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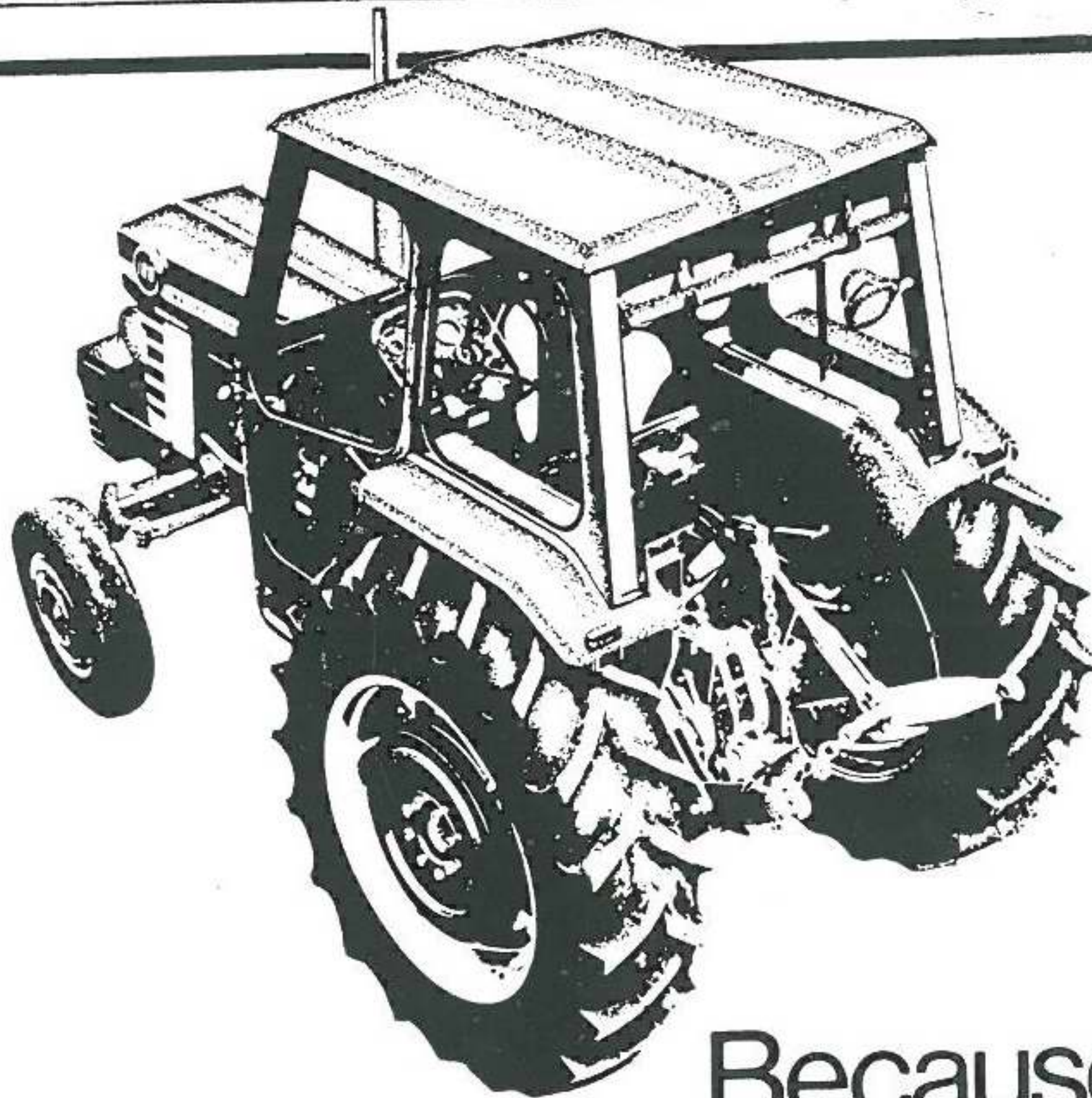
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CONTENTS

	Page
Top Ten	5
Hurling Final Preview —by the Editor	6
Andy Croak	9
Tony — one of hurling's greats — by Owen McCann	13
Final must deliver the goods —by Terence Roynane	17
Outstanding finals of the past fifty years by Moondharrig	19
Brian Murphy in line for rare double — by Mick Dunne	21
Day of Days — Views of top players — by John O'Shea	25
Cork chase Tipperary record — by Owen McCann	28
Crossword — by Permuter ...	33
Camogie Comments — by Agnes Hourigan	35
Ladies Please — by Kitty Murphy	37
Handball — by Sean Clerkin	41
On the Spot — A Quiz — presented by Tony Keegan	45
An interesting mixture — by Jay Drennan	47
Remarkable Brothers — by Mick Dunne	49
Sean Silke — Connacht's new Hurling Officer — by Mick Dunne	51
Junior Desk — edited by Jack Mahon	53
Colour Cut Out	57

A GREAT YEAR FOR HURLING

THE All-Ireland senior hurling final is a pulsating and colourful event in any year and the 1976 confrontation promises to be no exception.

Indeed it is true to say that this has been one of the greatest years ever for hurling. Thrilling drawn games, and replays, in the National League in the Spring gave the ancient game its greatest injection in decades.

Now that the disappointment of the Leinster final defeat has worn off somewhat in Kilkenny, they will be the first to agree that Wexford's win in the Provincial decider was good for the game. It is always good to see titles going around, rather than one county dominating the scene, as Kilkenny have done in Leinster since 1971.

How superbly Wexford and Galway carried on the tradition of great games of 1976 with that never-to-be-forgotten drawn classic at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. This provided the best possible evidence that hurling is very much alive in the West with the failures, since the 1975 final defeat and the disappointing League campaign, having been put firmly behind the Corrib men. Wexford and Galway deserve the congratulations of every hurling lover for the wonderful boost they have given the game at this particular time.

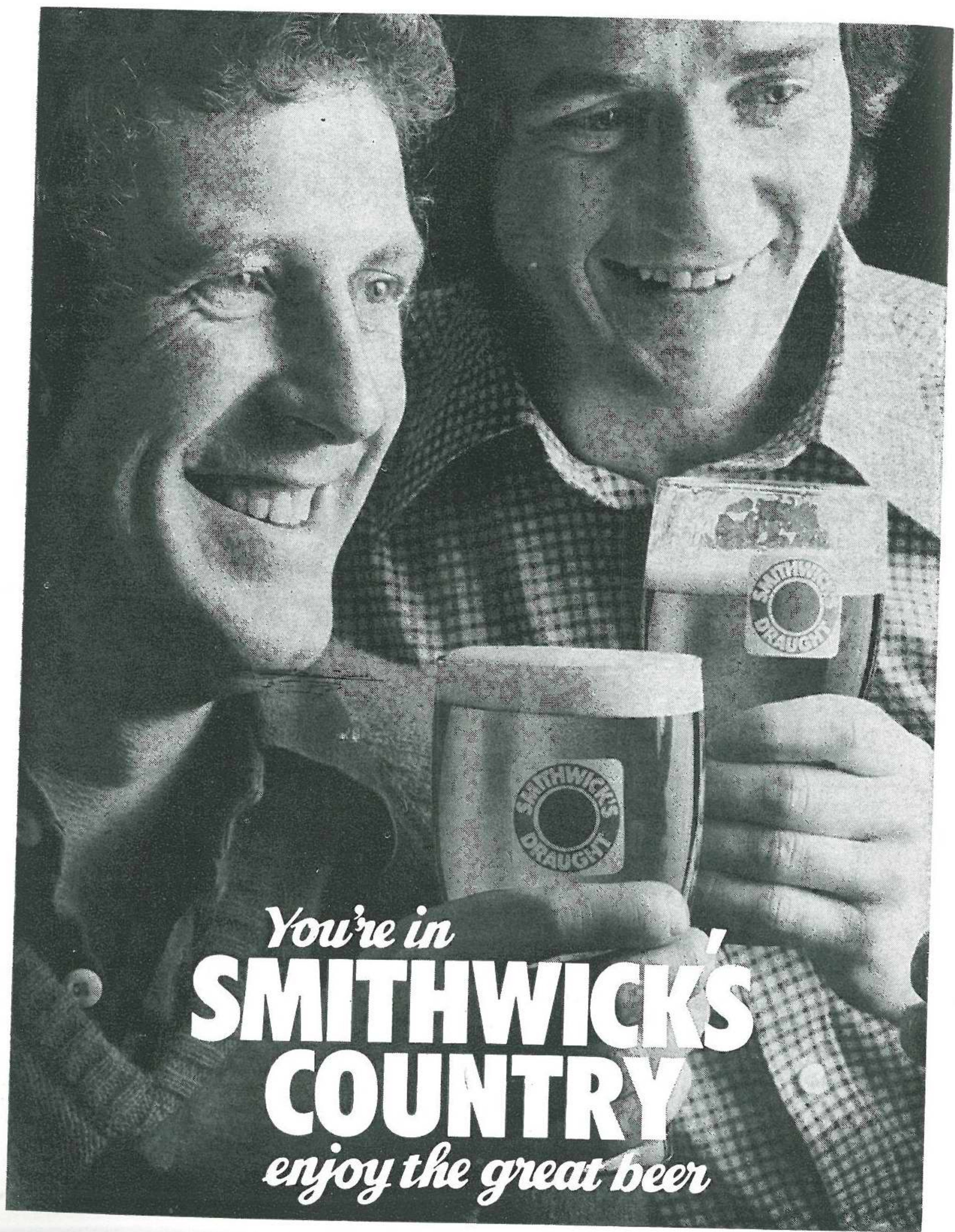
Now we come to the show piece match-of-the-year.

Both Cork and Wexford come into the game with many worthy credentials. Both have proven their right to battle for hurling's top prize. Skilled players, dedicated sportsmen and expert training should add up to yet another first-class game to take its place with the great matches we have already witnessed this year.

All that remains now is to wish both teams the best of luck.

COVER PHOTO

**FOR CAPTION
SEE PAGE 48**



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TOP TEN RATINGS

By OWEN McCANN

SEAN WALSH didn't play in a full match in the Senior Inter-County Championship during the period covered by the current Top Ten review, July 18th to August 15th, but what an impact he left on the football scene!

The introduction of the 19-year-old Tralee youth mid-way through the second half of normal time in the Munster final replay, at Páirc Uí Chaoimh, had much to do in setting the scene for Kerry's win. He also helped himself to 1-3 during that limited appearance.

Few will dispute either that the call-up of Walsh from the substitutes' bench for the second half of the All-Ireland semi-final with Derry was another Kerry winning move. Not only that, but this highly promising player was again on the target with a goal and a point.

He now makes his entry into our charts as one of the three players on an 8 points ranking. The others are **Ger Power**, whose great dependability and attacking flair meant so much in Kerry's march back to the All-

Ireland final and **Sean Doherty** who was very much on his game for Dublin against Meath, his was a major contribution in the Metropolitans' successful defence of the Leinster title.

Jimmy Duggan and **Declan Smith** bring Galway right into the picture following their powerful football in the Connacht final replay win over Roscommon. Duggan is one of the five footballers who improved their positions in the overall ratings to-date.

The others being **Ger Power**, **Anthony McGurk** — who had a wonderful match in the Ulster final replay, **Gay O'Driscoll** of Dublin and Kerry's scorer-in-chief **Michael Sheehy**.

The first Munster hurling final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh was not a memorable encounter but it was still superbly illuminated by a sparkling performance from **Denis Coughlan**. This great hurler was in superb form, giving the best possible display of defensive skills and wins a 9 points ranking.

Wexford and Galway made up for the lack of thrills in the

Munster final with that superb drawn game in the All-Ireland semi-final. 9 points to Tony Doran and Sean Silke respectively, enables them to join Coughlan at the top of the current table.

HURLING

9	D. Coughlan (Cork)	17
9	T. Doran (Wexford)	9
9	S. Silke (Galway)	9
7	R. Cummins (Cork)	7
7	M. Malone (Cork)	7
6	B. Murphy (Cork)	19
6	M. Jacob (Wexford)	6
6	Joe Connolly (Galway)	6
5	E. Cregan (Limerick)	18
5	P. Moriarty (Kerry)	5

FOOTBALL

8	G. Power (Kerry)	13
8	S. Walsh (Kerry)	8
8	S. Doherty (Dublin)	8
7	A. McGurk (Derry)	22
7	M. Sheehy (Kerry)	14
7	J. Duggan (Galway)	14
7	D. Smyth (Galway)	7
6	G. O'Driscoll (Dublin)	14
6	G. McElhinney (Derry)	6
5	M. Coyne (Meath)	5

A
QUARTET
OF
TOP TEN
STARS



Mick Malone
Cork



Denis Coughlan
Cork



Tony Doran
Wexford



Mick Jacob
Wexford



John Nolan
Wexford



J. B. Murphy
Cork



Christy Keogh
Wexford



B. Cummins
Cork



Teddy O'Connor
Wexford



Sean O'Leary
Cork

I'VE A HUNCH IT'S WEXFORD'S YEAR

NOW that the way has been eventually cleared for the All-Ireland senior hurling final, of one thing there's no doubt, the emerging finalists are capable of providing a thriller. Cork, where the game is almost a religion, and who have an appeal and a glamour uniquely their own, and Wexford, of that unquenchable spirit and bold adventurous brand of hurling, are capable of bringing out the very best in each other.

Let's take a run-through the respective teams and see what we come up with — beginning with the Munster champions.

Between the posts, the Leesiders have in Martin Coleman one of the best in the business, a man whose high qualities mark

Tommy McQuaid

sums up the

Hurling Final

him out as an outstanding asset, the type of player, in fact, who could exercise a decisive influence on the outcome. Certainly, the Leinster champions, although boasting in Tony Doran the best goal-snatcher in the game, would be well advised to concentrate on shooting for points whenever possible.

Outfield, too, the Southerners have plenty going for them in

the defensive positions. Denis Coughlan may be a veteran of hurling at 31, but he is still a link of incalculable value with his utter dependability at left half. The other defenders in general, and Martin O'Doherty and Brian Murphy, in particular, blend in solid support.

Any team boasting a hurler of the class and skill of Gerald McCarthy in the middle of the park must command the height of respect and Pat Moylan, his partner, showed up well enough against Limerick.

The Cork forward power, too, looks impressive. Ray Cummins did not get among the scores in his last game, but his leadership and deft distribution still made him one of the stars of the game.

WE AER THE LINGUS



Ned Buggy
Wexford



Pat Barry
Cork



Colm Doran
Wexford



Pat Moylan
Cork



Willie Murphy
Wexford



John Horgan
Cork

Such is his proven expertise and considerable know-how that the tall Blackrock hurler is a man the Wexford defence cannot overlook for a single second — for that's what it takes for Ray to strike.

Then, there is Jimmy Barry-Murphy, whose bursts of brilliance can change the trend of any game—he is the type of pulsating personality who will also present Wexford with plenty of problems.

With such great performers as goal-expert Seanie O'Leary, Charlie McCarthy and Mick Malone, who scored some superb long range points in the Munster decider, lurking for scores all the while, Wexford's defence will get no respite.

Yet, Wexford may have the men to counter the best that the Munster champions can offer. Any doubts that their big win over Kilkenny was a mere flash in the pan have been erased by their performances against Gal-

way.

And, make no mistake about it, this was a first-rate Galway team; a combination well above the standard their low rating in the recent League campaign indicated.

The Easterners, like their opponents have no worries regarding goal. A wonderful save by John Nolan almost on time in the replay deprived Galway of a chance to put the match into extra time, and was but one flash of brilliance, of a series in the Championship, that shows this Wexford man to be a goalkeeper worthy to stand shoulder to shoulder with the best.

John will have excellent out-field cover as well. In fact, with Willie Murphy playing brilliant hurling, and Colm Doran and Jimmy Prendergast also backing up in impressive fashion, it is difficult to see Wexford giving away anything "soft."

The captaincy of the team seems to be bringing out the

best in Tony Doran. Certainly, the full forward is pulling his weight in tremendous style, and as far as Wexford are concerned he could prove the man to stamp his personality on the match, and steer a winning course. But don't get me wrong — this Wexford attack is no one-man-band.

The Quigley brothers, John and Martin, are tremendous workers, and Mick Butler, even though he missed some good chances in the semi-final replay, can be a very effective marksman.

Wexford's midfield was somewhat uneven in their second game with Galway, but we know from experience that Mick Jacob and Billy Rowsome have great potential, and the Slaneysiders are unlikely to be very much out of the picture hereabouts—if at all.

So, who is going to win?

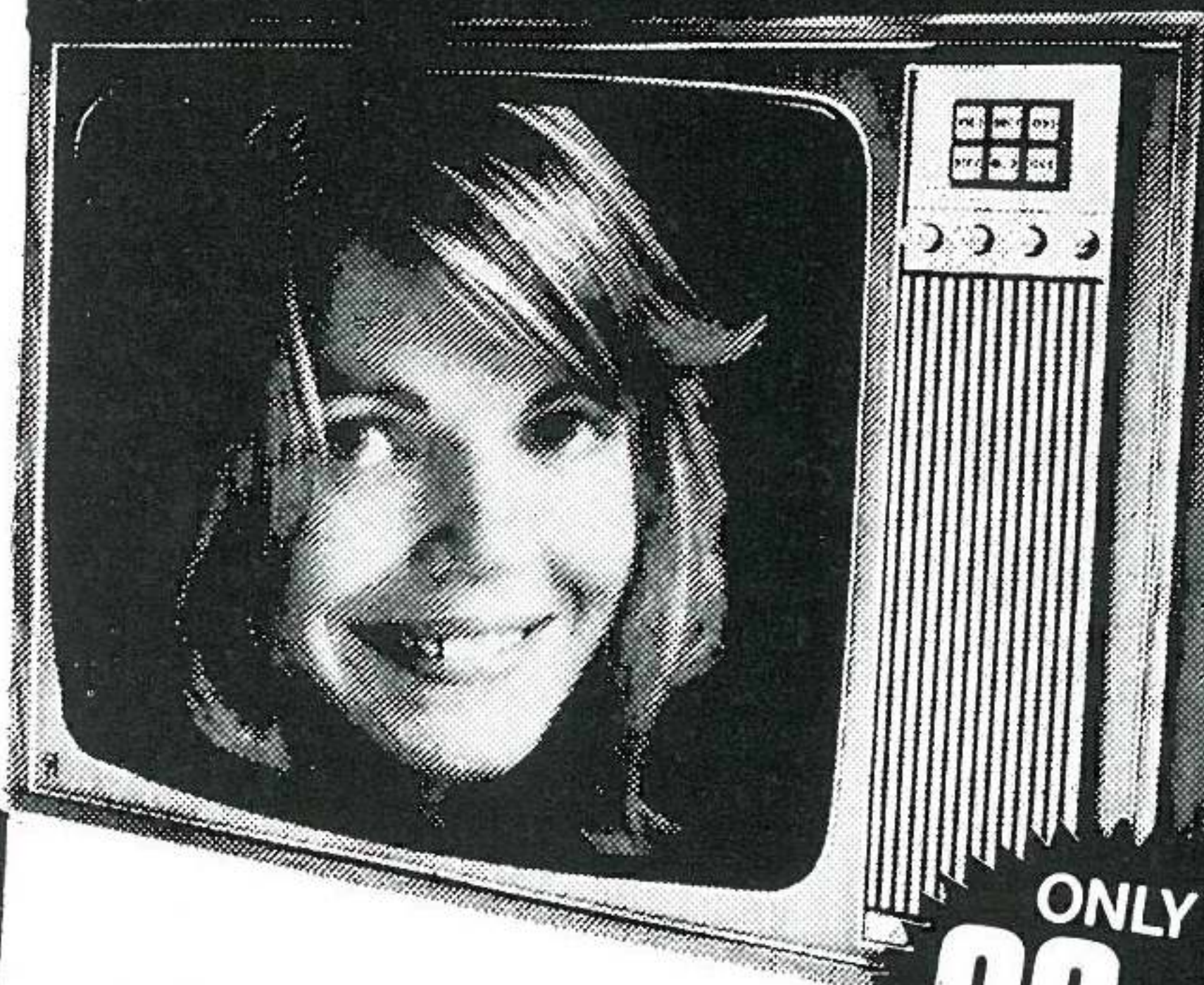
I've a hunch it is going to be Wexford's year. Those two hard games with Galway should have

● **OVERLEAF**

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Mick Butler
Wexford

J. Prendergast
Wexford

● **FROM PAGE 7**

done them a power of good. We know that they will not be found wanting in traditional fighting heart, and they appear to have the men in the vital positions with the drive, dedication and traditional Wexford fire necessary to edge in front at the finish.

So, given the luck that any team needs to win an All-Ireland final, it's Tony Doran to climb the Hogan Stand steps, at the end of what should be a great game, to bring the Liam McCarthy Cup back to Wexford after eight lean years — and be sure of one thing — if they do achieve victory and present themselves to the President to receive the trophy, hovering somewhere among the jubilant Wexfordmen will be the spirit of Nicky Rackard himself. He won't miss this one, he'll be cheering them on. Come to think of it, even if the Rebel County men win, Nick won't think too hard of them.

That's the kind of man he was!



Liam Bennett
Wexford

Billy Rowsome
Wexford

ANDY CROAK

The writer with the rasping comment

I hate doing this, but it must be done

OKAY, YOU DIDN'T have to ask. And still I'm flattered that so many readers of this august magazine came through on the blower (sorry, I mean the telephone) and wrote in, saying:

"Mr. Croak, it's a damned disgrace. You must write something about it. You must let them have it where it hurts. You're the only one who can do it, no better man, Mr. Croak".

God, it made me feel at first like I was a professional assassin, or something. A hired gunman out of *The Godfather*. You know the kind of thing; The Boss says to one of the boys: "Call Croak. Tell him he's gonna be needed tonight".

So Andrew swaggers in, drawing: "Okay, who's it this time?". He gets the message, fades away to perform his task, dumps the body in the Hudson and takes a cab back to collect five grand.

Of course I like being called Mr. Croak. More often when readers ring up they shout "Croak, you're a bleedin' eejit".

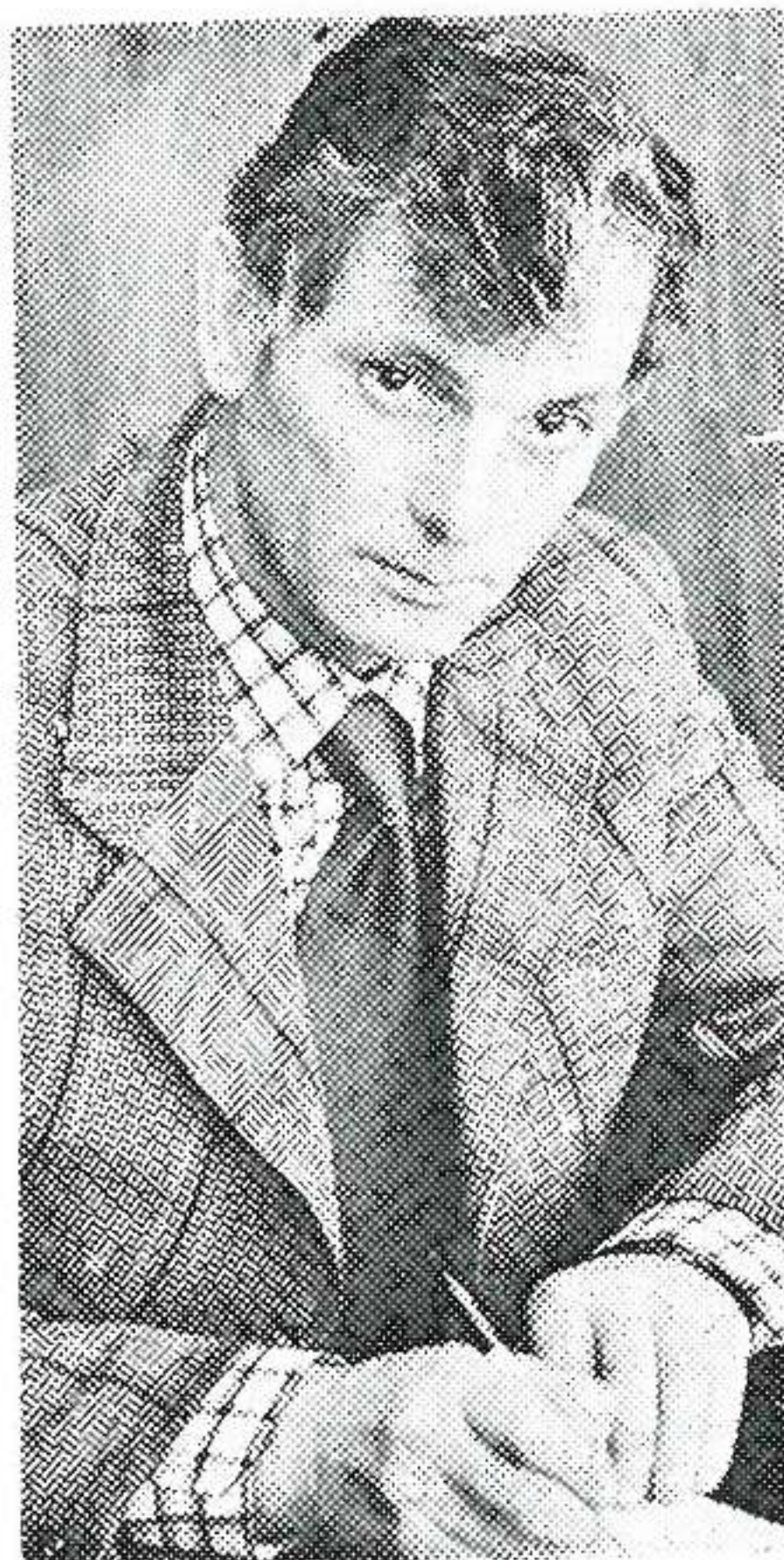
BUT, as I said, you didn't have to ask. As soon as I heard of the punch-up between Wexford and the Activities Committee over the fixing of the hurling semi-final replay for Páirc Uí Chaoimh, I said to myself: "Andrew, here is something right up your alley, or down, as the case may be. You must deal with this lot ruthlessly in a few well-chosen words".

I don't have to retrace all the details of the lamentable story. It has been told and re-told by the newspaper chaps, to whom it was food and drink for a whole week.

In my opinion, it brought the G.A.A. to the very brink of dis-

repute, knocking down the good image they'd built up with the memorable drawn match between Wexford and Galway, and with other good games before it this season.

The only man to come out of it with dignity and the respect of the public was Frank Murphy of Cork. Frank did an excellent job as referee of the drawn game, but when Wexford put the boot in after his reappointment for the replay, the Corkman quietly stepped down, saying in a statement to the press that he was withdrawing in the best interests



● JIMMY SMITH

... former Clare hurling star, now Secretary of the Activities Committee.

of the game and the association.

He didn't have to stand down. Paul Kelly of Dublin didn't do so when Derry objected to him after the drawn National League semi-final of 1973. The authorities stood by him in that crisis, and I'm sure they'd have stood by Frank Murphy, too.

But Frank could see the trouble worsening if he refused to budge. So, to save further damage to the image of the association, he made his exit — and by doing that enhanced his stature.

I SAY, BRAVO FRANK.

★ ★ ★

BUT WHAT about the rest of them? They didn't exactly cover themselves with glory. First of all, I must say that the officers of the Activities Committee, whatever the power invested in them, acted too hastily in refixing the game for Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

Don't say it. I know it's been the tradition to stage replays at the venue of the original fixture, and with the same referee. But before making their decision they could, at least, have consulted with the officials of Wexford and Galway.

That was a matter of common courtesy; and, despite the urgency, they could have waited twenty-four hours so that all considerations could be properly weighed up.

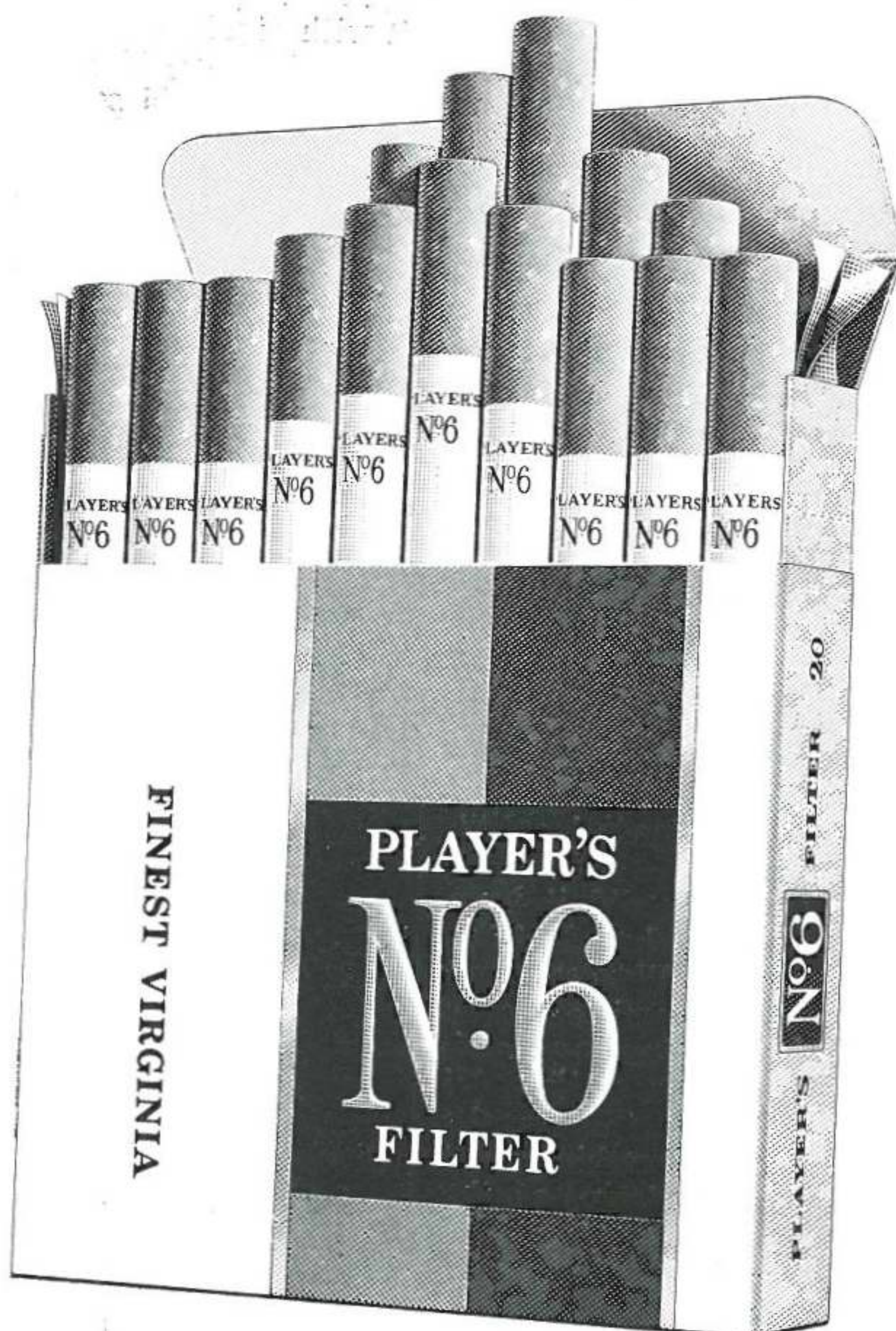
By acting as they did they paid scant respect to the football teams of Dublin and Galway, who were fixed to play on August 22, but discovered through radio and press that their All-Ireland semi-final had been put back a week to August

● TO PAGE 11

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38_p



PNSE 213

PACKETS CARRY A GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING

29. I know that a draw at this stage of either championship is a big spanner in the works of the fixture body's planning machine. Nonetheless, the football semi-finalists were entitled to consultation.

The teams and their supporters were geared for a match on August 22, but then, out of the blue, found that it was pushed back a week, without due consideration for individual players and supporters, who may have planned their holidays to fit in with the fixtures programme.

★ ★ ★

I CAN'T understand why the hurling replay wasn't arranged to go on with the football semi-final, at Croke Park, on August 22. That was the solution most likely to meet the wishes of all concerned. The football game would have remained on the date arranged; the two Galway teams would have played at headquarters on the same day, a great facility for their supporters, and Wexford would have been satisfied also.

Nobody has said where Paddy McFlynn, chairman of the Activities Committee, took the famous phone-call from the secretary, Jimmy Smith, on the evening of August 15. Was he at home in his adopted Co. Down, or holidaying in England?

And until four days later, after the full meeting of the Activities Committee, nobody mentioned that Dermot Halpin of Clare had been in on the making of the decision.

Verry interesting, as my friend from Stuttgart is wont to say.

★ ★ ★

WHEN ALL is said and done, however, most of the blame for the unsavoury brawl rests upon the Wexford officials, who carried their protests and accusations much too far.

It was all right to make a formal protest when the fixture was announced, but they carried it on through the whole week, threatening appeals and withdrawal in almost every news-



● FRANK MURPHY

... enhanced his stature.

paper column you read.

They continued with that attitude, in fact, until forty-eight

hours before the replay, upsetting everybody, including their own players.

They flew in the face of authority, but should have known that the officers of the Activities Committee have power to make or alter fixtures in special circumstances.

Much worse than that, was their thinly-veiled allegation against Frank Murphy. By demanding that he be replaced as referee they were saying that he might not act impartially because his own county, Cork, were to meet the semi-final winners.

Then, when Frank stepped down they spoke to the press about how much they appreciated his decision and admired him as a referee. A fine example of double-talk!

All told, it was one of the saddest episodes in the recent history of G.A.A. affairs.

CROAKETTES

IS IT TRUE that the Wexford players were refused a cup of tea in their dressing-room during half-time in the semi-final at Pairc Ui Chaoimh?

And if it's true, who was responsible?

★ ★ ★

IS IT TRUE that the press chaps are grumbling about the inadequacy of press box accommodation for big games at Cork's new stadium?

One of these days I hope to get a ticket so I can judge for myself.

★ ★ ★

While I'm still on the subject of Pairc Ui Chaoimh, let me say that the Cork Co. Board and the Munster Council made a fine job of crowd control at the replay of the Munster football final, and at the Munster hurling final also.

That proved that the problems on the day of the Kerry-Cork drawn game were nothing more than teething troubles.

Constant vigilance will be essential at all big games in future, however, for I still believe that the entrances to the terraces are not ideally placed.

★ ★ ★

I hate boasting; still, I must remind my devoted readers what I wrote here about Kilkenny early this year. In the January issue I said: The great Kilkenny team are beginning to show some cracks — the wear and tear of time . . . The time must come when age will catch up with them. I'm convinced that that time is now very near at hand".

And in the March issue I penned these prophetic words: "Kilkenny won't win three (All-Irelands) in a row, never mind four".

At that time I was telling my pundit friends that they were talking nonsense when they said Kilkenny were unbeatable for the next couple of years.

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Tony assured of place among hurling greats



By Owen McCann

THE striking full-page photograph of Tony Doran in last month's issue, coming so soon after his regal captain's role in Wexford's Leinster senior final win over Kilkenny in July set me thinking, indeed not for the first time, about the talented full forward from famed Boolavogue, his goal-scoring feats, and general impact on the hurling scene over the years.

It is almost ten years now since I first began to take notice of Doran as a budding artist in outgunning goalkeepers. Then he was marshalling his up-and-coming skills, and perfecting his flair and an eye for an opening with the county's under-21 side. That year of 1966 we had three exhilarating games between Cork and Wexford before the Leesiders won the All-Ireland crown. And the young full forward from Wexford was very goal-conscious over the three-part serial finishing with 4-2 to his credit.

Even before that, however, Tony Doran had senior inter-county experience. A brilliant county minor in 1963 and 1964, he stepped up to the senior county side some months before his 18th birthday when he was honoured in a 1964 tournament game. About three years later he settled in to a permanent place in the premier team, and in the meantime has gone from success to success, and scored some great and telling goals.

Remember Wexford's last glory day in an All-Ireland senior championship final in 1968?

The Model County trailed tradition-steeped Tipperary by an intimidating eight points at the interval, but six minutes into the second half, Tony Doran struck. He took a pass from Phil Wilson for a clever goal.

And more was to come. Eight minutes from

time the sides were level. The red-haired forward availed of another opportunity from Phil Wilson to split open the Munster defence and palm home his side's fourth goal, and a score that was one of the most vital of the day. Later he added on a point for a tally of 2-1 that was a key factor in one of Wexford's most famous wins ever.

Then there was Wexford's last League final win in 1973. The opposition at Croke Park that May afternoon was provided by Limerick and once again the goal-grabbing flair of the six-footer from the Buffer's Alley club paid a handsome dividend.

The first goal came midway through the opening half to give the Slaneysiders a lead they never relinquished. The second was one of the best of the year in hurling, and was recorded virtually at the end of the match when Doran collected a massive 90 yards clearance from defender John Quigley to palm home his team's fourth goal. Just a few fleeting memories that come down over the years of the lethal finishing technique of the red-haired menace.

Tony's consistency, too, in top-class hurling is emphasised by his great record in interprovincial fare. The first half of the present decade proved the most successful ever for Leinster in the Railway Cup with a record run for the province of five titles in succession from 1971 to 1975 inclusive. The Wexford forward was one of only two hurlers who played in all ten matches in that unbeaten sequence. He collected his fifth souvenir as a result, and now heads the Wexford roll-of-honour of Railway Cup medalists.

The Buffer's Alley man, who has also got

● TO PAGE 15

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● *The 1968 team that won the last All-Ireland senior title for Wexford. Tony Doran who played so well in the recent All-Ireland semi-final drawn game with Galway is second from right, back row.*

● **FROM PAGE 13**

among the county senior championship medals, won an All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1965, shooting 1-2 in the win over Tipperary in the final. He has been prominently in the scoring returns as a senior over the years, having had his most successful season so far in 1972 when he hit 17-24 (75 points) in 15 appearances.

That marks one of the years in which he achieved his best annual bag of goals. The others were 1968 and 1973 — but this year he could well improve on this personal best, as he has found the goals touch in fine style again after a couple of uncharacteristically lean seasons.

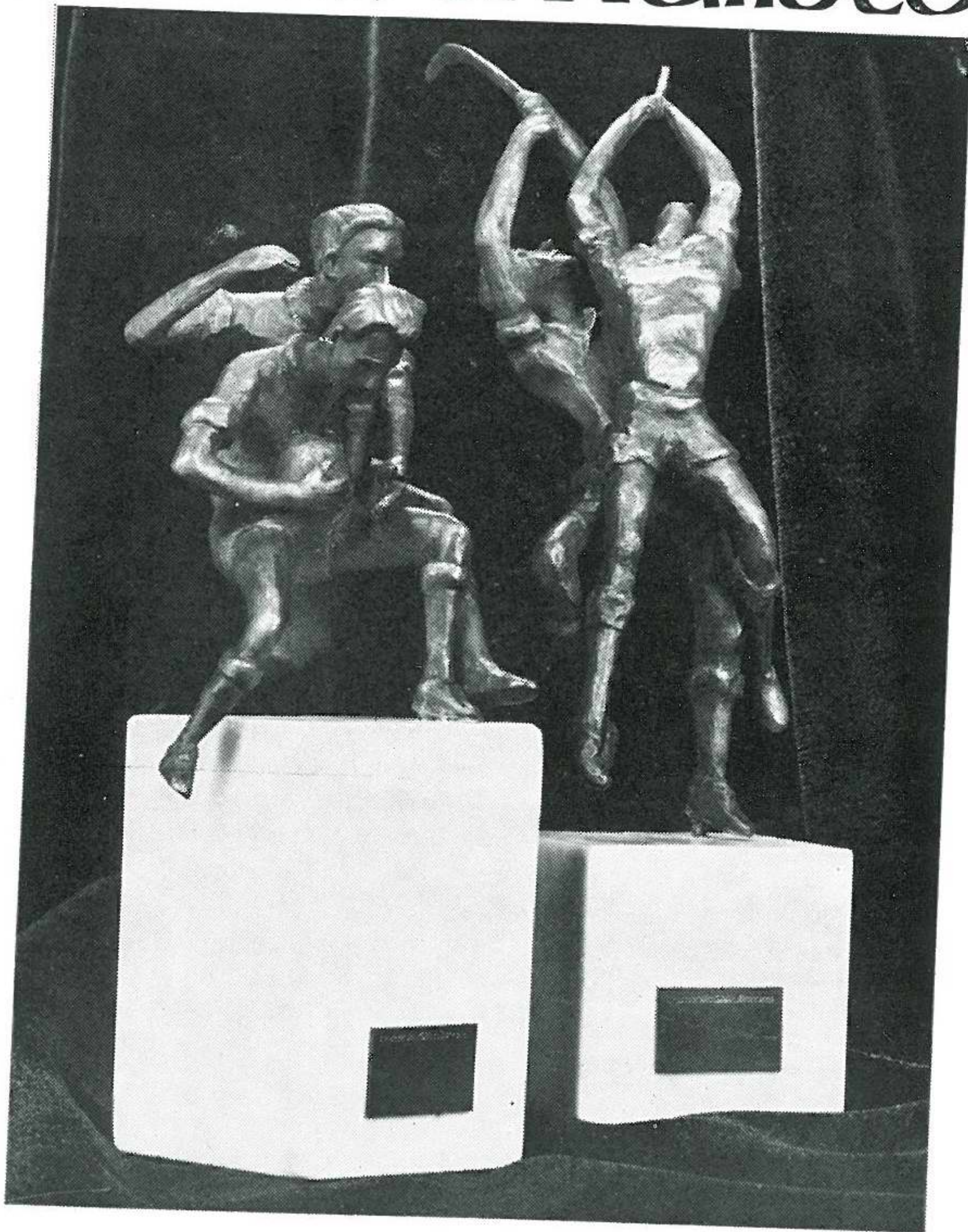
As a senior he brought his scoring record from 149 games, embracing League, Championship, Railway Cup and tournament games, as well as challenge matches to 134 goals and 125 points (527 points) at the end of that Leinster final win

over Kilkenny. That was also his third provincial senior medal and he has also visited the U.S. with the All-Stars touring party.

All in all, then, Tony Doran has made a rich contribution not only to hurling, but to the exciting story of goals and points. He has proven himself a forward of outstanding ability, a difficult man to mark, and one of those exciting personality-plus players who can "lift" a team, and exercise a decisive influence on a game.

This 30-year-old farmer from Wexford, who also played in the 1970 All-Ireland senior final against Cork, is one of a number of brothers who have delivered the goods for the county in hurling. With every major honour now to his credit, other than a full Carrolls All-Stars award, Tony Doran, with his determined brand of hurling, rare gift for popping in the goals, and high sporting qualities, is firmly assured of a proud place among the greats of hurling.

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FINAL MUST DELIVER THE GOODS!

By Terence Roynane

THE All-Ireland hurling final of 1976 will, I hope, prove to be a classic of caman-craft. And, quite candidly, it will need to be just that because, and we must face up to the truth, the entire championship campaign thus far has given us a great deal of sub-standard fare.

True, the crowds, the faithful fans, have come out in considerable force, Sunday after Sunday, but how often have they been able to say truthfully, as they wended their way homeward, that they had got full value for their money?

What makes the situation all the more remarkable is that never has there been a senior hurling championship that promised more thrills and excitement.

There was every reason for such a feeling of optimism because of the tremendous games we saw in the concluding stages of the National League.

There is no doubt whatever in my mind, but that the concluding stages of that competition in 1976 made this the greatest League series ever played.

Go right back to the resumption of activities in February. We had a thriller between Cork and Kilkenny at Nowlan Park, an almost equally thrilling draw between Galway and Dublin, and Tipperary, limited to three points, when losing to Clare.

A couple of weeks later we had that do-or-die victory of Kilkenny over Wexford at Ennis-

corthy and Galway's shock success over Cork at Ballinasloe.

That brought us to the knock out stages with Kilkenny, who had more or less sneaked in through the back-door, just getting the better of Limerick in the first of a whole series of Thurles thrillers, on a day when Clare revealed their growing power by readily disposing of Waterford.

Then we had those memorable drawn semi-finals between Clare and Wexford, and Cork and Kilkenny, followed by the even more scintillating replays.

Kilkenny's greatest

Finally we had the drawn decider involving Clare and Kilkenny and, if the so-eagerly anticipated replay fell short of expectations from a competitive viewpoint, we were treated to a wonderful exhibition of style, skill and scoring power from the greatest team that has ever worn Kilkenny's black and amber.

How were we to know that sunny day that we were being treated to the swan-song of these great champions from the Noreside or that we had already seen, in the

closing stages of the League, far better hurling than the entire preliminary stages of the championship have managed to provide?

First, of course, we had the B championship, played, as usual, in comparative obscurity and arousing comment only when Kerry performed such relatively notable feats as defeating Antrim and the London Exiles, in turn, to take the subsidiary title. The standard of hurling in this competition was commendable, but there was no reason at all to suspect that Kerry, useful side though they undoubtedly were, had the talent to trouble last year's runners-up, Galway, when they met in the quarter-final. Yet Kerry only went down by a goal, and that result did not flatter the efforts of the lads from the Kingdom.

The preliminary stages in Leinster were mediocre enough but did provide minor surprises especially the victory of earnest Kildare over disappointing Dublin and the success of improving Westmeath over uncertain Offaly.

The semi-finals promised to be no more than routine, and that was the case in the clash of Westmeath and Kilkenny at Mullingar, with the champions cruising calmly on to yet another final. The other game was almost a surprise, with Kildare leading

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● FROM PAGE 17

Wexford for much of the way. Even more surprising was the transformation in these Wexfordmen when they outhurled, outsped and indeed outclassed Kilkenny in a Leinster final where the standard of hurling surpassed anything else I have seen in these championships to-date.

Munster Circuit

Certainly there was nothing inspiring on the Munster circuit. Clare, their eyes then probably set on the League final replay, were no more than moderate when disposing of Waterford, and then, shattered by League defeat, surrendered to Limerick in a run-of-the-mill semi-final.

The other semi-final, between Tipperary and holders Cork was always interesting because of the closeness of the scoring, but otherwise was all too often lacking in most of the attributes we usually associate with championship confrontations between these age-old Southern rivals.

For the Munster final, the first in Paire Uí Chaoimh, the setting was right, the atmosphere was right, the crowd was probably the biggest that has ever assembled for a championship hurling game in Cork. But where was the classic hurling we had so eagerly anticipated?

Cork were cool and competent into the breeze through the opening 20 minutes, long enough to build up what proved a match-winning lead. Limerick showed us second-half flashes of the fire and fervour they so sadly lacked early on. But that was all we saw.

So, as I have said, the '76 final must be good! Otherwise this year's hurling league will have stolen all the thunder from the hurling championship – and that would never do now—would it? hurling championship—that is if one fails to take into account those memorable games between Wexford and Galway in the recent semi-final.

Moondharrig recalls. . .

OUTSTANDING FINALS OF THE PAST FIFTY YEARS

THE first All-Ireland hurling final in which I saw Cork play was just under 50 years ago, and it was not a game to treasure in the memory. On a dull day, and on a heavy pitch, the Kilkenny hopefuls representing Leinster put up a surprisingly poor show, were led even against the breeze and failed to raise a flag, or a canter, after the interval. That was way back in 1926.

Five years later the same two counties, Cork and Kilkenny, were to compensate for that rather dismal encounter by their thrilling clashes before reaching a decision in the final of 1931. It is generally accepted that the second game was the best of the three — the last was under a bit of a cloud even before the start because of the absence of the injured Lory Meagher from the Kilkenny squad.

And yet, after all the years, I still derive greatest satisfaction from the first meeting of those teams when, to my mind the hurling was more stylish, the approach of both sides less tense, and the marking not so trigger-tight, as it was in the second game, wonderful a contest though that was.

Most of the finals thereafter in the early '30's were hard fought rather than memorable with two notable exceptions, the famed

'wet day' final between Kilkenny and Limerick in 1935 and the still remembered 'thunder and lightning' final between those regular rivals Kilkenny and Cork in '39.

In 1935 I was on the side-line, to which the admission price was half-a-crown, 12½p in present day money . . . I doubt if 12½p will even buy you a programme of the match nowadays. Sharp on the film of memory still are some brilliant flashes from Lory Meagher, the do-or-die dashes of Mick Mackey, and the immaculate hurling of Paddy Phe'an on the left wing of the Kilkenny defence.

One other memory that is particularly vivid is the almost utter exhaustion of the referee, Dr. Tommy Daly from Clare as he left the field at the end, the rain streaming from his dark hair. Sad to recall, that was the last time I ever saw the great goalman.

Not all that long afterwards he was killed when



● Christy Ring, living legend of the hurling game, holds aloft the Liam McCarthy Cup following Cork's win in the 1946 All-Ireland Hurling Final.

his car crashed while he was on an errand of mercy in his native county and was laid to rest 'on the wind-swept hills of Tulla' as Brian McMahon from Listowel recorded in a moving Lament.

The 1939 final was played in unique circumstances, only hours after Britain had declared war on Germany. None of us had even the slightest idea then as to what such a war was going to be like — which was just as well, I suppose, all things considered. But in view of the general lack of certainty as to what the future held in store for any of us, I hate to think of what might have happened had an aeroplane come flying low over Croke Park that afternoon

As it was, all of us, players and spectators alike had enough to cope with in the recurring thunder-showers. But not even the thunder-crashes nor the lightning flashes could drown the roar of the crowd or dim the brilliance of the hurling.

● TO PAGE 43

There's no substitute for Allied Irish



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Brian Murphy is in line for rare 'double'

By
MICK DUNNE
(RTE Sport)

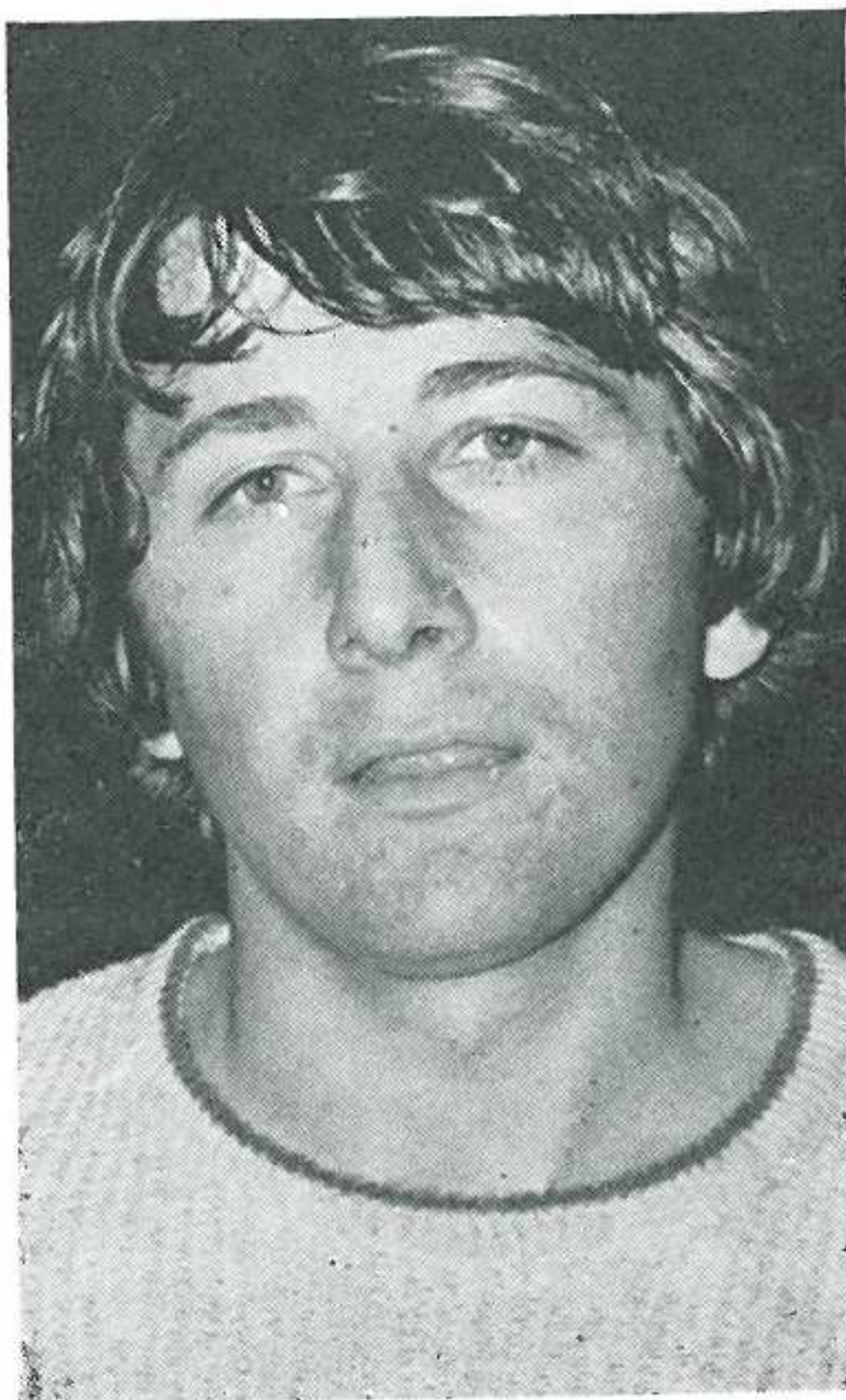
EVEN if it is a spin-off (to use a current popular phrase) of Cork's huge population, the fact remains that no county has produced as many top-class dual players during the past decade — if, indeed ever. At times the flow seemed to be endless as brilliant youngsters kept coming onto the championship scene to double at hurling and football — and collect All-Ireland medals in both games.

Lately, however, Cork people became more and more painfully aware of the fact that the substantial measure of success experienced in the under-age grades was not being repeated at senior level, particularly in hurling — the game which, unquestionably, matters most to Corkonians.

As they searched around for explanations for the failure to win more than two All-Ireland senior hurling championships in the past 20 years, concerned and anxious Cork supporters — and officials, too — increasingly questioned the wisdom of relying on dual players to the extent the county had done in recent years.

Consequently when five new hurling selectors took over at the start of the National League last October, and set about repairing the damage inflicted on Cork pride by the loss of the All-Ireland semi-final — and, perhaps, three goals scored against them in the first nine minutes was even more unpalatable than the actual defeat of Galway — they appeared, for a time, to adopt a policy of having players

concentrate on one game. So Denis Allen, Teddie O'Brien and Jimmy Barry Murphy were omitted from the panel. Ray Cummins made the decision for them when he chose to concen-



● **Teddy O'Brien**
... one of Cork's many
dual stars.

trate on hurling.

Yet it would be suicidal for a county's prospects if selectors adamantly turned their backs on any player merely because he was proficient at two games and the Cork "Five" were bent on boosting the county's hopes, not undermining them. Wisely, therefore, they did not carry the idea of less dependence on dual players to the ultimate extreme. Brian Murphy remained a very important figure in the county's planning for both hurling and football — and, following the failure in the National League semi-final, the hurling selectors were quick to draft Jimmy Barry Murphy back into their panel for the Munster semi-final against Tipperary. Neither in that game nor the provincial final did Jimmy let them down.

In the case of Brian Murphy the hurling selectors had no option but continue to use him in their defence — although I doubt very much if they ever contemplated doing without his services — because he has been one of the truly outstanding performers in latter years, as both footballer and hurler. There is no more alert defender in either game, few show such utter dedication or stubbornness to yield and not many backs can combine speed of thought with swift bodily

● **TO PAGE 23**

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movement as he does

This year alone has been a particularly successful one for Brian and more than once he has come to his county's aid in hurling and football, standing-in for a long period as full-back with the football side during Humphrey Kelleher's absence through injury and doing the same in February on the hurling team when Pat McDonnell missed some League matches.

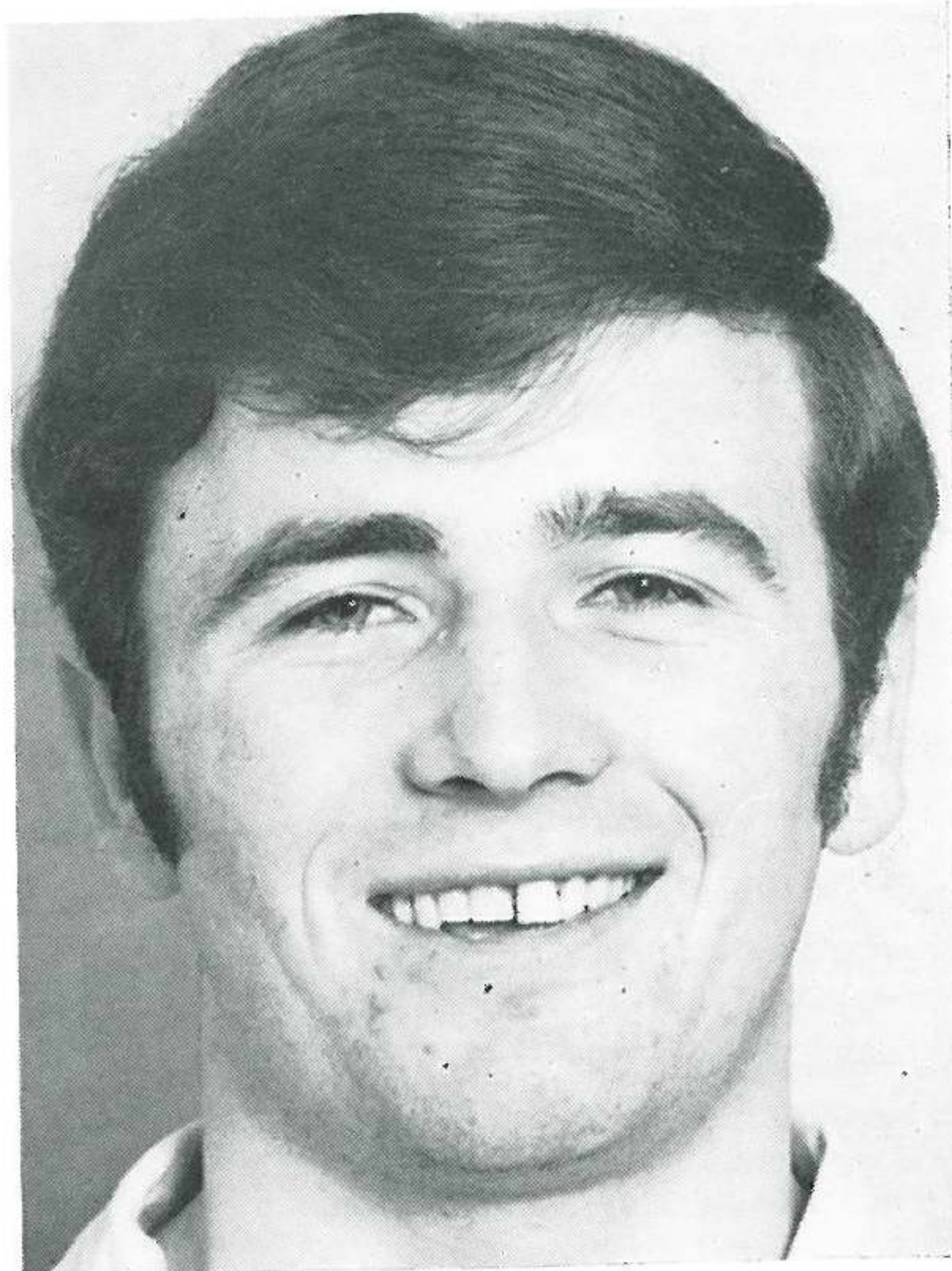
On All-Ireland Day Brian will not be a stranger to Croke Park for he has been there often on the fourth as well as the first Sunday of September. Among four of the ten All-Ireland medals he holds, four were collected on these traditional Final Days. Although only 24 in February, he has a huge collection of medals, like some of his team-mates who have been dual players in recent years — Martin O'Doherty, Denis Coughlan and Brendan and Ray Cummins.

In 1968 and '70 he got two in the All-Ireland Colleges' football championship with Colaiste Criost Ri, he was a sub. on the minor hurling team of 1969, right full-back when they retained the title the following year and was right half-back on the successful '69 minor football side. He took part in the 1971 under-21 double — left full-back for the hurling team and centre half-back with the footballers — and he got another hurling medal in that grade as left full-back in 1973.

Also in 1973 he obtained an All-Ireland Club football medal with Nemo Rangers and later the same year was left full-back when Cork won the Sam Maguire Cup



Brian Murphy (Cork) — one of the county's top class dual players.



~~~~~

## HE NEEDS ONE MEDAL TO COMPLETE THE SET

~~~~~

after twenty-eight years of trying. He can count two National Hurling League medals ('72 and '74) and two Railway Cup football medals ('75 and '76) among his collection.

But even allowing for his high total of medals won, there is still ONE missing and that of course is the coveted senior hurling medal, for even though he performed more than creditably in Cork's last final appearance (1972) and held his first half opponent, Ned Byrne scoreless, Kilkenny took the title. Therefore he will be more determined than ever to pick up that remaining elusive medal come Sunday, September 5th.

It is difficult to decide whether

Brian is a better hurler or footballer because he excels, with consistency, at both games. The explanation was probably provided by himself when I asked him which game he preferred. "I haven't any preference really," he said. "Naturally I prefer hurling at the moment with things going so well. At different times I prefer one over the other, but that one would usually be the game the team would be doing well at or the one I'd feel I was playing better at that particular time."

Whether Cork win or lose this year's hurling decider one thing is certain — Brian Murphy will play his heart out — 'tis the only way he knows how to play.

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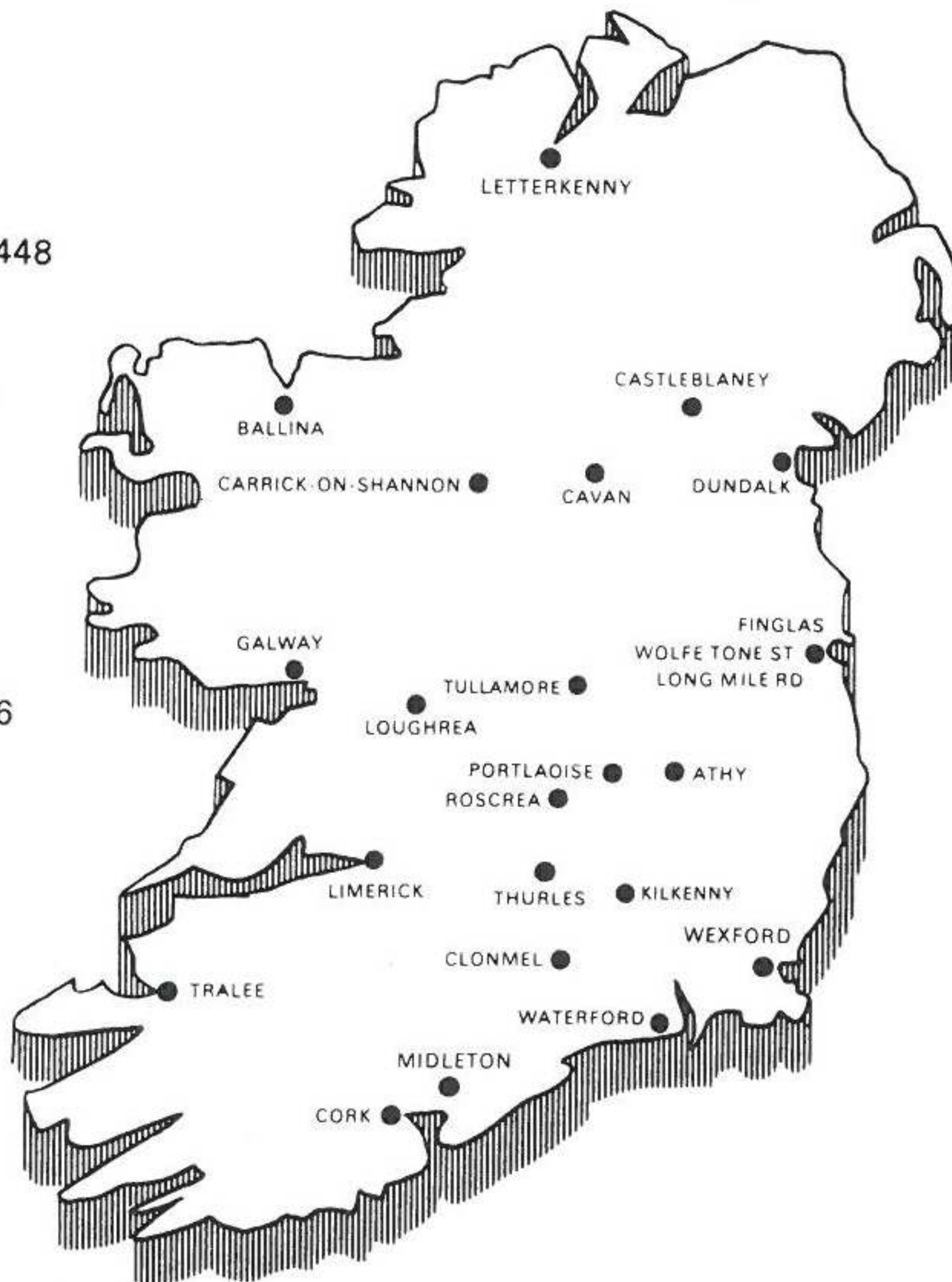
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DAY OF DAYS

Top players tell
what it takes,
and what it
means, to play in
an All-Ireland final

By JOHN O'SHEA
(Evening Press)

AS All-Ireland Hurling final day looms near, we thought it appropriate to seek out the views of players who, over the years, had experienced the singular honour of playing in, and winning an All-Ireland title. What does it take to be the top county in the code, and as to the individual himself, what does the great day mean to him personally?

Their following comments

make most interesting reading.

PAT HARTIGAN:

What it takes: It requires every man on the side to be on his game. All-Irelands are never won by three or four individuals with the remainder there for the ride. The team must also be capable of producing its best form on the day. It's no use the team playing like world beaters in a challenge coming up to the All-Ireland and then crumbling when it really matters. Breaks are also important. They can make the difference between victory and defeat.

What it means: It's the ultimate reward for amateur sportsmen. We hope throughout our careers to be part of an All-Ireland winning team. One can go no higher in our sport.

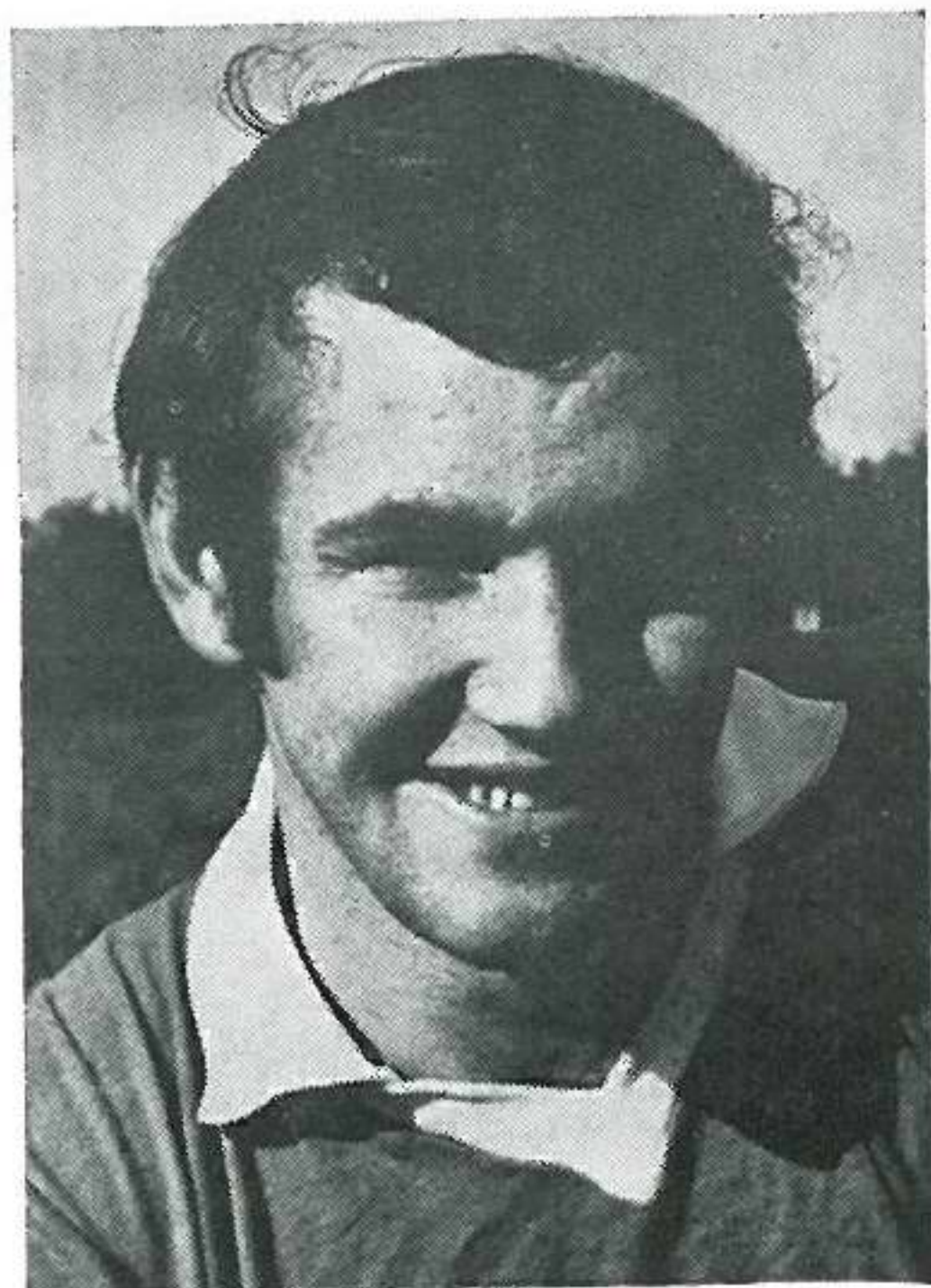
EDDIE KEHER:

What it takes: A team with All-Ireland aspirations must work together from the start. The mental and physical preparations must be perfect. It's important that a team does not leave its

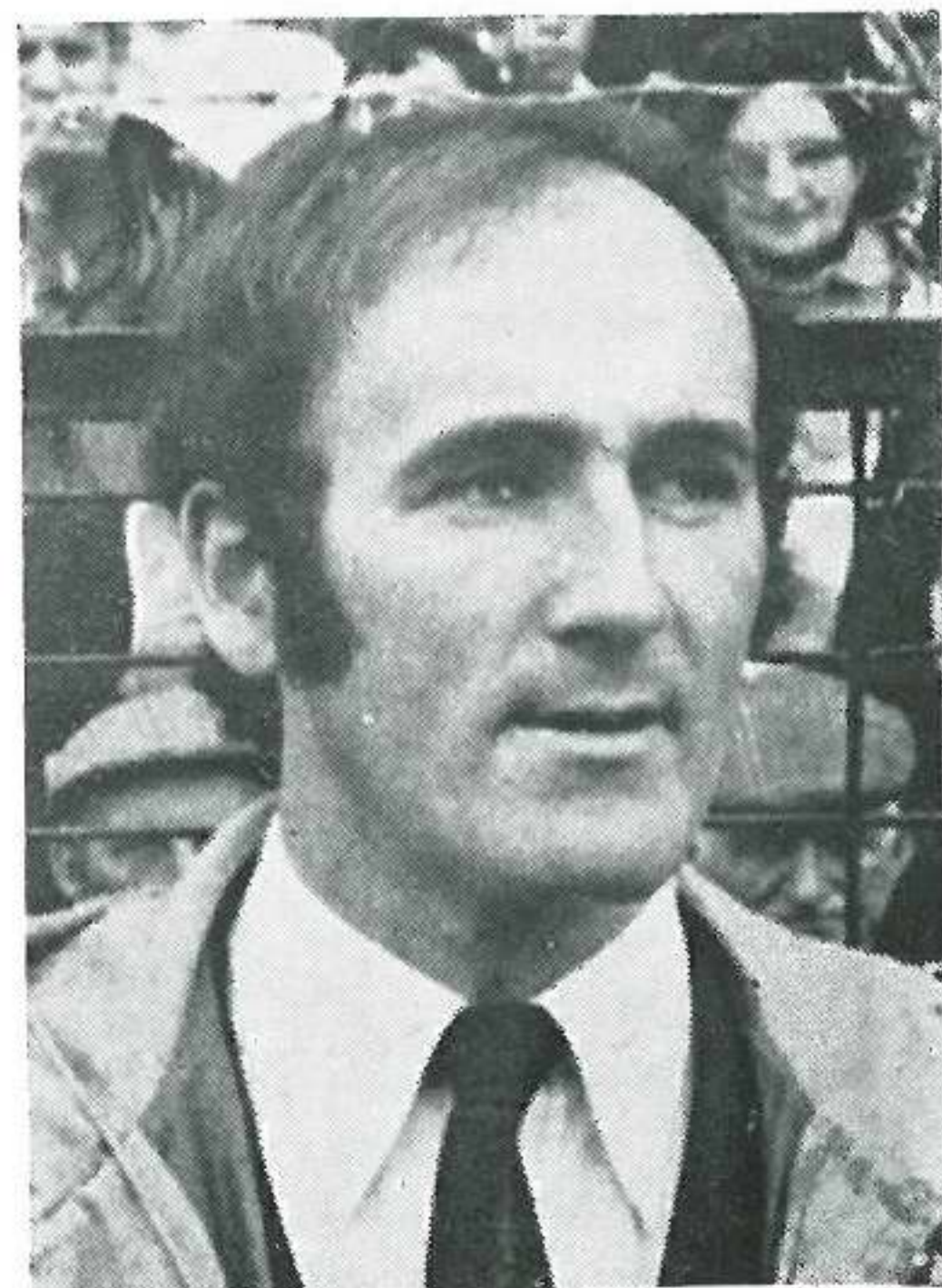
stamina on the training grounds: careful planning is essential.

What it means: No matter how often one is lucky enough to win an All-Ireland, the next one is always a huge thrill. There is no honour or distinction open to the player as coveted. We all long to sample the excitement of a final and partake of the glory of winning.

● TO PAGE 27



● Pat Hartigan (Limerick)



● Eddie Keher (Kilkenny)

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MARTIN QUIGLEY:

What it takes: The basic skills would need to be there for openers. A team wins All-Irelands, not individuals. Each man must be prepared to pull his weight: every effort is needed. Dedication to training and to performance on the field provides the platform for victory.

What it means: If a player has been waiting for a number of



★
Martin Quigley
(Wexford)

years, the first All-Ireland win provides immeasurable pleasure and joy. It's so good that the player strives even harder to try and sample the thrill again. Winning also means that the team of which you are a proud member is recognised as the finest in the

land. That, in itself is a mighty thrill. The fact that a trip to the United States is one of the perks attached to winning an All-Ireland, makes it even more attractive. But it is only the icing on the cake. The All-Ireland is No. 1 and for me it will always be so.

EAMONN GRIMES:

What it takes: First and foremost it takes a really effective team. Not many poor sides have triumphed in the All-Ireland series in recent years. Spirit and a keen will to win are also essential ingredients in the winning formula, and each player must be prepared to make the sacrifices necessary in pursuit of the goal.



★
Eamonn Grimes
(Limerick)

What it means: The feeling of winning an All-Ireland is unlike anything previously experienced by the lucky player. It's so much above everything else he has

been used to. It's the ultimate prize, and the medal is something he will always treasure.

TOM NEVILLE:

What it means: Ability is the key factor. Unless that is present in the side, all the dedication and training is useless. But given that the team has a certain amount of skill, then the will to succeed is the important factor.



★
Tom Neville
(Wexford)

What it means: I would compare it with the F.A. Cup final. It may not attract such ballyhoo, but the thrill to the participants is, I would submit, on a par. One never forgets or wants to forget the day one played in an All-Ireland final. It's something to talk about and discuss for years. Hurlers, and indeed footballers too, realise that one may get only one chance at an All-Ireland, and this adds to the excitement of the occasion.

GERALD McCARTHY:

What it takes: Plenty of the right type of training, under a man who knows his stuff. The team would need to have had the experience of some tough searching games: there's little chance for the side which drifts smoothly into the final against a team of hardened players. Of course, it also requires no little amount of skill from the players and a whole lot of dedication.

What it means: It's the pinnacle isn't it. It's the honour every player of every level aspires to. Trips abroad are attractive, but when everything is long gone, the thrill of winning an All-Ireland medal will remain.



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● Ray Cummins



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THE MEN FROM TIPP.

22 TITLES

CORK CHASE TIPPERARY

IT is surprising that although Cork have an enviable record in hurling, and are up there impressively in the premier placings on top of the All-Ireland Senior Championship Roll of Honour they have still won only two national senior crowns in the past 21 years.

Back in 1954 a great era for the county ended on an historic note when Christy Ring led Cork to their third All-Ireland senior title on the trot, and in the process became the first man to win eight national senior medals in hurling or football.

Two years later Ring was in the side that lost to Wexford in a Liam McCarthy Cup Final and ten years were to pass before Cork again qualified for the concluding round. They beat Kilkenny in that 1966 game, and in 1969, their next final appearance, went under to the Nore-siders.

A year later Cork boosted their All-Ireland titles total in the premier grade to 21 with a 6-21 to 5-10 win over a Wexford side that was badly hit by injuries to key players. Only once since then have the famed red jerseys of the Munster county flashed across the Croke Park scene on All-Ireland senior hurling final day—in 1972 against Kilkenny.

About eighteen minutes into

the second half, the Leesiders were eight points in front, but Kilkenny staged a great rally and went on to forge out a memorable 3-24 to 5-11 triumph. So, Cork failed to move up alongside Tipperary, who lead the list of

winners with 22 championships.

● The Rebel County won the All-Ireland title for the first time in 1890, and apart from that history-making 1954 game with Wexford, have a unique

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THE MEN FROM CORK: 21 TITLES



● Gerald McCarthy

RY RECORD

By OWEN McCANN

ranking as the only one to take four national senior titles in succession — 1941 to 1944 inclusive.

● Ring, by the way, is also the only hurler to captain three Liam McCarthy Cup

winning sides. He was Cork's skipper in 1946, 1953 and in that 1954 game.

Talking of captains, let's take a brief look now at some of the men who have brought Cork back to the All-Ireland scene,

leading off with their current captain—Ray Cummins.

The six foot-plus star from Blackrock earned his place among an elite group of ten who played in All-Ireland senior final winning teams in hurling and football when he gained his only football medal in 1973 at the expense of Galway. Three years earlier he was on duty for Cork in their hurling triumph over Wexford.

Ray went into the county's premier side in hurling as a substitute in the 1969 Munster final, won by Cork. He was then only 19, but earlier had appeared with the county senior footballers.

An All-Ireland under-21 hurling medalist in 1969, this clever and quick-thinking forward was included in the Carroll's All-Star hurling and football teams of 1971 (the first of the series), and ranks as the only man to hold this unique honour. He collected further Carroll's All-Star awards in 1972 (hurling) and 1973 (football).

Now 26, and one of only four men to play in Railway Cup winning teams in both codes, Cummins also has two National Hurling League medals (1970 and 1972) among his impressive collection.

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● FROM PAGE 29

the brilliant goalkeeping of **Martin Coleman** has been a bright feature of the Championship. Indeed this 25-year-old Ballinhas-sig club man headed the GAELIC SPORT Top Ten chart in hurling in the July issue.

He is one of seven brothers who have worn the Cork jersey in hurling, and since taking over in goal with the senior side in 1974 has gone from success to success. Last month's win at Paire Uí Chaoimh earned him

his second provincial senior medal, and later in the month he was on duty for Ireland in the hurling-shinty international with Scotland in Scotland.

Gerald McCarthy was the county's lone Carroll's All-Star in the code last year. He is another Cork man with a unique ranking in that he led Cork to their senior and under-21 All-Ireland championships of 1966—the first hurler to achieve such a double.

Now 30, this finely balanced



● *Charlie McCarthy*

● *Martin O'Doherty*

and polished St. Finbarr's hurler collected his second Railway Cup medal last March. In fact, he has enjoyed a remarkable run of successes medals-wise, having been a star for his club in their 1975 All-Ireland title win, as well as holding three National League medals and two National senior championship awards (the second was won in 1970).

Martin O'Doherty had an amazing career in under age competition in hurling and football. By the time he was only 19 he had the almost unbelievable tally of nine All-Ireland medals to his credit covering Colleges, minor and under-21 competitions in hurling and football. He made his senior inter-county debut in 1971, added an under-21 hurling medal to his All-Ireland collection in 1973, and was in the team that last brought the National Hurling League title to Cork in 1974. He is 23.

Charlie McCarthy has made a splendid come-back after being out of Cork's side for a lengthy spell with an injury. He was our cut-out personality of last April, so sufficient now to add that he is 29, and the latest Munster senior medal win complements a total that includes two All-Irelands at senior, four National League medals, and a Carroll's All-Star of 1972. Charlie is now enjoying his twelfth season of senior inter-county fare and judging by the perpetual smile that adorns his countenance **enjoying** seems to be the operative word.



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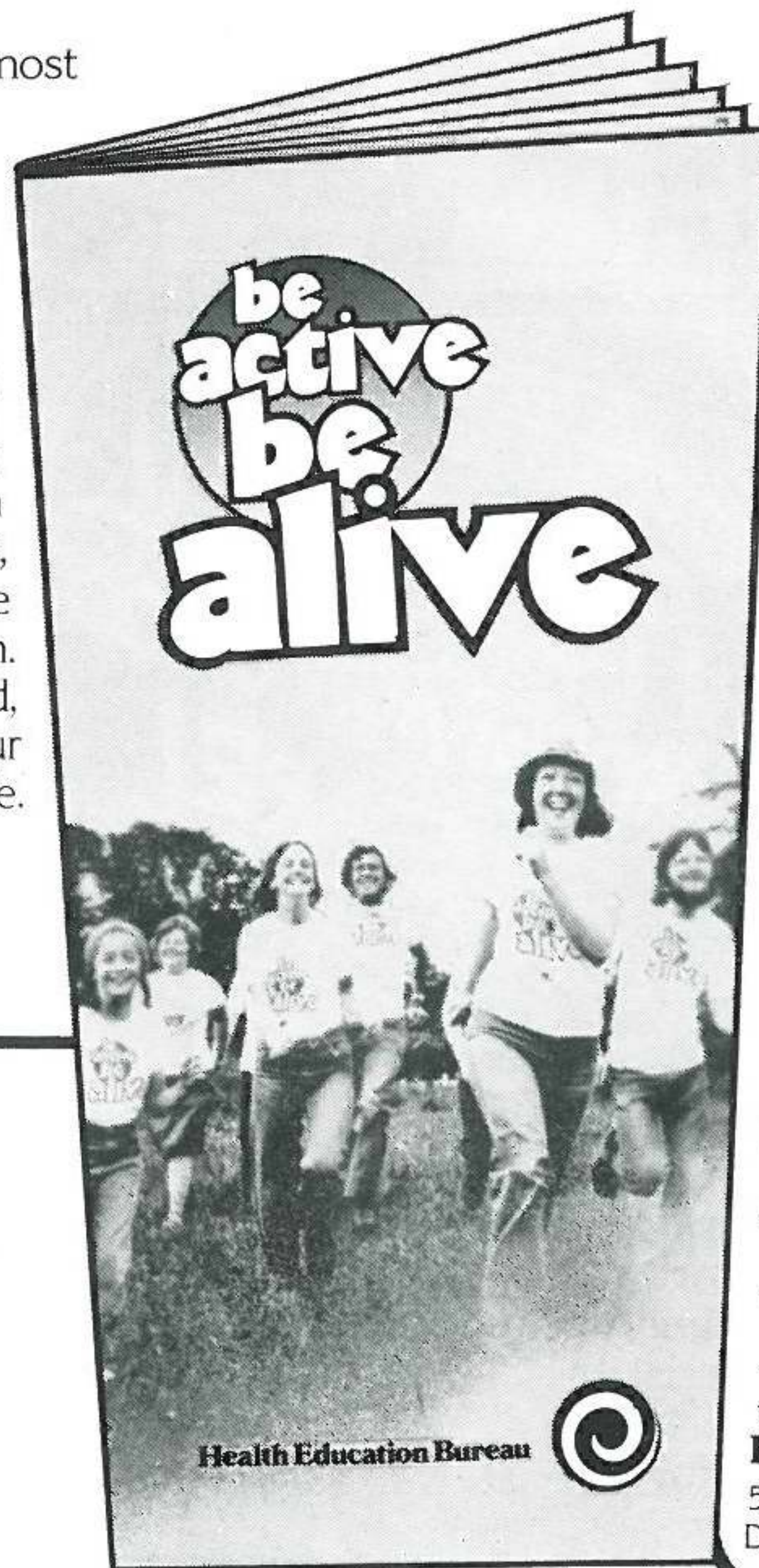
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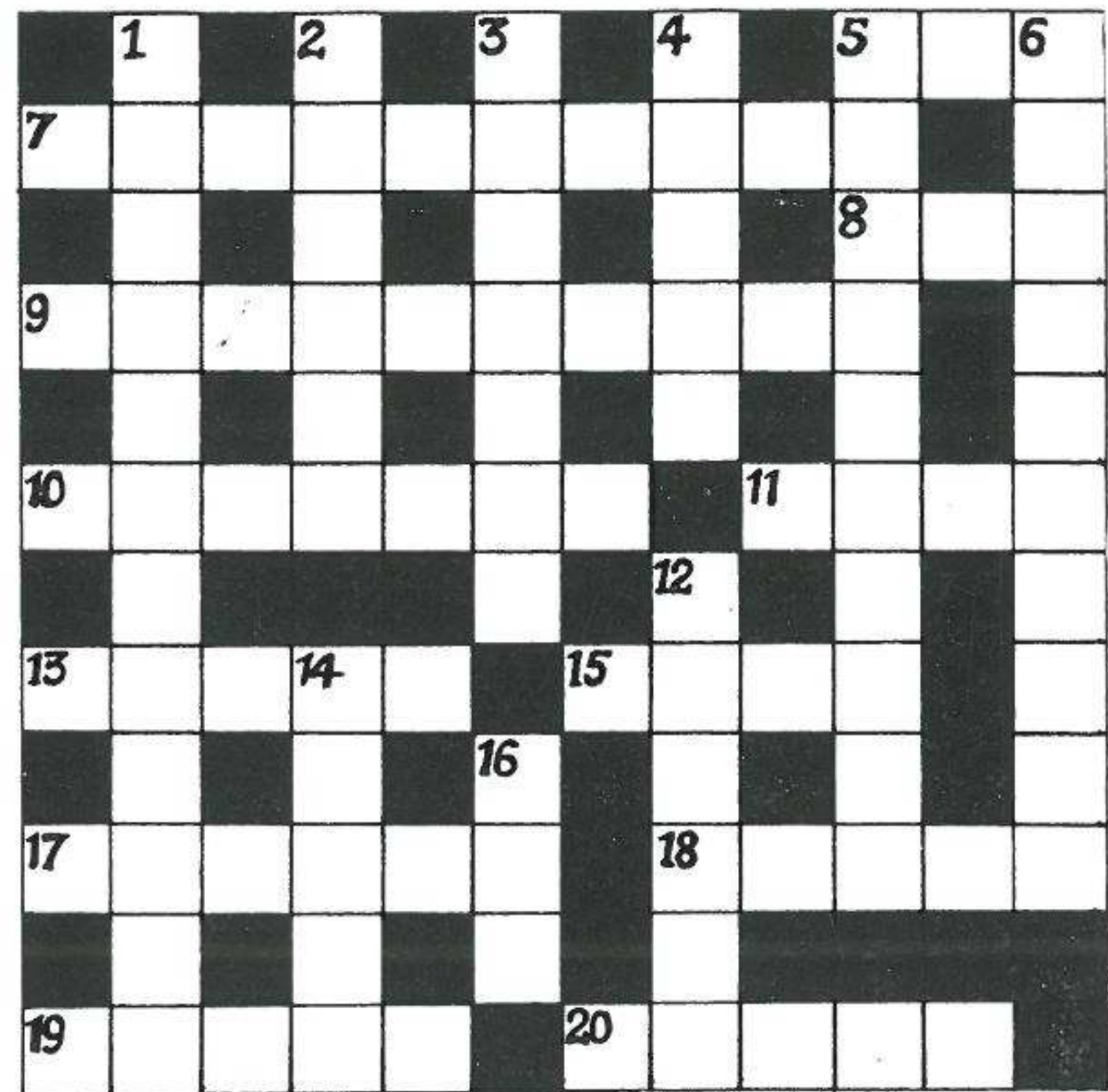


CROSSWORD

By PERMUTER

CLUES ACROSS:

- 5—Pay the Committee in charge of the Olympics in Irish coin. (3)
 7—I pip soon to the other side. (10).
 8—An Irish bird. (3).
 9—Kilkenny defender of style who won medals at centre-half and corner-back (3,7)
 10—He came between Tom Byrne and Sean Wynne for Mayo. (1, 6)
 11—Skipped Offaly in their second All-Ireland final. (4)
 13—Organ accompaniment for disappointed crowd reaction. (5)
 15—Hold on to a player's garb. (4)
 17—Small town team which made an impact in Leinster schools' hurling in 1972-73. (6).
 18—McRae whipped like the top of the milk. (5)
 19— St. Dan needs a ticket to watch the All-Ireland from such a vantage point. (5)
 20—Christy — not Ring — was corner forward in the only Cork side to lose an All-Ireland hurling final in the '50s. (5)



- 5—I gibe Neill because he is not legally free to play. (10)
 6—Dual Munster Railway Cup player from Waterford. (10)
 12—A scarf could get you involved in nasty incident at a match. (6)
 14—Brilliant Cork attacker — surname. (5)
 16—Ten gets all snarled up in the net. (3)

● SOLUTION PAGE 42

CLUES DOWN:

- 1—Mayo player who has always been rather overshadowed by his elder brother. (11)
 2—Score a Latin hundred, but now you are no longer banned. (6)
 3—Legendary Kerry goalkeeper who was succeeded by Dan O'Keeffe. (7)
 4—The grade that really lays the foundations, though apparently insignificant. (5)

All-Ireland Ploughing Championships

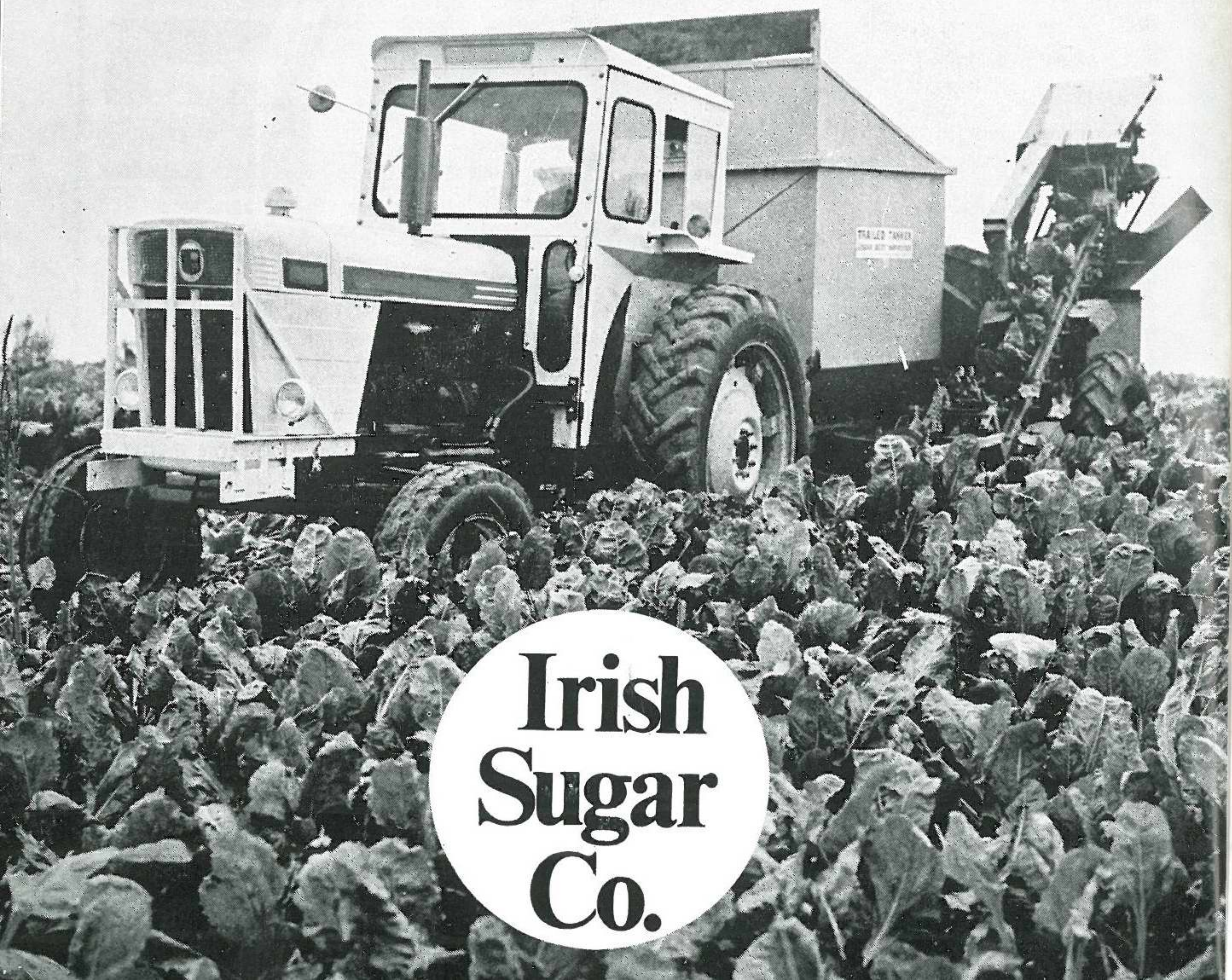
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New All-Ireland faces must emerge this year

ALTHOUGH at time of writing, the majority of the All-Ireland Camogie competitions have not progressed beyond the semi-final stage, we already know we are going to see new All-Ireland champions in at least two of the three grades.

Senior title-holders Wexford went out unexpectedly to Dublin a team they had beaten so readily in last year's semi-final, while the junior title-winning Dublin also went down, remarkably to Wicklow.

Although the Wicklow victory was notable in the fact that it was the Garden County's first championship victory over Dublin in any grade, the defeat of Dublin juniors was not so surprising because they had to practically find a whole new team.

But the defeat of the senior champions Wexford was a considerable shock.

Admittedly Wexford Camogie teams are slow to get into their stride in the early part of the season, but it must be remem-

bered that Buffer's Alley, the county champions, had looked very sharp when winning the All-Ireland seven-a-side competition staged by Kilmacud-Crokes at Glenalbyn earlier in the season.

Even when Wexford lost by two points to Dublin in the semi-final of the Leinster senior championship, nobody paid any particular heed, because the Wexford girls had also been defeated at the same stage of the provincial competition last season, and yet went on to win the All-Ireland. That they might be going to repeat that performance looked possible when, on their next appearance, they accounted for Kilkenny in a National League game. So, Wexford were favoured to defeat Dublin when their second meeting came in the All-Ireland competition. But, contrary to all expectations, it was Dublin who had improved most in the meantime.

Indeed Dublin's victory was even more clear-cut in their second meeting with Wexford

than it was in the first, and their come-back seemed assured. But, if to prove how crazy form can be, Kilkenny, who had lost to Wexford in the League, came up and defeated the Metropolitan girls in the Leinster final, and thus Dublin lost a provincial title which they had regained in 1975—after an eight-year interval.

However we have already seen enough to accept that, no matter what their subsequent fate may be in the All-Ireland series, Dublin are back as a major force on the senior Camogie scene.

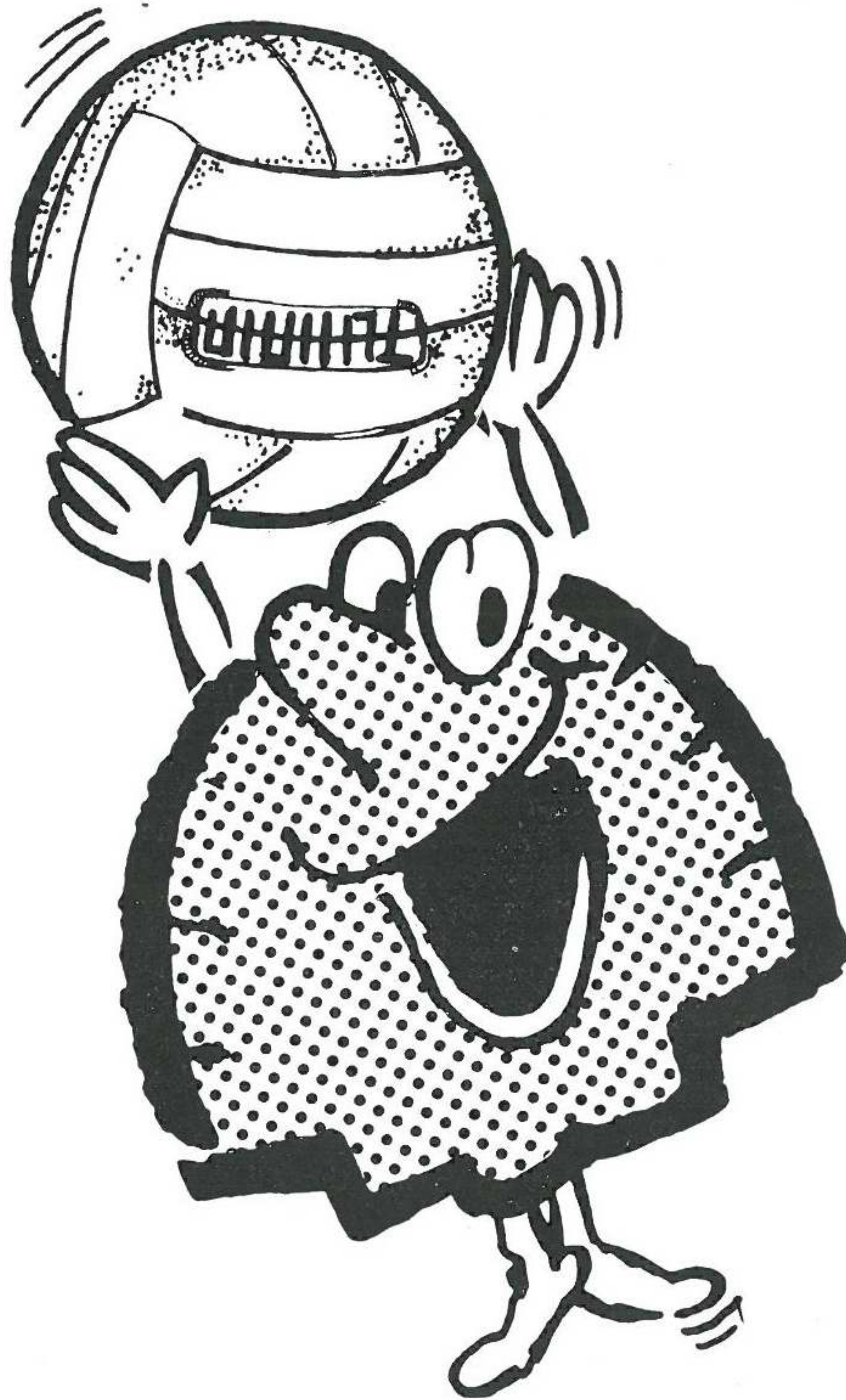
There is, of course, the encouragement this season for counties beaten in the senior championship that they will still have plenty of opportunity to make good in the National League, in which, at worst, they will still have a number of games to enable them to keep their teams together.

Wexford, for instance have at least two League matches to play, against Dublin and Antrim, and, should they win both, will find themselves in the final of that competition.

In the Western zone of the League the outcome rests between Tipperary and Galway, the winners meeting the winners of the Eastern zone in the League final.

The League will be an even more successful competition next season thanks to a recent Central Council ruling that junior players who take part in this competition will not lose their junior status for inter-county championship purposes.

The Coaching Courses in Gormanston were again a tremendous success, and within the next few months it seems certain that we shall have quite a number of qualifiers for the C Certificate, which will enable them to coach at Club and Colleges level.



**KEEP GOING WELL
KEEP GOING SHELL.**

L★A★D★I★E★S P★L★E★A★S★E



Edited by **KITTY MURPHY**

TELEVISION has much to recommend it. The Olympics have come and gone and through "the Box" we have watched and shared some of the greatest moments this sporting world has ever known. For me, however, listening as a child to the All-Ireland Final on the wireless is a memory I'll always hold dear. Now let me tell you—it was a **wireless**, not a **radio!**

There was much coming and going around the house on Final Day. Dinner was earlier than usual and then a few of the neighbours came in. My grand-father would open out the sports pages on the table and the merits and otherwise of every man were discussed. He'd then get a pencil and a sheet of notepaper, draw a line down the middle and write the names of the participating counties on either side. Further squares for goals and points were added—in fact nothing was left to chance. Michael O'Hehir's job was easy by comparison . . .

Speaking of Michael — he must surely have carved a very special niche in the heart of anyone who ever listened to his commentary on an All-Ireland. He'd begin by welcoming listeners, one and all, to Croke Park "on this great day of days." He'd then give the result of the minor

game, an account of the weather, and follow on with a descriptive and colourful account of the overall scene. The roar of the crowd announced the arrival of the teams on to the pitch. At this stage he'd hand us over for a couple of minutes to the strains of the now legendary Artane Boys Band. The arrival of the dignitaries of Church and State, the Team parade, the playing of Faith of Our Fathers and the National Anthem all added further to the great sense of occasion that was Croke Park on All-Ireland Day.

Once I reached that dubious 'Use of Reason' I anxiously awaited the great day when I would be actually brought to an All-Ireland Final. The two brothers had already been there and at long last my turn came.

My mother bought me a new dress for the occasion. My grandfather gave me a half-crown and a few neighbours, whom I had made it my business to tell, added further to the coffers. I was packed off to bed early on Saturday night. But sleep was not coming easily as wild imaginings of—

*"The eternal morrow dawn
Then the curtains will be
drawn
And they wake into a light*

*Whose day shall never die in
Night."*

I didn't however, have to be called twice next morning. My father and I went to early Mass, came back quickly and tucked into a good breakfast. My mother filled two flasks and packed sandwiches-a-plenty. The plastic macs were brought just in case 'twould rain. These however were folded up so neat and small that leaving them behind on the train was a mere formality. On the way to the station we collected my uncle and cousin. I was glad the cousin came — one could be that bit more adventurous with the bit of backing.

We got to the station with time to spare. The father bought the Sunday papers and a supply of sweets and chocolate for the journey. The train hadn't pulled in yet but there were people everywhere. Some were content to sit and read. More stood looking down the line while others anxiously walked up and down the platform. After what seemed hours of waiting the Dublin train crawled slowly in beside us. A few young fellows tried to open the doors while 'twas still moving. But eventually we all got in and soon were on our way.

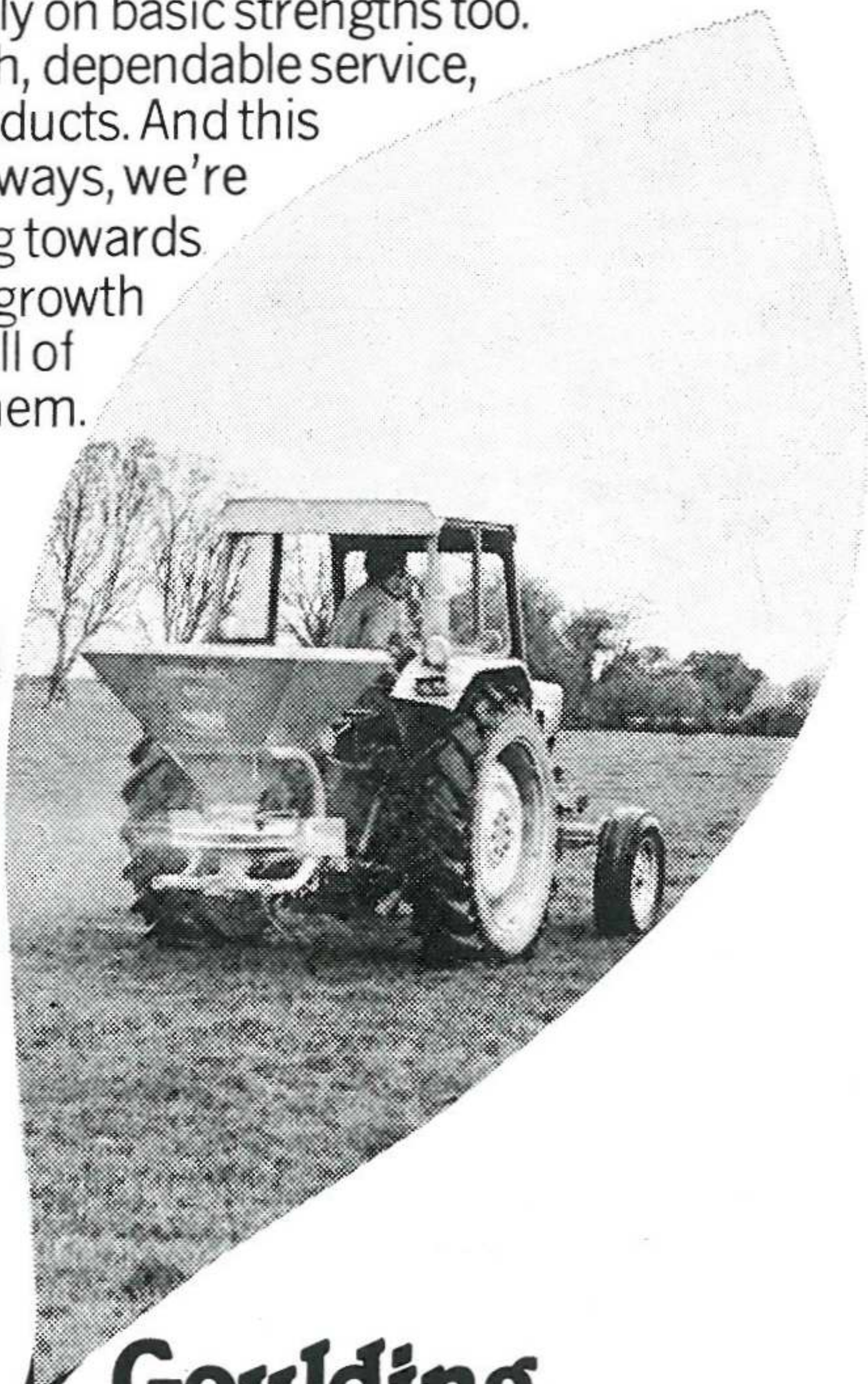
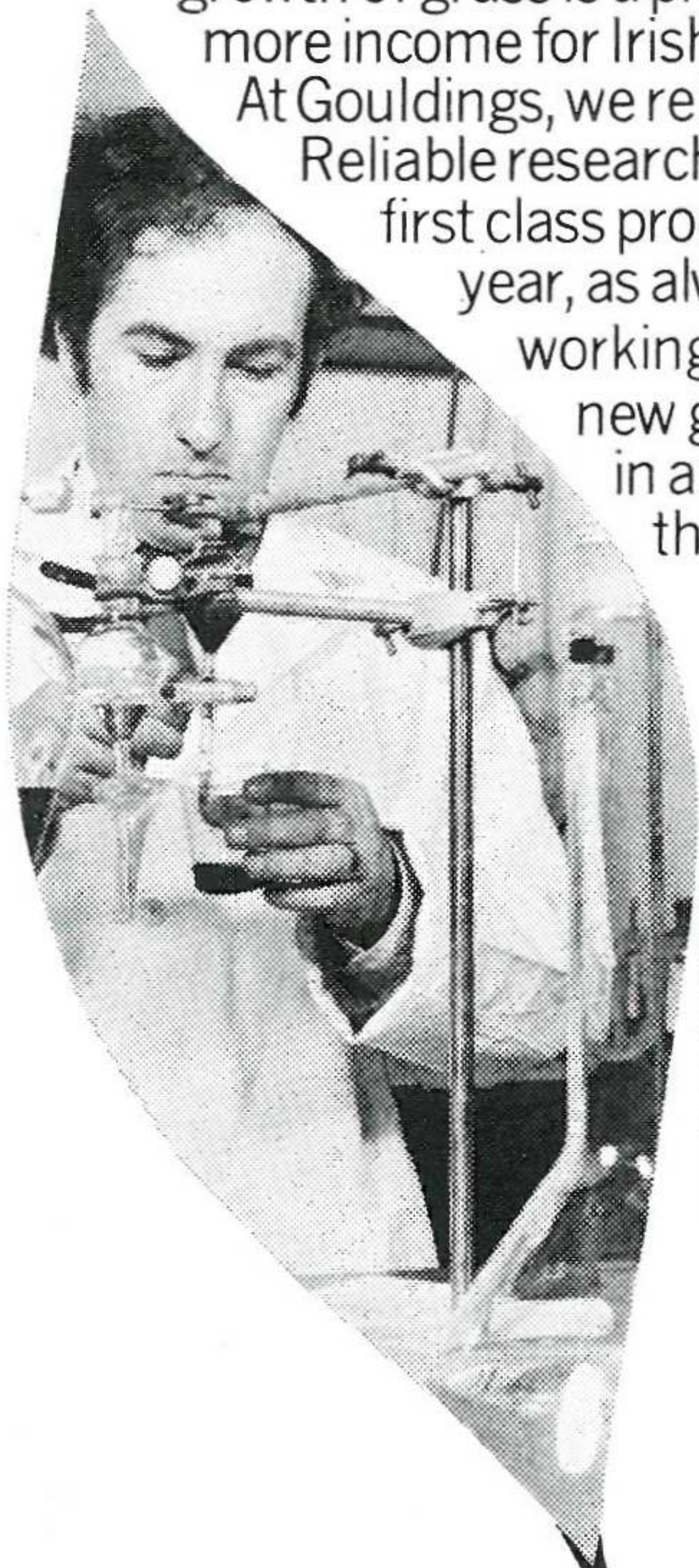
● **TO PAGE 39**

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LADIES PLEASE

● FROM PAGE 37

This was my first train journey

The cousin, however, was much travelled — 'twas his second! We soon got tired of sitting and paced up and down from one end of the train to the other, much to the annoyance of our fellow-travellers. We had been warned not to go near the doors but the only way to get rid of temptation is to yield to it. After a brief examination of the door we discovered that dislocation of the leather strap on the inside gave a window to the outside world.

I stuck my head out the window and how beautiful was that outside world. The breeze was soft and fresh upon my face. The distant woods were beginning to show the first traces of Autumnal colour while beside the tracks a little brook babbled 'twixt golden banks. The ruins of an old castle in the distance afforded us a glimpse of a bygone age. Time however changes everything and now—

*"On its lofty crest the wild birds nest.
In its halls the sheep good shelter find,
And the ivy shades where a hundred blades were hung when the owners in sleep reclined."*

Every now and then the cousin and I would hazard a guess at the counties through which we were passing. I was never too good at the geography myself but that didn't mean that I had to be of one mind with yer man. If we failed to reach agreement I consulted my father. After about a half dozen such consultations, however, I got the distinct feeling that if I had asked were we

in Siberia he'd have said— "that's right Girl, off you go now."

At this stage my father and uncle were in deep conversation with six or seven other followers of the code. The voices were nostalgic in tone as All-Irelands, going back to the year of splash, were retraced. Great players, great scores and the odd hard luck story were all recalled. Every so often then they'd return and dissertate on the Match-of-the-Day. Then of course the ever-on-going question was posed — how would teams of to-day compare with those of the good old days. Personally I think comparisons like that are grossly unfair. When all's said and done—

*"All our pride is but a jest,
None are worst and none are best."*

The dense expanse of houses, the high towering chimney stacks, the Wellington Monument and at last we were in Dublin. Now the mad scramble began all over again — this time to get off the train. The door of the station resembled a mini-market. Oranges and apples, chocolate and minerals were being sold at a great rate. Buses were lined up and taxis were vying with each other for customers. I had never seen a double-decker before so I made it my business to get upstairs. My father called me back but I kept going—hesitation is the camping ground of lost causes.

The seagulls were swooping low over the Liffey as we made our way slowly but surely in along the quays. The Four Courts and Christchurch Cathedral were pointed out to us en route and the dome of the Custom House could be identified in the distance. O'Connell Street looked magni-

ficent. The footpaths were choc-a-bloc with people and the once high and mighty Nelson's Pillar towered over all. What I found most fascinating however was the splendid row of tall stately trees that grew in all their verdurous glory down the full length of this historic street.

We continued on up Parnell Square and around the corner to the Castle Hotel. This, I soon gathered was the traditional "eating house" for half the country. The father and uncle decided we had enough time on hand to go in and have dinner.

After a fine meal we continued our journey through Gardiner Place, past Mountjoy Square and Fitzgibbon Street — and suddenly I caught my first sight of the great stadium in the distance.

Only someone, like myself, entering Croke Park for one's first All-Ireland Final could fully appreciate the thrilling experience I underwent that memorable day.

The sea of faces — and heads bedecked with colourful paper hats, flags being waved deliriously, the Artane Boys' Band with their flawless stride and music to match, the arrival of the teams on the park—and then for me—the most thrilling memory of all, the communal singing of our National Anthem.

I really felt like exploding with pride — my first real conscious realisation that I was Irish and never was I more proud of my heritage.

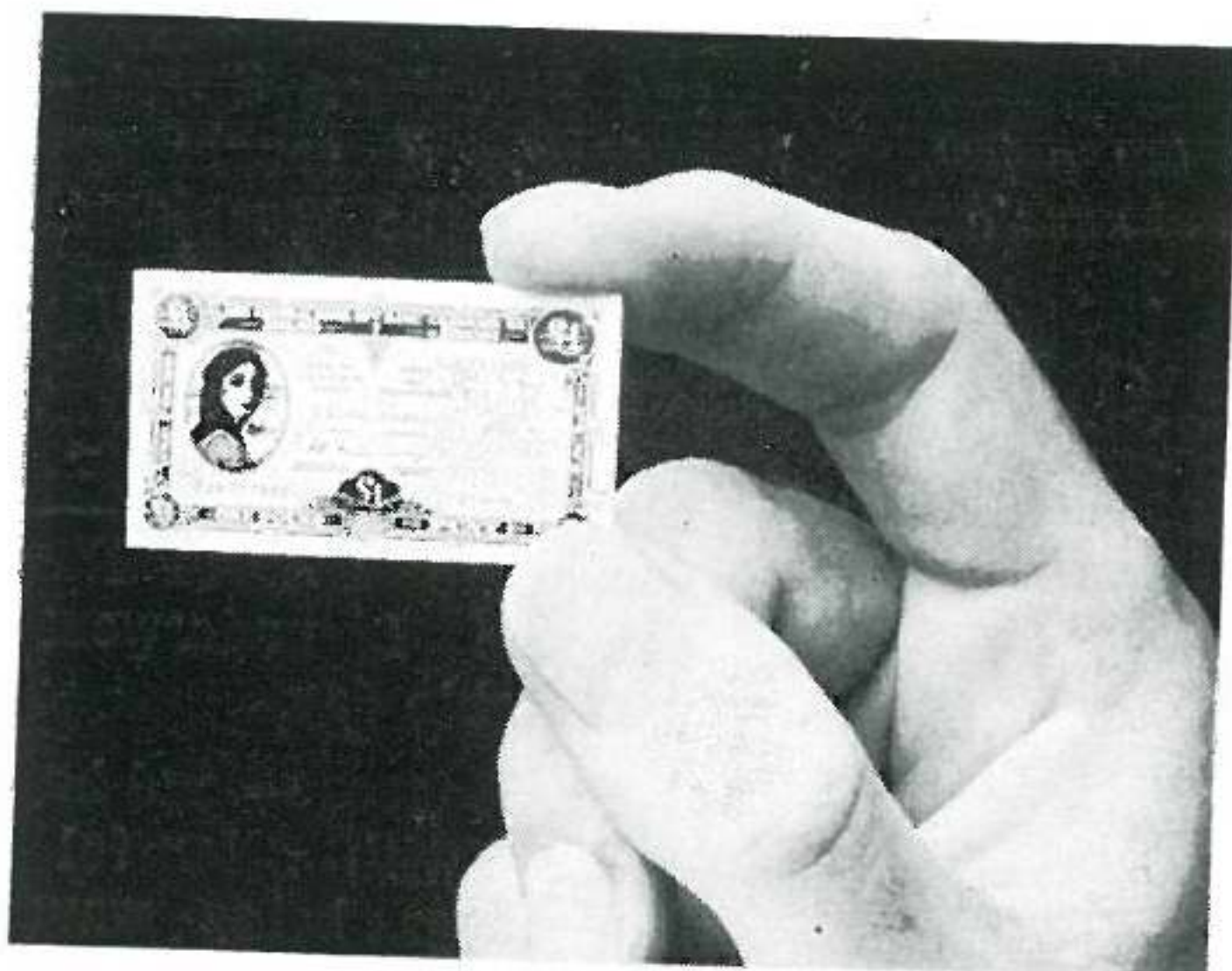
The match itself, to a youngster like myself, was of no great consequence — just being a part of that cheering crowd of Irishmen and women on that great occasion — was enough for me.

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RISE OF THE UNDERDOG

By SEAN CLERKIN

THE handball scene continues to provide its own quota of newsworthy items as action in the court and productivity at administrative level combine to present a picture of well-being for the game.

Westmeath Progress

The rise of the underdog is always welcome, hence it's congratulations to Westmeath on winning a senior handball singles title in Leinster for the first time.

This feat was achieved by Andy Byrne who beat Cecil Winders of Kildare in a breathtaking final.

Byrne's achievement was all the more meritorious in that he also knocked out the Louth master, Joey Maher, in the semi-final.

This is not the first time the bold Andy has put Westmeath on the handball map.

In 1973 he joined up with Willie Mullins and brought the first All-Ireland handball doubles title to the county.

This modern success story for Westmeath in the playing court parallels with the progress being made at administrative level in the county.

In Mullingar, the former President of the Handball Council—Br. B. C. Ó Murchú, has put the game on a firm footing, while Paddy Shaughnessy, the General Factotum of Handball in Delvin, was the leading light in having the local club court roofed. So, it's green signals all the way in Westmeath and those responsible for the happy position deserve congratulations.

Championship Upsets

On taking a look at the playing scene we find that this year's championships provided its own quota of upsets.

The outstanding one was the defeat of the Limerick star, Pat McGarry, by John Kirby of Clare in the Coca-Cola Championship.

Gael-Linn Champion and short-odds favourite for the Coca-Cola title, McGarry had no answer to the fluid hitting of Kirby who showed much of the skill of his famed brother Pat.

In the handball code, the Kildare partnership of Matt Purcell and Greg Lawlor stamped their class on the senior championships while the emergence of star minor, Michael Maher from Louth, clouded the fact that his famous father, Joey, has gradually faded from the top bracket of handball.

Coaching Course

At the beginning of the month, Pat Kirby, in his role as coach was seen to be master of the situation when he directed the Annual Coaching Course at Gormanston.

Assisted by Andy Byrne, Liam Hanley, Br. B. C. Ó Murchú, Pakie Hoare and Joe Lynch, the whole operation was a wonderful success and will certainly be of benefit to the fifty students who attended.

The syllabus was specifically designed to cover all facets of the game and each Coach contributed by way of practical application and lectures.

The Course, which is recognised by the Department of Education,

had a very varied range embracing the basic Handball skills, Theory of Coaching, Practical Coaching, Fitness and Preparation of Coaching Schemes to name but a few.

Diplomas will be awarded, after one year's probation, to those who, having taken the coaching course, submit a report on Coaching Courses conducted by them through the preceding twelve months.

The West's Awake

More good news to hand is that the first American styled 40' × 20' court has been built in Connacht.

It is sited in Claremorris and has materialised through the dedicated efforts of Father E. Horan, who, for many years has been one of the unsung heroes of handball.

A former Chairman of the Connacht Council, Fr. Horan has also been actively involved in the development of handball in Newport and was also responsible for building a new court at Bunnacurry, Achill.

In his latest project he was fortunate in having the co-operation of an active committee which included former Mayo Footballer Cormac Hanley, Tony Kitching and John Carey.

The Claremorris court has many unique advantages which should be of interest to other clubs with similar projects in mind.

The walls are finished in white sand and white cement and this will reduce the maintenance costs on painting, while the roof

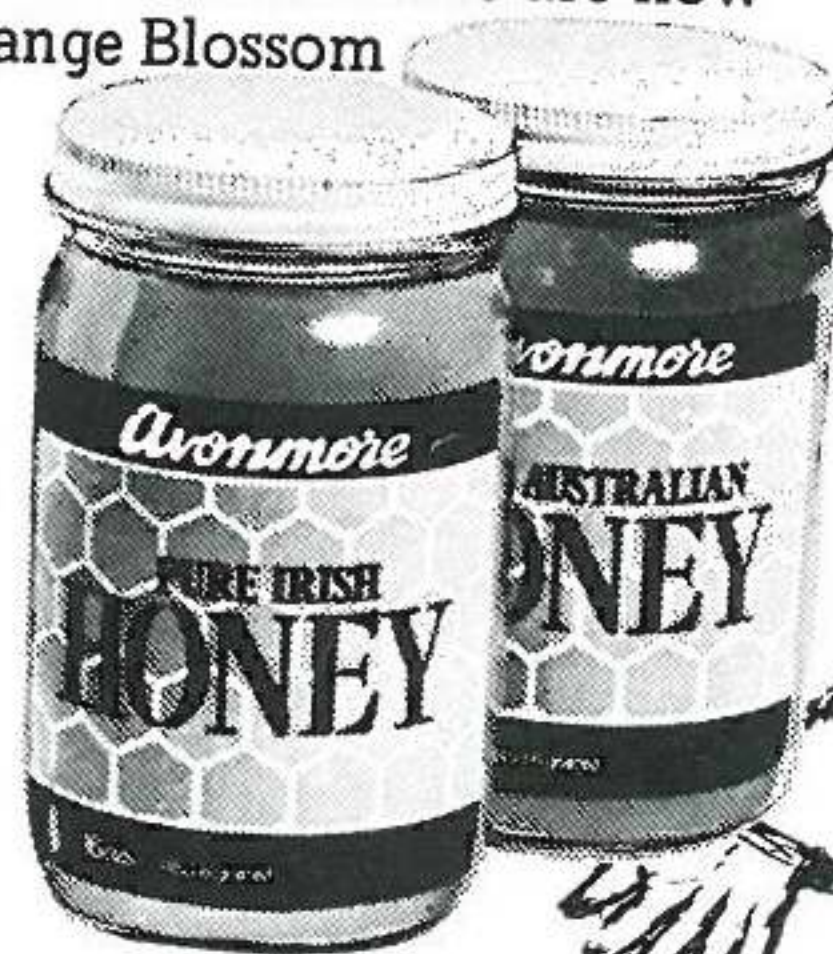
● TO PAGE 43

UP THE BEES

Our reporter, puzzled by this mysterious banner, asked a prominent player. He explained that since Avonmore Honey is great for making champions the bees ought to get some credit, too. In fact, he got it from a reliable source that bees in Spain who heard of the fame of Avonmore are now making Spanish honey from the nectar of Orange Blossom and Rosemary for Avonmore. Try it. Maybe you'll add a Spanish touch to the game!



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CROSSWORD SOLUTION

● FROM PAGE 33

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● FROM PAGE 19

Kilkenny, at one stage in the first half, were hurling as though they owned the ball, but Cork came back at them with wonderful resilience into the height of the storm and looked set for victory. Indeed they must have won had not Jack Lynch, of all people, pulled on a ground ball close in, and must have been as astounded as almost everyone else in the ground was, when that ball, instead of flashing to the Kilkenny net, reared right up and went soaring over the bar.

As it was, scores were level in the last minute and then, from what had scarcely seemed a half-chance, Jimmy Kelly from Carrickshock sent the sliothar sailing between the Cork posts to snatch victory for the Kilkenny-men.

Eight years later the same two counties provided possibly the greatest final I have yet seen, and again Kilkenny won by a single point. That of course was the famed 1947 final, played on a well-nigh perfect day for a well-nigh perfect game.

This was, in retrospect, Terry Leahy's All-Ireland but, while the story of his last-gasp winning point from Paddy Grace's long, long clearance is widely known, and often retold, I always think that Leahy's second last score was an even greater test of nerve and skill.

With less than two minutes remaining, Kilkenny, then a point in arrears, were awarded a free about 25 yards out and towards the old Hogan Stand at the Railway end.

After referee Phil Purcell from Tipperery had placed the ball, and was running back towards the posts, before blowing the whistle, Leahy shifted the sliothar, with his foot, a bit towards the centre of the field, in order to improve the angle. But Phil from Holy Cross



● NICKY RACKARD

"The Big Fella banged home a goal and that was that."

quickly came back, gave the Kilkennyman a word of admonition, and replaced the ball a yard or so further out towards the sideline

Utterly unperturbed, Terry Leahy, possibly the coolest man, at that moment, in all Croke Park, lobbed the ball over the bar to balance the scores with all the ease in the world.

Oddly, all the finals I have seen Cork win were won fairly comfortably, while almost any finals I have seen Cork lose were

~~~~~  
**HANDBALL**

includes seventeen domes to allow for natural light during the day.

The new court, which has gallery accommodation for 300 cost £14,000 but, the most important factor in this regard, and, indeed, it is a tribute both to the Committee and the people of Claremorris, is that only a debt of £5,000 is still outstanding.

**Roscommon Appeal**

And, finally, could you spare a thought or more appropriately a £1.00 for the Roscommon Handball Club which has met a

thrilling affairs.

As a last instance, take that unforgettable clash with Wexford twenty years ago. There you had the powerful Slaneysiders seemingly marching to victory. Then you had the tenacious Corkmen striking back, spear-headed by Christy Ring, chasing a ninth All-Ireland medal that day.

Staging a great last quarter rally, Cork came from seven points down to level terms, and Croke Park really erupted when the one and only Ring sent the leading point flashing over the bar.

But Wexford were not done with. Nicky Rackard himself, the Big Fella, edged them in front again with points from frees.

Three minutes to go, Wexford two points ahead, and Christy Ring, knifing through the defence, shoots hard and straight for the goal that would surely have given Cork victory and Christy that ninth medal. But Art Foley, the Wexford goalman, plucked that sliothar out of the air, Wexford came back on the break, Big Nicky banged home a goal and that was that!

~~~~~  
● FROM PAGE 41

financial impasse with its new court.

With the walls already completed and the roof in position, it was necessary to call a halt to the work on the project due to lack of funds.

Pakie Hoare, the chief administrator of the Club is confident that this setback will be of short duration and firmly believes that the GAA and indeed all Handball followers throughout the country will come to the rescue.

Subscriptions should be sent direct to: Pakie Hoare, 20 Henry St., Roscommon.

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ON THE SPOT...

IT seems reasonable to expect the latest showdown for hurling's top prize to add another colourful and exciting chapter to the stirring history of the All-Ireland senior championship. The finalists are well equipped to ensure this.

The great occasion is, naturally enough, mirrored in ON THE SPOT . . . this month, but with the 1976 contenders so very much in the spotlight, I thought it would make for an added edge to the quiz to take a general look at past events, rather than to concentrate exclusively on the finalists.

There are three sections to the quiz, two extra long ones, each over ten questions, and a short five question run-down on finals of the 'Seventies. In this short group each question is worth four points; all the others are five markers. There are a number of bonus questions as well, and the points totals are given at the end of each section.

We start with a:—

GENERAL REVIEW

1. You probably know that the Liam McCarthy Cup is awarded to the winners of the All-Ireland senior hurling championship. But what county heads the trophy winners' list?.....

2. Last year's Kilkenny-Galway game was one of only two finals in the past twenty-one years in which Munster had not a direct interest in the show-piece tie. Name the other "blank" year for the South?

3. How many goals were scored in last year's final?.....

4. The 1910 decider has a special place in that the game ranks as the only one in which the winning team failed to

score a single point. The winners were Tipperary, Cork, Wexford or Kilkenny. Your selection please?

5. Dublin have six All-Ireland senior hurling titles. In what year did they last prove too good for all comers?

6. And, when did Waterford win their second and last national crown?

7. Cork hold a unique ranking in hurling as regards title wins in succession. They achieved that special place in 1944. Over how many years does the record extend?

8. Now for our first bonus question. Name the winners of the last 60 minutes final, the first 80 minutes decider and of the last game over eighty minutes?

(Five Bonus Points for All Correct Answers)

9. Can you list two of the four counties, other than London, on the winners' rankings with one All-Ireland senior hurling title apiece?

10. The last year the senior hurling and minor titles both went to Munster was 1971. What county or counties landed that double?

Total marks possible: 55. Your score

Now for a look at some of the FINALS OF THE 'SEVENTIES

1. Who refereed last year's big game?



2. The hurlers pictured above

were in action in a show piece game of recent vintage. Who are they, and for a bonus of four points list the year of the final in question?

3. This native of Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare, turned on the skills in a novel match, and later won a Carrolls All Stars award in the same year?

4. Captains of Cork and Wexford in the 1970 decider?

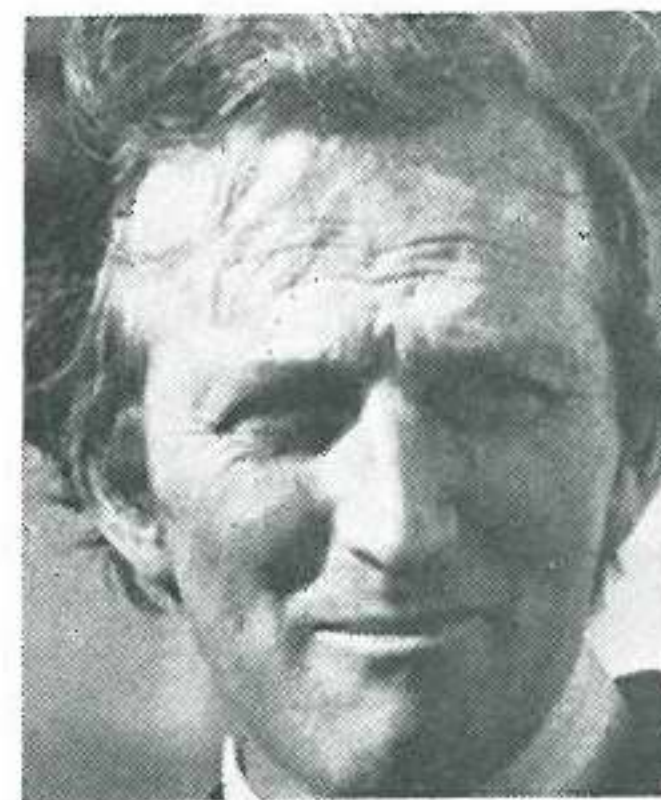
5. Eddie Keher won his fifth, sixth or eighth senior medal a year ago?

Total marks possible: 24. Your score

Finally, the emphasis in this section is very much on

PERSONALITIES

1. Who is the odd man out here, and why — Jim Treacy (Kilkenny), Gerald McCarthy (Cork), Tony Doran (Wexford) and Eamonn Grimes (Limerick)?



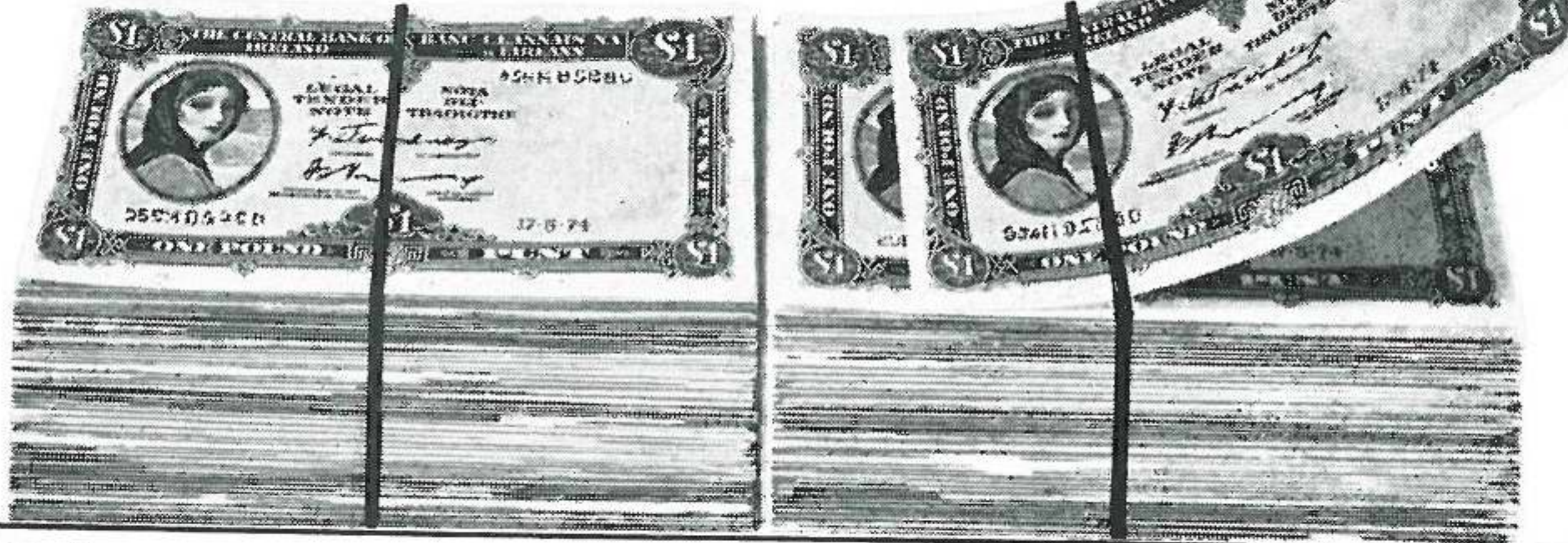
2. Pictured here is a current leading legislator, who played in his county's last senior hurling final appearance in 1961.

● TO PAGE 47

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AN INTERESTING MIXTURE

HOW does one go about trying to sum up this Cork team — and having done that, what's the end result?

Are they a fair side? A good side? or — one hesitates to say it — a great side?

There were times against Tipperary when there were doubts as to whether the Leesiders could actually produce a championship-winning display; but that was all dispelled against Limerick when even a moderate second half could not detract from a fine controlled first half.

Admittedly Cork did enjoy a bonus or two from their early season probings and testings — the confirmation of Johnny Crowley as a fine wing half-back; the

settlement of Denis Coughlan into left-half where the consistent excellence of his form has surpassed anything he has previously shown; the emergence of Pat Moylan as a credible midfield partner for Gerald McCarthy; the re-discovery of Mick Malone, fresh, hardy and strong as ever; and the final acceptance of Brendan Cummins as pivot of the attack.

Another fact which emerged, probably is that Cork still does not have a ready-made centre-back, but that, when the need is put up to him, John Horgan will do the job to greater effect than anyone else.

But, the end of the matter is that you cannot go far wrong

when you have a basis of quality hurlers to work from: some or all of them will come through to their real form and you will have a side that will make a fighting challenge for the championship. With a goalkeeper of the extraordinary knife-edge brilliance of Martin Coleman, who performed feats of unbelievable sorcery in keeping Cork in the Munster race against Tipperary, you have a fair good start to begin with.

With a pivot at midfield of the polished skill and cool judgement of Gerald McCarthy, switching the ball forward from defence to attack with the minimum of delay and maximum of insight, you always stand the chance of outflanking the opposition where quickness and correctness are the keys to their embarrassment. With a full-forward line of Charlie McCarthy, Ray Cummins and Seanie O'Leary, there must be scores, and not only that, but a weight of responsibility and worry on any defence facing them, for their sharpness is

● TO PAGE 48

ON THE SPOT

● FROM PAGE 45

Who is he?

3. This Kilkenny-born hurler led a county—not his native one—to a famous break-through win in 1955. What you have to do here is to name the hurler and the county concerned?

.....

4. Christy Ring (Cork) and John Doyle (Tipperary) share the record for all-Ireland senior hurling and football medal wins at eight, and also head the list with regard to hurling final appearances. How many times did each appear in the big game?

5. Now one to test the

memory, and five extra marks if you come up with the right answer. Who was the first man to receive the Liam McCarthy Cup?

A clue: Limerick were the first to receive it, as winners of the 1921 championship.

6. London-born and a prominent present-day player, his captaincy in an All-Ireland final did not end in a title win for his team. Who is he?.....

.....

7. One to see how expert you are on minor affairs. Can you name the captain of Kilkenny's minor hurling title winning side of last September?

.....

8. Jack Lynch (Cork) is one of the talented company of dual

All-Ireland senior medalists. More than that he is the only man to win a certain number of medals in succession. Is that total, five, six or seven medals?

9. Dan Quigley led Wexford to their last All-Ireland senior hurling final win in 1968. True or false?

10. Finally, let's end on a more recent note—simply this: Who wore the No. 11 jerseys in last year's summit?

.....

Total marks possible: 55. Your score

RATING

Grand total of marks possible: 134. A score of 120 or more: Excellent. 95 to 120: Very Good. 80 to 95 Good.

● ANSWERS: PAGE 48

● FROM PAGE 47

known as individuals, while their combined cunning is like a bomb ticking away ready to explode any defence.

First considered as a footballer, Jimmy Barry-Murphy has brought an uncontrollable "ghosting" style to his play that sooner or later catches defences forgetful of his presence until suddenly he has the ball and just as suddenly it's in the back of the net. Last year's Munster final and this year's semi-final against Tipperary were completely swayed by a moment of his ghosting, and yet again in this year's Munster final he was found quite alone in front of the posts for a goal that really set the seal on Cork's early supremacy and made it decisive.

Yet, Cork have problems — in spite of all the fine young hurlers they have displayed year after year in minor ranks and in under-21 and in spite of the standard of club hurling within the county which is surely second to none.

The full-back position was not after all solved for a long while by the recovery of Pat McDonnell and his return to inter-

county last year. Unhappily he was found to be heavier and not able to do much about reducing; and his speed and manoeuvrability had lost a lot of edge. The weight could not entirely account for it, because there was the complicating factor of that injured knee which was doing well to allow him to play without taking the most intense pressure that knees must take to keep the speed and quickness of movement in the full-back position.

John Grogan made it very troublesome for McDonnell; it was not surprising to see Pat Barry called in though he might have been pushed a little rapidly into the thick of things in the end. The fact that Eamon Cregan scored 4-1 off him in the Munster final might suggest its own answer, but, in fact, Cregan moved about a lot in that game, got the point while centre-forward and two of the goals from penalties. Yet, it must be said that Pat did not dominate the mouth of the goal, his role seemed to be much more negative.

Not bad if the next opponent does not happen to be Tony Doran, say, whose thoughts will be centred on placing the same kind of problems Cregan posed.

Brian Murphy and Martin Doherty have their moments and most counties would wish to have them, though somehow they never seem to create the certainty in anticipation that they will close out the corners. Centre-back is still in the lap of the gods and naturally must be Cork's No. 1 worry. Even the marvellous play of Denis Coughlan who has covered so often for weaknesses in the area in the past cannot be expected to cope all the time.

Pat Moylan is playing well at midfield — industrious, useful, handy, but hardly a star to raise himself, the game or the crowd. Brendan Cummins is unproven at centre-forward and Malone is still subject to the days when nothing goes wrong just as he is subject to those when nothing goes right.

An interesting mixture. Certainly good enough to make a great All-Ireland bid; maybe good enough to win a brilliant and memorable victory; more likely just good enough to make a challenge of fits and starts, of brilliance and bathos, giving themselves and their opponents a chance and keeping the crowd in high excitement to the last puck.

Cover photo

OUR front cover this month features the All-Ireland finalists, Wexford and Cork.

WEXFORD — from left (back row): Billy Rowsome, Jim Prendergast, Willie Murphy, Christy Keogh, John Nolan, Colm Doran, John Quigley, Johnny Murphy. Front row: Teddy O'Connor, Mick Jacob, Martin Quigley, Mick Butler, Ned Buggy, Tony Doran (capt.) and Liam Bennett.

CORK—from left (back row): Mick Malone, John Horgan, Pat Moylan, Johnny Crowley, Martin O'Doherty, Pat Barry, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Brian Murphy, Denis Coughlan. Front row: Charlie McCarthy, Brendan Cummins, Martin Coleman, Ray Cummins (capt.), Gerald McCarthy and Seanie O'Leary.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

● FROM PAGE 47

GENERAL REVIEW

1. Cork, with 14 wins. 2. 1955 when Wexford beat Galway. 3. Four — Kilkenny 2-22; Galway 2-10. 4. Wexford. 5. 1938. 6. 1959. 7. Four. 8. Kilkenny, Cork and Kilkenny. 9. Clare (1914), Galway (1923), Kerry (1891), Laois (1915). 10. Tipperary at senior and Cork.

FINALS OF THE 'SEVENTIES

1. Sean O'Connor (Limerick). 2. Paddy Barry (St. Vincent's) and Pat Nolan (Oylegate), goalkeepers in the 1970 Cork-Wexford game. 3. Niall McInerney, Galway's right full back a year

ago. 4. Paddy Barry (Cork) and Michael Collins (Wexford). 5. Sixth.

PERSONALITIES

1. Tony Doran — the only member of the quartette who has not captained an All-Ireland senior title winning XV. 2. Jimmy Gray (Dublin). 3. Nick O'Donnell and Wexford. 4. Ten. 5. Bob McConkey. 6. Sean Foley, Limerick's captain in their 1974 clash with Kilkenny; 7. Harry Ryan, the right half back. 8. Six (Hurling 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944, football in 1945 and hurling again in 1946). 9. True. 10. Pat Delaney (Kilkenny) and Frank Burke (Galway).

THIS is the All-Ireland Final of — **THE BROTHERS.** Not those well-known characters of the television serial which was so popular on our screens during the past year, but the unusually large number of brothers whose appearance in Croke Park on final day makes this year's such a remarkable decider.



John Quigley



Martin Quigley

THE REMARKABLE BROTHERS

Between them Wexford and Cork have in their panels for the final as many as five sets of brothers. Wearing the Wexford jerseys will be John and Martin Quigley, Colm and Tony Doran, Billy and Declan Rowsome and Mick and Henry Butler and in the Cork red and white are Ray and Brendan Cummins.

Of course, the presence of brothers in the hurling final is nothing new. A set of brothers, in fact, appeared in the last three finals—John and Michael Connolly last year and the Limerick players, Pat and Bernie Hartigan, in '73 and '74. Then there were the Quigleys in the 1970 decider and Billy and Tommy Murphy with Kilkenny in '71.

However, never in modern times have as many brothers been involved in the final as this year. Barring accidents, of course, three sets will actually be named in the final selections—the Dorans, Quigleys and Cummins. It is in keeping with Wexford teams of latter decades that the Rathnure club should provide a set of brothers for the final. In four finals—those of 1951, '54, '55 and '56—the Rathnure brothers were the Rackards; Bobbie, Billy and the late Nick. Two Quigleys contributed significantly to Wexford's triumph over Tipperary in 1968, Dan as centre half-back and captain and John as a second half substitute on the right wing of the attack. On that same afternoon Martin, as right half-forward on the minor team, scored four points in the first leg of the county's hurling double.

By 1970, Wexford's last appearance in the senior hurling final, Martin had joined the rest of the family in the senior team. In all there were four of them in the team that lost to Cork: Dan at centre half-back and Martin,

Pat and John forming the half-forward line.

Now John and Martin are back in the final, both again in the attack. But John, who will be 28 next month and is just three months short of being three years older than Martin, has not always been a forward. One of Wexford's most brilliant minors and under-21s, he was a minor corner forward in 1965, but right full-back the following year when Wexford won the title in the replayed final against Cork. He was a forward during his four years (1966-'69) on the under-21 side, but ranged between defence and attack after joining the senior team for the 1967 Leinster final.

One of his most memorable performances was as a defender in the 1973 National League final, in which Wexford trounced Limerick 4-13 to 3-7. To have taken part in that win must have been a happy occasion for him, but victory was all the more satisfying because he contributed to it with a magnificent performance at left full-back after being a dressing-room replacement for his injured club-mate Teddy O'Connor. He played at right corner forward in the semi-final of that league but had been dropped from the side. However, when he got a late recall as a defender for the final he not only played a "blinder" but had the additional pleasure of leading the team to victory as captain.

Martin, like his brothers a product of St. Peter's College, was on the minor team three years running (1967-'69) and was also an under-21. Again, as his brothers Dan and John have done, he has worn the county's jersey at football and won a Leinster minor football medal in 1969 and has the added honour of being a Carrolls All-Star hurler for the past three years.

By MICK DUNNE (RTE Sport)

G.A.A.

ALL-IRELAND HURLING FINALS

i bPáirc an Chrócaigh

5th September, 1976

SENIOR — 3.15 p.m.

CORCAIGH v LOCH GARMAN

MINOR — 1.30 p.m.

TIOBRAID ARANN v CILL CHAINNIGH

All Stands reserved and tickets have been distributed through the various units of the Association :: General Admission : 70p

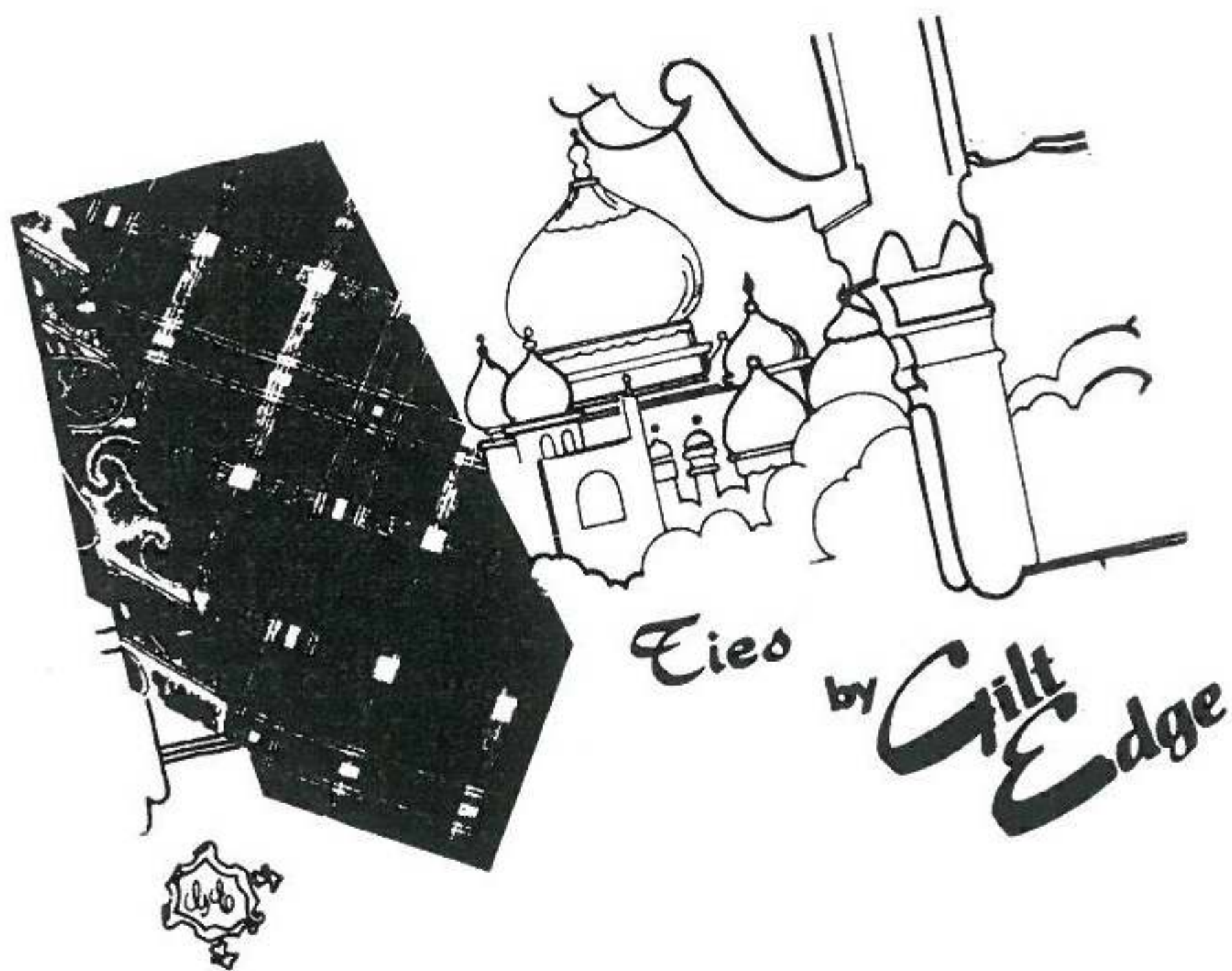
ENTRANCES

To Hogan Stand and Nally Stand—via Jones' Road.

To Canal End Terraces—via lane off Russell Street Bridge.

To Hill 16 Terraces—via St. Joseph's Avenue off Clonliffe Road.

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MICK DUNNE (RTE Sport) TAKES A LOOK AT CONNACHT'S NEW HURLING OFFICER

Sean Silke of Galway



SEAN SILKE

BEFORE last year's All-Ireland hurling final Sean Silke, the outstanding Galway centre half-back, was quoted in a weekly newspaper offering this advice to young boys: "You should play all sports with equal enthusiasm, but once you have found the one you like best, practise, practise — and always play for the enjoyment you get."

ned that he will be active in the weeks before his departure and during his Christmas break from Loughborough he will again be busily engaged visiting juvenile teams in the province.

This summer Sean has been putting his preaching into practice by helping the juveniles of Connacht perfect their hurling skills and get more and more enjoyment from the game. He has done this as the Hurling Officer appointed by the Connacht Council as part of a wider scheme to introduce a system of coaching in the province.

Having completed a period teaching in Leixlip while studying for his Higher Diploma at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Sean was free for the summer and could, consequently, devote much of his time to coaching in Connacht. In many respects, his job has dealt with the organisation of coaching sessions but he directed instructional classes for the four western teams that entered Feile na nGael and he visited several clubs in Roscommon as well as journeying to Leitrim and Mayo.

Early in October next Sean enrolls at Loughborough College, England to take a similar one-year course in physical education that Kerry's full-back, John O'Keefe, has just completed and this will give the Galway man additional qualifications as he continues the work of promoting hurling in Connacht. It is plan-

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GAA Reporting by Paddy Downey in THE IRISH TIMES



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

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

IT'S hurling final time again. How the year flies just when you're beginning to enjoy it! I've had a great summer, like all of you. It's one's own fault if we don't enjoy it. This year I saw all the Munster finals, the Connacht finals and the All-Ireland semi-finals. And I'm sure you saw many a game too.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Jim O'Brien, one of Limerick's longest serving hurlers, now playing as well as ever at left full back. Jim has given great service to Limerick over the years and was, of course, one of the stars of the 1973 All-Ireland title-winning team.

An excellent sportsman and a credit to hurling, Jim O'Brien is a splendid example to all Junior Desk readers. Long may he continue to delight us.

GREAT NEWS!

I was delighted to see in the Leinster Hurling Final post-game comments that the great Eddie Keher has no intention of retiring. And why should he?

PROVINCIAL PROGRAMMES

They are bigger and better than ever. Programme collectors can get them by writing to the following:

1. **Leinster S.F. and S.H.** by sending a P.O. for 40p to **Paddy Flanagan, Ard Mhuilinn, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.**

2. **Connacht S.F.** (draw and replay) by sending a P.O. for 40p to **J. Mahon, 29 Oaklands, Salthill, Galway.**

3. **Munster S.F. (2) and S.H.** by sending a P.O. for 50p to **Rev. S. Gardiner, St. Flannan's**

College, Ennis, Co. Clare.

I'll have details of the Ulster programmes next month, D.V. Junior Desk fans are encouraged

to write for these programmes and I'm thankful to both Paddy Flanagan and Fr. Gardiner for their co-operation.

From the Mailbag

Louis Walsh, 9 Barton Drive, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14: "The best football team I've seen is J. Cullotty (K), W. Casey (M), P. Prendengast (M), T. O'Hare (D), J. Lennon (D), G. O'Malley (R), S. Murphy (K), M. O'Connell (K), P. Carney (M), S. O'Neill (D), S. Purcell (G), P. Doherty (D) or P. McGarty (L), J. B. Murphy (C), T. Langan (M), K. Heffernan (D).

Your Quizbook was delightful and covers a wide field."

"G.A.A. Fan", Cheylesmore, Coventry, Warks. "The Connacht S.F. final programmes were great. Full of interesting facts. I still feel Galway will win the Sam Maguire this year."

● *Hope you're right. We are due a break. (J.M.)*

Ollie Conneely, Shannagh, Glenamaddy, Co. Galway. "I am sending on the Connacht S.F. final programmes to Robert Bunyan, the Kerry minor, in exchange for the Munster final programmes."

● *Programme swapping is a great idea. (J.M.)*

Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20 Fairfield Road, Bath, England. "If you're in Clonakilty on your holidays call in to the museum there. You'll find some of the old photos very interesting. I

think All-Ireland final programmes should be on sale early in the week before the game throughout Ireland in all the newsagents."

● *Very good idea, Dermot! (J.M.)*

Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly. "I play with the Moneygall U-12s and we beat Claughaun (Limerick), Newport, Borrisokane (in a replay), and Nenagh in a replay in the North Tipperary final which we won for the first time. We filled the cup four times with orange."

● *Good man, Paul. Your letter wins a Tipperary Bob Cap. (J.M.)*

Declan Bonner (aged 10), Derryhenny, Doochary, Lifford, Co. Donegal. "I want a Cut-Out of Gay Mitchell, Tom Naughton, Seamie Granaghan, Paul McGettigan or Seamus Bonner."

Sean Bonner (brother of Declan) is 12 years old, plays at full back for Rosses Rovers who have qualified for the semi-final of the Donegal U-12 championship v. Glenties. Sean is writing for the first time and wants a Cut-Out of Kieran Keeney or Gay Mitchell.

● *Sean wins a Donegal Bob-Cap for his trouble. Don't forget to tell*

● **OVERLEAF**

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● FROM OVERLEAF

us how you get on against Glenties. (J.M.)

Gaelic Fan, Ballyfreen, Oola, Co. Limerick. "Every book I've ever written for, mentioned in Junior Desk, I have got, with one exception, "The Spirit of the Glen", from Glen Rovers (Cork). I wrote several times and never even got a reply or my money returned."

● *This is terrible, Glen Rovers, and this is the second Junior Desk fan to write in and complain in this way. So look to it, Glen Rovers. You have a proud name. This type of publicity adds damage to it. (J.M.)*

John Byrne, Ringstown, Mountrath, Portlaoise, Co. Laois was born in Oxford, England, at the age of 8 came to Ireland, is now 12 and plays in the half back line for Laois U-14s, and John plays hurling and football. Brother Kevin plays in goal. John and Kevin loved my Quizbook No. 1 and look forward to Quizbook No. 2. John's favourite players are Sean Silke, Colm Honan, Pat Hartigan, Liam O'Brien, Gerry McElhinney, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Ray Cummins, Bobby Miller, Pat Lalor, George Lanham. "I hope my letter is printed," adds John.

● *Not alone printed, but you win a Laois Bob-Cap. On the night of the drawn Munster S.F. final I met Jimmy Barry-Murphy walking down Patrick Street in Cork. We talked about Junior Desk, which he reads every month. He is a very unassuming lad and a brilliant player in both codes. (J.M.)*

Donal Ring, Coolavokig, Lissacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork. "Tom Morrison's book, 'Cork's Glorious Years' was great. I hope he writes more. This year's 'Our Games' was good too, with good colour photos. It's great to see Tommy Joe Gilmore back for Galway."

Ger Fitzpatrick, 4 Greensbridge, Kilkenny. "We won the Leinster U-14 hurling championship, beating Laois in the final



● *Seán O'Neill the Down star seen here in characteristic action. Louis Walsh of Rathfarnham, Dublin, picks him on his best football team.*

by 7-7 to 2-1. Before that we beat Dublin and Wexford and I played right half back all the time. I would like to swap an All-Ireland S.H. final programme of 1975 for the 1974 one."

● *Good man Ger. You'll wear the black and amber at senior level yet. (J.M.)*

Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare, nominates Con Murphy, Fr. Leo Morahan and Ger McKenna as the personalities that most impressed him at Congress in Ennis. Re-

garding programmes, Joseph is full of praise for the N.F.L. final programme but says shame to those who produced the programmes for the Clare v. Kilkenny N.H.L. finals. Also the programme of the Clare v. Limerick S.H.C. game was pitiful. Joseph praises the *Kilkenny People* for its after-match coverage of the N.H.L. final.

● *Joseph, as always your letter is interesting. Here I'd like to pay a tribute to The Kerryman for the wonderful supplements it presented for the Munster Football finals,*

JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

both before and after the games. This was great stuff. (J.M.)

Michael McGrath, Ox-Park, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary, is annoyed that he gets his Gaelic Sport so late every month. By July 13th he still hadn't received his July issue at his local newsagent in Cloughjordan.

● *This shouldn't happen, Michael, and be sure to show this to your newsagent or place your order elsewhere. (J.M.)*

Aindreas Ó Riain, Tomcool House, Wexford. "In my opinion the leagues in football are too small, and this is the way I would like to see them.

Division 1 — Kerry, Cork, Dublin, Meath, Kildare, Derry, Tyrone, Galway, Roscommon and Sligo.

Division 2 — Offaly, Wicklow, Antrim, Down, Cavan, Monaghan, Fermanagh, Donegal, Armagh and Mayo.

Division 3 — Tipperary, Clare, Limerick, Waterford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Louth, Laois, Longford, Wexford and Leitrim.

I think Derry will win the All-Ireland in football and Wexford or Limerick in hurling."

Padraig Maher, Main Street, Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny, wants Cut-Outs of past stars like Terry Leahy, Christy Ring or Philly Grimes.

John Guilfoyle, Feakle, Co. Clare, wants Cut-Outs of Seamus Durack, Jackie O'Gorman, Ger Loughnane and Colm Honan.

Michael Bonner, Derryhenny, Doochary, Co. Donegal, pays great tribute to John Tobin for his goals against Donegal in 1974.

Paul Maher, Main St., Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny, thinks Junior Desk should be a club with a badge and a membership fee. His brother, Brendan, wants a

Cut-Out of Mickey Kearins or Ger Power, while another brother, Noel, wants a Cut-Out of Brian Cody or J. Grogan of Tipperary.

That's it for this month. Please write about anything you like to Junior Desk. You may win our surprise letter prizes. This month's prizes go to **Paul Maher, Sean Bonner and John Byrne.**

Write to:

**Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,**

**80, Upper Drumcondra Rd.,
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Jack Mahon

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CORK SEEMS TO BREED SUCCESS

THERE must be something about the Rebel County that seems to breed success.

All G.A.A. followers are aware of Cork's success on the playing field — both at hurling and football.

Equally well all car owners are aware of Cork's own Ford motor plant which, year in, year out, consistently produces Ireland's most popular and most sought after range of cars — whatever the model.

One of the most popular cars in Ireland today is the Ford Cortina — and it is a particular favourite with the agricultural community. Apart from looking well, it is a car that is easy to handle, not too dear to run and maintain considering that it has a 13 h.p. engine—and the design seems just right for Irish conditions. One man we know, a mountain farmer, says he could never buy any other car because the Cortina is just right when he wants to put a sheep in the back!

This year Ford's of Cork are introducing a new Cortina and on the basis of reports so far it will have numerous improvements over the model it replaces. Later on Ford will introduce an exciting new and smaller car (8 h.p.) called the Fiesta which is the result of new thinking on the part of the design team. Both for the Fiesta and the new Cortina, the emphasis has been on how to give drivers more economical motoring without sacrificing any of the factors which make driving a pleasure as well as a necessity for most of us.

Scientific studies of the cost of running a car have proved that today fuelling the vehicle is what makes unwilling big spenders of most of us — with servicing also high up on the list. With their new models Ford have aimed to lighten the financial burden for the ordinary Irish motorist — and their method of going about this carries conviction. Every time a penny goes onto the gallon of petrol, after all, it becomes more worth one's while to think of taking advantage of the sort of economy-oriented thinking now represented by cars like the new Cortina.



**JIM
O'BRIEN
(Limerick)**

Age: 31
Height: 6 ft.
Weight: 12 st. 4 lb.
Club: Bruree
**Position: Left
Full Back**
**Senior Inter-
County Debut:
1966.**

**CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS**

Jim, who won a Munster minor hurling medal in 1963, has been one of the most consistent defenders in the game.

First called up to the senior county team in a National League game against Dublin in 1966, he made a major contribution to his County's All-Ireland senior championship success of 1973, and later that year won a Carrolls All-Star award. Jim was also in the Limerick teams that won the National League and Oireachtas Cup in 1971.

The Bruree clubman has appeared with the county senior side at centre half back, and in all three positions in the full back line and won a Railway Cup medal in 1970 with Munster.

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