

GAELIC SPORT

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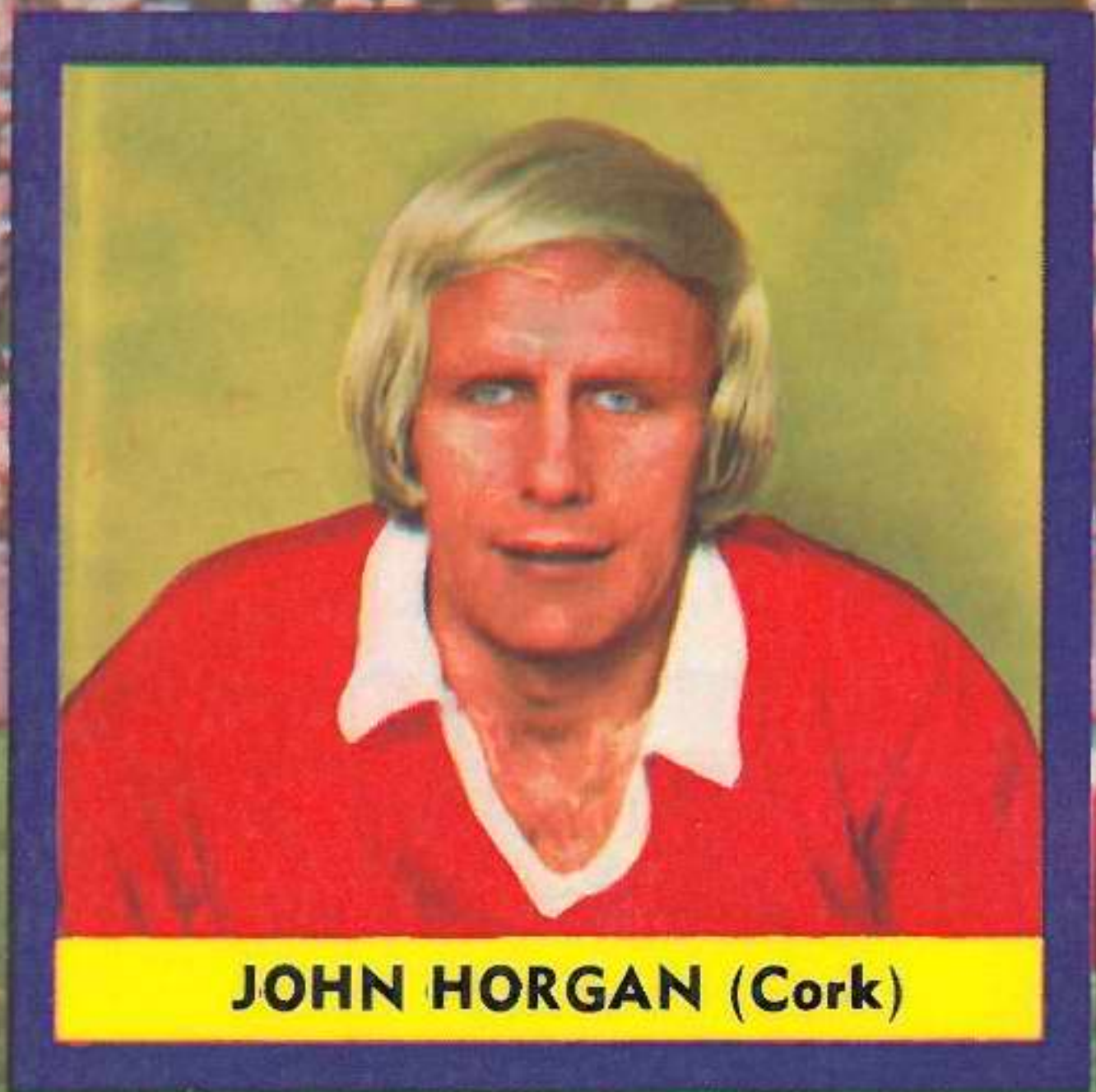
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FEBRUARY-MARCH 1979

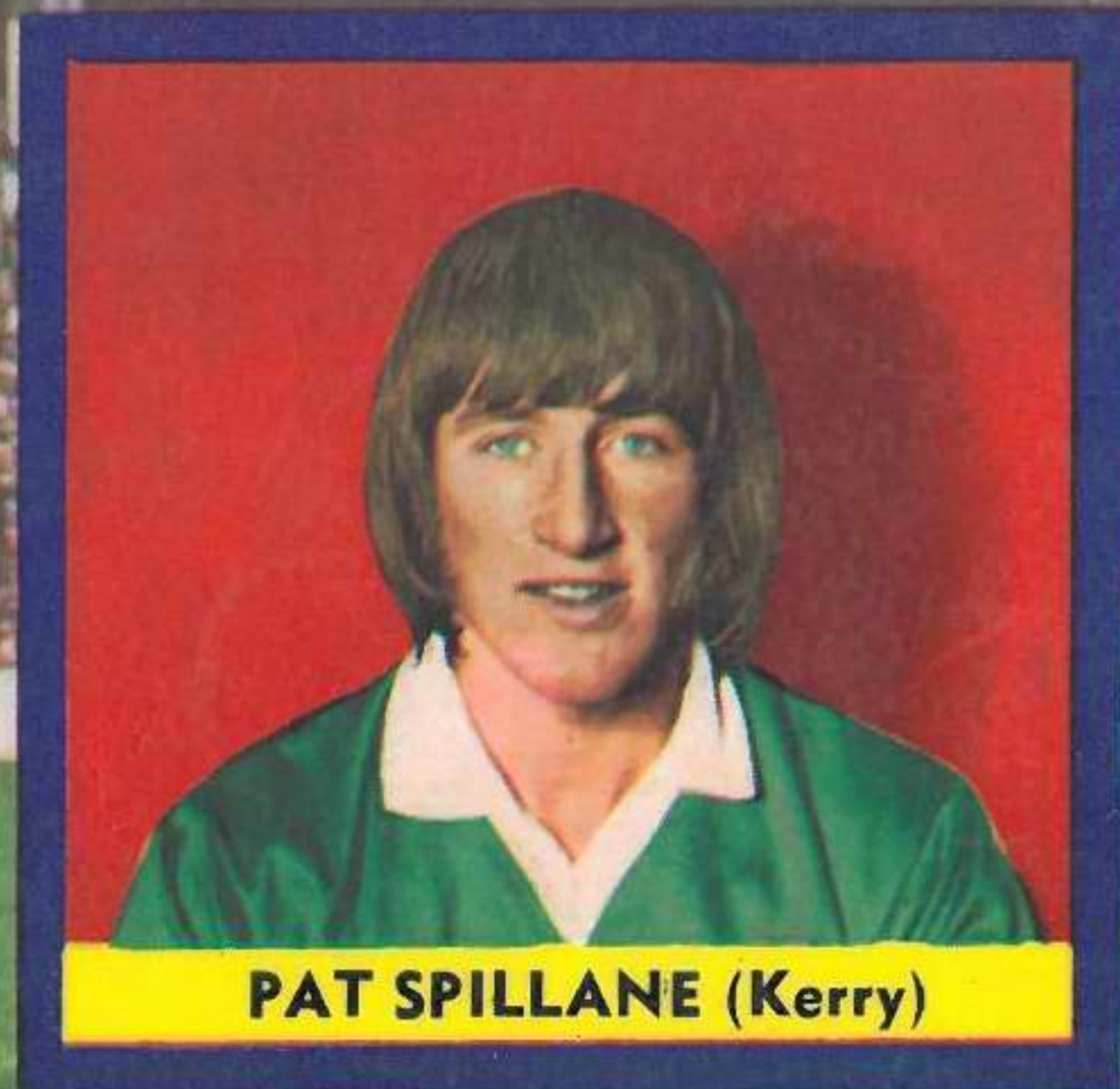
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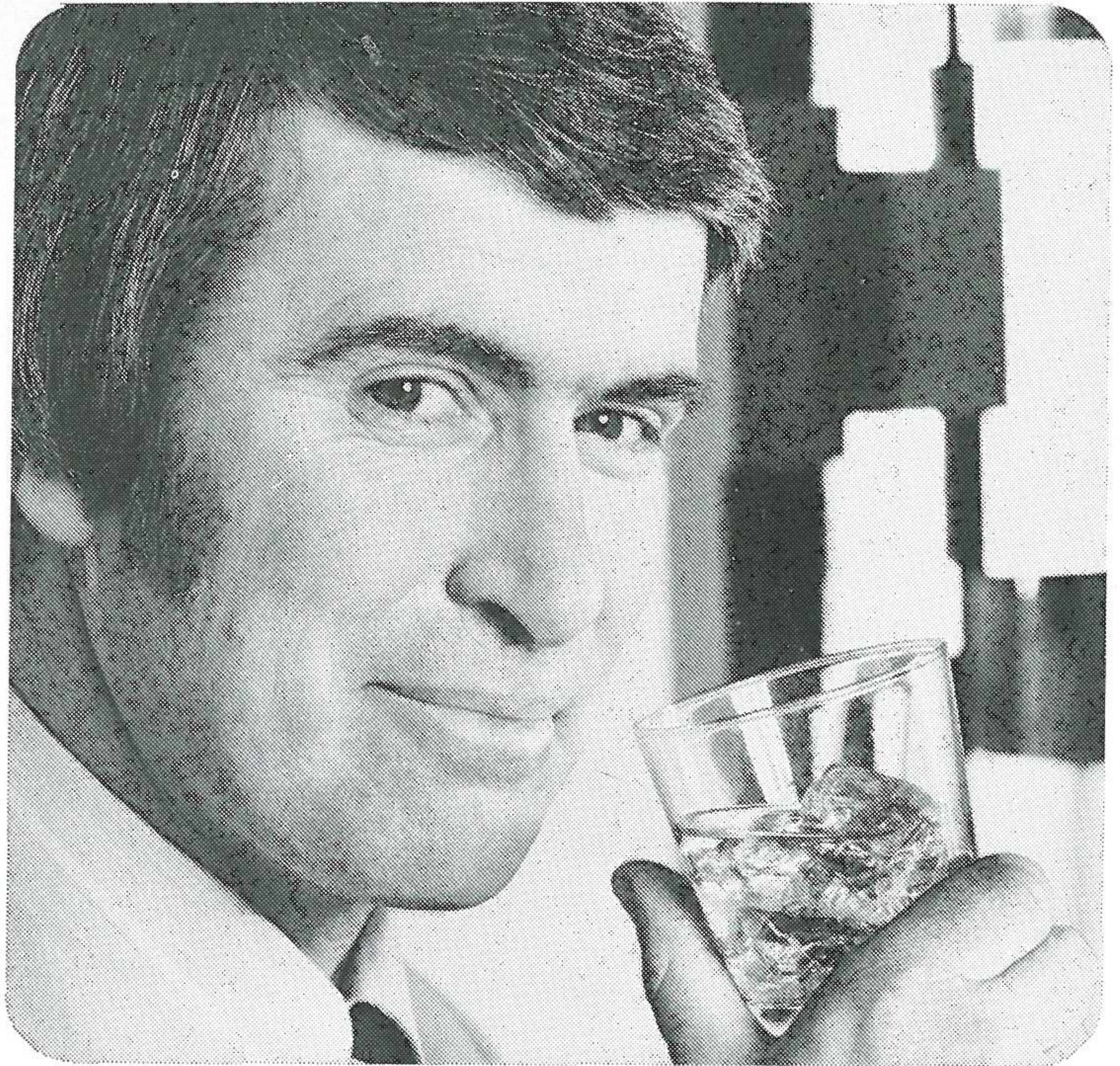
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 22 Nos. 2 and 3 February/
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EDITORIAL COMMENT

IRELAND'S greatest asset as we stand on the edge of the 'Eighties is the youth of the nation. Fortunately, there is no reason to believe that the young people of today will not play their parts in keeping Gaelic Games vibrant forces in the future life of the country.

True, the widespread and professional exposure that so many other sports receive on TV mean that football, hurling, handball and camogie have to compete as never before for the support of young people.

But, despite this, there is plenty of evidence that Gaelic Games continue to thrive among the youth.

The standard in last year's 'Colleges' and inter-county minor championships was the best in a long time, while the public, who usually know what to expect from any game, paid a remarkable tribute to the skills of the Galway and Tipperary under-21 hurlers by turning out in force for their two meetings in the All-Ireland final and replay. The combined attendance at the matches was over 30,000.

Handball, too, is thriving among the younger brigade. This was clear from the minor championships, and again from the exceptionally high standard in the under-22 international trials in January and February for two places in the team to visit the U.S. later this year.

One of the most heartening features of camogie is the game's rapid progress in recent times in the schools. So, over the broad spectrum of Gaelic Games there is genuine cause for optimism for the future.

But will the young men of today, who will be the senior players and officials of the future, prove more successful than those who have gone before them in raising the nation-wide standard of hurling and football?

Probably the most disquieting feature of the success story that is the G.A.A. is that the hurling and football senior championships are annually the preserve of virtually the same handful of counties.

It can be argued in the case of hurling that as the game is such a highly skilled and specialised one this factor has hampered officials' efforts over the years to advance the code nationally.

It is less easy to appreciate the low standard of football in so many counties. The promotion of the game does not present anything like the problems in hurling, and more are also playing Gaelic football than any other sport in the land.

Yet, the number of counties that can entertain any real hope of getting among the national titles in any year is now probably at an all-time low.

Here, then, are two vital areas in which any young man of vision looking for a challenge in building a better Ireland could profitably devote his talents and dedication.

A worth-while impetus is being provided by the Munster Council. This is a new scheme involving an annual outlay of £6,000 in promoting under-age football in Clare, Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford, and covering such as training and coaching.

Kerry and Cork will also be catered for, and the development of hurling in each county is to be pushed ahead as well.

This emphasis on youth is the way to bring progress in the long term. And, as is evident from our earlier remarks, the young people are deserving of this trust.

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Tyler

Top Ten

TIPP. TOPS IN HURLING

THE cancellation of a number of crucial games in the Hurling League due to the arctic weather conditions, and a restricted programme in the football counterpart, reduced the list of challengers for places in the first TYLER TOP TEN charts for 1979, which cover the period up to and including February 11.

Nevertheless, there was still some strong competition, particularly in hurling, for the premier positions, with Tipperary teammates Noel O'Dwyer and Francis Loughnane setting high standards.

O'Dwyer had a splendid game at centre half back when Tipperary took a major step back to the premier Division by beating Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh in late January. He caught the eye again in a big win over Dublin at Croke Park in February, when he put in much valuable work with his long-range clearances, allied to three splendid points from frees.

But Loughnane provided powerful opposition to the pivot. The long-serving forward hit seven grand points against Cork, and then against Dublin he further emphasised his superb qualities as a marksman supreme by cracking home a thundering 2-8, five points from frees.

A close struggle, then, between this pair for the distinction of hurling's first chart-topper of the year, but the excellent work by O'Dwyer against the All-Ireland champions just shaded the issue his way. He gains 34 points as against Loughnane's 33.

Clare, who have provided the first two annual winners, are again off to a good start. John Callanan, who caught the eye in the one-goal win over Limerick at Limerick in February, takes third place on 28 points, while Johnny McMahon, a stalwart of the defence in the same match, earns the county double representation in the line-up.

Brian Donnelly, a new teenage full forward from Antrim, is losing no time in making an impact. He scored 2-4 in his team's comprehensive win over Carlow at Corrigan Park, Belfast, and makes his **TYLER TOP TEN** debut at an impressive No. 5 rating on 25 points.

A teenager enters also into the ranks in football — Brian O'Grady. This Cavan minor star of last year impressed on his competitive inter-county senior debut against Roscommon at Carrick-on-Shannon in February, and makes his entry at No. 8.

Here, pride of place goes to Danny Murray, whose cool and progressive football at left half back did much to fuel the Roscommon win over the Breffni County in that League play-off. So, he sets the pace in the code

on 28 points.

For once in a rare while, Waterford come into the reckoning in football. They provided an early in the year shock by beating Wexford in the League at Leamybrien, Waterford. John Dwyer scored five grand points, while the good general play and some exciting runs by centre half Denis Conway were also eye-catching features of the victory, and earn both recognition in the charts.

This month's charts are:

HURLING

- 34 **N. O'Dwyer** (Tipperary)
- 33 **F. Loughnane** (Tipperary)
- 28 **J. Callanan** (Clare)
- 26 **J. Carroll** (Laois)
- 25 **B. Donnelly** (Antrim)
- 24 **J. McMahon** (Clare)
- 24 **J. Keogh** (Tipperary)
- 24 **M. Walsh** (Laois)
- 22 **M. Carroll** (Limerick)
- 20 **J. Horgan** (Cork)

FOOTBALL

- 28 **D. Murray** (Roscommon)
- 25 **J. Dwyer** (Waterford)
- 23 **Tony McManus** (Roscommon)
- 22 **T. Donnellan** (Roscommon)
- 20 **D. Conway** (Waterford)
- 20 **D. Donoghue** (Cavan)
- 19 **J. Meyler** (Wexford)
- 18 **B. O'Grady** (Cavan)
- 16 **D. Earley** (Roscommon)
- 16 **O. Brady** (Cavan).

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ANDY CROAK

The writer with the rasping comment

IT'S so long since I preached — excuse me, strike that word out — I mean, it's so long since I dispensed words of wisdom, advice and caution, not to mention a few good, old-fashioned lashes of the tongue, from this platform that I've forgotten exactly what I was talking about when last we met.

You see, while I was abroad, on business not unconnected with recent happenings in an oil-producing country of the Middle East, the Editor, bad manners to him, tore up my personal file and threw out all my cuttings.

He was cross because, he alleged, I was mixing politics with (Gaelic) Sport! I trust that tens of thousands of my readers will write in and tell the wretched man what they think of him.

Anyway, I don't think I made the definitive statement on the severance of Carrolls' connection with the All-Star awards.

A year ago, or more, I predicted that this would happen; but not being able to foresee everything in the smallest detail I didn't tell you that the end would come, not by the sponsors quitting BUT BEING PUSHED OUT BY THE G.A.A. ITSELF!

Recall the recent history of Congress motions on the subject of sponsorship by tobacco and

drink manufacturers and you'll see what I mean.

And if the full story ever comes out, don't be surprised to learn that "cold feet" in certain quarters had a good deal to do with the divorce. God, I'm a great man for the cryptic remark. (Work that one out now, let ye.)

★ ★ ★

Here's another thought to chew on. One day, money may come to be regarded as a dirty, unhealthy commodity like tobacco (imagine it!) and then the Bank of Ireland (new sponsors of the All-Stars) will be turfed out like Carrolls.

That's not so far-fetched as you may think. You see, the G.A.A. is a traditionalist organisation and the time could come when they'll try to turn this country back to a simple practice of the ancient Gaelic state; to wit, the system of bartering, by which means the people ate enough and lived well long before this corrupting business of exchanging money for goods and services came into fashion.

But who am I to be talking? I'm still a member, though non-playing now, alas, of a small club west of the Shannon and I suppose it's my duty to accept all the actions of the Association

There is no fire without smoke!

and, what's more, SAY THEY ARE RIGHT.

★ ★ ★

AND YET, my conscience gets at me. For instance, I can't say it was right to suspend Tony Hanahoe because he criticised a referee.

He got belted with the big stick, after all he, and his Dublin colleagues, had done for the advancement, and the image, of football.

I'm not saying that the stars should be immune from punishment if they break the rules. But what rule of the Official Guide did Hanahoe break?

I'm not saying that his criticism of Seamus Aldridge was right, or fair. But if the G.A.A. is going to stifle criticism within its own ranks it will achieve only one thing — the supplanting of democracy by dictatorship.

Good heavens, *what am I saying?* If the hon. sec. of my club reads this he may report me to the Activities Committee!

Ah, but I'm only looking at the warts just now. Next month, I'll have a lot of kind things to say, and people to praise. Don't miss it. Order your copy NOW. Or why not order a few to hand around, so your friends will realise what they've been missing all these years.



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END OF AN ERA AT CROKE PARK

But, happily, the flair and talents of Seán O Síocháin are being retained in a new role



Seán Ó Síocháin, retiring this month as Director-General of the G.A.A. who will lead the fund-raising drive for the Ceannarus building.

HUMAN nature being what it is — and we Irish having no special immunity to isolate us from the frailties of mankind — comparisons will almost inevitably be made between the general-secretaryship of the late Pádraig Ó Caoimh and the term of office spent at the head of the Gaelic Athletic Association by Seán Ó Síocháin, the man who succeeded him and who is now retiring.

Not only would such comparisons — as the cliché puts it — be odious, they are next to impossible and totally irrelevant. The men, and the times they served in, were completely different. But most important of all, the Association under their leadership was the same organisation in little more than name and appearance.

The late Pádraig Ó Caoimh was an innovator throughout the 35 years during which he took the G.A.A. from still faltering infancy in the late 1920s to the self-assured vigour of adulthood before his death in 1964. He had, in a sense, to build the organisation all over again after the years of World War II had disrupted and interfered with the progress he had already begun.

At Pádraig Ó Caoimh's suggestion the Railway Cup competitions started; under his regime Croke Park was transformed from an ordinary sports ground into a modern stadium with the erection of the Cusack Stand (1938), the laying of the canal

— *By* —
MICK DUNNE (RTE Sport)

end terracing (1949), the opening of the Nally Stand (1952) and eventually the construction of the new Hogan Stand in 1959. The Oireachtas competitions flourished in his era, the National Leagues grew enormously in prestige and the 1947 All-Ireland football final was staged under his direction in New York.

The times needed the man and in Ó Caoimh the G.A.A. were fortunate to find him. In the year before his election the Association, although then in its fourth decade, was still struggling to stand firmly on its feet. It was an organisation of only 1,374 clubs in 1928 with a Central Council income of just £8,000. By the time Pádraig in 1964 presented his last annual report to Congress it had been built up, mainly through the force of his abilities and influence, to a body of 3,048 clubs with the Central Council's an-

nual income raised to £70,856.

Expansion had reached almost the limit. In the 15 years that followed there was no such compelling need for growth, rather a necessity to cement what had been established. It is this role of consolidator that Seán Ó Síocháin has filled in his leadership.

He acknowledged as much in the very first report he wrote for Congress. "Pádraig Ó Caoimh's stewardship," he stated, "brought the affairs of the Association to a high degree of efficiency, as a result of which its accomplishments assumed a new dignity which earned for the Association the respect of the world at large. The best tribute we can pay to his memory is by maintaining that efficiency and that dignity and that respect."

Neither in size, structure nor scope of its activities does the G.A.A. today bear comparison with the Association of the 1930s. An idea of the change was forthcoming in a radio chat I had with Ó Síocháin some months back and he revealed that in 1946, when he gave up the teaching profession to join the G.A.A. as a full-time em-

● TO PAGE 11

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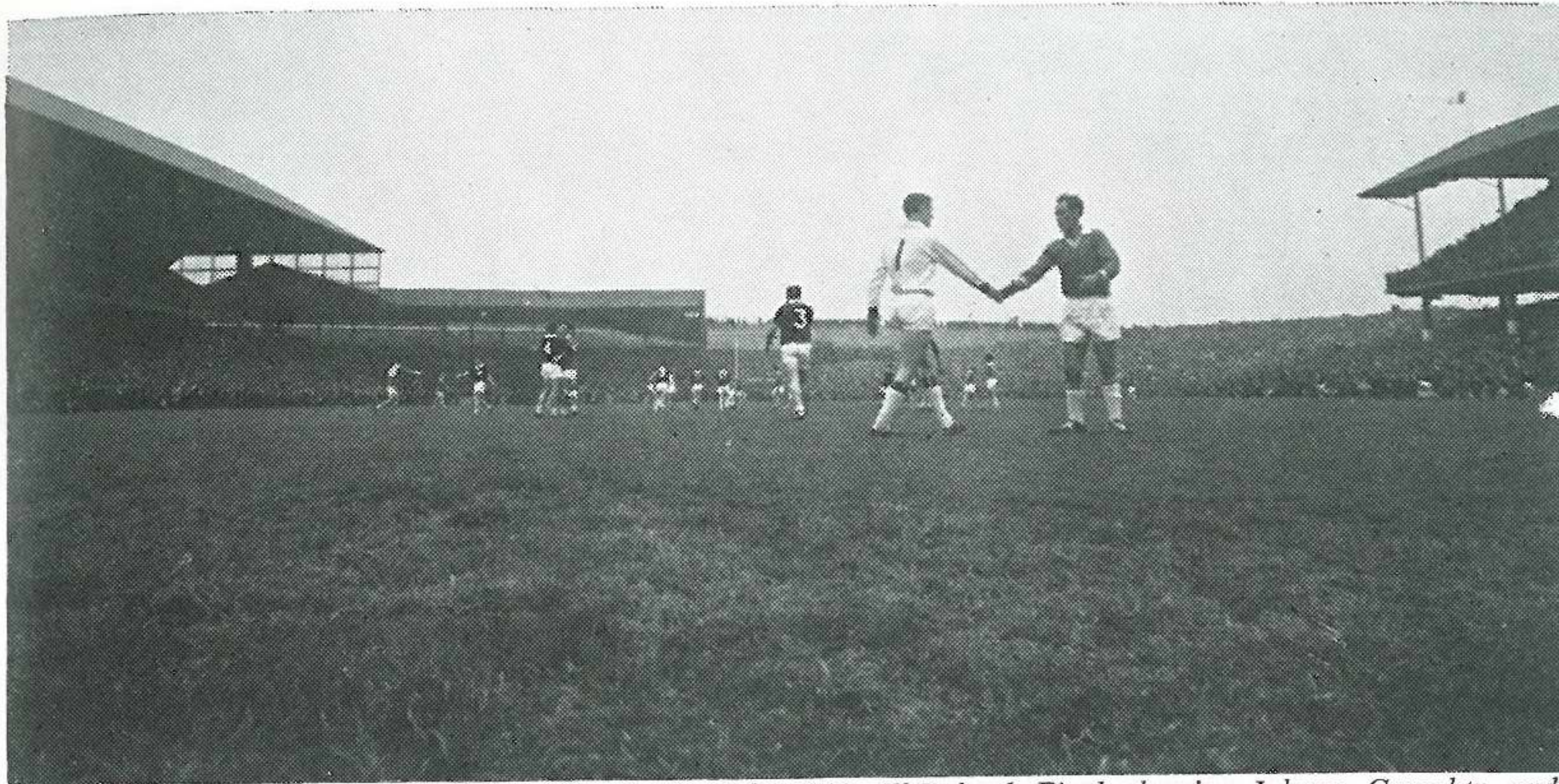
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The wide angle picture of Croke Park at the finish of the 1966 All-Ireland Final showing Johnny Geraghty and Gerry Quinn symbolises all that is good in the G.A.A. After his many years of stewardship Seán Ó Síocháin steps down as Director-General this month leaving an Association stronger than ever before and capable of meeting the challenge of the years to come.

● FROM PAGE 9

ployee, the Croke Park staff consisted only of the late Pádraig Ó Caoimh, the late Bridie Moriarty and himself. Today there are 16 people employed at headquarters.

Sean says: "The Association has expanded, has developed, had broadened its sphere of activities so much that all these people are wanted in the office in the different realms of activity. Finance has grown to be a very big thing there. Development, one of the new things since the commission report, is one of the major aspects of activity and it has created more activity and it's possibly the area which has mushroomed more than anything else. Then there's the publicity department which has quite a lot to do . . ."

The financial growth is underlined by the £577,632 yearly income shown in the last available revenue account (1978), but even more so by the increase in annual expenditure from £42,056 in the 1964 audited accounts to a massive £425,462 in

last year's. Moreover, during Ó Síocháin's reign the Association came to the awareness that gate receipts alone, huge though they were, would no longer be adequate to cover the cost of everything the Association required to do. Consequently the organisation launched the Club Development Scheme and Ciste Gael to raise funds for the development that has been deemed, and proven, to be necessary in these differing times of the modern era.

Stepping into the G.A.A. from the teaching profession Seán Ó Síocháin had a background very akin to his predecessor, Pádraig Ó Caoimh, who had also been a teacher and to that of so many presidents of the Association. Sean had qualified at St. Patrick's Training College in Dublin after a preparatory education at Coláiste na Mumhan, Mallow, where he played hurling and football and in 1932 was chosen on the Munster Colleges' football team at right corner-forward. Four years later he was a half-forward on the Munster

side in the Railway Cup semi-final.

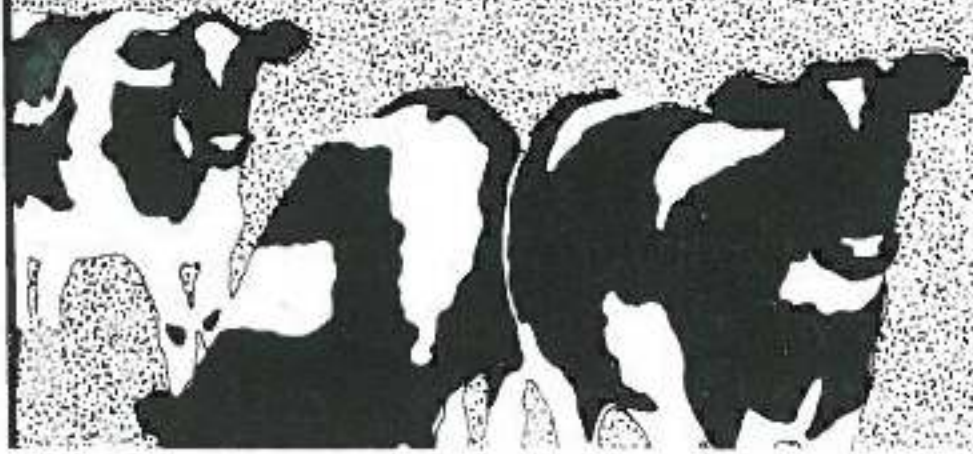
At St. Pats he played with the Erin's Hope club and on graduation he joined Clan na Gael, then known as the teachers' club, and helped them win the Dublin football championship. He had played minor and senior football with Cork in the early Thirties, but it is not widely known that he also played for Dublin at senior football some years afterwards.

His retirement this month at 65 does not end his direct connection with the G.A.A. The Central Council readily approved his appointment as chief fund-raiser for the Ceannarus development and for the next three years his energies will be devoted to securing the necessary finance for this major project. But even when that edifice adorns Croke Park no one doubts that Sean will still be as involved, in one way or another, with the organisation and the games he has spent a lifetime promoting with vigour, determination and affection.

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CONGRESS BACK IN DUBLIN AFTER 10 YEARS

By
MOONDHARRIG

THIS year's annual G.A.A. Congress, returning to Dublin for the first time in a decade, makes several breaks with long established traditions. It was back in 1969 that Congress decided to move to the provinces and the sequence since then is interesting. The first country visit was to Galway, then on to Belfast for that historic gathering that ended the contentious 'Ban' rule. The next move was to Cork, and then Leinster, as a tribute to the outgoing President Pat Fanning, forewent their turn, so that the Mount Sion man could, for the last time, preside over the delegates in his own home city of Waterford.

In 1974 the Congress moved away up to the Atlantic Coast, and stayed in the same North-West Region the following year when the venue was Bundoran, after the town of Monaghan had been unable to take up the Ulster option.

In 1976 the Congressmen came back at last to Leinster, but still no distance at all from the Ulster border, since the gathering place was Dundalk. In 1977 Ennis housed the annual stock-taking, but last year the North-West had another innings when the scene shifted to Ballina on the banks of the Moy.

This time it was once again Ulster's turn and it had been generally anticipated that, because the Derry-born Downman, Paddy McFlynn, will be taking over as President at Congress from Con Murphy the venue would be somewhere in the Mourne County. Indeed this was proposed, but principally, one understands because hotel accommodation there could not be guaranteed, for reasons all too unfortunate, Dublin was decided on, somewhat as a compromise effort.

But there are facets in which this year's Congress is bound to lose a certain amount of old-time prestige. For the first time in more than 60 years Congress will not be held at the Easter week-end. There were, indeed, some good, very good reasons for this radical change. Basically there is the ever-increasing difficulty in securing accommodation at the great Spring holiday break of the year. Then

the grossly over-loaded fixture-list has brought the absolute necessity of bringing the Congress forward to earlier in the year . . . not that the couple of weeks gained this year has brought any great visible advantage.

But what seemed to me to be the greatest blow to the prestige of Congress was the decision by the Activities Committee to fix all four of the National Football League quarter-finals on March 25, Congress Sunday. If that was not a case of downgrading Congress, I don't know what is, and I would have forgiven a few of the more outspoken delegates had they got up on their hind-legs at Congress and moved the Suspension of Standing Orders in order to propose a vote of censure on the Activities Committee — for bringing the Association into disrepute.

Fortunately, wiser councils prevailed in time, and all those League quarter-finals were put back, so, at least, countrywide attention, as far as G.A.A. followers are concerned, can be concentrated on the deliberations of the Congress delegates. And Congress has many intriguing matters to debate and decide, even though we will be denied the excitements of a Presidential election.

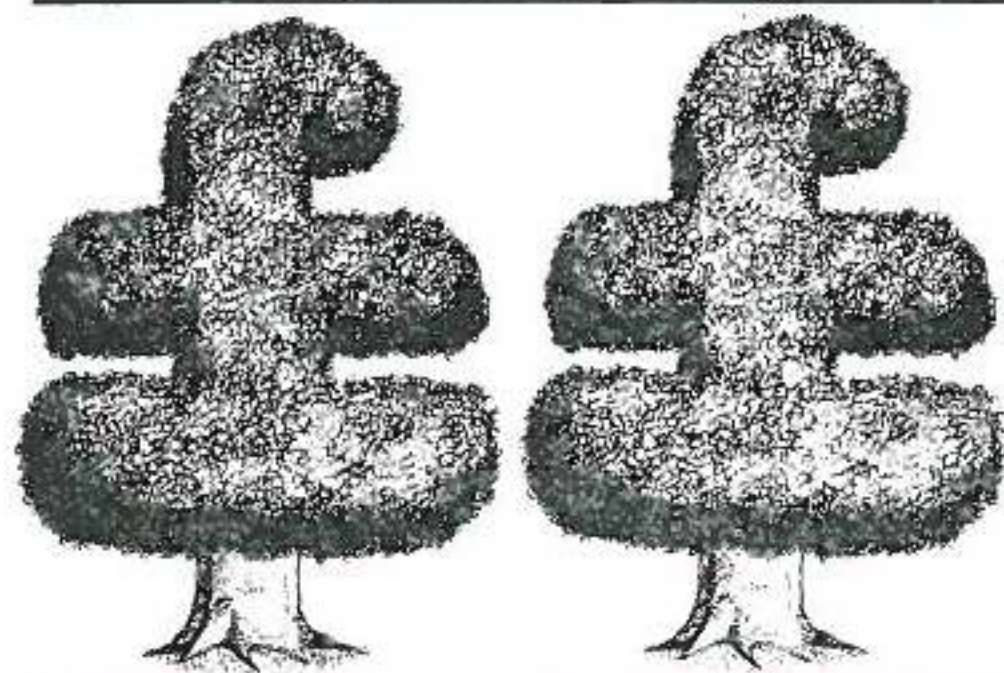
Judging by the motions from the counties, the survival of the Under-21 All-Ireland championships could be a matter of touch and go, and, if that happens, the odds would seem to be on the minor age-limit being extended from 18 to 19. What then of the fairly well-supported demand for the restoration of the junior football championship? If the Under-21 competition is retained, I can see the framers of the Master Fixtures Plan tearing their collective hair at the very suggestion that the junior series be reintroduced. But I shall be surprised if the junior proposal receives the necessary two-thirds majority.

What is surprising to me, however, even at this stage, is the considerable increase in the support for an Open Draw in the senior football champion-

● TO PAGE 15

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● FROM PAGE 13

ship. I don't think this idea has as yet made any great appeal to the bigger and more powerful counties, but the demand for that Open Draw seems to be growing from year to year, just as the demand for the removal of the Ban grew from year to year a decade ago. If the present trend continues it may well be that that Open Draw in senior football could well arrive before the next decade is out. Considering that Congress will not be revising the playing rules until 1980, it is remarkable that so many counties should have passed motions requesting or suggesting changes, although these may, of course really be meant as guidelines for the Rules Revision Committee which is deliberating the problems presented by the interpretation, implementation or alteration of these rules as they stand or are applied at present.

There seems to be a strong trend in favour of reverting to the fisted pass in football and with this I thoroughly agree, since the re-legalised palm-pass has too often deteriorated into a basket-ball flick, if not a cleverly-disguised throw. The suggestion that a score can be made only with the foot would not, on the other hand, have my full agreement. A properly fisted score can be a skill of the game.

Nor would I agree with the proposal that a score

in hurling can only come from the stick, not that I am very fond of those palmed goals in our caman-game. But if you disallow scores with the hand, you are virtually allowing defenders the use of their hands to play the ball while denying the same facility to attackers. The danger here is that we might eventually reach the stage when hurlers would not be allowed play the sliothar with the hand at all, in which case we may as well change over to the shinty rules right away.

The changes I want to see are (a) the return of the fisted pass in football (b) the introduction of, if you like a green-card and a red-card system for deliberate personal fouls, the green card being a warning, the red card meaning that the player departs to the sideline, but only for the duration of that particular game, (c) revert to the old interpretation of the 'throwing the hurley' rule.

I just refuse to believe, no matter what the Referees' Council may claim, that dropping the hurley to catch or hand-pass, the sliothar constitutes a 'throw'! The odd aspect of the interpretation of this particular rule is that in one game last year I saw two frees given against players for dropping the hurley, while there was no free at all when a defender blatantly threw his stick after an opposing forward.

HANDBALL

BY SEAN CLERKIN

WATCH THE 'OLD HANDS' AGAIN!

HANDBALL could well prove to be the most dynamic and progressive unit of the G.A.A. during 1979.

That prediction is based on the chart of progress over the past decade, which saw the game conquer new horizons in the fields of activity, development and administration.

One's immediate thoughts are directed towards the playing courts and the likely candidates to emerge in the role of champions.

It is a truism that such as Richie Lyng (Wexford) Pat McGarry and Joe Bennis (Limerick), Cecil Winders (Kildare) and the famed Kirby brothers, Pat, Dan, John and Mick, will be hovering close to a retention of the titles they won in 1978.

One wonders will the coming championships provide us with the material for a new facade on the roll call of All-Ireland Senior Champions.

It is doubtful, for such is the technical nature of handball that change at the top is gradual and the new champion only arrives at his destination after he has traversed the obstacle-laden and onerous course.

Do not be surprised then to find some of the old reliables intent on making their mark again. Who would bet against the maestro from Mayo—Peadar McGee—on taking up the cudgels again in search of his Senior Handball Title.

Joe O'Brien from Roscommon, who has flattered so often only to fail at the final hurdle, insists

that he is capable of lifting the senior title.

Paddy Reilly from Kilkenny could have similar aspirations, while the chances of his partner in last year's unsuccessful doubles bid — Ollie Harrold — cannot be dismissed out of hand either, while such as Seamus Buggy of Wexford is likely to be in the fray again.

However, on the concept of new brooms making a clean sweep, the handball fan, in the coming months will be peering for the emergence of new stars on the horizon. Indeed, Galway could come into the reckoning as a force if Gerry Scully and Eamonn Rabbitte care to exhibit some of the class that brought them to the top of the Junior

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Stars feted at the presentation of prizes

By Owen McCann

THE prospects for Down and Clare in the championship campaigns ahead, top stars of the past and present, the handpass and the penalty in hurling were among the many topics touched on at the second annual **GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN** presentation luncheon at the Royal Hibernian Hotel, Dublin.

There to receive their awards from Paul Mongor, Director of John Tyler and Sons, were Seamus Durack and Colm McAlarney, who came out on top in the 1978 charts. Each received an imposing perpetual cup and replica as well as a voucher from Tylers worth £25.

Although this promotion is only still in its infancy, it was very obvious nonetheless from the representative attendance at the luncheon and from the winners themselves, that the awards are now among the most prized in Gaelic Games. The great goalkeeper from Clare, and Down's brilliant midfield general, were clearly delighted with their awards.

Many guests from the Association and from the national and

provincial media attended to pay their own tributes to Seamus Durack and Colm McAlarney.

Present from Croke Park were Seán Ó Síocháin, the outgoing Director-General, and Jimmy Smyth, Secretary of the Activities Committee, and a former Clare hurling great. Also in attendance was Brendan Vaughan, Chairman of the Clare County Board.

Mr. Ó Síocháin, paid a warm tribute to **GAELIC SPORT**, an exclusive Gaelic Games magazine, and to **TYLERS**, for combining to honour the Association's players in this excellent manner. He congratulated the winners, and referred to the fact that they had come out on top even though neither had won an All-Ireland medal last year.

There was, in fact, much favourable comment that consistency, rather than brilliance in one or two games of the year, is the basis of the top ten promotion.

Paul Mongor of Tylers, in welcoming the winners and the guests, said that John Tyler and Sons were delighted to be in-



THE TWO WINNERS . . . Colm McAlarney (Down) and Clare's Seamus Durack (right) in a happy mood with the Tyler Top Ten trophies awarded to them as Gaelic Sport's top footballer and hurler of 1978.

involved in this sponsorship.

"It contributes towards the orientation of the youth to the pursuits of Gaelic Games, and the outdoor life in general. Tylers were particularly happy to be involved with **GAELIC SPORT** in this sponsorship for the second year, as it rewarded excellence in play throughout the year."

Mr. Mongor also complimented Seamus Durack and Colm McAlarney for their high standard of play all year and their sportsmanship.

Tony Keegan, of **GAELIC SPORT**, also congratulated the winners, and thanked **TYLERS** for their sponsorship. He had a word of appreciation, too, for Seán Ó Síocháin, for his many kindnesses to the magazine over the years, and wished the outgoing Director-General every success in his new post with the Association.

Colm McAlarney collected 157 points in football, 33 more than his closest rival, Tommy Drumm. A major factor in his march to the top was a regal showing against Kildare in the League

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CLARE MEN AND OTHERS

Top Picture: A gathering of Claremen (from left) Michael Griffin, Manager Tylers, Ennis, Brendan Vaughan, Chairman Clare County Board, Seamus Hayes, G.A.A. Correspondent Clare Champion, Seamus Durack, Tyler Top Ten Hurler for 1978, Ger Loughnane, last year's winner, and Jimmy Smyth, former Clare hurling star and Secretary of the Central Activities' Committee.

Right: Paul Mongor, Director John Tyler & Sons Ltd., presenting the Tyler Top Ten trophy to our hurler of the year Seamus Durack (Clare), with Tony Keegan, Deputy Editor Gaelic Sport on right.



to Division I, and also earned us a place in the quarter-finals. So, it was particularly sweet."

Colm also remembers with relish last year's Ulster final, and in particular the Joe Byrne goal in the second half that put Down on the road to the title.

The midfielder linked up in a brilliant passing movement, then as he swept goalwards with the ball he spotted Joe Byrne completely free on the right.

"I could not believe it was happening in an Ulster final," he told me.

A perfect pass to the right full forward, and the ball was quickly in the back of the net.

"It was as good as if I had scored the goal myself," recalled Colm.

The Castlewellan club man was optimistic about Down's championship prospects.

"We have a good panel of players, excellent management

and a good set-up, but we probably need someone with the ability to score consistently."

Colm also feels that this is where Ulster teams have been falling down generally. They have all lacked a marksman of the calibre of Paddy Doherty or Jimmy Keaveney.

The Down ace is a strong supporter of the handpass, which he maintains speeds up the game, and he has little time for those campaigning for the scrapping of the Railway Cup.

"Some of my most enjoyable football has been in the Railway Cup." McAllarney rates Ray Carolan, the former Cavan star, on top of his list of great midfielders he has met. He also rates highly both Tom McGuinness (Derry) and John O'Keeffe (Kerry), and has a great regard as well for the skills of Jimmy Keaveney, and his expertise in

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quarter-final replay at Croke Park in March, a game that went to extra time.

I rate that one of the best individual displays I have seen, and Colm told me that he got great fulfilment from that game.

"It was one of those days when one knows that things are going well, and I was also right on my game," he told me.

The Down star singled out two other games that gave him much personal satisfaction. The first was the win over Armagh at Castleblayney early last year in a League Division II North final.

"That was a vital game for Down. The win brought us back



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JOHN AND PAT JOIN RANKS OF THE ELITE

THERE are many vital ingredients that go to make up the overall pattern of top-class play at its best in hurling and football, and when it comes to exhibiting these in tellingly effective fashion, John Horgan and Pat Spillane must be numbered among the genuine masters.

They have demonstrated this consistently during their years in senior inter-county fare, but it is not merely because they collected the TEXACO Awards for 1978 for Gaelic Games that I say this pair really excelled in the past season.

I have not forgotten the dazzle of Tom Cashman at midfield in the Munster hurling final last July, a display that was one of the best of the year. But I still find myself wondering if, for all of the young Blackrock club man's brilliance, Cork would still have held on to their title without the long range points scoring of John Horgan.

After all, not a single Cork forward, amazingly enough, scored in the first half of that showdown with Clare, but the defending champions still managed to turn over at the interval with a two points advantage. And, four

By
**OWEN
McCANN**

of their five points were slotted over superbly from long range by the left full back.

A splendid achievement that, and when one considers that Horgan was also in there pulling his weight in great style in that opening period with his wonderful defensive play, and also kept up the standard after the interval, it is obvious that his contribution to the victory was immense.

Similarly, with Spillane. The All-Ireland football final provided so many exciting talking points, with Michael Sheehy's cheeky goal that will forever now remain a part of the game's folklore and Eoin Liston's three goal barrage among the more memorable, but for me, Spillane was still the footballer who really caught the imagination.



Texaco award winner John Horgan being congratulated after Cork's great win over Kilkenny in the 1978 All-Ireland Hurling Final.

Everything he did was brimful of intelligence. He roamed tirelessly, but to excellent purpose, and, although he had only a point at the end of the day to his credit, his thrust, motivation and deft touches did much to keep the well-oiled Kerry attack moving so devastatingly.

The talents of the long-striking and so dependable Horgan, and Spillane, of the inexhaustible energy, really came into full bloom in the past year.

Their successes underline yet again just how rewarding it is to keep a close eye on minor affairs. Like so many more in the top-grade today, this talented duo served notice in the under-age grades that they were destined for greatness.

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I can remember the blond Horgan turning on eye catching displays at centre half back with the Cork minors, particularly in some exciting clashes with Wexford. They had four meetings in All-Ireland finals between 1966 and 1968, including a replay, and the Cork hurler was a commanding figure in those games. He also won an All-Ireland medal in the summit of 1967.

The potential of those teenage days have been superbly realised. It was honed and perfected further in the under-21 tests, which saw Horgan collect more national medals in 1970 and 1971, as well as on the way to the game's top award at an early age as left full back in the side that beat Wexford for the 1970 Liam McCarthy Cup tie.

In the meantime this broad-shouldered hurler, who is so cool under pressure and shrewd in his clearances, has provided some of the best moments in the game. I recall particularly his progressive leadership as captain at left full the day that Cork routed Limerick, then All-Ireland champions, in the 1974 National League final at Limerick — Horgan's second such medal as he helped to bring the 1970 title to the Leaside.

He won a Carrolls All Star award at No. 4 later that year as well, but the contrasting fortunes of sport were in evidence when Cork and Wexford lined up for the 1976 All-Ireland show-down. On the substitutes bench was John Horgan, but he was later sent into action, and no real student of the game will need reminding of the part this inspiring figure has played in the county's three-in-a-row sequence.

That part has been enhanced by Carrolls All Stars awards for 1977 and 1978 at left full back, and, of course, this TEXACO award.

Horgan, who will be 29 in May, can point to every major medal win in the game. He played on a Railway Cup final winning team for the first time last year, and also helped Blackrock to county senior championships, as well as their All-Ireland club title triumphs of 1972 and 1974.

Mention of club affairs, and it could be argued with a great deal of justification that Pat Spillane played some of the best football of his career when leading Thomond College, Limerick, to the All-Ireland senior championship.

Certainly, he brought a new depth of vision to full forward play in a campaign that was highlighted by a big final win last Easter Sunday over St. John's, of Belfast.

That historic achievement means that the youthful Templenoe club man has won every top award in the game in double quick time. He was only 23 last December.

But then the effervescent Spillane, a county minor at 16, did not let the grass grow under his feet. He was called up to the county senior team early in the 1974-75 National League, and has not looked back since.

The six-footer collected the Sam Maguire Cup after the young lions of Kerry shocked Dublin for the 1975 All-Ireland senior championship, standing in on that occasion for Michael O'Sullivan who had retired earlier in the final with an injury. We saw much clever work from Spillane in that game, plus three capital points, and a couple of

weeks later, he showed up particularly well again in another Kerry victory over Dublin — that one in the All-Ireland under-21 final.

The skills and positive play of the Kerryman have also helped in rich fashion in shaping the most glorious era yet for Munster in Railway Cup football. The province took the title for the fourth successive year last April, to equal records in this regard by Leinster and Ulster, and Spillane was a forceful unit in each of the last three successes.

In recent times, too, he has been showing a nice line in tucking away the goals and points. So much so, that in 1978 he finished third in Munster and seventh nationally with a personal best of 66 points (10-36) in 17 engagements.

A further indication of the way that Spillane, who is so often to be seen helping out in defence, has maintained such a high standard over the years is the fact that he has been ever present in the concluding Carrolls All Stars selections. He won his third such honour last December.

On the National League front the very fit Kerryman highlighted his record by playing a big part in the county's win over the Dubs for the 1977 crown. Over-all a remarkable record of achievements in a very short period of time.

The TEXACO awards give an added emphasis to the brilliant records of John Horgan and Pat Spillane, champions in top-class play and excellent sportsmen. I know that I am not the only one who is now looking forward with great relish to savouring the skills of this dynamic pair in the campaign now swinging into top gear.

GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ

EAMONN YOUNG assesses the qualities of Kerry's

Eoin Liston grows up

AT nineteen he was a midget of six feet, but in the last two years he has sprouted more than three inches and who can say if he has stopped growing. Likewise Eoin Liston in twelve months sprang from obscurity to national fame in Gaelic football.

Noreen and Eoin Liston, mother and father of Kerry's full forward, run a pub in Ballybunion and Eoin senior, who comes from Athea, Limerick, stood at five feet eleven in the centre of the field for Limerick juniors. Noreen herself comes from between Boverbue and Newmarket so young Eoin is a judicious and successful mixture of Cork, Kerry and Limerick. Both parents and indeed his three brothers and sister follow the big fellow's career with intense interest and what Noreen says she likes is that Eoin never wastes a ball. Eoin senior says that the eldest, now twenty-four, was more promising than Eoin at one stage and is a very hard worker at the game.

He thinks that it is only now that Eoin is coming into his best, a statement one must support when one remembers that the big man may not have matured physically even yet, and big fellows who are only something over twenty don't show their real worth until they are twenty-five. If I were a playing full back just now I don't think I'd take any real comfort from the last opinion.

It was in the under-21 championship that Eoin Liston first at-

tracted the Kerry selectors' notice and his two goals against Clare one day in Ballylongford signalled the arrival of a new scorer in the green and gold jersey when he stuck in two goals against Clare and since then he has done little wrong and many things very right.

Doney O'Donovan, who trained so many Cork teams, and a very sound judge of a man met Liston a lot when the player was living

in Cork and used to turn up regularly at the Glen Rovers pitch to train with the footballers of the sister club St. Nicholas. Doney will tell you how Eoin turned up twice a week during the winter, and when the days began to lengthen "he was there more often than our lads". In their many conversations Doney noted that the big Kerryman was very keen and had a good deal of thinking done on the game, a pro-

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Eoin Liston (Kerry)

gression which had started I think when he began to play both basket ball and football at an early age. In Cork Eoin played a lot of the indoor game with Scoil Eoin Naofa, and apart from the height advantage which even in that game he had over many players, he developed the ability to part quickly with the ball to one of his fast-moving comrades, a skill which quite obviously laid the foundations for his quick

reaction in the field game.

I remember discussing the merit of Liston with Doney O'Donovan immediately after the Munster final last year when Cork had gone down to Kerry, mainly because of Liston's combination with his forwards and Doney admitted to me that he was not one bit surprised that the big fellow was so effective.

Today Doney says "They use

Eoin as a target man. They kick the ball to him from outfield and of course they rely on him to get it, or at least to break even with the full back and so have the ball drop to the other forwards. When Liston gets it he moves it quickly to Mick Sheehy, John Egan, Pat Spillane, Ogie Moran or Ger Power and then any defence is in trouble. As we saw he can take his own score also. This kicking was probably the weakest part of his game but I do know he has been practising it, and the last All-Ireland showed he can score with the foot also. He is a pretty hard man to handle and though I have never seen him play a really rough game I hear that when it's put up to him he's no chicken." Candidly I think it may be wiser not to wrong these big fellows. When they get cross they can be awfully difficult.

Eoin studied at the Sharman Crawford school in Cork and also at the Regional Technical and after three years emerged with a diploma in rural science. Now he teaches in Waterville a stone's throw from trainer-selector Mick O'Dwyer and certainly he won't be short of advice for it would seem to the outsider that the sensible and ambitious O'Dwyer sees in the full forward a lynch-pin of the Kerry vehicle bound once again for Páirc an Chrócaigh.

Twenty-one last October Eoin

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Liston now weighs fifteen stone three and believes in keeping himself fit. "I like to see the ball coming in the air" he told me

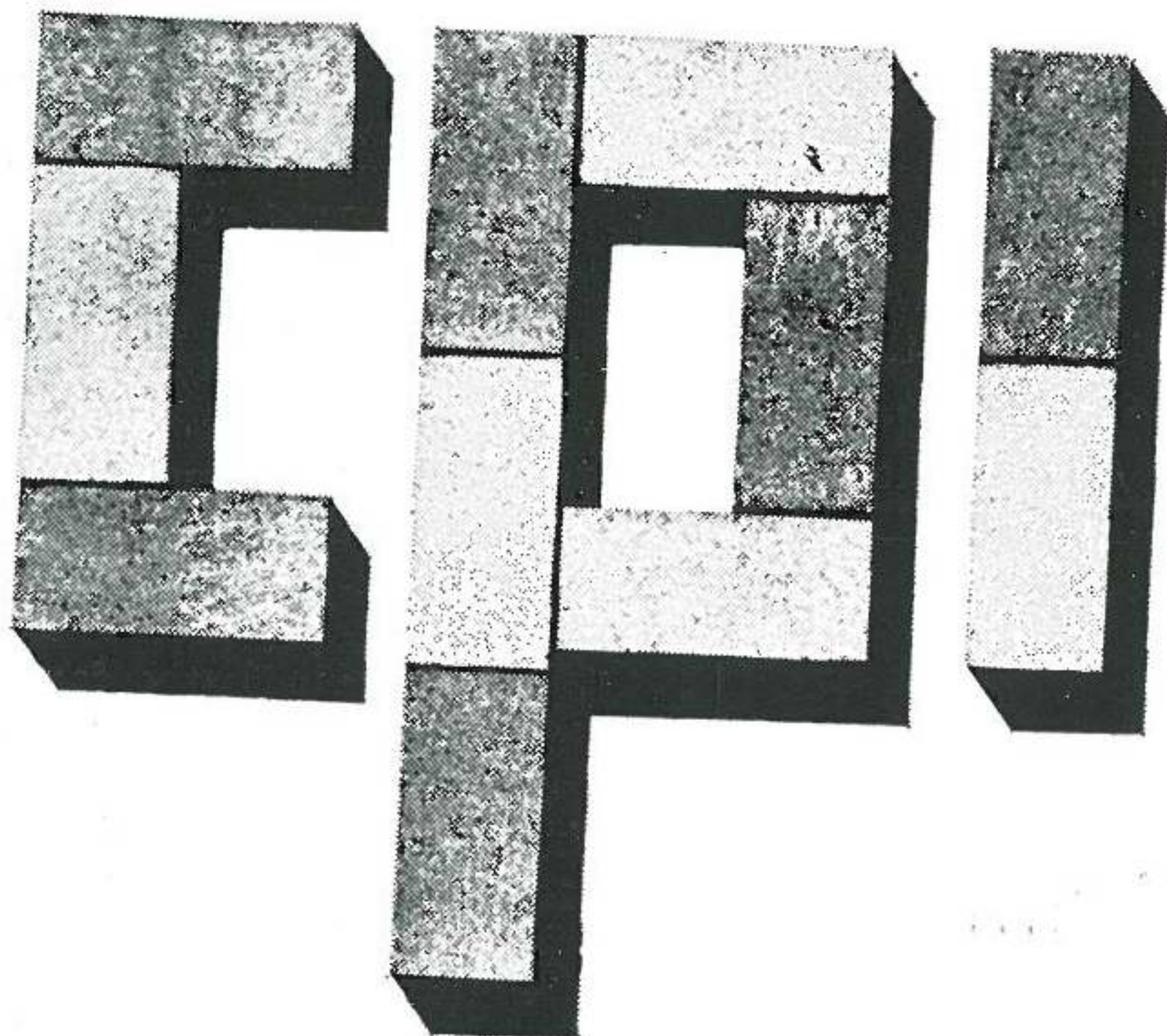
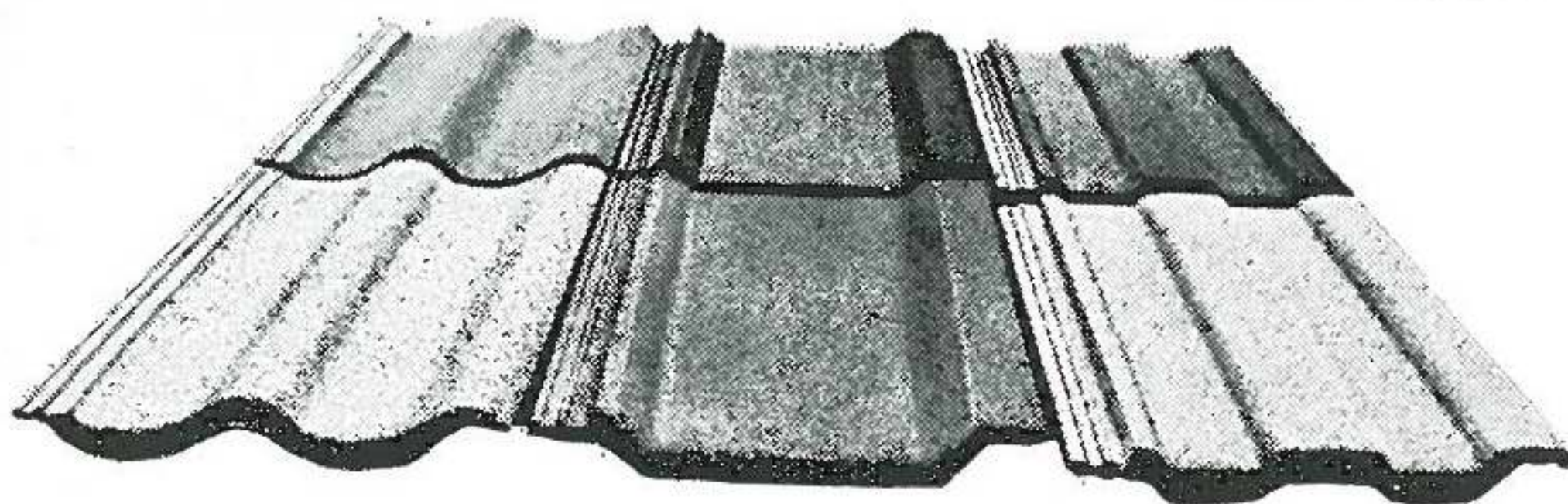
"but I don't always catch it. If I get it things are easy enough, for Mick Sheehy, John Egan, Pat Spillane, Ogie Moran and Ger Power would make any man.

They move very well and there is always one of them around to pick up the ball. I have found several full backs very hard to beat but the man who really worries me is John O'Keeffe. I have got more roastings off him than any man. I have to mark him in training also and I can never get the ball off him in the air. Often we break even enough but it's very hard to catch it cleanly from him. He jumps very well and is very fast to come to the ball.

I asked him about the game generally and about the hand-passing. "Ah" he says with a smile "it's a grand game; that's all. In the future—sure I mightn't be there at all—the hand-passing will be as important as ever to me and the lads, and provided that the fouling is kept to a minimum it will continue to be a fine game. There's one thing that saddens me a bit: some refs blow a man for the fair shoulder, especially if you knock the other fellow. That's not so good. This is a man's game and a fair shoulder is a good skill."

Eoin loves teaching and finds the lads great fun. Candidly the boys who are warmed by such an amiable, optimistic and unaffected personality are lucky, I think, and they must have as little trouble in learning as the big fellow has in teaching. It's very early yet to say what kind of a career big Eoin Liston will carve for himself in football but so far he seems to be endowed with many of the necessary attributes necessary to the champion footballer: size, spirit, skill, dedication, good company, sophisticated advice, and a realism born of common sense and humility.

I wonder if he has stopped growing. He has a cousin on the mother's side living in New York. That young man is six feet nine.



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hitting the scores so consistently.

Seamus Durack finished with 144 points, just eight more than the runner-up, Ned Buggy (Wexford). The dynamic goalkeeper caught me off guard when I asked him about the penalty in hurling, and the present set-up of three men in goal.

Seamus countered right away by saying that he would like to see a one-to-one situation between just the goalkeeper, and the penalty taker, with the free being awarded from 25 to 27 yards from goal.

He is convinced that this would make for more spectacular goal-keeping, and give an exciting new dimension to the penalty situation.

And mention of dimensions, Seamus told me that Ollie Walsh, the former Kilkenny net-minder supreme, brought a new depth to goalkeeping.

"The Kilkenny man was very dependable, had a tremendous puck, and above all he introduced flair to goalkeeping. Since then the job has taken on a more colourful approach."

Seamus has much admiration for Ray Cummins: "Apart from his own qualities, he is very generous in front of goal in distributing the ball to his colleagues."

The goalkeeping giant gave me an intriguing and well thought out title for that score-getter extraordinary, Eddie Keher: "The master of the possible."

"If a score was at all possible from play or a free, Keher was the man to exploit the situation to the fullest extent."

The Clare man is delighted with his two National League medals, but makes no secret of the fact that his dearest wish is to win an All-Ireland medal.

Will 1979 bring a change of fortune? "The championship is our big aim, although we hope to retain the League. We have a strong pool of young talent on the way up, and this is bound to increase our title prospects.

"The young players will keep the regulars on their toes, and also provide excellent cover in the event of injuries."

The point about Clare's rising talent was also made to me by Ger Loughnane, who won the first **GAE LIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN AWARD** in hurling in 1977, and was also present at the luncheon.

"The fact that we have so many bright prospects on the way up must boost our championship hopes," Ger told me.

I was amazed to learn from this superb right half back that

he has not missed a competitive match with the county in over seven years through injury. That must surely be some kind of record.

The Feakle club had double cause for celebration, as both Ger Loughnane and Seamus Durack were members of that club when they collected their awards.

But I learned at the luncheon that Durack, like Loughnane a native of Feakle, is likely to be seen in action this year with Eire Og, of Ennis. He has just gone into business in the Banner County capital.

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COULD THIS DREAM COME TRUE?

Asks **NEIL McCAVANA**

IT would be something special for Ulster folk if Paddy MacFlynn, who takes over as President of the G.A.A. at the Annual Congress in Dublin at the end of March, earned the distinction of being the first Northern while in the post to present the Sam Maguire Cup, or even the National Football League trophy to a team from the province.

I must admit that I would not be prepared to take any bets on such an eventuality, in view of Northern teams' performances in recent times. But it is remarkable how football fortunes can change, and it may well be that the election of an Ulsterman to the highest office in the organisation will prove a bright pointer for glory for the province on the playing



● Paddy MacFlynn . . . will he do the honours for an Ulster team?

fields.

At any rate, the choice of Mr. MacFlynn as President is a great honour for Ulster. It is a distinction, however, that this native of Magherafelt richly merits, as he has given long and distinguished service to the Association, both at provincial and national level.

The in-coming President is a former Secretary of the Derry County Board. Later he moved to Down, where among the positions he held on that County Board was that of Chairman. Paddy MacFlynn is also a former Chairman of the Ulster Council, and in more recent times he has been Chairman of the Activities Committee.

He is the first Ulster man to succeed to the Presidency since Alf Murray, of Armagh, in 1964-67, and is the fourth from the province to earn the position. Mr. MacFlynn will have the best wishes not only of Ulster, but of enthusiasts everywhere in his new duties. There can be little doubt that he will prove a worthy successor in the long line of successful Presidents.

* * *

Have you noticed how the young men of football in Ulster are capturing the headlines in exciting fashion? Players like Liam Austin (Down), Jim McKerr (Armagh) and Donal Donohoe Cavan's latest scorer-in-chief, have



● Former Down star Paddy Doherty—now training the county minors.

been so prominent in the big-time in recent times that it is hard to credit they are all still in their early 'twenties.

Now the trend is being maintained by some budding talents on the threshold of senior inter-county fare. Take Cavan's loss to Roscommon in the National League play-off at Carrick-on-Shannon in early February. The Ulster county fielded a very young team, which included ten under-age players, and among the brightest was newcomer Brian O'Grady.

He was starring with the county's minors last summer, and I remember this Cavan Gaels club player as a lively and very prom-

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The Armagh side that defeated Roscommon in the 1977 All-Ireland semi-final and went down to Dublin in the final. Armagh are the only Ulster team to contest an All-Ireland senior football final this decade, so far.

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ising raider, and accurate free-taker. On his step up to competitive senior inter-county fare at left full forward in the unsuccessful bid against the Connacht champions, O'Grady again looked the part, and capped a good display with a valuable point.

I have little doubt that he will repay watching in the future. Incidentally, in the Cavan County Board awards for 1978, Brian was selected at minor. The senior player award went to Ollie Brady, who last year became the county's first, and as it happened, last Carrolls All Star.

No spotlight on 1978 county minors, no matter how brief, would be complete, however, without reference to Eamonn McEneaney.

A couple of months back I singled out the tall Castleblayney club player's power packed display at midfield in the Ulster minor final as one of the best individual performances of the past year.

He displayed tremendous class, and his free-taking was of a standard that I have not seen in years from any footballer so young. He hit all of Monaghan's nine points in their unsuccessful bid against Tyrone.

In the meantime, McEneaney has stepped up to the county senior team as a forward, and I shall certainly watch his further progress with the greatest of interest.

From young men of today to a giant of the past . . . Paddy Doherty. This brilliant link with the golden years of Down football, when the county brought the Sam Maguire Cup to the Mourne in 1960, 1961 and 1968, will be one of the Down minor selectors this season.

Doherty, who captained Down to the 1961 final win over Offaly, was one of the most exciting forwards of all time, and a score-getter par-excellence. In fact, he still holds the Down and Ulster record for a full annual programme for all matches at 136 points (13-97) in 24 games in

1960.

That such a record is standing so long is surely an outstanding tribute to the superb qualities of Paddy Doherty, who also turned in many superb displays with Ulster, and who collected five Railway Cup medals between 1960 and 1966.

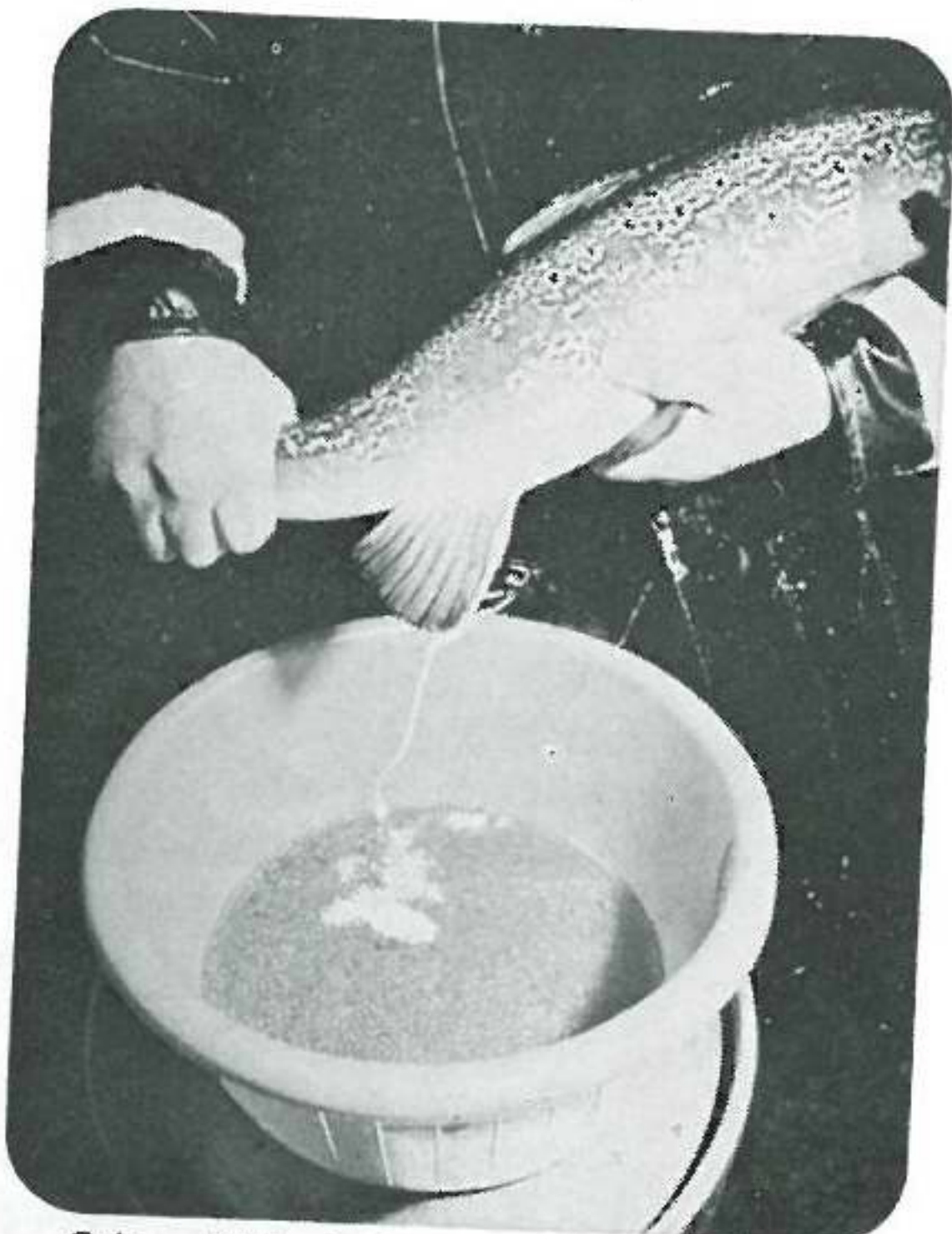
While on scoring topics, a word now especially for **Jim McGuinness, 318 Pinebank, Craigavon, Co. Armagh**, who raised a point about high team scoring in the last issue of **JUNIOR DESK** following on from Armagh's resounding 8-14 to 1-5 win over Westmeath in the National League before Christmas.

Back in 1960, Dublin were in tremendous shooting form in a Leinster championship outing against Longford at Mullingar. They finished up with 10-13, and a feature of the performance was the finishing of Johnny Joyce. He rattled in 5-3, a haul that still stands as the individual record for a senior football championship match. Incidentally, Longford hit 3-8 in that game.

The Ones that Get Away...



Salmon angling at Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.



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

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

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

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





● Blackrock, Cork County hurling champions, 1978—Front row: (left to right) Frank Norberg, Ray Cummins, Tom Lyons, John Horgan (capt.), John O'Grady, Tim Murphy, Dermot McCurtain. Back row: (left to right) Pat Moylan, Pat Kavanagh, Conor O'Brien, Donal Collins, Frank Cummins, Tom Cashman, Eamonn O'Sullivan, Eamonn O'Donoghue.

The Rockies glory in great hurling record!

BY NOEL HORGAN

AS the Cork hurlers bid to achieve everlasting fame in 1979, it is fitting that John Horgan, the man to lead them in their four-in-a-row effort, should belong to the famed Blackrock hurling club.

The 'Rockies' have been a powerful Leaside hurling force since the foundation of the GAA, winning the first ever Cork county championship as Cork Nationals in 1887 and remaining prominent for almost a century to take a record 27th title, under Horgan, last year.

Legendary names such as Larry Flaherty, Eudie Coughlan, Gah and Balty Aherne, Sean Og Murphy, Jim Hurley, John Quirke, Jimmy Brohan, Ray Cummins and

Mick Cashman, to mention a few, have by their tremendous feats on the hurling field in different eras made Blackrock the most prominent club in the game's history. And the 'Rockies' success story shows no sign of abating yet.

Although the once tiny fishing village of Blackrock has expanded to include such large suburban areas as Ballintemple and Ballinlough, the same spirit prevails at the club's core. Club loyalty is as intense as ever, the ideals of the Association are fervently fostered, while most important of all, the love Blackrock folks show for hurling still shines resplendently and the players are keen to follow in the footsteps of the

former club greats.

In spite of this, Blackrock's illustrious club history is not without its lean periods. Chalking up county titles at will in the GAA's early years, the 'Rockies' had no less than 21 to their credit by 1931. About that time, however, a club from the Blackpool area, founded in 1916 and named Glen Rovers began to make an impact as a senior team.

When the Glen took their first county title in 1934, it was to prove the beginning of a new era in Cork hurling. The north-siders held their crown until 1941, a record 8-in-a-row, and as they established themselves as the new power, with only St. Fin-

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barr's threatening their superiority during the '40s and '50s, Blackrock faded from the limelight.

A quarter of a century intervened between Blackrock's 21st county title and their 22nd which was won in 1956 when Mick Cashman, Jimmy Brohan, Tom Furlong and Paddy Philpott were among the stars.

The 'Rockies' won their 23rd championship in 1961 but after that success they were rarely rated as county contenders during the decade. Meanwhile, however, those dedicated and vital men behind the scenes were working diligently with the club's juveniles and preparing for another senior revival.

With the club producing number-out outstanding minors, it was obvious that Blackrock would eventually field a strong senior side and when the great Ray Cummins returned from UCC, having won county honours with the College in 1970, the 'Rockies' were again

ready to make a bid for glory.

They defeated the 'Barrs in a stormy county trial in '71 and such was the exciting form of young players like Pat Moylan, Frank Norberg and Simon Murphy that Blackrock seemed booked for a lengthy stay at the top.

Further titles followed in '73 and '75 but the team's failures in this decade caused questions to be raised repeatedly about the courage and character of the current crop of Blackrock hurlers. The 'Rockies' had a star-studded squad and, on paper at least, appeared an almost invincible team, but big names such as Ray Cummins, Pat Moylan, John Horgan, Tom Cashman, Dermot McCurtain and Killkenny's Frank Cummins were unable to prevent Blackrock succumbing in '76 and '77.

When they qualified for the '78 decider many doubted their ability to match the "spirit" of their opponents, Glen Rovers, who were determined to redeem themselves this time and, with Ray

Cummins inspirational at full-forward and Frank Cummins excelling at centre-back, they silenced their critics by winning comfortably.

They took their fourth Munster club championship last December and are currently hot on the trail of a record third All-Ireland club crown. As was the case when the GAA was founded, tradition-filled Blackrock are again near the top of the hurling world. And that is, indeed, a tremendous achievement.

Blackrock players who figured in Cork's recent three-in-a-row success were Moylan, Horgan, Cashman, McCurtain, Brendan and Ray Cummins and Eamonn O'Donoghue. No doubt the club will be strongly represented with Cork again this year but, more importantly, committed mentors down Blackrock way continue to fashion the stars of the future.

In the unlikely event of their ever ceasing to do so, then hurling, not alone in Cork but throughout Ireland, would be at a severe loss.

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Tree last year.

Perched there with them are Noel O'Brien and Tom Morrissey from Tipperary, Clem Quinn (Mayo), the Offaly stylist Pat Delaney with Kerry's Brendan O'Brien and Michael Ahern.

We will all be keeping an eye open too for the progress of handball's big prospect — Tony Ryan of Tipperary, not forgetting young Michael Henighan from Mayo, Tom Quish of Limerick, or James McGovern from Meath. They will all add glamour to the competitive season that lies ahead.

* * *

Though, on the question of competition, there appears to be a notion abroad at the present time that there may be a proliferation of competition at All-Ireland level to the extent that both club and county competition

is being choked. This matter was given a good airing at the recent Munster Convention when Provincial Secretary Michael Tyrell stated his case without ambiguity.

"Do we need all the competitions that now appear on our fixture list," stated Tyrell, "and if not why not scrap some and give each province breathing space."

It is a point that deserves careful consideration.

On the question of development it is superfluous to say that magnificent strides have been made in recent years. The completion of the Headquarters Complex with the addition of a 40 x 20 court was a major achievement, while the announcement that a court will also be included in the G.A.A. Ceann Áras Building gives credence to the belief that the G.A.A. certainly at Central Level, is interested in the welfare of the game of handball.

My wish for this year would be an expansion of this interest to the hundreds of G.A.A. clubs through the country. This applies particularly to those clubs who have their own grounds and are contemplating the provision of additional facilities. The inclusion of a ballcourt would realise for them their full potential as vibrant units of the G.A.A. Without a doubt, the G.A.A. clubs hold the key to the future of handball in the context of Irish Sport.

A definite and concentrated effort on their part could see it shoot into the bracket of a major sport. A few clubs have already set the headline and built courts. Their efforts, and those of the dedicated people who promote handball, deserve a push forward from the G.A.A. clubs. Officers of clubs — please give it a thought.

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GOOD TASTE THAT MAKES GOOD SENSE.

— JOG FOR IRELAND —

MANY G.A.A. supporters and sports personalities took part along with almost nine hundred others in the first ever "Glucoplus Olympic Jog" which took place in Kilkenny on January 28th last. The jog is part of a unique new fund raising scheme called the "Glucoplus Jog For Ireland" programme. Over 25,000 people are expected to take part at approximately twenty more venues countrywide throughout the year, and it is estimated that this activity will generate £10,000 for the Irish Olympic Fund.

Indeed, following the great success in Kilkenny, it would appear that the target of £10,000 will be exceeded. Throughout the year G.A.A. personalities and supporters are expected to take part in the jogs which will be run at different venues all over the country.

At the recent reception in Dublin to launch the scheme, Mr. Charles Haughey, T.D., Minister for Health, said that "One of the easiest and most enjoyable ways of taking exercise is to jog. Its popularity has been heightened in recent times by medical claims of the benefits derived from regular participation in this activity. Regular jogging is credited with promoting a 'training effect' which conditions the heart to do more work with less effort; it increases the efficiency of the respiratory system by strengthening muscles to assist breathing; and it helps to maintain body weight through high calorie expenditure."

Mr. Des O'Sullivan, president of the Olympic Council of Ireland, stressed "the importance of public support for the jogs". He is

● OVERLEAF

DUBS SCORE AGAIN

E.S.B. staff in the Dublin area have no excuse for not keeping fit. Their recently opened SPORTSCO complex has seen to that. Included is a 25 metre pool, in which children are pictured (right) receiving instruction. The pool is heated by means of a heat pump and it has a special ozone disinfecting system which eliminates the need for chlorination.



Recipe for fitness (3)

For the third in our series of health giving recipes we feature

BEEF STROGONOFF

The gradings are as follows:—

(1) Cholesterol content nil to very low, this recipe may be used as often as liked.

(2) Cholesterol content low to medium, this recipe should be used in moderation.

(3) Cholesterol content medium, if you are advised to keep to a very low cholesterol diet, these recipes should only be used occasionally.

1 oz (25g) Flora

1 onion, peeled and chopped

1 lb (500g) rump steak
(surplus fat removed), cut
into 1-inch strips

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------------|
| <p>½ oz (15g) flour Salt and pepper Pinch nutmeg</p> | } | <p>seasoned flour</p> |
|--|---|---------------------------|

4 oz (100g) mushrooms,
sliced

½ pint (250 ml) stock

4 tablespoons (4 x 15 ml
spoons) tomato purée

2½ fl. oz natural low fat yogurt

Melt Flora and fry onion until just beginning to colour. Toss meat in seasoned flour and fry 8-10 minutes until browned. Add remaining ingredients, except for yogurt, and bring to the boil, stirring. Place in a casserole and cover. Cook in the centre of a pre-heated oven 350° F (180°C) Gas No. 4 for 1 hour. Just before serving stir in yogurt.

Suggested accompaniments:
Boiled rice and a side salad.

Serves 4, Grade (2).

● FROM OVERLEAF

vited members of the public, sports men and women to participate in this healthy activity, and in doing so, help the Irish Olympic team prepare for the Olympic Games in a year and a half's time. Mr. O'Sullivan added that, "Our international competitors regularly show that they can compete successfully with the world's elite in the highest competition."

The performance necessary to participate well in Olympic competition can only be achieved through the combination of ability, determination, training and experience gained at international level. The minimum sum required by the eighteen Olympic

sports in Ireland to adequately prepare competitors for the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow is £100,000 per annum. The Olympic Council of Ireland received a grant from the Government of 40% of this figure in 1978, thus leaving a shortfall of £60,000.

It was in the light of these facts that Cantrell & Cochrane, manufacturers of "Glucoplus", the new glucose based soft drink developed especially for sportsmen, decided to sponsor this unique scheme. Cantrell & Cochrane will provide full promotional support for participants including, tee-shirts, badges, car stickers, posters and sponsorship cards.

Special high quality souvenir

certificates will be issued by the Olympic Council of Ireland to each entrant who completes a jog. C. & C. have also agreed to provide advertising and all display material at each venue. Mr. Des Byrne, managing director of the company, said that "Cantrell & Cochrane were sponsoring the programme because of their involvement with the Irish youth market".

He added, "We believe that the current interest in fitness can be extended to all sectors of the community through the example of young people." He called for a big response to the "Glucoplus Jog for Ireland" programme from teenagers, sports and youth clubs and other groups.

Páirc an Chrochaigh

G.A.A.

March 17th —All-Ireland Club Football Final.

Railway Cup Hurling Final.

March 18th —All-Ireland Club Hurling Final.

Railway Cup Football Final.

Mayo in grip of football famine

BY JAY DRENNAN

THE hunger and thirst for success in Mayo has reached the proportions of famine, as we may well observe from the recent reactions of the parties involved in football there to one another.

There was a terrible, depressed atmosphere about the statements of the official group who were set to make an estimate of what was going right or what was going wrong. Their findings suggested that they found a great deal worthy of satisfaction if not complacency; a great deal of material for success; a goodly amount of the natural gifts needed to build for success.

Year by year, Mayo teams appear in the minor game and one pays them little attention; without special praise they appear in the Connacht final and there the first glimpses can be seen of what they show later in the All-Ireland series. Not that the reputation of Mayo minors can be made to depend on their Connacht performances, since they often do less well than they should and, of course, they also lose at that stage sometimes.

It is mainly the ability Mayo has to come with a minor team to Croke Park and, almost without exception, play fine, exciting, mature football that makes all who witness it swear that they have seen a team which will be

the basis of an All-Ireland senior title win in a few years more.

They never are. And Mayo people are getting more and more perturbed that they are not. Even at Under-21, a level which would suggest immediate rather than distant promise of senior success, Mayo have been polished and successful on occasions. More inexplicable still, they have regularly fielded senior teams which have made enough ground to reach a challenging position in League or Championship, shown brilliance and potential greatness even in the day of defeat, yet have gone home and never reappeared with the same verve or promise in another campaign.

Comparison is made with Roscommon, a county whose team now ranks in a highly respectable position in the football rankings. It would not be insulting to them to say that they were considered a run of the mill, limited team who would be out of their class in the top range of the game when they first entered it. Early results seemed to give little reason for changing that view. But, the keen attention to their training and the learning of their game has turned them, little by little, into a very competent bunch who might one day hit that spark of fire that could make



Johnny Carey, former Mayo star and the man in charge of the county team in recent years.

them champions.

Earnest, workmanlike, concentrated and devoted . . . you would feel that adjectives such as these are the ones to be applied to Roscommon. They do what they are able for themselves and stand in hope for the inspiration that may come to transform them.

Mayo, on the other hand, always give the impression of a team of players who were born with the inspiration but who find it too fluid and free because it has no basis of hard-earned experience on which to rest.

How might these failings be corrected?—that is the question which is at the root of the recent bickering which outsiders have witnessed between officials and players. The pity of it is that it should be happening, for there is always the danger that such public chewing of one another may lead to serious disruption or permanent damage.

Yet, it also appears inevitable because all parties involved feel they have done what they could, as best they could, and the lack of improved success leads to frustration, annoyance with themselves and everyone else, tension and a half-involuntary threshing out at anything that could relieve their pain. The supporters are

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part of it all, though with a difference, longing for the days of Carney, Mongey and the McAndrews, unable mostly to see the excuses and reasons and capable only of understanding the hunger that has been sharpened by the promise of minor and U-21 success and flashes of false promise from the seniors.

The players felt there was too much chopping and changing so that a team never got a true feel of its various parts. There was a belief that good minor material had been pitchforked into the furnace of senior fare merely on the strength of good minor form and because of hopes that built sky-scrapers on unstrengthened foundations.

Right enough. But, selectors and team mentors will say that it is impossible to hold a team together which is clearly defective in certain areas, in the hope that it will develop teamwork and that teamwork will rectify the defects.

They will further say that those who are good enough are old enough, and that experience has to be gained sometime. Even if success does not follow at once it should still come in time with perseverance and dedication. Most of all, they will say that the form shown in games like that against Dublin last year proves that the material and the skill and inspiration is there. So why is it not produced regularly? And where has it been since?

As in all such arguments there is right on both sides. The difficulty now remains to find such a state of reconciliation that all parties again begin with open hearts. If that can be found then the straight talking and hard words may well have an unforeseen effect of making all involved see all other points of view as clearly as their own.

CAMOGIE CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY

By Agnes Hourigan

MUCH activity is expected on the Camogie scene for the remainder of this year, the seventy-fifth anniversary of the first Camogie match played in 1904. Already many plans have been made to celebrate the occasion by Ard Choiste and the various Councils.

One of the main events planned by Ard Choiste is a National Walk which every club is asked to organise within their own area. This event has a twofold aim. The first purpose of the project is to honour the dedicated and sincere founders of the Association as well as honouring all those hard working officers and promoters of the game down the years.

Cumann Camógaíochta has grown so much over the last ten years that it is now admitted that the time has come for the Association to have a full-time Development Officer. It is only common sense that when such a big step is to be taken that the Association needs to be in the financial position that such an undertaking demands and here the Association depends on the clubs to organise the Walk, with these two aims in mind.

The All-Ireland Colleges Council made arrangements at their Annual General Meeting to honour the occasion by running an interprovincial competition, which should be a very enjoyable weekend for the teams chosen.

Another celebration in the melting pot is a competition for Gaeltacht areas which has stirred up a great interest in these areas already. And of course the usual competitions will have a special excitement about them in this, the Jubilee Year.

The Open Draw, which starts in June, has Derry participating for the first time. The standard is improving all round. Down took the Ulster Senior Championship Title last season for the first time. Clare who are in senior ranks for four years seem now to be making the grade. They won the Munster under-18 title.

Cork set up a new record last year when they reached the three All-Ireland finals and were successful in the senior and minor. They, with the big guns of Wexford and Kilkenny will not be easily defeated in 1979.

The League, which has up to now been divided into two zones, has a change of structure this year.

The Country is divided into four zones—

(1) Antrim, Derry, Dublin and Wicklow.

(2) Monaghan, Down, Galway.

(3) Limerick, Clare, Kilkenny.

(4) Cork, Tipperary, Wexford.

So for the first time there will be two semi-finals which should give the competition a new interest.

Committees have worked on the Rules of the Association over the past few years. The Administration Rules have been passed and a special Congress in March will decide on the new playing rules.

The New Rules Book, which will be much larger than the former one, should be published before the end of this year as should the History of the Camogie Association which is at present near completion.

As can be seen, Camogie folks are going to be busy. Rath Dé ar an obair.

SHOP BEFORE FLYING

BY TONY KEEGAN

WITH the weather being as it has been over the past couple of months it is hard to turn one's mind to the summer holidays. However, sooner or later, thank God, the time will come to pack up your bags and head off for sunnier prospects. The thought is something to keep us going through the snow and slush.

If you should decide to go abroad, a small percentage of the cost of your airline tickets will go to Aer Rianta, who operate Dublin, Cork and Shannon Airports on behalf of the government.

Aer Rianta is a name not

widely known among the general public. Mention, however, duty free shops at these same airports and there is immediate recognition. Aer Rianta is the state body involved in the total development of the three airports. There are about 2,000 staff and income derives from two sources, aviation and commerce.

It is a little known fact that the first duty free and tax free shop in the world was opened in Shannon in 1954. Since then Shannon has been the leader in the development of duty free shopping

For air passengers departing for any destination outside Ire-

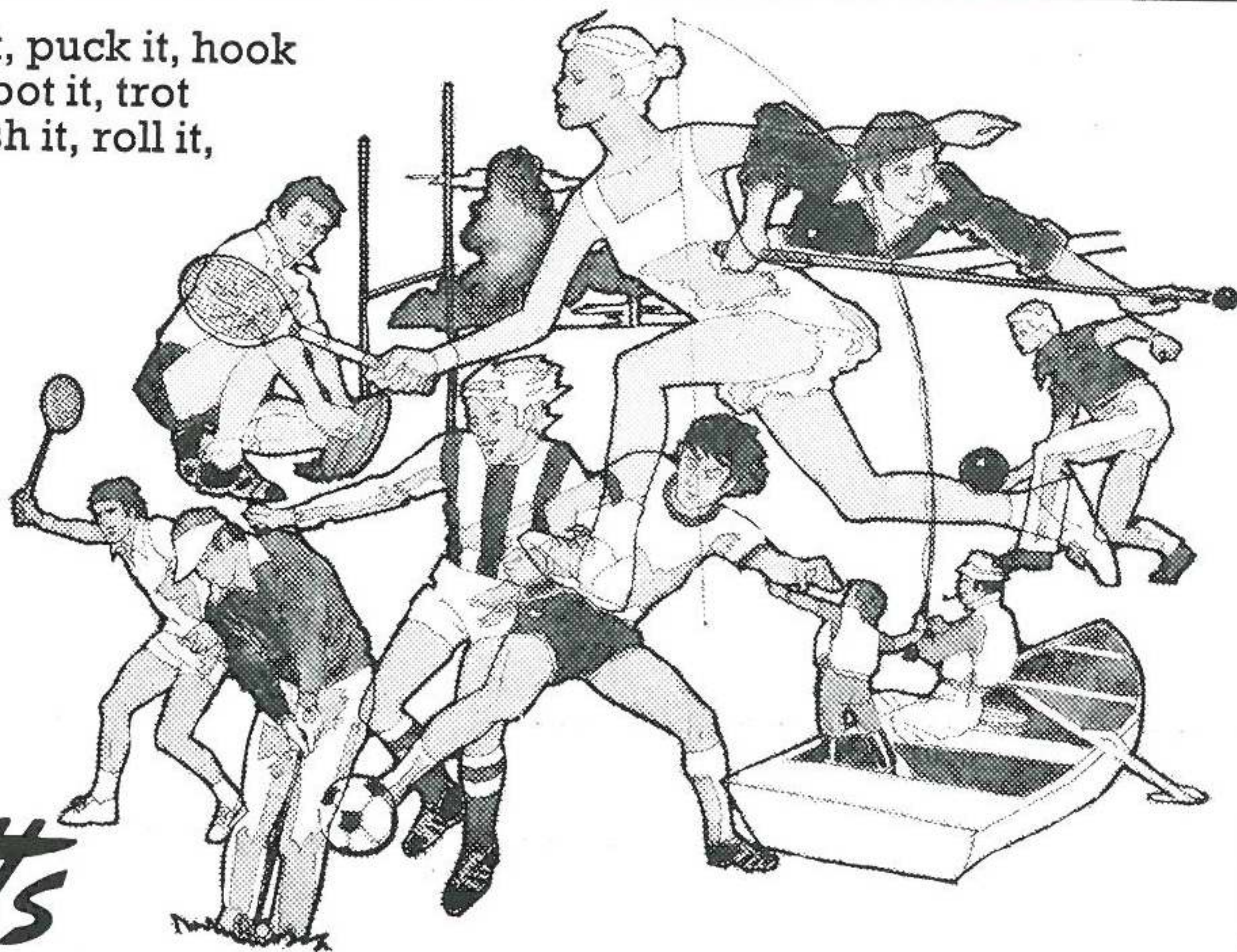
land there is no excise or entry duty and no V.A.T. on goods purchased. When you consider that items such as Aran sweaters and Crystal glass attract a V.A.T. rate of 20% you can see that there is a very good saving to be made. Prices are calculated at the normal "down-town" store rate and with 600,000 people passing through the Shannon shop each year, business is booming.

In Shannon there are 23 departments and the passenger has on average between 45 minutes and one hour to do his or her shopping. Top quality fashion goods, perfumes, bone china, watches and Irish linen are just some of the tempting merchandise available at the right price.

Another little-known fact about Aer Rianta is that they operate the biggest mail order business in Ireland. Each year, over two mil-

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Results Summary

NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE

January 28: Cork: Tipperary 2-11; Cork 1-10.

February 11—Croke Park: Tipperary 2-14; Dublin 1-8. Limerick: Clare 2-7; Limerick 1-7. Corrigan Park, Belfast: Antrim 5-12; Carlow 3-5. Athy: Laois 1-12; Kildare 1-7.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

February 4: Carrick-on-Shannon: Roscommon 1-10; Clavan 0-8.

A.I.B. TOURNAMENT FINAL (Hurling)

January 21—Waterford: Waterford 1-11; Kilkenny 2-8. Draw. January 28—Waterford: Waterford 4-7; Kilkenny 1-9. Replay.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

All-Ireland Senior Hurling Quarter-Final: January 28—Galway: Ardrahan, Galway 1-8; St. Gabriel's, London 2-5. Draw.

Munster Football Final: February 4: Kilrush: Nemo Rangers, Cork 0-8; Kilrush Shamrocks, Clare 0-5.

HANDBALL

Atlas Under-22 International Trials

January 21: Fethard: W. O'Donnell (Tipperary) bt. P. Cleary (Wexford); O'Donnell bt. M. Forde (Clare); P. Cleary bt. Forde. O'Donnell and Cleary qualified.

Ennis (1): O. McNamara (Clare) bt. T. O'Hanlon (Clare);

B. O'Brien (Kerry) bt. O'Hanlon; McNamara bt. O'Brien. McNamara and O'Brien qualified.

Ennis (2): G. Coughlan (Clare) bt. M. Breen (Clare); Breen bt. Noel Ryan (Tipperary); Ryan bt. Coughlan. Ryan and Breen qualified on aggregate score plan, each play in group having won one game.

Newtown Blues: M. Dowling (Kildare) bt. T. Cooney (Monaghan); C. McGovern (Meath) bt. D. O'Brien (Dublin); McGovern bt. Cooney; Dowling bt. O'Brien; Dowling bt. McGovern. Dowling and McGovern qualified.

Moneygall: D. Neff (Cork) bt. M. McGovern (Meath). Neff and McGovern qualified due to non-appearance of P. Talty (Clare).

Croke Park: J. Fleming (Wexford) bt. J. Reilly (Meath); Fleming bt. J. Grant (Meath); Grant bt. Reilly. Fleming and Grant qualified.

Claremorris: M. Henighan (Mayo) bt. M. Shiels (Galway); P. Delaney (Offaly) bt. Shiels; Delaney bt. Henighan. Delaney and Henighan qualified.

January 28: Moneygall. J. Fleming (Wexford) bt. M. McGovern (Meath); Fleming bt. W. O'Donnell (Tipperary); McGovern bt. O'Donnell. Fleming and McGovern qualified.

Ennis (1): M. Henighan (Mayo) bt. M. Dowling (Kildare); O. McNamara (Clare) bt. M. Breen (Clare); Dowling bt. McNamara; Henighan bt. Breen; Henighan bt. McNamara. Dowling bt. Breen. Henighan and Dowling qualified.

Ennis (2): Noel Ryan (Tipperary) bt. B. O'Brien (Kerry); P. Delaney (Offaly) bt. Ryan; Delaney bt. O'Brien; Delaney and Ryan qualified.

Croke Park: D. Neff (Cork) bt. T. Grant (Meath); Tony Ryan (Tipperary) bt. P. Cleary (Wexford); Ryan bt. Neff; Cleary bt. Grant; Neff bt. Cleary. Ryan and Neff Qualified.

February 4: Moneygall: Tony Ryan (Tipperary) bt. M. Dowling (Kildare); Noel Ryan (Tipperary); bt. J. Fleming (Wexford); Tony Ryan bt. Fleming; Noel Ryan bt. Dowling; Dowling bt. Fleming; Tony Ryan bt. Noel Ryan. Tony and Noel Ryan qualified.

Croke Park: M. Henighan (Mayo) bt. D. Neff (Cork); Henighan bt. P. Delaney (Offaly); Henighan bt. M. McGovern (Meath); Delaney bt. McGovern; McGovern bt. Neff; Neff bt. Delaney. Henighan and McGovern qualified.

February 11: Ennis: Noel Ryan (Tipperary) bt. M. Henighan (Mayo); Tony Ryan (Tipperary) bt. M. McGovern (Meath); Tony Ryan bt. Henighan; Noel Ryan bt. McGovern. Tony and Noel Ryan qualified for the U.S. Trip.

INTERNATIONAL 40 x 20 SENIOR TRIALS

February 11: Ennis: Semi-Finals: P. McGee (Mayo) bt. E. Rabbitte (Galway); P. Morris (Cork) bt. W. Pratt (Kilkenny).

Final: McGee bt. Morris.

McGee qualified for the U.S. trip. The party will be completed by Pat Kirby (Clare), who automatically qualified following his All-Ireland 40 x 20 singles and doubles titles wins last year.

UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

February 3: Croke Park: Division I Senior Football League Final: U.C. Galway, 2-9; St. Joseph's T.C., Belfast 3-4.

CAMOGIE

February 4: Purcell Cup (Higher Institute Championship) Final: Belfield, Dublin: Polytech, Belfast, 3-5; Thomond College, Limerick, 2-0.

February 11: Ashbourne Cup (Universities' Championship) Final: Coleraine: U.C. Galway 4-2; Maynooth 0-4. Ashbourne Shield Final: Queen's, Belfast 11-7; Dublin University 0-0.

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

SOME more book reviews. For the benefit of readers all prices include postage:

Kerry G.A.A. Yearbook 1979. Price £1.20.

This, the official publication of the Kerry Co. Board, is a first class annual in every way excepting some poor proofing and the non-use of "fillers", which are so well used in the Westmeath Annual. Owen McCrohan's interview with Mick O'Connell is simply outstanding — a masterpiece. This and Owen's other piece are the top points in an interesting and varied publication which includes among its contributors John B. Keane, Bryan McMahon, Peter McDermott, Jim Crowley, Micheál Ó Ruairc, Mick O'Dwyer, Joe Keohane, Derry Mannix, Con Houlihan, Mitchel Cogley, Pat Spillane, Jim Deenihan, Con Murphy, Seán Ó Síocháin.

The Annual is a credit to editor Michael Lyne's industry.

Available from **Michael Lyne, Editor, B.A., H.Dip.Ed., Valentia, Co. Kerry.**

Who's Who in Gaelic Games by Owen McCann. Price £1.20.

It's hard to keep Owen McCann down. He is a veritable mine of information on all things G.A.A. This book is just a ramble through all the 32 counties highlighting a few well known stars from each county with a little profile on each. The book should have interest for G.A.A. lovers in all counties. Still it isn't a patch on his previous book "The Greats of Gaelic Games" which sold out a year ago. The latter deserves to be reprinted after it is brought up to date.

Published by **Oisín Publications, 4 Iona Drive, Dublin 9.**

Treoraí Oifigiúil — Official Guide of G.A.A. 1978. Price £1.00.

Most up-to-date version of the G.A.A. Rule Book. Every G.A.A. fan should have a copy.

From **G.A.A. Shop, C.L.C.G., Páirc an Chrócaigh, Ath Cliath 3.**

AN RÉITEOIR (Annual of Coisde Socialta na Réiteoirí Náisiúnta). Price 60p.

This review is belated but the annual is not dated and is great value. The standard of reproduction of photographs is superb. This is an interesting, varied, colourful, punchy, publication which is a credit to editor Tommy Moran of Leitrim.

From **Tomás Ó Móráin, G.A.A., Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.**

Dialann C.L.C.G. '79. Price 60p.

Every G.A.A. man/woman should have a copy of this.

From **G.A.A. Shop, C.L.C.G., Páirc an Chrócaigh, Ath Cliath, 3.**

Our Games '78. Price £1.50.

This official G.A.A. Publication is always a must in a G.A.A. man's library. It must be a bit of a chore each year for an editor (in this case Pat Quigley) to keep churning out the **Our Games**. It is very often a collection of the same old faces or Pens. It is nice to see new names like Ultan Macken, Eoghan Corry (I'm thrilled to see a Junior Desk man achieve prominence — well done Eoghan), Gerry Callan, John Clarke, Patrick Duffy, Adrian Logan, Sean Mannion, introduced. Proofing in some articles could be much improved. The pictorial section could too have been much more interesting and should have included much more than the All-Ireland scenes—they get enough

focus anyway. Pádraic Puirseal's Best 15 Hurlers is the article that appealed most to me. It can live with any article from the past Our Games Annuals.

Available from **G.A.A. Shop, Croke Park** same as diary.

Westmeath G.A.A. Yearbook '79. Price £1.20.

A smashing production. The best I have seen this year. Should have a great chance of winning the McNamee Award. Proofing excellent, layout the best of any G.A.A. Annual I have seen in any year, editor Gerry Whelan deserves congratulations. The cover while being arty is lifeless. I'd prefer an action or a team photo.

From **Gerry Whelan, The Westmeath Examiner, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.**

More reviews next issue.

CUT-OUT

Our CUT-OUT this month is Roscommon footballer cum coach Tom Heneghan, who is stationed as a Bórd Fáilte Executive in Mullingar. Tom was born in my own birthplace Dunmore, so I have a soft spot for him. He moved with his family to Castlelea and Galway's loss has been Roscommon's gain. Tom is full of spirit and can function either in defence, midfield or attack. He is, too, an outstanding coach and is totally immersed in Gaelic football.

Mailbag

James O'Donnell, Derry, Donadea, Naas, Co. Kildare. "I enjoy Junior Desk. It's great. Could I

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● FROM OVERLEAF

have Tommy Carew as a CUT-OUT. I think he has great skill. He trained us to win the U-16 title this year. I play with Clane. I was delighted to see Ollie Crinnigan getting an All Star. He has brought off many great saves for Kildare for the past 14 years."

● *Great to see stars like Tommy Carew giving some of their spare time to training youngsters. (J.M.)*

Gerard Walsh, Rory O'Connor Place, Arklow, Co. Wicklow has a high regard for Kildare footballers but was very disappointed when they crashed to Dublin in the Leinster final. Their only Stars that day were Denis Dalton and the O'Donoghoe brothers. Eamonn and Paddy. "The big championship occasion sees them crash like Clare and Galway hurlers."

● *The big breakthrough is difficult. (J.M.)*

Pat Twomey, Currahy, Ballin-geary, Co. Cork was thrilled when Cork beat Kerry in the N.F.L. He pays tribute to Denis Allen, Billy Morgan "for two great saves" and hurler John Crowley "for putting Pat Spillane out of the game."

● *Pat Spillane is a real eager beaver isn't he? So John Crowley must be good. (J.M.)*

Francis O'Gorman, Castleven-try, Clonakilty, Co. Cork plays football with Kilmeen, a small village in West Cork and goes to school in Bealra near Kilmeen. He is eleven and in the league they beat Gabriel Rangers by 2-7 to 1-5. "We meet Ballyroe in the final." Francis wants a copy of the photo of the Cork 1975 S.F. team.

Margaret Sheahan, Beale Hill, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry wants cut-outs of Matt Ruth and Paddy Prendergast of Kilkenny, John McCarthy of Dublin and Pat Spillane of Kerry.

● *We had Pat Spillane as a Cut-Out in June 1977. Send a P.O. for*

40p to the address at the end of Junior Desk if you want a copy of this. (J.M.)

Sean Hickey, Dromahane, Mal-low, Co. Cork thinks Billy Morgan deserved an All Star before Ollie Crinnigan but felt Tommy Carew should have been selected. Eamonn O'Sullivan, the Blackrock hurler, comes from my club Kilshannig and still plays football with us. Ger Horgan, John's brother, plays football with us too. I know John well and I had great chats with him.

● *Give him the best regards of Junior Desk for his Texaco Award success. (J.M.)*

Pat Treacy, Carrig Mór, Church Rd., Ballybunion, Co. Kerry sent me on the Kerry victory song sung by Noel Nash "I'm delighted I won the prize. Thanks for your letter, I must show it to Eoin Liston."

● *Those three goals of Eoin's will never be forgotten. (J.M.)*

Paddy de Burgh, 6, Longford Place, Monkstown, Co. Dublin feels the Australian Irish connection is a must for Gaelic football. "An international competition would create tremendous interest in both countries if properly organised and with an amalgamation of rules i.e. (a) Playing with an oval ball; (b) Allowing the mark as in rugby; (c) A fisted pass instead of the present one and a possible change in the nature of goals". He feels shinty is the obvious international outlet for the hurling and finally feels the G.A.A. should adopt archery as one of its Gaelic sports because of its being an art in ancient Ireland.

● *Some good thoughts there Paddy. Keep writing. (J.M.)*

Martin Carley, aged 12, 11 Glenview, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath is full of praise for Gaelic Stadium and wants cut-outs of Joe McKenna, Sean Foley and Willie Fitzmaurice of Limerick.

Other possible cut-outs are Joe Connolly, Joe Clarke and Christy Keogh. "I have 2 scrapbooks full. Ned Buggy should have got an All Star. He is very good at long range frees. Give me a Westmeath cut-out sometime please or a team colour cut-out." Martin also asks for a monthly Quiz, a crossword etc.

● *I enjoy Gaelic Stadium myself. I loved Mick Dunne's analysis of the worth of John Egan and Denis Alien from previous clips. This is good Television. (J.M.)*

Donal Ring, Coolavokig, Lis-sacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork is still appalled at the personal fouling of Jimmy Barry-Murphy in last year's Munster final. He pays tribute to the "Cork Examiner" for their fine colour photos on that occasion.

● *Something needs to be done about all this personal fouling in football generally. It is a menace and degrades the game. (J.M.)*

Brian Sexton, 2 St. Joseph's Villas, Curraheen, Carrigrohane, Co. Cork. "The plans for Semple Stadium are great but won't that ruin Cork's chances of any major games in Páirc Uí Chaoimh. Cork footballers are on the way back. Declan Barron's goal in the N.F.L. game v. Kerry was the best in '78. Every county should have a supporters' club. The Mayo minors' comeback in the final v. Dublin was magnificent. Cork '79, our G.A.A. Yearbook, is great."

● *Brian, you win a Cork G.A.A. scarf. Regarding supporters' clubs, Mayo had one last year. Maybe they are things of the future. (J.M.)*

Geraldine Laffan, Graiguenahesia, Urlingford, Co. Kilkenny. "I have 2 sports books for sale—1977 Tipperary G.A.A. Yearbook and Our Games '77."

Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dun-kerrin, Birr Co. Offaly. "Cork footballers are on the way back. Declan Barron's long range goal was the best I saw scored this past



● Specially for Ed. O'Dwyer of Cork we include this picture of Sean Condon leading the Cork hurlers in the parade before the 1953 All-Ireland Final. Cork beat Dublin in the game itself by 2.13 to 1.2.

year. Charlie Nelligan never saw it. John Courtney has developed into a fine player. Billy Morgan and Dinny Allen are playing very well. I took part in the Scor na n-Óg Quiz and won a medal. We had great fun. Jim Guilfoyle of Moneygall is playing very well for Tipperary hurlers at corner back and wing back. My two players of the year are Pat Spillane and Ger Henderson. Where can I get one of the new Wavin Sliothars? By 1980 Semple Stadium in Thurles will be the best in Ireland.

● As always a great letter Paul. Thanks for Christmas wishes and write to Sean Kennedy, Wavin Ltd. Balbriggan, Co. Dublin and mention Gaelic Sport. He will tell you. (J.M.)

Paul Taheny, Riverstown, Via Boyle, Co. Sligo. "My class is doing a project on the history of the G.A.A. and on the social and political impact of the G.A.A. on Irish life. Could you recommend reading material for us?"

● The answer may be late for you Paul but it may help others. Séamus Ó Ceallaigh's "The Story of the G.A.A.", any of Raymond Smith's books like "The Football Immortals" and "The Clash of the Ash", Owen McCann's "The Greats of Gaelic Games", the little booklet "Highlights of the G.A.A. Story" available in Croke Park, David Guiney's "Book of Gaelic Football", Folen's booklet "Gaelic Games". Best of all visit the G.A.A. shop in Croke Park sometime. There is a

wealth of G.A.A. publications on display there. (J.M.)

Conor Geaney, Cahereens, Castleisland, Co. Kerry. "I think Charlie Nelligan is very good and I want him as a cut-out. John Egan and Mikey Sheehy are great also. Your colourful covers are very nice."

● Any relation to Dave Geaney?

Julie Doyle, Ballymorris, Aghrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow. "I would like the All Stars selection changed perhaps leaving out the winning All-Ireland teams as they go to the U.S. anyway. One player I think should have been selected was Wexford's Ned

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Buggy."

● *I cannot agree Julie. The All Star idea would lose its meaning if you left out the All-Ireland champions from consideration. Yes Ned Buggy has great claims. (J.M.)*

Vincent Cronin, Chapel Road, Durrus, Bantry, Co. Cork was glad when Cork beat Kerry and doesn't think Dublin will be back next year. He hopes Cork hurlers win the 4-in-a-row. "Durrus have got a new hurling club. I like sport. I like Mick Dunne's Gaelic Stadium. Is there any chance of a G.A.A. Match of the Day with Mick Dunne and yourself every Sunday? I want a cut-out of Jimmy Barry-Murphy. Declan Barron's goal v. Kerry was great. He lives near me. We often meet him in Bantry. I got Pat Spillane's autograph when we were touring Kerry and we saw his brother Mick. Pat is the greatest left full forward of all times."

● *Vincent for such a fine letter you win a Cork G.A.A. scarf and bob-cap. (J.M.)*

Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. "I hope the 1984 All-Ireland S.H. final will be played in Thurles to mark the centenary of the G.A.A. I was very disappointed that Ned Buggy and Pat Hartigan weren't selected on the All Stars hurlers. Other unlucky players were Tim Crowley, Ger Loughnane and Johnny Crowley. Junior Desk is great."

● *Another fan of Ned Buggy's. (J.M.)*

Tim J. Murphy, Ballydaly Lower, Rathmore, Co. Kerry. "Why don't you have a competition each month in Junior Desk? For instance **who were the youngest footballers ever to win All-Ireland Senior medals for their native counties?**"

● *If you think you can answer it write to Tim. Let us know the answer for publication later Tim. (J.M.)*

Ed O'Dwyer, Cork, complains

about the lack of mention of players from the past in Gaelic Sport. Players like Tony Tighe of Cavan, Mark Marnell of Kilkenny, Hubert Gordon of Galway, Padhraic Carney of Mayo. Where are they now etc? The **Cork Evening Echo** gives a past player prominence every week. Young players of to-day could be inspired by reading of the difficulties they overcame. "How about Cork for the double this year. Galway might be the big danger."

● *I won't commit myself so early this year. Last year I tipped Tipperary to come out of Munster and Cork to beat Kerry in football. Nuff said. (J.M.)*

Declan Cronin of Durrus, brother of **Vincent** also raves about Declan Barron's goal. "We have a new U-14 H. and F. club



★
Jimmy
Barry-
Murphy
(Cork)

★

★
John
O'Keeffe
(Kerry)



★

in Durrus. We beat Killorohane in football by 4-6 to 1-2. I don't think Dublin will come back. I want a coloured cut-out of Declan Barron. We have a new Community Hall in Durrus and Martin Coleman the Cork hurling goalkeeper cut the tape. I was talking to him that night. Sean Ó Sé sang and Billa Connell told jokes.

I was a Cork hurler in the Durrus school act. Ray Cummins was my star of the Cork S. H. final. Next year's finals will be between Cork and Kildare in F. and Cork and Kilkenny in H. I want to see Cork win the Double. The Dubs were the greatest football team of all time. Mick Dunne's Gaelic Stadium is marvellous. I saw him at Páirc Uí Chaoimh for the Cork and Kerry game. John Moloney is Ireland's best referee."

● *Now that's some letter Declan and you bring another prize to the house this month How would you like a G.A.A. shoulder bag? (J.M.)*

So ends the **Mailbag** for yet another month. Keep writing on any and every topic to **Junior Desk, Gaelic Sport, 80, Upper Drumcondra Rd., Dublin 9.** More prizes for the best letter next month.

Jack Mahon

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● FROM PAGE 42

lition excellently produced catalogues are sent to the U.S. and at present orders are running at three million pounds per annum. It is a big money earner for Ireland and small to medium sized manufacturers around the country have benefited to a very great extent through including their products in this catalogue.

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**Tom
Heneghan
Roscommon**

Age: 32
Height: 5ft. 9ins.
Weight: 12st.
Position: Left
full back
Club: Castlerea
St. Kevin's
**Senior Inter-
County Debut:**
1965

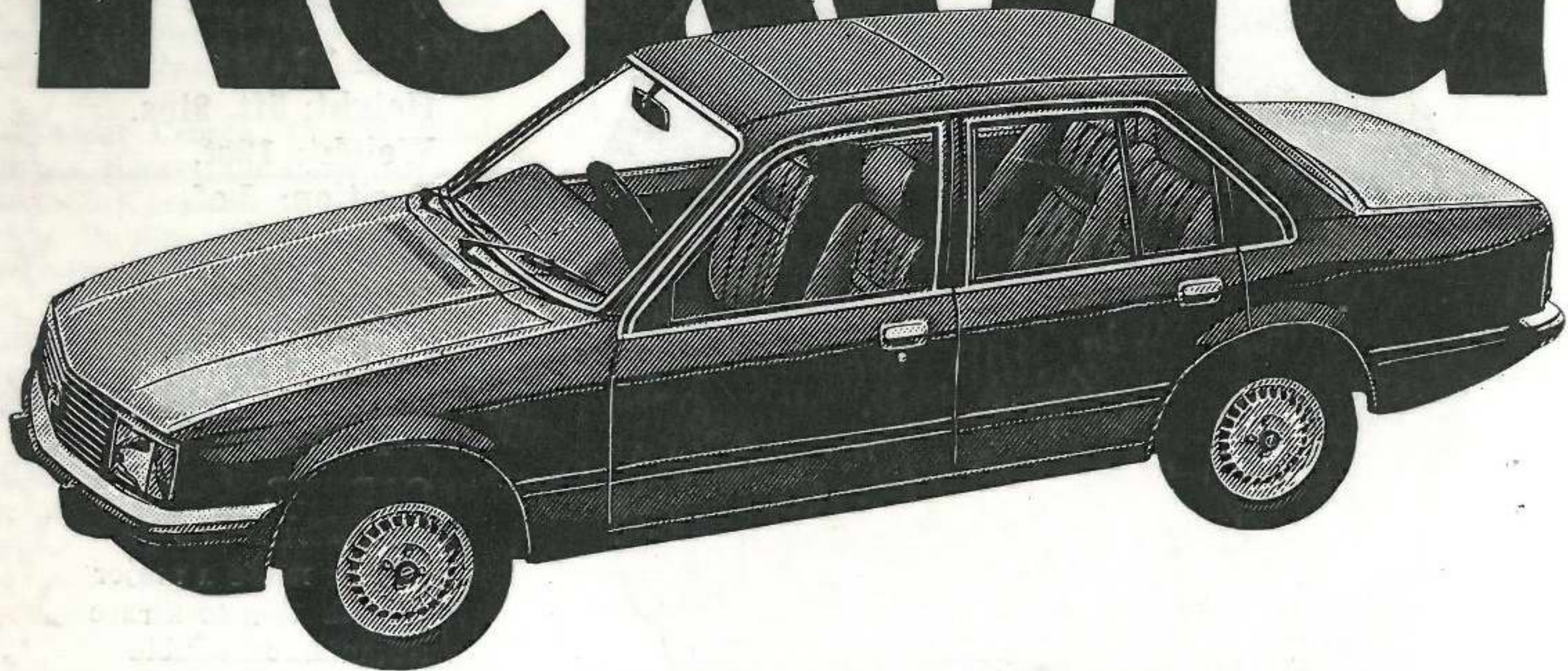
**CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS**

Tom made a major contribution to a rare Roscommon double last October when he helped the senior side to their win over Kerry in the Ceannarus Tournament, and immediately afterwards managed the under-21 team that beat the Kingdom in the All-Ireland summit.

He played juvenile club minor and under-21 with the county, and as senior captain last year he collected his third Connacht medal.

Tom was a forward in the Roscommon team that lost the 1974 National League final replay to Kerry. He holds county senior championship medals, and is county senior team manager.

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