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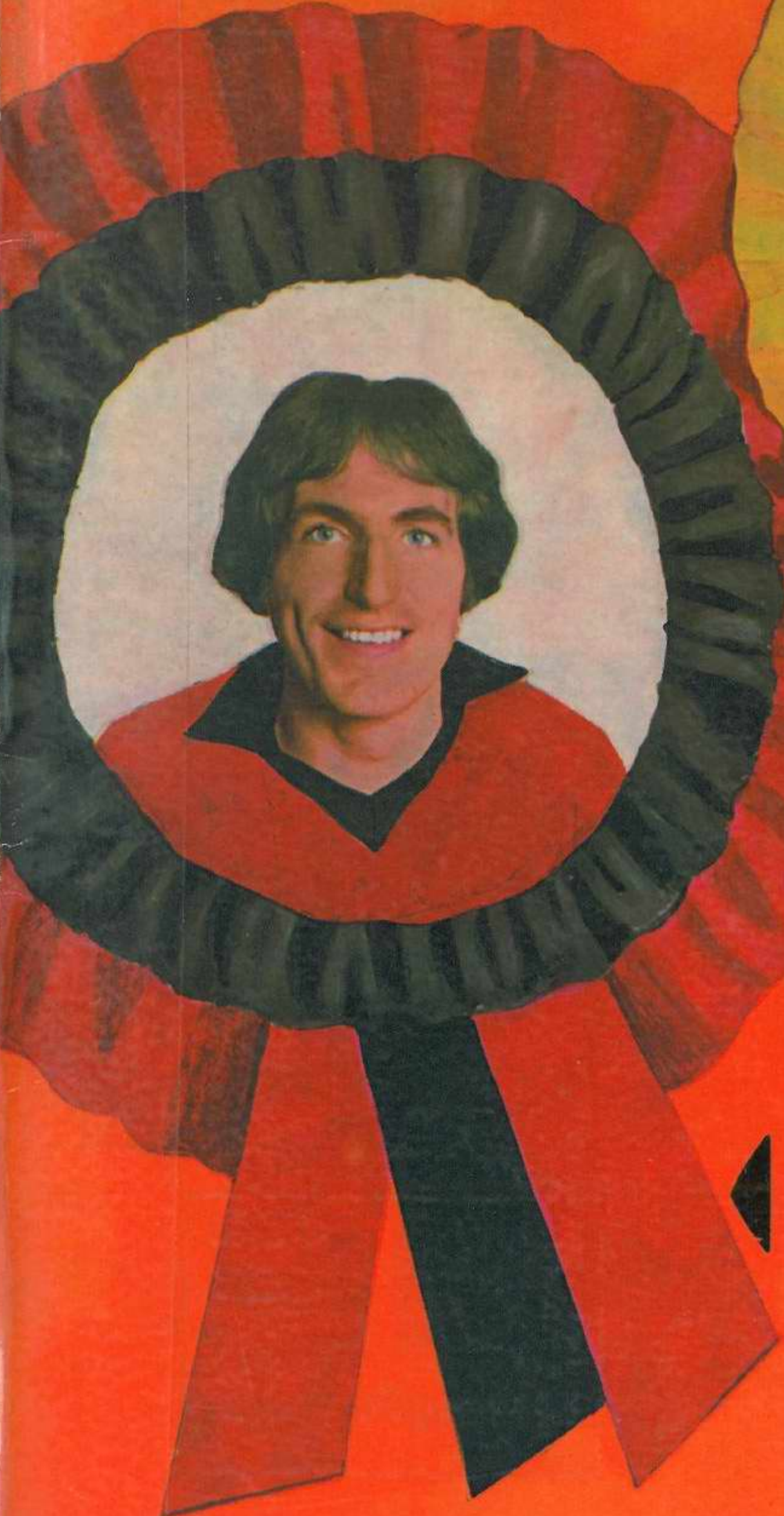
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GAAELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

SEAMUS DURACK 

* * * * *



COLM McALARNEY 

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*Tyler Top Ten
Stars of 1978*

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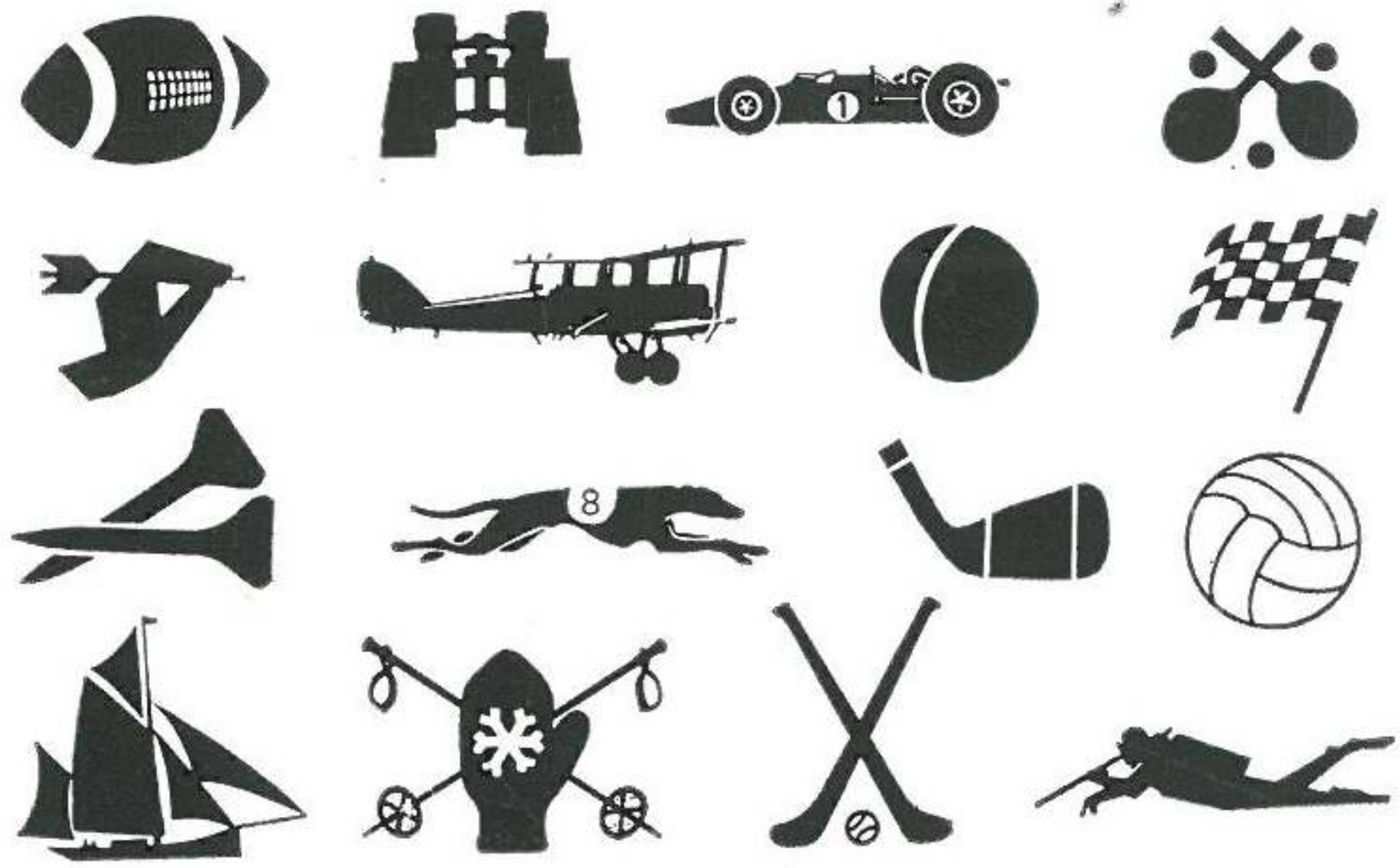
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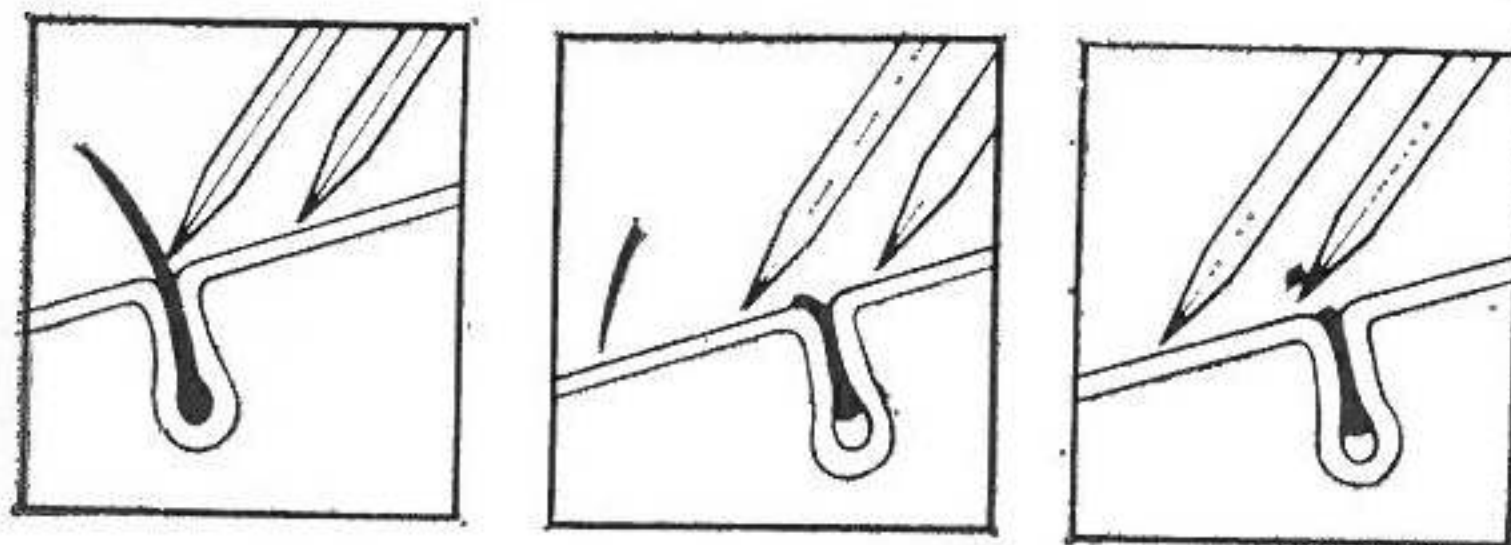
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 22. No. 1. January, 1979

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

THE G.A.A., like all aspects of life, evolves and changes all the time. But the year now opening up will bring an unusually high quota of eventful changes in the life and times of the organisation.

It will, in the natural order of things, be a year of a new President, an occasion of much importance in itself. But, in addition, there will, for once in a very rare while, also be a new Director-General appointed next March, consequent on the decision of long-serving Seán Ó Síocháin to retire from the position on reaching the age limit.

In other directions, too, there will be important developments. The All Stars tour will have new dates, the All-Ireland senior football final may be brought forward a week from the traditional fourth Sunday of September and an Australian tour is also a very exciting possibility. These are just some of the other factors that will contribute towards marking out 1979 as a noteworthy year in many ways.

There will be opportunities over the coming months to pay well-merited tributes to the out-going President, Con Murphy, and to Sean O Siochain for their tremendous work on behalf of the G.A.A. Sufficient now to say that they have not spared themselves in their efforts on behalf of the Association, and that the organisation is very heavily in their debt.

Meantime, is it too much to hope that the wind of change that will blow so strongly throughout the coming year will also bring with it fresh thinking with regard to the playing time for the club championships in many counties?

The emphasis nowadays in sports promotion generally is on the streamlined approach. So, the image of the G.A.A. was not helped at all by the way that yet again last autumn the opening rounds of the National League were dogged by postponements and by instances of counties fielding understrength teams because of clashes with major club championship fixtures.

What made the position even more irritating was the fact that some counties that had not any competitive senior fare in the first half of 1978 still had not completed their county championships by October.

We are not arguing that club matches should take second place to inter-county ties. But, rather that in most cases the county championships could be completed before the start of the Leagues.

Look at Dublin. They have one of the heaviest club programmes of all and last year also had a busy inter-county programme, not only at senior, but at minor level as well. Yet their county senior finals were still played up by early August.

If Dublin can do that, why not the other counties?

The start of a New Year is a time for those counties who have been lagging behind in this regard to look to their laurels. In the long-run, they will be the real winners themselves, apart from the good that this would do for the image of the Leagues, the second most important national competition.

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TYLER TOP TEN 1978

SEAMUS Durack, goalkeeper extraordinary from Clare, and Colm McAlarney, Down's master of the middle of the park, who provided so many of the best moments in hurling and football over the past year, now usher in 1979 on a high note. They have just earned ranking as the Second GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN award winners.

Consistency, rather than brilliance in one or two games in a year, is the basis of these awards. Performances are rated over the year as a whole, and the final charts in the current issue, which monitored the concluding matches of the past year, saw Durack and McAlarney finally emerge as good winners.

In hurling, however, there was a keen enough finish, with Durack finally sprinting clear. He had been setting the pace briskly for much of the season, but was passed out at a crucial stage in the November-December review by Ned Buggy.

The Wexford marksman supreme collected 36 valuable points in that chart to edge four points clear of the Clare goalkeeper, who did not appear in that Top

Durack and McAlarney capture top awards

Ten Review, which covered matches up to and including October 22.

But, ironically enough, it was against Wexford in the League at Enniscorthy in the second week of November that Durack came storming back. He brought off some superb saves in a high-

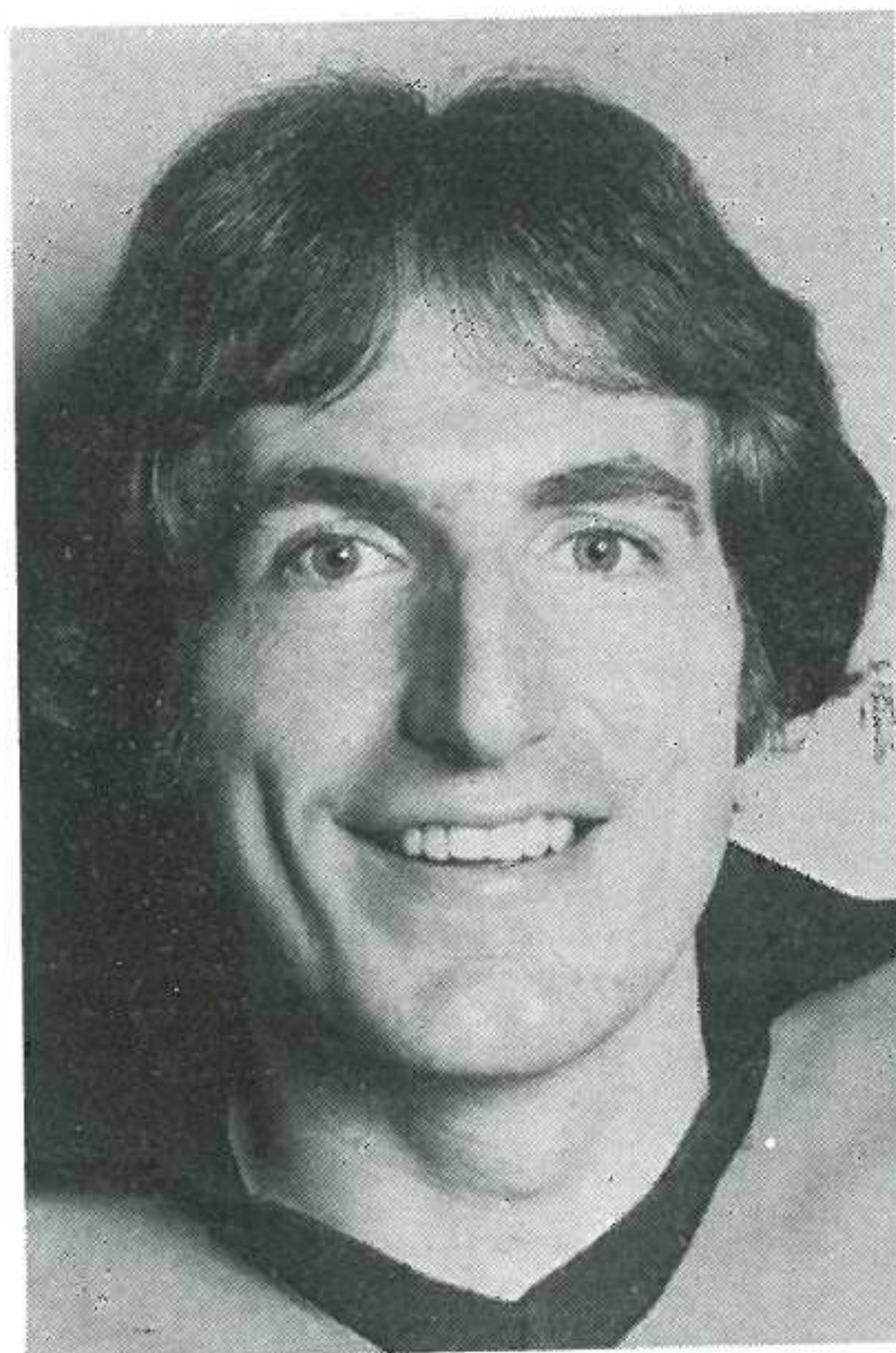
powered display in a match won by Clare, and followed on two weeks later by further emphasising his mastery of the goalkeeping art.

That was against Kilkenny at Tulla in the League champions' concluding League tie of the year. Again the Feakle club man got in some valuable touches for his team before he had to retire with an injury after 56 minutes.

As a result, he makes his fifth appearance of the campaign in a Top Ten Review on 40 points. That tally has sent his haul for the year up to 144 points, which earns him a comfortable lead of eight points over his closest rival, Buggy.

The Wexford man was among the scores against Clare, and earlier in the period under review he scored 2-4 in a League win over Waterford. He comes into the January review on 26 points as a result, a haul that has him holding up the table, but still consolidates his position in the leading roles over-all.

Durack made his entry into the 1978 charts in May on 27 points. He added 25 points more



● Colm McAlarney of Down, Gaelic Sport's Tyler Top Ten Footballer of 1978.

● OVERLEAF

● FROM PAGE 5

to his record in June, collected 28 in July/August, and was back again in September with 24 more points.

Now comes his best tally of the campaign at 40 points a rating in the current monthly review at No. 2. Surprisingly enough, he did not earn a top-of-the-chart position during the season.

McAlarney was an absentee from the November-December charts. At that juncture, however, he had 31 points to spare over his nearest rival, Tommy Drumm, with another Dubliner, Jimmy Keaveney, and that brilliant chance-snapper from Kerry, Michael Sheehy, following in close pursuit.

The Down man did not exactly set the scene alight over the final review period. But he did get through much valuable work when helping his team to a vital win over Roscommon at Newry early in November, and he again played his part when the Ulster champions and Tyrone shared the points at Newcastle late in November, again in the League.

As a result, the Castletowellan club man picks up 32 points, and, although that has him well down the final monthly chart, the dividend leaves McAlarney a comprehensive winner on 157 points. He has 33 points in hand over the No. 2 placed Tommy Drumm.

Like Durack, McAlarney is ap-



● Seamus Durack (right) of Clare, Gaelic Sport's Tyler Top Ten Hurler of 1978 in command during the 1978 League final against Kilkenny.

pearing this month for the fifth time in a Top Ten line-up. He got off to a tremendous start by heading the April list on 28 points, and was football's No. 1 again in May.

That was his most successful month. A powerful display in Down's win over Kildare in extra time in a National League quarter final replay at Croke Park, and another splendid show in the drawn Railway Cup final sent the Down skipper to the top spot on 40 points.

After that great start, however, McAlarney did not appear in a monthly run-down until September, when he added 36 points to his bag. He collected a further 21 in October.

Ned Buggy is another appearing in the monthly review for the fifth time. He made his entry in May (26 points), was back again in June (23 points), collected 25 in July-August, and had his best bag of all in November-December at 36.

Tommy Drumm came into the spotlight in May on 26 points. He had a long wait until picking up 30 more points in October, and then had his most successful period in November-December on 38. This month, the Dubliner is in ninth position on 30 points. Neither Buggy nor Drumm filled a top of the month rating during the campaign.

But one who has gained such a distinction and in style, too, is Pat Spillane, now bringing up the rear of the field in football's listing for January on 29 points. When taking the No. 1 spot in

THE FINAL PLACINGS

HURLING

- 144 Seamus Durack (Clare)
- 136 Ned Buggy (Wexford)
- 116 Iggy Clarke (Galway)
- 100 John Horgan (Cork)
- 87 Pat Hartigan (Limerick)
- 80 Ger Loughnane (Clare)
- 69 John Crowley (Cork)
- 68 Ger Henderson (Kilkenny)
- 68 Mossy Walsh (Waterford)
- 67 Joachim Kelly (Offaly)

FOOTBALL

- 157 Colm McAlarney (Down)
- 124 Tommy Drumm (Dublin)
- 102 Pat Spillane (Kerry)
- 94 Dermot Earley (Roscommon)
- 93 Jimmy Keaveney (Dublin)
- 90 Michael Sheehy (Kerry)
- 64 Tommy Carew (Kildare)
- 62 Anton O'Toole (Dublin)
- 59 Mick Wright (Offaly)
- 54 Tom Prendergast (Laois)

November-December on the strength of his superb displays on Sam Maguire Cup winning day, and in the League success against Dublin, he achieved at 48 points the highest tally in either code until then.

Paddy Kirwin (Offaly) also set a new standard in this regard for hurling with 42 points, but as we shall see further on, these peaks have now been equalled.

Cork had more men honoured in hurling than any other county at 11. Dublin lead the way in football, nine of their stars having found places over the year.

Ger Loughnane, who was the first GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN award winner in hurling, almost clinched a place in the top half of the 1978 table with a splendid display against Kilkenny at Tulla late in November. He collects 32 points this month, and as a result moves up to sixth position over-all on 80 points.

Other links with last year's Top Ten in hurling are Buggy, then fourth over-all, and Durack and John Horgan, who were among a group of players in ninth position.

Tommy Drumm was at No. 10 in football at the end of 1977. Spillane, remarkably enough, maintains his rating of last season at No. 3, while Jimmy Keaveney, who was runner-up last January, Dermot Earley, at No. 8 a year ago, and Michael Sheehy, the 1977 No. 7, also appear in the

elite for the second successive season.

The concluding charts for the 1977 story, which appear this month, cover the period from October 31 to December 10 inclusive.

A feature was Cork's football revival. And, one of the key factors in that success story was the cultured football of Denis Allen, a non-stop trier and progressive worker, who was also one of the leading score-getters in the pre-Christmas programme.

He gains recognition for this stellar role with a top-of-the-chart position on 48 points to equal Spillane's record.

Mossy Carroll takes the lead spot in hurling. He had good games against Offaly, Kilkenny and Waterford in the League, and the Limerick centre half back really excelled in the drawn game with Galway at Ballinasloe in December. So, he, too equals the hurling high point for a monthly review for the 1977 series on 42 points.

THIS MONTH'S CHARTS

HURLING

42	M. Carroll (Limerick) ...	42
40	S. Durack (Clare)	144
38	J. McDonagh (Galway) ...	38
35	I. Clarke (Galway)	116
34	John Horgan (Cork)	100
32	G. Loughnane (Clare) ...	80
30	D. Martin (Offaly)	30
28	P. Hartigan (Limerick) ...	87
26	N. Buggy (Wexford)	136
26	J. Greene (Waterford) ...	26



● Tommy Drumm, the popular Dublin right half back, who was runner-up to Colm McAlarney in the race for the 1978 Tyler Top Ten Footballer Award.



Ned Buggy
(Wexford)



John Horgan
(Cork)



Iggy Clarke
(Galway)



Pat Spillane
(Kerry)

FOOTBALL

48	D. Allen (Cork)	48
44	J. Egan (Kerry)	44
40	K. McGarvey (Tyrone) ...	40
38	D. Earley (Roscommon) ...	94
36	M. Wright (Offaly)	59
36	S. Devlin (Armagh)	36
32	C. McAlarney (Down) ...	157
32	K. Kehily (Cork)	32
30	T. Drumm (Dublin)	124
29	P. Spillane (Kerry)	102



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IN FOOTBALL TODAY

YOUTH HOLD SWAY

By
Noel
Horgan

YOUTH reigns in today's football world. That must surely be the verdict following Kerry's impressive victories over an ageing Dublin fifteen in the All-Ireland final and subsequent league game at Croke Park.

Youth-filled Kerry oozing with exuberance, confidence and pace, ran the Dubs ragged in those incident-packed encounters, displaying power which would seem to suggest a lengthy term on top for the Kingdom.

For players like Eoin Liston and Mick Spillane, both in their first season on the county senior team, the future looks particularly bright. Both could make a huge impact in the years ahead.

Liston, following his goal-scoring feats in the final, is already a household name. The tall, bearded full-forward has achieved more in one season than many inter-county footballers do in an entire career.

A year ago few outside the Kingdom had heard of Eoin Liston. He did play a prominent midfield role in the 1977 All-Ireland under-21 success but this was hardly an indication of his impending rush to stardom. What chiefly set the 21-year-old Beale man on the road to near-instant fame were his impressive displays in helping divisional side, Shannon Rangers, become county senior champions.

Gaining the attention of the senior selectors, Eoin was introduced for the league and, as Kerry struggled, he began his senior intercounty career on a subdued note. But came the summer and the championship

and Liston and Kerry really blossomed.

Outstanding against Cork in the Munster final, promising against Roscommon in the All-Ireland semi-final, Eoin really scaled the football heights when scoring 3-2 in his dream All-Ireland final debut. He tortured the experienced Dublin rearguard and served notice that, as he matures, he could develop into one of the game's great full-forwards.

Mick Spillane has been on the Kerry under-21 team since 1976. He was thrown in at the deep end in the senior final, however, when Tom Doyle was forced to cry off through injury. The Templeogue neophyte did not let Kerry down and performed with competence at left corner back.

The failure of Dublin's Bobby Doyle, almost always totally involved, to make an impression in the '78 final is adequate testimony of Mick Spillane's effectiveness. Incidentally, Mick is a younger brother of brilliant forward, Pat, who also achieved early success with Kerry, winning a National League medal in 1974 while still in his 'teens.

Without doubt Kerry are richly endowed with young football talent. But what of their Munster rivals, Cork? Can they produce any youngsters to combat the flair and speed of the Kerry men in next year's Munster final?

At the moment Cork have a few players on trial in the league and these could establish themselves as regulars. Not the least promising is 19-year-old Paul Collins from Bishopstown. A county minor in 1977, he made a

big impression when containing Eoin Liston in this year's Munster under-21 final. Tall and strong Paul possesses all the physical attributes to make it to the top grade and he has already shone in the league. Should he maintain his progress, he is likely to become a huge success at full-back and thus release the versatile Kevin Kehily for another defensive role.

Mitchelstown's Mick Mullins is also a great Cork prospect. A brilliant minor, he was on the county under-18 panel from 1974 to '76. So impressive was he in his third year that he gained immediate promotion to the seniors and played in the 1977 Munster final. He dropped out of favour during 1978 but is rapidly recovering his best form and is now on the Cork team for the league. This talented forward may yet realise his true potential as a senior.

Jim Kerrigan from Nemo Rangers is another name to watch in the coming year. A skilled attacking wing-back on the Cork minor team beaten by Meath in 1977, he has been maturing rapidly with his club and won a county senior medal this year. He was introduced as a substitute in the Munster final and is now strongly in contention for a permanent place on the team.

It seems likely, therefore, that the 1979 Munster final will be dominated by young players. Which seems to emphasise that youth prevails in today's football world. Perhaps, at this stage, Dublin would be wise to take note of the fact.

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Cork footballers

starting tough

climb to the top

BY EAMONN YOUNG

I WAS glad to see Kerry win that All-Ireland, but an hour after, it seemed very plain that Cork footballers would be down for a while and I wished once again for this long-awaited open draw. Thus it was more in hope than in real confidence in a bright future, that I watched Cork get ready for the league game against capable Laois. A win that day was great for openers, and the last-minute draw against Galway away, was a real relief especially as at this time there had been difficulty over the appointment of a coach and trainer.

A few days before the Kerry game this ripple on the waters which had threatened to become a typhoon, was smoothed away and the team faced the Kingdom united under a sensible selection committee and experienced coach, Frank Cogan, and the new trainer Billy Morgan. Yet I thought at half time that the Cork side would be hammered in the second half as the Kingdom seemed to be just getting into top gear. After half-time Charlie Nelligan saved his goal but grounded Jim Barry-Murphy and the penalty was the inevitable result. When Denis Allen stuck this into the net the crowd went wild and so did the players. They came at Kerry with everything they had, ran swiftly, urgently, intelligently and in ten

minutes had the champions hanging on. It was in that ten minutes the new Cork football team was born. Old rivalry and ability were the parents and real player motivation, further stimulated by the trainer crux, the midwife.

The Kerry game was won, tails were up, and we all hoped that the away match with formidable Kildare wouldn't knock the bottom out of the can. It didn't and the way they won it showed that for now anyhow we have a Cork side that will not disgrace itself even against the best. The game with Dublin a fortnight before Christmas confirmed this and their first victory for more than four years ensured their finishing unbeaten on top of Division 1 south.

What brought about this remarkable change in Cork football? Firstly luck had something to do with it, for the game with Laois was the easiest and the win was carved by reasonable ability which one must expect in a large community of players. The Galway one was luckier still for in that day the team, uncertain of its future due to the trainer difficulty, was in poor spirits and fortunate to survive. Real mad desire to prove themselves did the job against Kerry and here again there was luck, for the Kingdom played badly and seemed to me quite disgruntled

in the vital last quarter. But it wasn't all luck and only a fool would deny that apart from the delightful earnestness of the players, there was real ability also. This competence in football was further improved by the fact that the dual players Jim Barry-Murphy, Brian Murphy and John Crowley, relieved of hurling duties, were able to pour their considerable power and elan into the football flood. This was because the Cork hurling team was playing in a lower division about the best thing that has happened to the county in recent years.

New players came along this autumn. Candidly I didn't think they would be good enough, but the last two months have given me adequate invitation to a change of mind. John Crowley the hurler was given his chance and I was glad, for as a lad in school he was a fine natural footballer with ball control and power. At twenty-one John, a tall raw-boned steady young man may become quite a good player. He fetches well, can carry the ball at speed, and has worked out a sensible defensive sense which has enabled him to survive the sharpest attacks of Ireland's best hurling forwards.

In the centre of the field there is a tall slightly-built twenty-four year old Vincent Coakley who leaps up for the high ones like an Australian . . . he doesn't want to come down without it. Time was when I saw this man pushed off the ball very easily but now he's stronger and, timing his jump well, he gets up in the air away from the jostling. Along with him in the middle of the field is the 27-year old John Courtney, in the army on the Curragh, married in Newbridge and playing with the club there. This is a surprise choice.

● TO PAGE 13

Frustration



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● The Cork team defeated by Kerry in the Munster final at Páirc Uí Chaoimh last July by 3-14 to 3-7. There has been a tremendous resurgence in Cork football since then and at the mid-season break they topped Division I South of the N.F.L. Back row (from left): Ray Cummins, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Christy Ryan, Eugene Desmond, Billy Morgan, Tom Creedon, Declan Barron and John Coleman. Front row (from left): Brian Sweeney, Jimmy Barrett, Sean Murphy, Denis Allen, Brian Murphy, Kieran Murphy, and Dave McCarthy.

● FROM PAGE 11

for the man has been around for years without making the grade and yet in Newbridge before his neighbours he gave a thundering hour's football just before Christmas. Two months ago no one would have said that Coakley and Courtney would hold their own with established midfielders but time has proved that they can, so here's to the future. Courtney picks up a lot of the ball around the centre of the field because of a natural diligence and a sound head.

Christy Ryan was played in this year's Munster final without making any great name for himself, partly because this seventy-four inch, twenty-one year old is not a midfielder. Now at centre-back for Cork he is fetching well and getting that ball away with

power and no delay, while he tackles his man with real gusto and reasonable efficiency.

Tom Creedon back soon from Malawi, Sean Coleman who missed the Kildare game due to a business visit to Hawaii, Donal Hunt recovering from a broken wrist, Paul Collins of Bishoptown a strong full back now committed to the U.C.C. rugby team, Denis Long recovering from a broken leg, Ray Cummins hurling well, and Dave MacCarthy who is resting, are other names to consider and in all the selectors should have a capable panel before the first of May.

While the picture is optimistic enough there's nobody so foolish as to expect wonders, and everybody associated with the team knows that only real dedication and humility will get the county

back on the All-Ireland road from which we were so smartly thrown by Dublin four-and-a-half years ago. I am convinced that in that competent team of '73 there was at least one more All-Ireland if they had been prepared to forget the long-awaited triumph and start all over again as every champion team must do in the following summer. We must not make that mistake ever again, and in the meantime the players, the new ones that I've named, and some others perhaps who may be around the corner, must join with the tried regulars under shrewd guidance to start the assault on that athletic pinnacle scaled only by men who in every sense of the word keep their eyes on the ball.

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OUR TOP MEN ARE AMONG GREATS OF GAELIC GAMES

By OWEN McCANN

MANY a game in the past exciting year for hurling and football was coloured by an individual display of sheer elegance. Seamus Durack and Colm McAlarney are just two of the personality-plus performers who left outstanding imprints in this regard.

But where this talented duo also scored more heavily than most over the past campaign as a whole was in consistency. While each had those extra special glory days, it is true nonetheless to say that the over-riding feature of their play was the manner in which they produced an unusually high level of performance in match after match right throughout the year.

Small wonder, then, that they have emerged as the second **GAELIC SPORT TOP TEN** award winners.

Durack completes a remarkable double for Clare, as the first award winner in hurling a year ago was that brilliant half back from the Banner county, Ger Loughnane. McAlarney is following in the footsteps in football of another mighty half back trend-setter, Dublin's polished Pat O'Neill.

Few will disagree that our top men of 1978 are among the most exciting personalities in the game. Champion competitors, in fact, among that large company of pulse-raising performers who,

with their artistry and dedication, are doing so much to keep hurling and football so firmly ahead of their competitors.

Long before the past campaign Durack and McAlarney had franked their right to rank among the greats of the games in any one era. Their mastery in all arts of their crafts, and above all their superb sportsmanship, receive a further dimension now by virtue of the way they have emerged convincing winners in our annual review in a season in which the opposition was of the highest quality, and very competitive as well.

It is impossible to calculate what Clare's hurling resurgence owes to the goalkeeping expertise of Seamus Durack. What is beyond dispute is that his magical qualities have made him one of the inspiring figures in a very talented combination that has brought such a welcome wind of change to the code in recent times with those headline-making triumphs in the National League.

Similarly, with McAlarney. Down are deeply in debt to the towering midfielder, not only for his superb leadership when captaining the county to last year's Ulster senior championship win, but for many telling performances over a long and honoured career.

The Castlewellan club man gets through an amazing amount of

effective work in every match. Time and again since I saw him win two Ulster medals on the same afternoon—minor and senior—at Casement Park in 1966, I have marvelled at the work-rate of his game, not to mention his skilled football and thoroughly progressive approach.

He has had many high points as a senior. When Down were dazzling so many with their football perfection in their last golden year of 1968, McAlarney was a vital cog in the well-oiled machine that brought the coveted senior double of the National League and the Sam Maguire Cup to the Mourne county.

Ulster, too, has benefited greatly from his services. Apart from being one of the province's leading performers in recent times, he also helped to fashion the Railway Cup wins of 1968 and 1971.

But, despite all that he accomplished in the past, and accepting, too, that the 1968 run by Down to the big double was something extra special, I still feel that McAlarney produced the best football of his career over the past year.

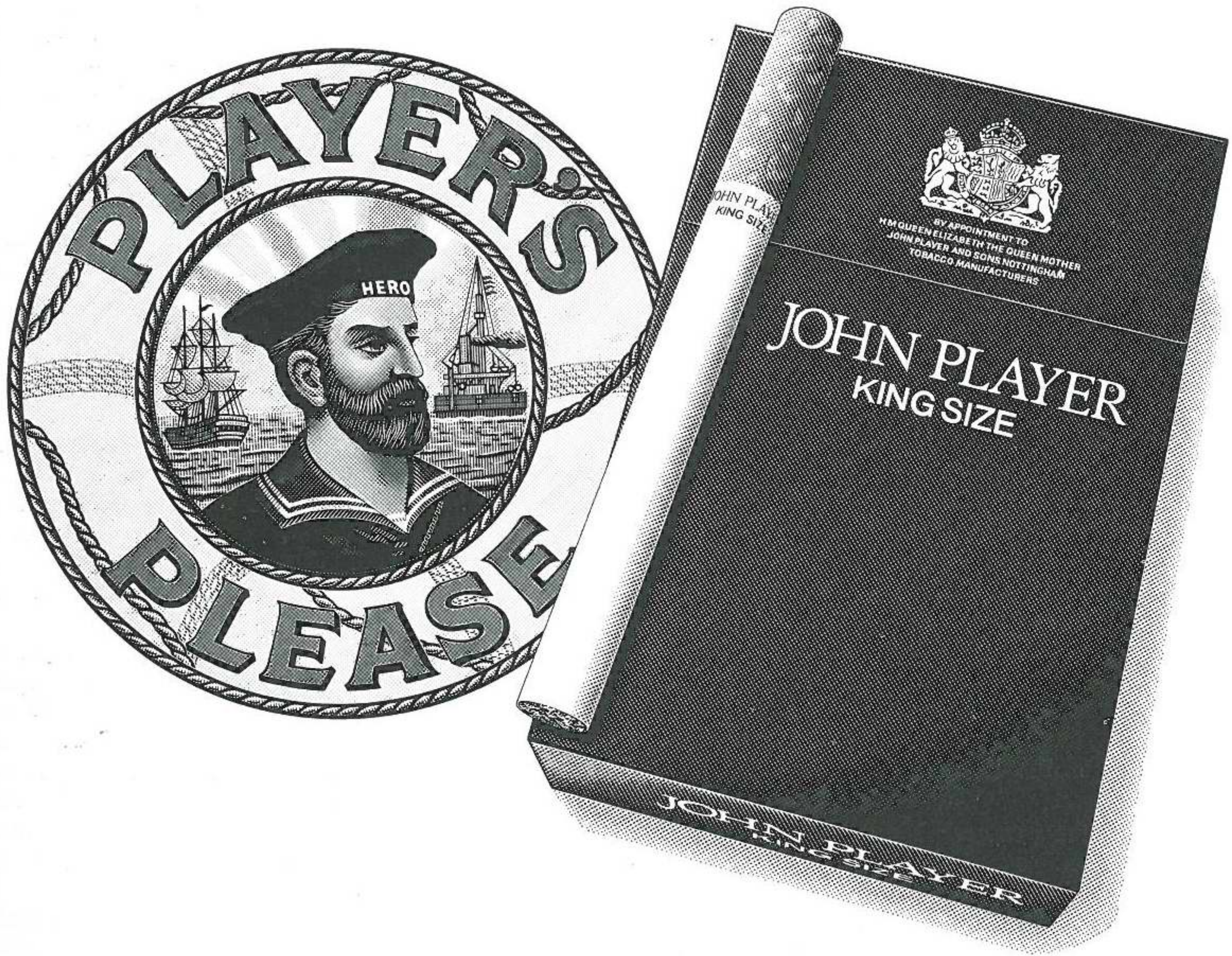
In saying this, I am not primarily influenced by the fact that he has emerged as the **GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN** footballer of 1978. But rather from what I saw myself of the tall 30-year old teacher—and, fortunately for me, that was quite a lot.

I am prepared to argue as well when it comes to handing out the Oscars for the top individual performances of the past year, the accolade in football must go to McAlarney, who was born in Dublin, but moved to Down with his family when he was about 11 years old.

Certainly, in all the years I have been watching the code, I doubt if I saw a better perform-

● TO PAGE 17

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● FROM PAGE 15

ance than that produced by the Down skipper when leading his team to their National League quarter-final victory over Kildare in extra time at Croke Park last Easter Sunday.

That was a performance to savour time and again. Everything McAlarney did was brimful of intelligence and purpose, and he never flagged a moment over the entire extended match.

Yet, high-powered though that performance was, the mighty Down star challenged that four-de-force strongly with the quality of his play when doing much to singe Cavan's ambitions in the Northern final last summer at Clones. He was on his game to such telling effect that he walked away with the Man of the Match award.

It is when one thinks of stellar displays like those, and also realises the full extent of his skills that one begins to appreciate just what a quality footballer Colm McAlarney really is.

The **GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN** award is his second major end-of-the-year honour. Last month at the final Carrolls presentation banquet in Dublin, he collected his second All Star award. That was as a midfielder, and it was in that role that he was first honoured in the Carrolls All Star line-up in 1975. But the Down man has also made his mark as a forward.

Durack has, like the Ulster footballer, the ability to take an ordinary match and make it something special through the sheer splendour of his hurling. His capacity for the incredible in goal is uncanny at times, and his career has been liberally sprinkled by memorable appearances.

But some games still stand out even more clearly than others. Whenever I recall the victory over Kilkenny in 1977 that put Clare back among the National League titles after an interval of

31 years, I think of the decisive impact he made with a five-star exhibition.

And, when the Banner county retained the League crown last April in another show-down with the Noresiders, the anticipation and agility of the Feakle club man was one of the best features of the victory-effort. He must now, as is the case of McAlarney at centre-field, rank as one of the most gifted players we have seen in his own demanding position.

Nor has Clare's second successive Munster final defeat from Cork last July dulled in any way the goalkeeper's sharp edge. The League champions may not have exactly sparkled in the pre-

OUR TOP MEN

Christmas programme of the points competition, but they still had a very successful run for all that.

And, in doing much to power the come-back, Durack provided plenty of opportunities to enjoy his many brilliant gifts—instant reflexes, brilliant saving, coolness, daring, sure-catching and swift and deliberate clearances.

Durack, who was 27 last June, has been Clare's regular goalkeeper in the senior grade since 1970. Of medium height, he had a splendid innings with Munster in the Railway Cup in the mid-'Seventies, but at that period Leinster were the dominant power.

Then, when Munster broke the Easterners' grip on the trophy in 1976, Durack had the cruel luck to miss the final through an injury. But he

finally got among the interprovincial medals last May at Pairc Ui Chaoimh when the South de-throned Leinster.

This dynamic master of the goalkeeper's art has also displayed the scoring touch in his time. In fact, he appeared with the Clare under-21 team as a forward.

But back to Durack the goalkeeper, and he is now assured of a unique position as far as Munster is concerned. When he was first honoured by the Carrolls All Stars selectors in 1977 he became the initial player from the South to gain the No. 1 spot in hurling. And, as he retained that position last year, Durack now ranks as the only Munster goalkeeper to earn selection in the code in the eight years' history of the Carrolls All Stars promotion.

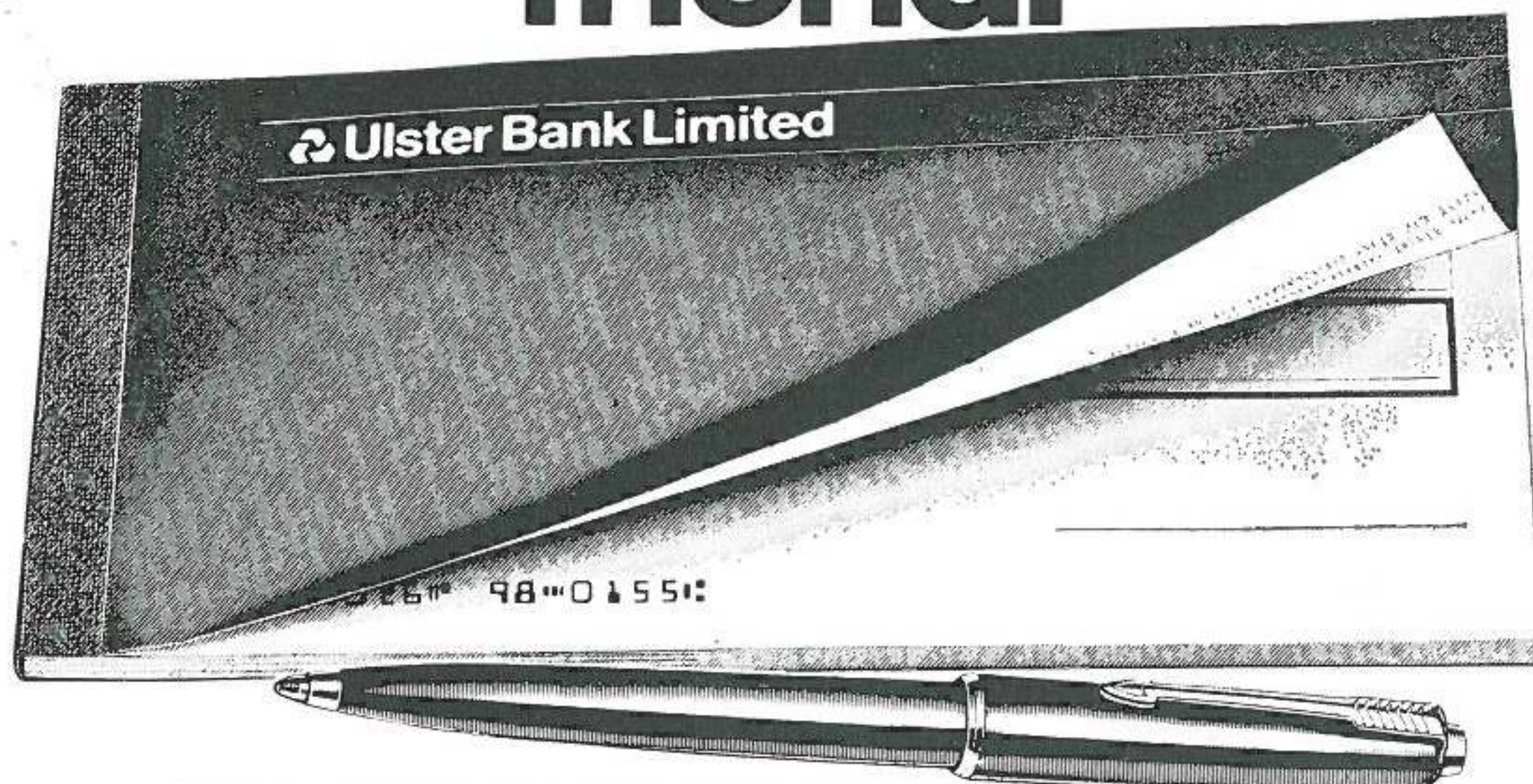
All this means that the game's most coveted prize is now the only major honour to have eluded the vigilant net-minder. Will 1979 set that right?

Only time will tell, but few would complain—even in such acknowledged strongholds as Cork, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Limerick and Waterford—if this brilliant performer and the gallant men of Clare in general scaled the long-awaited heights in the championship ahead.

Last year in becoming the first winners, Ger Loughnane and Pat O'Neill set a very high standard for the **GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN** award winners circle. Seamus Durack and Colm McAlarney are superbly maintaining that standard.

GAELIC SPORT is particularly pleased to be associated with this opportunity of showing in tangible form our appreciation of the high qualities and sportsmanship of this brilliant twosome. We have no doubt, either, that our appreciation and congratulations will be echoed by readers far and wide and by John Tyler and Sons our sponsors.

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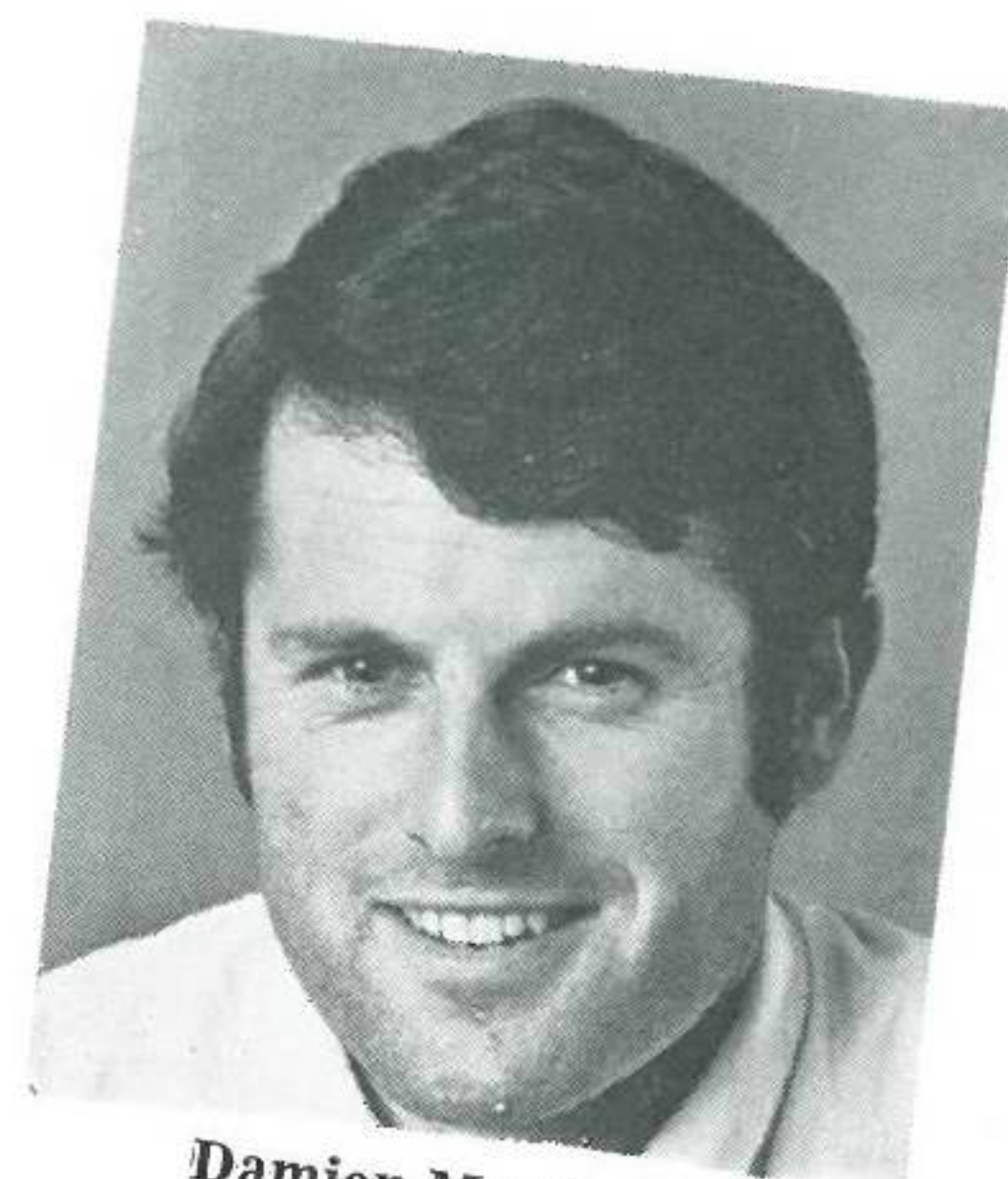
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ONCE SMALL FRY,

NOW BIG FISH

By MICK DUNNE (RTE Sport)



Damien Martin (Offaly)

FOR those Shannonside neighbours Offaly and Galway the break from the National Hurling League has been all the more satisfying this winter. Not only are they completely relieved of any relegation worry — an experience not entirely usual for them in latter times — but they have sound hopes of being involved in the knock-out stages of the competition in April.

The remarkable feature of the first half of the league has been the failure of the traditional mighty hurling counties to occupy any of the places in the top half of the premier section. Indeed, the two counties that have won exactly half of the previous 46 leagues — Cork and Tipperary — are not even in the top group. The leading four in Division 1A when the competition shut-down last month were Clare (two titles only), Offaly — a county that never even reached a final — Galway (three) and Limerick (seven).

Moreover, but for the National League in modern times three of these — Clare, Galway and Offaly — would have had very little to enjoy in hurling. The championship has been an absolutely barren hunting-ground.

Maybe success in the league will be the forerunner of the big break-through in the championship. Certainly it appeared to be

so for Galway in 1975, but then they suffered the huge disappointment of that year's All-Ireland final. And perhaps with Clare, having put so much into winning the last two leagues they may, at last, use it only as a means of achieving their real objective, which is a championship triumph.

But for Offaly a success of any kind would be particularly welcome. Like Galway, they represent a county that is almost evenly split between hurling and football and in modern times — again akin to Galway — hurling has frequently been overshadowed by their success at football.

This changed somewhat in the last few years when Andy Gallagher, their dedicated hurling coach, got together a young and committed set of young hurlers to work assiduously alongside the more experienced players like Damien Martin and Padraig Horan.

Among the better of the younger ones is midfielder Pat Delaney, the six-foot blond from Kinnitty who will be 24 next May. He was centre-half back on the 1973 minor side, but moved to midfield when he played on the under-21 team three years later. He made his debut in a match against Antrim in 1974 when he lined-out at right half-forward. Three years earlier he had helped Wicklow win the

Leinster intermediate hurling championship and reach the All-Ireland final where they lost by three points to Tipperary. Pat also plays club football and in May last year he travelled as hurling replacement with the All-Stars on the American trip.

Another blond — Finbarr Gantley — has only lately established himself on the Galway team although he is now 27. The explanation for his absence from the team until the start of the 1977-'78 league is that he lived in London for several years and played for London against his native Galway in the 1974 All-Ireland hurling quarter-final. The following year he was on the London team that took Westmeath to a replay in the final of the B championship.

Since October 1977 he has been a regular member of the Galway full-forward line, filling all three positions at one time or another, but in more recent games he has occupied the right full position and he has been consistently among the side's scorers.

Finbarr plays junior hurling with the Beagh club in Galway and his presence on the county team in the past year had had such an inspiring effect on his club-mates that they captured the Galway junior championship early last month after many, many years without success.

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CEANNARAS: NATIONAL APPEAL FOR FUNDS



Conchur Ó Murchú,
Uachtarán C.L.G.

By OWEN McCANN

AN imposing new £800,000 headquarters at Croke Park is on the way, and will represent a significant contribution towards the celebration of the Centenary Year of 1984. Work is due to begin on the project next month, and will continue until 1981.

"Facilities at Croke Park are very limited and inadequate," said Con Murphy, President of the G.A.A., when launching a fund to help finance the ambitious project.

"The erection of the Ceannaras (the new H.Q. will be known as Ceannaras Cumann Luthchleas Gael) is to meet the essential requirements now and to provide the Association with a headquarters befitting its record and standing," continued the President.

"Regrettably the Association cannot meet the cost from its own resources as it has been decided that, as a priority, all surplus finance be made available to clubs to purchase and develop grounds and assist in the improvement of accommodation for our patrons whose support is vital at our main county grounds."

The Association will generate half the cost of the Ceannaras out of its own resources over the next five years. Each club has agreed to donate £10 a year for

five years, or £125,000 in all.

Gate receipts (5% of the gross) from the National Leagues, the Provincial and All-Ireland Championships over the next five years will add an estimated £225,000 to the fund.

A fund has been launched to raise the remaining £400,000. Donations are being requested from those who would wish to be associated, either personally or through their corporate organisations, with the G.A.A. and its objectives. They may contribute by cash or by the provision or sponsorship of materials and fittings.

In this regard there is an incentive. All-Ireland five-year tickets for hurling and football will be offered in a draw for subscribers before January 31, 1979.

So, obviously, apart from making a tangible contribution to a worthwhile project, subscribers could reap a handsome dividend into the bargain.

The names of all subscribers will be entered and permanently maintained in an album in the Ceannaras Museum. Names of major subscribers will be recorded on a special plaque.

The development will provide conference facilities for 600 people, meeting rooms, an international sized handball alley, a

gymnasium, a restaurant and bar, as well as administration offices.

Also included in the Ceannaras will be a new G.A.A. museum and library which the Association has decided to establish.

Rooms and facility areas within the complex will be offered for sponsorship at subscriptions from £3,000 to £30,000.

The plans include the provision of at least one commercial floor of 5,000 square feet which it is felt will be in demand for office space in the area. The estimated income from this letting should make the project viable from the maintenance and operational point of view such as staffing. This should insure that the normal funds of the Association will not have to be called on for this purpose.

Facilities are also in the design to add additional floors as the need or demand arises, which could possibly yield an income for the Association, but it is not envisaged having more than one commercial floor as of now.

Said Mr. Murphy: "We are confident that in this, our first national appeal of this kind, we will have the full and generous support of everybody. We need it. Without it we cannot go ahead with this vital project."

IT would seem that the Master Fixtures Plan — like Robbie Burns' best laid schemes — went a-gley last month when the Central Council threw a few spanners in the works. For it must be virtually certain now that Congress will reject major recommendations which are proposed by the Central Activities Committee to clear the muddy waters of the fixtures' morass in which the Association has been knee-deep for several years.

Central Council, by a tenet of the Official Guide is the supreme governing body between Congresses, but only Congress itself has the authority to enact rules, to amend or rescind them. Nevertheless — even allowing for an unlikely display of ultimate power by Congress in March — it is fairly predictable that suggestions, which were rejected by a simple majority at Central Council, will not win the favourable two-thirds majority which will be necessary at Congress because of the alteration in rules they would effect.

Consequently it is now almost certain that there will not — as the Activities Committee had hoped — be new dates for the All-Ireland Hurling final (and possibly the football decider, too) nor a new under 19 years grade to replace both the under-21 championship and the minor competition.

These were but some of very many recommendations in the long-awaited and welcome Master Fixtures Plan, which has been the dream of the Activities Committee since its formation six years ago. Indeed as far back as 1971 the McNamee Commission stated that it was "imperative that a master inter-county fixtures plan be devised. Ideally it should be based on a twelve-month schedule covering from All-Ireland championships to club level."

Easier said than done, though, as the Activities body discovered when they got down to tackling the job. They make this very

SPANNER IN

By MICK DUNN

clear in the admirably comprehensive and commendable report produced last October after over a year's work that was the culmination of much preliminary study and research. They state: "The number of competitions which the Association is obliged to promote and organise and the rules within which the Controlling Bodies are obliged to operate make it very difficult to produce, or plan a dependable fixtures programme."

There it is re-affirmed once again — as it has been for the umpteenth time over the last two decades, but with growing ur-

gency in the last ten years — the kernel of the G.A.A.'s most serious problem: the choking, chaotic glut of competitions. Since World War II various bodies have piled competition upon competition, added tournament after tournament, championship after championship, with such readiness — and without careful consideration of the consequences — that the Association now finds itself almost incapable, as the Activities Committee confess, of extricating itself.

In championships alone, we saw the under-21 grade introduced to the calendar, the inter-

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THE WORKS

NE (RTE Sport)

mediate hurling started and abandoned, the All-Ireland club championships and various special minor and under-16 competitions. In Leinster there have been the inter-county under-14 competitions and we nearly had a national competition begun for the same grade. Tournaments cropped up all over the place with the prolificacy, and just as much carelessness, as weeds in an untended garden until the day came when the Grounds Tournament in both hurling and football had to be dropped.

Trips to America, not only in the 1970s by the champions and

All-Stars, but by individual counties and clubs, were approved with a haste that might lead the uninitiated to believe the G.A.A. had no such things as championships and leagues at home here which could be disrupted by the consequent postponements.

No matter what the objective — whether it was to cater for a special category of player, or to gather funds for a monument to be erected, a church to be built or a field to be developed — the answer seemed to be to run a competition. Sadly, this “competition mentality” is still with



Paddy McFlynn, Chairman of the Central Activities Committee and also President-elect C.L.G.

us as evidenced by the astonishing decision last year to introduce yet another competition in the form of the Ceannarus Tournament — conceived on exactly the same lines of the Grounds Tournament which had to be abandoned. Granted, the aim is to raise funds for the new building at Croke Park, but no matter how necessary this may be, the decision by the Management Committee was totally inconsistent with the widely acknowledged fact that the Association, for far too long, has had too many competitions.

No one in close touch with the affairs of the G.A.A. needs detailed exposition of the effect this has had. Everyone is aware of the intolerable clashing of fixtures that has happened with the resultant disruption of carefully laid-out programmes. In very recent months we had the hiatus about Kerry's under-21 semi-final affecting their appearance in the All-Ireland senior final and Tipperary's National Hurling League match with Cork not played as arranged because of Tipp's presence in the under-21 final. In addition, club interests have conflicted with county interests and vice versa until the point has been reached when very often one is absolutely incompatible with the other.

The reason, simply, is that the G.A.A. — unlike any other sports

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● FROM PAGE 23

organisation in the world, major or minor — operates two sports at two levels concurrently. No other body is responsible for two different games as the G.A.A. is for hurling and football. None organises its playing season from one end to the other at two playing levels as we do with county and club competition.

This uniqueness of the G.A.A. automatically brings problems of fixture-clashing and simultaneous dual calls on players. But to

heap additional competitions onto the basic championship and league, as the G.A.A. has done without anyone in the organisation being able to discover more than 52 Sundays in a year, has been almost suicidal as far as streamlined running of the fixtures programme has been concerned.

At the Galway Congress of 1970, when delegates accepted with enthusiasm the formation of the All-Ireland club championships, not one delegate among

the 300 asked where were the Sundays to come from. The answer, as we have seen, is that these championships did away with the two-month December-January complete close season as we knew it up to a decade ago. Now the best of the provincial club championship matches are played in the muck and mud around Christmas. So competitions supposed to bring glamour and status, which the clubs had lost to the intercounty competitions, have been an additional burden on disgracefully over-used players because they stretch the season to a 12-month one and are played in such unattractive weather that they are largely ignored by the paying public.

In the early years of Sean O'Siochain's general secretaryship his annual report to Congress was notable for vehement pleading with the Association to cry stop, enough is enough. But his pleas fell on such deaf ears that he soon gave up the demand for a reduction in competitions.

Now the Activities Committee tell us: "in order to ensure a dependable Fixtures Plan, the Association must come to grips with the factors that do not allow the Activities Committee to produce a Fixtures Programme."

Disappointingly the Central Council once again ignored the plea, especially the one to abandon the excessively disruptive under-21 championships. The McNamee Commission made the same case with great force, but their recommendation was one of the few not acceptable. Therefore seven years later we have their argument borne out time and again by the necessary staging of the provincial under-21 championships almost completely on mid-week evenings so that the players of this grade will be available to play senior or minor on the Sundays.

No other grade ever affected so many others, certainly not the junior or intermediate because

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immediately a player from these ranks appeared on the senior team he was no longer eligible for junior or intermediate. And since it is the same top counties, in most years since the 1964 introduction of under-21, that reach the last four in senior, minor and under-21 the last-named grade has caused much more trouble than it has been worth. It brought more medals, but a lot more football in each year, to Kerry, Dublin, Mayo and Cork and Kildare but it did nothing for, say, Wicklow, Sligo, Clare, Tipperary or Kilkenny in football or Limerick, Laois, Roscommon and others in hurling.

The strongest case against the under-21 championships was made, not by commission or committee, but by Cork's brilliant young midfielder Tom Cashman in an interview with Donal Carroll of the "Irish Independent" last August. He was looking forward to his birthday on August 28, he said, not because it was in the week preceding the All-Ireland hurling final, but because it was the day he was no longer eligible to play under-21 hurling and football. How can we continue to be so insensitive to our amateur players that we impose burdens that leave them sick and tired of football and hurling, for club and county, at the age of 20.

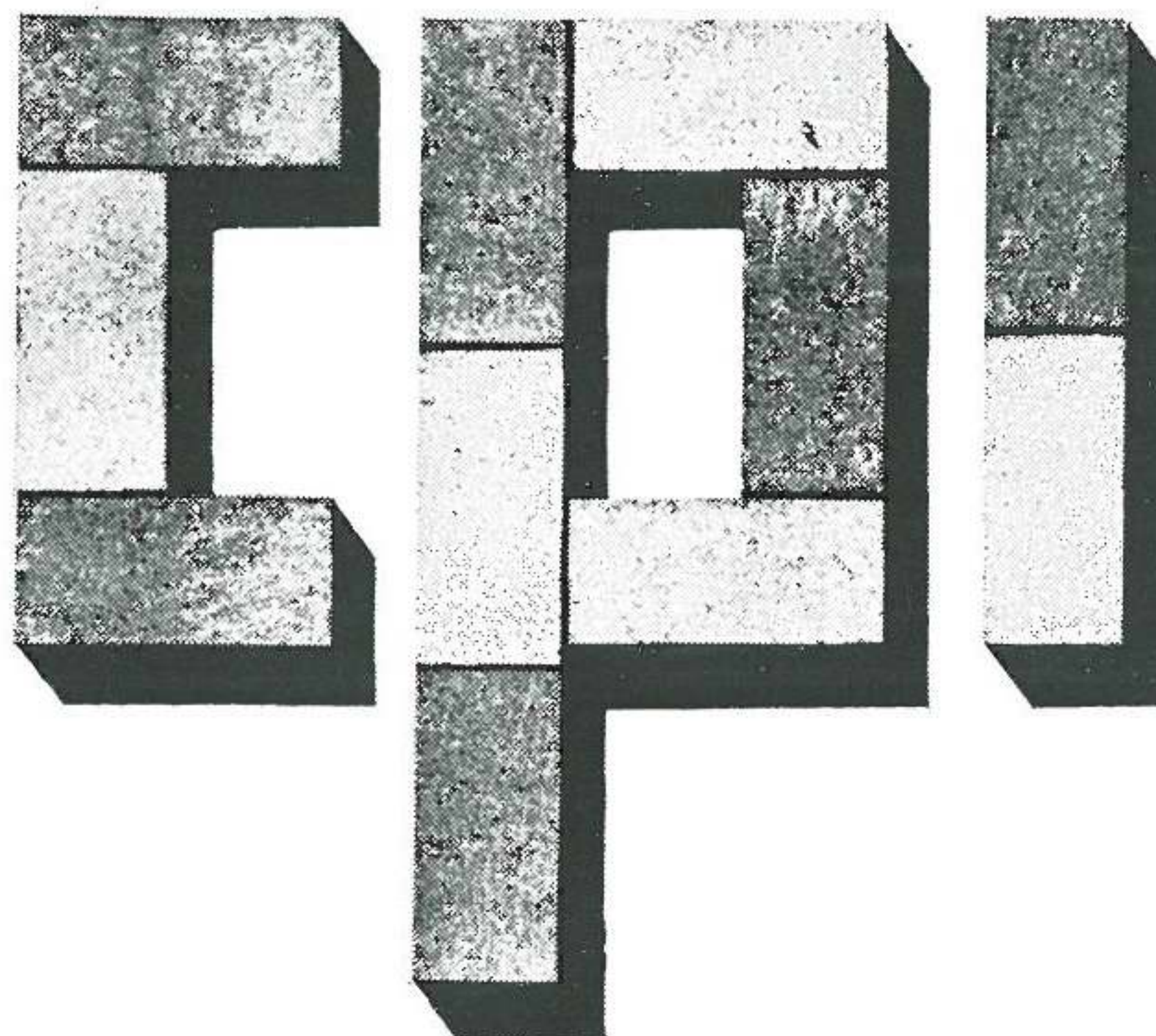
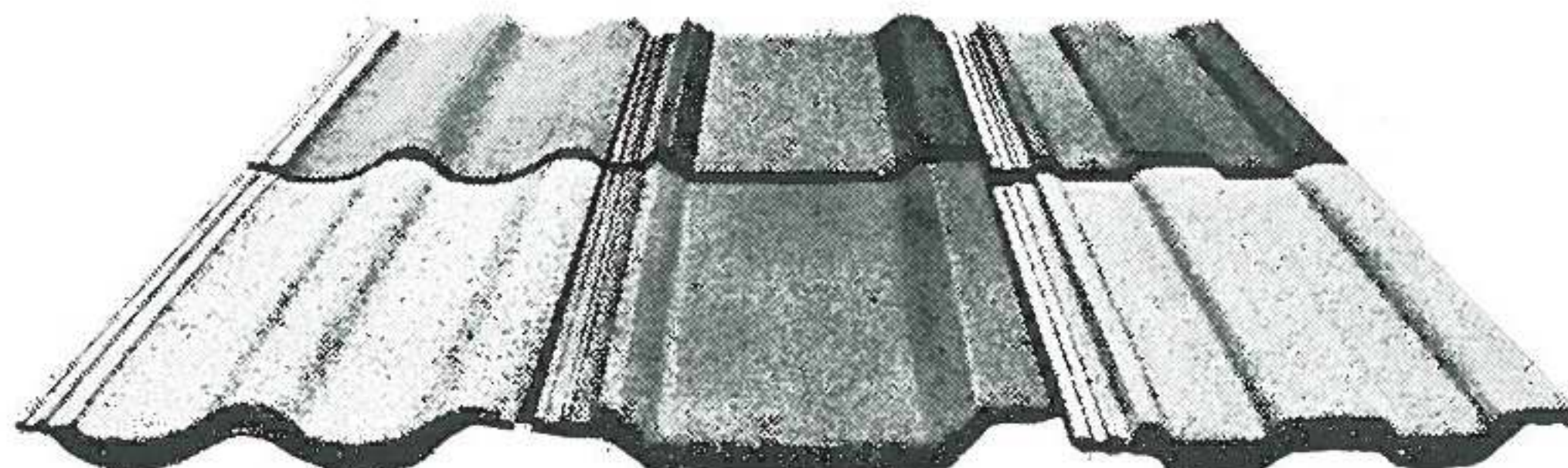
Time, then, surely to shout "enough" and maybe Congress will have seen the light by next March.

Obviously the dates for the All-Ireland senior and minor finals will be debated by Congress at length. Let's hope they do not display the same inconsistency as the Central Council who rejected the last Sunday of August for the hurling final, but accepted the third Sunday of September for the football — or, could it be that the hurling people are far more hide-bound by tradition than football folk. Whatever the reason Congress can hardly do likewise. If the hurling does not come forward it is unlikely the football will either. Having the

two finals only two weeks apart would pose a very grave problem in years when the hurling final needed a replay.

Hopefully Congress will unanimously accept the return of scoring averages to the National Leagues as a means of deciding the top of the table positions, at

least. The delegates would never again want a repeat of last February when five teams finished the hurling league level. All seven in Division 1A would have wound-up with equal points if Tipperary had scored just one more point against Clare on October 30, 1977.



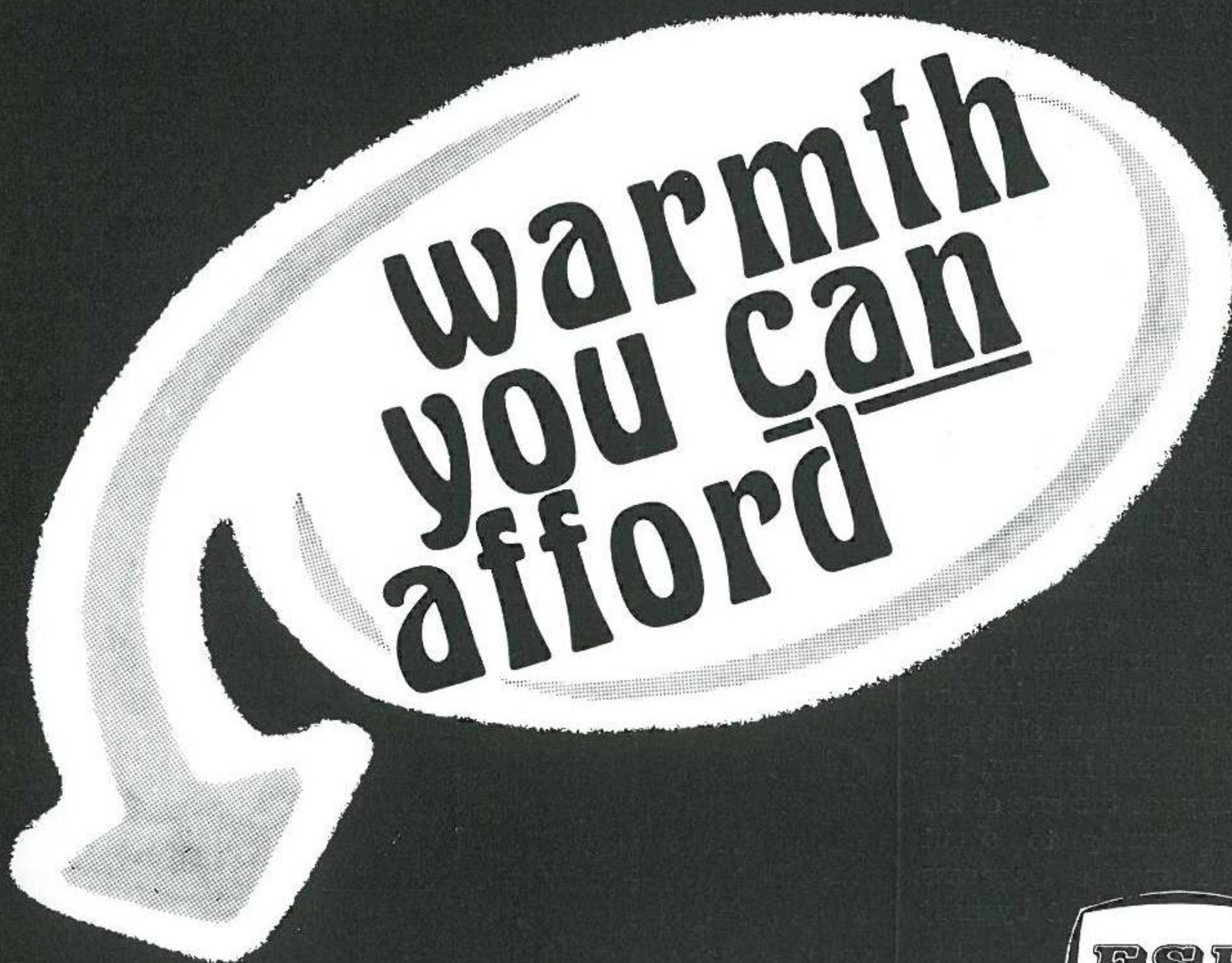
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Don't write off Leinster hurling just yet

By MOONDHARRIG

WHAT has happened to Leinster hurling, people kept asking me in the weeks before Christmas. By that, of course, they really meant what had happened primarily to the two counties that were, up to very recently, among the king-pins of the game, Kilkenny and Wexford. There they were, both of them, a month before Christmas, languishing with Waterford on the bottom rung of the Division I A League ladder with relegation staring both of them in the face. This was an unexpected position for two counties who earlier in the year had shown so much promise.

After all, Kilkenny, despite having to find replacements for so many of the men whose exploits earlier in the decade had led to them being declared the 'Team of the 'Seventies', reached the National League final in the Spring, and the All-Ireland final on the first Sunday in September. What is more, they were not all that far behind Clare in the League decider and were good enough to make Cork fight very hard indeed before the Leesiders succeeded in retaining their All-Ireland crown.

Indeed, for Kilkenny, after that All-Ireland final, the prospects looked bright. Their young defenders (all but Fan Larkin of the six backmen were under 25), were more than promising and if there were some among the forwards far from their first youth, still it looked as though they would, at the least, be adequate to the League tasks ahead.

But it was not to be. Things began to go sour. First Liam 'Chunky' O'Brien decided to quit the inter-county scene at least temporarily. His club-mates Mick Crotty and Brian Cody followed

him to the sidelines, Crotty because he, like O'Brien, has had enough for the time being of the inter-county scene, while Cody, after making valiant efforts to oblige the selectors, who strove to turn him into a forward, decided that if he could not earn a place in the defence he, too, was not interested in inter-county fare. To add further complications, because of local championship delays and replays, players from the Johnstown Fenians, James Stephens and St. Patrick's Ballyragget were not available for several of the earlier League games.

But the crowning blow was a double one. Since the championship the very young left wing defenders, Dick O'Hara from Thomastown and the Shamrocks' Richie Reid from Killtoran have both been fairly seriously injured in car accidents and have not alone been missing when their services were most needed but may not be back in action even in time for their county's most vital League game of all, against Wexford at Nowlan Park in early February.



● Two Kilkenny 'greats', on left 'Fan' Larkin still playing as well as ever and Pat Henderson now retired.

Yet Kilkenny's plight is far from being as bad as it seems. Even though they have never been able to field the team they would like to have on duty in any League game to date, two of those matches were lost by a single point, so that two luckier pucks of the ball could have had them up among the League leaders instead of struggling to avoid the drop.

The county still has a world of talented young hurlers coming up from Under 21, minor, and even under-16 and under-14 ranks. So the long-term future looks bright. But, even without waiting until then, Kilkenny can be a very formidable proposition if they can muster all the forces at present available.

The Noresiders may have to suffer demotion to Division One B. Yet, even if this happens, Kil-

● TO PAGE 29

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	Thursday	9.30 am-4.30 pm
	Friday	9.30 am-4.30 pm
	Including lunchtime.	
Cork Centre Clinic Times	Tuesdays	12.00 noon-3.00 pm including lunchtime
	Thursdays	5.00-8.00 pm
	Fridays	10.00-12.30 pm

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kenny could be well capable of taking a leaf out of Cork's book and coming back after demotion in the Spring to win the All-Ireland title in the Autumn. Indeed, no matter what happens them in the League, I would expect Kilkenny to be a championship force.

The position may well be more difficult for Wexford, who, for some inexplicable reason just do not seem to have the same strength coming up. How long is it, for instance, since Wexford has been seen to the fore in under-21 minor or Colleges ranks? Willie Murphy, Christy Keogh, the Dorians, Mick Jacob, Teddy O'Connor and John Quigley have been around for a long time now. All of them continue to give their county tremendous service, and indeed it is obvious that, if Mick Jacob and Colm Dorian had not been missing through injury since the League campaign began, Wexford would not be sharing the bottom of the League table with Kilkenny. But what must be worrying the Wexford mentors is, where are the replacements going to come from?

The Walshes, Rowsomes and Houlihanes are promising, and Johnny Murphy and Martin Casey are well up to standard, but they are still far short of greatness, and it is significant that, nowadays, if Ned Buggy is curbed, Wexford have very little power forward.

Before a League game in November, I watched the closing stages of the Wexford minor hurling final at Bellefield in Enniscorthy. There was little promise for the future on that field, so Wexford hurling mentors, if looking to the future, would need to intensify their efforts to improve the standard amongst the youngsters.

In fact, there seems to be

COISTE NA GAELIGE

THE G.A.A. has always been to the forefront in promoting the Irish language. This valuable work is to get a further emphasis in the year ahead.

Coiste na Gaeilge was set up by the Central Council as a result of a motion passed at the 1976 Congress. Subsequently, the Coiste decided that Oifigeach na Gaeilge should be appointed in each county, and the 1978 Congress passed a motion to that effect.

Steps have been under way in the meantime to implement this decision. The Oifigeach na Gaeilge will be a full member of the County Board, and ideally will be an energetic person with fluent Irish, and also sincere about the revival of the language.

Not only that, but he will understand the bilingual approach, and will have the ability to motivate people.

The officer will promote the language throughout the Gaelic Athletic Association. He will help the County Board by assisting Clubs, advising officers of the County Board, motivating schools and colleges by supporting each and every unit of the Association in the use and promotion of the language.

Con Murphy, President of the G.A.A., speaking about the Development Plan said:

"The committed officers and workers in the counties have the power and the structure to implement this scheme, which is fundamental to the whole motivation of the cultural heritage and tradition of the Association".

greater enthusiasm about the future of the football side than there is for the hurlers, especially at under-age level. And these Wexford footballers have been doing very well indeed in their section of the National League. But while people talk about the decline of Wexford and Kilkenny, they seem to have been turning a blind eye to hurling elsewhere in Leinster. After all, there is Offaly, all but certain of a place in at least the quarter-finals, and that achieved with a very young side.

Remember that the only two very experienced players now on the team are former All-Star goalkeeper Damien Martin and former defender Paraic Horan who has been making a new name for himself at full-forward. Offaly, too, could be a force in

the coming championship, and there is yet another Leinster hurling side that has been showing some considerable improvement, and that is Dublin.

In recent years these Dublin hurlers have been so overshadowed by the glory and achievements of their footballers that they were almost forgotten. But they have been climbing steadily up the League table, they are young, they will improve with experience, and with a little greater steadiness in defence, they have the potential to shock some far more fancied teams.

So don't write off Leinster just yet. There is plenty of hurling talent in the Eastern province, and I have a feeling that will be proved before the 1979 campaigns come to a conclusion.

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1978 HANDBALL TITLE-WINNERS

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

60 x 30 Grade

	Winner	Runner-Up
Coca-Cola Singles	R. Lyng (Wexford)	J. O'Brien (Roscommon)
Coca-Cola Doubles	D. & J. Kirby (Clare)	P. Reilly & O. Harrold (Kilkenny)
S.H.S.	C. Winders (Kildare)	P. McGarry (Limerick)
S.H.D.	P. McGarry and J. Bennis (Limerick)	C. Winders and G. Lawlor (Kildare)
J.S.S.	G. Scully (Galway)	J. B. Molloy (Meath)
J.S.D.	N. O'Brien & T. Morrissey (Tipp.)	P. Lennon & T. Doyle (Wexford)
J.H.S.	C. Quinn (Mayo)	J. Byrne (Dublin)
J.H.D.	E. Rabbitte & G. Scully (Galway)	L. Sherwin & G. O'Shaughnessy (Westmeath)
M.S.S.	T. Ryan (Tipperary)	J. McGovern (Meath)
M.S.D.	J. & M. McGovern (Meath)	T. Ryan & J. McCarthy (Tipperary)
M.H.S.	T. Ryan (Tipp.)	J. McGovern (Meath)
M.H.D.	T. Ryan & W. O'Donnell (Tipp)	M. Dowling & V. McDonnell (Kildare)
U. 21s	T. Quish (Limerick)	F. Carroll (Meath)
U. 21d	P. Clery & J. Fleming (Wexford)	T. & N. Ryan (Tipperary)
Novice S.	T. Quish & F.	J. Rossiter (Carlow)
Novice D.	T. Quish (Limerick)	R. Doyle & R. Willoughby (Wicklow).
	O'Toole (Limerick)	

40 x 20 Grade

	Winner	Runner-up
S.S.	P. Kirby (Clare)	—
S.D.	P. & M. Kirby (Clare)	S. Buggy & J. Goggins (Wexford)
J.D.	B. O'Brien & M. Aherne (Kerry)	J. Molloy & F. Carroll (Meath)
M.S.	T. Ryan (Tipp.)	J. McGovern (Meath)
M.D.	T. Ryan & M. Dwyer (Tipp.)	J. & M. McGovern (Meath)
N.S.	J. Doyle (Wexford)	T. Quish (Limerick)
N.D.	L. Swan & J. Doyle (Wexford)	J. O'Connor & J. P. Leen (Kerry)
Over 50 S.	M. Walsh (Mayo)	T. McDonald (Wicklow)
Over 50 D.	M. Walsh & N. Daly (Mayo)	V. Sherlock & N. O'Reilly (Clavin)

Inter-Provincial

Winner	Runner-up
Munster	Leinster

Gael-Linn

Winner	Runner-up
---------------	------------------

60 x 30 Grade

R. Lyng (Wexford)	P. Reilly (Kilkenny)
-------------------	----------------------

40 x 20 Grade

P. Kirby (Clare)	P. McGee (Mayo)
------------------	-----------------

Recipe for fitness (2)

FOR the second in our series of health giving recipes we feature that old Irish favourite

POTATO CAKES

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.

2 oz (50g) Flora, 2 oz (50g) plain flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ level teaspoon ($\frac{1}{2} \times 5$ ml spoon) salt, sieved together.

$\frac{1}{2}$ lb (200g) potato, cooked, mashed.

$\frac{1}{2}$ oz (15g) Flora, 2 oz (50g) cooked ham, lean, chopped, 1 small onion, peeled and chopped fried together.

1 teaspoon (1 x 5 ml spoon) mixed herbs.

Flora, for frying.

With a fork mix Flora and flour together. Stir in remaining ingredients. Turn mixture on to a lightly-floured surface, and roll out to 1 inch (2.5 cm) thickness. Cut into 8 rounds using a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch (7.5 cm) plain cutter. Melt a little Flora in frying pan and fry potato cakes on both sides until golden brown. Drain and keep warm.

Makes 8 potato cakes. (2)

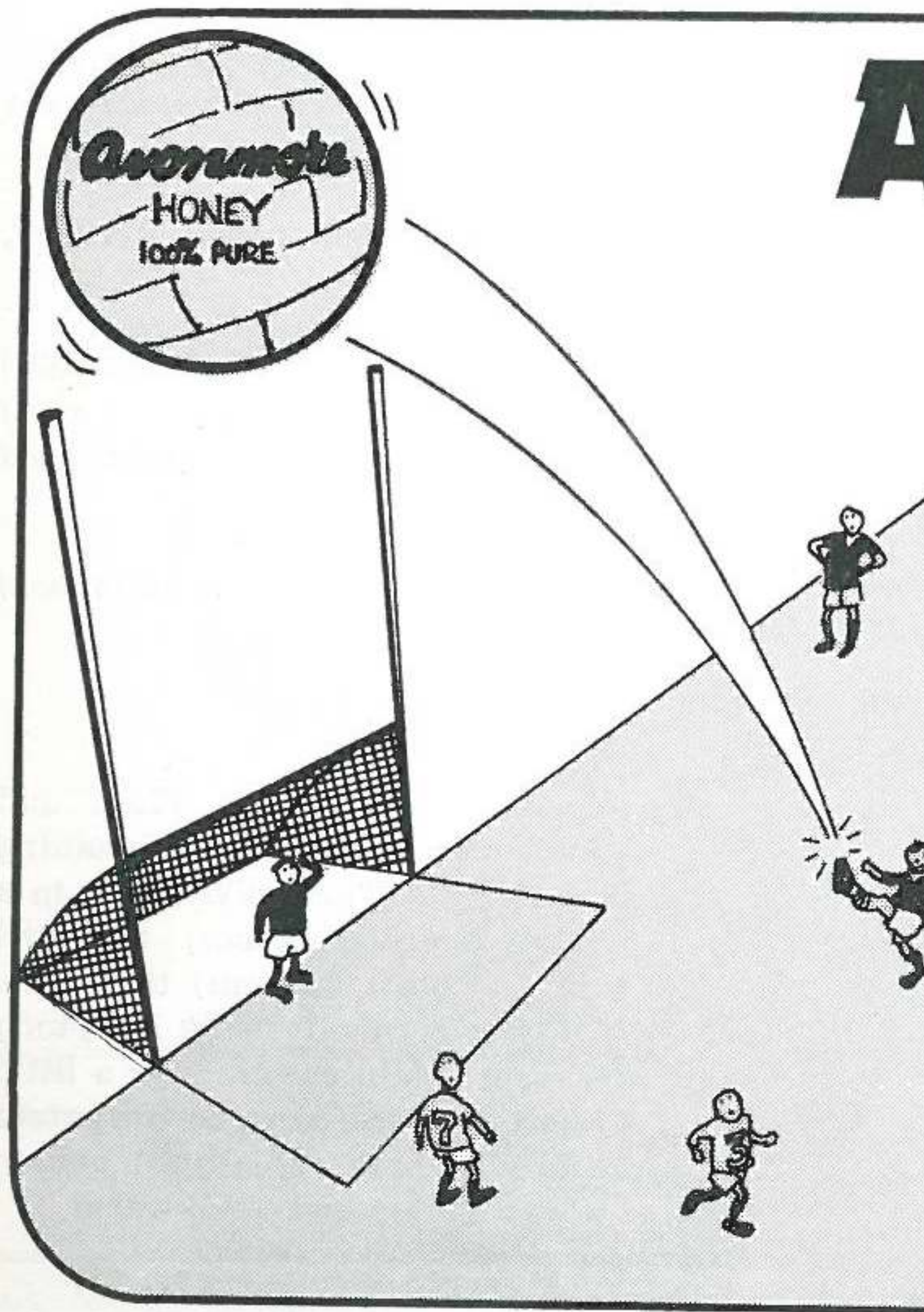
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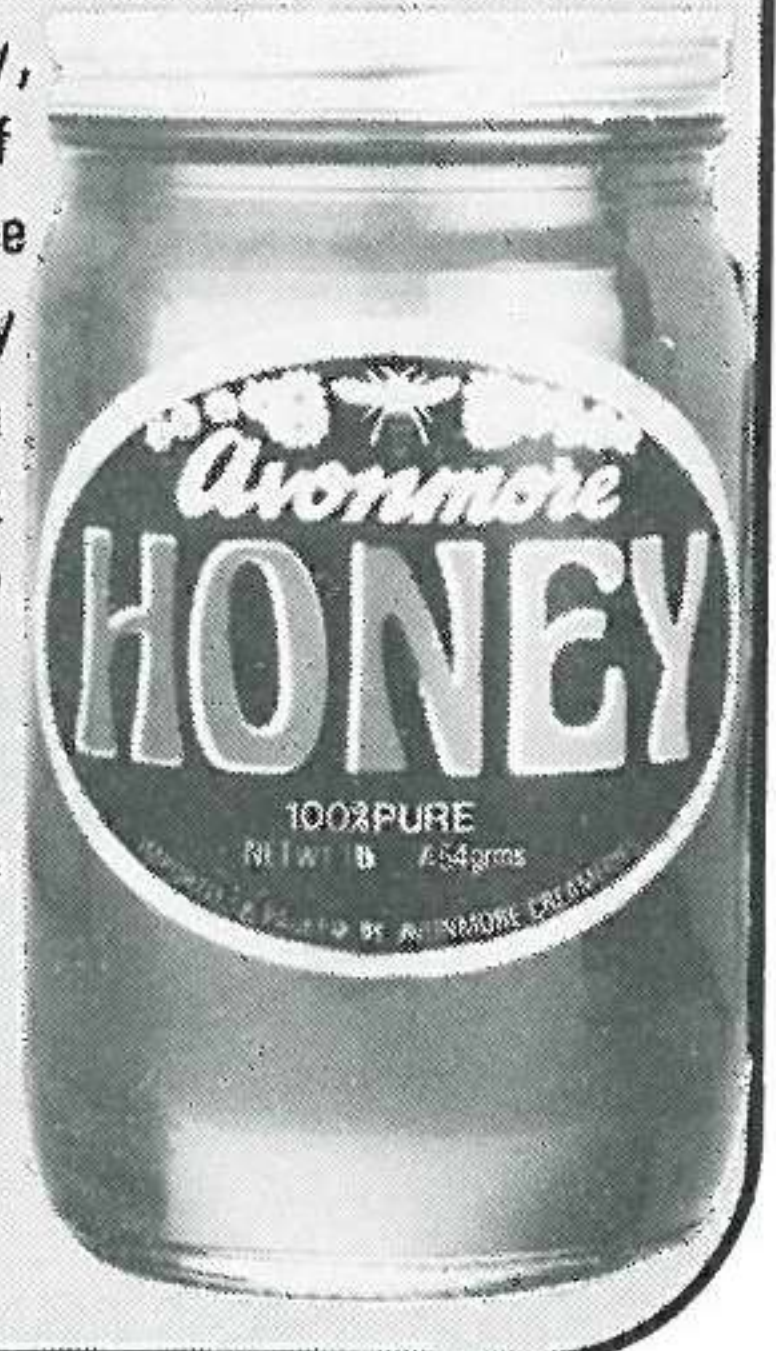


A soccer ball is shown in orbit above a soccer field. The ball has the Avonmore Honey logo on it. A player is shown kicking the ball, and another player is shown in the air. The field is depicted with a goal and a net. The scene is set within a rounded rectangular frame.

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A glass jar of Avonmore Honey. The label features the Avonmore logo and the word 'HONEY' in large letters. Below 'HONEY', it says '100% PURE' and 'NET WT 1 lb 7.54gms'. At the bottom of the label, it says 'Produced & Bottled by AVONMORE CREATIONS'.

SAVING MAKES SENSE

by ERIC HALL
Chairman, National Savings Co.

THE beginning of another New Year is always a good time to think about saving. And there has never been a better time for savers. Inflation has come down to single figures and interest rates are high.

In this article I will outline some of the State savings schemes which are available. For more detailed information about these schemes please write to the National Savings Committee, 72 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 for the free booklet "Secure Ways to Save".

The Post Office interest rate was recently increased to 7½%. There is no charge for handling your account and you are supplied with a Post Office Savings Book with which you can easily keep track as your savings rise. There are 1,400 Post Office Savings Banks throughout the country. A big advantage is the convenient opening hours which even include Saturday mornings. Up to £30 may be withdrawn daily and any amount by return of post. The first £70 of interest is tax free (£140 in the case of a husband and wife). One in four people in Ireland hold an active Post Office account and over £220 million is on deposit.

Index-Linked National Instalment-Saving

This is an excellent way of

saving by fixed monthly instalments. You agree to save between £1 and £50 every month for 12 months. You then leave the amount on deposit for two years when a tax-free bonus of 30% may be paid.

If you wish, you may of course leave your money on deposit for longer than this. If you do you are guaranteed the following returns:

- 40% after 3 years
- 50% after 4 years
- 70% after 5 years

Prospectuses and application forms for this scheme may be obtained at Post Offices, Trustee Savings Banks or direct from the National Instalment-Saving Section, Department of Posts and Telegraphs, College House, Townsend St., Dublin 2.

Index-Linked Savings Bonds

This is another Index-Linked Scheme especially for those aged 65 or over. The Bonds cost £10 each and should be held for at least one year. Savers are guaranteed a minimum tax-free return of 8% after one year, 16% after two years and 25% after three years.

Both of these schemes are Index-Linked which means that if inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index is higher than these minimum guaranteed returns then savers receive the

higher figure.

Saving Certificates may be bought for as little as a pound and up to £7,500 worth may be purchased. The current (9th) issue yields 8½% per annum averaged over five years. Interest is tax-free. Savings Certificates may be bought through Post Offices, banks and stockbrokers.

The Prize Bond fund is on the up and up. Over 400 prizes are won every month including £50,000, £25,000 and hundreds of others from £10,000 to £100. Prize Bonds cost £5 each and may be bought through Post Offices, banks and stockbrokers. Investment Bonds cost £10 each and pay 7½% per annum. There is no limit to the number which may be purchased. The average holding is £1,000. These also may be purchased through Post Offices, banks and stockbrokers.

Savings Stamps

Specially designed for small savers, particularly young people. Free booklets are supplied into which the stamps are put. Savings Stamps are available at Post Offices and cost 5p and 10p. For adults who wish to save towards the cost of a television licence a special booklet is available. Postage stamps (value 50p) can be fixed to the booklet.

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The objects of the Board are to improve and develop the Irish sea fishing industry.

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It also promotes investment from home and overseas sources aimed at keeping investment at sea and ashore apace with marketing opportunities.

The Boatbuilding Division of the Board engages in boatbuilding and the repair of vessels on a large scale at its yards in Killybegs, Baltimore and Dingle.



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Results Summary

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

U-21 Hurling Final Replay:
October 29: Limerick: Galway 3-15; Tipperary 2-8.

REPRESENTATIVE FOOTBALL

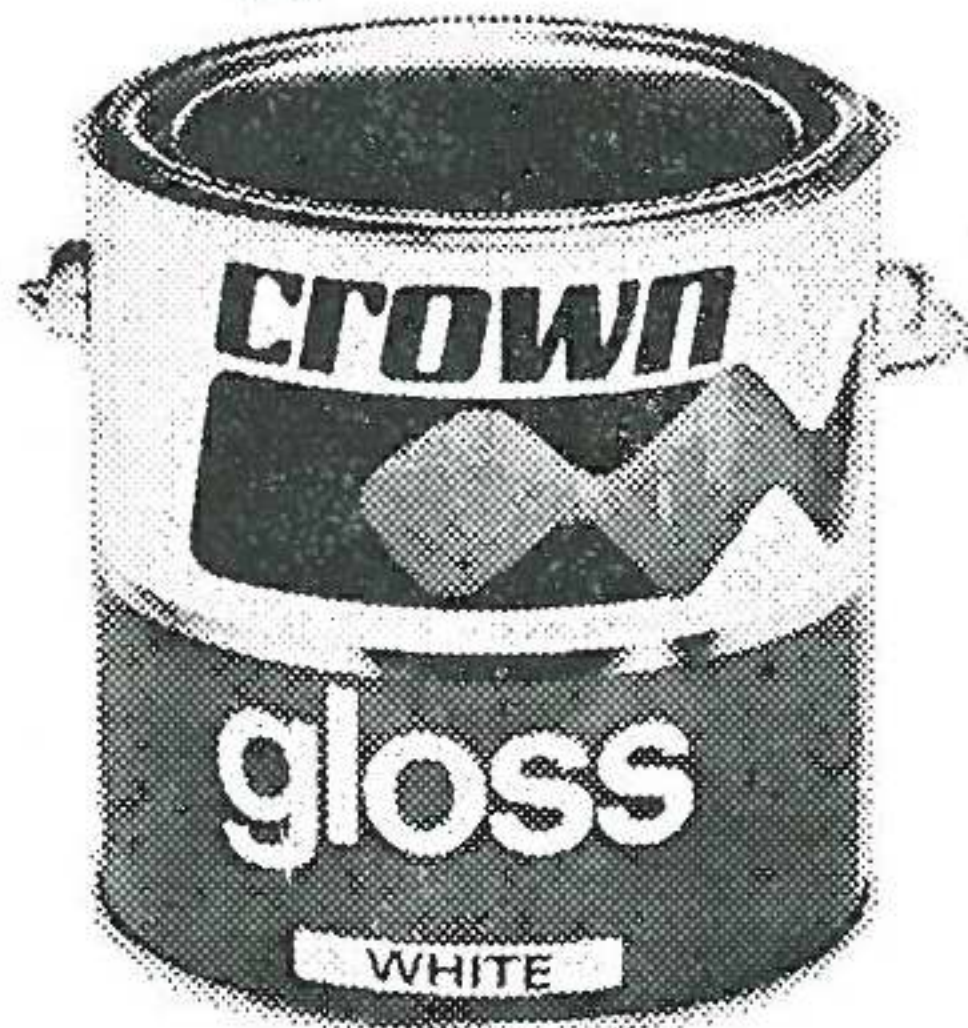
October 29: Cork: Kerry 3-9; Australia 0-16.

NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE

October 29: Birr: Offaly 3-10; Kilkenny 2-6. Waterford: Wexford 4-12; Waterford 2-12. Glencavel: Antrim 3-9; Dublin 4-5. Cork: Cork 0-18; Kildare 1-8. Carlow: Carlow 4-6; Laois 1-10.

● TO PAGE 40

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A customer advisory service has been introduced by the Kildare Co. in the recent past to assist customers in selecting a wallcovering to suit their needs. Details of this service can be obtained at your local wallpaper shop or by writing directly to the manufacturers.



ON THE HANDBALL FRONT



By SEAN CLERKIN

IT is always encouraging to find the minnows of sport making the headlines hence our kudos this month must go to the Wicklow Handball Team who made history recently by winning the National League Div I title for the first time. They thus took home the prestigious Willie Lyng Trophy, which was donated by the Lyng Family to commemorate a very able player, who prior to his death at an early age had represented Wexford with distinction on many occasions.

Indeed, it is interesting to note that Wicklow's game against Wexford, who were the holders, was the key to the destination of the title.

They met in the opening round and yielded an epic that was productive of the very best skills in handball. In the final analysis, Wicklow had two aces to spare and thus achieved a victory, bred from dedication and hard training.

It is no secret that the Wicklow boys had set their sights on the National League Title long before it started and had geared their training accordingly.

The only other success for Wicklow in Team Competition was in 1973 when the County beat Kildare in the Division 2 Final. Joe Clery, Paddy Lee and Dick Doyle who figured on that team were also stars in the latest success, though they had able allies in Robert Willoughby, Michael Dwyer and Liam Barnes.

Another notable victory, this time in the domain of women's handball was achieved quite recently by the Oldtown Club who won the All-Ireland Inter-Club championship for the fifth time in its six years existence.

That aside, I am disappointed however, that if one accepts this Championship as a yardstick, then the future for women's handball is not so bright.

Not alone was the number of entries down on other years but the standard of play was also below par.

The need for action is recognised by Ann Flynn, the President of the Women's Handball Council who, recently, made a dramatic call to all clubs to make a renewed and determined effort towards a revival of interest in the women's code.

Geraldine Hall, the young Oldtown player who played Rosemary Christofari in an international game in the USA some months back was somewhat disappointed with the promotion of the game for girls there.

Unlike the situation in this country, there is no organised handball for girls in the States.

This is rather a pity and would appear to rule out internationalism for women, at least in the immediate future.

An interesting and worthwhile development for young players in recent times was the introduction of a skills award scheme.

The initial concentration is on players in the under-14 age group and the purpose of the scheme is to improve the general standard of play.

The tests which are being conducted by clubs through the country are directed towards ten basic aspects of the game.

These consist of the underhand, overhand, sidearm passing, fly, kill, off hand and backwall shots, the straight serve and the rally.

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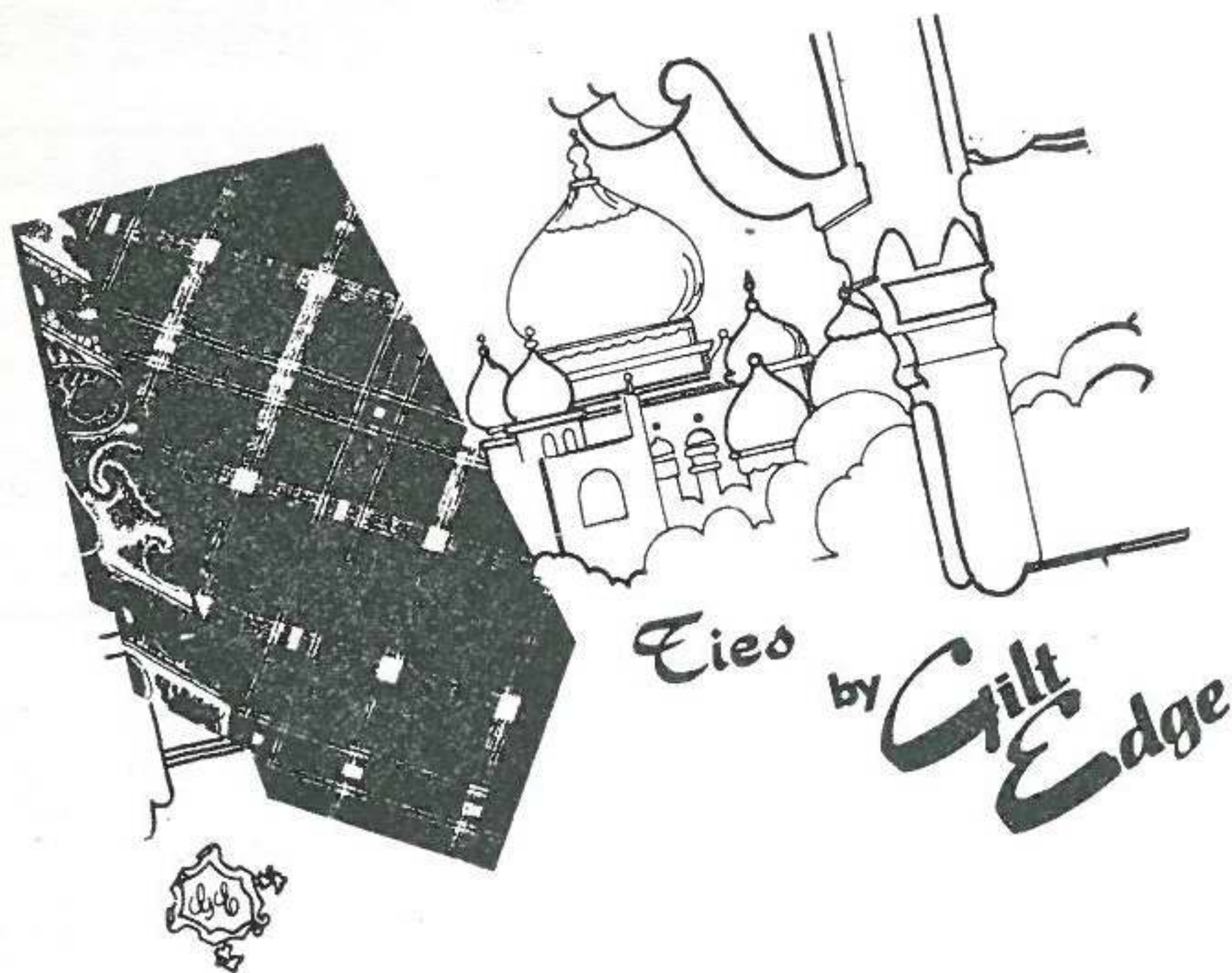
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CAMOGIE AFFAIRS

By
Agnes Hourigan

AT the start of 1978 the Central Council of the Camogie Association and its Fixtures Committee set out on what at first glance seemed an over ambitious effort to get all its inter-county competitions finished before the end of November. Especially when you remember that, in recent years, the arrangement had been, that the All-Ireland semi-finals and final of the club championship and the final of the National League had been officially fixed for the Spring.

In fact the 1977 finals of those competitions had been played in March 1978, so it seemed a kind of utopian dream to pack a whole season into at the most eight months.

How was it done? In the first place by drawing up a fixture list at the start of the year and sticking rigidly to it.

This could only be done of course with the willing co-operation of clubs, counties and provinces, and this was faithfully given. In addition to its normal schedule, the Fixtures Committee had to run off the Interprovincial Championship for the first time in two grades, senior and junior, and this too was successfully accomplished.

What was the secret of these achievements? Firstly, as I have said, a combination of advanced planning, followed by willing co-operation. Secondly, the decision to run the National League right through the season in conjunction with the championships, and no problem was found in doing so. Indeed, we had the remarkable situation that in 1978 two National League finals, and two All-Ireland club finals were played in the same year.

The wisdom of playing a majority of the National League games through the summer was quickly obvious, the earlier rounds proving a very valuable training ground for the championship. In addition the wisdom of allowing counties graded junior to play was proved by the improved standards in such counties as Down and Limerick.

Indeed, the greatest proof of the success of the National League is further proved by the fact that three more counties will be competing in the season ahead—Derry, Monaghan and Wicklow.

1978 was also a year that saw a number of young players come into the limelight, with a promise of even better days ahead for them in the future. Limerick had very promising starlets in

Bernadette O'Brien, Liz Hayes, Helen Mulcaire, Pauline McCarthy and the O'Sullivan sisters, while I was impressed by Cork's Claire Cronin, Eileen Kavanagh, Martha Kearney, Betty Joyce and Anne Delaney.

Clare had a rising star in Liz Condron, Wexford produced Deirdre and Fiona Cousins and Teresa Hobbs, while Dublin can look forward to even better performances in future from Mary Mernagh, Edel Murphy and Teresa McCann.

Kilkenny's young entry, as instanced by Margaret Farrell, Ann Holden and Jo Dunne is very promising too while Una Jordan and Bridie Cunniffe look likely to become very bright Galway stars. Impressive young Down players were Bernie Brown and Mary McGrath, while I liked the performances of two Antrim newcomers, Carol Blaney and Philomena Gillespie.

But both in Colleges, and junior intercounty ranks the Rising Star of 1978 was surely the very talented schoolgirl from Loreto Coleraine, the Swatragh Club and Derry's junior All-Ireland champions, Sarah Anne Quinn. She played magnificently in both the All-Ireland finals in which she figured.

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DUBLIN, CORK '79

AMONG an unusually large number of publications on Gaelic Games that are helping to brighten the close-season no end just now, two of the most colourful and exciting undoubtedly are **DUBLIN '79** and **CORK '79**, the official publications of their respective County Boards.

These Yearbooks are superbly produced, maintaining the high standard in this field that has long since been set by **GAELIC SPORT** Publications. They mirror in interesting and enjoyable style campaigns that were something special for both Dublin and Cork, and are enhanced by striking four colour covers.

Dublin did not, of course, keep in step with Cork by winning their third All-Ireland senior championship in a row, but that setback, and the county's subsequent failure to get through to the knock-out stages of the National League has only served to whet even greater interest in the footballing Dubs.

Tony Hanahoe, in fact, makes some very pertinent points in this regard in a wide-ranging

interview with Editor Tommy McQuaid. He talks, too, about Michael Sheehy's goal in the All-Ireland final, of the close call against Offaly in the Leinster championship, and about Kevin Moran's hamstring injury on final day.

Jimmy Gray, Chairman of the Dublin County Board, gets the book off on a "punchy" note with some straight from the shoulder comments on "some fringe or general type sports columnists" in a buoyant and confident foreword.

Paddy Downey analyses the Sheehy final goal, assisted by a sequence of eight stills from the RTE video recording of the final, published alongside his article.

Famed Dublin defender Robbie Kelleher deals with G.A.A. tours, while the top-class panel of leading contributors also includes Michael O Muircheartaigh, Pdraig Puirseal, Michael O'Hehir and Mick Dunne.

All in all excellent value.

DUBLIN '79. Official Publication of G.A.A. Dublin County Board. Editor and Cover Design:

Tommy McQuaid. Production by Gaelic Sport Publications, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin, 9. Price £1.

The Cork Yearbook must surely break new ground for publications of this nature with a special letter from An Taoiseach. Mr. Lynch extends congratulations to the Cork hurlers for their feat in winning their third-in-a-row All-Ireland final. He also has a "well done" for the three teams beaten in the course of the campaign and "especially to Clare who entered the fray in the Munster final with such high hopes only to have them dashed by such a narrow margin".

The Cork book, which spotlights not one but two great teams on its striking full colour cover, is more local generally in content than its Dublin counterpart. Practically all the contributors are natives of the Leaside, and there is a comprehensive coverage of events there, ranging from Bord na nOg to Inter-firm activities, from a review of the history of SCOR—the first Divisional final was in Mallow in 1969—to handball and camogie affairs.

Jim O'Sullivan, of the *Cork Examiner*, reviews a Year To Remember, Michael Ellard, also of the *Cork Examiner*, has some interesting comments on Cork football, while Brian Barrett tells of the strides being made to clear the debt on Pairc Ui Chaoimh.

I like the centre-spread showing the senior and minor All-Ireland title winning teams, and among the other features are very readable contributions from Eamonn Young, Tom Morrison and Fr. Michael O'Brien.

In his foreword, Donal O'Sullivan, Chairman of the County Board, writes:

"This Year Book should prove a worthwhile addition to the growing library of G.A.A. publications in Cork."

I could not agree more!

Edited by Tommy McQuaid, with Paddy Downey in charge of layout, the publication is a "steal" at a £1.

CORK '79. Official publication of the G.A.A. Cork County Board. Produced by Gaelic Sport Publications, 80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9. Price £1.

IRISH
NATIONAL
TEACHERS'
ORGANISATION



I.N.T.O.



The President and Central Executive Committee of the Irish National Teachers' Organisation wish to convey felicitations and best wishes to members who participate in and organise Gaelic games.

THE EDDIE KEHER STORY

EVEN in these days when any item no matter how small, appears to be very costly, a price tag of £5 for the hard-backed Mercier Press publication, **EDDIE KEHER'S HURLING LIFE**, by **ULTAN MACKEN**, is somewhat on the dear side. But it would be a real pity if that puts anyone off buying this well produced 146 page volume, for it makes fascinating reading.

With the Kilkenny stylist having been such a dynamic part of the hurling scene for so long, the author had rich material on which to work. He tells us in his introduction that the book "not only looks at the hurling life of Eddie Keher, but also examines the history of Kilkenny hurling and the team of which Eddie Keher was an important part".

It is to the credit of the author, who was born in Galway in 1943, that he has achieved this in a very enjoyable and informative fashion.

Top matches and prominent hurlers come into focus, and we learn much as well about Eddie Keher the man rather than the hurler. For instance, his mother remembers that her son was barely walking when he first took a hurley in his hand.

We learn many other interesting facets about Eddie's hurling childhood, his years at St. Kieran's College, his early days in the county colours as a minor and a senior, and the story behind his debut with Kilkenny in the premier inter-county grade.

Would Limerick have beaten Kilkenny in the 1973 Liam McCarthy Cup summit if the Noresiders had not been deprived of men of the calibre of Jim Treacy, Eddie Keher, Eamonn Morrissey and Kieran Purcell for a variety of reasons?

That is a question that has been debated time and again since that glory-day for the Shannonsiders, and no doubt is one that will

cause many an argument as long as hurling is played. To Eddie Keher's credit he does not shirk taking a stand on this issue.

The chance-snapper supreme reveals as well that winning the League is not really important for Kilkenny hurling. He tells us that the feeling in the county generally is that if the team does alright in the League, "fine", but it is not that important. What is important is to win the All-Ireland.

Eddie Keher also tells of his decision to retire, and to be involved in the G.A.A. just as much as is physically possible. He has some advice as well for youngsters starting off in the game.

The book has a great deal more to offer. There are some telling observations from Fr. Tommy Maher, the famed Kilkenny coach, as well as enjoyable quotes from newspaper reports of the games that Keher played in.

There is an interesting centre-spread of photographs that cover many highlights in the career of Keher, from his early days with Inistioge school team to his wedding day and action from some of his many games.

The book is superbly produced by Mercier Press Dublin and Cork, and is set off in a striking two colour dust cover.

Make a point of buying a copy. It will make enjoyable reading, and is the type of book that one can refer to again and again in the years ahead for reference to past happenings, and also as an enjoyable way of reliving some of hurling's big moments since the early 'sixties.

EDDIE KEHER'S HURLING LIFE, A biography of the famous Kilkenny hurler, by **ULTAN MACKEN**. Published by the **Mercier Press, Dublin and Cork**. Price £5.



Lucht déanta
na
mBrioscaí.

Results Summary

● FROM PAGE 34

Tralee: Westmeath 2-7; Kerry 0-4. Trim: Meath 3-3; Wicklow 1-9.

November 12: Enniscorthy: Clare 3-11; Wexford 3-8. Kilkenny: Kilkenny 3-12; Waterford 4-7. Limerick: Limerick 2-14; Offaly 0-8. Rathdowney: Tipperary 3-15; Laois 1-3. Croke Park: Cork 4-11; Dublin 2-11. Athy: Kildare 3-13; Carlow 4-8. Aughrim: Wicklow 2-5; Roscommon 1-8. Delvin: Westmeath 3-11; Meath 2-7. Ballycran: Kerry 2-3; Down 1-5.

November 19: Limerick: Limerick 1-8; Kilkenny 0-10. Croke Park: Dublin 2-11; Kildare 0-9.

November 26. Tulla: Clare 0-10 Kilkenny 0-6. Birr: Offaly 1-9; Galway 0-12. Dungarvan: Waterford 4-10; Limerick 3-3. Cork: Cork 1-11; Antrim 0-10. Carlow: Dublin 5-9; Carlow 0-4. Thurles: Tipperary 5-11; Kildare 3-5.

December 10. Ballinasloe: Galway 2-5; Limerick 0-11.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

October 29: Armagh: Armagh 8-14; Westmeath 1-5. Waterford: Wicklow 2-10; Waterford 1-8.

November 5: Ballyhaunis: Mayo 1-6; Tyrone 0-9. Casement Park: Cavan 2-12; Antrim 2-7. Newry: Down 1-8; Roscommon 0-9. Tralee: Kerry 7-8; Kildare 0-7. Galway: Galway 0-12; Cork 1-9. Croke Park: Dublin 3-15; Laois 0-11. Bellaghy: Derry 3-11; Armagh 4-6. Drogheda: Louth 1-6; Monaghan 0-8. Ballymahon: Fermanagh 3-10; Longford 2-6. Ballyshannon: Donegal 0-16; Leitrim 0-5. Navan: Offaly 3-11; Meath 0-6. Doonbeg: Limerick 1-14; Clare 1-12. Carlow: Wexford

1-13; Carlow 2-8. Danesfort, Kilkenny: Wicklow 3-13; Kilkenny 0-7.

November 19: Croke Park: Kildare 2-11; Dublin 0-6. Portlaoise: Galway 1-12; Laois 1-7. Cavan: Cavan 1-13; Mayo 2-5. Kiltoom: Roscommon 2-12; Antrim 1-5. Newcastle: Down 1-7; Tyrone 1-7. Cork: Cork 3-10; Kerry 2-5. Carrickmacross: Monaghan 2-15; Westmeath 1-6. Armagh: Armagh 4-11; Louth 1-7. Tullamore: Offaly 1-12; Clare 0-5. Carrick-on-Shannon: Sligo 0-17; Leitrim 1-6. Lisnaskea: Fermanagh 0-12; Donegal 0-9. Askalon: Limerick 0-8; Tipperary 1-4. Aughrim: Wicklow 1-12; Waterford 2-6. New Ross: Wexford 5-12; Kilkenny 1-4.

November 26: Baltinglass: Wexford 1-13; Wicklow 1-10.

December 3: Omagh: Tyrone 3-3; Cavan 1-4. Ballinrobe: Roscommon 1-9; Mayo 0-5. Casement Park: Down 3-2; Antrim 1-7. Newbridge: Cork 1-11; Kildare 0-6. Tralee: Kerry 6-11; Laois 0-0. Tuam: Galway 0-5; Dublin 0-5. Cooley: Derry 1-9; Louth 0-8. Castletowngeoghegan: Armagh 4-6; Westmeath 0-8. Ballybofey: Donegal 0-11; Longford 0-8. Tubbercurry: Fermanagh 1-11; Sligo 0-3. Kilrush: Meath 1-11; Clare 2-4. Templemore: Offaly 2-10; Tipperary 1-7. Kilkenny: Carlow 6-4; Kilkenny 4-2.

December 10: Cork: Cork 2-10; Dublin 0-5. Killarney: Kerry 2-6; Galway 0-7. Danesfort, Kilkenny: Wexford 6-17; Kilkenny 1-5.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Provincial Finals

LEINSTER: Football: November 26: Croke Park: Walsh Island, Offaly 2-9; St. Joseph's, Laois 3-5. **Hurling:** December 3: Carlow: Shamrocks, Kilkenny 1-12; Crumlin, Dublin 1-6.

CONNACHT: Hurling: December 3: Athleague: Ardrahan,

Galway 2-9; Tooreen, Mayo, 1-7.

Munster: Hurling: December 3: Cork: Blackrock, Cork 3-8; Newmarket-on-Fergus, Clare 1-8.

CAMOGIE

Gael-Linn Cup finals: October 29: Dublin: Senior: Leinster 4-9; Connacht 2-2. Junior: Munster 3-2; Ulster 2-1.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Final: November 12: Adare: Kilkenny 2-4; Limerick 1-5.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

All-Ireland semi-finals: November 5: Athenry: Buffer's Alley, Wexford 2-6; Athenry 0-8. Randalstown: Ballyagran, Limerick 4-3; Portglenone, Antrim 2-5.

Final: November 19: Monamolin: Ballyagran, Limerick 1-3; Buffer's Alley, Wexford 0-1.

HANDBALL

National League

November 5: Clonmel: Tipperary bt Cork. Arklow: Wicklow bt Kildare.

November 12: Cappagh: Limerick bt Offaly. Cullen: Clare bt Cork.

November 26: **Final:** Talbot's Inch: Wicklow (R. Willoughby, R. Doyle, L. Barnes, M. Dwyer, P. Lee, J. Clery) bt Limerick (D. Flaherty, G. Martin, T. Quish, F. O'Toole, P. McGarry, M. Hogan) 106-86.

All-Ireland Club Championships

Finals: November 19: Senior 60 x 30: Croke Park: Roscommon (M. Walsh, D. Doolin, J. O'Brien, B. Colleran) bt Talbot's Inch (O. Harrold, A. Greene, C. Young, B. Reade) 105-59.

Novice 60 x 30: Moneygall: Baldonnell bt Limerick.

Novice 40 x 20: Moneygall: Enniscorthy bt Capwell.



JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON

FIRST of all some book reviews.

Score — Official magazine of Down G.A.A. The October issue was, as usual, bright, breezy and well produced. I liked the article by Joy Williams (Head of Sport B.B.C. North) and Sean Magorian's article on Val Kane and as usual Feargal McCormack's Junior Scene.

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

The Treaty Gael—Limerick's own Quarterly G.A.A. Magazine. I received the last three issues of this at the same time. The latter two were launched as the official programmes for the Limerick Co. Senior Finals. Buy all three for 70p from **Sean Murphy, Editor, Villa Maria, Lower Park, Limerick.**

A Decade of Galway Inter-Firm G.A.A. is a very well produced official publication which recalls many of the glories of this very fine Galway Committee. Printed on art paper and containing a host of good photos, it is a great buy for 75p. (Cost 90p includes postage from **Criostóir Mac Gearailt, 20 Rockbarton Park, Galway.**)

The Armagh Camogie Story is a marvellous record of Camogie and its sound state in that county. The pictorial section is excellent. This book is worth getting and costs £1. Copies can be had from **P. J. Toner, 30 Niall's Crescent, Armagh.**

IN BRIEF

In passing I want to say how impressed I am with the new Skills Scheme introduced by Coisde na nÓg. Tell me how you like it. Now that the Carrolls All Star is no more I want to pay tribute to their Public Relations

Manager, Pat Heneghan, for the style he imposed on the whole idea from start to finish. The Carrolls All Star Banquet was at all times a marvellous night to remember.

I want to pay tribute also to the fine Gaelic Stadium programme being presented every Saturday by Mick Dunne.

It is good to see Colm Browne as our Colour Cut-Out this month, especially as Laois have been going through such a bad patch in senior football. But with players of the class of Colm Browne they should soon get back into the premier division of the League.

John F. Lyons, Creggane, Balinasloe, Co. Galway, praises Séamus Aldridge for his handling of the All-Ireland Final (F.) and criticises some of the Hill 16 crowd for throwing the smoke bomb onto Croke Park. John feels Mikey Sheehy's goal was unfair "but it was Paddy Cullen's own fault because he was going out to the referee when he should have been in goal minding his own business." John praises Mikey Sheehy for his quick thinking and selects Paudie Lynch as his favourite Kerry player.

● *I find myself in agreement with much of your sentiments. Mikey Sheehy's opportunism and great skill has to be admired but as you say was it a fair goal? Gay McManus scored a similar goal on the following Sunday in the Galway S.F. final and it was rightly disallowed. You win a Galway Bob-cap. (J.M.)*

Joe Tyner, Woodfield, Clonalkilty, Co. Cork, thinks the best

players on the Cork hurling team are Charlie McCarthy, Gerald McCarthy, Tom Cashman and John Horgan. His favourite footballers are Mikey Sheehy, Pat Spillane and Eoin Liston.

● *I saw Eoin Liston play his first game for Kerry v. Offaly in the 1977-78 N.F.L. in Tralee. Little did I think then that he would be a household name to-day. (J.M.)*

John O'Donovan, Bohernamona Rd., Thurles, Co. Tipperary, is a Corkman living in Thurles and wants to know where he can get cassette recordings of all or any of Cork's recent All-Irelands. John will pay for these.

● *Cassette fans please note. (J.M.)*

Vincent Cronin, Durrus, Bantry, Co. Cork, writes for the first time and selects his All-Ireland stars as Pat Spillane and Tim Crowley and wants a Cut-out of Martin Coleman. Vincent is only seven years old, and has been to Páirc Uí Chaoimh already with his Daddy. He is very proud of Declan Barron from Bantry and thinks very highly of John Horgan, "his hurler of the year". Another player he admires is Eoin Liston.

● *You win a copy of Cork '79 for such a fine letter. (J.M.)*

Declan Cronin, brother of Vincent, thought the All-Ireland F. final "a bit dirty" and felt Eoin Liston should have been man of the match. His father was at the hurling final and brought back a lovely badge in the Cork colours and the programme of the game. Declan's star was Tim Crowley. Finally Declan wants a Cut-out

● **OVERLEAF**

● **FROM OVERLEAF**

of Ray Cummins.

James Jackman, 36 Ferrybank, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, thinks Kerry's fierce determination was the match winner. His stars of the game were Pat Spillane and Kevin Moran. James pays a deserved tribute to the Evening Herald for their 5 page special supplement with team photos in colour on the Friday before the game. "I was at Croker but was disappointed after last year's epic semi-final. The atmosphere was marvellous and the Mayo v. Dublin minor final thrilled the big crowd with fast open football."

● *I enjoyed that Evening Herald supplement no end and was able to congratulate the Sports Editor of that paper when I met him in Independent House on the eve of the final. (J.M.)*

Pat Twomey, Currahy, Ballingearry, Co. Cork—"Eoin Liston is a great goal getter. I am now filling my fourth scrapbook and I want the August '76 "GAELIC SPORT" where Jimmy Barry-Murphy is a Cut-out. When did you play for Galway and in what position? My players of the year are Mike Sheehy and Tom Cashman."

● *Centre half back was my favourite position and I played there for Galway from 1955-1960 with the exception of two or three games. Send a P.O. for 40p to the address at the end of Junior Desk for the August 1976 Gaelic Sport you require. (J.M.)*

Josephine Rodgers, Fortunestown House, Saggart, Co. Dublin—"My Dad brings me and my brothers to nearly all the Dublin matches. I play in a girls' football team in Saggart. My favourite players are Bobby Doyle and Jimmy Keaveney. I use a copy for a scrapbook and keep it safely. Last year Bobby Doyle, Jimmy Keaveney, Sean Doherty and Kevin Moran came to Saggart with the Sam Maguire Cup and I got their autographs."

● *Josephine your grand letter wins you a copy of the Dublin Year Book for 1979. (J.M.)*

Harry Kavanagh, Kish Cottage,

Arklow, Co. Wicklow—"I went to the Munster final this year on one of two buses that travelled from Arklow to Thurles. Tom Cashman was brilliant and John Horgan's long distance frees marvellous. As for Clare, Séamus Durack starred and Ger Loughnane was wonderful. But the Leinster hurling final was the game of the year for skilful hurling and nail-biting excitement and stars in Fan Larkin, Dick O'Hara, Ger Henderson, Joe Hennessy, Billy Fitzpatrick, Christy Keogh, Ned Buggy and Johnny Murphy."

● *Yes the Leinster final was the game I enjoyed best this year. Your letter Harry wins you a copy of the Our Games Annual just out. (J.M.)*

Edward O'Brien, 15 Fairlawn Park, Finglas, Dublin, 11, tells me he has just got a big lot of newspaper cuttings, photos, etc., from the period 1960-'64, a lot dealing with '63 All Ireland Galway v. Dublin. Edward is a member of the Programme Collectors' Club and wants the address of Sam Melbourne. He is collecting old G.A.A. scrapbooks for the period 1950-'65.

● *Would some reader send on Sam Melbourne's address please. (J.M.)*

Peter Hoyne, Millview, Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, tells about the visit of Cork's Martin Doherty to his school, Gormanston, last year and of the recent visit of past-pupil "Ogie" Moran and some of his team-mates including Eoin Liston with the Sam Maguire Cup on the morning after the final. "They had their breakfast in Gormanston." Finally Peter pays great tribute to "Fan" Larkin.

● *It must have been a great thrill to have the All-Ireland captain and the Cup in your school the morning after the big day. (J.M.)*

Martin Carley, aged 11, 1 Glenview, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath—"M. Sheehy's goal was the turning point in the F. final. Séamus Aldridge should be praised for an excellent job. My star players were Jack O'Shea, Ger Power and Pat Spillane. Once again Mick Dunne did a

great job on GAELIC STADIUM. This is my best football team since 1974: P. Cullen, G. O'Driscoll, J. O'Keeffe, G. O'Keeffe, T. J. Gilmore, K. Moran, G. Power, B. Mullins, J. Kiernan, J. B. Murphy, T. Hanahoe, L. Sammon, M. Sheehy, J. Keaveney, B. Doyle.

● *Mick Dunne got deserved praise from Tom O'Dea (Irish Press T.V. critic) for his All-Ireland F. Gaelic Stadium. (J.M.)*

Tony Doyle, Claremount, Clarecastle, Co. Clare, wants a copy of a book entitled "Hours of Glory" by Arthur McGahon published around 1958. It concerned epic All-Ireland finals and had a vivid account of the 1932 Clare v. Kilkenny final.

● *I remember buying this book but have mislaid it. Perhaps some reader can help. (J.M.)*

Sean Hickey, Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork was delighted Kerry won the F. final and thought the atmosphere at the H. final brilliant. In Barry's Hotel (which is known to us Cork supporters as the Cork hotel) we had great fun together. "I agree with C.I.E. We are the best behaved fans in Ireland. It was 3-in-a-row and there was no one going round causing trouble. Martin Doherty was brilliant, with Tim, Gerald, Moys' and the Bombshell helping courageously. On our way home in the train missiles were thrown at the train by some Dublin youths but we didn't fire back."

● *That's the stuff Sean. You win a copy of Cork '79. Tell me who are Moy's and the Bombshell? I stayed in the Ashling the night before the H. final and it was all Cork too. (J.M.)*

Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O. Co. Donegal, an avid collector of programmes and G.A.A. books of any kind, would love to buy old copies of Carbery's Annuals.

● *Carbery's Annual by the late and great P. D. Mehigan was an annual Christmas treat in my younger days. He had a lovely style and was so obviously immer-*

sed in his subject. Padhraic Puirseal (Irish Press) resembles him in so many ways. (J.M.)

Christopher Cunningham, 16, Wingfield St., Gorse Hill, Stretford, Manchester, England. Congratulations to the victorious Galway U-21 hurlers. What a remarkable year for Connacht with Mayo Minors (F.), Roscommon U.21 (F.) St. Jarlath's College, Tuam (Colleges F.) and now Galway's U-21 H. success. What Connacht needs now is the Sam Maguire Cup and the Liam McCarthy Cup West of the Shannon. I had only one reply to my last letter in **GAELIC SPORT** (October) re tapes I wanted. That was from Tom Gleeson in the U.S.A."

● Yes we are very proud in the West and look forward to the year ahead in football and hurling. (J.M.)

Sheila Harnett (Age 13), Kilconlea, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick who is a great follower of the Dubs, wants a poster of this year's Dubs team. She is glad they beat the Aussies after the 2 Kerry defeats. Sheila's ideal footballer "is and always be" Tony Hanahoe.

● Now there Tony! A fold out poster entitled "The Battle of the Giants" carrying a colour photo of the Dubs can be had for 50p from An Siopa C.L.C.G., Pairc an Chrocaigh, Ath Cliath, 3. (J.M.)

Pat Treacy (Aged 11), Carrig Mor, Church Rd., Ballybunion, Co. Kerry. "This year I went to my first All-Ireland. My mother got me a Cusack Stand ticket. When my friend Eoin Liston scored his first goal my mother was under the Stand getting a cup of tea. When she came back we spilt her tea and broke her glasses! But when Eoin scored the third goal we nearly invaded the pitch. We met Eoin's brother Sean after the match and he was overjoyed. My men of the match were Jack O'Shea, Pat Spillane, Sean Walsh, John O'Keeffe, and Eoin Liston. What a thrill it was when the Sam Maguire Cup came to Ballybunion on the Wed. night after the game. Our U-12 team togged out in club colours and we marched in front of the pipe

band, Ogie, Mick O'Dwyer and Eoin gave great speeches. But really Eoin Liston bombed Dublin. He trains our U-12 team sometimes and we are in the North Kerry final. The people of Kerry are sure that Kerry will be in the Final next year but please God Jack if they are in the final I hope their opponents will be Galway. I will send you a picture of myself, Ogie and Eoin with the Sam Maguire."

● It's a long time Pat since I printed a letter in full But this was such a genuine letter of county pride and sheer adulation of Kerry and Eoin Liston that it wins top prize of a Kerry Scarf and Bob-cap. And what a lovely idea it was to have the U-12 teams lead the parade. And in *Ainm Dé* did ye break your mother's glasses? (J.M.)

Liam Hickey, Ballincarr, Dolla, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary wants a picture of Ray Cummins who is his favourite hurler and wants him as a future Cut-out.

● Ray is a great footballer too and the fact that he has concentrated so much on hurling in recent years has been a big loss to Cork football. (J.M.)

Paul Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly tells me his club Moneygall were responsible for the production of the programme for the Tipperary S.H. semi final and that he himself was the top seller with 198. He was also the youngest seller. Paul is glad too to see Jim Guilfoyle of Moneygall selected for Tipperary. Paul's All Ireland stars were Pat Spillane, Eoin Liston and Mike Sheehy in that order. He is playing at corner back for the Roscrea C.B.S. Rice Cup team.

● Selling programmes is great. My own son Pearse aged 12 sells them at all the major Pearse Stadium game in Salthill for the man in charge Michael Dolan. The profits from this year Galway Co. S.H. Final programme (draw) yielded almost £250 and went to the Galway Coisde Iomána. (J.M.)

Teresa Byrne, Spynans, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow is full of praise for Michael O'Hehir who really

makes a match so interesting and puts so much life into it".

● Teresa I agree in toto. I keep repeating it. We will never have another Michael O'Hehir. When I was young I longed for the day when I would meet him and better still hoped he would be talking about me if and when I ever played for Galway. He means so much to so many Irish men and women. (J.M.)

Marie Boran, Lismorane, Foxford, Co. Mayo who writes in glowing language of the All Ireland and of Kerry saying "they had unlimited determination, superhuman dedication and always driving them on that great mountain of tradition". She describes the preliminaries and the most significant moment for her "the playing of Amhrán na bhFiann. The T.V. cameras linger over the faces of the players. The utter determination on the face of Ger Power, Pat O'Neill calm and quiet, Mikey Sheehy straight as a rush the eyes lifted towards the flag, it epitomised it all and the look on his face convinced me this was Kerry's day. By the way I agree with your rating of Mikey Sheehy as the best footballer in Ireland. I never knew Paudie but if he was better then he was great".

● Yes Paudie was a great footballer and a great sportsman. Like Mikey he could almost make the ball talk. Your letter wins you the *Our Games* and the *G.A.A. Diary*. (J.M.)

Aidan Cloake, 52, Bayview Ave., North Strand, Dublin 3 enclosed the Wexford S.H. Final programme edited by John Quigley "I think he did a great job on it" I joined the Programme Collectors' Club in Croke Park last February and have got no reply yet".

● Aidan you should have heard from Croke Park by now and have got a fine bundle of programmes. Yes the Wexford programme is a fine effort. (J.M.)

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow one of our oldest re-

● OVERLEAF

● FROM OVERLEAF

liables tells us he was at both All-Ireland finals and says the hurling highlights were Tim Crowley's long range point and Billy Fitzpatrick's great goal. "Mike Sheehy's goal was the turning point in the football final. Eoin Liston was my man of the match. What a second half Kevin Moran had for Dublin." Gerry plays great tribute to Dublin and feels their hectic schedule since 1974 finally caught up with them in '78. He suggests Anton O'Toole or Brian Mullins as centre half back for Dublin in '79.

● *Fine letter as usual Gerry. You win a copy of Dublin '79. (J.M.)*

John Leogue, (13) Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly named Kerry's All-Ireland stars as Eoin "3 goals" Liston, John Egan, Tim Kennelly, Jacko Shea and Ger Power with Kevin Moran, Dublin's lone star. "The minor final was better than the senior game and Mayo deserve credit for their fight back. Their stars were A. Garvey, J. Maughan and K. O'Malley while Dublin's best were P. Camavan, S. Fleming and C. Griffin. J. Dennigan's refereeing in the minor final was excellent while Seamus Aldridge did well too. The goal I liked best was Eoin Liston's second which was excellently worked."

● *Jimmy Dennigan was on the G.A.A. Referee's tour of the U.S. with me in October. His interest in refereeing is total. Indeed the same can be said of all the referees on tour. I'm glad you praised the minors. (J.M.)*

Donal Ring, Coolavokig, Lissacreasig, Macroom, Co. Cork writes about his hurling final stars Tim Crowley, J. B. Murphy, Ger Henderson and Frank Cummins. Donal would have liked **more** action replays on telly. He was disappointed with the "Sunday Independent" for not bringing back colour photos for the occasion but he pays tribute to the "Cork Examiner" and the "Corkman". Re the football final Donal asks what's a quick free and condemns the excessive crowd reaction to Paddy Cullen and also felt Kerry's first goal was something of a fluke and he feels too that the right two weren't sent off after the goalmouth incident.

Eoin Liston certainly had a dream All-Ireland but Pat Spillane was my man of the match. He was absolutely everywhere Kevin Moran was Dublin's star. In the minor game I liked Dublin's gesture of staying ON the field for the presentation of the Cup. Finally Dublin will be back and congrats to Mick Dunne on a great **Gaelic Stadium** before the F. final. The "Sunday Independent" had some great cartoons of the players".

● *Its so hard to leave out any of these wonderful letters. You win a G.A.A. Diary Donal. (J.M.)*

Michael Keane, Moyglass, Loughrea, Co. Galway thinks Iggy Clarke is the best hurler in Ireland. "Mattie Conneely is a future Galway star and my favourite footballers are Eoin Liston and Gay McManus.

● *Nearly every letter mentions Eoin. He will soon be as popular as J. B. Murphy. (J.M.)*

Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway feels Galway football is at a low ebb and tells me he saw me at the U-21 H. final replay in Limerick.

● *Wasn't that a great game? A great day for Galway hurling.*

T. Murphy, Ballydaly Lower, Rathmore, Co. Kerry gloatingly tells us he tipped Kerry and Cork to win the All-Irelands.

● *So you did. (J.M.)*

J. J. Ryan, Top Cross, Lisgoold, Leamlara, Co. Cork feels an awful lot more should have been made of the Aussies trip to Ireland and talks of J. B. Murphy's great successes since he joined Cork footballers in '73. He has **seven** Munster senior medals in a row, 4 All-Irelands and 5 All Stars. "Mick Spillane teaches me P.E. Ray Cummins has 10 Munster S. medals, 5 All-Ireland S., 3 Railway Cup, 2 All-Ireland S. club and 5 All Star awards. I got your autograph from Bob Sullivan who takes us to our U-14 and U-16 games. You met him outside Croke Park."

● *That's true J.J. I remember meeting Bob. Isn't it great to have an All-Ireland man teaching you? And a fine player he is too. (J.M.)*

Ciaran Kelleher, Kilmore, Ballingearry, Co. Cork, is 12 years old and writes to J.D. for the first time. He plays full back for Ballingearry U-12's and loves John

Horgan for his long frees and J. Barry-Murphy "because when he gets a chance he takes it."

● *He sure does and we know that here in Galway in both football and hurling. (J.M.)*

Billy Mahony, 41, Tudor Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex wants to buy a tape recording of the 1978 All Ireland football final

John O'Driscoll, Ballingearry, Macroom, Co. Cork wants a photo of Cork's F. team of 1973. Declan Barron is his favourite footballer and Tim Crowley is No. 1 in Hurling. "Paddy O'Driscoll is related to me."

● *Fáilte to the club. (J.M.)*

Jim McGuinness, 318 Pinebank, Craigavon, Co. Armagh in a long letter likes Junior Desk, wants more colour photos and more about clubs. Scrapbooks seem to be a great craze. I started compiling in 1968 and have 5". Jim is a very keen follower and record keeper or statistician of his club Clan na nGael, Lurgan's achievements and is now keen on getting 8 mm. films of G.A.A. games. His favourite county team is Dublin and his favourite player Mike Sheehy. "What I admire most about Mike is his sportsmanship, he never retaliates no matter how hard the tackle".

Finally Jim asks what was the highest score **ever** recorded in a gaelic football match between two county teams in the light of Armagh's 8-13 to 1-5 win over Westmeath recently.

● *Where are you Owen McCann? (J.M.)*

Our final letter — a second one — comes from Harry Kavanaugh and he asks for two more pages for Junior Desk. He pays tribute to the marvellous fielding of D. Barron in the Munster F. final and tells of meeting Seanie O'Leary and his sister Mary at the Cork v. Wicklow junior Camogie semi final on Sept. 10th and the great chat he had with the Cork star.

Well that's the MAILBAG for another month. Keep writing to us. Write to:—

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

And a very happy New Year to you all.



**Colm
Browne
Laois**

Age: 21

Height: 5ft 9ins.

Weight: 11st 7lb.

**Position: Right
half back**

Club: Portlaoise

**Senior Inter-
County Debut:
1976**

**CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS**

Colm is a former Colleges' player, having appeared with the Ballyfin senior team. He played in the attack when his club won the Leinster championship in 1977, but was at centre half back in a gallant though unsuccessful bid against Austin Stacks, Tralee, in the All-Ireland semi-final.

He has appeared in the under-21 ranks with the county, and was in the Leinster panel for the Railway Cup last year. Colm, who helped Laois to win the League Division II South final last March, has just passed out as a Garda, and is stationed at Dun Laoghaire.

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