

166 GAA CAELIC SPORT

HURLING
FINAL
SPECIAL

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY
SEPTEMBER, 1979 THIRTY PENCE (TAX INCLUDED)



Coke adds life to Gaelic games.

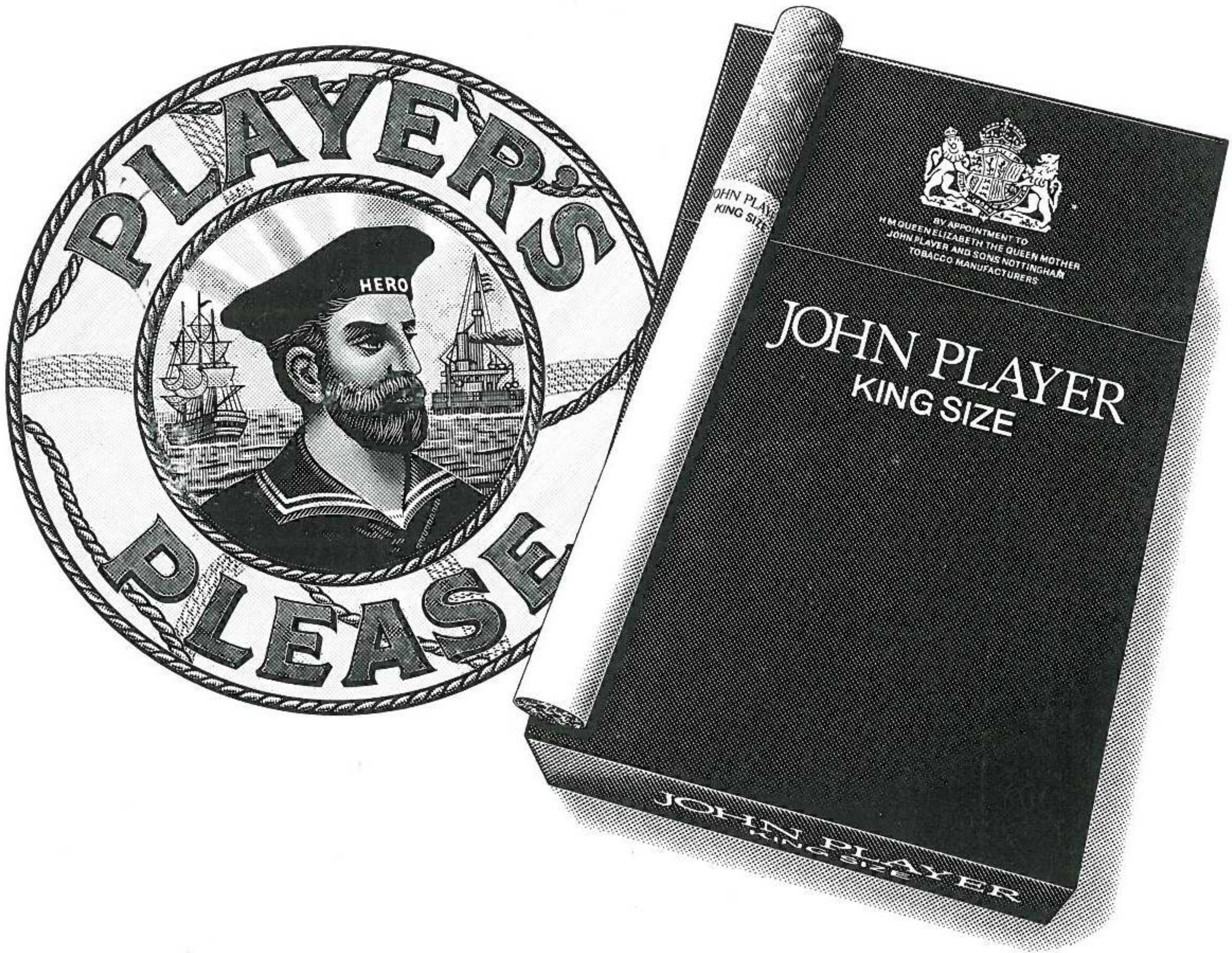
The Bottlers of Coca-Cola sponsor Feile na nGael, the All-Ireland Festival of under-14 hurling and the Coca-Cola Irish Handball Championship.



"Coca-Cola" and "Coke" are registered trade marks which identify the same product of The Coca-Cola Company.

LIMERICK CITY LIBRARY
REFERENCE DEPT.

It's the tobacco that counts.



John Player King Size

JPKE 26D

MIDDLE TAR As determined by Hazleton Laboratories Europe Ltd.

GOVERNMENT WARNING - SMOKING CAN DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

CUMANN LÚTHCHLEAS GAEL

MEÁN FÓMHAIR 2

Cluichí Ceannais Iomána na hÉireann

Mionúir: Cill Chainnigh v. Corcaigh—1.30 p.m.

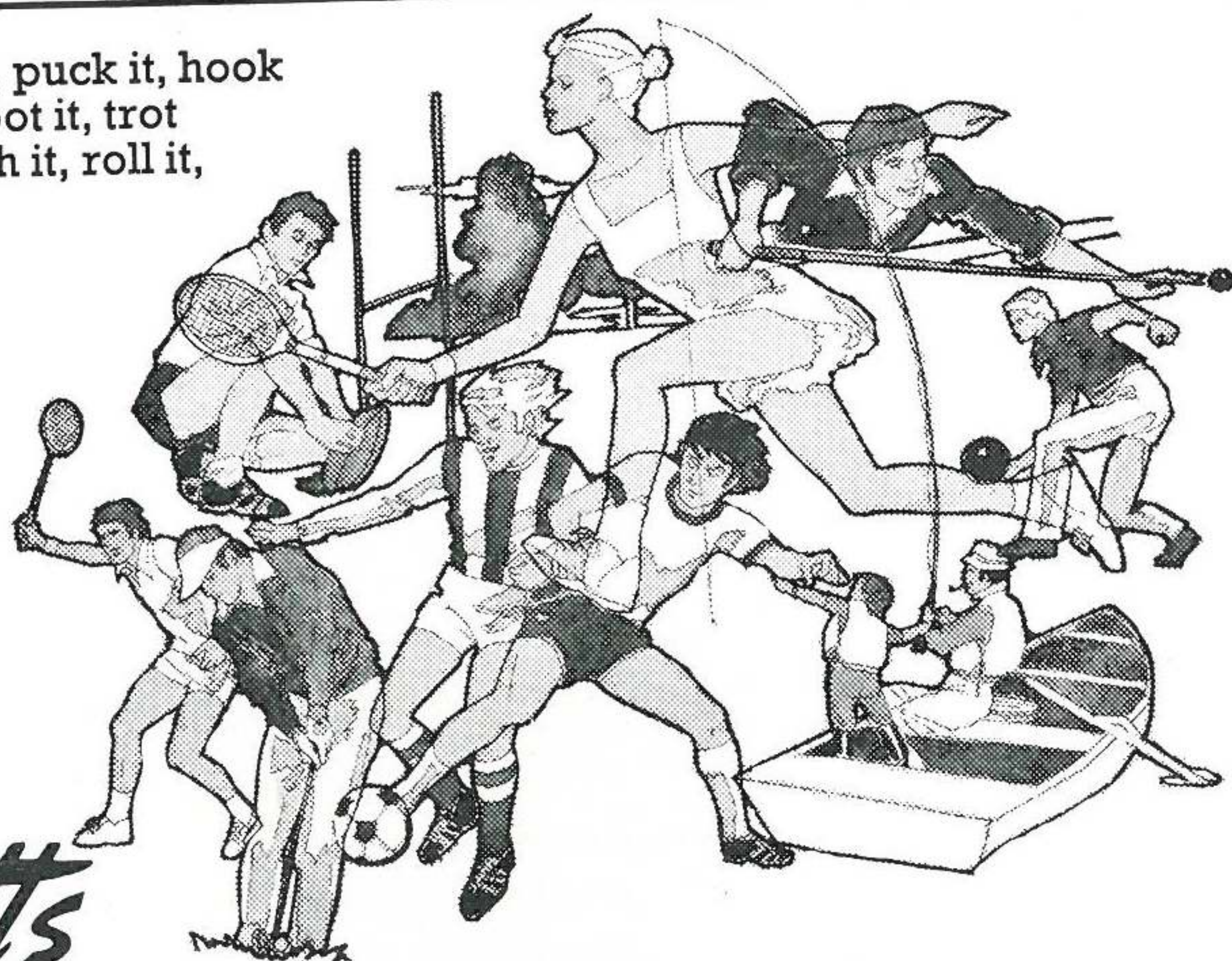
Sinsir: Cill Chainnigh v. Gaillimh—3.15 p.m.

MEÁN FÓMHAIR 16

Cluichí Ceannais Peile na hÉireann

All Stands reserved and tickets have been distributed through the various units of the Association :: General Admission: £1.50

If you chip it, kick it, puck it, hook it, score it, floor it, pot it, trot it, smash it, bash it, roll it, stroll it

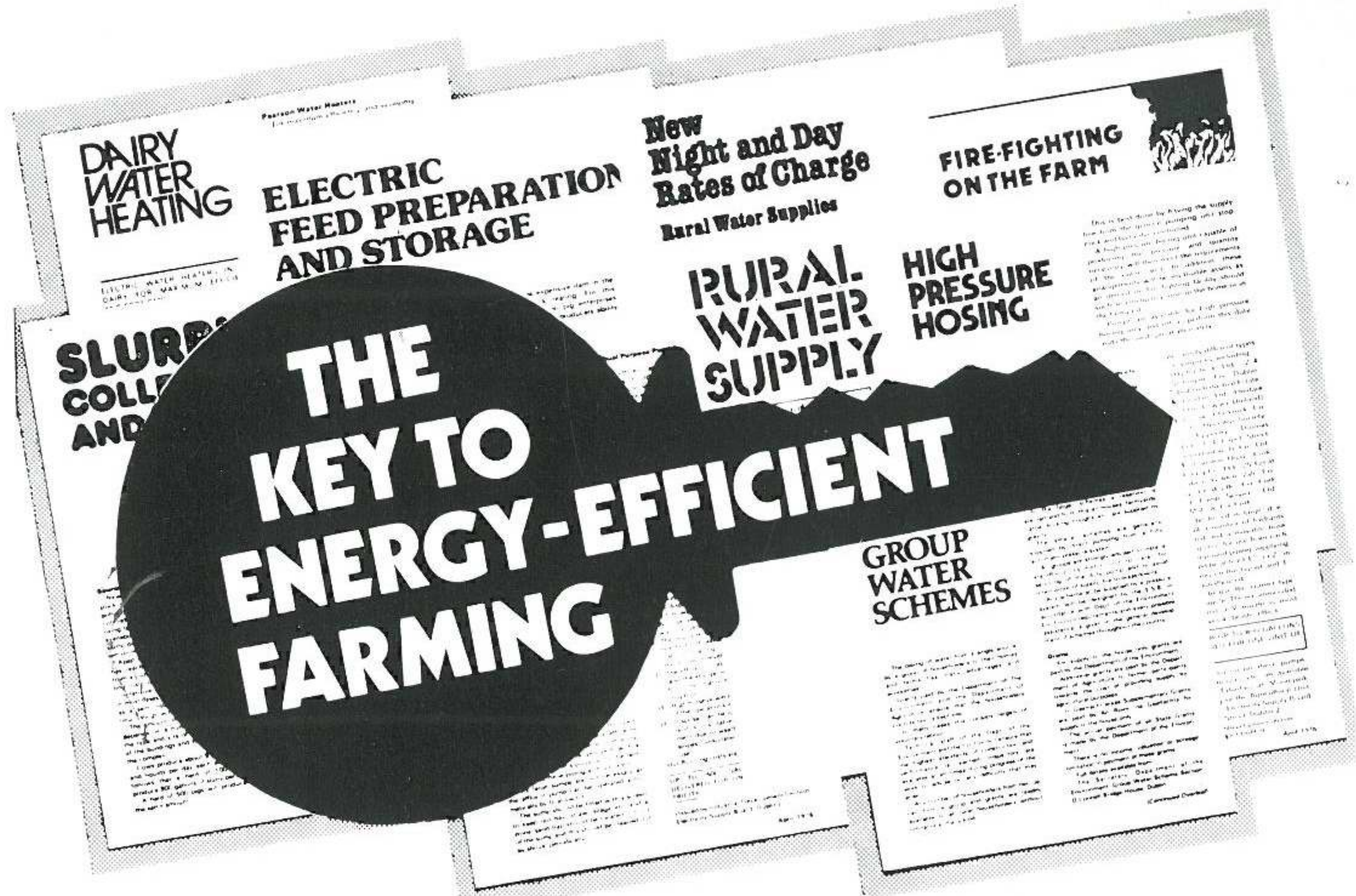


GET IT ALL AT

Arnotts
HENRY ST.

Sports Dept. Entrance by Liffey Street or by Henry Street.

Complete range of sports gear and equipment.



The wise and efficient use of energy is the basis of profitable modern farming. Information is the key. This is provided by the E.S.B. in a series of leaflets that include:

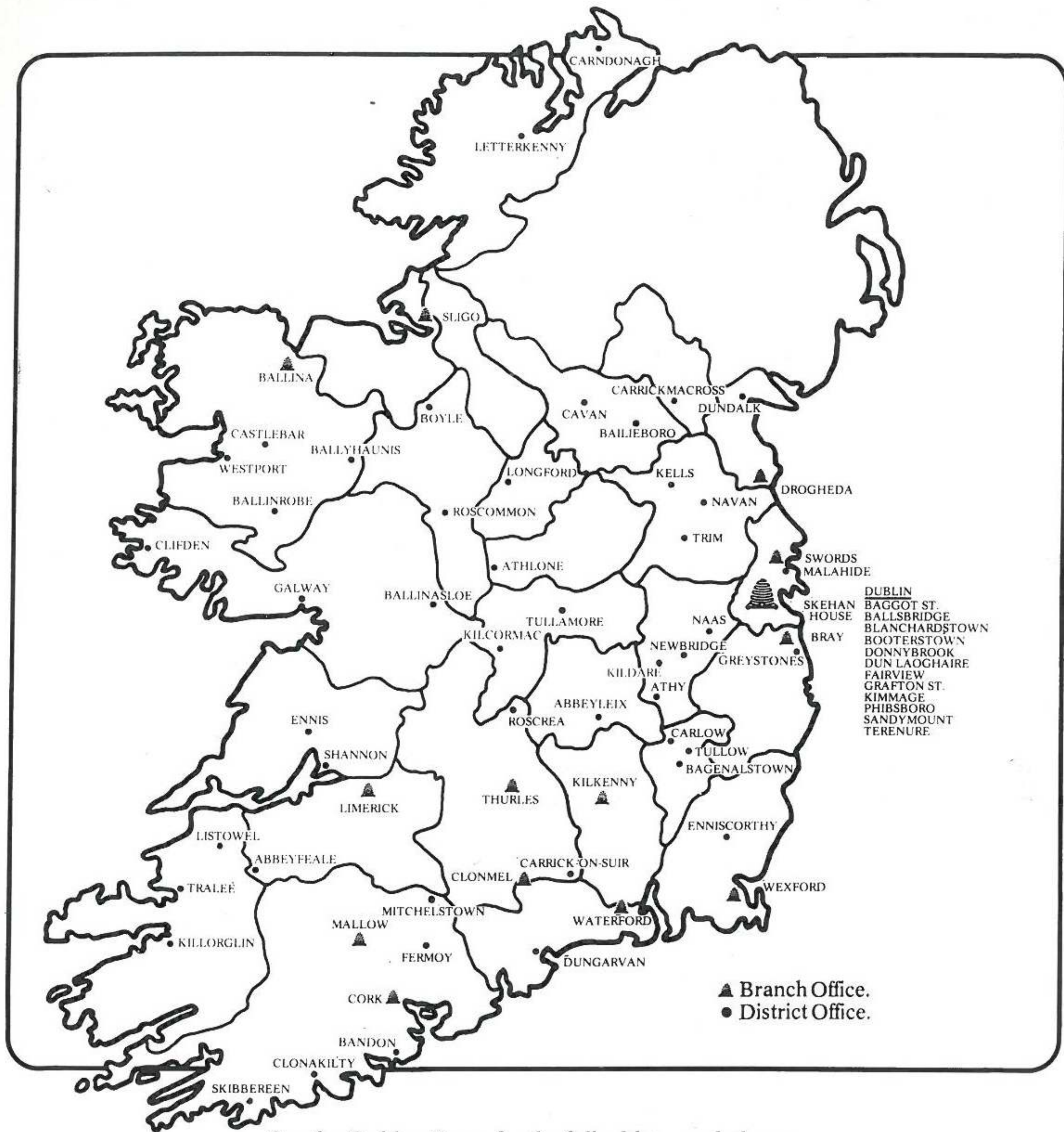
- Group Water Schemes
- Rural Water Supply
- Dairy Water Heating
- Milk Cooling
- High Pressure Hosing
- Slurry and Effluent Disposal
- Fire Fighting on the Farm
- Infra Red Lamps for Creep Heating in the Farrowing House
- Grain Conditioning and Storage
- Grain Handling
- Feed Preparation, Storage and Distribution
- Stock Housing – Automatic Environment Control
- Vegetable Drying – Cooling – Storage
- Electricity for Horticultural Applications
- Single to 3-Phase Converters
- Night and Day Rates of Charge

This literature gives advice on the energy efficient use of electricity and explains the special advantages of availing of off-peak power.

Phone, call or write to your nearest E.S.B. service centre or the Agricultural Advisory Unit, E.S.B., Lr. Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin 2, and ask for copies of these leaflets.



OUR NATIONAL NETWORK



See the Golden Pages for the full address and phone number of your nearest First National office.

First National Building Society

Est. 1861 "Old friends are best"

Chief Office: Skehan House, Booterstown, Co. Dublin. Tel: 885301/885211.

Offices:

80 Upper Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9.
Telephone 374311.

CONTENTS

	Page
Tyler Top Ten	7
<i>The Finalists</i>	
—a preview by Tony Keegan	8
<i>Galway can win; John Connolly holds the key</i>	
—by Terence Roynane	11
<i>Hurling's Roll of Honour</i>	
—compiled by Frank Coogan	15
<i>On the Spot</i>	
—by Tony Keegan	17
<i>John Connolly; Hurling</i>	
Stylist —by Mike Allen	21
<i>Moondharrig's Diary</i>	23
<i>Pat Henderson — Powerhouse on the bench</i>	
—by Tom O Riain	25
<i>Handball</i>	
—by Sean Clerkin	29
<i>Noel Skehan talks to Terence Roynane</i>	31
<i>Form Guide to intriguing Final</i>	
—by Owen McCann	32
<i>Camogie Comment</i>	
—by Agnes Hourigan	35
<i>The Minor Final</i>	
—by Neil McCavana	37
<i>Kilkenny:</i>	
—analysed by Jay Drennan	41
<i>A Corkman looks at Galway</i>	
—by Noel Horgan	45
<i>Both first-time captains</i>	
—by Owen McCann	49
<i>Brian Murphy — All-rounder extraordinary</i>	
—by Seamus O Braonain	53
<i>Quiz Results</i>	54
<i>Minor Hurling Roll of Honour</i>	
—compiled by Frank Coogan	55
<i>Results Summary</i>	57
<i>Junior Desk</i>	
—edited by Jack Mahon	59
<i>Colour Cut-Out</i>	65

21 YEARS A-GROWING

IT is not often that we take time out here to talk about ourselves, but there are good grounds for departing from custom to put the spotlight on **GAELIC SPORT**. With this issue we reach another major milestone—the 21st anniversary of the foundation of the magazine.

The publication was launched as a quarterly in September 1958. Five years later and by popular demand, **GAELIC SPORT** became a monthly—the only one of its kind at the time.

Over many of the years since then we have ploughed a lonely furrow in the communications field in Gaelic Games. The situation has changed in this regard in more recent times, but few will seriously dispute that **GAELIC SPORT** has been the trend-setter, or that it now ranks as the leading quality magazine in Gaelic Games literature.

We have consistently and fearlessly striven to further the cause of the Association and of the games. That will continue to be our aim in the future.

We shall continue to strive to improve the magazine, to add to the features as the years go on. We hope also to strengthen the position of **GAELIC SPORT** as the quality platform for news, views and opinions on all aspects of Gaelic Games, and the Association in general, and to ensure that the magazine strengthens its position of pre-eminence in this important area.

In looking forward to the challenges of the next twenty-one years ahead, it would be remiss if we failed to record our appreciation of the strong and loyal support we have consistently received from readers, advertisers, as well as officials of the G.A.A., the Handball Council and the Camogie Association. This support helped to smooth the way to the “coming of age”, and it is heartening and encouraging to know that we can depend on it to lighten the load in the years ahead.

THE FINAL

Galway's return to the hurling final after a four year absence brings a fresh and welcome wind of change to the scene. They have much to strive for—revenge for the 1975 defeat, and a first title win in the lifetime of so many enthusiasts.

It is an extra special game, too, for Kilkenny, as victory would see them, like **GAELIC SPORT**, ‘come’ of age” with a 21st crown.

The finalists are liberally endowed with players of proven talent and experience, and they should respond with a match to take its place in the long line of final classics.

COVER PHOTO

OUR front cover this month features the All-Ireland Hurling Finalists Galway and Kilkenny.

GALWAY: Back Row (from left): Noel Lane, John Connolly, Andy Fenton, Seamus Shinnors, Niall McInerney, Frank Burke, Steve Mahon, Iggy Clarke. Front Row (from left): Conor Hayes, Bernie Forde, Sean Silke, Joe McDonagh, P. J. Molloy, Joe Connolly and Finbarr Gantley.

KILKENNY: Back Row (from left): Phil (Fan) Larkin, Nickey Brennan, Paddy Prendergast, Frank Cummins, Mick Crotty, Billy Fitzpatrick, Richie Reid, Matt Ruth. Front Row (from left): Mick Brennan, Joe Hennessy, Liam O'Brien, Ger Fennelly, Noel Skehan, John Henderson and Ger Henderson.

Keep in step with shoe fashion

Everyone likes to keep in step with fashion. And Tylers make it easy for you—with the latest designs, elegant shoes to suit every taste, in a wide range of fittings.

For Men, for Ladies, for Children—Tylers have the right shoes—and at the right price too!

Step over to your nearest Tylers branch—and step right into fashion and comfort.

For real value in footwear:

Tylers
of course!



Tyler GALWAY HURLERS GAIN Top Ten SEVEN PLACES

GALWAY'S headline-making win over Cork hurlers ... a cultured showing by Des Mulligan in Monaghan's climb to the top in Ulster football ... Brian Mullins' powerful display as Dublin grabbed a last gasp win over Offaly ... these are among the main features that were under the spotlight in the run-down for places in this month's TYLER TOP TEN charts, covering the period from July 22 to August 5 inclusive.

Galway had many heroes as they knocked out Cork — especially in defence. There, such as Sean Silke, Conor Hayes and Iggy Clarke were really prominent, and their claims for places just could not be ignored.

But edging ahead of the field is the man who has served the county so well for so long, and whose elegant touches and drive in the centre meant so much in blueprinting the rare glory-day — John Connolly.

His was another stellar showing, and puts him narrowly ahead of a couple of his colleagues with 38 points. This is the Castlegar club man's second appearance of the year, and he now joins Joe McKenna (Limerick) in second place over-all with 71 points.

Silke and Hayes come joint second in the current review with 37 points apiece.

Denis Coughlan and John Horgan, who strove so valiantly in the unsuccessful bid by Cork to keep the four-in-a-row title hopes on the rails, are the only hurlers,

other than Connolly, to improve their positions over-all.

The exciting play by Brian Mullins as he rallied and prompted Dublin to their sixth Leinster senior football title in a row was something special, and had him challenging strongly for the No. 1 spot in the code this month.

But, then, there was Mulligan's part in Monaghan's big win over Donegal. He may not have captured the limelight in as spectacular a fashion as the big Dublin midfielder against Offaly, but the Castleblayney club man still exercised a decisive influence on the Clones final.

He also slotted over three valuable points and those scores were the bonus points that edged the Monaghan centre half forward ahead of the field on 38 points. He is making his third appearance of the year, and as a result jumps clear of the field over-all with 111 points — 28 points more than his closest rival, Dermot Earley.

The leading trio in each chart

over-all are:

HURLING: 102: F. Loughnane (Tipperary). 71: J. McKenna (Limerick); John Connolly (Galway).

FOOTBALL: 111: D. Mulligan (Monaghan); 83: D. Earley (Roscommon); 71: D. Murray (Roscommon).

This month's charts:

HURLING

38	J. Connolly (Galway)	71
37	S. Silke (Galway)	37
37	C. Hayes (Galway)	37
36	I. Clarke (Galway)	36
34	B. Forde (Galway)	34
30	N. Lane (Galway)	30
29	D. McCurtain (Cork)	29
28	J. Horgan (Cork)	48
27	D. Coughlan (Cork)	63
27	S. Shinnors (Galway)	27

FOOTBALL

38	D. Mulligan (Monaghan)	111
37	B. Mullins (Dublin)	37
36	G. Power (Kerry)	36
35	F. Ryder (Dublin)	35
35	K. Finlay (Monaghan)	35
33	T. Kennelly (Kerry)	33
32	S. Darby (Offaly)	66
32	K. Kehilly (Cork)	60
30	P. O'Neill (Dublin)	30
30	E. Tavey (Monaghan)	30



Seamus Shinnors
(Galway)



Joe Connolly
(Galway)



Noel Lane
(Galway)



Finbarr Gantley
(Galway)

IT'S GALWAY'S TITLE AT LAST

says **TONY KEEGAN**

AN All-Ireland senior hurling championship at long last for Galway! I know that is the sentimental forecast, but I am not banking one iota on sentiment when I say that I expect the men of the West to bring the Liam McCarthy Cup back over the Shannon after such a long, long absence.

True enough, consistency is not a Galway strong point. How often in the past have we seen Galway teams disappoint in major games after earlier highly

encouraging performances? One cannot overlook the fact either that while Kilkenny may not be the power of other years, they still have a strong, ever improving side, with just the right blend of experience and youth that could pay off in a winning effort.

It can be argued as well that Galway appear to have a flair nowadays for hitting their best form in important clashes with Cork... that somehow the Lee-side style of hurling seems to suit the Galway men.

But as against all these factors, there is surely, one very telling pointer from the Cork game. This is the way that Galway refused to "throw in the towel" when the defending champions equalised with a John Horgan point from a free, and then almost immediately afterwards went into the lead for the first time with a peach of a point in the 48th minute from Sean C'Leary.

It did appear at that stage as if the Westerners were about to



Paddy Prendergast
(Kilkenny)



Joe Hennessey
(Kilkenny)



Ger Henderson
(Kilkenny)



Noel Skehan
(Kilkenny)

LEINSTER FINAL ACTION

*Both Martin
Quigley
(Wexford) and
Richie Reid
(Kilkenny)
have their eyes
firmly on the ball.*



head for another of their many "gallant failures". That they were good enough to take those body blows and come battling back for a win that was undoubtedly well merited, is an indication of the real character of this squad. Given that great spirit, and the tremendous spread of talent in the side, Galway must have their best chance yet of making it the long awaited All-Ireland senior title No. 2.

Kilkenny, of course, have other ideas. And, they have many rays of hope to sustain them as well. Take their successful defence of the Leinster title against Wexford.

That was one of the best games of the year, and the resolve and competitive bite displayed by Kilkenny indicates that they are not going to be easily knocked from the trail of their keenly sought after 21st All-Ireland crown.

Then, there is the Eastern attack. The Leinster champions may not look as punchy all round as in the days of Eddie Keher, Kieran Purcell and Pat Delaney. But what about the display of Mick Brennan against Wexford?

If the Castlecomer forward reproduces the fine form that made him such a sharp, incisive raider and accurate finisher with seven points in the last round, he could again prove the man to trigger the Eastern attack into match winning style.

There is also the back up to Brennan. Billy Fitzpatrick is a hurler who needs close attention all through, and who can also pop up for crucial goals, while comeback stars Liam O'Brien and Mick Crotty are just two other campaigners who blend in vital craft as well as skill.

So, don't under-rate Kilkenny's firepower.

The Leinster champions have so far been somewhat unsure as to their ideal line-up in the middle of the park. But with men of the calibre of Frank Cummins, Joe Hennessy and Ger Fennelly on hand they have the flexibility of formation that could eventually result in a winning note.

Kilkenny are probably strongest at the back. Noel Skehan and Fan Larkin may be long-serving campaigners, but few will dispute that they remain two of the best assets any side can boast today.

With younger members Paddy Prendergast, Richie Reid, and the already very experienced Ger Henderson sure to provide tremendous support, it is unlikely that the Galway attack will have a great deal of room to manoeuvre.

● OVERLEAF



● FROM OVERLEAF

So, one way and another, the Kilkenny men are sure to make a tremendous bid to bring the trophy back to the banks of the Nore.

But will Kilkenny's best still be good enough? I was delighted to see Galway revert to their old and so successful half back line of Joe McDonagh, Sean Silke and Iggy Clarke for the Cork game. It was also a very successful move, and we are likely to see this trio again putting up a solid barrier on the way to goal.

The remaining positions at the back are capably filled, so I just can't see Kilkenny getting anything cheaply.

John Connolly, who can do so much to inspire Galway with his wonderful hurling and accuracy, and Steve Mahon, an All-Ireland under-21 medalist of last year, give the Connacht side a centre field of tremendous potential.

The attack does not impress me to the same degree as the other sectors. Yet, any division with hurlers of the skills as P. J. Molloy, Frank Burke, who can be a dominant figure, and Finbarr Gantley has much going for it.

Weighing it all up then, I think Galway have the all round power, the class and belief in themselves to be in with a really great chance. Kilkenny, with those classical touches, the know-how of All-Ireland final outings, and strength in all departments, will make it a testing assignment all the way for the Galway men.

But in a match which can produce some spirited passages of top class hurling, well worked scores, good individual performances and plenty of thrills, I believe that Galway will be good enough to end the years of frustration with a hard-earned famous victory.

Galway can win, John Connolly holds the key

By

TERENCE

ROYNANE

A NEW dimension was added to the All-Ireland hurling final when Galway ended Cork's hopes of another four-in-a-row. Immediately after that sensational semi-final, the cynical were heard to remark: "With Cork out of the way, Kilkenny are certainties." I wonder?

No doubt, that line of reasoning had been prompted by events of 1975. Then, as now, Galway had accounted for Cork in the semi-final but they hardly raised a gallop in the final and proved easy meat for the Black and Amber.

Somehow, I do not think there will be a repetition on September 2 . . . because I am satisfied that this Galway team is better armed in certain vital sectors than were their predecessors of four years ago.

The big difference is in goal and at full-back, where Seamus Shinnors and Conor Hayes have jelled into a reliable combination that, so far, has conceded no easy scores.

It had been common knowledge in hurling circles for years that Galway had a full-back problem. Try as he did, and there was no more wholehearted hurler, Joe Clarke simply had not what it took to make an effective No. 3 at top level.

That was proven beyond yea or nay in those two matches with Wexford in 1976, yet it took the best part of three years before the message sunk home.

Efforts to solve the problem by switching players like Niall McInerney and Joe McDonagh to full-back did not work and, in all probability, weakened the positions these men had vacated.

At all events, I did not see what I considered an adequate replacement until, in desperation, Conor Hayes was sent in to fill the No. 3 position at the start of the second half in a League game with Kilkenny in Nowlan Park last October.

That was a day when Galway practically hurled the homesters off the field during the first half, yet had only a small interval lead because Kilkenny had been presented with three soft goals.

Frank Larkin was guarding the Western net on that occasion, and each of those Kilkenny goals could be directly attributed to him or to Joe Clarke.

At all events, Hayes, centre half-back on the under-21 team that had drawn with Tipperary in an All-Ireland final a week previously, took over on the fringe of the square for the concluding 30 minutes, did nothing spectacular yet satisfied this observer, at any rate, that he had the steady style allied to the physique to make a dependable and effective senior full-back.

Yet, that was his last appearance in the position during a League campaign that ended disastrously against Tipperary in Limerick.

A really dependable goalkeeper was something Galway had also lacked. For the past four years, or so, they did not appear to be able to make up their minds whether Michael Conneely or Frank Larkin was the better man for the job.

Both could be brilliant and spectacular but were prone to commit at least one grievous error in every game. Whether their uncertainty on such occasions stemmed from lack of confidence in, or understanding with, their full-back was a matter of opinion.

What was very relevant was that Galway, at vital stages of important games, were conceding goals that should have been prevented. Francis Loughnane's long-range shot that hopped to the net in this year's League final is still fresh in all our memories. At all events, the introduction of Shinnors, who formerly assisted his native Tipperary, has led to more reliable (if less-spectacular and crowd-pleasing) goalminding, if the evidence of the

● TO PAGE 13



***Smithwick's
people
will be
there***

on the right pitch



● Galway NHL winners 1975. The present Galway team "is better armed in certain vital sectors than were their predecessors of four years ago," says Terence Roynane.

● FROM PAGE 11

All-Ireland semi-final is any criterion.

Obviously secure in the knowledge that no disasters would befall them from behind, the Galway backs hurled with the utmost confidence against Cork. Hayes, flanked by Niall McInerney and Andy Fenton, always a sweet hurler but fitter now than I have ever seen him, gave absolutely nothing away.

In front of them, the "old" half-back line of Joe McDonagh, Sean Silke and Iggy Clarke was back to its brilliant best of four years ago. If each member of the rearguard plays to the limit of his capabilities, Galway need not worry about conceding any soft scores.

Since Steve Mahon was promoted from last year's champion under-21 team to partner John Connolly, there have been few problems at midfield. On his day, Connolly has no equal in the position, and his partnership with Mahon appears the ideal blend of experience, youth, skill and strength. Both are big men, a factor that should pose problems for Kilkenny.

Welcome, then, to the attack, which has been the Achilles Heel of all Galway hurling teams on days when things have gone wrong for the men in maroon.

Bernie Forde, another of last year's under-21s, was most effective against Cork. So was Frank Burke, whose powerful drives through the centre often wrong-footed the defending champions.

On the otherhand, Joe Connolly, after a bright

start was completely dominated by Dermot McCurtin who was easily Cork's outstanding performer.

P. J. Molloy had John Horgan in trouble on many occasions, while Noel Lane and Finbarr Gantley each notched a vital goal, yet I must confess to having reservations about the full-forward line.

Far too often I have seen it rendered completely ineffective and at least two of the trio that played against Cork have been dropped on more than one occasion in the past 12 months.

On the credit side, they chased every ball in the All-Ireland semi-final as if their lives depended on it, they never gave the Cork backs an unchallenged clearance and, in the long run, that was a significant factor in their eventual victory.

Kilkenny forewarned will be Kilkenny forearmed but, on balance, Galway have every reason to feel confident that they can end the long barren spell since the county's only All-Ireland senior hurling title, that of 1923, was captured on September 14, 1924.

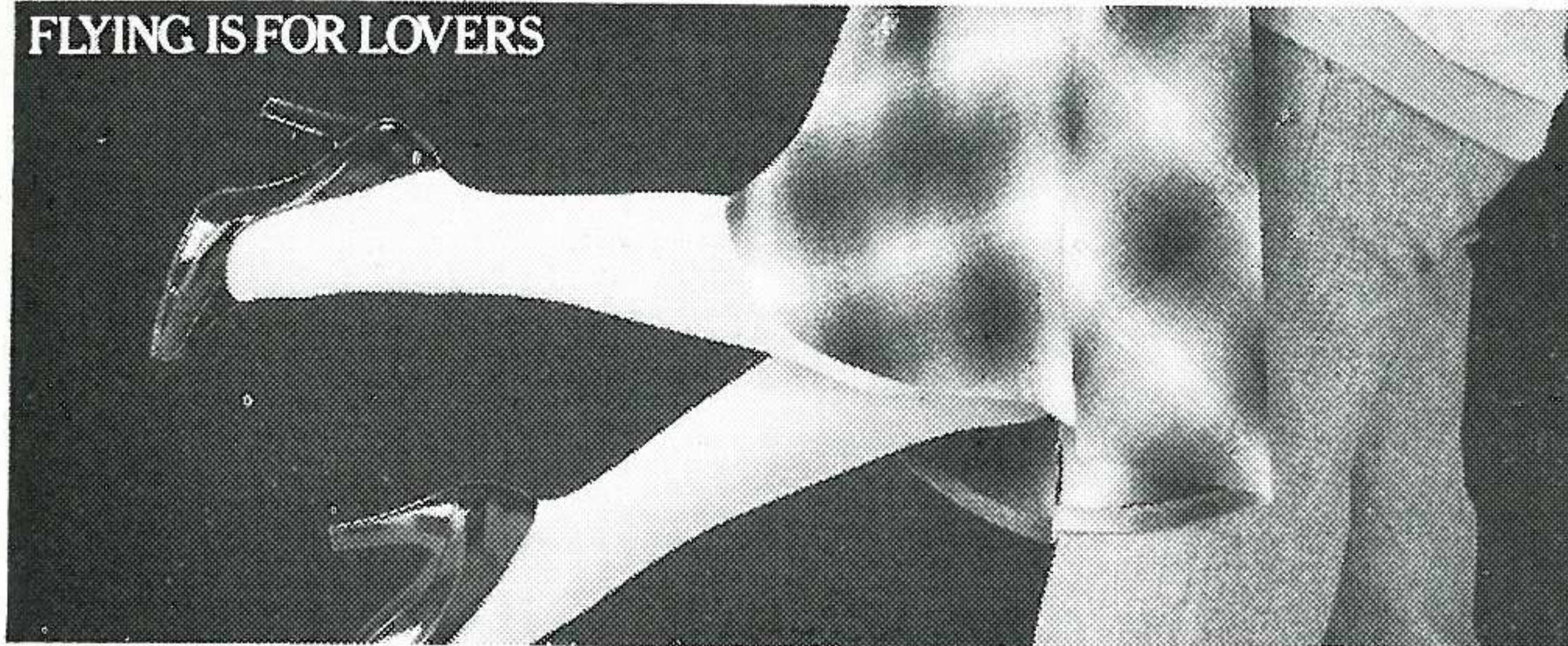
They have the hurling, the strength and the determination to succeed, given that they refuse to be affected by the occasion. However, in the final analysis it could all depend on John Connolly. When he is reduced to 60, or even 75, per cent of his effectiveness, the entire team effort has a tendency to sag.

To be sure of winning, Galway need a Connolly blinder because, regardless of that Cork result, I remain to be convinced that their attack is as good as it looked during its better spells of the semi-final.

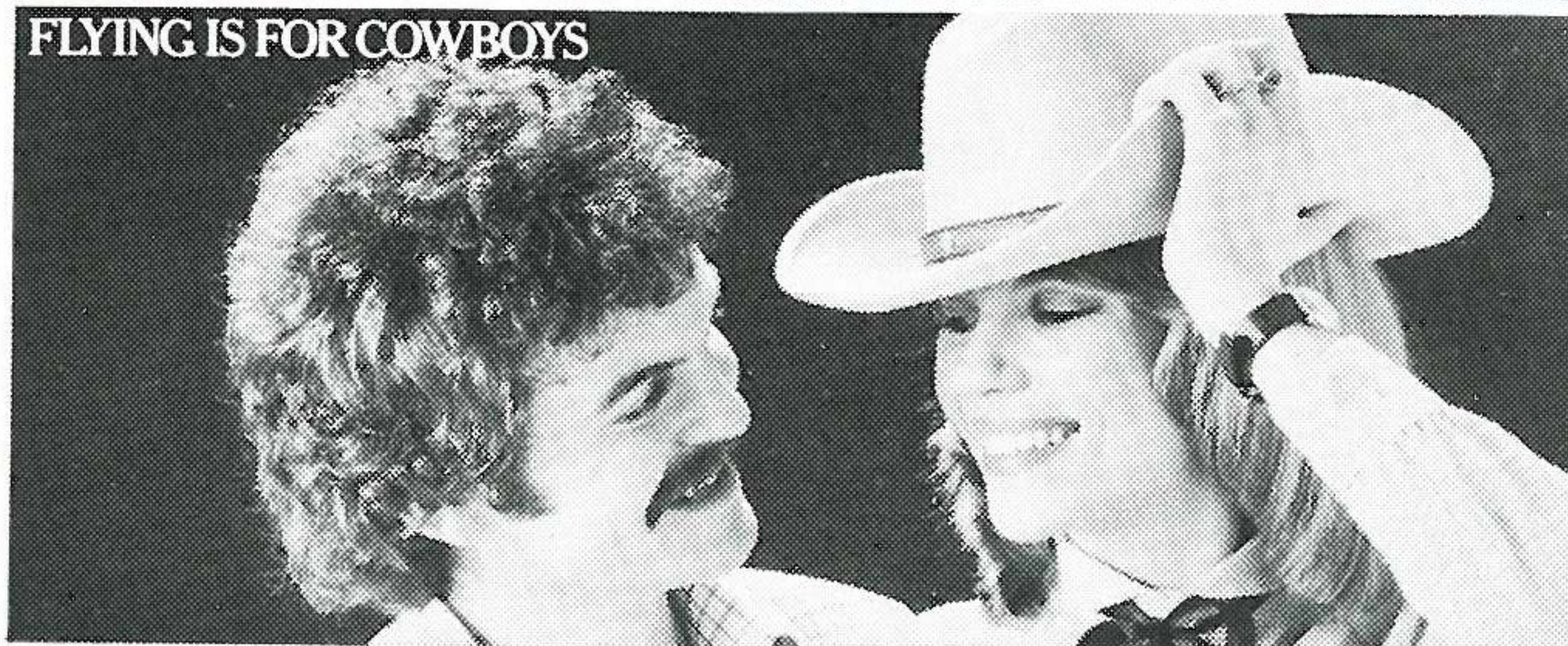
FLYING IS FOR GODFATHERS



FLYING IS FOR LOVERS



FLYING IS FOR COWBOYS



Aer Lingus 

Flying for Everyone

Hurling's roll of honour

1887 TIPPERARY
 1888 Unfinished due to
 U.S. "Invasion"
 1889 DUBLIN
 1890 CORK
 1891 KERRY
 1892 CORK
 1893 CORK
 1894 CORK
 1895 TIPPERARY
 1896 TIPPERARY
 1897 LIMERICK
 1898 TIPPERARY
 1899 TIPPERARY
 1900 TIPPERARY
 1901 LONDON
 1902 CORK
 1903 CORK
 1904 KILKENNY
 1905 KILKENNY
 1906 TIPPERARY
 1907 KILKENNY
 1908 TIPPERARY
 1909 KILKENNY
 1910 WEXFORD
 1911 KILKENNY
 1912 KILKENNY
 1913 KILKENNY
 1914 CLARE
 1915 LAOIS
 1916 TIPPERARY
 1917 DUBLIN
 1918 LIMERICK
 1919 CORK
 1920 DUBLIN
 1921 LIMERICK
 1922 KILKENNY
 1923 GALWAY
 1924 DUBLIN
 1925 TIPPERARY
 1926 CORK
 1927 DUBLIN
 1928 CORK
 1929 CORK
 1930 TIPPERARY
 1931 CORK

1932 KILKENNY
 1933 KILKENNY
 1934 LIMERICK
 1935 KILKENNY
 1936 LIMERICK
 1937 TIPPERARY
 1938 DUBLIN
 1939 KILKENNY
 1940 LIMERICK
 1941 CORK
 1942 CORK
 1943 CORK
 1944 CORK
 1945 TIPPERARY
 1946 CORK
 1947 KILKENNY
 1948 WATERFORD
 1949 TIPPERARY
 1950 TIPPERARY
 1951 TIPPERARY
 1952 CORK
 1953 CORK
 1954 CORK
 1955 WEXFORD
 1956 WEXFORD
 1957 KILKENNY
 1958 TIPPERARY
 1959 WATERFORD
 1960 WEXFORD
 1961 TIPPERARY
 1962 TIPPERARY
 1963 KILKENNY
 1964 TIPPERARY
 1965 TIPPERARY
 1966 CORK
 1967 KILKENNY
 1968 WEXFORD
 1969 KILKENNY
 1970 CORK
 1971 TIPPERARY
 1972 KILKENNY
 1973 LIMERICK
 1974 KILKENNY
 1975 KILKENNY
 1976 CORK
 1977 CORK
 1978 CORK

AN GÚM

Leabhair do Pháistí

MÍR AGUS ÉADAÓIN 60p
 —Liam Mac Uistín

Kathy Moore a mhaisig. Gearr innsint do leanaí ar shean scéal uasal Gaelach.

NA DAOINE MATHE 95p
 —Lidia Postma

Síscéal Suimiúil on Mhór-Roinn.

ÚNA AN BHÓIN DÉ
 —Marcelle Vérité Ch. Salembier

LIAM AGUS BHRÍDÍN SA BHRIOTÁIN

—Marcel Marlier
 Eachtraí beaga á n-insint le cabhair léaráidí daite. Margadh an mhaith ar 40p an ceann.

Leabhair Eile

AER £1.00
 —Séamas Mac Cnáimhín

Leabhair eolais a gcuirfeadh gach éinne suim ann.

MÉ FÉIN AGUS SÍLE 90p
 —Siobhán Ní Shúilleabháin

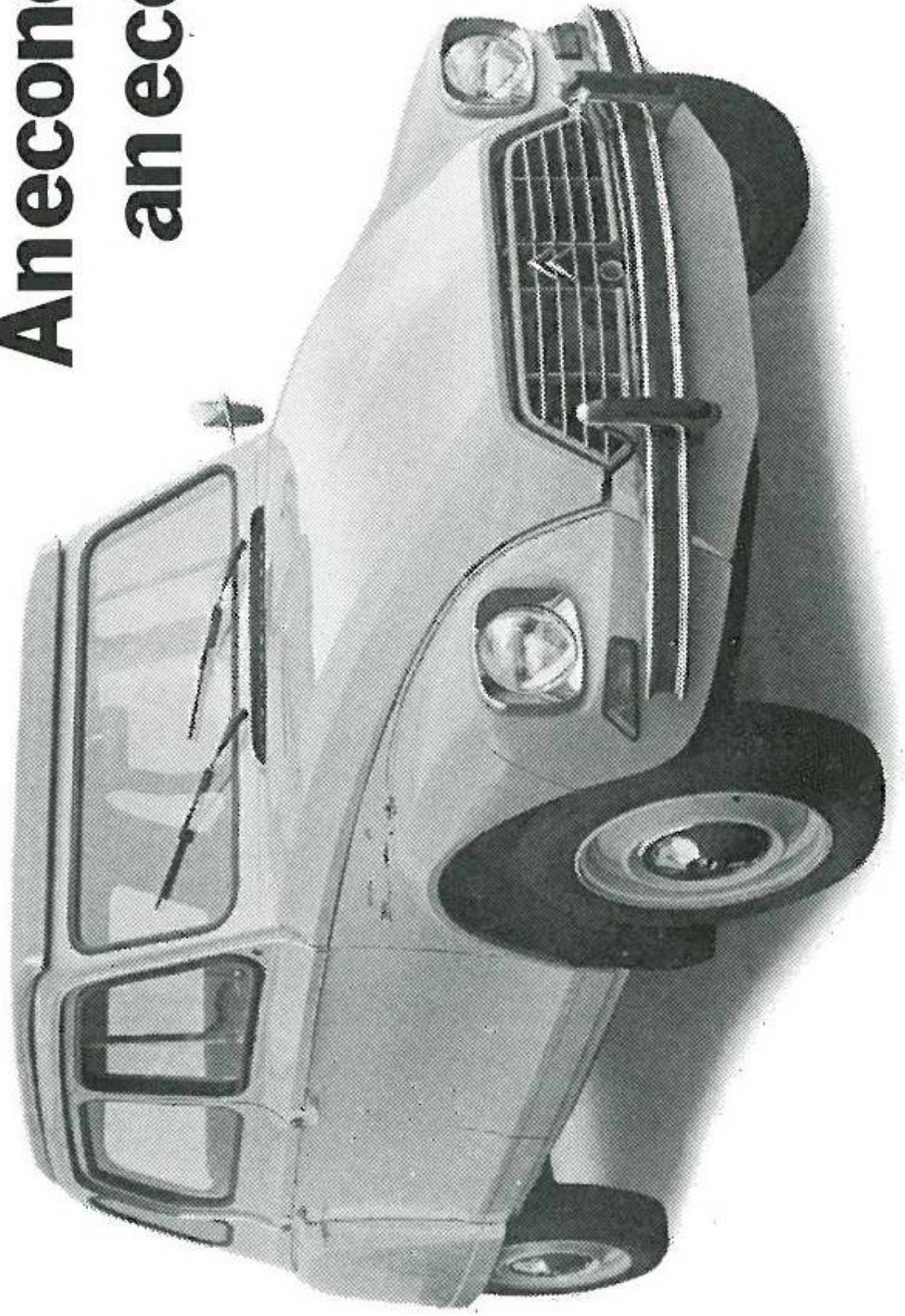
Scéal meidhreach, aerach é seo i dtaobh beirt deirfiúr atá in a gconáí in árasán i mBaile Átha Cliath.

Gach cáin san áireamh
 Le ceannach ó

OIFIG DHÍOLTA
FOILSEACHÁIN RIALTAIS
 An Stuara, Baile Átha Cliath, 1

CITROËN DYANE.

**An economical 50 mpg for
an economical £2,790.**



Hot stuff for the Summer. Five door funmobile with a huge sunshine roof. Simple low cost servicing. And at £2,790 the cheapest hatchback on the market.

CITROËN 

ON THE SPOT . . .

by Tony Keegan

CAN Galway's headline-making hurlers climax achievements this year so far by taking revenge for their All-Ireland senior final defeat by Kilkenny four years ago or will the Noresiders get back again on the honours list? These are only some of the many intriguing questions of the moment as the count-down continues for the latest Blue Riband match in hurling's long history.

Questions and answers are also very much the norm in ON THE SPOT . . . , our popular quiz, which returns again this month to put the spotlight on some past events in the code, with the emphasis on the finalists.

In order to ensure that enthusiasts with long memories will not have an unfair advantage over the younger brigade, the questions in the main centre on comparatively recent events. As a result, younger readers can compete more or less on an equal footing with elders.

There are six separate sections, and as always points are awarded for each question. In this way, YOU will be able to see how YOU measure up exactly. But don't take the exercise too seriously, it's all good fun, and designed to whet the appetite for the up-coming match.

For a start, let's turn the clock back just twelve months to concentrate on the

1978 FINAL

1. And a not too difficult one to start with. Who was Kilkenny's captain in their loss to Cork?.....
2. Kilkenny called in two substitutes during that match. Full marks if you name just one?.....

.....

3. Kilkenny and Cork were level at the interval last year—1-4 to 0-7. Which side finished with that 1-4 scoreline?.....

4. Who was Kilkenny's left full back?

5. List the clubs of the following Kilkenny hurlers: Richie Reid, Paddy Prendergast and Matt Ruth?

Five points for each question answered. Help yourself to a five points bonus if you get an all correct answer at No. 5. We will allow one point for each club named if you fall down on one or two in that question.

Total marks possible: 30 Your score

Now, let's turn the spotlight on the Westerners, and in particular on their unsuccessful bid for the National League title in the:

1979 FINAL

1. How many goals did Galway score against Tipperary in the Limerick match?
2. Who was in goal for the Connaught county?
3. And, who held down the full back position?
4. John Connolly and P. J. Molloy were joint top scorers for Galway. Did they score 1-3, 0-3, or 0-7 apiece?
5. Name the clubs of Niall McInerney, Iggy Clarke and P. J. Molloy?

Once more each question carries a five points marking, with a bonus of five for an all correct answer at No. 5. Or, as in the

earlier section, collect one point for each club named if you fail to get all three.

Total marks on offer: 30. Your score:

Back again to Kilkenny, in this spotlight on the

EASTERNERS

1. When did Kilkenny last win the All-Ireland minor hurling title?
2. How many times have they won the Liam McCarthy Cup?. Be careful now of this one.....

.....

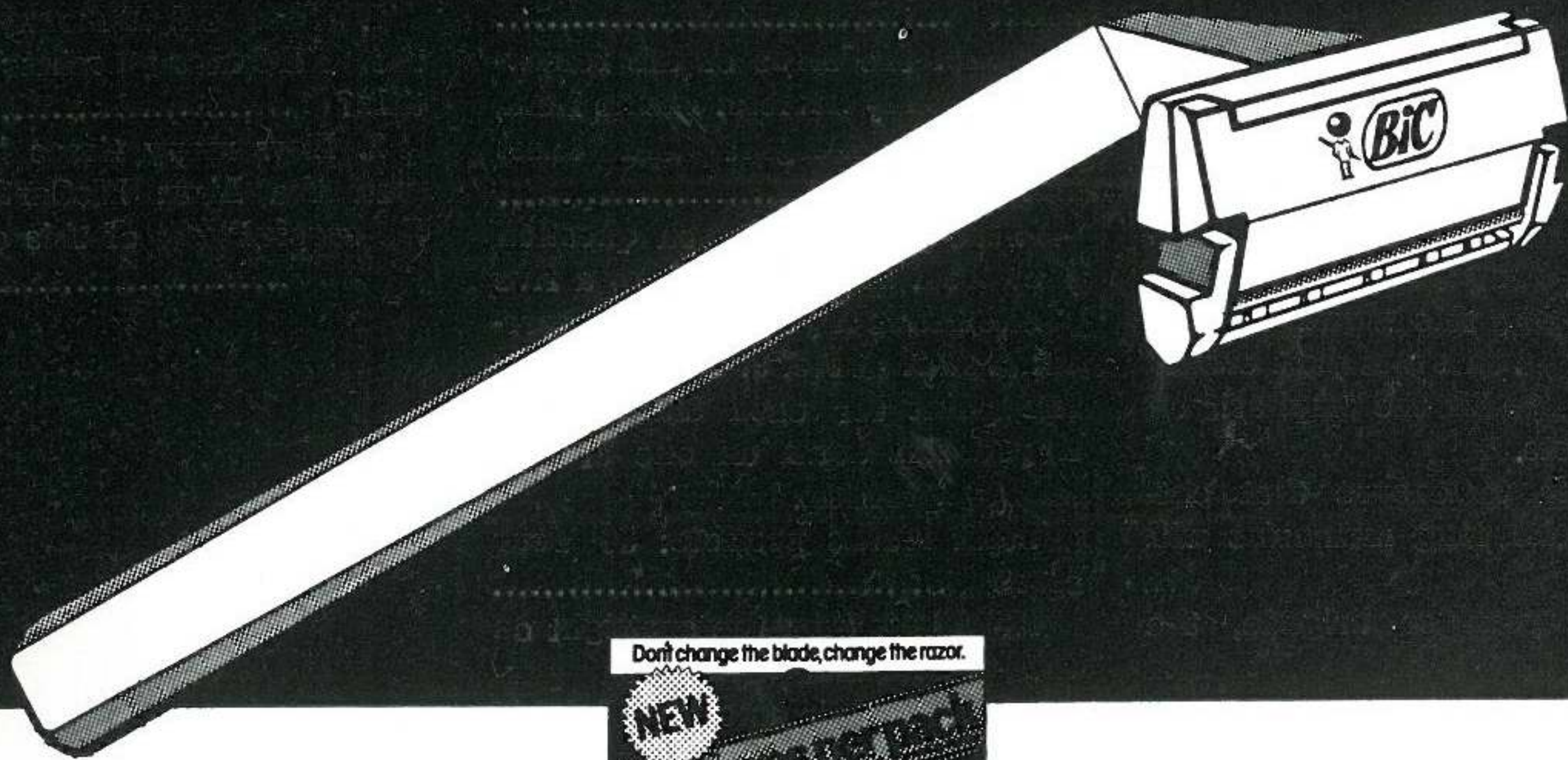


3. The hurlers pictured above were in Kilkenny's last national senior championship winning side. Three questions in one here, and an extra five points for an all correct answer.

Who are the hurlers? What positions did they fill in the last

● TO PAGE 19

The **BIC**[®]-est revolution in shaving today



Bic: the blade with the handle. Tested, proven worldwide to average 50 smooth shaves a pack.

When you're ready, change the Bic, not the blade.

The Bic blade: at 24p for three, it's the Bic-est revolution in shaving today.

Join it.



● FROM PAGE 17

final win? And finally name their clubs?

4. As you are probably aware, Eddie Keher is a county senior selector with Kilkenny. How many All-Ireland senior medals has he?

5. Who captained the Easterners to their last senior final win?

Each question other than No. 3 carries a five points rating. So, by going through the card correctly it is possible to boost the points standing by 30. This includes, of course, that bonus tally.

YOUR SCORE.....

A look back now to Galway's last All-Ireland senior final appearance. This might, perhaps, give the older readers an edge, but then again, it may not, as events of that year have been very much in the news in recent times.

Anyway here goes on the
1975 FINAL.

1. Who captained Galway against Kilkenny?.....

2. What was the winning margin in favour of the Leinster county?



☆☆☆



☆☆☆

3. The two hurlers pictured above who were in action with the Western county in that game are

no longer in the panel. Who are they?

4. Sean Murphy was John Connolly's midfield partner. True or false?

5. One of the following was Galway's top scorer in the game — Gerry Coone, Frank Burke or P. J. Molloy. Your choice.

Five points awarded for each correct answer, and a five points bonus for an all correct card. Total marks on offer: 30. Your score

SPOT THE MISTAKES

A chance to see now how observant you are when reading over a few paragraphs. The two below include six deliberate mistakes. Can you spot them?

Galway's success against Laois in the quarter-final at Tullamore was a well-merited one. Kilkenny beat Offaly and Wexford to retain the Leinster championship, and so earn their first bye to a final since 1974.

Niall McNerney, who played in the attack, was the man on the goal standard for Galway against Laois, while Billy Fitzpatrick, the Kilkenny captain, and Mick Brennan shot Kilkenny's goals in the Leinster final.

Five points for each mistake spotted. So, it is possible to pick up 30 points in all here. Your score

Our last section is entitled:

PAIRING

What we want here is for you to pair each of the hurlers pictured against the appropriate caption. Five points for each question, plus a five points bonus for an all correct answer. Total marks possible: 25. Your score

1. Currently a forward but a 1976 All Star midfielder

2. An All Star in defence in 1975

3. Wore the No. 14 jersey for one team in 1975 senior final.....



?



?



?



?

4. Galway's left full back in the summit of four years back... ..

How did you measure up? Maximum points possible: 175. A splendid achievement if you can report 150 points or more. A very good rating for 125 to 150. 90 to 125. Good.

ANSWERS PAGE 54

Get the Best Buys Going...

Buy Duty free and Tax free before you fly



Duty free bargains are waiting for ALL Air Travellers to BRITAIN, the CONTINENT and ONWARDS.

Allow plenty of time to buy before you fly and so enjoy your shopping at the duty free and tax free shops at Cork, Dublin and Shannon.

Buy from a wide variety of leading Irish and International Brands of top quality goods at Bargain prices.



Irish Airports
Duty Free and
Tax Free Shops

SHOP DUTY FREE and TAX FREE . . YOU'LL GET THE BEST BUYS GOING!

The Duty and Tax free shops at Irish Airports are operated by Aer Rianta Teoranta/Irish Airports Authority.

By **MIKE ALLEN**



*John Connolly
(Galway)*

JOHN CONNOLLY,

HURLING STYLIST

AT 31, John Connolly has long been acknowledged as one of the hurling stylists of the past decade. When really on his game, he is a joy to behold, his fluent striking, uncanny positional sense and accurate shooting making midfield play look easy.

One of the handful of native Irish speakers to reach the top echelon of G.A.A. performers in modern times, the tall, 6 ft. 1 ins., Connolly first donned the maroon jersey as a minor in 1965, was again on the under-18 team the following year and, as a matter of course, graduated to the under-21s.

John made his senior inter-county debut in a League match with Clare in 1968 and was not long convincing keen judges that his was a talent that would blossom into one of the most-brilliant in the caman code. Without any

doubt, he has lived up to that rating.

When the first Carrolls All-Stars team was chosen in 1971 he was nominated for one of the midfield positions and during the ensuing years few discerning followers would question his right to be numbered among the top two in that area.

It is John Connolly's misfortune that he should be a Galwayman because were he a native of, say, Cork or Kilkenny, he would be laden with all the honours that hurling can bestow.

So far that elusive All-Ireland medal has eluded him but he did captain the county when they won the National League in 1975 and led Galway onto Croke Park on the first Sunday of September the same year. Unfortunately, the entire team chose that occasion to give one of their least-

memorable performances.

At club level, John assists Castlegar, with which he has won county minor, under-21 and senior medals, but it is his displays for Galway that have made his name a household one wherever hurling is played.

Indeed, it can be said without fear of contradiction that on any given day in recent years the county's fortunes have prospered in direct ratio to Connolly's performance.

Happenings this season provide ample proof of this. Connolly was brilliant against Clare in that February League tie in Tulla, inspired them to an eight-point lead with less than five minutes to go . . . and must have wondered how they lost by two.

A Connolly tour de force shattered Waterford in the League at Ballinasloe soon afterwards and he was the chief reason Galway-powered Connacht defeated Munster at the same venue one week later.

The other side of the coin was evident in the Railway Cup and National League finals. John was contained in both games, with the result that Leinster and Tipperary won. On September 2, then, the hopes of the West will rest on Connolly's shoulders. A blinder from him and the Liam McCarthy Cup could be crossing the Shannon. Should it make that journey, it would mean that John Connolly had finally collected that elusive Celtic Cross and nobody, not even his Kilkenny opponents will begrudge that honour to a master sticksman who has for years personified all that is best in Galway hurling.

HAVOLINE

MOTOR OIL

POWERFUL PROTECTION



Texaco Havoline Motor Oil is the one chosen by top racing drivers around the world.

The same high performance motor oil **they** use is available at every Texaco Service Station.



IT'S FIFTY-FIFTY TO KILKENNY . . . OR GALWAY!

MOONDHARRIG'S DIARY

REALISTICALLY, it is difficult to assess the true worth of the present Kilkenny team. After all, since avoiding relegation after that play-off with Waterford in New Ross, they have had only one outing of any significance, against Wexford in the Leinster final.

As a result, there is precious little evidence on which to judge the wearers of the Black and Amber, particularly as the team which finished in Croke Park on July 15 had been significantly altered from that which had left the dressing-room approximately 90 minutes earlier.

There are those who claim, with a fair degree of truth, that Dublin might have beaten Kilkenny in the Leinster semi-final had they realised in time that the task was within their accomplishment.

In the event, they did not . . . and it must be taken for granted that the provincial title-holders had improved considerably by the time they faced Wexford.

Yet, it must be admitted that it took them a long time on that occasion to find the most effective disposition of their forces, and one was left with the impression that, like last year, their main problems are in attack.

Defence-wise, Kilkenny looked tight enough in all compartments after Paddy Prendergast had switched to full-back, Fan Larkin moved to his old No. 2 position and John Henderson to left full.

On the other hand, Galway's inside forwards will pose considerably more problems than a Wexford trio with whom their hurling years have undoubtedly caught up.

Once the tactic of playing the long, high ball to Tony Doran had been countered, the Slaney-men had few ideas as to how they might breach the opposing defence.

Further out, Kilkenny have no worries at centre half-back, where Ger Henderson has few equals and no peers, and if Richie Reid is back to his best he and Nicky Brennan will be able lieutenants.

Overall, Kilkenny might miss the swashbuckling power of Dick O'Hara from the left flank of the full-back line and the polished skills of Joe Hennessy from the right wing at half-back, yet there is every reason to believe that their defence is at least as good as that of last year.

Midfield will, in all probability, start as it finished against Wexford, with Frank Cummins partnering Joe Hennessy. This would give them the ideal blend of strength and skill, and make Galway's task in this area difficult

in the extreme.

So to the attack. Against Wexford it was obvious that Frank Cummins was all at sea at centre half-forward, and there was immediate, if not spectacular improvement when he swapped places with Ger Fennelly.

Whether Fennelly is the complete answer to the No. 11 position remains to be seen because it might take a physically-stronger hurler to counter Galway's nonsense Sean Silke.

The triangle of Billy Fitzpatrick, on the left wing, Mick Brennan, in the right corner, and Mick Crotty, at full-forward, was responsible for most of the scores against Wexford, and Kilkenny will, no doubt, look to them to bear the brunt of the work in the All-Ireland final.

Whether they will get as much room against the experienced and very well-marshalled Galway rear-guard is doubtful, but the placing of Crotty at No. 14 is a big improvement on last year, when Brian Cody filled that position.

The fact that Cody cut no ice on Martin O'Doherty was not his fault. A defender since he first came to prominence in Colleges' and minor circles, he tried his hardest but failed to acquire the knack of effectively filling an attacking role.

● OVERLEAF

● FROM OVERLEAF

In contrast, Crotty, though not a full-forward by instinct or inclination, was always a forward, so when he does get possession he knows what to do with the ball.

So, with three forward positions satisfactorily manned, Kilkenny will be hoping that the men chosen to wear the Nos. 10, 11 and 15 jerseys will come up to scratch and ensure more all-round firepower than was evident 12 months ago.


Liam O'Brien will almost certainly fill one of them and his accuracy from frees will be a decided asset. Ger Fennelly is another whom we can expect to see in action, but who to place at top of the left is a question the Kilkenny selectors must ponder long and often.

Matt Ruth cut little ice there last year and was taken off in the Leinster final after scoring an opportunist goal in the first half.

So it looks like 1975 all over again for Kilkenny. They would appear to have few problems in defence or midfield, and even should unexpected weaknesses reveal themselves in these areas they have more-than-adequate cover among the substitutes, but the attack, as constituted against Wexford would hardly be good enough to outwit the Galway backs.

Given that Kilkenny can satisfactorily solve those problems up front, or even discover men who would play well on the day, I would give them a fifty-fifty chance . . . but no more.

Yet, they went so close last year with a disjointed forward line, that any improvement in this department must put them in with an excellent chance of victory.



**Get up
and go,
and say
ah for
Avonmore**

PAT HENDERSON

—POWERHOUSE

ON THE BENCH

By Tom O'Riain

IN 1961, in a minor team which went on to an All-Ireland championship, most hurling supporters outside Kilkenny had their first glimpse of a big, square-shouldered young fellow who stood at centre half-back and covered ground voraciously, hitting balls out of his zone as though he bore the leather an ugly hatred.

The image is familiar, even after the lapse of more than a year in which we have no longer been able to see him in the black-and-amber stripes. Somehow the black-and-amber does not seem right without him, any more than Pat Henderson looks quite right without the black-and-amber jersey.

The year 1961, together with those before and after, during which Kilkenny collected three minor championships, were important years, launching the main thrust of youthful hurling enthusiasm that became, eventually, the great Kilkenny dominance that may be said boldly to have remained unbroken until the present time.

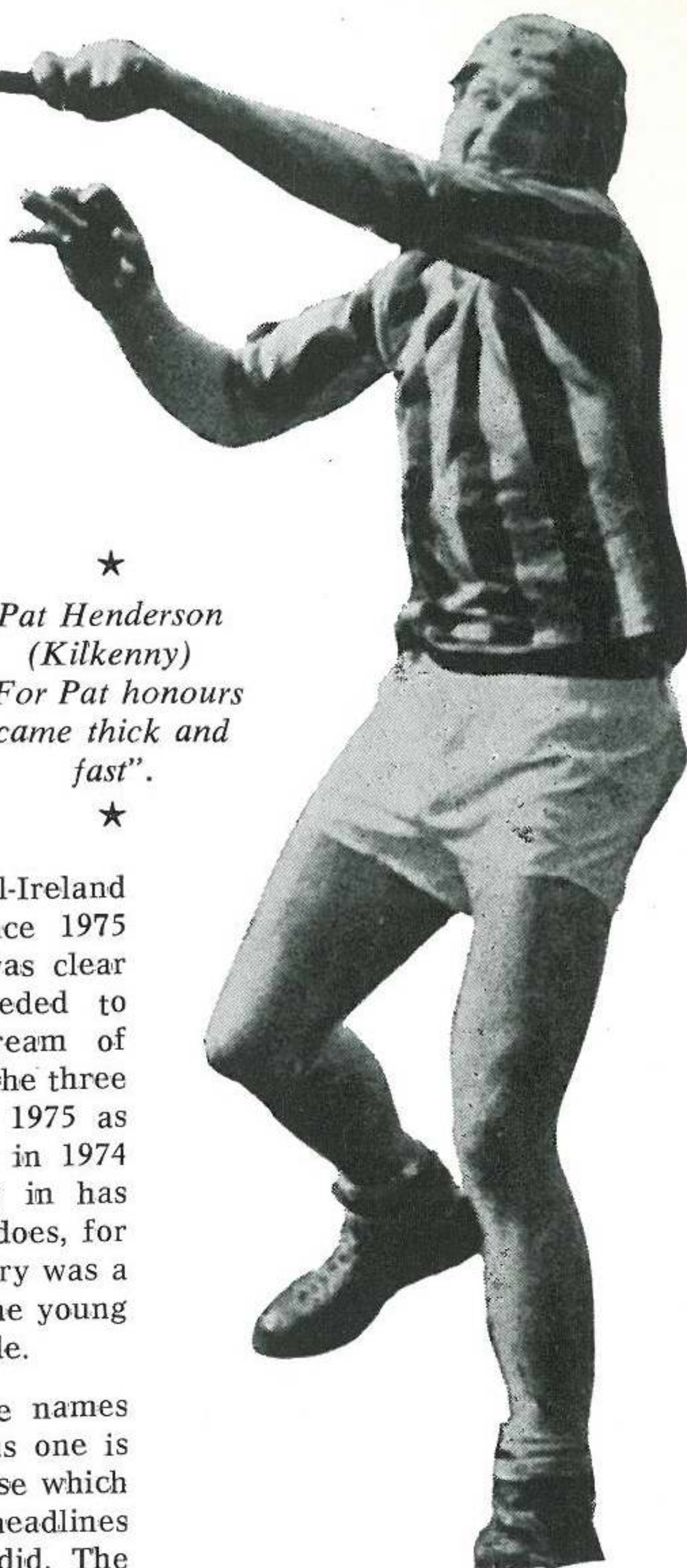
Cork have had the All-Ireland count all their way since 1975 but the understanding was clear then that Kilkenny needed to plug into the new stream of minors which had taken the three titles of 1972, 1974 and 1975 as well as under-21 crowns in 1974 and 1975. The plugging in has taken time: it normally does, for the 1963 All-Ireland victory was a win before its time for the young men of the earlier decade.

Looking back over the names of the great minor teams one is more impressed with those which never made the senior headlines than with those which did. The one or two from each team who came through showed that it was the nuggets only that were panned by the gold-seeking selectors.

The real truth that emerges is that it is never the actual minors of successful teams of under-age which themselves guarantee the future. Some do, some don't. But it is the atmosphere of hurling fever out of which three or four minor All-Irelands are won that ensures the seniors of the next era, making sure the late-develop-

★
*Pat Henderson
(Kilkenny)
"For Pat honours
came thick and
fast".*

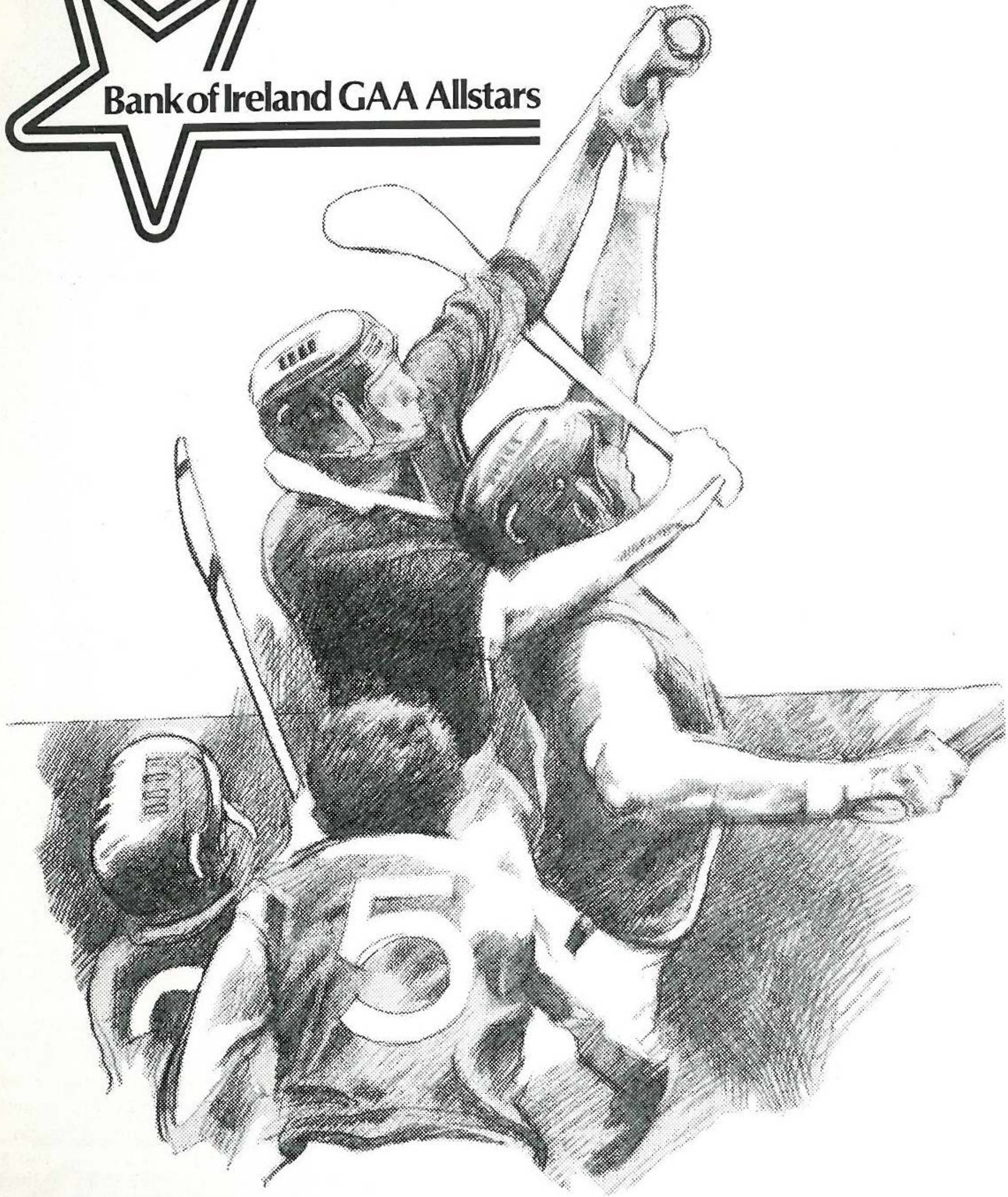
★



ers, and the unlucky ones, and the ones who have no selector to push them are just as mad for hurling success as the boys who make the team—maybe more so!

Next year or the year after, people will ask how on earth it was that they never made the minor team last year or the year before . . . and, thus, a hurling future is secured not always in the fruit, but often in the branch on which it grew.

● TO PAGE 27



Awarded to the GAA Sportsmen of the Year

● FROM PAGE 25

Eighteen years have passed since 1961 and, with the exception of a brief period of maturation before graduation to senior ranks, Pat Henderson has never been absent from the forefront of Kilkenny's hurling fortunes. His honours have come thick and fast and if there was anything he would have wished to win and did not, I am not aware of it.

His qualities of leadership were high in the list of Pat's advantages to the teams he played in and, occasionally, captained. It is only a logical extension of that on-the-field leadership that he should now be in the management seat with his former playing colleague Eddie Keher.

This continuation process is one of the great strengths of hurling, or was until recent times. The last decade or so has tended to transfer hurlers from the playing field to the golf course with such rapidity that they spend no time repaying the debt they owe to the game. It is altogether to the credit of many Kilkenny hurlers that they seek to plough back some of their experience at many different levels. Henderson and Keher are a fine public example to their fellows throughout the game.

Before Pat was ready to call it a day his younger brother Ger, was already challenging strongly, and when Pat finally yielded to the evidence of the calendar (many people thought it was evidence unsupported by form on the field) Ger had established himself in the Henderson mould. Not perhaps so broad or powerfully constructed as his elder, Ger is all barbed wire, fearlessness and immense resource.

In a slack period that came after the loss of the championship in 1976 Ger Henderson got ample opportunity to show his worth. He was willing to take

burdens on his shoulders that would have daunted an established player, but in carrying them gaily he showed what a "big-time" player he was.

That is how it has been since then, the younger brother taking over with at least equal fire the leadership qualities and the example formerly given by Pat.

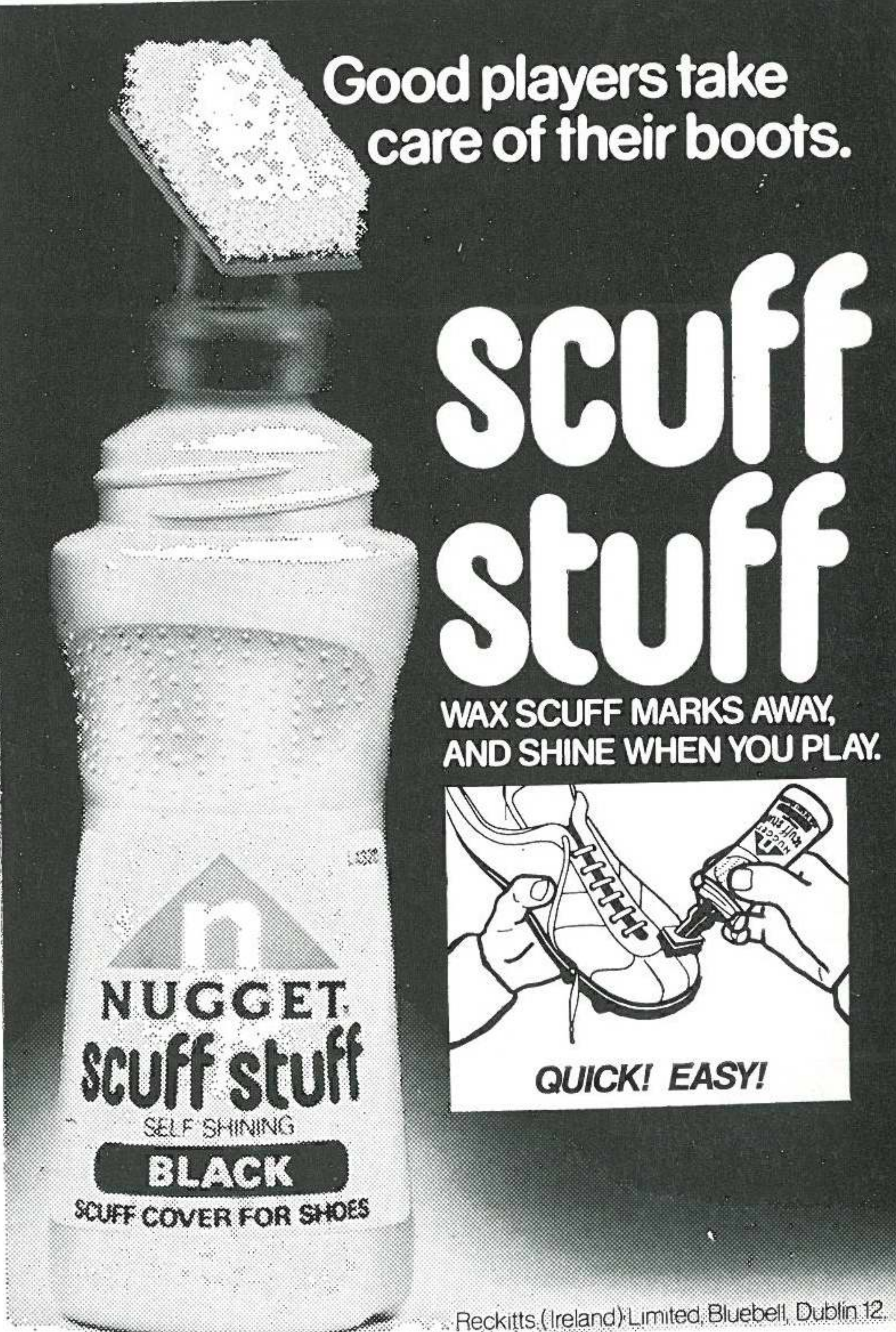
In 1975 the three — Pat, Ger

and John, the youngest of the three—on one auspicious occasion overlapped, with Pat taking the senior medal as a player, Ger collecting one as a sub., though he actually played in the Leinster final and John receiving a minor medal at left corner-back, on All-Ireland finals day. Now that John has established his claim to senior status the trio are realigned again on Kilkenny's behalf.

Good players take care of their boots.

scuff stuff

WAX SCUFF MARKS AWAY, AND SHINE WHEN YOU PLAY.



The advertisement features a large, central image of a white plastic bottle of 'NUGGET scuff stuff' shoe polish. The bottle has a white cap and a label with a stylized 'n' logo, the product name 'NUGGET scuff stuff', and the words 'SELF SHINING' and 'BLACK'. Below the bottle, there is an illustration showing two hands applying the product to a shoe. The text 'QUICK! EASY!' is written below the illustration. The background of the advertisement is dark with white text.

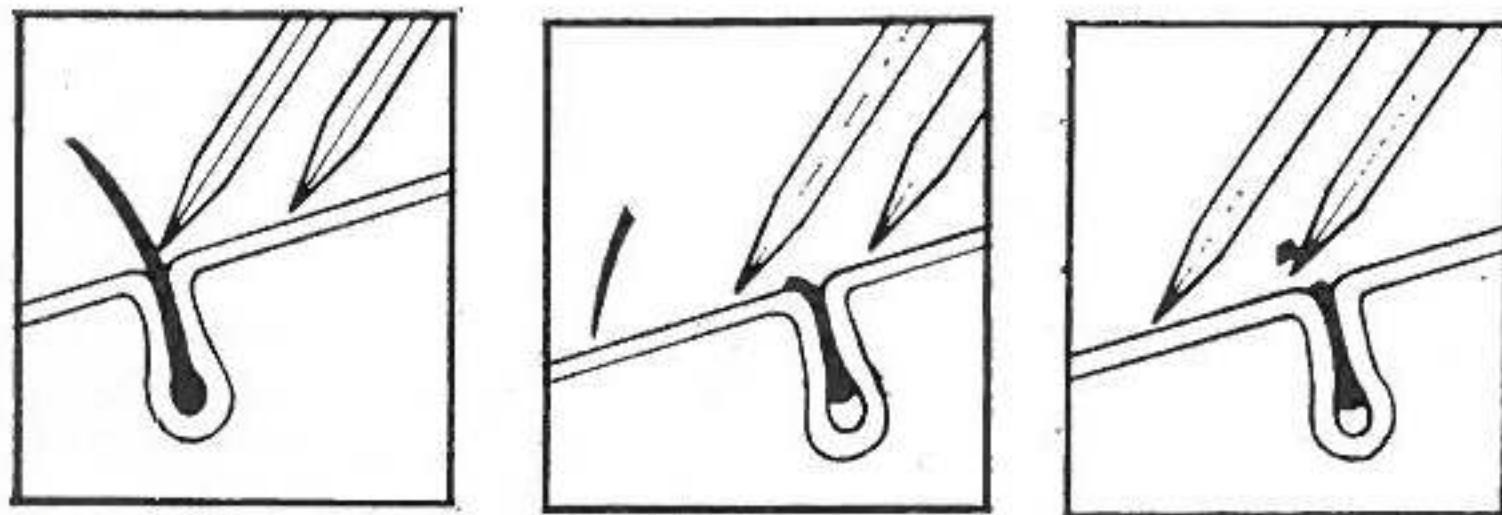
Reckitts (Ireland) Limited, Bluebell, Dublin 12.

Gillette GII

Have you got one, too?



GII, the revolutionary twin blade shaver from Gillette gives your beard the old one-two. Shaves you close, then closer still.



Gillette

it's the winning combination.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TO THE FORE

WITH the All-Ireland Championships drifting successfully to a conclusion it is only natural that handballers are looking towards new horizons.

Indeed, such is the rate of progress in the game at the present time, it is a relatively easy matter to pin-point the fresh buds.

The International Games in the U.S.A. in a couple of months time are already evoking considerable interest. This is based on the fact, that, since the Atlas sponsored trials were held early in the year our representatives should be in top gear when called upon to wear the Irish singlets.

The four man team will be led by Pat Kirby, who was chosen automatically following his clean sweep in the 40x20 championships.

He will be joined by Peadar McGee, the Mayo star from Newport who gained his place after a spectacular final with Pat Morris of Cork.

Tony and Noel Ryan from Ballypatrick in County Tipperary complete the team. They gained their places after a highly competitive series in the under 22 division, which attracted all the leading young players in the country.

The Ryans are the only family combination ever to travel with the International team.

This factor allied to a period of coaching under Pat Kirby should make them sharp enough to challenge the sternest opposition in their grade. A definite schedule of games has not yet been arranged but, if as one assumes, it will be organised on

the lines of previous tours, then there will be no complaints.

The players who command my sympathy in relation to internationalism are the knights of the 60x30 code. Players such as Richie Lyng, Seamus Buggy, Pat McGarry, Joe O'Brien and a host of others are practically exclusive exponents of the traditional game. For them at the end of the road there is no outlet for them to further exploit their talents.

Neither can a ready answer to this dilemma be found, for it would be foolhardy to suggest that by virtue of their successes in the big court, they should automatically qualify for the games in the small court which really bear no resemblance to each other.

Perhaps, the solution might be found in a reciprocal arrangement with the Australian Association for international games every few years.

The court size in Australia is something akin to our own, though the standard of our players would appear to be on a much higher level.

However, the idea, as related to the many great players who cling to the traditional 60x30 code, is at least, worthy of some consideration.

* * *

Did this year's All-Ireland campaign leave many memories? Nostalgic ones certainly in that the former great Joey Maher played his swan song.

The Drogheda Maestro, like the great sport he is entered the championships, but was only a pale shadow of the lithe hulk that captivated audiences up and

down the country, with the splendour of his handball for many years.

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

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

Perhaps he had that in mind but his plans left the rails. He failed to raise a gallop against Pakie Ryan of Dublin in what must have been the most comprehensive defeat of his career.

Good tidings, too in the number of young players who set their sights on the top awards.

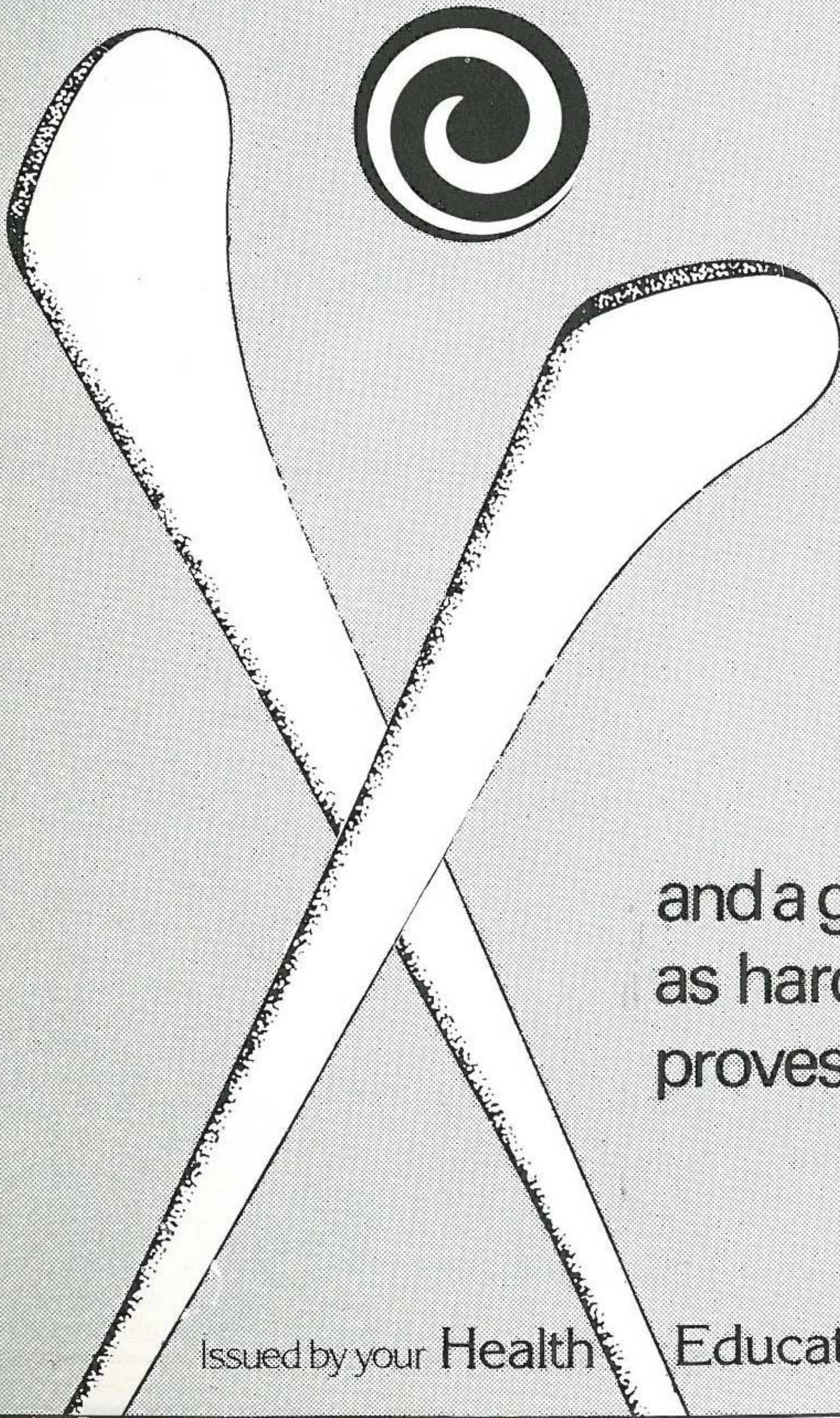
Tom O'Rourke (Kildare), Tom Morrissey (Tipperary), and Ollie Harrold (Kilkenny) all struck a blow for the younger school and verified that the game is in safe keeping.

Handball took a severe body blow in the past month with the tragic death of the former Dublin star George Rowe.

He was one of the corner stones of the game around Green St. in the shadows of the great court-house and with his brother the late Larry and other famous players like Paddy Munroe maintained a sporting romanticism in that area. George won All-Ireland titles with Larry in 1946 and 1948.

In subsequent years he was never hesitant to support the cause of handball and was often to be seen in attendance at the major games. We will miss this genial man. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

***There is no substitute
for fitness....***



and a game
as hard as hurling
proves it.

Issued by your Health Education Bureau 

NOEL in the GOAL

Talks to Terence Roynane

NOEL Skehan, at 35, is one of the happy warriors of hurling. He has been around the inter-county scene since winning Leinster and All-Ireland medals with Kilkenny in 1962 and, after being understudy to Ollie Walsh for several years, took over as the county's senior goalkeeper at the start of the 1971-72 National League campaign.

Since then, he has been the undisputed Noneside No. 1 in that position and his honours at top level include six All-Ireland, eight Leinster, one National League, three Oireachtas and five Railway Cup medals. He was also the Carrolls All-Star goalkeeper on five successive occasions, 1972-76.

There is nothing, then, that the cheery man from Bennettsbridge should not know about guarding the net, so his words of advice should be carefully noted by all youngsters aspiring to glory in this onerous position.

Emphasising that goalkeeping has changed considerably since the introduction of the new rules, which forbid charging the 'keeper inside the small square, Noel was adamant that: "The most important aspect of modern goalkeeping is that the man in that position has to be off his line much faster than in the old days. He can't afford to wait because no longer can the backs hold off the forwards.

"Of course, to do this most effectively, he must have complete understanding with his backs. There would be little point in going for the same ball as one of your team-mates, messing up the situation and presenting a loose forward with a goal."

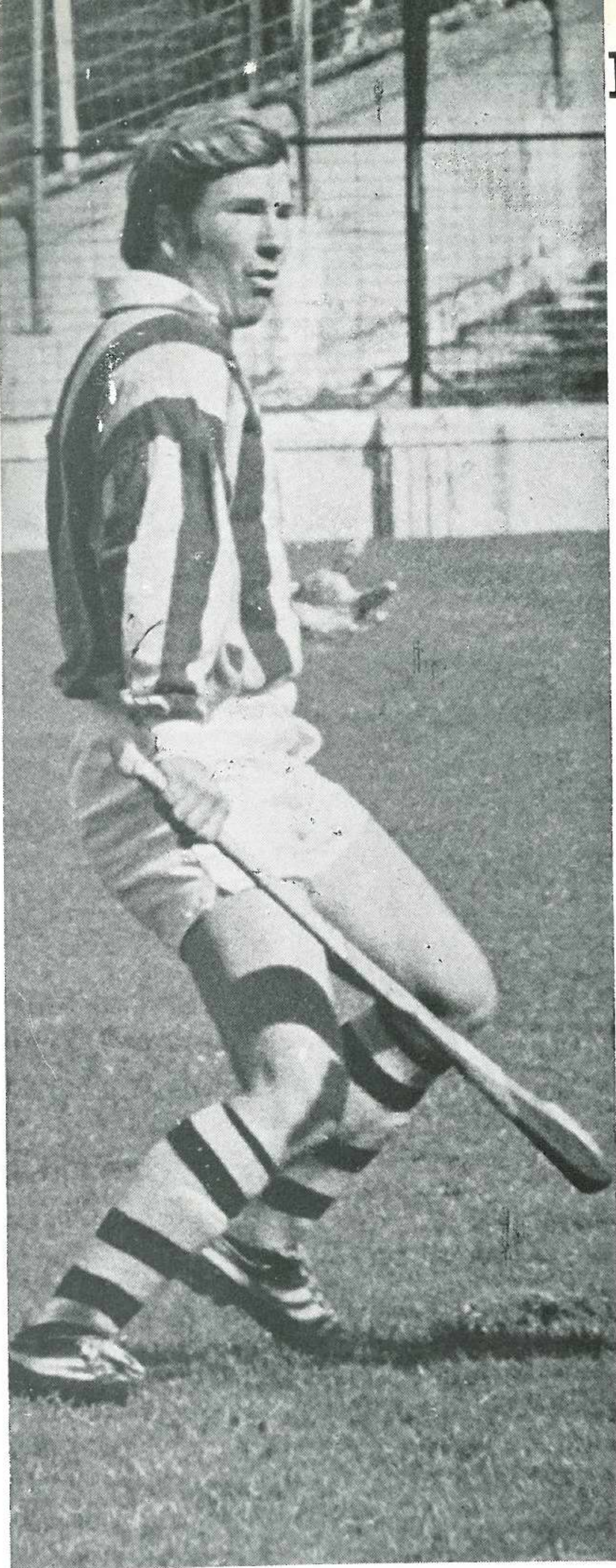
"Never take your eye off the ball, even when it is being placed for a penalty at the other end or when it may be up in the stand after a wild clearance." Fast off his line, understanding with his backs and concentration . . . any other attributes necessary to the make-up of a top-class goalkeeper?

"After that it's important that the individual must be a good hurler and have a very keen eye. It is essential that he be adept at striking left and right, out of his hand or on the ground."

Noel abhors the sight of a 'keeper clearing consistently into touch. "He is bringing no relief to his defence and, in many instances, can actually present the opposition with a point if you are facing players like Cork's John Fenton or Wexford's Ned Buggy." The hardest shot to deal with?

"Without any doubt, a hoppy, ground ball."

His last words to young goalkeepers? "Never, never, try to stop a ball going over the bar or wide. Far too many goals have resulted from those situations."



● Noel Skehan, Kilkenny's last line of defence.

Form guide to

final

By OWEN



Andy Fenton
(Galway)



Bernie Forde
(Galway)

IRRESPECTIVE of the outcome of this novel senior final, the winners will have more than the usual cause for celebration. A Galway victory would be to all intents and purposes a famous first for enthusiasts.

True enough, Galway won the All-Ireland senior hurling title once in the past. On September 14, 1924, in the delayed final of 1923, they beat Limerick by 7-3 to 4-5. But that victory is now so far back in the mists of time that for the overwhelming majority of Galway folk, success against Kilkenny would be tinged with all the magic, all the glamour and all the emotion of a first final win.

And Kilkenny? They are, of course, no strangers to success on final day, but victory over Galway would still be something out of the usual run, in that it would earn the county a 21st crown. They first won the title back in 1904.

Galway's heroes did not look All-Ireland senior finalists in waiting when they beat Laois by 1-23 to 3-10 in a quarter final at Birr. For much of that game they looked a moderate enough out-

fit, and with only twelve minutes remaining were trailing by four points. Then a goal from a 25 metres free by P. J. Molloy provided Galway with a vital spark, and they went on to eventually book their place against Cork with eight more points.

The Westerners completed a remarkable sequence by beating Cork in the All-Ireland semi-final. It was after their win over the Leesiders in 1975 that the Corkmen started on their wonderful run, and starting the showdown with Galway last month, Cork were unbeaten in twelve championship games, and, of course, All-Ireland champions as well over three campaigns.

It is history, now, how the amazing Galway men rose to the challenge. Suffice to say that they were in no way flattered by their 2-14 to 1-13 victory — a well-merited success.

Galway have one of the longest traditions in hurling. Meelick earned the county a direct interest in the very first final played, that of 1887, at Birr. There, Thurles, of Tipperary, beat the Connacht representatives.

In all, Galway has been repre-

sented in ten finals so far, the last being in 1975 when they went under to Kilkenny by 2-10 to 2-22.

Kilkenny started their campaign at Athy in June when they beat Dublin by 4-15 to 4-11. Next stop on the road was the traditional provincial summit with legendary rivals Wexford, and that meeting of the dominant powers in the East attracted an attendance of 24,991. In that game, one of the best this year as far as top class hurling and thrilling exchanges are concerned, the men from the Noreside held on to their provincial crown on a scoreline of 2-21 to 2-17.

That victory earned Kilkenny a bye to the final. In last year's summit they lost to Cork by 2-8 to 1-15 before 64,155 spectators.

The last Kilkenny-Galway final drew a crowd of 63,711. The Eastern team included Noel Skehan, Fan Larkin, Frank Cummins, Liam O'Brien, Mick Crotty, Billy Fitzpatrick and Mick Brennan.

Among those on duty for Galway were Niall McInerney, Joe McDonagh, Sean Silke, Iggy Clarke, John Connolly, Frank Burke and P. J. Molloy.

to intriguing

al

McCANN

Now for a brief run-down on some of the men who are likely to capture the spotlight in the final.

Mick Crotty, who made a comeback to the Kilkenny senior team during the championship after an absence of some months, has won county senior championship medals in Cork and Kilkenny. He was in the U.C.C. side that took the Cork crown in 1970, and after helping James Stephens to win the 1975 county crown, was right full forward when the club brought the All-Ireland crown to the county in 1976—the only win by a Leinster club.

Crotty is 32, and is a former minor county star. In the Kilkenny premier outfit since 1969, he won All-Ireland senior medals in 1972, 1974 and 1975, and was honoured by the Carrolls All-Stars selectors in 1974.

John Connolly is without question not only Galway's most famed hurler at present, but one of the real masters of the game. He started out on the senior inter-county trail in 1968 in a game against Clare, and was at midfield in the first Carrolls All-Star side in 1971.

This elegant midfielder led

Galway to their last National League title in 1975, was also captain against Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final of four years ago, and is now 31.

He has the distinction of having represented Galway in all grades of football as well as hurling, and won a provincial amateur boxing title.

Noel Skehan captained Kilkenny to their 1972 All-Ireland senior final win, after having been substitute to the legendary Ollie Walsh in three earlier finals.

His first senior appearance with the county came soon after winning an All-Ireland minor medal in 1962, and he was one of the most honoured hurlers in the Carrolls All-Stars promotion, winning five awards between 1972 and 1976.

Skehan, who is 35, and a member of the Bennettsbridge club, guarded the net for Kilkenny in their last two All-Ireland senior final wins, as well as that 1972 triumph, and he was in the No. 1 spot when the county took the National League in 1976. He has four Railway Cup medals.

Sean Silke won his only Carrolls All-Star award at centre



*Billy Fitzpatrick
(Kilkenny)*



*Liam O'Brien
(Kilkenny)*

half back in the 1975 selection. A county medalist with the famed Meelick in 1972 at junior and 1973 at intermediate, he also got among the Connacht medals with Garbally in colleges' competitions in 1967.

Sean won Fitzgibbon Cup (Universities' Championship) medals with Maynooth in 1973 and 1974, and was a powerful link in that majestic half back line of Joe McDonagh, Iggy Clarke and himself that did so much to shape the last League final win for Galway, and powered them to their last final appearance.

He is 28, and like John Connolly has appeared with Connacht.

Paddy Prendergast, who is 21, had a double success in 1975, starring in defence for the St. Kieran's College, and minor county sides that won the All-Ireland championships. He added an under-21 national medal to his growing tally in 1977, and now has two Leinster senior medals. He will be appearing in

● OVERLEAF

● FROM OVERLEAF

his second Liam McCarthy Cup tie.

Mick Brennan, who put over some superb points in Kilkenny's successful defence of the Lein-

ster title, is 29, and a member of the Castlecomer club. He won an All-Ireland junior medal in 1969 with Warwickshire.

Brennan joined the Kilkenny senior team in 1970, and he was

one of the heroes of the last two All-Ireland senior title wins. He has also two Railway Cup medals, and was included in the Carrolls All-Star selections of 1975 and 1976.

Niall McNerney is a native of Sixmilebridge, and played with Clare in the 1973 Munster senior championship. He made his senior debut with Galway at centre half back in the 1974 championship quarter final against Kildare, won a National League medal the following year, and is a brilliant link with Galway's last All-Ireland senior final outing.

A member of the Liam Mellows club in the city, McNerney won a Fitzgibbon Cup medal with U.C.G. in 1970, and is 30. He was honoured at right full back in the 1975 Carrolls All Stars selection.

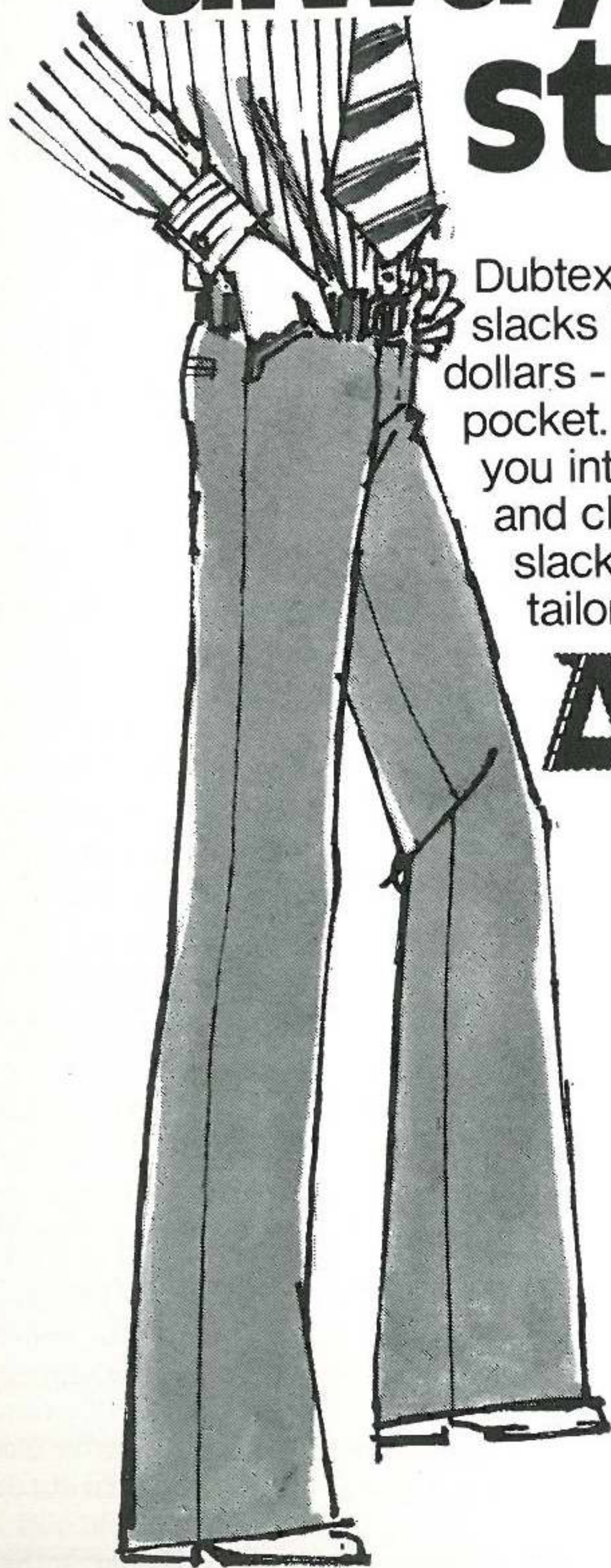
Frank Burke joined the ranks of the Carrolls All-Stars as a midfielder in 1976. It was in the centre, too, that he made a big contribution to Galway's first All-Ireland under-21 medal in 1972, and in the meantime he has proven a bright light in the county senior squad.

Another National League medalist in the mid-Seventies, this six-footer has appeared in a number of positions in attack with Galway as well as at midfield. He is from Turloughmore and is 27.

P. J. Molloy, who has been the county's leading marksman in recent times, hails from Athenry, and is another who helped to shape a rare break-through for the county in the 1972 All-Ireland under-21 championship.

This stylish forward and delightful striker was 27 last April. A former county minor, he was to the fore in the rare National League title success by Galway, and is another who will be experiencing the tensions of hurling's Blue Riband match for the second time in his career. A Carrolls All-Star in 1977.

Value's always in style!



Dubtex Young Generation slacks look like a million dollars - but go easy on the pocket. Dubtex also bring you internationally styled and classically tailored slacks. All beautifully tailored. All value!

Dubtex

NEW FACES ON ALL-IRELAND DAY

THE All-Ireland Senior Camogie Championship Final will have new contestants this season as the champions, Cork, and the finalists, Dublin, left the race early on.

Cork fell at the first hurdle to Kilkenny and Dublin who came through the preliminary round against Derry were eliminated by Limerick.

Kilkenny All-Ireland Champions in 1976 and '77 looked to me the long-odds favourites to reach the All-Ireland Final. Antrim, however, scored a decisive victory over Kilkenny in the quarter-final and at the time of going to press they are fixed to play their old rivals Wexford in the semi-final.

That Antrim victory is one of the major surprises in this year's championship. It augurs well for the strength of the game in the North.

However, their semi-final opponents, Wexford will have something to say. The girls from the Slaney started off the season on a very low note. They lost miserably to Cork in the opening match of the National League. On that occasion they were without many of their seasoned players. Their next outing against Tipperary brought no joy either for the Wexford girls. However Margaret Lacey reappeared for the Championship and contributed in no small way to her county's victory over Clare. In that game, the goalie Kathleen Tonks, Dorothy Walsh her sister Elsie, Margaret Hearne and Deirdre Cousins were outstanding.

On the other side of the draw Tipperary defeated Down to qualify to meet Limerick.

Limerick, who are only in their second year in senior grade, has proved more than any of the recent junior champions that they can hold their own in this grade. Last season they reached the National League Final unbeaten and on their way defeated Galway, Clare, Tipperary and the then newly crowned All-Ireland champions Cork.

In the final they matched Kilkenny in all sectors and many would argue that they were unlucky not to have succeeded when they only lost by one point.

They have outstanding players in the O'Brien sisters, Geraldine at centre back and Bernadette on the wing. Helen Mulcair, though still a schoolgirl is a brilliant young player who can strike equally well on the right and the left. Brid Stokes and Brigid Darcy in attack, Pauline McCarthy equally successful in defence, midfield or as a forward, Margie Neville and Liz Hayes who perform so well in defence and Helen Butler in goal make up a sound, quick-thinking team.

Tipperary, on the other hand, have excellent talent inside their county and should be much more of a force on the camogie scene. However 1979 has so far been a happy season for the Tipperary girls. They defeated Wexford in their opening game of the National League and are through to the All-Ireland semi-final.

Nevertheless on present form Limerick appear a better balanced side to reach the Final.

Cavan, who entertained the Philadelphia Camogie team so hospitably, have set the county on a new pedestal as far as Camogie is concerned in Ulster competitions.

They captured the Minor and Junior titles for the first time and to make the feat more pleasing, these are their first Provincial championship victories since 1941.

Now they prepare to do battle with the champions of the other provinces in the concluding stages of the new look Willwood Tailteann Minor All-Ireland.

Galway, the Connacht champions are this year hosting the semi-finals and final at Duggan Park, Ballinasloe. Cork the All-Ireland champions are drawn against Wexford and Cavan play Galway.

Eleven National League games are now decided and some interesting results have emerged. The champions Kilkenny, are already out of the race as they lost to Limerick who have won out their section already. Tipperary and Cork, are poised for the honours in their section.

Dublin and Antrim are still unbeaten in their zone while the Galway and Down clash will decide the victors of the fourth zone.

Patrons are asked to put the dates of the All-Ireland Finals in their diaries. They are one week earlier this year and are arranged for Croke Park on September 9.

Ascona and Manta



**the
choice is
yours!**

Based on the same proven chassis/suspension combination for outstanding roadholding and a safe, comfortable ride, the Asconas and Mantas offer a choice of exciting body styles.

If it's a reliable family car you're after, take a look at the Ascona 1.6. It's stylish, roomy and really comfortable, with deep pile carpeting, reclining seats with inertia reel belts, flow-through ventilation and a heated rear window.

The de Luxe 1.6 "S" or 2.0 litre Ascona is even more luxuriously appointed, with sports wheels, head restraints, cloth trim, side mouldings and a quartz clock, while the top model in the range, the incomparable 2 litre Ascona Berlina, has all the features you could possibly wish for, including halogen headlights, vinyl roof, velour upholstery, headlights wash/wipe, and more!

The Manta, on the other hand, is a true sports coupé. Dashing and elegant, with a luxuriously fitted interior, it's in a class of its own.

Again the Mantas offer a choice of finishes — there's the Manta de Luxe with 1.6 "S" or 2.0 litre "S" engine, either coupé or the new hatchback; then there's the racey, Rallye version and the ultimate Berlinetta, all with the same range of features as the Asconas.

Take a visit to your Opel dealer and see the choice that awaits you!

All Opels carry a 12 months unlimited mileage Warranty.

Distributed through a nationwide network of dealers by:

REG ARMSTRONG MOTORS LTD.,
Ringsend Rd., Dublin 4. Phone: 683183

...depend on


 **OPEL**

CRAFT AND STYLE IN MINOR FINAL

By Neil McCavana

CORK, who had the more difficult road to travel, are probably entitled to rank as favourites for their bid to keep the All-Ireland minor hurling championship by the Lee for another year. But the stylish and well tutored boys from Kilkenny could still hand the Munster squad some demanding problems in the traditional Croke Park curtain-raiser to the senior final.

Indeed, the Leinster champions have the necessary all round power and class to have a genuine chance of taking a measure of revenge for the county's defeat at this stage last year.

Admittedly, it was difficult to judge Kilkenny's real worth in their run-away 16 points win over a gallant Antrim crew that made history by ensuring a novel Leinster final at Croke Park in July.

But the Noresiders still looked a team of much promise; one with the necessary skills fore and aft, scoring power and classical touches to command the height of respect.

Don't forget, either, that Kilkenny booked their place against the Northerners by chalking up a 1-14 to 1-7 win over Wexford, who had a really strong side this season.

The Leinster champions' attack could really stretch the Cork defence. Willie Purcell (The Fenians) really impressed with his cultured centre half forward

play against Antrim. He is fast, clever, sure in his striking, creative and has a nice line in popping over vital match-winning points.

Pierce Phelan (St. Lactains), who bagged three goals in the provincial decider, and Mick Walsh (Mooncoin) are others who could do much to ensure plenty of headaches for the Munster defence.

Kilkenny also look pretty tight at the back. Michael Walsh (Dicksboro), who is son of legendary Kilkenny and Leinster goalkeeper Ollie, has been displaying many fine qualities himself in goal.

He is promised strong outfield cover. The backs are capable, sound in positional sense, while Pat Ryan (Young Irelands, Gowran), Eddie Aylward (Glenmore) and Paddy Heffernan (Tullougher/Rosberrin) could do much to frustrate the Cork challenge.

Weigh in a good midfield, and it adds up to a Kilkenny team that is well-balanced, purposeful and smart-moving.

What of Cork? The current team are making a powerful effort to add their own special chapter to a record that marks out the present decade as a tremendously successful one for teenage hurling by the Leaside. Cork have the proud distinction of having contested every national under-18 final in the code since 1970, except in 1973

and 1976, and they won four.

They beat Tipperary in their opening engagement as far back as May, and turned in a workmanlike rather than brilliant show when retaining the crown at Thurles in July. In that summit they gave Limerick a costly lesson in what any team game is in effect all about — turning chances to good account.

Admittedly, Cork were patchy at times, but one still had to admire the way that they took their chances, and the boys from the Lee were full measure for their decisive 11 points success — 3-18 to 4-4.

Their scoring power was in evidence again in the semi-final against Galway. It would probably be unwise to read too much into that victory as Galway were somewhat of a disappointment, but at the same time, any side that recorded a splendid bag of 6-15 in a match can feel well satisfied.

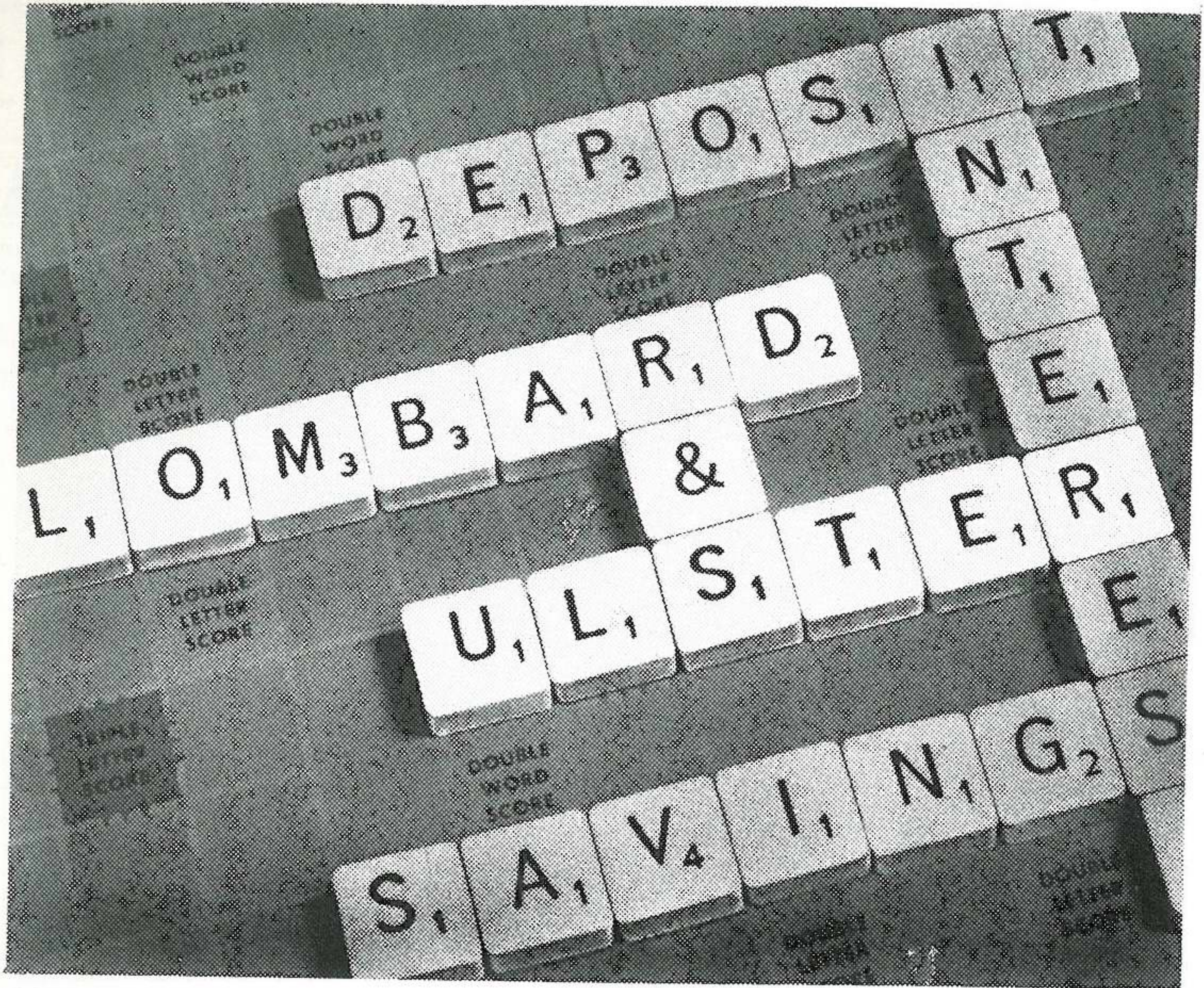
All the forwards can take their scores, but Tony Coyne (Youghal), Tadhg Coakley (Mallow) and Kevin Hennessy (Midleton) have been especially prominent in this regard.

Kilkenny's defence, then, will need to be especially vigilant. Nor are the Leinster forwards likely to find the way to goal anything but rocky.

Willie Cashman (Aghada), a bright link with last season's all conquering side, team skipper Charlie Coughlan (Na Piarasigh) and John Hodgins (St. Finbarr's), who also won an All-Ireland minor medal a year ago, are commanding figures in a sector that is alert, cool under pressure, and does not give away possession through hasty, and poorly directed clearances.

Denis Walsh (Cloughdubh), who was to the fore in the seven points win over Kilkenny a year ago, and Diarmaid Scanlon got

● TO PAGE 39



REWARD WINNING WORDS

When you deposit with Lombard & Ulster you are rewarded...handsomely. Accounts to suit everyone. Attractive interest rates. And great security. Remember, too Lombard & Ulster is an Authorised Trustee Investment...and Lombard & Ulster is also a member of one of the world's biggest banking groups. Contact any branch. You'll find it a rewarding experience!

 **Lombard & Ulster
Banking Ireland Ltd.**

Lombard & Ulster House,
Mount St. Bridge, Dublin 2. Tel. (01) 685288.

Branches at Athlone, Cavan, Cork, Dundalk, Galway,
Letterkenny, Limerick, Portlaoise, Sligo, Tralee, Waterford,
Wexford.

A member of the National Westminster Bank Group.

Which of these suit you best?

NOTICE DEPOSITS

Start with £100, then deposit any sized amounts. You can withdraw up to £500 p.a. without notice.

TIME DEPOSITS

(Minimum £5,000) Perfect if you want to deposit at a fixed interest rate for from 1 to 5 years.

FIXED DEPOSITS

(Minimum £5,000; no upper limit)
Handy for funds which can earn you good interest until you need them.
Flexible deposit periods.

MONTHLY INCOME DEPOSITS

Start with £1,000 upwards at a fixed rate for a fixed period. A tax not deducted interest cheque is posted you monthly from first month.



● *Cork, All-Ireland Minor Hurling Champions 1978. Four of that team, Ger Cunningham, Willie Cashman, John Hodgins and Denis Walsh were in this year's side that defeated Galway in the semi-final. The full team were. Front row (left to right): John Murphy, Tadhg McCarthy, Gerard Cunningham, Pat Murphy (capt.), Brendan O'Driscoll, Sean Cashman, John O'Gorman. Back row (left to right): Tom Ahern, Denis Walsh, John Harnett, John Hodgins, Gerard O'Regan, Liam Lynch, Denis Murphy and Willie Cashman.*

● **FROM PAGE 37**

through much valuable work in the centre against Galway, and are sure to set a strong pace for their opposite numbers in the final.

It looks, then, as if Cork are well up to last year's high standard. But can they prove it, and keep the "Irish Press" Cup by the Lee?

I'm convinced they will have a battle royal on their hands, but it is difficult to ignore the scor-

ing potential Cork have displayed so far. It is here that I am convinced they have the vital edge over Kilkenny, an edge that should pay-off in another title for Cork, their 14th since 1928.

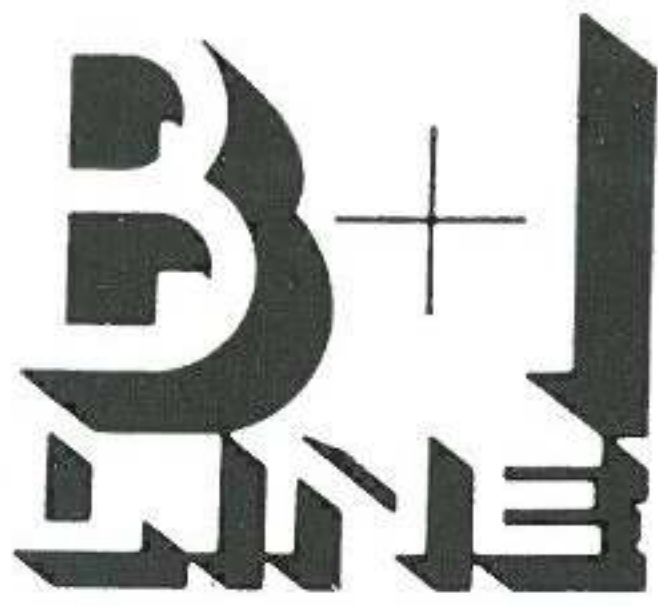
Tipperary were the first winners of "THE IRISH PRESS" Cup in 1949. Cork won the trophy for the first time in 1951, and are now in line to put their name on the plinth for the ninth time.

Kilkenny have also won the Cup eight times — between 1950 and 1977. They are chasing their

12th crown since 1931.

Cork were the first winners of the All-Ireland minor hurling championship, beating Dublin in a replay in 1928. Kilkenny lost their debut in the concluding round in 1930, and went all the way the following year.

Cork have, surprisingly enough, in view of their dominance in the South in this decade, not won two national titles in succession since 1970-71, when they completed a hat-trick of championships.



*g.a.a. personality
of the month award*



**Congratulations to recent award winners:
Pat Moloney (Cork), Dick Lyng (Wexford),
Francis Loughnane (Tipperary), John Connolly (Galway),
Joe McKenna (Limerick), Harry Keegan (Roscommon).**

SHOULD BE A GREAT GAME

DESPITE respectable performances this year by Dublin and, to some extent, by Offaly, the horizons of Leinster hurling seem to be even more narrowly spaced than ever. Dublin did a little better than we thought, I suppose, but what chance was there that the inevitable Leinster final of Kilkenny v. Wexford would be upset?

Worse still, on account of the lack of any searching examination of the candidates before they face one another in the Leinster final, it is becoming more and more difficult to judge whether Kilkenny or Wexford have very good, or good, or just moderate teams in absolute terms of hurling standards in general.

We know, at least, that they are not far off being even, as a result of the Leinster final, but because the counties always seem inspired to play with colourful and exciting abandon against one another, the fact that it was an exciting game would not necessarily mean that the teams were very special.

Wexford had their chances and were clearly unable to dethrone Cork. Neither could Kilkenny move them last year, getting closer on the scoreboard than on the field, perhaps. How much can Kilkenny be improved to face Cork's conquerers, Galway? Surely Wexford, with much the

same tired team that has borne the heats of the day unrelieved for too long, cannot be better this year than last, or than 1977 or 1976?

Can Kilkenny, therefore, who showed a lot of moderate form throughout a very rickety League campaign, have stepped up much on last year, if they have had difficulty in shouldering off the Wexford challenge?

But that question might be answered in the negative as far as the Leinster final is concerned, and yet by All-Ireland time they might be transformed. They



*Matt Ruth
(Kilkenny)*



*F. Cummins
(Kilkenny)*

have been trying to graft new branches. They need time to take. Nothing could be so useful in the establishment of a revitalised team from parts previously at odds with one another than the training period they will spend together in preparation for the final. Just the job for getting the teamwork, the understanding, the co-operation working smoothly, and for sharpening the skills to a fine edge.

In brief, Kilkenny, with their plentiful pool of promising young players, may be having lots of trouble in selecting the right ones and bringing the best out of them, but they have the potential, at least, to make a fine team — something which Wexford have not got just at the present time.

Noel Skehan's fitness problems are a worry until they can be entirely discounted; his experience is a vital asset, even if he is not quite the goalie he was at his best.

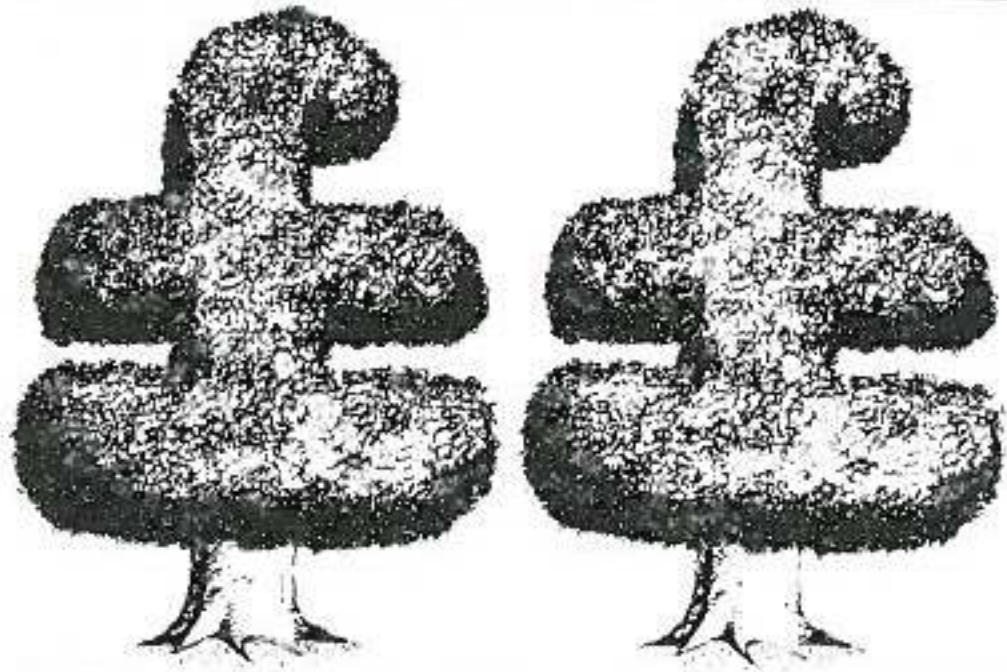
Dick O'Hara's injury was a bad blow to the team as well as to the unlucky player himself, and with the widespread belief that Tir na nOg does not exist, Fan Larkin must find himself overdrawn some day on the bank of youth. John Henderson and Paddy Prendergast are comparatively inexperienced, though I use the word in the Kilkenny sense, of course, where it is scarcely possible to live to their age without such exposure to hurling as would make them composed in any surroundings.

Richie Reid has always looked a fine prospect since his minor days and has done nothing to contradict that view; but Nicky Brennan, a member of a hurling family, showed promise of breaking into permanent residence in

● TO PAGE 43

New Ireland Linked Funds

Performance



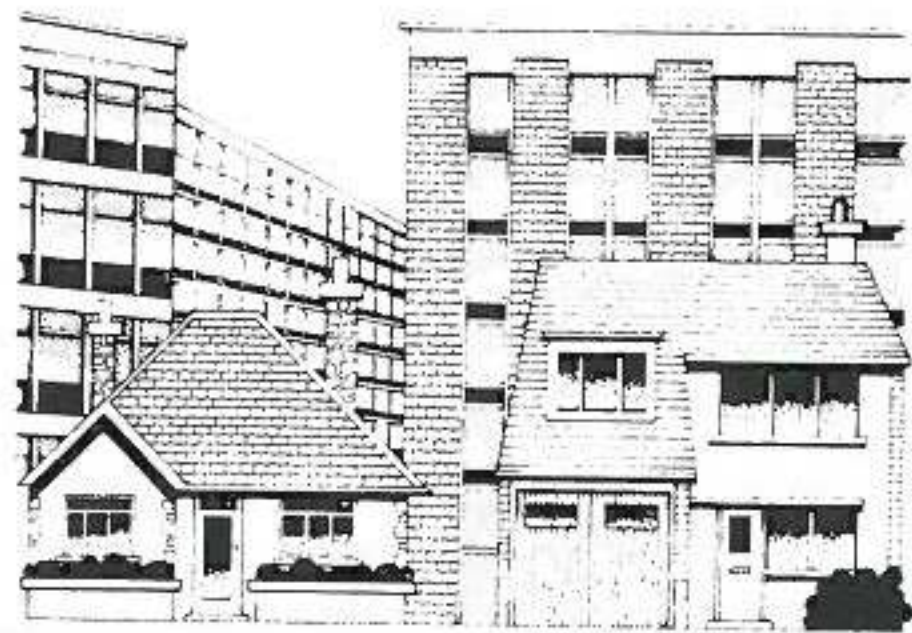
Evergreen Fund

(May 1978-May 1979)

+35.7%

(June 1971-May 1979)

+143.5%



Property Fund

(May 1978-May 1979)

+22.4%

(February 1975-May 1979)

+80.3%



Gilt Edge Fund

(May 1978-May 1979)

+15.0%

(December 1976-May 1979)

+53.2%

Note: The value of the units in a Fund is directly related to the market performance of the Fund and it may rise or fall with investment conditions.
The performance of the three Funds for the past year and since inception is shown above.



Enquiries to Field Service Division: Phone Dublin 776881

NEW IRELAND
Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

FOR LIFE ASSURANCE

● FROM PAGE 41

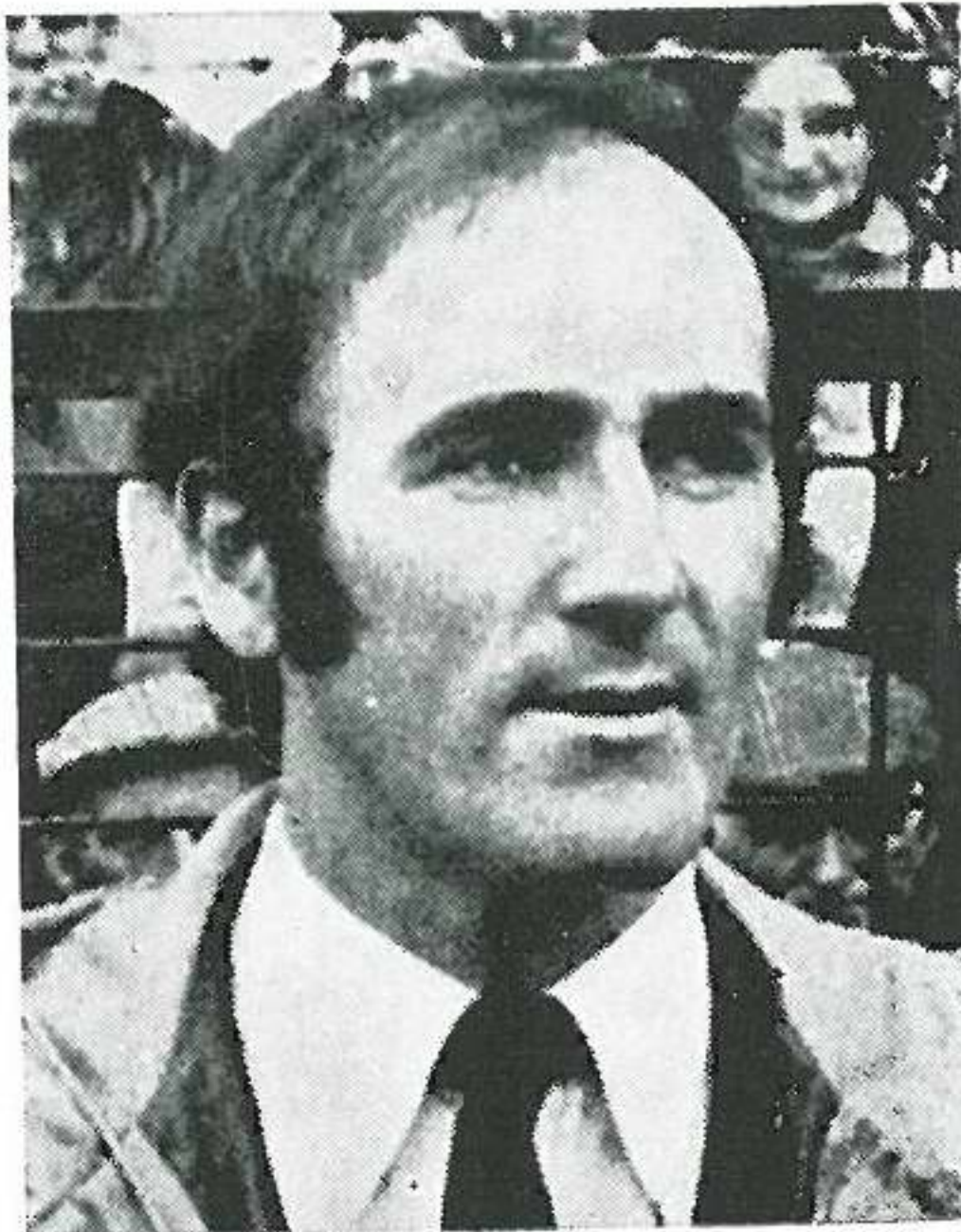
the senior side some years ago and did not.

The transfer of Joe Hennessy and Ger Feenelly to midfield is a crucial factor for Kilkenny—without great new resources they had to rethink their tactical re-deployment of forces. Joe and Ger are sweet hurlers, quick and neat and full of the arts of the game. It is perfectly reasonable to suggest that the freedom of midfield will give them a greater chance to blossom, and the fact that Galway will oppose them with a pair of hurlers also — Mahon and Connolly — should give them a chance to play with every bit of skill and imagination in them.

The release of the experienced but mellowing Frank Cummins and Liam O'Brien also raises the interesting thought that they will

add a greater thrust to the at-

MENTOR SUPREME



● *Eddie Keher now one of Kilkenny's back room boys. If All-Ireland-winning experience is anything to go by Eddie with six medals should have the edge over his opposite number.*

tack—Chunky with his accuracy in striking, and Frank with his strength and forceful drive through the middle.

If the theory is proved correct, the idea is that these pinned-down positions would give a solid base from which the others — mostly cute codgers who may not be as fast as they were—could watch and snatch the chances as they fall like crumbs from the table.

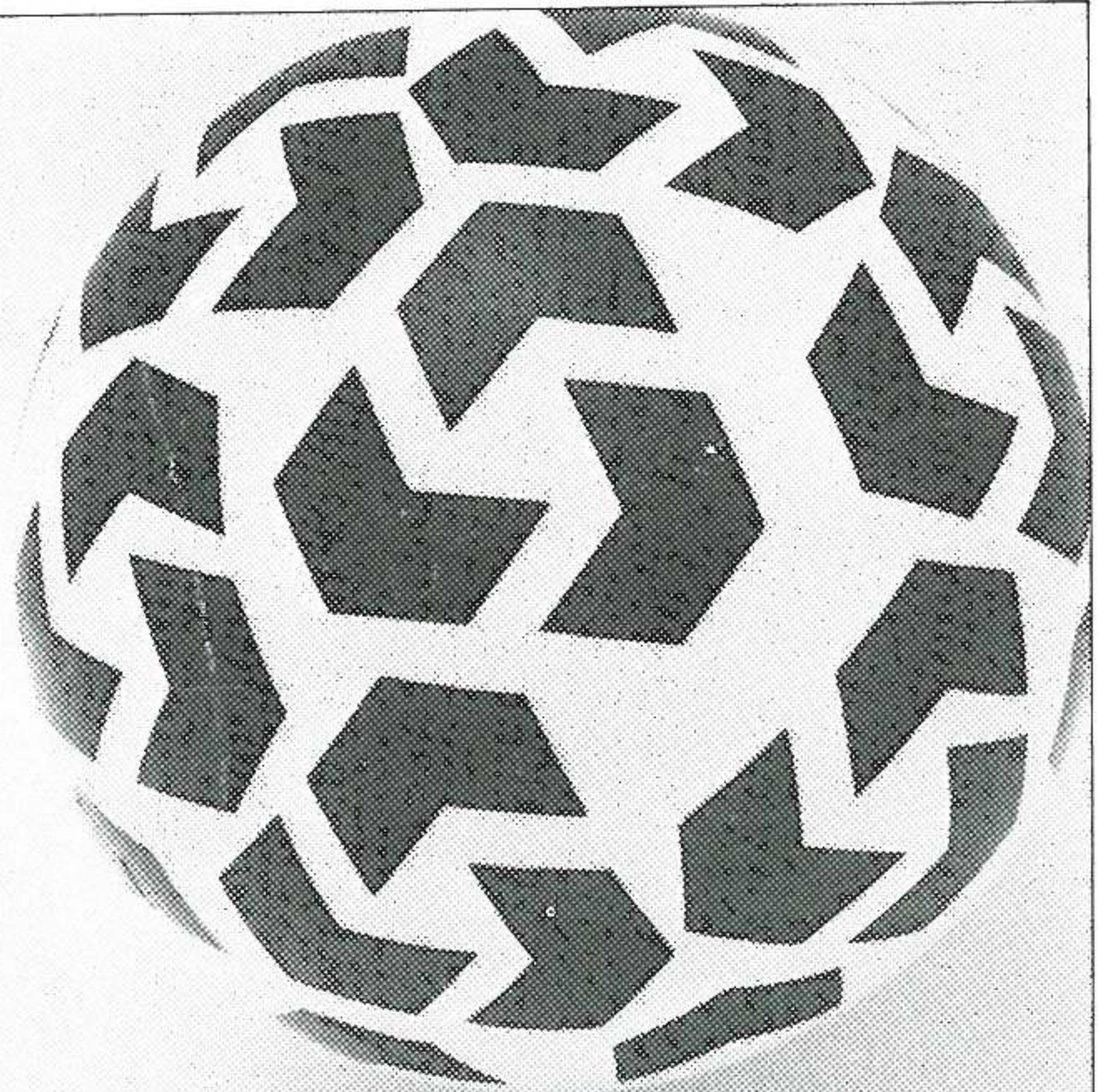
The weakness in the Kilkenny side is that it is still in the realm of theory: it may work, but Galway are to a certain extent an unknown quantity. Having seen the fire and spirit with which they dispatched Cork we are left with the intriguing business of wondering whether they can reproduce that exciting play against a Kilkenny side that has been well warned. It should be a great game.

Get right
on the ball—
open an account
with



**Ulster
Bank**

the friendly bank



P.M.P.A.

NEW ALL-IN COMPREHENSIVE POLICY

MEANS MORE INSURANCE FOR LESS MONEY

Full cover for Third Party, Fire, Theft, Accidental damage (while driving or parked), Personal Accident, Windscreen or glass breakage, Theft of Coats, Rugs, Personal belongings, Hire of Replacement Car, Free towage to nearest P.M.P.A. Garage, Free legal defence.
Available immediately from your local P.M.P.A. Office.



P.M.P.A.

INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

HEAD OFFICE: WOLFE TONE STREET, DUBLIN 1.

Branches in Arklow, Athy, Ballina, Bray, Carrick-on-Shannon, Castleblayney, Cavan, Clonmel, Cork, Dundalk, Finglas, Galway, Kells, Kilkenny, Letterkenny, Limerick, Loughrea, Midleton, Portlaoise, Roscrea, Sligo, Thurles, Tralee, Tullamore, Waterford and Wexford.

A CORKMAN LOOKS AT THE GALWAY TEAM

FOR THIS TEAM, IT'S NOW OR NEVER

By NOEL HORGAN

AS a Corkman, I was naturally disappointed when Galway shattered Cork's dream of a record-equalling four-in-a-row with that spirited and stylish performance in the All-Ireland semi-final last month. But, to my mind, the result was not the major shock which most observers appeared to think.

Admittedly, the talented and experienced Cork squad were entitled to be favourites, particularly as Galway had slumped badly in the previous important outing against Tipperary in the league final. But to rule out completely, as many did, Galway's hopes of toppling the champions and to deny the hurling potential of the Tribesmen was clearly a grave mistake.

That comment may smack of being wise after the event but the truth is that, while acknowledging Galway's inconsistency, I have always had a wary respect for the westerners since they sprang from the hurling wilderness to grab the league title in 1975.

At the beginning of the championship I realised that Galway would be a difficult obstacle to surmount and feared them every bit as much as Tipp and Limerick, perhaps even more so because I felt that if Cork survived in Munster they could unwisely regard Galway as a mere stepping stone to another All-Ireland final.

Galway's displays and achievements since 1975 surely entitled them to more respect. Apart from their league victory that year and their subsequent surprise win over Cork in the championship, Galway have turned in some splendid displays in recent



★

Conor
Hayes
(Galway)

★

★

Steve
Mahon
(Galway)

★



years and, if fortune had been kinder to them, could easily have made a bigger impact.

Their displays in All-Ireland semi-finals in this period have been praiseworthy. Remember the 1976 semi-final and replay against Wexford at Páirc Uí Chaoimh. In the first game Galway gave a splendid exhibition of long-range point-picking and

clever combined play only to be denied success by the goal-scoring ability of Wexford's outstanding full-forward, Tony Doran.

A goal separated the teams in the second meeting after Wexford had edged in front with a controversial score by John Quigley and that match was another thriller.

In the 1977 semi-final at Croke Park, Galway led Cork at the three-quarters stage until a goal from Sean O'Leary and a thundering last quarter performance by midfielder Tim Crowley put the Leesiders on the right road.

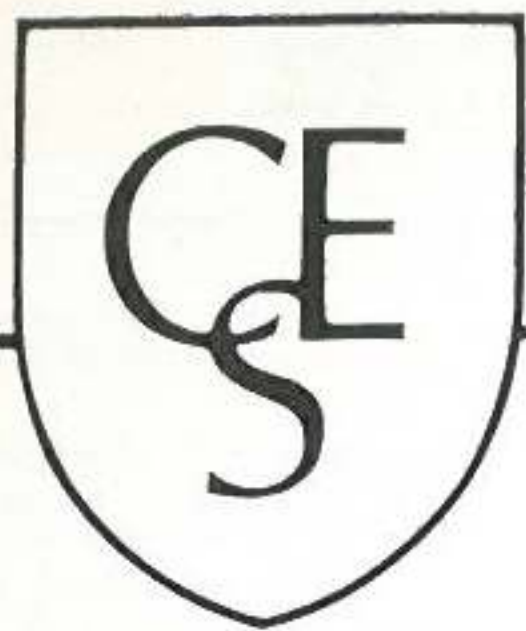
Last year Galway had Kilkenny on the run for long periods, only to fade again in the closing stages, a failing which seemed to stem mainly from lack of championship match-practice.

Galway came to Croke Park this year with a reasonable record. And with top-class and seasoned hurlers in Sean Silke, Iggy Clarke, John Connolly, Frank Burke and P. J. Molloy and an All-Ireland under-21 win last year yielding such promising players as Conor Hayes, Steve Mahon and Bernie Forde, it was obvious that if the team hit form they would pose a stern test for the champions.

Galway did manage to hit the high notes on that occasion and startled the confident Corkmen with the sheer intensity of their challenge. They dominated in most departments, knocking Cork completely out of their stride, and would surely have won more comfortably had they not squandered a fair few chances through over-eagerness.

Such prodigality seemed fatal

● TO PAGE 47



**Irish Sugar
is**

**25,000
Jobs**

its raw materials are all home produced

it generates £400,000,000 annually in our economy. And it sends its 400 products to markets across the world.

Irish Sugar IS your own industry

**COMHLUCHT SIÚICRE
ÉIREANN**

Early Among This Nation's Builders

The Policy...

**that puts you
first.**



- This is the Policy that covers your **car, commercial vehicle or taxi** in the event of you having an accident.
- The one that does not affect your present "No Claim Bonus" because it is separate from your existing Third Party Policy.
- The one that guarantees settlement within 14 days of receipt of your claim form.
- The one you can walk in and buy immediately from your local Irish National office or Broker.

**Accidental Damage
Insurance.**

irishnational

Irish National Insurance Co. Ltd. 9/10 Dawson Street,
Dublin 2. Telephone: (01) 776881

14 Windsor Terrace, Sea Front, Dun Laoghaire.
Telephone: (01) 808567 800312.

always a good policy.

★

GALWAY'S HALF BACKS

● From left Iggy Clarke, Sean Silke, and Joe McDonagh who make up what must be the most experienced half back line in hurling to-day.

★



● FROM PAGE 45

when Cork, with the wind behind them, went a point clear midway through the second half. Teams of lesser spirit would have wilted at this point. A determined Galway were not to be denied, however, and a quick goal from Finbarr Gantley, following a superb pass from John Connolly steered them on course again.

It was a superb victory from a Galway side that looked very well balanced. John Connolly was the star of the day, giving an outstanding display at midfield with good support from industrious Steve Mahon. The defence was almost impenetrable and held the much vaunted Cork forwards with Conor Hayes playing a particularly vital role at full-back where he kept a tight rein on danger-man Ray Cummins.

The attack always moved menacingly with Bernie Forde and P. J. Molloy wreaking havoc on the left wing against Denis Coug-

lan and John Horgan. The Tipperary-born goalie, Seamus Shinnors, who played against Cork in the 1976 championship, gave a flawless display in the Galway colours on this occasion.

Overall, therefore, it was an impressive performance by the Corrib men. But what are their chances of defeating Kilkenny in the final?

On semi-final form Galway must be in with every chance but inconsistency has dogged their progress since their rise five years ago. The inability to overcome this problem must still raise questions as to their real merit.

Another factor which may affect their chances is their lack of familiarity with the pressures, the tensions and the atmosphere prevalent at a really big game. A paltry attendance of 12,315 saw the victory over Cork but one wonders how the younger Galway players will cope with a capacity

crowd on final day. Will they be overawed by the big occasion?

Against all that, however, is the fact that many of the Galway stalwarts realise that this will probably be their last chance to win a treasured All-Ireland medal. Failure now would surely mean the disbanding of this Galway team as several players are approaching the veteran stage.

This knowledge might just be the spur needed to inspire the Galway men to one further outstanding effort and victory. Clearly the hurling ability is there and, if coach "Babs" Keating can get his charges to really believe in themselves, then not even Kilkenny, for all their style and tradition, may be able to prevent a Galway win.

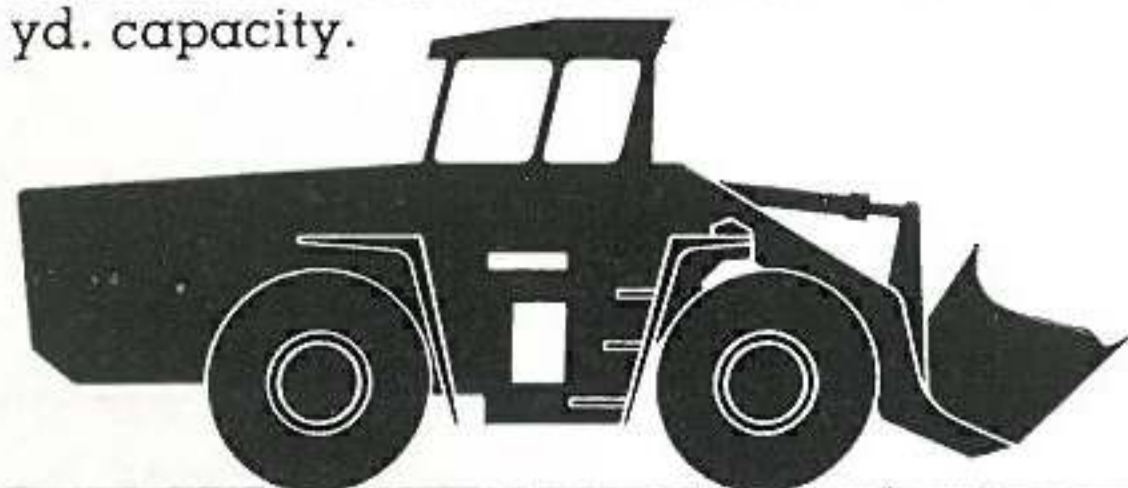
It would be nice to see team-captain Joe McDonagh bringing the Liam McCarthy Cup across the Shannon after such a lengthy absence.

4 names to trust for **Zettelmeyer** power and performance

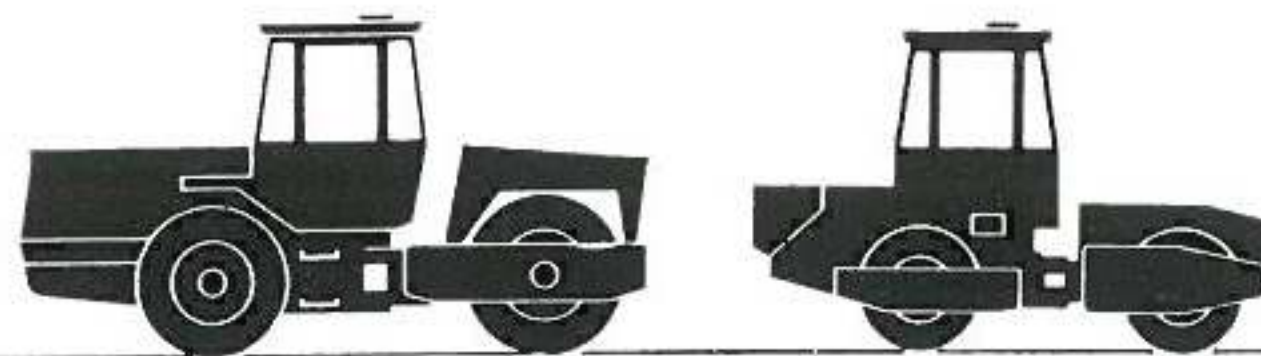


Built for marathon service and highest productivity, these reliability proved machines work faster, safer at lower cost in a wide and tough field of application.

- 1 Zettelmeyer**
Articulated wheel loaders from 1 to 10 cu. yd. capacity.



- 2 HAMM**
Road rollers and compaction equipment.



- 3 Duomat**
Pedestrian vibrators with hydrostatic drive.



- 4** Full spares and back-up guaranteed. Find out how these great machines can cut your construction costs. Contact: The Sole Importer in Ireland.

**P.M.P.A. Construction
and Farm Machines Ltd.**

P.O. Box 12, Swords Rd. Santry, Dublin 9. Phone: 379933

BOTH FIRST-TIME CAPTAINS

By Owen McCann

HE would be a brave man who would rush to nominate any hurlers as the leading candidates to emerge as the dominant figures in the novel East-West showdown for the Liam McCarthy Cup. After all, pick any sector in either team, and one will find on hand personality-plus players with the credentials to stamp their personalities on the match in exciting style.

And among them must undoubtedly be the rival captains, Joe McDonagh and Ger Fennelly, hurlers whose careers provide a sharp contrast, but who at least share one similar experience. Each will lead his county at this stage of the premier championship for the first time.

McDonagh and Fennelly have already left their imprints firmly on the current campaign. Top quality back play by the Galway captain as he, Sean Silke and Iggy Clarke renewed their successful half back formation in style against Cork, and some telling work by Fennelly, particularly in the attack in the second half against Wexford, were among the best features as the Connacht county and Kilkenny clinched their places in the decider.

McDonagh is the more experienced of the two. He has been in the senior inter-county ranks since 1972 when he made his debut against Offaly in a National League tie, and he also already has experienced the tensions of the Blue Riband game as the No. 5 when Galway lost four years ago to Kilkenny.

But if Fennelly is awaiting his first final engagement as a senior, he is, unlike Joe McDonagh,

not a stranger to the role of a successful team leader in a major national final.

In the autumn of 1974, Fennelly was very much to the fore at left half forward at Thurles as he led Kilkenny into a place in history. A one point win over Waterford gave the Leinster county their first All-Ireland under-21 crown.

In goal for Kilkenny, by the way, in that game was Ger Fennelly's brother, Kevin, who is also a member of the county senior team panel at present, and has appeared with the county senior side as a forward and in goal.

Since that history-making day as an under-21 hurler, Ger Fennelly has left his mark in the senior ranks as an outstanding unit with Kilkenny. He has also put up some important scores for county and club.

I recall two points at New Ross back in April that had a big say in steering the Leinster champions to a win over Waterford in a vital relegation battle, and a success that also ensured that Kilkenny retained their premier status in National League hurling for next season.

Then, in the Leinster final, the Shamrocks club man with the excellent stickwork and drive provided some problems for the Wexford defence on being moved into the attack, after having lined out at centre field. He also got among the scores as well.

Ger Fennelly's ability to slot over the points was also a big factor when Shamrocks beat the Fenians, of Johnstown, in the county senior hurling final last October to take the Kilkenny title

for the first time in that grade. He was the club's leading marksman with 0-5.

Ger was also prominent for Shamrocks, from Ballyhale, as they went on to lift the Leinster senior title, and eventually lose out gallantly on a winning All-Ireland final debut against Blackrock, of Cork, who had just two points to spare at the finish.

He was a substitute in the team that beat Galway at this stage four years ago, but did not appear in the showpiece match. Some weeks later, however, Fennelly won his second All-Ireland under-21 medal, that one at midfield, and in a team captained by his brother, Kevin, from goal, that beat Cork at Dungarvan.

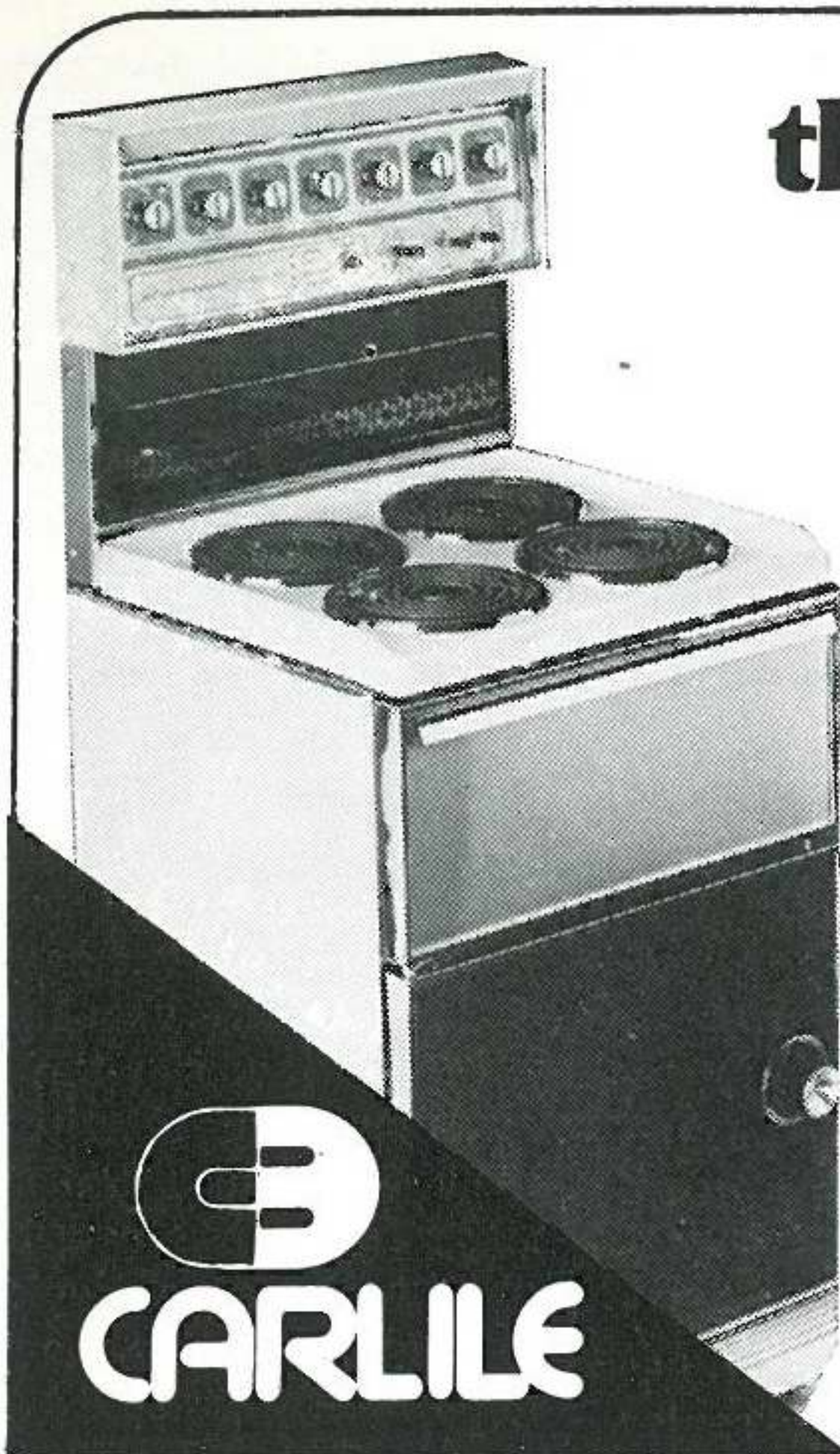
The 25-year-old Kilkenny man made a number of appearances with the county senior team during the campaign that was climaxed by the last National League title win in 1976, although he was not in action in the final replay victory over Clare. He toured the U.S. with the Nonesiders in 1976.

All in all, then, the skilful and talented Ger Fennelly had considerable experience in the big time before adding to his knowhow and growing collection of awards by leading Kilkenny to their successful defence of the Leinster crown last July.

Joe McDonagh, surely one of the best wing backs in modern day hurling, has had his joys and disappointments in important matches at national finals level, and over various grades.

He was a forward in the under-18 team that was well beaten by Cork in the 1970 All-Ireland final but two years later got among the

● TO PAGE 51



the New Tricity President Economiser Cooker

This is the great new cooker from Tricity. One of its major features is the economiser ring which saves you money every time you cook. A saving of electricity of as much as 10% without loss of speed or efficiency.

A family of four, for example, could save enough electricity over a year to run a 5 cu. ft. refrigerator for some 6 months . . . absolutely free. That's real economy. And the new Tricity President carries the Carlile Long Life Guarantee.

Full details from :

The Carlile Advisory Centre,
46 Drury Street, Dublin 2. Tel. 758731.

Dress like a prince without paying a king's ransom...

...with Burton's
**Budget
PLAN**

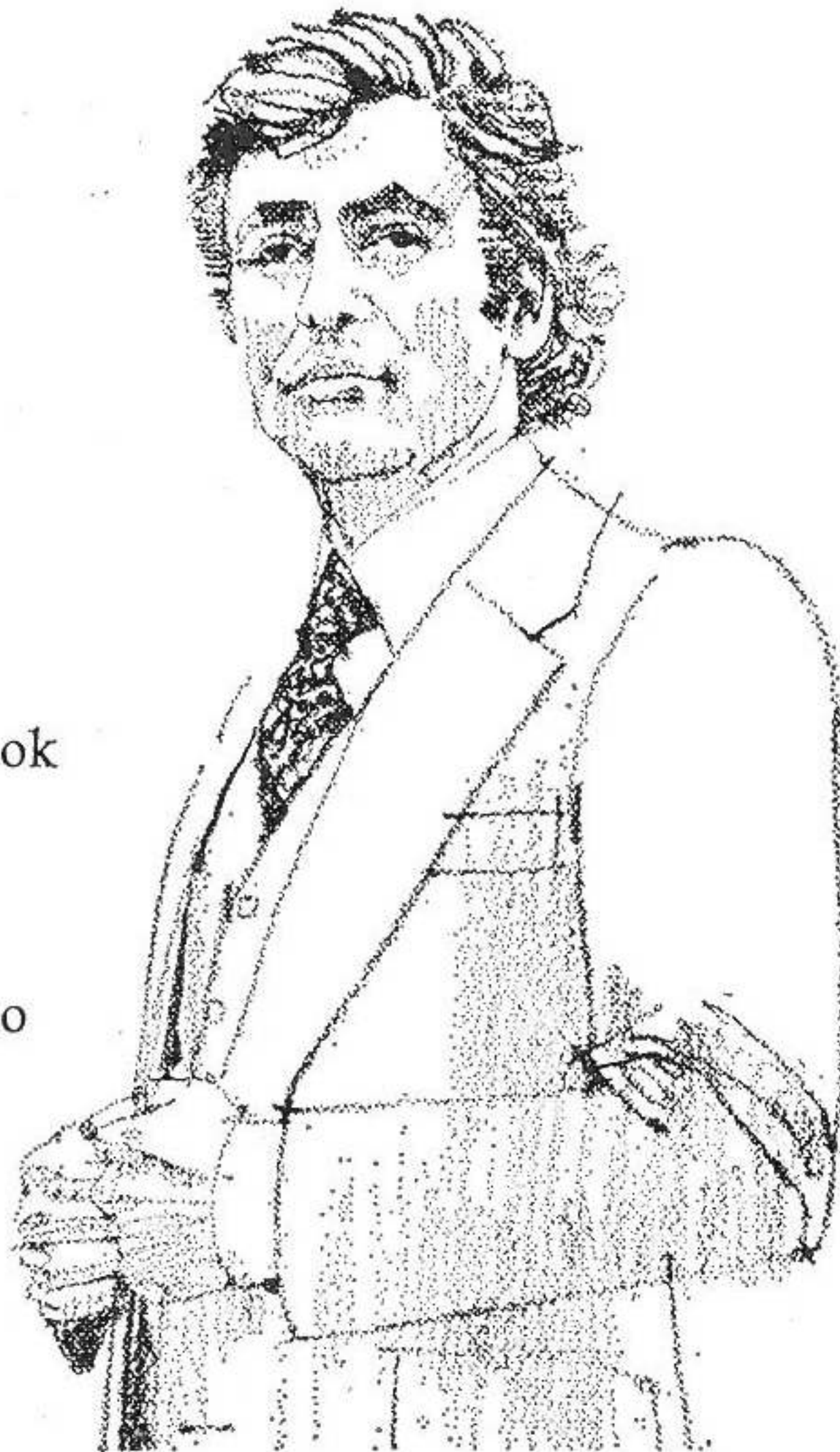
Burton's Budget plan is the inexpensive way for every Dub to look his best.

Because it spreads the cost of payment to suit you.

Call into your local Burton's today and open an account with no fuss or bother.

BURTON'S

DUBLIN: Upper O'Connell Street, Henry Street,
Dame Street, Grafton Street, Capel Street.
DUN LAOGHAIRE: Upper George's Street.



● FROM PAGE 49

medals as the Connacht county made an important breakthrough by beating Dublin for a first national under-21 crown in the code.

Then, came what could probably be said to be the latest climb back by Galway to a position among the top sides in hurling. It took fire in the National League of 1974-75 as the Connacht county climbed from Division 1B to beat Tipperary for the title proper—their only National League crown since 1951.

The Connacht county had many brilliant heroes in that campaign but high on the list must be the half back line of McDonagh, Silke and Iggy Clarke.

Joe, who almost tops the 6ft. mark, was Galway's youngest hurler at 20 in the last summit against the Nonesiders. Cool under pressure, and a difficult defender to outwit, he won a Carrolls All Star award at right half back in 1976, and was also in the Galway team that took the Oireachtas Cup that season. He was right full back in the final win over Cork at Croke Park.

A graduate of U.C.G., he plays club hurling with Ballinderreen, and wore the No.3 jersey when Connacht made a memorable breakthrough in the Railway Cup last March by inflicting the first ever defeat on Munster in a semi-final in the history of the hurling series.

Joe was at full back as Connacht's high hopes of a second title were spiked by Leinster at Thurles, and he held down the same position when the Western county went under to Tipperary in the League final at Limerick last May.

Now, however, he is back again in that old familiar role of half back renewing the association that did so much to bring Galway back to the forefront, and one that also sparkled yet again in the sensational triumph against Cork.

Many—and not all Galwaymen—are delighted to see the McDonagh—Silke—Iggy Clarke sector restored. This trio could prove trump cards for Galway, too, as half back dominance can often turn the key in the door of success.

Sharply contrasting records, then, for the men who will lead the teams in hurling's top match of the year. Who will eventually make the honoured ascent up the Hogan Stand to receive the Liam

McCarthy Cup?

I am not prepared to commit myself on that one. But whether it proves to be Ger Fennelly for a double joy day on his senior final debut, or Joe McDonagh to bring the trophy back across the Shannon for the first time in the lifetime of so many Galway enthusiasts, it is safe to forecast that this pair will be among the brightest stars of what has the making of one of the best finals on record.



Somewhere, someone is hoping to receive a letter from you. Why not write it today on Belvedere Bond? Belvedere Bond so smooth and pleasant to write on...so acceptable. Belvedere Bond a quality Irish product. Ask for it by name at your local stationers.



A WIGGINS TEAPE PRODUCT

FLORA FACTS.



FACT.

Flora is made with pure sunflower oil.



FACT.

Flora is higher in polyunsaturated fat than any other spread.



FACT.

Flora contains no animal fats.



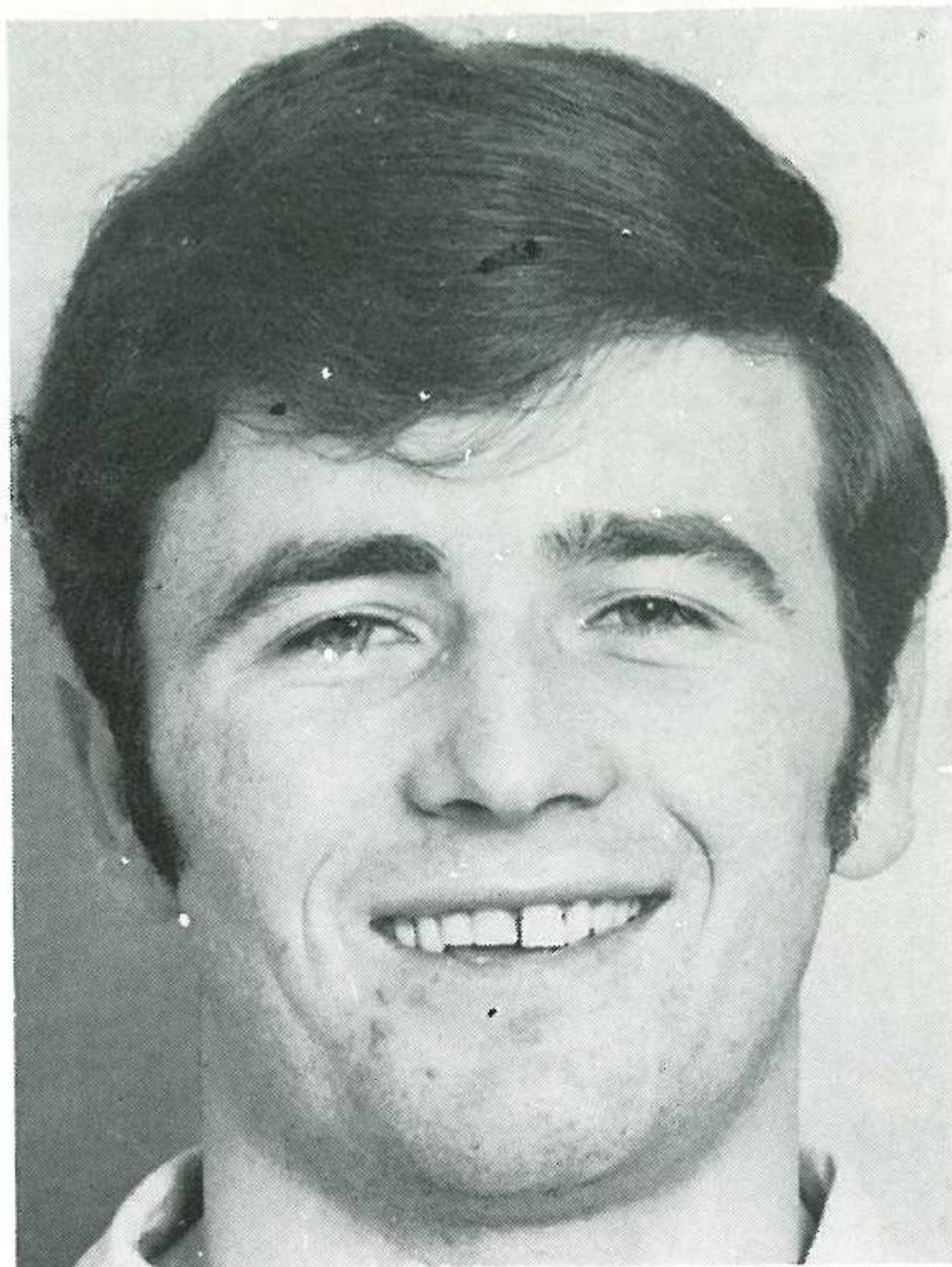
FLORA.

GOOD TASTE THAT MAKES GOOD SENSE.

Brian Murphy

all-rounder

extraordinary



● *The Cork all-rounder Brian Murphy who has won every medal available to him at All-Ireland level.*

BRIAN Murphy is well known through the hurling and football world, and especially to those who collect unusual statistics, for his extraordinary record in winning every kind of All-Ireland championship open to him, some of them several times.

Of course there is a certain distortion involved in this kind of record, because, no matter how brilliant the player is, or how skilful, durable or consistent he is, he has little or no command over the achievement of such a streak of successes. He must be born at the right time, in the right place, and he must have as contemporaries a sufficient number of gifted hurlers and footballers to accompany him on the road to success.

Granted, therefore, that Brian Murphy was born in the right place and at the right time and that there was a rich seam of hurling and football talent all round him in Cork, why is it that it was he who broke all those records for consistency and continual success? Why not some of the others who seemed to have much the same starting point as he had?

Is it that Brian was so heavily laden with talent or brilliance that none of the others was so marvellous as he? I think not. At least, I should say that I think this is not the cause. Good as he is (and was) there were others of the long list of talented hurler-footballers who have come to the

By
Seamus
O Braonain

fore in Cork in the last ten to fifteen years who were as gifted and perhaps even more accomplished.

One thing most of them did not have was the depth of dedication to carry them past the minor or under-21 years into the senior ranks. Some others did not have the time, I suppose, because they gave first choice to some demanding discipline of life which left too little opportunity or energy for achieving success at hurling and football at the highest level.

Some few, I suppose, had the dedication, gave the time and the energy and the effort, but, somehow, all the expected parts did not fit together and the picture that might have been expected to emerge never did. They fell short to a lesser or greater degree.

There are many other reasons,

I suppose, or combinations of reasons — as many as the individual circumstances dictate — and, in some respects one has to admit that Brian Murphy might have fallen into any of those categories and never become the player he became. In other words, the element of chance has a lot to do with it.

But it would also be wrong to think that it is all a matter of luck; it may be presumed that many others were no less well treated by chance than he was. No, he was something special himself, or else all that long string of achievements would not have been possible.

He had an excellent physique — not massively or too finely built, but tight and tidy and well-balanced in all directions — and

● **TO PAGE 63**

ANSWERS

● FROM PAGE 19

1978 FINAL

1. Ger Henderson. 2. Tommy Malone and Pat Henderson. 3. Kilkenny scored 1-4. 4. Dick O'Hara. 5. **SHAMROCKS** (Richie Reid); **CLARA** (Paddy Prendergast); **ST. PATRICK'S** (Matt Ruth).

1979 FINAL

1. None. 2. Frank Larkin. 3. Joe McDonagh. 4. 0-3. 5. **LIAM MELLOWES** (Niall McInerney); **MULLAGH** (Iggy Clarke); **ATH-ENRY** (P. J. Molloy).

EASTERNERS

1. 1977.
2. 13 times. The trophy was first presented for the 1921 final, and Kilkenny's name went on the Cup for the first time after their 1922 win.
3. Nicky Orr, full back from Johnstown, and Mick Crotty, of

James Stephens, who lined out at right half forward.

4. Six between 1963 and 1975.
5. Billy Fitzpatrick.

1975 FINAL

1. John Connolly. 2. Twelve points. 3. Marty Barrett, right full forward, Michael Conneely, goalkeeper. 4. True. 5. Gerry Coone with 0-6.

SPOT THE MISTAKES

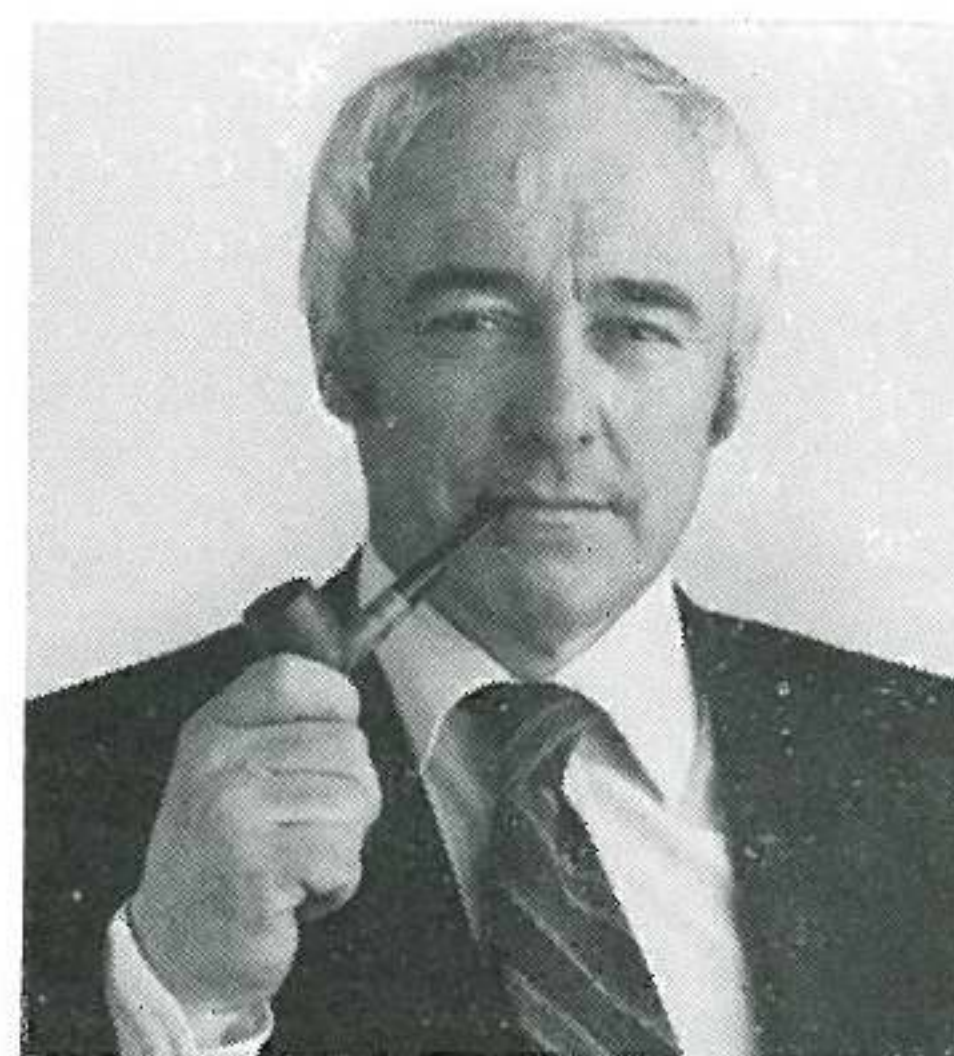
Galway's success against Laois in the quarter final at **BIRR** was a well-merited one. Kilkenny beat **DUBLIN** and Wexford to retain the Leinster championship, and so earn their **SECOND** bye to a final since 1974.

Niall McInerney, who played in the attack, was the man on the goal standard for Galway against Laois, (**P. J. MOLLOY** hit their only goal), while Billy Fitzpatrick, the Kilkenny captain, and Mick Brennan shot Kilkenny's goals. Fitzpatrick was not captain, while Fitzpatrick and Ruth were the goal scorers.

PAIRINGS

1. Frank Burke (Galway). 2. Iggy Clarke. 3. Kieran Purcell (Kilkenny). 4. Pat Lally (Galway).

NEW AGENCY

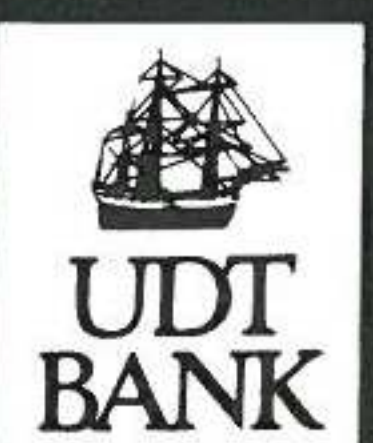
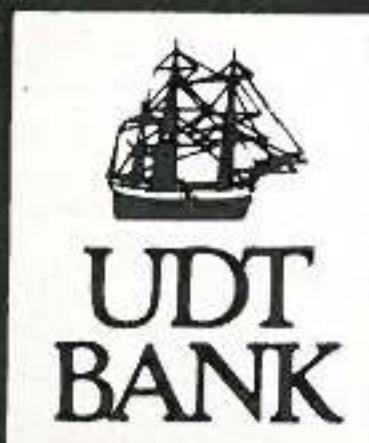
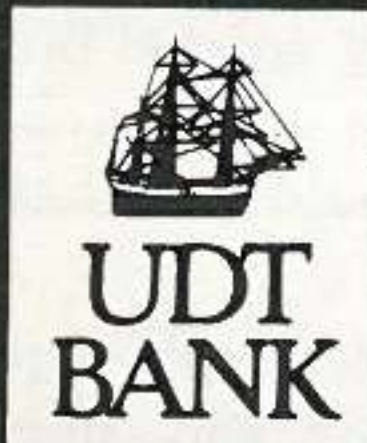
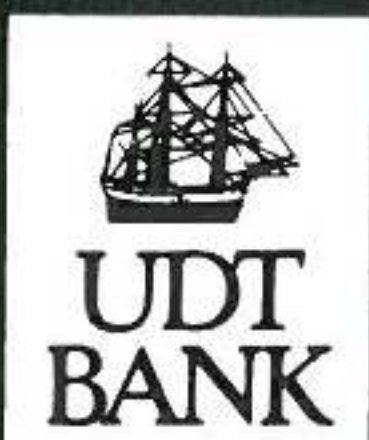
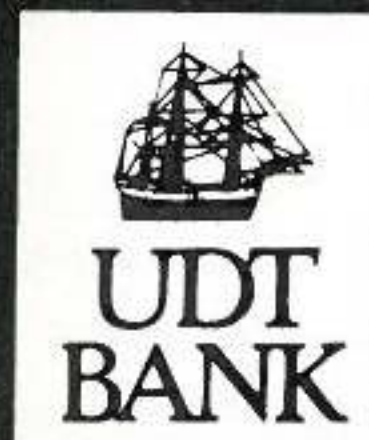
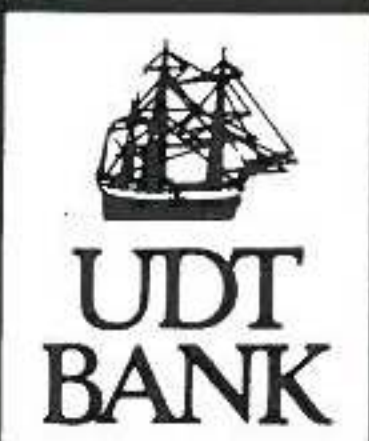
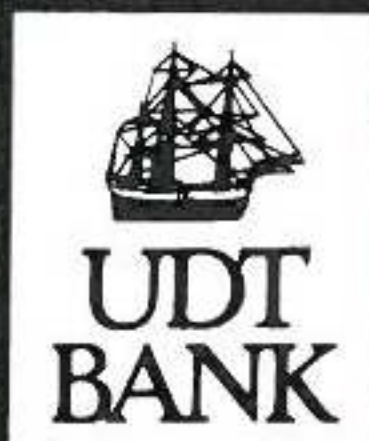
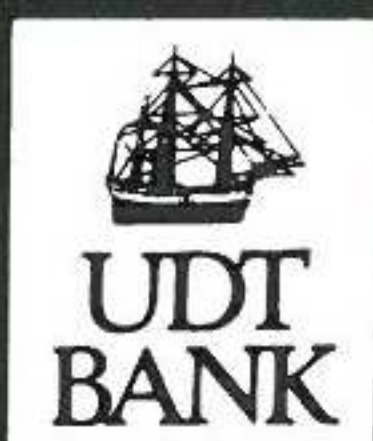
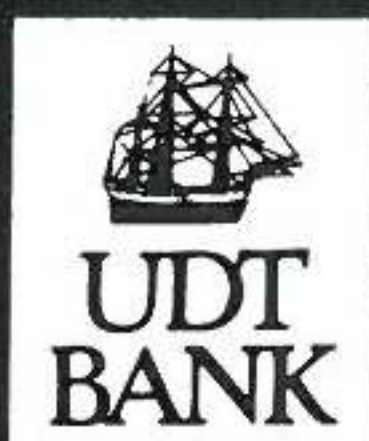
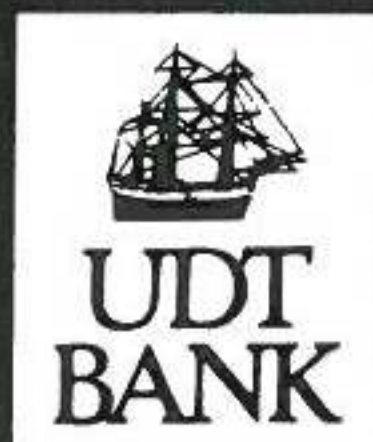


● Ted O'Sullivan well known advertising man has formed his own advertising agency, O'Sullivan Ryan Ltd. with offices at 97 Haddington Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Ted who lives in Blackrock, Co. Dublin, hails originally from Millstreet, Co. Cork.

15 ¹⁰/₂ %

on Deposits

An Authorised Trustee Investment.

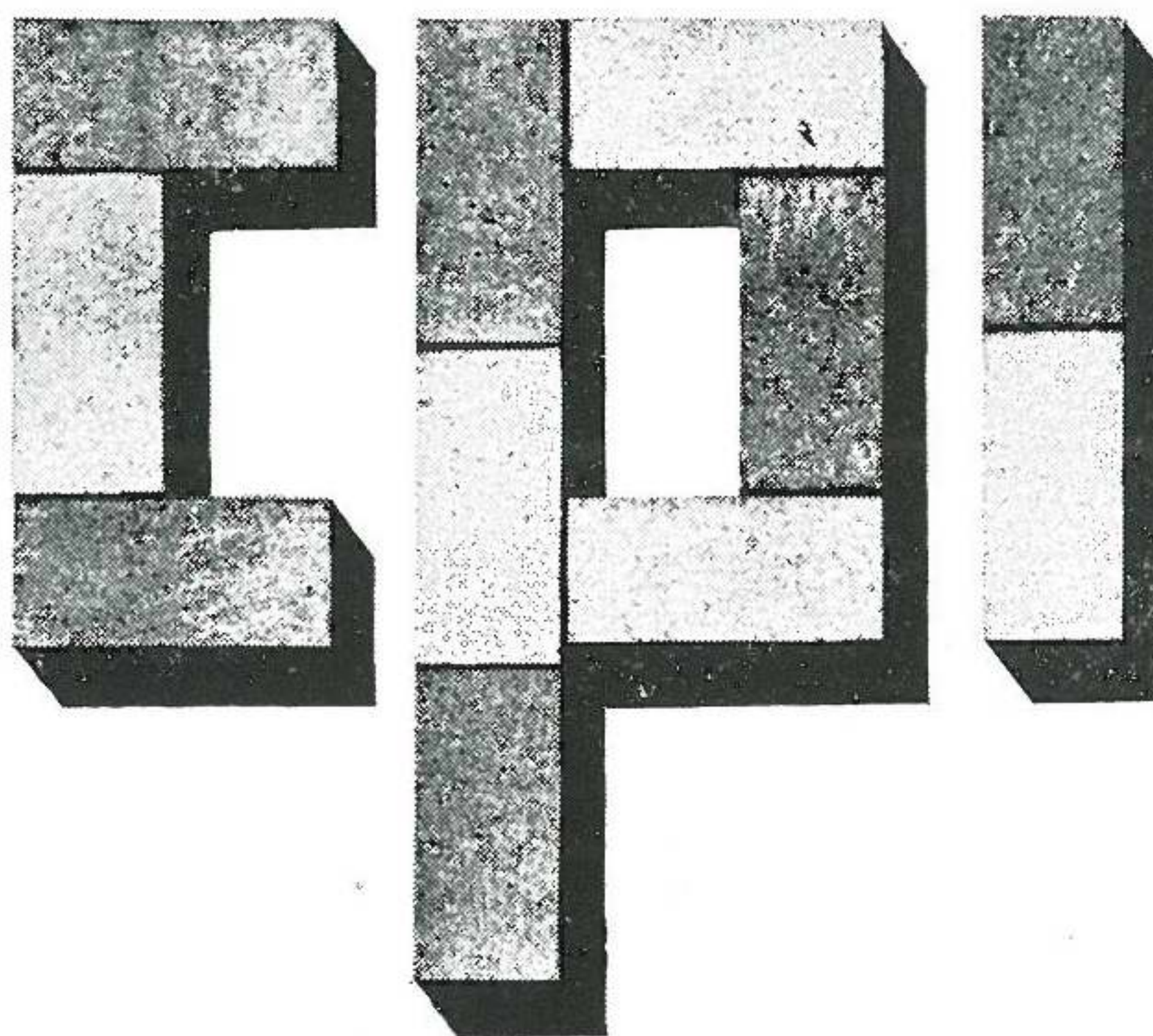


United Dominions Trust (Ireland) Ltd., Bankers,
13-16 Fleet Street, P.O. Box: 616, Dublin 2.
Phone: Dublin (01) 713311 or your branch office.

MINOR HURLING ROLL OF HONOUR

Compiled by FRANK COOGAN

1928 CORK
1929 WATERFORD
1930 TIPPERARY
1931 KILKENNY
1932 TIPPERARY
1933 TIPPERARY
1934 TIPPERARY
1935 KILKENNY
1936 KILKENNY
1937 CORK
1938 CORK
1939 CORK
1940 LIMERICK
1941 CORK
1942-44 SUSPENDED
1945 DUBLIN
1946 DUBLIN
1947 TIPPERARY
1948 WATERFORD
1949 TIPPERARY
1950 KILKENNY
1951 CORK
1952 TIPPERARY
1953 TIPPERARY
1954 DUBLIN
1955 TIPPERARY
1956 TIPPERARY
1957 TIPPERARY
1958 LIMERICK
1959 TIPPERARY
1960 KILKENNY
1961 KILKENNY
1962 KILKENNY
1963 WEXFORD
1964 CORK
1965 DUBLIN
1966 WEXFORD
1967 CORK
1968 WEXFORD
1969 CORK
1970 CORK
1971 CORK
1972 KILKENNY
1973 KILKENNY
1974 CORK
1975 KILKENNY
1976 TIPPERARY
1977 KILKENNY
1978 CORK



Marley Tiles and Besser Bricks -when quality comes first.

CPI Besser Bricks and Marley Roof Tiles set the standards by which other bricks and tiles are judged. For quality. Durability. And appearance. Why settle for anything less?



DUBLIN: Concrete Products of Ireland Ltd.,
Lucan, Co. Dublin. Tel. 01-280691
CORK: Watergrasshill. Tel. 021-889170/889176

hi HIBERNIAN INSURANCE
HOMEPAK POLICY



HOUSEHOLDERS!

Peace of mind now comes in one simple package

Hibernian Homepak – the popular single policy insurance package is now an even more attractive proposition for homeowners. It is now index-linked so that sums insured will be automatically updated each year in line with current costs. In addition a new-for-old settlement has been introduced for any item less than 5 years old.

Contact your local Hibernian Insurance office, broker or agent.

hi HIBERNIAN INSURANCE



THE CLARENCE HOTEL

Wellington Quay, Dublin 2. Tel. 776178

The Clarence has a well-deserved reputation for serving the finest steaks in Dublin. It's equally celebrated for its pleasant atmosphere, and friendly, personal service. The Clarence prides itself on maintaining its tradition for excellent food, superbly served, and also takes pleasure in preserving the special intimacy of its bars and lounges.

The Clarence provides businessmen with the best of everything in a convivial atmosphere.

~~~~~  
**TWO GREAT HOTELS, RIGHT IN THE CENTRE OF THINGS**  
 ~~~~~

WYNNS HOTEL

Lr. Abbey St., Dublin 1. Tel. 745131

Wynns Hotel has been modernised and improved without sacrificing its unique atmosphere and charm.

The Grill Bar and Restaurant offer good food, superbly cooked and served, from mid-day to mid-night

The traditional bars and lounges preserve their atmosphere of friendly informality. It's the ideal rendezvous in the city centre; Wynns Hotel in Abbey Street.



Results Summary

CONNACHT CHAMPIONSHIPS

UNDER-21 Football: July 22: Roscommon: Roscommon 1-15; Mayo 1-10. **REPLAY.** Semi-finals: July 22: Carrick-on-Shannon: Galway 4-12; Leitrim 2-6. July 27: Tubbercurry: Sligo 4-10; Roscommon 1-13.

LEINSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Football: **FINAL:** July 29. Croke Park: Dublin 1-8; Offaly 0-9. Attendance: 52,348. Top Scorers for the entire series: S. Lowry (Offaly) 0-21 in three games; average seven points. M. McGee (Wexford) 3-12 in four games. Average: 5.25 points.

Minor Football: Final: July 29. Croke Park: Dublin 2-13; Meath 0-8.

Under-21 Hurling: Semi-final: July 18: Portlaoise: Wexford 2-14; Offaly 2-5. **FINAL:** July 25: Carlow: Kilkenny 2-8; Wexford 0-14. **DRAW.**

MUNSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Football: Final: July 22: Killarney: Kerry 2-14; Cork 2-4. Attendance: 46,146. Top Scorer for the entire series: G. Power (Kerry) 4-7 (19 points) in two games. Average: 9.50 points.

Minor Football: Final: July 22: Killarney: Kerry 3-6; Cork 2-9. **DRAW.** July 27: Cork: Kerry 1-11; Cork 1-5. **REPLAY.**

Under-21 Hurling: July 26: **FINAL:** Thurles: Tipperary 1-13; Cork 2-7.

ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Football: **FINAL:** July 22: Clones: Monaghan 1-15; Donegal 0-11. Attendance: 21,272. Top scorer for the entire series: K. Finlay (Monaghan) 1-18 (21 points) in three games. Average: Seven points.

Minor Football Final: July 22: Clones: Down 1-7; Tyrone 0-6.

Under-21 Hurling: July 21: Final: Armagh: Antrim 9-13; Armagh 2-2.

1979-80 NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

July 25: Waterford: Wexford 1-9; Waterford 1-5.

GAEL-LINN CUP

Senior Football Final: July 29: Tuam: Galway 6-8; New York 2-10.

ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Hurling Semi-final: August 5: Croke Park: Galway 2-14; Cork 1-13. Attendance: 12,315.

Minor Football: July 29: Tuam: New York 6-4; London 0-6. August 5: Croke Park: Down 3-17; New York 0-1.

Minor Hurling Semi-final: August 5: Croke Park: Cork 6-15; Galway 0-6.

HANDBALL

All-Ireland Open Coca Cola Championships

SINGLES: July 28: Clonmel: R. Lyng (Wexford) bt G. Scully (Galway).

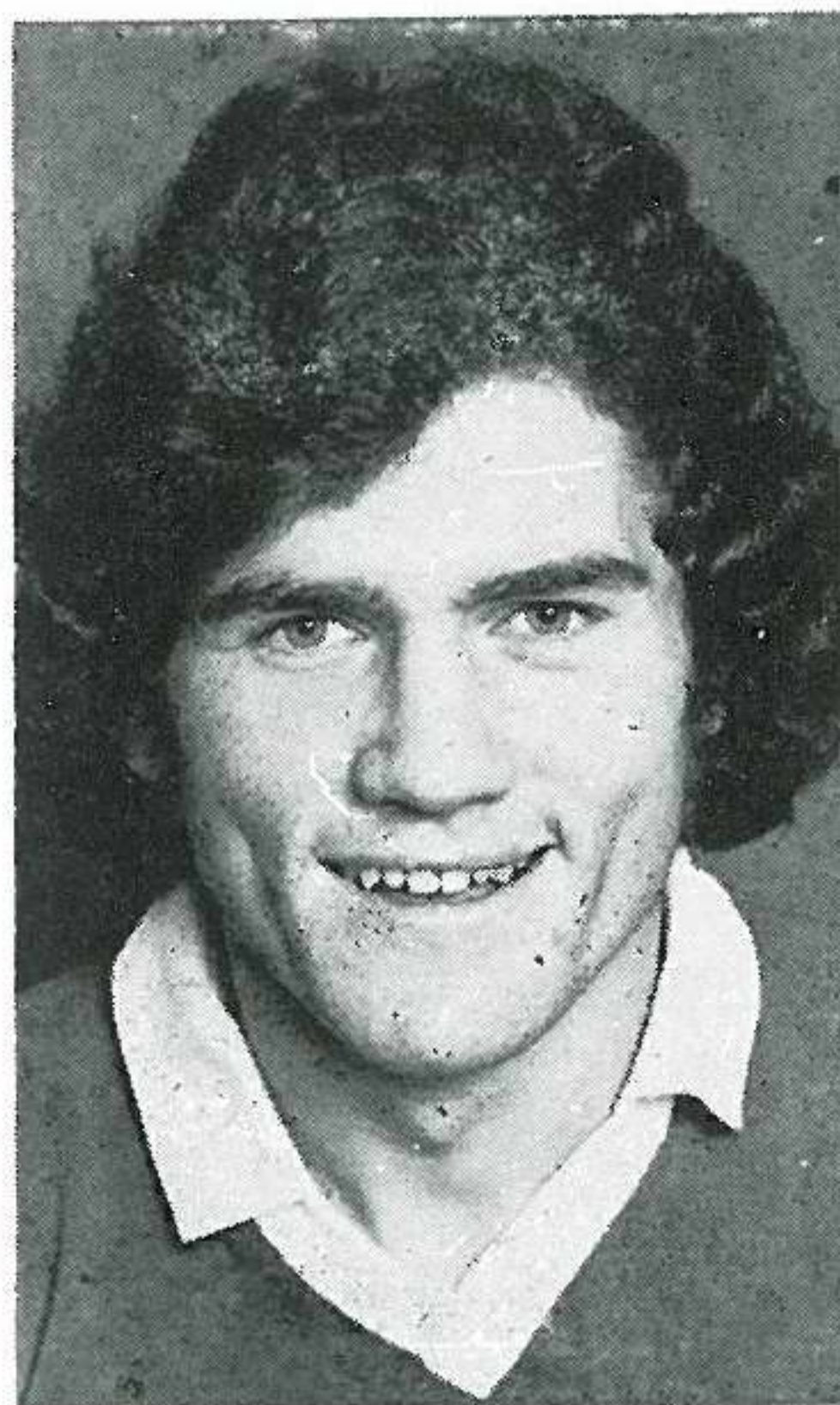
July 29: Croke Park: T. Morrissey (Tipperary) bt O. Harrold (Kilkenny). T. O'Rourke (Kildare) bt P. Reilly (Kilkenny). P. Ryan (Dublin) bt P. McGarry (Limerick).

August 5: Croke Park: Semi-final: P. Ryan (Dublin) bt T. Morrissey (Tipperary).

CAMOGIE

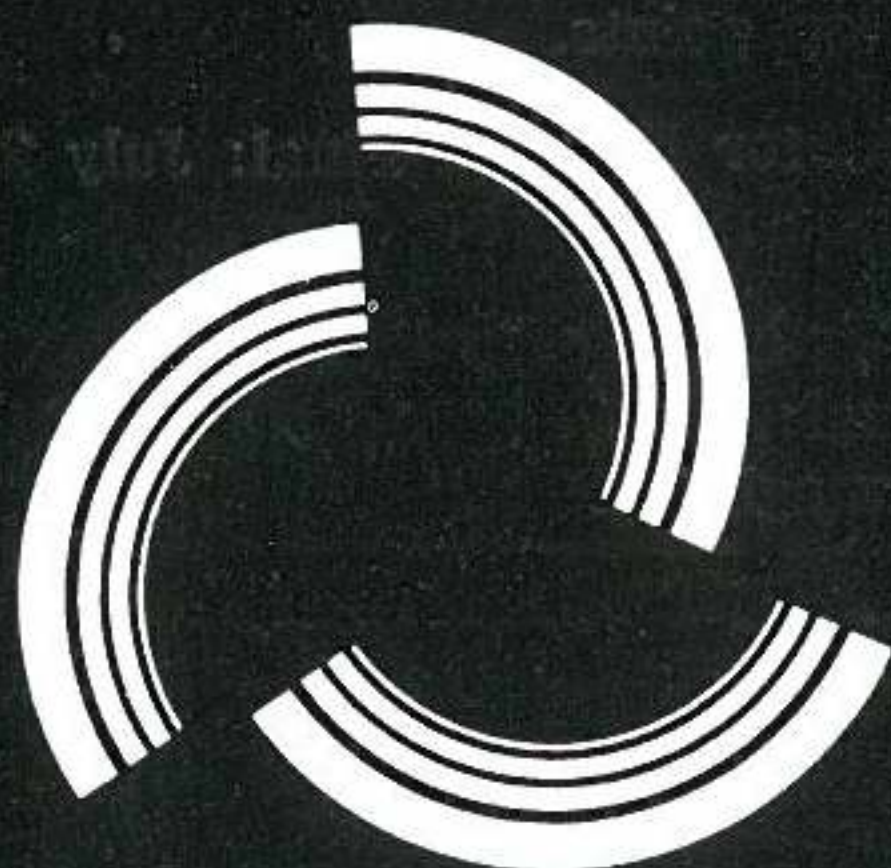
Senior Championship

July 22: Clonroche: Wexford 4-7; Clare 1-4. July 29: Randalls-town: Antrim 5-5; Kilkenny 4-3.



● Ger Power (Kerry) top scorer in Munster Football Championship.

AIB GAA CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD



DUAIS-CHISTE-£7,000
Closing Date 30th September 1979

- * **Free draws for valuable prizes of sports equipment.**
- * **Additional prizes next year for Improved Standards - based on this year's markings.**

Entry Forms from any Branch of Allied Irish Banks

Ná lig do leas ar cairde - ENTER NOW !



Allied Irish Banks
Banking for a better future

JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

WELL we have the post back at last. Though at the time of writing it's not back to anything like normal yet. So you young fans are urged to write to me about anything. Wasn't it great to see Monaghan win the Ulster title. Johnny Geraghty, the former Galway goalkeeping star, and myself travelled from Galway to the game and we got royal treatment in Clones. Congrats Monaghan.

GALWAY

Here in Galway we are still celebrating Galway's marvellous win over Cork. It was Galway's greatest ever hurling victory. But there is great respect for Kilkenny. We don't want a repeat of 1975 all over again. Galway can't have more than a 50-50 chance and there will be no overconfidence. I know I'm partial here, but hurling needs a new team at the top.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is Tommy Butler. A very skilled hurler who helped Tipperary back to the top in the National League last Spring. Tommy is a grand forward and very accurate as well as being an outstanding sportsman.

Although Tipperary lost to Cork in the first round of the Championship the match was a classic and make no mistake Tipperary are back in the top bracket to stay.

Mailbag

Anna Marie McGovern, Doneycoy, Templeboy, Co. Sligo writing for the first time, is 13 years old and is a Cork supporter. She loved the Jimmy Barry-Murphy story in the **Sunday Independent** and wants Cut-Outs of Tom Creedon, Kevin Kehilly and Tom Cashman. "Michael O'Hehir is a great commentator."

● *So he is and he is now 41 years at the game. Failte Anna Marie and may Michael O'Hehir's exciting voice continue to enthral us for years to come. (J.M.)*

Peadar Ó Tuatáin, Rúnaí, Irish Rounders Assoc., Knockadoon, Moneymore, Co. Derry sent me on a copy of the Handbook of the Irish Rounders Association which costs £1.50 and writes to me as follows.

Enclosed your complimentary copy of our New Handbook of Rules and Information. I hope you enjoy it. I would like to thank you too for some mention in the "Gaelic Sport" magazine in the past, and for the good work you are doing there.

The book on Rounders is for sale to Clubs and schools at substantial discount on the cover price, which includes postage and packing to anybody who sends an order to me at the above address.

There is also available now Irish-made Rounders bats in a variety of sizes which can be ordered through me or Croke

Park by sending on £5.00 for the 30" bat and £4.00 for bats under 24". Bats over 30" may be ordered but may take a little longer to produce and may cost maybe 50p extra.

Players under twelve years should be able to handle any size bat up to 30".

Incidentally the new synthetic Sliotar is proving itself popular as the ideal all weather ball for the Rounders game.

I must add that our Provincial games have been a success with these games probably developing into local internationals at next year's Pa-Celtic games. We have a team going to Scotland in late August and hope that that will bring big interest from there. We hope to have full scale International competition for our Centenary year. Any contacts you have or can make with the Softball clubs in Europe or USA will be welcome.

● *Peadar, delighted to give you space. I'll comment on the book at a later stage. Meantime every success. (J.M.)*

Our third letter is from that great communicator from Westmeath, **Paddy Flanagan**, whose Leinster final programmes get better every year.

Now that the postal dispute is over and we look forward to a resumption of "Junior Desk" in "Gaelic Sport" I would like if you would include a note asking anyone who wrote to me about programmes and/or tapes, before the disruption, and have not had a reply from me, to please get in

● **TO PAGE 61**

WE'VE BUILT A CITY

Since our foundation in 1935, the Educational Building Society has helped over 40,000 families own their own homes.

And by making it possible for people to buy houses, we've made it easier for builders to sell them. Thus the EBS plays a vital role in one of Ireland's major industries . . . and the Irish economy.

Forgive us for being proud.

But it's not every day you build a city.

And if you keep investing—we'll build another.



EBS

THE EDUCATIONAL BUILDING SOCIETY

● FROM PAGE 59

touch with me again.

I believe in answering all correspondence and would be afraid some replies might have gone astray. Would anyone have a tape of this year's Leinster Hurling Final?

● Thanks Paddy for your continued interest in Junior Desk. (J.M.)

Joseph McElligott, Glenoe, Listowel, Co. Kerry, selects his top hurling team since 1974 as follows: S. Durack, F. Larkin, P. Hartigan, J. Horgan, P. Henderson, G. Loughnane, S. Foley, J. Treacy, J. Galvin, R. Bennis, F. Loughnane, E. Grimes, J. Connolly, T. Doran and E. Keher.

● I wouldn't agree with some of your placings but the personnel is fine. (J.M.)

John F. Lyons, Creggane, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway thinks the late Christy Ring was the greatest hurler of all time and that he will be remembered as long as hurling is played.

● Nice tribute John. (J.M.)

Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick, wants a Cut-Out of Ollie O'Connor who is "the find of the year in hurling." Denis tips Ollie for an All-Star and feels his greatest challengers are Charlie McCarthy and Mick Brennan.

● Pencil in P. J. Molloy there too. (J.M.)

Desmond Brennan, 4, Bibsworth Ave., Moseley, Birmingham, West Midlands B 13 0BH is thrilled to be coming to Ireland for his holidays and looks forward to seeing the Galway v. Kilkenny hurling final.

● Hope to see you Des. (J.M.)

Joe Carroll, Stagmount, Rockchapel, Co. Cork also writing for the first time loves Junior Desk and is a keen collector of Sports books and has a number for sale. Jimmy Barry-Murphy is his favourite player.

● Please write to Joe for his list of books and programmes for sale. Delighted to see that Jimmy Barry-Murphy is doing a regular column for the Cork G.A.A. magazine "CLASH". While I'm on that subject I'm delighted to see Colm McAlar-



● This year's Hurling Final Special would not be complete without a remembrance of the legendary hurler, Christy Ring, who died earlier this year. For T. Murphy of Rathmore, Co. Kerry, John F. Lyons of Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, and lovers of excellent hurling everywhere, we include this action shot from the Railway Cup series that Christy Ring made specially his own.

ney doing a similar column for the Down equivalent "SCORE". (J.M.)

Paula McKee, 801, Wayne Drive, Rockford, Illinois 61111, U.S.A. Hello, hope this finds you in the best of health. Please permit me to introduce myself, my name is Paula McKee. I'm 20 years old and I live here in the United States. I am an avid fan of your column whenever I get a chance to get "Gaelic Sport".

I would like to know if you

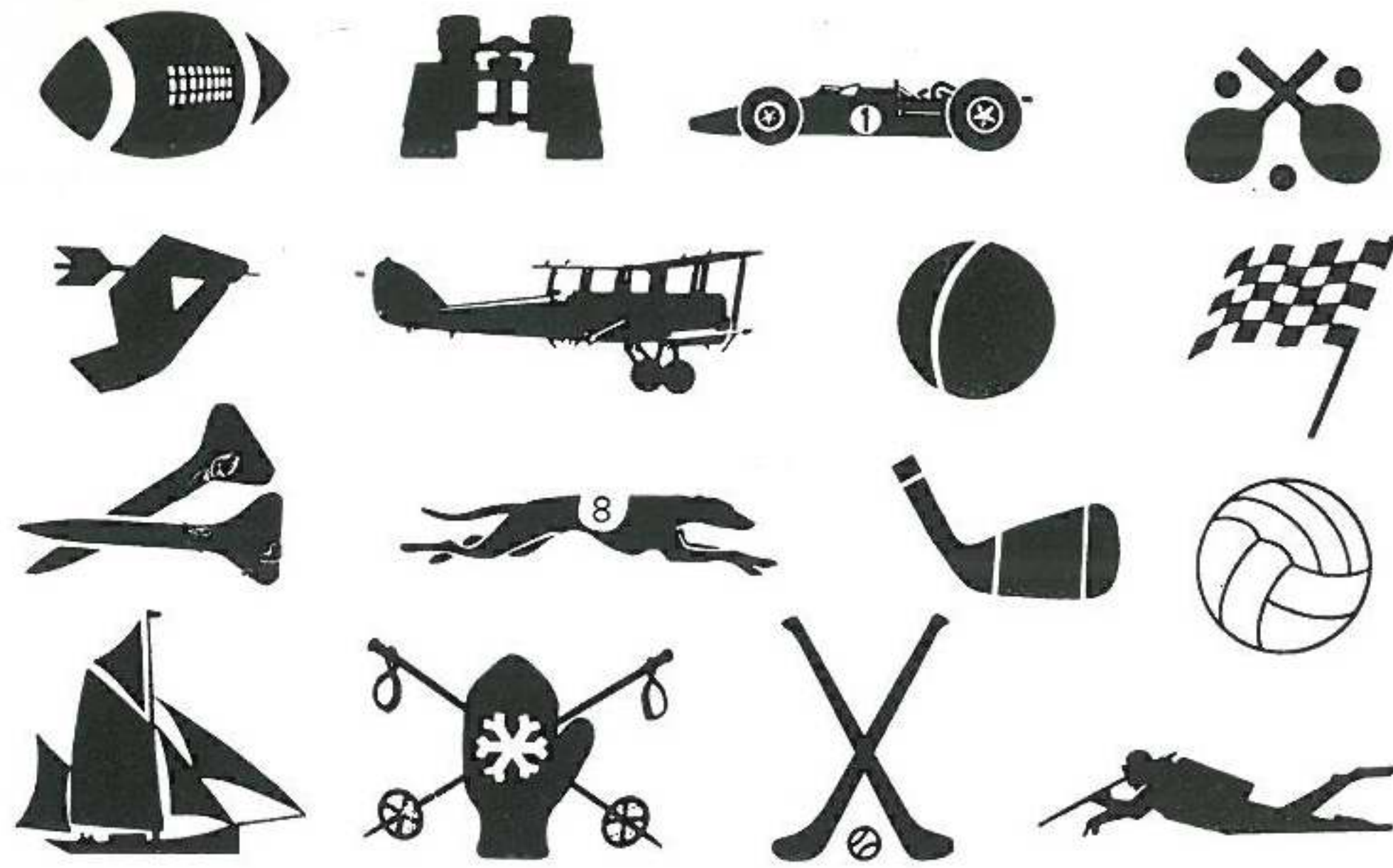
could please print my name and address in your "Junior Desk" column. I love all Gaelic Sports and I'd like to correspond with other readers of your column.

I thank you for your time and patience and I hope to hear from you soon.

● Welcome to Junior Desk Paula. Please write again. (J.M.)

Our final letter this month is from **Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20, Fairfield Road, Bath, England**

● TO PAGE 63



**Here's to
enjoyment**



Slainte Mineral Waters 45 Montpelier Hill, Dublin 7.

JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

● FROM PAGE 61

BA 1 6JG who sent on Tom Tobin's article on the legendary Mick Curley of Waterford goal-keeping fame in the Irish Weekly Examiner.

● Dermot, I already had the article read and thought it excellent. In fact I admire Tom Tobin's work no end. He has a great love for Irish Ireland. (J.M.)

Now that the post is back it is no harm to give you the name and address of recent G.A.A. publications and prices.

Swinford G.A.A. Park Souvenir Programme—a masterly commemorative book and the best of its kind that I have seen.

● FROM PAGE 53

this is no small matter, for it means that there are fewer stresses and fewer weak points under strain than would be the case with big-built men whose joints so often give trouble, or little ones who suffer too much wear and tear. With Murphy the word, I think, is "compact".

Another element in his long litany of consistency is that he has settled into playing the same position in both games, and that position is one of the most technical in the field, with many of the same basic skills and know-hows common to both games.

Some would say it is a comparatively "cushy" position at corner-back, when the play only visits your area now and again. And do not worn out wing-halves and centre-halves move back to the corners when they are no longer able to stand the going in the outer line?

Maybe, but how many of them really make the grade in the corner position? No, that argument will not wash, for — like corner-forward — the corner back position is a highly special-

Price £1 from B. O'Hara, 2 Seaman Drive, Riverside Estate, Galway.

A Legion of Memories — 50 years of the Legion G.A.A. club in Killarney — best club history since "The Spirit of the Glen".

Price £3 (incl. postage) from Weeshie Fogarty, 24 O'Sullivan's Place, Killarney.

Monaghan G.A.A. Yearbook '79 — a very good general coverage of Monaghan G.A.A. affairs.

Price £1 from Seamus McCluskey, N.T. Emyvale, Co. Monaghan.

Finally, my thanks to T. Murphy, Ballydaly Lower, Rathmore, Co. Kerry for all those old cut-

ted one where the smaller number of visitations by the play does not not compensate for the life-or-death nature of every one of those visitations. One slip in Murphy's position and the game can be lost. Then you will hear all about the importance of corner backs from those very people who suggested previously that they could be done without altogether.

Concentration, then, allied to technical excellence and knowledge of all the skilful ploys of the position, is what makes Brian Murphy a great success in football and hurling. I think it is fair to say that he could scarcely have hoped for the same success in two different positions, for many fine players have not done themselves justice at either game through having to change the emphasis and the mental strategy of the different positions from game to game. The best possible example of this is Denis Coughlan, a far more gifted player in all respects than Brian Murphy at both games, and I do not think anyone would consider this an insult to Murphy to say so. But, Denis realised that the wide-

tings of Christy Ring and of Galway football.

That's about it for another month. Looking forward to the All-Ireland and hopefully a Western triumph in the S. H. final. Please write on any G.A.A. topic to:

JUNIOR DESK,

Gaelic Sport,

80, Upper Drumcondra Rd., Dublin, 9.

Jack Mahon

ranging roles he was called upon to play caused his performances in the games to harm one another; his brilliance since concentrating on hurling shows how right he was.

Brian Murphy must have been lucky, too, in his club, Nemo Rangers, where prolonged service is considered normal. ... Billie Morgan, Frank Cogan ... indeed, even Seamus Leyden. He may have been fractionally lucky in his profession as a Garda where the interest of colleagues and the sporting milieu, at least, is helpful.

But, Brian has been based in Kilkenny for a number of years and that is neither here nor there when you have to play all your club games in Cork and all your county games with that county. It takes a high degree of determination and absolute commitment to maintain peak fitness and to remain always keyed mentally when living and working far away from the atmosphere and the environment which is such an important element in bringing the team to fever pitch together.



OFFICIAL CRESTED G.A.A.

★ **TIES**

★ **SCARVES**

★ **CAPS**

All County
Colours Supplied

TRADE ENQUIRIES TO:

The Central Tie Co. Ltd.

(FOUNDED 1909)

3 SUNBURY ESTATE

CHERRY TREE CROSS

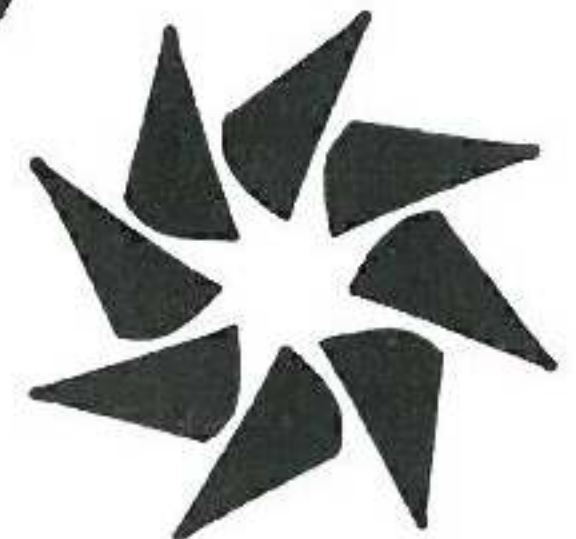
WALKINSTOWN, DUBLIN 12

Tel. 509613—509835

ROSCREA

Special **PURE PORK
FOODS**

**Sausages, rashers,
bacon joints,
puddings-**



**all with that
mighty meaty flavour**

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

GAELIC SPORT,
80 UPPER DRUMCONDRA ROAD,
DUBLIN 9.

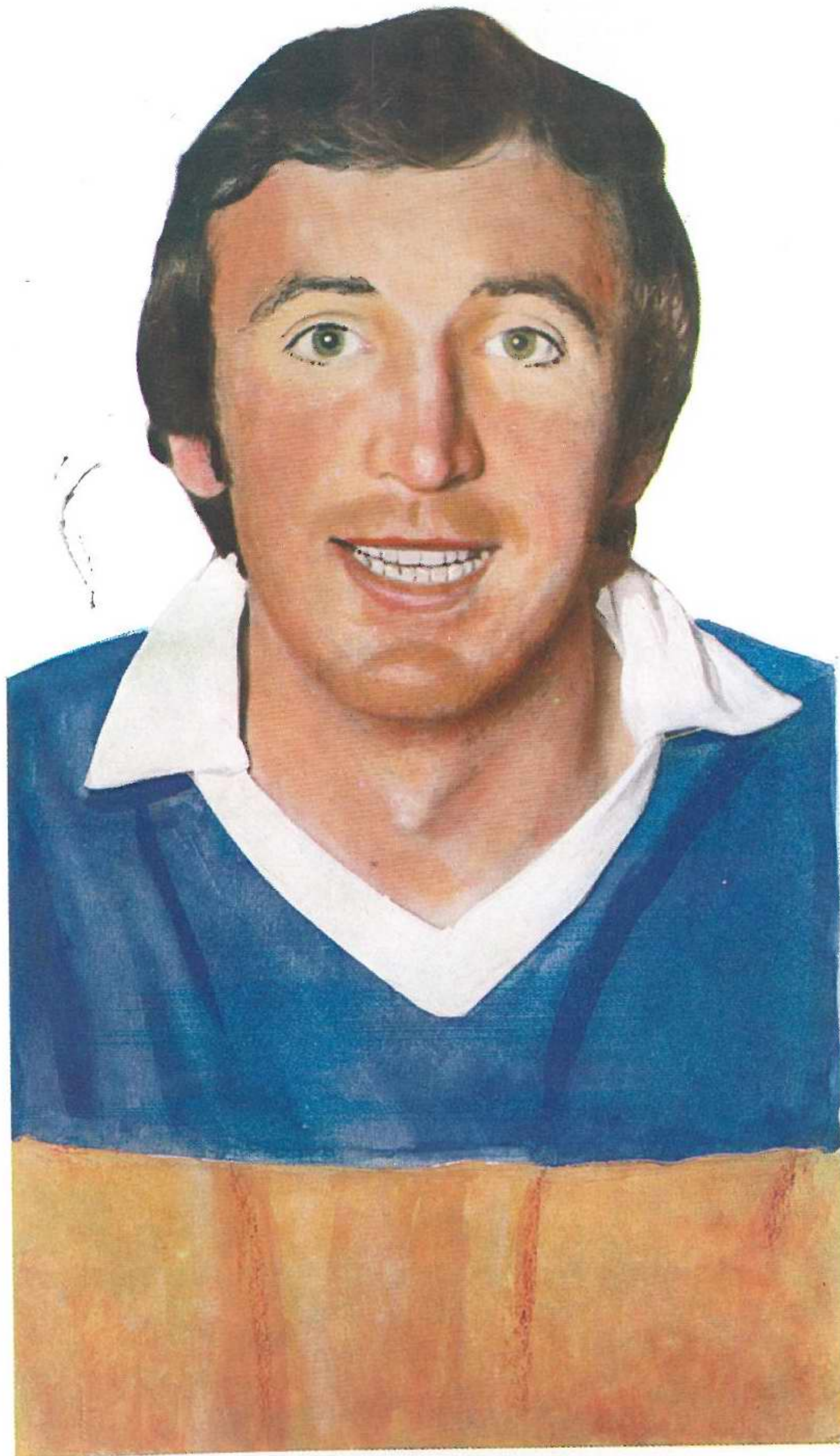
Please send me a copy of GAELIC SPORT for a
period of *one year for which I enclose a Postal
Order valued £5.00.

NAME

ADDRESS

Please use Block Capitals.

*Gaelic Sport is published monthly and the
subscription fee covers postage.



**Tommy
Butler
(Tipperary)**

Age: 28
Height: 6ft. 2 ins.
Weight: 13st. 7 lb.
Position: Centre
half forward
Club: Drom-Inch
Senior Inter-
County Debut:
1974

**CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS**

Tommy won his only Railway Cup medal in an historic game last year when Munster beat Leinster in the first final of its kind at Pairc Ui Chaoimh. He was chosen at left full forward in the last Carrolls All Stars hurling side.

A former underage player with the county, he won an All-Ireland intermediate medal in 1972, and was Tipperary's leading scorer for all competitions and challenges in 1978 with 7-31 (52 points) in nine games.

Tommy made a number of appearances with Tipperary in the march to the 1978-79 National League title, and he also went in as a substitute in the final win over Galway.

Bass SPORTS

Ah...that's

Bass

**best in beer
best in sport**

