, but, of course, it is not quite so easy to employ even if the idea is simple and free from the encrustations of over-cleverness. The players to fit the scheme have to be right; and they have to be in



● Bernard Brogan
(Dublin)



● Brian Mullins
(Dublin)

the right condition of fitness, the right condition of mind and approach, to back one another up and run and graft to make openings or to cover off; and, finally, they have to have a little inspiration so that the timing is right and the thought triggers the action.

MIDFIELD DUBLIN

By JAY D

Without that spark of inspiration which may be missing because of tiredness, lack of the right edge of fitness, lack of the right build-up to the game, or a hundred other things, Dublin have to make their play tell by sheer work until they wear their way through where they have

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been unable to pierce.

That kind of thing has been happening more often, as one would expect, because teams are now beginning to observe the style of football they are up against and have been thinking about how they could play against it. A lot of first-



● Pat McCarthy
(Kerry)



● Paudie Lynch
(Kerry)

halves have been even or somewhat against Dublin this year — Galway in the League, Derry also, Laois in the championship, Meath also, and even Galway in long periods of the All-Ireland semi-final.

But, even in cases where Dublin have been held for a

long time they have bored their way through in the end as the effort required to hold them takes effect and the opposition tires.

Speaking of Dublin in this manner suggests they have only one system. And it is so, in fact, as far as one can judge, although the variations of its use by the team give it lots of different appearances. Yet, it is basically the same system, and it was the reaction of many last year that if Dublin could have changed their game when it was not working against Kerry, that they might not have lost their All-Ireland crown.

No doubt they thought the cumulative effect of their efforts would take effect as it had done before. More important probably was the fact that they hardly had any alternative plan up their sleeves simply because they did not envisage meeting a team which had the perfect antidote to it and were playing Dublin's game somewhat better than Dublin were.

Now, apart from any variations which Dublin may have prepared for Kerry this time, how stand the teams in their basic equipment?

Dublin are playing as before and just as effectively. There was some doubt about the defence earlier — it could undermine all the best work elsewhere — but the stern test of the semi-final will surely have given them great courage and confidence that they have a unit as resilient and as hard to pass or outflank as that of '74.

One of the things that allowed Kerry to exploit their style so profitably last year was the very serious weakness which had occurred in the middle of the Dubs defence which, when pressure was applied, unhinged the wing-halves and made them far less useful constructively, undermin-

● TO PAGE 30

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ed the sureness of Doherty at full-back and even caused the watertight pair of corner-backs to make the occasional nervous error — a free or two given away or that fielding mistake that gave Egan the golden starter-goal for Kerry.

The '76 semi-final was a little late for changes, some said, but the brave rearrangement of the half-back line on that occasion

worked so well that one would think it will continue to give good results. One might have reservations about the ability of Drumm and Moran to command in the air and some qualms about the mobility of Pat O'Neill in the wing position, but there is no doubt about the tenacity of the former pair in tackling and blocking and chasing nor of the shrewdness of O'Neill in covering and lending a hand where need-

ed.

The challenge of the Kerry half-forward line will be a much more mobile and more volatile one than that presented by Galway. One would not expect them to be so successful in tying up O'Sullivan, Spillane, Sheehy, Moran, or whatever other combinations Kerry may place in the line from time to time, but even if they were little more than half as successful as against Naughton, Duggan and Sammon they would be adequate.

I dare say Dublin will be happy with that amount of restriction on the brilliant, storming Kerry half-forwards because of the fact that the extraordinary variety of their play makes it impossible to expect they could be entirely negated. The question is whether they can be forced back far enough and pressured nearer midfield. Inside, Dublin's corner men are as resourceful as any county has and more mobile, so that there is a strong second line of resistance to Kerry's build-up of attacks.

Add to that the fact that Dublin's defence must be excellently equipped to handle an open-playing, building, running attack since they must have faced their own forwards hundreds of times in practice sessions. Indeed, I remember making the same point about Kerry last year: that the best way they could drill their defence for the title with Dublin was to face them against their own forwards whose tendency was to play a form of passing, probing game recognisably related to Dublin's.

Kerry, on the other hand, have much the same attack though prone throughout the year to over-elaborately build their moves until the Derry game forced them to their alternative of the swift ball through to the full forward line. When they hit the best blend of the two they should be far more threatening than last year. But, they have

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tended to over-play the passing and running and if they do that again it is unlikely to be too productive against Dublin who know that game only too well.

Until the second half against Derry, Kerry appeared to have lost a lot of their ability to pick off points from a distance — they would not want to forget that this was the ploy (by Spillane especially) which really won for them last September.

In defence, unchanged, and playing well again this year, the only possibility is that they may lack the slight edge of urgency they had last year. They may be just a fraction slower to go for the ball; a fraction more complacent and thinking in slightly more complex terms than the simple basics which rattled Dublin's system into forced errors last year. Only a fraction would be enough to give Dublin a chance of eliminating the forced errors from sufficient moves to influence the game in their direction.

However, when all these considerations are weighed, it will be obvious — as it was last year — that the closely matched defences and attacks cannot alone forge enough advantage for a victory

It was the clear balance in their favour at midfield that put Kerry in a position from which they could outscore Dublin last year, as it was the lack of sufficient good possession from the middle that restricted Dublin from mounting more telling attacks.

Perhaps even more important in the context of the kind of game it was last time, the midfield sway allowed the Kerry wing halves to have an enormous influence on the game, just as it restricted Dublin's opposite numbers from doing the same for their team.

The record of Kerry's midfield is not as good as last year, mainly because of the inability of Pat McCarthy to find consistent form.

Dublin, on the other hand, now have a better balance with the improvement of Brogan. Mullins has not been at best at all this summer but anyone who saw him in the winter will know what a player he can be. For the final, with examinations over, he must come out at best fitness and best

mental condition. It appears to me that he and Brogan can redress the balance which went well against them in last year's final.

So going on the assumption that Brogan and Mullins will give Dublin the edge at midfield I believe that nothing else in the game will undo that advantage.

For me then it's Dublin to gain a delicious revenge for last year's defeat.

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LEAGUE HAS ALREADY PROVED ITSELF WORTH WHILE

By
AGNES HOURIGAN

FOR once in nearly a decade Cork were not represented at Croke Park on All-Ireland day, but the future of the game is very safe in the Leaside county as was proved by the victory of their minors in the under-age championship for the second successive year.

After the National League had got off to a flying start in the early summer, the championships took over and caused a hiatus which cooled interest very much indeed in the long-term competition.

There will be a resumption immediately after the conclusion of the All-Ireland finals, and ironically enough the first game when the competition resumes will bring All-Ireland finalists Kilkenny and Dublin into opposition again, but on Kilkenny ground this time.

But the continuity of the

League will have to be broken again by the necessity of playing off the interprovincial series and of staging the provincial sections of the All-Ireland club championship. This will mean that the Eastern section of the League will be strung out almost to Christmas, with the final yet to be played.

A glance at the fixture list for the remaining League games will illustrate the position. These fixtures are:

October 3—Kilkenny v Dublin;
October 17—Galway v Tipperary and Wexford v Dublin;
November 17—Kilkenny v Antrim.

Now that game between Galway and Tipperary in mid-October is the final of the Western Division but the winners will have to wait until the end of November before the Eastern section concludes, which means it is unlikely the final will be played until the New Year.

This of course is the first year of the National League, and there were obviously bound to be teething troubles. Obviously the Fixtures Committee and Central Council will have to put their heads together and in the light of the experience gained this season, work out an improved schedule for 1977.

After all, the National League was begun in order to provide competition for county teams mainly through the summer. So by a tightening up of schedules it should be possible to arrange more games in the summer months. That would mean the League could be finished at the latest in October without interfering unduly either with the Gael Linn Cup interprovincial competition or with the All-Ireland Club championship.

With more counties likely to join in the League competition next season the entire fixtures schedule is going to take a great deal of planning and hard work,

and thinking it all out is an exercise that should begin even before the current competitions are completed.

But even though it looks likely to be a rather long drawn out affair, the League has already proved itself well worthwhile, and when the snags are ironed out, as they undoubtedly will be, I believe it will justifiably rank next in prestige and popularity to the All-Ireland senior championship.

Meanwhile the off-the-field events during the summer were the Coaching Courses and the Administration get-together, and both proved very successful indeed.

With the number of qualified coaches gradually increasing, the standard of the game at school and club level must improve with each passing month. The administration course should, in many respects, prove just as beneficial. Administration has been, with communications, among the weakest links in the make-up of the Association. Another important step forward will be taken in the middle of this month when the referees committee will hold a seminar to discuss ways and means of both improving standards and attracting those with the right credentials to take up the task of refereeing.

The chairman of the referees' committee is former president and current treasurer of Central Council, Lily Spence from Belfast, with the immediate past-president, Nancy Murray, as Secretary. Both have refereed All-Ireland finals as have all the remaining members of the Committee, Phyllis Breslin (Dublin), Eithne Neville (Limerick), Pat Rafferty (Dublin) and Mary Lynch (Monaghan). There is a probability that subsidiary referees' committees will eventually be established in each of the provinces.

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"MR Watson, come here, I want you."

That they tell me was the first phone call ever made. This remarkable achievement belongs to a gentleman by the name of Alexander Graham Bell. This Mr. Bell was a Scot and was no relation whatsoever to that crowd down in Shandon 'though no doubt a few Corkmen would like to think otherwise. They might as well — they manage to get away with more than most. Anyway he did invent the first ever phone over a hundred years ago despite the fact that a friend of mine tried to persuade me that there was a phone in Two-Mile-Borris before that.

Following on the great scientific development of this means of communication the making of a phone call has become a very simple operation. No doubt you will all agree with that comment — bear with me and I bet you'll change your mind.

It all happened the Saturday evening before the All-Ireland—the hurling one that is. My friend told me he might have two tickets and if I wanted them to phone him between eight and nine o'clock on the night in question. This I undertook to do and I anticipated little or no difficulty. Not having a phone in my flat

I had no choice but to go and find a public phone box, and thus the kiosk crawl began.

The nearest box to me is situated right in front of a row of shops. There were about a dozen shoppers waiting outside so seeing that it was now a quarter to eight I thought it better to move on. I came to box number two. I stepped in, picked up the receiver and listened. I waited for the burr but no burr came. There must be something amiss I thought to myself—but what can it be. Everything comes to those that wait, so I waited. I clicked the clickers 'till my fingers changed colours. Maybe it's my ear I thought, so I changed over to the bad one. Still the Sound of Silence—but without Simon and Garfunkel. I looked hard at the receiver. It was all there.

The dial gadget was intact and the coin box was perfect. I peered through the coin slots with one eye. I saw nothing. I changed over to the other one and saw less. I left the receiver back. I looked up at **How to make a call.** There was nothing there that I didn't know and hadn't done already. I picked up the receiver once more—still no budge. Someone was knocking at the window and pointing more than a little agitatedly at something. I decided to see what she wanted so I opened the door. I took a step back still holding the receiver. "Is the phone broke" says she, "No" says I "but it's not working." "Look at that yoke" says she pointing to the lead. "What," says I, as I looked down and there the lead dangled unattached and spiral ways to the floor. I was taken aback at my own powers of non-observation but I managed to stay cool.

Off with me to kiosk number three. I took a good look at it. Five or six little panes of glass at the side were missing, but I went in the door. I examined the

lead—that was attached at all the right places. I picked up the receiver and beautiful, the burr was perfect. I put in my four-pence—in two halves and dialled away. Great — the number was ringing. A voice at the other end said "Hello." I had my thumb covering Button A and on making the desired vocal contact I pressed. The button didn't budge. I pushed—still no go. I left the receiver on top of the box. I could still hear the faint distant "Hello." I placed one thumb on top of the other for double strength. Still nothing happened. Not my lucky day.

I looked round—there was no one coming. I yelled "Hello" into the phone but from the impatient repetitive "Hellos" at the other end I concluded that I wasn't being heard. I gave another look round. An old man was walking slowly towards me. I waited 'till he'd gone on about fifty yards before I shouted again. Still 'twas no use. I hung up and pressed Button B to get my money back. Do you think 'twould come—not on your life. Just as well, thought I, that I brought along my second four pence.

I came out of the box, considered counting to ten but was sick of numbers. I could see something yellow in the distance and it was too big to be a banana. It didn't move so I decided it must be a kiosk. Leg weary and getting a little rattled I paced down the street holding my two twopences tight inside my closed fist. There were four people waiting outside. I saw the queue but walked up to the box just to make sure that the thing was working. "There's a queue" says someone as I passed, "I know" I said. "Get back to the end of it" says another one of them. I was tempted to say I can't—there's someone there already. However I thought better of it. After all for every woman who is driven

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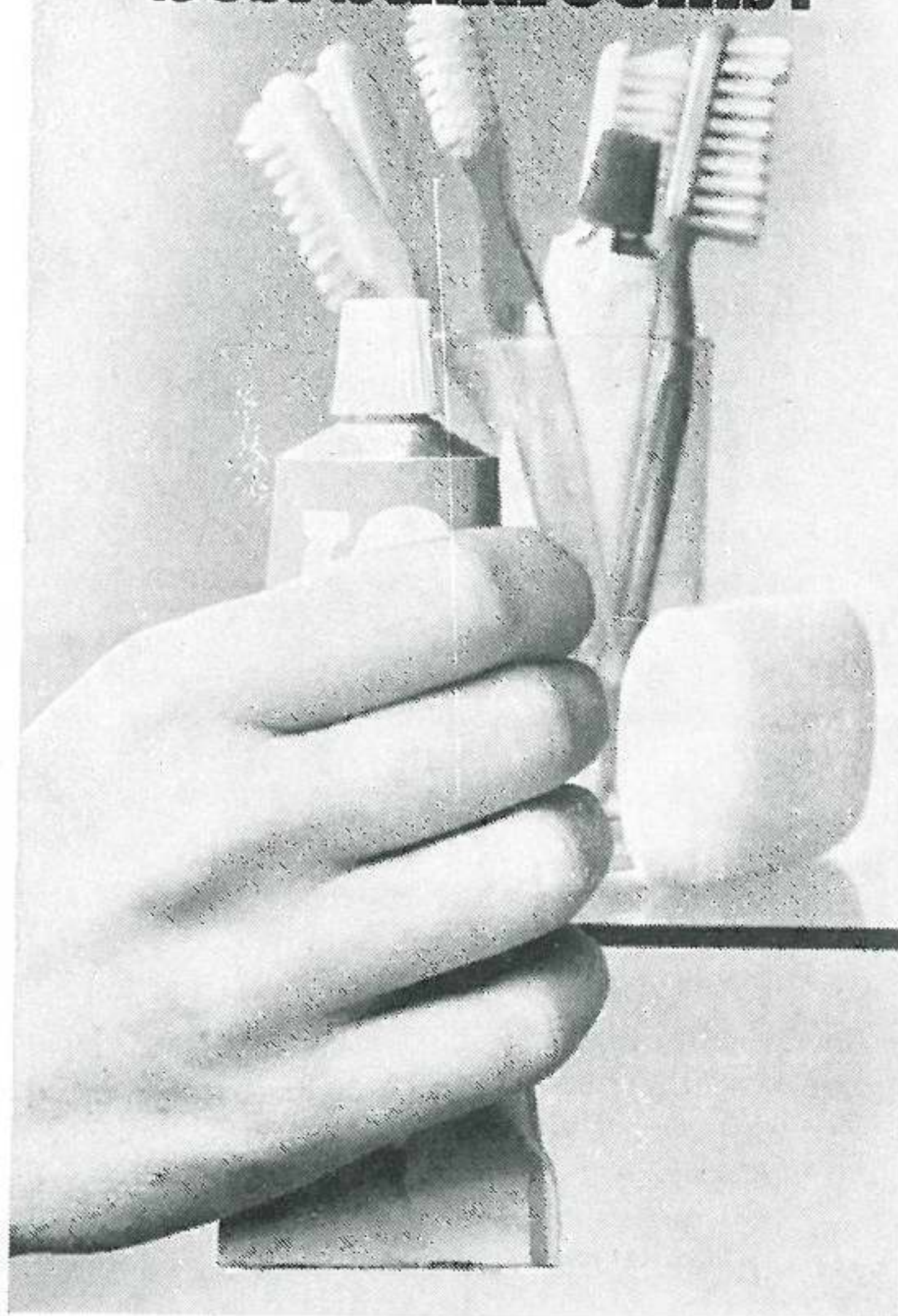
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to distraction ten get there under their own steam.

The caller came out looking pleased with her accomplishment. The next in the queue, a woman, went in. She had a young fellow of about seven with her whom she left outside. Looking from a distance 'twas apparent that she was having some difficulty. She left the receiver off the hook and proceeded to root at length in a big black bag. Whatever she was looking for seemingly wasn't there. What would be the next move I wondered. I needn't have. She craned her neck round the kiosk and told the young fellow to go back down and tell his father to give him Mary Ellen's phone number—that 'twas in her Sunday bag on top of the press in the kitchen. You might ask why she didn't consult the Directory. That was the line along which I was thinking too but having dealt the young fellow his instructions she paid compliments Cuid a hAon and Cuid a Dó to whoever took the Dublin part of the Directory and left the Culchie part which she said was of no use to anyone.

At this stage number three announced that he wouldn't be a minute. To give him his due he kept his word. That left the line clear for number four. He wasn't even a minute but for a different reason. He came out wearing a face and muttering ungentlemanly compliments about the unfortunate operator. Indeed, he couldn't understand how such a fool could get into a job like that.

At this juncture the boy returned carrying the bag which caused his dispatch in the first place. The bag was monstrous so I resigned myself to the greatest search of all time. To keep myself amused I decided to fidget with my surviving four pence. Unfortunately two pence fell and proceeded to roll down the path.

It took a turn for the worse and it rolled in under a low slung sports car. That kind of a car doesn't take too kindly to being crawled under. I smiled at the nice gentleman behind me and cast my eyes in the direction where I figured the two pence lay. He immediately showed willingness to become a retriever. As he hurried towards the car his hat blew off and rolled back towards me. I stepped towards it. The hat gave another sudden twirl. Impulsively I committed the greatest millinery offence of all time — I stood on the hat. I knew I had done a terrible wrong. I looked down to see where my man was. He was looping himself in under the car. I was mortified. He got up with the two pence and brushed down the front of his suit. He handed me my money. I handed him his hat. I said "Thanks". He said nothing. I figured he was upset—he left the queue, walked briskly away, muttering to himself, as he went in a rather strange dialect.

I peeped in again at my friend in the box. She didn't appear to be getting anywhere. I stood my ground hoping my luck would soon turn. The door opened and out she stepped. Any luck I asked. I really meant it as a rhetorical question as time had gone past being precious but be that as it may, I got a full explanation. She leaned in my direction and whispered that Mary Ellen must be out. She went on to explain that the said Mary Ellen usually goes to confession at this time on the first Saturday. However she said she didn't really mind as she was only calling to say "Hello." She lived round the corner and she'd come back again in about an hour.

Some people have all the luck thought I as I stepped into the box.

This time I got through. "Hello," says I, "this is me." "Indeed who else could it be," says

he, "and how is it that you're never in time." Before he went any further I asked him if he had the tickets for me. He had—so that made it all worthwhile. I desisted from telling him how I had spent the time from eight to nine — I know he wouldn't believe me. Anyway I'm convinced now more than ever that the world still belongs to those who stay cool.

I came out of the box, my dial alight, held the door for the next "unfortunate" in the queue and off with me home. I was greeted with "what kept you" . . . "Well you see," I started, "'twas like this" . . .

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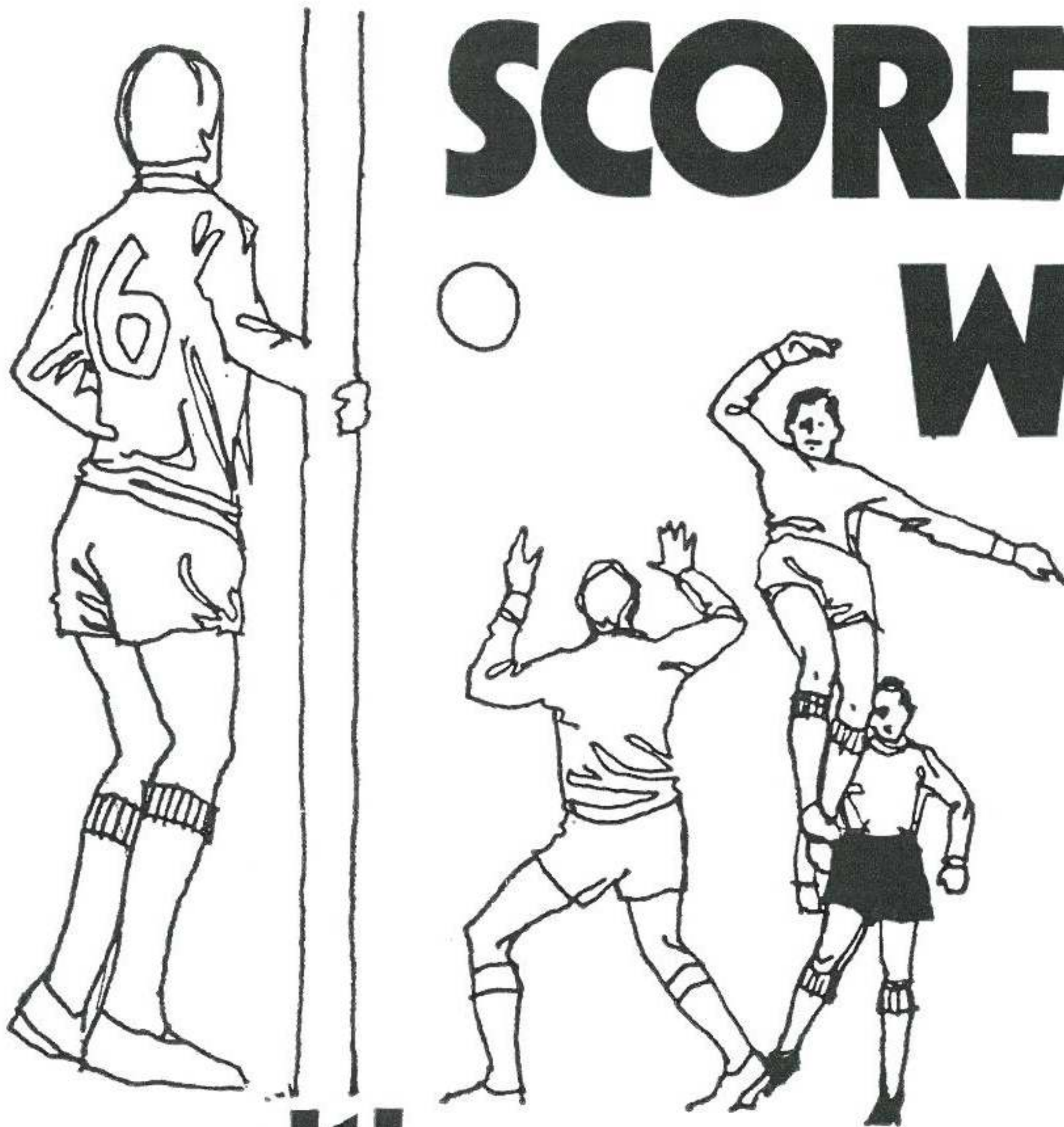
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REGARDLESS of what happens on final day, the Leinster champions have already done something no other Dublin team has achieved in over half a century — qualify for a third consecutive final.

When they beat Meath in the

Leinster final they became the first Dublin team to win three successive provincial championships since the side of 1932-'34. Their victory over Galway in last month's semi-final gave them the distinction of being the first Dubliners to take the county to three consecutive All-Ireland finals in over half a century.

Not since April 26, 1925 has a Dublin team appeared in three finals in a row. That was when the team of the early 1920s played the delayed '24 final, which was the team's fifth consecutive decider. In 1920 they lost to Tipperary, beat Mayo in '21, overcame Galway in '22 and defeated Kerry in the '23 final but lost to Kerry in the following year's decider. In the period since then up to last year's final, Dublin's appearances in the final have been single ones—1934, '42, '55, '58, '63.

Twice in very early days of the G.A.A., Dublin had three successive finals (1897-'99 and 1906-'08).

But, of course, the Dubs will not be satisfied with merely qualifying for a third final; they want to win it and—more important — gain revenge for the shock they suffered at the hands of Kerry last year. Whether they win, lose or draw—in view of all the draws we have had this year it's probably tempting the gods even to think about a draw—there will be no doubt that Dublin will, mentally if not physically, be a much different side from that which the Kingdom faced in '75.

First and foremost, they will be the outsiders, so the "boot is on the other foot" as it were this time. Much though Kerry would want it otherwise, the Munster champions are hot favourites, especially following that devastating second half display against Derry in the

semi-final. Therefore, the intense pressure is on them now, as it was on Dublin going into last year's final as defending champions.

Secondly, Dublin will have learned the chastening lesson of 1975 that they are not, nor ever were, unbeatable.

However, the Dubs will, I believe, have benefitted from their 1975 defeat — and, unpalatable though it was at the time, they may now see it as a blessing in disguise. It gave them an ordinary run through this year's championship — almost relaxed, in fact, if getting through any championship campaign could be regarded as being relaxed—in the sense that each game wasn't a mini All-Ireland final as was the case last summer when they were the reigning champions.

Nothing could detract from Kerry's marvellous victory in last year's final; on the day—and possessing the dynamic dedication and will-to-win they had—no team would have stopped them. They were convincing and very worthy champions.

Yet, I believe that even if Dublin's physical well-being was all right for the final, they were at the time mentally tired. Remember they had gone through a winter of Division 2 football (1973-'74) that may not have been very taxing on their ability but which was vitally significant from the point of view of morale. They followed this with their All-Ireland championship of '74 and then went into a severe League campaign, in which every game was utterly crucial as far as prestige was concerned, and they had a three weeks tour of America, which didn't leave much time for rest before going into the defence of their championship. So they had, in reality, two years of stiff pressure bearing down on them; at the end of it

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It's record time

THE Best of Irish Ceili music is a special compilation of some of the best known ceili bands in the country. It includes representatives from Clare the home of the two leading bands, the Tulla and the Kilfenora, who between them supply eight tracks. The Gallowglass, the Ardellis from Cork and the Crehan family are also represented.

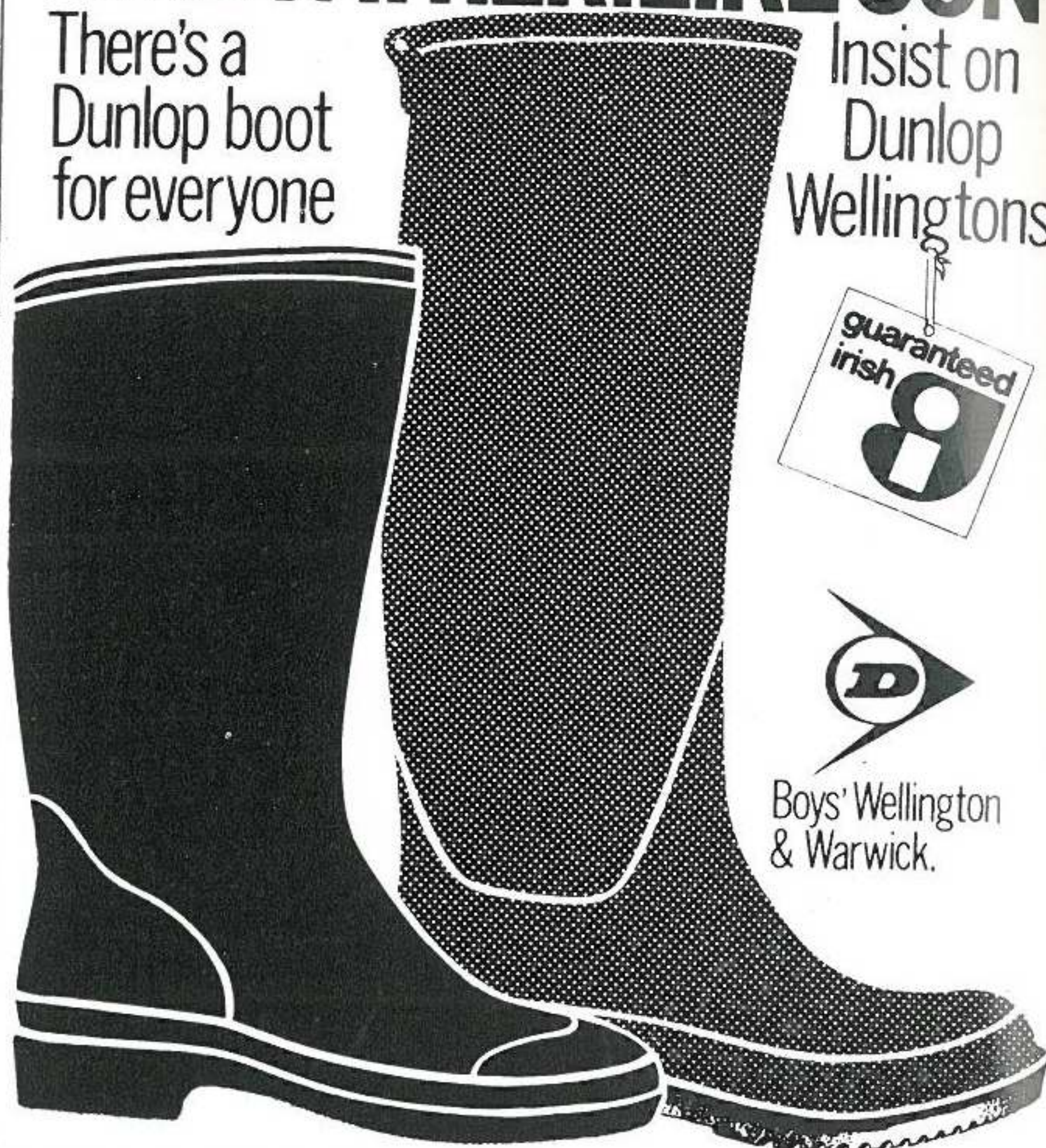
Crubeens first LP for EMI is a collection of traditional and country folk tunes, folk songs and instrumentals. Crubeen who are a seven piece traditional folk group from Newry, Co. Down, have been together nearly three years. They have recently turned semi-professional and if all goes well, they intend to go into the music business on a full time basis. As all of them are very good musicians, their success seems assured.

A change of tempo brings us to Sandie Jones, one of Ireland's top cabaret artistes. When the topic of her new L.P. was under discussion recently, it was suggested that it be based on the popular T.V. show—The Good Old Days. The idea was accepted and a search was launched in Dublin and London that resulted in twelve well-known songs originally published between 1900 and 1930.

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This smiling trio are shown prior to the start of the epic N.F.L. game of November last between Kerry and Dublin, when the Dubs gained some consolation for their All-Ireland defeat. Shown (from left): Michael O'Sullivan (Kerry), Referee Harry O'Reilly (Louth) and Tony Hanahoe (Dublin).

● FROM PAGE 39

they could not, humanely, possess the same zest and eagerness that they had shown at the commencement of their climb to prominence.

The present Kerry side have had pressures in the past year. They, too, had a championship to defend and they toured the U.S. But two factors stand in Kerry's favour that were not there for Dublin 12 months ago. One, the formation of the Kerry side as a senior team began not much more than a year ago and, two, they have youth on their

side — the average age of the team in last month's semi-final was 21½ years compared with Dublin's 25½ years in their semi-final. In addition, they went out of the League in March this year, so the months of April and May gave them some time to re-charge their energies.

Not many were impressed with Dublin's victories in Leinster this summer, despite wins of 24 and 10 points respectively before they played Meath, who were only beaten by two points. Then came the one-goal defeat of Galway, which emphasised the fact that although defensive problems appear to have been resolved with the return to form of full-back Sean Doherty and new solidarity on the half-back line provided by Tommy Drumm and Kevin Moran, they are not happy in attack. Forwards are not scoring with the frequency or power they formerly displayed.

Jimmy Keaveney got 1-5 against Galway and Tony Hana-

hoe, David Hickey and John McCarthy had one-point apiece. That's not the sort of scoring distribution that wins championships. When they beat Cork in the '74 semi-final five forwards as well as midfielders, Brian Mullins and Steve Rooney, got on the score-sheet and against Derry last year all six forwards participated in the scoring.

It's worth remembering that in last year's final five Kerry forwards, who started the match, and Ger O'Driscoll who replaced the injured Mickey O'Sullivan, shared the scores for the winners.

Obviously, then, scoring power will have been the main concern of the Dublin "Big Three" Kevin Heffernan, Lorcan Redmond and Donal Colfer in the weeks before the final. Whether they and the players can solve the problem is something we will not fully know 'till approximately 4.40 p.m. on Sunday, 26th September next.

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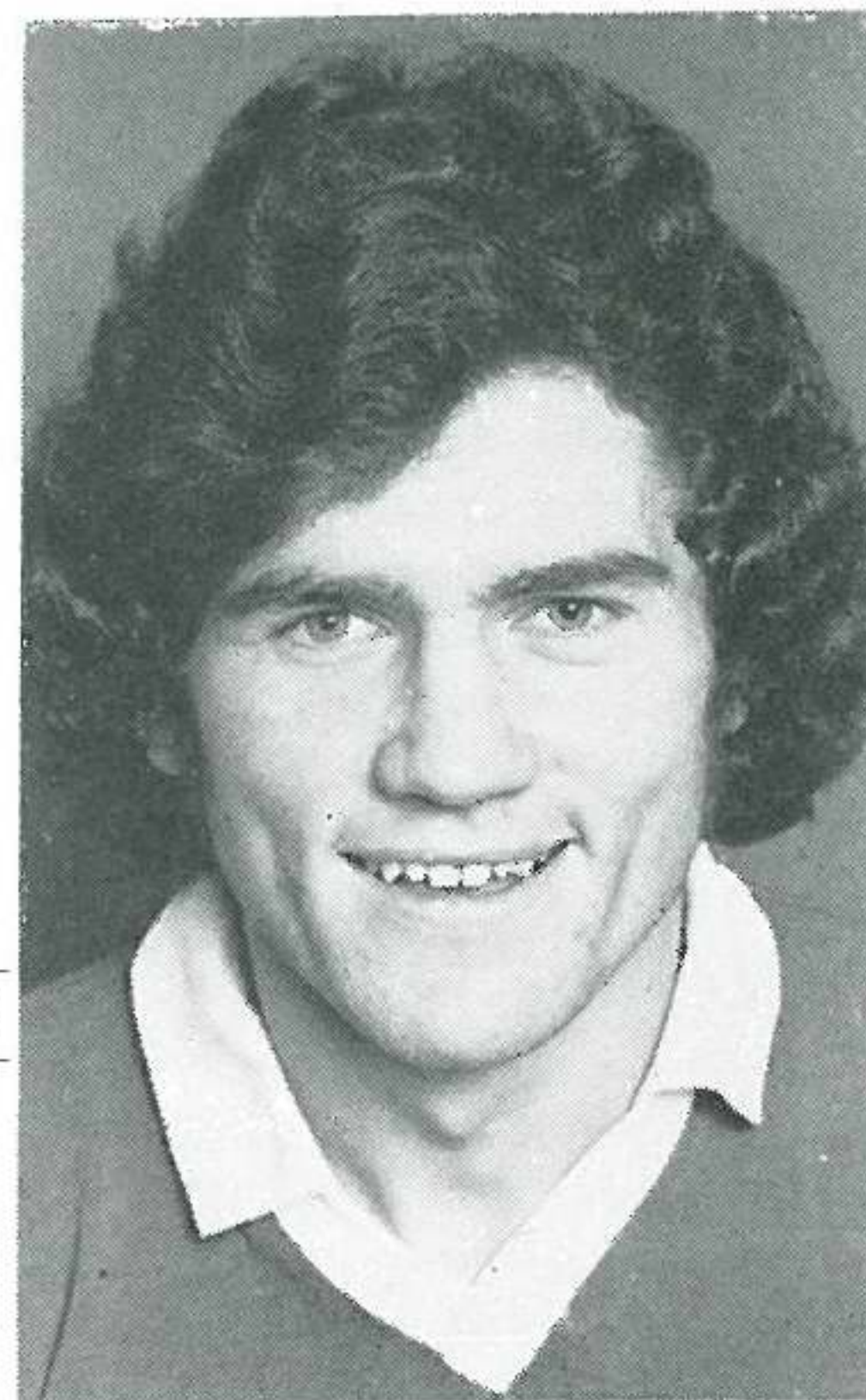
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GER POWER



By MICK DUNNE of RTE Sport

KERRY has been blessed with so many gifted footballers in every generation that a friend of mine periodically tries to convince me, with convenient disregard for fact, that "they grow on trees down there". It's his explanation for the county's long-held leadership of the championship roll of honour.

While I, in turn, make due allowance for his excess of exaggeration I readily acknowledge the undeniable fact that the Kingdom has never lacked an abundance of very talented players. Consequently a decade of this century has never gone by without Kerry winning at least two All-Ireland championships.

Goalkeepers, backs, midfielders and forwards—great and greater ones—crop up in every generation with the same regularity as the growing season. This has been particularly true of wing backs, especially left halves. Some of the most celebrated Kerry men were those who graced Croke Park and the other major grounds with their arts and crafts while

wearing the No. 7 green and gold jersey.

Even a selective list sparkles with household names of celebrated left half-backs. Tim O'Donnell was in that position on the 1930 team, Eddie Walsh won All-Ireland medals there in 1939, '40, '41 and '46, Micksey Palmer was the 1953 left half before moving to corner back, then Colm Kennedy took over, next came Mick O'Dwyer—as brilliant a half-back as he was, later, a corner forward—and most latterly Mick O'Shea.

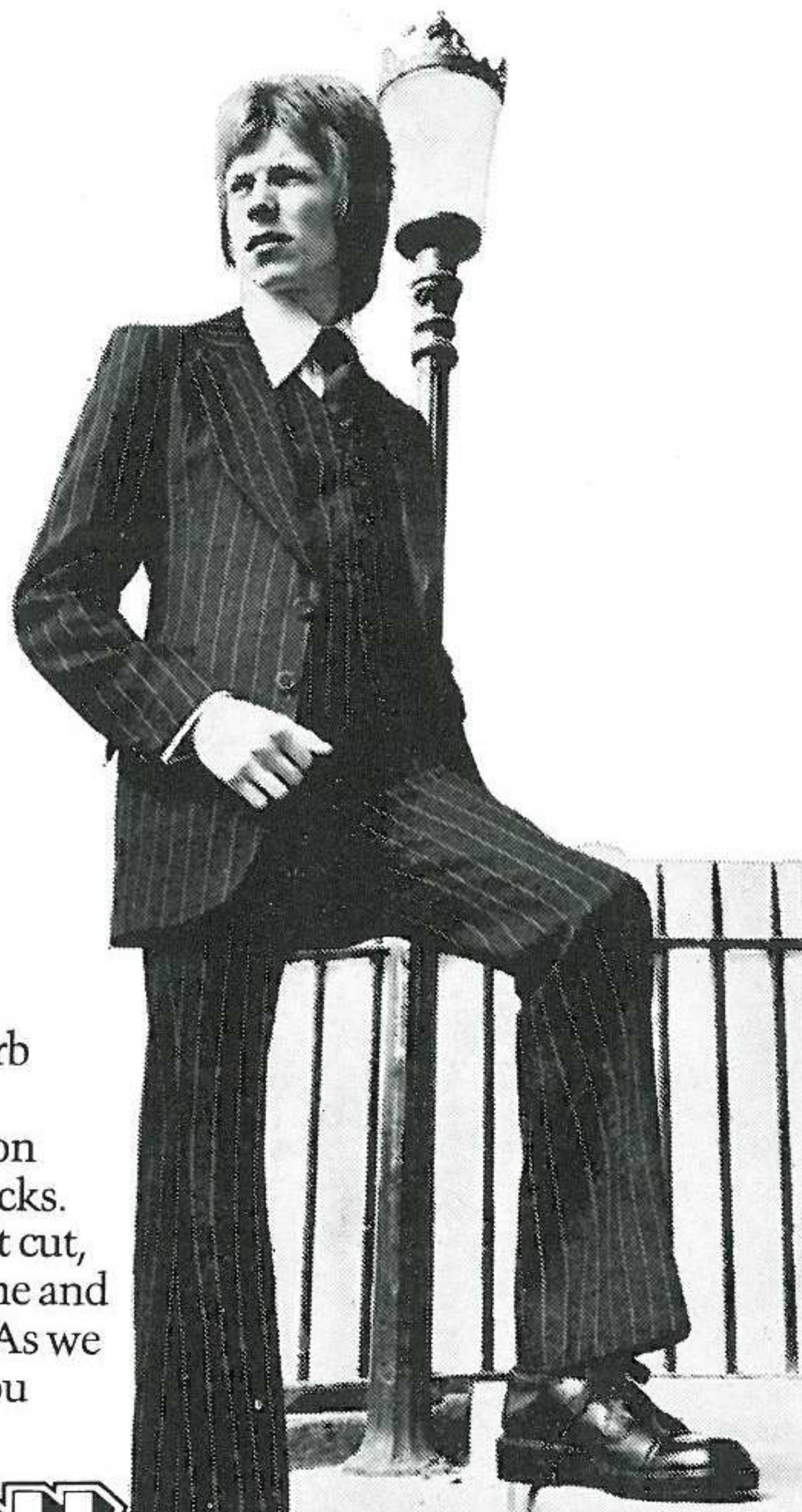
So Ger Power, the latest holder of the No. 7 jersey, was following a most illustrious line when he took over as left half-back. He has filled the position with excellence, not only in last year's

final for which he won the "man of the match" award from myself and my colleagues in RTE Sport, but in every game since he became the permanent occupier of that berth. Therefore he can justifiably stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the greatest of Kerry wing backs.

Full of determination and grit, Ger is a completely alert defender, rarely caught out of position, and always displaying such a tenacity of purpose that opponents experience the utmost difficulty escaping from his attentions. His resourcefulness and timing find him, frequently, lending a hand to hard-pressed colleagues; his speed and dash very often enable him to career down the left wing on over-lapping, enterprising runs that can so quickly turn solid defence into adventurous attack.

It is this latter feature of his

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Cork have proud minor record

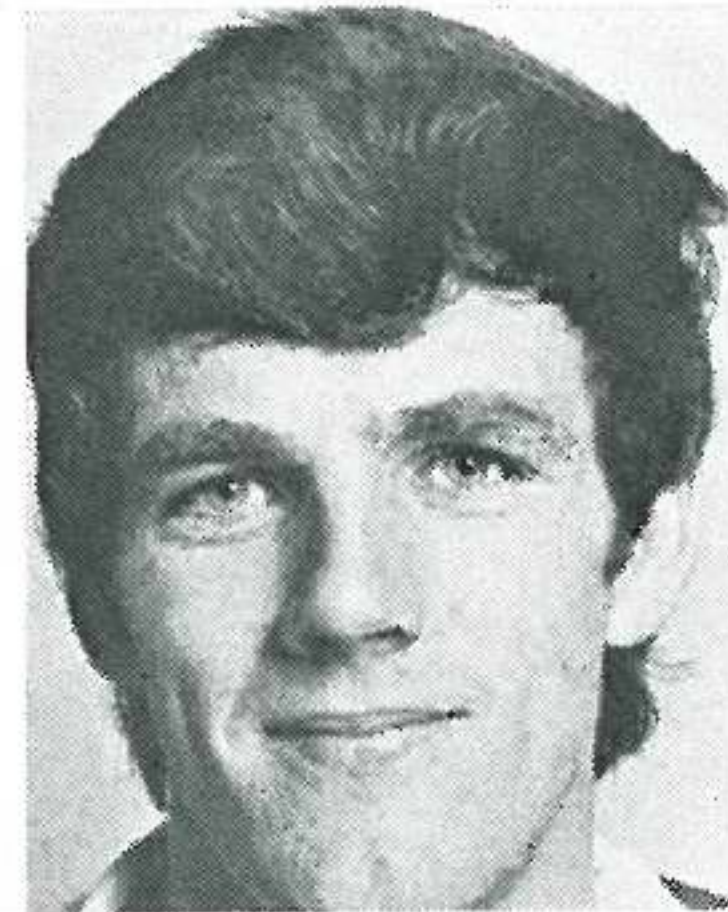
By NEIL McCAVANA

I HAVE high hopes that this novel All-Ireland minor football final — it will be the first meeting of Cork and Galway at this stage since 1960 — will provide as skilled and exciting a game as the clash of Galway and Dublin in the second semi-final in August, which gave such a welcome and timely boost to the under-18 standards.

The quality of football in that game was much superior to that which we saw in the Cork-Tyrone semi-final. But, I'm convinced that the Munster champions are capable of much better things and will play their part in making this a close, thrilling match, embellished with clever play, well taken scores and, above all, a clean and sporting encounter.

The present Leaside team, which regained the Munster title

BRILLIANT MINORS OF FORMER YEARS



Our pictures here show Cyril Dunne (left) and Ray Cummins. Cyril played in the Galway minor side of '59 which went on to win the Connacht championship; Ray Cummins, who was a brilliant minor with Cork in 1966, played on both hurling and football selections.

with a two points win over a good Kerry outfit, may not have impressed in the manner of the powerful combinations that earned Cork such an enviable reputation in modern-day minor football with five All-Ireland crowns between 1967 and 1974, nonetheless, there is a lot of genuine skill in the side.

The Cork forwards took some time to find their way through to goal against Tyrone, but they still finished up with a worthwhile score, and in the process showed that each man requires to be closely watched.

Ger Mulcahy at full forward could pose extra special problems for the Galway defence. This roving Mitchelstown club player is a smart-mover, who uses the ball well, and he is sharp in his shooting—he scored 1-9 in his last two championship games.

Billy Collins, from St. Finbarr's, who captains the team from the No. 13 position, was another who caught the eye prominently in the wins over Kerry and Tyrone. With plenty of drive as well in the half line, it looks as if the all-round power is there to ensure that, if given the chance to shine, the Leaside raiders will mount a really worth-

while challenge to the Connacht defence.

The Cork backs were caught out at times in the semi-final, but they tightened up as the game went on, and in left full Michael Moloney, right half Donal Buckley and alert goal-keeper Sean Martin they have the type of footballers who could provide that extra touch of inspiration and dependability to ensure that the Galway forwards find goal-scoring a difficult task.

In the middle of the park, I was much taken by the progressive work of Michael Mullins, who really sparked the Munster champions into match-winning gear early in the second half of the All-Ireland semi-final. Cork were trailing by three points when the dashing Mitchelstown player went off on a 30 yards solo run, four minutes into the second half, and finished by cracking home a fine goal. Although Tyrone hit back promptly for a point, Cork began to get a grip on the proceedings, and went on for a deserved 3-8 to 1-4 win.

So, all in all, the Leasiders look well equipped to make a tremendous bid to make it the perfect record in three finals

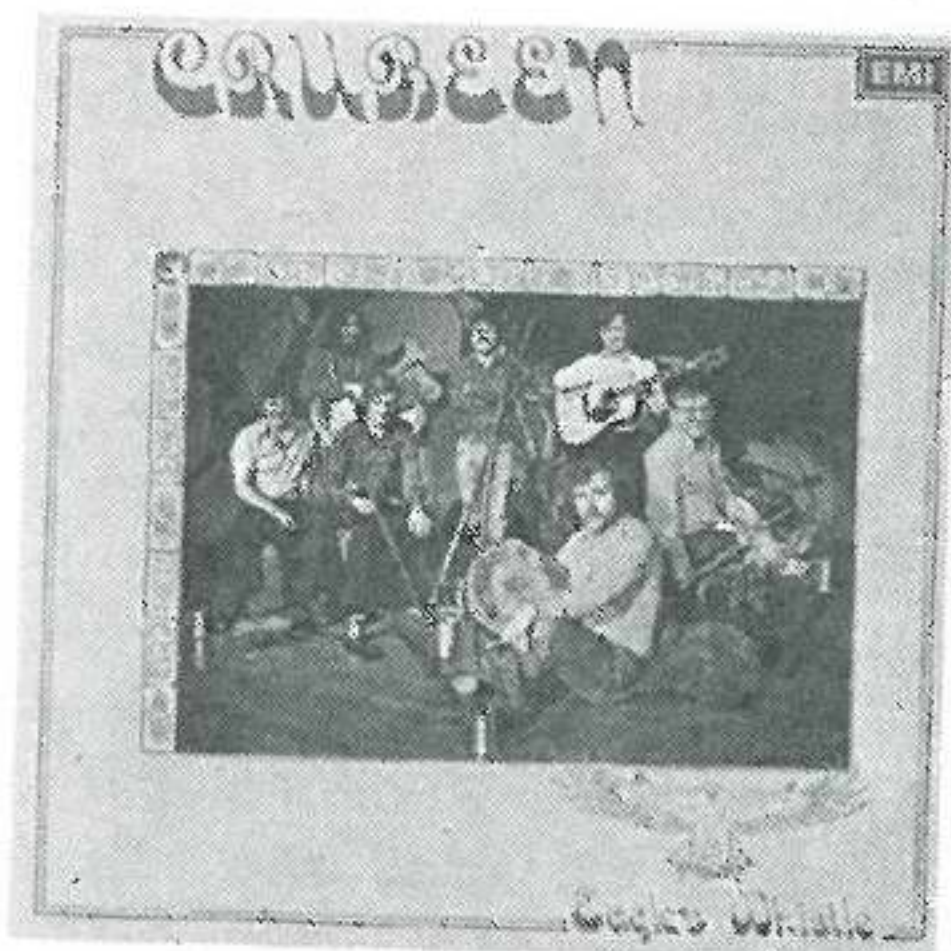
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MURPHY

It's a beautiful pint



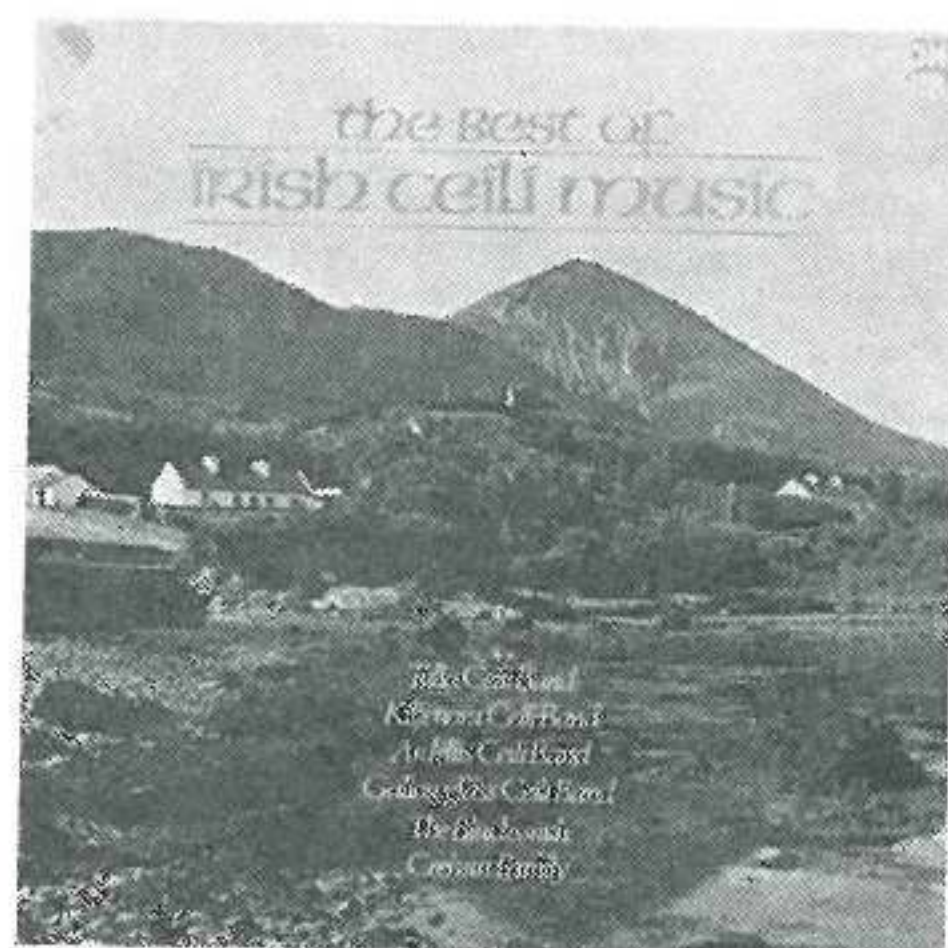
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MEN IN THE KNOW FAVOUR KERRY

DEFEATED semi-finalists, Galway and Derry are perhaps in a better position than most, to assess the merits of the rivals in the All-Ireland decider.

We took the opportunity to pick the brains of some personalities from the beaten camps.

BERTIE COLEMAN:

A good, hard game, with Kerry getting there in the end. But they will have some fight. Dublin should have matters much their own way at mid-field, and this must put a lot of pressure on the Kerry defence.

But I have sufficient confidence in the Kerry attack, that despite what could be an indifferent supply, they will get the scores to win it.

ANTHONY McGURK:

Kerry look the clear favourites, and deservedly so. They are the team which has played all the good football.

But an All-Ireland final is seldom a one-sided affair. And I see no reason to anticipate one now.

In fact I think it will be an extremely close game. Dublin

will be determined to prove that they are still the best team in the land, and this is a great motivation.

The element of surprise is no longer present either. Each team knows the strengths and weaknesses of the other.

It should be a grand match. If I had to give a vote, I would go for Kerry, but as I say, there will be nothing comfortable about it.

LARRY DIAMOND:

I can't see Kerry being beaten. Let's face it, Dublin's display against Galway was a poor one: it compared in no way to what Kerry did to us.

This Kerry team has everything going for them. They are young, full of enthusiasm and have plenty of talent. If they are allowed to play football by Dublin, they will run riot.

Kerry have a big problem at mid-field, but then their half backs are so good that parity in that area is not essential to their cause.

If Kerry are to lose, they will have to have an off day. And I mean an off day. Even Kerry

below par can beat this Dublin side.

Dublin really have nothing to lose and this fact could spur them on. But they will have to show remarkable improvement on their semi-final form.

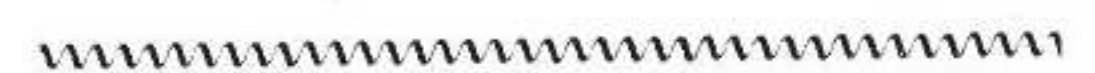
FRANKIE KEARNEY:

Everything points to a decisive win for Kerry. They looked world beaters against Derry; they were far more impressive than Dublin; they appear fresher mentally and appear to have the more talented players.

Yet, I believe it will be closer than many people imagine. An All-Ireland final can motivate players, and remember Dublin have been through it all before: they know what is required.

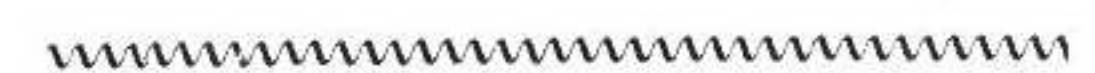
Also the fact that Kerry are the opposition, will give Dublin

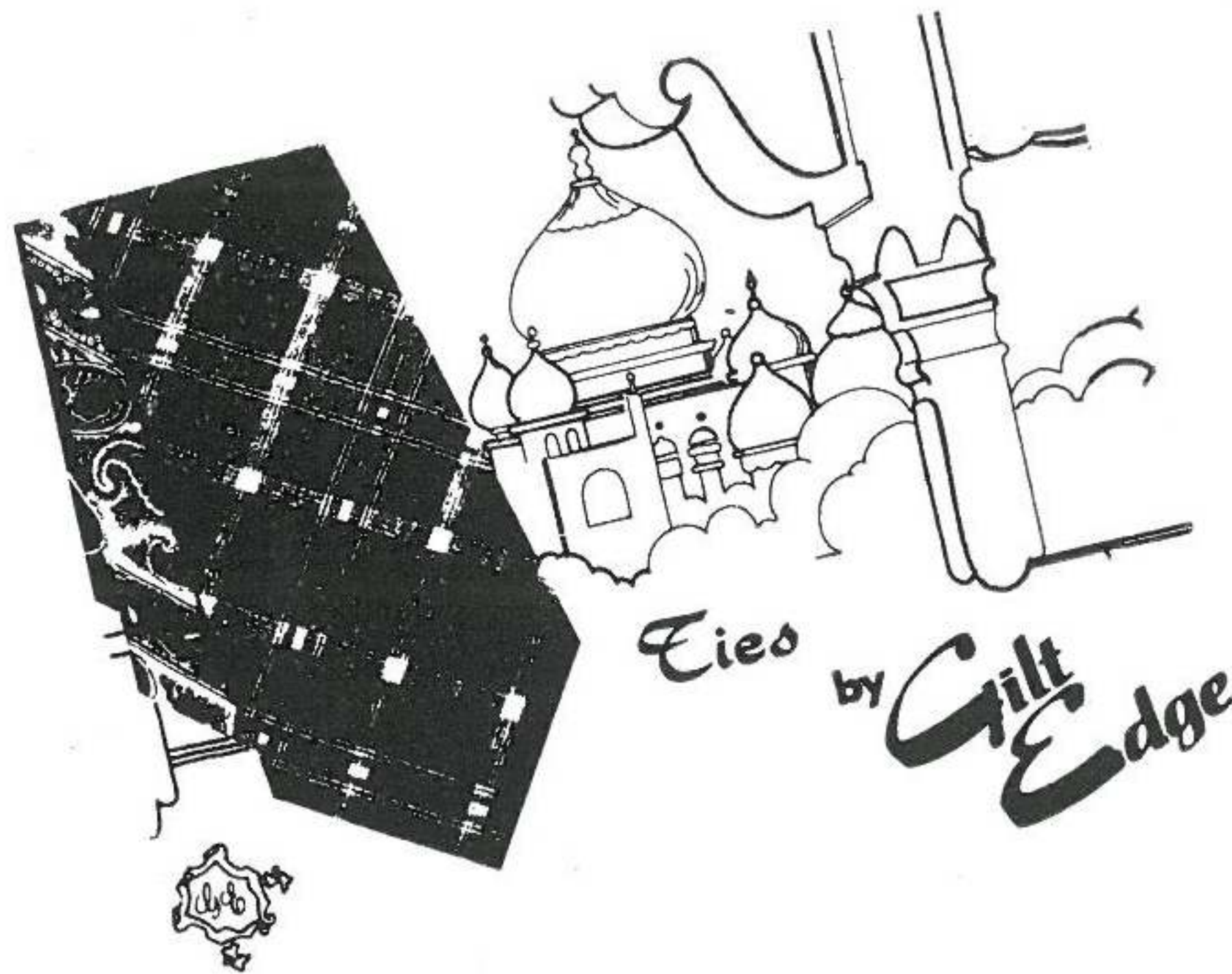
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● PAUD O'SHEA ● GER POWER
KERRY KERRY

"If O'Shea and Power are kept quiet then the Kerry attack could see precious little of the ball," says Galway's Enda Colleran.





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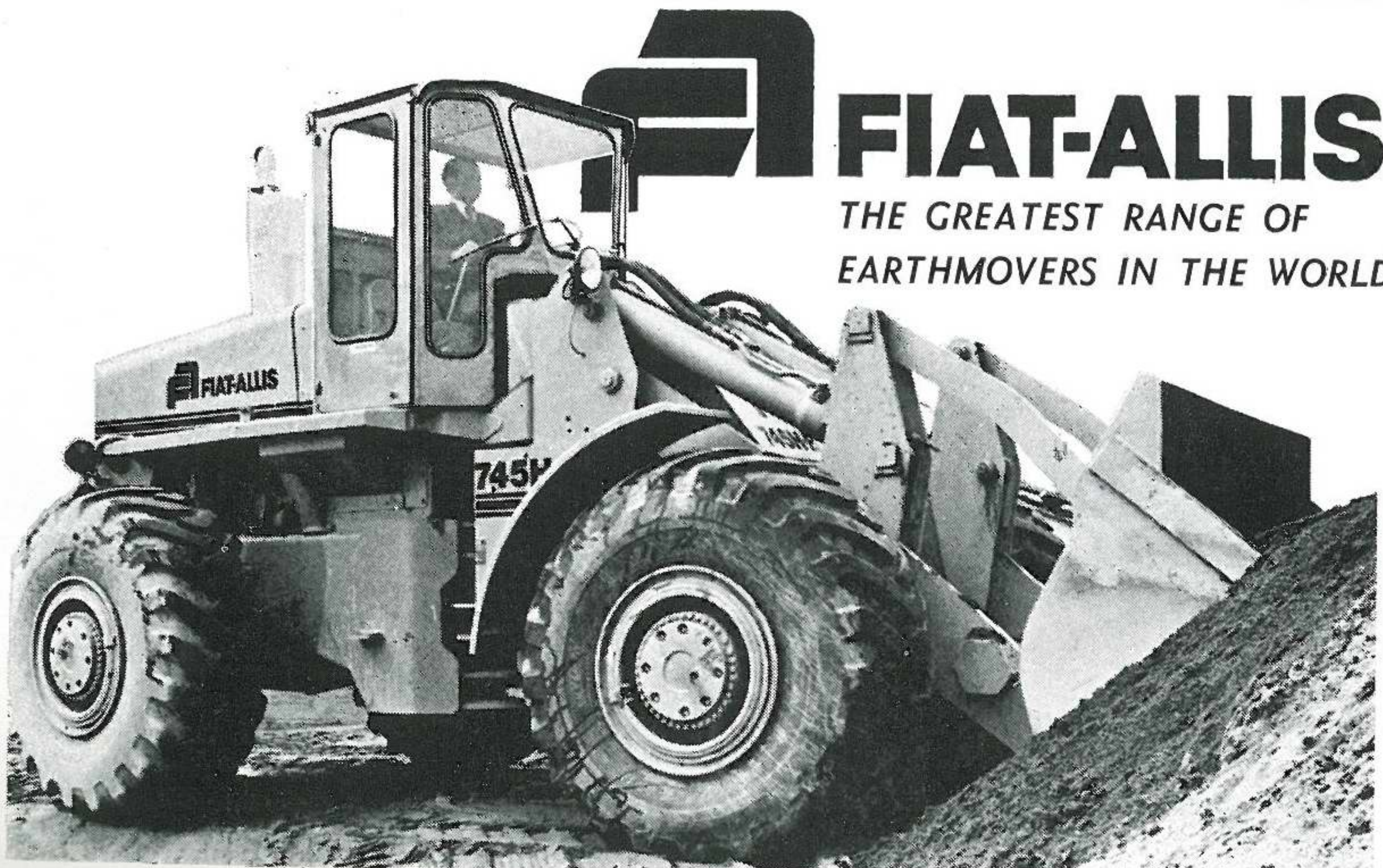
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● FROM PAGE 47

an extra incentive. No team likes to lose an All-Ireland final, so Dublin will be determined to avenge last year's defeat.

Militating against Dublin is the fact that they did so well in the League. How often in the past have League winning teams faltered in the championship.

However while Dublin will undoubtedly make a match of it, Kerry are the form side and should get there.

ENDA COLLERAN:

Dublin have a much better chance than last year. Then Kerry were something of a surprise packet, and pulled one over on them.

Now Dublin know what to expect and there's no better team than Dublin at calculating the weaknesses of the opposing team.

If Dublin can dominate at mid field — and the signs are that they will—then Kerry could be in very serious trouble indeed.

Dublin will be anxious to prevent the Kerry half backs from mounting attacks, and if O'Shea and Power are kept quiet, then

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the Kerry attack could see precious little of the ball.

Kerry are of course an outstanding team, and I rate their chances highly. Yet I see it as a very open game.

The referee I feel must keep a tight hold on the game. If he allows dragging and holding, then we could have a boring, uninteresting game.

JIMMY DUGGAN:

Dublin are capable of producing far better football than they showed against us. The marking in that game was so tight that free flowing football was out of the question.

It could be a different Dublin

in the final. But I feel they will have to step up greatly on their form in the semi final, if Kerry are to be held.

There can be no question that the Kerry attack is, as a unit, the most lethal in the game. If they are given space, then Dublin are dead.

But Kerry have a mid field weakness and much will depend on who plays there for Kerry, and more important how they perform.

I see it being a pretty close game, and because of the tight marking it may not be great entertainment. Kerry have the class to do it, but Dublin cannot be easily dismissed.

THE MINORS

● FROM PAGE 45

(1972 and 1974) since losing to Mayo in 1971.

Galway followed up their 11th title win in Connacht in July by displaying great character and flair in their success over a first-class Dublin outfit. They were five points in arrears after fifteen minutes, but reduced the deficit to a point by the interval. Then, after falling four points behind ten minutes into the second half, they were good enough again to battle back for a hard-earned 2-8 to 2-7 win.

I was much taken by the defensive powers of winger Joe Kelly, of Tuam Stars, and Gerry Forde, Annaghdown, and full back Ollie Burke, from Corofin. They are well supported, too, in the other positions, and I can't see the sector giving the Cork attack much room to manoeuvre.

Leo Higgins was the man who shot the vital winning goal for the Westerners in the 54th minute of the semi-final following a grand solo run. The Corofin youth, and his partner, Gerry Burke, who captains the side and

is also a club-mate of Higgins', are skilled footballers, who get through plenty of efficient work in midfield, and provide a strong link between defence and attack.

There are plenty of scorers in the Western forward division. Gay McManus at full is proving a capable marksman, and already has 1-14 to his credit in the series. Kieran O'Sullivan, from Oughterrard, and Padraic Conroy (Leitir Mor) are others with good scoring records, but all the finishers are capable of profiting from any flaws in the Munster defence.

Galway, then, have good reason to be optimistic about their chances of regaining the title last won in 1970, when they beat Kerry in a replay. And, if that happens they will maintain an enviable record as the county has yet to lose a national final in this grade of football.

Nevertheless, I must admit that despite the refreshing brand of football that we saw in the Galway-Dublin match, I have a leaning to Cork. They are a workmanlike and solid outfit; and in the side, I feel they will have the all round power, balance and ability necessary to squeeze through.

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GER POWER

FROM PAGE 43

play which reveals the fact that he has not always been a defender. Indeed, it's fair to say he has spent as much time in the Kerry jersey as a forward — chosen as one, that is—as he has in defence. So it's not surprising that he has a liking for the incisive foray forward.

It was as left half-forward on the 1970 minor side that he appeared in his first All-Ireland final and, indeed, he contributed 3-5 of the Kerry scoring in that championship, which ended when they lost the replayed final by a single point to Galway.

The following year he was on the under-21 team, in 1972 he was right half-forward in the under-21 semi-final against Galway, but when he won his under 21 medal three years ago it was as centre half-back.

Even before that All-Ireland success he had shown the Kerry selectors enough of his future greatness to be included as corner forward in the National

League that commenced in October 1972, but after two games at the top of the left he was moved to left half-back by November for the visit to the Cork Athletic Grounds.

For a time then he was out of the first 15, but went in as a sub. in the successful League final of 1973 against Offaly and was called in again as a half-back in the Munster semi-final against Tipperary.

When the new League commenced in October '73 he was again at No. 7, but moved to right half-back for six matches in that league campaign—with one appearance again at left half-forward thrown-in (against Offaly, Dec. '73)—before reverting to the No. 12 spot for the replay league final against Roscommon in May '74. For over a year afterwards he alternated between that attacking position and right half-back before taking over as the regular left half against Tip-

perary for the start of last year's championship.

His brilliance throughout that championship was recognised when he was named the Carrolls All-Star left half for 1975.

It's not surprising, of course, that Ger has gained prominence as a footballer. Although born in Annacotty (Co. Limerick) 24 years ago last June, he has lived in Tralee from infancy and, being a son of one of Limerick's greatest hurlers, it was only natural that he should be imbued with a love for Gaelic sport, a devotion which was strengthened when he joined the famed Austin Stacks club.

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THERE was a wonderful response to our Lucozade G.A.A. Competition for 200 colourful wall charts, published in our August issue. Entries came from every county in Ireland, from across the Channel and even from as far afield as the United States.

We would like to thank all who took part in the competition and to congratulate the winners. Also, we would like to thank Beecham of Ireland Ltd., manufacturers of Lucozade, who so generously sponsored our competition. The Lucozade G.A.A. wall charts are on their way to the lucky 200 readers.

Finally, the solutions to our competition:—

- 1) Q. What trophy is presented to the winners of the All-Ireland senior hurling championship?
 A. The Liam McCarthy Cup.
- 2) Q. Name two goalkeepers who have captained All-

Ireland senior championship winning teams in recent seasons.

- A. Any two of the following accepted: Jack Mangan (Galway) 1956, John Cul-lotty (Kerry) 1969, Paddy

Barry (Cork) 1970, Noel Skehan (Kilkenny) 1972, and Billy Morgan (Cork) 1973.

- 3) Q. Who captained Kerry to last year's football final win?

- A. Michael O'Sullivan was Kerry's captain but had to retire during the game with an injury. Pat Spillane accepted the Cup in his absence.

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

JUNIOR DESK, our column for younger G.A.A. fans is now in its SEVENTH YEAR. It grows more popular all the time and the "Mailbag" section is a pretty good reflection of the star appeal of players and the G.A.A. interests of the Irish youth of today.

Football final time again. How the year has flown. I always regard the football final as the end of the Summer. It's time to be preparing for the Winter after that. I have missed two football finals only since 1954. My eldest daughter Lisa was born on the eve of the 1962 final and my brother Fr. Paddy died on the eve of the 1972 final. So I had good reasons for missing both.

What final did I enjoy most apart from the Galway successes? I think Kerry's display last year was tremendous. They will find it much more difficult to beat Dublin this year. Outstanding performers down the years' Michael Grace (Meath) 1954, Mickie Palmer (Kerry) 1955, Sean Purcell (Galway) 1956, Stephen White (Louth) 1957, Kevin Heffernan (Dublin) 1958, Sean Murphy (Kerry) 1959 I have mentioned players from winning teams only. There were many outstanding losers too. But space doesn't permit any more reminiscing. Seán Murphy's display in 1959 was the greatest individual display of wing half back football I have seen. Here's hoping for a final as good as last year. We need it for the sake of the game.

CUT-OUT

Our CUT-OUT this month is

Ray McConville of Down. Ray plays at half back and has been playing for his county since 1967, winning an All-Ireland medal in 1968. Down may not be the force they were in the heyday of Seán O'Neill, James McCartan and Pat Rice but they still play an attractive brand of football and I will always regard their All-Ireland winning teams of 60-'61 as the finest I have seen.

"SPIRIT OF THE GLEN"

I am indebted to Pat Murphy (Glen Rovers — St. Nicks) for sending me on 10 copies of the Glen Rovers club history so that I can redeem the proud name of this great club. I have sent on a copy to one of the Junior Desk fans from Oola. It is the best club history I have seen and the tribute to Christy Ring is superb. The tribute is written by Paddy Downey (The Irish Times) under the title "Here Comes The King."

G.A.A. SHOP

Be sure to visit the G.A.A. Shop on All-Ireland final day. It is full of interesting G.A.A. items for clubs, games equipment, supporters' wear, souvenirs, stationery, pennants, youth sets. You can have a price list catalogue (which is most comprehensive and kept regularly up to date) if you write to G.A.A. Shop, Croke Park, Dublin 3.

Finally, a very deserved few words of gratitude to Seán Ó Síocháin (Director General of the G.A.A.) for being so nice to a party of 25 Salthill youngsters who arrived at Croke Park for the All-Ireland semi-final between Galway and Dublin and found they hadn't budgeted

properly. Not alone did he allow them in for a nominal figure but he came down personally to welcome the boys. I wouldn't have heard about it but my own son Pearse was among the party.

MAILBAG

Olwyn Reidy, Liffey View Bar, Celbridge, Co. Kildare — "I am 10 years old and I love reading the little letters in Junior Desk. My daddy's from Kerry and last year when Kerry played Kildare in Newbridge I got all the Kerry players' autographs. I would like a Cut-Out of Mike Sheehy, Ger Power, Tommy Carew, Pat Dunny or Eamonn O'Donoghue.

● *And you win a Kildare Bob-Cap, Olwyn. (J.M.)*

Richard Troy, Ballinakill, Newtownshandrum, Charleville, Co. Cork wants Cut-Outs of Billy Morgan, Brian Murphy and Denis Long. "The shot that Brian Murphy saved was not a goal."

● *I was at the game in Cork too, Richard, and honestly couldn't say. But weren't the draw and replay superb? Especially the first half of the second game. (J.M.)*

Ger Dowling, 5 Upper Johnstown, Waterford is very proud of his club, Erin's Own, who were the first team in Waterford to win nine county S.H. titles in a row. "In the 1931 Munster S.H.C. Cork, with a great team, beat Waterford by one goal, and Waterford had 14 Erin's Own men on the team. Two of my uncles were on that team that

● **OVERLEAF**

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● FROM OVERLEAF

won the 9 titles and one of them, Jim Ware, led Waterford to their first All-Ireland S.H.C. title in 1948. At the recent Erin's Own festival of hurling I had the pleasure of meeting Eddie Keher, Tony and Colm Doran, Mick Butler and Seanie O'Leary."

● *As always, a great letter, Ger. You win one of our surprise prizes and I'm not saying what it is yet! (J.M.)*

Denis O'Flynn, Ladysbridge, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork — "Con Murphy deserves credit for all the work he put into Cork's new magnificent stadium, Páirc Uí Chaoimh."

● *And so say all of us. (J.M.)*

Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick wants copies of the 1973 or 1974 All-Ireland S.H. Final programmes.

● *Collectors please note. But, Denis, have you any swop in mind? (J.M.)*

Teresa Byrne, Spynans, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow loves hurling, thinks Eddie Keher "a terrific hurler" and thinks Junior Desk is great.

● *Good girl, Teresa. (J.M.)*

Brian Casserly, 1 Westbourn Tce., Lower Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork gave a great account of the local league final between Graball and the Village for whom he played. It was a very tense finish and his team lost by a point.

● *Brian, don't be too disappointed. One team only can win and remember ye were only beaten by the smallest possible margin. (J.M.)*

Donal Bonner, Derryhenny, Doochary, Lifford, Co. Donegal wants a Cut-Out of Martin Griffin, Noel McCole and Donal Monaghan. Donal is a sub. for Rosses Rovers U-12.

● *Keep training, Donal. You'll be on the team yet. (J.M.)*

John Nolan, Hermitage, Ballygar, Co. Galway would like to get tapes of Michael O'Hehir's hurling and football final broadcasts from 1950 on.

● *Readers with any details please communicate with John. I'm always*

saying there is a market here for Michael O'Hehir broadcasts. Certainly a tape recording of an assortment of finals, like great goals or bouts of play from different finals. (J.M.)

Harry Kavanagh, Kish Bridge, Arklow, Co. Wicklow thinks the world of Wexford's Teddy O'Connor. "He was brilliant in the Leinster final."

● *A great defender. (J.M.)*

Mary Harrington, Curraclough, Lissarda, Co. Cork: "I am 9 years old and I like football. I am a great fan of Billy Morgan, Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Sean Murphy. Sean lives 2½ miles away from my home. I want a Cut-Out of Pat Spillane and Pat Hartigan."

● *You win a Cork Bob-Cap, Mary. And be sure to show it to your neighbour, Sean Murphy. He was brilliant in the replay, wasn't he? (J.M.)*

Mary Harrington's sister **Breda** (same address) writes to say her favourite players are John O'Keeffe, Ray Cummins, Billy Morgan, Denis Long, Charlie McCarthy, Denis Coughlan, Con Roche and Sean Murphy. Breda wants a Cut-Out of Billy Morgan.

Donal Ring, Coolavokig, Lissacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork thinks Kerry will make it two-in-a-row. "I was delighted to get the All-Star poster from Carrolls. Thanks for the Cut-Out of Jimmy Barry-Murphy."

Jeremiah O'Sullivan, Gortnagree, Kells, Co. Kerry wants a Cut-Out of John O'Keeffe and Paud O'Mahony and thinks this will be Kerry's year again.

Christopher Hannon, 1879, Kill, West Naas, Co. Kildare thinks the Galway three-in-a-row was an all-round brilliant team and forecasts another three-in-a-row for Kerry.

● *Two at a time first, Christopher! (J.M.)*

Eoghan Corry, Luslia, Straffan Stn., Co. Kildare has over 200 G.A.A. programmes in all and wants the following to add to his collection:—

Hurling finals pre-1943, '45, '48-'51 (incl.), '61 and '64, Football

finals pre-1943, '48, '51, replay '52, '55 to '57 (incl.) and '61.

He will exchange with any reader who can help him. He thinks surplus programmes should be sold at reduced prices because they are only collectors' items then. Eoghan wouldn't like to see the G.A.A. programme collecting "fall to the level of the English soccer programme market, an over-commercialised bottomless market where schoolchildren overpay for programmes they are convinced have some value. The G.A.A. can proudly say that they have led soccer in this field of a localised system in which the sport remains a sport and in the field of substitutes, player numbering, etc."

● *Great letter, Eoghan, and I may be able to help you regarding the surplus programmes. Further details later. (J.M.)*

Declan Keane, Moyglass, Loughrea, Co. Galway lists Sean Silke, John Connolly, Iggy Clarke, Joe McDonagh, Liam O'Brien and Pat Hartigan as his favourite hurlers.

P. J. O'Hara, Patrick Street, Mountrath, Co. Laois is 11 years old and plays at centre half forward in both hurling and football. His favourites are Pat Delaney, Gerald McCarthy, Brian Mullins and Bobby Millar.

● *Centre half forward is a great position. You'd want to have seen Sean Purcell playing there. (J.M.)*

Tom Kelly, Avondale Estate, Trim, Co. Meath is 12 and loves Junior Desk. His favourite footballers are Ken Rennicks and Joe Cassells. His favourite writer is Noel Coogan "who gives great coverage of G.A.A. games in our local papers".

● *Here I'd like to give a pat on the back to our provincial papers for their great G.A.A. coverage. The national dailies leave a lot to be desired here. (J.M.)*

Patrick Byrne, Spynans, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow is disenchanted with the state of Gaelic football at the moment. "It is frees, frees, frees . . ." He wants **no penalties, no hand-pass** and much

JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

less of the solo run. "Gaelic football is now like volleyball". He feels the man in possession rules the roost. "Hurling is great, but if the rule changers get at it as they did to football, it may be ruined too."

● *A great letter, Patrick, and you win a Wicklow G.A.A. scarf for your sound ideas. (J.M.)*

Raymond Regan, Cloverhill, Roscommon is 11, is writing to us for the first time and wants a Cut-Out of Tony Regan.

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aghrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow is loud in his praise of Mick Jacob and of Wexford hurling generally. Other men he idolises are Martin Quigley and Colm Doran. His Leinster final star was John Quigley.

Kevin Beary, 3 Shanrath Road, Whitehall, Dublin 9 is 11 years and is a great admirer of Eamonn Cregan.

Patrick Dooley, Moneylea, Mantua, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon was impressed in the Connacht final by John Tobin, Johnny Hughes, Gay Mitchell, Joe McLoughlin, T. J. Gilmore and Declan Smyth.

● *The last named is a very skilful player. (J.M.)*

Geraldine Raffan, Graiguehesia, Urlingford loves GAELIC SPORT and says her favourite counties are Tipperary and Cork. "Tipp will win next year."

● *They will be very difficult to beat. (J.M.)*

John Fallon, Clybawn, Knocknacarra, Galway loved the Cut-Out of John Connolly and wants a Cut-Out of Con Murphy. This is his best hurling team since 1970.

N. Skehan (K.), L. King (T.), P. Hartigan (L.), J. Treacy (K.), J. Horgan (C.), P. Henderson (K.), J. Galvin (W.), L. O'Brien (K.), G. McCarthy (C.), J. Quigley (W.), J. Connolly (G.), S. O'Leary (C.), J. Barry-Murphy (C.), R. Bennis (L.), E. Keher (K.).

● *When I met Jimmy Barry-Murphy in Patrick Street after the*

drawn Munster final, I asked him which game would he prefer, and he said "Hurling—it's the family game." (J.M.)

Des Kelly, Ballycoogue, Wood-enbridge, Avoca, Co. Wicklow admires Tony Doran greatly. "Tony scored a great goal in the second half of the Leinster Final."

● *Isn't it shocking to think that Tony Doran and Jimmy Duggan have STILL to get All-Star awards. (J.M.)*

Muredach Noone, Corrimbla, Ballina, Co. Mayo loves Junior Desk, plays at midfield for his school team. "Anthony Egan is one of Mayo's best and only lives about a mile from our house, and I see him every weekend."

● *Keep on following Anthony's progress. They put up a great show against Kerry in the U-21 All-Ireland semi-final. You win a Mayo Bob-Cap. (J.M.)*

Pat Harrington, Curraclough, Lissarda, Co. Cork is 11 years old and plays full-back for the Canovee football team. Pat wants a Cut-Out of Michael Martin of Leitrim.

Tommy Maher, Main St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny thinks the penalty in hurling ruins the game.

● *How many readers think the same as Tommy? (J.M.)*

Michael Bolton, Ennis Road, Tulla, Ennis, Co. Clare is another lover of this column. Michael's favourite Clare hurler is Enda O'Connor "who never gives up". Michael plays for Tulla's U-15 team.

● *Good man, Michael. Keep training hard. Hours and hours of practice are the answer. (J.M.)*

Michael McGrath, Ox-Park, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary does not agree with the Open Draw and would prefer a team photo in colour to a Cut-Out of star players.

Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick wants a copy of the souvenir programme for the opening of Cork's Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

● *Can any reader oblige? How about a swop, Denis? (J.M.)*

Paul Maher, Clashagad, Duncannon, Birr, Co. Offaly rates Kerry's Sean Walsh very highly. Also Mickey Sheehy. Paul is very proud of his team, Moneygall, which won the Tipperary U-12 H. final beating Balingarry by 7-2 to 1-1. Paul starred at full-back. "We got lots of lemonade and ice cream after our win."

● *Great stuff, Paul. You'll be another Michael Maher. (J.M.)*

Seamus Woulfe, 11 Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5 is very angry at the fixture chaos that developed this year. He deplores the fact that the Leinster S.F. and Munster S.H. finals were on the same day. He feels too that Cork are running the G.A.A. He favours the Open Draw in hurling.

Thomas Dunne, Currawn, Clough, Portlaoise, Co. Laois wants Cut-Outs of Michael Conneely, Sean Silke, Seanie Leary, Des Brennan and Niall McInerney.

Finally, another letter from **Ger Dowling** praises new Super-Sub Sean Walsh. A reader from **Barna, Pallasgreen, Co. Limerick** has sent me on a 75p P.O. for books but did not let me have his name. I ask him now to let me have his name and I will let him have the books and programmes required. Another reader, **John W. Meehan, 53 Wellington Ave., Tottenham, London**, wrote looking for programmes. These were sent on but returned as the address was not known. So John W., would you please send on your full address. The surprise letter prizes this month go to **Olwyn Reidy, Ger Dowling, Mary Harrington, Patrick Byrne and Muredach Noone**. Please keep on writing on any G.A.A. topic to:

Junior Desk,

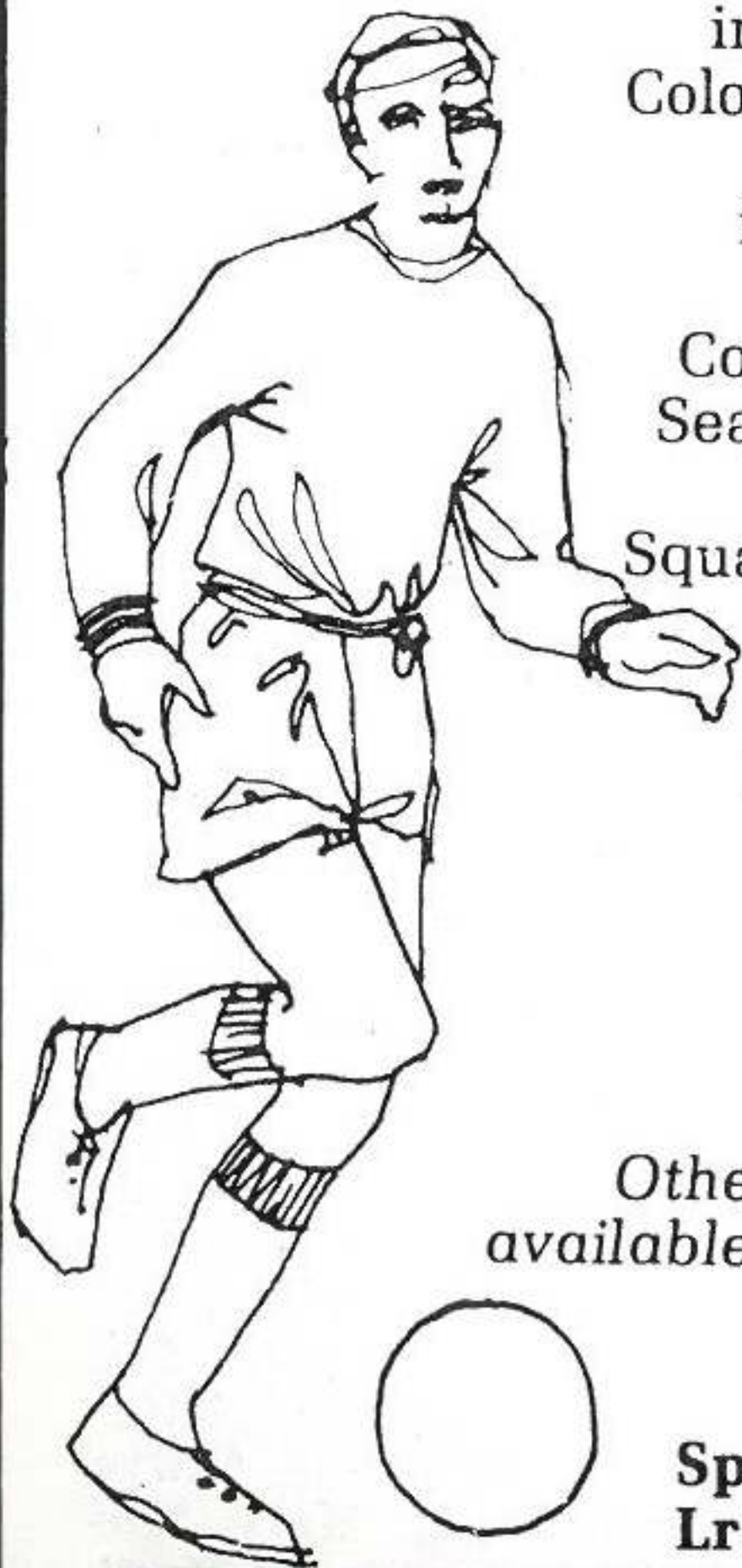
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HENRY STREET

EAMONN COUGHLAN FANCIES THE DUBS

RECENTLY, under the auspices of Arnott & Co. I had the good fortune of meeting Ireland's Olympic runner Eamonn Coughlan. The occasion was a rather hectic visit that Eamonn paid to Arnott's Sports Department, when a fair proportion of the school children of Dublin with their parents, descended on the shop.

As a former St. Vincents and Drimnagh Castle boy he is no stranger to Gaelic football and in fact played for his school team. A contemporary of many of the present Dublin squad, he follows their progress when at home and fancies them to beat Kerry in this year's final.

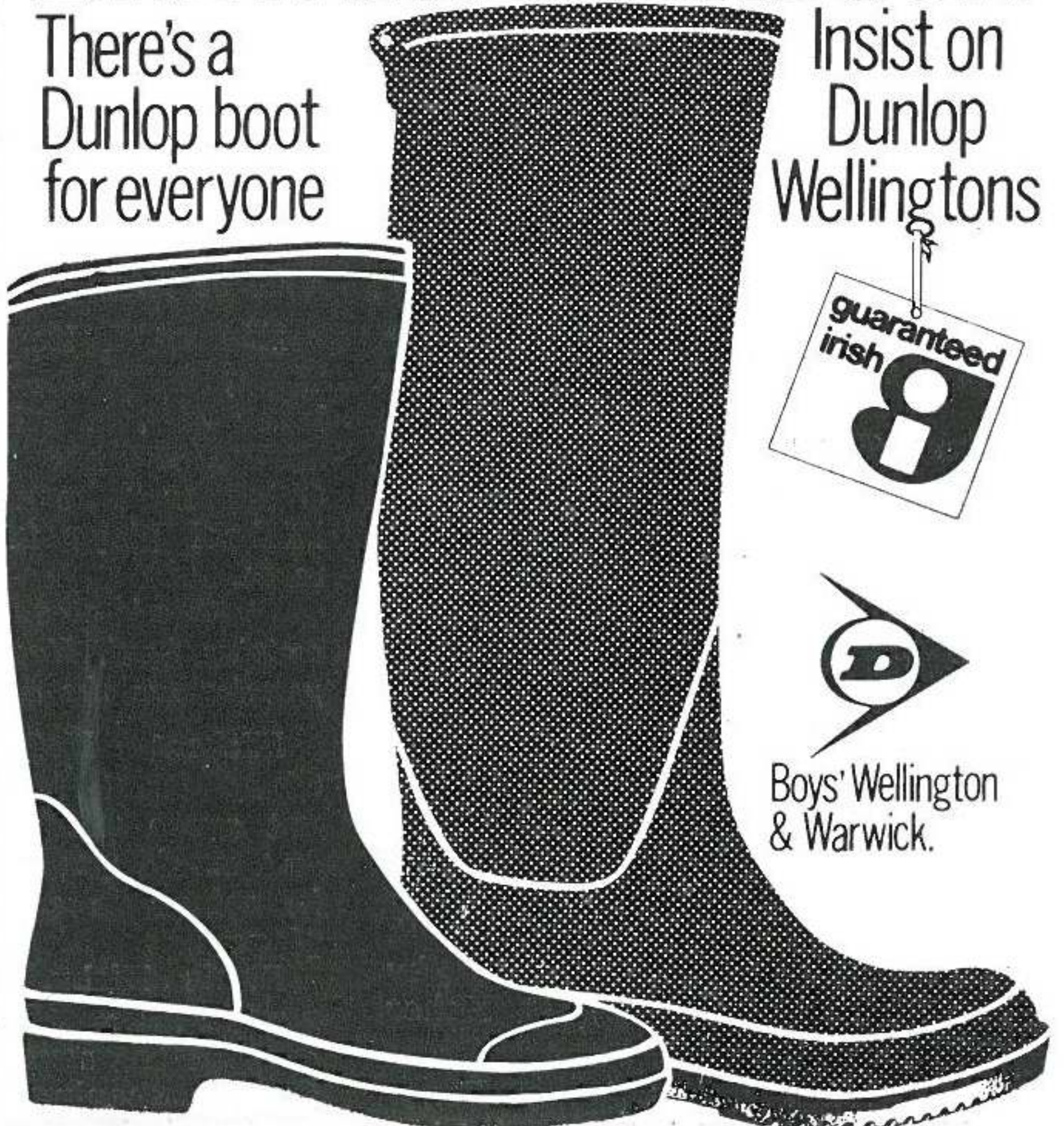
Eamonn told me that he was not too disappointed at not winning an Olympic title and thought that he had many good years of top-class running ahead of him.

Then his young fans took over again. Great credit must go to Arnotts and John Doody, their Retail Manager, in particular, for inviting Eamonn Coughlan and giving the Irish sporting public a chance to meet and congratulate him on his whole-hearted effort in the Olympics.

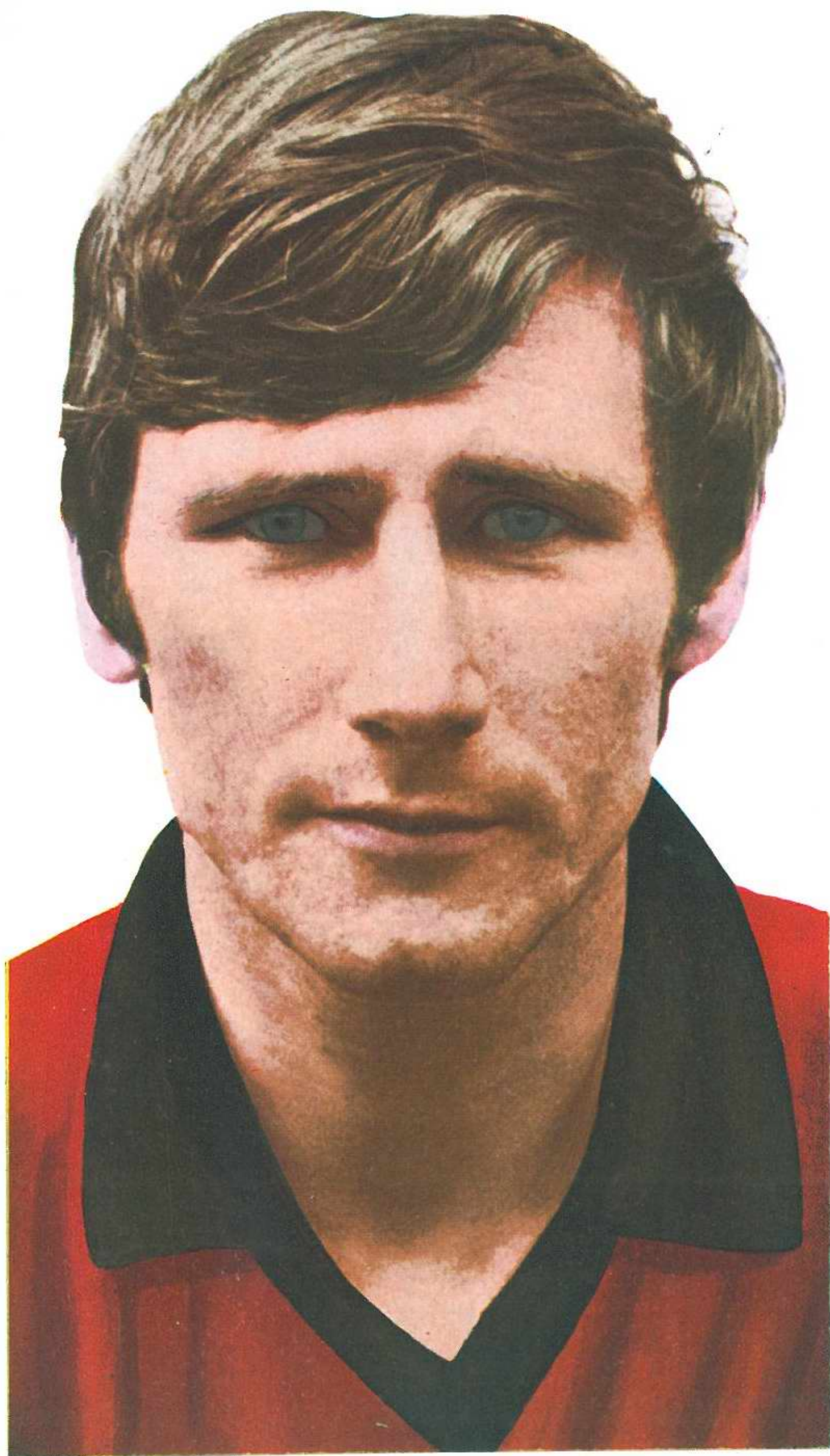
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Ray McConville (Down)

Age: 29

Height:

5 ft. 10½ ins.

Weight: 11 st. 7 lb.

Club: Kilclief

Position:

Right half back

Senior Inter-

County debut:

1967

CAREER

HIGHLIGHTS

Ray was a star of the last glory year for Ulster football—1968—being a key figure in a memorable march that brought Down the big National League title and All-Ireland senior championship double.

An Ulster minor league medalist in 1965, he played with his county team in the junior and under-21 grades as well, and was called up to the county senior side in 1967 in a game with Armagh.

An outstanding defender, Ray won a second Ulster senior medal in 1971. During his career Ray has played in a number of positions with his county and in addition the very popular Down star has represented his province in the Railway Cup competition.

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