

173 **GAA**

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

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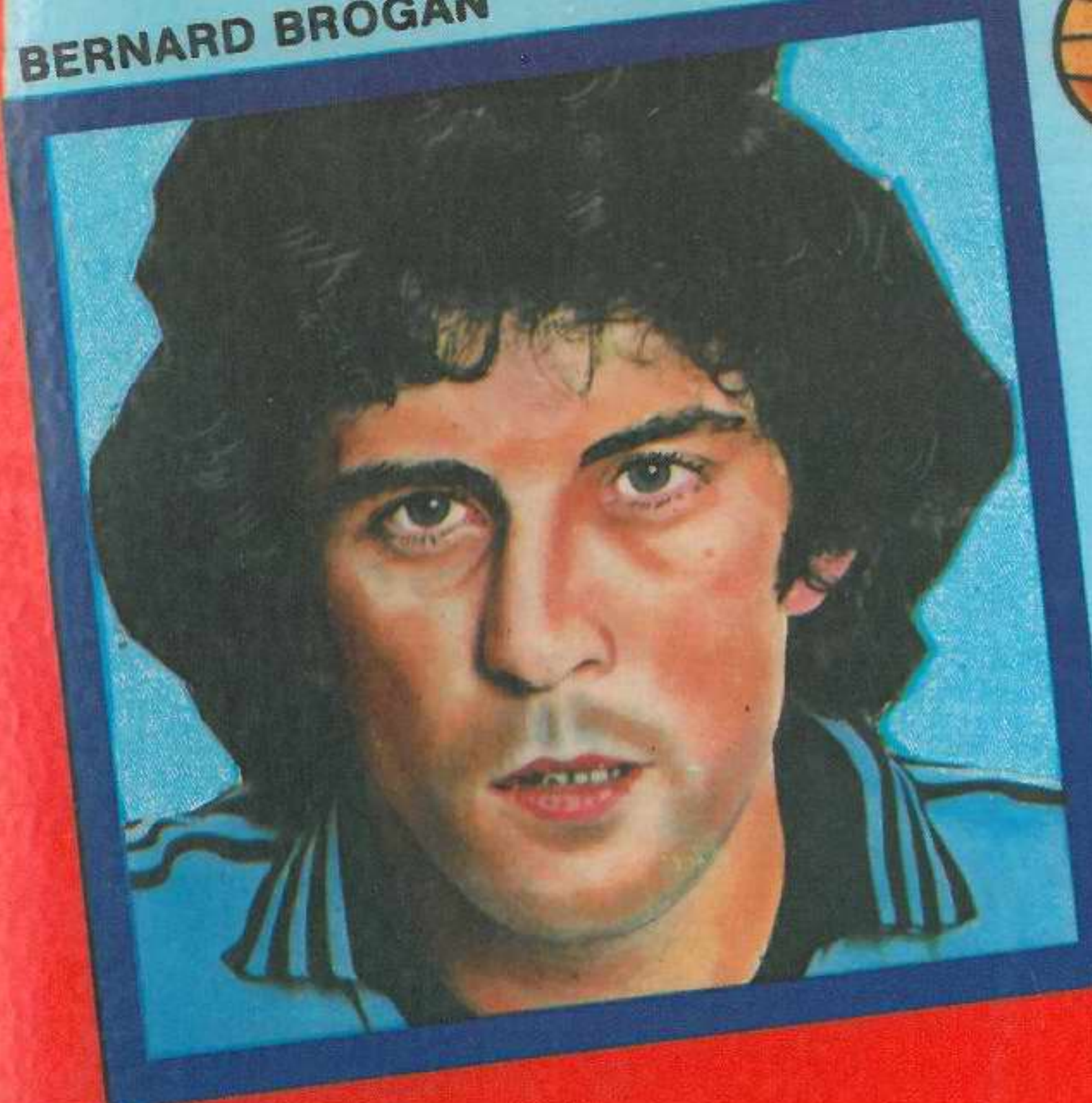
THE CHOICE OF THE STARS

IRELAND'S LEADING GAELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY

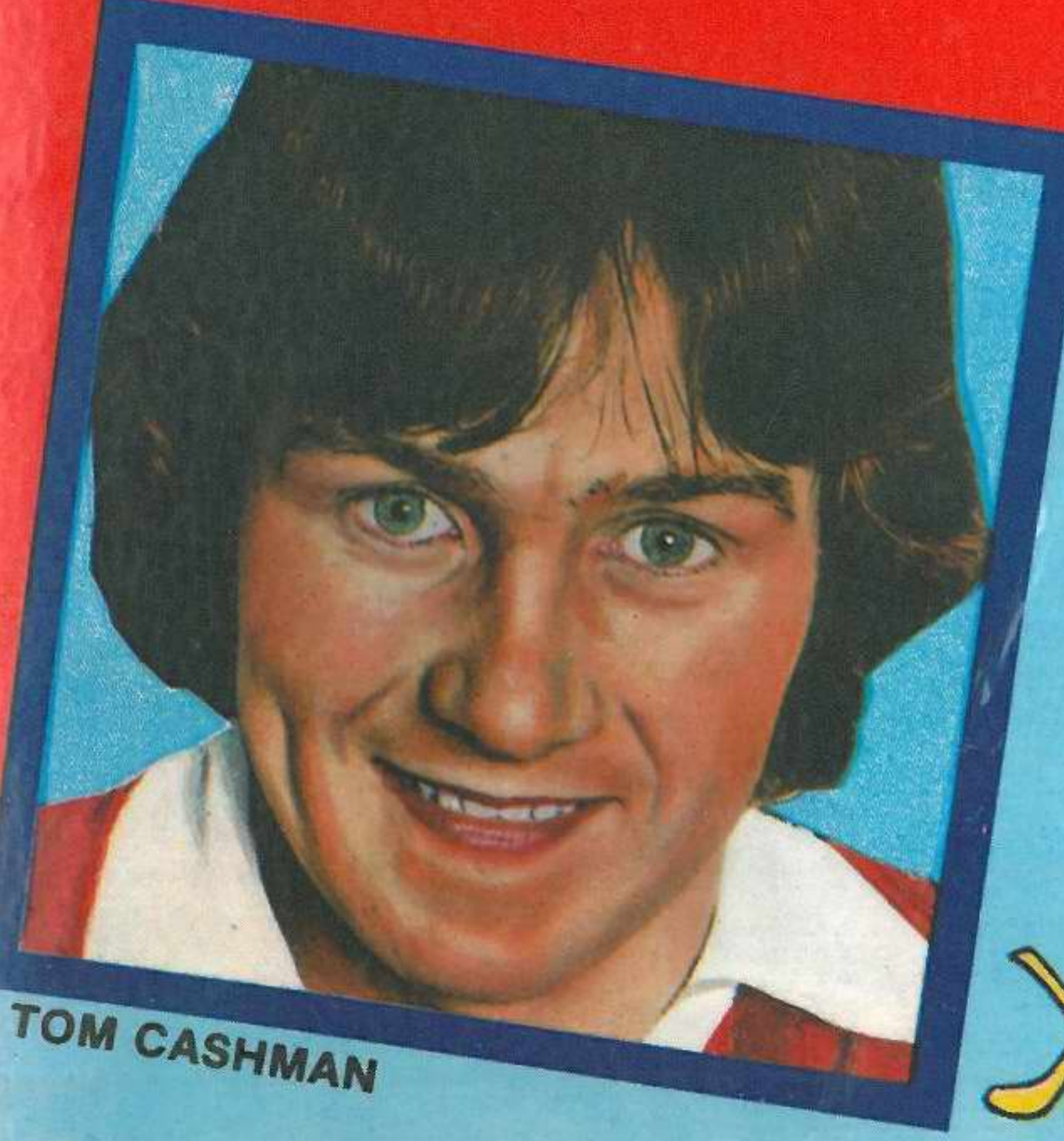
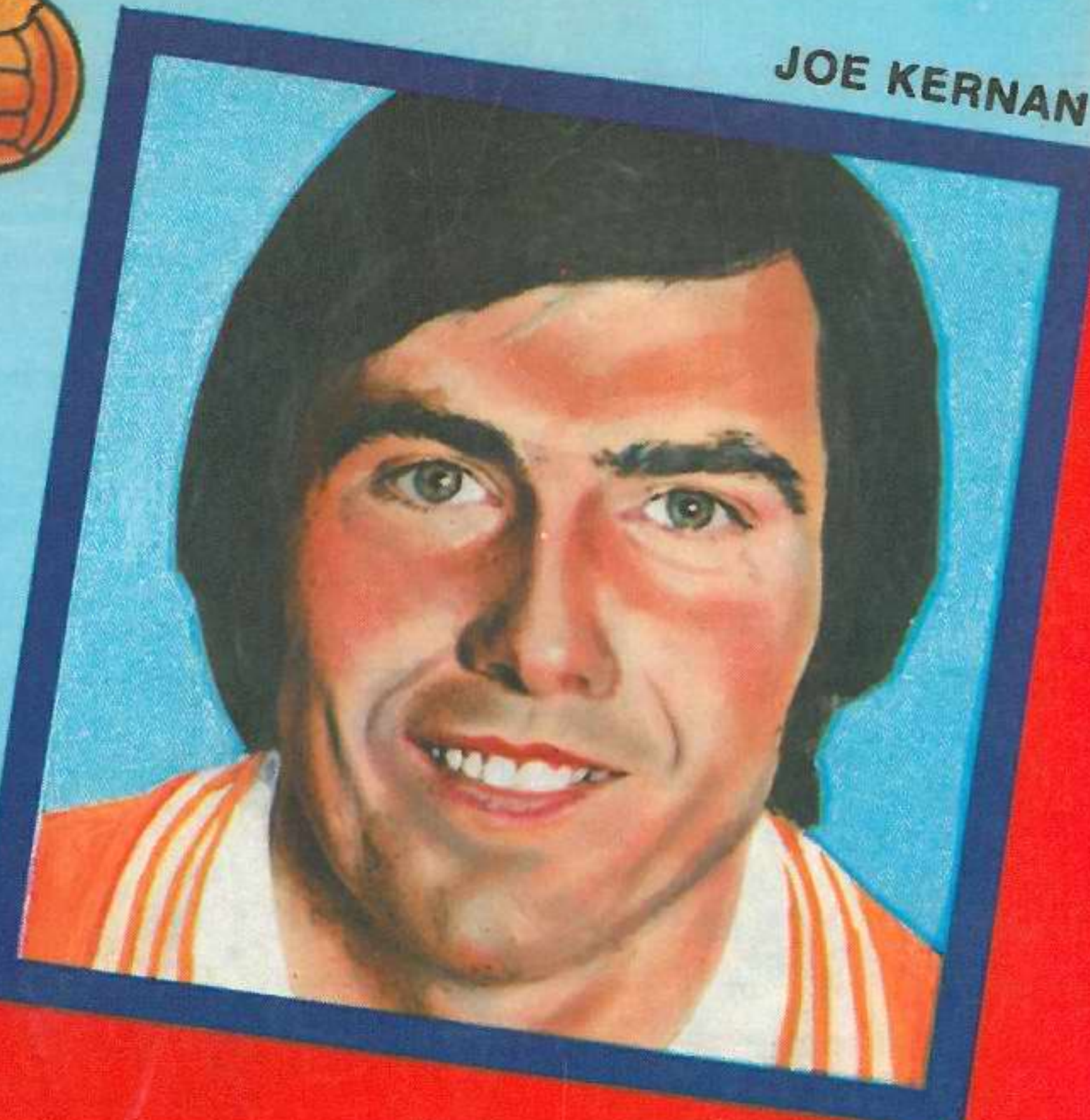
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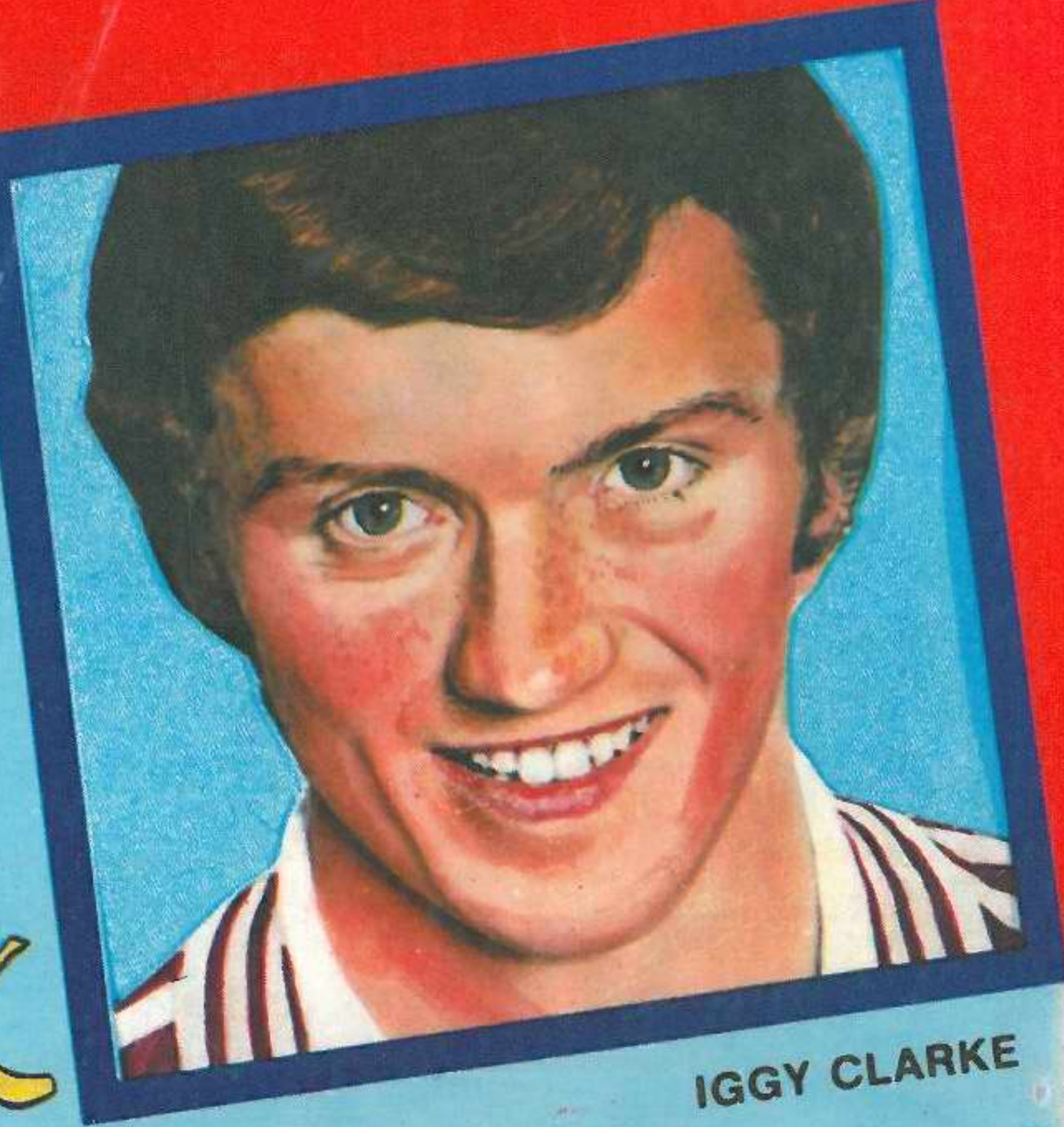
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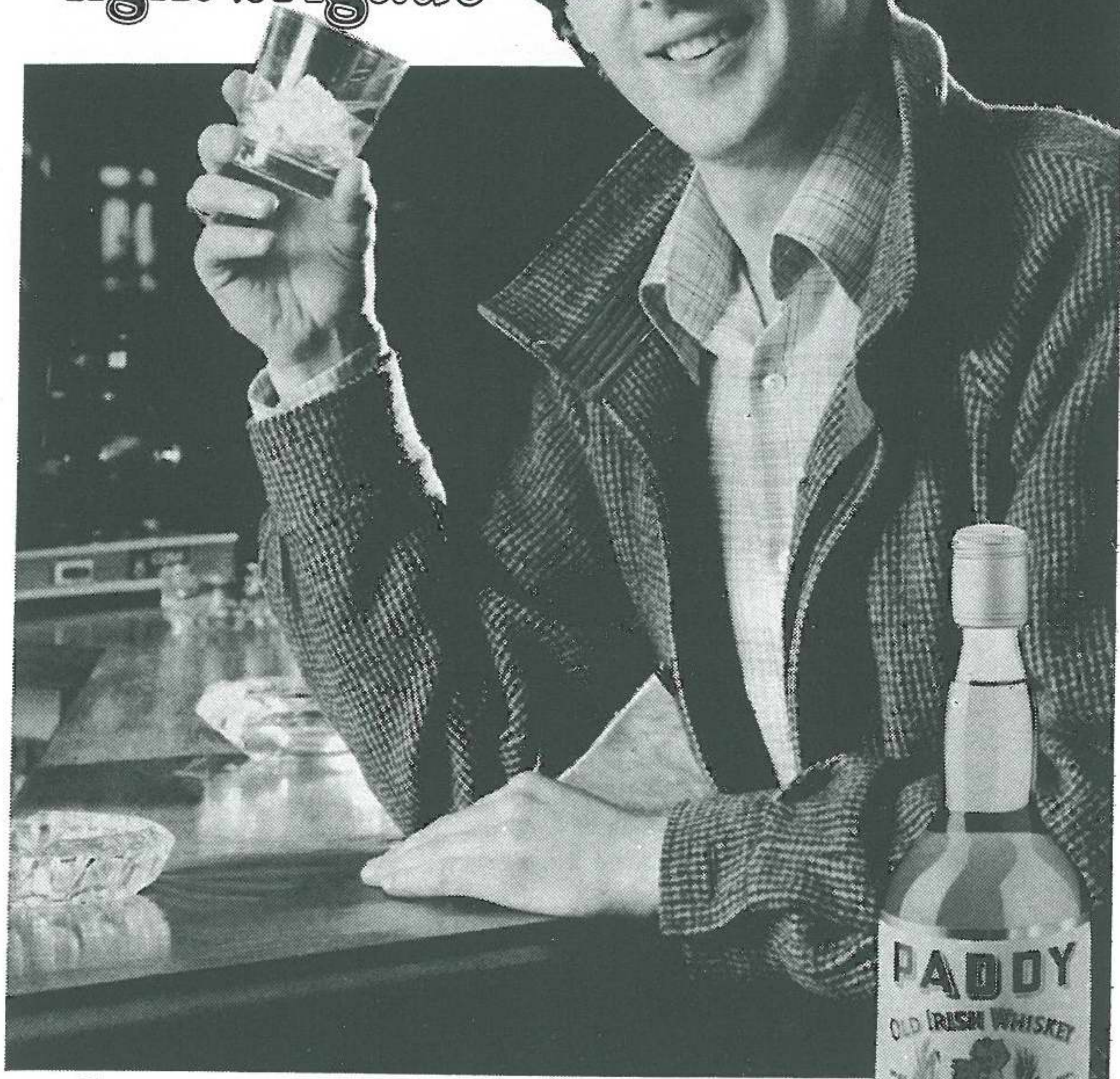
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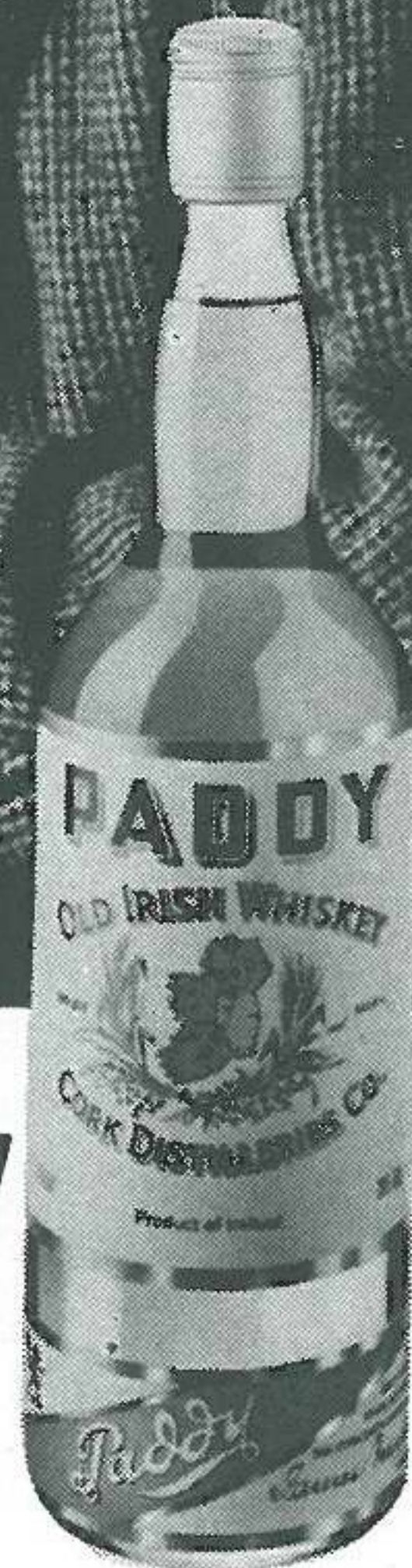
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CONTENTS

Tyler Top Ten	5
The Greatest Hurlers No. 2 - Mick Mackey -by Seamus O'Ceallaigh	7
On the Spot	13
-by Tony Keegan	
"Ogie" Moran talks with Eamonn Young	17
Fenton could be a really great player -by T. J. Doyle	21
Cover Stars have personal- ity-plus-by Frank Coogan	22
Handball-by Sean Clerkin	25
Camogie Comments	27
-by Agnes Hourigan	
Glorious uncertainty of Championship form	31
-by Jay Drennan	
Kerry fancied to march on -by Noel Horgan	33
Quiz Answers	35
It's anybody's championship on the Ulster sea-saw ..	37
-by Jim Bennett	
Junior Desk	41
-edited by Jack Mahon	
Results Summary	44
Colour Cut Out	45

EDITORIAL COMMENT

“THE position of the games generally leaves much to be desired nationwide as the G.A.A. rapidly approaches its Centenary Year.” That is an extract from last month’s Comment, and in the few weeks that have passed there have been many instances of just how low the all round standard of football in particular is at present.

Time was when a dozen or more counties could annually entertain genuine hopes of making an impact in the race for the All-Ireland crown — but not any more.

If anyone doubted that the Munster series was anything but a one match competition, then the doubts must have been dispelled by Cork’s twenty five points win last month over a Limerick side that had come out on top in a four counties contest for a semi-final spot.

It is also ironic that although the Dubs brought a new vision to football in the 'Seventies, the over-all standard in Leinster has slipped back at the same time. One has only to look back on some uneven contests in the province of late, allied to sub-standard play and frees-ridden games to appreciate this fact.

Similarly, the fare in Connacht and Ulster so far has been anything but inspiring or encouraging for the future.

It is not easy to pinpoint the reason for the decline — especially at a time when coaching has reached a degree of sophistication and widespread practice unknown in the past in Gaelic Games.

One thing can be said, however. Many are becoming disenchanted with football, and the game will lose more and more of its appeal, especially among the youth, if steps are not taken quickly, and imaginative ones at that, to arrest the decline and at the same time improve the attractiveness of the code.

Some will argue as a move in this direction the introduction of the long vaunted and regularly rejected open-draw. Others will make a case for a seeded championship.

Certainly it is hard to understand why counties that are graded in lower divisions of the League are still eligible to compete in the provincial championships as if they were of equal strength to the top senior sides. That does not make sense.

But these are only some of the basic issues. The big need now is for a radical reappraisal of the entire spectrum of the game.

That includes the playing rules, the approach of the players to fouling and the skills, and also in terms of commitment to the Gaelic game as against support for other codes, refereeing, coaching, and even the possibility of a new annual fixtures schedule. These are among the areas that might be examined to the benefit of football.

The G.A.A. needs to act with courage, wisdom and determination — and NOW. Football cannot wait much longer for a worth-while injection to improve the sorry position.

COVER PICTURE: Bernard Brogan (Dublin), Joe Kernan (Armagh), Tom Cashman (Cork) and Iggy Clarke (Galway) are the talented quartet featured on our front cover this month. Their careers are put into focus by Frank Coogan on Page 22.



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Tyler Top Ten

Cork and Dublin head the charts

CORK'S replay win over Limerick for the National Hurling League title, and the continued success story in the Leinster Senior Football Championship of the Dubs were the main features in the games played between May 18 and June 8 inclusive, which shaped this month's TYLER TOP TEN charts.

Many extra bright factors contributed to the success that earned Cork their historic National League double. Half backs Denis Coughlan, Dermot McCurtain, who was an inspiring captain, and Tom Cashman did much to fashion the success over Limerick, while Eamonn O'Donoghue capped a good all round contribution by scoring 1-1.

Then, there was John Fenton, who was called to the team for that match, It proved a splendid comeback as well for the Midleton club man, who marshalled his skills to brilliant effect in the centre of the park, and topped off a quality-plus performance by helping himself to a vital goal, plus five first-rate points.

All round the type of high-powered performance that made Fenton a bright light in the Cork success story, and one that also earns him a top of the table rating this month on his season's debut in the hurling table on 38 points.

But if Fenton takes the glory in this issue, Denis Coughlan continues to boost his prospects of eventually finishing ahead of all comers for 1980. A second placed ranking on 36 points in the latest chart sends the elegant and long-serving Glen Rovers club man

thundering up the table over-all from third to first place on 100 points.

Tom Cashman moves into third position over-all. He collects 32 points this month to move sixteen ahead of the man who had been setting the standard — Iggy Clarke (Galway). He does not appear in the list this month.

In football, Dublin come into the spotlight for the first time this season after their successful start to the Championship season at the expense of Laois.

Brian Mullins, who got through much good work, and also scored the first second half goal for the champions and the score that turned the key in the door to victory, left a big imprint on the tie.

Praise, too, for Jim Roynane for a progressive display. Then, there was the quiet effective play of Tommy Drumm.

This accomplished wing back did much to seal off the way to the Dublin goal with cool, intelligent interceptions and well directed clearances.

It is Drumm, then, who takes the top spot on 32 points in a review that has no effect on the over-all position in football.

The leading trio in each code are:
HURLING: 100 points: D. Coughlan (Cork); 88: T. Cashman (Cork); 72: I. Clarke (Galway).
FOOTBALL: 80: K. Kehilly (Cork); 69: D. Allen (Cork); 62: P. Moriarty (Armagh).

This month's charts are:

HURLING

38	J. Fenton (Cork)	38
36	D. Coughlan (Cork)	100
34	D. McCurtain (Cork)	70
32	T. Cashman (Cork)	88
30	E. O'Donoghue (Cork)	60
29	M. Carroll (Limerick)	29
27	B. Smith (Clare)	27
26	E. Cregan (Limerick)	64
25	J. Flaherty (Offaly)	25
24	P. Cassan (Carlow)	24

FOOTBALL

32	T. Drumm (Dublin)	32
30	B. Mullins (Dublin)	30
28	J. Roynane (Dublin)	28
26	M. Connor (Offaly)	53
24	T. Shaw (Kildare)	46
23	J. Smyth (Armagh)	23
22	J. McGrath (Mayo)	22
21	C. Ryan (Cork)	51
20	P. McNamee (Cavan)	20
18	C. Browne (Laois)	18

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MICK MACKEY— 'King of Hurlers'

By Seamus O'Ceallaigh

MICK Mackey won everything worth winning on the hurling field, for, in addition to the many grand trophies to his name, he won the love, respect and admiration of Gaelic Ireland as a true sportsman in the broadest sense of the term, and one that was never in the slightest degree affected by the acclamation of his admirers or the criticism of the opposing forces, who could not be expected to relish seeing some of their best playing second fiddle to the wonder boy of Castleconnell.

There were occasions, few in number be it said, when Mick met his master, but he had a trick up his sleeve for the best of them, so any triumph they gained was a very temporary one.

His deeds on the field gained for Mick Mackey the title "King of Hurlers", and no crowned head had better credentials for his title than the same Mick.

It is an undisputed fact that no other hurling hero had a background half so glamorous, half so appetising to the lovers of hurling tradition as that of the Ahane and Limerick star of the 'thirties.

To get a proper appreciation of his background, we must go back to the days before the foundation of the G.A.A., to the picturesque village of Castleconnell, where another Michael Mackey — Mick's grandfather — led the local lads in an ancient form of our National game, known in the district as "Hurling Home."

When the G.A.A. was founded, Castleconnell was one of the first parishes to affiliate a hurling team, called the Emmets, and of which Michael Mackey was captain.

The first All-Ireland hurling and football championships were organised three years after the founding of the G.A.A. Limerick at the time suffered from the luxury of two County Boards, both of which organised Championships. That run by the regular Board was won by Castleconnell — their near neighbours, Murroe, winning under the auspices of the opposition body.

Both claimed the right to play Kilkenny in the opening round of the 1887 All Ireland Senior Hurling Championships and the Central Council ordered them to play at the Cross of Laught, Ahane, on a Friday, the winning team to go to Dublin next day, and play Kilkenny on the Sunday.

Murroe did not turn up for this

game, but when Castleconnell arrived at the local Railway Station on Saturday evening to travel to Dublin, the Murroe men, led by their Captain — Dan Godfrey — were there too, and they also boarded the train.

There was a meeting of the Central Council in Dublin that night, and when the position was explained to them, they decided that the two Limerick teams should hurl the following morning, the winning side to play Kilkenny later that day.

Murroe turned down this compromise, and the Kilkenny representatives, Tullaroan, refused to play Castleconnell under the circumstances. Michael Mackey provided a suitable end-piece to the story:

"Tullaroan got a walk over and we both came back with our tails between our legs.

Michael Mackey's first cousin, Anthony, chaired the first Limerick County Convention, and he was elected first Limerick delegate to the Central Council, to be later appointed by the Gaels of Ireland as Treasurer of the G.A.A. — a position he filled with much distinction.

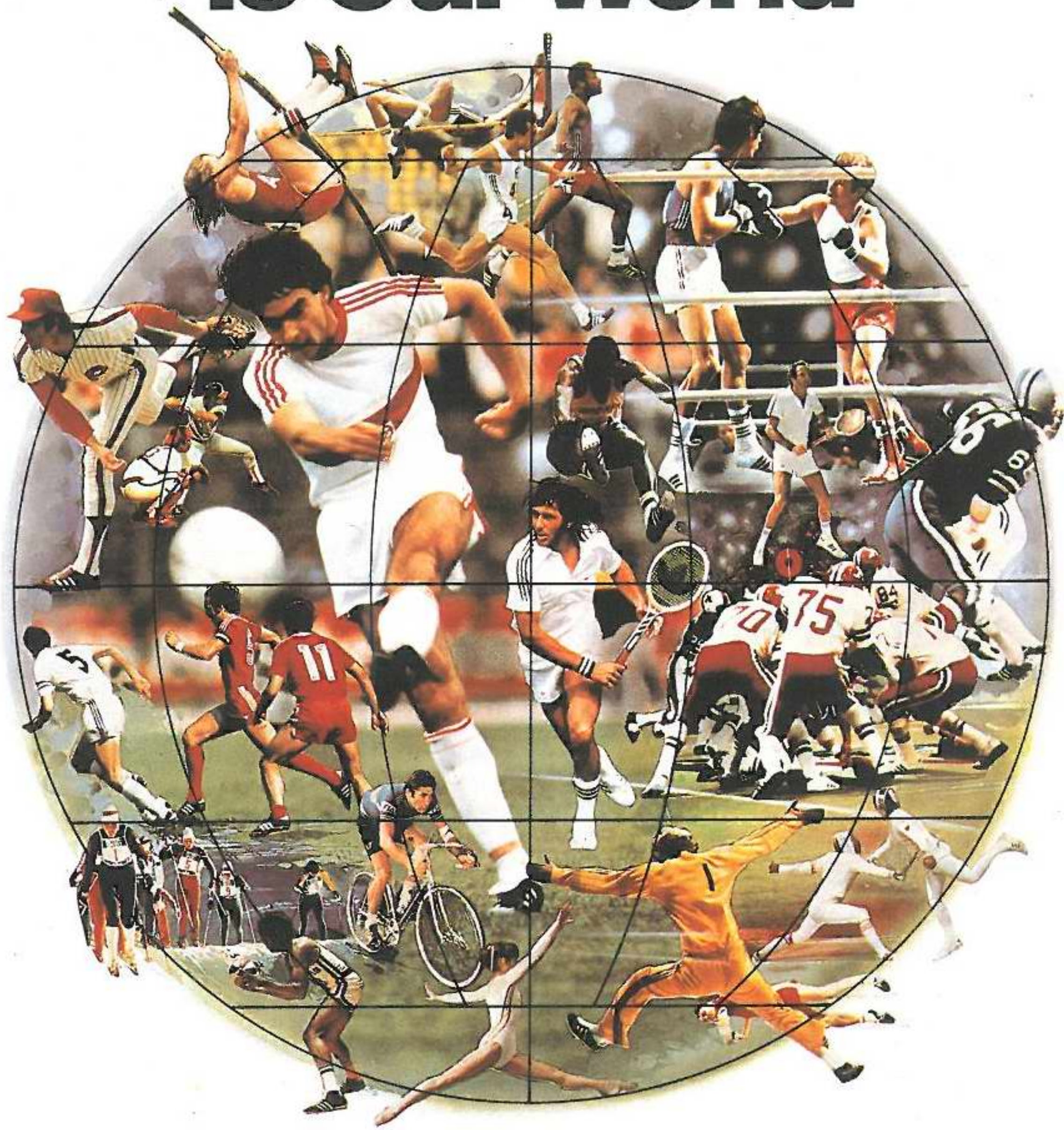
Michael Mackey had five sons — John, Paddy, Timmy, Michael and Anthony, all of them hurlers in the best traditions of the Castleconnell district.

John, better known to hurling enthusiasts as "Tyler", was, in his day, one of Ireland's best known hurlers, and a great favourite with Gaelic fans everywhere. He was, of course, the father of Mick Mackey. A veritable tornado on the field, he is credited with having established a new style in Limerick. The Shannonsiders were long rated the hardest pullers in the game, and it was from "Tyler's" very direct style of play that the tradition started.

Legends grew around his name while yet he was young in hurling

• TO PAGE 9

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Limerick – All-Ireland Champions 1940



● Mick Mackey (second from left, front row) who captained the 1940 Limerick team and won his third All Ireland medal that year. In the final, they defeated Kilkenny 3-7 to 1-7. The full team including subs are: (back row from left) — Mick Hickey, Jim McCarthy, Tom Cook, Paddy Scanlan, Tony Herbert, Jim Roche, Paddy McMahon, John Mackey, Paddy Mackey, Timmy Ryan, Dave Hurley, Jackie Power. Front — Paddy Clohessy, Mick Mackey (capt.). Mick Kennedy, Ned Chawke, Dr. Dick Stokes and Peter Cregan.

● FROM PAGE 7

years, and the crowds flocked to the venues where Limerick were engaged just to see him play. One of the most fearless of players, this tough, reckless, devil-may-care' midfielder, was both a powerful man and a great natural hurler.

Old-timers still speak glowingly of his sweeping double-handed bursts into enemy territory, his fierce tackling, his whirlwind raids with strokes swift as lightning, the great rallies he regularly led when the game was going strongly against his side.

The Castleconnell man lived for the game and put his heart and soul into the playing of it. A born leader, he captained Limerick in

two All-Ireland campaigns and through stirring years, his robust style and directness in attack, often gave the impression of roughness, but those who hurled with or against him in some of the greatest games of the time, bear testimony to a gentle and generous nature.

Mick Mackey was the eldest of "Tyler's" four sons, and many who saw both in action on the hurling field, assert that Mick exhibited many of the greatest characteristics of his renowned forebear.

Mick Mackey's solo runs became famous but old timers maintain that it was "Tyler" who originated this spectacular method of breaking through for a

score. However, Mick it was who made this gambit the spectacular thing it proved in his interpretation of it. And, like his father, dash and daring are the outstanding recollections of a brilliant hurler whose personal courage was never in question as he collected the ball somewhere around midfield, danced through a few opponents, cut another from his path with a turn of his shoulder, put the most venturesome over the sideline with a power packed charge and slapped the leather into the goal-mouth for a spectacular score.

Like the distinguished "Tyler" Mick got more hard knocks than he gave and it is characteristic

● TO PAGE 11

A black and white action photograph of a hurler, Kieran Hennessy, in mid-swing. He is wearing a dark jersey with light-colored trim on the sleeves, light-colored shorts, and a traditional hurling helmet. He is holding a hurley (stick) with both hands, and the ball is visible at the end of the stick. The background is a blurred outdoor field with spectators and buildings.

Action Photo

Kieran Hennessy (Midleton) a bright forward star in the Cork minor team that won the All-Ireland Hurling Championship last year.

● FROM PAGE 9

of him that he was able to take them all with a smile. Of an impetuous nature, he revelled in the hard going, and, I believe if the knocks were missing hurling would not have held the same attraction for the granite figure, boasting a hurling grandeur that we all too rarely encounter.

To get back to Mick's beginnings. He was born in Castleconnell almost sixty eight years ago, and his first game in Ahane colours was on a notable occasion — the opening of Limerick's Pairc na nGael. The date, 9th September, 1928, when with two junior hurling games and without ceremony or fuss, one of the finest Gaelic grounds outside Croke Park, completely owned by the G.A.A., was opened.

As his father often did in the old days, it was a case of "togging off" by the side of a ditch for Mick's initial outing. He was proud, too, as he had earnestly hoped for a place on the Ahane team. They won that game against Fedamore, beat Ballybricken the next day out, and on 16th June, 1929, Mick Mackey won his first Championship medal when Ahane beat Kilmeedy 5-1 to 2-2 in the 1928 County Junior Hurling Final.

The first appearance together of the brothers, John and Mick

Mackey, on an Ahane team, took place on 4th August, 1929, and the following Sunday both wore the County jersey for the first time, when they lined out against Waterford — later All-Ireland Champions — at Dungarvan in the opening round of the first Munster Minor Hurling Championship.

Limerick Minor Hurling honours came to Ahane on 3rd August 1930. It was Mick's second medal — the first for brother John, to be supplemented later that season when the County Junior Hurling crown of 1930 was added.

Mick was selected to play for Limerick in the 1930 Munster Junior Hurling Championship. They went under to Tipperary on a re-play — the latter going on to take All-Ireland honours, and the Triple Crown, for their Minors and Seniors were also successful that season.

Mick's first Senior game was against Kilkenny in the National Hurling League of 16th November 1930, and which the Noreiders won 3-4 to 0-3.

On 4th October 1931 Ahane won their first of a record fifteen Senior County Hurling crowns, to which they were to add five in Senior football. So both John and Mick Mackey each collected twenty County medals, a record not easily surpassed.

Ahane, as Limerick Champions, had to assert their superiority in the Inter-Club games, then such a feature in Munster. Their first big success of many in this sphere was against Newmarket-on-Fergus in the Final of the Maghera Church Tournament.

Mick Mackey won his first trophy with Limerick on 12th June 1932, and it was the first big success of the Limerick team which made such history in after years. It was the Thomond Feis Final in which Clare were defeated, 2-6 to 2-4. The Banner County lads afterwards won the Munster crown and were narrowly beaten by Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Final.

Limerick lost the 1932 National Hurling League Final to Kilkenny — Mick's introduction to really big hurling. Although beaten that day the Shannonsiders later won a record five National League titles in a row. In addition, in the almost five years from 15th October 1933 to 24th April 1938, Limerick played an unparelled total of sixty-five games in Senior hurling, of which they won fifty-eight; drew four and only lost three. Of the fifty-eight which they won, it is interesting to note that they beat Cork, Kilkenny and Clare each on no less than eight occasions; had seven victories

● TO PAGE 12

★
*Mackeys
medals
by
Tony
Keegan*
★

MICK Mackey, one of the most colourful and exciting personalities ever in the long history of hurling, has a number of major and rare distinctions to his credit.

After winning his first All-Ireland senior medal in 1934, he led Limerick to their Liam McCarthy Cup wins of 1936 and 1940, and is the only native of the county to skipper two All-Ireland senior title winning combinations.

He was one of the early and most spectacular pace-setters in the Railway Cup, and between 1934 and 1945 he collected eight medals. That was a record at the time, and is one that has only twice been bettered — by Eddie Keher and the late Christy Ring.

Mackey was also a dynamic figure in Limerick's record-making run of five National League title wins in succession between 1934 and 1938. He skippered the county as well to the 1937 and 1938 successes.

The former Limerick ace was very accurate in his finishing from play and frees. He won senior county championship medals in hurling and football, and also played inter-county football with Limerick. He toured the U.S. with the hurlers.



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● FROM PAGE 11

each over Tipperary, Galway and Dublin; six over Waterford, three over Laois and one against Offaly. The remaining three were secured on the occasion of their American Tour, from which they returned unbeaten.

Mick Mackey's first All-Ireland Final was against Kilkenny in the 1933 decider and all Irish sporting records were broken by the 45,176 people that paid to see the game, with thousands more unable to gain admittance. That was the famous game won for the Black and Ambers by Johnny Dunne's wonder goal, the only major score of the game.

One of the greatest sports writers the G.A.A. has known, the late Paddy Devlin, "Celt", wrote of this game:

"It was the most intensive and exciting display of hurling over the full sixty minutes, which the majority of us who were present have ever witnessed. I have never seen hurling exchanges so pulsating and so desperately keen and full blooded as they were in this match. The striking was first time all the way and the scoring so close that altogether it was a most nerve shattering experience for every one of that mammoth record hosting."

Jack Rochford, the noted old time Kilkenny and All-Ireland hurler was so impressed with Limerick - that he said after the match: "I don't know how that Limerick team was beaten. It's the best team I ever saw coming out of Munster."

The *Irish Independent* in the course of an editorial the following morning said:

"As long as games survive, enthusiasts will argue the merits of one form of football against another. There is no argument and no room for argument in the case of hurling. It stands on its own,

● TO PAGE 40

QUIZ TIME

ON THE SPOT . . .

by *Tony Keegan*

I HAVE always held that July is the most exciting and colourful month of the year. There is something magical about travelling around the country to the various venues as the Provincial Championships build up to the top games of the year.

Hopefully we can look forward to sunny days in the weeks ahead and to exciting and colourful occasions as the titles of the first year of the 'Eighties are won and lost.

To help set the scene ON THE SPOT . . . this month revives memories of events last July, which provided some memorable moments in the G.A.A. calendar. What can you recall of the happenings of that time just twelve months ago?

Here is your chance to find out. All the questions in the quiz relate to events of last July. However, ON THE SPOT . . . has something of a new look this month with a few innovations to add to the variety and interest.

As usual we award points at the end of each section to give that welcome competitive edge to the quiz.

I hope the quiz will bring back happy memories for many, and at the same time provide enjoyment — and perhaps a little extra knowledge?

So, let's get under way with our new look section:

MATCH THE GOALKEEPER

The four goalkeepers listed below all won provincial medals last July,

some in the minor ranks. What you have to do is to match the goalkeeper in question with the appropriate county from the four listed.

The goalkeepers are:

Michael Walsh
John O'Leary
Paddy Linden
John McAleavey

And the counties from which to make the selections are: Cork, Kilkenny, Down and Monaghan.

Five points for each goalkeeper matched correctly, and twenty points if you go through the card. **YOUR SCORE**

MATCH THE MIDFIELD PARTNER

Here the exercise is to supply the missing midfield partner from our selection. In each case the combinations were on duty in winning provincial final appearances a year ago.

Dermot Earley and
Pat Moylan and
Joe Hennessy and
Brian Mullins and

And the partners from which to choose are: Ger Fennelly, John Fenton, Seamus Hayden and Bernard Brogan.

Again five points for each section answered correctly, and an over-all score for the section of twenty points. **YOUR TALLY**

MATCH THE SCORELINE

Our last section in this vein brings scoring returns in provincial finals last year into focus. The object is the

same as earlier — the appropriate scoreline against the name of the particular county.

Cork hurlers
Wexford hurlers
Offaly footballers
Donegal footballers

And the scorelines — 0.9; 0.11; 2.14 and 2.17.

The same markings as earlier: Five points for each section and twenty points over-all. **YOUR SCORELINE**

Over now to the visual side of affairs in this

PICTURE PARADE

Only one of the four players pictured on page 15 won a provincial senior medal last year. And only one of the quartet is out on his own as the solitary forward in the group.

Name the two players concerned?

.....
Help yourself to a ten points bonus if you also list the clubs of the two players concerned

This section is worth 20 points . . . five for each player correctly selected from the group, plus that bonus. **YOUR RECORD**

TOP TEN

Now to the more conventional approach of ON THE SPOT . . . In this particular TOP TEN feature we put the spotlight on some of the teams and the personalities who made the headlines last July.

1. Pat Lindsay did more than win a provincial senior football medal

• TO PAGE 15

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• FROM PAGE 13

last year. He filled another role in the campaign. What was it?

2. Kilkenny, knocked out of the 1980 Leinster minor hurling championship by Antrim in May, won the provincial title in the grade last season for the eighth, ninth or tenth year in a row?.....

3. Who refereed last year's Leinster senior hurling final — Gerry Kirwan (Offaly), Noel O'Donoghue (Dublin) or Jimmy Rankin (Laois)?

4. Who was Cork's centrehalf back in their unsuccessful Munster senior football final bid against Kerry a year ago?

5. And, who captained the Leesiders in their convincing provincial senior hurling final win over Limerick at Thurles?

6. You probably remember that Monaghan ended a long spell out of the honours by taking the Ulster senior football title a year ago. But can you say how many years they had to wait for that break-through? Was it 38, 41 or 50?

7. Who were runners-up in Connacht for the senior football title?

8. And who were runners-up for the minor football crown?

9. The player pictured here collected a provincial medal last season. Who is he?



10. To end a bonus question. Name three goalkeepers who played in winning senior finals in the 1979 provincial championships?

Five points for every question, other than No. 10. Here fifteen points are on offer for listing three players correctly. But no marks available unless two of the three players are given. That qualifies for five.

So, a thundering 60 points may be won by filing a clean sheet here. **YOUR SCORE CARD**

A short, sharp exercise now to complete **ON THE SPOT**... for this month. Five questions in

KNOW YOUR CHAMPIONS

1. This county won in the championship on the way to their All-Ireland senior camogie title win. Name the county concerned?

2. And this handballer also had winning outings last July on the road to the Coca-Cola Open All-Ireland senior singles handball title. Again we want you to list the player in question?

3. Who won the Munster minor hurling title?

4. Who won the All-Ireland "B" hurling title?

5. Ulster champions in minor football champions?

Ten marks each for questions Numbers 1 and 2. Five points for each of the remaining questions. A total of 35 marks to be won. **HOW DID YOU FARE?**

HOW DID YOU MEASURE UP?

The total number of points on offer: 175. If you scored 150 or over you are a real expert on Gaelic Games affairs. 130 to 150 merits a very good rating. 100 to 130 Good. And below that? Well, never mind, keep trying!

PICTURE PARADE



• ANSWERS ON PAGE 35

Bank of Ireland GAA Allstars

These distinctive and expressive Bank of Ireland GAA Allstar trophies have been designed by Dublin-born sculptor, Rowan Gillespie.

They are awarded to Ireland's finest hurlers and footballers in recognition of their superb playing abilities and for the manner in which the recipients exemplify a true spirit of competitiveness and sportsmanship.



'OGIE' MORAN

talks with Eamonn Young

"CAN you get us Ogie Moran again?" asked John MacNamara of Clonmel last year. John Phelan and Pat Moroney nodded in agreement. All three are sophisticated followers and trainers in football and I'm delighted to digress and compliment them all, especially Pat Moroney on the recent Kerry-Tipp minor football game when a well-trained Kingdom side hung on by its football laces and scraped home.

"Yes. I'll go after Ogie" I said and they were pleased. No wonder, for on the previous Saturday the Kerry player had driven to Clonmel, taken a bunch of minors out on the field, exercised them well and then sat down in the hall over a green piece of cloth marked to scale with the white lines of the field and given an hour's keen, detailed, enthusiastic and altogether heart-warming analysis of the game highlighted by personal incidents of Croke Park and many other pitches, all told in a realistic and modest way which won the hearts of his audience.

Niall Horgan of Ballybunion must have had an eye for a player for he put the 12 year old Denis Og Moran in the middle of the field on that team. The father Denis came from Baile an Sceilg where the great rock stands up like a splinter from the sea. Twenty six years ago he won a North Cork medal with Mallow. The mother is a cousin of a very good Castleisland player, Junior Tangney, who won his nickname by play-

ing in that grade for the Kingdom. Three boys and five girls helped to expand the Moran family, the youngest being the subject of our story.

Young Denis was a lively young player when he went off to Gormanston College, the Franciscan school set in the rolling plains of Meath where cattle are belly deep in luscious grass. It was there he met Fr. James, who went to God two months ago, and the good priest along with that football scientist Joe Lennon set the feet of the young lad on the rungs of that tall football ladder where most players go about half way. For six years Ogie was lucky to have such careful football guidance to complement his academic training and the fruit of it all was that on leaving school, he had shown the Kerry minor football selectors that he was a grand half-back with a beautiful punt of the long dead ball as well as having an all-round knowledge of the game that allowed him to play well anywhere.

At twenty-four Ogie has now



● *A jubilant Ogie Moran with the Sam Maguire Cup following the Kerry All-Ireland final victory in 1978.*

played a world of football. It was in '75 they put him on the forty for Kerry. I remember when the team was announced saying that my doubts had gone and that Kerry would beat Dublin. I felt that Moran was the right man for the forty yards and for once I wasn't wrong because he used his loaf that day in a way that showed he was thinking far ahead of his years. Since then he has played both at wing back, centre field and half forward and indeed could play anywhere in the tradition of the true Kingdom footballer who has been taught the game so well that he understands the demands of many positions. Tim O'Donnell who went from left back to full forward. Miko Doyle from centre-back to full forward, and Micko Dwyer from left half back to the full forward line are only three

● TO PAGE 19

Galway All-Ireland Finalists 1979



• The Galway team that beat Cork in the All-Ireland Semi-final last year but were defeated by Kilkenny in the Final 1-8 to 2-12. They are: (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.

CAN GALWAY SCALE THEIR EVEREST?

Asks Noel Horgan

WHAT are the prospects of championship glory for Galway in hurling this year? Will the Tribesmen scale the Everest that is the All-Ireland championship for the first time since 1923 or will they falter within striking distance of the summit yet again?

Intriguing questions indeed, posers which, because of the unpredictable form of the current Galway squad, can hardly be answered with any great confidence. The optimists in Galway are again hopeful, pointing to the Railway Cup success in March, when fifteen Galway men represented Connacht, as a significant breakthrough.

They argue that the inter-provincial victory will provide Galway with sufficient confidence to master the best in the All-Ireland series. I cannot agree with that. Granted, Galway's Railway Cup victory was a creditable effort as it bridged a 33-year gap for the western province. But at the risk of offending the traditionalists I would venture to suggest that the Railway Cup is a dying competition.

It has long lost its spectator appeal and for players in the acknowledged hurling provinces of Munster and Leinster the honour attached to success in the Railway Cup has greatly diminished in recent years.

It was not surprising, therefore, that the Galwaymen emerged victorious in this year's competition as their motivation and team-spirit must have been far superior than that of Leinster in the semi-final and Munster in the decider.

It would be unwise to use Galway's achievement as a guide to their prospects of inter-county glory. Don't get me wrong, I have the utmost respect for the capabilities of this Galway team and I realise that, on their day, they are a match for the best. And, like all Munster-folk, I am relieved that they are due to meet

• TO PAGE 32

● FROM PAGE 17

Kingdom examples of what I mean.

The players Ogie Moran admires most are his Kerry comrades with whom he has been training so much over the last five years that they know each other like rabbits in a warren. He thinks Jimmy Barry-Murphy is a fine footballer with a quick brain, smart acceleration and a fine sense of sportsmanship. Brian Mullins, nephew of the great Bill Casey the centre back from Dingle, and Kevin Moran are his other favourites and Ogie says any of the trio could win a match for you.

He says that hand-passing and running are vital skills in football but we must never forget the importance of accurate kicking at any distance. Scoring from play is essential and the men who can loft it over from fifty, forty and thirty yards on the run and harassed by an opponent are truly valuable footballers. In Kerry says Ogie they still talk about the points kicked by Tadhg Lyne of Cill Airne, whom I saw looking so slim and young at John Joe Sheehy's funeral. Tadhg whipped them up into the air on the turn and they curled over. John Egan, Mike Sheehy Ger Power and Pat Spillane sometimes do that to-day.

Ogie Moran feels very strongly about the coaching and training of the lads in the primary schools. He says the G.A.A. must get in there and take over the training, for the school bus takes the lads away so quickly in the evening that there is no chance to train them even if the teachers were available. There is a need for competition of some kind for

the twelve year olds but he doesn't favour intensity in these affairs and both parents and teachers should take a philosophic view, remembering that while competition is certainly very good for the lads they must not be driven too hard to win for fear they'll think that this is what games are all about.

In North Kerry there are towns and villages like Listowel, Ballylongford, Finuge, Moyvane, Tarbert, Duagh and Ballydonoghue where games could be played regularly on a home-and-away basis to give the boys plenty of exercise and keep them happy. There is a lot of football played in North Kerry he says and the area has produced some fine players like Johnny Walsh, Jim Brosnan, the O'Donoghues, Eamonn and Paud as well as the men of today. The man from Beale, which is the parish where Ballybunion sits, is fond of training. It is the other area of his life, after his work and his home. Mick O'Dwyer who has been part of the Kerry story continuously since 1956, trains his men hard, his example and leadership combining to get the best out of everyone. Any team sent out by Dwyer must be fairly good and if a number of top-class performers come along at the same time then such an outfit, prepared by the Waterville man, will be very formidable.

"I want to carry on playing football—good football" says Ogie Moran. "Every man has his off day but if a player watches his health, trains carefully and always tries to improve his game by practising the skills and thinking on the play itself, he must succeed, provided of course that he has reasonable ability in the first case."

In answer to my question about advice for young lads, with whom he has a special affinity he says 'they should practise all the skills, the kicking of all kinds, fetching, hand-passing, blocking down, solo-running, tackling, swerving, and lifting. Functional play, how to play a place must be learned and they must be encouraged to think about the game to analyse themselves and their opponents so that they will use their own strengths to exploit the opponents' weakness. Injuries should be treated carefully and to-day, he says, we have many doctors who take a keen interest in the hurt player.

Then came the final and important question. What about the Munster football final? With a thoughtful smile he replied "The team that will win it will be hard enough to stop. Cork have improved and the League final, where ye beat us by a short head, was valuable to ye, for ye found out a few things that would normally be hidden until the Munster final. To-day Cork are pretty good and they'll be better in July. We will also be more dangerous then. Pairc Ui Chaoimh is a help to Cork. The crowd does count for something though, personally, I'm too busy trying to play the game to take notice of anything but the ball, my opponent and the ref. It should be a good hour and we know that nothing short of a great effort will win it for us."

As he shook hands and smiled the frank manly face creased into a bright relaxed smile and he strode away, a fine type of young Kerry manhood who will, in the years ahead, I hope, continue to light up our playing fields with his skill, power and sportsmanship.

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Fenton could be a really great player



● John Fenton, back in favour with Cork hurling selectors.

THERE are lots of qualities that go to make a hurler. Certainly there are lots of hurlers who have different measures of many of the ingredients which one observes in great hurlers. Some have dash and enthusiasm; some have dreadnought courage in charging into any danger; some can mark like tar, impossible to remove; some can hit thrilling "doublers" off the air; some can crack grounders like pistol-shots. But not many have a collection of these qualities such as would make them stars of the game of hurling.

Nowadays, it must be sadly admitted that the greatest want in the young players' make-up is their lack of controlled skill in mastering the ball. It is, indeed, an unusual youngster who can choose what he would like to do from a number of options and then do it with certainty and confidence and with polished execution.

Even when they get the ball to hand, they have to manoeuvre for space to swing (sometimes only able to swing on one side) and angle to strike. It is beyond the capability of most young hurlers of to-day to double a flying grounder, nudging it faster and farther. I think I could feel safe in saying that it is absolutely beyond the capacity of the youngsters of to-day to meet a flying ball in the air and double on it — the most glorious of hurling skills without which the game is spangled.

But, why should one fault the youngsters when the senior players of to-day are very limited in the number of skills they can perform to the standard of perfection which was commonplace twenty or thirty years ago. It was good, therefore, to see one of the young men of high skill, John Fenton, earning his recall to the

Cork line-out for the replay of the League final in May, and to see him demonstrate the manner in which striking ability of certitude and precision can forge an advantage against the most energetic and earnest opposition.

Why wouldn't he be accomplished, I have heard it said, for the lad comes from the pleasant country town of Middleton where you could turn off for five miles or so to visit the grave and the home village of the unique Christy Ring. Hereabouts, you cannot get away from the myths and stories (tall and true) of what the Master did to perfect his control of the ball and his striking accuracy, from hand, on the sod or in the air.

Fenton paid attention; no one strikes a line-ball with such beauty, accuracy and consistency as he does. Few strike frees as well as he does; not many can whip a ball on the ground as crisply as he does; is there any who can stay cool in a scramble until the ball comes right for him and then can whip it to hand and strike it away so tellingly. And when he gets space — not that he needs as much as most — there are not many who can collect and direct the sliothar on its way for point, or placement, or relieving delivery out of defence.

A player like that should be a jewel in his county's team, you would think. Yet, John has had a disappointing time in and out of the Cork side. Each time he has established himself and his striking has been admired and gloried in, he has a quiet game or two as opponents set a man to watch him and give him no room. And since his best position is in the outfield — centre-field most of all a subdued spell becomes a crucial disadvantage to his team.

● TO PAGE 31

Cover stars have personality-plus

By FRANK COOGAN

ONE of the main reasons why Gaelic Games keep ahead of their competitors in this country is that hurling and football consistently down the years have produced personality-plus players . . . men with class, genuine ability, flair and a special appeal to capture the imagination of followers with their artistry in a big way and prove drawing cards as a result in the own right.

There are those who will argue the ball past Martin Furlong in the that hurling and football are short Midlanders' goal to earn a 14.mar just now of personalities of the Dublin side a sensational on the line standards of great names of the past, like Kevin Heffernan (Dublin), Jim McKeever (Derry), Danno O'Keefe (Kerry), Mick Mackey (Limerick), Christy Ring (Cork) and Nick Rackard (Wexford).

Much as I admire the giants of yesterday, however, I cannot go along with the theory that personalities are either in short supply just now or below par when compared with the heroes of other times. Take the talented quartet who grace our front cover this month — Bernard Brogan, Joe Kernan, Tom Cashman and Iggy Clarke.

Granted, they cannot match some of the giants of the past in terms of medal wins. But all four have proven their worth in the highest class, and have shown as well the qualities that go to make up the footballer or hurler with ability well above the ordinary.

Brogan has also advertised his athletic qualities in exciting fashion



Bernard Brogan (Dublin)

two point Leinster final win last July?

Yes, a champion competitor in every sense of the word is Bernard Brogan, who was 26 last September and played in two All-Ireland senior title winning teams during the Dubs golden era, as well as in the successful League final combinations of 1976 and 1978. He plays club football with St. Oliver Plunkett's, and was honoured by the Bank of Ireland All Stars selectors and Leinster.

Similarly, with hurling. When



Iggy Clarke (Galway)

first All-Ireland senior medal, but special way with Connacht's rare the absence of that memento cannot Railway Cup final win last St. Patrick's Day such was his brilliance at left half back.

He is having one of his best seasons ever, a fact that is shown by his high position in the GAELIC SPORT TYLER TOP TEN ratings, and his name will be linked in a

• TO PAGE 24

AN GÚM

Síle ar Scoil

Taitníonn scoil le Síle. Má tá aithne agat ar pháiste ar fearr leis fanacht sa bhaile b'fhéidir go n-aithróidh sé a intinn tar éis an scéilín seo a léamh. Máire Aine Ní Dhonnchadha a chuir i nGaeilge do leanai faoi bhun 7 mbliana. Pragas 45p

Síle agus a Madra Beag

Beidh an-spórt agat le Síle agus a peata beag. Má thaitníonn Síle ar Scoil leat ní aon rogha agat ach an leabhar seo a cheannach chomh maith. Tá sé níos saoire ná madra nua a cheannach pé scéal é. Pragas 45p

An Capaillín Cróga

Bhí Donn bocht bacach ach thug Deirdre aire dó. Leabhar gleoite ón Spáinn. Leagan Gaeilge le Máire Ní Chéileachair do pháistí faoi bhun 7 mbliana. Pragas 15p

Pedro An Gaucho Beag

Léiríonn an tsraith seo "Tíortha agus Nósanna" an éagsúlacht iontach atá ar fáil sa domhan seo. (San Airgintín atáimid an turas seo le Pedro an gaucho! Cén rud é gaucho? Faigh amach duit féin! Pragas 7p)

on the world stage through his splendid performances in the televised World Superstars competition. He qualified, of course, by winning out in the RTE Irish event, a test in which Iggy Clarke also showed up exceptionally well.

I wonder how many of the giants of the past would have matched the performances of Brogan and Clarke in the Superstars tests had such competitions been the order in the past? Let's not forget, either, that the players of the present generation are under intense pressures, both in training and in competitions; pressures above anything that yesterday's stars experienced.

Yet, they have been standing up to them not only well, but superbly, and producing into the bargain the type of exciting play that has not only made many a player stand out prominently and consistently over the years, but, as I have already said, ensure as well that Gaelic Games have boomed into the 'Eighties.

And, if you want proof, then look at the bright link that Bernard Brogan proved in one of the best success stories of modern times — the rise of the colourful and crowd-packing Dubs.

He was in there early shaping the success story. Indeed, Bernard Brogan was at full forward when Dublin got the run off rather unimpressively with a first round win at Croke Park over Wexford.

Then, who will forget his classic goal near the end of the 1977 All-Ireland semi-final following a typical Dublin build-up of the time that finally snuffed out Kerry's hopes? Or the movement and dynamic finishing of Bernard Brogan as he outwitted a couple of Offaly backs on the call of time before crashing

ever games and personalities of the 'Seventies are discussed, the Cork run of three All-Ireland titles in succession from 1976 to 1978 must inevitably loom large. And, Tom Cashman proved a shining star of that era.

For me, one of the brightest memories of the period is of a real tour-de-force by the young Black-rock club man at midfield in the 1978 Munster senior final win over Clare at Thurles. That was magical stuff, intelligent and ceaseless, and one could hardly find a better display in the South's showpiece match by a young hurler than that.

Cashman was then only twenty, and this son of former Cork goalkeeping ace, Mick, has more than fulfilled the great potential he displayed that day.

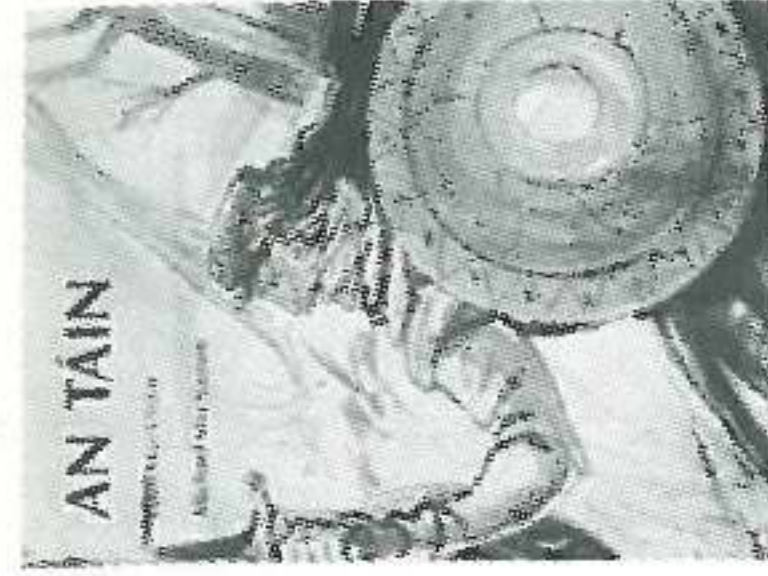
A brilliant graduate from the minor ranks, he went on to collect two All-Ireland senior medals, and



★
Tom
Cashman
(Cork)
★

only a few weeks ago we saw him deliver the goods yet again with style and fluency as he prompted Cork majestically from the demanding pivotal role to the National League final replay win over Limerick. Truly, a young man already in a high rating among the hurling elite is Tom Cashman.

Iggy Clarke, unlike Brogan and Cashman, is still chasing that elusive



An Táin

Ceann de mhórscéalta na tíre seo agus an domhain curtha in oiriúint do leanai 8-11 bhliain ag Liam Mac Uistín. Maisithe ag Michael Macnamee. Sa tsraith chéanna le Mír agus Éadaoin
Praghas 70p

Gráinne agus Peadar

“Ní maith liomsa buachaillí a bhíonn salach, giobalach!” Sin Gráinne ag caint. Peadar bocht! An mbeidh sí cairdiúil leis go deo? Máire Ní Chéileachair a rinne leagan Gaeilge do pháistí faoi bhun 7 mbliana.
Praghas 15p

Katia An Cailín Ungárach

Cheana féin sa tsraith seo tá Eiscimeach, Gaucho, Ollannach, Seapánach, Meicsiceach agus scata eile. Seo anois Katia, Tiffidh tú i ngrá léi! Eoghan O Colla a d'aistrigh do leanai 7-11 bhliain.
Praghas 60p

Máirin An Rinceoir Beag Bailé

Má tá aithne agat ar chailín óga dhéanann bailé seo an leabhar di. Is cinnte go spreagfaidh sé go leor cailíní óga agus a dtuismitheoirí chun spéis a chur san ealaín seo.

Gilbert Delahaye agus Marcel Marlier a scríobh agus a mhaisigh. Siobhán Denman a d'aistrigh do pháistí 8-12 bliana.
Praghas 50p

Dubh agus Breac: Scéal Dhá Chat

Máire Ní Chéileachair a chuir an leagan Gaeilge in oiriúint do leanai 7-10 mbliana d'aois. Beidh siad ag crónán cois na tine a léamh.
Praghas 50p

*Le ceannach díreach ó
Oifig Dhiolta Foilseachán Rialtais
An Stuaara, Ard-Oifig an Phoist
Baile Átha Cliath 1
nó ó dhioltóirí leabhar*

● **FROM PAGE 22**
 the Mullagh club, he was at No. 7 in a dynamic link in the powerful half back line that did much to shape Galway's last National League final win in 1975.

Cool, capable and with a maturity

that makes him a very hard man to outwit, Clarke has come a long way since he led Galway to their first All-Ireland under-21 hurling title in 1972. And, even though Galway went out to Cork in the National League semi-final earlier in the year,

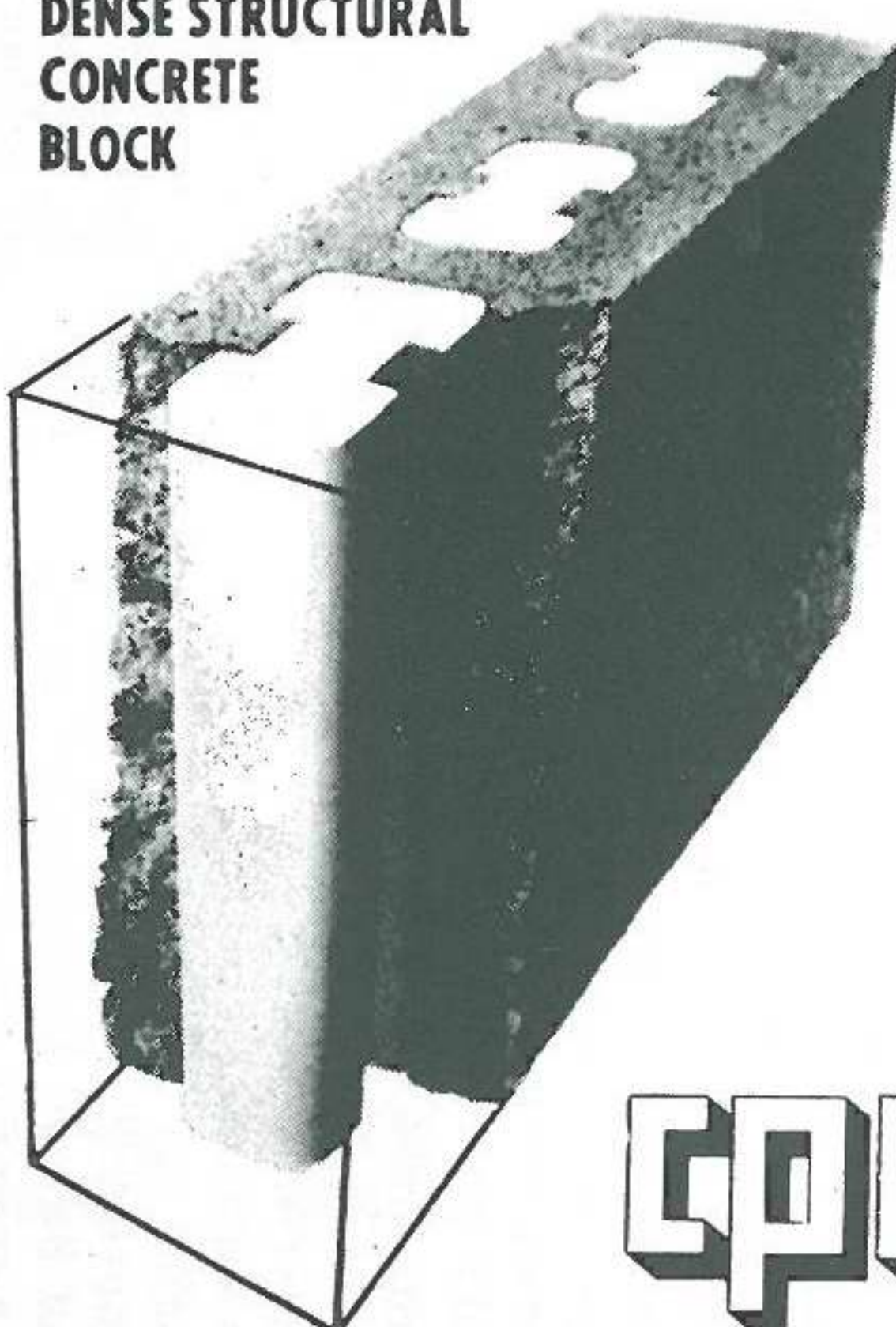
the skilled defender could yet this season complete his collection of major medals, as the Western county undoubtedly has the pool of hurlers with the talent and experience to make the breakthrough.

Joe Kernan is another player who has moved around in his time in the big time as well. He was at centre half back when Armagh got their 1980 Ulster championship campaign under way against Fermanagh in early June. I saw him play well, too, at full back on occasions, while the tall Crossmaglen Rangers club man had much to do at midfield with Armagh's last glory campaign in the North in 1977, following which they went on to reach the Sam Maguire Cup game with Dublin.

Kernan, who has been in the senior inter-county ranks for around ten years, has also proven his ability as a forward, and it was at centre half forward, in fact, that he won his

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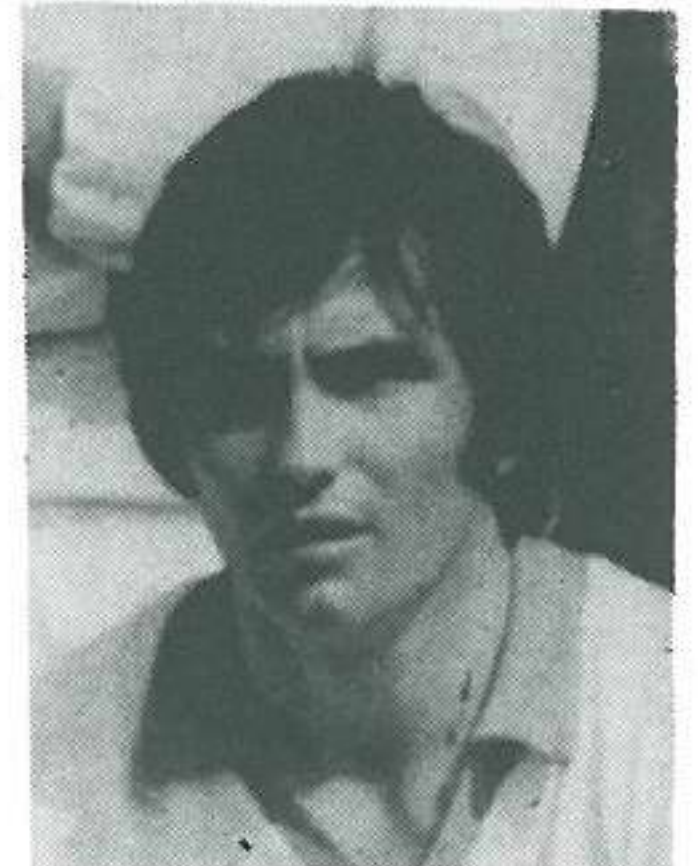


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★
*Joe
 Kernan
 (Armagh)*
 ★

two Railway Cup medals over the past couple of seasons.

A strong, forceful and determined campaigner, Kernan is a first-rate man to have in any side, not only because of his skills and competitive spirit, but for that versatility which has enabled him to do an excellent job no matter what position called on to take over.

A former county minor, he is a man who has given excellent service to Armagh and at 26 has still plenty to offer to the country, Ulster and the game in general.

Football and hurling not producing the exciting personality-plus players of former years? Don't tell me that with men like Bernard Brogan, Tom Cashman, Iggy Clarke and Joe Kernan around!

WE have come to the half-way mark in another handballing year, and such has been the variety of activity that a brief review seems to be an appropriate course of action.

The new season dawned with the exciting announcement that RTE would be presenting a special series of Top Ace 40 x 20 games in addition to the 60 x 30 programme already in existence.

The arrival of Gordy Pfeifer (Lacoma), Terry Muck (Chicago), Vern Roberts (Chicago) and Fred Lewis (Miami) created a special atmosphere for the handball purists who were treated to prime exhibitions in the intricacies of the small court game. Not to mention the grim lessons our own players were taught in the necessity of being fully fit for top class handball.

Close on the heels of the RTE successes came another highly successful week-end of handball when former All-Ireland champion, Peadar McGee, organised a carnival of social and playing activity that brought to our shores such exciting personalities as Jim Fahey of Maryland, USA, and the equally well-known visiting trio of Jim Fitzpatrick, Mike McDonnell and Louis Buckingham.

This exercise by McGee is one that might be successfully followed by other units interested in giving the game an uplift in their area.

Towards the end of February there was something of a tremor in handball circles when the grapevine had it that Clare's John Kirby was culminating his playing career. Fortunately, it was a story without foundation and John continued to display the skills that have brought him to the forefront in the game.

Then Queen's University turned up trumps by winning the inter-varsity team championship for the first time. This result was satisfying in so many ways since Queen's were the main architects in promoting inter-varsity handball, but the real benefit of their win was the fact that it indicated a levelling out process in the standards of all four provinces.

The international trials, sponsored once again by Atlas Travel proved to be an exciting feature of this first half year. Pakie Ryan of Dublin won the open section, while under twenty-three representatives, Tony Ryan (Tipperary) and John Fleming (Wexford), together with Pat Kirby, whose choice was automatic, won the coveted spots to the USHA Open Championships.

As we go to print these games are in full swing so I am hoping to bring you the inside stories from Tucson, Arizona, in the next issue.

* * *

In a review of this nature it is inevitable that activities within the Council chambers must have a role and in this regard I am turning to the motion, successfully engineered by the Cork delegates at Congress.

The motion called on the G.A.A. Central Council to issue a clear directive to all units of the Gaelic Athletic Association to ensure that handball is promoted in line with the aims of the Association and that it be given priority over facilities for games which are at variance with those aims.

The fact that Paddy McFlynn, the President of the G.A.A., was in attendance at the Congress when this motion was discussed and concurred with the senti-

ments expressed in it, must be a pointer that positive action will ensue.

Back to the ballcourts and the banner headlines hit us at the end of March that the Kirby Brothers, Pat and Mick, were beaten in the All-Ireland 40 x 20 Senior Championship.

It was their first defeat in this grade in five years, though their conquerors, Mick Ahern and Tom Fitzgerald, failed to maintain their winning form when going down in very tame fashion to Mayo's Peadar McGee and Pat McCormack in the final.

And, to prove that old handballers never die, the great fifty-six years old Micky Walsh from Mayo continued to dominate the Golden Masters' Grade.

Women's handball, which appeared to be on the wane, also made a dramatic resurgence during the past few months and the indications are that, with full co-operation from the male dominated clubs through the country, it will acquire a creditable status.

Mavis O'Toole from the Na Fianna Club in Dublin won her eleventh successive title in the All-Ireland Senior Championship, and there seems nothing to prevent her from adding to that total in the years ahead.

This first half year also had its sorrowful moments with the deaths of prominent players, Gus O'Shaughnessy from Delvin in Westmeath, and John Joe Gilmartin from the famed Talbots Inch Club in Talbot's Inch.

The young Westmeath player was only in the prime of what could have been a very successful career in handball.

Gilmartin was a living legend and boasted the greatest number of All-Ireland titles.

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CAMOGIE AFFAIRS

By Agnes Hourigan

AT the time of writing, senior championship fever is in the air and the junior and minor grades have made some progress. The Junior National League has been won by Armagh and the stage is set for the Senior National League decider.

The open draw, now accepted by all as the most exciting system for the senior championship, involves eight of the eleven counties participating, during June. This year, the form shown in the League should be a pointer as to how the counties will do in the Championship.

Limerick, who have been a force in both League and Championship since they were promoted to senior ranks in 1978 have had a disappointing season so far this year. They lost to Cork and Kilkenny in the League and barely defeated Galway to take the points — their only success. A further anxiety for their mentors is the distance that separated them from Cork in the Munster Senior final recently.

The Shannonsiders, who have practically all the players who brought them their All-Ireland Junior title in 1977, must show marked improvement if they are to succeed in their opening game against Down.

The Northern county failed to win any of their League engagements but they were quite close in their encounters with Clare and Wexford, so they could give Limerick a close call if the Shannonsiders do not improve on their recent form.

Dublin, who lost the senior League semi-final to Tipperary after extra time face Clare. Clare have been improving in every match since the opening of

the season. They defeated Down, lost to Tipperary by two points and to Wexford by one point. It is nevertheless doubtful if they can match Dublin at home. Whoever gets through that game advances to play Tipperary at a Tipperary venue on July 13.

The clash of Kilkenny and Wexford usually produces a classic game. This season Kilkenny have made an impressive beginning. They have qualified for the League Final on June 29, having defeated such prominent counties as Cork, Galway and Limerick.

Wexford have not yet recovered from the retirement of stars like Brigid Doyle, Margaret Lacey and Kit Codd. Their performance in the League was not up to Slaneysiders standard. In the Zone final with Tipperary they dominated the first half but failed to hold the Premier County at the finish.

I fancy Kilkenny to advance to meet Galway in that quarter-final on July 20.

Cork and Antrim oppose each other in the first quarter-final game. Cork, who have a home venue for this game, have been performing well with their present side. Their most suspect sector seems to be defence but in their recent Munster Senior Championship game against Limerick the backs showed a marked improvement on previous games. Whoever advances from that game are not in action again until the All-Ireland semi-final on August 17.

As reported last month Antrim's Mairead Magill has indicated that she will not be available for the championship. Her absence will seriously lessen the



● *Mairead Magill whose absence will lessen Antrim's chances of retaining their All-Ireland title.*

Antrim girls' chances of retaining the title while Cork have so many stars coming to the fore that they have bright prospects for the future. Only time will tell however, if they can dethrone the champions this year.

The only remaining county is Derry. Their first Championship game is in the quarter-final against the winners of Limerick and Down, a result which is not very easy to foresee in view of Limerick's performances so far this season.

Leinster have reached the semi-final stages of the Junior and Minor Championships. Kildare and Wexford are in semi-finals of both at one side. Dublin face Louth in the juniors and Wicklow in the Minor.

The League semi-final between Tipperary and Dublin was a real thriller. Tipperary were a goal ahead at half-time 2-4 to 1-4 after a very evenly contested first half. Dublin were slightly superior in the second half, scoring seven points to three for Tipp (2-7 to 1-10). Dublin drew level in the very exciting closing minutes in which the lead changed hands twice.

In the first extra time period Tipperary scored three points (2-10 to 1-10). A goal and two points for each side in the second period still left the Munster girls a goal ahead to advance to the final on June 29, against Kilkenny.

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The Feile na nGael Competition which is hosted by Galway

● TO PAGE 29

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• FROM PAGE 27

this year, has as usual aroused great interest all over the County. The Galway Camogie Board has been working hard inside the home County to prepare the Clubs for the busy week-end ahead on July 6-8.

As in other counties that hosted the Feile previously, new under-14 clubs have sprung up and the County can now field 18 teams.

The following is the draw for the first round matches, in which the home team hosts their opponents for the entire week-end.

Section A. Tynagh v Antrim; Ballygar v Dublin; Ahascragh v Clare; Davitts v Cork; Salthill v Limerick; Moycullen v Cavan; Claregalway v Kilkenny.

SPORTS HALL

EGLISH, St. Patrick's G.A.A. Club are celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary in style this year, with the opening in mid August of a new 80 x 40 foot Sports Hall with a committee room, mineral bar and dressing rooms and showers. A total cost of around £92,000 is aided somewhat by a £23,000 grant from the Northern Ireland Ministry and wherever possible club members and friends all helped out voluntarily.

English St. Patrick's, is four miles from Dungannon and boasts of an U-12, U-14, U-15, U-16, U-18, U-21, Senior and a Senior Reserve teams.

Chairman Sean Donaghy, Secretary, Phil Murtagh and all the hardworking club members are to be congratulated on bringing this venture to a successful conclusion.

There will be special events held during the week coinciding with the official opening including what promises to be a highly entertaining football game. Full details in our next issue.

Section B. Glenamaddy v Mayo; Pearses v Armagh; Ballinasloe v Wexford; Kiltormer v Meath; Loughrea v Westmeath; Mervue v Kerry; Athenry v Roscommon; Salthill B v Offaly.

All the games except the finals will be played on July 5 with the finals on July 6.

Armagh's victory in the Junior National League Final was the County's first All-Ireland victory.

The game, which was influenced in no small way by the strong wind, was in the end a very close tie at Cappagh. Co. Kildare.

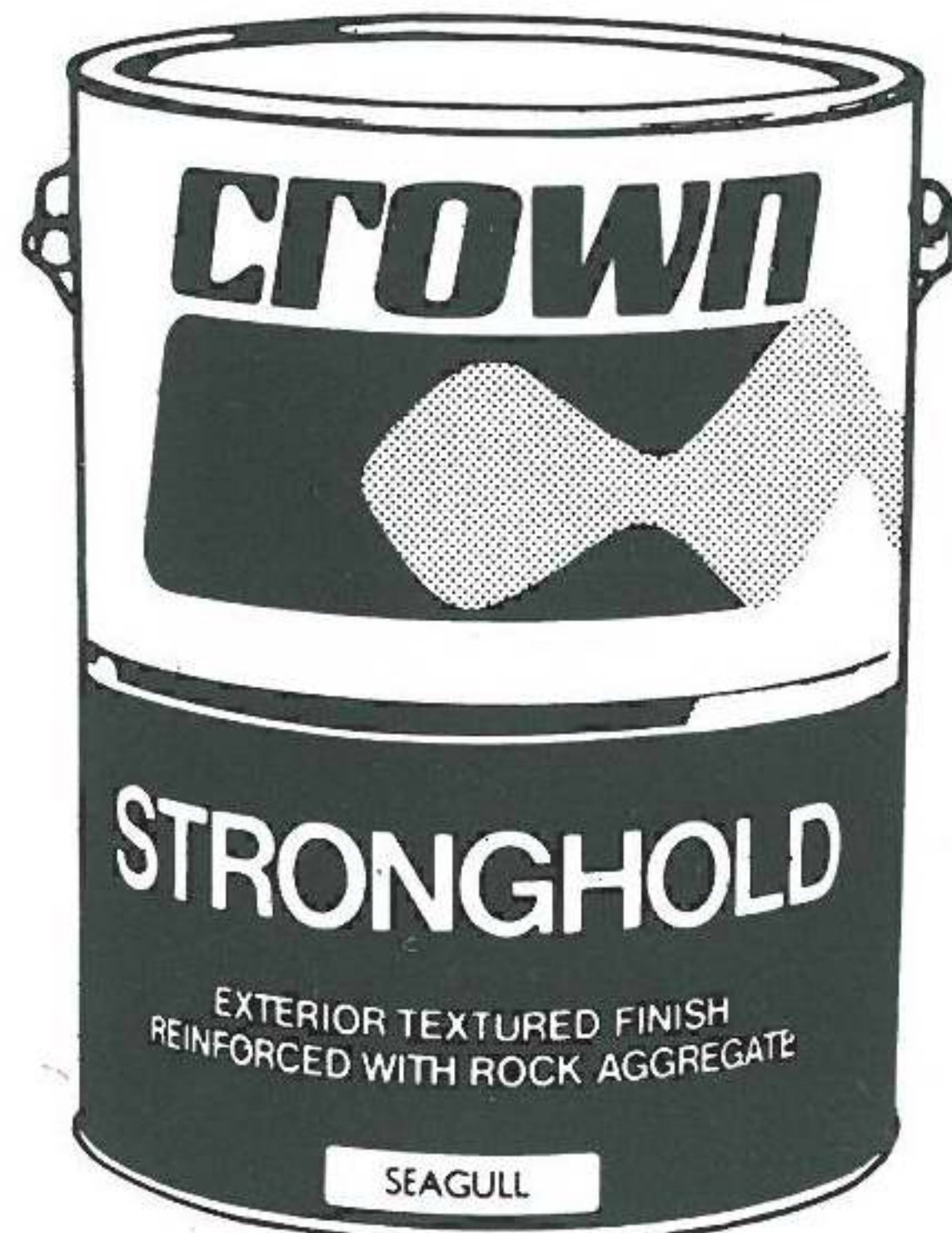
Armagh dominated the play in the first half, Kildare came into their own after the interval and went a point ahead with a few minutes left for play. A great Armagh rally resulted in a goal and brought them the beautiful Bourke Cup.

The Trophy for this new Competition for Junior Counties was presented by Eileen Bourke to commemorate her sister, Joan who was a prominent officer at the time of her untimely death. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dilis.

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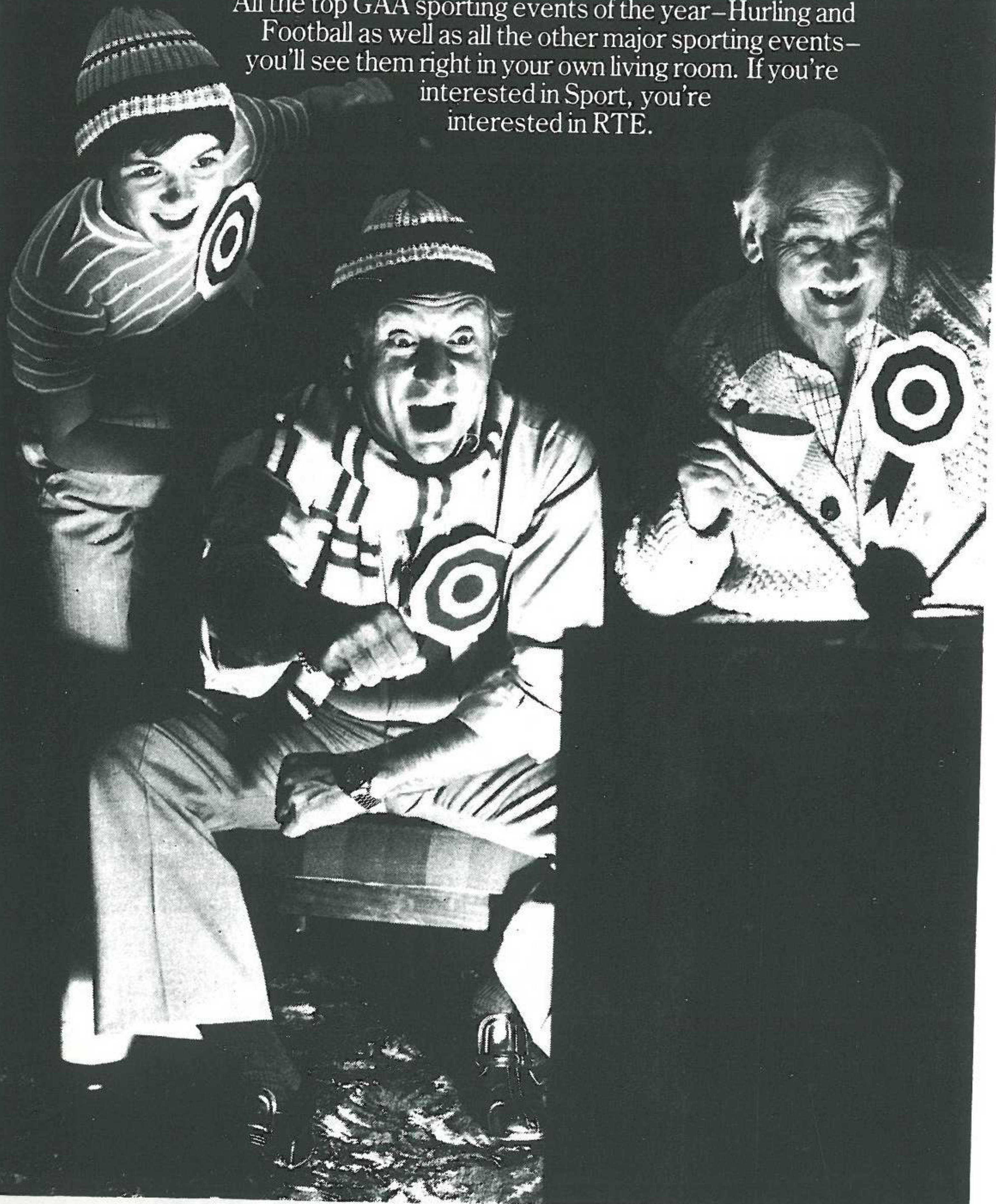


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Glorious uncertainty of championship form

*By
Jay Drennan*

THE victory of Cork in the NHL and the fine form which Limerick showed in their two clashes in the final have caused them to be installed as firm favourites to contest the Munster final later in the summer. This reaction is very easily understood as a result of the counties' dramatic efforts at Pairc Ui Chaoimh. The glow from their radiance puts all others in the shadows.

But, of course, that is a false picture of things. It seems strange, but when you think of it, the numbers of League finalists who have gone on to dominate the championship are well spaced out by others who did not.

Clare, for instance, had a run of League form for three or four years that could scarcely be bettered, yet they never managed to win the Munster crown which they prized so dearly.

Tipperary, last year, were convincing winners of the League, yet they were tumbled out of the championship in their first game.

Some years back Galway won the League after a series of impressive performances, but were unable to reproduce the same winning hurling when it came to All-Ireland final day.

When Limerick were engulfed by brilliant Cork in 1974 at Pairc na nGael, who would have thought that Cork themselves would be tossed out of the championship on their ear the very next Sunday, and that Limerick would, in fact, arise from their ashes to take the Munster title that year. And so it goes on — the glorious uncertainty that keeps alive the marvellous fascination of hurling.

Some years back, Kerry footballers would have looked askance if anyone suggested to them that they should make a special effort for the League. They thought it nothing more than a useful field in which to blood new talent or give established players a chance to get the stiffness out of their bones.

Then, for some years, they put some real enthusiasm into the League competition and gained successes with the minimum of trauma. After that again they lapsed into a restful approach. This year they seemed to pep up their interest close to the end of the competition, probably because they had moved forward effortlessly, but also, surely, because a clash with Cork in the final began to loom larger and larger on the horizon.

I wonder what Kerry really thought about that defeat by Cork in the League final? Was it as they said: "Good for the game better side won on the day well deserved but, it is the championship that really matters and the Munster final should be a great game"

Or were they grinding their teeth with venom and cursing themselves for letting Cork get away with a victory which must boost their morale and take away a considerable chunk of Kerry's psychological advantage over them?

Kilkenny is another county which has, by and large, tended to take the League with a grain of salt. Well enough if the cookie crumbles in such a way as to give them easy access to the semi-final without hardship. Then they will play it out as tough and unyielding as the rest of them.

But it seems uncharacteristic of the Kilkenny temperament and skill to press for supreme effort all the year round. The championship, when the sunshine warms the backs of the players and wrist-work and ball control again become valued currency, is when the black-and-amber discovers again the brilliance that remained hidden through the winter.

So it would be wise to think again before committing oneself to any dangerous statement about the certainty of Cork and Limerick to be the Munster finalists, as though there was no threat from any other quarter.

● FROM PAGE 21

Fenton, perhaps, lacks a little of the snappy speed that carries players to the action that fraction quicker and more decisively than others. And that quality which the old-timers called "cutting" (which above all others after his striking ability was what made Ring unique) is, perhaps, a little

lacking in Fenton. Whatever it is, he seems to tick over at just such an ordinary pace that everything he does is unhurried. And while that is the very factor that emphasises his class for most of the year at club and county, it is also the quality which makes him vulnerable to the pulsing heat of the Munster championship when

men on all sides are fit enough to give their intentions reality. In such emotional activity it is that Fenton's cerebral command is disturbed, smothered or stifled. Perhaps now, since he is no longer a callow youth, he will strive to add that morsel of "cutting" that would surely make him one of the great players of our time.

● FROM PAGE 18

the Leinster champions in this year's semi-final.

Since the current team sprang to prominence, however, with a league victory in 1975, they have displayed remarkable inconsistency which has greatly hampered their progress. To my mind, the Galwaymen have done little this year to suggest that they have finally destroyed the inconsistency bug.

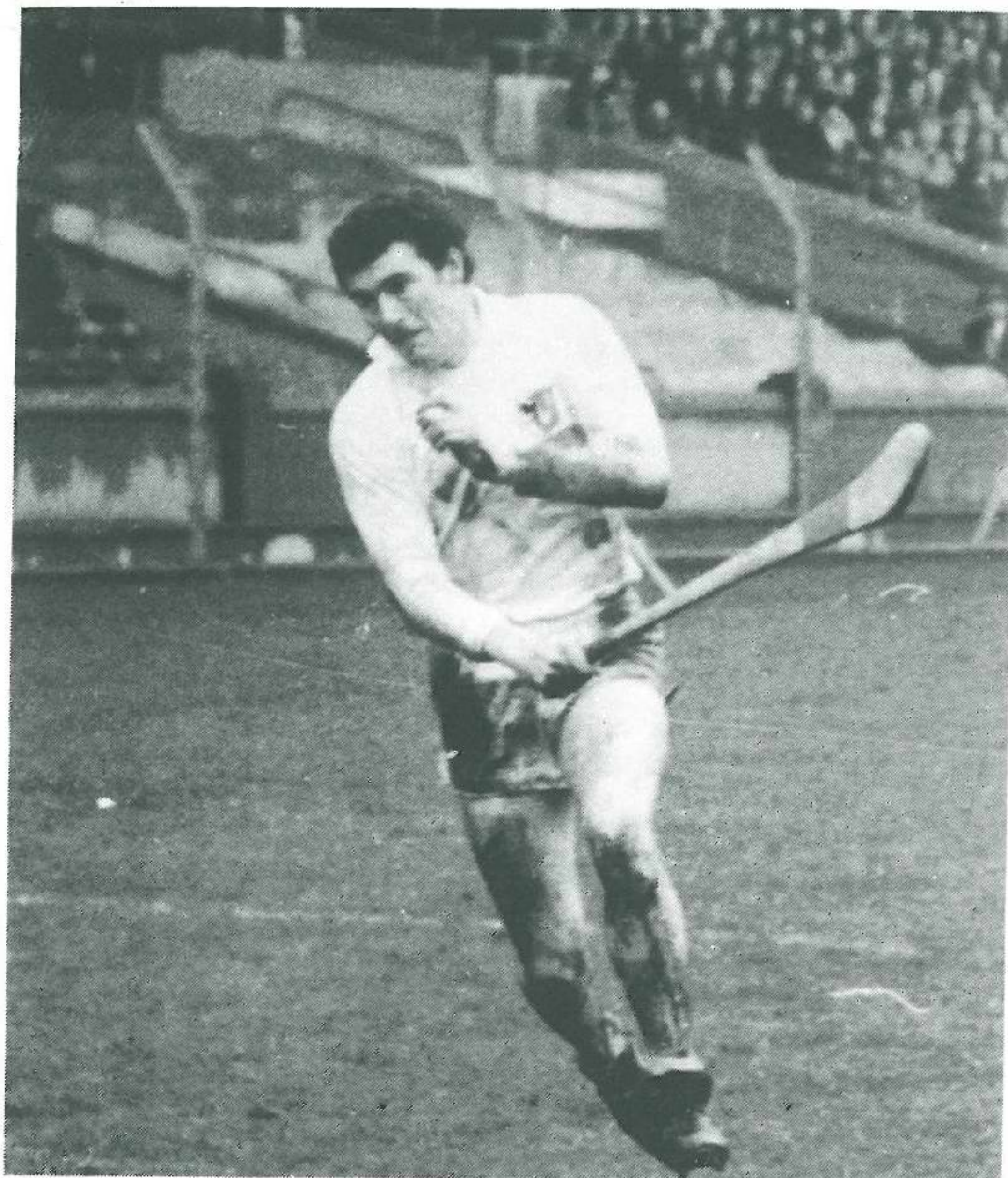
Galway's most impressive displays since 1975 have been reserved for All-Ireland semi-final appearances. They beat Cork in '75 and shattered the Leesiders' four-in-a-row dream last year but, on both occasions, they slumped to Kilkenny in the All-Ireland final.

To me this suggests that Galway, a good solid squad with many fine hurlers, are lacking that little extra something to take them to the top, possibly a consistently brilliant forward capable of inspirational feats.

On reflection, Galway have had a lot going for them in their recent semi-final games. It must be extremely difficult for the Munster and Leinster champions, having survived a tough provincial campaign, to retain their peak for a testing semi-final. They could not be blamed if, subconsciously at least, they dropped a gear and regarded the penultimate hurdle as a mere stepping stone to the All-Ireland final.

Being burdened with the tag of favourites, which all opponents were since '75, hardly helped their cause and left Galway with everything to play for and very little to lose. Admittedly, Galway could lay claim to being handicapped through lack of match practice but I believe the former points gave the westerners a distinct psychological advantage.

Things may be different this year, however. All-Ireland champions Kilkenny will be fancied to emerge from Leinster but hav-



● Joe Connolly seen here in action for Connacht in the Railway Cup Final last March. Victory for Connacht represented by fifteen Galway men, put Joe and his team-mates in line for a remarkable double if they can triumph in this year's All-Ireland series.

ing been relegated in this year's league, the Noresiders can hardly be oozing with confidence.

The departure of attacking ace, Mick Brennan, has in my view, greatly reduced Kilkenny's rating as a hurling force. Wexford, Offaly and Dublin have not achieved as much as Galway in recent times, so it is not unreasonable to suggest that the Tribesmen may well be favourites for this year's semi-final and, as such, will find themselves under new pressure.

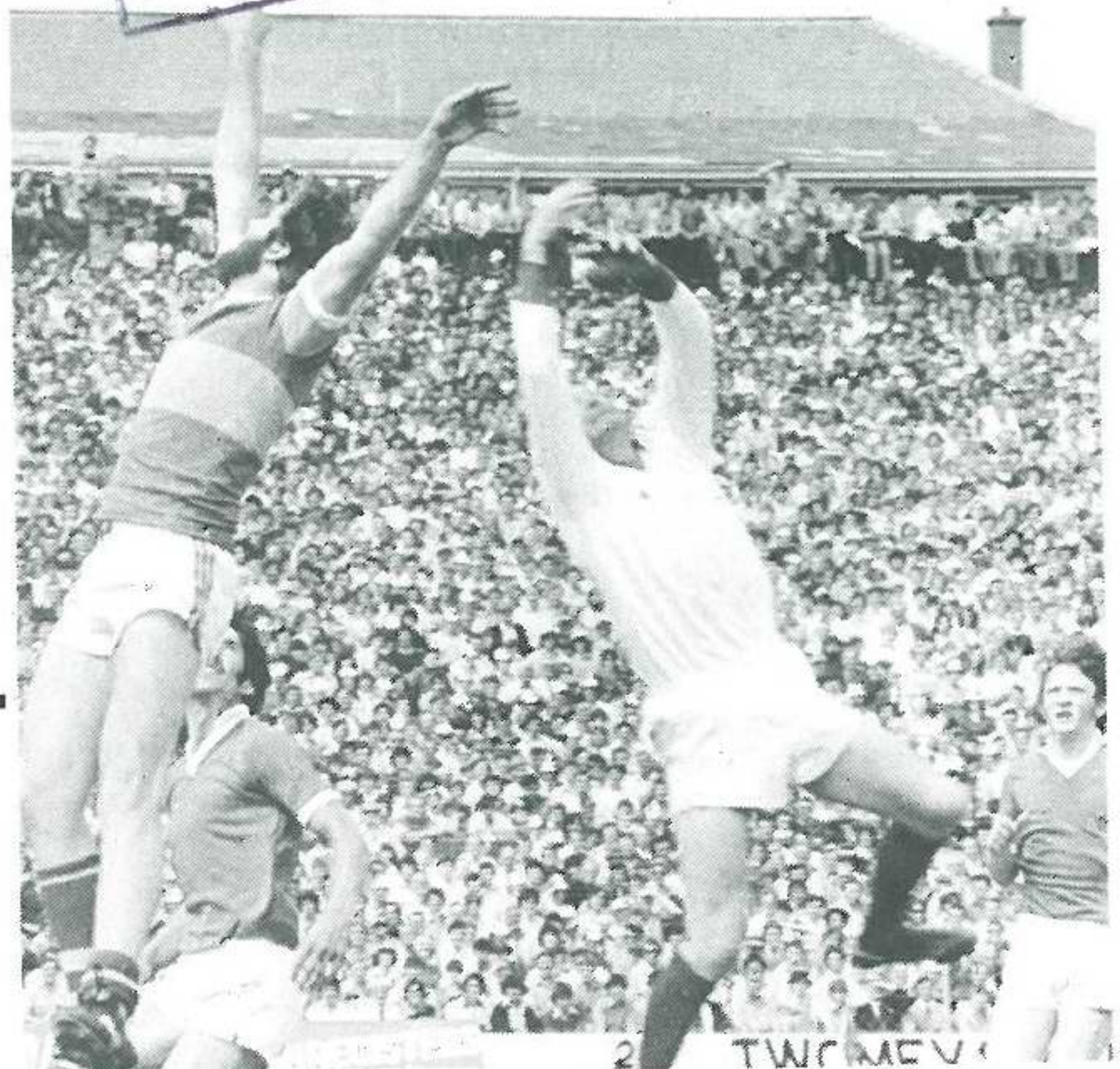
Even if they qualify for the All-Ireland decider, I am not entirely convinced that Galway can

survive two tough championship tests on the trot.

The present team has been trying without success since 1975 and the squad has not shown any dramatic improvement this year. Indeed some of the players are drawing dangerously close to the veteran stage and could become a little disillusioned at this point.

No, I do not believe that Galway will win the Liam McCarthy Cup for 1980. But I will be delighted to tender my most sincere congratulations to the men from the Corrib banks, should they prove me wrong.

Kerry fancied to march on



● Eoin Liston of Kerry (left) endeavours to punch the ball goalwards out of reach of Cork's goalkeeper Billy Morgan. Action from 1979 Munster Football Final.

By
Noel
Horgan

CORK'S National Football League win in April bridged a twenty-four year gap and raised fresh hopes of success in Munster as it dispelled the aura of invincibility surrounding the Kerry team which is seeking three All-Ireland titles on the trot this year.

Needless to say, Cork's victory was warmly received and the Leesiders are quietly confident that they can again master the Kingdom in the Munster final. But I believe it would be unwise to attach too much significance to the league success when assessing the outcome of this year's southern decider.

Cork's courage, commitment and fitness made them worthy winners of the league final but it cannot be ignored that they got the major share of the breaks in that game.

For a start, Mike Sheehy's late withdrawal was a major set-back as neither Ogie Moran nor John Egan could make a complete success of the free-taking role. Indeed, the free which Moran missed in the final minute was well within Mike Sheehy's compass. Had it been pointed, the game would have ended in a draw.

Additionally, Kerry were unlucky to lose Pat Spillane midway through the second half as his spirited play before he retired made him the man most

likely to swing the game in Kerry's favour.

Cork, too, had their misfortune when Vince Coakley injured his ankle at the throw-in and Kerry's midfield dominance in the first quarter illustrated the loss which his departure meant to the Rebels. But I feel that the most relevant point to emerge from the league final was that Kerry were not as sharp as usual on the day.

Clearly, Kerry's preparations had not been as thorough as Cork's. The home county made no secret of the fact that they were determined to win the league title and they worked hard at moulding a strong team during the winter months.

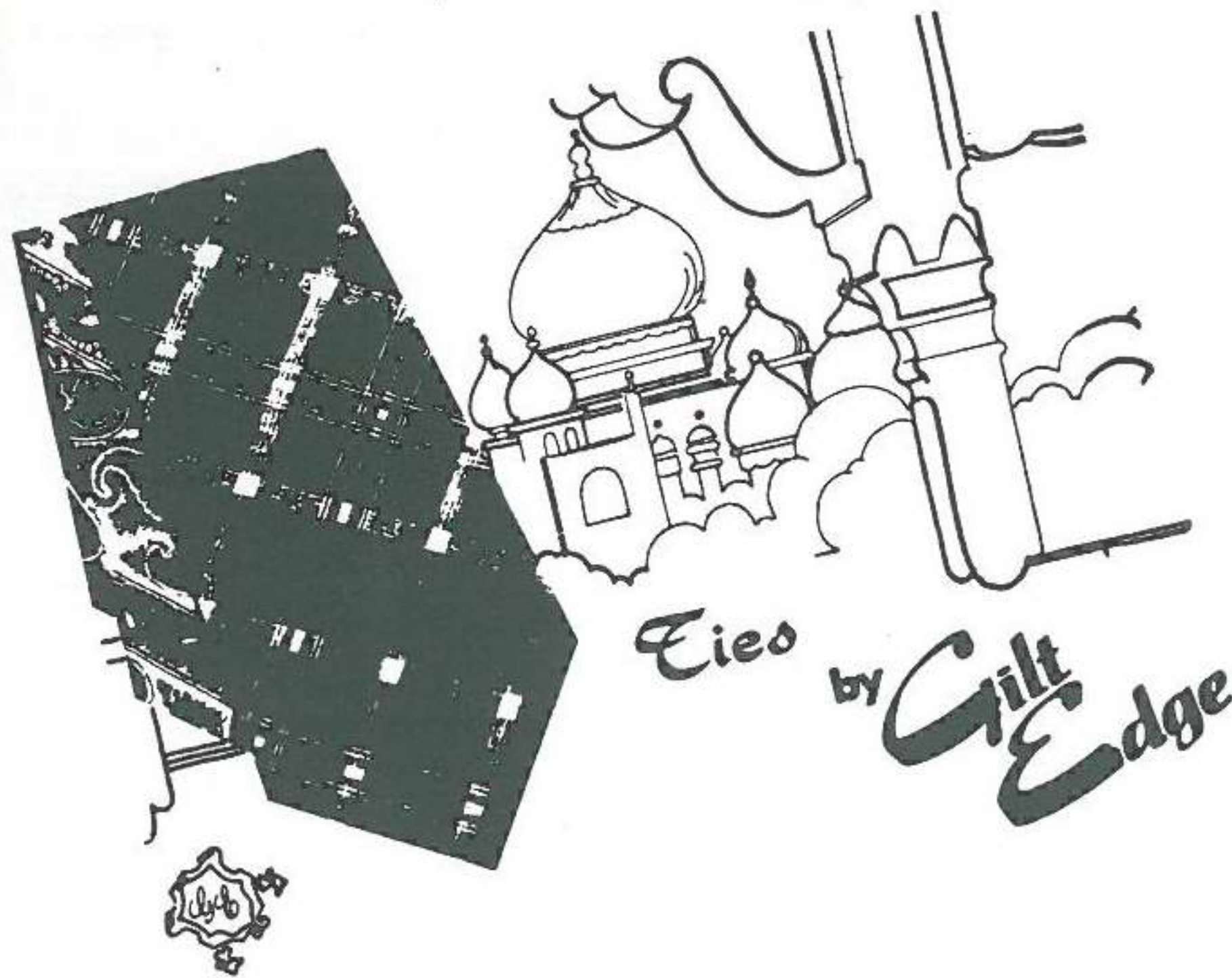
Kerry, by their own admission, had their main sights set on the championship and they were not anxious to tune themselves to be at their peak just for the league. And it was apparent in the Pairc Ui Chaoimh final that the Kerry

forward machine was not functioning with its customary fluency.

When Kerry dominated in the early stages, through the mid-field brilliance of Sean Walsh and Jack O'Shea, the forwards made many openings but their finish could not compare with their approach work. They wasted chances which normally would have been converted with clinical efficiency.

Eoin "The Bomber" Liston emerged as the main culprit in this regard, missing three golden goal-scoring chances which could have set Kerry on the victory-road. The first of these was stopped at point-blank range by Billy Morgan when Liston would have been wiser to punch the ball to the net; the second from close range was fisted over the bar the full-forward would have been better advised to tap the ball into the corner of the net! In the

● TO PAGE 35



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• FROM PAGE 33

second half Liston was unlucky to see his fisted effort from a Jack O'Shea lob zoom wide of the post.

For the Munster final, however, the Kerry forward division will be perfectly primed and Cork can expect no let-offs of that nature. Which is why the Kingdom must still be installed as favourites to take their sixth consecutive provincial crown.

Having said that, however, it would be foolish to dismiss Cork's hopes and the Leesiders must constitute the main threat to Kerry's bid for the three-in-a-row. Spirit has never been higher in the Cork camp and their mentors

have worked diligently with the determined and talented footballers in the panel to shape them into a formidable unit.

The league has unearthed top-class newcomers in John Evans at corner-back, foraging wing-forward Tim Dalton and full-forward John Allen and all three made notable contributions in the league final.

Billy Morgan, Seamus O'Sullivan, Kevin Kehilly, Declan Barron, whose switch to midfield swung the league final in Cork's favour, Jimmy Barry-Murphy and Denis Allen are all players of proven ability playing as well as, if not better than, ever this season.

The team, on the whole, has developed a balance which has

not been evident since Cork's last Munster final victory in 1974. Admittedly, there were flaws to be detected in the league final performance when the half-backs only became settled after Tom Creedon moved from midfield to centre-back in the second-half. But Cork have ample opportunity to iron out any deficiency in this area before the Munster final.

Cork must be respected in the championship but Kerry's greater all-round experience may be decisive. The meeting of the league champions and the All-Ireland champions at Páirc Uí Chaoimh on July 6 promises to be an intriguing encounter, a confrontation which could well provide the highlight of the "eighties for football enthusiasts in Munster.

ANSWERS

• FROM PAGE 15

MATCH THE GOALKEEPERS

Michael Walsh and Kilkenny. John O'Leary and Dublin. Paddy Linden and Monaghan. John McAleavey and Down.

MATCH THE MIDFIELD PARTNER

Dermot Earley and Seamus Hayden. Pat Moylan and John Fenton. Joe Hennessy and Ger Fennelly. Brian Mullins and Bernard Brogan.

MATCH THE SCORELINE

Cork hurlers — 2-14. Wexford hurlers . . . 2-17. Offaly footballers . . . 0-9. Donegal footballers . . . 0-11.

PICTURE PARADE

The four players in the Parade are Seamus Shinnors (Galway), Christy Ryan (Cork), Dermot Earley (Roscommon), Noel Lane (Galway).

The only provincial senior medal winner last season was Earley. Lane is the only forward in the group. And the clubs concerned are Newbridge, Kildare (Earley) and Ballindereen (Lane).

TOP TEN

1. He captained Roscommon to their Connacht senior title win. 2. Ninth. 3. Gerry Kirwan (Offaly). 4. Christy Ryan. 5. John Horgan. 6. 41 years. 7. Mayo. 8. Galway. 9. Liam O'Brien (Kilkenny). 10. Charlie Nelligan (Kerry), Paddy Cullen (Dublin), Paddy Linden (Monaghan) and John McDermott (Roscommon) won football medals, while Noel Skehan (Kilkenny) and Martin Coleman (Cork) collected hurling souvenirs.

KNOW YOUR CHAMPIONS

1. Antrim. 2. Tommy O'Rourke (Kildare). 3. Cork. 4. Laois. 5. Down.



PICTURED at a recent press conference to launch a twenty six minute instruction film for football referees were (from left) Adrian Daly, General Manager, Insurance Corporation Life (who sponsored the film), Padraig Mac Floinn, Uachtaran, C.L.G. and Dr. Mick Loftus, Chairman National Referees' Advisory Council. The film includes excerpts taken from major games in 1978 and should be of considerable help to referees throughout the country.

WHERE THERE'S LIFE,
THERE'S HARP



It's anybody's championship on the Ulster see-saw

By Jim Bennett

IT is not easy to lay the finger with precision on the exact list of factors which govern the strengths and weaknesses of certain counties in football or hurling. In any case some of these are internal (and largely hidden) causes which may not be discernible to those who are within touching distance.

However, there are certain broad features of the scene which may be noted and, often, they give an insight into trends and strengths. For instance, the football pattern of recent years has taken on a very special kind of appearance which is so particular as to be remarkable. Ulster has had such a sequence of breakthroughs by counties who were so long struggling that they can no longer be classed as breakthroughs. While noteworthy achievements in themselves, they are not of the quality of the rise of Down in the late 1950s, Armagh of the early 1950s, Antrim of the 1940s, or even Derry of the late 1950s.

All of these teams had to prove their exceptional merit by disposing of opposition which franked their worth. Cavan always stood over the Gap of the North lest any other should attempt to come south for the All-Ireland semi-finals. It had to be an Antrim team of great ability which captured the Ulster title in 1946 and again in 1951 when they had Armagh (the 1950 holders) to deal with as well.

Armagh, too, clearly proved their quality by taking Ulster titles in 1950 and 1953 in an era when a great Cavan team were collecting All-Irelands.

Tyrone's charge in 1956 and 1957 was a well-founded one

building on good schoolboy players and developing a fine understanding. Yet, in retrospect, it probably was the beginning of the end of the great Cavan football teams. At least the gate was now wide open for any aspirant—until, that is, a mighty Down team slammed it shut for another spell.

In the emergence of Antrim, Armagh, Tyrone and Derry one could, at least, see the improvement in football skill and the hardening in competitive edge that had taken place in counties for whom the defeat of Cavan was the big bogey.

Down's grip, in some ways, compensated for the waning power of Breffni, yet Cavan were still able to assert their pride by administering occasional slaps to Down, too. The emergence of a custom-built Derry side at the end of 1960s appeared to be an event of great significance, but they never quite captured the ability to dominate and establish themselves as great champions.

Down had now failed; Cavan were dropping further out of the picture—the traditional barriers with their psychological shock were gone. Derry could be managed in spite of physical size and great potential. They were—by Donegal, Tyrone, Armagh, a Down side struggling to measure

up to the shadow of the 1960s, and a brave Monaghan with intentions to match their ambitions.

All had one thing in common: they were equally matched and there was no great bogey-figure among them to cause the others to quake and to drive them to greater efforts at perfecting their game before taking on the giants.

Ulster, then, has ebbed and flowed into a backwater in which there are no big waves to disturb the comfortable position of "potential Ulster champions" which all nine counties enjoy. Who will it be when July ends who will be preparing for the journey to Croke Park? Your guess is as good as anyone else's.

In tougher days the comfort did not exist, and the hunger had to be endured or fierce measures taken to undermine the giant(s). It made for a far less even picture among the counties, for few would be willing to submit to that kind of discipline and that kind of ambition. But, the one or two or three who seriously wanted to dethrone the traditional champions were far better teams when they did so. (Some were far better teams even though they never saw themselves acclaimed as champions.)

A glance in other directions bears out the theory to some extent, at least. Only Kerry and Dublin have set standards of superb football with consistency over the last five or six years. It ap-

• TO PAGE 39

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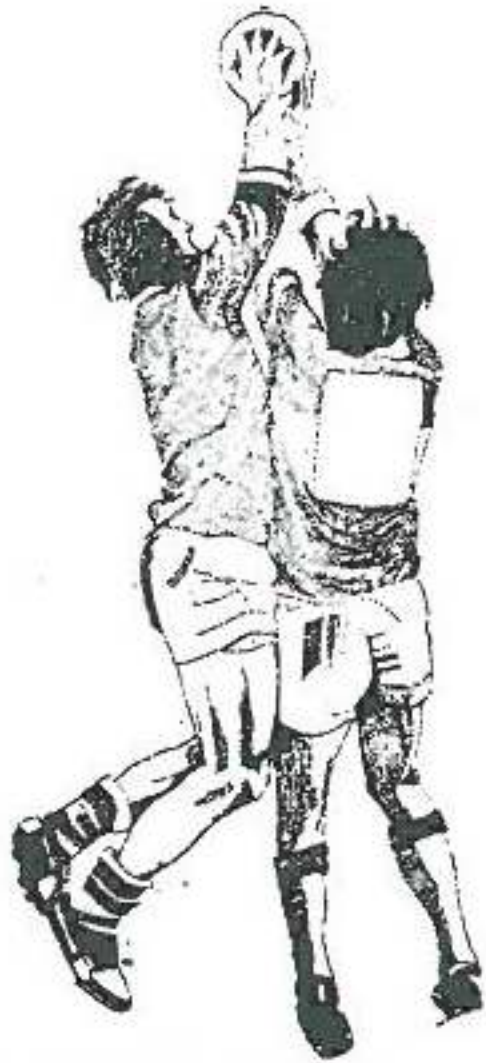
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GAA Reporting by Paddy Downey in THE IRISH TIMES



Paddy Downey, Gaelic Games correspondent, writes with knowledge, insight, sound judgement and a flair for capturing the colour and thrills of the big occasion and big occasions are many in Gaelic Games. His reports and comments are balanced and fair but then, you'd expect all that from a writer who has won the **Gallaher Award** for the best National Sports Story of the Year — not once but twice in succession — and that's the highest prize there is in Irish Sports journalism. Read **The Irish Times** and judge for yourself. Of course it's not just a one-man team. You'll like the rest of them too.

THE IRISH TIMES

● FROM PAGE 37

peared at times that they were about to reach Olympian heights where none other could dream to venture.

But, fear not. The nature of man drives him to emulation. See how Cork stopped crying over the hopelessness of the position with Kerry winning everything and set out in pursuit of the champions. And see how they hauled them back from the clouds just recently, and may well beat them again later in the championship. At least they are now in the same field of activity as Kerry, and none can say that they must lose.

Not so clear-cut in Leinster: Meath made a big effort and took the League from Dublin, but they could not sustain the advantage almost gained. They had not the powers of perseverance. Wexford made some noises—sound that signified little; Kildare made many serious efforts to challenge and failed—some complex mixture of shortcomings in skill and temperament.

Offaly, however, were stirred to struggle up on their feet, the remnant of a once great power unwilling to allow themselves to be dominated, and they have sustained the struggle for two years now with clear indications from time to time that they could drag themselves up there on to Dublin's pedestal.

Connacht, like Ulster, has not grown a champion side of real heroic proportions for the others to aim at. Galway faded further and further through the 1970s. Mayo never had a big enough target to aim at, recognising in the best of them players only in the same mould as themselves.

Even Roscommon of the last few years has proven itself workmanlike and busy rather than inspired, maybe not easily beaten but too easily run close without

★

C O N N I E Doolan, sales manager of the Metrobeer Division of the Guinness Harp Corporation in New York, who was chosen as Man of the Year by the Grand Council of the Emerald Societies of New York, pictured with his wife Anne outside the Front Gate of the Guinness Brewery in Dublin where they were entertained by the Board before paying a return visit to his native Cork as a guest of the Company.

Connie, who was educated at the Presentation Brothers College in

Cork City, arrived in the U.S. in 1955 and joined the U.S. Army the following year.

Well known in the Irish American community for his keen contribution to Irish sports, Connie played with the Cork senior hurling team and the New York international teams. Since retiring from the playing field he has remained active in the affairs of the GAA and has served as chairman of many international field days.

Connie is a founding member of the Emerald Society of the Licensed Beverage Industry and is currently its President. He is also a member of the Corkmen's Association and the Knights of Columbus. He has been a member of the Guinness Harp Corporation since 1970.



superhuman effort or qualitative change of football on the part of their opponents.

The ominous signs are that Ulster and Connacht do not have trail-blazers who would set the standards so high that others must get off their behinds to emulate or be humiliated. Munster and Leinster have, despite some doubts about Dublin's decline. Though there are emulators in both provinces, Leinster is not

so certain of the extent of their emulation as Munster.

On the face of it, no one could dare suggest the All-Ireland champions of 1980 would emerge from Ulster or Connacht. There may also be some slight doubt about Leinster. But there is no doubt that Munster has the trail-blazers and close behind they have growling hounds to make sure they do not slip.

• FROM PAGE 12

superb and peerless, and it has all the glorious uncertainty that left yesterday's laurels hanging in the balance until the last moment of the hour. Nothing like this Final has ever been seen before at Croke Park or anywhere in Ireland. It was a great game played in the spirit that animates champions who know how to play the game for the game's sake."

When the Munster team was announced for the 1934 Railway Cup ties it was no surprise to find Limerick players filling seven places on the side, and for all but Micky Cross that victory over Leinster 6-3 to 3-2, brought first Railway Cup medals. Mick Mackey figured in eight further Inter-Provincial finals and was on the losing side on only one occasion, in 1936, when he captained the side which lost to Leinster by a solitary point.

Eight days after the first Railway Cup win Limerick captured their first National Hurling League title, defeating Dublin 3-6 to 3-3.

The great Limerick hurling era was well in its stride. A Press report of the period said:

"To say that Limerick were a superb side would scarcely be doing justice to the merits of the Southern men. They were the fastest, the most dashing, the most accurate and the most brilliant side we have seen for

quite a time. Just that style which all idealists conjure up to themselves when they envisage a hurling side at its best; no hesitation, no waiting on the ball, no overbalancing at the stroke—instead a fast, outward clash, a sharp, sure pull on the stride and a fast follow through or a quick recovery, as the case may be. Surely this was hurling at its best."

In the report of the Jubilee All-Ireland Hurling Final re-play of 1934, it is recorded:

"It was then Mick Mackey came out of the blue to bring the Jubilee crown to Limerick. Falling back to help break a determined Dublin raid, he collected a short clearance by Shinney. With the ball glued to his hurley, he raced along the wing, off on one of his great solo runs. It was do-or-die and the packed field knew it. So did every man of that great Dublin team. Throwing everything he had into the effort, Mick advanced steadily to shooting position. Opponents he met in plenty—and cut them from his path. Men went down like nine-pins, as he stormed through, then the sweet sound of ash on leather, as he put over the winning score. It was magnificent!"

Many good judges of the game hold that Mick Mackey reached the height of hurling perfection in the Munster Semi-final against

Cork, played at Thurles on 28th July, 1935. The *Irish Independent* of the following day, said:

"The match was a personal triumph for Mick Mackey of Limerick, who gave one of the most brilliant and spectacular individual displays of hurling seen."

For the fourth year in succession, Limerick won Munster hurling honours in 1936, beating Tipperary at Thurles, 8-5 to 4-6. A report of the match said:

"If one man more than another is deserving of credit for bringing victory to Limerick, it was Mick Mackey, who was here, there and everywhere and contributed no less than five goals and three points.

Both Mick and John Mackey were members of the Limerick team that won Munster Junior Football honours in 1939, the pair figuring at midfield. The following year they were back in the Senior Hurling limelight, when helping the Shannonside return to All-Ireland mastery.

Another notable All-Ireland honour came to Mick Mackey in 1961, when he gained the top Caltex Award — The Hall of Fame, confirming the verdict many years earlier of a great Tipperary hurling veteran, Ned Maher of Tubberadora, a triple All-Ireland champion himself, who said:

"Mick Mackey was the greatest hurler ever, and I saw them all."

Next month: Eddie Keher

AUROFAC* 20

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JUNIOR DESK



By
**JACK
MAHON**

THIS month's Junior Desk belongs almost exclusively to you, the readers. The Mailbag is big and that's the way I like it.

But we have to pay tribute to our Cut-Out Dermot McCurtain, Cork's and Blackrock's great wing half back. Dermot is a really polished hurler. I love the manner in which he can sway away from or wriggle out of trouble. This year has been his best year to date, his displays in the N.H.L. earning rapturous applause from the fans and fulsome praise in the media. Still his greatest ever display must have been in last year's Cork Co. S.H. final — a display to cherish and place alongside the great ones of any era. Best of all Dermot is a superb sportsman. Welcome to our Cut-Out series Dermot.

Keep writing to the "Mailbag" and tell me about the provincial finals. "The Sunday Game" will be back on R.T.E. when this reaches print and I hope it is good as last year.

Mailbag

Tommy O'Regan, Newtown, Ballyhea, Charleville, Co. Cork, thinks the Railway Cup finals should be held outside Dublin, isn't too fond of the Dublin supporters, went to see Christy Ring's huge collection of medals and does not like the Open Draw.

● *You win a Cork Bob-Cap Tommy. (J.M.)*

"**Armagh Fan**," 16 Ardmore Rd., Derryadd, Lurgan, Co. Armagh selects the following all-

time great hurling team with the help of his father: A. Reddan (Tipp.), J. Doyle (Tipp.), N. O'Donnell (Wexford), T. O'Shaughnessy (Cork), J. Finn (Tipp.), J. Keane (Waterford), T. Doyle (Tipp.), L. Meagher (Kilkenny), J. Salmon (Galway), J. Langton (Kilkenny), M. Mackey (Limerick), C. Ring (Cork), T. Flood (Wexford), N. Rackard (Wexford), E. Keher (Kilkenny).

● *That's some hurling team. (J.M.)*

Diarmuid P. Ó Luasaigh, 15, Crestfield Drive, Whitehall, Dublin 9 wants copies of Gaelic Sport for September '66, May '69, June '72 and October '73. And he really wants them!

● *Hope you're successful, Diarmuid. (J.M.)*

Norman Rochford, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway writes in praise of "An Reiteoir," the G.A.A. Referees' Annual. He has great praise too for Dave Guiney's "Book of Gaelic Football" in which there is a lot of G.A.A. history.

Gerald Gormley, 20, Shetland St., Springfarm Estate, Antrim BT41 2TG, wants programmes of the opening of new G.A.A. Parks (past or present). He is a collector of all G.A.A. material and is a great lover of Irish culture.

● *Gerald you're welcome to Junior Desk. I know you aren't a Junior but I hope you get the response you deserve. Gerald will refund the cost of any publication sent to him. I too would like to get copies of souvenir programmes of the openings of new G.A.A. Parks. (J.M.)*

Sam Melbourne, "Gaelic Mus-

eum," 141 Villa Park Gardens, Navan Rd., Dublin 7 who brought his fantastic G.A.A. Exhibition to my school in Galway recently, has written to confirm that he will be in Ballina (Co. Mayo) and Ballinamore (Co. Leitrim) in August. He is off to New York in October.

● *There is a treat in store in all these places. (J.M.)*

Dermot McCarthy, Carbery, 20 Fairfield Rd., Bath, England BA1 6JG has written to me among others with something that has been his idea for years. He feels the All-Ireland Final souvenir programmes should be on sale in all the retail outlets in Ireland, London, and other Irish exile strongholds on the Monday before the finals as happens at English Cup finals. He feels that the sale could go to hundreds of thousands of copies and that the idea should be pursued.

● *So do I. Final Teams could be picked good and early to accommodate this fine proposal. (J.M.)*

Eoin Ó Treasaigh, Mullaslin, Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone is son of the Co. Tyrone Chairman and sent me on a copy of the Tyrone G.A.A. Yearbook. He tells me a lot about Carrickmore "where Gaelic games are very popular." Handball too is very popular in his school and he talks about the achievements of his schoolmates Anthony McElduff and Sean Curran. He likes Top Ace and recalls the great thrill it was to have Pat Kirby come to the alley to play Tony Ryan. "I play football at school and we wear the Galway colours Maroon and White."

● **TO PAGE 42**

JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK :: JUNIOR DESK

● FROM PAGE 41

● *I love the colours, Eoin, and I like your letter too. You win a Tyrone G.A.A. scarf. Keep writing. (J.M.)*

Eileen Murphy, Railway View, Rathmore, Co. Kerry thinks the Railway Cup finals should be played in future at Provincial venues instead of Croke Park. Attendances she feels would improve. "I would hate to see them scrapped." Eileen too loves Top Ace and the Americans were great especially Gordy Pfeifer. "His match with Tommy O'Rourke was particularly exciting."

● *Eileen, if Mick Dunne (R.T.E.) has a spare Top Ace tee-shirt I'll persuade him to give it to you. So Mick it's over to you. (J.M.)*

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Aughrim, Co. Wicklow has these wishes for the G.A.A. in the '80s:

1. Weekly G.A.A. programme on R.T.E. like Match of the Day.

2. Other counties to put the same effort into attaining success as Kerry and Dublin (football) and Cork and Kilkenny (hurling).

3. That former inter-county stars from the four mentioned counties will help to coach the weaker counties.

4. Better dressing accommodation for players and more stands for spectators.

● *Keep writing, Gerry. (J.M.)*

Martin Carley (Age 13), 1 Glenview, Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath makes these predictions for 1980.

Leinster—H. Wexford; F. Offaly.
Munster—H. Tipperary; F. Cork.
Connacht—F. Roscommon.
Ulster—F. Down.

● *These forecasts will raise some eyebrows. (J.M.)*

Denis Kirby, Brickfield, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick feels the Railway Cups should be played on a weekend like the Sigerson or Fitzgibbon Cups. He suggests a weekend in October. He would add some sideshows like a long puck, long kick, athletics, etc.

● *Good ideas, Denis. Something*

must be done. (J.M.)

Denis Sweeney, Meenaguish, Letterbarrow P.O., Co. Donegal feels old G.A.A. books should be re-printed for centenary year. He has plenty of G.A.A. books for swapping and wants Cuchulainn Annuals from 1957 to '69, Our Games Annuals from '59, '61, '66 and '68 etc.

● *Readers eager to swop should write to Denis. (J.M.)*

Declan Cronin, Chapel Road, Durrus, Bantry, Co. Cork—"Our hurling coaches are Kieran O'Hara and Liam Ward. Liam takes the 8-12 and Kieran the 12 to 16s. Declan hopes Cork will beat Kerry in football but feels the hurlers will miss Martin Doherty.

John Simpson, 181 Dunclug Pk., Ballymena, Co. Antrim has got a great love for hurling especially the Galway hurlers. "I think John Connelly is magic. Where can I write to him?"

● *I think he is magic too. Write to John at Castlegar, Galway. (J.M.)*

Pat Twomey, Currahy, Ballingearry, Macroom, Co. Cork is thrilled that Cork beat Kerry in the N.F.L. final. "Jimmy Barry-Murphy missed scores but played brilliantly. Cork had great spirit." Pat praises the brilliant fielding of Declan Barron—"the best fielder in the game." He gave Man-of-the-Match billing to Kevin Kehilly with Declan Barron a close second. "In the drawn N.H.L. final Denis Coughlan had the game of his life."

● *It has been a great year for Cork, Pat. (J.M.)*

Gerard McLaugh, Rooskey, Coronea, Skibbereen, Co. Cork supports Cork and thinks Cork will win the double in the All-Ireland and wants cut-outs of Ray Cummins, Jimmy Barry-Murphy, Denis Allen and Christy Ryan.

● *The latter is really developing into a great footballer. So is Pat Horgan as a hurler. (J.M.)*

Joseph McElligott, Oliver's Field, Glenoe, Listowel, Co. Kerry thinks the Bank of Ireland All-Star selections should be made

by the players themselves like happens in English soccer. No player could vote for a player from his own county. "Jimmy Deenihan should have got an All-Star long ago." Joseph's predictions for 1980 are:

Munster—F. Kerry; H. Tipperary.
Leinster—F. Offaly; H. Wexford.
Connacht—F. Roscommon.

Ulster—F. Armagh.

All-Ireland—H. Tipperary; and F. Kerry.

● *Joseph you win a Kerry Bob-Cap. (J.M.)*

Des Kelly, Ballycooge, Woodenbridge, Arklow, Co. Wicklow is delighted that John Nolan of Wexford will soon be back in action for New Ross Geraldine O'Hanrahan's Club. "John showed his class for Wexford in the 1976 Leinster final against Galway in Cork that year twice." Des also pays tribute to Willie Murphy, Eamonn Cregan and Noel Lane.

● *Des you win a Wexford scarf. (J.M.)*

Philip Maher, Clashagad, Dunkerrin, Birr, Co. Offaly wants a cut-out of Pat McLoughney. He tells me that Michael O'Carroll (R.T.E.) is a former pupil of Dunkerrin N.S. "where I go to school and a former pupil of Seamus Ó Riain's"

● *Nice to see such pride in Dunkerrin and in Seamus Ó Riain. Seamus is one of the finest gentlemen I have met in the G.A.A. and is always so full of good cheer. Great to have him as a teacher, Philip. (J.M.)*

Sheila Harnell, (Age 14), Kilconlea Upper, Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick thinks the '70s belong to the Dubs. "They made football competitive and drew large crowds everywhere. Jim Ronayne will be a future great. It was great to see Bernard Brogan win the Superstars Competition." Sheila's footballer of the '70s was Pat O'Neill and her top hurler Jer Henderson.

● *For such loyal devotion to the Dubs you win a Dub Bob-Cap. (J.M.)*

Tommy Murphy, Lismatigue,

Knocktopher, Co. Kilkenny sends on the names of the Carrickshock team which won the Kilkenny S.H. of 1931—P. Kelly, J. Farrell, J. Kearns, D. Tracy, J. Walsh, M. Drennan, J. Darmody, W. Dalton, T. Walsh, J. McBride, J. Phelan, J. Dalton, J. Fitzpatrick, T. Dalton, W. Kelly (capt.) and R. Kearns.

● *How many of this team are still hale and hearty? (J.M.)*

John Browne, Garrylaurence, Dungourney, Co. Cork loves Junior Desk, has great praise of Michael O'Hehir, feels there should be a Quiz in Junior Desk every month. He likes Mick Dunne too on Gaelic Stadium.

● *Keep writing, John. (J.M.)*

Pat Leogue, Ballina, Geashill, Co. Offaly loves the long summer days and looks forward to many great provincial finals. He loves to see so many grounds being developed for 1984 — the G.A.A.'s centenary. He remarks too on the great strides made by Scor since its origin.

● *Great letter as usual, Pat. (J.M.)*

Patrick Byrne, Spynans, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow wants a tape of the 1972 All-Ireland S.H. final and would like a film of same.

Liam Hickey, Dolla, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary wants a photo of P. J. Molloy whom he admires very much.

● *Write to P.J. at Athenry, Co. Galway. (J.M.)*

Joe Poland, 6 IWF Bn., Costume Bks., Athlone, Co. Westmeath, writing for the first time, says he wants a cassette of Galway's 1975 N.H.L. win. His favourite stars are Conor Hayes and "Fan" Larkin.

Tim J. Murphy, Ballydaly Lower, Rathmore, Co. Kerry would love to see Galway footballers on the way back to greatness.

● *So would I, Tim. (J.M.)*

Patrick Murray, Currahy, Balingeary, Macroom, Co. Cork says his favourite players of the '70s were Mike Sheehy, Dermot Earley and Billy Morgan.

Harry Kavanagh, Kish Cottage, Arklow, Co. Wicklow has great praise of Offaly hurlers. "Hurling is the greatest field game in the world."

● *After the two great Cork v*



● July has over the years become associated more and more with the great weekend that is Feile na nGael. The Feile, sponsored since its inception by Coca Cola, comes to Galway this year on July 4th, 5th, 6th. It's a great time to make and renew friendships. But there is much more to Feile than the Finals. Each participating county has a mini Feile to select the top teams. In the picture above young lads from Dublin are parading proudly before the start of their county Feile.

Limerick N.H.L. finals few will disagree. (J.M.)

Liam Horan, Neale Rd., Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo—"I went to the Mayo Co. Convention this year and voted as a representative of the Naomh Mhuire Minor Club Ballinrobe. I am only 11 years and was the youngest delegate there. Tommy O'Malley was also a delegate." Liam also praises Club members Jimmy Maughan and Peter Forde.

● *Well done, Liam. You win a Mayo G.A.A. scarf. Keep on going to conventions too. (J.M.)*

Johnny Sullivan, 10 Killerisk, Tralee, Co. Kerry thinks Gaelic Sport is the best Gaelic Games magazine. His favourite star is John O'Keefe.

Donal Lyons, Ballyarra, Castlelyons, Fermoy, Co. Cork like Johnny thinks Gaelic Sport is the best of all Gaelic magazines. "But I find it very hard to get. I have 78 copies of Gaelic Sport and I also have three scrapbooks." His best players of 1979 are Dermot Earley, Kevin Kehilly, Mike Sheehy, Iggy Clarke, Pat McLoughney and Joe Hennessy. He

says Cork will miss Martin O'Doherty. He wants a cut-out of Dermot McCurtin. "My ambition is to wear the red and white jersey."

● *No wonder Cork are winning National Leagues with such ambition in their young fans. Your letter wins a Cork Bob-Cap. (J.M.)*

Brendan O'Dwyer, Scrahana-grove, Sneem, Co. Kerry—"Junior Desk is great. I play for Sneem U-14 team. We beat Cahir-civeen in the South Kerry final. I want Cut-Outs of John O'Keefe and Dermot Earley. Jack O'Shea is a great fellow. He never gives up. Tipperary will win the All-Ireland in 1980. Dublin were a great team. John Egan's last goal in the All-Ireland was a gem. Galway hurlers will be back again. Kerry will make it 3-In-A-Row in 1980."

● *Brendan you win a Kerry scarf. John Egan is a most under-rated player. Dermot Earley was a Cut-Out in our May 1978 issue. If you send 40p (incl. postage) to the address at the end of the column we can send you a copy. (J.M.)*

● TO PAGE 44

Results Summary

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Connacht Senior Football: June 2: Roscommon: Roscommon 9-19; London 1-10.

Leinster Senior Football: May 11: Carlow: Kildare 2-17; Carlow 2-11. Portlaoise: Westmeath 2-15; Kilkenny 0-4. May 18: Croke Park: Louth 3-10; Wexford 1-13. Portlaoise: Laois 5-12; Longford 1-10.

June 2: Croke Park: Kildare 1-13; Wicklow 0-4. Offaly 0-13; Louth 0-7.

Leinster Senior Hurling: May 25: Portlaoise: Offaly 2-10; Laois 0-12.

Munster Senior Football: May 11: Doonbeg: Clare 1-11; Limerick 1-11. DRAW. Dungarvan: Tipperary 1-15; Waterford 2-10. May 25: Limerick: Limerick 0-10; Clare 0-9. Replay. June 2: Thurles: Limerick 1-11; Tipperary 2-7.

Munster Senior Hurling: June 2: Thurles: Clare 3-13; Waterford 2-11.

Ulster Senior Football May 18: Casement Park, Belfast: Tyrone 1-8; Antrim 1-7. May 25: Newry: Monaghan 0-13; Down 1-4. June 2: Irvinestown: Armagh 3-8; Fermanagh 1-4.

Leinster Under-21 Football: May 8: Parnell Park, Dublin: Dublin 1-12; Louth 1-6. May 4: Longford: Kildare 1-8; Longford 0-6. Portlaoise: Meath 3-6; Laois 0-10.

Leinster Under-21 Hurling June 2: Parnell Park, Dublin: Laois 5-15; Dublin 2-6.

Munster Under-21 Hurling: May 24: Semi-final replay: Thurles: Tipperary 2-13; Limerick 1-9. REPLAY.

Ulster Under-21 Football: May 4: Carrickmacross: Down 3-10; Monaghan 0-7. Ballinascreen: Derry 5-9; Fermanagh 1-3.

Leinster Minor Hurling: May 11: Rathdowney: Antrim 2-6; Laois 2-5. Wexford: Wexford 5-11; Down 4-5. May 25: Kilkenny: Antrim 2-9; Kilkenny 1-11.

Leinster Minor Football: May 11: Portlaoise: Westmeath 4-11; Kilkenny 1-6. May 18 Croke Park: Louth 1-15; Wexford 1-5. Portlaoise: Laois 2-9; Longford 3-6. DRAW. May 25: Carlow: Kildare 2-14; Wicklow 1-9. June 2: Croke Park: Louth 2-7; Offaly 1-8. Longford: Longford 5-9; Laois 3-12. REPLAY.

Munster Minor Football: May 8: Limerick: Cork 8-20; Limerick 1-2. May 18: Clonmel: Kerry 4-8; Tipperary 3-9.

Munster Minor Hurling: May 10: Bansha: Clare 1-16; Waterford 2-9.

Ulster Minor Football: June 2: Irvinestown: Armagh 1-9; Fermanagh 0-6.

"B" HURLING CHAMPIONSHIP

May 11: Mullingar: Westmeath 4-13; Armagh 2-2. Trim: Down 3-7; Meath 2-9. May 18: Newbridge: Kildare 6-19; Down 2-8. Tralee: Kerry 4-15; Roscommon 2-3. Carlow 0-14; Wicklow 1-3. Loughgiel: Antrim 2-14; Westmeath 1-12.

NATIONAL HURLING LEAGUE

May 4: FINAL: Cork: Cork 2-10; Limerick 2-10. DRAW. May 18: Cork 4-15; Limerick 4-6. REPLAY.

ALL-IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

Football

Semi-finals: May 4: Ballinasloe: Ballinasloe, Galway, 1-11; Walsh Island, 1-8. May 11: Clones: St. Finbarr's, Cork, 0-7; Scotstown, Monaghan, 0-4. FINAL. May 25: Tipperary Town: St. Finbarr's 3-9; Ballinasloe 0-8.

Hurling

May 25: Semi-final: Athenry: Castlegar, Galway, 2-9; Blackrock, Cork, 0-9.

FINAL: June 2: Navan: Castlegar, Galway, 1-11; Ballycastle, Antrim, 1-8.

CAMOGIE

National League

ZONE DECIDING GAMES: May 18: Danesfort: Kilkenny 1-10; Galway 1-5. May 25: Nona-molina: Tipperary 3-9; Wexford 2-9. Bellaghy; Dublin 4-10; Derry 1-2.

Semi-Final: June 2: Russell Park, Dublin: Tipperary 3-12; Dublin 2-12. In extra time.

HANDBALL

All-Ireland 40x20 Finals

May 11: O'Loughlins: Under-21 Singles: Tony Ryan (Tipperary) bt J. Fleming (Wexford). Novice Doubles: A. and S. Ryan (Carlow) bt M. Gleeson and G. McKeogh (Tipperary).

May 11: Templederry: Senior Singles: P. Kirby (Clare) bt M. Brady (Dublin) 21-14, 21-2. Junior Doubles: M. Hennigan and M. Sweeney (Mayo) bt E. Kennedy and B. O'Brien (Cork). Minor Doubles: W. Bourke and N. Lawlor (Kilkenny) bt G. Coughlan and M. O'Flaherty (Clare).

May 25: Belfast City Open Championships: Queen's University: FINAL: P. Kirby (Clare) bt P. McGee (Mayo) 21-13, 21-4.

JUNIOR DESK

● FROM PAGE 43

Noeleen Mahon, Blackwell, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny is very keen on hurling and camogie, indeed all Gaelic games.

Paul Horan, 24 Roncalli Place, Carlow has great respect for Paddy Cullen, is very interested in the G.A.A., collects programmes and autographs. "I am 10 years old and am in 5th class."

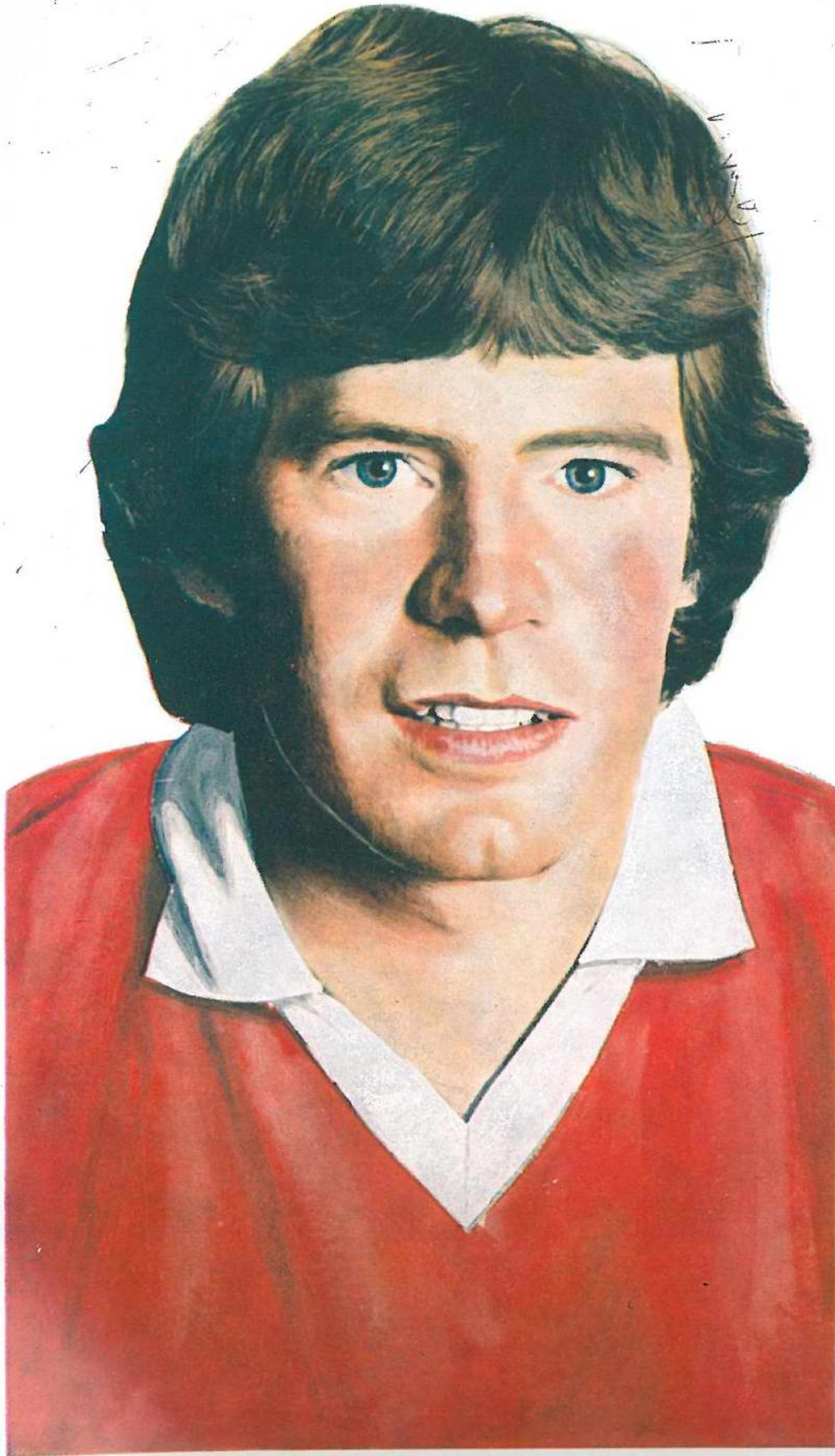
● Paul, you win a Kit-Bag. (J.M.) That's the biggest MAILBAG for some time now. So keep on writing on any G.A.A. topic to

Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,

80 Upper Drumcondra Road,
Dublin 9.

Don't forget, write to-night.

Jack Mahon



**Dermot
McCurtain
(Cork)**

Age: 23
Height: 5ft. 8ins.
Weight: 11st.
Club: Blackrock
**Position: Left half
back**
**Senior Inter-County
Debut: 1977**

**CAREER
HIGHLIGHTS**

Dermot, who led Cork in his latest role at No. 7 to their National Hurling League title win in May, is one of the most skilled half backs in the game. He had a very successful under-age career, winning All-Ireland medals in 1974 (minor hurling and football), 1975 (minor hurling) and 1976 (under-21 hurling), and had his senior inter-county championship call up three years ago.

Dermot's run of major medals continued at senior. He helped Cork to their Liam McCarthy Cup wins of 1977 and 1978, won a Railway Cup medal in 1978, and so has every top souvenir, plus a Bank of Ireland All Star award.

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