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GAELIC SPORT



IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

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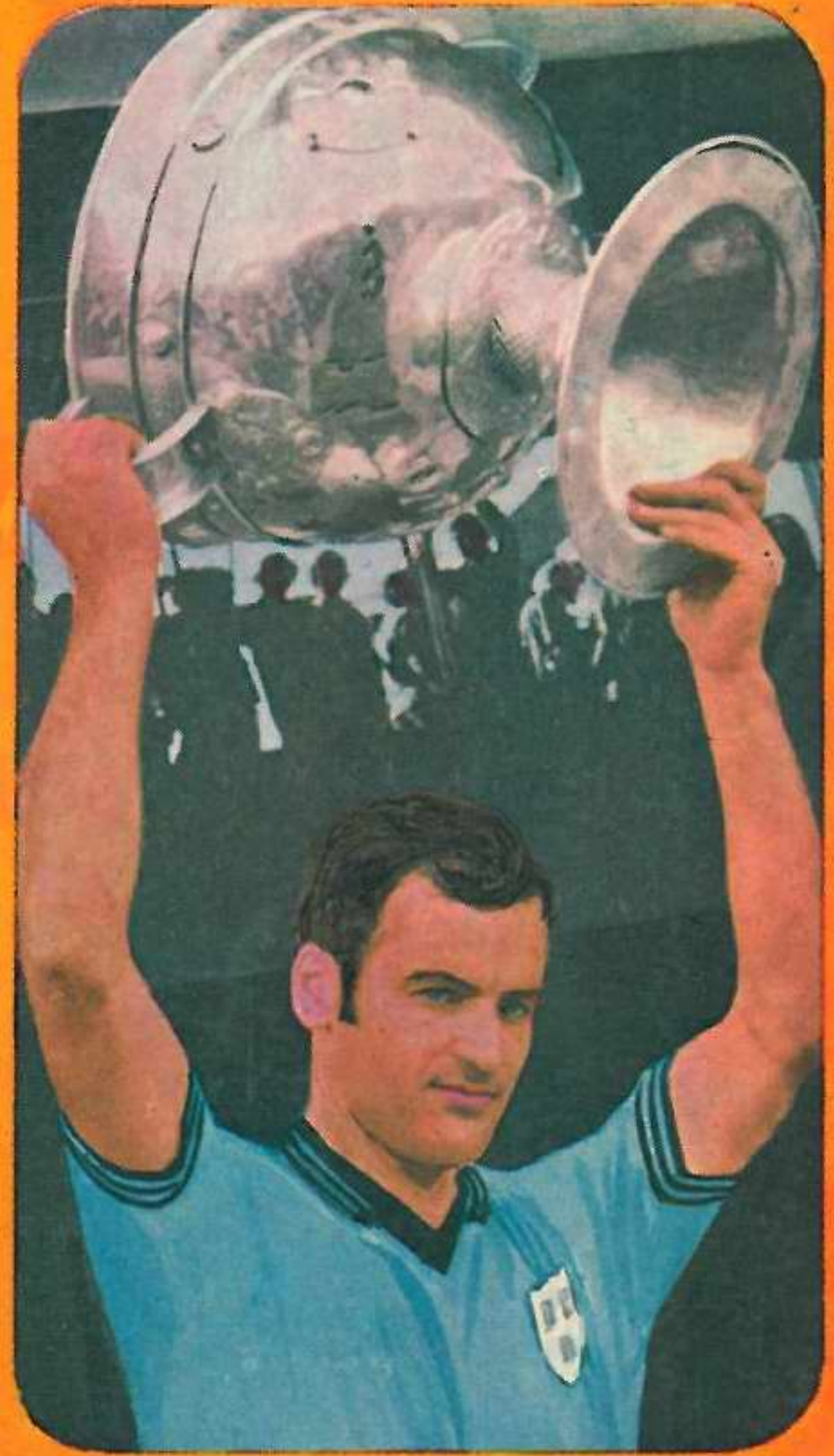
1974



1976



1977



ARE THE DUBS THE BEST YET?

MICK DUNNE LOOKS BACK OVER THREE DECADES AND PRESENTS HIS CONCLUSIONS

INSIDE

THE ALL-ACTION G.A.A. FAMILY MAGAZINE

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN

Clár na gCluichí do 1978

Peil (Mionúir agus Sinsir):

1. Cill Dara v Luí
2. An Mhí v 1
3. Cill Mantáin v Cill Choinnigh
4. Loch Garman v 3
5. Ua bhFáilí v Longphort
6. Laois v 5
7. Iar Mhí v Ceatharloch
8. Ath Cliath v 7
9. 2 v 4
10. 6 v 8

Craobh: 9 v 10

Iomáint Sinsir:

1. Iar Mhí v Laois
2. Ath Cliath v 1
3. Loch Garman v 2
4. Ua bhFáilí v Cill Dara
5. Cill Choinnigh v 4

Craobh: 3 v 5

Iomáint Mionúir:

1. Iar Mhí v Laois
2. Ath Cliath v 1
3. Loch Garman v 2
4. Aontruim v Buath. Spéis. '78
5. Ua bhFáilí v 4
6. Cill Choinnigh v 5

Craobh: 3 v 6

Fé 21 Bl. Peil:

1. Cill Choinnigh v Longphort
2. Ua bhFáilí v 1
3. Cill Mantáin v Ath Cliath
4. Iar Mhí v 3
5. Loch Garman v Ceatharloch
6. Cill Dara v 5
7. Luí v An Mhí
8. Laois v 7
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Craobh: 9 v 10

Fé 21 Bl. Iomáint Spéis.:

1. Cill Dara v Cill Mantáin
2. Ceatharloch v 1
3. An Mhí v Iar Mhí

Craobh: 2 v 3

Fé 21 Bl. Iomáint:

1. Ua bhFáilí v Buath. Spéis. '78
2. Loch Garman v 1
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Craobh: 2 v 4

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1. Cill Dara v Ceatharloch
2. An Mhí v Cill Mantáin

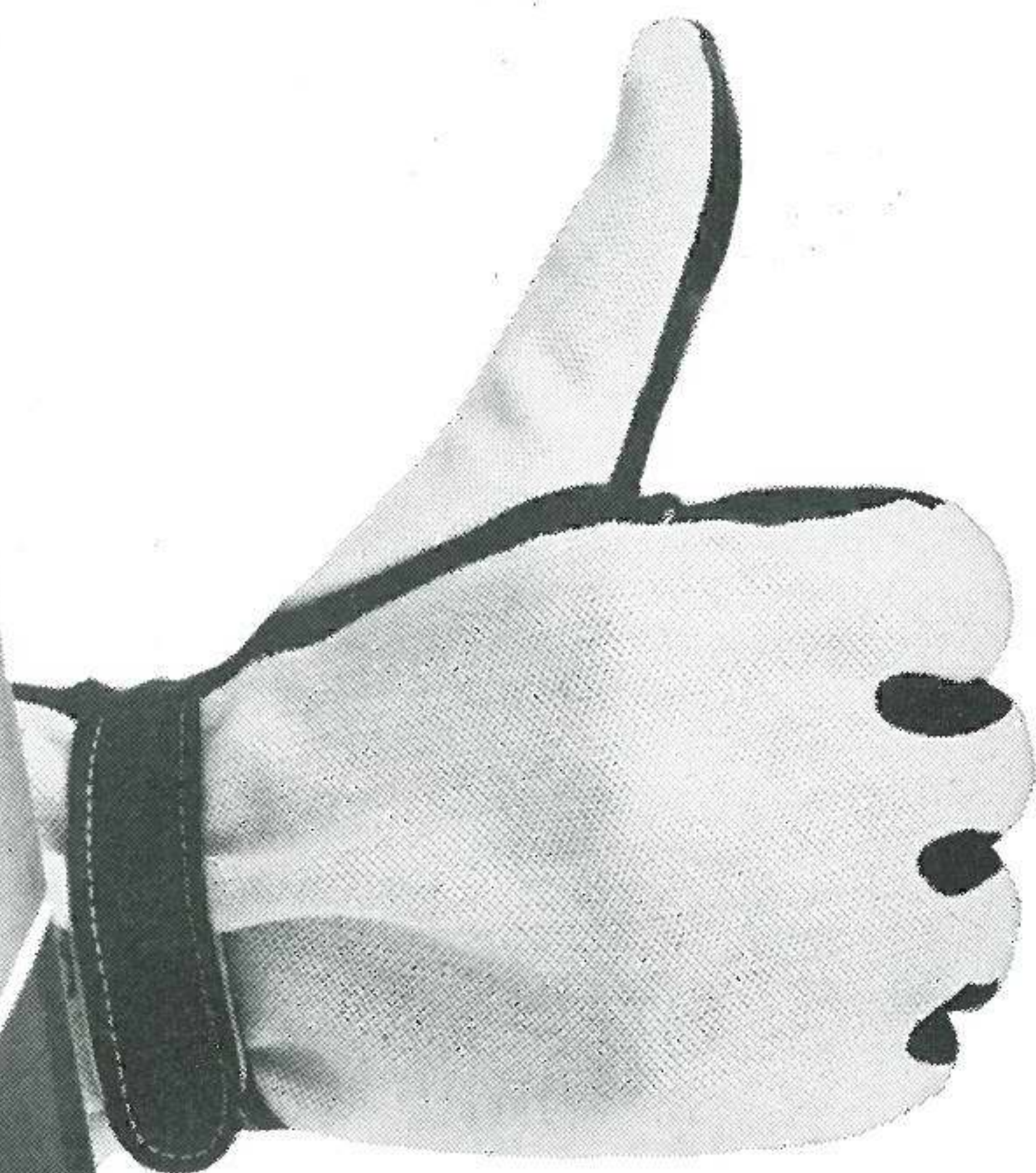
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Gaelic Sport

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Offices:

80 Upper Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9.
Telephone 374311.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

ELSEWHERE in this issue we spotlight the players who are currently in the leading positions in our popular TYLER TOP TEN ratings. They are just some of the many hurlers and footballers who have contributed in rich measure to what has proven to be another very successful year for the Gaelic Athletic Association.

The commitment of the players is something that many take for granted. While we, the supporters, can spend most of our leisure time relaxing or socialising, footballers and hurlers, up and down the land, have to keep up the weekly grind of staying in top condition.

Success in inter-county fare adds greatly to their work rate in this regard. One has only to instance the tremendous amount of hard slogging the Dublin footballers have put in over the past four years to appreciate just how demanding a successful run can prove to be, not only on the players' time but on their physical and mental resources as well.

In singling out Dublin we are in no way belittling the efforts of players in other counties. It is merely that the point we are making is crystallised in a special way by the Dubs' success rate over such an incredibly long period of time.

Be that as it may, the important factor is that it is most encouraging to find so many players, in so many counties, responding conscientiously to training demands. Especially in an amateur organisation and at a time when the emphasis is so strongly on monetary rewards for outstanding effort, particularly in sport.

The players then deserve much credit. And, GAELIC SPORT is happy to acknowledge this in a tangible way through our presentation of the TYLER TOP TEN awards scheme.

But the players are only one part of the scene. If it is true to say that there would be no games without the wholehearted efforts of our hurlers and footballers, it is equally true to say that the Association would not function without the efforts of the many hundreds of dedicated officials throughout the country.

"Winning is the name of the game" and "To the victor the spoils" are clichés we are all familiar with, but as far as the GAA is concerned, such slogans are not really valid. Without the dedicated efforts of the rank-and-file members who give so generously of their free time, in promoting our national games, at all levels, the Association would not hold the predominant position, in Irish sport, which it currently enjoys.

The All-Ireland Finals are the show-pieces of the GAA.

The people who organise the thousands of games — at juvenile, minor, intermediate, junior or under-21 level — ARE THE GAA.

COVER PHOTO

ON our front cover this month, we pay tribute to the all-conquering Dubs. Their emergence from the wilderness in 1974 was, at the time, looked upon as one of those freak turn-ups that is a feature of all sports. The big difference being, though we didn't appreciate it at the time, that the Dubs '74 Championship win was no fluke — in fact we were, unknowingly, ushering in a completely new era of Gaelic football. The Dubs have set a new theme for all other counties to follow and it can be summed up in two words "HARD WORK."

(Monday, Nov. 7)

DUB STARS SNUB TOP CHARITY

What a nice clean, fair way to sell papers!

By Tommy McQuaid

TWO of the Dubs' top players have been forced to ignore a needy charity by their team boss Tony Hanahoe. The star footballers, Paddy Cullen and Kevin Moran, were pulled out of a big charity game tonight for fear of injury.

The players were to play in the game tonight for the Spina Bifida charity against Shamrock Rovers. Cullen and Moran were to assist the Manchester United Selection in the match at Dalymount Park.

The last minute pull-out, has come as a shock to fans and the charity organisers. But team boss Tony Hanahoe was adamant today: "There is a risk of injury and therefore we cannot allow it," he said.

Added Hanahoe: "We are at a vital stage in our League campaign and I cannot allow it."

The takings from the game will go to a special fund to build a £200,000 educational and leisure centre on a six-acre site at Clondalkin, open to the country's Spina Bifida children.

It will provide pre-school, school and recreation facilities, and is the brainchild of Brendan Scully, the main organiser behind the drive for the new centre.

Goalkeeper Cullen and centre half back Moran are resigned to the leader's decision although they were anxious to play in the game.

* * *

The paragraphs above are an extract from the leading front page article in the **Evening Herald** of November 7th last.

The article then went on to describe the very fine work being done by the Spina Bifida Association, which would benefit from the proceeds of the game — and which, by innuendo, the miserly Dubs had refused to assist in their hour of need.

As the story was printed on the front page, one must assume that the News Editor, and not the Sports Editor, was responsible for its publication. There was no by-line on the article, so one can only guess at the identity of the writer. It was not, presumably, written by any of the Herald's recognised G.A.A. writers. All of those men are well acquainted with the endless rounds of charitable work that the Dublin team involve themselves in, and have done, since they came to prominence in 1974.

To my knowledge, the Dublin

County Board have never refused a request to help any charitable cause. Indeed, in many cases, the Dubs, themselves, have been often out-of-pocket financially, by losing time off work, rather than disappoint the organisers of charitable undertakings.

The facts are:

(1) Brendan Scully, organiser of the soccer match, has publicly admitted that he approached the two players involved, individually. He did not make the request through the proper channels i.e. the officers of the Dublin County Board.

(2) When the original invitation to play was issued to the two players, they both said they had no objection **provided** it had the sanction of the team manager and selectors. They asked the sponsors to check back with them later — but nobody did.

(3) Dublin had a most important engagement coming up against Cork, in Cork — a game that could have a vital bearing on Dublin's prospects in the '77/'78 League campaign.

(4) Dublin's captain, Tony

A trio of young fans of the Dubs, shown here greeting some of their heroes. This picture was taken at the Children's Hospital, Crumlin, when the Dunlop GAA Club made their annual visit to the hospital. Included (left to right) are: Mick Leahy (Asst. Co. Secretary), Sean Doherty, Donal Hickey (Development Officer, Co. Board), Leslie Deegan, Oliver Callaly (Secretary of the Dunlop Club), Jimmy Gray (Co. Board Chairman), and Bobby Doyle.



Hanahoe, has since gone on record as saying they would be only too willing to talk with the organisation concerned, at a more opportune time, with a view to assisting them with their fund-raising campaign.

If, for example, the publishers of GAELIC SPORT were organising and printing a charitable publication for a most deserving cause, and to help make the job a more prestigious one, they rang up, **directly**, two of the Herald's top journalists and asked them could they take time out to write a couple of articles there and then — just as the Editor of the Herald was screaming deadlines all round the place — would his reaction to such a situation have been as diplomatic or as courteous as Tony Hanahoe's?

Incidentally, the Dublin team took part in a charity walk for the Spina Bifida Association last year!

WEIRD GOINGS ON !!!

IN the Evening Herald of November 11th last, Mr. Seamus Martin tells of the difficulties encountered by His Holiness, Pope Paul, to gain an interview with Dublin Captain, Tony Hanahoe.

On one occasion, so Mr. Martin writes, the Holy Father, disguised as a WEXFORD Christian Brother, attempted to gain an audience but was unceremoniously ordered out of Parnell Park.

We find this hard to believe!

Surely, if Pope Paul had been in town "wouldn't we all have heard about it, sure it would have been on the wireless and everything."

So we take the reference to the Holy Father's presence with a "grain of salt" as the Biblical Lot often called his eldest fella!

But the reference to the WEXFORD Christian Brother really tickles our fancy. Doesn't every

gobdah know that ALL Christian Brothers wear the same disguise. As one who had 10 years dealings with these good men, never did I see one of them come into class in his County's colours.

As for the bit about yer man being unceremoniously ordered out of Parnell Park, he mustn't have had his card very well marked to begin with. If he had taken the trouble to ring the County Board and let them know he was coming, I'm sure they would have had the Artane Boys' Band in attendance. Then, at least, he could have been ordered out with some sort of ceremony.

Further on in his article, Mr. Martin writes that "attempts" by the Vatican to make contact with Hanahoe (sic) have met with the same success as similar attempts by leading GAA writers in this house."

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Tyler

Top Ten

FOOTBALL

- a two man race?

HURLING

- Ger nearly there?

AS the first TYLER TOP TEN campaign moves into the final straight, the positions on top of the charts are very finely balanced. The current review covers the period from October 16 to November 6, and leaves **Pat O'Neill** and **Jimmy Keaveney** as the joint leaders in football, and **Ger Loughnane** ahead of the field in hurling despite Clare's heavy defeat by Cork in their third round National League tie, in early November, at Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

Here, incidentally, we must apologise to the Banner county in general and Colm Honan in particular. Last month's chart listed Honan with an over-all total of 27 points, but that was a printer's error, as the Clare sharpshooter's inclusion on a seven points rating marked his first appearance of the year in the listings.

Consistent half back Loughnane collected five points for his solid, dependable work in Clare's two engagements in the period under review — the draw with Tipperary at Tulla, and the loss to Cork. This boosted his over-all tally to 32 points, and gives him a four points lead over his nearest rival, **Colm Doran**.

The Wexford half back gains six points for his fine contribution to a one-goal win over Tipperary at New Ross that earned the

Leinster champions their first brace of points.

Ned Buggy, who was on the target with eight points when Wexford lost their first round game to Offaly, helped himself to 2-5 in the win over Tipperary, and joins a five-man group, on seven points, in the current charts. This earns the Wexford star third place over-all with 27 points.

Spearheading the Cork challenge is that most elegant of hurlers, **Denis Coughlan**, the only hurler this year to gain a maximum ten points in any one month. The Glen Rovers man, who collected that rare ten points bag for his All-Ireland senior final showing, was one of the Leesiders' best performers in their most surprising defeat by Galway in the first round of the League, and he was again to the fore in the Rebel County's eleven points win over Clare.

The Cork No. 7 now holds down fourth position in the annual chart, to date, on 24 points.

PAT OR JIMMY?

In football, the odds must be on Pat O'Neill or Jimmy Keaveney eventually finishing ahead of the field, especially after Dublin's bright start to the League campaign. They have now accumulated 30 points apiece.

But, Pat Spillane might yet

prove the man to foil the probable Dublin take-over on top. Even though Kerry had a disappointing start to their defence of their League title, with unsuccessful bids against Dublin and Cork, Spillane has still improved his over-all position. He showed up well after going in as a second half substitute against Dublin, and caught the eye once more with his power-packed work in the clash with Cork. The Kerry forward picks up five more points as a result, and is now just three behind the pace-setting Dubs duo.

Then, there is Tom McCreesh, who had another fine game when Armagh brought off a rare competitive win over Down at Newry in a cracker of a League tie in October. The great hearted full back is one of four on seven points for December, and his total this year now stands at 24 which takes him into fourth place.

Bernard Brogan tops the current monthly review. The tall centre field man had a first rate game against Kerry in the first round of the League, and he was a key figure in Dublin's triumph over the Lily Whites at Newbridge, when he also scored a vital goal. Brogan is awarded nine points to add to his six last month.

● TO PAGE 43

CARROLLS **GAA** allstars



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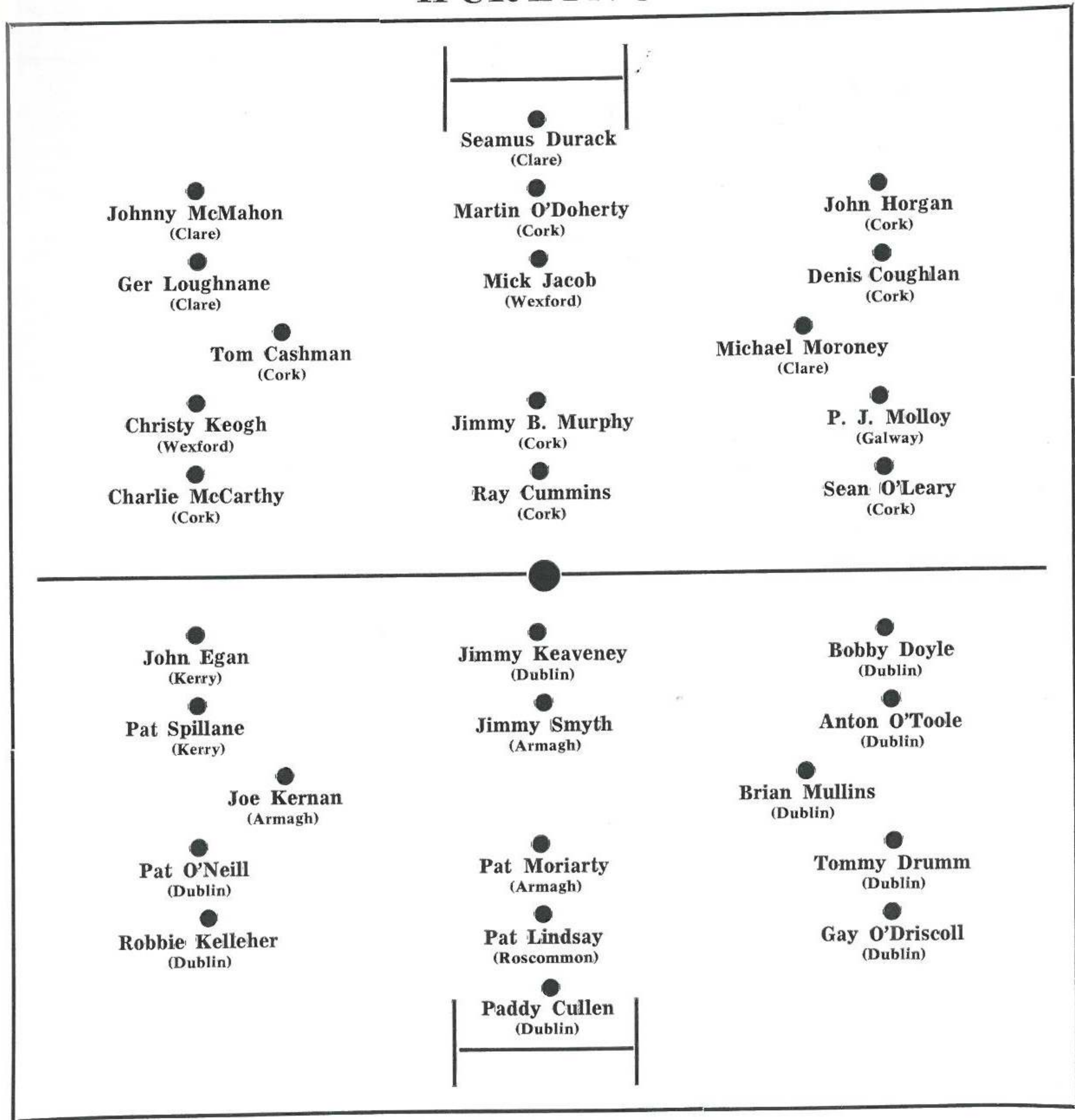
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CARROLL'S ALL-STARS

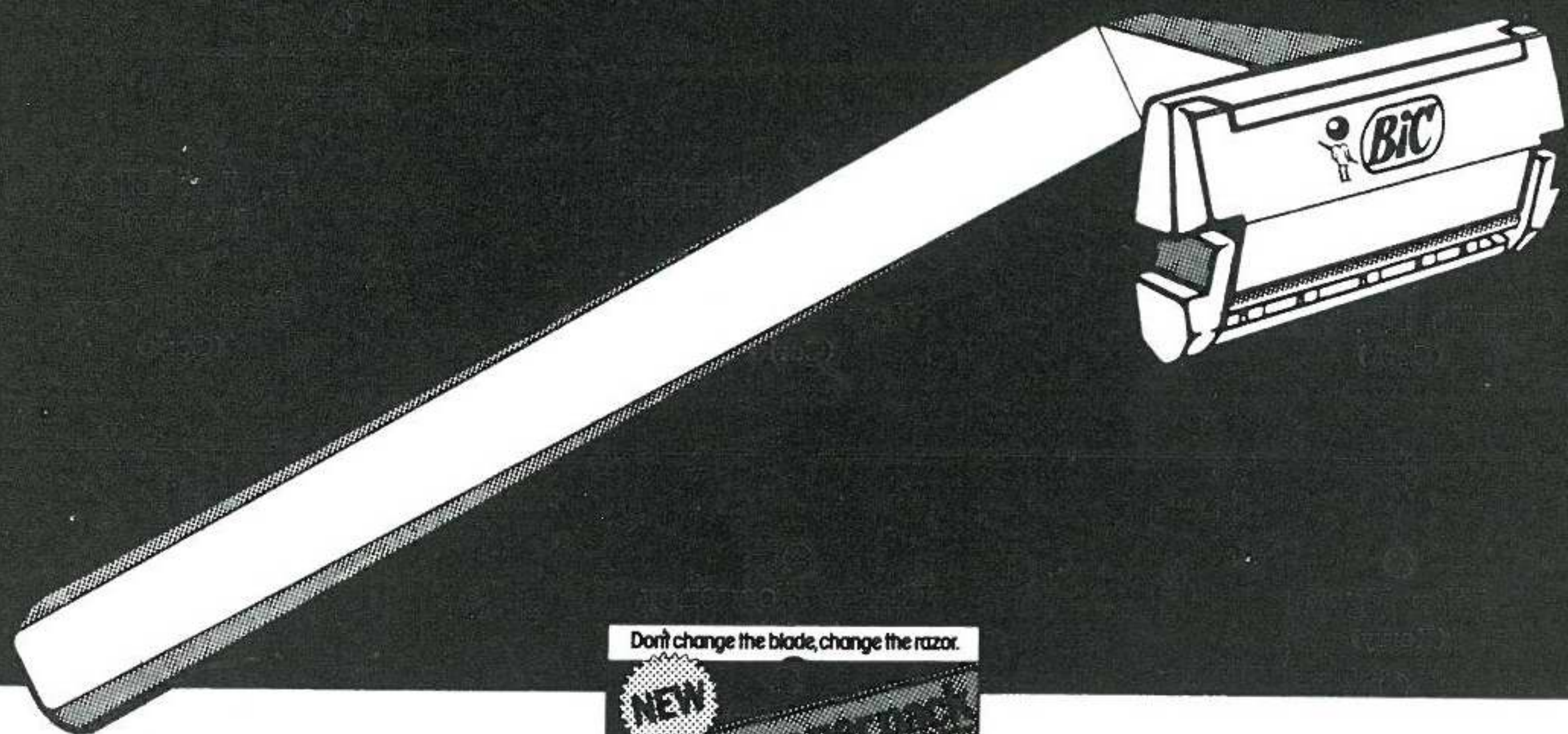
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HURLING



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● *Sean Doherty*
(Dublin)



● *Sean O'Neill*
(Down)



● *Mick O'Dwyer*
(Kerry)

The ever-changing face of Gaelic football

GAELIC football, like life, is ever changing. Men wore a different cut of clothes in every decade of the century and playing gear styles went from the long togs to the track-suits of today, which in turn will look corny to the men of twenty years hence. All these, however, are only the externals. Fundamentally, there is no great change in the men who wear the clothes and the same human attributes of brains, guts, skill and emotional control — put them in the order you desire — are still the essence of the winning team.

How has football changed and are we poised now for another great variation on an old theme?

For seven finals from 1926 Kerry or Kildare or both, took the field at Croke Park. Kerry played a high-fetching, long-kicking game, with great skill (they tell me), polishing off their successful style with a weaving pattern of combined play for which Purty Landers, Miko Doyle and Jacky Ryan were famous. Kildare, for whom Matt Goff, Jack Higgins, Frank Malone

and Larry Stanley could fetch and drive as well as any, also introduced a slick, speedy type of hand-passing at which they excelled and drove sides, not practised in it, around the bend.

From the mid-thirties on, when I had plenty chance of assessing, though youth and a deep enthusiasm for the game aren't always the best aids to judgement, the type of game played by Cavan, Kerry, Galway, Mayo and Laois was generally a combination of the effective high-fetch, long-kick and fast inter-play of forwards. It was generally a strong, hard game, where solo running and hand-passing was the icing, but the cake was the fundamentals of accuracy and gaining possession.

From '39 on to 1960 the teams that set the style were Meath, Kerry, Galway, Dublin, Roscommon, Cork, Cavan, Mayo, Louth, Armagh and Derry. I saw no great change in those years except for the development and abolition of the hand-pass. The Northern sides first bamboozled all of us with the hand-pass in the early forties and men like Kevin Armstrong, Harry O'Neill

and Alf Murray showed wonderful ball-control, great speed and lightning skill in throwing the ball around.

It was in '46 that a semi-final between Antrim and Kerry in Croke Park saw the showdown between the solo-running, ball-throwing, forward line and the resolute backs. A lot of men were hit hard and often and returned the compliment. It was decided that hand-passing as it was being practised was provocative and Antrim themselves advocated its abolition.

So the game went back to the more traditional and indeed more effective type of scoring from forty to twenty-five yards with the usual type of goal to fill the other column on the score-board.

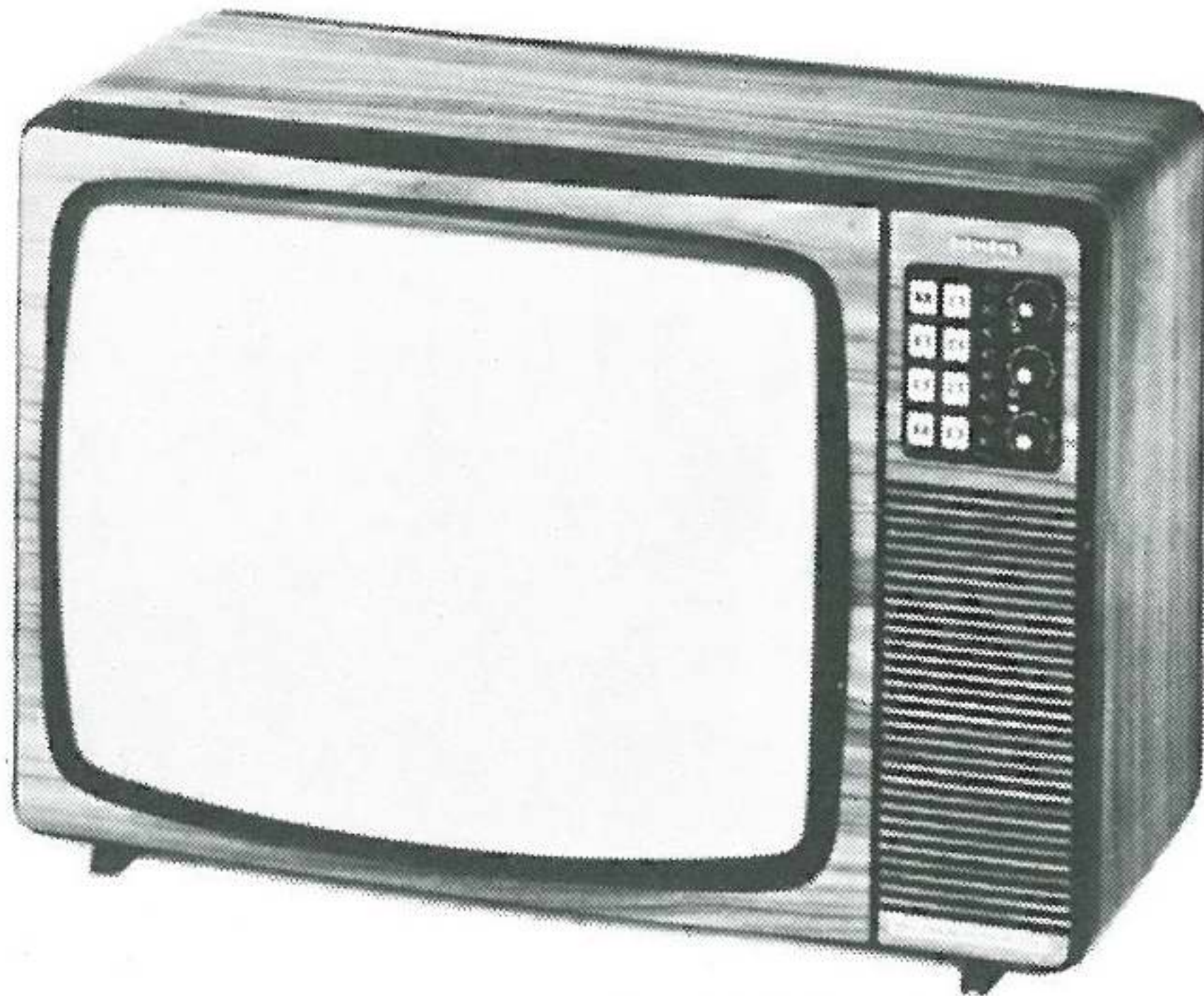
Dublin did play the solo-running, hand-passing style more than the rest in the fifties but the defeat by high-fetching, point-kicking Kerry in '55 seemed a fair test of the two styles.

Down introduced a new standard in 1960 when their splendid team won two-in-a-row, with very little experience of Croke Park. Their game was again a terrific combination of the high fetch, the smart hand or foot-pass and the solo-run, and above all the sharp shot for goal or point from the right distance.

Kerry, Dublin, the three-in-a-row Galway side, Meath, Down, and, Offaly took us right up to '73. Again I saw no great change in the game and the hard necessities, fetching, straight kicking, fast running, solo and fist-pass did the trick for the good team when these skills were based on the vehicle of hardy men, whose bodies or hearts or both were of adequate size.

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● FROM PAGE 11

In '73 to my own personal delight I saw a really stylish Cork side which showed an exciting ability to move the ball at speed over short distances and still retain possession. It was their speed and quick-thinking which generally did the trick, though there was a fair share of power and size and good kicking also.

This new style, or at least an emphasis on keeping possession until one could safely hand on the ball to one's comrade, came in from soccer. As Cork played it, interlaced with the time-honoured other abilities it was effective football, and the only reason Cork didn't win another All-Ireland, I think, was a lack of continued dedication on the part of some.

Where did this soccer thinking originate? Probably in the TV World Cup series of '70 where all of us, who study and love football, were glued to the screen every night as the best professionals in the world hammered it out in Mexico. I remember while on an army camp in the delightful sea-brown west, Ned Roche of Kerry and I sat down each night in a pub, over in the Maharees, to watch. We saw the ball being taken with reasonable care right from goal to the other side with the object of having a shot and if that was saved the other side simply proceeded to do likewise.

Time was in Gaelic football when one did not pass the ball either by foot or hand from the goal or in the full back line.

It was taken as being too dangerous and not being worth while when the long kick could send the ball to a spot from which an opponent couldn't score a point. The wisdom of this move is obvious but the modern player decided that the goalie or full backline should have no hesitation in hand-passing the

ball to an unmarked comrade even close to the goal. Usually it worked and the style met with spectator approval, because an attack was started, immediately the last one finished. And people like attacking football.

Undoubtedly there were some mistakes and I think of two very well known and capable defenders who made blunders which in the old days wouldn't be forgotten for forty years. The real reason why this basis for counter-attack can start in the the full back line is because forwards can't charge the goalie even sideways or the full backs can't touch the forwards on the way in. With the goalie in possession, dead safe, and the backs moving away from the goal instead of towards it, the natural thing is to pass the ball out to one of them and on goes the merry-go-round.

Of course I don't agree at all that the goalie should be wrapped in cotton wool as he now is, and while no one wants the forwards held or blackguarded I think they are over-protected just now, except in one vital aspect of scoring: the high ball for which the forward tears in and leaps to fist to the net is usually taken as a breach of the square law and so one of the finest skills of the game is automatically outlawed.

The reason for the cotton-wool rules around the square, in both hurling and football, is because the refs. generally didn't give the forwards fair-play and didn't save them from the hammering they often got from tough backs. When retaliation occurred we had a slight spot of mayhem, and that was not desired either. So when the refs. didn't do their job a small committee of five including, three or four referees, gave us, what one of them described, as a new ball-game. What they didn't realise was that most of us didn't want a new ball-



Joe Barrett, the legendary Kerry full back, winner of six All-Ireland medals in 1924, 1926, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932.

game, only the old one properly controlled.

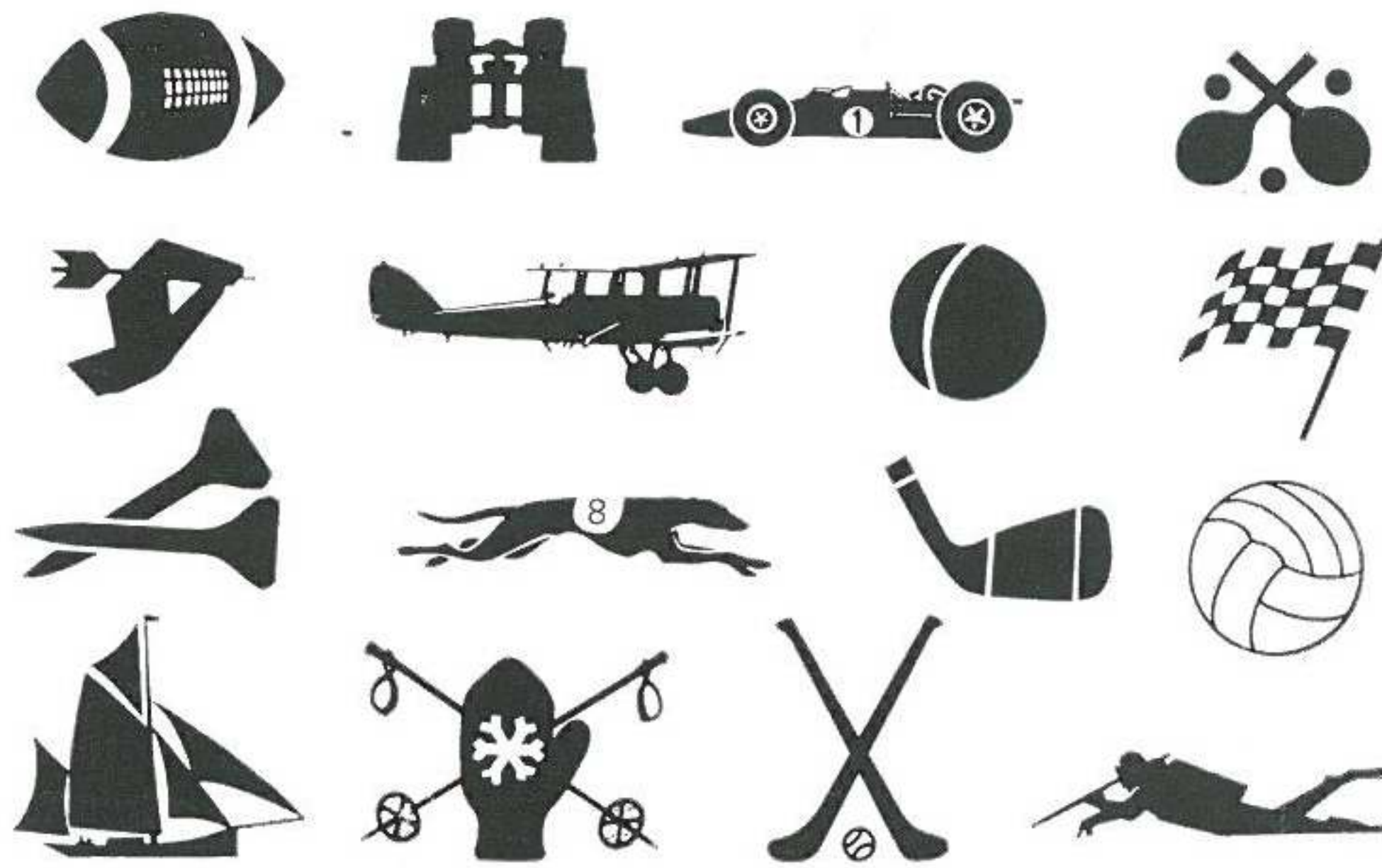
But the aspect of possession introduced by Cork in '73 has stayed. Dublin and Kerry took over. They ran the ball and held it long enough to get scores, but as always it became obvious that no man can be clever in his own work until he has the ball, or is near a comrade who has has it. So in

this year's semi-final the Kerry team which destroyed Cork in Cill Airne was well beaten in the last six minutes because big able men full of spirit and power in a blue shirt, grabbed possession, low and high, before bursting through for scores at the Railway end.

Again I saw the old ingredients of high fetch, hard shoulder, fast solo and quick moving of the ball into the open space soon to be filled by an intelligent player. Kerry had all these attributes, alas, without the same degree of power, and so there could be only one ending. Sean Doherty's last high fetch in the Dublin square gave Dublin possession once again and the game was over.

"Is the game poised for a breakthrough?" I am asked. I don't put it in that way. The game progresses steadily just as the men who play it progress. A continued refinement of the rules would leave us, in twenty years, with an emasculated type of Gaelic football which I don't wish to see. A retention of what is best in the game, as I now see it, will continue to thrill the crowds. I'm not mad about the new rules but they won't do very much harm if refs. stop knocking the fair shoulder.

Gaelic football will always be based on the fetch, the kick, the carry, the shot, be it fifty or fourteen yards, the block down and the quick dash into the open space. Over-emphasis on any one facet may give success over sub-standard sides for a while but continued presence at the top demands a level-headed balance of the lot. Except for the wonderful and predictable ability of the real star, who appears now and then, the teams of the future, like those of the past, will carve out their victories by a dedicated practice of the time-honoured skills, played by men whose hearts are in the right place.



**Here's to
enjoyment**



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FRANK COGAN HAS A DAUNTING TASK

By NOEL HORGAN

THERE were few people in Cork who envied Frank Cogan when he was appointed coach to the county football team in succession to Donie O'Donovan last month. If anything, football pundits throughout the country must have sympathised with the Nemo Rangers player on his appointment.

Not only was Cogan taking over from a popular and more experienced coach whose list of achievements included an All-Ireland senior victory but he was inheriting a panel of players still smarting under the County Board's controversial suspension purge in July.

True, wiser counsels had prevailed and the Board had revoked its decision to suspend all the footballers who wore "the wrong" shorts in the Munster final. But it's not easy for any team to recover quickly from such a traumatic decision as that imposed on the Corkmen after the Killarney game.

Frank Cogan had other problems too. As an energetic footballer, whose prematurely grey hair belies his 33 years, Frank faced the inevitable difficulties of commanding managerial respect from players who had been his intercounty colleagues a few years ago and are still his teammates or opponents at club level. The transition from student to teacher is not easy at the best of times but there are increased difficulties facing the young teacher whose first class is made up of his old mates.

On top of all that Frank Cogan found that the question of dual performers, seemingly endemic to Cork, would militate against his chances of bringing the county out of the football doldrums. Jimmy Barry-Murphy,

Martin O'Doherty, Johnny Crowley, Tom Cashman and Brian Murphy were all listed on the original 25-man panel for football training prior to the League but it was quite clear that, in a county in which football is very much the poor relation of hurling, these players would opt for caman and sliothar if a choice had to be made.

Frank Cogan's task is certainly a daunting one but it is still early days yet as far as his new career is concerned and it would be most unjust to dismiss the idea of a Cork football revival within the next few months, although their league victory over Kerry must have been a great morale booster after that dismal display against Galway. But this success, in turn, was offset by defeats at the hands of the Dubs and Kildare — both on home soil.

Unenviable though his position as Cork coach may seem, it is nevertheless a tribute to the outstanding member of a very famous Cork sporting family. Frank is the son of the late Der Cogan who played for Cork the day they won the very first All-Ireland minor final in 1928 and Frank's maternal grandfather is the former great Kilkenny hurler, Matt Gargan who scored the Nore-siders' winning goal against Cork in the 1912 final.

Three of Frank's brothers, John, Der and Billy, were outstanding minor and under-21



Declan Barron



Jimmy B. Murphy



Ray Cummins

—'A Magnificent Trio'

players with Cork in the 'sixties and Frank himself has a creditable list of achievements to his credit.

In 1961 he played on the first Cork team to win an All-Ireland minor football title and six years later he was one of the stars of the senior side narrowly beaten by Meath in the national decider. "The great thing about Cogan as a defender," Tony Connolly the Cork hurler said at the time, "is that he is so fast and fit that even after a forward has slipped past him he's always sure to recover quickly and outpace the forward again."

In 1973, the halcyon days of Cork football under Donie O'Donovan, Frank won his All-Ireland senior medal and seemed certain to collect another the following year. With that magnificent trio of Ray Cummins — Declan Barron — Jimmy Barry Murphy still together, Cork mastered Kerry fairly easily but were taken by surprise by a group of neophytes called "The Dubs". The All-Ireland semi-final of 1974 not only marked the arrival of a great Dublin team but signalled the remarkably early demise of a Cork football side that seemed to be on the threshold of a golden era.

At club level Frank Cogan has collected four county senior medals with Nemo Rangers as well as All-Ireland honours in this grade. So, all in all, he has done extremely well as a player and if he proves just half as successful as a coach we could be in for a revival of football interest in Cork.

We still have to put right that '74 semi-final defeat by the Dubs.



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Moondharrig's Diary

Follow these young stars

DESPITE all the reiterated pious resolutions about a 'Closed season' the activities on the playing fields will again continue well into December and will resume before the end of January, which does not allow much breathing space either to reflect on 1977 or look forward to 1978.

Yet, anyone who watched the games through the year past will be looking forward to the season to come, anxious to discover if some of the stars we then saw rising in 1977 will come to full brilliance during 1978. On the hurling fields, All-Ireland champions Cork will not, of course, be unduly worried. After all Johnny Crowley, Tom Cashman and Diarmuid McCurtain have already firmly established themselves in the front rank and they have an excellent goalkeeper coming up in young Cronin.

Maybe the rest of their under-age stars were a bit disappointing in the Under-21 final, but there is plenty of good material there. Of all the young Corkmen, however, I fancy Cashman as the most likely to be among the outstanding players of the new season.

Disappointingly the other senior All-Ireland hurling finalists, Wexford, produced nobody new on All-Ireland Day though the selectors may well have been wrong in losing confidence in such as 'Heffo' Walsh and the Rowsome twins. Besides in the club seven-a-side competition at Glenalbyn on All-Ireland Eve, a lively young squad from Cloughbawn impressed me very much indeed.

Tipperary's younger players failed to make any great impact in the championship, but with the improved form the county team has been showing in the recent stages of the League, there are a few I will be keeping an eye on. Clare and Galway also relied more on the tried and trusted than on any new blood, nor can I remember much outstanding new blood in either the Waterford or Limerick line-ups.

In Leinster, however, Kilkenny, as ever, seems to be able to produce young stars by the dozen. Out-

standing all year was the Thomastown stalwart Dick O'Hara who could well prove to be one of the most talked-of defenders in the year immediately ahead, while I believe we are going to hear a great deal more about Joe Hennessy.

The Brennans (Kieran, Terry and Nick) and Brian Waldron may well fill some obvious gaps in the Nore-side attack, while of the previously accepted seniors, remember that Ger Henderson and Billy Fitzpatrick are only coming to their full flowering. Besides friends down there keep on warning me to watch out for a man called Jim Moran from the Muacaklee-



Denis Moran Bernard Brogan Tommy Drumm

Ballyfoyle Rangers. They tell me that, if he ever plays for his county as he does for his club, he could be the talk of the country.

Offaly have some rising youngsters, but perhaps not quite enough of them to make the big breakthrough yet, and the same applies to both Dublin and Kildare, while Laois continue to be earnest rather than brilliant.

On the football front one must, of course, look first to Dublin who through the season kept faith with the men who have dominated the football scene in recent seasons. Two of those are of course still very young, Kevin Moran and Tommy Drumm, as are the Brogan brothers. I am surprised, however, that we

● OVERLEAF



● KEVIN MORAN . . . a star among stars.

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have not seen more of Michael Hickey, who with a man who seems to have been missing of late, Johnny Corcoran, was very effective on the American Tour.

Kerry, of course, have been playing Seanie Walsh and Ogey Moran and Barry Walsh so regularly that we tend to forget that they are only youngsters yet, and I believe that Pat Spillane and his younger brother Mick will be the big names in the Kingdom line-ups not alone in 1978 but for many a year to come.

Seanie Walsh proved again and again in 1977 what a magnificent footballer he is. In the year ahead he could well prove himself the finest mid-fielder in the game.

Considering the number of minor victories won in recent years, Cork has not produced as many

promising seniors, but we are going to read a great deal more about Tom Creedon, a very fine centre half-back.

In the West, Galway have a real find in Gay McManus, while I liked Tony McManus in the Roscommon ranks although minor Mickey Finneran might well be the Connacht champions' brightest future prospect.

Leinster may be over-shadowed by Dublin at the moment, but Meath's Kevin McConnell and Gerry McEntee are two young players for the notebook as is the Kildare full-back Paddy O'Donoghue. Then I was impressed by Johnny Mooney and Vincent Henry of Offaly, and Eamonn Whelan of Laois, while I saw one of Kilkenny's All-Ireland champion hurling minors Dommo Connolly play some very good football in the Vocational Schools Championship, with Kildare. But I hear he is already a soccer international.

Down brought the only football title to Ulster, but that minor side was a team with emphasis on team-work rather than on individual brilliance, and I must admit to being a bit disappointed by the showing of their Under-21 side against Kerry in the final of that grade. However they show promise and the McCartan pair could make the grade, while, in all grades, Down have some very clever young forwards but lack of height may prove a disadvantage.

Armagh, of course, stole almost all the Northern limelight, but most of their All-Ireland side are reasonably seasoned warriors. However, their young left-flank defenders Jim McKerr and John Donnelly will bear watching when they add experience to ability.

However, one always looks forward to the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cup intervarsity games in the Spring, as providing some of the best evidence of where to look for rising stars. Last year's Sigerson, for example was the 'making' of Kerryman Barry Walsh, though oddly enough it was a series in which Sean Walsh was held for the only time in the year. Who knows what up and coming stars these February contests will reveal in 1978?

The Fitzgibbon Cup oddly enough, does not seem to produce as many stars as its football counterpart, and I was not unduly impressed by the standard in last year's series at Maynooth, hard and close-fought though the semi-final and final were. So it will be interesting to see how for instance the rising Kilkennymen, Brian Waldron and Terry Brennan shape with University College Cork in this forthcoming competition.

GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ

JAY DRENNAN ECHOES A QUESTION

WHAT ALL-STARS?

A GAIN — the time of the year being what it is — talk and thought has turned once more to All-Stars, though not as much as on other occasions, I fear, and mostly about the peripheral grumbles rather than the substantial topic of who deserved or did not deserve a place.

The hurling selection which is now in the public view for some weeks was greeted with a rather subdued disinterest for the most part. No doubt it was accepted with pleasure in Cork, but after all, modesty forebade that they should make too much noise about it. They knew, of course, what the selectors knew, and they also knew that it would be an improved team with the whole Cork fifteen on it, acutally. But, as we said, modesty forebade . . .

Others who were moderately chuffed had nothing to say either. Clare were probably quite happy enough though hoping for more. Galway thankful for small mercies. But, elsewhere, the silence has been deafening. Wexford have accepted their pair with rather hollow laughter and the comment that there are better men at home who got no consideration. Tipperary with their unprepossessing record of recent years may well mutter with rage and gnash their teeth within earshot of the selectors, but they are really not in a position to make large public protest.

Waterford are probably the most hopping mad of all the counties and the most outspoken about it. They have been making very ugly noises indeed while pointing out that Pat McGrath and Mossie Whelan hurled the ears off as many Corkmen as



Damien Martin (Offaly)

could be found to put against them in the Munster championship, and all they get for their trouble is the "pleasure" of seeing players they made look second-rate by comparison get selected for the junkets in the States. And, they say, there were others who were not even nomi-

nated who would deserve places before some that they could name.

But, of course, Waterford cannot carry great weight, just as Tipperary cannot, because they have not been delivering the big goods in recent times. It is another matter entirely in Kilkenny, where the majority have turned in the opposite direction since the selection was announced: "What All-Stars?", they answer with blank expression if you were to enquire their opinion. It is as if the thing had never been invented. It reminds one of the advice of the hardy old player to a young one who was mournfully feeling a shin where he had received some left-overs from a hard clash with the opposing corner-back:

"Don't rub it, lad," he said, "Don't let him see he hurt you; pretend you never felt anything".

Kilkenny are refusing to rub it. But, of course, the inimitable Paddy Grace is a man not subject to rule or ordinary regulation. He is one to make his own

● TO PAGE 21

	Damien Martin (Offaly)	
Pat Fitzelle (Tipperary)	Dick O'Hara (Kilkenny)	John O'Grady (Kerry)
Pat McGrath (Waterford)	John Galvin (Waterford)	Frank Cummins (Kilkenny)
	Mossie Carroll (Limerick)	Mossie Whelan (Waterford)
Liam O'Brien (Kilkenny)	Tommy Butler (Tipperary)	Eamon Cregan (Limerick)
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norms and he says it all for them, pointing out acidly that the others can have their little satisfaction from being made All-Stars, if that gives them satisfaction; Kilkenny, meanwhile, will keep on winning All-Irelands.

I have heard an interesting discussion in the past week which centred on the question of whether it would be possible to pick a team from the counties which got no representation at all which would beat the All-Stars. It is well within the bounds of possibility, I think.

That is a quick one out of the top of the head without much thought and with little study of total form except that everyone of those impressed me at one time or another during the year. It would need some positional changes, perhaps, and might not qualify on the score of players only being selected in positions they have appeared in; but, that's a little matter I'll leave to yourselves.

One annoying point about the selection and the comments we have seen and heard on it has to do with the question of players disqualified from selection because they have been sent off in the previous year. The suggestion is made that Gerald McCarthy of Cork, that most polished of hurlers, has been caught in two different years by the same suspension because of overlapping times. If that suggestion is true it is outrageous — it should not happen and I hope it has not.

If it did, there is nothing to do but to make sure that such a nonsense does not happen again. It seems so simple to be able to know whether a suspension was referred to a particular year or not, even if there happened to be an overlap. That is a simple matter and surely could not present any problems, nor could even the



● EAMONN CREGAN (Limerick)

most purblind "letter of the law" man argue that straddling the line at which two years meet should mean black marks in both years.

What is much more disturbing is the argument which has been developed from that and which has taken a completely new turn so as to say that taking warnings and sendings off into account at all is nothing but an injustice to the players when it comes to selecting the All-Stars.

It really goes beyond understanding how anyone can argue that the hatchet-men and kickers should be considered on the same basis as those who have distinguished themselves without saying a foul word, mouthing a filthy expression, or endeavouring to lay

about them with fist or hurley. The argumentation is subtle, mind you; it does not come out in favour of the direct aspect of it by acknowledging they do not object to dirty play, but rather the hard luck of the hardest of hard luck cases. But, it has always been said that hard cases make bad law . . . and so do sob-stories.

Whether the clause should or should not be there is another matter, but, at least, it is some kind of incentive, big or small, to players to conduct themselves and play sportingly. However great or small that influence for good is, what could you say of an Association which positively refused to offer it?

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Brindley

Angela star of the year

NORMALLY one would expect, when asked what was the highlight of the Camogie Year, to answer All-Ireland Final Day, and that day was of course again outstanding with Limerick taking to the county the first ever inter-county title, and Kilkenny inspired by Angela Downey, retaining their senior crown.

But the reason I hesitate about coming out heavily in favour of All-Ireland Day as the highlight of 1977 is because the best Camogie match I saw all year was the clash between Kilkenny and Tipperary early in the senior championship. That game was at pleasant Grennan Park in Thomastown, where we had a remarkable crowd for a country venue and this clash between the All-Ireland champions and the National League title-holders certainly lived up to all expectations.

Kilkenny won well but the all-round standard of play was a delight to watch and all I was sorry for was that there was nobody there to record it all on film, it would have been a wonderful advertisement for Camogie.

Before that game there may have been doubts about Kilkenny's ability to retain their title, as despite the victory of St. Paul's in the All-Ireland club championship, the county side had faded out of the 1975-76 National League, and then had been well-beaten by Dublin in the opening round of the current League.

But from that day in Thomastown Kilkenny never looked back. Angela Downey freed of examin-

ation worries, suddenly found her best form. Her scoring power enabled her county to reverse the League result against Dublin in the semi-final of the championship, to pip Wexford in the Leinster semi-final and to prove themselves real champions in the All-Ireland final, and then to crown a remarkable year by leading her county to victory over Dublin once again in the Leinster final.

So Angela Downey must rank as my player of the year for her scoring power, her marvellous individual skill, her determination and for the leadership she gave her team. But as runner-up I have in mind another Kilkenny player, Liz Neary, whose wizardry at times made Camogie brilliance look the easiest thing in the world to achieve, and full-back the easiest of positions in which to play.

Liz was superb in both the All-Ireland and Leinster finals, yet she is rarely able to get in the same amount of training as her team-mates as she is a nurse in a major Dublin hospital.

After that Kilkenny-Tipperary game I would rate the junior All-Ireland final between Limerick and Wexford as the most thrilling and entertaining game of the year, highlighted for me by the outstanding display of Geraldine O'Brien at centre-back for the winners. The minor final was another highlight, played as it was before the replay of the Armagh v Roscommon football semi-final, with Willwood Tailteann gold medals for the winners Galway,

and the consolation of silver medals for the losers, Dublin, and another of the year's great individual displays from Galway's Una Jordan.

Early in the season, of course, we had the first National League final and plenty of excitement it provided too with Wexford and Tipperary playing a draw at Monamolin, and Tipperary bringing the first senior title to the county by winning well. The proof of the success of that first National League is that three additional counties, Cork, Limerick and Down took part in the current competition.

Moreover, how much the League has done to improve the all-round standards is proved by two facts. In the first place a remarkable number of matches were won by very narrow margins, and indeed only one county, Down, failed to win a game, and owing to a variety of unlucky circumstances, they were never at full strength. In the second place it was, I am firmly convinced, the experience gained in playing in the League that enabled Limerick to break through to long awaited junior victory.

In most aspects the game through the year continued to make steady progress with particular success on the educational front. There were two new competitions for the Higher Level institutes, more schools than ever playing at secondary level where we had new senior champions from Presentation Cashel while there was much increased interest and activity at primary level where Cavan surely lead the way with 28 schools competing.

Off the playing fields, of course, the highlights of 1977 were the production of the Coaching Book and the awarding of Badges to the newly qualified Coaches.

DUBLIN: THE BEST EVER?

This argument will never be resolved!

by Mick Dunne (RTE Sport)

THIS assertion must be made at the outset: there is no known formula by which it can be conclusively determined that Dublin are, or indeed are not, the best yet. Not only are comparisons—according to the old cliché—odious, they are totally unreliable because they are based almost solely on private opinions and personal tastes.

You could not get a more untrustworthy yardstick when it comes to comparing performers and performances that belong to different eras. Human nature being what it is all our private judgments are subject to human emotions and consequently are entirely fallible.

Moreover comparisons are absolutely unrealistic when it is a case of comparing teams from one decade with those of another, particularly when those teams are groups of individuals of varying, and sometimes sharply contrasting temperaments and characteristics, frequently opposites in moods and manners. Perhaps, in individual sports the achievements of track and field stars may be measured against each other by stopwatch or inch tape. But even here styles have changed so greatly, training methods advanced so much and equipment—like running shoes or the material in the track—improved to such a degree that there is no dependable or infallible guideline.

In the modern era — if we take

the years since the ending of World War II as such — there

have been some celebrated football teams, sides whose greatness lay not only in their power as a unit, but in the qualifications and abilities of their individual players. Such as the Cavan and Meath teams of the 1940s, Mayo and

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Action from the 1954 All-Ireland final in which Meath beat Kerry by 1-13 to 1-7, a famous victory for the Royal County.



Kerry in the 50s, Down and Galway in the next decade and a Kerry team that spanned the later years of the 60s and early ones of the present decade as well as the Dublin and Galway sides of the 50s.

Each and every one of these teams had illustrious players. What would we not give for one of those time-machines often seen in science-fiction films which would enable us to turn back the clock and watch these great men

play again in their prime.

Would it not be worth a king's ransom to delight once again in the feats of Cavan stars like the late John Joe O'Reilly, Victor Sherlock, Mick Higgins and Tony Tighe, or Meath's Paddy O'Brien, Kevin McConnell, Frankie Byrne, Paddy Meegan and Peter McDermott; how one would love to thrill again to the football of Mayo's Paddy Prendergast, Sean Flanagan, Padraic Carney or the late Tom Langan; admire again the skills of Kerry's Jas Murphy, Jackie Lyne, Sean Murphy, Tadghie Lyne or Micksey Palmer; maybe see these pit their skills against the Down side that included George Lavery, Tony Hadden and that marvellous half-forward trio of O'Neill, McCartan and Doherty; or have them in Croke Park with Colleran, Tierney, McDermott, Leydon and McDonagh of Galway or on the same field with Culloty, O'Sullivan, O'Connell, O'Dwyer and Higgins of later Kerry sides.

There can be no one with memories of the Fifties who would refuse a chance to behold once more the football of Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell, Ollie Freaney and Kevin Heffernan.

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● FROM PAGE 25

Unfortunately, in this respect, we live in the real world which does not have the futuristic aids of science fiction that would allow us see Flanagan play against Bobbie Doyle, put Purcell marking Kevin Moran, have Tadghie Lyne take on Tommy Drumm or Prendergast face Jimmy Keave-
ney.

We are restricted, and severely so, to an examination of the re-

cord of teams. Of those already mentioned Cavan reached three consecutive All-Ireland finals and won the first two (1947 and '48), Mayo qualified for two in succession and won them ('50 and '51), Kerry won the first and third of their three ('53 and '55), in one decade and lost the first in another ('68) whereas Down — like Mayo — reached two finals in succession and were victorious. Only Galway in the last 30

years has a feat to emulate what the present Dublin team has achieved up to now. They qualified for four finals in succession (1963-'66), but they had a greater distinction than Dublin in winning three championships on the trot. Dublin's sequence was broken by defeat in the 1975 decider.

Nor do the similarities end there. Dublin in their four All-Ireland finals have used only 19 players who lined-up at the start and they brought in four substitutes for a total of 23 players. Galway in four finals had 20 players who lined-out and they used only one other as a substitute for a total of 21.

Dublin's record appears better because of their achievements in the League in the past four years. They qualified for the last three finals (winning in '76), while Galway in their four years at the top won the 1965 League but lost the '66 home final.

Furthermore, it can be claimed that Dublin's achievement in winning four successive provincial titles in a province containing 11 other counties is of greater merit than Galway's four Connacht championships against only four other counties (including the 1965 championship for which they had a bye to the provincial final because of a June-July trip to the U.S.).

However, there the comparisons end. Galway played in an era of the punched-pass only and in 60-minute championship games. Dublin have played in an era of changing football that brought the return of the hand-pass and the introduction of both 80-minute and 70-minute championship matches. In four championships Galway played 15 games over 60 minutes each. Dublin have had 22 games (because of their bigger province), four of these were of 60 minutes duration, three were 80-minute

Rheumatism: The pain chain.

Your own pain chain began with a stiffness in a muscle. A strain, perhaps. Or a bruise.

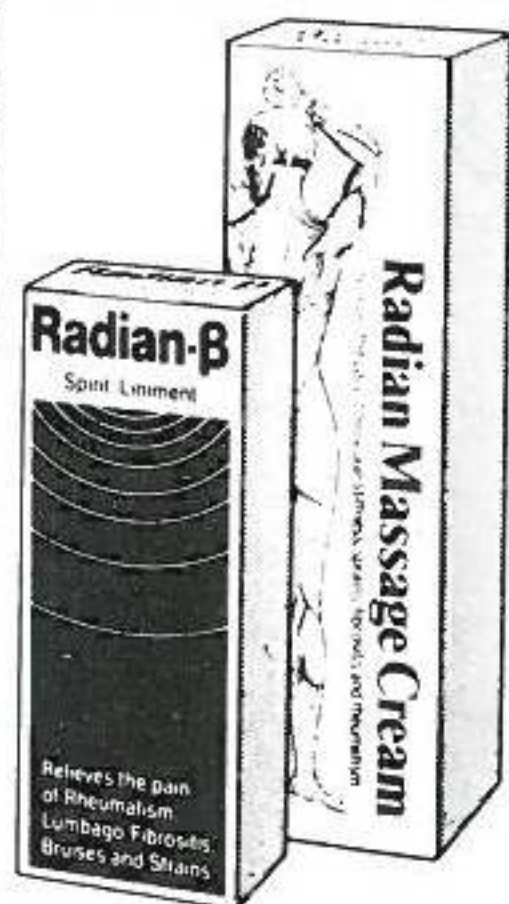
To compensate for your pain, your body sought relief by adopting a particular position. This put further strain on another part of your body.

And so on.

Your pain chain had started to grow.

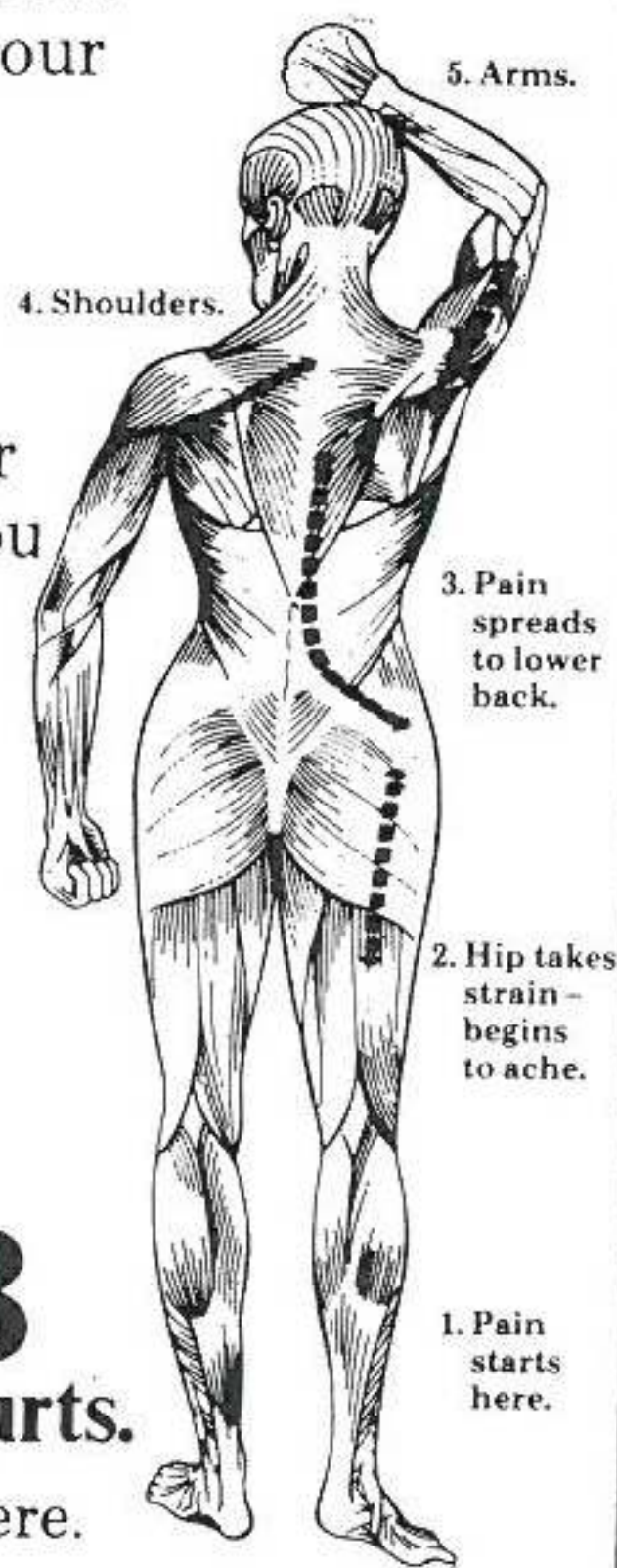
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games and all 15 over '75, '76 and '77 lasted for 70 minutes.

The most noticeable change of all has been in training and tactics. It's fair to say that Down in the early 1960s introduced the regular, year-round regime of Tuesday-Thursday training sessions. They began in the depths of January with indoor sessions in Castlewellan and continued at Newcastle when days lengthened and weather improved. Up to then this had been unheard of and teams in previous decades had begun their preparations for a major game at the most three weeks ahead of the big day, but rarely, if ever, were training sessions found to be necessary even for the closing stages of the National League in the spring.

As for tactics, there has been a greater emphasis on fitness since the introduction of the so-called no-stoppage rule in the 1950s and players in all sectors are more mobile—and expected to be. Twenty years ago unorthodoxy in tactics or team formations extended only to the roving full-forward as best exemplified by the roaming of Frank Stockwell and Kevin Heffernan. But look at Bobbie Doyle in any of Dublin's matches and you see a corner forward popping up in areas all over the field with a frequency that would have been laughed at in other decades.

Consequently with the pattern of football changed to this extent how could one declare that the Dubs are, or are not, the best yet.

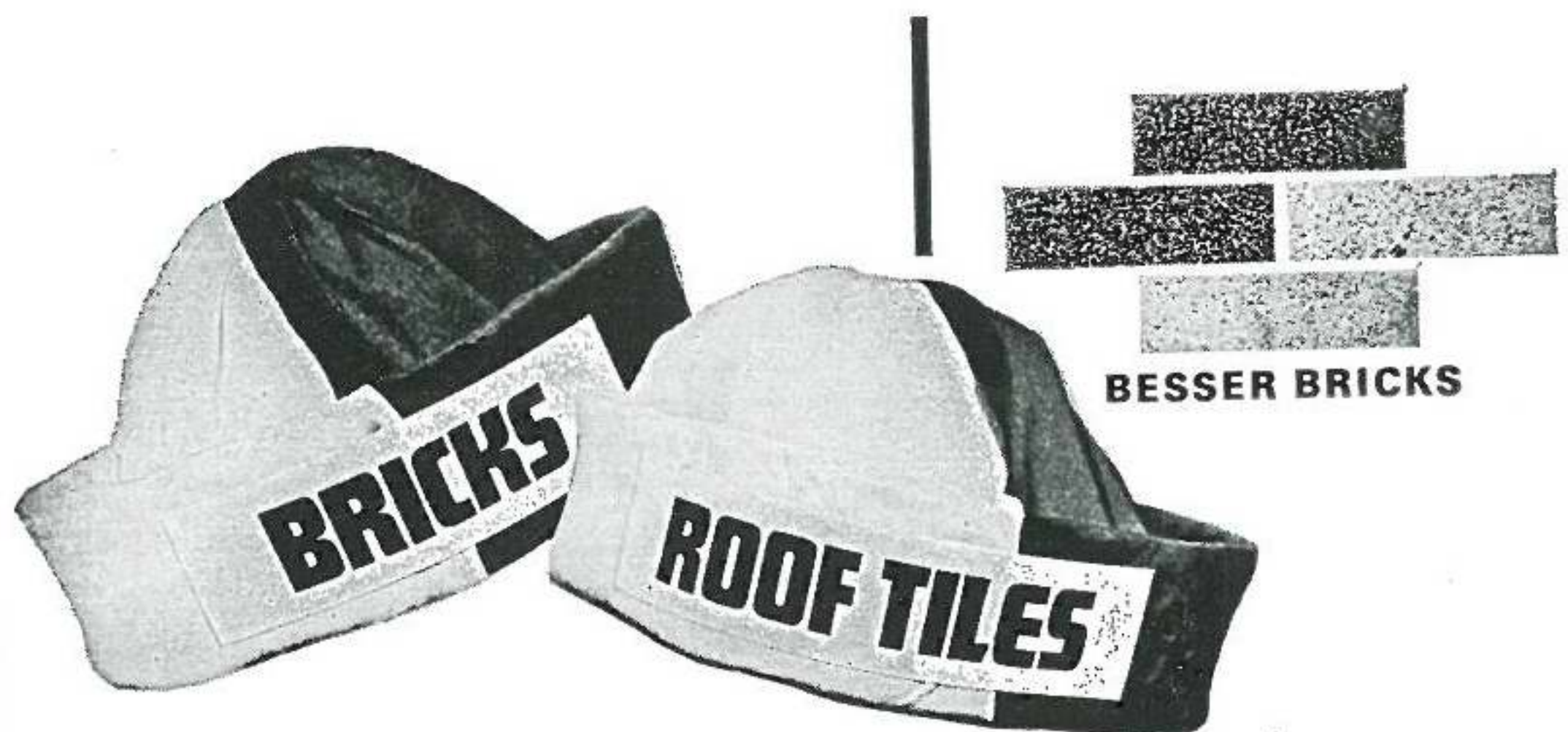
One thing can be said, though, they are most assuredly one of the most dedicated teams of all time. In this highly competitive age, with so much emphasis on victory in the early rounds of the League and certainly with so much prestige at stake, not to mention all the counter-attractions to football as well as the

strains and stresses of modern life they have devoted themselves to football over the past four years with almost monastic single-mindedness. That, in one sense, may be easy enough now that they are at the top—but it took enormous persistence and perseverance during the early part of 1974 when they were attempting to bring about a revival under Heffernan. And, of course, the recovery became a fact be-

cause of their utter dedication.

As Kildare's player-manager Eamonn O'Donoghue put it after their latest League clash: They are the best drilled combination in present-day football."

Perhaps, it is here that Dublin have been the best yet . . . as a team unit with every single one of them, both on and off the field, working in close co-ordination for the betterment and greater glory of the team.



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GAME IGNORED BY MOST GAA CLUBS

IT is generally conceded — that handball in the last decade has made giant strides — with this impetus of progress still in motion one can safely assume that, all things being equal, within a decade from now, the standing of handball should be in a very secure position, vis-a-vis, Irish sport in general.

In this vein of optimism I am reluctant to throw in a few suggestions which might help to expedite the day when the game can be seen to have reached its full potential.

Maybe, indeed, under different umbrellas, I have mooted them previously but at this point I will categorise them into a more orderly fashion.

My abiding contention still remains that definite steps must be taken to integrate handball incisively into the main-stream of the G.A.A.

Therein, one is faced with an accumulation of anomalies. On the one hand the argument can logically be made that such integration already exists by virtue of the fact that the official guide of the G.A.A. accepts responsibility for handball and that a laudable relationship exists between the Governing Bodies of both Organisations.

But the cold facts remain that less than 2% of G.A.A. clubs actually promote handball.

The same type of statistic holds good for the couple of hundred handball Clubs, who can claim no direct contact, not to mention affiliation, with G.A.A. Clubs in their areas.

It seems obvious then, that the

laudable phraseology that appears in the official G.A.A. guide bears no relation, whatsoever, to reality. Until such time as words and actions are merged there can be no hope of handball reaching its full potential.

I would like to be just as forthright in offering a ready solution to the problem.

It would have to be ascertained in the first place if the theory of integration is acceptable and the obvious move then would be geared towards a blue-print on a set policy for handball, designed after consultation between the legislators of the parent body and the Handball Council.

That policy could be relayed to the work force—in this case the G.A.A. and Handball Clubs—and the scheme would be well under way.

On the basis that it would be considered as a priority in the preparations of the G.A.A. for its centenary celebrations and even on modest market research calculations of a 15% success, the game of handball would benefit to the tune of 300 additional units.

It would be the greatest singular explosion of development the game of handball could ever hope to achieve.

I have often considered that the appointment of a full time organiser, to put this plan into effect, would be a most worthwhile move.

In the short term, the basic need of handball is a precise plan of development in the major cities.

This applies in particular to Dublin which suffers from an acute shortage of playing courts

and where the game depends for its existence on the enthusiasm of a few dedicated administrators.

It is merely dangling by a thread and bears no relation whatever either to the sporting population or other individual sports such as Squash and Badminton.

It can also be argued that there are some complex areas, relating to the game, which deserve serious consideration.

One wonders, for instance, if there is much to be achieved by the retention of the old code of handball, which only enjoys a degree of popularity in a few areas throughout the country and even then, only at championship time.

Efforts to have it removed from the charter of handball have been made over the years but have been resisted by those who vouch for the gospel of tradition.

The ladies have the final word.

In recent years they have entered the handball domain and have achieved quite a degree of artistry in the playing courts.

I hold that the extension of ladies handball will be one of the great forward movements of the game in future years.

The entry of ladies into this, hitherto male preserve, has brought with it a new social impact and a brighter image for the clubs who have been bold enough to offer the girls full membership.

Unfortunately, too few of the handball clubs throughout the country have had the initiative and foresight to welcome the girls and the cumulative result has been to the detriment of handball.

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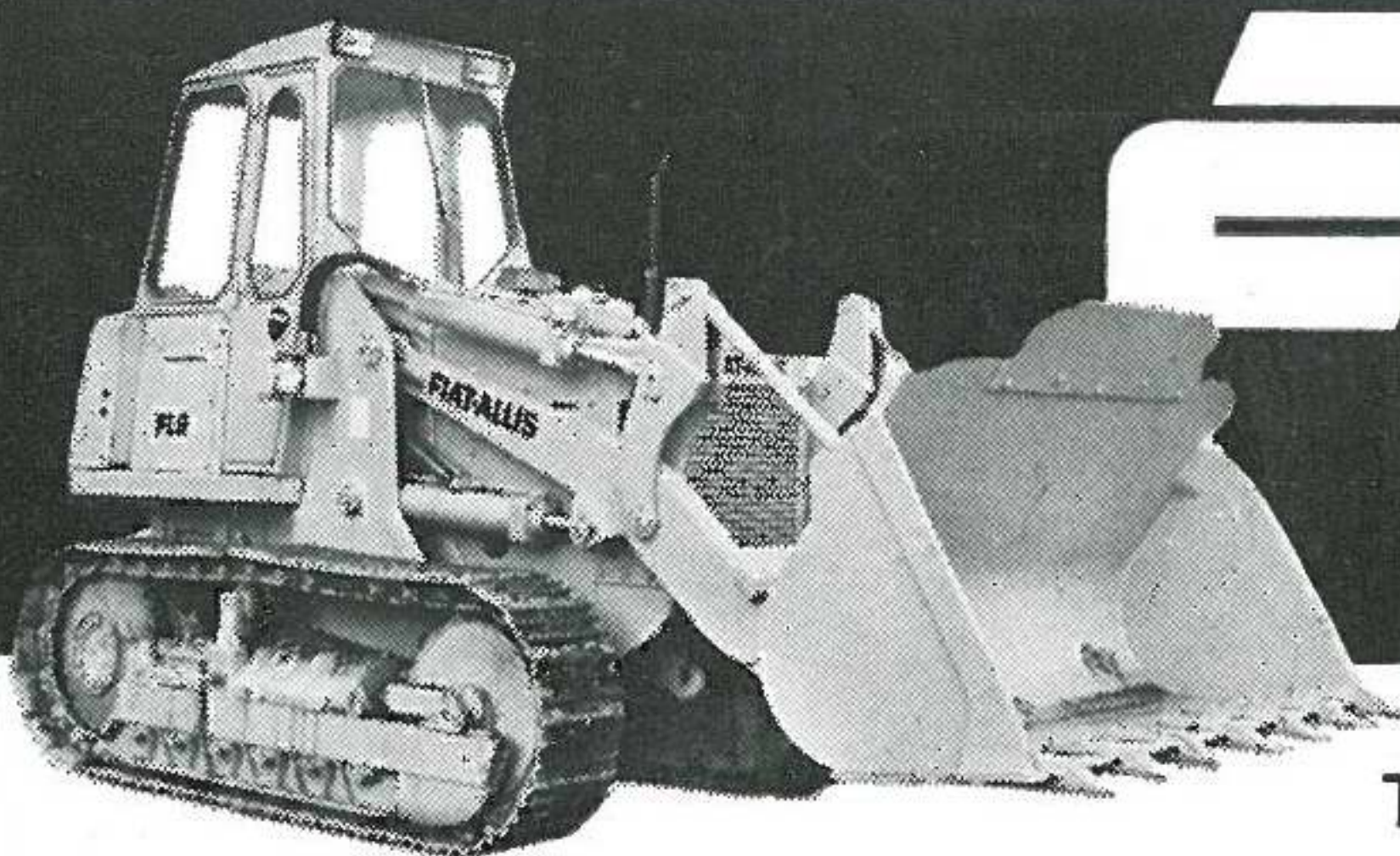
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BOOK REVIEW

DUBLIN '78

By CHRIS COOGAN

TOMMY McQUAID, Editor of "Dublin '78" sets such a high standard for himself that one always feels that his next effort will fall short of that target of perfection at which he is for ever striving.

Co-incidentally, Tommy took on the task of producing the Year Book in the same year that the Dubs first hit the highspots—1974. In the meantime it has been a toss-up as to who has made the more spectacular progress — the Dubs or the Year Book!

"Dublin '75" was hailed as a breakthrough in the concept of what a Year Book should be.

"Dublin '76" won the GAA award as the outstanding publication of the year.

"Dublin '77" was, in the opinion of many shrewd journalists, the best to date.

So where does that leave "Dublin '78"?

Well, the truth is that, just like the Dubs, it's out on its own.

Firstly, from a technical point of view, it will leave its Cross-channel soccer counterparts foundering in its wake.

Printed by Cityview Press, "Dublin '78" is not alone a credit to the Dublin County GAA Board, it is a credit to Irish workmanship. The printing, the quality of the paper, the front and back cover spread — designed, incidentally, by the Editor himself — is top-class. But the most outstanding feature of this excellent production is its price — £1.

Editor McQuaid has gathered together a team of writers which reads like a who's who in the GAA world of journalism: Mick Dunne, Bob Hyland, Paddy Purcell, Sean Og O Ceallacháin, Owen McCann, Michael O'Hehir, Micheál O Muircheartaigh, Charlie Perry, Shane Flynn — and that's only for openers.

Dublin Co. Board Chairman Jimmy Gray's introduction sets the stage for a 112 page

masterpiece.

Agnes Purcell writes on camogie, Sean Clerkin discusses handball, Paddy Cullen, in a most humorous piece, recalls his '77 trip to the States, Sean Moyles and Jimmy Boggan cover hurling affairs at county and club level and Donal Hickey talks of the necessity of providing yet more games for our youth! Joe Carr, Karl Mullen, Eamonn Coghlan, Dessie Hughes, Fr. Michael Cleary, and Con Martin express their comments on the Dazzling Dubs.

I've left the most interesting item till last and it's a "no holds barred" interview with the Dublin captain, Tony Hanahoe, who handles the Editor's questions with the candour and sincerity that we have come to associate with this most modest of men.

One last word and then I'll be off — Paddy Downey's layout of the magazine is well-nigh impeccable. But then, Paddy, like Tommy, is a perfectionist.

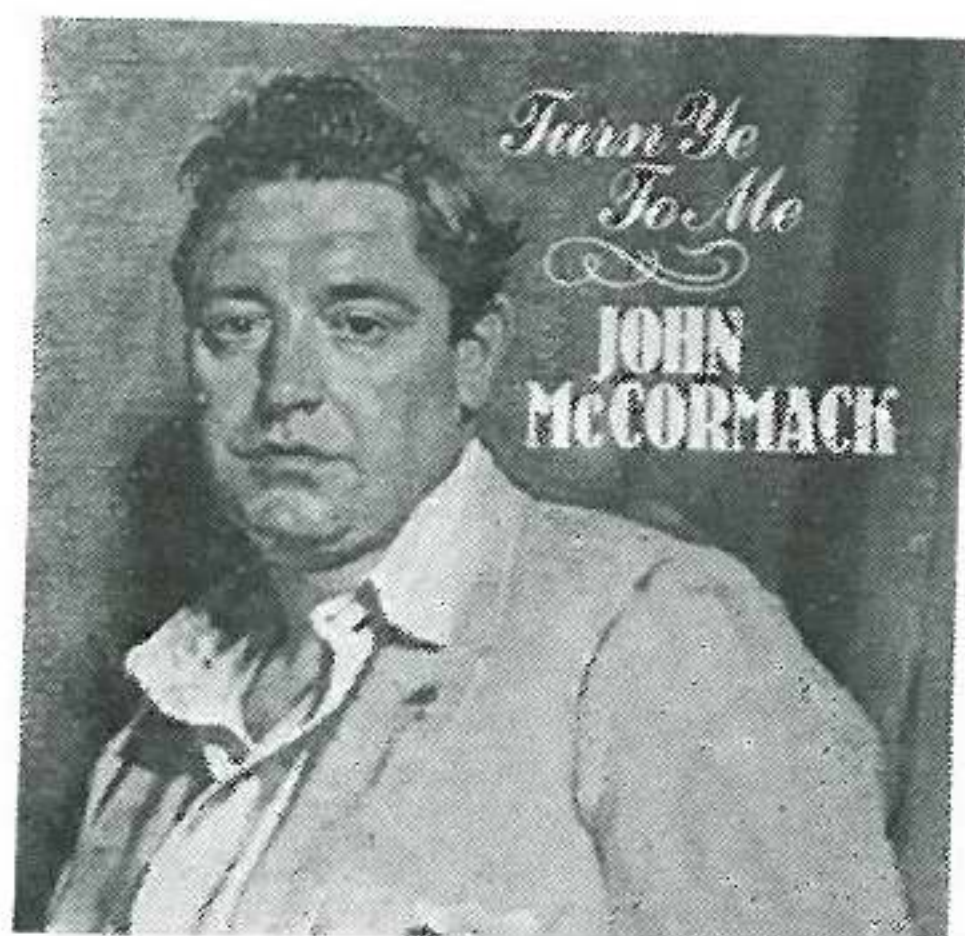
"Dublin '78" is published by Gaelic Sport Publications, 80, Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9, on behalf of the Dublin County GAA Board, 6, Nth. Great George's Street, Dublin 1. Price £1, plus 20p postage.

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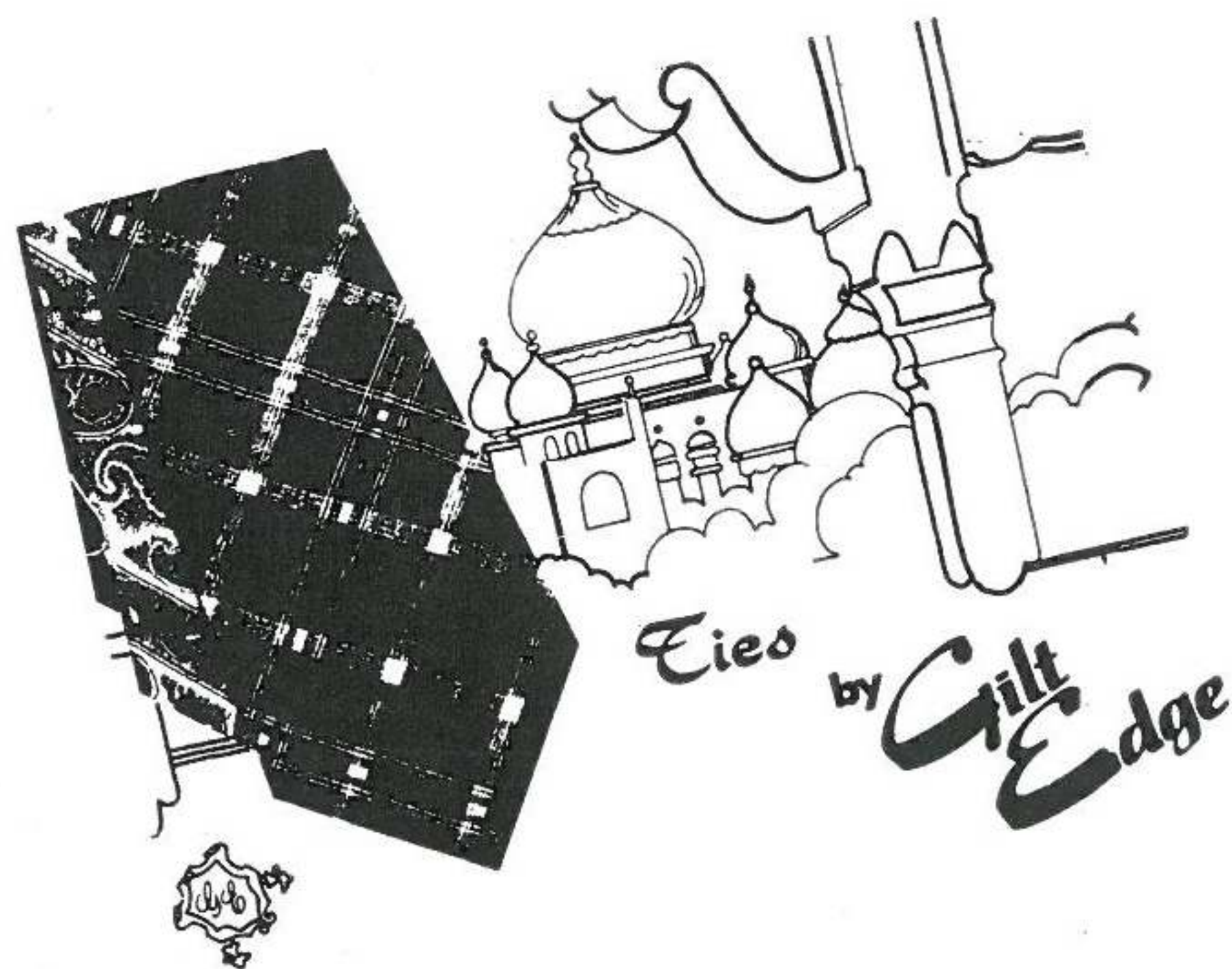
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CHRISTMAS GIFT SUGGESTIONS

*Shop now and avoid
that last minute rush*

By LINDA COLLINS

THERE is something off putting about thinking of Christmas presents the previous January but when December 25th suddenly looms up without prior notice, we tend to regret that we are not organised enough to buy gifts throughout the year for production at the appropriate time. One tends to find oneself wandering wild-eyed through shops that look as though major battles have been fought in them. It is particularly disconcerting to have to do the Christmas shopping while all around you the sales assistants are putting up notices about the January sale.

At this stage of the proceedings it is still not too late to send airmail gifts to friends abroad and the process needn't be too costly if you concentrate on something light in weight. The Central Tie Co. tell us they are amazed at the number of County ties they have sold which the shops inform them are going to the United States in huge quantities. One of these makes the ideal Christmas present and can be slipped into the ordinary envelope without any bother. And indeed this need not necessarily be a present confined to friends abroad—those nearer home might appreciate being able to wear their County tie on suitable occasions.

Sportsmen are easy people to buy gifts for, because you simply concentrate on getting something which is useful to them in the pursuit of their favourite sport. This applies to ladies interested in sport too, of course, as the staff in Arnott's wonderful lower ground-floor sports and leisure

department are careful to emphasise. With grannies playing golf and aunties camogie-ing into their middle years the point is well worth making.

The great thing about a sportsmart like Arnott's special department is that it truly does contain something for everyone. From a single tennis ball to complete team equipment it is all here. Just leave yourself plenty of time to look around when you make this particular visit because otherwise you won't be able to inspect everything and choose just the right gift for a particular person. Staff here are unusually knowledgeable and helpful — even in the Christmas rush.

How many of us date a particular Christmas as "the year I got my watch". The very phrase shows what a memorable, impor-

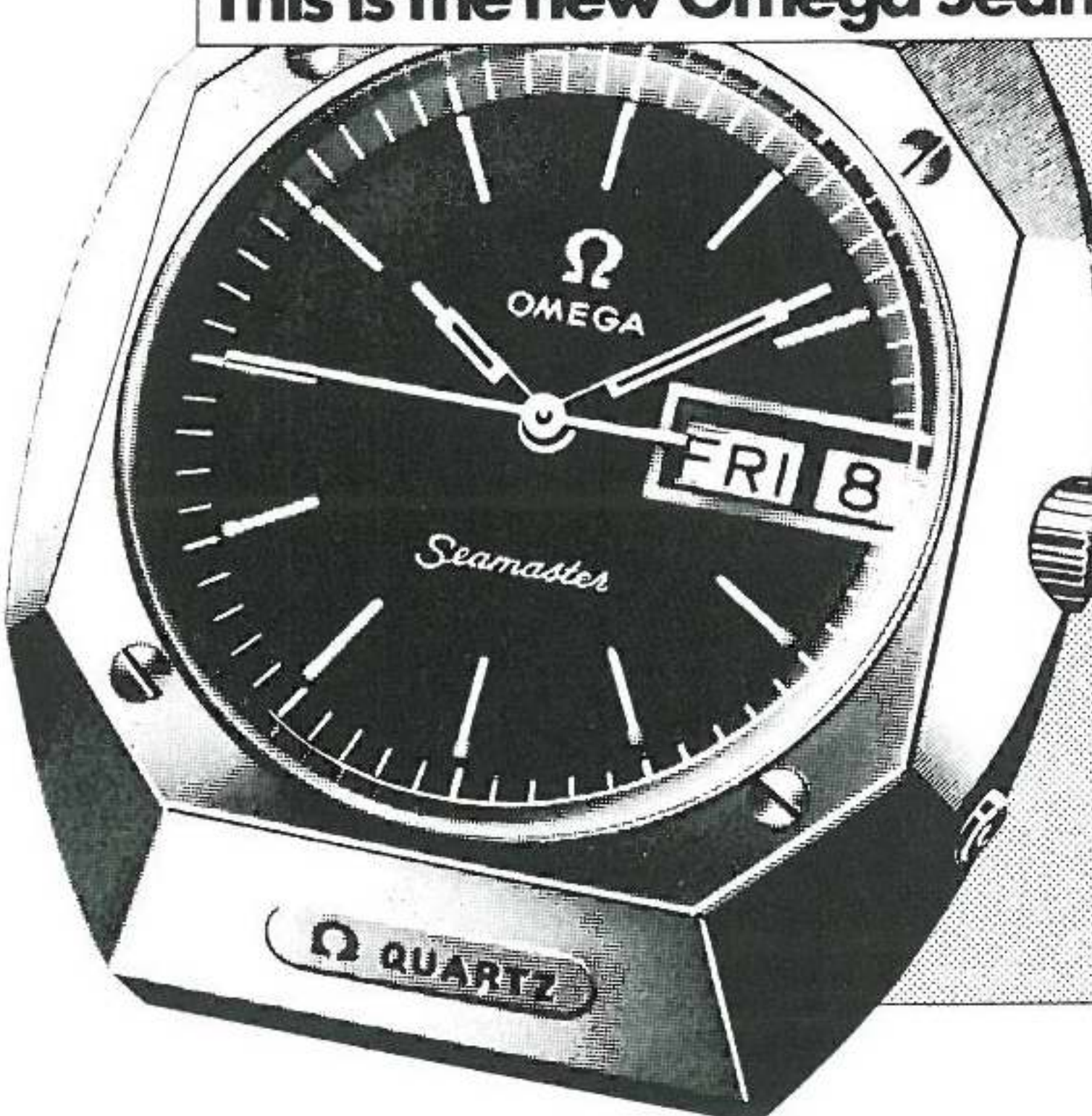
tant and useful present a watch can be. Gaelic Sport has drawn attention to the Omega range on more than one occasion because this top quality Swiss range contains examples of every facet of the watchmakers' craft. Whether it is a question of getting a specialised timepiece for a sportsman, or an ultra-glamorous watch for a discerning lady, Omega can provide the answer to all the questions. And since the range is fully guaranteed and has one of the best service records in the world, it is an obvious choice at Christmas time.

How about a Bic biro as a stocking filler? or several Bic bios? The biro is such a taken-for-granted part of life nowadays that we mightn't think of it as a suitable Christmas gift. But someone who was given a gift last year of a dozen ordinary plastic Bics tied up in Christmas ribbon says it was the best present ever. For nearly six months he was never at the frantic stage of looking for a biro and not being able to find one. This year he'll be given two dozen of them, to ensure a full twelve months of trouble-free writing.

Bic also do useful disposable razors which can have a fairly long life given reasonable care. These too make handy little

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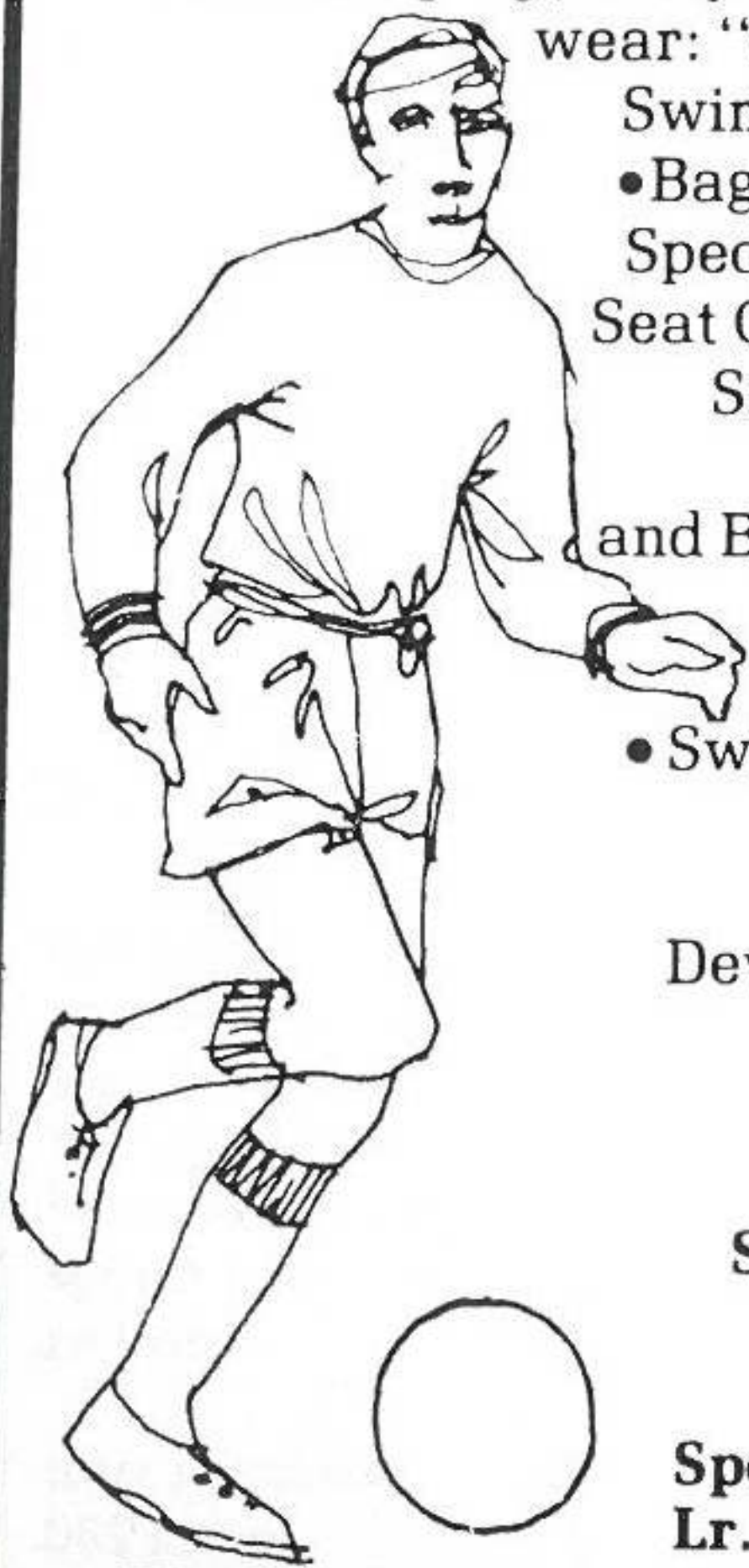
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● FROM PAGE 33

presents for under the tree or in the toe of a hopefully-hung stocking. Sentimentalists will make sure to give a tuppenny piece along with the razor to obviate any risk that giving a present associated with a sharp blade might 'cut the friendship'.

'Gilt Edge' is a name you probably recognise the instant you see it. It crops up on some of your favourite ties and knitwear and also on some of the smartest leisure-shirts now in the shops. The Irish family behind the Gilt Edge label are the Grogan Brothers and they now export the ties to countries all over the world. Luckily you can buy them at home in most good menswear retailers and they make the ideal Christmas present. No problem about choosing, either, because the selection is so huge that there is bound to be one to suit everyone. Also, if you want to treat yourself to a new pair of jeans for Christmas, and still remain loyal to the Buy Irish campaign, you might go for a pair of 'Rogues' jeans — made by the Gilt Edge people in Irish factories and just as good as if they came straight from Texas.

Will Christmas '77 be the time when you finally decide to enjoy the delight offered by colour television? Then no doubt you'll be looking at the Siemens range. Siemens are one of the world's giants in the field of electrical engineering and it's small wonder that their vast experience, technological know-how and fantastic research and development resources should result in the finest there is when it comes to t.v. sets. And if better than best is possible then Siemens have achieved it with their two new models, the 22 inch and the big 27 inch colour t.v. sets. Worth knowing is that servicing of these is now simplicity itself—and that power consumption on both models is fantastically low—an important point in this age of

energy conservation. Both these models are in addition to the highly successful 20 inch Colourmeister.

A nice gift idea for a friend or the whole family is the Siemens Hair dryer MH1550. It's easy to handle and can be used on table or wall, with two heat settings, two blowing settings and a grooming nozzle. It's fully guaranteed and the after-sales service is great. For the ladies in your life, a Siemens MH 2600 hairstyling set would be received with joy. Dries and grooms with coarse comb, fine comb, half round hairbrush with extra handle and grooming nozzle.

And how about a gift for the household of a Siemens Automatic Toaster with infinitely adjustable degree of browning. For efficiency and long life, you can't beat it.

Lovers of John McCormack will be delighted to know that E.M.I. are bringing out this Christmas a collection of his best loved songs some of which were recorded more than 50 years ago. Up to now, most of these were only available on rare 78's. Such favourites as Annie Laurie, Il Mio Tesoro and Trottin' to the Fair are included. The sleeve features a portrait painted of McCormack by Sir William Orpen.

Another item from EMI for the Christmas stocking is an L.P. by the Freeman Folk, who hail from Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny. You may remember them if you saw a recent Trom agus Eadtrom programme on RTE, in which their latest LP, Vale of Aherlow was featured. This Land is Your Land, Dicey Riley and Boolavogue are among the tracks.

For those who like that present with just that little bit of difference, EMI have a splendid LP with a collection of songs based on the writing of A. S. Neill called the Establishment. Michael Kiely and Patrick Brady are the artists who perform six pieces concerning the running of Neill's famous school at Summerhill. The basic philosophy behind his

Our Games Annual

A REVIEW BY
TONY KEEGAN

OVER the years, *OUR GAMES ANNUAL*, the official yearbook of the G.A.A., has earned a well-merited reputation as one of the prestige publications of its kind . . . a high point, in fact, in the Christmas reading for anyone interested in the national games. This reputation is richly enhanced by the well-produced 1978 presentation, which must undoubtedly rank as the best yet.

A representative team of top-class writers, drawn from all four provinces, cover a wide range of subjects both local and overseas.

The scene abroad is put into focus by Pdraig Puirseal, who has some interesting comments to make on what the All-Stars tours mean to the Irish-Americans.

On the local front, Armagh's great championship run in football and Clare's rare National Hurling League title triumph are featured.

Tony McGee reports on the euphoria and the enthusiasm created by the Ulster county's emergence from the football shadows, while Jimmy Smyth recalls Clare's first League title in 31 years.

Tommy Moran, the well-known Leitrim referee, who had charge of the All-Ireland minor football final last September, makes a plea on behalf of the "man in the middle" in his con-

tribution, "Give him a fair trial".

In "A Legend in His Lifetime" John Barry remembers the late Sean McCarthy, who was Munster Council Secretary for 46 years, while Gerry McCarthy spotlights some of the "Golden Oldies".

The Colleges and Vocational Schools competitions, as well as Féile na nGael, are fully reviewed, and camogie and handball are not forgotten either.

There is a fine interview with Sean O'Duffy, "the only man in an all-female world", on camogie affairs over the years, while Una Bean Uí Phuirseal reports on an exciting year in camogie.

"You're Never Too Good To Learn" is a first-class appreciation by Pat Quigley of Pat Kirby and his contribution to Irish handball.

Jack Mahon's quiz returns after an absence of a year to test the reader's knowledge of Gaelic games affairs in entertaining manner, and the attractive publication is set off with many superb photographs of the stars in action, as well as a number of colour pictures.

All in all, *OUR GAMES ANNUAL 1978* is excellent value at £1, and a production that no enthusiast should miss.

OUR GAMES ANNUAL 1978, the official yearbook of the G.A.A., Croke Park, Dublin 3. Price £1.

establishment was that nobody was to be forced to learn anything but merely to experience the consequences of their own decisions. In other words, you could learn if you wanted to, or do nothing if you wanted to. However, if you decided after a number of months to start learning, your class might not be too willing to accept you back into the fold, as your coming might retard their continued progress. Not a very exciting theme for

your Christmas LP you might think, but Kiely and Brady have done wonders with this topic and it comes highly recommended.

Last, but by no means least, our own Patricia Cahill is featured on an LP, in conjunction with RTE. Among the tracks are songs from her most popular TV series — Don't Cry for Me Argentina, Laughter in the Rain, The Wedding Song and Liverpool Lullaby. A good buy for all the family.



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Edited by **KITTY MURPHY**

MY wallet was swiped last Thursday, I get paid on a Friday and Thursday is known as Waiting Day. Now for the life of me I can't understand how anybody could be bothered lifting a wallet — particularly mine — on a Thursday but there you are, someone did. Mind you, if one really wanted to get rich fast he could do worse than give my bag attention on Pay Day. After that though, or at least from Monday on, he could forget about it.

Anyhow with the way the pound is going one might as well spend it the minute you lay hands on it. With all this inflationary talk the poor old pound is shrivelling as fast as an iceberg in the Gobi desert. At least the Central Bank are quite realistic about the whole set-up. "Seeing is believing," said they, and they issued us the "mini" note.

Anyway let's get back to my wallet. I didn't realise it was missing until I was almost home. Every evening I go into a little shop near where I live for the evening paper, a pint of milk and a few odds and ends. Thursday evening was no different and I picked up my few items and left them on the counter, accompanied by the usual comment of "That's the lot". The girl behind the counter did a bit of figuring in her head moving each item slightly to the left at the same time.

"Eighty-six and a half" says she, and I dived into the bag. Have you noticed that these kind of shops always have the half — I wonder how they manage it. Anyway I did a bit of rooting around inside the m \acute{a} la but there was no "feel" of the wallet. As the message filtered through to the brain my fingers froze at the realisation that I had just been "ripped off" as Kojak might say.

Still rooting with one hand I lifted the bag onto the counter. lowered my head and gave it my full focal attention. Tilting it this way and that, towards the light and away from it, it was becoming painfully clear that what I was looking for was just not there. The assistant, at this stage, was serving customers on either side of me so I waited until she got back to me. "Look," I said. "I can't find my wallet — I don't know where I left it." To her eternal credit she smiled, handed me the messages and said I could pay her the next trip. On that trusting note I gathered up my belongings and went back to H.Q.

Putting the kettle on I did a bit of reflecting while waiting for it to boil. I recalled I had the purse at dinner time because I put a pound deposit on a raincoat. Where did I go after that. I looked at shoes and boots but saw nothing that

knocked me out, so I proceeded around the corner to the bookshop where I bought "How Green was my Valley." That's my second time buying it you know. Somebody borrowed the other one, promptly fell in love with Richard Llewellyn and forgot about me. "However," as I say, "if you're not born with good taste you can't cultivate it." Anyway I had the purse then so what was next?

Ah yes! I treated myself to a cup of coffee and a sandwich. That was a self-service place and I had the wallet when I got to the cashier. Now that was the last occasion I had use for it because I went back to work after that. More likely than not, I left it sitting on the tray while I was looking for a place to sit down. Surely nobody could have lifted it off the tray. Ah no, it's unlikely that could happen right under my nose. Maybe it fell off the tray though and some decent upright citizen found it. What would he have done with it? He'd hand it up to the owner of the place of course. And so I decided there and then to phone the said owner.

I turned off the kettle and located my spare handbag in the hope that there might be a few loose coins dumped therein. And there was — sixpence!

Away with me to the nearest Public phone box, put in my

● TO PAGE 39

CPM

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● FROM PAGE 37

fourpence, dialled my number, pressed Button A and got through. A nicely spoken male answered. I presumed he was the proprietor and he confirmed my presumption. "Listen, Sir," I said, "you didn't find a wallet and me not with it." He pardoned and excused himself so I re-phrased my question. Really, I don't know how these fellows get those good jobs!

He asked me to hold while he checked with the staff. I held on. He came back. "No, Miss, I'm afraid nothing has been handed in," said he. I don't know why those kind of fellows are always "afraid" but that's what he said. "Now would you ever throw an eye under the table at the top right hand corner of the dining room" I said, trying to get another bit of mileage out of my fourpence. This time he told me he could see the table from where he was speaking but was still "afraid" there was nothing there.

That was that. He asked me if I had much in it? "Not all that much" said I "but it did contain a lot of bits and pieces that really could not be replaced." That didn't impress him at all. "Twould be worse if you had had a good bit of cash in it," says he, losing sympathy for my cause at an alarming rate. I thought about continuing the discussion on what might be considered "valuable" but I didn't think it would have served any useful purpose. I thanked him profusely for his time and attention and on that civil note we parted.

Returning to base I found a friend had just popped in. She was wondering where I had been so I told her my story. She knows my financial habits fairly well so straight away she

made her comment. "Well," says she, straightening herself, "it's Thursday so there couldn't be too much in it." We both laughed — I wouldn't dare argue on that score and anyway I couldn't admit to being a bad loser. Despite that however she was confounded that anyone should take the wallet, so we both set about assessing the loss. Well what was in it anyway?

First of all, let me tell you, I got the wallet as a present and 'twas a lovely leather one with a kind of purse front for small change. 'Twas a fine big one and, of course, extended to its limits. I had a small Address Book wherein all the names and addresses of my friends, relations and acquaintances were inscribed. This I always kept tucked away safely in the back pocket of the wallet. As well as that I had phone numbers and other bits and pieces of useful and useless information written on scraps of paper and they were all in the same section of the wallet. Now I had the receipt for the £1 I had put on the raincoat but worse than that I had the cleaners docket for my maxi which I was hoping to wear come Friday night. That I must admit caused me to panic slightly because it was after deep and serious deliberation that I opted for the maxi. Having made such a big decision I loaned my only wearable alternative to a friend who was also attending a function the same night.

At this juncture I decided I'd call a halt because the more I remembered the more miserable I became. My friend suggested we should go to the pictures. Now at the best of times I'm not a film fan but being Thursday night the cinema was as good a place as any to spend a couple of hours. Off we went and after queueing awhile we

got in. Enjoyment how are you — I spent the early hours of the next morning walking around my bedroom convinced that I was possessed by some Devil or other. One consoling thing about seeing that devilish picture, it made my worries seem minimal compared with the unfortunate heroine in that ghoulish film.

Next morning I went to work as usual. We have to show our Identity Card entering the building so I put my hand in my bag but of course my card was in the lost wallet. I told the doorman my plight and he allowed me proceed. He did, however, say if anything unusual happened during that day he'd know who to blame for it. Needless to say I'm too well reared to be insulted and anyway I really would prefer to be notorious than famous any day. Off with me then to my office. Being payday everyone was in good humour — very shallow lot in our place. I was just in the middle of telling them the Saga of the Missing Wallet when the phone rang.

A lady with a strange voice was at the other end wondering if she could possibly speak with Kitty Murphy. "That's me," I said quick as lightning. "Did you lose anything?" she asked. "Oh, my wallet," I said excitedly, "you don't mean to say you found it." Yes, indeed she found it all right but was sorry to have to tell me the money had been taken out of it. I assured her the "takings" would just about get one admittance into the Zoo. She laughed and said it was still very bulky. She found my identification card in the front of it and that's how she located me. The identity card did it — I always knew my face would lead to my fortune.

Good luck everyone. See you next month.

ON THE SPOT . . .

Compiled by **TONY KEEGAN**

THE month of December is not an ideal one for following hurling and football, but at least it has compensations in that this is a perfect time for musing by the fireside, and recalling past events.

It has been another good year for Gaelic games, with stirring matches and top class individual performances. Here, then, is your chance to cast your memory back over the past campaign, and at the same time, see just how expert you are at remembering some of the features that made up the season.

Our popular Quiz, ON THE SPOT . . . returns to bring some of the events of 1977 into focus, and tease the memory in a four part series of questions embracing the Railway Cup, the Leagues and the Championships, as well as an extra long ten question general section that will help to indicate just how expert you are over the broad spectrum of the national games.

The points on offer are listed at the end of each section.

RAILWAY CUP

1. Tom McCreesh (Armagh), Peter Mulgrew (Tyrone) or Frank Trainor (Derry) was Ulster's full back in their unsuccessful football semi-final against Munster. Your choice?

2. The Munster football team in the Railway Cup final was an all Kerry-Cork selection. True or false?

3. Who led Munster to their football title win?

4. Tony Doran was Leinster's captain, but how many Wexford colleagues had he in the provincial attack in the hurling final win over the South?

5. A Waterford hurler held down the No. 2 position for Munster in that game. His name,

please?

Bonus Question (Ten points). This is a difficult enough one. Name the referees of the Railway Cup finals?

Five points for each of the above questions. Add on the bonus points and the total works out at 35 points. **Your record**

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1. This forward led his county to a rare final win. Who is he?



2. Pictured above are two League medal winners last season. Who are they, and what are their clubs?

3. Name the counties beaten in the football semi-finals?

4. You will doubtless easily remember that Kerry beat Dublin in the football decider. But how many goals were scored in that game?

5. Who refereed the football final?

Bonus Question: Who lined up at midfield for the League winners in the hurling and football finals?

Again five points for each question answered correctly, with a bonus of 15 points for coming up trumps with the **Bonus Question**.

So, 40 points over-all to be gained here. **Your total**.....

CHAMPIONSHIPS



1. Who are the players pictured above, and what distinction did they share medal-wise in 1977

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—Ulster Council

FIXTURES

1978

SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

May 21—Antrim v Monaghan (Belfast)

May 28—Derry v Donegal (Ballinascreen)

June 4—Cavan v Armagh (Cavan)

June 11—Fermanagh v Down (Irvinestown)

June 18—**Tyrone v Donegal or Derry**

If Tyrone v Donegal: Irvinestown

If Tyrone v Derry: Lurgan

June 25—**SEMI-FINAL "A"**
(or Armagh or Cavan v July 9) Antrim or Monaghan

July 2—**SEMI-FINAL "B"**
Fermanagh or Down v Donegal. Derry or Tyrone.

July 23—**FINAL**

2. Name the four men who guarded the net in the provincial football championship winning combinations last summer?

3. What county won the 1977 All-Ireland "B" hurling title?

4. This long serving campaigner had such a stellar game in a provincial football decider that he was awarded the man of the match award. Who is he?

5. Martin O'Doherty, of course, led Cork to their Munster and All-Ireland title wins. But what long gap did he bridge as a result?

Bonus Question: Four goals were scored in the epic Dublin-Kerry football semi-final in August. Five extra marks for every goal scorer you name correctly.

Five points for each of the regular questions. Add on that 20 points bonus and if you go through this section completely you will chalk up an impressive 45 points. **Your record**

Now a chance to prove just how versatile you are in your knowledge of Gaelic Games affairs in general. Here, the sports covered include camogie and handball as well as club matches.

GENERAL

John O'Keeffe won an All-Ireland club senior football medal last spring. Name the club he played with?

2. This Western school took the All-Ireland colleges' senior football championship. Again, we want the name of the school?

3. Camogie now. Kilkenny retained the All-Ireland senior title. They were captained by Liz Neary, Helena O'Neill or Angela Downey. Your choice?

4. And, still on camogie. What county took the All-Ireland junior championship last September?

5. Over to handball. Pat Kirby retained the Coca-Cola Open Singles championship last year.

Was that his second, fourth or fifth such title in succession?.....

6. Back to the football scene. Fermanagh had a rare final win last Spring — their first in this competition in 44 years. Name the competition concerned, please?

7. Leitrim, too, had rare cause for celebration in 1977. They made history with a first Connacht championship win in a particular grade of football. Again, you have to nominate the grade?

8. List the clubs, and, of course,

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● FROM PAGE 41

the names of the players pictured below?



9. Who captained Kerry's All-Ireland under-21 football title winning side last October?

10. All-Ireland colleges' senior hurling championship winners of 1977?

A total of 50 points if you go through this card correctly, and 20 more points are on offer in our last

Bonus Question: Who were the runners up in the provincial minor football championships in each of the four provinces?

.....

Total Marks possible: 70; Your

1. Austin Stacks, of Tralee; 2. St. Colman's, Claremorris; 3. Angela Downey; 4. Timerrick; 5. Fourth in a row; 6. Dr. McKenna Cup final; 7. First Connacht under-21 football title; 8. Colm McKinnery (of Armagh and Clan na Gael), Joe Kernan (of Armagh and Crossmaglen Rangers); 9. Denis 'Ogie' Moran; 10. St. Colman's, Fermoy. **Bonus Question:** Armagh, Dublin, Kerry and Leitrim.

GENERAL

Sean Walsh for Kerry. Bernard Brogan, for Dublin, and David Hickey, John McCarthy and Ring in 1954. **Bonus Question:** senior hurling title since Christy lead Cork to an All-Ireland the first Glen Rovers club man to Creesh (Armagh) 5. He became common; 3. Laois; 4. Tom Mc-magh), and Gerry O'Dowd (Ros-magh), Brian McAlinden (Ar-cullen (Dublin), Paud O'Mahony

Record

RATING

Maximum possible points. 190. 160 or more: Excellent; 125 to 160: Very Good; 100 to 160: Good.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

1. Jimmy Barry-Murphy (Cork) and Bobby Doyle (Dublin). They won county championships as well as All-Ireland medals; 2. Paddy Clare. Moroney and Colm Honan for O'Shea, for Kerry, and Michael O'Shea, for Kerry, and Jack O'Keefe and Jack O'Keefe (Waterford). **Bonus Question:** John O'Keefe and Jack O'Keefe and Roscommon, beaten by Kerry; 3. Mayo, lost to Dublin, and Paudie Lynch, of Beaufort, 2. Colm Honan, Clonlara, of Clare; 1. Jimmy McNamara (Clare);

NATIONAL LEAGUES

1. Peter Mulgrew (Tyronne); 2. True; 3. John O'Keefe (Kerry); 4. One, Martin Quigley; 5. Nicky Cashin. **Bonus Question:** Gerry Kirwan (Offaly), hurling, Seamus Murray (Monaghan), football.

RAILWAY CUP

ANSWERS



CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

OUR GAMES 1978

The 1978 edition of Ar gCluichí Féin (Our Games Annual) recalls in vivid detail all the highlights of 1977 and makes an ideal Christmas gift for all followers of Gaelic Games.

- ★ Armagh Cross Bridges
- ★ Eddie Keher — A Tribute
- ★ 16 Pages in Colour
- ★ Clare was at Rest
- ★ Leitrim's Fairy Godmother
- ★ Records and Statistics

The annual includes articles by all the big names in Gaelic Games reporting and a review of the year in the vocational schools, secondary schools and third level colleges.

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Tyler Top Ten

● FROM
PAGE 7

Tommy Drumm is another to strike a blow for the skills of half-backs. He makes his second appearance in a row, winning eight marks for an over-all of 16.

● THIS MONTHS CHARTS

FOOTBALL

9	B. Brogan (Dublin)	15
8	T. Drumm (Dublin)	16
8	D. McCarthy (Cork)	8
7	T. McCreesh (Armagh)	24
7	M. Carney (Donegal)	12
7	P. O'Donoghue (Kildare)	7
7	D. Dolan (Mayo)	7
6	H. Mulhaire (Tipperary)	6
5	P. Spillane (Kerry)	27
5	D. Donohoe (Cavan)	5

HURLING

8	D. Coughlan (Cork)	24
8	J. Horgan (Cork)	15
7	N. Buggy (Wexford)	27
7	I. Clarke (Galway)	7
7	J. Kehoe (Tipperary)	7
7	P. Kelly (Waterford)	7
7	P. McFaul (Antrim)	7
6	C. Doran (Wexford)	28
6	D. O'Hara (Kilkenny)	13
5	G. Loughnane (Clare)	32

The following is an up-to-date listing of the leading contenders in both hurling and football charts and even at this late stage the TYLER Top Ten Awards, in both categories, are wide open.

FOOTBALL

30	P. O'Neill (Dublin)
30	J. Keaveney (Dublin)
27	P. Spillane (Kerry)
24	T. McCreesh (Armagh)
22	R. Kelleher (Dublin)
17	M. Sheehy (Kerry)
16	D. Earley (Roscommon)
16	C. McKinstry (Armagh)
16	T. Drumm (Dublin)
15	B. Brogan (Dublin)
15	P. Lynch (Kerry)

HURLING

32	G. Loughnane (Clare)
28	C. Doran (Wexford)
27	N. Buggy (Wexford)
24	D. Coughlan (Cork)
23	M. O'Doherty (Cork)
20	N. O'Dwyer (Tipperary)
15	L. O'Brien (Kilkenny)
15	P. O'Connor (Clare)
15	S. Durack (Clare)
15	J. Horgan (Cork)
15	J. Power (Clare)

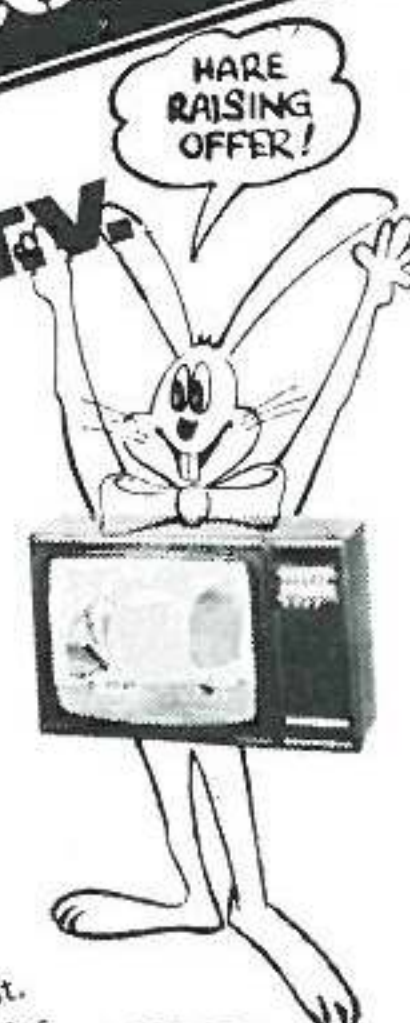
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GEORGE'S ST. (Opposite Dockrells)	77 64 05
THOMAS ST. (Opposite John's Lane Church)	77 64 05
CAMDEN ST. (Near new Winstons)	77 64 05
RATHMINES (By the Stella)	77 64 05
TERENURE (By Irish School of Motoring)	77 64 05
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CORK

PRINCES ST. (Opposite Thompsons)	2 22 01 & 2 22 03
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Jim Brosnan speaks out "KERRY FOOTBALL IN A SHAMBLES"

KERRY football is in a shambles and all because of inept management. This was claimed by Dr. Jim Brosnan, former player, coach and 11 years chairman of the County Board, speaking recently on Radio na Gaeltachta.

The Kerry Board representative on the Munster Council said that

the followers and even the players had lost all confidence in the management and selectors, and that nobody seemed to know what they were doing.

He claimed that Kerry has the raw material, but that it was a ridiculous state of affairs when, for example, the best full-forward

in the game was seldom, if ever, played in that position. The only solution was to change the management and selection committee in toto.

The Chairman of the Kerry County Board, Mr. Ger McKenna, would not comment on the remarks, but added that everybody was entitled to his opinion.

CROSSWORD

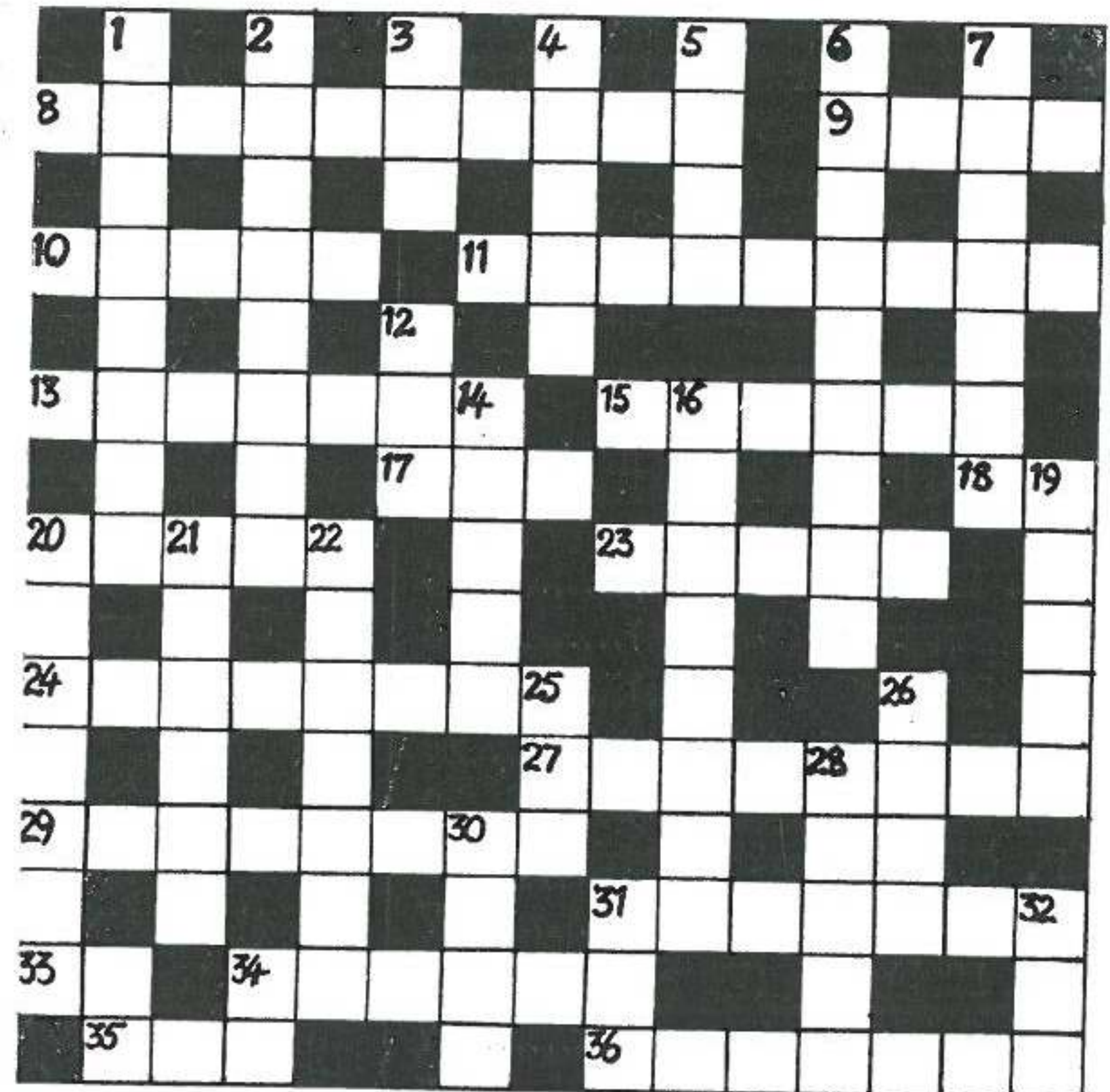
By PERMUTER

CLUES ACROSS :

- 8—Longford venue. (6, 4)
 9—Colour that sounds like a former Dublin hurling goalie. (4)
 10—Roves but ends up by shooting wides. (5)
 11—Send her on to the Kilkenny full-back. (9)
 13—Spare part in many teams; he fills all vacancies. (1, 1, 5)
 15—Greed seems the main cause for clubs united business-style. (6)
 17—Pat can make crisp little strikes perfectly. (3)
 18—Waterford corner-back, initially. (1, 1)
 20—Tom played a prominent role for Wexford in recent years. (5)
 23—O'Byrne Cup winners 1977. (5)
 24—Where Lee produces a great Wexford hurler of the 1950s and 1960s. (1, 7)
 27—A win, a triumph or a ——. (1, 7)
 29—Cavan full-back in more prominent days. (1, 7)
 31—Men seal the materials which cause the coloured portions of medals. (7)
 33—Ebullient Clare full-forward. Initials. (1, 1)
 34—Well-known Kilkenny Co. Secretary. (1, 5)
 35—Jump in the air for the bounce. (3)
 36—See 25 down.

CLUES DOWN :

- 1—Top scoring Dublin footballer. (8)
 2—Offaly midfielder in the 1961 All-Ireland final. (8)
 3—The number of National Football League titles which Mayo have won. (3)
 4—Prominent Down official of the early 1960s, or Derry the Cork hurler. (5)
 5—Kids can easily cause a player to slip. (4)
 6—Connacht team manager for the Railway Cup 1977. (1, 8)
 7—The achievements of the past and keeping track of them, not to mention breaking them. (7)
 12—Rigging required for championship games. (3)



- 14—Wide open spaces make the distance from which you can shoot. (5)
 16—Choice of officials which happens at Convention. (8)
 19—Not Harry, but a Sligo footballer. (5)
 20—Injured All-Star sent to the U.S. nonetheless. (7)
 21—New Kilkenny defender who has risen from minor and under-21 ranks speedily. (1, 5)
 22—Levelling the score or the time for a game. (7)
 25—(And 36 Across) Outstanding Cavan and Ulster midfielder. (3, 7)
 26—Down forward of the late 1960s — a merry soul. (4)
 28—The pace of the game in Fermanagh? (5)
 30—The advantage goes to one side — by an unfair deal? (4)
 31—The Common Market. (1, 1, 1)
 32—The relation of Ml. Doyle of present day Tipperary teams to John Doyle of the 8 All-Ireland medals. (3)
 34. How Bro. Guthrie of Choiste Iomana resembles a parish pastor. (1, 1)

(SOLUTION ON PAGE 48)

JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

OUR Mailbag is so huge this month that I'll have to confine myself to our Cut-Out, Tony Hanahoe, and to the Junior Desk Awards 1977 (now in its sixth year), following almost the same format as a year ago.

Only those under 21 on 1/1/'78 are eligible to vote and one vote in each category is allowed. We are retaining the same award scheme as last year and all voters

as well as the nine chosen awardees will get copies of the special Junior Desk Award Scroll. So vote tonight.

TONY HANAHOE

This month's Cut-Out is Tony Hanahoe and a very deserving choice. Tony had the onerous task of taking over as manager after the highly successful Kevin Hefernan as well as remaining cap-

tain. That he performed all tasks so successfully is a tribute to the man. It is a marvellous thing for the G.A.A. that football is so strong in Dublin. It has given youngsters from the city a great sporting interest and a pride in belonging to Dublin's Fair City. And it has provided a spur to other counties to emulate the mighty Dubs.

MAILBAG

Sheila Hartnett, Kilconlea, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick wants Cut-Outs of Brian Mullins and Jimmy Keaveney and looks forward to the next issue of the Dublin G.A.A. Yearbook.

Patrick Byrne, Spynans, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow thinks Colm Honan of Clare should have made the Carrolls All-Star team.

● Patrick's own team, selected before the All-Stars were announced, was almost identical with the official selection. (J.M.)

Danny Thompson, 632 Ardowen, Craigavon, Co. Armagh wins a prize for his letter. In a long letter he was very disappointed that Armagh lost by so much to Dublin but, as he wrote, "Armagh's meteoric rise from the depths of 3rd Division football has had an impact on life itself up here as a whole. We have now something to follow, something to take an interest in instead of having to face the effects of the troubles. The troubles are never mentioned now, the whole talk is football". His top footballers of

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● FROM OVERLEAF

the year are Paddy Moriarty, Joe Kernan, Dermot Earley, John O'Gara, Anthony McGurk, Brian Mullins and Bobby Doyle. "Out of the lot I would pick Dermot Earley. He is the complete footballer, has class and is versatile." Danny has great respect for Crossmaglen Rangers. He himself plays for Eire Ogs U-14's and the best team he has met is Portadown Tir na n-Ogs.

● *Danny, keep writing. Your letter is the best I've received in months. Be sure to show this to your pals and your teachers. Armagh will be back. (J.M.)*

Gerald Walsh, 23 Betty's Glen Raheny, Dublin 5, writing on the night of the football final, and for the first time, tells me he enjoyed both finals, especially the football, of course. His Dublin stars of the final were Paddy Cullen, Robbie Kelleher, Tommy Drumm, Pat O'Neill, Brian Mullins, Bobby Doyle, Jimmy Keaveney and John McCarthy. Gerald feels Colm Honan and Tony Doran should be on the All-Star hurling team.

● *Fáilte romhat, Gerald. Keep writing. You win a prize of the Book of the Dubs and I know you'll enjoy it. (J.M.)*

J. J. Ryan, Top Cross, Lisgoold, Leamlara, Co. Cork is so disappointed that Armagh didn't win the All-Ireland. His two best Armagh men are Jimmy Smyth and Paddy Moriarty. J.J. thinks there should be a G.A.A. comic like Roy of the Rovers.

● *J.J. hopes and thinks Armagh will be back. They certainly are doing well in the League and their followers are remaining loyal. (J.M.)*

Kevin Daly, Moulagow, Leap, Co. Cork is a nephew of Jas. Murphy who captained Kerry to beat Armagh in 1953. Kevin is 11 years old and wants a photo of that Kerry 1953 team and a Cut-Out if possible of his uncle.

● *Editor, can you help with a photo of that 1953 team or one of Jas. Murphy? (J.M.)*

Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dun-

kerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly lists his best football team since 1970: P. O'Mahoney, Ger O'Keeffe, John O'Keeffe, Mick Ryan, Pat O'Neill, Pat Moriarty, Johnny Hughes, Mick O'Connell, Brian Mullins, J. B. Murphy, Jimmy Smyth, Liam Sammon, Pat Spillane, Jimmy Keaveney, Gerry McIlhinney.

● *Hope you got Séamus Ó Ceallagh's Story of the G.A.A. (J.M.)*

Gregory Trainor, 17 Culdee Drive, Armagh, N. Ireland wants to swop a 1974 Gaelic Sport (the one with Paddy Moriarty on the back) for an All-Ireland S.F. semi-final programme (Armagh v Roscommon) or Gaelic Sport, May 1975.

Michael McGrath, Ox Park, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary nominates Denis Coughlan and Mick Butler as his hurling final stars. He was impressed with minors B. Fennelly, J. Mulcahy, W. Cashman and J. Hartnett. Michael thinks we should never again have an all-ticket final.

● *Michael, I too hope we never have an all-ticket final again, but circumstances may dictate otherwise. But we'll have to admit that this year's final might have caused problems if security wasn't as tight as it was. (J.M.)*

Tom Moore, Walshtownmore, Middleton, Co. Cork wants a Cut-Out of Paudie or Brendan Lynch.

● *We have had Paudie as a Cut-Out already in August 1975. If you want that issue, send 40p to the address at the end of the Junior Desk. (J.M.)*

Seamus Ryan, Ballyvadd, Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford writes to say he also wrote twice (enclosing a P.O. once) to Tyrone for the 1977 Tyrone Gaelic Games Annual but got no reply. Seamus is looking for the 1966 and 1967 Our Games annuals.

● *Can any reader help with the Our Games request? Hope the Tyrone Annual business is sorted out now. (J.M.)*

John Lynch, Nephin, Coronea, Skibbereen, Co. Cork, writing for the first time wants the following

tapes: All-Ireland S.H. finals of 1966-'73 and 1976; All-Ireland S.F. finals of 1964-68 and 1973; Munster S.H. final marathon of 1950. John wants a pen friend, preferably female, from Tipperary or Galway. Referring to John Moloney's request that readers air their views on referees, he writes:

"Refereeing is by no means an easy job, but I must say he handled the Dublin-Armagh final very well indeed. However, I didn't like to hear Wexford's John Quigley criticise Sean O'Grady's handling of the hurling final. He was very quiet after that controversial goal against Galway which put the Model County through to last year's final. How about refereeing an All-Ireland S.H. final yourself some day, John? Wexford will just have to try that little bit harder next year.

"Finally, on referees, it was a surprise to see in the recent grading of referees that Waterford's Noel Dalton was not listed in grade 'A'. After giving service to the G.A.A. for so long, that surely is the last thing he deserves. No wonder that he has resigned from inter-county refereeing."

● *Great letter, John, and you win a prize. That certainly puts it up to John Quigley! (J.M.)*

Michael Keevans, Ballycullane, New Ross, Co. Wexford was at the All-Ireland and thought Paddy Moriarty and Joe Kernan were great. "Dublin are a great team."

● *Yes they are. And if they win next year again I feel they must be regarded one of the best teams ever. And they show no sign of giving it up. (J.M.)*

Martin Maher (same address as Paul) thinks Bobby Doyle was the man of the All-Ireland and wants a Cut-Out of Bobby.

Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O., Co. Donegal also writes to say he wrote for the Tyrone G.A.A. Yearbook and got no reply. He sent on a 60p P.O. and has written to the printer's address a number of times since but got no reply.

"When is Jack Mahon's Gaelic Games Quizbook No. 2 appearing?"

● *I've written to Tyrone to complain. Regarding the Quizbook—it's on the way. Watch out for details soon. (J.M.)*

Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway has started his own mini programme collectors club which he calls the Colman Club.

Bernie Byrne (sister of Patrick), writing for the first time, says her favourites are Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Sean Walsh and Mickey O'Sullivan, and hopes the latter will be back for Kerry soon.

● *So do I. (J.M.)*

Kevin McAllister, 57 Agivey Road, Kilrea, Co. Derry, writing for the first time too, wants a programme of the 1976 All-Ireland semi-final between Derry and Kerry and would like a photo of that Derry team.

● *You should join the Programme Collectors' Club. Write to Croke Park, Dublin 3, for details. (J.M.)*

Donal O'Dwyer, 27 Ballintemple, Blackrock Rd., Cork writes that his favourites are Tom Cashman, Gerald McCarthy, Denis Coughlan, Seanie O'Leary, Dermot McCurtain, and Charlie McCarthy. "When the Cork team were training at Páirc Uí Chaoimh I went down every night to watch them. I met Fr. Bertie Troy every night. He is the best coach in Ireland. I love Gaelic Stadium". Donal thought Martin Coleman's save in the All-Ireland fantastic and wants to know where he can get a 1970 Our Games annual. He wants a Cut-Out of Tom Cashman or Sean O'Leary.

● *I think Mick Dunne deserves credit for the work he puts into Gaelic Stadium. Donal, you win a prize of a Cork Bob-Cap for that fine letter. (J.M.)*

Paul Dalton, 14 Dromore Rise Ave., Raheen Heights, Co. Limerick: "I am 11 years old and I'm a great hurler and footballer. I am on the U-11, U-12 and U-13 hurling teams. I get 10p pocket money every week and I put it into my G.A.A. box to buy my Gaelic Sport. My favourite Lim-



Specially for Danny Thompson of Craigavon we present this fine study of Roscommon's Dermot Earley.

erick player is Tom Quaid. I was at this year's All-Ireland and my man of the match was Sean O'Leary.

● *Paul, you win a prize of a Limerick Bob-Cap for your great letter. (J.M.)*

Marie Boran, Lismorane, Foxford, Co. Mayo in her usual good letter picks Paddy Moriarty and Bobby Doyle as her stars of the football final. Marie also paid tribute to referee John Moloney and to Armagh's marvellous supporters. Marie thought the All-Ireland hurling final issue of Gaelic Sport just great.

● *Marie, keep writing. (J.M.)*

G.A.A. Fan (Galway address) writes to pay tribute to Brendan Colleran, the former Galway footballer, for the work he puts back into football with his club, Mountbellew, and with his school in Indreabhán, Connemara, where he teaches.

● *In my own school in Moneenaghisha where I work as a teacher, we have 3 county stars among other teachers who really work hard with the pupils after school, namely Coleen McDonagh, Anthony O'Keeffe (Kerry) and Joe McLaughlin. Like Brendan Colleran and countless others, they too deserve the plaudits for their work. (J.M.)*

Patrick Griffin, Lettir West, Glenbeigh, Co. Kerry wants a Cut-Out of Jimmy Keaveney. "He was great in the final".

● *Isn't it grand to see a young Kerry fan paying such an unselfish tribute to Jimmy? We had Jimmy as a Cut-Out in November 1975. If you want a copy, send a P.O. for 40p to the address at the end of Junior Desk. (J.M.)*

Michael Crowley, Ballintotas, Castlemartyr, Co. Cork is an U-16 hurler with his local club and would like to get a training leaflet or some training tips.

● Write to Fr. Bertie Troy, C.C., Ballycotton, Co. Cork, and he will be delighted to help you. (J.M.)

Patricia Hughes (14), 155 Leixlip Park, Leixlip, Co. Kildare is annoyed with Felix Ó Murchadha from Co. Galway for his criticism of Dublin and reminds him of the very nasty assault by a Galway player on Tommy Drumm in the 1976 All-Ireland semi-final.

● Patricia, I would never try to justify dirty play and the incident you refer to was regrettable, but I have to give you some statistics of that game. There were 35 frees in all in that dreadful first half, 25 of these committed by Dublin and 6 of them were personal fouls committed by Tommy Drumm. The latter statistic was recently released by the Meath team of statisticians who monitored certain games, including the one you refer to. As I said, I couldn't justify the assault on Tommy. Neither can I justify six personal fouls in one half, especially when a player is supposed to be sent off after three personal fouls. Having said all that, I think Tommy Drumm has developed into a tremendous half back and seldom resorts now to negative tactics in his defensive work. But this whole business of personal fouls needs an investigation urgently. Sorry for the longwindedness. (J.M.)

J. J. Murphy, Ballydaly Lower, Rathmore, Co. Kerry pays tribute to the Dublin half back line and full back line in the final. J.J. points out a reference to the July competition (which was not run by Junior Desk, incidentally) regarding the 1972 Munster S.F. team. The correct Christian name of one of the players was Jim Wall and not John Wall as Gaelic Sport said.

● Thanks, J.J. (J.M.)

Brendan Carey, 9 Taylorstown Road, Toomebridge, Co. Antrim, N.I. B.T.413PU, whose uncle Jarlath Carey is the former Down star, wants tapes of the 1960 and '61 All-Ireland finals. Brendan was born in 1960, so he doesn't remember it!

● Tape collectors please get in touch with Brendan. (J.M.)

John Collins, Lonerton, Schull,

Co. Cork wants a tape of the 1973 S.H. final and will pay for same. His best hurling team since 1970 is Skehan, Larkin, Hartigan, Hogan, Doherty, R. Bennis, Coughlan, Moylan, G. McCarthy, C. Doran, Barry-Murphy, T. Doran, E. Keher, C. McCarthy and R. Cummins.

● Your placings are a bit odd. (J.M.)

Paul Taheny, Riverstown, via Boyle, Co. Sligo, writing for the first time, loves Junior Desk. His favourite players are Paddy Cullen, Paud O'Mahony, Brian McAlinden and Tom Cummins. Paul would like to swop Gaelic pictures with pen-friends.

● Fáilte. You seem to like the goalkeeper position. (J.M.)

Donal Ring, Coolavokig, Lissacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork, talking about the All-Irelands, lists his stars as Gerald McCarthy, Martin Coleman, Sean O'Leary, John Nolan and Ray O'Connor (minor), Jimmy Keaveney, Paddy Moriarty and Paddy Cullen. "The atmosphere at the Cork S.H.C. final was marvellous and Charlie McCarthy was at his brilliant best, while Martin Doherty never gave up trying. Our local team, Naomh Abbán (Ballyvourney) recently won the County Intermediate title at Bandon, beating Castlehaven by 1-8 to 1-3. The captain, Jerry Lynch, brought the Cup to Coláiste Íosagáin and we got a half day."

● Did any other title-winning team do likewise in any other county? I like to see an identification between a club and the school in the area. (J.M.)

The final letter is from **Kevin Falvey, Knockanish West, Spa, Tralee, Co. Kerry**. Reverting to the Dublin v. Kerry All-Ireland semi-final, he feels Pat McCarthy should have been brought on and nominates Ger O'Keeffe as his star of the game. In the final his stars were Jimmy Keaveney, Pat Moriarty and Joe Kernan. Kevin was at the U-21 final and liked the play of Sean Walsh, Tom Doyle, Vincent O'Connor, Michael Keane and Eoin Liston. Kevin thought Martin Coleman's hurling final display was fantastic and he

writes too of an enjoyable outing his club had in Dublin in October for a return game with a Dublin club.

● Great letter, Kevin. I think these inter-club visits are great. My own club, Salthill, engage in them with great success and enjoyment. (J.M.)

That's it for another month. Please fill in the Special Junior Desk Awards 1977 coupon and in your own way select your stars for 1977. All who vote will get a copy of the scroll which will be presented to the lucky winners. I won't help you this time by printing the lists of previous winners. So you are on your own. When sending in the coupon, please write as well on any topic, like your greatest wish for 1978, give details of a pen-friend if you want one, any programme or G.A.A. book or tape you require, any details of your club, county stars you know — just anything.

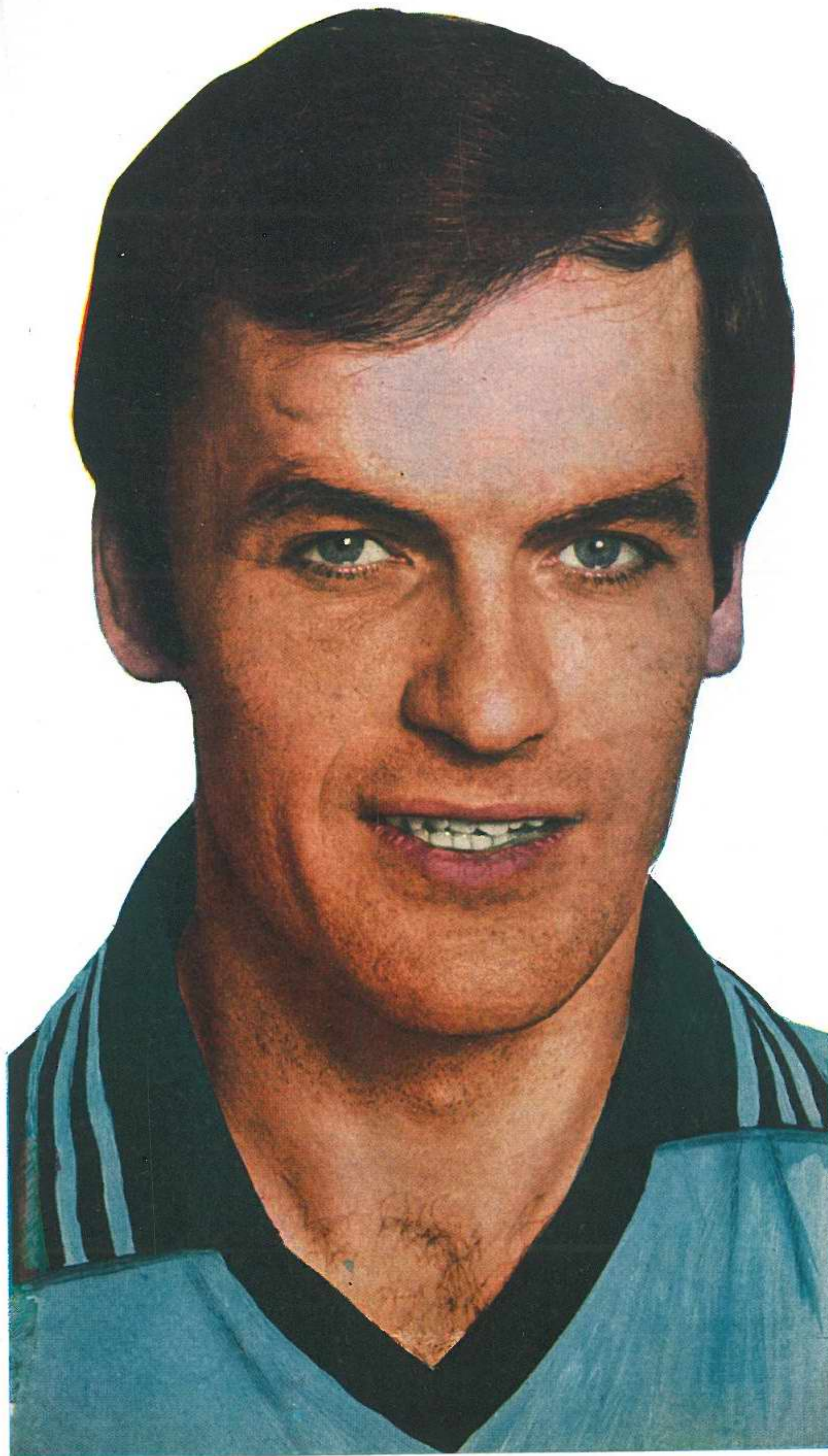
Our prizewinners once again are **Danny Thompson, Gerard Walsh and John Lynch**, all of whom get John O'Shea's *Book of the Dubs* and **Donal O'Dwyer and Paul Dalton**, both of whom receive a Cork and Limerick Bob-Cap respectively. In the meantime, a happy Christmas to all of you and please write to:

Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,
80, Upper Drumcondra Rd.,
Dublin 9.

CROSSWORD
SOLUTION

● FROM PAGE 44

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Tony Hanahoe (Dublin)

Age: 32
Height: 5 ft. 11 ins.
Weight: 11 st. 4 lb.
Position: Centre
half forward
Club: St. Vincent's
Senior Inter-
County Debut:
1964

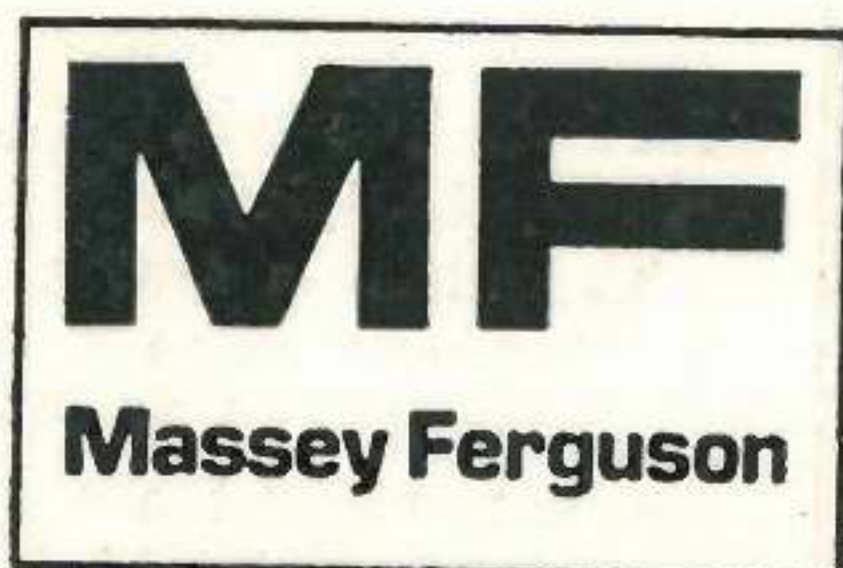
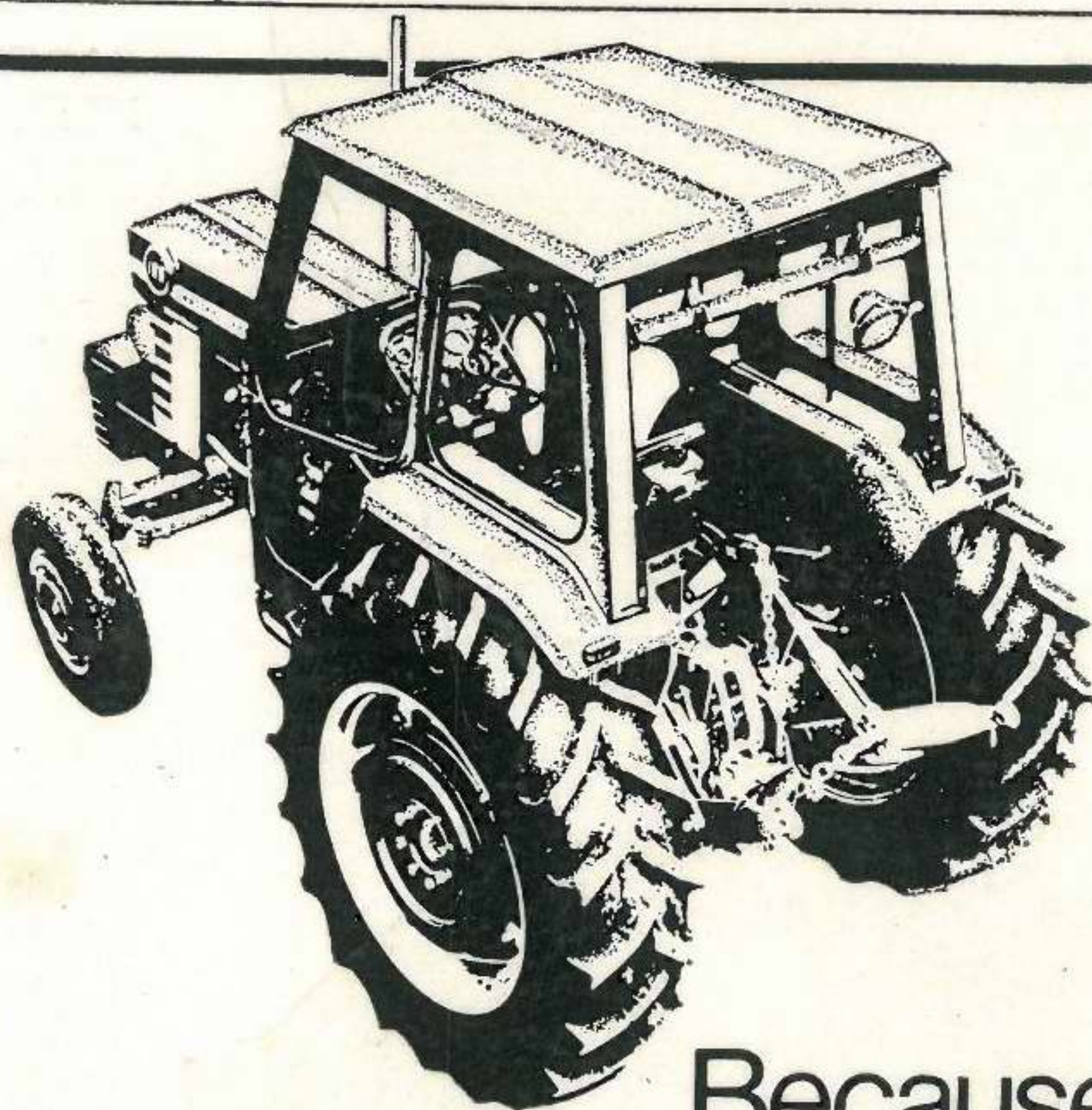
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

As Dublin's captain in 1976 and again in the past year, Tony earned a unique ranking as the only Leinster man to captain two Sam Maguire Cup winning teams. He also led Dublin to their last National League title in 1976.

Now county team manager and a selector, he has been a bright light in all of the county's triumphs since 1974, and helped St. Vincent's as well to their 1976 All-Ireland senior club football title win.

Tony has played with Dublin in senior hurling, as well as in football, and he has got among the county championship medals with his club in both codes. A Carrolls All Stars award winner.

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