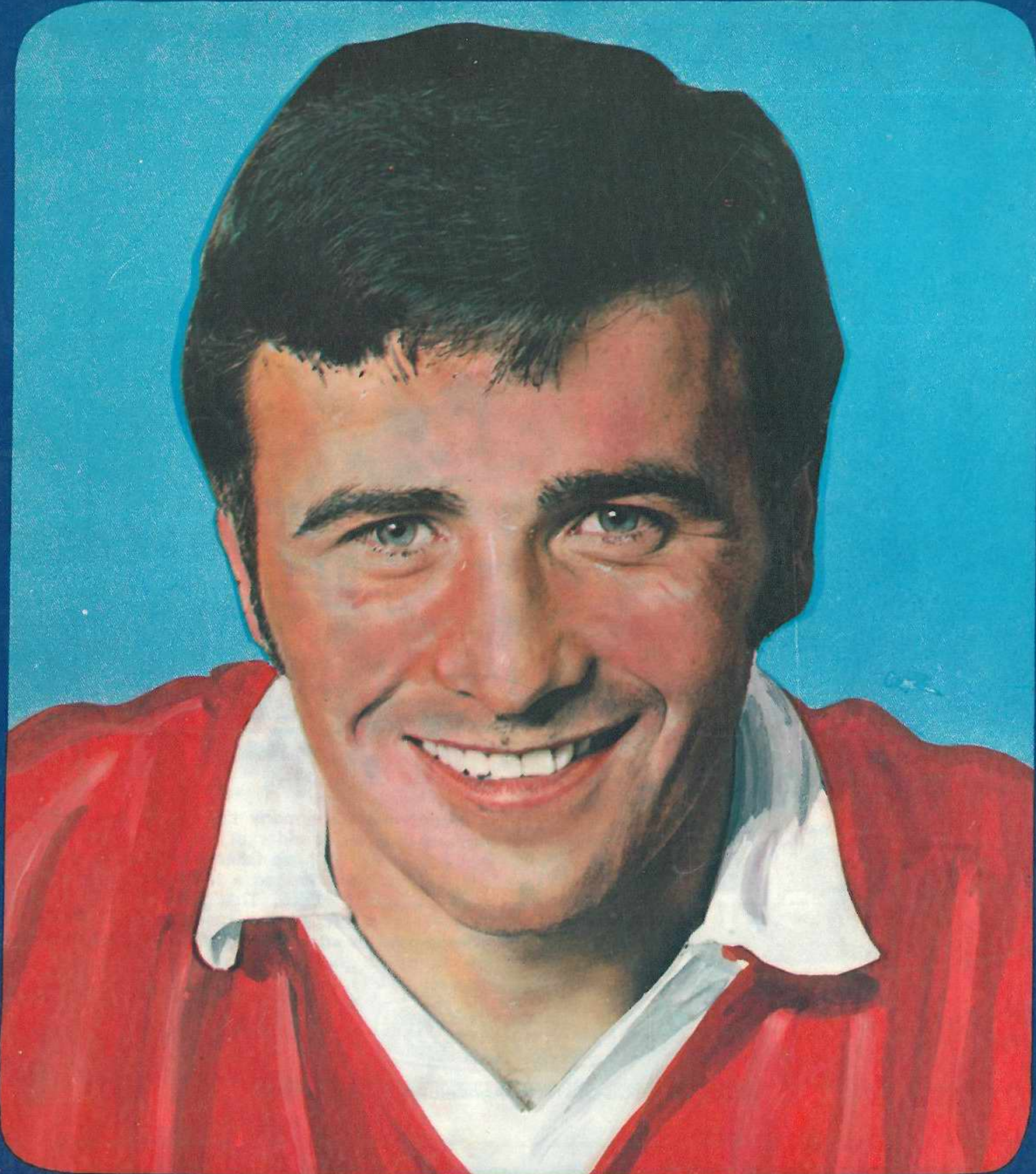


172

GAA

GAEELIC SPORT

IRELAND'S LEADING GAEELIC GAMES MAGAZINE PUBLISHED MONTHLY
JUNE, 1980 FORTY PENCE (TAX INCLUDED)



★★★★★ Brian Murphy, Cork ★★★★★

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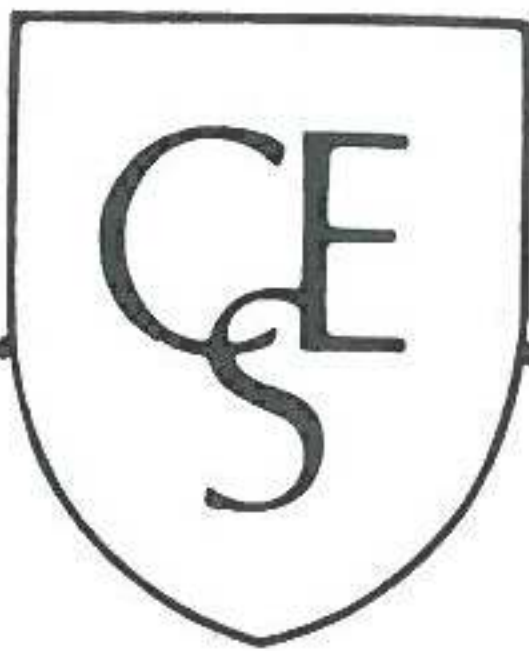
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Gaelic Sport

Vol. 23 No. 6 June 1980

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IS the much talked about great "Australian Dream" about to become an exciting reality at long last? That must be a key question prompted by the news that the Australians are likely visitors to Croke Park in October for a match against the Bank of Ireland All-Star footballers.

It is almost thirteen years since the Australian Rules footballers first burst on the Irish scene like a hurricane. They brought a refreshing new dimension to the game with their exciting brand of play that earned them wins over Meath, the 1967 All-Ireland senior champions, and Mayo.

Genuine international competition for Gaelic footballers looked a real possibility at that time. But the high hopes were unfortunately not realised, and even more depressing is the fact that little progress has been made in this direction in the meantime.

The prospect of something concrete developing internationally flickered again late in 1978 when the Australians returned to these shores for their only visit since the late 'Sixties. However, the international "dream" received little impetus from that visit either.

In view of past events it would be easy to become pessimistic about strengthening the links between Ireland and the Australians in October. But nothing is ever gained by adopting such an outlook or approach to any problem.

There are many difficulties in the way of regular international competitions between Ireland and the Australians — and the more obvious one of travel is not the chief one. There is a need for a regular set of compromise rules that will prove equitable to both sides, and ensure that competition will have the keenness necessary to make the fixture top box office both here and in Australia.

The arranging of dates for such games would also doubtless present headaches — especially at this end. The inter-county programme, which has to be arranged in conjunction with local games, is too heavy as it is.

Some will also argue that the G.A.A. would be better advised in concentrating on improving football and hurling standards at home rather than in spending time and money on chasing an international dream.

There is much to be said for such an argument. The position of the games generally leaves much to be desired nation-wide as the G.A.A. rapidly approaches its Centenary Year.

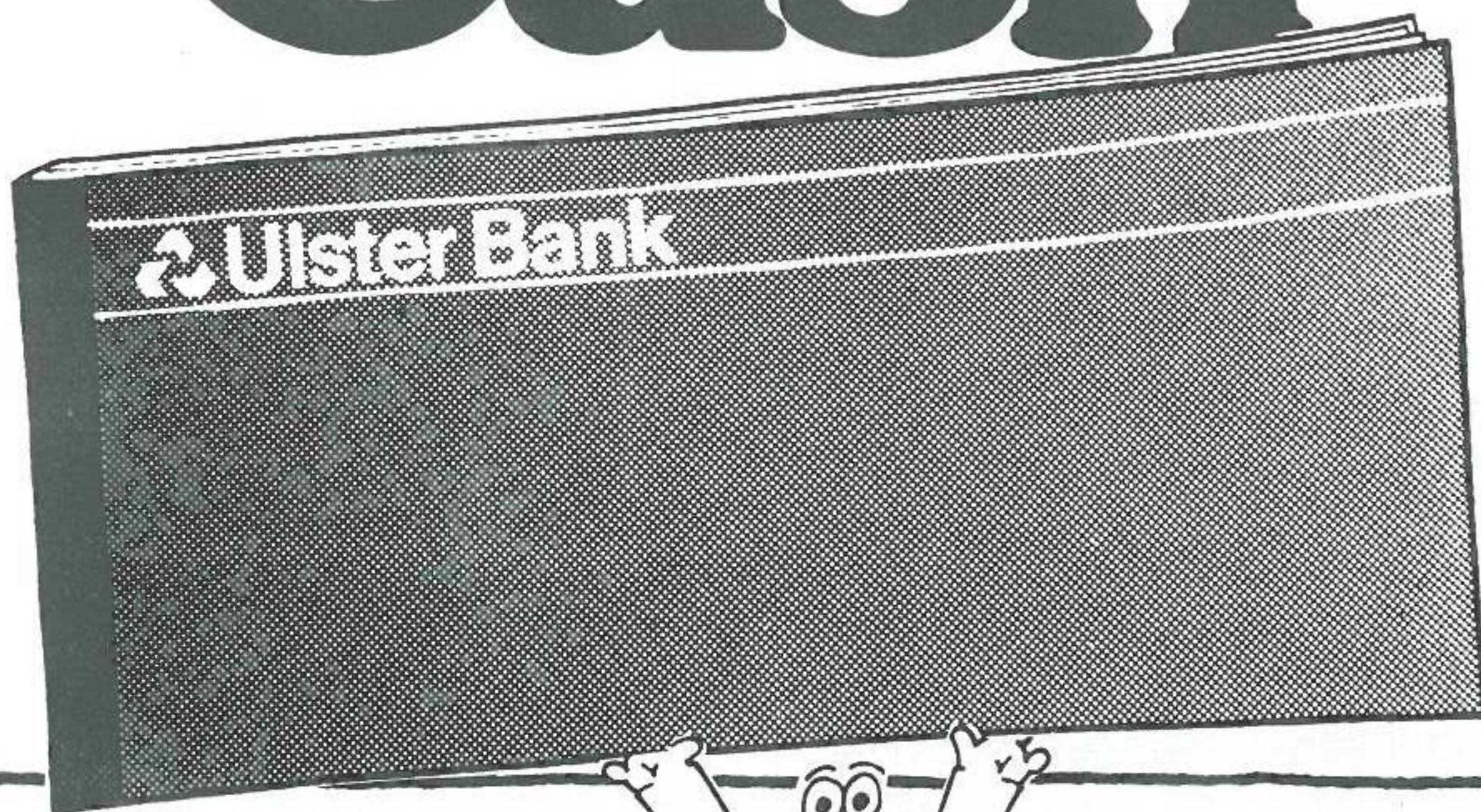
At the same time, there are good grounds for believing that an international series between the G.A.A. and the Australians would do much good for the football game here.

Such a test would put football on a tangible footing against many other sports here with international outlets — and that would be a good thing. More importantly is that the series would help the game in the weaker counties.

New horizons would be opened up for players there. As it is the stars of the weaker counties can only hope to gain top national awards through the faded Railway Cup or the prestigious Bank of Ireland All-Stars scheme.

COVER PICTURE — Our front cover this month spotlights Brian Murphy, one of Cork's many bright dual stars, and a defender who has won All-Ireland senior medals in both codes. Noel Horgan puts the spotlight on the brilliant Nemo Rangers club man in a special feature on Page 24.

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Tyler

Top Ten

CORK DOMINATE IN BOTH CODES

THERE is a Cork take-over in the principal positions in the TYLER TOP TEN charts in both codes this month. This is hardly surprising, however, as the county won the National Football League, and played a thrilling draw with Limerick in the period covered by the latest review, which features matches played between April 20 to May 11 inclusive.

Cork had many heroes as they beat Kerry for a first Football League title in 24 years. Kevin Kehilly had another splendid game at full back, and as a result he wins his place in the chart this month for the third time this season. His latest tally of 33 points for second position in the table, lofts the Cork man ahead of the field in the code over-all this year with 80 points.

Cork's captain Christy Ryan and Jimmy Barry-Murphy were among other home stars in the Pairc Ui Chaoimh football final, but the man who takes the top position this month is Denis Allen.

He got through much valuable work all through the game, and highlighted his contribution by shooting six of Cork's eleven points — all in all a commanding figure in the rare success by the Leesiders.

So, the Nemo Rangers club man, who made his debut in the latest review in the last issue, collects 36 points to jump into second place over-all for the year with 69 points.

In hurling, it is that remarkable long serving and elegant half back Denis Coughlan who has Cork's flag flying high in the lead spot in this code as well. He had a first-class

game in the semi-final win over Galway, and turned on a stellar show in the drawn League final with Limerick.

Coughlan, who made his first entry in this year's review in the last issue three places from the bottom, adds a vital bag of 40 to his record to take over third place over-all this season on 64 points.

Another hurler to gain some spectacular promotion this month is Ollie O'Connor, whose goal virtually on the whistle earned Limerick that dramatic second chance in the League summit at Pairc Ui Chaoimh. The Ballybrown club hurler has a middle of the chart position this month on 32 points, but that bag sends him up to second place on 68 points.

O'Connor is just four points short now of the leader, Iggy Clarke (Galway), who does not appear in the current table.

The leading quartet in each chart over-all are:

Hurling: 72 points, I. Clarke (Galway); 68, O. O'Connor; 64, D. Coughlan (Cork).

Football: 80, K. Kehilly (Cork); 69, D. Allen (Cork); 62, P. Moriarty (Armagh).

This month's charts are:

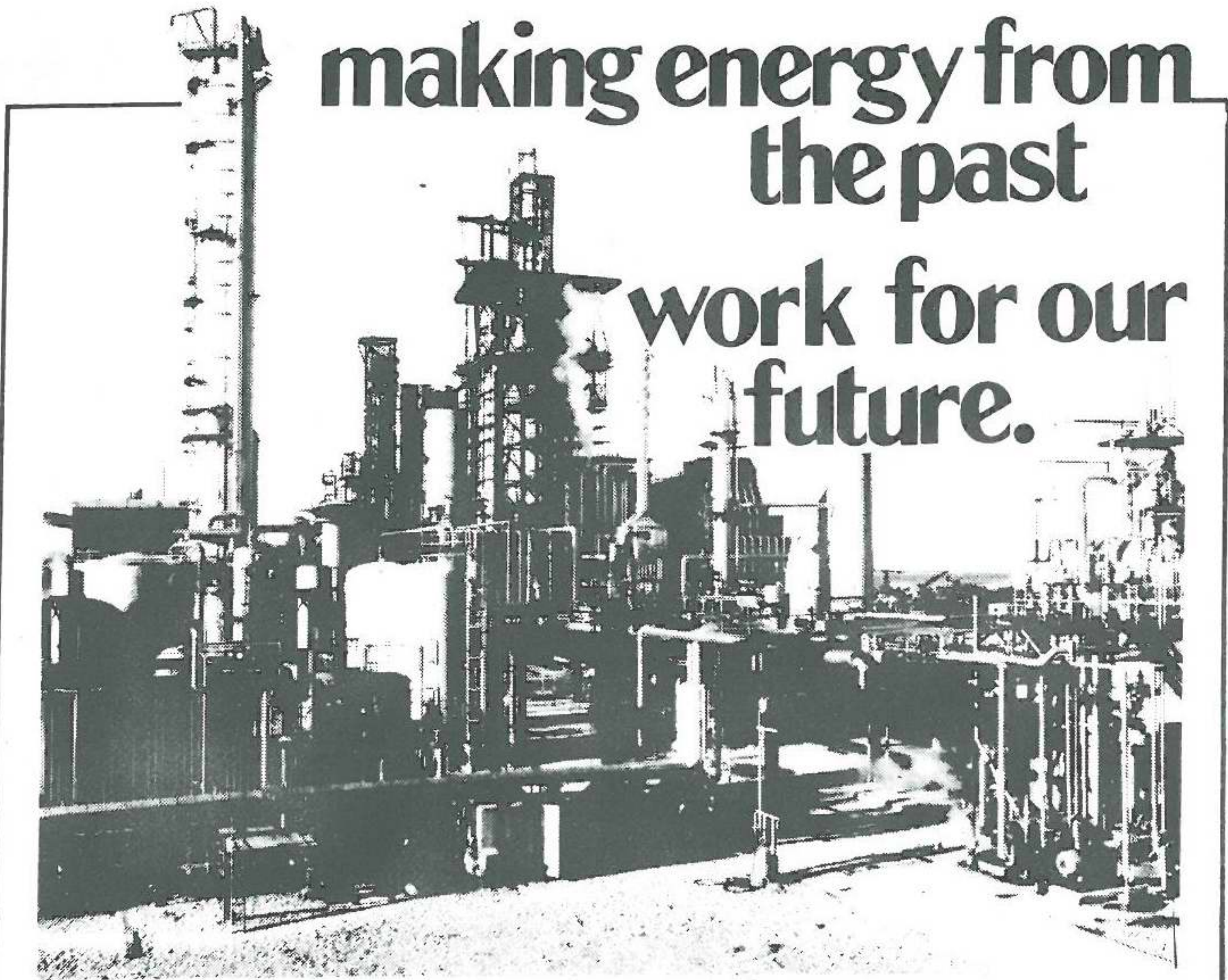
FOOTBALL

36	D. Allen (Cork)	69
33	K. Kehilly (Cork)	80
30	C. Ryan (Cork)	30
28	J. Barry-Murphy (Cork)	57
26	D. Barron (Cork)	26
24	M. White (Louth)	24
24	D. Donoghue (Cavan)	24
23	D. "Ogie" Moran (Kerry)	23
22	T. Shaw (Kildare)	22
22	W. Lowry (Westmeath)	22

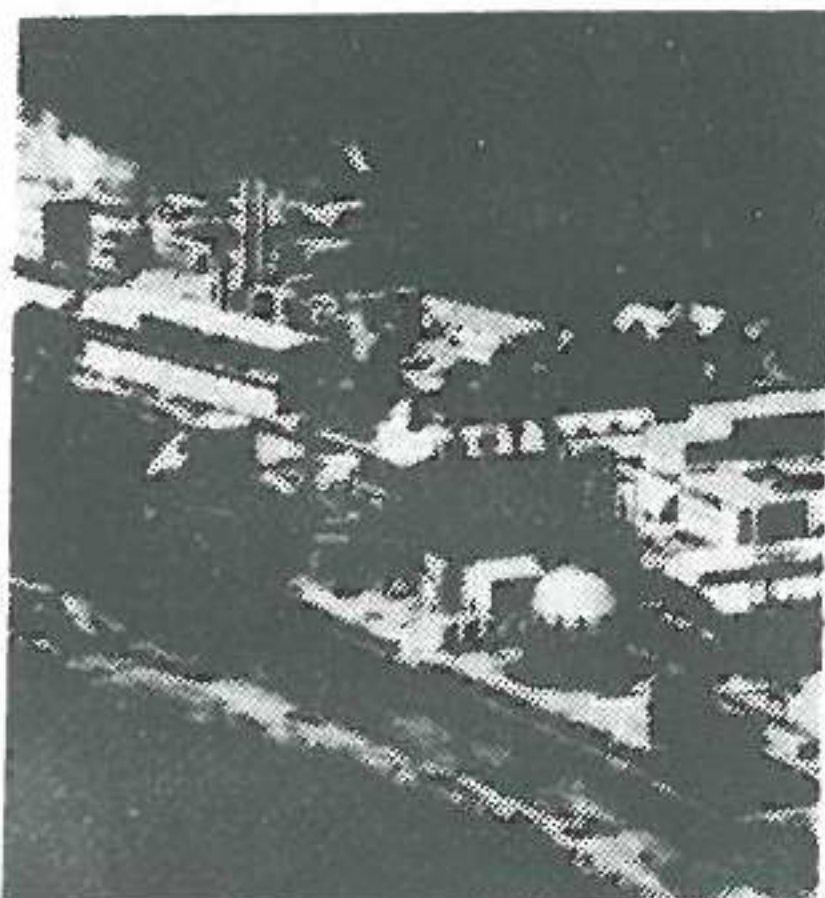
HURLING

40	D. Coughlan (Cork)	64
38	L. Enright (Limerick)	38
36	D. McCurtain (Cork)	36
34	L. O'Donoghue (Limerick)	34
32	O. O'Connor (Limerick)	68
30	E. O'Donoghue (Cork)	30
28	M. Dunphy (Laois)	28
27	P. Quirke (Carlow)	27
26	T. Cashman (Cork)	56
24	G. Henderson (Kilkenny)	47

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NITRIGIN EIREANN TEORANTA

CHRISTY RING— craftsman supreme

By Frank Coogan

WHO was the greatest hurler of all time? That is probably an impossible question to answer definitively, because the game has been graced down the years with an outstanding quota of brilliant exponents of the art — and art, hurling undoubtedly is.

Men like Mick Mackey, a name from Limerick with a magical ring to it, Sean Og Murphy (Cork), Phil Cahill (Tipperary), Pat Stakelum (Tipperary), Christy Ring, the Rackard brothers, Lory Meagher (Kilkenny), Eddie Keher, Gerald McCarthy . . . one could go on and on and make a strong case for any hurler selected from the above company, or from many other campaigners, too.

Yet, it is still true to say that the late Christy Ring had an appeal and a glamour uniquely his own. It was not just because he held the stage for a much longer period than most in the big time, or that he captured the headlines so often with record-making performances.

No, Ring was a craftsman supreme. He marshalled his skills with intelligence and poise, and as a result, he dominated game after game for years with the sheer brilliance of his artistry and his great competitive spirit.

Even though he has long since departed the inter-county scene, the memories are still rich and warm of his classical touches, his exciting performances and his flair that enabled him to turn many a match around for Cork or Munster and made him also one of the greatest match-winners in any era.

Ring had all the skills of the game. He displayed them with polish and sportsmanship, and it is possibly the best yardstick to his uniqueness that he maintained his place in the top bracket over such a lengthy period. He was still turning on the class and scoring the vital goals and points in the top-grade in 1963 — some 24 years after he had stepped into the senior inter-county grade as a bright young teenager.

That long period of service took something out of the ordinary in hurling skills to maintain, not to mention dedication and fitness. It is most unlikely that such a record will ever again be matched, let alone surpassed.

Christy Ring's inter-county career was marked by many exciting peaks and some long periods as well in the shadows. He won an All-Ireland minor medal in 1938, and his entry



● *Christy Ring, taking part in training.*

into the senior grade coincided with one of the truly great eras in Cork hurling.

Many would say that Ring himself had a major hand in shaping the success story that saw Cork become from 1941 to 1944 the only county as yet to win four All-Ireland senior championships in a row. That was before my time, so I cannot express a personal opinion one way or another.

But having marvelled in later years at the dazzling repertoire of skills Ring paraded, I am prepared to accept that the native of Cloyne was one of the major factors in shaping that place apart for Cork in the history of the championship, through his great forward play.

By 1946 when Cork regained the All-Ireland crown — they were beaten in Munster in 1945 — Christy Ring was well and truly established as one of the outstanding figures in the game. Yet for all his genius, all

● TO PAGE 10

St. Bernard

EVERYBODY



**SCORES &
WINS**



**with
DUNNIES STORES
BETTER VALUE**



★

● *The 1954 Cork team that won the treble for the Rebel county. For Ring it was a particularly memorable day as he captained the side and won a record-breaking eighth All-Ireland medal.*

★

EAMONN YOUNG REMEMBERS . . .

PADDY King from Mitchelstown used meet Ringey when the hurler was on his holidays to Achill. "He would spend half an hour pucking the sliotar up in the air to himself" laughed Paddy and recounted with pleasure how Ringey would meet it with the left and drive it up again changing over to the right when the time came. "We used have a great match between three of us" he recalled. "Ringey would go out in the middle of the field and put me in one goal and a Christian Brother who was a fine hurler in the other. Then he would try to score on us. The distance was about fifty yards and often he would double on the clearance. What fun we would have. And we would try to fool him and argue like mad that he had scored less goals on us than he did. But he would take the whole thing very seriously at times and he really meant to score goals. They meant a lot to Ringey.

Of course he loved his hurleys and from the earliest days would care for them well. When pieces were knocked out of a good stick he would

search for them and bring them to Doney Donovan who would glue them on again. After the war Doney told me the glue improved a lot and he was able to do a first-class job with the result that Ringey's favourite sticks would last him a long time and he often got through a year on three or four. He used a very heavy stick because he had powerful arms and of course the combination of weight and power gave the lightning speed that raised so many green flags.

A modest man, Ringey really believed in himself. He was a great judge of hurlers, he knew he was the best. Once a fine soccer player was brought across to play for a Cork side. They paid him a fair sum and the idea was to raise the attendance. One day this fine young man was walking along a Cork street and from the other side Christy saw him. "Look at yer man" he said. "I'd draw a bigger crowd in my workin' clothes." In fact he was right.

This belief in himself demanded close attention to all matters regarding the game of hurling and so it was

that sticks, abstinence from drink and tobacco, good living, and close study of all facets of the game were second nature. These were all rungs to the ladder of his eminence and the results went even further to develop self-confidence. Ringey worked for his success. The unparalleled merit God gave him simply made him greater.

I think his only ambition outside of his home was in hurling. Undoubtedly his job, to which he attended with diligence, was part of his domestic life but outside of that area it was hurling, hurling, all the way. The singular thing about him is that he never wanted anything else from the game but the joy of playing and of winning or helping others to win. Let nobody deny the lawful ambition of the sportsman in his job or politics or any other normal facet of social endeavour. But there is something quite unusual about the man who is in sport simply for the sake of sport. Hurling was Ringey's life. It was because of that devotion to the game that so many sorrowed when he was gone. To us he meant hurling; he was hurling.

• FROM PAGE 7

his promptings, Cork hurling went into something of a decline after that, and it was not until the early 'Fifties that they again returned to capture the national senior championship headlines in a big way.

Christy Ring was still there, playing hurling in attack well above the ordinary, and delighting and enthralling a whole era of enthusiasts. My goodness, how superbly he filled the role, too, as he spurred Cork on to a treble of All-Ireland titles from 1952 to 1954.

The 1954 game was a match in which Wexford carried the sentiment of thousands, not all from their own boundaries let it be said. As a colourful side they brought a welcome wind of change to the game as they bid for a first All-Ireland for the county in over forty years. But there was also plenty of sentiment on the side of Cork with the mighty Ring in line for ranking as the first winner of eight All-Ireland senior medals.

It was Christy's big day in 1954 as things turned out, but the tables were turned in dramatic fashion two years later. Wexford beat Cork for the 1956 All-Ireland title, but what many still remember best from that game is a great save by Art Foley in the Leinster goal from Christy Ring. That came near the end, and had the maestro from Cork goaled, the Munster county would have jumped into a narrow lead and in all probability forged out for a win.

We did not know it at the time, but that save did more than foil Christy Ring of another All-Ireland medal — it also heralded his final appearance in hurling's match of the year.

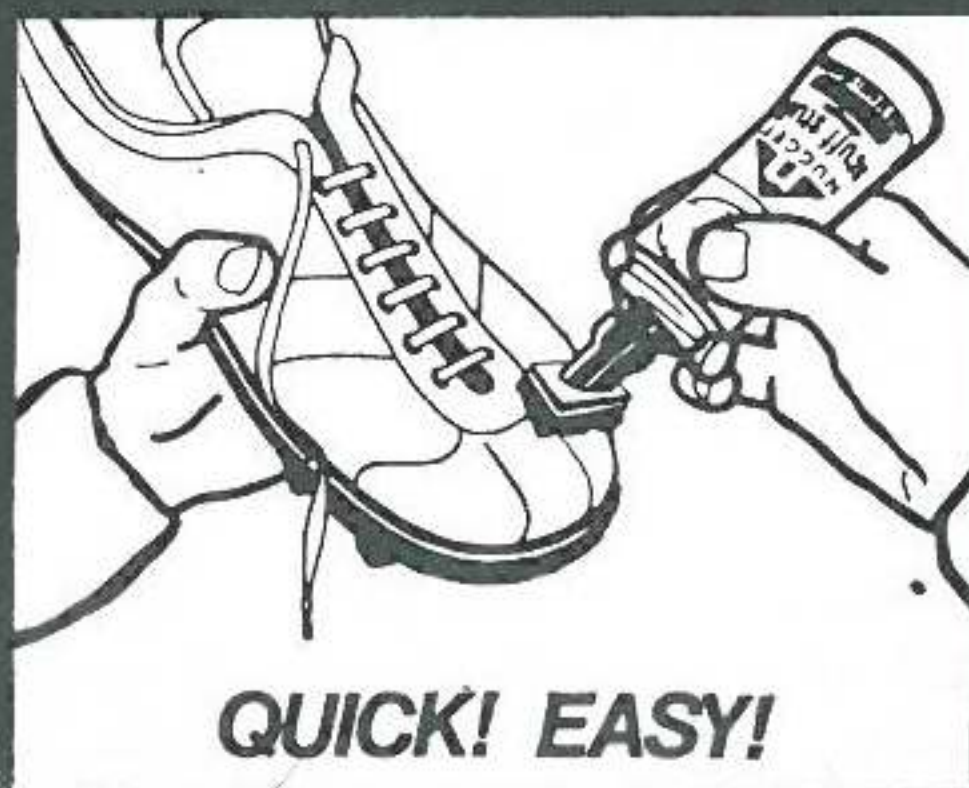
He continued to hurl with poise, craft and effectiveness for both Cork and Munster, but the Leesiders failed to get out of the South in his remaining seasons in the team, and Christy's last big game at Croke Park was the 1963 Railway Cup final, in which Munster beat Leinster.

He had bowed out of the inter-county scene when Cork got back to win the 1966 All-Ireland title. It is a sobering thought to realise that that win was Cork's first without Ring in 35 years.

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GAELIC SPORT—THE MAGAZINE THE PLAYERS READ



● *Christy Ring tussles for the sliothar at the start of the 1956 All-Ireland final won by Wexford. This was to be his last appearance in an All-Ireland final.*



Christy Ring gave followers by the Leaside plenty to cheer about, plenty to enthuse over and plenty to remember as he starred repeatedly with famed Glen Rovers. During his tenure in the club side "The Glen" as they are known in Cork, had many great hurlers . . . they had to in order to win so many titles in a county where competition is always razor keen.

Yet, Ring was one of the brightest, one of the most consistent of hurlers, and he collected a dozen county senior championship medals up until 1964. More than that, he also played football with Glen Rovers' sister Club, St. Nicholas, and won county senior medals in the code as well.

A remarkable campaigner, then, in many ways, that was Christy Ring, who died some 15 months ago. The greatest hurler of all time?

Well, many may agree to differ on that point, but there can be no argument as to his right to rank among the immortals of the game. Hurling is indebted for his rich and immeasurable contribution.

● Next month in the second of our series "The Greatest Hurlers" we spotlight Limerick's Mick Mackey.



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● Christy Ring looks back on what must be one of the greatest hurling careers of all time.

RECORD-BREAKING CAREER

BY TONY KEEGAN

CHIRSTY Ring had one of the longest and one of the most successful careers in hurling. He played with Cork as a minor and from there went on to establish some of the most important records in the annals of the game.

For instance, he was the first man to win eight All-Ireland senior hurling medals, a feat he achieved between 1941 and 1954. Only John Doyle (Tipperary), 1948-1965, equalled that achievement.

Ring won an amazing total of Railway Cup medals. He was without question the greatest interprovincial of them all, and his total of 18 medals between 1942 and 1963 will hardly ever be equalled.

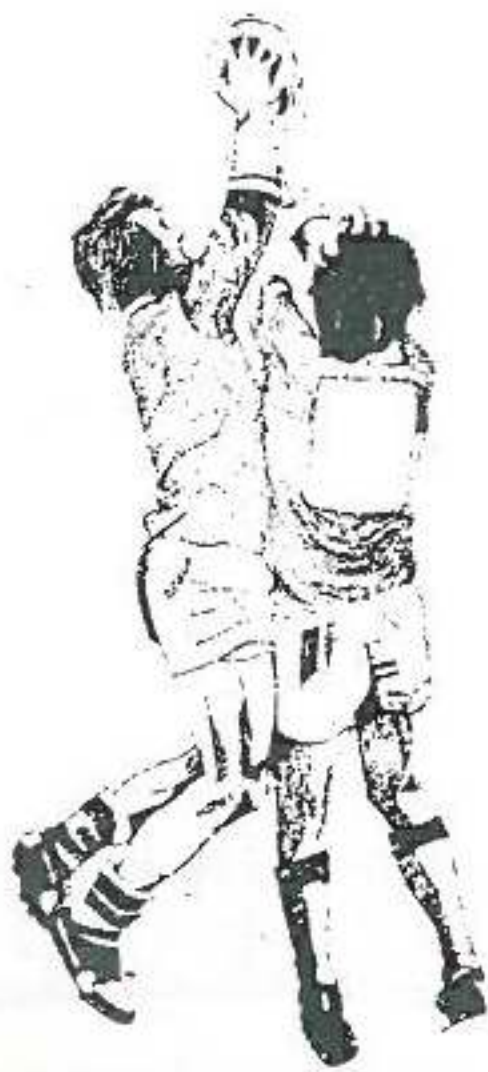
He also won National League medals with Cork, and captained the county to the All-Ireland senior championship in 1946, 1953 and 1954.

On the club front he gave wonderful service over the years to the famed Glen Rovers. He assisted the club in the senior grade for some 23 years in fact, and won a dozen county senior championship medals.

It will probably surprise many that Ring also played football with St. Nicholas, sister club of Glen Rovers, and collected county senior medals in the code.

He was associated with the game after his playing days had ended, and was a selector for Cork during their last golden spurt that saw the county win the All-Ireland senior championship in 1976, 1977 and 1978.

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 **Gallagher 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

Football league is Clare's real aim

By
EAMONN
YOUNG

SINCE Brian Boru's time Clare has always given us famous men and indeed there are some to-day who will be remembered long after even many of us Corkmen are forgotten. In the football arena there were no better men than Georgie Comerford, Pat Begley, Noel Crowley and John Burke. Any Clareman can number another dozen.

Over the years the county has played a smart lively brand of football and in addition to a commendable virility there was always a touch of class as well. Like many of the weaker counties . . . those who have not won a senior All-Ireland in the last forty years . . . Clare has been caught because she couldn't field thirteen of the side as good as some of the other counties. And then remember how hard it was always to get out of Munster even before Cork came up. Kerry simply beat everyone out of sight and so the other five Munster counties concentrated on hurling.

To-day football is more alive in Clare than ever. The Munster Council responding to the urgings of Mick Frawley, Tadhg Crowley and Doney Nealon has organised coaching in the weaker counties and nowhere has the task been taken up with more vim than by Clare under the county organiser Mick Griffin of Kilmihil. Besides the senior side trained, owned and ridden by Noel Walsh and his persistently enthusiastic helpers is now quite candidly looking for a crack off any side in the country and indeed has done quite well against many of them. A side that can beat Meath and Laois in the League would rank well in a ladder showing the merit of the thirty-two counties and in the open draw (which will probably never come) I could see Clare in the last eight.

One may point to the recent defeat by Wexford as giving the lie to what I've said, but then the side put up a good game against a team that soon afterwards took the Armagh bunch to the end, and we all remember the fright Armagh gave Kerry a few weeks back. For the moment let's remember that the League is Clare's real aim and already they are looking forward to the winter campaign.

Who are the players? There's Anthony Burke in the goal who has saved raspers over the years and is still as sound as ever. Martin Keogh the captain of last year was, like Burke, on the Railway Cup selection and now plays well at left corner back. Brian O'Reilly a very tasty left half-back carries the ball well and uses his head while the 21-year old Dublin-based Garda John McGrath is a fine

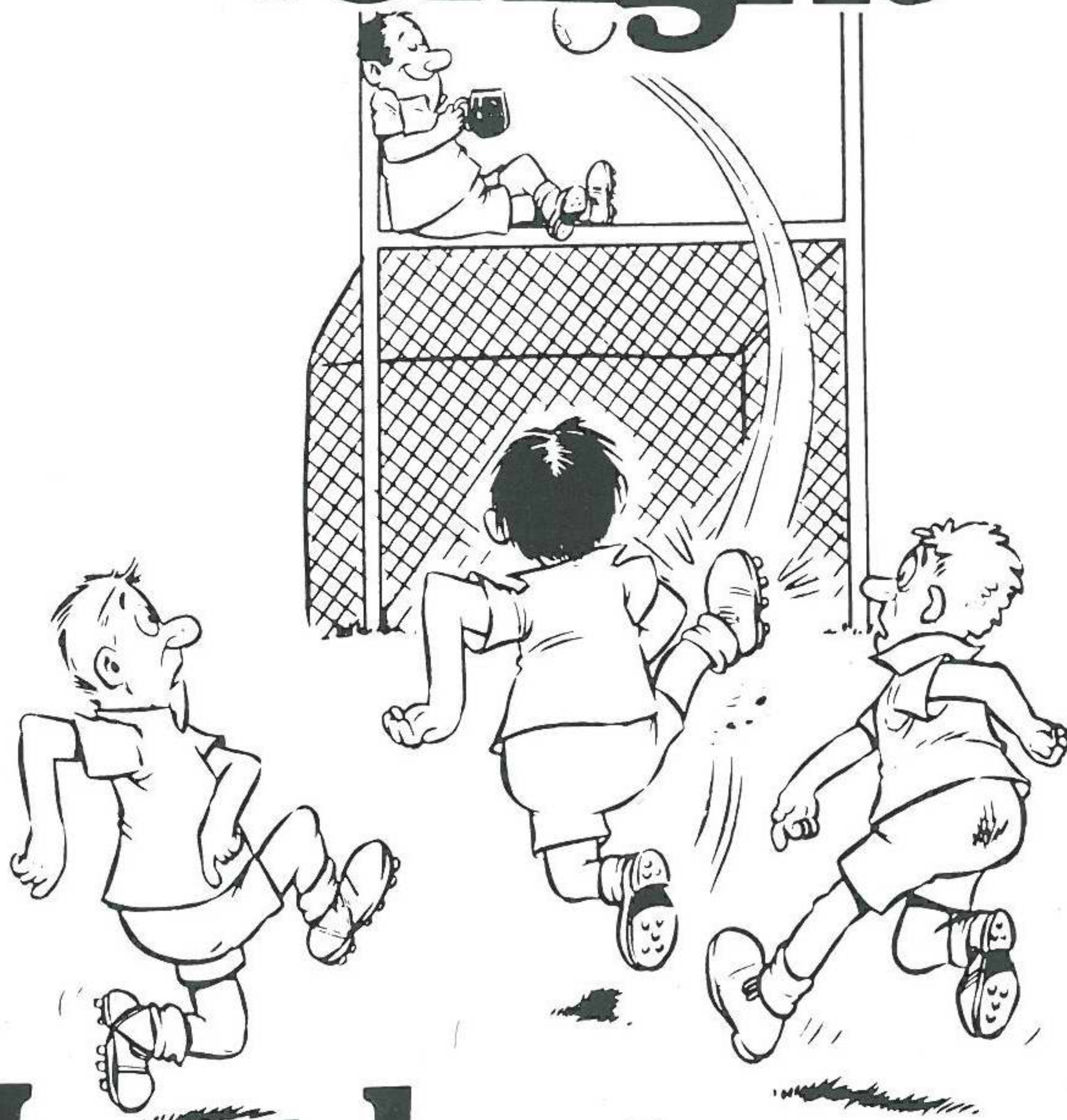
centre-back who may have a good career ahead of him if he continues to work at the game. The place-kicker is twenty-three-year-old Michael Downes a teacher who plays with Navan O'Mahony's and at midfield with Clare, while the hopes of the future lie in the seven under 21 men who have earned themselves places on the senior panel. Centre-back Pat Garry the nineteen-year-old from Kilmihil, Noel Normoyle the big young half forward and Noel Roche the nineteen-year-old right half back from Kilkee are about the best of the young lads. Frank Moloney who walked many a dusty road with me in uniform and took whatever was coming on the field along with the rest of us, has two sons on the Clare side. Frank has heard the Last Post and may God rest him but Anthony and Sean are surely keeping alive the Moloney connection with Clare. Twenty-two-year-old Anthony, a garda in Cork, was one of the finest mobile forwards I had seen a few years back. If he resumes his dedicated approach he'll torment many a back again. Sean the twenty-seven-year-old full forward has developed from a fast skilful, but excitable player to a clever poised leader whose quickness, anticipation and reading of the game has given this Clare forward line a real value.

The draw this year came about as a result of Noel Walsh's spirited exhortation at the Munster Council meeting last year. Cork and Kerry opposed him but the three weaker counties helped him to win the day. The idea set down was that the four weaker ones would play among themselves and the best would play Cork with the winners playing Kerry. Needless to say the Kingdom thus deprived of all games before the Munster final didn't like this and it won't happen again if they can help it. So Clare aim to win out this four-county competition and they maintain that after two 70-minute championship games they surely must be fitter to play Cork than in other years. They have also forsaken the home-and-away agreement and will take on Cork in Limerick which after all isn't far from home is it? For the smell scent of the Shannon is in the air and the low hills of the Banner county smile tranquilly from the green tops.

There was once a MacGrath Cup in Munster. The weaker counties played in it and being before the war, Cork were among them. In fact next to Kerry in those days was Tipp. Anyway the weaker counties and perhaps

• TO PAGE 41

Have a Guinness tonight



Just between
friends

Dearth of hurling talent in Offaly

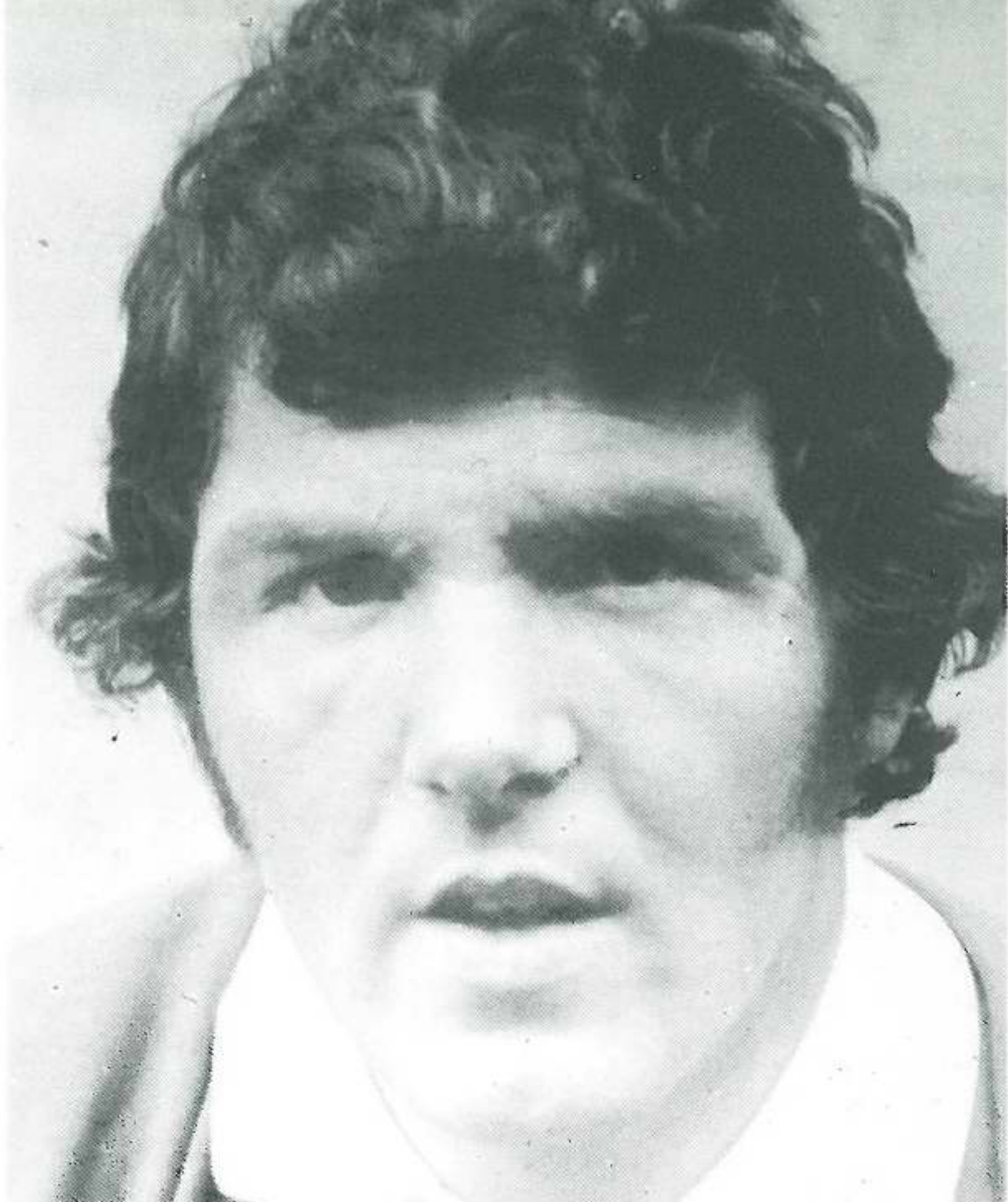
IT seems strange that Offaly have hovered for such a time on the edge of performing some kind of hurling breakthrough and yet find themselves pretty much in the same position. They are certainly keen — of that there is not any doubt; and it is well-known that they continually make favourable showings in the National Hurling League throughout the winter season. But it seems to stop at the play-off stages of the League, and often against teams which were rough-handled by them in the League competition proper.

This season's activity was a case in point. If anything Offaly entered their quarter-final game against Limerick as slight favourites. They had a solid record of earnestness and achievement. Limerick were recognised as having their troubles.

Would Cregan make a firm commitment to come back to the game? Would he fill in for the sadly missed Pat Hartigan at full-back? Or, perhaps, try one of his old roles in the attack? Would Grimes recover some degree of his fitness and form? Could a workmanlike midfield be fashioned? Would Joe McKenna be fully fit and in his best form? An ironic question as far as Offaly are concerned since it was they who provided Limerick with McKenna.

But many such questions needed answering when that quarter-final came to be played. It was a narrow Limerick win (2-6 to 0-10) and were it not for Cregan, who had decided by then to make the fresh commitment for the time being, there is not any great opposition to the opinion that Offaly would have been the ones to face Tipperary in the semi-final.

By
Jay
Drennan



● *Padraig Horan of Offaly*

They must now wonder, as they try to get the long-term into focus, just how far they may have been from playing, maybe even winning, the National League final. It was Cregan's 2-4 which sank them against Limerick. At the other end there was never enough back up for Johnny Flaherty in the scoring line.

Of course it is the limitations of the attack which place Offaly in the bracket of outsiders — outside the circle of likely winners of a major competition. No side can really expect to triumph when the big games come on without a few forwards of class, or at least four or five who do not depend on the mistakes of the opposition for their scoring tally.

That is another way for saying players of high skill, for you may be able to manufacture backs but a forward needs a certain level of refined and practised command of hurley and ball that does not come by wish alone.

Offaly have a number of players of fine quality, who can and do hold their own with the very best, and, indeed, Padraig Horan, Damien Martin, Pat Delaney, Joachim Kelly

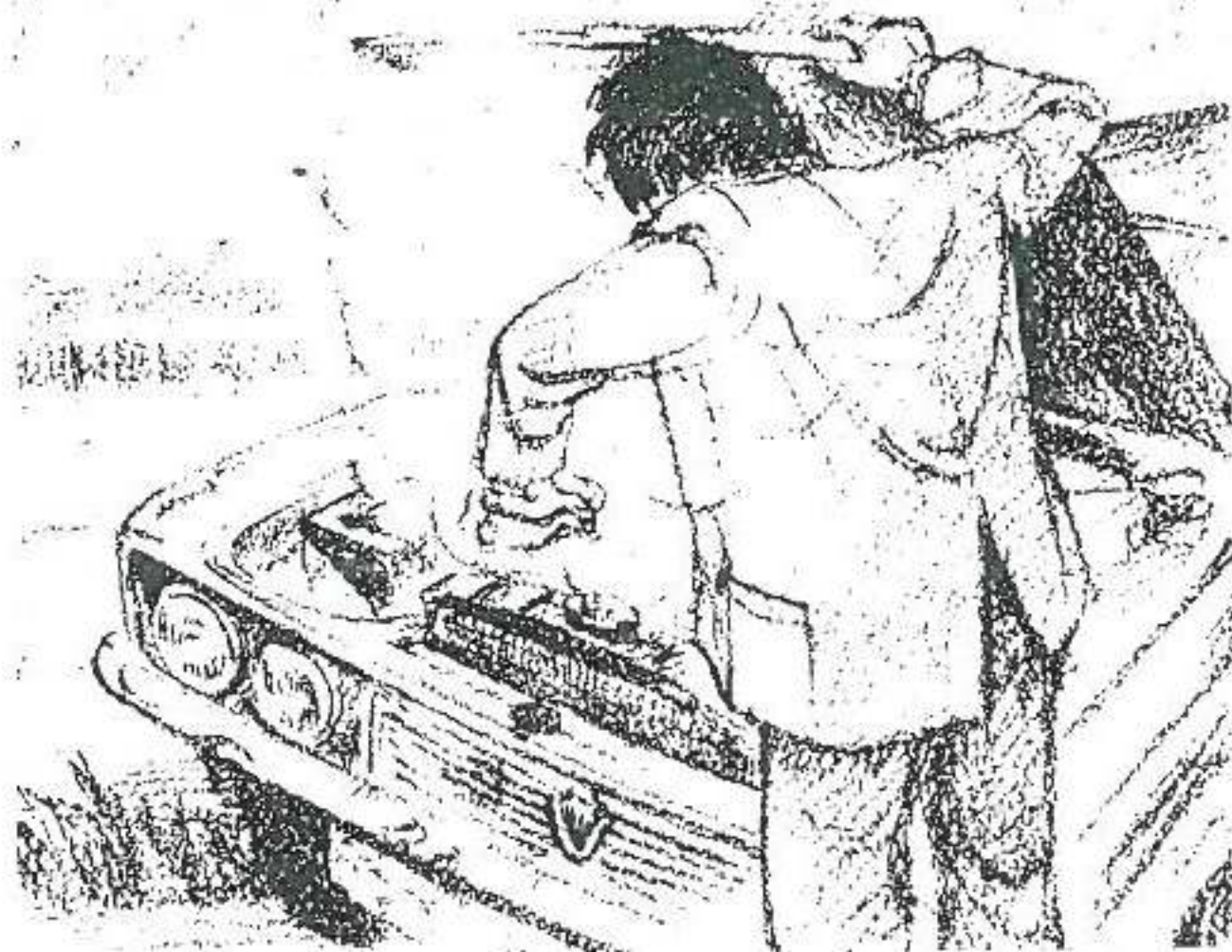
and others have shown many of the top hurlers in the game that Offaly is no way behind-hand in the matter of hurling ability.

Perhaps, in the heel of the reel, it is a question of too small an area and too few senior players from whom to pick. The first restriction their limited hurling territory imposes is too confined a competitive structure and a lesser range of opponents, styles and attitudes. To illustrate the point by taking a case of the complete opposite — Cork. There the club competition is so varied in any kind of competition that every game is a lesson in something new.

Playing the 'Barrs is one thing; having to face the Glen or the Rockies subsequently presents another set of problems; Youghal after that could force a quite different style of game; while Muskerry could inject a degree of sound, first-time play to test the muscles as well as the reflexes. Offaly have little club variety. They have substituted as well as may be with inter-club competition outside the county, especially St. Rynagh's who have gained much from the All-Ireland club competition. But, it

● **TO PAGE 38**

Frustration



Elation



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Brangan Lubiano Knight

It's make or break year for Clare

By Noel Horgan

THE burning question in hurling circles in Clare at the moment is whether or not the Banner County can make a serious bid for championship glory this year.

Clare established themselves as the league specialists in the latter half of the 'seventies and came extremely close to making a championship breakthrough. It has been suggested that their pre-occupation with the league hindered their championship prospects with the result that they adopted a lighter approach to the league this season.

Clare folk expect that such a relaxed attitude will help the players to be adequately prepared both mentally and physically for the tough Munster campaign which lies ahead and many supporters are hopeful of success. But there are those who feel that the current Clare team has reached the end of the road and

that the county is destined to return to the doldrums for a lengthy spell.

Certainly Clare's relegation in the league was disturbing while the departure of team manager, Fr. Harry Bohan cannot have helped their cause either. At this point, however, only the team itself and those close to it can determine whether Clare are capable of making an impact in this year's championship.

To my mind, Clare's failure to succeed in the 'seventies stemmed mainly from the fact that they lacked a player of star quality in attack. The team was a good one, with fifteen competent hurlers and no real weak link, but the absence of some attacking wizard to produce the extra flair to inspire his team mates was a severe handicap.



● Action from the 1978 National Hurling League Final as Sean Stack of Clare and Kilkenny's Billy Fitzpatrick race for the sliothar.

The All-Ireland winning teams of the past decade all had that vital ingredient. Mick Keating produced it for Tipperary, Eddie Keher and later Mick Brennan had it for Kilkenny, Ray Cummins was an inspirational full-forward for Cork and Eamonn Cregan steered Limerick to vital victories with lightning-like flashes of real class.

Were Clare to produce a player of similar calibre to supplement the considerable skills of Ger Loughnane, Sean Stack, Sean Hehir, John Callinan and the rest, then I, for one, would fancy their chances.

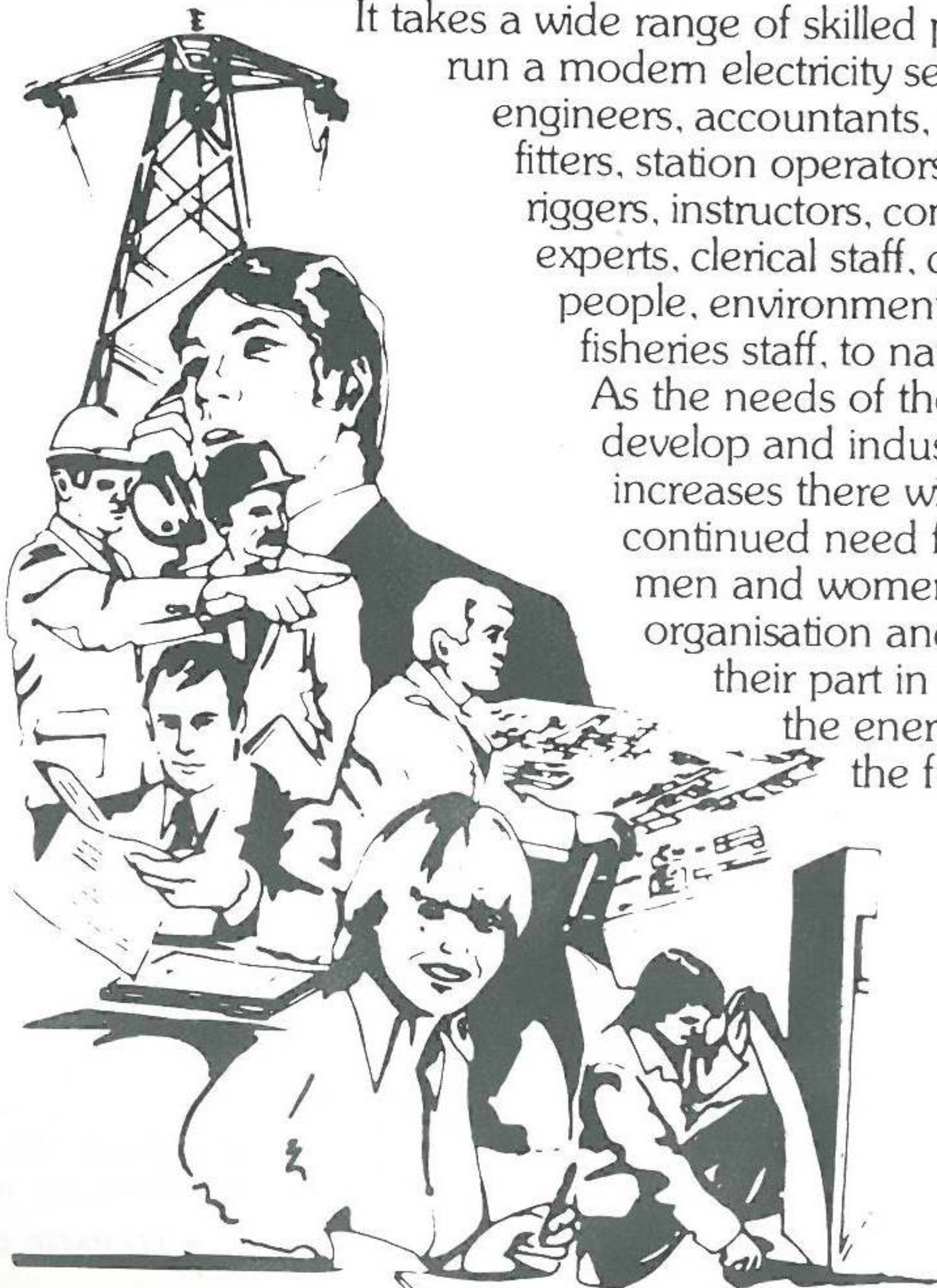
The return of that great-hearted defender Jackie O'Gorman would also boost Clare's prospects. He missed out on Clare's

● TO PAGE 19

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● Clare captain Sean Stack holds aloft the League trophy after their defeat of Kilkenny in the 1978 Final. Also pictured (from left) are: Fr. S. Gardiner, Con Murphy, then President of the G.A.A., Andrew Curtin, Chairman of the Clare Hurling Board and Vincent Murphy, Vice-Chairman of the Munster Council, and in the background the ecstatic Clare followers. Can the Clare team of 1980 reproduce that form in the championship? Only time will tell.

● FROM PAGE 17

league campaign and one gets the impression that he is pondering retirement from inter-county fare. Clare want him back but Jackie may feel that he has suffered sufficient disappointments in the county jersey and he may decline the invitation to return.

Certainly his two National League medals are scant reward for the years of dedicated service he has given to the Banner County. Jackie was there as a half-back in the Pat Cronin era of the mid-'sixties when Clare had the individual flair but lacked

the all-round balance to get to the top.

He was there when current Clare coach, Justin McCarthy shot a late goal from a free to earn Cork a draw in the 1966 Munster championship. Cork won the replay and went on to capture All-Ireland honours later that year.

And Jackie was still there when a new-look Clare team emerged in the 'seventies. His sterling defensive work during the county's league successes merited, but never received, recognition by the All-Star selec-

tors in that period.

For Clare's sake it is to be hoped that Jackie O'Gorman can be coaxed to return to the county team and make a final bid for that elusive All-Ireland medal. His courage and commitment have always inspired steadiness in the Clare rearguard and would be invaluable again this year.

Whether or which, a burning question is likely to be answered when Clare take the field for their initial championship outing against Waterford on June 1.

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QUIZ TIME

ON THE SPOT . . .

by Tony Keegan

After the high drama of the finals of the National Football and Hurling Leagues, the Provincial Championships really come into their own this month as the campaigns gain momentum in all provinces.

Some of the games and the events that made news last season are put into focus by our latest ON THE SPOT . . . quiz. So, here is your chance to find out what you can recall from 1979.

One section of the quiz deals with football, the other hurling, and the third part is a little special this month. There are five questions only in this particular section, covering football, hurling, camogie and handball.

And, here we are affording readers a chance to gain some tangible reward for their endeavours. We print a special coupon, and for the reader who submits the first all correct entry received at our office and opened after the closing date of June 30 we will send GAELIC SPORT free each month for the next twelve issues.

Let's start, however, with our

FOOTBALL REVIEW

- 1. Galway won the Connacht under-21 football title. Who were runners-up?
2. You probably remember that Roscommon retained the Connacht

senior football title. But where was the decider played?

3. Dublin made it a record-equalling six Leinster senior championships on the trot with a last gasp win over Offaly in the Croke Park final. Who scored their winning goal?

4. Who captained the Dubs in that game?

5. How many goals did Monaghan score in their Ulster final win over Donegal at senior last season — one, two or three?

6. Name the county beaten by Donegal in the Ulster senior semi final?

7. Cork were beaten by ten points in the Southern senior final. Who was their full forward — John Allen or Denis Allen?

8. Give just a little extra thought to this one. Runners-up for the 1979 Munster under-21 title?

9. Louth scored five goals in the Leinster under-21 final, plus four points, but still lost that game. Name their conquerors?

• TO PAGE 23

ON THE SPOT . . . PRIZE WINNING STYLE

1. Who captained Monaghan to win out in Ulster in 1979?

2. The provincial senior championships in senior camogie are played independently of the All-Ireland championship. Who won the Leinster title — Kilkenny or Dublin?

3. Name a provincial hurling medalist in goal last season?

4. Who refereed the Ulster senior football final last July — Hugh Duggan (Armagh) or Seamus Mullan (Derry)?

5. Tom O'Rourke and Cecil Winders won the Leinster senior

hardball doubles title in handball last season. They are natives of what county?

NAME

ADDRESS

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● FROM PAGE 21

10. Who won the Connacht minor crown?

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Over now to the ancient code:

HURLING

1. Wexford and Kilkenny played a draw in the Leinster under-21 final. Who won the replay?

2. Cork's win over Limerick at Thurles earned them their third, fourth or fifth Munster senior crown in succession?

3. Tipperary won the Southern under-21 crown. What county did they beat in the final?

4. It will hardly surprise you to know here that Antrim won the Ulster under-21 final. Their opponents in the final were Down, Armagh or Donegal. Your selection?

5. Mark in, please, the runners-up for the Munster minor title?

6. How many goals did Limerick seniors score in the summit with Cork?

7. What was Kilkenny's winning margin over Wexford in Leinster's senior showpiece match . . . three points, four points or six points?

8. Who is the provincial senior medalist pictured above?

9. Name his club?



10. How many goals did Kilkenny, Wexford and Cork score in the provincial finals. Each hit exactly the same total?

Again five points for each question answered correctly. Over-all, 50 points possible for this exercise. YOUR SELECTION

HOW DO YOU MEASURE UP

With 100 points possible, a tally of 80 or over earns you an EXCELLENT rating. 60 to 80 ranks as VERY GOOD, and 50 to 60 is GOOD.

(The answers are printed in reverse to avoid distraction)

ANSWERS

HURLING
 1. Wexford; 2. Fifth; 3. Cork; 4. Armagh; 5. Limerick; 6. None; 7. Four points; 8. Matt Ruth (Kilkenny); 9. St. Patrick's; 10. Each county scored two goals.

FOOTBALL REVIEW
 1. Sligo; 2. Castlebar; 3. Bernard Brogan; 4. Tony Hanahoe; 5. One; 6. Derry; 7. Denis Allen; 8. Clare, who lost by two points to Cork; 9. Offaly; 10. Mayo.

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Unselfish dedication lost M elusive Football League

WHEN Cork won the National League title recently, a notable absentee from their line-out for the final against Kerry was long-serving dual player, Brian Murphy. The Nemo Rangers man had been ever-present on both Cork senior teams since 1971 and his remarkable consistency suggested that, at twenty-eight, he was likely to remain a regular for many years to come.

His unselfish dedication and his ability to be in two places at once inevitably cost Brian Murphy his position on the football side this year. And it was ironic that his omission coincided with Cork's first League success since 1956 and deprived him of the only inter-county award that had eluded him in his honours laden career—a National League medal in football.

At the start of the season Brian Murphy was, as expected, chosen on both Cork teams for the League competitions, but with the Cork sides forced to do duty on the one day at different venues, Brian confined his activities to hurling in the early stages of the League.

This was normal procedure for the sturdy Nemo player. When Cork had reached the knock-out stages in previous years and there were no fixture clashes, he invariably resumed his role as a dual corner back.

It was different this year, how-

ever, as the Cork mentors were determined to use the League to mould together a strong team and atone for morale-shattering defeats by Roscommon and Kerry

By Noel Horgan

last year. And as the competition progressed it became apparent that the many "trialists" were fitting smoothly into the pattern of things and the team was taking on a settled appearance.

A string of good displays carried them to the League final and by that time it was impossible to make changes. So Brian Murphy was ignored and, while the selectors earned high praise for steering their charges to League glory, many Cork supporters were disappointed that the Nemo man missed out on his chance to complete his collection of top awards.

For Brian, it has been one of the few set-backs in a career of remarkable success, made all the more remarkable by the fact that the Corkman is not over-endowed with natural talent in either code.

As a hurler Brian Murphy is not a skilled sticksman, nor is he noted for his lengthy defensive deliveries. Instead, he adopts a largely negative and unobtrusive approach, clinging leech-like to his opponent at all times, never allowing him a free shot and forcing him into error and a hasty pull.

Murphy's constant tipping and poking at the ball—reminiscent of former Cork full-back, John Lyons — has regularly brought safety in the most tense of goal-mouth tussles. Occasionally, however, Murphy can make an even more positive contribution as he did with an outstanding display against Limerick's Eamonn Cregan in last year's Munster final.

In football Brian Murphy is not recognised as an expert fielder and is seldom seen surging out of defence on an inspiring solo-run. Yet his shrewd positional play which enables him to be in the right place at the right time to cover dangerous situations and his ability to keep himself be-

Murphy medal

tween his opponent and the goal so often make him an invaluable defender in football.

The unwise might suggest that Brian's unspectacular defensive play requires no great skill and could be successfully "copied" by any committed player of average ability. But the total concentration and vast technical knowledge which Murphy's play demands are never adequately appreciated except, of course, by the many top-class forwards who have tried unsuccessfully to outwit him.

Brian Murphy knows his limitations and has adapted his game accordingly and with maximum success. It takes a player of almost unique temperament to achieve that feat over such a lengthy period of top-quality competition.

Be under no illusions, Brian Murphy has met and mastered the best and has played many key roles for Cork. For instance, in the 1976 All-Ireland hurling final, Cork were greatly troubled by Wexford's full-forward, Tony Doran, who seemed likely to lead the Slaneysiders to victory.

Midway through the second half, however, Cork moved Brian Murphy to full-back and in his



• Brian Murphy (No. 4), Billy Morgan and Humphrey Kelleher of Cork combine to save a Kerry shot in the 1973 Munster Final.

typically unspectacular fashion he subdued Doran who had been fetching and scoring almost at will. In last year's Munster final Murphy mastered Eamonn Cregan with a slick, defensive exhibition which guaranteed for him his initial Bank of Ireland All-Star hurling award.

Brian Murphy first gained prominence as an All-Ireland colleges star with Coláiste Chríost Rí, Turner's Cross, in the late 'sixties. As a minor he won All-Ireland medals in both codes and repeated that feat on graduating to the Under-21 grade.

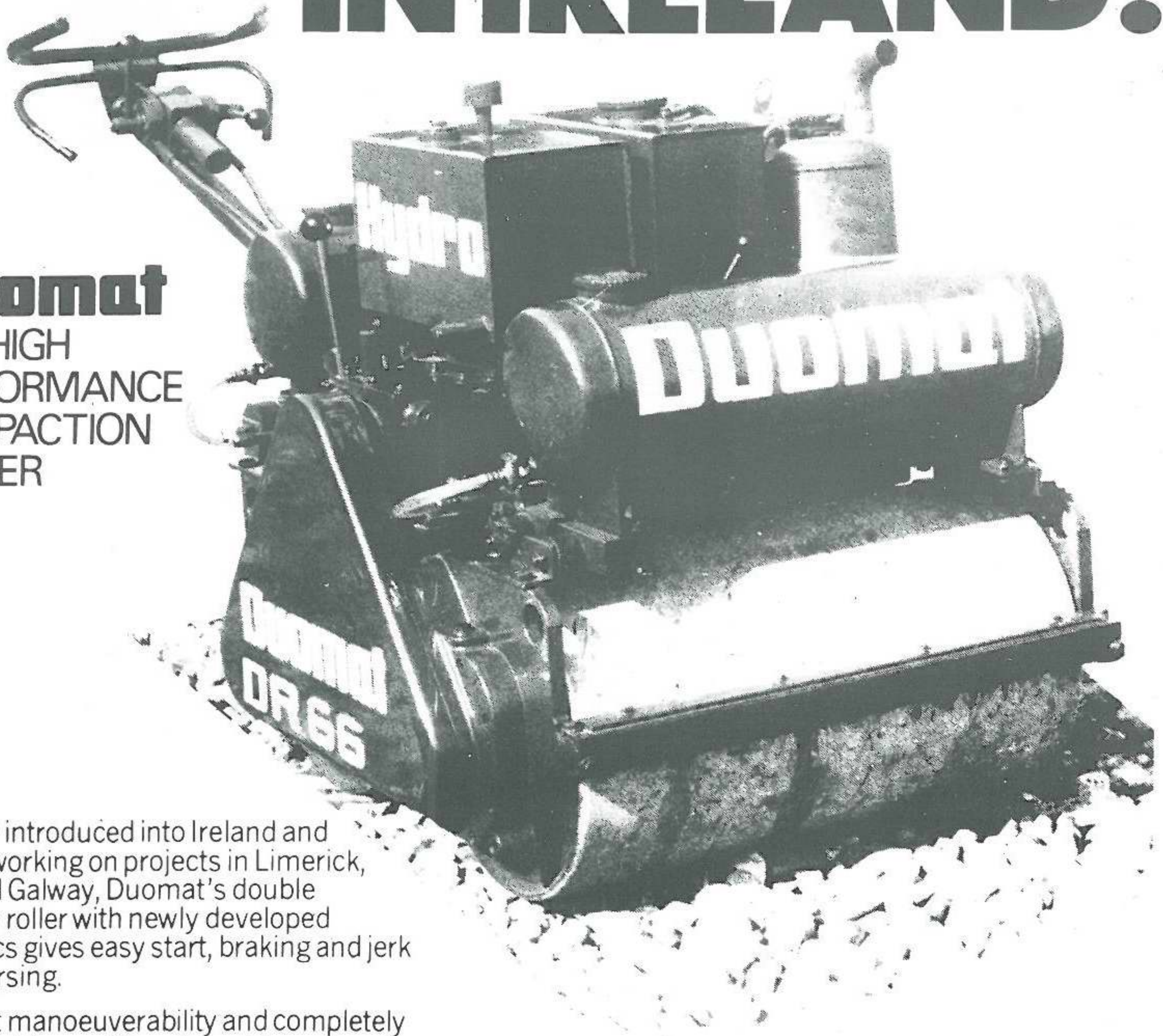
He won his first major honour at senior level when Cork took the hurling league in 1972 and he

gained his first Celtic Cross with the footballers in 1973. Since then the honours have come fast and furious with three All-Ireland hurling medals and three All-Star awards enhancing a rare trophy-list. He has also won two All-Ireland club medals with Nemo Rangers.

Without doubt Brian Murphy's dedication, strength and fitness has to be admired and he fully deserves the vast rewards which the game has bestowed on him. It would be fitting if the Kilkenny-based garda who has been a loyal servant of his native county, could capture that elusive National Football League medal before he eventually decides to call it a day.

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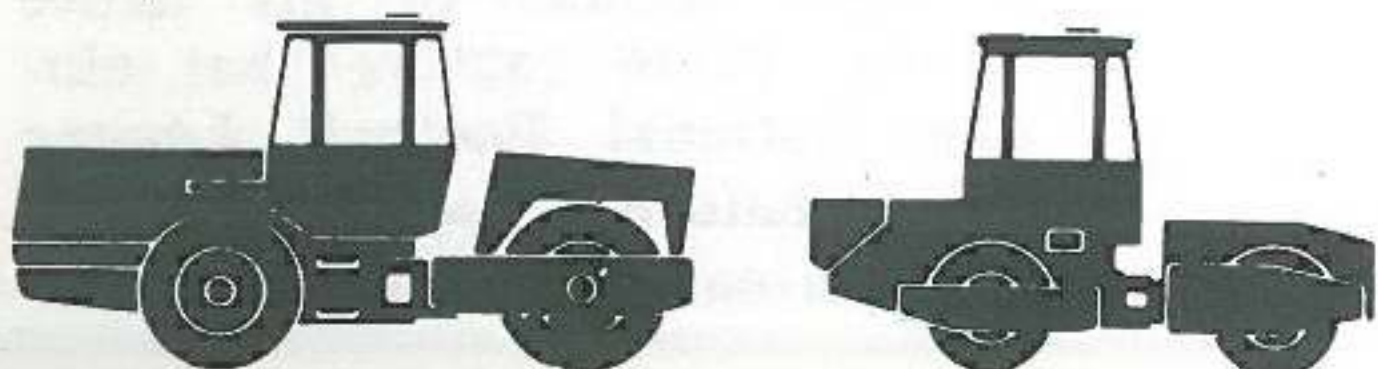


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ALL SET FOR THE CHAMPIONSHIP

ALL counties participating in the senior National League have now been in action. Kilkenny, who have won their two games, have placed themselves in a strong position, having defeated Limerick and Cork. But the Noresiders cannot afford to be complacent after these two victories. They had five points to spare over Limerick but only two points separated Cork and themselves.

In fact, Cork led all the way until the last quarter when thanks to the brilliant performance of Angela Downey in Kilkenny's forward line, the points were taken after the Maynooth star scored 3-3 of her county's 3-7 tally. The Cork defence has a lot of work to do to replace the marvellous cover which Marie Costine, who has retired, provided in her full back berth where she won five All-Ireland medals in the seventies.

The Kilkenny defence looked quite good against such strong opposition as Pat Moloney, Marion Sweeney and Mary O'Leary. Their midfielders were not as effective as their mentors had hoped while their main scorer Angela Downey is very hard to stop when she gets the ball. Wexford will have to sharpen up if they are to hold the Noresiders in the first round of the senior Championship on June 15.

Antrim, who won the Senior Championship last season, have suffered a set back in recent weeks with the news that Mairead Magill, who won the B+I Player of the Year Camogie Award, will not be available for the remainder of this season. Mairead has been the mainstay and usually the star of Antrim and Interprovincial teams for fifteen years. She had the skill and determination to turn de-

feat into victory often—by her accuracy from frees. Indeed she scored a goal from a sideline cut in the recent League game against Dublin.

The long journey to Cork for their first round championship game will not be an asset. In addition the Northern girls will have to improve on their League performances if they are to conquer the Leesiders, who have a host of excellent young players coming up.

League champions, Dublin, should make their presence felt in the forthcoming Championship. In their favour they have a home venue against Clare who have had mixed luck in the League.

They won first time out against Down but lost by two points to Tipperary.

It is questionable if they have

● OVERLEAF



★

● Pictured at the presentation of the USI News Bank of Ireland Student Sportstars Awards (from left to right): Liam Mulvihill, Director General G.A.A., Toni O'Byrne, winner of the Camogie Award, St. Patrick's Training College, and Derry Deasy, Student Officer, Bank of Ireland, Drumcondra.

★

Always call your Hennessy a Hennessy



● FROM OVERLEAF

the experience of the Liffeyiders who should advance to meet Tipperary who got a bye to the quarter final. How will the Premier County fare out after their close defeat in last years final. They must improve if they are, first to win out the league zone of Wexford-Clare-Down and themselves, and secondly, stay in the championship race.

Limerick league finalists for the past two years should also be a force to be reckoned with, although they disappointed their fans against Kilkenny.

They should survive against Down in the first round which they have at home and are also lucky enough to have Derry at home in the second round. Whoever survives then would face the winner of Galway-Wexford-Kilkenny section. Cork or Antrim go into the other semi-final against Tipperary-Dublin or Clare.

The Post-Primary Schools Inter-provincial title was decisively retained by Munster. First they defeated Ulster and Connacht, who had eliminated Leinster, in the semi-final.

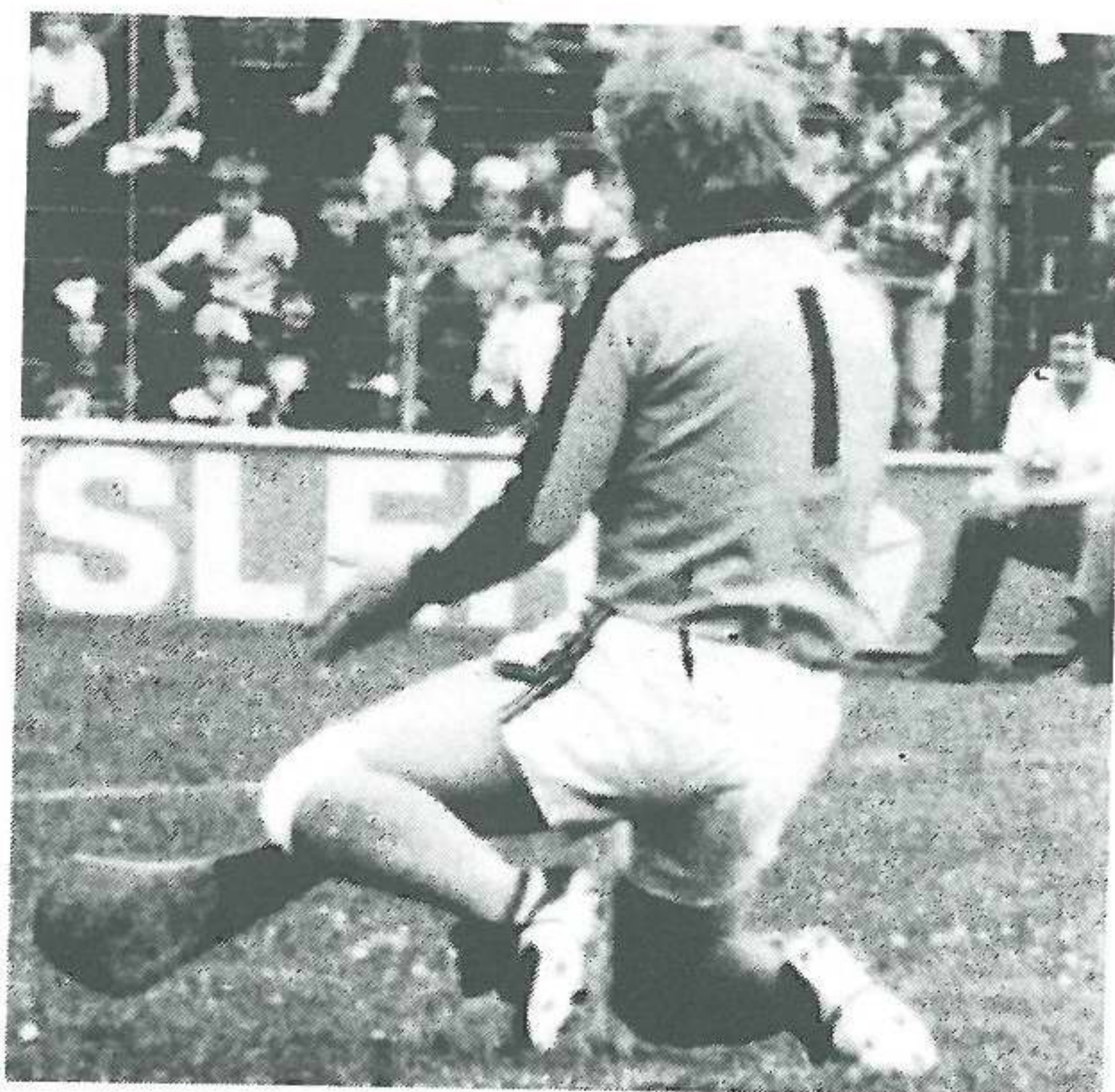
The Cork Schools figured prominently in the scoring lists of both games, Ger McCarthy, Ann Currid, Martha Kearney, Claire Kelleher and Lilian Lincant were to the fore. They were well supported by Helen Mulcair and Ann Gallery (Limerick) and Kay Maxwell and Ethna Bonnar (Tipperary).

Galway players Ann Gallagher, Claire Geraghty and Paula Carr, Kitty Hoey and Mairead Coyle of Roscommon were the stars of the Connacht side.

Ten Connacht Schools, Loughrea, Gort, Tuam, Athenry Vocational, Roscommon, Oranmore, Ballygar, Ballinasloe, Dunmore, Glenamaddy, took part in a very successful seven-a-side tournament at Colaiste Seosaimh Glenamaddy, recently. The local College ran out winners after a very closely contested game with Mercy, Loughrea.

'Old Firm', new round

By Jim Bennett



● *Kilkenny goalkeeper Noel Skehan gets down to stop a low shot in last years Leinster Final meeting of old rivals Wexford and Kilkenny.*

IT has become something of a habit to look forward annually to the Leinster final clash of Kilkenny and Wexford. This year it must be different. Not that we are to be deprived of the black-and-amber and the purple-and-gold lining out to confront one another, but because they will meet in the semi-final.

In theory, at least, then, we can assume that some other Leinster champions may well emerge this year. It must be admitted that there is a better chance of beating one of the doughty pair from the south-east than beating both of them one after the other.

The sense of occasion may be slightly diminished because of the fact that the clash of Kilkenny and Wexford comes at the semi-final stage on June 15th. But it is not likely to affect the match very much nor will it affect the attendance or the spirit in which the game is fought by the players annually, and contested by the spectators side by side with them.

It has long been admitted that there is little use in resting a case on solid foundations of logic and form and the results of recent times in estimating the likely outcome of the Leinster championship clashes of the famous Leinster pair. Many a time one has been written off and the other lionised and praised for its form and current record — and the

weak have toppled the strong. There is that element about their clashes which seems to stimulate the unlikely — not to say the impossible.

Take for instance this year. It would be only realistic to consider the fact that Wexford has been on a long slide downwards for a number of years. That whatever few splashes of sunshine they generated in the course of the League campaign there is little concrete evidence to suggest they have started a new revolution. They simply seem to lack the sources of supply of talent which seemed so bountiful and unending ten to fifteen years ago.

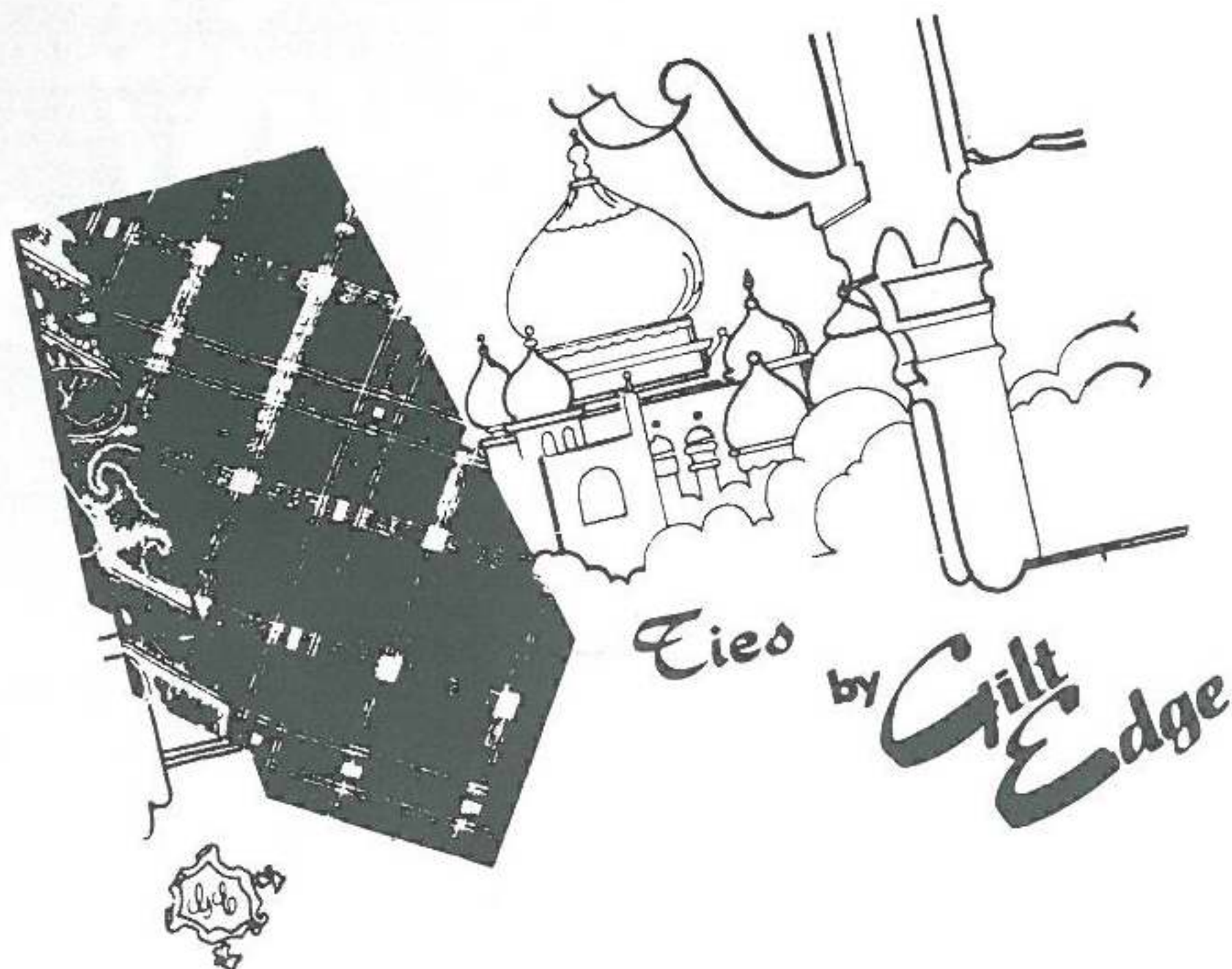
Kilkenny, on the other hand, have brought new men to the front with ease and they seem to have been taking it in turns to create an impression with the selectors and public. Despite the embarrassments of last year's County Final, Kilkenny have nothing wrong with their game. Enmities may have grown beyond the point of reason here and there; they will have been defused for a long time to come by

the discharge of electricity last autumn. A little like thunder, with its relieving effect on the electrically charged atmosphere.

Minors of the last decade have given the sources of present and future strength to Kilkenny. They have the players all right. They will not be caught bending over backwards trying to make changes however, for this is the championship now and all the elderly ones will be sharpening, after a little easy-chair spell during the winter. And one does not easily drop players with the years of experience so long as they still have the form and the legs.

Yet, unlike most other counties with the possible exception of Cork, Kilkenny have the pressure from behind to assist them in building their team. New and ambitious young fellows are snapping at the heels of those in the team. It is a wonderfully healthy way to be. Tony Doran must sometimes wearily wonder when someone is going to press him for his position in the Wexford team.

That adds up to a cut and dried case for Kilkenny. You would be foolish to think it will be all so simple as that.



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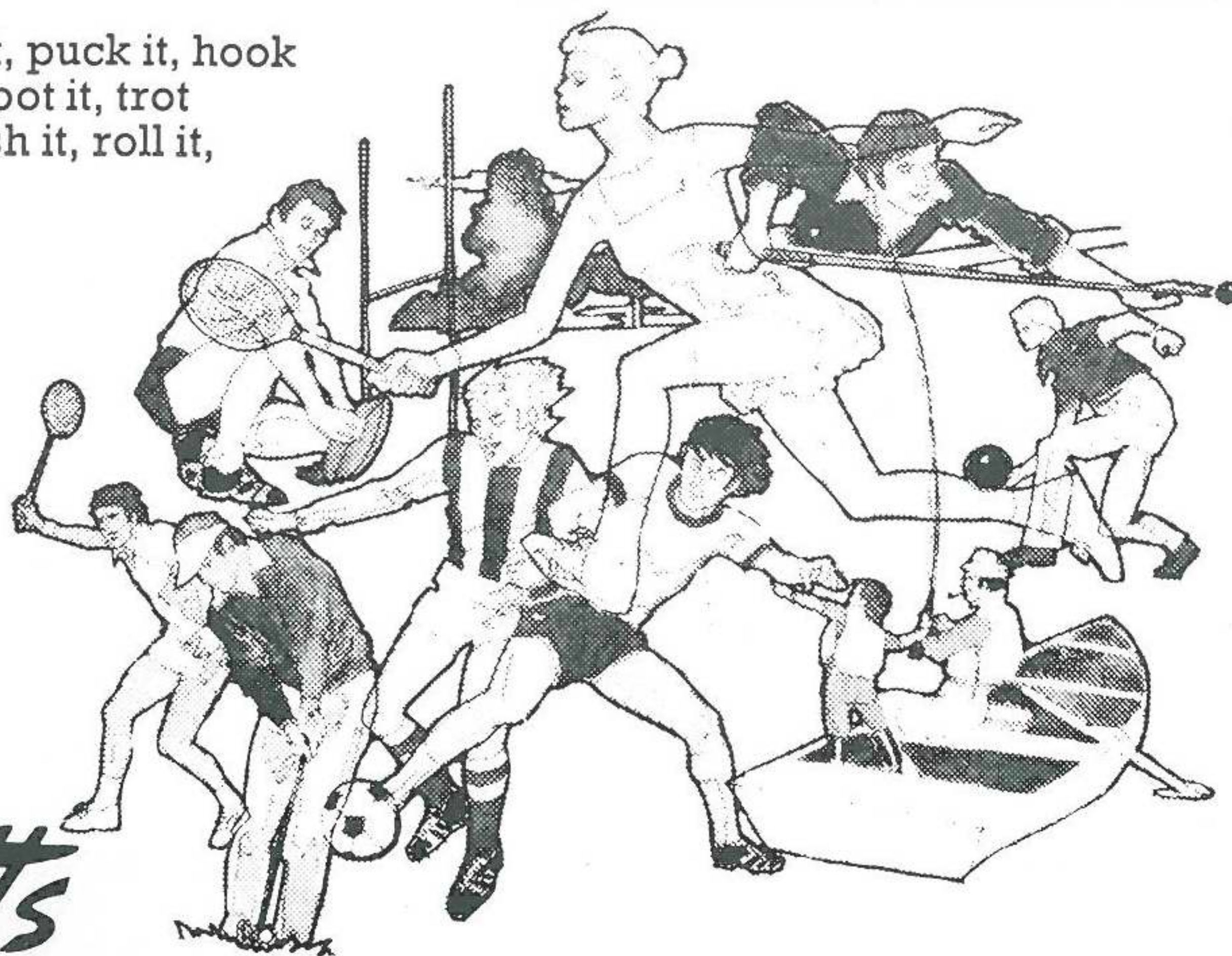
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INTERNATIONAL HANDBALL AFFAIRS

By Sean Clerkin

HANDBALL duties will deprive the Wexford hurling team of one of its most prolific scorers in the Leinster semi-final against Kilkenny but even the most fanatical hurling follower will agree that young John Fleming of Cloughbawn is entitled to his leave of absence.

He will be in distant lands, competing for the U.S.H.A. under 23 championship in Tucson, Arizona, when that game is played.

Against all the odds, the Wexford player emerged unscathed from this year's Atlas Under-22 trials to win the coveted trip in partnership with Tony Ryan from Ballypatrick in Tipperary.

Packie Ryan from the St. Malachy's Club in Dublin travels for the Open event and the ever-green Pat Kirby will be trading his talents in the Masters section.

They will be flying out to New York on May 30th and returning direct from Tucson Arizona on June 22nd. Director General of the I.H.C. Joe Lynch and President Tom Walsh from Donegal are included in the official party.

The decision to send the team to the U.S.H.A. Championships is a surprising, if logical, one.

It will be recollected that it was decided at Congress to send only Pat Kirby to the Masters' event, but, on learning that an Under-23 championship was on the schedule, there was a change of plan on the part of our administrators.

The revised plans mean, of course, that handballers will not be travelling with the All-Star Tour later in the year and this is a good thing, for, invariably, the activities of the handballers were shaded by the dominance of hurling and football events.

So, on to the action and the prospects for our international handballers.

The ghost of Joey Maher re-emerges and we revive memories of his fantastic victory in the U.S.H.A. Masters 'way back in 1974.

Charged with repeating that win and bringing the trophy back home is our own Pat Kirby, who, indeed, has accredited himself favourably in the open events in recent years.

Though his task is not to be envied for the entry in this grade is somewhere in the region of one hundred and seventy Master players, when we equate this over eight playing days the picture of non-stop play comes into perspective.

Still, Kirby is not one to shudder in the face of a challenge and we can expect a super-human effort.

It is generally conceded that Packie Ryan has little chance of ultimate victory in the open section. Our players, either in dedication, effort or skill have just not reached the same standard as the Americans in the open senior

division. So, if Ryan could win a game or two and bring home the message to our players that concentrated practice and superior fitness are the prerequisites of success, then his mission would have been a success.

Ryan and Fleming will do us proud in the Under-23 division.

Ryan has been in America on a previous occasion and acquitted himself favourably while Fleming's performances on the home circuit over the last year have been so impressive that we cannot rule out the possibility of him winning out.

He is a terrier type player with boundless energy and an uncanny ability to retrieve the impossible shot. If determination counts for anything, Fleming will be in the final shake-up.

Perhaps the real star of the Irish party will be Dublin veteran Joe Maxwell, who is travelling to Tucson, Arizona at his own expense to compete in the games.

Such is Maxwell's insatiable appetite for handball. He will be competing in the Golden Masters event and will do the Irish singlet justice.

Prior to the American Championships our players will be lined up for games in New York, Tacoma, Washington where Gordy Pfeifer who recently competed in the Top Ace tournaments resides—San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The occasion signals a special milestone for Irish handball.

Our players are afforded the opportunity of matching their skills against the best in the world. Ultimate victory in any of the grades would be a wonderful boost to the game in this country and would send it spiralling towards new horizons.

Rise to it, lads, and be encouraged that all our good wishes go with you.



● Packie Ryan (Dublin) who is competing in the fiercely competitive Open section of the U.S. Handball Association Championship.



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Summer is the time for drinks

By Philip Whyte

It's Summertime again and after what must have been one of the driest Springs for years thoughts of Summer drinks are very welcome. Deckchairs and bees buzzing are the order of the day.

From all over Ireland, boys and girls will be flocking to Galway on the week-end of July 4th, 5th and 6th, to take part in and see the spectacle that is Feile na nGael. Founded in 1970 by Seamus O'Riain and a band of dedicated helpers, it has — with the support and sponsorship of the Coca Cola Company, gone from strength to strength. This is the first time that the Feile, a festival of under age hurling and camogie, has travelled West of the Shannon and all attending it can be assured of a very warm welcome from the hospitable Galway people.

At the centre of the Feile is the community spirit that is the essence of the G.A.A. Promotion of hurling and its skills has been advanced tremendously among young people from all over Ireland, since its inception. More than 50,000 boys took part in the preliminary rounds this year and about 1,500 are expected in Galway for the finals.

In recent years another section has been added to the Feile to cater for Camogie playing girls and this has also been a great success with the friendships and skills in the game advancing side by side.

Coca Cola are proud and happy that they have made this unique

event so successful, just as they are also about their continued association with the Singles and Doubles handball Championships, developed so successfully with Joe Lynch and his helpers.

BASS TOURNAMENT

A major eve of the All-Ireland senior football final attraction nowadays in Dublin is the Kilmacud

Crokes All-Ireland seven-a-side football tournament at Glenalbyn, Stillorgan.

The tournament is sponsored generously by Beamish and Crawford, brewers of Bass Ale, and has gone from success to success over the years. The organisers are invariably inundated with applications from teams from all over the country.

Many leading players are to be seen in the competition, and the quality of the football is invariably of the highest standard.

Small wonder, then, that the Bass sponsored tournament is now firmly established as a "must" for many visitors to the capital for football's greatest week-end of the year.

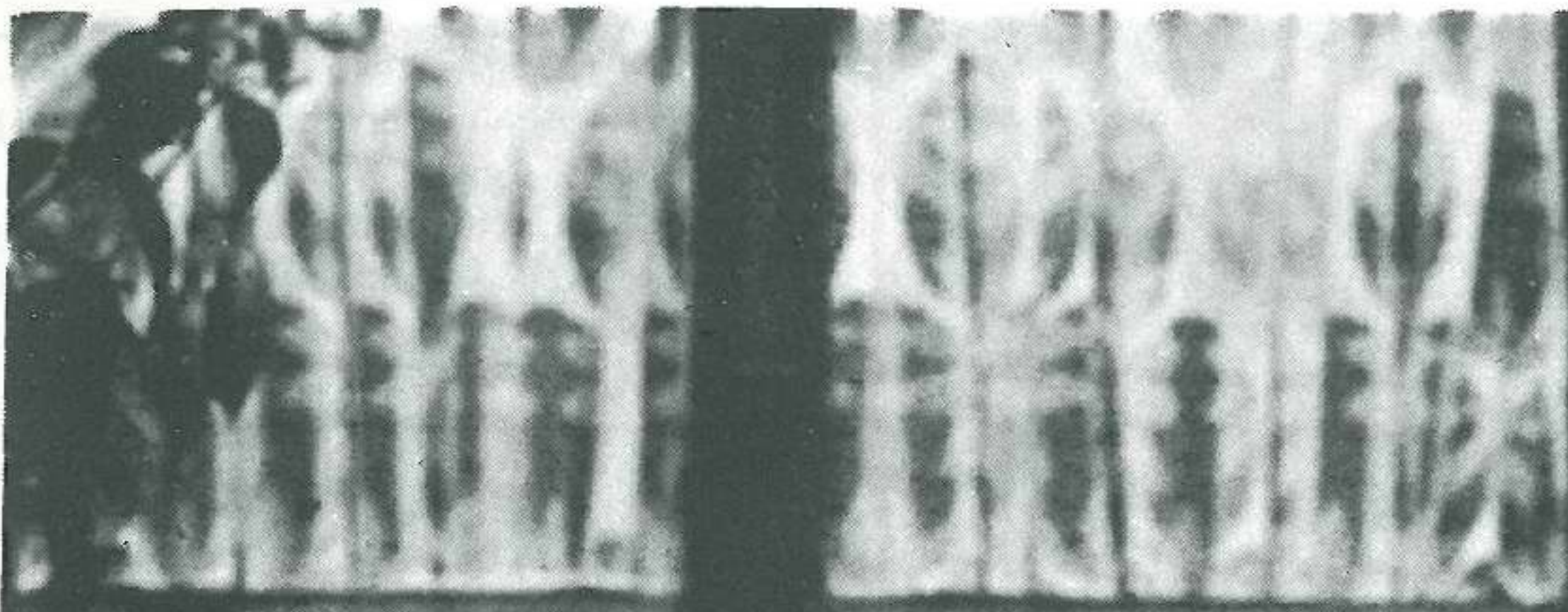
GLASS IS CLASS

The demand for the products of the Irish Glass Bottle Company is greater than ever today and it isn't too much to claim that this company has helped us all to appreciate good design in bottles and glass contain-

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● Kilmacud Crokes captain Danny Ryan being congratulated by Garda Commissioner Patrick McLaughlin following the final of the Guinness/Garda G.A.A. Club Tournament in which Kilmacud Crokes defeated Summerhill (Kells) Co. Meath 2.16 to 1.08. Also in the picture (from left) are Dermot Kavanagh, Area Manager, Guinness Group Sales, Doney Mooney, Summerhill captain and referee Tony Jordan.



Early morning shopping

Premier-Hughes Dairies





★

● James O'Keeffe (left), Chairman, An Bord Baine; Lorcan Allen, (centre), Minister of State for Agriculture and Denis Murphy (right), Chairman, Mitchelstown Co-operative, at the presentation to Mitchelstown of the Martin Mullally Trophy for the highest quality cheddar at the RDS Spring Show.

★

● FROM PAGE 33

ers. A well-known antique shop in Dublin recently held a mini-exhibition of ordinary Irish milk bottles, produced by the I.G.B. originally. Each one had been scrupulously washed, polished and was painted with a simple flower spray. The shop had no difficulty in disposing of them at 30p each. The point is, Irish milk bottles are a good basic design, sturdy but graceful.

The I.G.B. work wonders in recycling glass — the company buys back its own used products and grates all those old bottles down to form the basis of further new glass products. The Simon Community, charitable organisations and outfits like the Boy Scouts have all benefitted from this policy.

UNCLE ARTHUR

There are people who will tell you that the slower you are at drinking a pint of Guinness, the more enjoyment you'll get from it. Its beneficial effects are well known and it is true that a well-poured pint in prime condition deserves to be drunk

reverentially, mouthful by mouthful, rather than knocked back in a hurry. Some Guinness-experts insist that the most pleasurable part of drinking a pint is watching the barman pull it! That particular process has been speeded up somewhat from the old days but a well-pulled pint is still a question of timing. Nobody ever invents new ways to drink Guinness. We take it for granted as we do the Guinness Group itself. Guinness is one of those huge concerns which over the years carries on, consistently and quietly, doing a lot of good for the country, funding industrial projects, sponsoring community efforts at local level, giving scholarships to young people and so on. Guinness is not really interested in headline-grabbing promotions, but has a genuine commitment to helping the economy and the people of Ireland.

Readers won't need to be told that Guinness, having a particular interest in improving the quality of life at local community level, found it a natural process in its policy of good

citizenship to recognise the unifying All-Ireland policy of the GAA and its desire to make the GAA clubs more into social centres. Help has been unobtrusive but widely spread. The Guinness Group has benefitted the Garda GAA Tournament and among others the O'Connells Club, the Whitehall, Enniskerry, Parnells, Buffers Alley, Rathdowney and St. Brigid's Club in Leinster. West of the Shannon Ballyhaunis and Loughrea have been aided. While in Munster Mooncoin, Abbeydowney, Newcestown and Gabriel Rovers have all been helped. Quite a list and by no means a complete one.

MORNING HEALTH

What would you say to an All Irish health giving product at your doorstep? Why, come in of course! We've never really looked at it quite that way, but it is a fact that milk delivered fresh to your door each morning must be one of the luxuries of modern life. Refreshing it certainly is and nutritious also.

Premier Dairies provide that daily

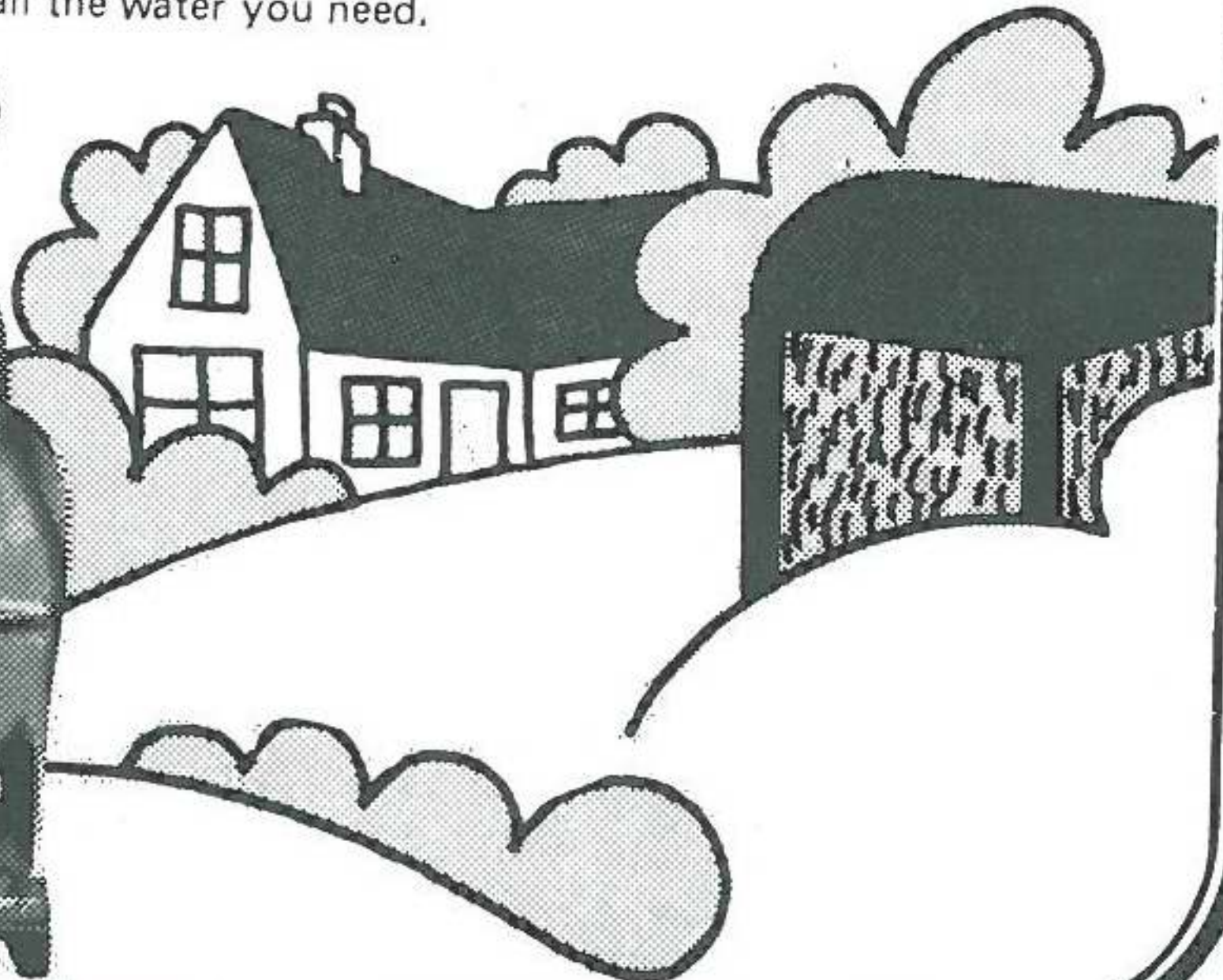
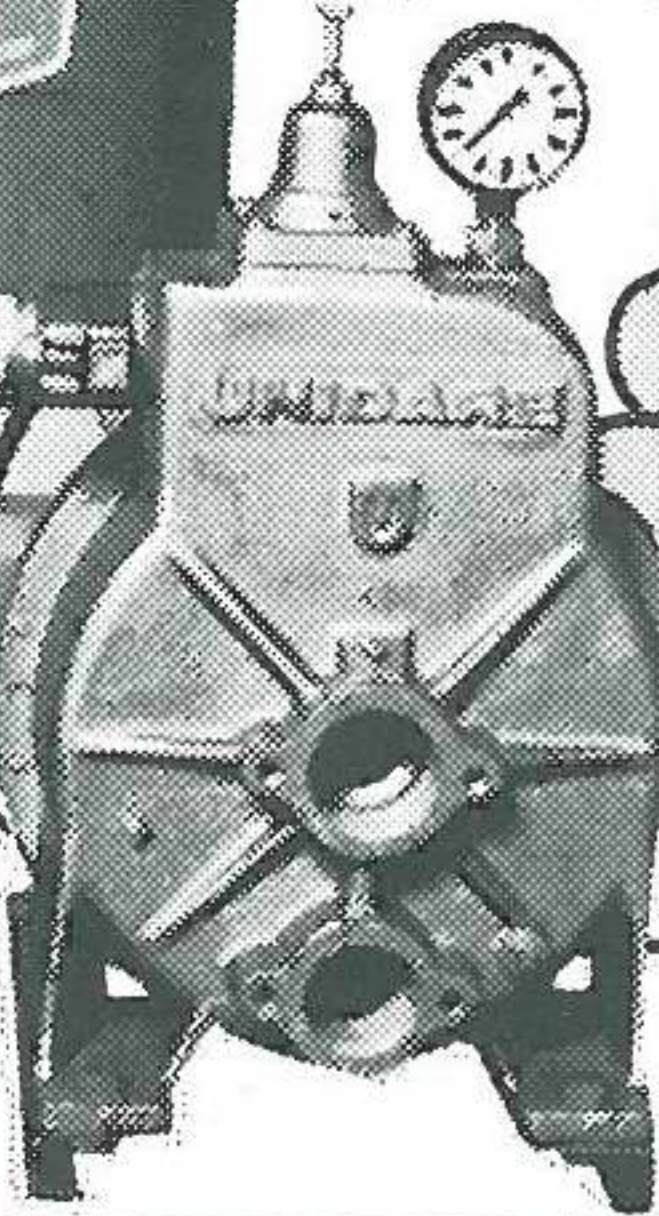
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Is coaching the cause of it all?

“THE days of the real characters are gone. Where are they to-day? The games lack colour as a result. I think that this coaching business is responsible for it all.”

He was an elderly man, a little older than myself and I always respected his view. He went on to tell me all about it. Where were the men of to-day who could compare for sheer personality with Mick Mackey, Lory Meagher, Jack Lynch, Terry Leahy, Christy Ring, Jim Smyth of Cavan and Tom Reilly, John Quirke, Bill Delaney, and his brothers Jack, Christy, Mick and their uncle Tom, John Joe Reilly, Paddy Kennedy, Tom Langan, Con McGrath, Olly Freaney, Diamond Hayden, Nick Rackard and his brothers Bob and Billy, Willie John Daly, Sean Purcell, Frank Stockwell, Toots Kelleher, Weesh Murphy, Mick O’Connell, Eddie Keher, Jimmy Doyle, Tony Wall, Mick Higgins and Liam Devaney? After that list which ran like a Players’ Who’s Who (and he mentioned a few more whose names I have forgotten) I just had nothing to say. The ageing minds were both strolling in the gardens of memory.

These were men of power on the field, he said, and off it they were giants in any conversation. Here I did agree having been on the receiving end of some of their arguments in various establishments licensed and otherwise over the

*Asks
Eamonn
Young*



● All-Ireland medalist Jack Lynch taking time off to do a spot of coaching for King Baudouin of the Belgians during his state visit to Ireland some years ago.

years. They were indeed great men to meet and most of them could tell yarns fast as a horse could trot, without being overburdened by the scruples of veracity.

Where is the likes of Jim “Tough” Barry to-day he asked me? And he launched forth into a peroration of the qualities (and they were many) that made the Cork trainer a national figure. He laughed with delight over the yarn (now well known mostly because of Dave Guiney’s book) about the night before a game when the young Gerald McCarthy, sub on a Cork League team and three others were back late to the Dublin hotel. Jim Barry gave out hell to the three players and then turning on Gerald told him he could be sure that this was his last trip with a Cork team. Gerald was relieved to find out on the following morn that Tough thought he was the hackney-driver.

My elderly friend then collapsed

in laughter as he told me with real gusto about the player who said of his All-Ireland opponent that “me auld grandmother would mark that fella”. On the day “that fella” played a blinder and won the game for his side. When it was over the over-confident player walked into the dressing-room to be confronted by two silent disconsolate teammates. “Begor Mick” says Joe “your grandmother must have been a great bloody footballer”.

I enjoyed the laugh also; it was I who had told him the story in the first case after a great player, vitally concerned, had told me.

Yes these were great characters, my friend went on, but where were they to-day? I think he was delighted that I had no answer, the main reason being that I was awaiting a suggestion that he might draw breath so that I could cut in.

Coaching he said coaching that

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 does not bridge the gap.
 Apart from the lack of variety and depth in hurling within the county, the limitation in numbers means less pressure on those in the county team

to hold their places. It is sometimes good that a county team is allowed to settle and get down to working out its plan of action in unity and without the ever-present feeling of the guillotine. But, there comes a

time when players need the spur of hot breath on the nape of their necks, every bit as much as the stimulation of a new and famous opponent.

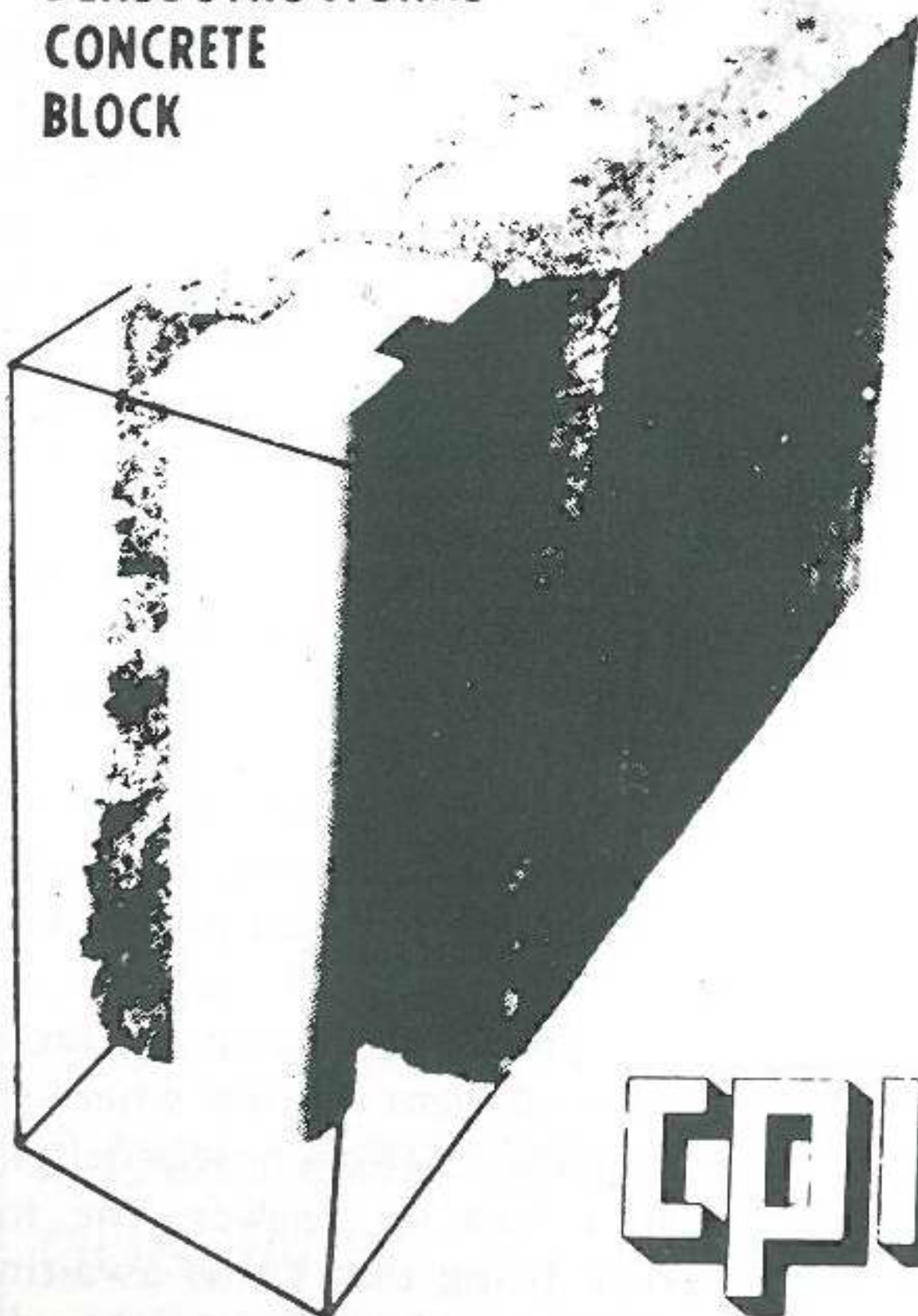
One looked forward to the final of the Kehoe Cup to watch what likely improvement (if any) Offaly had made after the season of League games and how they would measure against the championship-gearred Kilkenny. Not that Kilkenny were championship-ready in the Kehoe Cup, but they were experimenting with a view to allotting championship positions and those on trial were keen to give impressive showings.

In brief, a 12-point defeat was disheartening for Offaly and leaves those interested in their fortunes with heavy doubts about their championship prospects. It was, once again, the story of a defence which played with strength and endurance and no little courage and skill. A midfield that fought hard and showed occasionally exciting possibilities, but most of the time under pressure. And an attack that was receiving possession in unfavourable positions when they did receive, and straining to keep the move going to the extent of a second stroke.

Such attacking is based too heavily on hit and hope; and hope is not an adequate basis on its own. The result was that backs were able to make comfortable interceptions most of the time and launch clearances that put Kilkenny into favourable attacking positions straightaway. From that the defence struggled to rescue Offaly; the midfield helped out; and the next delivery upfield was likely to be wild and easily collected by the Kilkenny defence. A self-perpetuating circle of events which can only be broken either by forwards of sufficient attacking acumen and skill as to keep backs constantly bothered, or by forwards who will work so hard as to never allow a single clearance by their opposing defenders to be struck freely, intentionally and unharassed.

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● FROM PAGE 35

health giving service and also can supply you with fresh cream, butter, yogurt and even eggs. Why not order an extra pint and start the day refreshed and full of the life-giving goodness of Irish milk.

COGNAC is a word that we often use but how often do we understand what it means? The region officially known as Cognac is spread over two "departments" Charente and Charente-Maritime, north of Bordeaux in the South Western Region of France. It is covered by 250,000 acres of vines belonging to about 30,000 growers. It was to this region that Richard Hennessy, Irishman, Officer of the Irish Brigade in the service of the King of France, chose to settle. In 1765 he founded the Hennessy Company that still bears his name. It is here that Hennessy's Cognac Brandy is born.

A double distillation process gently extracts the essential aroma and quality from the white vines produced here. Only the finest oak from Limousin forests was and is

good enough for the casks in which the precious spirit is placed for ageing.

The marriages which make up the blends and which account for the unique Hennessy quality are possible, thanks to these vast reserves where certain Cognacs are nearly two hundred years old.

The secret of a great Cognac lies in the skilful, delicate blending of different growths and years.

The fashion today is to drink Hennessy Brandy with a mixer, but the next time try it as a liqueur and savour its rare qualities of excellence.

A REMARKABLE TRIUMPH

Mitchelstown Co-Op. took the first three prizes and shared fourth in this year's cheese-making competition at the RDS Spring Show. This is the first time any cheese-maker scored such a success.

The competition is judged independently by the Royal Dublin Society and the Premier Award "An Bord Baine's Mullally Trophy" (formerly An Bord Baine Per-

petual Cup) is made to the entry adjudged to be of the highest quality. The cup was presented by Minister of State for Agriculture, Mr. Lorcan Allen, at a Bord Baine function in Jury's Hotel, Dublin.

Congratulating Mr. Denis Murphy, Chairman, Mitchelstown Co-Operative Agricultural Society, the Minister said this latest win was a tribute to Mitchelstown's consistency and "offered his hearty congratulations to all who contributed to the success.

Both the Minister and Mr. Murphy paid tribute to the work of the late Martin Mullally who contributed so much to the development of the Irish dairying industry and after whom the cup had been renamed.

A most important aspect of Mitchelstown's success is that the winning cheddars were not specially prepared for the competition but selected from the Company's normal batch production — so cheddar of this quality is presently available at good cheese outlets throughout the country.


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● Jimmy Keaveney emerges from the Croke Park tunnel for the last time on the 24th February 1980. A folk hero if ever there was one Jimmy will be 'two foot taller in ten years time' says Eamonn Young.

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was the cause of it all. That bloody coaching was like a mould or a conveyor belt . . . it turned out a lot of mass-produced items all of which could be packed into cases of one gross and put on a shelf until they were needed.

All individuality would be discouraged; the ball would be kicked only one way and pucked only one way. It would be wrong to fetch it or strike it in any way different from what the coach said because the coaches were all divinely appointed by Croke Park where needless to say was the fountain of all truth, and all pronouncements were equal in ex-cathedra gravity with the oracles of the priestess in Delphi . . . he was in great form and I never yet stood in front of a running horse.

Four cups of tea later he went home completely convinced of his own righteousness and warmed by his resounding verbal victory. In the meantime I had delivered myself rather hesitantly as follows.

The list he had called out to me was a selection of great names from 1930 to 1970. If I'm around in 2110 — an extremely unlikely event, — I suspect I'll have no trouble in calling out one similar. After all, four decades sees a fair number of players.

Another thing: we paint the pictures of our youth and manhood with golden colours. We looked up to the champions in both the physical and mental sense and we have insisted they will remain on

their pedestal because there we set them. They're part of us and of our memories. And another thing: the men of to-day have plenty character but they are so close to us and we see them so often that they cannot always be heroes and blinding personalities. In ten years time Jimmy Keaveney will be two feet taller and I pick the name of a good player just to represent a dozen.

Coaching is not aimed at producing a flat efficient mediocrity. In fact the encouragement of individual flair is one of its ideal aims.

QUIZ RESULT

OUR full page Picture Quiz last month set quite a poser for our readers. The match — Galway v Cork in the semi-final of the NFL at Croke Park on 13th April 1980 with a final score of Cork 1.16 to Galway 1.06 — was easy enough. But believe it or not no one identified all three players correctly. For the record they were Barry Brennan (Galway), Jimmy Kerrigan (Cork) and Pat O'Neill (Galway No. 5).

Coaching has to do with the individual and the team. In the case of the single player it helps him to cut out incorrect or awkward actions and generally improves his performance in both efficiency and grace. In the case of the team it teaches the men to play their places intelligently and so perform their

functions as backs, forwards or centrefielders in a fair, sporting, and intelligent way guaranteed to improve the standard of the game and also please the crowd. It teaches all to be as clever as possible and to outwit the opponent by analysing the game and the weakness of the other fellow in playing it.

Coaching does not demand the stereotyped. I remember talking to minors in Clonmel last year and getting chaps to hold the ball in the hand opposite to the kicking foot or to hold it in two hands. The lads came back at me reminding all, to the glee of the audience, that John Egan scored a goal in the All-Ireland with his right foot dropping the ball from his right hand. As a good coach I said of course that such a goal should have been disallowed. When the laugh had subsided we all agreed, that while the natural action is to hold the ball in the left hand for a kick with the right (or in the two hands) any move to alter a personal style that was working well would be a sure indication that one should change not the action, but the coach.

Anyway as mentioned above I lost the battle completely but I'm awaiting the day when my friend comes back arguing with emphatic eloquence that to-day's characters are wonderful and all because of coaching. He won't? You don't know my friend. After all he broke his heart laughing while he told me my own yarn about the footballing grandmother.

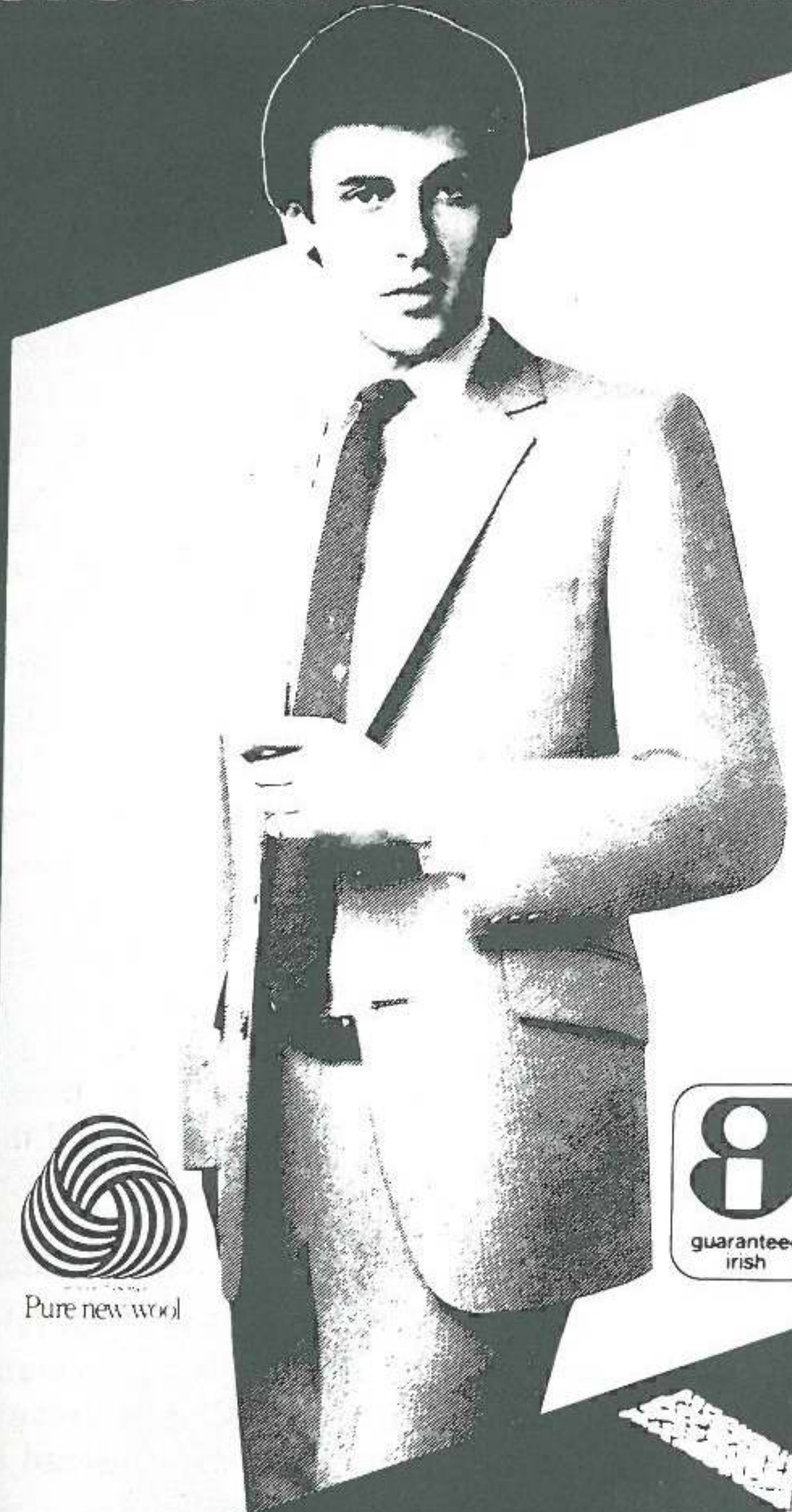
● FROM PAGE 13

one or two outside Munster engaged in this competition and I believe it was very valuable. A suggestion now going the rounds is that a MacGrath competition would be revived and the four teams that did not make the Munster football final would play in it. The final of the competition would be held on Munster final day in Cork or Killarney (as it is at present) and the day would be a triple-header. The second game would show perhaps Tipp playing Clare before forty thousand people and who would then see that there are men wearing those jerseys who are as good as most from Cork or the Kingdom. There's nothing like recognition to encourage a young man. Mol an oige agus tiocfaidh sí. To develop further this MacGrath Cup idea the same competition could be

held in the other provinces leading to semi-finals and the final on the last Sunday in September. We have too many good footballers hidden away in the foothills just because their counties can collect only ten good men instead of fifteen.

Anyway that's the strength of the game in Clare. Good men have worked hard at the game there for many years with almost none of the rewards falling into the laps of the counties where skill, dedication and population have handed on a legacy of glory — sometimes easily earned. I look forward to the day when counties whose colours are now scarcely known in Croke Park will draw a mighty roar as they emerge from the tunnel. My wish is that Clare will be one of them.

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Results Summary

NATIONAL LEAGUES

Football: Semi-final: April 13; Croke Park: Cork 1-16; Galway 1-6.

Final: April 27: Cork: Cork 0-11; Kerry 0-10.
Attendance: 39,139.

Hurling: Quarter-final Replay: April 13: Croke Park: Galway 3-15; Waterford 2-7. Kilkenny: Limerick 3-10; Wexford 1-13. Semi-finals: April 20: Limerick: Cork 1-12; Galway 0-12. Limerick 2-13; Tipperary 1-11.

Final: May 4: Cork: Cork 2-10; Limerick 2-10. Draw.
Attendance: 32,855.

O'BYRNE CUP

SENIOR FOOTBALL

April 19 (Saturday): Parnell Park, Dublin: Dublin 1-13; Kildare 0-8. April 20: Tullamore: Louth 0-14; Offaly 0-11.

Final: May 4: Dundalk: Louth 0-8; Dublin 1-4.

DR. McKENNA CUP

SENIOR FOOTBALL

April 13: Corrigan Park, Belfast: Derry 4-9; Antrim 1-11. Armagh: Cavan 0-13; Armagh 1-8.

Semi-finals: April 27: Cavan: Cavan 4-10; Derry 2-4. Lisnaskea: Monaghan 1-9; Fermanagh 1-6.

KEOGH CUP

SENIOR HURLING

April 13: **Final:** Castletown-Geoghegan: Westmeath 0-13; Dublin 0-9.

WALSH CUP

SENIOR HURLING

April 13: Ardcloagh, Kildare: Carlow 3-14; Kildare 2-15.

Semi-finals: April 27: Portlaoise: Laois 2-21; Wicklow 0-6. Carlow: Carlow 0-12; Dublin 0-12. Draw.

PROVINCIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

LEINSTER

Under-21 Hurling: April 13; Castletown-Geoghegan: Westmeath 4-12; Wicklow 1-1. April 27: Carlow: Meath 2-6; Carlow 0-1.

Under-21 Football: April 20: Longford: Longford 0-16; Wicklow 3-3. Carlow: Carlow 3-7; Kilkenny 1-4. Parnell Park, Dublin: Dublin 2-7; Wexford 0-7. May 4: Longford: Kildare 1-8; Longford 0-6. Portlaoise: Meath 3-6; Laois 0-10.

ULSTER

Under-21 Football: April 20: Cavan: Cavan 3-11; Antrim 0-4. Armagh: Tyrone 1-7; Armagh 0-7. Ballybofey: Down 7-10; Donegal 1-5. May 4: Carrickmacross: Down 3-10; Monaghan 0-7. Ballinascreen: Derry 5-9; Fermanagh 1-3.

ALL-IRELAND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS SEMI-FINALS

Hurling: April 27: Croke Park: Ballycastle: Antrim 3-9; Crumlin, Dublin 0-8.

Football: May 4: Ballinasloe: Ballinasloe, Galway, 1-11; Walsh Island, Offaly, 1-8.

COLLEGES' CHAMPIONSHIPS ALL-IRELAND FINALS

Football: April 20: Croke Park: Carmelite College, Moate, 0-12; St. Patrick's, Maghera, 1-8.

Hurling: April 27: Thurles: North Monastery, Cork, 5-11; Birr Community School, 3-11.

"B" CHAMPIONSHIPS

Football: April 20: Croke Park: De La Salle, Ballyshannon, 2-10; Portlaoise C.B.S., 1-6.

DEAN RYAN CUP

Munster Under-17 Hurling Final: May 2: Buttevant: North Monastery, Cork, 7-11; St. Flannan's, Ennis, 3-1.

VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

Football: April 27: Croke Park: Derry 2-8; Wicklow 0-6.

Hurling: May 4: Cork; Galway 3-8; Down 2-7.

CAMOGIE SENIOR LEAGUE

April 13: Russell Park, Dublin: Dublin 3-9; Antrim 2-1. Leitrim, Co. Down: Wexford 2-4; Down 2-2. April

27: Randalstown: Antrim 3-3; Derry 0-3.

May 4: Moneygall: Tipperary 3-9; Down 2-2. Cremartin, Monaghan: Dublin 3-10; Monaghan 0-0.

REPRESENTATIVE GAME

April 20: Santry, Dublin: Combined Universities 2-10; Combined Colleges 2-0.

COLLEGES

April 20: All-Ireland Senior Final: Croke Park: North Pres., Cork, 4-7; Assumption, Walkinstown, Dublin, 1-1.

April 20: All-Ireland Junior Final: Croke Park: Maryfield College, Dublin, 2-4; Presentation De La Salle, Hospital, 1-5.

HANDBALL

April 13: **Atlas International Under-21 Trials:** Tralee: J. Fleming (Wexford) bt T. Ryan (Tipperary) 31-28. Fleming bt M. Dowling (Kildare) 31-25. Fleming bt G. Coughlan (Clare) 31-21. Ryan bt Coughlan 31-19. Ryan bt Dowling 31-19. Coughlan bt Dowling 31-18.

Fleming and Ryan qualified for the U.S. trip.

April 13: **Atlas International Senior Trials:** Final: Ballymacelligott, Kerry: P. Ryan (Dublin) bt M. Walsh (Roscommon) 21-12, 16-21, 11-7.

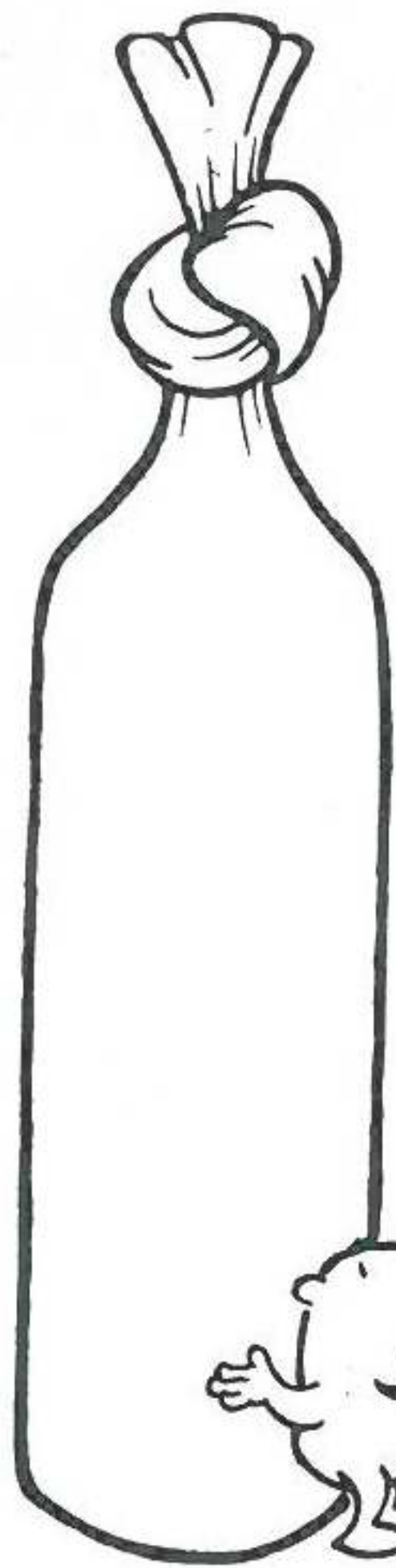
ALL-IRELAND 40 x 20 FINALS

May 3: Mallow: Senior Doubles: P. McGee and P. McCormack (Mayo) bt M. Aherne and T. Fitzgerald (Kerry) 21-7; 21-6. Minor Singles: W. Burke (Kilkenny) bt G. Coughlan (Clare) 17-21, 21-17, 21-7.

Croke Park: Under-21 Doubles: J. Fleming and P. Cleary (Wexford) bt T. Ryan and W. O'Donnell (Tipperary) 21-11; 21-14. Junior Singles: G. O'Callaghan (Cork) bt M. Hennigan (Mayo) 21-8; 21-12. Novice Singles: J. Rossiter (Carlow) bt S. Prenter (Antrim) 15-21, 21-6, 21-6.



● *Cork Art Pottery Ltd. Carrigaline have recently launched onto the market a series of G.A.A. county mugs with full colour crests. At the Croke Park reception to introduce the mugs to the Press were (from left) Pat Quigley P.R.O. and Ciaran O'Neill, Financial Controller G.A.A. admiring a Wexford mug.*



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**JACK
MAHON**

LAST month I promised to review the last five years of Junior Desk. So here goes. When it was five years old we got the cover of the magazine when Seán Ó Siochain, Eddie Keher, Jimmy Duggan, Dr. Donal Keenan, Brian McEniff, Jimmy Gray, Paddy Cullen and Willie Bryan all paid tribute to the column. Tommy McQuaid surprised me by choosing myself as Cut-Out and pulled a fast one on me by telling me beforehand that David Hickey of Dublin was the choice, (David's turn is coming up. Let's hope there is no hitch this time!).

June '75 saw letters appearing from Eddie Keher and Paddy Cullen and C.T.C. Ltd. sponsored a competition. Patrick Leogue did a statistical analysis of our Cut-Outs in August. The G.A.A. shop had now come into existence — one of the many innovations introduced by that bundle of energy Muiris de Pionnbhiol. Muiris sponsored a big competition in Sept. '75. Writers to the Mailbag section other than those already mentioned include Tommy Flaherty, Joseph McElligott, Tommy Maher, Jack Naughton, Ger Dowling, Christopher Hannon, Sean Rourke, John Colclough, Denis Kirby, John Fallon, W. F. Carberry, Pat Garry from Coventry, Ger Cody, Dermot McCarthy of Bath, the Maher family of Clashagad, Gerard Traynor, Desmond Brennan, Tom Moore, Donal Ring, Fergal Conlan, Muredach Noone, Sean Ó Donaile

We were mentioned in the April '76 editorial on the occasion that the Erin's Own Club in Waterford had a motion before Congress calling on the G.A.A. to sponsor or subsidise Junior Desk pending the publication of an official youth magazine.

Declan Bonner of Doochary, Co. Donegal started to write in May '76. Other Mailbag contributors noted include Antonia O'Brien, Patrick Byrne of Spynans, Patricia Fitzgibbon, Maurice Neligan, Martin Carley, Louis Walsh, Kevin Beary, Olwyn Reidy, P. J. O'Hara, Fergal Walsh, Denis Sweeney of Letterbarrow P.O., Sean Hickey, Liam Ryan, Norman Rochford, Sean Furlong, Michael McCarthy, Jimmy Moroney, Edmund Brennan . . . We had now reached April '77 and that month's issue carried a personal message from G.A.A. President Conchúr Ó Murchú. The Programme Collectors Club first proposed in Junior Desk by Eoghan Corry (helped on by Dermot McCarthy) has now been established in Croke Park. Junior Desk now too became a column containing more and more reviews of G.A.A. books of all kinds.

MICK JACOB

Mick Jacob of Wexford was the Cut-Out in May '77. New writers included now were John Jones of Dungannon, Kevin Falvey of Tralee, Tom Gleeson of Illinois, Marie Boran of Foxford, Michael Keevans, Seamus Ryan, Kieran Blaney, Brian Sexton, Pat Twomey of Ballingearry, Kevin Daly, Pat Treacy of Ballybunion, Jim McGuinness, John F. Lyons, Vincent Cronin of Durrus, Bantry, Liam Leigh, Liam Byrne of Sydney, Patrick Murray . . . And so we are up to to-day.

RECENT G.A.A. BOOKS

The Oak Leaf (Magazine of Derry G.A.A.) — Price £1. Edited by Sean Bradley. 64 pages. Nice Roll of Honour Centrepiece. Good to see Colum P. Mullan in print in a thought provoking article entitled

"The Grab All Association".

Available from Editor, 35 Shawreagh, Park, Limavady, Co. Derry.

Tyrone Gaelic Games Annual 1980 — Price £1. Edited by John McCusker. 88 Pages. Best Tyrone Annual yet. Nice to read of the visit of Mickey Sheehy and Ger O'Keeffe with the Sam Maguire Cup to Dungannon.

Available from Seamus Ó Treasaigh, Mullaslin, Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone.

Westmeath G.A.A. Yearbook. Price £1. Tremendous production as usual. Editor Gerry Whelan and his production team deserve credit.

Get it for £1 from Gerry Whelan, c/o Westmeath Examiner, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

CUT-OUT

Our Cut-Out this month is that impeccable high fielding Offaly midfielder Tomás Connor of Walsh Island. I wish him many more great days of playing football free from injury in the future.

THE MAILBAG

The Mailbag has been mounting these past few months. So I'm holding it all over until next issue. Then I'll give the whole issue of Junior Desk over to the Mailbag. These last two issues of Junior Desk have been devoted to our first ten years. So we stop looking back from now on. The championship is in full swing now. So start writing about anything to me at

Junior Desk,
Gaelic Sport,
80 Upper Drumcondra Rd.,
Dublin 9.

Be seeing you again next month le conamh Dé with plenty of prizes for good ideas from your letters. So get writing NOW.

Ten Years of Junior Desk

CONGRATS on your tremendous success in keeping 'Junior Desk' in the news for 10 great years. It must rank now as one of the most successful G.A.A. columns ever. Very few columns have managed to survive a decade.

I feel very honoured and indeed delighted to have been chosen as one of the ten nominees to receive a Track-Suit for, to quote your own words helping 'to make such a success of Junior Desk'.

Before the emergence of Junior Desk young people had no platform to air their views on the G.A.A. Colourful G.A.A. publications were almost unheard of. Very few counties produced yearbooks. Programmes for even the most important of games left an awful lot to be desired. The idea of keeping G.A.A. scrapbooks was still in its most infant stage. Media coverage of our games especially by R.T.E. was lacking in appeal and presentation. Need I continue.

Junior Desk helped in no small way to change all this. Now almost every county produces a Yearbook.

There is even an Award each year for the best one. 'Gaelic Sport' includes a colour cut-out each month. Other G.A.A. magazines have come on the market also. The emphasis is now



• Joseph Woods, a regular reader of Gaelic Sport since 1965.

very much on colour and proper presentation. R.T.E. with its Saturday Gaelic Stadium has made significant strides in helping to popularise our native games. G.A.A. Scrapbooks are very popular with supporters young and old, both male and female. The standard of big match programmes has im-

proved dramatically. So much so that these programmes are now treasured souvenirs.

More important still is the fact that a programme collectors club was set up at Croke Park about four years ago. The idea of such a club was first mooted in 'Junior Desk'. This fact alone clearly illustrates the success of 'Junior Desk'. Young people can — and do so very capably — freely air their opinions on G.A.A. affairs in Junior Desk each month. Furthermore, I notice that one correspondent wrote a book about his county's hurling story and yet another contributes articles to 'The Irish Times' and 'Hibernia'. I am proud to have been associated with this column since its humble beginning in 1970 up to its now eminent position. It is the first part of Gaelic Sport that I turn to each month. I have been reading 'Gaelic Sport' regularly since 1965 and have kept every copy. Also, I have a very large collection of programmes, Yearbooks, Annuals and other G.A.A. magazines."

Joseph Woods, Cloneyogan, Lahinch, Co. Clare.

THE first of many letters of mine was published in Junior Desk in 1974, when I was 13 years old. Next June I sit my final exams in the Rathmines School of Journalism, intent on pursuing a career as a sports journalist.

My first letter was concerned with programme collecting, and over the years I have built up a collection of some 600 programmes through the contacts I made through Junior Desk and the programme club which stemmed from letters there.

This resulted in my contributing to the Croke Park official programmes, Kildare G.A.A. Yearbook, and the Our Games Annual. This in turn resulted in my studying journalism when I left school. Over the last two years I have done match reports and features for the Irish

Press, Independent and Times, Cork Examiner, Irish News, Leinster Leader, Carlow Nationalist, Hibernia Review and Kerryman, all on G.A.A. affairs.

Seeing my name appear in Junior Desk whetted by enthusiasm for Gaelic Games and this was kept up when many of my friends lost theirs, especially if, like myself, they weren't very successful on the playing field. Now I am preparing to make a livelihood writing about the games, and how much more beneficial than that can you get?

No matter what my success, or lack of it, in the future, I will continue to read and enjoy Junior Desk.

Eoghan Corry, "Luslia", Straffan St., Co. Kildare.



• Eoghan Corry whose very first letter to Junior Desk published in 1974 was instrumental in setting in motion the Programme Collectors Club.

YOUR letter arrived some time ago but owing to the fact that U.C.D. were on tour in London I only received it very recently.

About this time nine years ago you delighted me with a trophy wrapped in a Liga box and now you have done it again. I would like to thank you for this kind gesture. In '71 I thought it might be because I was a Connacht man I got the nod — but now I realise you couldn't be biased twice in a decade!!

Realising that I could win when in competition gave me a lot of confidence and this confidence contributed in no mean way to the success (small as it may be) I've enjoyed over the past decade.

My interest in the G.A.A., at the moment, is on the playing field, and at present that takes in U.C.D., Sligo and Tubbercurry Senior teams. I am not eager to get involved in the running of a club because I consider myself a little too young and lacking in experience. I was involved in running the U.C.D. Club this year and that is a student club and students must run it.

My progress over the years has not been staggering. Minor (county) honours came my way in 1974 and '75, U-21 from 1974 onwards. I made my debut with the Sligo Senior side in October '74 but up until recently have not been able to command a regular spot on the team. At the moment a break-

through seems on. I have been part of the U.C.D. Senior team for a number of years now and was honoured with the position of captain this year.

I hope the future holds an All-Ireland medal — it is the ultimate in a player's career and each player hopes to achieve the ultimate — I am no exception. That may seem ridiculous coming from a Sligo man but who am I to argue with facts?



• John Murphy U.C.D. captain and member of the Tubbercurry and Sligo senior team.

In future I would like to see each club with its own playing fields and facilities. Standards for these should be outlined (and enforced) by H.Q. This I think would tidy things up a great deal. It would also make the Association more attractive to the outsider and improve the social side of the G.A.A."

John Murphy, Castleoye, Tubbercurry, Co. Sligo.

THE contribution that Junior Desk made to my life was and still is enormous. I always used to wait with great enthusiasm for every edition of Gaelic Sport. Junior Desk was always the first page I opened. I think your work was marvellous, Mr. Mahon. Your column certainly inspired us youngsters to read other people's views on matters which we were not sure of (i.e. the 'Stripe Affair' in Cork). Many Cork youngsters gave us insights about this affair which we would never have learned, only for Junior Desk.

My interest in the G.A.A. is still as keen as ever. My college, unfortunately, failed in the quarter-final of the McRory Cup this year to the eventual winners — St. Patrick's Maghera. Certainly I will remember this year's Colleges football season for a long time, because, I was honoured with the job of reporting



• Martin Fox, reporting on his College's sporting events for the Anglo-Celt.

I WAS thrilled with your letter saying I won a super prize to mark 10 years of Junior Desk which I received on March 11th.

You must be up in the moon with the Galway hurlers' win in the Railway Cup hurling final especially with Sean Silke and Fr. Iggy Clarke both of whom were outstanding. St. Patrick's Day was great for Galway and hurling. Ulster were brilliant against Munster in football final. Sean O'Neill, the former Down and Ulster star has proven he is a great man over a team.

Junior Desk is the top G.A.A. page with every G.A.A. Football and hurling follower. Congrats to you, Jack, on making it what it is today. So that people can give views on players and games. Gaelic Sport stood alone for years as the only gaelic games magazine."

Gerry Pender, Ballymorris Upper, Auhrim, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

Mary O'Grady, Ballyconnoe North, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare. "I'm as interested as ever in Gaelic Games. At the moment I'm doing an Arts Degree in U.C.G. and am pretty much the same person I was years ago when I was writing to JUNIOR DESK. We won the Sigerson and Fitzgibbon Cups in U.C.G. this year. I still watch Sunday Sports and read Junior Desk of course. Thanks for the tracksuit and remembering me."

the College's sporting events for the Anglo-Celt. This gave me great satisfaction, particularly the following Thursday when I read my reports in black ink on the newspaper. This for me was the pinnacle of my term at St. Pats. As my term draws nearer to saying goodbye, I want to thank the priests, the teachers and of course by own fellow-students for making life easy for me in the College. The influence which they all have both on my social and educational life is priceless, and I am deeply indebted to them."

Martin Fox, St. Patrick's College, Cavan.

Thanks for all the nice comments about Junior Desk. Seeing how well you have got on makes it all so much worthwhile.

LIBRARY
E. DEPT.



★
● Tommie Egan, Chairman of Castlegar, G.A.A. Club (left) and Des O'Doherty, Director of Galway Concrete Limited signing the contract for the erection of the Castlegar G.A.A. Sports Complex at Merlin Park, Galway at a cost of £100,000. Looking on are (from left to right) Mark Heneghan, Trustee, Owen McConn, Marketing Manager, Galway Concrete Ltd. Bill Cullinane, Trustee and Wallie Forde, Hon. Sec. of Castlegar G.A.A. Development Committee.
★

SPORTS COMPLEX FOR CASTLEGAR

CASTLEGAR, Co. Galway, G.A.A. Club are in the middle of a major expansion programme, which took a step further recently with the signing of a contract for a new Sports Complex at the Club's grounds. The contract is with GALWAY CONCRETE and is for one of their Metric Four Concrete Frame Structures.

Castlegar, who claim to be Galway's premier Hurling Club, first won a Senior title in 1936. By 1979 they had added the 16th such honour to their list. The record is

typical of the Club's achievements in the field and is a mark of the energy and commitment of all those who have contributed, whether as players or as officers, to the development of the Club.

In 1970 a major step forward was taken when the Club purchased an eleven acre field at Merlin Park. Work immediately commenced on the development of two playing pitches and in 1978 a new office and dressing rooms complex was erected on the site. The latest order for the Sports Complex adds a further important amenity to the range

already offered by the Club to its members.

The GALWAY CONCRETE building will house a Sports Hall, stage, dressing rooms, squash courts and general facilities, storage etc, within the 7,000 square foot building. The construction of the new £100,000 centre represents the single largest undertaking ever made since the formation of the Club. It is hoped that, when the premises is complete, the Club will be better equipped to cater for all members young and old, past and present, players and non-players alike.

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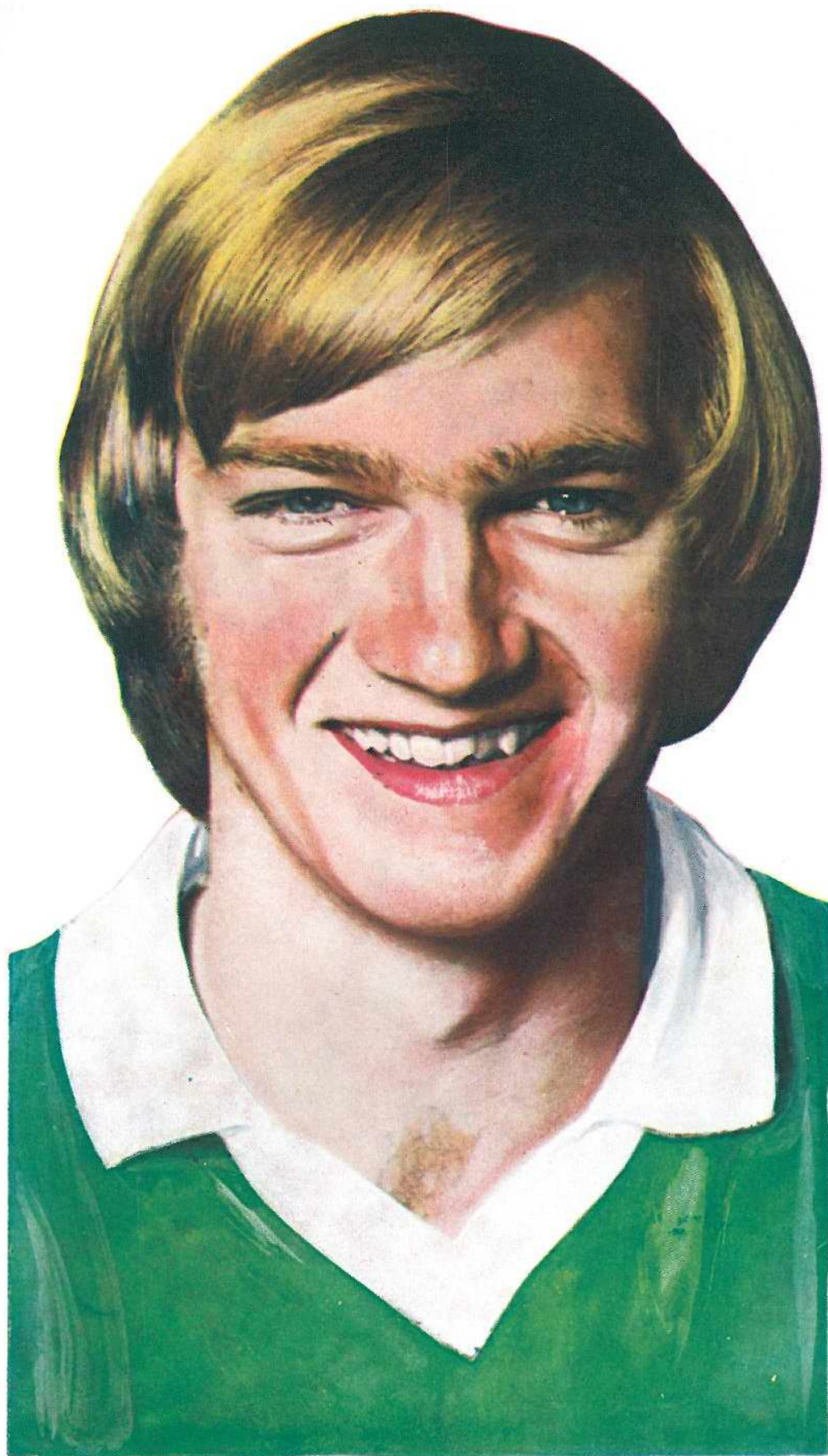
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Gaelic Sport



Tomas Connor (Offaly)

Age: 22
Height: 6ft. 2ins.
Weight: 11st. 6lb.
Club: Walsh Island
Position: Midfield
Senior Inter-County Debut:
1977.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Tomas highlighted his first year in senior inter-county championship football by winning a Carrolls All-Star award at midfield in 1978. He had his first competitive engagement with the county senior squad in 1977-78 in the League.

A reliable fielder, the Offaly man helped his club, Walsh Island, to their first Leinster senior title in 1978, and he has played for Leinster in the Railway Cup.

Tomas collected a second Leinster senior club medal last March, and was on duty when Walsh Island lost to Ballinasloe in the All-Ireland semi-final in early May. He is brother of Liam, also an Offaly inter-county senior player.

Ah... that's

Bass

