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PUBLISHED MONTHLY





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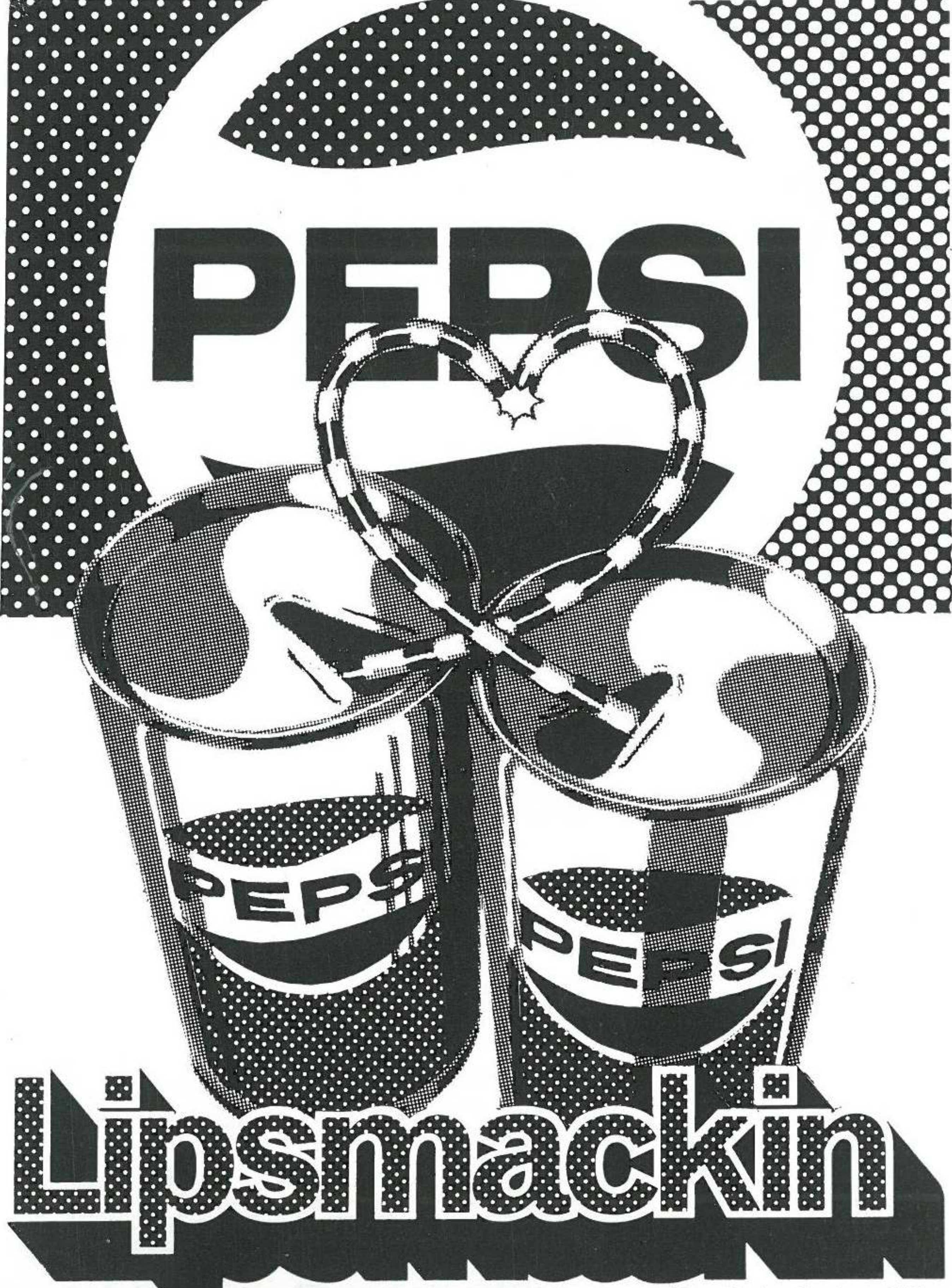
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**F**OOTBALL needs a good All-Ireland senior final. Admittedly, Dublin's clashes with Offaly and Roscommon enlivened the scene considerably and provided plenty of talking points, but over-all the impression that emerges from the current campaign so far is of uneven matches, and disappointing standards generally.

A top-class decider would do much to balance the scales. But that is not the only reason why the game will gain if Kerry and Dublin set the seal on the season with a memorable match.

Many argue that as these counties are meeting so often nowadays in major finals, followers are growing weary of the encounters. It is hardly a valid point at present — although the danger is there that a continued monopoly of the big matches by Kerry and Dublin would lead eventually to a fall-off in spectator appeal.

There is undoubtedly much to be said for new faces and new pairings at regular intervals in All-Ireland finals. Variety adds to the appeal of the deciders, and also encourages the weaker counties, in particular, to keep battling on in the hope of achieving a worthwhile break-through.

At the same time there are a number of unusual facets that help to mark out this latest decider as one with an appeal of its own.

There is the shadow of last year's amazing final, in which Dublin looked to be sailing to victory as they led by five points after twenty four minutes, only to crash to a resounding defeat following the Michael Sheehy goal that has become a part of the folklore of the game.

Were Kerry really 17 points the better team last September? Would Dublin have made a sterner defence of their title if they had not been caught out by that wonderful piece of quick-thinking by Sheehy?

These are just some of the intangibles that colour the backdrop to the latest show-down.

Then, there is Dublin's climb back from last year's debacle and a disappointing League run. Victory would give the recovery an almost unbelievable storybook-like finale.

As for Kerry, they have the opportunity to frank the 1978 win with the type of authoritative triumph that would put the present side into the ranks of the great teams of all time.

A final, then, with much at stake for both counties — and for football.

The potential is there in both teams to ensure a splendid match. Let's hope it will be exploited and revealed to the fullest extent — for the sake of the game.

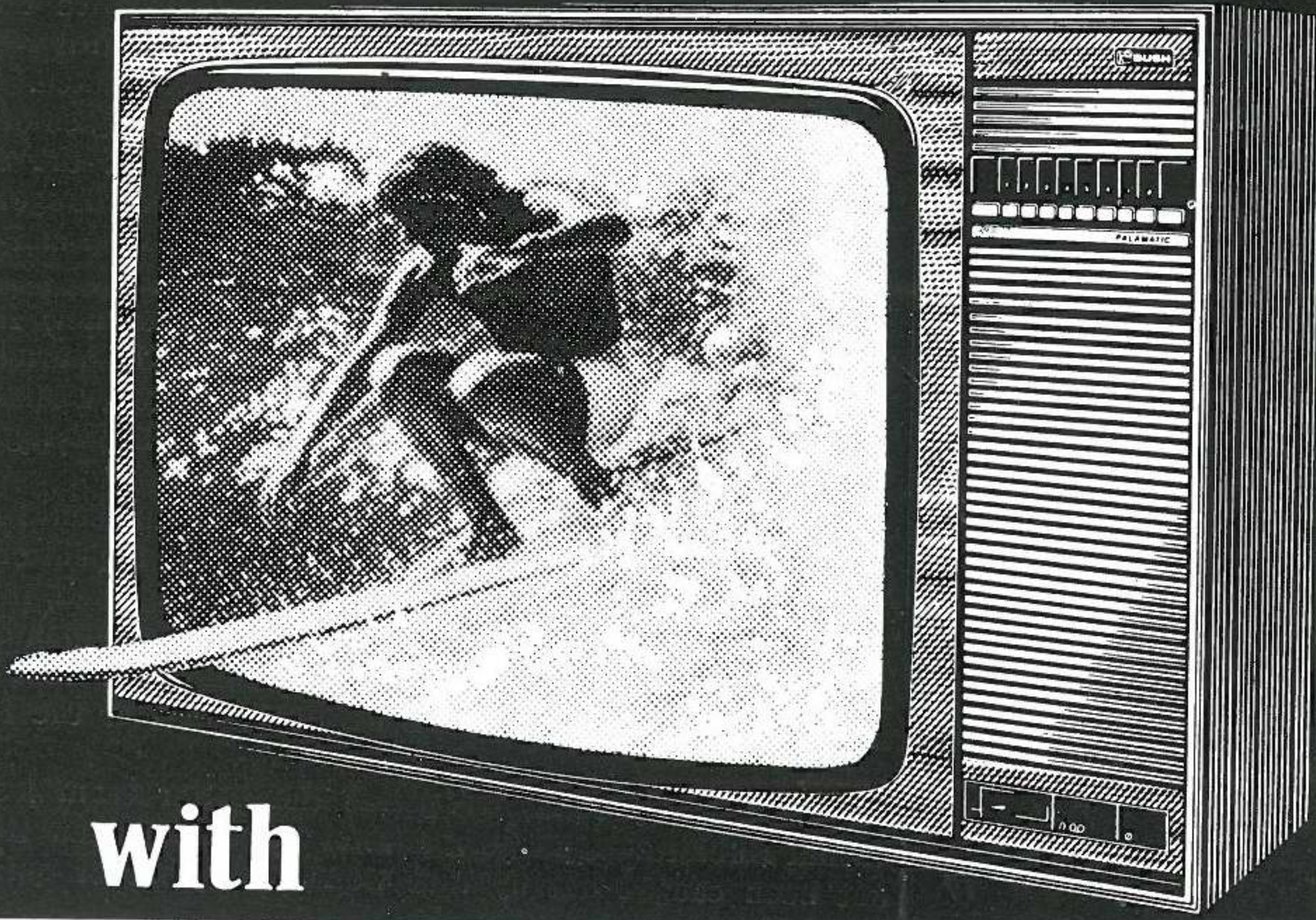
## COVER PHOTO

**O**UR front cover this month, features the All-Ireland football finalists, Kerry and Dublin.

**Kerry:** Back row (left to right): Jack O'Shea, Eoin Liston, Pat Spillane, John O'Keefe, Charlie Nelligan, Vincent O'Connor, Sean Walsh, Ger Power. Front row (left to right): Jimmy Denihan, Mike Sheehy, Paud O'Shea, John Egan, Tim Kennelly, Paud Lynch, Mick Spillane.

**Dublin:** Back row (left to right): Michael Hickey, Anton O'Toole, David Foran, Paddy Cullen, Mick Holden, Mick Kennedy, Bernard Brogan, Bobby Doyle. Front row (left to right): Brian Mullins, Fran Ryder, Pat O'Neill, Tony Hanahoe (Capt.), Tommy Drumm, Jim Roynane and David Hickey.

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# Tyler

## Dublin and Kerry

# Top Ten

## share the honours

**J**OE HENNESSY poised to make a strong challenge for ranking as the GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN award winner in hurling for 1979 . . . Liam O'Brien ahead of the field in this month's review in hurling . . . these are the chief features of the current ratings, which cover the period from August 12 to September 2 inclusive, and are naturally dominated by the All-Ireland senior hurling decider.

Sterling work at the back was a major feature of Kilkenny's win over Galway. Ger Henderson and Nickey Brennan did a great deal in the half back line to blunt the Western challenge, and Fan Larkin was another who blended in very vital touches in the defence.

But good work in the rear-guard will count for naught if it is not supported by scores by the team's finishers, and that is where Liam O'Brien shone in the latest McCarthy Cup tie. In a cool, efficient showing, he finished with a splendid 1-7 to his credit — just a point short of the entire Galway tally.

That sharpshooting, allied to his progressive play, clinched for O'Brien a top of the table rating this month on 44 points. This is his second appearance of the year in the charts, as he collected 29 points in June, and so has now a very creditable 73 points overall to his name.

Henderson, who takes second position in the code, moves up to fourth place over-all for the

year. Ger made his debut in August on 36 points, and an additional 42 this month brings his record to 78 points, two points behind Mick Brennan.

Joe Hennessy fills the sixth place in the current chart, but his 34 points send him spectacularly up the listings over-all. It is his third time to gain a place in a monthly Tyler Top Ten review, and he now has a splendid record over-all of 95 points.

This leaves the Kilkenny midfielder in second place, only seven points behind the long-time pace-setting Francis Loughnane (Tipperary).

The football chart presents a sharp contrast to events in hurling, with every single player honoured this month finding favour for the first time this season.

Dominating the review is John O'Keeffe, whose masterly display at full back was the best feature of the disappointing Kerry-Monaghan All-Ireland semi-final. The Southerner wins a two points advantage over the second

placed Bernard Brogan (Dublin).

The leading trio in each chart over-all are:

**Hurling:** 102 F. Loughnane (Tipperary). 95: J. Hennessy (Kilkenny). 80: Mick Brennan (Kilkenny).

**Football:** 111: D. Mulligan (Monaghan). 83: D. Earley (Roscommon). 71: D. Murray (Roscommon).

This month's charts:

## HURLING

44	L. O'Brien (Kilkenny)	73
42	G. Henderson (Kilkenny)	78
40	Nickey Brennan (Kilkenny)	40
38	Mick Brennan (Kilkenny)	80
36	F. Cummins (Kilkenny)	36
34	J. Hennessy (Kilkenny)	95
30	S. Silke (Galway)	67
28	I. Clarke (Galway)	64
26	Joe Connolly (Galway)	26
26	F. Larkin (Kilkenny)	26

## FOOTBALL

38	J. O'Keeffe (Kerry)	38
36	B. Brogan (Dublin)	36
34	P. Lynch (Kerry)	34
32	M. Hickey (Dublin)	32
32	M. Sheehy (Kerry)	32
30	P. Cullen (Dublin)	30
28	M. Kennedy (Dublin)	28
26	J. O'Connor (Roscommon)	26
26	H. Clerkin (Monaghan)	26
26	J. McDermott (Roscommon)	25



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Michael Holden  
(Dublin)

WHEN Dublin walked onto Croke Park for the Leinster final against Offaly many in the huge attendance were having their first look at the tall, fair-haired figure of Michael Holden, whose last-minute selection at full-back had surprised even the most knowledgeable supporters of the Blues.

During the preceding week speculation had been rampant concerning the probable replacement for Sean Doherty after the Leinster champions' selectors had nominated "A.N. Other" at No. 3.

All sorts of permutations and combinations had been suggested in pre-match discussions but few, if any, people even considered the 25-year-old Cuala clubman, whose main claim to fame had been his hurling exploits.

Yet, if one delved deeply enough, Michael Holden had a good football pedigree . . . though not as a full-back.

He was a half-back on the Dublin minor team for two years, and in 1975 was established on the under-21 panel that went on to win the Leinster title. However, a broken leg sustained early that year sidelined him until the Autumn and he did not come onto the team until the All-Ireland semi-final with Mayo in Castlebar.

Dublin won that but lost to Kerry in the final at Tipperary Town, where Michael had a solid game at wing back. All his club football has been played at centre half-back but he did fill the No. 3 position once before

## He was handed a jersey and told "you're on"

Dublin threw him in at the deep end against Offaly.

That was in a game for a South County junior selection in this year's county senior championship and somebody was sufficiently impressed by him at full-back that day to recommend him to the Dublin selectors. Yet, the man whose quiet, almost self-effacing style has given Paddy Cullen ample scope to indulge in intelligent sweeping tactics, did not know he would be playing until a matter of minutes before the Leinster final!

He was handed a jersey and told: "You're on." So ended days of speculation as to the identity of Sean Doherty's successor. In retrospect, Michael considers it was the best way to fill the vacancy: "Had I been picked on the Tuesday night, a lot of pressure would have been on me for the rest of the week," he commented. "People would have been ringing the house and the tension would have been building up. As it was, I didn't have time to think about it. It was a question of going out and getting into the game."

Ironically, hurling is Michael's first love and he only played club football to keep fit for the caman code. This is, of course,

understandable because his family background is entirely Kilkenny.

The Holdens from Mullinavat are a well-known hurling clan, and one of his uncles on the mother's side, John Sutton, was a Kilkenny midfielder in the Fifties, winning an All-Ireland senior medal against Waterford in 1957.

Michael himself first played minor hurling for Dublin when only 14, he was a very youthful goalkeeper on the under-21 team that was beaten a point by Galway in the All-Ireland final of 1972 and he was on the Leinster side that won the Railway Cup this year. His brothers, Vinny and P.J., have also represented Dublin in all grades, and the presence of the Holdens has made Cuala a force to be reckoned with in Liffeside competitions.

Michael Holden's next task is to defuse Kerry's Eoin "Bomber" Liston. There is a school of thought that suggests he will not be equal to the task, yet I have a shrewd suspicion that this quietly-spoken, dual star will surprise them because he has, so far, achieved everything, and more, expected of him by Dublin's shrewd backroom team.

When he trots onto Croke Park on September 16, there will be more than the beribboned and behatted Dublin supporters rooting for Michael Holden. There will also be a strong, and vocal, contingent from South Kilkenny cheering a man they proudly consider a "native son."

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### Mystery team

Due to pressure on space we have had to hold over to next month the result and the name of the prizewinner in our Mystery Team Competition published in our August issue.

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# The sparkling talents of Charlie N.

By NOEL HORGAN

ONE of the remarkable features of the current Kerry team, regarded by many as the most talented ever to represent the county, is the fact that it has been moulded without the Kingdom's having achieved great success at underage level in recent times.

Cork folk are particularly puzzled by Kerry's ability to produce top-class seniors as Cork have been the dominant force in Munster minor football since 1966, with Kerry taking only four provincial titles in that 13-year period. Yet the Kerry senior side, which has conquered Cork in the last five Munster finals, is laden with youthful players, the oldest being John O'Keeffe at 28.

Where then did all those fine young players come from? To my mind Kerry's secret of success is very simple. Realising that their stock of promising young players was low, the Kerry mentors decided it was necessary to concentrate more on quality than on quantity if the popularity of their product, the thoroughbred senior footballer, was to be maintained.

So they scanned the minor teams each year in the hope of salvaging two or maybe three players who seemed capable, under proper guidance, of making the top grade. It was not an easy task but the discerning Kerry back-room boys managed to spot potential even in the most apparently moderate of

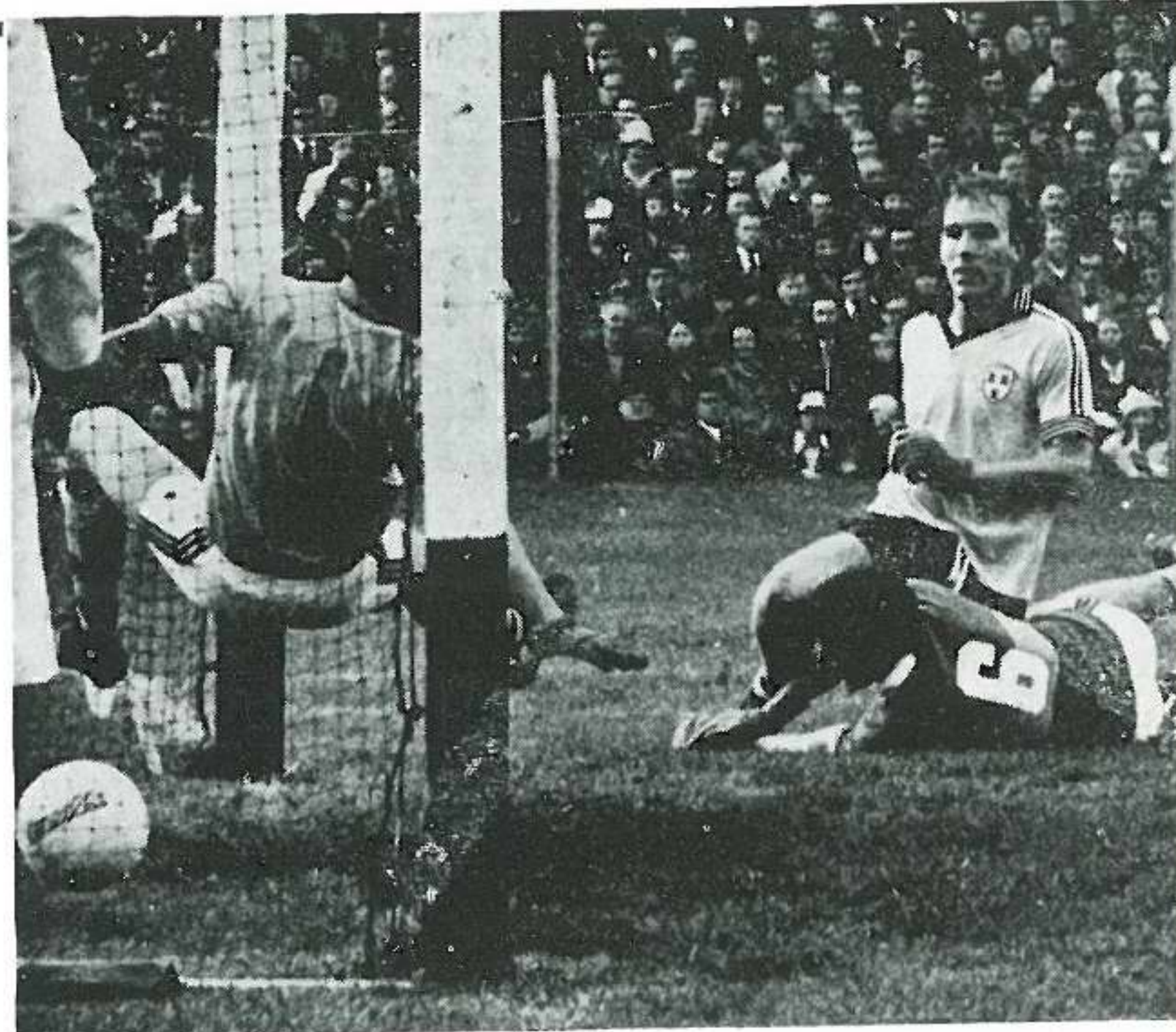
Kerry minor teams.

Any youngster fortunate enough to attract attention was immediately whisked away to be tutored in the skills of his sporting trade. With such a limited number of pupils in the best footballing "school" in the land, those Kerry youngsters were given every opportunity for development. And most of them graduated with major honours as a senior intercounty footballer.

By contrast Cork, an inferior academy in any case, was overburdened with youthful talent. And it is always difficult to learn in an overcrowded classroom.

A look back at the 1975 Munster minor football final illustrates how capable Kerry are at producing quality players. Kerry won that game and took national honours afterwards in what was regarded as one of the tamest All-Ireland series in the minor grade. A lively Cork fifteen, however, outplayed Kerry for most of the Munster final that year.

Cork looked the more skilful squad on the day, yet Christy Ryan and Christy Kearney were the only members of that minor



● THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY  
Dublin's Brian Mullins slips the ball past Charlie Nelligan of Kerry while Tim Kenneally looks on helplessly.

team to make the transition to senior status for this year's final.

Kerry, on the other hand, have produced able seniors in Jack O'Shea, Mick Spillane, Vince O'Connor, Sean Walsh and Charlie Nelligan from their '75 minor team, the only Kerry team to win the competition since 1963. And of that quintet Nelligan is arguably Kerry's most valuable acquisition.

Significantly, it was his goal-keeping feats that kept Kerry in touch in the '75 provincial final, a game which found the Castleisland man gain prominence in football circles for the first time. Such was his steadiness throughout that campaign that he was quickly promoted to the senior panel.

Charlie was understudy to Paud O'Mahony at the start of the '76 championship. It was a role which the patient Nelligan seemed destined to fill for a long time, as All-Star Paud was at the height of his career and looked

● OVERLEAF

# Always call your Hennessy a Hennessy



## ● FROM PAGE 11

to have many good years ahead. But tragedy struck Paud O'Mahony in the '76 All-Ireland as he sprained an ankle and was forced to retire, and into the breach stepped Charlie to gain his initial taste of championship fare.

Charlie's efforts were unable to prevent a rampant Dublin from succeeding but in the following months he was to give some sterling displays between the Kerry posts and as the Kingdom took the '76-77 league title, Charlie Nelligan played a vital role in that win, establishing himself as Kerry's number one 'keeper.

He has never been out of favour since and seems destined, at 22, to become one of the great Kerry goalkeepers. Already he has captured most of the game's major honours, Kerry's All-Ireland victory last year earning him his most cherished prize.

Impetuosity, which led to his dismissal late in the Dublin game probably cost Charlie an All-Star award but this year he has shown more maturity and it's doubtful if any other 'keeper will deny him his right to be nominated the best in the country when the All-Stars are selected this year.

Remember that brilliant diving effort which deflected a well-struck Dinny Allen penalty wide of the posts in the Munster final. Versatility is one of Charlie Nelligan's strong points and he turns in regularly impressive displays with his club Desmonds, from the full-back position.

He has also sampled League of Ireland soccer with Home Farm and such is the power of his dead-ball kicking that he was nominated as penalty taker with his Dublin soccer club. Like most Kerry folk, however, Gaelic football is Charlie's first love and he has shown beyond doubt that he is a perfect product of Kerry's quality machine of the 'seventies.

# **'Ogie' Moran has a problem: he is too versatile!**

*By Tom O Riain*



*Denis 'Ogie' Moran  
(Kerry)*

**T**HROUGHOUT the winter ever since the massive victory of Kerry in last September's All-Ireland final we had the RTE sports programmes on Sunday nights ushered in with a mix of clips from famous events — the inevitable John Treacy, of course, and among the others most notably Ogie Moran showing his fine set of teeth in a huge grin of triumph as he raises the Sam Maguire Cup.

Heady stuff, indeed, and the point at which any footballer might think he had arrived to the extent that it would take some special carelessness on his part to lose his place on his county team. Not so Denis Moran, for he has been, as is usual with him, the ultimate in enthusiasm and dedication to Kerry football. He was working on his fitness when others were taking it easy for the winter; he was thinking and planning and practising skills when others were resting on their oars.

Nevertheless, when the challenges and tournaments were out of the way, and the League had gone the way of all things that have become too familiar, Ogie found that the championship team to represent the Kingdom was shaking down into shape without him.

A trial here and a switch there, just for the sake of satisfying the selectors that some of their reserves had the makings if they

happened to be needed at any future crucial time. From Moran's point of view, the devilish thing about it was that the trialists proved so good that they got a hold of the positions.

It is sometimes a marvellous thing to be adaptable and able to pick up any position on a team which becomes vacant and make a fine job of filling it. Ogie was blessed by the Kerry selectors when he turned into a centre-forward one year when a handy lad was needed who could fetch and carry and probe at the same centre of the Dublin defence.

At other times they have been very thankful for his ability to "hang in" at centre-field or half-back — the number of his roles in the different grades have always been geared to the interests of the team.

Despite such adaptability, the all-round man can find himself in difficulty in the occasional event of the emergence of the team of specialists of high calibre. It was Ogie's misfortune (from a personal point of view) that such an unusual thing happened in Kerry in the present generation.

Worse still, it is not just one team of high quality specialists that have emerged; there are two or three in the queue for almost every position nowadays, all protesting the best of skills and a confirmed ability to slot into the machine-like structure that now goes under the name of Kerry in

senior football.

Ogie Moran would beat most of them up a stick if the estimate was to be made on the basis of all-round ability; if every player was to be tried in all fifteen places, I have very little doubt that Moran would win on points, as it were, over the fifteen rounds.

Mind you, as I write, it is not at all certain that last year's captain will not again be lining out in Croke Park at the start of the All-Ireland final against Dublin. There are pressures on those in the team and it was clearly indicated by the team management even after the big win over Monaghan that they were not at all sure who would actually make the team for the final.

Much of this is psychological poppycock, of course, to keep everyone on their toes, and when the selectors and manager find themselves in such a uniquely comfortable position they are not slow to make the best of it.

But there is truth in it, too. As the championship progresses to the final hurdle the degree of truth diminishes, because there is less chance now that Kerry will throw in one of the fringe-players who have been running hard for places, but who have not had the opportunities to gain experience and to fit into the team.

Therefore, when Mick O'Dwyer issued orders to everyone to get


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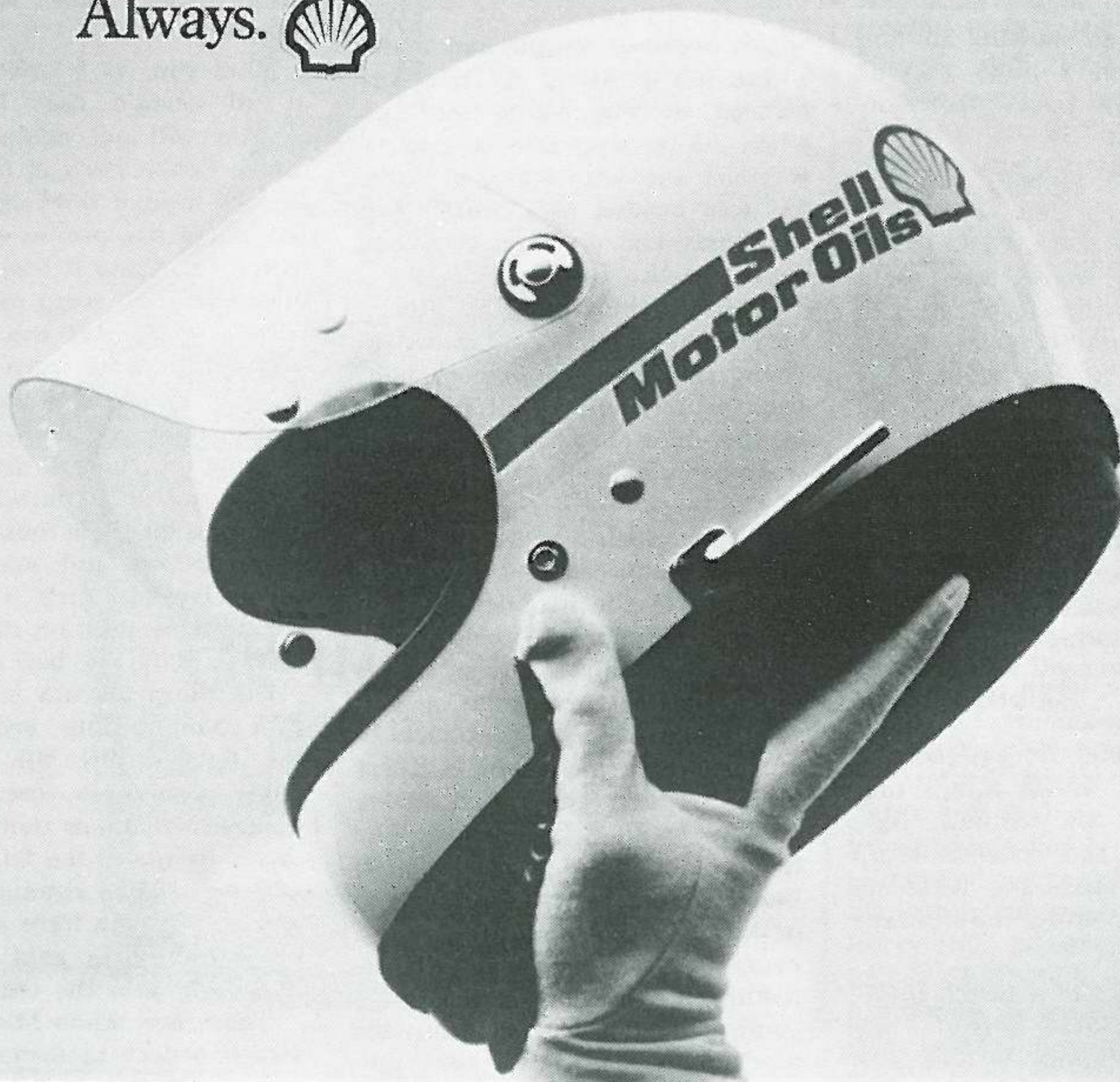
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● FROM PAGE 13

cracking in preparation for the All-Ireland final, he was, I would say, not really promising much to the outsiders. The exception is Ogie Moran, for he has the experience, the proven nerve for the big occasion and the ability to outshine any man at the special Kerry brand of football.

Where could he get in? Centre-forward where he has previously had such an amount of experience? Naturally, that must be his No. 1 hope. But what a standard of competition to have to measure against — Sean Walsh, who was not 100 per cent. to the selectors' satisfaction in the semi-final, or Tom Doyle, most talented and a specialist in centre-forward play, but whose luck has been right out when he did have a chance to establish himself for good in the team.

Yet, Moran is not limited to centre-forward. In the open style of play that often prevails in mid-field nowadays he would be a wonderfully handy man to have scuttling in and out under the legs of big fellows, if anything went astray in the Jack O'Shea-Vincent O'Connor partnership.

Paud O'Shea and Paudie Lynch seem to have been losing a tiny bit of their dominance at wing half-back; should one of them not quite please the selectors they know they have Ogie at hand, for it is his ability to intercept, stick like glue to an opponent, and read the game minutely in order to be ready for the cover or the back up, that are among his best qualities.

At corner back Jim Denihan has had his troubled moments in the past few years, though he has proven that he is a survivor by always coming up trumps when fears for him were greatest. And Mick Spillane has tended to be more exciting in his bursts away from defence than in the engine room behind. So Moran could close up any gap that appeared



*A HANDSHAKE BETWEEN CAPTAINS. As referee Seamus Aldridge looks on, Kerry's captain Denis 'Ogie' Moran shakes hands with Dublin captain Tony Hanahoe before the 1978 All-Ireland Football Final.*

there.

Supposing John Egan does not impress the selectors with his fitness and all out effort, would not Moran be the obvious man to take his place? Come to think of it, would he not be in line to replace Charlie Nelligan? Well, after Paudie Mahony had had a go, at least.

Yet, when all's said and done, it is, perhaps, this great range of positions which he could fill with flair that makes Moran's chances of making the first fifteen less promising. He is too good a man in the No. 16 jersey, standing by to mend any broken part or leaking valve.

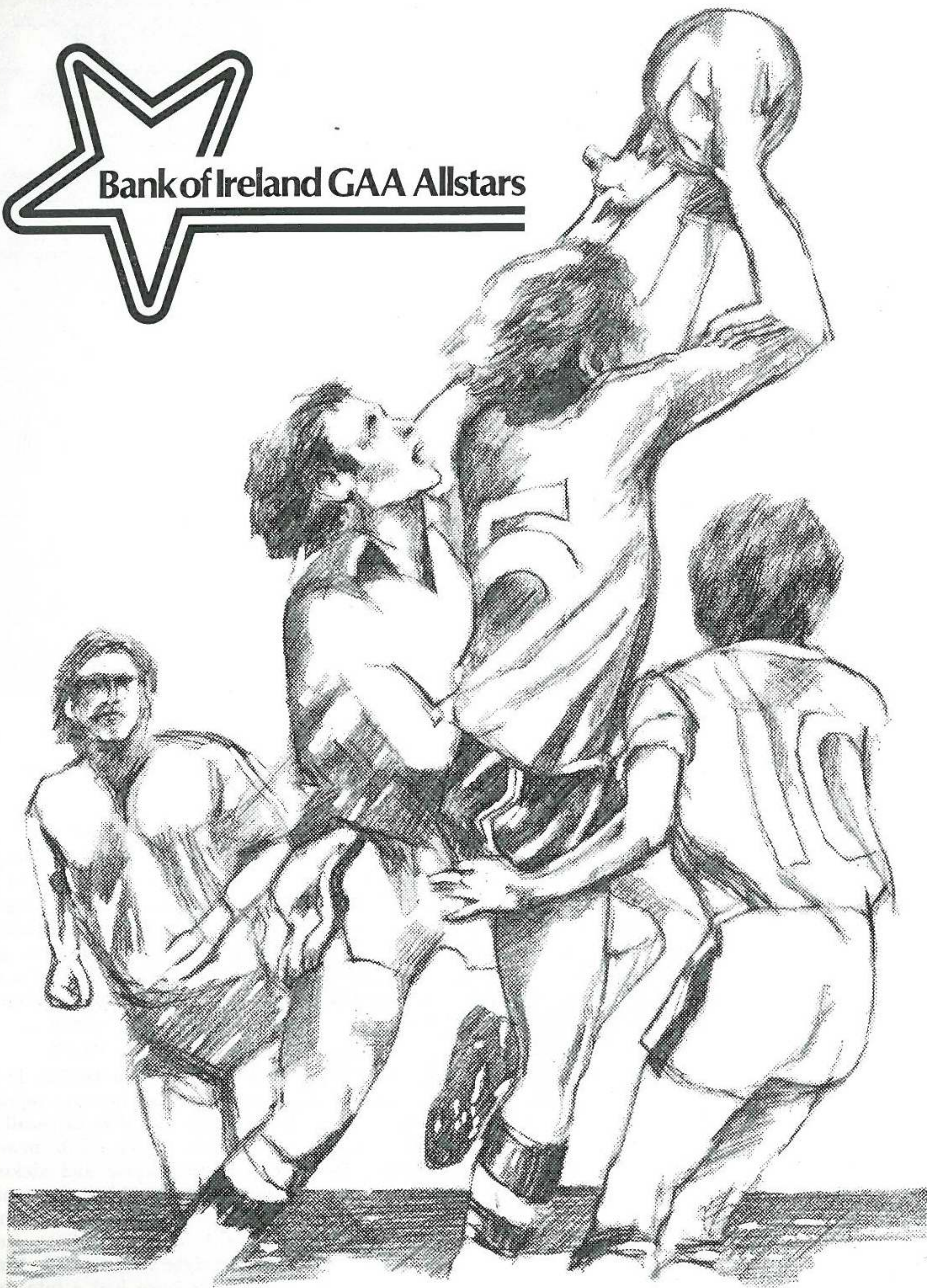
However, there is, even in this unusual situation of a captain

(and an outstanding one) who cannot find his place subsequently, a certain tie-in with the history and tradition of the Kingdom. Question Times have brought up again and again the one about the All-Ireland captain of a team which drew the final, who was omitted from the replay ..... Gus Cremins, of course.

And those who believe in parallels and in history repeating itself will also wish to recall that Gus came on as a sub. near the end of the replay and kicked in the balls that robbed Roscommon. If only this year's Roscommon forward line could have shot a few straight ones against Dublin, we might have had a total repetition of history.



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# MICHAEL HICKEY

## THE DUBS'

### NEW HOT-SHOT

By Neil McCavana

IT would be pointless to minimise the loss of Jimmy Keaveney to Dublin in this latest showdown with Kerry. He has been such an exciting and vital unit in the side since his celebrated come-back to inter-county football in July 1974, that there can be little doubt his great craft, leadership and deft touches around goal would have been invaluable to the challengers.

On the other hand, it is no disrespect to the long serving full forward and marksman supreme to say that if the Leinster champions fail to record what would surely rank as their most celebrated win yet, it will hardly be for the want of a free-taker. Michael Hickey showed this by the way he treated every kick from a free for Dublin against Roscommon with the mood of a miser.

The Raheny club man's lethal finishing paid off in an eight points haul that would have done justice to the master himself. Then, there was the splendid finale that this younger brother of David put to his memorable day's work by shooting a great winning point from play four minutes from time.

A first rate show, and all the more meritorious because the Dublin forward was having only his first full game of the current championship campaign. After that showing, carved out in the

strong pressures of a keen contest, the new hot shot of Dublin football is unlikely to be affected by the tensions of an All-Ireland senior final debut.

He has some experience as well of playing against Kerry in a major decider. In 1977 when the Southerners beat the Dubs in the National League final, Michael Hickey was called in from the substitutes' bench.

That was a role he was to fill in prominent fashion in the Leinster championship of 1979. Hickey went in as a sub when Dublin got their programme off to a very encouraging start with a big win against Louth at Navan, and he was among the substitutes for the next engagement, the semi-final at Newbridge against Wicklow.

As the Wicklowmen made an unexpectedly bold bid to dethrone the provincial champions, Michael Hickey was called in from the subs bench, and was to prove the man to effectively spike the challengers' hopes.

Twenty-three minutes into the second half the brave-hearted Wicklowmen were bidding hard for glory as Dublin held on to a somewhat precarious lead of a single point. Then, Hickey took a pass from Tony Hanahoe, and sent the ball to the net for Dublin's second goal, a score that put the holders back again into the driver's seat.



● Michael Hickey, Dublin's new 'hotshot' sharpshooter.

The clever and incisive sub added on two points for good measure. He was pressed into action again as Dublin battled doggedly with fourteen men to snatch that last gasp win over Offaly, and once more Michael Hickey found the target, hitting a point from a free.

Weigh in his nine points against the Connacht champions, and it adds up to the somewhat remarkable situation that, although the younger Hickey has played only one full match in the series, he has still taken over leadership in the Dublin scoring chart from Jimmy Keaveney.

Hickey has 1-13 from his four appearances, while the famed full forward helped himself to 1-12 in his three engagements,

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● FROM PAGE 17

including that limited outing in the Leinster final.

Michael Hickey will have a birthday present to top them all if Dublin regain the Sam Maguire Cup. He will be 25 the day before the final.

Like so many more senior stars, he has come up through the ranks and was in the Dublin team that won the 1971 Leinster title at minor. His team-mates included Michael Holden, who wore the No. 14 jersey, John McCarthy, at midfield in the provincial final, and Brendan Pocock, who made that surprise appearance in the game against Roscommon. He was left half back in the 1971 minor side.

Michael Hickey has had a chequered career as a senior with the Dubs. It will come as a surprise to many that as far back as 1976 he saw considerable action with the premier outfit, and over the year made around seven appearances in the side.

He has been in action in the top grade at irregular intervals each year in the meantime, and had exhibited in exciting fashion his skills as a free-taker, and his class in general play long before finally grabbing the headlines in such fine style against Roscommon. That match, however, undoubtedly marked a major high point in his career.

With it, he must surely have arrived as a regular with the side, irrespective of Jimmy Keaveney's plans for the future.

At a time when the value of a free-taker has been so strongly emphasised in football, and with Kerry, superbly equipped in this regard, Michael Hickey has flashed a red light to the champions with that great showing against Roscommon... and given Dublin supporters, too, a great deal of extra cause for confidence as they impatiently await this latest chapter in the story of the most pulse-raising rivalry in modern football.

---

# JOHNO IS PRINCE OF MODERN FULLBACKS

---

By NOEL HORGAN

---



*Mike Sheehy, No. 15, of Kerry acknowledges the applause after yet another spectacular score. Billy Morgan (Cork goalkeeper) doesn't look so happy.*

WHILE Kerry's huge scoring feats and the sheer brilliance of their attacking sextet has attracted most attention during their journey to this year's All-Ireland final, it would be unwise to assume that if the forwards are subdued, an unlikely occurrence in any case, then Kerry's hopes of success will be automatically dashed.

The Kerry men are more than adequately equipped in every department though the midfielders incurred criticism, rather unfairly I felt, for a tame performance in the Monaghan game.

I have no doubt that Kerry's midfield duo will prove formidable opponents in the final but, should they slump, the Kingdom's defence should be equal to any extra burden placed on it.

On paper the Kerry rearguard looks an imposing unit with the last line of defence clearly reflecting the perfect balance which the team has achieved. Jim Denihan, John O'Keeffe and Mick Spillane form the wall which fronts Charlie Nelligan and the trio, with their differing styles of play, complement each other superbly.

Denihan in the right-corner is the tenacious one, the player who shadows his direct opponent from the throw-in and is always hard to tackle. Spillane on the left is a much more subtle de-

fender using timely interceptions and intelligent covering as his main defensive weapons, while between Denihan and Spillane is O'Keeffe, the prince of modern defenders and a player richly endowed with all the skills of the game.

John O'Keeffe, the "veteran" of the side at 28, is the most decorated of this much-honoured Kerry team. An outstanding underage player in his day, John had barely finished his term at St. Brendan's College, Killarney when he was drafted on to the county senior panel in 1969.

Within a year or so he had established himself on Kerry's first fifteen and he won his first All-Ireland medal in 1970 at the tender age of nineteen.

Success has followed the Austin Stacks man around since then and among the most cherished prizes in his enormous trophy-list are Railway Cup honours won with both the Combined Universities and Munster, and All Star awards and an All-Ireland club medal.

Strangely, it is only since 1975 that John O'Keeffe has established himself as a full-back with Kerry. Prior to that, John, because of his high-fielding ability and various other skills, was called upon to do duty in whatever department the Kerry mentors felt was most troublesome.

He began his career at midfield as assistant to the great Mick O'Connell but as that fine Kerry team in the late 'sixties and early 'seventies began to break-up, the young O'Keeffe was asked to play a more responsible role.

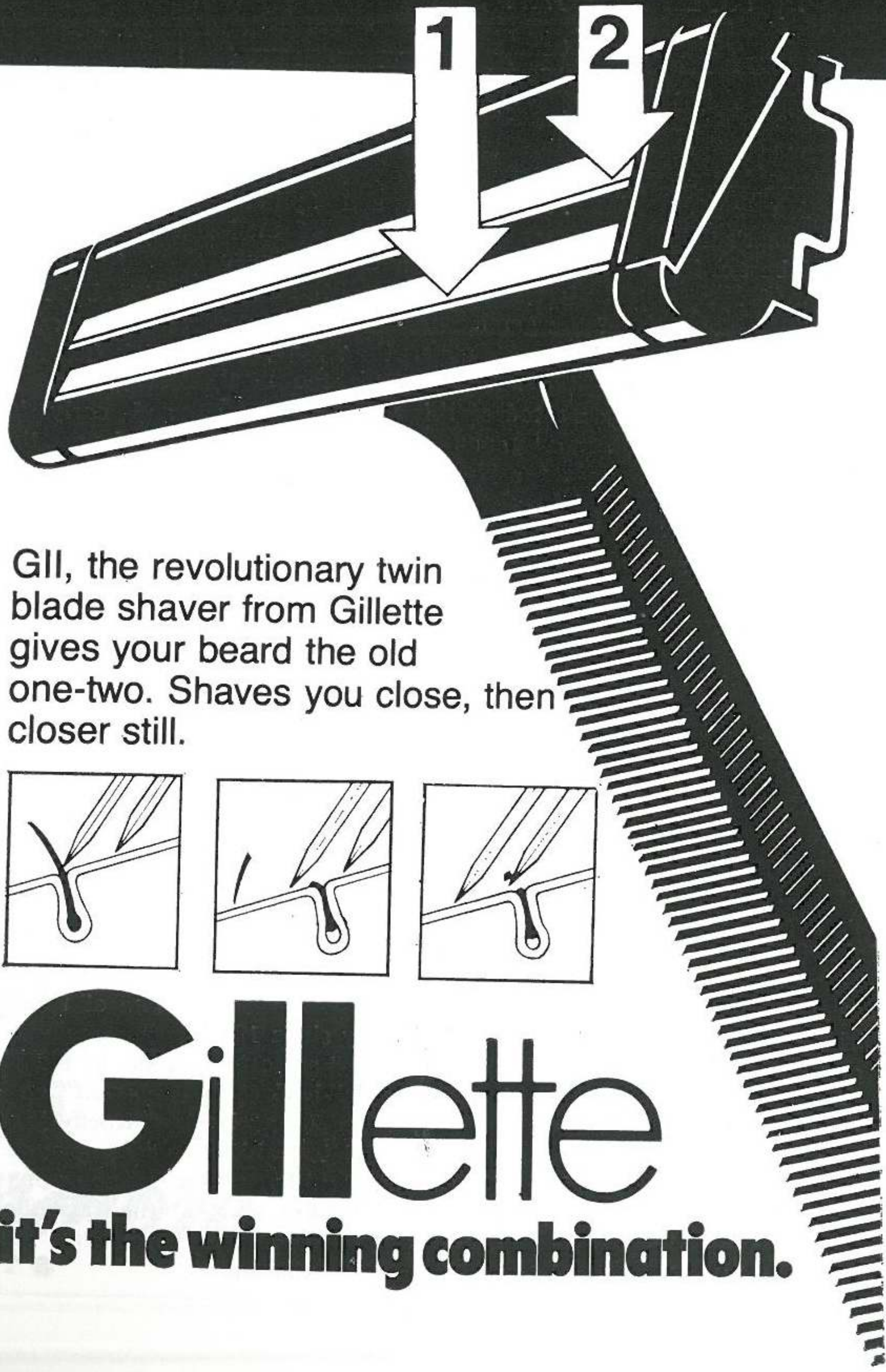
He spent a period at centre-back but when a host of Kerry newcomers emerged in 1975, John, at 24, was burdened with the task of guiding them from the full-back position. His success is mirrored in the fact that Kerry took All-Ireland honours that year while John himself was chosen as the most outstanding footballer and received the prestigious Texaco award for 1975.

John has seldom strayed from the full-back berth since then and is now generally regarded as one of the greatest players ever to occupy the position. Dominant in the air, swift, strong and elegant on the ground, John O'Keeffe is usually master of the area around the Kerry square. What emphasises his greatness is the fact that he almost always performs his difficult task with

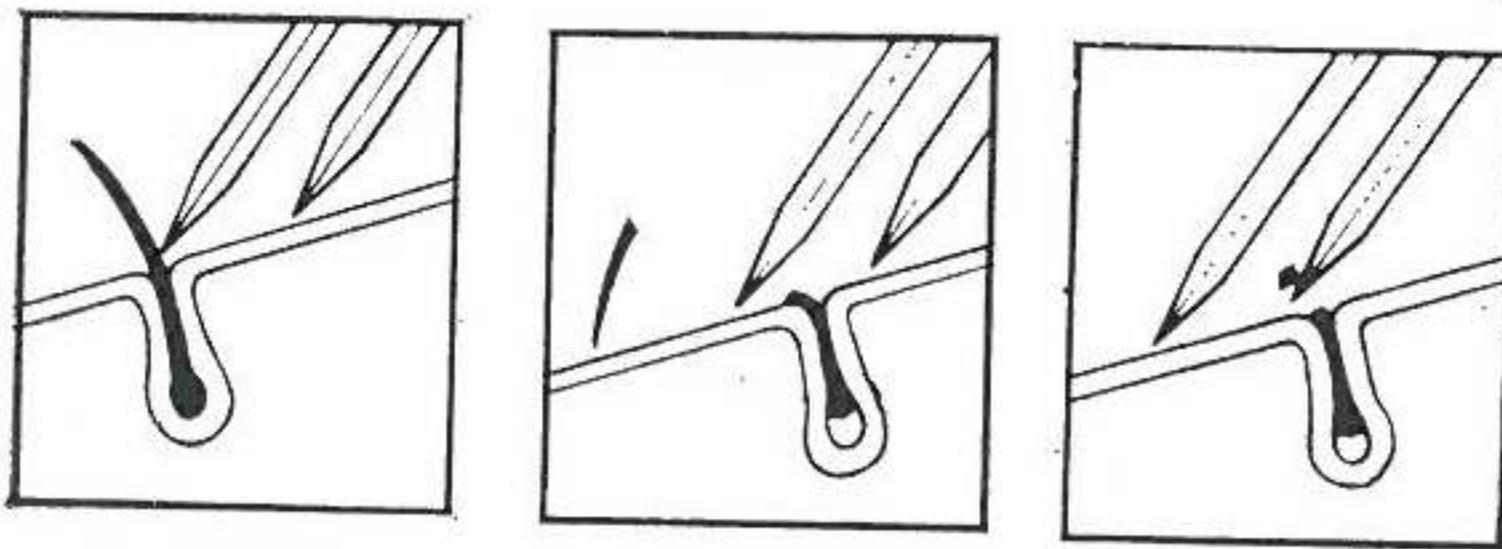
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# KERRY ATTACK ARE BEST IN THE GAME

Kerry ... .. 5-11; Dublin ... .. 0-9  
Kerry ... .. 5-14; Monaghan ... .. 0-7

**S**O why the vociferous complaints about the poverty of Monaghan? Or should we conclude that there are really only a few points between Monaghan and Dublin.

And, from that, should we further conclude that Kerry will win the All-Ireland final as comfortably as they beat Monaghan recently?

I make the points not by way of serious argument or apropos of anything at all, except to indicate that statistics can be made to prove an awful lot more than will, in fact, stand up to the light of commonsense.

And, further from that again, it is clear that little or nothing can be safely concluded about the Kerry-Dublin final. That makes it all the more intriguing and tickles the curiosity—no more than that.

The evidence which appears to be capable of interpretation suggests that, in fact, Kerry have reached a standard of development of the modern style of football which is a big leap beyond that which anyone else has mastered. The comparison between Dublin and Roscommon in their semi-final and Kerry against Dublin in last year's final, on the one hand, and the performance of Kerry against Monaghan recently, on the other, suggests that all the others are playing on one level while Kerry is alone on a higher rung of the ladder.

Dublin and Roscommon, in part-

icular, appear to have mastered a large part of what can be learnt about defence and midfield and covering off and restricting the opposition and putting them under as much pressure as possible. They also appear to have a studied and well conceived plan of how to mount attacks and back one another up, working the ball and the players into serried positions so that an opening is forced and a score contrived.

But, while Kerry have little or nothing to learn from anyone about how to harass attacking forwards; and few can teach them

anything about pulling the leather down to their arms at midfield, they have gone a clear step ahead of the posse when it comes to attack.

For one thing they have marvellously skilful forwards when it comes to performing the basics of the trade: catching cleanly without fumbling, whether a long kick or a pass; swerving or angling for a shot; shooting. It is a thing that ought to be said about any forward line which considers itself worthy of consideration among the elite, but, unhappily for the game of football, it is seldom possible to say it.

Beyond the basics, however, Kerry have a concept of attack that is away ahead of anything we have seen from any of the others. On the surface it manifests itself in the speed of the build up and the precision of the finish. But underneath that surface appearance there is a complex of machinery that makes the play look that way.

The players have been together for a very long time — since boyhood. They know one another so well by now that there is a certain instinctive quality working for them as well as all the other things. But, before that can become effective, you have to have an awful lot of practised moves and deep thinking in the bank.

Looking at photographs of Kerry can be interesting. You will find dozens of pictures in which some of their players have just gained possession at the breakdown or interception of an opposition attack. Suppose it is Paud O'Shea. He will be going flat out. But, so will two or three others in a line, including invariably Pat Spillane, and probably Ger Power or Jack O'Shea or Sean Walsh . . .



John Egan  
(Kerry)



Eoin Liston  
(Kerry)

● TO PAGE 35

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# NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN IRISH ALLEYS

THE concept of a handball court in every G.A.A. complex is certainly the ideal, not only of Handball Administrators, but indeed of G.A.A. officials who see the real strength of the Association in a fusion of the sports which branch from the main body.

There was a time when I foresaw a multiplicity of handball courts dotted in G.A.A. grounds throughout the country.

Time has mellowed my vision and prompted me to tangle with realism.

The simple facts are that handball is a specialised sport, requiring coaching for the uninitiated, and, thereafter, intensive dedication by the pupil if any reasonable degree of proficiency is to be attained.

It takes a long time to become a handballer. That explains why the G.A.A. club without a tradition for handball is hesitant to embark on the construction of a ballcourt.

The pessimists can only envisage it as a white elephant. Thus, we find a situation where clubs are catering for sports not included in the charter of the Association, while handball, by virtue of its specialist nature is a non-runner. The time is opportune, then to market the handball package.

In effect, the construction of a standard 40 x 20 court need not necessarily be a preserve for playing handball only, but, I am sure, to the surprise of most readers, it is also the standard playing area for racquetball. And

what is racquetball?

It is a game that evolved from handball and has all the characteristics and rules of the latter except that the ball which resembles a tennis ball is hit by a racquet instead of the hand. It is in existence for approximately 28 years and owes its origin to one Joe Sobek. He founded it together with a group of friends in the Y.M.C.A. club at Greenwich, Connecticut and in the space of a few years it had turned into a national craze.

Indeed, at the time, Sobek had no idea that the game would expand to such a degree, since his original plan was only to provide an alternative form of recreation to handball for his own group of friends. The construction of a suitably balanced racquet and the provision of a playing ball all presented their own problems but, in time, the sophistication of manufacturing techniques was to smooth all difficulties.

The expansion of the game was now a conflagration. It spread to Memphis, St. Louis, later to a city in Texas and then San Diego. In turn, racquetball players could be found in Ohio and El Paso, Texas, from whence the game was shuttled south to Chihuahua and when the military latched on to it the racquetball found its way into Germany, Italy and Hawaii.

Nowadays, racquetball far outstrips handball in terms of popularity and the numbers playing it. This is due to the sport's fundamental virtues. It is easy

to learn and to play.

It is extremely popular with people who are looking for a good work-out — from executives to housewives — but who are not necessarily outstanding athletes. All of which brings me back to the kernel of my story.

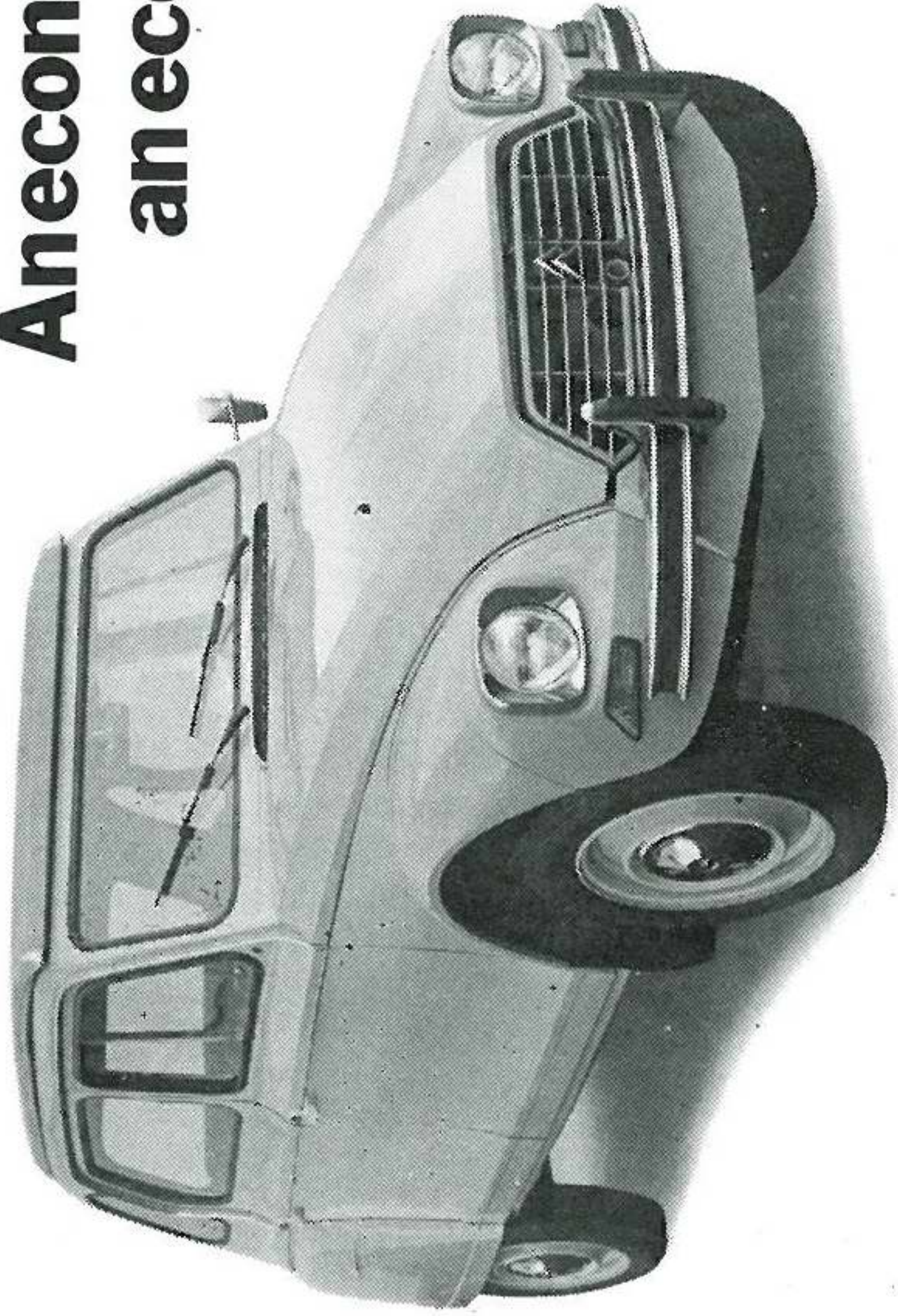
The specialist nature of handball makes it impractical, in many cases, for a G.A.A. club to build a court for the exclusive playing of handball, but the introduction of racquetball obviously gives the building a multi-purpose sporting role.

That would be in line with the thinking of most club officials faced with the task of providing facilities. It should, of course, be stated that racquetball is played in most 40 x 20 courts through the country, and is fully accepted as a sport in its own right.

And it is on the cards that it will be seen in a new dimension when the first ever racquetball championships will be held in October. They will be staged in the private court of J. J. Jennings at Goatstown and this is significant in itself since Jennings is a former President of the Irish Handball Council. So, we will not view racquetball as an opponent for handball but rather as an asset and incentive for our G.A.A. clubs to construct courts. Whether they be handball courts where racquetball is promoted or racquetball courts where handball is promoted is really irrelevant. The important factor is that the 40 x 20 alley will be, for all of us, a useful ally.

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# ON THE SPOT...

by Tony Keegan

THE 'Seventies go out as they began on the senior football championship scene with Kerry in their familiar role of All-Ireland senior finalists. In 1970, the Kingdom made a successful defence of the All-Ireland crown at the expense of Meath.

Once more, of course, they are in the role of defending champions. Then, on the other side we have Dublin, who contributed so much to football in the decade.

Some of the outstanding events in championship play in this era of exciting Kerry-Dublin rivalry are mirrored in this month's chapter of our popular quiz, ON THE SPOT . . . Indeed, a few of the questions go back even further.

There are five separate sections, with an extra long one to start on the major match over the years. As usual, points are awarded for each question to help add that vital competitive element which gives an added enjoyment to the quiz.

Let's get under way, then, by spotlighting:

## THE SHOWPIECE MATCH

1. A difficult one to start with. Name the only footballer to have captained a senior title winning team in the code from the half back line in the past 11 campaigns? .....

2. The first score in last year's show-down came in just under two minutes. Who was the man on the target? .....

3. The top attendance for a senior final stands at 90,556. In what year was that peak established? .....

4. Only one substitute was introduced during last year's final—a Kerry man. Who was he?.....

5. Who was the last Ulster man to referee the showpiece match? .....

6. It is hardly necessary to remind you that Jimmy Keaveney was Dublin's top scorer in last year's summit. But did he chalk up 0-8, 1-3, or 0-7? .....

7. Dublin ended a long losing sequence in championship clashes with the Kingdom by winning the 1976 final. Was that their first win over the Southerners in the series in 38, 42 or 45 years?

8. Only one All-Ireland senior final has been played outside of the country. The venue was the Polo Grounds, New York. What was the year, however? .....

9. There has been only one drawn football final at senior so far in the present decade. Name the year and also the finalists for full marks? .....

10. The exact score-line in last year's Kerry-Dublin summit? .....

Each question carries five points for a correct answer, and a ten points bonus may be collected for answering all ten queries. So, 60 points on offer in this section. YOUR SCORE .....

Now, the spotlight is exclusively on personalities in section two.

## PLAYERS' PARADE

1. Pictured above are two men who won All-Ireland senior



★



★

medals during the 'Seventies with Kerry and Dublin. Who are they? .....

2. The initial Carrolls All Star football team was chosen in 1971. Who was the first All-Ireland MEDALIST honoured in goal?



3. This one time Kerry defender and a former Texaco award winner of the early 'Seventies, will have an important off the pitch role on finals day, though not at senior level. Who is he?

4. Tony Hanahoe, who led Dublin to their last two Sam

● TO PAGE 27

# HAVOLINE

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● FROM PAGE 25

Maguire Cup wins, is the only Leinster man to skipper two trophy winning combinations True or false? .....

5. Only one member of the Dublin side has won a Railway Cup medal — and that was not gained with Leinster. Name the player in question, and the side he helped to take the title? .....

Five points again for each question, and a five points bonus for an all-correct return. Total marks possible: 30. YOUR SCORE .....

Now, let's put the spotlight firmly on the senior finalists, starting with the defending champions from:

**KERRY**

1. Michael Sheehy's goal in last year's final is again a live topic as the Kingdom get set for this latest show-down. But was that the Southerners first, second or third goal of the match? .....

2. Who wore the No. 9 jersey for Kerry last September? .....

3. What position did Denis 'Ogie' Moran fill in the 1975 All-Ireland senior final win over the Dubs? .....



4. You probably know that Tim Kennelly leads the Kingdom this season. But what is his club? .....

5. Who are the 1975 All-Ireland senior medalists pictured in col. one? .....

Five marks for each correct answer, plus another five points for getting all right. Marks possible: 30. YOUR SCORE .....

A chance here to run the rule over the challengers:

**DUBLIN**

1. Only one Dubliner other than Keaveney got among the scores last year against Kerry. Name the footballer in question? .....

2. Who was the Metropolitans' right half back when they went under in the 1975 decider? .....



3. Who are the two All-Ireland senior medalists pictured above? .....

**ANSWERS**

1. 3-8. 2. Barney Rock. 3. 1975. 4. Tom Spillane; 5. John Chute (Kerry) and Mick Loftus. Chute was right half forward against Down, and Loftus left full forward against Mayo.

**MINORS**

1. Bernard Brogan, with a point. 2. Paddy O'Reilly. 3. John McCarthy and Sean Doherty. 4. Cuala. 5. None.

**DUBLIN**

1. Second. 2. Sean Walsh. 3. Centre half forward. 4. Listowel Emmets. 5. Paud O'Mahony, goal, and Brendan Lynch, right half forward.

**KERRY**

team that won the title for the only time in 1973.

4. Michael Holden's club? .....

5. How many newcomers did Dublin call up during last year's final? .....

Marks possible: 30 (Five for each question plus the usual bonus). YOUR SCORE. ....

Let's wind up ON THE SPOT ... with a section on the

**MINORS**

1. What did Dublin score in last year's unsuccessful bid against Mayo. Was it 4-9, 3-8, or 2-7. ....

2. Who wore the No. 14 jersey for the young Dubs in that tie? .....

3. When did Kerry last win the All-Ireland minor crown? .....

4. Who wore their No. 14 jersey against Down? .....

5. Name the rival captains? ...

Marks possible: 30, at five points each, plus the bonus. YOUR SCORE. ....

**HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP**

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Printed upside down to avoid distraction

1. Steve Rooney (Dublin), 1974; John O'Keefe (Kerry), 1970, 1975, 1978. 2. Martin Furlong (Offaly). 3. Tom Prendergast, now the minor team trainer. 4. True. 5. Pat O'Neill, a member of the Combined Universities

**PLAYERS' PARADE**

1. Joe Lennon (Down) in 1968 against Kerry. 2. Jimmy Keave-ney, a point from play. 3. 1961 at the Down-Offaly game. 4. Paud O'Mahony. 5. Patsy Devlin (Tyrone) in 1974. 6. 0-8. 7. 42 years. That win was in a semi-final at Tralee. 8. 1947. 9. 1972. Offaly and Kerry. 10. Kerry 5-11; Dublin 0-9.

**THE SHOWPIECE MATCH**

# OLD RIVALS POSE PROBLEMS

An analysis by Owen McCann

**T**HERE is a familiar look in more ways than one to the latest clash for the coveted Sam Maguire Cup. Apart from the now well-known fact that this will be the fourth meeting of Kerry and Dublin in five years at this stage of the championship, the match will maintain an earlier pattern in that one of the finalists will be filling the role of defending champions.

And, one wonders if history will repeat itself. In each of the last three clashes the holders lost their title.

Dublin got back into the honours list in 1974 after an interval of eleven years, but their bid for the double was spiked the following September by a young and eager Kerry side that marched to a 2-12 to 0-11 success.

It was Kerry and Dublin again in 1976 in the decider. But that day the Metropolitans had a memorable revenge on a 3-8 to 0-10 scoreline.

The sequence was renewed last

year as the Dubs strove for a rare hat-trick of All-Ireland championships. But in the summit meeting, Kerry powered away from that much discussed Michael Sheehy goal three minutes from half-time for a comprehensive 5-11 to 0-9 win.

The men from the Kingdom have not really been tested on the road back to a familiar setting in September, even if the game is a week earlier than usual this time. They trounced Clare by 9-21 to 1-9 at Miltown-Malbay in early July, and then entertained traditional Munster final rivals Cork in Killarney later in the month.

A goal by Ger Power five minutes after the start set Kerry on the way to their fifth successive Munster title, and at the end they were clear-cut winners by ten points — 2-14 to 2-4.

Monaghan, the new heroes from Ulster, were next to take the full brunt of the Kerry scoring machine. It took the champions only eight minutes to grab

the first goal of the match, scored by Eoin Liston, and from then on the issue was really never in doubt. At the final whistle, Kerry had a whopping 22 points in hand — 5-14 to 0-7.

Dublin, in sharp contrast, had many anxious moments in a march that has earned them a slice of history in that they are the first county to win six All-Ireland senior football semi-finals in a row.

There was not much cause for concern at any time in the Dublin camp in the first appearance in defence of the Leinster title at Navan in early June as Louth were crushed by 4-16 to 0-4.

But it was a different story at Newbridge in the provincial semi-final as unsung Wicklow made an unexpectedly spirited bid to dethrone the holders. Dublin had some uneasy periods in that tie, but still managed to finish good winners by 3-13 to 2-7.

The Leinster final was the game in which the Metropoli-

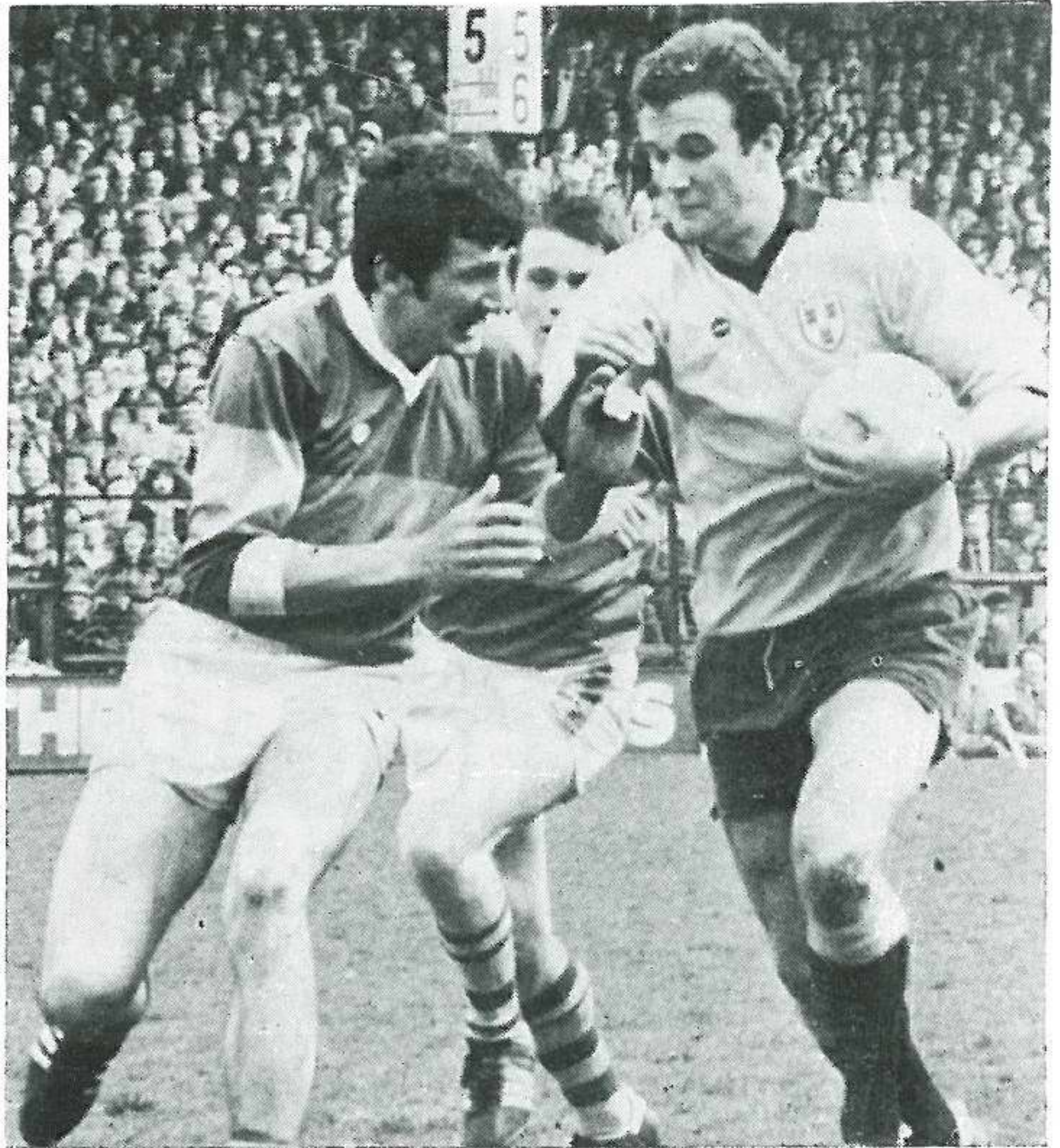
# NEW

tans' crown looked lost for long spells, yet was saved in what must rank as one of the greatest performances by this talented squad during the current success story.

The dismissal of Jimmy Keaveney a minute before the interval left the Dubs, who were then trailing by two points, with a real uphill task against a smart-moving Offaly side.

In the second half, however, the champions proved their mettle and tremendous will to win, as they stuck bravely to the daunting task on hand, and eventually reaped a dramatic reward as Bernard Brogan goaled thirty seconds from time to put Dublin ahead for the first time—and when it also mattered most. The 1-8 to 0-9 win earned the Liffesiders ranking as the first since Kildare in 1931 to win six Leinster crowns in succession.

Roscommon, buoyed up by a first National League title triumph in May, and three Con-naught championships on the trot,



● *David Hickey (Dublin) in possession endeavours to elude Kerry's Tim Kennelly in last year's All-Ireland Final.*

looked as if they were about to end the Dublin winning sequence when they grabbed the only goal of the semi-final between these counties. That score by substitute Michael Finneran came thirteen minutes from time, and put the Westerners a point clear, but once more Dublin's refusal to accept defeat was evident as they took up the new challenge. Two points from Michael Hickey got them home by 0-14 to 1-10.

Some of the men who may be to the fore in chapter four of the modern-day history of Kerry-Dublin meetings include:

Mick Holden, who had the rare distinction of taking his senior championship debut at almost the last minute in the Leinster final in July, and emerging with a proud new reputation at full back and a provincial medal.

Better known as a hurler until now, he was centre half forward in the Leinster team that lifted

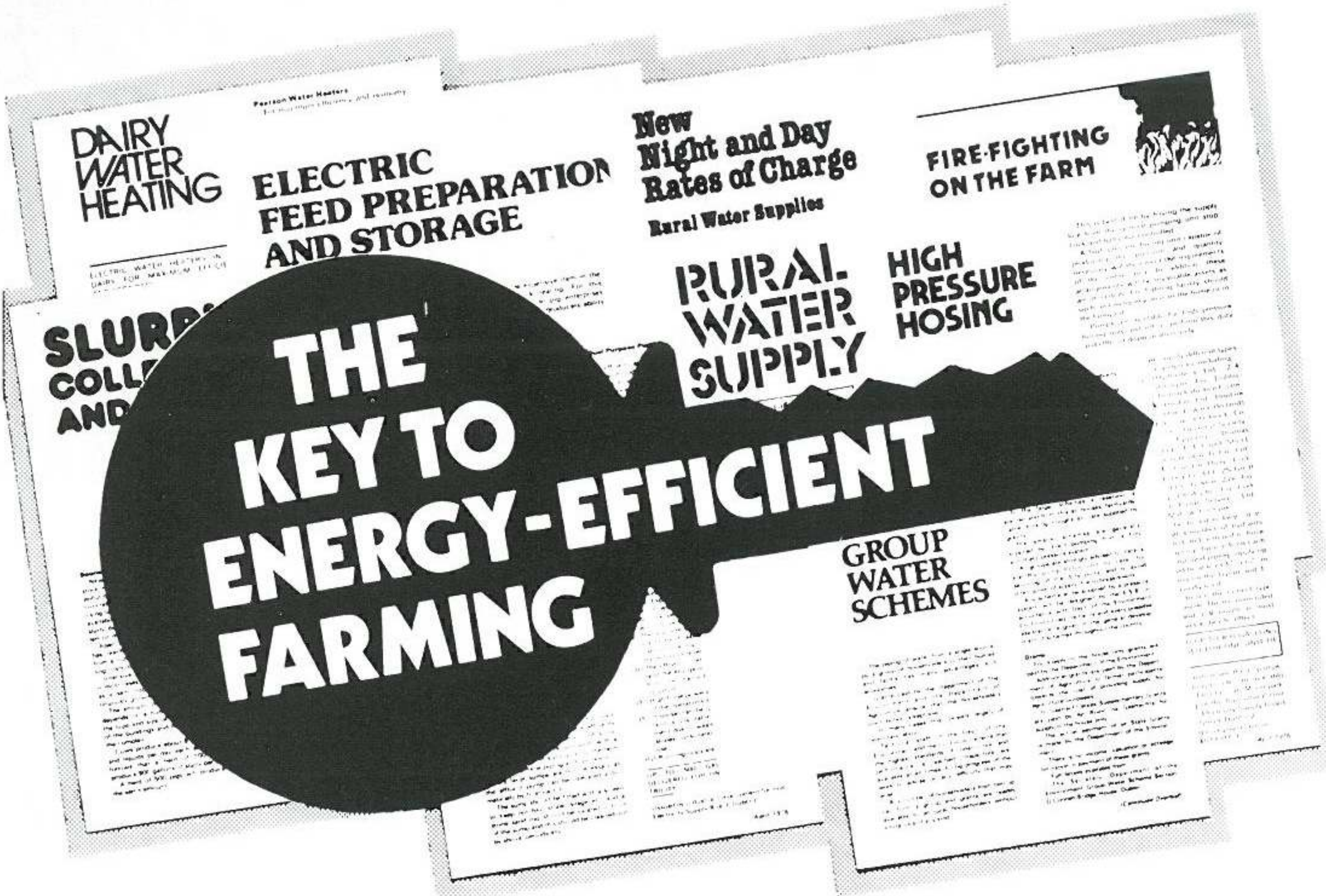
the Railway Cup last April, and is a member of the Cuala club.

Holden is 25, and is a former county minor. He won a Leinster medal in football in 1971, and was at left half back in the under-21 team beaten in the 1975 All-Ireland final by a Kerry side that included eight of the present senior XV. Holden was full forward for Dublin when they made a brave bid against Kilkenny in the Leinster senior hurling semi-final at Athy earlier this year, scoring 2-3.

Charlie Nelligan was in goal for the Kerry under-21 team that beat Dublin in that final four years ago. He collected further national medals in the grade in 1976 and 1977, and helped Kerry to their last League crown in 1977.

Now 22, he is a bright link with last year's Sam Maguire Cup side, and plays club fare

● TO PAGE 31



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● FROM PAGE 29

with Desmonds.

Tim Kennelly, who captains the Kingdom, is 25, and has been in the premier grade since the League of 1974. He has two All-Ireland senior medals, as well as one souvenir for the points competition.

Centre half back in the 1975 All-Ireland under-21 title winning side, Kennelly helped Munster to their last two Railway Cup victories (1977 and 1978). His club is Listowel.

Mick Kennedy, one of the new successes of the Dublin defence, is 22, and a member of the St. Margaret's club. He collected his first provincial medal in the senior win over Offaly, and has graduated from the minor and under-21 inter-county ranks.

David Foran, another of the new faces in the Leinster rear-guard is at 20 the youngest member of the side. He plays club fare with Crumlin, has played minor with the county, and was centre half back when Dublin were shocked by Longford in the Leinster under-21 championship earlier this year in a first round tie.

Paudie Lynch is one of the versatile members of a Kerry team in which a number of other stars have also demonstrated their ability to turn on the style in a variety of roles.

This Beaufort club footballer won All-Ireland senior medals at midfield in 1975 and left half back last year, and he has also proved his worth with the side as a forward.

Paudie Lynch is one of the more experienced members of the team having had his first senior game in 1969. A former county minor and under-21 star, he played in three of Kerry's four National League title winning outfits between 1971 and 1974, and his versatility was given a further emphasis in the

1976 League final when he shone at full back in the win over Dublin

Lynch, who is 27, has been honoured by both the Combined Universities and Munster in the Railway Cup.

David Hickey won his place in the Dublin senior team while still a teenager. Now 27, he played in the minor and under-21 grades with the county, and has been a key figure in all of the major triumphs of the modern success story.

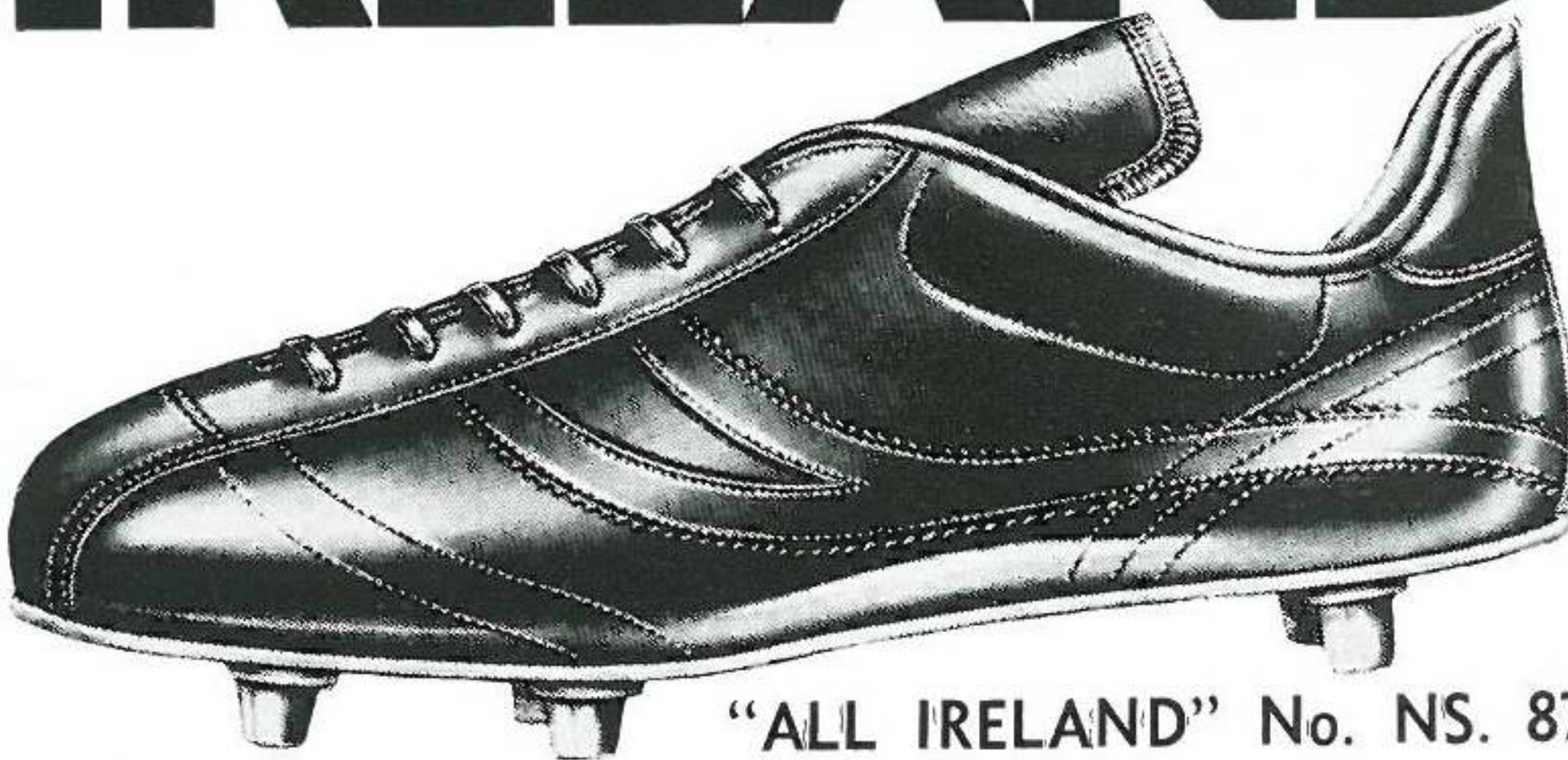
Twice honoured by the Carrolls All Stars he is now with the

St. Margaret's club.

Anton O'Toole, unlike so many more present-day seniors, did not play minor with the county, but collected junior and under-21 honours. He was out through injury for the Leinster games against Louth and Wicklow, but returned for the provincial final to collect his sixth Leinster medal.

An inter-county senior since 1972, this six-footer from Synge Street, is another whose creative skills and dedication have done so much to keep Dublin on top for so long since they began the glory trail back in 1974. He is 28.

# ALL IRELAND



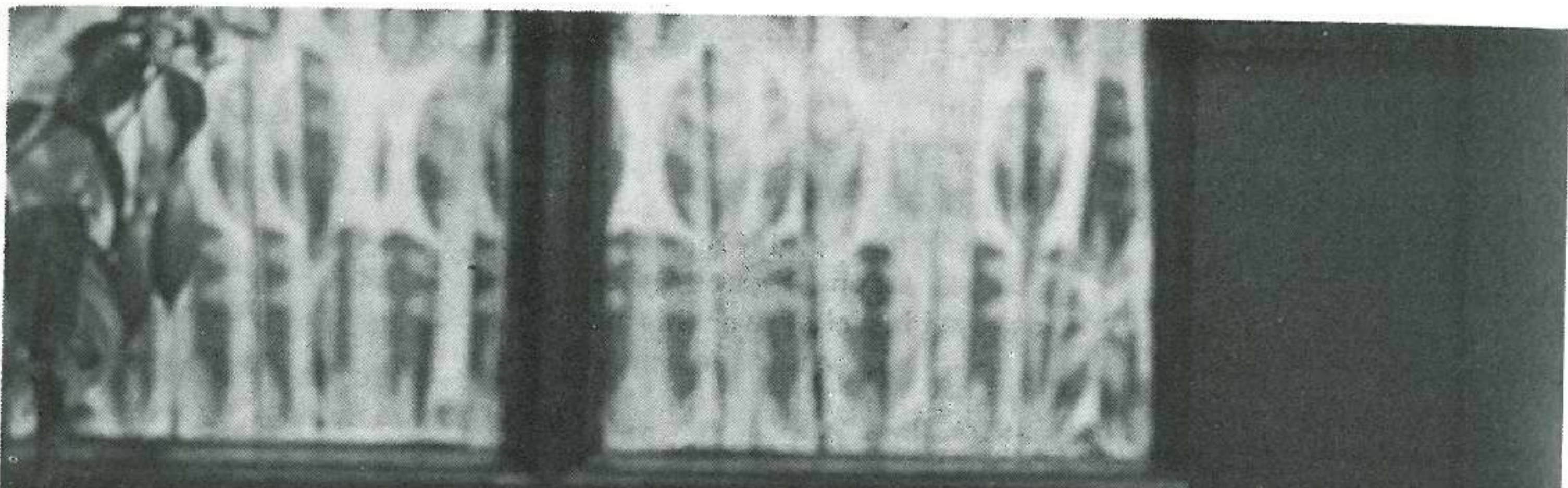
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# UNUSUAL PAIRING IN SENIOR FINAL

ONCE again the Camogie Final preview clashes with the publication date of Gaelic Sport so perhaps we should look at the All-Ireland records of the both Counties in the past.

The senior contestants of 1979 are unusual as Antrim and Tipperary have never met in a decider before.

They have however contested three semi-finals. In 1950 Antrim beat Tipperary 4-3 to 1-2 while in their next meeting in 1961 Tipperary conquered winning 6-3 to 3-3. At Casement Park in 1964 Antrim qualified for the final on the score 6-8 to 3-3. A highlight of that game was a feat of Maeve Gilroy's, a star of many Antrim teams. She scored six points from placed balls and shortly before she had won the Cuchullain Award as the Camogie Star of the year.

However, not including the current year Antrim have appeared in fifteen All-Ireland finals and have been victorious on five occasions. Indeed some of the 'almost' times are worth recalling. The successful years were 1945-47, 1956 and 1967. In 1952 a very strong Antrim side narrowly defeated Cork in the semi-final at Corrigan Park 3-2 to 1-5 and reached the final against Dublin who had ousted Galway.

Antrim led midway through the first half but Dublin hit back to lead 2-1 to 1-1 at half time and increased the lead to 4-1 to 1-1 early in the second half but Antrim rallied magnificently to draw level, Maeve Gilroy pointed a free for Antrim in the closing stages. A great goal which was worked by Eileen Bourke, Annette Corrigan and Sophia Brack

in the dying minutes of the game denied Antrim the title which seemed to be theirs. Some of the great players for Antrim that day were Peg Dooly and Madge Rainey (Dunloy) Moya Forde (Ahoghill) and Maeve Gilroy (St. Malachy's).

The 1950 final was also a heart-break for the Antrim players and fans. Dunloy had a very strong team at this period. Five were chosen to represent their county. The sides were level at half time and the teams were neck and neck until the last few minutes when the Metropolitans took command to win 6-5 to 4-1. Again the Dooley sisters, Moya Forde, Eithne Dougan and Madge Rainey were outstanding.

The 1957 final was the most exciting game between Antrim and Dublin. Antrim took an early lead and were ahead 2-1 to 0-2 at the interval. They still lead 3-1 to 2-3 a minute from time and then Brid Reid scored the winning goal for Dublin and justified the four-leaved shamrock with which Annette Corrigan was presented before the game. Eileen Duffy saved a rasper from Marian Kearns in the last second. The final score was 3-3 to 3-1 in favour of Dublin.

But the greatest Camogie game of an All-Ireland series, in my memory, was the All-Ireland semi-final between Dublin and Antrim in 1956. After three quarters of the game Dublin were two points ahead 5-1 to 4-2. Both sides added a goal. Antrim rallied and Marian Kearns, who was a skilled player, goaled to

put her side in front. A Dublin attack failed in a desperate effort to take the game out of the fire so the Northerners were in the final against Cork and won their fourth title that year.

Tipperary qualified for the All-Ireland finals of 1949, '53, '58, '61 and '65. Each time they had to face the then perennial champions Dublin who finished on top on each of the five occasions. Although Dublin were always easy winners on the scoreboard Tipperary had some fine players over all that period.

These included the England sisters, Mary and Kathleen, the Griffin sisters Terry and Kathleen. Kathleen Flaherty, Bridie Scully, Honor O'Flynn, Kathleen Downes, Peg Maloney the Graham sisters, the Long sisters and last but not least Anne Carroll who won three All-Ireland medals in the seventies with Kilkenny after she went to live there.

Indeed that was a final Tipperary could have won. They matched Dublin in every sector but disaster struck when Tipperary got disorganised for a few minutes while a substitution was being made and Dublin scored four goals in as many minutes. The challengers tried hard to get back on top but the Dubliners maintained their advantage and won 10-1 to 5-3.

No matter who wins this unique final, the outcome which crowns new champions can only be good for the game, which has been dominated through the past decade by Cork, Kilkenny and Wexford.

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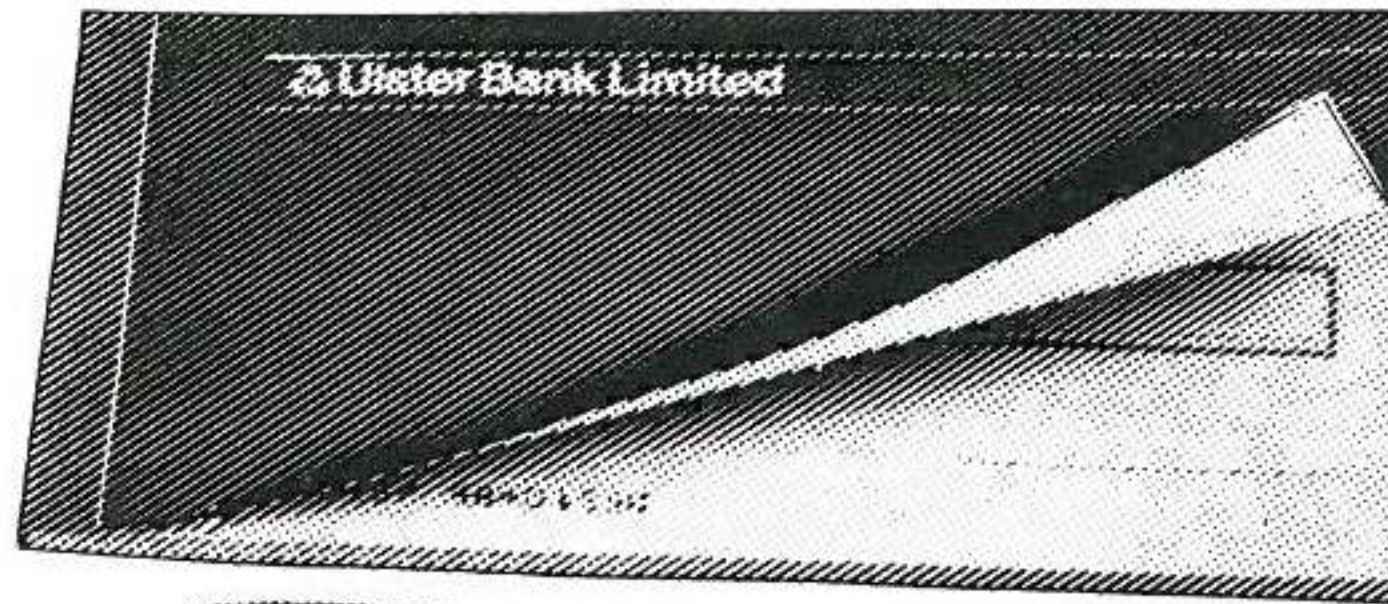
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● FROM PAGE 21

The ball has only just been won, but already two or three flying Kerry men are building up overlaps and racing for attacking positions as extra men. If you could see the broader field you would observe Liston manoeuvring, John Egan coming off his corner, Mickie Sheehy shambling around as though slightly embarrassed by the whole thing.

Two options (more correctly—two sets of options) will have been set up in the few seconds at most in which the opposition has been dispossessed and their man has settled on the ball. He shows the further depth of their practised tactical awareness by choosing from the options offered and doing so with such quickness of thought that the maximum advantage is gained from the discomfiture of the opposition in losing the ball and having their drive broken.

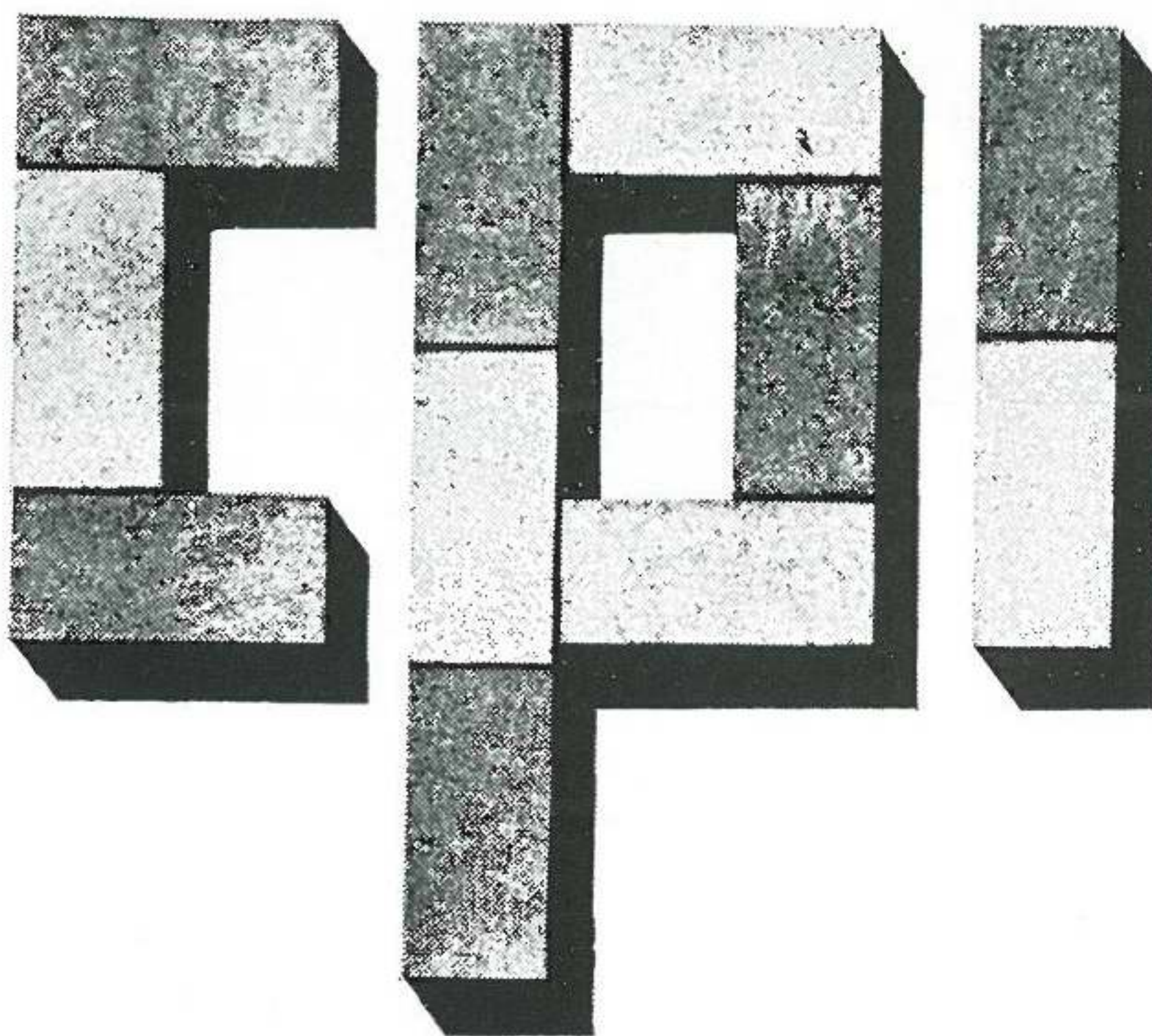
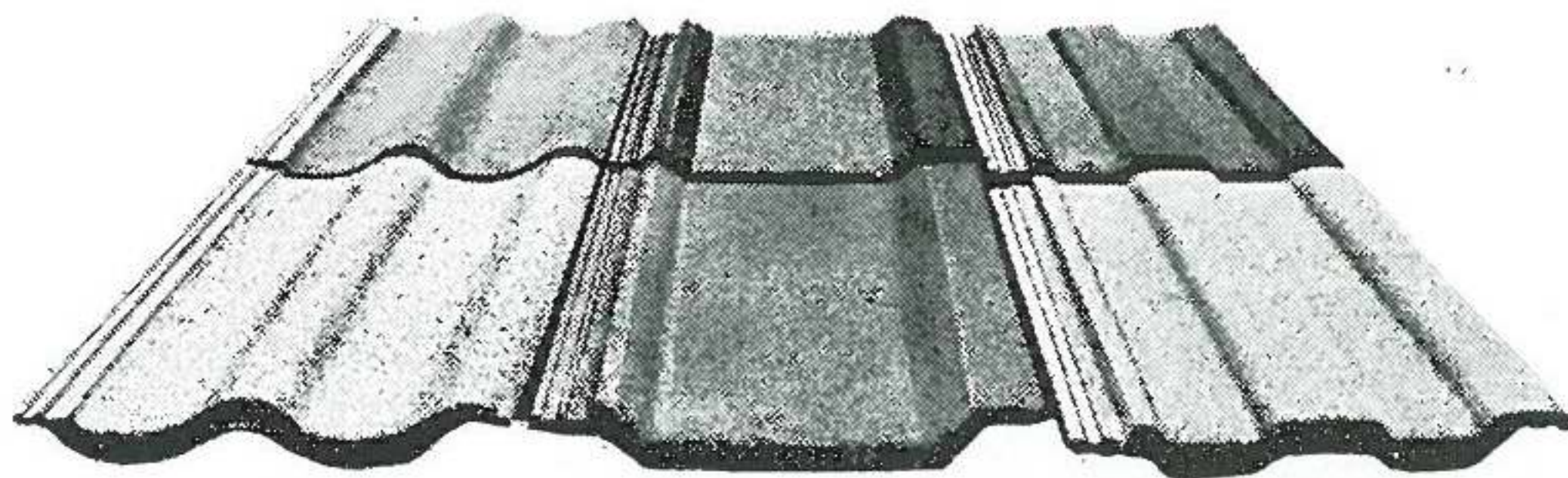
He looks at the field ahead; he exercises his judgement, perhaps rightly or wrongly, but that is only a marginal thing and the essential thing is that a course of attack is chosen with the maximum speed.

Maybe the backs have strung themselves out too far in building the move that has just been broken into; Ger Power may be lying wide on the right, unmarked, with Liston moving around at the 35 yd. mark and moving left. Power comes to collect; the corner back rushes to try to prevent him exploiting the position. Instead, Walsh or Sheehy, or another, moves first to the ball and Power pulls away. Sheehy fists it on; the corner back is destroyed. Power gathers and solos in on goal.

From there, "you pays your money and you takes your choice" but it will probably be a goal anyway, whether Power cracks it across the goalie to the far side of the net, or draws the rest of

the defence to him before setting up Liston or Egan, or, perhaps, Spillane who will have sprinted the 100 yards or so from the breakdown of the opposition attack to be on the spot for the finish of Kerry's.

They have a hundred variations; they are becoming increasingly difficult to contain. Dublin will introduce a tremendously powerful but fair physical effort. It has all the makings of a great match.

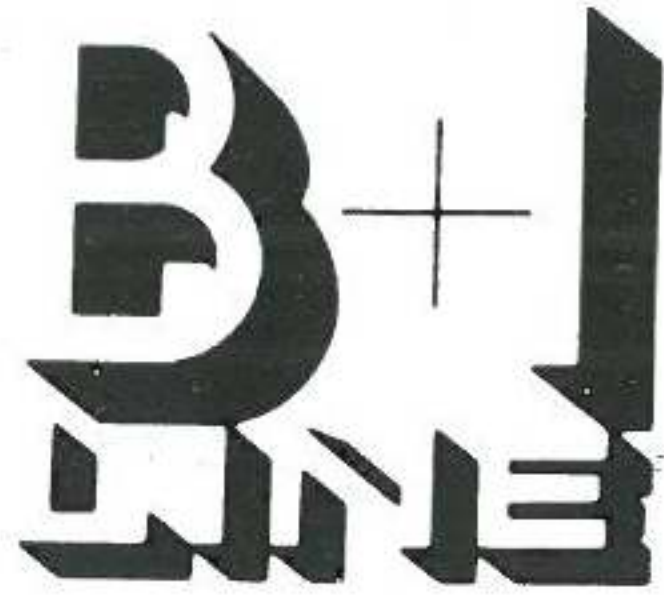


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● FROM PAGE 19

the utmost ease.

If John O'Keeffe is Kerry's longest serving player, Mick Spillane, by contrast, is one of the "babes" of the team. Indeed Mick made his debut in last year's All-Ireland final when Tom Doyle was forced to cry off through injury.

The young man was a major success that day, subduing Dublin's Bobby Doyle and settling nicely into the left-corner back position. Since then he has made this berth his own and the fact that he can keep a corner-back of Ger O'Keeffe's calibre on the subs' bench is adequate testimony of his effectiveness.

A stylish player, 22-year-old Mick had, a very successful under-age career, winning All-Ireland medals in both minor and under-21 grades. A brother of star forward, Pat Spillane. Mick has yet another brother, Tom, involved in the minor final this year. And with the younger Spillane looking very promising, this set of Templeoe brothers could well make as big an impact with Kerry as the Sheehy brothers, Paudie, Niall and Sean Cg did in the early 'sixties.

Jim Denihan from Finuge is the type of defender that all forwards dread. Never allowing his opponent an inch of breathing space, Jim always manages to make it a hard road to the Kerry goal line. Strong in the tackle, he has in the past subdued some of the most formidable forwards in the game.

Jimmy Barry-Murphy and John McCarthy are just two of the big names who will readily testify to Denihan's efficiency while county team-mate Pat Spillane was another star to be shackled by the Finuge man when they clashed in this year's Kerry county championship.

A county minor in 1970, Jim won an All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1973 and eventually

established himself on the senior side in 1975. He won a county senior medal with divisional side, Feale Rangers last year and would have captained the present Kerry team if the toss of a coin hadn't favoured Tim Kennelly.

Sporting Jim will hardly begrudge Tim that honour, however, and he will no doubt be as tight-marking as ever in order


to ensure that Kennelly receives the Sam Maguire Cup on the third Sunday in September.

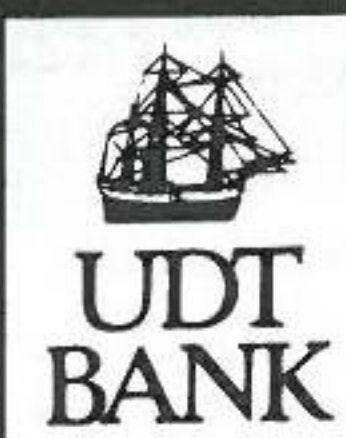
Denihan, Spillane and O'Keeffe, therefore, form a Kerry full-back line which carries the highest credentials. And if the team experience unexpected difficulties against Dublin, the effectiveness of the full-back trio will be vital in swinging the issue in favour of the champions.


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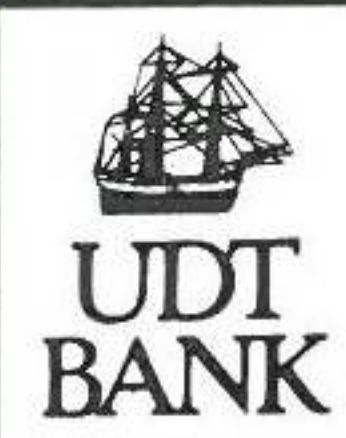
  
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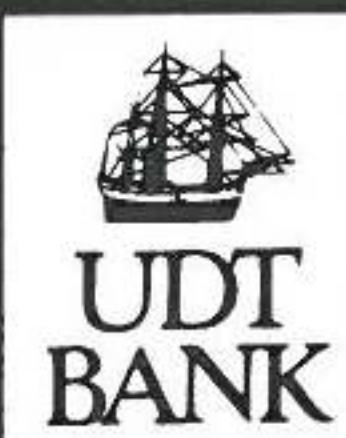
  
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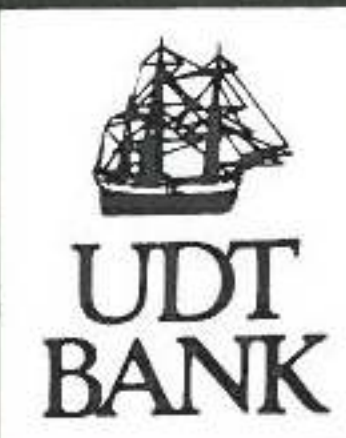
  
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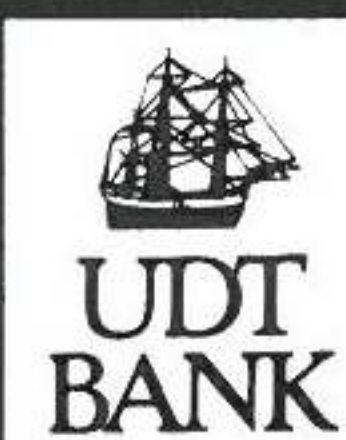
  
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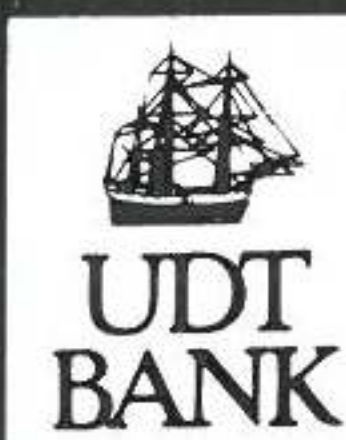
  
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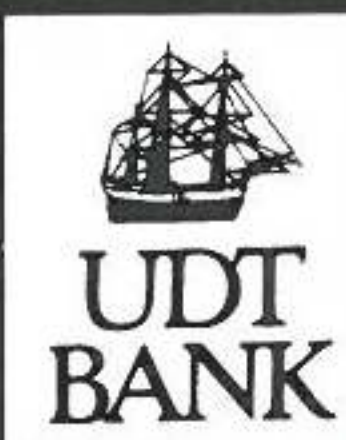
  
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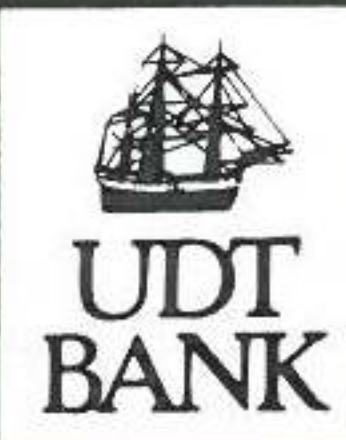
  
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# IS THIS REALLY KERRY'S BEST-EVER SIDE?

WOULD Jack Dempsey have beaten Muhammad Ali? Would John L. Sullivan, the Boston Strong Boy, have beaten both? Would Roger Bannister have beaten Sebastian Coe in the mile? As long as men write about sport they'll be asked those questions.

The other day my friend Joe Keohane, who never hesitated to stick his neck out—fair play for him—said that the present Kerry side is the best ever. As Joe played in his first All-Ireland forty-two years ago at the age of nineteen he must be heeded. But how can I after pausing for a moment to consider the changes in Gaelic Football over that time, concur or disagree, with Joe's statement re-echoed by many more. What were the changes?

The side-line throw became a side-line kick. The solo-run first evolved by Dr. Sean Lavan in '23 or Capt John P. Murphy of Cavan in '24 was perfected by seventeen year old Tommy Murphy of Graiguecullen by '37. The hand pass exploited by Kildare in '28 and brought to basket-ball precision by Antrim in the forties was outlawed for years until it re-emerged as the fist-pass, and was reborn in travail as the present throw. The goalie was protected from the frontal

charge. He was then allowed to pick the ball off the ground and finally shielded from anything less affectionate than a kiss on the cheek. Shouldering and charging have been gradually reduced in intensity over the year, and seen by some refs as completely wrong.

Forwards are given more and more freedom, as the distaste of body contact has grown. The large square has frightened off backs from any kind of interference, and the abolition of the third man tackle has seen backs allow forwards still more freedom while they themselves run out of the goalmouth awaiting the goalie's hand-pass. Booking for personal fouls has further reduced bodily contact. The general effect is to reduce the incidence of kicking, the tenacity of marking, and the increase of loose open play where attention to playing one's place is often ignored. In short Gaelic Football is far nearer to-day to the excellent game of basketball than it was when the present game of basketball was introduced here after the war, superseding the old style basketball which, apart from the absence of kicking, had some affinity with Gaelic football of those days.

It is very simple to generalise and place a tag on the Gaelic

football of any era or decade. Most of the tags would be wrong. To-day some talk of the catch and kick game as if the players of that era (when it was, I don't know) did nothing else but perform those two excellent skills. As if Purty Landers or John Joe Sheehy, John Joe Reilly, Paddy Moclair, Tom Langan, Sean Purcell, Mick Higgins, Jim MacKeever, Kevin Heffernan, Peter McDermott, Larry Stanley, Jim McCartan or Mick O'Connell did nothing more than rise for the ball, root it sixty yards, and the best of luck to it. There are men to-day who catch as well as most men I've seen, and there are some fine kickers. In the same way I saw slick solo-runners and devastating ball-throwers in other days. The fact that we have had more of one type or the other in any one decade depends on the rules, for it is the function of each intelligent player and trainer to exploit those rules, and so a style efficient for changed regulations automatically evolves.

The football style as played by Kerry today is best suited to success as Congress, God bless it, has changed the game. Whether it is the best ever team is impossible for me to say but certainly it is the best combination I have seen playing the type of Gaelic Football we have in the seventies. When, as I hope and trust, the game will be set on a more normal and attractive course once again, I have no doubt that Kerry, where intelligent men, players and trainers, practise this game in a sophisticated and dedicated manner, will change their present style to meet a new demand.

Doney Sullivan of Cill Airne, a fine fetcher and a very long kick-

● TO PAGE 43

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# Promises of spirited exchanges in the minor final

By  
**OWEN  
McCANN**

**T**HERE should be some spirited exchanges, laced by top-class football, when the young hopefuls of Kerry and Dublin get the big day at Croke Park under way with a now novel meeting for the All-Ireland minor championship.

Kerry gave the more convincing display in the semi-finals when bringing in a clear-cut eleven points win over a fancied Down side. But there was also tremendous merit in the way that the boys from the Liffey banks eventually finished with a point revenge win over Mayo, the county that crushed the high Dublin ambitions in dramatic fashion in last year's All-Ireland final.

Dublin have also a number of survivors from that game, and the experience they are sure to have gained from that outing is bound to be of great benefit to the Leinster side. In addition, Dublin will have powerful support — particularly from Hill Sixteen.

However, Kerry, a county where football is so intensely woven into the life of every son of the famed Kingdom, are most unlikely to be inhibited. Their players are strong, very capable and display that football poise and competitive spirit that is so much the hallmark of any team from Kerry no matter what the grade.

Cork did give their neighbours and traditional rivals a rare old fright in the Munster final and at Killarney of all places! It was only a blistering 40 yards goal by midfielder Ambrose O'Donovan a half a minute from time

that kept Kerry in the hunt. That score tied the match, and sent Kerry to Pairc Ui Chaoimh for the replay.

As any student of the game appreciates, Kerry in a replay are always formidable opposition, and the current crew of teenage stars gave added emphasis to that tradition by returning from Cork with a six points win.

Munster stars likely to be to the fore in this final? Ambrose O'Donovan must loom large in this respect. Apart from crashing home that so crucial goal at Killarney, this Gneeveguilla club man has been very prominent in general play in the build-up to the decider. He is tall, a sure fielder, works hard, and could do much to power the way to a first Kerry final win since 1975.

Among the Southern raiders there are also players who could emerge as match-winners. All the attackers have shown that they can take their chances.

I have, however, been particularly impressed by Greg O'Donnell, who lost no time in shooting Kerry's only goal at Croke Park — it came in the first attack against Down—John Chute, the captain from Listowel, and Willie O'Connor, and I feel they may well prove the raiders to exert the strongest pressure on the home rearguard.

What of the Kerry defence? Here, too, Kerry are well served in all positions, and I can't see this division, in which I have

been taken by the work of Pat Sheehan, Colm Bambury and John Keane, giving much away.

But the smart-moving and well-drilled Dublin side also can boast of the men in all departments who could scale the heights, and emerge as the footballers to provide the necessary leadership and class to ensure a very rare glory day for the county in this grade.

Barney Rock, who caused such a stir in last year's series, was back at full forward against Mayo after some earlier outings this year at midfield.

He is a gifted footballer, although he was out of touch with his frees against the Connacht champions. Nonetheless, the Ballymun-Kickhams club man has amply demonstrated over the two seasons that he has the ability to pick off the scores from play and frees in fine style.

Kevin Barry, who shot two vital late points to clinch the day against Mayo, is another who will need to be closely watched by the Kerry backs. He is also a survivor from last year, while Mick Loftus who captains the side, and Ciaran Duff are others whose know-how from the 1978 campaign, allied to their proven talents, could have them prominently to the forefront in the Dublin bid.

The chief weapon in Dublin's armour, however, is probably the defence. They have been rock solid at the back, where the skills of such as John Grace,

● TO PAGE 43



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# KERRY'S BEST-EVER SIDE?

## ● FROM PAGE 39

er said in '74 that the way to beat Dublin was to perfect the new-found Metropolitan game (which indeed had evolved from the stylish inter-passing style of Cork's '73 team). Kerry did just this because they were fortunate enough to have the right bunch of players to do it. In the same way they'll change again if need be.

Records will suggest that the Kerry team which played the best football was the bunch which started in '37 and finished ten years later. I didn't see the '29-32 sides but if they were better than the teams powered by Gega Connor, Paddy Bawn, Johnny Walsh, Paddy Kennedy, Bill Dillon, Sean Brosnan, Eddie Walsh, Bill Myres, Jim Healy Jack Lyne, Teddy O'Connor and a dozen more they must have been terrific.

The sides that won the '53 and '55 All-Irelands had John Dowling, Jim Brosnan, Tom Moriarty, John Cronin, John Joe

Sheehy, Paud Sheehy and Ned Roche. Then we had the teams of '59 and '62 where Micko Connell, Mick O'Dwyer, Tom Long, Sean Murphy, John Culloty, and the others played so splendidly, the two Mickos remaining on to help Din Joe Crowley, Pat Griffin, Tom Prendergast and Paud O'Donoghue to bring home the cups of '69 and '70.

I don't know if this is the best Kerry side ever and I have no means of ever finding out. All I can say is that for me they are the best side I've seen to play this new game, which doesn't thrill me. In fact they may be beaten by a good team playing a more rounded and versatile game even under present rules. But they have been, like the Dublin side, at or near the top for the last five years and have given us all some grand hours of competitive football that have endeared them especially to the enthusiastic youth of Ireland. What more can any player or team do for the community? Are they bet-

ter than the Kerry sides of other days? Would the older Kingdom teams have beaten them at their own game to-day? The answer to that one depends generally on one's age. My first demand before giving any kind of a sensible answer would be to set down a set of compromise rules, for them to play under and no one likes compromise. On with the game and here's to the champions.

# THE MINORS

## ● FROM PAGE 41

Stephen Wade and Conor Finnegan, could have a big say in moulding the division into a match-winning platform.

Pat Boylan and Bernard Kavanagh are accomplished footballers in the middle of the field for Dublin, and it does appear that they will make a tremendous bid for a first title since back in 1959.

But, while Kerry need no extra incentive in any All-Ireland final, it does seem that they produce that little extra these days against Dublin teams. And, this is likely to be true of the present talented company of under-18 heroes.

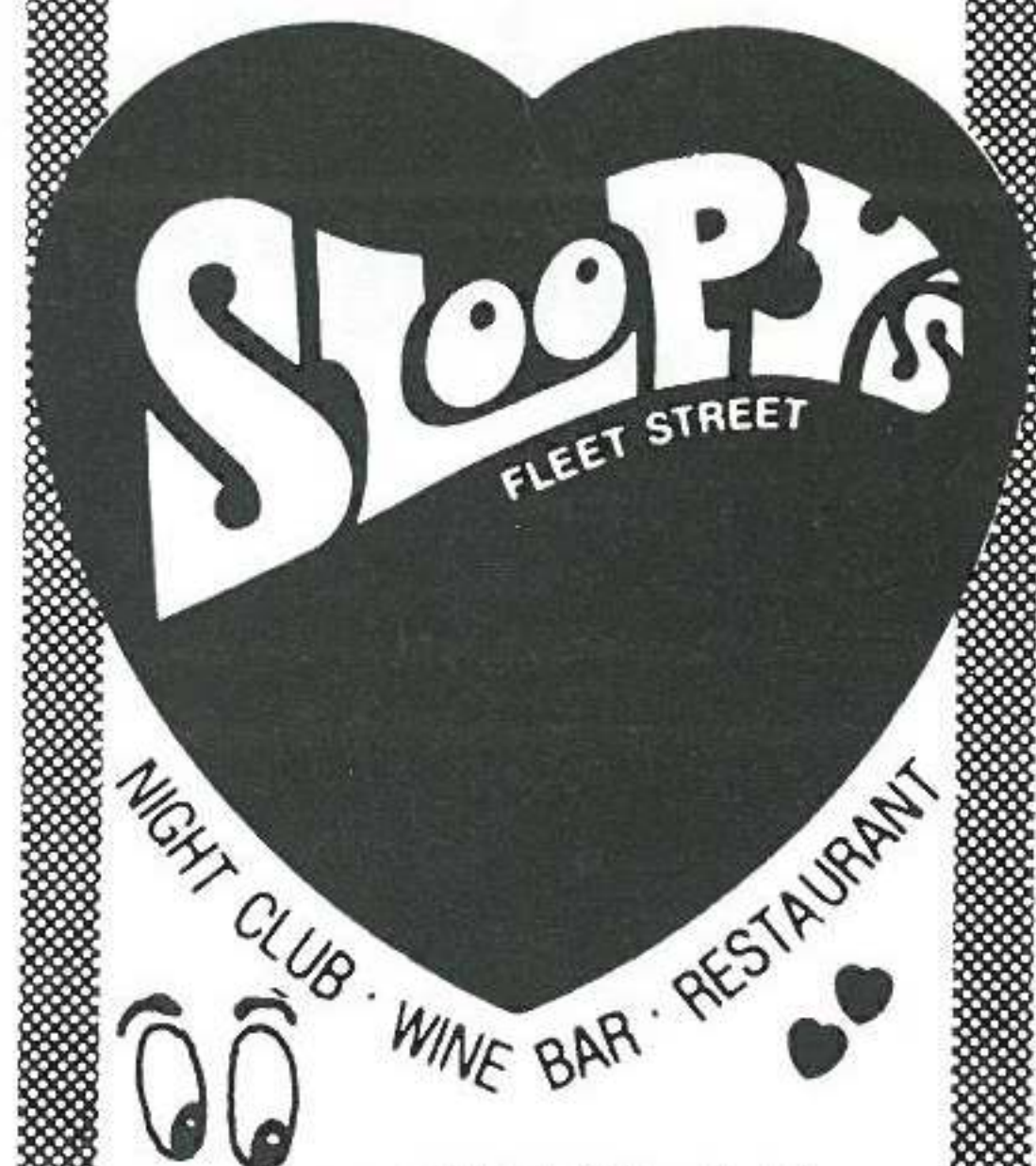
That's one factor that I feel is in favour of the Munster champions. Another is all round balance. I think that in addition to the many fine footballers they have throughout the side, Kerry are just that better balanced and more fluid and enterprising than Dublin.

So, for me, it's Kerry to get home in what could prove one of the best minor finals in years.

It is the first meeting of these counties at this stage in the grade since as far back as 1954, when Dublin scored 3-3 to Kerry's 1-8. If Dublin again come out on top they will join Kerry on top of the Leaderboard with eight titles since 1930.

Kerry won the first of their eight crowns the year after the initial Dublin triumph.

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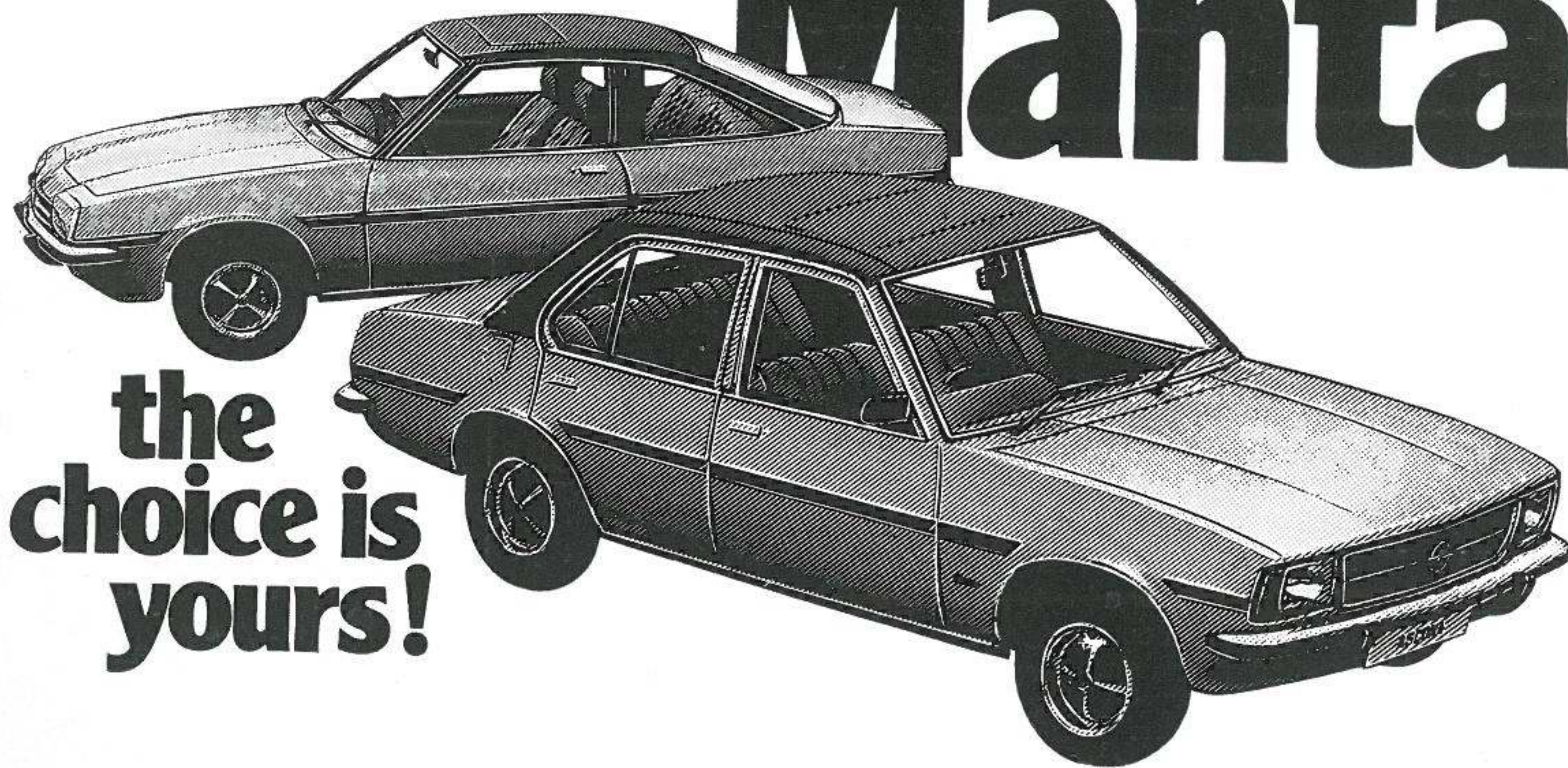
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# OPEL

# PAT O'NEILL



**T**OP quality back play is a vital asset in the make-up of any team with designs on getting to the top. Forwards, especially those with the now elusive ability to regularly find the way through to goal, can grab the bulk of the headlines in match after match, but the fact still remains that reliability in the defence is one of the best springboards for success.

Dublin have been well armed in this regard since they climbed back into the ranks of the elite in 1974. It is likely that they will once more present a solid enough barrier to goal in the upcoming Sam Maguire Cup tie.

True enough, the defence has taken on a real "new look" of late and three of the backs, it seems safe now to assume, will be stepping into the All-Ireland senior final cauldron for the first time.

But the newcomers have already all proven their worth, and are unlikely to be found wanting. Then, there is the important blend of craft provided by the strong half back line, where Pat O'Neill at 29 has taken over the mantle of the longest serving outfield defender.

O'Neill must rank as one of the key men in the challengers' line-up . . . a player who could do much to charter the way for Dublin. His football is thoughtful and constructive, he has excellent positional sense, and he can also get through a tremendous amount of tidying up when

needed.

This Civil Service club man also has the ability to have the challengers surging forward with his attacking brand of half back play. In short, an outstanding man to have in the team.

## By OWEN McCANN

Pat O'Neill was born in Rhodesia. It is not generally realised now that he made his mark in senior football long before Dublin made the latest and possibly greatest break-through. More than that, he is a footballer apart in the side as the only one to have gained the shamrock of national medals — League, Championship and Railway Cup.

This now mighty left half back was first called up to the county senior team back in 1969.

Four years later his steady influence at centre half back did much to pave the way for a Railway Cup title win by the Combined Universities in a final replay against Connacht.

Illness subsequently kept the 6ft.-plus Dublin footballer out of the game for a lengthy spell, but he battled his way back bravely to not only regain his place in the county team, but to go on and write his name so prominently into so many of the great moments of football in recent times.

O'Neill had his All-Ireland senior final debut as a substitute for John McCarthy on the day

that Dublin lost the Sam Maguire Cup to a youthful Kerry side in 1975. A year later though, he was in there as a dynamic unit in a powerful half back line that was a decisive influence in firing the revival that brought the Sam Maguire Cup back to the capital.

This mighty general of back play had probably his best season yet in 1977, producing some sparkling football and enjoying tremendous success all the way. He was once more at No. 7 when Dublin beat Armagh in the final, and shortly before Christmas he was awarded his only Carrolls All Star trophy as the 1977 left half back.

Then, to round off the glory campaign, the cultured and sporting defender emerged as the first **GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN** award winner in football.

His League medals were won in 1976, when he lined out at centre half against Derry in the decider, and in 1978 when he was in his now familiar No. 7 post in the success over Mayo.

Pat O'Neill has also enjoyed more success than many in club competitions. He collected two Dublin senior county championship medals with U.C.D., and was in the student team that won the All-Ireland club title in 1975.

His hopes of another Dublin club medal, but with a different side, were squashed last June when Civil Service had to give best to Na Fianna in the county decider at Croke Park.

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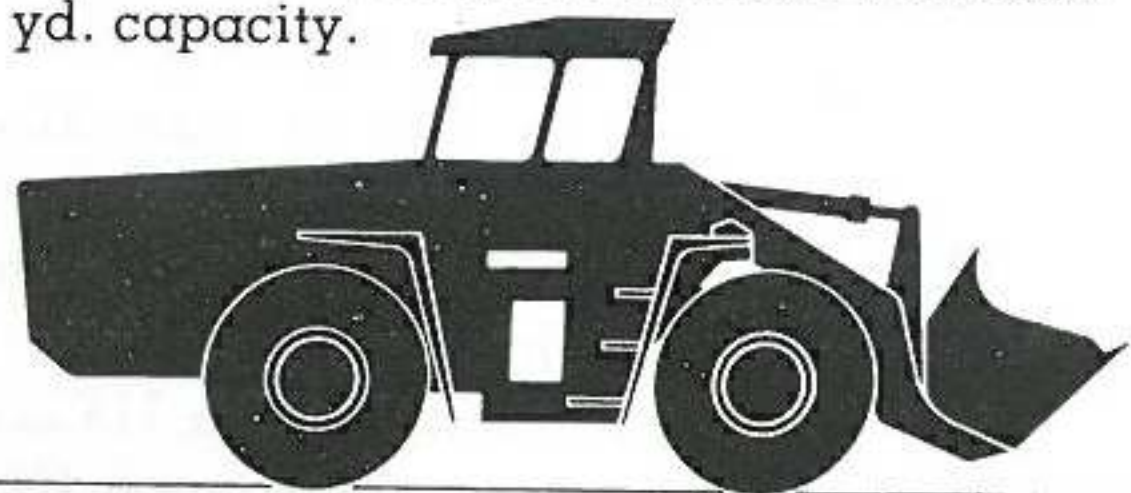


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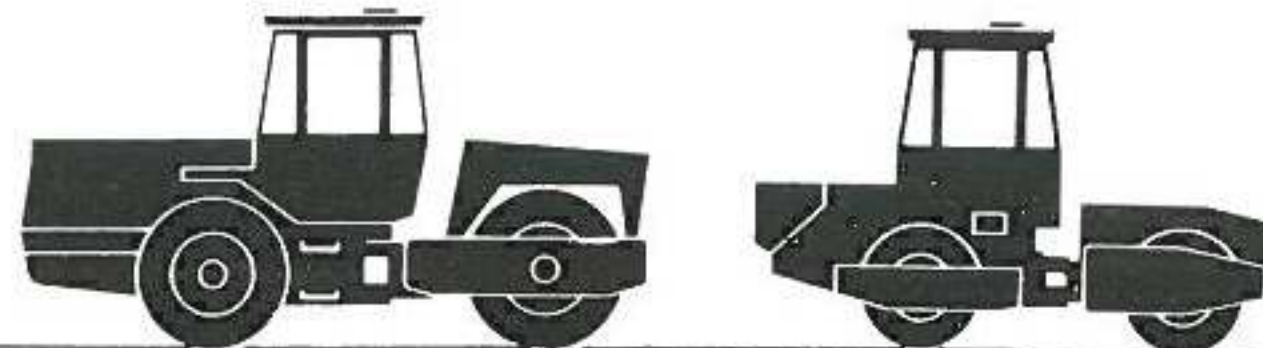
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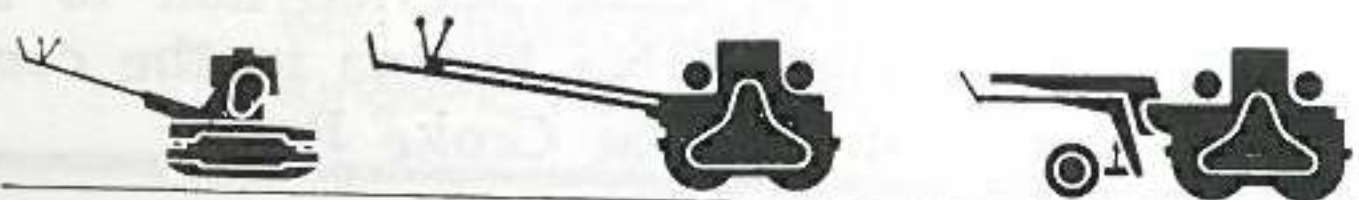
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# THE MEN BEHIND THE CHAMPS

**B**ERNIE O'Callaghan of Moyvane, small, energetic and forceful, Pat O'Shea of Killorglin tall, mild and sincere, Liam Higgins, tall, slim, a polished footballer, Mick O'Dwyer of Waterville dark, intense, lean and powerful, Joe Keohane of Tralee several inches over six feet, ironic and articulate. These are the men behind the Kerry side.

Are they important to the team? Of course they are, for selectors help either to make or break a bunch of men and the record of the present Kingdom side indicates either that these selectors are sound men or that the team is so good that even bad men couldn't upset it. Take your choice; I have mine.

There are many obvious attributes necessary to make a good selector. Ability to recognise merit, to handle anxious striving young men, to keep ones mouth shut at the right time and to open it especially to the press at another time, dedication, motivation, realism . . . one could go on and on.

But for me an important thing in the selector is that he will be a champion. That isn't always based on winning great honours on the field of play though such has helped a lot. It does have to do with the poise and self-confidence that makes a man a

By  
**EAMONN  
YOUNG**

champion in his own mind not one who thinks he has a monopoly of right, and a complete personal infallibility but a man who has respect for his own judgement and his own position in a game of men.

Without a doubt selectors and trainers who have played a lot, and with some success, almost always have this as a basis for their own performance and here Kerry are well served. Liam Higgins, Pat O'Shea and Bernie O'Callaghan have more playing experience, successful and otherwise, than most inter-county selectors. Joe Keohane played in six All-Irelands winning five and would have been on in another only for a difference of opinion with the Kerry County Board. Mick O'Dwyer's record seldom mentioned, is unusual.

The Waterville player first played for Kerry in the Winter of '56 and wore the jersey until early '74, a memorable eighteen years later. He played in ten All-Ireland finals which include the replay in '72 and won four.



● Mick O'Dwyer, the very experienced Kerry selector.

Two of these showed him as a strong, stylish and completely effective half back and later he had one final at full forward. Two more medals he collected as a deadly, strong and accurate left corner forward, a transition which showed how completely he had learned his craft. He togged out in nine League finals and won eight; he has taken charge of five Railway Cup teams four of which won, and started training the Kingdom Under-21 team immediately he stopped playing. Since then he has been in charge of the Kingdom underage and senior sides. Add to all that the laudable fact that Mick O'Dwyer played with his club until a few months back when one day at centre-forward he bent to pick up a ground ball and got a wallop of a man's boot into the cheekbone which sent him to hospital in Cork with several fractures. Only a champion can shake all that off and carry on at forty-three as if nothing had happened.

So Kerry have this collective experience and toughness and

● TO PAGE 49

# It's hard to find one good thing to say about the Ford Escort.

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● FROM PAGE 47

wisdom from the five on the bench and therefore one turns to the dedication necessary to field a good side. With Ogie Moran, Tom Doyle, Ger O'Keeffe, Paud O'Mahony, Barry Walsh, and a few more on the line it is obvious that Kerry selectors should see more training spins than any other similar group. When they do meet, the faults and weaknesses of the panel are discussed, and the best ways of exploiting the considerable skill and determination of the team are worked out. It is very doubtful if through the country generally this discussion by selectors is worthily carried out. Match analysis is just as important to the junior club side as to the All-Ireland senior team and wonderful value can be gained from it if the selectors will sit down before the match, during the hour, and of course a few days after to see how the game can be won or to find out perhaps why it had been lost. I remember temperate Christy Ring telling me how he had gone home from the Glen Rovers Hall at half an hour after midnight a few days before a Cork semi-final. They had begun to pick the team at eight o'clock.

It's fifty miles from Waterville to Killarney and this is the journey of Kerry's trainer when the team is training. The fact that South Kerry generally is a busy tourist area and that Mick O'Dwyer and his wife Mary have a garage and hotel business gives one a fair idea of what the last five summers have meant to the Waterville trainer. The training night in Killarney demands seven hours from five in the evening until midnight. Sessions begin to intensify in May while periodic training is done in Winter

Hurling and football always

meant hard work and the other day I was talking to an old friend, a great player who won little because his county was then in the shadows. Miah Murphy the blacksmith from North Cork,



● Joe Keohane of Tralee, one of the Kerry selectors.

fed up with Kerry's success once trained on ten consecutive nights by running ten miles along the road each night in company with some athlete friends. A pity everybody didn't have Miah's heart.

To-day players generally see that without hard training by most of the panel, chances are nil. The Kerry selectors backed by their county board know that their job is to get the men out on the field more often than in the more leisurely days of yesterday. A wonderful asset which the Green and Gold bench uses well is the panel of twenty-three any of whom would stand a fair chance of making the team in the other counties. The fact that one has another good man looking over one's shoulder is a great incentive to training and while it does breed a certain insecurity

and blank dismay as registered on talented Ogie Moran's face as he was called off in Killarney it has its advantage from the competitive point of view. Here let me say that this insecurity was given as the reason for the nine goals against Clare. Candidly I have to shake a grain of salt on that one.

The phone rang in the office of Mick O'Dwyer's garage. It was noon on the day after Dublin beat Roscommon, four weeks before the final.

"Hello Carmel . . . Mick here . . . Yes, we'll be in tonight . . . same time . . . yes, the same number . . . you'll have good steaks for 'em . . . no, I don't think it will be easy at all. Any team that comes from behind twice against Roscommon and Offaly must be good. Anyway I'll see you and thanks for ringing."

Putting down the phone, "I'm for Killarney tonight he said quietly. I left him with his thoughts. I had my own.

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# Paddy—The General

By Seamus O Braonain

**P**LAYERS—especially full-back lines—always knew about the role which the goalkeeper had to play in keeping everything nice and shipshape in that vital sector in which small mistakes lead to very large and very dire consequences.

Full-backs have always depended on their goalie. A word, a quick instruction, a warning of unseen danger gave them eyes in the backs of their heads, so to speak, and allowed them to play with greater confidence than if they had to be all the time looking about for those happenings.

Out further you might say that the goalie has less influence on a team. But, you just watch a team with a suspect goalie and you will see the way the uncertainty spreads as far as the half-



★  
Paddy  
Cullen  
(Dublin)

★

back line, too.

As I say, the players were always aware of this even in those days when goalies were more cramped and confined than they are to-day. But, since the introduction of the new rules which have given the goalie the freedom of the small square and a great deal of latitude in the big one and beyond, the public have become aware of the influence of the good keepers just as well as those players further out on the field.

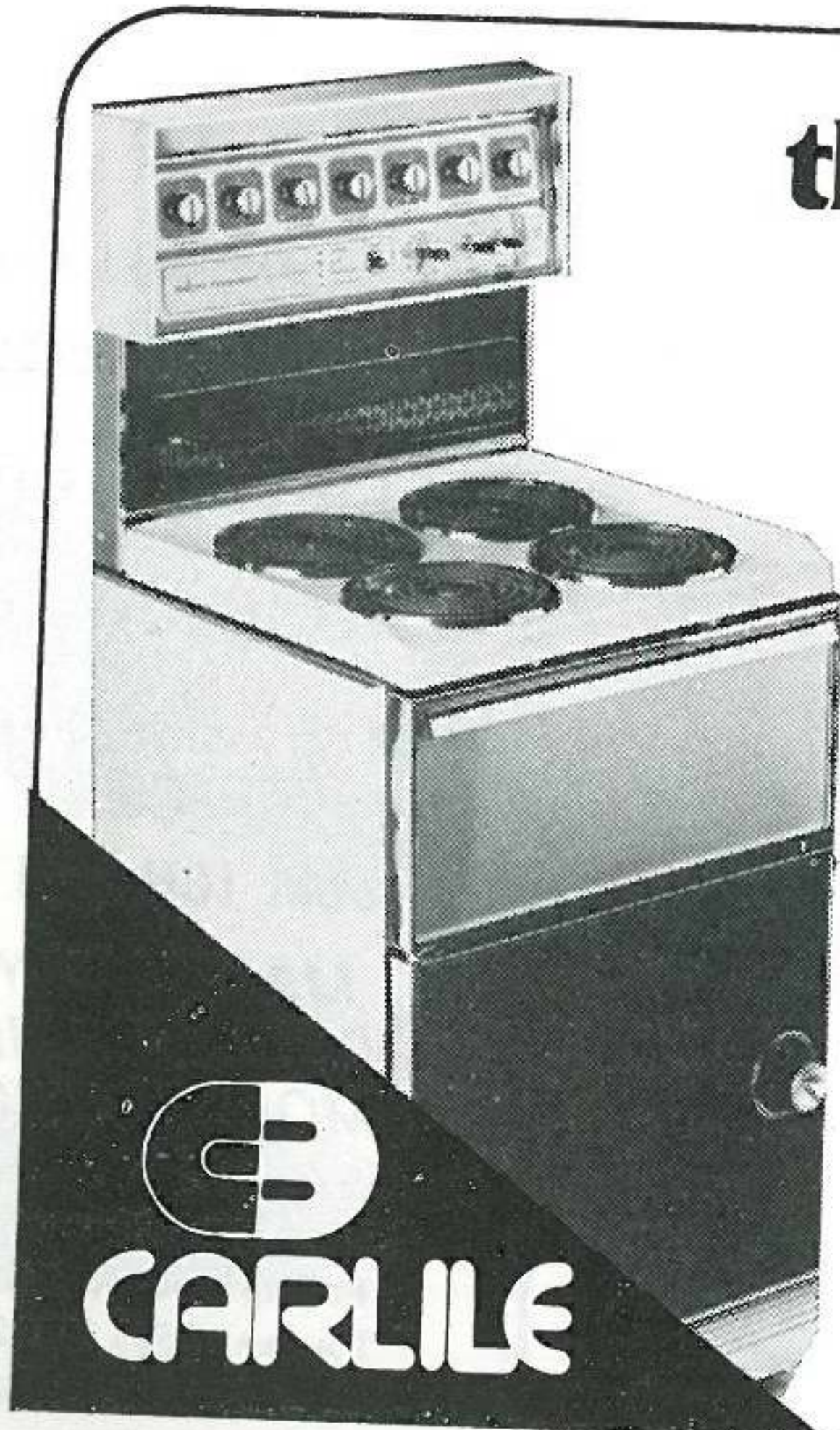
And then there are the few

outstanding keepers who can be seen and appreciated now more clearly under the new rules — the Charlie Nelligans, Billy Morgans ... and, preeminently, Paddy Cullen.

Cullen is one who soldiered under both sets of rules — like Morgan — but while Billy was, if anything, more inspiring under the old rules, Paddy Cullen has grown enormously in stature since the change.

Dublin have improved, of course. But long before Dublin were in the All-Ireland class Cullen was diving to capture low drives or fast deflections from in front of the square, holding high ones safely under severe pressure, clearing constructively.

Not only does he "boss" the defence with clear-cut instructions that give them a tremendous advantage, but he is able to erect an extra full-back line, as it were, without hurting the role of goalie. The ball eludes the full-back and the forwards



  
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race forward in anticipation — a free run in to goal. But before they have stopped blessing their luck they find that a strange extra-back is collecting calmly on the 13-metre or 20-metre line, evading their tackle and clearing away with an attacking placement.

It is pretty devastating to have to face a goalie whose confident appreciation of the play in front of him and tremendous concentration enable him to make such difficult interceptions look easy. Those who watched the Roscommon semi-final will appreciate this, for he not only saved immaculately on his line, but came forward to cut-off intended passes, kicks into open space ahead of the forwards, and even made use of the element of surprise to race out and sweep the ball away from the full-back and full-forward realising it was a 50-50 ball if he left it to the two of them.

Confidence and concentration are the special things which Cullen has as well as the ordinary basic qualities of goal-keeping, of course. Different from most goalkeepers, however, he displays his confidence in public, thinking nothing of giving a bar of a song, making a speech, saying quite unequivocally that the Dubs will win, and that he will be a ring-tailed coyote if he lets a goal past him.

No bother at all. It is marvelous for the morale of everyone connected with Dublin to have a fellow like Cullen in the team. So much the more for the players in the team with him. Whether he really feels so certain and confident, or not, his record is enough, and his whole attitude and apparent inability to contemplate defeat convinces everyone.

Last year when disaster struck and five goals hit the Dublin net, Cullen did not hide his head or look for excuses. He simply didn't believe it. And when that

would not satisfy the more severe questioners, while admitting he had to believe it, well it still had nothing to do with the truth and reality — just some crazy quirk of fate — and how could he be responsible for inexplicable nonsense of that sort.

Sufficient to say that lightning will strike in most unexpected circumstances and there is nothing mortals can do about it. So he shrugged his shoulders, with a sort of regretful but resigned expression, sad that a whole All-

Ireland final had to be put astray for the sake of some points the Fates wished to prove to humans.

Things like that have to be put up with. But they are outside normality and Cullen gave the impression all the time since last September that it was only a matter of time (not of conjecture) until Dublin came back to rectify the miscarriage of justice that produced five goals against them and five personal insults to Paddy Cullen.

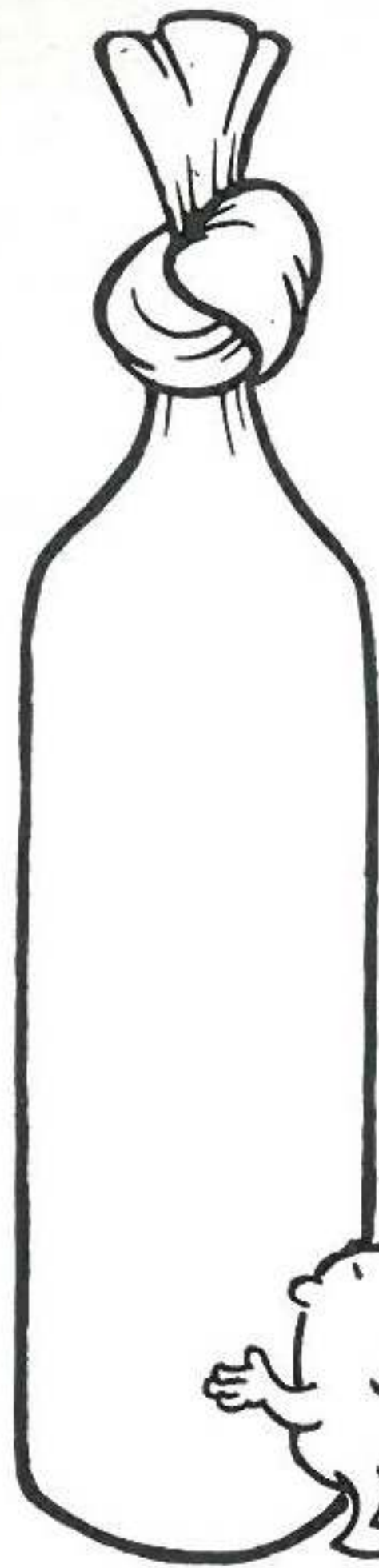
**Good players take care of their boots.**

# scuff stuff

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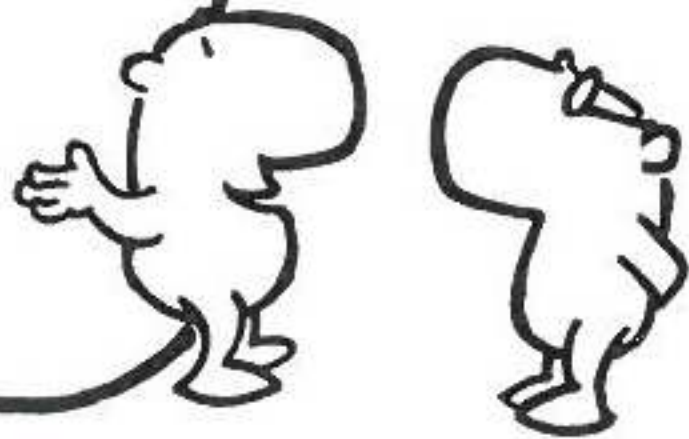
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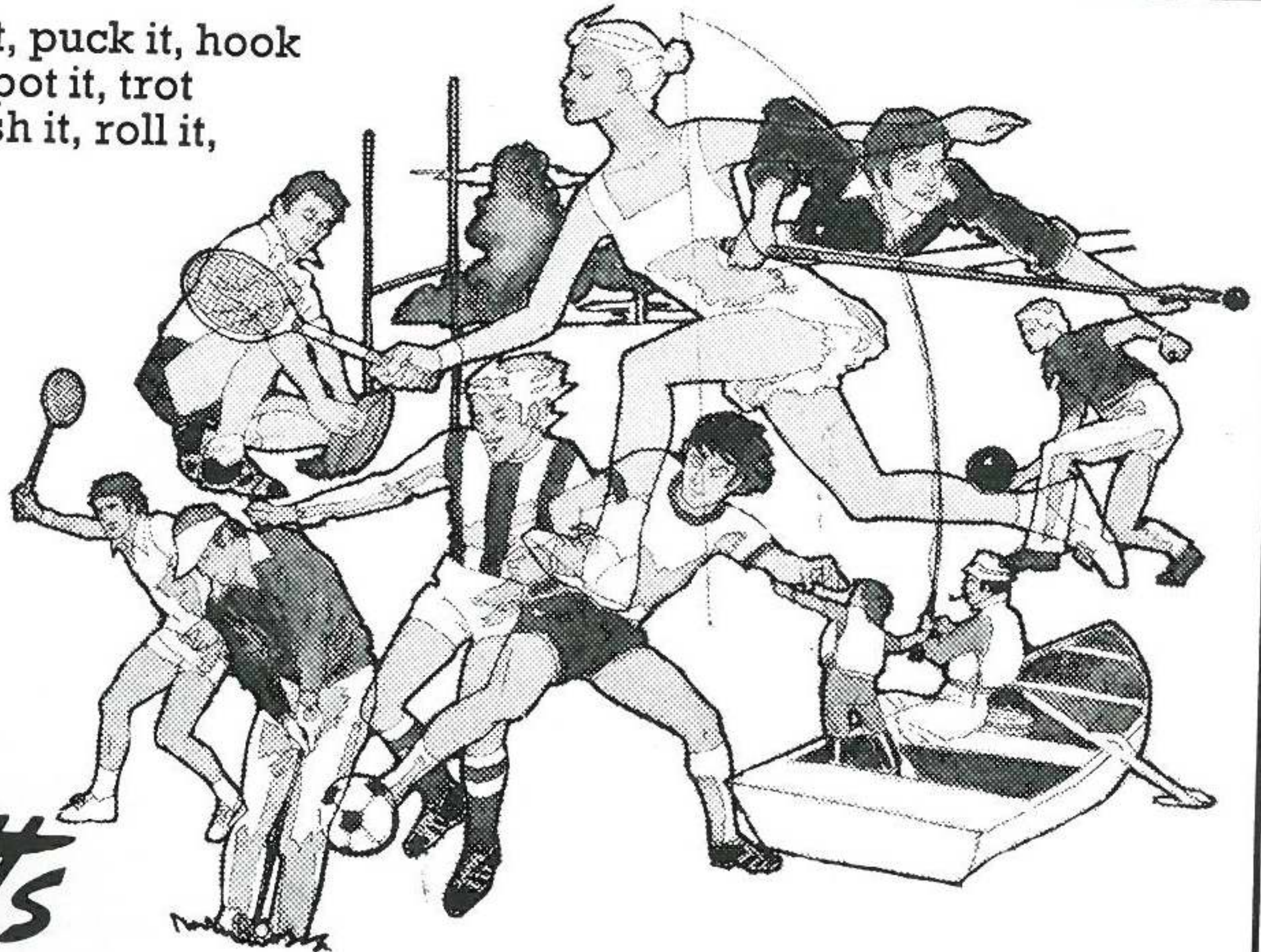
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## JUNIOR DESK: DEVISED AND EDITED BY JACK MAHON

ALL Ireland Football Final time again. Is it possible we have almost reached the end of the championships? It is a great time and even though we have got used to so many of the faces of the Kerry and Dublin football teams, the prospect of yet another Kerry v. Dublin final is intriguing.

### BOBBY DOYLE

Our Cut-Out this month is Dublin's play-anywhere Bobby Doyle. The nearest thing we have to a human robot, Bobby is tireless, can pop up anywhere. He is to be congratulated also on his coaching of Ard Scoil Ris to Hogan Cup success this year. He is a great favourite on "The Hill" and certainly served Dublin well on semi-final day. Now that Jimmy Keaveney is not available, Dublin will be depending all the more on Bobby.

## Mailbag

Now let's have the first letter from **Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aghrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow**. One of our oldest reliables writes to say he was at three big hurling games this year (1) Munster Final, (2) Leinster Final and (3) Galway's win over Cork. He picks out Martin Doherty, Dermot McCurtain, Sean Foley and Mossy Carroll from (1), Mick Brennan (with eight superb points from play), Joe Hennessy, Mick Jacob, Eddie Walsh and Tony Doran from (2) and all the magnificent Galway team from no. (3).

● *Gerry wins a Galway G.A.A. bob cap for his letter and his loyalty down the years. (J.M.)*

Declan Cronin, Chapel Rd.,

**Durrus, Bantry, Co. Cork** talks about all the games he has seen since he wrote last and of seeing Cork players Billy Morgan, Brian Murphy and Christy Ryan in a Killarney hotel after the Munster Football Final. He thinks the solo run should **not** be banned "It is very exciting to see and it brings more life into the game". Like all young Cork boys he wants a Cut-Out of Jimmy Barry-Murphy. He loves "The Sunday Game" and feels Kerry will win the final.

● *Declan you win a Cork Bob Cap. (J.M.)*

"**Kerry Fan,**" **Beale, Ballybunion, Co. Kerry** was absolutely thrilled when Galway hurlers beat Cork. She finds it hard to get "Gaelic Sport".

● *Some months issues of "Gaelic Sport" are sold out very quickly. The only sure way of getting the magazine every time is to become a regular subscriber. Five pounds covers the year including postage and the address is at the end of the Mailbag. (J.M.)*

**Aidan Bonner, Derryhenny Doochary, Co. Donegal (Aged 8)** writes for the first time says he enjoys the "Sunday Game" especially the discussions after the game. "The beaten provincial finalists should have a competition between them such as Donegal v. Cork, Mayo v. Offaly as it would give them something to aim at. I was disappointed Donegal lost the Ulster final but they will be back because they are young. Monaghan have some great players in Des Mulligan, Eamonn Tavey, Tom Moyna and Gerry McCarville."

● *Fine letter Aidan and you win a Donegal Bob Cap. (J.M.)*

**Sean Hickey, Dromahane, Mallow, Co. Cork** thinks that the game of hurling is at a great point. Sean praises Galway for

their great win over Cork but criticises the Galway followers for their unsporting jeering and booing of Cork freetakers. He is thrilled at the improved form shown by Wicklow and Monaghan. Sean feels Kevin Kehilly and Christy Ryan deserve All Star Awards. Christy Ryan was prepared to take on the whole Kerry team and I'll never forget his display. Kehilly destroyed Eoin Liston. Even though the papers said otherwise I thought John Crowley had the measure of Pat Spillane too

● *Best letter so far Sean and you win a Cork G.A.A. scarf. As a Galwayman I was ashamed of the Galway supporters who jeered and booed Charlie McCarthy before he took the frees for Cork. That's not sport. But its a rotten habit that is creeping into Croke Park. (J.M.)*

**Pat Twomey, Currahy, Ballingeary, Co. Cork** like so many other writers is glad the post is back again. He writes about all the great games so far this year but particularly the Leinster final "Brian Mullins was the man of the match. I hadn't that much sympathy for Jimmy Keaveney after he was sent off as he was involved before with Tim Kennelly in 1976 or '77 and also hit a Wicklow back with an elbow in this year's championship. So he had got his warnings. I must praise Galway hurlers for their determination and spirit." Pat wants a tape of the '73 Football Final.

● *I won't comment on the Jimmy Keaveney incident. But I'm sorry to see him not playing in the final. His interview with Mick Dunne on telly was an honest one. He went up in everybody's esteem and wasn't looking for sympathy. (J.M.)*

Colm Devlin, Kilcoo, Co. Down.

● TO PAGE 55

***The name of the game...***

*is fitness. As every Athlete knows  
you must be fit to win.*



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● **FROM PAGE 53**

"The best team ever to go into Croke Park was the Down 1968 team. The next best is Kerry. My favourites are Pat Spillane, Ogie Moran, Cathal Digney, Liam Austin and Colm McAarney. My stars of the year are Pat Spillane and P. J. Molloy.

● *I'm very flaitiuil this month Colm. You win a Down Bob Cap. Hope you're reading Colm McAarney in "Score". (J.M.)*

**Pat League, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly** writes about Galway's 15-man performance against Cork. He also feels Dublin deserved the win over Offaly but won't beat Kerry in the final. Pat writes about the Cork v. Tipperary game in Pairc Uí Chaoimh, his first visit to the ground. "Monaghan's victory in the Ulster championship was a welcome sight although the gap in standards between Ulster and the rest of the country has widened over the past few years. "The Sunday Game" is a great boost and long overdue. Perhaps if it were slotted in after the main news on either channel it might afford more supporters the opportunity of seeing their heroes. The post-match analysis can only improve our games by stimulating debate on aspects of either code."

● *Great letter as usual Pat. You win a shoulder bag. I wish "The Sunday Game" was at a much later time too. But it is good to have it. (J.M.)*

**Geraldine O'Sullivan (A Dub), 447, Iveagh Flats, Kevin Street, Dublin, 8.** "You remember I told you before my father is from Kerry. After last year's final everybody said Dublin were finished but here we are in the final again with Kerry after a super win over Offaly. Kerry too were great v. Cork. Charlie Nelligan is a super goalkeeper. I want a Cut-Out of John McCarthy, David or Michael Hickey or David Foran."

● *Will Bobby Doyle do? (J.M.)*  
**Marie Boran, Lismorane, Foxford, Co. Mayo** thinks Sam will spend another year in Kerry and is thrilled to see new teams like Monaghan appearing. Marie

wants a Cut-Out of Joe Hennessy. "He gets better with every match. I loved Eamonn Young's tribute to Paddy Kennedy in the July "Gaelic Sport" and the other great players who died this year. In a recent conversation with Donncha Ó Dulaing the former Cork hurler Willie John Daly expressed the view that to-day's players are as good if not better than any other generation of hurlers. Let it always be so."

● *Paddy Kennedy was a brilliant midfielder. I met him in O'Connell St. less than a year before he died. When I asked him to name his greatest opponents he paid particular tribute to Tommy Murphy of Laois and Henry Kenny of Mayo. (J.M.)*

**Pat Treacy, Carrig Mór, Church Rd., Ballybunion, Co. Kerry.** "I went to the Munster final with Eoin Liston's family. The excitement was great. My

Mammy was hoping Cork would win. She said she was sick of going to matches. The minor match was the best match I've seen for a long time. I was at the Ballybunion Irish College all month. God Bless".

● *Togha fir a Phadraic. You win a Kerry scarf Pat. (J.M.)*

**Pat Wickham, Age 14, 24, Cross St. New Ross, Co. Wexford** wants the following programmes: 1978 Semi-Final Down v. Dublin; 1978 Semi-Final Kerry v. Roscommon; 1979 Connacht S.F. Final Mayo v. Roscommon; and 1976 and '77 All-Ireland Senior Hurling Finals, Cork v. Wexford.

So ends Mailbag for another month. Please write about the All-Ireland or anything to

**Junior Desk,**

**80, Upper Drumcondra Rd., Dublin, 9.**

## Results Summary

### ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIP

**Senior Football** Semi-Finals: August 12, Croke Park: Kerry 5-14; Monaghan 0-7. Attendance: 32,254. August 19: Dublin 0-14; Roscommon 1-10. Attendance: 53,402.

**Senior Hurling** Final: September 2, Croke Park: Kilkenny 2-12; Galway 1-8. Attendance: 53,535. Top Scorer for the entire championship: E. Cregan (Limerick) 2-16 (22 points) in three games.

**Under-21 Hurling** Semi-Finals: August 12, Thurles: Tipperary 7-13; Antrim 4-6.

**Under-21 Football** Semi-Finals: August 26, Newry: Down 0-11; Galway 0-9. Pairc Uí Chaoimh: Cork 1-8; Offaly 1-7.

**Minor Football** Semi-Finals: August 12, Croke Park: Kerry 1-15; Down 0-7. August 19: Dublin 0-8; Mayo 0-7.

**Minor Hurling** Final: September 2, Croke Park: Cork 2-11; Kilkenny 1-9.

### CONNACHT CHAMPIONSHIP

**Under-21 Football** Final: August 15, Tubbercurry: Galway 0-12; Sligo 0-9.

### LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIP

**Under-21 Hurling** Final Replay: August 12, Carlow: Wexford 1-8; Kilkenny 0-10.

### CAMOGIE ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Senior** Semi-Finals: August 12, Bruree: Tipperary 1-6; Limerick 0-6. August 19, Randalstown: Antrim 3-5; Wexford 0-1.

**Junior** Semi-Finals: August 12, Ballinderreen: Galway 2-4; Dublin 3-0. Crosskeys, Cavan: Cork 2-6; Cavan 2-2.

### HANDBALL ALL-IRELAND COCA-COLA OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Singles** Semi-Final: August 12, Croke Park: T. O'Rourke (Kildare) bt R. Lyng (Wexford) 21-19; 21-16.

Final: September 1, Croke Park: T. O'Rourke (Kildare) bt P. Ryan (Dublin) 21-9; 21-11.

**Doubles** Semi-Finals: August 19, Croke Park: R. Lyng and S. Buggy (Wexford) bt J. O'Brien and P. Clarke (Roscommon) 21-11, 21-19. August 26, Cappagh: Dan and John Kirby (Clare) bt O. Harrold and P. Reilly (Kilkenny) 21-17, 21-16.

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## **Bobby Doyle**

**(Dublin)**

**Age: 29**

**Height: 5ft. 11ins.**

**Weight: 11st. 7lbs.**

**Position: Full  
Forward**

**Club: St. Vincent's  
Senior Inter-**

**County Debut:  
1972.**

### **CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

Bobby has experienced the bad and good days of Dublin football. He was in the side beaten by Roscommon in a National League relegation game in September 1973, and his clever play and roving tactics as a corner forward made him one of the heroes of the climb back to glory.

He has three All-Ireland senior medals, two National League souvenirs, and helped St. Vincent's to their national club title win three years ago.

Bobby, who was also honoured by the Carrolls All Stars in 1976 and 1977, added another dimension to his career against Roscommon with his fine showing in his latest full forward role.

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