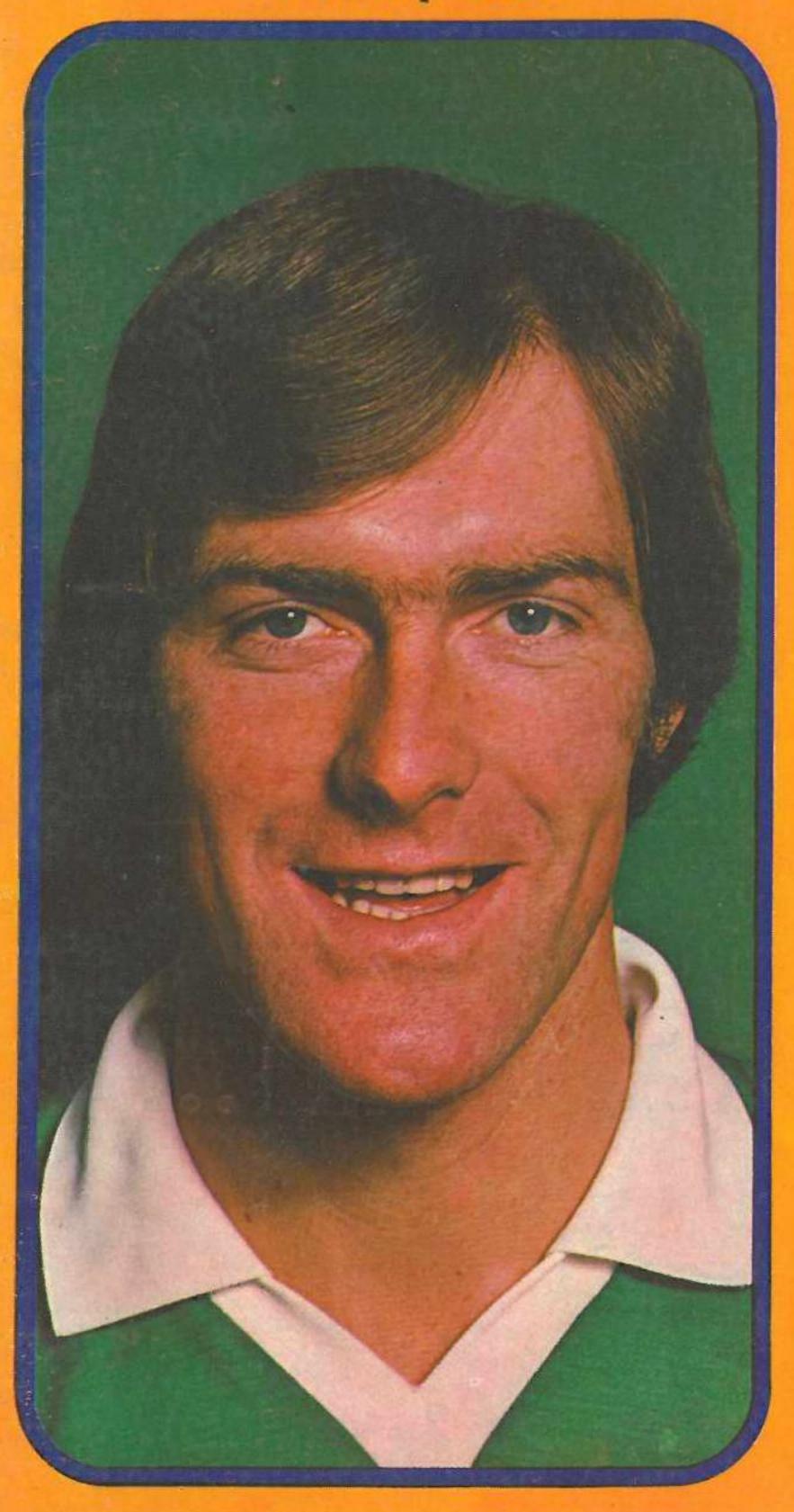
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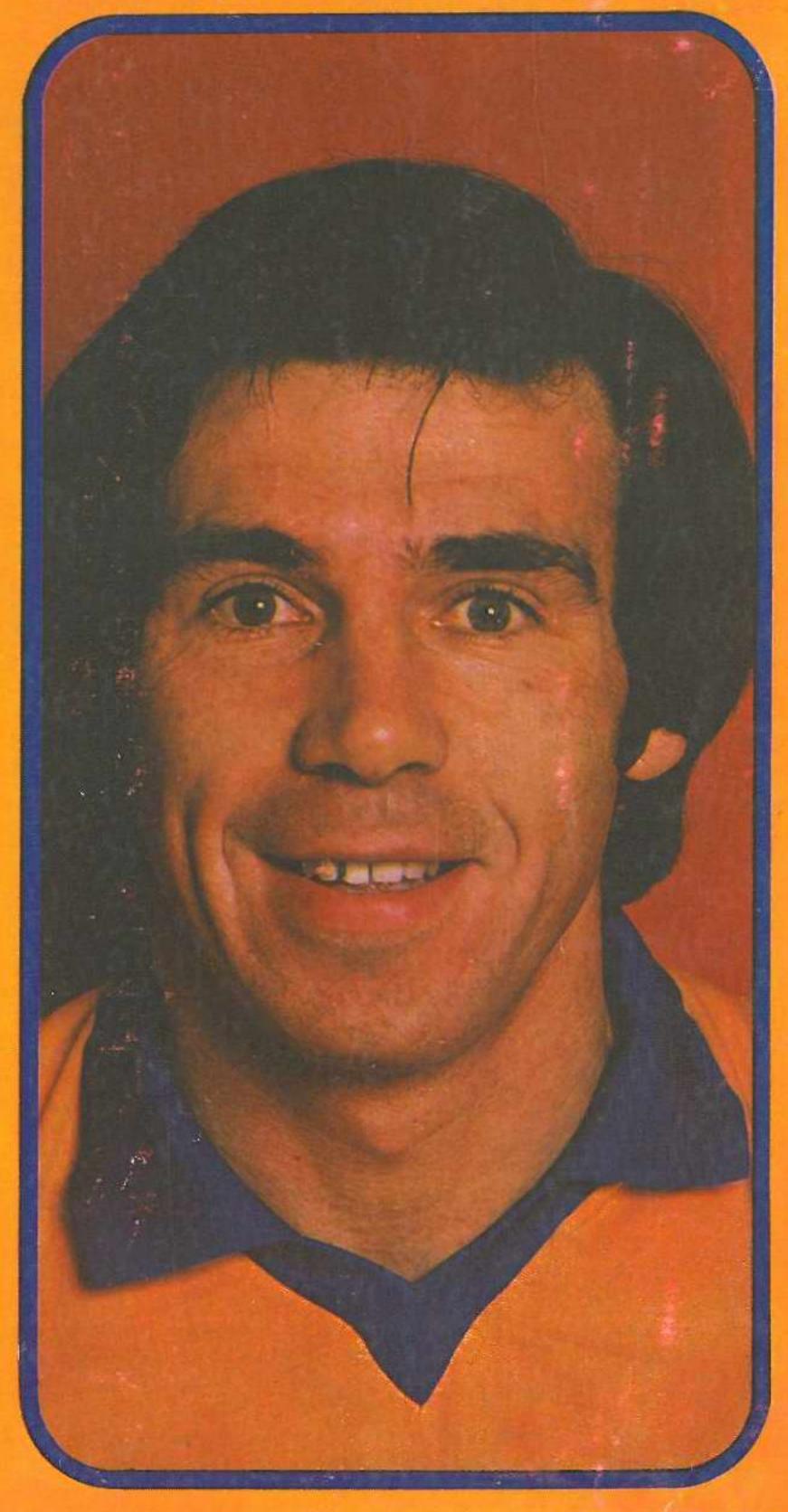
IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

JUNE, 1979

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JOHN O'KEEFFE, KERY



PAT LINDSAY, ROSCOMMON

THE ALL-ACTION G.A.A. FAMILY MAGAZINE

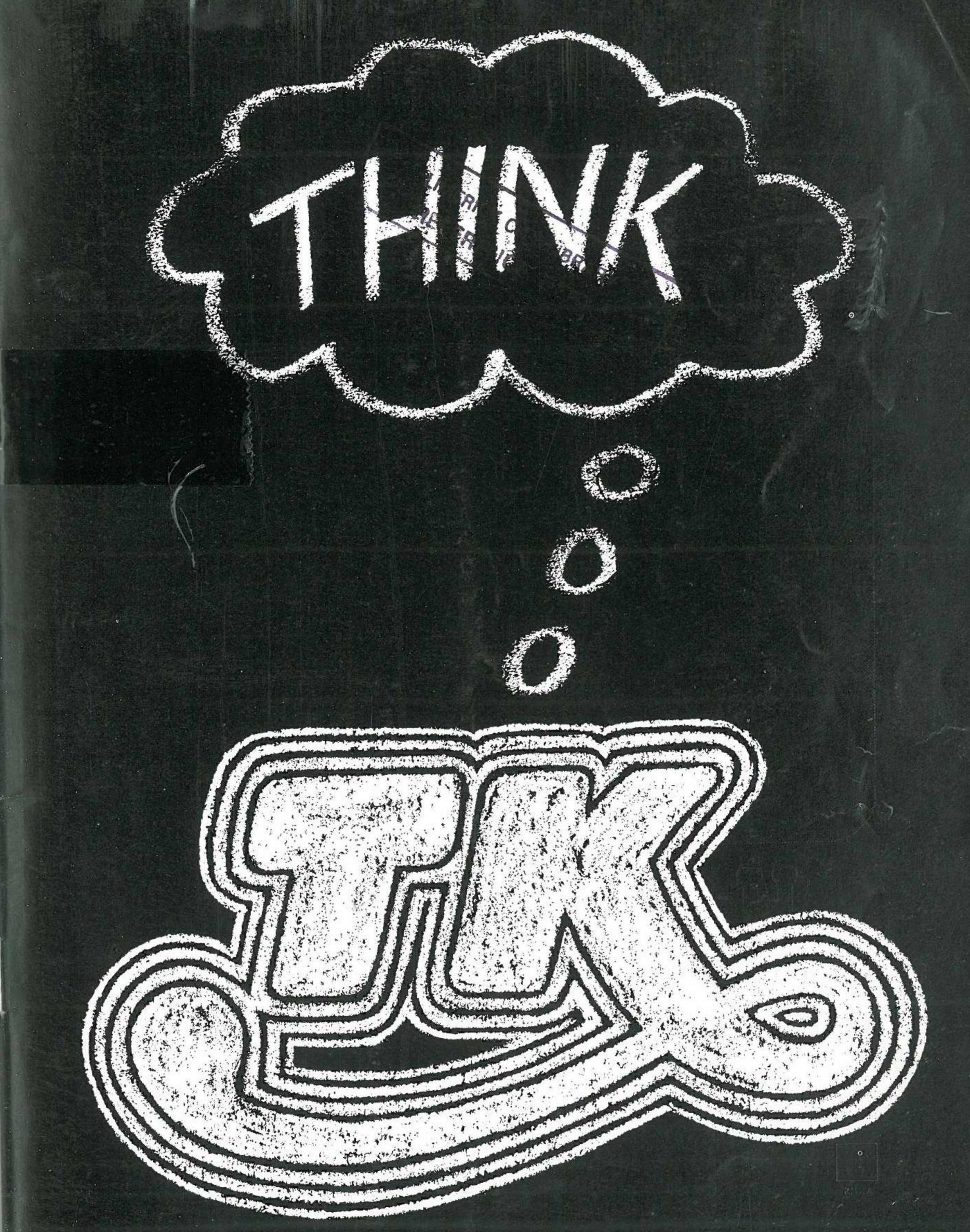


Let's put our heads together ...

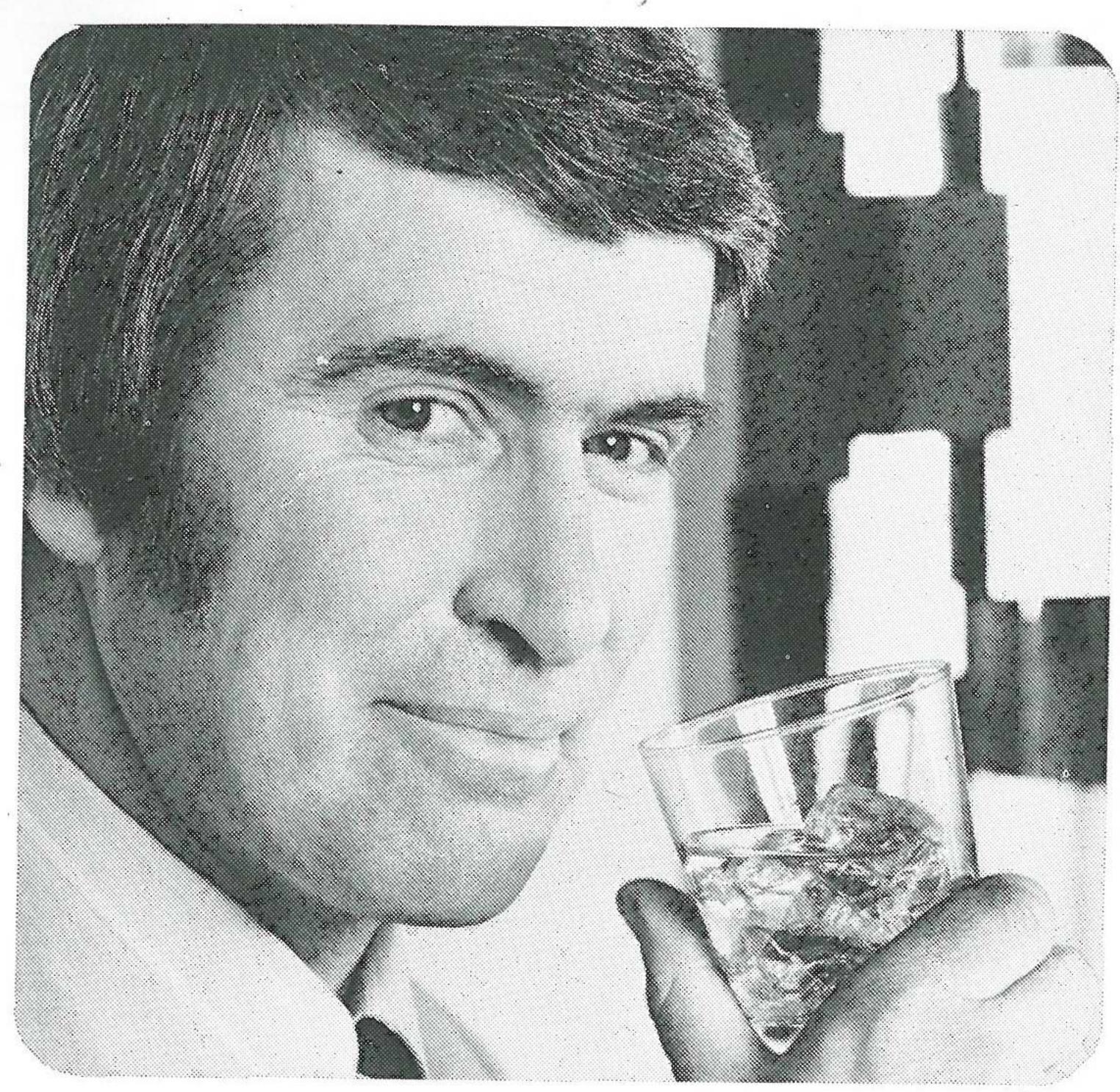
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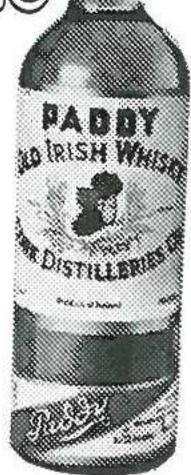
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He joined the light brigade switchto



Palloy And see the light.



Gaelic Sport

Vol. 22 No. 6 June 1979

Offices:

80 Upper Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9.

Telephone 374311.

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THERE has been much to enthuse over on the Gaelic Games scene during recent weeks. Playing facilities, generally very good and nation-wide, have been given a welcome added dimension through the opening of new grounds, and by improvements at a number of the established venues.

New names have been added to the College's Championships winners list at provincial and All-Ireland level, thereby generating greater interest in the schoolboys' competitions, and forging out the type of new traditions that must benefit the G.A.A. in the long term.

Attendances at the final rounds of the National Leagues also emphasised that Gaelic Games continue to hold their positions as the nation's greatest crowd-pullers, and Croke Park has entered the computer age with the new electronic message centre and scoreboard.

All very encouraging, but let us not get carried away and overlook the basics. Especially now that football and hurling are again to "go on show" in a big way with the glamour matches in the weeks ahead in the popular provincial championships.

On the day that the £60,000 electronic scoreboard went on public view for the first time, the National Football League final, one of the top fixtures of the calendar, started ten minutes late. That hardly helped the image of the Association, and provided a sharp contrast with the forward looking approach illustrated so brightly by the new scoreboard.

There was a time when Gaelic Games had an unenviable reputation for late starts, but fortunately, matters improved tremendously in this regard in recent times. Indeed, over the past few years supporters had little real cause for complaint.

But matters appear to be slipping again as far as punctuality is concerned. The Roscommon-Cork match was by no means the only important tie that got under way last spring after the scheduled starting time.

It is to be hoped, then, that the recent lapses will prove just isolated instances, and that the enjoyment of the up-coming provincial championship ties will not be spoiled by unpunctuality.

It is too early for firm judgement on the new scoreboard at headquarters. What can be said is that this facility is a bold and imaginative one that has tremendous potential for the future in many ways.

But once again it is only right to keep the basics firmly in mind here, too. It is all very well giving patrons such information as the correct time and temperature, but it was disconcerting to glance now and then at the scoreboard and find the scoreline at the particular time conspicuous by its absence.

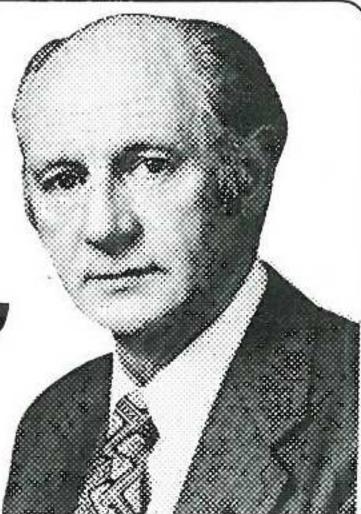
Under the old system the actual match score was constantly on display throughout each game. That's a service that one would have expected to be maintained — and especially in this computer age.

However, as we have said, it's early days yet. And perhaps as time goes on, matters may settle into a routine to the satisfaction and enjoyment of all.

COVER PHOTO:

ON our front cover this month we feature Pat Lindsay, who led Roscommon so superbly to the National Football League title win in May and John O'Keeffe, who has given such sterling service to Kerry. Both are Carrolls All-Star Award winners and are among the outstanding exponents of defensive football at it's best. Mick Dunne profiles the careers of both players on page 24.

ask you to vote for our team in Europe and to give our Fianna Fáil candidates your full support in the local elections on June 7th?"



Flammara The vote that works Fox Michael YEAT

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Roscommon and Tipp. lead the way

THE long-awaited hurling resurgence by Tipperary and Roscommon's exciting break-through in the National Football League take pride of place in the current TYLER TOP TEN charts, which mirror a very busy and varied programme in both codes from April 15 to May 13 inclusive.

Francis Loughnane's superb marksmanship was a key factor in the return of the Hurling League to Tipperary after eleven years. Noel O'Dwyer and Pat Fitzell, in defence, also got through an amount of valuable work, and the contributions of this trio receive due recognition in the hurling review.

But top billing goes to Jim Kehoe. He capped some telling touches in the wins and vital over Offaly and Clare with magical and decisive moments in the final triumph against Galway.

The full forward did much to create the mood for the win by Tipperary with his points shooting — he notched six — and he also closed the door on the Galway challenge by hitting his team's second goal some thirteen minutes into the second half.

So, Kehoe makes his debut this year in the charts, and in a topof-the-table position with 40 points.

Loughnane and O'Dwyer, however, still merit special mention as they are the only hurlers to improve their position over-all. Loughnane moves ahead into a comfortable lead at this stage

with 102 points - 32 more than nearest rival, O'Dwyer.

Dermot Earley was an eye catching star of Roscommon's great win over Cork in the Football League final with his powerful midfield play and excellent shooting. He gained many credit marks earlier as well for the semi-final win over Offaly.

This form sees the long-serving Roscommon man advance further in the over-all table by collecting 40 points this month to boost his position up to 83 points.

However, the monthly accolade goes to a Roscommon defender-Danny Murray, that dashing left half back, who is not only so dependable in his own position, but also by no means slow in going forward, and picking off points himself.

The St. Faithleach's club-man was a mighty pillar in the semifinal, and he really excelled against Cork. His football was dependable all through, progressive and displaying flair, and he also hit a vital point four minutes from time following a well-controlled run.

In taking the No. 1 position on 43 points, Murray adds to his

tally of 28 in February-March, and jumps to second place overall.

The leading three in each chart over-all are:

HURLING: 102: F. Loughnane (Tipperary); 70: N. O'Dwyer (Tipperary); 40: J. Kehoe (Tipperary).

FOOTBALL: 83: D. Earley (Roscommon); 71: D. Murray (Roscommon); 69: S. Hayden (Roscommon).

This month's charts are:

TARE BESTERS

	HURLING	
40	J. Kehoe (Tipperary)	40
	P. Fitzell (Tipperary)	38
37	F. Loughnane (Tipperary)	
3072001	지어서 살이 어린 아이들이 가는 그리는 사람들이 아이들이 아이들이 되었다고 있다면 하는데 그 사람이 있다고 있다.	102
36	N. O'Dwyer (Tipperary)	70
34	F. Burke (Galway)	34
29	L. O'Brien (Kilkenny)	29
27	P. J. Molloy (Galway)	27
	J. Cunningham (Dublin)	26
	J. Hennessy (Kilkenny)	25
	J. O'Leary (Kildare)	24
	FOOTBALL	
43	D. Murray (Roscommon)	71
	D. Earley (Roscommon)	
	S. Hayden (Roscommon)	
	D. Mulligan (Monaghan)	

33 P. Lindsay (Roscommon) 33

30 J. Courtney (Cork) 30

29 S. McCarville (Monaghan) 29

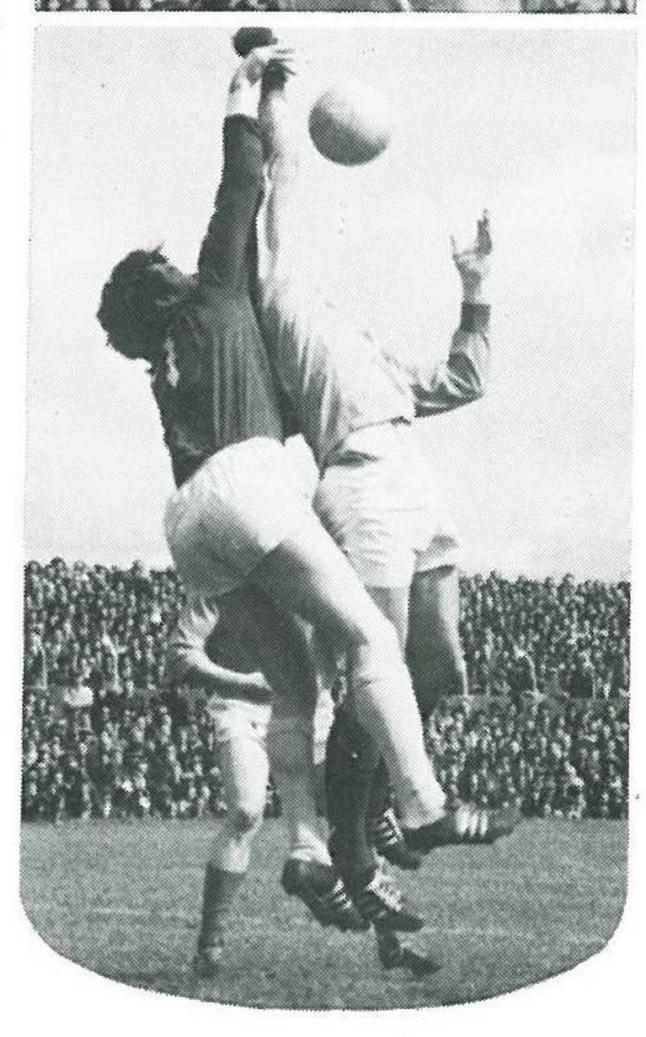
27 M. McGee (Wexford) 27

26 D. McKenna (Armagh) ... 26

26 W. Cullen (Carlow) 26

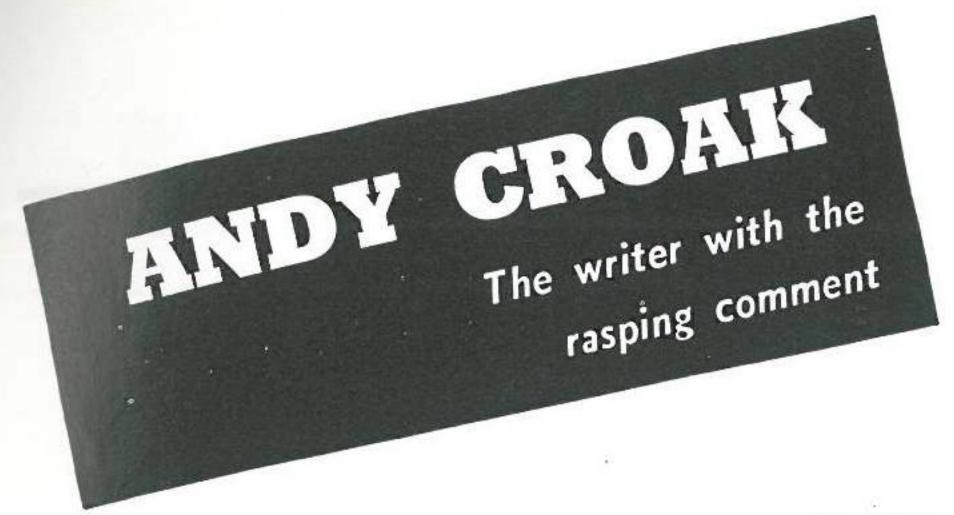
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Lucozade replaces lost energy quickly



Roscommon aim for the 'double'!

SUNDAY, May 13, brought back old memories. For me, it brought back memories of a September Sunday in 1944 and O'Connell Street, Dublin, crowded with people wearing yellow and blue colours after Jimmy Murray's men of Roscommon had beaten Kerry in the All-Ireland football final.

The same vivid colours predominated again on May 13 as Roscommon's supporters celebrated that great National Football League final victory over Cork.

It was Roscommon's first League triumph, their first major success since 1944, but more important than that it showed this team to be up to or near All-Ireland class.

It was a team of good footballers who had achieved a high level of physical fitness. Their only problem now is to peak again when the supreme effort is needed in the championship. Not many teams can do it twice in the same year.

I was delighted, particularly, for the sake of that great player and sportsman, Dermot Earley. He played a noble part in the victory and how marvellous it would be if he could now crown his distinguished career with an All-Ireland medal.

Of course, he's not the only one of the side who is long overdue that honour. Pat Lindsay, Tom Henaghan and Mick Freyne have given long and loyal service to Roscommon and nobody would begrudge any of them an hour of glory on the third Sunday of September.

There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip, however, and Heneghan will have to use all his astuteness to keep his team on the winning trail right up to the All-Ireland final.

Cork were pitiful. After a fairly good start they just fell to pieces and couldn't put their game together again. They looked a beaten team at half time and there's no doubt that they were flattered by Jimmy Barry-Murphy's second half goal.

The injuries carried by Jimmy, Dinny Allen and Vincent Coakley were a big handicap, to be sure, but there's no doubt in my mind that Roscommon would have won in any event.

Cork were not in their rivals' class, on the day, but they could be a very different side when they play Kerry in the Munster final, at Killarney, next month.

By the way, nobody has mentioned why Cork were so late coming on to the pitch for the League final. By my watch, they appeared only three minutes before the appointed starting time.

WHAT HAPPENED? ANOTHER ROW IN THE DRESSING ROOM?

* * *

I have not forgotten Tipperary. I've put them in second place only because, down the years, they've won many more honours than Roscommon.

While I was deeply sorry to see Galway collapse in the National Hurling League final, it was good to see Tipp climb back to the top.

They won't rest now till they've regained the All-Ireland. They've certainly got a nice team in the making but I don't think they'll win the McCarthy Cup this year. But 1980 is another season

They have a team capable of beating Cork at Páirc Uí Chaoimh on June 3, and if that happens Croak will consider putting a little money on Clare for the Munster title. And if the Banner County win the Munster championship, they'll take the All-Ireland, too.

On the other hand, if Cork beat Tipperary, Andy will keep his hard-earned wages in his pocket.

I notice that the Bank of Ireland are running into a spot of bother in their initial sponsorship of the All-Stars.

John Kerry O'Donnell is reported as saying that he cannot guarantee the Central Council that New York will put 12,000 dollars into the All-Stars American tour fund. And that could mean the omission of New York from the tour itinerary.

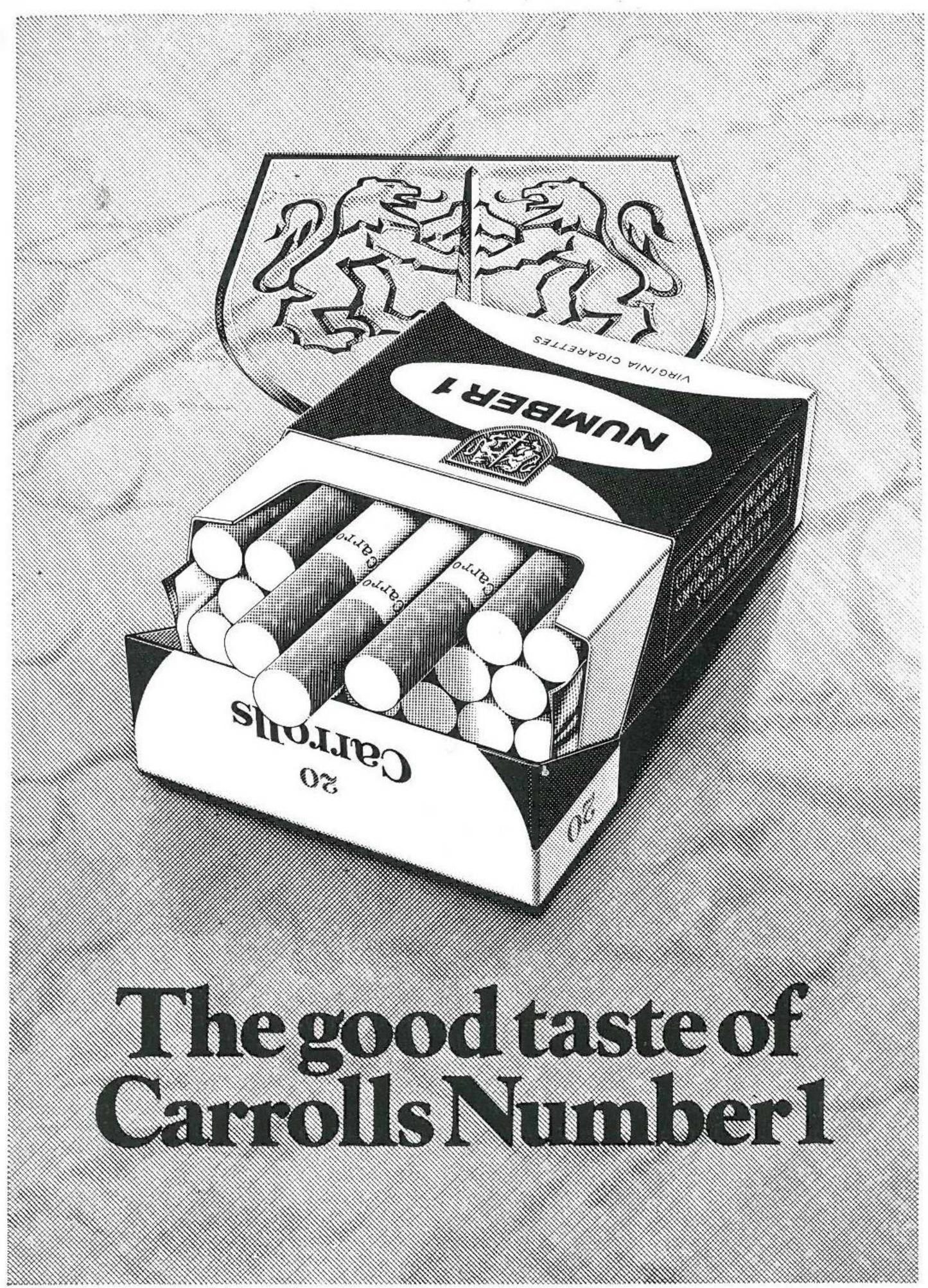
But where would that leave the Bank of Ireland, who were hoping that the games at Gaelic Park would help to promote the interests of their branch in New York?

If this uncertainty continues I won't be a bit surprised to see the Bank pull out of the All-Star scheme in a year or two. Let's hope it won't happen.

Here's a question I'd like to hear answered. How many dollars, or punts, does the Central Council of the GAA put into the American tour fund?

And here's another question. What's happening to the Australian tour? We were led to believe that the trip for an Irish team was a certainty when the Aussies visited Ireland last autumn, but there's not been a tittle about it these past couple of months.

It seems to be the same old story. They dream big dreams, make big plans and then let them crumble like a house of cards.



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Tipp hurling is back on the glory trail

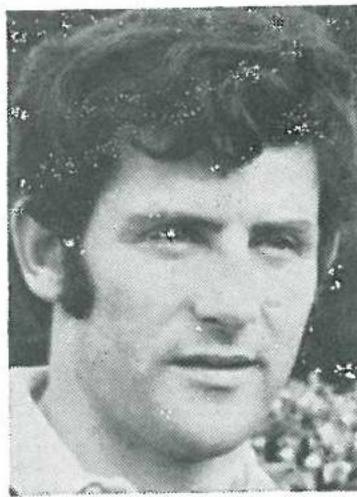
TIPPERARY threw in the ball for the G.A.A. Centenary Celebrations some months ago, when they announced that they considered the re-development of Semple Stadium — now a really showpiece arena — to be a suitable birthday present for the Association on that auspicious occasion.

Of course, it was a ceremonial throw-in, with all the dignitaries—both clerical and lay, all the Officials, all the men, heavy-laden with All-Ireland medals, and all the solid props that keep the Association firmly settled: especially the people best called prominent supporters.

It was, of course, a gathering of some splendour. More important, it was a gathering of substance and of sound men and women who had not come to be seen but rather to lend support and to promise more. For the same reason that this was a gathering of committed Tipperary people the concern about Tipperary hurling was very much in evidence in the conversations.

All angles were measured, all the possibilities were estimated and the reason for the decline discussed. But there was always an unmentioned assumption that Tipperary would be back at the top in the near future, as though it were something which was established by Holy Writ.

This has been enormously helpful to Tipperary in their efforts to make an impression again in



Tadhg O'Connor (Tipperary)

hurling. It has made the motivation so much simpler and even if it has imposed a certain strain on those expected from time to time to bring about a revival, the expectation that the right men would be found was more important encouragement.

Getting a team together has

been rather a strange evolution in some ways. Players who showed an awful lot of promise have come and gone without ever fulfilling expectations. Some of the biggest hopefuls being developed with a view to succession, did not produce the full measure of senior readiness.

The minor team which took the All-Ireland was, of course, the great hope and it was the foundation behind the improvement of the under-21 team of last year. Perhaps, ideally, 1980 might have been the best year to reap the reward. That is what the theory says, but sad to say, three years after a fine minor side, we have often seen only remnants and the sad shadow of what was to be expected.

Therefore, 1978 saw a great drive in under-21. Some had already played senior: Fitzell was an established senior player and Seamus Burke and one or two others had perhaps been thrust too soon into the higher grade. But experience is always valuable and it was a stirring performance that beat Cork in a replay after two of the most enjoyable games I saw last year. The first was a tour de force by Fitzell; the second was a grand combined effort by the team.

It was greatly surprising that afterwards they failed to Galway but, of course, Galway stole up on us unseen a few years previously also in the under-21 grade.

Michael Doyle was centre forward in that under-21 side and Ger Stapleton had a struggle to establish himself and hold the centre half back spot. Pat (Flowery) Ryan and John Grace were the pre-supposed mid-fielders of

TO PAGE 11

A very important book for sports fans.



Bank of letime

FROM PAGE 9

the coming generation and by the League semi-final this year Doyle and Stapleton had established themselves as a splendidly balanced and most likely pairing in the senior team.

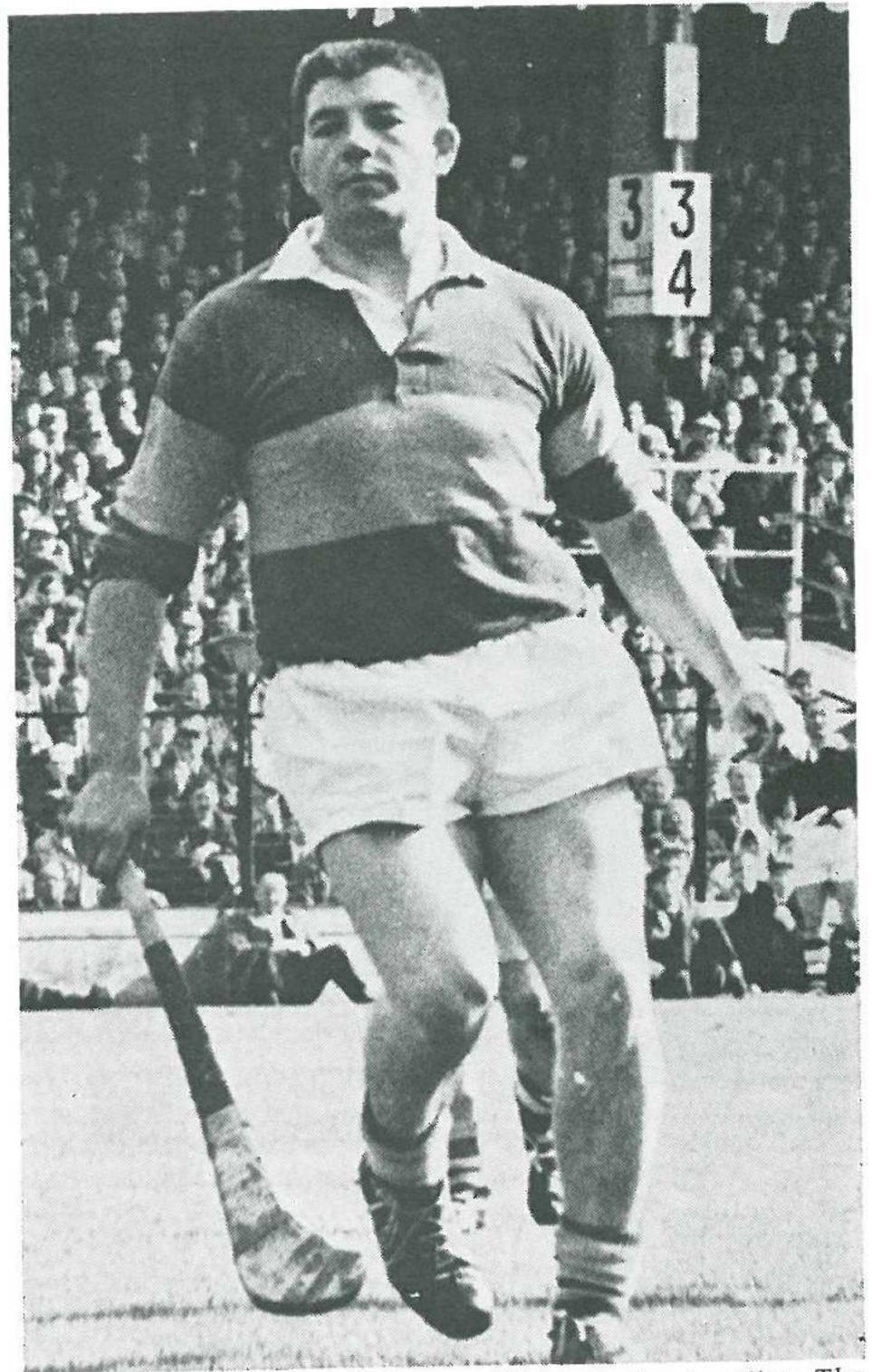
Last summer the tall winger O'Shea was not exactly everyone's favourite player, I thought. Some reaction by Tipperary supporters suggested they would have looked for a different approach. But playing to plan, he stretched his legs along the wing and round the corner or across goal — but mainly flying the wing to pull defences about and fluster them. His effectiveness became more apparent each game. Often his colleagues benefited most.

With a recognisably similar brief he has moved to the senior side and looks as if he may well develop the ability in that grade also to worry wing halves into a state of negative watchfulness.

Tipperary were lucky also to be able to provide an accomplice on the other wing: at senior it would be vital to give food for thought to both wing halves. Peadar Queally is another player who feels no severe obligation to stand on the same sod for long spells. He keeps up in the corner or back towards half-way; moves in to join attacks and makes a general nuisance of himself to the opposition.

He contrasts with O'Shea, however, in that he is short in the leg and his form of harassment comes from his quickness to change direction and his alert smartness in finding the ball even in tightest corners and keep it moving to his advantage.

Many were inclined to wonder how Jim Kehoe could find such space in the League Final. Where he found it was mainly by coming deep into large areas of 40 m. distance in which the wingers had



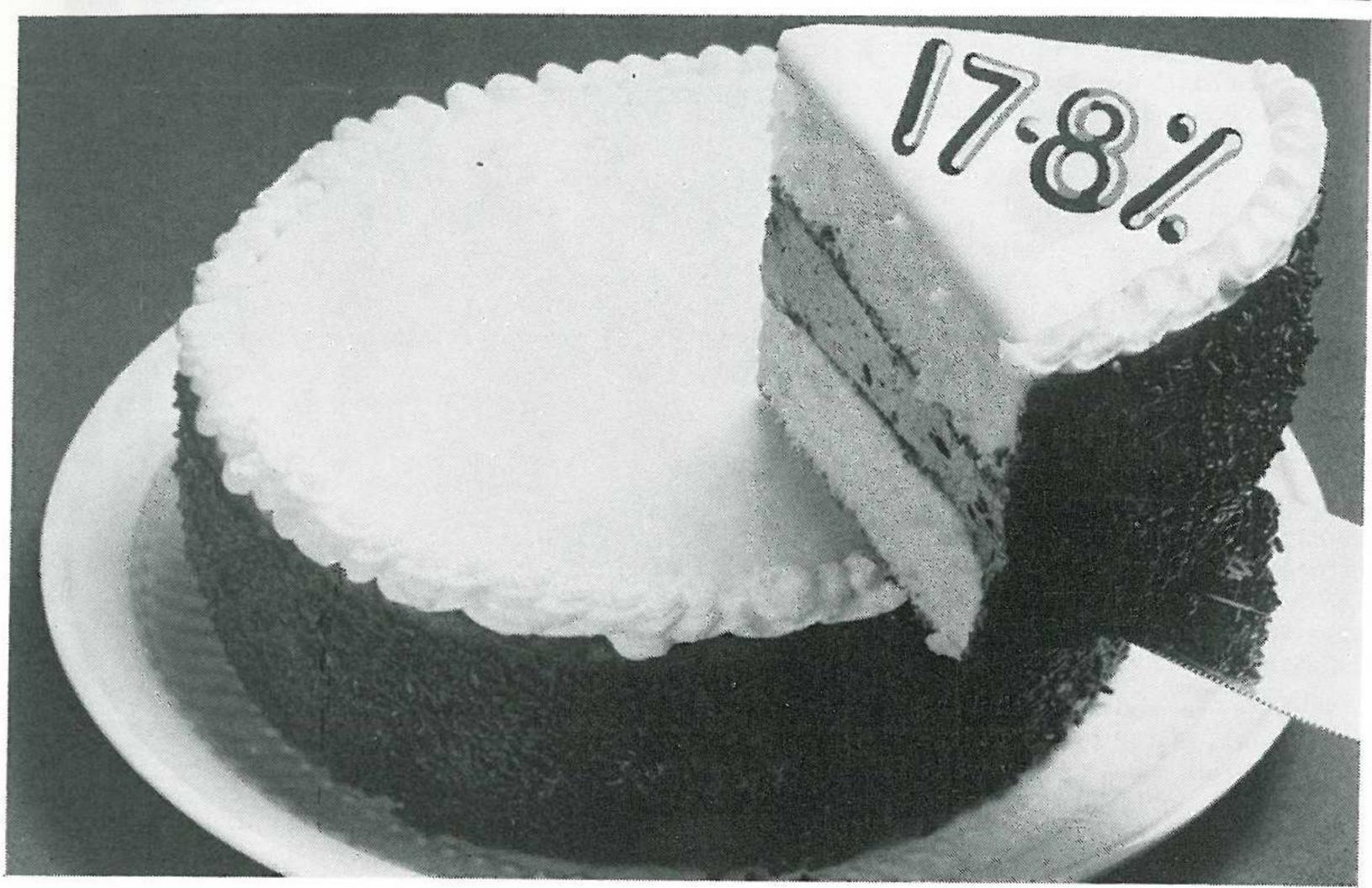
Michael "Babs" Keating the former Tipperary star in action. The present team look set fair to emulate their countymen of a decade ago.

created space by keeping themselves and their markers busy out on the wings.

It is all fairly simple, of course, and, no doubt, will enable Tipperary to play themselves back to a state of self respect in the next year or two. They have set out to make use of space instead of herding down the middle and the space-makers are the younger

and energetic lads who are so much better suited to the role, while the space-users are the cute ones whose legs may not work so rapidly but whose brains are clear and whose skills do not falter under pressure — Loughnane always and Kehoe more recently, with Seamus Power now likely to fulfil the promise shown a number of years back.

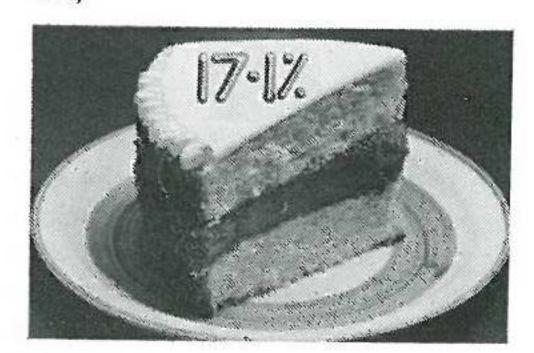
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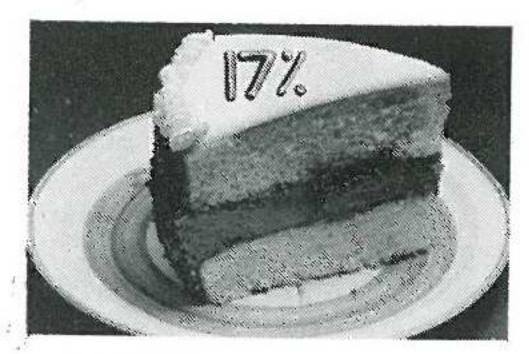
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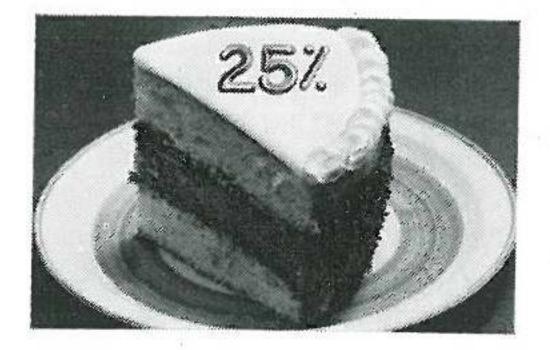
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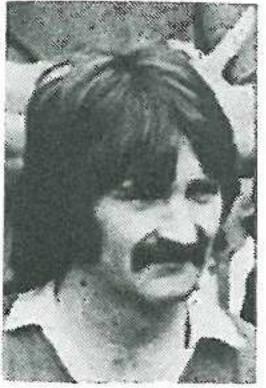
TERE MIGHTY



Denis Coughlan (Cork)



Francis Loughnane (Tipperary)



Gerald McCarthy (Cork)

By NOEL HORGAN

CINCE its foundation the G.A.A. has produced countless outstanding personalities at various levels but no arena has yielded a richer harvest in this regard than that which came from the hurling fields of Munster.

Down through the years mighty Munster men have battled with courage, strength and skill, asking or giving no quarter in stirring struggles which remain etched in the memories of the thousands privileged to witness them. Only the toughest and the fittest survive for any length of time in the cauldron that is hurling in the southern province.

Leinster, and Kilkenny in particular, has produced many hurling stylists but few will disagree that there is nothing to match the thoroughbred Munster hurler and no occasion on the GAA calendar as attractive as a Munster hurling final.

Christy Ring and Mick Mackey emerged as legendary figures during their playing days in the south while Tipp's John Doyle, by equalling Ring's record of eight All-Ireland medals, was another Munsterman to carve his

name with pride in the hurling history books. There were, of course, many others.

Involved in this year's Munster championship are three players who, by their tremendous hurling feats and unselfish devotion to the game, have proved themselves to be of prime Munster stock. Tipperary's Francis Loughnane, Cork's Gerald McCarthy and Denis Coughlan have been performing with distinction at senior inter county level for over a decade. What confirmed their greatness for me, however, was that each has had to triumph over recent adversity in their illustrious careers this year.

In a decade of top-class hurling a player is likely to receive numerous heavy knocks. These are easy to cope with in the early years but, as a player ages, his powers of recovery become greatly reduced. One could readily forgive someone approaching his mid-'thirties for deciding to retire from the game. One could understand that years of tough hurling should have taken some toll and that a player may no longer possess an "appetite" for the game. But one has to

admire the courage of the distinguished performer who, in the twilight of his career, makes huge sacrifices to shrug off injury.

The road back to peak fitness must be gruelling at this point. Often there is little to be gained and a lot to be lost. Tales of stars who stayed on too long are numerous. Yet devotion to the county and love for the game of hurling are "masters" which the great player finds difficult to ignore.

Francis Loughnane, Gerald McCarthy and Denis Coughlan have all achieved huge success on the hurling field, winning every major honour. Each was forced, however, to take a break from the game recently. Lesser mortals would have called it a day but the dedication and courage of this dynamic trio prevailed and, realising that they still had something to offer, they bravely fought their way back to fitness.

Loughnane's recovery was, arguably, the most praiseworthy. Not only had the Roscrea stalwart to recover from a personal injury but he had to return to an obviously ailing Tipperary team.

Francis must have winced

TO PAGE 40

Team Spirit



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The worries of Wexford's plunge

MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

A LTHOUGH the clash of championship ash is already in the air, it is interesting to take a quick look back at the Hurling League scene now that the 1978/79 competition at top level has been finished and done with. We all know by now that Tipperary are the new Champions, having first deposed Clare, and then routed Galway, the only other county that has ever come up from Division One B to capture the title.

That leaves us with a top grouping for next winter composed of four Munster counties, Cork, Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, two from Leinster, Offaly and Kilkenny, and one from Connacht, Galway. So the net result of the 1978-79 campaign is that Tipperary and Cork have returned to the top echelon after the shortest possible exile in the nether regions; Waterford, after a single season up, have gone down once again, while Wexford, for the first time in the modern history of the League, have lost their place among the top seven. This demotion of the Wexford men is worrying from several points of view.

It is not the mere fact of dropping down a League grade that makes the difference. Tipperary have triumphantly proved that it can prove a very real blessing in disguise as it gives mentors and selectors a great chance of testing out new talent, and setting about rebuilding a side.

Wexford now have a similar opportunity, but the big problem, as far as the Slaneyside mentors are concerned is this. Where are they going to find the up and coming material on which to rebuild? I fear that the number of really promising players who have appeared in the purple and gold jersey over the past twelve months could be comfortably counted on the fingers, and you could still have a few fingers to spare. What is worse, there has been scarcely a sign of future stars rising over the horizon.

It is a long time now since we have seen a Wexford minor or Under-21 side contesting an All-Ireland hurling final. Even that institution which was a great cradle of hurling excellence, St. Peter's

College, has been slipping back, from the outstanding position it held only a decade ago.

Indeed it is a significant omen of changing times in Leinster that Presentation Birr took the provincial Colleges title this Spring. Now it can be advanced as a very reasonable excuse for Wexford's fall from League grace that they were very hard hit by injuries right through the campaign just finished. In most matches they were without Mick Jacob, Colm and Tony Doran, while Martin Quigley often fielded under manifest handicap. It is significant that, on the only occasion when they were able to muster at something like real strength, they ran Kilkenny to a point in that thrilling relegation battle at Nowlan Park. But just as significant was the fact that it was the "old men" who once again bore the brunt of the battle.

Maybe, if every team they face were to wear the black and amber jerseys, Wexford would find every time the spark that seems to set them on fire whenever they face Kilkenny. But that is manifestly impossible. So, if Wexford are to win their way back to the top of the hurling tree, it seems to me that there will have to be immense concentration on fostering the game among the juveniles, and more especially in the schools, both primary and secondary level.

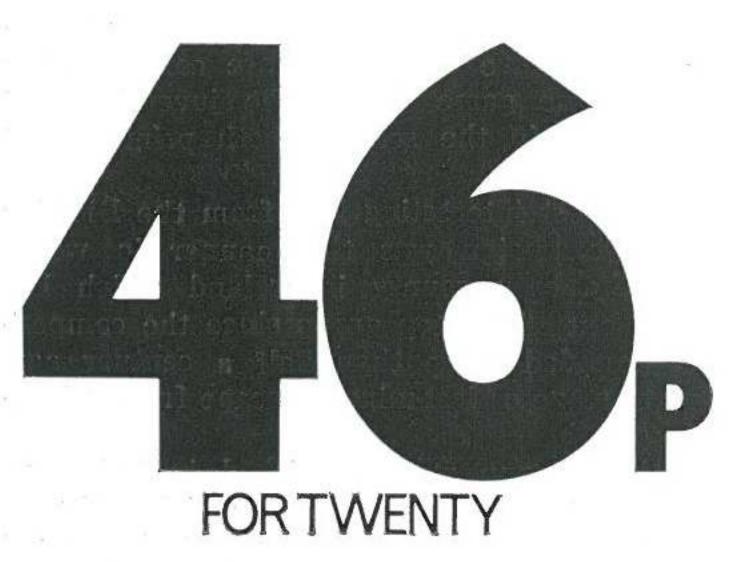
The next most interesting fact from the Division IA League campaign was the manner in which Kilkenny, the only county in Ireland which has never been out of the top group since the competition was founded more than half a century ago, managed to stage a last-minute escape from relegation yet again.

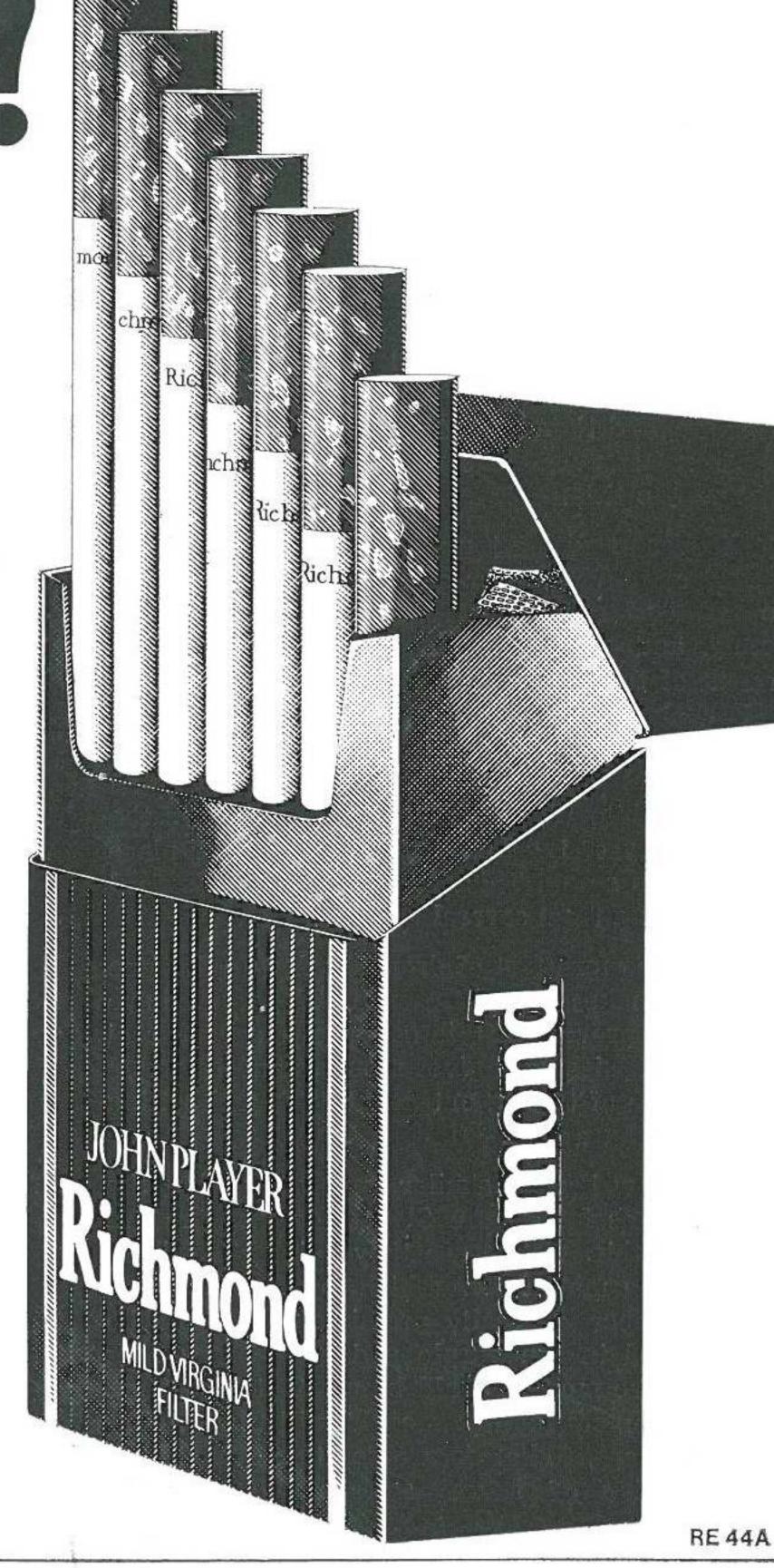
When the League proper finished in February, there seemed to be just no way in which Kilkenny could avoid the drop this time. At best they could only force a relegation play-off against Waterford, IF they could beat Wexford in a postponed game. Their pre-Christmas record had been dismal to say the least, but two things happened early in the New Year that made a vital difference. In the first place, Eddie Keher and Pat Delaney moved on to the

● TO PAGE 42

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"Hurling: the finest field game in the world"

Sean O'Siochain talks with Owen McCann

FEW men have made such an amazing and varied contribution to Irish life in general as has Sean O Siochain, who recently retired from the post of Director-General of the G.A.A. The diligence, skill in organisation and dynamic personality he displayed in the roles of General Secretary and later Director-General contributed immensely to the proud position the organisation holds today.

But that tremendous work forms but a part—admittedly the major one—of a truly remarkable career, a career during which the Cork man made his mark as a footballer, hurler, club and headquarters official.

In addition, he carved out a proud niche for himself as a well-known singer, and he is a link with some of the best remembered programmes from the old Radio Eireann days, such as "The Ballad-Makers Saturday Night".

He joined the Keating branch of the Gaelic League in Dublin in the early 'Thirties, and was active in plays and choral affairs, as well as winning medals at Dublin Feis Ceoil and the Oireachtas.

In this regard he was maintaining a family tradition. His father was a well-known singer, and won many prizes himself. He also competed at the Oireachtas in Dublin.

Sean O Siochain's great interest in this field led him to play a key part in ushering in one of the great traditions of Gaelic Games. This is the singing of the national anthem in Irish at big matches, which is such a moving and pulse-raising experience nowadays, particularly on All-Ireland final days.

"Padraig O Caoimh, then General Secretary, asked me to get a group together to sing the national anthem in Irish at Croke Park on the occasions of commentaries by Radio Eireann at major games there in the 'Thirties. We thus helped to start the tradition of the singing of the anthem in the national language", the former Director-General told me.

At that time Sean was very active in Gaelic Games in the capital. While attending St. Patrick's Training College for teachers, he played with the school team, Erin's Hope, and was their delegate to the Dublin County Board in 1933-34.

Later he joined the Clan na Gael club in the city, and was also club secretary for a number of years. He hurled with the Civil Service club, and acted as a steward as well at Croke Park.

I asked him what memories he had of the late Padraig O Caoimh, who was General Secretary for 35 years.

"He was a wonderful personality, who had the ability to attract friends. Everyone was willing to assist as stewards at Croke Park as much for Padraig O Caoimh as for the G.A.A."

Sean O Siochain's association with the organisation at Croke Park level developed gradually over the years until in the early 'Forties he was invited by Padraig O Caoimh to assist the General Secretary in recording details at the annual general meeting of the All-Ireland College's Council.

His ever growing involvement with the affairs of the G.A.A., however, did not prevent Sean O Siochain from establishing a big reputation with Radio Eireann in the entertainment field. He was one of those associated with "Ireland Singing", which was scripted by Donagh McDonagh. That led to the very successful programme, "Round The Fire", a weekly programme of traditional Irish music and song, which ran for many years, and later to

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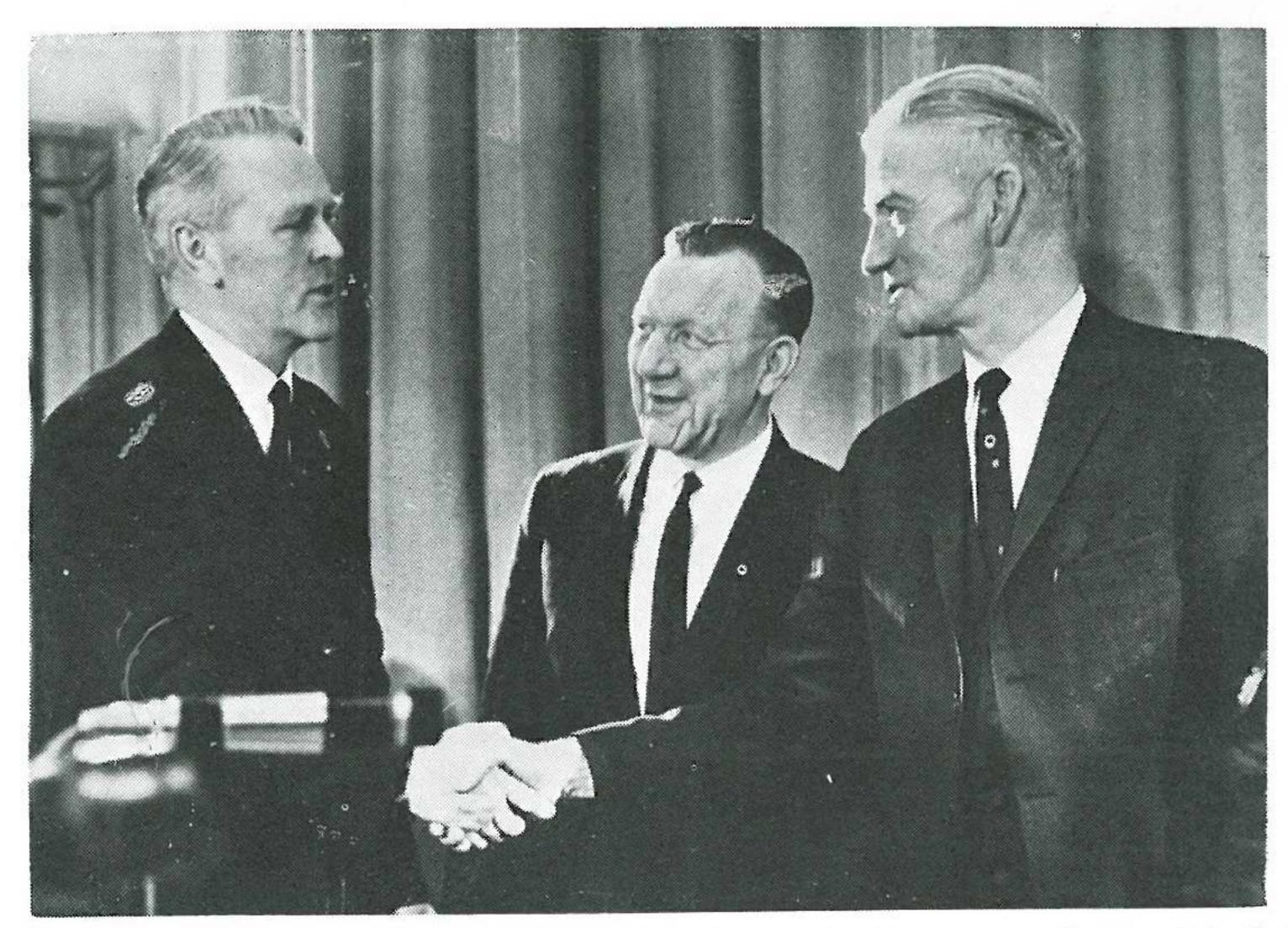
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● The most outstanding event singled out by Seán Ó Síocháin during his fifteen years at the helm of the G.A.A. was the McNamee Commission Report. Pictured above from left at the presentation of that report in 1971 are Seamus O'Riain, then President of the Association, Seán Ó Síocháin and Padraig Mac Con Midhe, Chairman of the Commission who prepared the report.

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"The Ballad-Makers Saturday Night".

Sean O Siochain was born in Kilnamartyra, near Macroom. His parents were both born in Bally-vourney, and were Gaelic speakers. They owned a shop, and had six children—two boys and four girls.

A local teacher, John Twohig, introduced the future General-Secretary to his first organised match.

"He encouraged all in the parish to play football, and the first game was against Kilmurray in Macroom. We had no jerseys at the time".

That match led to a link with Macroom for O Siochain, as there was no adult team in his home parish. He played minor, junior and senior football with Macroom, winning a county senior medal. He also played junior hurling with the club.

O Siochain won interprovincial honours with Munster in football while at College, and he appeared also with the provincial side in the Railway Cup.

He represented Cork, too, at minor, junior and senior football, and wore the Dublin colours in the code.

Sean O Siochain was elected General Secretary of the G.A.A. in August 1964 in succession to Padraig O Caoimh, who died in May of that year.

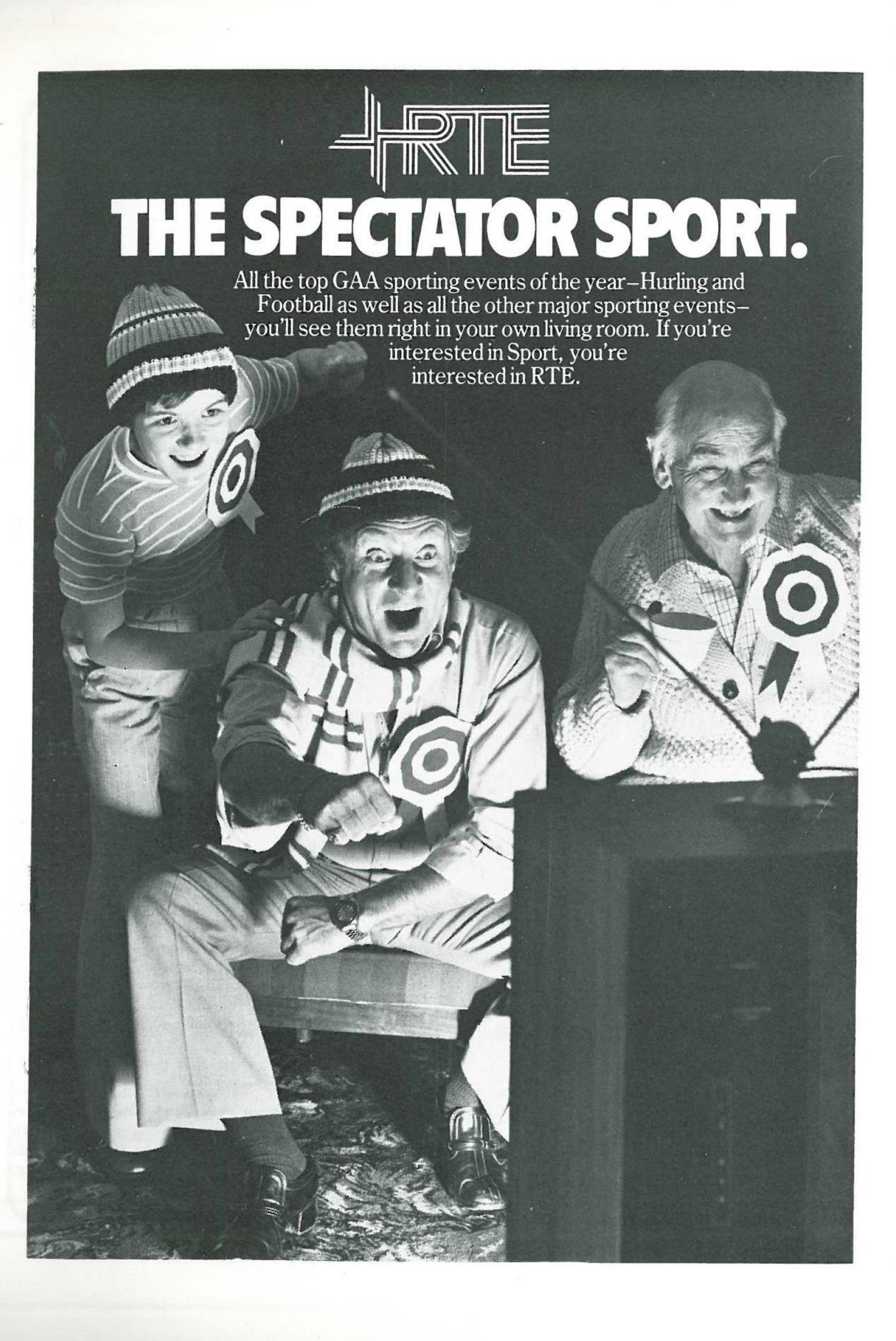
Much has happened for the

Association in the meantime, but when I asked the man who guided the affairs so capably and astutely for close on fifteen years what were the outstanding events during his term of office, he had no difficulty in singling these out.

"On the home front there was the McNamee Commission Report issued in 1971, which gave a new impetus and a fresh, expanding look to the Association that has been the most far-reaching of my time, and has not yet seen its full potential.

"New thought and action have been gathering momentum since, and have reached right through the Association to all levels. This is to be seen today in coaching,

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improved club standards, club grounds, dressingrooms and club premises.

"There has also been a big improvement in the social life of the G.A.A., with the annual **SCOR** talent competitions for adults and juveniles setting a fine headline".

The courteous and very helpful official at Croke Park is also very enthusiastic about Feile na nGael, introduced by a former President, Seamus O Riain (Tipperary), and which Sean O Siochain says is doing great work in developing hurling among the juveniles.

"Then in football, the rise of Dublin has been one of the very best things in the last 25 years."

"This has given a new thrust to football. While many may not agree with the handpass development, my own conviction is that this is a phase out of which will come a new exciting formula for a better team game.

"The evidence of this has been clear, and such recent matches as Kerry-Roscommon, Roscommon-Offaly and Kildare-Down in the League have pointed the way to a new open game of football."

On the international front, he singled out for special mention the launching of the All Stars tours with the visit to San Francisco in 1970, and the new relationships opened up with the Australian Rules football authorities.

"There is much potential here, and also great hopes for a full international series of competitions. This would be welcomed by the G.A.A. and the Australian Rules officials".

Although Sean O Siochain was chiefly a footballer in his playing days, he has a preference for hurling: "The finest field game in the world".

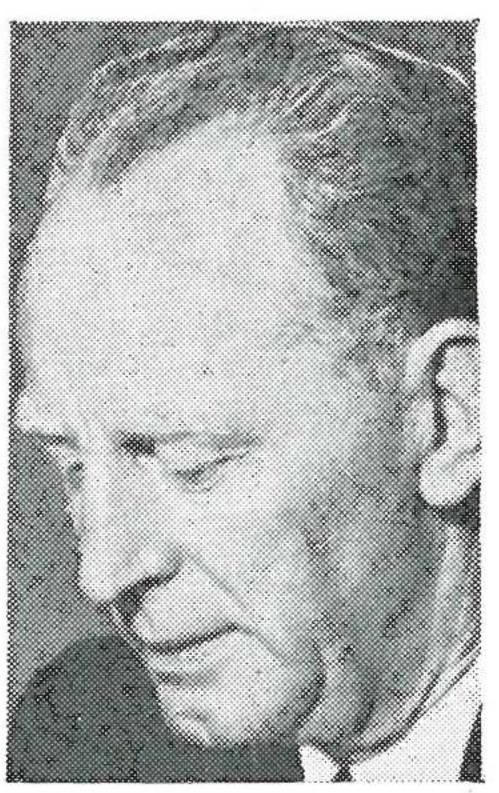
"I am reasonably optimistic about the future of hurling. A

system of coaching has been launched, starting with coaching the coaches, who will be able to help the young people to learn the basic skills.

"Hurling, a high art form, must be approached scientifically. Our young people need to be very well trained in the basic skills if they are to develop into good players. The secret lies in the basic skills."

In this connection, Sean praised the performance of Dungiven in winning a title in the juvenile Feil na nGael in Kilkenny last year. The team was trained by two teachers, Liam Hinphy and Peter Stevenson.

"Dungiven amazed all with their high standard. The fact that



● PADRAIG O'CAOIMH, General Secretary of the G.A.A. for thirty-five years — "A wonderful personality."

the side came from an area with no hurling tradition, made the win all the more noteworthy and the Feile all the more memorable", he remarked.

Over the years the long-serving Croke Park official has seen all the great hurlers and footballers of his era. Understandably enough, then, he thought long and hard when I asked him to name the men who had impressed him most.

"In my own playing days the best dual player was Jim Regan, of Cork, who is now their County Board President. He was in the era of such other legendary giants as Lory Meagher (Kilkenny) and Mick Mackey (Limerick).

"Since then, the greatest star of all was Christy Ring. And, in his era there was another outstanding dual player, Jack Lynch, now An Taoiseach.

"In football, among the men I admired, and all of whom I knew intimately were Paul Russell, Paddy Kennedy and Mick O'Dwyer, of Kerry, Paddy Moclair (Mayo), John Joe O'Reilly (Cavan), Brendan Nestor and John Dunne (Galway) and Kevin Heffernan (Dublin).

When talking to Sean O Siochain about the amount of travelling involved with the position of Director-General, I remarked that the holder of the office would surely need to have a very understanding wife and family.

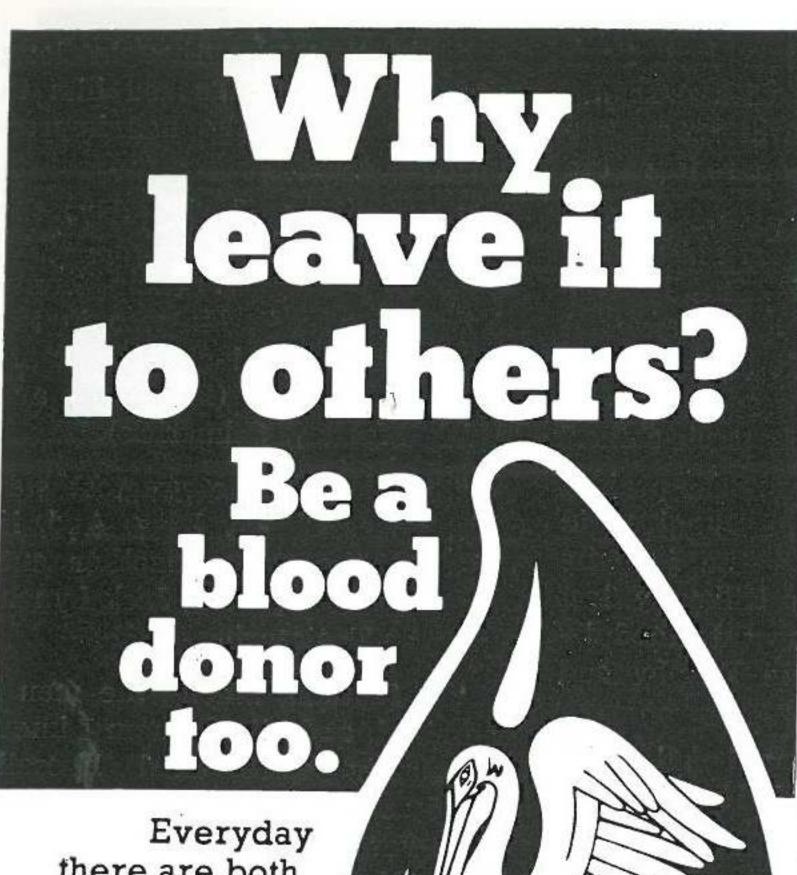
"True, and I have been very fortunate in this regard.

"As for the travelling, while this can be wearisome, it has its compensations, A visit from an official from head-office to a club or a County Board gives support to enthusiasts in the most valuable areas of the Association. It shows that their efforts are appreciated."

An important interest for Sean and his wife outside the G.A.A. is the Christian Family Movement.

"Small groups of five or six couples meet in each others homes on a regular basis and discuss religion in relation to everyday life, and how it relates with

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CAMOGIE COMMENT

By AGNES HOURIGAN

COINCIDENCE can have a very long arm, but it is really remarkable that the luck of the draw should have ordained that, in both the Hurling and Camogie senior championships, the All-Ireland Champions and the National League champions should find themselves face to face first time out.

Cork, of course, are the All-Ireland champions in both codes and also have the advantage of home venue in each case now. The hurlers take on recently crowned League winners Tipperary at Pairc Ui Chaoimh on June 3 where a fortnight later this month the Camogie champions take on Kilkenny who won their first National League title last November.

This Cork v. Kilkenny clash looks like being the vital game of the senior championship, and, on previous form, the odds would seem to favour the Cork girls. In the first place they have the advantage of playing at home, and, in the second place, it is an established fact that Kilkenny are at their most vulnerable in their first game of the championship season.

In addition, it remains to be seen how many of their stars of recent seasons will still be available to muster to the Kilkenny colours. But the Downey sisters are still a host in themselves, and it is good to see that Angela has recently added to her many previous honours by being named as Camogie Player of the Year by the Union of Students in Ireland.

The winners of this clash be-

tween Cork and Kilkenny, will, I think, deservedly be rated as favourites to go on to take the title. However, there are other counties with tremendous potential. Last year's junior champions Derry could shake off the Dublin challenge; Galway, with some of the most talented players in the country, have the ability to take the senior title for the first time if only they dedicate themselves to the task in hand. They should, on home ground, have the power to account for their Antrim visitors in the opening round. Tipperary should also advance at the expense of Down, while Wexford will be expected to have the measure of Clare.

But, of all the counties concerned, I would give either Wexford or Galway the best chance of upsetting the Pairc Ui Chaoimh winners. Galway, assuming they beat Antrim, will then have to take on Cork or Kilkenny in the second round, with Wexford possibly awaiting the winners of that game in the semifinal.

The other end of the draw is considerably easier, with the winners of the Derry v. Dublin clash going on to face Limerick in the next round and then taking on Tipperary or Down in the other semi-final. Indeed, if they get past Derry, I would not be surprised to see Dublin get through to the final from this end of the draw, since, like Kilkenny, the Metropolitan girls tend to get better and better the farther they go.

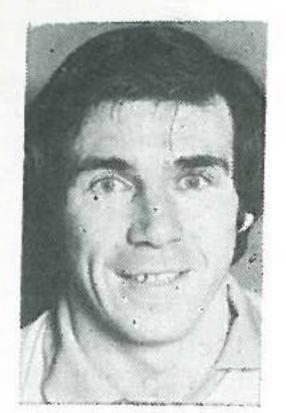
In the junior championship, the early stages of which will be

played out on the traditional Provincial Championship system, the semi-final draw is: Connacht winners v. Leinster winners, and Munster winners v. Ulster winners. The final will, as usual, be played in conjunction with the senior final. There will, however, be a change in the arrangements for the minor championships which will again constitute the Willwood Tailteann Camegie championship.

The semi-finals and final will in future be played together at the same venue over a single week-end. The setting will rotate between the provinces, and, in this opening year, Connacht will have the honour. The actual venue will, of course, depend on which county wins the Connacht title.

The semi-finals will be played on Saturday, August 25, with the final on the following day. The final will be preceded by a playoff for third place between the beaten semi-finalists.

Postal difficulties make it difficult to assess the full impact of the National Walk which celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Camogie Association. It was surely a very satisfying moment for Sean O'Duffy, now in his 94th year, the man to whom the game owes a debt that can never be assessed. Despite his years, he was there to start the march at St. Stephen's Green and was then driven across the City to take the salute at 25 Parnell Square where the Association was founded in 1904.



Pat Lindsay (Roscommon)

WHENEVER and wherever lovers of football gather to talk about their sport—and hurling enthusiasts, too—some of the best stories are woven around the ingenuity of forwards—the skills are subtle, the scores spectacular and worth recalling. But legends are based on the heroics of full-backs.

Not surprising, really, since even the weakling day-dreams of being a giant. No matter how much the craft and cleverness of the forward earns the applause of the onlooker, we are-without exception-stirred to a greater degree of admiration by, and maybe a little envious of, the utter bravery of the full-back: the constant watchfulness of the lastline defender, the caIm steadiness under extreme pressure, the mighty leap for the high fetch and the utter determination of the surge forward through the mass of menacing forwards to get in that long relieving clearance. The goalmouth is no place for the skinny-shouldered or the faint of heart.

Two of the full-backs likely to play significant roles this summer are John O'Keeffe of Kerry and Pat Lindsay of Roscommon. There are others, but this pair fill the vital roles for counties defending provincial titles.

John O'Keeffe, despite a varied career in football, follows in a long line of illustrious Kerry fullbacks. Yet, there was a time just two years ago when the Kerry

John and kingpins

By MICK DUN

selectors appeared to most outsiders to have "gone off the rails" by attempting to convert him into a full-forward.

John had been switched out of defence in the spring and back to midfield—a position in which he earned a Carrolls All-Star award in 1973 and in which he appeared regularly for the Austin Stacks club—and was there for the 1977 league final against Dub-

lin. But it seemed a real "brainstorm" was responsible for a move further upfield by the time the championship started that year and he was full-forward in the provincial semi-final.

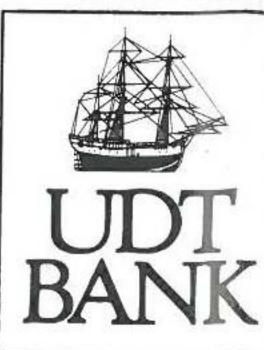
He had been the regular full-back from October 1974 when Paud O'Donoghue retired and missed games in that position only through injuries or a spell in the 1975-'76 winter during

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Pat are f defence

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which he was studying at Loughborough College in England. So he did not fit in quickly again to midfield for the league final two years ago and he was even less successful as full-forward against Waterford. Consequently it was not unexpected that he was restored to full-back for the Munster final in Pairc Ui Caoimh the following month.

He has not been moved out to

another position since then and, judging by his absolutely commanding performances since reverting to full-back, it is hardly likely he ever will again.

The son of Frank O'Keeffe, who played with Kerry as a corner forward in the 1947 Polo Grounds All-Ireland final, John celebrated his 28th birthday in April and he can look forward to many years of service still in the green

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John O'Keeffe (Kerry)

and gold. He first donned the jersey in 1967 as a minor right half-back, filled the same position the following year and was centre half-back in 1969, a year in which he was a half-back for three Kerry sides—the junior and under-21 as well as the minorand captain of the St. Brendans (Killarney) team that won the All-Ireland colleges championship. Moreover he was a substitute for the All-Ireland senior final that same year, having made his senior debut in a challenge game the previous month.

Pat Lindsay, like John, also has experience of midfield and he played there during the three years (1966-'68) he was on the Roscommon minor side, alternating between centrefield and full-back. He was full-back for the under-21 side in 1970 and '71, but when he made his first appearance on the senior team it was at left full-back in a league match against Kerry at Tralee in November 1970.

He has contributed many exceptional displays since moving into the No. 3 position and some of those of 1977 brought him a Carrolls All-Star award. Last month he led Roscommon to victory over Cork in the N.F.L. Final. He is now 29 and playing with complete self-assurance and vigour. Physically well endowed though he is, there have been very few instances when he was beaten for mobility or outmanoeuvred by nippy forwards.

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one to another and to their children.

"The place of the family in the community, concern for parents, and children, and support for people who need help in the community, old people and the less well off, are other matters discussed and acted on".

He is also a member of the National Council of Gorta. Indeed, he was one of those on the first national council, and his work in this area can be seen as part of the new outlook by the G.A.A. in getting involved in matters of concern.

About six years ago, Sean took up golf at the suggestion of some friends.

"I enjoy the game, and meeting people, but I will always be a long handicap player", he laughingly told me.

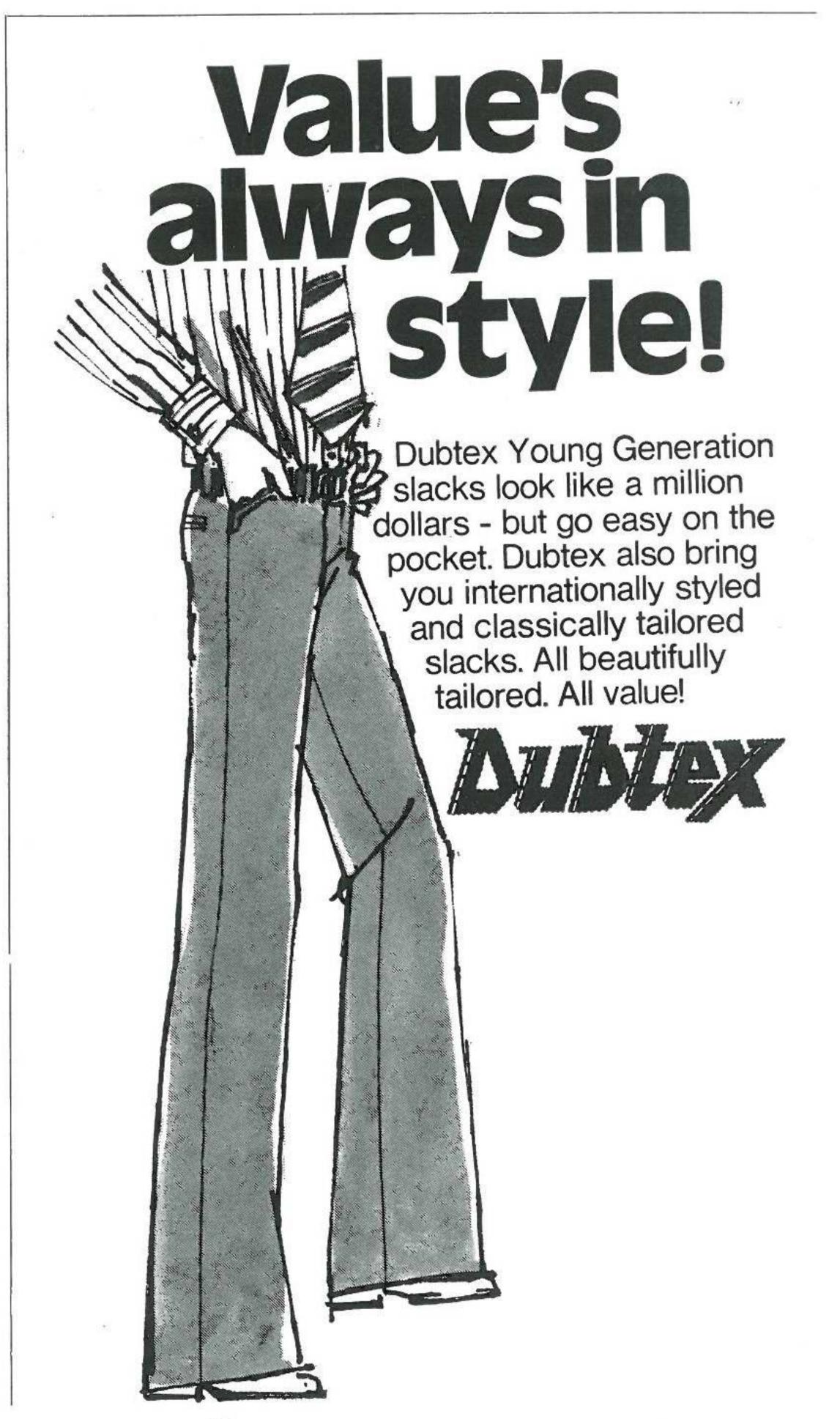
Now after the wonderful service he has given to the Association in general over the years, Sean O Siochain is adding yet another dimension to his career as Development Director of the Ceannaras Project.

The need for a Headquarters in keeping with the dignity and needs of the Association as the premier national Sports and Cultural Organisation in the country has long been felt, and is now being undertaken to complete the picture of an Association well-equipped from club to Central Council and meeting the needs of modern society in its functioning.

The Ceannaras plans include Congress and Convention facilities, meeting and media rooms, library and museum, staff offices, international sized Handball Court, gymnasium, refreshment lounge, as well as a commercial floor, the income from which will help to defray the running and maintenance costs of the over-all structure.

An ambitious and far-sighted project, undoubtedly, but one that with Sean O Siochain chartering the passage with his proven flair, drive and all round ability, is sure

to be brought to a successful conclusion to leave the G.A.A. superbly equipped to celebrate the Centenary Year in 1984 in style.



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HERE and THERE

By OWEN McCANN

THE most exciting personality in Gaelic Games in the opening months of the year? I have no hesitation in nominating comeback star Francis Loughnane.

What delighted me about the immense contribution the Roscrea club man made to the return of the National Hurling League title to Tipperary was the way that he coloured his shrewd general play by giving a timely boost to the match-winning art of consistently popping in the goals and points.

For some reason that I find it extremely hard to fathom, the game's forwards, with the noteable exception of Wexford's Ned Buggy, have been losing out in recent years on the scoring touch. Up until round the mid-'Seventies, hurling annually produced a quota of top-class marksmen, but there has undoubtedly been a real slump in this regard.

Could it be that goalkeepers and backs in general are proving more successful than those of former years in containing forward power? Or has the emphasis on coaching, regular training and team sessions that has grown apace in the modern game taken from the individual scoring skills evident in the past masters of forward play?

I find it difficult to give an effective answer to either of those questions. What I do say with conviction, however, is that hurling will be the loser in the long term if the game does not quickly begin to provide a strong company of forwards with the exciting scoring touch that creates so many talking-points.

That is why I am glad to see Francis Loughnane back so prominently again among the scores. Admittedly, he is a long time in the game now, having made his senior inter-county debut nearly twelve years ago, but since making a come-back last year after a period of inactivity with cartilage trouble, the Tipperary forward has given the game a strong injection with some noteworthy



Francis Loughnane (Tipperary) who won his first NHL medal this year.

match peaks.

Bags of 2-8 against Dublin at Croke Park in February, and 1-8 against Offaly, not to mention his valuable 1-4 against Galway in the League summit, are the type of scoring exercises that generate new interest in the code in general.

Although he missed two of Tipperary's games in the series, Loughnane still finished the top scorer in the country for 1978-79 in the National Hurling League. He hit 67 points (5-52) in eight appearances at the wonderful match rating of 8.37 points.

This is the third time Loughnane has finished in the premier position, and he joins Jimmy Doyle and Eddie Keher in an elite panel of hurlers who have headed an annual review over more than two campaigns. The Tipperary hurler's earlier glory seasons were 1972-73 and 1974-75.

Let's hope, then, that the impressive standard the Tipperary man has set this year will lead to a real revival in the shooting for goals and points stakes.

Incidentally, the win over Galway earned Loughnane his first National League medal. He thus completed the third leg of the "shamrock" of national medals, having won an All-Ireland senior in 1971 and a Railway Cup award in 1976.

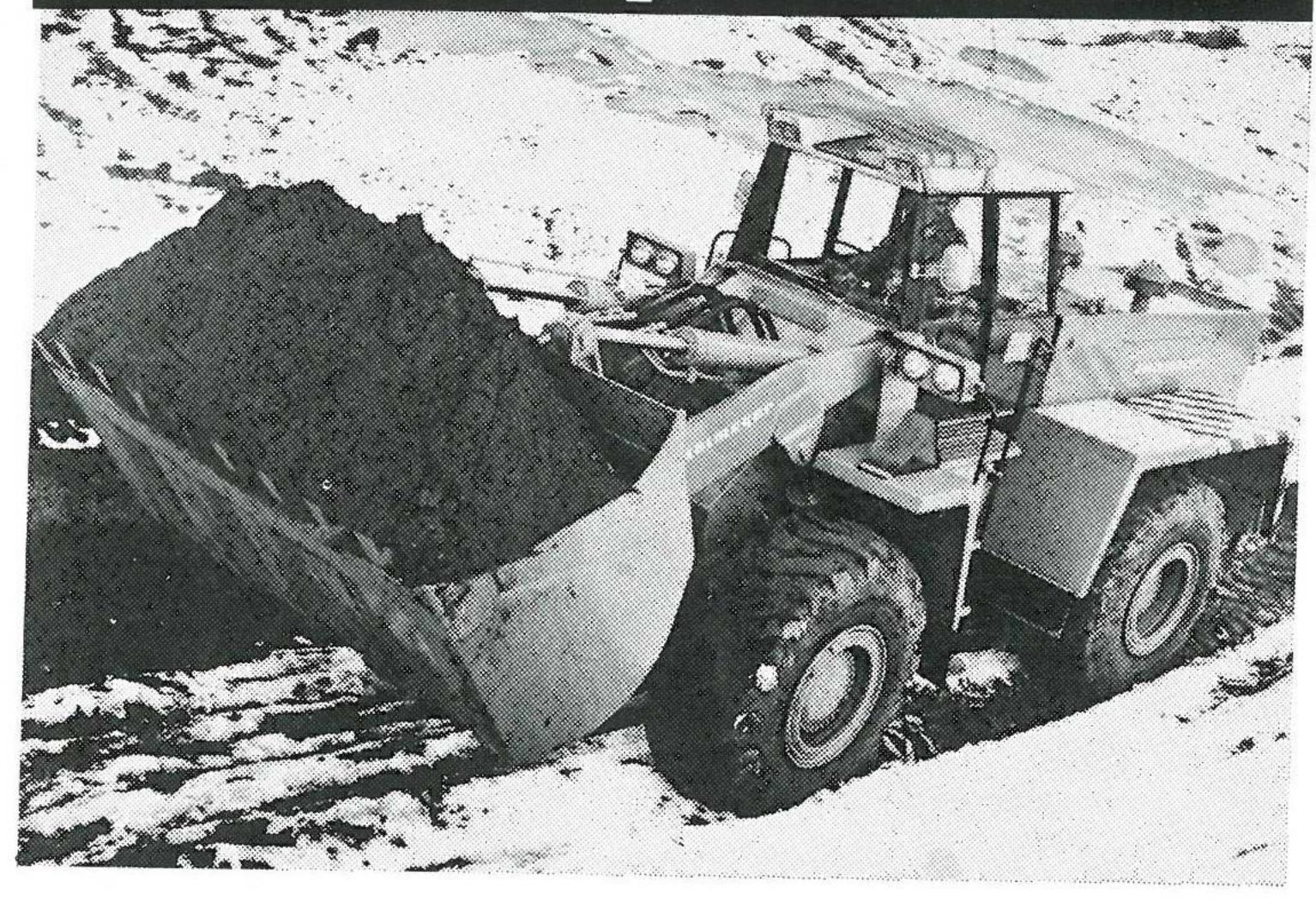
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The Dubs have been keeping a "low profile", as the currency of the times has it, this year, but the capital's budding stars have been doing a good job in advertising teenage standards by the Liffeyside in the All-Ireland colleges' championships.

St. Fintan's, Sutton, only lost by a point to St. Eunan's, Letter-kenny, in the All-Ireland "B" final in football, and Ard Scoil Ris, Marino, also did the capital proud in their entry to the All-Ireland senior championship

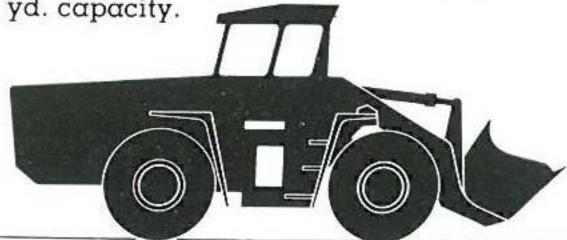
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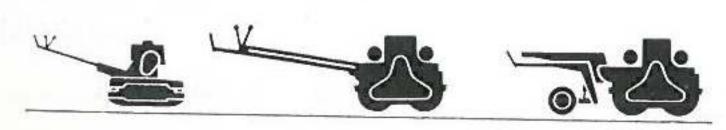
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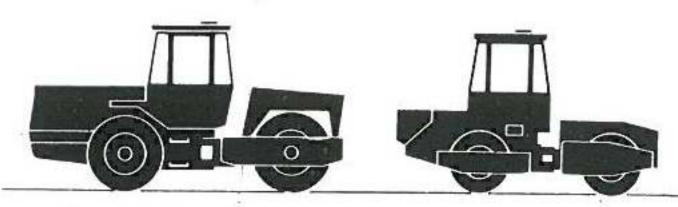


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FROM PAGE 29

series. Obviously, then, there is much hope for the future of Dublin football.

Behind the scenes in a coaching capacity in the Ard Scoil Ris march was Bobby Doyle, who thus added another string to his bow. It is good to see current stars like the flying St. Vincent's and Dublin senior forward devoting their time and efforts to preparing school teams, and indeed club juvenile selections. The game gains tremendously as a result.

ofe ofe of

Mention of Bobby Doyle inevitably raises the question: Can Dublin hit back from their disappointing spell at the end of 1978 to equal the record of six Leinster senior football titles in a row held jointly by Wexford (1913-18) and Kildare (1926-31)?

I think it is a tall order. Not that the Leinster scene has been humming of late, but I am a great believer in competitive match play, and Dublin have been sadly lacking in this since the start of the year.

It could be argued that the long rest will do the Dubliners a power of good after their arduous and demanding spell at the top. But six months or so without a competitive game is not my idea of the perfect build-up for the championship campaign.

Still, there is a strong core of experienced campaigners on hand for the Metropolitans, and their chances must not be lightly dismissed.

What of the challengers? After Kildare's flop against Cork in the National League semi-final, I doubt if they will now make 1979 the year of the long-awaited break-through.

Pat McCarthy, who won an All-Ireland senior medal in 1975 with Kildare, while then, as now, a member of the Sallins Club in Kildare, helped the All Whites to a recent tournament win over Galway, and he could prove a vital spur to them for the championship campaign.

Nevertheless, Kildare have promised so much and achieved so little for so long that after the crash to Cork, I, for one, am not very optimistic about their chances of making a breakthrough.

Offaly look to have plenty of potential. They gave Roscommon a good run in the League semifinal, and are bound to have learned some valuable lessons as a result. In addition, they have



Bobby Doyle
of Dublin who
coached Ard
Scoil Ris to
victory in the
All-Ireland
Colleges'
Championship
(See Results
Summary,
Pages 44 and
48.)

very bright young talents like Tomas Connor, Gerry Carroll and Vincent Henry, and the vital experience of men like Martin Furlong, Eugene Mulligan and Sean Lowry.

Remember, too, that the Midlanders gave Dublin a rare old fright in last year's Leinster championship. So, if Dublin are to fail, then, Offaly may be the team to take over from them.

aft aft aft

What an amazing sportsman handballer Pat Kirby is! On successive weeks he did more than win two All-Ireland 40 x 20 championships, he maintained a truly remarkable record.

These singles and doubles championships were introduced in 1975. Early in May Kirby won the singles crown for the fifth year in a row, which means he has won every title so far.

A week earlier, Pat and his brother Mick won the doubles title for the fifth successive year! So, it would be hard to get a better record than that in any branch of sport.

Pat Kirby is a former World champion. Back in 1970 at the official opening of the then new Croke Park alley he beat Joe Maher (Louth) in the concluding game to win the world singles title, but at that time the Clare native was representing the U.S.

Pat has again his place in the Irish party for the annual visit to the U.S. later this year. The other members are Peadar McGee (Mayo), who has also visited the States in the past, and the Ryan brothers, Tony and Noel, of Tipperary, who qualified by winning the two places at stake in under-22 international trials earlier in the year.

* * *

The news that Martin Carney is now assisting Mayo revives memories of golden days for Donegal football. Carney was a forward in the side that beat Tyrone for the county's first-ever Ulster senior title in 1972, and two years later he was to the fore when the North-West county won the title for the second and last time.

Carney is the only Donegal man to have won a Railway Cup medal with the Combined Universities. He held down the left half forword spot in the side that beat Connacht in a replay at Athlone in 1973, the only title win by the student team.

Carney, who played his club football in Donegal with Bally-shannon, visited the U.S. as a Carrolls All-Star replacement, in 1976. He led Donegal to their last Dr. McKenna Cup (all Ulster senior football knock-out tournament) win in 1975, and has also played for the province in the Railway Cup.

Bass Ah...that's 1300 best in sport

SUMMER DRINKS DEPT.

BY LINDA COLLINS

A LL of us are hoping that after freezing through the winter, many hot lazy days are ahead, when sunshine, fresh air and salt water will play a big part in our lives. While relaxing on a hot summer's day a cool drink is always part of the scene.

Maybe you aren't actually drinking it in your day-dream but the scenario spells out that it will be there to be drunk—when you feel thirsty enough to need it, or when you have ceased from the pleasurable pursuits—swimming, walking, sailing, dancing under the stars or whatever it may be—that has led you to work up a thirst in the first place.

Just writing that paragraph made me thirsty!

FIZZ IS FUN

How they put the fizz into fizzy lemonade is a question which begins to fascinate us at around the age of five and continues to puzzle us for a lifetime. Today's kids have a lot of fun solving the problem with lemonades like T.K.

The T.K. symbol means lemonade to most of us but it also stands for a full and complete range of soft drinks produced under the Taylor Keith label.

If you are an expert on fizzy lemonade try drinking T.K. out of champagne glasses. All the best people do! Also, never forget to return T.K. empties and get a substantial refund on the big bottles.

Gilbey's have excellent suggestions for cooling summer drinks, based on the widely distributed Carafino wine which is available everywhere. This one is ideal for serving 30 to 40 people and

couldn't be simpler to make. You combine seven litres of Carafino Medium Dry White wine, four bottles of medium sherry (a cheap one will suit), five lemons, very thinly sliced but not peeled, five tablespoons of caster sugar and six bottles of soda water.

Put the wine, sherry and lemon slices in the punch bowl and leave to cool in the fridge. Then add the sugar and stir until it dissolves completely. Lastly, pour in the soda water and serve the cup in tall glasses.

FEILE na nGAEL

For the real Coca Cola lover there is only one drink—Coke with ice. I've tried it and it really is different and is the answer to the hot weather we are all hoping will come. The Irish bottlers of Coca Cola have been consistently to the fore in promoting healthful activity for Irish youth.

Nine years ago in Thurles, the birthplace of the G.A.A., Seamus O'Riain, that most cultured of men, conceived a festival to motivate the youth of Ireland to the love of hurling and our heritage. The festival is, of course, Feile na nGael and in 1971 its first and only sponsors, the Irish Bottlers of Coca Cola, began an association with the G.A.A. which reflected the joint aspirations of both organisations through this decade.

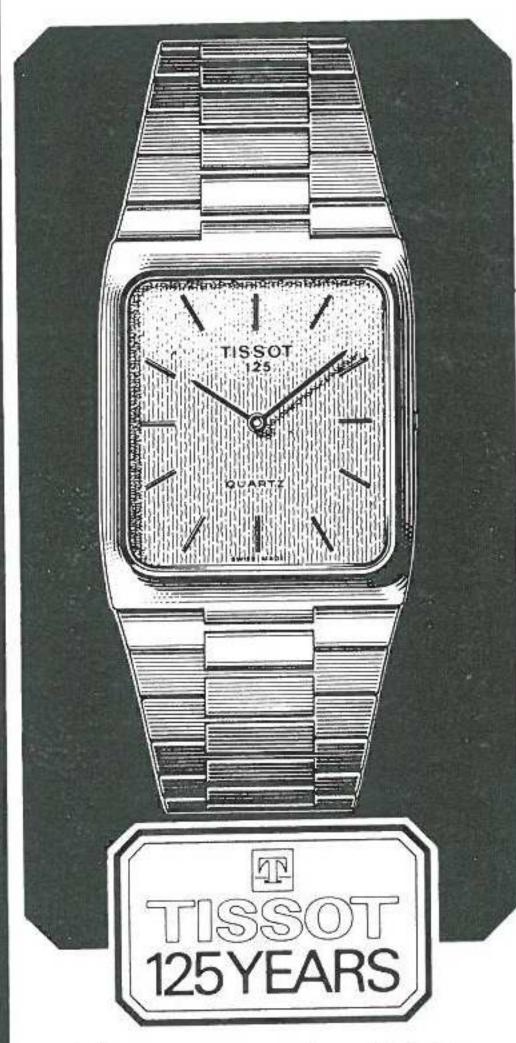
Feile na nGael is different to most events because at its centre is the essential community spirit so much a part of the G.A.A. tradition. Feile is certainly about the promotion of hurling at juvenile level and about the competitive instinct but what attracts

● TO PAGE 35

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Coca-Cola particularly is its emphasis on reinforcing the G.A.A.'s sense of community.

"It is so interesting and enjoyable", says Pat Ryan who won two successive skills competitions—one judged by the great Christy Ring. "It gives all its participants the incentive to carry on hurling".

That indeed is a crucial element in Feile which has been staged in Thurles, Limerick, Cork, Waterford and Kilkenny where it will be held for the second successive year from late June into early July.

This year as last, more than 45,000 boys will directly take part in the Feile preliminary events in all counties. More than 1,000 will gather at Kilkenny for the National finals and there will be additional representation from the Camogie and handball associations in one of the great centres of hurling.

Feile has thrived in nine years and Coca Cola has been proud to be part of its development . . . just as the Irish Bottlers are happy to maintain their association with the Singles and Handball doubles championships which have been developed with great flair and style by Joe Lynch and his hard working committees.

SEVEN-A-SIDE

Beamish & Crawford, who sell Bass in this country have, for the past six years, sponsored the Kilmacud Crokes All-Ireland seven-a-side football tournament. It was won last year by the Down side, Castlewellan, who defeated St. Mary's, Sligo 10.4 to 6.10 Competition for places in the 1978 series was razor keen, with applications from all over the country, as well as from England and even Canada.

You know all those knowledgable fellows on television who can test and reject any number of glasses, only to decide eventually,



◆ At the official opening of Ireland's first ever Bottle Bank at Blanchardstown were from left: John O'Leary, T.D., Minister for State at the Department of the Environment, T. A. Larkin, Managing Director, Irish Glass Bottle Co., and Fergal Quinn, Managing Director, Superquinn in whose Blanchardstown supermarket car park the first Bottle Bank is located.

"Ah, that's Bass"? Well, people like that actually exist. The Bass connoisseur really does know his favourite drink from all other ales and is prepared to stand up and say so. For the less committed, Bass is still an excellent summer drink—that touch of lightness in it, combined with strength, does a good job of quenching a thirst.

And as you quench your thirst, don't forget the drinks container. There was a move some years ago away from glass to plastic bottles and cans. Over the past couple of years, however, this trend has been completely reversed and for many reasons, not least because glass combines beauty with perfect functionalism. Glass is class in more ways than one.

Ireland's first ever Bottle Bank

glass recycling scheme which was launched at the end of 1978 by the Irish Glass Bottle Company has been so successful that plans are well under way for a major expansion of the scheme before the end of 1979. The pilot scheme at Blanchardstown, Co. Dublin has averaged over 1¹4 tonnes of glass per week for collection and for recycling.

Basically the Bottle Bank is a large specially designed container placed in a location visited by the public in their day to day or weekly business. The public are asked to save their used glass jars and bottles and to deposit them into the bank in one of three separate compartments for clear, brown and green glass. In Blanchardstown the local Parish Office is promoting the scheme and all glass containers deposited in the

OVERLEAF

• FROM OVERLEAF

Bank are bought back from the Parish Office by the Irish Glass Bottle Co. for use in the making of new glass. The money earned by the Parish Office is used to finance projects in the area.

Glass lends itself admirably to recycling and the Irish Glass Bottle Company has been using around 20,000 tonnes of old glass a year in the making of new glass. It is hoped to increase tonnage up

to 30,000 tonnes by 1982 with Bottle Bank playing a significant role in the increased tonnage.

Bottle Banks are widely used on the Continent and in the U.K. At present there are over 20 Bottle Banks in operation in Britain and in many cases individual Banks are supplying over 2 tonnes of glass per week. It is hoped that there will be seven banks in operation in the Dublin area by the end of 1979.



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Brian Murphy: A recent All-Ireland club medalist. Dermot Earley: Top scorer for his county in 1978. Paddy Williams: A champion captain. Liam O'Brien: A come-back star of 1979. Cathal Digney: Saval Club.

Williams, of course, captained Tipperary to the League title, while O'Brien returned to the Kilkenny side during the spring after a spell in retirement. Brian Murphy won an All-Ireland football medal with Nemo Rangers, and Digney's club is Saval. Earley was Roscommon's top scorer last year.

SPOT THE MISTAKES

The venue was Thurles, not Limerick. It was Leinster's first title in two years, not four. Paddy Quirke is from Carlow, not Laois. Joe Henry was in Connacht's team, not Leinster's. And, Connacht won the title back in 1947.

WHO IS HE?

Cregan. Eamon Cregan, well-known as a scoring forward, but who was moved back to centre half-back for Limerick's 1973 final outing and proved a hero of the All-Ireland win over Kilkenny.

PICTURE PARADE

John Horgan, the great Cork hurling defender, who plays with Blackrock. Christy Keogh, who starred in Wexford's attack in hurling but won his first county senior medal last year at centre half with Rapparees, Enniscorthy.

GOALKEEPERS

1. Brian McAlinden (Armagh).
2. He became Kildare's first Carroll's All-Star. 3. Nemo Rangers.
4. Seamus Durack (Clare), honoured in 1977 and 1978.



JOHN CROWLEY

talking to Eamonn Young



"I'M Johnny Crowley the Cork player and this going to be all about myself. I'm not very good at this but it's got to be done, so . . ."

"My father Denis is from Rathmore on the Kerry side of the Cork border, and my mother is Siobhán Collins from Newcestown. There are four boys of whom I'm the youngest, and three girls. All except Joan the youngest were born in Enniskeane in West Cork not far from my mother's place. Tim Crowley the hurler and Kevin Kehilly the footballer come from Newcestown. My first cousin is D. J. Crowley the man who used to do the tearaway solo-runs for Kerry in the middle of the field when Micko Connell was playing.

"The name Crowley is Crua and Laoch which seems to mean a tough soldier. I don't regard myself as the toughest of all time but there were a lot of hard-bitten Crowleys in West Cork for the last two thousand years for the clan lived there even before the Mac Carthys and the O'Sullivans. For the last fifteen years we have been living in Bishopstown a suburb on the western side of Cork with the green fields all around us".

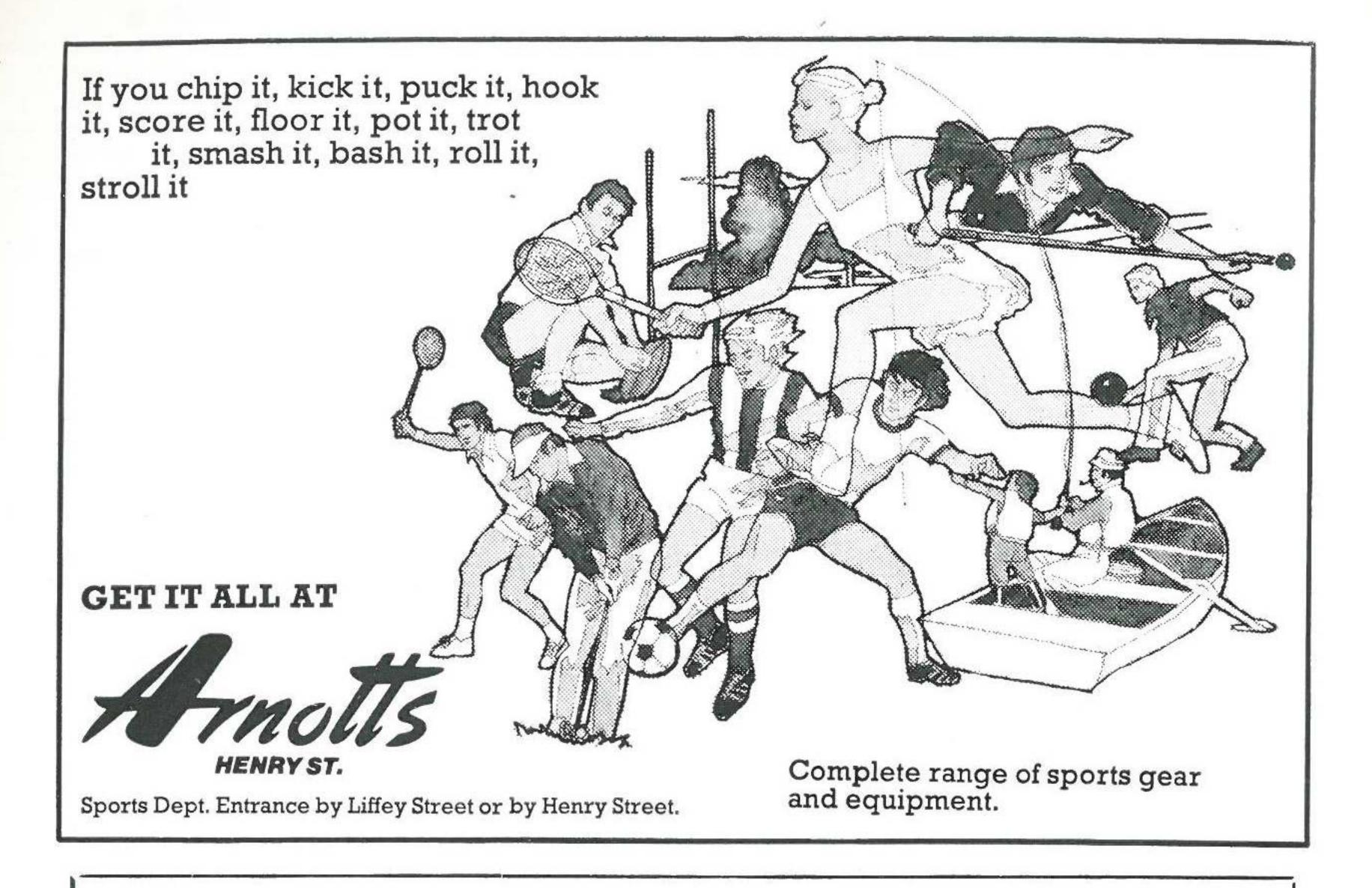
"I started playing in the street leagues and my best playing pal was Jimmy Barry-Murphy. He will always be my friend and he's my favourite footballer. We both went to the big school in Bishopstown, Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh and what a thrill it was to go back there with the All-Ireland cup along with Jimmy Barry. The kids shouted with glee and the teachers smiled more at me in ten minutes than they did in the three years I spent there. After the Inter I left for 'Farna' (St. Finbarr's, Farranferris), the diocesan seminary and it was there I met the man who made a hurler of me. Fr. Michael O'Brien from Innishannon is a hard man to train teams. He makes you work hard at the game and knows a lot about it. His enthusiasm is terrific and he made those 'Farna' sides.

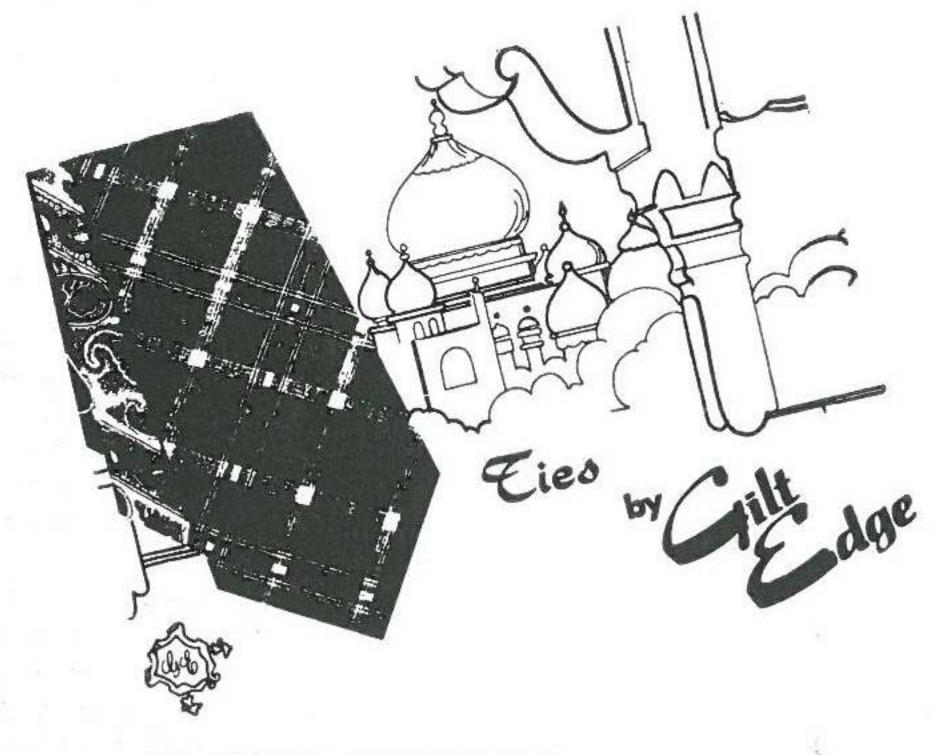
I did the Leaving in Farna in '74 and we also had a terrific year in the games for I played in the backs on both Cork minor teams and we won both All-Irelands. Also we pulled off the Colleges All-Ireland and it was a very happy year for me. I got a job here in town and carried on playing with the club Bishopstown. We have a new pavilion here in the middle of the green Bishopstown fields and there are some wonderful workers in the outfit. Our dearest hope is to win the Cork senior football championship and if enthusiastic work means anything it surely must come soon. Mick Fleming the Kerry centre-fielder is playing great stuff for us and we have other good men like Dick Murphy, Tadhg O'Reilly, Kieran Ronan, Eddie Roch and Eugene O'Connor. Michael Jones the club chairman heads a great bunch of leaders."

"My first big break came three years ago when they gave me a chance in the Oireachtas final against Wexford in Croke Park. I played well enough to hold my place and I've been here since. I was twenty then and from right half back I went into the centreback position later and they kept me there. It was a wonderful thrill to win that All-Ireland of '76 and to have added two more is something out of this world. I'm a lucky man to be in with such fine players on that Cork side, and I'm doing my best to stay with them."

"I like centre back and when you have two men like Denis Coughlan and Diarmuid Mac Curtain beside you there's a confidence which makes a man hurl better. And if you make a mistake those chaps are better than most to seal off the gap. Just now we're congratulating Tipp on that sweeping League win and I'm truly delighted that a county which has flown the hurling flag

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• FROM PAGE 37

so well is coming back into the big-time. That doesn't mean that we want them to beat us on June 3, and I can tell you that's going to be one hell of a game. We're after four in a row, and we don't want anyone to stop us. We have the hurling but we must get very fit. People often ask me which game I prefer, and sometimes it's hard to answer. I have been playing both since I was a kid and feel at home in both, but hurling has been very good to me and I suppose success makes a man fonder of it. How lucky I am to be in a county like Cork. I know fine players in weaker counties who can never have the success that I've won.

Football is a more physical game but if you keep pretty fit you won't get badly bruised, and so far, thank God, I've been lucky. I'm a little over six feet and strong enough to look after myself. I think the rest depends on a man's natural anticipation and ability to judge the drop of the ball in both games. I find playing centre back the very same in each game except of course for the difference of stick and sliotar. It is usually easier to go around a man than go through him, and if you can do that smartly you'll play well and not get bruised either."

"In the Cork hurling side Fr. Bertie Troy does the coaching and Kevin Kehilly trains us. He is a very determined man and we respect him as a physical educationalist, a football and a hurler. Kevin wants us to win badly and shows it. That's good for a team. I have always admired Kilkenny hurling. Like Wexford, Cork, Waterford, Tipp, Clare, Limerick, Galway and the rest they have a fine spirit, which is the most important thing in a man, Christy Ring said. In addition they have a skill all of their own and if they

have any kind of a sound team you'll never know when they'll beat you. I was happy to have them in off the field in Croke Park last September. A few years back I was a great admirer of the dash and skill shown by Pat Lalor at wing half back."

"This is my first year as a dual player and so far I can't complain that the going is too hard. We had a good winter, for the league was easy and now I'm pretty fresh. I drink and smoke but I'm careful about it and I know they don't mix with the games. I don't worry much about anything, and take each game as it comes. That's in a fellow's make-up I suppose and I know some chaps who get pretty tense over the games. That takes a lot out of a man. Naturally I'm hoping to become a regular with the Cork football team and when you have been beaten in three successive under-21 championships by those darling boys from Kerry you want to win awful badly.

I'm sorry they interfered with the solo-run in football. There was nothing wrong with the skill and it looks well. Maybe they should have tightened up on the handpassing because the boys are throwing it more often than passing it properly, but they could have left the solo-run alone. I would like to see more notice taken of the players' opinions regarding the change of rules. The older men who have played the game and then spent many years watching it are certainly very well qualified to speak about the rules. But the man who is playing the ball, taking a tackle or trying to stop a forward has also a very sound reason for making an opinion. Perhaps a County Board could form a players' committee of say five selected men along with two older men. A sensible committee like this could make recommendations to the County Board at the end of the playing season.

These recommendations would naturally be debated by the Board and if they were thought sensible could be set down in motions for the county convention. In this way the players would be making their own contribution and they would also be happy that some notice was being taken of their opinion. I am aware that players already have a chance to propose motions at their club meeting but in a committee this work would probably be done more expertly.

I am working for Packo-Blackwater Ltd. as a salesman, and my job is to sell refrigerator bulk milk-tanks to the farmers. The tanks hold anything from 100 gallons to 2,000, the big ones being for farmers with about 200 cows and they cost £11,000. The small ones are for men with about ten cows. It's a fine job and I like meeting the people but I have to arrange my training carefully. When I'm away for the night I try to get somewhere to train and I'll begin to work this out better according as I get more accustomed to the road."

"Games are bringing great happiness into my life and they round off the joy of home and of the job. I hope I can continue to improve as a hurler and footballer and I know the way to do this is to study the games, listen to advice and train steadily. Will this be published before we play Tipp? I'd better say no more only to settle down to winning that game—the first step to four-in-arow.

The tall spare man with the cheerful face and the curly brown hair smiled at me. "I'm going home to bed now" he said "because I'm tired after that match". As I watched him stride in his jaunty way I realised that this year there are going to be many Cork hopes resting on the strong resilient shoulders of the man from Bishopstown, twenty-three year old Johnny Crowley.

• FROM PAGE 13

watching Tipp's tame exit from the Munster championship when he was sidelined with cartilage trouble last year. Tipp were pathetic against Limerick and their attack was so inefficient that there appeared to be no bright clouds on the horizon. But Francis believed that the young Tipp players could, with guidance, achieve better things.

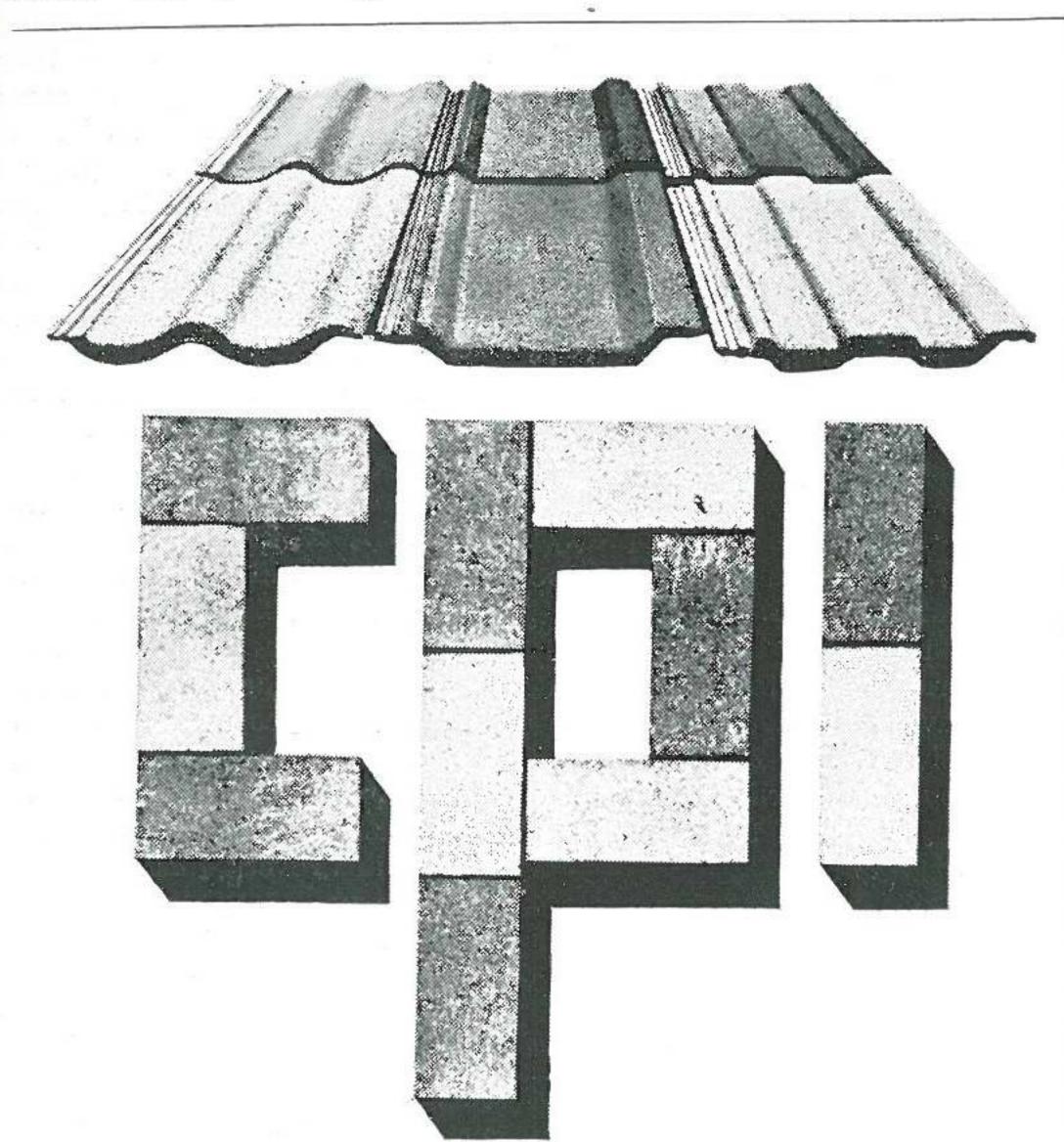
As a result he was determined to lend a hand and, overcoming two knee operations, he reappeared in the blue and gold jersey for the league. Since his return he has been an inspirational figure, scoring freely and working wonders with his fellow forwards by giving them the benefit of his vast experience.

The great-hearted Loughnane scored 1-4 in Tipp's victory over Galway in the League final in early May when Tipp gave notice to all concerned that they were a force to be reckoned with in the coming championship.

Thirty-four year old Gerald McCarthy incurred a leg injury in a league game during the past season and this kept him inactive for over three months. He resumed training in May and since then, and at every spare moment, he has been going through his paces painstakingly in order to participate in Cork's bid for the four-in-a-row. It is such dedication that has already earned Gerald five All-Ireland senior medals.

Illness prevented Denis Coughlan from participating in Cork's league campaign and seemed certain to terminate the hurling career of the 35-year-old Glen Rovers player. But, like many another hurler from that illustrious club, Denis refused to be overcome by adversity and fought his way back to fitness.

One has to admire such almost fanatical commitment to an amateur sport and one cannot dispute the fact that Francis Loughnane, Gerald McCarthy and Denis Coughlan not merely epitomise all that is good in the spirit and determination of wholehearted Munster hurlers but bear all the credentials of the really noteworthy performers from the hurling province.



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John Connolly (Galway)

THE GALWAY ENIGNA

THE situation of Galway hurling will not be found easily digestible by followers who have had their expectations reduced to ruins once more by the loss of the League Final. But there are curious contradictions about Galway that must be unravelled. It is not a matter of simply concluding that they came unstuck badly once more when the big performance was called for, although, I suppose, that is true also.

But there is much more to it than that. Why do Galway seem to be about to bring the hurling world to its knees only to crumple themselves when nothing seems less likely.

At present it would seem that forward problems are multiplying. This can always be expected in teams that find their form elusive or their confidence broken. Tentative action gets you nowhere in hurling; tentative approach and a tentative frame of mind undermines even the chance of recovery.

What can Galway do? It is easy

to be a physician in somebody else's pain. Nevertheless it is essential, surely, that they try some drastic surgery. The time is slipping away from the fine side that emerged to take the N.H.L. in 1975: next year is a poor kind of promise in hurling for too soon comes a "next year" which is too late.

In that respect there is perhaps a division of opinion as to which team is representing Galway now—the original team; the original team with some graftings and some necessary replacements; or a new team being gradually built to its own new specifications and needs.

One way or another it is necessary to shake the team up and deliver a shock or two to revivify them. There seems little use punishing the out-of-form forwards by making them go through more hours of misery and non achievement. There would appear to be plenty of backs and openfield players who could equal any opposition if they were trying with a whole heart and an ur-

gency to match. The depression or ennui must be dispersed and fresh zing injected.

Why then should not skilful ball players like Sean Silke, maybe Nial McInerney, perhaps Iggy Clarke and Joe McDonagh, go up into the forward line and let energetic younger fellows lash into the job of defending? Defenders can be made granted the will and the minimum intelligence. Nor does the defence make such demands on skill so long as the basic qualities are sound.

It is difficult to see why some of those mentioned would not bring their abilities to some use up front. They may not be happiest there and their natural bent may even be towards defensive roles. But even as a temporary measure they have the one thing the present forwards lack—confidence in themselves as hurlers.

There is for instance, Conor Hayes, one of the very best prospects of recent years and one who showed a fine temperament when thrown into the testing games in the League. He would take up centre half-back, let us say and relieve Sean Silke of the need to recover his top fitness and form in a hurry. On the other hand, it is strange if a technically excellent player like Silke and with a lot of experience too, could not fit himself very handily into a forward position where quick accurate shooting must gain reward.

Steve Mahon, a sound hard working player who will not often be outdone at midfield, may give enough satisfaction to allow John Connolly to push up again into attack—say full forward.

Taking all in all Galway may be a force to be reckoned with in the Championship.



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Early Among This Nation's Builders

selection Committee, and subsequently called Pat Henderson in to join them as physical trainer in succession to Senator Mick Lanigan, who had for a decade contributed so much to his county's hurling successes, but can no longer spare the time for the role he filled so well. In the second place all Kilkenny, including the players, of course, seemed to take fright as demotion loomed closer and closer. The first positive step was persuading that mercurial stylist, Liam "Chunky" O'Brien, to emerge again from self-imposed inter-county exile. The next was to motivate the entire side to the big effort.

All objectives for the moment have been achieved. Kilkenny are still in Division One A, and the sights have now been reset on the Championship ahead. As distinct from Wexford, the Kilkenny handlers, are, however, faced with a very different problem, to find the proper blend from the reservoir of youthful talent available. It will not have escaped the notice of shrewd observers that eleven of the fifteen men who started in that relegation play-off against Waterford at New Ross were under 25. Moreover, so many starlets are knocking on the door from the minor and Under-21 teams of recent years that the selectors could be, and indeed are, faced with an embarrassment of riches.

One man, very close to the Kilkenny mentors, told me recently, "We counted them up, and we have about 37 players who are good enough to be on a first team panel. Trying to find not alone the most effective of these, not to say the 15 that will blend best into a team, is like trying to fit the proper pieces together in a jigsaw puzzle."

Finding the most efficient blend is obviously going to call for a certain amount of experimentation, but Kilkenny, at least, are in the happy position that the material is there with which to experiment.

Tipperary, too, will be looking forward to even more telling hurling from their youngsters who proved so well worthy of the confidence the selectors had placed in them in the latter stages of the League. Eamonn O'Shea, Peadar Queally, Michael Doyle and Gerry Stapleton improved with every outing, and these lads are obviously going to be an even more powerful force in the blue and gold in the years to come. What is more, the injection of this young blood gave a new lease of life to such seasoned warriors as Tadgh O'Connor, Noel O'Dwyer, Jim Kehoe and the evergreen Francis Loughnane. That quiet and thoughful man Brother George O'Grady has certainly proved himself now as a trainer of teams at all levels, and who can set a boundary to the triumphs that may yet lie ahead of him?



Leinster Final action between the "old firm" of Kilkenny and Wexford. As Moondharrig says ". . if every team Wexford face were to wear the black and amber, they would find every time the spark to set them on fire."



Results Summary

NATIONAL LEAGUES

Football: Semi-Finals: April 15. Croke Park: Roscommon 1-14; Offaly 0-13. April 22. Cork 2-9; Kildare 0-4.

Hurling: Quarter-final Replay: April 15. Croke Park: Tipperary 1-18; Offaly 0-10.

Semi-finals: April 15. Thurles: Galway 1-15; Limerick 4-5. April 22. Limerick: Tipperary 2-13; Clare 2-12.

Final: May 6. Limerick: Tipperary 3-15; Galway 0-8.

Top Scorer for the entire League campaign: F. Loughnane (Tipperary) 5-52 (67 points) in eight games. Average 8.37 points.

Hurling: Division II: April 15: Trim: Kerry 3-7; Meath 3-4. This win qualified Kerry for Division IB hurling next season.

Hurling: Relegation Play-Off: April 29. New Ross: Kilkenny 1-12; Waterford 0-9. Waterford relegated to Division I "B".

1979-80 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

April 15: Ardee: Louth 2-9; Westmeath 0-8. Killybegs: Donegal 4-9; Sligo 1-3. Kilrush: Clare 0-9; Tipperary 0-9. April 22: Navan: Meath 3-9; Limerick 0-7.

May 2: Tullow: Carlow 0-11; Wicklow 0-8. May 6: Casement Park: Antrim 0-12; Derry 0-9. Castleblayney: Louth 1-10; Monaghan 1-9. Irvinestown: Fermanagh 1-12; Longford 0-3. Portlaoise: Laois 1-8; Meath 1-7. Limerick: Clare 2-9; Limerick 1-7. Carlow: Carlow 1-13; Waterford 1-7. Carrick-on-Shannon: Donegal 0-7; Leitrim 0-3.

DR. McKENNA CUP

Senior Football: April 15: Bellaghy: Antrim 4-5; Derry 1-7. April 29: Armagh: Armagh 2-11; Antrim 3-5. Ballybay: Monaghan 2-9; Fermanagh 0-9.

ALL-IRELAND "B" HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

April 29: Ballycran: Meath 1-9; Down 1-5. Aughrim: Wicklow 4-11; Carlow 3-8.

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Finals: Senior Hurling: April 29: Thurles: St. Flannan's, Ennis 3-15; Presentation College, Birr, 2-3.

Senior Football May 6: Tullamore: St. Jarlath's, Tuam, 0-10; Ard Scoil Ris, Dublin, 0-10. DRAW.

"B" Championship: Hurling Semi-Final: April 29: Summerhill: Good Counsel, New Ross, 3-7; Cross and Passion, Ballycastle, 0-3. REPLAY.

Final: May 6: Thurles: Good Counsel, New Ross, 2-4; Roscommon C.B.S. 0-5.

"B" Championship: Football: **Final:** May 6: Tullamore: St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, 2-6; St. Fintan's, Sutton, 2-5.

KEHOE CUP

Senior Hurling: Semi-Final: April 15: Parnell Park, Dublin: Dublin 5-7; Laois 4-10. DRAW. April 22: Mullingar: Westmeath 4-9; Carlow 1-9. May 6: Portlaoise: Dublin 1-9; Laois 0-9. REPLAY.

GAEL-LINN CUP

Senior Football: April 29: Crossmolina: Mayo 3-8; Roscommon 1-6.

UNDER 21 CHAMPIONSHIPS

LEINSTER: Football: April 15: Kildavin: Laois 2-13; Carlow 0-2. Aughrim: Wicklow 1-13; Kilkenny 1-3. Parnell Park, Dublin: Longford 1-7; Dublin 1-4. Summerhill: Meath 2-13; Wexford 3-9.

April 29: Kells: Meath 2-14; Westmeath 2-2. Longford: Louth 0-8; Longford 0-5. Portlaoise: Offaly 4-5; Laois 2-8. Aughrim: Kildare 2-12; Wicklow 1-7.

MUNSTER: Football: April 18: Cork: Cork 4-11; Kerry 2-9. Clonmel: Tipperary 2-7; Waterford 1-10. DRAW. May 2: Dungarvan: Tipperary 3-9; Waterford 2-3. REPLAY.

Semi-finals: May 2: Kilmallock: Cork 1-12; Limerick 1-6.

MUNSTER: Hurling: April 11: Thurles: Tipperary 6-13; Clare 2-8. April 16 Kenmare: Kerry 3-6; Waterford 0-10. April 25: Ardfert: Cork 1-8; Kerry 0-6. Thurles: Tipperary 1-17; Limerick 1-6.

ULSTER: Football: April 20: Irvinestown: Derry 1-9; Fermanagh 0-5. April 22 Newcastle: Down 0-11; Donegal 0-4. Casement Park, Belfast: Cavan 2-4; Antrim 0-4 Coalisland: Tyrone 3-10; Armagh 2-7.

May 4: Newry: Down 3-9; Monaghan 1-3.

REPRESENTATIVE GAMES

HURLING: April 22: Croke Park: **Final:** Combined Universities 2-7; Gardai 0-9.

FOOTBALL April 29: Devlin Park, Dublin: Combined Universities 2-11; Garda 1-11.

MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

MUNSTER: May 4: Nenagh: Tipperary 7-11; Kerry 0-5.

HANDBALL

All-Ireland 40 x 20 Championships Senior Doubles Semi-Finals: April 21: Ennis: Pat and Mick Kirby (Clare) bt Tom O'Rourke and Cecil Winders (Kildare) 21-9; 10-21; 21-12. April 22: Castlebar: Peadar McGee and Paddy McCormack (Mayo) bt Greg and Louis Gilmore (Cavan) 21-2; 21-4.

Senior Doubles Finals: April 29: Ennis: Pat and Mick Kirby (Clare) bt Peadar McGee and Pat McCormack (Mayo) 21-14; 21-19.

Senior Singles Final: May 6: Claremorris: Pat Kirby (Clare) bt Peadar McGee (Mayo) 13-21; 21-4; 21-7.

CAMOGIE

Leinster Championships

Junior: April 22: Kildavin: Dublin 6-6; Carlow 0-1.

Minor: April 22: Kildavin: Dublin 3-6; Carlow 0-0.

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JUNIOR DESK



By
JACK
MAHON

THE postal dispute will hope-■ full be over before this reaches print. Between this and that we let the occasion of our NINTH ANNIVERSARY pass by in May without recording the fact. The unexpected death of Christy Ring had a shock effect on the country. There were many fitting tributes to Ireland's greatest ever hurler. I have a scrapbook compiled already with all the tributes to the Cork Master Hurler. The Donncha Ó Dulaing series, the appreciation of the Glen Star by Eamonn Young, Paddy Downey, Michael Ellard, Louis Marcus, Pádraig Puirséal, Con Houlihan, Donal Carroll, Seamus Ó Ceallaigh, John Barry I missed the Cork Examiner tributes. I look forward to the books on the Cork star which will cover his life story.

SOUVENIR

On the occasion of the opening of new G.A.A. grounds it is usual to bring out a commemorative souvenir programme embracing the G.A.A. history of the area concerned. I have seen many good programmes of this kind but none to surpass the magnificent Clár Cuimhneachain of the Swinford G.A.A. club to mark the official opening of their Michael Davitt Memorial Park and Community Centre on May 13th. The pitch was opened by Dr. Padhraig Carney, Swinford's most famous football son and the masterful commemorative booklet edited by Bernie O'Hara should be a sell out. It is a Masterpiece and I recommend it to all programme lovers and all interested in producing any kind of G.A.A. annual or programme or booklet.

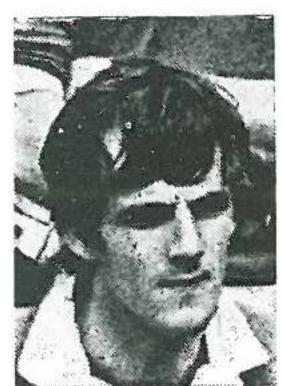
Price £1 does not include postage from Mr. B. O'Hara, 2 Seaman Drive, Riverside Estate, Galway.

CUT OUT

Ray Cummins is one of the best dual players we have seen in hurling and football. He has been more prominent in hurling in recent years, and was, of course, one of Cork's stars in the great treble of All-Ireland senior championships.

But, do not forget that the tall and clever Blackrock club man also won an All-Ireland senior football medal with Cork in 1973. And, he has played as well with Munster in Railway Cup final winning teams in football and hurling.

Yes, a very versatile sportsman is Ray. He has given so much to the games and to Cork over the years, and he has consistently set an excellent standard as well with his sporting and skilled play.



Ray Cummins the popular Cork dual star who is our Colour Cut Out this month on Page 49.

PROVINCIAL TITLES

My tips for this year's provincial titles are as follows:

Leinster (F.)—Dublin (Offaly). (H.)—Kilkenny (Wexford).

Munster (F.)—Cork (Kerry).
(H.)—Tipperary (Limerick).

Connacht (F.) — Galway (Mayo).

Ulster (F.)—Armagh (Cavan). Runners-up in brackets in each case. I'd better hide!

JIMMY BARRY-MURPHY

Remember the Jimmy Barry-Murphy story in the Sunday Independent. At last year's Carrolls All Star banquet Jimmy met G.A.A. enthusiast Liz Howard, daughter of Garrett Howard of Limerick hurling fame, who told Jimmy of her nephew's (Ronan O'Driscoll of Nenagh) great admiration for him. On the occasion of the All Star Banquet each All Star is presented with the coloured photograph of himself which grace the stand behind the main table. Jimmy, in his own unselfish manner, autographed the photograph and gave it to Liz for her Tipperary nephew. I tell this story to illustrate how sincere a man Jimmy Barry-Murphy is. I meant to tell that story in the Sunday Independent. But it's better late than never. Till next month slán agaibh.

Jack Mahon

JUNIOR QUIZ

Compiled by TONY KEEGAN

OUR second section in JUNIOR DESK this month affords YOU a chance to brush up your knowledge on Gaelic Games affairs in general, and perhaps at the same time learn something new.

This comes through our JUNIOR QUIZ, in which the players in the spotlight are all current stars, and so will be well known to readers either by reputation or from seeing them in action at venues throughout the country.

To give the quiz a little of the competitive element that adds to the enjoyment of any test, points are listed at the end of each section. In this way it is possible to see just how exactly YOU measure up.

To start off it will be necessary to get the pencils out right away. In our first section, five players are named, and the task is to match each one correctly against the clue given in the list below the stars.

For example, if you think the clue, "The Saval Club" refers to Paddy Williams, of Tipperary, as his club, then put in that description after his name. We call this section:

ON THE LINE

Brian Murphy (Cork)

Dermot Earley (Roscommon)

Paddy Williams (Tipperary)

Liam O'Brien (Kilkenny)

Cathal Digney (Down).....

And the clues are:

A come-back start of 1979. Top scorer for his county in 1978. A recent All-Ireland club medalist. The Saval Club. A champion captain.

Two points for each description matched correctly with the player concerned. Ten points in all for a fully correct solution. YOUR SCORE

Now, let's see how quick you you are at spotting mistakes. There are five in our review under the heading:

SPUT THE MISTAINES

in the Kailway Cup nurling mular at Limerick in Apill, it was their first title in four years. Paddy Quirke, the only Laois hurler in the side, was one of the East's stars. Ger Henderson and Joe Henry were also prominent for the winners. Connacht must now wait another year at least for their first title.

Ten more points for jotting down all five errors; otherwise two points for each one spotted. YOUR SCORE

WHO IS HE?

Take one letter only from the surname of each of the six stars listed below in the order in which they are given, and so spell out the surname of a hurler who has been a leading scorer for some years but won an All-Ireland senior medal some seasons back at centre half-back.

CROWLEY
LOUGHRAN
EARLEY
EGAN
BARRY-MURPHY
SPILLANE

Again, help yourself to ten points if you come up with the hurler in question

PICTURE PARADE

Recognise the two players photographed? Well that is only

part of the exercise. We also want to know their clubs.



Five points for each player named correctly, and five also for each club. So, this section could boost your tally by 20 points. YOUR SCORE

Let's end with a short, sharp session on the men who guard the net:

GOALKEEPERS

- 1. Ulster's met minder in the Kailway Cup final win in March last?
- 2. Ollie Crinnigan (Kildare) earned a unique ranking in football last December. Can you say what it was?
 - 3. Billy Morgan's club in Cork?
- 4. The only man from his province to win a Carrolls All-Star award in hurling in the position?

We will award five points for each correct answer here, making a grand total of 20. YOUR SCORE.

HOW DID YOU FARE?

Let's see now how you fared? The highest possible score is 70, but you will be doing exceptionally well if you hit that target. 50 to 70 we rate very good. 30 to 50. Good.

Under that score, well, never mind, there will always be a chance to do better in the future.

ANSWERS PAGE 36

CHAMPIONSHIP TIME AGAIN

IN the coming months the Coca-Cola Championships will command the attention of the country's handballers and, in the process, satiate the appetites of the legion of dedicated supporters who revel in the excitement of scientific play and earnest endeavour.

The spotlight is immediately directed towards reigning champion Richie Lyng from Wexford.

He thundered back into the limelight last year to win the title and thus augment his victories of 1965 and 1971. It was a success bred from the seed of determination, superior fitness and undoubted talent that saw Lyng shrug away the disappointments of previous years when he had to stand in the shadows of the great Pat Kirby.

That said, it must be conceded that Lyng has baffled handballers in the intervening months, for his appearances in the court have only been sporadic and he did not play in the Gael-Linn Competitions at all. The only conclusion one can draw is that he is gearing himself for the Coca Cola Singles again on the basis that competitive activity through the winter months would have dulled his enthusiasm.

If Lyng is in the field he must be given an even chance of retaining his title, though, it is encouraging to find a number of young starlets emerging on the horizon.

Tom O'Rourke from Kildare is to the forefront of these and with a number of All-Ireland titles in the subsidiary grades and the most recent Gael-Linn Championship to his credit he will hardly falter on the score of experience.

O'Rourke, who hails from the traditional handballing village of Ballymore-Eustace is something of a phenomenon as far as the game in Kildare is concerned. Many years ago he wrote new history for the game in his native county by returning home with the first title ever won in the softball grade.

An air of hopeful expectancy now abounds amongst his supporters that he can breach the mythical barrier by winning the Coca Cola Softball Singles.

Another player from Kildare who can never he discounted is Cecil Winders, who reigns supreme in the hardball grade. He plays his club handball in Dublin where he is highly rated as an expert at the softball grade also.

A reference to Dublin reminds one that the Metropolis has not won a Senior Singles Title in the softball grade since 1951 when the late Larry Rowe returned with the Trophy.

It would certainly be in the interests of the game in Dublin if that void could be bridged but the chances of such a happening in the near future seem to be minimal.

Pakie Ryan, oft times winner of the Gael-Linn Trophy did give some ray of hope in latter years that he could effect the big break through, but, invariably, his best efforts failed when the chips were down.

Kilkenny, too, has quite an array of talent, led by near veteran Paddy Reilly who has won subsidiary titles and many threatened on numerous occasions to take the big one.

Pat McGarry of Limerick could also be a lively contender,

though, in the absence of a return by Pat Kirby, Munster hopes might be relying to a large degree on such as Noel O'Brien and Tom Morrissey, both from Tipperary, Tommy O'Brien (Kerry) or Joe Roche (Limerick).

It is over forty years since the Senior Singles title found a resting place in Roscommon. Paddy Perry, one of the living legends of Irish Handball won the last of his famous eight in a row in 1937 and since then Roscommon fans have craved for the day when another senior title would come to the county.

Hopes were high last year that success was imminent when Joe O'Brien went to the final, but the occasion proved too much for him as he fell to the onslaught of power and skill from Lyng.

O'Brien will be in the field again this year but would not, in my view, be a good bet for eventual success. If Roscommon do make a break in this grade in the future it could be in the form of Micky Walsh, a dynamic young player with lots of ability.

Gerry Scully and Eamonn Rabbitte (Galway), Glen Quinn and Pat McCormack (Mayo) not forgetting Peadar McGee and Brian Colleran are others who will have a big say in the destination of the Senior Title.

It is a regrettable fact but it appears there is no Ulster player on the circuit capable of making a serious challenge in the coming championships.

The Coca Cola Singles is, without a doubt the blue riband of Irish Handball and in the coming months we should witness many pleasant hours of entertaining handball as the top players strive for the title.

BREIFNE PARK DEVELOPMENT

The third and final phase of a £140,000 development programme at Breifne Park, Cavan was marked by a Solemn Blessing and Official Opening Ceremony and a special match between Cavan and the All-Ireland football Champions Kerry on Sunday, May 13th.

The development, which began in 1973, comprises a covered stand, accommodating 3,000 spectators, spacious changing room facilities, a new perimeter wall with turnstiles and entrance gates, fencing around the pitch, a car park and a new access road. As a result, Breifne Park is now one of the finest stadia outside Dublin, with one of the largest playing areas of any G.A.A. ground in the country.

The Solemn Blessing was performed by the Most Rev. Francis

and the Official Opening by Mr. Con Murphy, immediate past president of the G.A.A. The entire proceedings of the day were jointly sponsored by Motor Distributors Limited of Dublin, distributors of Volkswagen, Audi, Mercedes-Benz, Mazda and Porsche cars and Brady's Garages of Arva, Cavan and Dublin.

Breifne Park, named after the ancient territory of Breifne O'Reilly, was officially opened on July 22nd, 1923, and was the first pitch owned by a County Committee of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Since then, the Park has undergone a number of improvements, culminating in the most recent development.

Although Cavan have not been cutting much of a dash in the McKiernan, Bishop of Kilmore, football, they still have one of 2-11 to 1-12 victory.

the best traditions in the game. The county has won the Ulster senior championship 47 times more titles in fact to their credit than all the other counties combined.

They also brought the Sam Maguire Cup to Ulster for the first time in 1933. A major step on that road was a win over Kerry, then bidding for their fifth All-Ireland championship in a row, in a semi-final at Breifne Park.

In the May 13th game Cavan had another fine win over the kingdom.

A crowd of close on 3,000 enjoyed some spirited football, and went home happy as a result of a last second goal by Brian titles scene in modern times in O'Grady, which earned Cavan a

RESULTS SUMMARY • FROM PAGE 44

COLLEGES

Interprovincial: Final: April 28: Mobhi Road, Dublin: Munster 5-5; Connacht 3-3.

Representative Game: April 29: Belfield, Dublin: Combined Universities 4-3; Combined Colleges 0-2.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Final: May 13: Roscommon 0-15; Cork 1-3.

Top scorer for the entire League campaign: W. Cullen (Carlow) 6-25 (43 points) in six games. Average: 7.16 points.

MUNSTER MINOR HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 8: Thurles: Limerick 6-12; Waterford 1-5.

MUNSTER UNDER-21 FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi-Final: May 9: Kilrush: Clare 0-9; Tipperary 1-3.

ALL-IRELAND "B" HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 13: Croke Park: Kerry 0-15; Roscommon 0-10. Rathdowney: Laois 2-16; Wicklow 1-7. Mullingar: Antrim 2-11; Westmeath 0-13. Navan: Kildare 5-7; Meath 1-10.

ALL-IRELAND COLLEGES' **CHAMPIONSHIP**

Senior football: May 13. Tullamore: Ard Scoil Ris, Dublin, 2-9; St. Jarlath's, Tuam, 1-10. RE-PLAY.

ALL-IRELAND VCCATIONAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

Football Final: May 13: Croke Park: Derry 2-3; Mayo 0-9.

DR. McKENNA CUP

Final: May 13: Dungannon: Monaghan 1-7; Armagh 1-6.

Top scorer for the entire competition: D. McKenna (Armagh), 1-8 (11 points) in two games. Average: 5.50 points.

SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Leinster Football: Kilkenny: Carlow 1-16. Wexford 4-7. DRAW. Navan: Meath 6-19; Kilkenny 0-3.

MINOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Leinster Football: Navan: Meath 6-11; Kilkenny 0-5. Kilkenny: Wexford 2-7; Carlow 0-7.

Gaelic Sport xxx



Cummins Cork

Age: 30 Height: 6ft. 2ins. Weight: 13st. Position: Full Forward Club: Blackrock Senior-Inter-County Debut: 1969.

HIGHLIGHTS

Ray, who has been such a brilliant stalwart of Cork's latest run of three All-Ireland senior hurling titles in a row, has given tremendous service to the county in both codes, and must rank as one of the outstanding dualplayers. His record since stepping into senior ranks as a substitute in the 1969 Munster final is amazing. Before the latest success story, he won All-Ireland medals in 1970 (hurling) and 1973 (football), and earned ranking as one of only four men with Railway Cup souvenirs in both codes. The progressive full forward also struck it rich in the Carrolls All Stars awards promotion, winning three trophies in hurling and two in football.

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