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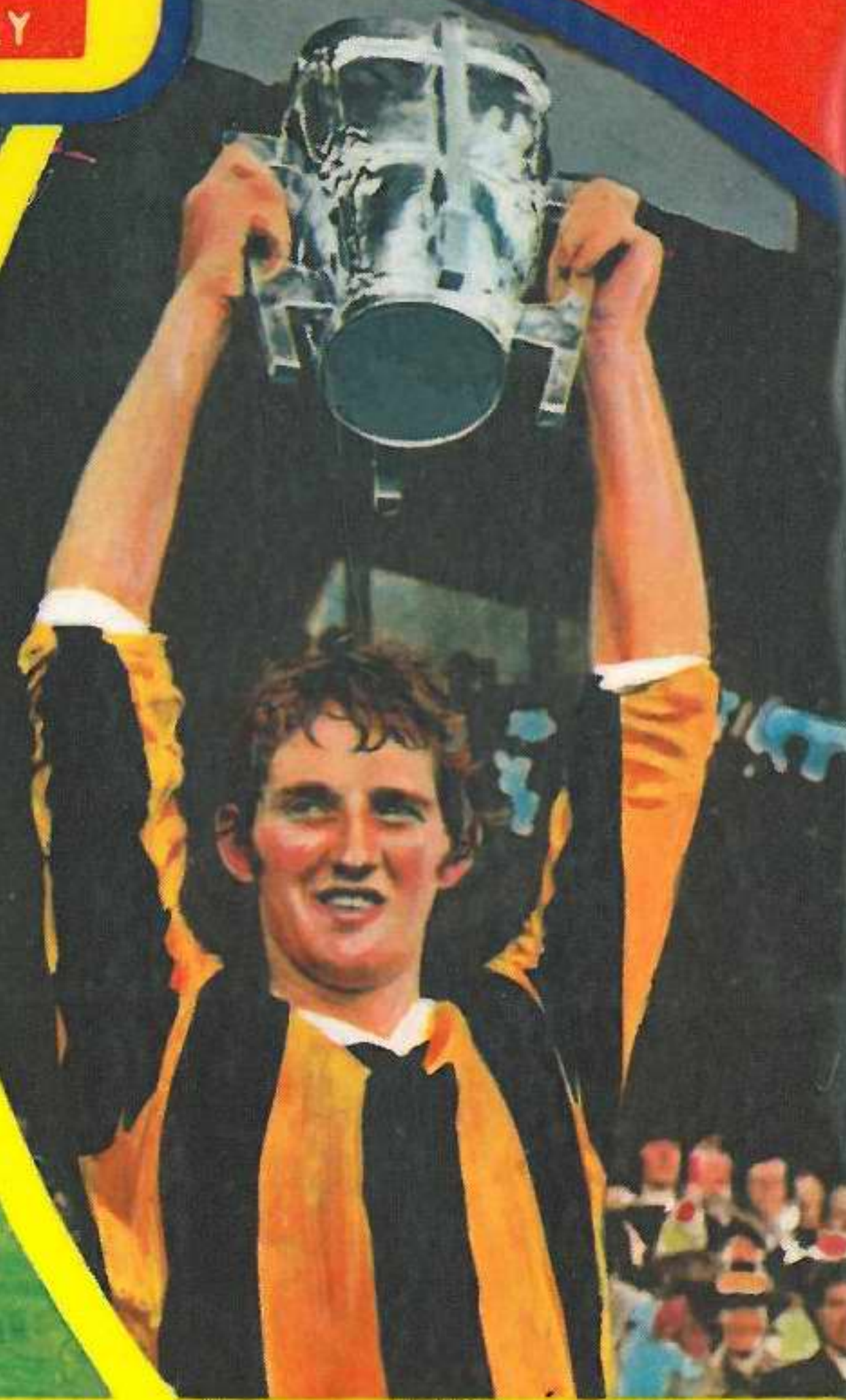
SAA

# GAEELIC SPORT

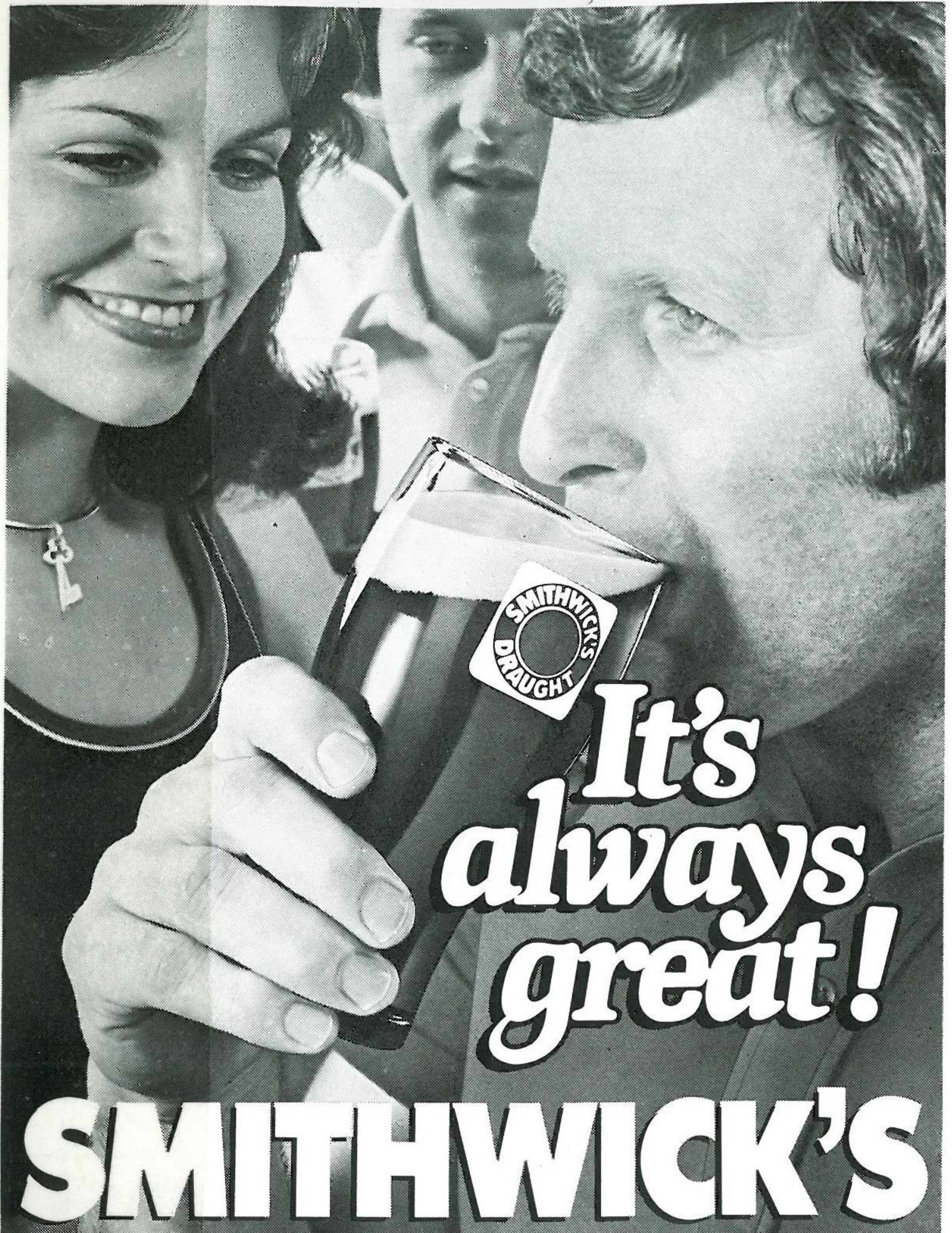
IRELAND'S LEADING GAEELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

THIRTY  
PENCE  
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NOVEMBER —  
DECEMBER  
1979



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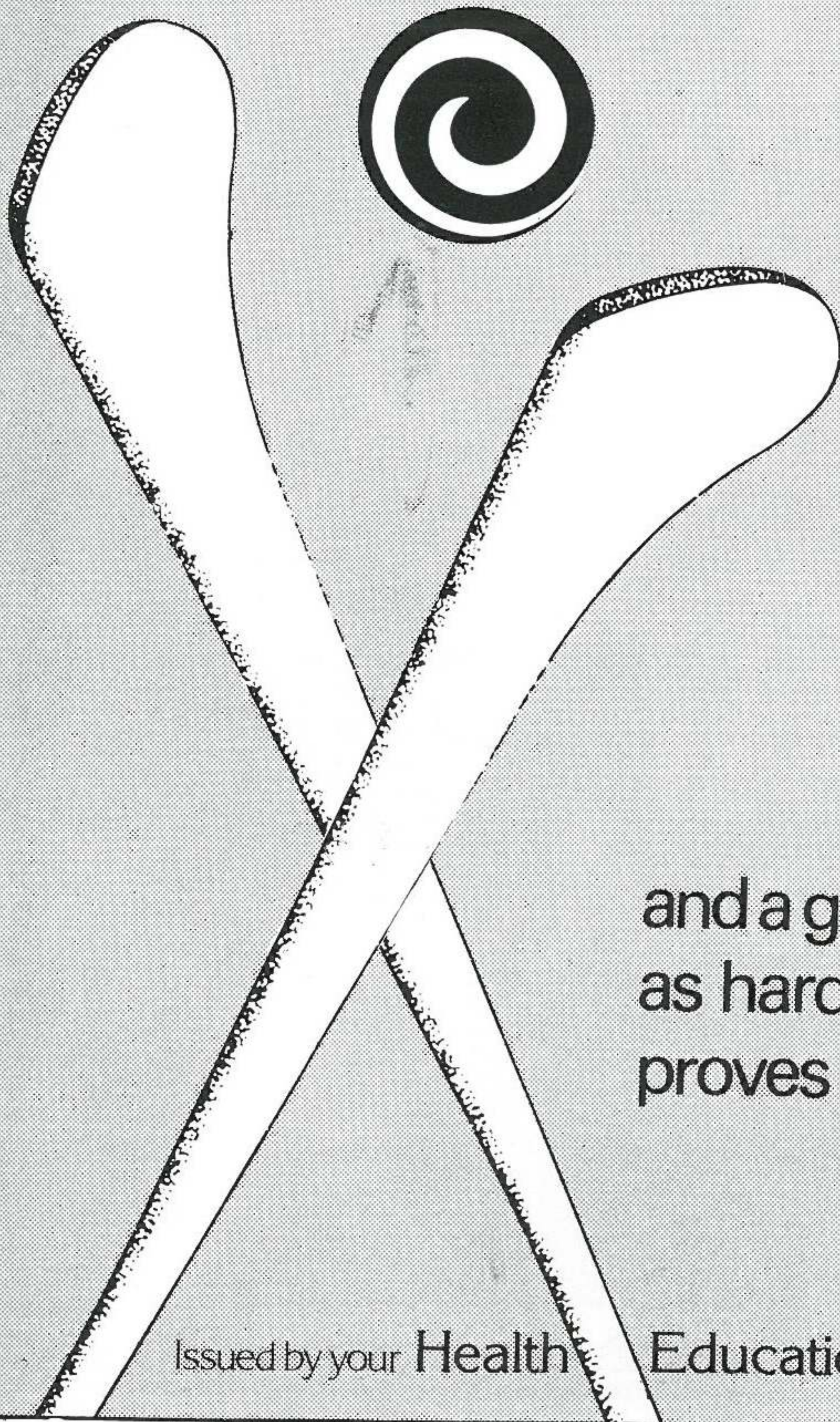
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# CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

**K**ILRUSH struck a rare blow for the minnows of Gaelic Games when they travelled to Tralee on a recent November Saturday, and knocked out a star-studded Austin Stacks side from the Munster club senior football championship.

That fine performance by the Clare champions underlines that it is not necessary for the lesser lights, whether at club or inter-county level, to throw in the towel when up against top sides, and adopt a "we have not got a chance" attitude. And, even Tralee supporters, if understandably disappointed at their team's exit, will concede that the Kilrush win will give new heart to footballers not only in Clare, but in the other not so successful counties.

But what a pity that these club championships continue to be played during the winter. They will not realise their full and obvious potential as crowd-pullers as long as they have to compete with the winter gloom.

More important is the fact that winter sport is unfair to the players, who are after all, only amateurs.

It is hard to understand why these championships cannot be played during spring and early summer. Admittedly, Sunday dates are then at a premium, but matches could be played on Saturdays—after all this precedent has been established—and week-evenings.

Such a plan would result in bigger attendances all round, and prove less demanding on the players. The image of the championships would benefit as well.

## A SAD LOSS

A familiar feature is missing from the current issue—Moondharig's Diary. Since our last edition Pádraig Puirseal, who contributed this widely read and popular review, passed to his eternal reward.

He was more than a valued contributor to this magazine. He was a staunch friend and ally, a conscientious journalist who could be depended on to meet a deadline and provide features of the highest possible standard.

Pádraig Puirseal was steeped in the lore of the G.A.A. He wrote about the organisation and the games with a deep insight and knowledge, and with a fluency and style that won him countless admirers far and wide.

It was this publication's good fortune to have had him as a regular contributor right from the launching of GAELIC SPORT in 1958. He will be badly missed, not only by GAELIC SPORT, but by Irish journalism in general. He was an outstanding journalist, and a kindly man.

We know that we will be joined by all our readers in extending sincere sympathy to his wife, Agnes, and family.

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# Tyler

## Close contest

# Top Ten

## for top awards

**T**HE race for the GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN awards for 1979 is building up into an exciting climax. The latest charts, which cover the period from the All-Ireland senior football final to the end of October, leave the football situation particularly fluid, and the hurling run-in is also far from being a one-man affair.

Des Mulligan has been setting the pace in football, but he fails to gain a place in the current Top Ten chart. Nevertheless, the Monaghan man continues to hold on to the No. 1 position with 111 points.

But right on his heels is Dermot Earley, who had a good U.S. tour, and as a result, collects 26 very valuable points. This puts him in only eighth position in the current review, but has brought the gifted Roscommon midfielder to within a mere two points of Mulligan.

There is a strong two-pronged Roscommon challenge for the trophy, in fact, as very much in contention as well is Danny Mur-

ray. The sterling left half back is another who was prominently to the fore on the tour, and although he only comes into the current table in ninth position his tally of 25 points keeps him in third place over-all, this time with 96 marks.

Michael Sheehy and Pat Spillane are also handily enough placed at fourth and fifth respectively over-all to thrust forward for worth-while challenges for the final honour.

Sheehy had a wonderful tour. He scored an amazing 7-18 (39 points), and also won a footballer of the match award. In addition, his high quality work in the All-Ireland final has to be recognised

in the latest charts.

The Austin Stacks man capped his good general play in the win over Dublin by equalling the All-Ireland football final individual scoring record by helping himself to 2-6.

All these splendid achievements combine to not only earn Sheehy the top spot in the latest football review, but ranking as well as the first player of the year in either code to collect a 50 points maximum. This bag boosts his record over all to 82 points.

Spillane, who contributed so much to the successful defence of the All-Ireland title, and also captured much of the limelight on the tour, runs his county-mate very close in the latest run-down. He takes second place on 48 points, and this leaves the tireless forward with 80 points over-all.

In hurling, Joe Hennessy wins a placing as far down as seventh in the latest chart on 33 points following some fine displays in America, but that bag is enough to establish the stylish Kilkenny man as the new pace-setter in the code on 128 points.

Until this, Francis Loughnane had been commanding the stage with 102 points, but he has had no chance of improving his posi-



● John Connolly (Galway)



● Pat Spillane (Kerry)



● Noel Skehan (Kilkenny)

● OVERLEAF

● **FROM OVERLEAF**

tion as a result of Tipperary's early dismissal from the Championship back in June by Cork. Loughnane has also been passed out this time by two other hur-

lers—John Connolly and Mick Brennan.

Connolly captained the All Stars in America, and had a very successful time. He collects 46 points, and the top of the chart

ranking in the code to bring his record to 117 points. The Galway man is now second in the review for the year so far.

Brennan was in third position in the October issue. He still holds down this berth, but has pushed his points haul up to 110, so that he, too, is well placed to make a final winning spurt.

An interesting, indeed, unique feature of the hurling review, is the high placing of Joe Henry, the first Mayo man to win a place in these charts. He takes fifth place in the latest table on 36 points on the strength of his splendid hurling in the U.S. as an All Star replacement.

The leading five in each chart over-all so far are:

**FOOTBALL:** 111: D. Mulligan (Monaghan). 109: D. Earley (Roscommon). 96: D. Murray (Roscommon), 82: M. Sheehy (Kerry). 80: P. Spillane (Kerry).

**HURLING:** 128: J. Hennessy (Kilkenny). 117: John Connolly (Galway). 110: Mick Brennan (Kilkenny). 102: F. Loughnane, (Tipperary). 99: I. Clarke (Galway).

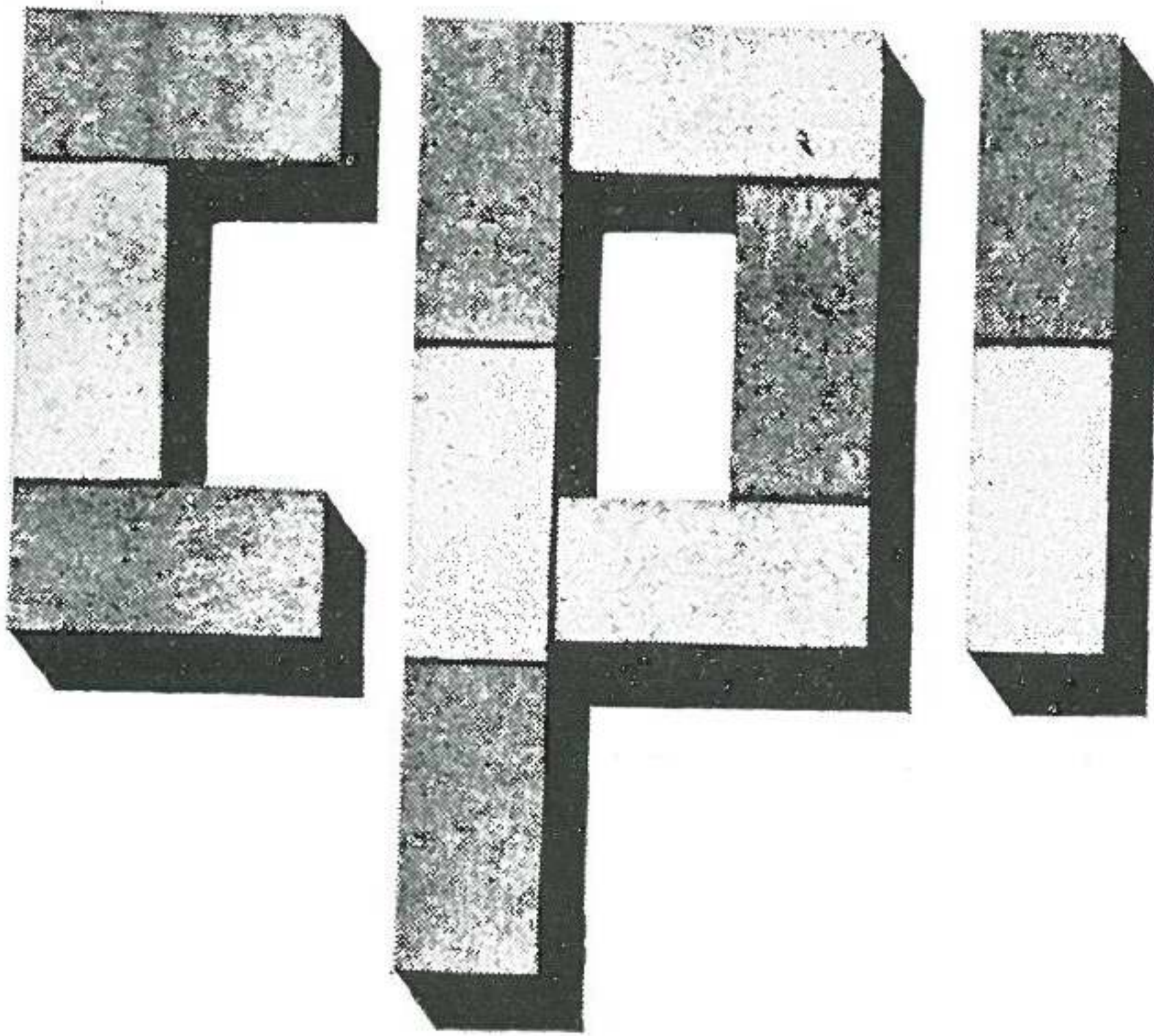
The current charts are:

**FOOTBALL**

50	M. Sheehy (Kerry)	82
48	P. Spillane (Kerry)	80
42	J. O'Shea (Kerry)	42
36	M. Holden (Dublin)	36
34	J. O'Keeffe (Kerry)	72
30	B. Donnelly (Tyrone)	30
28	E. Hughes (Monaghan)	28
26	D. Earley (Roscommon)	109
25	D. Murray (Roscommon)	96
25	C. Nelligan (Kerry)	25

**HURLING**

46	John Connolly (Galway)	117
44	N. Buggy (Wexford)	78
43	P. Moloughney (Tipp.)	73
40	G. Fennelly (Kilkenny)	40
36	J. Henry (Mayo)	36
35	I. Clarke (Galway)	99
33	J. Hennessy (Kilkenny)	128
30	M. Brennan (Kilkenny)	110
28	N. Skehan (Kilkenny)	28
27	T. O'Connor (Tipperary)	27



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Ned Buggy  
(Wexford)

## CLOCKWORK BUGGY

**THE long, slow decline of Wexford hurling has taken them from the status of All-Ireland champions to that of struggling Division I B hopefuls striving to take two points from Kerry or Antrim or Kildare. Are they about to hit the bottom and begin to rise again?**

That question is a big one, tied in with a long list of others, all of them centred on the state of health of hurling in the county that gloried in the vision of the Rackards, the grace of Jim English, and the buoyant bucaneeering of Tony Doran.

Caught in the long decline and a part also of the several efforts to catch an upsurge which ended in disappointment, Ned Buggy is a strange phenomenon in that he has missed all the glamorous occasions yet pushed his skills to the limits and placed himself at the top of the list of scoring stars.

With the retirement of Eddie Keher there was no real rival for Buggy. Other counties had their favourite candidates for Keher's mantle, but Buggy has emerged as the heir apparent. Week after week, whatever the grade or the standard, Ned has the green and white flags waving in greater numbers and with greater consistency than any other.

Of course any hurler cannot achieve this standard of excellence without special gifts, special attention to practice and

special ambition. But it is seldom, indeed, that a hurler from a county which is not having a substantial ration of success produces such results.

Part of the make-up of the high-scoring stars—the Tony McTagues, Mick O'Dwyers, Jimmy Keaveney, Mikey Sheehy of football, and the Charlie McCarthy, Eddie Kehers or Eamonn Cregans of hurling — is the incentive and opportunity of success. The incentive drives the star (understandably) to maximise his potential and keep it close to peak; and the opportunities which success provides of glamour occasions that stimulate and greater numbers of games together give the successful one the best chance numerically of scoring more.

It is, therefore, something very special when a player who has received none (or very few) of the big prizes of hurling should, nevertheless, achieve scoring totals and scoring averages higher than those sparked by success.

It is even more special when such a player repeats again and

again his supremacy in the art of scoring though the path on which that supremacy was achieved is littered with the ruins of broken dreams.

Ned Buggy's scoring skills come from remarkable dedication to the work of their acquisition. He was a player who had his problems as a sound, loyal performer whose lack of special flair made him a very useful man to have around but scarcely one to excite selectors to the necessity of including him. Half-back, midfield, half-forward, his main positions, emphasised that he was an honest trier who would not let the side down.

It was his willingness to perfect free-taking techniques that changed him into a vital element of the team rather than a sound general purpose man. The soundness now became a free bonus, so to speak, going with the specialist free-taker.

If questions were ever asked about Buggy's general hurling qualities they have been silenced for a number of years past. Building on his free-taking reputation, Ned's game has been sharpened and developed in confidence to the point that nothing escapes him nowadays in the way of scoring openings or scores.

Nothing succeeds like success; it certainly is like that in regard to scoring, for the Wexford accumulator seems to spirit the ball to the spot where he wants it and, then, without fuss convert the chance to another stroke on the scoreboard. Perhaps the economy of the thing and the lack of deliberate show helps him again and again to top the list of scorers in the matches he plays?

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# ***Fitness tactics and Heneghan tops for Roscommon***

**SAYS  
SEÁN  
O'BRIEN**



● **Tom Heneghan**  
(Roscommon)

**R**OSCOMMON got an awful lot right in 1979. Eager though they always were to bring back the glories of the 1940s, there was nothing to indicate that they were different at the start of 1979 from what they had been through the best part of two decades.

The team of the 1940s with that wonderful array of players — Jimmy and Phelim Murray, Bill Carlos, Eamonn Boland and Liam Gilmartin, Donal Keenan, Brendan Lynch — seemed to have a gifted capacity to win anywhere, against any opposition, no matter how demanding the occasion.

They won the county's first S.F. All-Ireland on their first appearance in the final. Like many others they were not satisfied until they had beaten Kerry — and they did that at their first meeting in the following year's final.

Admittedly they did lose the 1946 final on a replay (to Kerry), but even still most people think of that final as the ultimate in highway robbery and the worst of bad luck.

It was, perhaps, as a reaction to that kind of winning-conviction that the next several generations of Roscommon players strung themselves into a losing sequence that developed into a habit, and the habit almost became a complex.

There was little logic attached to the kind of form Roscommon teams showed in the Connacht championship from time to time and that which they later displayed in the All-Ireland series. Unlike Ulster in the last decade, it could not be explained by saying that they were deceptively good in company that was as mediocre as they were, and were then found out in Croke Park. Other western champions — not excluding the three-in-a-row Galway side — which appeared dur-

ing those decades gave the lie to the idea that football generally in the province was at a low ebb.

There were several occasions when Roscommon were considered likely to give outstanding All-Ireland showings, yet failed dismally. They seemed to have developed the very opposite qualities to those of Murray's men: where they could win against the probabilities and precedents, the later sides could not win even when they seemed to have a good chance.

Such a record of promise and disappointment which stretched right up to the beginning of 1979 can be a severe burden on a team, however good. Since we mentioned at the beginning the successful side of the 1940s, that too became a millstone (or an albatross) around the necks of recent sides.

One could easily judge the enormity of the psychological block which Roscommon were facing by their tendency to give glimpses of what they could do, followed by periods in which you wondered whether you had dreamed the better passages.

No game was so disastrous as the semi-final which they played in opposition to Armagh. Stamping their class on the game they made inroads into the opposition throughout the first half and for a short while in the second to such an extent that we were thinking in terms of how much the margin would be rather than debating who the winners would be.

Then gradually the old shadow gathered over them, self-doubt began to creep on them, things began to go against them helped rather than hindered by their own deterioration. It all ended up as a draw. The replay was lost. It all seemed as though designed by some malign fate

● **TO PAGE 24**

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# KILKENNY'S CONFIDENCE UNSHAKEN

By SEAMUS O BRAONAIN

**K**ILKENNY, the All-Ireland champions, were more than a little perturbed by the form which the team showed during the recent tour in the U.S. Questions are being asked, no doubt, as to whether they may not crumble under the pressures of trying to retain their title, or whether, indeed, they were lucky to win in 1979.

On return from tour the champions suffered an immediate reverse at the hands of the team which opposed them in the 1979 final. Galway may well wish to read some meaning into that result and they could be right, since they must by now have reached the use of reason in the hurling sense. They have reached for the stars on several separate occasions and have fallen with a sore bump back to earth. From now on one might expect them to have a more realistic view of life in the

hurling world.

But for Kilkenny the doubts being cast on their ability will not bother their self-confidence. Indifferent form in the off-season is nothing strange to them. It should not be forgotten that they were involved in a three-way play-off to maintain their NHL rating in Div IA at the end of the spring. It would, at the time, have been optimistic of those who expressed the opinion that Kilkenny would be All-Ireland champions in September.

There is a great well of hurling talent in Kilkenny. That has been demonstrated by a continuous line of minor players whose quality has shown them to be well on the way to becoming finished hurlers. The schools—secondary and vocational—have seldom been out of the limelight

● TO PAGE 13

## VHI'S PLANNED APPROACH

By CONOR KEEGAN

**O**NE of the great success stories in the Irish public sector must be the Voluntary Health Insurance Board. Set up in 1957, it had 23,000 members in 1958 and in 1979 has 283,000. The VHI is mutual based, i.e. all funds are ploughed back into the organisation to provide better and more widespread services for its members.

Originally set up to cater for the 15% of the population not covered by the free hospital provision its success can be gauged by the fact that very many of the 85% have joined also to provide for semi-private or private hospitalisation.

In April this year the earnings ceiling for public ward accommodation was abolished and prophets of doom forecast that the VHI would suffer thereby. How-

ever, the facts are that since last April, there has been a doubling in the nett membership increase. A vindication of the need for the VHI and a realisation also that the VHI is very good value for money.

The VHI approach is based on three plans. PLAN A covers the full charge for semi-private and private accommodation in Public Hospitals. PLAN B covers the full charge in Public Hospitals and also up to semi-private level in Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes. PLAN C covers the full charge in all Hospitals and Nursing Homes, including all private rooms.

Full details of the cost of each plan based on you or your family's special circumstances are available on request.

In addition, there are many

new and improved benefits for VHI subscribers. Maternity is now covered as part of the overall plan as are Day Surgery, Convalescent and Out-Patient charges. The 15% surcharge which applied to members aged sixty and over has been removed.

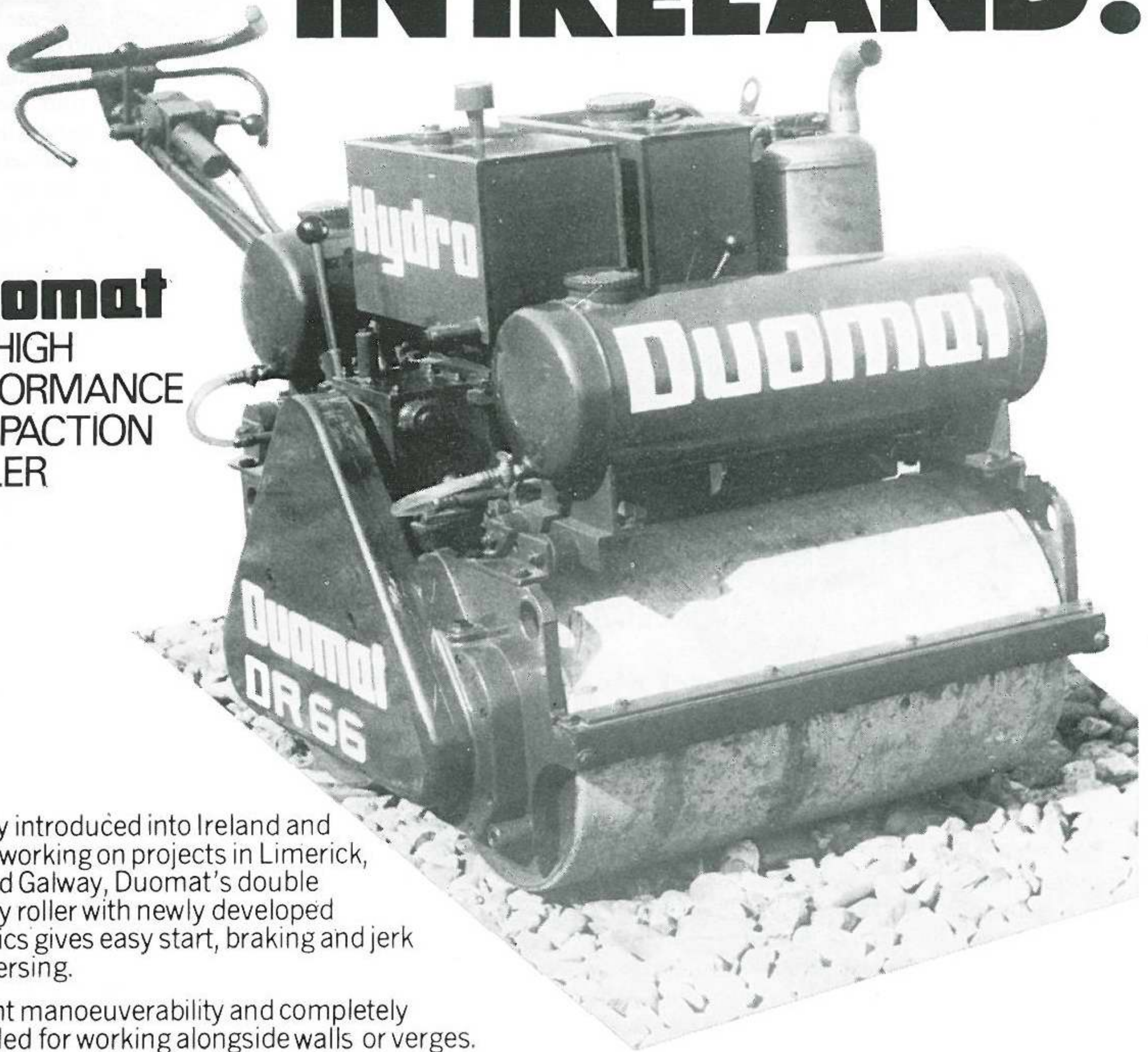
Of special interest to Income Tax payers is the fact that VHI subscribers qualify for a full rebate of Income Tax on their annual subscription.

Although serious injuries requiring hospitalisation are few and far between in Hurling and Gaelic football, it's good to know that hospital treatment for accidents of all kinds are fully covered by the VHI from day one.

Illnesses requiring hospitalisation can be very expensive indeed and can result in unnecessary worry at a time when it can very well be done without. VHI membership can put you and your dependant's minds at rest. Call or write today and rest easy.

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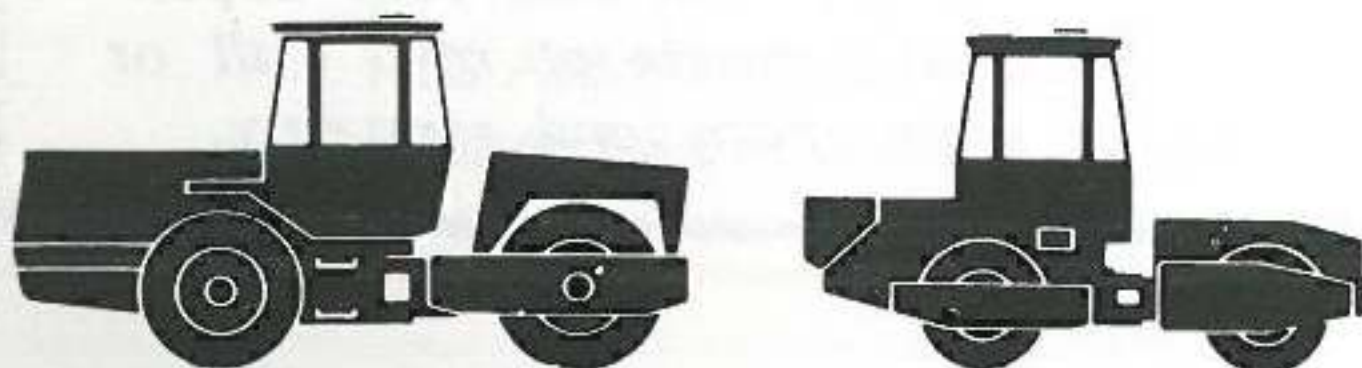


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● **KILKENNY ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS 1979** Back row (from left) Paddy Prendergast, Nicky Brennan, Matt Ruth, Ritchie Reid, Billy Fitzpatrick, Frank Cummins, Mick Crotty, Phil "Fan" Larkin, Front row:(from left) Joe Hennessy, Liam O'Brien, Noel Skehan, Ger. Fennelly, Mick Brennan, John Henderson, Ger. Henderson.

● **FROM PAGE 11**

for years past, affording a second channel of development to many of their best prospects.

Splendid resources do not always guarantee that the end products are equally outstanding. But in the case of Kilkenny that would be because of poor workmanship or the wrong environment. The environment could hardly be better—every youngster is expected to be a hurler and the thirst for success and expectation of it makes the county a perfect seed-bed for hurlers.

And how could the workmanship be doubted in a county which has specialised in marrying technique, coaching and tactics to talent? Fr. Maher and Mick Lanigan have able lieutenants in Eddie Keher and Pat Henderson. And, of course, the whole company of All-Ireland men who live by the Nore are always available to demonstrate the embodiment of tradition or to give tips and wrinkles bought dearly in the championship fields of Ireland.

Yet many will watch Kilkenny with care. It is fair to say that the general opinion was inclined to place the champion side of 1979 several rungs further down the ladder than those fine sides which won in the earlier 70s.

There were questions about the combined worth of the attack after the withdrawal of Keher, following on the retirement of Purcell and Delaney in particular. At times last year it seemed that they would be in dire straits for penetration. The trying of Frank Cummins at centre-forward at

one stage late in the summer indicated concern.

As it happened the various moves and trials gave the chance to Liam O'Brien to settle in again at wing forward rather than midfield and that was the greatest good fortune. Mick Brennan was widely believed to be below his best because of an accumulation of illness and injury; he came into his own again in time for the All-Ireland final, but what if he had not?

Mick Crotty's "comeback" was blessed with success, but supposing it had not been? How long will Kilkenny be able to seek salvation through the veterans? Why are the new forward stars so slow to emerge and so tentative in making their mark?

Defence has had many more options and is not bedevilled with such doubts; a number of fine young players have proven themselves and not all able to find places permanently. Little fault can be found with any defence that can call on Richie Reid, Dick O'Hara, John and Ger Henderson, Paddy Prendergast . . . not to mention the ever-young Fan Larkin.

Kilkennymen have a lot of hurling to do at home and the tournament circuit is popular in the south-east during the months of late spring and summer. Therefore, it is not to be wondered at if Kilkenny are not over-concerned at a few League games lost here and there. They feel confident of turning out fit and toned up for the championship games when the men are separated from the boys.

CUMANN LUTHCHLEAS GAEL

COMHAIRLE LAIGHEAN

Clár na gCluichí do 1980

**Peil (Mionuir agus Sinsir):**

1. Cill Dara v Ceatharloch
  2. Cill Mantáin v 1
  3. Loch Garman v Lú
  4. Ua bhFáilí v 3
  5. Laois v Longphort
  6. Ath Cliath v 5
  7. Iar Mhí v Cill Chainnigh
  8. An Mhí v 7
  9. 2 v 4
  10. 6 v 8
- Craobh:** 9 v 10

**Iomáint Sinsir**

1. Laois v Ua bhFáilí
  2. Ath Cliath v 1
  3. Loch Garman v Cill Chainnigh
- Craobh:** 2 v 3

**Iomáint Mionúir Spéis**

1. Ceatharloch v Lú
  2. 1 v Cill Mantáin
  3. An Mhí v Cill Dara
- Craobh:** 2 v 3

**Iomáint Mionúir**

1. Laois v Antrium
  2. 1 v Cill Chainnigh
  3. Loch Garman v An Dún
  4. Ath Cliath v Buath Spéis
  5. Ua bhFáilí v Iar Mhí
  6. 2 v 3
  7. 4 v 5
- Craobh:** 6 v 7

**Fé 21 Bl. Iomáint Spéis**

1. Iar Mhí v Cill Mantáin
2. 1 v Cill Dara
3. Ceatharloch v An Mhí

**Craobh:** 3 v 2

**Fé 21 Bl. Iomáint**

1. Ath Cliath v Laois
2. 1 v Loch Garman
3. Ua bhFáilí v Buath Speis
4. 3 v Cill Chainnigh

**Craobh:** 2 v 4

**N.B. — Semi Finals (i.e. 2 and 4)  
at neutral venues.**

**Fé 21 Bl. Peil**

1. Ath Cliath v Loch Garman
2. 1 v Lú
3. Ceatharloch v Cill Chainnigh
4. 3 v Ua bhFáilí
5. Laois v Iar Mhí
6. 5 v An Mhí
7. Longphort v Cill Mantáin
8. 7 v Cill Dara
9. 2 v 4
10. 6 v 8

**Craobh:** 9 v 10



# NEW NAMES ON TOP TROPHIES

By SEAN CLERKIN

**P**AT McGarry from the St. Munchin's Club in Limerick, Tom O'Rourke from Ballymore Eustace in County Kildare and Clare's indomitable Pat Kirby were the outstanding trio in handball during the past year.

Not alone their brilliant victories, but the sportsmanship they exemplified sets them aside as athletes of whom we can all be justifiably proud.

I know that Kirby and O'Rourke will stand aside momentarily to let the spotlight beam on McGarry. Perhaps, I could vindicate such a gesture by quoting from one of my features in Gaelic Sport when pre-viewing the All-Ireland Championships some months ago.

*"I cast a thought too for that great Limerickman Pat McGarry who will hardly ever achieve his ambition of winning a senior singles title."*

*"In my view he has been the best player in the country over the last decade never to have achieved that ambition" "Would he make the superlative effort this season".*

In retrospect that sentence was suprefluous.

Never was it known in his fifteen years and more of competitive handball that McGarry had not made the supreme effort in quest of victory.

On numerous occasions he was on the threshold of a win in the singles grade only to see it disintegrate through a temporary lapse in concentration, a freak hop of a ball or maybe a little over-confidence on occasions when he appeared to have victories in safe keeping. But, this year, the wheel turned its full cycle. He won the senior handball title by beating no less an

accomplished exponent than former King of the Hardball Code — Peadar McGee from Mayo.

McGarry's resilience as a competitor was fully appreciated after this final in which he overcame the handicap of losing the first two games but recovered brilliantly to win the next three and in turn the title. He capped a most successful season by retaining the doubles title he won in partnership with Joe Bennis last year.

McGarry has shown that perseverance is the criterion for victory and that in handball, a player is still capable of reaching his full potential at thirty years of age.

Not that Tom O'Rourke had to wait that long — he has taken the Blue Riband of Irish Handball while still in his early twenties. It was a historic occasion for the game in Kildare when he took the Coca Cola Softball Singles title back to his native Ballymore Eustace. The Pipe Band, the bunting, O'Rourke's ride through the village on a white horse and the subsequent reception were all indications of the fact that the Senior Softball title had found a resting place in Kildare for the first time ever. And, my own view is that it will make the triumphant trip there on many occasions.

Such is the calibre of O'Rourke. He is an accomplished ball player with a keen sense for the intricate skills of the game. During the season, we saw him add considerably to the accepted repertoire of shots, hence he created a new awareness for the faithful fans who follow the handball code. Not to mention the many new fans he attracted

to the game. Besides the All-Ireland triumph O'Rourke also won the Gael-Linn Trophy, a significant feat in its own right since this competition attracts more than a thousand entrants each year.

The story of Pat Kirby is a repeat of the one I have told these last few years. Dominant in the 40 x 20 code at which he won the singles and doubles titles yet again, Kirby is also the National Coach and led the Irish Team on its Autumn trip to the U.S.A. He stands apart as a glowing example to all sportsmen in this country — superbly fit, despite the fact he is now well past the forty age mark, an epitome of sportsmanship and a great ambassador as far as Irish handball is concerned. Long may he continue to adorn the game with such distinction.

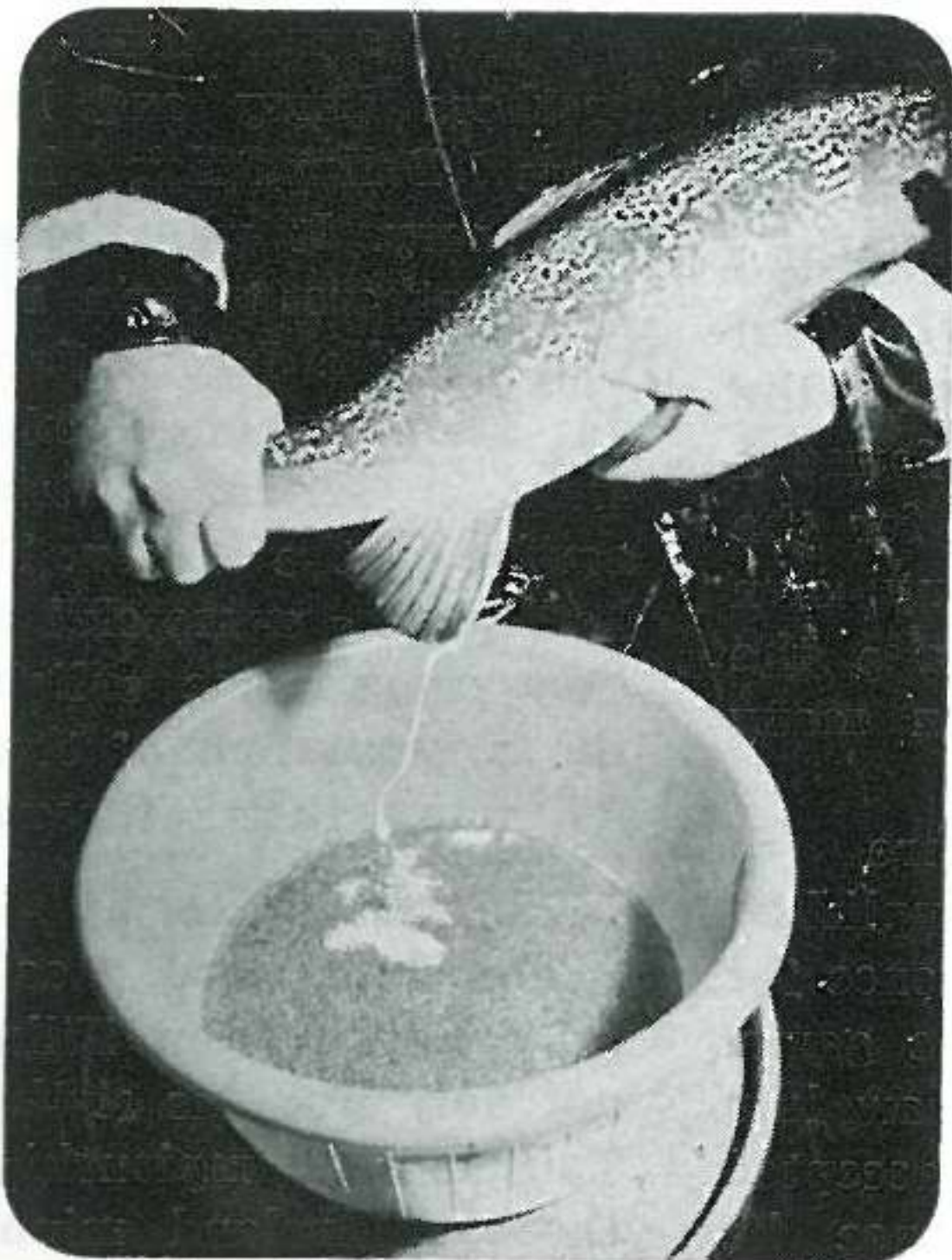
On that trip to the U.S.A. this year were two young members of the same family — the brothers Terry and Noel Ryan from Ballypatrick in County Tipperary. It was the first time for brothers to win representation on the International Team, an achievement which resulted from a series of trial games earlier in the season. The Ryans had quite a successful tour while they came home enlightened by the presentation of the game in its many facets throughout the U.S.A.

The final word goes to young Billy Burke from Kilkenny who not only won his sixth Willwood Tailteann Championship but took three All-Ireland minor Championships as well. With such high calibre young players to parade its wares — handball can walk tall.

# *The Ones that Get Away...*



*Salmon angling at Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.*



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

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

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

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



**A BEWILDERED LIMERICK SUPPORTER  
APPROACHED JOE McKENNA AND  
RATHER TACTLESSLY ASKED . . .**

# **“WHAT HAPPENED YE?”**

By **NOEL HORGAN**

**J**OE McKenna looked dejected as he sipped a drink in a well-known Thurles hotel after this year's Munster hurling final. A few hours earlier Limerick had been trounced by Cork in the southern decider and McKenna, himself, on whose broad shoulders the hope of many Limerick fans had rested, had been mastered by Cork's brilliant full-back Martin Doherty.

A bewildered Limerick supporter approached Joe and asked rather tactlessly, “What happened ye?”

It was as if the man expected that a word from Joe would help relieve the pain that all Limerick folk were enduring at that moment by providing a satisfactory explanation for the defeat. But Joe responded with no lame excuses and no false accusations. He replied simply, “We weren't good enough”.

It was a typically sincere answer from a man who has graced the inter-county scene with style and elegance since 1973. And in a sense McKenna's reply raised hopes for Limerick in the coming year.

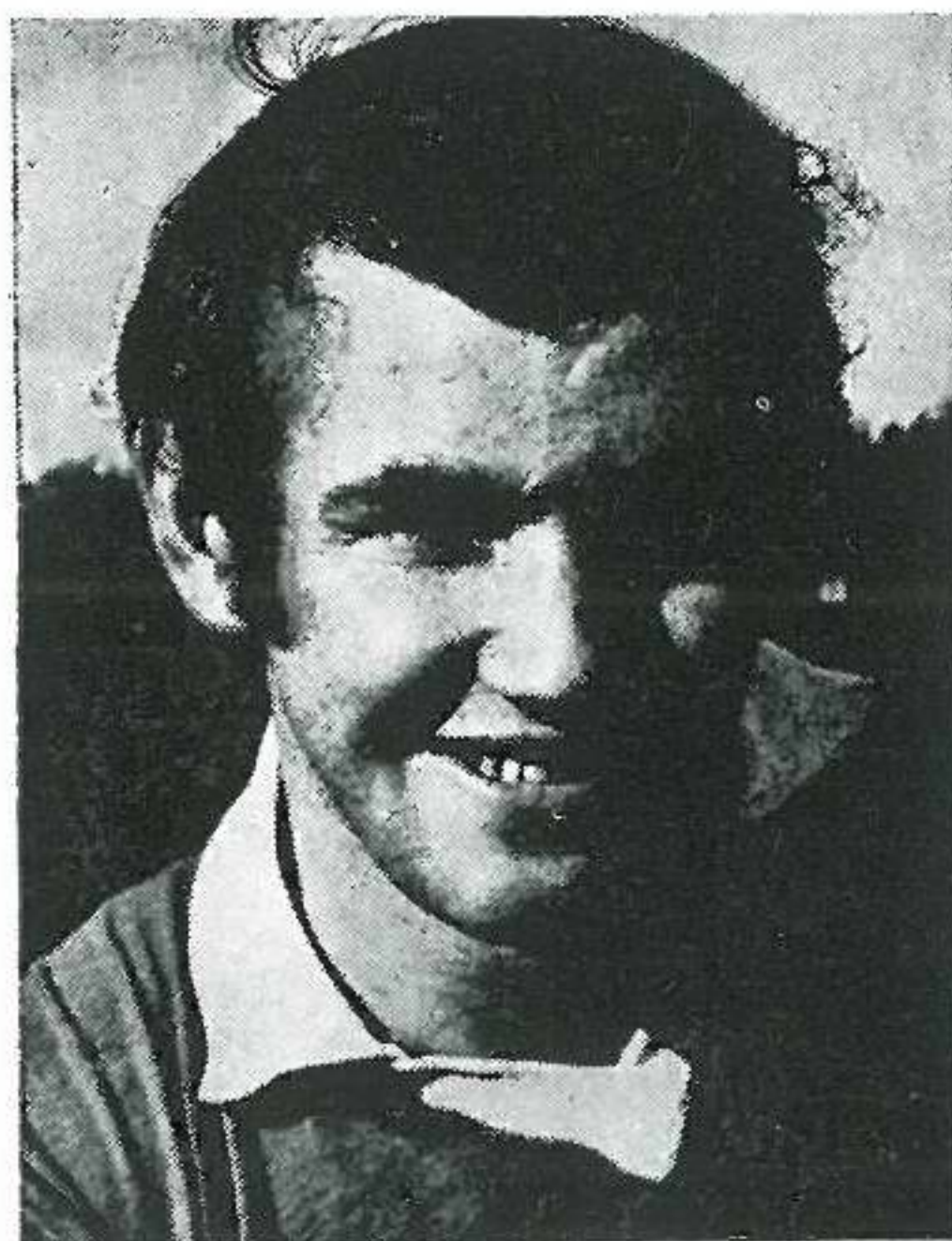
Had Joe suggested that Limerick did not get the breaks or struck an off-day, one would have had to conclude that he and his colleagues had learned little from their humiliating Munster final experience.

By displaying an awareness of the team's ills, however, Joe

raised hopes of a swift cure. And none will be working harder to improve the Limerick team for the new season than Joe McKenna himself.

Offaly-born Joe has been a tremendous servant to Limerick in recent years, earning the respect of all hurling purists with his skilled and sporting play. He won an All-Ireland medal in his first season with the Limerick Seniors in 1973 and gained a second provincial honour the following year.

Ironically, it was only when that fine Limerick team began to decline that Joe McKenna emerged as a truly top-class hurler. For me, the 1975 Munster final against Cork was the first



● **PAT HARTIGAN . . . all Limerick will be willing him back to the inter-county scene.**

big occasion in which Joe displayed star quality.

Operating at midfield alongside Sean Foley, McKenna served up a splendid exhibition of stylish hurling and sweet-striking which gave Limerick a definite territorial advantage.

On the day the Limerick forwards were mastered by a Cork rearguard which had Martin Coleman and Pat McDonnell in inspired form and with Willie Walsh leading an economical Cork attack with verve and power, the Shannonsiders were forced to surrender their Munster title. McKenna's performance was good enough to earn him his first All-Star award that year.

The following year Cork again mastered Limerick and with the subsequent emergence of Clare as the main threat to the Leesiders in Munster, Limerick and Joe McKenna faded temporarily from the limelight.

Joe McKenna's transfer to full-forward last year brought renewed hope for Limerick. The South Liberties man quickly earned a reputation as a regular scorer and became respected by all defenders. His smooth attacking method seemed almost unstoppable and had become very familiar by the start of the '79 championship.

The quick burst outfield to grasp an incoming ball, the arch-like turn without reducing speed leaving the full-back struggling in no-man's land and the race goalwards usually culminating in a score—these were the attributes that characterised McKenna's play.

His incisive play crushed Clare in the Munster semi-final and gave Limerick confidence of their chances of toppling Cork. As it transpired, however, the Corkmen won comfortably and Martin Doherty emerged as the outstanding player, producing a magnificent full-back display which curbed McKenna and effectively killed Limerick's hopes.

● **TO PAGE 24**

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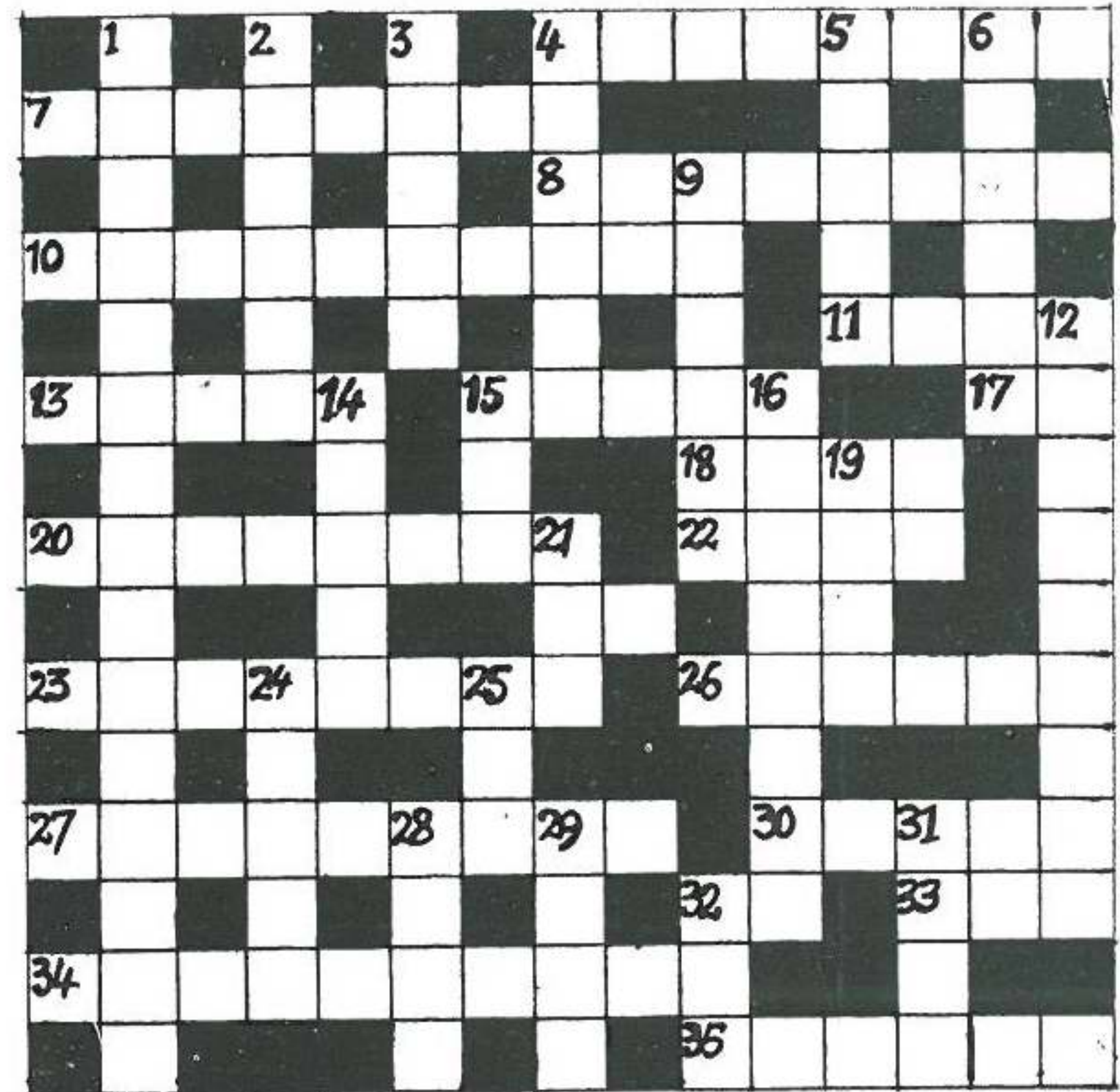
By PERMUTER

## ACROSS

- 4—Legendary Kerry goalkeeper before Dan O’Keeffe’s day. (1,7)  
 7—Maybe not a complete back but your team cannot do without him. (4,4)  
 8—Wexford corner-back of recent years. (1,7)  
 10—When games are televised live many spectators tend to ..... (4,2,4)  
 11—As near as you can get to extra time. (4)  
 13—Junior hurling All-Ireland winner with Tipperary and senior winner with Kilkenny in the 1950s. (5)  
 15—Informal team-talks? (5)  
 17—The first thing about the club of Sean O’Leary, Pat Hegarty and Willie Walsh. (2)  
 18—A Cup for hurling in Christian Brothers’ Schools. (4)  
 20—They are the job of the Club Treasurer to present in good order. (8)  
 22—Close to anger, yet he was a great corner-back with Offaly. (4)  
 23.—One of the least successful Ulster counties in terms of championships. (8)  
 26.—Dour, for the most part, but buoyant and warm-spirited. (6)  
 27—One of two goalkeepers in the present Kerry panel. (1,8)  
 30—Midfield for Roscommon; he also often figures in attack. (5)  
 32—United Nations, perhaps. (1,1)  
 33—How to cool an ardent supporter. (3)  
 34—The Club of “Fox” Collins, Din Joe Buckley and Martin O’Doherty. (4,6)  
 35—Under-21 All-Ireland football champions, 1969. (6)

## DOWN

- 1—Left half-forward for Meath in two winning All-Ireland finals; and centre and corner forward in two losing ones. (6,9)  
 2—Kept goal for Dublin when they were champions in 1963. (1,5)  
 3—The famous Cup for Munster Colleges hurling. (5)  
 4—Tipperary full-back — not midfielder or forward. (1,5)  
 5—Anger brings you into shooting distance. (5)



- 6.—Familiar name in Cork M.F. team 1978 which needed no introduction to hurling followers of the 1940s (1,5)  
 9—Recent way to cross the ball into the goalmouth. (6)  
 12—Came out of inter-county retirement to play for Tipperary in 1977. (5, 4)  
 14—Famous Cavan goalie of the 1930s who always seems youthful. (5)  
 15—Slice the ball from the sideline? (3)  
 16— Main trophy for University footballers. (8)  
 19—Football as it was — even before the G.A.A. (4)  
 21—Can cause defenders to lose sight of high balls, especially as the evening wears on. (3)  
 24—Strong midfielder for Laois and Leinster. (5)  
 25—Briefly, the month of the All-Ireland semi-finals. (3)  
 28—In the Lido a youngster could find one to hero worship. (4)  
 29—To aid and ....., or simply to have a wager. (4 or 1, 3)  
 31—At a great distance. (4)  
 32—All-Ireland champions and All-Stars go there each year. (1, 1, 1)

● SOLUTION PAGE 44

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# THE QUIET MAN

*a tribute by Mick Dunne (RTE Sport)*



**A**S a young man Patrick Purcell called one of several novels he wrote "The Quiet Man", which must not be confused with the Maurice Walsh short story from which the John Wayne movie was adapted. The title he chose might very aptly summarise the life and times of Pádraig Puirseal in sports journalism. Neither in his spoken words, his deed nor through his writing was he ever anything other than the "quiet man" among us.

During that sad September weekend of his burial, the most heartfelt, and assuredly the most frequently uttered, tribute of the many paid to him was the one recognising the absolute certainty that he never knowingly harmed or hurt one of his fellow men.

Would that the same could be truthfully said about the rest of us. When death deprived those who have regularly reported Gaelic games over a lengthy period of our good friend "P. P." it took from us a human being of rare sincerity, extreme kindness and unfailing gentleness and gentlemanliness.

The hurtful word had no place in Pádraig's vocabulary, the bitter thought no home in his heart. That is not to say, however that he tolerated fools unmoved or that he accepted the smart-aleck unquestioningly. The fact is he could, and would, chop-down either swiftly and decisively, but never offensively.

Puirseal was, above all else, a placid person; seemingly unruffled, rarely hurried and certainly never hustled by the strains and stresses of life — most particularly by the pressures from im-

pending deadlines. Yet those of us who counted him among our friends know he went through many years of discomfort from a persistent ulcer, so the outward imperturbability may not always have accurately reflected his innermost feelings. Still it was never in Pádraig's nature to allow such a personal upset to alter the serenity of his attitude towards others.

In almost twenty years working with Pádraig in "The Irish Press" I appreciated his many qualities. His familiarity with all sports, not just hurling and football, was encyclopaedic and profound; one marvelled at the enormous range of his knowledge—not just on sport, but on any and every subject under the sun.

During his working life he was sub-editor, novelist, reporter and columnist, but—most of all—he was a storyteller unsurpassed. He had a bottomless store of anecdotes, an immense hoard of reminiscences and the priceless facility of relating them engagingly and charmingly.

Because of this great gift "P. P." was excellent company, a most interesting travelling com-

panion who kept his companions amused and entertained throughout the length of a journey. As I was able to appreciate—unfortunately not as often, in later years, as I would have wished because of the differing deadlines imposed on us by our different means of reporting—it was fascinating to travel with him. One just sat back and listened to the stream of stories flow from him: the listener never noticed the miles slipping by.

Although we knew he was ill, the news of his death caught us by surprise. It came at a time when he should have been with us on the pre-football final visit to Kerry. A time when at the end of the day's—or night's—work he would regale us with still more tales.

He should, too, have been with us last October on one last U.S. tour because he was due to retire from active journalism at the end of the year. Now sadly he will never sit with us at the side of a sun-splashed Californian swimming pool and declare, as he did the other year, with a smirk: "Fellows, this certainly beats working!"

A few minutes later he was away to transmit his latest report from America to his paper—because, until the second week-end of September, Pádraig Puirseal never failed to meet a deadline.



John Egan  
(Kerry)

# Is this the best-ev

## An impossible question answer

**T**HE Kerry team of '79 has performed splendidly both here and in America. They have beaten all other sides convincingly and when the kids talk about Gaelic Football just now the names mentioned are those of the excellent players in the Green and Gold. The Kingdom is proud of their success and we all know how closely the fortunes of the county footballers are woven into the colourful tapestry of Kingdom community pride.

The obvious question then is asked: how good is this Kerry football side? Are the present players better than the men who went before them? Is this the best side that ever played for Kerry? As long as the wheels of this old world turn crazily round people will ask if the man of to-day is better than the performer of yesterday. Was Jim Jeffries better than Joe Louis? Would Jack Dempsey have chased Muhammad Ali out of the hall as an old boxer stated to me one day in a New York subway? Would Paavo Nurmi have beaten Eamonn Coghlan and where would Roger Bannister, who crashed through the four-minute mile barrier, be in the running to-day? The discussion goes on forever.

Certainly the standard of train-

ing to-day is better than it was. There is a more scientific approach and everybody who is interested knows a lot more about how to reach nearer to physical perfection and so create higher standards. Time was when half a dozen men on a football team were really fit. These were the men who had been driven on by that urgent desire to improve and perhaps outstrip their comrades in fair competition. This personal and internal motivation drove good footballers out early and late along the roads and fields in daylight and in dark searching for that physical well-being that made them heroes on the day. I knew a man with a long kick who spent half an hour on frequent solitary training kicking a ground ball over a high hedge sixty yards away. Then he would run to the other field and kick it back again. After that he would run four miles across the country over hedges and ditches. Another man could be seen forty years ago running down the hill that he had climbed, with an alarm clock strapped to his waist. When the alarm would go he would sprint the remainder of the distance to the beach and throw himself into the water. But all players are essentially a bit mad.

To-day that madness is channelled into more sophisticated methods of training. The trainers and coaches are more knowledgeable and there is far more money spent by the organisations. Players are generally fed much better when they are training and of course there is a splendid advance in the methods of coaching. Consequently there must be a general all-round standard of training higher than it was, and there should be a higher standard of skill. If both these higher targets are met then it stands to reason that unless there is a physical and mental deterioration in the race, the teams of to-day are better than those of yesterday.

There is, I think, a reservation however in the matter of skill. This essential art of games-playing is largely innate, but is developed further by practice. To-day there is far less practice than there was, simply because the player has far more matches, indeed too many in most cases where the inter-county player is involved. That is not to say we must not have plenty of games. The young lads who do not become top players are as important as any. In fact considering the number of them they are more important. But the point is



# er Kerry side?

ed by Eamonn Young



made that the top player of forty years ago may have practised more hours per year and so may have been more skilful.

Another change which has come upon us over the years is the rule-amendment. When there were twenty-one aside it was necessarily a rougher game. I remember in my youth how the boys were talking in admiration of an opposing centre-back who leaped, caught and delivered ball after ball against us. There was an old-timer listening. When I say old-timer I mean a man who played in an All-Ireland of the last century. He simply shook his head, removed the pipe from his mouth, spat decisively, and muttered as he walked away "T'was a damn bad man that let him."

From seventeen aside it came to the present fifteen. Then the hand-passing came in during the twenties and this allied to solo-running which was started by either Dr. John Joe Lavin or Capt. John P. Murphy of Cavan, further changed the game. The hand-passing came and went and then it came again but the re-introduction was more singular for this time the fact that the third-man tackle was outlawed, allowed the goalie to start the hand-passing (by which I mean throwing). The possession game,

necessary to a great degree in soccer, became a thinking-base for the use of the hand-pass, the solo-run, the absence of the third-man tackle, and the wrapping of the goalie in cotton-wool until the game we know to-day is not the football of yesterday. One well-known man, a referee, said that after the new rules were used "we will have a complete new ball game". He was right. I guess he'll never know how many simply wanted the old game just a little better refereed.

The foregoing is to suggest that the game of Gaelic football as played to-day is much changed from that of yesterday. Whether one deplores that, as I do, or rejoices at it, as some perhaps do (though they have not been very vocal about it) the fact remains that a good team of to-day playing a good team of yesterday must first sit down and figure out the rules they'll play by. The side of to-day would be hammered by the men of forty years ago under old rules. Under the well-oiled (that's the way some of us get after looking at it) activity of to-day the older teams would stand two chances: slim and none. So that's my answer regarding the merit of today's Kerry sides. There never was a better Kerry side playing

football than the present one because no other Kerry side played the kind of football they're now playing. The present side, well-trained by Mick O'Dwyer, knows—and O'Dwyer knows—that the way to win any competition is to prepare mentally, physically and emotionally, to read the rules well and exploit every comma in them. The intelligent players of the Kingdom have done this. The county has now thrown up a set of good performers just as it has sometimes done the reverse. They are on top now because of skill, brains and dedication. As long as these rules last (which I hope won't be too long more) they'll be hard to beat.

Next year they will be favourites to beat Cork in the Munster final though when the time comes I'll be bubbling with the usual optimism. If they get out of Munster they should still be ahead of the others and just now I think they stand a real chance of three in a row. By that time we may have got back to football, and then these shrewd men will start all over again to win championships in a changed scene.

Kerry has produced champions since Jack Myers' time in 1903. I don't see them stopping now.

● FROM PAGE 17

It was a disappointing day for Joe, especially as he was honoured with the captaincy for the occasion in the enforced absence of his good friend and clubmate, Pat Hartigan. However, his poor performance could not detract from his earlier dynamic displays and at the end of the season he deservedly gained his second successive All-Star award as a full-forward.

With the retirement of Eamonn

Cregan and with Pat Hartigan's hurling future in jeopardy, Limerick folk will depend largely on the brilliance and experience of Joe McKenna to build a foundation for success in the coming years.

I'm convinced that Joe will not let his adopted county down as I believe he has yet to realise his full potential as a full-forward, a potential that should in time enable him to make as big a mark in that position with Limerick as Ray Cummins and Tony

● FROM PAGE 9

Doran have done with their respective counties.

from which there was no escape.

Tom Heneghan, task-master, trainer, philosopher and general factotum to this team must take a great deal of the credit for breaking this spell under which Roscommon had fallen. If he had not, we should not have been able to estimate all the other things for which he (and his colleagues in the team who answered his call) must be given credit.

Fitness for one: the manner of their eternal chasing and building and repairing all over the field showed us a team of rare fitness, indeed. It is more difficult than it seems to turn out a side in such excellent condition first in the League and later in the championship.

We had a sight of their tactical schemes to counteract Dublin, the always dangerous Connacht opposition, and even Kerry. Perhaps, in the end, the tactical plan became over-weighted with short passing and over-fascinated with running and backing up, but it was a bold try—all in the space of a year since the spell was broken.














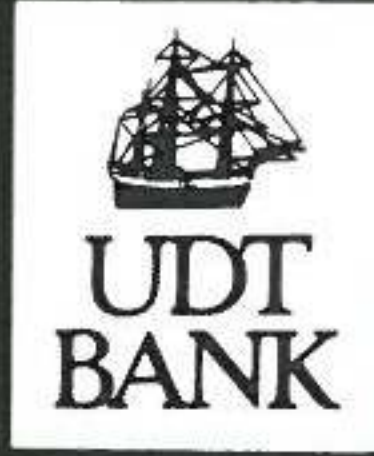

Heneghan has a fine influence on the players: they accept and believe in his ideas. That is very important. It is sometimes even more important than whether the ideas are the perfect ones or only just good enough. It is often doubt of the system planned for the team that begins the rot.

An act of total faith in the plan of campaign when maintained can often turn a good plan into a world-beating one. It is towards the continuity of that faith we shall expect Roscommon to turn when the year gets moving again after Christmas. With such commitment and a few modifications to make the master-plan fit more comfortably on the available personnel, who would say the All-Ireland Cup will not go again to Knockcroghery and points west.

**15 <sup>10</sup>/<sub>2</sub> %**

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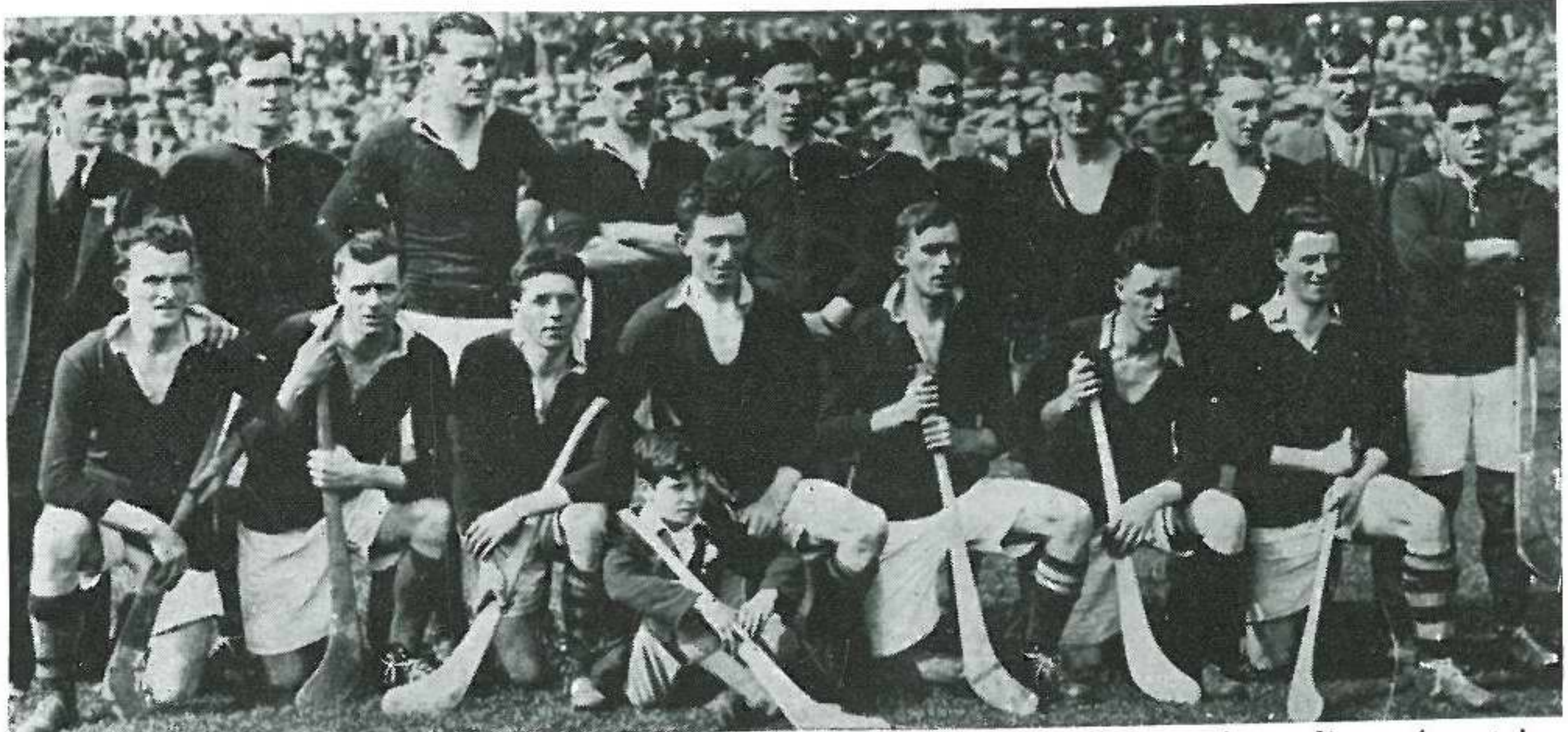
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# MYSTERY TEAM COMPETITION RESULT

**T**HE mystery team that appeared on page 27 of our issue last August was the Cork Hurling team that played Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Final of 1931. The match on September 6th, ended in a draw, 1-6 each, and after a second replay Cork



emerged victorious 5-8 to Kilkenny's 3-4. We were very pleased with the number and quality of entries for the competition and the first one drawn from the Editorial hat belongs to: Michael Dowling, "Fana-gown", 32 The Folly, Waterford, and who will receive a year's free subscription to GAE LIC SPORT. A special word of thanks must go also to Kieran Wall, one of the unsuccessful correct entries. Kieran supplied us not only with the dates and scores of the three matches, but also gave us in full the personnel of the team pictured. With thanks to Kieran, they are as follows: Back Row (left to right): J. Mullins (Selector); E. O'Connell, J. Hurley, P. Aherne, P. O'Grady, J. Coughlan, Micko O'Connell, W. Clancy, W. Dorney and P. Delea. Front Row (left to right): J. Regan, M. Aherne, D. B. Murphy, T. Barry, E. Coughlan (Captain), P. "Fox" Collins and M. Madden. The mascot was E. O'Connell.

## always on the ball

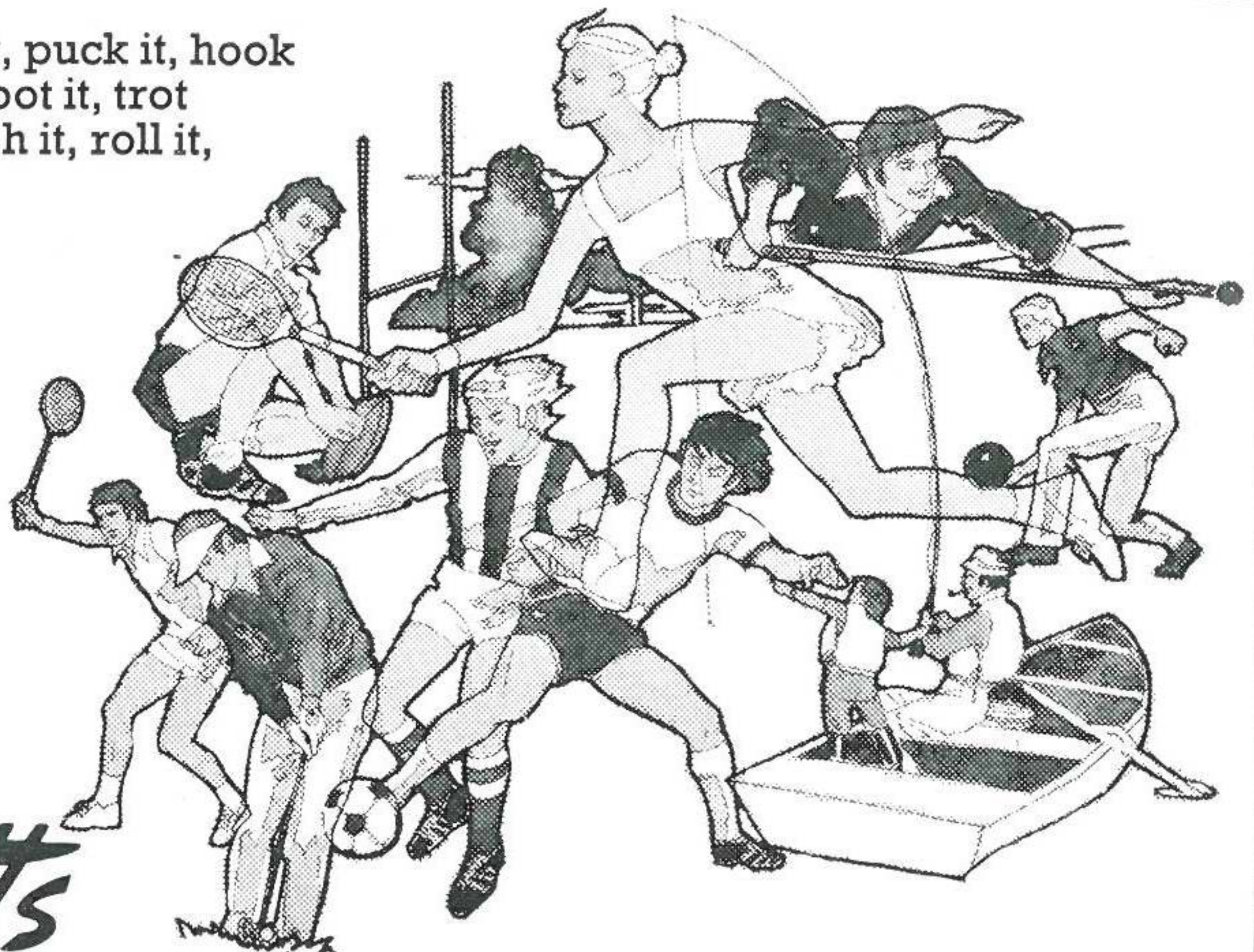
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# ON THE SPOT...

by Tony Keegan

THE year now rapidly moving into history will leave many memories . . . memories of the power-packed football of Kerry as they swept all opposition aside in the most convincing manner to retain the All-Ireland senior championship; of the disappointments of Galway hurlers, in particular, as a result of a number of defeats in finals, and of the high grade displays in the under-age grades.

Handball and camogie also provided much to enthuse over, and in general, it can be said that the past season hammered home once again the point that Gaelic Games, over the entire spectrum, are in a very healthy position, indeed.

It is amazing, however, how time can dull the memory. For instance, can you say off-hand who captained Leinster to the Railway Cup hurling final win last April?

Well, here is YOUR chance to see just how sharply events of the past campaign are etched in YOUR mind. ON THE SPOT . . . , our popular quiz, sees out the year with an exercise featuring some of the leading personalities and top team performances of 1979. Once more we follow our by now well-liked pattern of special chapters, with points at stake for each question to give that added competitive edge to the quiz.

Let's start, with that question on the Leinster hurling captain, by putting the spotlight in the

first series of questions on some of 1979's

### TEAM SKIPPERS

1. And, who did lead the East to that success over Connacht at Thurles in the Railway Cup hurling final? .....

2. Ulster foiled Munster of a record five titles in succession in football in the final last March. Name the Northern captain in that game? .....

3. Who led Antrim to their first-Ireland senior camogie championship since 1967 when they beat Tipperary last September? .....

4. A bonus question now: Ten marks in all if you name one of the two All-Ireland under-21 title winning skippers? .....

5. Back to the senior grade. And, there will be hardly any need to tell you that Roscommon won their first National Football League title. But who received the trophy? .....

6. List the club of Kerry senior captain Tim Kennelly? .....

7. Cork's team leader in the minor hurling final? .....

8. Mick Loftus led the young Dubs to the football crown. What club does he play with? .....

9. Who skippered Monaghan back to a place among the Ulster senior football title winners? .....

10. Finally, and another bonus question that may help you to make up lost ground: List the club of Ger Fennelly, the Kilkenny senior hurling captain,

and also the year and grade in which he previously led the Noresiders to a national championship? .....

Each question, other than No's 4 and 10, carries five points. The bonus questions are each worth ten points, so that this section carries 60 points over-all.

YOUR SCORE .....

Note: Collect five points if you name only one of the two players featured at No. 4, and also five points if you get only one of the two parts correct in No. 10.

Here we introduce a Picture Parade spotlighting players who won provincial medals during the past year. Just four players are

### IN FOCUS

★ ★



1. The two players pictured above were prominently among the scores in the senior championships. Who are they, and name their clubs? .....

2. Two outstanding defenders of the season are on page 31. Who are they, and what positions did they fill in their medal winning outings? .....

● TO PAGE 31

# GAELIC WORLD

## Christmas edition

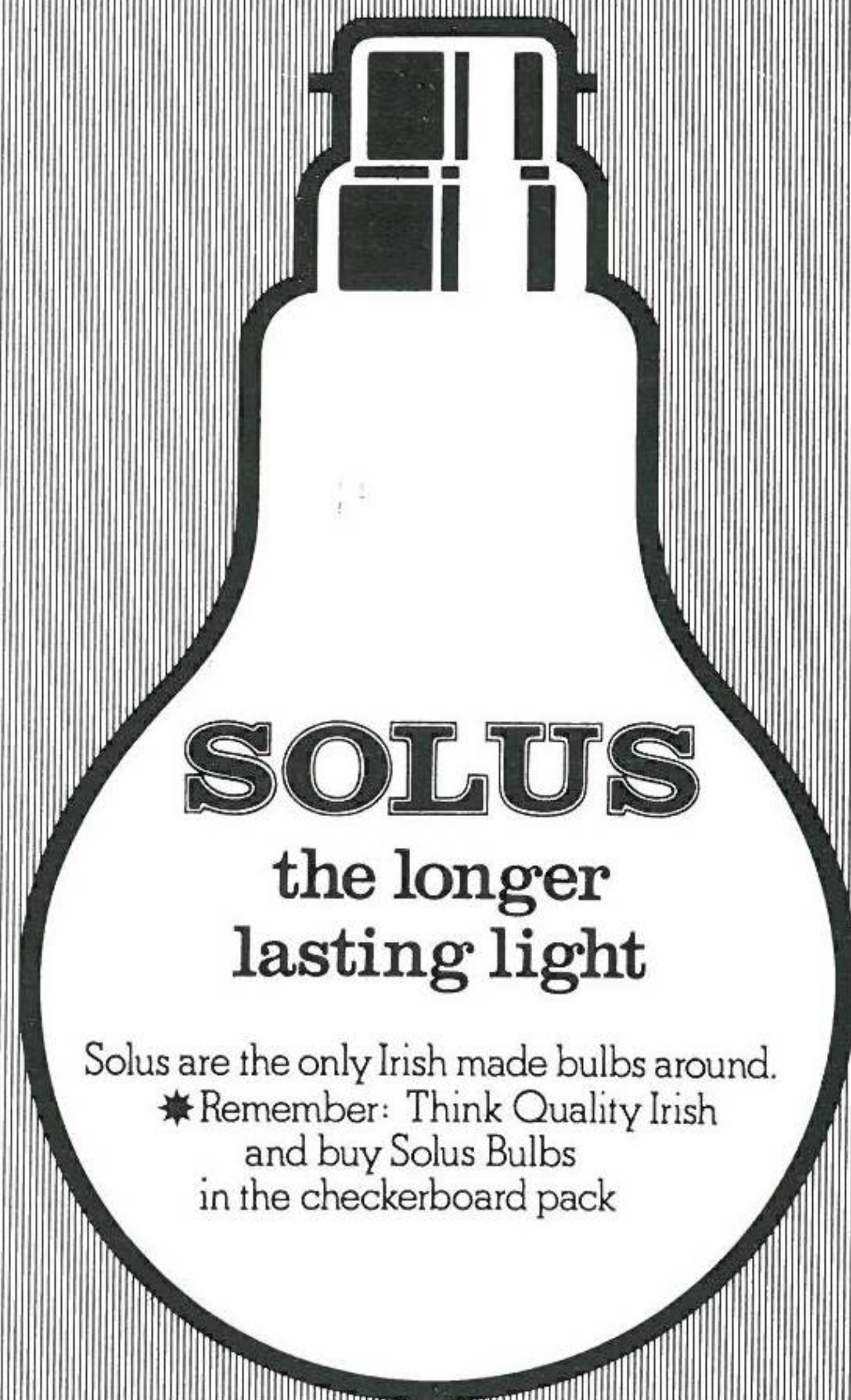
(INCORPORATING AR  
gCLUICHI FEIN)

*The bumper 80-page Christmas edition of Gaelic World will include all the regular features of Our Games annual — statistical review of the year, lively articles and excellent photographs. Among the special features are:*

- ★ Dublin's gift to Kerry
- ★ The Australian Connection
- ★ Jack Mahon's Quiz
- ★ County prospects for 1980
- ★ Star Trek 1979 — and colour photographs of the U.S. Tour
- ★ O Cill na Martra go Páirc an Chrócaigh

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# CORK TEAM MUST PICK UP PIECES

says Noel Horgan

**F**OR the Cork hurlers it will be a case of trying to pick up the pieces in the early months of the '79-'80 season. The All-Ireland disaster against Galway which terminated the Leesiders' attempt to achieve the elusive four-in-a-row has severely dented Cork's hurling pride.

There are those who suggest that Cork's fortunes must inevitably decline following the abrupt ending of their highly successful run in recent years. In the opinion of many, the calm must follow the storm.

As the current season advances, however, it should become apparent that the damage done to Cork's morale in the Galway game was not near as extensive as suspected. By the time the 1980 championship begins, the Cork hurling machine will be sufficiently repaired to seriously attempt another journey to All-Ireland glory.

For a start the team has not split up in the manner many people predicted. Granted, Gerald McCarthy has retired and Martin Doherty has emigrated and the loss of those great players will be severe. But Cork's remaining veterans, Denis Coughlan and Charlie McCarthy, seem content to continue for at least another season and with good reason.

Coughlan, at 34, is currently hurling in his familiar style and his acute positional sense compensates adequately for any reduction in his pace. Thirty-three year old Charlie is also less lively than of yore but is still a lethal finisher, as was evidenced by the great goal he scored against Limerick in the Munster final.

What gives Cork-folk most cause for optimism, however, is

the abundance of top-class reserve talent in the county. Three players who could figure prominently in Cork's bid to return to



★

Denis  
Coughlan  
(Cork)

★

★

Jimmy  
Barry-Murphy  
(Cork)

★



the top are Tadhg McCarthy, Pat Horgan and Denis Burns.

McCarthy from Midleton is, at 19, a tremendous prospect. Possessing all the qualities necessary to make the grade, Tadhg seems certain to establish himself this season. He has already distinguished himself in the Croke Park arena with the Cork minors, giving a masterly exhibition of wing-back play when the county beat Kilkenny in '78.

His displays in helping Midleton to make a big impact in this

year's county senior championship showed that he has diligently developed the skills he paraded so effortlessly as a minor. Such is Tadhg's immense natural ability that he can perform with equal effect in defence, attack or midfield. He may well be the player to fill the void left by Gerald McCarthy on the Cork team.

Pat Horgan was another outstanding minor, hurling with the county team from 1974 to 1976. As a forward he won a county senior medal with Glen Rovers in '76 and was a substitute with Cork when they took the Liam McCarthy Cup in 1978. More recently, however, Pat has emerged as a defender of rare ability. Displaying skilful positional play and deft stickwork, he has excelled as pivot with struggling Glen Rovers in this year's county championship. And he seems certain to command a permanent place with the county seniors in the near future.

Denis Burns at twenty-eight can hardly be described as a starry-eyed hopeful. The dedicated 'Barrsman has been bordering on Cork's first fifteen for almost a decade. But misfortune has befallen the talented defender every time he seemed certain to become established.

For instance, in the Munster semi-final against Waterford in 1977, Denis Burns was hurling competently at wing-back until forced to retire injured. He was replaced by up-and-coming Dermot McCurtain who created such an impact that the Blackrock man quickly made the position his own.

It was back to the reserve bench for Burns until he received his next major call-up when Brian Murphy cried off for last year's Munster final. Denis grasped his opportunity in fine style producing an outstanding display at corner-back which was

● OVERLEAF

● **FROM OVERLEAF**  
vital in curbing a determined Clare challenge.

The Cork selectors however, opted for Brian Murphy's experience in the All-Ireland final and once again the patient Denis Burns was asked to step down. Martin Doherty's departure to America may provide the 'Barrs man with another chance to become a regular with Cork and this time there may be no further setbacks.

With players like McCarthy, Horgan and Burns waiting in the

wings, therefore, Cork look likely to return to the winning trail in 1980. And keep an eye-out also for promising newcomers like John Blake, Sean O'Gorman and Willie Cashman and watch the battle for the goalkeeping spot between three worthy candidates Tim Murphy (Blackrock), young Ger Cunningham ('Barrs) and the medal bedecked Martin Coleman.

Cork didn't make it four-in-a-row this year but I'm sure the demanding Leaside fans will be satisfied with four out of five!

## Equipment Care

### END OF SEASON TIPS

**B**EFORE you finally put away your gear for the winter break there are a few tips which will save time and expense come the Spring.

Make sure that your jersey, knicks and socks are thoroughly cleaned and folded away. Now is the time for repairs and replacements to be purchased where necessary.

If you want your boots to last, you must clean and polish them before storage. Studs should be checked for any wear and replaced where necessary. For both preservation and appearance of all types of leather and plastic footwear the regular use of polish, whether in solid wax or aerosol form, is recommended. After wear a good tip is to keep your boots in shape with crumpled newspaper. They should be wiped clean with a damp cloth and dried well away from direct heat. When thoroughly dry, they should be cleaned in the usual way with polish.

Nugget have on the market an easy clean self shining polish by the good name 'Scuff Stuff.' As the name suggests this cares for those scuff marks that are unavoidable with football boots. For long lasting boots and good play, Nugget have the answer.

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Each question is worth twenty points—five for each player's name, and five for each club, or playing position as the case may be. 40 points possible.

**YOUR SCORE** .....

Section number three will help to show just how expert YOU are on the Gaelic Games scene in general. In this extra long 15-question session, handball and camogie are featured.

**GENERAL REVIEW**

1. Who won the All-Ireland Coca-Cola Open senior singles title in handball last September? .....
2. Name the All-Ireland junior camogie champions of 1979? ...
3. The Sam Maguire Cup was first awarded for the 1928 football final. How many times have Kerry put their name on the trophy? .....
4. The All-Ireland senior camogie championship is played on the open-draw principle. True or false? .....
5. Where is St. Tiarnach's Park? .....
6. Who are the 1979 Railway Cup medalists pictured in column two? .....
7. List the winners of the following trophies in the past year: Oireachtas Cup; Gael-Linn Cup and the Dr. McKenna Cup? .....
8. Who refereed the National Football League final last May?
9. Paddy McFlynn (Down) was elected President of the G.A.A. at Congress earlier in the year.



He is the first Ulster man to hold the office since Alf Murray (Armagh) in 1964-67. True or false? .....

10. Who is President of the Camogie Association? .....
11. Two brothers from Munster earned the rare distinction, indeed unique one for handball, of winning both under-22 places in the Irish squad for the recent U.S. tour. Name the brothers in question? .....
12. Who won the Gael-Linn Cup interprovincial senior series in camogie? .....
13. Tipperary beat Galway in the National Hurling League final in April. Was their winning margin ten, 16, or 18 points?

14. Who played at full back for Limerick in the Munster senior hurling final? Careful now .....
15. Liam O'Brien was top scorer in the senior hurling final. Did the Kilkenny man finish with 1-7, 1-9 or 0-8 to his credit? .....

Again five points on offer for each question, other than No. 7. Here five points are awarded for each of the trophy winners named correctly, making the maximum possible for the question a splendid fifteen points.

Total marks possible, then, 85.

**YOUR SCORE** .....

**HOW DO YOU RATE**

You are very much "on the ball" as far as the Gaelic Games scene is concerned if you score between 155 and the maximum of 185. 120 to 155 is Very Good. 90 to 120 Good. Anything below that . . . well don't be too discouraged, you can buy GAELIC SPORT during the coming year, and brush up for the next end of the season quiz!

**ANSWERS**

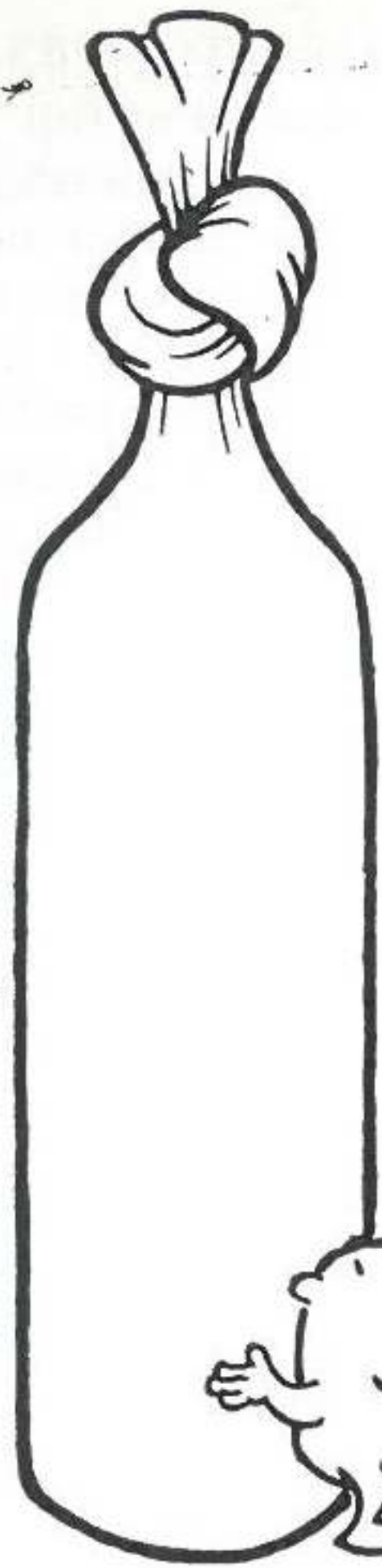
Galway, who beat Cork by 4-3 to 3-2; 3, 18 between 1929 and 1979; 4, True; 5, Clones; 6, Joe Hennessy (Kilkenny). Michael Hol-den (Dublin), with Leinster in Hurling; 7, WEXFORD (Oireachtas Cup). GALWAY (Gael-Linn Cup in Connacht). MONAGHAN (Dr. McKenna Cup in football); 8, Hugh Duggan (Armagh), who also refereed the All-Ireland final; 9, True; 10, Mary Moran (Cork); 11: Tony and Noel Ryan (Tipperary), who won out in international trials early in the year; 12, Leinster, who beat Munster in the final in October by 1-5 to 0-4; 13, 16 points; 14, Jim O'Brien. Pat Hartigan was a late deflection because of an injury; 15, 1-7.

**Printed upside down to avoid distraction**

**TEAM SKIPPERS**  
1, Fan Larkin (Kilkenny); 2, Colm McAlarney (Down); 3, Mairead Magill (nee McAtamney); 4, Ned King (Down), and Michael Doyle (Tipperary); 5, Pat Lindsay; 6, Listowel Emmets; 7, Christy Coughlan; 8, St. Vincent's; 9, Brendan Brady; 10, Shamrocks. He led Kilkenny to the 1974 All-Ireland under-21 title—their first ever.

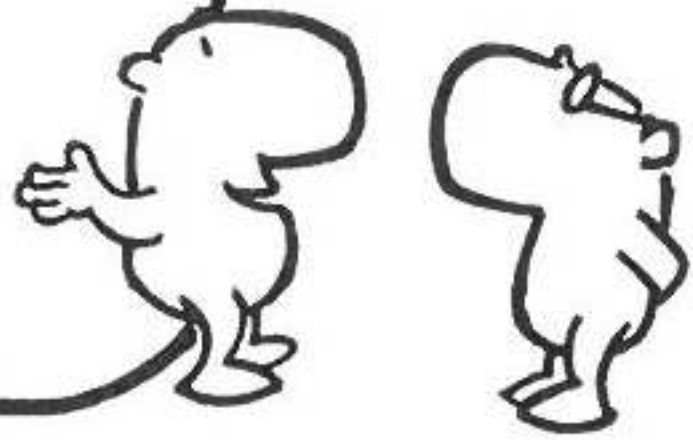
**IN FOCUS**  
1, Liam O'Brien of James Stephens; 2, Eamonn Cregan, full back. John Horgan, left full back.

**GENERAL REVIEW**  
1, Tom O'Rourke (Kildare); 2,



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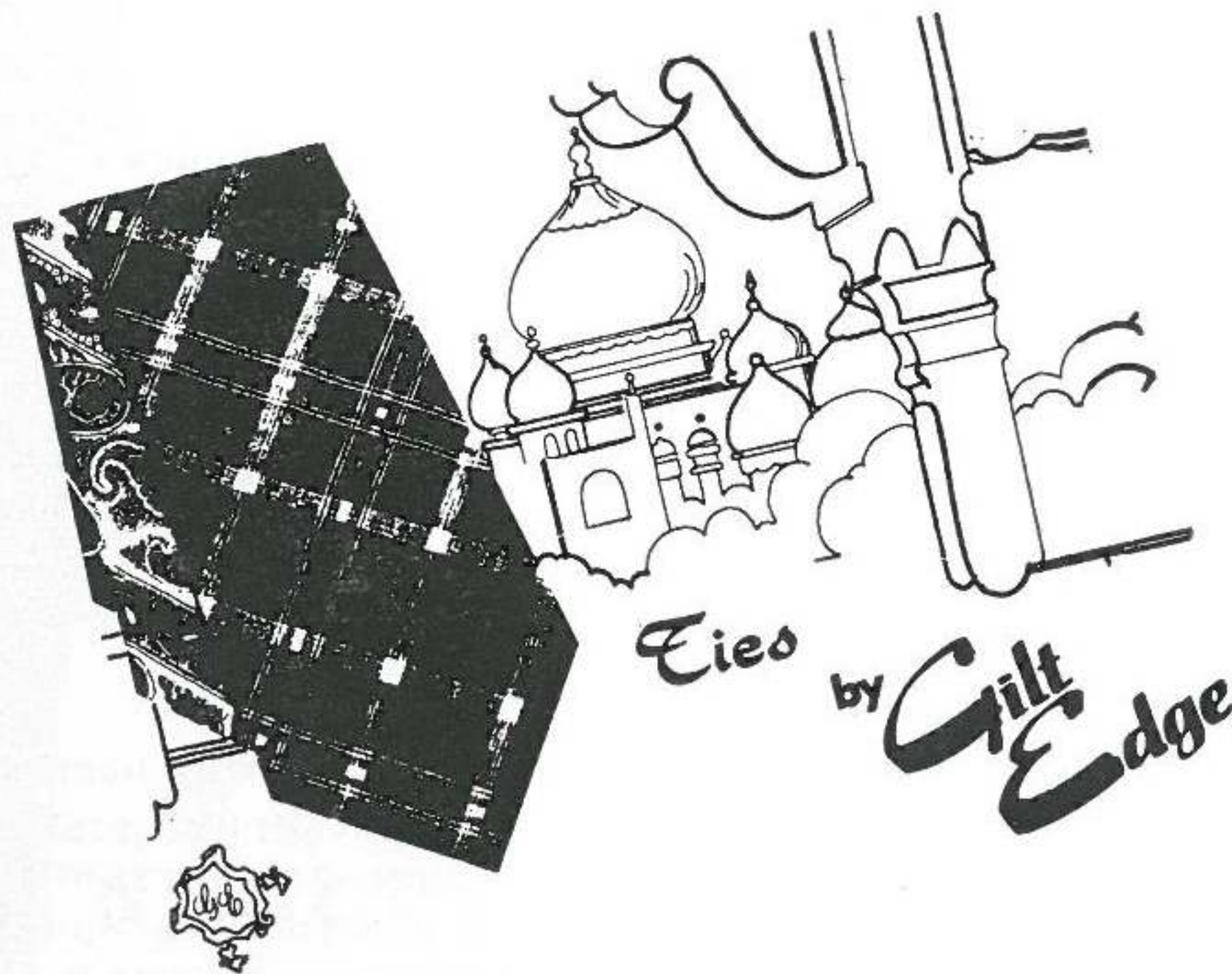
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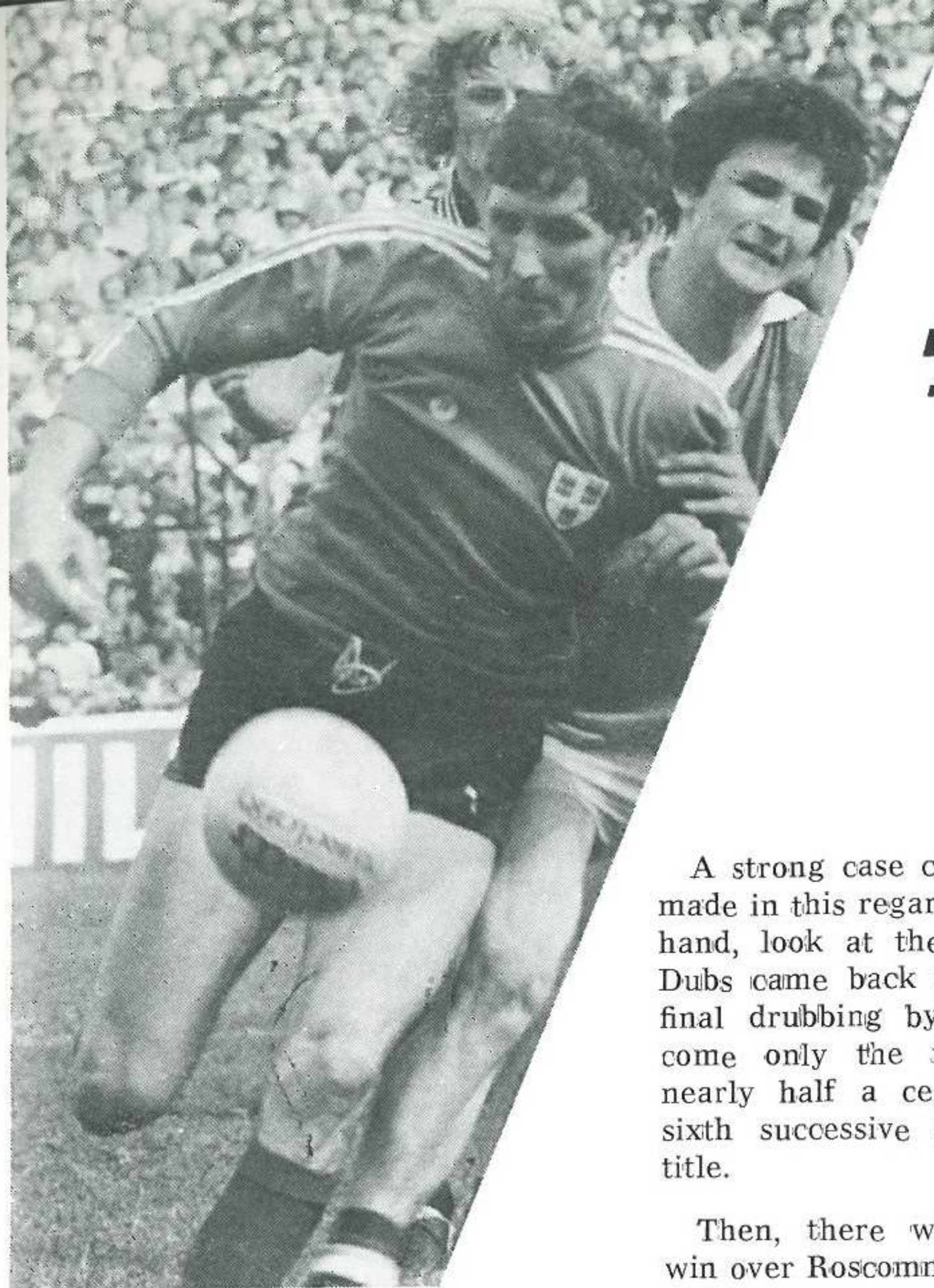
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# THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

says *Frank Coogan*



● **Paddy Cullen, Dublin's net-minder for over twelve years who announced his retirement from inter-county football recently.**

**T**IME takes its inevitable toll, but even though we are all conditioned to this fact, it is still somewhat hard to appreciate that the curtain has finally come down on the classy Dublin side that gave such an exciting dimension to football over the past five years or so.

There are those who argue that many of the Dubs overstayed their "welcome". That had the major rebuilding job that was launched only some weeks ago, been initiated with vigour after the 1978 All-Ireland final crash to Kerry, Dublin would have been in a much stronger position now to go forward into the 'Eighties with major titles as their constant companion.

A strong case can certainly be made in this regard. On the other hand, look at the way that the Dubs came back from that 1978 final drubbing by Kerry to become only the first county in nearly half a century to lift a sixth successive Leinster senior title.

Then, there was the historic win over Roscommon last August. Historic in that the victory, hard-earned though it was, left the Dubs the first winners of six successive All-Ireland senior football semi-finals.

True, much of the gloss from those achievements was rubbed off by the eleven points defeat by Kerry in the last Sam Maguire Cup tie. But the fact that Dublin were good enough to advance so far in the last championship campaign surely helped to underline the greatness of this particular squad?

Dublin's long innings at the top since the summer of 1974 is a record to be proud of, especially at a time when competition is so intense. It took genuine class, ability, and above all dedication and hard-work to forge out and maintain such a standing in the game. In the process, too, Dublin brought a new glamour to football, brought the crowds flocking

to matches, and set young and old alike talking excitedly about the game and the personalities as had not been the case for years.

How will the Dubs of the 'Seventies rank among the outstanding teams of all time? When students of football take a rational look in the 'Eighties back over the annals of the game, will they rate the Dubs the Master team of them all in the code?

Only time will show, but while one can argue about the merits of such as the Galway side that brought off the last treble of All-Ireland senior titles in the mid-'Sixties; of the brilliant Down outfit that crashed the cross-Border barrier in the early 'Sixties, of the Roscommon squad of the 'Forties, not to mention many a Kerry combination over the entire history of football almost, the fact still remains that the Dubs were something special.

They had the personalities to delight the crowds. They had skill in all departments, commitment, teamwork, and a style of fast, fluid football, honed to perfection in their own match-winning fashion, and which delighted the crowds and had the turnstiles clicking merrily.

Over the years as well Dublin did not look to any one player above another to win the day.

● **TO PAGE 35**



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# SMIRNOFF

leaves you breathless!



● FROM PAGE 33

They had developed a brand of team play that proved a tremendous asset.

That is not to say that individual skills were stifled. Time and again, a footballer emerged to stamp his personality on a match in decisive manner.

There was Jimmy Keaveney, whose come-back to the team in June, 1974, after a two year retirement from inter-county football, was the greatest success story in the history of the game.

The tall full forward's free-taking meant so much to the glory run. It kept the Dubs firmly ahead of the field, not only because he hit so many valuable scores, and with a consistency matched by few, but because his free-taking also proved a wonderful stimulus to the side.

But Keaveney was more than a free-taker supreme. He was a vital cog in other ways as well in the well-oiled machine, a forward who was clever in his general play, deft in his distribution, non-stop in his efforts, and a difficult man to mark.

Bobby Doyle, of the tireless, ceaseless foraging all over the field . . . Anton O'Toole, strong running, a scorer of valuable goals . . . Brian Mullins, exhilarating in his fielding, and a man who had the rare ability to inspire and prompt the side . . . Paddy Cullen's many fine displays in goal . . . the quality of the

backs in general, and the half line in particular . . . these are some of the many features that shine brightly down over the successful run.

Another Dublin strong point was their ability to come out battling strongly after major setbacks. Remember, the prophets of gloom were very vocal about the future of Dublin football after the squad lost the Sam Maguire Cup to Kerry in the 1975 final.

Such folk were made to look very silly, indeed, by the All-



★  
Jimmy  
Keaveney  
(Dublin)



★  
Gay  
O'Driscoll  
(Dublin)



Ireland title wins of 1976 and 1977 . . . wins franked by a never-to-be-forgotten semi-final victory over Kerry in a classic in 1977.

Yes, Dublin were an outstand-

ing side. A team infused with the will to win, with every man playing his part, and backed by a confident and polished approach.

Their success was good for the G.A.A. The Dubs won a new standing for the organisation, as well as thousands of new supporters, especially among the younger group. Thanks to their rise, the G.A.A. is stronger than ever and ready to march on towards the Centenary Year of 1984.

But was the Dubs team of recent times the Master side of all time? Frankly I just am not in a position to answer that one. In fact, I doubt if it matters all that much.

The important thing is that in meeting successfully so many of the challenges presented to them over the five years spell at the top, the Dubs provided a host of memories that will live as long as football is talked of and played. That, surely, is the best possible tribute to the squad.

They have also provided an inspiring tradition for the young men of the 'Eighties. And, anyone who watched the Dublin minor team march to the All-Ireland championship last September will agree that the tradition is in very safe hands.

So, while one must regret the break-up of the great Dubs squad, it is a "Thanks for so many memories, Dublin, and here's to the future heroes!"

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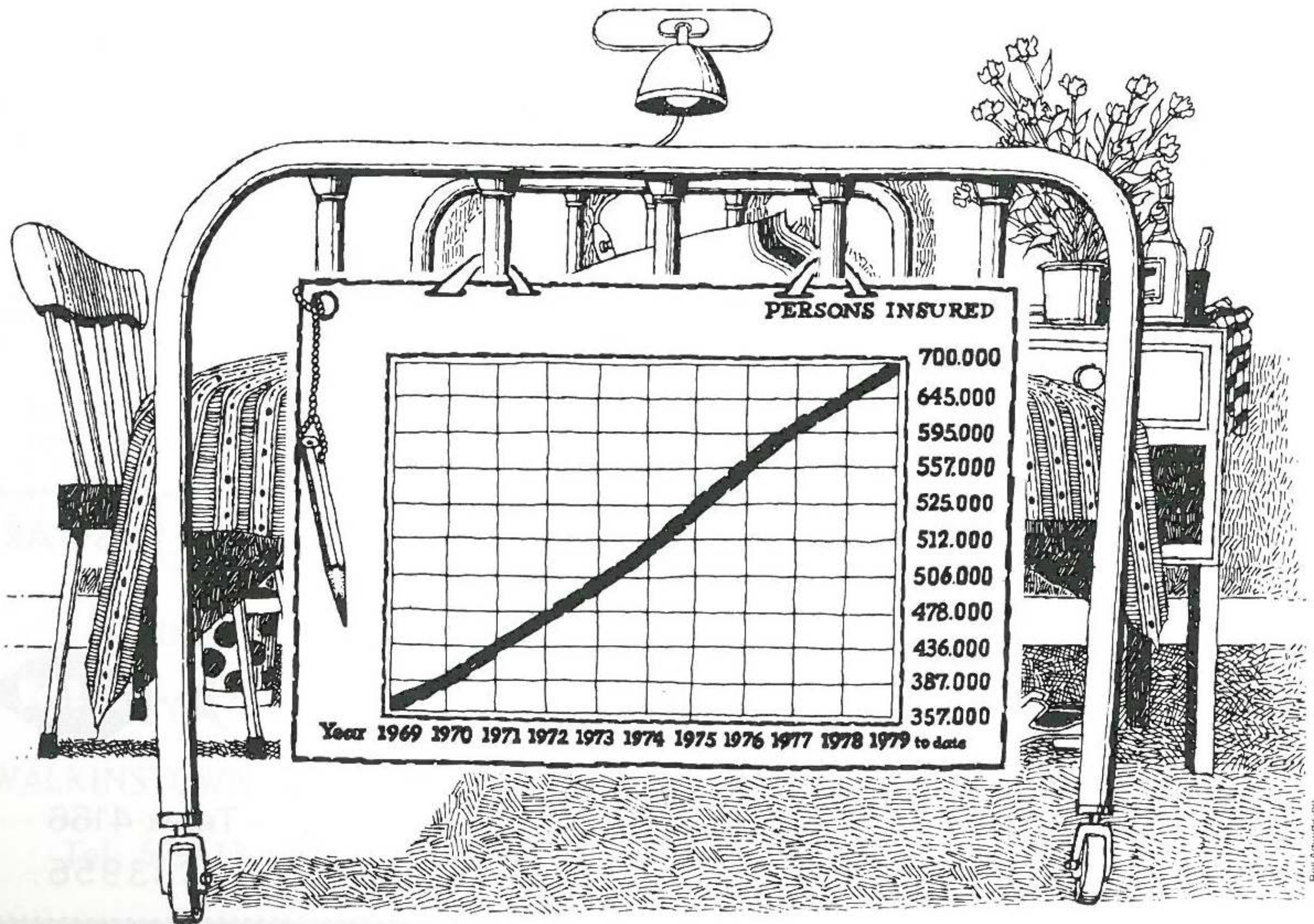
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# GOOD YEAR ON ALL FRONTS

LOOKING back over 1979, my first thoughts are that the 75th Anniversary of the Association's founding was celebrated in fine style. Many new projects were undertaken and many new ideas for the Association's advancement have been propounded and accepted.

The most courageous step forward is the decision to appoint a full-time Development Officer which should give a completely new impetus.

The Officer, who is to be appointed before Christmas will also act as General Secretary and as the Public Relations Officer.

The National Walk in May, the first ever organised by the Association, had two main ideals, to enhance the Association's image through its clubs and County Boards and to put the Association on a sound financial basis.

Many Boards responded admirably to the call. Mr. Sean, O'Duffy now in his 93rd year, attended the Dublin Board's Walk, which was a colourful parade with the clubs carrying their banners decorated with their colours.

The parade started at Stephen's Green and when going past Colaiste Mhuire, Parnell Square, halted to take the salute from Sean, at the first meeting rooms of the Association.

The Junior National League inaugurated this year should also prove a decided advantage to the promotion of the game in the junior counties which excludes the counties who have teams in the senior National League.

If the competition proves as

advantageous to the counties involved as the Senior League has already proved, the undertaking will have been well worthwhile.

A Gaeltacht Competition was another way that the Association celebrated its 75th Anniversary. It was held in Connacht as a tribute to the Padraig Mac Phiarais centenary and it was won by Má Cuilinn.

The Commemoration Committee set up especially to organise functions and to motivate the county Boards and Councils to do likewise has been very active. The highlight of their activities was the Seminar and Commemoration Dinner on November 24. Former Camogie Players Mrs. Anna May McHugh, Managing Director and Secretary of the Ploughing Championship, Mrs. Maeve Piskorski, Head of Education Programmes R.T.E., Mr. Dave Guiney, Journalist and former Athlete of note and Sean O' Siochain, Stiúrthóir Ceannarus were the main speakers. Miss Siobhan McKenna attended the Commemoration Dinner also.

On the competitive scene only one county retained their crown. Antrim seemed to come from the unknowns to take the senior All-Ireland Championship in which they defeated Tipperary who put up a fine showing. Many would hold that Antrim's defence and goalie covered themselves with glory by holding the Munster girls' attack, to take home the O'Duffy Cup for the sixth time and for the first time since 1967.

Galway won the Junior title and the New Ireland Cup. On their way to the final they scored

a very narrow victory over Dublin in the semi-final and then defeated Cork in the final. Cork who were seeking the title for the second year in succession got the better of Cavan in the other semi-final. It is of interest to record that Cavan returned to the limelight after a lapse of al-

● OVERLEAF

**CUMANN LUTH-CHLEAS  
GAEL—COMHAIRLE ULADH**  
Gaelic Athletic Association  
—Ulster Council

## FIXTURES

1980

### SENIOR FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### Senior and Minor Football Championships

- May 18— Tyrone v Antrim  
(Belfast)
- May 25—Down v Monaghan  
(Newry)
- June 1—Armagh v  
Fermanagh  
(Irvinestown)
- June 8—Cavan v Derry  
(Ballinascreen)  
Donegal v Antrim  
or Tyrone
- June 15—If Donegal v  
Antrim  
(Omagh)  
If Donegal v  
Tyrone  
(Irvinestown)
- June 22—SEMI-FINAL "A"  
Down or Monaghan v Armagh or  
Fermanagh
- June 29—SEMI-FINAL "B"  
Cavan, or Derry  
v Antrim or  
Donegal or Tyrone
- July 20—FINAL

## ● FROM OVERLEAF

most forty years by taking the Ulster Junior and Minor titles.

A new All-Ireland Senior and Junior Championship medal was struck this year. A replica of the Association's Crest in gold for the seniors and in silver for the juniors. A historical pageant, written by Síle NicAnultaigh was the highlight of the All-Ireland Camogie Dinner.

Cork retained the Willwood Tailteann Minor All-Ireland title. This competition also took on a new look for the semi-final and final stages. Congress voted to bring the four provincial minors to one venue for a week-end, so Connacht who were the first hosts chose Duggan Park, Ballinasloe for the games. Cork defeated Dublin and Cavan ousted Galway in the semi-finals. Although Cork won the final 5-3 to 3-0, Cavan put in a reasonable performance. With more experience they should be a force in the near future.

To commemorate the first competitive game at An Uaimh

in 1904, it was decided to hold the Interprovincial Gael-linn Finals in Co. Meath. The venue Athboy was made available. Leinster who had defeated Ulster in the senior semi-final beat Munster who had ousted Connacht. Ulster won the Junior Gael-linn title for the first time when they conquered Munster. In the semi-finals Ulster scored a decisive victory over Leinster and Munster just pipped Connacht.

The National Senior League also had a new structure this season. Up to now the senior counties had been divided into zones. In order to reduce travelling, it was decided to form four zones. Three zones of three counties and one zone of four.

There was some dissatisfaction during the season about the new system. Some counties felt that the zones were too small with only three participating counties

so there may be a change next year.

However there were some excellent games. Limerick came out on top of Kilkenny (the holders) and Clare. Cork got full points from Tipperary and Wexford and Down were the winners in the Galway — Monaghan section and Dublin won the fourth place from Antrim, Wicklow and Derry.

In the semi-finals Limerick beat Down and Dublin, who drew with Cork at the end of normal time and after extra time, won the replay to qualify to face Limerick in the Final.

In the final played at Russell Park Dublin triumphed by 0-6 to 0-0.

Presentation Convent, Cashel, acquired the Sceilg Cup and the Senior Colleges title. Mercy Convent Roscommon made history by winning their first All-Ireland Camogie title — the junior Colleges decider.

In C.C.I.A. Ulster Polytechnic also had a first National title in winning the Purcell Cup and St. Pats Drumcondra regained the Third Level Colleges League. University College Galway retained the Ashbourne Intervarsity Cup which competition returned to Belfast for the first time in ten years.

An interprovincial competition was the Colleges contribution to the 75th Anniversary. In a one day tournament Munster defeated Leinster, Connacht were victorious over Ulster in the semi-final. Munster proved best in the Final against Connacht.

### IRISH NATIONAL TEACHERS' ORGANISATION



## I.N.T.O.



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





# BANK OF IRELAND ALL STARS



1979

## HURLING

- ★ PAT McLOUGHNEY, Tipperary
- ★ BRIAN MURPHY, Cork
- ★ MARTIN O'DOHERTY, Cork
- ★ TADGH O'CONNOR, Tipperary
- ★ DERMOT McCURTAIN, Cork
- ★ GER HENDERSON, Kilkenny
- ★ IGGY CLARKE, Galway
- ★ JOHN CONNOLLY, Galway
- ★ JOE HENNESSY, Kilkenny
- ★ JOHN CALLINAN, Clare
- ★ FRANK BURKE, Galway
- ★ LIAM O'BRIEN, Kilkenny
- ★ MICK BRENNAN, Kilkenny
- ★ JOE McKENNA, Limerick
- ★ NED BUGGY, Wexford

## FOOTBALL

- ★ PADDY CULLEN, Dublin
- ★ EUGENE HUGHES, Monaghan
- ★ JOHN O'KEEFE, Kerry
- ★ TOM HENEGHAN, Roscommon
- ★ TOMMY DRUMM, Dublin
- ★ TIM KENNELLY, Kerry
- ★ DANNY MURRAY, Roscommon
- ★ DERMOT EARLEY, Roscommon
- ★ BERNARD BROGAN, Dublin
- ★ GER POWER, Kerry
- ★ SEAN WALSH, Kerry
- ★ PAT SPILLANE, Kerry
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# Results Summary

## ALL-IRELAND FINALS

**Senior Football:** September 16: Croke Park: Kerry 3-13; Dublin 1-8. Attendance: 72,185. Top Scorer for the entire championship series: M. Sheehy (Kerry) 6-18 (36 points) in four games. Average: Nine points a match.

**Minor Football:** September 16: Croke Park: Dublin 0-10; Kerry 1-6.

**Under-21 Football:** September 23: Croke Park: Down 1-9; Cork 0-7.

**Under-21 Hurling:** September 23: Portlaoise: Tipperary 2-12; Galway 1-9.

**Junior Hurling:** October 7: Omagh: Armagh 2-13; Derry 2-1.

**Under-21 Hurling:** September 9: Kilkenny: Galway 1-12; Wexford 2-8.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE (1978-79)

**Football:** Division II Final: September 9: Lurgan: Armagh 5-12; Warwickshire 0-8.

## OIREACHTAS CUP

**Hurling:** Semi-Finals: September 9: Kilkenny: Wexford 2-16; Galway 1-12. Birr: Offaly 2-9; Limerick 1-8. Final: September 23: Croke Park: Wexford 3-17; Offaly 5-8. Top scorer for the entire series: N. Buggy (Wexford) 1-12 in two games. Average: 7.50 points.

## CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

### Connacht

**Football:** September 23: Castlebar: St. Mary's, Sligo, 3-13; Garrymore, Mayo, 0-8.

**Hurling:** October 14: Sligo: Craobh Rua, Sligo, 0-9; Mohill, Leitrim 1-4.

### Ulster

**Football:** September 23: Clones: Scotstown, Monaghan, 3-9; Carrickmore, Tyrone, 1-4. October 14: Belfast: St. Theresas, Antrim, 2-11; Bundoran, Donegal, 1-11. Bellaghy: Bel-

laghy, Derry, 0-12; Erne Gaels, Fermanagh, 2-3. October 28: Castlewellan: Castlewellan (Down) 2-8; Laragh Utd., Cavan 0-7. October 28: Semi-final: Bellaghy: Scotstown, Monaghan 0-11; Bellaghy (Derry) 0-8.

**Hurling:** October 14: Randalls-town: Cuchulains, Armagh 4-6; Dungiven, Derry 2-4. Semi-final: October 28: Armagh: Ballycran, Down 3-10; Cuchulains, Armagh 2-7.

## Leinster

**Football:** October 21: Gorey: Raheens (Kildare) 1-12; Castle-town (Wexford) 0-4. October 28: Tullamore, Walsh Island, Offaly 0-11; Na Fianna, Dublin 0-9.

**Hurling:** October 21: Castlecomer, Kilkenny 2-10; Rathnure, Wexford 1-9. Trim: Killyon, Meath 2-6; Carlow Town 1-2. Dundalk: Carnew Emmets, Wicklow 6-13; Naomh Moninne, Louth 0-3.

## Munster

**Hurling:** October 21: Dunhill (Waterford) 3-9; Sixmilebridge, Clare 2-8.

## NATIONAL LEAGUES

**Football:** October 7: Cavan: Roscommon 0-12; Cavan 0-11. Lurgan: Armagh 3-6; Tyrone 3-5. Tuam: Galway 0-9; Kildare 0-7. Tralee: Kerry 1-16; Dublin 0-10. Belfast: Monaghan 3-6; Antrim 2-7. Magherafelt: Derry 1-15; Westmeath 1-4. Irvinestown: Fermanagh 1-17; Leitrim 0-4. Longford: Longford 2-6; Sligo 0-9. Graiguecullen: Laois 1-7; Limerick 0-6. October 14: Navan: Clare 0-12; Meath 0-10. Portlaoise: Laois 2-9; Tipperary 1-7. October 21: Mullingar: Monaghan 1-7; Westmeath 0-6. Swatragh: Derry 0-9; Louth 1-5. Longford: Longford 0-11; Leitrim 0-3. Irvinestown: Fermanagh 2-10; Sligo 0-7. October 28: Wexford:

Wexford 0-13; Wicklow 0-4. Carlow: Carlow 1-12; Waterford 0-6.

**Hurling:** October 21: Mullingar: Westmeath 2-9; Carlow 2-3. Athleague: Roscommon 2-8; Down 1-8. Aughrim: Meath 1-9; Wicklow 2-5.

## U.S. ALL STARS TOUR

**Football:** October 14: New York: Kerry 6-6; All Stars 1-7. October 16: Chicago: All Stars 1-16; Kerry 3-7. October 21: San Francisco: Kerry 1-16; All Stars 1-10. October 28: Los Angeles: Kerry 3-13; All Stars 1-11. Aggregate Score: Kerry 13-42 (81 points); All Stars 4-44 (56 points).

**Hurling:** October 14: New York: Kilkenny 1-16; All Stars 3-7. October 16: Chicago: Kilkenny 2-17; All Stars 2-17. October 21: San Francisco: All Stars 1-18; Kilkenny 0-7. October 28: Los Angeles: Kilkenny 1-15; All Stars 2-10. Aggregate Score: All Stars 8-52 (76 points); Kilkenny 4.55 (67 points).

## CAMOGIE

### All-Ireland Finals

Senior: September 9: Croke Park: Antrim 2-3; Tipperary 1-3. Junior: September 9: Croke Park: Galway 4-3; Cork 3-2.

### Leinster Final

Senior: September 23: Russell Park, Dublin: Dublin 6-3; Kilkenny 4-8.

### Gael Linn Interprovincials

Senior: Semi-finals: October 14: Russell Park, Dublin: Leinster 4-6; Ulster 0-1. Ballinlough: Munster 4-8; Connacht 0-2. Final: October 28: Athboy: Leinster 1-5; Munster 0-4.

Junior: Semi-finals: October 14: Russell Park: Ulster 5-2; Leinster 1-2. Ballinlough: Munster 2-3; Connacht 2-2. Final: October 28: Athboy: Ulster 0-4;

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## JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON

AND so we come to the end of another year. At the moment Kerry seem invincible but of course there can be major changes in a year. Dublin seem to have gone temporarily as a football power and will need a period of team building to get back but they can look to their successful minors and the fact that the game has become so popular in the city. Kilkenny hurlers don't seem as dominant but they will be difficult to dethrone. And the Cork minors continue to show the wealth of hurling talent in the county. Tipperary seem to be coming as a hurling power and all honour to Down for winning the U-21 football title.

At this time of year I'd love to look back and remember the things that mattered in 1979. We are nearly into the 80's so let us look forward. **Junior Desk** is still alive —almost ten years old—and I'm happy to consider it one of my major G.A.A. involvements. Sometimes it is a hard slog rewriting letters, synthesising them without interfering too much with them but by and large it is a labour of love. Tell me what you'd like in Junior Desk in 1980. How we will celebrate our first ten years. Is there anyone you yourselves would like to interview? Or will we just leave it to the editor to decide. One sure thing I'll write myself about the first ten years of Junior Desk. This is Annual time so we will review all the current ones next month. And so to this month's CUT-OUT

Ollie Crinnigan, Kildare's goalie since 1965. Ollie is our first Colour Cut Out from Kildare and in honouring him we honour also all the other members of the Kildare side who have promised so much and now look like fulfilling that promise. Keep up the good work!

### Mailbag

**Aiden Bonner, Derryhenny, Doochary, Co. Donegal** has great respect for Galway's John Connolly. His stars of the All-Ireland S. F. final were Paudie O'Shea, Mike Sheehy and Mick Holden.

**Eileen Murphy, Railway View, Rathmore, Co. Kerry** is 13 years old and is a Pen-Pal of Marie Boran's. This is Eileen's first time writing to us. "I was over the moon when Kerry won. My men of the match were Mikie Sheehy, (his penalty was **unstoppable**), Pat Spillane, who must have trod on every blade of grass in Croke Park, Sean Walsh whose fielding was a joy to behold. The Dubs fans on Hill 16 weren't too faithful and left early. They are no fans. They cheer when the going is good and just fade from the scene when the tide turns on them. We had a great night in Rathmore when the Kerry team stopped en route home. Now we look forward to the 26th in 1980. I love Junior Desk and your two Quiz Books."

● *And I love you too, Eileen!! Seriously, Eileen, you're welcome to Junior Desk and keep writing. Your letter is great and wins for you a Kerry G.A.A. scarf. But don't be greedy. Just think of all the other counties who are now so envious of Kerry. (J.M.)*

**Martin Carley, No. 1 Glenview, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath**, "I was at the hurling final in the Nally Stand. It was great. My man of the match was Liam O'Brien. Galway's best were Joe Connolly, Iggy Clarke, Seamus Shinnors and Steve Mahon. I saw four great hurling games this year—Cork v. Tipperary, Kilkenny v. Wexford, Galway v. Cork and the final."

● *You certainly get around Martin and you choose your games well. (J.M.)*

**Brian Devlin, Letallion Cabra P.O., Kilcoo, Newry, Co. Down** writes to say his favourites are Jimmy Keaveney, Pat Spillane, Colm McAlarney, Brian Mullins, Cathal Digney and Mick Brennan. "The best team to get into Croke Park was Down v. Kerry in 1960."

● *You must be happy that Down have won an U-21 All-Ireland title this year. You win a Down bob-cap. (J.M.)*

**Clement Reilly and Seamus Beirne of Charlestown, Co. Mayo** think Junior Desk is very interesting. This year they won the U-13 All-Ireland COMMUNITY GAMES HANDBALL and had a wonderful time in Mosney making great friends with their opponents. Clement's father Sean Reilly played football for Connacht and Ulster, Mayo and Donegal.

● *Congrats both of you on winning the U-13 Handball title for Connacht for the first time. Yes, I remember your Daddy well Clement and remember him having a star game for Connacht in Tuam one day. I think it was against Munster. Ask him about it. (J.M.)*

**Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick**. "I loved the R.T.E. programme "THE SUNDAY GAME". I hope it continues through the N.L.'s. Mike Sheehy is now one of the greats of football."

● *Yes, I too liked "The Sunday Game". Wasn't Liz Howard lovely? I think I know you know my opinion on Mike Sheehy — the BEST FOOTBALLER IN IRELAND. (J.M.)*

**T. Murphy, Ballydaly Lower, Rathmore, Co. Kerry** writes to pay tribute to Christy Ring. He includes a poem in TRIBUTE TO

● OVERLEAF

● **FROM OVERLEAF**

CHRISTY R.I.P. entitled "IN MEMORY OF CHRISTY." The following is one stanza:

"Do you remember CHRISTY said he, quite gay,  
The old man DID—he was there that day,  
He thought of CHRISTY, that bag of tricks,  
Sending the SLIOTAR between the STICKS."

● *Christy R.I.P. will never be forgotten. (J.M.).*

**Sarah Drea, Blackwell, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny**, is a great follower of Kilkenny Hurlers. Her favourite player is Joe Hennessy. I love your column and wish it continued success.

● *Sarah, I'm getting overcome with the praise! You win a black and amber Bob-cap. (J.M.).*

**Liam Byrne, 4 Taylor Close, Miranda 2228, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia**. "I am 13 years old. My father is from Dublin and he revisits Ireland regularly. As I write my brother is in Ireland. I am an avid fan of Junior Desk and Gaelic Sport. We only see the All-Ireland finals on T.V. My favourite players are Brian Mullins, Mikey Sheehy and Denis Moran. I love football but cannot play as there are no clubs near where I live."

● *Now isn't that sad and all the boys in Ireland who have the chance to play and don't. Thanks Liam, and keep up your great interest. Now how about a few PEN-PALS for Liam? (J.M.).*

**Declan Cronin, Chapel Road, Durrus, Bantry, Co. Cork**, "I thought "The Sunday Game" was very good on the night of the hurling final. Liam O'Brien was man of the match. I liked also the LET'S GO Programme. I would like a Quiz or Crossword in GAELIC SPORT."

● *The Sunday Game is very good for analysis. It has its flaws and recently I met Bill O'Herlihy and mentioned some of them to him but overall it's very good. (J.M.).*

**Pat Leogue, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly**, "Unfortunately for Galway and perhaps for hurling in general the All-Ireland title has gone to the men from Kilkenny. However, Galway have played their part by ending the great run of Cork. I feel if Cork

had reached the final their determination to get the elusive four-in-a-row would have proved too much for the Noresiders.

Paddy McFlynn's comments with regard to the media recently were a trifle harsh I feel. There has been a great improvement in the coverage provided over the last few years. Just look at the snippets of information provided by the **Sunday Independent** each Sunday. Certainly as the major sporting body in the country the G.A.A. deserves the best treatment by the media but it appears that no matter what improvements are made, come Congress time the same issues rear up again and again. While on the subject I feel it is necessary for the G.A.A. in general and some officials in particular to be fully aware of the necessity to use the media for the benefit of the Association and its members rather than their own interests. It is becoming popular not to talk to the press and T.V. for fear of giving away something to their opponents. It is unfair to everyone especially the supporters and does absolutely nothing to improve G.A.A. coverage by the media.

The length of the proposed tour by the Bank of Ireland All-Stars tour makes one wonder just who will be able to afford to go on such trips. Admittedly it is good publicity for a company to have an employee selected but where self-employed people are involved the loss would be substantial. It is good to have rewards of this kind for our star players but I hope such rewards are kept within the reach of all and not become exclusive to those who are able to afford it."

● *Pat, thanks for your fine letter which I have almost included EN TOTO. You win an Offaly G.A.A. Tie. (J.M.).*

**Declan Bonner** (brother of Aiden) tells me he captained the U-14 Rosses Rovers team which won the Cup for the second year in Donegal. They beat Ballyshannon in the Co. final by 5-10 to 0-9. Now they play in Newry in the Ulster club championship.

● *Well done, Declan. For that you win a Donegal Bob-cap. I was in Donegal three times during the Summer but never in*

*Doochary yet. Sometime D.V. (J.M.).*

**Ann Skinnion, Durless, Kilsallagh, Westport, Co. Mayo** feels so sorry for Galway not winning the hurling. "John Connolly is a fantastic player. Next year will be their year."

● *Let's hope so, Ann. Galway must keep on trying. (J.M.).*

**Dermot McCarthy**, our old reliable from Bath also feels so sorry for Galway hurlers and wants to know when is Quizbook No. 3 coming out.

● *No plans yet, Dermot. (J.M.).*

**Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway** was thrilled with Galway's win over Cork in the semi-final. Norman likes competitions and is as keen as ever on the G.A.A.

● *Keep up the interest Norman. Gort were so unlucky to lose to Kinvara in the Galway S.H.C. but it's Kinvara's first ever final appearance. (J.M.).*

**Tom Monaghan, Lisduff, Scardaune, Claremorris, Co. Mayo** is looking for tapes or records of All-Ireland finals of the past. He is surprised the G.A.A. has never issued records or tapes of their big games as there is obviously a market for them.

● *I'm surprised too but we are becoming much more sophisticated in our approach to this and other related matters. (J.M.).*

**Denis Moran "Brookville" Ballinacurra, Limerick**. "My Daddy has been getting Gaelic Sport for many years. He finds it difficult to keep the various issues together, and some issues have got lost. I wonder if you could persuade the powers that be to issue binders for the magazine as other magazines do. A binder would make an ideal Christmas gift to my Dad who is a brother of Ogie Moran's. How about a cut-out of Ogie."

We were all thrilled by your reference to my Grandad in the Kerryman. Thank you very much."

● *Good idea, Denis. Your Grandad was a marvellous character. My regards to Ogie. (J.M.).*

**Des Brennan, 4 Bibsworth Ave., Moseley, Birmingham, West Midlands, B13 OBA, England**, writes to say he really enjoyed his holiday in Ireland and his All-

Ireland hurling final weekend. He was very disappointed to see Galway lose. "It was very much a case of Galway losing the game rather than Kilkenny winning it." Des wants copies of the Galway Co. Final programmes and wonders is there a Galway G.A.A. annual.

● *Michael Monaghan Galway F. Board P.R.O. and John Molloy P.R.O. Galway Co. Board please note. (J.M.).*

**Anthony Murphy, Doolough, Connolly, Ennis, Co. Clare**, feels it must be very discouraging for Galway to lose three finals and one semi-final in the same year. Anthony wants a Lucozade G.A.A. chart and a colour cut-out of a Clare hurler.

● *Anthony, we do feel a bit deflated in Galway but we will keep trying. You win a Lucozade Wall Chart. (J.M.).*

**Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow**, pays great tribute to Liam O'Brien for his marvellous comeback in hurling. He pays tribute too to Steve Mahon's great point on the volley and to Noel Lane's good goal. "Galway will come back again." Mikey Sheehy was his star of the football final with his 2-6 equalling Jimmy Keaveney's great scoring record. "Sean Walsh gave a great display of fielding." Gerry pays tribute to Dublin who got Gaelic football going again in Dublin when soccer had almost taken over the youth.

● *Nice and reserved tribute to Dublin. Gerry. (J.M.).*

**Ger Moloughney, Ballydavid, Littleton, Thurles, Co. Tipperary**. "This is my best football team since 1970. C. Neligan, M. Ryan, J. O'Keeffe, B. Murphy, D. O'Sullivan, A. McGurk, P. O'Shea, M. O'Connell, B. Mullins, D. Hickey, M. Sheehy, T. MacTague, J. Egan, E. Liston, J. Keaveney."

● *A fine collection, Ger. (J.M.).*

**Marie Boran, Lismorane, Foxford, Co. Mayo**, picks her TOP ALL-IRELAND men as Ger Henderson "who showed great courage to play at all having been sick all the previous week" and Pat Spillane in football. Marie

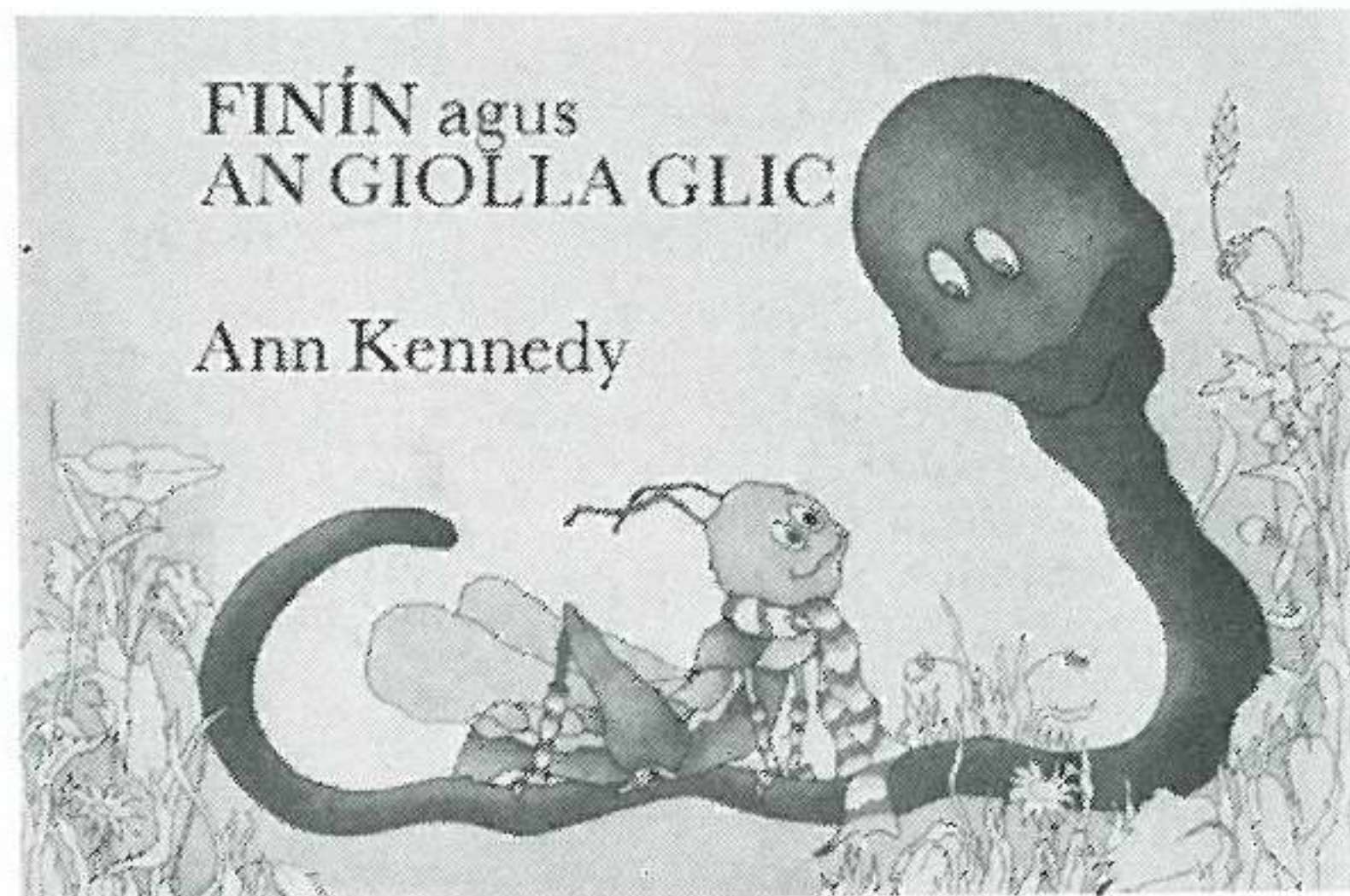
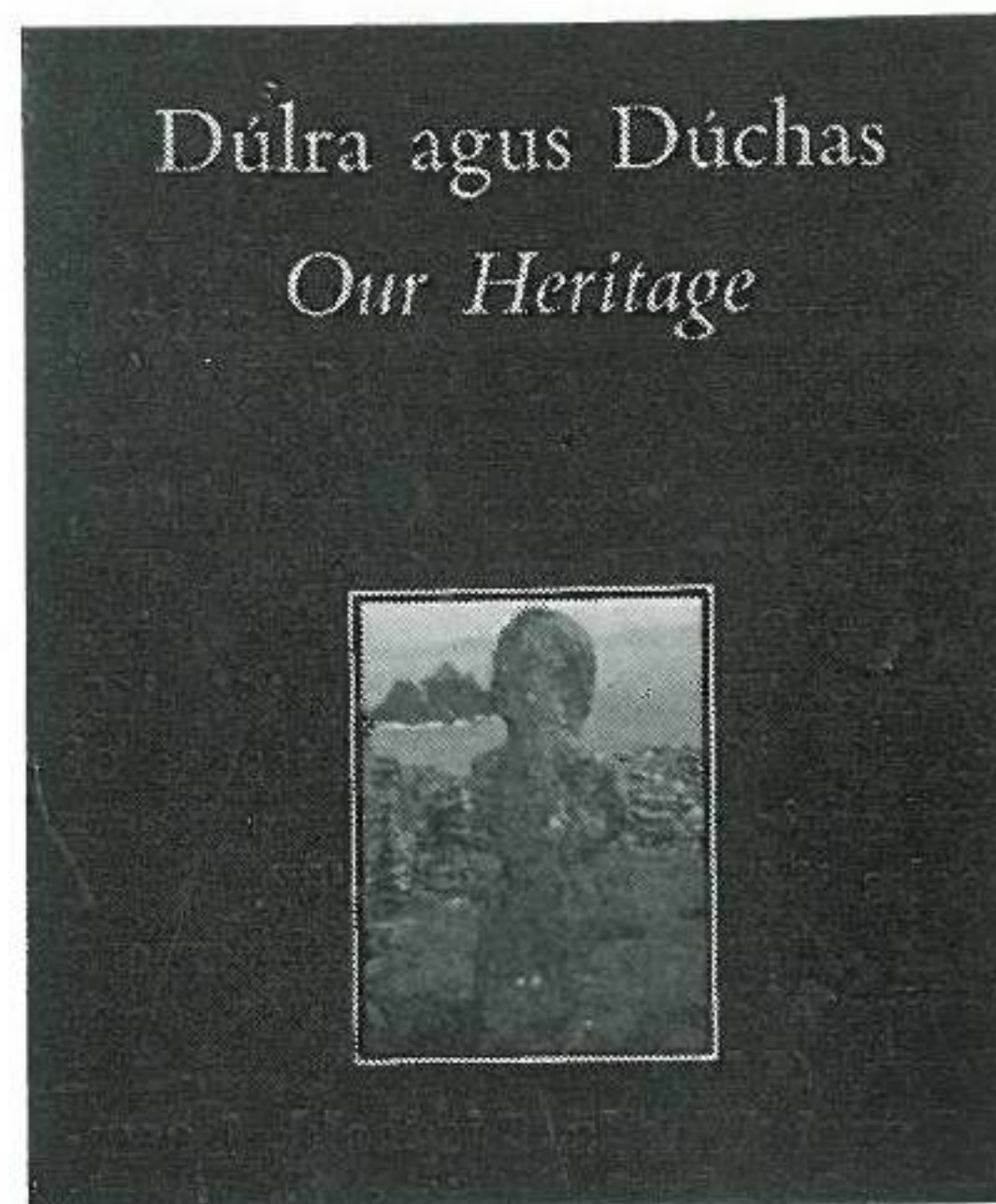
● **TO PAGE 44**

# AN GÚM

## Dúlra agus Dúchas/ Our Heritage

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## Finín agus an Giolla Glic

Anne Kennedy a scríobh agus a léirigh agus Treasa Ní Ailpín a chuir in oiriúint do leanaí 5 - 8 mbliana d'aois. Leabhar gleoite, lándaite é seo a mbeidh dúil ag gach páiste óg ann.

Praghas 50p.

le ceannach ó

OIFIG DHIOLTA FOILSEACHAIN RIALTAIS

An Stuara, Baile Atha Cliath, 1

nó trí aon díoltóir leabhar

● FROM PAGE 43

enjoyed the "Sunday Game" and was delighted with Liz Howard "as our very able spokesman! After all look at all the wives, girl-friends, mothers and sisters who share their menfolk with us in the cause of Gaelic Games!"

● Yes, Liz was great. Lovely too but then I'm partial to her for a long time! Better say no more! She has always been an AVID reader of Junior Desk and is well aware of all your names. (J.M.)

Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O., Co. Donegal, would like to get the following. He will buy them—Decades of Glory, Our Games Annual 1959, '61 and '68, Hours of Glory, Tipperary G.A.A. Story, Cuchulainn Annual '57, '58, '62, '63, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68 and '69, all issues of Carbery's Annuals, Galway Yearbooks '64, '65, '66 and '67.

● Any readers with spare copies should get in touch with Denis. (J.M.)

Donal Woods, Lisgoold, Leamlara, Co. Cork, writes to thank me for sending him on some spare programmes when he wrote to me for Gaelic Games Quizbook No. 1.

● Have you got Quizbook No. 2? (J.M.)

Pat Treacy, Carrig Mor, Church Rd., Ballybunion, Co. Kerry. "Sam is BACK. I went to the All-Ireland semi-final with my friends the Guerins. We really wiped out Monaghan. I enjoyed your article in "The Kerryman" about your late brother and the late Denis Moran (father of Ogie). We set out for Croke Park on the Saturday before the final. We stayed with my uncle overnight. I had a cousin playing for the Kerry minors named John Keane (son of John B.) and I had a cousin-in-law playing for the Dublin minors named Bernard Cavanagh. We went to Croke Park at 12.30 and got to our Upper Deck Cusack Stand seats at 1.25. I was disappointed the Kerry minors lost. But the seniors rolled over Dublin. Sean Walsh was my star. Kerry should have got more All Stars. The Sam Maguire is coming to Ballybunion on Friday night. I'll write again."

● Please do, Pat. Another great letter. I can well believe

you're related to John B. Keane. You win a G.A.A. Kit-bag. (J.M.)

Vincent Cronin, brother of Declan's, has great praise for Pat Spillane. Vincent liked the Sunday Game too. He wants a Cut-out of Pat and likes Ger Power too.

● Pat Spillane is a human Dynamo. (J.M.)

Michael Kirby, Convent Rd., Listowel, Co. Kerry, feels the N.L. set up should be in four divisions of eight with a two up two down situation each year. He feels too the Leagues should be run in the Summer with a longer Winter break. He feels the G.A.A. should go Professional with limitations. He is very much

in favour of the card system to eradicate petty fouling. "The use of a 'Sin-Bin' as in ice-hockey might be worth a try."

● Good ideas except for the professionalism bit. I'd be all against that. I'm afraid I'd concur with Jimmy Barry Murphy's ideas on that. As he said "If the G.A.A. goes professional COUNT ME OUT." Me too. (J.M.)

So ends the Mailbag for another month. Please write on anything—just anything to

Junior Desk,  
GAELIC SPORT,  
80, Upper Drumcondra Road,  
Dublin 9.

Happy Christmas. See you all in 1980. Le Congnamh Dé. Slán.

● FROM PAGE 40

Munster 1-0.

National League

Senior: Semi-finals: October 21: Ballinlough: Cork 4-9; Dublin 4-9. Draw in extra time. October 21: Adare: Limerick 4-2; Down 0-4.

HANDBALL

All-Ireland Finals

Senior Handball Singles: September 9: Roscommon: P. McGarry (Limerick) bt Peadar McGee (Mayo).

Senior Handball Doubles: September 23: Cappagh: P. McGarry and J. Bennis (Limerick) bt P. McGee and C. Quinn (Mayo).

Coca-Cola Open Doubles: September 15: Croke Park: R. Lyng and S. Buggy (Wexford) bt Dan and John Kirby (Clare).

Under-21 Singles: September 9: Roscommon: E. Downey (Kilkenny) bt F. McCann (Sligo).

Under-21 Doubles: September 23: Cappagh: F. McCann and M. Porter (Sligo) bt T. Ryan and T. Dyer (Tipperary).

Junior Handball Doubles: September 9: Roscommon: Tony and Noel Ryan (Tipperary) bt T. Derrig and M. Sweeney (Mayo).

Junior Handball Singles: September 23: Cappagh: N. Ryan (Tipperary) bt T. Derrig (Mayo).

Junior Softball Singles: September 15: Croke Park: Tony Ryan (Tipperary) bt D. Doolin (Roscommon).

Minor Handball Doubles: September 9: Roscommon: M. McGovern and J. Smith (Meath) bt P. O'Hara and P. J. Carey (Mayo).

Minor Softball Doubles: September 15: Croke Park: B. Burke and M. Cantwell (Kilkenny) bt J. Cawley and F. McCann (Sligo).

Minor Handball Singles: September 23: Cappagh: W. O'Donnell (Tipperary) bt J. Leahy (Galway).

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

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## Ollie Crinnigan Kildare

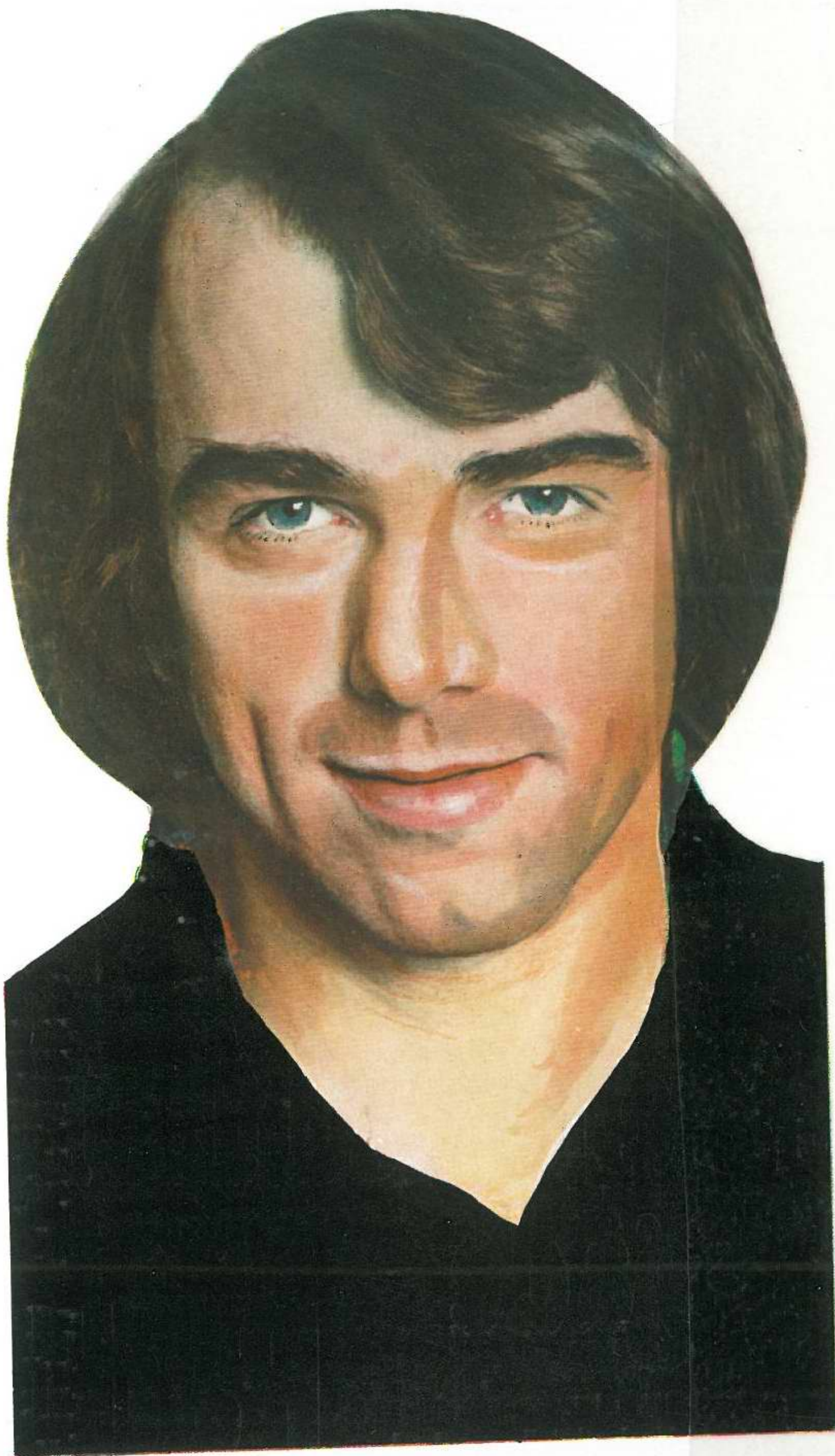
Age: 32  
Height: 5 ft. 10½ ins.  
Weight: 13 st.  
Position: Goalkeeper  
Club: Carbury  
Senior Inter-County  
Debut: 1965

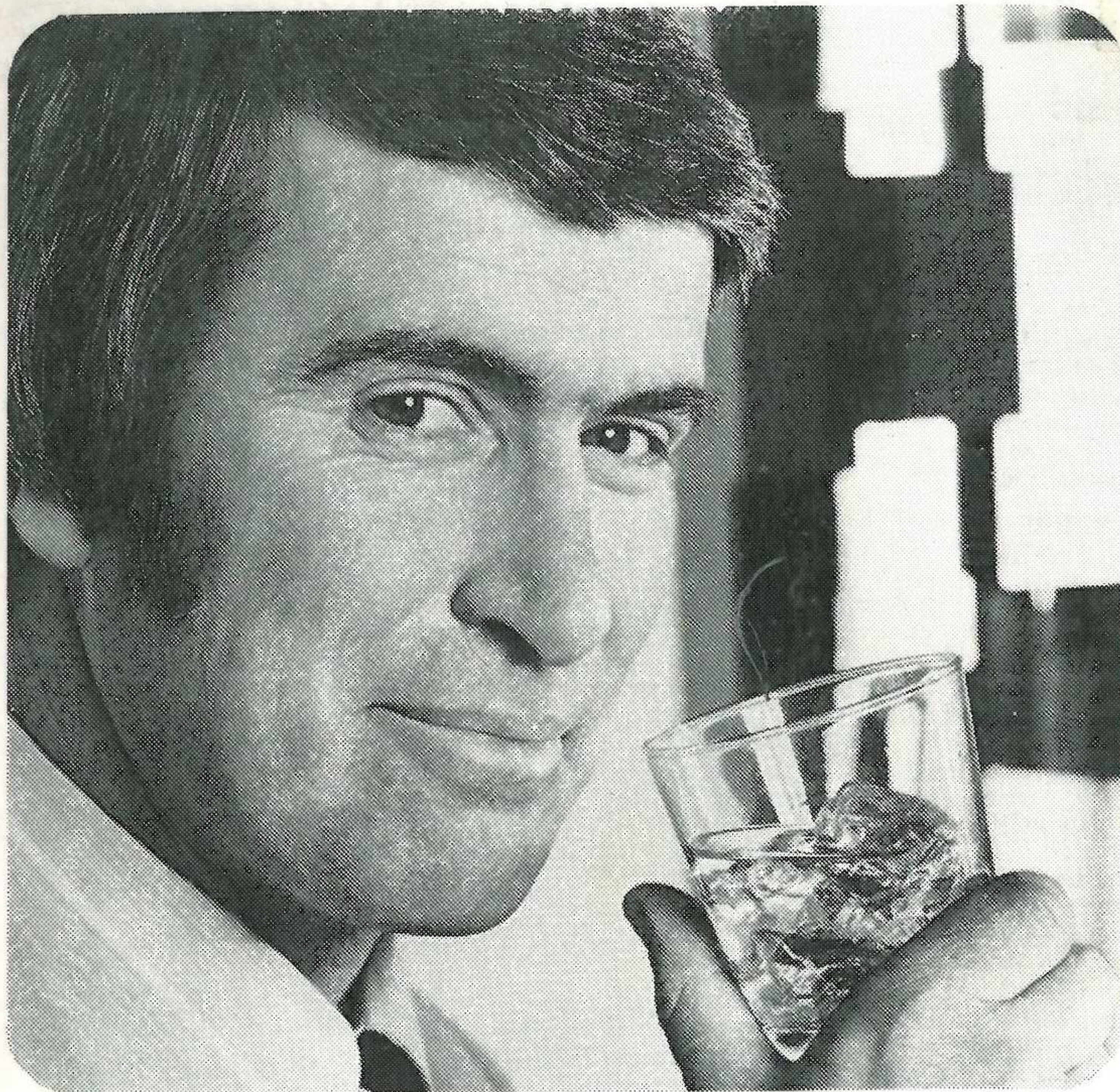
### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Ollie, one of the most consistent of net-minders in modern times, became Kildare's first Carrolls All Star when he was honoured in the football selection in 1978.

He had the rare distinction of playing with the county in the minor, under-21 and senior championships in the same year—1965. That year, too, he was a bright link in the team that brought the All-Ireland under-21 title to Kildare.

In club matches, Ollie appeared with Carbury in every grade, and he won six county senior medals. He also lined-out with Leinster, but did not get among the Railway Cup souvenirs.





He joined the light  
brigade

Switch to

**Paddy**

And see the light.



ARKS