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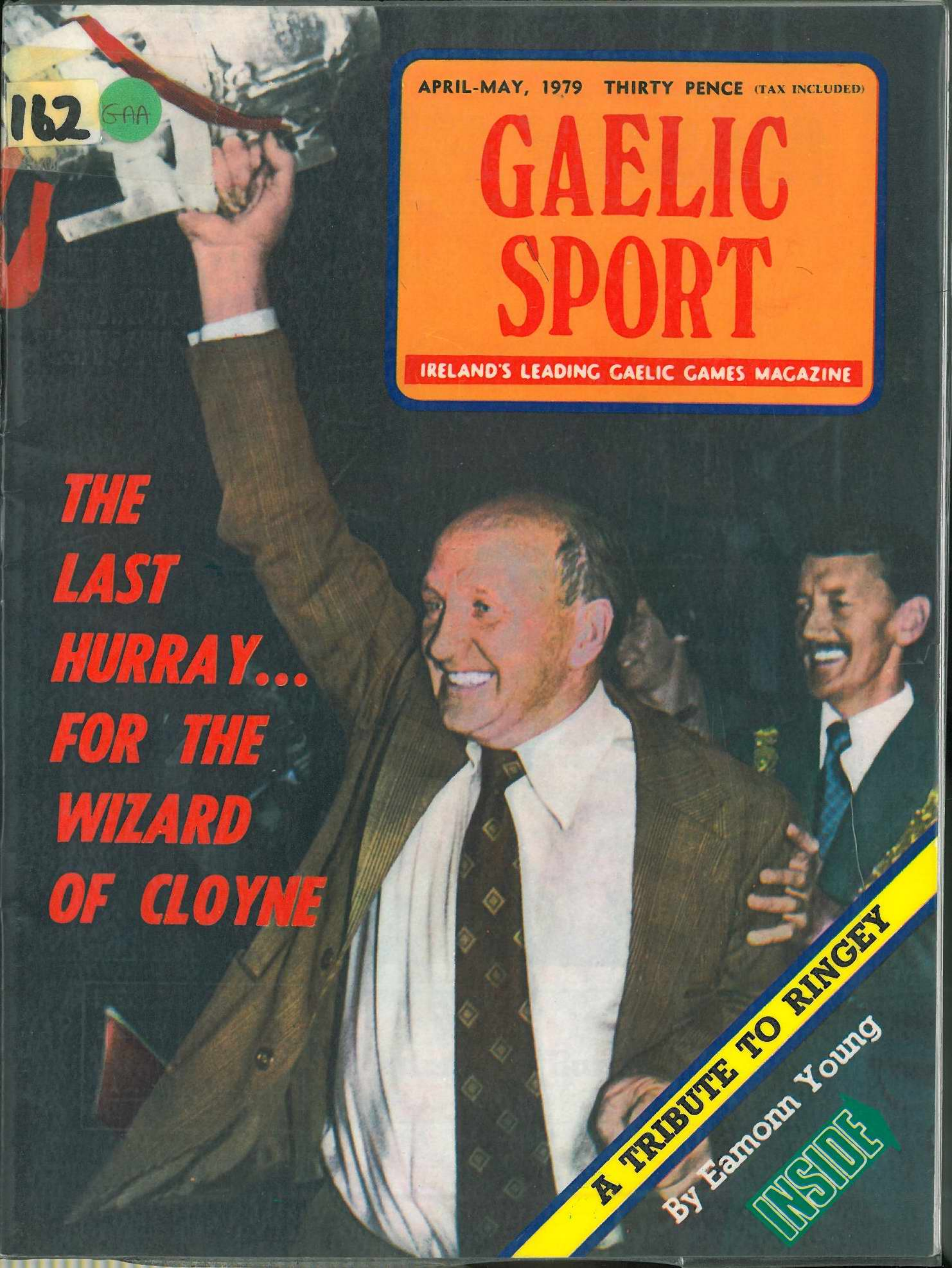
GAEELIC SPORT

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**THE
LAST
HURRAY...
FOR THE
WIZARD
OF CLOYNE**

A TRIBUTE TO RINGEY
By Eamonn Young

INSIDE



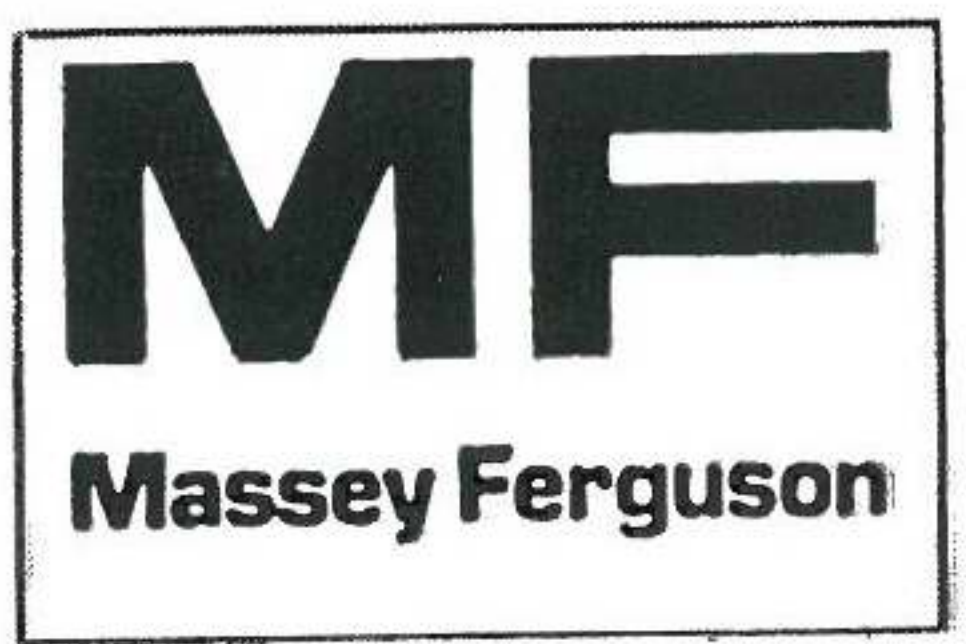
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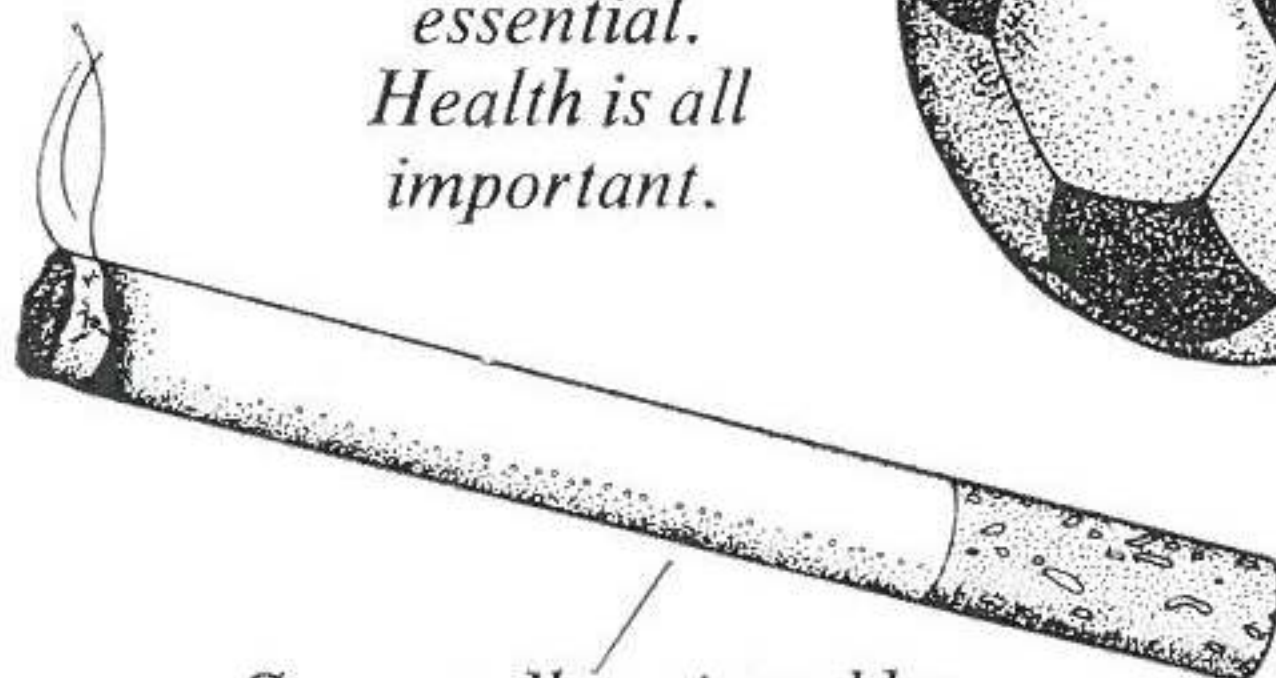
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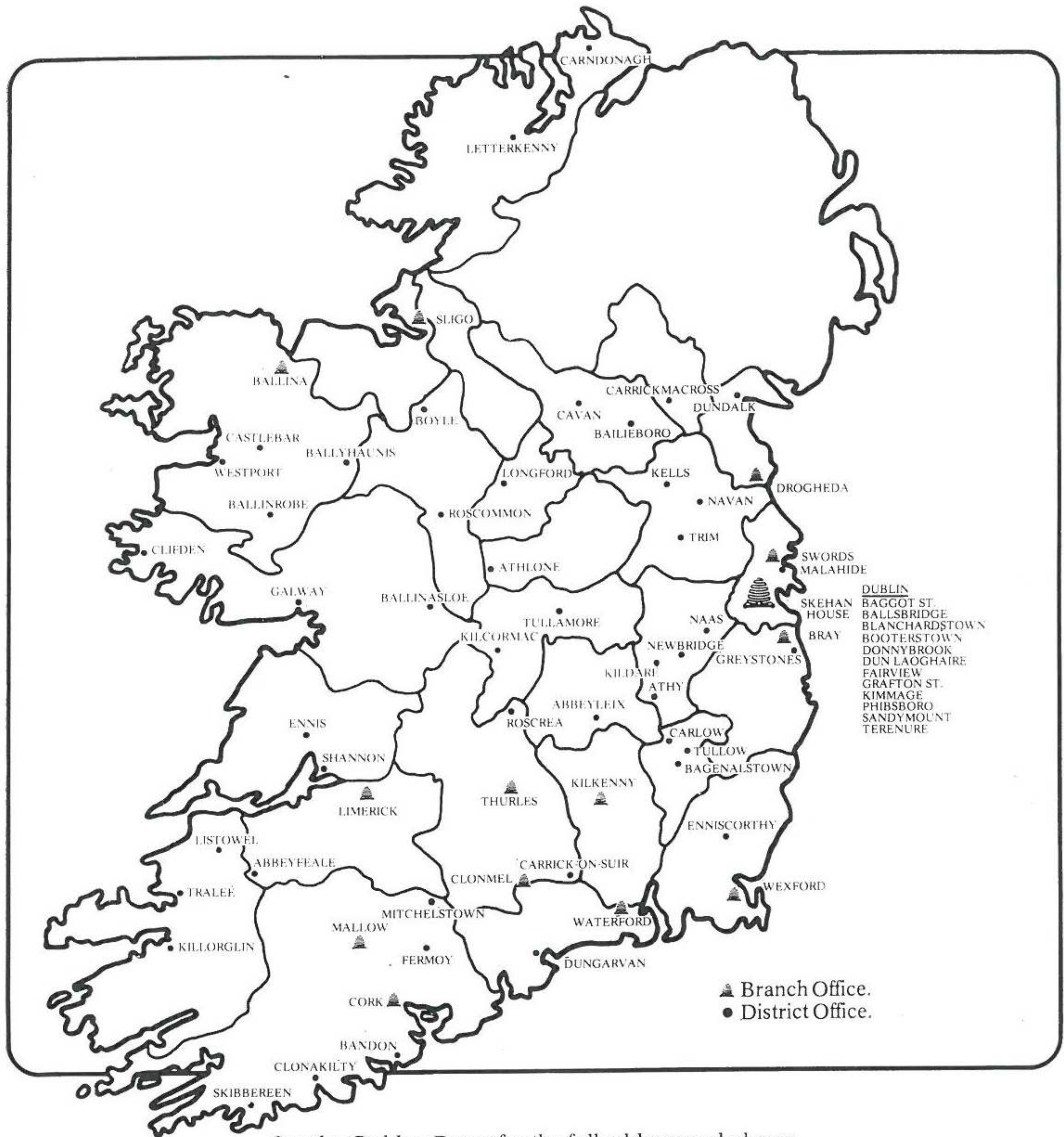


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IT would be too sweeping to say that football is on the threshold of a bright new era following the wind of change that has been fueled by the current National League. But the fact that Kerry and Dublin, who have farmed the title in modern times, both failed this season to get through even to the last four must give new encouragement to the other counties to redouble their efforts to get to the top.

Kerry and Dublin have given the game a tremendous filip in recent years with their many stirring battles, and another meeting of this pair with the 1979 League title as the prize would have again proven top box office. But it is no reflection on these great football counties, or on their wonderful achievements, to say that such a happening would not have helped the general health of the game.

After all, the "Big Two" monopolised the League title between 1971 and last year, except for a brief flirtation by Meath, who halted the dominance temporarily in 1975. It is just not good for any sport if a major title becomes the preserve of a couple of teams in this way.

Football, indeed, any code, needs the stimulus of new faces and new champions if the game is to develop and expand. The current League has helped to strike a worthwhile blow in this direction.

Of the four semi-finalists, only Cork got among the titles in the past. But their win of former days was so far back as to be recalled only by those with long memories.

Roscommon, Offaly, Cork and Kildare are bound to benefit greatly from their performances in the series. More than that, their achievements must give further hope to the many other counties who have been striving so valiantly for so long with little tangible reward. And, nothing could be better for football nation-wide than that.

The happenings in the winter competition should also pay-off in a handsome dividend in the provincial championships. Certainly, there are now solid grounds for looking forward to extra keen competition in all provinces.

Kerry and Dublin will be back among the leading challengers. They are too richly steeped in tradition, have accomplished too much in modern times and are too well endowed with top-class players to be lightly dismissed because of their recent form.

But the aura of invincibility that surrounded the "Big Two" for so long has been broken. Then, the opportunities that many counties have had to build up teamwork and confidence in the concluding stages of the League must help to broaden the field of genuine challengers for the titles.

So, if football may not be exactly standing at the door of an exciting new chapter in the annals of the game, the days ahead certainly appear destined to prove much more interesting and stimulating than many could have envisaged a mere six months back. And, while that will be all the more welcome for followers—there is nothing like keen competition for providing value for money—the fundamental and crucial point is that the game itself will benefit enormously as a result.

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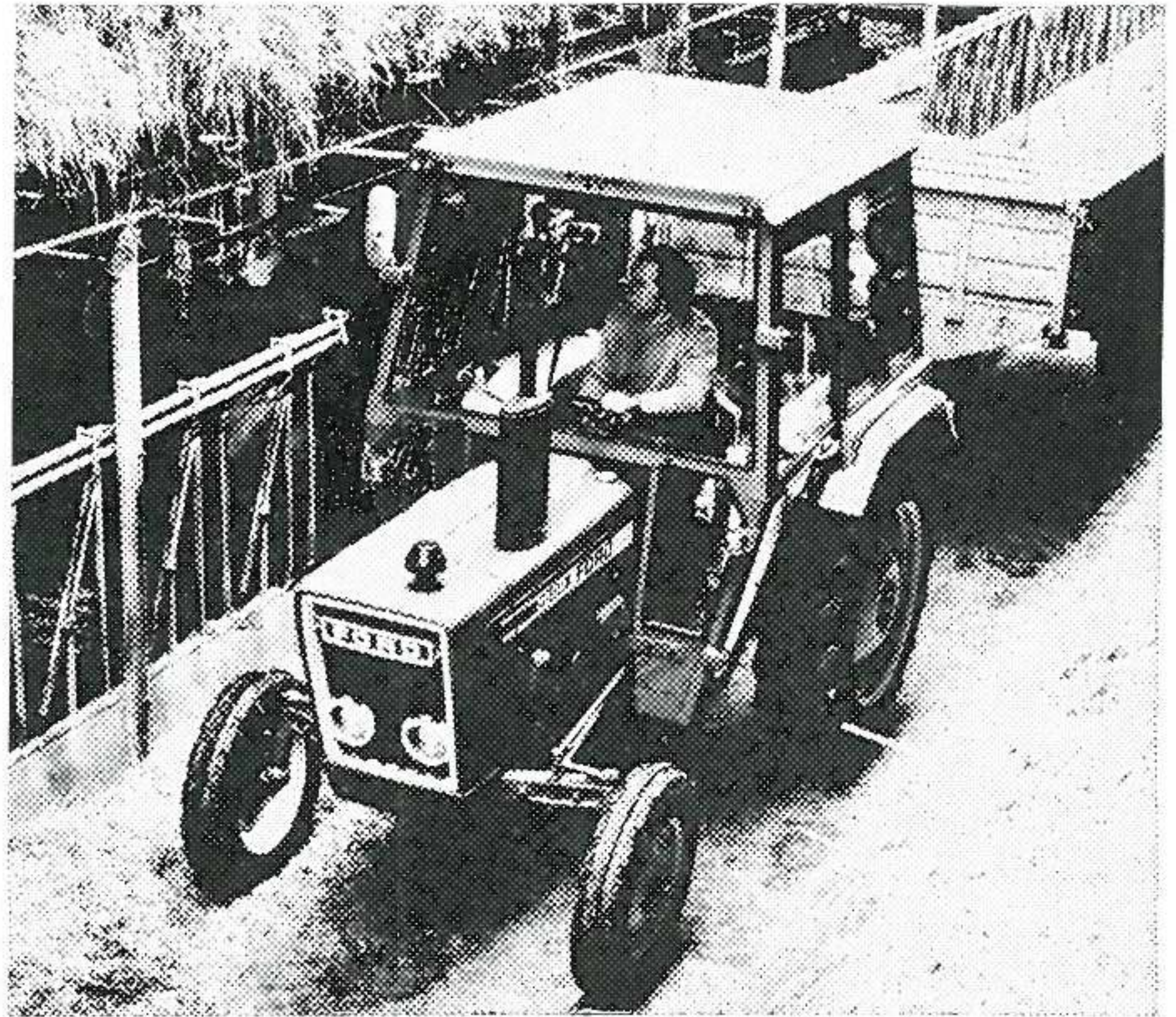
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Memories of Christy Ring—1

The Maestro was a modest man, though he knew he was the best

By Eamonn Young

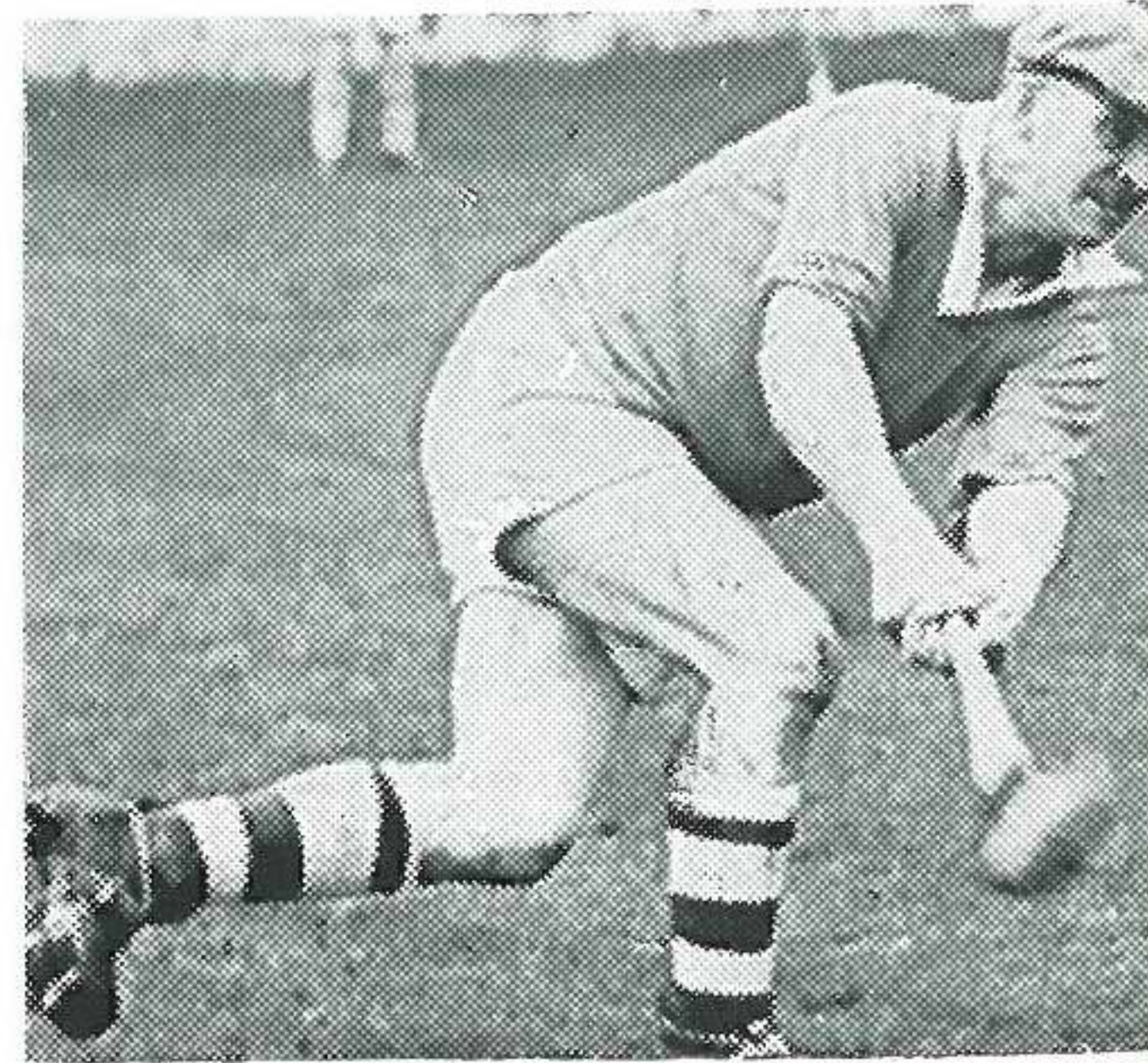
TRAVELLING in the cars to the games is one of the real joys of playing. Players sort themselves out according to their personalities and the chaps who like a bit of fun thus get together. Coming home is another matter that needs attention, for there are the early birds and the crows who fly by night.

In the early days Christy Ring liked to travel in the front of the car along with John Quirke who had pulled on the senior red jersey most of a decade before Ringey. "I suppose he would talk to you about hurling" I said. "He was always anxious to learn." And Quirky gave a hearty laugh "Yerra, what could he learn about hurling from me?" What the great Blackrock player meant of course was what could Ringey learn about hurling from anyone. And yet they DID talk hurling.

Christy had great time for John Quirke ever since that day when as a young player the Cloyne winger got into trouble with a tough seasoned and very capable performer in a championship.

Ring got his face torn by the hurley and the blood ran all over it. He did not go down but ran into the full forward line to get ready for a free. John Quirke was dismayed when he saw the face of his young comrade. "What happened you, Christy?" he asked. Ring told him. "Right Ringey" called Quirke "Whip on everything as it comes now boy, and we'll see how we get on." The offender was close by. The sliotar dropped and there was a lot of hard pulling but nobody else dropped. Ringey the youngster never forgot the older man's support.

The Glen were playing a tournament for suit lengths against the Barrs in '42 and it was a needle game for the Blues had stopped the Glen's effort at a phenomenal nine in a row a few weeks before. The juvenile Glen players were in action as a curtain-raiser but they were so anxious to see the seniors they delayed togging off until the big game was over. When the triumphant older men had returned to the dressing-



room a small black-haired lad named Doney Donovan sat down to tog off. Beside him sat a fair-haired country man who asked him his name and then told him he had played well.

"Ringey was only a raw country chap at the time, but I had seen him hurl and that was enough to make me proud that he had noticed me" said Doney.

"Since then I have always admired him. We didn't always agree and to be honest I went away from him a few times rather than fight with him but . . . all players are strong-willed."

It was only two years afterwards when eighteen year old Doney Donovan stood at full forward for the Glen in a county final and Ringey came up to him. "Keep the ball in the area if you can" he said. "Take your own goal when you can get it, but if you can't don't forget to keep the ball around anyway. We'll do the rest." They did. All his life Ringey loved a full forward who had the power and guts to keep the back from clearing the ball decisively and that's why big Liam Dowling was his favourite full forward. While the sliotar was around the area at all the real forward had a chance, and Ringey was the type who hit man, ball, sod, mud and all into the net when the chance came.

In '49 Doney Donovan was picked on the Railway Cup foot-

● TO PAGE 7

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Memories of Christy Ring

● FROM PAGE 5

ball team and was delighted. "Aha, you were picked" shouted Ringey across the street. "We'll go training." And they did. Every night they would cycle down the Marina, climb over the wall to the old park and then start to hurl. For an hour they would drive ball after ball up and down the field and said Doney "whatever skills that man showed on the field they were nothing to what he could do in practice. He would spend the rest of his life pucking a ball." Then when the sliotar would land somewhere between them they would tear after it and the tussling was lusty and hard for O'Donovan could go like a bomb. For the record they both won Railway Cups that year and both at right wing.

Paddy King from Mitchelstown used meet Ringey when the hurler was on his holidays to Achill. "He would spend half an hour pucking the sliotar up in the air to himself" laughed Paddy and recounted with pleasure how Ringey would meet it with the left and drive it up again changing over to the right when the time came. "We used have a great match between three of us" he recalled. "Ringey would go out in the middle of the field and put me in one goal and a Christian Brother who was a fine hurler in the other. Then he would try to score on us. The distance was about fifty yards and often he would double on the clearance. What fun we would have. And we would try to fool him and argue like mad that he had scored less goals on us than he did. But he would take the whole thing very seriously at times and he really meant to score goals. They meant a lot to Ringey.



● *CHRISTY playing for Cork at the old Athletic Grounds in the last years of his long and illustrious career.*



Of course he loved his hurleys and from the earliest days would care for them well. When pieces were knocked out of a good stick he would search for them and bring them to Doney Donovan who would glue them on again. After the war Doney told me the glue improved a lot and he was able to do a first-class job with the result that Ringey's favourite sticks would last him a long time and he often got through a year on three or four. He used a very heavy stick because he had powerful arms and of course the combination of weight and power gave the lightning speed that raised so many green flags.

A modest man, Ringey really believed in himself. He was a great judge of hurlers, he knew he was the best. Once a fine soccer player was brought across to play for a Cork side. They paid him a fair sum and the idea was to raise the attendance. One day

this fine young man was walking along a Cork street and from the other side Christy saw him. "Look at yer man" he said. "I'd draw a bigger crowd in my workin' clothes." In fact he was right.

This belief in himself demanded close attention to all matters regarding this game of hurling and so it was that sticks, abstinence from drink and tobacco, good living, and close study of all facets of the game were second nature. These were all rungs to the ladder of his eminence and the results went even further to develop self-confidence. Ringey worked for his success. The unparalleled merit God gave him simply made him greater.

I think his only ambition outside of his home was in hurling. Undoubtedly his job, to which he attended with diligence, was part of his domestic life but outside

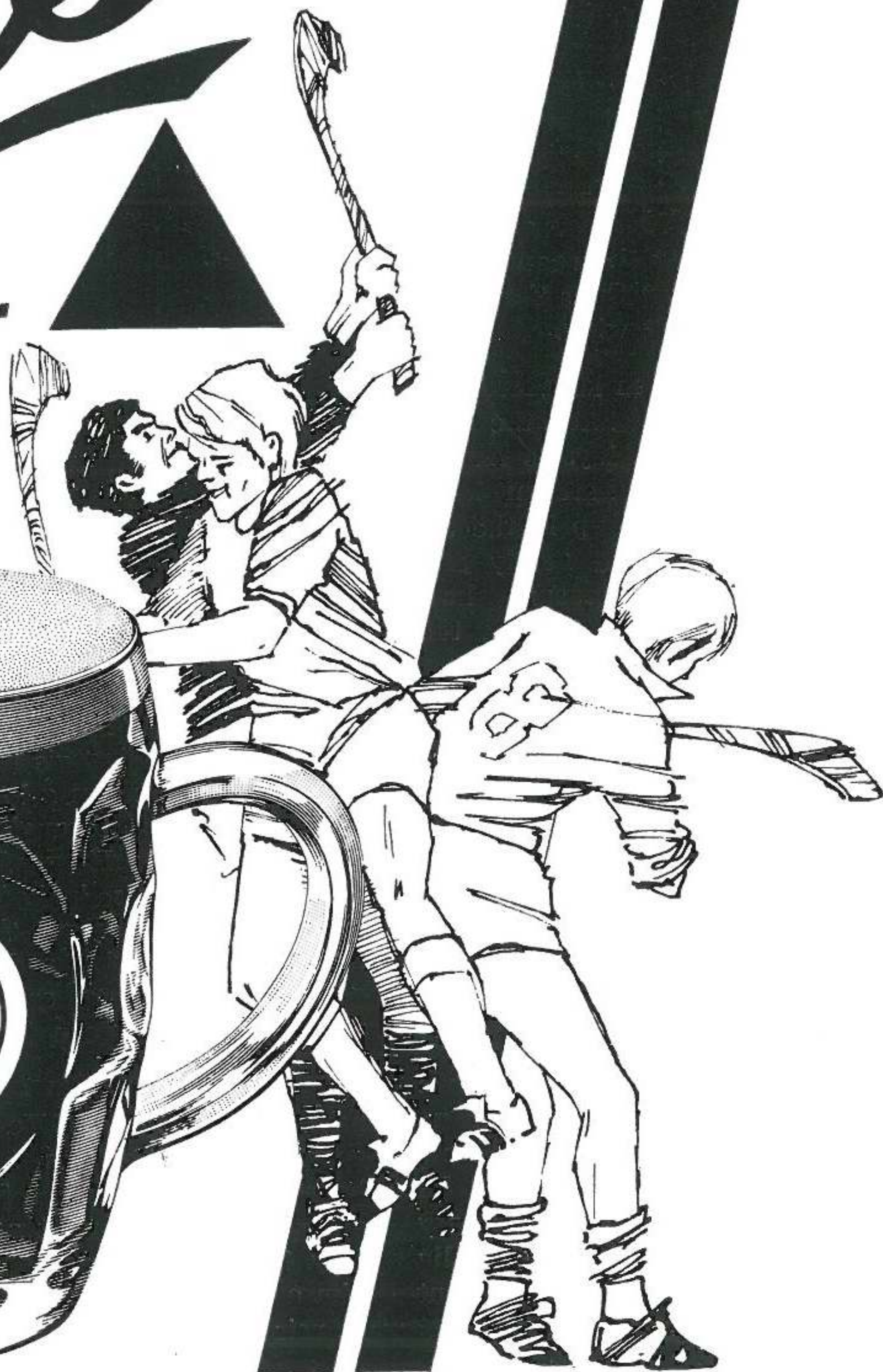
● TO PAGE 9

Bass SPORTS

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● *CHRISTY* with "Bowler" Walsh, chairman of the Cork Co. Board (left), and the famous trainer, Jim "Tough" Barry, at a reception after the 1946 All-Ireland final. He captained the Cork team that beat Kilkenny by 7-5 to 3-8.

● **FROM PAGE 7**

of that area it was hurling, hurling, all the way. The singular thing about him is that he never wanted anything else from the game but the joy of playing and of winning or helping others to win. Let nobody deny the lawful ambition of the sportsman in his job or politics or any other normal facet of social endeavour. But there is something quite unusual about the man who is in sport simply for the sake of sport. Hurling was Ringey's life. It was because of that devotion to the game that so many sorrowed when he was gone. To us he meant hurling; he **was** hurling.

But the game gave him many a bad moment and I know he had his nightmares and his regrets, most of these associated with defeats of Cork. At times he was uncomfortable on this pedestal on which we set him and his first trip to New York when he was about thirty and playing well was

not a comfortable one for him. The spotlight was white upon him and he didn't bask in the light. He made few speeches and the less he made the more they wanted, for he had the habit of saying in a few words what others say in many. It was this desire to avoid the light that often made him taciturn but surely a man is entitled to his own life.

There was a truly intense feeling in Christy. He simply got worked up about things. Defeats for Cork or the Glen, the failure of a player to hurl a sensible hour, or the interference of anything in the progress of hurling made him mad. When the jerseys dispute between the Cork footballers and the County Board threatened two years ago to spill over on to the Cork hurling team in the semi-final he was beside himself with irritation and told me quite emphatically that football had the "bloody GAA ruined." As far as he was concerned the truth was being spoken. I didn't disagree:

there was no point in adding fuel to a raging fire. In fact I do know that once he had a real row with an associate over hurling and spent days in bed as a result. I'm glad that on my last night with him we strolled in the garden of the past. God gave us memory that we might have roses in December.

One of the most remarkable things about Christy's hurling was his enthusiasm. Most — perhaps all — old players are cagey and use their brains more than their bodies. Yet I remember a winter's day in a League game against Wexford a high ball came into the left corner, and tearing back to it he hurled his aging body high in the air, got his stick to it and tapped it back, but in the effort plunged yards beyond the line and rolled over on to his feet. It was the enthusiasm and agility of a young man to which the old body had become slave.

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Memories of Christy Ring

● FROM PAGE 9

Many years ago Doney Donovan got a piece of steel in his eye and was removed to hospital. There was doubt about his sight and he was quite worried. Among many others Christy came to see him and darted around the hospital room asking from different areas of light, "Can you see me now? . . . Can you see me now?" Doney still laughs at it but there was no laugh at the end of the visit when the Ringer said softly "Are you all right for money . . . Sure?"

Many years ago when Ringey was a young player Doney O'Sullivan and Seamas O'Brien were cycling to a game in Thurles. Those were the days when petrol was more like gold than even today for the Emergency was on. The boys got broken down on the road and the car that passed stopped. Out got several Cork hurlers some of whom knew Seamas and Doney well. Christy was among them. The car, full of Cork players going to hurl in the game had no room for the cyclists who in any case had their bikes, so they decided to carry on walking to Cashel about four miles away. As the car was about to pull away out got Ringey, who wasn't very well known to the boys at all. Back he came and without the knowledge of his comrades in the car asked quietly, "Are ye all right for money?" They were.

This sincerity was shown in his life also and while one doesn't intrude the home of the broken-hearted Rita, and his children Christy and Mary, it is pleasant to know that the hurler was a



● A rare photograph of the Maes'ro, playing in a Railway Cup match for Munster at Croke Park in the early 1960s.



very regular person at morning Mass in Ballintemple.

Just a week before he died he attended a meeting for the juvenile Glen hurlers in Blackpool. Sheila O'Donovan, Doney's wife and Pauline O'Flaherty whose husband "Chasser" wore the Glen jersey for years had tea and cakes for the lads. When the night was over and the speeches in praise of the small lads had been made Pauline O'Flaherty said to Ringey: "There are a few cakes here. Take them away with you Christy," for they all knew he had a sweet tooth. He thanked her quietly but declined. He had been having pains in his chest. "I'm killed from that indigestion" he said sadly.

On the day of the funeral the crowds slowly drifted away and Cloyne village became quiet again. The lad with the hurl came out of the field behind Christy's house. It was the field where the hurler had learned his craft."

"Did you ever hurl with Christy Ring?" I asked the ten year old.

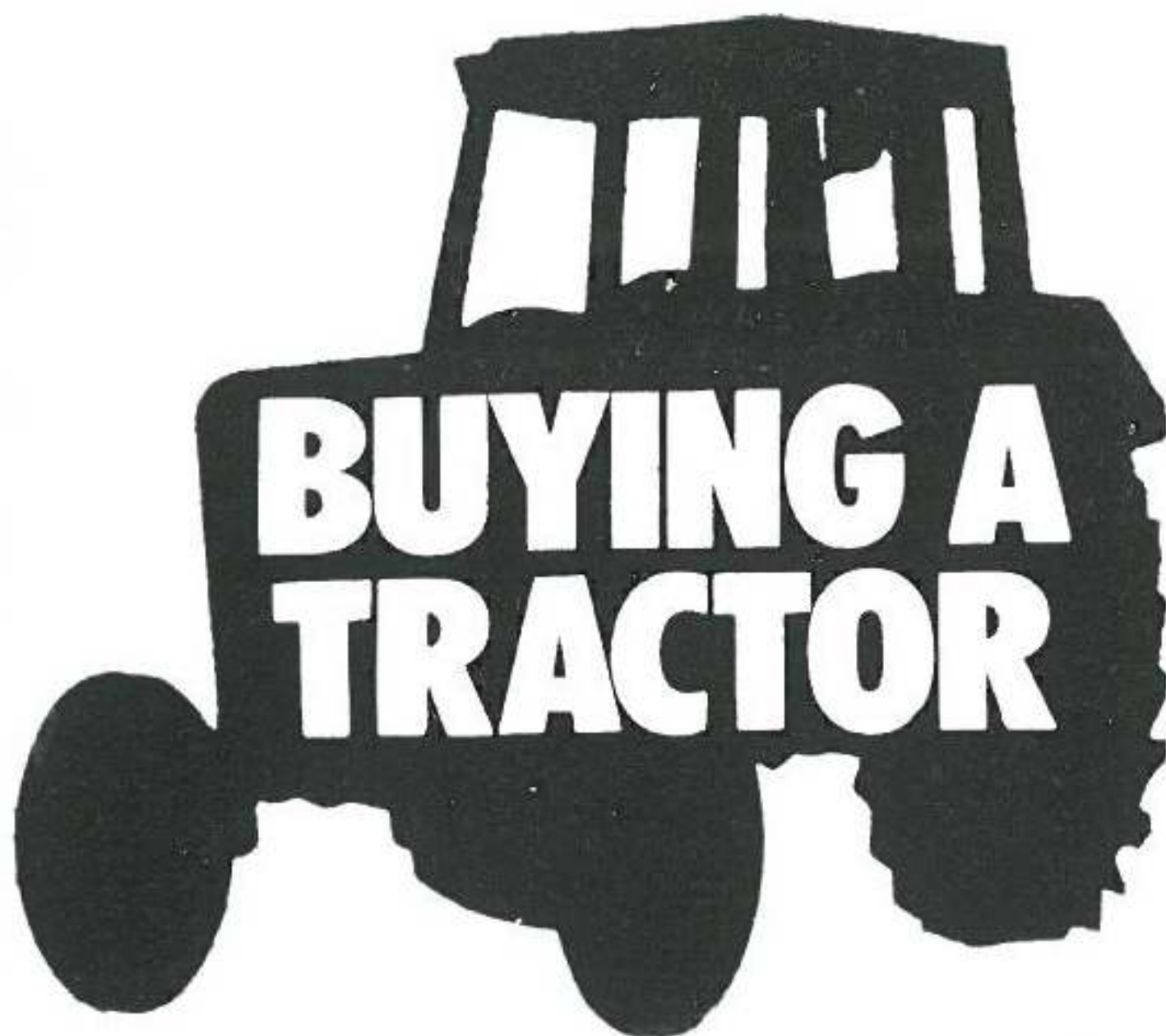
"Often" he replied.

"What did he say?" I asked.

"He said it was the greatest game in the world."

"And what did you think of Christy?" I asked.

Quickly he looked up. I suppose it was a naive question. "He was the greatest hurler in the world" he replied quietly and stepped away tapping the ball on his stick.



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Memories of Christy Ring—2

EVEN THE FINEST TRIBUTES FALL SHORT OF THE TRUTH

By JAY DRENNAN

FOR a long spell on March 2, 1979, and March 3, 1979, a shock trembled our world that caused time to stand still. For part of those two days we were marooned motionless on a promontory of time, looking longingly backwards over all our sporting lives, telling the minutes by reference to the deeds of the Master whose death had cast us adrift. Breaking the spell to look forward the prospect seemed grey and featureless and lacking in signposts and milestones. Nothing could make that landscape take on the delights, the surprises and the pleasing views of that which lay behind.

For all of us who had been nurtured, grown mature and drifted into middle age under the shadow cast by the bright light that was Christy Ring, a certain segment of life had ended. We will live on but there will be a portion of our lives that will be within us sealed and closed off as from March 2, 1979.

It is easy to exaggerate, we are always warned by those whose souls wither with carefulness and understatement. In the case of Christy Ring it is not exaggeration I fear but the opposite—the danger of falling short of the reality, however inflated the tribute.

Corkmen had their view, no doubt, which was special and unappreciated by those whose allegiances were to colours other than the blood-and-bandage. They may best state this view themselves; we may merely add to it that we often envied them their adoration and wondered what it must be like to worship at the feet of that fierce little “god” who seemed possessed by the spirit and fire of all that was Cork.

Of course it was that way in which he identified with all that was Cork and saw himself as specially chosen to carry Cork to greatness that made him great. Naturally, Christy wanted to hurl well and even greatly for himself, for the satisfaction or fulfilment it gave him — of whatever kind. And he had polished the skills that made it possible for him to play with tremendous strength, precision, accuracy and ball mastery. He wanted, too, to play his best for the sake of his colleagues and team-mates, though, to tell the truth, it mattered little for he was already performing to a standard way ahead of them — and it was they who might have felt incentive in emulating him.

But all these elements, some-

how, would not have added up to the total that was Christy Ring. God knows, those elements would have made a truly great player . . . but Christy was something more again. And that final particle that made great unique came, I think, from two special things: the fact that he was spurred by some special drive the moment he pulled on the red jersey; and the fact that something in him that was different from everyone else that ever hurled triggered a peculiar quivering tension when a game was to be played and the hurling challenge faced.

In the moment of entering combat that mild-mannered, smiling, shy man became a “Tiger”. Whatever it was, whatever quality of mind or body electrified him, it pushed him nearer to the regions of the impossible than any other player. On occasion I have felt a little of the same feeling about Muhammad Ali who also seems to have had that trigger within that often pitched him to the outer limits of human capability.

It is the quality that distinguishes the supreme geniuses of

● TO PAGE 32—ALSO,
PICTURE PAGE 33

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Young players boost Clare's hopes

MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

CLARE, League Finalists through the last three seasons, champions for the last two, are through again to the semi-finals, and, as of now, must be long-odds favourites to capture the title and the trophy for the third successive year.

There are those inside Clare as well as outside the Banner County who wonder if Clare's long-awaited and richly deserved League successes have not taken too much out of them for subsequent championship encounters. That certainly seemed to be the case in last year's Munster Final. Moreover, it has seemed that some of their bright stars of a year or two ago are not of late quite the force they have been.

But there has been a considerable boost for Clare hopes in the arrival of some younger players. At the start of the current League campaign, the Clare approach was to take each League game as it came without, as it were, going all out in preparation for each game.

It is an approach that has not alone paid handsome dividends as the outcome of the League's Division 1A shows, but has also paid off well for the selectors who used the League campaign to introduce and 'blood' some up and coming youngsters.

The two who have proved most impressive are Barry Smythe at centre half-back and Brendan Gilligan at centre-forward. Gilligan has proved himself a very useful addition to the Clare attack, holds the line together extremely well and takes his scores as well as he makes them.

Gilligan I have no real recollection of seeing in action until he appeared in senior ranks. On the other hand I'm pretty sure Smythe is the same stalwart lad as I earmarked for greater things when I saw him in action with St. Flannan's. He is now a big man, as a good centre-back should be, but he is also extremely mobile, and I will be surprised if

he does not become a commanding figure through the next few years.

Incidentally, Barry Smythe is the son of a very famous father, that Timmy Smythe who won the cross-country International championship something more than a generation ago.

So Clare can look forward with a considerable amount of hope to both League and championship. But in both competitions they will need to watch out for their Munster rivals, Cork, Tipperary and Limerick.

Cork and Tipperary, in case any of us forget, were both demoted to Division 1B of the League at the back-end of the knock-out stages. Tipperary topped that section, beating Cork well at Pairc Ui Chaoimh in the process. Now Tipperary are due to come up against Offaly in the quarter final, and on the recent displays of both counties the odds must be on the resurgent Premier County men advancing to the semi-final.

The return to action of Francis Loughnane has made all the difference to an attack that had been looking less effective than it should be. The Roscrea veteran's all-round experience, and his ability to pick off telling scores even from the half-chance, and, assuming he continues in his present form, he could not alone spearhead what is going to be a very strong Tipperary League challenge but could be a key-figure in what could be a real Tipperary championship resurgence.

Cork, of course, are All-Ireland champions still, and still must remain the team that everyone has to beat. Their biggest ambition in the months ahead will obviously be to repeat the hitherto unequalled record of the 1941-1944 Leesiders by winning four All-Irelands in a row. It was an ambition that Christy Ring, God rest him, cherished for the cur-

● TO PAGE 17

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An omen for 1979? Will a Clare captain be carried shoulder high after this year's All-Ireland Senior Hurling Final as was the legendary Dr. Tommy Daly (pictured above) after one of Clare's major championship wins in the early thirties.

● FROM PAGE 15

rent team, to equal the record he had helped set up himself.

The magical influence of the incomparable Ringey will certainly be missed, but I believe these Cork hurlers will still go all out to achieve that fourth victory as a gesture of their admiration for the Maestro from Cloyne. And what better way to set the scene for championship victory than by first winning the League?

The Corkmen have first to get past Tipperary, and then Clare will present the next hurdle. That will be the big test of whether or not Cork are working back to the efficiency they showed in the All-Ireland Final last September. There is another force to be reckoned with in both League and championship at the moment, and that is Galway. If John Connolly continues to play as he has been doing, and when Iggy Clarke and Frank Burke return, those Western hurlers are going to be hard to hold.

Limerick I have not dealt with, because their form

has been so uneven, very good one day, very uncertain the next. They still have excellent units in Tommy Quaide, Pat Hartigan, Len Enright, the Fitzmaurices, and Mossy Carroll. But such as Eamonn Cregan, Eamonn Grimes and Sean Foley have tended to fade and they need more youngsters in the mould of Vincent O'Connor.

The chief Leinster hopes, Kilkenny and Wexford are long ago out of the League race, but that could mean that they will come all the fresher to the championship and, with a semi-final bye, it is a very foolish prophet who would write them off.

Kilkenny, perhaps, will be the more dangerous because they have a world of young talent available. Their difficulty has been to find the proper blend, and Eddie Keher, Pat Delaney and Pat Henderson are just the men to succeed in that task. Wexford, on the other hand, do not seem to have similar resources on which to draw. They must rely to a great extent on the old reliables, who could still be good enough.

GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ

ON THE SPOT . . .

by Tony Keegan

EXCITING days ahead in Gaelic Games, with the National Leagues building up to an appealing climax, and the demanding trials for the various Provincial Championships opening up as well with matches in the under-age groups, followed by the big guns at senior.

'ON THE SPOT' . . ., our popular quiz, returns in this issue to mirror the scene with a four-part series of questions that will help to show just how expert you are on Gaelic Games affairs in general.

Details of the points on offer are given at the end of each section, and to provide an added edge to the competition, a number of bonus questions are included.

For a start let's concentrate on the men.

IN THE PICTURE



The photograph above is of a former inter-county footballer in action some years ago. He is the central figure in our opening four-part question.

1. Who is he?
2. He is one of two players who

head the list of National Football League medalists. How many medals did he win in the series during his career?.....

3. One of the best sharpshooters of all time, he starred first of all in senior inter-county football as a defender, and also won All-Ireland medals as a back. True or false?

4. How many times did he appear on a Railway Cup winning team?

Five marks for each part of this question answered correctly, making a total of 20 in all. **YOUR SCORE**

PART TWO

Who are the players pictured below? And, what rare distinction did they share during the Carrolls All Stars promotion?



.....
Five marks for each player named correctly, and ten points for listing that rare distinction. Total points: 20: **YOUR SCORE**

The second part of ON THE

SPOT . . . places the emphasis on men who led their county teams in recent major games.

COUNTY CAPTAINS

1. Who skippered Clare in their successful defence of the Hurling League in 1978?

2. This All-Ireland club medalist with U.C.D. led Mayo in their unsuccessful League final bid against Dublin in 1978.

His name, please?

3. A prominent dual player, he captained a county team that lost a provincial title in the concluding round last July? Again, we want the name of the player concerned?

4. The first bonus question. Colm McAlarney and Enda McGowan were the rival captains in the 1978 Ulster football final. Help yourself to five extra points if you correctly list the names of their clubs.

5. Who captained the Dublin minor football team in last year's Leinster title win?

Five marks for each question, other than No. 4, which is worth ten points. Total marks possible 30. **YOUR SCORE**

Now, with the provincial games in the offing, let's take a look over our shoulders at events in the past year in the

PROVINCIAL PARADE

1. One county made history last summer by winning an

under-21 title for the first time.
Name the county concerned?
.....



2. The players pictured above got among the provincial senior medals in 1978. Who are they?
.....

3. A five points bonus here, and a chance for camogie followers to possibly make up ground. Name the winners of the Leinster junior camogie championship in 1978? It may help you to remember that the success was the first by the county concerned.
.....

4. Although an outstanding defender, this brilliant player was still his team's second highest scorer in a provincial senior final win last July. Later he won his third Carrolls All Star award. Can you name the player?
.....

5. Mattie Hoey set a new scoring record for the Connacht senior football championship on the individual front when helping Sligo to beat London. A five points bonus for listing the exact scoreline
.....

Five points for each question, except No. 3 and 5. The bonus marks on offer for those questions boost the maximum for this entire section to 35 points. YOUR SCORE

Our quiz concludes with a
GENERAL REVIEW

1. Tony Ryan, of Tipperary, made history by winning a record number of All-Ireland minor medals in handball in 1978. Did

● TO PAGE 40

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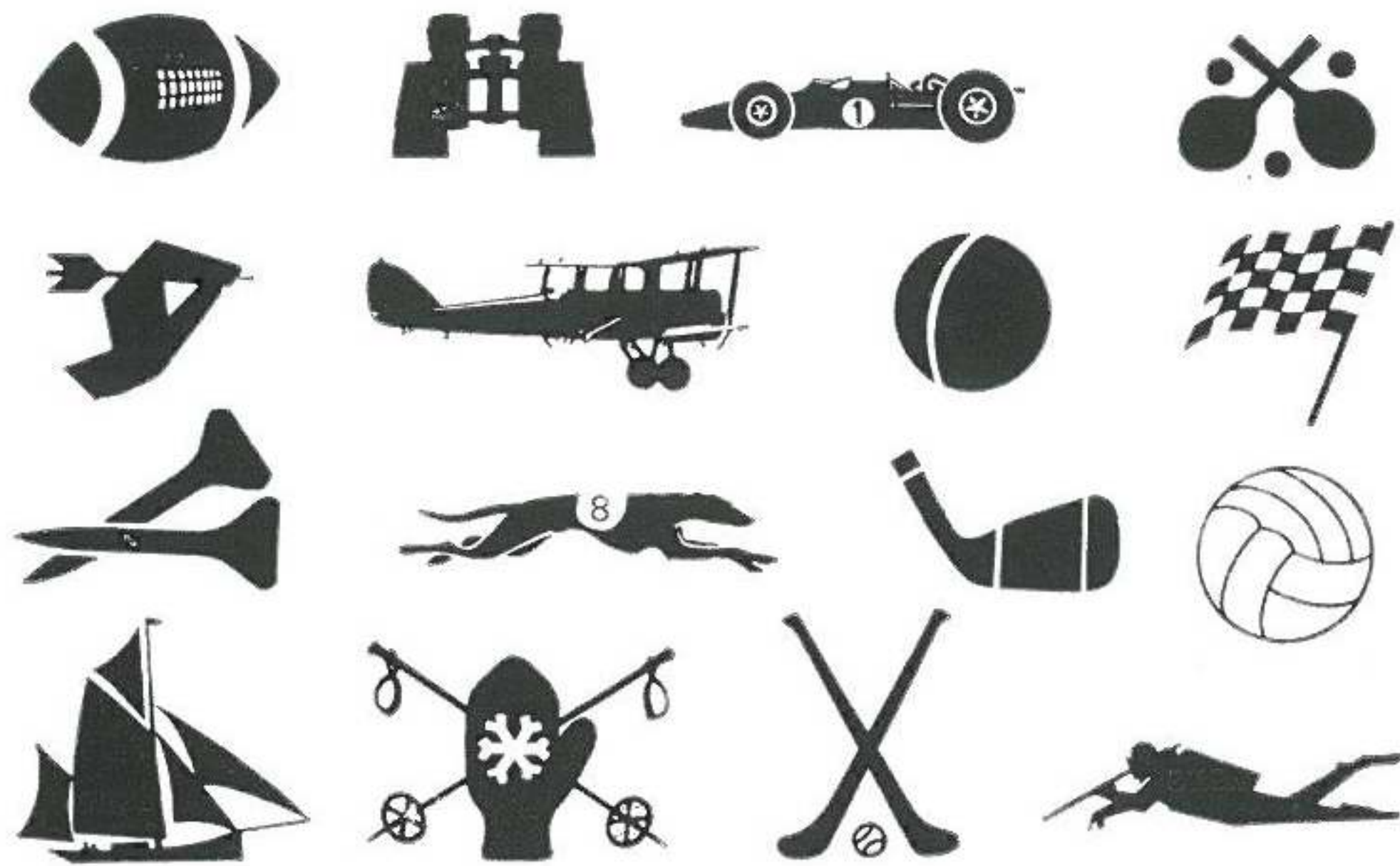
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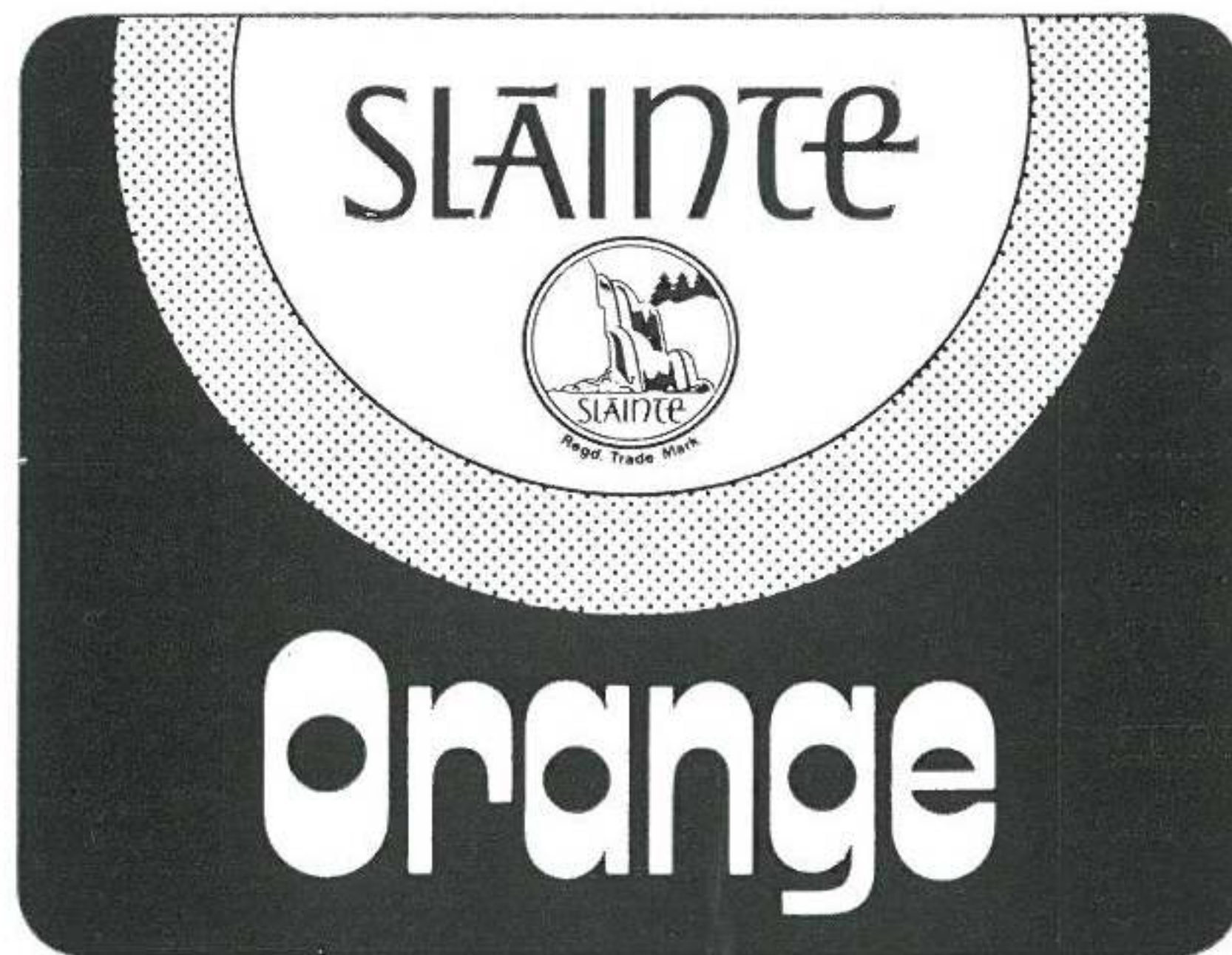


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TIM IS TOPS

BY NOEL HORGAN



● Tim Kennelly
(Kerry)

THE morale of the Kerry footballers was at a very low ebb at the start of the '74-'75 season. And no wonder! Defeated by Cork in two successive Munster finals, the Kingdom's tale of woe continued when, Dublin, their arch rivals from the metropolis and closest to Kerry in the role of football honours, emerged unexpectedly to become All-Ireland champions.

The situation was enough to cause any Kerryman many restless nights. Clearly something had to be done, and quickly, to restore Kerry's pride and prevent a real challenge to the county's traditional role as football kings.

So before the '75 championship began, the shrewd and courageous Kerry mentors did a spring-cleaning job which many outsiders considered rather drastic. Out went long-serving and distinguished players like Donie O'Sullivan, Paud and Eamonn O'Donoghue, Seamus Fitzgerald and Derry Crowley to be replaced by a host of youthful faces.

One of the newcomers in the onerous position of centre-back was a towering farmer from Listowel named Tim Kennelly. It is history now that the new-look Kerry team swept all before them in the championship, surprising the Dubs in a much publicised city versus 'culchie' final. And one of the heroes of the Kingdom's victory that day was the quiet Listowel man.

Like many others before him, Tim Kennelly's transition to the senior grade had not been easy. As a result he took "a lot of stick" from many Kerry folk as the county marched on to the 1975 final. But on final day Tim rose to the major challenge magnificently, turning in a solid pivotal performance to play a

prime role in what was to be one of Kerry's most memorable successes.

In spite of that display, the critics still remained dissatisfied and some contended that Kennelly would not make it as an intercounty stalwart. Seldom, if ever, has a prediction proved so inaccurate.

Overcoming his "teething troubles" Kennelly's confidence increased rapidly during the following season. And now at 25 he has matured into one of the game's leading centre-backs, winning a second All-Ireland medal last year.

Never indulging in unnecessary frills, Tim economically polices the centre of the Kerry rearguard with strength, intelligence and shrewd positional sense as his main assets. Always in the right place to cover, Kennelly's big and powerful frame enables him to burst his way out of defence with minimum effort. And his deliveries are seldom wasted.

Overshadowing all these attributes, however, is Tim Kennelly's consistency. He rarely has a bad game these days and Kerry-folk readily appreciate the fact. Before each game they are happy in the knowledge that they have Tim at centre-back.

Names like Sheehy, Spillane, Power, Egan and O'Keeffe are regarded as potential match-win-

ners, if they hit form, but Kennelly is the one player that Kerry people realise will invariably perform effectively. That is why so many people regard Tim as the most valuable centre-back in the game to-day.

In many ways Tim Kennelly reminds me of that fine Galway centre-back of the mid 'sixties, Sean Meade. Like Tim, Sean was tall and powerful and seldom put a foot astray as a central defender. In spite of this he was one of the least-hailed of that great Galway team, principally because he always performed his defensive duties with the minimum of fuss. Yet Meade was ever-present and played a major role in Galway's three-in-a-row.

Tim Kennelly may smile now at those who predicted that he would not last long on the intercounty scene. He can laugh, too, at opponents who at one stage may have considered him a "soft touch". But Tim would much prefer to punish their lack of judgement in a more positive way.

He could do so in no better way than by continuing to perform with splendour at the centre of the Kerry defence. Tim Kennelly won a Kerry senior football medal with the divisional side, Feale Rangers, in 1978, and this puts him in line for the captaincy of the county team this year.

Such an honour would be a fitting reward for Kennelly's dedication and determination over the past few years in the proud green and gold colours.

The all-rounders

BY NEIL McCAVANA

THERE has always been room for versatility in football and hurling. In more recent times this has been emphasised especially strongly by the dual players, particularly the two-game heroes from Cork.

But over the years many a footballer and hurler proved his ability to turn on the style in a variety of roles in his own special code. Not many of the past masters in this field, however, provided quite as exciting a dimension in this regard as have such giants of the modern game as Paddy Moriarty, Joe Kernan, Ger Power and John Connolly.

Is Moriarty, for instance, a better forward than a back? That is a difficult question, and one that I find virtually impossible to answer to my complete satisfaction.

Certainly, when I think of Moriarty the forward, I recall at once a goal that I rate one of the best I have seen in football. It came late in the first half of the 1977 Ulster senior final, in which Derry defended their title against Armagh. The build-up was first-class, and Moriarty was the man who superbly put the golden flourish by fisting the ball to the net to send Armagh to their first title in 24 years.

By then he had achieved plenty of fame as a forward, although he had also appeared with the county as a back as well. Moriarty was the generally unexpected choice at left full forward in the 1972 Carrolls All Stars football team — at that

time the youngest player to win such an award. The following April, once more as an attacker, he did much to fashion the only Railway Cup final win by the Combined Universities.

However, it was as centre half back that we saw the dashing Derrymacash Wolfe Tones club man in the 1977 All-Ireland semi-final replay win over Roscommon, and again in the Sam Maguire Cup summit against

Dublin.

This was also the berth he held down when he joined the ranks of the elite players who have won Railway Cup medals with different sides by helping Ulster to regain the title last March after an interval of eight years.

It was his performance in the decider against Munster, in fact, that set me wondering yet again if Moriarty was a greater asset

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**UDT
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*Paddy Moriarty
(Armagh)*



*Joe Kernan
(Armagh)*



*Ger Power
(Kerry)*



*John Connolly
(Galway)*

to a team as a forward rather than a back. Cool, purposeful and clever football, allied to sound positional sense, made him one of the brightest lights of the Northern victory effort.

Now I find it hard to cast a vote in favour of Paddy Moriarty the forward as against Moriarty the defender. What is much easier to agree on is that this 26-year-old all-rounder is a great man to have in any side, no mat-

ter what role he is called on to fill.

Moriarty's versatility extends beyond filling different berths in football (he won a second Carrolls All-Star award in 1977, but that one as pivot) to good effect. I know it will surprise many to learn that he won a National Hurling League Division III medal with the county back in 1973.

Joe Kernan is another who has

moved around in football. Remember his two splendid goals as a midfielder in the Armagh crash to Dublin in the All-Ireland senior final of 1977? He also showed in that campaign that he could hold his own with the best around in the vital middle of the park area—a fact that was acknowledged later with his selection for a Carroll's All-Star award.

Yet, on successive Sundays in recent times I saw the Crossmaglen Rangers club man in action in such sharply contrasting roles as full back, against Sligo in the Division II North final, and centre half forward for Ulster. Indeed, he finished up Ulster's top scorer in the recent Railway Cup campaign, and the leading marksman in any province in the series with 2-2 from two games.

That, coming after his spell as Armagh's full back in the revival in the League, says much for his class and ability to settle in quickly and effectively to any job he is called on.

It is not surprising, though, that this 6ft.-plus footballer has proved such a success in these roles. Now 24, he earlier appeared with Armagh as a back and a forward.

I doubt, though, if any footballer has demonstrated his versatility in interprovincial fare to quite the same superb degree as has Ger Power of late. The Kerryman's attacking flair at left half back was one of the

● TO PAGE 24

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● FROM PAGE 23

chief weapons in Munster's march to the Railway Cup titles of 1975, 1976 and 1977.

He lined out at left half forward for the 1978 semi-final against Connacht, and shot home

1-2. Power went on to win a medal in the attacking role, and retained his place in the scoring division for the two games earlier this year.

He has the distinction, indeed, of being the only player to have

appeared in all eleven games played by Munster from 1975 to the 1979 final inclusive.

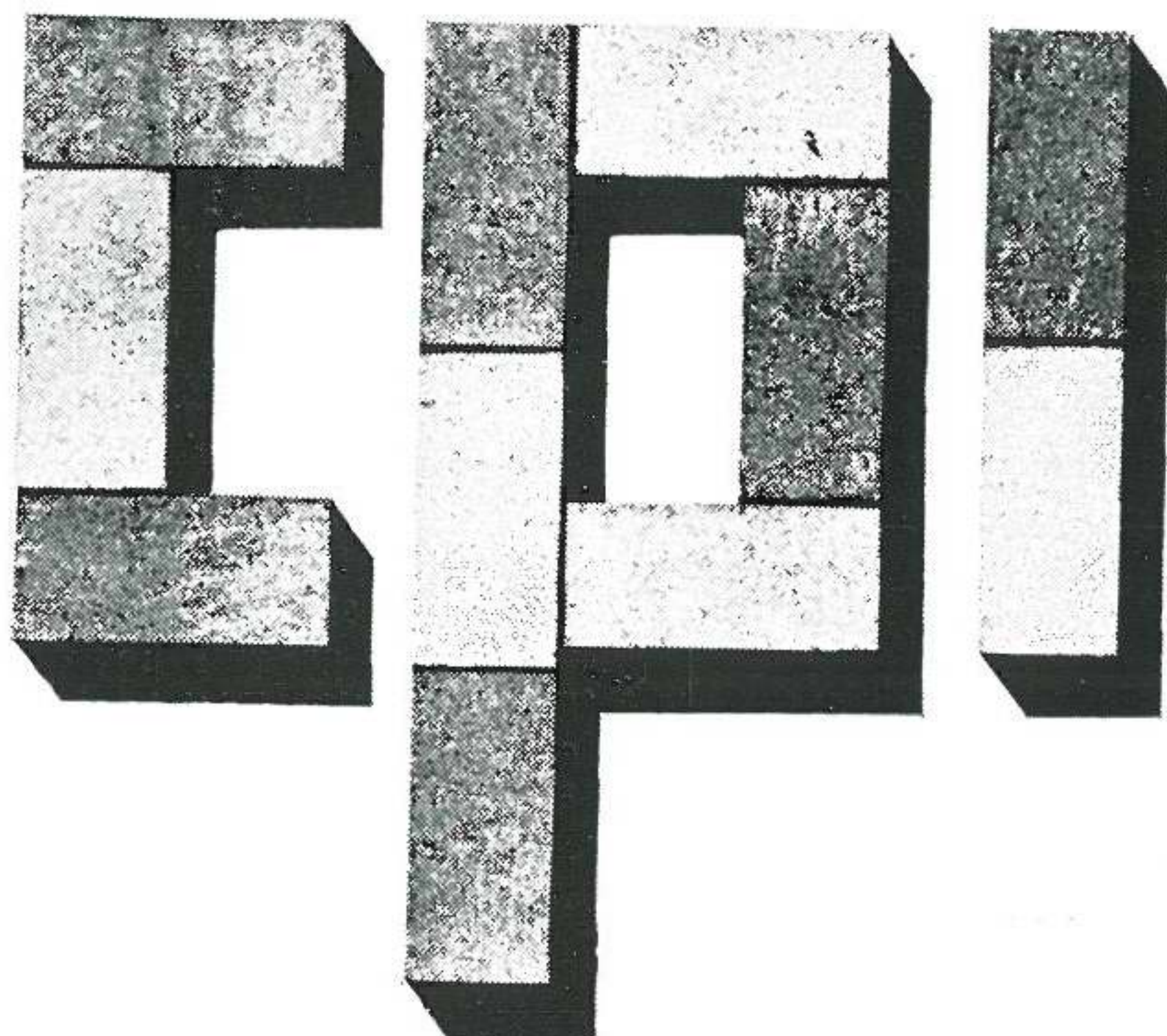
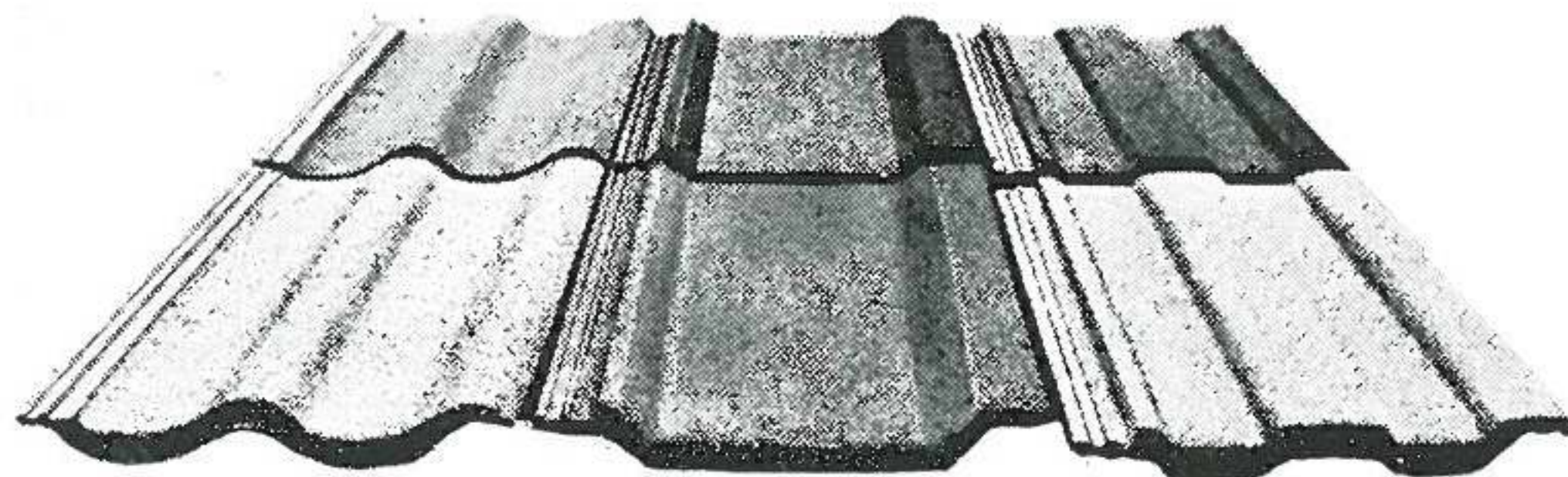
Before carving out such a reputation for himself as a half back, Ger Power had also made a name for himself as a forward. He appeared in the attack with Kerry in the minor grade, and made his debut with the county senior side as an attacker in 1974. It was also, of course, at right half forward that he collected his second senior medal in the All-Ireland championship last September, the first having been at No. 7 three years earlier.

Then, there is John Connolly's equally amazing flair for turning on the style in any position in hurling. In recent months we have seen him deliver the goods in brilliant fashion at midfield, where he captained Galway to their last National League title win in 1975.

But the now 30-year-old Castlebar club man, Galway's first Carrolls All-Star in 1971 at midfield, has produced magical hurling at centre half back and centre half forward, among other places. This versatility, when matched with his many superb qualities, stamp John Connolly as one of the best match-winners of this or any other era.

The elegant Galway hurler has been in the senior inter-county ranks since 1968, when he made his debut against Clare. He has represented Galway in all grades of football, as well as hurling, and won a provincial amateur boxing title.

So, when it comes to versatility in Gaelic Games, Paddy Moriarty, Joe Kernan, Ger Power and John Connolly must be numbered among the real giants . . . men who can set the pulse racing no matter what area of the field they find themselves, and exciting players who give a new depth of meaning to success at the highest level of competition.



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Mary Moran President of the Camogie Association.

MARY GETS HOT SEAT

THE Camogie Association faces the season ahead under the guidance of a new President, but one who has already proved her worth in a variety of positions of responsibility, Mary Moran from Cork. During her playing days she served a good apprenticeship in St. Aloysius School in Cork, and, when she came to live and work in Dublin, won both Dublin and All-Ireland Club medals with Celtic.

But it was on her return to Cork that she began to make a real impression on the Camogie scene on a wider sphere. When she took over the County Board she revived the morale of the entire county. When she took over the management of the Cork County team she guided them to six successive All-Ireland finals of which they won four. When she became involved in the Colleges scene she worked unceasingly both in her native province and as Secretary of the Colleges Central Council. From her success with Cork teams her worth as a coach had been amply proven.

When subsequently appointed one of the two National Coaches she, in conjunction with the other National Coach Anne Carroll,

demonstrated a remarkable aptitude for passing on their own skills to others and between them they produced probably the best coaching book on any individual Irish sport.

In her three recent years as Chairperson of Munster Council she demonstrated another of her many talents, and indeed there is no aspect of Camogie with which Mary Moran has not been involved and none that she has not enhanced by her hard work, common sense and utter dedication. She is an excellent choice as President.

Congress having already accepted, with some revisions, the re-written playing rules had not a great deal to debate when it met in Cork for the first time ever. However one change in the rules must have brought regrets to many long-term followers of the game.

That was the decision to finally drop the second cross-bar which had been such a distinctive feature of the game for more than half a century. The reasons in favour of this decision were in themselves compelling. In many instances, since the second cross-bar became a recommendation in-

stead of a firm rule, teams found themselves playing in the early stages of a competition without the points-bar and then had to adapt to that second cross-bar in the most important games of all.

Secondly, at some venues, when provisional second cross-bars were provided, these were sometimes of varying heights, which imposed a further strain on the players. But still the deletion of that second cross-bar makes a heart-tugging break with some of the oldest traditions. The completion of the National League and Club championship competitions well before Christmas has led to a long, long closed season as far as inter-county competitions are concerned. It also means that most counties will now have a very active time through the months ahead.

The National League, which this year opens on May 20 has been extended to include thirteen counties, divided into four Zones as follows: (A) — Down, Monaghan, Galway. (B) — Clare, Limerick, Kilkenny. (C) — Derry, Antrim, Dublin, Wicklow. (D) — Tipperary, Cork, Wexford.

As a result, with the winners of each group going forward, the competition will for the first time have two semi-finals. The senior championship will once again be on the Open Draw system, with holders Cork at home to the 1976 and 1977 champions Kilkenny in the opening round on June 17. The remaining first-round pairings are, Derry v Dublin, Galway v Antrim, Tipperary v Down and Wexford v Clare with the first-named County having home venue in each case.

The junior and minor championships will, as usual, continue to be played under the provincial championship system, with the provincial winners meeting in the semi-finals.

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TWO NEW STARS EMERGE

BALLYPATRICK in South Tipperary and Ballymore-Eustace, adjacent to Naas in County Kildare, share a joint distinction at the present time in that they have produced two of the most outstanding young players on the Irish Handball scene for many a day. Their emergence is timely and should add lustre to the game over the next decade.

They come at a time when handballers, though still marvelling at the skill of such as Lyng, McGee, Kirby, Maher, McGarry and many of their ilk in the age stakes, were looking to the horizons in quest of their successors. For such is the nature of handball.

It is a complex sport where the mastery of skills is difficult and mediocrity is thus the norm

of the game.

The arrival of a player with real potential sends waves of excitement through the sport. With a fair degree of confidence, we thus predict that O'Rourke and Ryan are about to write a new chapter for handball.

We have followed their progress through the juvenile and minor ranks and seen their safe passage across the barrier that often trips the young player in quest of senior stardom.

I was in Croke Park the night O'Rourke made his first bid for real stardom. It was the eve of the All-Ireland Football Final in 1973.

O'Rourke was paired against Clem Quinn of Mayo in the Minor Singles Final of the Softball code, and Kildare handball stood to write fresh history if

O'Rourke took the first softball title to the county. In triumphant manner he performed that deed. Thereafter, his progress has been phenomenal.

In 1976 he rejoined his Ballymore-Eustace colleague Pius Winders, with whom he had won a Willwood Tailteann under-16 Championship in 1972 and they took the under-21 Doubles Championship when beating Roscommon. They retained the title again in 1977 and for good measure won out in the Junior Softball Doubles as well.

O'Rourke carved his own special bit of glory this year when winning the Gael-Linn Trophy for the first time. In the process he displayed a consistent temperament throughout the winter months when the rules of

● TO PAGE 29

G.A.A.

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May 13th

**National Football League Final
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● FROM PAGE 27

this competition demand that games be played, irrespective of weather conditions.

Then, on to Croke Park for the closing stages of the event on the eve of Congress and the resistance that might be expected from such as Pat McGarry of Limerick, Anthony Greene from Kilkenny and Dubliner Pakie Ryan. O'Rourke was a Colossus, as he left their ambitions trailing in the wake of supercharged and delightfully controlled handball.

O'Rourke has also been to the fore on the international front in that he represented Ireland with distinction in the under-22 division of the All-Stars Trip to the U.S.A. in 1978.

At this stage enter Tony Ryan. He will be one of our representatives to take part in the tour this year and for good measure will be joined by his brother Noel.

They are, in fact, the only family combination ever to achieve this distinction.

Tony is a handball prodigy. He has been the phenomenon of the juvenile grades these latter years, displaying a maturity in his play that speaks volumes for his mental and physical cohesion. Like O'Rourke he has blazed a number of trails.

Foremost amongst these was his feat last year in becoming the first player in handball history to win five minor All-Ireland Championships in the same year. In the process he avenged his Minor Singles defeat by James McGovern of Meath in 1977.

His many duels with the impressive McGovern were, in fact, the highlights of his successful run.

It is also interesting to note that Ryan achieved a notable first for Tipperary when winning the minor softball singles crown. He was also to the fore in various

grades of the Munster Championships and won numerous titles. Ryan invariably receives the accolades of his opponents for his gentlemanly decorum and sportsmanship on and off the court.

Equally efficient at either code, O'Rourke and Ryan obviously

have the potential and the will power to become Handball masters. Let us hope they will be coached methodically and not pressurised into too many championship duels. We wish them luck with their handball aspirations.

ANSWERS FROM PAGE 40

IN THE PICTURE

1. Mick O'Dwyer (Kerry). 2. Seven medals between 1959 and 1973. 3: True, he was a half back in the 1959 and 1962 All-Ireland senior title winning teams. 4: One, in 1972.

PART TWO

1: Eugene Mulligan, the only nomination at right half back in the 1971 Carrolls All Stars football team. 2: Pat Hartigan, the only nomination at full back in the 1973 hurling team.

COUNTY CAPTAINS

1: Left half back Sean Stack. 2: J. P. Kean, who lined out at right half forward, but retired injured during the game. 3: Martin Quigley, Wexford's captain in the Leinster hurling final. 4: Castwellan (McAarney) and

Ballyhaise (McGowan) 5; Full back Patrick Canavan.

PROVINCIAL PARADE

1: Offaly in Leinster hurling. 2: Joe Hennessy (Kilkenny) and Tim Crowley (Cork). 3: Wicklow. 4: John Horgan, who hit four points in Cork's Munster final win over Clare: 5: 3-8.

GENERAL REVIEW

1: Five. 2: Coca-Cola Open Singles; Gael-Linn Cup and Top Ace TV tournament. 3: Brendan and Paudie Lynch (Kerry). 4: The final was only the second that failed to produce a single goal. Waterford beat Tipperary in 1963 in the only other goalless final. 5: Both won All-Ireland under-21 medals, Tighe at left full back, and Mahon at mid-field.

COMHAIRLE NA MUMHIAN CUMANN LUTH CHLEAS GAEL

Senior Hurling Championship.

May 27th — Waterford v Limerick at Cork.

Semi-Finals.

June 3rd — Cork v Tipperary at Cork.

June 10th — Clare v Limerick or Waterford at Thurles.

July 8th — Senior Hurling Final.

Senior Football Championship.

May 20th — Tipperary v Waterford at Clonmel.

May 20th — Clare v Limerick at Limerick.

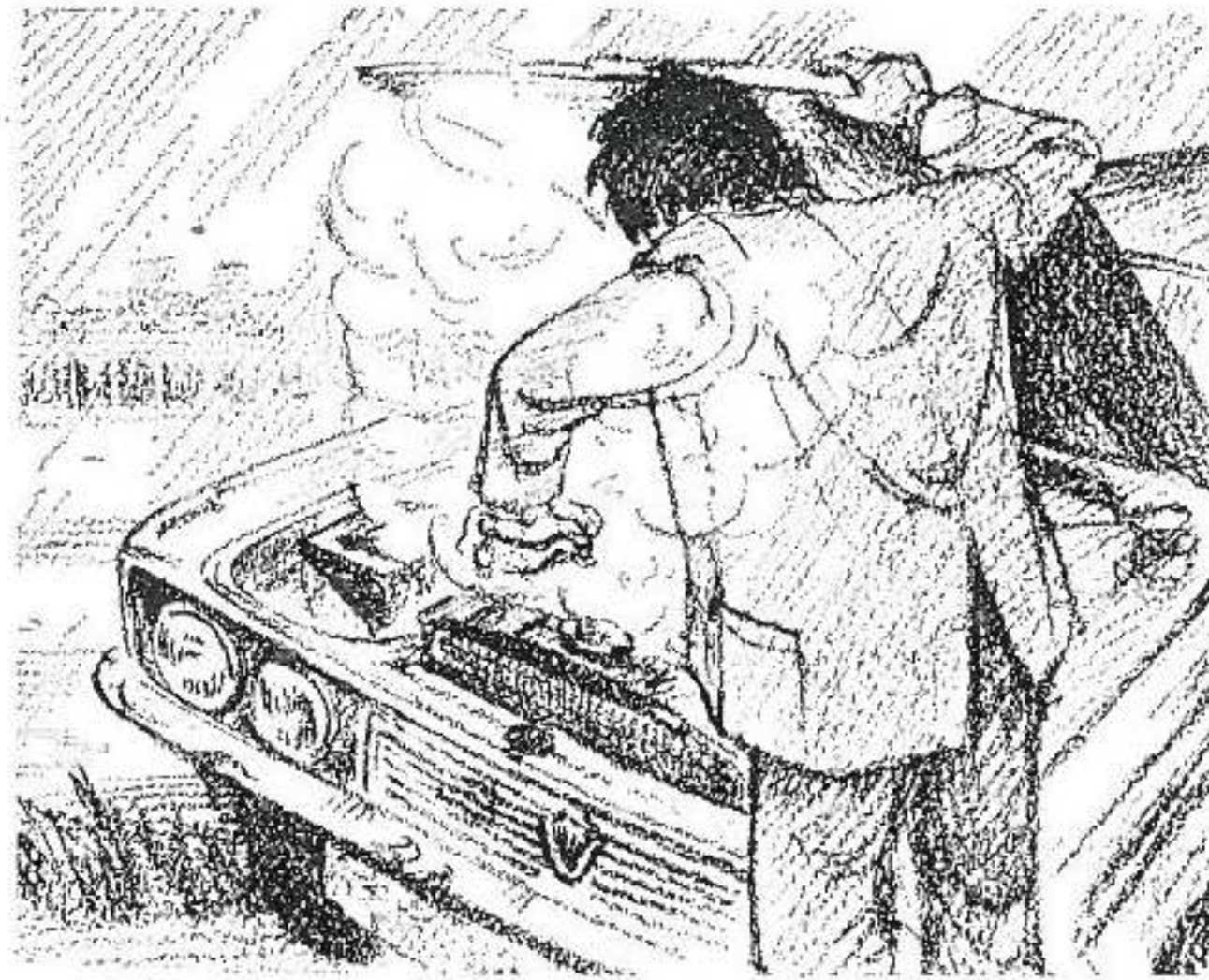
Semi-Finals.

June 24th — Cork v Tipperary or Waterford at Clonmel or Dungarvan.

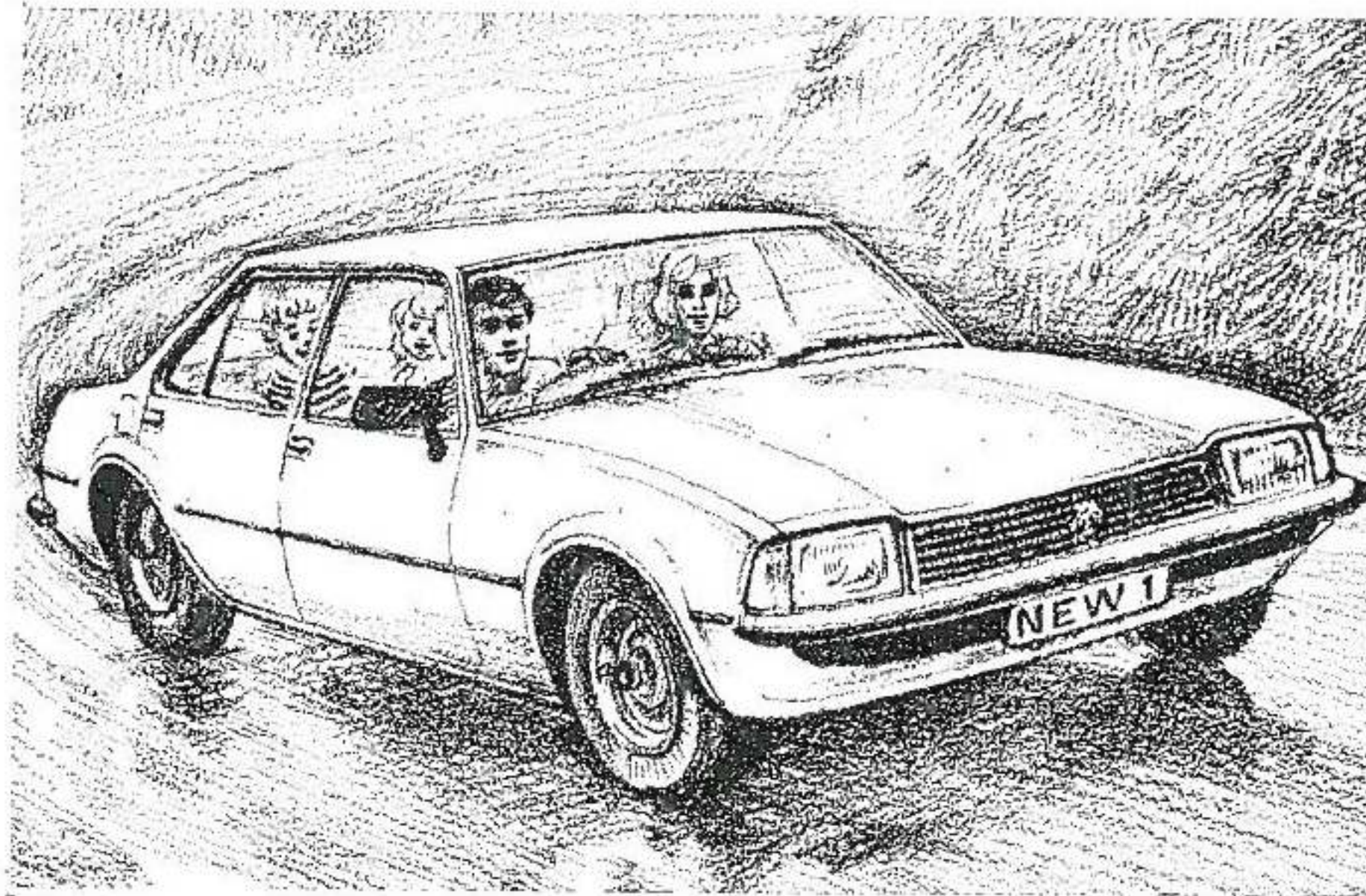
July 1st — Kerry v Clare or Limerick at Milltown Malbay or Tralee.

July 22nd — Senior Football Final.

Frustration



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Start your holiday with a book

BY MARY KEEGAN

It was such a long hard winter that you now need a break — right?

So what are the suggestions?

First of all, go out and get yourself a good book. It's called "Short Holiday Breaks — Spring and Early Summer '79". It's absolutely free, available at all Tourist Information Offices and travel agents and its 124 pages are really good-value holidays here in Ireland.

A holiday in Ireland has a lot to offer, especially for the individualist. For a start, it's very easy to get to where you are going. All you have to do is to decide. Then go! North, south, east or west. Mile for mile Ireland has more variety or scenery, more changes of mood and more things to do than you ever imagined.

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Would you like to captain your own cruiser along the majestic River Shannon and see the green heart of Ireland from a totally new vantage-point?

RELAXATION

Another suggestion is to go native by renting yourself an Irish cottage and doing your own catering.

Do you want to be pampered? Then for you it's the simple

homeliness of a farmhouse or the opulence of a luxury hotel. All pockets and all tastes can be accommodated.

THE SCENIC IRELAND

You may want to discover an Ireland you haven't discovered before. Maybe the scenic Ireland. Then take the route of the internationally-known cosmetic company who are featuring the beauty-spots of Cashel, Kinsale, Killarney, Dingle and Shannon in a multi-million dollar advertising campaign on television in the United States and in the top fashion magazines this spring.

Maybe you would like to explore the dreamy landscape of the western seaboard glorified in the film "The Purple Taxi."

TO THE WOODS

Then there are the national forest parks with their nature trails, signposted pathways, car-parks, picnic-sites and viewing points to enable you to enjoy the beauty of the woodlands.

AT HOME

The possibilities are endless, limited only by your own imagination. But it doesn't really matter what you decide to do or where you decide to go, you'll always feel "at home" — that you are with friends. That's what makes an Irish holiday so different.

So, go on, take a break. You'll enjoy it and it will do you a power of good.

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL
COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN

LEINSTER FINALS

Hurling—15th July

Football—29th July

★ REMEMBER THESE DATES ★

Gaelic Sport the magazine the players read

● FROM PAGE 13

any area of human endeavour. In that respect, it is a gift, a charism, a God-given grace. And it would be useless without the other elements of Ring's make-up: the dedication to perfecting skills, training and maintaining peak condition, utter loyalty to club and county and province, and feeling for the emotional thrust of the people. Because he cultivated all those to the utmost the God-given grace bloomed near the bounds of infinity.

In the leader-columns and the heavy comment columns of the newspapers in the days after his death and burial we were regaled

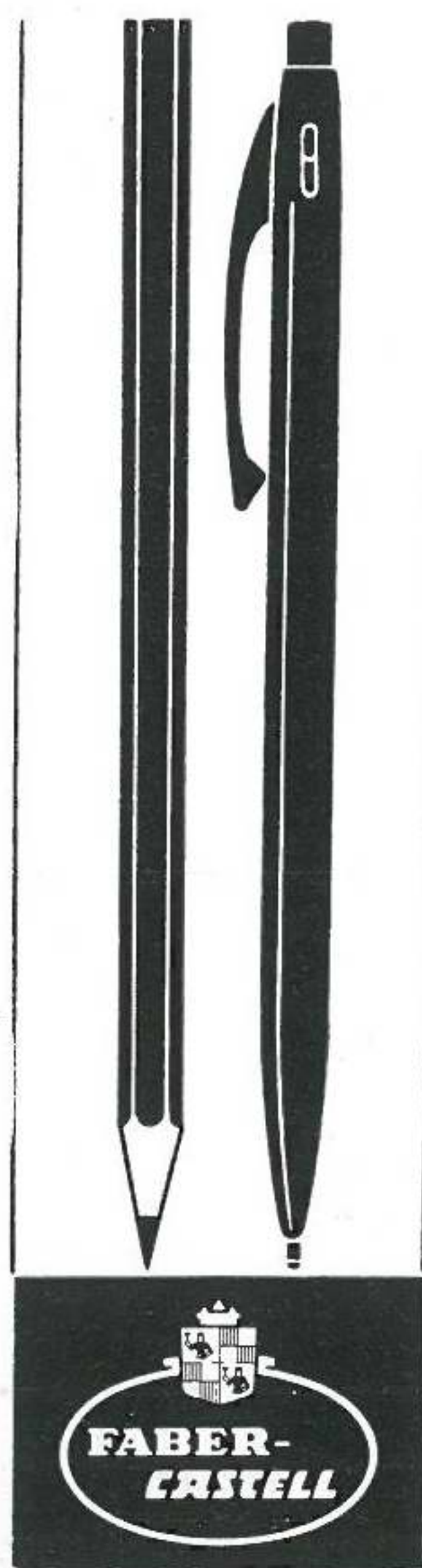
with the philosophical distillations of many who had never seen Christy puck a ball. Hurlers and hurling people must have been torn between mirth and anger.

The cognoscenti mourned the passing of a great sportsman whose memory would be a permanent example to the youth because of his sportsmanship, humility, example . . . The words may have been chosen with great care and a shelf of dictionaries, but they did not sound right. The sportsmanship gave the picture of affectedness; the humility smacked of Uriah Heap, the example evoked the sickly sweetness of do-good.

How the Master Hurler would have winced, surely. Ring and the men who tested timber against one another did not need to mention the word "sportsmanship" — those who survived in the cauldron of hurling in their time had to be sportsmen in the highest sense of give and take and bear no ill-will; that was what made them golden stars of the greatest game. Those who were not sportsmen fell early by the wayside and have never since been heard about.

And, of course, Christy Ring was a most humble and modest man. But he knew that the real meaning of humility and the key to modesty is "Know thyself" and "To thine own self be true". That he was. He knew how good he had been; he knew what he had been able to do and why. But knowing all that he never boasted of it or flaunted it: that is real humility. And he could honestly say when asked by Doncha O Dulainig if he ever thought that anything in hurling was impossible for him, after some moments of quiet contemplation, that he never did! Just like that! Matter of fact, simple, truthful answer to a simple — if embarrassing — question. And that is humility.

The men of the leader-columns in their worldly-wise ignorance of the whole meaning of the hurling world succeeded in giving a public relations image of some world sporting figure extolled for sportsmanship, humility and example. But their picture only made Ringey seem like some effete little goody-goody. Let hurling men remember him for what he really was: a tremendous player, unique competitor, unceasing trier, dare-anything, try-everything, darling of all Cork, terror of all others. A red-blooded, wonderful man . . . "And a man's a man, for a' that."



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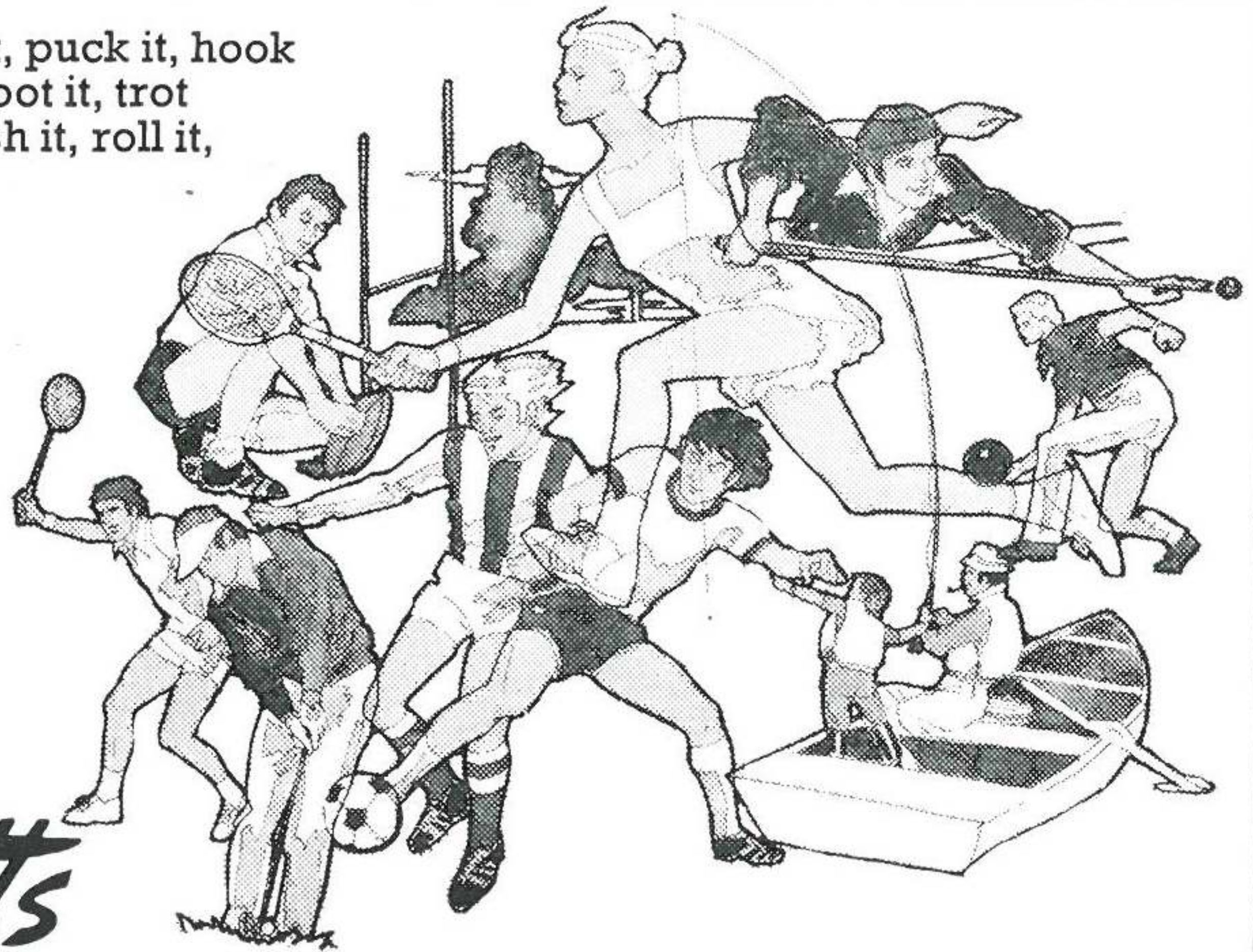


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REFERENCE DEPT.

● *CHRISTY RING, selector —
and always a hero — acknow-
ledges the cheers of a jubilant
crowd in Cork City after the
three-in-a-row All-Ireland vic-
tory last September.*

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it, score it, floor it, pot it, trot
it, smash it, bash it, roll it,
stroll it



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Results Summary

February 25. Tulla: Clare, 3-8; Galway, 2-9. New Ross: Limerick, 0-13; Wexford, 1-9. Dungarvan: Waterford, 1-14; Offaly, 1-8. Thurles: Tipperary, 3-14; Antrim, 0-6. Carlow: Cork, 3-13; Carlow, 0-5. Delvin: Westmeath, 2-6; Wicklow, 0-12. Rathdowney: Dublin, 5-6; Laois, 3-8. Trim: Meath, 1-8; Down, 1-6. Ardfert: Kerry, 2-12; Roscommon, 1-5.

March 4: Ballinasloe: Galway, 0-14; Waterford, 1-8.

April 1: Thurles: Limerick, 2-12; Cork, 2-11. April 8: Kilkenny: Tipperary, 1-17; Offaly, 4-8. **DRAW.** Kilkenny, 1-10; Wexford, 1-9.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

March 4: Cavan: Armagh, 3-2; Sligo, 0-8. March 24: Athy: Offaly, 2-8; Wexford, 1-7.

April 1: Croke Park: Roscommon, 1-12; Kerry, 1-11. Offaly, 3-12; Tyrone, 1-4. April 8: Croke Park: Kildare, 0-11; Down, 0-7. Cork, 0-8; Armagh, 0-7.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE (1979-80)

April 8: Ballybay: Antrim, 3-5; Monaghan, 1-8. Mullingar: Derry, 1-9; Westmeath, 0-8. Carrick-on-Shannon: Fermanagh, 1-9; Leitrim, 0-5. Ballymote: Sligo, 1-9; Longford, 0-7. Limerick: Laois, 2-6; Limerick, 0-6. Clonmel: Tipperary, 1-10; Meath, 1-7. Dungarvan: Waterford, 1-8; Carlow, 1-6.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS All-Ireland Championships

Hurling: Quarter-Final Replay: February 18: Athlone: St. Gabriel's, London, 2-9; Ardrahan, Galway, 0-10. Semi-finals: March 4: Ballycastle: Blackrock, Cork, 5-12; Ballycastle, Antrim, 2-6. Kilkenny: Shamrocks, Kilkenny, 4-10; St. Gabriel's, London, 1-7.

Final: March 24: Thurles: Blackrock, Cork, 5-7; Shamrocks, Kilkenny, 5-5.

Football: Semi-Finals: March 4: Tullamore: Scotstown, Monaghan, 3-4; Walsh Island, Offaly, 0-8. Tuam: Nemo Rangers, Cork, 3-6; Killereerin, Galway, 1-6.

Final: March 17: Croke Park: Nemo Rangers, Cork, 2-9; Scotstown, Monaghan, 1-3.

RAILWAY CUP

Football: March 11: Croke Park: Ulster, 5-8; Leinster, 1-13. Tralee: Munster, 4-7; Connacht, 1-6. March 18. **Final:** Croke Park: Ulster, 1-7; Munster, 0-6. Ulster captain: C. McAlarney (Down). Top Scorer: J. Kernan (Armagh), 2-2 in two games. Average: 4.00 points.

Hurling: March 11: Croke Park: Leinster, 1-19; Ulster, 0-11. Ballinasloe: Connacht, 4-9; Munster, 2-7. **Final:** April 1: Thurles: Leinster, 1-13; Connacht, 1-9. Leinster captain: P. Larkin (Kilkenny). Top Scorer: N. Buggy (Wexford) 0-21 in two games. Average: 10.50 points.

UNIVERSITIES' CHAMPIONSHIP

Sigerson Cup (Football): Cork: February 23-25. Maynooth, 0-12; New University of Ulster, 2-3. U.C., Galway, 1-3; Queen's, Belfast, 0-2. U.C.D. 2-13; Dublin University, 1-4.

Semi-finals: U.C.D., 1-15; Maynooth, 1-4. U. C., Galway, 1-7; U.C., Cork, 1-5.

Final: U.C.D., 2-15; U.C.G., 0-2. **Fitzgibbon Cup (Hurling):** Dublin. March 23-25: U.C. Cork, 6-18; New University of Ulster, 0-3. Semi-finals: U.C.D., 5-9; U.C.G., 1-12. Maynooth, 2-9; U.C.C., 1-5.

Final: U.C.D., 4-21; Maynooth, 1-8.

Fitzgibbon Shield Final: Queen's University, Belfast, 3-10; Dublin University, 3-6.

FRESHERS' FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Higher Education Championship: March 4: Croke Park: Final: St. Joseph's T.C., Belfast, 0-10; U.C. Cork, 0-6.

SENIOR HURLING LEAGUE

Division I Final: March 10: O'Toole Park, Dublin: U.C.D., 5-14; Maynooth, 2-10.

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

March 4: Croke Park: Garda, 3-10; Advanced Colleges, 1-11.

O'BYRNE CUP (Football)

March 4: 1978 Final: Carlow: Laois, 3-7; Carlow, 1-8.

DR. McKENNA CUP (Football)

March 24; Dungannon: Monaghan, 0-8; Tyrone, 0-2. April 1: Cavan: Armagh, 3-13; Cavan, 2-6. Casement Park: Antrim, 2-9; Donegal, 2-4. Lisnaskea: Fermanagh, 0-7; Down, 1-3.

COLLEGES CHAMPIONSHIPS Provincial Finals

Munster: Dr. Harty Cup (senior hurling): March 11: Emly: St. Flannan's, Ennis, 2-11; North Monastery, Cork, 1-3.

Senior football: March 24: Kilworth: Colaiste Christ Ri, Cork, 4-9; St. Augustine's, Dungarvan, 2-4.

Ulster: MacRory Cup (senior football): March 11: Casement Park, Belfast: St. Colman's, Newry, 0-7; St. Patrick's High School, Maghera, 0-5.

Leinster: Senior Hurling: March 24: Athy: Presentation, Birr, 2-13; Kilkenny C.B.S., 2-4.

Senior Football: March 24: Tullamore: St. Mel's, Longford, 0-6; Ard Scoil Ris, Dublin, 0-6. **DRAW.** April 1: Tullamore: Ard Scoil Ris, Dublin, 2-8; St. Mel's, Longford, 0-4.

Connacht: Senior Hurling: March 15: Ballinasloe: St. Mary's, Galway, 2-2; Portumna College, 1-3.

● TO PAGE 40



Let's put our heads together ...

Electricity has already made a significant contribution to the improvement of agricultural productivity. Yet there is much more that electricity can achieve in the future development of farming. The Agricultural Advisory Unit of the E.S.B. is keen to play a full part in the work that remains to be done. We are convinced that the best way to do this is to continue to offer information and advice on the application of electricity to your plans for farm improvement.



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ANDY CROAK

The writer with the
rasping comment

Sad farewell to the Master Hurler

I AM one of the scores of thousands who mourned the death of Christy Ring. His untimely passing saddened everyone in this country who truly loves sport and who recognised in Ring a unique sportsman, a competitor of incomparable spirit, enthusiasm and devotion to a game in which he became the greatest player of his time.

But has there been any time, including the present, which produced a greater hurler than the genius from Cloyne? According to all the best experts there is only one answer to that question—NO.

My own place, as much as other counties, has good cause to remember the brilliant skill, power and sheer single-minded force of character which produced so many match-winning scores for Cork.

In his native Cork he was the object of devotion that is given only to a god. In other counties he was feared as the man who so often destroyed their dreams of glory. But everywhere he was admired and respected by hurling men with the knowledge and honesty to recognise true greatness.

Of all the tributes and assessments of his stature as a hurler which flooded the papers, radio and television after his death, I came across only one which didn't give due praise to his wonderful skill and artistry. In fact, the article in question implied that Ring's skill wasn't really extraordinary and that his success was mostly the result of tigerish determination.

It was written by that distinguished **Evening Press** columnist, Con Houlihan.

Con, being from Kerry, must have travelled a few times to matches in which Ring played and it is curious that he didn't notice somewhere along the line what appeared to others as an open book.

I have heard several people talk about that **Evening Press** article in amazed tones, but I wouldn't agree with one man who said—"Ah, sure, Con is from Kerry and they play nothing but Gaelic football there."

For my own part, I'd say it was a case of Homer nodding.

Anyway, the voices of the hurling men were clearly heard. The tributes paid to Ring by men such as John Doyle of Tipperary and Bobby Rackard of Wexford were good enough for me.

★ ★ ★

I must add my own word of welcome to the new Director General of the G.A.A., Liam Mulvihill from Longford. I wish him every success in his exacting job and hope that the Association will thrive under his leadership.

He is a very young man for a position which requires experience, strength of character and a bit of toughness. But I'm told that he has the right fibre beneath that friendly-looking exterior.

His choice was not, of course, the big surprise that the newspapers said it was. If the sports journalists had had their ears to the ground, or wherever it is the grapevine trails its informative

path, they would have known that Liam was the front-runner at the time of the interviews early in March. It is said that he was strongly favoured by Con Murphy.

I happened to be in a Midland town one night around that time and overheard a fairly prominent G.A.A. man bet that the Longford candidate would land the prize.

Since I don't have a daily or weekly column I had no means of letting you in on the news. Only for the postal strike I might have circularised the tidings to all my readers.

I also take this opportunity to send my greetings to Paddy McFlynn, the new President, and wish him a successful term in office. Everyone tells me he'll make a good leader in his own friendly but firm Ulster style.

I hope he'll be able to use the influence of his high office to settle the trouble which is tearing football asunder in his adopted county, Down.

I've always had a soft spot for that county since I first saw them play brilliant football in the early Sixties and it's shame that the undoubted potential of the present team has received such a setback.

Perhaps more "give" and less "take" on both sides to the dispute would iron out the problem before the commencement of the Ulster championship.

As its such a "Mourneful" county right now here's a simple Croak slogan for supporters to be going on with: Down Up means Up Down.

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Tyler

Top Ten

Moriarty leads football chart

THE current TYLER TOP TEN charts cover a wide range of matches and events, ranging from the promotion of Armagh and Offaly in the National Football League, to the Railway Cup final wins of Ulster footballers and Leinster hurlers, and the quarter finals of the Leagues. As there were other important games also played during the period under review, from February 18 to April 8 inclusive, competition was inevitably very keen for places.

However, while the spring ended on a disappointing note for Armagh and Wexford, these counties still provide our current headline makers—Paddy Moriarty and Ned Buggy.

Moriarty was a bright star for Armagh when they beat Sligo in the Division II final, and he proved a powerful link in Ulster's rearguard in the Railway Cup breakthrough. In addition, this versatile footballer had a first-class game for the Ulster county in their narrow failure to Cork in the League quarter-final, and as a result, the quality of his work over-all, earns him entry into the football table for the first time this year, and in the leader's role on 38 points.

Buggy's extra sharp finishing—he notched up 0-21 in the series—was a vital reason why Leinster are again Railway Cup title-holders. The brilliant Faythe Harriers clubman, also showed many fine touches, and bagged five grand points as well, as Wexford battled spiritedly to avoid relegation in their early

April loss by a point to Kilkenny at Kilkenny.

The Wexford star, accordingly, pips John Connolly, who had some grand games with Galway and also caught the eye with Connacht, for the premier position on 34 points, one point more than the Westerner.

Only two players have improved their positions over-all—Dermot Earley and Francis Loughnane. Earley had one of his best games at Croke Park as Roscommon shocked Kerry in the League quarter-final, and he moves out to 43 points over-all. Loughnane has made a big contribution to Tipperary's revival in hurling, and collects 32 valuable points this time to bring his bag to a very impressive 65 points.

One of the most welcome features of the hurling chart, however, is the fact that Carlow is represented in the review. Here the native of the county in the spotlight is Paddy Quirke, who got through an amount of very progressive work at midfield in

Leinster's Railway Cup title win.

The leading three in each chart over-all so far are: **HURLING:** F. Loughnane (Tipperary), 65; N. Buggy (Wexford) and Noel O'Dwyer (Tipperary), 34 each. **FOOTBALL:** 38, P. Moriarty (Armagh); 35, G. Carroll (Offaly); 33, S. Hayden (Roscommon).

The latest charts are:

FOOTBALL

38:	P. Moriarty (Armagh) ...	38
35:	G. Carroll (Offaly)	35
33:	S. Hayden (Roscommon)	33
32:	T. Fitzpatrick (Offaly) ...	32
30:	D. Dalton (Kildare)	30
28:	K. Kehilly (Cork)	28
27:	D. Earley (Roscommon)	43
26:	T. McGovern (Down) ...	26
25:	C. Ryan (Cork)	25
25:	P. Stevenson (Armagh)	25

HURLING

34:	N. Buggy (Wexford)	34
33:	J. Connolly (Galway) ...	33
32:	F. Loughnane (Tipperary)	65
30:	P. Kirwan (Offaly)	30
30:	B. Fitzpatrick (Kilkenny)	30
29:	J. McKenna (Limerick)	29
27:	O. O'Connor (Limerick)	27
27:	P. O'Neill (Tipperary) ...	27
26:	P. Quirke (Carlow)	26
26:	P. O'Connor (Clare)	26

QUIZ FROM PAGE 19

he set that peak at four, five or seven titles?

2. Dick Lyng (Wexford) won three major handball titles in the past year. Name two? And five additional marks if all three crowns are named correctly



3. Our pictures show two brothers who have left a big impact in modern-day football. Who

are they?

4. What was unusual about the Cork-Clare Munster senior hurling final last July?

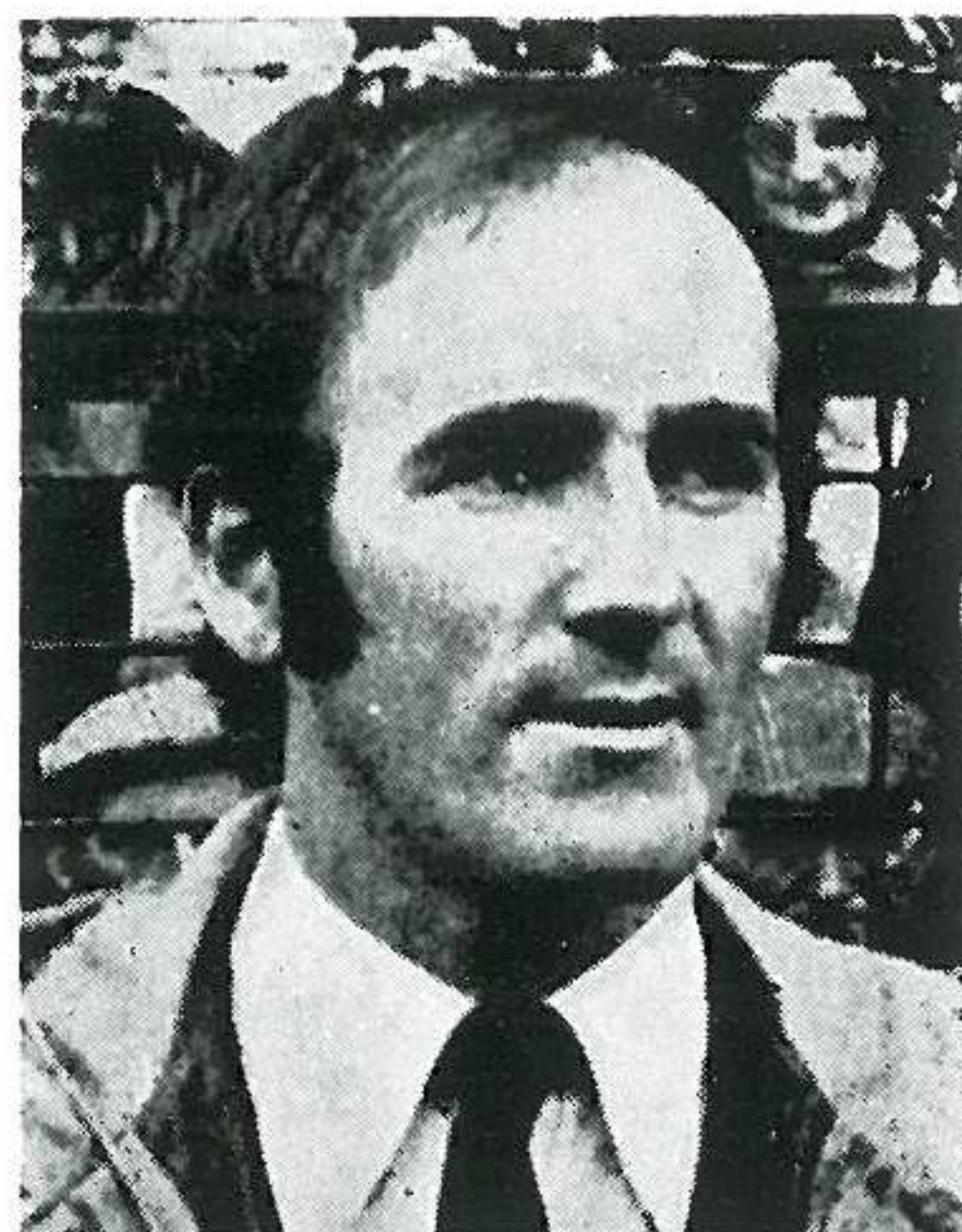
5. And to end on a bonus note of five points. What distinction was shared last season by bright young prospects Seamus Tighe (Roscommon) and Steve Mahon (Galway).

The non bonus questions carry five points each, so that this is another section that can yield a 35 points bag. YOUR SCORE

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP?

The maximum points possible: 140. An excellent report for a score of 125 or more, 95 to 125 earns a very good rating, 80 to 95: Good.

● ANSWERS PAGE 29



● Eddie Keher, now a Kilkenny selector. Kilkenny escaped relegation in the NHL at the expense of Wexford. It will take a very special effort from all concerned if Kilkenny are to thwart Cork's four-in-a-row bid in 1979.

RESULTS SUMMARY

● FROM PAGE 35

Senior Football: March 24: Ballinasloe: St. Jarlath's, Tuam, 5-7; St. Mary's, Galway, 4-2.

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Hurling: Semi-Final: March 31: Nenagh: St. Flannan's, Ennis, 4-15; St. Mary's, Galway, 1-1.

Senior Football: April 8: Cavan: St. Jarlath's, Tuam, 2-4; St. Colman's, Newry, 1-2. Cashen: Ard Scoil Ris, Dublin, 2-8; Colaiste Christ Ri, Cork, 1-7.

ALL-IRELAND "B" CHAMPIONSHIP

Football: April 8: Cavan: St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, 1-5; Roscommon C.B.S., 1-4. Cashel: St. Fintan's, Sutton, 1-17; Rockwell College, 0-3.

Hurling: Semi-Final: April 1: Nenagh: Roscommon C.B.S., 6-5; Ennis C.B.S., 4-3.

HANDBALL

Gael-Linn Cup 60x30 Champion-

ship Finals: Croke Park: March 10: N. Ryan (Tipperary) bt M. Walsh (Roscommon); S. Buggy (Wexford) bt P. Ryan (Dublin); A. Greene (Kilkenny) bt P. Walsh (Sligo); T. O'Rourke (Kildare) bt P. McGarry (Limerick).

Semi-Finals: Ryan bt Buggy; O'Rourke bt Greene. **Final:** O'Rourke bt Ryan 36-14.

Gael-Linn Cup 40x20 Championship Finals: Croke Park: March 18: P. Kirby (Clare) bt T. Buckley (Oldtown); M. Purcell (Kildare) bt E. Rabbitte (Galway); J. Barron (Monaghan) bt J. McClean (Antrim); P. McGee (Mayo) w.o.; M. Aherne (Kerry) scr.

Semi-Finals: Kirby bt Purcell; Barron bt McGee. **Final:** Kirby bt Barron 31-22.

Interprovincial Series: March 25: Croke Park: Munster bt Ulster; Roscommon: Leinster bt Connacht. April 1: **Final:** Talbot's Inch: Munster: John and Dan Kirby (Clare), Pat McGarry (Limerick) and Tom Morrissey

(Tipperary) bt Leinster: Cecil Winders, Tom O'Rourke (Kildare), Paddy Lee and Joe Cleary (Wicklow) 117-84.

All-Ireland 40x20 Championship Semi-Finals: April 8: Tullamore: Senior Singles: Clare (Pat Kirby) bt Dublin (Packie Ryan) 21-12, 18-21, 21-15. Monaghan: Senior Singles: Mayo (Peadar McGee) w.o., Cavan (Greg Sheridan) scr.

CAMOGIE

Leinster Colleges' Finals:

Senior: March 3: Croke Park: Thomastown Vocational School 5-2; Presentation, Castlecomer, Kilkenny, 0-2.

Junior: March 3: Assumption, Walkinstown, Dublin, 4-1; Thomastown Vocational School 0-0.

Higher Institutes League Final: March 10: Cork: St. Patrick's, Drumcondra, 2-1; U.C. Cork 1-4. In Extra Time. March 19: Santry, Dublin: St. Patrick's 3-4; U.C.C. 3-3. REPLAY.

JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

SO much has happened since I wrote last. Christy Ring has died. The whole sad weekend surrounding his burial and the massive demonstration of reverence and love for Ireland's greatest hurler is history. Like everybody else I was shocked to hear the news. He received the deserved adulation of a king. In the MAILBAG section I have details of a competition which should interest all Junior Desk fans. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal.

I was in Mohill (hometown of my old rival Packy McGarty) for the launching of the Leitrim G.A.A. Yearbook and I must record my gratitude for the courtesy of one and all of my Leitrim friends on that occasion. I know you must have liked my "Jimmy Barry Murphy Story" in the *Sunday Independent*. The series was received well and I got to know him very well. He is very interested in Junior Desk and all in all is a grand lad. A great and loyal G.A.A. man, too.

CUT OUT

It was good to see Liam Austin so prominent for Ulster when they won the Railway Cup last March. The big Down man was in great form at Midfield, and played some of the best football of his career at Croke Park.

He is one of our best prospects in the game just now. A very sure fielder and a dedicated player, and great sportsman. As long as Down keep producing players like Austin, and of course, that other great midfield master, Colm McAlarney, they will always have to be treated with much respect in any match.

Now for some more reviews of

G.A.A. books.

LIMERICK G.A.A. YEARBOOK '79: Price £1.00 does not include postage, has won the McNamee Award for the **third** successive year. Need I say anymore? The Editorial Board of Sean Murphy, Seamus O'Ceallaigh, still hale and hearty after many years of devoted service to the G.A.A. with his able pen, and Michael Weekes deserve our congratulations.

(From Sean Murphy, Villa Maria, Lower Park, Corbally, Limerick.)

CO. LONGFORD G.A.A. YEARBOOK '79: Price £1.00 same as Limerick counterpart is a credit to Editor Des Guckian of St. Mel's College, Longford, and is a combination of short histories of G.A.A. clubs in the county. It should be a real winner with exiles and a marvellous source for future G.A.A. historians. Keep it up, Des.

MENU CARD-SOUVENIR OF MUNSTER COUNCIL MEMORIAL DINNER: This specially prepared Menu Memorial is a superb effort. Some readers may be lucky to get a copy if they write to Fr. S. Gardiner, St. Flannan's College, Ennis. It is a lovely production.

LEITRIM G.A.A. YEARBOOK—'79

Leitrim's fifth Yearbook is their best yet. Superbly produced it has the best cover I have seen on any Yearbook yet. Layout is magnificent. There is a wonderful mix of new and old photos. All sides of the G.A.A. in the county get due place. And this issue links up with Leitrim's many exiles in New York, Leeds, London . . . What I like best is the very com-

prehensive DIALANN 1978 compiled by Seán Ó Muirí — this I recommend to all Yearbook Editors and the superb interview with Hall of Fame Winner Jack Bohan, one of the few surviving members of Leitrim's only Connacht S.F.C. winning team of 1927. When asked about the training he did before the All-Ireland S.F. semi-final v Kerry in Tuam which Kerry won on the low score of 0-4 to 0-2 he replied: "The night before the game v Kerry I was stooking oats till dark". Such gems of answers are part of this very readable interview. Tommy Moran, the editor, deserves sincere congratulations for the content, design and layout. So does his Committee of Sean Murray, Tony McGowan and Stanley Cox. The 120 page book is great value for £1.00.

From Tommy Moran, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.

ST. MEL'S OF LONGFORD

The football tradition of St. Mel's College, Longford is known far and wide. The book "Memories of St. Mel's 1928-'78" is a sophisticated production spanning 50 years with a grand cover design by Derek Cobbe. Fr. Owen Delaney the editor did an excellent job and I enjoyed every line of this marvellous production. Looking through all the photos one grew up almost with that superb trainer Fr. Manning. What a marvellous trainer he was during St. Mel's greatest days. I loved the ROLL OF HONOURS at the end.

For £1.00 this is great value from Fr. Bland, President, St. Mel's College, Longford.

SCORE (JANUARY ISSUE)

Is as usual interesting and

● OVERLEAF

● FROM OVERLEAF

varied and full of Quiz and Word games. The county player profile is on Cathal Digney. There is also a tribute by Mick Dunne (R.T.E.) to Kevin Downey, Down's man in San Francisco. The story of the floodlighting system in Burren is a headline for clubs with similar ideas.

Copies of same (25p) can be had from Dan McCartan, 13 Elmwood Park, Newry, Co. Down.
GALWAY'S YEARBOOK

The Galway G.A.A. Yearbook makes a very welcome re-appearance after a lapse of 12 years. Printed on quality paper its page of photos of the Co. Board officials is superb. Hurling, Football, Scór, Camogie, the club scene, St. Jarlath's College, Inter Firm, Bord na n-Óg, a marvellous article tré Gaeilge by Séamus Ó Cualáin entitled "AR AISTEAR NA gCURADH LINN 1936-'66", the All Star Trip, short club histories, Coaching, University hurling . . . are all included. It is a great restart and Pádhraic Ó Conghaile, Galway's P.R.O. who co-ordinated the book from the Galway end and planned the contents deserves great credit. I hope that the book will make an annual appearance from now on and will include an up-to-date statistical survey of the record scene in the county. The book I understand is selling like hot buns since it appeared. The outstanding cover photo of Galway's U-21 All-Ireland winning team certainly has not hindered sales either.

From John Molloy, c/o St. Joseph's College, Garbally Park, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Mailbag

Jerry Burke, Monaparon, Mourneabbey, Mallow, Co. Cork "This is my second time writing to Junior Desk. The hand pass is ruining football. My stars of the All-Ireland final were Pat Spillane

and Kevin Moran. The hurling final stars were John Horgan, John Crowley, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Fan Larkin, Liam O'Brien, Matt Ruth, Martin Coleman and Ger Henderson. Last year Martin O'Doherty and Mourneabbey man Teddy O'Mullane brought the McCarthy Cup to our school. We had a great time".

● Jerry, the handpass is causing trouble. You win a Cork G.A.A. tie. (J.M.)

James Jackman, 36 Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow is enthusiastic about the improvement in Wexford's football fortunes. He thinks they have fine players in Liam Fardy, John Wright, Michael Carty, Ger Howlin and the dual stars Martin Quigley and Billy Rowsome.

Richard Rodgers, Fortunes-town, Saggart, Co. Dublin is only 6 years of age and is a Dublin Fan and feels they had a bad day in the All-Ireland final "but they will come back".

● They will be hard to beat in Leinster again this year. (J.M.)

Cathal Mannix, aged 11, Leasehills, Mallow, Co. Cork writing for the first time, loves Gaelic games and is practising for the SKILLS of HURLING AWARD scheme. His favourite hurler is Ray Cummins and he feels Ray should have got an All Star Award. Last year Cathal attended a Coaching Course in Mallow which included football and hurling and he hopes there will be another one this year.

● Coaching in the G.A.A. is really making rapid strides. (J.M.)

David McKerr, 21 Grattan St., Lurgan, Co. Armagh "This is my first time writing to you. I am 16 years old and a keen follower of both hurling and football. I saw both All-Irelands last year and got on to the field after both games. I'm very grateful to John Egan, Eoin Liston and Charlie Nelligan for giving me one of their gloves. I am a keen supporter of Armagh and of my local club St. Peters. My favourite

player is Jimmy Barry Murphy and I really enjoyed your Sunday Independent series on him".

● David you win an Armagh Bob Cap. (J.M.)

Tommy O'Regan, Newtown, Ballyhea, Charleville, Co. Cork Age 10. "I hope 1979 will not be a year of bad sportsmanship. I hate to hear bad language being used by players at games. Mayo minor footballers were great. Cork have the best supporters in the country. Cork's best players are Tom Cashman, Denis Allen and Jimmy Barry Murphy."

● Yes, I hate to hear bad language being used by players too. The Roscommon Co. Board Chairman Michael O'Callaghan condemns this abuse repeatedly. Yes, I agree too that Cork have great supporters. (J.M.)

Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway "I think Tommy Moran, the Leitrim referee got a raw deal from supporters at last year's semi-final and that he did not get enough protection as he left the field at half-time. My favourite players are Joe McDonagh, Noel Lane, John, Michael and Joe Connolly, Finbarr Gantley, Michael Moroney, Johnny McMahon, Enda and Pat O'Connor, Tony and Colm Doran, Fr. Martin Casey, Ger Henderson and Mick Brennan."

Brendan Dwyer, Scrahana-gnave, Sneem, Co. Kerry wants cut-outs of Paudie Mahoney, Jimmy Barry Murphy, Denis Allen, Seamus Durack, Paudie Lynch, and his own Kerry favourite Jack O'Shea. "I think Jack is a brilliant midfielder and should have been an All Star". Brendan feels Kerry will make it 25 in 1979 and feels Eoin Liston is a great ball player.

● Kerry will find it much harder this year. (J.M.)

Mary Fleming, 5, Rossmore Ave., Templeogue, Dublin 12 "I love the Dubs and go to all their matches. My favourite player is David Hickey. I also like Pat Spillane, Ogie Moran and

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Jimmy Keaveney. Dublin will be back again this year. I want a cut-out of David Hickey."

Ciaran Burke, age 11, Park, Wexford writes for the first time and thinks Kerry are great with Cork footballers not far behind. "Wexford hurling is falling apart but the footballers are coming on. I play football for Glynn/Barnstown and I won 2 medals. I want a Cut-out of John Walsh."

● *Fáilte to Junior Desk. Don't give up hope about Wexford hurling. There is a depth of talent there yet. (J.M.)*

Liam Leigh, Lipstown, Narragmore, Ballintorf, Athy, Co. Kildare writes for the second time and thinks "Junior Desk" is getting more popular. "Galway will beat Roscommon in 1979. Mickey O'Sullivan's book "The Skills of Gaelic Football" is very good and I recommend it to other readers".

● *I haven't read it yet Liam. (J.M.)*

Philip Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Co. Offaly thinks the Galway v Offaly N.H.L. game was great. "I want a Cut-out of John Horgan. It was Tony Hanahoe's own fault that he was suspended".

● *I'm glad the Tony Hanahoe episode is all over. (J.M.)*

Margaret Twomey, Currahy, Ballingearry, Co. Cork writes for the first time and is a sister of regular scribes Sean and Pat. Margaret is only 9 years old and her favourites are Jimmy Barry Murphy, Mike Sheehy, Tom Cashman, Declan Barron and Denis Allen. Margaret keeps a scrapbook.

● *Good girl Margaret. Keeping scrapbooks is one of my own favourite hobbies. (J.M.)*

Diarmuid Crowley, Aged 11, "Cluain an Oir", Briar Hill, Waterfall, Cork. "Your Quiz in the 'Our Games' was fantastic. 'Junior Desk' too is as good as ever and I'm still a faithful follower of the Dubs. Kerry's goal in the All-Ireland was unfair but

Mickey Sheehy must be congratulated for his quick thinking. The man of the match was Kevin Moran. Where can I get a G.A.A. Diary?"

● *Write to An Siopa, G.A.A., Croke Park, Dublin 3. (J.M.)*

Pat Twomey of Ballingearry, Co. Cork thinks Colm McAlarney is a great player and really deserved the Tyler Top Ten Award. He would prefer if Ned Buggy got it before Seamus Durack. "Cork footballers have great new players in Diarmad McCarthy, Pat Kavanagh, John Courtney and Vincent Coakley".

● *I like Ned Buggy but I like Seamus Durack too. He is a marvellous goalkeeper. (J.M.)*

In a further letter Pat writes in praise of Our Games. Pat still thinks Jimmy Barry Murphy is the greatest with Declan Barron a close second. Pat has started his fifth scrapbook.

Pat Leogue, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly makes a re-appearance here after a long absence. "I am glad to see Junior Desk as popular as ever. I can't see anything stopping Cork hurlers from their 4th in-a-row. I'd love to see the Kerry-Dublin dominance in football broken. The rather bitter exchanges between the teams over the past year were detrimental to the image of the G.A.A. and I may add in passing that no matter what way you look at it criticism of a referee is childish and only an excuse for one's own failings. In relation to referees I think more consideration should be given to linesmen. His powers should be extended far beyond the present limits.

Last year was the first year I got to see both All-Irelands but the lack of facilities at Thurles spoilt my enjoyment of the Munster S.H. Final. Jimmy Barry Murphy is really becoming something of a living legend. One final thing. There are still 4 counties which have not been represented in the Cut-outs namely Louth, Carlow, Westmeath and Monaghan. Isn't it about time this was

rectified?

● *Pat, you win a copy of the Leitrim G.A.A. Yearbook. Thanks for a great letter as usual. (J.M.)*

Edward O'Brien, 15, Fairlawn Park, Finglas, Dublin 11 "Since my letter appeared in Junior Desk I have got Sam Melbourne's address and visited his home. He has a great collection of scrapbooks, hurleys of famous players like Christy Ring, Mick Mackey, Jimmy and John Doyle, etc. You should pay a visit to his house at 141, Villa Park Gardens, Navan Road, Dublin. It is a great G.A.A. Museum. Thanks for the help".

● *Delighted to oblige and glad to know Sam is well. I will visit his house shortly D.V. (J.M.)*

Joseph McElligot, Glenoe, Listowel, Co. Kerry. "I will swop any of the following programmes for the Dublin G.A.A. Yearbook. 1977 N.F.L. final Kerry v Dublin, Munster S.F. Final '77 Kerry v Cork, Kerry v Dublin All-Ireland S.F. semi-final '77, Ulster S.F. Final '78 Cavan v Down, Ulster S.F.C. semi-final '78 Antrim v Cavan."

Joseph singles out Dublin's Kevin Moran and Cork's John Horgan for special praise.

Donal Ring, Coolavokig, Lissacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork "I was sad to see the Dubs fall and after this the Hanahoe affair. It was sad to see Tony suspended after all he has done. My predictions for '79 are for Cork and Kerry to retain their titles and Cork (F) and Tipperary (H) for the Leagues. My best young stars are John Fenton (Cork) and Gay McManus (Galway). Eddie Keher's book and the "Our Games '79" were a wee bit pricey".

● *The Tony Hanahoe suspension is largely forgotten now. I'm sorry it happened too. (J.M.)*

Ann Donohue, Kilmacoe, Curracloe, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford plays Camogie for the local club. Ann is full of praise for Pat

● **OVERLEAF**

Spillane and for the Mayo minor forwards Kieran O'Malley and Tom Byrne.

Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick makes the following predictions for '79: Leinster (F) Dublin and (H) Kilkenny; Munster (F) Cork and (H) Cork or Limerick; Connacht (F) Mayo; Ulster (F) Down.

Dermot McCarthy, our old pen-friend from Bath, whom I had the great pleasure of meeting at the All-Ireland S.H. final sent me on an Irish Weekly Examiner tribute to Waterford's Willie Barron written by that fine journalist Tom Tobin, who has a great feeling for the old days and the old ways. I found the interview with Willie Barron very interesting indeed and have pasted it into my scrapbook. Willie paid tribute to the late Christy Ring among others, also to the late John Keane.

● *As I write the above notes, Cork's legendary Christy Ring has been buried and the news of his death has just begun to sink in. He was the first ever hurling Cut-Out in Junior Desk. On behalf of all Junior Desk readers I tender sincere sympathy to his sorrowing wife and children. And he will be mentioned in these and other G.A.A. columns as long as hurling is played. Ar dheis Dé go raith sé. (J.M.)*

J. J. Ryan, Top Cross, Lisgoold, Leamlara, Co. Cork thinks Cork will win the four-in-a-row. He expects Cork footballers to beat Kerry in July. "Galway will win out the football in Connacht".

Tomas McCabe, Crownstown, Ardee, Co. Louth writing for the first time to Junior Desk tells about a visit by Michael O'Hehir to Ardee Community School to talk on the Pioneer Association. Tomas plays for St. Kevins juvenile footballers and last year had great success. He played at left half back and captained the U-21 team. "Our trainer is Tommy Maguire — a great worker".

● *If you want a model left-half back then the best one I ever saw*

was your own countyman Stephen White. (J.M.)

Pat Twomey, of the **Ballingeary** family tells me that Declan Barron got the West Cork footballer Award and John Crowley the hurling Award. "My schoolteacher Mr. Galvin was elected Mid Cork Chairman". Pat wants a Cut-out of Tom Cashman, Denis Allen, Declan Barron or Dermot McCurtain. "I liked the Jimmy Barry Murphy story in the "Sunday Independent", Christy Ring was the best hurler ever. Jimmy Doyle next best. Jack Lynch the BEST DUAL STAR. Mike Sheehy is the best footballer to-day. Colm McAlarney is the best Down player since Sean O'Neill. The best young stars are Joe Greaney, Tom Cashman and Dick O'Hara".

● *Great letter as usual Pat. Now that Christy Ring is dead how about a project on Christy Ring. I'll give 3 prizes for the three-best projects on Christy Ring. Try an essay if you want, or a scrapbook. Last entries before June 1st '79. (J.M.)*

Paul Keenan, 36, Drumbreda Ave., Armagh would like the following books: Golden Jubilee Souvenir of Founding of G.A.A. 1934. Report of the Commission of G.A.A. by Maurice Prenderville. Road to New York — Meath 1951. G.A.A. Annuals: 1908, '09, '28, '33, '35, '37, '38, '39, '42, '43, '44 and '45. The Art and Science of Gaelic Football by E. O'Sullivan. Our Native Games by P. J. Devlin, "Celt". 20 years of the G.A.A. by Phil O'Neill 1910-1930 and any other old book or paper or periodical.

● *That's a tall order Paul. (J.M.)*

Marie Boran, Lismorane, Foxford, Co. Mayo still raves about Kerry's victory in '78 over the Dubs. Her footballer of the year is Mickey Sheehy. "I wish him a special success in '79". Her hurler of the year is Joe Hennessy.

● *Your choices are good as usual Marie. (J.M.)*

Seamus Woulfe, 11, Foxfield Ave., Raheny, Dublin 5 empha-

sises 3 main areas of fault in the G.A.A. (1) The Fixture List. (2) The Rules. (3) The narrowmindedness generated by the G.A.A. Charter which should be updated to meet the times. Seamus has great praise for Scor na n-Óg. He was nominated Dublin Young Referee of the Year 1978.

● *Sorry we had to cut your letter down so much. But your ideas will as usual generate thought. (J.M.)*

The "Mailbag" is running on a bit. So to round off **Sean Hickey, Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork** tells me "Moys" is Pat Moylan and "The Blond Bombshell" is John Horgan.

Sean Twomey of the **Ballingeary** family tells me he is a great fan of Denis Allen. Old reliable **Gerry Pender of Ballymorris Upper, Aghrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow** is still aggrieved that Ned Buggy didn't get an All-Star.

David Rodgers, of Fortunestown, Saggart, Co. Dublin says he still loves the Dubs. Finally **Harry McGee, 45, Glanard Cres., Salthill, Galway** is afraid at times that soccer is going to take over from the G.A.A. judging from the space it gets on the papers and on R.T.E.

● *Good man Harry, give them stick! (J.M.)*

Keep writing on any topic but particularly on Christy Ring. Hope you enjoyed Donncha Ó Dulaing's "Story of Christy Ring" in the "Sunday Independent". Write to:

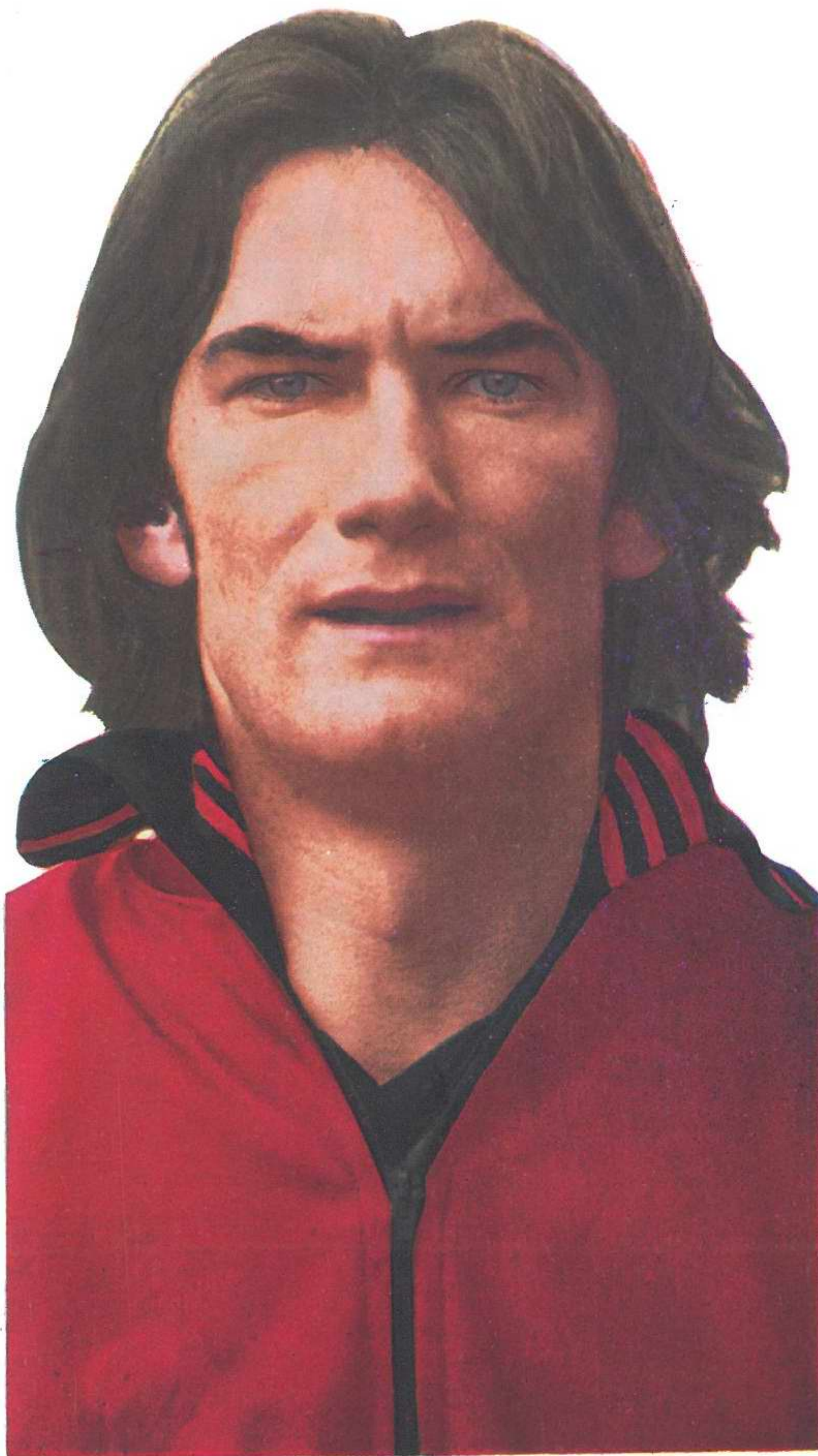
Jack Mahon

JUNIOR DESK,

GAELIC SPORT,

80, Upper Drumcondra Rd.,

Dublin 9.



**Liam
Austin
Down**

Age : 21.
Height : 6 ft. 3 ins.
Weight : 14 st.
Position : Midfield.
Club : Rostrevor.
Senior Inter-County Debut : 1976.

**CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS**

Liam, one of the most exciting young talents in football, was prominent for Ulster when the province regained the Railway Cup in March after an interval of eight years.

He played minor and senior championship fare with Down on the same day in the 1976 Ulster tests, and helped the county to their provincial under-21 title wins of 1977 and 1978.

Liam won his first Ulster senior championship medal last summer, and he played earlier this year with the Advanced Colleges in the representative series. He has also got among the county senior championship souvenirs with his club.

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