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GAA

GAELIC SPORT

THE CHOICE OF THE STARS

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1978

THIRTY PENCE (TAX INCLUDED)

THE THREE-IN-A-ROW MEN



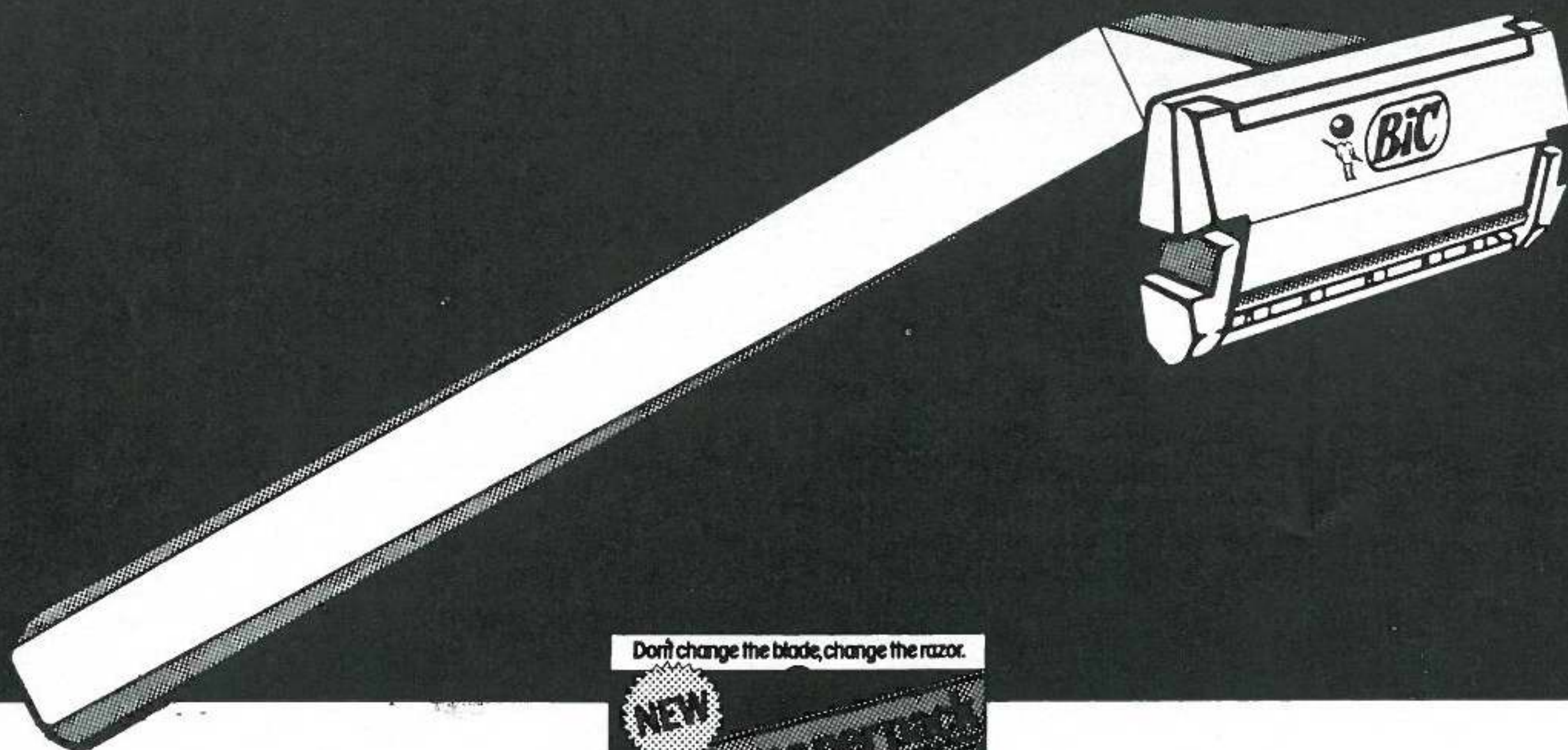
**CORK
HURLERS
TAKE THEIR
THIRD TITLE
ON THE TROT**

**KINGDOM
CHALK UP
THEIR 24th
CHAMPIONSHIP
DECISIVELY**

**CAN THE
DUBS COME
BOUNCING
BACK IN
1979?**

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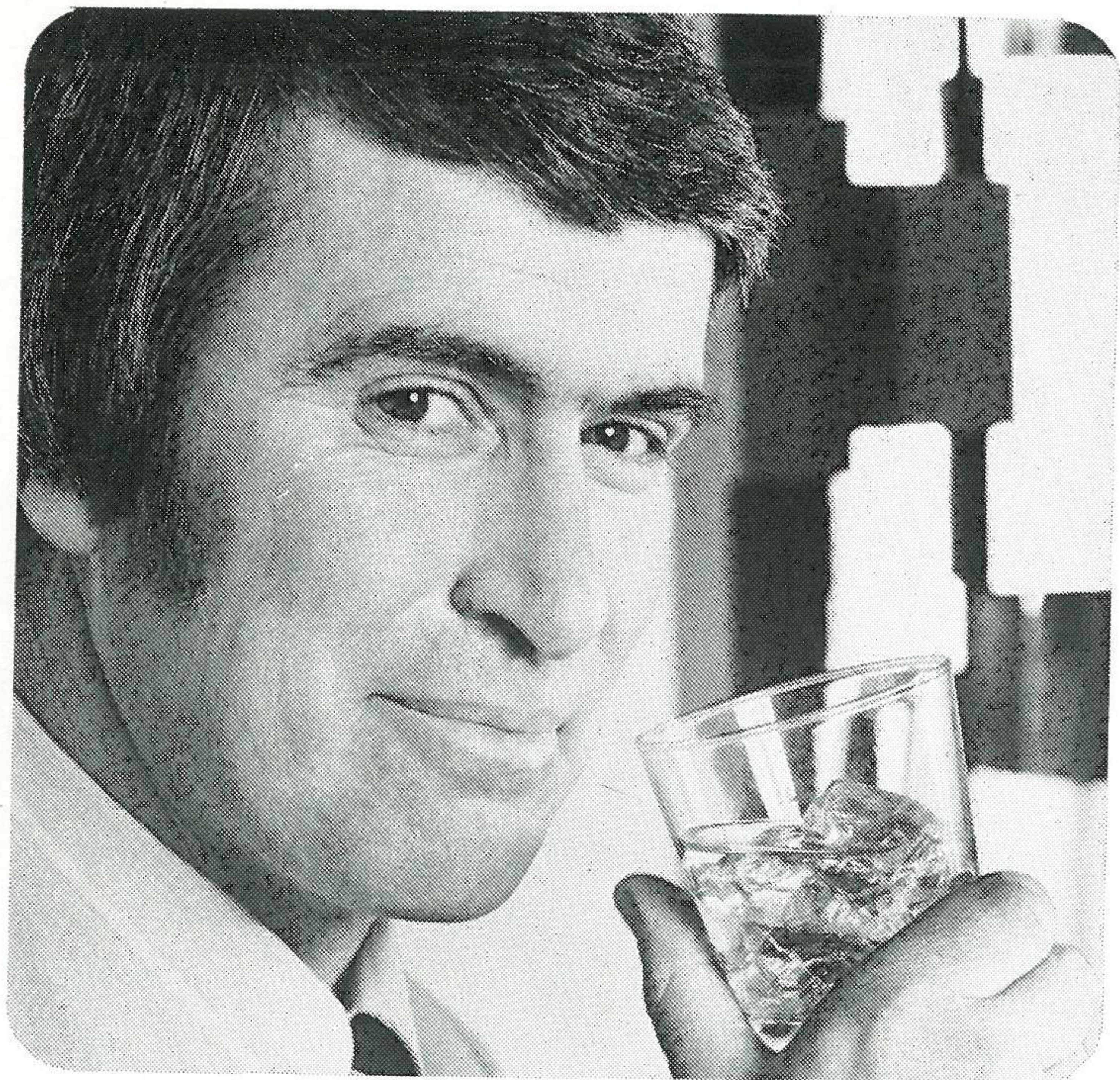


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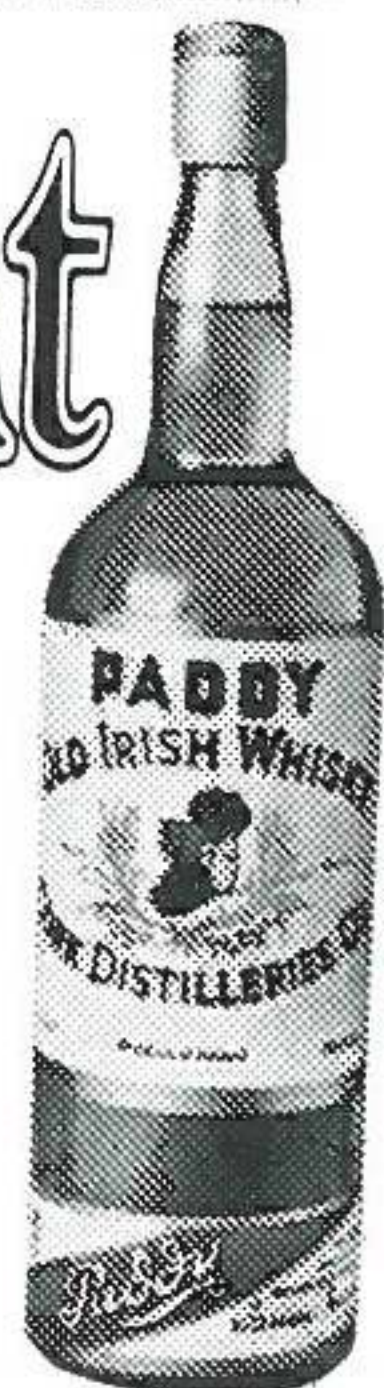


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Vol. 21. No. 10 Nov./Dec., 1978

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE parting of the ways at the end of a happy and fruitful association is invariably a sad occasion. But the ending of the ambitious Carrolls All Stars promotion this year is somewhat more poignant.

True, the All Stars presentation as such will continue under a new sponsor. That is all to the good, because the promotion has now become one of the outstanding features of the Irish sporting scene.

Nevertheless, this fact still will not lessen the pangs of regret that many must feel at the breaking of the Carrolls link. The scheme was uniquely their own.

They accepted an invitation to take an original idea from a group of Gaelic Sports journalists early in the present decade, and with imagination, flair and above all dignity, not to mention hard cash, they honed the proposal into probably the most ambitious and exciting promotion of its kind this country has yet seen.

The country's hurlers and footballers have benefited greatly. They have had an extra and much coveted award to strive for each year, and particularly pleasing has been the fact that the honour also proved a tangible reality for players in the under-developed counties.

Then, there was the added dimension of the U.S. tour. Here, too, players from the under-developed counties have benefited greatly; sharing in an experience that most of them could not have aspired to, or indeed, hurlers and footballers from the top counties for that matter, but for the All Stars tour each year.

The annual Presentation Banquet in Dublin each December brought together a cross-section of Irish life and enabled players, members of the Association, the Press and others to meet in convivial surroundings and pay tribute to the games and the men who have kept them so firmly ahead of their competitors.

For all of this, the G.A.A., and Irish sport in general, must be deeply in debt to Carrolls.

We are not going to get involved here in arguments about the health-hazards or otherwise from the association of tobacco firms with sport through sponsorship. What we do say, however, is that the Carrolls All Stars promotion has been a happy and harmonious one for the G.A.A.

That must be recorded now that this latest chapter in the annals of Gaelic Games has come to an end. It would be remiss, also, not to acknowledge the debt the media owes to so many at Carrolls for their unfailing help and courtesy over the past eight years.

Having said that, let us also extend our good wishes to the new sponsors, the Bank of Ireland.

Carrolls have set them a very high standard, but we have little doubt that the Bank of Ireland will match this in their own inimitable style, and that the All Stars promotion will continue to prove one of the most important in the annals of Gaelic Games.

So, it's a "Well done" to Carrolls, and "Every Success" to Bank of Ireland.

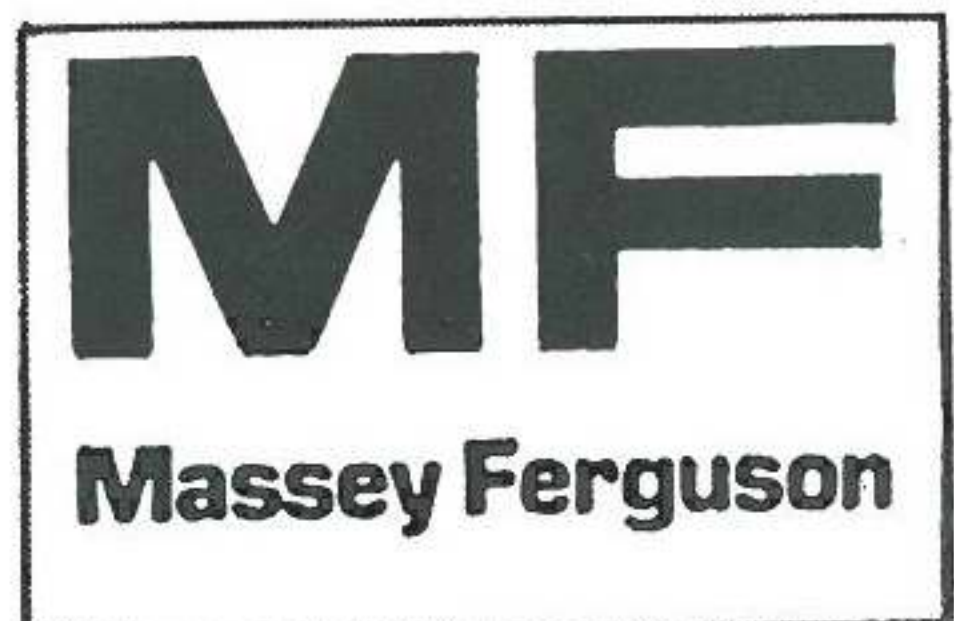
COVER PHOTO

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ON our front cover this month we feature the Cork hurling team that proudly emulated their county colleagues of '52-'54, by taking their third All-Ireland Hurling Championship title in succession. Our picture shows, from left (back row): Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Johnny Crowley, Tim Crowley, Ray Cummins, Martin O'Doherty, Pat Moylan, John Horgan, Denis Coughlan. From left (front row): Tom Cashman, Denis McCurtin, Seanie O'Leary, Charlie McCarthy, Martin Coleman, Brian Murphy and Gerald McCarthy.

# MASSEY FERGUSON

**ALL IRELAND  
TRACTOR  
FAVOURITES**





ROINN AN TAOISIGH  
DEPARTMENT OF THE TAOISEACH

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2  
DUBLIN 2

It seems rather belated to offer at this stage congratulations to the All Ireland Senior Hurling and Football champions. Time will dim the memory of the detail of these two games but they are still fresh enough in my mind to say, not only to the victors but to the vanquished, "thanks as well as congratulations". There was one thing in common in both winning teams before these two games - determination to vindicate and justify. In Cork's case they had to justify their position as defending champions despite having been relegated to the second-division of the National League. In Kerry's case they were determined to establish that they were the superiors of the "Super-Dubs" whom the scribes had been describing as still unbeatable. Towards the end of the first half everything started to go wrong for the Dubs and continued to go wrong right through the second half. But Kerry firmly established their superiority and though the margin of victory was a big one it was a highly entertaining game. Congratulations too, to the Dubs and their followers. They took their defeat and disappointment in a manly and sporting way.

The Cork Hurlers brought off what the Dublin footballers failed to do - three in a row. While this was an added incentive, the desire to even up with Kilkenny in the table of victories in finals between the two teams was another spur. Some scribes faulted the game because it did not have the continuous flow of smooth and scientific hurling which most people wanted. There were, nonetheless, sufficient brilliant bouts of "lovely hurling" between these two great exponents of the sport to have made the match memorable for me, even if Cork had not won.

Déanaim comhgháirdeas ó chroí le foirne Chorcaí agus Chiarraí agus, do imreoirí Chill Choinnigh agus Átha Cliath, deirim "Beidh lá eile ag an bPaorach".

  
TAOISEACH



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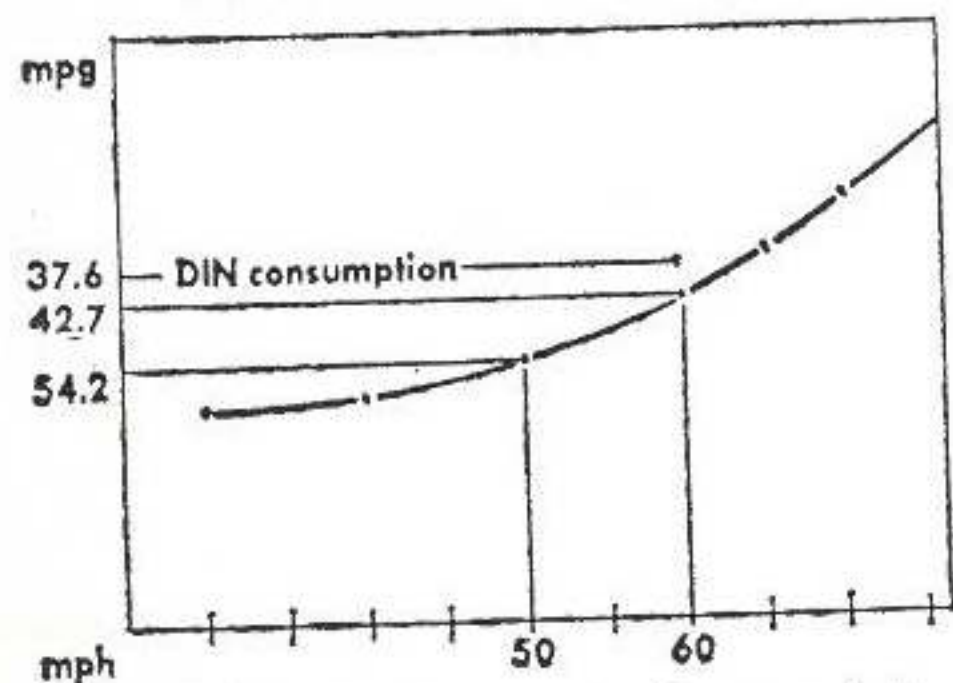
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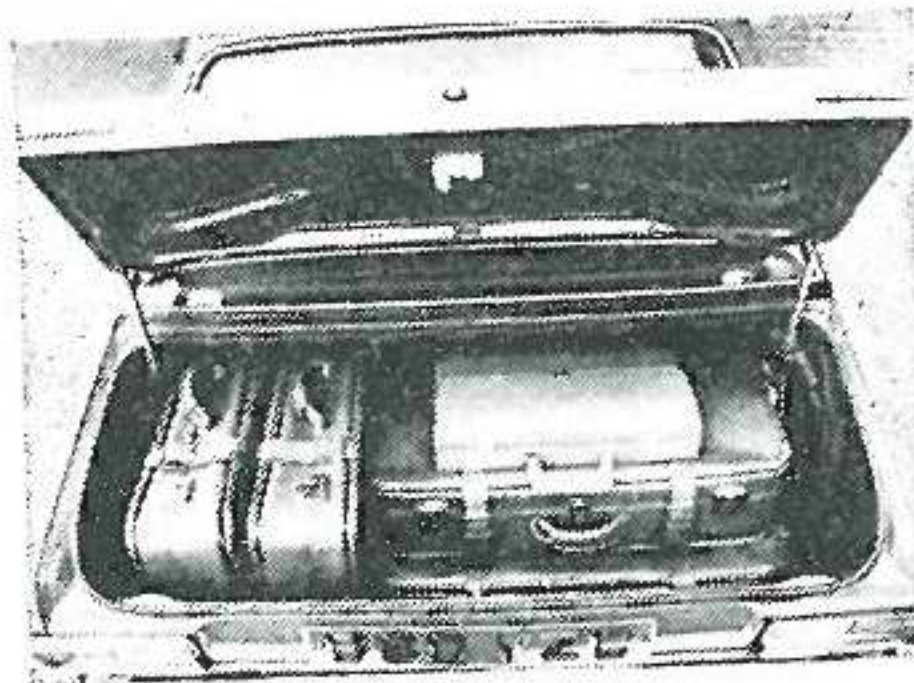
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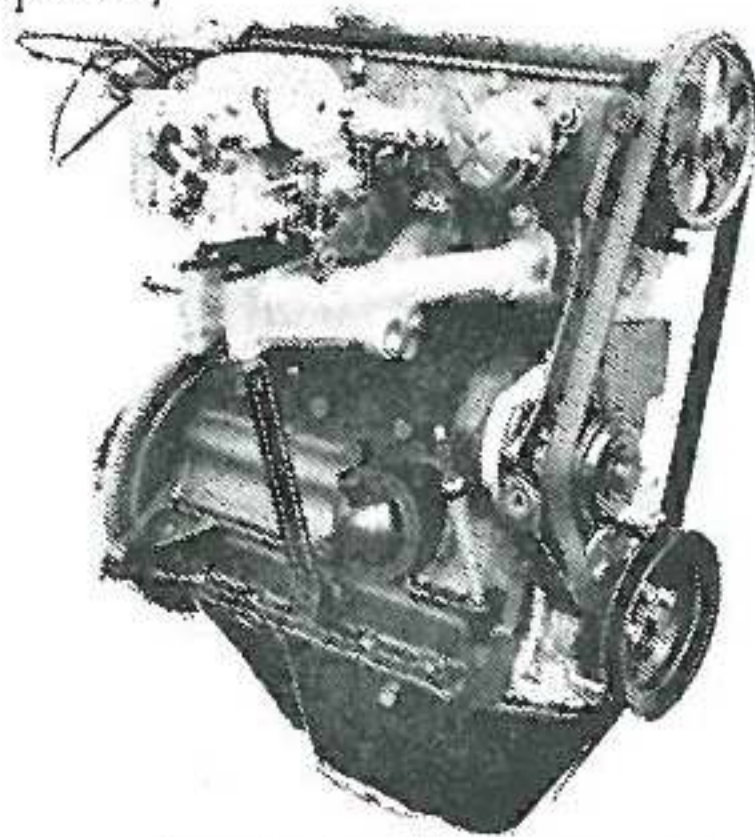


The Derby seats four adults comfortably with room for a fifth.

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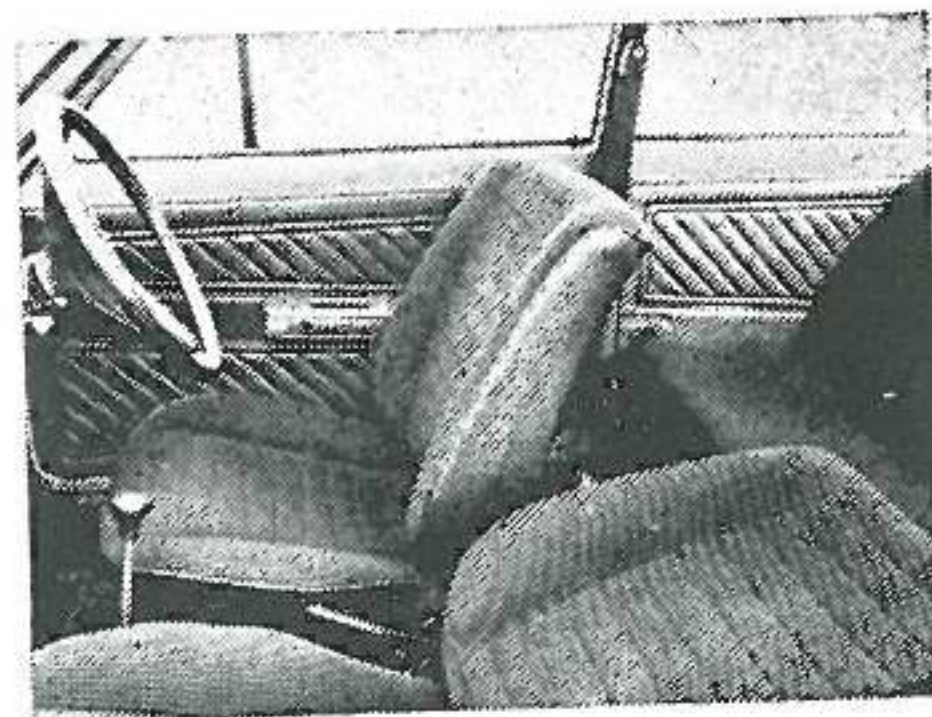
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If the passing of the Beetle marks the end of an era - the Volkswagen Derby marks the beginning of a new one.



## Derby

A worthy successor to the Beetle.





# Tyler

# Top Ten

## Kerry gain top

## three places

**T**HE run-in for the TYLER TOP TEN awards for 1978 is building up into a close finish. That is the result of the latest review which, covering the period from September 17 to October 22 inclusive, embraced the All-Ireland football final, the opening rounds of the Leagues, the Oireachtas Cup Final, and the first game of the Australians' tour.

Ned Buggy has achieved some spectacular promotion in hurling. Although Wexford lost their two opening games in the League, Buggy still was very target conscious with 17 points. Then came an impressive 15 points barrage that powered the Slaneysiders back into winning style in their Oireachtas Cup final with Galway.

So, the Faythe Harriers club man comes into the charts for the fourth time this year, and his 36 points ranking also sends him ahead of Seamus Durack, who had been setting the pace over-all with 104 points.

Buggy now has 110 points, four more than the Clare goalkeeper, but obviously, the issue must still be very delicately balanced between this pair, who are now comfortably ahead of their other challengers.

Tommy Drumm and Michael Sheehy have emerged as serious contenders to football's pacesetter Colm McAlarney. The Down man has 125 points, but does not appear in the current Top Ten chart.

On the other hand, Drumm's good work for Dublin against

Kerry in the Sam Maguire Cup tie, and again in the League meeting of the counties, and also against the Australians, earns him 38 points. He thus edges Jimmy Keaveney out of second place with his over-all bag of 94 points.

Sheehy's much talked about goal in the All-Ireland final was a bright feature of a fine all round display. He was also prominent in the defeat of the Dubs in the League, and gains 40 points, as a result to bring his record for the year to 90, and a fourth ranked placing over-all.

As for this month's charts, Offaly's brilliant start to the Hurling League with three points from a possible four is reflected by two men from the county setting the pace in the code — Paddy Kirwan and Joachin Kelly.

Pat Spillane beats his county-mate Eoin Liston, the three goal hero of the All-Ireland final, for football's top spot. Apart from having had a big say in the Sam Maguire Cup win, Spillane was a bright star of the League success against Dublin, hitting two goals.

The leaders for 1978 after eight reviews are:

**Football:** 125 points: C. McAlarney (Down); 94: T. Drumm (Dublin); 93: J. Keaveney (Dublin); 90: M. Sheehy (Kerry); 73: P. Spillane (Kerry); 64: T. Carew (Kildare).

**Hurling:** 110 points: N. Buggy (Wexford); 104: S. Durack (Clare); 81: I. Clarke (Galway); 69: J. Crowley (Cork); 68: G. Henderson (Kilkenny); M. Walsh (Waterford).

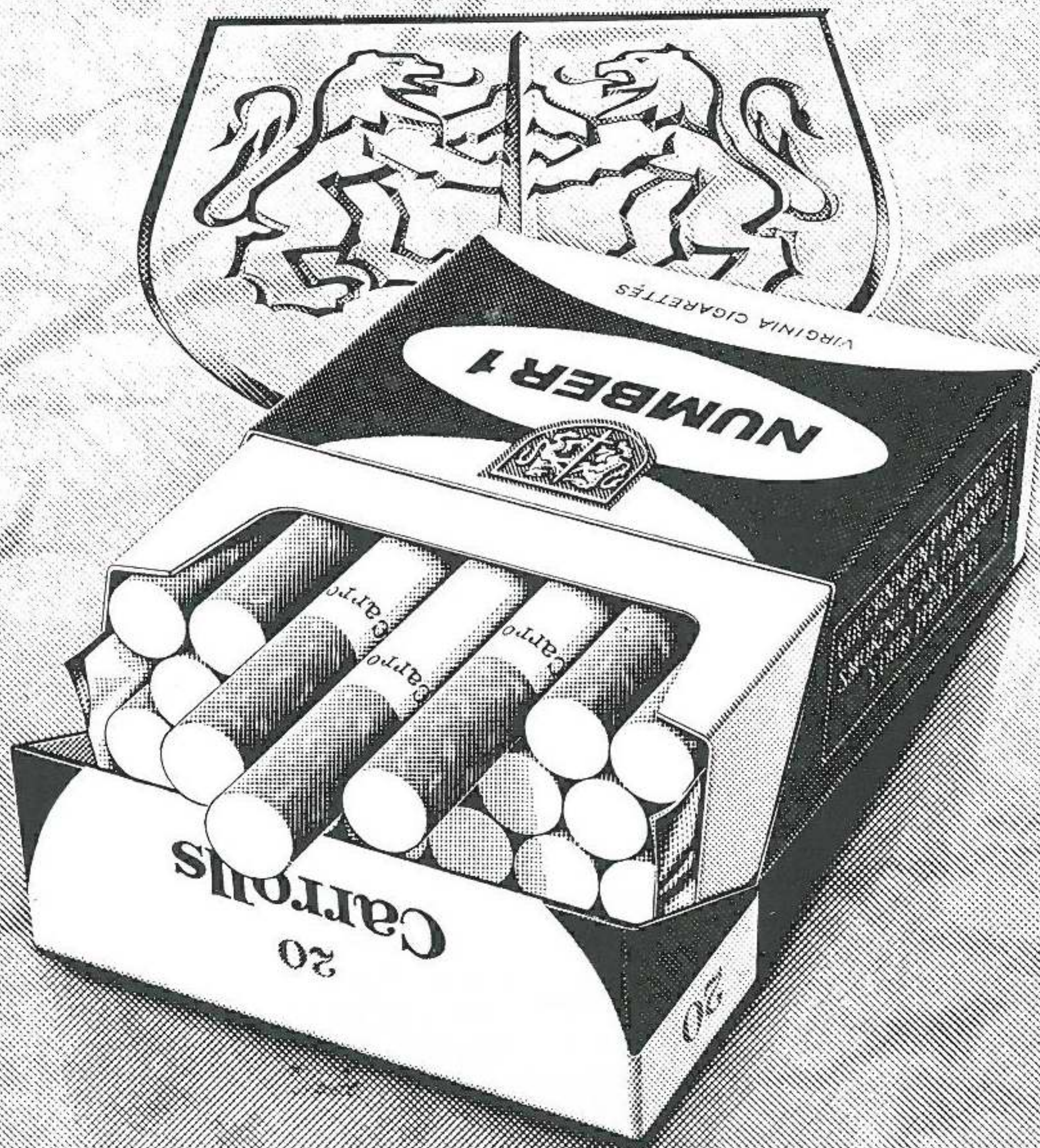
This month's charts:

### HURLING

|    |                      |     |
|----|----------------------|-----|
| 42 | P. Kirwan (Offaly)   | 42  |
| 40 | J. Kelly (Offaly)    | 67  |
| 38 | J. Connolly (Galway) | 38  |
| 36 | N. Buggy (Wexford)   | 110 |
| 36 | B. Smyth (Clare)     | 36  |
| 34 | M. Walsh (Laois)     | 34  |
| 33 | J. Horgan (Cork)     | 66  |
| 32 | I. Clarke (Galway)   | 81  |
| 30 | P. McFaul (Antrim)   | 30  |
| 28 | M. Quigley (Wexford) | 28  |

### FOOTBALL

|    |                        |    |
|----|------------------------|----|
| 48 | P. Spillane (Kerry)    | 73 |
| 44 | E. Liston (Kerry)      | 44 |
| 40 | M. Sheehy (Kerry)      | 90 |
| 38 | T. Drumm (Dublin)      | 94 |
| 36 | T. Carew (Kildare)     | 64 |
| 34 | E. Bradley (Tyrone)    | 34 |
| 33 | D. Murray (Roscommon)  | 33 |
| 32 | P. Rooney (Down)       | 32 |
| 30 | J. Brennan (Sligo)     | 30 |
| 30 | P. Lindsay (Roscommon) | 30 |



# The good taste of Carrolls Number 1

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# Cork's three on the trot

By EAMONN YOUNG

THE three-in-a-row trail started in Páirc Uí Chaoimh one sunny Sunday a few years back, when the crowd rose to the appearance of Tipp's Blue and Gold knowing that in the clash of the age-old rivals there might easily be another great hour.

We were not disappointed.

Tipp were ahead three points at the break, an undesirable situation which John Fenton's forty-five yard free remedied soon after half time, but minutes after Tipp were still one point in front mostly because of tall John Grogan's all-round ability. Then came Cork's great moments when Martin Coleman faced up to two powerful shots from Seamus Power and Tom Butler. He saved both and soon after the Mick Malone-Ray Cummins goal put us on the way. Seánie Leary's goal was equalised by Grogan. But the real luck came when Seamus Power's hard shot rebounded off the upright and at the other end Seánie Leary raised the white flag that mattered.

To end the hour Francis Loughnane took the ball on his stick, looking for the equaliser but the red jerseys buzzed around him like angry bees and he was forced into a charging error. The free finished the hour and we certainly were lucky.

In the Munster final Cork won over Limerick by 3-15 to 4-5 and Mick Malone's five points from play were very welcome. Galway went under to Wexford in the replay at Cork and in the final, I for one, wasn't at all confident, a feeling which became blacker when in the first six minutes Loch Garman scored, belted home two

goals and two points. That was the day of Pat Moylan whose skill in the centre of the field added to his deadly accurate point-scoring drove the side on to level terms at half time. Charlie McCarthy's wonderful first-timing of the bouncing ground shot smashed the sliotar to the roof of the net in the second half and when John Horgan came into the defence and Jim Barry-Murphy escaped from his prison up front the points began to flow and suddenly the game was all over at 2-21 to 4-11.

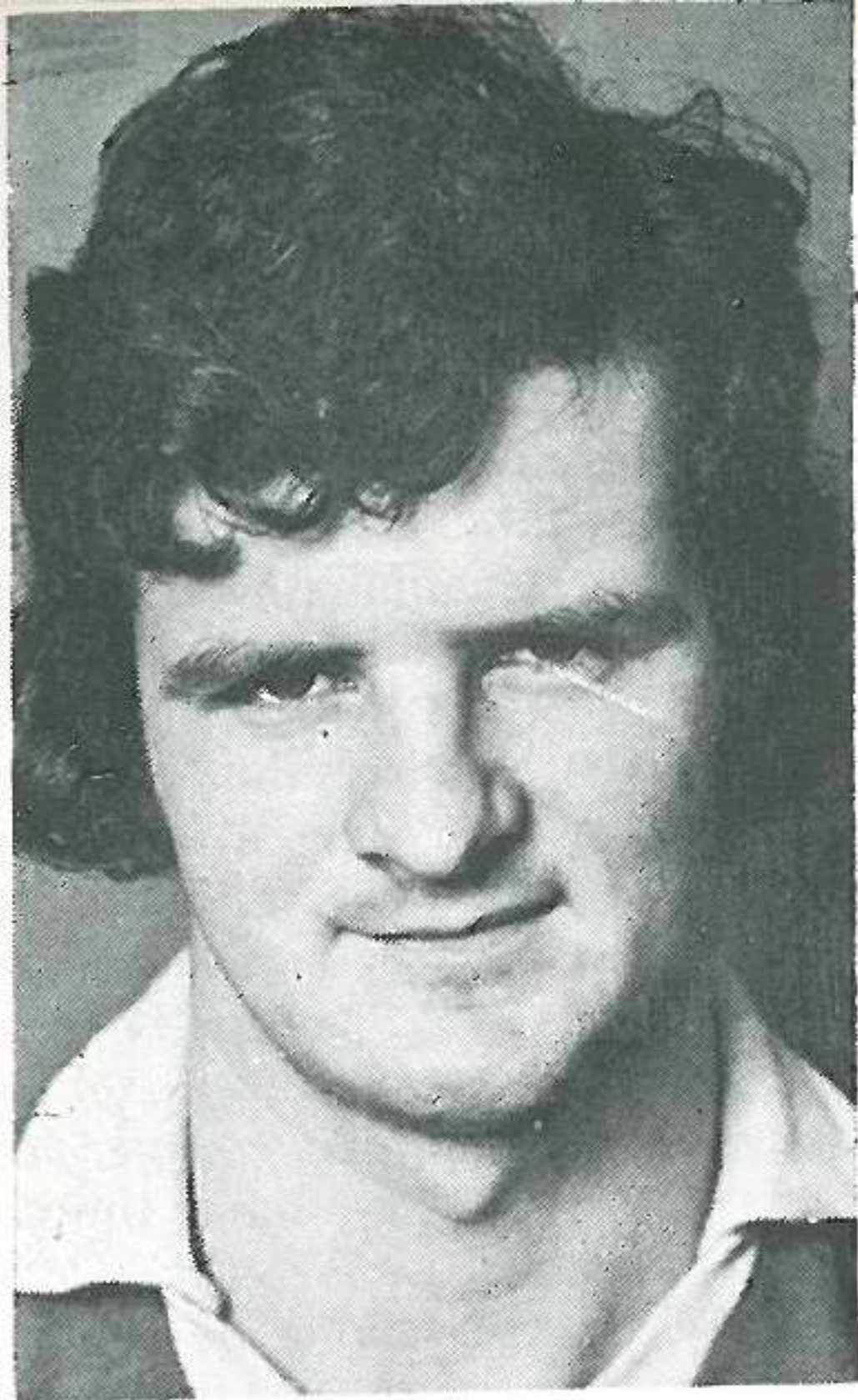
Last year Waterford made a great effort in Thurles and never have I seen followers so happy in defeat. Not so happy for gallant Clare however when, in the Munster final they felt they must win, they were left with fourteen at half time and there was only one possible result. In the final this time Wexford trained so hard and were so motivated that they seemed to me very dangerous even though I knew that Cork were this time a better side. All my life I have been sensitive to motivation which when allied to skill, balance and emotional control transforms either the man or the team.

When Seánie Leary went off the field **BEFORE** the game after being struck by the sliotar I didn't feel at all happy but he was back on to score two points in the first half and a goal in the second. Gerald McCarthy had a great game at centre-forward and Ray Cummins played a crafty hour on that great hurler Willie Murphy while Martin Doherty's marking of Tony Doran kept Cork in the hunt right

through, after the Leesiders' two point lead at half time. In the second half Ned Buggy's great goal from a free brought Wexford to within a point but then came Ray Cummins' white flag followed by Seánie Leary's goal scored while his hurley was resting contentedly on the ground. There was murder afterwards over that score but it did seem that the stick was knocked from the player's hand before he ran through. Thirteen minutes to go and Cork after some splendid points by the Barrsmen Jimmy Barry-Murphy and the McCarthys, were eight points in front, at a time when young Tom Cashman and Dermot MacCurtain were flying outfield. Then came Mick Butler's great goal and Ned Buggy's frees left only three points between them. Mick Jacob gathered a loose ball, passed it to Christy Keogh and the big forward careered through for a whirlwind shot that seemed to be in the net. But that was Martin Coleman's great moment. The reflex save sent the sliotar back and John Horgan cleared it away. In a last desperate rally Wexford came again but the defence gritted its teeth and Cork came through in a great finish by 1-17 to 3-8. Two in the row, the first since '53.

This year's saga is easy to tell. Waterford went under, then Clare, and Kilkenny, a team in the making, were level at half time and led by a Liam O'Brien point thirteen minutes into the second half. Then came Tim Crowley's great point from the right wing and that was when I saw Cork coming home. It was near the end that Jim Barry-Murphy swerved away to the left of the goal, hit a sharp shot to the square, and when the disastrous deflection sent the sliotar past the angry Skehan I knew the game was over. Billy Fitzpatrick's goal showed the expected Kilkenny courage, but

● TO PAGE 13



● PAUD LYNCH (Kerry)

# Looking back on the football final

By JAY DRENNAN

THERE was no denying the margin of the victory of Kerry over Dublin in the All-Ireland final in September; and there was not much argument about the style and polish of the manner in which they brought devastation on the Dublin abode.

Of course we have had the re-cremations from parties within and without, casting certain doubts or even aspersions on the manner of the win. The question has arisen of the legality (or, at least, the sportsmanship) of Mikie Sheehy's quick chip-shot which brought a second goal to Kerry to put them in a comfortable position and Dublin in a state of tatters and depression.

It is, I think, neither the time nor the place to begin bickering all over again about the Sheehy goal; I will only say that I had already got a strong feeling that Kerry were coming after their first goal and it did not take the "quick-free" goal to bring that feeling on.

I will also say that a couple of minutes before that again it really did look as though Kerry were at their wits' end and completely incapable of grabbing the control of the game from Dublin, and that they were nearly frantic

with the thought that they were never going to get the ball out of their own defence.

Dublin, too, realised that this frustration point had arrived and their reaction should have been more direct and deadly. They should have gone for the kill rather than trail their cloak, bull-fighter style. In other words, in the moment of two in which Dublin seemed to have established a position in which they had Kerry tearing their hair, they tended to butter their movements too thickly, adding a width and a number of extra passes to moves that might have been driven straight in through the middle with effect.

They would, at least, have forced frees even against the tremendous efforts being made in the Kerry backline. And Keaveney would have profited. And, who knows whether the change in the game would have come at all, or whether, when it came, it could have been so effective and so totally revivifying for Kerry, or so depressing for Dublin.

The secret of the revival, of course, was the nature of the first Kerry goal rather than the goal itself, for the manner of its execution showed Kerry that there was a soft underbelly to the Dublin defence when it was hit with the swift, straight punch ... one-two-three ...

Perhaps the players did not believe

it at the beginning, but now, the first time it was really tried with crispness and directness, it worked. And with that the indirect, carry-ball game was jettisoned except as a filler between thrusts and the direct method was used with ruthless effect. Jack O'Shea's placements were crucial; without his ability to hit the ball accurately forward to the target-man in front they could not have been so successful. And, it was not all target-man stuff, as the case of the marvellous scoring-pass to Liston after half-time emphasised. That goal, of course, put the tin hat on it.

It was not true that Dublin were totally destroyed — as the margin would suggest when read in the context of the years since 1974. After a long run like that it is almost invariably the case that a team falls heavily, when it does fall. Why this should be so is hard to say, but it probably has something to do with the very attitude which the Dubs adopted. They never seemed to retrench or dig in to fortify themselves once the game began to take some bad turns against them.

Had they done so, it is very possible that they could draw on their experience to steady things down, get the defence buckled down to defending, refuse to concede a winning margin, and be

ready to begin the long haul back into a winning position. But, Dublin never tried to do that. They kept on playing the same game, mounting their attacks and thrusting forward, thinking or expecting that all would right itself in the end — that their attacks would penetrate and wipe the arrears away.

And even if they didn't think at all, but went through the motions as they occurred to them, then it is simply that a team such as they were just does not find it in its heart to go back to basics at the stage at which they had arrived. Nor could they be bothered by the thought of keeping the margin of defeat down; all that kind of thought had long since been excised from their minds. In other words, their positive frame of mind made it impossible for the Dubs to do anything but lose heavily on that final day.

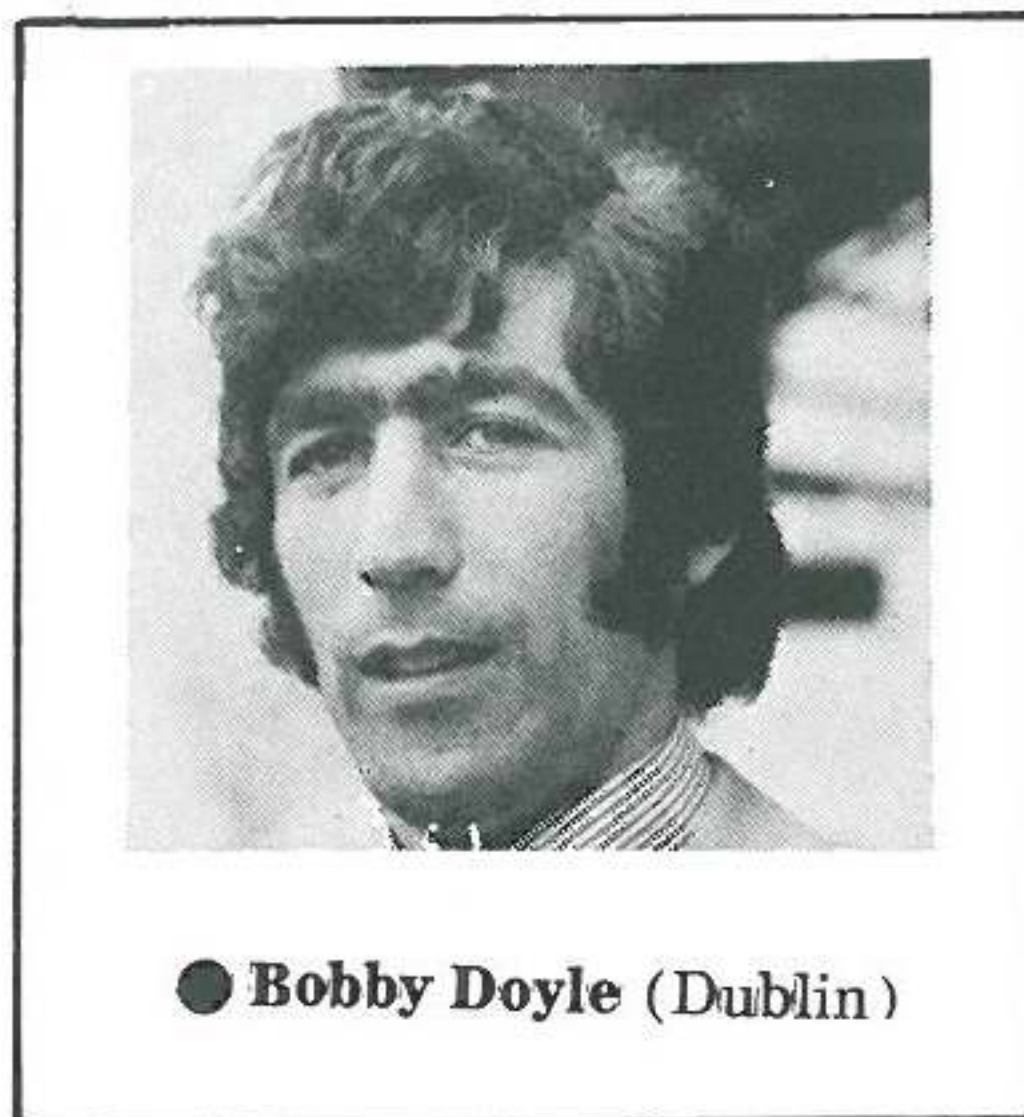
Kerry's 24th has been quick in coming: it seems like the other day they were promising us that they were embarking on the second 21, when they had won their 21st. Already they have made strides to the second 21. It is louder testimony than any theories or words of why Kerry are always there and how they are strengthening their grip on the future with every win of the present.

The style with which they attacked the recent All-Ireland was something that raised the game to a plane of much importance. It will be talked of for a long time, seeking to analyse what elements exactly were the kernel of the reason which enabled Kerry to raise themselves from their knees amidst the barbed comments of their own folk as well as gloating expressions from enemies.

Was it just teeth-gritting? Did the pride of the Kingdom hurt so badly that it had to be salvaged? How much was the calculated insult as voiced by veterans such as Joe Keohane when speaking of the footballing qualities of the

present side, intended to stimulate and drive spikes of iron into the soul?

How much was the intensive training programme of Mick O'Dwyer the key factor, as well as his promptings and instructions in theory and tactics? How important, in the final analysis, was that meeting in New York during which Kerry brought every gun to bear on Dublin, using the atrocious conditions as well as the likely weariness of the Dubs to smash home lesson after lesson on the subject of: "Who's boss in Football?" When they had them they did not let them off lightly . . . and there is no truth in the rumour that John Kerry had the weather specially imported for the day from monsoon-lands.



● Bobby Doyle (Dublin)

Was it, perhaps, the easy trip (comparatively) that Kerry were able to give themselves in the championship, Cork failing to make them really step it out in the Munster final?

All had their part, no doubt, but it must be noted, in fairness to all, that Dublin were just that little bit over the brow of the hill. Not much, but just enough. And, in the Kerry ranks themselves, it was surely the addition of an extra dimension to their attacking game with the introduction and eventual success of Eoin Liston that made them a different team.

There were not many new tricks that you could teach the defence;

there was nothing much more to do than sit and hope that Jack O'Shea and Sean Walsh were improved enough to take the balance of power from Mullins and Brogan.

But there was something that could be done about the forward strategies and, indeed, had to be done. With the single gambit to which the over-emphasis on hand-passing (throwing?) had reduced the line they were finding it hard enough sometimes to penetrate even moderate defences. The tactics of the attack were winding themselves ever more tightly into a single core; and against Dublin, in particular, this was hardly likely to be allowed to bamboozle.

Another string to the bow was called for; something to vary the tune and give the opposition at least a couple of alternatives to worry about. Such a thing would relieve the pressure on the passing game, too, and allow it more freedom. So Liston came — not the first time that Kerry have sought a full-forward who would give them a fulcrum on which to mount manoeuvres, but this time a successful search. Liston proved a good big man; a man who played far bigger than he actually is, for his arms seemed to stretch wider than wide and his body seemed to be in the line of vision of several defenders at once.

His proving flight was against Cork . . . and it was clear, at once, that this bloke knew what the game was about, and that he was a most effective part in a machine that could now make many more moves than before. As it happens Liston himself fell in for a bonanza in the All-Ireland final itself, but that was an accident rather than an intention. Other days it was the number of scores that came from balls he fed aside to scoring colleagues. The overall result was that the Kerry selectors and football wiseacres had made an extra prong for their attack that would keep pricking defenders so that they could not feel comfortable.



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● FROM PAGE 9

Ray Cummins and Captain Charlie Mac swung over the points that made it 1-15 to 2-8 and a million Corkmen happy. So that's it . . . three in a row and where do we go from here?

Ten men won three medals each in the '52-54 era and the number now is identical. The earlier three-medalists are Christy Ring, Dave Creedon, Gerry O'Riordan, John Lyons, Tony O'Shaughnessy, Matt Fouhy, Vincy Twomey, Gerard Murphy, Willie John Daly, and Pat Barry of Sarsfields. To-day's men are Martin Coleman, Brian Murphy, Martin O'Doherty, John Crowley, Denis Coughlan, Gerald Mc Carthy, Jim Barry-Murphy, Charlie McCarthy, Ray Cummins and Seanie Leary.

Four won two medals each in the fifties: Derry Hayes, Joe Twomey, Joe Hartnett, and Liam Dowling while to-day's six players are Dermot MacCurtain, Tom Cashman, Tim Crowley, Mick Malone, Pat Moylan and John Horgan the last pair being on the field in a third final also before the game was over.

Those who won a single medal in the earlier decade were Seanie O'Brien, Willie Griffin and Liam Abernethy in '52, Tom O'Sullivan in '53 and in '54 Eamonn Goulding, Willie Moore and Johnny Clifford. Pat MacDonnell and Fr. Pat Barry are the two single medallists of to-day.

So there were ten who won three medals in both squads, with four who won two against six in the present day. Single medallists were seven in the earlier day against two to-day. Altogether this means that twenty-one players plus two subs (Mossie Riordan and Jimmy Lynam) fielded in the fifties against eighteen players and three subs to-day. Each group compares fairly well, the only real points of difference to me being that only in one game, that of '52 against Dublin, did the earlier

Cork sides use subs, while in each of the present-day games there were two subs. However, of the six later substitutions effected by John Horgan, Eamonn O'Donoghue, Pat Moylan, John Allen and Tadhg Murphy only the latter two came on the field once, for O'Donoghue came on twice as sub while Horgan and Moylan had two full games as well.



M. O'Doherty  
(Cork)

Ray Cummins  
(Cork)

There was more excitement in the earlier era mostly because in '52 Tipp were all out for four in a row, and that day in Limerick when Cork stopped them, left me positively delirious with excitement. Cork were four points down with fifteen minutes to go and big Liam Dowling a magnificent player smashed a goal-shot past the great Tony Reddan. A minute later Christy Ring swung over the equaliser. When he hit another point soon after we went wild. Now the game was being caught in feverish Cork hands by the scruff of the neck and I remember Paddy O'Donovan of the four-in-a-row sides running out on the field to urge on the players. Dowling slapped over another fine point and then left half-back Seanie O'Brien hit an eighty-yard free straight and true over the bar. But Tipp simply wouldn't give in. Pat Stakelum's seventy saw men hitting the dust on all sides as the sliotar landed in the Cork square. A pause, the ball is wide but no . . . the umpire signals another seventy. Again the immaculate Stakelum lifts and sends it on its way. It drops to the square where Christy Ring

stands underneath it, part of the last ditch Cork defence. Out comes the sliotar once again and as Gerry Doyle snaps it up and my heart sinks. But no, it was over the bar and there were still two points in it. The final whistle as a signal for us all to go mad. Tipp were stopped.

Ringey was carried out of the grounds the blood streaming from his face as red as the jersey he wore. Blood he never felt. What did he care? What did anyone care? Tipp were halted "For the doc . . . for the doc . . . he called as he nearly tore my arm off I got the meaning. My brother Jim a doctor had been lucky enough to join with the four in a row men . . . nine in all. Their record that day in Limerick was still intact.

Thus it will be perhaps with the present Cork side. They have a great and delightful determination to emulate the record of the men in the forties and indeed it's easier to catch up on the other fellow's record than to make one of your own. Roger Bannister, after crashing through the four-minute mile barrier in the mile, said that breaking records was getting out of yourself what you knew you hadn't in you. There's no reason why Cork shouldn't win four championships in a row. We have a pretty sound side with a few good subs looking for their places. The present fifteen will hurl like mad to equal the record of the past. We have coaches, trainers and a mighty public to urge the lads on. Very very important is the fact that there is no really great team around to knock us. Clare, Tipp, Kilkenny and Galway look the most formidable just now, but all of them have been well beaten over the last few years.

I hope that the Man above spares me to write in twelve months time about the four-in-a-row chaps of the seventies and how they compare with the heroes of my early manhood.

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# Utterly rash to write off the Dubs after final flop

ANYONE who knows Donal Keenan — whether through football, administration or medicine — will agree that he is anything but an arrogant or overbearing personality and certainly not one of those who likes to be wise after an event. So on an evening in late autumn when we chatted about the All-Ireland football final he frankly acknowledged the help of hindsight in his summing-up of Dublin's crash. "It was bound to happen; it was just a question of when."

The furthest thought from the celebrated Roscommon man's mind would be to impress his hearer with utterances of "I told you so." He was, in truth, merely emphasising the utter inevitability of sport, underlining the absolute certainty that time inexorably runs out on all great teams. Although for some, later rather than sooner.

Dublin, being merely human, are no different from the rest — even though there may have been

times when they went close to having us believe that it might be otherwise in their case. Unless Mandrake the Magician had visited in Parnell Park or they had entered into a pact with the gods of everlasting youth in Tir na nOg, an end to their sequence of success was as unavoidable as the dawn following darkness.

As Donal Keenan quite correctly stated it was just a question of when the unrelenting passage of time caught up with them. Thousands in O'Moore Park, Portlaoise, during many afternoon minutes of July 9 believed it was when they met Offaly. But once they came through that ordeal and continued to another All-Ireland final there was one thing, I am sure, nobody expected — not even the most imaginative of Kerry's optimistic supporters: a defeat as huge as 17 points.

And yet that, too, should not have been unanticipated — at least once the fates of football had or-

dained that Dublin's juggernaut of triumph would be halted on September 24. As a study of most of the game's great teams over many decades reveals, a large defeat of this kind is almost inevitable, too.

Kerry's victory was the fifth largest in an All-Ireland final and the biggest since 1936 when Mayo beat Laois by 18 points. But Dublin's heavy defeat was by no means unusual for a team that had enjoyed a long spell at the top. In fact, the exceptions have been the prominent teams whose lengthy period of pre-eminence did not end with a big loss.

No county has had such a protracted stay in the very top bracket as Dublin since Kerry reached the five consecutive finals of 1937 to '41. In the intervening three decades many leading teams have fallen with a resounding bang. Even the marvellous Kerry team of the late Thirties and early Forties suffered a totally unexpected end. They lost the 1943 Munster final after being champions of the province for seven years in a row and, although their defeat was only by a solitary point, the unthinkable happened when they lost a championship match to Cork for the first time in 36 years.

The most recent example, of course, was the abrupt and shattering end for the splendid Galway three-in-a-row team. The side that had been in four consecutive All-Ireland finals was hammered in June 1967 by Mayo by 11 points — 3-13 to 1-8. Down's great team of the same decade had a three-year reign in Ulster interrupted when they lost the 1962 provincial final to Cavan 3-6 to 0-0-5.

There were others. Mayo — Connacht champions in 1948 and

● TO PAGE 17

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● FROM PAGE 15

'49 as well as All-Ireland champions the next two years — lost the 1952 Connacht final to Roscommon by 3-5 to 0-6 and the Meath team, containing some of the most noted of all Royal county footballers when it took the All-Ireland championship of '54, was annihilated in the 1955 Leinster final by Dublin by a huge 20 points (5-12 to 0-7).

In most of those cases the huge defeat coming after so many months and years of victory signalled the break-up of the team. In every case the selectors read the signs as indicators that time had taken its toll and Dublin are not likely to be exceptions in this respect either. However, there is not likely to be a shattering disruption in the team composition and, although it is virtually certain that the side in next year's championship will not bear much resemblance — in position if not also in personnel — to the team of the 1978 All-Ireland final the process of change-over is certain to be gradual rather than sudden.

Had Dublin won this year's final I believe quite a few of the players would have retired. But following such a big defeat the attitude is, as one of them put it, an obligation to help restore the side in return for all they gained from the five years of success. Therefore, as we have seen in the most recent matches following the final no one has withdrawn his services from the team.

In the time immediately following the final there seemed to be a touch of the obituary in some of the things written and said about the Dubs, some of their fans reacted as if it might be the end of the world, but the players themselves appear to have resolved that "they'll be back." Not, indeed, that they had gone... even though that 17-point defeat was a stunning reverse.

It was merely temporary as some of their displays have shown



● Sean Doherty, who captained the 1974 Dublin side to victory, seen here clearing his lines.

since and I believe they and their selectors will now use league and tournament matches to reconstruct the side.

Over the past three years some Dubliners were critical of the failure to make greater use of the National League as a place for experiments. However, that is easier said than done. While many of the top players would have welcomed the rest occasionally, there had been an awareness of the County Board's need for revenue and substantial financial intake comes only from reaching the semi-finals and final of the league. Moreover, once a team gets into the habit of winning, especially after being accustomed to losing for so long, it becomes addictive. As the players on all successful teams will confess: the more of it you have, the more you want.

From now on, though, changes can be expected even if there is not to be wholesale alteration.

Certainly the match against the Australians indicated that variation in the positional make-up of the team will be more and more frequent and the players may well welcome it because of the variety of role it will give them. Padraig Hogan has done enough to justify regular appearances in the attack and I think Michael Hickey could be used more often. Jim Brogan and Liam Egan will be frequent defenders.

There is no question about Dublin dropping out of contention for the top honours. They may still be among the handful of leading sides challenging for the League semi-final places in the spring and it would be utterly rash to write them off as championship contenders next summer. Of course, it will be tougher from now on, but they have the strength of purpose, the skills and the talent to be very much in the reckoning over the next year.

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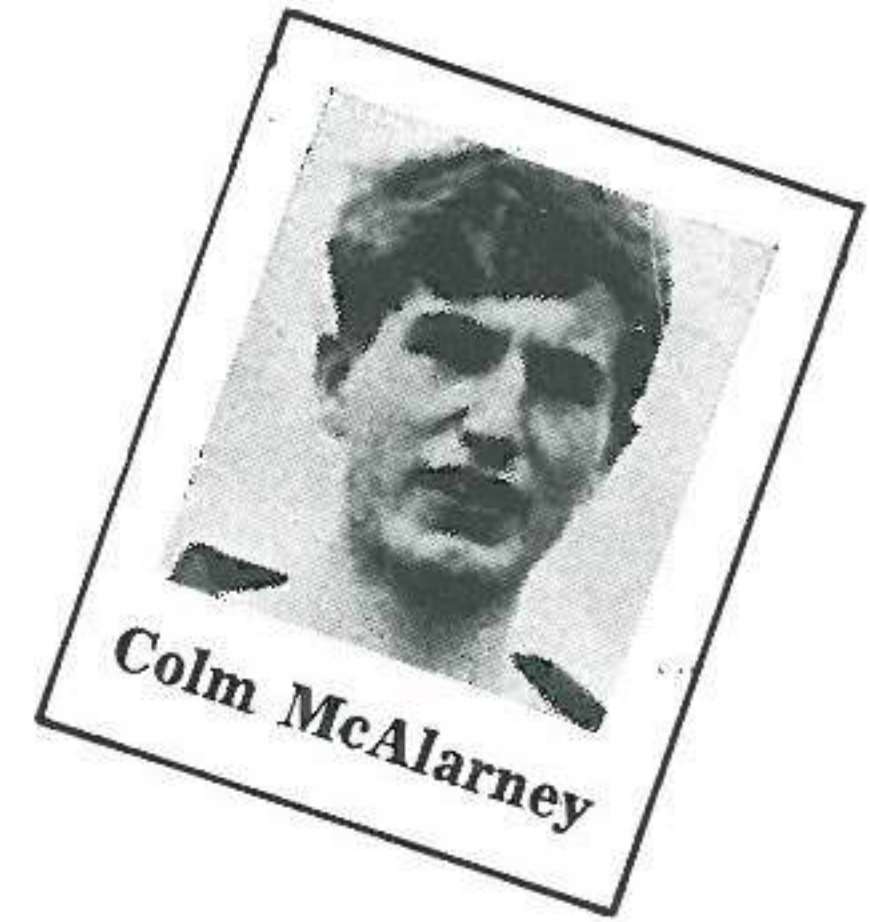
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# **NORTHERN STARS**

## **SHONE BRIGHTLY**

By OWEN McCANN



**I**T is ironic that, although Ulster teams in general did not cut much of a dash outside of the province in the major competitions in the past year, players from the North still provided some of the best moments in Gaelic games.

At least that is how I see it after a year in which my travels took me all over Ireland, starting with a visit to Castleblayney on a miserably cold day last February, and which also saw me take in the broad spectrum of hurling and football from schoolboys' games up to senior, as well as camogie and handball. And, in giving such a high priority to the Ulster displays I don't honestly believe that I can be accused of allowing my Northern upbringing to colour my feelings.

Most impartial observers will, I have no doubt, agree that Colm McAlarney turned in a real tour-de-force when leading Down to their National League Quarter-Final replay win in extra time in a gripping show-down with Kildare last March at Croke Park.

Equally, when Derry's junior camogie team shocked Cork with a very skilled exhibition in the All-Ireland final at headquarters in September, there were many bright stars in a well-drilled side, with Caroline McWilliams setting a particularly bright headline in the middle of the park.

But to return to McAlarney — I doubt if he had a better year in his long and distinguished career

as a senior than in 1978. That fact is also emphasised by the strong impact he is making on the GAEILIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN chart over-all.

His football throughout was progressive, non-stop and at times positively inspiring. His contribution to the Mourne County's win over Cavan for an Ulster title after a seven year interval was also something special.

The 30-year-old Castlewellan club man got through an amazing amount of effective work in that game, pulling his weight in great style all over the field. He shot four points himself, and was a key figure in a brilliant passing movement that put Joe Byrne through midway through the second half for Down's first goal, and the score that really set them firmly on the road for the crown.

McAlarney, a brilliant link with Down's last All-Ireland senior championship winning side of 1968, has had his bright moments since the Northern final, so that for my money he must undoubtedly rank as the personality of the year in the North, and one of the chief contenders for that ranking in all Ireland for football and hurling.

On Ulster final day at Clones, however, the Down skipper was not the only bright star. Earlier in a splendid minor game, Eamonn McEneaney gave as good a display as I have seen in the

grade when helping Monaghan to mark their first Ulster final appearance in years with a gallant bid against Tyrone.

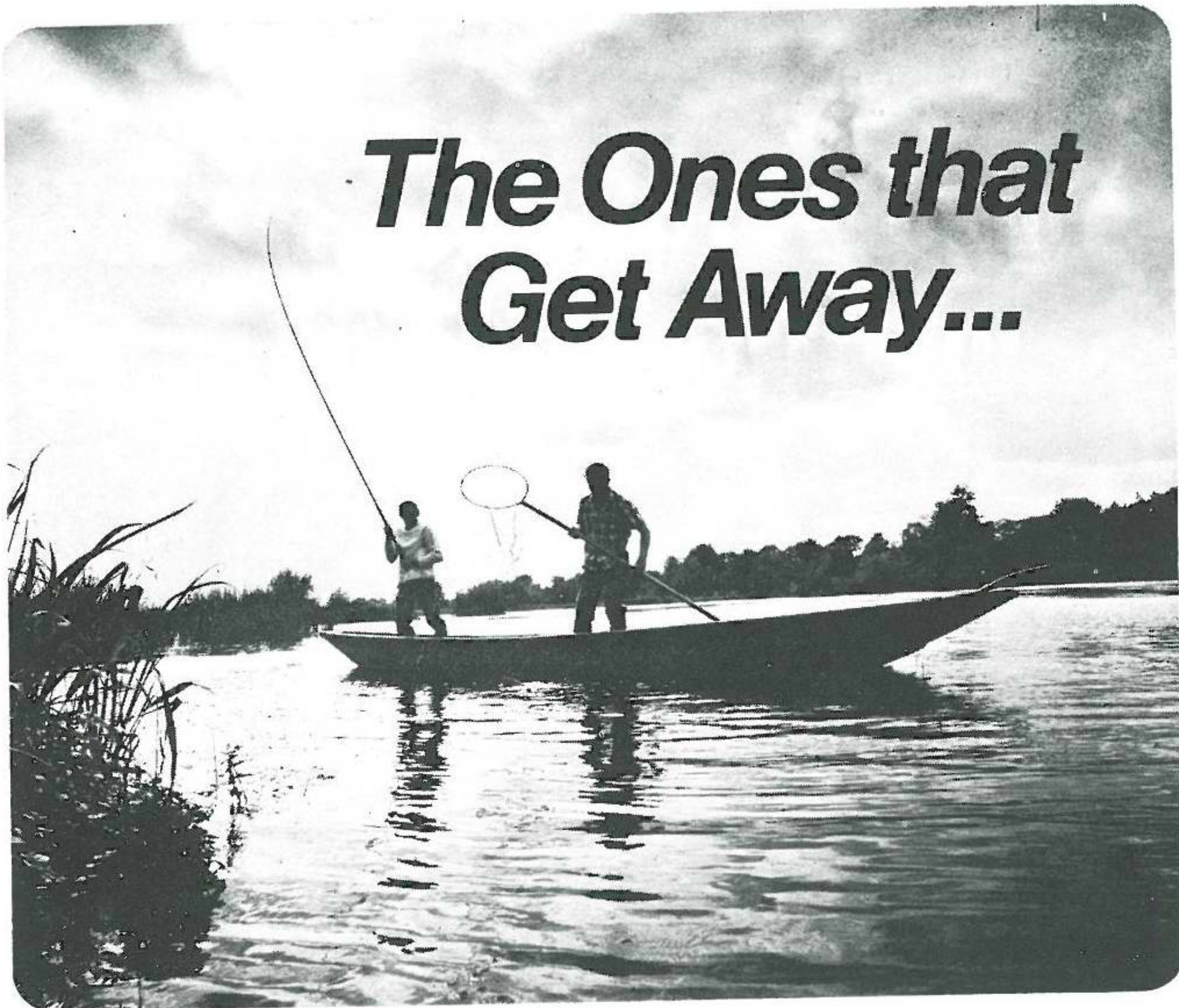
McEneaney had strong opposition from Tyrone's Pat McGeary, who hit 2-4, but the tall midfielder still proved a commanding figure with his excellent play, and brilliant kicking. Spot on from long and short range, he hit nine points for Monaghan, and it was certainly a stellar show from the young Castleblayney man. Monaghan failed in the end by five points to get back into the winners' list after an interval of 33 years.

Goal of the Year? Well, you can talk excitedly about Michael Sheehy's cheeky and quick-thinking score in the All-Ireland senior football final, and a superb piece of football it was, too, by any standard, but for me, the honour goes to a Northern school-boy — Armagh's young dual player John Corvan. He proved in the process the wisdom of a tenet of what has always been my sporting faith — namely not to miss any game if at all possible for the simple reason that one never knows what gem it may produce.

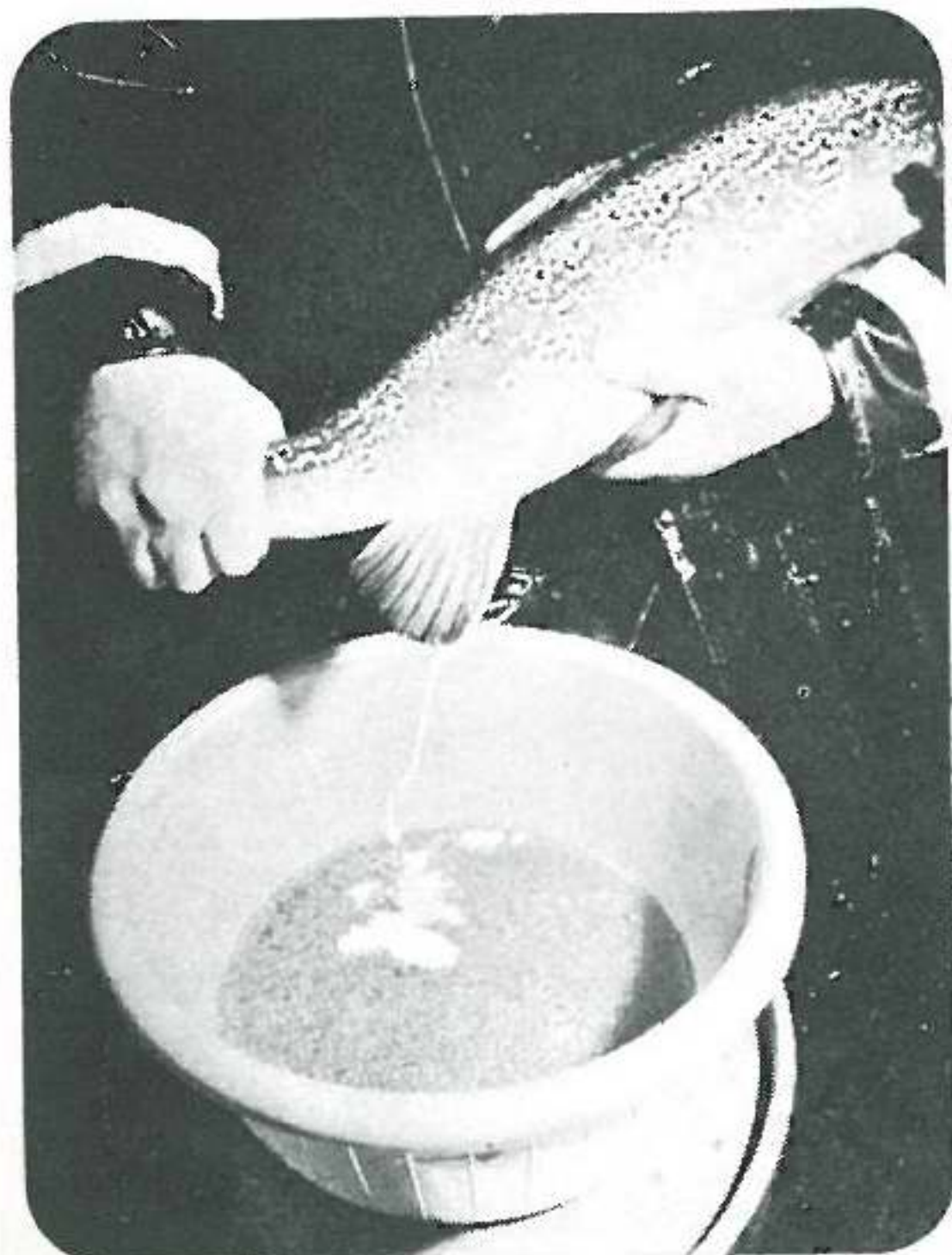
And, it was a gem of a goal that Corvan helped himself to when leading Armagh C.B.S. to their All-Ireland colleges "B" football championship final over Hamilton High School, Bandon, in the wet and grey gloom of a

● TO PAGE 21

# *The Ones that Get Away...*



Salmon angling at Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.



Salmon 'stripping' at the E.S.B. Hatchery and rearing station, Parteen.

About 700 hen salmon get away every year - away from the ESB's Hatcheries at Parteen and Carrigadrohid - but they leave their eggs behind and from these the ESB fishery experts rear up to 5 million fish every year, salmon which are then planted out in Ireland's rivers to improve fish stocks and to provide better sport for Irish and visiting anglers.

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It's all part of the ESB's ongoing programme to ensure that the rivers and lakes which it uses to produce electricity will also yield another harvest - and good sport as well.



● FROM PAGE 19

sparsely populated Croke Park last April. He beat three defenders in an intelligent run with the ball on the ground, then chipped it up into his hands, and punched home the goal, the third in a sharp-shooting exercise that saw Corvan finish with a whopping 3-7 to his credit.

Later in the year, John Corvan, who has also, of course, appeared with the Armagh senior football side, was back among the scores and the medals at Croke Park with the team that beat Mayo in the National Hurling League Division III final in October.

And that camogie game? Well, it was a rare treat to watch the Derry girls turn on skilled and intelligent play as they came out ahead of a genuine talented Cork side in the All-Ireland junior final.

I thought they had many stars that day, but one still had to hand the honours to Caroline McWilliams for her splendid contribution in midfield, added to the fact that she finished top scorer in the decider with two goals. What added to her achievement was the fact that she had only returned from Edinburgh on the Saturday night after a successful international hockey debut.

Nor can hurling be left out in the cold. Antrim gave Ulster folk plenty of cause for satisfaction as they won the All-Ireland "B" Championship. What impressed me most about their final win over London at Croke Park was the powerful work of the long-striking Sean Collins, first at right full, and later when moved out to centre half back.

So, while I found plenty to enthuse over in games outside of the North in the past year, and also among non Ulster players, I still maintain that I have provided enough evidence here to show that Northerners made brilliant contributions to the outstanding individual displays of 1978 in all branches of Gaelic Games.

## STIRRING FARE IN BASS TOURNAMENT

By OWEN McCANN

**T**HE Kilmacud Crokes annual all-Ireland seven-a-side football tournament at Glenalbyn, Stillorgan, Dublin, continues to go from success to success. So much so, in fact, that competition for places in the 1978 series, the sixth so far, was razor-keen, with applications from clubs all over the country, as well as from England and even Canada!

Once more the tournament was generously sponsored by Beamish and Crawford, brewers of Bass Ale.

Thirty-two teams competed in eight groups of four teams each. The group matches were on the League system, with the winners advancing to the quarter-finals. This plan, introduced in 1975, ensured that each team had a reasonable amount of football during the day.

Many leading players were in action in the "Sevens", which produced top-class fare all through, with some stirring matches, and ended on an historic note. Castlewellan, of Down, at the third attempt finally proved too good for all comers.

In the final they came up against St. Mary's, Sligo, who won the 1977 Connacht senior football club title, and were beaten by four points by Thomond College, Limerick, the eventual All-Ireland champions, in the national senior club semi-final at Limerick last March.

In the seven-a-side decider Castlewellan, inspired by Colm McAlarney, Brendan and Eamonn Toner, all, of course, inter-county men, displayed flair and dash when pulling out to their first title on a 10-4 to 6-10 scoreline in an entertaining decider.

On the target for the Northerners were G. Doherty with 4-2, C. McAlarney 3-1, B. Toner 2-1, E. Toner 1-0. Sligo's scorers were J. Kent 5-3, E. Delahunt 1-1, K. Delaney 0-3, M. Laffey 0-2 and J. Kent 0-1.

Apart from the success of the promotion the latest tournament proved an extra special one for the promoting club. They made their own brand of history in the autumn of 1977 by winning the Dublin Intermediate League to qualify for senior ranks.

Last summer they added another dimension to the story by taking the Dublin Intermediate Championship, and followed on those major triumphs by taking their place in their own All-Ireland seven-a-side series. This progressive club are probably unique in that they organise All-Ireland seven-a-side tournaments each year in hurling and camogie as well as in football.

Long may they continue to enliven the Gaelic Games scene both at club level within the county, and in so many diverse roles at national level on the seven-a-side front.

LET your imagination run freely and visualise Shelley — Percy Bysshe himself — alive and living in Connacht during the past few months. Might he not have dashed off an Ode to Western Football and asked: "If the minor and under-21 titles come here, can the senior be far behind?"

On the other hand this man of letters of more than a century and a half ago might just turn in his grave at the thought of a poem about something as mundane as sport. Yet, I am sure there are many westerners — particularly from Mayo and Roscommon — who fancied they witnessed examples of poetry in motion during moments of the two under-age All-Ireland finals last Autumn.

For Connacht, it was a football year that ended with more than a little to celebrate in prose and poetry because both the Mayo minors and the Roscommon under-21s gave them great cause for rejoicing with tremendous victories in their finals.

Mayo's great-hearted recovery against Dublin in September was full of guts and splendid spirit, replete with admirable football and spectacular goals. Roscommon's triumph was even more unexpected because they had to face Kerry, the champion county over the previous three years, yet they went manfully and very purposefully about dethroning the title-holders.

Those triumphs sparked off a flash of new hope that Connacht may be coming out of the football shadows after many years. Perhaps that long-awaited return journey of the Sam Maguire Cup across the Shannon may not be as far off as we thought.

Of course, winning the under-age titles is no guarantee at all that senior success will follow — and both Mayo and Roscommon are well aware of it. Roscommon were previously under-21 champions in 1966 and it did not lead

to the senior title, Mayo were champions in that grade in '67 and '74 and so far nothing has come of the successes in senior terms, while Kildare, Antrim and Derry are other examples of success at under-21 not being translated into senior triumph.

In truth it can be said that Mayo has had very limited spin-

off at senior level from successes in the under-age grades. The county last captured the Connacht senior championship in 1969, but in the meantime won five provincial titles each at minor and under-21 and took the All-Ireland minor championship in 1971 as well as this year.

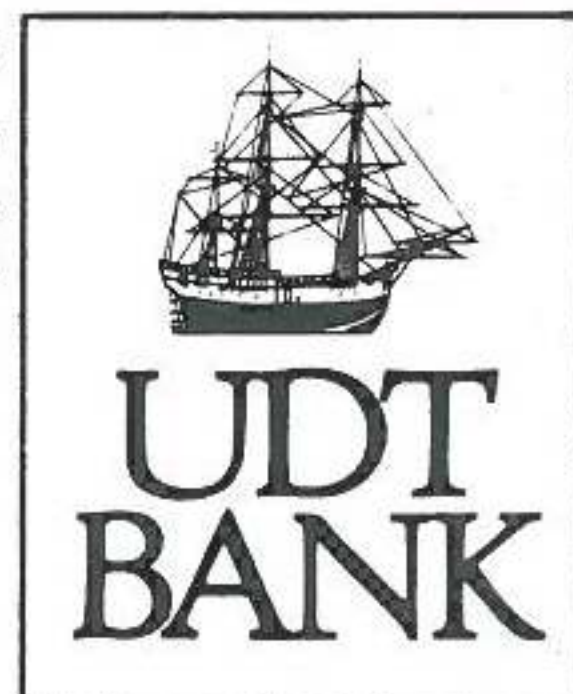
Football followers will hope

# Good times may at hand for Co

BY MICK DUNNE *RTE Sport*

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# Mayo be near ennacht

that the most recent minor triumph will lead to better days in the senior championship. There can be no doubt about the quality of Mayo football. Over several decades their brand — a combination of the best of every style — has proved to be most attractive and entertaining when played well. Unfortunately nowadays that is

not quite often enough for those of us who still cherish the memories of seeing the 1950-'51 team in action.

The county had its disappointments in 1978, particularly that astounding failure in Dr. Hyde Park in the championship so soon after looking so impressive in the League final. But for all that



Joe Langan of Mayo

Mayo may be on the right road. The backroom team of selectors Johnny Carey, Joe Langan and Paddo Moran along with trainer Father Martin Newell have the know-how and they have committed themselves to patience and persistence, so they will take pains to build-up the county's morale as well as taking the time to strengthen the players' confidence.

The temptation, of course, following a minor triumph is to place all your reliance on those successful young lads, but those who have been in the side cannot be dispensed with off-handedly and no matter how promising a teenager may be he needs time to gain maturity. Both Joe and Johnny know very well how vastly different football is at minor and senior levels.

Already they have used Adrian Garvey, the brilliant centre half-back from the minor side, in a National League match and there are several others who will, if I am not mistaken, make the transition in the not too distant future. Particularly Martin Joyce, Jimmy Maughan and Kieran O'Malley.

Roscommon, of course, have already had Richie O'Beirne, Tony McManus and Michael Finneran on the senior team and they are now in the happy position of having a strong pool of talent at their disposal.

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# CLARE WANT NOTHING LESS THAN ALL-IRELAND

By SEAMUS O'BRIEN

NO one should place too much significance on the results which Clare produce in the N.H.L. this autumn and winter because they have made quite firm decisions that they will not make any special effort to win the competition or any of its games. Of

course, there is not much doubt that they would like to end with a good record, and might even welcome a place in the semi-final, if they should chance to attain that status. But they are adamant that they will not make preparation for that objective or aim specifically towards it.

That may sound strange from the county which has gloriously won the League in the last two seasons and made spectacular and all-out efforts to do so. You would think they would have ambitions to retain the League for the third time in a row. But, not so.

They feel that they have nothing more to prove now as far as the League is concerned. No one doubts anymore that they are well able to win it — the equal of any of the fancied counties if they set themselves to do so. But, they are convinced that it was the intensity of the effort concentrated in the League during the last two or three seasons that took too much out of them and left them without that little bit to work on for the championship.

No one in Clare seems to attach any gloomy significance to the Munster final result of last summer when they lost to Cork and seldom seemed able to rouse themselves from their torpor. They are happy that this was the result of trying too hard to clinch the League earlier in the year. Through all the winter and spring they had trained and concentrated their minds and energies on doing just that . . . also encompassing the All-Ireland in their global view, but after the League had been sewn up.

The effort which an unsuccessful county must make to break the barriers erected in their own minds and in the minds of others is such that it takes far more out of an emergent team than such a similar achievement could



## 'Winner' No. 031 BALLPENS

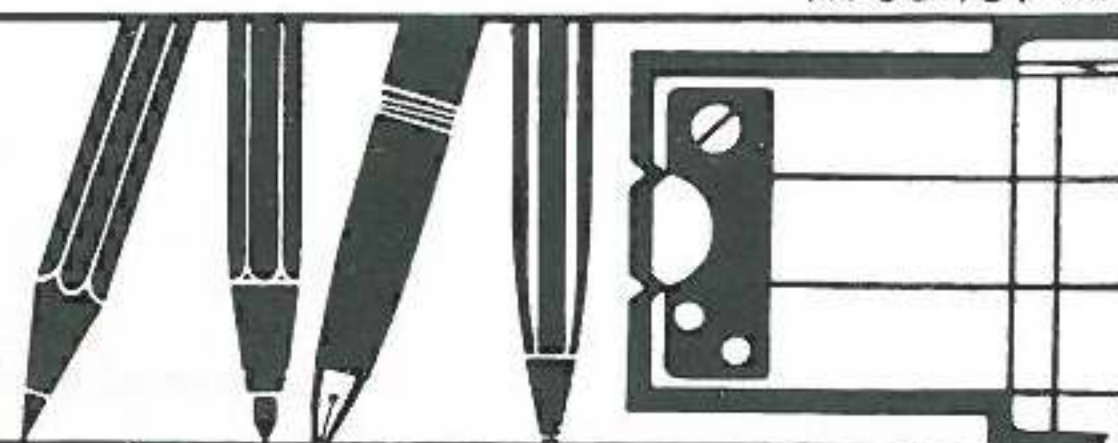
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possibly take out of one of the powerful counties — say, Cork.

Every training session was a serious business; nothing could be taken on chance; this was no joke and no relaxation of resolve and dedication could be indulged in. Such an intense attitude could not but exhaust the Clare team... and it did, on the crucial day of the Munster final, when they wanted most to be free and supple and unfettered.

So the powers that be in charge of the team (in tune with the attitude of the players themselves) have made it quite clear that they are now interested in nothing less than an All-Ireland, and even the League trophy must not be allowed to obscure the sight of the McCarthy Cup.

Whether this will work, is another question. Some say that it is the commonsense thing to do; that the players will be taking part in the League games and hurling a bit with their clubs and, maybe, having an odd get together of the county squad just to keep in touch. That will keep them in good form, in tune with their hurling and ticking over at a reasonable level of fitness. Thus, they say, they will be just right when the snap is demanded of them before and during the championship next year — fresh, eager, anxious for the challenge of tough training and hungry to get to grips with their championship opponents.

But, of course, there are others who say that you must never relax — especially in hurling — because the trouble with taking it easily in hurling is that you simply cannot speed up again when you want to. The running down process must be slowly and laboriously reversed and built up again. Fitness, they say, is one thing and hurling form is another.

Nevertheless, what alternative did Clare have? Go all out for the League and take the chance of burning out their team again before the heights of champion-



**Seamus Durack**  
(Clare)



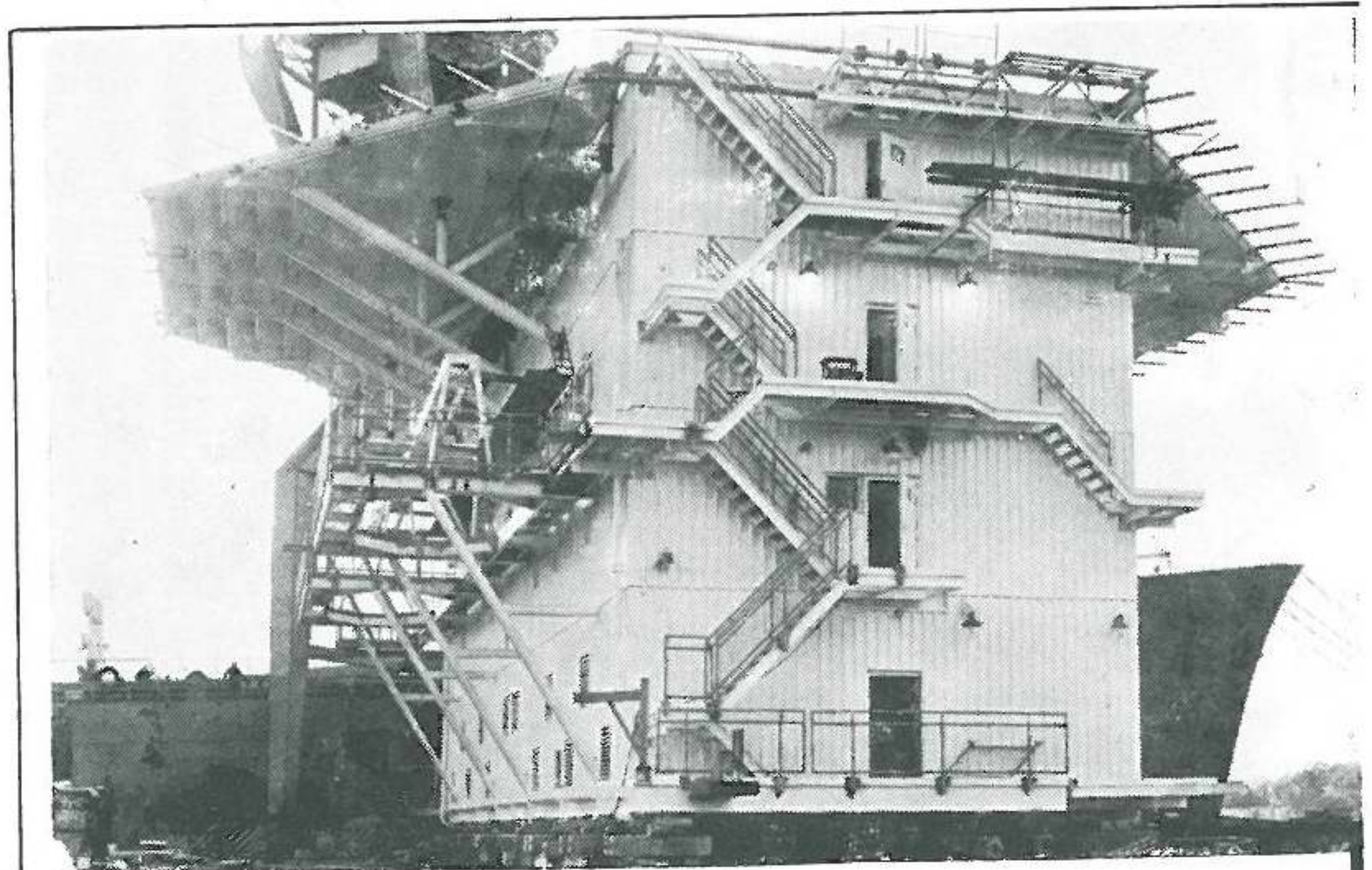
**Colm Honan**  
(Clare)

ship achievement have been arrived at? No doubt it was a decision which circumstances made for Clare, as much as the team mentors did.

In any case, they have had

a lucky bonus already in that they were able to pull a point out of the fire against Offaly (a task that is becoming increasingly difficult) and take two from Waterford in their first two games, thus ensuring a certain peace of mind in regard to the tiresome business of relegation.

Clare should not be written off by any means, and they may well come out in the championship next summer fresh and eager and hurling the best they can — the way they did in their more memorable victories. They do need a “find” or two — say a couple of inspired forwards. Then you could begin to think in terms of making them probables for next year’s Munster title.



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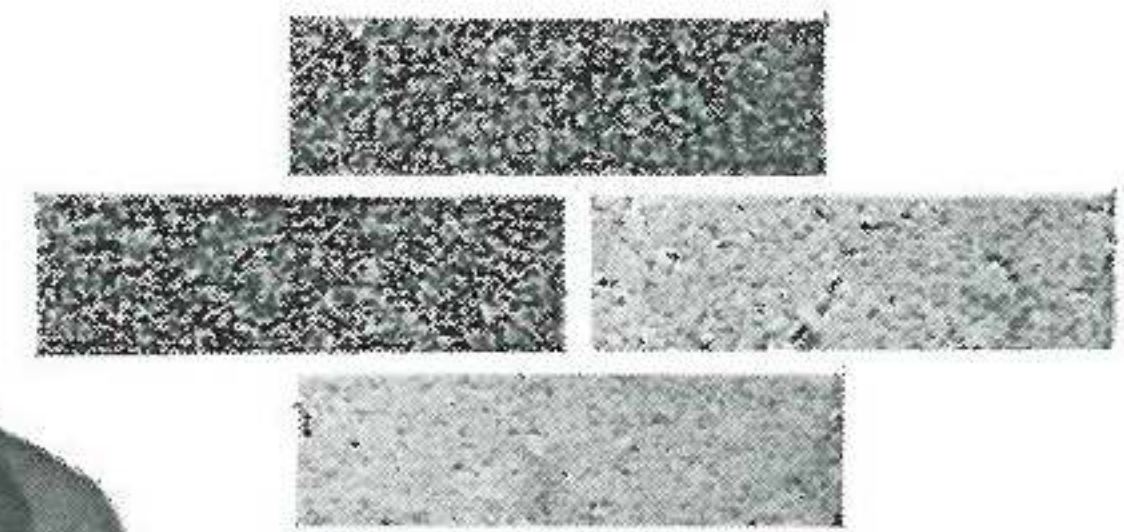
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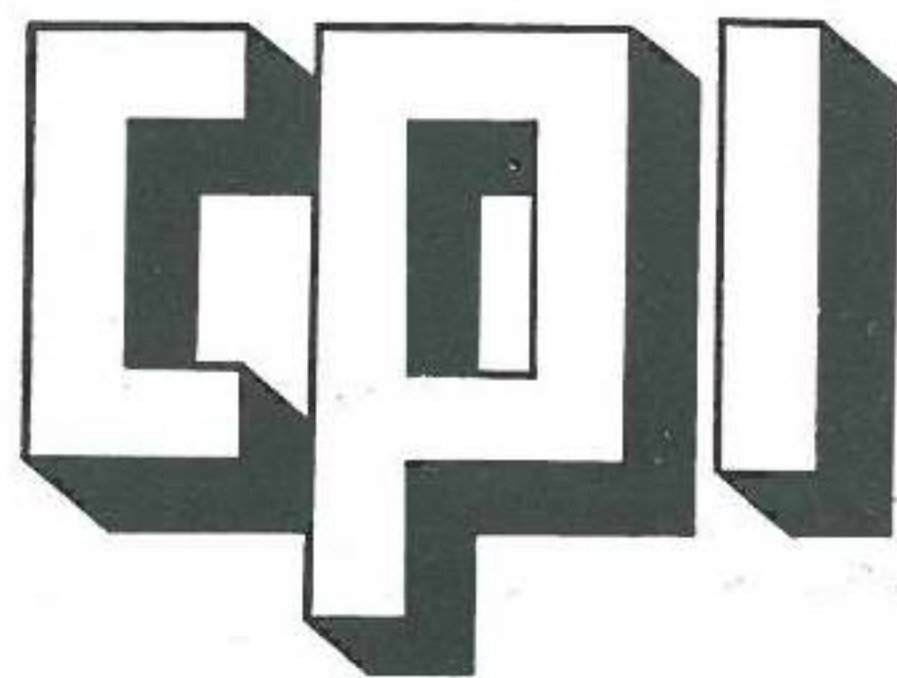
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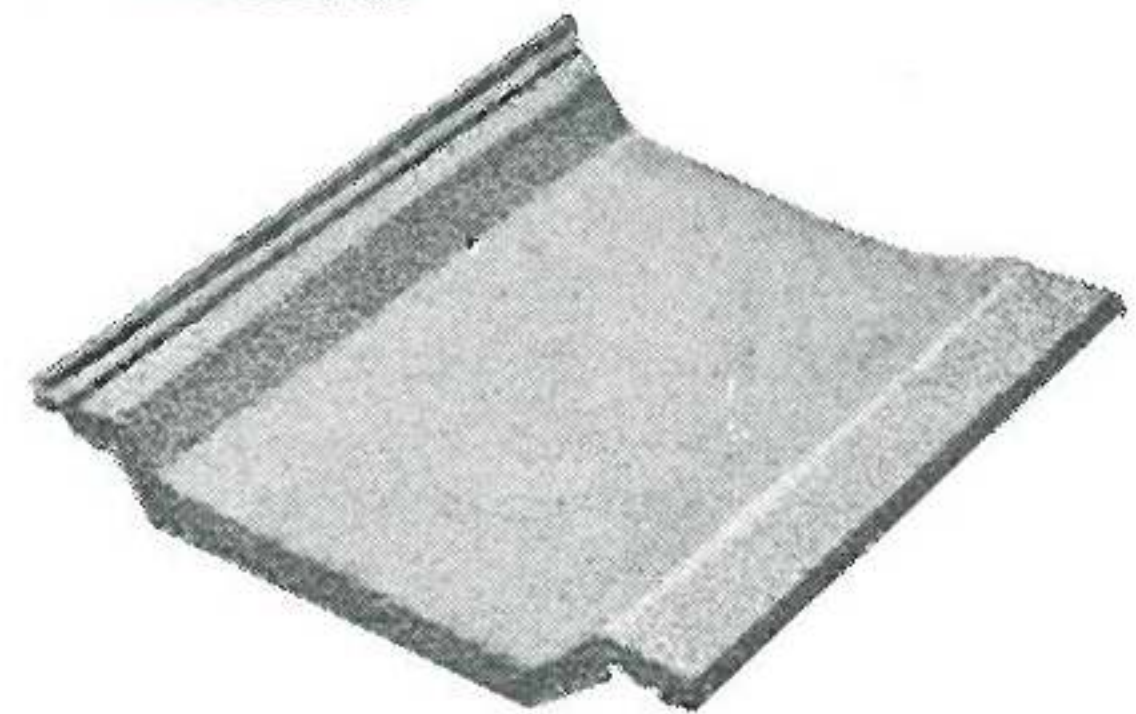
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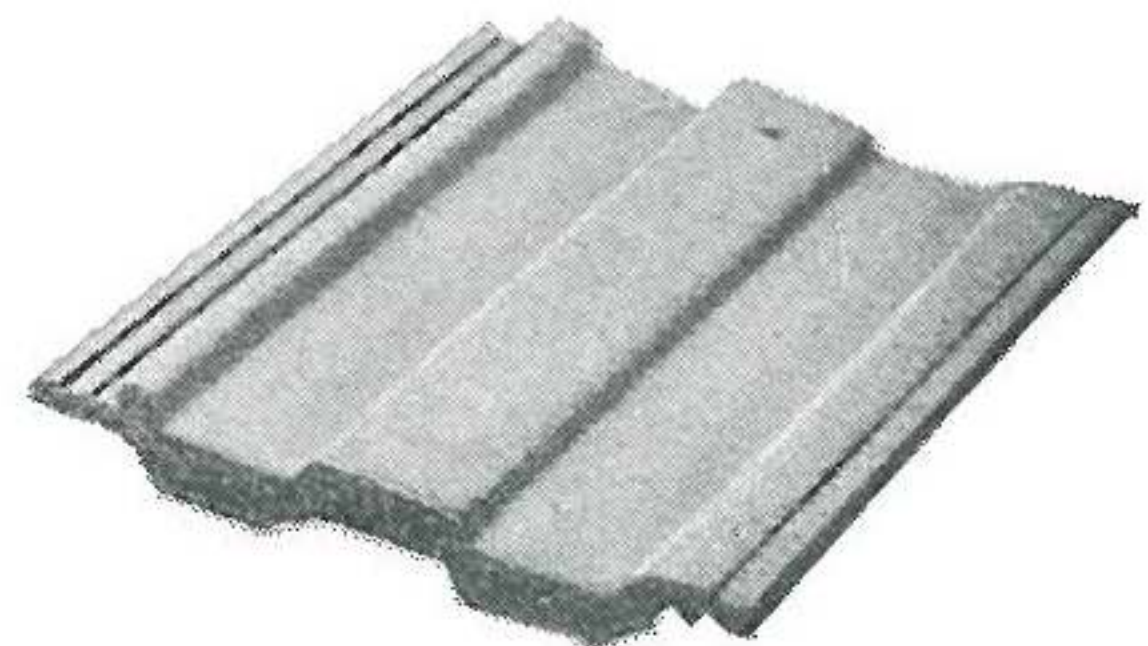


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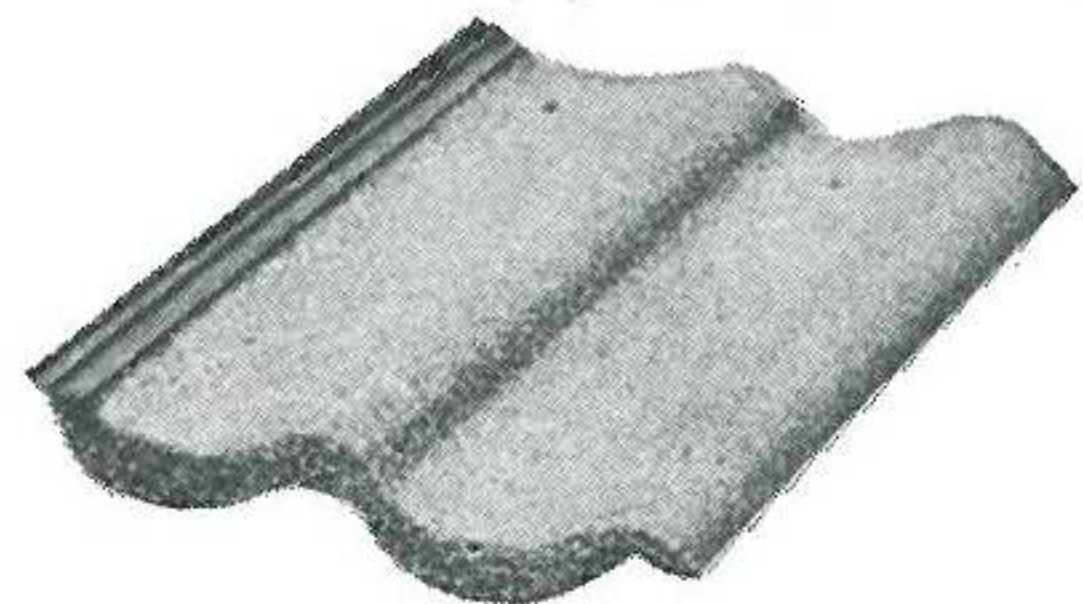
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**WESSEX**



**LUDLOW**



**PANTILE**

# ON THE SPOT . . .

by Tony Keegan

IT has generally been another good year for Gaelic Games. There were many exciting talking points, as well as top-class performances both teamwise and on the individual scene to enthuse over, and for some counties, 1978 was also a year of important title wins.

Antrim, for instance, took their first All-Ireland "B" hurling crown; Louth regained the Leinster under-21 football title after an interval of eight years, and in handball, John and Dan Kirby brought the All-Ireland doubles title to Clare for the first time.

However, instead of reviewing the year, let's see what you can recall from the pattern of events that made up the past season in Gaelic Games. ON THE SPOT . . . , our now so popular quiz, provides an excellent opportunity to do just that.

But be warned. Here you will lose much valuable ground if you have not been keeping an eye on happenings in camogie and handball, as well as hurling and football.

### THE TITLE WINNERS

1. This should not prove too difficult for a start just to get into the swing of things. Simply name the Railway Cup winners in football and hurling? . . . . .

2. Now for a question that is likely to cause somewhat more trouble. Who won the Sigerson Cup and the Fitzgibbon Cup, the trophies for the Universities' championships in both codes? . . . . .

3. The All Stars footballers had

the highest aggregate score in their two games with Dublin in California last May. True or false? . . . . .

4. This Western College increased their lead on top of the All-Ireland senior football championship chart by beating St. Colman's, Newry, last April, at Croke Park. Name the school in question? . . . . .

5. Cork completed a double on the All-Ireland inter-county camogie front in the past year. In what grades did they win their titles? . . . . .

6. Runner-up for the All-Ireland open singles title in handball in 1976 and 1977, this Wexford man came out on top in the national decider last September. Who is he? . . . . .

7. The first of our bonus questions. Name the winners of the Leinster junior camogie championship, the Leinster under-21 hurling series, and the Dr. McKenna Cup senior football in Ulster? . . . . .

Five points for each part of this question answered correctly, making a total over-all of 15 points.

8. The two players pictured above captained successful teams in provincial finals last summer. Who are they?

9. Templemore C.B.S. made history last May. Can you say what their achievement was? . . . . .

10. Hardly any necessity to record that Roscommon won the All-Ireland under-21 football title last October. But was that their first, second or fourth championship in that grade?



Now for a markings run-down. Five points for each question, other than No. 7. So, over-all, 60 points are on offer here: YOUR RATING . . . . .

A short section on men who have been very much in the news this year:

### THE REFEREES:

1. Who refereed the All-Ireland senior hurling final? . . . . .

2. A five points bonus for correctly naming the referees of the Connacht senior football final and the Ulster football decider? . . . . .

3. This well-known referee, equally adept at football and hurling, had charge of the Munster senior hurling decider, and the two football league meetings of Down and Kildare in the past year. His name, please? . . . . .

4. Who had charge of the whistle in the hurling and football games on the U.S. tour last May? . . . . .

5. And, finally, a chance for the ladies, possibly, to gain valuable ground: The referee of the All-Ireland senior camogie final? . . . . .

Again, five points a question, with a bonus at No. 2 making

● TO PAGE 29

# Cad tá ar siúl?

## Fáilte.



Those who have experienced an Irish welcome describe it as best they can - warmth, friendliness, hospitality. But we have our own word for it: 'Fáilte'. It's only a word, but it says a lot. Can't go home?

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## Slán go fóill.



While relationships can be permanent, most of our good-byes are not. 'Good-bye for now', 'Cheerio for the present', 'Au revoir! Our way of saying it is slightly different. 'Slán go fóill'. 'Keep safe for the time being'. So next time you're parting from someone for a short while, wish them well, till you see them again. 'Slán go fóill'. It's a lovely way to never say good-bye.

Our Language.  
It's part of what we are.

BRIDGEMAN

### CAD É?

Poiblíocht leanúnach don Ghaeilge tríd na meáin chumarsáide uile, idir radió, teilifís, pictiúrlanna, nuachtáin agus post-aerí. Mairfidh an chéad chéim ar feadh seacht seachtaine, ag tosú ar an Déardaoin, 26ú Deireadh Fómhair.

### CÉ DÓ É?

Do phobal mór na hÉireann, go háirithe dóibh siúd (a bhformhór) a bhfuil cúthail orthu faoi labhairt na Gaeilge nó a bhraitheann mí-shuaimhneach i measc lucht a labhartha.

### CAD CHUIGE?

Tá meas ag formhór an phobail ar an Ghaeilge mar rud teibí. In ainneoin na dea-thola don teanga féin tá doichead ann roimh labhairt choiteann na Gaeilge san ghnáth-shaol, rud a chuireann bac ar an líon mór daoine, beagnach trian an phobail, a bhfuil Gaeilge sách maith acu. Is tuisce athrú meoin ná athrú béasa. Tógfaidh sé tamall meon dearfach i leith gnáth úsáid na Gaeilge a chothú i measc an phobail.

### CÉN AIDHM?

Indeireadh thiar, an líon a úsáideann Gaeilge go rialta a ardú go maith ós cionn an 4% atá faoi láthair ann.

Leis seo a bhaint amach níor mhór ugach a thabhairt don dream a bhfuil Gaeilge acu ach a gcuireann meon éiginnte an phobail aiféaltas orthu. Sa chéim den fheachtas tá fúinn meon cinnte a chothú i measc an phobail lena dhéanamh éasca don dream seo Gaeilge a úsáid go rialta mar ghnáth-chuid de shaol ár linne

## Go raibh maith agat.



Around the world, different people have their own way of expressing gratitude. Some with words, others with gestures. Others again with both. Danke schön! Thanks a million! Merci! Grazie! In Ireland, it's a phrase - 'go raibh maith agat' - that good may be with you! Nach deas a sin, aon?

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BRIDGEMAN

## Sláinte.



Across the world, people have their own particular toasts. Cheers! Skål! Santé! We're no exception. Ours is 'Sláinte' - 'good health'. So next time you're with some friends, raise your glass and say something our way. Sláinte. Agus go n-éirí an bóthar leat.

Our Language.  
It's part of what we are.

BRIDGEMAN

# Ár dTeanga Ár nDúchas.

● FROM PAGE 27

this section worth 30 points. Collect just five points if only one part of No. 2 is answered correctly. YOUR RATING: . . . . .

Finally, let's end on a pictorial note featuring some of the headline-makers of the past year in:

PICTURE QUIZ



1. Pictured above are two forwards who provided some of the biggest news scorewise in senior championship play in the past campaign. Who are they, and name their clubs? . . . . .



2. One of the players above won an All-Ireland senior medal last September. The other got among the provincial senior medals. Who are they? . . . . .

Twenty points to be won in this section: YOUR RATING . . . . .

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

The maximum points possible: 110. An excellent report for a score of 95 or more. 75 to 95 rates very good, and 50 to 75 good.

**ANSWERS**

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1: John McCarthy, who hit 3-7 in Dublin's first round win over Carlow, and a member of the Na Fianna club. Eoin Liston, who shot 3-2 in the All-Ireland football final. His club is Beale.  
2: Jimmy Deenihan, who won an All-Ireland senior football medal with Kerry, and Joe Hennessy, in the Killkenny side that regained the Leinster senior hurling title.

PICTURE QUIZ

1: Jimmy Rankins (Laois). 2: P. J. McGrath (Mayo) in Connacht, and Seamus Murray (Monaghan). 3: John Moloney (Tipperary). 4: Seamus Aldridge (Kildare) and Sean O'Grady (Limerick). 5: Helena O'Neill (Kilkenny).

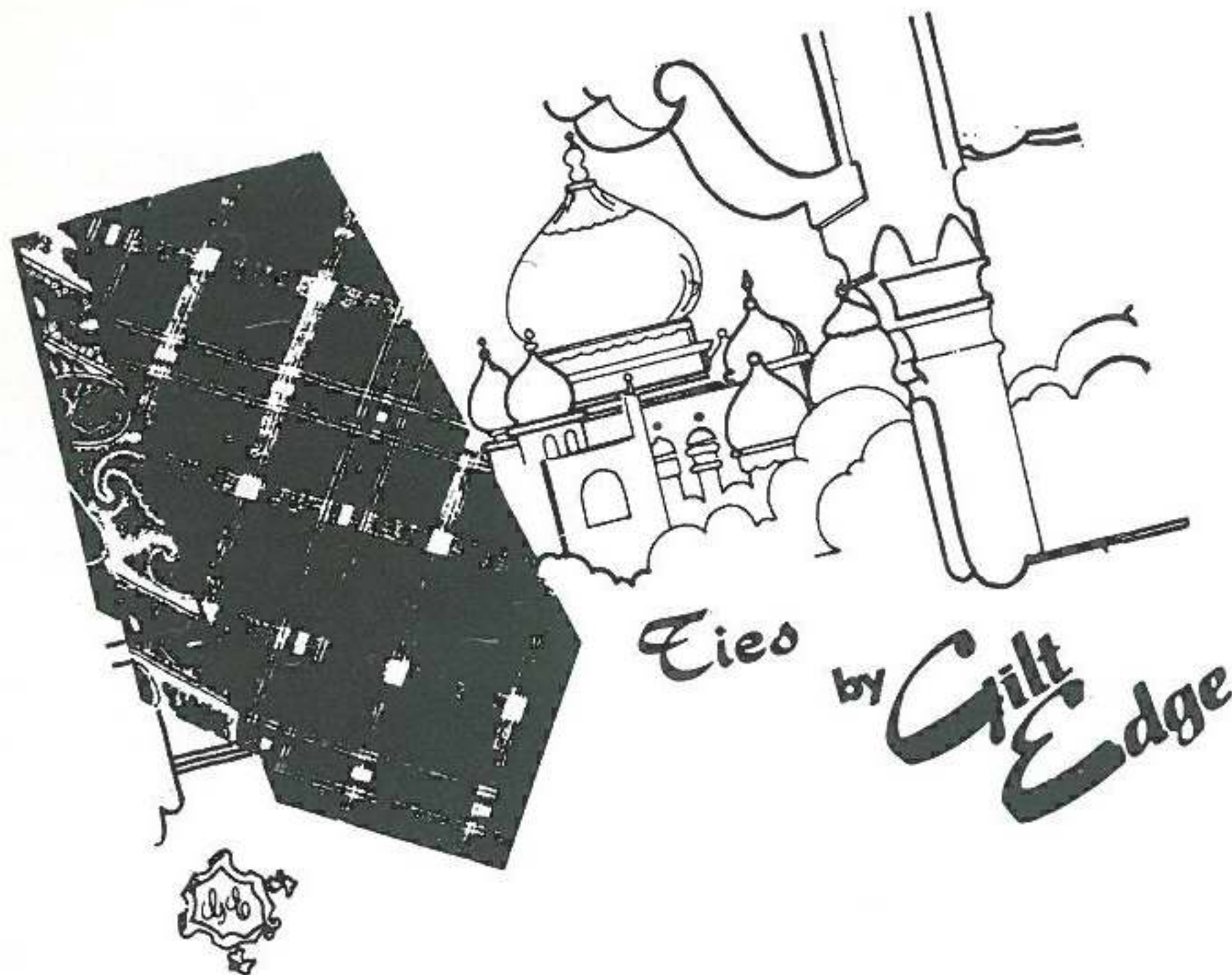
THE REFEREES

1: Munster in both codes. 2: U.C.D. in both the Sigerson Cup and the Fitzgibbon Cup. 3: False. Dublin scored 3-34 (43 points) on aggregate, as against the All Stars 3-30 (39 points). 4: St. Jarlath's, Tuam, who won their eighth title. 5: Senior and minor. 6: Richie Lyng. 7: Wicklow in junior camogie, Offaly in under-21 hurling and Tyrone in the Dr. McKenna Cup. 8: Denis 'Ogie' Moran (Kerry) and Tony Hanahoe (Dublin). 9: They brought the Croke Cup for the All-Ireland Colleges' senior hurling title to Tipperary for the first time. 10: Second. They won their first in 1966.

THE TITLE WINNERS

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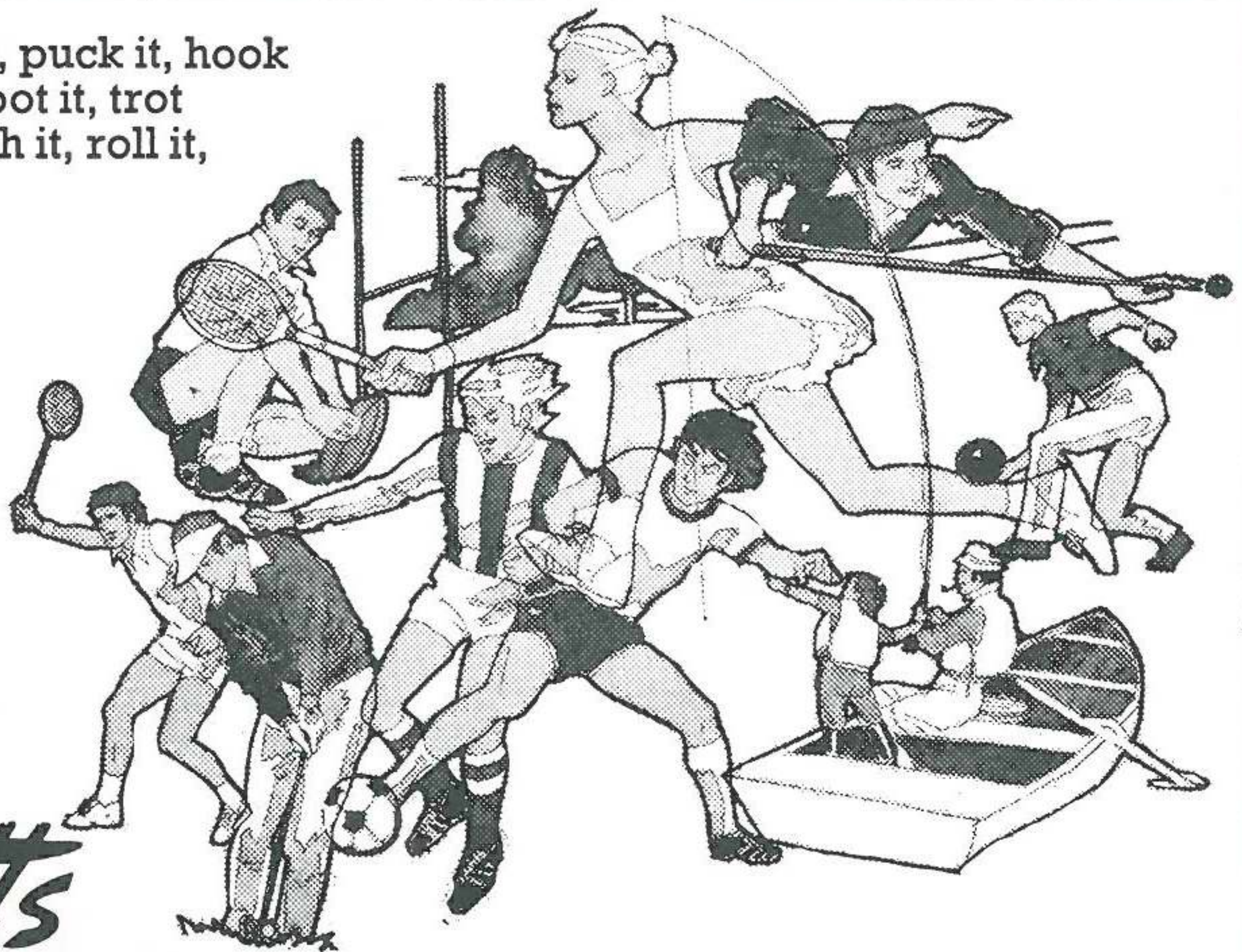
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# Moran injury the basic cause of Dublin defeat

**H**OW times change. A couple of months ago the media could not talk enough about Dublin, the super-team, the men with the professional approach. Now after a defeat by Kerry in the All-Ireland final Ireland is full of people telling us that The Dubs are gone, finished and done with, washed up-kaput. Half of them, we are told over and over again are going to retire, and there is the implication in certain quarters that it is about time too. There are no young fellows coming up to replace those who remain, and quite candidly I cannot for the life of me figure what the furore is all about.

Kerry won the All-Ireland final in sweeping fashion because in the second half they were far and away the better team, and to my mind the first-half Kerry goals were not the factor that so many post-mortems made them out to be. On second-half form Kerry would on my book probably have won any way. To me the basic cause of Dublin losing the All-Ireland was Kevin Moran's hamstring, and I still believe that had the man from the Long Mile Road been able to move at top pace it would have been a very different ball-game.

**Who would have won in that case I candidly do not know, but I do know that Kerry would not have won by seventeen points.**

The subsequent League game really proved nothing except that, all things else being more or less equal a team with fourteen men will in the long run always lose to a team with fifteen. It also proved, unfortunately that, where rivalry becomes over-keen sportsmanship can be little more than skin-deep. But does it all prove that Dublin are gone? Whatever about the All-Ireland Final I thought they were still a reasonable force in the League game, and I was impressed with a certain effective defensive re-arrangement that had Tommy Drumm at centre-half, Robbie Kelleher at left-half and Jim Brogan in the corner-back position. I also thought that day that young Pdraig Hogan showed a deal of promise, but he will have to speed up his

thinking. So, the verdict about Dublin's demise must be the old Scottish one, not proven, but what I do hope to see disproved in the months ahead is this Big Two theory, that there have been only two football teams in this country Kerry and Dublin.

Kerry are back as All-Ireland champions and very deservedly so, Dublin remain as of now, the most consistent team of the past five seasons.

But I think it has been less than fair to all the other counties to infer that they were and are in an entirely different class to the All-Ireland finalists. Some memories seem to be conveniently short. After all, Mayo reached the National League final, a game in which they were not all that much behind Dublin, while Offaly very nearly caused the upset of the season when they took on the same Dubliners in the Leinster championship semi-final. Kerry, in case everybody forgot, failed to qualify for the League play-offs at all.

So now, through the rest of the League campaign, all the counties who have been slighted by the scribes through the last few months, Roscommon, Kildare, Cork, Mayo, Down and Galway all have their chance to prove that there is not the huge gap between themselves and the All-Ireland finalists that we are being led to believe.

Roscommon are, to my mind, a team who have not yet realised their full potential and I for one am still awaiting the day when Dermot Earley and John O'Gara will both hit top form on the same day at the same time. And they must have some good young lads coming up from the under-21 ranks. Mayo may have got off to a bad start in the League, but it was obvious from their minor final victory that they too can have high hopes for the future. Down are already profiting from an injection of youthful players into their senior squad, and we have seen right through the championship, in the case of Kerry, just how profitable such an injection can be.

Kildare may have been sadly disappointed by

● TO PAGE 33

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

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Clár na gCluichí do 1979

**Peil (Mionúir agus Sinsir):**

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

**Craobh:** 9 v 10

**Iomáint Sinsir:**

1. Ath Cliath v Cill Chainnigh
2. Ua bhFáilí v Loch Garman

**Craobh:** 1 v 2

**Iomáint Mionúir:**

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

**Craobh:** 5 v 6

**Iomáint Mionúir Spéis**

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

**Craobh:** 1 v 2

**Fé 21 Bl. Iomáint Spéis:**

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

**Craobh:** 3 v 2

**Fé 21 Bl. Iomáint:**

1. Ath Cliath v Ua bhFáilí
2. 1 v Loch Garman
3. Laois v Cill Chainnigh
4. 3 v Buath Spéis

**Craobh:** 2 v 4

**Fé 21 Bl. Peil:**

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

**Craobh:** 9 v 10

● FROM PAGE 31

their own showing in the Leinster final, but the Plainsmen had showed wonderful promise before then. Besides most of their team are young, they have an excellent trainer and motivator in Eamonn O'Donoghue, and another year's experience garnered in the top Division of the League could make them an even more formidable force in next year's championship.

Galway, one feels, are always a team that can blossom to greatness almost overnight, and it is very hard to figure what has gone wrong with their performances these past few seasons. The talent is there but they seem nowadays to lack dedication, or is it motivation?

Cork have had a lot of problems these last few months, but like Galway they can still field a potentially powerful football side. They are however handicapped by the dual player problem with Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Brian Murphy, Johnny Crowley, Ray Cummins and Denis Allen in almost equal demand by both the hurling and the football selectors. But hurling demands are not likely to be as urgent as they would be were Cork in the top sector, so the Leaside footballers may well succeed in making something of a come-back in this League.

But if any of the other counties think that Kerry or Dublin are going to be any easier to beat in the immediate future they had better think again. There

are half-a-dozen more on the Kerry under-21 side well worth a run in senior ranks, although looking a little farther ahead I do estimate that the Kingdom minors that I saw in Munster early in the season seemed to be considerably below standard, even though they showed improvement when failing narrowly to Mayo in the semi-final.

Dublin, retirements or no retirements still have that first-team panel and don't tell me that such as Fran Ryder and Jim Brogan are not up to standard. Moreover, Alan Larkin and Liam Egan should soon be off the injured list, and Michael Hickey, Pat Gogarty and Paraic Hogan are all available as forward replacements. Moreover they have some very excellent minors indeed on the way up. So it is hard to believe that The Dubs are gone. Personally, I doubt it.

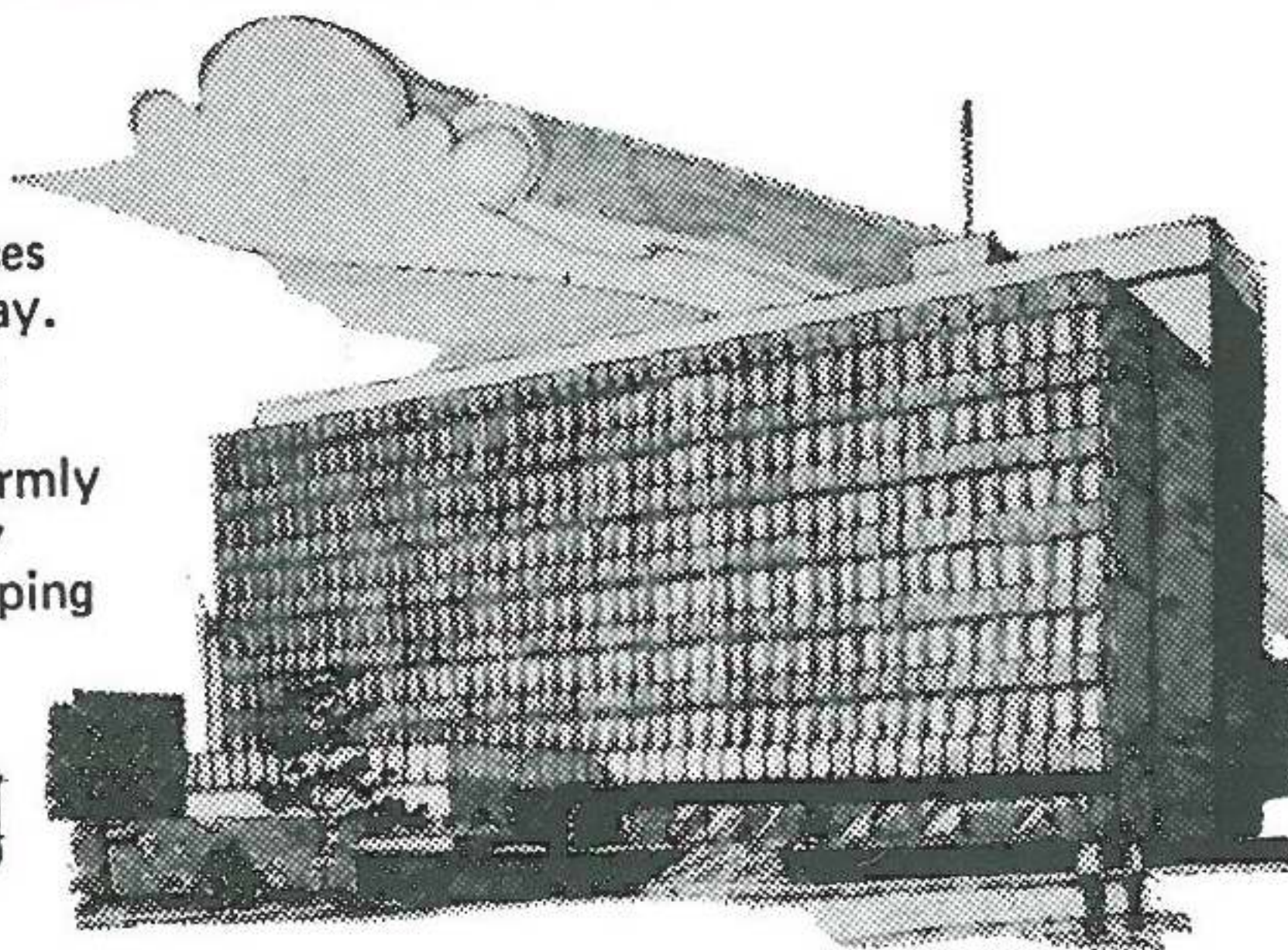
But I do not think any of us will be too reluctant to bid farewell to 1978 which was a far from inspiring year on the playing fields. Indeed I can remember only one really outstanding game from which the huge crowd seemed to come away reasonably satisfied. That was the replay at Carlow of the National Hurling League semi-final between Kilkenny and Wexford. That was really a game that had everything, see-saw scoring, tremendous excitement, unflagging endeavour, and no let up even in the extra time periods. But there was no other game that for me earned anything like the same rating during the entire season past.

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# Future of Cork football is far from bleak

By NOEL HORGAN

**A**T the beginning of the '77-'78 season, it was generally accepted that Dublin and Kerry were easily the best football teams in the land and that the 1978 championship was going to be a two-horse race.

As it transpired, such, indeed, was the case as both counties cruised to the national decider which Kerry won for the 24th time. (It must be admitted, however, that Dublin almost received an early shock from Offaly in the Leinster championship).

Before their successful 1978 campaign began, Kerry folk were not at all satisfied that their passage to the All-Ireland was a foregone conclusion. And the outsiders that the Kingdom feared most were their southern neighbours, Cork.

The fact that Kerry won the Munster final comfortably suggests that their nervous respect for Cork was somewhat unnecessary. It also suggests that Cork football is presently in a poor state and that Kerry's current reign in Munster, begun in 1975, is unlikely to be threatened in the near future.

But are Cork so lacking in talent that they must face the '78-'79 season without even a vague hope of football success? I hardly think so.

Much of the pessimism which prevails at the moment has to do with the pride of the average Cork GAA fan. He is, indeed, a demanding and fickle character. Accustomed to more than his share of success, he is easily angered if an extra modicum of glory is denied his county. Over-generous with his favours in vic-

tory, he is cruelly critical in defeat.

And with the Cork hurlers basking in All-Ireland glory following their three-in-a-row success, all his admiration is currently reserved for Charlie McCarthy and his men. Though still loyal to the footballers, he will feign disinterest in their fortunes until they make amends for this year's Munster final disaster. And he will travel to Killarney next year on the pretext that he is merely going for the "day out".

But, reflecting on the Munster final, there are a few points which, if pondered upon, show that the Cork football team is worthy of more respect. For instance, in the first 20 minutes the Cork attack, inspired by Ray Cummins at full forward, cut holes in the Kerry defence and could, with luck, have built up a formidable lead.

During the course of the game Cork missed no less than four goal-scoring chances. Add to that the fact that Ray Cummins, carrying a toe injury, was off-target with four close-in frees. (Why



**BILLY MORGAN** proudly displays the Sam Maguire Cup to the county's supporters following Cork's great triumph in the '73 final.

the St. Michael's star was appointed free-taker on his return to the Cork side after a lengthy absence is difficult to understand, especially in view of the presence of Denis Allen among the forwards.)

Granted Cork's defence was paper-thin on that occasion and because of this Kerry fully deserved their comfortable victory. But Kevin Kehilly's absence that day was a severe blow to the Leesiders. The Newcestown player was at full-back for the

● OVERLEAF

● **FROM PREVIOUS PAGE**

league and was rapidly developing as a defender in the John O'Keeffe mould.

It is fair to say that determined Kerry could not be denied All-Ireland honours this year. In retrospect, therefore, it would seem that Cork's Munster final defeat was not as great a disaster as many Leesiders believed at the time. There was even consolation in the fact that Kerry's victory margin over Cork was a mere fraction of their scoreline against Dublin.

It seems that the future of the Cork footballers is not very bleak. Kehilly's return should steady the defence, where talented teenager Brian McSweeney, having gained valuable experience from the Munster final, could emerge as a top-class wing-back.

The return of stylish midfielder, Denis Long, who missed the Munster final because of a severe leg injury, would also



**JIMMY BARRY-MURPHY**  
... Cork's dual star could play a big part in his county's football fortunes in 1979.

boost Leeside morale, as he would form a perfectly-balanced partnership with the brilliant Declan Barron.

The Cork attack, when it gets moving, as it did at times in the Munster final, can be most difficult to contain and in Jimmy Barry Murphy, Denis Allen and Ray Cummins — though he may confine his energies to hurling—the Leesiders have forwards of the highest calibre.

Add in experienced players like Billy Morgan, Tom Creedon, Donal Hunt, John Coleman,

Dave McCarthy and Brian Murphy and hopeful newcomers like Jim Kerrigan, Vince Coakley, Mick Mullins, Paul Collins, John Courtney and hurling star Johnny Crowley and you begin to realise that Cork have a strong foundation on which to build a good team.

To a large extent the Cork footballers' progress will depend on the way they are handled and motivated. In this regard, Kerry and Dublin have a distinct advantage with proven leaders like Mick O'Dwyer and Tony Hanahoe at the helm. But if the Cork mentors can mould a team together during the league, then Cork followers may be travelling to Killarney in the summer for more than just the "day out". Certainly Kerry folk, shrewd and ever alert football judges that they are, will not be taking any chances, especially after their League defeat at Páirc Uí Chaoimh.

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# CAMOGIE AFFAIRS

BY AGNES HOURIGAN

WHAT a pleasant day all Camogie folk had at the All-Ireland finals in Croke Park, a day that was blessed with everything but the one thing All-Ireland Camogie finals always lack—a crowd worthy of the entertainment provided. It was of course a historic day from several view-points not the least being the fact that for the first time, hockey internationals appeared on both the winning teams, Cork and Derry.

Two of these were of course no strangers to Camogie followers. Nancy O'Driscoll had already captained Cork to All-Ireland victory in the junior grade and set a record all of her own on the third Sunday of this September when she led the senior side to All-Ireland triumph also. Mary Geaney, though she had won most of her fame as Ireland's hockey goalkeeper had not alone played for but captained her native Kerry on the Camogie fields and had also been at one time Secretary of the Kerry Camogie Board. Now Mary had a wonderful first All-Ireland scoring three goals from her full-forward position. However, Cork, who had already won the minor title, failed in their bid for what would have been a unique Triple Crown, when their minors failed to a fine team from Derry.

One of the chief architects of Kerry's victory was yet another hockey international, young Caroline McWilliams from Swatragh, who had a couple of brilliant scores for the winners. But she too must have set several records all her own. On the previous Friday afternoon she played in a hockey international in Edinburgh. On the Saturday she played another hockey game in the forenoon and another in the

afternoon. That night she flew from Edinburgh to Dublin to set the remarkable record of having played in three hockey internationals and an All-Ireland final, all in just under 48 hours.

But if Nancy O'Driscoll, Mary Geaney and Caroline McWilliams stole so much of the honours and rightly so there were other outstanding performers. In the senior final there was a really wonderful display by the Cork full-back Marie Costine, who was winning her fifth All-Ireland medal, an honour shared by Pat Moloney who was just as magnificent and even more spectacular in the winners' forward line.

Yet, if I had to name a Player of the Day surely the Derry centre-back Sarah Quinn would have to stand at least level with these two great Cork stars?

This player had already given a wonderful exhibition at Croke Park in a Colleges final, and confirmed the impression in the junior final that she must now rank as one of the outstanding exponents of the game in the country. Another pleasing feature of this year's finals was the presence, as guests of the Camogie Association of the President and Secretary of the Irish Ladies Hockey Union, the Lord Mayor of Cork and of course, the Minister for State in charge of Sport, Mr. Jim Tunney.

Afterwards I was interested to be faced with two questions by an observant spectator. He queried the fact that the touch-line officials were supplied by the counties concerned, whereas the referee usually provides the umpires. Well, the fact is that until a relatively few years ago, the competing counties also provided the umpires. Doubtless when there is a little further

improvement in the Association's finances, neutral touch-line judges will also take over. Indeed, when one comes to think of it, why could not a neutral county competing in the junior game supply the touch-judges for the senior game and vice-versa?

The second interesting observation was that so many long drives went so far past the end lines, has the time come to lengthen the playing pitch?

To my mind, the answer to this query is that, on All-Ireland Day, the players on view are the very best in the country, and in such matters as making over-all rules we must cater for the weak player as well as the strong. The present length of the pitch is sufficient for the average player to cope with. If some of the stars may make it at times look short, all the more credit to them.

Finally, the honours of the year were reasonably well divided. Wexford won the National League, some compensation for their defeat in the previous season's inaugural final. Athenry brought the All-Ireland club championship to Connacht, U.C.J.C. retained the Ashbourne Cup for yet another year, St. Paul's from Kilkenny, usually the All-Ireland club specialists, had some solace by winning the Glenalbyn Sevens, a real All-Ireland event this year while Limerick and Kilkenny will contest the National League final. It was an excellent season at juvenile level, with Croagh-Kilfinny taking the senior Feile na nGael medals, Johnstown (Kilkenny) the junior and Ballygar from the Galway-Roscommon border surprise but deserving winners in the Community Games.

# A STORY OF SUCCESS

**H**ANDBALL has made magnificent progress in recent years. Gone are the days when its image was reflected in derelict courts and ineffective administration. It is now evolving and accepts a role of sophistication. Many factors have contributed to the new phenomenon and they probably found their origin in the World Championships of 1970, when the construction of the new court and the excitement surrounding the games themselves all contrived to put the game on the map.

The impact of television, the attraction of the Top Ace Tournament and the international aspect of the game have all been major factors in putting handball on its present high pedestal.

One must give due cognisance also to the benefit derived from Sponsorship and in this regard such events as the Willwood Tailteann Games, the Gael-Linn and the Coca-Cola Championships come readily to mind.

This fading year has been yet another success story for the game with high level ratings in the fields of development and activity. I do not propose to chronicle a list of achievements in the area of development, other than to indicate that the construction of new courts is now the accepted norm.

The 40 x 20 court is rapidly outstripping the traditional 60 x 30 building, which is a ready indicator that the swing to the American style game will continue unabated in the years ahead.

Meantime, the playing courts through the country resounded to the music of butting balls over recent months as players matched their competitive talents in quest of ultimate victory.

In the process, we witnessed some excellent handball, as a number of stars faded, others re-emerged to stake their claims to the highest honours, some younger players won honours that had avoided them for many years while a number of starlets gave proof, if it was needed, that the game is in safe keeping.

The big shock was the defeat of the Handball expert Peadar McGee in the Senior Code.

It was generally expected that McGee would win the title for the seventh successive time this year and thus equal the All-Time Record of the fabled John Joe Gilmartin. He fell to young Micky Walsh of Roscommon in the Connacht Championships and thus deprived himself of the honour.

Then, there was the equally sensational defeat of Kildare's Cecil Winders and Greg Lawler in the Handball doubles finals by Pat McGarry and Joe Bennis of Limerick. The latter, in previews of the game were considered scarcely a match for the fluent Kildare partnership, yet they rose to the occasion magnificently to score a scorching win.

McGarry failed again to land that elusive singles title, though, as ever, he made a valiant effort and did put up a good show against Cecil Winders of Kildare in the Handball Singles Final.

Richie Lyng the ebullient Wexford exponent of the 60 x 30 code crashed back to the forefront in the absence of Pat Kirby who did not compete in the grade this year.

Lyng, who won his first senior title back in 1965 thrilled many packed galleries with his effervescent brand of play and besides the Senior title also landed the Gael-Linn Trophy to boot. Then there was the continued success story of the Famous Kirbys.

Pat won the Senior Singles in the 40 x 20 code though the non-event final with Joey Maher was a disappointment.

He partnered Mick to victory in Doubles and for good measure John and Dan brought the 60 x 30 doubles title to Clare for the first time ever.

There were some notable achievements in the subsidiary grades.

Galway's Gerry Scully and Eamon Rabitte made the break from Junior ranks after many abortive attempts while Tipperary's rising star Tony Ryan won no fewer than five All-Ireland medals.

Equally efficient at either code this young player seems to have the potential of a Handball Master, provided he is coached methodically and not pressurised into too many championship duels. Other players who must be given due recognition for their achievements in the past year are Tom Quish (Limerick). John Doyle (Wexford) and the great Mayo veteran Micky Walsh.



# RESULTS SUMMARY

## ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

### FINALS

**Senior Football:** September 24. Kerry 5-11; Dublin 0-9. Attendance: 71,503. Kerry captain: Denis "Ogie" Moran. Top scorer for the entire championship: J. Keaveney (Dublin) 2-31 (37 points) in five games. Average: 7.40 points a match.

**Minor Football:** September 24. Mayo 4-9; Dublin 3-8. Mayo captain: Adrian Garvey.

**Under-21: Hurling:** October 8. Limerick: Galway 3-5; Tipperary 2-8. DRAW.

**Under 21-Football:** October 15. Roscommon: Roscommon 1-9; Kerry 1-8. Roscommon captain: Seamus Hayden.

**Special Minor Hurling:** September 16. Croke Park. Down 2-9; Kerry 2-6. Replay.

**Under-21 Football Semi-Final:** October 1. Drogheda: Kerry 2-10; Louth 0-14.

### 1977-78 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

**"Home" Final:** October 1. Croke Park: Down 1-12; Laois 1-5.

**Final:** October 15. Birmingham: Down 0-11; Warwickshire 1-3.

### NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE

**Division III Final:** October 15. Croke Park. Armagh 5-15; Mayo 2-6.

### 1978-79 NATIONAL LEAGUE FOOTBALL

September 17: Irvinestown: Sligo 2-10; Fermanagh 0-9. October 8. Roscommon: Roscommon

1-16; Cavan 0-8. Coalisland: Tyrone 2-9; Antrim 0-7. Newry: Down 1-14; Mayo 1-7.

Portlaoise: Cork 2-10; Laois 0-10. Athy: Kildare 0-10; Galway 0-9. Croke Park: Kerry 2-9; Dublin 0-8.

Armagh: Armagh 1-11; Monaghan 1-7. Ballinascreen: Derry 3-11; Westmeath 0-10. Lisnaskea: Fermanagh 4-8; Leitrim 1-8. Longford: Sligo 0-10; Longford 0-7.

Tullamore: Offaly 1-10; Limerick 2-5. Wexford: Wexford 3-10; Wicklow 0-6.

October 15: Kells: Meath 0-18; Tipperary 0-7.

October 22: Pomeroy: Tyrone 2-11; Roscommon 0-16. Ballina: Mayo 2-11; Antrim 1-7. Cavan: Cavan 1-10; Down 1-9. Newbridge: Kildare 6-11; Laois 0-15. Mullingar: Louth 1-11; Westmeath 0-11. Clontibret: Derry 1-7; Monaghan 0-8. Sligo: Sligo 0-9; Donegal 0-5. Carrick-on-Shannon: Longford 3-10; Leitrim 2-4. Bansha: Tipperary 2-19; Clare 3-5. Limerick: Meath 2-8; Limerick 0-6. Dungarvan: Waterford 4-12; Kilkenny 0-2. Aughrim: Wicklow 1-9; Carlow 1-9.

### NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE

October 1: Birr: Offaly 2-8; Clare 2-8. Pearse Stadium: Galway 3-12; Wexford 0-18. Corrigan Park, Belfast: Laois 1-15; Antrim 3-7. October 8: Portlaoise: Cork 5-11; Laois 3-5.

October 15: Tulla: Clare 3-6; Waterford 1-6. Gorey: Offaly 2-17; Wexford 0-17. Kilkenny: Galway 3-13; Kilkenny 5-6. Naas: Antrim 5-14; Kildare 4-11.

### OIREACHTAS CUP

Senior Hurling: October 22. FINAL: Wexford: Wexford 0-18; Galway 1-10.

### REPRESENTATIVE GAMES

Football: October 21: Dublin: Australia 8-10; U.C.D. 5-12. October 22: Dublin 2-11; Australia 2-3.

### CEANNARUS TOURNAMENT

Football Final: October 15. Roscommon: Roscommon 1-16; Kerry 2-4.

### CAMOGIE

#### All-Ireland Finals

Senior: September 17. Cork 6-4; Dublin 1-2. Cork captain: Nancy O'Driscoll. Top scorer for the entire championship series: Pat Moloney (Cork) 6-8 (26 points) in three games. Average: 8.66 points.

Junior: September 17. Derry 3-4; Cork 1-4. Derry captain: Brigid McLaughlin.

● TO PAGE 44

### CUMANN LUTH-CHLEAS GAEL—COMHAIRLE ULADH Gaelic Athletic Association —Ulster Council

## FIXTURES

1979

### SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

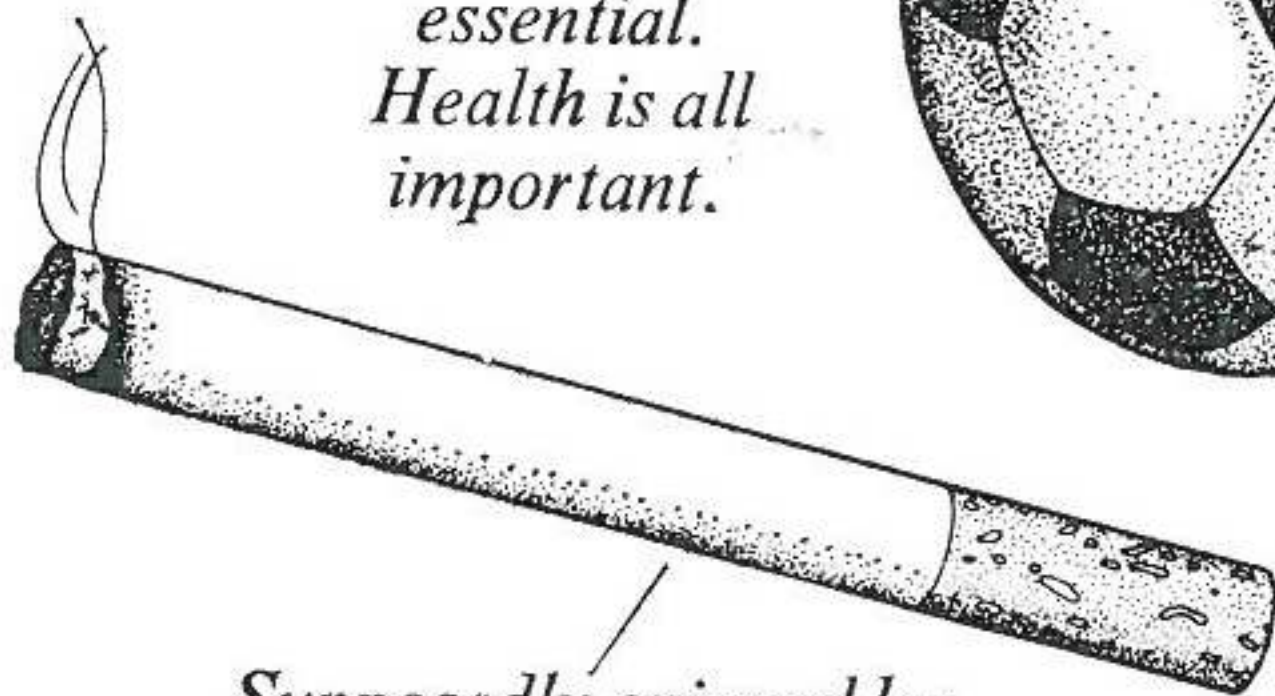
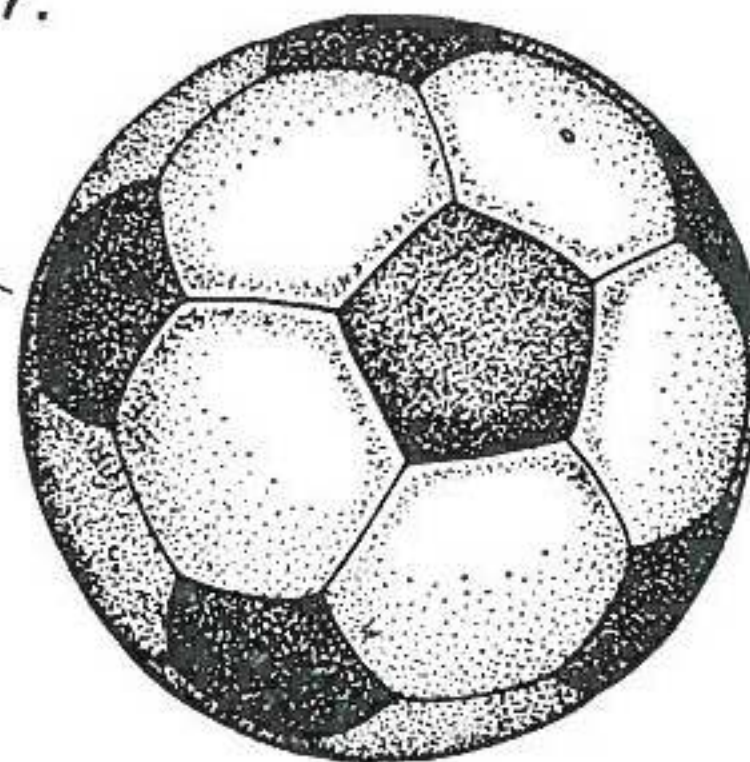
- May 20— Tyrone v Antrim  
(Dungannon)
- May 27— Down v Monaghan  
(Castleblayney)
- June 3— Armagh v  
Fermanagh  
(Lurgan)
- June 10— Cavan v Derry  
(Cavan)
- June 17— Donegal v Antrim  
or Tyrone  
If Donegal v Antrim:  
Dungannon.  
If Donegal v Tyrone:  
Irvinestown.
- June 24— SEMI-FINAL "A"  
Down or Monaghan  
v Armagh or  
Fermanagh
- July 1— SEMI-FINAL "B"  
Cavan or Derry  
v Antrim or  
Donegal or Tyrone
- July 22— FINAL

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# JUNIOR DESK



By  
**JACK  
MAHON**

**T**HE All-Irelands are over. And after them all what I'm dying to see is a new face in a different county jersey collecting either the McCarthy or Sam Maguire Cups. I have nothing at all against Cork or Kilkenny or Kerry or Dublin but it gets so monotonous seeing the same old faces on the big day.

## CUT-OUT

Our Cut-out this month is one of the most exciting players in the Kingdom's team, John Egan. He is a tremendous worker, and a great man to score a goal.

Roscommon followers will still remember his goal almost on the full time whistle that deprived them of a first-ever National League title a few years back. That goal earned Kerry a final replay, and they went on to win at the second attempt. John is a clever and first-rate footballer and great sportsman.

I have a few books to review in the next issue including **An Réiteoir** and a publication about Galway **Inter Firm G.A.A.** and the 50 years commemorative booklet on the Primary Schools G.A.A. scene in Dublin.

## Mailbag

Some letters had to be held over from last month so we will include them here. So here goes.

**Geraldine O'Sullivan, 447 Iveagh Flats, Kevin St., Dublin 8:** "I love Junior Desk. I want cut-outs of John McCarthy and Bobby Doyle. I am a Dubs fan and go

to all their games, home and away. My father is from Kerry.

● *Good girl, Geraldine. Keep writing to us. Your father is a Kerryman. It must be a difficult time in your house when Dublin play Kerry! I'm sure ye have lots of fun. (J.M.)*

**Marie Boran, Lismorane, Foxford, Co. Mayo:** "I visited Semple Stadium for my first time about a month ago. It was a fantastic experience. Clare beat Limerick that day. I got some autographs and we had a picnic after the match. It was great to meet people like Pat Hartigan, Seamus Durack, Pat Kirby and Mick Dunne. We visited Michael Moroney, got his autograph and saw some of his trophies which was also a big thrill.

I was disappointed when Clare failed to Cork but they'll be back. They are all fine hurlers.

I loved Eamonn Young's article on Munster Football Finals. It's great to read about players like Paddy Bawn, Joe Keohane and all the others I don't remember, and to know that I will one day look back and remember the flashing genius of Jimmy Barry-Murphy, the drive of Pat Spillane and the master-scorer, Mickie Sheehy.

I think writing to Junior Desk is my favourite hobby. I have made many friends from all parts of Ireland through it and I think it's the best part of GAELIC SPORT. My ambition is to be a journalist and if I fulfil it I can say I started off with "Junior Desk".

Every month I look forward to GAELIC SPORT. As well as

Junior Desk I like the Cut-out though I hate tearing them out because it spoils the magazine. Why not put it in the middle page instead. I would like a Cut-out of any Clare player but especially Michael Moroney or any Kerry footballer."

● *Superb letter as usual, Marie. Sometimes in this game—even Junior Desk—you need a boost to keep on going and you get this boost just when you need it most. Thanks, Marie. I'm glad you get such enjoyment from it. That you have made so many friends. And look at all the friends I have made. I wish you luck in whatever career you choose. Thanks again. (J.M.)*

**Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly:** "Kevin Moran shouldn't have been allowed to play for Dublin v. Offaly. My star of the Munster F. Final was Ogie Moran. It was sad to see Eddie Keher as a spectator at the Leinster S.H. final. The stars of the Munster H. final were S. Durack, G. Loughnane, T. Cashman, J. Horgan and Tim Crowley. Clare never livened up to the game at all. [A great way of putting it.] The biggest crowd I ever saw at a game was at the Munster H. final at Thurles. Some of the Cork crowd behaved badly trying to get in—throwing bottles and cans at the Gardai and stewards."

● *Offaly or you, Paul, wouldn't be worried by Kevin Moran now if they had taken all their chances that day. But they put up a brave show. And hand it to Dublin. They came back to win when all seemed lost. And that's the hallmark of*

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*a great team. And it took more than Kevin Moran to do that. (J.M.)*

**James Shanahan, Cooleens, Charleville, Co. Cork**, writes for the first time, was born in New York and has lived eight years in Ireland (four in Clare and four in Cork). James is a Limerick follower. His favourite is Pat Hartigan and he wants a 1971 All-Ireland H. Final programme.

● *Support whatever team you fancy, James. (J.M.)*

**Liam Ó Sabhaois, 6 Mallow Road, Garvey's Bridge, Cork City**, is looking for the following items:

- (i) Kilkenny Yearbook, 1972, 1976, 1977.
- (ii) Tipperary Yearbook — any year.
- (iii) Souvenir G.A.A. Publications (including County Final and inter-county programmes) of either Tipperary or Kilkenny.

"I ask anyone who may provide me with any of the above to first write to me giving details of (a) which item they have; (b) the price and condition of the item or items.

I would also ask that they would contact me within a month of the publication of this request, if at all possible. Thank you."

Liam also points to two recent errors in GAELIC SPORT. (1) Photo of Seamus O'Sullivan appeared on cover as Kevin Kehilly; (2) The supposed photo of Kerry 1944 team was actually the 1946 team as some of the team in the photo didn't play in 1944.

● *Thanks for keeping us on our toes, Liam. (J.M.)*

So much for the letters that were held over.

**Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O., Co. Donegal** wants to buy Cuchulainn Annuals (1955 - '67); Carbery Annuals (1940 - '64) also old copies of Gaelic Weekly, Gaelic Weekly News, An Gael, Ulster Games Annual '67, Our Games Annual

1959, '61, '65 and '68, etc.

● *Readers please note. (J.M.)*

**Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow** thinks that the booing of the Down supporters when Jimmy Keaveney was taking a free was very poor sportsmanship.

● *The booing is all so childish isn't it? (J.M.)*

**Marie Boran** (address at start) in another letter praises the neatness of dapper Charlie McCarthy and the hurling of Joe Hennessy "Who will be great in years to come if he isn't tossed around from pillar to post". Marie pays tribute to the research team behind **Gaelic Stadium** and finally pays a great tribute to Michael O'Hehir for his 40 years of broadcasting. "The hurling final edition of GAELIC SPORT was splendid."

● *Yes, Michael O'Hehir's greatness as a commentator is taken too much for granted. (J.M.)*

**Pat Ryan, 5, St. Thomas Rd., London N.W. 10** writes: "Would you please mention in "JUNIOR DESK" that I have the programme of the 1947 football final at the Polo Grounds, New York which I am willing to exchange for best programme offer around the same period. I don't want any money offers. If possible could you include this in the Football Final (Oct.) issue".

● *Your letter was too late for the football final issue but that's a marvellous offer. (J.M.)*

**Feargal McGuiggan, Tomlaghtduff, Bellaghy, Co. Derry** writes in to praise the Down magazine **Score** especially its personal profiles and its profiles on clubs.

● *What I like best about it is that it keeps coming out. In other words it is supporting itself. (J.M.)*

**Patricia Hughes, 155, Leixlip Park, Leixlip, Co. Kildare**: "I enjoy JUNIOR DESK very much. I support the Dubs and my favourite player is Anton

O'Toole. Apart from the Dubs I think Pat Spillane of Kerry is a very good player."

● *Pat Spillane is one of the most wholehearted players I know. Let's give credit too to his younger brother Michael who played so well on his All-Ireland debut. (J.M.)*

**Sean Twomey, Currahy, Balingeary, Co. Cork** — "This is my second time writing to you. Thank you for printing my last letter. Tim Crowley played marvellously in this year's senior final. Charlie McCarthy, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Martin Doherty, Johnny Crowley, John Horgan and Dermot McCurtain played a good game, too. Can I please have a Cut-out of Ray Cummins."

● *Keep writing, Sean. (J.M.)*

**Pat Twomey (same address)** — "I think Tim Crowley was great for Cork against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland. Jimmy Barry-Murphy's goal was a great goal. I would like a copy of GAELIC SPORT dated August 1978 because Jimmy Barry-Murphy is a Cut-out, and please tell me how much I must pay. Denis Walsh, who played centre-field for the Cork minors lives not far away from here. I would like to know in what position did you play in when you were a Galway footballer."

● *Centre half back was my favourite position and I played there for Galway (with the exception of about two or three games) from 1955 to 1960. (J.M.)*

**Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20 Fairfield Road, Bath, England, BA1 6JG** writes once again to tell me of Pat Cronin's great club achievements in London with An Ríocht and St. Gabriel's. In fact Pat captained An Ríocht this year to their 6th London S.F.C. in a row.

● *I had the pleasure of meeting Dermot at the All-Ireland S.H. final. In fact I understand Dermot's impressions of the final*

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will appear in print soon. (J.M.)

**Philip Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly**, thought the All-Ireland S.H. final a great game, was shouting for Cork, thinks John Moloney the best referee in Ireland and wants a Cut-out of Tom Cashman.

● *Yes, John Moloney is a great referee. I love his authoritative gait on a field. Have you seen a copy of "An Réiteoir" with a colour photo of John on the Cover. It is worth buying. (J.M.)*

**Martin Maher** (brother of Philip) thinks Cork wouldn't have won the final if Eddie Keher was playing. Martin wants a Cut-out of Tadhg O'Connor.

Another brother **Paul Maher** loved the *Trom agus Éadrom* T.V. show on the eve of the hurling final "It was great to see old stars like Christy Ring and Jim Young of Cork, Jimmy Langton, Paddy Grace, Terry Leahy, E. Keher and Jim Treacy of Kilkenny". Paul's star of the Minor final was Tadhg McCarthy. "My stars of the game were Tim Crowley and Ger Henderson."

● *I didn't see the *Trom agus Éadrom* show but I believe it was very good. Your letter wins you a Tipperary G.A.A. scarf. (J.M.)*

**Finbarr Walsh, 7 MacCurtain's Villas, College Rd., Cork**, nominates Denis Coughlan as his man of the match in the hurling final. His Kilkenny star was Ger Henderson. Finbarr thinks that minors such as T. McCarthy, J. Hartnett and B. O'Driscoll have a great future.

● *I met Denis immediately after the hurling final under the Hogan stand. His interview in "The Irish Times" on the eve of the game was very readable. (J.M.)*

**Tim Murphy, Ballydaly Lower, Rathmore, Co. Kerry**, feels Cork hurlers may make it 4-in-a-row next year and pays tribute to the Dubs as possibly the greatest team of all time.

● *A great team yes and to have*

*stayed at the top for 9 successive major finals is a monument to their dedication. (J.M.)*

**Lawrence Malone, 77 Cambrook Estate, Camlough, Newry, Co. Down**, wants the programmes of Armagh's 2 semi-final games and All-Ireland final of last year.

● *Would some reader please help Lawrence. (J.M.)*

**Christopher Cunningham, 16 Wingfield St., Gorse Hill, Stretford, Manchester**, wants to know if Michael O'Hehir ever wrote a book or magazine.

● *He never wrote a book as such but he has edited magazines in the past such as Michael O'Hehir's *World of Gaelic Games and Fios* for a time. (J.M.)*

Christopher really thinks that the most thrilling game he has heard in recent years was the Galway v. Wexford drawn game in 1976. The score that day was Galway 2-23 to Wexford's 5-14.

**Paddy Flanagan, Ard Mhuire, Ard Mhuilinn, Mullingar**, that marvellous G.A.A. Public Relations man writes "I cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, be termed a "Junior" but I am a regular reader of your "Junior Desk". I take a great interest in the letters from the young readers and, you know, there is a lot we can learn from young minds.

One thing annoys me. Over the past few years I have been, in answer to letters in your "Junior Desk", sending programmes and copying tapes for a number of your readers. To me this is a labour of love but it annoys me when the recipients of tapes or programmes do not think it worth their while to acknowledge receipt of said tapes or programmes. It can be very annoying when you go to the bother of sending them and you never know whether

they arrived or not.

Let me point out straight away that what I mention is the exception rather than the rule and it would be unfair to brand all Junior Deskonians with being thoughtless.

Keep up the good work Jack and, if you know of anyone that has a tape of the 1975 SF All-Ireland, will you let me know."

● *Is it possible that some Junior Desk readers don't have the courtesy to say thanks? How right you are Paddy!. (J.M.)*

**J. Barron, 39 Durham Ave., Weston, Middlesex**, tells me he won 2 Leinster and 1 All-Ireland Junior medals with Kilkenny in the years 1949 and 51 (the latter was his All-Ireland year). He is no relation of John Barron of Waterford but knows him well.

● *Glad you liked the Quizbooks. (J.M.)*

**Joseph McElligott, Glenoe, Listowel, Co. Kerry** thinks the All-Ireland semi-finals should be played at provincial venues. Joseph looks forward to my Gaelic Games Quizbook No. 3.

● *Give me time Joseph. (J.M.)*

Over the years some of the best letters I receive have come from **Tommy Flaherty, 40 Lower Salthill, Galway**. He wins this month's prize and so I leave it to the Editor to choose a surprise for Tommy's good ideas.

"Each month in "Gaelic Sport" I think there should be articles on referees, County teams and clubs. There could be articles on football grounds, a book review section and a profile on some all-time great.

I would also like to see the G.A.A., in conjunction with RTE, plan a special documentary series on the G.A.A. to commemorate the G.A.A.'s centenary year. Six half-hour programmes, each dealing with different aspects of the G.A.A.

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would be ideal."

● Are you reading us, Mick Dunne? (J.M.)

**Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway** was a sub for the Gort U-14 hurling team beaten by St. Thomas's by 2 goals in the County Galway quarter final. Norman pays tribute to his trainer Frank Lally.

**Tom Ryall, Michaelschurch, Ballycallan, Kilkenny** is like Paddy Flanagan of Mullingar a marvellous G.A.A. Public Relations Man. It was Tom who earned so much praise for establishing the G.A.A. Museum at this year's Féile na nGael in Kilkenny. Copies of the utterly marvellous programme published for the occasion can be had if a P.O. for 30p is sent to **Rev. Liam Dunne, C.C., Freshford, Co. Kilkenny**. It is a superb production.

● I met Tom at the All-Ireland football final just outside the Hogan Stand after the game but it was too wet for us to delay

very long in conversation. (J.M.)

**Terry Doyle, Ballymorris, Auhgrim, Co. Wicklow** is delighted to see new stars like Joe Greaney and Finbar Gantley find their feet for Galway.

**Mary Fleming, 5 Rossmore Ave., Templeogue, Dublin, 12** thinks David Hickey is the hardest trier of all the Dubs and deserves to be in the Tyler Top Ten.

● Mary loves my two Quiz-books and I had the pleasure of meeting her at the Leinster S.H. final. (J.M.)

**Paul Gallagher, 24, Main Ave., Derrybeg Park, Newry, Co. Down** has a great regard for Cavan's Ollie Brady. Paul talks about his father who played minor football for Wexford in 1941 alongside men like Willie Goodison and Nick Rackard. His father Pat tells him that Tommy Murphy of Laois was the greatest midfielder of them all.

● Earlier in the year I met the great Kerry midfielder Paddy

Kennedy and I asked him to name the greatest player he played against. He named two—Henry Kenny of Mayo and Tommy Murphy of Laois. (J.M.)

**Michael Keane, Moyglass, Loughrea, Co. Galway** has great praise for Joe Hennessy, Brian Cody, the Connolly brothers John and Michael and Iggy Clarke.

Our final letter this month is from **Harry Kavanagh, Kish Cottage, Arklow, Co. Wicklow** who has high praise for Kevin Moran.

● I thought he was marvellous in the final despite every adversity. (J.M.)

And so ends the Mailbag for another month. As I pen these notes I am about to go on a tour with G.A.A. referees to the West Coast of America, so keep writing to Junior Desk while I'm away. Till the next time. Don't forget the address **Junior Desk, GAELIC SPORT, 80, Upper Drumcondra Rd., Dublin, 9.**

*Jack Mahon*

**CHRISTMAS PRESENT**

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● FROM PAGE 39

**Gael-Linn Cup**

Senior: October 15. Cork: Leinster 5-0; Munster 1-6.

**HANDBALL**

Full list of titles in next issue.

**National League**

October 15: Tuamgraney: Clare bt Galway. Cappagh: Limerick bt Tipperary. Arklow: Wicklow bt Wexford. Crinkle: Offaly bt Cork.

October 22: Clonmel: Tipperary bt Offaly. Wexford: Wexford bt Kildare. Talbot's Inch: Wicklow bt Kilkenny.



## John Egan Kerry

Age: 26

Height: 5ft. 9½ins.

Weight:

12st. 8 lb.

Position: Left  
full forward

Club: Sneem

Senior Inter-

County Debut:  
1972

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

John has scored some of the most telling goals in modern-day football.

His last gasp goal earned Kerry a dramatic draw in the 1974 League final, and opened the door for a replay win over Roscommon. He goaled in only three minutes in the 1975 All-Ireland senior final win over Dublin, and also landed the Southerners opening goal in the Sam Maguire Cup triumph last September.

Winner of an All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1973, he has played in every position in the attack, holds four Munster senior souvenirs and helped Munster to their Railway Cup wins of 1975, 1976 and 1977.

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