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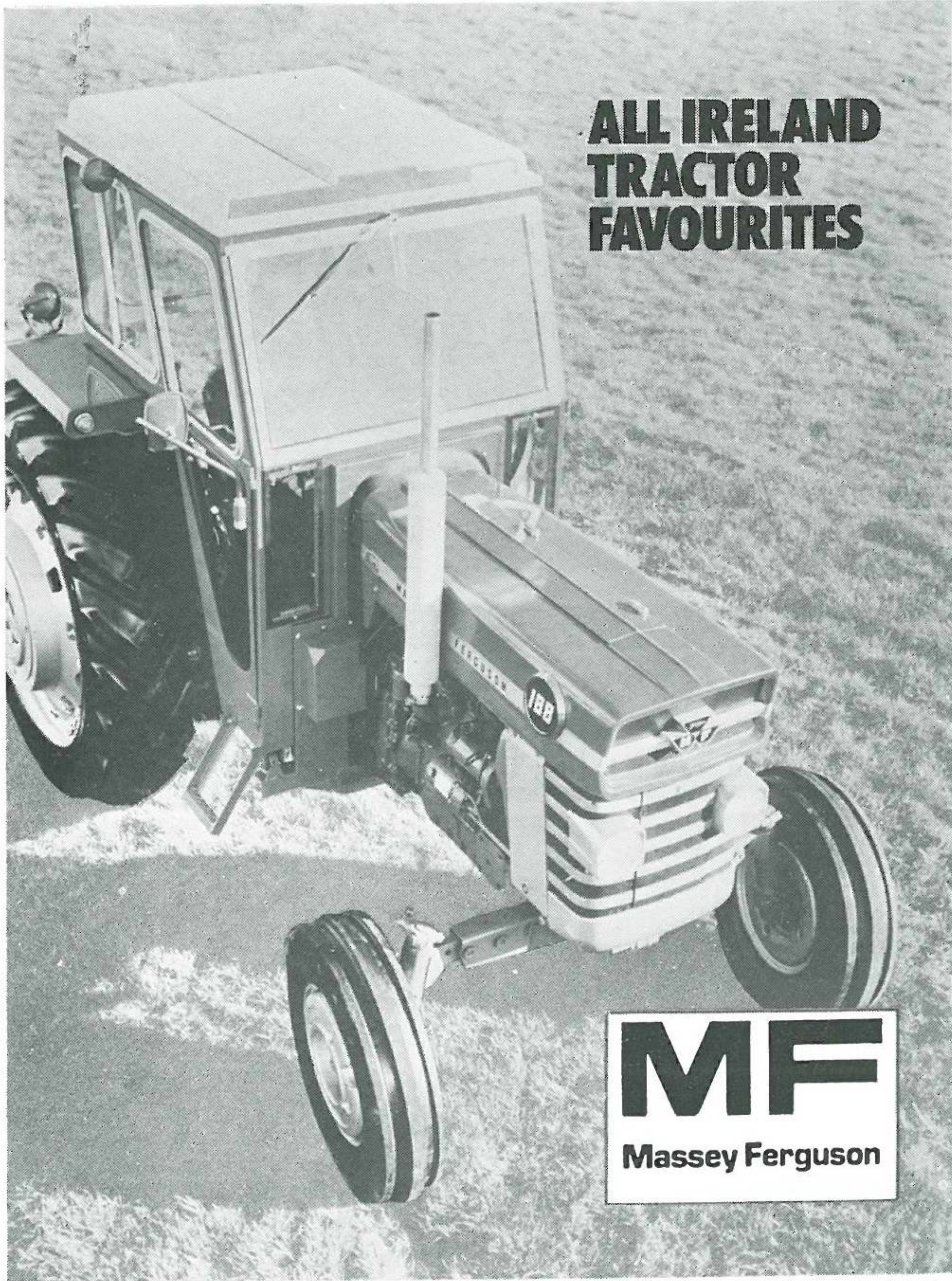


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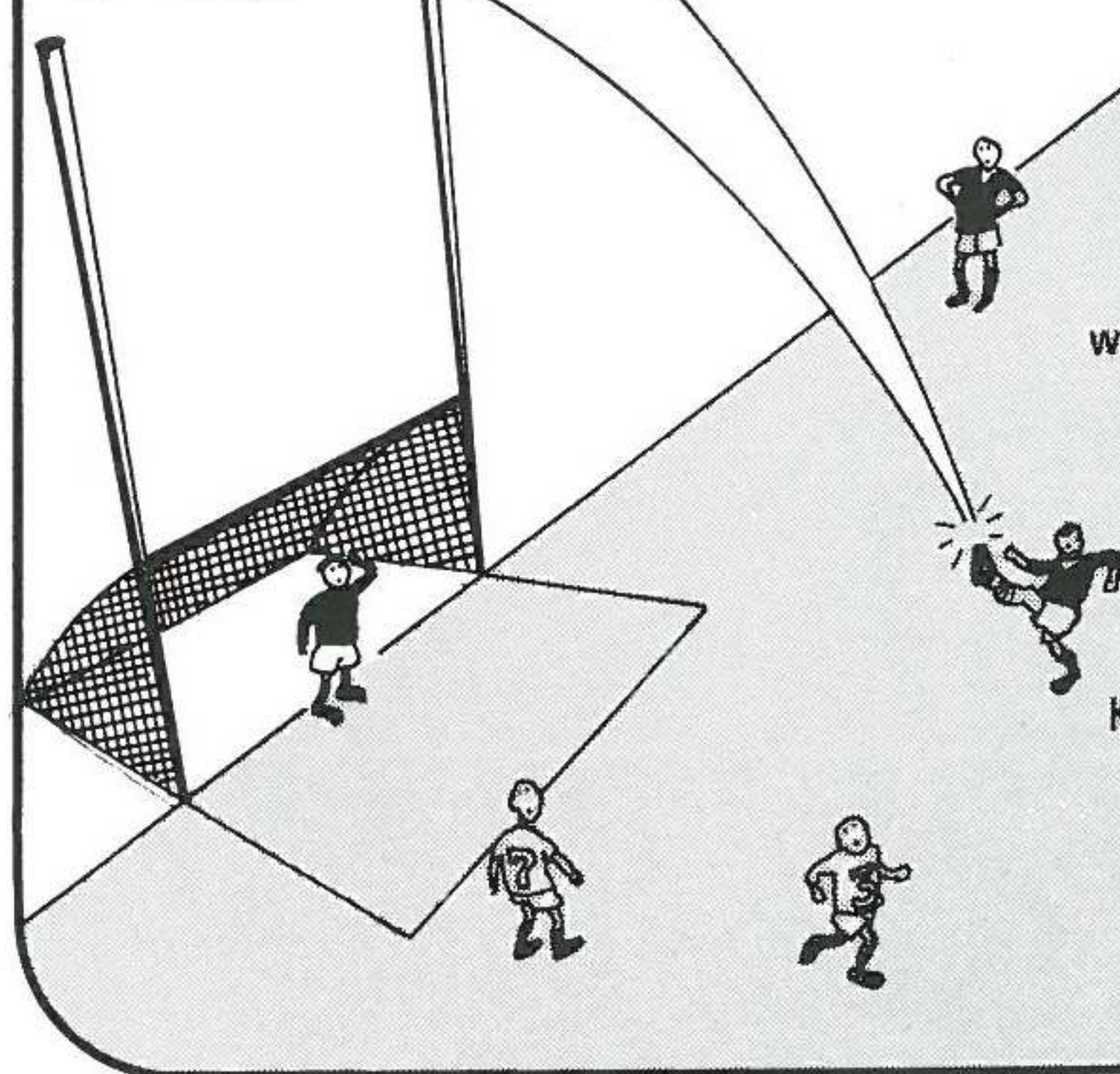
**ALL IRELAND
TRACTOR
FAVOURITES**

MF

Massey Ferguson

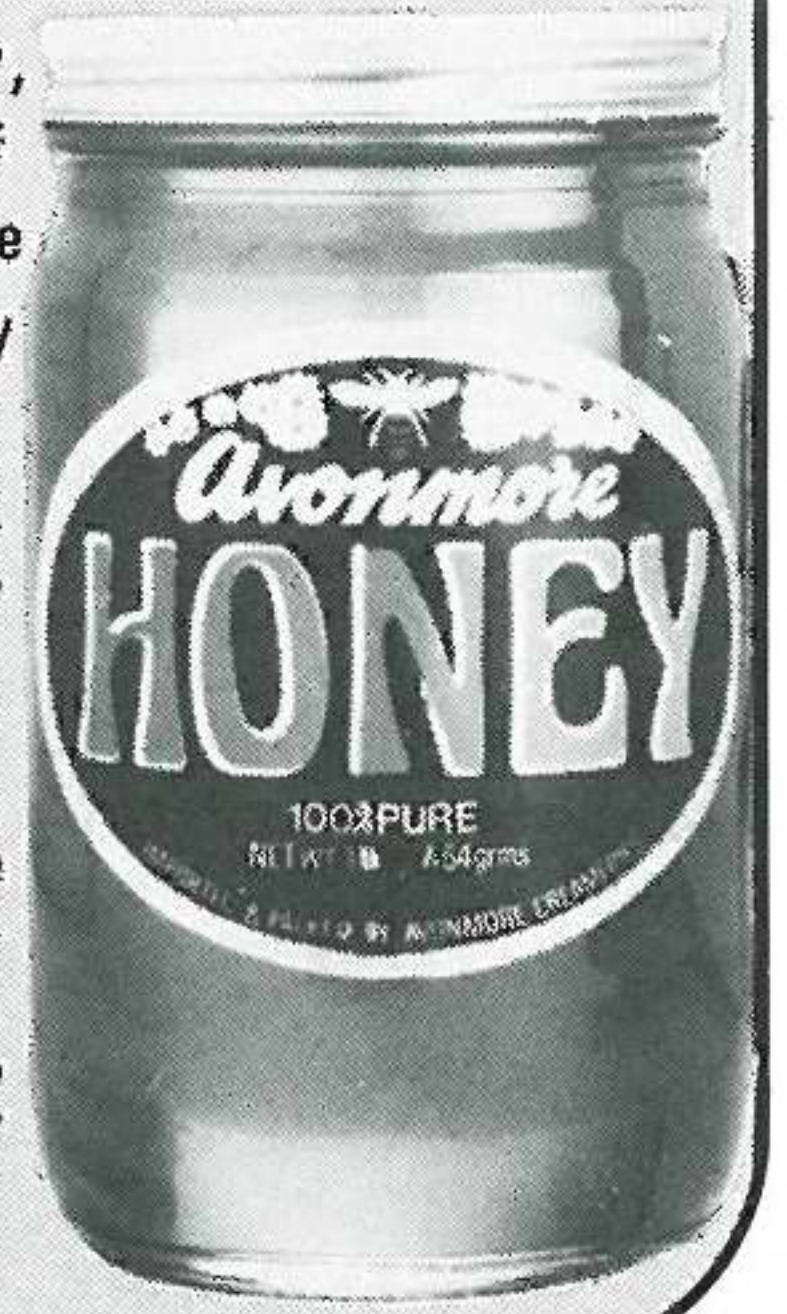


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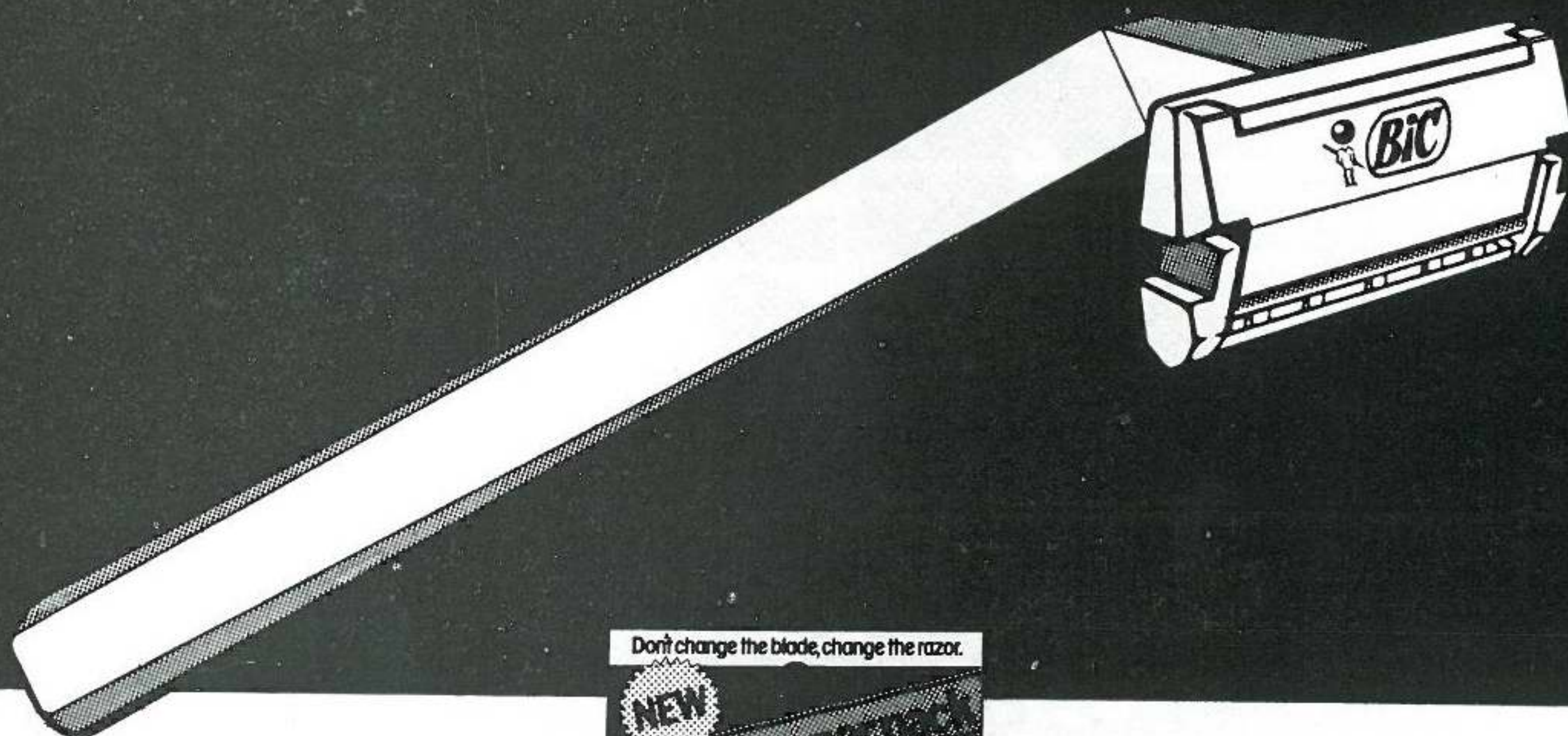
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Gaelic Sport

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

MANY argue that, because of the way that Dublin and Kerry have dominated the titles scene in recent years, it is bad for football in general that these counties clash in the latest All-Ireland senior final.

But is this really a valid assessment of the situation?

Admittedly, it is not good in any sport when the top awards are shared repeatedly by the same select band of teams. It is equally true to say that any game becomes more alive, more exciting nationwide, as a result of the stimulus of new faces and new pairings in the major finals.

At the same time, the type of exciting rivalry that Dublin and Kerry have built, in recent seasons particularly, can also prove invaluable in the development of football.

It may appear from the disappointing fare in the All-Ireland semi-finals that this has not proven the case.

Those ties, however, should not be viewed in isolation. The salient point is that the "Big Two" have not a monopoly of all the top-class talent in the country. Moreover, it is encouraging for the future that more and more counties are adopting the progressive and professional headlines set by Dublin and Kerry with regard to training.

It would be unrealistic to believe that Dublin and Kerry will continue to maintain their current all conquering standards indefinitely. They, too, will have their valley periods in the future, and the hope must be that other counties will then be ready to step in and fill the void. In this regard, such as Offaly, Down, Kildare and Roscommon do appear to be steadily advancing along the right road.

There are other vital reasons why the latest Dublin-Kerry showdown, far from being bad for football, could provide the code with the best injection in years.

Take the final background. Dublin's place as the greatest football team of all time will be undisputed if they cap their wonderful achievements so far with a rare championship treble.

Kerry have set-backs in the 1976 final and last year's semi-final to avenge . . . defeats that cut deeply into the county's fierce pride, and rubbed much of the gloss from the win over the Dubs for the Sam Maguire Cup three years ago.

Then, there is the special atmosphere that surrounds a Dublin-Kerry clash these days, and is sure to result in the many gifted players on duty exploiting and revealing their skills to the fullest possible extent. A match, in short, tailor-made to produce a classic, and if expectations are realised, football will be the over-all winner.

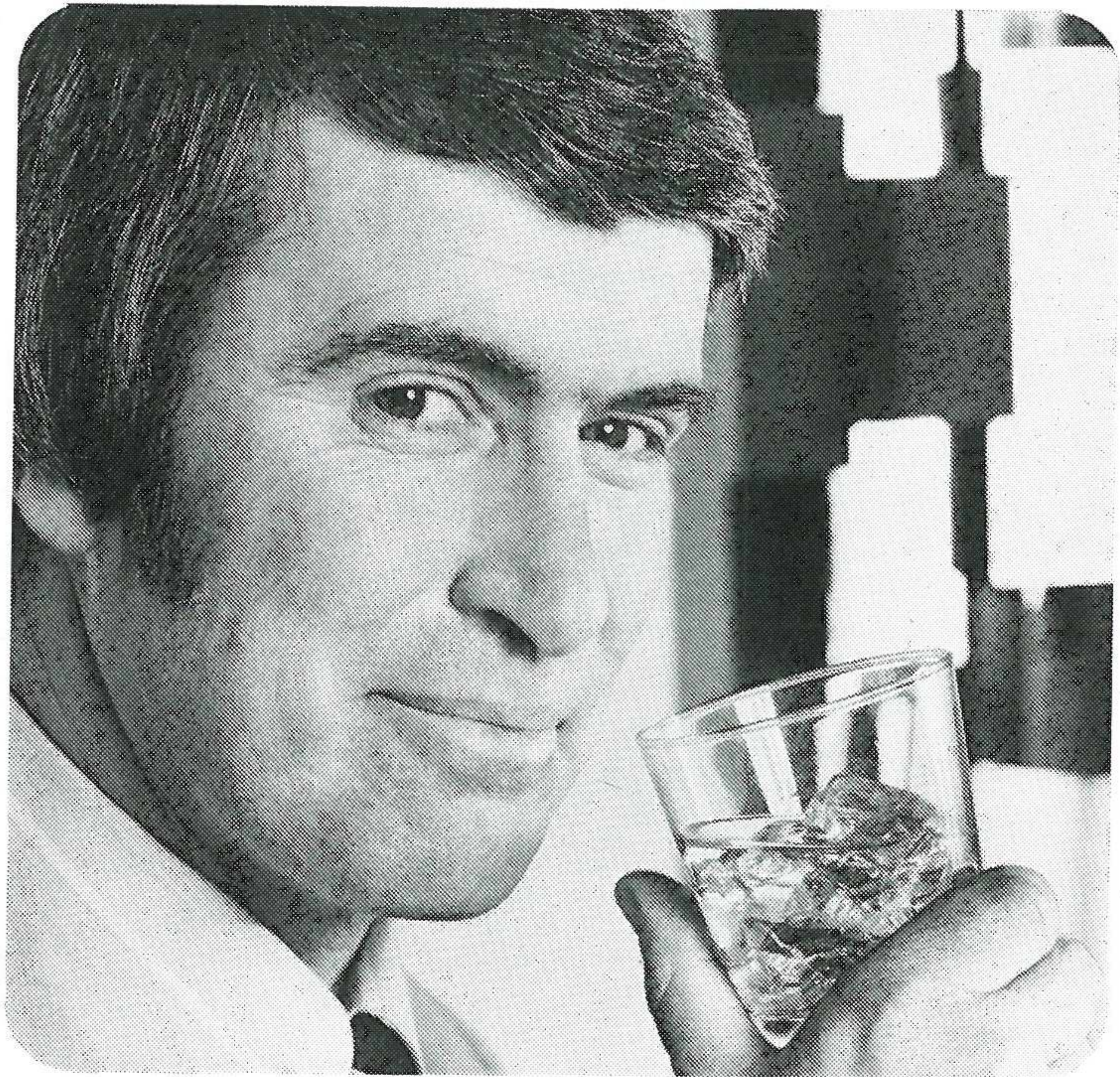
All that remains now is to wish both teams the best of luck.

COVER PHOTO

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

KERRY—Munster Champions. Back row (from left): Tim Kennelly, Pat Spillane, Ger Power, Charlie Nelligan, John O'Keeffe, Eoin Liston, Seanie Walsh, Jack O'Shea. Front row (from left): Michael Sheehy Jim Deenihan, John Egan, Denis "Ogie" Moran (capt), Tom Doyle, Paudie Lynch and Paudie O'Shea.

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

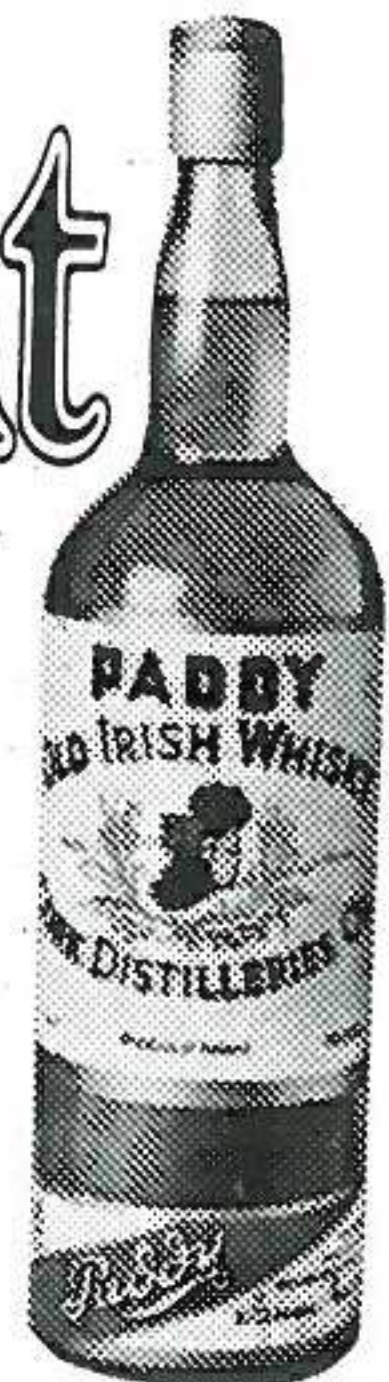


He joined the light
brigade

Switch to

Paddy

And see the light.



guaranteed
rich
8
ARKS



Tyler

Corkmen dominate

Top Ten

hurling chart

DENIS COUGHLAN earns a rare TYLER TOP TEN double at All-Ireland senior hurling final level this month in the ratings, which cover matches played from August 13 to September 10 inclusive.

The elegant Glen Rovers club man won a top-of-the-table spot last October for his contribution to the 1977 final win over Wexford, and here he is again setting the standard in the premier position after his role in the successful defence of the Liam McCarthy Cup against Kilkenny.

Coughlan had powerful opposition. Tim Crowley left a strong impact on the scene after moving back from the half forward line to centre-field, and he also capped his display with one of the best scores of the game, a superb second half point from far out on the Cusack Stand side of the field.

John Crowley was rock solid at centre half, and other members of the defence also caught the eye repeatedly, but over the final as a whole, Coughlan was a tremendous and non-stop worker.

His hurling may not have been showy or spectacular, but it was nonetheless tremendously effective for all that, as he went about his work in cool, intelligent and dependable fashion from the first to final whistle.

Coughlan, who is 33, thus makes a wonderful entry into this season's review on 40 points, to top the table marginally ahead of the unrelated Crowleys.

Tim makes his season's debut on 38 points, and John collects 37 points to become the first

Cork hurler to power his way into the panel to top five in the code for the 1978 campaign so far. John gained 31 points last month, and he now has 68 overall, and a position at No. 3 in the top six.

The hurling decider was not an especially good one for forwards, and this fact is mirrored by the way that defenders dominate the TYLER TOP TEN chart.

Joining four Cork backs in the line-up are Paddy Prendergast, the youngest member of the Kilkenny team at 20, but whose hurling was that of the mature hurler, and the Easterners' brilliant captain, Ger Henderson.

Prendergast heads the Kilkenny representation on 29 points, while Henderson adds 28 marks to his 40 of last month, and now climbs up to joint fourth in the over-all chart. In football, Jimmy Keaveney moves up to second place over-all with a total of 93 points, 32 behind the pace-setting Colm McAlarney. The leaders for 1978 after seven reviews are:

Football: 125 points: C. McAlarney (Down); 93: J.

Keaveney (Dublin); 62: A. O'Toole (Dublin); 56: D. Earley (Roscommon); T. Drumm (Dublin).

Hurling: 104 points: S. Durack (Clare); 74: N. Buggy (Wexford); 69: J. Crowley (Cork); 68: G. Henderson (Kilkenny), M. Walsh (Waterford); 64: N. Casey (Clare).

This month's charts:

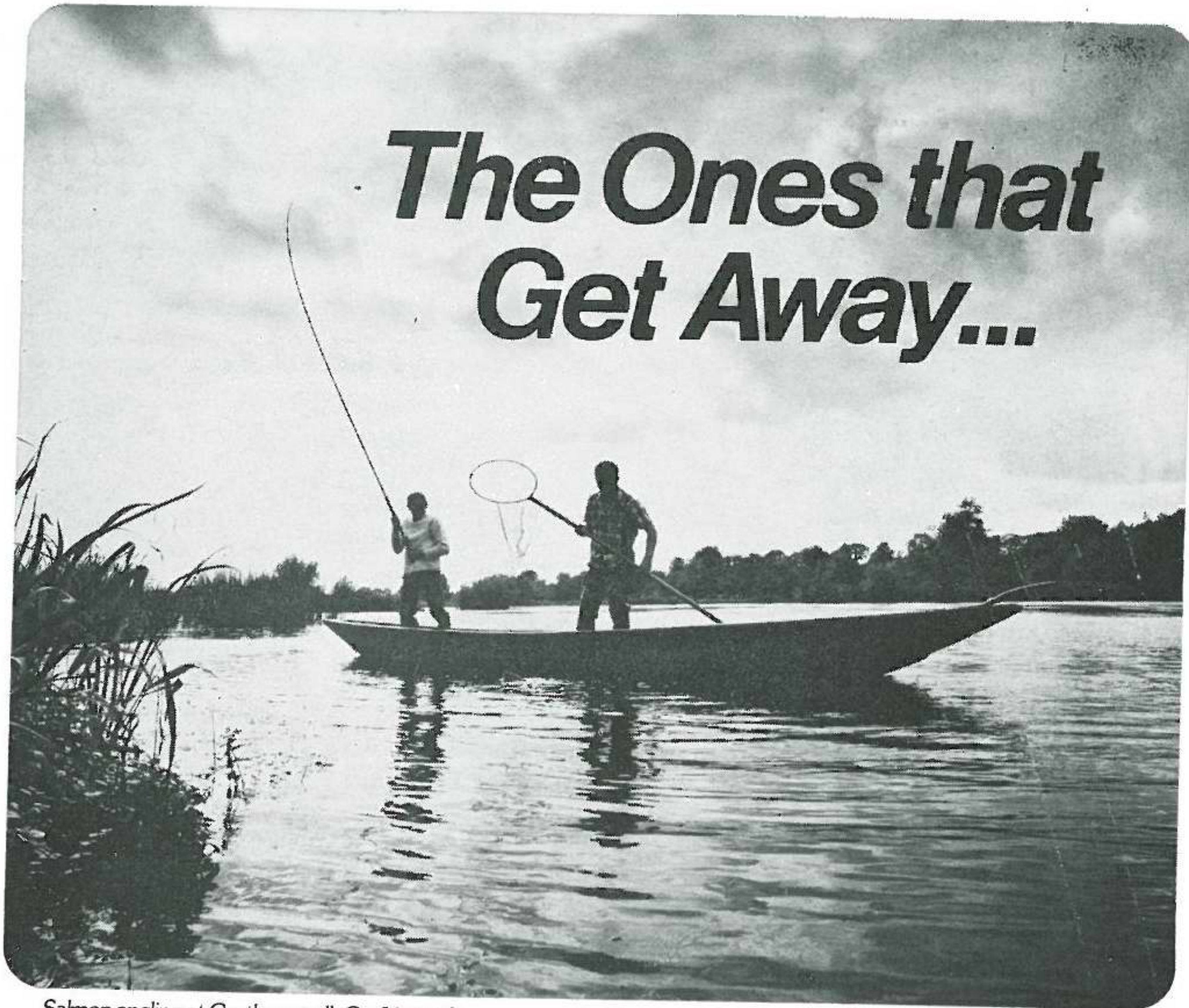
HURLING

40	D. Coughlan (Cork)	40
38	Tim Crowley (Cork)	38
37	John Crowley (Cork) ...	69
35	M. O'Doherty (Cork) ...	35
33	J. Horgan (Cork)	33
30	J. Barry-Murphy (Cork)	30
29	P. Prendergast (Kilkenny)	29
28	Ger Henderson (Kilkenny)	68
28	C. McCarthy (Cork)	28
27	P. Larkin (Kilkenny) ...	27

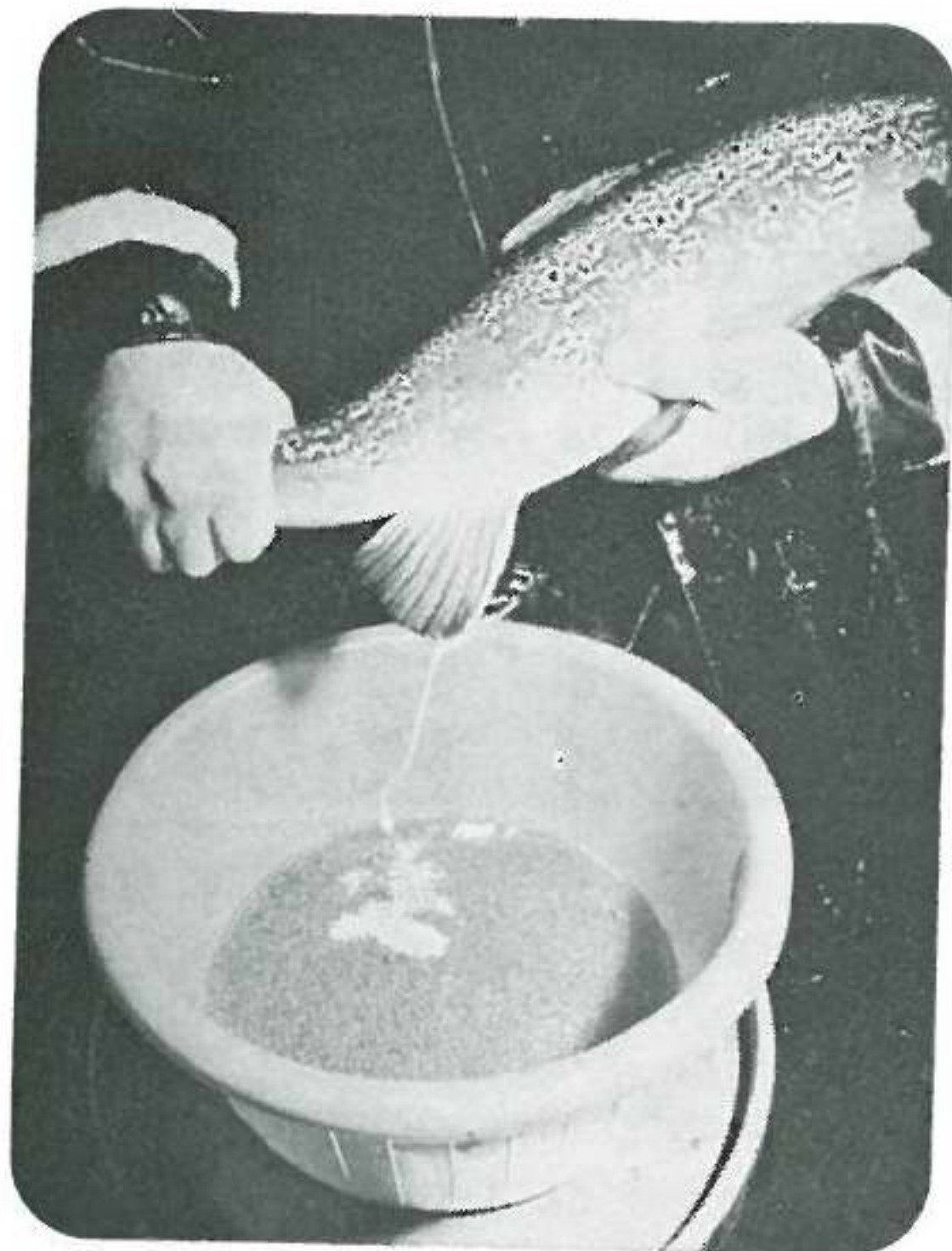
FOOTBALL

36	J. Keaveney (Dublin) ...	93
34	J. O'Shea (Kerry)	34
32	P. O'Shea (Kerry)	32
30	T. Drumm (Dublin)	56
28	J. O'Connor (Roscommon)	52
26	P. O'Neill (Dublin)	49
25	P. Spillane (Kerry)	25
23	T. Donnellan (Roscommon)	23
21	C. McAlarney (Down) ...	125
20	B. Toner (Down)	20

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.

They're not narrow-minded at Parteen; they rear trout as well and these too, go to swell the population in Irish lakes and rivers.

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.



CARRY
ON,
CROAK

After Cork, it must be Dublin for three-in-a-row

WE live in thrilling times, dear, thrilling times, to be sure.

I'm terribly sorry I wasn't here to entertain, inform, edify and anger you all last issue, but the truth of the matter is this: I lost my voice roaring for Clare in the Munster final, but the unfortunate ladeens never heard me.

I think I was the only one roaring in Thurles that day. The rest were dumbfounded by the boredom. Anyway, I spent a week in bed after it, with a vicious sore throat and the devil a bit of good gargling did for it (I mean with salt and water).

I have a habit picked up when working in the noisy newsroom of the Hong Kong Herald years ago. I must speak aloud the stuff I'm beating out on the typewriter and, as you may guess, with a throat like that, I couldn't hear one word I was writing last month. So I had to quit.

I couldn't sing my praises of . . . of . . . of anything. The lark in the Clare air was silent. Ha, ha. Isn't that good? Ha, ha, ha. Isn't that rich? Ha, ha, ha, ha.

But, as I was saying at the

beginning, we're living in thrilling times, dear. Cork won the All-Ireland again, and more power to them. Long ago this year I told you they'd come out on top again, but it wouldn't surprise me at all if you paid no heed. When others were yabbering and spieling about the League relegation I could see around the bend and beyond. I never had any doubt about it.

I was delighted for Charlie McCarthy. He's a great wee fellow and it was nice to see him crown his career by leading his county to their 24th All-Ireland victory.

Kilkenny just didn't have forwards good enough for the job, but look out for the Black and Amber next year — with a couple of changes up front they'll talk turkey with the best.

Cork had a few marvellous players on the day, but the man of the match, in my humble opinion, was the Kilkenny captain, Ger Henderson.

He played a thundering game, almost as good as Mick Roche,

when Tipperary lost to Wexford in 1968.

How is it that RTE and the newspapers never pick their man of the match from the losing side in a final? How much more did Henderson have to do to catch their eyes?

It's true, indeed, that nobody loves a loser. Except this man of perception and compassion, the present writer, yours truly, Andrew Croak.

Well, as I said, I told you who'd win the hurling. Now for the football final.

It's what I'd call the year of the *status quo*. In plain English, both champion teams will stay on their thrones.

We all know, especially those of us who've been watching them since nineteen and twenty-four, what Kerry are like when it comes to a final.

The Kingdom is the home of football, I'll bow to nobody on that; they're born and bred in the tradition of the game; they breathe it, they live it and, by

● OVERLEAF



Kevin Moran
(Dublin)



Jimmy Deenihan
(Kerry)



John Egan
(Kerry)



Bernard Brogan
(Dublin)

Always call your Hennessy a Hennessy



● FROM OVERLEAF

heavens, THEY PLAY IT, TOO.

Be sure that they'll play it like demons in this final, and with the pride of Kerry urging them on they'll scorn the thought of defeat.

But they're meeting a better team and they'll have to be satisfied with second best.

Before the hurling final I saw where one newspaper quoted the Kilkenny secretary, Paddy Grace, as saying: "We'll be thrilled to be the second best team in Ireland."

I hope Kerry will look at it that way, too. Dublin may now be coming to the end of their tether, but they are still good enough to win this one—the third in a row—to keep step with Cork's achievement.

Even Kerry will admit that this Dublin team have done something that no team did before them—they are playing in their fifth successive All-Ireland final having simultaneously qualified for four National League finals. And they've won three All-Irelands and two Leagues. When you consider the concentration required for constant training, as well as relentless competition, I think you'll agree that these Dubs are a team apart.

They are a great team — probably the greatest of all time.

I wonder was it a spoof, that piece in the papers about the G.A.A. planning to ban full-time professionals in other sports from playing Gaelic games? Does that mean professional golfers, Australian Rules players, jockeys, etc.?

Of course not. It means professional soccer players. Well, if the G.A.A. try to ban Kevin Moran, they'll have a revolution on their hands. And they can bid goodbye to all the goodwill for Gaelic football that has been built up by Tony Hanahoe's men among the youthful population of Dublin.

Croak charges nothing for his advice. He's too fond of the games to allow obscurantism to damage them coming up to the Centenary Year.

DUBLIN IN SAME POSITION AS CORK HURLERS

SURE! I'd love to see Leitrim and Waterford playing on All-Ireland Football Final Day. Carlow and Donegal would be another interesting one. But it isn't happening and in the meantime I don't join the groaners who think that the continued supremacy of Dublin and Kerry is bad for the game. The object of a championship is to find the champions, and I go to Croke Park to see them emerge. I'd like to see Kerry win this one, but if they're not good enough then like all sportsmen I'll salute Dublin, and if it's a good football game so much the better.

Dublin are in much the same position as Cork hurlers were a few weeks ago: they must win this one. Kilkenny were in the beautiful position of having a crack at the champions, and they were pleased enough with their four points defeat. We all know how easily it could have gone the other way and I make no bones about admitting that this was one I didn't enjoy, because I could see right through that the chances of being beaten by an inferior team — Kilkenny — were right there for sixty-five minutes. Cork's two wins over Wexford would have been laughed at if Kilkenny won, and every Leinster remembered that only Charlie Mac and Gerald had a successful hour against the Black and Amber before last Sunday — and that was twelve years ago.

Now Dublin must take up Cork's burden. Since that historic first round game in 1974 they have lost one championship

match, and that was an All-Ireland final. What a record! What men! Here they are at the end of their fifth successive championship with only one defeat. Think of the concentration, the diligence, the humility, the control, and, of course, the solid shining merit, which has enabled them to set that powerful metropolitan stamp on the football of the seventies. They have built up a community confidence based on the tumultuous first stratum of spectator support. After that comes the leadership, the shrewd guidance, and the individual merit. How long can they stay on top?

Concentration in any sphere is bound to bring success in proportion to the merit of the performer. If these fellows can continue their shining dedication, they must continue to be formidable, and after all, why should they fail now with only one match more? I see them, just like Cork, ready to die out there on the

field to win this wonderful but maddening three in a row. Galway have done it and before them Kerry and Wexford have done better, but the attitude of the present Dublin player must be: we're going to win this one if it kills us. So much for motivation.

Of course games are a test of balance, shrewdness, skill, emotional stability and luck. If Dublin get all screwed up about this three in a row it could affect their performance. I don't know if Sonny Liston (not the big Kerry forward) got all bound up some years ago when he lost to Ali, while sitting on his behind on the stool. I don't know if Clare hurlers froze up this year. In both cases it could have happened. But do you see Dublin failing because of this? I don't. I see them controlling their natural and indeed desirable excitement by making it the servant of their skills, guile and determination.

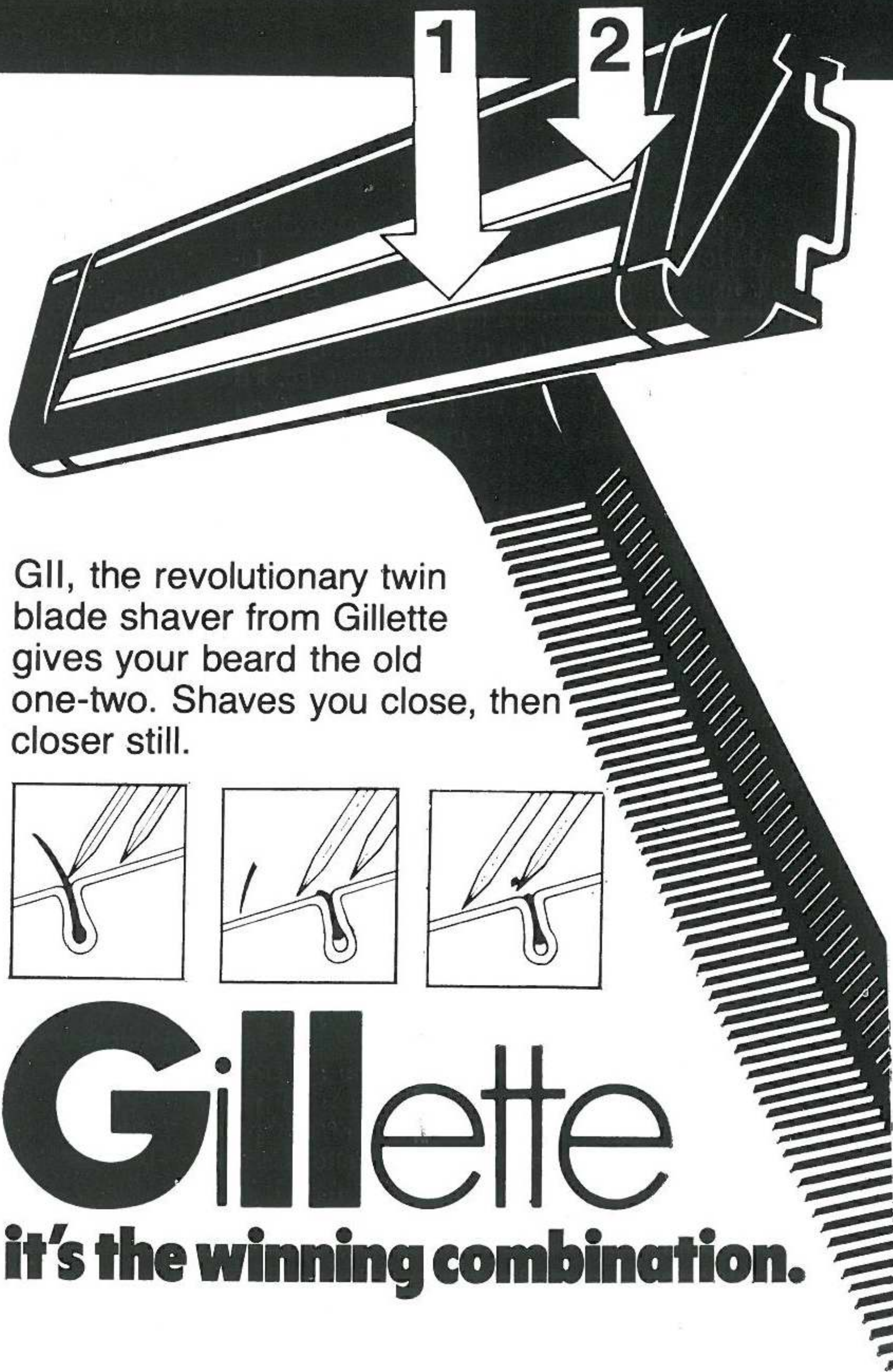
Will they be well prepared? Of course they will; they are. The earnestness, self-discipline, and leadership given by Kevin Heffernan has been continued by that remarkable player Tony Hanahoe and we all expect to see a fit, tough, competent outfit out there on All-Ireland Sunday.

One of the reasons for their consistent success is their acknowledged merit. Size, fetching ability, readiness to use the shoulder, dead-ball accuracy, and plain courage, have made them a side out of the ordinary. I didn't see the Offaly game but a very sound man told me it was all over after ten minutes in the second half if the under-dogs had just a little luck. However, the fact that Dublin pulled themselves together and darted out of the trap's steel jaws only shows how

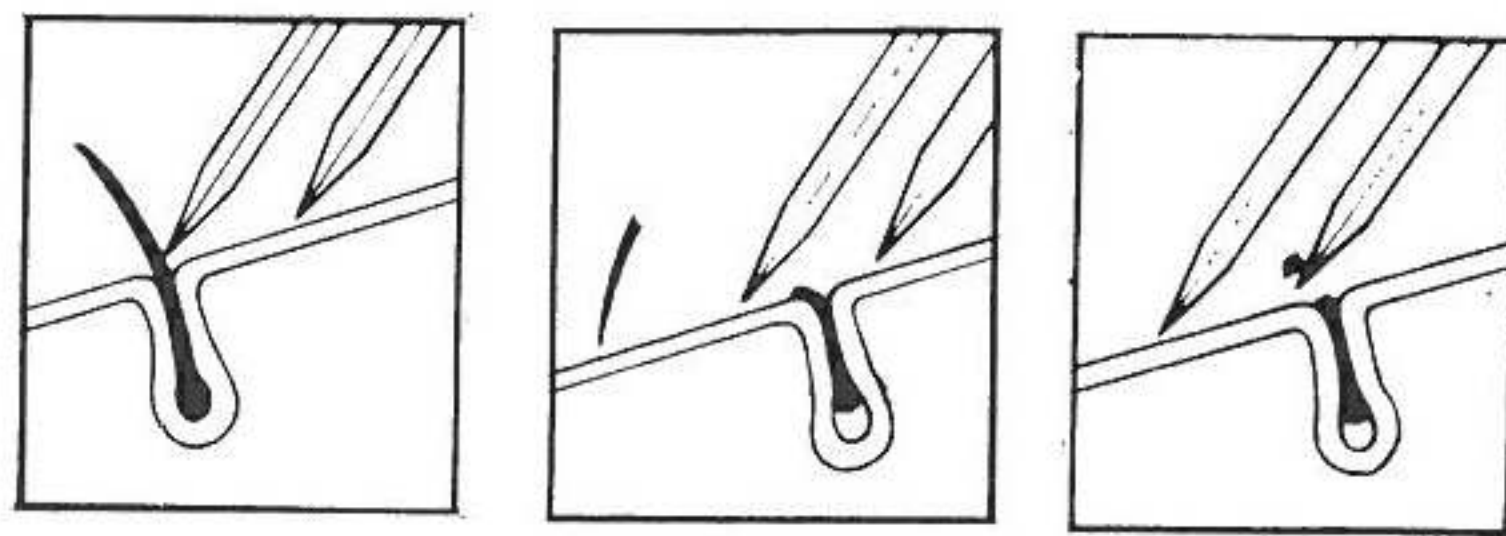
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● FROM PAGE 11

sound they are, and you may be sure that's a lesson they won't forget. You can imagine how often they have been reminded of it since.

Jimmy Keaveney is a very significant player. It isn't that he is better than everyone else in the execution of the general array of skills, but that he kicks a lot of the ball fast and straight both from play and from the dead ball. Remember what Tony MacTague meant to Offaly and Cyril Dunne to Galway. The champion teams always have these strikers and the fact that Keaveney is better than most I've seen only makes the Dubs harder to beat.

This hand-passing racket is overdone and in twelve months it reached the standard of abuse which it took years to evolve in the forties, when Antrim, the exponents of throwing in those days, wisely suggested its abolition. Dublin throw the ball around, but then so do we all these days and, as they can do it better, then why should they stop especially when the average ref. doesn't distinguish so clearly any more between the pass and the foul? But the important thing about Dublin's hand-passing is that it has not interfered with their obvious affection for the true leap where the player gathers himself like an Olympic high jumper, to set firm fingers on the travelling high ball. So many teams in the last few years have depended on the chest-high pass and the solo run. It is here the Kerry style has changed and that's what worries all Munstermen. The hand-pass and solo-run are grand skills, but they must fit into their correct place, as parts of overall range of ability, the performance of which brings victory. Kerry's fetching has gone down because I'm convinced that it is not practised so much any more at club level. Why should



Pat Spillane holds aloft the Sam Maguire Cup after Kerry's All-Ireland victory in 1975. But who will be there this year?

Eamonn Young hopes for Kerry but picks Dublin.



we tear our guts out in training to grab a high ball when there are half a dozen other footballs lying around waiting to be picked up more easily?

I have discussed the motivation, the training earnestness, the merit and the striking accuracy of Dublin above, but let no one think that because I've omitted Kerry that I regard them as inferior. This is a very dangerous Kerry side, owning most of the attributes credited, justly I think, to their opponents. Mick Sheehy drives a straight dead ball; they hand-pass like mad, they have plenty of guts and determination and by the time Mick O'Dwyer is finished with them, they'll be flying. Behind the team the selectors should be as good as Dublin's and indeed may have soldiered in tougher and more spectacular careers. I doubt if they can fetch as well as this big metropolitan side but perhaps their hand-passing is even more bewildering.

Kerry have been beaten too often for their own liking in recent years and they have a big score to settle with the Dubs. Anyone who understands the very laudable pride of the Kingdom, a pride that has been stimulated by seventy-five years of honest (well reasonably honest!) and effective endeavour, since Jack Myers brought the first All-Ireland home, knows what it's going to be like in that dressing-room. They're out for one real crack off the Dubs and wouldn't you hate to be between them?

I hope Kerry will win. They have a great chance but unless they have a neat slice of luck I don't see them tearing from the brows of the Hanahoe outfit the garlands of honour so gallantly won.

Another All-Ireland and all of us there to see it. What more can a man ask?

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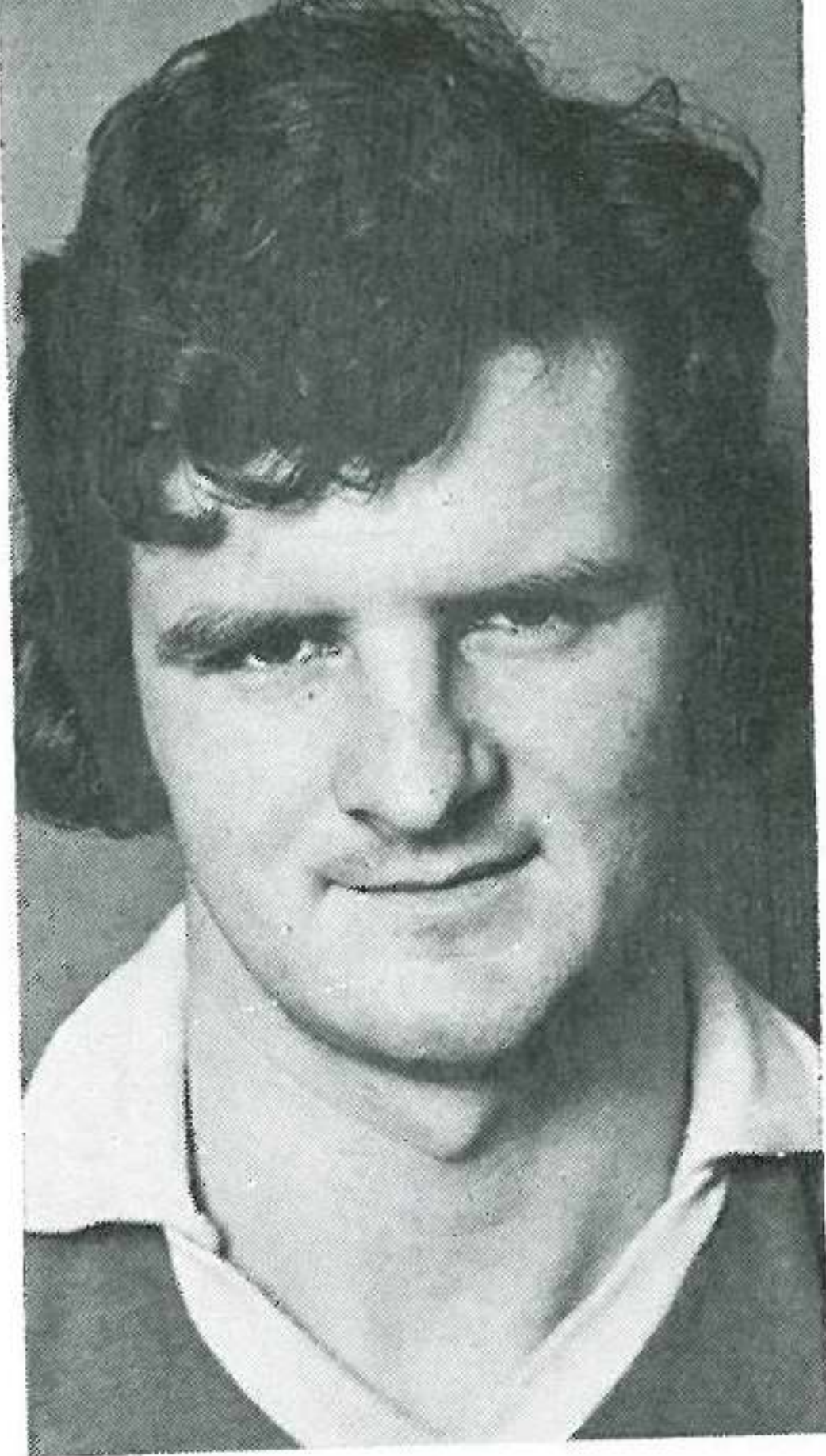
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LYNCH AND LISTON **COULD SWING** **MATCH FOR KERRY**

BY NOEL HORGAN



● Paud Lynch

LOOKING at the teams for this year's football final, one fact becomes glaringly apparent. Dublin look to be far the more settled outfit. The Dubs have undergone little change since they first sprang to prominence in 1974. Granted, there have been a few new faces introduced since they began their successful run, with Tommy Drumm, Kevin Moran, Pat O'Neill and Bernard Brogan coming in at different stages but there has never been a major reshuffle in the side.

Each of those players came in as a direct replacement for another and there was no switching or swapping around in order to maintain a winning formation. To further emphasize the metropolitans' maturity, it can be said that the players to do duty on September 24 have been Dublin's first fifteen for the majority of championship games since they began their current run of success.

By contrast, Kerry have been most unsettled since they caused a minor surprise by taking the 1975 title, a feat which has deprived Dublin of four All-Irelands in a row.

Although the Kerry men have remained the second best football side in the land, the "also ran" tag has hardly kept the men from the Kingdom satisfied. As a result, they have been constantly experimenting in the hope of discovering a combina-

tion that will steer them back to the top.

Not many newcomers have been introduced but persistent juggling about of players has been a feature of the recent Kerry teams. And for this year's final there are some men who have yet to establish themselves fully in their positions. Two such players are Paud Lynch and Eoin Liston, who, if they come up trumps against the Dubs, might well swing the game in Kerry's favour.

Lynch, from Beaufort, gave a performance in the semi-final against Roscommon that suggested that he is quite capable of successfully manning the right corner-back berth.

He certainly has had a chequered career. A brilliant minor in 1970, Paud was regarded as one of the greatest prospects ever at that stage. Quickly graduating to senior

ranks, he took National League and All-Ireland honours in 1975 and seemed certain to fulfil his immense promise in the top grade.

But then he suffered a series of injuries which significantly curtailed his development as a senior star. Paud was on and off the Kerry team for a period but when the county produced a new youthful side in 1975 it was decided that Lynch, experienced at 23, would be useful at midfield. He proved more than useful and as the young Kerry men thundered to a surprise All-Ireland victory, Paud Lynch without scaling brilliant heights, formed a strong, effective midfield partnership with Pat McCarthy.

Injury, however, upset him again and he was unable to maintain his consistency at centre-field. Since then he has been tried in almost every department, not always with maximum success. So when he lined out at right corner-back against Cork in the Munster final in July, many surmised that Lynch was

● TO PAGE 19

A very
important book
for sports fans.




Bank of Ireland
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Sean Walsh can hit high spots this time

BY TERENCE ROYNANE

WILL Sunday the 24th be the day on which Sean Walsh finally gets rid of the appellation, "super-sub", and attains the status, as a full star in his own right to which he is so genuinely entitled? After all his "super-sub" days are long over, and, in addition, that was a qualification given to him by some of the more imaginative of the sports writers at a period when, because of the after-effects of an injury, his ability to last a full game was suspect.

But now that Walsh is fully fit again, and nearing his prime, one wishes the Kerry selectors could fully and finally make up their minds as to what is his best position. One unhesitatingly says centre-field, yet I have seen him play as well at full-forward or centre-forward for the green and gold as in any other position.

Most of the mid-field games I have seen him play have been in inter-varsity competitions for University College, Cork, and Sigerson Cup football is usually a different proposition from even the keenest of inter-county championship clashes.

To date, I think, the best game I have seen him play for Kerry was against Cork in the Munster final at Killarney in 1977. That

day he began at full-forward but, as Cork built up an early lead, wind-assisted, Walsh started roaming outfield to such effect that he had to all intents and purposes destroyed Cork hopes before ever Kerry got the use of the breeze in the second half.

Looking back with the advantage of hindsight, it was probably a bad mistake by the Kingdom selectors to start Sean Walsh in the All-Ireland semi-final against Dublin last August twelve-months. That was one day he certainly was not fit. That was the day, one feels, that Kerry should really have held him back as a reserve. That was the day when he would surely have been sprung to greatest effect as "super-sub". Had he been fully fit that day, or been brought in fresh in the last twenty minutes, he would, I feel, have got a couple of vital scores that, on the day, narrowly

eluded him.

Even unfit, he then looked a man who was posing a lot of problems for the Dublin defence. He could be even more of a thorn in the side of Dublin hopes this time.

I have a feeling in my bones that this All-Ireland final will be the day when Sean Walsh can blossom into full maturity, and, if he does, he could well be the man on whom Dublin's three-in-a-row hopes founder. There is one intriguing thought about Sean Walsh that leaves one wondering how it might have affected his football career. I understand that he applied to become a student in both U.C.C. and U.C.D. He was, I am told, first thinking of going to the Dublin College, and then opted for the Cork setting.

● TO PAGE 19



● The Sam Maguire Cup — the ultimate prize for Kerry and Dublin. But when did it first visit Kilkenny? Has Terence Roynane the correct answer? Read on.

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possibly on trial for the last time.

He came through the Leaside test impressively, having the better of the exchanges with Cork's experienced corner-forward, Jimmy Barrett. But it was against Roscommon that Lynch showed real signs that he may yet fulfil the promise he displayed as a youngster.

As the Kerry defence struggled to settle in the early stages, Paud was outstanding. He covered splendidly while Roscommon probed promisingly and he maintained his consistency throughout to emerge as Kerry's best defender and challenge brilliant forward, Pat Spillane for the title of man of the match.

Against Dublin's John McCarthy, Paud Lynch will face his most severe test in his new position. McCarthy, like the Dublin attack generally, tends to wander a lot, so Lynch's mobility, not always his strong point, will be sternly tried.



★ ★

Eoin Liston
(Kerry)

★ ★

Should he prove successful, the high-fielding, skilled Beaufort man may well help to curtail the threat of the dynamic Dublin attack and, as well as inspiring a Kerry victory, bring further All-Ireland glory to the Lynch household. Paud's elder brother, Brendan holds three senior medals won in '69, '70 and '75.

Eoin Liston is in his first season on the Kerry senior team and gained his place principally because of some splendid displays with his club, Beale, in last year's championship. A current under-21 star, he played a major

role at full-forward in the Munster senior final. Fielding expertly, he wreaked havoc in the Cork defence with his clever distribution and was in no way overshadowed by such illustrious colleagues as Mick Sheehy, Pat Spillane, John Egan and Ger Power.

Against Roscommon the tall youth showed distinct promise, although inclement weather conditions and a slippery sod spoiled some of his best work. Clearly this strong, full-forward is a man to be respected. If he maintains his form he will pose immense problems for the Dubs and could develop into one of the game's outstanding forwards.

Much will depend on the displays of Paud Lynch and Eoin Liston in determining the destination of the Sam Maguire Cup this year. Dublin look the better and more settled team but if the Kerry men play with zest, determination and the skill we know they possess, the Dubs may be parting with the trophy.

Walsh's big chance

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When one considers the wider scope of football in Belfield would it have been better for Walsh to have gone there? It makes no difference at all now, of course, but it is an intriguing thought just the same when one considers how many Kerry stars have perfected their football in the University College, Dublin jersey, from Joe O'Sullivan to Ogey Moran.

★ ★ ★

By the way, around hurling final time I heard a great argument, in Kilkenny of all places, as to who first brought the Sam Maguire Cup to the Marble City, which is so much more accust-

omed to seeing the Liam McCarthy Cup than its football counterpart.

When Cork won the All-Ireland in football in 1973, Brian Murphy, then as now a Kilkenny-based Garda, brought the Cup to show to his many friends by the Nore. But it had, someone claimed, been brought a couple of years before by no less a personage than Mick O'Connell when Kerry came to play an exhibition game at Nowlan Park.

That was all right and was the answer to that argument, but O'Connell was only visiting the town, whereas Brian Murphy is living and working there and that is a very different set of circumstances.

But then an older man came up with a poser that nobody there in Christy Bollard's was able to answer.

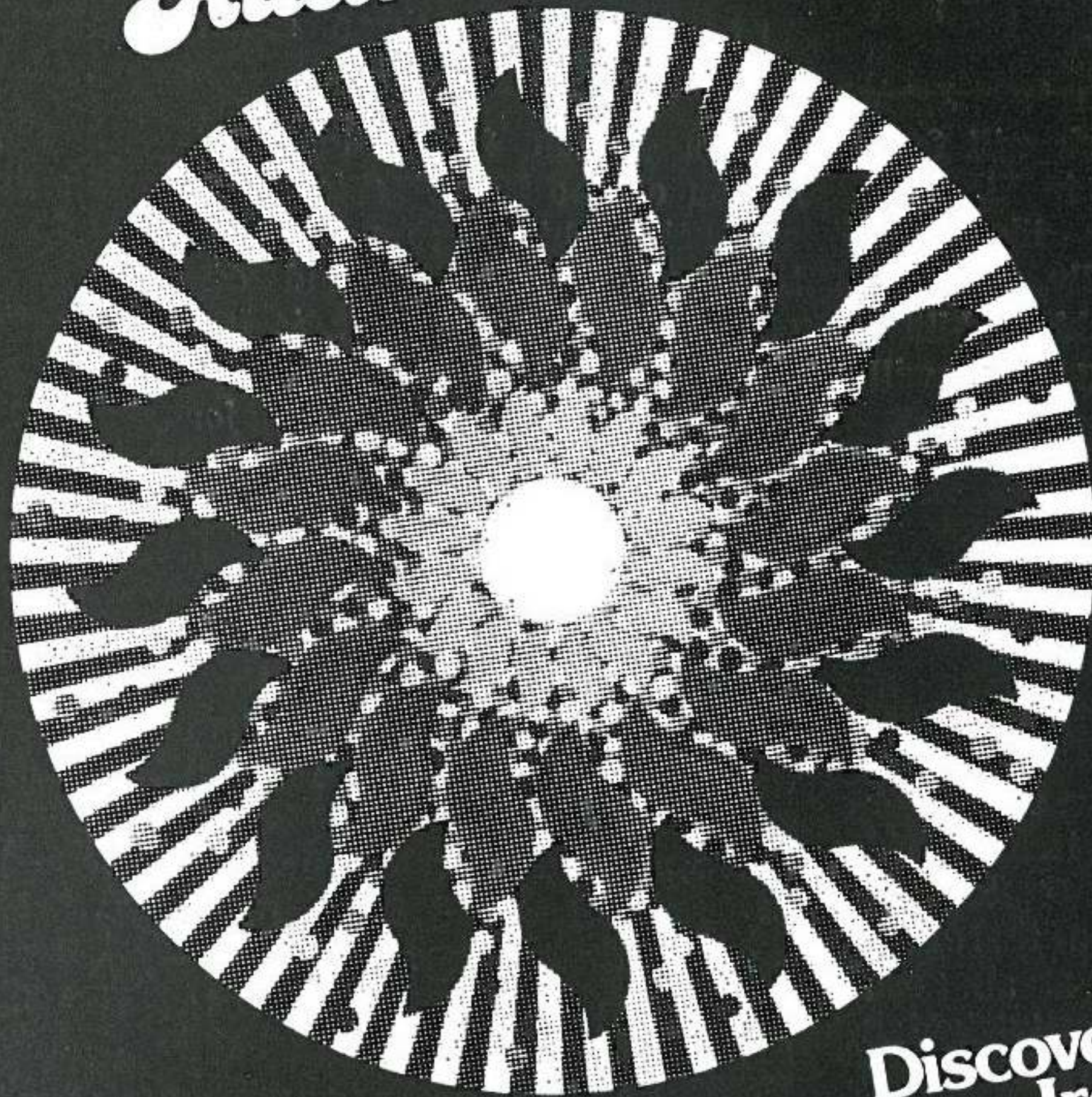
"When Cavan won the All-Ireland at the New York Polo Grounds in 1947 was not Johnny Wilson teaching above in St. Kieran's, and will someone tell me did he, or did he not, bring the Sam Maguire Cup up to the College at some stage for the students to admire?"

It was a sage in the corner who said that, at this stage in John Wilson's career that question, would have to be remitted to the Department of Education for an answer. Maybe it will figure as a question on the History Paper in next year's Leaving Cert? So can it be referred to now as a purely Academic Question?



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The diverse and unique role of Dublin's Anthony Hanahoe

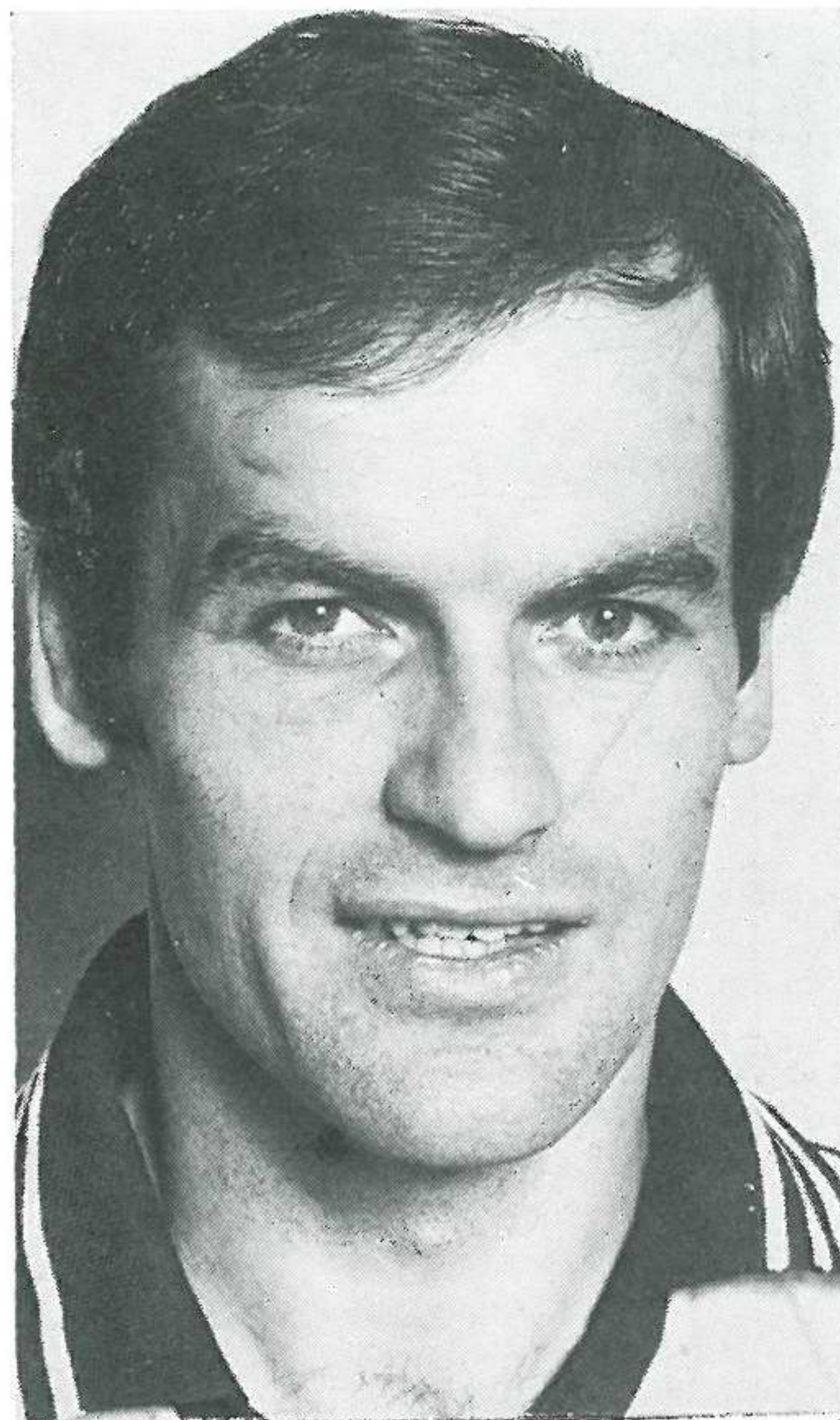
NONE are so concerned with maintaining their solidly respectable or modestly affluent status in life than those who started out with nothing and whose memories are seared with the experiences of poverty.

Now that Dublin footballers stand possessed of riches beyond the dreams of their greatest avarice, there are some among them who are, no doubt, all the more deeply aware of the position of humiliation from which they came.

And what if, in former generations, the family had known better days and passed as much wealth as any others through their hands, that was before the time of Hanahoe and Keaveney and Cullen and O'Driscoll They only remembered the poverty which was their inheritance. And they are still only too well aware of the length of time they spent with only vague hopes of ever enjoying even modest sufficiency, not to mention affluence.

For all of them it has been a hard road, one which has left its memories and which was not travelled without effort.

BY
JAY
DRENNAN



But having made the effort which all must make to change their condition in life, any of these Dubliners of other days do not intend to slip back again.

It is not all a question of dropping back to lower levels; it is also the desire to maintain present ones because they are congenial and rewarding and would leave a very definite void.

Of course, it is not a question merely of maintaining status, or avoiding the fall back to lower conditions. There are many other considerations, such as the test of character involved in each new challenge; the well-being and satisfaction which goes

with each victory and with each preparation for victory; the good-fellowship; the social quality and teamwork; even the union of intent and of will involved in a squad's decision to set about another hurdle.

In brief, no one wants to be knocked from the topmost branch of the tree even to find a perch further down. It is nice to stay on the top and no one wants to fall right to the bottom nor even part of the way in case that proved just a stop-over on the road to the depths.

In the case of Tony

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Hanahoe it must be something just more than all those ingredients because he has been cast in the unique role which has been his since the retirement of Kevin Heffernan. The determination to succeed which would have been his for all the reasons detailed must have been redoubled because of the cloak of management and coaching which has fallen on his shoulders these last two years.

Last year was a triumph; it could have been an unmentionable disaster, coming after success and Kevin Heffernan, so last year was the real test of the kind of man Hanahoe is and the kind of leader he must be for his players. It is hard to imagine a more fearsome burden than that he assumed after Heffernan. Team Manager, coach, overseeing trainer, captain and centre-forward — the key position in attack that might be considered job enough for any one man.

Hanahoe was aware, of course, of the ugly maw which opened to gulp him down: a loss of any game in 1976-77 would have been greeted with swallowings beneath of those who waited for the worst. Nerve-wracking, but just the challenge which Hanahoe accepted and turned into the proof of his stature as coach, manager and captain, as well as player.

Tony Hanahoe's career paralleled that of Jimmy Keaveney with Dublin,

though Hanahoe was always accepted but seldom truly believed in. In and out of the Dublin side — which, no doubt, was not a very inspiring entity at that time, anyway — suggested he was unable to



● Dublin forward John McCarthy who has often scored from a shrewd move started by Tony Hanahoe.

reproduce his best at the top. Actually it should not be forgotten that Jimmy Keaveney himself went through many a build up to the threshold of Dublin recovery only to be dashed down by each succeeding debacle.

Heffernan made it pos-

sible for all the previous Dubs to blot out their humiliation and begin to build their own world of achievement. Hanahoe has continued that for them.

As a centre-forward the role Tony Hanahoe plays for Dublin is diverse. In certain games it is largely invisible to the naked eye, most of his best work being done "off the ball", moving to open spaces, drawing the cover of the defence. But, he also will fetch and carry when needed, setting up a move with a shrewd pass and then running hard to create a further opening. Finally, he comes in sometimes at the end of moves and finishes the scores.

Round him the attack functions like spokes radiating from a hub. It is a great credit to Heffernan to have devised and worked the plan which has made Dublin so difficult to beat; but it must be said that it has taken one such as Hanahoe to make it work on the field and to have imagination in directing the patterns and variations of Dublin play that opponents are still surprised and caught unawares.

As with Keaveney (to a lesser extent), Gay O'Driscoll, Paddy O'Reilly, Cullen, Doherty, etc., it is remarkable to think that but for the efforts launched by Dublin's football authorities away back in 1974, Hanahoe might have given up by now and be unknown to the thousands who now sing his praises. How many others in every county lie waiting for the inspiration and the organisation that brought Dublin to the top?



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That golden voice still rings out, after forty years

BY MICK DUNNE (*RTE Sport*)



AMONG the multitudes at the football finals this week there will, unquestionably, be some who have been unfailing Croke Park regulars on the fourth Sunday of September over several years — no matter which counties were competing. But not a great many of them will be able to claim that they were at the finals exactly 40 years ago and have not missed one since.

Those whose memories stretch back to 1938 will recall that the finals that year had Cavan and Kerry playing in minor and Galway and Kerry meeting in senior with Cavan successful in the curtain-raiser but the senior sides — thanks to an equalising last-second point by J. J. “Purty” Landers of Kerry — having to return another day for a replay.

Two men who were present in Croke Park on that September 25 will be back there again this month for the Dublin-Mayo and Dublin-Kerry finals. They will, in fact, be “on duty” again at the senior final; this time — as was the case four decades ago — they have an involvement in the final more directly connected with the game than even the most passionate of the hordes of supporters. Once again Joe

Keohane and Michael O’Hehir have important roles to play in Croke Park on Final Day.

It would be more accurate, of course, to have written that two young men — even boys — who were at the 1938 finals will be there as very mature middle-aged men this year. Certainly in O’Hehir’s case, for he had just barely finished as a schoolboy when he broadcast his first All-Ireland final 40 years ago; Keohane, one of the most celebrated of all full-backs and a 1936 minor, had not too long before said goodbye to his teens when he entered the Kerry dressing-room under the then new Cusack Stand on the fourth Sunday of September 1938.

Now Joe returns to Croke Park as a Kerry selector having been re-elected onto the committee last January and he will be one of the key figures in the Kingdom’s dug-out, that sunken section of Croke Park which did not exist when he played in the stadium.

For Michael, though, only the area in which he will operate has changed; the role is the same as that he filled in ’38. Without a break he has been commentator on All-Ireland finals over

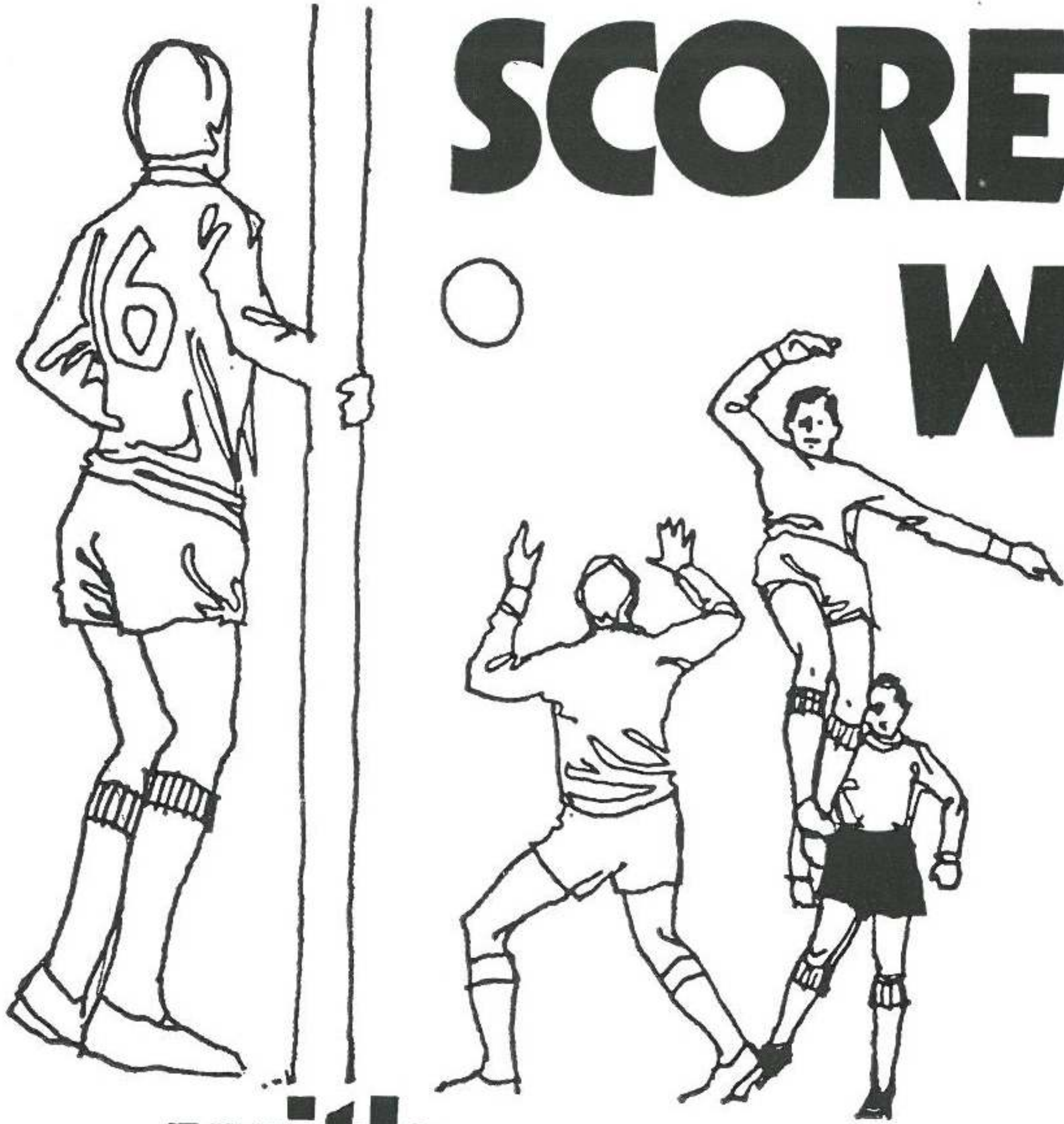
those 40 years, but instead of the wooden radio broadcasting box, which was perched for many years between the old Hogan Stand, which is now in the Limerick Gaelic Grounds, and the long-since demolished covered terrace known as the Long stand, he will be high in the present Hogan Stand surrounded by the electronic gadgetry of colour television.

Nor is the fact that both Michael and Joe will be in Croke Park again on the same day without relevance, for they were not completely unknown to each other 40 years ago when O’Hehir made his debut in broadcasting. Once when Michael was recalling his first full commentary, which was on the Galway-Monaghan All-Ireland semi-final of ’38 in Mullingar, he told me: “One of the linesmen was Joe Keohane, the great Kerry full-back. For want of something to say during a lull in the game I mentioned this, but what I didn’t know was that, at the time, he was on sick leave from his job in the Civil Service and not supposed to be there. I believe that afterwards his boss in the Service good humouredly kidded him about it.”

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St. Bernard

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Keohane certainly did not hold the "slip" against the young broadcaster for during the following week he was a visitor to the O'Hehir home to give Michael background data on the Kerry team which was due to meet Laois the following Sunday in the second semi-final — a game that coincided with the opening of the Cusack Stand.

O'Hehir's entry into broadcasting is well-known, but what is not now so often recalled is that he was thrown-in at the deep end, as it were, since Radio Eireann in the 1930s broadcast only the games of the All-Ireland series. Consequently, having been successful in an early summer test there was no match until the All-Ireland semi-finals with which he could ease into broadcasting. So just a few months after his 18th birthday he made his debut in Mullingar and he celebrated the 40th anniversary of that first broadcast last month when he gave the live television commentary on the Kerry-Roscommon semi-final.

Through the years Michael has become, not just a household, but a worldwide name in broadcasting and his commentaries have ranged from hurling and football to racing and show jumping. In addition to his work for RTE he has broadcast regularly for the BBC and for all three major networks in the U.S. Indeed earlier this year he was contracted by NBC-television as the chief commentator in Europe for their "Sportsworld" programme which goes on the air each Sunday with sports coverage from around the world. In this capacity he has been to England and the Continent several times in recent months for racing commentaries.

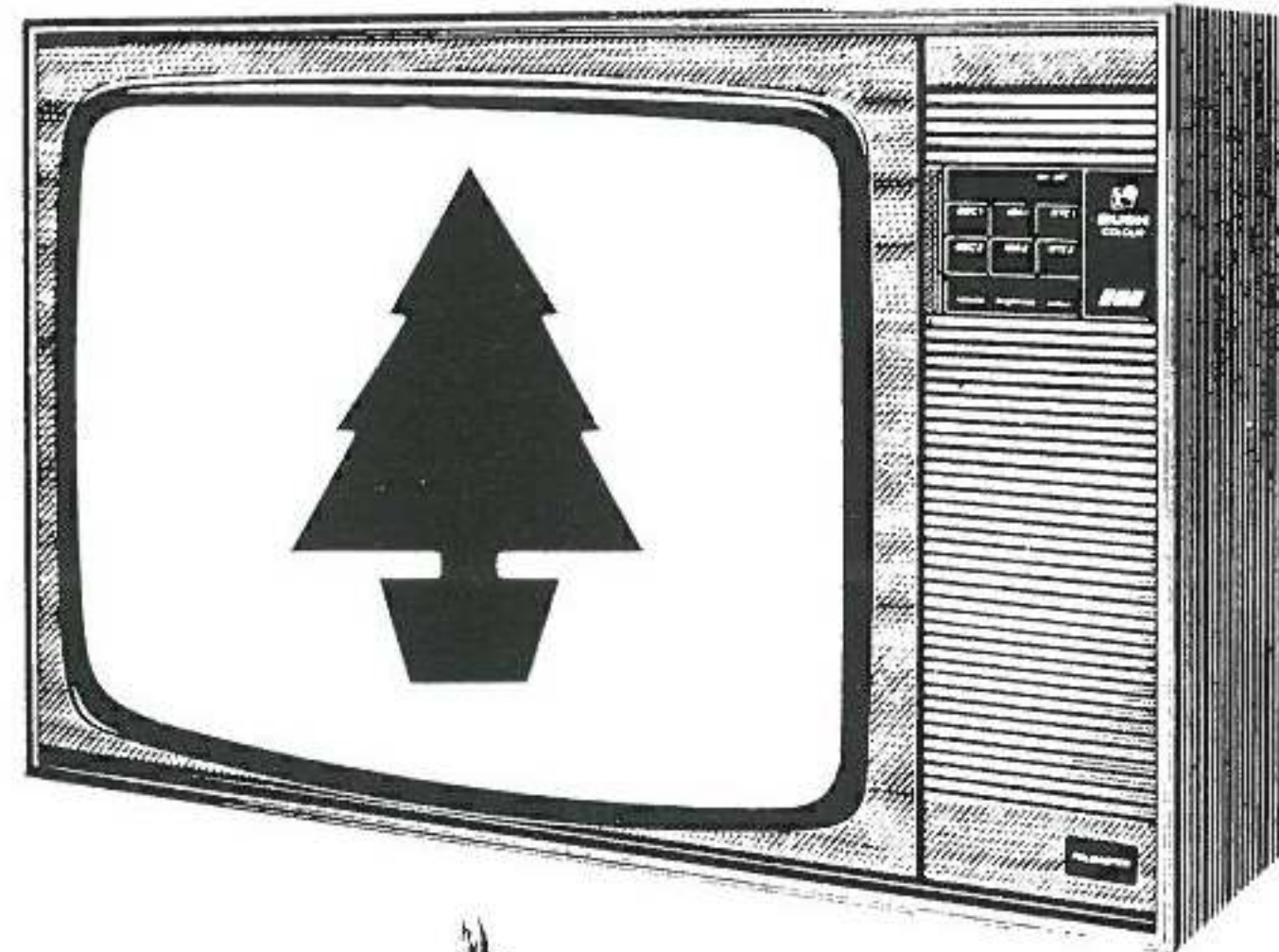
Here at home, particularly on

Gaelic games, he has become an institution. His contribution to hurling and football has been immeasurable, especially throughout the Forties when his work on radio brought the flavour and feeling of the big matches to those unable to be present at the venues owing to restricted travel opportunities. Indisputably he did more than most to popularise the games at a time when it was not fashionable to be at hurling or football

matches, for there can be no denying that he generated an excitement and a "wish I was there" longing in his listeners with the articulateness of his enunciation and the rapidity of his flow of words through the microphone.

The youngsters of three generations of his listeners, particularly in rural Ireland, before the advent of television had to rely solely on his flow of words to

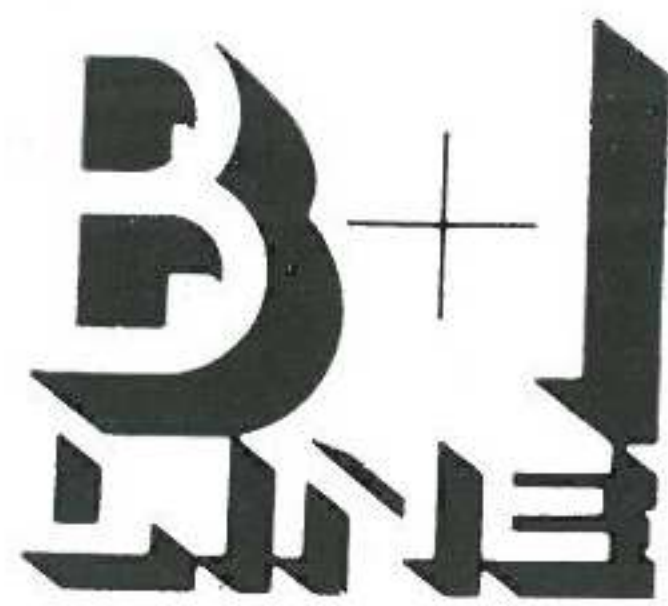
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Jimmy and Mike, ace marksmen in rival camps

By NEIL McCAVANA

WHATEVER about forecasting the probable winners of the All-Ireland senior football final, or speculating on the standard of play likely to be provided by Dublin and Kerry, one appears on the firmest possible ground when saying that this is a game that will prove something special in the individual scoring line. Certainly, the omens in this regard could not be brighter with men of the artistry and accuracy of Jimmy Keaveney and Michael Sheehy in the vanguard.

Keaveney must rank as one of the greatest scoregetters in the history of football. Perhaps he has not scaled in any year scoring peaks as high as some of the famed sharpshooters of the past, but when one considers the intense pressures Dublin have been under since reaching the top, pressures that have made practically every competitive match a duel of nation-wide importance, it says much for the qualities of the long-serving full forward that he has dominated the scoring lists over the past

four years in really exciting style.

Sheehy is walking tall in the tradition of Mick O'Dwyer, Kerry's greatest hot-shot ever. In just under five years in the senior inter-county ranks, he can point to an efficiency and a consistency in finding the target that has been matched by few in their early years in competitive senior play.



★
*Mike Sheehy
(Kerry)
— "score-
getter extra-
ordinary"*

★

Many factors have contributed to the proud positions that Dublin and Kerry command in the current football rankings, but no matter what way one examines the development of both sides, there can be no disputing the fact that the uncanny

skills of Keaveney and Sheehy in turning chances into scores, and also in capitalising with machine-like precision on free-kick situations, stand out prominently in the success stories.

Remember the way that Keaveney snapped up a gilt-edge chance in last year's final to rock Armagh in the opening minutes with a goal from an acute angle along the Hill 16 end line? And, it was the legendary St. Vincent's man who also set the All-Ireland champions firmly on the road against Down in the recent semi-final with a somewhat similar goal to last year's final opener when he put the finishing touch in the 20th minute to a typical Dubs build-up?

Those are just a couple of the many examples that come readily to mind of the goal-getting qualities of the wily attacker, who was 33 last February.

Nor does one have to have recourse to records either to appreciate the way that Sheehy can come up trumps in dynamic fashion with sharpshooting exercises in cold, clinical manner. Derry supporters, for instance, will ruefully recall his hat-trick of goals in the country's crash to the Kingdom in the 1976 All-Ireland semi-final.

And, in more recent times, it was the Austin Stacks club man's goal-getting flair that put the final touch to a brilliant Kerry movement late in the first half of the Munster final, and to all intents and purposes sealed a successful defence of the Southern crown at Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

As for free-kicks — this pair need no lesson from any of the great experts of the past. Sure, they have their off-days — the Dubliner had some uncharacteristic misses against Down last month — but generally speaking

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● FROM PAGE 29

frees are invariably turned by Keaveney and Sheehy into vital points, and, indeed, with either around, sideline kicks can also prove a costly concession by the opposing team.

I have seen both hit some superb points from the sideline, with one of the best coming from Sheehy in last year's All-Ireland club final at Croke Park.

Austin Stacks and Derry's Ballerin were level with five minutes remaining when they earned a sideline kick underneath the Hogan Stand some 21 yards out from the Railway goal. There was a very tricky wind, but this was judged superbly by Sheehy as he floated the ball over the bar. The Munster side went on to take the title.

Concentration and patience are, in my view, the main attributes that keep Jimmy Keaveney and Michael Sheehy so masterful in finding their ways through to goal. This results in free-kicks being approached in an unflurried, positive manner, and also ensures that scoring chances from play are not squandered through hasty and ineffective kicking.

Keaveney, who set a new individual scoring record for an All-Ireland senior football final last September at 2-6, is now the Dubs longest-serving county footballer. He made his senior inter-county debut in 1964, and the following year helped the Liffesiders lift the Leinster crown.

Dublin were beaten by Kerry in the semi-final, and they did not win out in the province again until 1974, the year in which the six-footer made a come-back to inter-county fare after a two-year retirement.

That come-back against Louth in a Leinster second round tie at Navan was without question one of the chief factors that set



Jimmy Keaveney (Dublin) who set a new record in last year's All-Ireland Final with a tally of 2-6.

Dublin on the glory trail. In the meantime he has maintained the type of form that ensures he will again prove one of the county's most potent and gilt-edged assets in this latest meeting with Kerry.

Three All-Ireland senior medals, two National League souvenirs, and Carrolls All Stars awards in 1974 and 1977 testify in tangible fashion to the tremendous impact Jimmy Keaveney has made on the scene

in the past five years. And, for good measure, he also won an All-Ireland Club medal with St. Vincent's in 1976.

Sheehy, too, has reaped a rich harvest in addition to forging out that great reputation as a score-getter extraordinary. In between winning All-Ireland under-21 medals in 1973 and 1975, he played his part in bringing about Dublin's last senior champion-

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FINAL FORMSCAN

By Owen McCann

KERRY, representing Munster for the 57th time, had three games on the way to this first final since they lost the Sam Maguire Cup to Dublin in the 1976 summit. The Dubs, who chalked up their 34th Leinster title win in July, had four engagements.

Kerry, who shocked Dublin with a young side in the 1975 final, had to line out without Vincent O'Connor and Eoin Liston in their first round match against Waterford last June at Killarney. But the loss of that pair through injuries did not prevent them from emerging clear-cut winners by 4-27 to 2-8.

The provincial final with Cork drew a crowd of just over 46,000 to Pairc Uí Chaoimh, but never really came up to expectations. Cork opened promisingly with a point and a penalty goal inside six minutes, but the visitors began to get their game together after that. Three quick points, followed by a goal in 15 minutes, stabbed home by Ger Power, and another goal six minutes from the interval by Michael Sheehy, following a brilliant movement, set the Munster champions firmly in the driver's seat by the interval.

In the end, they went on to take their fourth title in a row with a convincing 3-14 to 3-7 success.

A bright star for the champions was Denis "Ogie" Moran, their superb captain, who turned on the style both at left half back and centre half. He received strongest support from Charlie

Nelligan, Paud O'Shea, Michael Sheehy and John Egan.

Kerry did not look All-Ireland champions in waiting when beating a disappointing Roscommon by 3-11 to 0-8 before a crowd of 25,594 in a poor semi-final played in miserable weather conditions. Still, considering the conditions, it was no mean performance by the Southerners to win so comprehensively, and there can be little doubt that Kerry have the all round ability to leave that form far behind them in the final —

and are likely to do just that as well!

It must have been encouraging, though, for the Munster stalwarts that Jack O'Shea, one of their bright young hopes, had a splendid game in their problem midfield area, and there was much to admire as well in the polished and efficient half back football of Paud O'Shea and Tim Kennelly.

The men from the Kingdom chalked up 10-52 (82 points) on the way to the summit, which gives them a match average of

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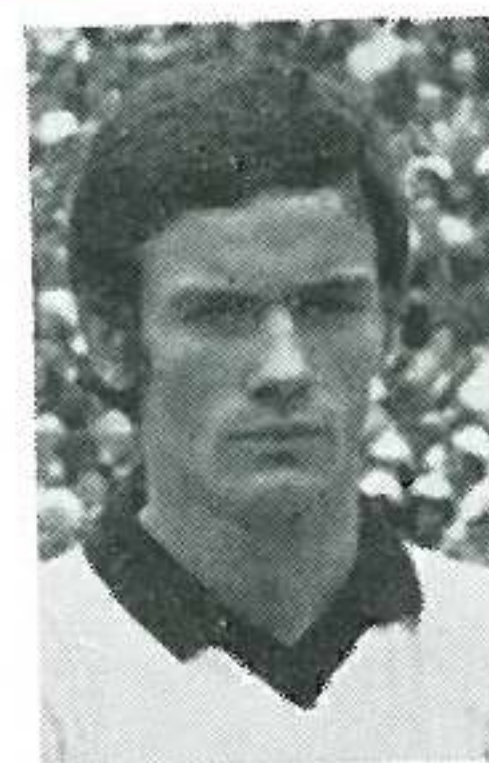
John O'Keeffe
(Kerry)



● Pat Spillane
(Kerry)



Brian Mullins
(Dublin)



● John McCarthy
(Dublin)

27-33 points. They conceded 5-23 (38 points), or 12.66 points an outing.

By far their chief scoregetter is Michael Sheehy, who notched 4-17 (29 points) in three games. Pat Spillane comes next with 3-11, and he is followed by Ger Power on 2-5. John Egan shot 0-8, Tom Doyle 0-5, and Pat O'Mahony scored a goal on his appearance as a substitute against Roscommon. The chart is completed by Johnny Mulvihill 0-2, and Michael O'Sullivan, Paud O'Shea, Eoin Liston and

Jack O'Shea with a point apiece.

Dublin could hardly have set their All-Ireland treble title bid on course in more encouraging fashion than their resounding 6-15 to 2-9 win over Carlow at Carlow. They received a real fright next time out, though, at Portlaoise, where an exciting and talented Offaly team went within an ace of bringing in the upset of the decade. Indeed, but for rank bad finishing Offaly must surely have won that game.

As it was, a John McCarthy goal three minutes from time

only sealed the match for Dublin, who eventually triumphed by 2-9 to 0-12 — a three points winning margin. That was the game in which Manchester United-based Kevin Moran made his season's debut in the championship, going in as a substitute after the interval. However, Anton O'Toole was Dublin's best performer over the game as a whole.

Many felt after that score that time was finally catching up on this grand Dublin squad, but the champions answered the critics by producing one of their best displays yet when seeing off a much fancied Kildare in the Leinster final before 53,512 spectators. The defence, with Gay O'Driscoll and Pat O'Neil setting a particularly high standard, proved the springboard of the 1-17 to 1-6 victory effort to earn Dublin their first run of five Leinster titles in a row in some 50 odd years.

Down, with many exciting performers and hopes raised by a good campaign in the North, rocked the Dubs in the opening stages of the All-Ireland semi-final with three points without reply in the four opening minutes.

But the holders steadily came to terms with the situation, and after a Jimmy Keaveney goal in 20 minutes they were firmly on their way.

The semi-final fizzled out as a contest with the dismissal of Cathal Digney just before the interval, and, although it was not vintage Dublin after that,

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● FROM PAGE 33

Keaveney, John McCarthy, Tommy Drumm, Brian Mullins and Bernard Brogan did spark the side in a manner which hinted that the best was still to come.

Dublin had 11 points to spare at the final whistle — 1-16 to 0-8. That boosted their record to

10-57 (87 points), or five points more than Kerry at an average of 21.75 points. Surprisingly enough they conceded six points more than the Kingdom at 3-35 (44 points), a match rating of 11 points.

Jimmy Keaveney is, understandably enough, their chief scorer, with 29 points, the same

as Sheehy. His scoreline is 2-23. Then comes the goal expert of the team, John McCarthy with 4-11. Tony Hanahoe shot 2-6, and Bobby Doyle comes next with 1-3.

Bernard Brogan scored four points, Anton O'Toole, three, David Hickey a goal, and Fran Ryder, Brian Mullins, Robbie Kelleher, Pat Gogarty, Pdraig Hogan, Pat O'Neill and Gay O'Driscoll a point apiece.

Dublin are chasing their "coming of age" All-Ireland senior title, last year's win having been their 20th. They are seeking the first treble in the code since Galway achieved that feat in 1964-66, and the county's first such achievement since the 1921-1923 golden era.

Kerry won the title for the 23rd time in 1975, a game which marked the Dubs' last championship defeat. The Southerners won that tie by 2-12 to 0-11.

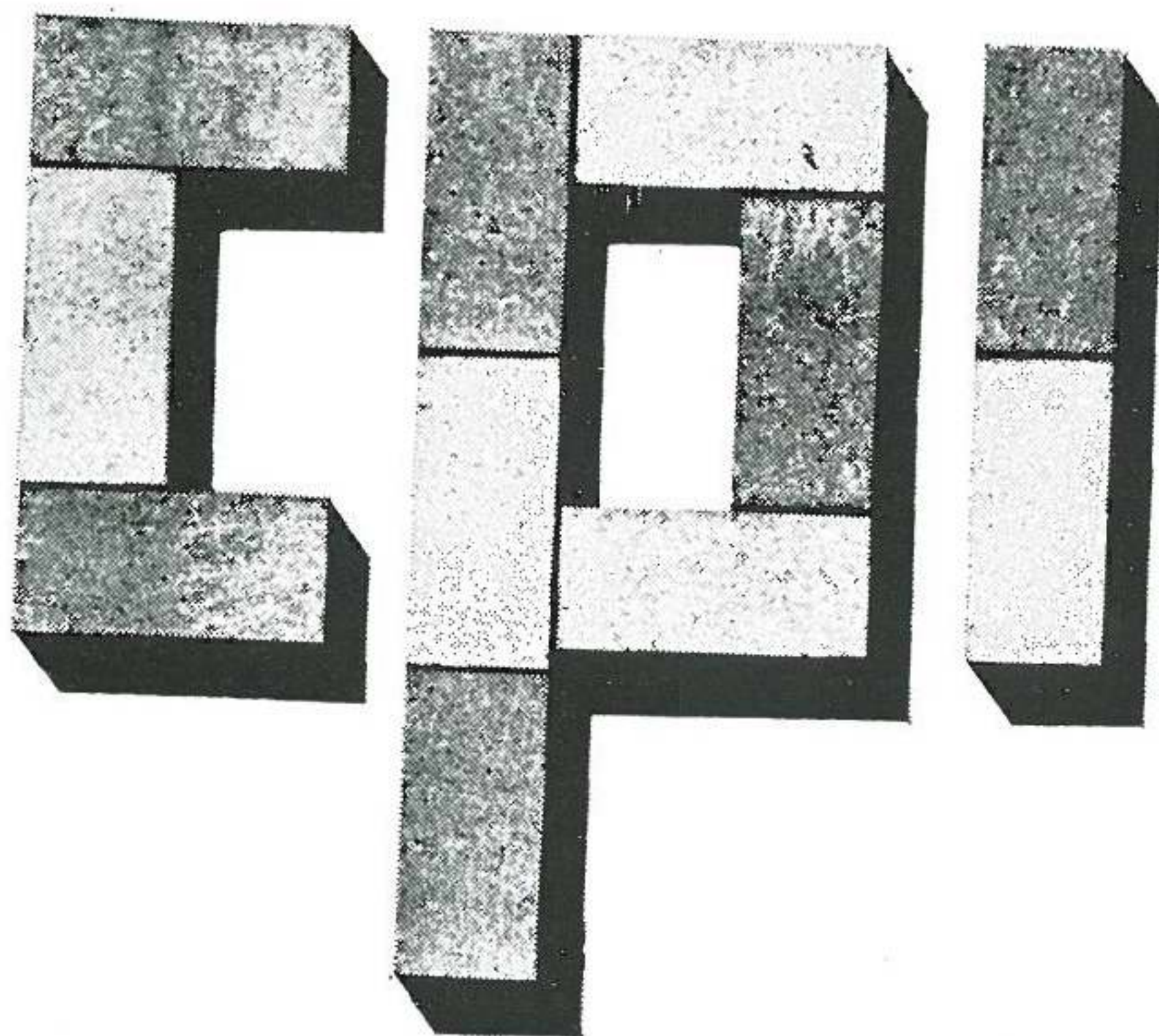
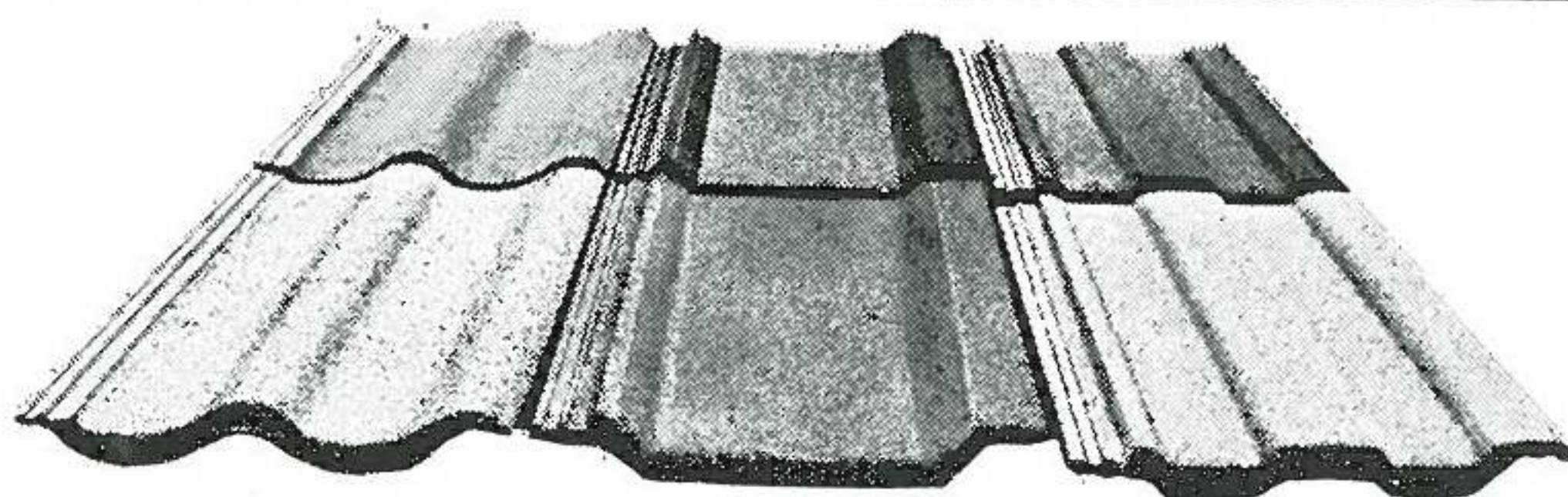
That Kerry team included John O'Keeffe, Jimmy Deenihan, Paud O'Shea, Tim Kennelly, Ger Power, Paudie Lynch, Pat McCarthy, Denis Moran, John Egan, Pat Spillane and Michael Sheehy.

Michael O'Sullivan, who went in as a substitute against Roscommon, captained Kerry in the 1975 final, but retired injured in the 19th minute. He was in the 1976 final XV.

All of these players were in the Kingdom side that lost the 1976 final by 0-10 to 3-8. Charlie Nelligan and Sean Walsh went in as substitutes during that game, while Ger O'Keeffe was right full back, the position in which he won an All-Ireland medal a year earlier.

Of the Dublin side that beat Down, only Tommy Drumm and Kevin Moran did not play in the 1975 clash. However, Pat O'Neill and Bobby Doyle only went into that tie as substitutes.

All were there when the trophy was regained the following year.



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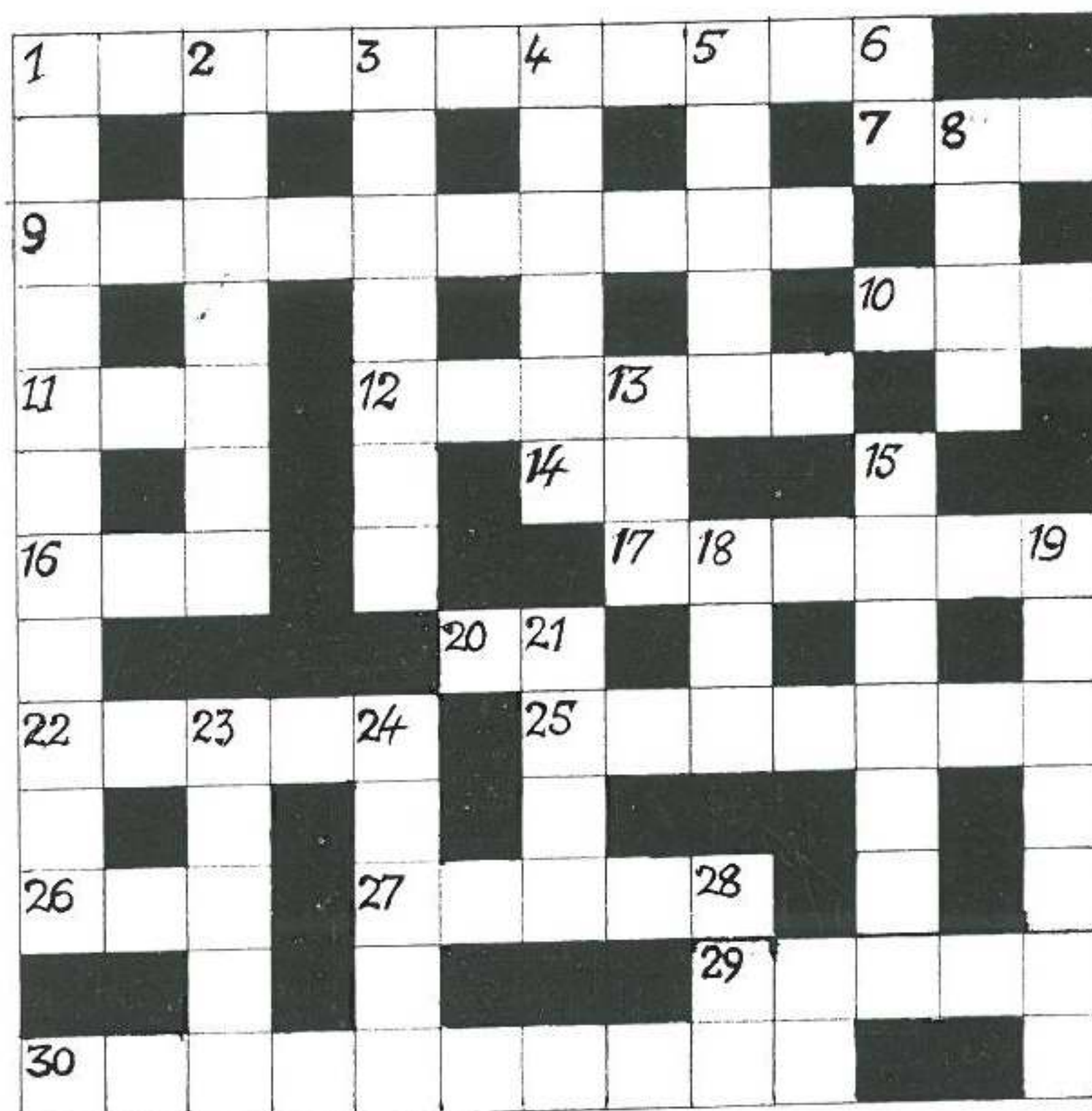
by Permuter

CLUES ACROSS

- 1 One of their brilliant minors of recent years who is making a reputation in the Kilkenny senior team. (11)
- 7 The Clash of the — (3)
- 9 Son of a famous goalkeeper now an outstanding midfielder in his own right. (3, 7)
- 10 Murray who was President of the G.A.A. (3)
- 11 See 8 Down.
- 12 Garrett achieves the objective aimed for. (6)
- 14 Initially, Limerick goalkeeper in the 1978 S.F. championship. (1, 1)
- 16 Number of Connacht senior football titles held by Leitrim. (3)
- 17 — McHugh, Galway defender. (6)
- 20 Waterford's only All-Star. Initials. (1, 1)
- 22 Wexford seems to feel safe with goalies named — (5)
- 25 Half-back or midfielder for Galway hurlers. (1, 6)
- 26 Desire for Japanese currency. (3)
- 27 Smooth-sounding All-Star hurling half-back. (5)
- 29 Distance within which one may shoot scores? (5)
- 30 Centre-forward in the 1966 Cork All-Ireland team. (1, 9)

CLUES DOWN

- 1 One of the survivors from the 1968 All-Ireland side still starring for Down. (5, 6)
- 2 Martin —, of Moyne-Templetuohy and Tipperary. (7)
- 3 Brilliant hurling goalie though with an unsuccessful county. (1, 6)
- 4 Has laid strong claims to take over Pat Henderson's place permanently in the Kilkenny side. (1, 5)
- 5 Players (like the West) must be fully alert at all times. (5)
- 6 Agree in Irish that it is so. (2)
- 8 (and 11 Across) Carry the ball alone through the field. (4, 3)
- 13 Quick goals. (3)



- 15 Fine corner-back in the Cavan team. (1-6)
- 18 Tricky forwards are as slippery as an — (3)
- 19 Strong Mayo defender. (7)
- 21 Hurler who enjoyed the unique distinction of winning All-Irelands with two different counties in the same year. (4)
- 23 Louth Chairman is also a leading football coach. (5)
- 24 An injury to the nose. (5)
- 28 A period of endeavour in GAA history. (3)

Solution: Page 49

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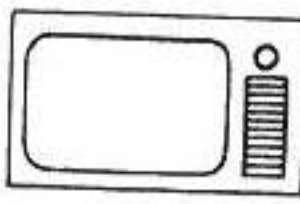

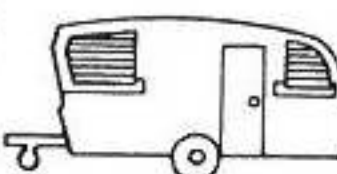


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HANDBALLER GERALDINE IS OFF ON BIG VENTURE

BY SEAN CLERKIN

ACTIVITY is at a high pitch in handball at the present time as the game speeds towards new horizons. It would only be common courtesy to wish the young girl handballer—Geraldine Hall from Oldtown—every success as she flies out to New York this month in a new venture for her code.

Quite a few girls are playing handball in the U.S.A. at present and besides competing against some of these she will also be attempting to win back the Larry Roe Perpetual Cup which was designated last year for Girls' International Competition. It is presently held by Rosemary Christofari from the Flushing Club in New York.

She won it last year in Dublin after a hectic struggle with Irish Champion Mavis O'Toole, who, in turn, was beaten in the trials this year by young Hall. Indeed, this U.S.A. trip should prove to be a magnificent boost for the Girls' game which presently, is making steady if unspectacular progress.

I saw some of the juvenile section of the girls' championships in recent months and was certainly impressed by the apparent soaring standards. Besides Hall, there are many prospects, notably Alice Holden from Kilkenny, Kay Finn and Ann McArdle from Oldtown and the Toomeys from Ballymacelligot. Keep up the good work girls.

The Championship Season for the men, which is now drawing to a close, has produced some excellent handball, the usual quota of surprises and a number of young stars who are destined to make an impression in adult handball. The main talking point of the season was the defeat of Mayoman Peadar McGee in the Senior Handball Singles.

This year McGee was bidding to win the title for the seventh time and thus equal the record of John Joe Gilmartin, who won it on seven occasions between 1936 and 1942.

He fell unexpectedly to Roscommon's Mickey Walsh, in the Connacht Championship and then the latter had to yield to Pat McGarry in the All-Ireland semi-final.

A few young players also emerged from the Minor grade who are destined to make their presence felt in handball during the coming years. Foremost amongst these is Tony Ryan from Tipperary who played with distinction in a number of grades and appeared to adapt equally well to either softball or handball.

Seamus McGovern from Meath can also be bracketed with Ryan as a potential senior champion while Francie McCann from Sligo has demonstrated that with a little more application to the techniques of the game he too can make his presence felt in the years ahead.



Meantime, from the council chambers one awaits word from President Tom Walsh on his latest plans for his "Integration" Policy. This, one assumes, will be a constructive scheme for the widespread promotion of handball within the G.A.A. A short time ago it was suggested that Walsh be given authority to elect his own sub-committee to bring his plans to fruition. This followed his statement after being elected at Congress when he expressed a desire to expand on the theory that G.A.A. members should have a wide focus on all activities under the umbrella of the Association, even if they have a specific interest in only one game.

He reckoned that handballers also have a serious commitment in this regard in so far as they must broaden their horizons towards the hurling and football fields. Walsh's pursuit of this praiseworthy ideal is certainly awaited with interest.

The big news on the development front is the new headquarters at Croke Park. Besides the 60 x 30 court which is already in existence, the new complex will incorporate a 40 x 20 court, recreational facilities and social amenities for members of the complex. When completed it will be a boon for the image and general welfare of handball.

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CHRYSLER
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DENIS MORAN, THE MAN WHO CAPTAINS KERRY

BY OWEN McCANN

IT never ceases to amaze me that so many genuine followers of football and hurling display little interest in the minor and Colleges' championships, except, perhaps, when their own particular teams are involved in important matches.

Apart from the fact that the teenagers more often than not provide splendid fare, these under-age games invariably are rich in vital and reliable pointers for the future at senior level. Many a star of the premier inter-county grade first captured the limelight in a big way in minor or Colleges competitions, or, indeed, in both.

An outstanding case in point is the man who has led Kerry back to the All-Ireland senior football scene . . . courageous and versatile Denis "Ogie" Moran.

Courageous? Well, what about his bravery in carrying two broken fingers into the semi-final meeting with Roscommon, and still overcoming the handicap to put in some telling touches in shaping the clear-cut win before finally retiring prior to the end?

It is spirit and dedication like that which gives the lie to those who would have us believe that the young men of today are not a patch on the stars of the past.

Versatile? Again Moran is a champion competitor, having taken firmly in his stride and at

the highest level of competition to boot, a series of roles ranging over the entire spectrum of football — attack, centre field and defence.

But let's return to the teenage grades. I still vividly recall the polish and potential that Denis Moran displayed in midfield as a guiding influence with a talented company of footballers who brought the All-Ireland Colleges' title to Franciscan College, Gormanston, for the only time in 1973. The lithe and speedy young man from Munster, who distributed the ball so well, looked an obvious candidate for greatness then, and, my goodness, how he has fulfilled that potential!

Less than 2½ years later he was not only good enough to command a place in an All-Ireland senior inter-county final team, but to produce a brand of mature, controlled and incisive football that belied his 19 years, and enabled him to stamp his



Denis "Ogie"
Moran
(Kerry)

personality at centre half forward in a big way in a shock Kerry triumph over Dublin for their last Sam Maguire Cup win.

The Beale club man, who had been called up to the Kerry senior team during the 1974-75 National League, was the youngest player in the 1975 showpiece match.

In a matter of weeks his versatility was very much in evidence at All-Ireland level when he gave another first-rate show, but that one was at left half back, in the Kingdom's win over Dublin for the under-21 national crown.

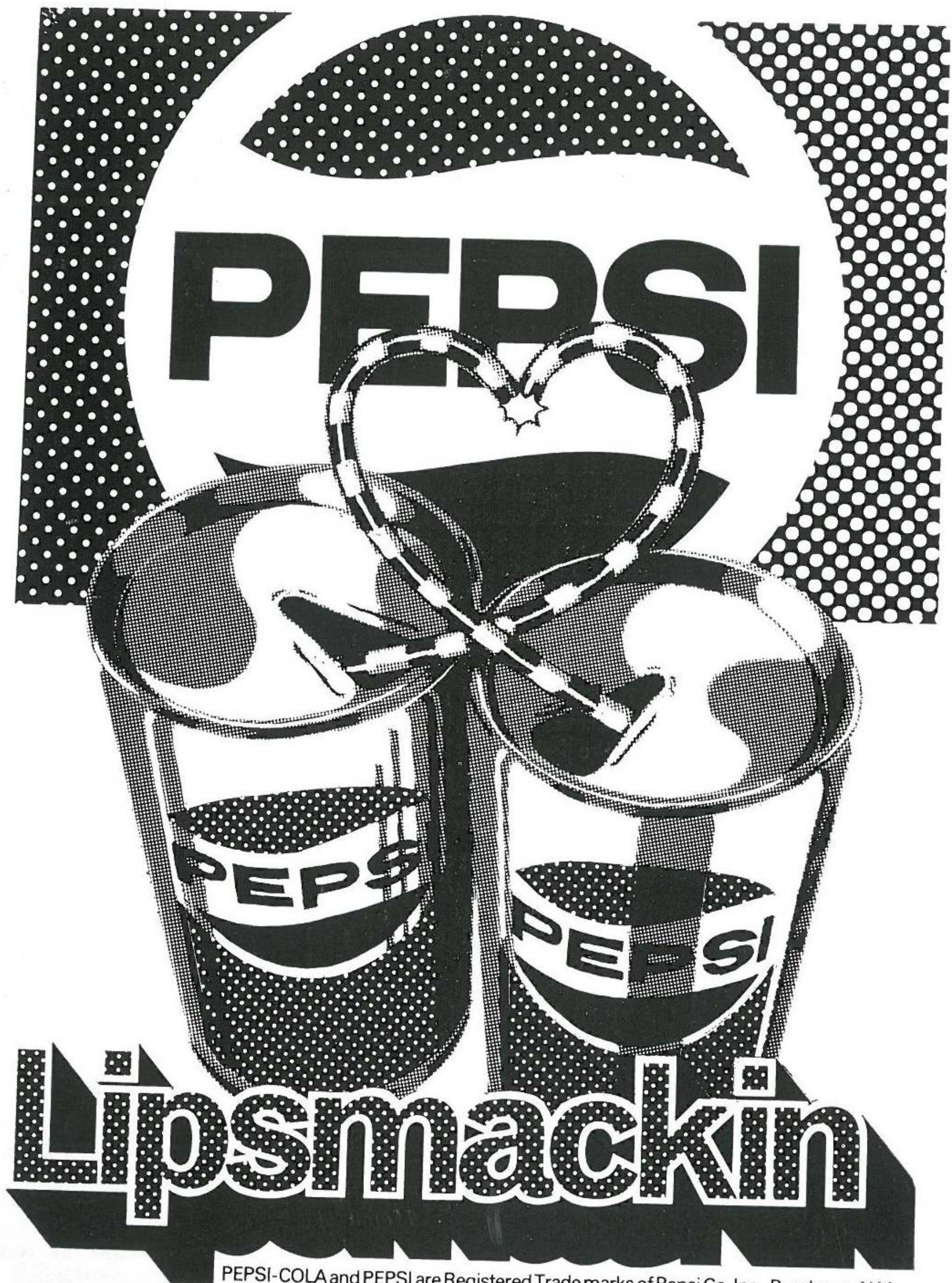
In the meantime Moran, who has the distinction of having won a county senior medal at 16 with the divisional side, Shannon Rangers, in 1972, has shown a remarkable flair for taking in his stride every task that has been handed to him in top-class football.

Right half forward and later at midfield, in the 1976 All-Ireland final, right half back in the team beaten by the Metropolitans in last year's semi-final, he can point as well to Railway Cup medal wins in three separate areas of the field — centre field, right half back, and as a forward substitute last April. Yes, a splendid asset to any team in more ways than one, that is Denis Moran.

The speedy and intelligent young Kerry footballer, who was 22 last January, is sure in his fielding, and uses every ball to the best possible effect. And, his Munster final performance at Pairc Ui Chaoimh suggested that his talents were really coming into full blossom this season.

Certainly, the 5 ft. 8 ins. defender set a true captain's example with his inspiring and so efficient football, first at left half, and later at centre half. Throughout the game his play was controlled, dependable, de-

● TO PAGE 55



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KENNYS

ON CAMOGIE FIELDS

BY AGNES HOURIGAN

THE rise of Wicklow in the Camogie world this season, taken in conjunction with the earlier bright patches in the county's history must have given the ruling body of the Camogie Association plenty of satisfaction. The reason? — linked with Wicklow's recent resurgence is the return of Derry to the All-Ireland scene after an absence of ten years, and the success of both must be attributed to the spread of the game through the schools and colleges in these two counties.

The very important factor to be considered is that both those counties had been very much to the fore twenty years ago and Camogie was very well established both in Derry and in Wicklow. Indeed Derry not only reached a senior final, but won a junior All-Ireland title. Then both seemed to fall away and the game seemed to decline, until, within the last few years both counties began to concentrate again on fostering the game among the schoolgirls.

This only bears out what has so often been shown before now, that the counties who enjoy the greatest success nowadays are those which have enthusiastic teams participating in the provincial and All-Ireland Colleges' competitions.

The rise of Kilkenny was due to the establishment of the game in the schools of that County, while at around the same time Wexford started to come to the fore for the same reason. Other counties that had not formerly been prominent on inter-county fields, Down, Limerick, Roscommon, Monaghan, Clare and Galway can all attribute inter-county suc-

cesses in recent years to the increase in the number of camogie-playing colleges in their respective areas.

Dublin, Cork and Antrim, who dominated the All-Ireland scene for so long had well-established colleges' competitions for many years before such spread in other counties, so their past successes give further proof of the advantage of getting young girls playing competitively from at least their earliest teens.

As a further example it must be noted that the Cork team which won the Willwood Tailteann Minor All-Ireland on the last Sunday in August was drawn from no fewer than nine Colleges' teams within the county. Most of these girls also play for club teams as well so that they have a double advantage.

So obviously the way to improve the game in the weaker counties is by fostering it in the schools.

What is the Association doing to spread the game among the schoolgirls? It is nearly twenty years now since Ard Coiste issued a directive to all Provincial Councils to set up Colleges' competitions in the areas under their jurisdiction. From a very tentative beginning these Colleges' Councils are now firmly established in all four Provinces and have done tremendous work, work they are still doing.

At least four separate competitions are now run annually in each of the provinces, while the All-Ireland Colleges' Council organises a senior and a junior championship. These All-Ireland finals are amongst the most colourful events in the Camogie year with the participating schools entering fully into the

spirit of the occasion in friendly rivalry making Croke Park a sea of colour with their flags and banners. To facilitate the spread of the game in the schools the All-Ireland Colleges' Council organises an annual Coaching Course at Gormanston for teachers and trainers of Colleges' teams. Three years ago the Association set the wheels in motion for the establishment of the game at Primary School level.

This development is as yet only in its early stages but considerable progress has been made in some counties, especially where the County Boards have shown interest in promoting Camogie at this juvenile level. Feile na nGael has also been a wonderful asset in promoting the game among the juveniles, and the number of teams in this competition has been increasing from year to year. Kilkenny certainly gave a boost to the game in the weaker counties by having a secondary or junior Camogie competition at this year's Feile.

So the weaker counties are not being neglected and if many of them continue to progress as they are doing there will be very few if any weak counties in a few years time.

Meanwhile, it is good to see Wicklow, a county which gave the game a well-loved President, Mrs. C. M. Byrne, and such great players as Jean Hannon and Queenie Dunne from Bray and the Kavanagh sisters from Rathnew, back again in the Camogie limelight, thanks one feels to the wonderful work done in the schools by such as Paddy Maher and their very active Chairman, Mrs. Kathleen Walsh, and her Committee.

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Dublin's record run unequaled in annals of football

WIN, lose or draw on the fourth Sunday in September, the Dublin footballers have set a record for modern times by contesting the All-Ireland final for the fifth successive year, a feat last achieved by their opponents Kerry in 1937-1941. Their consistency over the past five seasons has been unequalled in the annals of Gaelic football.

During that period they have won five successive titles, indeed their last championship defeat in their own province was by Wexford in the early summer of 1973. They have also reached four successive National League finals, winning two and losing two, so that on Sunday 24th Dublin will be contesting their ninth National Final in exactly four years. In fact these Dublin footballers have contested every national senior football final, League and Championship since first they came to the top in 1974. Even if they lose to Kerry this year, those achievements stand to their credit on the record books for all time.

How have these Dublin footballers maintained such a remarkable standard of consistency through five long hard seasons despite being for much of that time the cockshot, the team to be toppled, by every other county in the country? The answer is at once simple, and yet complicated. They have dedication, discipline, inspiration at the vital moments, a tremendous capacity for mental concentration on the immediate task in hand. They have, above all, two qualities that probably surpass all the rest. They are truly a band of brothers, all for each and each for all, and they have never lost their love of playing football.

In the heel of the reel, that is probably the most important ingredient of all. When the joy of playing football begins to pall, when training becomes a chore, then all the rest is of little avail. That is, I think, when the magic faded from the football of the only team that, in this generation could compare with the present-day Dubliners, that great Galway combination of 1963-66.

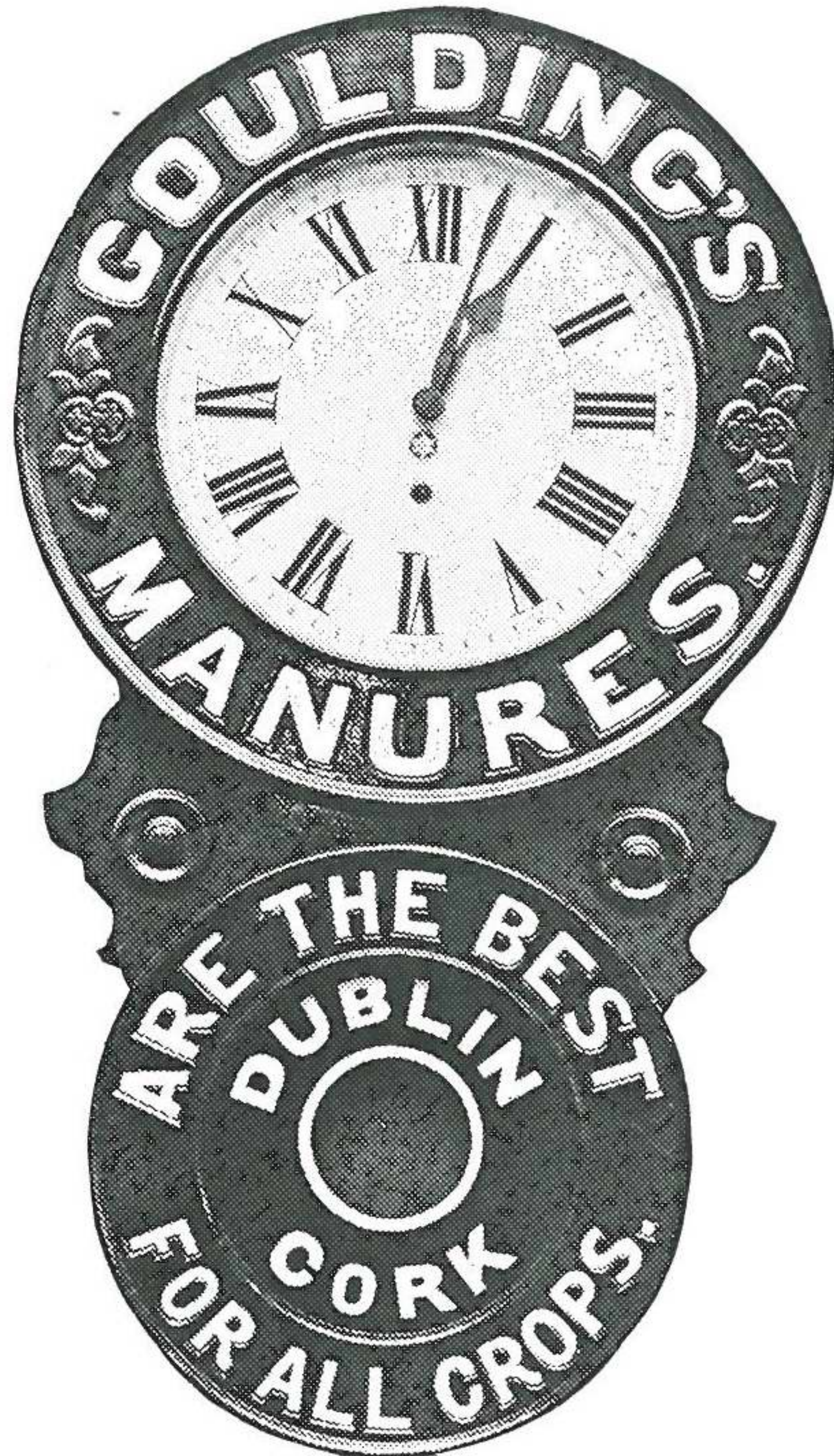
They, too, in the days of their greatness, were close friends and good companions. They trained hard, and enjoyed that training, but, by the end of their fourth season, more than one of that team has told me that the trips to Tuam for training, to which they had so long looked forward with eagerness, eventually became more of a task to be performed than an occasion to be enjoyed.

Will the same happen to the present Dublin squad? Like all great teams, they cannot go on for ever, but they have had, and still have, a great deal going for them. Their dedication remains undiminished, training thrice weekly through most of the season, despite the fact that many of them are married men now with families. Their discipline has never been equalled by any team I have known in my long connection with Gaelic games. As for their inspiration and their capacity for mental concentration, those two qualities were, one feels, infused and cultivated in the first place by Kevin Heffernan.

The ability to produce proper and timely motivation and concentration has been inherited, and possibly intensified, by Heffernan's successor Tony Hanahoe, who has proved himself a far more able and successful leader of his men than any outsider suspected at the time he took over his onerous post.

As far as can be judged from the outside the Dubliners still enjoy their football and their training as much as ever, while they are, after their years together, even greater friends and a more united band now than ever before. There are, of course, three other reasons why Dublin have been so successful and so consistent through those past five seasons. In the first place, all the players have tremendous natural football ability and yet are willing to fit their individual talents into an efficient football machine. In the second place, and this is a fact too often forgotten, these are in the main big men and strong men, fast on their feet and fast on the ball. Thirdly, being all Dublin-based,

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**WE'VE BEEN A LONG TIME
A-GROWING...**





The Dublin team that brought the Sam Maguire Cup to the Metropolis after a lapse of 11 years. Back Row (left to right): Steve Rooney, Anton O'Toole, Robbie Kelleher, Jimmy Keaveney, Tony Hanahoe, Paddy Cullen, John McCarthy, Alan Larkin, Bobby Doyle. Front Row (left to right): Brian Mullins, George Wilson, Paddy Reilly, Sean Doherty (capt.), David Hickey and Gay O'Driscoll.

● FROM PAGE 43

there is little or no difficulty in bringing them together, beyond the occasional traffic jam.

In addition these Dubliners have been blessed with shrewd mentors, and efficient and understanding officials. Now, after all that, are they still good enough to retain their treasured title for yet another year? Can even the clear-thinking Hanahoe motivate them sufficiently to cross the high hurdle that is certain to be provided by a virile Kerry side thirsting for revenge? To that we will not know the answer until approximately a quarter to five on Sunday 24th. There have, it is true, been signs of decline from their peak of perfection, and yet they have thus far always been able to rise to the occasion, to raise their game at the crucial moment as was the case against Offaly in the Leinster semi-final. They still have a lot going for them, the natural incentive to complete three-in-a-row, the 24-carat hall-mark on any great team, the desire, (even if they know that, for some of them at least, the twilight of great careers lies ahead), to go out on a high note. And yet, even if the Dubs are beaten, or even if they are well beaten, by Kerry on Sunday I don't agree for one moment that such a defeat would take very much of the gloss off their greatness. In just over four years these men have already won three All-Irelands, two National Leagues, five Leinster titles. They have, in Croke Park on successive Sundays early this year, beaten first the Rest of Ireland and then the Rest of

Leinster. They have been on three United States tours, and 11 of their current players have won at least one All Star Award.

But their achievements on the playing fields are only a part of the remarkable contribution made by these footballers to the G.A.A. not only in Dublin but all over Ireland. They have raised the prestige and the popularity of Gaelic games in Dublin to a level that would have been undreamt of a dozen years ago. They have brought to Croke Park tens and tens of thousands who, in early 1974, had no more than a hazy idea where Jones's Road was to be found. I know some very few of these supporters are no asset either to the G.A.A. or to the Dubs, but does it not occur to anyone that these people are subject to a greater degree of discipline in Croke Park than they would be if loose in the back streets?

Moreover, wherever in Ireland they have played in the last few years these Dublin footballers have drawn the crowds. It is possibly a fair estimate that, through the past five seasons, they have helped, in League and Championship, to bring half a million pounds into the coffers of the Central and Leinster Councils, and the crowds that came to Dublin's League games have ultimately meant a cash bonus for every county in the competition. The Dubs, win or lose on the last Sunday in September 1978, have already written themselves into a very important chapter in the history of the G.A.A.



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P.J. Carroll

DUBLIN FORWARD POWER MAY BE TOO MUCH FOR MAYO

BY OWEN McCANN

STAND by for a splendid advertisement for football standards among the youth when Dublin and Mayo raise the curtain on the big Croke Park programme with their first meeting in an All-Ireland minor championship final since 1958. These teams are unusually rich in exciting young talents, and they also have the teamwork and progressive approach necessary to show that the Gaelic code can be as exciting and thrilling a spectacle as any field sport.

At first glance, Mayo would appear to have a real uphill job. Dublin, back in the final after an unbelievable absence of 19 years, will enjoy the strongest support of any minor side at this stage. Then, in booking this outing with a series of authoritative and high-scoring performances, the young Dubs proved that they are entitled to rank as one of the most potent combinations to emerge in Leinster in years.

But all the aces are not in their pack. Mayo are unlikely to be inhibited by the strong support on Hill 16, especially for their opponents.

The Connacht champions have a rich vein of All-Ireland experience that could prove invaluable in these tension-laden and nerve tingling exchanges.

Their captain and centre half Adrian Garvey (Claremorris) and Andrew McNicholas (Kiltimagh), who lined out at left half forward in the All-Ireland semi-final, won All-Ireland colleges'

medals with St. Colman's, Claremorris, in 1977.

Midfielder Martin Joyce (Shamrocks), who started at full forward in the last round, and was later moved out to midfield, and sharp, incisive raider Kieran O'Malley (Achill) were all to the fore at headquarters on a miserable day last April with the St. Jarlath's, Tuam, side that beat St. Colman's, Newry, in the All-Ireland Colleges' decider.

Nor is that the end of the All-Ireland experience. Goalkeeper Sean Warde (Achill), midfielder Padraic Corcoran (Ardnaree) and forward Sean Clarke (Lacken) were all in the Mayo side beaten by Kerry in the vocational schools decider at Croke Park last April.

Then, there is Tom Byrne, standing 6ft. 2ins., and whose introduction at full forward in the second half really sparked Mayo back into winning gear against Kerry in the All-Ireland semi-final. This powerfully built Kiltimagh youth was full back in the Vocational Schools final XV last spring.

Mayo, too, have successfully fused the many individual skills of their outfit into a strong, well-drilled force. They have shown a flair for finding the target, and have given little away so far at the back.

They took their 25th provincial title following good wins over Leitrim, Roscommon and Galway. There was plenty to admire as well in their performance when handing Kerry the k.o. by 1-10

to 0-10 in a splendid semi-final played in terrible conditions. The Connacht champions powered impressively to a five points lead at the break. On the restart they had to withstand strong pressure as Kerry came back to level the scores after 15 minutes.

But some shrewd switches, allied to the introduction of the towering Byrne at full forward got Mayo back into winning gear, and they went on to emerge worthy finalists. Their defence, with Warde, Garvey and Niall Heffernan (Ballina), brother of former county goalkeeper, Ivan, setting a high standard, has what it takes to present the Dublin forwards with their most thorough examination yet.

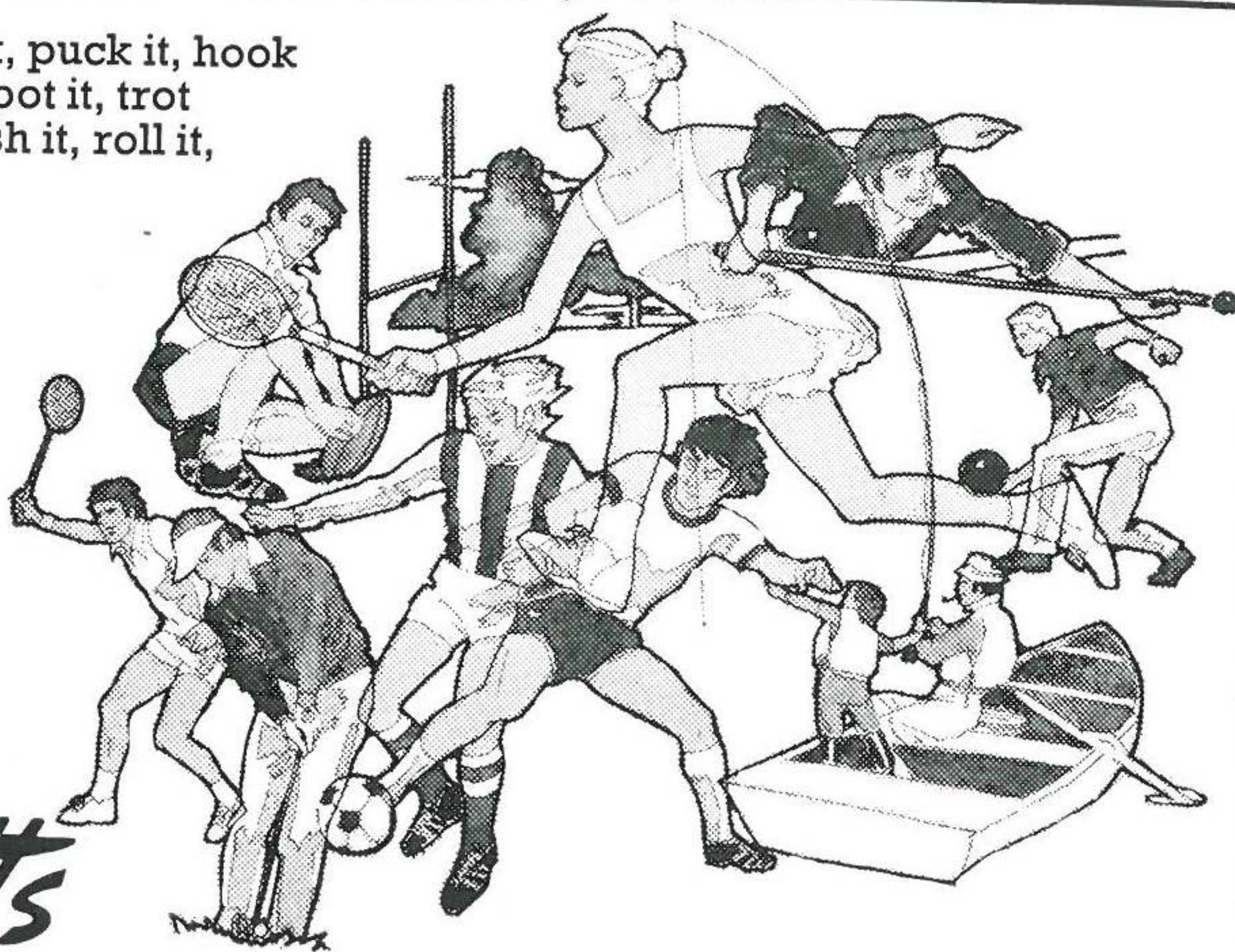
There was a certain unevenness about midfield in the Kerry match, but one knows from experience that Joyce, Lyons, who was brought back to the centre from full forward in the second half of that game, and Padraic Corcoran (Ardnaree), who lined out in that game, are young men with plenty going for them.

So, one way and another, Mayo have a richness of talent here that could enable them to meet any emergency.

The forwards are a lively lot, who move well, and know where the goals are. O'Malley and Nicholson, who have been regularly among the scores, could, with their natural skills and vital edge in experience, do much to ensure that the forward division

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If you chip it, kick it, puck it, hook
it, score it, floor it, pot it, trot
it, smash it, bash it, roll it,
stroll it

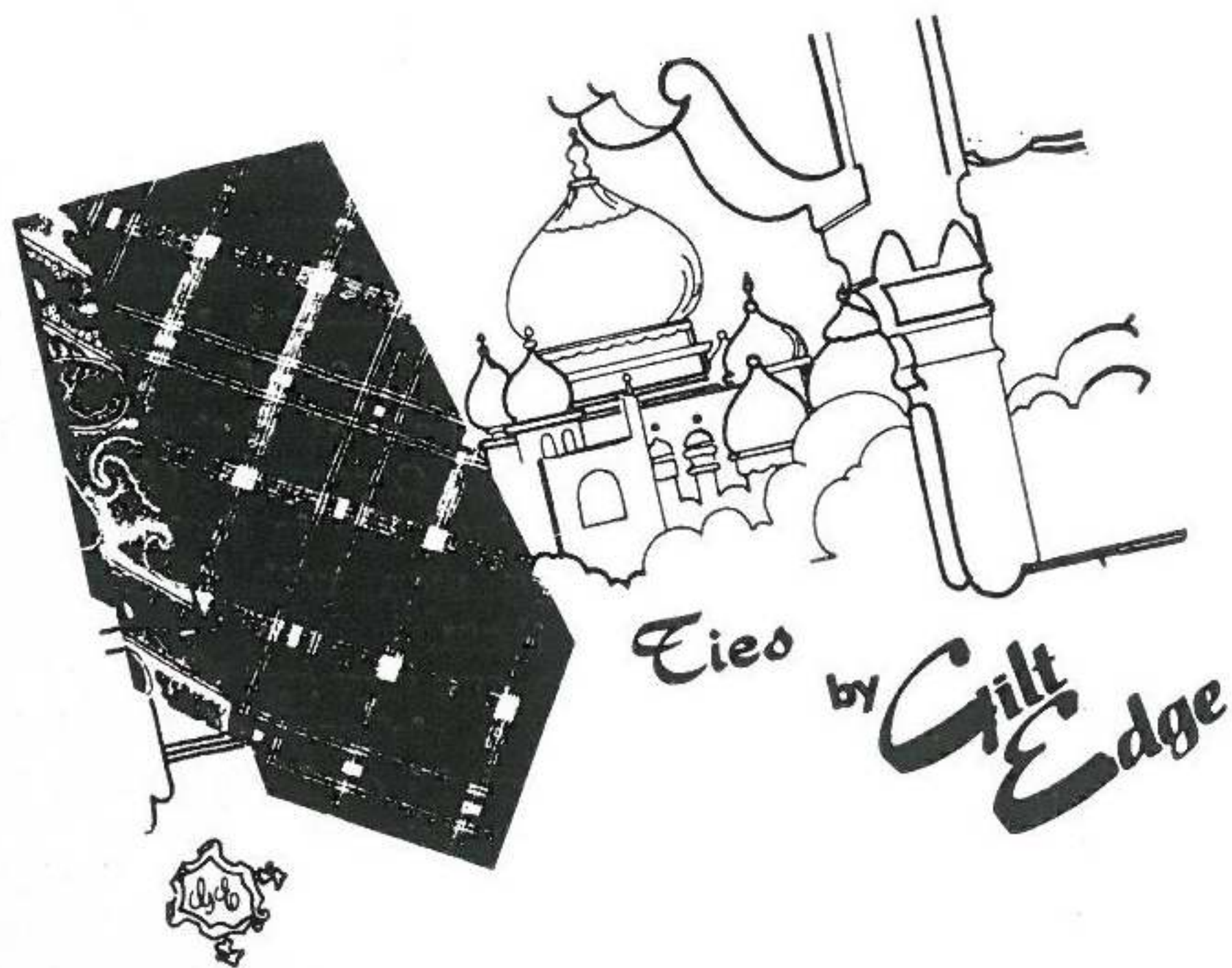


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● FROM PAGE 47

exploits and reveals to the fullest extent the potential that is undoubtedly there.

After Byrne's fine contribution during his limited appearance in the semi-final, which included two splendid points, he must be an obvious candidate for a place in the final line-up.

Mayo, then, have the credentials to have an outstanding chance of improving on their runners-up rating to Cork in their last final outing in 1974. They last won the title in 1971, their fourth since 1935.

Dublin, tutored by former St. Vincent's and Dublin player, Christy "Buster" Leaney, have many of the characteristics that have kept the seniors so firmly entrenched on top. Their football is intelligent, they are strong runners, move the ball around quickly and unselfishly, and have forwards who can take their scores with aplomb.

The Dublin boys could hardly have regained the Leinster title after a two year interval in better style than their march to clearcut wins over Westmeath, Longford and Wexford. But it was in their last game against Tyrone that they really caught my imagination.

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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E	O				R	A	K	10	A	L	F					
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16	O	N	E					17	S	18	E	A	M	U	19	S
O					20	J	21	G			E	A	W			
22	N	O	23	A	24	N		25	J	C	L	A	R	K	E	
E	Y	A													T	E
26	Y	E	N		27	S	I	L	K	28	E				I	N
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30	J	O	H	A	L	L	O	R	A	N						Y

I thought that Tyrone looked distinct All-Ireland title-winning material in their Ulster final win over a good Monaghan side, yet they were well and truly beaten in the semi-final.

Dublin's showing in an entertaining match was first-rate. They combined well, put plenty of thought into their work, and finished in lethal fashion, as a scoreline of 5-7 to 1-9 clearly indicates.

The Leinster champions have in full forward Barney Rock (Ballymun-Kickhams) the type of gifted player who could take a grip on the final, and steer a winning course. He is a very astute leader, adept at creating chances, and he also treats his own scoring opportunities from play and frees with the mood of a miser. He lines out with a majestic 5-12 to his credit from the four games on the run-in — some finishing that by any standard!

But the young Dubs attack is no one-man band. His teammates are all smooth performers, and must be closely watched, but I've a hunch that Niall Gaffney (Clontarf), who has scored 4-10 so far, and Ciaran Griffin (Fingal Ravens) are two others who could hand the Mayo backs some very pressing problems.

John Kelly (Thomas Davis) and Anthony White (Clann Mhuire) provide a capable link in the centre between the attack, and a defence that has many strong points.

These include the dependable play of Pat Canavan (St. Vincent's), captain of the team at full back, Tommy Mannion (Ballymun-Kickhams) at left half, and Frank Walsh (Round Towers) at right full, as well as the generally good understanding of the backs as a unit.

Two very capable teams, then, and I will be surprised if they fail to deliver the goods with a real showpiece match.

Probable winners? My reading

of the match is that the issue will be decided by the forwards. And, much as I admire the Mayo finishers, I think that Dublin's attackers will be the ones who will find enough answers to take the trophy, the Tom Markham Cup.

If that happens, Dublin's name will go on the plinth for the first time since 1959, when they won their seventh crown.

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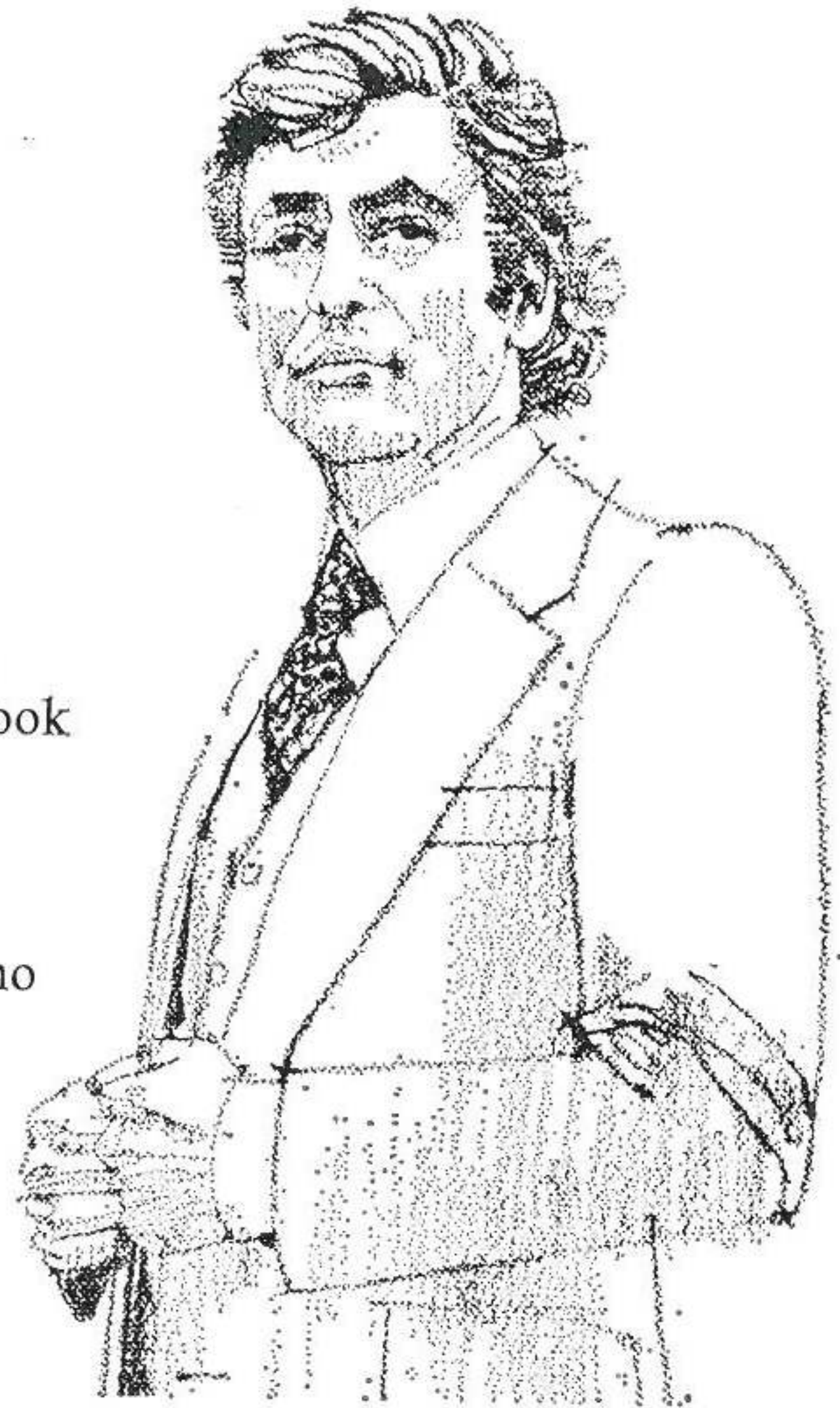
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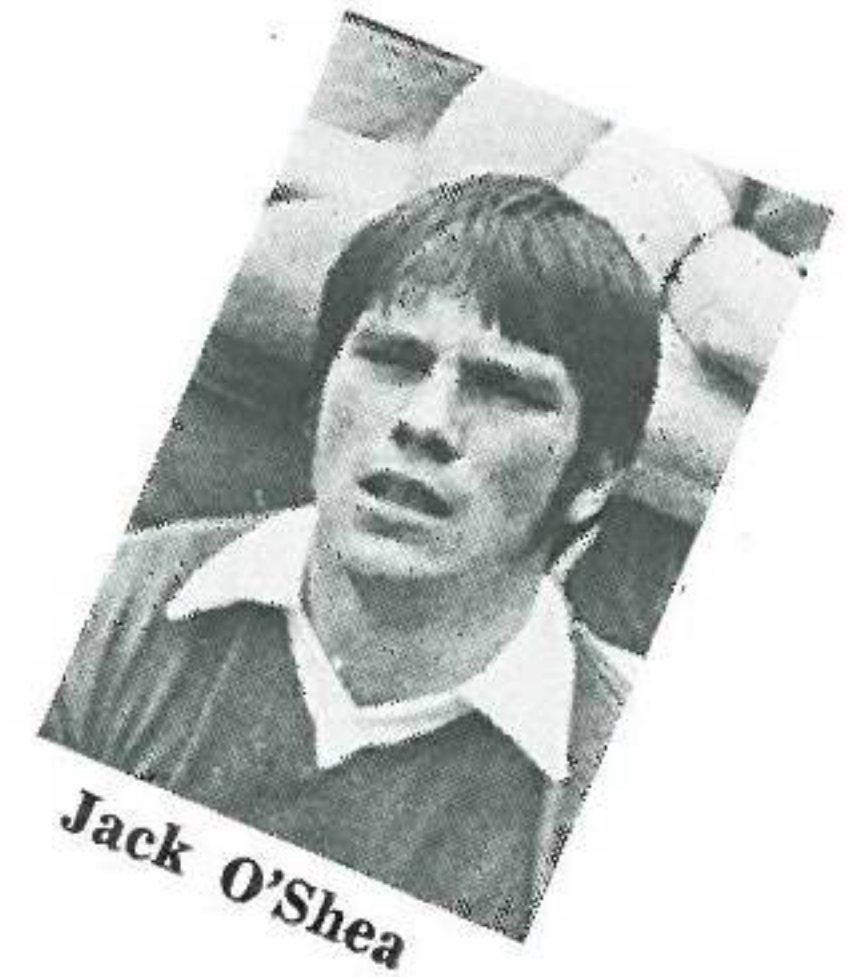
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Jacko warms the hearts of the Kerry elders



Jack O'Shea

By JIM BENNETT

THE elders and betters of Kerry football have a great feeling for the big-boned midfielder from South Kerry, Jack O'Shea. He is on a winning streak where the old stars are concerned, and surely that is half the battle.

"Jacko's going in for his goal, I'm thinking," said a player of many hard campaigns in the Kerry jersey, five or six times during the recent Munster U-21 final at Killarney, when, in fact, all Jacko was doing was trying to work out where to kick the ball and who on earth to pass it to.

"Good man, Jacko, I wouldn't doubt you," shouted another when, in fact, it was young Bridgeman or Higgins who had landed a point. It takes a moderately prejudiced attitude to mix-up Jacko with any of the former, or, indeed, with any player in the football game for he has a go and a style about him that is not easily copied.

When Jacko missed a chance with one of his horribly miscued efforts that went half-way between goalpost and corner flag, there was merriment everywhere and various humorous descriptions were uttered of O'Shea's inaccuracy, the need for visiting a blacksmith, or advice laughingly given that he might as well give up the shooting altogether because he wasn't equipped for it by the Lord when

He was rationing out the football blessings.

Jacko, of course, has a good record, taking part in minor and multiple U-21 All-Ireland victories and obviously fulfilling early promise as a lad who should go far in football and who should wear the green-and-gold at senior level one day.

But, that alone is not enough

to explain the reason why so many of the older football fraternity in the Kingdom have taken to him. Others who might have been given equal status abound among the prodigal wealth of talent which has come along in the last four or five years. But they do not all get the benefit of the doubt, as it

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● FROM PAGE 51

were, from the Kerry followers.

It has all got to do with Jacko's style, surely; and the style tells of the man, for he is a tall fellow with elbows, hips and knees that are spread according to a generous plan that gives him inevitably a certain ungainly movement except when going in straight lines.

He trudges a bit when he is called on to swerve or even to move outside a challenge. He is just a big-built bloke and does not enjoy the nippy twists and turns that are part of their natural make-up where Pat Spillane, Paudie O'Shea, Ger Power and those others are concerned.

But, where Jacko is concerned, not only does he go with considerable comfort in straight lines horizontally, but he also finds it natural to move in straight lines vertically. When the spirit moves him, when he is fit enough and feeling eagerly enough inclined for it, there is nothing in the game today to equal a top-quality Jacko Shea fetch. Low-flying birds stand in real danger.

What if he is a little less handy to get the ball away when he comes down with it? It takes him a little more time and space to get the right leverage for a start. But, on the move, his long strides and remarkable ball control carry him with stiletto sharpness through the defence that gives him any kind of freedom.

After you have seen him miscue a shot or two and look suitably shamefaced, it comes as a startling surprise to find that Jacko is in such complete control of the ball on the solo burst. His toe-to-hand work may not be as exciting as D. J. Crowley's, mainly because he is a lumbering big man, while D.J. was a toe-balanced dancer with quick, snappy toe-to-hand action.

But the manner in which Jacko can power his way on a solo burst with his stretching legs

outflanking opposition makes him a fine fellow to have in your side and one hellish nuisance in the opposing team.

It was in 1975 when Kerry surprised a somewhat over-complacent Dublin in senior that Jacko made his initial impact on the national scene. That was the year in which he was, at various times, anything from 10% to 75% of the county minor team that also won the All-Ireland title. In particular one recalls the Munster final against Cork when he carried on a one man scoring effort against Cork and almost alone (with the inspired goal-keeping of Charlie Nelligan at the other end of the field to help) kept in touch with Cork and eventually passed them out to win.

Under-21 promotion in that same year means that he stands this year to equal the extraordinary four U-21 All-Ireland medals of Cork's Mick Malone (hurling), but he will have the advantage over Malone of playing in all four. He will not be alone, of course, for other Kerry men stand to reach the same remarkable record.

Jacko Shea has been in the Kerry senior team for a few years, but he has been out of it again, too, because the selectors were not convinced that he had matured to senior polish. No doubt they were right, but, when he was selected last year he was a notable success and the fact that Kerry did not wipe out Dublin at midfield in the final was not any of his fault.

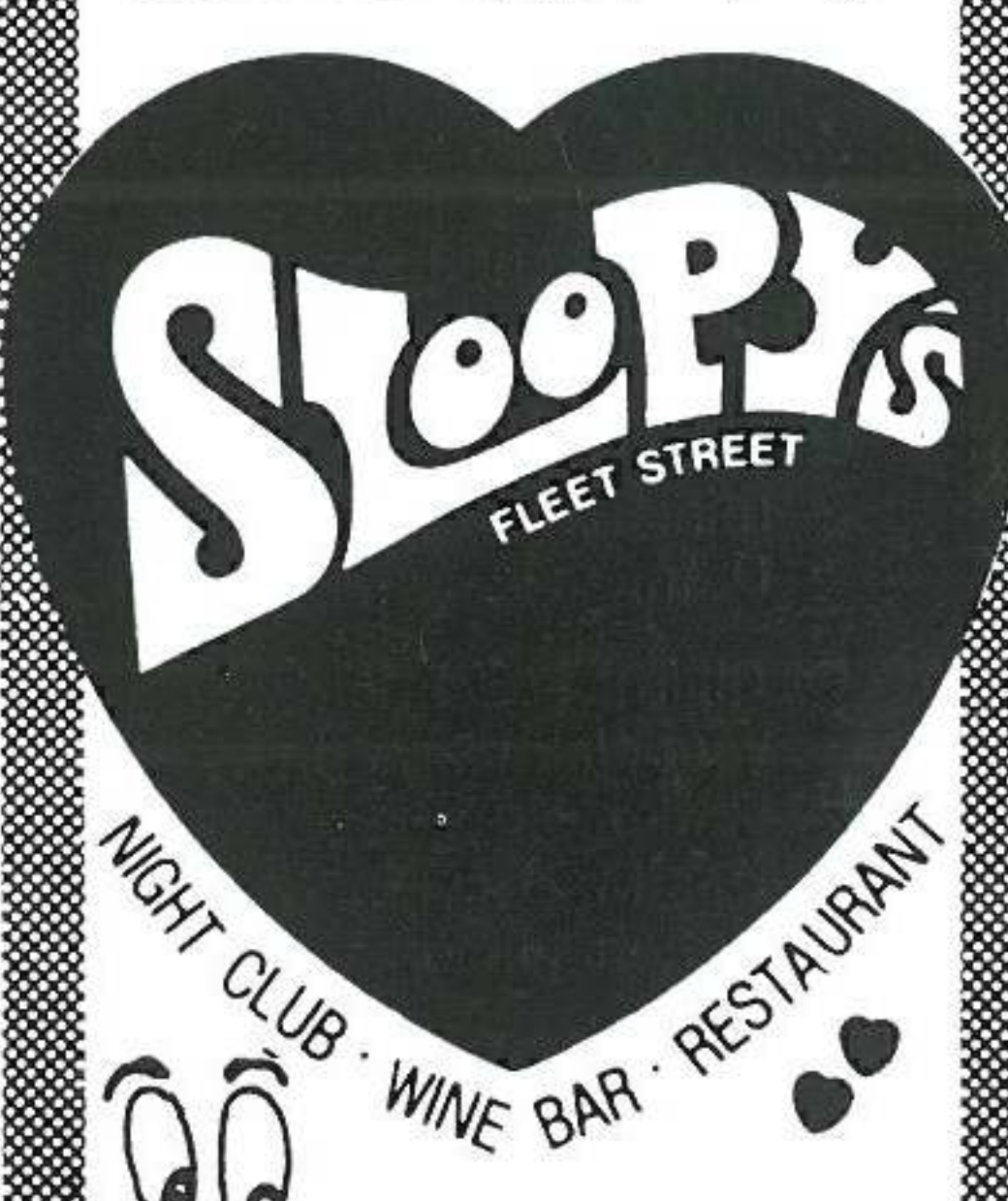
Even so it will have been an interesting experience on which to draw profitably now that Kerry face Dublin again, and after a period of searching for anything better, now that Kerry have confirmed him in the midfield position for the Dublin game.

But to get back to the point about the way the oldsters of Kerry football envelope Jacko in

a warm embrace that praises all that is possible and forgives much, surely it is because they see in him one of their own. A decently proportioned man with good big hands and good strong legs, not a "siabhaire" like some who are playing it now.

The oldsters like the high fetch, the big kick, the drive for goal or the shot for the long-distance point. Jacko reminds them of what they thought themselves to be in the "good, old days".

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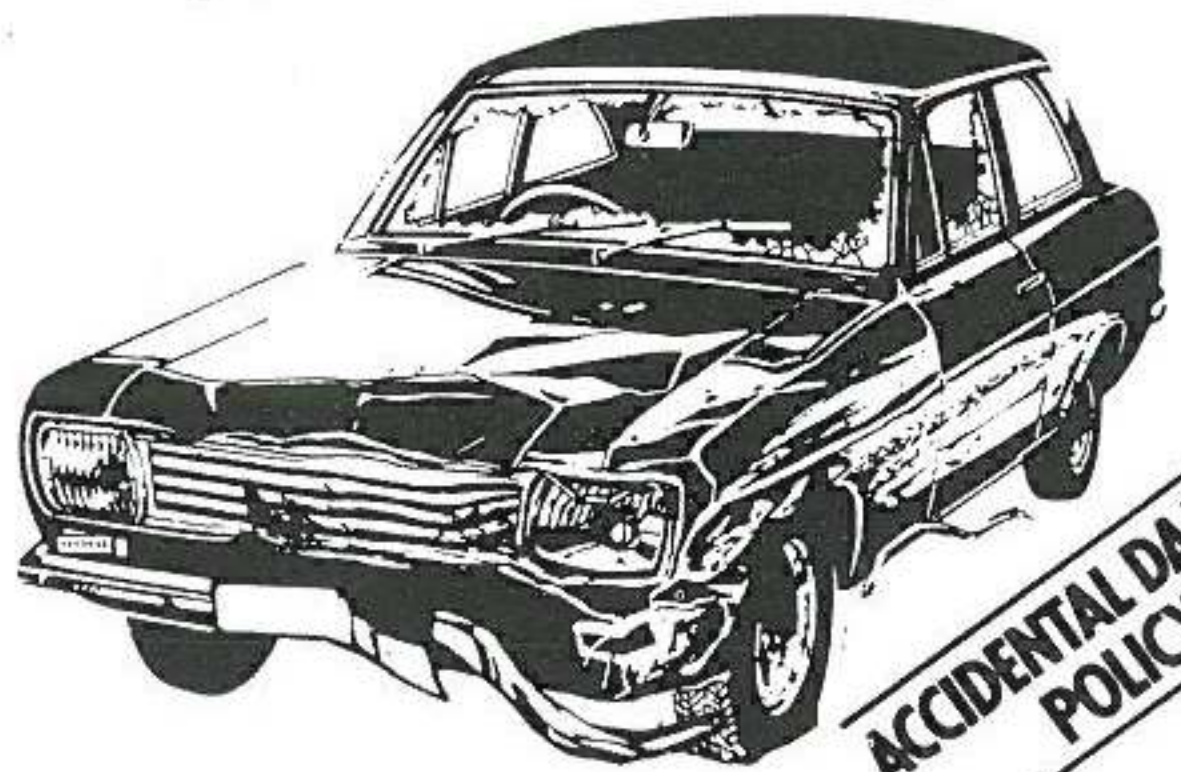


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Result of All-Ireland competition

THE response to the Kilkenny Photo Quiz in our Hurling Final issue was really tremendous, considering the fact that it was quite difficult. About half the answers received identified Paddy Grace as being third from right kneeling, and Jimmy Langton seated on his own in front of his team mates. This was the correct answer and the first correct entry received was from **Liam O'Sabhaois, 6, Mallow Road, Garveys Bridge, Cork City**, who receives our special prize of £5.

An extra special prize of a Kilkenny scarf goes to **Liam Ryan, Rockvilly, Dunbell, Co. Kilkenny**. Liam supplied us with the following information on the Kilkenny photo which we reproduce above:

Back row (from left): **Daniel O'Connell**, for many years trainer of the Kilkenny team and uncle of Jimmy O'Connell. **Peter Blanchfield**, R.I.P., right full back, who played for Eire Og

and Tullaroan — worked as a postman. **Billy Burke**, centre back, rated as the "tough man of the team" — Director of Ambulances at St. Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny. **Jimmy Kelly** of Carrickshock, scored the winning point in 1939 — rate collector. **Jimmy O'Connell**, R.I.P., Kilkenny goalkeeper — owned a public house in High Street, Kilkenny. **Terry Leahy**, half forward, emigrated to U.S. **Paddy Phelan**, R.I.P., born in Dunamore, played for Tullaroan and Three Castles. **Jimmy Walsh**, R.I.P., from Carrickshock, right half forward, rated as the best Kilkenny right half forward so far — farmer. Front row (from left): **Mick Dalton** of Irish Town, Kilkenny, trainer. **Bobby Hinks**, half back from Sliabh Rua, played with Carrickshock. **Jack Gargan**, half forward, played for Eire Og, son of the famous Matt Gargan, Kilkenny centre field hurler in Jack Rochford's time. **Jack Mulcahy**, R.I.P.,

who always helped Jimmy Langton find so many loose balls, father of Pat, Joe and John Mulcahy, all playing today — he played for Eire Og. **Seanie O'Brien**, full forward, played with Eire Og also and had many a duel with the late Bob Aylward, who was more than a foot taller than him. Seanie is father of three Kilkenny Minors — Seanie, Paddy and Josie. **Paddy Larkin**, R.I.P., at the height of his career he only weighed 9½ stone and was one of Ireland's best, as good as his nephew Fan Larkin. **Paddy Grace**, right full back — 30 years County Secretary. **Bobby Branigan**, replaced Jack Gargan in the last 20 minutes of the '39 All-Ireland. Gargan was suffering from a broken wrist. **Jimmy Langton**, very front row one of the best ever forwards in Ireland.

Thank you, Liam, for a most interesting caption. (Ed.).

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build-up their mental images of Croke Park or a dozen other pitches where the stars of hurling and football performed. And can there be one of those who did not, on many a Sunday evening, hasten away from the old wireless set to the nearest patch of grass and — still afire with the tingling excitement of the magical world to which he was the guide — try to emulate the deeds of the great players he had just talked about?

To have spent many childhood summers listening to O'Hehir's voice and, later in life, become a working colleague of his has been the privilege of some of us. One fully appreciates his talents and expertise, indeed the richness of his craft, when you share a seat in the stand with him as



Joe Keohane of Kerry as he was in his playing days.

he goes through a commentary. But only when someone attempts to commentate on a game for the first time does he become aware of the ordeal an 18-year-old faced in Cusack Park 40 years ago.

Although four decades have

passed, it is — in some ways — the same O'Hehir who now enters a commentary box. The nerves, as he recently admitted, are still there; the pleasure of watching hurling and football remains and the joy of being able to convey the flow of play to his listeners is ever present.

One other feature of his work has never altered in those 40 years: the preparation he does before a broadcast. It is, indeed, an experience to visit him at home in the few days prior to an All-Ireland final or a Sweeps Derby as he compiles his notes, searches out the facts and figures or familiarises himself with the racing colours. His "homework" is still just as important today as it was to the youth of 1938.

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ON THE SPOT

RESULT OF FREE
COMPETITION

OUR special ON THE SPOT . . . competition published in the July-August issue emphasised once more the appeal of GAELIC SPORT far and wide, with a bumper entry from all over Ireland, and from many centres overseas.

In that competition we posed eight questions covering events in the opening six months of 1978, and offered a year's free subscription to GAELIC SPORT for the first correct answer drawn from the drum. And, the lucky winner is:

Seamus O'Reilly,
7, Beauclere Road,
Hammersmith,
London, W6.

Congratulations, Seamus!

One question caught out a surprisingly large number of competitors—No. 2. This asked for the name of the man who captained Ulster in the drawn Railway Cup football final and replay.

Anthony McGurk filled that role, but very many readers plumped for Armagh's Jimmy Smyth.

Another question that also ended the chances of many was No. 8. Here we wanted the club of Peter McGinnity, and a wide range of answers were provided including one listing "N. Ireland"!

Surprising this, in a way, considering that McGinnity was in action with St. John's, Belfast, in the All-Ireland club final against Thomond College, Limerick, at Croke Park, last March.

Seamus O'Reilly not only went correctly through the card, but he managed to provide an additional piece of information. In reply to No. 7 he added 1-6 after the name of Billy Fitzpatrick as the top scorer in the National League final in football. Correct on both counts, Seamus.

The eight questions that made up the quiz, together with the answers this time, were:

1: If you read last month's issue this opening question should not prove too difficult. Name the only hurler to score two goals in the National League final last April?

ANSWER: Martin McKeogh (Clare).

2: Who captained Ulster in the drawn Railway Cup football final and replay? ANSWER: Anthony McGurk (Derry).

3: Only one of the following four handballers was in the party that toured the U.S. in May—Joey Maher (Louth), Richie Lyng (Wexford), Tom O'Rourke (Kildare) or Pat McGarry (Limerick). Your choice? ANSWER: Tom O'Rourke.

4: A Sligo man refereed the Railway Cup football final and replay. His name, please? ANSWER: John Lee.

5: Jimmy Barry-Murphy (Cork) won an All-Ireland senior medal during the spring. True or false? ANSWER: True, with St. Finbarr's in the club championship.

6: Over now to Camogie. The National League final was played last March, and here we want the name of the winning county. To ease the way for you we narrow the field down to three—Cork, Tipperary or Wexford. Your selection? ANSWER: Wexford.

7: This experienced footballer put up the highest score of any player in the National League final last April. Who is he? ANSWER: Billy Fitzpatrick (Mayo).

8: Name the club of Peter McGinnity, the Fermanagh and Ulster football star? He was, of course, very much in the limelight in the opening half of the year, and toured the U.S. ANSWER: St. John's, Belfast.

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cisive, the type of football, in fact, that never gave supporters a moment's worry, and proved a major factor in setting the Munster champions firmly on course for another successful showdown against the "old enemy".

It is good news that the injuries to his fingers that obviously hampered the Kerry skipper against Roscommon are unlikely to keep him out of the Sam Maguire Cup game. Even Dublin supporters will hope that the setback will not prevent the lively defender from realising his full potential in this so appealing encounter.

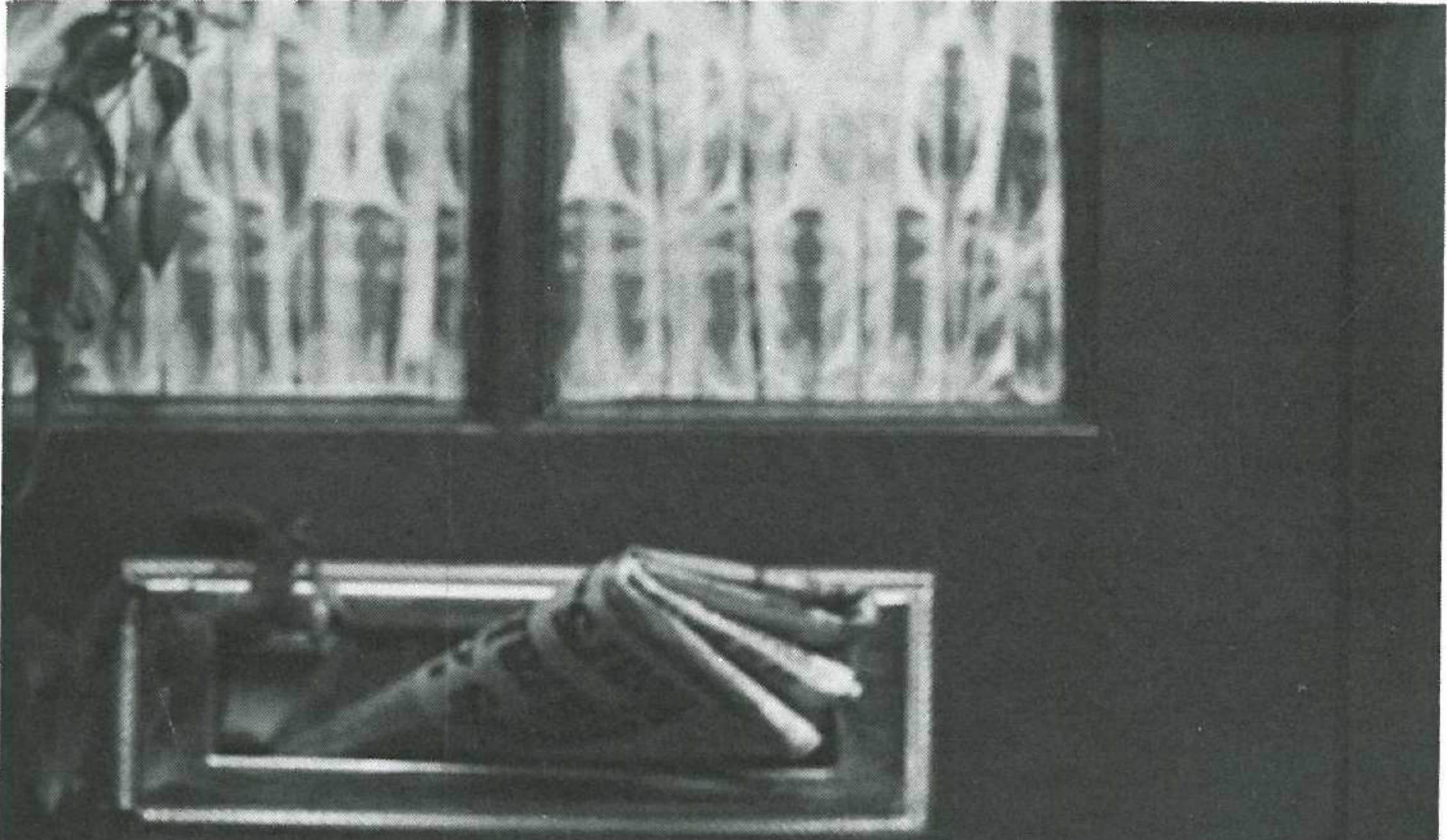
The match might well prove an historic one for Denis Moran. In winning his third All-Ireland under-21 medal in a row last year, he had the distinction of captaining Kerry in the win over Down from the No. 5 position.

So far, no footballer has captained championship winning teams at national level in the under-21 and senior grades in successive seasons.

Moran won his only National League medal at centre half forward in the team that shocked Dublin in the 1977 decider, and he has also got among the Sigerson Cup (Universities' Championship) souvenirs with U.C.D.

His consistently good form, expert knowledge in sealing the gaps to the goal, reliable fielding, deft distribution and non-stop and productive work mark out Denis Moran, who is a P.E. teacher, as not only one of Kerry's gilt-edged assets in the big match, but a young man who is already walking tall in the ranks of the country's legendary captains. Incidentally, don't be surprised if Moran is eventually seen back in a forward role in the latest bid to down the Dubs.

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Results Summary

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Football Semi-Finals: August 13. Kerry 3-11; Roscommon 0-8. Attendance: 25,594. August 20: Dublin 1-16; Down 0-8. Attendance: 51,666.

Minor Football Semi-Finals: August 13: Mayo 1-10; Kerry 0-10. August 20: Dublin 5-7; Tyrone 1-9.

ALL-IRELAND FINAL

Senior Hurling: September 3. Cork 1-15; Kilkenny 2-8. Attendance: 64,155. Cork captain: Charlie McCarthy. Top scorer for the entire championship campaign: L. O'Brien (Kilkenny) 1-21 (24 points) in four games. Average: 6 points.

Minor Hurling: September 3. Cork 1-15; Kilkenny 1-8. Cork captain: Pat Murphy.

Under-16 Hurling: August 13. Dublin: Down 6-18; Roscommon 3-1.

Special Minor Hurling: August 20: Croke Park. Down 2-6; Kerry 2-6. Draw.

MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Under-21 Hurling Final: August 9. Thurles: Tipperary 3-13; Cork 4-10. Draw. August 20. Cork: Tipperary 3-8; Cork 2-9.

Under-21 Football Final: August 16. Killarney: Kerry 0-14; Cork 0-9.

CEANNARUS TOURNAMENT

Football: August 27. Semi-finals: Kerry 0-14; Down 0-9. Roscommon 0-15; Dublin 0-9.

GAEL-LINN CUP

Football: September 3. Final replay. Claremorris. Roscommon 1-11; Mayo 1-7.

HANDBALL

All-Ireland Coca-Cola Open: Singles: August 13. Croke Park. Semi-final: J. O'Brien (Roscommon) bt P. McGarry (Limerick).

Doubles: August 13. Croke Park. Semi-final: P. Reilly and O. Harrold (Kilkenny) bt R. Lyng and S. Buggy (Wexford). August 20. Croke Park: D. and J. Kirby (Clare) bt P. Lee and J. Clery (Wicklow).

Final: September 2. Croke Park: D. and J. Kirby (Clare) bt P. Reilly and O. Harrold (Kilkenny) 6-21, 21-19, 21-11.

CAMOGIE

All-Ireland Senior Championship: Semi-finals: August 13. Russell Park, Dublin: Dublin 2-4; Wexford 2-3. August 20. Cork: Cork 5-15; Clare 3-1.

Junior Championship: August 20. Cork. Cork 1-7; Wicklow 2-4.

Minor Championship: August 27. Final. Cork. Cork 5-1; Dublin 3-4.

HURLING

U-21 All-Ireland Semi-finals: September 10. Birr: Galway 2-13; Offaly 2-9. Belfast: Tipperary 3-9; Antrim 1-8.

FOOTBALL

U-21 All-Ireland Semi-final: At Roscommon: Roscommon 0-8; Down 0-7.

● FROM PAGE 56

ship defeat in the Sam Maguire Cup game of three years back.

The Tralee man, who is 24, also holds two National League medals, and he has had much to do in shaping Munster's most successful era yet in Railway Cup competitions, winning medals in 1976, 1977 and earlier this year.

He has been Munster's top scorer for every annual programme of games since 1974, taking over the role that year from the great Mick O'Dwyer. Each year since 1975, he has been passed out on the national chart by Jimmy Keaveney, who seems destined this year to become the first footballer to dominate the All-Ireland review over four seasons in succession.

Keaveney's big season was 1975 when he set the Dublin county record at 8-95 (119 points) in 20 games.

One way and another, then, the superb way that Jimmy Keaveney and Michael Sheehy have marshalled their football skills and lethal finishing techniques have ensured that they have provided much of what has been best in football in recent times.

The odds must be strongly in favour of these brilliant exponents, who also excel in sporting play and deft distribution, stamping the 1978 summit with some of the game's most exhilarating and thrilling talking points.

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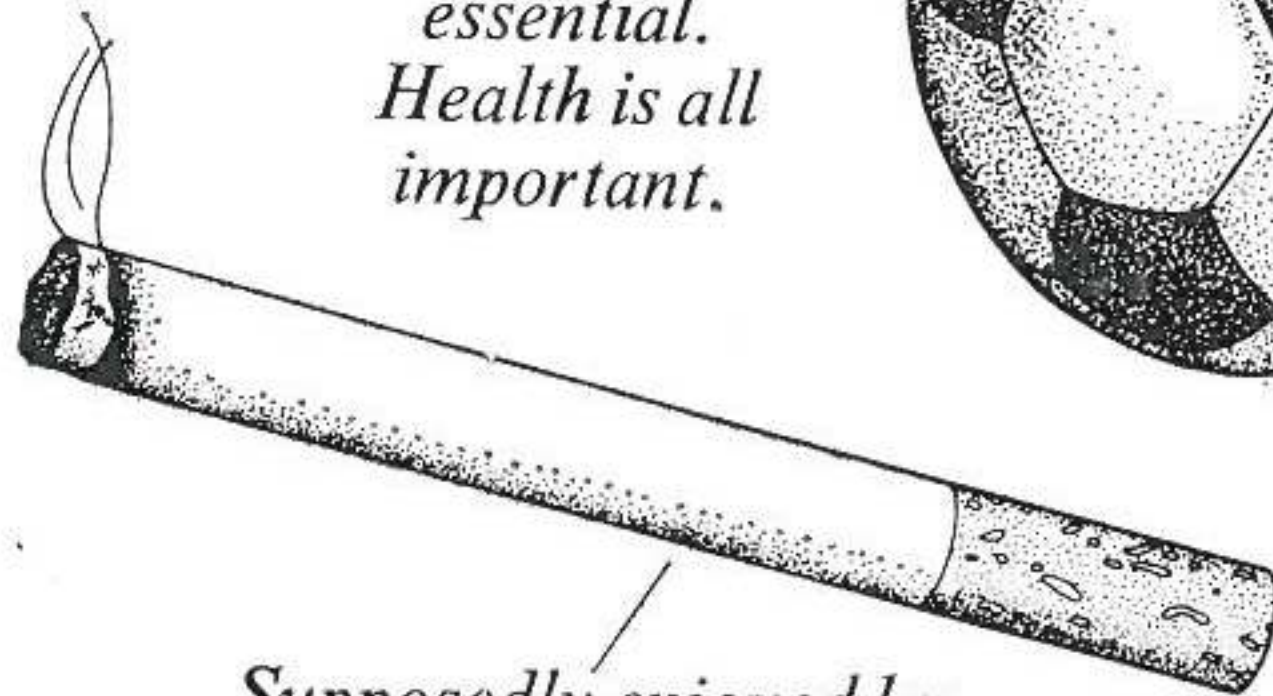
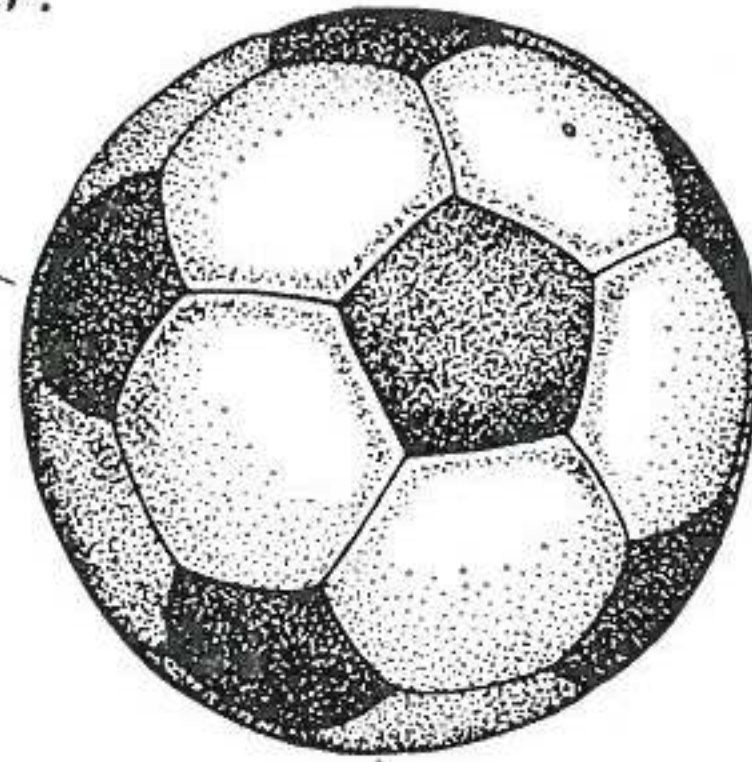
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early death!*



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JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON

ALL-IRELAND Football Final issue again. Kerry v Dublin. That pairing is almost inevitable now. Which isn't good for the game. Still it's time for all of the other counties to get up off their backs — and catch up. Gaelic football needs new faces. This is not to say that a Dublin-Kerry final isn't attractive. In fact, it's the game EVERYBODY has been waiting for since last year's semi-final.

CUT-OUT

This month's Cut-Out is Dublin's big midfielder Brian Mullins. In my "Sunday Independent" series last year I described him as the best midfielder playing today: I see no reason to change that view and regard Brian as one of the kingpins of Dublin.

PUBLICATIONS

(1) **Score** (Issue No. 6)—Official magazine of Down G.A.A. — this time carries a great profile of George Tinnelly, a club profile of St. Bronagh's, Rostrevor, the usual very expert Junior Quiz Scene compiled by Feargal McCormack and the equally good painting competition by Mary Goss.

Price 35p from Sean Magorrian, 2 Bay Road, Ballykinlar, Co. Down.

(2) **Feile na Gael Souvenir Programme 1978** (at Kilkenny). A really superb production. Marvellous value for 30p. Colourful, interesting and chockfull of interesting articles, statistics in its 84 pages. This is a must for all programme collectors. For anybody interested in a great production.

Price 30p from Rev. Liam Dunne, C.C., Freshford, Co. Kilkenny.

(3) Souvenir Programme of official opening of **An Spórtlann, Castlebar** is a miniature history of the Castlebar Mitchels Club and is good value for 60p. Its 56 pages carry some very good photos of Castlebar teams old and young.

Price 60p from Sean Rice, G.A.A., Castlebar, Co. Mayo.

(4) **Souvenir Programme** of official opening of **Kiltane G.A.A. Club's** playing field and dressing rooms at Bangor-Erris (Co. Mayo).

This is another good programme containing much of the history of Gaelic football in Bangor-Erris.

Price 40p from John Noel Carey, Bangor Erris, Co. Mayo.

QUIZ

The correct answers to the Quiz of two months ago were:

1. Ned Byrne; 2. Raymond Smith; 3. (a) Limerick, (b) Louth; 4. 12; 5. Wexford.

The following won copies of Quizbook No. 2:

1. S. J. Murphy, Ballydaly Lower, Rathmore, Co. Kerry.
2. Conor Lucas, West End, Banagher, Co. Offaly.
3. James Keogh, Mountivers, Six-milebridge, Ennis, Co. Clare.
4. Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.
5. Christopher Meehan, 44 O'Connell St., Dungarvan, Co. Waterford.
6. Michael Parker, Kilflynn, Tralee, Co. Kerry.
7. Marie Boran, Lismorane, Foxford, Co. Mayo.
8. Sean Furlong, Kilmaclegue, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford.
9. Martin Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly.

ANOTHER "SCORE"

Issue No. 7, of **Score** (Down G.A.A. magazine) to hand. This one carries a fine profile of Paddy McFlynn by Sean Magorrian, the usual club profile (Bryansford this time), a county player profile of Dan McCartan (whose personal ambition is to see his son Mark play for Down — that's the spirit, Dan), a fine article on Violet Hill (Newry C.B.S), plus the usual fine Quiz section by Feargal McCormack.

Price 35p from same address as No. 1 above.

Mailbag

Michael McGrath, Ox Park, Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary wants tapes of the 1971 All-Ireland S.H. final, Kilkenny v Tipperary, also the 1976 and 1977 Cork v Wexford finals. He wants the following programmes: 1976 Railway Cup Finals, Oireachtas Final, N.H.L. Final and Hurling-Shinty game, also the All-Ireland S.F. finals. The 1977 programmes he wants are Oireachtas Final, Ulster S.F. Final and the hurling-shinty game. Michael will swap for the programmes or buy them. With the tapes he will buy them or return them safely after recording.

● *Over to you programme collectors and tape fanatics (J.M.)*

Michael Fitzpatrick, Lower Tubberboe, Durrow, Co. Laois is only 7 years old, likes Junior Desk and hopes "it is here forever". He likes Mick Dunne's Gaelic Stadium. Michael has one scrapbook and is starting another. His two brothers, John and Martin are great hurlers. His favourite hurlers are Frank Keenan and Mickey Walsh and his top footballers are Tom Prendergast and Kieran Brennan. "I hear my father talking about the great Delaney family and the wonder boy Tommy Murphy. I am a great Laois follower."

● *You win a Laois Bob-cap (J.M.)*

"Wicklow Fan," Ballymorris, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow forgot to enclose her name, tells me her hobbies are Camogie and reading. She has 4 scrapbooks and wants a Cut-Out of Billy Fitzpatrick.

● *He is a great man to shoot over long-range points (J.M.)*

"Kerry Fan," Beale, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry loves collecting scrapbooks of stars and wants

● **OVERLEAF**

● FROM OVERLEAF

Cut-Outs of P. J. Molloy and Brian Murphy.

● *I get great enjoyment out of my own scrapbooks. (J.M.)*

Kevin Falvey, Knockanish West, Spa, Tralee, Co. Kerry, thought John Horgan was brilliant in the Munster S.H. final. "He is the best long distance free-taker in the game. Tom Cashman also had a great game for Cork. Both goalkeepers were splendid, especially Seamus Durack. Kevin Moran is the most important member of the Dubs." Kevin tells me he has just completed his first scrapbook. He picks Declan Barron and Mick Sheehy as his Munster final stars and thought the N.H.L. final "a great match."

● *May your scrapbook be the first of many. It is one of my greatest hobbies (J.M.)*

John Leogue, (Age 13), Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly thinks Offaly footballers are on the way up again with rising stars in Ollie Minnock, Charlie Conroy, John Mooney, Gerry Carroll, Thomas Connor, Vincent Henry, Tom Fitzpatrick, Matt Connor and Pat Doyle. John was disappointed that Offaly U-21 didn't win the football crown in Leinster to make it a great double with the hurlers doing so well in that grade. He wants an Offaly Cut-Out or one of Down's Liam Austin.

● *Winning the Leinster U-21 H.C. was a great achievement. (J.M.)*

Paul Taheny, Riverstown, Via Boyle, Co. Sligo feels Mickey Kearins doesn't get enough of credit for his great football prowess. "He has promoted Gaelic football immensely in Sligo." Paul has started on his tenth scrapbook and has a great collection of G.A.A. books. He laments the death of Luke Colleran, one of the great Sligo Gaelic football family.

● *Ten! Keep at it, Paul. (J.M.)*

Jerry Fitzmaurice, Ballyroe, Tralee, Co. Kerry plays football with Austin Stacks and his favourite player is John O'Keeffe.

● *I hear a lot about your club from your senior captain, Tony O'Keeffe, who teaches with me. (J.M.)*

Christopher Cunningham, 16 Wingfield St., Gorse Hill, Stretford, Manchester, England wants the following tapes:

1962 Connacht S.F. final, Roscommon v Galway; 1976 Munster S.F. final, Kerry v Cork (two games); 1956 Galway v Cork All-Ireland final (F.); 1967 Kilkenny v Tipperary S.H. All-Ireland final; 1964 Galway v Kerry All-Ireland final (F.); 1961 Down v Offaly and 1960 Down v Kerry S.F. finals.

He will pay for the tapes.

● *Let me know, Christopher, how you get on. (J.M.)*

Donal Woods, Lisgoold, Leamlara, Co. Cork wants to buy the following books: 1. Decades of Glory; 2. The Hurling Immortals; 3. The Football Immortals; 4. The Clash of the Ash and 5. The Football Immortals (most recent edition). Donal wants a Cut-Out of Tom Cashman or John Crowley.

● *Both were great in the Munster Final. (J.M.)*

Tommy O'Regan, Newtown, Ballyhea, Charleville, Co. Cork nominates his stars as Tom Cashman, the two McCarthys, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, and Sean O'Leary. Tommy would like to see the Dubs beaten.

● *When teams like Dublin (F.) and Cork (H.) keep on winning most neutrals want to see them beaten. (J.M.)*

Anne Walsh, 6 St. Stephen's Park, Castleisland, Co. Kerry wants to know where she can buy a Limerick Bob-Cap.

● *Write to An Siopa, C.L.C.G., Páirc an Chrocaigh, Dublin, 3. (J.M.)*

"Cork Fan," 27 Ballintemple, Blackrock Road, Cork forgot to include his name, thinks John Horgan and Tom Cashman were great against Clare. He wants a Cut-Out of Mike Sheehy.

● *I think Mike Sheehy is the best footballer in Ireland. Now that's a very sweeping statement. But I have observed him since 1975. He is a marvellous sportsman and is so unselfish. A player in the mould of the late and great Paudie, one of the greatest sportsmen it was my pleasure to play against. (J.M.)*

John Lynch, Nephin, Coronea, Skibbereen, Co. Cork feels very sorry for Clare and thinks they

will keep on trying and, writing in early August, forecasted that Cork and Dublin would win the three-in-a-row apiece.

Paddy Dunleavy, home from New York on a holiday for the first time since 1972 is 15 years old and has this to say:

"Allow me to introduce myself as a boy born 15 years ago in Co. Offaly. However, in 1972, only three days after my native county's greatest ever triumph, my family emigrated to USA and more specifically, New York. I have never since set foot in Ireland until July 12 this year, that is. However, I always manage to keep in touch with the Gaelic games scene and have GAELIC SPORT sent over to me each month by a pen-pal in Co. Sligo. At present I am on holiday until August 17 and naturally plan to see as many GAA matches as possible. I just decided to write to you to see if I could get my name printed in Junior Desk.

So far I've been at the Munster Football Final and the All-Ireland Hurling q-final (Galway v Antrim) and Kildare v. Dublin. One thing which pleasantly surprised me was the quality of the match programmes particularly at the Galway-Antrim match. The "An Bfhuil Fhios Agat" sections in this were tremendous.

Naturally I was at the Kerry v. Dublin and All-Stars v. New York matches in New York earlier this year in May. I believe that here in Ireland you got highlights of the games and therefore saw the conditions, but believe me you had to be there to get a real idea of the weather, it was unbelievable. Best for Kerry were Tommy Doyle and Gearoid Griffin. Having seen his performance in N.Y. it was no surprise to see Doyle acquit himself so well in the Munster Final but honestly I was stunned at Kerry's omission of Griffin. Perhaps his N.Y. form was "flash-in-the-pan" stuff but to me he looked a cool customer that day and it surprised me not to see him being introduced in Cork."

Paddy finished off his letter by tipping Kerry to win the All-Ireland and forecasting an Offaly

resurgence.

● *Thanks for such a fine letter, Paddy, and keep writing to us. Pat Quigley will like that comment on the programmes. A well deserved tribute, too. (J.M.)*

J. J. Ryan, Top Cross, Lisgoold, Leamlara, Co. Cork., is another to praise Declan Barron's great fielding in the Munster final. He also criticises the referee for not taking action against Jimmy Deenihan for his persistent fouling of Jimmy Barry-Murphy. He laments the absence of Kevin Kehilly and Humphrey Kelleher from Cork's backline.

● *I didn't see the Munster final this year. I saw the Leinster S.H. final instead and that was one of the greatest games I have ever seen. (J.M.)*

Olwyn Reidy, Liffey View Bar, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, tells me that Offaly's Mick Wright now lives in Celbridge. "Mick is very friendly with my brothers Fergal and Michael." Fergal, a former correspondent to Junior Desk played minor football for Kildare in 1976 and 1977 and Michael did likewise in 1976. Fergal is a top-class athlete, too, and is a student in Maynooth College. Olwyn wants a cut-out of Mick Wright or Tommy Carew or John Geoghegan. He sent me on a set of American football picture cards and wants to know when will there be similar G.A.A. picture cards.

● *The sooner the better. I hope you like the colour fold-out poster-type production which is on sale for the All-Ireland F. final (J.M.)*

Sean Furlong, Kilmaclegue, Dunmore East, Co. Waterford: "I have just received my first trophy for an U-13 Hurling League. Some time ago I wrote saying I had six stars on my bedroom wall. Now I have 11. I would love a pin-up of Vincent Henry of Offaly and was so disappointed when they failed to the Dubs. I want a tape of the 1971 All-Ireland S.F. Final."

● *May your trophy be the first of many, Sean. (J.M.)*

Declan Cronin (age 8), Durrus, Bantry, Co. Cork, is another to praise Declan Barron's Munster final display and wants a cut-out of Martin Coleman. He likes

Jimmy Barry-Murphy's solo run in hurling.

● *So do I. (J.M.)*

"I play with Durrus and scored a goal for them. My favourite referee is John Moloney (football) and Sean O'Grady (hurling). I am in third class in school. My teacher says I am good at football. I can play hurling as well. I want a cut-out of Armagh's Joe Kernan. Brian McSweeney played well for Cork footballers."

● *Declan, you win a Cork Bob-cap. (J.M.)*

John F. Lyons, Creggane, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, shook hands with Galway's Tom Naughton after a recent game and would like to see John Tobin back again for Galway. His favourites are John Dillon (football) and Mick Brennan (hurling).

● *Would other readers please tell us when they meet the inter-county stars like Tom. (J.M.)*

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, one of our most loyal readers over the years, waxes enthusiastically about the quality of this year's Leinster H. finals. "One of the finest exhibitions of the skills of hurling and real nail-biting excitement over the years" He said scores were level on 11 occasions during the 70 minutes. He condemns R.T.E. for consistently ignoring Leinster finals in preference to Munster events. "The Leinster hurling finals of the past few years promoted the game of hurling no end. Exchanges have always been tough and hard but very sporting." Gerry considers the Kilkenny half-back line of Joe Hennessy, Ger Henderson and Richie Reid superb.

● *Great letter as usual, Gerry. (J.M.)*

Thomas Walsh, 1 Ardcairn View, Churchyard Ave., Ballintemple, Cork, sent us on his best hurling team since 1975 as follows: S. Durack, F. Larkin, M. O'Doherty, J. Horgan, Ger Loughnane, P. Hartigan, I. Clarke, T. Cashman, L. O'Brien, C. Keogh, G. McCarthy, P. J. Molloy, Ch. McCarthy, R. Cummins, E. Keher.

● *Six Corkmen, Thomas. You certainly are loyal! Still it's a good team. (J.M.)*

Marian Lynch, Donoughboy, Kilkee, Co. Clare, enjoys Junior Desk, was at the Munster S.H. final, was very proud of Clare, "but Cork were the better team. Maybe next year we will be there again. Seamus Durack was my man of the game and I would like a photo of him and Colm Honan. I will be going to see Seamus Durack opening the festival in Kilbaha on Wednesday night."

● *That's the spirit. Keep your chin up. Marian, you win a Clare G.A.A. scarf. Yes, I thought Seamus Durack marvellous that day, too. After the game who passed by my car as I waited for the traffic to ease only the Cork captain, Charlie McCarthy, carrying the Cup, together with his wife and daughter. We had a good chat. It's great the way the G.A.A. stars stroll out among the people almost unnoticed after major games (J.M.)*

The "Mailbag" is huge this month. Letters received from **Terry Doyle, Aughrim; Mary Fleming, Templeogue; Paul Gallagher, Newry; Donal Ring, Macroom; Michael Keane, Loughrea; Paula McKee, Rockford, Illinois, U.S.A.**

● *Paula, glad to hear from you and I'm sure you'll enjoy Junior Desk in the future. (J.M.), and Harry Kavanagh, Arklow, will appear in the next issue of GAELIC SPORT.*

In the meantime keep writing. Tell me what you thought of the All-Ireland finals, the pageantry, the referee, the atmosphere, the sporting gestures, crowd behaviour, your star players, the official programmes of the game, the G.A.A. fold-out souvenir, the production generally. There will be prizes for the best letters received. Or write about anything you like to.

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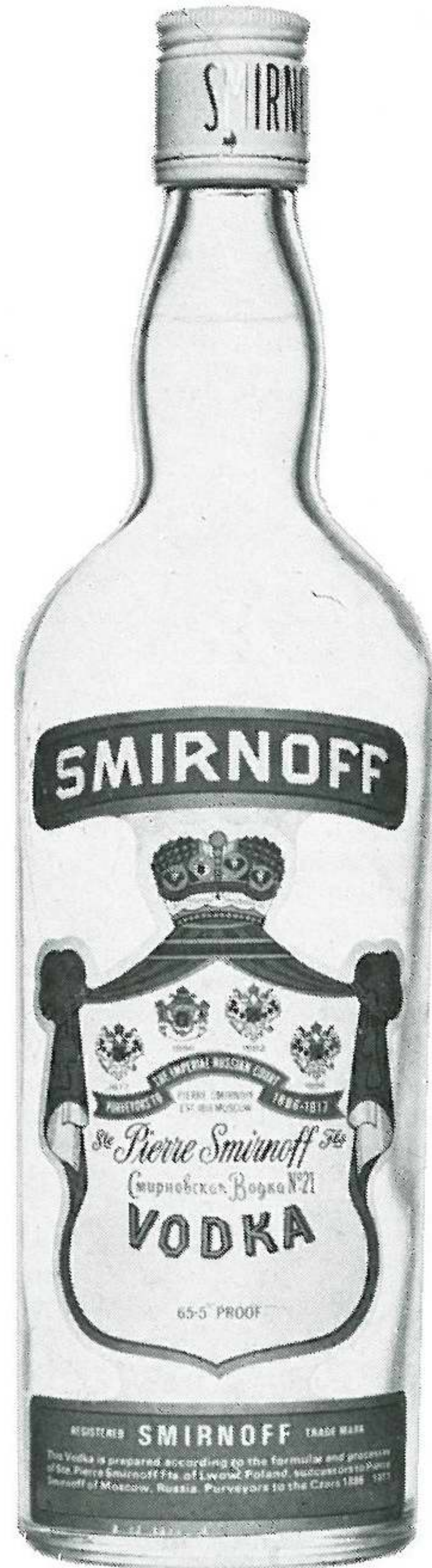
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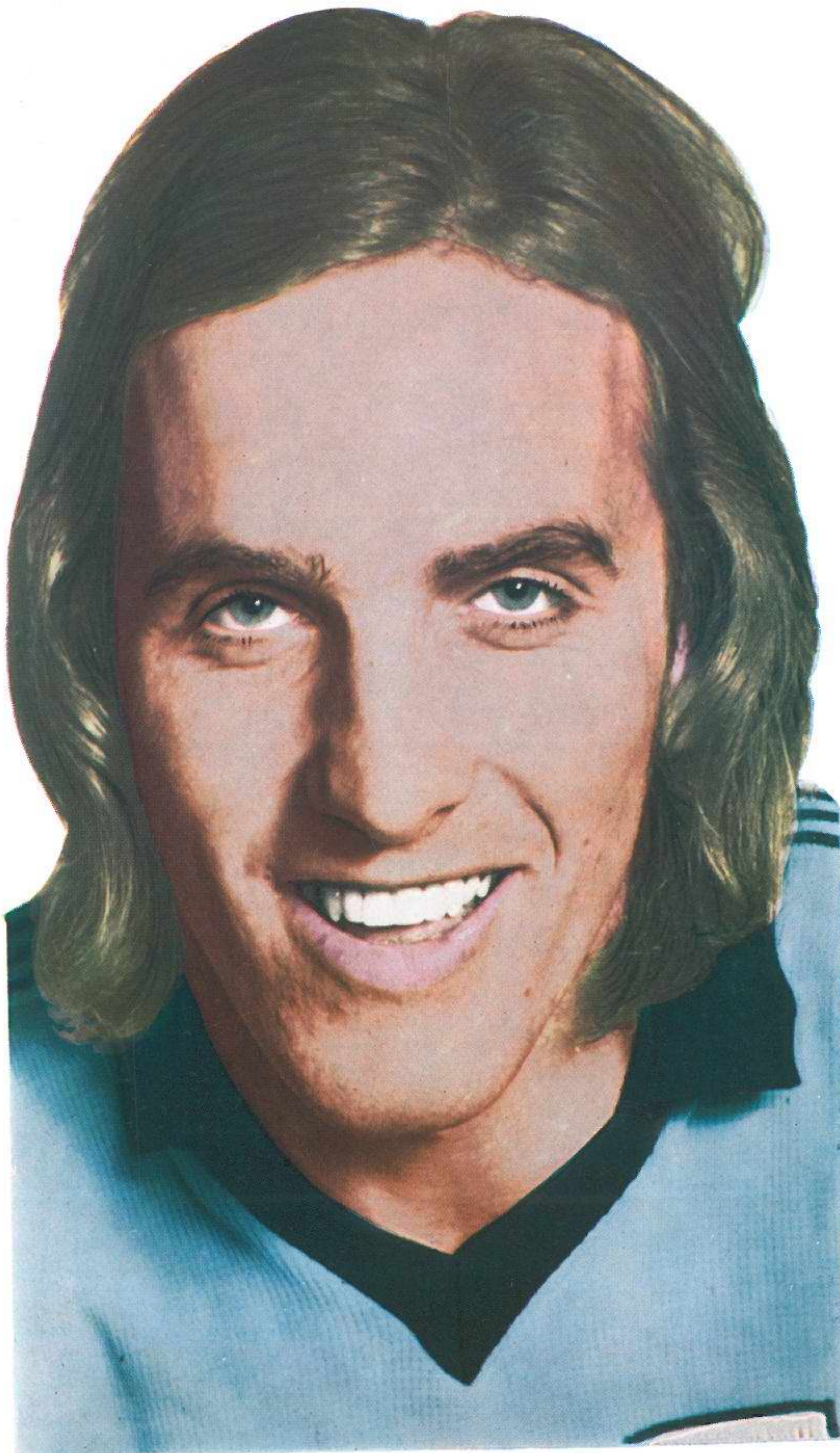
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**Brian
Mullins
(Dublin)**

Age: 24
Height: 6 ft. 4 ins.
Weight: 14 st. 7 lb.
Position: Midfield
Club: St. Vincent's
Senior Inter-County Debut: 1974.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Brian, who will be 24 three days after the final, has with his superb fielding, splendid work-rate and positive play established himself as one of the greatest midfielders ever.

He played in the Leinster Colleges' games with Colaiste Mhuire, and since winning his place in the Dublin senior side early in 1974 he has made a tremendous contribution to their success story.

Winner of three All-Ireland medals, and two National League souvenirs, he also helped his club to their only national club title win in 1976, and captained St. Vincent's to their last county championship over a year ago.

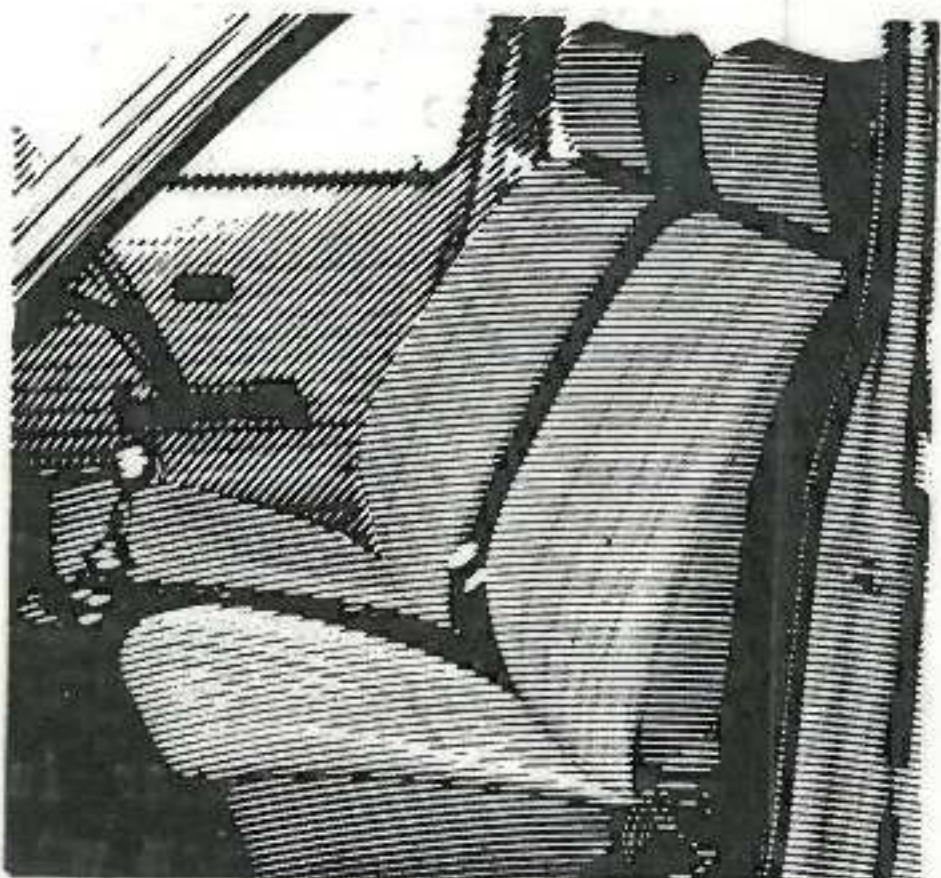
A P.E. teacher in the capital, Brian was honoured by the Carrolls All Stars in 1976 and 1977.

Economic miracle

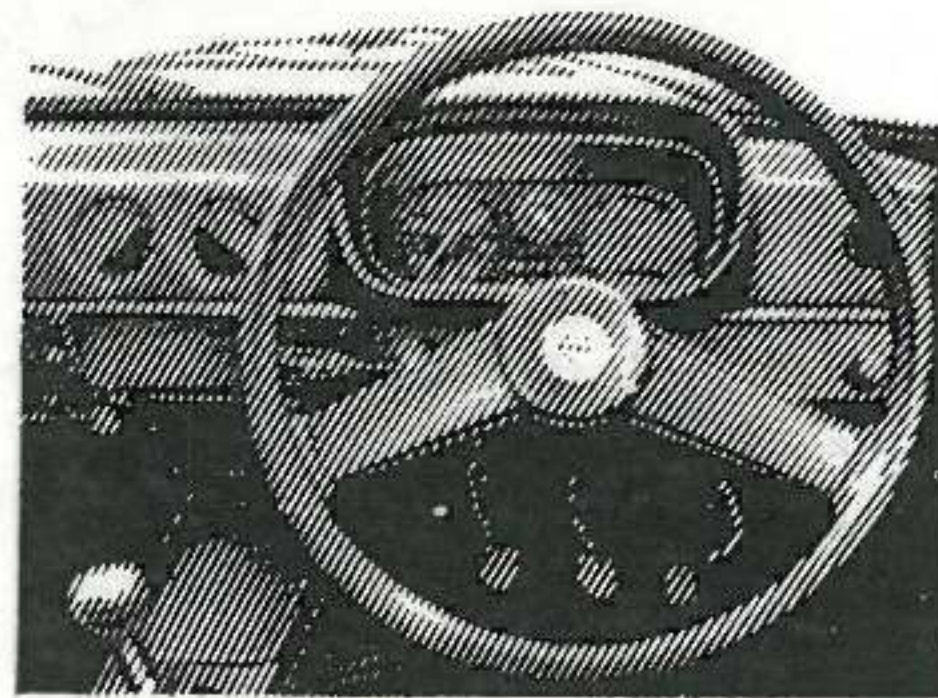


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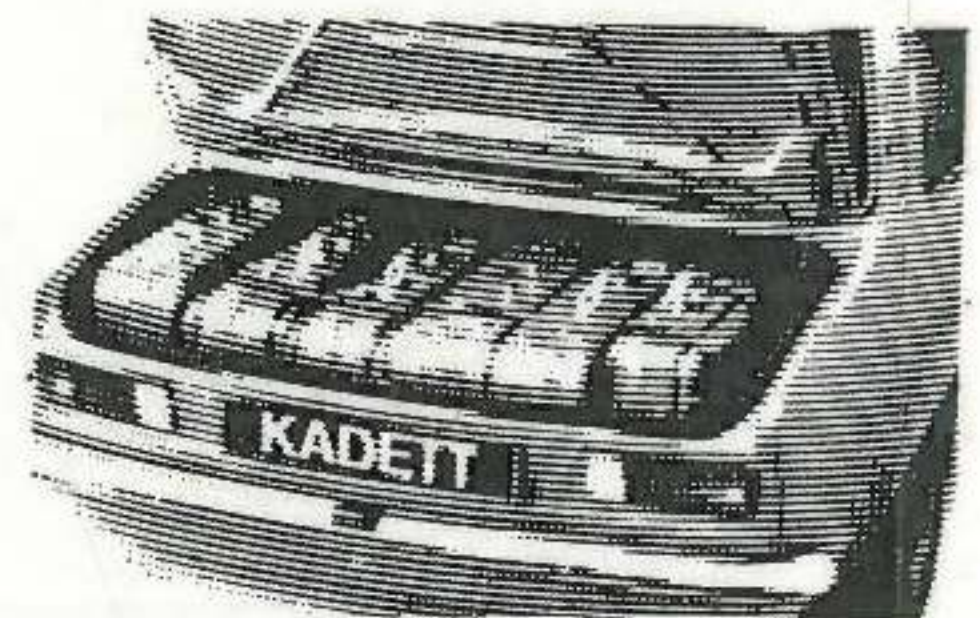


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